

## **Strategy and Objectives for Alvecote Wood**

Strategy in order of priority

1. Wildlife habitat maintenance
2. Improving biodiversity by habitat creation
3. Establishing limited public access
4. Raise funds to assist with maintenance by sale of sustainable products from the woodland

Achieve 1 by

1. Establishing regeneration of existing mature oaks
2. Coppice management of scrub
3. Maintenance of wet areas on site including existing ponds and boggy area
4. Improvement and maintenance of site drainage
5. Improvement and maintenance of security of site

Achieve 2 by

1. Creation and maintenance of new ponds
2. Creation and maintenance of new scrub and coppice
3. Creation and maintenance of hedge
4. Creation and maintenance of woodland rides and paths
5. Creation and maintenance of wildlife meadow
6. Placing and maintenance of nest boxes

Achieve 3 by

1. Creation and maintenance of internal paths and tracks
2. Improvements in safety to derelict building and well
3. Creating links with local community groups
4. Running site open days for local community

Achieve 4 by

1. Exploring potential for use of a proportion of fallen wood, and wood cut as part of management for wildlife for use in crafts and sculpture
2. Explore potential for sale of coppice products for garden and other uses
3. Explore potential for limited drying, seasoning and sale of fallen wood and wood cut as part of management for wildlife for use as firewood
4. Explore potential for other streams of income such as greetings cards, calendars, mugs and other small items

1. Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

- a. Regeneration of existing mature oaks
  - i. Carry out annual survey of existing oak trees and new saplings
  - ii. Carry out required maintenance to ensure saplings have opportunity to develop e.g. clearance of elder scrub, brambles and undergrowth
  - iii. Felling to assist regeneration (create new areas of light)
  - iv. Felling to assist existing trees where too crowded to establish standards
  - v. Clearance of dense undergrowth in areas of light to permit regeneration

- vi. Targeted planting or moving of surplus saplings to areas where regeneration is not taking place
- b. Coppice management of scrub
  - i. Carry out annual scrub survey to assess potential for coppice management
  - ii. Where scrub is suitable for coppice management, establish a rotational coppice system.
  - iii. Targeted removal of elder scrub and replacement with coppice species such as hazel
- c. Maintenance of wet areas including existing ponds and boggy areas
  - i. Carry out annual survey of wet ground and ponds for suitability as wildlife habitat
  - ii. Carry out maintenance to banks, ditches and drainage as required
  - iii. Carry out dredging and pond maintenance as required
  - iv. Establish native wetland plants in new ponds
- d. Improvement and maintenance of site drainage
  - i. Carry out annual survey of drainage identifying any areas and particularly mature oak trees that are vulnerable to waterlogging
  - ii. Carry out maintenance to ditches and drainage as required
  - iii. Establishing new land drainage where existing mature trees are under threat
- e. Improvement and maintenance of site security
  - i. Carry out regular survey of boundary and survey for evidence of unauthorised intrusion on to site
  - ii. Maintain existing hedges and fences in good condition
  - iii. Establish new fences and hedges where required
  - iv. Review and maintain signage for site
- 2. Improving biodiversity by habitat creation
  - a. Creation and maintenance of new ponds
    - i. Establish regular survey of ponds and maintain as above
    - ii. Establish native pond plants in new ponds following the pattern of existing pond plants
  - b. Creation and maintenance of new scrub and coppice
    - i. Create new coppice as described above under coppice management
  - c. Creation and maintenance of hedge
    - i. Maintain newly-planted hedge along roadside by patching gaps and managing animal and human damage
  - d. Creation and maintenance of woodland rides and paths
    - i. Continue cyclical mowing of existing rides and paths
    - ii. Establish new linking paths and rides between different areas of the woods (will also assist in control of brambles and scrub)
    - iii. Where appropriate, improve biodiversity by seeding with appropriate native wildflower seed
  - e. Creation and maintenance of wildlife meadow

- i. Establish native wildflower seed and grass mix in mown areas
  - f. Placing and maintenance of nest boxes
    - i. Check, clean and maintain existing nest boxes
    - ii. Annual survey of nesting activity
    - iii. Assess need for nest boxes catering for different species e.g owls, woodpeckers
    - iv. Establish new nest boxes as appropriate to current site use
- 3. Establishing limited public access
  - a. Creation and maintenance of internal paths and tracks
    - i. Tracks and rides will be maintained to permit access for site management and where possible to permit public access to attractive areas of the site
  - b. Improvements in safety to derelict building and well
    - i. Create cover for well
    - ii. Carry out annual risk assessment for derelict building and assess requirement for fencing or other method of access restriction
  - c. Creating links with local community groups
    - i. Maintain and improve existing links with local community
    - ii. Approach other groups with potential interest in use of site for educational purposes e.g. Scouts, Guides, Local Schools and Colleges
  - d. Running site open days for local community
    - i. Establish a programme of open days in different seasons
- 4. Raise funds to assist with maintenance by sale of sustainable products from the woodland (NOTE a large proportion of cut and fallen wood will be used for habitat creation, but some will be surplus and it is this that will be turned into sustainable woodland products). Products will be sold online or through woodland open days, but the wood will not be open as a retail site.
  - a. Exploring potential for use of a proportion of fallen wood, and wood cut as part of management for wildlife for use in crafts and sculpture
    - i. Establish contact with local colleges of art and local craftspeople e.g. wood-carvers and wood-turners
    - ii. Establish contact with local garden centres or garden-designers
  - b. Explore potential for sale of coppice products for garden and other uses
    - i. Assess market for sustainable products such as willow poles, hazel poles
  - c. Explore potential for limited drying, seasoning and sale of fallen wood and wood cut as part of management for wildlife for use as firewood
    - i. Assess market for sustainable firewood in locality  
Explore potential for other streams of income such as greetings cards, calendars, mugs and other small items

- ii. Assess potential costs, suppliers and market for such products to be sold online and through open-days.