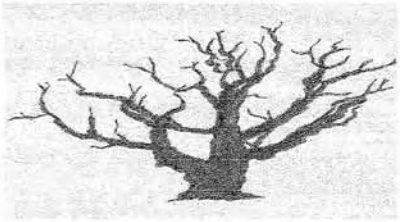

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

OF

GREAT WOOD

SLOUGH BREAST & LITTLE WOOD

BLACKPOOL WOOD

located at

ST MARGARETS

HEREFORDSHIRE

July 1998

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

OF

GREAT WOOD

ST MARGARETS

HEREFORDSHIRE

Client: Mr & Mrs A Bletchly

Whitehouse Estate

9 Bryntirion Close

Bridgend

CF31 4BZ

CONTENTS

'The diversity of plant and animal life to be found in an ancient wood is dependent on the type of management the wood receives. The richness of ancient woods has been the result of adaptation by the flora and fauna to traditional methods of woodmanship such as 'coppice with standards'.

Through these traditional practices timber and wood products were extracted and the woodland was restocked by natural regeneration. This allowed a patchwork of trees and shrubs at various stages of maturity to develop and there was correspondingly a range of vegetation structure with alternating shaded and light open areas.

Such classical methods had died out by the turn of the century and the closest many woodlands have got to coppice management in recent times has been the clearfellings of the last two World Wars. Most woods that were treated in this way have now grown up to form high canopy of relict coppice.'

A Herefordshire Woodland Survey

1984

#1	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	REF. No.

County Unitary: HEREFORDSHIRE	District: VOWCHURCH	Parish: ST. MARGARETS
Owner/~~tenant/agent~~: MR & MRS A. BLETCHLY, 9 BRYNTIRION CLOSE, BRIDGEND, CF31 4BZ	Nature Conservation Interest: MAINLY ANCIENT SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND; DIVERSE RANGE OF COMMUNITIES	Site name: GREAT WOOD
	Special Interest: STREAM HABITAT; DORMOUSE; RAPTORS	Grid ref (access): SO 348356
Permission to enter from: OWNER	Present use/management: COMMERCIAL FORESTRY	Adviser: S. HOLLAND, I. B. HART
	Total area (of ownership): 50.50 HECTARES	Date of survey: 9-12 JULY 1998

Woodland vegetation types (**mark on map**).

WET WOODLAND - NATIONAL VEGETATION COMMUNITY W6 - ALDER/STINGING NETTLE
WET WOODLAND - NVC W7 - ALDER/ASH/YELLOW PIMPERNEL COMMUNITY
LOWLAND MIXED BROADLEAVED WOODLAND - NVC W8 - ASH/FIELD MAPLE/DOG'S MERCURY
LOWLAND MIXED BROADLEAVED WOODLAND - NVC W10 - OAK/BRAMBLE/BRACKEN COMMUNITY

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)

Broadleaved woodland	✓	Bog/peatland		Orchard	
Conifer woodland		Moving water		Arable/ley	
Lowland grass	✓	Buildings		Garden	
Lowland heath		Mixed woodland	✓	Fen	
Upland grass		Scrub		Still Water	
Upland heath		Parkland		Road/railway	

Situation

AN EXTENSIVE BLOCK OF WOODLAND WITH A PREDOMINANTLY NORTH FACING ASPECT. A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND STREAMS ARE PRESENT SOME DEEPLY INCISED WHICH FLOW TOWARDS THE SLOUGH BROOK.

Aspect: N	Slope: 0° - 25°	Altitude: 130 - 220 M AOD

Valley side	✓	Plain		Hill slope		Coastal	
Valley bottom	✓	Plateau		Hill top		Inland	✓

Soil

Sand	✓	Brown soil		Peat	
Silt		Rendzina		Mull	
Clay		Ranker		Moder	
Acid	✓	Alluvium		Mor	
Neutral	✓	Gley		Water-logged	
Basic	✓	Stones		Poorly drained	✓
Podsol		Rock	✓	Freely drained	✓

Geology: OLD RED SANDSTONE INTERBEDDED WITH CORNSTONES

#2 WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

County Unitary	HEREFORDSHIRE	REF. No.	
Adviser	S. HOLLAND I. B. HART	Site name	GREAT WOOD
Date of survey	9-12 JULY '98	Grid ref (centre of site)	SO 345351

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

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

	Tx	Tp	Ts	Tc	Tn	Cx	Ct	Px	Pc	Sx	Sc	St	Js	Jp	Jv
	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv					Sx		Sc	Js	Jp	Jv
Clem vit						Ribes syl				R					
Daph lau						Ribes uva									
Heder hel		F				Rosa arv				O					
Ligus vul						Rosa can				O					
Lonic per		A				Sarot sco									
Mahon aqu				[illegible]		Ulex eur									
Myrica ga						Ulex gal									
Ribes nig						Vibur opu				O					

Stand description

1) Abandoned coppice with standards
2) High forest management
3) Plantations comprising exotic species of conifer.

Management and use

The woodland has been managed as Commercial Forestry.

History

There is good historical documentation from the time of Domesday.

There are a number of prominent woodbanks.

Nature of boundaries

Grazing

The boundary is completely fenced and grazing animals are excluded.

Area of (ha):

Ancient semi-nat ASNW	40.3	Recent semi-nat OSNW	-	Ancient replanted AWS	10.2	Recent plantn.	-

Area occupied by each NVC type

0 - 0.5ha	0.5 - 2ha	2-10ha	10-20ha	20+ha
W6	W7	W10	-	W8

Tree layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)	Shrub layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)
	30	80		8	65

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

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

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*

3.1 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROUND VEGETATION

a) Wet Woodland - National Vegetation Community (NVC) W6 - Alder / Stinging Nettle

An area of flat, damp and waterlogged soils adjacent to a stream dominated by mature coppiced alder. The ground flora is dominated by stinging nettle with opposite leaved golden saxifrage and relatively few other species. Due to the waterlogged nature of the ground this is vulnerable to disturbance and drainage and from anything more than small scale forestry operations. This is a rare woodland type in the county.

