Evolving strategy for Wooded Landscapes Plan: increasing tree and scrub cover for an integrated range of public goods in the Peak District National Park

Contents

1. Introduction

The **Wooded Landscapes Plan** forms part of the Landscape Strategy and provides strategic direction on future wooded landscape creation and management in the Peak District National Park over the next 10 years.

Wooded landscapes support increased biodiversity, store carbon and flood water, enhance landscape character, and enhance places where people can increase their physical and mental wellbeing through the enjoyment of nature and their relationship with the natural environment. Woodlands, trees and scrub are an important component of landscape and scenic diversity and as features of local distinctiveness. Elements of wooded landscapes can enhance the composition of other landscape features and add visual definition to geological features.

The **aim of the plan** is to facilitate an increase in tree and scrub cover for the delivery of a range of public goods within the National Park landscape.

Tree and scrub cover should be seen as part of a **landscape 'mosaic' of different habitats and land covers.** Increasing tree / scrub cover should not be seen as mutually exclusive with other habitats; for example, it is not a case of pastureland **or** trees, but pastureland **with** additional tree cover (where appropriate).

The term '**wooded landscape**' is therefore used throughout this document to cover the full potential range of tree and scrub cover forms in the landscape - not just closed-canopy woodland but also forms such as wood/scrub-pasture, parkland, copses, shelterbelts, individual trees, linear tree features, hedgerows, areas of scrub and 'agro-forestry'.

This Action Plan aims to demonstrate **where the creation and enhancement of wooded landscapes can be realistically achieved** to help deliver National Park Management Plan objectives and complement other land uses within the park. The National Park Authority also has targets under its corporate strategy which set out what the Authority will do to help deliver the Management Plan objectives.

This Action Plan **does not aim to duplicate existing policies** (such as those within the UK Forestry Standard), but to provide **specific landscape principles and guidance appropriate for the Peak District National Park**.

Relevant existing guidance includes:

Design techniques for forest management planning *add link*
The UK Forestry Standard: The governments' approach to sustainable forestry *add link*
National Parks England 'Right tree, Right Place' *add link*
Moors for the Future 'Creation of Clough Woodlands' guiding principles *add links*

2. Background

The importance of trees and woodland

There is increasing recognition of the significant contribution that trees and woodland make to a wide range of public goods including carbon sequestration and storage, natural flood management, water quality, biodiversity, natural beauty/landscape character and for human health and well-being.

How has the landscape evolved over time?

The high levels of forest clearance that we are seeing in the tropics currently occurred in the UK over a relatively long period in prehistory. Woodland clearance began at the end of the Mesolithic era and increased during the Bronze Age to its probable height in the early Iron Age. Rackham (1990) estimates that about half of England had ceased to be 'wildwood' by 500BC.

By 1086 only about 15% of England was 'woodland'. We think of the post-domesday landscape as being extensively 'wildwood', but in reality, the landscape was a mosaic of meadows, pasture, heath, coppice woods, wood-pasture and woody commons, with some areas of managed woodland. Since then, tree cover has continued to be lost and now the UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with only 13% tree cover, compared with about 32% in Germany and 31% in France.

Small fragments – and 'ghosts' - of this post-domesday landscape mosaic can be seen in the modern Peak District landscape.

What is the current level of tree cover in the Peak District?

The landscape we see today is dynamic and has changed considerably over time, primarily in response to how we have managed – and continue to manage - land. The modern Peak District landscape is a patchwork of fragments of semi-natural habitats mixed with extensive areas of modern land uses and management practices.

There is 12,005ha of tree cover (as defined by Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory) within the Peak District National Park as of March 2017. Of the overall 1,437km^2 area of the park, woodland therefore covers approx. 8.35%. This is significantly lower than the - already low - national average and the average of 16.7% for all English National Parks (the Peak District has the least woodland cover of any of the parks except the Yorkshire Dales).

While some landscapes within the park are culturally more open (such as the 'open moors'), there is **no fundamental reason why tree cover should be lower in the National Park than the national average.**

Other factors affecting current land use in the Peak District

This national policy and local policy review is taking place against a backdrop of **uncertainty for farmers and land managers** ((with the development of a new system of farming and land management support), **climate change** and **tree diseases** such as Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (which will significantly adversely

affect the population of ash trees within the park) over the next 10 years. Other tree diseases (such as Phytophthora ramorum) may also start to have significant effects on other species.

In terms of **landownership**, over 90% of the Peak District is in private ownership. The Peak District National Park Authority owns around 5%. There are 11 major landowners in the Peak District National Park, holding 54,272 hectares (38%) of land. The National Trust is the largest single landowner with a total of 17,507 hectares (12%). Water companies own large tracts of moorland and valleys in the north and west of the park (approx. 11%). Individual landholders and large estates, such as Chatsworth and Stanton, own much of the south of the park.

This points to the need for **greater partnership working** to create significant areas of new woodland.

About 86% (tbc) of the total area of the Peak district is **farmland** (agricultural or managed moorland), predominantly used for grazing.

This means we need to **work with farmers and land managers to create opportunities for increased tree cover** in our primarily agricultural landscapes and try to influence financial and other incentives including the development of ELMs to support our aspiration for greater tree cover in the National Park.

3. Opportunities / forces for change

There is increasing recognition that modern land management systems are not delivering their potential full suite of public goods. The full implications for the UK farming and land management sector resulting from Brexit are still unclear but it may provide the opportunity for a more integrated land use system which encourages wooded landscape creation as one of its 'public goods'.

Trees and woodland creation are rising up the national political agenda. This is reflected in three recent key documents:

- **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan to Improve the Environment** (Defra, 2018) which is looking to improve the way land is managed, including designing and delivering a new Environmental Land Management scheme, increasing tree planting by creating new forests, and incentivising extra planting on private and the least productive agricultural land where appropriate. It includes a target of planting 180,000 hectares of woodland in England by the end of 2042; and

- **Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK'** (Committee on Climate Change, 2020) which identifies that 20% of agricultural land should be released by 2050 for actions that reduce emissions and sequester carbon, such as afforestation and agro-forestry.

