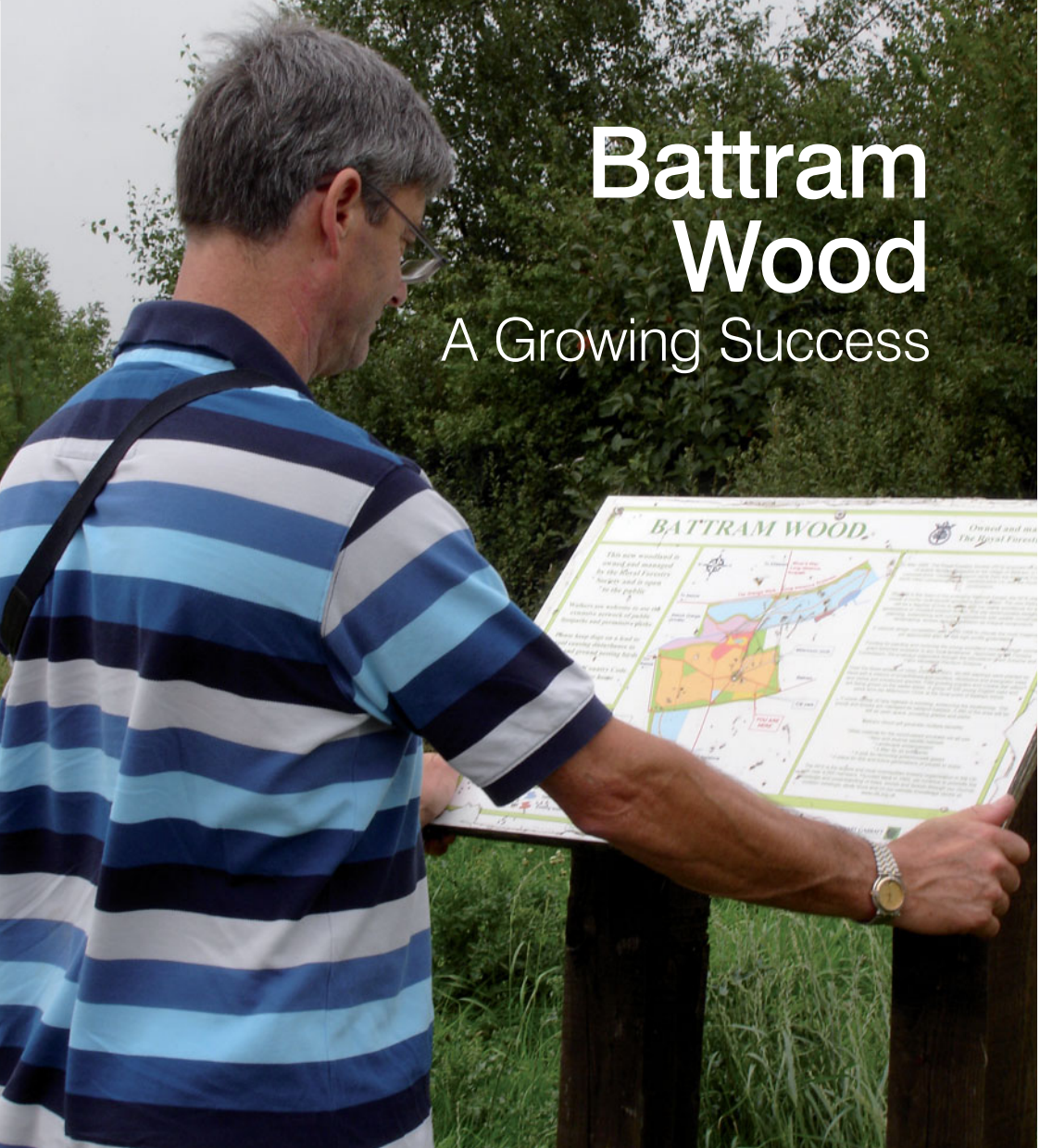


Battram Wood

A Growing Success



**LOCKHART
GARRATT**
TREES • WOODLAND • FORESTRY



RFS
ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



An unfolding story

In 1998 the **Royal Forestry Society (RFS)** acquired 48 hectares of agricultural land in Leicestershire within the 'North West Midlands Coalfield' area of the new National Forest.

