

Trees for Cities is working in partnership with Ealing Council and the local community to re-establish an area of woodland on Horsenden Hill that was clear felled around 150 years ago. The project has been initiated with the Rangers and Friends of Horsenden Hill as part of their plan to regenerate the natural resources in the area. Through this they aim to establish a self sustaining woodland enterprise and high quality destination green space that will protect the site and benefit the local community. Tree species have been selected to create a truly sustainable woodland for social, economic and environmental benefits. The diversity of the woodland will provide resilience to pests and disease while providing a habitat for local wildlife ensuring that the woodland will flourish for future generations to enjoy. It will enable the Rangers, working with the community, to reinstate historic practices of using harvested timber to create woodland products. The timber will be sold to local craftsmen to create an income for Horsenden Hill and to support the local economy. The timber will be produced when the trees are thinned and coppiced as part of woodland management rather than large scale felling. These woodland management practices will also maintain public access for recreational use and opportunities for woodland activities that can generate income.

**Site Assessment**

**Aspect:** The site faces south-east and will receive the sun for the majority of the day. The shadiest area is the southern quarter due to overhang of existing oak woodland.

**Soil:** Texture: silt/clay; pH: 5.5-5.9; Fertility: good due to high content of organic matter and phosphorus; Contaminants: low levels of lead, 190ppm against the recommended maximum 300ppm; Moisture capacity: high water holding capacity due to high content of silt and clay.

**Topography:** The site slopes from the south-east to the north-west.

**Climate:** All four quarters of the site are surrounded by semi-natural ancient woodland. The woodland is thinner in the south-west quarter with a stand of mature oak trees. The site will be well sheltered from strong winds except from the south.

**Vegetation:** Semi-natural ancient woodland with natural regeneration consisting predominantly of oak.

**Views and sightlines:** A large ride has been created through the new woodland to maintain beautiful views when accessing the woodland from the south-west.

**Rides:** Rides have been designed through the new woodland not only to keep views, but also to maintain open areas to support establishment of grassland flora.

**Species Composition**

We have carefully matched tree species to site conditions and required function of the working woodland as set out below.

**Area G Tree Mix**

A stand of walnut trees will provide high quality timber. For centuries, British grown walnut was the nation's favourite wood for furniture making before the advent of global commerce introduced cheaper mahogany.

By planting this species, we are hoping to help bring back this excellent British timber. Walnuts are not always the friendliest of neighbours as they produce the toxic compound Juglone that damages plants and trees growing near them to limit any competition. As such they will be planted together in a coupe.

**Area H Tree Mix**

Fruit trees will produce a beautiful display of blossom in spring and a bounty of delicious fruit for local people to forage in summer and autumn. The crab apple wood will also provide excellent wood for crafting, making this part of the woodland the most versatile of all.

**Area F Underwood**

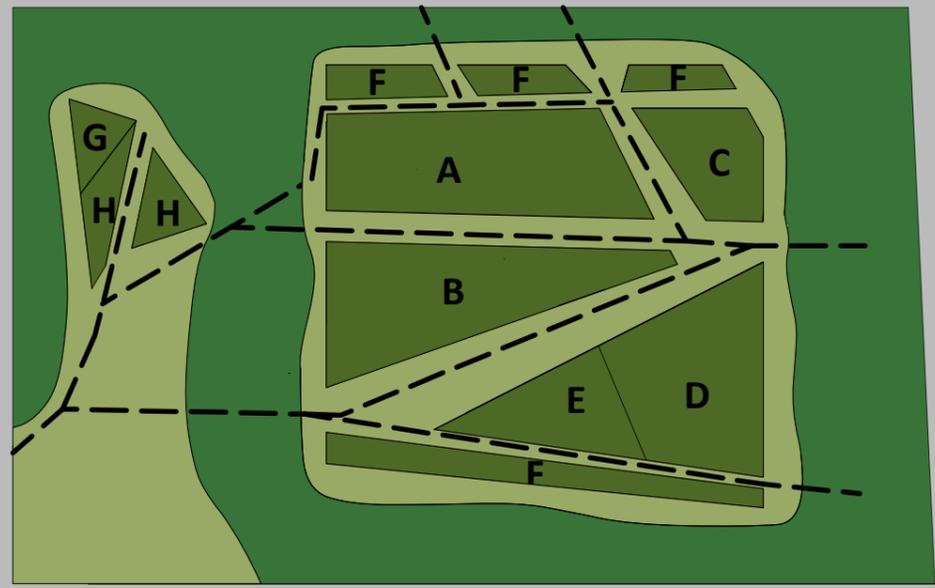
Hazel coppice will run the length of the top and bottom of the ancient woodland. The areas are currently dominated by bramble regeneration. Hazel will be planted to suppress regrowth of brambles. The hazels will be stooled at the end of the first growing season to support root establishment. Any bramble regeneration can also be cleared at the same time.

**Areas A and B**

Small leaved lime, Italian and common alder and downy birch. The alder and birch are both fast growing and short lived and will act as a nurse species supporting the lime as they establish. As the nurse species are thinned, it will leave a wooded area of predominantly lime.

