



TreE PlaNat

May 2025

Woodland creation: from planting to natural processes

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This set of FAQs was developed through discussions with practitioner experts on the [TreE PlaNat](#) Knowledge User Board and Project Advisory Group and incorporates the best available evidence from leading academics.

The intention of these FAQs is to share our current knowledge about natural processes and hybrid approaches, and to help land managers and advisers make informed decisions when creating woodlands. They are part of a suite of resources developed by the project and specifically reference a number of [case studies](#) (these are referred to as CS [number] in the text).

The glossary defines several key terms and highlights where these may be used interchangeably.

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1) What methods can be used to create woodland?

Woodland creation methods can be active (planting), passive (letting natural processes lead) or anywhere in between (hybrid approaches which blend the two) (see Figure 1). Direct seeding, which involves broadcasting or sowing tree or shrub seed onto prepared ground, is increasingly considered as a specific approach towards the more active end of the creation spectrum. However, it is not considered explicitly by these FAQs.

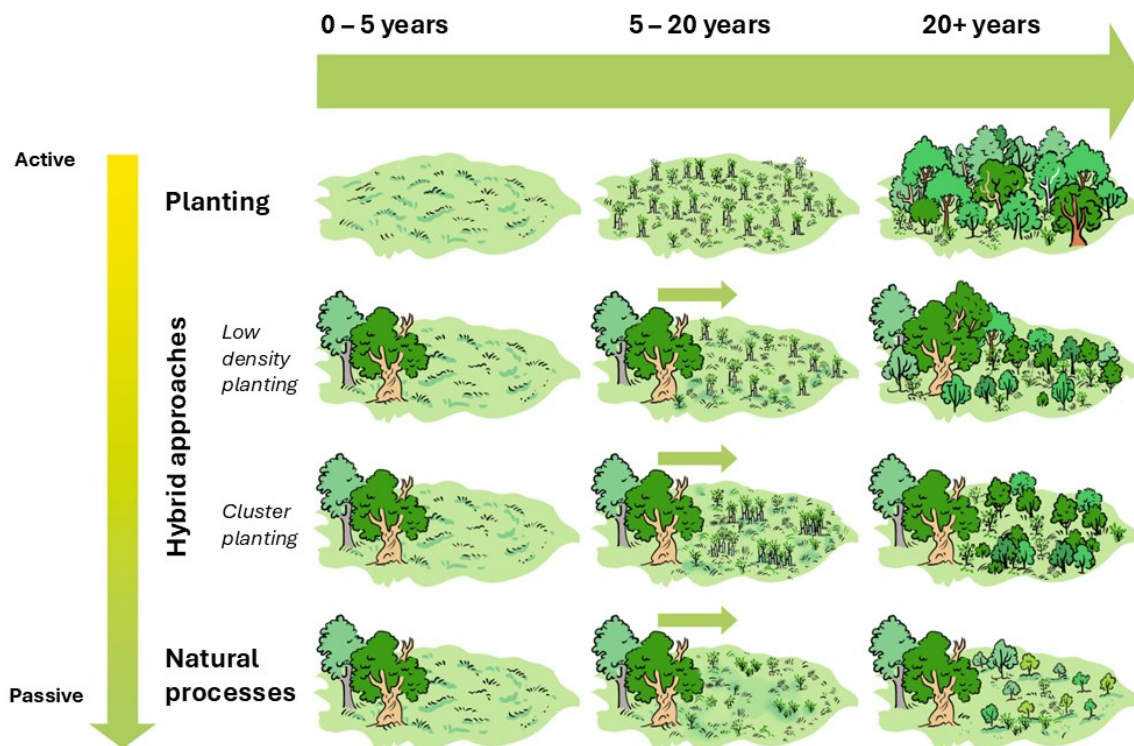


Figure 1. Woodland creation methods and expected outcomes: tree planting, hybrid approaches (natural colonisation with low density planting, and natural colonisation with ‘applied nucleation’ or cluster planting) and natural colonisation. Credit: TreE PlaNat project and the Woodland Trust, illustrator Caroline Miekina

Planting: woodland can be manually established by planting small tree or shrub saplings (often called whips) or occasionally larger saplings (called standards) if planting in an in urban or agroforestry setting.

