


1	 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i>
WGS REF. No. NWP/015/207		Site Name Knightsbridge Road	District/Parish <i>Solihull</i>
Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</i>		Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>PSINC. EcoSite.</i>	Total area (of included woodland) <i>4.05 ha</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>	Grid ref (access) <i>SP 145 819</i>
		Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>Recent semi-natural</i>	Surveyor <i>Helen S Miller</i> <i>Middlemarch Environmental Ltd</i>
		Biodiversity Action Plan <i>Warwickshire, Coventry &amp; Solihull BAP</i> <i>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)*

NVC COMMUNITIES:  
*W8*

PLANTATIONS:  
*Predominantly sycamore*

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)  
*Urbanisation and canal*

Threats  
*Over use from recreation.*  
*Invasion of exotics from neighbouring gardens.*

Aspect <i>South</i>	Slope <i>About 80<sup>0</sup> from canal edge, levelling off towards housing in the north</i>	Altitude <i>114 – 129 m</i>
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Soil – from Soilscape on [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)

Ref/class	Name	Main surface texture class	Natural drainage type	Natural fertility
22	<i>Loamy soils with naturally high groundwater</i>	<i>Loamy</i>	<i>Naturally wet</i>	<i>Low</i>

Geology  
*Pleistocene sands and gravels, Keuper marls*

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

County  
Unitary  
West Midlands

Ref. No. NWP/015/207

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

Surveyor: Helen S Miller  
Middlemarch Environmental

Date of survey  
07/07/04

Site name  
Knightsbridge Road

Grid ref (centre of site)  
SP 145 819

Knightsbridge Road is sycamore and ash dominated woodland with much natural regeneration of a range of species but notably ash and sycamore. Mature ash is locally frequent at the west end. Horse chestnut is also notably in the canopy and understorey. The understorey is ash and hawthorn dominated. The ground flora is dominated by ivy with locally dominant dogs mercury. Bramble increases towards the west. The NVC community is estimated at W8. There are no clear management compartments within the wood. The woodland has low public use. A path goes through the wood. The boundaries consist of fences to the north and the canal and associated towpath to the south. There does not appear to be any grazing, squirrel or deer problems.

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

stand description  
management & use  
history  
nature of boundaries  
grazing

Area of (ha)				
Ancient Semi-nat ASNW	Recent Semi-nat OSNW	4.05	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
		W8		

Tree layer	Height 12 m	Cover (%) 90	Shrub layer	Height 3 m	Cover (%) 60

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

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

*Tp* Planted tree  
*Tn* Self-sown tree  
*Ts* Standard in c-w-s  
*Tc* Grown from coppice  
*Tx* Any other tree

*Cx* Coppice  
*Ct* Regrowth from stump  
*Px* Pollard (2.5m+)  
*Pc* Pollard (1-2.5m)  
*Sx* Shrub

*Sc* Climber  
*St* Young tree  
*Js* Seedling  
*Jp* Sapling  
*Jv* Sucker





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

Habitats

The NVC community is W8 with a varied structure but low habitat and species diversity. These are detailed below (Target notes) and marked on the map.

The canopy is dominated by sycamore, ash and horse chestnut. Mature ash is locally frequent at the west end. The understorey is ash and hawthorn dominated. There is much natural regeneration of many species, although few occurring more than occasionally.

The ground flora is dominated by ivy *Hedera helix* with locally dominant dogs mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* is frequent throughout the wood but increases towards the west. Other common woodland vascular species occurring at least rarely throughout include bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, various grasses, cleavers *Galium aparine*, dock *Rumex* spp., honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, red campion *Silene dioica* and wood avens *Geum urbanum*. Lords and ladies *Arum maculatum* and enchanters nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* occur rarely.

Wetland features

The Grand Union Canal forms the south boundary of the wood.

Veteran trees and deadwood

Deadwood habitats are minimal. There are no veteran trees.

Notable species

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species.

There is a good woodland bird population.

Invasive, non-native species – cherry laurel (Target note 1).

