

Glossary

Some of the terms used in this book may be unfamiliar. A list can never be complete, but I hope the simplified definitions below are a help.

agroforestry – growing trees and food crops (plants or animals) together

ancient woodland – land which has been wooded continuously since before 1600

biodiversity – (biological diversity), variety and abundance of species

biomass – crops grown for fuel, commonly as short rotation coppice

brashing – removal of lower branches by pruning to allow access

breast height – 1.3 m above ground and position where trunk diameter is measured

butt – bottommost part of a tree trunk and usually largest log

canopy – branches and leaves of trees that spread overhead and shade woodland floor

clearfell – felling of all trees in a stand in one go

continuous cover forestry – managing forest so that there is always some tree cover

coppice – using shoots that emerge from cut stumps to regenerate woodland

crown – the aerial assemblage of branches and leaves of a tree

cleaning – removing woody growth, climbers and other unwanted plants

flush – burst of new growth in the spring as buds expand and open

habitat – the place where animals or plants live



hectare – unit of area equal to 2.47 acres

invertebrate – animals without a backbone such as beetles and other insects

native – occurs naturally and not introduced by man

niche – the home (environment) suited to particular organisms

natural regeneration – regenerating forest from seed fall or coppice i.e. not planting

pollard – a tree regularly cut 2–4 m above ground for small sized branchwood

ride – track through a wood usually wide enough for vehicles

rotation – period of time between planting and felling, or age when trees are felled

roundwood – wood used ‘in the round’ such as stakes or sold like this e.g. firewood

sawlog – a big enough log suitable for sawing into planks

silviculture – c.f. agriculture, the husbandry, care and tending of woods & forests

short rotation coppice – coppicing on a cycle (rotation) of <10 years, often 2–4 years

snag – American word for dead trunk left standing

standing sale – sale of trees where they are growing and before they are felled

swipe – operation of cutting weeds and grass in a ride

stand – a community of trees with similar characteristics and managed as one unit

thinning – from time to time, removing some trees from a stand to favour others

underwood – woody undergrowth beneath a tree crop, may sometimes be managed

wildwood – pre-existing woodland before the influence of humans

Acronyms

We are beset by shorthand use of acronyms, here are some used in the book or which you might come across.

AGLV – Area of Great Landscape Value

AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

ASNW – Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

BCTGA – British Christmas Tree Growers Association

BDS – British Deer Society

BES – British Ecological Society

BTCV – British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

CCW – Countryside Council for Wales

CLA – Country Land and Business Association

CPRE – Council for Protection of Rural England

CROW – Countryside and Rights of Way Act

DEFRA – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EN – English Nature (will become part of Natural England from 2007)

EWGS – England Woodland Grant Scheme

FC – Forestry Commission

FE – Forest Enterprise

FSC – Forest Stewardship Council

FTA – Forestry and Timber Association

FWAG – Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

HAP – Habitat Action Plan



HSE – Health and Safety Executive
ICF – Institute of Chartered Foresters
PAWS – Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
PEFC – Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification
RFS – The Royal Forestry Society
RSFS – Royal Scottish Forestry Society
SEERAD – Scottish Executive Environment Rural Affairs Department
SFGS – Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme
SHAI – Site of High Archaeological Importance
SNCI – Site of Nature Conservation Interest
SNH – Scottish Natural Heritage
SRC – Short Rotation Coppice
SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWA – Small Woods Association
TPO – Tree Preservation Order
UKWAS – United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme
WDA – Welsh Development Agency
WGS – Woodland Grant Scheme

