

# The use of trees at Oare Gunpowder Works



Trees played an important part in the life of the gunpowder works.

Using the display panels and your own ideas, can you find out two uses of these trees?

- 1- Trees were managed for the production of charcoal, used for burning in the fires on site
- 2- Planted deliberately to act as blast screening around the testing ground-sequoia pine

Why do you think pine trees were chosen to surround the testing area and not other trees?

Coniferous trees are more robust and sturdy and offer thicker layer of foliage throughout the year. Deciduous trees lose leaves in winter and are less robust so give less protection against a big blast.

Describe three uses of trees for wildlife:

- 1- Provide winter homes for animals like squirrels
- 2- Coppicing-provides varied habitat for feeding and nesting
- 3- Produce oxygen (every living thing needs to breathe)
- 4- Provide shelter/shade for specialised plants eg mosses, ferns
- 5- Food for many insects and invertebrates like caterpillars
- 6- Dying and dead trees provide food for fungi and many minibeasts like woodlice

Can you find out what coppicing means?

Coppicing is where particular types of trees are cut down close to ground level every 7-20 years. The straight poles which have been cut are then used for different purposes ie. fencing, hop poles, charcoal making or crafts. This is a sustainable way of harvesting timber.

What is one advantage of coppicing?

- It opens the leaf canopy to allow different plants and invertebrates to develop at ground level
- It provides a sustainable supply of timber
- Provides employment in the countryside

Write down the names of five different trees. Put a D by the ones that lose their leaves in the winter (D=Deciduous)

- 1- Any of the following:
- 2- Acacia, Alder, Ash, Aspen, Birch, Box, Bramble, Buckthorn, Cherry, Dog rose
- 3- Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Horse chestnut, Hornbeam, Lime,
- 4- Field Maple, Oak, Osier, Plane, Sallow, Sycamore, Willow (all D except holly)
- 5-