- Draft Government **Tree Strategy** (Defra, final draft forthcoming, early 2021) sets out policy priorities to deliver the government's ambitious tree planting commitment of planting 30,000 hectares of trees a year across the UK by 2025. The strategy focuses on expanding, protecting and improving our woodlands, and how trees and woodlands can connect people to nature, support the economy, combat climate change and recover biodiversity. This will ensure that trees are established and managed for the many benefits they provide for people, the economy, the climate and nature itself.[1]

Within the Authority, woodland creation is one of our identified targets in the Corporate Strategy:

- **KPI 6 'At least 400ha of new native woodland created by 2024'** and **'2,000ha by 2040'**

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[1] In June 2020, Defra invited participation in an open consultation on the priorities of the new England Tree Strategy and to inform the drafting of the new strategy, which will be published in early 2021, https://consult.defra.gov.uk/forestry/england-tree-strategy/.

- Tree cover and woodlands are also implicitly play a role in **KPI 2a 'Net enhancement of natural beauty'.**

What does this policy and the ongoing forces of change mean for the Peak District landscape?

Within the next 10 years there may be:

- continuing pressure for agricultural intensification in some areas (which could lead to the further loss of trees and scrub)
- the extensive loss of ash woodlands and farmland ash trees due to ash dieback. Larch will likely also be significantly affected.
- Likely increasing opportunities to accommodate wooded landscapes as part of ELMs
- Likely increasing opportunities to accommodate woodland as part of woodland creation schemes to mitigate and offset carbon emissions.
- Potential reduction in intensity of agricultural management practices (including possible abandonment) in some areas
- New pests and diseases potentially affecting other tree species

Recent modelling using the Peak Carbon Tool has identified the carbon storage benefits of planting on productive agricultural land so wooded landscape creation on areas such as the White Peak plateau should also be explored.

4. The objectives of the Wooded Landscapes Plan

The Plan will:

- Inform and help to deliver KPI6 of the National Park Management Plan / Corporate Strategy and define/deliver future corporate targets/indicators for 'woodland creation' and increased tree cover. It will identify key issues and opportunities affecting the creation of wooded landscapes in the National Park and provide policy guidance.

- Encourage opportunities for the creation and enhancement of wooded landscapes that compliments other land uses and the landscape character of the national park:

  - *inform and guide how and where woodland should be created at a landscape scale; including the publication of a separate **Guidance document** (for partner organisations, landowners and the developers of agricultural support schemes) to inform and prioritise woodland scheme design.*

  - *Inform the targeting and implementation of national funding schemes (such as ELMs) for woodland creation and the establishment of other tree /shrub cover.*

  - *inform the implementation of local schemes, complementary to national schemes, aimed at the creation of small scale features of importance to landscape character such as field corner trees, linear trees and wood pasture. Such schemes currently include the PDNPA Grant Scheme and the Woodland Trust/PDNPA Small Woodland Creation Scheme.*

  - *Exploring the development of a new small scale local scheme ('**Roots for the future'**) aimed at individuals, businesses and community groups interested in small-scale wooded landscape creation (e.g. to offset their carbon footprint). This could be administered by the Foundation and delivered by the PDNPA.*

- *provide a vision to inform, guide and promote **partnership working** to deliver wooded landscape creation within the Peak District.*

- Promote awareness of the value of encouraging more woodland and trees in the landscape and encourage greater collaboration between the Authority, agencies, farmers/landowners/managers and communities/interest groups.

5. Our 'Wooded Landscape' vision for the Peak District National Park

We want to provide future generations with a healthier, sustainable and better-connected wooded landscape, while simultaneously restoring and/or enhancing the landscape character of the park. This is informed by our understanding of how the landscape in the Peak District has evolved and how we would like to see it continue to evolve in the future.

Supporting tree and scrub creation is a key part of enhancing the mosaic of habitats and land uses that make up our landscape. It is important that these are the **'right trees in the right place'** and that creation does not compromise other important habitats, species, cultural heritage assets or public access. At the same time, these new and inspiring wooded landscapes can complement and support agriculture, moorland management and peatland restoration.

We aim to p**romote and support the creation of new wooded mosaic landscapes that complement other land uses and enhance landscape character.** We aim to achieve this by increasing the priority for wooded landscape creation, providing design guidelines for their creation, working with partners to facilitate their creation and ensuring national and local funding schemes help deliver these aims.

We aim to **promote the enjoyment and understanding of the wooded landscape** by encouraging more people to actively experience the many benefits woodland provides by promoting their value and health benefits and informing responsible activity.

This action plan forms a **framework for delivery of positive land use change**, based on the principle of working with landscape character, not against it. It has the starting point that **wooded landscapes are positive features, and many areas of the park can support greater levels of tree cover.**

6. How do we aspire for our landscapes to accommodate more trees in the future?

Our moorlands – despite being important cultural landscapes – are not natural landscapes. They have been created through a combination of historic/pre-historic woodland clearance, combined with historic industrial pollution and subsequent ongoing high levels of grazing, drainage and burning. This has created their open character but has caused vegetation loss and erosion, the gullying of underlying peat, negative impacts on water quality and the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. **Increasing low density tree and shrub cover in selective, appropriate locations in our moorlands** is one element of a suite of measures to restore degraded moorland landscapes to good condition and to deliver a range of public benefits.

In the cloughs, **woodlands should be positively managed and expanded** in line with the Moors For the Future 'Guiding principles for the creation of clough woodland'. Areas of scattered scrub and trees should be increased in extent in cloughs, and may be appropriate on some breaks of slopes and on some fringes of blanket bogs. Where moorland fringe woodlands exist, these should be linked to create stronger landscape features.

Land use in the moorland fringes is primarily pastoral and opportunities should be taken to **enhance, link and create wooded landscapes and areas of woodland** (at an appropriate density) where possible. Linear tree features and shelter belts should be enhanced and linked, areas of wood pasture should be expanded and restored, areas of woody scrub/heath should be created and linked and small-scale, appropriately located agro-forestry on marginal grazing land should be supported.

In the river valleys, a priority is to **increase riparian woodland and enhance linear tree cover** along field boundaries and streams. The diversity of the river corridor landscapes should be restored and managed to provide flood water storage. This can help prevent flooding elsewhere down the river corridors in addition to landscape and biodiversity enhancement.

