

Simple Woodland Assessment form: South Yorkshire

This form is for surveys of potential ancient woodland across South Yorkshire. If this is your first survey, please take the time to read through the form. Guidance for undertaking surveys and completing the form can be found in the methodology guidance document on the webpage/in your emails.

Answer questions to the best of your ability, and don't worry if you can't answer every question. You can always explain your reasoning in the comment boxes.

A paper version of this form can be found on the webpage/in your emails.

We would welcome photos of a representative part of the wood, any noteworthy features, and possible ancient woodland indicator species. You can email us at ancientwoodland@wildsheffield.com.

* Indicates required question

General information

1. Your name *

2. Survey date *

Example: 7 January 2019

3. Survey Start Time *

Example: 8.30 a.m.

4. Site name

If known.

5. Site UID (Unique Identification) *

This will be shown on maps and the site spreadsheet.

6. Grid reference

This will also be on the maps and spreadsheet.

7. Parish

Access

Only visit your site if it is on public access land, has a public right of way through it, or you have explicit landowner permission. If it is not possible to enter the wood, survey as best as you can from a nearby public right of way. **Please stay on public paths and do not trespass.**

8. How did you access the site? *

Mark only one oval.

- Open to public
- Crossed by public right of way
- Viewed from public right of way, roadside, or other public land
- No public access (landowner permission)

9. Site owner (if known)

10. Source of ownership information

Mark only one oval.

- Signs or notices
- Local / personal knowledge
- Other: _____

Type of woodland / wood-pasture

11. Tree cover information

Tick multiple if cover varies across the site.

Tick all that apply.

- Broadleaf tree species
- Conifers
- Mixed conifer and broadleaf
- Trees irregularly spaced
- Trees in lines
- Evidence for tree planting
- Wood pasture / parkland

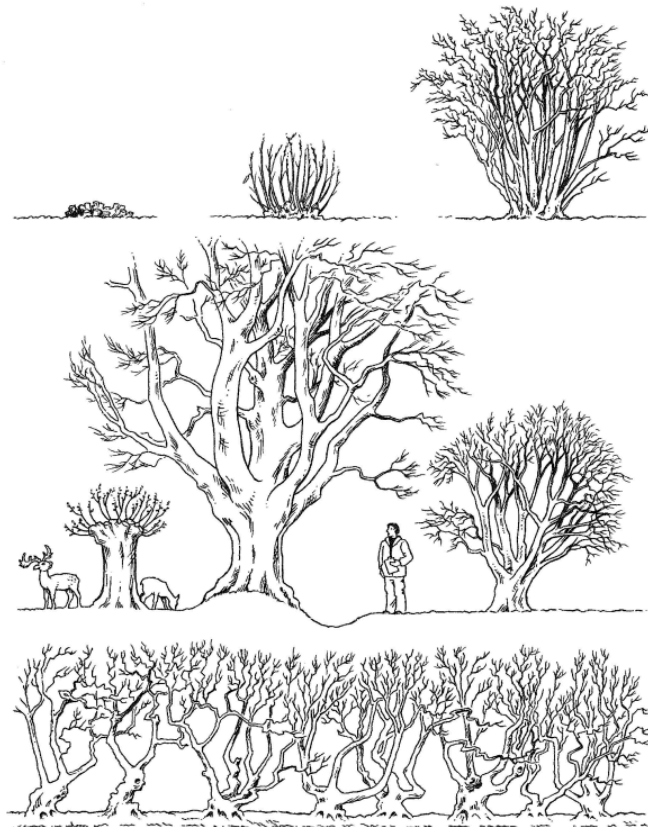
12. Would you consider this a plantation or semi-natural woodland?

Structure

Taken from: *Feature Identification Charts – a toolkit for wooded landscapes*

East Sussex County Council

2012 <https://highweald.org/~documents/publications/guidance/woodland-1/woodland-archaeology-toolkits/feature-identification-toolkit-final-feb-2012/?layout=default>



SIGNIFICANT TREES

Top:

coppice stools, l to r – newly cut, young re-growth, mature re-growth

Middle:

left – pollarded tree, new re-growth out of reach of grazing animals

centre – outgrown pollarded tree

right – a 'stub', cut at a height between coppice and pollard often used as a boundary marker

Bottom:

grown out laid hedge

13. How would you describe the woodland structure?

Tick as many as are applicable.

