



# Harrocks Wood

## Management Plan 2012-2017

---

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONTENTS PAGE

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Introduction	
Plan review and updating	
Woodland Management Approach	
Summary	
1.0 Site details	
2.0 Site description	
2.1 Summary Description	
2.2 Extended Description	
3.0 Public access information	
3.1 Getting there	
3.2 Access / Walks	
4.0 Long term policy	
5.0 Key Features	
5.1 Informal Public Access	
5.2 Ancient Woodland Site	
6.0 Work Programme	
Appendix 1: Compartment descriptions	
Glossary	
<b>MAPS</b>	
Access	
Conservation Features	
Management	

## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

### PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) or contact the Woodland Trust ([wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk)) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

---

## WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk). Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) through independent audit. In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

## SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

## 1.0 SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Harrocks Wood
<b>Location:</b>	Rickmansworth, Watford
<b>Grid reference:</b>	TQ066978, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 166
<b>Area:</b>	42.70 hectares (105.51 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

Harrocks is linked via a series of footpaths to four other sites: Whipendell Wood (managed by the local authority), Merlin's Wood, Dell Wood and Newland's Spring (managed by the Trust). So you can enjoy five contrasting sites in just one visit.

## 2.2 Extended Description

The Harrocks Wood complex comprises four broadleaf woodlands; Harrocks, Merlins, Newlands Spring and Dells Wood, extending to some 44 hectares. They are linked with footpaths and are close neighbours of the Whippendell Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is owned and managed by Watford Borough Council. All together they comprise a large and wonderfully diverse area of public access woodland.

This surprisingly wooded area lies adjacent to the village of Chandler's Cross with Watford only 2 miles away and the M25 in earshot. It is served by two car parks and numerous public footpaths, making it a popular natural resource on the doorstep of a major urban centre.

Most of the wood is ancient containing species such as oak, ash and birch. The entire site is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and classified as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) due to its historical and floral interest. The soils are typically well drained clay with flints over gravel; and scattered throughout parts of the wood are deep pits, which are the remains of gravel and flint excavations.

Both car parks are found on Rousebarn lane, which is in itself an interesting environment. The overhanging trees provide dark, damp conditions ideal for many woodland plants such as the Coralroot bittercress. The lane was designated a countryside heritage site by Hertfordshire County Council and the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust because of its outstanding ecological value.

A rabbit fence has been erected on all the boundaries adjacent to arable fields to reduce the instances of crop damage. Numerous public and permissive footpaths cross the wood and management access is directly off Rousebarn Lane.

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Harrocks Wood lies a few miles west of Watford, just inside the M25 in a surprisingly wooded area. A public footpath cuts across one part of the site with kissing gate entrances into the wood directly off the highway and surrounding farmland. The site is gently undulating with a substantial network of well maintained paths. Ground conditions are normally good but can be seasonally wet and muddy in places.

Nearest car park: Whippendell Woods car park, owned by Watford Borough Council, on the opposite side of Rousebarn Lane, 20m away from the wood. Newlands Spring car park, managed by Three Rivers District Council is directly adjacent to the wood. NB. There is no through route along Rousebarn Lane from Watford to Chandler's Cross but a car park can be accessed from either end.

Nearest toilet: There are public toilets in Cassiobury park about 2.5kms on foot from Harrocks Wood and also in the Town Hall underpass in Watford about 4kms through Whippendell woods and Cassiobury Park.

Nearest railway station: Watford Metropolitan Line Underground is only 3kms on foot by a pleasant walk through Cassiobury Park and Whippendell Woods. Watford main line station is 5kms away. One of the great things about these woods is how easy they are to get to on foot from public transport.

Nearest bus stop: Outside Clarendon Arms PH,- 150 m from NE entrance along country road without pavement but the buses are infrequent. Central Watford is easy to get to by bus and it is only 4-5kms away.

Information from National Rail and Traveline websites as at Feb 2012.

