Woodlands in the High Weald Landscape

Woodlands within the High Weald are dominated by numerous small woods and sinuous gills interconnected by narrow shaws. They have been managed for centuries and hide a wealth of archaeological features. Today they are valued for nature conservation, timber production or recreational pursuits such as shooting or walking. Three-quarters of the woodland is ancient, a nationally rare home for scarce butterflies and a number of declining animal species such as the dormouse.

Extent, distribution and loss

The High Weald holds more ancient woodland than any other protected area, 7% of England's total ancient woodland.

Woodlands cover 24.6% of the High Weald AONB, 35,905ha in total. Of the ancient woodland, 69.6% is recorded as ancient semi-natural, and 3% as plantations on ancient woodland sites. The largest tracts of plantation are located on the Weald Forest Ridge in the areas of former 'forests' at Ashdown, Worth and St Leonard's.

Wealden woodland in spring

Use and management

Throughout history people have been at work in the woodlands of the High Weald. Swineherds brought pigs to feed on the beechmast, charcoal burners set up their camps to provide fuel for the iron smelting furnaces, and woodcutters sought timber for fuel and construction. Almost all parts of the tree were utilised. A single woodland, systematically cut and felled in rotation, would generate sustainable supplies of durable and attractive hardwoods such as oak, sweet chestnut and ash for use in a whole range of products from building timber and fencing to charcoal, firewood and pea sticks.

A proportion of the Weald's larger woodlands are referred to as Forests. The term 'Forest' has two meanings. In the historical sense a Forest was an area set aside by the Crown for hunting, usually for deer but also other forms of game. The area was not solid woodland, rather a mosaic of woods, coppices, wood-pasture, heaths and commons. 'Forest' in the modern sense of the word means high mature woodland, where the trees are managed for timber (not underwood). It is a term brought from the Continent during the 18th and 19th centuries, when large areas were planted with non-native trees, especially conifers. Many of the areas Forest are so-called in both senses of the word, many were former wood-pasture common in the medieval forest subsequently planted with conifers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Today there are still people working in the woods but not in anything like the numbers of a century ago. About 11% of the woodland is under active coppice management. Sweet chestnut is the most frequently cut wood today, because of its value for fencing, construction and furniture. Among the signs that indicate that a wood is being worked is the buzz of chainsaws, blue tarpaulin shelters of the coppice cutters with their stacks of split timber and plumes of smoke that drift up through the trees. However all too often today there is instead an eerie silence in winter, traditionally the busiest time of year in the woods.

However woodland is a sustainable resource and the industry is due for revival. It could play a bigger part in meeting High Weald residents future energy needs; the country's largest wood burner has been installed at Beacon School in Crowborough. It requires 1000 tonnes of timber per annum to operate – equivalent to around 100 hectares of managed woodland. An increase in demand for timber for commercial and domestic woodburners could be the stimulus that brings more of our woodlands back into management.

Biodiversity value and current threats

Woodlands are an important habitat for wildlife such as mammals (bats and dormice), birds (nightingales and woodpeckers) and butterflies. Managed woodlands may support a greater variety of woodland wild flowers and butterflies than unmanaged woodlands. Old-growth woodland, however, supports species not found in managed woodlands, and is a valuable habitat in its own right. Not all woodlands require a diverse range of habitats to be of conservation value, as some may have a very specific biodiversity interest. Woodlands are currently threatened by a lack of awareness; fragmentation of ownership particularly to enable leisure use; lack of knowledge; lack of management and lack of markets.

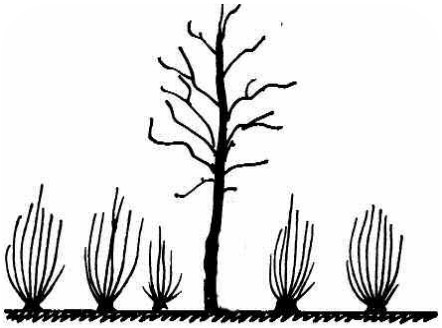
Recently coppiced woodland

Types of woodland found in the High Weald

Small broadleaved woodlands are characteristic, often linked by thick shaws between a patchwork of small irregularly shaped fields.

Coppice

Trees which are cut close to ground level on a rotation that can be anything from 7 to 35 years. This encourages trees to grow with multiple stems from what is known as the 'stool'. Historically, the cut stems were used to make products for fencing, hurdle making and hedging and more. Typical species used include hazel, hornbeam, sweet chestnut and ash. Coppicing prolongs the life of a tree and provides an excellent habitat for wildlife.



