ENGLISH NATURE

Ancient woodland inventory

Database documentation

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Ancient woodland inventory: database documentation

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Summary

The development of the Ancient Woodland Inventory is summarised with description of the outputs from the project. Procedures for entering and amending the data are outlined with lists of the various abbreviations used.

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1 Introduction

The importance of ancient woodland in nature conservation has become well understood in forestry circles since the late 1970s and now is one element in directing forest and conservation policies. Since 1985 forest policies, and more recently woodland grant schemes, have been targeted towards ancient woodland identified by the government conservation agencies. This document provides details of the methods used by the Nature Conservancy Council and English Nature to compile the provisional ancient woodland inventory in England and to keep it up to date. It lays down guidance for compiling revised inventories, making amendments to the database and obtaining specialised reports from it. It describes the main uses of the information and the principal users.

English Nature is presently reviewing the manner in which data about the extent and distribution of the conservation resource in England is held. A programme to increase the organisations' ability to interpret and manipulate biological data is underway. The first stage, which involves developing new programmes to handle information about SSSIs, will be completed by April 1995. The second stage will involve reworking the systems which underlie the ancient woodland inventory and should also be completed in 1995. The ancient woodland inventory will thus form one module of the Conservation Resource Database. In addition English Nature hopes to co-operate with the Forestry Commission to build an England wide dataset on the extent and distribution of all woodland. Data obtained in this way will be added to the Conservation Resource Database. As a result much of the software which presently underlies the ancient woodland inventory will be rewritten. The guidance in this report on obtaining printouts and ADHOC reports will thus require revision.

1.1 Background

By the late 1970s George Peterken and Oliver Rackham realised that many of the woods which were particularly valued by conservationists for their flora and fauna were those which had been present in Britain for a long time, and in some cases since the last glaciation. In Britain much of the original woodland cover had been cleared by the time Domesday Book was compiled in 1086 leaving only about 20%. This was further reduced in the succeeding centuries to about 5% by 1919. The practice of planting trees for timber production, landscape or sport did not become common in Britain until the late seventeenth century although the woods present prior to this date were extensively managed for a variety of products. Consequently, those woods which were present in, say, 1600 were likely to have been present for many centuries and, therefore, most likely to support those plants and animals which require continuity of woodland cover. Conversely, those woods established since 1600 AD on former open land are, at most, no more than 400 years old and are likely to be of less interest for nature conservation.

Following trials in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire it became clear that it was possible to identify the sites most likely to have continuity of woodland cover since before 1600 using a combination of map and field survey information. The method which was developed was a quicker and less expensive way of locating those woods than from systematic field survey alone.

1.2 What are ancient woods?

Ancient woods are those woods which English Nature believes have been in existence since at least 1600 AD and have only been cleared for underwood or timber production. Some ancient woods are primary woods, ie they are on sites which have been continuously wooded since the last glaciation, while others are ancient secondary woods, ie they have developed on open land prior to 1600 AD. It is difficult to differentiate the two and this has not been attempted in the ancient woodland inventory project.

Ancient semi-natural woods. This term covers all stands of ancient woodland which do not obviously originate from planting. They can be classified into stand types which are ecologically distinct associations of trees, shrubs and herbs determined by edaphic, climatic and biotic influences. In the ancient woodland inventory the following variations have also been classed as semi-natural:

- Birch woodland which occurs on disturbed ground inside ancient woods;
- Small secondary, semi-natural stands within ancient sites which may have developed on former settlements, gravel pits etc;
- Woods where semi-natural stands have been slightly modified by planting eg mixed woods containing a scattering of ornamental conifers or sweet chestnut, in a mixed coppice;
- Woods containing some self-sown sycamore.

