

# INFORMATION SHEET 7

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## PLANNING NATIVE WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

**Native woodlands** can offer a wide range of benefits including landscape, wildlife, timber, shelter and recreation, as well as representing a potential increase in the capital value of your land holding and a valuable source of income. Where management takes account of all of these aspects, a healthy self-sustaining woodland can result.

Many are underachieving their potential to provide great benefits for both landholders, the wider community and wildlife. As woods are brought into management and can become healthier and expand, many other opportunities open and unforeseen benefits materialise. They provide shelter for domestic and wild grazers, they raise the productivity of rivers, they slow down the rate of run off on hillsides, and they produce valuable hard & softwood timber. Infact, these are just a few of the benefits and the list is almost endless !

Harnessing the benefits native woodlands to make a positive contribution to a farm or estate business requires planning and foresight. This information sheet explains the process of assessing the woodland and establishing what you want to do within a framework which tracks subsequent action through in built checks and reviews.

Well managed, healthy native woodland can readily cover the cost of its management. However, many woods have not been managed for a long time and require an initial injection of resources. In recognition of this the Forestry Authority and the Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment & Fisheries Department provide a range of grants to encourage management. The planning process set out in this sheet is a big step towards application for grants. Over the following pages we cover:



- **PLANNING  
WOODLAND  
MANAGEMENT**

- **Phase 1 - Background**

- **Phase 2 - Action**

On the back we have included useful information on funding sources, further advice on management planning and references. Happy reading !

## FUNDING SOURCES

There are two main sources of funding for woodland management: The Forestry Authority (FA) and Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment & Fisheries Department (SOAEFD). These are summarised as follows:

### *The Forestry Authority*

The Forestry Authority provides the main source of funding for both woodland management and new tree planting. The **Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS)** helps to pay for the expansion of existing and new woodlands and management of existing woodlands. Special grants have been targeted towards small, native woodlands in the past few years. This is encouraging landholders to manage their woodlands, no matter how small.

### *Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment & Fisheries Department*

SOAEFD offers the **Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS)** which helps pay woodland expansion onto areas of open ground on a farm. To apply for this scheme, you must first apply for WGS. You can apply for both WGS & FWPS through the Forestry Authority. Also, since 1997 the **Countryside Premium Scheme** now offers finance to manage scrub woodland and amenity tree planting. Applications are available from SOAEFD.

*\* See Information Sheet 3 for more details \**

## FURTHER ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT PLANNING

### **The Forestry Authority**

Woodlands

Fodderty Way

Dingwall

IV15 9XB

Ph: 01349 862144

Fax: 01349 866624

*or other FA Regional offices*

### **Highland Birchwoods**

Littleburn

Minlochy

Ross-shire

IV8 8NN

Ph: 01463 811606

Fax: 01463 811607

### **North-West Sutherland Native Woodland Initiative**

Jon Priddy

CASE

Station Road

Golspie

Sutherland

Ph: 01408 633986

Fax: 01408 633873

## REFERENCES

**THE FORESTRY AUTHORITY** (1997, 1998) Guidance note7 *Native Woodland Condition Surveys* and Guidance note12 *Management Plans for Semi-Natural Woodlands under WGS*.

