

English Woodland Grant Scheme

Operations Note 4

1st June 2008

National Vegetation Classification (NVC)

Purpose This Note describes the NVC woodland types for the purposes of describing applications to the EWGS.

Use NVC types are used as a shorthand to describe and categorise the vegetation covering the land, and there is a set of NVC types for woodlands. These describe the typical composition of semi-natural native woodlands including their associated flora and soil indicator species.

This information can be used to assist with managing native woodlands towards greater naturalness through practices such as thinning and regeneration.

Woodland Creation

NVCs cannot be precise when applied to proposals for creating new native woodland as the indicator species do not exist on site. In these instances, the NVC type, and therefore the woodland habitat type proposed, can be estimated from soil characteristics, pre-cursor vegetation and existing woodland nearby. The table overleaf links the target woodland habitat to an appropriate NVC or a range of NVC types.

Due to concerns over the spread of phytophthora disease in alder, planting large areas of this species for new Wet Woodland is not recommended, particularly close to water courses.

Existing Semi-natural and Native Woodlands

The detailed keys on the latter pages of this guide provide a flow diagram to determine a more precise NVC type for existing woodlands.

Further Advice The EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

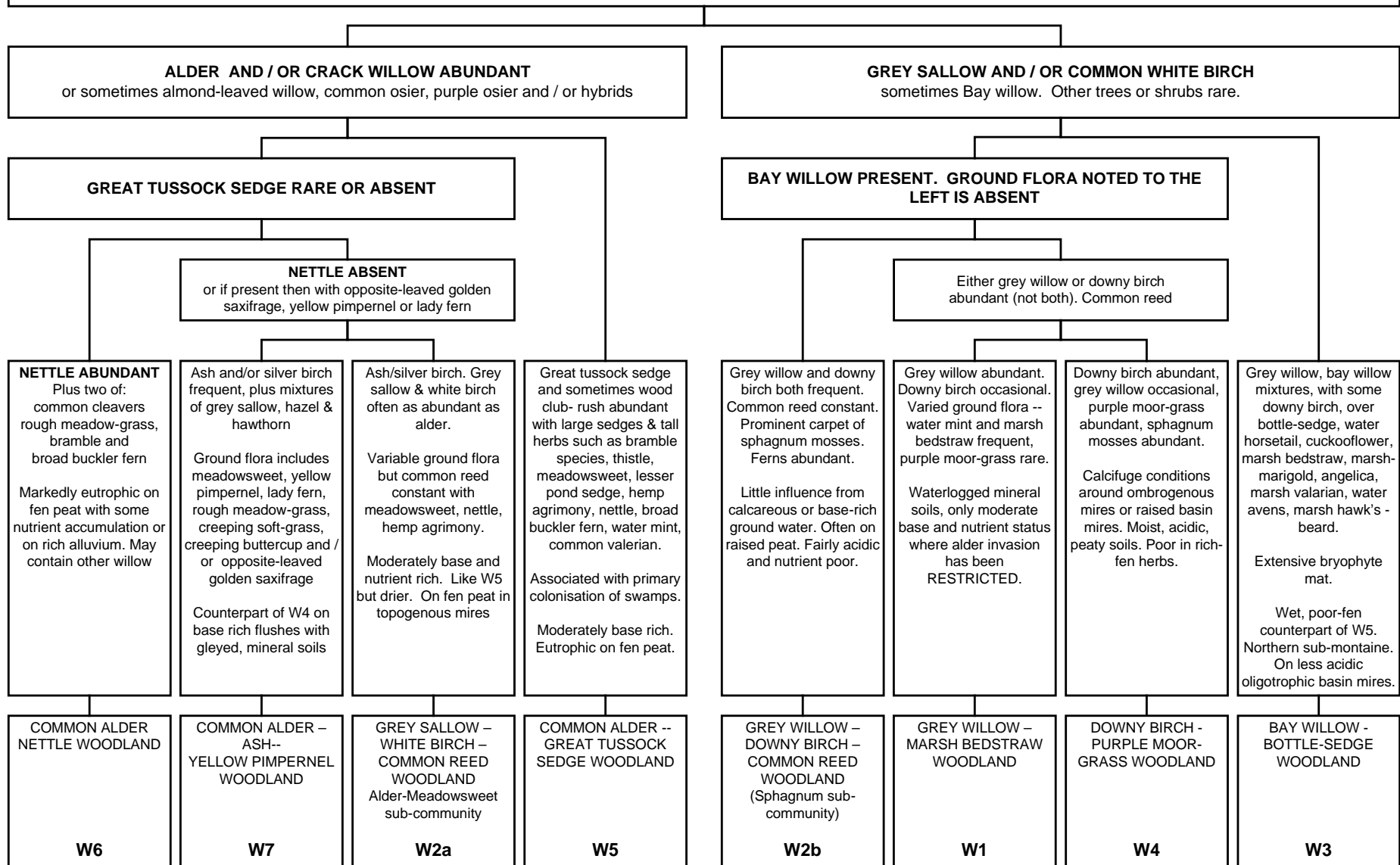
We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice or from your local FC office.

Versions Version 1.1 issued 1st June 2008 – minor changes and new header

Table 1- EWGS Woodland Creation - Target Woodland Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and NVC Types

<i>Woodland HAP Type to be created</i>	<i>Brief description / notes</i>	<i>Forestry Commission Guide number & name</i>	<i>Notation for Form EWGS 7 (Col 8)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOR ALL TYPES, >50% of the potential canopy will comprise locally native species 		
Upland Oak Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland within the “upland region” of England generally with at least 80% oak or birch in the potential canopy. NVC W11 and W17 	5. Upland oakwoods.	W11 / W17
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland within the “upland region” of UK with >20% ash in the potential canopy though locally, oak, birch, small-leaved lime or hazel may be prominent. NVC W9 	4. Upland mixed ashwoods.	W9
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the beech zone of southern to central England, at least 30% beech in the potential canopy. Elsewhere, at least 50% beech in the potential canopy. Includes yew-dominated woodland mainly restricted to southern England. NVC W12, W13, W14 and W15 	1. Lowland acid beech and oak woods 2. Lowland beech-ash woods	W12 - W15
Wet Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland planted on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, with >50% alder and / or willow in the potential canopy but may include ash, birch, oak or beech on the drier riparian areas. Ashwoods in lowland floodplains may also be best described as this habitat type NVC W1 , W2, W3, W4, W5, W6 and W7 	8. Wet woodland.	W1 - W7
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide variety of native broadleaved woodland throughout the lowland regions of the UK, generally those meeting the descriptions for Upland Oakwoods or Upland Mixed Ashwoods but planted in lowland areas. NVC W8, W10 and W16 	1. Lowland acid beech and oak Woods 3. Lowland mixed broadleaved	W8 / W10 / W16

NVC KEY TO ALDER, WILLOW AND WET BIRCH WOODS



*Base Rich
Nutrient Rich*

*Base Poor
Nutrient Poor*

NVC KEY TO WOODS WHERE ALDER & WILLOW ARE NOT PROMINENT IN THE CANOPY