b) Wet Woodland - NVC W7 Community - Alder / Ash / Yellow Pimpernel Community

This community is confined to the damp ground adjacent to the watercourses. Ash and alder are frequent in the canopy together with occasional wych elm and goat willow. There are some notable coppice wych elm. The understorey layer is diverse including hazel, guelder rose and rowan. There is a rich ground flora. This community includes a range of ancient woodland indicator species, including Herb Paris and Nettle leaved bellflower and a range of ferns and bryophytes. This habitat and plant community is of great conservation interest, but because of the damp nature of the soils, is vulnerable to heavy thinning and felling. Tufa deposits occur along the stream.

c) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - NVC W8 Community - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury Community

This community is dominated in part by mature ash, both as standard trees and coppice and on the higher ground by sessile oak standards with occasional ash. Coppiced hazel dominates the understorey with field maple, holly, rowan and guelder rose. On the lower ground, dog's mercury dominates the ground layer with bramble more prolific up-slope. Bluebell, woodruff, yellow archangel, wood sorrel, wood avens, creeping jenny, enchanters nightshade and violet are all frequent. Tufted hair-grass, wood millet, male fern, remote sedge, scaly male fern and soft shield fern are all present. Honeysuckle is abundant throughout. The understorey is an important component of this community and forestry operations should ensure that it is retained. Occasional small-leaved lime and wild service trees are of significance. Scattered groups of conifers occur throughout the area covered by this community.

d) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - NVC W10 Community - Oak / Bracken / Bramble Community

This community type occurs on the most elevated and more acidic ground within the woodland, the distinction between this and the W8 Community being a transitional zone.
It is dominated by mature sessile oak standards with occasional ash and birch. Coppice hazel dominates the understorey with rowan. Honeysuckle is abundant. Bramble is dominant in the ground flora although where it is absent cow-wheat, wood sage, slender St John's wort, betony and grasses occur. Scattered mature conifers occur in places. This habitat and its more open structure provides a fine contrast to the other communities within the woodland.

3.2 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES

a) Fauna

Dormice occur within the woodland and management of the understorey should take this species into account. Fox, badger, woodmouse and bank vole occur. The woodland supports an interesting range of bird species, notably spring migrants and raptors. Species of particular interest include goshawk, buzzard and wood warbler. Woodcock have been recorded. Very few invertebrates were recorded at the time of survey (unseasonable weather) but Emperor dragonflies were noted. Silver washed fritillary butterflies have been recorded in the recent past. It is likely that a woodland of the size and complexity of Great Wood would reveal a fairly extensive list of invertebrates.

b) Landscape

The woodland is a prominent feature of the landscape and is the most northerly of several large woods which occupy the flanks of a north facing ridge above the River Dore floodplain. The area surrounding the woodland is mainly pastoral. There has been considerable loss of woodland and hedges in the area in the last thirty years.

c) Historical and Cultural

The wood is well documented, with archival evidence dating back to 1796. The Owner has earlier records which may date back to Domesday. There are many medieval boundary woodbanks which lend historical interest to the site.

d) Public Use

Two public footpaths are extant. One footpath follows the eastern boundary of the wood. The other traverses the centre of the western side of the wood in a north-south direction.

f) Position in an Ecological Unit

The woodland partly adjoins and has close association with several other large areas of woodland. Elsewhere it lies adjacent to areas of semi-improved and improved grassland.
Its position on a ridge in close proximity to other large woodlands is of great importance.

g) Diversity

The woodland exhibits a good diversity of community types within which are a rich variety of species. The diversity of tree ages is not great.

h) Recorded History

Good historical documentation is available.

i) Potential Value

The value of the woodland could be enhanced by judicious thinning and coppicing on a medium to long term rotation. This would help to create a more diverse structure and enhance biodiversity. Retention of trees to overmaturity would benefit some invertebrates. Careful scalloping of rides would be beneficial for insects (bearing other species like dormice in mind). The value of the conifer plantations, some of which contain numbers of broadleaved trees, could be enhanced by conversion to broadleaves after final cropping.

j) Intrinsic Appeal

This is a very appealing site with high landscape and historical value.

4.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The priorities should be to maintain, enhance and extend the ecological value of the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) areas. The recommendations that follow are based on the various woodland National Vegetation Classifications:

a) Wet Woodland - NVC W6 Community - Alder / Stinging nettle

Management of this area should be confined to small scale selective coppicing on a long term cycle. NB: The tree nursery adjacent should not be extended into the remaining area of alder. The removal of strips of conifers from the lower eastern side of the valley would enhance and possibly extend this habitat through natural regeneration.

b) Wet Woodland - NVC W7 Community - Alder / Ash / Yellow Pimpernel

Management of this area should be confined to small scale thinning and coppicing on a long term cycle, the objective being to open up small areas only to provide suitable flowering conditions for notable flora e.g. herb paris, nettle leaved bellflower, while other sections remain shady to support ferns and bryophytes.

The proposed turning circle at point D (see map) should be located to the north-west of the confluence of the streams. There is a large wych elm on the southern side of the confluence which should be retained.

c) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - NVC W8 Community - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury

In this community the understorey has been identified as a valuable component thereof. Future management of this area should therefore take account of this important feature. The understorey should therefore be coppiced in conjunction with thinning the canopy trees on a suitable rotation. The structure and diversity of this community could be enhanced by extending the period of thinning over a medium to long period of time. This would create stands of uneven age structure coupled with improved species diversity. Implementation of such recommendations would greatly enhance the biodiversity of the woodland.

d) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - NVC W10 Community - Oak / Bracken / Bramble

The understorey also forms a very important component of this community. Future management of this community should therefore include retention of the understorey together with coppicing on a rotational basis. Diversification of the age structure should also be encouraged by the retention of some large and/or potentially veteran trees.

e) Rides and Glades

The proposal to widen an access track (C-D) will not compromise any significant biological features. Widening of tracks and paths in general and particularly by creating scallops and glades is highly recommended. This may improve the woodland for a number of species, particularly butterflies and other invertebrates. The existing glades support some unusual species e.g cow wheat in Community W10 and it is important that these are retained.

f) Boundary Trees

There are a number of notable boundary trees including several notable pollard small-leaved limes, oaks and wild service trees which should be retained. Their silvicultural treatment should be given special consideration.

g) Others

Although evidence of badgers was frequently noted, a sett was not identified in Great Wood. However, the species should be borne in mind when silvicultural operations are being carried out. The proposals to coppice and extend the period of thinning should be beneficial to dormice.

h) Plantations

Many of the conifer plantations contain numbers of broadleaved trees. A long term aim to convert them back to broadleaves after final cropping would enhance the woodland. Natural regeneration should be encouraged throughout the woodland although it may be necessary to supplement this with planting, notably oak.

