

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/208

A Report to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

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Report Number: RT-MME-1994B

July 2004

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/208

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01 OF 02

01 SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
02 MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

This report was conducted and compiled by
Helen Miller MIEEM and Alan Guy

*The contents of this report are the responsibility of Middlemarch Environmental Ltd.
It should be noted, that whilst every effort is made to meet the client's brief,
no site investigation can ensure complete assessment
or prediction of the natural environment.*

Contract Number C1994

July 2004

1. INTRODUCTION

On 4 May 2004, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council commissioned Middlemarch Environmental Ltd to conduct the literature review, survey work and management of the Native Woodland Plan NWP 015/208 for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. A literature search and ecological and management surveys of the site were performed during May - July 2004.

This Native Woodland Plan covers one woodland, Millison's Wood.

The map templates used to create the Native Woodland Plan Survey map were provided by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Native Woodland Plan is provided in Section 2. Details of the literature search are provided in Appendix A.

**SECTION 2
Native Woodland Plan Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
NWP 015/208**

**MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ASSURANCE**

TITLE: SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/208

A Report to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Contract Number: C1994

Report Number: RT-MME-1994B

Revision Number: 00

Description: FINAL


Date: July 2004

Checked:

Nick Steggall
Ecological Consultant

Approved:

Dr Philip Fermor
Consultancy Director

1	 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i>
WGS REF. No. NWP/015/208	Site Name <i>Millisons Wood</i>		District/Parish <i>Solihull</i>
	Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</i>	Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>LNR. EcoSite. SINC</i>	
Contact <i>David Lowe</i> <i>Solihull MBC, Ecologist</i> <i>Landscapes Section</i> <i>PO BOX 19, Council House,</i> <i>Solihull, West Midlands, B91, 3QT</i>		Other Designations / Protections <i>Midlands Plateau Natural Area (43)</i>	
	Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>ASNW</i>		Surveyor <i>Helen S Miller</i> <i>Middlemarch Environmental Ltd</i>
Biodiversity Action Plan <i>Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull BAP</i> <i>See Appendix A</i>		Date of survey <i>11 June 2004</i>	

Woodland vegetation types (**mark on map**).

SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND TYPE (HAPS):
Lowland mixed broadleaved (Forest Practice Guide 3)

NVC COMMUNITIES:
W10

PLANTATIONS:
Not available

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)
Arable, lowland grassland and residential buildings and gardens

Threats
Over use from recreation.
Invasion of exotics from neighbouring gardens.
Currently limited regeneration taking place.

Aspect <i>N/A</i>	Slope <i>More or less flat</i>	Altitude <i>140 m</i>
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Soil – from Soilscape on www.magic.gov.uk

Ref/class	Name	Main surface texture class	Natural drainage type	Natural fertility
8	<i>Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage</i>	<i>Loamy</i>	<i>Slightly impeded drainage</i>	<i>Moderate to high</i>

North-east: Loamy. pH 3.6. West: Peaty. pH 3.25. Centre: Sandy. pH 3.3. South-east: Clayey. pH 4.6

Geology
West: Mudstones over sandstones.
North-south central strip: Thin limestone member overlaid on sandstone.
East: Drift layer, brown till or reddish-brown pebbly clay.

Climatic Factors From Met Office web-site for Stratford-Upon-Avon weather station, approximately 15 miles south of the Solihull Woodlands:

- Average annual rainfall 622.3 mm with 115.7 days experiencing less than 1 mm.
- Average annual days experiencing air frost and ground frost: 62.2 and 95-110 respectively
- Minimal risk from wind exposure.

Site name
Millisons Wood

Surveyor
Helen S Miller
Middlemarch Environmental Ltd

Date of survey
11 June 2004

HABITATS, FEATURES & COMMUNITIES (MARK ON MAP)

Habitats

The NVC community is W10 with a varied structure and moderate habitat and species diversity. These species are detailed below (Target notes) and marked on the map.

The field layer is relatively species-poor, bracken & bramble generally being dominant with a range of common woodland vascular species occurring at least rarely throughout. The most frequent included Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, various grasses, honeysuckle *Lonicera perichlymenum*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*. Nettle *Urtica dioica* and ivy *Hedera helix* are locally abundant and frequent respectively.

