

Wet Woodland



Wet Woodland is found on poorly drained and/or seasonally wet soils. The canopy is dominated by Alder, Willow and Birch species.

The high humidity favours the growth of mosses and ferns, and decaying wood is good for fungi and invertebrates. Wet woodlands can also support a large number of plant species, and they provide cover and breeding sites for Otter, bats and birds.

Wet woodlands can also act as a natural flood defence.

Managing Wet Woodland

Maintain a Diverse Structure

- Coppice some areas to create a more diverse woodland structure with some clearings. There should also be a good age structure of trees

Maintain Open Areas and Edge Habitat

- Allow woodland edges to grade from grass, through scrub, to woodland
- Keep clearings and rides open to encourage flowering plants

Grazing and Browsing

- Extensive low-level grazing will help maintain open areas. However, grazing animals can cause damage to fragile wet areas by trampling
- Excessive grazing by deer will inhibit tree regeneration and may have a detrimental effect on ground flora

Retain Old Trees and Dead Wood

- Retain large, old trees, standing dead wood and large fallen trunks and limbs

Maintain Water Levels

- Consider damming internal drains or allowing them to become blocked to maintain higher water levels
- If the woodland is prone to flooding, it is important to ensure the maintenance of the natural flood regime

Drains and Ponds

- Retain and manage drains and ponds
- Aim for a balance between overhanging vegetation that will provide shade and leaf litter and open water that is not shaded

Non-native Species

- Monitor and control non-native species (e.g. Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed)