

# **Latest update from Staffordshire County Council – January 2020**

## **WOODLAND MANAGEMENT IN BROCTON COPPICE**

Brocton Coppice is an Ancient Woodland, located within Cannock Chase Country Park which includes much of the nationally important Cannock Chase Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), recognised for its rare lowland heath and special woodland which support some of our rarest wildlife. More recently, it also acquired importance in a European context, being designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

As part of the long-term management of Brocton Coppice we will be carrying out some small-scale woodland operations. There are three different types of felling which will take place this year.

### **1. Thinning young oak plantations.**

Between 1975 and 1981 a number of oak trees were planted on Brocton Coppice. These trees have been thinned in the past and they now need to be thinned again. This involves removing badly damaged trees or favouring healthy broad canopy trees so that they can have space to grow and form veteran trees in the future.

### **2. Thinning birch around Veteran Oaks**

Some of the veteran trees are suffering from overshadowing by birch. There are a number of birch which have grown up around the edge of the canopies of the ancient trees, these then compete for light and moisture so will be removed to prevent the veteran trees becoming stressed. As light levels will increase, we will monitor these trees to ensure the trees benefit from the work.

### **3. Heathland glades**

There are a few areas of heathy glades, that are starting to get encroached with birch regeneration. This regeneration is to be removed to preserve and enhance the diversity within the coppice.

**Any timber will be extracted and stored near to the car park. For your own safety, please avoid working areas where there will be forestry machinery.**

All the required statutory consents have been obtained and relevant authorities notified of these works.

**We apologise for any inconvenience this work causes you during your visit to the Country Park. We anticipate that all work should be completed by the end of February 2020 at the latest.**

**For more information, please contact the Ranger Service on (01543) 871773.**