



# **Carpenters Wood**

## **GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN**

**2025 – 2030**



## OVERVIEW

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### Greenspace Action Plans

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

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

### Public Engagement

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

### Version Control

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

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## **1.0 SUMMARY**

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### **1.1 Site Summary**

Site Name: Carpenters Wood

Site Address: Whitelands Avenue  
Chorleywood  
Rickmansworth  
Hertfordshire  
Wd3 5RQ

Grid Reference: TQ 015967

Size: 22.8 hectares (56 acres)

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

Owner: Three Rivers District Council

### **1.2 Vision Statement**

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

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Introduction

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

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



*Beech woodland characteristic of Whitelands Wood*

# Carpenters Wood

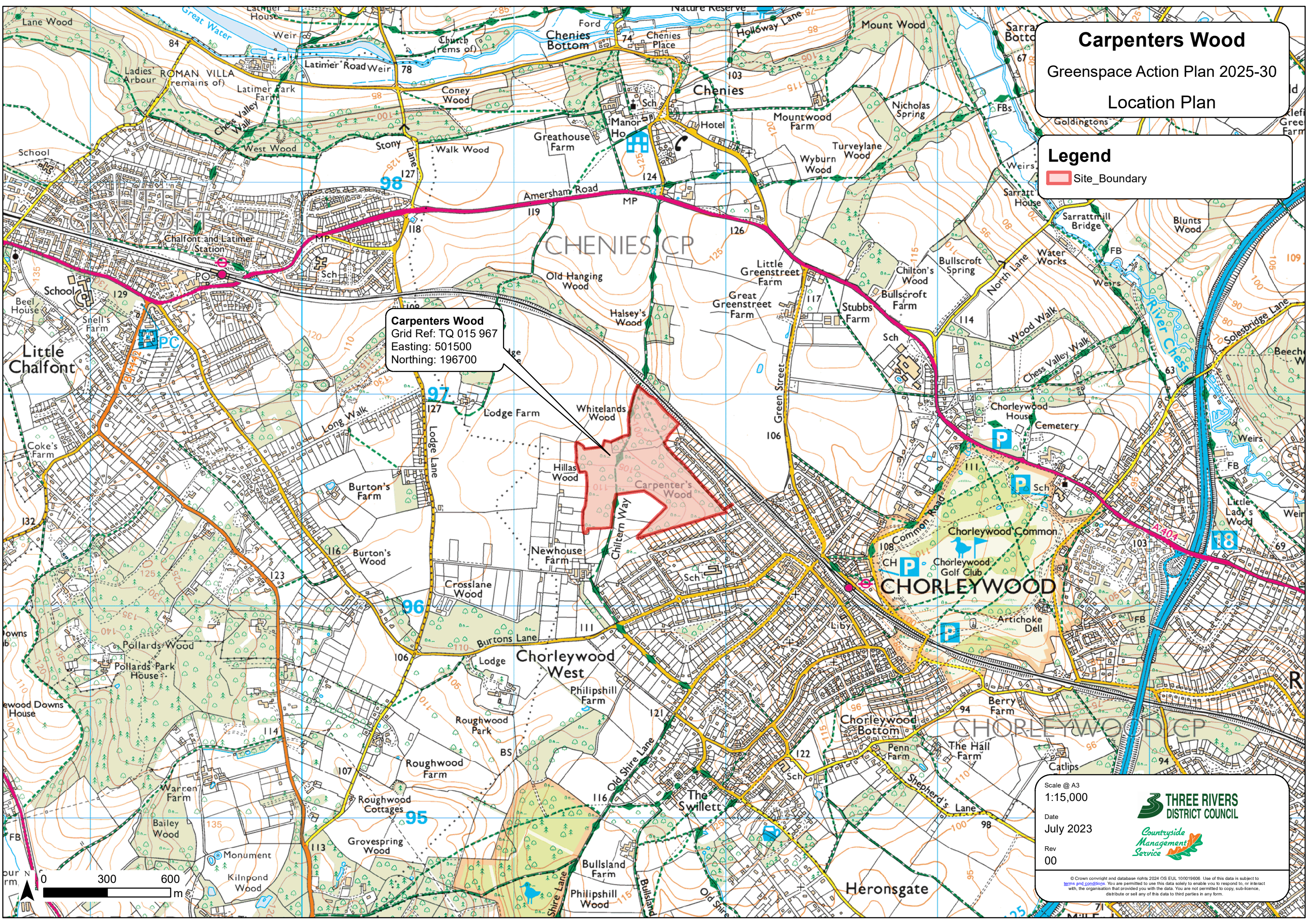
## Greenspace Action Plan 2025-30

### Location Plan

#### Legend

- Site\_Boundary

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



Scale @ A3  
1:15,000  
Date  
July 2023  
Rev  
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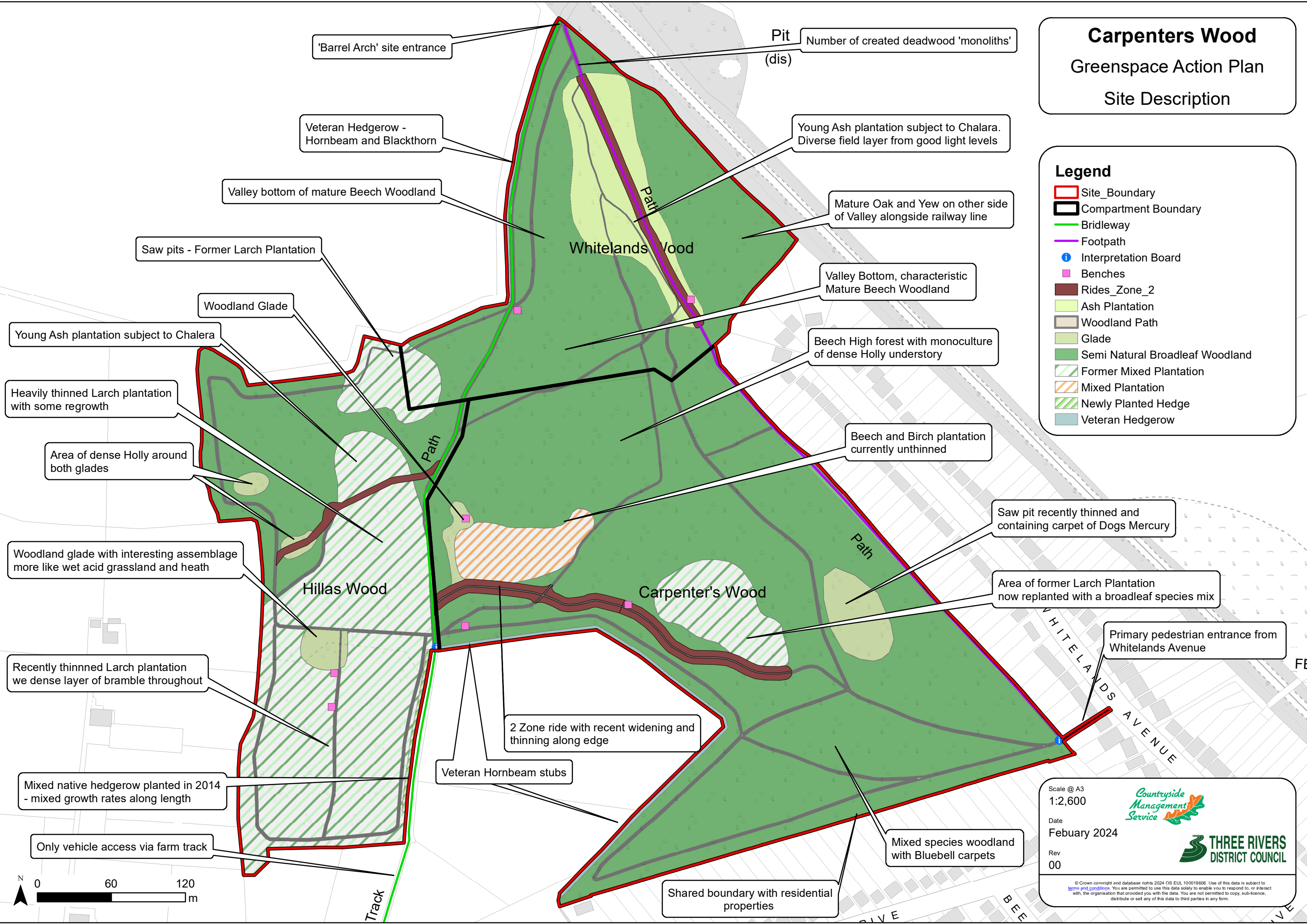
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# Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan Site Description

### Legend

- Site\_Boundary
- Compartment Boundary
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- i Interpretation Board
- Benches
- Rides\_Zone\_2
- Ash Plantation
- Woodland Path
- Glade
- Semi Natural Broadleaf Woodland
- Former Mixed Plantation
- Mixed Plantation
- Newly Planted Hedge
- Veteran Hedgerow



Scale @ A3  
1:2,600

Date  
February 2024

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*Countryside Management Service*












**THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

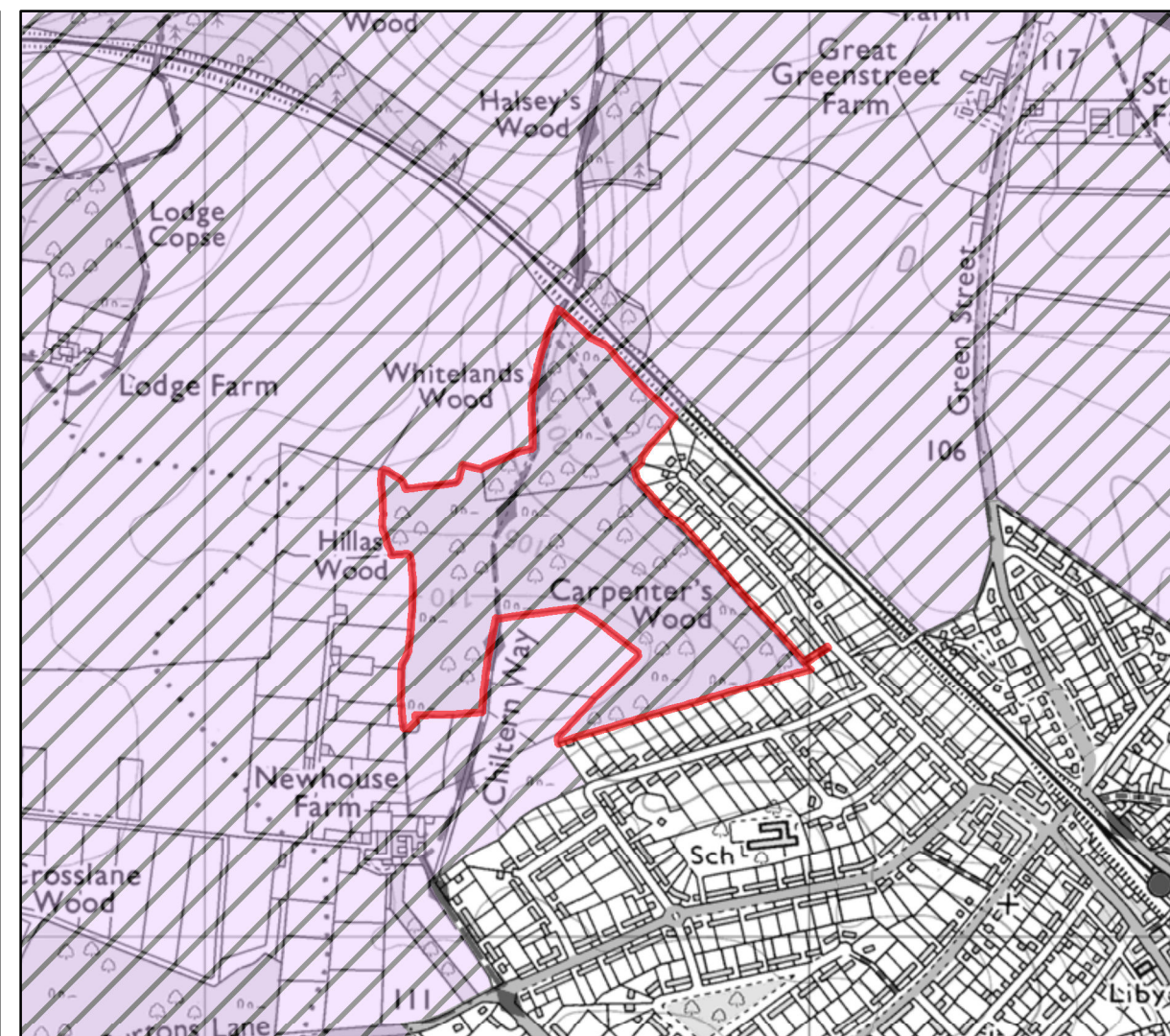