The RFS set about establishing Battram Wood as a multi-purpose woodland to demonstrate to today's and future generations how commercially viable and productive woodlands can co-exist within crowded lowland Britain and enhance wildlife, landscape, and recreation, whilst helping combat climate change.

The local community has taken the wood to its heart, and helped with a number of planting events and work days. Battram Wood is now used by local families, picnickers and dog walkers; by ramblers on the long distance Miners Way and the National Forest Birthday Walk; cyclists on the Sustrans long distance cycle way and many others.

Trees planted include oak, ash, Corsican pine, larch, Douglas fir, wild cherry, western red cedar, sweet chestnut and the rare native black poplar, many planted in a range of silvicultural mixtures. Cricket bat willow grow in a row along the stream side. Ride edges and open ground areas are framed with a wide variety of more attractive trees and shrubs. English oaks and yew form the central Millennium Circle, while wild daffodils planted with the Marie Curie Trust for cancer care line the Miners Way.

The Royal Forestry Society, an educational charity dedicated to the wise management of trees and woods.





Managing Battram Wood

Woodlands need management if they, and the wildlife that depends on them, are to flourish.

Northamptonshire based forestry management experts, **Lockhart Garratt Ltd**, have established and managed the woodlands for the **Royal Forestry Society**, using approaches to maximize timber value whilst encouraging the establishment of birds, insects, plants and animals associated with woodlands.

The site incorporates a pond, a network of mature hedgerows and ditches, and old field and stream-side trees. Around 12% of the area has been designed as rides, paths and open spaces for users to enjoy.

Trees mature over different time scales with the first softwoods (pines, larch and firs) expected to be harvested commercially in about 2019. By contrast, some of the oaks may not be fully mature for another 100 years.

As the site has moved from intense arable cultivation to woodland, new ground flora plants have begun colonizing the site, encouraging a wider range of birds, butterflies and other insects. This will continue as trees are harvested and crops thinned. New trees will be planted to replace those harvested, ensuring a never ending cycle of production combined with rich biodiversity at Battram Wood.



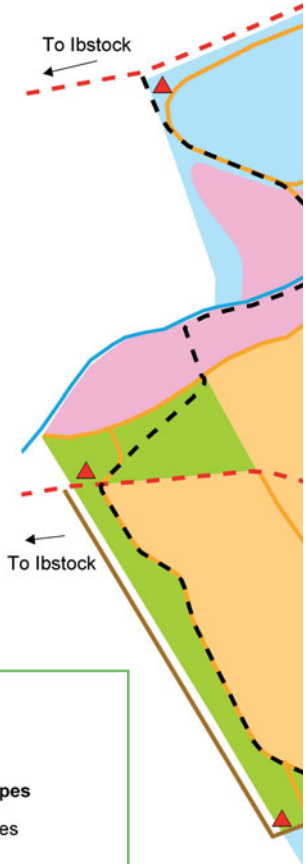


Community involvement planting oaks to mark Trafalgar Day

A guide to Batram Wood



Hands on woodland management experience for students from Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire.



Legend

-  Information board
-  National Forest Birthday Walk
-  Public footpaths
-  Woodland paths
-  Sustrans Cycle Route
-  Water courses
-  Pond
-  Open ground/meadow

Main woodland types

-  Broadleaves
-  Conifers
-  Mixed plantation
-  New native woodland
-  Poplar
-  Oak & yew circle







Finding Battram Wood

Post Code LE76 1GB, Grid Ref SK421 095

Battram Wood is located next to the small village of Battram, Leicestershire, about two miles south east of Ibstock. To reach it from the M1 take Junction 22 and follow the A511 west towards Coalville. After about two miles turn left on to the B585. After a left turn, followed quickly by a right turn, look out for the village of Battram on your right. Take the road through Battram village to the end until you reach a gate and a footpath sign. Go through the gate and the car park is on your right. Information boards and maps will help you to enjoy the wood and recognise tree species.

To find out more about the **Royal Forestry Society** and how to join contact:

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Herts HP23 4AF
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Fax: 01442 890395
Email: rfsHQ@rfs.org.uk
Website: www.rfs.org.uk

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To find out more about **Lockhart Garratt** and their services:

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