

2 page letter from the Woodland Trust in regards to establishing Thorn Beck Wood



Ms K Pearson

[Redacted contact information]

Our ref: PL / sc
Your Ref:
3/06/2010

Dear Kathleen,

Re: Woodland Creation Project : The Diggers

It was a pleasure to meet with you recently to look at your woodland proposals and to discuss your management of your land and future ambitions. We discussed a lot of points and I have summarised some of them below for the record.

1. Your site is a typical moorland fringe acid grazed grassland with both wetter and drier areas. There is some good grass and some poorer areas with a large proportion of wet loving plants particularly juncus. It is quite high and exposed and faces slightly west of north.
2. Establishment of woodland will be slow – soils will be thin, altitude, exposure and occasional water logging may be issues – but you should be able to create something of value for wildlife in due course with careful management. Once the trees are in the ground you may need to cut the grass or weed around the base of the trees until they are perhaps 3 years old. Do not let them get over-run with weeds and grasses as this will restrict growth. You may need to put the canes and spirals "upright" from time to time perhaps after snow or high wind until the trees are big enough to fight for themselves.
3. The species choice we have chosen for you emulates an "oak birch acid woodland" – i.e. the sort of woodland one would expect to find in your area. These woods are naturally a bit sparse of ground flora but commonly sport heather and bilberry.
4. Planting design for the woodland should include some basic elements such as
 - (i) Make sure the area is fenced – I know this is something you are planning – grazing and trees just do not mix.
 - (ii) Do not plant too close to the fence so as to allow room for maintenance.
 - (iii) Leave an access point so that you can get to the woodland with a vehicle if needed.

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- (iv) Plant trees at random – make sure trees are planted in a random pattern without straight lines, no closer to each other than 1m and no further apart than 5m.
 - (v) Leave some open spaces – they are good to walk through but also excellent for creating warm spaces for wildlife.
5. We also talked about wildflowers and areas may benefit from a display of wild flowers such as red campion, oxeye daisy, knapweed or cow parsley. Given a fair wind you could create some good colour and a wildlife habitat whilst the young trees themselves are establishing. If you get a chance I suggest a trip to see the National Wildflower Centre at Court Hey Park, Liverpool (postcode L16 3NA, telephone 0151 737 1819 or on line at www.nwc.org.uk) to give you some ideas. Also you can buy seed from Landlife at <http://www.landlife.org.uk> and please mention the Woodland Trust (and my name) if you do. They are a charity we deal with a lot on our schemes.

The Offer:

We are happy to support your scheme with a combination of my site visit, some advice and some free trees – subject to our standard agreement being in place. The agreement merely provides us with comfort that you will plant and maintain the trees into the future – I can forward you a copy of the draft agreement in due course.

In this case we would be happy to offer you a further 800 mixed broadleaved trees and appropriate guards. This would be made up of:

- (i) Oak 30%, Birch 25%, Willow 10%, Alder 10%, Hazel 10%, Ash 7.5%, Hawthorn 5% and Blackthorn 2.5%.
- (ii) 800 Canes and 75cm spiral guards

We will need to agree a delivery date for the trees and sundries – sometime in November or December. Immediately following delivery we would recommend that the trees are “healed in” to a vegetable patch or similar area of worked ground until they are planted, unless they are to be planted within a few days of arrival (in which they can be stored in their bags in a cool frost free environment such as a shed or garage).

If you have any queries at all please do give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Yours sincerely,



Peter R Leeson MRICS
Woodland Creation Adviser
Email peterleeson@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Letter sent as a respond from the Digglers Charitable Trust



The Digglers Charitable Trust

admin@thedigglers.co.uk

The Woodland Trust
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FAO Mr Peter Leeson MRICS Woodland Creation Adviser

The Trustees of the above charity would like to express their thanks to yourself and your Woodland Trust in advising and proving saplings to allow us to develop Thorns Beck Wood.

We have put a link on our website to your Trust and you will be able to monitor the development of Thorns Beck as it will be featured on our website.

Yours faithfully,

Kathleen Pearson Chairwoman