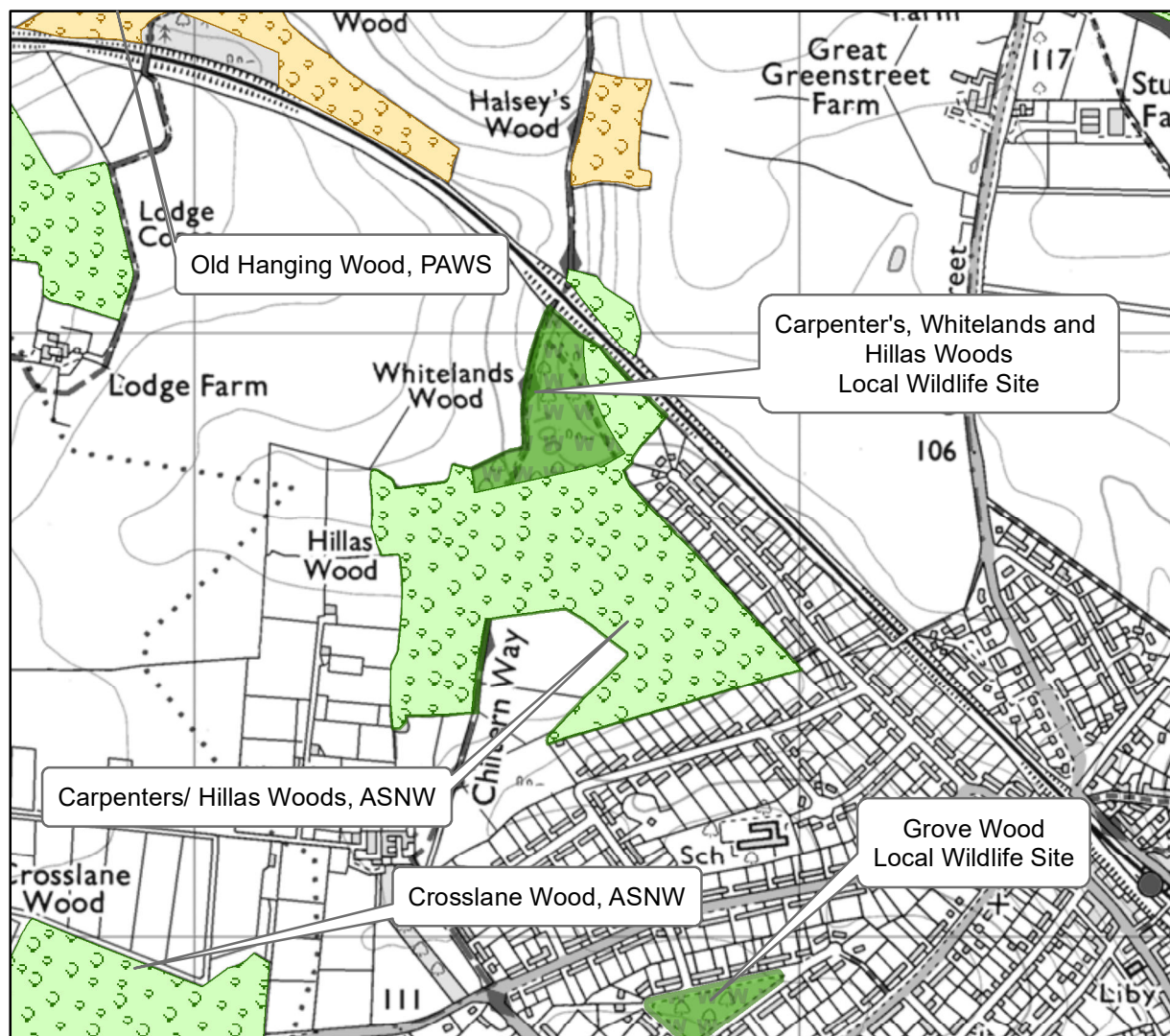
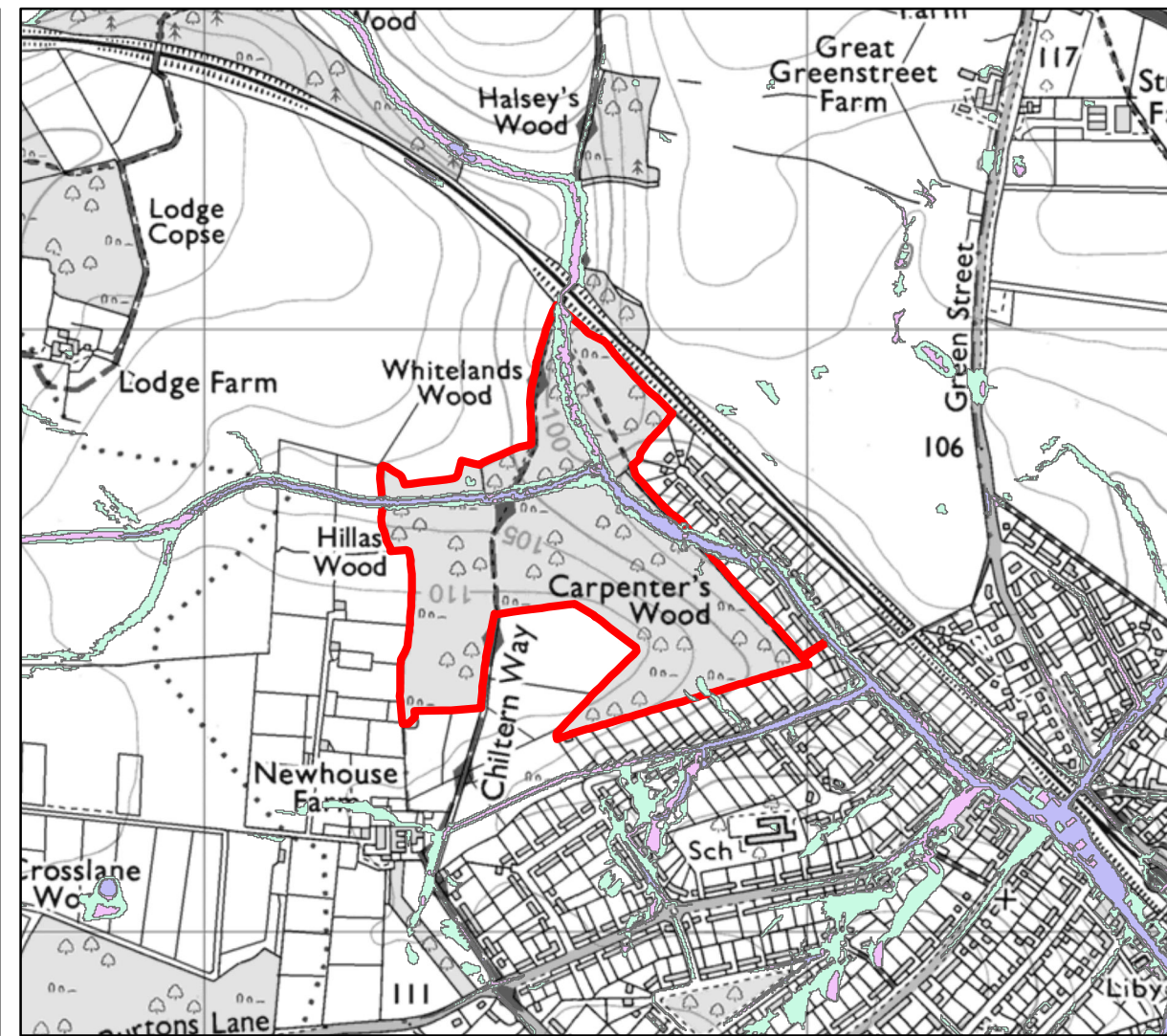
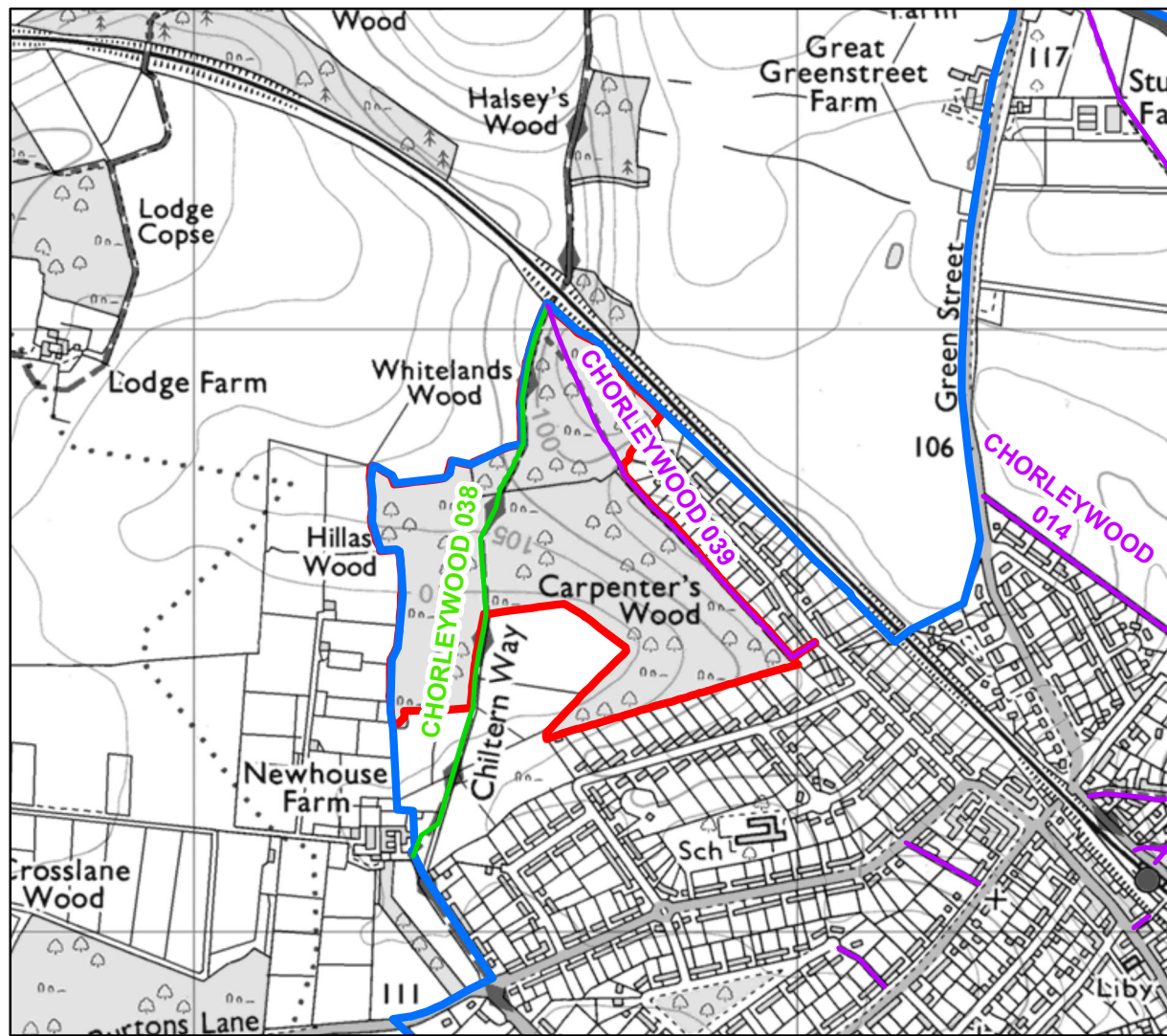
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# Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan Constraints Plan