#1	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	REF. No.
County Unitary: HEREFORDSHIRE	District: VOWCHURCH	Parish: ST. MARGARETS
Owner/~~tenant/agent~~: MR & MRS A. BLETCHLY 9 BRYNTIRION CLOSE BRIDGEND CF31 4BZ Permission to enter from: OWNER	Nature Conservation Interest: ANCIENT SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND. DIVERSE RANGE OF COMMUNITIES	Site name: SLOUGH BREAST WOOD & LITTLE WOOD
	Special Interest: DORMOUSE SPRING FLORA	Grid ref (access): SO 343357
	Present use/management: COMMERCIAL FORESTRY	Adviser: S. HOLLAND I.B. HART
	Total area (of ownership): 9.40 HECTARES	Date of survey: 8 JULY 1998

Woodland vegetation types (**mark on map**).

WET WOODLAND - NATIONAL VEGETATION COMMUNITY W7 - ALDER / ASH / YELLOW PIMPERNEL

LOWLAND MIXED BROADLEAVED WOODLAND - NVC W8 COMMUNITY - ASH / FIELD MAPLE / DOG'S MERCURY

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)

Broadleaved woodland	✓	Bog/peatland		Orchard			
Conifer woodland		Moving water		Arable/ley			
Lowland grass	✓	Buildings		Garden			
Lowland heath		Mixed woodland		Fen			
Upland grass		Scrub		Still Water			
Upland heath		Parkland		Road/railway			

Situation: A BLOCK OF WOODLAND WITH A NORTH FACING ASPECT ADJOINING GREAT WOOD IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY AREA OF WEST HEREFORDSHIRE. A NUMBER OF STREAMS AND ISSUES ARE PRESENT.

Aspect: N	Slope: 0–25°	Altitude: 130–205M AOD

Valley side	✓	Plain		Hill slope		Coastal	
Valley bottom		Plateau		Hill top		Inland	✓

Soil

Sand	✓	Brown soil		Peat			
Silt		Rendzina		Mull			
Clay		Ranker		Moder			
Acid	✓	Alluvium		Mor			
Neutral	✓	Gley		Water-logged			
Basic	✓	Stones		Poorly drained	✓		
Podsol		Rock		Freely drained	✓		

Geology: OLD RED SANDSTONE WITH INTERBEDDED CORNSTONES

#2 WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

County Unitary	HEREFORDSHIRE	REF. No.	
Adviser	S. HOLLAND I.B. HART	Site name	SLOUGH BREAST WOOD & LITTLE WOOD
Date of survey	8 JULY 1998	Grid ref (centre of site)	SO 342356

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

	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv
Clem vit					
Daph lau					
Heder hel					
Ligus vul					
Lonic per		A			
Mahon aqu				R	
Myrica ga					
Ribes nig					

	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv
Ribes syl					
Ribes uva					
Rosa arv	O				
Rosa can	O				
Sarot sco					
Ulex eur					
Ulex gal					
Vibur opu					

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

Stand description Management and use History Nature of boundaries Grazing

SEE SEPARATE SHEET

Area of (ha):

Ancient semi-nat ASNW	4·7	Recent semi-nat OSNW	–	Ancient replanted AWS	4·7	Recent plantn.	–

Area occupied by each NVC type

0 - 0.5ha	0.5 - 2ha	2-10ha	10-20ha	20+ha
W7	-	W8	–	-

Tree layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)	Shrub layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)
	30	65-90		7	60

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

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

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*

2 WOODLAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

a) Stand Description

The western and central portion of Slough Breast Wood is dominated by abandoned coppice with standards woodland. Some standards have been singled in the past.
There is a good understorey layer consisting of overgrown hazel coppice and a rich ground flora. A fringe of broadleaved coppice with standards woodland occurs along the western boundary of Little Wood. These areas are assigned to Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - National Vegetation Community (NVC) W8 - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury Community.

A small wet area on the west side of Little Wood consists of Wet Woodland - NVC W7 - Alder / Ash / Yellow Pimpernel Community. This comprises alder and sallow.

The remaining areas of the woods consist of conifer plantations with varying numbers of standard broadleaved trees.

A deeply incised stream flows north through Slough Breast Wood.

b) Management and Use

The woodland is currently managed for Commercial Forestry.

c) History

The history of the wood is well documented and can be traced back to Domesday.

d) Nature of Boundaries

The two woods are separated internally by a large woodland bank supporting some Wild Service trees. Woodbanks also occur along most of the boundaries to Little Wood. These banks are notable for the location of significant pollards/coppice trees, particularly small leaved lime. Slough Breast Wood has a distinct woodbank along part of its northern boundary.

e) Grazing

All the boundaries are fenced and stockproof. Grazing animals are excluded from the woodland.

3.1 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROUND VEGETATION

a) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - NVC W8 Community - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury

The largest area of this Ancient Semi-natural woodland has been assigned to this stand type.
This area is dominated by ash on the east side with oak co-dominant in the west. Both occur as standards or singled coppice. Birch, field maple, sallow and wych elm also occur, the latter being particularly prominent on the streamside. Occasional mature small-leaved lime and wild service tree also occur. The understorey is dominated by hazel coppice with coppiced field maple. Holly, rowan, sallow and elder are also present. Honeysuckle is frequent throughout. The woodland supports a rich ground flora with dog's mercury as a dominant. Bluebell, early purple orchid, woodruff, enchanter's nightshade, yellow pimpernel, wood avens and violets also occur. Soft shield fern, wood melick, wood millet and tufted hair grass are present.

b) Wet Woodland - NVC W7 Community - Alder / Ash / Yellow Pimpernel

On the west boundary of Little Wood is located a small damp area which has been assigned to Community W7. This supports alder and sallow with hawthorn and coppiced wych elm. Bugle, meadow sweet and opposite leaved golden saxifrage occur in the ground layer.

3.2 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES

a) Fauna

Dormice occur and management should take account of this species. There is a badger sett on the northern boundary of Little Wood. Fox, woodmouse and bank vole occur. The wood supports a variety of bird species, particularly spring migrants. Raptors have been recorded including Buzzard and Sparrowhawk. Crossbills have been noted. Invertebrate data is scarce.

b) Landscape

The woodland is a prominent feature of the landscape and is part of a complex of woods, including Great Wood, which occupy the flanks of a north facing ridge above the River Dore floodplain. The area surrounding the woodland is mainly pastoral. There has been considerable loss of woodland and hedges in the area in the last thirty years.

c) Historical and Cultural

The woodland is well documented. There are records back to the time of Domesday.

d) Public Use

A public footpath crosses the eastern end of Slough Breast Wood.