Ancient replanted woodland. This includes obviously planted woodland of any age of a broadleaf, mixed or coniferous type, identifiable from field survey. Automatically included in this category are plantations of any coniferous species, sycamore, poplar, red oak, southern beech and native species planted so densely that the semi-natural underwood is suppressed. North of the Chilterns and Cotswolds beech is not usually considered a native tree while sweet chestnut is a very long established introduction in south-east England. In Kent and other south-eastern counties sweet chestnut coppices have been included in the semi-natural category unless it can be shown that they are suppressing the other semi-natural components of the underwood.

Ancient woodland sites which have been grubbed. The ancient woodland inventory shows sites where ancient woods have been cleared for agriculture, mineral extraction or urban development since the OS first series 1:25,000 maps were published.

1.3 What are Ancient Woodland Inventories?

Since 1981 the Nature Conservancy Council and latterly English Nature have compiled Provisional Inventories of Ancient Woodland for all post 1974 counties in England. Similar inventories exist for Scotland and Wales. All woods greater than 2ha were considered for inclusion. The inventory consists of a report, which describes the project, the methods used to compile the inventory for that county and a series of 1:50,000 maps which show the location of ancient woods in that county. In addition there is a computer printout which lists all ancient woods in the county plus three summary tables presenting the information in a different form (see 2.3 and 2.5 below).

1.4 What information is available from the ancient woodland project?

i. Provisional county reports and printouts from the inventory database (Appendix 1 lists all county reports and the date of production).

ii. Spencer J.W. and Kirby K.J. 1992. An inventory of ancient woodland in England and Wales. Biological Conservation 62 (2) 77-93.

iii. Kirby K.J., Peterken G.F., Spencer J.W. and Walker G.J. 1984. Inventories of ancient semi-natural woodland. Peterborough. Nature Conservancy Council. (Focus on nature conservation 6).

iv. Ancient Woodland and the Ancient Woodland Inventories. Black and white leaflet produced in house.

v. Marren P. 1990. Ancient woodland. Newton Abbot. David and Charles.

vi. Marren P. 1992. The wildwoods - a regional guide to Britain's ancient woodland. Newton Abbot. David and Charles.

vii. Watkins C. 1990. Woodland management and conservation. Newton Abbot. David and Charles.

viii. Kirby K.J. and Thomas R.C. In prep. The conservation of woodland, particularly ancient woodland in England.

ix. Roberts A.J., Russell C., Walker G.J. and Kirby K.J. 1992. Regional variation in the extent and composition of Scottish woodland. Botanical Journal of Scotland 46(2) 167-189.

x. Anon. (undated) Ancient woodland in Scotland. Edinburgh. Scottish Natural Heritage.

xi. Kirby K.J. and Thomas R.C. 1994. Fragmentation patterns of ancient woodland in England. In: Fragmentation in agricultural landscapes edited by J W Dover, pp 71-78. Proceedings of the third annual IALE(UK) conference held at Myerscough College, Preston 13-14 September 1994.

1.5 What is the inventory used for?

The ancient woodland inventory serves a number of purposes both inside English Nature and in the wider forestry community. Ancient woods are amongst the most important woods for nature conservation in England and consequently many woodland SSSI are ancient. The EN position statement on conservation and sustainable forestry launched in November 1994 (Appendix 10) sets out our views on the importance of ancient woods in the countryside.

In 1985 the Forestry Commission launched the Broadleaves Policy to retain ancient semi-natural woodland as a source of hardwood timber by systems which retain their value for both nature and landscape conservation. Special measures and grant schemes were established to ensure that the remaining areas of ancient semi-natural woodland did not diminish further. For this scheme to work it was important to identify the location of all ancient woods. Since 1985 the grant scheme has been revised several times but still provides funds for the approved management of ancient

woods. In 1994 eight guides on the appropriate management of different semi-natural categories of ancient woodland were launched by FC to reflect differing management objectives for different types of woodland. The ancient woodland inventory is used in deciding where ancient woods are located and therefore where these special policies apply.