## Legend

-  Site\_Boundary
-  Hertfordshire County
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Wildlife Site
-  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
-  Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
-  RoFSW\_Extent1in30
-  RoFSW\_Extent1in100
-  RoFSW\_Extent1in1000
-  Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Scale @ A3  
1:12,000

Date  
February 2024

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## 2.2 Site Designations

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

### **2.3 Geology and Hydrology**

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

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

### **2.4 Landscape Character**

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

### **2.5 History and Archaeology**

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

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

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

## 2.6 Habitats and Wildlife

National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities present are:

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

### 2.6.1 Woodland

#### 2.6.1.1 *Compartment 1. Whitelands wood*

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



*Mature Beech of Whitelands Wood*

#### 2.6.1.2 *Compartment 2. Hillas wood*

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

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



*More open woodland of Hillas Wood*

### *2.6.1.3 Compartment 3. Carpenters wood*

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



*Dense Bluebell carpets across Carpenters Wood*

#### 2.6.1.4 Hedgerows

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

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



*Veteran Hornbeams along the edge of Carpenters Wood*

#### 2.4.5 Rides/Glades

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



*Woodland ride through Hillas Wood*

## 2.6.2 Species

### 2.6.2.1 Wildlife and plants

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



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

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

### 2.6.2.2 Oak Processionary Moth

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

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

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

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



*Example OPM nest*

## **2.7 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure**

### **2.7.1 Access**

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

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

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





Entrance into Carpenters Wood from Whitelands Avenue

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

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

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

### **2.7.2 Interpretation & Signage**

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

### **2.8 Site Management**

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

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

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

## **3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION**

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### **3.1 A Welcoming Place**

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

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

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

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

### **3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

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

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

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

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

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

### **3.3 Clean and Well Maintained**

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

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

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

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

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

### **3.4 Sustainability**

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

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

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

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

### **3.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage**

#### **3.5.1 Woodland Management**

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

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

#### **3.5.2 Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

### **3.5.3 Long Term Retention**

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

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

### **3.5.4 PAWS Restoration**

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



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

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

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

### **3.5.5 Woodland Understorey**

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

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



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

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

### **3.5.6 Veteran Hornbeam Boundary Trees**

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



*Veteran Hornbeams between Carpenters and Hillas Woodlands*

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

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

### **3.5.7 Rides, Glades and Open Space**

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

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



*Left: The woodland ride before widening.*



*Right: The same ride after widening*

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

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

### **3.6 Community Involvement and Marketing**

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

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

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

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

## 4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

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The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

