

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

An Introduction for Community Volunteers

SESSION 2: Types of Woodland and Woodland Ecology

HANDOUT No. 3: **Classification of UK Woodlands**

1. NATIONAL VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION (NVC)

The standard classification used for all vegetation types in the UK since its development in the 1980's. The NVC is a 'phytosociological' classification based entirely on the plant species of which it is composed. The resulting communities can usually be correlated to other factors, especially geology, soils, age and management.

The NVC breaks each broad vegetation type (e.g. woodland, W) into communities, designated by a number and name (e.g. W8 *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis* woodland). Many of the communities contain several sub-communities, designated by a letter (e.g. W8a *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Acer campestre* – *Mercurialis perennis* woodland *Primula vulgaris* – *Glechoma hederacea* sub-community).

More info on NVC at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4259>

Woodlands and scrub NVC communities:

- W1 *Salix cinerea*–*Galium palustre* woodland
- W2 *Salix cinerea*–*Betula pubescens*–*Phragmites australis* woodland
- W3 *Salix pentandra*–*Carex rostrata* woodland
- W4 *Betula pubescens*–*Molinia caerulea* woodland
- W5 *Alnus glutinosa*–*Carex paniculata* woodland
- W6 *Alnus glutinosa*–*Urtica dioica* woodland
- W7 *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus excelsior*–*Lysimachia nemorum* woodland
- W8 *Fraxinus excelsior*–*Acer campestre*–*Mercurialis perennis* woodland
- W9 *Fraxinus excelsior*–*Sorbus aucuparia*–*Mercurialis perennis* woodland
- W10 *Quercus robur*–*Pteridium aquilinum*–*Rubus fruticosus* woodland
- W11 *Quercus petraea*–*Betula pubescens*–*Oxalis acetosella* woodland
- W12 *Fagus sylvatica*–*Mercurialis perennis* woodland
- W13 *Taxus baccata* woodland
- W14 *Fagus sylvatica*–*Rubus fruticosus* woodland
- W15 *Fagus sylvatica*–*Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland
- W16 *Quercus* spp.–*Betula* spp.–*Deschampsia flexuosa* woodland
- W17 *Quercus petraea*–*Betula pubescens*–*Dicranum majus* woodland
- W18 *Pinus sylvestris*–*Hylocomium splendens* woodland
- W19 *Juniperus communis* ssp. *communis*–*Oxalis acetosella* woodland
- W20 *Salix lapponum*–*Luzula sylvatica* scrub
- W21 *Crataegus monogyna*–*Hedera helix* scrub
- W22 *Prunus spinosa*–*Rubus fruticosus* scrub
- W23 *Ulex europaeus*–*Rubus fruticosus* scrub
- W24 *Rubus fruticosus*–*Holcus lanatus* underscrub
- W25 *Pteridium aquilinum*–*Rubus fruticosus* underscrub