

**SOLIHULL
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/207**

A Report to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Middlemarch Environmental Ltd.
Triumph House
Birmingham Road
Allesley
Coventry
CV5 9AZ

Tel: 01676 525880

Fax: 01676 521400

E-Mail: admin@middlemarch-environmental.com

Web Site: www.middlemarch-environmental.com

Report Number: RT-MME-1994A

July 2004

Appendix A
Desk study data

Desk Study Data collected from Warwickshire Museum

EcoSites/SINCs

The following woodlands covered by this NWP are EcoSites/SINCs at least in part:

- Alcott Wood
- Elmdon Coppice
- Elmdon Park Wood
- Knightsbridge Road
- Meriden Park Wood
- Olton Wet Woodland
- Smith's Wood
- York's Wood

Eco Site 20/18 Alcott Wood

- ASNW. SINC (5/18.15)
- For summary of site see SINC form: Alcott Wood (included).

Eco Site 4/18? –Hampton and Elmdon Coppice.

- Elmdon Coppice forms part of this EcoSite.
- ASNW. SINC (5/18.13)
- Description: A predominantly oak and birch woodland with ash present. Hazel, holly, and hawthorn understory. Major rhododendron problem. Ground flora is not diverse including bramble, bluebells, bracken and buckler fern, also honeysuckle, ivy, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Juncus effusus*, lesser celandine, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Carex remota*, foxglove and wood sage. Some patches of *Deschampsia flexuosa* and bilberry in the north. One large pond on the edge of the wood, has another small pond within.
There are multiple access points and heavy public use including vandalism.
Comments: There was formerly a stream and wet woodland area to the south of the remaining woodland. This has apparently been drained and built upon since 1975.

EcoSite 17/18 and 42/18 Elmdon Park Wood

- Wildlife Site B. SINC (5/18.10)
- For summary of site see SINC form: Elmdon Park (included).
- Details of mammals recorded are included.

EcoSite 30/18

- Adjacent to Elmdon Park Wood

EcoSite 16/18 Knightsbridge Road

- Land adjacent to Grand Union Canal in this area is covered by Potential SINC (pSINC), ref. L12/18

pSINC |Grand Union Canal

- Knightsbridge Road is adjacent to this pSINC.

EcoSite 22/18 Meriden Park

- Info coming from Nick

EcoSite 61/18 Hatchford Brook

- Olton Wet Woodland forms part of this EcoSite.
- pSINC
- Description: Alder carr with a wide ground flora ranging from *Glyceria maxima* to watercress. Around this area are very old hawthorn, hazel, oak, alder and holly. Ground flora includes *Deschampsia caespitosa*, lesser celandine, hogweed, pigment, bluebells and creeping buttercup. Adjoining is a small swamp area dominated by *Carex acutiformis* and *Glyceria maxima* with abundant meadow sweet and locally frequent marsh marigold, willowherb, yellow iris.

EcoSite 3/18 Smith's Wood

- ASNW. SINC (5/18.21)
- Description: Deciduous woodland with mature oak (and ash in eastern section only). Also frequent birch. Understory contains hawthorn, elder and holly. Field layer dominated by bramble and nettle in the eastern section. It contains Yorkshire fog and patches of bluebells and dog's mercury. Less frequent are herb robert, enchanters, nightshade, bracken, greater stitchwort and celandine. Eastern section is well used by the public; serious vandalism, including fire damage to trees in western section of wood as well as mountain biking wear and digging of obstacles.

EcoSite 2/18 York's Wood

- PAW. SINC (5/18.12)
- For summary of site see SINC form: York's Wood (included).

Protected species

Badgers

- Records within the last 10 years in Hampton Coppice, adjacent to Elmdon Coppice.
- Two records north of Elmdon Park Wood.
- Evidence of badgers have been recorded within Elmdon Park Wood
- Two recent unconfined records of badgers at the southern end of Hobs Moat.

Bats

- Daubenton's bats have been recorded feeding over the lake in Elmdon Park Wood.

