

Historically woodlands dominated the British landscape, but now Britain is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Mature woodlands can support a variety of species including dormouse, bats, insects such as the wood white butterfly and flowering plants.

## General guidelines for the management of semi-natural broadleaved woodland:

Non-intervention management, i.e. choosing not to undertake any management work in all or part of a woodland, is a recognised and acceptable form of management for wildlife.

Coppicing of hazel can be re-introduced on a 5-7 year or longer rotation cycle, this allows maximum sunlight penetration to ground vegetation, and should encourage the range of woodland flowering plants.

If dormice are present and management is to encourage these, then coups for coppicing should be small (clumps of 5-6 stools of hazel only) and scattered. This enables dormice to continue movement from tree to tree while still maintaining the age variation of hazel and therefore dormouse food supplies.

Retaining some standard trees within coppiced areas reduces the rate of growth of the coppice stools and retains the woodland ground flora.

Fence off the woodland to any stock. Generally grazing stock in woodlands reduces the diversity of the ground flora.



Hazel coppice

Ivy provides food and refuge for insects and birds and normally should not be cut from trees.

Rides and glades are important for the extraction of timber products, and the extra light entering the woodland encourages wildflowers and insects.

Rides and glades are especially valuable for woodland butterflies. Well structured rides and glades graduate from low vegetation through tall grass and herb communities, scrub and ultimately woodland.

Rotational management of glades and rides, particularly scrub clearance, in winter is recommended.

Standing or already fallen dead wood is an excellent habitat for insects and the birds that feed on them, so leave in place wherever possible rather than removing, and resist over-tidiness (where safety permits).



Wood anemone

**Notes:** Some of the recommendations on this leaflet may not be permitted under Countryside Stewardship. Contact your local Natural England Adviser for further advice if required.

Permissions may be required to carry out the land management advice given (e.g. tree felling licences). DBRC advise that you check with your Local Authority before commencing any works.





Bluebells

Some areas of the woodland may benefit from careful thinning to vary its structure and introduce a variety of conditions for wildlife.

Natural regeneration of native species is encouraged to allow the woodland to continue for the long-term.

Non-native species (such as sycamore, rhododendron and laurel) are generally best removed from woodlands. If large enough these trees/shrubs could be used as fuelwood. These species if allowed to grow often shade out woodland ground plants and prevent native seedlings from growing. If not suitable for burning it is recommended that unwanted trimmings/branches from felling/thinning or coppicing can be stacked to rot down; providing important refuge sites for insects and small mammals.

Linking woodlands within your landholding with ditches, hedgerows, lines of trees and beetle banks allows wildlife to move from one woodland area to another.

A felling licence might be required for the removal of trees please contact your Local Authority or the Forestry Commission for further information.

**Sources of further information and funding may be available from:**

**Forestry Commission:** Grants towards woodland planning and the Woodland Carbon fund (new woodland and permissive access options). Web address: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-grants>  
 Email: [westengland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:westengland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 0300 067 4800

**Ward Forester Scheme:** A scheme developed by Devon County Council and Forestry Commission to aid owners of small woodlands to increase woodland productivity and gain financially from their woodlands.  
 Web address: <http://wardforester.co.uk/>  
 Email: [wardforester@devon.gov.uk](mailto:wardforester@devon.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 01363 881395

**Natural England:** *Countryside Stewardship management options/capital works grants*  
 Web address: <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants>  
 Email: [devon@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:devon@naturalengland.org.uk)  
 Tel: 0300 0601110

**Devon Wildlife Trust**  
 Website: [www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org)  
 Email: [contactus@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:contactus@devonwildlifetrust.org)  
 Tel: 01392 279244



Oak tree