Tick all that apply.

- Trees are the same height
- Trees are mixed heights
- Trees with no shrubs (bushes with woody stems) beneath
- Trees with shrubs beneath
- Recent coppice (shrubs with multiple stems <4m high)
- Mature coppice (trees with multiple stems at ground level)
- Mature pollarded trees (a single trunk with multiple stems above grazing height)
- Ancient or veteran trees (large girth - can't put your arms around it, fungi and / or rot holes, reduced crown, 'looks old')
- Open grown trees (wide and open limb structure, with large limbs growing from further down the main trunk of the tree)

14. Any other comments or observations

Please make a note here if the structure varies across the site, if wood management seems to be confined to a particular area, etc.

Trees

Give information here about the kinds of trees you have observed. If you are unsure or not confident you can always make a comment and send photos of the leaves, bark and tree to ancientwoodland@wildsheffield.com

Trees



Images taken from the OPAL Tree Identification Guide:
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/opal/surveys/treehealthsurvey/>

15. Can you name any of the main trees present?

16. If you are able to identify them, what is the most common canopy tree?

Woodland plant cover

17. Woodland plants (ground vegetation)

Tick the most common. If vegetation varies across the wood, tick multiple and make a note below.

Tick all that apply.

- Little / none: bare ground, dead leaves, dead needles
- Patchy, bare ground in between
- Dominated by nettles, cleavers, cow parsley, ivy or a mix of these
- Dominated by brambles
- Dominated by bracken
- Dominated by grass
- Diverse flowering plants, such as bluebells
- Open areas (rides and glades) with many flowering plants

18. What is your overall impression of woodland ground vegetation?

Is it highly varied and widespread, or uniform? Is it confined to site boundaries? If it is mixed then please give details here.

19. If wood pasture or parkland, how is the site managed?

Did the area appear grazed, cut, or managed as lawn? If managed differently, please describe here.

Woodland features

In this section, please fill out any evidence of how the site may have been managed, archaeological features found in the wood or on the wood boundary, and any other relevant information.

Again, fill out this section to the best of your ability, and email photos to **ancientwoodland@wildsheffield.com**. If your site is particularly large, it would be helpful if you can give an approximate location.

If you think you have found any archaeological artefacts, **please take a photo in-situ (where you found it), tell the landowner, and then email us a photo including details of where you found it**. You can also contact the Portable Antiquities Scheme: details of your local Finds Liaison Officer are at <https://finds.org.uk/contacts>

20. Boundary features

These may or may not be continuous: tick as many as applicable.

Tick all that apply.

- Large bank
- Large ditch
- Ditch and bank
- Old pollard boundary trees (see guidance in structure section)
- Stone wall (drystone walls, estate boundaries etc)

A Q-pit from Ecclesall Woods, Sheffield. From the Friends of Ecclesall Woods, *History of Ecclesall Woods*

<https://friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk/history-ecclesall-woods/>



21. Internal features

Archaeological features are often difficult to identify, especially when covered by plants and leaf litter. Give your best guess, and you can always providing reasoning in the next question.

Tick all that apply.

- Large bank
- Large ditch
- Sunken track / holloway (a road or track with steep bank either side, formed by many centuries of vehicles passing through)
- Signs of quarrying/mining or quarry pits
- Q-pits (distinctive circular banks with a hollow centre, with one or more breaks in the bank, as in the photo above)
- Charcoal burning platforms (5-10m wide, flat, level areas, often on the bank of a slope)
- Ridge/Rig and furrow (shallow ridges and banks at regular intervals formed by ploughing)
- Other: _____

22. Notes on woodland features

Extent of banks and other features, former quarries or mines, approximate location of key features, any other non-woodland features or activities which might impact the wood

Ancient Woodland Indicator Species

Crib sheets are available [here](#), and further guidance is available [here](#). Complete botanical knowledge is not required: just enter anything you recognise.

