


1	 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i>
WGS REF. No. NWP/015/207	Site Name <i>Elmdon Park Wood</i>		District/Parish <i>Solihull</i>
Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</i>	Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>EcoSite wildlife Site B. SINC.</i>		Total area (of included woodland) <i>36 ha</i>
	Other Designations / Protections <i>Midlands Plateau Natural Area (43)</i>		Grid ref (access) <i>SP 361 827</i>
Contact David Lowe Solihull MBC, Ecologist Landscapes Section PO BOX 19, Council House, Solihull, West Midlands, B91, 3QT	Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>Recent plantation & semi-natural woodland</i>		Surveyor <i>Helen S Miller Middlemarch Environmental Ltd</i>
	Biodiversity Action Plan <i>Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull BAP See Appendix A</i>		Date of survey <i>7 July 2004</i>

Woodland vegetation types (**mark on map**).
SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND TYPE (HAPS):
Lowland mixed broadleaved (Forest Practice Guide 3). Wet woodland (Forest Practice Guide 8). Wood Pasture

NVC COMMUNITIES:
W8, W6, wood pasture and grassland

PLANTATIONS:
19th century: beech, horse chestnut, wellingtonia, yew, and possible lime. c. 1975: mixed species, some exotics.

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)
North: residential
South: industrial
East: lowland grassland, broadleaved woodland, standing water, houses (Local Nature Reserve)
West: Residential, industrial, Lowland grassland (amenity grassland)

Threats
Over use from recreation. Invasion of exotics from neighbouring gardens. Industrial run-off. Birmingham airport new run-way will be built east of the site. Squirrels and muntjac have been recorded within the woodland.

Aspect <i>West</i>	Slope <i>Moderate slope</i>	Altitude <i>114 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
18	Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils	Loamy	Impeded drainage	Moderate

Geology
Keuper Marl

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.

WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET.
COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

	Tx	Tp	T	T	Tn	Cx	Ct	P	P	S	S	St	Js	Jp	Jv
Acer cam	O											O		R	
Acer pse	O											O		O	
Aescu hip												O			
Alnus glu	IF														
Betul pen	O														
Betul pub															
Carp bet												O	R	R	
Casta ast	O														
Conifer	R														
Coryl ave										R				R	
Crata										O		O	R	R	
Crata oxy															
Euony eur															
Fagus syl	O														
Frang aln															
Fraxi exc	La											O	O	IF	
Ilex aqu	R									O				R	
Junip com															
Larix sp															
Malus syl	R											O			
Picea sp												R			
Pinus syl	R											O			
Popul tre												O			
Prunu avi	R											O			
Prunu lau										R					
Prunu pad															
Prunu spi															
Querc cer															
Querc pet/hybrid															
Querc rob	D											O		O	
Rham cat															
Rhodopo										R					
Salix alb															
Salix aur															
Salix cap															
Salix cin										R					
Salix fra	O											R			
Salix pen															
Salix vim												O			
Samb nig										O					
Sorbu ari												O			
Sorbu auc												O		R	
Sorbu tor															
Taxus bac	R											R		R	
Thely san															
Tilia cor															
Tilia eur	O											R			
Tilia pla															
Ulmus car															
Ulmus gla	R											IF		R	
Ulmus												R			
Vibur lan															

D = dominant A = abundant F = frequent O = occasional R = rare L = localised

See attached sheet

stand description management & use history nature of boundaries grazing

Area of (ha)			
Ancient Semi-nat ASNW	Recent Semi-nat OSNW	Ancient Replanted AWS	Recent Plantn.