4.1 SITE EVALUATION

a) Naturalness

Past management has modified the structure and abundance of tree species favouring particularly oak and ash. The ground flora in these areas exhibits a high degree of naturalness. The Plantation areas are not natural.

b) Representativeness

The main W8 community is an excellent example of its type found within the County of Herefordshire. The small area of W7 Community is not very representative due to its size and the proximity of the conifer plantation.

c) Size

In isolation the wood is small but it adjoins and therefore forms part of a very significant area of woodland (Great Wood) which in turn is adjacent to other large blocks of woodland.

d) Rarity

The woodland community is not rare, being typical of that found in Herefordshire. It is however of national importance and supports some individual species which are rare e.g. dormouse.

e) Fragility

Large scale and sudden changes to the remaining Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) would have a detrimental effect particularly along streamsides and the central woodbank.

f) Position in an Ecological Unit

The woodland is an important part of a larger area of ASNW and is mainly surrounded by improved and semi-improved grassland.

g) Diversity

The woodland exhibits a rich diversity of species, particularly within the main W8 community.

h) Recorded History

The wood is well documented.

i) Potential Value

Re-establishment of coppicing in conjunction with thinning on an appropriate scale would increase diversity. Streamside species requiring shady conditions would not benefit from this treatment. Retention of selected trees to over-maturity would benefit invertebrates. Conversion of the plantation areas to broadleaved communities would be very beneficial particularly within the area of the woods adjoining Great Wood. This would enlarge the corridor between the two woods.

j) Intrinsic Appeal

The areas of ASNW are particularly attractive.

4.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

a) General

The priorities for Slough Breast Wood and Little Wood should be to enhance and extend the ASNW. Much of the ASNW would respond to thinning and coppicing with the retention of some trees - particularly existing notables. Priority should be given to improving the structure of the woodland by careful and considerate management to create stands of diverse species and of uneven age. This would improve biodiversity. The scale of future forestry operations will be critical to these objectives and will be largely determined by the selection of suitable periods of rotation for the areas of the existing semi-natural woodland. At the same time there will be opportunities to further enhance the woodland when the final cropping of the conifers takes place. There are a number of streams, issues and woodbanks in the wood, notably the large internal bank dividing the two woodlands. These are sensitive areas and require careful consideration.

b) Wet Woodland - W7 Community - Alder / Ash / Yellow Pimpernel

This is a small fragment of wet woodland. It is surrounded on the north, south and east sides by conifers which have suffered windblow. This area could be extended along the line of the wet seepage by the removal of the surrounding conifers. It would also benefit from coppicing. The western side of W7 consists of a prominent wood bank with large boundary trees. These include notable specimens of small-leaved lime. These should be retained and managed with specialist advice.

c) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - W8 Community - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury

The understorey of this community is a vital component of the woodland and should be coppiced in conjunction with thinning on a suitable time scale. This would enhance the spring ground flora e.g early purple orchid, bluebell, particularly. It would also help to create a more diverse age structure. Management of the stream and streamsides should be limited with only small scale coppicing. The small area around the proposed culvert at B (see plan) could be coppiced. The proposed culvert at A is situated at the southern end of the prominent woodbank supporting wild service trees. Care should be taken to minimise disturbance to this feature. Trees adjacent to this culvert could be coppiced.

d) Paths

The current area of ASNW is relatively small and the creation of large wide rides is not recommended. However existing paths could be scalloped to provide small areas of light and dappled shade particularly suitable for invertebrates.

e) Boundary Trees

There are a number of significant boundary trees including fine specimens of pollarded small-leaved lime. These should be retained and their management given special consideration.

f) Others

i) There is a badger sett on the northern boundary of Little Wood and silvicultural operations should avoid this.

ii) Dormice occur in the woodland and the proposed coppicing and thinning will benefit this species. However it is recommended that coppice coupes should not extend to greater than 0.5 hectare in any particular season.

iii) Throughout the woodland, trees should be selected to grow on to over maturity.

g) Plantations

The conifer plantations contain numbers of broadleaved trees and thought should be given to converting these back to broadleaves after felling. In particular, the area adjoining Great Wood should be converted to broadleaves thus providing a wider corridor between the two woodlands.

#1	WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	REF. No.

County Unitary: HEREFORDSHIRE	District: VOWCHURCH	Parish: ST. MARGARETS
Owner/~~tenant/agent~~: MR & MRS A BLETCHLY 9 BRYNTIRION CLOSE BRIDGEND CF 31 4BZ Permission to enter from: OWNER	Nature Conservation Interest: ANCIENT SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND DIVERSE RANGE OF COMMUNITIES	Site name: BLACKPOOL WOOD
	Special Interest: WET DEPRESSIONS FINE STANDARD & BOUNDARY TREES	Grid ref (access): SO 350349
	Present use/management: COMMERCIAL FORESTRY	Adviser: S. HOLLAND I. B. HART
	Total area (of ownership): 12·60 HECTARES	Date of survey: 13 JULY 1998

Woodland vegetation types (**mark on map**).

LOWLAND MIXED BROADLEAVED WOODLAND - NATIONAL VEGETATION COMMUNITY W8 - ASH / FIELD MAPLE / DOG'S MERCURY COMMUNITY

LOWLAND MIXED BROADLEVED WOODLAND - NATIONAL VEGETATION COMMUNITY W10 - OAK / BRACKEN / BRAMBLE COMMUNITY

Adjacent land (**mark on map**)

Broadleaved woodland	✓	Bog/peatland		Orchard	
Conifer woodland		Moving water		Arable/ley	
Lowland grass	✓	Buildings	✓	Garden	
Lowland heath		Mixed woodland	✓	Fen	
Upland grass		Scrub		Still Water	
Upland heath		Parkland		Road/railway FOOTPATH	✓

Situation: A BLOCK OF WOODLAND ON RELATIVELY FLAT GROUND ADJOINING GREAT WOOD IN THE GOLDEN VALLEY AREA OF WEST HEREFORDSHIRE.

