



# **CROXLEYHALL WOODS**

## **ACTION PLAN 2025 – 2030**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) are working in partnership with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and the Croxley Green Parish Council (CGPC) to develop a new Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for Croxleyhall Woods. The GAP will cover a five-year period from 2025 – 2030.

GAPs are map based management plans that give focus and direction to the running and improvement of all types of open space. They are invaluable documents, providing a clear and logical process to determine the activities that should take place on a site over the specified period of time, in order to meet agreed project objectives and core aspirations.

It is our intention to hold a structured engagement process to ensure stakeholders are fully aware of the main elements of the plan. Engagement will be encouraged, and opportunities to feed into the plan in a constructive and timely way will be promoted locally. You are invited to comment on the contents of this Action Plan.

## 2. BACKGROUND

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Croxleyhall Woods is a 15.6 hectare (39 acres) woodland located in Croxley Green, between Rickmansworth and Watford in the south-western corner of Hertfordshire. It is owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council, with support from the Countryside Management Service and the Croxley Green Parish Council. The woodland is a Local Wildlife Site (89/008) and lies within the London Metropolitan Green Belt.

The woodland occupies gently sloping ground rising from the floodplain of the Colne River to the south. It is surrounded on the other three sides by housing and school grounds, making up the southern extent of the settlement of Croxley Green. It is divided into three distinct compartments, separated by railway tracks and a new housing development; all three compartments are linked by a surfaced track, designated as a public bridleway. A number of public footpaths connect to this bridleway. There is a network of informal, unsurfaced walking routes throughout the woodland which appear well used by the local community.

The site is predominantly ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), meaning that there has been woodland present on the site for over 400 years. Some parts are considered to be plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), where the ancient woodland composition has been modified, and other parts are secondary woodland, having established in the last 50-100 years following quarrying works. The primary canopy tree species are oak, beech, birch and cherry, with a diverse mixture of minor species, including an unusual abundance of mature rowan trees. Hazel is abundant in the understorey in most parts; the structure of the woodland suggests that much of it was once managed as hazel coppice with oak standards, a practice which declined in Hertfordshire nearly a century ago. Parts of the woodland contain old gravel extraction pits from the early 1900s, and there is evidence of old wood banks with beech boundary stubbs. In the spring the ground flora is abundant with bluebells.

### **3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS**

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The previous iteration of a Greenspace Action Plan for Croxleyhall Woods covered the period between 2019 – 2024.

During this time, the ladder steps were replaced in Long Valley Wood replacing the older existing steps that were falling into disrepair. This has allowed continued access to this compartment for the public.

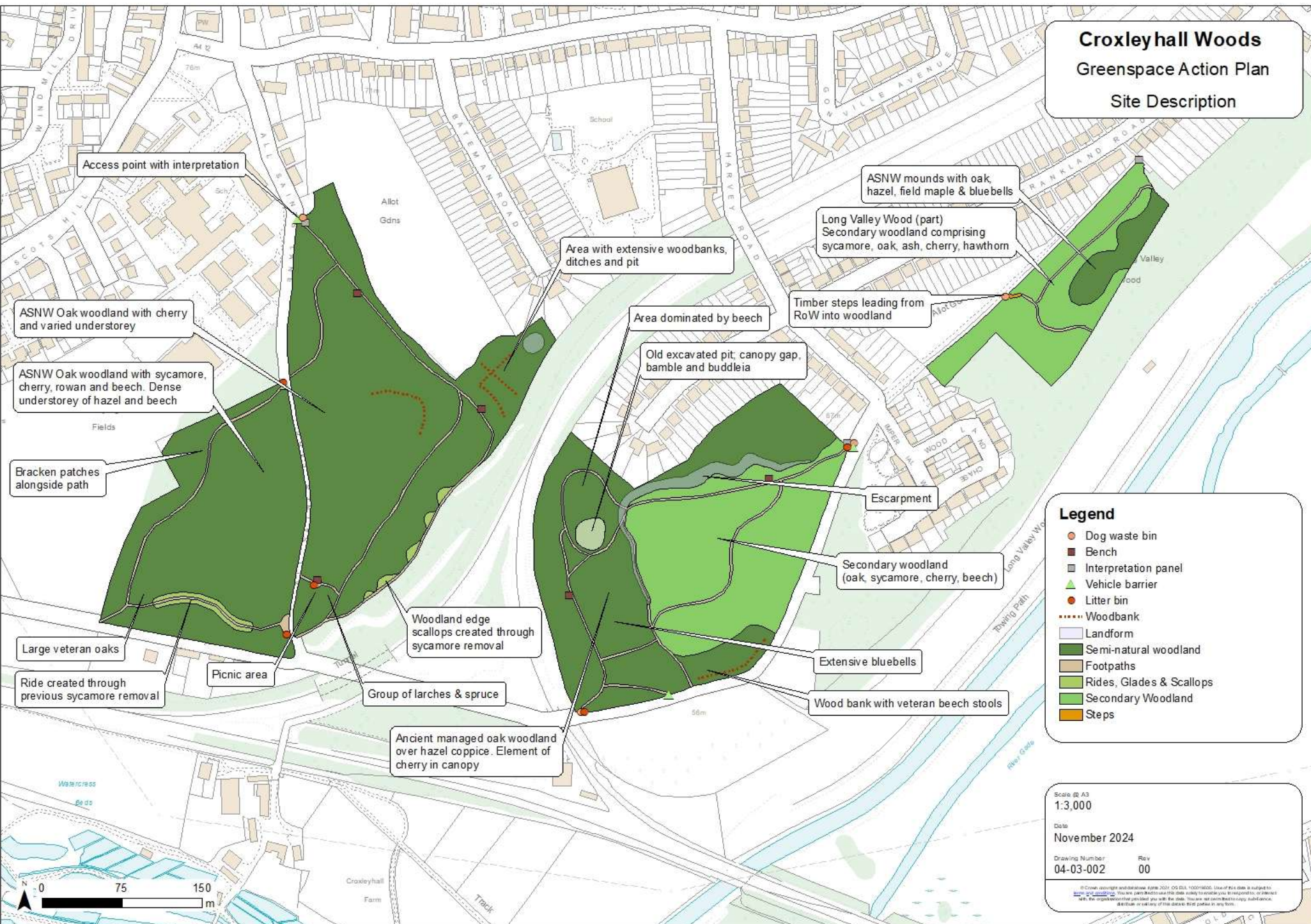
Alongside this, selective felling across the compartments, as well as targeting coppice rotations helped to preserve the ancient woodland features, improve structural diversity, support the long-term sustainability of the woodland, as well as improve the aesthetic and amenity qualities.

