



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Woodland Management Grant

February 2009

Condition, Opportunity & Threat Assessment

Purpose This document is the Forestry Commission's template designed to assist with undertaking a low-level assessment of existing woodlands. The assessment is designed to be a 'snap-shot', and subsequent assessments can be used to indicate change in the woodland condition. These are not funded by EWGS Woodland Assessment Grant.

Use The COT Assessment is used:

- To briefly assess the current condition of a woodland
- To identify the main opportunities for the woodland to deliver social and environmental public benefits
- To identify the key factors that may be putting at risk the delivery of these public benefits.
- To inform decisions about subsequent management, and grant support potential.

A COT assessment of this kind is a pre-requisite for applications to the EWGS Woodland Management Grant, where no management plan exists or is otherwise required.

Assessment The COT Assessment should ideally be undertaken by a professional woodland manager or someone with good experience in woodland management.

The attached COT assessment form is available to anyone who wishes to use it, whether or not it is to support grant or felling licence applications.

The Forestry Commission does not guarantee the accuracy or authority of an assessment undertaken or subsequently used for any other purpose.

The COT assessment form is available from FC offices or as a pdf file from the FC website page, www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wmg

Woodland Condition, Opportunity & Threat Assessment

1. Contact & Property Information

Plan reference (FC use only)	
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Wood Name:	
Grid Reference:	
Area of wood (Ha):	
Date of Assessment:	

Owner Name:	
Owner Address & Postcode:	
Owner Tel no.:	
Owner email:	
Other contact details:	

Assessor Name	
Assessor Tel no:	
Assessor email:	
Other contact details:	

FC Contact Name:	
FC Contact Tel:	
FC Contact email:	

2. Background Survey

Tick	Designations (see below)	Name or other reference or descriptor
	SSSI, SPA, SAC, Ramsar	
	SINC, LNR, Local Wildlife site	
	ASNW, PAWS	
	National park, AONB, TPO	
	SAM, OAM	

SSSI Site of special Scientific interest
 SAC Special Area of Conservation
 SPA Special Protection Area (birds)
 Ramsar Convention Site (Wetland)
 SINC Site of Interest to Nature Conservation
 LNR Local Nature Reserve
 ASNW Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

PAWS Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
 AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 TPO Tree Preservation Order
 SAM Scheduled Ancient Monument
 OAM Other Ancient Monument or historic feature
 Veteran trees are living trees that are often centuries old

3. Woodland benefits and desired outcomes

- a) State clearly and simply any specific benefits that the woodland owner wishes to achieve from looking after the woodland.
- b) State clearly and simply any desired outcomes for management. These should be consistent with the woodland's status, the UK Forestry standard and all supporting guidelines.

Benefits and desired outcomes - describe

4. Assessment of Condition

Species composition	%	
	Native broadleaves	
	Other broadleaves	
	Conifers	

Stocking (percentage of gross area that is under canopy cover)	Tick	
	0 – 20%	
	21 – 41%	
	41 – 60%	
	61 – 80%	
	81 – 100%	

Age Structure	%	
	Open space	
	Single age class	
	2 – 4 age classes	
	Multiple age classes	
	Intimate and diverse	

Understorey	Tick	
	Present	
	Patchy	
	Largely absent	

Regeneration	Tick	
	Yes	
	No	
	N/A (too young)	

Browsing & grazing levels - describe
What animal is browsing? Where is it taking place? Does it vary? Note any problems/benefits with the level of browsing

Significant Other Features – describe
Note presence & location of features such as historic features, ponds, glades, veteran trees, deadwood etc

Management Access – describe
Is the woodland sufficiently served by roads and rides? Describe current situation and suggested improvements

Predominant adjoining landuse
e.g. arable, grazed land, woodland etc

Other comments - describe

Make any further observations or comments here. Continue on attached page if required

5 . Assessment of Opportunities and Threats

Comment on the Management Opportunities and Threats to the woodland as appropriate

Social / Cultural – describe

(including visual aspects)

Environmental - describe

(including external threats like spray drift, drainage impacts etc)

Economic - describe

(including tourism activities and links to existing rural businesses)

6. Work proposed to achieve the desired outcome set out in section 3

Proposed work (create a numbered list of actions to be taken)
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7. Recommendations for further surveys before work commences

Recommended surveys

8. Support for woodland work

Advice for woodland owners re: potential grants, felling licence needs, potential for training, seminar attendance, organisation membership

9. Requests for further information

Tick	Ticking these boxes does not create any obligation on the woodland owner of Forestry Commission
	Please send the woodland owner relevant technical information about looking after woodlands
	Please pass the woodland owner's details to other woodland organisations who may offer membership and further support and advice (this includes other parts of the Forestry Commission and Defra)

10. Additional Information

Please note the section number of the assessment you are adding extra information to