Wetland features

There is a dry pond vegetated with nettles and goat willow in the south-east corner of the wood.

Veteran trees & deadwood

Deadwood habitats are rare to occasional throughout the wood, mainly as fallen trees, notably birch.

Notable species

There is a helleborine *Epipactis* sp. in the north of the wood.

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species.

There is a good woodland bird population, including song thrush (UK BAP species).

Other features

There are indications of wood banks/ditch along the west, south and west end of the north edges of the wood and across the wood. A winter assessment would identify these features more precisely. Where these features occurred at the boundary of the wood, there were also some old (c. 200 year) oaks as well as mature hawthorns and rowan.

Adjacent landuses

The adjacent land is agricultural and residential.

Target notes for map

1. Area dominated by birch with bracken and bramble ground flora. Coppiced hazel within last 5 years. Fairly open canopy.
2. Heavily shaded hazel coppice with bramble dominating the ground flora.
3. Helleborine
4. Birch dominated with oak, holly and hazel. Ground flora mainly bracken and bramble with occasional fallen birch deadwood.
5. Dense birch. More open towards the periphery of the wood. Dominated by bracken especially at edge with false oat grass and bluebell.
6. More open canopy. Scattered birch and oak over bracken. Live, windblown rowen in western area.
7. Locally frequent holly.
8. Old oak with bramble, rosebay willowherb and locally frequent honeysuckle.
9. Dry pond with goat willow and nettle.
10. Hollow with more open canopy with a group of aspens. Possible location for wet/pond habitat creation/enhancement. Currently goat willows and nettle.
11. Torn off/fallen ash limb. Open canopy/glade created - dominated by bracken.
12. Area of thinned understorey with birch log piles. Canopy primarily birch, oak and ash with bramble ground flora.
13. Hazel coppice with oak standards. Ground flora mainly bluebell.
14. Bank with previously coppiced hazel and outgrown hedge species e.g. hawthorn. Occasional old boundary tree, notably oak and holly.

4	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD	REF No. NWP/015/208
SITE NAME: MILLISONS WOOD		COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: JULY 2004	
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE			
<p>Millison's Wood is identified on English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory as ASNW.</p> <p>There are no known scheduled or nationally designated historic features within Millisons Wood or within 1 km radius.</p> <p>There is the suggestion of old banks along the west and south edges of the wood. There are also some indications of internal banks/ditches. A winter assessment would more clearly identify/locate these features. There is some evidence to suggest that the wood has been managed as coppice in the past.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LANDSCAPE</p> <p>Millison's Wood lies in the Countryside Commission/English Nature's Character Area "Arden (97)". This Character Area has a "wide variation of landscape character" and includes the "undulating wooded landscape and small hedges of the main plateau". This Character Area has a long history of wood-pasture with "deer parks and estate woodlands once widespread". Some remnant features, such as veteran trees, provide reminders of the past. "Broad-leaved woodland and hedgerow trees lend a well wooded character to the area". The "woodlands themselves vary in type from twentieth century plantations to species rich ancient woodland (with) oak and ash woods with bracken, bramble or dog's mercury are particularly distinctive". The mosaic of urban areas and woodland are characteristics of the Character Area.</p> <p>Although the Character Area suggests the landscape has reasonable woodland, the Natural Area (Midlands Plateau, 43) is characterised by lowland heathland with woodland, grassland, freshwater and farmland with woodlands being under represented at just 4%. 40% of the land area of Natural Area 43 is urban. Woodlands are therefore an important feature of the landscape. Many of the woodlands within the Natural Area are less than 5 ha and are typically uncoppiced, even-aged stands regenerated from clear fells. However, about half are semi-natural in character. The woods cover a range of NVC communities, although they tend to be more acidic.</p> <p>The land surrounding Millison's Wood is relatively flat and the wood is one of several forming prominent features a landscape dominated by agriculture and urbanisation. Although greater than 5 ha at 10.67 ha, Millison's Wood, its locality and situation is fairly typical of the Character Area and Natural Area in which it occurs.</p>			
RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS			
<p>Millison's Wood is primarily used for informal recreation and walking. A footpath enters the woodland in the south from the adjacent agricultural landscape. Footpath pass west-east just south of the wood and north-west to the east of the wood. Access to the site is good with the main access point, with interpretation board, being in the north, off Albert Road. There are no clear rides, although there are many formal and less formal paths throughout the wood. Some of which are overgrown.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WOOD PRODUCTION, GAME / LIVESTOCK & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p>There does not appear to be any formal wood production taking place within the wood at present. However there is evidence of recent ad-hoc coppicing and thinning, notably in the west of the site. The interpretation board indicates that traditional crafts, including hazel coppice, and the thinning of aspen to allow natural succession of oak and ash are some of the management aims of the wood. Another key management aim indicated on the interpretation board is to increase accessibility without affecting the wildlife.</p>			

PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map)
Typical view of woodland 75⁰

DATE:
11 June 2004

NVC TYPE:
W10



PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map)
Typical view of coppiced area

DATE:
11 JUNE 2004

NVC TYPE:
W10



6	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET		REF No. NWP/015/208
		ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
SITE NAME: MILLISON'S WOOD		SURVEYOR: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD		DATE OF SURVEY: 11 JUNE 2004

ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION of the main features of interest (include an assessment of naturalness, representativeness, size, rarity, fragility, position in an ecological unit, diversity, recorded history, potential value, intrinsic appeal)

- The conservation significance of Millison's Wood lies in the ASNW status and the potential to improve its condition through future management. The wood has a high degree of native species and naturalising character.
- Millison's Wood is an Ecosite, SINC and Local nature Reserve. There is an ASNW EcoSite within 1 km north of Millison's Wood.
- The woodland forms a valuable woodland island within an area dominated by urbanisation and agricultural land; providing aesthetic as well as ecological value through breaking up a potentially monotonous, low diversity landscape. Hedgerows with trees provide corridors between this wood and others in the local area which would help maintain the continuity of any remaining ancient species.
- The floral diversity is relatively uniform with only one NVC community being represented (W10) and therefore HAP type; the greatest species richness occurring at the periphery of the woodlands. There is some diversity in habitat with the presence of at least some deadwood habitats, a damp area potential, and some, although fairly recent, coppiced areas.
- The wood has a good woodland bird population and suggestion of being suitable for invertebrates, notably butterflies in the more open areas.
- There are some possible ancient woodland bank/ditches to the west, south and north and within the wood.
- There is the potential for woodland improvement through re-introducing and establishing the coppice coups and favouring/encouraging the native species that are regenerating, although the birch may need to be thinned/removed as it appears to readily regenerate. There is also potential for improving the structure of the wood through encouraging a native understorey to develop.
- There is potential to increase the quality and quantity of the deadwood habitats within the wood. Some of the older oaks, notably those on the boundaries have the potential for future veteran trees.
- There is potential for wetland/pond re-creation/enhancement in the south-east corner (Target note 9).
- There is potential to increase the habitat diversity through management of the woodlands, re-introduction/continuation of re-established coppice management (notably the area at Target Note 2) and management/creation of rides. The latter options would be of particular value for woodland butterflies and dormice. Selective and sensitive thinning would encourage more age diversity within the canopy species.
- Deer, rabbits and squirrels do not appear to be a major problem at the present.
- Bluebells are locally abundant and are likely to be a major aesthetic asset to many of the woodlands in the spring.

**ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS
(based on conservation objectives and above evaluation)**

The management of these woodlands should be viewed in conjunction with the other woodlands managed by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). For example some woodlands may lend themselves better to coppice; while in others may be more suited to minimal intervention. A range of habitats should be created across the district.

Wildlife and public access are the key focus points for the management of woodlands within the SMBC District.