In the mid-1980s many local authorities realised the value of including policies to protect ancient woods in local and structure plans. Some local plans include maps showing the location of all ancient woods in the District while other plans simply include a policy which indicates that the council will take appropriate measures to conserve the ancient woods within their area. Some of these policies are stronger than others. In either case local authorities, and planners in particular, have made extensive use of the AWI reports. Some counties with particularly good information have also helped produce and revise their county report eg Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire.

2 The data set

2.1 Method of compiling the provisional inventory

The inventory was based on information which was already available in 1981, mainly early Ordnance Survey and estate maps, modern OS maps and aerial photographs. Survey information was not collected specially for the project although existing field survey information was added as individual inventories were compiled. New survey information has been used to revise individual entries or entire inventories.

The complete list of the sources used are listed in each inventory report but, in general, include the following:

OS First series 1:25,000 map c1920 (second series was used in some areas where the first series maps were not available)

OS First edition 1 inch to 1 mile map c1820 - 1850

OS First edition 6 inch to 1 mile map (mainly for northern England) c1850

Eighteenth century county surveys where they are earlier than the OS First edition 1 inch maps

Seventeenth and eighteenth century estate maps eg for Chatsworth Estate, Derbyshire, 1610-1617 and The Duke of Northumberland's Estate, Northumberland, 1603

Schedules of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Field survey from Nature Conservancy Council/English Nature sources, county trust files, county council files

Oliver Rackham's and George Peterken's books

Personal communication from those who know the woods in a county

All information was collected on separate data sheets for each wood.

2.2 Data sheets

Data sheets summarise the information used in deciding whether or not to include a particular wood on the ancient woodland inventory. There is one data sheet per site. Each usually shows the following information: boundary on First Series 1:25,000 map, boundary on First Edition 1 inch to 1 mile map (David and Charles reproduction), presence on other early estate or county maps, presence on modern 1:50,000 map, aerial photograph interpretation plus date of photograph (if available), summary of field survey information, ownership details (if public), information from FC stock map (if FC owned/leased).

For most counties the data sheet includes a photocopy of the wood on the First Series 1:25,000 map. However, for some counties these are on separate sheets each covering two 10 km squares (Appendix 2). These are presently held in Lowlands Team, Peterborough. Copies of individual data sheets can be made available to English Nature staff as needed. There is only one copy of each sheet and it is usually

in colour making the set expensive to photocopy. Originals of some county sheets (Appendix 3) are held in local offices with black and white copies in Peterborough.

2.3 Provisional inventory reports

Provisional inventories produced during the 1980s have plain green covers; those that have been revised during 1994/5 have illustrated green covers. Reports give full details of how that inventory was compiled and the sources used. The report also contain a set of 1:50,000 maps of the county with the ancient woods marked. Those parts of the county not covered by the maps should not contain any ancient woods (they are not areas we have missed!).

2.4 Draft reports

The earliest inventories were issued as draft reports, usually with blue or pink covers. They are now superseded and are of historic value only. They were not produced for all counties.

2.5 Print out from the data base

Currently the "standard" printout is made up of four tables:

Table 1a. The location and current state of the woods.
Table 1b. Other information about the woods.
Table 2. Size distribution of ancient and semi-natural woodland.
Table 3. Ancient woodland cleared since the compilation of 1:25,000 maps.
Table 4. Ancient woods with some formal nature conservation status.

A complete list of the fields in the data base and their definitions are given in Appendix 4.

2.5.1 Table 1a. The location and current state of the woods

Lists all ancient woods in the county with the following information:

a. Introductory paragraph describing the structure of the printout and the date the Table was collated, not the date it was printed.

b. Main table. Text in upper case gives the field name used in producing ADHOC reports. See section 2.6.10 and Appendix 4.

