

FELLING LICENCES

Undermanaged woodland leads to overcrowded stands lacking in canopy growth and development. This creates dense shade, which in turn allows fewer opportunities for the ground flora and shrub layer to develop. Periodic thinning and felling allows light to reach the forest floor and enables a more complex and diverse woodland structure to be created.

The Forestry Commission oversees the regulatory control of thinning and felling of our trees, woods and forests. Uncontrolled and unlicensed felling could lead to the permanent loss of this sustainable and natural resource, which contributes toward our cultural and natural heritage.

Open ground can be managed within our woods and forest to provide both permanent and temporary open space along roads, rides and glades. Without this periodic management there will be fewer opportunities for herbs, grasses and shrubs to develop together that provides a rich habitat for a wide range of butterflies, insects and woodland bird species.

Sustainable, managed woodland provides the opportunity for bigger dimension trees to develop. Although a proportion of these may be harvested to produce timber products that we all recognise and use, some may be retained and allowed to die and decay naturally. This final phase of the growing cycle will provide niche habitats for a large range of fungi, invertebrates and birds to feed on and shelter within.

Lack of management and maintenance across woods and forest can lead to excessive browsing by wild and domestic animals, preventing the natural regeneration of new trees and impoverishing the ground flora. Overgrazing affects woodland structure, soils and directly modifies plant and animal communities. Controlled and managed browsing and grazing can prevent this level of deterioration across our woodlands.