The following management considerations should be considered to improve the future nature conservation values of the woodland:

- Any current and future native shrubs, including hazel, holly, elder, hawthorn and wych elm, should be protected and/or encouraged and avoided during any forestry operations.
- Thin some of the birch where it is dense to allow canopy trees such as oak to establish.
- Opening up and allowing the oaks to mature with some being retained as future veteran trees. The older trees along the boundaries would be suitable candidates. Improving the age structure, particularly through encouraging natural regeneration. Planting and bracken/bramble control may be necessary to aid age restructuring.
- Recreation/creation of rides with an irregular scalloped edge would allow greater light penetration and vary the habitat diversity and structure. This variation in habitat diversity and structure may encourage greater flora diversity and therefore be beneficial for birds and invertebrates.
- Continuation/re-establishment of coppice management. Especially where this has already begun in the west of the wood. The area of coppice in the south of the wood has locally abundant ash which could be incorporated as either coppices (young growth) or standards.
- Encourage wet woodland species, such as alder and willow, in the damper areas, such as the south-east corner.
- Encourage hedgerow establishment where there are currently at least partial hedgerows around the periphery of woods with the view for future hedge layering.

The following guidelines should be followed to ensure continued/improved conservation and aesthetic appeal of the woodlands and landscape and that impacts are minimised:

- Establish/re-establish management coups/compartments. This will aid in the maintenance of a species and structurally diverse woodland.
- Protect any native shrubs during forestry operations.
- Forestry operations, particularly felling, should not be carried out during the bird breeding season (1 March until 31 August).
- Prior to major forestry operations, the site should be checked for badger activity and the presence of setts. A licence from English Nature would be required for any works being undertaken within 30 m of a badger sett.
- Care should be taken not to damage any of the old banks.
- Bramble may become overwhelmingly dominant where significant light is allowed to reach the woodland floor. Therefore try and establish an understorey prior to opening up the canopy.
- Management should favour native species in the canopy and understorey.
- Existing deadwood, both fallen and standing should be retained and protected. Some native trees should be retained to provide for future veteran trees and deadwood habitats. Some felled material should be left on site to create deadwood piles of value to invertebrates.
- Natural regeneration is the preferred option if restocking is required although planting may be necessary. If the later is the case it should be after attempts to encourage natural regeneration and local provenance is preferred.

SITE NAME: MILLISONS WOOD	COMPILED BY: HELEN MILLER
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OWNERS OBJECTIVES

For full details of the owners objectives please refer to ‘Woodland Strategy for Solihull’. The key objectives are summarised below.

1. ‘Protect, manage and enhance Solihull MBC woodlands with, and for the benefit of Solihull residents, recreation, nature conservation and visual amenity.’
 - a) Public safety – ensure it is not neglected
 - b) Recreation and public access – maintain or improve where appropriate
 - c) Wildlife conservation – maintain and wherever suitable restore natural ecological diversity
 - d) Landscape enhancement – maintain and where appropriate improve aesthetic value
 - e) Sustainable management of woodlands – taking opportunities to produce utilisable products such as woodchips for fuel, charcoal, fence materials and interpretation signs.

MISSION STATEMENT / LONG TERM VISION

The aim is to develop woodlands, which balances visual amenity, recreation and nature conservation while maintaining the landscape character of the Borough.

The ecological assessment clearly identified that the Solihull woodlands have high current and future ecological value. Several of the woodlands also have archaeological features. The assessments and desk study also indicated the value that these woodlands have for the local residents of Solihull.

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS / OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Further details and generic long term management proposals and operational objectives can be found in the ‘Woodland Strategy for Solihull’. A summary of the key points is provided below.

Aim
Long term objective
Operation objective

Public safety

Maintain public safety at all times in relation to trees
 Monitor tree health. Undertake tree surgery only where necessary.

Maintain access for a range of users

Monitor access for all uses. Maintain multi-access paths in good conditions. Create new multi-access paths where appropriate.

Maintain safety in relation to dangerous plants

Control/remove plants known to be dangerous i.e. giant hogweed.

Maintain safety in relation to non-woodland product e.g. fly tipping

Monitor the woodlands for fly-tipping incidences. Clear up reported fly-tipping as soon as possible.

Recreation

Provide access

Create new multi access paths where appropriate. Create and maintain path networks through the wood.

Wildlife

Maintain a structurally diverse woodland.

