

## Guidance for the management of Woodland/Woodland edge/Woodland glade

### National Context

- Upland Oak Woodland, Upland Mixed Ash Woodlands, Lowland Deciduous Woodlands and Wet Woodlands are all priority habitats.

### General objectives

- Maintain and encourage species and structural diversity in the woodland.
- Maintain and develop links to other areas important for wildlife, for example, other woodland, scrub, hedges and flowering grasslands especially in the context of a forest habitat network.

### Important features to maintain and develop

- Graded woodland edge from open ground to shade including flowering grassland areas and/or heath.
- Varying height and density of shrub cover both within the canopy and outside it.
- Mature native trees, dead trees (dead standing wood), in shade or open, fallen dead wood in both shade and open.
- Wet areas within the woodland both shaded and in glades.
- Large woodland blocks are particularly important for some species like Woodcock and Hawfinches.
- Links to other habitats.

### Priority species' groups for which habitat is important

Some species use only edge/glade habitats. Refer to the Biodiversity Opportunity Zones matrix for more information (available at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/biodiversity))

Birds	Mammals	Butterflies
Bullfinch Dunnock Hawfinch Kestrel (edge only) Song Thrush Spotted flycatcher Starling Swallow Tree Sparrow Willow tit Woodcock Yellow Hammer (edge only)	Brown Hare Bat species	Wall Brown (edge only)

### Other species' groups for which habitat is important

- Includes a range of other birds and bats, moths and a variety of notable invertebrates.

## Maintaining and improving the habitat

- Undertake a planting programme where there is little diversity of species and structure. This can include trees, and shrubs to give varying height and, wildflowers.
- Maximise the length of the woodland edge by creating glades, rides and scalloping the edges of the woodland if possible. This should not be done without first seeking advice.
- Create dead standing wood by ring-barking non-native trees like sycamore if their removal is desirable. Care should be taken, however, not to do this where there is a danger of creating a hazard to people or property.
- Where there is a lack of holes and crevices in mature trees provide bat boxes and bird boxes, including open ones for spotted flycatchers.

## Species to plant

### Trees

Ash (around flushes)  
Alder (wet areas)  
Crab apple  
Downy birch (damp soils)  
Elm (around flushes)  
Pendunculate oak (primarily lowland areas)  
Sessile oak (primarily upland areas)  
Silver birch  
Wild cherry

### Shrubs / small trees

Blackthorn  
Dog/Field rose  
Field maple  
Gorse  
Hawthorn  
Hazel  
Holly

Fruit trees are particularly attractive to bullfinches and song thrushes.

- **Wildflowers**

Woodland/woodland edge/meadow species depending upon shaded or open aspect or north/south facing. For information on the correct species to plant look for The Natural History Museum's' Postcode Plant Database, at [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk) or write to The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, UK.

## Extending the habitat

- The value of these areas can be increased by forming links with other areas of woodland and scrub, or by creating new habitats adjacent to the site. Useful complementary habitats include wildflower grassland, heath and ponds (especially with south facing aspect). These areas should not be heavily planted with trees although it may be beneficial to create shelter belts. Seek additional guidance on this issue.