

LANCASHIRE  
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER TYPE

ANCIENT & POST-MEDIEVAL  
WOODLAND

Definition:

This type includes most of the Ancient Woodland identified by English Nature (less areas of insufficient size for the purpose of characterisation). It also includes planted woodland present on the OS First Edition map of c AD 1850 and woods associated with parkland.

Typical historical and archaeological components

Past and present management will determine the type's composition and associated flora and fauna. There may be coppice and pollarded trees indicating such earlier (or continuing) management regimes. There may also be wood boundaries and other ditch and bank boundaries for coppice compartments, saw-pits, drainage grips and evidence for charcoal production. In addition, although rarely so, Ancient and Post-Medieval Woodland may contain evidence of earlier activity carried out prior to the establishment of the wood. Other components can include parkland wood features (seating, icehouses, kennels, formal or ornamental pathways, bridges), garden features, tracks and roads, watercourses and ponds.

Enhancing and safeguarding the type

- *Conserve* historical woodland features and relic landscape attributes. Woodland management plans should aim to conserve historic woodland management features, such as woodbanks, pollards and saw-pits, and consider the potential of enhancing such attributes for educational, recreational and tourism benefit. These and any relic landscape features, such as derelict mills, ponds and leats that may be located within the steep sided wooded valleys, should be identified and assessed early in proposals for change.
- *Ensure* that the historic dimension is fully integrated in subregional and local woodland management strategies (such as ELWOOD – East Lancashire Woodland) and within the Forestry Commission's Forest District Conservation Plan and Forest Enterprise's Forest Design Plan.
- *Encourage* enhanced appreciation of the historical origins and the ecological value of these woodlands. This likely to lead to sensitive management of them from archaeological and ecological perspectives.
- *Seek* appropriate advice for parkland woods containing non-native and exotic species. These require active management to maintain and sustain their historic character.
- Changes in land use regime, for instance a change to economically-led forestry, may perhaps be the biggest threat in those woodlands not on steep slopes. In these instances protection may be usefully tied to the holistic management of the woodland and associated landscape where applicable.
- Use of woodland and other grants may be applicable to safeguard particular elements – these include the Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.