Further information about public transport is available from [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0870 608 2 608.

### 3.2 Access / Walks

## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term intentions are to maintain and enhance this superb area of diverse woodland for the benefit of wildlife and visitors. The four ancient woodland sites that make up Harrocks Wood should remain as native broadleaf uneven-aged woodland with a varied stand structure and a diverse range of habitats. The natural decay and collapse of old trees in the wood will punch holes in the canopy, waking up young natural regeneration and coppice regrowth,- a totally sustainable and continuous management system.

While most of the non native conifers will gradually phase out through natural senescence and windblow, the remaining large specimens will only add to the natural aesthetics. Oak regeneration should be encouraged where possible; sycamore and coniferous regeneration and rhododendron should not be allowed to dominate the understorey.

The Heritage Roadside Verge along Rousebarn Lane will remain an attractive and ecologically important site, rich in flora and local character.

The Trust's corporate objective of increasing people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland will be achieved by continuing to provide and maintain appropriate access paths and facilities throughout the wood.



## 5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

### 5.1 Informal Public Access

#### Description

An extensive network of public and permissive footpaths weave around Harrocks Wood. The adjacent Whippendell Woods is also open to the public and combined they make an attractive destination for nature enthusiasts from the surrounding towns and villages. Through Harrocks Wood also runs an ancient path known as Finches Avenue and a circular walk of any length is possible in the woods. There are also good footpath links to Watford, especially the paths from Cassiobury which cross the West Herts Golf Course. One passes between Dell and Merlins Woods on its way to Redheath and the other goes through Whippendell Woods to Harrocks Wood and Chandlers Cross.

#### Significance

Harrocks Wood's size and convenient location make it a natural attraction for the local population who can enjoy and appreciate the varied woodland and its associated habitats. It adds to the local rights of way network and provides an excellent recreational resource.

Informal Public Access raises people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland, fulfilling one of the Trust's three corporate objectives.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

The car park at Newland's Spring suffers regular vandalism, fly tipping and the dumping and burning out of cars.

Opportunity to retain the involvement and interest of the local community by making the site interesting, attractive and easy to visit for a wide range of people.

#### Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping

#### Long term Objective (50 years+)

A welcoming woodland with well-maintained entrances and paths that connect to a wider network of rights of way. Easily accessible, well used and respected by locals from the surrounding area. The wood will remain open for the public to visit and enjoy its natural beauty and conservation interest. The car parks, paths and other recreational facilities will be maintained in accordance with demand and type of use.

#### Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Operational objective:

Easily accessible, well maintained and safe woodland regularly used by the public. Path network, car parks, entrances and benches remain in good condition for level and type of use, assessed through annual observation visits.

Work programme:

Cut paths twice a year in April and July to a width of 2m.

Keep paths open, accessible and welcoming through monitoring the paths for rideside tree clearance. Where appropriate sections of trees will be felled to maintained a welcoming environment and to improve light levels.

Annual tree safety inspection of zones A and B.

The car park is subject to a lease agreement whereby Three Rivers District Council are under obligation to remove burnt out cars, rubbish and fly tipping. A surface will be maintained that is suitable for visitors to use.

## 5.2 Ancient Woodland Site

### Description

Harrocks, Merlins and Dell Wood are all ancient woodland sites, parts of which in past years have been felled and replanted with conifers. Many of these have died and the gaps been colonised by sycamore, ash and birch. Until quite recently, these three sites had greater ancient semi-natural characteristics and carried a SSSI status until a previous owner undermined the ecological value of the site by over wintering cattle in the woods. Despite that they still house some important flora including wood sorrell, red campion, bluebells and the rare Coralroot bittercress. The core ancient woodland components still remain and the ecological value of the woods will increase in time. The site also hosts a Heritage Roadside Verge. The ancient woodlands on both sides make Rousebarn Lane verge the most important in the county.

