

Woodland Creation



Woodlands are one of the UK's most valuable habitats. However, over the last 40 years, the UK has lost over half of its ancient woodland. It is more important than ever to create new woodlands.

Whilst woodlands are so vital, they should not replace already existing high quality wildlife habitats, such as wildflower meadows.

There are 2 main methods of woodland creation, Planting and Natural Regeneration.



Planting:

A new woodland can be carefully planned out before being planted up with young saplings.

This can be both expensive and time consuming, however there are many grants and volunteer groups that could offer support.



Natural Regeneration:

A new woodland can be grown by simply allowing trees to spread naturally.

This method is cheaper as it does not require purchasing trees and doesn't need as much maintenance.

This can be slower and requires nearby established woodlands for seeds to spread from.



For more information about woodland creation and management, scan the QR code!



Woodland **Management**

There are lots of features that make a woodland healthy and supportive of wildlife.

Coppicing and Pollarding:
Cutting trees down to a stump (coppicing), or cutting off the upper branches (pollarding), are ancient forms of woodland management. They encourage trees to grow back multi-stemmed and thicker. This can increase the trees' lifespan, provide more high quality habitat and increases sunlight throughout the woodland.



Dead wood:
Dying and dead wood are important for fungi, moss, lichen, insects, birds, bats and more.
Where there is no danger for people, dead trees should be left standing for as long as possible.
Cut logs can be used for habitat piles or stumperies.
Brush wood can be used to create dead hedges.

In order to maintain or improve a woodland's quality, it's important to have a long term management plan. You can contact organisations like The Wildlife Trust and Forestry England for help.



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