
CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 October 2024 at 7.30 pm

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following papers have been added to the agenda of the above meeting. They were not available when the agenda was originally published.

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

3.1 CARPENTERS WOOD AND PHEASANTS & SOLOMANS WOOD MANAGEMENT PLANS (Pages 3 - 194)

New five-year management plans have been developed for Carpenters Wood in Chorleywood, and Pheasants and Solomans Wood in Rickmansworth/Mill End and Chorleywood.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- i. Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Carpenters Wood
- ii. Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Pheasants and Solomans Wood
- iii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding to facilitate works to support the implementation of the Management Plans.

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee
Wednesday 16 October 2024**

PART I

NEW MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CARPENTERS WOOD AND PHEASANTS AND SOLOMANS WOOD (ADE)

1 Summary

- 1.1 New five-year management plans have been developed for Carpenters Wood in Chorleywood, and Pheasants and Solomans Wood in Rickmansworth/Mill End and Chorleywood.
- 1.2 Both new plans contain management actions for the woodlands over the next five years from financial year 2025/26 until 2030/31. The detailed actions relate to woodland management for biodiversity and improvements to public access and interpretation.
- 1.3 Officers are recommending that these plans are approved by the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing committee and adopted by the Council. Should the plans be approved, Officers will seek to implement the actions within the plans over the next five years. Work will be completed within existing budgets or subject to external funding.

2 Details

2.1 Plan development process

- 2.1.1 The plans were developed and produced by Countryside Management Service (CMS) part of Hertfordshire County Council, who commissioned by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) to assist with the management of TRDC Open Space.
- 2.1.2 Public consultation on the management plans was carried out in two stages. An initial period of consultation was held to encourage local residents, site users, Councillors and other interested parties to share ideas and thoughts on the management of the woodlands over the next five years.
- 2.1.3 Once draft plans had been completed, a second period of consultation was held to enable stakeholders to comment on draft versions of the plans. Finally minor amendments were made to the plans to produce the final versions.

2.2 Pheasants and Solomans Wood

- 2.2.1 The initial consultation for Pheasants and Solomans Wood was held between 13th November 2023 and 5th January 2024.
- 2.2.2 During this period a guided walk was held on the 11th December 2023. Approx. seven people attended, comprising of local residents and ward councillors. The main desire expressed was for additional litter bins to be provided at entrances to the woods and ensuring that the site is secure against fly-tipping.
- 2.2.3 Consultation on the draft plan was held between the 23rd May and 9th June 2024.

2.3 The key actions within the Pheasant and Solomans Wood management plan relate to woodland management for biodiversity and improvements to public access and interpretation, they include;

- thinning selected areas of mature trees (focusing on Ash suffering from Ash Die Back disease) to favour larger, better quality specimens;
- removal of non-native and/or invasive species in particular Laurel and Rhododendron;
- establishing a waymarked circular walking route through the woods;
- installing new entrance features, benches, and interpretation panels;
- making entrances and access points safer and more welcoming;
- cutting back trees and vegetation from footpath edges;

2.4 Carpenters Wood

2.4.1 The initial consultation for Carpenters Wood was held between the 30th October and 10th November 2023.

2.4.2 Consultation on the draft plan was held between 19th June and 4th August 2024

2.4.3 Actions within the management plan relate to woodland management for biodiversity and improvements to public access and interpretation. Key actions within the plan include;

- thinning selected areas of non-native Larch trees to favour larger, better quality specimens;
- cutting back trees and vegetation from footpath edges;
- removal of Ash suffering from Ash Die Back disease;
- managing veteran trees on the boundaries by pruning and pollarding to aid their longevity;
- hedge laying - traditional management of recently planted hedgerows on Farm Road;
- removal of non-native and/or invasive species, particularly Holly and Laurel;
- new and replacement tree planting;
- installing new notice boards;

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The officer recommendation is that the management plans for Pheasants and Solomons Wood and Carpenters Wood are formally adopted by the Council.

- 3.2 Officers will then begin implementing the actions within the plans, subject to available funding where necessary.
- 3.2.1 If the plans are not approved by the committee, maintenance of the Woods will continue at a minimum level, but no additional improvements for biodiversity or public access will be undertaken.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policies are the Tree Strategy agreed in 2022 and Nature Recovery Strategy agreed in 2023.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to and support the achievement of the following objectives within the Corporate Framework 2023 – 2026:
- Expand our position as a great place to do business
 - Support and enable sustainable communities

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Work outlined within the Management Plans will be completed within existing budgets or subject to external funding.
- 5.2 Ash dieback work will be facilitated utilising the existing Ash Dieback budget. Entrance enhancements at Pheasants and Soloman's Wood will be completed during 2024/25 using agreed UK Shared Prosperity Fund, subject to adoption of the Management Plan.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 All proposed works and equipment will be tendered within the Council's constitution and contract procedure rules and any other permissions obtained (for example planning) where required.
- 6.2 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, updated by the Environment Act 2021, places a legal responsibility on public authorities in England to have due regard for habitats and species of the greatest conservation importance, whilst protecting all biodiversity. Section 40(1) states that a "public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective." The accompanying footnote to this part of the Act states that the aim of the biodiversity objective is to provide for the enhancement or improvement of biodiversity, not just its maintenance in its current state. Gone is the former 'have regard' element in respect of conserving biodiversity, and this has been replaced by a proactive duty (new section 40(1)) to "from time to time consider what action the

authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective”.

6.3 The new management plans outline a number of actions; including hedge management, ride management, thinning, coppicing and replanting, which all aim to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of each woodland.

6.4 Subject to the receipt of external funding, under the Council Constitution (as outlined in part 3, section 4.1.3 of the Council Constitution), Committee approval is required to enter into any contract above the value of £25,000.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Impact Assessment

There are no negative equalities implications as a result of adoption of the new management plans.

The overall impact should be positive by enabling a wide range of users to continue to access the woods and make them more accessible to new users who weren't previously able to.

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 All projects and funding awards will be delivered by existing staff within the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service.

9 Environmental Implications

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.00
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	4.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.8

9.1 New management prescriptions for the woodlands will enable a varied and diverse development of habitats, which will have a positive impact on the flora and fauna across the district.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None specific.

11 Public Health implications

11.1 Trees and greenery may boost lifespan, this has been studied for 8 years by Harvard researchers and published in April Environmental Health Perspectives.

<https://health.usnews.com/wellness/articles/2016-12-09/the-many-health-benefits-of-trees>

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

12.1 None specific.

13 Communications and Website Implications

13.1 Implementation of the new management plans may require occasional external and website communications to advise residents and site users when works are taking place on site.

13.2 Good news stories will be circulated and shared via the Communications team, including across a range of social media channels.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Landscape and Leisure service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Actions within the Management Plans are not implemented due to a lack of resources	Reputational damage to the Council	Implementation of the plans is monitored and reported to highlight any issues at an early stage	tolerate	Low 4

14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▼ Remote	Low	High	Very High	Very High
	4	8	12	16
	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	3	6	9	12
	Low	Low	Medium	High
	2	4	6	8
	Low	Low	Low	Low
	1	2	3	4
	Impact			
	Low	-----▶		Unacceptable

Impact Score	Likelihood Score
4 (Catastrophic)	4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
3 (Critical)	3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Significant)	2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Marginal)	1 (Remote (≤5%))

14.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

15 Recommendation

That the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee:

- 15.1 Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Carpenters Wood
- 15.2 Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Pheasants and Solomans Wood
- 15.3 Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding to facilitate works to support the implementation of the Management Plans.

Report prepared by: Alex Laurie, Principal Tree and Woodlands Officer,

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1. Pheasants and Solomans Wood Management Plan

Appendix 2. Carpenters Wood Management Plan

Appendix 3. Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment

Appendix 4. Climate and Sustainability impact assessment

This page is intentionally left blank

Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA)

New Management Plans for Pheasants and Solomans Wood and Carpenters Wood

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	NEW MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CARPENTERS WOOD AND PHEASANTS AND SOLOMANS WOOD	ID No ⁶	LL008
Team/Service ⁷	Trees and Woodlands		
Focus of EIA ⁸	The formal adoption and implementation of new management plans for Carpenters Wood and Pheasants and Solomons Wood. Both new plans contain management actions for the woodlands over the next five years from financial year 2025/26 until 2030/31. The detailed actions relate to woodland management for biodiversity and improvements to public access and interpretation. Officers within Leisure and Landscapes will be involved in the implementation of the new plans. Undertaking the actions identified in the plans will enable public access and enjoyment of the Woods to continue and be enhanced. Actions include improvements to the access points to the woods to enable a wider range of users to access them. New and improved benches to provide better stopping and resting points. New interpretation and signage to enable visitors to gain more information about the site's history and wildlife, and knowledge of walking routes through the woods.		

Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹	
<p>The overall impact should be positive by enabling a wide range of users to continue to access the woods and make them more accessible to new users who weren't previously able to.</p>	
Potential Issues	Mitigating Actions
<p>No issues are envisaged as a result of implementation of the new management plans</p> <p>Existing benches will be fitted with arm rests and any new benches installed will have arm rests already fitted.</p> <p>Vegetation along footpaths will be cut back to make paths more inviting and remove obstacles, and new interpretation panels will provide information to users on entrance locations and walking routes through the woods.</p>	<p>None required</p>
Actions Planned ¹⁰	
<p>No actions planned</p>	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer:

Date:

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² **Our duties in the Equality Act 2010**

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy

-
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
 - When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
 - When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.

-
- How does it fit with other services?
 - Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal service users, groups, or communities?
 - What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
 - What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
- Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
- Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow (2)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Guidance for use
Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to
Joanna.Hewitson@threeivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date		NEW MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CARPENTERS WOOD AND PHEASANTS AND SOLOMANS WOOD
Brief description (1-2 sentences):		New five-year management plans have been developed for Carpenters Wood in Chorleywood, and Pheasants and Solomans Wood in Rickmansworth/Mill End and Chorleywood. Both new plans contain management actions for the woodlands over the next five years from financial year 2025/26 until 2030/31. The detailed actions relate to woodland management for biodiversity and improvements to public access and interpretation.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy					
Question	Impact (select from list)	Score (1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? (e.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
5 Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
7 Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
8 Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Average Score		2.00			3.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Travel					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
9 Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
10 Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
11 Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Opportunities for walking on site and as a through route. This will be enhanced by keeping paths clear of foliage and any path improvements	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
12 Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
13 Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Average Score		2.50			3.50

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries

Goods and Consumption					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
14 Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Where there may be a need for tree felling, or the creation of habitats, dead wood will be left on site.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
15 Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
16 Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Use of wood or natural products where possible	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
17 Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Volunteers engaged in management of the woods for biodiversity	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
18 Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
19 Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
20 Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Average Score		3.00			4.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

Ecology					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
21 What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland,	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	The management plan look at how the woodlands are utilised and managed in a positive way.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
22 Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	There are number of actions in the management plan to support the improvement of habitat for nature	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
23 Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The management plan looks at how habitats are protected and how new ones can be developed/introduced	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
24 Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Volunteers engaged in management of the woods for biodiversity	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		3			4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon: (Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)

- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Adaptation					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
25 Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
26 Does anythe project , consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted. The woodland canopy also creates large shaded areas.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
27 Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
28 Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
29 Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted. The woodland canopy also creates large shaded areas.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		3			4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
- Re-use grey water in new developments
- Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets
- Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading
- Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
- Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS).
- Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Engagement and Influence					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
30 Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Potential for increased partnership working, and working with volunteers.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		3			4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate emergency.

Total Overall Average Score

Now assesment is compelete copy and paste box into your business case, committee report. (under environmental implications 6). Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenders are expected to submit complete report with application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.00
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	4.00
Engagement and Influence	4

Total Overall Average Score	3.8
-----------------------------	-----

This page is intentionally left blank



PHEASANT'S AND SOLOMON'S WOOD

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2024 – 2029



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Actions Plans (GAPs) are map-based management plans which specify activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site.

The Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood sets out the management, maintenance, and development framework of the woodland over five years. The GAP is reviewed annually, so that any outstanding tasks can be rescheduled as necessary. The GAP is also frequently reviewed in conjunction with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and any other relevant bodies.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held in December 2023, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement completed in January/February 2024 enabled stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1		First Draft	FD	AT	
2		Final Draft	FD	AT, AL	Yes

CONTENTS

Overview	ii
Greenspace Action Plans	ii
Public Engagement.....	ii
Version Control	ii
Contents.....	iii
1.0 Summary.....	1
1.1 Site Summary.....	1
1.2 Vision Statement.....	1
1.3 Policy Context	2
1.3.1 Hertfordshire County Council Strategies.....	2
1.3.2 Three Rivers District Council Strategies	2
2.0 Site Description	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Geography and Landscape.....	8
2.2.1 Landscape	8
2.2.2 Geology and Hydrology	9
2.3 History and Archaeology	9
2.4 Habitats and Wildlife	14
2.4.1 Woodland	14
2.4.2 Important Species.....	21
2.4.3 Invasive Species.....	24
2.5 Access, Facilities, and Infrastructure.....	25
2.5.1 Access – Site Entrances and Signage.....	25
2.5.2 Benches.....	31
2.5.3 Furniture	31
2.5.4 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Promoted Routes	31
2.6 Community and Events	31
2.6.1 Community Engagement	31
2.6.2 Promotion	32
2.6.3 Informal Recreation	32
2.6.4 Site Misuse	32
2.7 Site Management	32

2.7.1	Management Structure	32
2.7.2	Environmental Management and Sustainability	33
2.7.3	Health and Safety	33
3.0	Aim & Objectives	34
4.0	Management Prescriptions.....	37
4.1	A Welcoming Place	37
4.1.1	Signage and Interpretation	37
4.1.2	Formalised Footpath Network.....	37
4.1.3	Site Furniture	37
4.1.4	Entrance Improvements.....	37
4.2	Healthy, Safe, and Secure	38
4.2.1	Visitors to Feel Safe and Secure	38
4.3	Clean and Well Maintained	38
4.3.1	Maintain Site Furniture.....	38
4.3.2	Manage Access Points	38
4.3.3	Site Misuse	38
4.4	Sustainability	38
4.4.1	Sustainable Woodland Management.....	38
4.5	Conservation and Heritage	39
4.5.1	Invasive Non-Native Species.....	39
4.5.2	Thinning and Regeneration	39
4.5.3	Glade Management & Creation	39
4.5.4	Deadwood Habitats	39
4.5.5	Unregistered Land.....	39
4.5.6	Countryside Stewardship.....	39
4.6	Community Involvement.....	40
4.6.1	Events.....	40
4.6.2	Local Engagement.....	40
4.7	Promotion.....	40
5.0	Biodiversity net gain	41
6.0	Action Plans and Maps	42
6.1	Annual and Regular Actions.....	42
6.2	Year 1 Actions (2024 – 2025).....	44
6.3	Year 2 Actions (2025 – 2026).....	45

6.4	Year 3 – 5 Actions (2026 – 2029).....	46
7.0	Specifications	47
7.1	General prescriptions relevant to all operations	47
7.2	Glade Management.....	47
7.3	Vegetation Clearance.....	48
7.4	Thinning	48
7.5	Circular Walk.....	49
7.6	Installation of Benches	50
7.7	Invasive Species Management (Holly)	50
7.8	Invasive Species Management (Rhododendron & Laurel)	51
7.9	Investigate Ownership of Adjacent Land.....	51
7.10	Yew Planting	52
7.11	Waymark Installation.....	52
7.12	Signage and Interpretation.....	53
7.13	Coppicing	54
7.14	Restocking	55
7.15	Glade Creation	55
7.16	Entrance Works.....	56
8.0	Appendices	59
8.1	A: Briefing Document Engagement Responses	59
8.2	B: GAP Document Engagement Responses.....	59
8.3	C: 2020 – 2030 Woodland Management Plan.....	59
8.4	D: 2013 Wildlife Survey	59
8.5	E: 2016 Wildlife Sites Winter Monitoring Survey (HERC).....	59

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood

Site Address: Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
Berry Lane
Rickmansworth
WD3 4BS

Grid Reference: TQ040954

Size: 15.8ha

Owner: Three Rivers District Council

Designations:

Level	Designation	Detail
Statutory	Metropolitan Green Belt	The site falls within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, which restricts the growth of development in strategic rural areas on the edge of conurbations.
Non-Statutory	Local Wildlife Sites: <i>82/028 Pheasant's Wood</i> <i>82/027 Solomon's Wood</i>	The wildlife site designation supports important grassland, woodland, and chalk stream habitats. Local Wildlife Sites are considered to be of "critical natural capital".
Non-Statutory	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	Woodland that has had continuous native tree and shrub cover since 1600AD and may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. Woodland pockets within all three areas are classified as ASNW.

1.2 Vision Statement

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood will be managed as a sustainable Local Wildlife Site, rich in biodiversity and wildlife, with opportunities for recreation and quiet enjoyment. Management activities will aim to maintain a site which:

- Is rich in biodiversity.
- Is welcoming and accessible for recreation.
- Retains and enhances its historic landscape character.

- Provides opportunities for visitors to connect with and enjoy their local environment.

1.3 Policy Context

This plan is set in the context of several Council policies and strategies which relate directly to site management.

1.3.1 Hertfordshire County Council Strategies

1.3.1.1 Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and have since committed to make Hertfordshire cleaner, greener, and more sustainable.

HCC want to:

1. Lead in their own operations.
2. Enable sustainability with their programmes, policies, and decisions.
3. Inspire businesses and residents to take action.

The ambitions of the [Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy](#) include achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050, ensuring communities are ready for future climates, and improve wildlife in our land and water by 20% by 2050.

1.3.2 Three Rivers District Council Strategies

1.3.2.1 Corporate Framework

Each year, Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) updates its Strategic Plan. This is a document that brings together our high level, medium- to long-term objectives which, following consultation and analysis of the data, the Council considers to be its priorities for the district.

It focuses on those areas where the Council has a lead role or can play a key part in delivering or influencing the outcomes. Its purpose is to guide the Council in annual consultation, planning, resource allocation, and performance management process.

[Corporate Framework | Three Rivers District Council](#)

1.3.2.2 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy

The council's [Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy](#) sets out how the council can improve and lead by example in our own operations. It also sets out how we will work with and assist the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in our area to reduce their impact on the environment, improve sustainability and also adapt to and build resilience to a changing climate.

1.3.2.3 *Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy*

TRDC have produced a Nature Recovery Strategy to specifically address the Council's approach to protection of the natural world within the District. The strategy recognises the rich diversity of wildlife already present within the District, both within protected nature reserves, as well as public open space, residential gardens, grass verges, and more.

At the heart of the strategy is a five-year Action Plan, which identifies and prioritises actions to be undertaken by the Council, and others for the benefit of Biodiversity.

[09i Appendix A - Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy - March 2023.pdf](#)

1.3.2.4 *Pesticide Strategy*

This strategy sets out how TRDC will reduce the unnecessary use of harmful chemicals. The full Pesticide Strategy can be viewed on the [Open Spaces Management Plans](#) section of TRDC's website.

1.3.2.5 *Tree Strategy*

The [Three Rivers District Council Tree Strategy](#) identifies the actions to be taken over the next five years to protect and sustainably manage existing trees and woodlands. It also sets out the council's plans to increase the number of trees by planting new ones, while ensuring the right trees are planted in the right places and are properly maintained.

1.3.2.6 *Local Plan*

The current [Local Plan](#) for the district was published in 2014. TRDC are preparing a [new Local Plan](#) that will set out a vision and policy framework for the future levels of growth within the district until 2038. These documents include policies which relate to nature conservation.

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood GAP 2024 - 2029 Location Plan

Legend

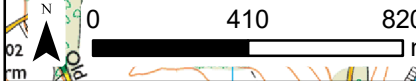
- Site Boundary

Pheasants Wood Cpt.1
Grid Ref: TQ037954
Easting: 503790
Northing: 195488

Pheasants Wood Cpt.2
Grid Ref: TQ040953
Easting: 504016
Northing: 195331

Solomon's Wood
Grid Ref: TQ042954
Easting: 504290
Northing: 195425

Page 29



Scale @ A4
1:20,000
Date
July 2023
Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to [terms and conditions](#). You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisations that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

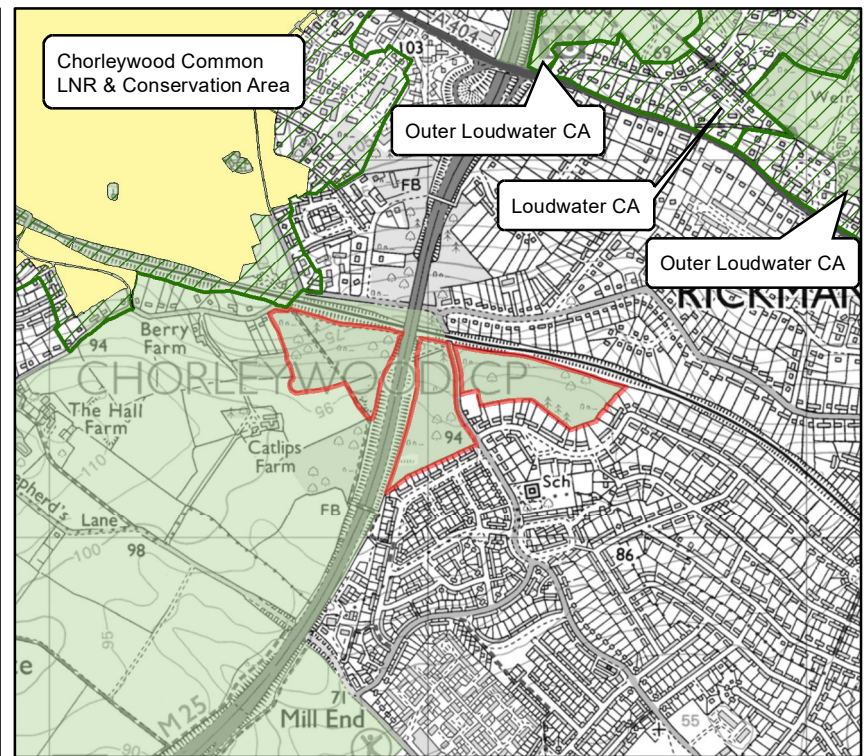
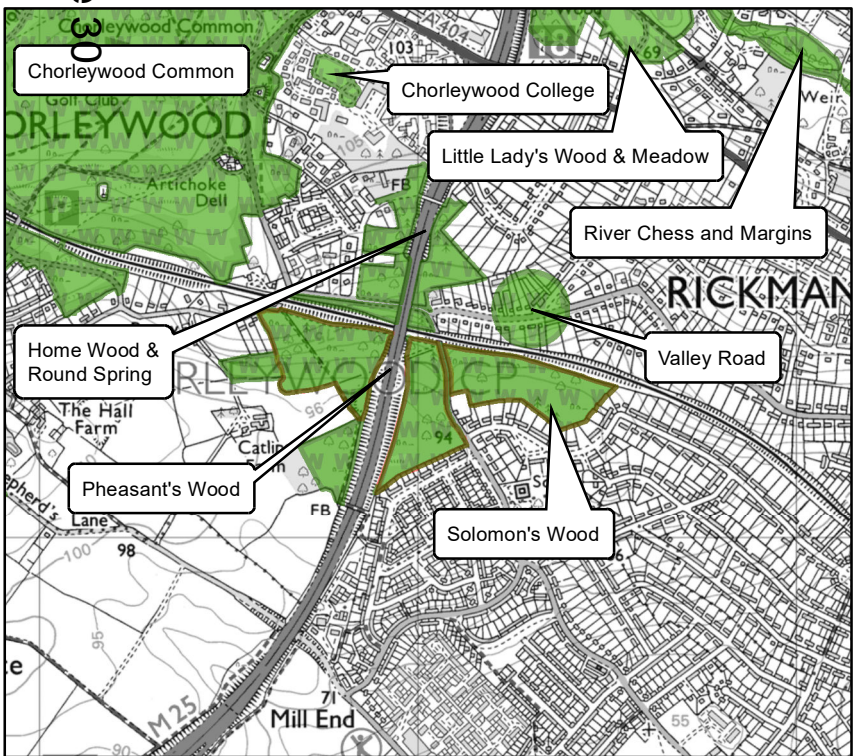
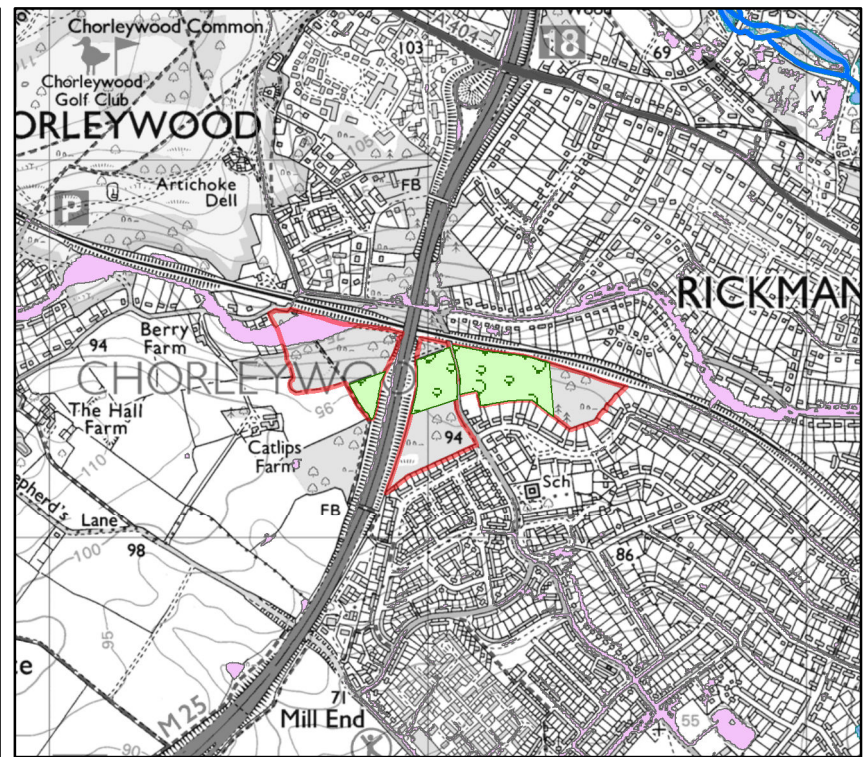
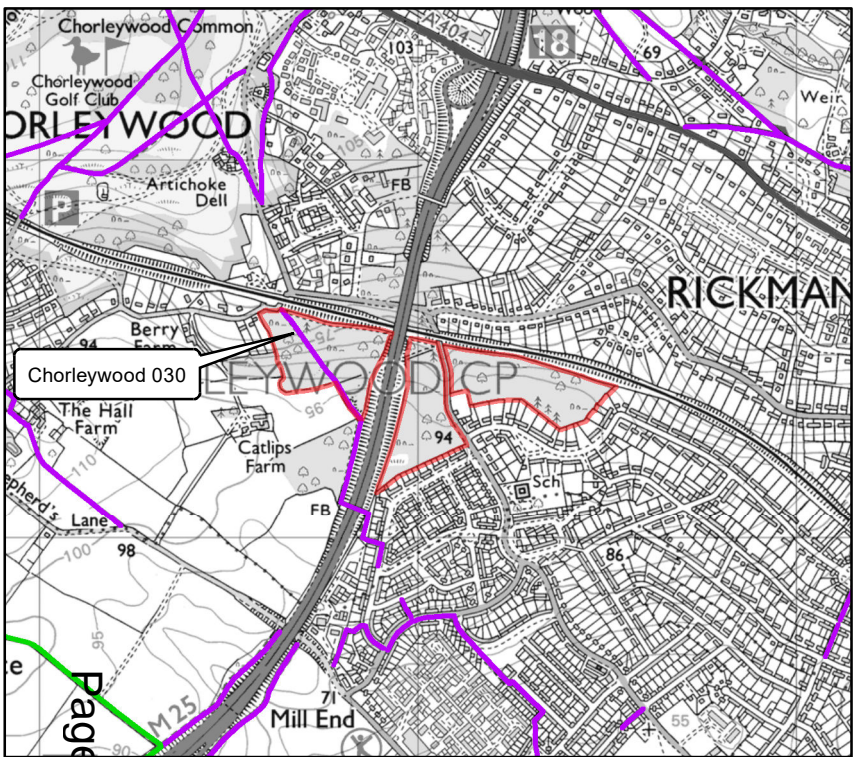
Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood

GAP 2024 - 2029

Constraints Plan

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Restricted Byway
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Temp Closed Footpath
- Temp Footpath
- Unmetalled UCR
- RoFSW_Extnt1in100
- Main River
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Scheduled Monument
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- LNR
- Wildlife Site
- Greenbelt
- Conservation Area



Scale @ A4
1:20,000
Date
January 2024
Rev
00

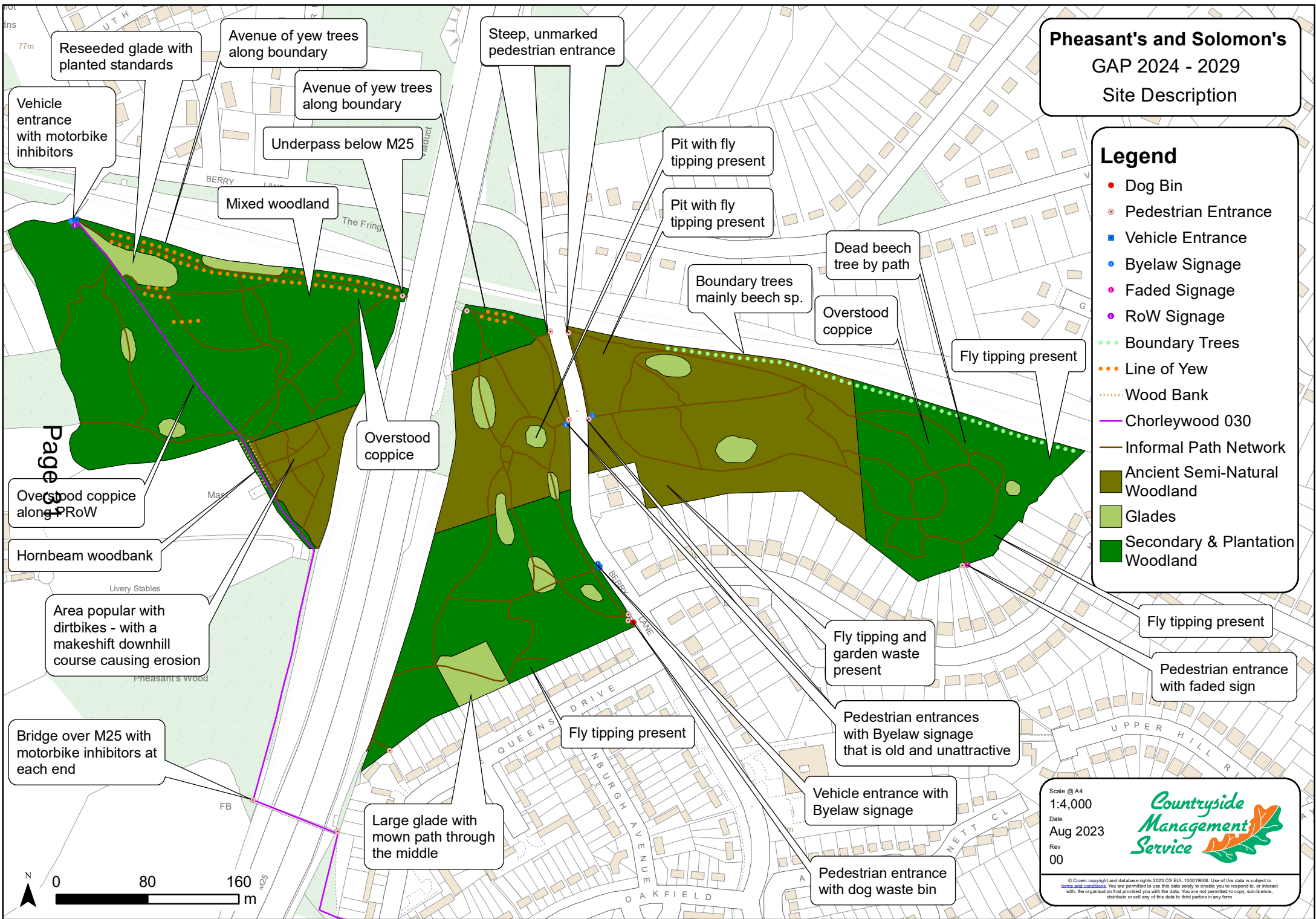
© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019000. Use of this data is subject to [terms and conditions](#). You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Page 30

Pheasant's and Solomon's GAP 2024 - 2029 Site Description

Legend

- Dog Bin
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Bylaw Signage
- Faded Signage
- RoW Signage
- Boundary Trees
- Line of Yew
- Wood Bank
- Chorleywood 030
- Informal Path Network
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Glades
- Secondary & Plantation Woodland



77m

Reseeded glade with planted standards

Vehicle entrance with motorbike inhibitors

Avenue of yew trees along boundary

Avenue of yew trees along boundary

Underpass below M25

Mixed woodland

Steep, unmarked pedestrian entrance

Pit with fly tipping present

Pit with fly tipping present

Dead beech tree by path

Boundary trees mainly beech sp.

Overstood coppice

Fly tipping present

Overstood coppice along PRoW

Hornbeam woodbank

Area popular with dirtbikes - with a makeshift downhill course causing erosion

Bridge over M25 with motorbike inhibitors at each end

Large glade with mown path through the middle

0 80 160 m

Fly tipping present

Fly tipping and garden waste present

Pedestrian entrances with Bylaw signage that is old and unattractive

Vehicle entrance with Bylaw signage

Pedestrian entrance with dog waste bin

Fly tipping present

Pedestrian entrance with faded sign

Scale @ A4
1:4,000
Date
Aug 2023
Rev
00

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisations that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood is comprised of a series of three compartments located around the M25 and Berry Lane (WD3 4BS) within the Chorleywood Civil Parish of the Three Rivers District. The site sits within the boundary of three wards: Chorleywood South and Maple Cross Ward, Pen and Mill End Ward, and Rickmansworth Town Ward. The site is located approximately 1 mile to the northwest of Rickmansworth town centre.