Notes of common woodland trees and a few woody shrubs and climbers

Common name	Scientific name	Silvicultural notes	Soil ¹ & Site needs	Height & growth ²	Uses	Other notes
Native broadleaves						
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Hardy tree, tolerates flooding	Wet soils, stream & river sides	20 m, moderate growth rate	Land restoration. Amenity. Turnery	Enriches soil by fixing nitrogen
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Frost tender, stems often fork. Light demander	Rich, moist soils, OK on chalk soils. Not exposed sites.	30 m, moderately fast growing when young	High quality hardwood. Good firewood	Sets seeds most years, natural regen. common
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Tolerates shade. Prone to squirrel damage	Well drained loams. Avoid heavy soils	30+ m, slow to moderate growth, mature at 100+ y	Difficult to grow furniture quality. Charcoal.	Often found on chalk & limestone – suffers chlorosis
Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i> <i>Betula pendula</i>	Arises naturally wherever mineral soil is exposed	Acid, sandy and gravelly soils. Grows in uplands.	20+ m, fast when young, rarely lives longer than 80 y	Amenity tree in landscape. White wood for turnery.	Two closely related species.
Elm	<i>Ulmus spp</i>	Trees up to 10 m still common in hedgerows	Fertile, deep soils	30 m, but few big trees owing to DED	Landscape. Coffins, Windsor chairs.	Dutch elm disease (DED) still killing trees aged > 20 y
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Wood margins in S of Britain	Deep heavy soils, copes with chalk	15+ m, slow to moderate growth	Good for hedges. Conservation	Winged seeds a lovely port red
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Very hardy	Heavy clay soils	20 m, moderate growth	Dense wood, good for charcoal	Commonest in SE England
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Minor component of many woods	Where beech and oak grow well	15 m, slow growing	Wood is good for carving & turning	Usually self-seeding
Lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> <i>Tilia cordata</i>	Component of native woods, good in hedgerow	Fertile soils	30+ m, moderate growth	Conservation planting. Turnery & carving	2 native species, hybrid common in avenues
Oak (Common) (Sessile)	<i>Quercus robur</i> <i>Quercus petraea</i>	Commonest native broadleaf. Needs full light to grow.	Tolerant of many soils, grows well on clays	30 m, slow growth, mature at 120+ y, long lived	Sound timber is in demand. Conservation	Species similar. Both suffer squirrel damage

Common name	Scientific name	Silvicultural notes	Soil ¹ & Site needs	Height & growth ²	Uses	Other notes
Poplar (Black) (Aspen)	<i>Populus nigra</i> <i>Populus tremula</i>	Susceptible to canker and rust	Deep, fertile soils. Not exposed sites	20+ m, often fast growth	Little commercial use. Conservation	Black poplar now rare
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Very hardy	Upland sites	15 m, moderate	Amenity	Birds eat berries
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Early coloniser in scrub on chalk	Lowland sites, inc. chalky soils	20 m, moderate	Amenity	Light demanding
Wild cherry or gean	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Use in mixture with other species	Mostly lowlands inc. chalky soils	25 m, fast when young	Fine cabinet wood. Amenity	Attractive blossom in Spring
Wild Service Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Minor component of native woods	Lowland sites, at home on clays	20 m, slow to moderate growth	High conservation value	Indicates ancient woodland site
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	Sallow (<i>S. caprea</i>) very widespread as early coloniser	Varied	Many are very fast	Not timber, except cricket bat willow <i>S. alba</i> 'Coerulea'	5 native species. Purple Emperor feeds on sallow
Woody shrubs and climbers						
Alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Widespread	Wet, acid soils		Excellent charcoal	Has no thorns
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Often defoliated by ermine moth	Upland woods and streams in North	Small tree	Conservation	Birds eat berries
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Suckers heavily				Impenetrable!
Clematis or old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Woody climber, can overwhelm	Sure indicator of chalky soils		Cover for wildlife	Why 'Travellers Joy?'
Purging buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Most common in south and east	Thrives on poor chalky soils	Small tree	A nuisance!	Berries have a powerful effect!
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Mainly S England	Rich, chalky soils		Very hard wood	Birds carry seeds
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Throughout UK	Nitrogen-rich soils		Elderflower wine	Hollow stems
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Widespread	All but the poorest soils	Small tree	Excellent hedge	The wonderful 'May' flower
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	As underwood or pure coppice.	Heavier soils, acid to chalky	8 m, fast initial growth from stool	Thatching spars, hurdles. Cover	Many neglected coppices.

