RIDGE WOOD

A special place for people, plants and animals

Ridge Wood
Community Gateway Forest

Management Plan

October 2000

for

South Gloucestershire Council

and

Hanson Aggregates

Greenwood

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1.00 INTRODUCTION

Ridge Wood is a relatively small woodland site of 4·8 hectares (11·9 acres) which lies in an urban setting on the boundary between the parishes of Yate and Chipping Sodbury. It has a wide range of tree and shrub species with many mature trees and contains remnants of Ancient Woodland as indicated on old maps and by areas of rich ground flora with a number of ancient woodland indicator plants.

The site, which is owned by Hanson Aggregates, lies to the west of Barnhill and Southfield Quarries and adjacent to commercial development which now occupies land on which the building known as 'The Ridge' (now demolished) was situated. It is largely on sloping ground, and is subject to a high level of human usage, predominantly along the hard-surfaced footpath inside the western margin of the site, but also on the remaining area, to which public access is not currently authorised because of safety and security reasons.

The wood is characterised by the planting of parkland trees in the central and northern sections which was carried out in Victorian times. Non-native and non-local species were introduced to create a parkland effect within the grounds of The Ridge house. The southern section of the wood is a reminder of quarrying activities with steep and uneven slopes of spoil/overburden which have been colonised by a variety of species of trees, shrubs and plants. Small clearings on a plateau at the southern end contain remnant patches of unimproved grassland and scrub.

Ridge Wood is an important site in nature conservation terms because of the presence of a rich diversity of species, some of them uncommon. It is also vital as a local public amenity, recreation and landscape site being practically the only local area of woodland. Because of these factors and because of the current level of human usage of the site, it has been agreed between Hanson Quarry Products and South Gloucestershire Council to prepare a community-led, 5 year management plan for the wood as a Community Forest Gateway Site.

Extensive consultations have been carried out with the local residents, site users, council members, schools, interest groups and the site owners in the production of this plan for Ridge Wood. 'Comments' leaflets were made available with over 100 delivered to local properties. Several articles were published in the local press and posters were put up locally prior to a site walk. Support has been wholeheartedly in favour of the adoption of Ridge Wood as a Community Forest Gateway Site. A summary of the issues raised and comments made during the first stage of the consultation process is contained in Section 7.06.

2.00 LOCATION OF THE SITE

2.01 Site name

Ridge Wood (being the remaining woodland and landscaped gardens associated with the former Ridge House, now demolished). The site is also known as Barnhill Wood or Barnhill Quarry.

2.02 District

Ridge Wood is situated in the parish of Sodbury on a section of it's western boundary with the parish of Yate (see Plan 1).

2.03 Planning Authority

South Gloucestershire Council.

2.04 6 Figure Map Ref.

ST 724 828.

3.00 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

3.01 Area (Site definition and boundaries - see Plan 2)

Ridge Wood covers an area of approximately 4.8 hectares (11.9 acres) in a long and narrow strip (approximately 880 metres long by 120 metres at the widest point, 22 metres at narrowest point) which has a north-south axis.

To the west of the woodland lies relatively intensive residential development which has largely built up over the last 25 years, and an industrial site at the southern end. The long boundary of this western edge is clearly defined by fences to the gardens of residential properties and the industrial site, and the remains of former field boundaries and deciduous hedgerows. A number of the residential properties have illegal gated access ways to the public footpath which runs north-south to the whole length of this margin.

The long eastern and short southern boundaries of Ridge Wood are formed at the junction with the adjacent commercial and industrial sites where most of the land is hard-surfaced as roadway or car parking. Most of this boundary is open with some short sections of fence and hedge. A narrow strip of varying width along this edge is excluded from the plan for the site owners management and security purposes. The southern end of this eastern site boundary is abutted by working elements of the quarry and there is a storage tank just within the wood.

The northern boundary is a notional line 20 to 30 metres to the north of the public footpath as it bends eastwards and upwards. The narrow linear woodland and footpath which runs away northwards from the site is excluded from this plan. Most of the site slopes from east to west with a narrow western margin which is relatively level.

3.02 Access

Along the level western margin the public footpath runs with a tarmac surface from A to C, the remainder being compacted stone. The tarmac section has soil and vegetation spreading onto the margins, particularly in a couple of locations where surface water collects.

There are seven main access points to this footpath (see Plan 2):

A The southern site access from Quarry Road with an opening which allows pedestrian and other access through a narrow opening and a wide padlocked gate for larger vehicular access. This gate and the adjacent stone wall are damaged.

B Open access from Melrose Close across uneven and rising ground.

C Tarmac surfaced access way from Jubilee Gardens with offset, traffic-slowing, metal barriers which allow pedestrian, cyclist and other access. There is also a padlocked metal post inside the barriers which formerly allowed vehicular access.

E A wide gated former vehicular access to the Ridge Offices in the Eastern boundary. There are open sections in the fence and hedge on either side which allow pedestrian, etc. access.

G Hoggin surfaced access way from Jubilee Gardens with a wide access point with one wide and one narrow wooden gate allowing pedestrian, cyclist and other access.

J Metal kissing gate allowing pedestrian, cyclist and pushchair access from Greenways Road at the north-western corner of the site.

K Narrow open access from the footpath to the north.

There are three main areas within the wood with distinct characteristics, and a small subsidiary area at the northern end which can be used as compartments for descriptive and management purposes (see Plan 3). These compartments are described in detail in the management section 8.03. The River Frome flows in a narrow landscape corridor, a short distance to the south of the site, which includes Brook Street Meadow which is leased by Hanson Aggregates to South Gloucestershire Council. There are no direct wildlife corridors linking Ridge Wood to the river. There is a narrow landscape feature to the north of the adjacent industrial site which links with the western boundary of the site. It does not directly link with any other wildlife features.

3.03 Elevation

The level of the site varies from around 92 metres Above Ordnance Datum at the lowest level of the footpath to between 105 and 107 m. A.O.D. on the southern plateau and head of the slope on parts of the eastern boundary.

3.04 Aspect

The vast majority of the site has a westerly aspect, the only exception being the eastern margin of the southern compartment which faces east and the narrow plateau also at the southern end.

3.05 Drainage

The site drainage is governed by the steep slopes and freely draining nature of the ground. There are no visible signs of site drainage apart from small areas of collection of surface water along the path following heavy rain. There are no areas of permanent or temporary standing water.

3.06 Land-use (Past and current)

The majority of the southern compartment was formerly quarried. It has subsequently been reinstated with overburden and soil. The central section of the site formed part of the Victorian landscaped gardens of The Ridge House and margins of adjacent fields (see Plan 4 - Tithe Map). Recent use of the site has been confined to human recreation, particularly along the footpath but also elsewhere in the woods, mainly by

young people on bikes, making dens, etc.

3.07 Management Practice (Past and current)

There are signs of historical management of the woodland with old coppiced stools, predominantly of hazel. Numerous standard trees of non-native species occur from the time of introduction in the 19th. Century as parkland specimens. The Tithe Map of 1881 shows a wooded parkland garden surrounding The Ridge house which includes sections of compartments 2, 3 and 4 of the current woodland area. Recent management has been limited to the maintenance of open pathways, clearance/making good of gale damage in 1999, and the creation of dead hedges to limit access. A draft management plan was prepared for the site by the owners in 1992, but it was never finalised. It is taken into consideration in the following management proposals.

3.08 Land Tenure

The whole of the site is owned by Hanson Quarry Products Europe Limited.

4.0 BIOLOGICAL

Latin names are included in the species lists in Plan Appendicies.

4.01 Flora

Ridge Wood is a mixed broadleaved woodland which is in part semi-natural. The dominant native standard trees are ash and English oak with wych elm, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel and field maple as the main under-storey shrubs. Yew also occurs in small groups in certain areas and there are occasional holly, birch, crab apple, aspen, wild cherry, spindle and wayfaring tree. The woodland has been modified by the addition of non-local and non-native plant species including coniferous and broadleaved trees such as wellingtonia, deodar cedar, horse chestnut, poplar and common lime.

