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

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: *82/028 Pheasant's Wood* *82/027 Solomon's Wood*	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 pubic 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

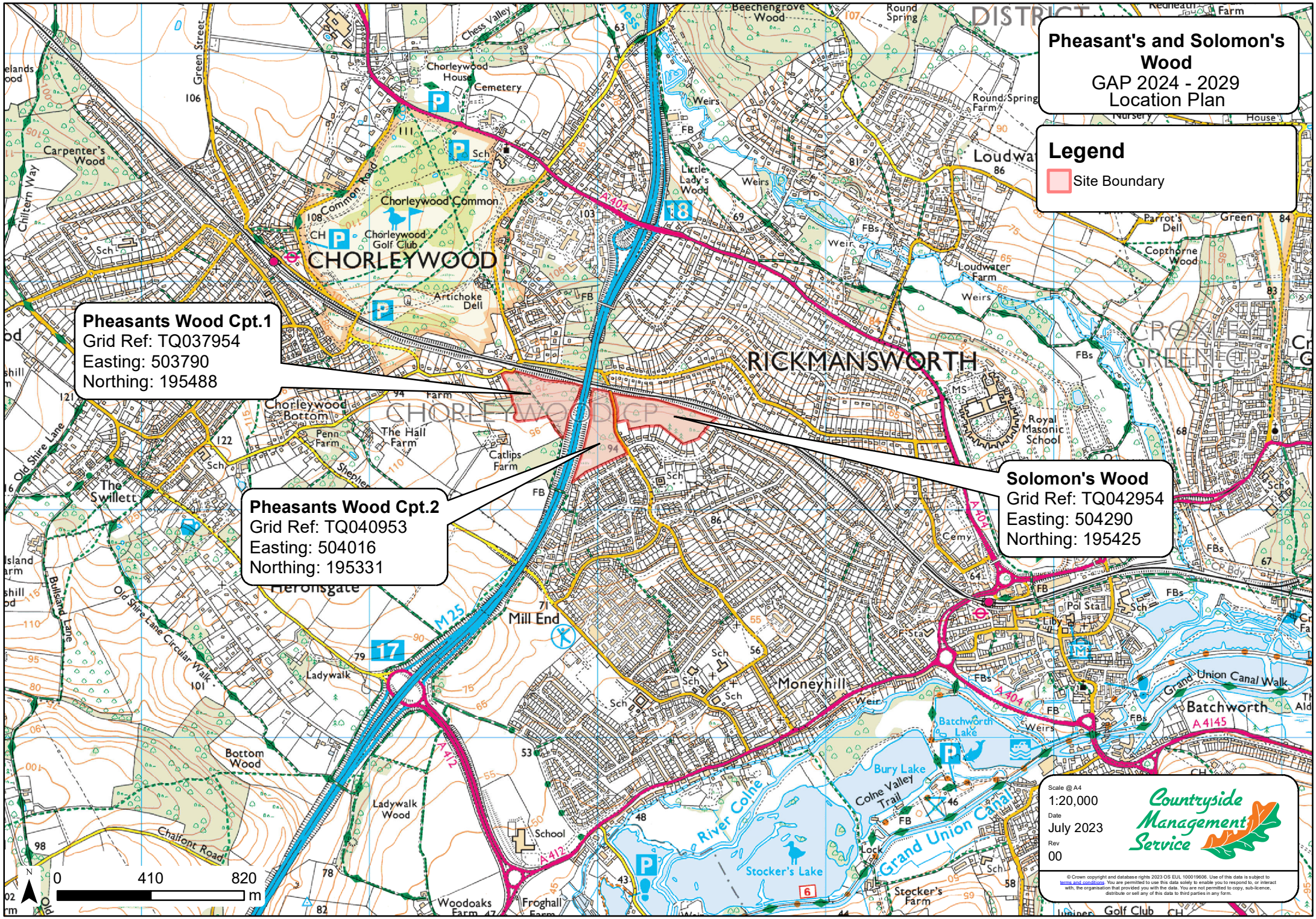
This strategy sets out how TRDC will reduce the unnecessary use of harmful chemicals. The full Pesticide Strategy can be viewed on the Open Spaces Management Plans section of TRDC's website.

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
CHORLEYWOOD
RICKMANSWORTH
CHORLEYWOOD CP
CROXLEY GREEN CP
Chorleywood Common
Chorleywood Golf Club
Chorleywood House
Cemetery
Carpenter's Wood
Artichoke Dell
Chorleywood Bottom
The Hall Farm
Penn Farm
Catlips Farm
The Swillett
Heronsgate
Mill End
Moneyhill
Ladywalk
Bottom Wood
Ladywalk Wood
Chalfont Road
Woodoaks Farm
Froghall Farm
School
Stocker's Lake
Stocker's Farm
River Colne
Colne Valley Trail
Bury Lake
Batchworth Lake
Batchworth
Grand Union Canal
Grand Union Canal Walk
Loudwater Farm
Copthorne Wood
Parrot's Dell
Royal Masonic School
Round Spring
Round Spring Farm
Beechengrove Wood
Little Lady's Wood
Redheath Farm
Old Shire Lane
Old Shire Lane Circular Walk
Bullsland Lane
Chiltern Way
Green Street
Common Road
Chess Valley
A404
M25
A412
A4145
Golf Club
0
410
820
m
Scale @ A4
1:20,000
Date
July 2023
Rev
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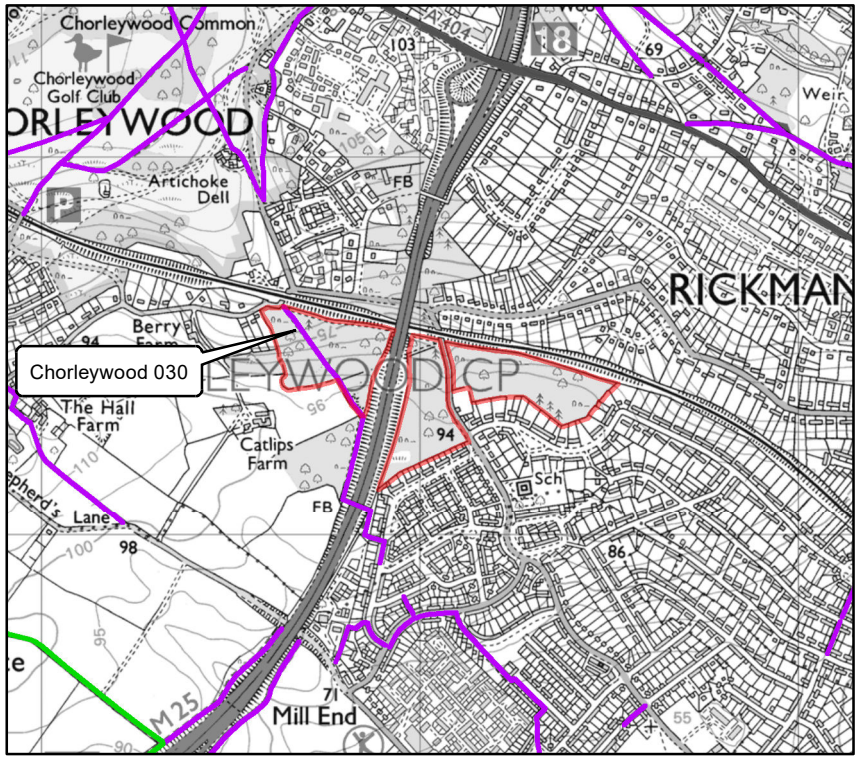
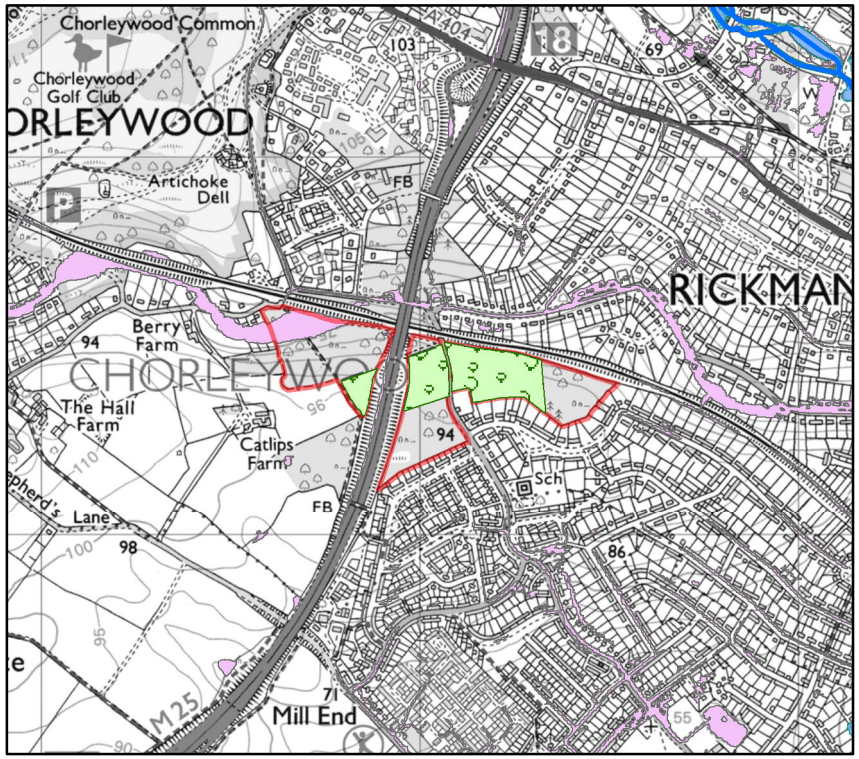
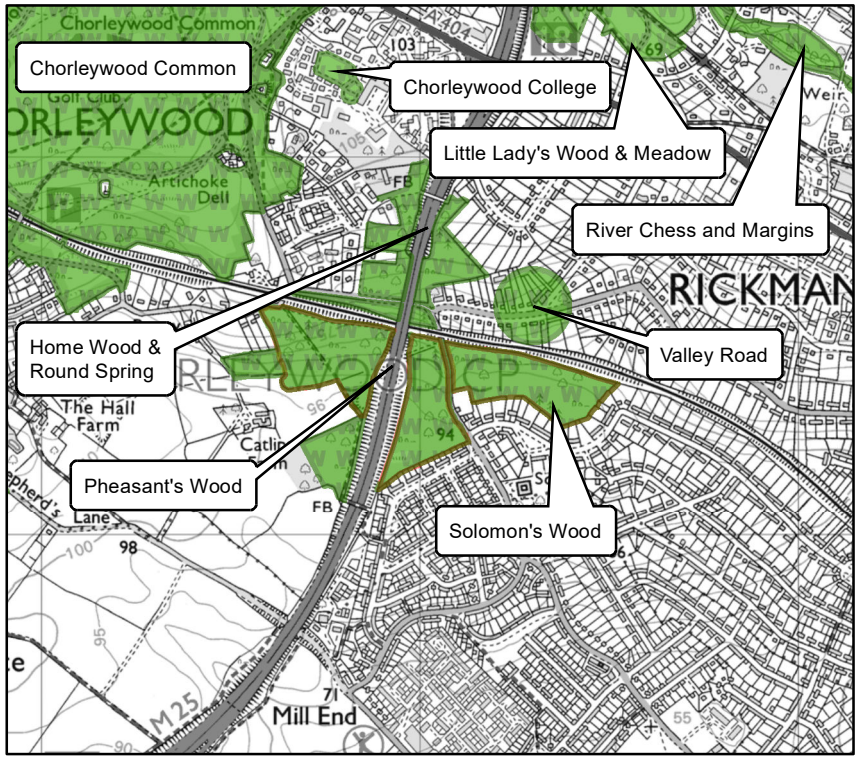
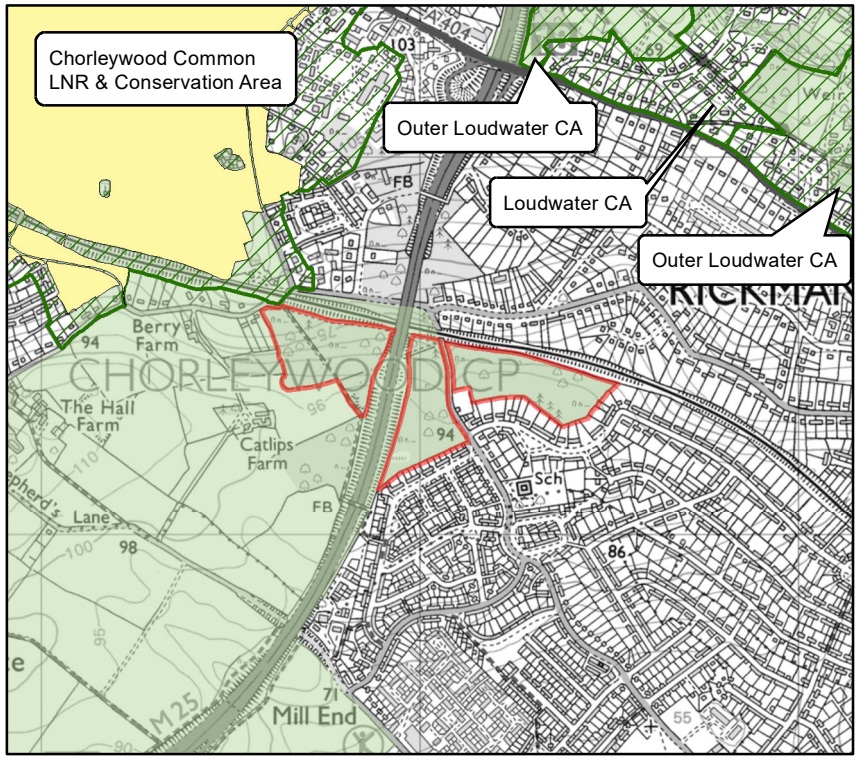
Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood
GAP 2024 - 2029
Constraints Plan