Other features

No other features.

Adjacent landuse

The adjacent land is residential. The Grand Union Canal is adjacent to the wood in the south.

**Target notes for map**

1. Cherry laurel.

<b>4</b>	<b>FC 2000</b>	<b>WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD</b>	REF No. NWP/015/207
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SITE NAME: KNIGHTSBRIDGE ROAD	COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: AUGUST 2004
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**ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE**

There are no scheduled or nationally designated historic features within the woodland.

Knightsbridge Road forms a woodland corridor along the Grand Union Canal.

**LANDSCAPE**

Knightsbridge Road 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.

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.

The land surrounding Knightsbridge Road is relatively flat and the wood is one of several forming prominent features in a landscape dominated by urbanisation. The small size, locality and situation of Knightsbridge Road is fairly typical of the Character Area and Natural Area in which it occurs.

**RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS**

There is minimal public use of Knightsbridge Road. The canal tow path forms the southern boundary of the wood. There are no footpaths within the immediate surroundings of Knightsbridge Road other than the Grand Union Canal Walk (towpath along the canal, south of the wood. Access to the site is good with the main access point, being off Dove House Lane at the east end of the wood.

There are no clear rides, and one main informal paths through the wood.

**WOOD PRODUCTION, GAME / LIVESTOCK & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

There does not appear to be any formal wood production taking place within the wood at present. As a result of being entirely surrounded by urbanisation and one sides (north) backing onto housing there is an issue of garden and household waste dumping.

PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map) Typical of site. 335 <sup>0</sup>	DATE: 7 July 2004	NVC TYPE: W8
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PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map)	DATE:	NVC TYPE:
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N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>FC 2000</b>	<b>WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION &amp; MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		<b>REF No. NWP/015/207</b>
<b>SITE NAME: KNIGHTSBRIDGE ROAD</b>		<b>SURVEYOR: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD</b>	<b>DATE OF SURVEY: 7 JULY 2004</b>	
<p><b>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)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The conservation significance of Knightsbridge Road Wood lies in the semi-natural status in an area dominated by urbanisation and the potential to improve their condition through future management. The wood has a moderate degree of native species, naturalising and regenerating character. However sycamore dominates the canopy.</li> <li>Knightsbridge Road is an Ecosites and part of a pSINC, identified for various ecological interests, in particular birds.</li> <li>The woodland forms a valuable woodland island and wooded corridor adjacent to a canal within an area dominated by urbanisation, providing aesthetic as well as ecological value through breaking up a potentially monotonous, low diversity landscape.</li> <li>The floral diversity is relatively uniform with only one NVC community being represented (W8) and therefore one HAP type. There is poor habitat and moderate floristic diversity. The wood has a good woodland bird population and suggestion of being suitable for invertebrates, notably butterflies in the more open areas. Badgers have been recorded within 1 km of the site.</li> <li>There is the potential for woodland improvement through favouring/encouraging the native species that are regenerating, There is also potential for improving the structure of the wood through encouraging a native understorey to mature. There is potential to increase the quality and quantity of the deadwood habitats within the wood. There is potential to increase the habitat diversity through management of the woodlands and management/creation of rides/glades. The latter options would be of particular value for woodland butterflies and dormice. Selective and sensitive thinning would encourage more age diversity and native species within the canopy. Deer, rabbits and squirrels do not appear to be a major problem at the present.</li> <li>Bluebells are locally abundant and are likely to be a major aesthetic asset to many of the woodlands in the spring.</li> <li>There are several non-native invasive species within the wood –cherry laurel.</li> </ul>				
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS (based on conservation objectives and above evaluation)</b></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. 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"> <li>Any current and future native shrubs, including hazel, holly, elder, hawthorn and elm, should be protected and/or encouraged and avoided during any forestry operations.</li> <li>Opening up and allowing the oaks and ash to mature with some being retained as future veteran trees. Improving the age structure, particularly through encouraging the natural regeneration to establish and develop into the canopy.</li> <li>Re-creation/creation of glades 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.</li> <li>Control of sycamore would aid in diversifying the canopy. Over time more favourable native species should be favoured and allowed to create the canopy layer.</li> <li>Control of non-native invasive species; cherry laurel, to prevent shading out the native ground flora. Thin/fell to favour ash, oak and field maple in particular with hazel, guelder rose, elm, holly, hawthorn etc being favoured in the lower canopy and shrub layer.</li> <li>Discourage garden and house hold waste dumping.</li> <li>Create new standing/fallen deadwood where safe to do so.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Establish/re-establish management coups/compartments. This will aid in the maintenance of a species and structurally diverse woodland.</li> <li>Protect any native shrubs during forestry operations.</li> <li>Forestry operations, particularly felling, should not be carried out during the bird breeding season (1 March until 31 August).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Management should favour native species in the canopy and understorey.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Natural regeneration is the preferred option if restocking is required although planting may be necessary. If the latter is the case it should be after attempts to encourage natural regeneration and local provenance is preferred.</li> <li>Appropriate guidelines should be followed for operations being undertaken along the canal edge.</li> <li>Standard forestry practices for nature conservation/enhancement should be followed.</li> </ul>				