The ground flora is varied with many areas with diverse plant communities including frequent dog's mercury, bluebell, wood anenome and ramsons. Yellow archangel, moschatel, early dog violet, woodruff, pignut and spurge-laurel are also present. A list of South-west Ancient Woodland vascular plants is included with the species lists.

There are some very small areas in clearings at the southern end of the site which display an unimproved grassland community which contains salad burnet, yarrow, bugle, ox-eye daisy, bird's-foot trefoil and cowslip.

The bryophyte community within the wood appears to be relatively species poor with only the more common woodland species such as *Hypnum cupressiforme, Pnium hornum* and *Atrichum undulatum* occurring widely.

Fungi do not appear to be diverse or common within the site although some species such as the bracket fungus Dryad's saddle (*Polyporus squamosus*) are noticeable on larger standing trunks of dead or dying wood.

A more detailed description of the flora is contained within the compartment descriptions in section 8.03.

4.02 Fauna

Because of the human usage of the site, including the exercising of dogs, and the presence of domestic cats from local houses, the mammal population is restricted. Roe deer are occasionally seen within the wood but rarely stay long. There is a badger sett at the northern edge of the site and signs of badger activity within the wood. Foxes are also visitors. Pipistrelle bats hunt in and over the woodland and it is likely that several other species also hunt invertebrates which emerge from the trees, shrubs and other plants. Grey squirrels are present in the woodland and do some damage to trees, particularly sycamore and beech.

There is a diverse bird population that breeds in and uses the wood for feeding and

roosting despite the apparent shortage of nesting sites in holes in veteran trees. All three species of British woodpecker - great spotted, lesser spotted and green - use the wood. The summer migrants chiff chaff, willow warbler, blackcap and spotted flycatcher have all been recorded feeding in Ridge Wood and goldcrest nest in the conifers. Both pied and grey wagtail feed along the main path, the latter species breeding on the River Frome to the south.

There are no known reptile or amphibian records for the site.

Ridge Wood appears to hold a reasonably diverse invertebrate community. Speckled wood butterflies occur in clearings throughout the wood. The grassland clearings at the southern end of the site appear especially good habitats for a range of invertebrates including hoverflies, moths and ants. Snails and beetles are common throughout the site. No specific recording of invertebrates is known to have been carried out.

4.03 Priority Species and Communities

No very rare species or communities have been found in Ridge Wood to date. The semi-natural woodland community with an assemblage of species associated with ancient woodland is of importance in nature conservation terms, however, and includes important and relatively uncommon species such as aspen, spindle, crab apple and wayfaring tree in the shrub layer, and dog's mercury, bluebell, wood anenome, yellow archangel, moschatel, early dog violet, woodruff and spurge laurel in the ground flora.

Although very small, the unimproved grassland communities are of importance in relation to the site in adding to the species and habitat diversity. Species such as salad burnet, yarrow, bugle, ox-eye daisy and cowslip are important components of this habitat.

The mature trees, both native and introduced are of importance to wildlife for the micro-habitats and nesting/roosting sites that they provide, and visually as landscape features.

Badgers and bats are a legally protected species, and their presence adds greatly to the value of the site for human interest. The diversity of bird species is a vital feature of the site, with the presence of lesser spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, spotted flycatcher and breeding goldcrest most notable.

5.00 CULTURAL

5.01 Human Impact

There is evidence throughout the wood of human impact including the extensive remains of quarrying activities at the southern end, introduced plant species, the remains of landscape garden features and the more recent features associated with the footpath along the western margin. Current detrimental human impacts are the dumping of rubbish and the damage to ground flora and trees.

5.02 Archaeological Interest

There is no known archaeological interest within the site, although there are a few minor remains of landscape garden features from the Victorian period of The Ridge house. There is a 'standing stone' in the wood which appears of recent origin.

5.03 Current Interest

Recreation

Ridge Wood is widely used for human recreation including walking, dog excercising, jogging and cycling. It is used, to an extent, by young people as an adventure playground. Because of the relatively level nature of the main path, it is used by people of a wide range of ages and abilities. It is particularly attractive because of the wildlife and visual interest.

A leaflet exists which shows the wood as part of a wider recreational network – the "Hidden Yate Walk" leaflet includes the whole of the main path in a circular walk around Yate.

Landscape

Because of the nature of the topography of the site and the structure of the woodland, Ridge Wood is a prominent local landscape feature. The woodland acts as a screen between areas of local residential and commercial/industrial uses.

Research and Education

No known research is carried out at Ridge Wood but the site is currently used for occasional environmental walks by local schools.

Other

The footpaths and cycleway (both authorised and unauthorised) within the wood are used as travel routes between residences and places of education or work.

6.00 EVALUATION AND OBJECTIVES

6.01 Conservation Status of the Site

Ridge Wood has a rich diversity of plant species, including areas which display characteristics of Ancient Woodland. The areas of unimproved grassland in clearings at the southern end of the site are too small to be of significant nature conservation status, but are very important locally as examples of an uncommon habitat and because they add to the biodiversity of the site.

Ridge Wood is of high local nature conservation importance and interest in amenity terms. The wooded corridor to the north of the site is of vital importance in maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity by linkage to the wider countryside.

6.02 Historic Status of the Site

The long-term history of Ridge Wood is not currently known and although the site is not included in English Nature's register of Ancient Woodland for the county, a core area is thought to be Ancient and the northern two-thirds is shown as woodland or parkland on the 1881 Tithe Map (see plan 4).

The present woodland character has been heavily influenced by Victorian planting of non-native and non-local species in the central and northern compartments to create a parkland effect in the grounds of The Ridge house. Evidence of the planting of bulbs and other garden plants at this time also remains. Other reminders of this parkland use of the woodland occur where remnants of stone and brick walls can be seen and a former tennis lawn on the eastern boundary of the central compartment has now reverted to woodland.

A section of the eastern boundary of Ridge Wood forms part of the Parish Boundary between Yate and Sodbury, and as such constitutes an important local historical feature. A number of other sections of field boundaries which are shown on the 1881 Tithe Map are now incorporated into the woodland, and at least part of the current main path was in use as a path or trackway at this time.

6.03 Evaluation of Features

At 4.8 hectares Ridge Wood is a relatively small site in terms of nature conservation, but it is significant locally as an urban wildlife habitat and landscape, amenity and recreation feature.
The diversity of species is high for a relatively small site in an urban setting. The aggregation of semi-natural woodland species is particularly important. Ridge Wood has been greatly altered by the introduction of non-native and non-local species. However, there is an underlying natural woodland flora throughout the site.

Ancient woodland is an uncommon habitat, particularly so in an urban setting. Some of the plant species within this habitat are uncommon. The small fragments of

unimproved grassland also give an indication of what is an uncommon habitat. The habitats and species contained within Ridge Wood are particularly fragile and subject to damage and destruction by mis-use and mis-management (including neglect). The ground flora, in particular, has begun to suffer in areas of high usage by walkers and cyclists.

Ridge Wood has a high potential value for nature conservation, landscape, amenity, educational and recreational purposes. The site has a very high intrinsic appeal and is of some historical interest.

6.04 Identification of Important features

The particularly important features of the site in nature conservation and amenity terms are:

i) The diverse woodland ground flora.
ii) The mature deciduous and coniferous trees.
iii) The open grassland area.
iv) The badger sett.
v) The wooded corridor to the north of the site (which is excluded from the plan but which is a vital element of the site as a wildlife corridor).

The public amenity value of the site also lies in it's accessibility and local rarity.

6.05 The Site in Wider Perspective - Management Implications

Ridge Wood should be managed as an element in a wider landscape containing similar nature conservation and amenity sites with maximum linkage between sites. The site also acts as a reservoir of biodiversity, with many of the more mobile species permeating into the wider landscape.

Ridge Wood also has a social function, serving the needs of the local community as a recreational, educational, pollution (air, sound and visual) minimisation and landscape feature. The site should be managed to maximise these wider benefits.

6.06 Ideal Management Objectives

In terms of nature conservation the ideal management objective would be to eliminate non-native and non-local species with subsequent introduction of a coppice-with-standards management cycle. Because of the value of this wood in amenity and landscape terms, however, this objective should be adapted to balance the benefits for wildlife and human recreational uses.

7.00 FACTORS INFLUENCING MANAGEMENT

7.01 Natural Trends

If left to natural forces all woodland would progress to a climax community of 'Wildwood'. The natural trend would be for the grassland clearings to scrub up and turn to woodland with clearings formed elsewhere by falling trees as they mature and die.

Isolated woods, which are not connected to other similar sites at least by wildlife corridors, tend to an impoverishment of biodiversity. Urban woodland sites also tend to lose the more sensitive species of flora and fauna unless carefully managed.

The occurrences and populations of some non-native or non-local species are increasing. Certain of these species can be of detriment to natural habitats: The rise in populations of deer, predominantly roe deer, has meant that the protection of the regeneration of many woodlands after management has become increasingly important to prevent damage by browsing. Deer may also pose a long-term threat to the natural regeneration of woodland by the destruction of seedlings. Deer are not currently causing visible damage in Ridge Wood, however Grey squirrels have become increasingly numerous in recent years and can cause significant damage to trees and shrubs and will predate birds eggs and fledglings, etc. They are not currently causing significant tree damage in Ridge Wood, however Sycamore is an introduced species to the UK. It is an 'aggressive' species which can be of great detriment to the natural ecology of woodland by the rate of spread and growth and by excessive shading.

Dutch elm disease shows no signs of relenting, resulting in the virtual absence of old elm trees in the British countryside. Currently there are no realistic preventative measures and management is restricted to the felling of dangerous trees.

Populations of the more mobile species, such as the blackcap and swallow which migrate internationally, or some of the more uncommon butterfly species which are known to move between local sites, are being effected by numerous factors, both natural and human-induced, not least the loss and fragmentation of habitat. The populations of many species fluctuate naturally, some markedly even to the point of local extinction.

Climate changes can greatly alter the ecology of woodland. Warmer drier summers would be of particular detriment to the wildlife of Ridge Wood. These changes are not currently predictable. There will be a natural tendency for the soil of the sloped areas to erode, especially where human access denudes the ground of vegetation.

7.02 Human-induced Trends and External Factors

The fall in demand for woodland products and the decline in viability of woodland management has led to a virtual absence of work in many deciduous woodlands since the early years of the last century. Most work in deciduous woods now has to be

subsidised by grant aid.

The reduction in other similar local habitats or destruction of wildlife corridors will have the effect of lessening the opportunity for mobile species to recolonise or move between sites to improve the genetic diversity of populations. This will increase the likelihood of local extinction. Local corridors must be maintained and improved. Unless checked, the current level of human access to Ridge Wood will lead to a further impoverishment of the ground flora and disturbance to the fauna. Similarly, continued dumping of rubbish, particularly garden waste, will be of further detriment to the woodland ecology.

Possible pollution - air, water and land, including noise - especially from local sources, could be of great detriment to the site and it's wildlife.

Demands for development locally would put further pressure on Ridge Wood, particularly if it led to the reduction in woodland area or destruction of wildlife corridors.

7.03 Obligations and Legal Constraints

All work in the woodland must be carried out safely by staff, contractors and volunteers to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act. Safety assessments for all operations should be carried out prior to commencement. All relevant statutory requirements regarding application for felling licenses, etc. should be met. All woodland workers should hold the appropriate training certificates - chainsaw, chemical usage, etc. Pollution from management works or other operations must be prevented. Adequate warning signs must be displayed. If a Felling Licence application, Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme or other grant application is to be made, the terms and conditions must be adhered to.

The safety of legitimate visitors and trespassers must be maintained in accordance with the Occupiers Liability Act. Footpaths, gates, stiles, fences, etc. must be maintained in accordance with the relevant legal and contractual responsibilities.

Other pertinent local and national regulations must be adhered to, including planning restrictions such as the Tree Preservation Order and Forestry Act 1967. Obligations to local residents and other local landowners and occupiers must be met. Obligations to, and legal agreement with, the site owners must be met.

7.04 Management Constraints

Damage and disturbance to the ecology of the site during management or other operations must be minimised.

The safety of site users, local residents, local land owners and users and management operatives must be paramount.

Nuisance to site users, local residents, etc. must be avoided.

Resouces for management will be limited by the availability of grant-aid, sponsorship and other funding and by the level of volunteer support for the project.

7.05 Results of the Consultation Process

Following production of the 'comments' leaflet, newspaper and other publicity, the site walk (which was attended by around 50 local people where the issues relating to the adoption of Ridge Wood as a community forest gateway site were discussed) and subsequent communication with other interested parties, 17 written representations were received relating to the proposed management of the site. The following are the main issues raised on the walk and in the subsequent verbal and written communications.

a. Nature Conservation and Landscape

The overwhelming opinion was in favour of keeping Ridge Wood "as natural as possible".

Main Comments:

i. Strong support for new tree planting including the replacement of Parkland trees.
ii. The protection and encouragement of the native ground flora was seen as a very high priority.
iii. Sycamore and bamboo should be reduced or eradicated.
iv. Dangerous trees should be felled with some dead wood retained.
v. Ivy should not be removed from trees.
vi. A hedgerow should be planted to screen adjacent offices.
vii. Nestboxes should be provided.

b. Access

The general feeling was one of "making room for everyone". The majority thought the creation of a circular walk within the wood was a good idea provided the route was kept 'natural'. Linkage to other similar local sites was deemed important with suggestions that the linear woodland and footpath to the north of the site should be included within the management plan.

Main Comments:

i. Maintain footpaths to a higher standard.
ii. Young people on bikes can cause a nuisance and danger to others.
iii. Motorcycle access should be prevented.

Other suggestions included the removal of the kissing gate to enable open access and the closing of the access from Melrose Close. The provision of a specific 'activity' area

for young people divided opinion equally for and against.

c. Rubbish

Main Comments:

i. Dumping of rubbish (particularly garden waste and litter), and the amount of dog mess were seen as major problems.
ii. A quick and easy means of reporting dumping was requested with effective penalties for those responsible.

Suggestions were made for the provision of litter bins and a compost heap within the wood.

d. Education and Interpretation

There was strong support for provision of educational and interpretive materials for the site, particularly for use by local schools.

e. Security and Privacy

The security and privacy of the rear of residential properties along the western boundary, and industrial and office development and car parking along the eastern boundary was considered an important issue.

Representation was also received from the Ridgewood Community Association who expressed their support for the project and willingness to provide assistance. 14 individuals indicated their interest in helping with voluntary activities at the site including wardening, woodland management, wildlife recording and arts and crafts projects.

Following the comments from this consultation procedure, a number of main outline proposals can be put forward on which to base the management plan.

Proposals

a. Nature Conservation and Landscape

i) Carry out woodland management to the best environmental standards including the felling of dangerous trees, the reduction in sycamore, the coppicing, pollarding, etc. of trees and the planting of suitable native deciduous species and replacement parkland trees to maximise the nature conservation and public amenity value of the site. Ivy should not generally be removed from trees unless likely to cause a danger.

ii) Protect and enhance the ground flora by woodland management, minimisation of human access and reduction of detrimental, non-native species. Also maintain and enhance the small area of unimproved grassland close to the

southern end of the site.

iii) Provide nest boxes for birds and bats.

b. Access

i) Maintain footpaths to a safe standard. A marked cycle zone should be provided on the hard-surfaced section to minimise danger and nuisance to pedestrians. Bicycles should be excluded from other areas except the 'activity' area (see item b.3.).

ii) A circular footpath should be established through part of the site. This should not be hard-surfaced. Use of the paths should be formalised (see plan 2):

Route A to K - Pedestrian, push chairs, less-able and bicyclists.
Route D to G - Pedestrian.

The seven access points should be maintained accordingly:

A	Pedestrian, push chair, less-abled, bicyclists and vehicular (for maintenance purposes only)
B	Pedestrian, push chair, less-abled and bicyclists
C	As existing
E	Vehicular only (for maintenance purposes)
G & J	Pedestrian, push chair, bicyclists and less-able.
K	As existing.

Motor vehicles should be prohibited except for maintenance purposes.

The use of the majority of the paths through the site for horse riding is incompatible with their nature and use by pedestrians.

iii) Investigate the possibility of informal use of an area at the centre of the site as an adventure playground taking Health and Safety into consideration.

iv) Minimise access to the remainder of the site (to benefit wildlife and improve safety and security) by the use of 'natural' means such as the construction of hedges, dead hedges and ditches.

c. Rubbish

1. Minimise the dumping of litter and rubbish (including garden) waste by:

i) Education - provide recycling and other information to site users and local residents;

ii) Improvement - remove all litter and rubbish initially and investigate the possibility of improving recycling facilities locally (inc. composting)

iii) Penalty - provide an efficient mechanism for reporting dumping with adequate penalties as a deterrent for offenders.

The provision of a compost heap within the wood should be avoided because it is likely to lead to improper use and the creation of a nuisance. The siting of litter bins within the wood should also be avoided because such provision invariably leads to an increased litter problem. Users of the wood should be encouraged to take their litter home.

2. Dog walkers should be further encouraged to use the facilities provided for clearing up mess. Wardening should be carried out to catch offenders.

d. Education and Interpretation

i) Interpretive boards should be provided in locations adjacent to the site access points at A, G and I, with ecological, safety and other information.

ii) A Ridge Wood leaflet should be prepared for free distribution to the public.

iii) Investigation should be carried out into the possible preparation of a Ridge Wood education pack for use by local schools.

e. Security and Privacy

Maintain and improve a dense hedgerow/strip of mixed deciduous tree species along sections of the eastern and western boundaries to screen adjacent buildings, minimise unauthorised access and improve the nature conservation value.

f. Other

A network of Ridge Wood users should be established with a reporting mechanism to South Gloucestershire Council and Hanson Quarry Products. This network should be assisted and encouraged to arrange events and projects in the wood.

7.05 <u>Impact Assessment</u>

The proposed management is designed to maximise the nature conservation / amenity value of the site. Work will be phased in in such a way as to minimise disruption and damage to the existing wildlife and authorised use of the site. Nuisance to local

residents, adjacent site users, etc. must be minimised.

8.00 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

8.01 Long Term Strategy

The long term strategy is to protect, maintain and improve Ridge Wood for nature conservation, public amenity and community involvement, without damaging wildlife or compromising the safety of users and the safety and security of the site owners.

This strategy should be carried out by:

1. Managing the wood to increase the diversity of habitat, age-structure, species and communities, concentrating on "native" species but also recognising the importance and interest of the non-native and non-local plants and animals.

2. Maintaining and improving linkage to the wider countryside and other woodland sites.

3. Encouraging community involvement by improving:
   - access for all abilities
   - the environment (including the reduction of rubbish and vandalism and the improvement of views, etc.)
   - woodland management (including by volunteers)
   - Interpretation, education and other events

4. Maintaining and improving site safety and the security of the adjacent land owners/users.

5. Investigating funding sources and opportunities for adoption of the site within the Forest of Avon framework, as a Local Nature Reserve, etc.

8.02 General Management Principles

There now follows a list of general woodland management principles to be applied when carrying out work in Ridge Wood in an attempt to maximise woodland bio-diversity:

Important Species - Particular care should be taken of the important species in nature conservation terms. Woodland workers should be able to identify important tree, shrub and plant species and be aware of important habitats and features. Many of the uncommon wildlife species are legally protected. For example, occupied badger setts must not be disturbed or damaged.

Older Trees - Older standard trees are a vital element of the woodland ecology, providing, as they do, micro-habitats for a whole range of uncommon species including tree-hole nesting birds, cavity roosting bats, invertebrates (which may only live in the decaying wood of very old trees) and fungi. It is vital, therefore, to retain the oldest

standard trees and allow them to further mature. Because of this lack of very old trees and the subsequent shortage of locations for tree nesting/roosting species, especially birds and bats, it would be very valuable if a range of nestboxes could be provided and maintained.

Coppicing - Coppicing the majority of trees and shrubs, with the retention of occasional standards, is the main traditional management regime for South-west woodlands. It is one of the most important management methods in maximising woodland bio-diversity.

Pollarding - Pollarding trees is a traditional tree management method which has very valuable benefits for wildlife, particularly certain bryophyte, invertebrate and bird species which depend on large diameter trunks with many fissures, parts of which remain damp. This management is also an ancient means of creating noticeable boundary markers and feature trees. It is important, therefore, to continue management where pollarded trees already exist, and to create new pollards as future nature conservation and landscape features.

Wood and Brash - Most of the larger diameter wood that is to be cut can be removed from site, but some of the standard trees should be felled and allowed to remain where they fall as wildlife habitats and to help minimise human access to the main woodland areas. Most brash should be chipped and removed from site for use elsewhere as mulch, etc., except where it is to be used for dead hedging.

Sycamore - Sycamore is regarded as a non-native tree which, although it has some wildlife benefits such as supporting a high biomass of a few species of invertebrate, is generally regarded as detrimental to natural woodland because of it's dominant characteristics. It is proposed to phase in management to greatly reduce the number of sycamore trees in Ridge Wood to create clearings and enable regeneration of native and other parkland species.

Rides & Glades - Woodland rides and glades are very valuable habitats for a range of species, many of which would not otherwise occur within woods. The management of the margins of the footpath should maximise the diversity and structure of edge vegetation. In particular, it should be wide enough to allow sunlight to reach the ground flora, and should have a variety of heights and forms of edge vegetation to create sheltered, sunny "bays".

Climbers on trees - Ivy and honeysuckle are valuable plants which provide food and cover for a wide range of wildlife species. Usually, they do not do damage to the trees which they clad and should generally be retained.

Conifers - Non-native coniferous trees would normally be eliminated from Ancient Woodland, but because of the parkland element of Ridge Wood and because they add to the attractiveness and diversity of habitat for species such as goldcrest and birds of prey, they should be retained.

Isolation of Woods - Many woodlands today are relatively small and isolated from

others. It is vital, therefore to maintain their size and integrity of management. Ideally, consideration should be given to increasing the individual areas of woodland and improving the linkage between sites to enable the movement of the more mobile species to allow re-colonization and improve genetic diversity. With Ridge Wood, increasing the area of woodland is not currently an option but the linkage via the woodland corridor to the north must be maintained.

Other Features - To maximize bio-diversity, the protection, restoration, and maintenance of the other habitats and features such as the grassland clearings and exposed rocks should be carried out as an integral part of the woodland management.

Timing - All woodland management operations should be carried out to minimise damage and disturbance to wildlife. All work should generally be carried out in the period from September to March (inclusive).

Tree Protection - Provision of rabbit guards and tree shelters to protect new tree planting from mammals should not be necessary and would probably be counter productive because of the possibility of attracting vandalism.

8.03 List of General Management Tasks

i. Access

Rationalise access to the site to enable use by pedestrians to the full extent of the authorised paths, and less able, bicyclists and push chair users to the main route (see Plan 2).

A Repair large vehicular gateway and keep padlocked to enable vehicular access for maintenance only. Repair adjacent stone wall (adjacent site owners). Enable access for pedestrians, bicyclists and less able but prevent motorcycle access.

B Construct a ramp to enable pedestrian, less able and bicyclist access but restrict access width/height to prevent motorcycle and other vehicular access.

C Retain as existing.

E Repair gate and keep padlocked and repair adjacent fences to minimise access.

