Things to spot in Grove Wood

Wild Welsh daffodil (Narcissus pseudonarcissus) The wild daffodil is small in comparison to garden varieties, with paler petals. It is also known as the 'Lent lily'.

One of the most common fungi to be found in the woods is Trametes versicolor, the turkey tail fungus.

Wood Anemone (Anemone nemerosa) Spreading by rhizomes just below the soil surface, this pretty white species grows quickly to carpet large areas.

Cowslips (Primula veris) A very familiar spring flower with a rosette of wrinkled, toothed leaves from which arises one or more flowering stems.

Ranunculus ficaria Lesser Celandine has fleshy dark green, heart-shaped leaves. It prefers bare, damp ground and in the UK it is often a persistent garden weed. The flowers are yellow, turning white as they age.

Herb Robert (Geranium robertianum) Dark green/red leaves and pretty pink flowers. Name comes from the Greek 'geranus' meaning crane, due to the crane beak-like seedheads.

Orange-tip butterfly (Anthocharis cardomines) alights on a dandelion. The Orange-tip is a true sign of spring, being one of the first species to emerge that has not overwintered as an adult. Only the male has orange tips to the forewings

Help always needed

Volunteer commitment is critical to the continuing success of Grove Wood. You do as much or as little as you can manage. It all makes a difference to a project that offers enjoyment at many levels: tree maintenance, wild flower planting, photography, flora and fauna study or the simply pleasure of strolling through peaceful, ever-changing surroundings.

Sherston's Tree Wardens can provide further information about future plans and how you can get involved.
Please contact either Irene Johnston on 01666 841273, Ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk or
Sue McKechnie on 01666 840601, susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk

Please remember:

Stay on the path and respect the wildlife and habitats

Do not climb on stacked logs or fallen trees

Keep your dog under control and clean up after it

Grove Wood logo by competition winner, Scott Brown.
Leaflet design: Paul Ormiston, Compass Graphic Design, Sherston 01666 840694

grove wood

Welcome to Grove Wood Sherston's community wood

Grove Wood in bluebell splendour, spring 2011

River Avon

Orange-tip butterfly (Anthocharis cardomines)

Introduction to Grove Wood

When Sherston Parish Council acquired the lease of Grove Wood in 2009, the two-acre site alongside the River Avon was a wilderness. Its restoration is an on-going community project manned entirely by volunteers. The aim is to create managed, coppiced woodland where native trees provide habitat for wildflowers, mosses and lichens as well as nesting sites for birds, owls, bats and other fauna. It is hoped Grove Wood will become a beautiful, tranquil space that people can enjoy throughout the year.

Coppiced slope in winter 2011

Spring returning to Grove Wood

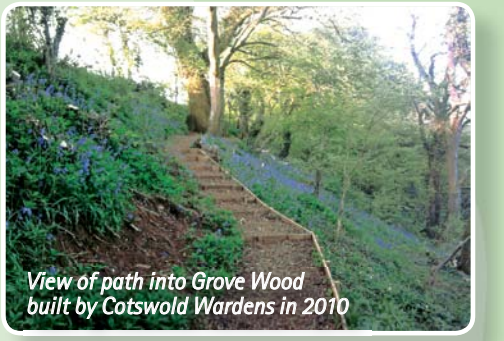
Managing our wood

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management in which trees and shrubs are cut to ground level allowing vigorous re-growth.
Typically, coppiced woodland is harvested in sections on a rotation, resulting in a crop being available each year somewhere in the woodland.
This process creates a unique ecosystem and is one of the few patterns of symbiosis in nature where humans are an important part of the relationship.
Coppicing provides a rich variety of habitats and increases biodiversity by routinely letting in sunlight to the woodland floor to awaken dormant seeds.

Sherston Primary School pupils enjoying a day in the wood

A Volunteer effort

Under the guidance of a trained local arborist, volunteers work every Sunday morning during the dormant season (November to March, usually).
The wood has been divided into four sections for the purposes of annual coppicing (see diagram). Hazardous trees have been removed by chainsaw whilst hazel and ash trees have been coppiced, cleared and burnt to re-establish the cycle. The majority of dead material has been saved for habitats, including the large dead ash in the first part of the wood. Some dying trees are also retained as fungus actually helps overall biodiversity.
Over 1,000 snowdrops have been planted by the riverside path and traditional, layed hedging offers protection to wildlife and emerging shoots.

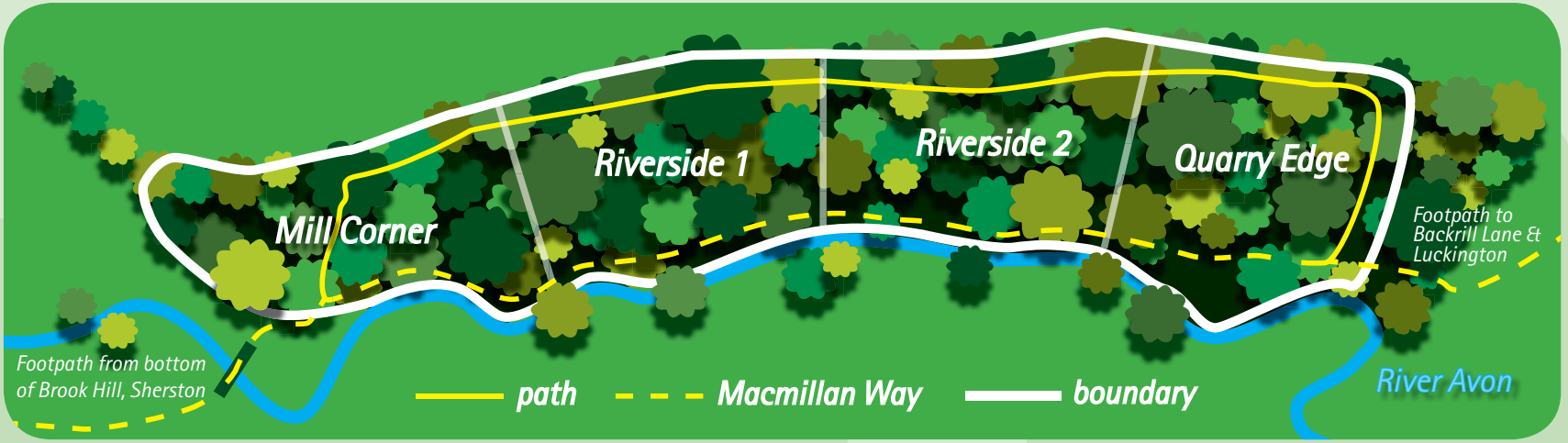


View of path into Grove Wood built by Cotswold Wardens in 2010

Take nothing but photographs

Leave nothing but footprints

Kill nothing but time



Special thanks

Others who have supported our volunteers include the Wiltshire Community Payback Scheme (fencing, top path and general clearance); Cotswold Wardens (perimeter steps, kissing gate and rustic bench) and Wiltshire Council Rights of Way (all-weather surface on riverside path).