

LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

MODERN WOODLAND

Definition:

This includes planted woodland dating after c AD 1850. Much of this comprises recent coniferous plantations on former moorland or moorland fringe, which has had considerable impact upon the landscape. Gisburn Forest alone accounts for 25% of this type.

Typical historical and archaeological components

Modern Woodland has few distinguishing archaeological components beyond the plantation itself. Of these perhaps the experimental woodlands planted in the Grane Valley, near Haslingden, to monitor the effects of pollution have the most intrinsic historical value. Other components may be relic landscape features deriving from earlier periods such as tracks, roads, field and property boundaries, and in the case of the Gisburn Forest area, buildings and farmsteads of a farming community.

Enhancing and safeguarding the type

- *Conserve* historical woodland features and relic landscape attributes. Woodland management plans should aim to protect 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, should be identified and assessed early in proposals for change.
- *Integrate* the historic dimension 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 is more likely to lead to sensitive management of them from archaeological and ecological perspectives.
- *Integrate* the detailed evaluation of historic environmental assets into the development of woodland and scrub management plans.
- *Seek* appropriate advice for parkland woods containing non-native and exotic species. These require active management to maintain and sustain their historic character.
- Use of woodland and other grants may be applicable to safeguard particular elements – these include the Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.