Natural processes: natural colonisation is the process where seed dispersal or suckering from nearby trees and shrubs enables the establishment of wooded habitat on previously unwooded land. This is typically a slower process than planting, with pioneer species establishing first, beginning a process of transition towards a woodland ecosystem (also called habitat succession). The terms ‘natural colonisation’ and ‘natural regeneration’ are sometimes used interchangeably, but natural regeneration is where woodland re-establishes through seed dispersal or suckering within already established woodland or on land that has only very recently been deforested (e.g. to restock a felled forestry compartment).

Hybrid approaches: planting and natural processes can be combined in different ways. Traditionally, this may have involved designating distinct areas of a woodland creation site to different approaches e.g. larger areas of planting dominating and smaller areas given over to natural processes. There is increasing interest in hybrid approaches which blend the two methods within the same area. Planting can take place at any stage of the hybrid approach. For example, to kickstart woodland creation, facilitation planting can be carried out at much lower densities than typical stocking across large areas to leave space for areas of natural processes in between. Planting can also be done in more distinct patterns, such as small dense clusters (also called applied nucleation or cluster planting). At later stages, planting can be used to add species that have not established through natural processes (also called supplementary planting).

2) What can I expect from natural processes – how long will a woodland take to form and what will it look like?

Note: The National Forest Inventory defines woodland as over 0.5 hectares in size with a minimum canopy cover of 20% and a minimum width of 20 metres. Some wooded habitats may fall outside of this definition, but it provides a useful guideline for establishment success.

A small number of existing case studies show that woodland establishment from natural processes can vary greatly. It's important to stress that there is limited evidence on how quickly natural processes can result in the establishment of woodland in the UK. We must also consider the possibility of survivorship bias with the current evidence – where only positive results are reported and cases where natural colonisation has failed are ignored.

Even with improving research data, natural colonisation alone is highly variable and uncertain. Generally, research shows that predicting results is very challenging over shorter timescales, but we can be more confident over longer timescales[1]. For example, a study of multiple natural colonisation sites across England (where previous land uses included lowland arable, improved grassland, upland heath and acid grassland) showed that after 20 years, tree densities of 100 stems/ha (equating to the minimum 20% canopy cover requirement) reached over 70-140m from the existing seed source (shorter distances being associated with upland sites) [1]. Tree and shrub densities peaked at 20m from the adjacent woodland edge where there were 170 trees/ha in upland sites and 400 trees/ha in lowland sites on average [1].

Young naturally colonised woodlands (15-45 years) accumulate biomass more slowly than planted sites of similar ages. They also have fewer tall trees (e.g. dominated by short trees in the subcanopy layer), a larger proportion of gaps in the canopy and develop a more varied canopy arrangement over time than planted woodlands [2].

Lack of seed source and high herbivore pressure are key factors that may slow or prevent woodland establishment. However, there are many other factors which could affect the speed of establishment which we still don't fully understand. Every site is different and is influenced by a range of interacting factors (CS4, CS7, CS8, CS15). At some sites, scrub and young woodland may develop within 5-10 years, with canopy closing in 10-20 years (CS11, CS13). In other cases, sites may remain fairly open (e.g. 50% shrub cover and 50% open habitat after 30 years in CS15 which is 1.5km from an existing woodland). Generally, the first species to colonise are faster-

growing pioneer species, like willows, thorns and birches, followed by slower-growing species such as oak, ash and field maple [3].

Monitoring and adaptive management to ensure there is progress in the desired direction of travel is key. It's important to remember that approaches can be combined to speed up woody establishment if required, such as supplementary planting (see Q5 and Q8).

Natural colonisation is least likely to succeed if the seed source is either insufficient or undesirable (species that you don't feel are suitable for the local woodland community or where there are a high proportion of invasive and/or non-native species). Similarly, high herbivore pressure, especially if it is challenging to manage, can hinder the success of natural colonisation.

3) What are the benefits of using natural processes?

There is value in letting natural processes develop over time by enabling natural colonisation, especially if nature recovery is your primary objective and you are happy to accept some uncertainty in the outcome.

Existing research, case studies, and discussions with researchers and practitioners, outline a number of expected benefits from using natural processes. It's important to be aware that these differ in the extent to which they're evidenced by research, versus being perceived or expected benefits. Evidence gaps are highlighted in Fleiss et al. [3].