### Significance

Ancient woodlands have been in existence for many hundreds of years and unfortunately are a declining resource. As well as being a traditional feature in the landscape they support an abundance of plants, mammals, birds, insects and fungi. It is one of the Trust's main objectives to ensure no further loss of ASNW. They take centuries to evolve and are irreplaceable.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Opportunities:

Opportunity to maintain and enhance this ancient woodland and its associated habitats by encouraging native broadleaf regeneration and seeking opportunities to buffer the ancient woodland from the intensive arable farmland beyond.

Encourage adjacent landowners to carry out more sympathetic farming practices to help conserve the ancient woodland components.

Favour against non native species such as conifers, sycamore and rhododendron in any management works.

#### Constraints:

Deer and rabbit browsing on natural regeneration. Sycamore regenerates freely and adds little to the composition of ancient woodland. Rhododendron can be damaging to ground flora, as is the bracken and bramble in some areas which may undermine the natural regeneration potential.

### Factors Causing Change

Deer and rabbit browsing.

Competition with non native tree and shrub species, bracken, bramble and other invasive species.

### Long term Objective (50 years+)

Mixed broadleaf uneven aged woodland of varying stand structure, including areas of open and dense high forest and a mixed, multi-aged understorey. Attractive maturing woodland continuing to develop its ancient woodland characteristics and components.

Natural regeneration levels should remain sufficient to ensure sustainable continuous cover management. Leaf litter, rotting wood and natural clearings will influence such regeneration. Thriving communities of specialist woodland flora will occur throughout the wood, much of it concentrated along ride sides.

Many of the large oak and chestnut will reach senescence and beyond providing numerous veteran trees and valuable dead wood habitats.

### Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Operational objective:

Conserve and enhance the ancient woodland characteristics of Harrocks Wood and encourage native broadleaf natural regeneration.

Work programme:

Monitor the impact of deer browsing and if unacceptable levels of damage introduce a management program. Through observation visits, monitor the natural regeneration in areas where non native tree and shrub species, bracken and bramble and other invasive species such as Japanese knotweed may be impeding growth.

## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
2012	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Inspect rabbit fence and make necessary repairs. 4 visits, once every 6 weeks. Invoice end of Dec.	31/12/12
2012	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Pull up and burn knotweed	31/12/12
2013	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Tree safety works as a result of zone A inspection along two main roads	28/02/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works; cut paths and entrances twice a year, remove litter and clean signs on each visit.	30/06/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	c.f. Install three new kiss gates and one new access gate and any fencing needed, includes installing new welcome signs.	30/06/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works; cut paths and entrances twice a year, remove litter and clean signs on each visit.	30/09/13
2013	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Install three new kiss gates and one new access gate and any fencing needed, includes installing new welcome signs.	30/10/13
2013	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Clear three trees across paths and one across gate	31/10/13
2013	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Clear fallen trees along zone B as per email after storm St Jude	30/11/13
2013	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Inspect rabbit fence and make necessary repairs. 4 visits per year, spring, summer, autumn, winter	31/12/13
2014	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Clear fallen/hung up tree after storms in Dec/Jan. Repair fence and gate damage.	30/04/14
2014	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Tree safety works as per spreadsheet	30/04/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Replace steps to kiss gate	30/06/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/06/14
2014	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Inspect rabbit fence and make necessary repairs. 4 visits per year, spring, summer, autumn, winter	31/07/14

