



Forestry Commission
England

Restocking



forestry.gov.uk/makingwoodlandswork

When an area of woodland has been felled, there are three options for how to 'restock' it by replacing the trees.

You need to decide which option best meets your commercial and biodiversity objectives.

Unless you're thinning your woodland, then restocking it is usually a condition of a Felling Licence. These three main options will depend on what species of tree were on the site before felling, what species you wish to grow in the new woodland and whether the site lends itself to a particular choice. More than one option can be combined.



Choose appropriate tree shelter to protect regrowth





Harvesting woodlands plays a crucial role in creating new habitat for butterflies and birds. It can also generate additional income through timber sales.

Option one: Replanting with nursery grown plants is the most reliable choice. It's the best option to ensure good quality tree growth and timber supply. Replanting also enables you to determine which tree species you grow. Often site conditions are not adequate for natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Option two: You may also be able to rely on 'natural regeneration', which involves allowing trees around the site to seed naturally. The species that grows will be dictated by what seed bearing trees are in the locality and whether the ground conditions are suitable. You may need to undertake some scarification of the site beforehand – this involves ensuring the soil is lightly cultivated so the seeds can make contact with the bare soil rather than weeds or leaf litter.

Option three: If the felled trees were broadleaved, there may be sufficient regrowth from the cut stools. This is the basis of coppice management. If you intend on this method you should tell the person who fells the trees, so they can ensure the stools are cut and left accordingly.

Whichever option is chosen, the young trees will need protection from rabbits and deer. This can be done by active deer management, including shooting, individually guarding the trees with shelters, or fencing the site. It is very important that you select the right type of shelter or fencing in order to prevent damage. You can contact your local woodland officer for advice on this area and they will arrange to visit your woodland to provide you with bespoke guidance.

Maintenance is also vital to ensure planted stock or natural regeneration survives. It will require two to three years of weed control and establishment.

Remember!

Woodlands with different tree species, ages and management regimes are more resilient to storms, pests, disease and fire. This can also help reduce the extent of damage caused by flooding.

Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechangeengland



Managing woodlands

Woodland management is the long-term maintenance of your woodland that delivers your business and woodland management plan objectives. It can also unlock extra income. Your woodland is a valuable resource, so make it work for your business by:

- Boosting income from sale of timber and woodfuel, game shoots or tourism.
- Enhancing the capital value of your estate
- Accessing grants and expertise to help improve or create new woodland.

Our woodland experts can help you manage your woodland, in your own way. Our support ranges from showing you how to access various grants to helping you produce an effective UK Forestry Standard compliant woodland management plan.

Felling also improves timber value and creates the diverse edge habitats for our rare and declining woodland species. Your local woodland officer can also help you to apply for felling licences.

Biosecurity measures: Keep it clean

- **Think kit** – scrape, brush or knock mud and debris from your footwear, clothing and equipment
- **Think transport** – remove any build-up of mud and debris from vehicles and machinery before leaving any site
- **Think trees** – source plants responsibly, monitor for signs of ill health and report suspect plants to FC Tree Alert.

forestry.gov.uk/
England-keepitclean



Don't give
pests and
diseases
an easy ride

Useful links

United Kingdom Forest Standard:

forestry.gov.uk/ukfs

European Protected Species:

forestry.gov.uk/england-protectedspecies

FC Felling Licence Application guidance:

forestry.gov.uk/england-fellinglicences

Managing deadwood in forests and woodlands:

forestry.gov.uk/England-managingdeadwood

Information on pests and diseases:

forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases

Report ill health in trees:

forestry.gov.uk/treelert

Climate change:

forestry.gov.uk/climatechangeengland

How can I get involved?

The Forestry Commission and its partners are working hard to bring more woodland into active management and provide on-the-ground support and expert advice. Visit forestry.gov.uk/makingwoodlandswork, call **0300 067 4000** or email fe.England@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The Forestry Commission will consider all requests to make publication content available in alternative formats. Call **0300 067 5046** or email diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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