Implement appropriate management e.g. selective felling, coppicing, group felling etc

Enhance structural diversity within the woodland

Selectively thinning areas of dense growth or introduce coppice management

Maintain ecological and historical character of ancient woodland

Implement sensitive and appropriate management

Protect trees and woodlands from development

Use additional statutory protection where appropriate e.g. TPOs, SINCS, LNRs, SSSIs etc

Protect associated habitats e.g. hedgerows

Incorporate into the woodland management plans. Impose Hedgerow Regulations (1997) if appropriate. Enhance/management as appropriate

Enhance/create wetland habitat

Favor appropriate species. Plant if necessary in wet/damp areas

Increase habitat diversity - wetlands

Create pond and associated habitat

Enhance habitat for roosting bats

Erect a variety of bat boxes. Retain standing deadwood. Identify future veteran trees

Increase habitat diversity - veteran trees

Identify future veteran trees

Increase habitat diversity - deadwood

Create deadwood habitat through ring barking selected poor trees and leaving some cut trees on site.

Increase habitat diversity - glades

Create rides/glades. Manage those already present.

Enhance ecological character - invasive species

Remove and control non-native invasive species.

Landscape

Protect trees and woodlands from development

Use additional statutory protection where appropriate e.g. TPOs, Conservations Areas

Maintain current landscape value

Avoid large areas of clearfell.

Products

Identify products and local outlets

Introduce a range of management systems to provide a range of woodland products suitable for local use. E.g. a range of coppice rotation lengths across the Borough

SITE NAME: MILLISONS WOOD

COMPILED BY: ALAN GUY. MIDDLEMARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**LONG TERM PROPOSALS (Silvicultural systems, broad management strategies)**

- A) Management system: Mixed High Forest with Coppice. This wood has historically been coppiced and, more recently, a 10 year coppice rotation has been undertaken in the eastern strip of the Wood. This needs to be continued.**
- B) Oak is generally depleted in the Wood and there is an absence of Oak and Ash regeneration owing to the absence of suitable gaps in canopy.**
- C) Oak and Ash are both largely absent from the west of the Wood, due to a fire in 1933. This area is now dominated by Birch.**
- D) It is recommended that regeneration areas be opened up by group fellings near to parent Ash and Oak.**
- E) Birch is generally too dense throughout the Wood and needs thinning to allow understorey development.**
- F) The density of Birch and Ash standards in the coppice coupes is too great ; they require thinning.**

1. **Thin stands to open up woodland canopy – see Plan.**
2. Select to retain Ash and Oak where possible.
 - a. Excessive thinning will encourage fast-colonising, non-woodland plants.
 - b. In very dense, neglected stands, thinning must be very gradual or wind-throw may result.
 - c. Normally a maximum 15-25% of trees are renewed in a thinning when trees are young to semi-mature. This declines to 10-15% later in the rotation.
 - d. Target final densities of stands when fully mature are:
 - i. Oak 60-90 stems/Ha.
 - ii. Ash 120-150 stems/Ha.
 - iii. (Forestry Commission Bulletin 62 (1984))
3. **Encourage regeneration by group fellings**
 - a. Check first whether regeneration is likely to be successful:
 - i. Survey for recent or previous regeneration
 - ii. Establish four trial sites and monitor regeneration over 3-4 years, if in doubt.
 - b. Felled area should be cleared of bracken and weeds, by spraying with herbicide.
 - c. Size of each trial site to be approx. 0.1 ha. (32m X 32m).
Location: There must be mature parent trees adjacent and preferably surrounding area. If single parent tree, try to place area downwind of tree (prevailing wind direction).
 - d. As saplings develop, weed control must be continued, possibly enclosing selected saplings in shelters and then spraying again.
 - e. If regeneration is not proving successful, then planting must be considered.
4. **Introduce or widen Rides or Glades (secondary habitats)**
 - a. Create, by felling, a new east-west ride based on widening of existing path – see Plan.; Specification below;
 - b. Clear bracken from existing glades using Asulam – see Weed Control.

