



**Woodland Survey  
Management Prescriptions**

**STROUD COPPICE, FRESHWATER,  
ISLE OF WIGHT**



*On behalf of*

Southern Households Limited

*prepared by*

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*Arboricultural Consultant*

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August 2015

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Stroud Copse, Freshwater, Isle of Wight

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Stroud Coppice lies to the west of Hooke Close on the eastern side of Freshwater. Central grid reference SZ 342 872

The woodland slopes gently to the south from Longhalves Lane toward School Green lane and is bisected towards the southern edge by a driveway leading to a private dwelling.

A walk through survey was carried out on 6th July 2015.

Tree, Shrub and herbaceous plants present at the time of the survey were recorded.

The species list should not be considered to be comprehensive but more an indication of the main vegetation identified within the wood at the time of the survey.

A schedule of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous ground flora observed at the time of the survey is presented in Appendix B.

### 1.1 SITE FACTORS

#### 1.1.1 CLASSIFICATION

Stroud Coppice falls into National Vegetation Classification W8.  
The structure is a coppice with standards

#### 1.1.2 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

The British Geological Survey Solid and Drift Edition for the Isle of Wight indicates the soils to be Bagshot Beds containing sands and shrinkable clays. No soil samples were taken from the site

#### 1.1.3 TREES

Mature trees are predominantly ash with some oak and elm. The under storey is mainly hazel with some hawthorn, field maple and elder

#### 1.1.4 ACCESS

There are no official public footpaths through Stroud Coppice. There are however several informal paths with main access from the north off Longhalves Lane and from the private driveway off Hooke Close that bisects the woodland

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**1.1.5 LEGAL**

It is believed that the woodland is not located within a Conservation area.

However, Stroud Coppice is subject to Isle of Wight Tree Preservation Order No. 1991/69.

***Prior to any management works being carried out an application for consent must be made to the Local Planning Authority.***

It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Countryside and Rights of Way Act to disturb a nesting bird or roosting/breeding bat. Work to trees with the potential for roosting bats is best carried out from mid-September to late October. This assumes that young bats are weaned and independent as is before hibernation and before young are born, although due account should be taken of nesting birds, which also (with few exceptions) enjoy statutory protection.

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**2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT****2.1 INTRODUCTION**

These management prescriptions aim to embrace the main principles of management for lowland mixed broadleaf woodland (NVC Classification W8).

The future management is pivotal to the perpetuity of the woodland. Therefore the issues of bio-diversity, nature conservation, and landscape protection and enhancement are paramount.

The name of the woodland is Stroud Coppice which implies that coppicing has been the traditional management regime here. It is appropriate to promote a coppice cycle to establish a true coppice once again.

**2.2 AIMS**

The aims to encourage appropriate management of the woodland are:

- ***Maintain and wherever suitable restore the natural ecological diversity***
- ***Maintain and where appropriate improve its aesthetic value including the provision of a new footpath and information boards***
- ***Maintain the genetic integrity of populations of native species, so far as is practicable***

**2.3 OBJECTIVES**

- ***Restore and maintain woodland type.***

The future management should be based on creating a coppice cycle to maintain and increase the structural diversity of the woodland. In areas that need re-stocking establishing species native to the site and location appropriate to the pattern of soils within the site.

The existing mature Ash and Oak should remain a significant component.

- ***Improve diversity of structure***

Increase the area of woodland edge by creating scalloped woodland glades along the main track and new footpath. These

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areas will be coppiced initially and then re-coppiced on a 5-10 year rotation.

- ***Increase diversity of species where appropriate.***
- ***Maintain a mature habitat***

The woodland is characterised by the presence of mature ash and oak trees. It is important to secure the retention of these trees as significant landscape features for as long as possible.

- ***Make changes in several phases***

The size of the woodland is such that large-scale change is not possible to achieve without impacting upon its current visual integrity and landscape value. Any alterations to the structure to accommodate new planting should be small scale to allow wildlife and any passive users of the woodland to adjust to gradual changes.

- ***Use low-key establishment techniques***

The scale and age class structure of the woodland negates the employment of aggressive working methods to achieve structural and species diversity.