Legend

- Site Boundary
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Restricted Byway
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Temp Closed Footpath
- Temp Footpath
- Unmetalled UCR
- RoFSW_Extent1in100
- Main River
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Scheduled Monument
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- LNR
- Wildlife Site
- Greenbelt
- Conservation Area

N

Scale @ A4
1:20,000
Date
January 2024
Rev
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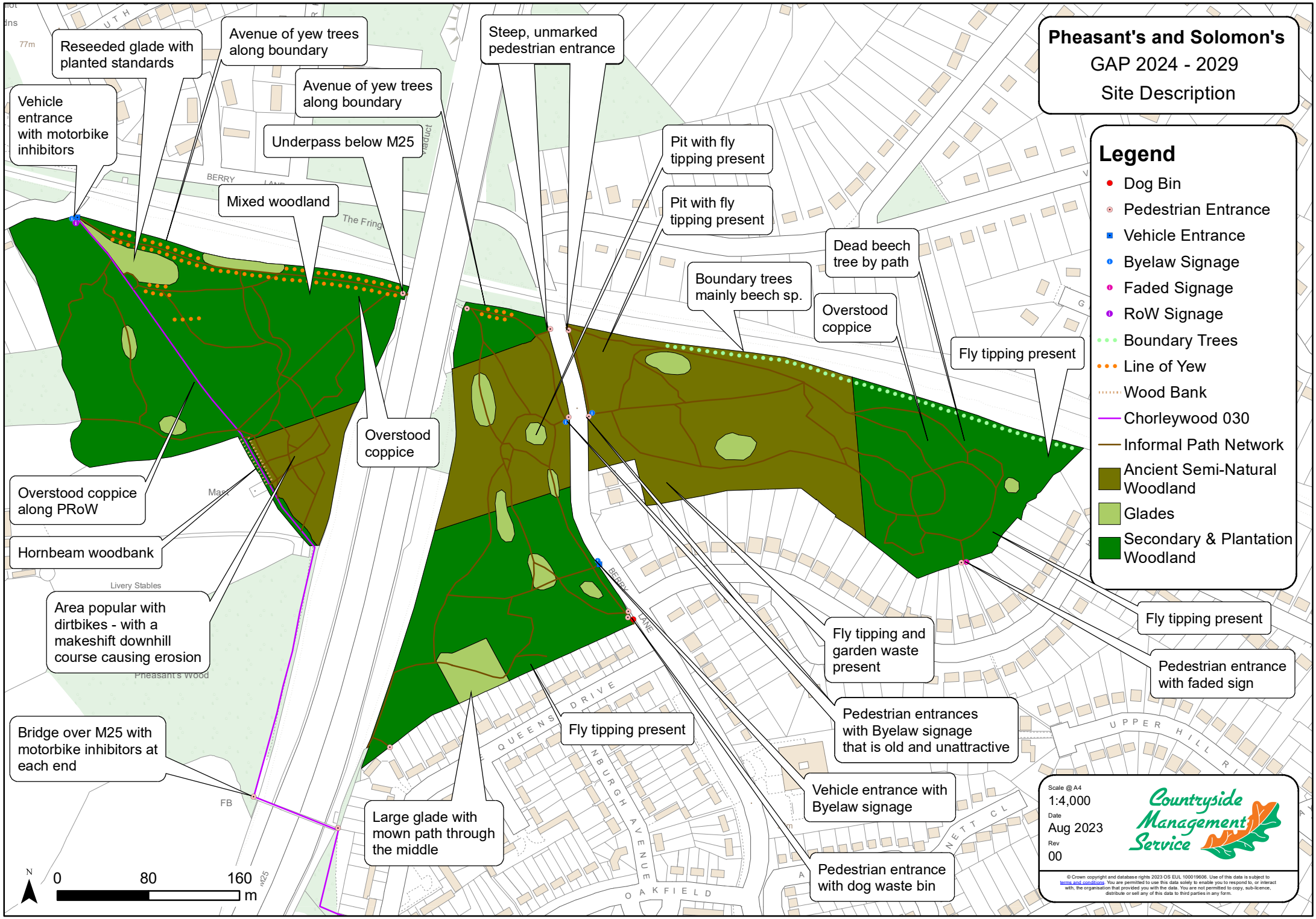
Countryside Management Service


Pheasant's and Solomon's
GAP 2024 - 2029
Site Description
Legend
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
Reseeded glade with planted standards
Avenue of yew trees along boundary
Avenue of yew trees along boundary
Steep, unmarked pedestrian entrance
Vehicle entrance with motorbike inhibitors
Underpass below M25
Pit with fly tipping present
Pit with fly tipping present
Mixed woodland
Dead beech tree by path
Boundary trees mainly beech sp.
Overstood coppice
Fly tipping present
Overstood coppice
Overstood coppice along PRoW
Hornbeam woodbank
Area popular with dirtbikes - with a makeshift downhill course causing erosion
Fly tipping and garden waste present
Fly tipping present
Pedestrian entrance with faded sign
Pedestrian entrances with Byelaw signage that is old and unattractive
Fly tipping present
Bridge over M25 with motorbike inhibitors at each end
Vehicle entrance with Byelaw signage
Large glade with mown path through the middle
Pedestrian entrance with dog waste bin
BERRY LANE
Livery Stables
Pheasant's Wood
QUEENSBURGH AVENUE
OAKFIELD DRIVE
UPPER HILL
N
0
80
160
m
Scale @ A4
1:4,000
Date
Aug 2023
Rev
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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	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. 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.