Coppice-with-standards

Scattered single-stemmed trees (or 'standards') such as oak and ash are allowed to grow to maturity within the coppice woodland. These are managed on a much longer rotation (fifty years or more) to produce timber (sawn wood used for construction) and create woodlands with a greater feeling of age and structure.

High Forest – mature woodland

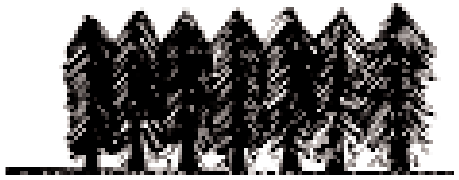
Often described as a closed-canopy woodland. Generally, many single-stemmed trees have grown tall, intercepting much of the light and preventing it from reaching the woodland floor. This creates a shady woodland with fewer smaller 'understorey' shrubs creating a more open woodland at ground level. Some are managed to provide a crop of timber trees. Not as common as in other parts of the country, although many formerly coppice woodlands are reverting to high forest through lack of management.

Wood Pasture

A legacy of medieval times and formally used for the purposes of grazing cattle as well as retaining deer. Often surrounded by substantial earth embankments and possessing very old trees and pollards (broad leaved trees cut 1m to 3m above the ground and allowed to resprout like coppice)n.b large embankments are not always a sign of wood pasture. These trees are spaced widely, and the widespread grazing results in little understorey (low-level shrubs) establishing itself. The result is a very open and light woodland environment.

Shaws

Narrow strips of woodland acting as ancient boundaries between irregular shaped fields. Shaws may be the remnants of larger woods out of which fields were cleared many centuries ago, or they may have developed from narrower hedgerows which have become unmanaged.



Plantation

A forested area established by planting or direct seeding. These are normally planted to produce a crop and often consist of non-native or exotic species (often conifers).

Trees are normally planted in rows of single species and the dense canopy cover suppresses ground flora.

Over a third of ancient woodland sites in the High Weald AONB has been replanted by non-native species, mainly conifers. These sites are known as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites or PAWS.

Gill woodland

Woodland in which steep sided ravines or gills (or ghylls) have formed from the action of streams eroding clay or sandstone beds. Working on such terrain is difficult and so the ravine sides tend to be left unmanaged and hence support mature trees. Gill woodlands are a distinctive feature of the High Weald.

Caring for and maintaining your woodland

1. Why manage woodlands?

Woods have a big impact on the High Weald landscape. Woodlands are equally important for the people that live and work in and around them and to the wildlife they support. Well managed woodlands can produce a mosaic of habitats capable of supporting light demanding and shade tolerant species. Management is particularly needed where a long history of rotational coppicing has suddenly stopped. The High Weald has a high percentage of ancient woodland (68%) which is an irreplaceable resource which once lost, can never be restored.

Gill woodland

2. Making management decisions about your woodland

What factors should I consider when deciding management?

Woodlands are valuable for many reasons; as a source of wood and timber, opportunities for quiet recreation, bird watching, shooting and for wildlife.

Management of your wood will depend on what type of wood it is and your own objectives - for example:

Do you want to produce wood products or timber?

Are you more interested in the wildlife in the wood? Woodlands support a great diversity of wildlife and can be managed to increase populations of plants, insects and birds.

Are you concerned about archaeological features such as woodbanks, sawpits, charcoal platforms, which add to the history of the wood?

Perhaps all of the above!

Cost is often the overriding decision factor: grants are available to help with woodland management (see www.highweald.org [guidance]). If timber within your woodland has commercial value, this will often determine what sort of management is most appropriate.

The following will help you to plan and manage your woodland;

- Assess your area for its conservation and commercial value and consider as many options as possible;
- Draw up a management plan obtaining professional advice where needed, particularly if your wood has a designation.
- Monitor changes in the area, good and bad, and record them for future reference; you can get expert help to monitor the wildlife in your woodland (see www.highweald.org [guidance])
- Be prepared to change and adapt your plans as necessary

For specific recommendations, particularly woods in sensitive areas, that professional advice ndix).

Looking back in time for clues

Coppice stool

How a woodland was managed in the past greatly influences its present landscape and wildlife value. Active coppicing and wood-pasture were much more common than they are today. Wildlife such as butterflies, wildflowers or beetles have become adapted to the specialist habitats associated with coppicing. They can find it difficult to adapt and survive where these practises have been stopped.

