

Biodiversity objectives for ACIDIC DRY woodland

	Possible Biodiversity objectives	Herbivore impact category most suited to achieving your objective		Herbivore impact category compatible with achieving your objective		Species/breed of grazing animal most suited to achieving your objective	Incompatible objectives	Comments
		<i>Short-term</i>	<i>Long-term</i>	<i>Short-term</i>	<i>Long-term</i>			
1	Increase woodland canopy cover, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep Autumn grazing	4	May be appropriate to 'mob-stock' in the very short term to create regeneration niches.
2	Increase the range of tree species present, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent	Absent to v. low	Absent to v. low	Absent to medium	Cattle Autumn grazing	4	Normally stock grazing levels need to be very low until regenerating trees are above browse height, as it is likely to be the browse-sensitive species that are absent or under-represented.
3	Maintain the existing proportion of woodland and open ground within a woodland mosaic.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Any	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep	4	A mosaic is generally desirable for maximising biodiversity.
4	Reduce the proportion of regenerating woodland within a woodland mosaic, whilst still maintaining a woodland cover.	Medium to v. high	Low to medium	Medium to v. high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep	1, 2, 3	Desirable when abundant tree regeneration threatens non-woodland habitats or the species dependent on them. Not sustainable over the long term.
5	Suppress rank vegetation beneath a woodland canopy in order to benefit field layer species diversity.	Low to high	Low to medium	Low to v. high	Low to Medium	Cattle (highlanders or highland crosses), pigs. Autumn grazing in the long term.		Desired impact may be from grazing or trampling. Pigs may be appropriate in the short term to control bracken.
6	Suppress rank vegetation within an open ground/woodland mosaic in order to benefit species diversity.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to high	Low to Medium	Cattle (highlanders or highland crosses). Pigs (for bracken control).		The objective may be for the benefit of plants, invertebrates or birds. Grazing prescription will depend on target species.
7	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages.	Low to high	Low to medium	Any	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Applies especially to native woodland in western Scotland. Epiphytes may be adversely affected by dense thicket regeneration (especially likely if grazing levels are very low) or by loss of woodland canopy. Epiphytes are often at their best on browse-sensitive tree species. Consider planting and protecting these species.

8	Maintain cover of woodland containing trees whose crowns are rich in invertebrate species.	Low	Low to medium	Any	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep		Applies to all native woodland but especially oak and pine woodlands. Low initial browsing levels are to allow a wide range of host tree species to become established.
9	Maintain or increase juniper population.	Absent to High	Low	Absent to high	V. low to medium	Cattle		Juniper can suffer from competition from regenerating trees as well as from overgrazing that prevents regeneration. It is tolerant of low intensity grazing. Juniper often regenerates on disturbed ground. Consider mob-stocking of ground adjacent to existing stands.
9	Maintain or increase wood ant population.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Sheep		Wood ants can suffer from excessive shading of the field layer habitat as well as by tree canopy loss.
10	Maintain or enhance woodland edge habitat for scarce butterflies and moths.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Cattle		Includes chequered skippers and pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies. Both benefit from a grazed sward that encourages the caterpillar foodplant.
11	Maintain or increase red squirrel population.	Any	Absent to medium	Any	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep		Red squirrels require seed-bearing trees. They have a distinct preference for certain tree species. They will benefit from browsing levels that preserve or enhance woodland connectivity.
12	Maintain or increase black grouse or capercaillie populations.	Low to medium	Low to medium	V. low to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Browse-sensitive species such as blaeberry are an important food source for both species.
13	Maintain or increase twinflower population.	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to low	Cattle, sheep	14	Twinflower is an evergreen, restricted to pinewoods and vulnerable to over-grazing.
14	Control bracken density and spread.	Medium to high	Low to medium	Medium to high	Low to medium	Cattle, pigs		Control is primarily through trampling. High intensity impact sustained for longer than the very short term is incompatible with objectives 1, 2, 9.

N.B. Short term herbivore impacts are those sought over the next approximately 5 years, i.e. within the life of your woodland grazing plan. Appropriate very short term impacts, e.g. for the first year, may be different.