

Woodland management at Monkwood nature reserve



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

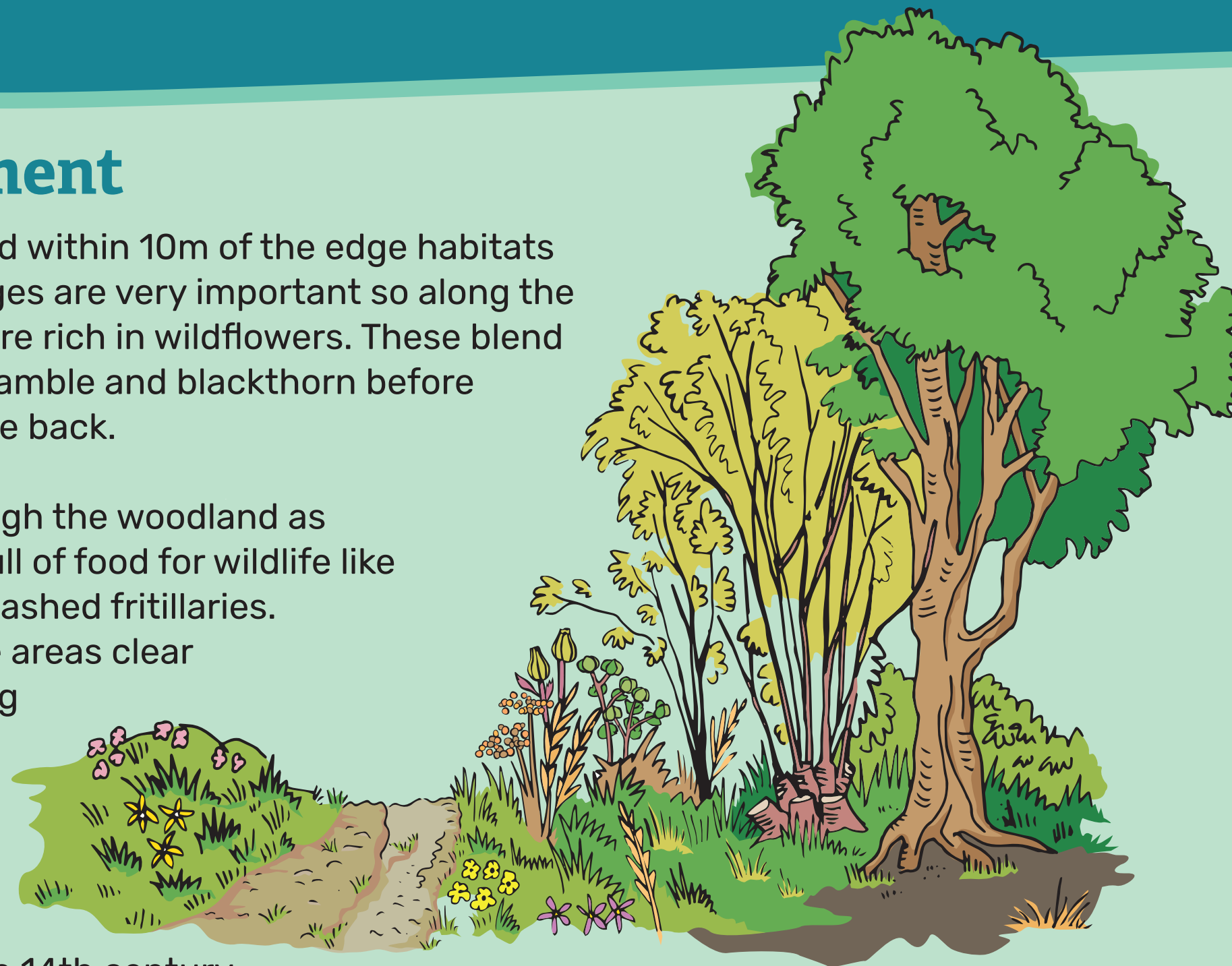
Woodland management

90% of a wood's wildlife can be found within 10m of the edge habitats along rides and in glades. Sunny edges are very important so along the paths you'll see grassy verges that are rich in wildflowers. These blend into prickly thickets of wild roses, bramble and blackthorn before merging into the oak woodland at the back.

These edges provide corridors through the woodland as well as being warm, sheltered and full of food for wildlife like slow-worms, blackcaps and silver-washed fritillaries. During winter we work to keep these areas clear so that they're buzzing and humming with life in spring and summer.

Coppicing

This semi-natural ancient woodland has been actively coppiced since the 14th century. Coppicing, the practice of cutting trees to ground level, allows trees to regenerate and the multi-branched regrowth has lots of uses for both people and wildlife. Each growing stage creates a different niche that is favoured by a range of plants and animals. Coppicing has taken place for so long that many of the UK's woodland species now rely on this regular cutting cycle to thrive.



Thinning

By removing a number of trees within a plot, sunlight and warmth reaches the woodland floor and encourages plants like wood spurge, bluebells and wood anemones to flower. These nectar-producing flowers support insects such as hoverflies, bumblebees and butterflies.

The remaining trees have more light and nutrients as well as the space to develop into mature trees with many more opportunities for wildlife.

Did you know?

Monkwood and the surrounding landscape once had more open grassy spaces with scattered trees, known as wood pasture. We're recreating some of this at Green Farm by planting oaks, limes and sweet chestnuts to become the veteran trees of the future.



Get involved

Join us in managing Monkwood. Our volunteers meet regularly to manage this historic woodland and monitor the wildlife.

If you'd like to get involved, visit
www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer

Monkwood is jointly managed with Butterfly Conservation. Little Monkwood is co-owned by WWT and BC.



Butterfly
Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

The purchase of land at Green Farm has been made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Severn Waste Services, The Banister Charitable Trust, 3dtotal.com Ltd, The LG Harris Charitable Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and generous donations from Trust members and supporters.