SITE NAME: KNIGHTSBRIDGE ROAD	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

Protect trees and woodlands from development

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

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 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.

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: KNIGHTSBRIDGE ROAD

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

- A) Management system is to continue to be High Forest based.
- B) The long-term aim is to assist regeneration of Ash and Oak and to deter regeneration of Sycamore and Horse chestnut.
- C) The presence of Ash is to be increased by enrichment planting, as attempts to use natural regeneration would be likely to result in regeneration of Sycamore.

**1. Weed Control****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.
- b. Control sycamore: Survey extent and age of sycamore presence. Consider ecological status of wood and owner's policy towards sycamore.
  - i. As regeneration is well-established and there are mature, well-formed parent trees, a strategy of controlling regeneration within a defined area. is recommended. 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.
  - ii. Regeneration of Sycamore outside this defined area will be manually cut back or sprayed whilst still saplings.
  - iii. Any thinning or felling should aim to retain Ash in favour of Sycamore or Horse chestnut..
  - iv. Before taking any action, consult owner's senior ecological officer.

**2. Enrichment planting with Ash**

- a. This measure is to be used where any of the below apply:
  - i. site is too small for group regenerative fellings
  - ii. natural regeneration is unsuccessful
  - iii. a more rapid tree establishment is required
  - iv. excessive use of area by the public makes regeneration unlikely or inefficient
    - If selectively felling to make space for new planting: select I) non-native trees, preferably of bad form ii) poorly formed, diseased or sub-dominant native trees.
    - Fence and/or sign the planting area, to deter public from disturbing the planting area.
    - Where planting into grass or ex-arable land, advance herbicide spraying (and possibly mulch mats) are essential before planting.
    - Planting stock must be of local (midlands) provenance.
    - As a minimum, newly planted whips (up to 75cm) will need rabbit guards and caning. Tree shelters are better as they protect against muntjac and other deer and can be sprayed round for weed control, but are vulnerable to vandalism.
    - Larger standards will also need staking for first 2 years or so.
    - Weed control after planting: Spot or band spraying every year (in spring and optional late summer) for 3 years after planting, if trees are in shelters. If not in shelters, manual or mechanical weeding is the only option.

**3. Protect and select existing 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.

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

### Years 1-5

- 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.
- G. Enrichment planting**
  - i. Carry out where shown on Plan. Selectively thin out Sycamore and Horse chestnut to make space for planting of Ash and Oak. Planting at spacing of 1.8-2.0m.
- I. Control invasive species**
  - i. Control invasive species i.a.w. 'Weed Control' protocol above.
- 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.
- 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.

### Years 6-10

- 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 invasive species i.a.w. 'Weed Control' protocol above.

**9****FC  
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WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/207

**MONITORING & REFERENCES**

SITE NAME: KNIGHTSBRIDGE ROAD

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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