

Good Woods

Woodland visit report

1. Introduction

Good Woods is a project being run in the East and South East of England to help woodland owners with the management of their woodlands. The advice given is closely linked to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) – the reference standard for Sustainable Forest Management in the UK.

The purpose of this visit is to further communicate the UKFS among woodland owners, introduce the myForest woodland management web-service, and prepare a report that will provide information to feed into the woodland management planning process, should the owner choose to create a plan following the visit by a Good Woods Woodland Advisor.

2. Contact information

Woodland property contact name	Mark Swan
Company/organisation name & address	Woodcote Millennium Green Trust, 6 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey. KT18 7DX
Confirm Position (e.g. owner, manager)	Chairman
Email	mark.emma@virgin.net
Telephone number	01372 729258
Woodland visit reference number	W190NM04
Woodland Advisor reference number	WA04BLC
Woodland Advisor name	Laurence Crow
Date of visit	20/01/2014
Time of visit	10am

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3. Woodland property details

Woodland property name	Woodcote Green
Woodland address if different from above	
Nearest postcode for woodland	KT18 7DW
Grid reference	TQ204597
Size (ha)	2.08

4. Existing information about woodland property

Maps available e.g. is there a detailed schedule of compartments and sub compartments and at what scale	Land Registry. Site Plan circa 2006
Management plan e.g. most recent management planning information.	Unknown
Inventory information e.g. up to date schedule of species in each sub-compartment	Unknown
Other	

5. Description of the woodland property

The Woodcote Memorial Green woodland is located just south of Woodcote Green Road, south of Epsom hospital and the A24 Dorking Road, on level ground being a clay loam with a central pond and an avenue of trees planted in 1999 to celebrate the millennium. The woodland is a Conservation Area including the adjacent greens.

The woodland is immediately visible from the road but with no major viewpoints and residential areas to the south. Woodland is situated to the east with the large area of Epsom Common and to the south east are smaller woodland areas of Woodcote and The Grove.

The woodland is divisible into three compartments with Compartment 1 to the south consisting of Oak, Ash, Field maple, Holm Oak, Hawthorn and Holly with occasional Sycamore. The Ash and Maple are of coppice stool origin showing the history of the land as woodland along with the ditch and bank, and there is an area of good natural regeneration. A clearing is maintained which provides an important open space for wildlife and as an amenity for visitors.

There is a large ditch leading as a valuable feeder to the pond on the west boundary of Compartment 2, and a scrubby open space suitable for restocking. The Oak, Horse chestnut, Locust, Turkey Oak and Sycamore are mature trees with good Holly and Yew trees, and the

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shrub layer of Holly and Elder. Bramble is present and some Laurel to control prior to spreading.

Compartment 3 is dominated by Elm and Horse chestnut and Yew which is common throughout the woodland, both as mature and juvenile trees.

6. Registration on myForest

You have been registered on the free tool myForest. Your account details are as follows:

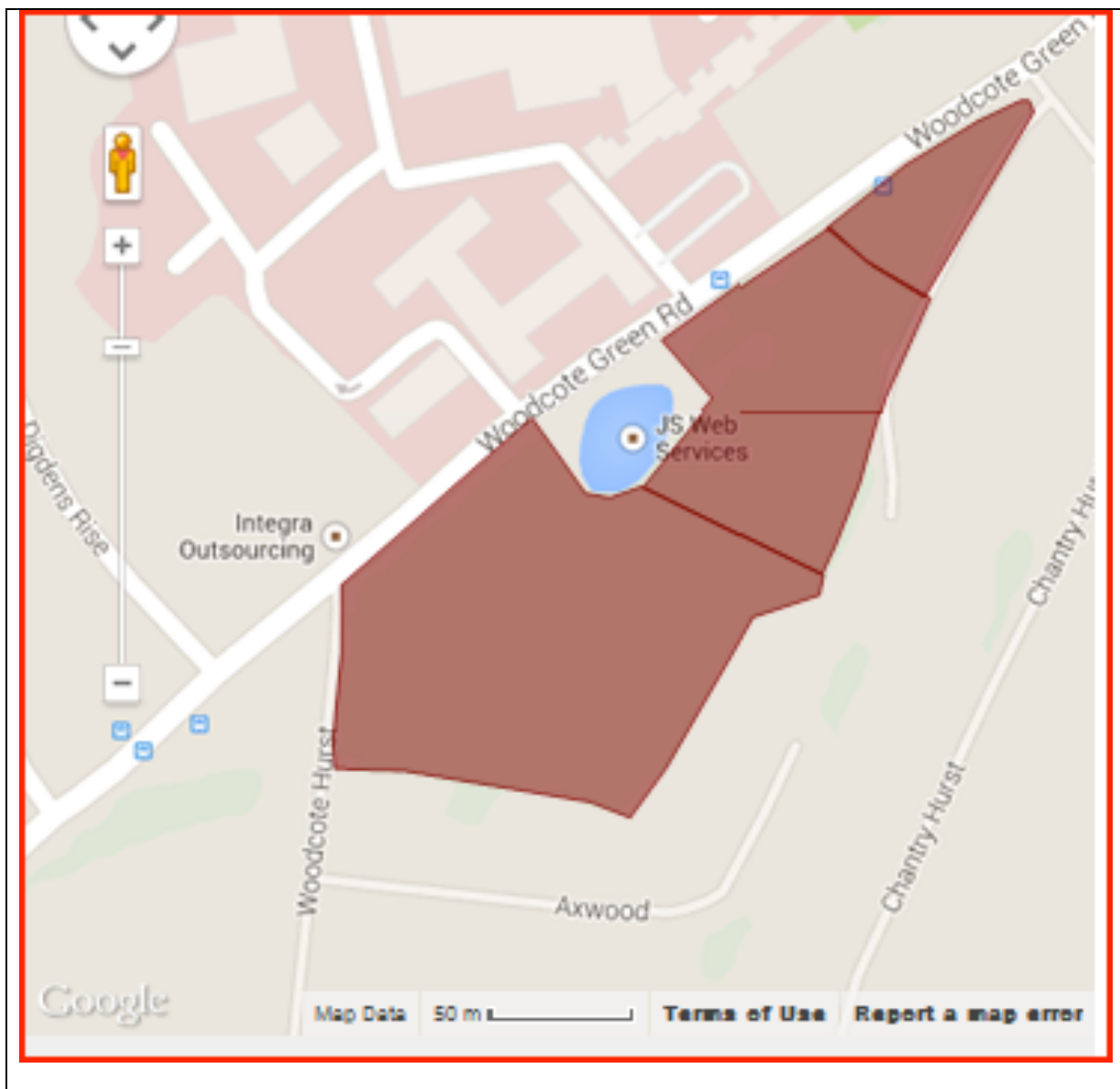
Username (email address)	mark.emma@virgin.net
Password	Woodcote

