Biodiversity objectives for BASE-RICH DRY 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*			
1	Increase woodland canopy cover, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep Autumn grazing	4, 6	May be appropriate to 'mob-stock' in the very short term to create regeneration niches. The grazing impact on inaccessible W9 ravine woodland will be absent to very low, irrespective of stocking levels.
2	Increase the range of tree species present, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent to v. low	Absent to v. low	Absent to v. low	Absent to medium	Cattle Autumn grazing	4, 6	This woodland type potentially supports a wide range of tree species. Except for woods inaccessible to stock, grazing/browsing levels need to be low, as it is likely to be browse-sensitive species that are absent or under-represented.
3	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	4	W9 woodland may occur as part of a mosaic with other woodland types (e.g. as "ash stripes" in oakwoods). In these situations open ground may be scarce.
4	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, 3	Desirable when abundant tree regeneration threatens non-woodland habitats or the species dependent on them. Not sustainable over the long term.
5	Suppress rank vegetation in an open woodland or open ground/woodland mosaic in order to benefit species diversity.	Medium	Low to medium	Low to v. high	Low to Medium	Cattle, sheep. Autumn grazing in the long term.		Rank vegetation in open ground and open woodland includes bramble and, to some extent, bracken. The objective may be for the benefit of plants, invertebrates or birds. Grazing prescription will depend on target species.
6	Control non-native tree regeneration	Medium to high	Medium	Medium to v. high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep	1, 2	Sycamore may regenerate vigorously into this woodland type.

7	Maintain or enhance a species-rich woodland field layer of tall-herbs and ferns.	Absent to low	Low	Absent to medium	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		This woodland type may contain a wide range of herb species, including highly palatable ones such as dog's mercury. Long term absence of grazing in open woodland may encourage invasive species, such as bramble, or thicket tree regeneration.
8	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages in high canopy woodland.	V. low to high	Low to medium	Any	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Epiphytes may be adversely affected by dense thicket regeneration or by loss of woodland canopy. Steep W9 woodland is often very rich in mosses and liverworts.
9	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages in hazel woodland.	Absent to medium	Low	Absent to medium	Low to medium	Cattle	15	Coastal 'Atlantic' hazelwoods are often very rich in lichen species. Overgrazing will prevent hazel regeneration and cause damage to hazel stems. Undergrazing may result in a build-up of a rank field layer vegetation. Long-term exclusion of all large herbivores may result in a build-up of thicket vegetation and/or high canopy woodland, thus starving hazel stools and hazel epiphytes of light.
10	Maintain or increase the population of 'hazel gloves' fungus.	Absent to medium	Low	Absent to medium	Absent to medium	Cattle		This fungus is found primarily on hazel in 'Atlantic' hazelwoods. Comments as for 'safeguarding lower plant assemblages'
11	Maintain cover of woodland containing trees whose crowns are rich in invertebrate species.	Any	Low to medium	Any	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep		Applies especially to woodlands where oak is frequent.
12	Maintain or enhance woodland edge habitat for butterflies and moths.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Cattle		A lightly grazed sward encourages the caterpillar foodplants of many species.
13	Maintain or increase red squirrel population.	Any	Absent to medium	Any	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep		Red squirrels require seed-bearing trees and shrubs. They have a distinct preference for certain tree species.

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.