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**Feature Assessment Form – Woodland**

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| Name of SSSI |  | | Date of assessment | |  | |
| SSSI reportable feature(s) being assessed | BROADLEAVED, MIXED AND YEW WOODLAND  W13 Taxus baccata woodland | | Assessed by | |  | |
| Unit Number |  | | Suggested feature condition | | NA | |
| **Woodland – wet and dry** | | | | | | |
| **Variable** | **Measurement** | **Target** | | **Summary value & Overall Narrative** | | **Pass/Fail** |
| Area | Field survey and/or aerial photography, in relation to baseline map. | No loss of ancient semi-natural stands. At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter. No loss of ancient woodland. For wood pasture/parkland: No loss of semi-natural wood-pasture mosaic area. No reduction in the number of veteran trees. | |  | |  |
| Structure and Natural processes | Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects. | Understorey (0.5-2m) and shrub layer (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (except in parkland). Canopy cover present over 30-90 % of stand area (except in parkland stands). At least three age classes spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees. some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over-maturity/death on site (e.g. a minimum of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees per ha). A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20 cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing. | |  | |  |
| Composition | Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects. | At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site-native or acceptable naturalised species. Minimum levels of particular native tree/shrub species (where important and appropriate – see text) Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period. | |  | |  |
| Quality indicators | Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects, or as appropriate to feature. | 80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community Target(s) also to be set to maintain distinctive elements at current extent/levels and/or in current locations, e.g. to maintain important microhabitats (other than dead wood), patches of associated habitats, transitions between habitats, or existing populations of locally notable species (other than  trees/shrubs). | |  | |  |
| Regeneration potential | Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects, | Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 10 yr period (or equivalent regrowth from coppice stumps). No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting. All planting material of locally native stock No planting in sites where it has not occurred in the last 15 years. | |  | |  |
| Deer impact | Low  Medium  High  (*Refer to guidance below: https://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/uploads/guides/183.pdf)* | Evidence of deer seen (record species); dung, racks (deer paths) slots & scrapes; browse line, bark stripping or fraying, browsing impact on vegetation incl. epicormic growth at base of yew trunks and where limbs layering. NB. This is not a full Deer Impact Assessment but requires general observations. (*Refer to guidance below: https://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/uploads/guides/183.pdf)* | |  | |  |
| Presence of tree planting | Y/N | No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting. All planting material of locally native stock. No planting in sites where it has not occurred in the last 15 years. | |  | |  |
| Presence/evidence of plant disease or dieback | Y/N | Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period. | |  | |  |

**Point recording**

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| **Variables from page 1** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| **Grid Reference** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Tree canopy cover %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Understorey cover %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Coppice regrowth Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ground flora of NVC*  *%* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Native plants %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Non-native plants %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Open space %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Cover of specific species %* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Regeneration Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ancient trees Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Dead Wood Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Indicators of local distinctiveness Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Minimum intervention areas Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Saplings and young trees Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Tree plants Y/N* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Plant disease of dieback* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Browsing – Low, medium, high* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Narrative written***  *(tick when completed)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Photo taken*** *(tick when completed)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Threats recorded if relevant*** *(tick when completed)* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Species** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
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| **Survey Stop Narratives**  Please record summary for each stop addressing different variable and identifying any condition threats. | |
| Stop 1 |  |
| Stop 2 |  |
| Stop 3 |  |
| Stop 4 |  |
| Stop 5 |  |
| Stop 6 |  |
| Stop 7 |  |
| Stop 8 |  |
| Stop 9 |  |
| Stop 10 |  |

**Threats**

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| **Condition Threat** | **Context** | **Please provide comments if applicable** |
| **Changes in species distributions** | Reasons for variations in population distributions are often unknown and complex but may include the population moving due to climate change, weather or because features are mobile. |  |
| **Deer** | Deer populations in England continue to expand leading to high concentrations on increasing numbers of SSSI. Implementation of deer management is a complex and sensitive subject. However, impacts from intensive deer browsing are detectable via CSM monitoring and, therefore, need to be addressed to maintain condition. The most appropriate location of deer management (eg shooting) may not be on the SSSI itself, but the impacts on the local herd are such that numbers on the SSSI are managed at appropriate levels. |  |
| **Hydrological changes** | Provides the ability to record potential changes resulting from changes in local hydrological regimes and/or possible impacts from more regular and prolonged periods of drought |  |
| **Invasive species** | This threat recognises that implementation of appropriate management (including bio-security measure) may be possible to minimise impacts on notified features – allowing FCT attributes to be met. |  |
| **Recreational disturbance** | Provides ability to record potential impact of changes in type, pattern, or intensity of recreational activity. This could, for example, be from potential housing developments or from disturbance of roosting birds by bait-digging or wildfowling. |  |

**Management**

Please provide descriptions and relevant pictures of what Management activities are in place, if they are working and if not what management will be put in place.

**Photographs/Map**

Please include photographs with a relevant description and location e.g. Japanese knotweed located in Unit 1 Grid Reference SE 3044 0403 or TN1 on map.

Please include a map showing the route walked/stop numbers and photo locations.