

# The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has over 23,300 hectares of woodland, much of which is designated as important for wildlife or heritage.

## *Woodland in the North Wessex Downs*

The total woodland resource represents 13.5% of the North Wessex Downs AONB's 1,730 km<sup>2</sup> area (see reverse). It can be characterised as mostly broadleaved with a high number of woodland units largely in private ownership. Perhaps most significantly, our research has identified that only 44% of this woodland is under active management.

The contribution of woodland to the landscape of the AONB can be seen contrasting with the open downland where clay-with-flint soils are found and on the wooded plateau containing Savernake Forest to the West.

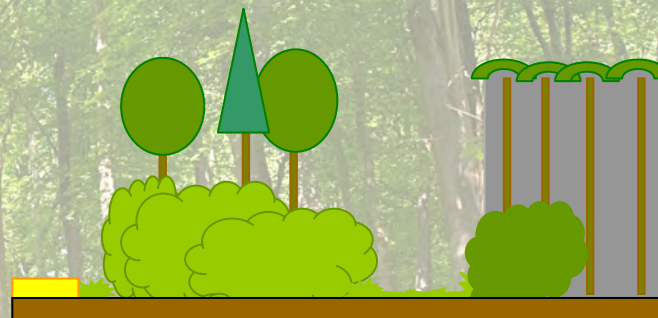
## *The Value of Woodlands*

Native woodland is a valuable habitat for wildlife, containing remarkably diverse ecosystems. It is a source of timber, fuel and products such as spars used in thatching.

Semi-natural habitats including woodland are now recognised for providing essential services such as carbon storage, air and water purity and flood control. But above all, the value of woodlands for people can be seen in recreation and as part of a cultural identity.

## *Why Manage Woodland?*

Woodlands require practical management to create and maintain habitat diversity, to protect woodland heritage and to encourage responsible use by the public. This will vary depending on ownership, site characteristics and economic objectives.



*An example of managed woodland structure*

The AONB partnership is seeking to encourage a viable forestry sector that helps to deliver a wide range of public benefits.

If you are interested in finding out more about the woodland management in the AONB or contributing to this valuable work, please contact the North Wessex Downs AONB office;

Tel [01488 685440](tel:01488685440) Email [info@northwessexdowns.org.uk](mailto:info@northwessexdowns.org.uk)

**Location of woodland in the North Wessex Downs AONB**

