Biodiversity objectives for NEUTRAL 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	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep Autumn grazing	4	May be appropriate to 'mob-stock' in the very short term to create regeneration niches. Long term absence of grazing impact may encourage rank vegetation, such as bracken and bramble, or thicket tree regeneration.
2	Increase the range of tree species present, by means of natural regeneration.	Absent	Absent to v. low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle Autumn grazing	4	Normally stock grazing levels need to be very low until regenerating trees are above browse height, as it is likely to be the 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	A mosaic is the norm in larger woods and is generally desirable for maximising biodiversity.
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	Maintain current wood pasture tree cover.	Low to high	Medium	V. low to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Very high grazing intensity may result in damage to the trees. Some regeneration is necessary in the long-term.
6	Suppress rank vegetation beneath a woodland canopy in order to benefit field layer species diversity.	Low to high	Low to medium	Low to v. high	Low to Medium	Cattle (highlanders or highland crosses), pigs. Autumn grazing in the long term.		Desired impact may be from grazing or trampling. Pigs may be appropriate in the short term to control bracken.
7	Suppress rank vegetation within an 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). Pigs (for bracken control).		The objective may be for the benefit of plants, invertebrates or birds. Grazing prescription will depend on target species.

8	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages in high canopy woodland.	V. low to high	Low to medium	Any	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		Applies to native and other mature broadleaved woodland, especially in western Scotland. Epiphytes may be adversely affected by dense thicket regeneration or by loss of woodland canopy.
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. In the absence of deer, undergrazing may result in a build-up of a rank field layer vegetation.
10	Maintain or increase the population of 'hazel gloves' fungus.	Absent to medium	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Absent to medium	Cattle	15	This fungus is found primarily on hazel in 'Atlantic' hazelwoods.
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 oak woodlands.
12	Maintain or increase juniper. population.	Absent to High	Low	Absent to high	V. low to medium	Cattle		Juniper can suffer from competition from regenerating trees as well as from overgrazing that prevents regeneration. It is tolerant of low intensity grazing.
13	Maintain or enhance woodland edge habitat for scarce butterflies and moths.	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Low to medium	Cattle		Pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies benefit from a grazed sward that encourages the caterpillar foodplant.
14	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.
15	Control bracken density and spread.	Medium to high	Low to medium	Medium to high	Low to medium	Cattle, pigs		Control is primarily through trampling. High intensity impact sustained for longer than the very short term is incompatible with objectives 1, 2, 9, 10.

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.