The woods are bordered to the north by the Metropolitan Underground line. Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2 is divided from Compartment 1 by the M25, with the compartments being connected by a footbridge in the south and an underpass in the north.

Solomon's Wood is separated from Pheasant's Wood by Berry Lane, a busy minor road. Compartment 1 of Pheasant's Wood and Solomon's Wood are both bounded to the south and east by residential development. Compartment 2 of Pheasant's Wood is bordered by a small area of unregistered woodland and fields to the west, as well as an area of unregistered woodland to the south.

With some areas of the site being of ASNW origin, Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood is likely to have been managed in the past primarily as oak / beech standards with a hazel coppice understory. There is also evidence of wood banks and boundary beech and hornbeam stubs along old rights of way.

Very little active management has been carried out in the recent past. Following disturbance associated with work to the Metropolitan Line, a glade in the northern part of Compartment 2 of Pheasant's Wood was replanted with a small number of standard trees and under sown with a wildflower mixture. In 2020, TRDC commissioned a Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan (WMP) for this site. Targets and objectives for works within the woodland were identified and outlined, but actions from this plan have not yet been delivered. This management plan focused solely on the site from a woodland management perspective.

Pedestrian access to Solomon's Wood is available through an alleyway off Highfield Way, as well as two informal entrances off Berry Lane. There is no vehicular access to this compartment.

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1 is accessed two via informal pedestrian entrances off Berry Lane, directly across the road from those that access Solomon's Wood. There is also a vehicular access point along Berry Lane, with a lockable vehicle gate, as well as a formalised pedestrian entrance which is accessed off Queens Drive. Another formalised pedestrian entrance leads to the footbridge in the south of the site that crosses the M25 to Compartment 2. This entrance is accessed via an alleyway

off The Queens Drive, or via the small playing field off Swannells Walk. To the north of the site, access across the M25 is obtained through an underpass that connects Compartment 1 with Compartment 2.

Pheasant’s Wood Compartment 2 is accessed in the south by a pedestrian entrance over the footbridge, following the PRoW through the unregistered area of woodland that sits to the south of the site. There is a vehicle access point to the north-west of the site, and in the north-east, the site is connected to the other compartment via an underpass.

This Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) sets out the management, maintenance, and development framework for the site over the next five years. This GAP will encompass the targets set out in the WMP, while also identifying other aspects for improvement, such as access, promotion, and engagement.

The structure of the plan has been based on the Green Flag criteria to explore the range of issues that are important for a successful greenspace. The plan includes map-based annual management programmes and a pragmatic and resource informed timetabled action plan, both located toward the end of the document. The action plan will be reviewed annually so that actions can be revised as necessary over the life of the plan.

2.2 Geography and Landscape

2.2.1 Landscape

The site falls within two Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) which have been developed by Hertfordshire County Council and Natural England. The LCAs group together areas which are similar in their geography, land use, and landscape character, with both of the LCA strategies emphasising the importance of retaining the historic context of this area, whilst maximising recreation and environmental stewardship. The LCA descriptions are summarised below:

LCA	Detail
Hertfordshire County Council’s Landscape Strategy	<p>Pheasant’s and Solomon’s Wood is categorised as being within the Heronsgate Heights LCA. This LCA is characterized by a gently undulating and sinuous plateau which is locally divided by narrow chalk ways and forms part of the Chilterns Dip Slope. Despite the M25 being a major feature of the skyline to the east, the LCA is relatively wooded, with areas of parkland and pasture.</p> <p>The LCA has a planned feel with many traditional buildings and parklands. The most current status assessment of the LCA revealed it to have a strong strength of character which is currently in good condition.</p>

	<p>To safeguard and manage the current landscape quality, several recommendations have been made. These include promoting the appropriate management of woodland in order to maintain a rich ground flora and distinction between different management systems, such as high forest and coppice-with-standards. Maintaining age diversity within parklands is encouraged through new plantings, which respect the site's history, context, form, and character.</p>
<p>Natural England's National Character Areas</p>	<p>Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood is located within the Chilterns National Character Area (NCA). The countryside of the Chilterns NCA comprises a patchwork of arable land, grassland, and woodland, with numerous commons and pockets of ancient woodland.</p> <p>The extensive hedgerow network provides potential connections between the scattered semi-natural habitat fragments, including chalk grassland and common land.</p> <p>Relict features of traditional management techniques are widespread and include coppice woodland, orchards, laid hedgerows, veteran / ancient trees, and commons.</p> <p>The management of woodlands, hedgerows, and parklands should focus on enhancing biodiversity, restoring the historic landscape, and securing ecological resilience. The potential for recreation should also be maximised, with good access provision for communities to enjoy the countryside.</p>

2.2.2 Geology and Hydrology

The underlying geology of Pheasant's and Solomon's Woods and the surrounding area is a combination of plateau and river terrace drift, forming part of the clay-with-flints area. The soils are characterised by a mix of fine and coarse loamy over clayey soils, with localised slight seasonal waterlogging.

Approximately 0.6 miles to the north of the site is the River Chess, which the Environment Agency has currently classified as of moderate ecological quality (2019 assessment). Over time, the course of the River Chess has been utilised and modified by human activity.

2.3 History and Archaeology

As an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood has been a staple of the surrounding landscape since at least 1600. The site comprises landscape features which reflect its history. These include veteran trees, boundary hedge banks, and internal wood banks.

The OS map below from the late 19th Century reveals the historic presence of Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood. Although the general footprint of the site has

changed throughout the years, it shows how the site has remained an important feature of the landscape of this area.

The site footprint that we see today started to take shape as a result of the completion of the Metropolitan Railway between Harrow and Rickmansworth in 1887. This is shown in the second map below.

This footprint remained the same until the 1970s and 1980s when construction was carried out on the M25 which cuts through the centre of Pheasant's Wood between Junctions 17 and 18. This is shown in the third map below.

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
1867 - 1894
Historic OS Map

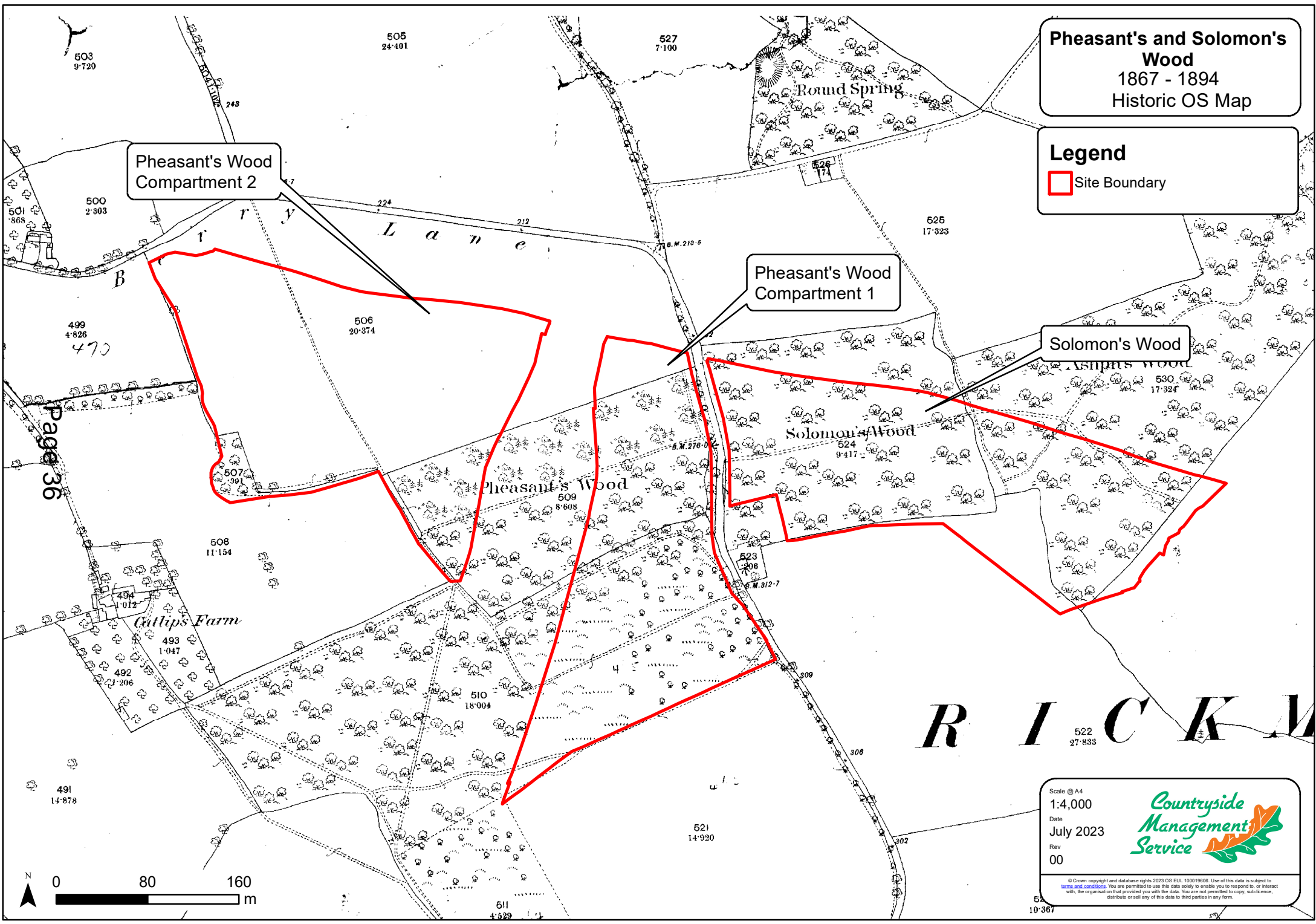
Legend

- Site Boundary

Pheasant's Wood
Compartment 2

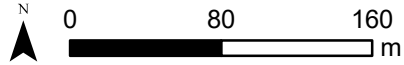
Pheasant's Wood
Compartment 1

Solomon's Wood



Page 36

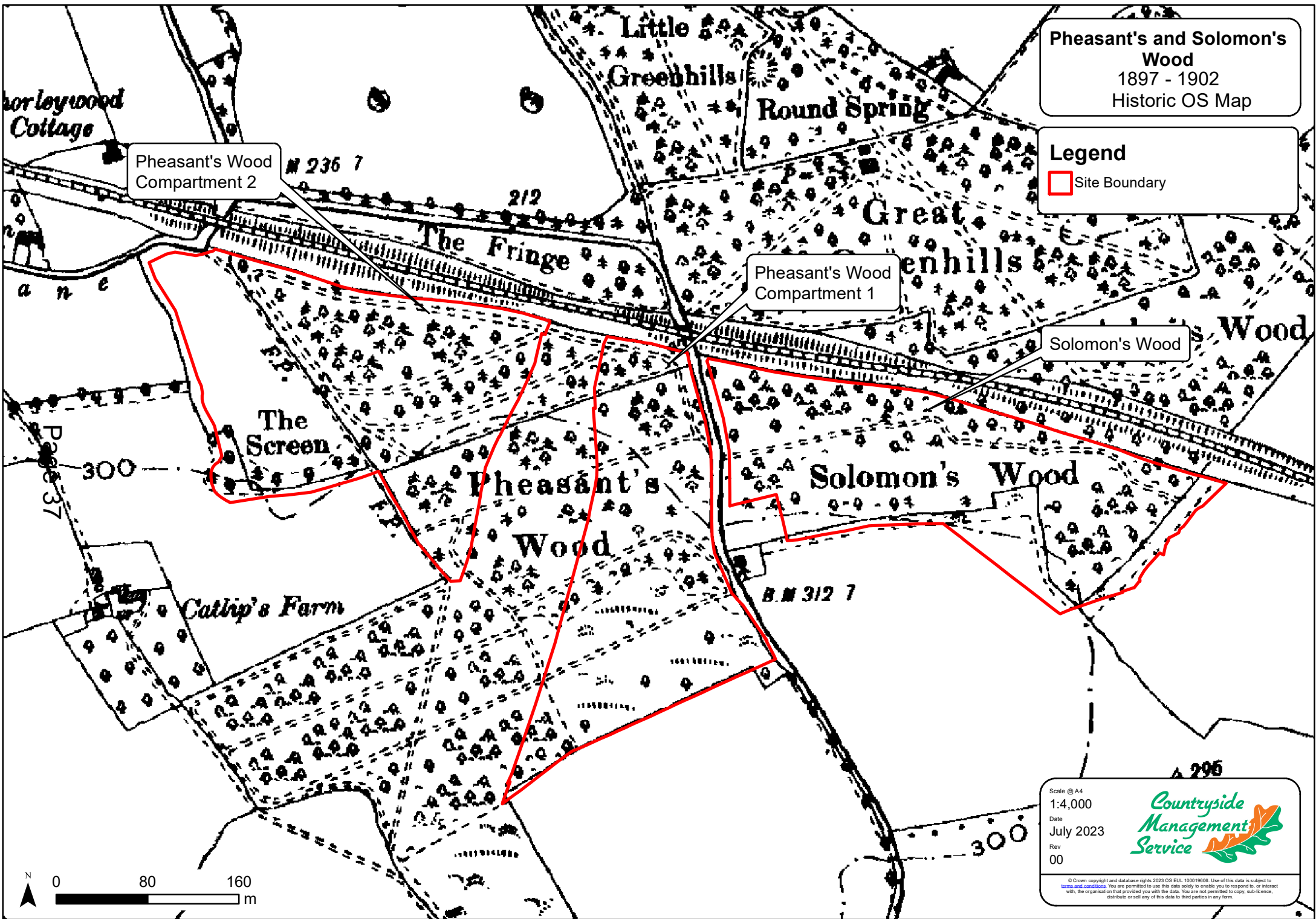
R I C K A



Scale @ A4
1:4,000
Date
July 2023
Rev
00

Countryside Management Service

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/OS_EUL_100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisations that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
1897 - 1902
Historic OS Map

Legend
[Red outline] Site Boundary

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

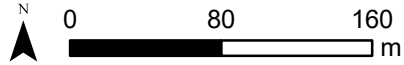
Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

Solomon's Wood

Scale @ A4
1:4,000
Date
July 2023
Rev
00

Countryside Management Service

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/OS_EUL_100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisations that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
GAP 2024 - 2029
M25 Location

Legend
□ Site Boundary

Pheasant's Wood
Compartment 2

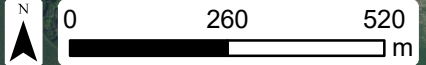
Solomons Wood

Pheasant's Wood
Compartment 1

M25 Junction 18

M25 Junction 17

Page 38



Scale @ A4
1:12,500
Date
Aug 2023
Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

2.4.1 Woodland

There are three woodland compartments that make up Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood, all of these are included within the LWS designation. Furthermore, parts of these woodland compartments are classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, which means that there has been woodland present on the site for over 400 years.

2.4.1.1 Solomon's Wood

Solomon's wood is a 5.2ha woodland located on a north-facing slope bordered by the railway line to the north and residential development to the south. It is a mix of predominantly broadleaved secondary and ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) where past quarrying activity has, in places, caused damage to the ASNW character.

There is little information available regarding this quarrying activity, however it is likely that this involved historic small-scale quarrying for chalk or gravel, due to the presence of a number of pits within the compartment. This has left these areas impoverished of ground flora, due to the original woodland soil being excavated away. The pits have also become a hub for fly tipping.



Figure 1 Boundary trees at the northern boundary of Solomon's Wood

Solomon's Wood features boundary beech trees along the border to the north, as well as evidence of overstood coppice of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). There are small glades dotted around the compartment.



Figure 2 Overstood Coppice in Solomon's Wood

2.4.1.2 Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1 is a 4.4ha woodland located immediately to the west of Solomon's wood on the west side of Berry Lane. This compartment is also on a north-facing slope down to the railway line, with the M25 defining the western boundary. An area in the north of the compartment is made up of ASNW, with the rest of the compartment being mainly broadleaved secondary woodland.

This compartment features pits within the woodland of potential quarrying nature, however, as with Solomon's Wood, there is little information available regarding this. This compartment also has fly tipping within the pits, as well as makeshift play equipment in the form of a rope swing having been erected over a pit.



Figure 3 Pit from potential quarrying activity in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

This compartment also features overstood coppice stools, as well as small glades throughout. A large glade is present at the south of the site adjacent to the residential area with a mown path through the centre.

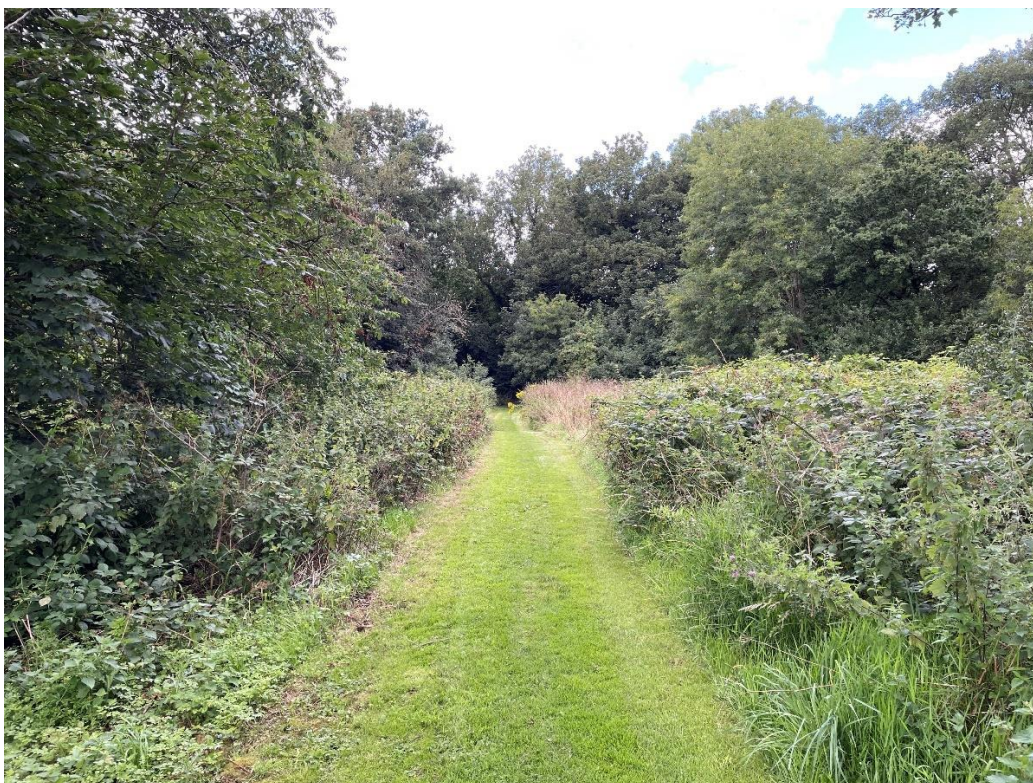


Figure 4 Large glade in the south of Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

In the north of the site, a yew (*Taxus baccata*) avenue connects the northern informal entrance off Berry Lane with the underpass beneath the M25 that links the two compartments together. There are also occasional patches of yew across the compartment, despite being mainly dominated by broadleaf species.



Figure 5 Yew Avenue in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

This area is mainly of a single age, with a limited understorey across the majority of the compartment. The glades offer some areas of understorey, however, have limited species diversity.



Figure 6 Glade in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

2.4.1.3 Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2 is the largest compartment at 6.2ha. The compartment is dominated by single age structure, with little regeneration or understory.

There is a yew avenue which runs east to west along the north boundary leading from the underpass connecting the woodland with Compartment 1. It can be assumed that, prior to the creation of the M25 splitting Pheasant's Wood into two compartments, this avenue ran along the entire northern boundary.



Figure 7 Yew Avenue in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

There are also other yew trees present within the compartment, particularly to the north-eastern area, with another line of yew present slightly further south to the main avenue shown above. Also in the north-eastern corner are some horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), a species not found in the other compartments. Across the whole compartment, as with the other two, there are examples of overstood coppice, in particular along the PRow.

A unique feature of this compartment compared to the rest of the site is the unauthorised creation of a dirt bike track within the wood. Jumps have been made using compacted mud around fallen tree limbs, and a downhill route created through built up banks of mud in areas. This repeated motorcycling has created deep gulleys

and erosion around some of the mature beech, exposing their root plates. Photos of this are shown below.



Figure 8 Erosion within Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2



Figure 9 Makeshift dirt bike jump in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

As with the other two compartments, there are small glades and rides dotted around the compartment, with a large glade adjacent to the yew avenue in the north. This was formalised following disturbance associated with work to the Metropolitan Line, being replanted with a small number of standard trees and under sown with a wildflower mixture.



Figure 10 Glade in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

Along the PRow to the south of the site is evidence of a historic wood bank, with hornbeam trees lining along the boundary, and a ditch toward the boundary making up the path of the PRow.



Figure 11 Woodbank in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

2.4.2 Important Species

The site has the potential to support a wide range of species. A records search completed by the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) has been used to inform the information in this section.

A wildlife site survey was completed for the site in 2013 and can be found in Appendix C. This has also been used to help inform the creation of this GAP, alongside the 2020 Woodland Management Plan, which can be found in Appendix B.

2.4.2.1 Mammals

Deer, particularly muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), are known to be present in Pheasant's and Solomon's wood, and observations have been made of gnawed bark and some browsing on young tree regeneration. Grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) are fairly abundant, as well as badger (*Meles meles*) setts being recorded within the site area.

The 2020 Woodland Management Plan (WMP) also outlined the likely presence of bats on the site, in particular common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*). This is supported by the HERC Species Search (2023) which noted the presence of the brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) the common pipistrelle, and the soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), as well as *Myotis* bat species. Care should be taken during works to avoid any trees with the potential to support roosting bats, which are European protected species and fully protected by law.

The WMP also outlined the potential presence of hazel dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) within the woodland, but this is unconfirmed, and no records were found by the HERC Species Search (2023). Despite this, as they are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and therefore care should be taken during works.

2.4.2.2 Birds

The 2020 Woodland Management Plan identified that there were no Schedule 1 priority bird species present on the site. Birds of conservation concern identified within the site include:

Common Name	Scientific Name	UK Conservation Status
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber

2.4.2.3 Invertebrates

Butterflies of interest recorded at the site include silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*), peacock (*Aglais io*) and orange tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*), as well as bee flies (*Bombyliidae*).

2.4.2.4 Reptiles and Amphibians

A potential presence of grass snakes (*Natrix helvetica*) was noted within the 2020 WMP, however no evidence was provided to support this other than the general habitat of the site. There are recorded sightings of grass snakes documented in the 2023 HERC species search within 1.5km of the site so this could support the likelihood that they may be present within the site boundary.

The HERC species search (2023) revealed a great number of records of Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) within a 2km radius of the site. As great crested newts only breed in ponds, and there are no ponds present within the site boundary, it is unlikely that they will be present during breeding season. However, great crested newts can spend the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodlands and hedgerows, as well as often hibernating underground among tree roots. Due to the protected status of the great crested newt, additional care must be taken regarding their potential presence.

The species search also showed records of Slow worms (*Anguis graffilis*) within 500m of the site, suggesting potential evidence for them to also be located within the site boundary. These are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as well as being a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

2.4.2.5 Flora

The site supports a number of significant plant species. The 2013 Wildlife Site Survey, which only explored Pheasant's Wood, recorded some key ancient woodland indicator species within the two compartments. The HERC data search also located a 2005 Wildlife Survey completed for Solomon's Wood which also found ancient woodland indicator species. These are all shown in the table below.

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR Cpt. 1	DAFOR Cpt. 2	DAFOR Solomon's
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	R	R	R
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	O	O	A
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	O	A	A
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	R	R	
Coralroot	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	R	R	F
Wood Sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	O	O	O

Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	R	R	O
Broad Buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	R	Very R	O
Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	/	R	O
Wood Melick	<i>Melica uniflora</i>	O	O	O
Wood Millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>	O	O	O
Three-veined Sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	R	R	O
Wood Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	R	/	R
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	R	/	O
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Very R	R	O
Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	R	Very R	O
Wood Speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>	O	R	O
Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviana</i>	O	O	O



Figure 12 Dog's Mercury in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

2.4.2.6 Fungi

The habitats present on the site provide conditions for a variety of fungi. Deadwood is left in situ where possible to encourage fungi to thrive. The 2020 WMP recorded evidence of bracket fungi present on a range of mature and veteran trees.

2.4.3 Invasive Species

2.4.3.1 *Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel*

Both rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) are present within all three compartments of the site. Cherry laurel, in particular, is abundant across the site, with large specimens present around the woodland. This is particularly present around the boundaries where it is likely to have entered via spread from residential gardens.



Figure 13 *Rhododendron and Cherry laurel present on site*

2.4.3.2 *Oak Processionary Moth*

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was introduced to England in 2005 and has since become established in London, gradually spreading into surrounding counties including Three Rivers District. Monitoring of the site is undertaken during the routine tree safety surveys. While the moth is harmless, caterpillars pose a risk to public health through microscopic hairs which cover its body. Contact with the hairs typically causes skin rashes, although symptoms can include eye irritation, sore throats, and in extreme cases, breathing difficulties and allergic reactions.

Three Rivers district is now within the Established zone for oak processionary moth (OPM). This means it is now the responsibility of landowners to manage OPM on their land, rather than the Forestry Commission. A risk-based approach to managing OPM is recommended for this zone.

2.5 Access, Facilities, and Infrastructure

2.5.1 Access – Site Entrances and Signage

2.5.1.1 Solomon's Wood

Solomon's Wood does not currently have any vehicle access points. Pedestrian access can be obtained through an alleyway off Highfield Way, or through two informal pedestrian entrances off Berry Lane. These informal entrances are both quite steep, narrow, and hard to access, with no visible warning signs of the incoming road for users of the site. They also have no signage to advertise the woodland.

The southern entrance off Berry Lane, as well as the entrance off Highfield Way, both feature outdated signage, with the Berry Lane entrance also having an old metal gate that is rusted. The signage off Highfield Way is completely faded, potentially once giving information about the byelaws of the site, and now instead features graffiti. The signage off Berry Lane still shows the byelaws of the site, however, is dirty, hidden by scrub, and unattractive.

Photos of the entrances to Solomon's Wood are shown below.



Figure 14 Pedestrian entrance to Solomon's Wood off Highfield Way



Figure 15 Southern pedestrian entrance to Solomon's Wood off Berry Lane



Figure 16 Northern pedestrian entrance to Solomon's Wood

2.5.1.2 Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1 does have a vehicle entrance point, unlike Solomon's Wood. This vehicle entrance point is located off Berry Lane. This has more updated signage than Solomon's Wood, with the signage showing the byelaws being in good condition. There is no other signage present to advertise the woodland, however. Also on Berry Lane are two further informal pedestrian entrances, across the road from those to Solomon's Wood. Similarly to Solomon's Wood, these entrances are steep and easy to miss. The southern entrance of the two on Berry Lane does feature behaviour signage outlining the byelaws, however this is again faded and unattractive.



Figure 17 Vehicle entrance to Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1 off Berry Lane

There are a further three formal pedestrian entrances to the site off the road, with all three featuring motorcycle inhibitors. Two of these are off The Queen's Drive, with the final entrance leading to an alleyway that connects to The Queen's Drive, as well as a playing field off Swannells Walk. This final entrance also connects Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1 with the bridge across the M25 that follows the PRow to Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2. A further access point to this compartment is in the north-west of the site, connecting to Compartment 2 via an underpass that goes below the M25.



Figure 18 Eastern pedestrian entrance to Compartment 1 off The Queen's Drive



Figure 19 Western pedestrian entrance to Compartment 1 off The Queen's Drive



Figure 20 Entrance to Compartment 1 along the PRow

2.5.1.3 Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2

Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2 is accessed in the north-east via an underpass below the M25 that connects to Compartment 1. In the north-west of the site is the vehicle entrance for the site, with a lockable vehicle gate and motorcycle inhibitors. This entrance has behaviour signage regarding the byelaws of the site, as well as PRow signage, however the foliage surrounding the signage has overgrown making it easy to miss. The final entrance to Compartment 2 is in the south and can be

accessed by following the PRoW from Compartment 1 across the footbridge over the M25 and then to the north through the unregistered woodland to reach Compartment 2. This entrance also has motorbike inhibitors situated at the end of the bridge.



Figure 21 Underpass below the M25 in the north-east of Compartment 2



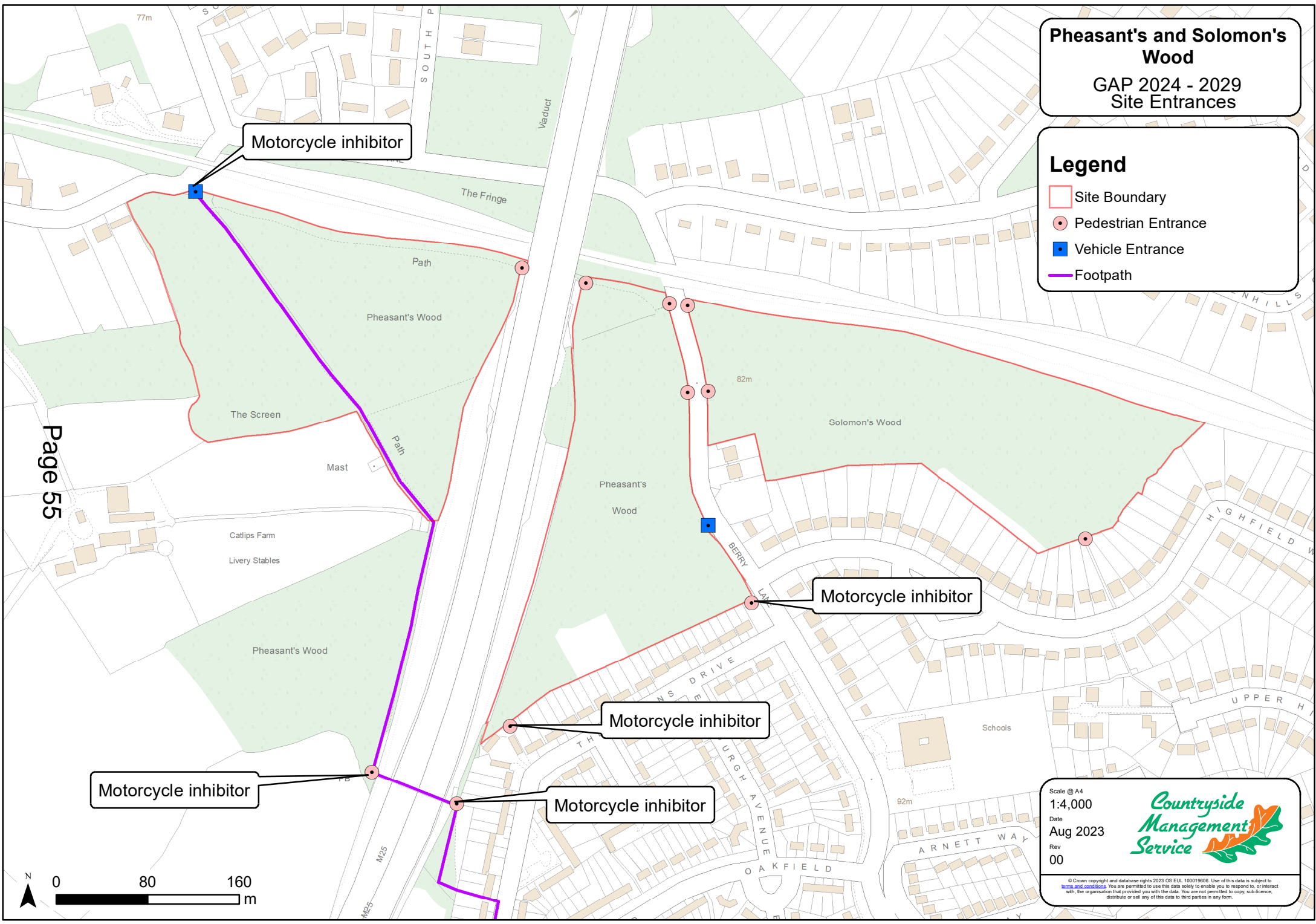
Figure 22 Vehicle entrance at PRoW in the north-west of Compartment 2

The map below shows the entrances to the site.

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
GAP 2024 - 2029
Site Entrances


Legend

- Site Boundary
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Footpath



Page 55

Scale @ A4
 1:4,000
 Date
 Aug 2023
 Rev
 00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/OS_EUL_100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

2.5.2 Benches

There are currently no benches present within the woodland.

2.5.3 Furniture

There is a dog waste bin present at the eastern pedestrian entrance off The Queen's Drive. It is currently in good condition.



Figure 23 Dog waste bin present at the eastern pedestrian entrance off The Queen's Drive

2.5.4 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Promoted Routes

There is a public right of way, Chorleywood 030, that cuts through Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2. There are currently no promoted routes around the woodland.

2.6 Community and Events

2.6.1 Community Engagement

The creation of a Greenspace Action Plan works to create a partnership between the Council, CMS, and the local community, providing an opportunity to discuss, programme, and deliver a variety of projects that contribute towards the achievement of the overall aims and objectives for the site.

2.6.2 Promotion

Raising awareness of site values and encouraging more people to visit would help support the long-term management of the site by ensuring it continues to be valued by the local community. The site is currently not being promoted by TRDC.

2.6.3 Informal Recreation

Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood is regularly used by local people for informal exercise, such as walking, dog walking, bird watching, and running, and serves as a local resource for activities that enhance health and well-being.

