

## **BSS Community Woodland project Instructions for the fieldwork**

We suggest that you visit the woodland first in early spring (March or April) to record early-flowering species of the ground flora. At this stage too you will be able to see whether the woodland is homogeneous or has areas of a different character from the rest. If there are obviously different areas, please survey them separately. A second visit would be best left until late spring (May or June), when deciduous trees should be in leaf and further ground flora species should be flowering. At this stage trees, shrubs and ground flora can be recorded and the age-class survey carried out for trees and shrubs. The tree/shrub survey only needs to be done once, unless a subsequent major replanting or natural event (e.g. fire or gale damage) affects a large area of the woodland. A summer visit can be made in July or August to look for later-flowering species of the ground flora. Some species are best identified when fruiting, so a September or October visit might be necessary, depending on the composition of the woodland. If you do not have time for more than one visit to the woodland, a visit in late May or early June would be best.

There are two types of recording sheet for this project, a Trees & Shrubs recording sheet and a Plant List recording sheet. You will need both for each woodland or woodland area. For each recording sheet you can use either the version printed with a list of plants in alphabetical order of common (English) names or the alternative version in alphabetical order of scientific (Latin) names. The recording sheets and the instructions can be downloaded from this website and taken into the field. At the top of each recording sheet you use, don't forget to fill in your name, the date, the site and area name, O.S. grid reference and vice-county name or number as requested.

### **Trees & Shrubs recording sheet**

For this sheet a brief description of the site is required, followed by an assessment of abundance for each age-class of the tree and shrub species. Refer to the 'Guidance Notes and example of Target Notes' for further instructions. Send the completed recording sheet to the name and address at the head of the form.

### **Plant List recording sheet**

This sheet is for recording all vascular plants (flowering plants and ferns) found in the woodland or woodland area. When you spot a plant which is printed on the list, put a tick or cross beside the species name. If you spot a plant which is not on the list, write its name at the end. Send the completed recording sheet to the name and address at the head of the form.

### **Pictures**

A selection of pictures will be required for the ultimate publications. If you take photographs of the woodland please send them in as well, preferably on a CD.

**Note: It is illegal to uproot any plant. Plants should not be picked without permission from the landowner. Do not pick any plant which is uncommon or rare. If you find an uncommon plant which is difficult to identify, take photographs and check them against reference works or show them to experts.**