TENKMSQ	10 kilometre square
UNCERT	An indication of how certain English Nature was that the site is ancient. Scale - 0 +. See Appendix 2 of inventory report for further details.
SNAME	Site name
PARISH	Parish
GRIDREF	Grid reference (6 figures)
OSAREA	The area of the wood on the first series 1:25,000 map c1920-1940

EXAREA	Area present at the date of the most recent general source used in the compilation of that county inventory. This source is listed in the report.
Seminat (SNAREA)	Area of the site which is semi-natural
Plantarea (PLAREA)	Area of the site which has been replanted
CLAREA	The area which has been grubbed since the first series 1:25,000 was compiled. This can be for one of three reasons, "agriculture", "mineral" extraction or "urban" development and is detailed in Table 1b and Table 3.
CONSTAT	Conservation status, eg SSSI, County Trust Reserve, Woodland Trust Reserve, RSPB Reserve etc.

The number of sites listed.

2.5.2 Table 1b. Other information

As Table 1a but with the following additional information:

UNCERT2	Quality of information used to judge whether a site was semi-natural or not. Scale - 0 +/. Further details are in Appendix 1 of report.
OWNER	Conservation body, National Trust and other public organisations - not details of private owners.
REMARKS	These include cause of grubbing, name of SSSI or nature reserve, local authority district (for some counties only), whether it's in an AONB or National Park, type of revision plus other useful comments.

Table 1 has been split in this way so that Table 1a can be used as a quick listing of the inventory sites.

2.5.3 Table 2. Size distribution of ancient and semi-natural woodland

This is a size distribution table for the ancient woods in a county. The introductory paragraph describes how the table is constructed. There are seven size categories 1-5 ha, 6-10 ha, 11-20 ha, 21-50 ha, 51-100 ha, 101-200 ha and 201+ ha, and three separate size distributions; by EXAREA (existing ancient woodland), by stands in existing ancient woodland and by OSAREA (ancient wood on 1:25,000 first series maps). For each category data on woodland area and number of sites are presented. Unfortunately mathematical errors introduced into the programme which compiled these tables have led to slightly inaccurate figures in past printouts. These errors have been corrected and the tables now generated are believed to be accurate.

2.5.4 Table 3. Ancient woodland cleared since the compilation of 1:25,000 maps

This is a sub-set of the sites in Table 1. It starts with an introductory paragraph explaining what is in the table and the date that the first series 1:25,000 were last revised. These dates are sometimes entered wrongly and

give the date the inventory was revised. (These errors will be corrected as new tables are compiled.) For each site OSAREA, EXAREA, CLAREA and REMARKS are given. Totals are given after each TENKMSQ. The number of sites listed is given at the end.

2.5.5 Table 4. Ancient woods with some formal nature conservation status

Again this is a sub-set of the data in Table 1. For each site conservation status, CONSAREA, (the area of the site contained within the total overall conservation designation) and CONSAREA2 (the semi-natural element of CONSAREA) are listed. Totals are given after each TENKMSQ. The total number of sites listed is given at the end. Note that a site here refers to a unit on the ancient woodland inventory. Many SSSIs contain more than one inventory site.

Data base

The ancient woodland inventory data base is presently on SYSTEMBUILDER+. The system will change to one based on ORACLE in 1995 as one stage in building the Conservation Resource database across English Nature. Passwords may be obtained by contacting IST in Peterborough. The data base contains the most up to data information on the extent and distribution of ancient woodland in England but does not include all the information on the data sheets. In future we may alter the entry screen to allow Parks to be distinguished from other types of ancient wood listed in the inventory.

2.6.1 The data entry screen

The data base has one data entry screen for each site. The following fields, in addition to those listed in 2.5 are recorded for each site.

CODE number	This is the unique code for each site and is generated automatically on creating a new site.
TEAM	This is entered as a two letter abbreviation. Select F3 for a list. (Appendix 5)
OWNERAREA	The area of the site in each ownership.
SNOWNERAREA	The semi-natural area within each ownership.
STATAREA	The areas within each individual conservation status.
SNSTATAREA	The semi-natural area within each individual conservation status.
REVISION	When the entry for a site is revised a date shown like 94.10.03 is entered here.

