Biodiversity objectives for ACIDIC WET 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
		Short-term	*Long-term*	*Short-term*	*Long-term*			*Short-term*
1	Increase woodland canopy cover, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep Autumn grazing	3	May be appropriate to 'mob-stock' in the very short term to create regeneration niches, though there is a danger of excessive poaching in this woodland type.
2	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	3	Mires may be the dominant form of open ground in this woodland type. They may be less intensively grazed than the surrounding habitat but may contain scarce plant species, e.g. scarce *Sphagnum* mosses.
3	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	Desirable when abundant tree regeneration threatens non-woodland habitats or the species dependent on them. Not sustainable over the long term.
4	Suppress rank vegetation within an open woodland or 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). Autumn grazing in the long term.		Ungrazed flushed ground may develop a rank *Molinia* dominated understorey where the *Molinia* suppresses other field layer species.
5	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages.	V. low to high	Low to medium	Any	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Birch and willow woodland in western Scotland may support a rich lower plant flora. Epiphytes may be affected adversely by dense thicket regeneration or by loss of woodland canopy.
6	Maintain or enhance woodland edge habitat for scarce butterflies and moths.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Cattle		Species may include marsh fritillary butterflies and narrow-bordered bee hawk moth. Both benefit from a grazed sward that encourages the caterpillar foodplant.
7	Maintain the diversity of bog species and the scattered cover of trees in bog woodland	Absent to low	Absent to v. low	Low to medium	Absent to low	Cattle, sheep	1	Main threat to bog woodland is fire and drainage but bog structure is vulnerable to damage from excessive trampling.

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.