G Lock wider gate to prevent vehicular access.

J Retain kissing gate and repair adjacent fence.

I Retain open access.

Clear silt and rubbish from the margins of the main tarmac path A to C and investigate

and monitor the drainage in areas where surface water presently collects.

ii. Woodland

Pull up all sycamore seedlings. Cut all sycamore saplings and smaller trees and treat cut stumps with Garlon, or similar, to the manufacturers recommendations. Fell 50% of mature sycamore standard trees and coppice regeneration and treat stumps as above. Stumps of sycamore can be left high (up to 1 metre) to provide deadwood habitat.

Chip and remove most brash from site for use as mulch elsewhere. Other brash to be retained as dead hedges and small, compact habitat piles. The habitat piles should only be constructed on areas of impoverished ground flora e.g. nettle patches. Most larger diameter wood should be removed from site for use, but some large standard trees should be felled and left as they fall as wildlife habitats and to act as barriers to minimise human access.

Fell and clear dead and dying elms and other dead trees in locations adjacent to paths or in situations likely to cause danger. Elsewhere dead, standing timber should be retained as wildlife habitat.

Thin the patches of dense ash (and other species) regeneration by carefully digging up suitable ash saplings for use elsewhere within the wood or on other local sites where appropriate.

Plant mixed deciduous tree and shrub species, predominantly hawthorn and blackthorn in a hedge along suitable sections of the western and eastern margins to benefit wildlife, minimise human access and create a visual screen to adjacent properties. All planting of trees and shrubs should be carried out with plants from a local seed source if available.

Ivy should not be cut from trees except where it is completely engulfing standards and making them top heavy in locations adjacent to paths or in other situations likely to cause a danger.

Markets for wood and timber should be investigated. There is some demand for large diameter white woods, such as sycamore, for furniture making and turnery, and for coppice products for hurdle making, charcoal production, firewood, etc.

iii. Other General Management Items (in priority order)

Remove all ARC signs from trees. Security and safety information notices should be displayed on the eastern boundary of the site.

Collect and remove all rubbish, including garden waste, from the whole site and recycle or compost where possible.

Prepare, supply and erect three interpretation boards to include ecological, historical, safety and other environmental information such as to take litter home, where to recycle garden waste, to dispose of dog mess and how to report dumping and vandalism.

Requests for pedestrians to keep to the designated paths/tracks should also be included.

Locations for the signs to be:

A On the raised grass area to the east of the southern entrance.

G To the west of the path adjacent to the central access point.

I To the north of the junction of the paths in a location to be visible from both entrance routes

All signs should be replaceable colour posters in vandal resistant frames.

Weed wipe/spray dwarf bamboo plants with 'Roundup' to eradicate/drastically reduce the dominance of this plant and allow the natural ground flora to regenerate. Work to be carried out in two stages with monitoring of results.

Remove/cover graffiti on the fence adjacent access point C and at other locations through the site.

Eventually, all redundant fencing posts, wire, etc. that are within the site should be removed.

8.04 Compartment Details and Management Tasks

Compartment 1

A steep and uneven compartment with easterly and westerly facing slopes and a narrow central plateau. It comprises mostly secondary woodland dominated by ash and sycamore standards with occasional oak, birch, coniferous species and a group of large poplars at the southern boundary. The understorey is dominated by wych elm, blackthorn and hawthorn while hornbeam, wayfaring tree, hazel, field maple and holly occur in small numbers, particularly at the southern end. There are some small blocks which are dominated by ash and sycamore saplings. Some of the larger elms are dead or dying from Dutch elm disease and there are several larger fallen/broken standards of poplar and sycamore.

To the west of the path/cycleway is a narrow strip of land which is dominated by English elm which have spread as suckers from the former hedge line which occurred here. Many of the larger elms are succumbing to Dutch elm disease.

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The ground flora is dominated in large areas of the compartment by ivy, but small areas have abundant dog's mercury and bluebell. Other large areas of ground are relatively bare where heavily used by mountain bikers. One such area is at the northern limit of the compartment, adjacent to the track F - E where, amongst large standard trees including a number of Corsican/Scot's pine, a level area is extensively used as an 'adventure playground'.

At the southern end of the high plateau area are two small clearings amongst thorn and dogwood scrub which have a relatively rich grassland community. The flora includes plants of salad burnet, ox-eye daisy, cowslip, wild strawberry and bugle. These clearings provide a warm micro-habitat which is attractive to invertebrates including butterflies, moths and hoverflies and a number of anthills and numerous snails, of several species, occur here.

Management Items

1. Coppice most of the saplings and shrubs for a 4 to 5 metre width along the eastern margin of the path/cycleway to allow natural light to reach the ground flora to enable it to regenerate, and to create a sunny, scalloped edge of varying vegetation heights for improved visual effect and for invertebrates and other wildlife. Then, lay those shrubs and saplings for a further 2 metres back to create a hedge effect to minimise human access. Allow the cut shrubs (except sycamore) to regenerate to provide future coppice.

2. Carefully cut back bramble, and coppice shrubs within and around the grassy clearings at the southern end of the plateau, initially for a width of 1 to 3 metres to create bays. (In the medium term continue to gradually expand the area of these clearings).

3. Following clearance of dead elms in the narrow compartment to the west of the path, plant gaps with mixed deciduous species comprising hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, holly and hazel to create a hedge belt.

4. Create a 'hedge' on the southern and eastern margins of the level area at the northern end of the compartment by laying suitable shrubs and saplings and using brash as a dead hedge from management elsewhere. Hedge planting to comprise 60% hawthorn, 30% blackthorn and 10% mixed species including hazel, holly, field maple and guelder rose. Plants to be 40 - 60cm. whips planted in a double, staggered row at 60cm. centres. Planting must be weeded annually with dead plants replaced.

5. Carry out necessary tree surgery to dead and damaged trees in the level area at the northern end of the compartment and leave large diameter trunks in full lengths as they fall.

6. Commence adding to the diversity of woodland structure by pollarding three ash trees in suitable prominent locations.

Medium term management of compartment 1 will be to introduce a regime of coppice-with-standards rotation in two blocks on a 12 year rotation to the northern half, retaining the southern half initially as mainly a non-intervention area. Sycamore should be removed gradually, until only a few standard trees remain. Some clearings formed by removal of sycamore and coppicing to be planted with mixed deciduous tree and shrub species, comprising:

English oak	*Quercus robur*
Small-leaved lime	*Tilia cordata*
Hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Field Maple	*Acer campestre*
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*
Crab apple	*Malus sylvestris*

and occasional parkland species comprising:

Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
European larch	*Larix decidua*
Corsican pine	*Pinus nigra maritma*
Wellingtonia	*Sequoiadendron giganteum*
Western red cedar	*Thuja plicata*
Deodar cedar	*Cedrus deodar*
Common lime	*Tilia europeae*

Only beech and western red cedar are reasonably shade tolerant.

Compartment 2

The central compartment of Ridge Wood which slopes relatively gently from east to west. It comprises semi-natural woodland of oak and ash standards with an understorey dominated by wych elm with hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn and elder. Holly, yew, spindle, field maple and privet are also frequent. Numerous planted parkland standards of common lime, beech, Corsican/Scot's pine, wellingtonia and other coniferous species also occur within the woodland. There is strong tree regeneration with numerous seedlings, suckers and saplings, especially of ash, sycamore and wych elm. The track F to E is lined with an avenue of common lime standards.

The ground flora is varied with areas dominated in turn by dog's mercury, bluebell, ivy and cow parsley. Herb bennet, wood avens, lords and ladies, wood anenome, yellow archangel, moschatel and a number of fern species including hart's-tongue also occur. Throughout the compartment there are also large blocks dominated by dwarf bamboo which appears to be suppressing most other plant species. There are occasional small clearings, formed by fallen and cut trees, which have a ground flora dominated by

bramble. Ivy has been cut from a number of the large standard trees.