Bluebells

Bluebells were identified by the desk study in the following sites:

- Hobs Moat
- Olton Wet Woodlands
- Smith's Wood
- York's Wood

Archaeology

Archaeological data relating to, or within 1 km radius of the following woods was identified by the desk study:

- Elmdon Park Wood

- Hobs Moat
- Smith's Wood

Emdon Park Wood

- Remains of the Emdon Estate. Most of the park area dates between 1700 and 1799 AD. Details are included.
- It has been recommend that English Heritage is contacted prior to any works involving ground disturbance.

Hobs Moat

- The whole site is a Scheduled Monument (details included).
- No forestry or other work should take place on this site without prior notice to English Heritage.

Smith's Wood

- Scheduled monument: ridge and furrow beneath woodland (details included).

Biodiversity Action Plans

Habitat Action Plans

The following HAPs apply to Woodlands covered by this NAWP (NWP/015/207).

National HAP

Lowland mixed deciduous HAP (shadow plan)

Wet woodland HAP

Wood Pasture

Local HAP

Hedgerows

Woodland

Wood pasture and parkland

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

Hobs Moat: HBA Target Note

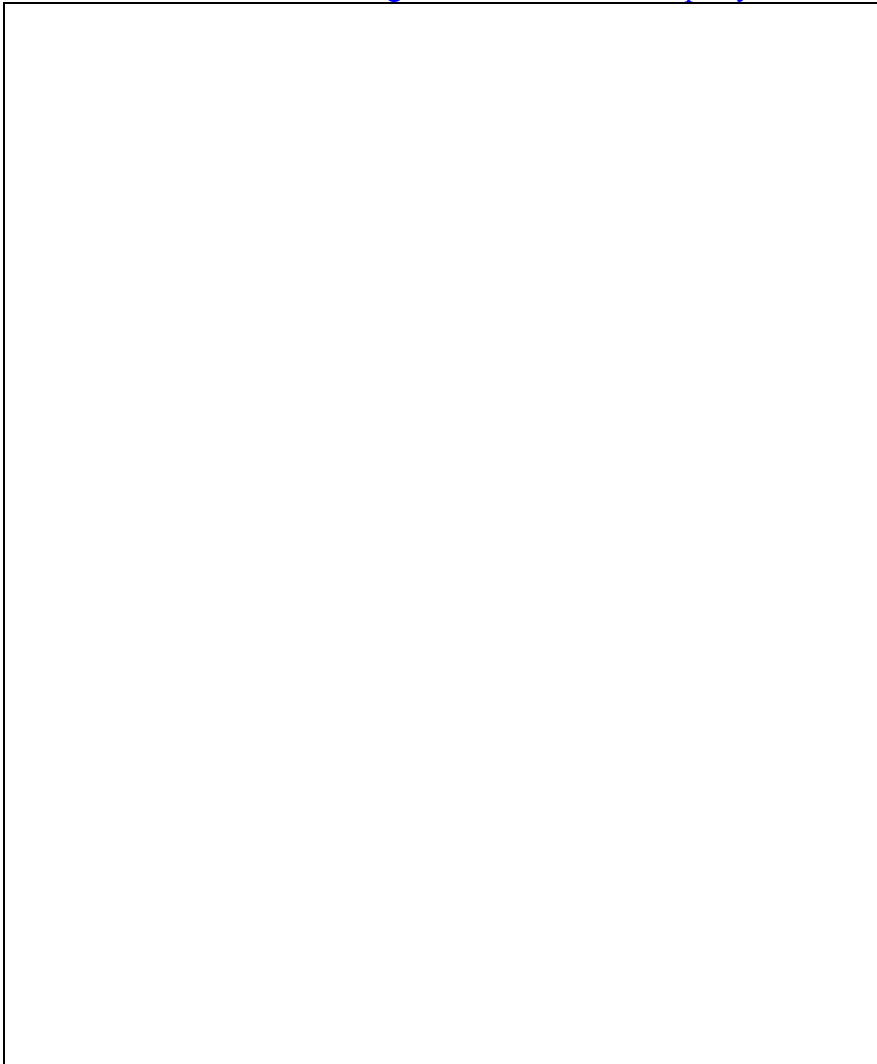
High forest but open oak plantation over an ancient moat feature. Understory is sparse: hazel, holly, hawthorn, and young oak. Ground flora is mainly grasses with more shaded area containing bramble, lesser celandine, bluebell and nettle.