Recommendations will advocate the minimum necessary to achieve the aims of management and to secure the woodland to achieve its primary target of providing a valuable facility for local communities to enjoy small-scale passive recreation.

- ***Encourage local engagement***

Create a new footpath through the wood with information boards at each entrance.

Inform, engage and involve members of the local community local including schools, youth groups and other local organisations in the management of the woodland to instil and nurture a culture of custodianship achieved through public meetings, working parties and skills training courses involving local wildlife trust and practical conservation groups.

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**3.0 GENERAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PRINCIPLES****3.1 Introduction**

Most woodlands of this scale are better managed than neglected where landscape and nature conservation are sought in particular.

Regularly managed woods can have a mixed age structure, retain pockets of open space, and will generally become less vulnerable to catastrophic disturbances such as violent storms than unmanaged woods.

Management of the wood will engage local people so that they become integral to the survival of the wood as a place for wildlife and for recreation.

**3.2 Track widening**

To increase the diversity of the woodland structure and to restore the woodland to a true coppice, areas have been identified where the understory will be cut down and selected mature trees - marked with white paint - will be felled. These areas are scalloped glades along the main track and along the edge of the newly created footpath. Drawing No.150814-SC-WMP-AR (Appendix A) shows the locations of these areas.

Within these areas bramble will be cleared and any re-growth treated with appropriate herbicide, if necessary, to allow the coppiced trees space to re-grow and prevent competition for light and nutrients. (Note that in Compartment 4 there is a dead birch tree which should be left standing for its habitat potential).

Timber arising from the felling of mature trees will be stacked within the woodland as 'habitat piles', and the 'lop and top' (branchwood) will be chipped and the chippings used to create the new footpath.

A qualified and experienced contractor should carry out this work.

Brash arising from the coppicing of undergrowth will be used to create 'dead hedges' to help delineate the footpath and to steer visitors away from the new development and the existing house at the end of the track.

The coppicing could be carried out using hand tools and would be suitable, under appropriate supervision to be carried out by volunteers recruited from the local community and nearby school.

Once a coppice cycle has been established some of the produce from coppicing such as pea and bean sticks could be used by local gardeners

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and allotment holders sold to them by the volunteers as a source of revenue or given in exchange for labour.

In time specialist training courses such as traditional hurdle making and rustic garden furniture construction could be held in the woodland.

**3.3 Creation of New Footpath**

A new footpath will be created to link the entrance off Longhalves Lane with the drive that bisects the woodland. The purpose of this path is to divert users away from the eastern fringe of the woodland adjacent to the new housing development at Hooke close and to discourage continued use of the current network of informal paths through the woodland.

The approximate route of the path is shown in Appendix A.

Leaving the private access drive selected Field Maple, marked with white paint, will be coppiced and the holly bush cut back to create a clear opening and provide ease of access.

The new path turns west where a fallen tree provides a barrier to discourage casual access into the woodland and potential access to the rear gardens of new housing development in Hooke Close.

The path then gradually heads north towards the entrance to the woodland off Longhalves Lane.

Information boards will be installed at either end of the footpath providing a plan of the woodland, the route of the footpath and information about flora and fauna that can be found within the woodland together with a brief explanation of the proposed management of the wood. The notice boards will also have space for notices regarding seasonal public activities within the woodland.

It is hoped that the local school could be involved in the design of the boards and that Southern Households can be approached for sponsorship to cover the cost of production and installation.

Manufacturers of interpretation boards are found in appendix F

**3.4 Woodland Edge Management**

All hazel at the northern edge of the wood where it borders Longhalves Lane is to be coppiced. Where there are gaps, re-stock with suitable species. See Appendix C.

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A ramp or steps will be constructed over the hedge bank at the entrance to the coppice off Longhalves Lane to protect what remains of the bank, reduce compaction and to make access easier when wet.

Once pedestrian traffic is diverted away from the bank itself, the woodland flora can be re-established by planting with suitable species that already occur in the wood. See Appendix B

It is important that any plants planted are from suitable native (preferably Isle of Wight provenance) stock so it would be prudent to do this in conjunction with the local Wildlife Trust. See Appendix F for contact details.

