

A photograph of a woodland floor in spring. The ground is covered with green grass, yellow daffodils, and white daisies. There are several trees with bare branches in the background, suggesting early spring. The text "Woodland update" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Woodland update

Outstanding Advice!

NE have had SA for South East,
covering ancient Woodland

April 2014 revision – now
covers all English local
planning authorities

Includes wood pasture and
parkland, and veteran trees



Key points

Good summary of national policy, with selected quotes (Keepers of Time, NEWP etc)

Excellent quotes of it's own.

“an irreplaceable resource of great importance for its wildlife, soils, recreation, cultural value, history and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes.”

“The irreplaceable nature of ancient woodland and veteran trees means that loss or damage cannot simply be rectified by mitigation and compensation measures.”



NPPF clarification

Very clear on when in the “planning balance” to take into account compensation for loss of AW put forward as part of a proposal:

- *“these should be issues for consideration only after it has been judged that the wider benefits of a proposed development clearly outweigh the loss or damage of ancient woodland.”*



Wood Pasture and Parkland

“Many have not been included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory because their low tree density meant that they did not register as woodland on the historical maps consulted.”

“Where ancient wood-pastures are identified they should receive the same consideration as other forms of ancient woodland.”



Veteran trees

Useful definition and values, inc difference between veteran & ancient.

Suggestions for compensation.

Refer to Ancient Tree Hunt.

- Soon to become Ancient Tree Inventory...



Assessment checklist

- Hosted by FC (no NE website!), also case studies.
- Designed to help planners and others to make a “comprehensive assessment” ...
- First question on checklist for planners:

“Is the site of the ancient woodland the only possible place for this proposal?”

Does it have to be on the ancient woodland site (i.e. is it location dependent) or can it go anywhere else?”



Chalara at Pound Farm

- Everything under 0.5 m in the mature aw copses wiped out.
- Older nat regen (3-10 yrs) heavy infection and death.
- Infected mature trees previously under pressure now dying (15%), others showing dieback.
- Pockets where health & vitality of pole stage ash poor, some growth at base, elsewhere crown dieback
- Some mature trees (70+) showing significant dieback in canopy, dead wood shedding 4-5cm diameter.



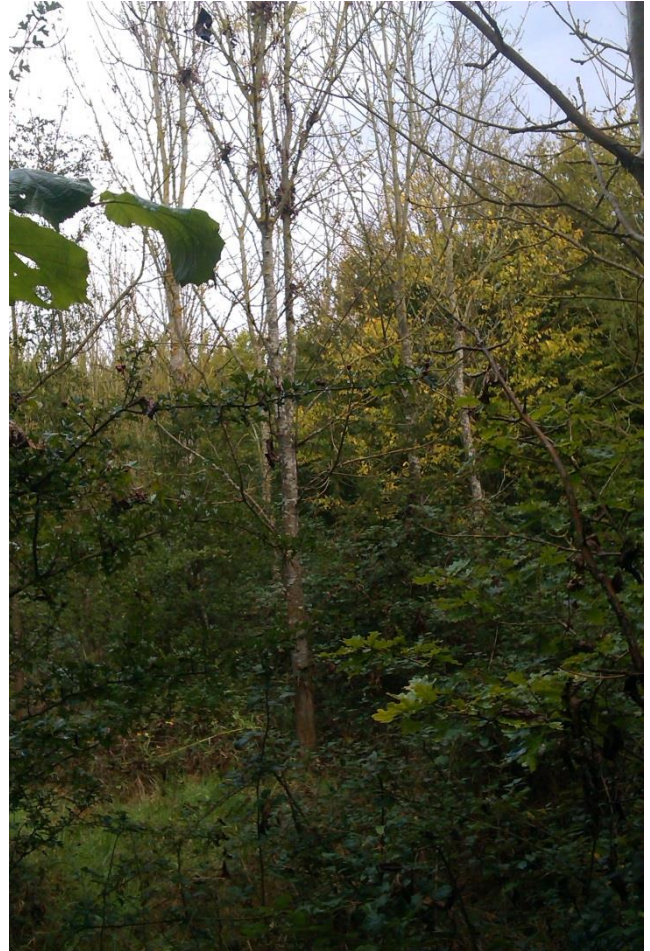
Chalara at Pound Farm (2)

- Fruiting bodies early May – still there in September
- Fungi grow on the rachis spine the next year.
- Provenance trial - All provenances seem susceptible initially 😞
- 1991 – 94, block planting – noticed upsurge in rapid devt of oak, hornbeam, field maple, birch, guelder rose, spindle, hawthorn & hazel – but not small-leaved lime!
- Noticing deer damage on natural regen, will have to manage – enclosures and shooting (Andrew Wilson) – plus looking at squirrel pressure on oak & hornbeam...
- Chalara update day at Pound Farm next year (June?)









PAWS restoration

- £1.9 million from the HLF to help us undertake the largest UK woodland restoration project ever
- Aim to restore a massive 52,000 hectares (almost 130,000 acres) of damaged ancient woodland.
- Over five years we want to work with 1,000 landowners in 10 priority areas, helping them establish positive management and restoration.



Trees and river catchments

- Norfolk County Council in partnership with Catchment Sensitive Farming (EA) and the Norfolk Broads - planting trees to help hold back the flow of water off farmland in extreme rainfall events that in one case flooded the village of Hemsby, near Great Yarmouth.
- Suite of solutions then approaching the landowner to see if they would be willing to go ahead.
- Norfolk Rivers Trust on the River Mun – they think they will have more opportunities in future for tree planting and are very warm to trees.
- The East Suffolk catchment partnership warm to tree planting.
- In the Chelmer and Blackwater catchment, Essex, WT will be providing free trees to landowners in a project target area with a catchment officer promoting the offer to her 700+ landowner contacts.