2014	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Emergency tree safety works - clear fallen trees	31/08/14
2014	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/09/14
2014	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Remove old signs and metal posts as shown on map	31/10/14
2014	SL - Routine Safety Work	Clear fallen trees from field as detailed on map	31/10/14
2014	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Repair boundary fence with neighbour	31/10/14
2014	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Carry out zone A tree safety work as details on map	31/10/14
2014	NWH - Invasive Plant Control	Cut and treat Japanese Knotweed. Location on map	31/10/14
2015	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Remove fallen Cherry from across footpath in Dell Wood as shown on works map.	31/03/15
2015	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Inspect rabbit fence and make necessary repairs. 4 visits per year, spring, summer, autumn, winter	31/03/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	c.f. Remove old fence and rubbish along Redhall Lane boundary. Post and rail in two locations, locations on works map	31/05/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Remove old fence and rubbish along Redhall Lane boundary. Post and rail in two locations, locations on works map	31/05/15
2015	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/05/15
2015	WC - Invasive Plant Control	c.f. Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/05/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/06/15
2015	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Renew stock and rabbit fencing along boundary with farmer. Clear boundary for inspection	30/06/15
2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Carry out Zone A tree safety work - 2x cherry near kissing gate and 1x cherry by horseshoe area.	30/09/15
2015	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Fell large beech and remaining stem on boundary -see map	30/09/15
2015	LC - Fly Tipping	Remove flytip and clear branches	30/09/15

2015	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/09/15
2015	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Supply of the following signage: 4x D - Welcome sign made from dibond, 306mm x 382mm x 5mm, England & Northern Ireland. Site name: HARROCKS WOOD 1x D - Welcome sign made from dibond, 306mm x 382mm x 5mm, England & Northern Ireland. Site name: DELL WOOD 9x F - F1 Small 'Call to action' sign made from dibond, 100mm x 117mm x 5mm, F1b (Help Us). 7x E - Small welcome sign made from dibond, 100mm x 117mm x 5mm, England & Northern Ireland.	31/10/15
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Take down and replace 2x rotted posts. Supply & erect 2x sawn posts.	31/03/16
2016	PE - Interpretation & Signage	2x Ladderboards (to include fifth social media slat) - 1x Harrocks and 1x Newland's Spring  Deliver to: Heartwood Barn Sandridgebury Lane St Albans Herts AL3 6JB	30/04/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Clear fallen/hung-up beech across footpath.	30/04/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Clear 3 fallen trees across track and stack arisings tidily off track. Fell dangerous cherry tree and stack arisings tidily as habitat pile.	30/04/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Carry out tree safety work as detailed in survey	30/04/16
2016	LC - Fly Tipping	Assist removal and transportation of squatter to alternative accommodation £200 Removal of 2 truck loads of rubbish from squat site £320	16/05/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Carry out tree safety work at Harrocks Wood as discussed during site visit	31/05/16

2016	WC - Fencing	Supply materials and erect post and wire fence to block access from Rousebarn Lane. & Remove metal sheeting and barrels from the interior of Harrocks Wood and remove dumped magazines from Merlin's Wood area.	31/05/16
2016	LC - Fly Tipping	Remove litter (including from redundant bin) and flytipping from car park area at Harrocks	31/05/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Clear flytipping reported Tues 17.05.16 from our car park.	31/05/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Install new signs and carry out maintenance/enhancements at entrances as detailed on contractor work maps.	31/05/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Additional post and wire along Rousebarn Lane where motorbike access still possible.	31/05/16
2016	WC - Invasive Plant Control	c.f. Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/05/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Entrance infrastructure maintenance and replacement as details in EMC maps. Car Park surface to be made level.	30/06/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/06/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Summer storm damage Clear snapped willow from path once TPO consent received. Fell to low stump and stack arisings tidily off path as habitat pile. Clear 3 fallen/dead birch from path and alongside path. Stack tidily off path as habitat piles.	29/07/16
2016	LC - Fly Tipping	Remove hidden rubbish bags dumped/stashed by squatter who was moved on in May.	29/07/16
2016	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/07/16
2016	LC - Fly Tipping	Clear fly tipping from car park and accompany site manager on inspection of reported unauthorised building work in Dell Wood	31/08/16