Historically, the White Peak supported extensive areas of wood pasture that has been lost to changes in land management practices over the last 200 years. The overall aim is to **increase appropriate types of tree cover while protecting and managing the distinctive and valued historic character of the settled, agricultural landscapes**. The limestone villages and dales are an important focus for many visitors to the National Park, and wooded landscape creation opportunities could be used to strengthen their character and setting to ensure this focus can continue into the future. Linear tree cover and the network of amenity trees should be managed, enhanced and expanded where possible as these are important landscape features. The woodland within the dales could be extended over the brow into the Limestone Village Farmlands and Plateau Pastures.

Throughout the park, opportunities should be taken to **manage, diversify and enhance traditional plantation woodlands**. New plantation woodlands – preferably native broadleaf - may be appropriate in some areas, whether to mitigate new development or as part of wider agro-forestry proposals.

The proactive management of tree diseases such as ash dieback and phytophthora will be a big priority in the coming years. Ash dieback is already having a significant impact on the treescapes of the Peak District National Park and will continue to do so in the coming years. Ash is the most common tree in the White Peak, with an estimated 8 to 9 million ash trees of various ages, and is the overwhelmingly dominant tree in the woodlands of the steep limestone dales, where it may comprise up to 99% of the tree cover.

In line with the government's national ash dieback action plan and The Tree Council's Ash dieback Toolkit, the Authority has been working with partners to:

- help monitor for the presence of ash dieback
- raise awareness among tree contractors, nurseries, parish councils and the public
- highlight the importance of the Peak District's ash woodlands
- establish long-term monitoring plots in the dales woodlands to assess the impacts of the disease
- plant thousands of new trees through a partnership with the Woodland Trust
- develop options for future long-term tree and woodland management.[2]

*(Series of **PHOTOSHOP BEFORE & AFTER EXAMPLES** of increased tree cover showing how the above aspirations would look in the landscape)*

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[2] For further information on Ash dieback in the Peak District National Park, see https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy/ash-dieback.

7. General principles of wooded landscape creation in the Peak District

A 'wooded landscape' is not the same as a 'woodland', and in terms of landscape character, a wooded landscape is more important.

> **Principle 1: a wooded landscape is more than just woodland**
> A wooded landscape is not one of continuous cover trees. 'Wooded landscapes' can include woodlands, wood pasture, scrub, scattered trees, parkland, hedges and boundary trees as part of a 'mosaic' of woody elements in a wider land use, such as farmland or moorland.

Historically, the level of 'woodland' has not significantly changed in the last 1000 years. What has changed significantly is a reduction in the level of tree cover in the wider agricultural landscape, and the subsequent erosion of landscape character, diversity and ecological interest.

Much of the current Peak District landscape is farmland or managed moorland, with pockets of remnant habitats. It is a cultural landscape which is full of evidence of our use of the landscape - and our relationship with the landscape - throughout prehistory, history and current times.

> **Principle 2: wooded landscapes are part of a sustainable land management system**
> Enhancement and creation should form part of a sustainable land management system capable of supporting the farming and land management sector and enhancing climate resilience while protecting the existing network of habitats, species, access and cultural heritage features.

Trees are important in the landscape for a number of reasons.

> **Principle 3: trees are an essential part of landscape character**
> The creation, diversification and enhancement of wooded landscapes will strengthen and enhance existing landscape character and help to reverse the historic - and ongoing - fragmentation of field boundaries and loss of tree and woodland cover.

> **Principle 4: increased tree cover in the landscape can deliver multiple public goods – the 'right reason'**
> increasing wooded landscapes, trees and scrub cover in targeted areas can deliver multiple public goods, including landscape enhancement, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water quality and flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, human health and wellbeing benefits, livestock welfare and economic benefits. Increasing tree and scrub cover can contribute to nature recovery networks in the Peak District.

It is important to note that **wooded landscapes are not mutually exclusive with other land uses**. It is not a case of **'trees or'**, but more one of **'trees and'**. Increased tree cover can co-exist with agricultural landscapes, historic features, access and recreation, moorlands and remnant habitats.

However, there are areas where wooded landscape creation may not be appropriate – where trees are not in the **'right place'**.

In addition to agricultural production, the National Park contains a wide range of open habitats important for the wildlife they support, the jobs they provide and the wider ecosystem services they deliver. These include farmland and moorlands providing habitat for wading birds; peatlands, essential for storing carbon; and species-rich grasslands all hosting a broad diversity of flora and fauna. The modern landscape we see today has significantly changed over time, but it still bears numerous visible traces of its earlier forms and uses. This pattern of use through history can still be seen in field boundaries, structures, rights of way, settlements and monuments in the landscape today.

Sometimes, however, these different priorities can come into conflict.

Principle 5: managing potential conflicts with Ecology, Access or Cultural Heritage priorities

Ecology
Woodland should generally not be created on grassland or moorland priority habitats in good ecological condition or that have the reasonable potential to be restored to good condition and which form part of the nature recovery network. For example, the vast majority of species-rich grasslands and meadows have been lost over the past century in the UK as a result of agricultural intensification. The remaining fragments of unimproved and semi-improved grasslands are vulnerable to poorly located woodland creation projects.

However, an increase in tree and scrub cover may be acceptable on some sites of wildlife importance alongside appropriate management and where it is compatible with, or complementary to, the existing interest. Where there are existing guidelines these must be respected (e.g. SSSI Common Standards Monitoring: max. 10% cover of native trees and scrub on blanket bog, max. 20% on upland heath.

Important habitats for populations of priority (national or local) species must be protected and incorporated into any woodland design, but may also mean increased tree and woodland cover is fundamentally not appropriate in some areas. As an example, 'Hotspot' areas that support key populations of wading birds are not considered appropriate for increased tree and woodland cover.

Conversely, existing ecology may support wooded landscape creation objectives – for example, some areas of open habitat may support relic woodland species (e.g. bracken with bluebells, cloughs with woodland ferns or wetlands with wet woodland species).

Access
The principle of maintaining (and enhancing where possible/practical) access is important. As long as low density planting is proposed, wooded landscape creation should not interfere with the 'open character' of land designated under the CROW Act.

Any temporary fenced exclosures should respect existing access routes and not compromise existing public access - public rights of way should not be obstructed. The cumulative impacts of fencing should be monitored.

Wooded landscape creation opportunities should be designed to not interfere with / block vantage points and iconic views.

