

Case-study: ancient wood expansion zone



This farm is an arable farm with ancient woodland along the river. The arable fields have some hedgerows between them.

There is a heritage feature of a well near the farmstead. There are no peaty soils, known breeding wader habitats, or priority habitat mapped on the farm (apart from the deciduous woodland). Some ancient woodland continues away from the river up a burn but this is mapped as a replanted ancient woodland site.

An expansion zone for the ancient woodland could encourage natural regeneration of trees in this zone. This could be around the edges of the fields that could be squared off in line with the existing tramlines.

The total size of the new areas on the map would be 13.52 ha (33 acres). All the planting costs including any new gates and fences are met by the EWCO grant. This could bring in £36,500 in additional contributions and over £40,500 for 10 years' maintenance (a total of over **£77,000**).

A natural regeneration design would allow for the seeds from the existing ancient woodland to colonise in the first 75m of this zone - spread naturally by animals and the wind.

In any areas beyond this 75m, small cluster plantings of native species might be needed to encourage tree generation.

After 10 years a density of 100 stems per ha (250 per acre) would be needed.

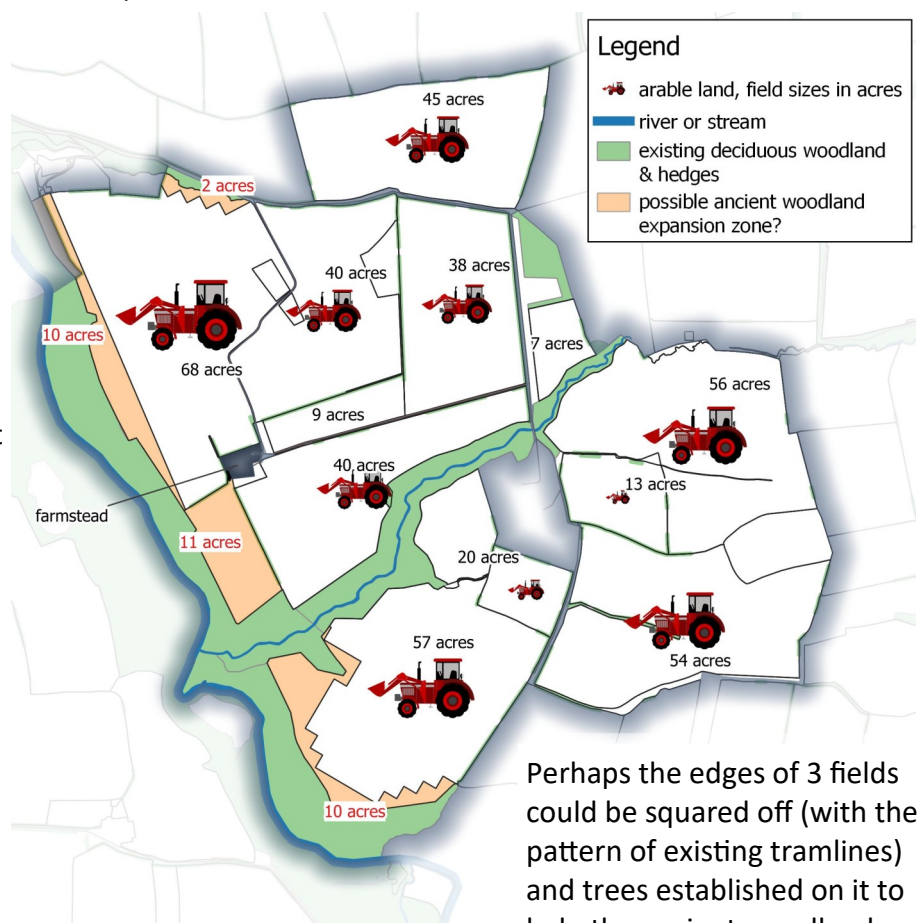
This expansion zone is different to a management plan for the existing ancient wood and planted ancient wood.

If this proposal was close to settlements, so that new recreational access is also provided, it would bring in an additional £36,500.

If it was also in an area that would help with shading a stream or beck, and help with reducing flood risk, it could bring in an more income, but it would have to be planted at higher densities.

The maximum income, including maintenance, for a natural regeneration design, would be £110,000.

The different contributions have different tree densities and design recommendations. The land manager's priorities for the site are also key.



Perhaps the edges of 3 fields could be squared off (with the pattern of existing tramlines) and trees established on it to help the ancient woodland expand? The adjacent fields become smaller:

- 78 acre field becomes 68 acres
- 67 acre field becomes 57 acres

Get in touch!
Our advice is free!

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Or request a call back about tree planting on 01670 623416