A good starting point is to consider restoring the former management practices. Clues can be found quite easily: look out for ageing multi-stemmed coppice stools, or old pollardedsurrounded by young woodland, which may indicate former wood-pasture. However, if in doubt, seek expert advice. In most cases, restoring previous management in some form is usually the most appropriate choice.

An important note about Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

If your woodland forms part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest, you will have been notified by Natural England . Owners of SSSIs must give Natural England written notice before they begin any operations listed in the notification as likely to damage the special interest. If in doubt contact Natural England (see contactrs index).

3. Managing your woodland for conservation

The most basic principle behind good woodland management is there should be a variety of habitats, with a patchwork effect of different heights and structure. This results in an increase in the variety of woodland wildlife as different habitats are made available.

Some forms of management such as large-scale coppicing can result in great change within woodlands, and this needs careful management planning.

Try to:

- Coppice areas on a rotational basis. This provides a woodland with differing age structures and avoids drastic changes..
- Maintain or create rides and glades to create up areas with increased light and warmth.
- Retain mature trees as standards and leave standing dead wood as both support many species of woodland wildlife.
- Use felling to re-open views, show significant landscape features or to break up intrusive straight lines.
- Aim for a diverse woodland structure with well defined ground, field, shrub and tree layers.
- Control non-native and invasive species, such as rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and sycamore.
- Leave small areas unmanaged, especially wet areas, as this will encourage growth of mosses, liverworts and ferns.
- Manage sensitively around archaeological features.

4. Woodland coppicing explained

What is coppicing?

Most native broad-leaved species of trees found in Britain are capable of being coppiced. The practice, used widely to manage woodlands and hedges in the past, uses the ability of these trees to readily resprout from cut stumps or stools. This allows a crop of wood to be harvested on a regular rotation of around 12 to 15 years, although in some places this may extend to 25-30 years.

Species most often coppiced in the High Weald include hazel, sweet chestnut and hornbeam.

Regrowth sprouting from chestnut stools

Depending on the species, coppice stools will regenerate quickly assuming good light conditions. Coppicing may be undertaken if tall canopy trees are being left in place, but some light reaching the woodland floor is essential for re-growth. The minimum area of coppice should be approximately half an hectare.

New hazel regrowth

Do I need to get permission to fell trees?

There are several organisations that you may need to contact:

A felling licence may be needed from the Forestry Commission. In any calendar quarter you can fell up to 5 cubic metres of timber on your property without a licence, as long as no more than 2 cubic metres are sold. If coppicing, you are exempt from a licence if the trees being felled are 15cm or less diameter at a height of 1.3m above the ground. Contact the Forestry Commission for more details.

If your woodland is a SSSI, you should contact Natural England for more information (see www.highweald.org [guidance]).

Some woodlands may also be subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), check with your local authority.

Yew woodlands should be managed specially and in a non-interventionist way.

Coppiced chestnut woodland

Assessing your woodland

Firstly look at your woodland to see how it has been managed and how it fits into the landscape. Consider what will be lost and gained by altering the management. The table below indicates the attributes you need to consider when assessing your wood and highlights the resulting management considerations.

Attribute	Is the woodland…?	Landscape Conservation	Management Considerations
Size and shape	Small (less than 10 ha)	Small woodland blocks interlinked by shaws and hedges are characteristic of the High Weald landscape. Care should be taken that woodlands are not left isolated and fragmented and connections with shaws and hedges are maintained and developed if possible.	The type of management can be an easier decision, as generally only one type is required for a small woodland. In addition, cost may be considerably lower. Consider treating groups of small woods together to achieve economies of scale, or link sites by woodland creation, where possible.
Size and shape	Medium to large	Large woodlands can be dominant and important landscape features. Introduction of management, such as large-scale coppicing, can have a significant effect on the landscape. Long straight edges of large woodlands that disregard slopes can look unnatural and can be softened by sympathetic management.	Management options are more complicated and it may be wise to gain professional advice (see www.highweald.org). A range of management options are likely to be needed in different areas of the wood.
Soil type	Acid	Acid soils tend to be dominated by fewer species (often sweet chestnut coppice), but can suffer from dominant invasive and unwanted species such as rhododendron.	May often be simply a case of reinstating a coppice cycle to. However, large sections of woodland can have SSSI designation and require agreed management actions. Control of invasive species often requires professional advice to be effective.
Soil type	Neutral or alkaline	Alkaline soils often have a greater diversity of species associated with them.	Coppicing can encourage a varied ground flora through increasing light levels and warmth.
Soil type	Wet, Well drained or dry	Wet sites may have more plant species than dry ones. Wet woodlands and ghylls support distinct flora which can be rare and a feature of the High Weald.	Wet soils are more easily damaged by heavy machinery. Vegetation may be damaged by drainage. Dry soils may be prone to erosion and loss of habitat.