### **Aim**

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

### **Objectives**

#### **A. A Welcoming Place**

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

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

#### **B. Healthy, Safe and Secure**

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

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

#### **C. Clean and Well Maintained**

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

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

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

#### **D. Sustainability**

*Ensure that all management operations are as sustainable as possible.*

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

#### **E. Biodiversity and Heritage**

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

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

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

## **F. Community Involvement and Marketing**

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

### 5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

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



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

## 5.2 YEAR 1 2025 - 2026

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

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

# Carpenters Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 1 Action Plan (25/26)

**Task Responsibility**

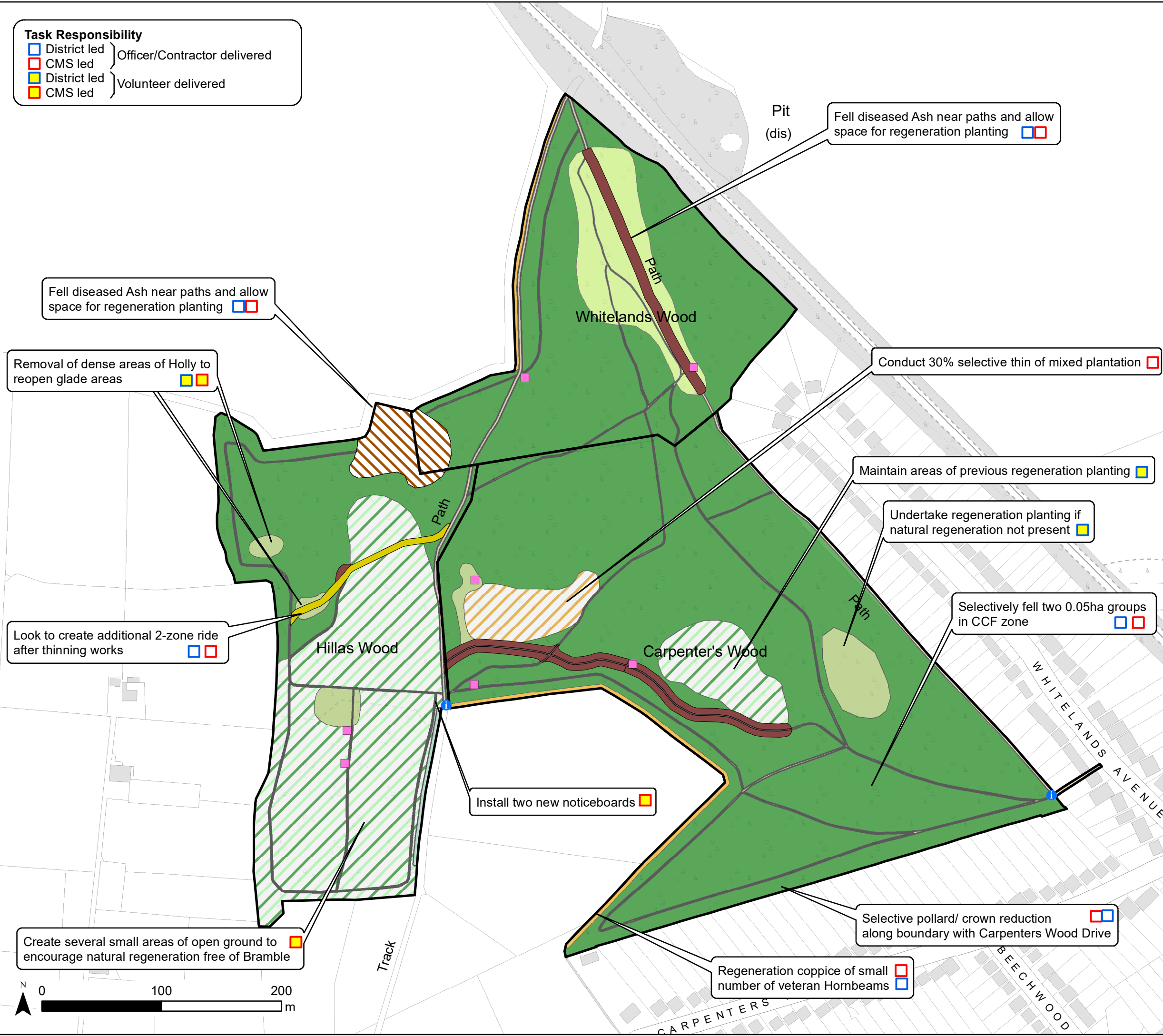
□ District led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ District led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