There is a small, level, rectangular area at the centre of the eastern boundary of the compartment which apparently was formerly a tennis court. This block is now dominated by young ash regeneration with numerous bluebell and narcissus bulbs below. There are also some young leylandii planted here.

Immediately outside the western margin of the site is an area with recently regenerating ash, sycamore and other species. It has a species-poor ground flora dominated by ivy and hogweed. If possible, this area should be included in future management plans. Along sections of the eastern boundary, a thin laurel hedge with numerous gaps occurs. At the northern end of the compartment is the remains of a very small quarry with exposed areas of stone face.

The main path runs along the western margin of the compartment but there are other 'natural' tracks, one of which can be used as part of the new circular route. This compartment holds the remains of small landscape features including random stone and brick walls. There is also a small standing stone adjacent to the eastern boundary at the centre of the compartment.

Rubbish, particularly garden waste, occurs throughout the compartment but especially along the western margin and in the area of the small quarry at the northern end where wood chippings are also spread around and some trees are damaged.

Management Items

1. Coppice most of the shrubs and saplings, retaining some larger hawthorn and holly for a 2 to 6 metres width along the eastern margin of the path/ cycleway to allow natural light to reach the ground flora to enable it to regenerate and to create a sunny, scalloped edge of varying vegetation heights for improved visual effect and for invertebrates and other wildlife. Then lay those shrubs and saplings for a further 2 metres back to create a hedge effect to minimise human access. Allow the cut shrubs (except sycamore) to regenerate to provide future coppice.
2. Lay shrubs around the area of former tennis court to create a hedge and/or use brash as a dead hedge.

3. Supply, prepare and position low tanalised posts to act as waymarkers for the new section of the circular route from D to H. Block off other routes by laying shrubs and brash.

4. Commence adding to the diversity of woodland structure by pollarding three ash trees in suitable prominent locations.

The medium term management aim for compartment 2 is to introduce a regime of rotational coppice-with-standards to the whole area. Sycamore should continue to be removed gradually, until only a few standard trees remain. Some of the clearings

formed by removal of sycamore and coppicing should be planted up with mixed deciduous species comprising:

English oak	*Quercus robur*
Small-leaved lime	*Tilia cordata*
Hornbeam	*Carpinus betula*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Field Maple	*Acer campestre*
Wild cherry	*Prunus avium*
Guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*
Crab apple	*Malus sylvestris*

and occasional parkland species comprising:

Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
European larch	*Larix decidua*
Corsican pine	*Pinus nigra maritma*
Wellingtonia	*Sequoiadendron giganteum*
Western red cedar	*Thuja plicata*
Deodar cedar	*Cedrus deodar*
Common lime	*Tilia europeae*

Only beech and western red cedar are reasonably shade tolerant.

Compartment 3

A narrow compartment of semi-natural woodland similar to compartment 2. It is dominated by mature oak, ash and sycamore with a number of introduced standard trees including common lime and larch. The understorey includes some dense blocks of blackthorn, spindle and privet with occasional hazel coppice, wych elm, wild cherry, bullace and standard apple trees. There is a narrow margin of woodland for the majority of the western margin between the path and boundary which acts as a screen to adjacent houses.

The ground flora is generally rich with patches dominated by dog's mercury, ramsons, bluebell and cow parsley with greater stitchwort, yellow archangel, herb robert, wood avens and hart's-tongue fern. There are some blocks dominated by dwarf bamboo.

At the southern end of the compartment is a stone-built gas governor house.

A large volume of rubbish, especially garden waste, has been dumped along the western margin.

Management items

1. Create a staged edge vegetation to the eastern margin of the path by coppicing shrubs, predominantly blackthorn, to a width of 2 to 6 metres to create bays.

Spindle shrubs should be retained where possible. Larger standards can be retained but high pruned (if necessary). This will enable the ground flora to regenerate and create a more pleasing visual aspect.

Cut trees and shrubs, except sycamore, should be allowed to regenerate.

2. Once sycamore and dead/dying elms have been removed, a mixed deciduous band of trees and shrubs should be planted along the western margin as additional wildlife habitat and screening.

3. Commence adding to the diversity of woodland structure by pollarding three ash trees in suitable prominent locations.

No trees should be cut in the vicinity of the gas governor house.

Because of the narrow nature of this compartment, medium term management work should be restricted to the creation of small clearings on rotation by the coppicing of blocks of shrubs. Sycamore should continue to be removed gradually, until only a few standard trees remain. Some of the clearings formed by removal of sycamore and coppicing should be planted up with mixed deciduous trees and shrubs comprising species as listed for Compartments 1 and 2.

Compartment 4

The small area at the northern end of the site which comprises semi-natural woodland dominated by ash with an under-storey of wych elm, field maple and blackthorn. There are areas on either side of the path I - J without trees which are dominated by brambles and nettles.

This compartment links to the vital woodland corridor which leads away from the site to the north.

Management items

Because of the badger sett and because of the wildlife corridor element, this compartment should initially, largely be retained as non-intervention to maintain continuity of canopy, shrub and ground flora layer. The open areas of bramble form an important invertebrate habitat and hence food source for predator species such as bats and spotted flycatcher and should, therefore be retained. These open areas of canopy also form an important transition into the site, from urban area to woodland.

1. Coppice the small row of ash along the western edge of the path at I, except for the most southerly of the larger saplings which should be pollarded.

2. Use brash or lay saplings to create a dead hedge around 6 metres to the north of the path I to K to help minimise human access to the area of the badger sett.

The medium term aim for compartment 4 should be to incorporate the wooded strip to the north into the management and then reintroduce hedgerow and woodland management to maximise habitat diversity whilst maintaining continuity of the corridor at canopy, shrub and ground flora levels.

8.05 Monitoring, Further Investigation and Review

Annual monitoring should be carried out to establish the success of management in relation to minimising human access to large areas of the site and regeneration of ground flora. The latter should be carried out by the taking a series of botanical quadrats throughout the site in management and non-intervention areas, and by photographic monitoring. The areas of chemical treatment of bamboo and subsequent regeneration of ground flora should also be monitored by taking botanical quadrats in management and non-management areas.

A full invertebrate survey of the site including a detailed survey of the diversity of snail species should be carried out.

Encouragement and support should be given to the maintenance of wildlife records of the site by volunteers.

Consultations with site users and local residents should be ongoing particularly before, during and after initial management operations.

Investigations should be carried out into the adoption of the site into the Forest of Avon framework and as a Local Nature Reserve. These measures would raise the profile of the site and release further funding opportunities.

Other sources of funding should be investigated including a Woodland Grant Scheme/Woodland Improvement Grant application.

The management plan should be reviewed in the last year.

8.06 2-Year Work Programme

Year 1

1. Prepare a Woodland Grant Scheme application and submit.
2. Arrange a local group network and provide support in arranging and implementing voluntary work, events, etc.
3. Rationalise access arrangements including the clearance of the tarmac path and repair and improvement of access points.
4. Form the new path and waymark.
5. Prepare interpretation signs and erect, remove ARC signs and prepare the site leaflet.
6. Collect and remove rubbish (inc. garden waste) and remove graffiti.
7. Treat 25% of bamboo by weed-wiping with Roundup or similar.

8. Fell all dead and dying elms which are in a dangerous condition.
9. Pull all sycamore seedlings, cut and treat saplings with glyphosate and fell 50% of standard sycamores and treat stumps in compartment 2.
10. Carry out tree surgery to damaged trees at the northern end of compartment 1 as necessary.
11. Commence coppicing and laying shrubs along the eastern margin of the main path in compartment 2 and around the level area at the northern end of compartment 1.
12. Investigate:

    i) The addition of the northern woodland strip into the plan
    ii) Local recycling facilities, especially composting
    iii) Other possible funding sources including Heritage Lottery Fund, Landfill Tax, Local Nature and business sponsorship
    iv) Education pack
    v) Markets for wood/timber/chippings
    vi) Dog wardening

13. Provide and erect nestboxes for birds and bats in areas which will not be disturbed by human access or management works.