This would be an ideal project for the local school.

**3.5 Re-Stocking**

The extent to which re-stocking is necessary can only be assessed after the work described above has been done.

Successful re-stocking of the woodland with appropriate native tree and shrub species is through a programme of clearing selective small areas of undergrowth within the woodland.

There is currently little evidence of natural regeneration. Once selective small areas have been cleared within the existing woodland matrix the emergence of natural regeneration should be monitored.

The controlled clearance of bramble will be undertaken as dense bramble can postpone natural regeneration.

To achieve species diversity and establish structural variety planting within the identified compartment areas will be carried out.

Recommended small trees and shrubs to create species diversity and promote habitat enhancement include:

- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)
- Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
- Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*)
- Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)

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- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

**3.6 Removal of Selected Trees and Non-Native Shrubs**

Trees for removal have been selected within the coppice areas and are identified with white paint.

In addition any trees of the following species will be removed :

- Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
- Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*)
- Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* and *P lusitanica*)
- Bay (*Laurus nobilis*)
- All conifers

These works should be undertaken by a qualified and experienced contractor.

**3.7 Removal of Rubbish**

There is evidence of garden waste tipping and other rubbish in the wood including rolls of chicken wire. These should all be removed and any subsequent rubbish removed promptly.

**3.8 Monitoring**

Stakeholders in the future management of the woodland will agree a programme to monitor the implementation of the woodland management prescriptions; recording the status of each compartments at the start of the management period, the works carried out and how the woodland responds.

Monitoring will be targeted to assess the success of the following objectives of management:

- ***Establishment of natural regeneration***
- ***Development of woodland structure***
- ***Increased diversity of species composition***

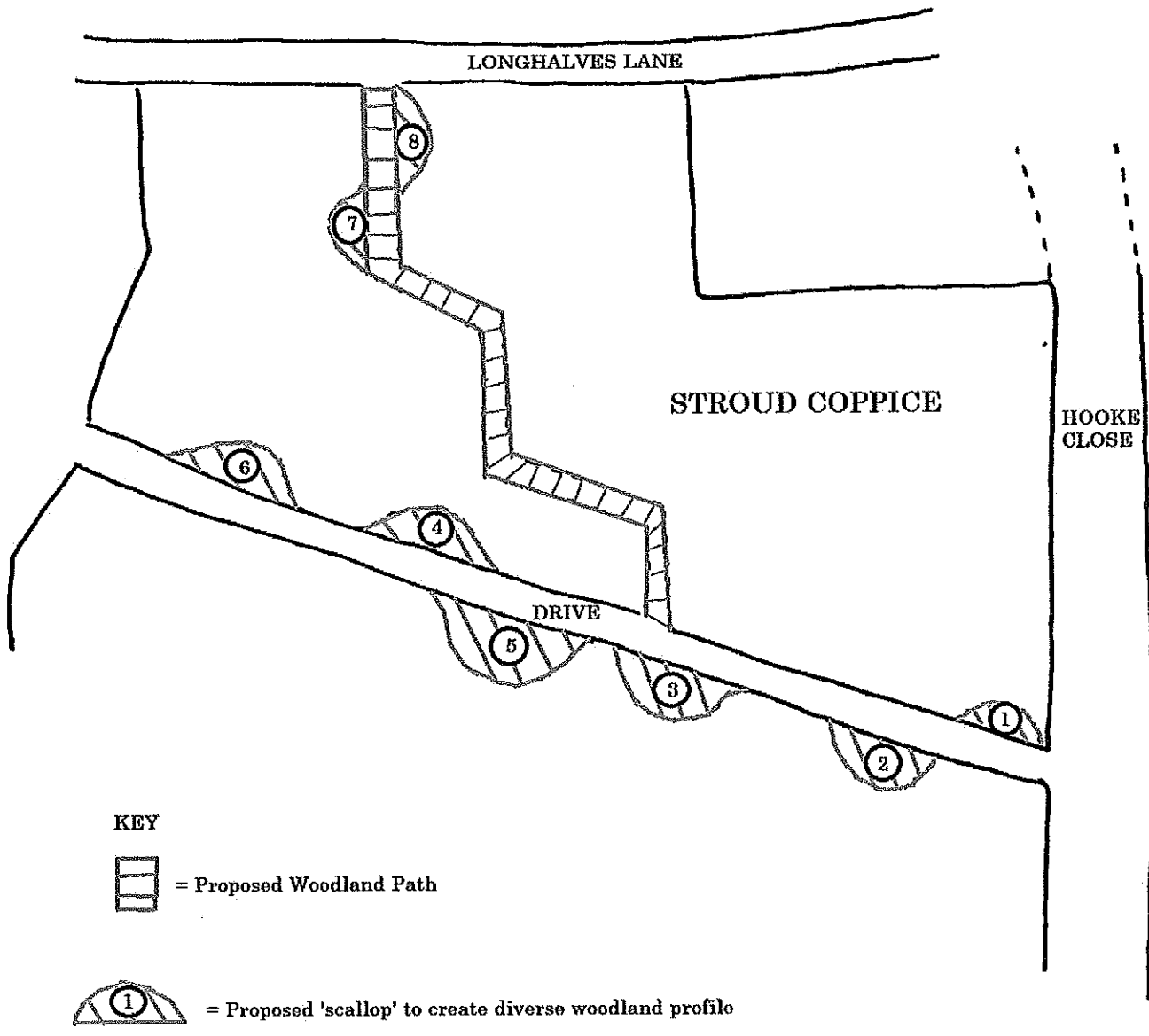
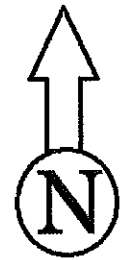
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# **Appendix A**