	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 a 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.
Natural England's National Character Areas	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. The extensive hedgerow network provides potential connections between the scattered semi-natural habitat fragments, including chalk grassland and common land. Relict features of traditional management techniques are widespread and include coppice woodland, orchards, laid hedgerows, veteran / ancient trees, and commons. 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.

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 0.6miles 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

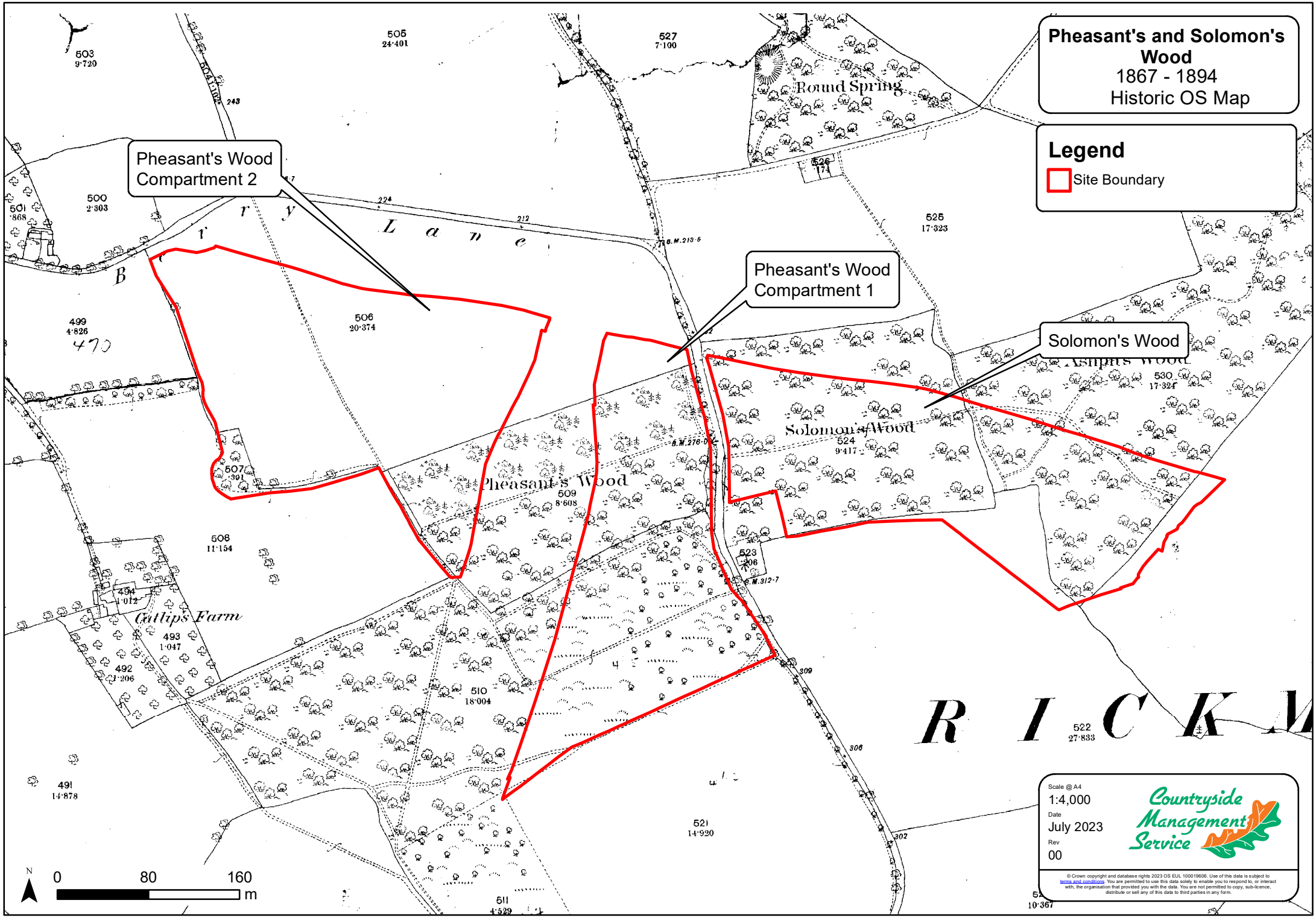
As an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood has been a staple of the surrounding landscape since at least 1600. The site comprises landscape features which reflect its history. These include veteran trees, boundary hedge banks, and internal wood banks.

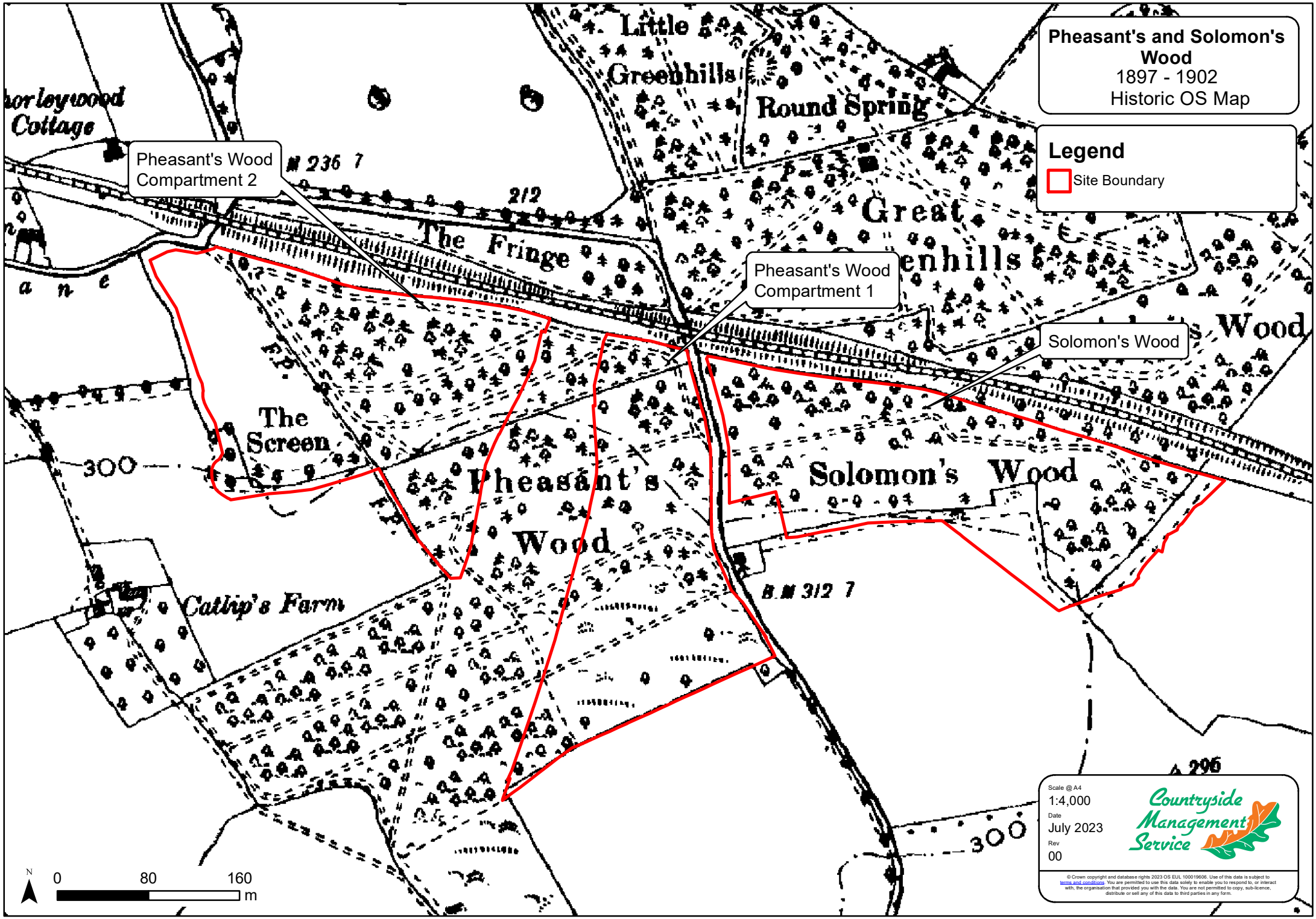
The OS map below from the late 19th Century reveals the historic presence of Pheasant's and Solomon's Wood. Although the general footprint of the site has

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.





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.

