

10. Glossary of Terms

Biological Diversity

The richness and variety of wildlife and habitats.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees.

Compartments

Permanent management units of land within a forest, further divided into sub-compartments. The compartment boundary usually coincides with a road or ride.

County Wildlife Sites (also SINC and LNR)

A non-statutory designation, recognising a site's local importance for nature conservation. These sites are identified by the Local Authority and should be taken account of in planning.

Coupes

Areas of forest that have been or will be managed together.

Cubic metre

A standard forestry unit of timber volume. A cubic metre is roughly equivalent to a tonne of timber.

England Forestry Strategy (now England's Trees Woodlands and Forests)

Describes how the Government will deliver its forestry policies in England and sets out the Government's priorities for the next five to ten years.

Favourable condition

English Nature's definition for an SSSI in its intended state.

Forestry Commission Guidelines

Outline the principles and standards of good management practices in forests and woodlands to enable landowners, land managers and their advisors to satisfy Forestry Commission policy.

GIS

Geographic Information System - computer program that enables the FC to hold and display all the district's inventory, landholding and crop information. All the maps in this document have been produced using GIS.

GPS

Global Positioning System, which uses information from satellites to accurately locate a position on the Earth.

Habitat Action Plans

UK wide plans for priority habitats defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They contain quantitative targets for conserving, restoring and expanding the habitats.

Historic Environment

These are the physical remains of every period of human development from 450,000 years ago and include earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP)

Sets out the requirements for the sustainable management of all historic environment sites.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The definitive database of all known Historic Environment remains which is managed by the County Archaeology Service.

Native woodland

Woodland containing tree and shrub species which colonised Britain unaided by the influence of man after the last Ice Age.

Natural regeneration

The growth of trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees and shrubs.

Non-native species

Trees and shrubs that have been introduced to the UK by the activities of man. Also used to describe species not native to the site and locality.

Operational Site Assessment (OSA)

Detailed site plans that are prepared in advance of all major forest operations and identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Red Data Book species

Species that are included on Red Data lists published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The lists are based on a global system developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) for classifying species according to their extinction risk.

Restocking

The re-establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration but as a term, it is more usually associated with replanting.

Ride

Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland.

Rotation

The period, in years, that a 'crop' of trees take to reach economic maturity e.g. Scots Pine may be grown on a 80 year rotation.

Scheduled Monuments

Nationally important archaeological sites which are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979.

Semi-natural woodland

A woodland predominantly composed of trees and shrubs that are native to the site and are not obviously planted.

Species Action Plan

A conservation plan under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for species based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements, which identifies the action needed to stabilise and improve its status.

SPA

Special Protection Area designated under the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

SSSI

Site of Special Scientific Interest—this designation is determined by Natural England and placed on areas of very high conservation value.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest comprising a more or less homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. Their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

Strategic Plan

Serves as a guide to the management of woodlands within South East England Forest District. It divides the district into zones for the purpose of management and ensures that forestry activities reflect the local ecological, social and cultural individuality of woodland. Strategic objectives for each zone are presented within the context of the Government's strategic priorities for forestry in England (e.g. forestry for rural development; forestry for economic regeneration; forestry for recreation, access and tourism and forestry for the environment and conservation).

Succession

Applied to the natural sequence of species change on a site over time, or more simply, the following on of one thing after another. So successional open space is the open space and the plants associated with it, that persist for a short time after felling of trees.

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of the trees in a sub-compartment to improve the quality of the remaining trees, accelerate individual tree growth and provide income.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK government response to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio de Janeiro: includes actions to safeguard key habitats and species.

UK Forestry Standard

The Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)

A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to the growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests. It has been designed to ensure that it reflects the requirements of both the Government's UK Forestry Standard - and through this the guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993 - and the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC's) GB Standard.

Uniform Shelterwood System

A management system that allows young crops to become established under the overhead shelter of existing crops. The existing tree crop is evenly and gradually removed over time in successive regeneration fellings to bring about natural regeneration on the ground beneath.

Veteran tree

A tree that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, or a tree that is in the ancient stage of its life, or a tree that is old relative to others of the same species.

Windthrow (or sometimes windblow)

Uprooting or breakage of trees caused by strong winds.

11. Management Prescriptions

(Ref: Management Map)

Clearfelling

This is the main form of timber harvesting in Thetford Forest. All the trees are felled across the site or 'coupe' with the timber part of the tree extracted to the forest road where it is taken away by lorry. The smaller branches and tops are left on site where they may be chipped, mulched or raked in to rows so that enough bare ground is available to plant the next rotation of young trees. The creation of the bare planting ground is an important part of the management of the Breckland Forest SPA/SSSI, as it is this bare ground that is the nesting habitat for Woodlark and Nightjar.

Thinning

This is an important part of the management of Thetford Forest as nearly all the trees planted in the forest will require thinning at some point. Thinning performs three separate functions; removing small, dying or diseased trees; providing space for the dominant trees to continue growing; provide a small economic return in advance of clearfelling. Due to the size of Thetford Forest, thinning is a continual process that works around the forest on a five year cycle.

Long Term Retention

In some areas trees are retained beyond their normal clearfell age to provide non-timber benefits such as bat roosts, raptor nests and landscape interest. Generally, these are thinned to encourage large crowned stable trees.

Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)

This is a general term for the management of trees without clearfelling them all. There are a number of CCF silvicultural systems but all of them are based on thinning the crop on a regular cycle and removing a proportion of the trees thereby making space for seeds to germinate and new saplings to grow and fill the resulting space.

CCF is often used in areas of high public access to maintain the visual impact of large mature trees as these trees are maintained for their aesthetic value. CCF is also used to manage most of the broadleaf crops in Thetford and all the mature conifer crops in areas of high conservation value as these trees often provide important nesting habitat e.g. Firecrest.

Open space

Temporary open space follows felling when coupes are prepared for planting or to encourage natural regeneration.

Permanent open space will be centred on conservation sites and the heritage sites—see 5.5 Open Habitats.

Minimum Intervention & Natural Reserves

These two management types are similar in that they are areas where natural processes are left to progress unhindered unless there are tree safety issues e.g. a tree has died adjacent to a footpath and creates a hazard to the public. The natural reserve areas have been identified as a permanent feature in the plans where as minimum intervention is the current management type in these areas but could change in the future.

12. Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of Restocking	Changes to species	Windthrow & DNB clearance
FC Approval normally not required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe	Up to 3 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. conifers; broadleaves	Up to 2ha
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe	Up to 4 planting seasons after felling	Change from other conifers to Corsican Pine	> 2ha to 10ha
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or >10% of coupe	Over 4 planting seasons after felling	Change from broadleaves to conifers	> 10a