Aspect	Slope	Altitude
N/E	0°-5°	190-220M AOD

Valley side		Plain		Hill slope		Coastal	
Valley bottom		Plateau	✓	Hill top		Inland	✓

Soil

Sand	✓	Brown soil		Peat	
Silt		Rendzina		Mull	
Clay		Ranker		Moder	
Acid	✓	Alluvium		Mor	
Neutral	✓	Gley		Water-logged	
Basic	✓	Stones		Poorly drained	✓
Podsol		Rock	✓	Freely drained	✓

Geology: OLD RED SANDSTONE (DEVONIAN)

#2 WOODLAND SURVEY SHEET. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

County Unitary	REF. No.
HEREFORDSHIRE	
Adviser: S. HOLLAND, I.B. HART	Site name: BLACKPOOL WOOD
Date of survey: 13 JULY 1998	Grid ref (centre of site): SO 351348

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

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

	Tx Sx	Tp Sc	Ts Js	Tc Jp	Tn Jv
Clem vit					
Daph lau					
Heder hel					
Ligus vul					
Lonic per	A	A			
Mahon aqu					
Myrica ga					
Ribes nig					

	Sx	Sc	Js	Jp	Jv
Ribes syl					
Ribes uva					
Rosa arv	F				
Rosa can	F				
Sarot sco					
Ulex eur					
Ulex gal					
Vibur opu					

Stand description

SEE SEPARATE SHEET

Management and use

History

Nature of boundaries

Grazing

Area of (ha):

Ancient semi-nat ASNW	8.6	Recent semi-nat OSNW	4.0	Ancient replanted AWS	-	Recent plantn.	1

Area occupied by each NVC type

0 - 0.5ha	0.5 - 2ha	2-10ha	10-20ha	20+ha
W8	-	-	W10	-

Tree layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)	Shrub layer	Height (m)	Cover (%)
	30	75		6	70

Age class abundance (all species, using DAFOR system)

O/mature	Mature	Young trees	Saplings	Seedlings	Coppice
O	F	O	F	F	A

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

2. WOODLAND COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

a) Stand description

Blackpool Wood exhibits a diverse and complicated range of stand types. These include mature standard and coppice trees with a dense neglected understorey layer including coppiced species. Some areas are dominated by massive standard oak trees with little understorey. Other areas consist of overgrown coppice, notably birch and alder or hazel, the standards having been removed. These areas have been assigned to National Vegetation Community (NVC) W8 and W10 communities.

Much of the remaining woodland consists of young regenerating and replanted woodland with a dense ground cover of bramble and rose. This stand most closely aligns to a W10 community.

Two noticeable wet depressions occur; the first an oval shaped moat surrounding an island of trees on the north eastern side; the second along the central western side. This is dominated by coppiced alder.

b) Management and use

The wood has been used for commercial forestry.

c) History

Blackpool Wood is an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and is defined as woodland on the Tithe map. The wood is well documented.

d) Nature of boundaries

The woodland It is currently fenced on all boundaries. Ancient woodbanks occur on the eastern boundary, a relic of the period when woodland was contiguous between the whole of Blackpool Wood and Great Wood to the west. These woodbanks support some notable standard and pollarded trees of species oak, wild service tree and small leaved lime.

e) Grazing

Blackpool Wood was in the past opened up to grazing animals for many years, but animals are now excluded. The effects of grazing have contributed to the present range of habitats within the wood, ranging from small areas of open glade to developing thickets of native trees with bramble and rose where natural regeneration has flourished.

3.1 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROUND VEGETATION

a) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - W10 Community - Oak / Bracken / Dog's Mercury Community

The northern end of the W10 community is dominated by a mixture of mature oak and silver birch with ash frequent in places. Downy birch also occurs throughout the wood. The understorey is dominated by old hazel coppice with much hawthorn, both coppice and standard. Blackthorn, sallow, holly and crab apple all occur. Field maple occurs only very rarely. A wild service tree seedling was noted. Aspen occurs particularly on the fringe. There are some exceptional old stands of hazel coppice in this northern area as well as being scattered throughout the remainder of the wood. The ground flora is dominated in places by sanicle with frequent violet, betony, sweet woodruff, yellow archangel, bugle, wood avens and enchanter's nightshade. Tufted hair grass and wood brome are frequent with occasional male fern. Dog's mercury is significantly absent. Towards the centre of the wood bramble becomes the dominant ground flora species with honeysuckle and occasional bracken.

On the northern half of the western side there is a damp depression. This is dominated by old alder coppice with ash saplings. The ground flora within this area is notable including valerian, common spotted orchid, devil's bit scabious, creeping buttercup, bugle and violet. This is a typical damp ground variant of W10 communities.

To the south of this area the western side of the wood is dominated by massive sessile oaks (one particularly notable) with one significant area of old birch both as standards and coppice. Here the ground flora is part dominated by grasses with cow wheat, betony and violet. A large number of seedlings and saplings occur at this locality including oak, ash, hawthorn, rowan, birch, hazel and holly with some wild rose. Bramble becomes more dominant in places, particularly the eastern side of the clump of oaks where there is a more developed understorey.

Along the central east side of the wood is a moat-like depression with a central wooded island. Lesser spearwort dominates the damp depression with flote-grass.

b) Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland - W8 Community - Ash / Field Maple / Dog's Mercury Community

This community occurs on the eastern side of the wood. Here sessile oak standards with occasional birch and a coppice hazel understorey are dominant. Ash is occasional with field maple. The ground flora is dominated

by dog's mercury with occasional wood sorrel and male fern. A notable wych elm occurs on the woodland boundary.

To the south of this area sessile oak and silver and downy birch become dominant once again. The ground flora is dominated by bramble with areas of sweet woodruff. One massive ancient small leaved lime occurs on the northern bank of a small issue very close to the boundary bank together with two large wild service trees and an oak pollard located to the south on the same boundary. There is a moderately rich diversity of mosses present.

The significant and notable conservation features include the diversity of the stand, the large boundary trees, wet depressions, derelict hazel coppice and diverse ground flora.

The complexity and variation within Blackpool Wood combine to make it a sensitive site to manage. Wet areas are vulnerable to damage and although the flora would benefit from being opened up, notable trees should be retained. Spring flowering species may benefit from coppicing although sanicle is fairly shade tolerant. Bramble is very dominant and this may in part be due to former periods of grazing. Dead wood and bryophytes especially associated with stumps may be vulnerable.