2.6.4 Site Misuse

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog control is in effect across the entirety of the Three Rivers District. For details, see [Information for dog owners | Three Rivers District Council](#). The dog control order places restrictions on dog fouling (fixed penalty scheme), and the number of dogs under charge by any one person.

The site has faced repeat problems with dirt bikes and motorcycles, despite motorbike inhibitors being placed at many of the entrances.

There have also been issues with fly tipping and garden waste disposal on site, this is shown in the photos below.



Figure 24 Garden waste dumping and fly tipping within the site

2.7 Site Management

2.7.1 Management Structure

Three Rivers District Council as landowners are responsible for the implementation of the plan. Their role includes responsibility for:

- Management works carried out by their in-house team of Landscape Officers and Grounds Maintenance staff.
- Administration and budget management.
- Acting as signatory for grant applications and claims.

- Member involvement and reporting.

CMS advises on management, particularly where it relates to nature conservation and community involvement. They are responsible for:

- The production of the Greenspace Action Plan for the woodland, including engagement with partners and subsequent monitoring.
- Production of specifications, procurement, and contract monitoring for management works.
- Running volunteer task days through the mid-week volunteer group.
- Support with events and PR.

2.7.2 Environmental Management and Sustainability

The Council has a strong commitment to the environment and environmental sustainability and recognises the impacts its operations have on the environment. TRDC's dedication to protect the environment is reflected in council policies, strategies, commitments, and partnerships. Some relevant initiatives include:

- Peat will not be used on any of our sites.
- Pesticides will not be used unless there are no alternative means of control.
- Only FSC timber is used across the district.
- All cleaning materials are phosphate free.

2.7.3 Health and Safety

Tree Safety Surveys are carried out in all TRDC parks, woodlands, and open spaces, including Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood, with the resulting data entered into tree management software and essential remedial works undertaken to secure visitor safety. All dead wood, including standing dead wood, is left in situ where safe to do so, for habitat and biodiversity benefits. Trees which have to be reduced or removed for safety reasons are stacked into habitat piles, or chipped and removed from the site.

CMS supply task specific risk assessments which are read and understood by staff and volunteers before any work is undertaken. These risk assessments include requirements for training, PPE, equipment, and the information required to be COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002) compliant.

Work site specific risk assessments are carried out before tasks are underway to assess local hazards and environmental conditions.

Visitors to Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood should feel safe and able to enjoy all areas of the site at all times. Reports from user groups and members of the public are noted, and any vandalism is inspected as soon as possible after a report has been received.

3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

The aim of the Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood GAP 2024 – 2029 is to maintain and enhance the woodland as an ecologically valuable resource using sustainable management, as well as to encourage public recreation and enjoyment.

Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place – *To provide a welcoming green space for the enjoyment of the local community.*

- A1** Design, produce, and install welcome signage and interpretation at major entrances.
- A2** Formalise the network of footpaths through the site.
- A3** Install timber benches at strategic locations around the site.
- A4** Improvement of the entrance off Berry Lane to Pheasant's Wood Cpt. 1 and Solomon's Wood.

B. Healthy, Safe, and Secure – *Ensure that all visitors to Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times.*

- B1** Ensure that all visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of the site.
- B2** Complete all formal tree inspections, update records, and carry out any reactive tree works to address safety issues.
- B3** Continue to monitor and respond proactively to antisocial behaviour within the site, for example the use of motorcycles and dirt bikes.

C. Clean and Well Maintained – *Ensure that the site is kept clean and that all aspects of the site are well maintained.*

- C1** Maintain all site infrastructure – benches, motorcycle barriers, interpretation boards, signage, etc. in a good condition.
- C2** Maintain ease of access by managing vegetation encroaching paths and access points.
- C3** Promptly remove any fly tipping and carry out regular litter picking.

- C4** Actively discourage dumping of garden waste from neighbouring properties.

D. Sustainability – *Ensure all management operations are as sustainable as possible.*

- D1** Encourage natural regeneration of tree species. Where restocking is required, use as an opportunity for species diversification to improve resilience.
- D2** Seek to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological and economic viability of the wood through a programme of sustainable woodland management in line with the UK Forestry Standard.
- D3** Only use chemical herbicides to control weeds where no alternative exists and in line with council policy.
- D4** Ensure all wooden site furniture is of FSC standard.
- D5** Ensure all contractors used on site adhere to sustainability and environmental policies.
- D6** Ensure ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable; offset against timber sales.
- D7** Secure external funding to ensure the viability of projects.

E. Biodiversity and Heritage – *Conserve and enhance the woodland's habitats, wildlife, and archaeological features.*

- E1** Restore, value, and protect the ancient semi-natural woodland ecology and continue to enhance woodland biodiversity in line with Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood Woodland Management Plan (2020 – 2030).
- E2** Control the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS), in particular cherry laurel and rhododendron.
- E3** Actively manage the woodland canopy through thinning in plantation areas to improve light conditions and encourage regeneration.
- E4** Ensure the woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities to conserve the ancient woodland ecology, soils, and integrity of the woodland.
- E5** Conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood, such as wood and hedge banks and boundary trees.

- E6** Seek to mitigate the potential effects of climate change and tree pests and diseases by developing ecosystem resilience via species and age class diversification from phased thinning and careful species selection and regeneration.
- E7** Improve the structure of key woodland glades and rides by following a three-zone ride management regime.
- E8** Improve the understorey in areas through glade and ride creation.
- E9** Improve abundance of deadwood by using some felled material in habitat creation across the site.
- E10** Investigate ownership status and opportunity to adopt the unregistered land to the west and south of Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2.

F. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – *Provide opportunities for the local community to engage with and participate in woodland management activities.*

- F1** Organise events to spread awareness and increase community involvement, such as guided walks and volunteer events.
- F2** Involve stakeholders, the local community, and user groups in all stages of the GAP development, as well as in future management plan revisions and decisions on key issues throughout the plan period.
- F3** Encourage the local community to become involved in the management of the site in a structured and supported way and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the objectives of the GAP.

G. PROMOTION

- G1** Promote the woodland through website content, magazines, and other opportunities.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

4.1 A Welcoming Place

4.1.1 Signage and Interpretation

It is currently easy to miss the entrances to the site as they lack signage and promotion. Three welcome boards will be installed at strategic entrances to promote the site and encourage exploration. A further two interpretation boards will be placed at other entrances to the site. These interpretation boards will give visitors information about the history of the site, a map of the circular walk around the site, as well as ideas of flora and fauna to look out for. It will also show how the site fits in to the wider PRow network to encourage visitors to explore the local area and boost physical exercise.

4.1.2 Formalised Footpath Network

The site is currently made up of a network of informal footpaths. A circular route around the site will be developed and waymarked to help orientate visitors, encourage exploration, and promote physical activity. As part of this, the entrances off Berry Lane will be formalised to allow ease of access. The circular walk will be regularly managed for encroachment of vegetation and will provide a short, varied walk for visitors and locals alike.

4.1.3 Site Furniture

The provision of benches within a woodland is important for accessibility, as well as the general enjoyment of the woodland. As there are currently no benches within the woodland, three new benches will be procured and installed at strategic locations around the site. These will be in keeping with the TRDC house style, as well as appropriately designed for their location within areas of ASNW.

4.1.4 Entrance Improvements

There are currently no vehicle entrance points to Solomon's Wood, creating a barrier to woodland safety work within this compartment. As well as this, there is no formal crossing point between the two woods, making it dangerous to travel between the two. To combat this, the entrance to Solomon's Wood off Berry Lane is to be improved to create a vehicle entrance for the site. The rusting metal gate will be removed, and the ground levelled, and a new lockable vehicle gate will be installed. The entrance to Pheasant's Wood Cpt. 1 opposite this entrance is to be improved also with the installation of steps and a handrail. This will work to create a suitable and safer crossing point for the public as part of the circular walk around the site.

4.2 Healthy, Safe, and Secure

4.2.1 Visitors to Feel Safe and Secure

There is currently a dead beech tree within Solomon's Wood that could pose a danger to visitors walking below it. Due to it being a good specimen of standing deadwood there is hesitation to remove it. To ensure visitors feel safe and secure on site the proposed circular walk has been adjusted to avoid passing this specimen. Dead hedging will be completed along the original path past this tree, following tree works in the compartments, to block access and ensure all visitors avoid this area.

4.3 Clean and Well Maintained

4.3.1 Maintain Site Furniture

There are currently faded and degraded signage present at some of the entrances. These are to be removed to create a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to the site. Once further site furniture is installed, such as the benches, waymark posts, and interpretation panels, these will be regularly monitored, and any reports of graffiti or damaged furniture will be dealt with appropriately.

4.3.2 Manage Access Points

Maintenance will be completed to ensure encroaching vegetation stays away from the path network, and any reports of blockages over the route will be dealt with appropriately.

4.3.3 Site Misuse

All new signage will have the byelaws of the site prominently displayed to address misuse of the site. Alongside this, engagement will be completed with the local community to address issues of fly-tipping and dumping of garden waste. Engagement with the locals will also be completed to address the misuse of the site in relation to the dirt biking in Compartment 2, as well as monitoring and maintenance of the motorcycle inhibitors.

4.4 Sustainability

4.4.1 Sustainable Woodland Management

The management set out for this site is in line with the UK Forestry Standard for sustainable woodland management. This will involve creating a more un-even aged structure and, to this end, continuous cover forestry (CCF) will be initiated within those stands with adequate advanced natural regeneration or the potential for this.

This will stabilise the woodland against high winds, reduce fuel-loading, increase vertical structure, and enhance biodiversity. CCF will also help to create trees of better form, as well as diversifying the age-class structure and species diversity, providing

longer term sustainability and resilience against the effects of climate change and newly emerging plant health issues.

4.5 Conservation and Heritage

4.5.1 Invasive Non-Native Species

There are currently large specimens of cherry laurel and rhododendron within the woodland, at risk out competing more desirable species. These will be managed through a programme of eradication via cutting and chemical stump treatment where necessary. The success of these treatments will be monitored, and follow-up treatments will be carried out where required.

4.5.2 Thinning and Regeneration

A thinning programme will be undertaken for the younger pole stage stands, which will undergo limited restructuring via thinning and restocking with natural regeneration potentially supplemented by planting. This will help to move towards an irregular structure.

4.5.3 Glade Management & Creation

The glades present on site will be managed with a three-zone system, creating a variety of habitats on site for birds, small mammals, and invertebrates to thrive. New temporary glades will be created through coppicing and cutting back of vegetation to create a diverse habitat within the site.

4.5.4 Deadwood Habitats

Due to the lack of recent management within the site, some deadwood habitats are present. This is important for biodiversity so will be maintained throughout the management of the site. Standing deadwood will be retained where safety permits and selected fallen deadwood where access is maintained. All brash will be retained on site. There will be a desired target of 5-10% of the average stand volume to be standing and fallen deadwood accumulation.

4.5.5 Unregistered Land

The land to the south and west of the site is currently listed as unregistered. This will be investigated to ascertain the exact ownership of this land and understand the boundaries of the site.

4.5.6 Countryside Stewardship

Investigate applying for Countryside Stewardship to help support the tree works within the woodland. This could be worth up to £2,000 under the WD2 option, allowing vital works to be undertaken without impacting upon budget availability.

4.6 Community Involvement

4.6.1 Events

Events will be organised to help involve the local community with the site. This will include a guided walk to celebrate the waymarked trail and volunteer events in collaboration with the CMS Communities volunteers. It will be ensured that the local community and user groups are engaged in all stages of the management of the site.

4.6.2 Local Engagement

The local school, and any nearby youth groups, are to be involved with the site, encouraging engagement and education for the local children.

4.7 Promotion

The site will be promoted through the TRDC website, as well as in any other appropriate sources that may arise.

5.0 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

A formal habitat and condition assessment survey has not been undertaken as part of the development of this management plan. However, indicative current and potential habitat types and conditions for the main habitats within Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood are provided in the table below.

Compartment	Main Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Biodiversity Metric Type	Current Habitat Condition	Potential Habitat Condition	Potential Biodiversity Net Gain (Biodiversity Units)
Solomon's Wood	Woodland	5.2	Other Woodland; Mixed	Moderate	Good	52.28
Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1	Woodland	4.4	Other Woodland; Broadleaved	Poor	Moderate	46.38
Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2	Woodland	6.2	Other Woodland; Mixed	Moderate	Good	61.78

It is clear from the tables that the main opportunity for change in the context of biodiversity net gain within Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood is in improving the condition of the woodland. This includes improving the age diversity of the trees within the woodland, increasing the number of native tree and shrub species present across all compartments, encouraging natural woodland regeneration, and improving the plant communities present at ground level, encouraging a complex woodland structure.

In order for Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood to be put forward as an offsetting site for biodiversity net gain, a detailed survey of habitat type and condition would need to be carried out to confirm the habitat baseline, and a biodiversity net gain habitat management plan would need to be produced.

6.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

The action plans are divided into revenue and capital sections. Revenue items will generally be funded and delivered through existing Council revenue budgets. Capital items have no fund currently allocated to them, so delivery would require following the Council's capital bid process of a capital bid or securing external funding. All costs are estimates and full costs will need to be identified for each item prior to the submission of a capital bid or external funding application.

Abbreviations used: TRDC – Three Rivers District Council; L&L – Landscapes and Leisure; EP – Environmental Protection; GM – Grounds Maintenance; CRoW – Hertfordshire County Council Countryside and Rights of Way Service; Vols – Volunteers.

6.1 Annual and Regular Actions

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
0.1	Tree survey and proportionate risk management.	B2	Winter	TRDC	Contractor	Officer Time		
0.2	Carry out vegetation management in glades.	E7	Sept to Feb	TRDC	GM Contract / vols	EP Budget		8.2
0.3	Monitor invasive species.	E2	All Year	CMS	CMS	Officer Time		
0.4	Monitor and maintain site furniture, signs, and interpretation.	C1	All Year	TRDC	Vols / Contractor	GM Budget		
0.5	Manage encroaching vegetation along paths and entrances.	C2	All Year	TRDC	GM Contract	GM Budget		7.3
0.6	Prompt removal of graffiti and fly-tipping.	C3	All Year	TRDC	GM Contract	GM Budget		
0.7	Discourage dumping of garden waste.	C4	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time		
0.8	Prompt response to incidences of site misuse.	B3	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time		

0.9	Maintain motorcycle inhibitors at entrances to ensure the woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities.	E4	All Year	TRDC / HCC	GM Contract / RoW Team	GM Budget/ RoW Budget		
0.10	Ensure site visitors are informed of management activities.	F2	All Year	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	Officer Time		
0.11	Proactive engagement with residents.	F3	All Year	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	Officer Time		
0.12	Promote volunteer and community events.	F1	All Year	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	Officer Time		
0.13	Promote the woodland online.	G1	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer Time		
0.14	Respond to any safety concerns from users of the site in a timely manner.	B1	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer Time		
0.15	Maintain long-term ecological and economic viability through sustainable woodland management in line with UK Forestry Standard.	D2	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer Time		
0.16	Regular emptying of dog waste bin.	C3	All Year	TRDC	GM Contract	GM Budget		

**Pheasant's and Solomon's
GAP 2024 - 2029
Annual Actions**

Task Responsibility

- TRDC led } Contractor delivered
- CMS led } Contractor delivered
- TRDC led } Volunteer delivered
- CMS led } Volunteer delivered

0.1 Tree Survey and Risk Assessment
- Across all three compartments □

0.2 Glade Management □
- Glades across all three compartments
- 3-zone management approach

0.4 and 0.9 Furniture □
- Ensure good condition

0.3 Invasive Species □
- Across all three compartments
- Clearance of dense holly, laurel, and rhododendron

0.6, 0.7 and 0.8 Waste and Misuse □
- Ensure fly-tipping, garden waste and graffiti removed promptly
- Prompt response to misuse

0.16 Bins □
- Regular emptying of dog waste bin

0.2 Glade Management
- Cut half glade in October, leaving half uncut, alternate each year.
- Leave shrubby edges uncut □

0.10 - 0.13 Promotion □
- Inform visitors of activities
- Promote events and woodland
- Engage with residents

0.14 Safety □
- Respond promptly to safety concerns

0.5 Encroaching Vegetation □
- Across all three compartments
- Ensure all paths free from encroachment

0.15 Sustainable Woodland □
- Across all three compartments
- Ensure all management in line with UK Forestry Standard

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Dog Bin
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Byelaw Signage
- Faded Signage
- RoW Signage
- Boundary Trees
- Line of Yew
- Wood Bank
- Chorleywood 030
- Informal Path Network
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Glades
- Secondary & Plantation Woodland



0.2 Glade Management
- Cut half glade in October, leaving half uncut, alternate each year.
- Leave shrubby edges uncut □

Scale @ A4
1:4,000
Date
Jan 2024
Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100019606/100019606.pdf. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

6.2 Year 1 Actions (2024 – 2025)

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
1.1	Thinning of pole stage stands – focusing on areas of ash	E3	Winter	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£10,000	7.4
1.2	Formalise path network to create circular walk	A2	Summer	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	Officer time		7.5
1.3	Install benches at strategic locations.	A3	Summer	CMS	Vols	TRDC	£1,500	7.6
1.4	Invasive species management in Solomon's Wood	E2	Winter	CMS	Vols	Countryside Stewardship	£0	7.7&.8
1.5	Improve deadwood abundance using felled material.	E9	Winter	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	N/A	
1.6	Investigate ownership of the unregistered land surrounding Compartment 2.	E10	Any	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	Officer time		7.9
1.7	Plant Yew standards to complete Yew Avenue in Compartment 2.	E5	Winter	CMS	Vols	TRDC	£700	7.10

**Pheasant's and Solomon's
GAP 2024 - 2029
Year 1 Actions**

Task Responsibility

■ TRDC led	} Contractor delivered
■ CMS led	
■ TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
■ CMS led	

1.5 Deadwood ■
- Improve deadwood abundance using felled material

1.1 Thinning ■
- Thinning of pole stage stands - e.g. sycamore, ash, beech

1.4 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel
- Management of rhododendron

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Investigate Land
- Bench
- Dog Bin
- Bylaw Signage
- Faded Signage
- RoW Signage
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Informal Path Network
- Boundary Trees
- Line of Yew
- Wood Bank
- Yew Planting
- Circular Walk
- Block Off Section
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Glades
- Secondary & Plantation Woodland
- Thinning
- Invasive Species Management

1.7 Yew Avenue ■
- Plant yew standards to complete avenue

1.1 Thinning ■
- Thinning of pole stage stands - e.g. sycamore, ash, beech

1.6 Adjacent Land ■
- Investigate land

1.3 Benches ■
- Install bench

1.4 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel

1.2 Circular Walk ■
- Formalise path network to create circular walk
- Block off area of path to avoid dead beech tree

1.3 Benches ■
- Install bench

1.4 Invasive Species ■
- Management of rhododendron

1.2 Circular Walk ■
- Formalise path network to create circular walk

1.4 Benches ■
- Install bench

1.1 Thinning ■
- Thinning of pole stage stands - e.g. sycamore, ash, beech

1.4 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel

1.6 Adjacent Land ■
- Investigate land

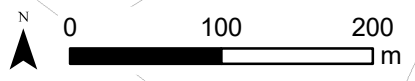
1.2 Circular Walk ■
- Formalise path network to create circular walk

1.4 Invasive Species ■
- Management of holly

Scale @ A4
1:5,000
Date
Jan 2024
Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS ELL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to [terms and conditions](#). You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Page 71

6.3 Year 2 Actions (2025 – 2026)

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
2.1	Install waymarking for circular walk	A2	Summer	CMS	Vols	TRDC	£400	7.11
2.2	Design and install welcome signage and interpretation promoting the walking routes.	A1	Summer	CMS	CMS	TRDC	£16,000	7.12
2.3	Remove old signage.	A1	Summer	CMS	Vols	Officer time		7.12
2.4	Organise and promote guided walk to celebrate new waymarked walking routes.	F1	Autumn	CMS	CMS	Officer time		
2.5	Invasive species management in Pheasant's Wood Compartments 1 and 2.	E2	Autumn	CMS	Vols	Countryside Stewardship	£0	7.7&.8
2.6	Coppicing of overstood stools in Solomon's Wood.	E1	Winter	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£4,500	7.13
2.7	Improvement of entrances off Berry Lane to Pheasant's Cpt. 1 and Solomon's Wood	A4	Summer	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£10,000	7.16
2.8	Prepare Countryside Stewardship application to support woodland management.			CMS	CMS	Officer time		

Pheasant's and Solomon's GAP 2024 - 2029 Year 2 Actions

Task Responsibility

■ TRDC led	} Contractor delivered
■ CMS led	
■ TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
■ CMS led	

2.2 Signage ■
- Design and install welcome sign
- Featuring Byelaws and route details

2.3 Existing Signage ■
- Remove all existing signage

2.4 Promotion ■
- Organise guided walk to celebrate new circular walk

2.8 Countryside Stewardship
- Prepare CS application ■

2.2 Signage ■
- Design and install welcome sign
- Featuring Byelaws and route details

2.2 Signage ■
- Design and install interpretation board
- Featuring Byelaws and route details
- Display the history of the site
- Species to look out for

2.5 Invasive Species ■
- Management of rhododendron

2.7 Entrances ■
- Improve entrance to Solomon's Wood to vehicle entrance with gate
- Improve entrance to Pheasant's Wood

2.1 Waymarking ■
- Install waymarking for formalised circular route

2.6 Coppicing ■
- Coppicing of overstood stools

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Circular Walk
- Blocked Off Section
- Informal Path Network
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Bench
- Dog Bin
- i Interpretation Panel
- i RoW Signage
- Waymark Post
- ▲ Welcome Signage
- Boundary Trees
- Line of Yew
- Wood Bank
- Planted Yew
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Glades
- Secondary & Plantation Woodland
- Cherry Laurel Managementnet
- Coppice

Page 73

2.5 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel

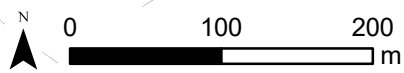
2.5 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel

2.5 Invasive Species ■
- Management of holly

2.2 Signage ■
- Design and install interpretation board
- Featuring Byelaws and route details
- Display the history of the site
- Species to look out for

2.2 Signage ■
- Design and install welcome sign
- Featuring Byelaws and route details

2.5 Invasive Species ■
- Management of laurel



Scale @ A4
1:5,000
Date
Jan 2024
Rev
00

© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS ELL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to [terms and conditions](#). You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

6.4 Year 3 – 5 Actions (2026 – 2029)

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
3.1	Assess success of natural regeneration following thinning with potential for restocking.	D1	Y3	TRDC / CMS	TRDC / CMS	Officer time		6.14
3.2	Glade creation across all three compartments.	E8	Y4	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£5,000	6.15
3.3	Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron management of regeneration across site.	E2	Y4	CMS	Vols	Countryside Stewardship	£0	6.7&.8
3.4	Coppicing of overstood stools along the PRoW in Pheasant's Wood.	E1	Y5	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£4,500	6.13
3.5	Review management plan to identify any tasks still undelivered.	All	Y5	CMS	CMS	TRDC		
3.6	Write new GAP.	All	Y5	CMS	CMS	TRDC		

Task Responsibility

- TRDC led
 - CMS led
 - TRDC led
 - CMS led
- Contractor delivered
- Volunteer delivered

3.1 Regeneration □ □

- Assess success of natural regeneration following thinning
- Potential for restocking

3.2 Glade Creation □

- Across all three compartments
- Opening up areas to improve understorey

3.3 Invasive Species □

- Across all three compartments
- Monitoring and management of regeneration of laurel and rhododendron

3.5 and 3.6 Review and Plan

- Review management plan
- Identify any incomplete tasks
- Write new GAP □

Pheasant's and Solomon's

GAP 2024 - 2029

Year 3 - 5 Actions

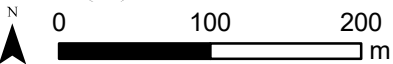
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- ⓘ Interpretation Panel
- ⓘ RoW Signage
- Waymark Post
- ▲ Welcome Signage
- Planted Yew
- Bench
- Dog Bin
- Boundary Trees
- Line of Yew
- Wood Bank
- Circular Walk
- Blocked Off Section
- Informal Path Network
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- Glades
- Secondary & Plantation Woodland
- ▨ Glade Creation
- Coppice

3.4 Coppice □

- Coppicing of overstood stools

Page 75



Scale @ A4
1:5,000
Date
Jan 2024
Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS ELL 100019806. Use of this data is subject to [terms and conditions](#). You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

7.0 SPECIFICATIONS

7.1 General prescriptions relevant to all operations	
<i>Habitat Retention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain all standing and fallen deadwood where this does not compromise ground flora and it is safe to do so. Care should be taken to protect ancient wood banks from damage during woodland management works through the felling of trees or movement of vehicles; it may be necessary to mark these on the ground prior to works to ensure their safety.
<i>Visitor Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public to be kept at a safe distance from active works where necessary. Access routes may require temporary closure where appropriate.
<i>Timing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unless otherwise stated, all habitat management work will be undertaken outside of nesting season.

7.2 Glade Management	
<i>Zone 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The edges of the glades will be cut once a year in September by 0.5-1m to maintain a clear path for visitors.
<i>Zone 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next zone, 2-4m from the edge will be cut on a 4-year rotation to maintain vegetation in a manageable state while providing valuable scrub habitat.
<i>Zone 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 5-10m zone will be cut rotationally on a long cycle (at least 25 years). Every year scallops will be cut into the woodland edge to increase the width at certain points. The cut scallops will then be left to re-grow providing a succession of habitats from scrub back to woodland in the future. Each year new scallops will be cut so that there is a mosaic of growth stages across the woodland. This is essential for birds, butterflies, and other invertebrates. The scallop edges will be implemented where glade width is at least equal to adjacent tree height.

<i>Style / Design</i>	
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two larger glades will be split into two sections, with one half being mown each year to create a variety of habitats.

7.3 Vegetation Clearance	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to use the path network safely and easily is an important aspect for the access and enjoyability of a woodland. By clearing the encroaching vegetation, visitors will be able to continue to utilise the path network without issue.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut back encroaching vegetation. Use a pole saw to reduce overhanging branches.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRDC grounds maintenance contract
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the path network to check for access issues.

7.4 Thinning	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a more un-even aged structure within the woodland. Restore, value and protect the ASNW ecology and character and continue to enhance woodland biodiversity. Enhance biodiversity and vertical structure by increasing light to the forest floor and promoting development of shrub and ground layer communities.

<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid even spacing during thinning to create potential niches for natural regeneration. • Pole stage stands focusing on areas of ash. • Mature trees with larger seed-bearing crowns retained to provide seed for future natural regeneration. • Sycamore and other non-natives such as Horse chestnut in Pheasant's Cpt. 2 will be retained and/or removed in favour of native broadleaves where considered appropriate. • Ash will be monitored to assess development of ash dieback and is likely to self-thin in some areas creating potential health and safety issues. • Care to be taken to not over-stimulate the seed bed from heavy thinning resulting in dense growth of bramble. • Selected mature trees will be retained in perpetuity and allowed to progress into veteran status. • There will be a general presumption against tree surgery works i.e. canopy reduction, dead-wooding etc. except where health and safety risk is considered unacceptable or where total tree collapse is likely. • Standing deadwood will be retained where safety permits and selected fallen deadwood where access is maintained. • All brash will be retained on site to lead to a net accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood, with a target of 5-10% of the average stand volume or a minimum 20m³/ha across the woodland area. • Veteran trees i.e., hornbeam, beech, and oak will be released from surrounding competition and shade. • Species such as sycamore and cherry will be removed during thinning operations to create favourable conditions around veteran trees. • Veteran trees should not be cut. • Thinning volumes to be guided by sustainable parameters i.e., thin to maximum 20% canopy removal, targeting trees with poor form for felling.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of natural regeneration success, with potential for restocking if not achieving target stocking density.

7.5 Circular Walk	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a circular walk around the site will help to encourage exploration and enjoyment of the woods and promote physical activity.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular walk to be designed as mapped above. • Dead hedging from tree and scrub works to be used to block off section of path near the dead beech tree to ensure users avoid this area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All paths to be cleared of encroachment. • Site entrances to be formalised along the circular walk, in particular along Berry Lane. • This will include opening up of vegetation and levelling of slope into the woods.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRDC to lead, CMS to assist with delivery.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor circular walk.

7.6 Installation of Benches	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of benches within the woodland is important for accessibility and for the enjoyment of the woodland. There are currently no benches at the site.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woodland bench type should be in keeping with the existing style of furniture used in other TRDC woodlands. • Benches should be installed directly into the ground using a ground fixing method (e.g. the earth anchor system). • Quantity: 3
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS Officer to procure. • Installation by CMS volunteers.
<i>Style / Design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All benches will adhere to DDA guidance and will include arm and back supports. • The bench will be made of teak, L1500mm / L1800mm with a soft ground anchor kit. • The bench will be a wooden bench in the style shown in the following link: Teak Seat Sturdy Bench Earth-Anchors • Opportunities for memorial requests will be made available on the TRDC website. • Further specification information for TRDC memorial benches can be found: Memorial tributes Three Rivers District Council
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of the condition of site furniture.

7.7 Invasive Species Management (Holly)	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of holly overtaking other species within the woodland larger specimen are to be coppiced.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coppice all holly within the coupe that looks to be impacting the growth and spread of other species. • The holly should be coppiced at no more than 12 inches high, where feasible, to encourage regrowth at understory level.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coppicing operation will require high quality, clean coppice cuts to provide maximum survival and regrowth, as well as the protection of the soils, standard trees, and any other features of the site during the operations.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS to lead, vols to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of coppiced holly to secure regrowth, completed by volunteers in Spring.

7.8 Invasive Species Management (Rhododendron & Laurel)	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If left uncontrolled, rhododendron & laurel will establish quickly and dominate all other vegetation, reducing establishment of target species and biodiversity at the site. There are currently large specimens of these species at the site which need to be removed ensure they do not outcompete the surrounding species.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before operations are undertaken, the bushes should be checked for open seed capsules and seed. If possible, operations should be timed for outside of the seed dispersal period. Top woody growth of specimen to be manually removed to leave cut tumps with no remaining live branches or shoots. The resulting cut woody material to be removed and chipped. Chips can be left on site or bagged and removed. Volunteers to help cut rhododendron/laurel areas by hand. The build-up of chipped material can be used as mulch to prevent encroachment in areas.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS to lead, volunteers to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual assessment of re-growth and / or new growth. Follow-up chemical treatment as required. If contractor procured for stump treatment, contractor must have appropriate Certificate of Competence. During stump treatment, all operatives on site must wear adequate PPE and adhere to all H&S requirements. Stumps to be treated by painting with glyphosate.

7.9 Investigate Ownership of Adjacent Land	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ascertain ownership status of the surrounding land.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate historic ownership records.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRDC


<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore future options in relation to these compartments.
--------------------------	---

7.10 Yew Planting	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue the historic boundary avenue along the northern boundary of the site.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees will be two year bare-root stock, British grown and of local provenance wherever possible. • Trees should be planted equally spaced at 2m centres. • For best chance of establishment, construct timber guards to surround trees as they develop. • Ground should be prepared before planting (e.g., weeding and dug over/cultivated etc.) • Newly planted trees should be adequately supported and protected (with canes, spiral guards, stakes, and tree shelters where appropriate). • Mulch should be applied following planting.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor / volunteers.
<i>Aftercare</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aftercare should be applied for three years to achieve a high rate of establishment. Trees will be adequately watered, weeded protection and mulch maintained. • Failed specimen will be replaced. • Tree supports should be removed when trees are self-supporting.

7.11 Waymark Installation	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New directional signage will orientate visitors, encourage exploration and enjoyment of the woods, and promote physical activity. • Used in conjunction with the interpretation boards, it becomes an educational resource as well.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One circular walk taking in Solomon's Wood and both cpts. of Pheasant's Wood. • Timber posts with directional waymarking disks. • Disks to be branded. • Position at the path's edge, at junctions to ensure the intended direction is clear. • Cut back surrounding vegetation at post locations. • To be distributed via CMS and TRDC channels, in print and online. • Quantity: 23
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS officer to procure local manufacturer for waymark disks, and local timber merchant for posts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation by CMS volunteers.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of the condition of the waymark posts and keeping encroaching vegetation cut back during the summer.

7.12 Signage and Interpretation

<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve visual appearance of entrances, as well as promotion of the site entrances. • Give visitors information about the history of the site, as well as the flora and fauna present. • 2x interpretation boards, 3x welcome signage.
<i>Method</i>	<p><i>Welcome Signage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber posts displaying site name will be installed at less prominent entrances, in keeping with nearby Oxhey Woods and Bishops Wood. • TRDC logo to be displayed. • Byelaws of the site to be displayed. • Colour ring to match waymark route to allow people to pick up the circular route.  <p>HEIGHT 5' 10" / 1778mm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity: 3 <p><i>Interpretation Panels</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and produce an A2 interpretation board which provides information on the history of the site and the wildlife that can be found and provide PDF version of the same. • Design to be based around a full colour 3D hand drawn watercolour map of the site and surrounding area, showing main routes and features. This should be accompanied by small water colour images and text.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text will be provided. • The design should be based on the TRDC house style. • Both panels to be the same apart from the 'you are here' arrow, which is to be located appropriately for each panel. • Supply an upright frame in green powder coated stainless steel, twin leg, incorporating a GRP panel. • TRDC and CMS logo to be displayed. • Byelaws of the site to be displayed. • Quantity: 2
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor appearance of furniture to ensure good quality.