Nature recovery

In the lowlands, natural colonisation often initially results in scrub, young and open woodland habitat, followed by mature woodland with a complex habitat structure characterised by a range of trees ages, stem densities and openness across the site [2], [4]. The early successional habitats support high biodiversity by providing many different habitat niches, including scrub specialists, and extending flowering periods [5], [6] (CS14). These varied habitats may be more compatible with supporting many non-woodland priority species for which woodland creation is often seen as a threat (CS7).

As colonisation often occurs most successfully next to existing woodlands, it directly increases woodland habitat patch size which is expected to increase functional connectivity within the landscape for woodland generalist and specialist species. Woodlands formed via natural colonisation develop a structure similar to ancient woodlands more quickly than tree planting [6] (CS14).

Increased resilience through enabling genetic adaptation and reducing pest and disease risk

It is well recognised that genetic diversity in UK tree populations is high and that their ability to adapt depend on the balance between natural selection and gene flow (pollen/seed dispersal) [7]. Gene flow happens over large distances for many tree and shrub species (e.g. new genetic material is regularly introduced), so by conserving local genetic diversity and enabling natural selection to operate, tree populations are given the chance to adapt to changing environmental

conditions [7], [8]. Adaptation can occur within a single generation [9] but there may also be loss of individuals which are not well adapted [8].

This diversity and ability to adapt has been observed in provenance trials [10] and is often an assumed benefit of natural processes. However, evidence for genetic adaptation in naturally colonised woodlands is currently lacking and is an important area for future research. Reducing reliance on nursery stock by increasing the proportion of woodland creation projects using natural processes would also be expected to minimise any risk of imported pests and diseases [8].

Reduced resource use

There is a perception that using natural processes may be cheaper than planting. This partly depends on the timeline considered. Natural colonisation is likely to be less resource intensive at the outset of creation compared with planting, which requires nursery production of trees, transport, labour and use of tree protection (CS8, CS11, CS13). There is also arguably less ‘clear up’ required like removing tree guards which are no longer needed. However, it’s important to be aware that there are likely to be costs for maintenance and intervention for natural colonisation, such as deer management, which would be required at sites with high deer numbers. Purchase and set-up of fencing may also be required at the start of natural colonisation if herbivore numbers and impacts are known to be high.

Meeting demand and scale of targets

All UK nations have ambitious creation targets which they are consistently failing to meet [11]. Supplying trees for these targets is also a challenge [12]. In the absence (or control) of high herbivore pressure, natural processes can support creation over larger geographical areas than planting [13] (CS7). However, success at this scale depends on many other factors including seed source availability and quality, land ownership and long-term collaboration with a shared vision (CS7). Natural processes could be expected to fill gaps where there are substantial shortages of local-provenance nursery stock for many areas of the UK, and potentially for rarer, currently under-supplied species.

Wellbeing

Although people’s perceptions vary (see Q4), scrub and young woodland habitat created through natural colonisation with a more natural look and feel, and some maintained open areas for access, may be expected to provide high-quality habitat for people to enjoy.

4) What are the challenges of using natural processes?

Longer timelines and higher uncertainty

Progress is usually slower than other woodland creation methods and there is reduced control over the outcome (e.g. resulting density/canopy cover and species composition). This may be the case in situations where non-intervention is important (e.g. where objectives are nature-led recovery with less strict requirements for a specific level of woodland cover), but maintenance and intervention to guide the process is possible. This may be expensive and require adaptive

management to respond to unexpected changes in habitat quality (see Q10). Patience and the ability to respond flexibly are required.

Limitations of funding

Depending on the location, the financial incentives currently available for land managers to support natural colonisation vary and are biased to England. The Forestry Commission (FC) [England's Woodland Creation Offer \(EWCO\)](#) has a natural colonisation offer in [Appendix 5](#) which outlines a 15-year agreement with supplementary planting allowed to meet stem density conditions. Other grant offers that are only available in certain areas, such as England's Community Forest's [Trees for Climate](#) and the Northern Forest's [Grow Back Greener](#), have closely aligned grant design and conditions to FC's EWCO.

Herbivore pressure

High herbivore pressure, whether from deer or small herbivores such as voles and grey squirrels, is experienced by all woodland creation methods. It is a particular concern when aiming to enable natural processes, as each herbivore species bring their own challenges and associated costs.

