


1	 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i>
WGS REF. No. NWP/015/209		Site Name Shelly Lane Wood	District/Parish <i>Solihull</i>
Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</i>		Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>None</i>	Total area (of included woodland) <i>0.5 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 145 766</i>
		Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>Semi-natural woodland</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>30 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:
No data available

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)
Urbanisation: residential housing to the north, east and west. Lowland grassland and broadleaf woodland to the south.

Threats
Over use from recreation.
Invasion of exotics from neighbouring gardens.
Garden and household waste dumping.

Aspect <i>N/A</i>	Slope <i>More or less level</i>	Altitude <i>129 m</i>
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Soil– from Soilscape on www.magic.gov.uk. Wood is on the border between soil classes 17 and 18.

Ref/class	Name	Main surface texture class	Natural drainage type	Natural fertility
17	Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils	Loamy	Impeded drainage	Low
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

County
Unitary
West Midlands

Ref. No. NWP/015/209

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

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

Shelly Lane Wood is mixed broadleaved woodland with a two tier canopy and shrub layer. Oak dominates the main canopy at about 10 m, hawthorn dominates the lower canopy at about 6 m. Aspen is locally frequent in the canopies. The shrub layer of elder, hazel, holly and young trees is generally sparser, although quite dense in places. Bramble with frequent bluebell and abundant ivy dominate the ground flora. There is limited habitat diversity but good structural and age diversity throughout wood. The NVC community is W10. Cherry laurel is rare within wood. There are no clear management compartments or clear indication of current management. The woodland is used by local residents. There are some paths through the wood and a multi-access urban pathway runs adjacent to the east of the wood. The boundaries consist of fences. There does not appear to be any grazing, squirrel or deer problems.

stand description management & use history nature of boundaries grazing

Area of (ha)

Ancient Semi-nat ASNW	Recent Semi-nat OSNW	0.5	Ancient Replanted AWS	Recent Plantn.
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Area occupied by each NVC type

0-0.5 ha	0.5-2 ha	2-10 ha	10-20ha	20+ha
W10				

Tree layer	Height 6-10 m	Cover (%) 100	Shrub layer	Height 2 m	Cover (%) 20
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Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

D/mature	Mature	Young trees	Saplings	Seedlings	Coppice
	D	R	O	O	

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

- 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
Shelly Lane Wood

Surveyor
Helen S Miller
Middlemarch Environmental Ltd

Date of survey
30 June 2004

HABITATS, FEATURES & COMMUNITIES (MARK ON MAP)

Habitats

The NVC community is W10 with a two tier canopy and shrub layer and moderate habitat and species diversity. These are detailed below (Target notes) and marked on the map.

Oak dominates the main canopy at about 10 m, hawthorn dominates the lower canopy at about 6 m. Aspen is locally frequent in the canopies. The shrub layer of elder, hazel, holly and young trees is generally sparser, although quite dense in places. Holly is particularly frequent throughout the wood and is readily regenerating. Although the structure of the wood is good, the habitat and species diversity is relatively poor.

The field layer is relatively species-poor, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* generally being dominant with frequent bluebell and abundant ivy *Hedera helix*. The bramble *Rubus fruticosus* is less dominant and vigorous towards the southern end of the wood. Other common woodland vascular species are few and occur at rarely to occasionally throughout. The most frequent included, cleavers *Galium aparine*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*.

Wetland features

There are no wetland features within the wood.

Veteran trees and deadwood

Deadwood habitats and veteran trees are minimal/non-existent within the wood.

Notable species

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species.

There is a moderate woodland bird population.

Cherry laurel, non-native invasive species, is rare within wood.

There is some Italian alder *Alnus cordata* planted within the wood.

Other features

There are no other notable features.

Adjacent landuse

The adjacent land is urbanisation, dominated by residential housing to the north, east and west. There is a lowland grassland meadow to the south and a narrow strip of broadleaved wood.

Target notes for map

1. Cherry laurel.
2. Locally frequent aspen.

4	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD	REF No. NWP/015/209
SITE NAME: SHELLY LANE WOOD		COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: AUGUST 2004	
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE</p> <p>As a result of its small size, Shelly Lane Wood would not have been identified by English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory. The current survey did not find any clear indications of the woodland being ancient woodland.</p> <p>There are no scheduled or nationally designated historic features within the woodland. However the wood is on the site of a deserted medieval settlement. Therefore there is increased probability of exposing archeological features during any excavations.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">LANDSCAPE</p> <p>Shelly Lane 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 Shelly Lane Wood is relatively flat and the wood is one of several forming an island of semi-natural feature in a landscape dominated by urbanisation. The small size, it's locality and situation of Shelly Lane Wood is fairly typical of the Character Area and Natural Area in which it occurs.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS</p> <p>Shelly Lane Wood is primarily used for informal recreation and walking. A multi-access path follows along the east edge of the wood.</p> <p>Access to the site is good with the several access points from the surrounding residential area</p> <p>There are no clear rides, although there are several formal and less formal paths throughout the wood.</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. As a result of being entirely surrounded by urbanisation and three sides (north, west and east) backing onto housing there is an issue of garden and household waste dumping.</p>			

PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map) Typical of wood. 335°	DATE: 30 June 2004	NVC TYPE: W10
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PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map)	DATE:	NVC TYPE:
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N/A

6	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		REF No. NWP/015/209
SITE NAME: SHELLY LANE WOOD		SURVEYOR: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD	DATE OF SURVEY: 30 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)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation significance of Shelly Lane Wood lies in its position within a densely urbanised area. Although fairly isolated from other semi-natural habitats it is likely to provide a refuge for wildlife, notable feeding, roosting and breeding birds with appropriate management. There is the potential to improve the condition through future management. The wood has a moderate degree of native species and naturalising character, although sycamore has the potential to become dominant. • Although not recognised as an EcoSite or similar the wood provides a valuable complementary habitat to the adjacent meadow (SSSI) and woodland (EcoSite) south of the wood. • The wood is on the site of a deserted medieval settlement and adjacent to three Green Lanes. • The woodland forms a valuable woodland island within an area dominated by residential housing; providing aesthetic as well as ecological value through breaking up a potentially monotonous, low diversity landscape. However, it has poor connectivity to other habitats, other than gardens and the meadow to the south. • The floral diversity is relatively poor and uniform with only one NVC community, although transitional, being represented (W10) and therefore HAP type. There is limited diversity in habitat. At the time of survey the wood did not indicate a good woodland bird population. This may be associated with its close proximity to high density urbanisation, and therefore threats from cats or as a result of it having generally poor structure. Badgers have been recorded, although unconfirmed, within 250 m of the wood. • There is the potential for woodland improvement through controlling the sycamore and improving the habitat and structural diversity. There is potential to increase the quality and quantity of the deadwood habitats within the wood. Some of the older oaks, have the potential for future veteran trees. • Deer, rabbits and squirrels do not appear to be a major problem at the present. • Bluebells occurred occasionally and are likely to be a major aesthetic asset to many of the woodlands in the spring. • There are several non-native invasive species within the wood – cherry laurel. 				
ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS (based on conservation objectives and above evaluation)				
<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 and elder, should be protected and/or encouraged and avoided during any forestry operations. • Opening up and allowing the oaks to mature with some being retained as future veteran trees. Planting and bramble control may be necessary to aid age restructuring. Opening up the canopy may also allow a more diverse and rich ground flora to develop. • 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. • Continuation/re-establishment of coppice management. • Control of non-native invasive species; cherry laurel, to prevent then shading out the native ground flora. Sycamore should also be controlled and monitored to prevent it becoming dominant in woodland. • Discourage garden and house hold waste dumping. • Create new standing/fallen deadwood where safe to do so. • Alternatively this woodland could be considered for intervention and allowed to develop into a dense holly grove with oaks. 				
<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"> • 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. • Bramble may become overwhelmingly dominant where significant light is allowed to reach the woodland floor, therefore it may be appropriate to develop 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. • Standard forestry practices for nature conservation/enhancement should be followed. 				

SITE NAME: SHELLY LANE 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

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 for bird life
Erect bird boxes

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: SHELLY LANE WOOD

COMPILED BY: ALAN GUY. MIDDLEMARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL LTD**LONG TERM PROPOSALS (Silvicultural systems, broad management strategies)****1. 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

2. 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 Rhododendron and Laurel

- i. Seedlings and plants under 0.5m: treat with glyphosate, triclopyr or ammonium sulphate. Plants over 0.5m : clear with bill hook, handsaw and/or chainsaw down to stumps during autumn/winter. Spray stumps and all re-growth in mid-May to end June or before re-growth has reached 1.0m tall.

c. Control sycamore: Survey extent and age of sycamore presence. Consider ecological status of wood and owner's policy towards sycamore.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Before taking any action, consult owner's senior ecological officer.

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.

4. Enrichment planting

- 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.

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. 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 felled trees arising from enrichment planting as a 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.

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2000**

WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/209

MONITORING & REFERENCES

SITE NAME: SHELLY LANE 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