Please change the above password on the myForest system. This is for web security reasons and ensures that you have sole access to the account.

You can access your myForest account through the following website: www.myforest.org.uk

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7. Woodland sub compartments (to be mapped using the myForest system)



Sub-compartment reference (e.g. 1a)	Species composition (e.g. 40% Ash, 35% English Oak, 15% Sycamore, 10% other)
Cpt. 1	30% Oak, 20% Ash, 20% Field Maple, 30% other
Cpt. 2	20% Oak, 20% Sycamore, 60% other
Cpt. 3	40% Elm, 40% Horse chestnut, 20% other

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8. Woodland Star Rating (WSR)

The WSR is a short set of questions to help introduce and communicate important elements of the UK Forestry Standard. It aims to assess the level of activity in woodland and helps identify actions to improve woodland condition. The assessment covers the entire woodland property and will be entered into the *myForest* account, where there is additional information on the scheme and the UKFS. You can choose to carry out as many assessments as you wish on your *myForest* account and can download a certificate each time to help chart your progress.

Further information about the Woodland Star Rating scheme can be found at:

<http://www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/wsr>

The current Woodland Star rating for this woodland property has been assessed as:

BRONZE - 42%

As you plan and undertake activities in your woodland, you can update your Woodland Star Rating through the Woodland Star Rating tab in your *myForest* account. You can download the certificate from the Good Woods visit from you *myForest* account.

9. Vision for woodland

To maintain the open space in the woodland as footpaths and picnic areas with an improvement to the footpath surfaces required.

To manage the trees on the margins of the open areas to prevent shading out of this valuable open space, and to create a shrub layer for nesting birds from the coppice re-growth.

The birdlife in this area is surprisingly high and the habitats for nesting is required to restrict disturbance by dogs, so improvement of the shrub layer near the rides and on the southern margin is advised to promote the birdlife.

As there are a limited number of young trees and a fairly small number of different species, there is the opportunity to plant trees for the future. Species choice is interesting bearing in mind the rising temperatures and the lifespan of new tree reaching maturity in twenty to forty years time.

Native species may include the Sorbus species of Whitebeam and Rowan, with Sweet chestnut and Walnut more suitable for the rising temperature.

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10. Additional information for the woodland owner / manager

- Information sheets provided by the Forestry Commission
- Forestry Commission English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs>
- Forestry Commission guidance on felling licences
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6dfk86>
- Link to myForest resources: www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/resources
- I would be interested in hearing from B&Q and/or its suppliers about opportunities for supplying timber products from my woodland. **No**

11. Next steps for you and your woodland

1	Woodland edge and southern margin for coppicing works to create graded woodland edge as nesting habitats.
2	Reinstatement of footpaths by grading and new materials.
3	Restocking with Oak and other species for species diversity.
4	Prune side branches of the trees in the Avenue.

12. Local forestry businesses

For information on local forestry businesses (e.g. agents and contractors) operating in your area, please visit the **myForest business directory**:

<http://www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/directories>

13. Additional site visit notes

Silky HAYATE 16-ft, 2-extension (XL teeth) available from <http://www.silkysaws.com>

To be used with hard hat / chainsaw helmet