People's perceptions of natural processes may vary

Natural processes don't generally invite community participation in the same way as tree planting. Also, empty fields becoming covered with scrub can be viewed as messy or abandoned by some. Natural processes may not align with some land managers objectives due to the timescale, funding and uncertainty of outcomes [14].

5) What are the benefits of hybrid approaches?

Flexibility

Methods can be combined from the outset in your woodland creation design via hybrid approaches. For example, spatially blended approaches may plant trees throughout the site at low density or in small clusters (also called applied nucleation), leaving space for natural colonisation in between. Spatially distinct approaches where discrete areas of planting or natural colonisation are allocated across sites are also possible. The mixture of these two approaches (spatially blended and spatially distinct) should be seen as something flexible which can help woodland designs meet specific objectives.

Greater control

Combining planting with natural colonisation can offer more control over species mix, stem density and speed of woodland development than natural processes alone, while maintaining a high degree of structural heterogeneity [2]. Planting in this way can kickstart the woodland creation process and may provide perches for birds, which could act as seed dispersers. Hybrid methods also offer the opportunity to introduce species that reflect the local woodland character which you feel are lacking in the existing seed source (if they are currently missing or are poor dispersers) or to meet specific objectives (like fruit or nut production). It's also a good way to show the intent for the site as it's a visual indicator of progress for anyone that may fear the site is being abandoned.

Supplementary planting can be considered at any point in the process if monitoring suggests the woodland isn't developing as you'd hoped (e.g. if certain species are rare or are failing to colonise).

Good for people and nature

Researchers and practitioners are confident in the principles of hybrid approaches. However, current evidence for the outcomes of hybrid methods mainly come from the tropics and there's hardly any research from temperate systems like the UK. The TreE PlaNat research project has begun to address this knowledge gap [2], [15]. There are some examples to draw on (see TreE PlaNat [case studies](#)) and building evidence through increased testing and monitoring of hybrid approaches in the UK is vital for understanding how these methods perform in different conditions.

Early results from the TreE PlaNat project show that hybrid methods can be more beneficial for biodiversity for certain groups of species (plants and moths) than either natural processes or planting alone [15]. If designed well, hybrid sites can also achieve similar basal area to planted sites over time [2], so can be expected to provide timber products at the same time or soon after [2].

6) Which site objectives will be met by natural processes?

Nature recovery

Natural processes are generally best suited where nature recovery is a key objective, both for the new woodland itself and to help support existing woodlands in the landscape. Natural colonisation directly buffers existing woodland seed sources. Planting new woodlands in close proximity to existing woodland benefits a range of woodland groups of species, in particular moths [16], [17], small mammals [18], [19] and plants [20]. Crucially, most groups of species are more abundant and/or diverse in new woodlands that have high structural diversity, and natural processes are expected to create more structurally diverse woodlands [2].

It is also important to note that management can adapt to ongoing woodland development, especially if you are willing to accept a degree of uncertainty in the outcome. While the proximity and type of seed source are important for natural colonisation to succeed, the exact tree species composition is difficult to predict and will change over time.

Landscape restoration and scaling up woodland creation

The scale of creation is an important consideration. At small scales, opportunities for letting natural processes take hold may coincide with less productive areas of farms (e.g. wetter and steeper areas), providing opportunity for woodland creation among existing land uses. On a larger scale where there is collaboration across several land holdings, natural processes have been shown to achieve significant land use change even in the face of substantial herbivore pressure [13] (CS7). In general, creating larger woodlands provides more benefits to some species groups (e.g. plants [20] and birds [21]) but not all. Natural processes and hybrid approaches can contribute to scaling up woodland creation.

7) Which site objectives might not be met by natural processes?

There is a high degree of uncertainty around how natural colonisation can meet other site objectives like carbon sequestration, forestry and wood production, and inclusion of particular tree species in the final woodland, particularly within a specific timeframe. Hybrid methods can help meet these objectives (see Q5 and Q8).

Short-term objectives

If your objectives have a very short timeframe or are very specific, for example high-quality timber production, natural colonisation alone is unlikely to achieve it.

In such cases, either planting alone or combining natural processes with tree and shrub planting may be most suitable.