Year 2

1. Continue removal of rubbish.
2. Pull all sycamore seedlings, cut and treat saplings with glyphosate and fell 50% of standard sycamores and treat stumps with glyphosate in compartments 1 and 3.
3. Continue coppicing and laying shrubs along the eastern margin of the main path in compartments 1, 2 and 3.
4. Pollard three ash saplings in each of compartments 1, 2 and 3.
5. Commence mixed deciduous planting, including hedges, in compartments 1, 2 and 3 and replacement parkland planting in compartments 2 and 3.
6. Carry out the first years monitoring.
7. Investigate further funding sources.
8. Following sycamore and dead elm clearance, review the management and produce a detailed specification for coppicing and thinning in years 3 to 5.

9.00 APPENDICES

Species Lists

TREES

ACER CAMPESTRE	FIELD MAPLE
ACER PSUEDOPLATANUS	SYCAMORE
AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM	HORSE CHESTNUT
ALNUS GLUTINOSA	ALDER
BETULA PENDULA	SILVER BIRCH
CARPINUS BETULA	HORNBEAM
CEDRUS DEODARA	DEODAR CEDAR
CORNUS SANGUINEA	COMMON DOGWOOD
CORYLUS AVELLANA	HAZEL
CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA	HAWTHORN
EUONYMUS EUROPAEUS	SPINDLE
FAGUS SYLVATICA	BEECH
FAGUS SYLVATICA ATROPUNICEA	COPPER BEECH
FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR	ASH
ILEX AQUIFOLIUM	HOLLY
JUGLENS REGIA	WALNUT
LARIX DECIDUA	LARCH
LIGUSTRUM VULGARE	PRIVET
MALUS SYLVESTRIS	CRAB APPLE
MALUS S. ssp DOMESTICA	APPLE
PINUS NIGRA MARITIMA	CORSICAN PINE
PINUS SYLVESTRIS	SCOTS PINE
POPULUS ALBA	WHITE POPLAR
POPULUS CANESCENS	GREY POPLAR
POPULUS TREMULA	ASPEN
PRUNUS AVIUM	WILD CHERRY
PRUNUS LAUROCERASUS	CHERRY-LAUREL
PRUNUS SPINOSA	BLACKTHORN
QUERCUS CERRIS	TURKEY OAK
QUERCUS ILEX	HOLM OAK
QUERCUS PETRAEA	SESSILE OAK
QUERCUS ROBUR	PENDUNCULATE OAK

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SALIX CINEREA	GREY WILLOW
SAMBUCUS NIGRA	ELDER
SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	WELLINGTONIA
TAXUS BACCATA	YEW
THUJA PLICATA	WESTERN RED CEDAR
TILIA EUROPEA	COMMON LIME
ULMUS GLABRA	WYCH ELM
ULMUS PROCERA	ENGLISH ELM
VIBURNUM LANTANA	WAYFARING TREE

PLANTS

ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM	YARROW
ADOXA MOSCHATELLINA	MOSCHATEL
AEGOPDIUM PODAGRARIA	GROUND ELDER
AETHUSA CYNAPIUM	FOOL'S PARSLEY
AGRIMONIA EUPATORIUM	COMMON AGRIMONY
AJUGA REPTANS	BUGLE
ALLIARIA PETIOLATA	GARLIC MUSTARD
ALLIUM SCHOENOPRASUM	CHIVES
ALLIUM URSINUM	RAMSONS
ANAGALLIS ARVENSIS	SCARLET PIMPERNEL
ANEMONE NEMOROSA	WOOD ANEMONE
ANGELICA SYLVESTRIS	ANGELICA
ANTHRISCUS SYLVESTRIS	COW PARSLEY
ARCTIUM LAPPA	GREATER BURDOCK
ARCTIUM MINUS	LESSER BURDOCK
ARUM MACULATUM	LORDS AND LADIES
ARUNDINARIA VAGANS	DWARF BAMBOO
ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA	LADY'S FERN
BELLIS PERENNIS	DAISY
BERBERIS DARWINII	BERBERIS
BETONICA OFFICINALIS	BETONY
BRACHYPODIUM SYLVATICUM	WOOD FALSE-BROME
BROMUS HORDEACEUS	SOFT BROME
BUDDLEIA DAVIDII	BUDDLEIA
CARDAMINE IMPATIENS	NARROW-LEAVED BITTERCRESS
CAREX PENDULA	PENDULOUS SEDGE
CAREX SYLVATICA	WOOD SEDGE
CERASTIUM FONTANUM	COMMON MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED
CERASTIUM HOLOSTEOIDES	MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED
CHAMERION ANGUSTIFOLIUM	ROSEBAY WILLOWHERB

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CHENOPODIUM ALBUM	FAT-HEN
CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM	OX-EYE DAISY
CIRCAEA LUTETIANA	ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE
CIRCIUM ARVENSE	CREEPING THISTLE
CIRCIUM VULGARE	SPEAR THISTLE
CONOPODIUM MAJUS	PIGNUT
COTONEASTER sp	COTONEASTER
CREPIS BIENNIS	ROUGH HAWK'SBEARD
CYMBALARIA MURALIS	IVY-LEAVED TOADFLAX
DACTYLIS GLOMERATA	COCK'SFOOT
DACTYLORHIZA FUCHSII	COMMON SPOTTED ORCHID
DAPHNE LAUREOLA	SPURGE LAUREL
DIGITALIS PURPUREA	FOXGLOVE
DIPSACUS FULLONUM	TEASEL
DRYOPTERIS DILATATA	BROAD BUCKLER FERN
DRYOPTERIS FELIX-MAS	MALE FERN
ENDYMION HISPANICUS	SPANISH BLUEBELL
ENDYMION NON-SCRIPTUS	BLUEBELL
EPILOBIUM HIRSUTUM	GREATER HAIRY WILLOWHERB
FORSYTHIA EUROPAEA	FORSYTHIA
FRAGRARIA VESCA	WILD STRAWBERRY
FRITILLARIA MELEAGRIS	FRITILLARY
GALANTHUS NIVALIS	SNOWDROP
GALEOBDOLON LUTEUM	YELLOW ARCHANGEL
GALIUM APARINE	GOOSEGRASS
GALIUM ODORATUM	SWEET WOODRUFF
GALIUM SAXATILE	HEATH BEDSTRAW
GERANIUM DISSECTUM	CUT-LEAVED CRANESBILL
GERANIUM MOLLE	DOVE'S-FOOT CRANESBILL
GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM	HERB ROBERT
GEUM URBANUM	HERB BENNET
GLECHOMA HEDERACEA	GROUND IVY
HEDERA HELIX	IVY
HERACLEUM SPHONDYLIUM	HOGWEED
HYPERICUM HIRSUTUM	HAIRY ST JOHN'S-WORT
HYPERICUM TETRAPTERUM	SQUARE-STEMMED ST JOHN'S-WORT
HYPOCHOERIS RADICATA	COMMON CAT'S-EAR
LAMIUM ALBUM	WHITE DEADNETTLE
LAMIUM PURPUREUM	RED DEADNETTLE
LAPSANA COMMUNIS	NIPPLEWORT
LATHYRUS PRATENSIS	MEADOW VETCHLING