**Drawing No. 150814-SC-WMP-AR**



# Stroud Coppice, Freshwater, Isle of Wight Southern Households Ltd.

Woodland Survey & Management Prescriptions

Drawing No: 150814-SC-WMP-AR

Not to Scale

# **Appendix B**

## **Tree Survey - Species**

**Appendix B - Species List**

**Stroud Copse, Freshwater, Isle of Wight**

**Client:**

**Southern Households Ltd**

**Surveyors:**

**Alister and Sue Rankine**

**Date of Survey:**

**7th July 2015**



| Large Trees     |                             | Small Trees / Shrubs |                       | Flora / Ground Cover     |                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Common name     | Botanical name              | Common name          | Botanical name        | Common name              | Botanical name          |
| Oak             | Quercus robur               | Hazel                | Corylus avellana      | Bramble                  | Rubus fruticosus        |
| Ash             | Fraxinus excelsior          | Field maple          | Acer campestre        | Enchanters nightshade    | Circaea lutetiana       |
| Elm             | Ulmus procera               | Elder                | Sambucus nigra        | Ivy                      | Hedera helix            |
| Cherry          | Prunus avium                | Hawthorn             | Crataegus monogyna    | Harts Tongue Fern        | Phyllitis scolopendrium |
| Horse Chestnut  | Aesculus hippocastanum      | Holly                | Ilex aquifolium       | Male Fern                | Dryopteris filix-mas    |
| Lombardy poplar | Populus nigra 'Italica'     | Spindle              | Euonymus europaeus    | Hog weed                 | Heracleum spondylium    |
| Leyland cypress | X Cupressocyparis leylandii | Blackthorn           | Prunus spinosa        | Primrose                 | Primula veris           |
| Sycamore        | Acer pseudoplatanus         | Privet               | Ligustrum ovalifolium | Nettles                  | Urtica dioica           |
|                 |                             | Griselinia           | Griselinia littoralis | Wood avens               | Geum urbanum            |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Honeysuckle              | Lonicera periclymenum   |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Bay                      | Laurus nobilis          |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Speedwell                | Veronica chamaedrys     |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Herb Robert              | Geranium robertianum    |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Cleavers                 | Galium aparine          |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Creeping red dead nettle | Lantium purpureum       |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Dock                     | Rumex sanguineus        |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Spanish bluebells        | Hyacinthoides hispanica |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Dog rose                 | Rosa canina             |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Meadow sweet             | Filipendula ulmaria     |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Sedge                    | Carex sylvatica         |
|                 |                             |                      |                       | Currant                  | Ribes sylvestre         |