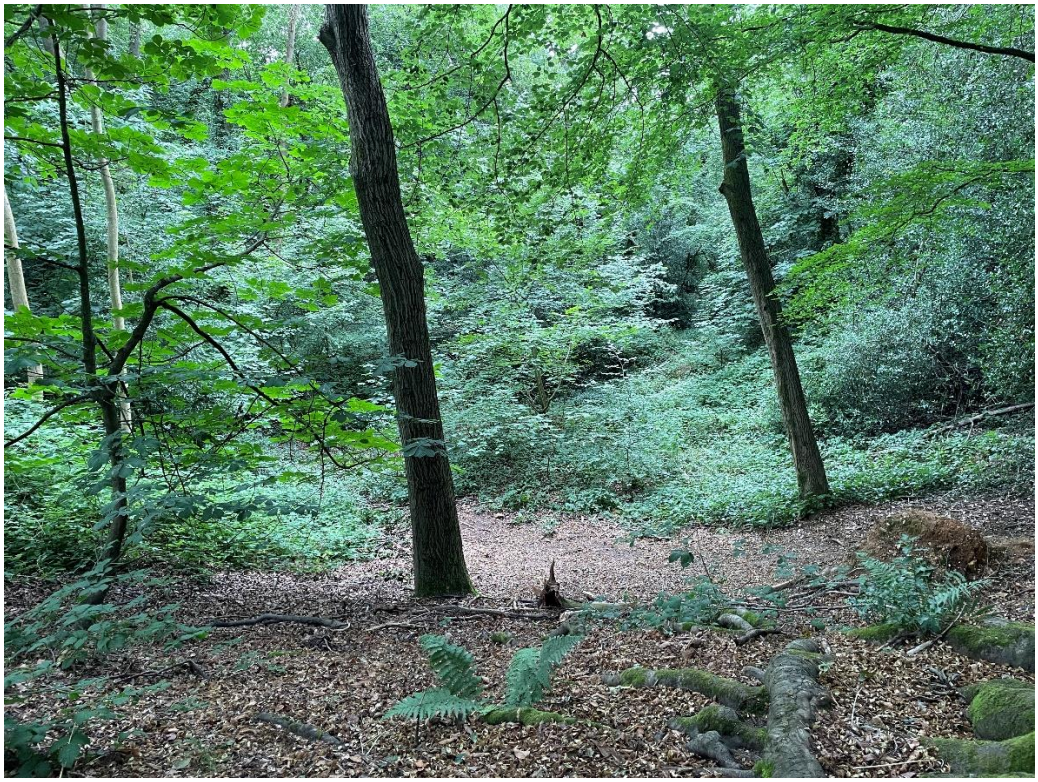


Figure 3 Pit from potential quarrying activity in Pheasant's Wood Compartment 1

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	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Amber
Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Amber
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Amber
Whitethroat	*Curruca communis*	Amber
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	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 grafilis*) 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	*Euonymus europaeus*	R	R	R
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	O	O	A
Dog's Mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*	O	A	A
Red Campion	*Silene dioica*	R	R	
Coralroot	*Cardamine bulbifera*	R	R	F
Wood Sedge	*Carex sylvatica*	O	O	O

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

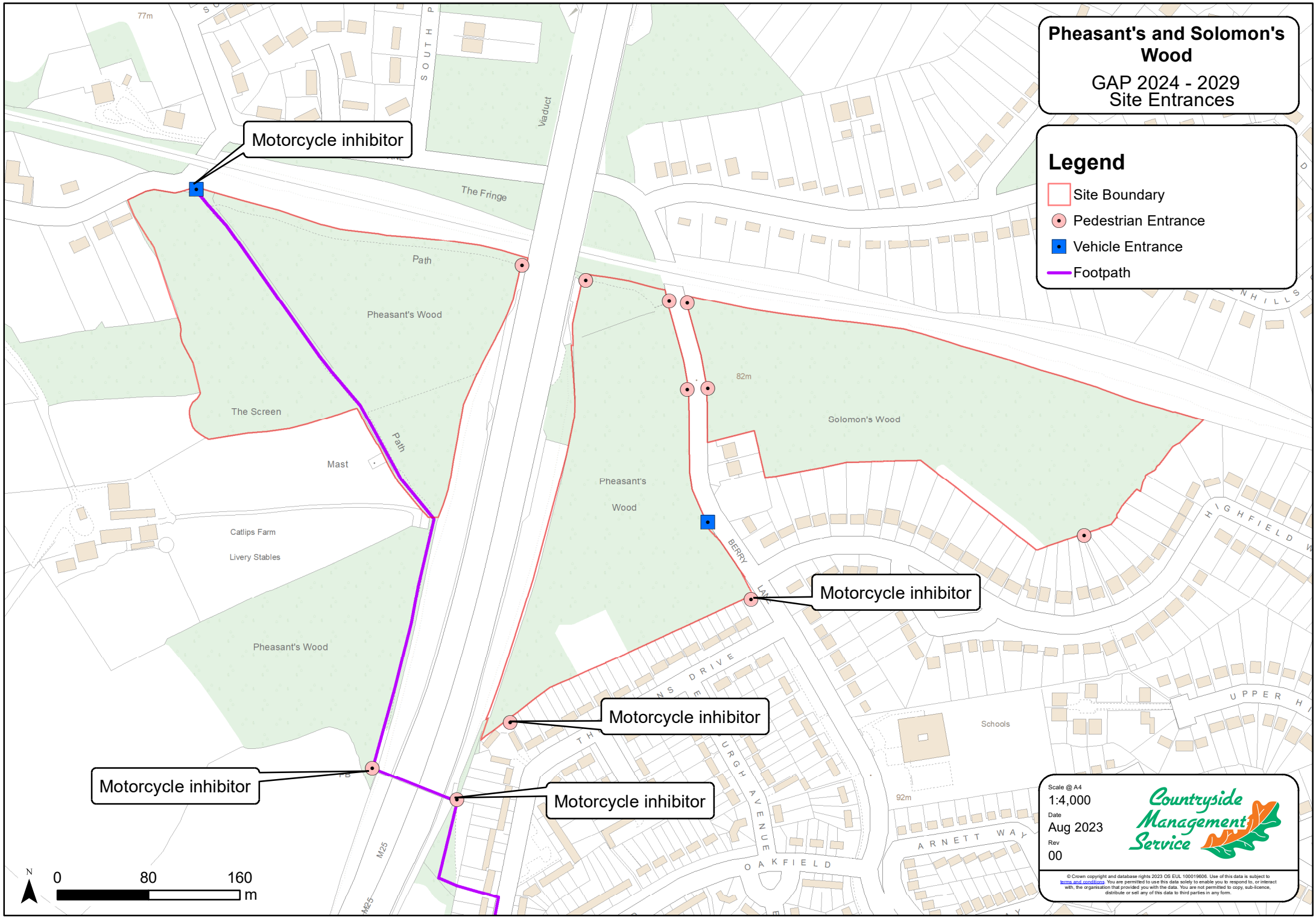
Pheasant's Wood Compartment 2 is accessed in the north-east via an underpass below the M25 that connects to Compartment 1. In the north-west of the site is the vehicle entrance for the site, with a lockable vehicle gate and motorcycle inhibitors. This entrance has behaviour signage regarding the byelaws 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.



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

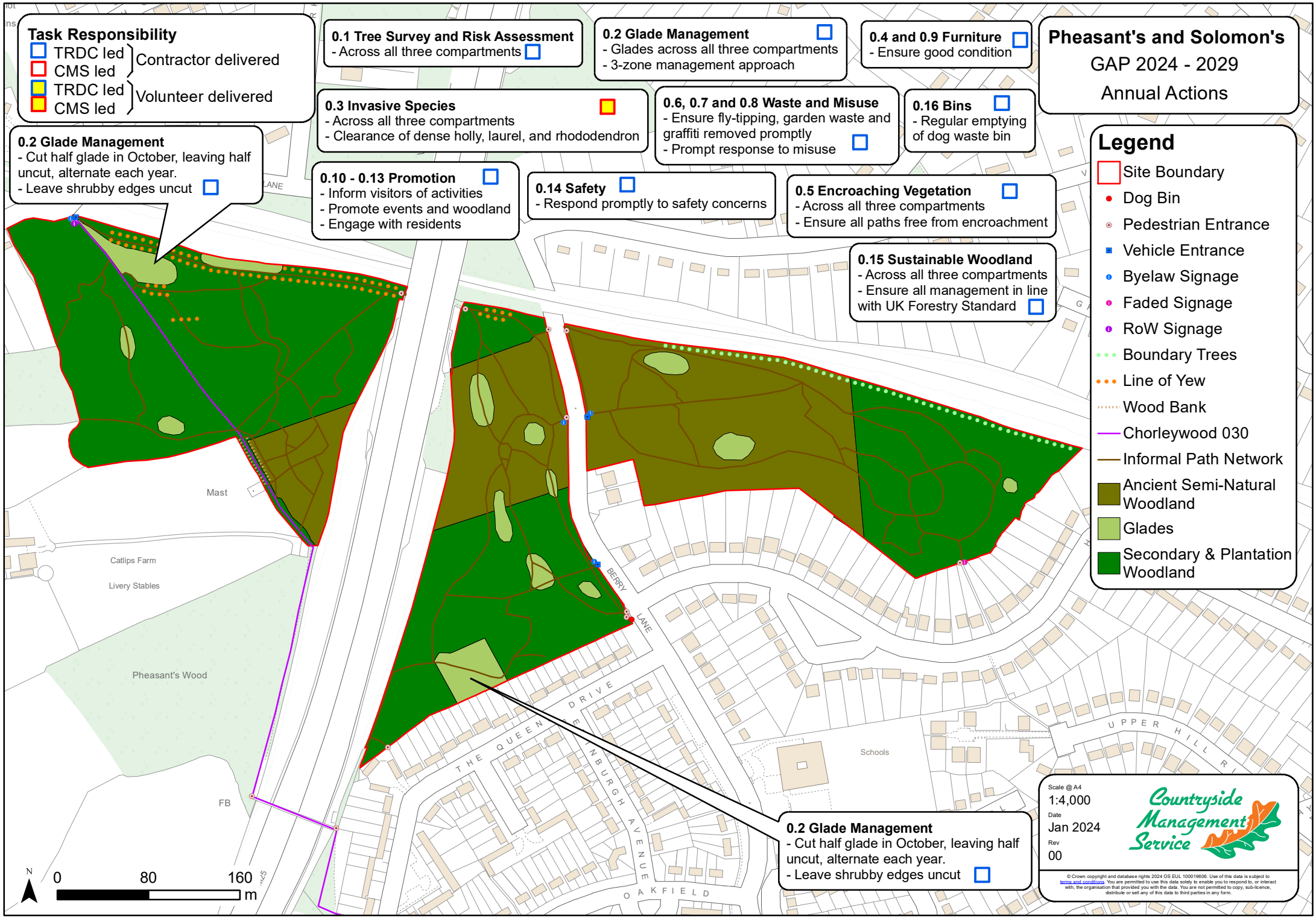
The action plans are divided into revenue and capital sections. Revenue items will generally be funded and delivered through existing Council revenue budgets. Capital items have no fund currently allocated to them, so delivery would require following the Council's capital bid process of a capital bid 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