**Legend**

- Bench
- Interpretation Board
- ▭ Compartment Boundary

**Management**

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



**Annual Management**

**Friends of Carpenters Wood**

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

**Three Rivers District Council**

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

- Annual review of GAP

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

0 100 200 m

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### 5.3 YEAR 2 2026 - 27

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

# Carpenters Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

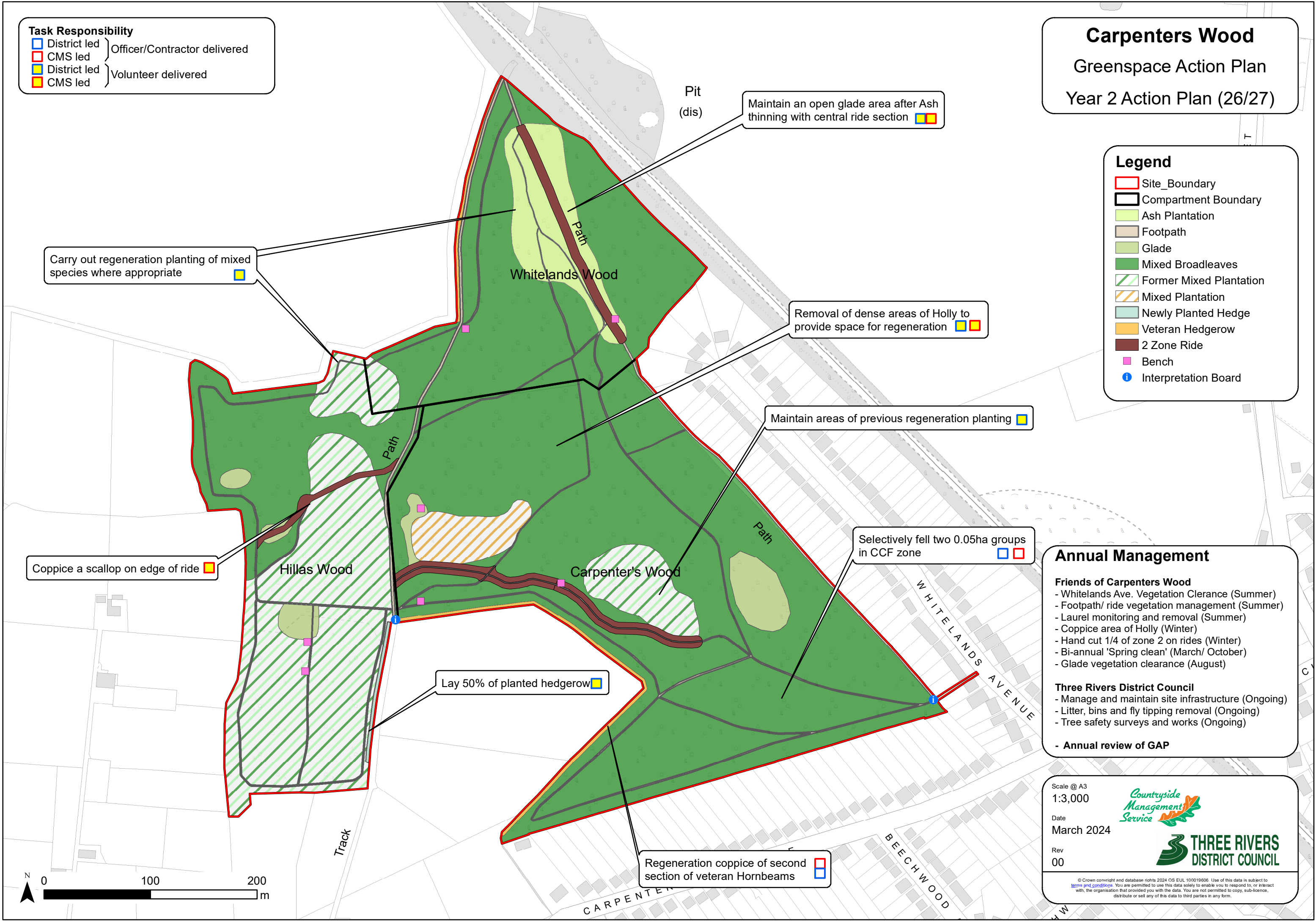
### Year 2 Action Plan (26/27)

**Task Responsibility**

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

**Legend**

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



Carry out regeneration planting of mixed species where appropriate □

Maintain an open glade area after Ash thinning with central ride section □

Removal of dense areas of Holly to provide space for regeneration □

Maintain areas of previous regeneration planting □

Coppice a scallop on edge of ride □

Selectively fell two 0.05ha groups in CCF zone □

Lay 50% of planted hedgerow □

Regeneration coppice of second section of veteran Hornbeams □

**Annual Management**

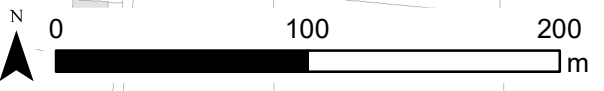
**Friends of Carpenters Wood**

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

**Three Rivers District Council**

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

- Annual review of GAP



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#### 5.4 YEAR 3 - 5 2027 - 2030

