

POLES COPPICE – part of Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme's Rescuing Rocks and Overgrown Relics project.

It's a woodland site that was historically a working woodland, it was coppiced in the past but now is totally unused. The Council's management plan couldn't be implemented because of lack of resources. As a result, former quarry areas had completely scrubbed over with low conservation value species, and the woodland was declining in conservation value too.

The Scheme's funding made it possible to plan and carry out a variety of conservation and management activities. The former quarries were opened up and water bodies were created to provide freshwater habitats; the quarries are of historic and geologic interest, as well as their natural heritage value. A lot of work was done to open up the woodland rides, creating 'scallop' to increase woodland edge sites which are so valuable for butterflies, dormice and reptiles, and three new glades were made. The timber was extracted using horse logging, to minimise impact on the site. Bat boxes were put up to encourage roosts, and a former quarry hut has been converted to a bat house with numerous roost features. Interpretation boards have been installed to provide information for visitors.



Detailed workplans were drawn up by the LPS. A real strength was the baseline monitoring by wildlife groups. They got contractors and volunteers in to do work. Joe engaged with mobility impaired people to do an access audit.

As a result...

.... The amount of bat activity on site has increased massively, and it may now be a warming site where bats meet to breed.

.... Over 150 butterflies have been recorded on one of the scalloped rides where there had been none recorded before.

.... New interpretation and public art is helping to make the site a great place for people to learn.



Scrape creation

It's helped to raise the profile of the site with local people who perhaps didn't know it was there, and it's probably also more 'on the map' for tourists and visitors.

There's a lovely piece of public art, showing the visitors things in a slightly different way about the area.

We've learnt from the LPS guys. It starts to make you think a bit differently about how to manage other sites. They've shown best practice in a lot of what they've done. There's been some quite innovative work, for example the veteranisation. It's great to see Poles being used for experimentation.