Biodiversity objectives for NEUTRAL TO BASE-RICH 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 to low	Absent to low	Absent to low	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep Autumn grazing	4, 6	Alder and willows can be very effective at finding regeneration niches but it may be appropriate to 'mob-stock' in the very short term to create additional niches.
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	Normally grazing/browsing levels need to be low until trees or basal shoots are established, 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	Absent to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep	4	Woodland with a diverse structure together with areas of open ground are generally best for biodiversity. Mature, very open alder woodland may be a form of wood pasture but regeneration will be necessary in the long term.
4	Reduce the proportion of regenerating woodland within a woodland mosaic, whilst still maintaining a woodland cover.	Medium to high	Low to medium	Medium to 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 to high	Low to medium	Low to high	Low to Medium	Cattle, sheep. Autumn grazing in the long term.		Generally this woodland type does not suffer from over-dominant native species, though bramble may invade the drier sub-communities. Non-native tall herbs may invade, especially along water-courses.

6	Control non-native tree regeneration	Medium to high	Medium	Medium to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep	1, 2	Sycamore may regenerate into this woodland type.
7	Control the spread of invasive, non-native plant species	Medium to high	Low to medium	Low to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep Spring/summer grazing in the short term.		Grazing and trampling can reduce the spread and density of Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed stands, though eradication will need to be by other means.
8	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. Long term absence of grazing in open woodland may encourage invasive species or thicket tree regeneration.
9	Safeguard epiphytic lower plant assemblages.	V. low to high	Low to medium	Absent to high	Low to medium	Cattle, sheep		High humidity in this woodland type may permit very scarce lower plants to thrive, especially in western areas. Sheltered glade edges are very important for other notable species. Epiphytes would be adversely affected by dense thicket regeneration or by loss of woodland canopy.
10	Maintain woodland cover for scarce invertebrate species.	Absent to high	Low to medium	Absent to high	Absent to medium	Cattle, sheep		Alder, birch and willows in wet woodland can support scarce invertebrates, notably beetle and cranefly 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.