

Restoration Management of Ancient Woodland Sites in Northern Ireland

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- Policy Background and Developing Practice
- NI Forest Service PAWS Restoration Strategy
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Forest Service AWI Woodland Management Strategy
- Achievements and Future Prospects

Policy and Practice

- Sustainable Forest Management
- UKWAS – 1ST and 2nd editions
- NI Biodiversity Strategy
- Research and Guidance Publications
- Monitoring

Forest Service PAWS Restoration Strategy 2000-2001

- 'Hand of God' - 1998 Boxing Day Storm
- Survey and strategy to conform with UKWAS requirements
- 30 PAWS sites amounting to 530ha
- Ecological Surveys and Management Plans
- Quadrat-based ecological monitoring studies

The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) 2007

- GIS dataset (www.backonthemap.org.uk)
- 1/3 of AWI woodland falls within Forest Service forests
- 1/2 of all Planted AWI woodland falls within Forest Service forests – and 3/4 planted conifer
- Most FS planted AWI woodland is long established – however this includes designated areas, areas included in the FS PAWS restoration strategy, and historic landscape areas
- Around 35% of Forest Service AWI woodland is potentially at risk of loss of biodiversity from shading

Area (ha) of AWI woodland by type and ownership category

	Ownership Category		
Woodland Type	Non-FS	FS	All
Semi-natural broadleaf	1968	328	2296
Planted broadleaf	1585	330	1915
Planted conifer	671	1998	2669
Planted mixed	709	753	1462
Scrub	219	22	241
Parkland	1004	62	1066
Semi-natural conifer	0	2	2
Semi-natural mixed	34	5	39
No type recorded	246	27	273
TOTALS	6436	3527	9963

**Area (ha) of each type of Forest Service planted AWI woodland
classified as ancient, probably ancient, possibly ancient, and long
established**

	AWI Woodland Class			
Woodland Type	Ancient	Probably ancient	Possibly ancient	Long established
Planted broadleaf	1	78	117	134
Planted conifer	26	249	394	1329
Planted mixed	1	35	281	436
All planted	28	362	792	1899

Forest Service AWI Woodland Management Strategy (2008)

- Risk assessment to prioritise areas for intervention
- Field assessments to determine the potential of AWI woodland to contribute to habitat networks both throughout the forest, and within the landscape
- AWI with remnant features gradually converted to native woodland using an alternative to clearfell.
- Controls to protect remnant features and associated biodiversity in AWI woodland in which operations are planned .

Achievements and Future Management

- New native woodland at Aghaleague
- Risk of colonisation by invasive species
- Restoration management embedded in forest planning
- Low impact interventions increasingly favoured





















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