**HIGHLAND BIRCHWOODS** (1998) Information Sheet 3 *Grant support for Native Woodlands*

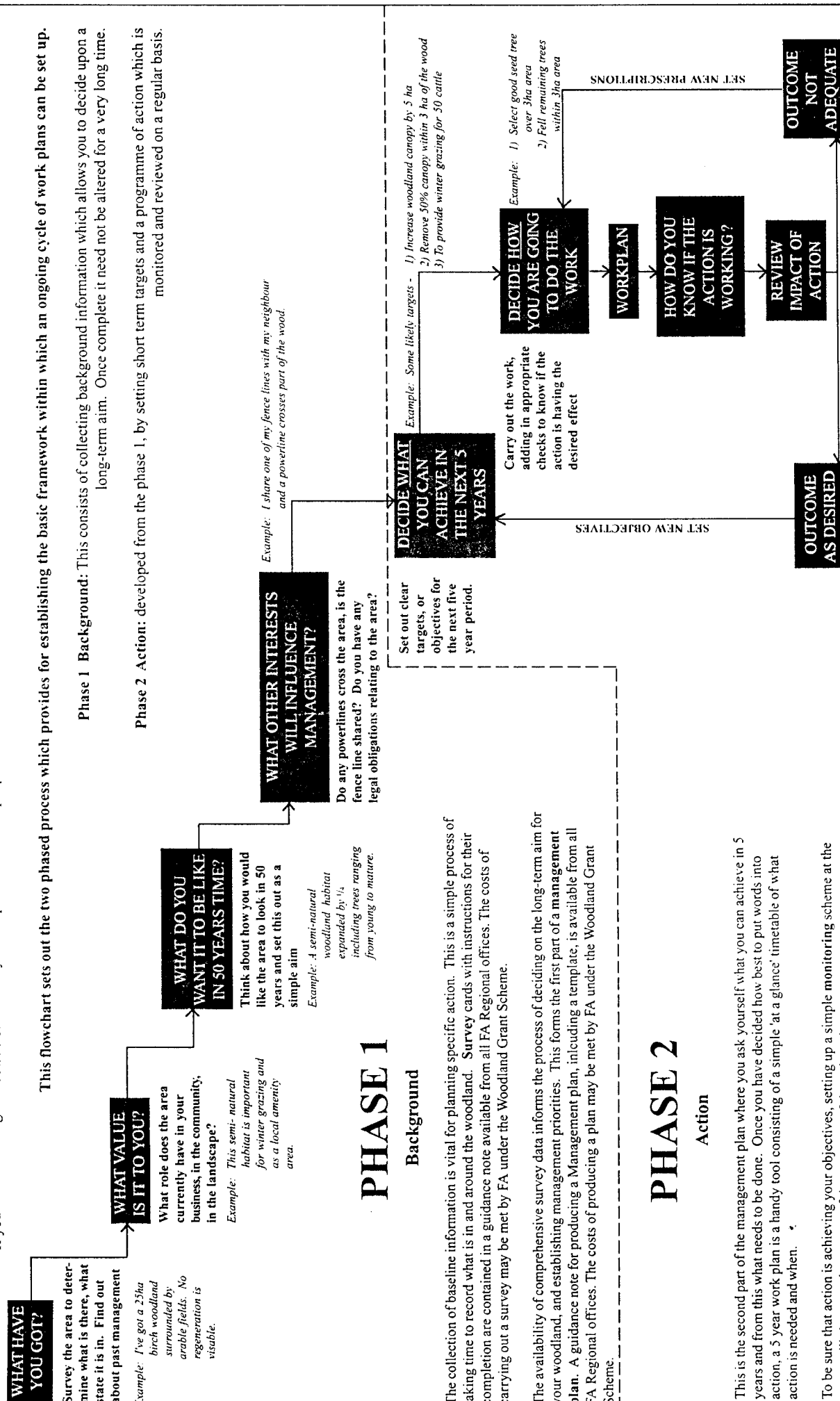
# PLANNING WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

If you wish to manage woodland successfully it is important to develop a picture of the wood in 50 or 100 years time, and to decide what you want from it over that time.

This flowchart sets out the two phased process which provides for establishing the basic framework within which an ongoing cycle of work plans can be set up.

**Phase 1 Background:** This consists of collecting background information which allows you to decide upon a long-term aim. Once complete it need not be altered for a very long time.

**Phase 2 Action:** developed from the phase 1, by setting short term targets and a programme of action which is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.



**WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?**  
Survey the area to determine what is there, what state it is in. Find out about past management  
*Example: I've got a 25ha birch woodland surrounded by arable fields. No regeneration is visible.*

**WHAT VALUE IS IT TO YOU?**  
What role does the area currently have in your business, in the community, in the landscape?  
*Example: This semi-natural habitat is important for winter grazing and as a local amenity area.*

**WHAT DO YOU WANT IT TO BE LIKE IN 50 YEARS TIME?**  
Think about how you would like the area to look in 50 years and set this out as a simple aim  
*Example: A semi-natural woodland habitat expanded by 1/3 including trees ranging from young to mature.*

**WHAT OTHER INTERESTS WILL INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT?**  
Do any powerlines cross the area, is the fence line shared? Do you have any legal obligations relating to the area?  
*Example: I share one of my fence lines with my neighbour and a powerline crosses part of the wood.*

## PHASE 1

### Background

The collection of baseline information is vital for planning specific action. This is a simple process of taking time to record what is in and around the woodland. Survey cards with instructions for their completion are contained in a guidance note available from all FA Regional offices. The costs of carrying out a survey may be met by FA under the Woodland Grant Scheme.

The availability of comprehensive survey data informs the process of deciding on the long-term aim for your woodland, and establishing management priorities. This forms the first part of a management plan. A guidance note for producing a Management plan, including a template, is available from all FA Regional offices. The costs of producing a plan may be met by FA under the Woodland Grant Scheme.

**DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS**  
Set out clear targets, or objectives for the next five year period.  
*Example: Some likely targets - 1) Increase woodland canopy by 5 ha 2) Remove 50% canopy within 3 ha of the wood 3) To provide winter grazing for 50 cattle*

**DECIDE HOW YOU ARE GOING TO DO THE WORK**  
Carry out the work, adding in appropriate checks to know if the action is having the desired effect  
*Example: 1) Select good seed tree over 3ha area 2) Fell remaining trees within 3ha area*

**WORKPLAN**

**HOW DO YOU KNOW IF THE ACTION IS WORKING?**

**REVIEW IMPACT OF ACTION**

**OUTCOME AS DESIRED**

**OUTCOME NOT ADEQUATE**

*In reality the actions taken will have been successful in some places and not in others. The review needs to decide whether the success is adequate and then move on to determine the next 5 years objectives and prescriptions.*

## PHASE 2

### Action

This is the second part of the management plan where you ask yourself what you can achieve in 5 years and from this what needs to be done. Once you have decided how best to put words into action, a 5 year work plan is a handy tool consisting of a simple 'at a glance' timetable of what action is needed and when.

To be sure that action is achieving your objectives, setting up a simple monitoring scheme at the outset will show you how successful or unsuccessful you have been.