

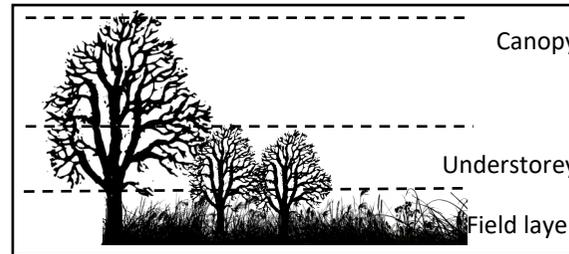
Take your time?

Don't rush, spend some time getting to know your site to maximise potential and avoid accidentally harming another habitat. Think about the future; unless you plan to ultimately reuse them, it may be best to plant without tree guards. The money saved can be spent on replacing trees which die.

Which trees to plant?

Choose species appropriate for the area and site. Visit local woodlands, see what grows well there. Avoid non-native species in the countryside and choose a variety of trees; monocultures (a single crop in an area) are not good. Source locally and carefully; many young trees are imported and can bring in disease.

Look at the woodland structure. You need a range of tree species.



How will you manage your woodland?

Make a plan to manage your new woodland. Will you coppice some of the trees? When will you do that? You can seek advice from your local wildlife trust. Contact details:
www.rwtwales.org
www.montwt.co.uk
www.welshwildlife.org

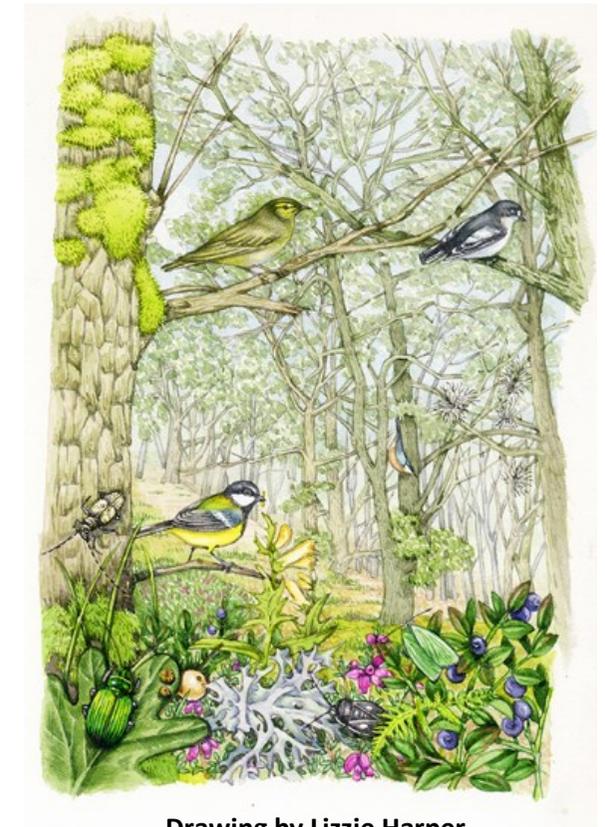


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Wildlife Trusts
Wales
Ymddiriedolaethau Natur
Cymru

Right tree, right place



Drawing by Lizzie Harper

Green Connections
Powys

Why plant trees?

Trees are important for wildlife and are important weapons in the fight against climate change. But care must be taken that we don't destroy one habitat to make another; we need diversity, and all habitats have value. Grasslands also capture carbon and store it in the roots up to a metre underground, but this may be lost by deep disturbance of the soil. Trees store carbon above ground and in the root system, which is extensive in mature trees. Trees take up most carbon as they grow but it is released during forest fires and when the tree dies.

Natural regeneration

Without grazing animals or active management, grassland or scrub will slowly transition to woodland.

Natural regeneration is the best way of creating new woodlands for wildlife and carbon storage. Not only is it more cost effective than planting new woodlands, trees established by regeneration are more likely to be better adapted to local climatic and environmental conditions and better able to resist disease and invasive pests. This will result in woodlands with a more natural species and structural composition.

Planting trees

But what if you want to plant trees?

Before you splash the cash, there are some important considerations.

Where to plant trees?

Planting trees isn't only about creating new woods. You can plant hedgerows, orchards and single trees in fields or community green spaces where they will provide shade as the climate changes.

Position trees to create wildlife corridors, linking new trees with existing woodland.

Planting trees on farmland

Farms need trees too. Planting a shelter belt across a slope can slow water flow and soak up rainwater and nutrients. Hedges can reduce soil erosion, provide protection from high winds and create habitat for insects which, in turn, can help protect both plants and animals from pests and disease. Plant a copse in an unused corner or a single tree mid-field for shade and fence it off. Raising the cutting height and width of an existing hedge and cutting on a two- or three-year cycle improves structure and provides more food for wildlife as most blossom and fruit on the second-year wood.