While not all actions in the previous plan were completed, the majority of the objectives set out were delivered through this period.

One item not completed during the previous period which is included in this plan is improving the site access of Harvey Road onto Lavrock Lane (into Cpt. 4). This is currently a jumble of prohibitive structures – there is a hinged barrier across the bridleway, and a second across the footpath leading into Cpt. 4, with bollards between the two. This plan will look to rationalise these, ensuring the site remains safe and secure, controlling unwanted vehicle access whilst improving the visual appearance of the area and improving access for woodland management operations.

This plan will also build upon the forestry management started in the previous plan, continuing to focus on a sustainable coppice rotation, as well as management and removal of invasive species such as laurel.

# Croxley hall Woods Greenspace Action Plan Site Description



## 4. ACTION PLANS AND MAPS 2025 – 2030

### 4.1 Annual and Regular Actions

**Abbreviations:** CMS – Countryside Management Service, GM – Grounds Maintenance, TRDC – Three Rivers District Council, GM – Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Vols – Volunteers

Ref	Action	Cpt.	When	Lead	Delivery	Est. Cost
0.1	Annual 'spring clean' of site	All	April	TRDC	TRDC GM	
0.2	Clean and maintain existing signage and interpretation	All	April	TRDC	TRDC GM	
0.3	Ride management – mow / strim ride edges	1,3	May	TRDC	TRDC GM	
0.4	Vegetation clearance – entrance points and picnic area	All	June	TRDC	TRDC GM	
0.5	Bracken crushing in recently established patches	1	July	TRDC	TRDC / CMS	
0.6	Coppice sycamore in woodland edge clearings, protect young oaks with tree tubes	2	Nov-Feb	CMS	Vols	Officer Time
0.7	Coppice holly where it is impacting on other species	1,2,3	Nov-Feb	CMS	Vols	Officer Time
0.8	Annual review of GAP action plans	-	March	CMS/ TRDC	CMS/ TRDC	Officer Time
0.9	Tree safety audit and remedial work	All	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	
0.10	Empty dog bins	All	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	

0.11	Empty litter bins	All	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	
0.12	Respond proactively to garden waste dumping	All	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	

# Task Responsibility

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

## Croxley hall Woods Greenspace Action Plan Annual and Regular Actions



### Legend

- Dog waste bin
- Bench
- Interpretation panel
- Vehicle barrier
- Litter bin
- Woodbank
- Bracken Crushing
- Holly Coppicing
- Ride Management
- Vegetation Clearance
- Semi-natural woodland
- Footpaths
- Rides, Glades & Scallop
- Secondary Woodland
- Steps

Scale @ A3  
1:3,000

Date  
November 2024

Drawing Number  
04-03-004

Rev  
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## 4.2 Year 1 – 5 Actions

**Abbreviations:** CMS – Countryside Management Service, GM – Grounds Maintenance, TRDC – Three Rivers District Council, GM – Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Vols – Volunteers

Ref	Action	Cpt.	When	Lead	Delivery	Est. Cost
1.1	Coppice hawthorn in canopy along the main footpath	5	Y1	CMS	Contractor	£5,000
1.2	Protect coppiced hawthorn to secure regrowth	5	Y1	CMS	Vols	Officer Time
1.3	Replace all benches on site	All	Y1	CMS	Contractor / Vols	£1,000
1.4	Laurel management and eradication	All	Y1	CMS	Vols / Contractor	Officer Time
2.1	Coppice hawthorn where growth is in the canopy along the main footpath	4	Y2	CMS	Vols	Officer Time
2.2	Protect coppiced hawthorn to secure regrowth	5	Y2	CMS	Vols	Officer Time
2.3	Improve appearance of structures at access off Harvey Road	4	Y2	CMS	Contractor	£5,000
3.1	Protect coppiced hawthorn to secure regrowth	All	Y3	CMS	Volunteers	Officer Time

# Croxleyhall Woods Greenspace Action Plan 2025 - 2030

**Task Responsibility**

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

Replace all benches on site

Laurel management and eradication

Protect coppiced hawthorn stumps to secure re-establishment across all compartments

Coppice hawthorn in canopy along main footpath through Long Valley Wood

Protect coppiced hawthorn stumps to secure re-establishment

Coppice hawthorn in canopy along main footpath

Protect coppiced hawthorn stumps to secure re-establishment

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5

- Legend**
- Semi-natural woodland
  - Footpaths
  - Rides, Glades & Scallops
  - Secondary Woodland
  - Steps
  - Woodbank
  - Dog waste bin
  - Bench
  - Interpretation panel
  - Vehicle barrier
  - Litter bin

Scale (B3)  
1:3,000

Date  
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