


1	 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i>
WGS REF. No. NWP/015/207	Site Name <i>The Spinney</i>		District/Parish <i>Solihull</i>
Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</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>	Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>None</i>		Total area (of included woodland) <i>2.4 ha</i>
	Other Designations / Protections <i>Midlands Plateau Natural Area (43)</i>		Grid ref (access) <i>SP 158 897</i>
	Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>Recent semi-natural/plantation</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>9 July 2004</i>

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

NVC COMMUNITIES:
Inconclusive but probably W10

PLANTATIONS:
No data available

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)
Urbanisation – residential housing and amenity grassland

Threats
Over use from recreation.

Aspect <i>N/A</i>	Slope <i>flat</i>	Altitude <i>100 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
No data but most likely to be Reddish till

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			R
Acer pse															
Aescu hip												R	R		
Alnus glu															
Betul pen															
Betul pub	R														
Carp bet	R											R			
Casta ast		R													
Conifer sp															
Coryl ave										R					
Crata mon										O					
Crata oxy															
Euony eur															
Fagus syl	O														
Frang aln															
Fraxi exc	O											R	R	R	
Ilex aqu										O				R	
Junip com															
Larix sp															
Malus syl															
Picea sp															
Pinus syl															
Popul tre															
Prunu avi												R			
Prunu lau															
Prunu pad															
Prunu spi															
Querc cer		R													
Querc pet/hybrid															
Querc rob		D										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												O			
Ulmus pro															
Vibur lan															

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

The Spinney comprises of three blocks sandwiched between two roads, West Avenue and Green Lane and divided by access roads. All three blocks have the appearance of being remnants of old oak plantations although only 1-3 rows remaining. As a result structure and ground flora are poor. Oak dominates the canopy in all three cases with the understorey generally being sparse; where present comprises of young trees and shrubs. The NVC community is inconclusive as a result of sparse ground flora, however it is most likely to W10 or possible W8. The wood is high forest. There is minimal public use but the wood forms a valuable amenity feature. Out grown hedgerows form the south and north boundaries with the exception of the north boundary of the eastern most block which is bounded by a footpath. 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	2.4	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
		W10		

Tree layer	Height 10 m	Cover (%) 70	Shrub layer	Height 2 m	Cover (%) 10

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

D/mature	Mature	Young trees	Sapling	Seedlin	Coppice
	D	O	R	R	

	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv	S	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv
Clem vit						Ribes syl	R			
Daph lau						Ribes uva				
Heder hel		F				Rosa arv				
Ligus vul						Rosa can	R			
Lonic per						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
The Spinney

Surveyor
Helen S Miller
Middlemarch Environmental Ltd

Date of survey
9 July 2004

HABITATS, FEATURES & COMMUNITIES (MARK ON MAP)

Habitats

All three blocks have the appearance of being remnants of old oak plantations, although only 1-3 rows remaining. As a result structure and ground flora are poor. Oak dominates the canopy in all three cases with the understorey generally being sparse and where present comprises of young trees and shrubs. The NVC community is inconclusive as a result of sparse ground flora, however it is most likely to W10 or possible W8.

Cmpt 1: Eastern block. Wood pasture in character, comprises of a row of oak trees with amenity grassland below. South boundary is an out-grown hedgerow with some mature trees. Some ash regeneration occurs along the hedgerow.

Cmpt 2: Central block. About two rows of oak with hedgerows (holly, ash, hawthorn) forming the north and south boundaries. Ground flora mainly ivy *Hedera helix*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* with some wood avens *Geum urbanum*.

Cmpt 3: Western block. Remnant oak plantation with some holly in the understorey. Hedgerows (holly, hawthorn) form the north and south boundaries. Rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* dominates where the canopy is lighter. Some ash regeneration at the periphery. The ground flora is species-poor and grass dominated. Occasional bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

Wetland features

There are no wetland features within the wood.

