

# WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

## An Introduction for Community Volunteers

### SESSION 2: Types of Woodland and Woodland Ecology

#### HANDOUT No. 1: **Definitions**

**Ecology** is the science of the relationships between living organisms and their environments.

**Woodland or Forest**      *Important definitions include the following:*

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO, 2000):** *Land with tree crown cover of more than 10% and area more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m. at maturity in situ. May consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree cover exceeds 10%. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes which have yet to reach a crown density of 10% or tree height of 5 m. are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.*

**UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and Guidelines:** *The term forest is used to describe land predominantly covered in trees – defined as land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20% - whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller areas known by a variety of terms (including woods, copses, spinneys or shelterbelts). For the purposes of UKFS and Guidelines the meaning of woodland is synonymous with forest.*

More info on UKFS and Guidelines at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs>

**UK Forestry Statistics (Forestry Commission, 2015):** *Woodland is land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20% (25% in Northern Ireland), or having the potential to achieve this. The definition relates to land use, rather than land cover, so integral open space and felled areas that are awaiting restocking are included.*

**National Forest Inventory:** *is composed of two elements – a woodland map and a field survey. The map covers all forests and woodlands over 0.5 ha, with a minimum of 20% canopy (or the potential to achieve it), including new planting, clearfelled sites and restocked sites. It is based on 25 cm resolution colour aerial photography for England and Scotland and 40 cm resolution for Wales. Field survey work is used to refine the map-based estimates and to measure detailed aspects of the forest, using ground surveying of 1 ha sample squares. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory>*