Area occupied by each NVC type				
0-0.5 ha	0.5-2 ha	2-10 ha	10-20ha	20+ha
W6				W8

Tree layer	Height 2-15 m	Cover (%) 80	Shrub layer	Height 2-4	Cover (%) 15

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)					
D/mature	Mature	Young trees	Saplings	Seedlin	Coppi
R	D	F	F	O	

	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv	S	S	Js	Jp	Jv
Clem vit						Ribes syl	R			
Daph lau						Ribes uva				
Heder hel		A				Rosa arv				
Ligus vul						Rosa can	R			
Lonic per		O				Sarot sco				
Maho aqu						Ulex eur				
Myrica ga						Ulex gal				
Ribes nig						Vibur opu	R			

Tp Planted tree *Cx* Coppice *Sc* Climber
Tn Self-sown tree *Ct* Regrowth from stump *St* Young tree
Ts Standard in c-w-s *Px* Pollard (2.5m+) *Js* Seedling
Tc Grown from coppice *Pc* Pollard (1-2.5m) *Jp* Sapling
Tx Any other tree *Sx* Shrub *Jv* Sucker

Elmdon Park Wood is comprised of several compartments in a parkland setting (Elmdon Park). As a result there is high habitat, structure, species and age diversity across the woodland as a whole. The NVC community is closest to W8 with a transition to W6 in the north of Cmpt 4 and transition towards W10 of the same Cmpt. Non-native, invasive species, rhododendron, snowberry and cherry laurel, occur occasionally throughout the wood.

Cmpt 1: Cmpt 1 is a mixed woodland with a varied understorey. The canopy is dominated by oak with frequent copper beech and locally dominant lime.

Cmpt 2: The south end of Cmpt 2 is a young planted mixed woodland with grassland dominating the ground flora. The northern end of the Cmpt is more mature and has a wood pasture character i.e. limited understorey and ground flora. Beech, oak and lime are the main canopy species.

Cmpt 3: This Cmpt generally comprises of young planted broadleaves, mainly native, with some conifers. Non-native species are in the minority but include Corsican pine, red cedar and Norway maple. Mature trees are generally rare to occasional but include oaks, ash, scots pine, Corsican pine, alder, red cedar, field maple, cherry and norway maple. The understorey is dense and ground flora dominated by ivy, nettle and bramble.

Cmpt 4 and 5: Cmpt 4 & 5 are structured woodland with a mixed canopy. Ash is the most frequent canopy species with oak increasing towards the south. Alder is frequent throughout. There is much regeneration, notably ash but also hazel, hawthorn and sycamore. Ground flora is dominated by nettles, ivy and cleavers with bramble increasing in the south.

Cmpt 6: This Cmpt has a wood pasture character and comprises of scattered mature trees over amenity grassland. There is no understorey.

Cmpt 7: This Cmpt is a mixed mature woodland with oak dominating the canopy. The scrub layer comprises about 5% and includes rhododendron. Nettle and bramble are locally dominant in the ground flora. Includes some over maturing oaks.

Cmpt 8: Cmpt is similar to Cmpt 1 but with a more mixed canopy comprises of oak, ash, beech, horse chestnut, lime and Norway maple. The understorey is also mixed; elder, dogwood, hawthorn and hazel. The ground flora is primarily nettle and bramble. The Cmpt includes grassy clearings.

Cmpt 9 and 10: These two compartments are primarily mature woodland with grassland clearings. The north-east corner is an extensive clearing with some scattered scrub and trees – naturally establishing woodland. Oak, ash and sycamore are the main canopy species. The understorey is mainly young trees of a range of species. The ground flora is dominated by ivy.

Cmpt 11: Cmpt 11 is a mosaic of grassland and recently planted woodland/scrub blocks (15-35 yrs). As a result the canopy is quite dense and species rich. The understorey is minimal and age structure poor.

Elmdon Park Wood is part of the remains of the Elmdon Estate. Most of the park area dates from the 1700. There are no clear management compartments or clear indication of current management. The Desk study indicates that the area of wet woodland around the lake in the south-west is an area of importance for conservation and is managed as 'minimum intervention'. The open area in the north-west is cut quarterly. The scrub in the north-east is maintained as such with the pathways being cut quarterly. See Appendix B for further details of the management as indicated in 2002.

The woodlands are used by local residents. There are some paths through wood, some of which are multi-access.

The south and south-west boundaries adjoining the industrial area are fenced. Part of the east boundary is the road leading up to the church and houses. The north boundary comprises of garden fences. Other boundaries are not delineated and comprise of a change in habitat; woodland to grassland.

