

**AREA 9: WESTON WOOD (4/37) (PARISH OF STONELEIGH)
WAVERLEY WOOD 35/36 (PARISH OF WESTON UNDER WETHERLY)**

Sources of information are:

- 1. Ecosite notes (HBA)**
- 2. Tasker 1990 The Nature of Warwickshire**
- 3. Local Record Office 2017/8**
- 4. Wager 1998 Woods, Wolds & Groves (Ph.D thesis)**
- 15. Warwickshire Biological Record Centre**

ECOLOGY: sources 1 and 2

Over half the woods are mature with oak/ birch /ash and derelict hazel coppice. Uncommon earth star fungi. **(Source 2)**. Dormice were recorded from 1991 to 2013 **(Source 14)**.

Waverley Wood: chiefly cleared for conifers after WWII. Was part of Stoneleigh Estate - now owned by the Forestry Commission **(Source 1)**. A stream channel in a quarry here contains silts with a wide range of animal and plant remains: wood, pollen, horse tooth and elephant tusk; also a quartzite flake with the unmistakable impact shape of a hand struck blow, one of the first signs of people in Warwickshire **(Source 2)**.

Weston Wood: privately owned, one of largest areas of birch wood in the county with woodcock and turtle dove (1977) **(Source 1)**.

HISTORY

Waverley Wood:

- **Pre-1392:** the monks of Stoneleigh Abbey enclosed the 'wood called Wethele'. **Pre-1597:** the **bruillum** of Wetherley extended both west and east of the present wood and was possibly part of the Anglo-Saxon game park extending to Echells in the west of the Stoneleigh estate. The term **bruillum** is rare (found only in the SE of Warwickshire), distinct from **boscum** and given three meanings - thicket, covert and game-park. **Together with the bruillum of Echells, perhaps an Anglo Saxon game park distinct from woods (boscum) (Source 4). This would have been been a large tract of land running north of west across the Stoneleigh estate...do records at Stoneleigh show evidence of this?**
- **1597:** a map of the Leigh estates shows 'Wayley' Wood (103 acres), the same shape as Wetherley **(Source 3)**.

Weston Wood:

- **1279:** also once part of the Stoneleigh Estate and at this time it was called **Weston Wode** and approximates to present wood joining Wethele, as it still does now **(Source 4)**.
- **In 1727, 1742, 1745:** Glebe Terriers show moneys paid to Vicar by Lord Clifford: £7 was paid for 'demands and woods' (including Weston Wood) and **1736** same for his inclosure and woods **(Source 3)**.
- **1778 / 1780:** Inclosure Award and map for Weston-under-Waverley parish show no woods but name Rt Hon Lord Clifford where Weston Wood is **(162 acres)**. Lord Leigh's name is on many of the enclosures **(Source 3)**.