

# WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

## An Introduction for Community Volunteers

### SESSION 3: WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

The **United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS)** *is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of guidelines:*

- *outlines the context for forestry in the UK*
- *sets out the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management*
- *defines standards and requirements*
- *provides a basis for regulation and monitoring, including national and international reporting*

The UKFS was first published in 1998 and revised in 2004 (principally to reflect the devolution of forestry to Scotland and Wales). The current (third edition) is supported by the 2011 editions of the supporting series of Guidelines.

**UKFS Requirements for General Forestry Practice** includes Forest Planning:

1. FOREST/WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (see below)
2. OPERATIONAL PLAN – site level details of how the proposals will be implemented.
3. CONTINGENCY PLAN – ensures that procedures are in place should unforeseen events occur e.g. fires, catastrophic wind damage, and accidental spillages.

The **Woodland Management Plan (WMP)** *is the reference document for the monitoring and assessment of forest holdings and forestry practice. It is also used for communicating proposals and engaging with interested parties. The plan should be proportionate to the scale, sensitivity and complexity of the forest management unit.*

- States the objectives of management
- Sets out how the appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social objectives will be achieved
- In designated areas (e.g. National Parks) particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure
- Consultation on WMPs and proposals should be carried out according to forest authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
- Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, and species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context
- Forests characterised by a lack of diversity due to extensive areas of even-aged trees should be progressively restructured to achieve a range of age classes
- Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant
- New forests should be located and designed to maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the landscape