Specific and timebound objectives

If you have specific objectives like inclusion of specific tree species in the woodland, combining natural processes with tree and shrub planting may be most suitable.

Where objectives are specific and timebound, for example wanting to reach a certain percentage of canopy cover within 5-10 years, a lack of time and resources to monitor and respond may limit your ability to rely solely on natural processes.

There are situations for nature recovery where there may be high value non-wooded habitats on your site or in the vicinity, such as heathland or species rich grassland (see Q9). It may be important to avoid or even repress natural colonisation in these situations. However, there may also be value in mosaic habitats where the lines between different habitat types are blurred. Ongoing management, via mechanical cutting or grazing, will be essential in these situations to balance an ongoing cycle between more open habitats and those which are more wooded.

8) When might hybrid methods be a suitable choice for my site?

Valuable and sometimes surprising habitats can result from waiting to see how natural processes unfold. However, there are a number of circumstances where you might want to consider planting alongside natural colonisation.

Where local seed source is limited or distant

If local seed source is limited or far from the site, planting may help. Planted trees can act as predator perches to assist with small mammal control on sites where small herbivores are likely to limit tree establishment. They may also attract smaller birds which can help bring in seeds from surrounding areas. Transplanting older trees, that are already at seed bearing age, further out into the site may also be a way of improving the seed source within the site.

Where you have multiple objectives

Planting can help if your objective is timber, fruit or nut production but the local seed source isn't present. For example, oak doesn't disperse far naturally and can be helped along the way. Acorns establish well and can be easily collected from adjacent seed sources and sown. Hybrid methods offer a good compromise between quick biomass accumulation and structural diversity.

Where there are statutory requirements for a certain tree cover/density

If you have a shorter timeframe and are concerned statutory requirements won't be met via natural processes alone, supplementary planting can be carried out later in the process.

Where you want to demonstrate more visible progress

Planting alongside natural colonisation can provide visible results if you want to show tangible progress in land use change (e.g. for the landowner, local people or funders).

You can make use of hybrid approaches from the outset by designing them into your woodland creation plan. However, it's important to remember that you can also respond to the process and carry out supplementary planting at a later date (see Q11).

9) How can site assessment inform my choice of methods?

All site assessments for woodland creation should follow established guidelines, for example:

- [UKFS](#)
- [Woodland Trust Woodland Creation guide](#), [Site Assessment Handbook](#) and [Tree Species Handbook](#)
- [Forestry Commission](#)
- [Scottish Forestry](#)
- [Natural Resources Wales](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

For any woodland creation project, there may be statutory responsibilities for other habitats, species and features, including the historic environment where tree and shrub colonisation may need to be avoided or carefully managed. Thorough site assessment should assess the presence of these features, and an Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out if required. Stakeholder engagement, including with the local community, should be proportionate to the size of the project, but is an essential part of the creation process.

There are three main factors to consider when assessing ecological suitability for natural colonisation:

1. **Seed source:** natural colonisation is generally considered most effective when the site is adjacent or near an existing woodland. There are factors to keep in mind when assessing the seed source, including:
 - Tree species that disperse seeds by animals (e.g. oak and rowan) require mature trees nearby to colonise an area.

- Species that have wind-dispersed seeds (e.g. willow and birch) can colonise from further afield in the surrounding landscape.
 - Mature trees providing seeds could be standalone, in hedges or fields, as well as in a woodland.
 - The reproductive age, seed viability and mast years (years with very prolific seeding) vary between different tree and shrub species.
2. **Evidence of existing colonisation:** establishment of self-sown tree seedlings could suggest that the site will colonise successfully. Existing colonisation (or regeneration within the seed source) that is well established is a sign of good seed viability, although soil conditions or lack of competitive vegetation may have also played a role.
 3. **Herbivore pressure:** high levels of browsing or grazing, by deer and sheep in particular, will prevent tree seedling establishment [22].