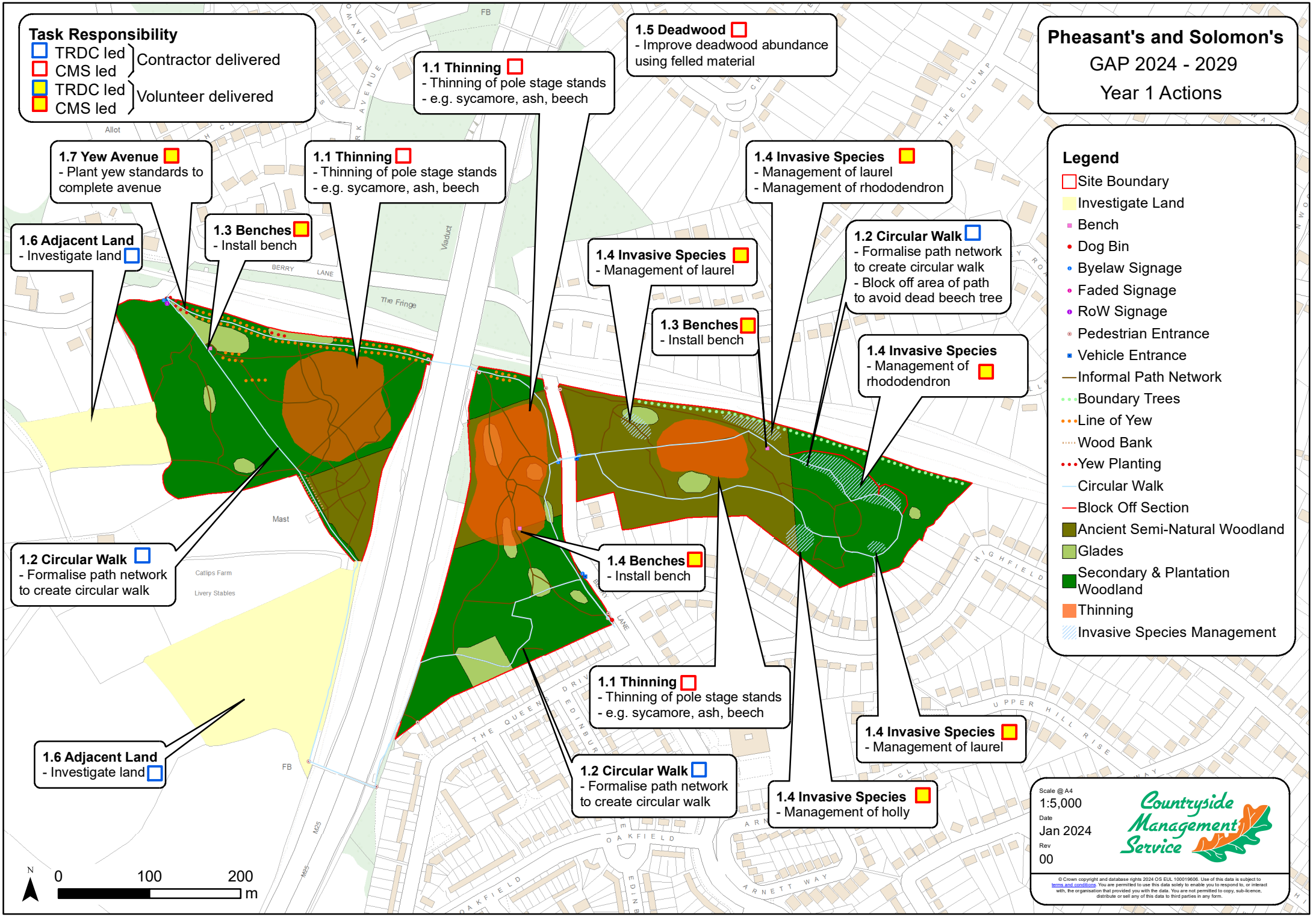
Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
0.1	Tree survey and proportionate risk management.	B2	Winter	TRDC	Contractor	Officer Time		
0.2	Carry out vegetation management in glades.	E7	Sept to Feb	TRDC	GM Contract / vols	EP Budget		8.2
0.3	Monitor invasive species.	E2	All 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		



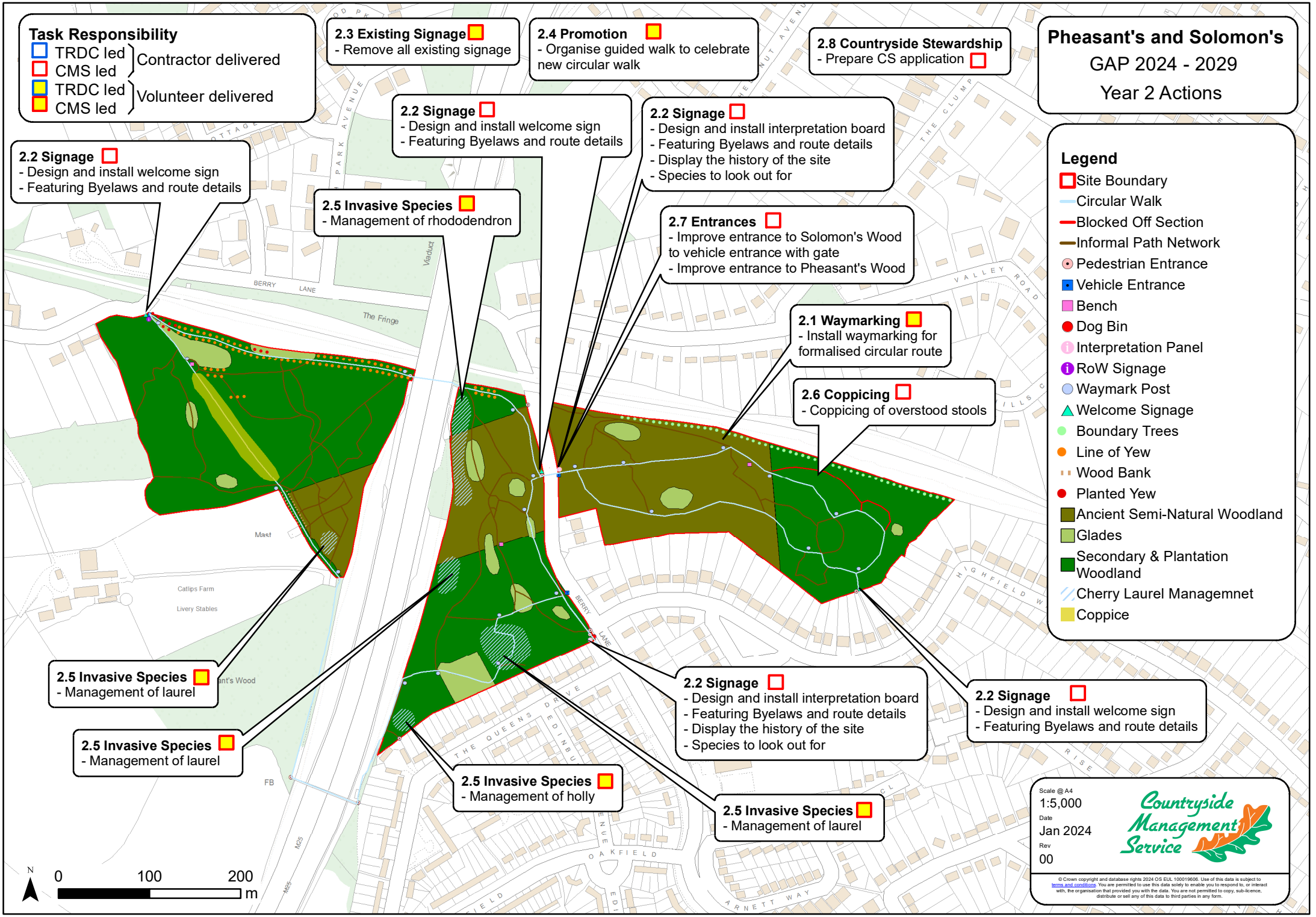
6.2 Year 1 Actions (2024 – 2025)

