FDT 8.1.1 SC coppice



1. Structure and dynamics:

Two to multiple storeyed stand of SC where the majority of trees are *actively* managed using either a simple coppice or a coppice-with-standards system. Supplemented by category C minor species in single tree mixture.

Species distribution: SC 80 - 100%

minor species: < 20%

Periodic replacement of old stools after several coppice rotations by planting or layering will be required.



2. Ecological suitability:

Contains elements of NVC types W10 and W8 in the lowland climate zone. Suitable for deep, well aerated soils with at least average nutrient supply. Short rotation coppice on poor soils should be avoided due to nutrient depletion. Exposed sites and frost hollows are also unsuitable.





3. Management objectives:

Economic: Environmental and social:

logs / fencing material / biomass in 10 – 70yrs

High environmental value for maintaining coppice-specific habitats for flora and fauna. Attractive to visitors due to interesting stand structure, spring and autumn aspects. Cultural value as historic forest management system. Use of chestnuts as non-timber forest product.

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4. General management principles for the FDT

Coppice has a long history as a forest management system and SC is one of the most suitable and versatile species for this purpose. This FDT is designed for scenarios where SC is predominantly managed by coppicing, including coppice with standards. The latter often involves other XBLL (namely OK) but as the standards are grown over several SC coppice rotations species compatibility is irrelevant. Due to the high number of shoots SC coppice may be managed using the Q/D method. SC retains its ability to coppice from stools for about 100yrs, older stools will therefore have to be replaced by planting or layering. The rotation length will depend on the envisaged final product, ranging from 2 - 3a for walking sticks, 5 - 7a for bean poles, 12 - 20yrs for fencing posts to 50 - 70yrs for sawlogs. The Timeline below is based on the assumption that all of the above form part of the management objectives; if only certain products are targeted management will have to be adjusted accordingly. Coppice systems are usually operated at a small scale (0.3 - 0.5ha) by sequential cutting of coupes, leading to a more varied horizontal and vertical stand structure.

5. Timeline

stage	H ₁₀₀ [m]	intervention
Establishment		 Density of coppice stools depends on the envisaged main end product: 1500 - 2000 ha⁻¹ for walking sticks, wicker work and bean poles; 800 - 1000 ha⁻¹ for fencing posts, poles, paling material; 200 - 500 ha⁻¹ for sawlogs. Protection against browsing by mammals as coppice shoots are particularly vulnerable. New stools are created by planting or layering. In coppice with standards systems: Planting of XBLL according to species specific guidance.
Young stand	2 – 5	 Harvesting of small dimension SC products (walking sticks etc.). Regulation of species composition and minor species as required. XBLL standards: Formative pruning if required.
Thicket stage	5 – 10	 Generally no interventions except for regulating competition between XBLL standards ad SC coppice where required.
Pole stage	10 – 18	 Harvesting of medium dimension SC products (fencing material etc.). Retain the best quality shoot per stool to grow into sawlog dimensions, select 150 – 300 FC trees/ha and consider pruning if appropriate. XBLL standards: Apply crown thinning to release from competition, consider pruning.
Timber stage		 Monitor species composition, stand density, stability and health, and thin accordingly. Apply crown thinning as long as necessary for the benefits of FC trees. Manage re-growth from coppice stools to develop understorey. Plan for final harvesting when FC trees approach target DBH. XBLL standards may be managed on several SC coppice rotations.
Final harvesting and regeneration stage		 Harvest SC FC trees as they reach target DBH. Supplement SC coppice stools by new planting or layering as necessary.