

Woodlands for Wildlife

Provisional Course Outline for Norwich 21's Woodlands for Wildlife Course

Week 1 – September 24th

Registration of students.

Basic health and safety.

General introductory talk – why protect wildlife?

Look at the woods and examine the different habitats that are present.

What wildlife areas may we be able to create in the woods and what plants and wildlife are already present?

Week 2 – October 1st

Basic tool handling and maintenance.

Full site survey and risk assessment. Introduction to coppicing.

Begin work on tidying up. Tuition in felling dead trees.

Week 3 – October 8th

Discussion about choosing plants for food and shelter for insects, birds, amphibians, and mammals. What food and shelter do they need?

What additionally can we provide?

Group activity to "re-think" the woods. Continued tidying up and pruning.

Week 4 – October 15th

Clearing the open shrub layer and paths, and cutting back dead wood as needed.

Coppicing elms, sycamores and hazels.

TWO WEEK BREAK FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

Week 5 – November 5th

Introduction to woodland management

Discussion of planting techniques, and how to care for plants.

Planting to attract wildlife to the woods – appropriate native species to increase shrub layer

Week 6 – November 12th

Discussion of planting wildflowers and about natural control of pests and diseases, creating a balanced eco-system. How we can incorporate some of the skills learned here in our own gardens. Principles and practice of woodland management.

Week 7 – November 19th

Tree planting.

Starting work on building shelters for wildlife: e.g. building bird boxes, bat boxes, wood piles for hedgehogs, lacewing hotels and hedgehog boxes.

Week 8 – November 26th

Continuing work on building shelters for wildlife in the woods.

Possible construction of windrow/hurdles.

Week 9 – December 3rd

Summary of skills acquired. Question and answer session on opportunities in horticulture and conservation. Discussion of other courses available and local job opportunities. Future plans for Fiddlewood.

N.B. Some of these sessions will be run at Catton Park – dates to be decided.