Coppice Woodland:

- Ancient woodland (known to exist before 1600) or secondary woodland (more recent) can both be managed as coppice.
- Coppice was once the dominant form of management across southern England.
- Broadleaved trees regenerate from cut stumps, producing a large number of thin, straight poles.
- These provided the wood for firewood, charcoal, hurdles, fencing materials, furniture and many more products.
- Coppicing allows sunlight to reach the woodland floor, encouraging the growth of many woodland plants, that attract invertebrates, which then attract birds.
- As the coppice grows, regrowth is very thick and provides good shelter for birds and mammals.
- It is the mixture of different age coppice, representing different stages of woodland succession that gives coppice woodland such a diverse range of plant, invertebrate, bird and mammal species. The loss of different types of habitat within woodlands has led to a decline in species.

Managing woodland is hard work and labour intensive. Seek advice regarding management, and what grants may be available. (See ‘useful contacts’). www.surreycc.gov.uk/woodlands has lots of information regarding woodlands.

Until WWII, most woodlands were managed to produce various woodland products for many different uses. The advent of new materials such as plastic resulted in a decline in woodland management.

In woodlands where management has historically been carried out, the decline in management has led to a decline in species.

The management of your area of woodland should depend on the historic management of the wood.

For larger scrub and areas of scrub, it may be more appropriate that contractors with machinery are used.
- A flail mower can be used to cut scrub and grass on banks and avoids compacting soil.
- Once cut, stumps should be treated, dug up, or ground down to prevent re-growth. Again, a contractor may be more appropriate for carrying out this task.
- The site should then be managed to prevent the scrub re-invading the open habitat, either by regular cutting or grazing.

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High Forest

- Shady, closed-canopy woodland, which makes up 90% of woodland in Surrey.
- There is a great proportion of dead and fallen trees.
- Some of this woodland has been managed by thinning out some of the trees for timber. Wildlife importance can reduce once management stops.
- Trees may need to be felled for safety reasons, or to prevent non-native invasive species becoming too dominant.

Secondary Woodland

- Developed in relatively recent times, either through succession (open habitat > scrub > woodland) or planting.
- Secondary woodland is not as species rich, and is highly unlikely ever to be as species rich as ancient woodland, in terms of tree and ground flora species present.
- Many secondary woodlands have a uniform structure in terms of age and size of trees.
- Coppicing can vary the age and size structure within the woodland, creating opportunities for different plant and animal species to colonise.
- Understory planting (e.g. hazel) can vary the structure within the woodland.
- Secondary woodland can be left as minimum intervention woodland, which will resemble high forest after many, many years. Trees may need to be felled for safety reasons, or to prevent non-native invasive species becoming too dominant.
- Secondary woodland can be created on appropriate sites. For best results it is best to plant adjacent to ancient woodland, allowing rare species that are present to slowly colonise the new woodland.

Ponds

- Pond management is best done in autumn.
- Remove excess vegetation – pile it by the side of the pond for a day to allow any animals to escape back into the pond.
- Pond materials are very good for composting.
- Never put removed material into a wild pond as this can spread invasive species.
- Never clear more than 2/3 of the pond to allow some shelter to remain for pond animals and birds.
- If the pond is drying out due to lack of rain it is best to top it up with collected rainwater, rather than tap water. Most pond water levels drop during the summer.

This pond has lots of features to attract wildlife. These include scrub next to the pond on one side, rough grass and an open aspect to the rest of the pond. Vegetation in the pond is dense enough to provide shelter for animals and birds, but there is plenty of open water as well.
Hedgerows / Hedges

A hedge is a row of shrubs or bushes, with occasional trees that forms a boundary between fields or with another feature such as roads. Hedgerows provide food and shelter for many species, and can act as a corridor along which species can travel.

Some hedges can be ancient and be of archaeological importance. These are usually along parish boundaries and old roads, and are often associated with banks or ditches.

- The best hedges for wildlife are thick with wide bases that provide plenty of cover.
- Older hedgerows usually have a variety of tree and shrub species, although many recently planted hedges are also species rich.
- Dead wood in hedges is a valuable habitat for many invertebrates – most dead wood in hedges is the result of hedge management, especially hedgelaying.
- Hedgelaying is the traditional method of managing hedgerows. The technique varies from region to region.
- Hedgelaying should be carried out before the trees become too large.
- Tree stems are cut most of the way through so they can be bent over. The section of stem that is still intact is sufficient to allow the tree to continue to live and grow.

- If your pond becomes infested with an invasive species such as parrot’s feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) or Australian swamp stoncrop / New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) the only way to manage it is to remove as much as you can. DO NOT dispose of these weeds in another pond. It is impossible to get rid of these plants once they are in your pond, unless you treat with very expensive chemicals, or dig out the pond again. Advice should be sought.

- Make sure the pond is not isolated from other habitats so animals such as great crested newts, frogs and toads can reach the pond. Advice for creating ponds can be obtained from some of the organisations listed in this leaflet, and also at www.surreycc.gov.uk/urbanbiodiversity

- Blanket weed can be a problem in the early years of a pond – this can be pulled out carefully using a rake.

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