York's Wood

Notes from Management Plan 1994 (see attached photocopy):

- The management plan indicates that the southern part of the wood is ASNW whereas the northern part has been “replanted on an ancient site”.
- Features: Two bomb craters/ marl pits in southern half of the wood.
- Pond in north west of wood needs clearing out – much rubbish and pollution
- Sparrow hawks were nesting in Wood in 1994.
- Recommended management:
 - Thinning
 - Create wide ride
 - Retain some dead trunks on site
 - Crop felling and replants
 - Coppice- “an area suitable for coppicing should be identified”.
 - -“coppice cycle 7-9 years

From web-site: www.solihull.gov.uk/wwwes/landscapes/yorkwood.htm



[Home](#)

Yorks Wood

History

Yorks Wood was once owned by the Mountford family and was part of Kingshurst Park in around 1456. In the late 19th century, the area was renamed Yorks Wood. By the 1920s, the wood was owned by the Scouting Association who used the area as a camping site. In the 1970s, the fields surrounding the wood were sold to make way for housing development. Solihull MBC bought the wood in 1984 and designated it as a Local Nature Reserve in 1991.

Woodland

There are many types of trees growing in Yorks Wood. The most common species are oak and birch. Ash and willow are also present with invasive species such as sycamore. Sycamore does not support as much wildlife as native trees, and is therefore controlled. This has been done in recent years with the aid of heavy horses. You may notice whilst walking through the woodland, that there are several "layers" of plants starting with the tallest trees forming a canopy over your head. Under this, another layer of shorter trees grows. These include hazel, hawthorn and holly. Then there are shrubs such as brambles and in some places bracken. Finally on the woodland floor are wildflowers including bluebells, wood anemone, red campion and herb robert.

Old Allotment site

The former allotments have developed into an interesting habitat which includes many soft fruit bushes. Young trees are growing in amongst the brambles and raspberry canes. These have not been planted, but have grown from seeds dropped by trees or birds. The fruit bushes growing here provide tasty food for a variety of small mammals and birds.

Pond

Ponds are very valuable habitats for amphibians such as newts, toads and frogs, and water plants like water soldier, sedges and reeds. Project Kingfisher Rangers and volunteers clean out the pond on a regular basis.

Biodiversity Management

We aim to maintain and enhance the present levels of Biodiversity within the Local Nature Reserve. Areas of hazel are managed through the traditional craft of coppicing, patches of brambles are cut back, and natural regeneration is encouraged. People are encouraged to keep to the main paths through the woodland to prevent trampling damage to wildflowers.

Project Kingfisher

Project Kingfisher was established in 1985 to care for seven miles (11 km) of the Cole Valley as it runs through the built up area of East Birmingham and North Solihull. Almost 1000 acres (400 hectares) of open land are found in the project area from the Coventry Road at Small Heath to the M6 at Chelmsley Wood. Project Kingfisher offers a Ranger Service and can be contacted on the number below for more information.

Rangers and Volunteers

Solihull Park Rangers (established in 2002) and voluntary wardens help to keep Yorks Wood safe. Many individual volunteers and groups such as the Cole Valley Conservation Volunteers (the 2CVs) help with practical work and wildlife recording. If you would like to help, please telephone one of the contact numbers below.

Access

The aim is to increase accessibility where it does not affect wildlife. Please telephone one of the numbers below about up to date accessibility information. For Bus services call Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

Wildspaces on your doorstep project: From English Nature's web-site: www.english-nature.org.uk/special/lnr/lnr_projects_details.asp?ID=45

Project title:

Wildspaces On Your Doorstep

Region:

West Midlands

Applicant:

[Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council \(MBC\)](#)

Relevant local authority area:

[Solihull Metropolitan Borough](#)

LNR(s):

[Yorks Wood](#)

Babbs Mill (formerly Kingshurst)

Proposed LNR(s):

Alcott Wood Smiths Wood

Elmdon Nature Park

Elmdon Coppice

Cole Bank (formerly Fordbridge)

Ref No:

WM/WM/01/07

Project duration:

October 2001- May 2005

Project summary:

A grant was awarded to support the employment of one full-time Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to work on 2 different areas in the Solihull Borough. The CLO will work on 4 proposed local nature reserves (LNRs) and 3 declared LNRs. As there are a total of 7 sites; the diversity of the species and habitats is wide.

