



Can't see the wood
for the trees
the sandlings forest

5

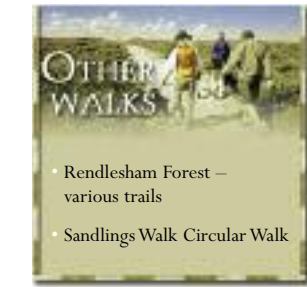
Sandlings
WALK

Walk 5

RENDELSHAM FOREST CENTRE –
BUTLEY CORNER

The Route – path terrain and conditions

- A – B Varying sand/grass path/tracks. Compacted & mainly flat. Dry.
- B – C Tarmac track. Flat.
- C – D Varying compacted sand/grass/dirt/stone path/tracks through forest: typical forest tracks. Mainly flat, occasionally uneven. Dry. Narrow gap in bank at roadside: gap <1.2m; verges.
- D – E Compacted stone/grass tracks: typical forest tracks. Often undulating. Dry.
- E – F Very narrow grass path/field edge. Flat.
- F – G Compacted stone track, flat, leading to loose sand incline.
- G – H Minor road – gentle decline. Verge.
- H – I Cross-field path. Slight incline.



0 SCALE 1:25 000 1KM



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After the First World War, the Government decided that Britain needed to ensure a plentiful supply of its own timber in case of another war, so many areas of the countryside were planted with conifers. Between 1920 and the 1960s, more than 7,000 acres of the Sandlings (30%) was planted with trees to create Rendlesham, Tunstall and Dunwich forests.

Scots pine and Corsican pine are the two main trees that are planted to produce timber.

During the night of October 16th 1987, nearly half of the Sandlings forest was felled by winds gusting up to 83mph. It took 80 men, two years to harvest the fallen timber. Look out for tall, lone pine trees, which somehow survived the near hurricane and are a living reminder of that wild night.



STORM DAMAGE TREES. 1987

Since then, the forests have been replanted more sympathetically. Now there are more tree species, more spaces for wildlife and less straight lines of trees.

From Seed to Timber. The forest cycle

Plant, grow, fell, plant, grow, fell. As some of the forest is maturing another part is being planted, creating a patchwork of trees of different ages. This is the cycle that makes the Sandlings forests a centre of timber production, a haven for wildlife and a place for you to enjoy. As you walk through the forests you will discover this cycle for yourselves.



PLANTING

Planting

This is usually done by hand. After the 1987 storm, forestry workers planted 3,500 seedlings per day with a hand held planting tube. Trees are planted close together to give them protection from the wind and to encourage them to grow tall. Newly planted areas give shelter to insects, reptiles and ground nesting birds. This is where you are most likely to find nightjars and woodlarks nesting.

Young trees

Young, dense, bushy trees trap warm air, which gives protection from the cold and rain. These quiet areas attract small birds and animals such as wrens, warblers and rodents. Deer also enjoy the seclusion that the trees give. Fallow, red, roe and muntjac deer all live in the Sandlings forests.

Thinning

More trees are planted than needed. After a few years the poorer trees are removed to give room for the rest to grow. The mix of light and shade in the thinned areas encourages grasses, mosses, fungi and wildflowers, which in turn attract butterflies and moths.



HARVESTING

The Mature Forest

As the trees mature, birds and insects find new homes in cracks and holes in trunks and branches. Dead wood is often left for insects, which then become food for other animals.

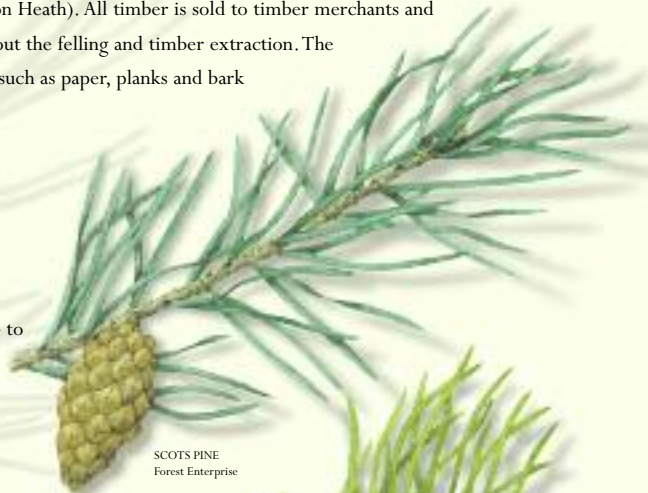
Felling

Pine trees are cut down at between 55 and 60 years old. A pine tree would naturally live twice as long at least. (There are some lovely old pines on Sutton Heath). All timber is sold to timber merchants and contractors before it is felled. They then carry out the felling and timber extraction. The trunk is turned into a whole range of products such as paper, planks and bark chippings; little of the trunk is wasted.

Can you tell the difference?

Scots Pine

They have blue green needles in pairs that are 4 to 7cm long. The bark on an older tree is orange red on the upper part of the trunk and deeply fissured lower down. The cones are pointed with woody scales.



SCOTS PINE
Forest Enterprise

Corsican Pine

Their needles are longer than Scots pine, green and grouped in pairs. The bark is greyish brown, fissured and breaks off. It has large, shiny cones.



CORSICAN PINE
Forest Enterprise



DECAYING WOOD
N. Catling



FRONT COVER: MATURE TREES
Forest Life