There does not appear to be any grazing, squirrel or deer problems.



Site name Elmdon Park Wood	Surveyor Helen S Miller Middlemarch Environmental Ltd	Date of survey 7 July 2004
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HABITATS, FEATURES & COMMUNITIES (MARK ON MAP)

Habitats

Elmdon Park Wood is comprised of several compartments in a parkland setting (Elmdon Park). As a result there is high habitat, structure, species and age diversity across the woodland as a whole. The NVC community is closest to W8 with a transition to W6 in the north of Cmpt 4 and transition towards W10 of the same Cmpt. These are detailed below (Target notes) and marked on the map.

Cmpt 1: Cmpt 1 is a mixed woodland with a varied understorey. The canopy is dominated by oak with frequent copper beech and locally dominant lime. Ivy *Hedera helix* is abundant. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea* are frequent in the ground flora. Other species occurring rarely to occasionally include wood avens *Geum urbanum*, male fern *Dryopteris felix-mas.*, red campion *Silene dioica*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum* and cleavers *Galium aparine*.

Cmpt 2: The south end of Cmpt 2 (Target note 10) is a young planted mixed woodland with grassland dominating the ground flora. The northern end of the Cmpt is more mature and has a wood pasture character i.e. limited understorey and ground flora. Beech, oak and lime are the main canopy species. The NVC community has yet to develop in the area of young plantations, although based on the planted species it is likely to develop into W8 or W10.

Cmpt 3: This cmpt generally comprises of young planted broadleaves, mainly native, with some conifers. Non-native species are in the minority but include Corsican pine, red cedar and Norway maple. Mature trees are generally rare to occasional but include oaks, ash, scots pine, Corsican pine, alder, red cedar, field maple, cherry and norway maple. The understorey is dense and ground flora dominated by ivy *Hedera helix*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. Bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus* occurs occasionally. Other woodland herbs are rare. There is an area of young wood pasture in this Cmpt as well as some elm and elder regeneration (Target note 16).

Cmpt 4 and 5: Cmpt 4 & 5 are structured woodland with a mixed canopy. Ash is the most frequent canopy species with oak increasing towards the south. Alder is frequent throughout. There is much regeneration, notably ash but also hazel, hawthorn and sycamore. Ground flora is dominated by nettles *Urtica dioica*, ivy *Hedera helix* and cleavers *Galium aparine* with bramble *Rubus fruticosus* increasing in the south. The NVC community is closet to W8 with a transition to W6 in the north. The south suggests a transition towards W10 with an increase in oaks and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

Cmpt 6: This Cmpt has a wood pasture character and comprises of scattered mature trees over amenity grassland. There is no understorey.

Cmpt 7: This Cmpt is a mixed mature woodland with oak dominating the canopy. The scrub layer comprises about 5% and includes rhododendron. Nettle *Urtica dioica* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* are locally frequent in the ground flora. Ivy *Hedera helix* and wood avens *Geum urbanum* are abundant. Includes some over maturing oaks.

Cmpt 8: Cmpt is similar to Cmpt 1 but with a more mixed canopy comprises of oak, ash, beech, horse chestnut, lime and Norway maple. The understorey is also mixed; elder, dogwood, hawthorn and hazel. The ground flora is primarily nettle *Urtica dioica* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. The Cmpt includes grassy clearings. Dogs mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is locally abundant in the ground flora. Ivy and nettle are abundant and frequent respectively. Other woodland herbs are rare.

Cmpt 9 and 10: These two Cmpts are primarily mature woodland with grassland clearings. The north-east corner is an extensive clearing with some scattered scrub and trees – naturally establishing woodland. Oak, ash and sycamore are the main canopy species. The understorey is mainly young trees of a range of species. The ground flora is dominated by ivy *Hedera helix* with frequent nettle *Urtica dioica*. Other ground flora species are rare.