Each of these fields can be used to compile individual reports via ADHOC report menu (see 2.6.10).

Numerical entries can only be entered as whole numbers. All areas figures are in hectares.

SECWOOD	This is usually left blank but provided the opportunity to include recent woods within the database. The programmes which run Tables 1-4 would require modification to distinguish ancient from recent woods or parks if this is to be used.

2.6.2 Modifications to the database which would be desirable

The following additions would be useful:

i. District could be added as an additional field. To obtain information by District it is necessary to select information for all Parishes in that District at present.

ii. Multiple status for ownership and conservation status. The data base has recently been redesigned to allow total ancient and semi-natural area figures to be allocated to each individual ownership, OWNERAREA and SNOWNERAREA, and to each individual conservation status, STATAREA and SNSTATAREA. This information can be obtained from the REMARKS line in some counties or by reference to the individual data sheets for others. Work is currently underway to review the database to make these changes.

2.6.3 Criteria for making entries

i. CODE Generated automatically on making a new entry

ii. TEAM Two letter abbreviation, select F3 for list (See Appendix 5)

iii. COUNTY These are entered in an abbreviated form (See Appendix 6)

iv. TENKMSQ As TQ12

v. PARISH Parish name or names

vi. GRIDREF Six figure reference to centre of the site as on 1:25,000 base maps. If part of the wood has been grubbed, this may not be the centre of the remaining wood.

vii. Name(s) of wood written as follows

Oakley Wood	The inventory site is one wood
Oakley/+ Wood	The inventory site is several adjoining woods
Oakley/Shabbington Woods	The inventory site is two adjoining woods
Oakley/+ Wood/+	The site is composed of several woods some called something other than wood eg copse
"Oakley Wood"	An inventory name made up by the compiler. The wood probably does not have a name

viii. OSAREA) The area in hectares as described in paragraph 2.5.1

ix. EXAREA)

x. SNAREA)

xi. PLAREA)

xii. CLAREA)

xiii. OWNER Public bodies abbreviated as in Appendix 7

Area)		Figures for OWNERAREA and
Snarea)		SNOWNERAREA (These fields have only recently been added so may be incomplete)

Note: no punctuation is used in either this or the next field.

xiv. CONSERVATION STATUS SSSI, National Nature Reserve (NNR), County Wildlife Trust Reserve (abbreviated as under owner), RSPB Reserve, Woodland Trust Reserve, Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Forest Nature Reserve (FNR).

Note: No punctuation. The National Trust is not considered a conservation organisation in this context, but should be listed under owner. (This is not a reflection on the conservation credentials of the National Trust!)

Purely geological SSSIs are not included in conservation status although this fact should be entered on the REMARKS line. (A few have been entered in the past and will gradually be weeded out during revision.)

Area)	Figures for STATAREA and SNSTATAREA - the ancient and ancient semi-natural areas for each individual designation
Snarea)	(These fields have only recently been added so may be incomplete.)
CONSAREA)	Total area contained within all conservation designations (see paragraph 2.5.5 and 2.6.2)
CONSAREA2)	

xv. UNCERT As Appendix 1 of inventory report
+ No symbol or -

xvi. UNCERT2 As Appendix 2 of inventory report
+ No symbol or -

xvii. REVISION Date any revision made entered as 94.10.03

xviii. SECWOOD Not used

xix. REMARKS Name of SSSI or nature reserve, Type of grubbing "Agric", "Mineral" or "Urban", name or abbreviation for AONB, Type of revision as REVISION = ...

