

Friends of Foxley

Woodland work, in Foxley Wood, behind the gardens of Northwood Avenue houses

Work to be undertaken

Over a period of years several stretches of woodland (called coups), of about 1 acre [approximately 4000m²] in size each, between the lower path and the Northwood Avenue properties garden boundaries are due to have many of the trees within them coppiced. Significant trees, or trees particularly characteristic of the area and ecology eg whitebeam [Sorbus aria and S. intermedia] or cherry [Prunus avium], will be left to grow to maturity as standards. Where sufficient openings / clearings can be made, hazel with oak will be planted, Once these coups have been coppiced the re-growth from the coppiced trees will be cut on a rotation of about 15 years.

When will the work start

The first coup is planned to be cut in the autumn / winter of 2009 / 2010, the next the following year and so on until the whole length of this strip of woodland has been coppiced. Council contractors will carry out the work using specialist machinery and chain saws.

Why does the work have to be undertaken?

Croydon Council's annual Health and Safety inspection of Foxley Wood and Sherwood Oaks Field by their Forestry Officer and Forestry Consultant, in which inspections the Friends of Foxley participated, have regularly highlighted the increasing hazard to people and property from the trees on this margin of the wood. The trees in this area (except for the large beeches) only began to grow here (on then pasture land) 60 years ago or less. They have never been managed or thinned and the intense competition combined with the search for light has produced long thin spindly trees which are becoming incapable of supporting their lean out over the boundary. They are becoming a hazard to people and property.

Opportunity for local residents to comment

It is anticipated that some local residents and other users of the wood will be in favour, whether because of the reduced hazard to their properties and persons, the increased light to their gardens and homes, or because they accept and support Croydon's Health and Safety policy which is the basis for the work. It is understood that conversely some will not be in favour of the work, whether due to fears as to loss of privacy for their gardens, or because they believe cutting down trees for any reason is wrong. The Friends of Foxley would be pleased to hear or read expressions of either opinion, or any others relating to this work.

Where to send comments – To: Anthony Mills, 28, Foxley Hall, Higher Drive, Purley, Surrey. CR8 2HP. Phone:- 07801 088501 Email:- anthony.j.mills@gmail.com

Please see below for a map image of the area to be coppiced:-

MAP OF AREA TO BE COPPICED