7.13 Coppicing	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood has been shaped by the previous management of people. Hornbeam coppice was a valuable source of fuel wood in the past. Large stands of hornbeam coppice now go unmanaged. If this continues the stools will be lost through degeneration and wind-throw.
<i>Method</i>	<p><i>Coppicing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coppice native broadleaved species, cutting on an angle above the stub to allow water to run off. Stubs should be cut on good cambium above the previous cut. <p><i>Protection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area to be protected by deer fencing for at least 3 years following coppicing and until regrowth and regeneration is sufficiently high to withstand deer damage. <p><i>Area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupes of around 0.25ha to be cut on a 25-year cycle.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS to procure, contractor to deliver.
<i>Arisings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber should be cut to marketable length (min. 3 metres) and stacked. • Leave equivalent of 3 trees (>200mm diameter) per hectare in the form of log piles. • Smaller material can be used to dead hedge the boundaries of the coupe or cut into small lengths and scattered under existing trees, not on newly opened areas.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of coppiced hawthorn to secure regrowth, completed by volunteers in Spring. • Around 5-years after the initial re-coppice review regeneration of stools and natural regeneration between stools. • Where dense regeneration has occurred, trial thinning to 1m x 1m spacing between retained trees, leaving 3m x 3m spacing around viable stools. Retain hornbeam wherever

	<p>possible and leave non-hornbeam species where this is the only option to fill a gap. Retain clusters of oak saplings as future standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave areas within the same coupe unthinned to compare outcomes. • Maintain deer fencing to protect ongoing regeneration. • If stools fail to regenerate or natural regeneration is insufficient, undertake restocking.
--	--

7.14 Restocking	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where natural regeneration is unsuccessful, or not reaching stocking targets, supplementary planting is needed to ensure species diversity and diversity of age class.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting where needed to achieve the minimum required stocking densities of 1100st/Ha. • Shade tolerant species such as beech and hornbeam may be utilised effectively within existing stands to protect and nurse other species. • Consideration and consultation to be undertaken for replacement species for ash i.e. small-leaf lime, sycamore, oak, beech, etc.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRDC / CMS
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All young trees to be weeded and protected as required. • Where necessary, temporary deer fencing may be used to protect young trees from deer browsing. • Where necessary, squirrel control will be considered to protect young trees from bark stripping damage, particularly beech and oak.

7.15 Glade Creation	
<i>Purpose</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create sunny areas, varied in structure and species, ideal for birds and invertebrates (especially butterflies). These will form successional habitats on the woodland edge. They will have a diverse structure ranging from short flowers, herbs and grasses in the first few years after cutting, to taller shrubby bramble and honeysuckle.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glades across all three compartments to be opened up by coppicing trees on either side to create an opening. • Scallops are to be created in addition to this width where the width is larger than the height of the surrounding trees. • All material within 2m of the centre of the glade / path edge to be cut as low to the ground as possible and all stumps to be ground out in order to permit future mowing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All non-native broadleaves within the zone to be permanently removed.
<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage as per glade management outlined in 6.2

7.16 Entrance Works

Purpose

- To improve access to Solomon's Wood to carry out tree works, as well as to improve pedestrian access between the two compartments.

Method

Solomon's Wood



- Removal of metal furniture from entrance into Solomon's Wood.
- Removal of metal furniture and removal of vegetation.
- Levelling of the ground surface to create a gentle slope into the woodland.
- Install a single vehicle entrance gate in a similar position to the current metal furniture, with an adjoining pedestrian gate of matching style.

Pheasant's Wood Cpt. 1



- Installation of steps and handrail to allow ease of access to the crossing point, with a large bottom step to ensure a clear view of oncoming traffic prior to crossing.
- Steps to be constructed of timber stringers bordering both sides of the flight and timber risers using 6x2 inch (150x50mm) pressure-treated timber.
- Pressure treated stobs (small, square, pointed stakes of 50x50x450mm) to be hammered into the ground at either end of the rise and then screwed to it.
- Once the stobs are installed, they are to be weathered by sawing the top off at a slight and consistent angle to allow water run off.
- The risers should be backfilled with crushed stone utilising two grades of stone to aid binding together of the infill and firmer surface. In the interest of safety and ease of use, the riser height should be consistent along the flight, not less than 150mm and not more than 165mm.
- The width of the tread should be no less than 260mm and not more than 300mm and consistent along the length of the flight if the gradient of the slope allows.
- A handrail should be installed with two rails on the right-hand-side of the flight of steps, as viewed from the top looking down the slope.
- Posts to be 1.8m x 125mm x 75mm 1 way weathered (45degree angle) and spaces at approx.. 1-1.5m intervals
- Rails to be 100mm x 50mm, set at 1000mm and 750mm above ground level.
- Handrail to be extended approx.. 500mm from the bottom of the steps and approx.. 500mm at the top.
- Timber to be treated softwood, planed, with corners and edges rounded off.

<i>Who?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
<i>Future Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure encroachment is monitored to allow clear sightline for crossing the road. • Monitor for any damage to furniture.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 A: Briefing Document Engagement Responses

8.2 B: GAP Document Engagement Responses

8.3 C: 2020 – 2030 Woodland Management Plan

8.4 D: 2013 Wildlife Survey

8.5 E: 2016 Wildlife Sites Winter Monitoring Survey (HERC)

Objective	Comments	Mentioned By	Action
A1 – Install Interpretation and Welcome Signage	Supportive of the introduction of signage.	Local Residents Local Councillor	None needed.
A2 – Formalise Footpath Network	Asks that paths are not improved too much to encourage cyclists.	Local Resident	Path surfaces will not be improved, simply 'formalised' in the form of guided routes and having encroaching vegetation cut back.
	Supportive of formalising a route around the woods to be monitored for encroachment vegetation to keep paths clear.	Local Residents Local Councillors Parish Council	None needed.
A3 – Install benches	Supportive of the addition of benches around the woodland.	Local Residents Local Councillors	None needed.
A4 – Improve entrances off Berry Lane	Supportive of improving the access across Berry Lane to both Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood.	Local Residents Local Councillor	None needed.
	Some local residents requested additional entrance improvements closer to the railway bridge as well.	Local Residents	The waymarked route will take people across the crossing of Berry Lane at the vehicle entrance point. This will encourage people to use this crossing as opposed to the crossing by the bridge.
B3 – Monitor and respond to antisocial behaviour	Concerns about safety of lone walkers.	Local Councillor	Improving the site will encourage further walkers, as well as prompt response to antisocial behaviour, which should help deter antisocial behaviour.
C2 – Maintain vegetation encroachment	Concerns about brambles and nettles around paths.	Local Residents Local Councillors Parish Council	All formalised paths to be regularly monitored for encroachment.
C3 – Remove any Fly Tipping	Concerns about dog fouling.	Local Councillor	Behaviour signage at entrances.
C4 – Discourage Garden Waste Dumping	Concerned about the dumping of garden waste within the site.	Local Residents Local Councillors Parish Council	The issue of garden waste disposal to be mentioned within the plan, with attempts made to discourage this.

D1 – Encourage Natural Regeneration	Happy to hear that work is being done to conserve and enhance the woods.	Local Councillor	None needed.
E2 – Control the spread of INNS	Supportive of the proposed INNS management	Local Councillor Local Residents	None needed
E3 – Thinning in plantation areas	Supportive of the proposed thinning.	Local Councillor Local Residents	None needed.
E8 – Improve understory through glade creation	Supportive of the glade management regime.	Local Councillor Local Residents	None needed.
E9 – Improve abundance of deadwood	Noted the importance of allowing natural play within the woodland for local children.	Local Councillor	Deadwood will be left in situ as this is an important part of creating a variety of habitats within a woodland. These can also be utilised by children for natural play.
F3 – Involve the local community	Discussed the potential for involving local Scouts/Brownies groups as well as the school down the road.	Local Councillor	Noted and to be included in future engagement.

Objective	Comments	Mentioned By	Action
All	Supportive of the plan in full.	Butterfly Conservation	None needed.
A3 – Install benches	Concern benches could lead to antisocial behaviour.	Local resident.	Improving the site will encourage further walkers, as well as prompt response to antisocial behaviour, which should help deter antisocial behaviour from occurring.
None	Request for dog bin by the exit onto Berry Lane Chorleywood.	Local resident.	Considered but unable to complete due to operational waste collection difficulties with this location. To be further considered in the future.
None	Request for lighting under the M25 bridge.	Local resident.	None needed – not within the scope of the plan as this is probably Highways land.
None	Fencing along the M25 on Chorleywood is broken and needs repairing.	Local resident.	None needed – this is within the area of unregistered land so must understand ownership of land prior to any actions being undertaken.

Woodland Management Plan

To be completed by the plan author:	
Woodland or Property name	Pheasants and Solomon's Woods
Woodland Management Plan case reference	809815
The landowner agrees this plan as a statement of intent for the woodland	Yes
Plan author name	Michael J. Steed MICFor MCIEEM

For FC Use only:			
Plan Period <i>(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)</i>	Approval Date:		Approved until:
Five Year Review Date			

Revision No.	Date	Status (draft/final)	Reason for Revision

Template user support:
The functionality in this version of the management plan template has been downgraded to ensure compatibility with Word 2003. This document is not protected and as such rows can be added & deleted or copied and pasted from tables where needed.

UK Forestry Standard management planning criteria

Approval of this plan will be considered against the following UKFS criteria.
Prior to submission review your plan against the criteria using the check list below.

UKFS management plan criteria		Minimum approval requirements	Author check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, and environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan objectives are stated. Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes
2	<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) Sect. 2.</p> <p>Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant features and issues identified within the woodland survey (Sect. 4) Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement and documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes
3	<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account should be taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes
4	<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-assessed and any necessary changes made so that they meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context. Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). Current diversity (structure, species, age structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4). Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 	Yes
5	<p>Consultation: Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement is in line with current FC guidance and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	Yes
6	<p>Plan Update and Review: Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan. Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success per management objective. 	Yes

Section 1: Property Details

<u>Woodland Property Name</u>		Pheasants and Solomon's Woods	
Name	Three Rivers District Council	Owner ✓	Tenant
Email	julie.hughes@threerivers.gov.uk	Contact Number	01923 776611
Agent Name (if applicable)		Michael Steed	
Email	michael.steed7@icloud.com	Contact Number	07717 043498
County	Hertfordshire	<u>Local Authority</u>	Three Rivers DC
Grid Reference	TQ 037955 / TQ043955	Single Business Identifier	107113811
What is the total area of this woodland management plan? (In hectares)		18.0Ha	
You have included an Inventory and Plan of Operations with this woodland management plan?		Yes	
You have listed the maps associated with this woodland management plan?		Yes. Compartment. Operations. Habitat.	
Do you intend to use the information within this woodland management plan and associated Inventory and Plan of Operations to apply for the following?		Felling Licence	Yes
		Thinning Licence	Yes
		Woodland Regeneration Grant	No
You declare that there is management control of the woodland detailed within the woodland management plan?		Yes	
You agree to make the woodland management plan publicly available?		Yes	

Section 2: Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland(s) and how you envisage it will be in the future. This covers the duration of the plan and beyond.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s). (*Suggest 300 words max*)

To maintain Pheasants and Solomon's woods in the landscape in perpetuity for the benefit of all and to protect and enhance the remnant ancient-semi-natural character while maximising biodiversity and recreational potential side-by-side. We will achieve this with a flexible and sustainable approach to silviculture primarily to encourage and secure a variety of broadleaves species with a range of age-classes that will ensure the long-term perpetuation of the wood and help mitigate against long-term climate change and tree diseases. Management will also recognise and protect heritage via the conservation / restoration of ancient semi-natural features.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management demonstrating how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Seek to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological and economical viability together in harmony via a programme of sustainable woodland management in line with the UK Forestry Standard (2017)
2	Restore, value and protect the ancient semi-natural ecology and character and continue to enhance woodland biodiversity in line with Pheasants and Solomons Woods GAP (2007-2012) and the UKFS Forests & Biodiversity (2017)
3	Control the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) i.e. Cherry laurel and Rhododendron via an agreed programme of eradication and / or containment
4	Maintain all access fit for purpose i.e. footpaths, PRow, Permissive Access and tracks for woodland operations
5	To actively manage the woodland canopy and understorey thereby ensuring the continued recruitment of young trees, either by planting or from seed (protected and weeded) to 2m+ target height AND by releasing existing advanced regeneration via respacing and over-head canopy reduction
6	Ensure woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities and to conserve the ancient woodland ecology, soils and integrity of the woodland
7	To conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood such as wood and hedge banks, boundary veteran trees
8	Seek to mitigate the potential effects of climate change and tree pests and

No.	Objectives (include environmental, economic and social considerations)
	diseases by developing ecosystem resilience via species and age class diversification from phased thinning and careful species selection and regeneration informed by FC Ecological Site Classification (ESC)
9	Maximise opportunities for public involvement and to consult widely taking account of all stakeholders

Section 3: Plan Review – Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objectives	Achievement

Section 4: Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints i.e. designations.

4.1 Description

Brief description of the woodland property:

Pheasants and Solomon's Woods are a series of four compartments located to north and west of Rickmansworth. The woods are bordered to the north by the Metropolitan Underground line with Pheasants Wood (West) and (South-West) divided from the remainder of Pheasants Wood by the M25. Solomon's Wood is separated from Pheasants Wood by a busy minor road known as Berry lane. Both Pheasants and Solomon's woods are bounded to the south and east by residential development with Pheasants wood (west) and (southwest) bordered by fields to the west.

Compartment 1a. 5.35Ha known as Solomon's Wood located on a north-facing slope bordered by the railway line to the north and residential development to the south. Cpt 1 is a mix of predominantly broadleaved secondary and ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) where, in places past quarrying activity has resulted in damage to the ASNW character and non-native species have been planted. Species composition includes mature beech and sycamore to the north and west. To the east ash, hornbeam and cherry dominate with oak and hazel understorey with some Field maple. Holly is also present. To the south there is remnant Sweet chestnut coppice with a small area of Scots pine. Sycamore is more dominant to the west together with pole stage ash. In places bluebell, Dogs mercury, Wood sorrel and Coral root bittercress are found in the ground layer. Cherry laurel and Rhododendron are beginning to dominate in areas. There is a circular track within the wood that exits onto Berry lane.

Compartment 1b. 4.12Ha known as Pheasants wood located immediately to the east of Solomon's wood on the west side of Berry lane and also on a north-facing slope down to the railway line. The M25 defines the western boundary. To the north large mature beech is dominant with ash, sycamore and hornbeam with oak further to the south. The wood becomes more open to the south with a small field against housing to the south-east from the Queens Drive. Rhododendron and Cherry laurel is prevalent in the west and centre where the understorey is sparse with some sycamore, elm and hazel. The ground layer is also sparse with patches of bluebells, cleavers and Herb Robert. Along the north boundary is part of a yew avenue that extends into Cpt 1d.

Compartment 1c. 3.02Ha known as Pheasants wood (south-west) also accessed from the south via a footbridge that carries a PRow over the M25 which continues along the eastern edge of this compartment. The understorey is dominated by dense holly and Cherry laurel with a mainly mature oak dominated overstorey. Mature beech together with sycamore, birch and Wild cherry are also present. Repeated motorcycling has created deep gully's and erosion around some of the mature beech exposing root plates. There is also some fly tipping with small camps with open fires and a network of narrow paths within the dense holly. There is also a phone mast at the northern point where Cpt 9c meets Cpt 9d.

Compartment 1d. 5.51Ha Pheasants wood (west) The largest compartment within the wood, dropping down to the north to meet the railway line. To the south beech is dominant with sycamore, Wild cherry, yew and oak. The understorey is mainly hazel with hawthorn, holly and some Goat willow with Dogs mercury, Dog violet and Coral root bittercress in the ground layer. Ash is prevalent throughout and Horse chestnut is present on the upper slopes to the centre where an old track way (PRow) is bordered either side by mature hornbeam stubbs. The yew avenue previously mentioned in Cpt 9b follows on into this compartment and runs east to west along the north boundary where there is also a track that runs underneath the M25 connecting 9b to 9d.

The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities present are;

- W8 Ash-Field maple-Dogs mercury woodland
- W12 Beech-ash-Dogs mercury woodland

The site lies over upper chalk/river terrace gravels geology with argillic brown earth soils. Average rainfall is approximately 650mm per year and the wood is situated at 95m O.D.

History of Management: Being of (part) ancient semi-natural origin, Pheasants and Solomon's woods are likely to have been managed in the past primarily as oak / beech standards with hazel / holly understorey.

There is evidence of wood banks and boundary beech and hornbeam stubbs and along old rights of way.

Very little past silvicultural management appears to have been carried out therefore this Management Plan is timely in bringing the woodland back into active sustainable management.

This Management Plan should also be read in conjunction with other Management Plans that relate to Pheasants and Solomon's woods where other detailed prescriptions have been set-out for a wide range of supporting objectives such as the (now out of date) Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2007-2012.

4.2 Information

Use this section to identify features that are both present in your woodland(s) and where required, on land adjacent to your woodland. It may be useful to identify known features on an accompanying map. Woodland information for your property can be found on the [Magic](#) website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Adjacent to Woodland(s)	Map No
<u>Biodiversity- Designations</u>				
Site of Special Scientific Interest	No		No	
Special Area of Conservation	No		No	
Tree Preservation Order	No		No	
Conservation Area	No		No	
Special Protection Area	No		No	
Ramsar Site	No		No	
National Nature Reserve	No		No	
Local Nature Reserve	No		No	
Other: Local Wildlife Site	No		No	
Notes				

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
<u>Biodiversity - European Protected Species</u>				
Bat	Species: Common pipistrelle, Noctule	Yes	All	Likely presence. EPS checklist and site survey with Operational Site Assessment(OSA) to be completed before operations with significant focus on older trees.
Dormouse		No	All	Potential presence. EPS checklist and site survey with Operational Site Assessment(OSA) to be completed before operations with significant focus on older trees and hazel coppice

Great Crested Newt	No			
Otter	No			
Sand Lizard	No			
Smooth Snake	No			
Natterjack Toad	No			
Biodiversity – Priority Species				
Schedule 1 Birds	Species:	No		
Mammals (Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten etc)	Yes	All		Badger: Likely presence. Site survey with Operational Site Assessment(OSA) to be completed before operations.
Reptiles (grass snake)	No	All		Potential presence. EPS checklist and site survey with Operational Site Assessment(OSA) to be completed before operations with significant focus on open habitats and wet flushes
Plants	Yes	1a, 1b, 1d (part)		Bluebell, Dogs mercury, Wood sorrel, ramsons, Coral root bittercress
Fungi/Lichens	Yes. Ganoderma	All		Bracket fungi present on mature / veteran trees
Invertebrates (butterflies, moths, beetles etc)	Yes.	All		Silver-washed fritillary, Speckled wood
Amphibians (pool frog, common toad)	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments	No			
Unscheduled Monuments	Yes	All		Wood-banks
Registered Parks and Gardens	No			
Boundaries and Veteran Trees	Yes	1d	Hab	Veteran beech and hornbeam stubs along PRow, boundary hedge

				banks and internal wood banks.
Listed Buildings	No			
Other (please Specify):	No			
Landscape				
National Character Area (please Specify): No 111 North Thames Basin				
National Park	No			
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No			
Other (please Specify): Grade C of District Importance and within the Metropolitan Green Belt	Yes	All		
People				
CROW Access	No			
Public Rights of Way (any)	Yes	1c, 1d		
Other Access Provision	Yes	All		Permissive paths and circular routes
Public Involvement	No			
Visitor Information	No			
Public Recreation Facilities	No			
Provision of Learning Opportunities	No			
Anti-social Behaviour	Yes	All		Occasional Fly-tipping Cpt 1a, 1b. Camp fires in Cpt 1c.
Other: Utilities	Yes	1c, 1d		Telecoms Mast. Drain cover 1d
Water				
Watercourses	No			
Lakes	No			
Ponds	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			

4.3 Habitat Types

This section is to consider the habitat types within your woodland(s) that might impact/inform your management decisions. Larger non-wooded areas within your woodland should be classified according to broad habitat type where relevant this information should also help inform your management decisions. Woodlands should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and ages of trees, appropriate to the scale and context of the woodland.

Feature	Within Woodland(s)	Cpts	Map No	Notes
Woodland Habitat Types				
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Yes	1a, 1b, 1d (part)	Habitats	
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)	No			
Semi-natural features in PAWS	Yes		Habitats	Wood banks, Veteran trees / stubbs
Lowland beech and yew woodland	No			
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Yes	All	Habitats	
Upland mixed ash woods	No			
Upland Oakwood	No			
Wet woodland	No			
Wood-pasture and parkland	No			
Other: NVC Classification	Yes			NVC: W8 / W12
Non Woodland Habitat Types				
Blanket bog	No			
Fenland	No			
Lowland calcareous grassland	No			
Lowland dry acid grassland	No			
Lowland heath land	No			
Lowland meadows	No			
Lowland raised bog	No			
Rush pasture	No			
Reed bed	No			
Wood pasture	No			
Upland hay meadows	No			
Upland heath land	No			
Unimproved grassland	No			
Peat lands	No			

Wetland habitats	No			
Other (please Specify):	Yes/No			

4.4 Structure

This section should provide a snapshot of the current structure of your woodland as a whole. A full inventory for your woodland(s) can be included in the separate Plan of Operations spreadsheet. Ensuring woodland has a varied structure in terms of age, species, origin and open space will provide a range of benefits for the biodiversity of the woodland and its resilience. The diagrams below show an example of both uneven and even aged woodland.

Woodland Type (Broadleaf, Conifer, Coppice, Intimate Mix)	Percentage of Mgt Plan Area	Age Structure (even/uneven)	Notes (i.e. understory or natural regeneration present)
Broadleaf High Forest	92%	Generally even	<p>16.0Ha of high forest and some coppice with standards comprising of mature and early-mature broadleaves including beech (largely dominant) with oak, ash, sycamore, hornbeam and Wild cherry. There is currently a limited range of age classes with the majority of stands between 120 and pole-stage mixed broadleaves of 50 years old. Minor species include birch and rowan with Field maple. Understorey is holly (dominant) with hazel, elder, hawthorn with bramble where canopy has been opened.</p> <p>Compartments 1a, 1b, 1d display ASNW characteristics. Bluebell and other ASNW indicator plants present in the ground layer.</p> <p>Young trees are provided via natural regeneration and include mainly beech and ash currently due to excessive shade. Some natural regeneration of sycamore, beech and ash are also at pole-stage and ready for</p>

			<p>thinning. However, ash disease is likely to have a negative impact.</p> <p>Some mature beech and hornbeam boundary 'stubbs' and , oak standards are considered to be veteran or approaching veteran status.</p>
Conifer	1%	Even	Approximately 0.1Ha of yew Cpt 1b, 1d and Scots pine 1a retained as an amenity feature
Open Space	7%		Open space is 1.9Ha throughout in the form tracks, rides and open glade Cpt 1b which contains mainly grasses.

Section 5: Woodland Protection

Woodlands in England face a range of threats; this section allows you to consider the potential threats that could be facing your woodland(s). Use the simple Risk Assessment process below to consider any potential threats to their woodland(s) and whether there is a need to take action to protect their woodlands.

Note: To add more tables, Copy the table and Paste below.

5.1 Risk Matrix

The matrix below provides a system for scoring risk. The matrix also indicates the advised level of action to take to help manage the threat.

Impact	High	Plan for Action	Action	Action
	Medium	Monitor	Plan for Action	Action
	Low	Monitor	Monitor	Plan for Action
		Low	Medium	High
Likelihood of Presence				

5.2 [Plant Health](#)

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Ash Die-Back
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Annual monitoring during summer months for symptoms. Take practical guidance from latest FC Operations Note 046 (Sept 2018). Infected trees removed as part of routine thinning programme (unless urgent H&S requirement). Disease resistant trees to be retained. Consider gradual replacement of ash with Small leaf lime, sycamore, beech, alder. Consider development of District wide Strategy for dealing with ash die-back together with future budgetary adjustments.

Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Phytophthora ramorum
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High

Response (inc protection measures)	NOTIFIABLE: Annual monitoring during summer months for symptoms. Inform FC if suspected via Tree Alert. Current Biosecurity measures to be adopted.
Threat (e.g. Ash Dieback, <i>Phytophthora</i> , Needle Blight etc)	Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	NOTIFIABLE: Annual monitoring during summer months for symptoms. Refer to FC OPM Manual for Guidance on managing infested trees. Inform FC if suspected via Tree Alert. Current Biosecurity measures to be adopted.

5.3 [Deer](#)

Species - Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Muntjac. High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Browsing currently within acceptable levels and not limiting factor with regards tree natural regeneration. Monitor browsing to young trees and woodland flora.

5.4 [Grey Squirrels](#)

Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High: potentially on those species replacing ash i.e. oak, sycamore, beech
Response (inc protection measures)	Bark stripping currently within acceptable levels. Monitor bark stripping damage to young trees, particularly following thinning operations. Consider control programme where damage is unacceptable. Consult widely.

5.5 Livestock and Other Mammals

Threat (Sheep, Horse, Rabbit etc)	Horses
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low (currently no permitted Bridleways)
Impact (high/medium/low)	Low
Response (inc protection measures)	Controlled horse riding. No immediate impacts to tree / woodland health i.e. soil compaction

5.6 Water & Soil

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Soil Erosion
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Monitor felling and thinning operations in wet weather. Follow FC guidance 'Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments' (2014) and UKFS guidance 'Forests & Soil' and 'Forests & Water' (2017). Ensure environmental risk assessments carried out prior to any timber felling and harvesting work. Method statements agreed i.e. extraction methods, extraction routes etc

Threat (Soil Erosion, Acidification of Water, Pollution incidents etc)	Pollution Incidents
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Ensure environmental risk assessments carried out prior to any timber felling and harvesting work. Method statements agreed i.e. extraction methods, extraction routes and stacking/loading bays. Ensure all machinery serviced and fit for purpose. Ensure spill kits present during all operations. Carry out COSHH assessments where appropriate.

5.7 Environmental

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Invasive Species (Cherry laurel and Rhododendron)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Implement agreed control programme to eradicate Cherry laurel and Rhododendron

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Wind
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Regular early thinning to stabilise stands. Max 70% YC removed in any one thinning operation. Ensure drainage ditches kept clear and flowing. Retain wind-firm edge trees. Allow snags and snapped trees to remain for deadwood where safety permits.

Threat (Pollution, Fire, Flood, Wind, Invasive Species, etc)	Fire
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium – may reduce further with on-going management
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Regular early thinning to reduce fuel-loading. Ensure drainage ditches kept clear and flowing. Fire Brigade Contact Details available on site. Access and Rendezvous points clearly marked. Consideration for a stand-alone Fire Plan to be produced

5.8 Social

Threat (Rights of Way, CROW, permissive access, events sporting rights, Anti-social Behaviour etc)	Anti-social behaviour. Fly-tipping
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Low
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Seek to engage with wood users and CMS / TRDC. Improve communication i.e. Interpretation panel, Signage. Enhance visitor experience and create sense of involvement and ownership via local activities and volunteer groups. Seek to reduce number of camp fires. Celebrate the value of Pheasants & Solomons woods.

Threat: Rights of Way	Permissive Access.
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	Medium
Response (inc protection measures)	Potential for soil erosion, soil compaction from foot traffic. fly tipping. Annual monitoring of site hygiene and tree health. Consider temporary re-routing footpaths where necessary

5.9 Economic

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Tree Diseases i.e. Phytophthora, Ash disease etc
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Practice sound silviculture. Seek to diversify tree species selection to provide a range of species / options / markets. Make provision within future budgets for tree safety works. Follow published current best practice / guidance

Threat (Timber forecasting, markets, products, operational costs etc)	Operational Costs
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Make provision within future budgets. Secure grant funding via CS. Consider combining operations with other Cpt's / woods to reduce economies of scale. Seek to develop niche markets for other hardwood species within locality

5.10 Climate Change Resilience

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Uniform Structure
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	Medium
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	Short term: Initiate programme of thinning to stabilise stands and create future regeneration coupes. Control understorey. Long term: Plan for gradual species replacement (continuous cover) thereby leading to age class diversification.

Threat (Uniform Structure, Provenance, Lack of Diversity etc)	Lack of Species Diversity (loss of ash and other non-native species)
Likelihood of presence (high/medium/low)	High
Impact (high/medium/low)	High
Response (inc protection measures)	As above: Short term: Initiate programme of thinning to stabilise stands and create future regeneration coupes. Long term: Plan for gradual species replacement either (continuous cover) thereby leading to species diversification

Section 6: Management Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features identified within the previous sections of the plan. A detailed work programme by sub-compartment can be added to the Plan of Operations.

Management Objective / Feature	Management Intention
<p>Seek to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological and economical viability together in harmony via a programme of sustainable woodland management in line with the UK Forestry Standard (2017)</p>	<p>Over the 10 year term of this Management Plan we will continue a thinning programme for the younger pole stage stands and undergo limited restructuring via small regeneration fellings and restocking with planting supplimented by natural regeneration moving towards an irregular structure. Such thinning and felling will result in the sustainable production of modest volumes of mainly fuel wood for sale on the open market.</p> <p>We wish to create a more un-even aged struture throughout Pheasants and Solomon's woods and to this end, continuous cover forestry (CCF) will be initiated within those stands with adequate advanced natural regeneration or potential and other necessary requirements i.e. shade tolerance species, wind shelter, access etc.</p> <p>We will create small felling coupe in sub-cpt 1d carefully located to ensure succesful regeneration of desired species i.e. oak, beech, and hornbeam.</p> <p>The effect on the woodland as a whole will be to stabilise the woods against high winds, reduce fuel-loading, increased vertical structure and enhanced biodiversity, create larger trees and/or of better form increase future economic potential, diversify the age-class structure and species diversity and provide longer term sustainability and resilience against the effects of climate change and newly emerging plant health issues.</p> <p>We will also avoid even spacing during thinning other areas to create potential niches for natural regeneration. Where natural regeneration does not meet the minimum</p>

	<p>stocking density supplementary planting will be carried out to achieve this.</p> <p>If necessary we may also enlarge regeneration existing coupes if light levels are insufficient e.g for oak establishment.</p> <p>We will keep options open regarding future economic potential and thereby ensure adequate stocking densities and regular thinning to maximise tree size and stand stability. Thinning will be guided by the this Management Strategy together with the Plan of Operations and volumes harvested within sustainable parameters i.e. maximum 70% of annual Yield Class overall.</p> <p>Thinning will also be guided by ecological and landscape considerations in line with recommendations set out in the UK Forestry Standard (2017).</p>
<p>Restore, value and protect the ancient semi-natural ecology and character and continue to enhance woodland biodiversity in line with Pheasants and Solomons Woods GAP (2007-2012) and the UKFS Forests & Biodiversity (2017)</p>	<p>Pole stage stands such as those sycamore, ash and beech will be thinned on a 5 year thinning cycle and mature trees with larger seed-bearing crowns retained to provide seed for future natural regeneration.</p> <p>Sycamore and other non-natives such as Horse chestnut in Cpt 1d will be retained and/or removed in favour of native broadleaves where considered appropriate. Ash will be monitored to assess development of ash disease and is likely to self-thin in some areas creating potential health and safety issues.</p> <p>Enhancement of biodiversity and vertical structure will also result from increased light to the forest floor and will also promote development of shrub and ground layer communities etc.</p> <p>Hazel will be coppiced where light levels are favourable or where damage has resulted from felling the overstorey.</p> <p>Care will be taken not to over-stimulate the seed bed from heavy thinning resulting in dense growth of bramble.</p>

	<p>Selected mature trees will be retained in perpetuity and allowed to progress into veteran status and beyond. There will be a general presumption against tree surgery works i.e. canopy reduction, dead-wooding etc except where health and safety risk is considered unacceptable or where total tree collapse is likely.</p> <p>Standing deadwood will be retained where safety permits and selected fallen deadwood where access is maintained. All brash will be retained on site. This will lead to a net accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood over time with a desired target of 5-10% of the average stand volume or a minimum 20M3/ha across the entire woodland area.</p> <p>This will also contribute towards delivering biodiversity and ASNW integrity objectives for the site.</p>
<p>Control the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) i.e. Cherry laurel and Rhododendron via an agreed programme of eradication and / or containment</p>	<p>We will continue to a programme of Cherry laurel and Rhododendron eradication via cutting and chemical treatment where necessary. We will also monitor the success of treatment and carry out follow-up treatment where required.</p>
<p>Maintain all access fit for purpose i.e. footpaths, PRow, Permissive Access and tracks for woodland operations</p>	<p>Pheasants and Solomon's wood contains a network of footpaths, tracks and rides both formal and informal. We will maintain the existing open network and public access routes particularly for walkers. We will create and/or maintain scalloped edges where ride width is at least equal to adjacent tree height. This will also include regular condition inspections during routine visits, resurfacing and vegetation cutting.</p> <p>We will aim for a three-zone ride management system extending to 10m either side of the footpath in places.</p> <p>Tracks will also be maintained following timber harvesting operations and 'made-good' so that they can be re-used by the public.</p> <p>Tree safety inspections will be carried out annually along all major access routes.</p>

<p>To actively manage the woodland canopy and understorey thereby ensuring the continued recruitment of young trees, either by planting or from seed (protected and weeded) to 2m+ target height AND by releasing existing advanced regeneration via respacing and over-head canopy reduction</p>	<p>Age-class diversity will be widened over time to facilitate long-term sustainability and increase climate resilience. Approximately 50% of tree age-classes are currently 100+ years old except for pole-stage stands and sporadic natural regeneration.</p> <p>Manipulation of light levels will be carried out via management of the lower canopy from selected clearance of groups of dense holly, Cherry laurel and Rhododendron together with thinning the overstorey will help to prepare seed bed for regeneration. Seed trees will be retained and seedling predation monitored.</p> <p>Advanced natural regeneration to be re-spaced to 2x2m centres where required OR thinned if at pole-stage. All young trees weeded and protected as required. Age class distribution will be assessed every 5 years.</p> <p>Where necessary temporary deer fencing maybe used to protect young trees from deer browsing.</p> <p>Where necessary squirrel control will be considered to protect young trees from bark stripping damage, particularly beech and oak.</p>
<p>Ensure woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities and to conserve the ancient woodland ecology, soils and integrity of the woodland</p>	<p>We will promptly remove fly-tipping and/or vandalism and carry out litter-picking as required. We will seek to engage with the local community to actively discourage dumping of green waste.</p> <p>We will seek to limit further soil erosion (particularly in Cpt 1d) and therefore engage with the local community to raise and promote the value of Pheasants and Solomon's wood as a recreational / educational resource via various local activities and seek compromise to protect the future integrity of the woodland habitat.</p> <p>We will seek to reduce the number of camp fires and subsequent fire damage to mature trees.</p> <p>We will seek to engage with the public with regards to the need for sustainable woodland</p>

	<p>management.</p> <p>We will also implement current Forestry Commission Biosecurity guidance and best practice i.e. signage and provision of public information.</p>
<p>To conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood such as wood and hedge banks, boundary veteran trees</p>	<p>We will identify and protect features of heritage importance and seek to raise awareness of their value. Veteran trees and stubbs are an important archaeological feature of many woodlands across the Three Rivers District. As boundary markers on hedge-banks and internal wood-banks they are also some of the oldest trees in the wood and therefore ecologically valuable.</p> <p>As a general rule veteran trees will not be cut.</p> <p>However, we will carry out a targeted programme of beech / hornbeam stubb restoration where local conditions are favourable and trees are under immediate threat i.e. from over-topping shade or collapse.</p> <p>A number of trial trees will be selected for restoration and responses to cutting monitored. Initially areas around the stubbs will be thinned prior to cutting to increase light levels. Re-cutting will be carried out gradually little by little i.e. not greater than 2m to 3m reduction at any one time with 5 years between each canopy retrenchment.</p> <p>Trees selected will be of good vigour, with manageable shade levels (some halo thinning around the trees already carried out) and good moist soil conditions etc.</p> <p>Veteran trees i.e. hornbeam, beech and oak will be released from surrounding competition and shade during routine thinning programmes.</p> <p>Species such as sycamore and cherry will be removed during thinning operations to create favourable conditions around veteran trees.</p> <p>In general veteran trees should not be cut where there is no danger of tree loss from</p>

	<p>collapse or compromise to public safety.</p> <p>Veteran trees will also be protected from operational use of the site. Reducing further erosion around mature beech trees in Cpt 1d will be a priority and will be an important focus as part of community engagement strategies.</p>
<p>Seek to mitigate the potential effects of climate change and tree pests and diseases by developing ecosystem resilience via species and age class diversification from phased thinning and careful species selection and regeneration informed by FC Ecological Site Classification (ESC)</p>	<p>Overall, the woodlands contain a range of species but with limited age classes. There is some natural regeneration of beech, sycamore and ash in pockets together with spole stage beech, sycamore, cherry and birch. There is also a good selection of mature and early-veteran trees providing adequate seed sources that can be seen on the ground.</p> <p>We will seek to maintain this healthy balance but strive to encourage a wider range of age classes throughout linking into objectives for CCF over parts of the wood.</p> <p>Therefore continued restructuring is considered beneficial and will be aided mainly via thinning and group regeneration felling and establishment of native broadleaves via natural regeneration (supplimented by planting where needed) to achieve the minimum required stocking densities of 1100st/Ha.</p> <p>Small groups of advanced regeneration will be further managed via thnning and opening up of groups and respacing to begin the process of securing the next cohort of young trees.</p> <p>This process can also be encouraged by avoiding even-spacing during 2nd or 3rd selective thinning operations to begin to create gaps suitable for future natural regeneration.</p> <p>We will use the Forestry Commissions Ecological Site Classification (ESC) decision support system to guide species choice. However, shade tolerant species such as beech and hornbeam maybe be utilised effectively within existing stands to protect and nurse other species. Consideration and consultation will also be undertaken for replacement species for ash i.e. Small-leaf lime, sycamore, oak,</p>

	<p>beech etc.</p> <p>We will also periodically review species choice at using the ESC and alter species accordingly where necessary.</p>
<p>Maximise opportunities for public involvement and to consult widely taking account of all stakeholders</p>	<p>We will consult with all stakeholders including the Herts Flora Group and Herts C.C. Countryside Management Service. We will aim to increase the number of activities for public involvement.</p>

Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information. Use this section to identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and also to record any engagement that you have undertaken, relative to activities identified within the plan.