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LEONTODON TARAXACOIDES	LESSER HAWKBIT
LONICERA PERICYMENUM	HONEYSUCKLE
LOTUS CORNICULATUS	COMMON BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL
LYCHNIS FLOS CUCULI	RAGGED ROBIN
MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM	OREGON GRAPE
MENTHA ARVENSIS	CORN MINT
MERCURIALIS PERENNIS	DOG'S MERCURY
MYOSOTIS ARVENSIS	FIELD FORGET-ME-NOT
MYOSOTIS CAESPITOSA	TUFTED FORGET-ME-NOT
MYOSOTIS SYLVATICA	WOOD FORGET-ME-NOT
NARCISSUS PSEUDONARCISSUS	WILD DAFFODIL
NARCISSUS Sp.	CULTIVATED DAFFODIL
OENOTHERE Sp.	EVENING PRIMROSE
ORCHIS MASCULA	EARLY PURPLE ORCHID
OXALIS ACETOSELLA	WOOD SORREL
PENTAGLOSSIS SEMPERVIRENS	GREEN ALKANET
PETASITES HYBRIDUS	BUTTERBUR
PHYLLITUS SCOLOPENDRIUM	HART'S-TONGUE FERN
PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA	RIBWORT PLANTAIN
PLANTAGO MAJOR	GREAT PLANTAIN
POA PRATENSIS	SMOOTH MEADOW-GRASS
POLYPODIUM VULGARE	COMMON POLYPODDY
POLYSTICHUM SETIFERUM	SOFT SHIELD FERN
POTENTILLA ANSERINA	SILVERWEED
POTENTILLA REPTANS	CREEPING CINQUEFOIL
POTENTILLA STERILIS	BARREN STRAWBERRY
POTERIUM SANGUISORBA	SALAD BURNET
PRIMULA VERIS	COWSLIP
PRIMULA VULGARIS	PRIMROSE
PRUNELLA VULGARIS	SELF-HEAL
PTERIDIUM AQUILINUM	BRACKEN
RANUNCULUS ACRIS	MEADOW BUTTERTCUP
RANUNCULUS FICARIA	LESSER CELANDINE
RANUNCULUS REPENS	CREEPING BUTTERCUP
RIBES RUBRUM	RED CURRANT
RIBES UVA-CRISPA	GOOSEBERRY
ROSA ARVENSIS	FIELD ROSE
ROSA CANINA	DOG ROSE
RUBUS FRUTICOSUS	BRAMBLE
RUMEX ACETOSA	COMMON SORREL
RUMEX OBTUSIFOLIUS	BROAD-LEAVED DOCK
RUMEX SANGUINEUS	RED-VEINED (WOOD) DOCK

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SCROPHULARIA NODOSA	COMMON FIGWORT
SENECIO JACOBAEA	RAGWORT
SILENE ALBA	WHITE CAMPION
SILENE DIOICA	RED CAMPION
SISYMBRIUM OFFICINALE	HEDGE MUSTARD
SOLANUM DULCAMARA	WOODY NIGHTSHADE
STACHYS SYLVATICA	HEDGE WOUNDWORT
STELLARIA HOLOSTEA	GREATER STITCHWORT
STELLARIA MEDIA	COMMON CHICKWEED
SUCCISA PRATENSIS	DEVIL'S-BIT SCABIOUS
SYMPHYTUM X UPLANDICUM	RUSSIAN COMFREY
TAMUS COMMUNIS	BLACK BRYONY
TARAXACUM OFFICINALE	DANDELION
TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE	RED CLOVER
TRIFOLIUM REPENS	WHITE CLOVER
ULEX EUROPAEUS	COMMON GORSE
URTICA DIOICA	STINGING NETTLE
VERONICA CHAMAEDRYS	GERMANDER SPEEDWELL
VERONICA MONTANA	WOOD SPEEDWELL
VERONICA PERSICA	LARGE FIELD SPEEDWELL
VERONICA SERPYLIFOLIA	THYME-LEAVED SPEEDWELL
VICIA CRACCA	TUFTED VETCH
VICIA SATIVA	COMMON VETCH
VICIA SEPIUM	BUSH VETCH
VINCA MAJOR	GREATER PERIWINKLE
VIOLA CANINA	DOG VIOLET
VIOLA ODORATA	SWEET VIOLET
VIOLA REICHENBACHIANA	WOOD VIOLET
VIOLA RIVINIANA	COMMON VIOLET

MAMMALS

APODEMUS SYLVATICUS	WOOD MOUSE
CAPREOLUS CAPREOLUS	ROE DEER
CLETHRIONOMYS GLAREOLUS	BANK VOLE
MELES MELES	BADGER
MICROTUS AGRESTIS	FIELD VOLE
MUSTELA VISON	AMERICAN MINK
ORYCTOLAGUS CUNICULUS	RABBIT

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PIPISTRELLUS PIPISTRELLUS	PIPISTRELLE BAT
SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS	GREY SQUIRREL
SOREX ARANEUS	COMMON SHREW
VULPES VULPES	FOX

BIRDS

ACCIPITOR NICUS	SPARROWHAWK
AEGITHALOS CAUDATUS	LONG-TAILED TIT
CARDUELIS CHLORIS	GREENFINCH
CERTHIA FAMILIARIS	TREECREEPER
COLUMBA OENAS	STOCK DOVE
COLUMBA PALUMBUS	WOODPIGEON
CORVUS CORONE	CARRION CROW
CORVUS FRUGILEGUS	ROOK
CORVUS MONEDULA	JACKDAW
DELICHON URBICA	HOUSE MARTIN
DENDROCOPUS MAJOR	GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER
DENDROCOPUS MINOR	LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER
ERITHACUS RUBECULA	ROBIN
FRINGILLA COELEBS	CHAFFINCH
HIRUNDO RUSTICA	SWALLOW
MOTACILLA ALBA	PIED WAGTAIL
MOTACILLA CINEREA	GREY WAGTAIL
MUSCICAPA STRIATA	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER
PARUS ATER	COAL TIT
PARUS CAERULEUS	BLUE TIT
PARUS MAJOR	GREAT TIT
PASSER DOMESTICUS	HOUSE SPARROW
PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA	CHIFF CHAFF
PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS	WILLOW WARBLER
PICA PICA	MAGPIE
PICUS VIRIDIS	GREEN WOODPECKER
PRUNELLA MODULARIS	DUNNOCK
REGULUS REGULUS	GOLDCREST
STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO	COLLARED DOVE

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STRIX ALUCO	TAWNY OWL
STURNUS VULGARIS	STARLING
SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA	BLACKCAP
TROGLODYTES TROGLODYTES	WREN
TURDUS ILIACUS	REDWING
TURDUS MERULA	BLACKBIRD
TURDUS PHILOMELOS	SONG THRUSH
TURDUS PILARIS	FIELDFARE

BUTTERFLIES

AGLAIS URTICAE	SMALL TORTOISESHELL
CELASTRINA ARGIOLUS	HOLLY BLUE
INACHIS IO	PEACOCK
PARARGE AEGERIA	SPECKLED WOOD
PIERIS BRASSICAE	LARGE WHITE
PIERIS NAPI	GREEN-VEINED WHITE
PIERIS RAPAE	SMALL WHITE
POLYGONIA C-ALBUM	COMMA
VANESSA ATALANTA	RED ADMIRAL

MOTHS

EPIRRHOE ALTERNATA	COMMON CARPET
OPISTHOGRAPTIS LUTEOLATA	BRIMSTONE
ZYGAENA FILIPENDULAE	SIX-SPOT BURNET (Caterpillar on bird's-foot trefoil)

DAMSELFLY

ENALLAGMA CYATHIGERUM	COMMON BLUE

BEETLE

PYROCHROA SERRATICORNIS	CARDINAL BEETLE

Numerous other invertebrates were observed but not specifically identified, including snails, ants, hoverflies, grasshoppers and bees.

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Bibliography

Asham Wood SSSI Management Plan	J. N. Clare	1999
Bristol/Avon Community Forest Plan	Forest of Avon	1995
Community Woodland Design	Forestry Commission	1991
Englands Community Forests	Countryside Agency	1996
Forest of Avon Review	Forest of Avon	1999
Green Networks (Report 256)	English Nature	1997
Local Nature Reserves	English Nature	1999
Open Space Management for Nature Conservation	Leicester City Council	1990
Planning for Wildlife in Metropolitan Areas	N.C.C.	1987
Site Management Plans for Nature Conservation	N.C.C.	1988
The Biodiversity of the South-west	Partnership	1996

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