


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |  2000 | WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION | County / Local Authority <i>West Midlands</i> |
| WGS REF. No. NWP/015/207 | Site Name <i>York's Wood</i> | | District/Parish <i>Solihull</i> |
| | Owner/tenant/agent <i>Solihull MBC</i> | Nature Conservation Status / Designation <i>EcoSite. SINC. Local Nature Reserve</i> | Total area (of included woodland) <i>14 ha</i> |
| Contact <i>David Lowe Solihull MBC, Ecologist Landscapes Section PO BOX 19, Council House, Solihull, West Midlands, B91, 3QT</i> | Other Designations / Protections <i>Midlands Plateau Natural Area (43)</i> | Grid ref (access) <i>SP 164 883</i> | |
| | Ancient / Recent Semi-Natural / Plantation <i>PAW</i> | Surveyor <i>Helen S Miller Middlemarch Environmental Ltd</i> | |
| | | Biodiversity Action Plan <i>Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull BAP 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)

NVC COMMUNITIES:
W10

PLANTATIONS:
No data available

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)

Urbanisation: residential housing and school. Old allotments naturalising into semi-natural habitats. Lowland grassland in the form of amenity grassland.

Threats

Over use from recreation.

Invasion of exotics from neighbouring gardens.

Vandalism (including fire), bikes

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aspect <i>N/A</i> | Slope <i>More or less flat</i> | Altitude <i>91 m</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|

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 and alluvium

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

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

York's Wood is mixed broadleaf with oak dominating the canopy, ash is locally frequent. The wood has a diverse range of woody species and a varied structure with an upper canopy, lower canopy and shrub layer. Natural regeneration is locally abundant from a range of species. The ground flora is dominated by bramble with bracken and bluebells. The NVC is W10. The wood is primarily high forest with a varied understorey and evidence of coppicing in the past. There is no appearance of intensive management, although some of the oaks have had the lower branches trimmed, suggesting that in the past timber production may have been an objective of management. The information board indicates that sycamore is being controlled and that the hazel is being coppiced. The woodland is primarily used for local recreation. There are numerous paths throughout the wood, some more formal than others. The wood is included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. The wood was part of Kingshurst Park in 1456. It was owned and used by the scouts in the 1920s and bought by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council in 1984. The wood has been a Local Nature Reserve since 1991. The boundaries are fenced with a suggestion of some banks/ditches in the west. 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 | 14 | 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 |
| | | | W10 | |

| Tree layer | Height 10-12 m | Cover (%) 80 | Shrub layer | Height 4 m | Cover (%) 50 |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

| D/mature | Mature | Young trees | Saplings | Seedlin | Coppice |
|----------|--------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| R | D | O | O | O | R |

| | Sx | Sc | Js | Jp | Jv | Sx | Sc | Js | Jp | Jv |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| Clem vit | | | | | | Ribes syl | R | | | |
| Daph lau | | | | | | Ribes uva | | | | |
| Heder hel | | IA | | | | Rosa arv | | | | |
| Ligus vul | | | | | | Rosa can | R | | | |
| Lonic per | | O | | | | 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 York's Wood | Surveyor Helen S Miller Middlemarch Environmental Ltd | Date of survey 9 July 2004 |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|

HABITATS, FEATURES & COMMUNITIES (MARK ON MAP)

Habitats

The NVC community is W10 with a diverse structure and woody species component. Habitat and species diversity is moderate. These are detailed below (Target notes) and marked on the map.

Oak dominates the canopy with ash being locally frequent. The wood has a diverse range of woody species and a varied structure with an upper canopy, lower canopy and shrub layer. The lower canopy is mainly sycamore, ash, hawthorn and holly. Holly, rowan, elder and hawthorn are the main components of the shrub layer. Natural regeneration is locally abundant from a range of species, notably rowan, ash, hawthorn, hazel and holly.

