

# Mixed Native Woodland

## Proud to Plant Trees

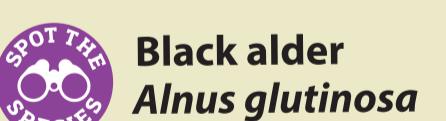
Across Bittesby Country Park there is a diverse mix of woodland and hedgerow planting. The existing areas of woodland have been fragmented over time through agricultural use.

The area Bittesby Country Park now covers has retained over 24ha (60 acres) of woodland, and over 45ha (113 acres) of additional woodland has been planted to enhance the connections between these existing woodland habitats.



## Woodland Regeneration

The objective is to establish a mass planting structure based upon the natural structure of the established woodland, which is typical of natural climax woodland in the Upper Soar Landscape Character area. Natural colonisation of the land by plants and the natural selection operating over thousands of years would result in such a landscape.



Bittesby Country Park is proud to be custodian to over 70ha (173 acres) of woodland that over time will mature to become a significant biodiverse habitat of local importance. This makes Bittesby Country Park one of the most significant landscape features in the local area.



## Mixed Native Woodland Planting Principles

The woodland planting principle is to 'telescope' the natural succession of the woodland by planting the various components simultaneously, specifically, the pioneer, sub climax and climax species. Natural selection and creative woodland management will achieve a varied character throughout the site.

Planting mixes have been structured to reflect a natural woodland character. Low-growing herbaceous species are located at the edges, combined with the more light-demanding shrub species (e.g. Viburnum, Field rose). More shade tolerant species (Hawthorn, Holly) are generally located to the rear of the shrub edge or as understorey.

Tree species have been planted with the sub-climax light demanding species (cherry) towards the edges, and shade tolerant climax species (English oak) located at the rear of plantations where space offers the opportunity for canopy development. Scots pine has generally been planted as climax blocks within the centre of the plantations to provide winter interest and mitigate views into the site from critical external viewing points.

Oak, lime & aspen are the main climax trees with field maple and birch the main sub-climax tree. Shrub species have carefully been considered to provide seasonal interest. The denser thicket/core structure provided by the shrub edge and understorey will be the most colourful in terms of flower, stem and berries and will provide cover and food for wildlife.

### Trees

- Acer campestre – Field maple
- Alnus glutinosa – Black alder
- Alnus incana – Grey alder
- Betula pendula – Silver birch
- Carpinus betulus – European hornbeam
- Malus sylvestris – Crab apple
- Pinus sylvestris – Scots Pine
- Populus tremula – European aspen
- Tilia x europaea – European lime
- Quercus robur – English oak

### Shrub edge

- Cornus sanguinea – common dogwood
- Sambucus nigra – Elder
- Rosa arvensis – Field rose
- Viburnum opulus – Guelder rose