Cultural Heritage
Where heritage features or landscapes are designated or are assessed as being significant, very careful consideration must be given as to how the heritage assets can be incorporated into proposals, and how the assets can help inform the design of the proposals.

In some cases it will not be possible to design a wooded landscape scheme which respects and protects significant heritage features, and in these cases protection of the heritage features will generally take priority over woodland creation.

The landscape we see today is a function of its past uses and how it is used today. Managing and understanding what we have - and planning for what we pass on to future generations - is vital.

Principle 6: dynamic landscapes and future landscapes
The landscape is not static, and elements within the landscape will shift and change over time. Where this change respects or positively changes the overall character or diversity of the landscape this should be welcomed. For example, some areas of scattered trees and scrub will be dynamic, forming intricate habitat mosaics / wood pasture with other non-woodland habitat types (dependent on management). Open areas within larger woodland areas and blocks should be allowed to shift and change through management and 'natural' processes.

Ancient and veteran trees are particularly valuable for their cultural heritage, their contribution to the landscape and the amount of species they are able to support, hosting thousands of types of plants, fungi, invertebrates, birds and mammals. **Mapping ancient and veteran trees** helps us to better protect these bastions of biodiversity, landscape history and cultural heritage. To this end, the Woodland Trust has produced an open access, interactive and participatory Ancient Tree Inventory. Using this inventory, we can access data on these significant ancient, veteran, heritage trees and notable trees within the Peak District National Park and, working with landowners, **make sure they are being managed in a sustainable way and protected from negative impacts**.

Promote the creation of new managed woodlands and lone or hedgerow trees – the **ancient woodlands and veteran trees of future generations.**

Given the high proportion of the Peak District which is farmland or managed moorland, encouraging the creation of wooded landscapes on farmland while not conflicting with food production and farming economics is a key issue

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Principle 7: support for well-designed and located increases in tree cover on agricultural land
Increasing tree cover in our agricultural landscapes – either as an economic crop or as complimentary wooded landscape elements such as field corner planting or trees along linear features – is vital.

We define two methods – (1) trees which form a commercial timber or bio-fuel crop ('agro-forestry'); and (2) where tree cover on farmland is increased, but the trees are not in themselves a commercial crop and form part of a less-intensive **silvo-pastoral land management system** which delivers public benefits ('increasing tree cover in our farmed landscapes').

While trees as a commercial crop can be accommodated positively into the farmed landscape (for example, where small-scale forestry or SRC willow respects field pattern and landform), option (2) is the system we would prefer to promote more widely within the National Park.

Within the largely pastoral landscape of the Peak District, there is significant scope to re-establish wood/scrub pasture on farmland. An expansion of wood/scrub pasture (large open–grown trees usually growing in agricultural grassland) would be historically appropriate and deliver significant ecological and landscape benefits within the Peak District. It can have landscape value in a number of contexts including:
- in well-wooded landscapes – linking areas of woodland with more open landscapes.
- landscapes where large woodlands are less appropriate – such as sensitive historic and ecological areas.
- agricultural landscapes – linked to grazing regimes, including horse paddocks.
- providing wooded settings for farm buildings
- river valley landscapes – where dense woodland may be less appropriate.

There is also great potential for increasing tree cover through the increased use of shelterbelts and hedgerows. Increased hedgerow planting – or doubling the width of existing hedgerows and incorporating more hedgerow trees – could make a significant contribution to an increased level of tree cover in the landscape, while having minimal effects on agricultural productivity.

In addition to other public benefits, increased farmland tree cover can also help provide 'risk management' against climate change and extreme weather events (for example by providing livestock shelter or reducing soil erosion). Increased tree cover can be integrated with management practices such as pollen and nectar strips, margins/buffer strips on watercourses, field corners and hedge planting.

The promotion and expansion of tree cover will hopefully form part of the future ELM system and could become a key element of land use change as part of the agenda to deliver 'public goods'.

While expanding tree cover through planting will be important, in most situations the most effective way of delivering public benefits will be through ensuring the continuity and enhancement of existing tree cover through management and the encouragement of natural regeneration.

Principle 8: management of existing trees/scrub/woodland and natural regeneration
Sustaining the existing assets which already contribute significant public goods will be essential to ensure that the plan can deliver additional value by increasing total tree cover.
In some areas, a change of management practice is required – to protect and expand existing areas of scrub in the landscape.
Identifying – and looking to restore – lost 'shadow woods' in the landscape (areas which show evidence as previously being wood-pasture or woody commons).
Generally, existing woodland, trees and scrub (including hedgerows) should be managed with the aim of having a high diversity of structure, age and species.
Restoration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) should be a priority.
Consideration should be given to the re-shaping and diversification of existing conifer plantations including an increased broadleaf component, the incorporation of scrub and open ground and naturalised margins. The principles in the UK Forestry Standard should be adopted for all new plantation woodlands.

Tree planting is not the only means of restoring wooded landscapes. Any new planting should therefore generally be alongside sustainable management of the existing tree/woodland resource.

Where planting (as opposed to promoting natural regeneration through a change in management) is proposed, the most appropriate species and establishment method should be considered in the design of schemes.

Principle 9: **species – the 'right tree'**
New wooded landscapes should include a diverse range of tree and/or scrub species, where possible locally sourced. Single species dominance should be avoided. Important considerations for species selection are soil type, site conditions, exposure, moisture, disease tolerance. Useful tools for species selection, provided by the Forestry Commission, are the Ecological Site Classification Decision Support System, which matches key site factors with the ecological requirements of different tree species and woodland communities, and the Climate Matching Tool, which 'gives an indication of the climate that trees are likely to experience in the future' in the UK. Commercial conifer / broadleaf plantations may be considered in limited locations, as can woody bio-energy crops.

Principle 10: tree establishment
The use of plastic tree guards should be minimised where possible, and ideally biodegradable alternatives should be sought if needed. Mycorrhiza of local provenance and biodegradable mulch mats can be used to aid tree establishment. Deer fencing may be required in some areas but should only be used as a temporary measure where deer numbers would severely affect establishment and the fencing would not have a disproportionate impact on the landscape. Ongoing squirrel control may also be required.

Individual or groups of trees within and around settlements contribute significantly to the setting of settlements and help accommodate built form into the landscape. Groups of trees on settlement boundaries can help link settlements - and people - to the wider landscape. Within settlements, trees play an important role in 'bringing the countryside into town'.

