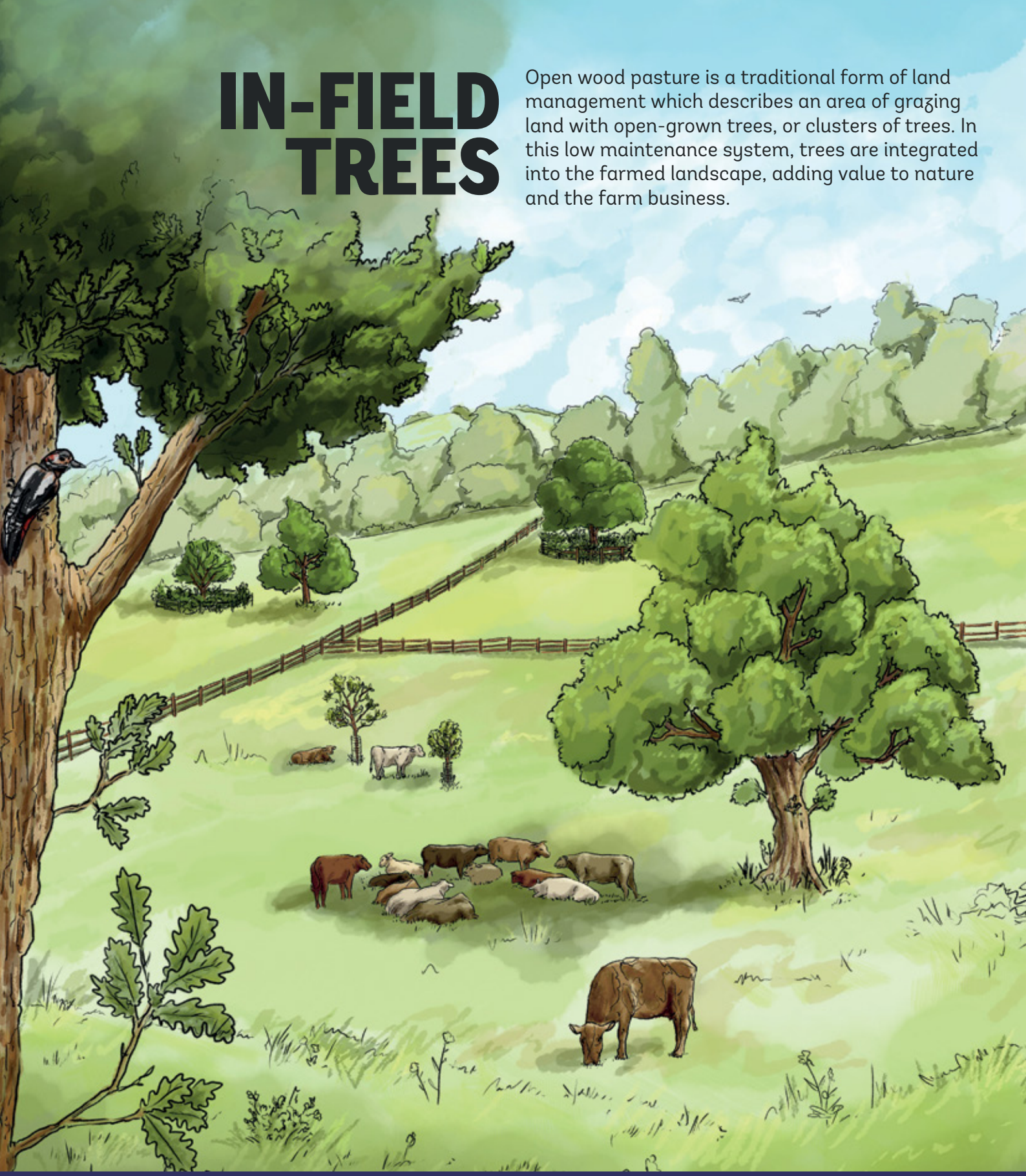
IN-FIELD TREES

Open wood pasture is a traditional form of land management which describes an area of grazing land with open-grown trees, or clusters of trees. In this low maintenance system, trees are integrated into the farmed landscape, adding value to nature and the farm business.



Access to shade and shelter across the field ensures livestock can continue normal grazing behaviour in extreme weather, reducing negative impacts on yields and live weight gain. Shelter is particularly important for young livestock as it can reduce exposure to extreme weather conditions, increasing survival rates of newborns. Evidence shows wood pasture can increase carbon sequestration, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil drainage. In-field trees can extend the grazing season and facilitate over-wintering of livestock in certain circumstances. They can also provide an attractive landscape and diverse wildlife habitat.

DESIGN SPECIFICATION

Tree spacings vary depending on the goals of the farm, landscape and other environmental conditions. Planting densities range from 25 open grown trees/ha, to clusters of trees of up to 200 trees/ha.

Tree species: Select tree species appropriate to the local environment, and to replace existing mature trees, but consider varieties or provenances that are resilient to local climate change.

Tree protection: To ensure protection from browsing/ livestock rubbing, in-field trees will need to be well protected for the establishment period, through the use of cactus guards or post and rail exclosures.

	STANDARD TREE	INTERMEDIATE TREES	BROWSING SHRUBS
ACIDIC LOWLAND (AL)			
Wooded habitats on relatively acidic, dry and infertile soils in the lowlands, particularly in the drier southeast, typically on moderately acidic brown earths, podzols, base-poor groundwater gleys, sands, gravels and old alluvium.	English Oak, Sessile Oak, Beech, Hornbeam	Hornbeam Silver/Downy Birch, Rowan, Aspen, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry	Hazel, Goat Willow, Grey Willow, Hawthorn, Holly, Elder, Blackthorn
BASE-RICH LOWLAND (BL)			
Wooded habitats on dry, base-rich, calcareous to neutral soils in the lowlands or more southerly regions. Typically on soils overlaying limestones, calcareous shales and clays and heavy lime-rich deposits like boulder clay. Soil types include rendzinas, calcareous brown earths and some base-rich groundwater gleys. These may range from infertile to more fertile soils.	English Oak, Sessile Oak, Field Maple, Beech, Hornbeam, SL-Lime, L-Lime	Midland Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Silver/ Downy Birch, Rowan, Aspen, Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Common Whitebeam, Wych Elm, Wild Service	Grey/Goat/White/ Purple Willow, Osier, Alder, SL-Lime, Hawthorn, Holly
WET LOWLAND (WL)			
Wooded habitats on wet or seasonally waterlogged soils in the lowlands, particularly in the south and east - typically on alluvial soils, floodplains, beside waterbodies, and on gleys or other soils with high water table (but not deeper peats).	Alder, English Oak. Wych Elm, Small-leaved Lime, Hornbeam	Downy Birch, SL-Lime, Aspen	Grey/Goat/Purple/ Crack/White/Osier/ Almond/Bay Willow, Alder, SL-Lime, Holly
POLLEN AND FRUIT FOR WILDLIFE VALUE			
	Wild Pear	Elder, Crab Apple, Willow	Blackthorn, Bramble, Rose, Wild Mint, Ivy
FODDER TREES - GRASS BASED DAIRY SYSTEMS			
15.5m and 5m ø	Oak (shelter, shade)	Rowan (fat, fibre)	Aspen (metabolizable energy, protein, fibre) Willow (zinc, cobalt, selenium)

If you are interested in planting trees on farms and other opportunities to find out more visit **woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant** or contact **plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk**

WOODLAND TRUST

Thanks to Dr Lindsay Whistance (Organic Research Centre).
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