Cmpt 11: Cmpt 11 is a mosaic of grassland and recently planted woodland/scrub blocks (15-35 yrs). As a result the canopy is quite dense and species rich. The understorey is minimal and age structure poor. The northern area is more mature and has more scrub with less grassland. Scrub with the occasional mature tree occurs along the east side.

Wetland features

There is a pond within the adjacent parkland, the south end of which occurs within Cmpt 4/5. There are two ponds adjacent to the wood in the east. A stream divides Cmpt 4 and 3.

Veteran trees and deadwood

Deadwood habitats occur occasionally throughout the wood, as both standing and fallen trees. There is a veteran oak in the south of the wood (Target note 15) along with two sweet chestnut that are becoming veteran trees.

Notable species

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species. Notably Cmpts 3 and 4.

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

There are several, non-native, invasive species within the wood: snowberry, cherry laurel, Japanese knotweed and rhododendron.

Other features

A church and car park occur in the east of the wood.

Adjacent landuse

The adjacent land is urbanisation and parkland. The north and west is dominated by residential housing. The south and south-west is an industrial area. There is a broadleaf woodland/pond/grassland Local Nature Reserve to the east. The north-east is lowland grassland with hedgerows. There are a few houses and a church to the east.

Target notes for map

1. Area of tall ruderals/grassland – nettle, grasses with scattered hawthorn. Woody species increase towards the south end and included planted ash, field maple, Corsican pine and alder. Hedegrow along east side.
2. Clearing – rosebay willowherb, nettles, grasses, greater willowherb.
3. Boundary – no boundary but some boundary trees.
4. Limes.
5. Rhododendron.
6. Damp area of sedges.
7. Fallen deadwood and clearing.
8. Re-growth oak hulk.
9. Group of red ceders, pines, poplars and gray alder. Also snowberry. Includes fire vandalism.
10. Woodland expansion: area of young plantation/saplings with grassland ground flora. Still to develop into a woodland NVC community. Plantation includes limes, oak, guelder rose, filed maple, rowan, birch, hazel, willows, hawthorn, alder, dogwood, non-natives species such as red and gray alders. Occasional mature tree; oak, ash, Norway maple, cherry and beech.
11. Cherry laurel.
12. Locally dominant lime.
13. Japanese knotweed. Limes.
14. Snowberry.
15. Veteran oak and two sweet chestnuts becoming veterans.
16. Area of standing deadwood. Elms and elder regeneration.
17. Standing deadwood.

4	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD	REF No. NWP/015/207
SITE NAME: ELMDON PARK WOOD		COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: AUGUST 2004	
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE			
<p>Elmdon Park Wood is not on English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory. Although not a scheduled or nationally designated historic feature, Elmdon Park Wood is within a post medieval parkland landscape dated between 1700 and 1799 AD. Details are provided in Appendix A.</p>			
LANDSCAPE			
<p>Elmdon Park 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 Elmdon Park Wood is relatively flat and the wood is one of several forming prominent features in a landscape dominated by agriculture and urbanisation. Although greater than 5 ha at 36 ha, being part of an old estate, Elmdon Park Wood, it's locality and situation is fairly typical of the Character Area and Natural Area in which it occurs.</p>			
RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS			
<p>Elmdon Park Wood is primarily used for informal recreation and walking. A footpath enters the woodland in the north from the adjacent urban landscape. Another footpath enters the wood in the north-east and passes through the wood into Elmdon Park and to the adjacent residential area in the west. Other footpaths occur to the south-east of the wood.</p> <p>Access to the site is good with a car park and interpretation board in the center of the wood adjacent to the church. There are no clear rides, although there are several formal, clearly defined paths and less formal paths throughout the wood and connecting it to the parkland and adjacent areas.</p>			
WOOD PRODUCTION, GAME / LIVESTOCK & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS			
<p>There does not appear to be any formal wood production taking place within the wood at present. There is recent plantings in the south-east providing a connection between more mature areas of woodland.</p> <p>Elmdon Park Wood is a proposed Local Nature Reserve.</p>			

PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 6. 254⁰

DATE:
7 July 2004

NVC TYPE:
Wood pasture



PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 7. 078⁰

DATE:
7 JULY 2004

NVC TYPE:
W8



PHOTO No. 3 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 4. 146^o

DATE:
7 July 2004

NVC TYPE:
W8/W6



PHOTO No. 4 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 11. 154^o

DATE:
7 JULY 2004

NVC TYPE:
mosaic



PHOTO No. 5 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 3. 010⁰

DATE:
7 July 2004

NVC TYPE:
Young plantation



6	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		REF No. NWP/015/207
SITE NAME: ELMDON PARK WOOD		SURVEYOR: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD	DATE OF SURVEY: 7 JULY 2004	
<p>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)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conservation significance of Elmdon Park lies in the historic parkland/estate status and the potential to improve its condition through future management. The wood has a high degree of native species, structure and naturalising character, although there are several, non-native, invasive species present; snowberry, rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and cherry laurel. There are also some non-native specimen trees such as wellontonia. Elmdon Park Wood is an Ecosite and SINC and adjacent to a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It is also a proposed LNR. The woodland forms a valuable woodland network 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 adjacent habitats in the area. The floral diversity is relatively varied with two NVC communities being represented (W8 and W6) and a suggestion of a transitional community towards W10. There are also areas with wood pasture characteristics, therefore three HAP types are represented, including wet woodland, a national priority habitat. There is much diversity in habitat with the presence of at least some deadwood habitats, a damp area/pond, stream, clearings, woodland-grassland mosaic, wood pasture, mature and young woodland and scrub. The wood has a good woodland bird population and suggestion of being suitable for invertebrates, notably butterflies in the more open areas. There is the potential for woodland improvement through management to enhance the understorey in areas where this, and the ground flora are poor. The next generation of canopy trees should be encouraged from the natural regeneration. There is potential to increase the quality and quantity of the deadwood habitats within the wood. Some of the older oaks, yews and beech have the potential for future veteran trees. There is potential for wetland/pond re-creation/enhancement in the south-west around the pond and stream. Deer, rabbits and squirrels do not appear to be a major problem at the present. Bluebells occur occasionally and are likely to be a major aesthetic asset to many of the woodlands in the spring. Badgers have been recorded in the north of the wood. 				
<p style="text-align: center;">ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS (based on conservation objectives and above evaluation)</p> <p>The management of this wood 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.</p> <p>Wildlife and public access are the key focus points for the management of woodlands within the SMBC District.</p> <p>The following management considerations should be considered to improve the future nature conservation values of the woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Encourage secondary canopy and shrub layer where these are poor. Opening up and allowing the oaks to mature with some being retained as future veteran trees. Maintain the age structure, particularly through encouraging natural regeneration. Re-creation/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. Manage the new plantations appropriately to allow a structurally and species diverse woodland to develop. Encourage wet woodland species, such as alder and willow, in the damper areas, such as the south-west around the pond and stream. Encourage hedgerow establishment where there are currently at least partial hedgerows with the view for future hedge layering. Control of non-native invasive species; snowberry, rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and cherry laurel, to prevent then shading out the native ground flora. Discourage garden and house hold waste dumping. Create new standing/fallen deadwood where safe to do so. <p>The following guidelines should be followed to ensure continued/improved conservation and aesthetic appeal of the woodlands and landscape and that impacts are minimised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the mosaic of habitats across the woodland but particularly the woodland-scrub-grassland mosaic in Cmpt 11. 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. Management of new plantings should favour native-species, only retaining the non-natives such as grey and red alder, as nurse crops. Management should favour native species in the canopy and understorey. Control and monitor the sycamore and invasive species to avoid them becoming dominant at the expense of native canopy, shrub and ground flora species. 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. Appropriate guidelines should be followed for operations being undertaken along the stream edge and around the pond. Standard forestry practices for nature conservation/enhancement should be followed. It has been advised that English Heritage should be contacted prior to any works involving ground disturbance. 				

SITE NAME: ELMDON PARK	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 on high use, multi-access paths through the woodlands i.e. those with hard standing, lit pathways
 Monitor lights on a regular basis and replace any broken ones as soon as possible.

