

Forestry in proximity to water

Forestry with increased variation

The stand in front of you has been thinned early. The thinning is made with the intention of creating a sparse forest so that reindeers can be herded past Bodsjöstrupens open water wintertime. To make it easier for the reindeer to get back up on land it has been thinned all the way down to the shore of Bodsjön.

Mostly birch has been left. Forests rich on deciduous (broad leaved) trees are increasingly rare these days.

An increase in deciduous trees can be positive for conservation purposes and offers variation to the landscape. The deciduous trees are often more resistant to storm damage and does not as frequently get afflicted by root rot.

Almost a fifth of the standing forest in Sweden consist of native deciduous species.

The woodland that is situated between the birch stand and Bodsjön will be managed with continuous cover management. The top layer of pine has been thinned to make more room for the lower layer of predominantly birch and spruce. The bottom layer is thinned pre-commercially to promote trees of good quality and to increase the portion of broad-leaved trees. As the bottom layer grows almost all the pines of the top layer will be felled and taken out. About 25 pines per hectare will be left for posterity as ancient trees. Over time this stand will be dominated by spruce and birch with elements of big old pines. The illustration to the right shows how it might come to look.

What is non-clear-cutting forestry? Non-clearcutting forestry is the collective term of silvicultural practices that leaves a continuous cover of trees on the ground. It contains several types of continuous harvesting, gap felling, shelter wood methods that does not include clear cutting woodland but retains the look and the feeling of a forest.



Illustration: Bo Persson

How to tell the difference between a silver birch and a downy birch

- **The leaves** – silver birch has double jagged edges that are the widest close to the base while the downy birch are single jagged edged that are widest at a third of the length from the base.
- **The bark** – the silver birch grows a rough crusty bark as it grows older which is rare on downy birch.
- **The shape of the crown** the silver birch has hanging branches while the downy birch has more upright limbs.
- **The shoots** – the young shoots on the silver birch has a warty texture which gives it the Swedish name of warty birch while the shoots on a downy birch are furry.

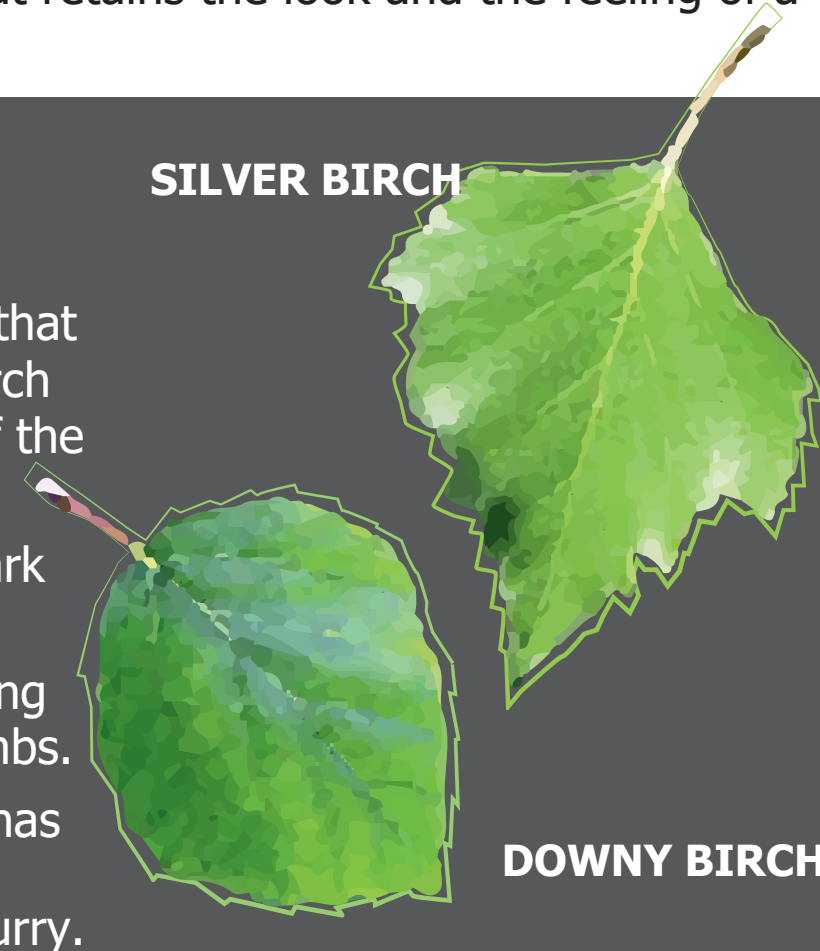


Illustration: Erik Rahm

Non-clear-cutting for several reasons

The motives for using non-clear-cutting methods within forestry can vary. It can, as in this case, be the fear of waterlogging, expensive soil treatment and the risk of not having plants establishing themselves well, which has made the choice of regeneration turn to existing plants. Other reasons for choosing non-clear cutting can be to protect natural values, cultural heritage or social values. Even when consideration to reindeer husbandry is in order non-clear-cutting methods are an alternative

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More knowledge is needed

The expectations and demands on ecosystem services are ever increasing. Values that are not easy to quantify, for example biodiversity, social values and health aspects demands a new way at looking at woodland. Knowledge about how we can carry on with forestry rich in variation needs to be developed.