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



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		


Task Responsibility
TRDC led
CMS led
Contractor delivered
TRDC led
CMS led
Volunteer delivered
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
Pheasant's and Solomon's
GAP 2024 - 2029
Year 2 Actions
2.2 Signage
- Design and install welcome sign
- Featuring Byelaws and route details
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
Interpretation Panel
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 Managemnet
Coppice
2.5 Invasive Species
- Management of laurel
2.5 Invasive Species
- Management of laurel
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 holly
2.5 Invasive Species
- Management of laurel
BERRY LANE
The Fringe
Viaduct
Mast
Catlips Farm
Livery Stables
VALLEY ROAD
HIGHFIELD
OAKFIELD
ARNETT WAY
M25
FB
N
0
100
200
m
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Jan 2024
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Countryside Management Service
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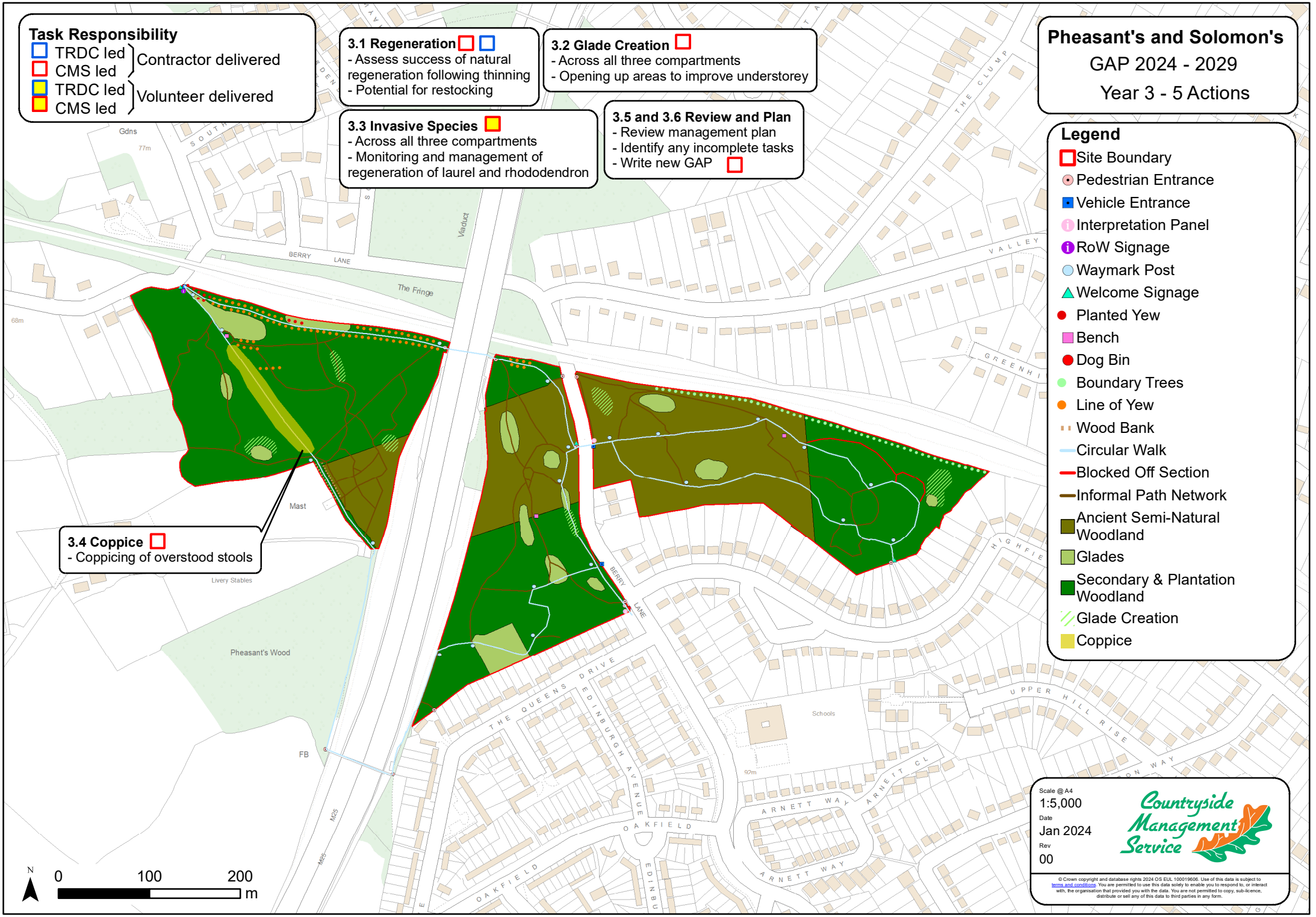
6.4 Year 3 – 5 Actions (2026 – 2029)

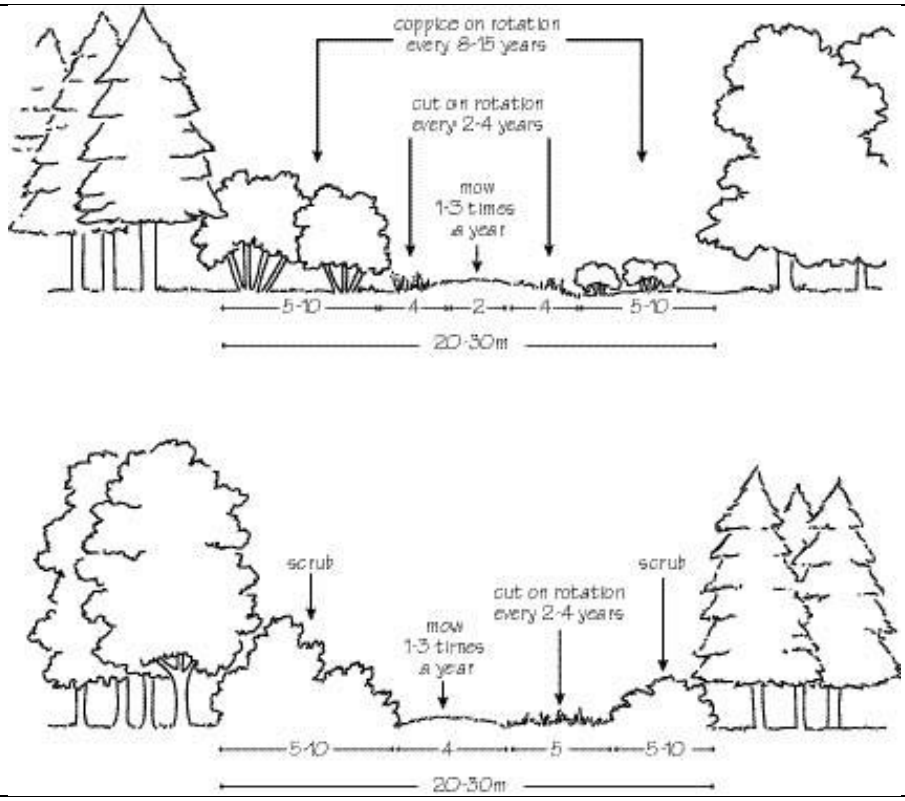
Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.
3.1	Assess success of natural regeneration following thinning with potential for restocking.	D1	Y3	TRDC / CMS	TRDC / CMS	Officer time		6.14
3.2	Glade creation across all three compartments.	E8	Y4	CMS	Contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£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		



7.0 SPECIFICATIONS

7.1 General prescriptions relevant to all operations	
Habitat Retention	• 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.
Visitor Safety	• Members of the public to be kept at a safe distance from active works where necessary. Access routes may require temporary closure where appropriate.
Timing	• Unless otherwise stated, all habitat management work will be undertaken outside of nesting season.

7.2 Glade Management	
Zone 1	• The edges of the glades will be cut once a year in September by 0.5-1m to maintain a clear path for visitors.
Zone 2	• 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.
Zone 3	• 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.

Style / Design	
Other	• 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	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	• Cut back encroaching vegetation. • Use a pole saw to reduce overhanging branches.
Who?	• TRDC grounds maintenance contract
Future Management	• Monitor the path network to check for access issues.

7.4 Thinning	
Purpose	• 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.

Method	• 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 20m^3/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.
Who?	• CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
Future Management	• Monitoring of natural regeneration success, with potential for restocking if not achieving target stocking density.

7.5 Circular Walk	
Purpose	• The creation of a circular walk around the site will help to encourage exploration and enjoyment of the woods and promote physical activity.
Method	• 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.

	• 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.
Who?	• TRDC to lead, CMS to assist with delivery.
Future Management	• Continue to monitor circular walk.

7.6 Installation of Benches	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	• 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
Who?	• CMS Officer to procure. • Installation by CMS volunteers.
Style / Design	• 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
Future Management	• Monitoring of the condition of site furniture.

7.7 Invasive Species Management (Holly)	
Purpose	• To reduce risk of holly overtaking other species within the woodland larger specimen are to be coppiced.
Method	• 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.

	• 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.
Who?	• CMS to lead, vols to deliver.
Future Management	• Protection of coppiced holly to secure regrowth, completed by volunteers in Spring.

7.8 Invasive Species Management (Rhododendron & Laurel)	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	• 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.
Who?	• CMS to lead, volunteers to deliver.
Future Management	• 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	
Purpose	• To ascertain ownership status of the surrounding land.
Method	• Investigate historic ownership records.
Who?	• TRDC

Future Management	• Explore future options in relation to these compartments.

7.10 Yew Planting	
Purpose	• To continue the historic boundary avenue along the northern boundary of the site.
Method	• 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.
Who?	• Contractor / volunteers.
Aftercare	• 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	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	• 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
Who?	• CMS officer to procure local manufacturer for waymark disks, and local timber merchant for posts.

	• Installation by CMS volunteers.
Future Management	• Monitoring of the condition of the waymark posts and keeping encroaching vegetation cut back during the summer.

7.12 Signage and Interpretation	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	*Welcome Signage* • 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.  • • Quantity: 3 *Interpretation Panels* • 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.

	• 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
Who?	• CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
Future Management	• Monitor appearance of furniture to ensure good quality.

7.13 Coppicing	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	*Coppicing* • 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. *Protection* • 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. *Area* • Coupes of around 0.25ha to be cut on a 25-year cycle.
Who?	• CMS to procure, contractor to deliver.
Arisings	• 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.
Future Management	• 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

	possible and leave non-hornbeam species where this is the only option to fill a gap. Retain clusters of oak saplings as future standards. • 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	
Purpose	• Where natural regeneration is unsuccessful, or not reaching stocking targets, supplementary planting is needed to ensure species diversity and diversity of age class.
Method	• 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.
Who?	• TRDC / CMS
Future Management	• 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	
Purpose	• 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.
Method	• 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.

	• All non-native broadleaves within the zone to be permanently removed.
Who?	• CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
Future Management	• 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.

Who?	• CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.
Future Management	• 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)

Appendix A: Briefing Document Engagement Responses

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.

Appendix B: GAP Document Responses

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.

Forestry Commission England

Appendix C: 2020 - 2040 Woodland Management Plan

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 *(dd/mm/yyyy - Ten years)*	**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.

