

# Landscapes of Worcestershire

## Landscape Type Information Sheet

# Wooded Forest

### Landscape Type Description

A landscape dominated by dense tree cover, predominately woodland of ancient character, effectively blocking all but immediate short distance views. It is essentially unsettled although occasional wayside cottages occur, often with adjacent small fields of assart origin. This is a simple landscape although the sheer mass of woodland provides an element of strength coupled with a sense of remoteness and depth.



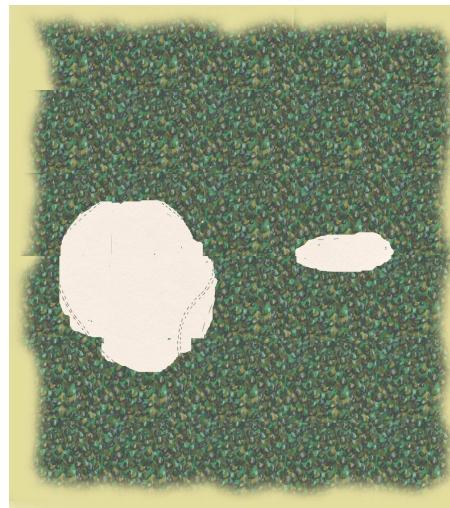
### Key Characteristics

#### Primary

- Continuous woodland cover of ancient character, woodland being the dominant land use
- Intimate spatial character

#### Secondary

- Generally unsettled landscape, except for occasional wayside cottages
- Infrequent roads, access generally poor
- Occasional clearings of small fields associated with cottages



The overriding characteristic of this landscape is the dominance of woodland cover of ancient character. These are areas that were probably cleared for agricultural purposes only briefly, if at all, at the height of agricultural expansion in the late 13<sup>th</sup>/early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Any clearance would be likely to have been only of a piecemeal nature with woodland recolonisation following the contraction of the area of land cultivated associated with the Black Death. The relative lack of settlement relates to the absence of a prolonged period of agricultural activity, the scattered cottages probably relating to occupations linked to the woodland. This whole woodland landscape is one of notable nature conservation interest.

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There has been some diversification of the woodland character due to past forestry initiatives. The acknowledged importance of the nature conservation interest and the increasingly sympathetic approach towards landscape and wildlife interests promoted in current national woodland management guidance suggests that the restoration of the ancient wooded character is already a priority, and that further deterioration of the woodland character is unlikely.

The character and integrity of the few wayside dwellings and their associated land parcels is important to the integrity of the landscape and should be conserved; any increase to the size, appearance or scale of such properties should be avoided.

The existing guidance for the management of ancient woodland sites should be strongly promoted and supported in this area, coupled with priorities identified for nature conservation.

The character and integrity of the few wayside dwellings and their associated land parcels is important to the character of the landscape and should be conserved; any increase to their size, appearance or scale, together with any further development should be avoided.

The landscape strategy for this landscape is, therefore, one of conservation and restoration of the dominant ancient woodland character.

### Landscape Guidelines

- conserve all ancient woodland sites and restock with appropriate locally occurring broadleaves, favouring oak as the major species.
- conserve the unsettled woodland character, avoiding any urban influences

For more information visit our website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca) or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038