Work Proposal	Individual/Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Thinning and Felling (species selection)	Herts CC/CMS				Response noted and integrated into Management Plan
	Herts County Archaeologist				Response noted and integrated into Management Plan
	Herts Ecology				Response noted and integrated into Management Plan
	Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust				Response noted and integrated into Management Plan
	Chorleywood Parish Council				Response noted and integrated into Management Plan
	HER Gateway	30-09-19	30-09-19	No concerns	Wood banks and boundary veteran trees noted in Plan
	MAGIC	30-09-19	30-09-19	Data relating to ASNW	Data Integrated into Management Plan
	NBN Atlas	30-09-19	30-09-19	Data relating to ASNW	Data Integrated into Management Plan
Restocking (species selection)	Herts CC/CMS				Response noted and integrated into Management

					Plan
					Response noted and integrated into Management Plan

Section 8: Monitoring

Indicators of progress/success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Other management activities could also be considered within this monitoring section. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective/Activities	Indicator of Progress/Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Seek to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological and economical viability together in harmony via a programme of sustainable woodland management in line with the UK Forestry Standard (2017)	Ensure continued regular thinning where appropriate and sustained yield within 70% YC. Age-classes gradually broken up	Visual assessment. Cpt records. Timber sales records.	At 5 year Plan Review Stage	TRDC	
Restore, value and protect the ancient semi-natural ecology and character and continue to enhance woodland biodiversity in line with Pheasants and Solomons Woods GAP (2007-2012) and the UKFS Forests & Biodiversity (2017)	No further decline in biodiversity. ASNW flora and fauna abundant. Vertical structure and ground and shrub layer development. Open habitats integrated. Survey to establish: Volumes of deadwood increasing – both standing and fallen. Increase in crevice	Visual assessment. Ecology survey. Cpt records. Plan Updated	At 5 year Plan Review Stage	TRDC	

	nesting species and saproxylic invertebrates				
Control the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) i.e. Cherry laurel and Rhododendron via an agreed programme of eradication and / or containment	Annual assessment of re-growth and / or new growth. Follow-up chemical treatment as required	Visual assessment. Mgt Plan Updated. Cpt records.	Annual	CMS	
Maintain all access fit for purpose i.e. footpaths, PRoW, Permissive Access and tracks for woodland operations	Maintain permissive access / rides where appropriate throughout. Forest operations accessible and functioning	Visual assessment. Cpt records.	Annual	CMS	
To actively manage the woodland canopy and understorey thereby ensuring the continued recruitment of young trees, either by planting or from seed (protected and weeded) to 2m+ target height AND by releasing existing advanced regeneration via respacing and over-head canopy reduction	Presence of all age-classes of desired species from 1 to 100+ years old. Young regeneration secured and thriving. Absence of heavy deer browsing to saplings. Absence of heavy squirrel damage. Reduction of dense blocks of holly.	Visual assessment. Cpt records. Plan Updated	Annual	TRDC	

Ensure woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities and to conserve the ancient woodland ecology, soils and integrity of the woodland	<p>Closer liaison with local stakeholders and public. Reduction in unauthorisried activities i.e. fly-tipping, camp fires etc. and increase in volunteering. Increase in ASNW features such as woodland ground flora</p>	<p>Record of progress meetings. Feedback from stakeholders . Visual assessment. Cpt records.</p>	Annual	CMS	
To conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood such as wood and hedge banks, boundary veteran trees	<p>Raise awareness and consult widely with stakeholders. No further damage to archaeology. Successsful veteran tree / beech / hornbeam stubb restoration programme.</p>	<p>Visual assessment. Cpt records. Feedback from stakeholders</p>	Prior to operations	CMS	
Seek to mitigate the potential effects of climate change and tree pests and diseases by developing ecosystem resilience via species and age class	<p>Raise awareness and consult widely with stakeholders.</p> <p>Wood contains stands of varied age classes and</p>	<p>Visual assessment. Cpt records. Plan Updated</p>	Annual	CMS	

diversification from phased thinning and careful species selection and regeneration informed by FC Ecological Site Classification (ESC)	species throughout. Reduction in controllable diseases. Absence of new diseases. Current biosecurity measures implemented.				
Maximise opportunities for public involvement and to consult widely taking account of all stakeholders	Record of consultation responses kept. Number of activities and numbers of public involvement increasing	Cpt records. Update Plan	At 5 Year Plan review stage	TRDC / CMS	

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
<p>Plan Objectives: Forest management plans should state the objectives of management and set out how an appropriate balance between social, economic, environmental objectives will be achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland. 	Yes/No	
<p>Forest context and important features in management strategy: Forest management plans should address the forest context and the forest potential and demonstrate how the relevant interests and issues have been considered and addressed.</p>	<p>Management intentions communicated in Sect. 6 of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) in Sect. 2. Management intentions should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant features and issues identified in the woodland survey (Sect. 4). • Any potential threats to and opportunities for the woodland, as identified under woodland protection (Sect. 5). • Relevant comments received from stakeholder engagement are documented in Sect. 7. 	Yes/No	
<p>Identification of designations within and surrounding the woodland site: For designated areas, e.g. National Parks or SSSI, particular account is taken of landscape and other sensitivities in the design of forests and forest infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey information (Sect. 4) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (Sect. 6) have taken account of any designations. 	Yes/No	
<p>Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age 	Yes/No	

<p>assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements.</p> <p>Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range of trees, appropriate to the scale and context.</p> <p>Forests characterised by a lack of diversity, due to extensive areas of even-aged trees, should be progressively restructured to achieve age class range.</p>	<p>structure) of the woodland has been identified through the survey (Sect. 4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management intentions aim to improve / maintain current diversity (structure, species, and ages of trees). 		
<p>Consultation:</p> <p>Consultation on forest management plans and proposals should be carried out according to forestry authority procedures and, where required, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation is in line with current FC guidance, and recorded in Sect. 7. The minimum requirement is for statutory consultation to take place, and this will be carried out by the Forestry Commission. • Plan authors undertake stakeholder engagement (ref FC Ops Note 35) relevant to the context and setting of the woodland. 	<p>Yes/No</p>	
<p>Plan update and review:</p> <p>Management of the forest should conform to the plan, and the plan should be updated to ensure it is current and relevant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5 year review period is stated on the 1st page of the plan • Sect. 8 is completed with 1 indicator of success identified per management objective 	<p>Yes/No</p>	

<p>Approved in Principle</p> <p><i>This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.</i></p> <p>a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.</p> <p>b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.</p>	<p>Name (WO or FM):</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p>Approved</p> <p><i>This means FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements, and we have also approved a felling licence for any tree felling in the plan (where required).</i></p>	<p>Name (AO, WO or FM):</p>	<p>Date:</p>

site ref name

82/028/01 Pheasant's Wood

doc. No.	Description	surveyor	date surveyed	unique record	on recorder	Date entered	entered by
1	Wildlife Site Survey 2013	Jean Williamson,	02/05/2013	no	yes	2014	J Mitchell
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

Wildlife Site Survey Report for: Pheasant's Wood

Site Ref:	82/028	Site size (ha):	13.36		
District:	Three Rivers	Central Grid Ref:	TQ038955		
Surveyors:	Jean Williamson, Brenda Harold, Carol Lodge				
Spp list by:	BH	Form by:	CL	Map by:	JW
Date of survey:	2/5/13	Weather:	Sunny, warm, still	Duration on site:	6 hours

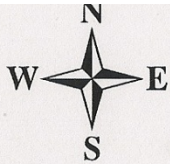
Geology:	Bedrock:	Chalk
	Superficial Deposits:	Beaconsfield gravel (Sand and gravel)

Original criteria:	H.1.1.1 Woodland recorded on the AWI	Habitat:	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural,
Criteria met:	H.1.1.1 & H1.1.3 (24 AWIs)		
Recommended changes to boundary	Yes – south-western-most area, west of fence-line. Not accessed – but not woodland – looks like area has been claimed for the horse-paddock/equestrian use, with some scrub patches left. Lost to WS.		
Original Site Description:	<p>Large woodland site bisected by the M25. Southern part is of ancient origin and the northern part is largely secondary. To the east, the canopy is mainly standards of Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) with a ground flora of Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Wood Melick (<i>Melica uniflora</i>). The wood to the north-west grades from a similar structure to the above to more scrubby Sycamore, Ash, Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) wood in the west. The ground flora here includes Sanicle (<i>Sanicula europaea</i>), Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) and Wood Sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>). The southern part is more acidic in character with Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) plus Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>), Sycamore, Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) and Hazel, with Bramble, Bluebell, Creeping Soft-grass (<i>Holcus mollis</i>) and Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) typical below. Several avenues of Yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) are present and an ancient hollow way supports old Hornbeam coppice. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site; woodland indicators.</p>		
Overall General Site Description:	<p>A large woodland site bisected by the M25. The woodland area to the east of the M25 has a varied assemblage and structure – the northern part is of predominantly mature Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), with a sparse mid-layer, which descends to a row of Yews (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) along the northernmost boundary with the railway. The southern part is more structurally diverse, with mature Sycamore, Ash and Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), a dense mid-layer of Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>), Sycamore saplings, Redcurrant (<i>Ribes rubrum</i>) and Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>). The ground layer has frequent Celandine (<i>Ficaria verna</i> ssp <i>verna</i>), Ivy-leaved Speedwell (<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>), Bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) and Raspberry (<i>Rubus idaeus</i>), Lords & Ladies (<i>Arum maculatum</i>), Early Dog Violet (<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>) and Common Dog Violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>), Figwort (<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>), Coralroot (<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>), Wood Millet (<i>Milium effusum</i>) and one large area of Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>). West of the M25, an avenue of Yews (photo 6) continues along the northern boundary. The north-eastern corner is composed of mature Beech,</p>		

	<p>Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>), Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>), Holly, with Sanicle (<i>Sanicula europaea</i>), Early Dog Violet and Coralroot in the herb layer. The far-western area is very steep sided, with impenetrable Hawthorn and Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>) patches, and carpets of Dogs Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) in large patches in the ground layer. The middle zone (southwards towards the bottle-neck) has old gravel pits with mature Oak and Beech, with much-eroded roots. A short remnant woodbank remains, with a line of ancient Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) boundary trees marking the westernmost edge of the ancient woodland boundary. Ground flora here includes Sweet Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>), Coralroot and Bluebells.</p> <p>The level-ground block of woodland south of the bottle-neck is a secondary woodland of mature Beech and Sycamore, with dense Holly, English Elm, and carpets of Bluebell, Cleavers, Honeysuckle.</p> <p>Coralroot (<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>) is very widely distributed and abundant in both east and west areas – this site may possibly contain the largest population of Coralroot in the county.</p>
<p>Compartment 1: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ040953</p>	<p>East of M25.</p> <p>Northern area with sparse mature Beech, dead old Birches, semi-mature Sycamore and Ash, all approx 25yrs old. Dogs Mercury, Holly, Coralroot, Enchanters Nightshade, Figwort, Early and Common Dog Violets. Sparse mid-layer. This section has steep-sloping pit and descends to railway, with a row of Yews along the railway.</p> <p>The South grades into more mixed-age, more structurally diverse, of mature Sycamore, Ash and Oak, with a dense mid-layer of Elder, Holly, Spindle, Sycamore, Redcurrant and Hawthorn. Ground layer of Celandine, Ivy-leaved Speedwell, Bluebells (Hybrid/Native), Bramble and Raspberry, Lords & Ladies, Millet, Cocksfoot, Dog Violet, Figwort, Coralroot and one large patch of Wood Sorrel near railway in central area.</p>
<p>Compartment 2: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ038953</p>	<p>West of M25:</p> <p>Row of Yews along railway, Beech, Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut, Cherry, Holly. Dogs Mercury, Sanicle, Early Dog Violet, Coralroot.</p> <p>Far western secondary woodland area, with very steep sides and has impenetrable Hawthorn and Honeysuckle, ground flora carpets of Dog's Mercury.</p> <p>Bottleneck – possible gravel pits with erosion around old Oaks (gravel and sand apparent). A brief remnant woodbank with a line of old Coppiced Hornbeams marks the westernmost edge of the old Ancient Woodland boundary. Ground flora here of Sweet Woodruff and Coralroot, native Bluebells.</p> <p>South-western section – secondary woodland with dense Holly, Beech, Sycamore, English Elm, with carpets of Bluebell, Cleavers, Honeysuckle. Ground very level.</p>

Fauna:	Birds:	Buzzard, Blackbird, Wren, Robin, Woodpecker, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Chaffinch, Blue and Great Tits, Thrush, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff
	Mammals:	Badger set in far south-western area – along northern boundary, just outside the fenceline.
	Invertebrates:	Bumblebees, Peacock, Orange Tip, Beefly, Speckled Wood
Invasive species:	Cherry Laurel was the most abundant invasive, present in both compartments. In compartment 1 there were also several probable garden escapes (Crocus, Narcissus, Iris, cultivated Yellow Archangel, Hybrid Bluebell) but only as isolated individuals in the east nearest the houses. None in compartment 2	
Current Management:	Some management (clearings) in eastern area, mostly non-intervention in western woodland.	
Recommended Management:		
Compartment 1	Recommend some felling for new clearings (leave cut wood on site), and try ringbarking of Sycamores in Eastern woodland to create large standing deadwood as well as increase light to the ground flora. Continue with Laurel management.	
Compartment 2	As per Comp 1.	
Surrounding landuse	Railway to North, M25 running through, ancient woodland to mid-east, residential to south east and south, equestrian pastures to south west and mid-west, residential gardens to north west.	

Table 1: Woodland habitat condition (this is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005)		
Attributes	Targets for positive condition	detail
Structure and natural processes	UNDERSTOREY (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (NB: Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) and Oak (<i>Quercus</i>) woods often have sparse shrub layer)	20% approx – mostly in southern areas.
	CANOPY COVER present over 30-90% of stand area (Coppiced stands have lower canopy cover)	90%
	AGE CLASSES (seedlings, saplings, young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature+) – list the age classes present, spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees	Various overall – sparser for young classes in north eastern section.
	OLD GROWTH FEATURES: Some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over maturity/death on site (e.g. min of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees/hectare)	Plentiful mature trees and some ring-barking of mature Sycamores – 10% overall
	FALLEN DEAD WOOD: A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing	Yes probably – although changes throughout
Regeneration	Are there signs of seedlings and saplings growth by natural regeneration? – describe age classes (seedlings, saplings, young) and density	Yes – mostly Ash and Sycamore, all young classes, frequent in places
	No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting as opposed to natural regeneration?	n/a
	Are the new plantings all with natives?	n/a
Composition: trees and shrubs	At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site native or acceptably naturalised species	Varies throughout – some areas with dense Yew and Laurel, while some without any non-natives.
	Death/destruction/damage of native woodland species through effects of deer/squirrels/Ash-die-back or other external unnatural factors (e.g fires/flytipping etc) not more than 10% of total area?	<10%



01/05/2013

District Boundary
 Pheasant's Wood
 WS 82/028

KEY:
 LV Cb - layered veteran hornbeam
 V Qr - veteran oak
 V Fg - veteran beech
 M Fg - mature beech
 M Ap - mature sycamore
 M Fr - mature ash
 M Qr - mature oak



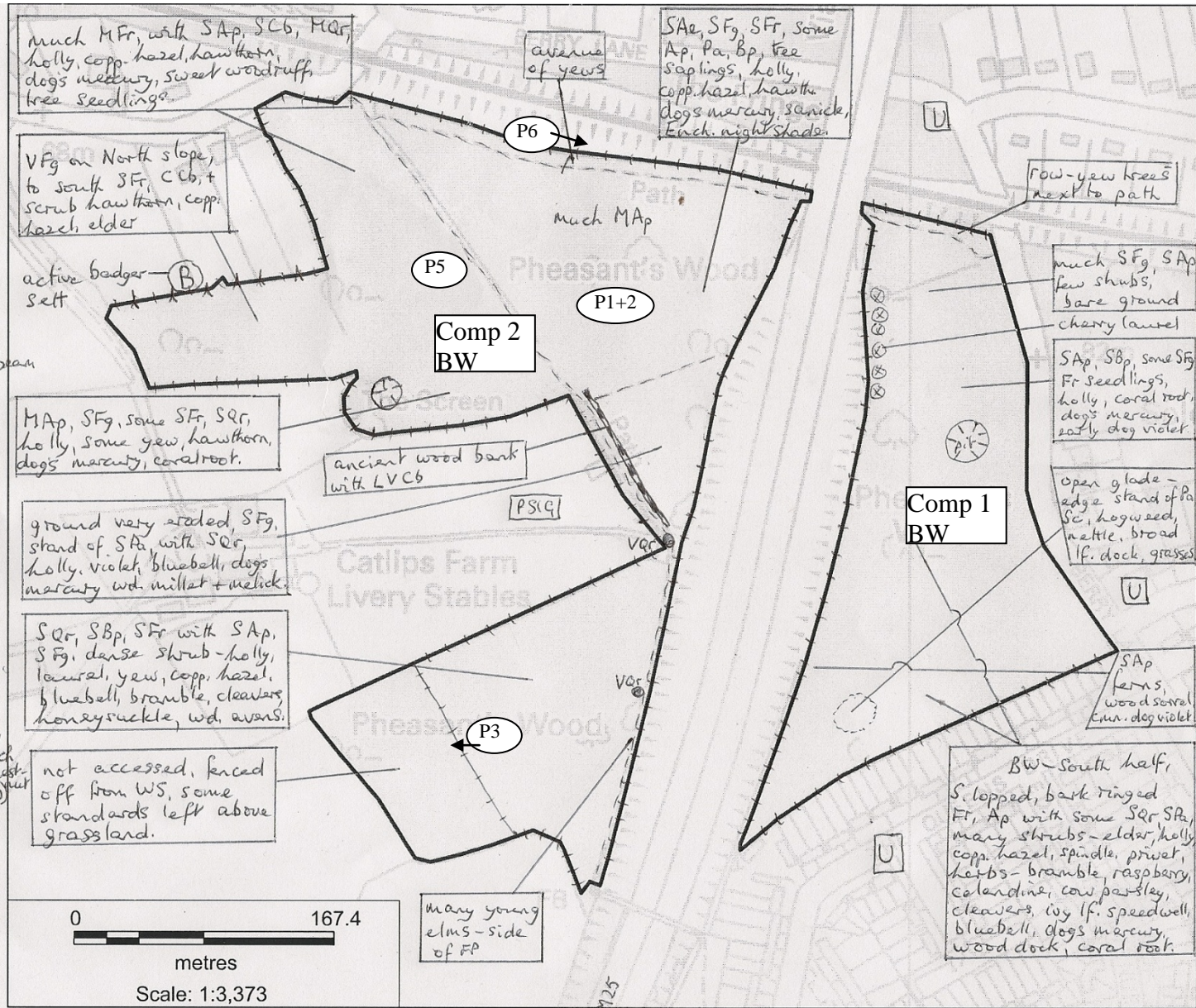
S - standard
 Ap sycamore Fr ash
 Cb hornbeam Pa cherry
 Qr oak Bp sil. birch
 Fg beech A2 horse chestnut
















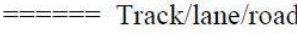



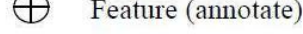

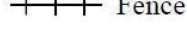



















Surveyor Name: CL, Bt, Jw (map)

Survey Date: 02.05.2013

P3

© Crown copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100019606. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form. (This restriction may not apply to HCC and its licensed contractors, agents & partners.)



		WS boundary (NB use a red line to denote anywhere boundary changes should be made)	
W O O D L A N D & S C R U B		Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	 Coppiced broadleaved woodland
		Plantation broadleaved woodland	 Relict coppiced broadleaved woodland
		Plantation coniferous woodland	
		Mixed woodland	
		Dense-continuous scrub	
		Scattered scrub (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Mixed Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Broadleaved recently felled woodland	
G R A S S L A N D		Unimproved acid grassland	 Path  Track/lane/road  Hedgerow  Ditch  Bank  Feature (annotate)  Stream  Fence
		Semi-improved acid grassland	
		Unimproved calcareous grassland	
		Semi-improved calcareous grassland	
		Unimproved neutral grassland	
		Semi-improved neutral grassland	
		Improved grassland	
		Marsh/marshy grassland	
		Species-poor semi-improved grassland	
	Tall herb and fen		
		Scattered bracken (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Tall ruderal vegetation	
		Non-ruderal vegetation (fen, e.g. reed/sweetgrass dominant stands)	
WATER		Standing water	
		Running water	
C U L T I V A T E D		Arable land	
		Amenity grassland	 Urban
		Ephemeral/short (e.g. herbal pioneer communities/weedy species)	
		Perennial introduced shrub (eg snowberry, rhododendron, laurel, cotoneaster, bamboo etc)	



07/05/2013

District Boundary
 District Boundary

HCC Wildlife Sites
 HCC Wildlife Sites

HMWT Reserves
 HMWT Reserves

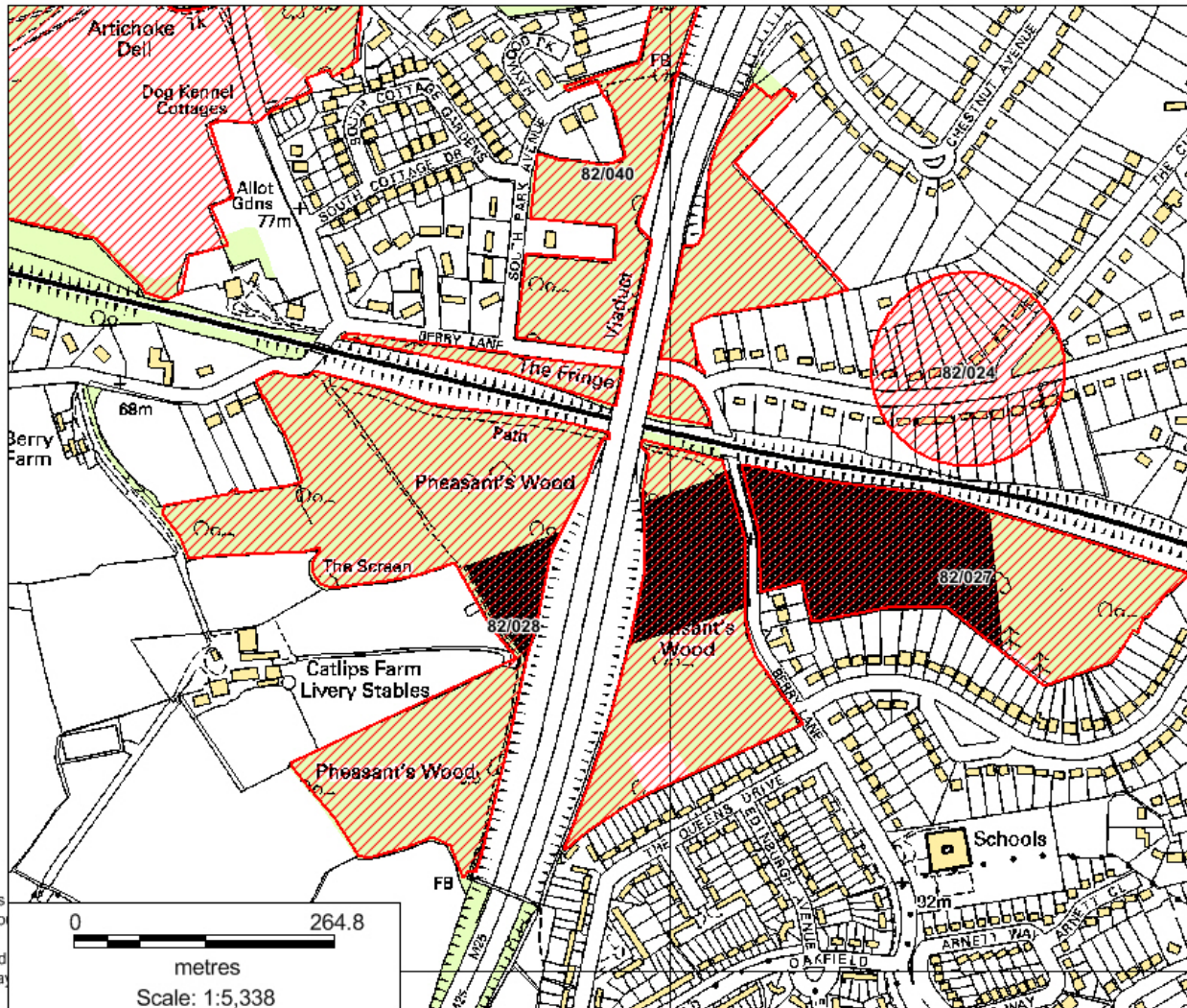
AWI area
 AWI area



Surveyor Name: _____

Survey Date: _____

© Crown copyright and database rights
 2013 Ordnance Survey 100019606. You
 are not permitted to copy, sub-licence,
 distribute or sell any of this data to third
 parties in any form. (This restriction may
 not apply to HCC and its licensed
 contractors, agents & partners.)



Pheasant's Wood Ancient Woodland area

Species List

Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	Comp1	Comp2
			DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		R	F
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder		R	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Chestnut, Horse*			O
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Mustard, Garlic		R	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Parsley, Cow	- c/n/w	R	R
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies		R	R
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch, Silver		R	O
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Brome, False			+
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot~	*	R	R
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Bitter-cress, Wavy	*	R	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	*	R	R
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Willowherb, Rosebay	- a/c	R	
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	*	R	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Thistle, Creeping	- a/c/n/w		+
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Thistle, Spear	- a/c/n/w	+	+
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	*	R	O
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		O	O
<i>Crocus cultivar</i>	Crocus, cultivated*		+	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	- a/c/n/w	O	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	*		+
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Fern, Broad Buckler	*	R	+
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Fern, Male		R	+
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Couch, Common		+	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Willowherb, Great		R	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle		R	R
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech		+	F
<i>Ficaria verna ssp verna</i>	Celandine, Lesser		O	O
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Strawberry, Wild			+
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		A	F
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	- c/n	O	R
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff, Sweet	*		R
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		R	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		O	R
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy		+	+
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		R	O
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		R	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	- a/c/n/w	R	R
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	*	O	O
<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	Bluebell, hybrid*		R	
<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	St John's-wort, Hairy		R	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	*	R	F
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Iris, Stinking*	*	+	

Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*fa/n/c/w/f) & neg inds (*-)	Comp1	Comp2
			DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> ssp <i>argentatum</i>	Archangel, Yellow, cultivated*		+	
<i>Lamium album</i>	Dead Nettle, White		+	
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort			+
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Privet, Garden*		+	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye-grass, Perennial	- a/c/n/w	R	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle			O
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Wood-rush, Hairy	*	+	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Melick, Wood	*		R
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	*	O	A
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Millet, Wood	*	R	R
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Sandwort, Three-veined	*	R	R
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forget-me-not, Wood, cultivated*		R	
<i>Narcissus</i>	Daffodil, Cultivated*		+	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	*	R	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Plantain, Greater	- a/c/n	R	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Meadow-grass, Smooth			+
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow-grass, Rough	- w		R
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry, Wild	*	R	O
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Laurel, Cherry*		O	O
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		R	R
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken			R
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak, Pedunculate		R	O
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow	n	+	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Buttercup, Creeping	- w	R	R
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Currant, Red		R	R
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry		+	
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Rose, Field	*		+
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Rose, Dog, agg.			+
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble		O	O
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry		R	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Dock, Broad-leaved	- c/n/w	R	+
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Dock, Wood		R	R
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Willow, Goat		+	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		R	O
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	*	+	R
<i>Schedonorus giganteus</i>	Fescue, Giant	*	+	+
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Figwort	*	R	+
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort, Common	- a/c/n	+	
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Campion, Red		R	R
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan / Mountain Ash		+	R
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Woundwort, Hedge		R	R
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Stitchwort, Greater			+
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion family		R	

Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	Comp1	Comp2
			DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew		R	O
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	a	+	+
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	Elm, English			R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle, Stinging	- a/c/n/w	R	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Speedwell, Germander	c/n	+	+
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Speedwell, Ivy-leaved		O	R
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Violet, Early Dog	*	R	R
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Violet, Common Dog	*	R	
*=planted/introduced/escape	per compartment totals:		77	66

Total species (all comp.s)		total indicators					
93		27					
Comp1	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	20	2	1	1	0	0	3
Comp2	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	19	1	1	1	0	0	2
All Compartments:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	24	2	1	1	0	0	3
Thresholds:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
min size (ha)	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
min indicators	10	8	5	8	5	5	12
Criteria met	Met						

DAFOR Scale:

D	Dominant	>75% cover
A	Abundant	51-75% cover
F	Frequent	26-50% cover
O	Occasional	11-25% cover
R	Rare	<11% cover, >=5 individual plants
+	Very Rare	<5 individual plants

Photos:



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

Solomon's Wood

Administrative areas: Chorleywood (Civil Parish)
Hertfordshire (English County 1974 -)
Hertfordshire (Watsonian Vice County)

Status(es): Ancient Woodland Inventory by Nature Conservancy Council
Ecology Database Site by HBRC (Records Centre)
Wildlife Site by Wildlife Sites Partnership on 01/01/1997

Centroid: TQ043954 (Site Centroid)

Site type: Site

Site/Subsite hierarchy: Solomon's Wood

File code: 82/027

Description: Ancient semi-natural broadleaved open woodland composed of Beech, Hornbeam, Ash and Sycamore. There are a few large Beech trees present. Other trees include Silver Birch, Scots Pine and Sweet Chestnut. The ground flora supports ancient woodland indicators but is mainly Dog's Mercury, Ivy and Bramble. The wood supports a large population of the nationally scarce plant Coralroot Bittercress. There is a patch of Bracken in the north. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site, 24 woodland indicator species (survey 22.05.05).

