

Sheldon Country Park Woodland Management



The woodland was planted in the 1980's. Since then there has been only minimal management. The woodland has never been thinned making the trees very crowded.

What is the problem? Many of the trees have grown very tall, they are thin, unhealthy and prone to breakage or being blown over. There is little habitat value across the woodland due to the poor light in the summer and a lack of diversity of tree age and structure.

What will be happening? Traditional woodland management techniques of coppicing and pollarding will be used as well as thinning in some areas. The map below shows the plans for each section.



Example of a damaged and unsafe tree

The work will take place during March 2022

Woodland management

If managed correctly, woodlands can provide a wide variety of habitats for wildlife. To do this they need managing from time to time. To maximise their benefit for people and wildlife ideally there will be a range of tree species, of varying ages. Light will reach the ground to allow the woodland flowers to thrive, as well as smaller trees and scrubs that provide cover for birds and mammals. Dead wood is also an important habitat for beetles and other insects.

A Management Plan has been written for the woodland at Sheldon Country Park. The plans are based on the results of a specialist woodland survey.



1c Selective thinning There are some mature Oaks and an old hedge line in this section. Trees will be removed around the mature Oaks and other well established veteran trees to give them more light and space to continue to grow bigger.

1a No management is required in this section

1b Copping and Pollarding of the whole of this block. The trees are very tall, thin and unhealthy. Some of them are breaking and blowing over. Trees will be cut back to head height or just above the ground to encourage new fresh growth. The line of Willows on the southern boundary will be retained as they are stronger and healthier.

1d Selective thinning This is a semi-mature plantation with some healthy trees with some over crowding. The block will be thinned by around 20% to allow the healthy trees to thrive.

1e Selective thinning. Semi mature broadleaved woodland strip. Many trees are healthy here, but closely planted. Some of the ground cover and around 30% of the boundary trees will be removed.

This work is being led by The Trent Rivers Trust as part of a wider project to enhance the biodiversity of the park. The work is taking place with the cooperation and support of Birmingham City Council's Parks and Nature Conservation Tree Section.

If you have any question please email/call Alan Graham

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All trees will be inspected for bat roosts and nesting birds before being removed by a qualified tree surgeon.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this woodland management work may cause. Signage and hazard tape will be set up while work is taking place. Please take care and avoid the area during works. Please don't worry if the tree work seems rather drastic at first as the appearance will improve over time and result in a much healthier woodland.