Specification:

 - a. Rides: At least 10m width is desirable; introduce bends to avoid ‘wind tunnelling’ effect,.
 - b. Check feasibility of rides in small woods: scallops (semi-natural circular glades) alongside existing narrow tracks may be more practical. Scallops should be min. 5m deep.
 - c. Ride management is important: more diverse habitats are maintained if different sections of the ride are cut down or trimmed in rotation on a 2-3 year cycle (in autumn). Ride centres to be mown annually to provide areas of short grass.
 - d. Glades: density of glades: one glade, dimensioned as below, per 3-4 ha of woodland.
 - i. Size of glades: One and a half canopy tree lengths across, for full daylight effect, and preferably rounded in shape.
 - ii. Existing glades: expand existing glades to the dimensions shown above.
 - iii. Location: Glades should be a ‘stop-off’ on clear ride(s) or path (s) as they will be used by the public. Glades adjoining ponds are beneficial to both habitats. Glades can also be formed by removing corners from ride junctions.
 - iv. Options: Consider planting native shrubs around edge of glade. Leave some felled trunks and short wood to minimise destruction of stands by some young adults.
 - v. Maintenance: As for rides, above.
5. **Coppicing**
 - a. Hazel Coppice (10 year rotation): Divide coppiced area into 0.2-0.25 ha coupes, ie min 2 ha. for a 10 year rotation. (With Hazel this will produce material of sufficient diameter for hurdles). Continue extending coppiced area by one coupe per year until the full rotation e.g. 10 years has been reached. Then recommence rotation sequence with the coupe last cut in year 1 of the rotation.

- b. Mixed Coppice: Other species e.g. Ash can be coppiced as part of the coppice area but does not have as ready a market for coppice products as does hazel. If planting new coppice, plant it at 1.5-2.5m. spacings.
- c. Coppice with standards: Density of standards between 30 and 50 per ha., preferably at the lower end for coppice to grow effectively.
- d. Renewing neglected coppice areas. Check that old coppice stools are no more than 40 years old (hazel). If they are older than this the coppice stools should be removed and replaced with newly planted hazel. These will require 3-4 years before first cutting.

Neglected stools of oak, ash, alder or sweet chestnut can be 'stored' (selected shoots grown on as standards)

6. Weed Control

a. Weed control of regeneration areas

- i. Apply herbicide (Glyphosate) to site in July-August following clearance of trees from the area.

b. Control Bracken in regeneration areas.

- i. Spray Asulam or Glyphosate herbicide in July- August following clearance of trees from the area.

7. Maintain a dead-wood resource

- a. Check availability of dead wood in woodland, both standing and lying

- b. If shortage of dead wood:

- i. Select suitable areas away from main paths
- ii. Use trees felled for thinning or group fellings for lying dead-wood.
- iii. If no standing dead wood, select diseased or poorly formed trees for ring-barking. Treat birch in preference to oak or ash. Min. dia. 20cm.
- iv. Do not ring-bark well-formed or healthy mature trees.
- v. Ring-bark approx. 3-5 trees per hectare

8. Protected species and breeding birds

- a. Any contractor working on this woodland site should make himself aware of all UK and European legislation pertaining to protected species. If he is advised or becomes aware of the current or previous presence of such species on or within 1 km of the site, he should seek professional ecological advice concerning the correct way to manage his forestry operations to take account of this presence.
- b. Details of the presence of such species are available from Solihull MBC.
- c. In any event, if forester finds evidence (during operations) of any protected species or of a nest, roost, sett, pond or other habitat which he thinks may currently contain such species, he must immediately cease work and advise Solihull MBC Senior Ecologist.
- d. Forestry operations, particularly felling, should not be carried out during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August) or on any tree containing eggs or young.
- e. Solihull MBC should survey each wood for badger activity/setts before work starts.

FIVE YEAR PLAN OF OPERATIONS (S.M.A.R.T.)