2.6.4 Logging in

Basic introductions to logging into CORDATA will be obtained from Information Systems Team when you apply for your password.

a. Read only access

To select a site
Select CORDATA enquiry screen
Select ANCIENTWOODS

Enter site code, if known
If not select F3, Intuitive Help
Enter as many of Site name equal to
Tenkmsq equal to
Gridref equal to
County equal to
Team equal to
as known or needed to identify the site.

Note: SNAME and GRIDREF must be exactly as on the ancient woodland inventory database.
An entry in COUNTY only (abbreviation Appendix 6) will give a complete list for that county.
An entry in TENKMSQ only will give a complete list for that TENKMSQ.
Select the site required.
The entry screen will show all the details known for that site.

Repeat for any additional sites required.

b. Modify access

For those with modify access (presently staff in Lowlands Team only)
Select modify CORDATA records
Select LOWLANDS (this step may be missing)
Select ANCIENTWOODS

i. Select site as above

ii. To delete a site
Select site
Select F4
Confirm deletion

iii. To modify entry
Select site
Make changes
Select F2 to save

2.6.6 Getting new reports

The master set of all reports are held in the Science Registry in Northminster House. Contact Lowlands Team (Heather Ferguson) to obtain copies. We can run off as many as you require.

2.6.7 Getting new printouts

Copies of standard tables can be obtained from those held on store

Select ANCIENTWOODS (from modify or read-only access)
Select F8, Reports,
Select PRINT REPORTS from the following menu

One Page summary
General report
Table 1a
Table 1b
Table 2
Table 3
Table 4
Print reports

Select countyWOODS for the current versions of Tables 1 to 4, or archiveWOODS for the archive set of these tables. The archive set contain the information that was distributed when the green inventory reports were first produced (1980s). Those counties which were revised in 1994/5 will contain the most up to date version in countyWOODS and the earlier version in archiveWOODS. (See paragraph 2.3 and Appendix 1.)

Select county and table required
Select printer required
Select number of copies
Request confirmed

2.6.8 To compile revised Tables 1 to 4

In each case these tables will only be held temporarily and will not be transferred to countyWOODS unless placed there as part of a revision of the county inventory.
Select ANCIENTWOODS
Select F8, reports
Select appropriate table

a. Table 1a

Select printer or screen
Enter date original inventory produced i.e. the dates in the header text of Table 1a
Enter date inventory last modified
Enter county to report on, as in Appendix 6
Enter county specific data, as in the header text, plus any other abbreviations used (this can be omitted)
Header, then table, will be printed

b. Table 1b

Select printer or screen
Enter county to report on
Enter county specific data, as above
Header, then table, will be printed

c. Table 2

Select printer or screen
Enter county to report on
Header, then table, will be printed

d. Table 3

Enter county to report on
Enter date 1:25,000 maps last fully revised
Enter date 1:25,000 maps last partially revised

Note: These are the dates which should be on the header for Table 3, eg 1902-1938 and 1950-1960. Sometimes they have been entered incorrectly and may have to be checked from the actual 1:25,000 sheets.
Header, then table, will be printed

e. Table 4

Select printer or screen
Enter county to report on
Header then table will be printed

All the above reports are taken from the live database and so may differ from those issued from countyWOODS, because of revisions that have been made since the inventory was compiled and issued.

2.6.9 Transfer new Tables to CountyWOODS

When a county has been completely revised it is necessary to compile a new set of tables for permanent storage in countyWOODS overwriting those already held there.

Select modify CORDATA records
Select Lowlands
Select Compile County Tables
Compile each table in sequence as above. These will overwrite those already in countyWOODS
Select Compile county.all. County.all report will replace the existing one in countyWOODS

2.6.10 ADHOC reports

These are short reports designed to enable you to answer specific questions. For example, how much ancient woodland do the Forest Enterprise own in Avon?

