

# Case-study: wood pasture



The idea about wood pasture (or agro-forestry) is that trees are integrated into the working farmed landscape, adding value to productivity as well as to nature. This habitat is low maintenance.

Farmers who create this habitat can keep the land grazed. At the same time, farmers can reap benefits like woodfuel, shade and shelter for livestock, and fodder. The grazing management will need to be flexible and careful.

Stand-alone trees or block planting in small groups, with a mixture of native trees and shrubs, is a good design. For example - hawthorn, or crab apple will provide food and nectar for wildlife. They need to develop open crowns. But species similar to what is in the nearby area are best. Two areas of woodland are linked in this example.

Countryside Stewardship will pay £499 per hectare for creating lowland wood pasture. In this example nearly 11 hectares or 27 acres of wood pasture can be created. So, this habitat creation is worth nearly **£5,500** for 10 years.

(This option is called WD6 and is for higher tier agreements only, but it can be on arable or grassland).

After 10 years there would be some undisturbed standing or fallen deadwood, some newly planted trees with open space, and scrub habitat covering between 10% - 20% of the area.

The grassland needs to be grazed by preferably traditional cattle (there are separate additional payments possible) and it will have some closer grazed areas along with some taller tussocks.

The trees might need protecting in guards or small enclosures.