The field layer is relatively species-poor, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* generally being dominant with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* being occasional to frequent. Where the canopy is lighter the bramble *Rubus fruticosus* is more vigorous. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and holly increase in frequency in the south of the wood. A range of common woodland vascular species occur at least rarely throughout. These include, cleavers *Galium aparine*, various grasses, foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and ivy *Hedera helix*.

Wetland features

There is a pond and damp pit within the wood – see Target notes 6 and 12.

Veteran trees and deadwood

Deadwood habitats are rare to occasional throughout the wood. There are no veteran trees but there are some old trees that are becoming veteran.

Notable species

Bluebell occurs within the wood – a UK BAP species.

There is a good woodland bird population.

There are some non-native, invasive species within the wood – snowberry and cherry laurel.

Other features

There are indications of wood banks/ditch along the north end of the west side. There is a slight bank with sporadic old hawthorns along the east side.

Adjacent landuse

The adjacent land is urbanisation. Residential housing and a school (with lowland grassland in the form of amenity grass) to the east. Residential housing and lowland grassland in the form of amenity grass to the north and west. Old allotments establishing into a semi-natural habitat mosaic of grass, tall ruderal and scrub in the south and south-west.

Target notes for map

1. Hornbeams along edge.
2. Group of scots pine.
3. Group of over maturing birch.
4. Cherry laurel.
5. Group of larch, including some dead (standing deadwood).
6. Pond. Very polluted with rubbish and debris. Willow, alders at periphery. Marginal vegetation includes yellow flag iris and sedges. Point where several paths meet resulting in much erosion and minimal ground flora. Bench at pond side. False acacia nearby.
7. Opening in canopy. Primarily bramble with some hazel growth and sycamore regeneration.
8. Badly burnt out tree, but still alive at present. Potential future deadwood.
9. Group of willows.
10. Snowberry.
11. Pit with limited ground flora, open canopy. Litter and fire vandalism.
12. Pit. Open canopy. Slightly damp. Willows and ash regeneration.

| | | | |
|---|------------|---|---------------------|
| 4 | FC 2000 | WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET OTHER VALUES OF THE WOOD | REF No. NWP/015/207 |
| SITE NAME: YORK'S WOOD | | COMPILED BY: HELEN S MILLER MIDDLEMARCH ENVIRONMENTAL LTD DATE: AUGUST 2004 | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE</p> <p>York's Wood is identified on English Nature's Ancient Woodland Inventory as ASNW. However, the field survey indicates that parts of the site (where scots pine and larch occur) may be more appropriately mapped as PAW, although these would only be small pockets.</p> <p>There are no scheduled or nationally designated historic features within the woodland.</p> <p>There is the suggestion of old banks along the north end of the west side and along the east side of the wood. A winter assessment would more clearly identify/locate these features. There is some evidence to suggest that the wood has been managed as coppice in the past.</p> | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LANDSCAPE</p> <p>York's 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 York's Wood is relatively flat and the wood is one of several forming prominent features in a landscape dominated by urbanisation. Although greater than 5 ha at 14 ha, York's Wood, it's locality and situation 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>York's Wood has high public usage, resulting in some erosion and vandalism. There are no footpaths in the immediate surrounds of the wood.</p> <p>Access to the site is good with the main access point, with interpretation board, being at the south end of the wood at the end of Fordingbridge Road. There are numerous other access points around the wood.</p> <p>There are no clear rides, although there are numerous formal and less formal paths throughout the wood. There is the occasional bench within 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. The interpretation board indicates that traditional crafts, including hazel coppice, the control of sycamore and cutting back of bracken to encourage natural regeneration are some of the management aims of the wood. Other key management aims indicated on the interpretation board include maintaining and enhancing the current biodiversity and to increase accessibility without affecting the wildlife through encouraging people to keep to the paths.</p> | | | |

| | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| PHOTO No. 1 (mark location and direction on map) Typical of site. 327 ⁰ | DATE: 9 July 2004 | NVC TYPE: W10 |
|---|----------------------|------------------|



| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| PHOTO No. 2 (mark location and direction on map) | DATE: | NVC TYPE: |
|--|-------|-----------|