Attribute	Is the woodland…?	Landscape Conservation	Management Considerations
Connections	Connected to other woodlands:	Maintains the High Weald's intimate landscape feel.	Management should concentrate on maintaining the current range of woodland habitats, and ensuring connections are not eroded.
	Isolated from other woodlands:	Where woods are small can look lost, and may also result in a loss of biodiversity over time.	Provide a range of habitats within the wood, if large enough. Expand wood where possible to increase landscape value and where appropriate, consider hedge planting to connect to other nearby woodlands.
Access for recreation and management	Accessible and heavily used for recreation:	Consideration has to be given to safety for users, often resulting in widening of paths. Some very well-used woods may become suburbanised. Woodland wildlife can suffer from damage (eg trampling of ground flora, disturbance of breeding birds, vandalism to old trees etc).	Make use of information boards to explain management activities if access or landscape is affected, Re-routing footpaths or zoning access may be necessary to protect sensitive wildlife areas and landscape erosion. If this is being considered, PROW legislation must be followed
	Difficult to access:	If habitat management cannot be carried out due to poor access, wildlife and landscape features may be lost. There may be an initial greater effect on the landscape, as more likely that a lot of management will need to be undertaken at one time to compensate.	May be difficult and expensive if topography restricts access.
Grazing and browsing	Heavily grazed:	Woodland less able to regenerate naturally until grazing pressure (deer, rabbits, sheep or cattle) alleviated.	New tree planting and/or natural regeneration. requires protection by tree shelters or fencing. Pollarding may be an option in wood pasture sites. Reduce grazing pressure to alleviate pressure on ground flora and fauna.
Grazing and browsing	Lightly grazed:	Grazing can be beneficial to certain wildlife groups (eg lichens and mosses) and is vital to maintain wood-pasture sites.	Maintain stocking rates and protect sensitive areas from over-grazing.
Structure & habitat diversity	Structurally diverse:	Varied structure is often most beneficial for wildlife: including a tree canopy with a mixed age structure, shrub layer, ground flora, dead wood of various types & sizes with a mixture of other habitats eg rocky outcrops, grassy rides, pools, streams and marshy areas	Past management will have influenced the woodland structure to a large degree. Maintain current diverse structure in particular preserving special features such as veteran trees and damp flushes.
Structure & habitat diversity	Structurally impoverished:	Woods with trees of a similar age, with little shrub layer, and a lack of dead wood etc. may be important for individual species but, generally, species diversity will be low.	Improving the variety of structural elements can help landscape and wildlife eg encouraging a variety of different tree ages, allowing a shrub layer to develop, leaving dead wood, and creating or anaging permanent open space.

Some hints for managing woodlands

1. Managed High-forest

Appropriate management:

- Fell trees within the woodland to encourage new growth and a variety of different aged trees
- Allow trees to regenerate naturally where possible rather than planting.
- Leave some trees (at least 4 per ha) to grow until they die naturally.
- Open up clearings by felling to increase variety and ground flora.
- Keep rides and paths open for butterflies, birds and bats.
- Manage groups of small woods together.

Inappropriate management:

- Do not undertake operations that may damage the existing natural character of the woodland. (eg disturbing breeding birds, inappropriate drainage, planting non-native species, excessive use of herbicide, clearing dead wood etc).

2. Coppice or coppice-with-standards

Recommended in:

- Woods with a history of coppicing, and that were cut in at least the last 50 years.
- Woods with south facing slopes which are more likely to provide the warm microclimate needed by species that need sunny open areas, such as fritillary butterflies.
- Woods likely to produce a diverse ground flora with a wide variety of trees and shrubs.
- Woods where diversity is likely to be best maintained by restoring coppice, rather than allowing high forest to develop.

Not recommended in woods:

- With lichens and mosses that may not tolerate the sudden changes in light and humidity associated with coppicing. Seek specialist advice if you are unsure.
- Suffering long term neglect (ie. for more than 50 years) and have developed a mature high forest structure with much dead wood and many veteran trees.
- Where grazing and browsing cannot be controlled to an appropriate level and where adequate fencing is not practical (deer will graze on new shoots from coppice stools).

