

**AGED 13-26?**

**WANT TO WORK  
OUTDOORS, FELL A  
TREE AND LIGHT  
A FIRE?**

# **CAN YOU CUT IT?**

**AT WESTONBIRT**

**SPEND THE DAY OUTDOORS &  
DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF  
MANAGING OUR WOODLANDS**

**Westonbirt**  
**The National  
Arboretum**



## **Community Coppice in Silk Wood at Westonbirt Arboretum**

Coppicing is the traditional practice of harvesting wood by the repeated cutting back, to almost ground level, of certain trees. This stimulates vigorous regrowth, (up to 2 inches a day), and hence, more harvestable material, without the need to replant. The frequency of cutting varies depending on the size of timber required.

Records of coppicing in Silk Wood date back many hundreds of years until the 1930's when declining markets made it uneconomic. However since the 1980's we have been working to return some of the derelict coups to productive woodlands.

We are now able to offer a programme of coppice restoration activities to youth groups and organisations where young people can spend the day outdoors and learn some of the traditional skills used in the management of our ancient native woodlands.

### **One Day Visit – Sample Programme**

Introduction to coppicing, health & safety and tool use demonstration.

Season dependant coppicing activities including tool use.

Fire lighting

### **Repeat Visit – Sample Programme**

- Day 1 Setting personal goals, fire lighting challenge, intro to coppicing and tool use
- Day 2 Season dependant coppicing, plant hunters past & present – team building activities.
- Day 3 Season dependant coppicing, native tree id, folklore and uses, charcoal making.
- Day 4 Season dependant coppicing, den building, navigation & clue find exercise around Silk Wood
- Day 5 Selection and harvesting of coppice wood for greenwood working – mallet making
- Day 6 Season dependant coppicing, campfire cook up and personal reflection.

Participants on repeat visit programmes may also have the opportunity to work towards a John Muir Award.

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WESTONBIRT-COMMUNITY**



 **Forestry Commission  
England**

Westonbirt, The National  
Arboretum is cared for by the  
Forestry Commission.

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