# Appendix C

## Species for Re-stocking



# *Hillside Trees Ltd.*

Arboricultural Consultancy

## Species for Re-Stocking Woodland Edge

### Common Name

Hazel

Field Maple

Dogwood

Holly

Dog Rose

Spindle

Wayfaring Tree

Guelder Rose

### Scientific Name

*Corylus avellana*

*Acer campestre*

*Cornus sanguinea*

*Ilex aquifolium*

*Rosa canina*

*Euonymus europaeus*

*Viburnum lantana*

*Viburnum opulus*

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# Appendix D

**PLANTING SPECIFICATION SS:A – PLANTING  
WHIPS (BARE ROOT)**

## **SS:A**

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### **SPECIFICATION FOR PLANTING WHIPS (BARE ROOT)**

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#### ***Tree Stations, Planting, Stakes and Ties***

Tree pits will be excavated to the dimensions 30cm x 30cm x 30cm deep or larger to satisfactorily accommodate the root system. In excavating the tree station any material not to be used in the backfill will normally either be spread evenly and tidily around the tree station.

The sides and bottom of each pit will be thoroughly broken up by forking to facilitate drainage/

During the planting operation a robust cane appropriate to the size of the tree will be pushed into position alongside the tree and left firm following backfilling.

In placing the tree in its pit, care should be taken to ensure that the roots are freely opened out and that it is planted at the same depth as previously grown in the Nursery.

After placing the tree, the pit will be backfilled with topsoil from in and around the excavated pit.

#### ***Tree Guards***

Supply and fix shelters of the "Tubex" design in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Size to be 120 cm.

The Contractor must ensure that the stake is driven in far enough to be completely wind-firm.

The Contractor will be responsible for re-securing any shelters and stakes which become loosened due to wind pressure. All shelters will be brown or tan in colour. The base of each shelter will be buried by soil to a sufficient depth to ensure it remains windfirm under all conditions and to help prevent weed incursion.

# Appendix E

**PLANTING SPECIFICATION SS:B – PLANTING  
SHRUBS (BARE ROOT)**

**SS:B**

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## **SPECIFICATION FOR PLANTING SHRUBS (BARE ROOT)**

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### ***Shrub Stations, Planting, Pruning***

Pits will be excavated to the dimensions large enough to satisfactorily accommodate the root system. In excavating the shrub station any material not to be used in the backfill will normally be spread evenly and tidily around the shrub station.

The sides and bottom of each pit will be thoroughly broken up by forking to facilitate drainage.

In placing the shrub in its pit, care should be taken to ensure that the roots are freely opened out and that it is planted at the same depth as previously grown in the Nursery.

After placing the shrub, the pit will be backfilled topsoil from in and around the excavated pit.

### ***Shrub Shelters***

Supply and fix shelters of the 'Tubex' design in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Size to be 60cm. The Contractor must ensure that the stake is driven in far enough to be completely wind-firm.

The Contractor will be responsible for re-securing to the satisfaction of the Company's Agent any shelters and stakes which become loosened due to wind pressure. All shelters will be brown or tan in colour. The base of each shelter will be buried by soil to a sufficient depth to ensure it remains wind-firm under all conditions and help prevent weed incursion.

# **Appendix F**

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Contact  
Details**

**Interpretation Board Manufacturers**



*Hillside Trees Ltd.*  
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## **Greenhouse Graphics**

[www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk](http://www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk)

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Bramley

BASINGSTOKE

RG26 5DL

01256 880770

## **Nature Signs**

[www.naturesigns.co.uk](http://www.naturesigns.co.uk)

PO Box 336

BARNSTABLE

EX32 2DR

01271 812301

## **Nicebrook Limited**

[www.nicebrook.co.uk](http://www.nicebrook.co.uk)

13A Westfield Road

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER

DN18 5AA

01652 632841

## **Shelley Signs**

[www.shelleysigns.co.uk](http://www.shelleysigns.co.uk)

54 Cartmel Drive

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