

YOUNG WOODLANDS

To find out more please contact us on
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Positive landscape
FSC Logo



greenbelt

A long-term management solution

Greenbelt have been creating new woodlands for over 10 years and currently manage over 500 woodlands around the UK. Our aim is to create a woodland over the medium term in which the canopy has closed and the trees are growing healthily.

How we manage our young woodlands

To grow, the young trees need to have the tip of the tree above the adjacent vegetation. The speed at which they establish themselves then depends on the amount of competition for soil, nutrients and water. There are two basic approaches to reducing this competition and successfully establishing the trees - the Bare Earth and Ring Spraying approaches.

The Bare Earth approach requires frequent chemical application to remove all ground cover competition. If the chemical regime is maintained, the trees establish quickly. This approach however, is not environmentally friendly nor a cost effective method of woodland management. Over the medium term, of say 10 years, the trees will be of the same size as those established by other techniques.

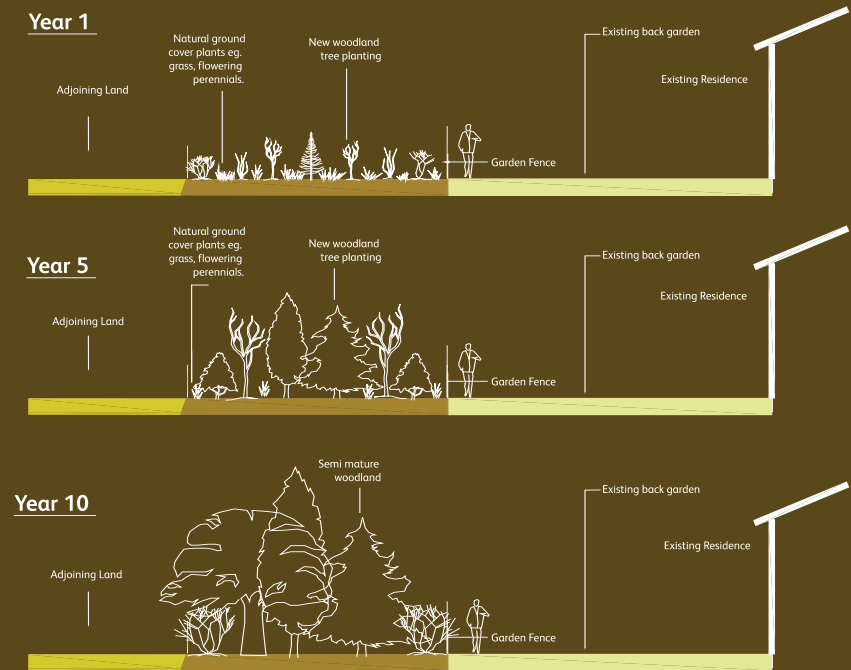
Ring Spraying however, kills only the ground cover around the base of the tree, removing the competition from the young roots of the tree, ground cover vegetation is allowed to grow between the trees. This technique uses less chemicals and although initially slower produces the same sized tree over a 10-year growing period. By this time it should be a semi-mature woodland, but it may initially appear to be a field of weeds with small trees spread out within it.



Some gaps are welcome to let light down to the woodland floor to encourage different sorts of woodland fauna, but if these are too large, we will replant some of the trees. We purposefully do not replace all the dead trees, as the final woodland only requires trees three to five meters apart.

In time the tree branches start to interlock and the woodland canopy will close. This begins to block out light and suppresses the natural ground cover that has grown up with the young trees. Only shade tolerant plants will survive.

Typical Section through a New Woodland Planting Belt



Greenbelt is committed to creating a new woodland on your development. Through sound management using best forestry practise which is sensitive to the newly created habitat, this new amenity will in time provide many benefits for you and your local environment. The new woodland will help towards:

- Creating a softer appearance to the development
- Providing a new habitat for wildlife
- Acoustic screening
- Increasing tree cover in the area
- Providing an area to exercise (where appropriate)
- Carbon sequestration

New woodland establishment is a slow process and during the early stages the woodland may appear untidy, but the end result will be a benefit to all and worth the wait.