All information comes from the live data base and therefore individual entries may be different from those in the published accounts and countyWOODS. Warning text is displayed at the beginning of the table

> "This report has been compiled directly from the live database. Entries may differ from those shown on the provisional ancient woodland inventory reports"

Select ADHOC reports

a. This provides an entry screen to compile the report

i. Report Name — Call your report something relevant and memorable as you will have to recall it by this name to run again.

ii. Report Description — More space to describe the report fully

iii. Dict File Name — Enter CD.WOODS

iv. Data File (If Diff) — In my experience it never is.

v. Sort Fields — The priority to order records by eg COUNTY, TENKMSQ, GRIDREF

vi. Fields to Print — Enter fields you wish printed in the order you want them displayed in the final report. (You do not have to include the sort fields if you do not need them.) You can choose to start a new page for any field and total the numerical fields.

vii. Select F3 to display a table to help construct the order

viii. Select F3 again for full list of all the fields. Select the ones you want and tag with F5 in the order you want them printed.

ix. Selection Criteria — Criteria to select the sites you want
F3 displays a table to help
F3 again lists all fields. Select the ones you want with F5
Against each field enter the operation, F3 provides help at each stage

Operations

=	Equal to
#	Not equal to
>	Greater than
<	Less than
>=	Greater than and equal to
<=	Less than and equal to

Criteria

Field name	
Number	
"Literal string"	eg "FC", "HANTS"
Answer at run time	never used

AND/OR

eg OWNER = "FC" and COUNTY = "AVON" will select all FC owned sites in Avon while OWNER = "FC" **or** COUNTY = "AVON" will elect all FC sites on the database and all woods in Avon

x. Select where you want the report sent to, usually **S**creen or default **P**rinter.

xi.	TOTALS ONLY Y/N	For numerical fields where you only want totals and not a list of sites.
xii.	DOUBLE SPACING Y/N	Self explanatory
xiii.	SELECT LIST NAME	In very complex selections it may be necessary to save a select list at TCL level and then apply selection to that rather than the entire dataset.
xiv.	LABEL PARAMETERS)	Never used
xv.	PREFERRED HEADING)	
xvi.	FOOTING)	

b. Select F2 to save report

c. To run report select from the following menu
No action
Reports
Other
None - execute now

Note: I have only ever used the first and last of these

Process ID An ID to track to compilation of the report. Usually left blank.

To escape from a list on the screen type QUIT

TCL prompt
This can be accessed by entering 0 from any menu
It is possible to compile list and select statements directly at this level and to compile select lists for use in ADHOC reports. See Keith Kirby for advice on this.

2.7 Revision procedure

Keith Kirby circulated a note to Local Teams in June 1991 extracts from which are included here in Appendix 8. The principles outlined in paragraphs 10-13 still apply although some of the other comments are out of date. For the time being all changes to the database must be made via Lowlands Team. A form on which to record revisions is also attached (Appendix 9) and can be circulated to anybody who is likely to wish to comment on the accuracy of the ancient woodland inventory. Where a major revision of the county is required please contact the Woodland Section in Lowlands Team to discuss methods for incorporate changes.

All revisions to the inventory are recorded as follows:

i. Check that the proposed amendment is acceptable by checking against the information on the data sheet and if necessary with the Conservation Officer

for the area and on the ground. This is especially important if the notification of a change does not come from within English Nature. Does it represent a real change or the identification of an error? Amendements notified to Woodland Section are not implemented if they affect less than 1 ha of the site or arise from a misunderstanding of the definitions used.

ii. The amendment is made on the database and the date entered into REVISION in the following form 94.10.03. This will make it possible to extract all revisions made in any year, month or day. Save changes via F2. Delete sites via F4.

iii. If any changes to the report maps are necessary these are made in red biro on the working copies of the inventory held in Lowlands - **not** on the master maps as these will be needed to run off additional copies of the report in the short term.

iv. The data sheet is altered to show the changes in area, boundary etc and brief details of where the amendment came from. Date and initial the changes.

v. The amendment is listed on the revision files held in Lowlands Team. There is a separate list for each county. This is especially important for deleted sites as they can not be traced any other way.

vi. Any correspondence relating to the amendment is held under the relevant county in the revision arch-lever files.

vii. When substantial numbers of revisions for a county have been made a new inventory report and printout will be produced. At this point all tables will be re-run, report rewritten and master maps amended.

