

Stonner Point Bench

On Saturday 23rd September a small group installed a new bench, made from timber grown and donated by Sutton Hoo at Stonner Point. The timber (Sweet Chestnut) was felled last winter as part of a coppicing program on the estate so here's a few photos of the bench , where it came from and some of the other things timber from Sutton Hoo is used for:

Installing the bench



Finished



What is coppicing – the National Trust sign at Sutton explains it ...

An ancient landscape, a living landscape...

In the Anglo-Saxon period the Sutton Hoo landscape was mostly open heathland. Over time, native trees would have naturally colonised the heathland. In addition to this, conifer plantations were created in the 20th century. The woods at Sutton Hoo have historically been managed by coppicing. The reintroduction of this sustainable management practice will increase the number of young saplings growing, the resilience of the trees, and the variety of other plant & animal species that can live in the woodland.

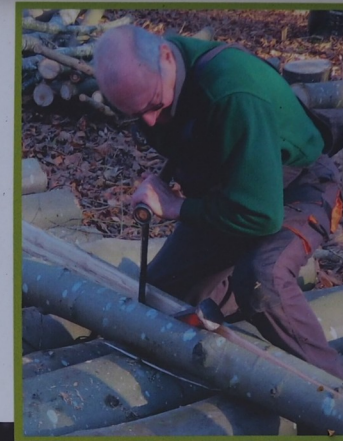


Caring for the woodland at Sutton Hoo



Creating a home for nature

Coppicing will allow more light and warmth to reach the woodland floor. This will encourage the growth of tree saplings as well as other woodland species including bluebells, foxgloves and wood anemone. Piles of dead wood offer a habitat for insects providing food sources for other animals. Brambles will grow around the freshly coppiced trees providing safe habitats for ground nesting birds including nightingales as well as creating shelter for small mammals. As different coups are cut, different species and populations move between them, resulting in woodland rich in wildlife and biodiversity.



What is coppicing?

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management and would have been a familiar sight to the Anglo-Saxons. In a coppiced wood, tree stems are cut down to near ground level. Fresh growth then emerges from the stumps or 'stools' and, after a number of years, the coppiced tree is of a size to be cut back once more and the cycle begins again. Woods are subdivided into compartments or 'coups' which are cut back on a rotational cycle to give the maximum variety of habitats possible. We will be leaving some trees as 'standards' to grow to full height. These standards will eventually become veteran trees and valuable habitats for invertebrates, bats and birds.



Sustainable timber and uses

Trees felled and the timber processed at Sutton Hoo are used in a variety of ways across the site including benches, fences and fence posts and several of the sculptures on the Design and Legend Sculpture Trail. Some timber is sold to a local firewood merchant to help fund future woodland management work. Other timber has found a good home being turned into bird boxes for Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We are also grateful to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB for funding equipment to assist with our woodland management.

Some pictures of coppiced trees and items made from them..

One years regrowth on Sweet Chestnut (felled winter 22/23)
All the deer fencing posts are made from coppiced timber



Two years re growth (felled winter 21/22)



Other items made from Sutton Hoo timber.....

Fencing and gates



A Bench



Sculpture



A composting Toilet!

