

# Woodland – OTHER WOODLAND MIXED – MODERATE CONDITION

## Creation, Enhancement and Management Summary (WO-T01)

Provide details of the approach to delivering each of the targeted condition criteria and habitat. Conditions from Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat condition assessment sheets – Sheet 24. Woodland

For each condition row, delete the condition targets that aren't being targeted as necessary.

Target Habitat:							
Condition Assessment Criteria			Target Score	Relevant Parcels	Creation Approach	Enhancement Approach	Management Approach
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age classes present	3	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Canopy management every 3-5 years (to be advised by arborist) to allow gaps in canopy for younger saplings to grow.
		Two age classes present					
		One age class present					
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland	2	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Monitor grazing by grey squirrels / deer to ensure damage to trees does not increase.
		Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland					
		Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland					
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland	3	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Regular monitoring will take place to ensure invasive non-native species are not present. Any invasive species identified will be removed using industry best practice guidance, with once annual checks carried out.
		Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover					
		Rhododendron or laurel present, or other invasive species) 10% cover					
D	Number of native trees species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel	3	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Plant native species and monitor to ensure non-native species are not establishing.
		Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel					
		Two or less native tree or shrub species present across woodland parcel					

E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understorey shrubs are native	1	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	The understorey of the woodland, will be coppiced in stages to minimise disturbance to wildlife, as required, as part of good woodland management. Removal on non-native species.
		50 – 80% of canopy trees and 50-80% of understorey shrubs are native					
		<50% of canopy trees and <50% understorey shrubs are native					
F	Open space within woodland	10-20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. Unless woodland <10ha in which case 0-20% temporary open space is permitted.	2	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Trimming and pruning will take place to keep open spaces at 21 – 40%
		<b>21-40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space</b>					
		<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.					
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4-7cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth	2	3	Woodland is already established	Young, self-set trees include Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ), Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ), Willow sp. ( <i>Salix</i> sp.), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ) and Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ). All such specimens are of similar growth stage and Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). There is thus an absence of classes (Score 1). The retention of open glades for natural woodland regeneration and the introduction of new shrub planting will diversify the woodlands age class. Enhanced Score 2.	Coppicing will occur when the planted trees are old enough.
		<b>One or two classes only present in woodland</b>					
		No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland					
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback	2	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Annual inspections for pests and diseases. Arborist contacted for advice and mitigation if found.
		<b>11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low risk pest or disease present</b>					
		Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high risk pest or disease present					

I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	1	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Not applicable.
		Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present					
		<b>No recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present.</b>					
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	1	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Not applicable.
		Two storeys across all survey plots					
		<b>One of less storey across all survey plots</b>					
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran per hectare	1	3	Woodland is already established	No enhancement is proposed	Not applicable.
		One veteran tree per hectare					
		<b>No veteran trees present in woodland</b>					
L	Amount of deadwood	<b>50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.</b>	3	3	Woodland is already established	Some fallen dead wood is present at ground level, to include logs, dead branches and stumps. Standing dead wood Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ) is also present centrally within an exposed/open area of the woodland plot. Though, collectively, deadwood attributes to less than 25% coverage within all survey plots (Score 1). It is proposed to place dead woodland in 50% of all survey plots. Enhanced Score 3.	Arisings from thinning or other woodland management functions will be retained on site in the form of dedicated brash and wood piles or windrows, for the benefit for fungi, lichen, and invertebrates.
		Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.					
		Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.					
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident	2	3	Woodland is already established	Anthropogenic disturbance is present in the woodland. Abundant spread of Bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) within open areas is also indicative of soil nutrient enrichment (Score 1). It is proposed to keep to less than a hectare the total of nutrient enrichment across the woodland area and or less than 20% of the woodland area has damaged ground. Enhanced Score 2.	Monitoring will occur throughout the next 30 year intermittently and consider exclusion zones.
		<b>Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground</b>					
		More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground					

### Additional Management Prescriptions (WO-B01)

Please use this space to detail any additional management measures to be conducted along with the above measures. These may for example include (but are not limited to) measures specifically relating to the presence of protected species or may be additional measures that are in support of local nature recovery targets and, or, planning policy.

0-2 years: Management needs to consider that 5-20% of initially planted trees/shrubs can die off. If this occurs, then trees/shrubs need to be replaced (beaten-up). Once planting of the trees/shrubs has been undertaken, weeding or mulching needs to take place at a 1m diameter around the tree to reduce competition for moisture and nutrients. Tree guards are also suggested for juvenile trees to protect them from deer and rabbits (Woodland Trust, 2024).

