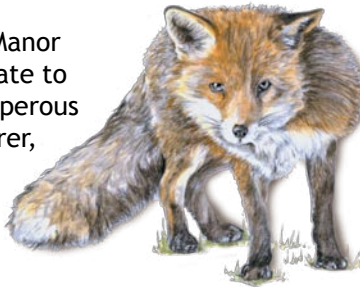


In the Past...

The name Foxley means 'Fox Meadow' and the ancient name 'Foxle' first appears in the Surrey Assize Rolls of 1279.

In 1875 the Lords of the Manor sold the Great Foxley Estate to George Armstrong, a prosperous merchant and manufacturer, who then built the large house 'Foxley', later to be known as Foxley Hall. The estate was sold again in 1885 to Edward Densham, a tea merchant, who with his brothers and father founded the Mazawattee tea company. To some local people the wood is still also known as Densham Woods.



In 1937 the Coulsdon and Purley UDC purchased the Foxley Estate as part of the Green Belt Scheme, by compulsory purchase at a cost of £6,270.

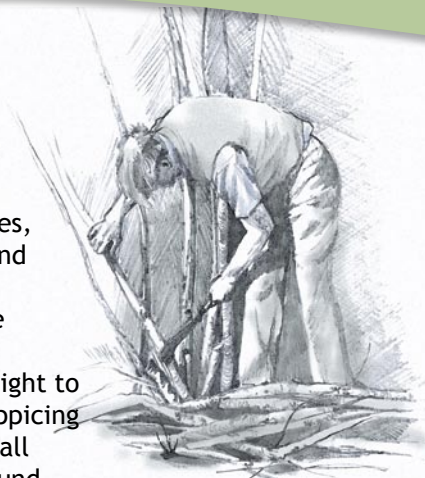
Today the 26.5 acre site is owned and managed by London Borough of Croydon. It is a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and received Local Nature Reserve status in June 2003.

Both the Woods and field lie on chalk which is responsible for the distinctive flora on site.

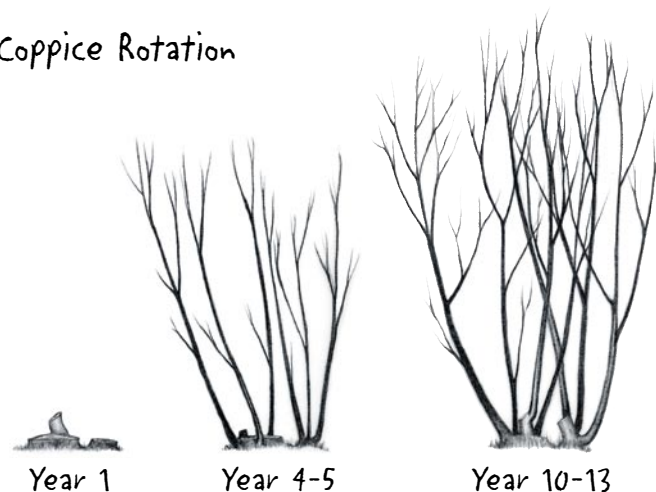
Black Knapweed and Old man's beard (wild clematis) thrive on chalk soils and a number of butterflies can be seen in the field, including peacock and meadow brown.

Meadow Brown Butterfly on Black Knapweed

In the past the woods were managed for coppice products -including wattle hurdles, fencing, tool handles and light furniture, an old management technique which has been re-introduced to bring in light to the woodland floor. Coppicing involves the cutting of all growth back to the ground during the winter, every 8-15 years, which results in straight shoots re-sprouting the following spring. Today coppice products are mainly used for hedge laying, allotment gardening and charcoal production.

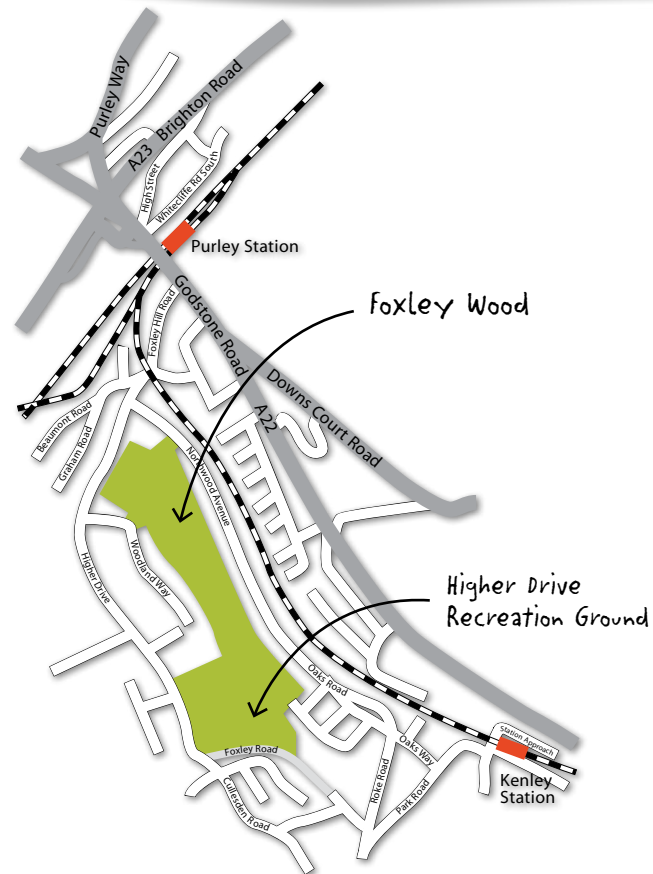


Coppice Rotation



The area known as Sherwood Oaks Field is now degraded chalk grassland. It was once farmland and was acquired by the Council in 1953 by compulsory purchase. It is hoped that at some future date with careful management, it will return to a more natural chalk grassland, creating a richer habitat.

How to Get There



Purley and Kenley railway stations are within walking distance.

407 Bus (for Burwood Avenue entrance) follows the Godstone Road.

434 Bus (Mon-Sat) is hail and ride along Northwood Avenue, serving Northwood and Burwood Avenue entrances.

There is no dedicated car park for the wood. Please use public transport or park in nearby roads except Woodland Way, which is a private road.

Correct at time of going to print. Latest travel information from Travel-line on 020 7222 1234.

About Us

Countryside Code

This is a nature area for all to enjoy. Please respect the Countryside Code:

- Respect wildlife
- Take your litter home
- Be considerate of other users
- Be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog
- Enjoy the wildflowers where they grow but do not take them home

Friends of Foxley

We are a group of local people who work in partnership with Croydon Council to protect and manage the nature conservation interest of Foxley Wood Local Nature Reserve for people and wildlife.



There are regular monthly volunteer workdays to which everybody is welcome. For more information about upcoming projects please visit www.friendsoffoxley.co.uk or contact Croydon Council.

This leaflet has been produced with support from 'Awards for All'.

For up to date information about Croydon's Countryside, guided walks and accessibility or to report a problem please contact Croydon Council 020 8726 6000 or e-mail parcs@croydon.gov.uk, www.croydon.gov.uk



FOXLEY WOOD

Local Nature Reserve

