

Why carry out work in woodland?

When you visit a wood and see work being carried out, you may wonder why this is happening and what is being done.

Foresters work to manage the beauty, diversity and value of woodlands. You may see trees being pruned or felled, logs piled up, fenced-off sections of woodland or areas with newly planted trees.

Woodlands are made up of soils, water courses, historic features, animals, fungi, and flowering plants, including trees and shrubs. Woodland work can help keep all this diversity in balance.

Foresters may decide to leave certain trees or areas of woodland alone. These areas are often protected as they may have fragile soils, contain sensitive water courses and provide special habitats for wildlife.

The Forestry Commission regulates what work can be done in woodlands. Good management ensures that we care for and work with our woodlands in a way that helps them thrive, as well as providing us with many benefits:



Recreation & Learning

Foresters aim to make woodlands safer places by carrying out tree work in a professional manner. This helps people to get the most out of a visit. Whether you come to cycle, ride, walk, orienteer, shoot or learn more about native plants and animals, woodlands offer a refuge from everyday life.



Landscape & Scenery

Woodlands are part of our living landscape. Different types of woodland contain a variety of trees, ranging from evergreen conifers to deciduous broadleaved trees. Some trees are iconic to our cities and countryside. Good management of our trees and woodlands aims to protect special trees and landscapes for now and the future.



History & Heritage

Old woodlands have features which provide clues about how our ancestors used them. You may see disused charcoal pits where wood was made into fuel, or old saw pits where woodsmen once cut trees for building timbers. Foresters identify and protect these features as they carry out their work, which help us to preserve our heritage and remember the importance of woods in our history.



Products & Materials

Trees and woodlands have provided for our needs for thousands of years. When we manage our trees well, they can provide good quality timber for building and furniture, coppice and fencing products, wood for heating, and certain types of fruit and nuts for food.



Skilled jobs

Management of woodlands, such as planting, tree felling or keeping paths maintained, must be carried out safely. People doing this work should have the appropriate forestry training and woodland skills. Caring for and managing our woodlands provides jobs for qualified people and helps support livelihoods.



Wildlife

Making sure that woodland animals, plants and fungi have the right conditions to flourish is a vital part of why we manage our woodlands. Removing certain trees at the right time allows light to reach the ground, encouraging plants to grow. Leaving some dead trees standing or stacks of logs on the floor provides habitats for many species of bats, beetles and fungi. In some cases wildlife can damage trees and may need controlling; for example, deer sometimes eat saplings, grey squirrels damage tree trunks and stems, and fungal diseases can kill trees.



Natural services

Understanding and working with our woodlands in the right way helps nature look after us. Trees and woodlands give natural or 'ecosystem' services that provide us with clean air and water, protection against flooding, carbon storage for a stable climate, as well as other valuable benefits. Careful management ensures that trees will continue to grow healthily and so keep providing these natural benefits.



Woods for the future

Trees and woodlands can help people and nature adapt to a changing climate. In recent years some trees have suffered from an increased number of pests and diseases, and researchers predict that these attacks may worsen as our climate changes. Management and careful planning will ensure our woods are healthy and productive in the future.



Woodland Management



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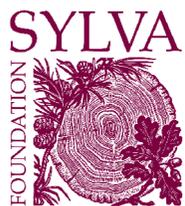


Woodland management ensures that our woods are worked and cared for in a way that helps provide us with many benefits, while making sure they stay healthy and continue to thrive in the future.



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Contact details:



BioRegional