3.2 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES

a) Fauna

Evidence of fox was seen. Grey Squirrel damage to trees was noted as was the presence of wood mouse and bank voles. The Speckled Wood butterfly was recorded. The wood would lend itself attractive to a good number of species of birds, particularly woodpeckers.
Warblers would be expected to use the thickets as nesting sites.

b) Landscape

Blackpool Wood is situated within a well wooded area. It adjoins Great Wood at its northern extremity and on other boundaries is bordered by grassland. The wood is one of a series of large woodlands with high landscape value situate on the crown of a south western ridge overlooking the Golden Valley.

c) Historical and Cultural

Most of Blackpool Wood occurs on the Tithe Map as woodland although an area along the north-eastern side is recorded as rough pasture at that time. Nevertheless, the wood does occur in its entirety on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. This evidence, together with the associated ground flora and significant boundary earthworks and boundary trees on the eastern flank, supports the view that the woodland is of ancient lineage. There is also evidence that the woodland was originally double its present size and that the area of grassland to the west of Blackpool Wood was formerly occupied by woodland.

d) Public Use

A public footpath runs along the western side of the wood but does not impinge on it.

4.1 SITE EVALUATION

a) Naturalness

Although Blackpool Wood is an ASNW, the structure of the woodland has been modified by management and probably grazing. Although some planting has occured, much of the cleared area contains dense natural regeneration. The most natural remaining areas are located at the northern end and the eastern flank.

b) Representativeness

The woodland is not entirely typical of its type and contains several notable features.

c) Size

A fairly large area of woodland which adjoins a very extensive woodland area.

d) Rarity

The woodland community is not in itself rare, however it contains some interesting and noteworthy features. ASNW is important nationally and Blackpool Wood is a good example of such habitat.

e) Fragility

ASNW is sensitive to large scale and sudden change. The species present in the wood have been to a certain extent dependent on past management regimes e.g. coppicing. The flora of the wet areas is at risk from becoming completely shaded.

f) Position in an Ecological Unit

The site is one of several large ASNW blocks within this area and is linked to one of them.

g) Diversity

The woodland contains a diverse range of habitats within the main W10 community type. The current diversity has resulted from past management. There is a diversity of age range with older and occasionally veteran trees together with regenerating thickets.

h) Recorded History

The woodland is well documented. Reference has been made to the Tithe map and the 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey.

i) Potential Value

The woodland has great potential and with sympathetic management its biodiversity is likely to be enhanced.

j) Intrinsic Appeal

The open areas with mature trees have high intrinsic value. However the dense regenerating thickets and bramble and rose dominated areas will probably only have limited appeal.

4.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The long term conservation priority for Blackpool Wood should be to enhance the existing W8 and W10 communities through management based on coppice with standards and high forest.

Management should be limited and small scale. There is scope for re-coppicing hazel and other understorey species. This will ensure that the diversity of the shrub and field layer is retained.

The two wetland depressions would benefit from being opened up. Thinning and coppicing could concentrate initially around these areas.

It is recommended that the area supporting the large oaks and birch should be retained. This similarly applies to large hazel stools and notable trees, particularly the boundary trees to the eastern boundary. Consideration could also be given to creating 'new' boundary trees (e.g. pollards) along the western boundary of the wood, where it abuts on to the public right of way. This boundary would have formerly occupied the centre of the wood prior to clearance for agriculture.

Natural regeneration appears to be prolific and should be encouraged where coppicing and thinning occur.

There are currently no paths or rides through the woodland. The creation of a path, e.g along the boundary of the plantation and W10 woodland community and also linking the two wetland areas, would enhance access and create open areas within the woodland.

WOODLAND TREES AND SHRUBS - GREAT WOOD, SLOUGH BREAST AND LITTLE WOOD

LATIN	ENGLISH
Acer campestre	Field maple
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Betula pendula	Silver birch
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Hedera helix	Ivy
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Larix sp.	Larch
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Malus sylvestris	Crab apple
Picea sp.	Spruce
Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine
Prunus avium	Wild cherry
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak
Ribes sylvestre	Redcurrant
Rosa arvensis	Field rose
Rosa canina	Dog rose
Salix caprea	Goat willow
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Sorbus torminalis	Wild service tree
Taxus baccata	Yew
Thelycrania sanguinea	Dogwood
Tilia cordata	Small-leaved lime
Ulmus glabra	Wych elm
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose

WOODLAND VASCULAR PLANTS - GREAT WOOD, SLOUGH BREAST AND LITTLE WOOD

LATIN	ENGLISH
Adoxa moschatellina	Moschatel
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent
Adjuga reptans	Bugle
Allium ursinum	Wild garlic
Anemone nemorosa	Wood anemone
Angelica sylvestris	Angelica
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow parsley
Arctium minus	Lesser burdock
Arum maculatum	Lords and Ladies
Blechnum spicant	Hard fern
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False brome
Bromus ramosus	Wood brome
Cardamine flexuosa	Wood bitter-cress
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckoo flower
Carex flacca	Glaucous sedge
Carex pendula	Pendulous sedge
Carex remota	Remote sedge
Carex sylvatica	Wood sedge
Centaurium erythraea	Centaury
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay willowherb
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	Opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's nightshade
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle
Colchicum autumnale	Meadow saffron
Conopodium majus	Pignut
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested dog's tail
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot grass
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common spotted orchid
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted hair-grass
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Dryopteris affinis	Scaly male fern
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad buckler fern
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male fern
Epilobium hirsutum	Great hairy willowherb
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved willowherb
Epipactis helleborine	Broad-leaved helleborine
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood spurge
Festuca gigantea	Giant fescue
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca	Wild strawberry
Galeobdolon luteum	Yellow archangel
Galeopsis tetrahit	Common hemp nettle
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Galium odoratum	Sweet woodruff
Galium palustre	Marsh bedstraw

