

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

An Introduction for Community Volunteers

SESSION 3: WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

HANDOUT No. 2: **Use and Contents (Part 1)**

The Conservation Management System (CMS) provides a helpful overview of management planning and implementation, including six essential questions:

1. Why are we here? – legislation and policy.
2. What have we got? – description and collation of data for the site. Statements of fact, not evaluation and decision making, which comes later in the plan.
3. What is important? – assessment of features to evaluate what is important and what the focus should be for the planning process.
4. What are the influences? – the factors with the potential to influence or change the features. Past, present or future. Natural or anthropogenic.
5. What do we want? – the vision and objectives. The vision is the holistic outcome described in plain language. Objectives are an expression or statement of what we want to achieve: our aspirations
6. What must we do? – the most appropriate management for the site features.

Why create a woodland management plan?

- Enables an owner to make coherent decisions to manage the woodland to reach their objectives and to pass on information
- Provides evidence of compliance with legal obligations
- Provides evidence of ongoing activities to support applications for independent certification
- A requirement for entry into some grant schemes e.g. Countryside Stewardship/Forestry Commission
- Together with a Plan of Operations, can result in 10 year Felling Licences without the need for completing separate applications
- Improves economic viability
- Helps to provide structural diversity, creating a wide range of habitats
- Gives consideration to pests and diseases and helps to plan for protection against them
- Considers access and helps to plan for improvements and maintenance
- Looks at opportunities for people to benefit directly or indirectly e.g. through recreation or improved local amenity