Veteran trees and deadwood

There are minimal/no deadwood habitats or veteran trees.

Notable species

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species.

There is a moderate woodland bird population, considering the size and poor structure of the wood, including song thrush (UK BAP species).

Other features

There are no other features.

Adjacent landuse

The adjacent land is residential. The woodland blocks are bordered by lowland grassland in the form of amenity grass.

4	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD	REF No. NWP/015/207
SITE NAME: THE SPINNEY		COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: AUGUST 2004	
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE			
<p>As a result of its small size, The Spinney 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.</p>			
LANDSCAPE			
<p>The Spinney 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 The Spinney is relatively flat and dominated by urbanisation. The wood is relatively prominent in the landscape although the buildings around are more intrusive. However, the woodland forms a unique area of semi-natural habitat within the residential dominated local area. At just 2.4 ha, it's locality and situation, The Spinney is fairly typical of the Character Area and Natural Area in which it occurs.</p>			
RECREATION / PUBLIC ACCESS			
<p>There is limited public use in The Spinney other than a wooded pathway along the wood. There are no footpaths within the immediate surrounds of the wood.</p> <p>Access to the site is good with the main access points being at each end of each Cmpt.</p> <p>There are no clear rides, although there is pathway which goes through all three Cmpts.</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. The wood forms an important screening between the houses the south and the road to the north.</p>			

PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map) Cmpt 1. 237° (Eastern most Cmpt)	DATE: 9 July 2004	NVC TYPE: Wood pasture
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PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map) Cmpt 2. 57° (Central Cmpt)	DATE: 9 JULY 2004	NVC TYPE: W10 estimated
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PHOTO No. 3 (mark location and direction on map)
Cmpt 3. 74⁰ (Western most Cmpt)

DATE:
9 July 2004

NVC TYPE:
W10 estimated



6	FC 2000	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		REF No. NWP/015/207
SITE NAME: THE SPINNEY		SURVEYOR: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD		DATE OF SURVEY: 9 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 The Spinney 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. • The woodland forms a valuable woodland island and corridor 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. • The floral diversity is relatively poor and uniform with only one NVC community estimated, (W10). Two HAP types are represented: wood pasture and lowland mixed broadleaf. The greatest species richness occurring in the hedgerows/scrub boundaries. There is limited diversity in habitat. The only habitats, other than wood, are the hedgerows/scrub. 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. • There is the potential for woodland improvement through improving the structure and ground flora diversity. There is potential to increase the quality and quantity of the deadwood habitats within the wood. • 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. 				
<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. 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 and hawthorn, should be protected and/or encouraged and avoided during any forestry operations. • Encourage the regenerating ash and oak for future canopy trees. • Opening up and allowing the oaks to mature with some being retained as future veteran trees. • Improving the age structure, particularly through encouraging natural regeneration. • Encourage diversification of the hedgerows along the south and west sides. • 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"> • 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). • 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 latter is the case it should be after attempts to encourage natural regeneration and local provenance is preferred. • Cmp1 has the potential to be managed as wood pasture. • Standard forestry practices for nature conservation/enhancement should be followed. 				

SITE NAME: THE SPINNEY	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 associated habitats e.g. hedgerows

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

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

Increase habitat diversity - glades
Create rides/glades. Manage those already present.

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: THE SPINNEY

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

- a. This measure is to be used, as the site is too small for group regenerative fellings (natural regeneration). The species to be planted are Pedunculate Oak and Ash, together with some locally seed-sourced understorey shrubs. Felling to make space for planting must be very sensitively done, minimizing the loss of existing trees.
- b. Other measures:
 - 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.

2. 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

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

Years 1-5

- G. Enrichment planting**
 - i. Carry out where shown on Plan. Planting at spacing of 1.8-2.0m.
- 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.

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2000**

WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/207

MONITORING & REFERENCES

SITE NAME: THE SPINNEY

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