Geranium robertianum	Herb robert
Geum urbanum	Wood avens
Glechoma hederacea	Ground ivy
Heracleum spondylium	Hogweed
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog
Holcus mollis	Creeping soft grass
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell
Hypericum hirsutum	Hairy St. John's-wort
Hypericum maculatum	Imperforate St. Johns'-wort
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort
Juncus effusus	Soft rush
Juncus inflexus	Hard rush
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Lathyrus montanus	Bitter vetch
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow vetchling
Lotus uliginosus	Greater bird's foot trefoil
Luzula campestre	Field wood-rush
Luzula pilosa	Hairy wood-rush
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged robin
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping jenny
Melampyrum pratense	Cow wheat
Melica uniflora	Wood melick
Mentha aquatica	Water mint
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's mercury
Milium effusum	Wood millet
Myosotis arvensis	Field forget me not
Orchis mascula	Early purple orchid
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel
Paris quadrifolia	Herb paris
Poa annua	Annual poa
Poa trivialis	Rough poa
Polypodium vulgare	Common polypody
Polystichum setiferum	Soft shield-fern
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Potentilla repens	Creeping buttercup
Potentill sterilis	Barren strawberry
Primula veris	Cowslip
Primula vulgaris	Primrose
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser celandine
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Rumex conglomeratus	Sharp dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle
Scrophularia nodosa	Figwort
Silene dioica	Red campion
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge woundwort
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort
Stellaria media	Chickweed

Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit scabious
Tamus communis	Black bryony
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood sage
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle
Valeriana dioica	Marsh valerian
Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander speedwell
Veronica montana	Wood speedwell
Veronica officinalis	Common speedwell
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved speedwell
Vicia sativa	Common vetch
Vicia sepium	Bush vetch
Viola reichenbachiana	Pale wood violet
Viola riviniana	Dog violet

WOODLAND TREES AND SHRUBS - BLACKPOOL WOOD

LATIN	ENGLISH
Acer campestre	Field maple
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Betula pendula	Silver birch
Betula pubescens	Downy birch
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Hedera helix	Ivy
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Malus sylvestris	Crab apple
Populus tremula	Aspen
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak
Rosa arvensis	Field rose
Rosa canina	Dog rose
Salix caprea	Goat willow
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Sorbus torminalis	Wild service tree
Thelycrania sanguinea	Dogwood
Tilia cordata	Small-leaved lime
Ulmus glabra	Wych elm
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose

WOODLAND VASCULAR PLANTS - BLACKPOOL WOOD

LATIN	ENGLISH
Adoxa moschatellina	Moschatel
Adjuga reptans	Bugle
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic mustard
Allium ursinum	Wild garlic
Anemone nemorosa	Wood anemone
Angelica sylvestris	Angelica
Arum maculatum	Lords and Ladies
Betonica officinalis	Betony
Brachypodium sylvaticum	False brome
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy bitter-cress
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckoo flower
Carex pendula	Pendulous sedge
Carex riparia	Great pond sedge
Carex sylvatica	Wood sedge
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay willowherb
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	Opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's nightshade
Cirsium arvense	Creeping thistle
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle
Colchicum autumnale	Meadow saffron
Conopodium majus	Pignut
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot grass
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common spotted orchid
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted hair-grass
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad buckler fern
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male fern
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca	Wild strawberry
Galeobdolon luteum	Yellow archangel
Galeopsis tetrahit	Common hemp nettle
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Galium odoratum	Sweet woodruff
Galium palustre	Marsh bedstraw
Geranium robertianum	Herb robert
Geum urbanum	Wood avens
Glechoma hederacea	Ground ivy
Glyceria sp.	Flote grass
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort
Juncus effusus	Soft rush
Juncus inflexus	Hard rush
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Lathyrus montanus	Bitter vetch
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow vetchling
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's foot trefoil
Lotus uliginosus	Greater bird's foot trefoil

Luzula campestre	Field wood-rush
Luzula pilosa	Hairy wood-rush
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping jenny
Melampyrum pratense	Cow wheat
Melica uniflora	Wood melick
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's mercury
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel
Plantego lanceolata	Ribwort plantain
Potentilla reptans	Creeping buttercup
Potentilla sterilis	Barren strawberry
Primula vulgaris	Primrose
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser celandine
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser spearwort
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble
Rumex conglomeratus	Sharp dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle
Scrophularia nodosa	Figwort
Silene dioica	Red campion
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge woundwort
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort
Stellaria media	Chickweed
Succisa pratensis	Devil's bit scabious
Tamus communis	Black bryony
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle
Valeriana dioica	Marsh valerian
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander speedwell
Veronica montana	Wood speedwell
Veronical serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved speedwell
Vicia sepium	Bush vetch
Viola reichenbachiana	Pale wood violet
Viola riviniana	Dog violet

SPECIAL FEATURES APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPARTMENTS

GREAT WOOD, SLOUGH BREAST, LITTLE WOOD, BLACKPOOL WOOD.

FEATURE	COMMENT
Bluebell	Generally confined to ancient woodlands. Britain's woodlands support 20% of the global population of this species. Listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as a species requiring special attention.
Herb Paris Broad leaved helleborine Meadow saffron Twayblade Early purple orchid Common spotted orchid Moschatel Yellow archangel Sweet woodruff Sanicle Soft shield fern	These, in varying combinations are all good ancient woodland indicator species. Herb paris is confined to woodlands and is therefore a very valuable indicator. Many of the other species are found in other habitats eg. hedge banks, river and stream banks. When they occur together, as is the case here, they indicate a site which has always supported woodland, as far as records can tell ie. ancient woodland.
Wild service tree Small-leaved lime	These 2 species of tree indicate an ancient woodland site. Small-leaved lime rarely sets viable seed today so many of the stools or trees which now occur are very old.
Dormouse	Protected under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. It requires a diversity of tree and shrub species in order to feed. Honeysuckle is important both for feeding and nest building. Herefordshire is a stronghold for this species.
Song thrush	There has been a 50% decline in the breeding population in the last 25 years.
Woodcock	There has been a 50% decline in breeding population in the last 25 years. Now very localised as a breeding species.
Goshawk	Has been identified in the wood in previous years. Protected species.
Buzzard	Protected species.
Silver-washed fritillary	Known to occur in the wood. Food plant violet.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF WOODLAND COMPARTMENTS

GREAT WOOD, SLOUGH BREAST, LITTLE WOOD, BLACKPOOL WOOD.

