

# Chapter 19: Coppice

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## 19.0 Coppice

### 19.1 Background

Coppicing is probably the earliest form of silvicultural management, and relies on the ability of many species of tree to regenerate from cut stumps or 'stools'.

There are two types:

- Simple
- Coppice with Standards

Most of our native broadleaves, plus a few exotic conifers such as Coast Redwood, will coppice. The length of the period between cuts varies depending upon species and the produce required.

#### 19.1.1 Simple Coppice

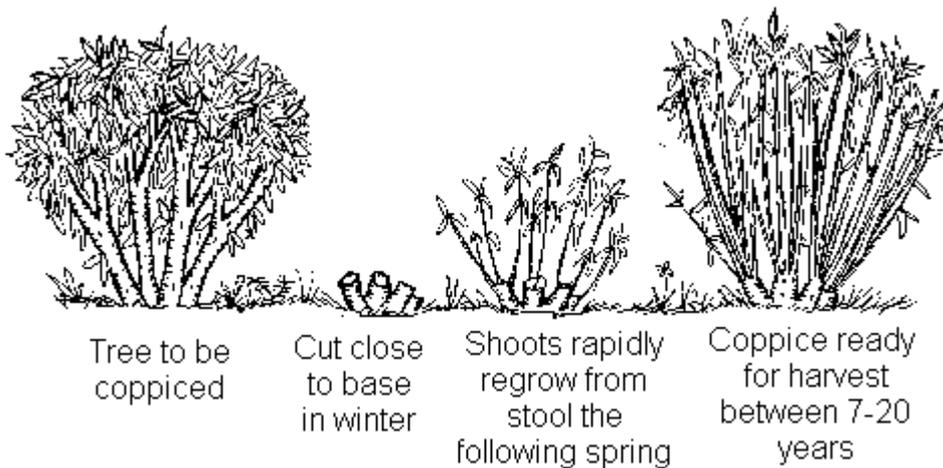
An even-aged, single-storey crop generally grown for fuelwood and/or medium or small sized produce.

#### 19.1.2 Coppice with Standards

In many coppice woodlands trees are grown to timber size with the coppice as an undestorey. Such trees are called 'standards' and occupy 30-40% of the area. They are widely spaced so that their crowns are not touching, allowing plenty of light to the coppice crop below. The standards should consist of three to six different age classes.

## 19.2 How to tell if a Multi-stemmed Tree has been Coppiced

Coppicing follows the cycle shown below. Stems are cut close to the ground and new shoots are grown from the resulting stump. These are, in turn, harvested for specific products and the stump regenerates another crop of shoots.



**Figure 19 - 1: Coppice cycle (Image from English Wikipedia page: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coppice>)**

## 19.3 Distinguishing Between Worked and Stored Coppice

Maximum rotation length for coppice is considered to be 40 years but is generally less than this for most species. Except in the case of hazel, coppice can successfully be resumed even after a period of 60 years neglect.

Many coppice woodlands in Britain are well past their normal cutting cycle and have become 'overstood' and neglected, and are becoming a form of high forest. This process can be aided by the removal of all but the best stem (straightest and vigorous) from each stool. This operation is known as 'singling' and the stems grown on to form large trees are known as 'stored coppice'. The stand can then be treated as a normal forest for thinning, felling and other operations.

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## 19.4 Recording Coppice within the NFI

### 19.4.1 Component level data

#### 19.4.1.1 Landuse and IFT

- Simple coppice still in rotation:
  - IFT- Coppice,
  - Landuse – Worked coppice.
- Simple coppice not in rotation:
  - IFT – Coppice,
  - Landuse – High Forest.
- Simple broadleaf coppice overstood/neglected:
  - IFT – Broadleaved,
  - Landuse – High Forest.
- Simple conifer coppice overstood/neglected:
  - IFT – Conifer,
  - Landuse – High Forest.
- Stored broadleaf coppice:
  - IFT – Broadleaved,
  - Landuse – High Forest.
- Coppice with Standards in rotation:
  - IFT – Coppice with Standards,
  - Coppice Landuse – Worked coppice
  - Standards Landuse – High Forest.
- Coppice with Standards not in rotation:
  - IFT – Coppice with Standards,
  - Coppice Landuse – High Forest.
  - Standards Landuse – High Forest.
- Coppice with Standards overstood/neglected:
  - IFT – Broadleaved,
  - Coppice Landuse – High Forest.
  - Standards Landuse – High Forest.

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## 19.4.1.2 Timber Potential

Worked coppice by its very nature is being managed to produce small roundwood; consequently timber potential will be short roundwood or fuelwood.

Coppice which has become overstood or stored has the potential to produce timber in which case the normal rules based on the number of stems per hectare will apply.

## 19.4.1.3 Stump or stool?

The age of stool should be assessed, not the age of stems.

## 19.4.1.4 Storeys

Measurable stems within the same stool can be assigned to different storeys if sufficiently different in terms of canopy height.

For stools containing a mix of measurable and non-measurable stems, the measurable stems are assigned to upper/middle/lower/complex storeys, and non-measurable stems are assigned to the young tree storey, even though they may be same height as measurable stems.

Stools/Ha (not stems/Ha). For stools containing a mix of lower storey and young tree storey stems, the stool is counted twice- once for the lower storey Component and once for the young tree storey Component.

## 19.4.2 At Plot level:

Individual stems are included in the count for deciding between circular plots or points.

If the centre of the stool is within the plot perimeter then all stems are included in the plot, even those that lean outside.

The same applies to the Young Tree Transect.

Only one Height Tree of the same storey can be selected per stool. If the software auto-assign function selects two within the same stool, change one of the stems back to a Normal Tree and manually select a replacement using 3rd Nearest rule.

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Coppice stools are mapped and coppice stem records recorded under the stool record.

If a coppice stem is selected as a Height Tree, it should be tagged with biotape if there are several of the same DBH (for QA).

When doing crown heights and widths, measure just the foliage belonging to the selected Height stem.