Other considerations are less understood by research but are important to consider:

- **The composition of the wider landscape is likely to have an effect:** consider the amount of woodland and trees outside the woodland creation site, as well as how intensive surrounding land uses are. The more trees and woodland there are, the greater the chance of success when relying on natural processes alone.
- **The direction of the prevailing wind:** consider your site's location in relation to the seed source, particularly if this is made up of species which disperse seed via wind.
- **Fertility and competitive vegetation:** in terms of the soil type and resulting vegetation, fertility will be strongly influenced by historic and current land use and will influence the extent to which tree and shrub seedlings have to compete for resources.
- **Moisture levels:** a wetter location is sometimes perceived as unsuited to tree establishment but may work well for natural colonisation. If considering hybrid methods, microsite details like this may guide decisions on planting (e.g. planting in drier areas and leaving wetter areas of the site to natural processes).

10) When using natural processes, should I prepare the ground in any way?

This depends on your objective, budget and how interventionist you want to be. Ground preparation may be useful where there is a very dense and competitive sward that may prevent seedlings establishing. Evidence in this area is currently limited, so we don't have a good understanding if or how ground disturbance might aid natural colonisation in different contexts and when it would be most useful to use site preparation.

Mechanical methods to open the sward include ploughing, scarification and making scrapes. These should take place prior to seed fall, the majority of which will be over autumn. However, these methods can be costly, risk removing any existing seedlings and suckers, and may release carbon through soil disturbance. They may also remove existing ground flora that have biodiversity value (e.g. wildflowers), particularly during the early stages of scrub habitat

formation. If the sward is very fertile and competitive, cutting and collecting as hay or silage for a year or more can reduce its fertility (particularly if multiple cuts are taken in one year) and make soil conditions more amenable to tree seed germination without the need for more intrusive mechanical methods.

Grazing by cattle can help open up the sward and facilitate colonisation [22] (CS2). Practitioner experience suggests pigs may mimic a shallow ploughing action which can open up niches for colonisation.

11) What management may be required during woodland establishment when using natural processes or hybrid approaches?

Interventions may be required or beneficial as the woodland establishes. The timings of these actions are site dependent but should be informed by monitoring (see Q12). There will be a point, regardless of creation method and usually after around 20 years or so, that these activities will merge into usual woodland management guided by an appropriate management plan. This could involve management towards promoting structural complexity and establishing richer biological communities. A few key interventions which are particularly relevant to natural processes and hybrid methods are highlighted below.

- **Supplementary planting:** traditionally when planting, the replacement of failed trees or 'beating up' is often considered necessary to achieve successful establishment (often to meet specific grant requirements). However, depending on your objectives, different levels of failure across the site may be acceptable. The same applies when relying on natural processes or hybrid approaches where establishment success can be more variable. Variability can contribute to diversity in stem densities and ages across the site, resulting in benefits for biodiversity and nature recovery. However, you may want to consider supplementary planting within the first two to three years if monitoring does not show progress towards the densities needed to meet objectives or funding requirements. As noted in Q8, you can consider planting species which may be missing or failing to colonise at any point through the creation process.
- **Managing high browsing pressure from deer:** if an herbivore impact assessment indicates that browsing pressure is high at a site, herbivores will need to be controlled, excluded or both. Deer impacts may increase through time as they are drawn into a new food source, so regular monitoring will be required to assess how browsing pressure is changing. There are some excellent examples of successful natural colonisation in the presence of deer [13] (CS3, CS9). If fences are used, they will need to be checked and maintained. Tree tubes, guards and shelters should be removed at the earliest opportunity when they have completed their function.
- **Managing high browsing pressure from small herbivores:** if a site assessment indicates this is an issue, raptor posts or planted trees may be useful to manage small mammal browsing. If there is time and budget, and herbivores are not excluded, individual tree protection could be placed around colonising trees.

- **Removing invasive or non-native species:** if a site assessment indicates this is an issue, it will require ongoing monitoring and responsive management.
- **Introducing grazing:** if the objective of the site is to achieve high structural and spatial diversity, maintaining more open-wooded and open habitats can be achieved through mechanical cutting or by utilising grazing by domestic herbivores. Both can be applied at sites as and when required. When using natural processes, large grazing animals create changes in the land like complexity in the sward, disturbed ground and reducing dominant tree species, which result in diverse vegetation structure and species composition. These effects are impossible to replicate with other methods. However, most woodland grants will preclude grazing in grant-funded woodland areas during the obligation period. It's therefore important to check your grant and potentially plan to introduce grazing after this period.
- **Mycorrhizae treatments:** these are the subject of increasing interest but are incredibly complex and require the involvement of expert conservation mycologists. Avoid commercial mycorrhizae treatments as they may include species that are not native to your site. A key area for future research is understanding how mycorrhizal networks develop alongside natural colonisation, compared with the outcomes achieved from other marketed products.