3-10 years: Guards are to be removed from the trees around 5-10 years or when they start to split and removed from site and recycled. If the guards are kept on for too long, this may impede growth. Pruning or coppicing is not essential but can help encourage tree growth.

Thinning is advised at the 10-year mark or when the tree reaches 7m tall and the shrubs reach 3m tall. This process is advised to occur every 5-8 years. Thinning should take place by identifying the best growing trees/shrubs and removing their competition. This can be trees/shrubs that impede light getting to the stronger tree or smaller trees/shrubs that are planted close to the stronger tree. A Forestry Commission felling licence is required if the tree is more than 10cm diameter at breast height.

10 years+: It is advised by the Royal Forestry Society that the trees are cut or coppiced every 5-20 years. It would need to be considered which species inhabit the woodland as it matures and becomes more inhabitable (RFS, 2015).

## Woodland

### Creation, Enhancement and Management Detailed Methods (WO-T02)

Provide detailed prescriptions for the creation and management of the habitat.

Action	Relevant Parcels	Timing	Prescriptions
Checking of tree guards on existing trees	All	Annual from Year 1	Check the integrity of the tree guards annually and replace where necessary. Removal before they start to disintegrate (usually around 5-10 years).
Prepare the ground	Areas of shrub planting	0 – 1 years	Removal of any plants that may be competition for the new saplings / shrubs
Plant the saplings and shrubs with guards on and further weeding	Areas of shrub planting	2 – 3 years	Plant the saplings 2+ metres apart and shrubs 1m apart with guards on to protect them from deer and rabbits. Weeding should take place in a 1m diameter of the saplings to maximise its chance of growth.
Replanting if necessary	Areas of shrub planting	2 – 3 years	If more than 10% die off in the first year of planting, they should be replanted.
Removal of guards	Areas of shrub planting	5 – 10 years	Guards are to be removed from the trees / shrubs around 5-10 years or when they start to split and removed from site band recycled. If the guards are kept on for too long, this may impede growth. Pruning or coppicing is not essential but can help encourage tree growth.
Pruning and cutting	Areas of shrub planting	3 – 10 years	Thinning is advised at the 10-year mark or when the tree reaches >7m tall and at the 5-year mark for shrubs. 10 years after establishment thinning should take place every 5-8 year. Thinning should take place by identifying the best growing trees/shrubs and removing their competition. This can be trees that impede light getting to the stronger tree or smaller trees/shrubs that are planted close to the stronger tree. A Forestry Commission felling license is required if the tree is more than 10cm diameter at breast height. Trimming prior to the 10-year mark can also occur to improve chance of growth if deemed necessary. It needs to be noted that the woodland is likely to be frequented by people, so trimming of the trees for health and safety reasons, should also be considered.
Coppicing	Areas of shrub planting	10 + years	It is advised by the Royal Forestry Society that the trees are cut or coppiced every 5-20 years. It would need to be considered which species inhabit the woodland as it matures and becomes more inhabitable (RFS, 2015).
Arboricultural impact assessment	All	Every 5 years from Year 1	Trees should be subject to an annual arboricultural assessment which should aim to assess the tree's health status and recommend remedial measures.
Cut grass/invasive understorey where more prominent	All	Annual from Year 1.	An annual cut of grasses mid-summer will keep weeds of semi-shade such as nettles and brambles in check.

Management of woodland understorey.	All	Resow after 3 years	Resow woodland wildflower seeds after 15 years with Emorsgate EW1F or similar to ensure a woodland understorey typical of the habitat type.
Removal of any non-native invasive species.	All	Annual from Year 1.	Removal to be undertaken by a certified contractor in accordance with industry best practice guidance.
Retention of dead wood.	All	Annual from Year 1	Any failed stock, fallen trees or pruned branches should be left within the woodland understorey to allow niches for fauna.
Removal of organic matter.	All	Annual from Year 1	Annual removal of built-up leaf litter and organic matter from the woodland floor to avoid nutrient enrichment.

## Woodland Species Lists (WO-T03) – SHRUB LAYER

Provide a detailed species list for the habitat to be created

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance / %	Comments
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	20%	Shrub growing to 6m tall. Can be coppiced.
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	20%	Shrub growing to 4m tall.
Wild plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	10%	Shrub growing to 8m tall.
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	10%	Tall shrub growing to 18m
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	10%	Strong smelling shrub growing to 10m
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	20%	Shrubs up to 10 – 15m tall.
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	10%	Tall shrub growing to 23m

## Other Supporting Information

Supporting Information (WO-B02)

Please use this space to provide any additional information where relevant.