Common name	Scientific name	Siticultural notes	Soil ¹ & Site needs	Height & growth ²	Uses	Other notes
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Woody climber in glades and rides	Most soils		Ash/hazel walking sticks – twisted on	Lovely fragrance on still evening
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Woody climber	Throughout UK		Winter cover	Need not remove
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Mainly S England	Chalky soils		Hedging & cover	Evergreen
Spindle tree	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Mainly S England	Commonest on chalky soils	Rarely a tree	Fine turnery – pegs, needles	In November, bright pink berries
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Mainly S England	Dry chalky soils	Not really a tree		Beside droeways
Introduced broadleaves						
Poplars	<i>Populus</i> spp.	Disease resistant cultivars only. Put trees far apart.	Fertile soils, sheltered sites	30+ m, very fast	Biomass, short rotation coppice. Light timber	Some agroforestry potential
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Light demanding, flowers heavily, nuts disappointing	Acid, well drained soils. Warm, sunny conditions	30 m, moderate, fast when young coppice	Durable wood for palings & posts. Oak-like timber	Extensive coppice in SE England. Romans introduced
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Hardy tree, occurs throughout UK. Regenerates freely	Tolerant of wide range of soils. Stands exposure	30 m, moderate growth rate	General purpose hardwood. Some high value butts	Suffers squirrel damage. Bark good for lichens
Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Frost tender, usually grown as single trees	Rich well-drained soil. Warm, sheltered sites	20 m, slow	Cabinet wood	Rarely produces edible fruit. Romans introduced
Native conifers						
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Widespread but declining in extent	Tolerant of a range of soils	15 m, slow	Conservation, esp. in uplands	Food source and cover for birds
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Regenerates easily on heathland	Any well drained acid soil	30 m, moderate growth rate	Timber. Conservation (Scotland)	Severe chlorosis on chalky soils

Common name	Scientific name	Silvicultural notes	Soil ¹ & Site needs	Height & growth ²	Uses	Other notes
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Pure stands rare, tolerates shade	Well drained soils, inc. chalky	20 m, slow, very long lived	Amenity, historic interest	Bark, berries and foliage poisonous
Introduced conifers						
Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	Light demanding. Suffers red-band needle blight	Well-drained soils on lowland sites	35 m, moderate to fast, mature in 40+ years	Construction timber	Some tolerance of chalk/lime in soil
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Tolerates some shade, continuous cover forestry	Fertile well-drained soils. Sheltered sites	40+ m, fast, mature at 40+ y, very long lived	Fine construction timber	Readily browsed by deer when young
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Light demanding, prone to canker	Well drained soils	30 m, moderate growth rate	Stakes & rustic. Sheds & fences	Forms hybrid with Japanese larch
Firs	<i>Abies</i> spp.					Minor importance
Japanese larch	<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Light demanding	Tolerant of wide range of soils	30 m, fast when young	Stakes & rustic. Sheds & fences	Stems corkscrew, use hybrid
Lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Hardy, for uplands	Wet infertile soils	25 m, moderate	Industrial uses	Little now planted
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Moderately hardy	Heavy soils, drier sites in East	30 m, moderate to fast	Timber, Christmas trees	Suffers from great spruce bark beetle
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Most widely planted conifer, at risk of windthrow	All soils incl. peats & gleys if rain > 1000 mm	35 m, fast, mature at 40+ y, long lived	Good pulpwood, and construction timber	Never use as Christmas trees, needles prickly
Western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Shade tolerant. Regenerates freely	Well drained acid soils in lowlands	30+ m, fast	Poorer timber than other conifers	Regeneration can be a nuisance
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Best in mixture	Well drained soils, tolerates chalk	30 m, moderate to fast, long-lived	Very durable timber	Cigar-shaped trees can look ugly

¹ Soil – reference to chalk or chalky soil means any calcareous soil with lime or chalk fragments or that is very shallow over chalk or limestone and is alkaline of pH > 7

² Height and growth – very approximate guide to final heights typical in UK; fast growth – up to 1 m in a year, moderate 40–70 cm, slow < 40 cm

Further reading

Individual trees and forests

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Hinde, T. (1985) *Forests of Britain* Victor Gollancz.

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Marren, P (1992) *The Wild Woods. A regional guide to Britain's Ancient Woodlands* David and Charles

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More, D and Johnston, O (2004) *Collins Tree Guide* Collins

Thomas, P (2000) *Trees: their natural history*. Cambridge University Press

White J E J (1995) *Forest and woodland trees of Britain* Oxford (by our illustrator)

Woodland and forestry operations

Agate, E (ed) (2002) *Woodlands: A Practical Handbook*. BTCV

Broad, K (1998) *Caring for Small Woods* Earthscan, London

Blyth, J. Evans, J, Mutch, W E S and Sidwell, C (1991) *Farm woodland management*. 2nd edn. Farming Press, Ipswich

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Evans, J (1984) *Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland* Forestry Commission Bull. 62, HMSO

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Hibberd, B G (1991) *Forestry Practice* Forestry Commission Handbook 6, HMSO.