3. Wood-pasture

Recommended in:

- Sites with a history of wood-pasture that retain a scattering of veteran trees.
- Sites close to or adjoining existing wood pasture sites.
- Sites where traditional forms of extensive or seasonal woodland grazing is practical.
- Sites with ground vegetation normally found in open ground (heath/grassland etc).

Not recommended in:

- Former wood-pasture sites that are now important for wildlife species that would not benefit from wood-pasture treatment.
- In such sites, veteran tree management (eg pollarding) may still be desirable.
- Ancient semi-natural woodlands and coppice with standards.
- Small woods where poaching and trampling can destroy localised habitats.

Some hints for managing woodlands

4. Restoration of woodland on plantation sites

Recommended in woods:

- Planted with conifers.
- That have only recently been replanted (in the last 30 – 50 years).
- Where some former broadleaved trees and/or ground flora survives within the plantation.
- Where open rides within the plantation are rich in plant species normally found in broad-leaved woodlands.
- Where professional advice is available.

Not recommended in:

- Well-established plantations.
- Plantations that have become established as important landscape features in their own right.

5. Minimum Intervention (absence of management)

Recommended in woods with:

- Areas of wet woodland which have established flora (including mosses, liverworts and ferns) and where working conditions for men and machinery are likely to damage the habitat.

Not recommended in:

- Woods that have had continued management for some time and where flora and fauna have adapted to the habitat.

Planting new woodlands

While woodland planting is generally considered to be a positive undertaking, natural woodland regeneration is preferable. You may have real and positive reasons for woodland planting, but you must be sure it is suitable for the High Weald. Always ask yourself first of all:

Is a woodland appropriate here?

In some parts of the High Weald open landscapes are important, and new woodland planting can look out of place and sit uncomfortably with the surrounding countryside, for example the open flood plains to the east of the AONB.

How do I select the species for my new woodland?

Whether you are planting a new woodland or filling in gaps, ensuring you select the right species is vital. This not only maintains the woodland character but also maximizes the value for local wildlife. The guide below gives an indication of the right species for the High Weald Area and the quantities of each species will vary according to the location .

Planting in a random mix based on a 1m to 3-metre grid with a range of species is recommended. See www.highweald.org [guidance] for further advice.

Soil type	Canopy Species	Understory Species
High Weald Clay	Pedunculate oak Sessile oak, Hornbeam, Field Maple	Hazel Hawthorn Blackthorn

Matching tree species to soil type is important. Planting in small irregular blocks of species creates a new woodland with variety.

When planting for landscape and nature conservation consider:

- Creating a range of habitats within or near the wood, such as open glades, rides and forest edges; streams and ponds; wet places and ponds. An ideal size for isolated woodland is at least 5 ha allowing for rides and glades.
- Any valuable existing habitats, for example, heathland, unimproved and semi-improved grassland, should not be used for woodland creation.
- Linking or extending existing woodlands, taking into account any species or features, for example, rare plants that may be in neighbouring woodland which may benefit from new planting..
- Developing an age range of trees and shrubs with different height layers including a stock of old trees and some dead wood for a variety of wildlife. The planting mix will affect the future structure of the wood.

Seek professional advice on the siting of new woodlands.

Planting should be carried out any time during the winter (October to early March), but not during frosty or icy conditions. Providing you match tree species to location and type of soil native broadleaved varieties should not need any form of soil improver. Use of improvers can be detrimental in the long run as they also encourage the establishment of weeds which during the critical first few years can out compete your trees.

Planting density (how far away each tree is from its nearest neighbour) varies not only according to size of tree, but also the type, purpose and structure of the woodland you are trying to create. Traditional planting densities normally involve planting trees around 1.8m (6ft) apart. Trees are often planted closer together than strictly necessary if lower survival rates are anticipated. If you are planting to produce a commercial crop, then specifications may be different and you should seek expert advice.

Whips (60-90cm in height) are the most commonly selected tree type used for planting purposes as they take much more readily than standard trees (275-300cm in height) and are considerably cheaper. Various methods of planting are available, though the easiest and cheapest is usually to slit plant, but does bring with it an increased failure rate compared to the more costly pit planting.

Trees for planting should be of native origin (i.e. grow naturally in this country) and of local provenance (from seed collected in the UK, and ideally from within the High Weald). This has several advantages including improved growth and a greater chance of survival. Consider the need for tree protection against deer and rabbits (see below).

There are many contractors that can undertake woodland planting. The www.highweald.org [guidance] may be able to provide details.