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

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

Protect from vandalism by fire, litter, garden and house hold waste dumping etc

Education to local residents e.g. leaflet dropping, interpretation boards, school visits. Open up areas where these problems are particular high e.g. create open vista habitats within the wood or at woodland entrances (i.e. at fly-tipping hot spots)

Enhance/create wetland habitat

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

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 trees and leaving some cut trees on site.

Protect the woodlands and wildlife from unnecessary disturbance

Educate the public through interpretation boards etc. Create and maintain footpath networks within the wood and encourage people to stay on them.

Increase habitat diversity - glades

Create rides/glades. Manage those already present.

Enhance ecological character - invasive species

Remove and control non-native invasive species.

Enhance ecological character - specimen trees

Retain specimen trees which are non-invasive e.g. wellontonia

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: ELMDON PARK WOOD

COMPILED BY: ALAN GUY. MIDDLEMARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

LONG TERM PROPOSALS (Silvicultural systems, broad management strategies)

A) **Management systems: This site contains a variety of woodland types, varying from semi-natural to planted parkland. Management systems should take account of these variations:**

- High Forest, some including wood pasture: Cpmts 1,2,3,7,8,9,10
- Minimum intervention (wet woodland): Cpmts 4,5
- Wood-pasture: Cpmt 6
- Scrub woodland: 11

Cmpts 2,3,4,5**1. Encourage regeneration by group fellings**

- a. Check first whether regeneration is likely to be successful:
 - i. Survey for recent or previous regeneration
 - ii. Establish a trial site 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 trial site to be approx. 0.1ha. (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.

Cmpts 2,3,4,5,6**2. Protect and select existing regeneration**

These compartments contain various areas of oak, wych elm, aspen and ash regeneration.

- a. Protect area from public by fencing or signage (in busy areas only).
- b. Select best saplings at 3-4 years old, apply shelters and cut back or spray/weed-wipe competitors.
- c. If weed or grass competition is a problem, spray each year for 3 years in spring and, if required, late summer.
- d. If regenerated trees are going to suffer from shading, gradually open the canopy by felling some of the immediately surrounding parent trees as the young trees develop. This needs careful monitoring each year and a measured approach.

Cmpt 9**3. Re-coppice Lime and Ash**

- a. Mixed Coppice: Ash and Lime can be re-coppiced in this area but do not have as ready a market for coppice products as does hazel. Coppice area would be approx. 0.25ha in total.
- b. Coppice with standards: Density of standards between 30 and 50 per ha., preferably at the lower end for coppice to grow effectively.
- c. 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 new planted trees. These will require 3-4 years before first cutting. If planting new coppice, plant it at 1.5-2.5m. spacings
Neglected stools of canopy species eg. oak, ash, alder, lime or sweet chestnut can alternatively be 'stored' (selected shoots grown on as standards)

Cmpts 4 & 5**4. Minimum intervention management of wet woodland**

- a. Avoid rapid changes in structure of Wood
- b. Maintain or restore diversity of structure
- c. Maintain diversity of habitat and species; as well as varied structure, secondary habitats such as open water and open areas created by felled or toppled trees.
- d. Maintain semi-natural woodland types; encourage and use only local native species and local stock.
- e. Regenerate naturally wherever possible rather than by planting
- e. Forestry techniques: Timber extraction (if essential) has to be done with great care & sensitivity to avoid serious damage to forest floor and fauna. Use of horses, cable crane or vehicles with weight-spreading tyres essential. Winter working is not normally possible.

(Taken from Forestry Commission Practice Guide 'Management of Semi-natural woodlands No. 8, Wet Woodlands', 1994)

Cpmt 11 and part of 10

5. Scrub Woodland Habitats

- a. Scrub woodland adjacent to woods provide valuable secondary habitats as well as the basis for future semi-natural woodland. It can take 25-40 years for a recognisable canopy to develop.
- b. Management needs to be sensitive in the interim. Large areas of grass should be cut to 15cm height every 2 years, in March-April, by a powered machine with cutter bar. A different half of the scrub area should be cut in each year, to maintain varied habitat. Care must be taken to avoid cutting tree seedlings/saplings.
- c. If vigorous thorn or other shrub is dominating and not allowing space for tree regeneration, this should be reduced or cleared with a brush cutter or saw.