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

# Carpenters Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 3-5 Action Plan (27/30)

**Task Responsibility**

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

**Legend**

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

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

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

Carry out regeneration planting of mixed species where appropriate □

Coppice new scallop on edge of ride (yr3) □

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

**Annual Management**

**Friends of Carpenters Wood**

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

**Three Rivers District Council**



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

- Annual review of GAP

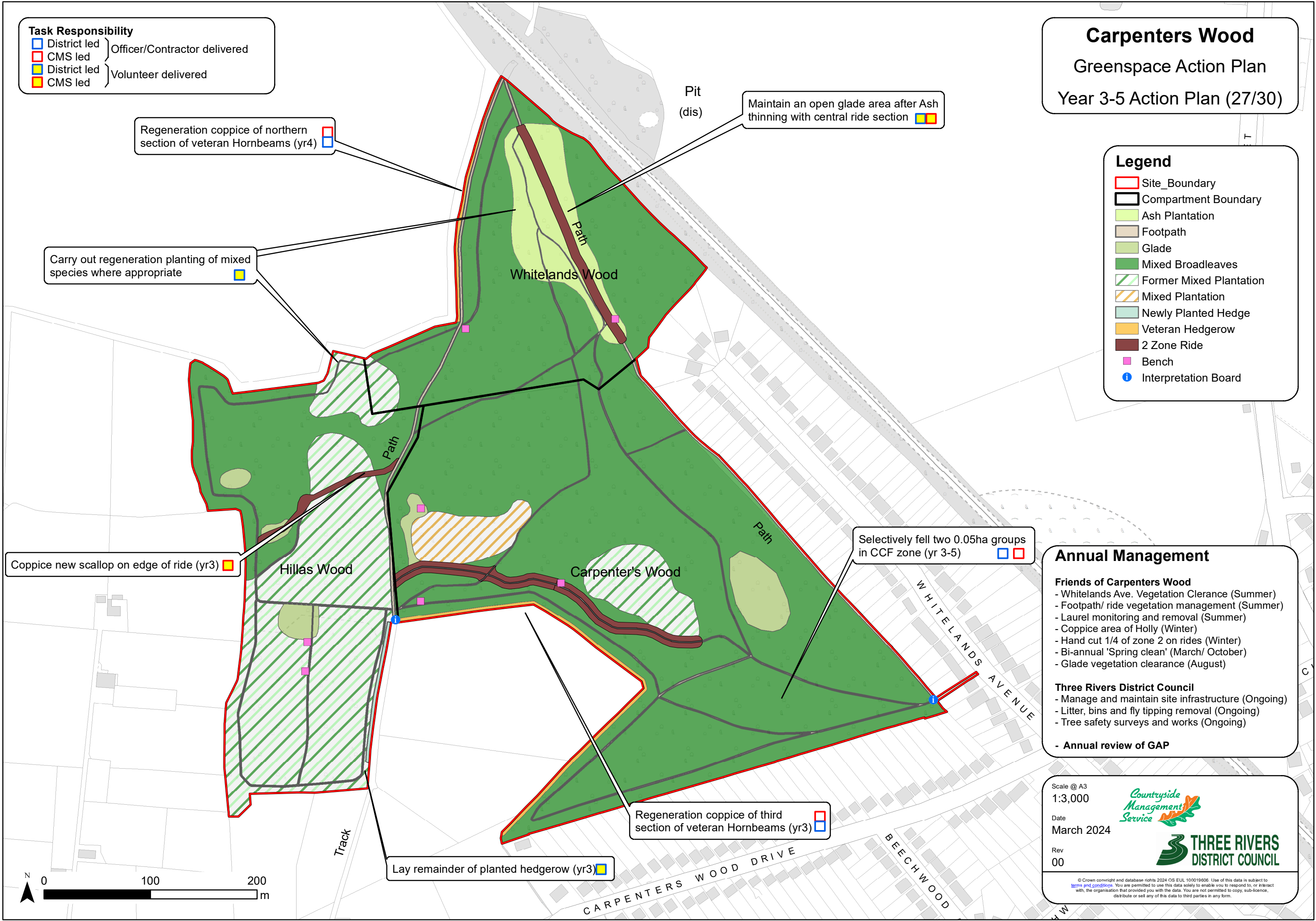
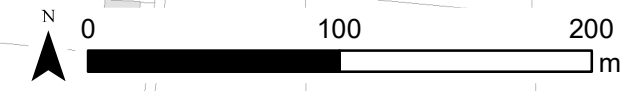
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Regeneration coppice of third section of veteran Hornbeams (yr3) □

Lay remainder of planted hedgerow (yr3) □



## 6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

### 6.1 General prescriptions relevant to all operations

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

### 6.2 Thinning of conifers – PAWS Restoration

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

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

### 6.3 Selective Felling – Continuous Cover Forestry

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

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

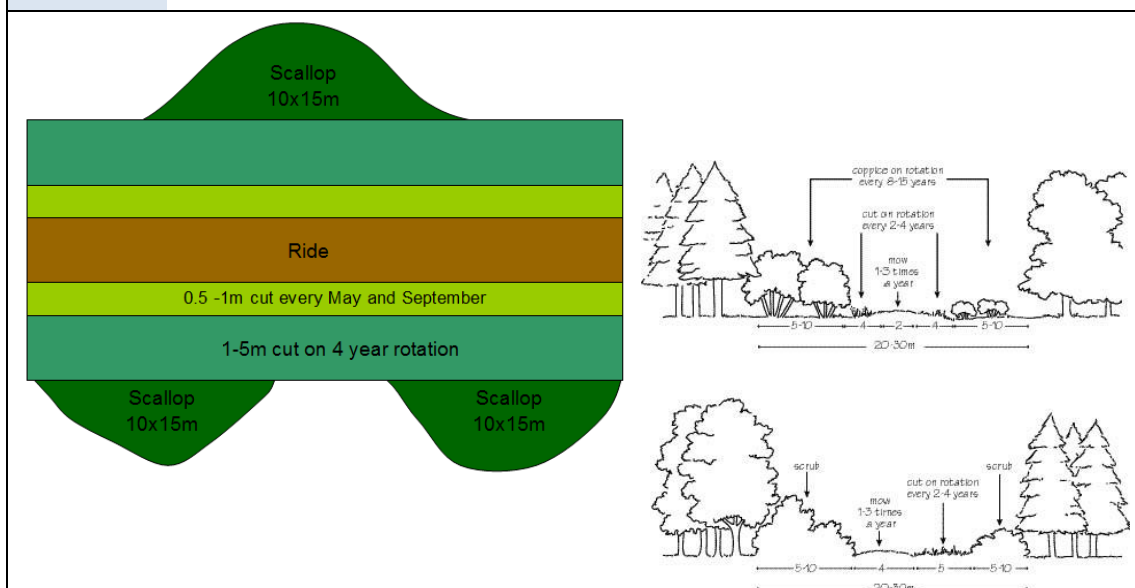
#### 6.4 Ride widening – main rides

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

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

## 6.5 Ride management

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



## 6.6 Coppicing Hornbeam Stubbs

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

## **7.0 APPENDICES**

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**7.1 Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan**

**7.2 Woodland Management Plan Habitats Map**

**7.3 Woodland Management Plan Compartments Map**

**7.4 Carpenters Wood Management Zones Map**