No. of species records: 7
No. of habitat records: 2

Meta data: Originally entered by "Jennifer Jones" on 11/07/2003. Last changed by "Barry Tranter" on 17/03/2006.

SOLOMON'S WOOD

HERTFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE

Recorder site no: 3312 File code: 82/027
Site name(s): Solomon's Wood
Grid reference(s): TQ043954
TQ0495
Parish(es): Chorleywood
Vice-county(s): Hertfordshire
Modern county(s): Hertfordshire
Site status(es): Ancient Woodland Inventory
Ecology Database Site
County Wildlife Site
Total area: 5.11 Ha

Habitat Information

Code	Habitat Type	Area (Ha)
A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural	4.00
C1	Tall herb and fern: Bracken	

Site Description

Ancient semi-natural broadleaved open woodland composed of Beech, Hornbeam Ash and Sycamore. There are a few large Beech trees present. Other trees include Silver Birch, Scots Pine and Sweet Chestnut. The ground flora supports ancient woodland indicators but is mainly Dogs Mercury and Ivy. There is a patch of Bracken in the north.

History of Site

Ancient woodland site.

People Associated with the Site

Three Rivers District Council

Nature of Association

Documents relating to Site

English Nature, Dawn Isaac & Christine Reid (1996). Amendments to the ancient Woodland Inventory for England, July 1994 - February 1996.

Nature Conservancy Council (1988). Hertfordshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland.

Related Maps, Photographs etc.

Phase one woodland 1985

Comment

Wildlife Site criteria: AWI, >10 woodland indicator species

Page 1

21 JAN 2002

Local Wildlife Site 10 Year Monitoring Survey Form for: Solomon's Wood

The monitoring survey is to establish whether there's any noticeable changes to the LWS since the previous full LWS Survey

Site Ref:	82/027	Site size (ha):	5.06
District:	Three Rivers	Central Grid Ref:	TQ043954
Surveyors:	Stephen Mason, Janet Lowndes Carol Lodge		
Form by:	CL	Map by:	CL
Date of survey:	3/2/16	Duration on site:	2.5 hours

Geology:	Bedrock:	Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation
	Superficial Deposits:	No data on Map Info

Original criteria:	H.1.1.1	Habitat:	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Bracken.
---------------------------	---------	-----------------	---

Recommended changes to boundary	
--	--

Original Site Description:	Ancient semi-natural broadleaved open woodland composed of Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) including several large Beech specimens, Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>), Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>). Other trees include Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>), Horse-chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>) Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) and Sweet Chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>). The shrub layer is varied with Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), especially in the west, and also Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>) with invading Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>) and Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>). The ground flora is predominantly Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) with Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) and some Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>). Numerous ancient woodland indicators have been recorded including Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Wood Sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>), Broad Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>), Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>), Yellow Pimpernel (<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>) Wood Melick (<i>Melica uniflora</i>), Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>) and the nationally scarce species Coralroot (<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>). Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site; woodland indicators.
-----------------------------------	---

Landowner questionnaire (filled in by the WSO) – how the site has been managed since the previous survey

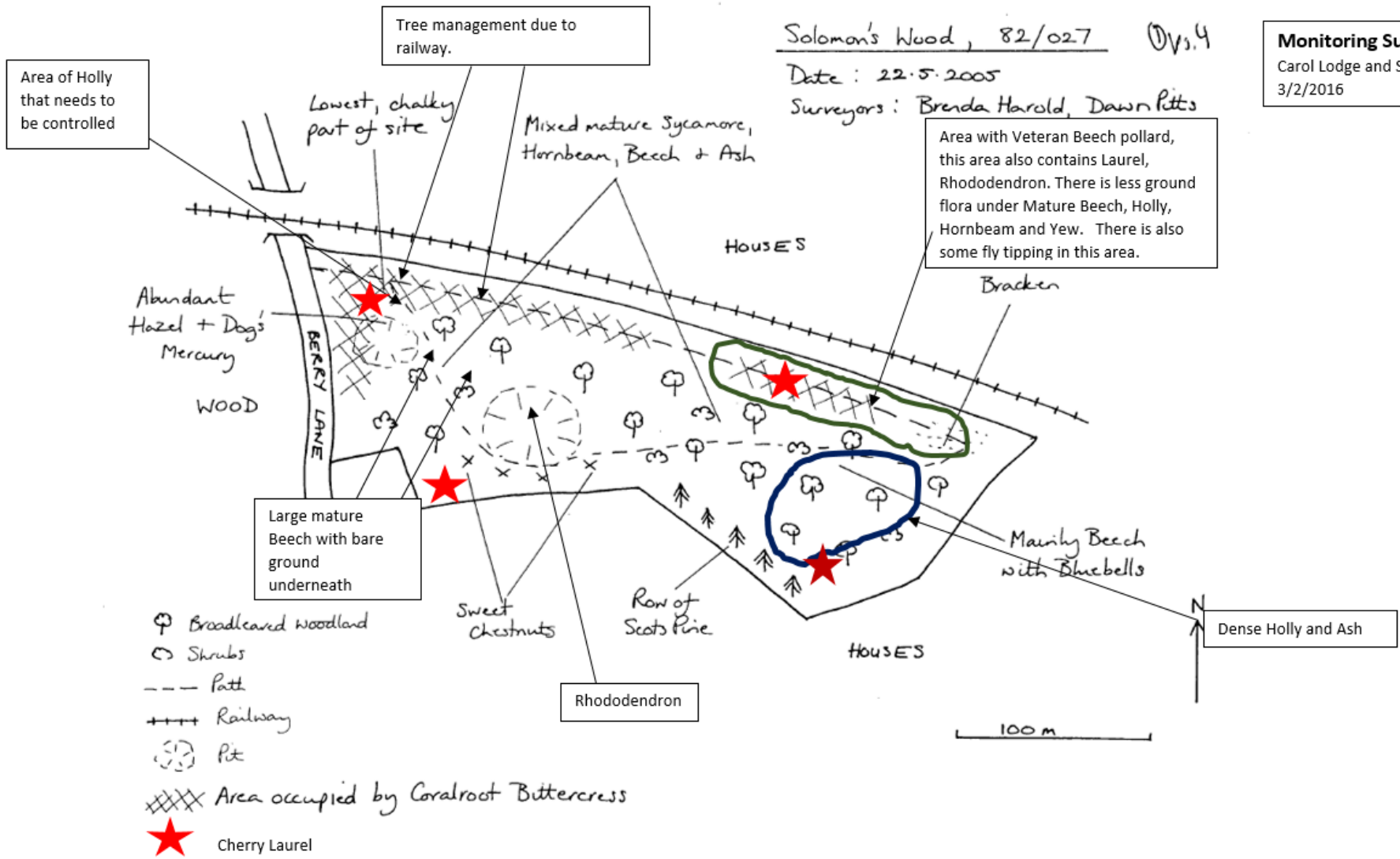
- Is the site in Environmental Stewardship?
- How has the landowner been using/managing the site in the past 10 years (or since the previous survey)?
- Is the landowner aware that the site is a LWS and what that means?
- How had the landowner expected the site to be managed in the next 10 years or so (i.e. before receiving our advice)?
- Has the landowner received any management advice (from other sources)?
- Does the landowner have the previous Survey Report?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would the landowner welcome management advice, to improve the site for wildlife? 	
Compartments:	
Compartment 1:	<p>There is some Laurel present. Dense Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) and some Honey Suckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>), felled Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>) for safety reasons and tall Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>).</p> <p>The woodland does not appear to have changed much since the previous 2005 survey, however the Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) may have increased. There is little deer damage and there is a good range of tree age classes, including old Cherry trees (<i>Prunus avium</i>). There is some standing dead wood within the woodland. The ground flora is diverse however the Laurel has increased in the North-West corner.</p>

Is a summer survey required?	Yes/No	Justification if yes:
Invasive species:	Please mark the position of any invasive spp on the map.	
Other species:	Red Kite, Blue Bird, Great Tit, Robin, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Song Thrush.	
Current Management (as seen):	Pollarding near fence line. Tree felling for Health and Safety and neighbours.	
Recommended Management:	(NB: refer to any invasive species recorded, as well as their abundance and distribution, under the relevant compartment)	
Compartment 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurel is an invasive species and should therefore be cleared as it outcompetes native flora and decreases woodland diversity. • The Holly can also be cleared in some areas to allow more light to access the understory. • Remove fly tipping from the woodland. 	

Any additional comments	
Surrounding landuse (briefly describe):	

Table 1: Woodland habitat condition (this is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005)		
Attributes	Targets for positive condition	detail
Structure and natural processes	UNDERSTOREY (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (NB: Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) and Oak (<i>Quercus</i>) woods often have sparse shrub layer)	Good understory except under Beech
	CANOPY COVER present over 30-90% of stand area (Coppiced stands have lower canopy cover)	80%
	AGE CLASSES (seedlings, saplings, young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature+) – list the age classes present, spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees	Good mixture, few young trees about 10 years old, there are also some Veterans
	OLD GROWTH FEATURES: Some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over maturity/death on site (e.g. min of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees/hectare)	Veteran and Mature trees, Beech, Cherry, Chestnut and Hornbeam
	FALLEN DEAD WOOD: A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing	Not Much Some felled and chopped
Regeneration	Are there signs of seedlings and saplings growth by natural regeneration? – describe age classes (seedlings, saplings, young) and density	Up to 5 years
	No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting as opposed to natural regeneration?	No planting
	Are the new plantings all with natives?	N/A
Composition: trees and shrubs	At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site native or acceptably naturalised species	Yes but some problem invasives
	Death/destruction/damage of native woodland species through effects of deer/squirrels/Ash-die-back or other external unnatural factors (e.g fires/flytipping etc) not more than 10% of total area?	Little deer damage



This page is intentionally left blank



Carpenters Wood

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2025 – 2030



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Actions Plans (GAPs) are map-based management plans which specify activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site.

Three Rivers District Council hold a separate Woodland Management Plan for the site which facilitates their continued certification by the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS); the two plans are complementary and should be read in conjunction.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An engagement period was held for 6 weeks in August 2024, to establish core aims and objectives for the site and enabled stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1	17/06/2024	Draft	KW	AT/AL	AL
2	13/08/2024	Final	KW	AL	AL

CONTENTS

Overview	i
Greenspace Action Plans	i
Public Engagement.....	i
Version Control	i
Contents.....	ii
1.0 Summary.....	1
1.1 Site Summary.....	1
1.2 Vision Statement.....	1
2.0 Site Description	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Site Designations	6
2.3 Geology and Hydrology.....	7
2.4 Landscape Character.....	7
2.5 History and Archaeology	7
2.6 Habitats and Wildlife	8
2.6.1 Woodland	8
2.6.2 Species.....	11
2.7 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure.....	12
2.7.1 Access	12
2.7.2 Interpretation & Signage.....	13
2.8 Site Management.....	13
3.0 Analysis & Evaluation.....	15
3.1 A Welcoming Place	15
3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure	15
3.3 Clean and Well Maintained	16
3.4 Sustainability	16
3.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage.....	17
3.5.1 Woodland Management.....	17
3.5.2 Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)	17
3.5.3 Long Term Retention	19
3.5.4 PAWS Restoration.....	19
3.5.5 Woodland Understory	20

3.5.6	Veteran Hornbeam Boundary Trees	21
3.5.7	Rides, Glades and Open Space	22
3.6	Community Involvement and Marketing	23
4.0	Aim & Objectives	25
5.0	Action Plans and Maps	28
5.1	ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS	28
5.2	YEAR 1 2025 - 2026	30
5.3	YEAR 2 2026 - 27	33
5.4	YEAR 3 - 5 2027 - 2030	35
6.0	Specifications	37
6.1	General prescriptions relevant to all operations	37
6.2	Thinning of conifers – PAWS Restoration	37
6.3	Selective Felling – Continuous Cover Forestry	38
6.4	Ride widening – main rides	39
6.5	Ride management.....	40
6.6	Coppicing Hornbeam Stubbs	41
7.0	Appendices	42
7.1	Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan	42
7.2	Woodland Management Plan Habitats Map.....	42
7.3	Woodland Management Plan Compartments Map.....	42
7.4	Carpenters Wood Management Zones Map	42

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Carpenters Wood

Site Address: Whitelands Avenue
Chorleywood
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
Wd3 5RQ

Grid Reference: TQ 015967

Size: 22.8 hectares (56 acres)

Designations: London Metropolitan Green Belt;
Local wildlife site; Carpenters Wood & Hillas Wood, ref 82/001
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – The Chilterns
Tree Preservation Order (TPO)
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW);
Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

Owner: Three Rivers District Council

1.2 Vision Statement

To maintain Carpenters Wood in the landscape in perpetuity for the benefit of all and to protect and enhance the ancient-semi-natural character of the wood while maximising biodiversity and recreational potential side-by-side. To support community participation in the management of the site and maintain the woodland as an important feature of the landscape.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Carpenters Wood is a 22.6ha Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) located within the village of Chorleywood, near Rickmansworth, sitting on the Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire border. It is surrounded by housing to the south and east, a railway to the northeast, and open farmland on all other sides. It largely occupies a plateau above the surrounding housing and is locally very prominent in a suburban landscape. The woodland is owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) in conjunction with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and the Friends of Carpenters Wood (FoCW)

The woodland comprises of three compartments - Hillas Wood, Whitelands Wood and Carpenters Wood, collectively referred to as Carpenters Wood. It is primarily ancient, semi-natural Beech woodland with Oak, Ash, and Hornbeam. It contains a diverse ground flora and supports a wide range of ancient woodland indicator species. Many of the western boundaries of the woodland are old wood banks with veteran hornbeam stubs. Areas of mature Beech were blown down during the storms of 1987, and subsequently replanted with a mixture of Larch and Oak.



Beech woodland characteristic of Whitelands Wood

Carpenters Wood

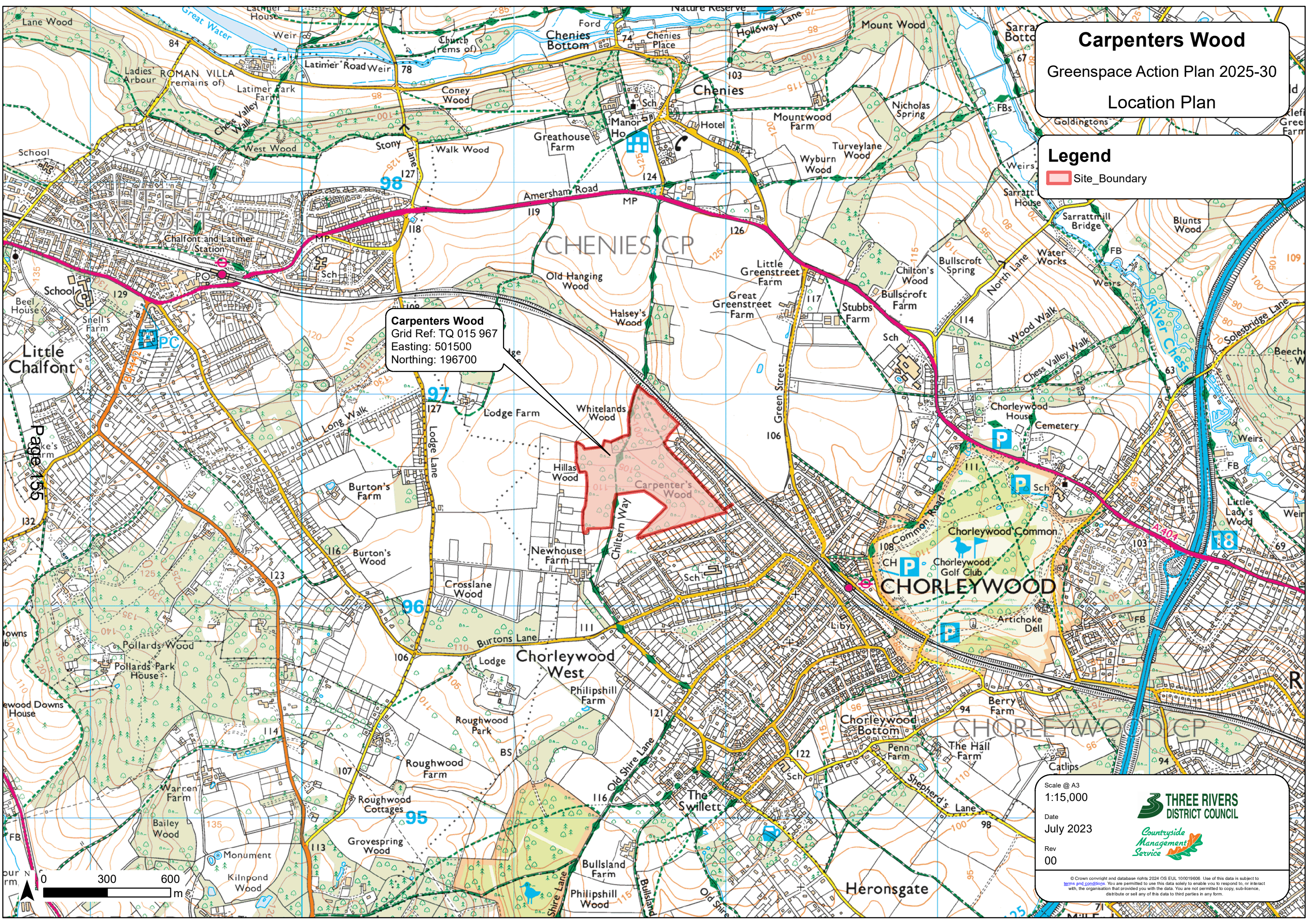
Greenspace Action Plan 2025-30

Location Plan

Legend

- Site_Boundary

Carpenters Wood
Grid Ref: TQ 015 967
Easting: 501500
Northing: 196700



Page 155



Scale @ A3
1:15,000
Date
July 2023
Rev
00

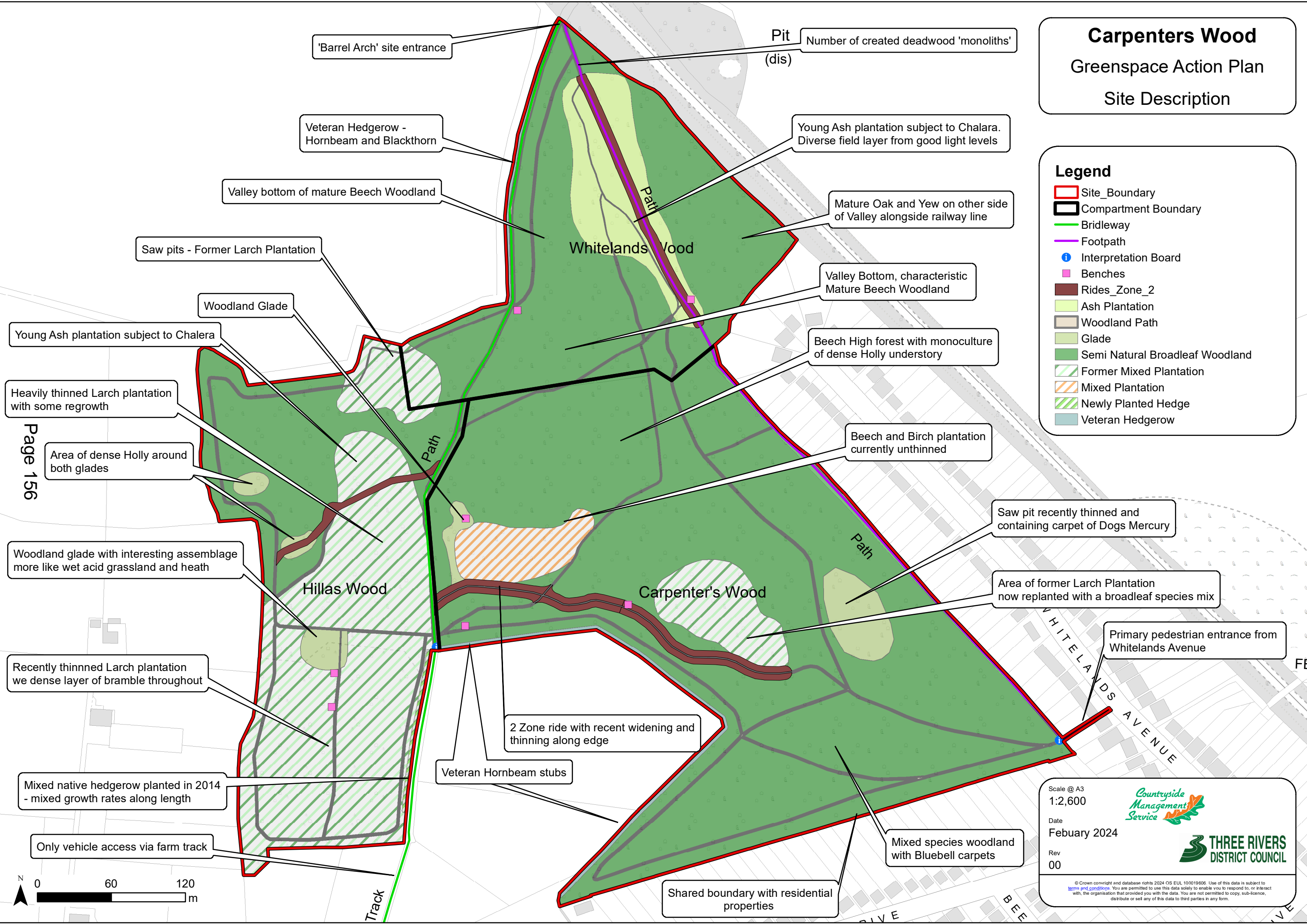
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
Countryside Management Service

© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan Site Description

Legend

- Site_Boundary
- Compartment Boundary
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- i Interpretation Board
- Benches
- Rides_Zone_2
- Ash Plantation
- Woodland Path
- Glade
- Semi Natural Broadleaf Woodland
- Former Mixed Plantation
- Mixed Plantation
- Newly Planted Hedge
- Veteran Hedgerow



'Barrel Arch' site entrance

Pit (dis) Number of created deadwood 'monoliths'

Veteran Hedgerow - Hornbeam and Blackthorn

Young Ash plantation subject to Chalara. Diverse field layer from good light levels

Valley bottom of mature Beech Woodland

Mature Oak and Yew on other side of Valley alongside railway line

Saw pits - Former Larch Plantation

Whitelands Wood

Valley Bottom, characteristic Mature Beech Woodland

Woodland Glade

Young Ash plantation subject to Chalera

Beech High forest with monoculture of dense Holly understory

Heavily thinned Larch plantation with some regrowth

Beech and Birch plantation currently unthinned

Area of dense Holly around both glades

Woodland glade with interesting assemblage more like wet acid grassland and heath

Hillas Wood

Carpenter's Wood

Saw pit recently thinned and containing carpet of Dogs Mercury

Area of former Larch Plantation now replanted with a broadleaf species mix

Recently thinned Larch plantation we dense layer of bramble throughout

2 Zone ride with recent widening and thinning along edge

Primary pedestrian entrance from Whitelands Avenue

Mixed native hedgerow planted in 2014 - mixed growth rates along length

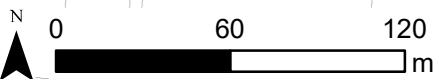
Veteran Hornbeam stubs

Mixed species woodland with Bluebell carpets

Only vehicle access via farm track

Shared boundary with residential properties

Page 156



Scale @ A3
1:2,600

Date
February 2024












Rev
00

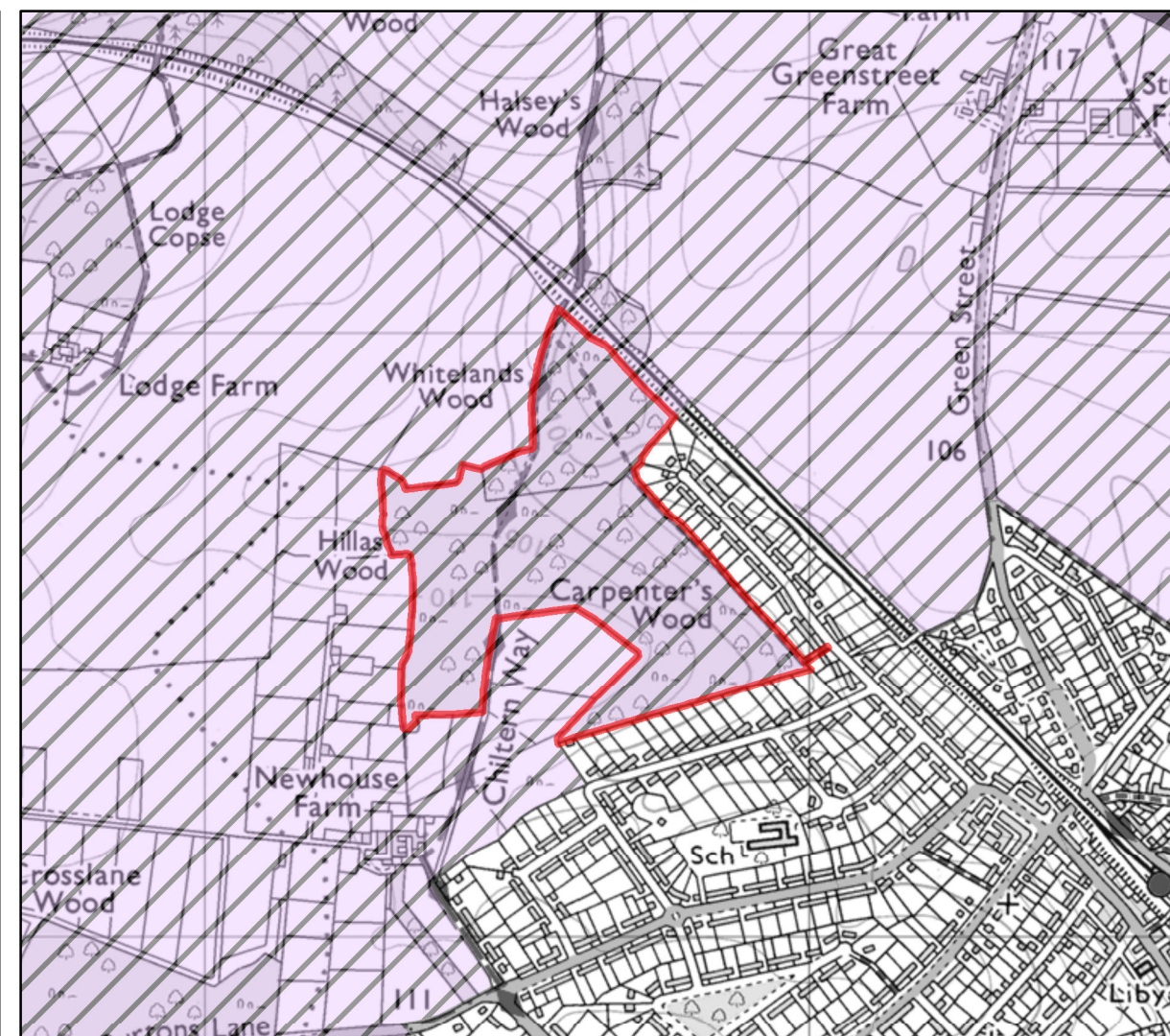
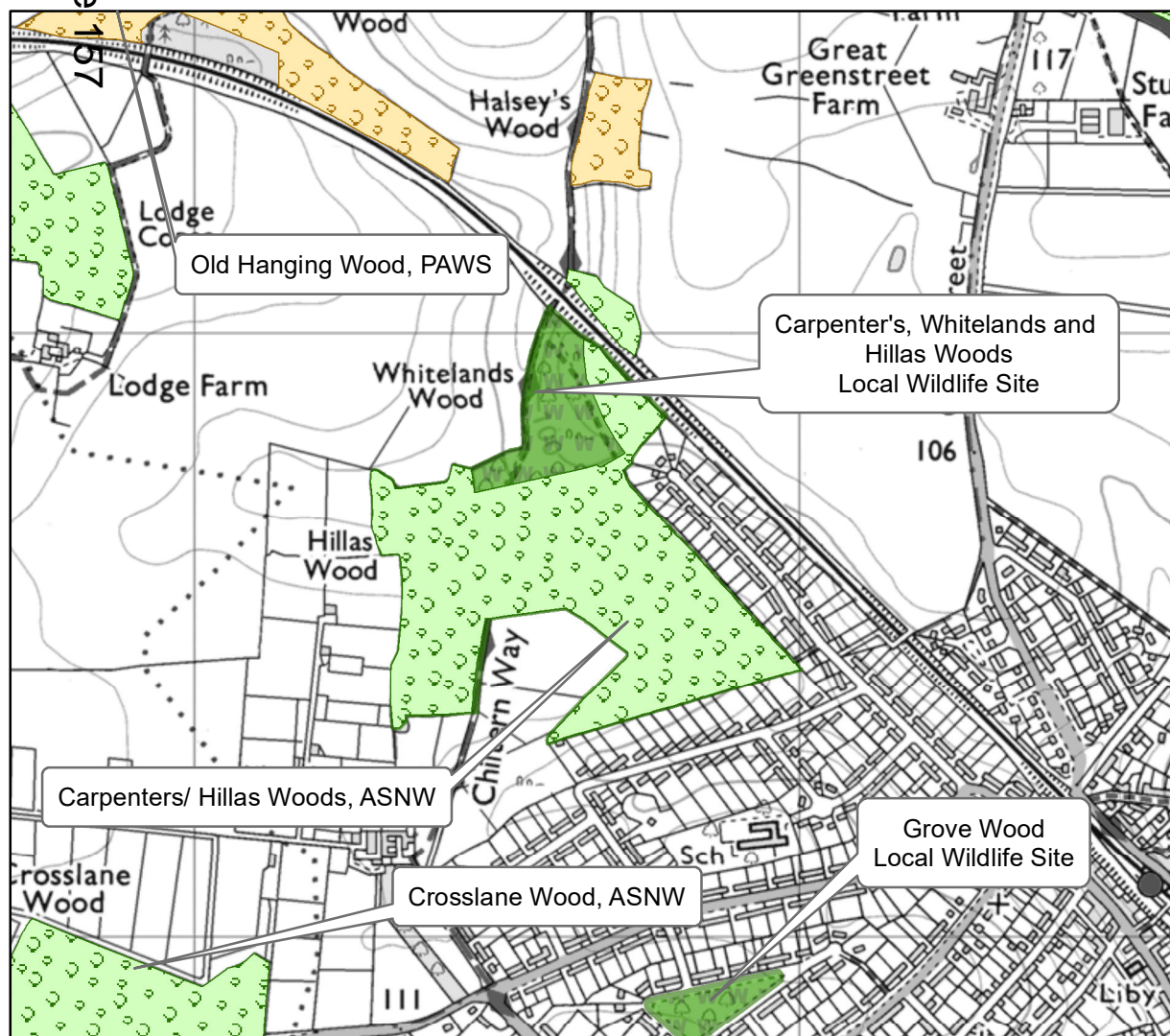
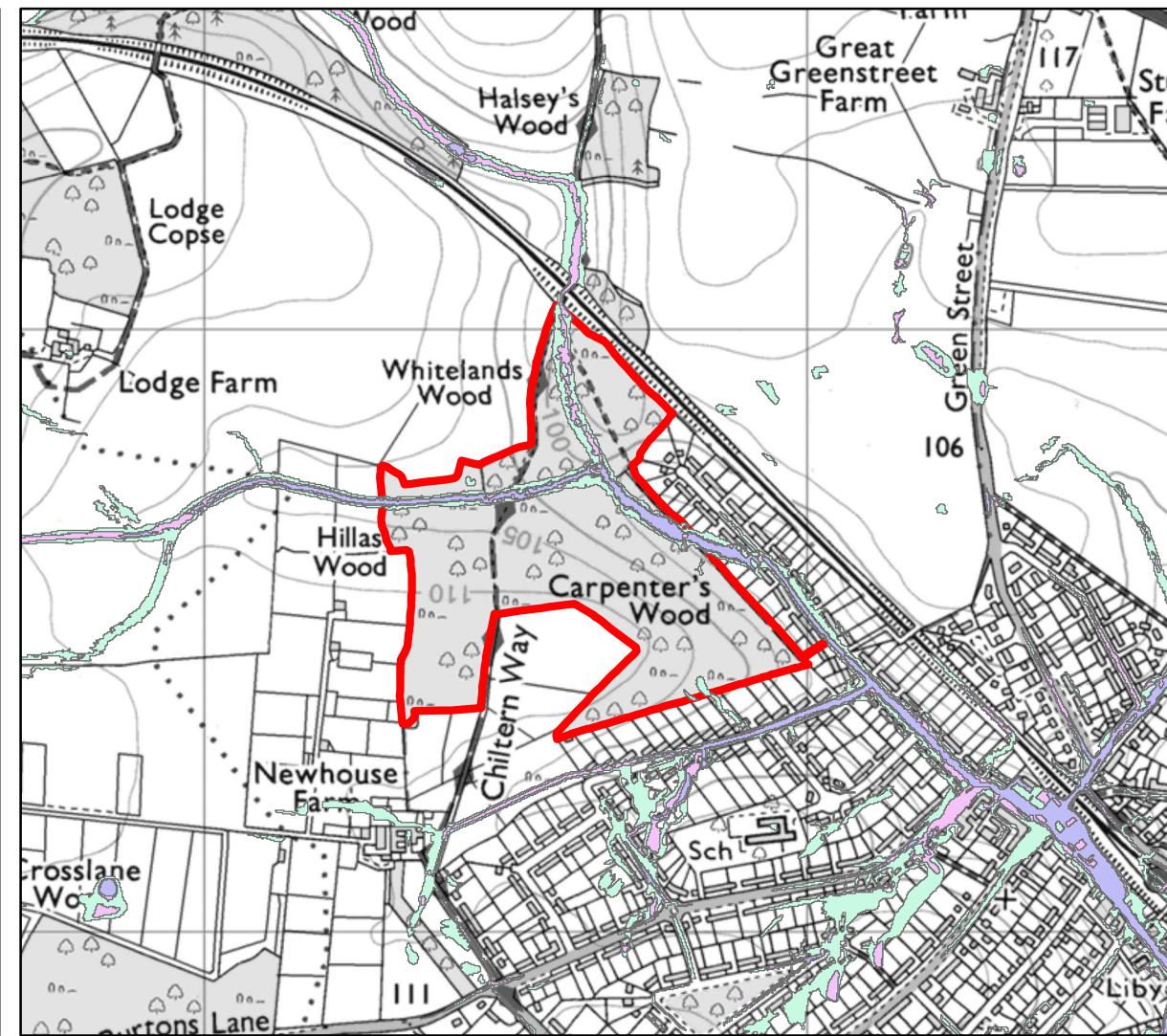
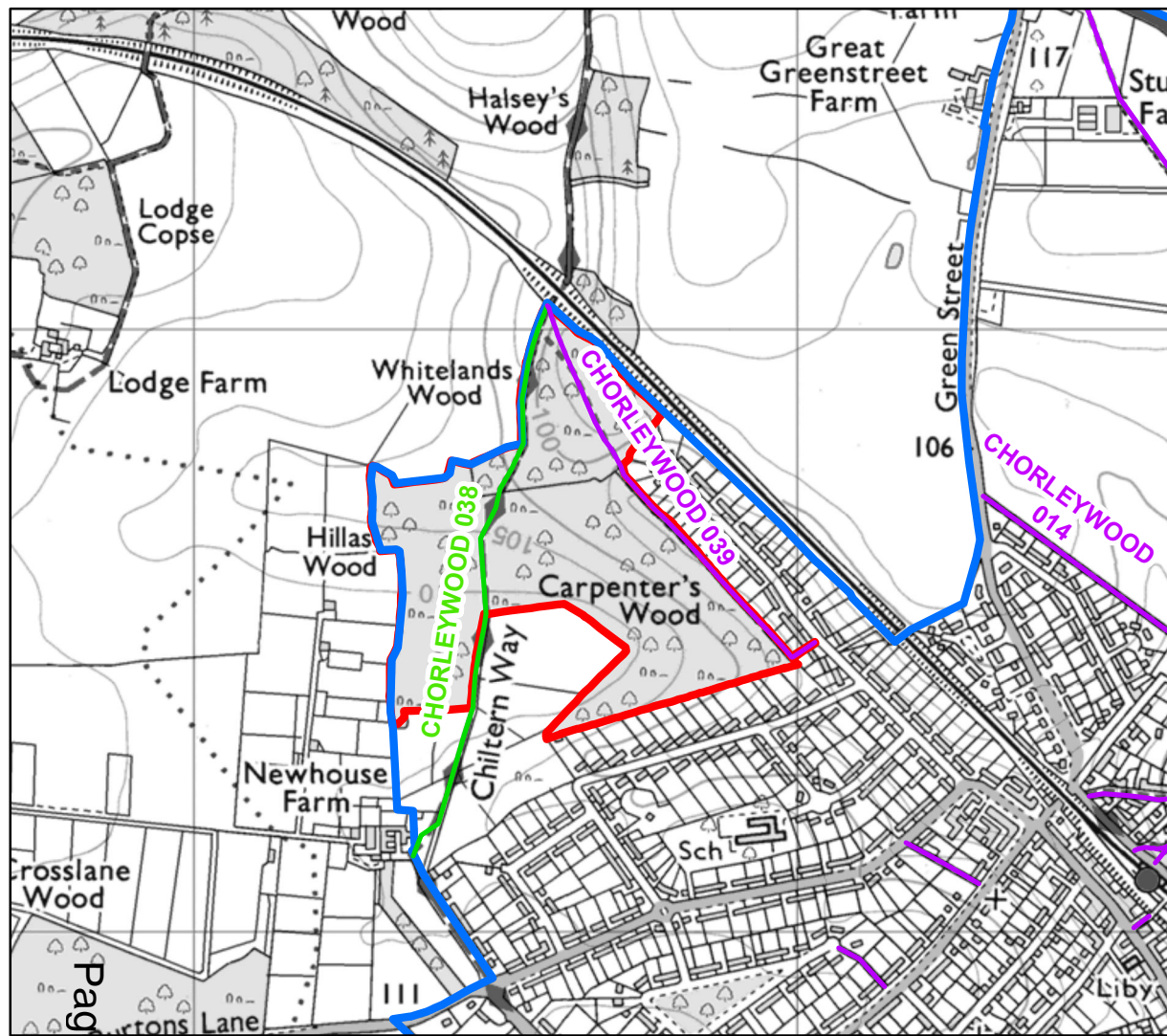


© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan Constraints Plan

Legend

-  Site_Boundary
-  Hertfordshire County
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Wildlife Site
-  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
-  Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
-  RoFSW_Extent1in30
-  RoFSW_Extent1in100
-  RoFSW_Extent1in1000
-  Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Scale @ A3
1:12,000

Date
February 2024

Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

2.2 Site Designations

Level	Designation	Detail
Statutory	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – The Chilterns	The entire site is within the Chilterns AONB
Statutory	Metropolitan Green Belt	The woodland falls within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, which restricts the growth of development in strategic rural areas on the edge of conurbations.
Statutory	Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	Put in place 1966. TRDC (as landowner & Local Planning Authority) chooses to put site notices up 4 weeks in advance of any tree works on site.
Statutory	National Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) - <i>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat</i>	The Woodland is regarded by Natural England as a habitat of 'principal importance' to conserve biodiversity in England and as such protected from harmful development
Statutory	National Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) - <i>Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland Priority Habitat</i>	The Woodland is regarded by Natural England as a habitat of 'principal importance' to conserve biodiversity in England and as such protected from harmful development
Non-Statutory	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	Woodland that has had continuous native tree and shrub cover since at least 1600AD and may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally.
Non-Statutory	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)	Woodland where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers, and usually over the last century.
Non-Statutory	Local Wildlife Site - Carpenters Wood & Hillas Wood, ref 82/001	Carpenters Wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site – considered to be of “critical natural capital”.

2.3 Geology and Hydrology

The site lies over a base-rich geology with mainly agrilic brown-earth fertile soils over upper chalk and chalky drift deposits. This is a mixture of well-draining and loamy over clay soil and more coarse and fine loamy soils which can become waterlogged in parts in wet conditions. This underlying geology has been formed through the shifting river valleys of the Colne with many flint deposits below the surface.

There are two valleys which cut through the woodland, one from the western edge and the other in the northwest where there is a tunnel beneath the railway line. These meet within the centre of the area of Carpenters Wood and continue down Whitelands Avenue. These valleys carry much of the water that falls within the wood out of the woodland down to the River Colne at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

2.4 Landscape Character

Carpenters Wood falls on the boundary of the Heronsgate Heights Landscape Character Area. This is an area of gently undulating plateaus divided by narrow chalk valleys. The whole landscape is well wooded in comparison to the surrounding farmland, the major feature of the M25 and the more urban environments to the south.

2.5 History and Archaeology

Carpenters Wood is classified as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), meaning it is likely trees have been present on the site since woodland re-established itself in Britain following the last ice age. Being of ancient semi-natural origin, Carpenters Wood is likely to have been managed in the past primarily as Hornbeam coppice with Oak and/or Beech standards. However, over time woodland management changed and ultimately woodland structure moved to Beech high forest as is common in much of the Chilterns.

The woodland was formerly part of the Bedford Estate; it passed through several different ownerships until the late 1960s when it was subjected to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to prevent it being felled to supply the furniture factories of High Wycombe. At this point the woodland was purchased by Amersham Rural District Council, who later passed it to TRDC in 1991 as a result of boundary changes. During the 1980s, parts of Hillas Wood were clear-felled and restocked with a conifer/broadleaf mixture. The 1987 storm caused significant wind-throw, resulting in further clearance and restocking.

There are no designated archaeological features, but the site does contain ancient wood banks and gravel pits. The gravel pits are largely occupied by medium aged Ash trees, and some contain active badger setts.

2.6 Habitats and Wildlife

National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities present are:

- W8 Ash-Field Maple-Dogs Mercury Woodland
- W10 English Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland
- W12 Beech-Dogs Mercury Woodland
- W14 Beech-Bramble Woodland

2.6.1 Woodland

2.6.1.1 *Compartment 1. Whitelands wood*

5.1Ha located at the north-east part of the wood and occupies a dry valley running east-west with a wood-bank marking part of the boundary with Cpt 2. The higher ground comprises mature Beech high forest with Oak, Hornbeam, Sycamore, Sweet chestnut, Ash, Cherry and Lime. Holly is dominant in the understory with Hazel, Dogwood and Elder also present. Ash dominates the lower valley section and natural regeneration is mainly Ash throughout. Ground flora contains Dogs mercury, Figwort, Wood sanicle, Sweet woodruff and Coralroot bittercress. Bramble dominates where light levels have increased. Only the north-east section of Cpt 1 is classed as ASNW with the remaining (60% approx.) with no classification i.e. secondary woodland.



Mature Beech of Whitelands Wood

2.6.1.2 *Compartment 2. Hillas wood*

Covering 5.7Ha this area occupies the main plateau section of the wood sloping down to Whitelands with Cpt 3, Carpenters Wood, partly to the east and open pasture to the south and west. Much of this compartment is classed as Planted

Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) the majority being Oak with a Larch plantation planted around the mid-late 1980s. Thinning was carried out in 2013 which allowed an understory of mostly Bramble to establish. In 2021 a second fell was carried out to remove 80% of the Larch crop and provide space for natural regeneration of broadleaf species. Outside of the PAWS areas this compartment is Beech dominated high forest as in compartments 1 and 3.



More open woodland of Hillas Wood

2.6.1.3 Compartment 3. Carpenters wood

11.8Ha and forms the south-east part of the wood. Approximately half of this compartment sits on top of the plateau before dropping down into the valley to the east. It is predominantly ASNW beech high forest with Hornbeam, Ash, Sweet chestnut, Oak and Sycamore. Holly is dominant in the understory with Hazel and Elder. There are also two blocks of younger PAWS which previously contained Beech, Larch, Cherry, and Birch. Work in 2021 had much of the larch removed and underplanted with a species mix dominant in Oak.



Dense Bluebell carpets across Carpenters Wood

2.6.1.4 Hedgerows

Some of the woodland boundaries are delineated by old wood banks with veteran hornbeam stubs (part-way between a coppice and a pollard). These hornbeams are starting to decline; they have not been cut in many years, are getting top-heavy, and limbs are starting to split/fall.

There is a section of young native hedgerow on the eastern edge of Hillas Wood planted along the farm track in 2014 by FoCW. This has been slow growing but is healthy and well looked after with minor trimming to keep its shape.



Veteran Hornbeams along the edge of Carpenters Wood

2.4.5 Rides/Glades

The woodland has a network of rides and glades that are associated with footpath routes. Management of these has been a recurring activity for FoCW. The glades are small open areas within the woodland, which tend to become dominated by bramble and bracken.



Woodland ride through Hillas Wood

2.6.2 Species

2.6.2.1 Wildlife and plants

The ground flora is fairly diverse, and contains a variety of ancient woodland indicator species, including Bluebell, Wood Melick, Woodruff, Wood Spurge, Yellow Archangel and Dog Mercury. Of particular note is the presence of Coralroot Bittercress – a nationally scarce but locally abundant species, characteristic of base-rich beech woodlands. There has been a good variety of fungal species recorded on site. During the spring, the woodland is abundant with English Bluebells. Three species of bat have been recorded on the site in the recent past – Common Pipistrelle, Natterers and Brown Long Eared Bats. There is evidence of active badger populations within the woodland. The woodland supports a variety of bird life; casual observations made by volunteers carrying out wildlife site surveys included Wren, Chaffinch, Robin, Nuthatch, Green & Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper, Blackcap and Jay. Juvenile and adult Buzzards have been observed in the woodland, as well as Red Kites. Speckled Wood Butterflies have been observed in sunny spots in the woodland's rides and glades.



Above: Coralroot Bittercress amongst the Bluebells Left: Speckled Wood Butterfly

Deer, certainly Muntjac and Roe, are known to be present in the woodland, and observations have been made of gnawed bark and browsing on young regeneration. Grey Squirrel are fairly abundant in the woodland, and damage within the crowns of beech and sycamore trees has been observed in places, but is fairly localised.

2.6.2.2 Oak Processionary Moth

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was introduced into England in 2005 and has since become established in London, gradually spreading into surrounding counties. While the moth is harmless, caterpillars pose a risk to public health through microscopic

hairs which cover its body. Contact with hairs typically causes skin rashes, although symptoms can include eye irritation, sore throats and in extreme cases breathing difficulties and allergic reactions.

Carpenters Wood is within the Established Zone for OPM where control is the responsibility of the landowner (TRDC) and there have been recent confirmed cases in the surrounding countryside. Although none have been reported on the oak trees within the woodland, it would be prudent to be aware of their presence if carrying out any work on or around Oak trees.

Control of OPM in this area takes a risk-based approach which follows guidance from the Forestry Commission and can include pesticide spraying if appropriate.



Example OPM nest

2.7 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

2.7.1 Access

The woodland is actively used by local walkers and dog walkers and contains a network of formal and informal routes. Horse riders and cyclists regularly use the bridleways.

There are three main access points into the site where Rights of Way enter the wood. A definitive bridleway (Chorleywood 038) runs the length of the wood and a definitive footpath (Chorleywood 039) runs along the eastern edge. There are informal footpaths throughout, as well as a circular permissive bridleway. The Chiltern Way long distance walking route passes through the woodland, running along the definitive bridleway.

The primary pedestrian access is the Whitelands Avenue entrance in the south-east corner of the site; this is the closest to the population centre of Chorleywood. The definitive footpath is indicated by a ROW fingerpost adjacent to the pavement. This entrance is located approx. 850m from Chorleywood train station which is served by the London Underground (Metropolitan Line) and Chiltern Railway services. The R2 bus service runs along the nearby Shire Lane, within 500m from the woodland, and connects Chorleywood with Watford and Rickmansworth.



Entrance into Carpenters Wood from Whitelands Avenue

Vehicular access is limited to a narrow track from Newhouse Farm, which enters the wood on the corner of Hillas Wood. The nature of this track is very constraining in terms of timber extraction. There is no formalised car parking for the woodland; car parking is limited to roadside parking in the residential areas surrounding the woodland.

The third access point is in the north-east corner of the woodland, through a barrel arch under the railway. From the wood, this leads approx. 1km down a rough track and comes out on the A404 on the edge of the village of Chenies.

An Access Audit was previously carried out by CMS resulting in a number of improvements in access provision, including new site furniture, signage & interpretation and footpath upgrades. The FoCW are highly active on the site, carrying out management activities including: Holly removal; ride/path maintenance; Bracken control; footpath surfacing; installation of benches, bird boxes and way markers; and hedge planting.

2.7.2 Interpretation & Signage

The three interpretation panels at the site entrances show an illustrated map of the woodland & its footpath network, and provide information on public access, wildlife and history of the site. Accompanying the panels, an interpretation leaflet was produced that provides the same information, along with directions for traveling to the woodland by road, train and bus. The leaflet is a good way of promoting the site to a wider audience.

2.8 Site Management

Three Rivers District Council as landowners are responsible for the implementation of the plan. Their role includes: woodland management works carried out by their in-house team of Arborists and Landscape Officers; administration and budget management; signatory for grant applications & claims; Member involvement and reporting; support and insurance cover for FoCW.

The Countryside Management Service advises on management, particularly where it relates to nature conservation and community involvement. It is responsible for: The production of Greenspace Action Plans for the woodland including engagement with partners and subsequent monitoring; production of specifications for management works and procurement of contracts; providing support to FoCW through work programmes, training, tools, risk assessment and governance; and support with events and PR.

The Friends of Carpenters Wood are a constituted group that deliver voluntary practical action in the woodland. They provide critical input into decision making process and management planning, they are a regular presence within the woodland and provide eyes and ears reporting to TRDC, organise open days, guided walks and family events, and contribute to the ongoing monitoring of the plan.

3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

3.1 A Welcoming Place

Immediately upon entering the wood at each of the main entrances, the visitor is greeted by an interpretation panel with an illustrated map showing the possible walking routes through the site. The information given on the interpretation boards is still relevant and fit for purpose, so will not need to be updated during the plan period. However, as the woodland changes through the previous and planned forestry work then this should be considered in a future management plan.

The noticeboards which accompanied the interpretation board at two of the main entrances were damaged during the last five years. Funds have now been secured for the replacement of these during 2025.

The primary pedestrian entrance is off Whitelands Avenue, through a short section of narrow footpath between two residential properties. This entrance is identified by an engraved wooden pillar, a missing ROW fingerpost is currently planned to be replaced. The footpath should be kept clear of encroaching vegetation, combined with understorey coppicing immediately inside the wood to provide better sightlines upon entering; this would continue making the entrance more welcoming, encouraging more people to enjoy the site.

The primary access tracks throughout the woodland are generally well drained after improvements 10 years ago. Other pathways throughout the site are managed by work of the FoCW and CMS. Some of these paths are being encroached on by Holly and a more thorough programme of coppicing should be carried out alongside any tree safety works to keep these paths open.

3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Visitors to Carpenters Wood should feel safe and able to enjoy all areas of the site at all times. In the past there have been occasional instances of anti-social behaviour, such as parties and setting fires. In recent years there have been limited reports of this type of behaviour although there have been some minor fires set against trees. The general feeling among the community appears to be that the wood is a relatively safe place.

The woodland is regularly used by local people for walking, dog walking, cycling and jogging; it serves as a local resource for activities that enhance health and well-being. FoCW are present on site at least twice per month, currently on the first Thursday and third Saturday of the month. This type of regular presence and activity helps to prevent anti-social behaviour and improves the perception of safety.

There are dog waste bins positioned at each of the three main entrances to the woodland. Dog waste has not been flagged up as an issue at this site, which would imply that the current provision is adequate. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

in relation to dog control is in effect across the entirety of the Three Rivers District after being extended in 2022. Signs indicating this have been erected at the entrances to Carpenters Wood. For details, see: [Information for dog owners | Three Rivers District Council](#)

Tree safety surveys are carried out in all TRDC parks, woodlands and open spaces, with the resulting data entered into tree management software. All deadwood, including standing deadwood, is left in situ where safe to do so, for habitat and biodiversity benefits. Trees which have to be reduced or removed for safety reasons are stacked into habitat piles or chipped into areas where the work has been carried out. If practicable, the timber resulting from tree surgery is used to make bespoke benches. For further information see: [Tree strategy 2022-2027 | Three Rivers District Council](#)

3.3 Clean and Well Maintained

Carpenters Wood should be maintained to a good standard appropriate to the nature of the site, for both aesthetic and health & safety reasons.

Litter and dog waste bins are provided at the main entrances to the site, and are emptied by TRDC's in-house grounds maintenance team. Given the size of the woodland and the current levels of access, this is deemed to be sufficient provision. Ongoing casual litter picking is carried out by FoCW; to add to this, an annual "spring clean" could be carried out in late winter when ground cover is sparse and litter away from the footpaths is more obvious.

Any vandalism is inspected as soon as possible after a report has been received, normally within 24 hours. The damaged item(s) would be made safe and photographed. The damage is also reported to the appropriate council department for repair. Additionally, the vandalism is reported to the Community Safety Coordinator for contact with the Police.

Bridleways and footpaths are kept clear and open through a combined effort between FoCW and the Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Service.

There is some garden waste dumping that occurs from properties backing onto the woodland, but little other signs of damaging activity other than occasional small fires.

3.4 Sustainability

TRDC has a strong commitment to sustainability and recognises its responsibility to mitigate the impact of its operations on the environment. All management operations should be as sustainable as possible, both financially and in terms of environmental impact. This dedication is reflected in Council policies, strategies and commitments such as the [TRDC Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2023-2027](#) and [Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy 2023- 2028](#). TRDC are also committed to

the wider Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership's [Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity](#).

Pesticides will not be used by the Council unless there are no alternative means of control. Glyphosate will not be used in the district except for the control of Japanese knotweed, or direct application to aid the eradication of Rhododendron and Cherry laurel.

Natural regeneration should be utilised for restocking wherever appropriate; it is low cost, dynamic, it adapts to local conditions, and reduces the risk of importing pests & diseases to the woodland. That said, replanting should be considered if natural regeneration does not achieve the required stocking levels. This presents an opportunity for some species diversification, with the aim of improving the resilience of the woodland against pressures from a changing climate and pests & diseases. Forestry Commission projections suggest that Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) will begin to flourish in lowland beech woodlands, as the older Beech trees suffer from increased fungal disease, root die-back and windthrow, brought about by drier summers and wetter winters. As such, where restocking is required, *Quercus robur* should be considered alongside Hornbeam, which is also likely to benefit from warmer, drier summers due to its drought tolerance.

3.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

3.5.1 Woodland Management

Mature beech woodlands benefit from active management, which can help to create a mixed age and habitat structure, ensure the long-term viability of the woodland through encouraging regeneration, and help the woodland to be more resilient against windthrow and the pressures of a changing climate.

An FC compliant woodland management plan (See Appendix 7.1) has been produced for Carpenters Wood to achieve this. Three approaches to woodland management have been matched to the varying site types found in the woodland. This zoning is illustrated in the map below and described in the following sections.

3.5.2 Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)

Natural regeneration is prevalent in the areas identified for Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), particularly Ash, Beech and Hornbeam; these are shade tolerant species and so regenerate happily under canopy cover. However, without removing any of the canopy trees, they are unlikely to find the space to grow to full size and maturity, thus threatening the long-term sustainability of the woodland.

CCF is a low impact approach to woodland management that seeks to create a structurally diverse woodland, without felling large blocks of trees at a time. Through a "little and often" approach, the tree canopy is gradually thinned over a long period of time, subtly improving local light conditions to establish successive generations of

mature trees secured through natural regeneration. The ultimate aim is to have an actively managed woodland where all age groups of trees are represented in a single area, and where small amounts of high quality, large diameter timber can be extracted on a regular basis without detriment to the overall woodland habitat. Such a woodland is also wonderful to walk in, is full of light and great for wildlife.

To achieve this, a small number of canopy trees are to be felled on a regular basis, to create small gaps in the canopy, no larger than 0.05ha, (12m radius). In practice, this is likely to be the equivalent of felling 2-3 mature trees per group. This should be sufficient to improve local light conditions, whilst maintaining the character of the woodland. Where a tree has to be removed for safety purposes, the same approach should be applied; surrounding trees should be selected for felling at the same time as the unsafe tree, in order to create a 0.05ha group.



An example of densely clustered trees a CCF approach would look to create space and light for retained specimens.

Conversion to CCF makes use of the natural processes of a woodland, and as such is done over the period taken for the trees within to reach maturity. The area designated for CCF management is approximately 5ha. Assuming a target rotation length of 100 years (to produce large diameter mature hardwoods), this would mean that just one 0.05ha coupe should be felled each year for 100 years to complete the

cycle. However, given a lack of thinning until recently and the need to release existing suppressed regeneration, two 0.05ha coupes per year are recommended to accelerate the conversion process. This should be monitored through this and subsequent plans to assess when this can be reduced in the future.

Given the small scale of intervention, chainsaw harvesting and extraction using low impact machinery (ie alpine tractor & trailer) will be ideal for these operations. Removal of mature trees can be a contentious issue; site posters and PR are crucial ahead of all woodland management works, to let users know what is happening and why.

3.5.3 Long Term Retention

Alongside the implementation of CCF, parts of the woodland should be managed by non-intervention, defined as “long-term retention” areas. These areas should be left to develop veteran trees and accumulate deadwood, providing habitat for more specialist and sensitive species, and to retain the perceived character of the woodland. The areas chosen are mainly more sheltered, house some of the tallest beech trees in the woodland, have limited natural regeneration, and are where practical management is likely to be most problematic.

This area includes the stand of secondary ash woodland in Whitelands Wood. Under the previous plan this was seen to require little management. However, many of these trees have since been affected by Ash Dieback disease, a fungus which has an 80% mortality rate in British Ash trees. Due to their location near to the public footpath and other well walked permissive routes these should not be allowed to fall naturally as others in the woodland may. To reduce the risk to the public much of the Ash in this space requires removal unless assessed to be in good health with little sign of affliction from the disease and showing potential signs of resistance. This work will require a careful approach due to the sensitive nature of the ground flora around this location. The young age of the stand limits saleable material and as such the arising material from the work should be retained throughout the long-term retention zone as habitat piles.

3.5.4 PAWS Restoration

During the previous management plan the woodland went through selective thinning through the areas marked as plantation. This targeted much of the Larch within the woodland and looked to create space for the broadleaved species that were retained. This was intended as a gradual process through the main compartments carried out in phases to focus on the poor form or diseased individuals initially before removing the remainder in subsequent seasons. Unfortunately, the covid-19 pandemic meant that works could not be completed for a number of years, and this required the work in the main compartments of Hillas to be condensed into a single season to meet the woodland management plan requirements and be financially viable.



Section of former PAWs woodland which has been cleared and stacked for removal.

A knock on from this is that much of the woodland floor at Hillas has become dominated by brambles. This brings about potential issues where natural regeneration is unlikely to succeed without significant clearance efforts. The FOCW have been working to keep footpaths through this area free from encroachment by brambles; there may be scope for progressive flailing or pulling of bramble on the path and ride sides to reduce its vigour. Opening small areas in the bramble can provide space and help inform if any natural regenerating species require further protections.

There is a smaller area within the woodland where the beech canopy has previously been lost through large scale windthrow, and young plantation has been established with a beech/birch nurse mixture. These areas now require thinning, to remove the birch to favour the better beech stems. Some of this work has already been started by the FOCW and volunteer work parties, but a number of the birch and poor form beech within are reaching a point beyond their capability and need to be addressed through a contractor.

3.5.5 Woodland Understory

Many parts of the woodland have a dense understory of Holly. While this is a native species and a perfectly valid component of a woodland, it becomes an issue when it begins outcompeting everything else. FoCW have been carrying out ongoing work to clear areas of holly, windrowing the arisings. This work should continue, with focus given to:

- Areas where natural regeneration of favourable tree species is strong, but at risk of being out-competed by the holly.
- Dense areas adjacent to footpaths, rides, and glades, to improve sightlines.
- Around the woodland edge, creating vistas from footpaths out to the surrounding fields.

With efforts led by the FoCW, much effort was put in to remove cherry laurel from the site. The laurel is considered an invasive species in the woodland; if unchecked it can dominate the shrub layer to the detriment of ground flora and tree seedlings. Removal has been largely successful with the woodland almost cleared of laurel, although a discrete patch manages to remain in the southern-most tip of the woodland and there are some small patches along the fence line in Whitelands Wood. This should be cut to ground level, the stumps grubbed out, and the arisings stacked in small piles with roots off the ground and exposed to air. All cleared areas should be monitored, and the regrowth cleared as necessary.

The new hedgerow along the farm track has been slow to mature in part due to the shading from the previously dense larch plantation. It is now reaching a stage of maturity where it can be managed through hedge laying. This process where the main stems are partially cut at an angle near the base to then lay on top of one another is an ancient technique which promotes dense bushy growth of the hedgerow and significantly prolongs the plants' lives.

3.5.6 Veteran Hornbeam Boundary Trees

Veteran trees within a woodland make a significant contribution to biodiversity, as well as having cultural and historical significance. They can support a huge variety of rare fungi, invertebrates and lichens, as well as birds and bats. They provide habitat niches that do not occur on younger trees. Approximately 300m of the southern boundary of Carpenters Wood is delineated by veteran hornbeam boundary stubs that have been unmanaged for many years. As a result, the limbs have become large and heavy, to the point where some are splitting and damaging the stools. It is noted that there is a similar boundary in Whitelands Wood, north-western edge of the wood – this has not been targeted for management as the hornbeams here are of different form, not at such a risk of splitting, along with significant blackthorn scrub in between the stubs.



Veteran Hornbeams between Carpenters and Hillas Woodlands

Restoration work will need to be carried out sensitively, on a tree-by-tree basis, to give the trees the best possible chances of surviving and regenerating. By re-pollarding them down to a collar of healthy bark, the weight on the stools will be removed, and the trees will be given a chance to regenerate while retaining the valuable veteran features at their base. The optimum time of year to prune veteran trees is January to March, while the tree is still dormant, but the tree can quickly respond to the new conditions in the spring. Given the advanced age of the hornbeam stools, it is uncertain how well they will respond to the pollarding. To give any regrowth the best chance of success, it is recommended to subtly improve local light conditions, by felling individual adjacent trees where they overshadow the hornbeams. As this is a woodland edge situation, care will need to be taken not to remove too much and leave the remaining trees susceptible to windthrow. Additionally, drastic and sudden changes in light conditions can cause significant stress to veteran trees.

Horses are kept in the adjacent field, and there is concern that the horses will browse emergent shoots from the new pollards, as there is quite clearly a “browse line” where the upper branches of the hornbeams reach into the field. However, recent coppicing of holly on the boundary has caused the holly to form low bushes pushing out into the field, which effectively creates a barrier between the horses and the hornbeam. As such, a number of hornbeam should be re-pollarded as a trial, at locations where the holly will temporarily protect the stools.

3.5.7 Rides, Glades and Open Space

Managed open space in a woodland brings increased structural and floral diversity, provides favourable conditions for birds and invertebrates (especially butterflies), as well as creating a welcoming open aspect for users of the site. This is best achieved through widening and subsequent management of woodland rides. In the mature beech woodland areas, ride widening would be difficult to achieve given the height of the mature trees; a very wide corridor would need to be cleared in order to alter conditions effectively.

Under the previous plan a new east-west 3 zone ride was created through a younger area of the woodland by the combined efforts of TRDC, CMS and FoCW. Initially a corridor was created by coppicing most trees up to 5m either side of the central footpath. Further coppiced scallops were cut out on the northern side by volunteers to create this wide zone 3. The ongoing management of zone 1 a close mown strip beside the path and zone 2, a 4-year cycle of managed scrub, have then been carried out by the FoCW with some support from CMS as required and should continue as such.



Left: The woodland ride before widening.



Right: The same ride after widening

The area of Ash plantation is an open light space and contains the most diverse ground flora away from Carpenters Wood. The management of this space for disease presents an opportunity to create a further area of woodland open space with little additional work. Management would be similar to a zoned ride or larger glade by allowing natural regeneration to occur around the edges of the plantation area and an annual cut and rake through portions of the central area. This allows the ground flora to flourish and create the structural diversity missing in areas of the surrounding beech dominated woodland.

There is a further area of afflicted Ash in the border of Hillas and Whitelands wood which also presents the opportunity to create another smaller ride along an already present path. This takes advantage of previously felled areas of Larch as part of the PAWs regeneration works with the area now open and less shaded. This can be complemented by future management work coppicing scallops on the north side of the ride as was done previously.

3.6 Community Involvement and Marketing

The Friends of Carpenters Wood are a formally constituted group, active since 2008, whose purpose is to help maintain and enhance the woods for the enjoyment of all. They have come to make significant contributions to the ongoing annual management of the woodland. Their objectives cover the enhancement and conservation of the woodland, involvement of local people, promoting public awareness, supporting TRDC & CMS in management planning, and applications for funding. The group's website can be found at www.carpenterswood.com, which features regular updates on their activities, a calendar of their sessions, as well as the group's constitution and meeting minutes. They are part of a defined partnership between TRDC and CMS.

Their membership is open to anyone interested in taking an active part in the work and aims of the group. They have an elected committee, and hold a formal meeting open to all members at least twice a year. The group meet twice a month to carry out

practical conservation work in the woodland, involving path clearance, holly removal, general maintenance work and specific project work.

Numbers have been an issue in recent years but several drives to increase awareness for the group has been a success and seen a good number of new volunteers joining allowing them to continue this essential work. Further promotion of the group through the local volunteer page ([Watford & Three Rivers Trust \(w3rt.org\)](http://Watford & Three Rivers Trust (w3rt.org))) and CMS support for all friends of groups will be of further aid in ensuring there is continued involvement.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

To build on the extensive woodland works carried out over the previous GAP to improve the overall woodland health and maintain the woodland as a vital greenspace for both public and wildlife.

Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place

Provide a welcoming green space for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of the local community.

- A1: Maintain existing provision of interpretation and signage in good condition.
- A2: Keep Whitelands Avenue entrance clear from encroaching vegetation and carry out understorey coppicing inside entrance to improve sightlines.
- A3: Maintain the network of footpaths through the site to ensure they are open and free from encroaching vegetation.
- A4: Install two replacement noticeboards at the entrance to Whitelands and Hillas Woods.

B. Healthy, Safe and Secure

Ensure that visitors to Carpenters Wood feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times.

- B1: Ensure that visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of the site.
- B2: Complete all formal tree inspections, update records, and carry out any reactive tree works to address safety issues.
- B3: Pursue opportunities to include the site in activities such as Health Walks and volunteer activities.
- B4: Keep vegetation clear from important junctions, corners, or site entrances to improve site lines and safety.

C. Clean and Well Maintained

Ensure that the site is kept clean and that all aspects of the site are well maintained.

- C1: Maintain all site infrastructure – benches, horse barriers, gates etc. in a good condition.