Principle 11: trees and settlement / trees and new development
Trees in/on the edges of settlements should be protected and new developments should include tree planting / woodland creation (for example as street trees or 'green infrastructure') wherever possible.

(add illustrations of principles – both good and bad)

8. SPECIFIC LCT GUIDELINES

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Open Moors' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **low**

Existing woodland character

The high moors are generally an open landscape with expansive views and limited tree cover. The current level of tree cover is limited due to historic loss and ongoing intensive management through grazing, burning and cutting. Tree cover consists primarily of fragments of the historic wood pasture, scattered scrub and small stunted trees, with some clough woodland in the shallow incised valleys on the moorland tops and the occasional conifer plantation. In some areas, most notably lower-lying moorland in the South West Peak and Eastern Peak District Moors, small patches of willow scrub and areas of open birch woodland can occur within mosaic of more open moorland.

Landscape objectives

Increase appropriate native woodland and scrub cover as part of an enhanced moorland landscape mosaic.

Woodland creation is not considered appropriate on the deep peat areas, upland flushes of particular ecological importance, blanket bogs or wader hotspots.

The guidelines for designated sites must be respected (SSSI Common standards guidance for moorlands: max. 10% cover of native trees and scrub on blanket bog and for habitats specifically identified in designations, tree cover should be less than 20%).

Limited, small-scale clearance to safeguard/restore features of particular importance e.g. important archaeological sites, diverse moorland vegetation or wader hotspots, may be appropriate locally.

The limited areas of coniferous woodland are generally at an appropriate scale but there may be scope for integrating them more effectively into the moorland landscape see (General Principle GP8), and there is little or no scope for their further expansion.

Woodland creation priorities

- Extend clough woodlands - creation is encouraged in unwooded cloughs and extending existing clough woodlands upstream, particularly where relic woodland species occur. This should be

achieved through a mix of planting and regeneration (through stock exclusion). Regularity in shape and layout of clough woodlands should be avoided - natural and organic shapes, with varied densities, open space and scrub / less dense edges to allow transition into adjoining open habitats. In general, tree and scrub spacing should be less dense as it extends higher up the clough slopes. The detailed guidance on clough woodland creation, produced by the Moors for the Future partnership, should be referred to [insert hyperlink].

- Rolling less-dense woodland / scrub / scattered trees over the top of cloughs onto the edges of less-sensitive open moorland areas where appropriate can be considered. Habitats such as dense bracken and species-poor acid grassland may be able to accommodate denser tree cover, where there are no other significant constraints, whilst habitats such as upland heath may be able to accommodate more limited tree/scrub cover.
- Creating or supporting the regeneration of low density scattered scrub and trees surrounding blanket bogs (to aid in peat stabilisation and habitat diversity)
- Creating or supporting the regeneration of scrub and scattered trees as slope stabilisation (on eroded slopes / slipped peat)
- Promote the development of wet woodland/ wood pasture in areas of low-quality open wetland habitat, such as species-poor rush-dominated areas.

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Moorland Slopes and Cloughs' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

Scattered trees and patches of scrub and woody heath often occur within cloughs, with larger clough woodlands in some areas. Occasional small plantation woodlands and 20th century conifer plantations occur in localised areas. Fragmented linear trees are found along some watercourses and lanes with occasional groups of trees around farmsteads. The slopes below gritstone edges vary significantly, some being open and valued for the dramatic views of the rock faces, others being extensively wooded with birch or oak woodland or, less commonly, coniferous plantations.

Landscape objectives

Create new native woodlands and scrub in cloughs, on lower slopes and linking/extending existing woodland on moorland fringes.

Maintain open views of iconic features (e.g. Stanage Edge), but consider opportunities for increasing scattered tree/scrub cover and small groups of trees. Consider the encouragement of denser woodland/scrub on other less dramatic slopes.

Woodland creation priorities

- Extending clough woodlands - creation is encouraged in unwooded cloughs and extending existing clough woodlands upstream, particularly where relic woodland species occur. This should be achieved through a mix of planting and regeneration (through stock exclusion). Regularity in shape and layout of clough woodlands should be avoided - natural and organic shapes, with varied densities, open space and scrub / less dense edges to allow transition into adjoining open habitats. In general, tree and shrub spacing should be less dense as it extends higher up the clough slopes. The detailed guidance on clough woodland creation, produced by Moors for the Future, should be referred to [insert hyperlink]
- Expanding and linking areas of existing fragmented woodland on moorland fringes and valley sides.

- Creation of wood pasture and scrub on marginal grazing land.
- Diversifying and managing existing conifer plantations
- Native tree and scrub planting in existing bracken areas.
- Maintain and enhance trees around farmsteads / new farm buildings

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Moorland Hills and Ridges' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **low**

Existing woodland character

This is a landscape of steep hill slopes and high ridges with heathland vegetation and prominent outcrops of steeply dipping gritstone. This wild, sparsely settled landscape has panoramic views to surrounding hills. Tree cover is limited in this exposed landscape. Thorn bushes mark the course of some former hedgerows and there are occasional patches of willow scrub. There are sizeable blocks of commercial forestry and mixed plantations in the Goyt Valley and occasional small mixed plantations elsewhere.

Landscape objectives

The priorities should be to increase tree cover while protecting the open landscape character and vestiges of historic field boundaries, to integrate plantation woodlands into the moorland landscape, and to protect and manage biodiversity.

Many areas include the upper reaches of streams within small cloughs descending from the moors, and there may be particular scope for extending/creating areas of native woodland and scrub in these cloughs, linked to each other in the lower reaches where appropriate.

Woodland creation priorities

- Manage natural areas of scrub and open woodlands where they occur.
- Extending clough woodlands - creation in unwooded cloughs and extending existing clough woodlands further upstream, particularly where relic woodland species occur.
- Scrub and scattered trees used as slope stabilisation (on eroded slopes / slipped peat)
- Managing woodlands to increase large woody debris in watercourses for natural flood management purposes.
- Diversifying and managing existing conifer plantations

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Enclosed Gritstone Upland' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

The level of existing tree cover is relatively low - there are occasional broadleaf tree groups, generally adjacent to farmsteads and planted to create shelter around properties. There are also broadleaf shelterbelts and occasional blocks of 19th or 20th century coniferous woodland. Small areas of relic broadleaf woodland and scrub occur occasionally where small gulleys/cloughs occur within the enclosed

farmland. There are numerous linear tree features associated with watercourses, boundaries and tracks, and some areas of small and medium sized coniferous plantations.