N/A

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 6 | FC 2000 | WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS | | REF No. NWP/015/207 |
| SITE NAME: YORK'S WOOD | | 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 York's Wood lies in the ASNW status and the potential to improve its condition through future management. The wood has a high degree of native species and naturalising character. York's Wood is an Ecosite, SINC and Local nature Reserve. The woodland forms a valuable woodland habitat within an area dominated by urbanisation and amenity grassland; providing aesthetic as well as ecological value through breaking up a potentially monotonous, low diversity landscape. The floral diversity is relatively uniform with only one NVC community being represented (W10) and therefore one HAP type. There is some diversity in habitat with the presence of at least some deadwood habitats, a damp area and pond, and some old coppice. The wood has a good woodland bird population and suggestion of being suitable for invertebrates, notably butterflies in the more open areas. There are some possible ancient woodland bank/ditches to the west and east of the wood. There is the potential for woodland improvement through re-introducing and establishing the coppice coups and favouring/encouraging the native species that are regenerating. 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. There is potential for pond enhancement in the north (Target note 6). There is potential to increase the habitat diversity through management of the woodlands, re-introduction/continuation of re-established coppice management 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 within the canopy species. Deer, rabbits and squirrels do not appear to be a major problem at the present. Bluebells are locally abundant 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 – snowberry and cherry laurel. | | | | |
| <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, hawthorn and wych elm, 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. Bracken/bramble control may be necessary. Re-creation/creation of rides/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. Continued control/removal of the sycamore while it is still young and before it reaches maturity and dominates the wood and canopy. Enhance the area around the pond. Encourage wet woodland species, such as alder and willow, around the pond and in the damper areas. Control of non-native invasive species; snowberry and cherry laurel, to prevent then shading out the native ground flora. 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 current species and structural diversity. 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). Care should be taken not to damage any of the old banks. 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 latter is the case it should be after attempts to encourage natural regeneration and local provenance is preferred. Clean and maintain the pond and surrounding areas. Appropriate guidelines should be followed for operations being undertaken around the pond. Standard forestry practices for nature conservation/enhancement should be followed. | | | | |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| SITE NAME: YORKS WOOD | COMPILED BY: HELEN MILLER |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|

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

Maintain ecological and historical character of ancient woodland

Implement sensitive and appropriate management

Protect trees and woodlands from development

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

Enhance wetland features

Clear out rubbish/pollution. Introduce some native marginal plants

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: YORK'S WOOD

COMPILED BY: ALAN GUY. MIDDLEMARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

LONG TERM PROPOSALS (Silvicultural systems, broad management strategies)

- A) Management system: Mixed High Forest with Coppice.**
(NB Establishment of coppice management is subject to long-term labour availability)
- B) All silvicultural recommendations from the 1993 Management Plan (copy of Site Plan attached) are agreed, Except that we recommend natural regeneration as a method of**
- 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.
 - 2. Establish, or re-establish coppice management**
 - a. Check whether the Wood was previously or is currently coppiced (a strong factor in favour of coppicing).
 - b. Check sufficient labour resources will be available to continue coppicing long-term.
 - c. Are existing coppice stools still viable? (e.g. for hazel, coppiced under 40 years ago)
 - d. If not, a new coppice area must be established by planting. Over-mature coppice stools must be removed or grown-on as 'stored coppice' (standards).
 - e. Choose management method i.e. pure coppice or coppice with standards; rotation length; size of coupes etc.
 - 3. 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
 - 4. Introduce Rides or Glades (secondary habitats)**
 - a. Rides: At least 10m width is desirable; introduce bends to avoid 'wind tunnelling' effect.
 - i. Check feasibility of rides in small woods: scallops (semi-natural circular glades) alongside existing narrow tracks may be more practical. Scallops should be min. 5m deep.
 - ii. Ride management is important: more diverse habitats are maintained if different sections of the ride are cut down or trimmed in rotation on a 2-3 year cycle (in autumn). Ride centres to be mown annually to provide areas of short grass.
 - b. Glades: density of glades: one glade, dimensioned as below, per 3-4 ha of woodland.
 - i. Size of glades: One and a half canopy tree lengths across, for full daylight effect, and preferably rounded in shape.
 - ii. Existing glades: expand existing glades to the dimensions shown above.
 - iii. Location: Glades should be a 'stop-off' on clear ride(s) or path (s) as they will be used by the public. Glades adjoining ponds are beneficial to both habitats. Glades can also be formed by removing corners from ride junctions.
 - iv. Options: Consider planting native shrubs around edge of glade. Leave some felled trunks and short wood to minimise destruction of stands by some young adults.
 - v. Maintenance: As for rides, above.
 - 5. Coppicing**
 - a. Hazel Coppice (10 year rotation): Divide coppiced area into 0.2-0.25 ha coupes, ie min 2 ha. for a 10 year rotation. (With Hazel this will produce material of sufficient diameter for hurdles). Continue extending coppiced area by one coupe per year until the full rotation e.g. 10 years has been reached. Then recommence rotation sequence with the coupe last cut in year 1 of the rotation.
 - b. Mixed Coppice: Other species e.g. Ash can be coppiced as part of the coppice area but does not have as ready a

