

Small Woodland



Owners' Group

**Small Woods – an owners'  
perspective**

A turning tide – and what we need to  
help us



- **Why do we want to own a wood in the first place**
  - Coppice regeneration
  - Making charcoal
  - Producing local timber
  - Retaining or improving wildlife
  - Butterflies



First managed cant of hazel coppice West Sussex 2009

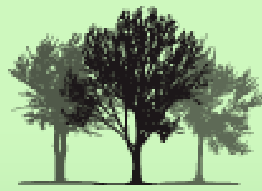


- **What do most owners need**
  - Clear paperwork
  - Better knowledge of the grants system
  - Training grants for SW owners
  - Advice/guide on hiring workers



Grey Squirrel control workshop Jan 2009

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- **What do most owners need**
  - Support from the ‘professionals’
  - Networks of local support
  - Support for clearer planning laws



SWOG meeting Flimwell 2008





- **What can we do for small woods**
  - Re-establish coppice rotations
  - Increase diversity and control detrimental species e.g. squirrels
  - Find local markets for timber and produce



Squirrel Damaged Oak 2009



- **What can we do for small woods**
  - Increase ‘managed’ woodlands – slow but sure!
  - Support local professional arborialists with work
  - Monitor and report disease and insect damage
  - Maintain or increase available timber for the future





- **What can we do for small woods**
  - Monitor bat, butterfly, insect populations
  - Work with conservation groups (local & national)
  - More occupancy equals more eyes – less vandalism, damage to woodland and illegal use







- **What can we do for small woods**
  - Maintain and increase habitat for rare or endangered plants
  - Raise awareness of woodland, forestry and countryside issues by wider contact with local communities, friends and family.







- **Why do we do some of the things we do?**
  - Put up ‘Private Wood’ signs
    - Because of:
      - Worries over trespassers
      - Concerns over Public Liability
      - Un-authorized access by quad bikes, mud pluggers and dog walkers
      - Theft of cut wood, damage to plants and weekend flower pickers
  - Cut and clear dead trees
    - Due to:
      - Terms of Public Liability insurance



- **What do we need help with?**
  - Cheaper, clearer Public Liability Insurance
    - Access to better ‘group schemes’
    - Support from FC to get better terms and cover
    - Clearer policy documents and wording



Continuous weave fencing by a SWOG member

# A FINAL THOUGHT



“The process of coppicing has transformed a dark hornbeam wood into a home for multitudes of plants and flowers and insects and birds. Four species of warbler (Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Garden warbler and Willow warbler) nested last year in one cant of about two acres coppiced four years ago, not to mention other species such as robin, wren, dunnock, woodpigeon and so on.. The same area is a favourite with woodcock which have just started to appear as I write (mid-November). It’s all because of coppicing.” Nick Lear woodland owner

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**Thank you for your attention**

**Are there any questions?**

