

WOODLAND

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

This woodland represents the ubiquitous mixed woodland of England. It is typified in the WPMs by Oak, Bramble and Bluebell but where conditions are damper or the soils richer in base elements, such as in deep ravines, Ash, Dog's Mercury, Wood Anemone, Lesser Celandine, Sweet Woodruff and Ramsons occur. Typically ferns may be abundant and include, Broad Buckler-fern, Lady-fern and Male-fern.

Sycamore tends to be plentiful and dominate other species in these woodlands whilst Beech planted in Victorian times has over the last thirty years begun to regenerate in abundance.

Woodland is also important for fungi, lichens, mosses and liverworts.

This woodland is important for a wide range of birds, mammals and invertebrates including Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Tree-creeper, nuthatch, Spotted Flycatcher, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Badger and numerous invertebrates, particularly those associated with dead wood.

Biodiversity delivery

Woodland management is available nationally through Defra's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/wgs Biodiversity delivery should seek to conserve, achieve favourable condition, restore and expand the habitat.

Upland Oakwood

Occurs on thin acidic soils with low fertility. Oak is the dominant tree with Downy Birch, Rowan and Holly; with a ground flora of Wavy Hair-grass, Bilberry, Heath Bedstraw, Tormentil, Bluebell, Wood Sorrel, Hairy Woodrush, Greater Woodrush, Hard-fern and Lemon-scented Fern. The limited range of higher plants is made up for by mosses and liverworts, which can be abundant; *Plagiothecium undulatum* characterises WPMs woodlands other species include *Dicranum scoparium*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* and *Lophocolea heterophylla*. Areas with base-poor ground water seepage may support stands of Purple Moor-grass, with richer flushes supporting Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Yellow Pimpernel and Remote Sedge. Beech and Rhododendron planted in the Victorian times has over the last thirty years begun to regenerate and threaten this important woodland type.

Upland oak woodland is important for bird such as Pied Flycatcher and Redstart.

Biodiversity delivery

Woodland management is available nationally through Defra's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/wgs Biodiversity delivery should seek to conserve, achieve favourable condition,

restore and expand the habitat. Management needs to focus on the removal of mature and regenerating Beech and Rhododendron.

Wet Woodland

Wet woodland comprises a range of types from valley side flushed woodland extending down into those within river flood zones. In the WPMs they are predominantly a mixture of Ash and Alder with some Sycamore; shrubs include Hazel, Guelder-rose, Raspberry and typically Bird Cherry. The ground flora is generally very diverse and includes Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Yellow Pimpernel, Remote Sedge, Wood Anemone, Lesser Celandine, Large Bitter-cress, Marsh Marigold, Meadow Sweet, Common Valerian, Yellow Iris, Butterbur and Greater Tussock-sedge. In more upland situations Marsh Hawk's-beard and Marsh Valerian become typical.

Some wet woodlands, carrs, are dominated by Alder and Grey Willow and whilst their flora may be much as described above, they may equally comprise Reed Canary-grass, Reed and tall-herb vegetation.

Where trees and shrubs are few, Wet woodland and Fen habitat types tend to merge.

In addition to the fauna associated with other woodlands, more open Wet woodland is important for Woodcock, Grasshopper Warbler and Reed Bunting.

Biodiversity delivery

Woodland management is available nationally through Defra's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/wgs Biodiversity delivery should seek to conserve, achieve favourable condition, restore and expand the habitat. Expansion of the habitat may conflict with Reedbed and Fen biodiversity action.

Wood-Pasture & Parkland

Wood-pasture and parkland typically comprises open woodland with mature trees where the ground is typically grassland, or sometimes heath. It is generally associated with lowland situations and hence is untypical of the WPMs as a whole. Wood-pasture and Parkland is generally maintained by grazing of cattle, sheep and deer and in some cases stretch back to mediaeval times. In the WPMs this habitat is represented by the water-catchment land alongside Rivington Reservoir and is nowhere near so old.

Wood-pasture and Parkland are important habitats for birds in general and particularly Green Woodpecker and Tree Pipit. Their old mature trees support fungi, and dead wood invertebrates. Tree holes and the open habitat are of value to bats.

Biodiversity delivery

Wood-pasture and parkland is eligible for Biodiversity delivery through Defra's English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/wgs and Defra's High Level Stewardship

www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/hls

Delivery should seek to conserve, achieve favourable condition, restore and expand the habitat.