

Homeopathic Woodland
September 2017 report from
Sywell Country Park in Northamptonshire

This update on Homeopathy Wood includes work done since the 2016 update and the planned work for the coming months.

In the spring of 2017 hundreds of woodland wildflowers were planted to speed up the richness of the wildlife habitat. Improvement in the wood could take many generations to achieve naturally because the woodland is relatively isolated from any other woodland habitats.

The Rangers and park volunteers planted a mixture of wild garlic, wood anemone and wild primrose as well as seeding the area with English bluebell collected from a woodland a little further around the park. The leaves of these plants (and in some cases the flowers) should be visible in spring 2018.

As you may remember from your last visit, the path through the wood was extremely uneven and very muddy in places. We have now improved the path; levelling it and installing drainage, we also hope to receive some free surfacing material from a local road contractor to create an all-weather surface which will make the area much more accessible.

This winter we will be coppicing many of the shrub species in the wood which will be part of the ongoing woodland habitat improvements. Please click the following link for a detailed explanation of coppicing and its well documented benefits for wildlife: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/pubs93_Coppicedwoodlands.pdf

We have also been working hard to improve the adjoining wetland habitat by creating new ponds and wet areas and we'll be planting a mixture of trees this winter.

The longer term plans for the Homeopathy Wood will be to join it up with a new area of tree planting that we will be doing when the surface path around the reservoir is completed.

We don't have a timescale for the longer term work as it is entirely dependent on grant funding.