Kerr, G and Evans, J (1993) *Growing Broadleaves for Timber*. Hbk 9, Forestry Commission, HMSO

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Small Woods Association (2006) *A Marketing Guide for Owners of Small Woods*. Small Woods Association and Forestry Commission, England (free)

Starr, C (2005) *Woodland Management – a practical guide* The Crowood Press

Stokes, J and Hand, K (2001) *The Good Seed Guide* The Tree Council, London

Natural History and conservation in woodlands

Harris, E and Harris, J (2003) *Wildlife Conservation in Managed Woodlands and Forests*. (2nd edn.) Research Studies Press

Peterken, G F (1996) *Natural Woodland*. Cambridge University Press

Rackham, O (2003) *Ancient Woodland: Its history, vegetation and uses in England*. Castlepoint Press

Rackham, O (2001) *Trees and woodland in the British landscape*. Weidenfeld and Nicholson

Watkins, C. (1991) *Woodland management and conservation* David & Charles

Accounts of individual woodlands but with much else of relevance

Evans, J (1995) *A Wood of Our Own*. Oxford, reprinted 2003 Permanent Publications, East Meon

Evans, J (2002) *What Happened to Our Wood* Patula Books, Basingstoke

Law, B, (2001) *The Woodland Way – a permaculture approach to sustainable woodland management*. Permanent Publications, East Meon

Organisations to join of relevance to owners of small woods

(addresses and websites are in the next section)

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

One of the best bodies to join for gaining practical hands-on experience.

The Forestry and Timber Association

Forestry's equivalent of the NFU with focus on owners of larger woodlands, still much of relevance to the smaller owner. Have regional groups that hold useful field visits. Publishes *Forestry and Timber News*.

Local Wildlife Trusts

Information, surveys and management plans. Site visits and local practical work.

Royal Forestry Society

Largest society producing the very readable *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*, excellent website and monthly e-news digest, holds regular site meetings, good regional structure throughout England and Wales. After Small Woods Association join RFS, you'll benefit greatly. It is not expensive.

Scottish Royal Forestry Society

Scottish equivalent of RFS.

Small Woods Association

Probably the 'must join' organisation with a regular magazine (*Smallwoods*), relevant publications (some free), site meetings and training days for everyone interested in small woodland management. Includes the excellent Green Wood Centre.



The Tree Council

Many organisations belong to the Tree Council. Concerned with management and conservation of trees and woodlands. Promote annual tree week and 'Walk in the woods'

The Woodland Trust

A bit like the National Trust except focusing on woodlands, both existing and creating new ones. Free access to their woodlands in UK – look around and get ideas. Some opportunities for volunteer work.

Some useful addresses

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) 163 Balby Road,
Doncaster DN14 0RH www.btcv.org

Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ (tel. 01248 385500) www.ccw.gov.uk

English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA
(tel. 01733 455100) www.english-nature.org.uk

Forestry and Timber Association, 5 Dublin Street Lane South,
Edinburgh EH1 3PX (tel. 0131 538 7111) www.forestryandtimber.org

Forestry Commission, Silvan House, 231, Costorphine Rd. Edin-
burgh. EH12 7AT (tel. 0131 334 0303) www.forestry.gov.uk

Forestry Contracting Association, Dalfling, Blairdaff, Inverurie,
Aberdeenshire AB51 5LA (tel. 01467 651368) www.fcauk.com

Institute of Chartered Foresters, 7a St Colme Street, Edinburgh
EH3 6AA (tel. 0131 225 2705) - publish the journal *Forestry*
www.charteredforesters.org

Local Wildlife Trust (tel. 0870 036 7711) www.wildlifetrusts.org

Royal Forestry Society, 102, High Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 4AF
(tel. 01442 822028) www.rfs.org.uk

Royal Scottish Forestry Society, Hagg-on-Esk, Canonbie, Dumfrie-
shire DG14 0XE (tel. 01387 371 518) www.rsfs.org

Scottish Natural Heritage, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS
(tel. 0131 447 4784) www.snh.gov.uk

Small Woods Association, The Old Bakery, Pontesbury, Shrop-
shire SY5 0RR (tel. 01743 792644) www.smallwoods.org.uk

Tree Advice Trust, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham,
Surrey GU10 4LH Tree helpline 09065 161147 www.treehelp.info
(advice and information)

Badgers, Beeches and Blisters



Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YT (tel. 0207 407 9908) www.treecouncil.org.uk

Woodland Heritage, PO Box 168, Haslemere GU26 1XQ
www.woodlandheritage.org.uk

Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincs.
NG31 6LL (tel. 01467 574297) www.woodland-trust.org.uk