Cpmt 6 and part of 2 & 3

6. Wood-pasture type habitats

- a. Where trees are growing individually, within a grassed area, this can be treated as wood pasture – even if the grass is not maintained by grazing animals. The feasibility of doing this depends on the other uses of the site eg. recreation and landscape considerations.
- b. Where designated as wood-pasture, the area should be mown on a less frequent and higher-cutting mowing regime than lawned areas, to allow small herb species and weeds to colonise. Areas around tree bases should be strimmed less frequently.

Cpmt 4

7. Weed Control (sycamore)

a. General Rules re Weeding

- i. Application by knapsack sprayer or weed wiper in compliance with all legislation for chemicals management, health and safety and code of practice – obtain detailed guidance on this matter.
 - ii. Never spray up to edge of water-bodies (without approval of Environment Agency) and allow for spray drift; N.B.very few herbicides eg glyphosate are permitted for use near water-bodies.
- f. Control sycamore: Survey extent and age of sycamore presence. Consider ecological status of wood and owner's policy towards sycamore.
- ii. If level of regeneration is limited and there are no mature sycamore of good form and size: sycamore can be eliminated by felling parent tree(s) and treating sycamore saplings and seedlings as for Rhododendron above.
 - iii. If regeneration is well-established and/or there are mature, well-formed parent trees, consider a strategy of controlling regeneration within a defined area. The best formed saplings within the area will be selected at 3-4 years and protected (in shelters), and others will be manually cut back or sprayed.

Before taking any action, consult owner's senior ecological officer.

All Compartments:

8. Protected species and breeding birds

- a. If advised of protected species (under Wildlife & Countryside Act or Badgers Act) on the site, forester must seek prior approval or licence from English Nature before commencing work. He must make himself aware of all protected woodland species.
- b. In any event, if forester finds evidence (during operations) of any protected species or of a nest, roost, sett, pond or other habitat (whether or not in a tree) which he thinks may currently contain such species, he must immediately cease work and advise Solihull MBC Senior Ecologist.
- c. 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.
- d. 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. Thin recently planted areas as trees develop**
 - i. Thin all areas in Cpmts 2 & 3 i.a.w. protocol above.
- B. Thinning in coppice areas**
 - i. Thin all standards in coppice area (Cpmt 9) i.a.w. above protocol, favouring Oak, & Ash for retention.
- D. Renew lime coppice (Cpmt 9)**
 - i. Check feasibility i.a.w. protocol above. If not viable, consider singling.
- F. Selection and protection of natural regeneration**
 - i. Carry out in all areas where regeneration of desired species has occurred; in accordance with protocol above. This is in Cpmts listed above.
- I. Control invasive species**
 - i. Control various species identified in Target Notes, i.a.w. 'Weed Control' protocol above, in Cpmts 1,3d,4,8,9.
- K. Dead wood resource**
 - i. Leave sufficient felled trees from thinning and coppicing as dead wood resource. Standing dead trees to be left, if necessary using ring barking 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.
- N. Wood pastures**
 - i. Carry out mowing regime under trees, in Cpmts shown above, i.a.w. above protocol.
- O. Scrub/grass habitats**
 - i. Carry out cutting regime, in Cpmts shown above, i.a.w. above protocol.
- Q. Minimum intervention management of wet woodland**
 - i. Manage wet woodland i.a.w. Forestry Commission guidelines detailed in protocol above.

Years 6-10

- Q. Coppicing**
 - i. As there are few lime coppice stools, coppice every 10 years approx., eg in Yr 10.
- 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.
- U. Control invasive species**
 - i. Control various species identified in Target Notes, i.a.w. 'Weed Control' protocol above, in Cpmts 1,3d,4,8,9.

9**FC
2000**

WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/207

MONITORING & REFERENCES

SITE NAME: ELMDON PARK 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