Landscape objectives

Increased linear tree cover and small-scale wooded landscape creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (with greater amounts of scrub, linear/scattered trees, broadleaf and clough woodland) on pastoral farmland and as enhancements to remnant habitats.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increased broadleaf woodland, scrub/woody heath and wood pasture along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland/ scrub where possible.
- Extending clough woodlands - creation in unwooded cloughs and extending existing clough woodlands further upstream, particularly where relic woodland species occur.
- Manage existing historic shelter belts and plantings and maintain drystone enclosures.
- Extending wood pasture into marginal grazing land
- Extending and linking linear tree cover and restoring relict hedgerows.
- Broadleaf tree and scrub planting in existing bracken areas.
- Small-scale plantation woodland creation, respecting existing enclosure pattern.
- Maintain and enhance tree cover around farmsteads / new farm buildings
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Densely Enclosed Gritstone Uplands' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

Tree cover is relatively limited with land predominantly managed for pasture. However, there are occasional solitary trees beside field boundaries and small patches of thorn scrub and woodland on rough ground. Mature linear tree cover (usually associated with field boundaries or features such as drainage) is also present. Small and medium-sized blocks of conifer plantation occur in a few places (for example Gib Torr and Thong Moor).

Landscape objectives

Protect the historic field pattern of the pastoral landscape while enhancing the mosaic landscape including increasing scrub, scattered/linear trees and wood pasture along with areas of woodland that fit in with existing field pattern.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increased broadleaf woodland, scrub/woody heath and wood pasture along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland/ scrub where possible.
- Extending wood pasture into marginal grazing land
- Extending and linking linear tree cover and restoring / widening relict hedgerows.
- Broadleaf tree and scrub planting in existing bracken areas.
- Maintain and enhance tree cover around farmsteads / new farm buildings
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Slopes and Valleys with Woodland' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

This is generally an undulating pastoral landscape, with blocks of woodland being characteristic features. This landscape has a strongly wooded character, defined by hillside woodlands, wooded cloughs, scattered trees along field boundaries and watercourse trees. Tree groups exist around settlements and associated with the steeply sloping topography, creating a series of framed and enclosed views throughout the landscape. There is a mixture of broadleaved semi-natural woodland and coniferous plantations. 20th century plantation woodlands are often planted on slopes above reservoirs, some of which are extensive, such as Macclesfield Forest.

Landscape objectives

This is an LCT with the capacity to support significant woodland expansion. In this LCT, increasing wooded landscape mosaics could provide substantial amenity and flood prevention benefits to downslope communities. This LCT borders many settlements and offers the potential to link these areas to the surrounding landscape. Given the proximity of this LCT to settlements, such an approach would need liaison with local communities (and potentially neighbouring local authorities as much is outside the National Park).

Creation of an enhanced landscape mosaic (including scrub, linear/scattered trees, woodland, clough woodland), while respecting existing remnant habitats, topography and field pattern.

There are many ancient and semi-natural woodlands within this LCT, not all of which are in good condition. The integrity of the woodland resource should be enhanced by managing existing semi-natural woodlands, restructuring and diversifying existing plantation woodlands and creating new woodland areas in appropriate locations / planting densities (to expand and link existing wooded landscapes).

Woodland creation priorities

- Safeguarding/enhancing/ linking/expanding existing ancient and semi-natural woodlands .
- Expanding and linking areas of scrub, allowing some areas to develop to woodland.
- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increased broadleaf woodland, scrub/woody heath and wood pasture along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland/ scrub where possible.
- In larger-scale areas of landscape (larger scale in terms of field size, topography &/or existing woodland), larger-scale woodland establishment, particularly of native broadleaf is appropriate. Other woodland types (non-native broadleaves, mixed or conifer plantations) may be acceptable if appropriately sited and designed.
- Enhancements to existing areas of scrubby heath and wood pasture
- Scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses.
- Expansion of broadleaf tree and scrub cover in existing bracken areas
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of planning decisions
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Upland Pastures' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

An upland pastoral landscape with fields enclosed by drystone walls and some hedgerows. Trees are scattered along incised cloughs and grouped around dispersed gritstone farmsteads. There are also scattered trees along some field boundaries and watercourses which filter views in places. Higher land is generally open with limited tree cover.

Landscape objective

Enhance the wooded character of the largely pastoral landscape by increasing wood pasture, connecting and expanding areas of linear tree cover and hedgerows with riparian and floodplain tree establishment.

Woodland creation priorities

- Extending and linking linear tree cover, particularly along watercourses and farmland cloughs, and restoring / widening relict hedgerows.
- Increasing scattered tree and scrub cover - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses.
- Expand and link areas of scrub, allowing some areas to develop to woodland.

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
  - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
  - extending and linking linear tree cover
  - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
  - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
  - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increased broadleaf woodland, scrub/woody heath and wood pasture along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland/ scrub where possible

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Upper Valley Pastures' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

Despite the lack of larger woodlands, tree cover is generally well represented throughout this landscape due to the scattered hedgerow and watercourse trees. This is an LCT strongly associate with watercourses, such as the Rivers Manifold, Noe and Ashop. Tree cover is generally densest adjacent to these watercourses and associated cloughs. Scattered trees also exist adjacent to settlements and along field boundaries. Linear woodlands along watercourses are a feature in places and are sometimes linked to a network of thorn hedgerows. There is plantation woodland associated with Kinder Reservoir.

Landscape objectives

This is an LCT with the capacity to support significant woodland expansion. In this LCT, increasing wooded landscape mosaics could provide substantial amenity and flood prevention benefits to downslope communities.

Increased woodland creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (with scrub, linear/scattered trees, wood pasture and woodland blocks) on pastoral farmland and enhanced remnant habitats.

Extending and linking linear tree cover, particularly along watercourses to create riparian and floodplain woodland.

