

AREA 13: BULL AND BUTCHER WOOD, FOREST WOOD 14/37, BURNTHURST WOOD AND COPPICE 22/37 (PARISH OF STRETTON ON DUNSMORE)

Sources of information are:

1. Ecosite notes (HBA)

3. Local Record Office 2017/8

6. Morfitt (1988b) A short summary of evidence for the 'ancient' status of Ryton Wood - documentary, archaeological and ecological.

14. Stretton on Dunsmore: The Making of a Warwickshire Village (2000) Stretton Millennium History Group.

ECOLOGY (Source 1)

BULL & BUTCHER WOOD: Ancient woodland but not an ecosite.

BURNTHURST WOOD AND COPPICE: mixed deciduous semi natural woodland with oak, ash, birch and hazel, mostly coppice with standards. Understorey of honeysuckle, holly, dog rose, privet. Ground flora poor - primrose and bluebell - except for a boggy area with abundant orchids and common helleborine.

FOREST WOOD: ancient woodland (HBA) but not an ecosite.

HISTORY

Source 14:

Burnthurst was a hamlet on the edge of the Forest of Arden, an outlying settlement of Stretton linked by old lane. The name implies that the area was probably cleared from forest by fire.

1313: the Manor was split and a second manor house built, later owned by the Earl of Halifax.

Source 3:

1704: the parish was enclosed with no map because one of the earliest Warwickshire enclosures.

1763: a plan of the manor shows:

- Miss Smith's Wood and another wood (= **Bull and Butcher Wood**)
- **A large wood in west corner in 2 parts:** Lord Cliffords Wood next to Ryton called Burnthurst and Mis Shuckburgh's Wood, also called Burnthurst, next to Princethorpe.

Source 14:

1771: the manor was reunited by 3rd Duke of Buccleugh who inherited the new manor from the Earl of Halifax. The family was the landowner up to modern times

Source 3:

A **manor map of later date** shows 2 parts to the northern **Burnthurst Wood** = Burnthurst Wood (18 acres) and Burnthurst Heath (7 acres), **a smaller area so some woodland gone by then.** The wood to the south (Miss Smiths and another) is now called Goddards 'copy' (30 acres) **and also smaller than before.**

Source 6: by 1830, the large wood extending south from the edge of Ryton Wood was largely grubbed leaving only **Forest Wood**. The two assarts to create fields at an unknown date are surrounded by small relatively straight banks indicating probably post medieval.

Source 3:

1838: the estate was sold after the death of the owner John Shuckburgh of Bourton: a sale document lists **4 woods** which appear to be **all that remains of the Burnthurst Wood of 1763 which once filled the W corner of the parish between Ryton and Princethorpe parish boundaries (total 58 acres)...****could be mapped:**

- **Little Burnthurst (12 acres)**
- **Rough Wood (7 acres)**
- **Coppice Wood (27 acres)**

- **Forest Wood (12 acres):** at the SE corner of Ryton Wood, with large wood banks on its side of the parish boundary. An acute bank marks the boundary between Forest Wood and Ryton Wood, probably 18th or early 19th C.

1850: a titheable lands document shows 5 woods: **Coppice, Little Burnthurst Wood, The Forest, the Rough, Spinney (58 acres in all)** all belonging to George Whieldon. Also 3 parts of Bull and Butcher Wood, the rest presumably not titheable? Also listed are Dench Wood 24a. at the east end of parish next to Wolston and a coppice plantation north of Bull and Butcher, gone now, as are the Rough and the Spinney parts of the original Burnthurst Wood.