At present only woodland staff in Lowlands Team can make revisions to the AWI. In the future responsibility for maintaining and updating the AWI will be transferred to Local Teams. Guidance will be issued on common standards to ensure the integrity of the national dataset. This is unlikely to happen until 1995/6 at the earliest. Please continue to refer all changes necessary to the inventory to Lowlands Team.

2.8 Revision report

ENRR No 72, Revisions to the Ancient Woodland Inventory up to June 1994, was issued in October 1994. This lists all the revisions which have been made to the provisional ancient woodland inventories since 1991. It does not include revisions to those counties where fully revised reports and printouts were issued in 1994/5. The report does not include maps showing the changes to individual sites. Recipients are invited to amend the maps in their own reports by hand. If it is not clear what changes are necessary copies of the working maps held in Lowlands Team can be supplied.

The revision report was circulated, from Lowlands Team, to Forestry Commission, Countryside Commission, National Trust, John Clegg and Company, Oliver Rackham and those consultancies who have acquired several inventory reports over the last few years. Local Teams will be supplied with as many copies as necessary for local distribution. Revision reports will continue to be supplied with the relevant county report until such time as the county inventory is reissued.

2.9 Remote Access

All teams have read only access to the inventory. Passwords can be obtained from IST. There are technical problems with access from Lyndhurst, London, Slepe Farm and Wigan but IST are working to resolve these. Most teams can therefore produce standard, archive and ADHOC reports directly and do not need to contact Lowlands Team.

3 Distribution and Access

When initially produced copies of the ancient woodland inventory reports and printouts were sent to a wide variety of organisations both local and national. Nationally copies have been supplied to the Forestry Commission (Authority and Enterprise), John Clegg and Company, Oliver Rackham, National Trust and Countryside Commission. Local copies have been sent from EN/NCC local offices to County and District Councils, Forestry Enterprise and Authority, conservation organisations and those who helped compile the inventory.

Revised copies are sent from Lowlands Team to Forestry Commission, Countryside Commission and Oliver Rackham. Local Teams are supplied with as many copies as required for local distribution.

As from April 1994 no charge is made for ancient woodland inventory reports and printouts. Extra copies can be obtained from Lowlands team if Local Teams are not able to generate their own (see 2.9). Some Local Offices may decide to impose a handling charge to bring inventory distribution into line with distribution of other types of information from that office.

4 New Ancient Woodland Inventory Projects underway

There are several developments to the AWI which are being undertaken by Lowlands Team:

i. A draft paper of the conservation status of woodland in England is being prepared. This will be submitted to a refereed journal early in 1995. (See paragraph 1.4. Kirby and Thomas In prep.)

ii. The inventories for Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex and the Chiltern counties **may** be revised in 1995. Further discussions will follow with those involved.

iii. English Nature hopes to collaborate with the Forestry Commission in the forthcoming national forestry census, to be called the woodland inventory! This will permit the revision of systematically selected ancient woodland sites from field survey and the revision of other sites from air photo interpretation. In addition English Nature will acquire NVC, stand structure and composition data for the same systematically selected points.

iv. GIS link. The AWI data can be loaded onto MAPINFO GIS system enabling those staff with access to MAPINFO to produce various distribution maps of ancient woodland. The boundaries of ancient woods in Cumbria and Nottinghamshire have already been digitised and can be imported onto MAPINFO. As part of the FC census proposal EN hopes to collaborate with FC and others to incrementally acquire digital boundaries for all ancient woods in England. This information is also being collated as part of the Natural Areas pilot projects. There is a Natural Areas project running in Cumbria this year to test the approach.