Woodland creation priorities

- Extending and linking valley-bottom riparian woodland, linear tree cover, scrub, hedgerows and scattered trees, particularly along watercourses.
- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
  - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
  - extending and linking linear tree cover
  - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
  - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
  - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increasing areas of broadleaf native woodland along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland
- Restoring / widening hedgerows in valley bottoms and up valley sides.

- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Valley Pastures with Industry' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

Despite the agricultural nature of this landscape, woodland exists as shelterbelts and often densely along streams and tributaries giving the impression of a well-wooded landscape. There are scattered ancient woodlands throughout the landscape such as around the western side of Shire Hill; these further contribute to the wooded nature of the landscape. Most woodlands are broadleaved and contain species such as oak, ash and sycamore. There are some coniferous plantation woodlands, for example around Dovestones Reservoir in the north of the area.

Landscape objectives

Increased appropriate woodland creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (scrub, linear/scattered trees, woodland, wood pasture, wet woodland) on pastoral farmland and remnant habitats.

This is an LCT with the capacity to support significant landscape change, with substantial woodland expansion. In this LCT, increasing wooded landscape mosaics could provide substantial amenity and flood prevention benefits to downslope communities. Given the proximity of this LCT to settlements, such an approach would need liaison with local communities (and potentially neighbouring local authorities as much is outside the National Park).

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increasing areas of native broadleaf woodland along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland. These can incorporate natural flood management measures.
- Extending linear tree cover, hedgerows and scattered trees.
- The series of small historic reservoirs in the northern part of the area offer opportunities for restructuring existing plantation woodland, and establishing scrub, woodland or linear tree features.
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Reservoir Valleys with Woodland' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

A landscape of generally steep sided valleys, often dominated by large reservoirs. This landscape is extensively wooded, mostly recent conifer plantations, some of which were planted on the site of cleared ancient woodlands. In places, patches of ancient semi-natural woodland are now linked by the areas of plantation woodland to create a heavily wooded landscape Views along the valleys are framed by woodland and the slopes rising to moorland.

Landscape objectives

Maintain and enhance existing woodland cover (including conifer plantation diversification) to form part of an enhanced landscape mosaic.

Expanding and linking areas of wooded landscape, to increase habitat and landscape diversity.

Woodland creation priorities

- Diversification of existing conifer woodlands / restoration of PAWS.
- Extending clough woodlands - creation in currently unwooded cloughs and extending existing clough woodlands upstream.
- Increased native broadleaf woodland along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland and enhancing the connectivity between existing semi-natural woodland blocks. Longdendale in particular, would lend itself to more woodland creation opportunities due to the presence of the HV pylons and busy A628.
- Creation of new areas of wet woodland / wood pasture / linear tree cover on the valley floor and lower valley sides. Management and restoration of existing wooded areas.
- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- opportunities for creation or regeneration of wet woodland or wood pasture (depending on conditions) on less diverse acid grasslands may have the potential to significantly increase ecological interest.

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Riverside Meadows' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

These are pastoral landscapes, generally characterised by a meandering river channel in a relatively flat floodplain. Despite the agricultural nature of this landscape, it appears to have a well-wooded character. River banks are often densely lined with alder and willow which creates an intimate landscape where views

are filtered by watercourse trees and framed by the adjacent wooded slopes. In places there are small copses of willow carr and poplars.

Landscape objectives

Increased appropriate woodland creation as part of an enhanced riparian landscape mosaic (with scrub, linear/scattered trees, wood pasture and wet woodland) on pastoral farmland and remnant habitats.

This is an LCT with the capacity to support significant woodland expansion. In this LCT, increasing wooded landscape mosaics could provide substantial amenity and flood prevention benefits to downslope communities. Given the proximity of this LCT to settlements, such an approach would need liaison with local communities (and potentially neighbouring local authorities as much is outside the National Park).

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
  - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
  - extending and linking linear tree cover
  - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
  - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
  - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Creation of new areas of wet woodland, riparian and floodplain woodland on the valley floor and lower valley sides.
- Management and restoration of existing wooded areas.

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Gritstone Village Farmlands' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

This is an open landscape with trees confined to small groups around settlements and as mature trees within field boundaries. Sycamore, ash and oak are the predominant species. On higher ground (for example around Abney), the walled landscape is generally devoid of tree cover, while on lower-lying ground (for example around Birchover), boundary trees and hedgerows are an extensive and significant feature. This walled farmland landscape is sometimes framed by adjoining areas of semi-natural woodland on lower slopes in adjacent landscape character types.

Landscape objectives

While this is a relatively open landscape, it is bordered by larger wooded areas and has a significant potential to increase its tree cover to link with these areas.

Woodland creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (linear/scattered trees, woodland and wood pasture) on pastoral farmland.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increasing native tree cover (scrub, wood-pasture and native woodland expansion) around adjacent areas of semi-natural woodlands.
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Estatelands' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

There is extensive tree cover throughout this landscape, generally a mix of estate woodlands, pasture (with some veteran trees), historic plantation coniferous woodlands, discrete linear shelter belts and scattered mature boundary trees. There are significant areas of parkland, most notably at Chatsworth and Haddon but also at Thornbridge, Stanton and Hassop, are an important component of the landscape in this area. Linear tree cover along the Monsal Trail also contributes to a relatively wooded feel.

Landscape objectives

Enhancing the parkland landscapes, protecting veteran trees and increasing wooded elements as part of an overall enhanced landscape mosaic, while protecting the setting of historic features.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Manage existing estate woodlands and historic plantations and maintain enclosure boundaries
- Opportunities for new additional parkland trees. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure whilst seeking opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the parkland landscapes. Initiate phased replacement planting and felling when required. Retain trees as standing and fallen deadwood habitats and landscape features wherever possible.

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Valley Farmlands with Villages' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **high**

Existing woodland character

The density of trees varies throughout this landscape, with a mix of mature hedgerow and boundary trees and small blocks of woodland, both broadleaved and coniferous, which filter views. There are occasional isolated, discreet blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland.

Landscape objectives

This is a smaller scale landscape, often surrounded by larger woodland blocks which has the capacity to support significant woodland expansion.

Enhance and link the existing network of linear tree cover, and increase the area of native broadleaf woodland. Small broadleaf or even mixed woodland creation (particularly around settlements, giving amenity benefits.

Manage and enhance the existing wooded landscape resource.