Forestry Commission England

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 ☑
1	**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.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	Yes
2	**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.	Management intentions communicated in ***Sect. 6*** of the management plan are in line with stated objective(s) ***Sect. 2***. Management intentions should take account of: • 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	**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.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	Yes
4	**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. 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.	• 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	**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.	• 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	**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.	• 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

Woodland Property Name		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	Local Authority	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 informred 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 gulley'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
Biodiversity- Designations				
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
Biodiversity - European Protected Species					
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	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. Compartments 1a, 1b, 1d display ASNW characteristics. Bluebell and other ASNW indicator plants present in the ground layer. 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

			thinning. However, ash disease is likely to have a negative impact. Some mature beech amd hornbeam boundary 'stubbs' and , oak standards are considered to be veteran or approaching veteran status.
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, *Phytophthora,* 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, *Phytophthora,* Needle Blight etc)	Phytopthora 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, *Phytophthora,* 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. Phytopthora, 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
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)	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. 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. 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. 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. 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

	stocking density supplimentary planting will be carried out to achive this. If necessary we may also enlarge regeneration existing coupes if light levels are insufficient e.g for oak establishment. We will keep options open regarding future economic potentail 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. Thinning will also be guided by ecological and landscape considerations in line with recommendations set out in the UK Forestry Standard (2017).
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)	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. 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 likley to self-thin in some areas creating potential health and safety issues. 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. Hazel will be coppiced where light levels are favourable or where damage has resulted from felling the overstorey. Care will be taken not to 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 and beyond. There will be a general presumption against tree surgery works i.e. canopy reduction, dead-wooding etc except were 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. 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. This will also contirbute towards delivering biodiversity and ASNW integrity objectives for the site.
Control the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) i.e. Cherry laurel and Rhododendron via an agreed programme of eradication and / or containment	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.
Maintain all access fit for purpose i.e. footpaths, PRoW, Permissive Access and tracks for woodland operations	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. We will aim for a three-zone ride management system extending to 10m either side of the footpath in places. Tracks will also be maintained following timber harvesting operations and 'made-good' so that they can be re-used by the public. Tree safety inspections will be carried out annually along all major access routes.

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	Age-class diversity will be widened over time to facilitate long-term sustainablility and increase climate resilience. Approximately 50% of tree age-classes are currently 100+ years old except for pole-stage stands and sporadic natural regeneration. 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. 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. Where necessary temporary deer fencing maybe 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.
Ensure woods are protected from unauthorised damaging activities and to conserve the ancient woodland ecology, soils and integrity of the woodland	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. 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. We will seek to reduce the number of camp fires and subsequent fire damage to mature trees. We will seek to engage with the public with regards to the need for sustainable woodland

	management. We will also implement current Forestry Commission Biosecurity guidance and best practice i.e. signage and provision of public information.
To conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood such as wood and hedge banks, boundary veteran trees	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. As a general rule veteran trees will not be cut. 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. 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. 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. Veteran trees i.e. hornbeam, beech and oak will be released from surrounding competition and shade during routine thinning programmes. Species such as sycamore and cherry will be removed during thinning operations to create favourable conditions around veteran trees. In general veteran trees should not be cut where there is no danger of tree loss from

	collapse or compromise to public safety. 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.
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 informred by FC Ecological Site Classification (ESC)	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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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,

	beech etc. We will also periodically review species choice at using the ESC and alter species accordingly where necessary.
Maximise opportunities for public involvement and to consult widely taking account of all stakeholders	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.

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	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	Record of progress meetings. Feedback from stakeholders . Visual assessment. Cpt records.	Annual	CMS	
To conserve and protect heritage features associated with the wood such as wood and hedge banks, boundary veteran trees	Raise awareness and consult widely with stakeholders. No further damage to archaeology. Successsful veteran tree / beech / hornbeam stubb restoration programme.	Visual assessment. Cpt records. Feedback from stakeholders	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	Raise awareness and consult widely with stakeholders. Wood contains stands of varied age classes and	Visual assessment. Cpt records. Plan Updated	Annual	CMS	

diversification from phased thinning and careful species selection and regeneration informred 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	

Forestry Commission England

UK Forestry Standard woodland plan assessment

For FC office use and approval only:

UKFS management plan criteria	Minimum approval requirements	Achieved	Review notes
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.	• Management plan objectives are stated. • Consideration is given to environmental, economic and social objectives relevant to the vision for the woodland.	**Yes/No**	
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.	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: • 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**	
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.	• Survey information (***Sect. 4***) identifies any designations that impact on woodland management. • Management intentions (***Sect. 6***) have taken account of any designations.	**Yes/No**	
Felling and restocking to improve forest structure and diversity: When planning felling and restocking, the design of existing forests should be re-	• Felling and restocking proposals are consistent with UKFS design principles (for example scale and adjacency). • Current diversity (structure, species, age	**Yes/No**	

assessed and any necessary changes made to meet UKFS requirements. Forests should be designed to achieve a diverse structure of habitat, species and age range 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.	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).		
Consultation: 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.	• 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.	**Yes/No**	
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.	• 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	**Yes/No**	

Approved in Principle *This means the FC is happy with your plan; it meets UKFS requirements.* *a) You can use it to support a CS-HT or other grant application.* ***b) You do not yet have a licence to undertake any tree felling in the plan.***	**Name (WO or FM):**	**Date:**
Approved *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).*	**Name (AO, WO or FM):**	**Date:**

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							
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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)

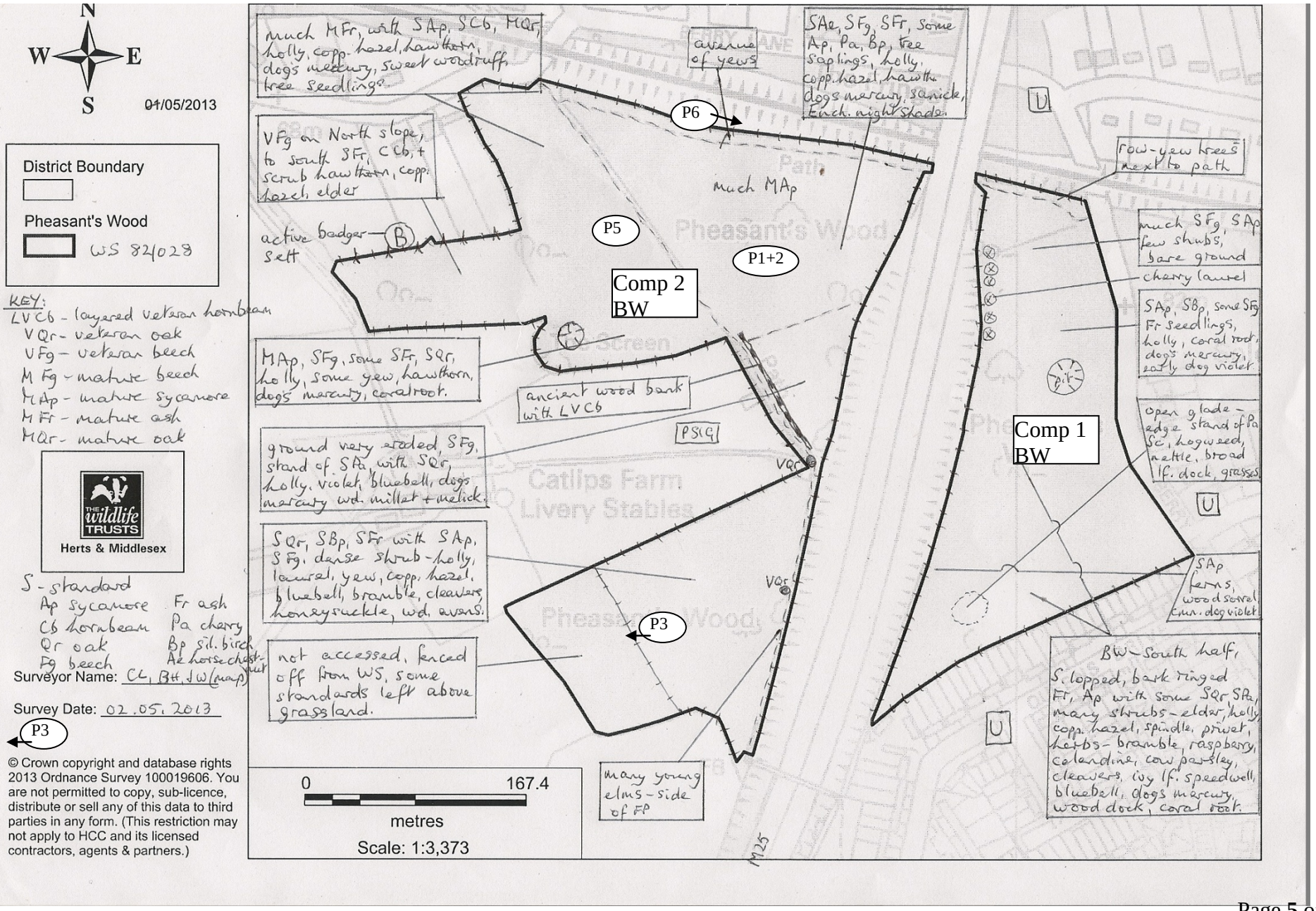
Original criteria:	H.1.1.1 Woodland recorded on the AWI	**Habitat:**	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural,
Criteria met:	H.1.1.1 & H1.1.3 (24 AWIs)		
Recommended changes to boundary	Yes – south-western-most area, west of fence-line. Not accessed – but not woodland – looks like area has been claimed for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

	Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut (Castanea sativa), Cherry (Prunus avium), Holly, with Sanicle (Sanicula europaea), Early Dog Violet and Coralroot in the herb layer. The far-western area is very steep sided, with impenetrable Hawthorn and Honeysuckle (Lonicera periclymenum) patches, and carpets of Dogs Mercury (Mercurialis perennis) 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 (Carpinus betulus) boundary trees marking the westernmost edge of the ancient woodland boundary. Ground flora here includes Sweet Woodruff (Galium odoratum), Coralroot and Bluebells. 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. Coralroot (Cardamine bulbifera) 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.
Compartment 1: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ040953	East of M25. 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. 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.
Compartment 2: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ038953	West of M25: Row of Yews along railway, Beech, Sycamore, Ash, Horse Chestnut, Cherry, Holly. Dogs Mercury, Sanicle, Early Dog Violet, Coralroot. Far western secondary woodland area, with very steep sides and has impenetrable Hawthorn and Honeysuckle, ground flora carpets of Dog's Mercury. 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. South-western section – secondary woodland with dense Holly, Beech, Sycamore, English Elm, with carpets of Bluebell, Cleavers, Honeysuckle. Ground very level.