Please be aware that for some of these plants there is more than one species, and we are interested specifically in the species listed.

If you are unsure, make a comment below and send a photo to ancientwoodland@wildsheffield.com .

23. Trees and Shrubs

Tick all that apply.

- Holly, Ilex Aquifolium - only include if trunk is thick (greater than 10cm) or it has been coppiced
- Field Maple, Acer campestre
- Midland Hawthorn, Crataegus laevigata
- Alder Buckthorn, Frangula alnus
- Crab Apple, Malus sylvestris
- Aspen, Populus tremula
- Wild Cherry, Prunus avium
- Sessile Oak, Quercus petraea
- Wild Service Tree, Sorbus torminalis
- Small-leaved Lime, Tilia cordata
- Large-leaved Lime, Tilia platyphyllos
- Guelder Rose, Viburnum opulus

24. Woody Understorey/Climbers

Tick all that apply.

- Honeysuckle, Lonicera periclymenum
- Field Rose, Rosa arvensis
- Bilberry, Vaccinium myrtillus

25. Woodland Herbs

Tick all that apply.

- Townhall Clock, *Adoxa moschatellina*
- Bugle, *Ajuga reptans*
- Ramsons, *Allium ursinum*
- Wood Anemone, *Anemone nemorosa*
- Nettle-leaved Bellflower, *Campanula trachelium*
- Climbing Corydalis, *Ceratocarpus claviculata*
- Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*
- Pignut, *Conopodium majus*
- Lily-of-the-valley, *Convallaria majalis*
- Broad-leaved Helleborine, *Epipactis helleborine*
- Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*
- Sweet Woodruff, *Galium odoratum*
- Water Avens, *Geum rivale*
- Green Hellebore, *Helleborus viridis*
- English Bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
- Hairy St John's Wort, *Hypericum hirsutum*
- Trailing St John's Wort, *Hypericum humifusum*
- Common St John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum*
- Slender St John's Wort, *Hypericum pulchrum*
- Yellow Archangel (non-variegated), *Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *montanum*
- Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*
- Yellow Pimpernel, *Lysimachia nemorum*
- Common Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum pratense*
- Dog's Mercury, *Mercurialis perennis*
- Wood Forget-me-not, *Myosotis sylvatica*
- Early Purple Orchid, *Orchis mascula*
- Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*
- Barren Strawberry, *Potentilla sterilis*
- Primrose, *Primula vulgaris*
- Sanicle, *Sanicula europaea*
- Common Figwort, *Scrophularia nodosa*
- Greater Stitchwort, *Stellaria holostea*
- Wood Speedwell, *Veronica montana*
- Bush Vetch, *Vicia sepium*
- Early Dog-violet, *Viola reichenbachiana*

26. Grasses, sedges and rushes

Tick all that apply.

- Pendulous Sedge, *Carex pendula*
- Remote Sedge, *Carex remota*
- Wood Sedge, *Carex sylvatica*
- Hairy Woodrush, *Luzula pilosa*
- Greater Woodrush, *Luzula sylvatica*
- Wood Melick, *Melica uniflora*
- Wood Millet, *Milium effusum*

27. Ferns and Allies

Tick all that apply.

- Wood Horsetail, *Equisetum sylvaticum*

28. Any other notable plants

29. How were the indicator plants spread through the wood?

Excluding bluebells, as these spread widely

30. Any other information on plant distribution?

Were species confined to a particular area? Any other information?

Additional information

31. If the site has a specific question in the spreadsheet, please answer that here if it has not been covered above

32. Any other information about the wood?

This could be local history, local knowledge or any other potential evidence.

Please say where you found the information if you can (archival source, local historian, local knowledge etc)

33. Have you taken any photos? *

A photo of a representative part of the wood would be helpful, as would photos of any wood features, ancient/veteran trees, and indicator species.

Please send photos to ancientwoodland@wildsheffield.com , including the woodland name and site UID.

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

34. Survey Finish Time *

Example: 8.30 a.m.

Many thanks for your time!

Thanks is also given to the Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust for allowing us to reproduce their form in part here.

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