Tree planting using matting to suppress vegetation

Woodland maintenance and aftercare

It is important to look after your wood after planting. In the first few years, this consists of weeding, mowing and spraying to control the growth of weeds until the trees have become firmly established. After this, replacing any trees that have died, thinning out where trees are competing with each other, ride and glade management all become part of your annual management. If tree shelters have been used, it is advisable to remove them from the tree after they have become established.

Can I use herbicides?

Caring for your new woodland in its early years does need some protection of young trees from competing vegetation. Herbicides are effective and relatively cheap. However where the ground flora is itself of conservation value professional advice should be sought. Dense bracken, bramble or rhododendron may require more extensive herbicide treatment. The use of herbicides on SSSIs may need the approval of Natural England.

Other means of controlling the vegetation around the new trees is the use of plastic, woven polypropylene mats or mulch.

Should I use fertilisers?

Generally, ancient woodlands and sites on which broadleaves might be established do not require the addition of fertiliser to obtain satisfactory tree growth.

Should I protect the trees?

It is likely that you will need to protect your new woodland from the attentions of grazing animals such as mice, voles, rabbits and deer. The most common methods used include the use of tree shelters (plastic tubes placed over the tree) and fencing to protect against attack by rabbit or deer. Choice is usually dependent on cost, though for large areas under deer or rabbit attack, it is often cheaper to fence these animals out.

How do I manage rides and glades?

Rides and other grassy areas, for example glades and roadside verges, give a mix of habitats, attractive to a wide range of wildlife; mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and birds. Take care not to unwittingly allow important areas of open habitat to be lost to encroaching trees or insensitive woodland operations.

As a general principle the best rides are winding rather than straight, and have shrubby edges. This maximises their shelter value both within the ride, and inside the wood. Where existing rides are too straight, 'scalloping' of edges by selective tree cutting and coppicing can provide a much enhanced habitat. Diversity can also be enhanced by maintaining a narrow track and allowing herbs a small shrubs to grow up at the edges.

Grass rides within your woodland are often best maintained by mowing portions, eg strips, in alternate years, preferably in late summer. Any shrubby strip between grass and forest should be coppiced at intervals of 3-5 years, aiming to cut only a proportion of the shrub strip each year. Generally rides should be at least 8 metre wide with a range of vegetation heights.

Woodland ride

East to west rides allows maximum sunlight which is very valuable for wildlife such as bats and butterflies. Many species of wildlife need a variety of habitats for their lifecycle which the dense woodland, scrub and grassy areas provide.

Glades can be created along rides or woodland edges. Generally the compartment should be at least 1.5 times as wide as the height of the adjacent trees canopy to allow enough light in (or a minimum of 22-25 metres from canopy edge to canopy edge). Glades can either be coppiced on rotation or allowed to naturally develop into woodland with new glades created elsewhere in the wood. Well sheltered woodland rides make a great contribution to pheasant holding capacity, as well as providing an extra habitat for a wide range of other wildlife (see below).

What about woodlands for game rearing?

Historically, pheasant shooting has been an important motivation for the planting of new woods and the retention and management of existing ones. It increasingly provides the incentive for some private owners to do habitat management. Much of this management can, if sensitively carried out, benefit both pheasants, other wildlife and the landscape.

The small size of many broadleaved woodlands, and the presence of glades and openings, increase the woodland edge which provides habitat for many animals.

It therefore follows that many of the guidelines for management for wildlife conservation apply to management for game. Neglected woods or outgrown coppice are usually of lesser value, being draughty and inhospitable, for example, pheasants require a tree canopy which is not so dense that ground vegetation is suppressed and sunlight does not warm the ground. They need shelter and warmth, by means of ground cover and perhaps a perimeter hedge. Further advice can be found in the practical guide 'Woodland and Pheasants' produced by The Game Conservancy Trust.

The guide highlights conservation and landscape issues in relation to pheasant releasing and the economic benefits, It also encourages the integration of nature conservation, landscape and pheasant management in woodlands .

Is there anything else I should consider?

Woodlands are one of the most important features within the High Weald, and ensuring that they are managed correctly and appropriately will help to maintain this beautiful landscape for future generations.

Are grants available to help with woodland management and creation?

Yes - The following Forestry Commission grants are available..

English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

The Forestry Commission England provides support for the creation and management of woodlands through grant aid (EWGS).

The aims of the EWGS are:

- to sustain and increase the public benefits given by existing woodlands
- to help create new woodlands to deliver additional public benefit.

The woodland grant scheme has 5 grants available for maintaining existing woodlands and one for the creation of new woodlands.

See www.highweald.org [guidance] for more information.