

Environmental Improvements planned for The Glebe, Hanley Castle

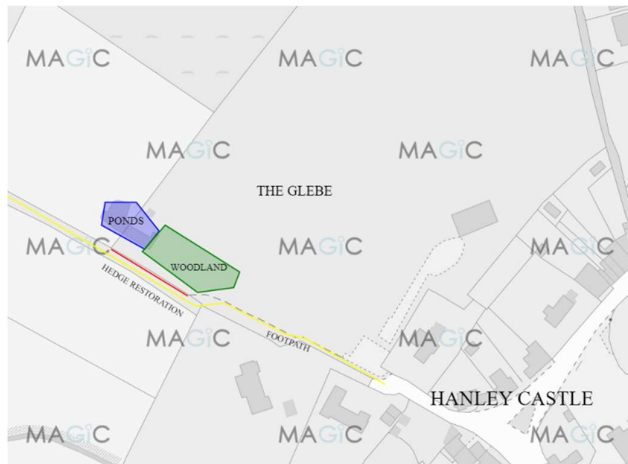
Thanks to Severn Trent and the assistance of the Wildlife Trust's Severn Treescapes Adviser, we are working out the winter programme of hedgerow restoration, hedge planting, planning orchards and preparing to create woodland.

We would like to share with you the plan for a section of now derelict hedgerow along the edge of the Glebe and footpath to Gilberts End. The plan for this section is to coppice and gap up.



Coppice means to cut off at ground level. This looks like felling, but the stumps will regenerate and rejuvenate the shrub. One cannot coppice all trees and shrubs, but those species that we use most commonly in a hedge, such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, field maple, dogwood etc. respond well to coppicing. Leaving hedge plants to grow on to full maturity can result in them falling and pulling up the ground and destroying the habitats that form beneath the root-plates as well as the boundary.

The remaining mature hedge plants in the section shown on the map will be coppiced this winter. Once coppiced, new hedge whips (1 -2 year old hedge species) will be planted in between, so that all the hedge can then grow up together. The coppice stumps will be bushy shrubs in 12 months, and the whips will catch up over the next couple of years.



Restoring the hedge using this traditional management regime will benefit 3 habitats, not 1. More light will be let into the pond area behind the hedge-line, and also into the ground flora of the woodland adjacent. Light is so important for the majority of habitats, and many habitats are treated in isolation and kept static in their development, but they need management and variation.



Volunteers planting the hedge at the Glebe in December 2024.

Information on hedges and beneficial management can be found on the website of the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) <https://ptes.org/hedgerow/>.

For information on the Severn Treescapes project and how their advisers can help you look here: <https://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/severn-treescapes> .