The project aims to ensure that the LNRs are managed to increase their nature conservation value whilst ensuring that the local community benefit. The CLOs will promote the existing LNRs and will work toward getting the remaining sites declared, in addition to identifying new sites to put forward for designation. They will co-ordinate the management of the sites and will establish links with local communities. 'Friends of' groups will be developed such as the existing 'Friends of Project Kingfisher' as well as volunteer and local community groups.

All the LNRs are public open space so are maintained by the Council grounds maintenance teams who react to problems such as health and safety issues and litter picking. Community groups will undertake positive habitat management work. Events, educational activities, guided walks and physical activities will be arranged to engage people in LNR management and development. New ideas for events will be developed in consultation with the local community groups. 'Friends of...' groups and residents will make valuable contributions to the writing of the Management Plans, developing interpretation material, habitat management and wardening the sites.

Site description:

Yorks Wood LNR is situated in the centre of Kingshurst, in the north of the Borough. As part of the Kingfisher/Cole Valley Park System, Yorks Wood provides a vital opportunity for informal recreation and contact with nature for local inhabitants in an otherwise densely urban area. The 10 ha site is comprised of ancient oak wood with an under storey of Birch *Betula pendula*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. There are several schools situated close to Yorks Wood and the site has potential as an education resource.

Babbs Mill LNR and **Cole Bank proposed LNR** is an extension to Yorks Wood LNR to cover much of the land looked after by Project Kingfisher along the River Cole in Solihull. This LNR is concerned with a 2.85 km stretch of the River Cole Valley which overall is 26 km in length. As such, the LNR consists of a long stretch of river corridor with an overall high habitat diversity, ranging from species poor, close-mown grassland to the more ecologically valuable ancient woodland.

Alcott Wood LNR is one of only a few ancient woodland sites in Solihull. It is a natural example of oak woodland with ground flora containing several species of ancient woodland indicator species including Wood Anemone, Remote Sedge, Wood Sorrel with very few non-native trees and scrubs (i.e. no Sycamore). There are three schools within 1km of the site. The variety of habitats and ease of movement through the wood would allow for a range of activities.

Smiths Wood proposed LNR is a 4.5 ha area of native woodland situated in the Kingshurst area of Solihull. The surrounding land use is predominantly urban although immediately to the south of the wood is a large area of amenity grassland.

Elmdon Nature Park proposed LNR is situated within Elmdon Park. The total area is 31 ha and is made up of an area of new woodland planting and new wildflower meadows.

Elmdon Coppice proposed LNR is an area of wood and marsh situated on the urban fringe of Solihull with oak and birch as the dominant trees.

Community Liaison Officer(s)

Anna Hill
Solihull MBC
Environment Services
Moat Lane Depot
Moat Lane
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 2LW
0121 704 6537
annahill@solihull.gov.uk

Website:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/>

Last updated:

04 October 2002

Appendix C
Maps

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/207

CONTROLLED COPY

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 NDTMA

*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 015/207 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 10 woodlands:

1. Alcott Wood
2. Elmdon Park
3. Elms Coppice
4. Hobs Moat
5. Knightsbridge Road
6. Meriden Park
7. Olton Wet Wood
8. Smith's Wood
9. The Spinney
10. Yorks Wood

The map templates used to create the Native Woodland Plan Survey maps 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 015/207

**MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ASSURANCE**

TITLE: SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
NATIVE WOODLAND PLAN NWP 015/207

A Report to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Contract Number: C1994

Report Number: RT-MME-1994A

Revision Number: 00

Description: FINAL

Date: July 2004

Checked:

Nick Steggall
Ecological Consultant

Approved:

Dr Philip Fermor
Consultancy Director