**Area C**

Sweet chestnut, Italian and common alder and downy birch. The downy birch and alder will once again be actively managed to leave a wooded area of predominantly sweet chestnut.

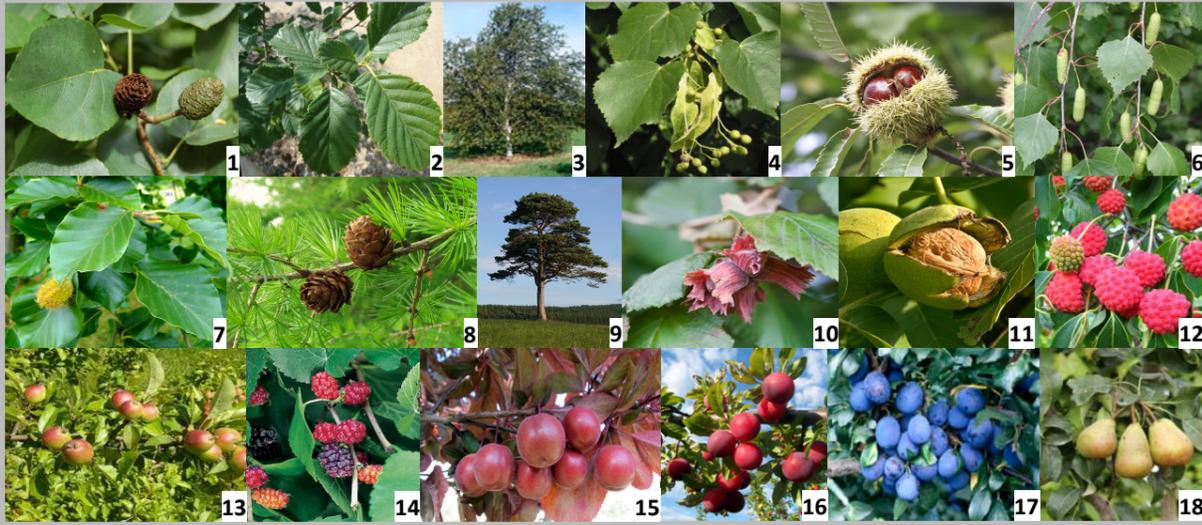


**Area E**

Limes, beech and silver birch will sit within the current natural regeneration of the surrounding woodland. As beech casts dense shade, limiting ground flora, and prefers the dappled shade of a woodland setting it will be placed in the western quarter only as the surrounding oak canopy provides the perfect conditions. The beech and birch are both fast growing and will act as a nurse species supporting the lime and oak as they establish. The trees will be managed dependant on the need of local craftsmen and future environmental scenarios.

**Area D**

Larch, scots pine and birch will sit within the current natural regeneration, composed majoritively of Oak. The new trees will force the oak to grow with straight unbranched stems. The trees will be managed dependant on need of the local craftsmen and future environmental scenarios.



**Working woodland**

Area A,B

1. *Alnus cordata* - Italian alder
2. *Alnus glutinosa* - Common alder
3. *Betula pubescens* - Downy birch
4. *Tilia cordata* - Small-leaved lime

Area C

1. *Alnus cordata* - Italian alder
2. *Alnus glutinosa* - Common alder
3. *Betula pubescens* - Downy birch
5. *Castanea sativa* - Sweet chestnut

Area E

6. *Betula pendula* - Silver birch
7. *Fagus sylvatica* - Beech
4. *Tilia cordata* - Small leaved lime

Area D

6. *Betula pendula* - Silver birch
8. *Larix decidua* - European larch
9. *Pinus sylvestris* - Scots pine

Area F

10. *Corylus avellana* - Hazel

Area G

11. *Juglans regia* - English walnut

Area H

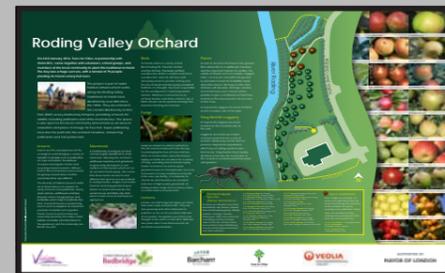
12. *Cornus kousa 'Chinensis'* - Dogwood
13. *Malus sylvestris* - Crab apple
14. *Morus nigra* - Black mulberry
15. *Prunus cerasifera* - Cherry plum
16. *Prunus domestica* - Common plum
17. *Prunus domestica subs insititia* - Damson
18. *Pyrus communis* - Pear



Open ride through woodland

**Interpretation board**

An interpretation board will be installed near to the woodland. It will provide information of the tree species, type of wood, edible fruits and culinary uses to encourage local people to forage from the woodlands. The interpretation board will also provide information about the wildlife. Education is an important strategy to encourage conservation so the interpretation board will play a vital role in encouraging local people to value and conserve the woodland and its wildlife habitats. It will also encourage school groups to visit the site and use the space for lessons.



Example of interpretation board