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 (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Oak (*Quercus*) 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%


N
W
E
S
04/05/2013
District Boundary
Pheasant's Wood
WS 82/028
KEY:
LVCb - layered veteran hornbeam
VQr - veteran oak
VFg - veteran beech
MFg - mature beech
MAp - mature sycamore
MFr - mature ash
MQr - mature oak
Herts & Middlesex
S - standard
Ap sycamore
Cb hornbeam
Qr oak
Fg beech
Fr ash
Pa cherry
Bp sil. birch
Ae horsechestnut
Surveyor Name: CL, BH, JW (map)
Survey Date: 02.05.2013
P3
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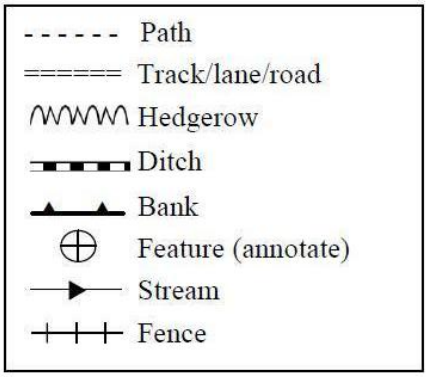
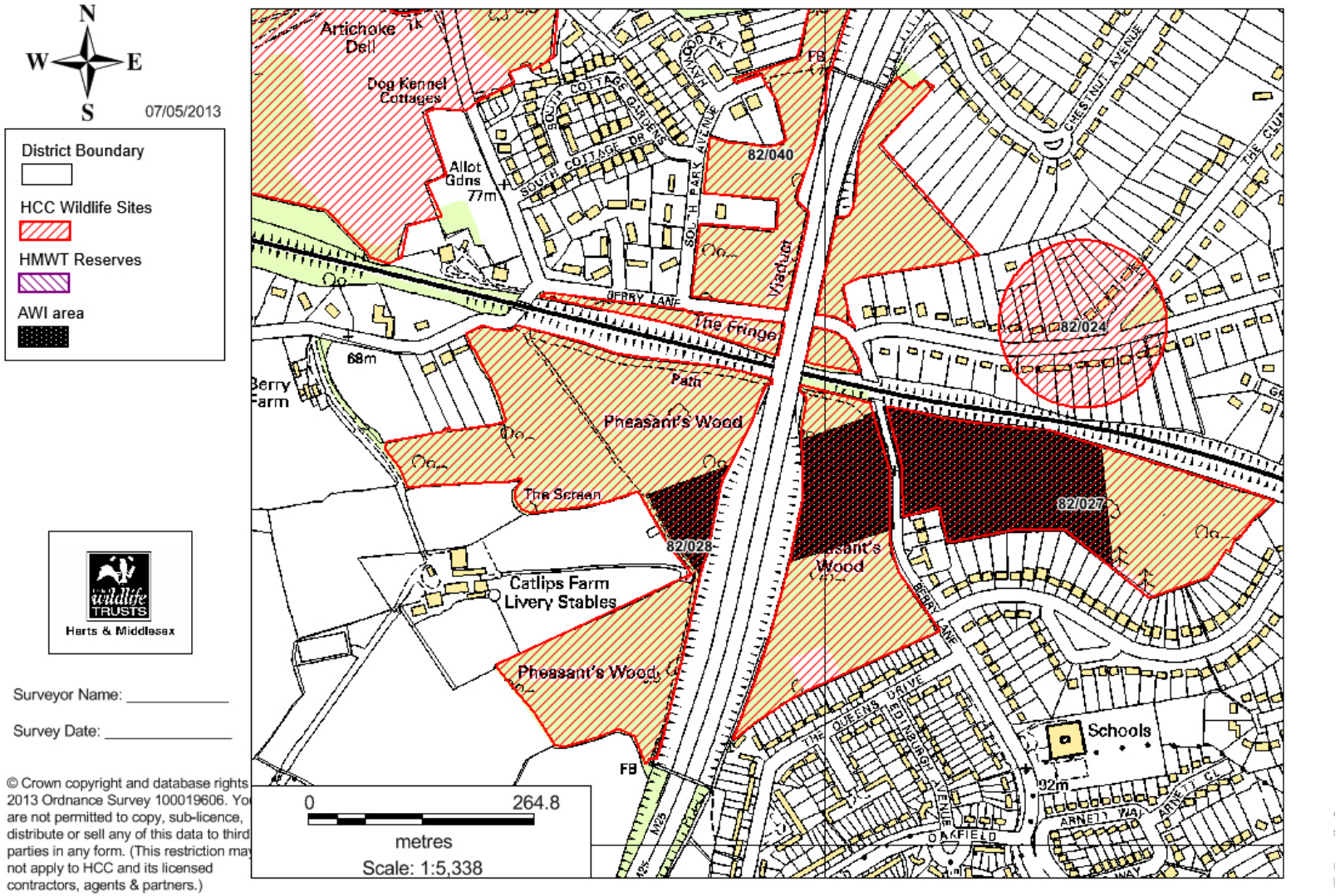
much MFr, with SAp, SCb, MQr, holly, copp. hazel, hawthorn, dogs mercury, sweet woodruff, tree seedlings
avenue of yews
SAe, SFg, SFr, some Ap, Pa, Bp, tree saplings, holly, copp. hazel, hawth. dogs mercury, sanicle, Ench. nightshade.
P6
U
row - yew trees next to path
VFg on North slope, to south SFr, CCb, + scrub hawthorn, copp. hazel, elder
much MAp
active badger sett
B
P5
P1+2
Comp 2 BW
much SFg, SAp few shrubs, bare ground
cherry laurel
SAp, SBp, some SFg Fr seedlings, holly, coral root, dogs mercury, early dog violet
MAp, SFg, some SFr, SQr, holly, some yew, hawthorn, dogs mercury, coralroot.
ancient wood bank with LVCb
PSCq
open glade - edge stand of Pa Sc, hogweed, nettle, broad lf. dock, grasses
Comp 1 BW
ground very eroded, SFg, stand of SAp with SQr, holly, violet, bluebell, dogs mercury wd. millet + melick
VQr
U
SQr, SBp, SFr with SAp, SFg, dense shrub - holly, laurel, yew, copp. hazel, bluebell, bramble, cleavers, honeysuckle, wd. avens.
VQr
SAp ferns, wood sorrel cmn. dog violet
P3
BW - South half
S. lopped, bark ringed Fr, Ap with some SQr, SAp, many shrubs - elder, holly, copp. hazel, spindle, privet, herbs - bramble, raspberry, celandine, cow parsley, cleavers, ivy lf. speedwell, bluebell, dogs mercury, wood dock, coral root.
not accessed, fenced off from WS, some standards left above grassland.
many young elms - side of FP
0
167.4
metres
Scale: 1:3,373
M25

		WS boundary (NB use a red line to denote anywhere boundary changes should be made)
WOODLAND & SCRUB	BW	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
	PB	Plantation broadleaved woodland
	PC	Plantation coniferous woodland
	MW	Mixed woodland
	DS	Dense-continuous scrub
	SS	Scattered scrub (NB: notate grassland type beneath)
	SB	Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)
	SC	Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)
	SM	Mixed Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)
	FB	Broadleaved recently felled woodland
	FC	Coniferous recently felled woodland
	FM	Mixed recently felled woodland
GRASSLAND	UAG	Unimproved acid grassland
	SIAG	Semi-improved acid grassland
	UCG	Unimproved calcareous grassland
	SICG	Semi-improved calcareous grassland
	UNG	Unimproved neutral grassland
	SING	Semi-improved neutral grassland
	I	Improved grassland
	MG	Marsh/marshy grassland
	PSIG	Species-poor semi-improved grassland
Tall herb and fen	CB	Continuous bracken
	SB	Scattered bracken (NB: notate grassland type beneath)
	TR	Tall ruderal vegetation
	NR	Non-ruderal vegetation (fen, e.g. reed/sweetgrass dominant stands)
WATER	SW	Standing water
	RW	Running water
CULTIVATED	A	Arable land
	AM	Amenity grassland / U Urban
	ESP	Ephemeral/short (e.g. herbal pioneer communities/weedy species)
	IS	Perennial introduced shrub (eg snowberry, rhododendron, laurel, cotoneaster, bamboo etc)

CBW Coppiced broadleaved woodland
RCBW Relict coppiced broadleaved woodland





Pheasant's Wood Ancient Woodland area

Species List

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

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

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

Total species (all comp.s)	**93**	**total indicators**	**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**
Threshholds:	**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.

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	Nature of Association
Three Rivers District Council	

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

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

• Would the landowner welcome management advice, to improve the site for wildlife?	
Compartments:	
Compartment 1:	There is some Laurel present. Dense Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and some Honey Suckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), felled Cherry (*Prunus avium*) for safety reasons and tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The woodland does not appear to have changed much since the previous 2005 survey, however the Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) may have increased. There is little deer damage and there is a good range of tree age classes, including old Cherry trees (*Prunus avium*). There is some standing dead wood within the woodland. The ground flora is diverse however the Laurel has increased in the North-West corner.

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	• 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 (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Oak (*Quercus*) 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

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Monitoring Survey
Carol Lodge and Stephen Mason
3/2/2016