For a more thorough overview, see the Woodland Trust's [Woodland Creation Guide](#).

12) What should I monitor?

You should base what to measure and monitor on your site objectives. The TreE PlaNat team has developed some simple guidance on monitoring (see useful resources).

Monitoring should inform adaptive management and frequent surveys (e.g. every year or every other year) should help you build understanding of habitat development and inform management interventions.

The basics of setting up monitoring on your site:

- Delineate three distance zones – adjacent, near and far from the seed source.
- Aim to capture variation across the site e.g. where you can see clear variation in habitat type, try to make sure you encompass these changes within each distance zone.
- Measure at random plots within each of these zones (minimum three, ideally five or more). Use a W- or Z-shaped walk within each zone to help with randomness.

See the guidance for more detail on what to measure and suggestions for management interventions depending on what you're seeing.

13) Can woodlands established via natural processes or hybrid methods generate an income?

Income from timber or other wood products

Natural colonisation is not a predictably effective method for timber production and implementation of forestry practices may be needed to ensure products of the intended quality can be extracted. There is limited experience in the UK of creating continuous cover forestry (CCF) systems from bare ground, but it doesn't mean that this couldn't be an objective informed by expected species growth rates. The CCF market for broadleaves in the UK is challenging and considerations for access, timber extraction and storage need to be designed in from the start.

Hybrid methods can achieve similar mean basal areas to those of planted sites, so are likely to support timber production while also maintaining high gappyness which is likely beneficial to biodiversity [2].

Other income

Other income may be available through funding for wider public benefits that can result from woodland creation. These include:

- Funding for carbon sequestration via the [Woodland Carbon Code](#) (UK wide). [Woodland water credits](#) may also follow soon.
- Stackable payments for nature recovery, flood risk management, water quality, riparian buffers and access for people via [EWCO](#) (England only).

Providing biodiversity units for developers or local planning authorities to offset development via [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (England only).

Further information

Current options for funding:

There is not one single grant available to support creation via natural processes across the UK, and options are constantly evolving. **Take a look at FR's Storymap for the most up-to-date information.**

As of May 2025, the options in each country are:

England	<p>The England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) - natural colonisation option (Forestry Commission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Minimum 0.1ha▪ Within 75m of a viable seed source▪ Up to £10,200 per ha plus additional contributions when delivering wider benefits to society and support your woodland creation scheme.▪ Expects 100 trees/ha/60% under woody cover by year 10 <p>Grow Back Greener (Woodland Trust) – in the Northern Forest area only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Minimum 0.5ha▪ No set distance from seed source limits▪ £3,068 per ha + 100% capital costs & management interventions▪ Expects 400 trees/shrubs by year 5 (10 on challenging sites)
Scotland	<p>Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme – New Natural Regeneration Establishment (Scottish Forestry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Minimum 0.25ha▪ Within 50m of a viable seed source▪ £600 per ha▪ Expects 400 trees/ha by year 5
Wales	<p>Currently no grants for natural processes Grants for tree planting are via Welsh Government</p>
Northern Ireland	<p>Currently no grants for natural processes Grants for tree planting are via DAERA</p>

Useful links

- [Project blogs](#) and [webinars](#)
- [Case studies](#)
- [Monitoring protocol](#)
- [Demonstration site at the National Forest](#)

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TreE PlaNat



Glossary

Term	Definition	Also called
Natural processes	<i>Establishment of tree cover through processes of seed dispersal & germination or suckering</i>	<i>Natural colonisation, natural regeneration</i>
Hybrid approaches	<i>Combining planting and natural processes in a variety of ways</i>	<i>Blended, mixed, spatially distinct, spatially blended, facilitation planting, cluster planting, low density planting</i>
Planting	<i>An active approach of manually adding young saplings to a site</i>	<i>Supplementary planting, facilitation planting</i>
Scrub	<i>A successional habitat dominated by shrubs, typically transitional between open areas like grassland and woodland</i>	<i>Shrubland, thicket, thorny shrubs</i>

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