

## AREA 10: BUBBENHALL WOOD 18/37 and SHRUBS WOOD (PARISH OF BUBBENHALL)

### Sources of information are:

1. Ecosite notes (HBA)
3. Local Record Office 2017/8
4. Wager 1998 Woods, Wolds & Groves (Ph.D thesis) plus a separate account of the History of Ryton Wood ,undated, (sent to Eddie Asbery WWT in January 2016 which he then forwarded to Chris Redstall).
6. Morfitt (1988b) A short summary of evidence for the 'ancient' status of Ryton Wood - documentary, archaeological and ecological ( there is a copy in the WWT archives, according to Ben Wallace...information here is taken from a summary in the ecosite folder.)

### ECOLOGY (Source 1)

**Bubbenhall Wood:** a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust reserve, and part a Geological SSSI 1996 for the uniquely preserved interglacial deposit. Mature mixed deciduous woodland, Pedunculate oak, silver birch, ash, gean, maple, honeysuckle and poor hazel coppice as it was neglected and overgrown until managed since ?? by Hansons. Previous owner took out all mature timber in the 1960s. Poor ground flora ...bluebell, primrose. It has records of nightingale and woodcock; also green hairstreak and silver washed fritillary (now extinct) and sawfly *Arge panana* (also now extinct).

**Shrubs Wood:** privately owned and not an ecosite.

### HISTORY

**Source 4: 1086:** Domesday Book recorded *silva*, i.e. woodland, in Bubbenhall measuring 2 furlongs in length and the same in breadth.

**c.1183:** Bubbenhall was a chapelry of Ryton parish, implying that Bubbenhall and Ryton had once been part of the same land unit.

**1391:** the *inquisition post mortem* described a park situated in the north part of Bubbenhall and also that the park contained open grassland, the *laund* or lawn, separated from the wood by a ditch. It also described part of the manor of Bubbenhall as 'a certain part of the foreign wood (or outwood) in the south of Bubbenhall near to Wappenbury, the area in which Bubbenhall's woodland was concentrated in 1726. There is no reference to an enclosed wood or coppice.

**1580:** there seems to have been a separate coppice wood of about 98 acres, in two pieces - **Bubbenhill cotypes = wood and Bubbenhill shrubbes**. Both were parcels of demesne lands reserved to the lord of the manor whose consent was required before the tenants could profit from or meddle with any part of these two woods. This is a bigger area than we have now for the two woods by 22 acres and perhaps included part of Upper Wood?

- **Rent accounts for the Manor show that** John Collyns rented the 'wooddelande' and probably the manor, owned by Thomas Wotton of Kent (Source 3).

**1726:** the area covered by Neather and Upper Wood and Spring Wood is approximately half a mile square at its widest point, so the amount of woodland recorded in 1086 would have covered only about a quarter of the ground occupied by the 18<sup>th</sup> C woodland. Whether part of the area occupied by the 18<sup>th</sup> C woodland belonged to adjacent manors in 1086 is unknown. **Details of the enclosure award of 1726** suggest that the wood at that time abutted onto Ryton Wood and that the present wood, the 61 acre 'Spring' Wood of Mr. Bromley (the vicar), was part of a much bigger area of woodland. It is not known whether the Spring Wood was once part of the common wood or, if so, when it lost its common status. **There were also common woods in 1726** which would have been open to shared use by the local inhabitants, whereas the Spring Wood would have been closed to them in order to protect the spring, or new growth, of coppiced trees; the common land included the 15 acres of Shrubbs Wood. The map shows that the common wood abutted on to Wappenbury Wood to the SE and Ryton Wood to the NE.

**Source 3:**

- **the Award map of 1726 shows:**
  - **Shrubs Wood** (15 acres) adjoining Ryton Wood, with a road separating it from where Bubbenhall meadows now...this area marked as Neather Wood (36 acres) and part of Upper Wood (c.20 acres) but no trees marked, and Pools (13 acres). Rest of Upper Wood is gravel pits and goes down alongside road to main road. Shrubs has large wood banks on its side of the parish boundary.
  - **Bubbenhall Wood** (61 acres) called Spring Wood (meaning coppiced) belonging to Mr Bromley...no road alongside it as is now....same shape.
  - **Stretton Wood**, at the eastern edge of parish, confirms that the NW corner of Stretton was wooded. There would have been a huge block of woodland here: Ryton, Shrubs, Stretton (Burnthurst really), Bubbenhall, and Neather and Upper Woods (both gone now).