Woodland creation priorities

- Expanding and linking areas of scrub, allowing some areas to develop to woodland.
- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Extend linear tree cover and scattered trees / scrub - along boundaries, buildings and field corners - and restoring / widening relict hedgerows.
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Limestone Village Farmlands' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

Tree cover is largely restricted to small groups of trees and a scattering of trees along boundaries around village margins, often creating quite intimate rural scenes. Elsewhere the landscape is often more open, but even here more distant views are typically framed by surrounding hills, or rising ground.

Landscape objectives

In this landscape of limited tree cover, wooded landscape creation should be part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (including scrub, linear/scattered trees and woodland) on the largely pastoral farmland.

Street trees within the settlements and trees around settlements (to enhance the setting of the settlements & their relationship with surrounding landscape) are important.

Woodland creation priorities

- Extend linear tree cover and scattered trees (Individual and groups of linear boundary trees are important landscape features in localised areas e.g. along existing and historic transport routes). There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure whilst seeking opportunities to extend and replace boundary trees. Individual or groups of trees within settlements also contribute significantly to village landscapes.
- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
  - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
  - extending and linking linear tree cover
  - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
  - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
  - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Creation of areas of native woodland, scrub and wood-pasture along dale brows, expanding daleside woodland.
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Limestone Plateau Pastures' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

For the most part the Limestone Plateau Pastures have a fairly open character where tree cover is largely restricted to discrete groups of trees, often around farmsteads. In places, larger coverts and occasional belts of sycamore, beech or ash trees, often planted on abandoned lead rakes, provide a stronger sense of enclosure. These linear or rectangular shelter belts are a distinctive feature of the White Peak landscape.

Landscape objectives

Woodland creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (including scrub, linear/scattered trees and woodland) on pastoral farmland.

Creation of areas of native woodland, scrub and wood-pasture along dale brows, expanding the existing daleside woodland.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
    - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- The creation of some large blocks of broadleaf or even mixed woodland in appropriate locations.
- Manage traditional plantation woodlands (linear or rectangular shelterbelts and groups of trees around farmsteads and settlements, and on the site of old lead mine workings. These are often not managed and suffering from dereliction. Opportunities should be sought to ensure their continuity, enhance diversity
- Extend linear tree cover and scattered trees (Individual and groups of linear boundary trees are important landscape features in localised areas e.g. along existing and historic transport routes. There is a need to manage these trees to ensure a balanced age structure whilst seeking opportunities to extend and replace boundary trees.
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process
- Protect and manage street trees within settlements and promote new street trees as part of the planning process

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Limestone Hills and Slopes' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

This is a fairly exposed landscape with limited tree cover and open views to distant skylines. In some more sheltered areas with deeper soils, there are small plantations and tree groups associated with farmsteads.

Landscape objectives

This is a higher, more remote landscape with frequent, and in places extensive, patches of rough ground. Woodland creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (including grassland, scrub, linear/scattered trees and woodland).

Increasing scrub/wood-pasture component on slopes, valley sides and hilltops as part of a mosaic of grassland, scrub and outcrops. Expanding native tree/shrub cover over dale brows. Generally, increasing boundary trees/shrubs throughout the LCT.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
    - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
    - extending and linking linear tree cover
    - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
    - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern

- Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Increase broadleaf woodland along ridges and Dale brows, ideally linking to existing wooded landscapes.
- Extend linear tree cover and scattered trees - along boundaries, buildings and field corners

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Limestone Dales' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **low**

Existing woodland character

A steeply sloping dale landscape with limestone outcrops and extensive tracts of largely native semi-natural woodland and scrub intermixed with limestone grassland. In some smaller dales this is an intimate, secluded landscape where views are tightly controlled by landform and tree cover, in others the dales are more open.

Landscape objectives

Maintaining, managing and enhancing the mosaic of existing woodland.

More limited opportunities, but wooded landscape creation as part of an enhanced landscape mosaic (including grassland, scrub, linear/scattered trees and woodland), while protecting the internationally important grassland and cultural heritage features.

Woodland creation priorities

- Manage and enhance the existing woodlands (many of these woods are neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Ash dieback is becoming an increasing issue in these woodlands and it is likely that a high proportion of canopy trees will die off over the next decade. A variety of mitigation measures, in particular diversification of the existing woodlands, will be required. Plantation woodlands should be managed to create a more semi-natural structure and composition, and extended through natural regeneration.
- The expansion of native daleside woodland, scrub and wood-pasture over the dale brow onto land in adjacent Landscape Character Types, especially where linking with existing woodland and other semi-natural habitats
- The creation/enhancement of tree cover and wet woodland along watercourses and dale bottoms.

Wooded landscape creation objectives for the 'Village Farmlands on Shale Ridges' LCT

Capacity for wooded landscape enhancement: **medium**

Existing woodland character

A small scale, settled pastoral landscape associated with gently rolling uplands and small to medium sized fields and strip fields, enclosed by hedgerows. This is an enclosed landscape where views are often filtered through densely scattered hedgerow trees in field boundaries. Tree cover is largely dominated by boundary trees, shrubs and hedges, which are an extensive and characteristic feature within much of this area, and there is linear tree cover along parts of the Tissington Trail. Woodland is generally scarce, and confined to small broadleaf or mixed plantations.

Landscape objectives

The priority should be to enhance woodland cover while protecting the historic pattern of field boundaries, the distinctive historic, clustered settlement pattern and the setting of traditional buildings, within the context of sustainable farming systems.

Woodland creation priorities

- The expansion of well-designed and located tree cover (which respects existing field pattern, landform, remnant habitats and field boundaries) in the largely pastoral farmed landscape, with increased tree cover through:
  - the expansion of wood/scrub pasture on marginal grazing land
  - extending and linking linear tree cover
  - increasing scattered trees - along boundaries, field corners and watercourses
  - Create small native woodlands within the traditional field pattern
  - Small scale 'agro-forestry' may be considered appropriate in some locations
- Broadleaf woodland along valley sides and ridges, ideally linking to existing woodland
- Extend linear tree cover and scattered trees- along boundaries, buildings and field corners
- Managing and enhancing existing woodlands to improve diversity
- Small-scale commercial forestry is considered appropriate in some locations
- Protect and manage existing trees in and around settlements and promote new trees as part of the planning process