- C2: Promptly remove any fly tipping and carry out regular litter picking.
- C3: Carry out an annual “spring clean” of the site and look to include a second in the autumn.
- C4: Regular emptying and inspection of litter bins and dog bins.
- C5: Actively discourage dumping of garden waste from neighbouring properties.

D. Sustainability

Ensure that all management operations are as sustainable as possible.

- D1: Encourage natural regeneration of tree species. Where restocking is required, use as an opportunity for species diversification to improve resilience.
- D2: Manage the woodland in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management.
- D3: Only use chemical herbicides to control weeds or invasive species where no alternative exists and in line with council policy.
- D4: Ensure all contractors used on site adhere to sustainability and environmental policies.
- D5: Source external funding to ensure viability of capital works.

E. Biodiversity and Heritage

Conserve and enhance the woodland’s habitats, wildlife and archaeological features.

- E1: Manage the beech high forest using Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), promoting a diverse age structure, and encouraging natural regeneration.
- E2: Identify areas of PAWS restoration where natural regeneration is lacking and take actions to improve this such as planting or creating areas free of bramble and bracken.
- E3: Continue managing Holly and Laurel in the understory and attempt to add some diversity where in keeping with the woodland habitat type.
- E4: Pollard veteran Hornbeam boundary trees, with selective felling of surrounding trees to improve light conditions.
- E5: Look to improve the structure of the woodland by maintaining existing rides and creating one or two additional rides following either a two or three zone management regime.
- E6: Carry out phased laying of the planted hedgerow along Hillas wood to improve density and encourage longevity.

E7: Thin or fell diseased Ash where near path network and look to encourage natural regeneration of these areas with the option to plant if required.

F. Community Involvement and Marketing

Provide opportunities for the local community to engage with and participate in woodland management activities.

F1: Support the FoCW in running regular practical volunteer tasks and promote the group within the local community to ensure future group sustainability.

F2: Organise events to spread awareness and increase community involvement.

F3: Involve the stakeholders, local community and user groups in future management plan revisions and decisions on key issues throughout the plan period.

F4: Continue promoting the woodland through leaflets, website content, magazines, and other opportunities.

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
0.01	Vegetation clearance at Whitelands Ave. entrance	A2/B1 / B4	Summer	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
0.02	Keep footpaths clear from encroaching vegetation	A3/B1 / B4	Summer	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
0.03	Strim path edges on created rides	E5	Summer	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
0.04	Laurel – remove any remaining & monitor	E3/ D3	Summer	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
0.05	Coppice management of Holly understorey	E3	Winter	FOCW	FOCW	Officer Time	-	
0.06	Bi-annual “spring clean” and of site	C3/ F2	March/ October	FOCW	FOCW/ CMS	Officer Time	-	
0.07	Monitor condition of interpretation & signage	C1	Ongoing	TRDC	-	Officer Time	-	
0.08	Hand cutting of ¼ of zone 2 on ride along top of Carpenters Wood	E5	Ongoing	CMS	Volunteer	Officer Time	-	

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
0.09	Manage vegetation growth in glade in Hillas Wood to retain open space	E3	August	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
0.10	Tree safety surveys & reactive tree safety works	B1/ B2	Ongoing	TRDC	Contract or	TRDC	Revenue Budget	
0.11	Manage and maintain site infrastructure	A1/ C1	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	TRDC	Revenue Budget	
0.12	Litter picking and removal of fly tipping	C2	Ongoing	TRDC/ FOCW	TRDC	TRDC	Revenue Budget	
0.13	Emptying & inspection of litter/dog bins	C4	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	TRDC	Revenue Budget	
0.14	Support & promote FoCW	F1/F2	Ongoing	TRDC/ CMS	TRDC/ CMS	Officer Time	-	
0.15	Annual review of GAP & revise action tables	F3/ F4<B ol>	March	TRDC/ CMS/ FOCW	TRDC/ CMS/ FOCW	Officer Time	-	

5.2 YEAR 1 2025 - 2026

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
1.01	CCF implementation – fell two 0.05ha groups	D1/D2/E1	Autumn/Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£1500	
1.02	Undertake tree safety work around diseased Ash in Whitelands Wood	E7	Autumn/Winter	TRDC	Contractor	TRDC	£1500	
1.03	Select small number of Hornbeam veterans to trial regenerative coppice	E4	Autumn/Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£1000	
1.04	30% selective thin of mixed plantation woodland	E1	Autumn/Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£2000	
1.04	Look at potential for additional rides in the woodland to boost open space after PAWS or tree safety works.	E5	Ongoing	CMS	TRDC/FOCW	Officer Time	-	
1.05	Create open patches of ground in dense bramble of Hillas Wood to provide opportunities for regeneration	D1/E2	August/September	CMS	Volunteer	Officer Time	-	
1.06	Undertake regenerative planting where natural regeneration is not present.	D1/E2	Winter	CMS	FOCW	TRDC	£500	
1.07	Targeted removal of Holly to reopen small glades	E3/D1	Autumn/Winter	CMS	FOCW	Officer Time	-	

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
1.08	Installation of 2 x new noticeboards	A1/ A4	Spring/ Summer	CMS	FOCW	TRDC	-	
1.09	Carry out additional path clearing activities through Hillas Wood	A3	Ongoing	FOCW	FOCW	Officer Time	-	
1.10	Thinning of areas of young Ash near pathways in Hillas Wood natural regeneration	A3/ E2	Autumn/ Winter	CMS	FOCW	Officer Time	-	
1.11	Monitor and maintain areas of previous regeneration planting	E2	Summer	CMS	FOCW	Officer Time	-	
1.12	Selectively pollard or crown reduce Hornbeams along the boundary with Carpenters Wood Drive	E1	Autumn/ Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£2000	

Carpenters Wood

Greenspace Action Plan

Year 1 Action Plan (25/26)

Task Responsibility

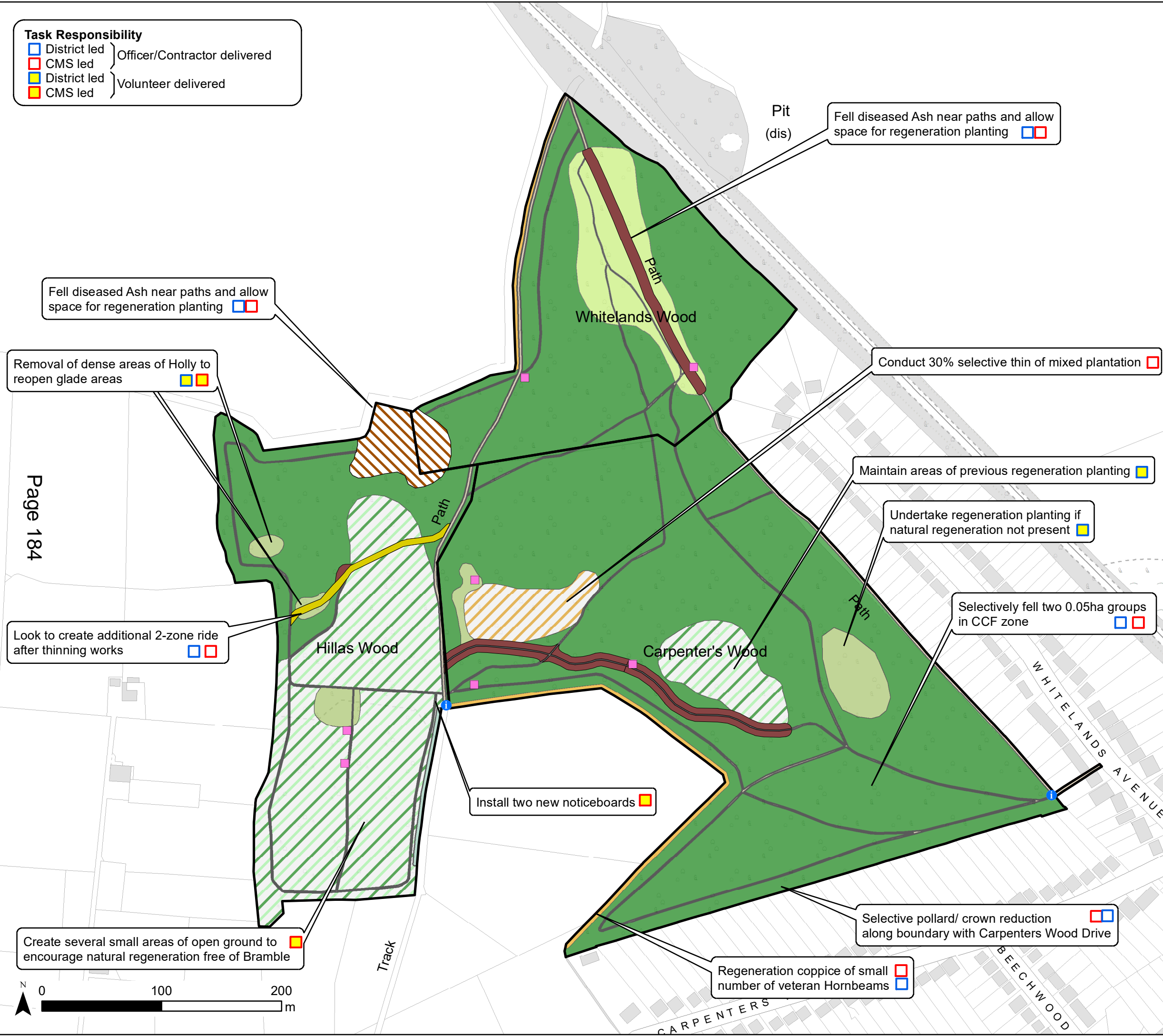
□ District led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ District led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Legend

- Bench
- Interpretation Board
- ▭ Compartment Boundary

Management

- ▨ Ash Thinning
- New Ride
- ▭ Site_Boundary
- 2 Zone Ride
- Ash Plantation
- Footpath
- Glade
- Mixed Broadleaves
- ▨ Former Mixed Plantation
- ▨ Mixed Plantation
- Newly Planted Hedge
- Veteran Hedgerow



Annual Management

Friends of Carpenters Wood

- Whitelands Ave. Vegetation Clearance (Summer)
- Footpath/ ride vegetation management (Summer)
- Laurel monitoring and removal (Summer)
- Coppice area of Holly (Winter)
- Hand cut 1/4 of zone 2 on rides (Winter)
- Bi-annual 'Spring clean' (March/ October)
- Glade vegetation clearance (August)

Three Rivers District Council

- Manage and maintain site infrastructure (Ongoing)
- Litter, bins and fly tipping removal (Ongoing)
- Tree safety surveys and works (Ongoing)

- Annual review of GAP

Scale @ A3
1:3,000

Date
March 2024

Rev
00

Create several small areas of open ground to encourage natural regeneration free of Bramble

0 100 200 m

Page 184

© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

5.3 YEAR 2 2026 - 27

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
2.1	Carry out regenerative coppice of veteran Hornbeam along fence line	E4	Autumn/ Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£2000	
2.2	CCF implementation – fell two 0.05ha groups	D1/D2/ E1	Autumn/ Winter	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£2000	
2.3	Undertake any required planting after Ash removals	D1	Winter	CMS	FOCW	TRDC	£500	
2.4	Targeted removal of dense Holly in Carpenters Wood	E3/D1	Winter	FOCW	FOCW	Officer Time	-	
2.5	Undertake first year of hedgelaying of planted hedgerow	E6	Jan/Feb	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
2.6	Carry out additional path clearing activities along paths through Whitelands Wood	A3	Ongoing	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
2.7	Coppice 1 new Scallop along ride network	E5	Autumn/ Winter	CMS	Volunteer	Officer Time	-	
2.8	Monitor and maintain areas of previous regeneration planting	E2	Summer	CMS	FOCW	Officer Time	-	

Task Responsibility

- District led
 - CMS led
 - District led
 - CMS led
- Officer/Contractor delivered
- Volunteer delivered

Carpenters Wood

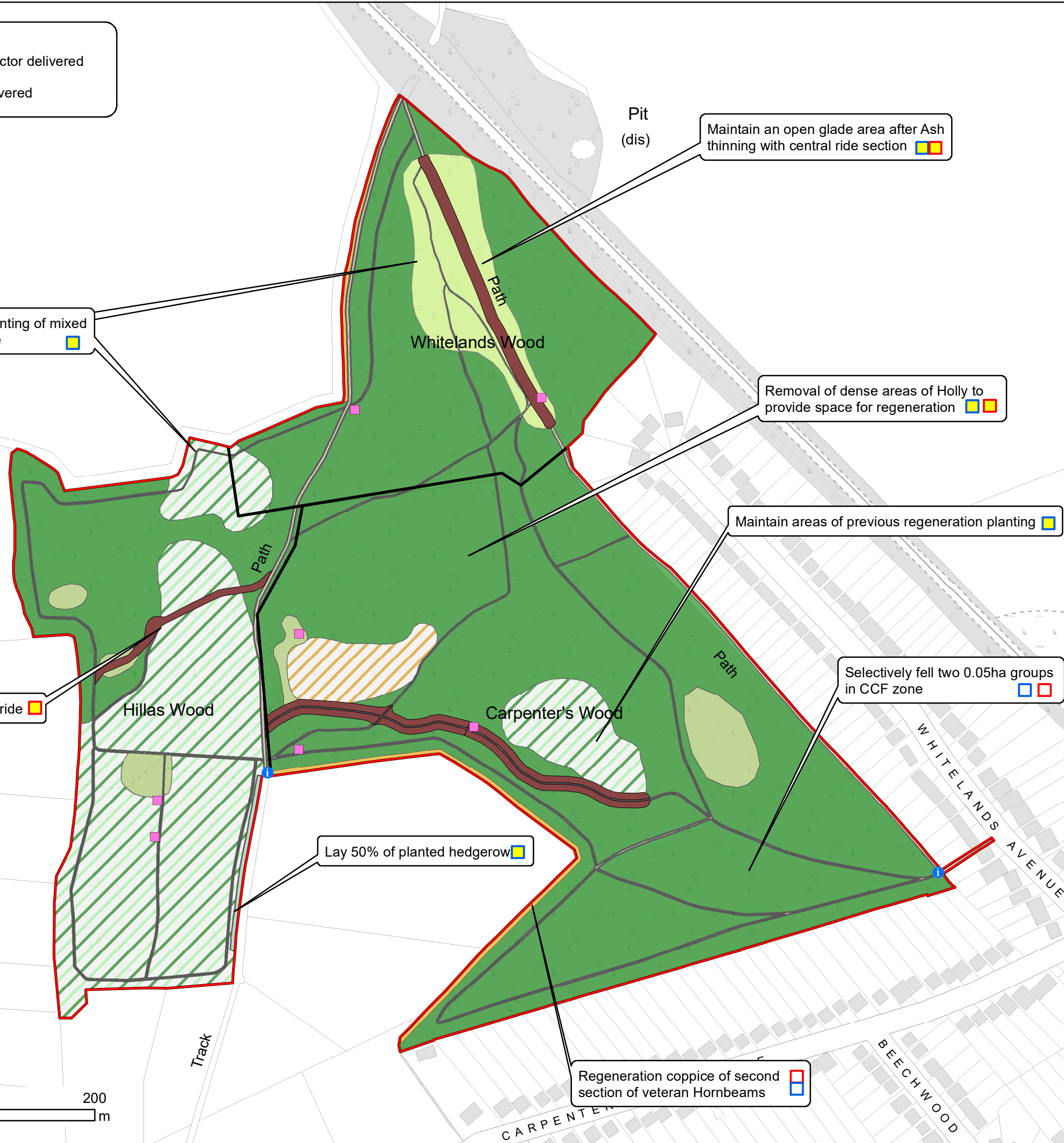
Greenspace Action Plan

Year 2 Action Plan (26/27)

Legend

- Site_Boundary
- Compartment Boundary
- Ash Plantation
- Footpath
- Glade
- Mixed Broadleaves
- Former Mixed Plantation
- Mixed Plantation
- Newly Planted Hedge
- Veteran Hedgerow
- 2 Zone Ride
- Bench
- i Interpretation Board

Page 186



Pit (dis)
Maintain an open glade area after Ash thinning with central ride

Carry out regeneration planting of mixed species where appropriate

Removal of dense areas of Holly to provide space for regeneration

Maintain areas of previous regeneration planting

Selectively fell two 0.05ha groups in CCF zone

Coppice a scallop on edge of ride

Lay 50% of planted hedgerow

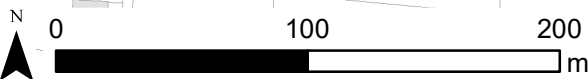
Regeneration coppice of second section of veteran Hornbeams

Annual Management

- Friends of Carpenters Wood**
- Whitelands Ave. Vegetation Clearance (Summer)
 - Footpath/ ride vegetation management (Summer)
 - Laurel monitoring and removal (Summer)
 - Coppice area of Holly (Winter)
 - Hand cut 1/4 of zone 2 on rides (Winter)
 - Bi-annual 'Spring clean' (March/ October)
 - Glade vegetation clearance (August)

- Three Rivers District Council**
- Manage and maintain site infrastructure (Ongoing)
 - Litter, bins and fly tipping removal (Ongoing)
 - Tree safety surveys and works (Ongoing)

- Annual review of GAP



Scale @ A3
1:3,000

Date
March 2024

Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

5.4 YEAR 3 - 5 2027 - 2030

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Status
2.1	CCF implementation – fell two 0.05ha groups	D1/D2/E1	Autumn/ Winter (Yr3,4,5)	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£4500 (over 3 years)	
2.2	Carry out remaining regenerative coppice of veteran Hornbeam.	E4	Autumn/ Winter(yr3)	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£1500	
2.3	Laying of remaining newly planted hedgerow along farm track	E6	Jan/ Feb (yr 3)	FOCW	FOCW	-	-	
2.4	Coppice 1 new scallop along ride network	E5	Autumn/ Winter (yr3, 4, 5)	CMS	Volunteer	Officer Time	-	
2.5	Draft new Greenspace Action Plan	F3	Winter	CMS	CMS	Officer Time	-	

Carpenters Wood

Greenspace Action Plan

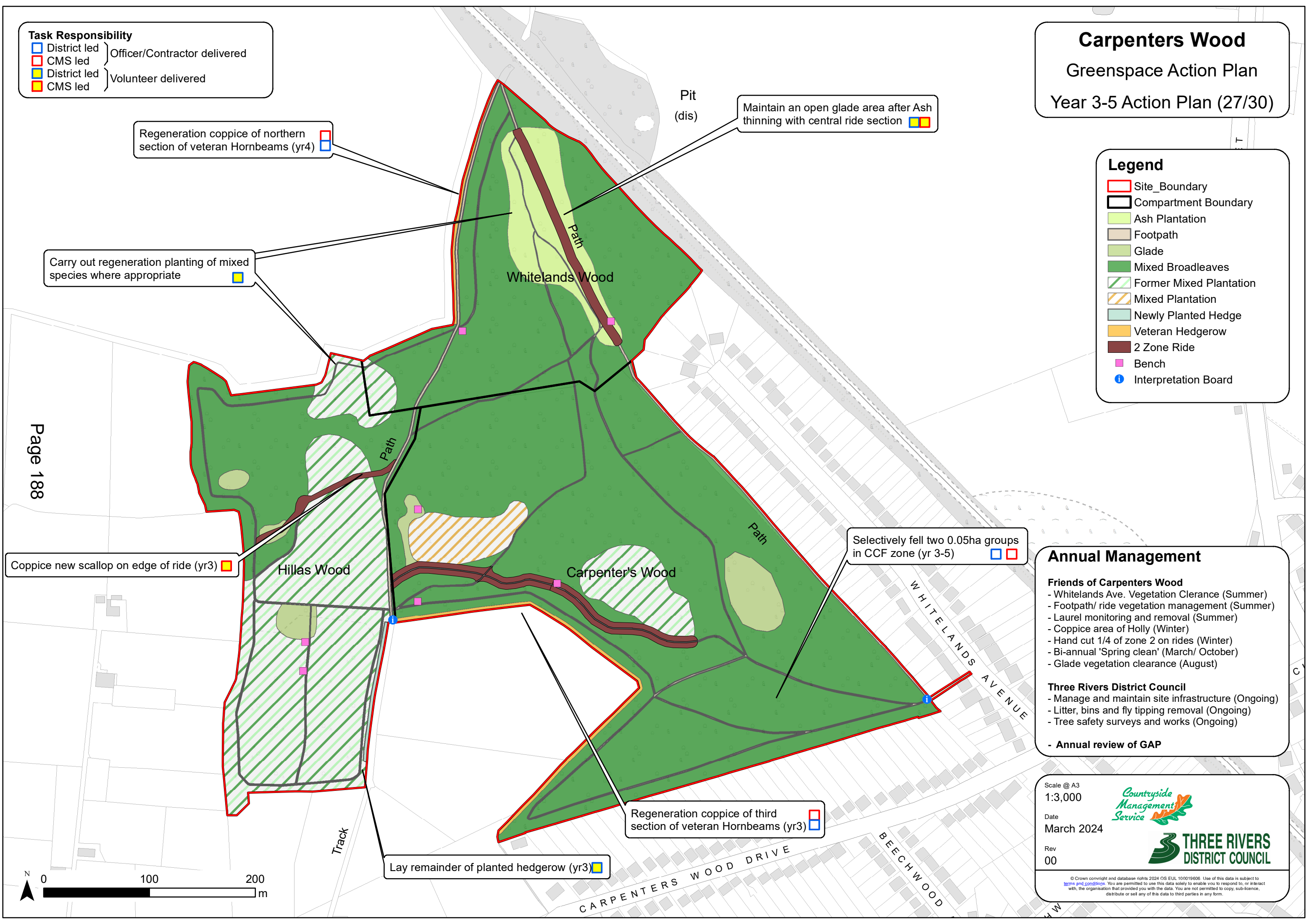
Year 3-5 Action Plan (27/30)

Task Responsibility

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| □ District led | } Officer/Contractor delivered |
| □ CMS led | |
| □ District led | } Volunteer delivered |
| □ CMS led | |

Legend

- Site_Boundary
- Compartment Boundary
- Ash Plantation
- Footpath
- Glade
- Mixed Broadleaves
- Former Mixed Plantation
- Mixed Plantation
- Newly Planted Hedge
- Veteran Hedgerow
- 2 Zone Ride
- Bench
- Interpretation Board



Regeneration coppice of northern section of veteran Hornbeams (yr4) □

Pit (dis) Maintain an open glade area after Ash thinning with central ride section □

Carry out regeneration planting of mixed species where appropriate □

Coppice new scallop on edge of ride (yr3) □

Selectively fell two 0.05ha groups in CCF zone (yr 3-5) □

Regeneration coppice of third section of veteran Hornbeams (yr3) □

Lay remainder of planted hedgerow (yr3) □

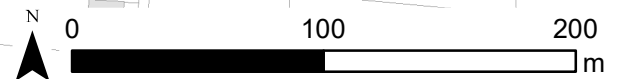
Annual Management

- Friends of Carpenters Wood**
- Whitelands Ave. Vegetation Clearance (Summer)
 - Footpath/ ride vegetation management (Summer)
 - Laurel monitoring and removal (Summer)
 - Coppice area of Holly (Winter)
 - Hand cut 1/4 of zone 2 on rides (Winter)
 - Bi-annual 'Spring clean' (March/ October)
 - Glade vegetation clearance (August)

- Three Rivers District Council**
- Manage and maintain site infrastructure (Ongoing)
 - Litter, bins and fly tipping removal (Ongoing)
 - Tree safety surveys and works (Ongoing)

- Annual review of GAP

Page 188



Scale @ A3
1:3,000

Date
March 2024

Rev
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

6.1 General prescriptions relevant to all operations

General prescriptions relevant to all operations	
<i>Habitat Retention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All mature sallow to be retained wherever practical. Only coppice 10-20% of willow in any given area e.g. ride side or glade per annum, in order to retain eggs of the Purple Emperor butterfly undisturbed and promote a varied age structure. ▪ Honeysuckle to be retained wherever practical, in particular shaded groups. This may require a tree or patch of trees to be retained if a particularly good area of honeysuckle is found. ▪ Significant oak or hornbeam trees to be retained. ▪ Retain all standing and fallen dead wood where this does not compromise ground flora and it is safe so to do. ▪ Care should be taken to protect ancient woodbanks from damage during woodland management works through the felling of trees or movement of vehicles; it may be necessary to mark these on the ground prior to works to ensure their protection.
<i>Visitor Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members of the public to be kept a safe distance from active tree works with signs and or banks men. Access routes may require temporary closure.
<i>Timing</i>	Unless otherwise stated, all habitat management work will be undertaken between 1 st November and 28 th February.

6.2 Thinning of conifers – PAWS Restoration

Thinning of conifers – PAWS Restoration	
<i>Purpose</i>	Non-native species have been planted inappropriately in these woods. They have limited benefit to native wildlife and have a detrimental impact by seeding and shading out naturally regenerating native broadleaved species and shading out rides. In Hillas wood in particular, conifers have been planted for commercial purposes to the detriment of native wildlife. In some areas they will be left for aesthetic reasons. Elsewhere groups and individual trees will be retained to maturity where these benefit particular species.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber will be removed by contractor with a chainsaw or harvester. ▪ Stumps to be cut as low as possible and left to rot.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elsewhere in the woods where tree removal is to take place such as ride and glade creation, all non-native trees will be removed as priority over other species. Where possible and away from areas of high public use, trees for removal should be ring barked to provide standing dead wood. Three fallen and 4 standing dead trees per ha. is the recommended density.
<i>Arisings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All timber will be cut to 3m lengths, stacked at the main ride in Hillas Wood, pending removal from site for sale. Commercially unviable brash will be chopped into 1-2m lengths and scattered under remaining trees with some left as habitat piles.
<i>Future management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further gradual removal under subsequent plan

6.3 Selective Felling – Continuous Cover Forestry

Selective Felling – Continuous Cover Forestry	
<i>Purpose</i>	<p>Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)</p> <p>A term used to describe forest management methods which maintain continuous woodland conditions, rather than periodically removing whole crops of trees as clear felling systems do. In other words, the next tree generation will already be established when the old one is harvested.</p> <p>The aim of CCF is to maintain continuous woodland conditions. Primarily this is done by manipulating the over-storey through removal of individual trees or small groups, thus controlling the light regime and allowing natural regeneration to occur, without encouraging detrimental weed growth. This gives rise to uneven aged mixed woodland, where all age classes of tree co-exist within one forest stand. Implicit to this form of management is the favouring of native broadleaves and the reduction of exotic coniferous species. There may also be financial benefits such as savings on planting and pruning costs.</p> <p>Selection of felling coupes to be agreed on the ground each year between TRDC & CMS</p>
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two 0.05ha groups (approx. 12m radius) will be felled per year for plan period in the area indicated in the plan. Felling groups should be positioned over locations where natural regeneration of desirable tree species is already present; the additional light will allow the young trees to fully establish. When selecting groups, consideration should also be given to the positive visual impact this can have on the woodland

	<p>– opportunities should be identified to open up internal views and vistas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trees to be felled by contractor with a chainsaw. ▪ Stumps to be left as low to ground as possible. ▪ Opportunities should be taken to remove any larger holly trees (too big for bowsaws) in the vicinity of the CCF coupes whilst contractors are on site. Process into manageable sections and leave in situ.
<i>Who</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractor.
<i>Arising</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All timber will be cut to 3m lengths, stacked at the main ride in Hillas Wood, pending removal from site for sale. ▪ Commercially unviable brash will be chopped into 1-2m lengths and scattered under remaining trees with some left as habitat piles.
<i>Future management</i>	Should natural regeneration be insufficient to reach a stocking density of 1100 trees per ha, supplementary planting of broadleaved native trees in the cleared areas to maintain the density of trees and diversity of species composition.

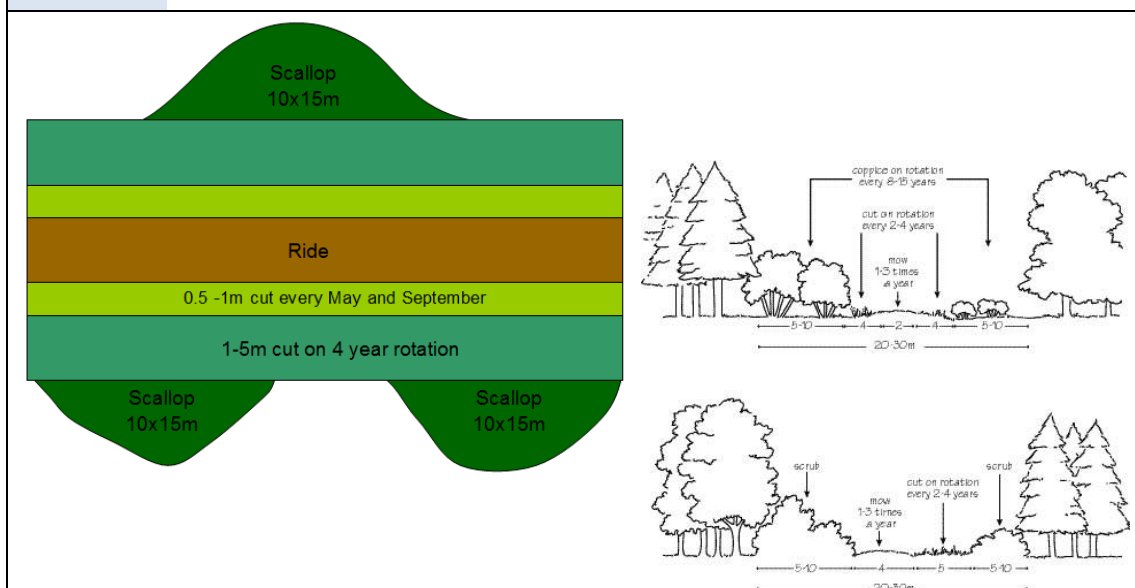
6.4 Ride widening – main rides

Ride widening – main rides	
<i>Purpose</i>	The purpose of ride widening is to create sunny areas, varied in structure and species, ideal for birds and invertebrates (especially butterflies). These will form successional habitat on the woodland edge. They will have a diverse structure ranging from short flowers, herbs and grasses in the first few years after cutting to taller shrubby bramble, honeysuckle and willow.
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An east-west ride is to be opened up in the woodland by coppicing trees on either side to create an open width of 10-15m. • Scallops are to be created in addition to this width to create ride edges that are wavy. • All material within 2m of the path edge is to be cut as low to the ground as possible and all stumps to be ground out in order to permit future mowing • All conifer and non-native broadleaves within this 10-15m zone to be permanently removed.
<i>Who</i>	Suitable for contractor.
<i>Arising</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All timber will be cut to 3m lengths and stacked at the main ride in Hillas Wood, pending removal from site for sale.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercially unviable brush will be chopped into 1-2m lengths and scattered under the remaining trees with some left as habitat piles.
<i>Future management</i>	The ride will be managed in future years by mowing 1m either side of the path for visitor benefit. A 2-4m ride edge will then be cut on rotation every 4 years and scallops going back 10-15m will be cut on rotation on a longer cycle. See accompanying ride management specification

6.5 Ride management

Ride management	
<i>Zone 1</i>	The edges of the new ride will be cut twice a year May and September 0-1m from path edge, to maintain a clear path for visitors.
<i>Zone 2</i>	The next zone, 2-4m from ride edge will be cut on a 4 year rotation to maintain vegetation in a manageable state whilst providing valuable scrub habitat. This should be staggered so that a quarter of the full length of zone 2 is cut each year (155m of ONE SIDE of the ride each year)
<i>Zone 3</i>	The 5-10m zone will be cut rotationally on a long cycle. Every year scallops (approx 10x15m arcs) will be cut into the woodland edge to increase the width of the ride at certain points. The scallop will then be left to re-grow providing a succession of habitats from scrub back to woodland into the future. Each year new scallops will be cut so that there is a mosaic of growth stages across the woodland. This is essential for birds, butterflies and other invertebrates.



6.6 Coppicing Hornbeam Stubbs

Coppicing Hornbeam Stubbs	
<i>Purpose</i>	<p>The hornbeam stubbs are very important archaeological features of the woodlands in this area. They mark the boundaries of the woodland and have remained intact for hundreds of years. Ecologically, they represent the oldest trees in Carpenters Wood, and due to their age and size are important for bats and invertebrates which inhabit older trees.</p> <p>Traditionally the stubbs would have been cut on a regular cycle for fire wood, animal fodder and building materials. As they get older, if unmanaged, they develop large heavy limbs and become more prone to limb failure and wind throw. An attempt should be made to restore some of the stubbs through the reintroduction of a cutting regime. Prior to re-cutting the surrounding area should be opened up to the light by selective removal of shading trees so that subsequent re-growth gets maximum sunlight.</p>
<i>Method</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selective felling to achieve 7m of open canopy immediately surrounding the stubbs to be cut ▪ Subsequent re-cutting of old hornbeam stubbs by cutting on an angle above stub to allow water to run off. ▪ Stubbs should be cut on good cambium above the previous cut. ▪ Protection from browsing
<i>Who</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractor
<i>Arisings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where there are sufficient quantities, timber should be cut to marketable length (min. 3 metres) and stacked at the main ride in Hillas Wood, pending removal from site for sale. ▪ Smaller material can be used to dead hedge areas visible to the public or cut into small lengths and scattered under existing trees, not on newly opened areas.
<i>Future management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor re-growth of stubbs and establish a suitable rotation length. • Following the coppicing, there may be potential to plant new hornbeams to fill gaps in between the existing stubbs, with the possibility of utilising seedlings growing naturally elsewhere in the woods or in the woodland tree nursery (FoCW)

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan

7.2 Woodland Management Plan Habitats Map

7.3 Woodland Management Plan Compartments Map

7.4 Carpenters Wood Management Zones Map