

ACRES

Scrub / Woodland SCORECARD TIP SHEET

Woodland	Scrub habitat					
Woodland is defined as any area that is dominated by trees, as opposed to shrubs, and where the canopy height is greater than 5m, or 4m in the case of woodland in wetland areas or bogs. The canopy may be open but should be distinct.	Scrub (established rather than encroaching) habitat is an area that is dominated by at least 50% cover of shrubs, stunted trees or brambles. The canopy height is less than 5m, or 4m in the case of wetland areas.	Scrub frequently develops as a precursor to woodland and is often found in inaccessible locations, or on abandoned or marginal farmland.	In the absence of grazing and mowing, scrub can expand to replace grassland or heath vegetation.	Scrub can be open or dense and impenetrable, and it can occur on areas of dry, damp or waterlogged ground.	Common plants include hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse, bramble, and roses, in addition to a number of willows, small birches and stunted hazel.	The field layer is often impoverished and poorly developed, but in some situations may be similar to that of woodland.

Canopy The layer of leaves and branches formed by the large trees in the woodland.

The canopy intercepts much of the light so that the woodland floor can be quite shady during late spring and summer.

Shrub layer

Also known as the understory.

Consists of younger specimens of the canopy trees, and smaller trees & shrubs, which are adapted to grow under low light conditions such as hazel, holly, hawthorn and rowan.

Grazing/browsing by either livestock or wild deer can have a significant impact on woodlands, such that this layer is scarcely present in some cases.

The invasive non-native Rhododendron which has very low value in terms of biodiversity, can dominate this layer in some woodlands.

Field layer

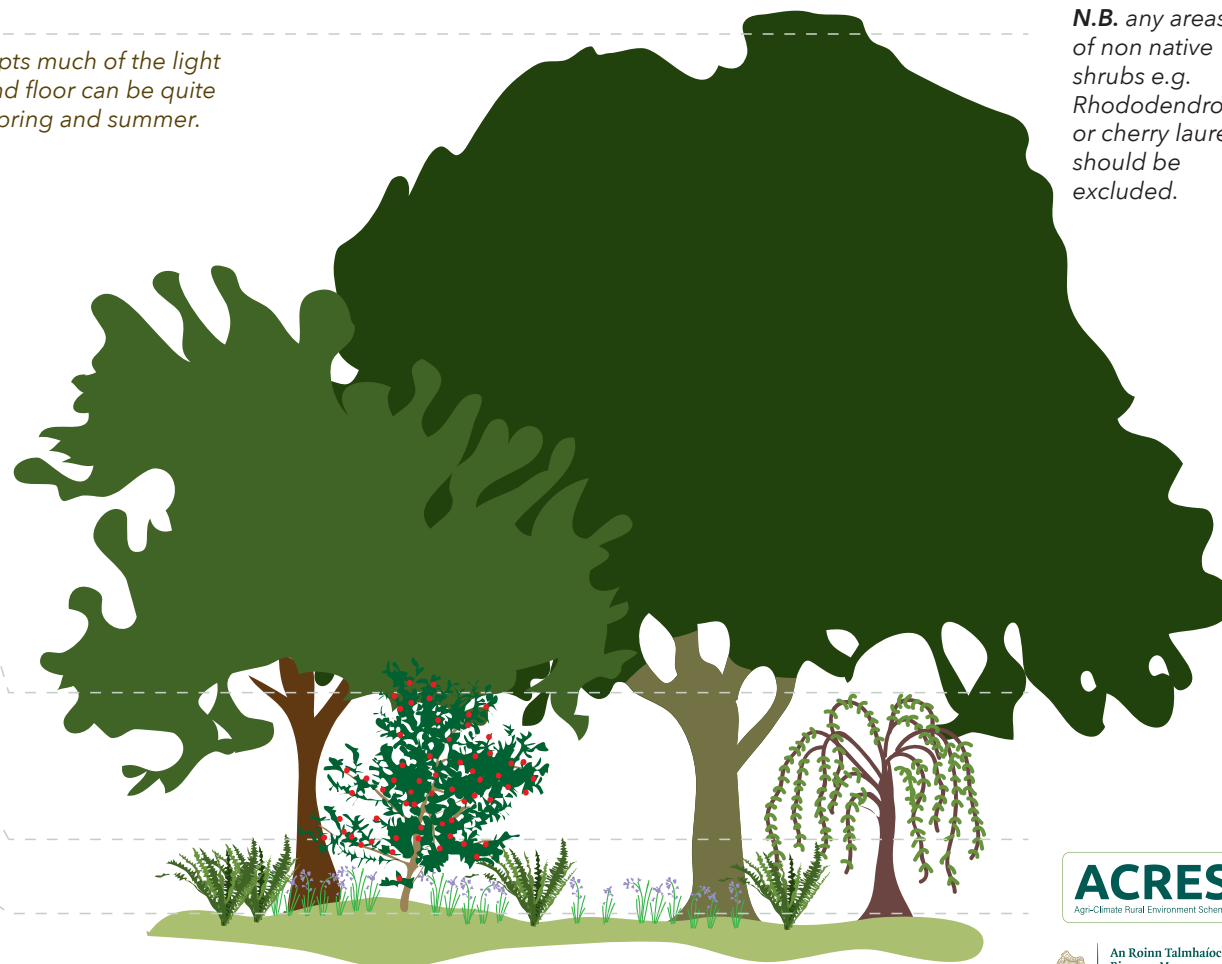
Also known as the herb layer. The more open the canopy, the more diverse the herb/field layer.

Plants that are commonly found in the herb layer include herbs such as bluebells, wood anemone, wood sorrel, primrose and grasses/ sedges and ferns.

Ground layer

Largely consists of different mosses, ivy, leaf litter and decaying wood.

For the purposes of this scoring card, the field layer and ground layer have been combined into one layer i.e. Field layer



N.B. any areas of non native shrubs e.g. Rhododendron or cherry laurel should be excluded.

ACRES
Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme



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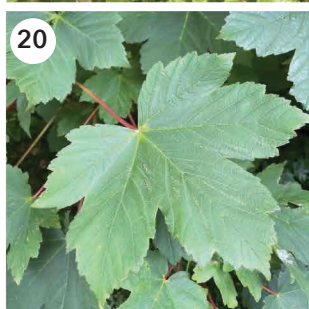
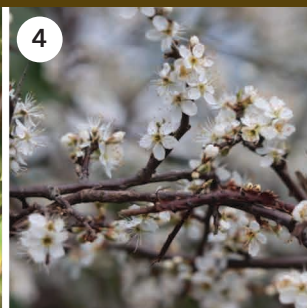
Scrub & Woodland species

Scrub species:

1. Alder
2. Ash
3. Birch
4. Blackthorn
5. Bog myrtle
6. Bracken
7. Bramble
8. Hazel
9. Elder
10. Gorse/Furze
11. Whitethorn
(hawthorn)
12. Willow
13. Guelder rose

Woodland species:

14. *Beech
15. Holly
16. Oak
17. Rowan
18. Scot's pine
19. *Spruce
20. *Sycamore
21. *Horse chestnut
22. *Spanish chestnut
23. *Hornbeam
24. Spindle



*=non-native species

N.B. Birches, hazel and some willows may occur both as trees and shrubs.