Compartment and notable feature	Comment
Cpt. 3 Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Old pollard oak and oak standards	 Older trees have high invertebrate value.
Cpt. 4 Alder-Stinging nettle Woodland Alder-Ash-Yellow Pimpernel Woodland Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Nettle-leaved bellflower Herb Paris Good woodland flora along the stream side particularly ancient woodland species.	 Rare in the County. Only occurs very locally in the county. Ancient woodland indicator.
Cpt. 5 Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland Notable standard oaks. Cow wheat Notable flora beneath thinned oaks	 Older trees have high invertebrate value. Only occurs locally in the county. Likes the more acid conditions on upper parts of the wood. Includes the above and a range of species with an affinity towards poorer soils.
Cpt. 6 Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland Supports species which are suited to slightly more acid conditions.	
Cpt. 7 Alder-Ash-Yellow Pimpernel Woodland Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland Large small-leaved lime coppice stools Wych elm coppice Substantial tufa deposits along stream and notable at small waterfall Notable ancient woodland flora especially along stream side. .	 Ancient woodland species. A good indication of limy conditions.

Cpt. 8 Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Small leaved lime and wild service trees. Contains a wet flush area with alder and pendulous sedge. Good ancient woodland flora.	Ancient woodland species.
Cpt. 9 Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Notable small-leaved lime and wild service trees especially on boundaries. Wet depression with stream at southern end. Good ancient woodland flora.	Ancient woodland species - of historical significance.
Cpt. 10 Alder -Ash-Yellow Pimpernel Woodland Small-leaved lime and boundary oaks. Badger sett.	Ancient woodland species - of historical significance. On northern boundary.
Cpt. 11 Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Small-leaved lime and wild service trees. Notable ancient woodland flora.	Ancient woodland species.
Cpt. 12 Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland Ash-Field Maple-Dog's Mercury Woodland Contains a number of notable trees, many of which are very large or boundary trees - oak, small-leaved lime, wild service and wych elm. Rich flora including common spotted orchid, devil's bit scabious and lesser spearwort in the wet areas. Cow wheat in the dry sections.	Ancient woodland species, high invertebrate interest and of historical value.

MONITORING, TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TARGETS

The survey has revealed that the woodlands support a range of habitat types - the damper streamside communities, the slightly drier ash dominated community and the drier oak community. Within each of these, additional features also add diversity - the rides and glades and the small wet depressions. Each different woodland habitat type has slightly different communities of species, both animal and plant associated with it. Some species have been under-recorded e.g. invertebrates, mosses, liverworts, fungi and lichens. This is because either the weather was poor which made survey impossible or the groups require very specialist attention e.g. fungi, beetles.

An overall target should be to maintain and enhance the ancient semi-natural woodland communities which exist in the woodlands through restoration of traditional management practices where appropriate (coppice with standards) and thinning and selective felling within areas of high forest. This will improve the structural diversity within the woodlands.

A second target to maintain and enhance the diversity of habitats within the woodlands will allow features such as streams, wet flushes, veteran trees, glades and rides to be preserved. Management for these areas may involve fine tuning the overall target e.g. some of the streamside species show a preference for shade or dappled light and therefore felling in large coupes would not be appropriate. However some of the rides and glades are now very shaded and opening out would greatly enhance wildlife associated with these e.g. butterflies and rideside flowers.

MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In order to assess whether management is achieving the targets it is necessary to set performance indicators or carry out monitoring. The following techniques may be employed:-

1. Entomological.

Butterfly Transects - this involves timed walks along set routes annually and should include rides, glades and areas of coppice.

Other groups could be surveyed initially and their fortunes monitored by occasional repeat surveys.

2. Ornithological.

Bird population monitoring could be undertaken using the Common Birds Census technique. The local Ornithologist Club may well help with this. This would provide valuable information particularly when the structural diversity of the wood is increased.

A nest box scheme could be set up (this would only provide information about a restricted range of bird species).

3. Mammal

Dormouse Monitoring -this could be undertaken on an annual or biennial basis. It involves counts of gnawed hazel nuts within quadrats. The presence of other species e.g. yellow-necked mice, polecats could be monitored by periodical trapping.

4. Botanical

Rare plant monitoring- in some cases counts of selected species could be undertaken. Where plants grow close together fixed quadrats should be set up and the positions of individuals marked off. A quadrat enclosing an entire colony of slow spreading species e.g. herb paris could be set up to monitor the spread of the plants.

Photographic monitoring - Fixed point photography has the benefit of being quick and cost effective as long as durable marker posts are in position. Rides, glades, stream sides, coppice coupes, areas of thinning and clear felling could all be photographed. In addition this method could be used for epiphytic lichen and bryophyte communities.

#5	WOODLAND RECORD SHEET PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF NVC TYPES (one per NVC type)	REF. No.

Photo number (mark location on map): ①	Date: 8 JULY 1998	NVC type: W8

Photo number (mark location on map): ②	Date: 12 JULY 1998	NVC type: W10

#5	WOODLAND RECORD SHEET PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF NVC TYPES (one per NVC type)	REF. No.

Photo number (mark location on map): (3)	Date: 11 JULY 1998	NVC type: W6

Photo number (mark location on map): (4)	Date: 10 JULY 1998	NVC type: W7

GREAT WOOD - NOTE TUFA DEPOSITS

#5	WOODLAND RECORD SHEET PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF NVC TYPES (one per NVC type)	REF. No.

Photo number (mark location on map): (5)	Date: 13 JULY 1998	NVC type: W8

Photo number (mark location on map): (6)	Date: 13 JULY 1998	NVC type: W10

#5	WOODLAND RECORD SHEET PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF NVC TYPES (one per NVC type)	REF. No.

Photo number (mark location on map): (7)	Date: 13 JULY 1998	NVC type: W10

BLACKPOOL WOOD - BOUNDARY SMALL-LEAVED LIME POLLARD

Photo number (mark location on map): (8)	Date: 13 JULY 1998	NVC type: W10

BLACKPOOL WOOD - MASSIVE OAK POLLARD

Ordnance Survey
Superplan

Option 1
Site-centred

PLOUGH BREAST WOOD
LITTLE WOOD
GREAT WOOD
BLACKPOOL WOOD

KEY

OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY
WOODLAND BOUNDARY
MAIN ACCESS POINTS
W8 WOODLAND VEGETATION TYPES
PLANTATION AREAS
C = Conifer
MB = Mixed broadleaves
ANCIENT WOODBANKS
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

40 20 0 40 60 120 160 200
Metres

Sale 1: 2500

JULY 1998

National Grid sheet reference at centre of this Superplan: SO3435

The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.

Heights are given in metres above Datum.