market for coppice products as does hazel. If planting new coppice, plant it at 1.5-2.5m. spacings.

- c. Coppice with standards: Density of standards between 30 and 50 per ha., preferably at the lower end for coppice to grow effectively.
- d. 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 newly planted hazel. These will require 3-4 years before first cutting.
Neglected stools of oak, ash, alder or sweet chestnut can be 'stored' (selected shoots grown on as standards)

6. **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.

7. **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 Bracken in regeneration areas.

- i. Spray Asulam or Glyphosate herbicide in July- August following clearance of trees from the area.

c. 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.

d. Control Himalayan Balsam, Giant hogweed, Snowberry

These are also highly invasive species. Moreover, Giant Hogweed can cause painful blistering and irritation when in contact with the skin and must be eliminated from all areas used by the public. Spray twice per season with glyphosate, as for Jap. Knotweed above.

e. Weed control of regeneration areas

- i. Apply herbicide to site in July-August following clearance of trees from the area.

e. 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.

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

Years 1-5

- B. Thinning in coppice areas**
i. Thin all standards i.a.w. above protocol, favouring Oak, & Ash for retention.
- C. Coppicing**
Commence, or continue, coppicing, in area shown on Plan, i.a.w. above protocol.
- E. Initiate natural regeneration**
i. Fell test areas and monitor for 3-4 years, i.a.w. protocol above.
ii. Control weeds in regeneration areas, i.a.w. protocol above, if required.
- 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.
- H. Expand area of woodland**
An area of former allotment land to south west of Wood has been left for scrub and regeneration of woodland. As regeneration appears, select & protect as per F. above.
- I. Control invasive species**
i. Control invasive species (sycamore and snowberry) i.a.w. 'Weed Control' protocol above.
- J. Extraction of timber**
i. Extract all timber arising from thinning and group fellings, using either forwarder or, in wet/sensitive areas, horse or forwarder with low impact tyres.
- 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.
- L. Introduce new rides and/or glades**
i. Carry out felling as required to create new rides or glades, as identified on Plan, 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 i.a.w. above protocol.
- O. Scrub/grass habitats**
i. Carry out cutting regime i.a.w. above protocol in area to s.w. of Wood..
- P. Clearance around pond**
i. Clear all large trees (over approx. 8m height) from a strip 7m wide around ponds. Maintain open grassed areas around pond.

Years 6-10

- Q. Coppicing**
i. Continue coppicing in rotation, one coupe per year. If new coppice, then extend area by one coupe per year, until full rotation is reached, then recommence.
- R. Natural regeneration – extension of area**
i. If group fellings have produced successful regeneration, carry out further group fellings, as per Plan, with min. 40m. gaps between felled areas.
- 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, in areas shown on Plan

9**FC
2000**

WOODLAND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

REF No. NWP015/207

MONITORING & REFERENCES

SITE NAME: YORK'S 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