Years 1-5

- A. Thinning**
 - i. Thin all areas shown on Plan i.a.w. protocol above.
- B. Thinning in coppice areas**
 - i. Thin all standards i.a.w. above protocol, favouring Oak, & Ash for retention.
- C. Coppicing**
 - Commence, or continue, coppicing, in area shown on Plan, i.a.w. above protocol.
- E. Initiate natural regeneration**
 - i. Fell test areas and monitor for 3-4 years, i.a.w. Plan and protocol above.
 - ii. Control weeds in regeneration areas, i.a.w. protocol above, if required.
- F. Selection and protection of natural regeneration**
 - i. Carry out in all test areas and other areas where regeneration of desired species has occurred; in accordance with protocol above.
- J. Extraction of timber**
 - i. Extract all timber arising from thinning and group fellings, using either forwarder or, in wet/sensitive areas, horse or forwarder with low impact tyres.
- K. Dead wood resource**
 - i. Leave sufficient felled trees as dead wood resource. Standing dead trees to be left, if necessary using ring barking i.a.w. protocol above.
- L. Introduce new rides and/or glades**
 - i. Carry out felling as required to create new ride, as identified on Plan, i.a.w. protocol above.
- M. Ecological/archaeological procedures**
 - i. All operations to be carried out i.a.w. protocols concerning Protected Species (if any), Nesting birds, Water habitats, Archaeological features.
- P. Clearance around pond**
 - i. Clear all large trees (over approx. 8m height) from a strip 7m wide around ponds. Maintain open grassed areas around pond.

Years 6-10

- Q. Coppicing**
 - i. Continue coppicing in rotation, one coupe per year. If new coppice, then extend area by one coupe per year, until full rotation is reached, then recommence.
- R. Natural regeneration – extension of area**
 - i. If group fellings have produced successful regeneration, carry out further group fellings, as per Plan, with min. 40m. gaps between felled areas.
- S. Natural regeneration – protection and selection**
 - i. Carry out i.a.w. protocol above. This includes natural regeneration which is not in the areas of group fellings.

9**FC
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WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/208

MONITORING & REFERENCES

SITE NAME: MILLISONS WOOD

COMPILED BY: ALAN GUY. MIDDLEMARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**MONITORING**

Survey Wood once per year for the following:

- successful regeneration anywhere on site, particularly in trial areas.
- general health of canopy and understorey
- dangerous trees near well-used paths
- damage to trees or ground layer: deliberate or accidental
- damage to paths or forest floor from pedestrians, cyclists etc
- disease
- squirrel or deer damage in trees
- rabbit or deer damage to regeneration areas, coppice areas or newly planted trees/shrubs
- invasive species
- dumping of inert matter or other waste NB do not try to inspect suspicious substances, bags or containers: contact Environmental Health

REFERENCES

Woodland Strategy for Solihull. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Environment Services July 2000

Appendix A
Desk study data

Desk Study Data collected from Warwickshire Museum

EcoSites

EcoSite 16/28 Millisons Wood

- ASNW, Local Nature Reserve, SINC (5/28.4)
- For summary of site see SINC form: Millisons Wood (included).
- Notable species: broadleaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), blue sow-thistle (*Cicerbita macrophylla*).
- 63 species of moth have been recorded; 6 local species, which occur in less than 180 hectares in the UK

EcoSite 71/28 Spring Wood

- ASNW within 1 km of Millisons Wood.

Protected species

Badger

Badgers have been recorded within 1 km north of Millison's Wood.

Archaeology

The desk study did not identify any archaeological data within 1 km of Millisons Wood.

Biodiversity Action Plans

Habitat Action Plans

The following HAPs apply to Millisons Wood.

National HAP

Lowland mixed deciduous HAP (shadow plan)

Local HAP

Hedgerows

Woodland

Local Species Action Plans (SAPs)

Bats

Otter

Dormouse

Water vole

Barn owl

Bittern

Farmland birds

Lapwing

Snipe

Song thrush

Freshwater white-clawed crayfish

Adder

Great crested newt

Leaf rolling beetle (*Byctiscus populi*)

Bloody nosed beetle

Cuckoo bumblebee

Picture winged fly (*Dorycera graminum*)

Dotted bee fly

Rare bumblebees

Red wood ant

Argent moth

Sable moth

Chalk carpet moth

Dingy skipper

Small blue

Wood white

Arable weeds

Black poplar

Grass-wrack pondweed

Appendix B Other Site Records

There are no data for this Appendix.

Appendix C
Maps