2016	LC - Fly Tipping	Clear and dispose of fly-tipping from car park including pressurised gas canister.	09/09/16
2016	SL - Routine Safety Work	Remove 42 sharp edged steel fence stumps protruding 1-2" proud of track/footpath (PRoW) surface, with due consideration and safety measures for buried electric cable on opposite side of track.	30/09/16
2016	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/09/16
2016	PE - Interpretation & Signage	10x F1b - 'Help Us' signage (100mm x 117mm x 5mm) @ £8.49 each. Delivery @ £15: J Lowe & Sons, 9 Croft Cottages Croft Lane Chipperfield Hertfordshire WD4 9DX	30/10/16
2016	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Clear hung-up rowan over path in Harrocks and damaged hornbeam limb across fence line in Dell Wood (TPO consent received 09.08.16)	31/10/16
2016	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations - third application. Return herbicide use records with final invoice	31/10/16
2016	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/10/16
2016	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Inspect rabbit fence and make necessary repairs. 4 visits per year, spring, summer, autumn, winter	31/12/16
2017	SL - Routine Safety Work	Cut, excavate, extract, and remove from site extensive metal fencing debris from derelict pen in centre of wood.	31/03/17
2017	LC - Fly Tipping	Clear 2 incidents of flytipping and re-secure vandalised height barrier.	31/03/17
2017	LC - Fly Tipping	Clear fly tipping at Merlins Wood reported to WOPS 17.03.17	30/04/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Repair damaged vehicle barrier to ensure closes with padlock protected inside steel box.	30/04/17

2017	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Set up and fix Bluebell Trail signs for 3rd April Remove and store Bluebell Trail signs after 21st May	31/05/17
2017	LC - Fly Tipping	Clear and dispose of flytipping from wood bank on Newlands Spring	31/05/17
2017	LC - Hazardous Waste	05.05.17 Unlock height barrier for 3 Rivers clean up team to remove burnt out carcass of car on 08.05.17 (Car dumped in Newlands Spring car park on 02-03.05.17 and confirmed as of no interest to police on 04.05.17) Clear remaining melted metal and rubber as well as broken detritus from burnt out car. Re-stone damaged area of car park. Cut back scorched branches. Remove derelict barbed wire fence adjacent to car park. Remove 2 loads of illegally cut birch logs.	31/05/17
2017	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Bring down, make safe and clear birch fallen across and over path.	31/05/17
2017	SL - Tree Safety Emergency Work	Fell and make safe snapped ash tree suspended parallel to path and partially attached to stump at 2m. Located 20m from memorial bench.	31/05/17
2017	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knotweed in two locations	31/05/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include clearing paths, checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/06/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Deferred to 2018 due to budget constraints. Supply and erect 70m of 3 strand post and wire fence along roadside edge at western point of Harrocks wood linking kissing gate and field gate. Replace kissing gate and surround and refresh/replace steps.	31/07/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Relocate dedication bench away from sewer man-hole cover	31/07/17

2017	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Supply and erect 100m of 3 strand wire fence from vehicle barrier on Rousebarn Lane north until bank and vegetation create natural barrier. Retain sufficient space to preserve informal turning area next to vehicle barrier.	31/07/17
2017	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	As per EMC tasks sent 22.06.17: 1. Clear windthrown birch hung up over path (Merlins Wood) 2. Clear Sycamore across path (Newlands Spring) 3. Clear collapsed elder in path (Dell Wood)	31/07/17
2017	SL - Safety / Legal Obligation Work (SODS)	Inspect perimeter fence and repair 2 strainers alongside fields now to be grazed by cattle.	31/07/17
2017	WMM - General Site Management	Dismantle recently constructed/excavated bike jump in ASNW wood.	31/07/17
2017	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Zone A Tree safety work to 20 trees as per spec dated 09.05.17 and sent to John Lowe on 11.05.17.  **No work to commence until TPO consent confirmed by site manager**	30/09/17
2017	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone A	Sever and strip 1 foot section of ivy from roadside trees. (No TPO consent required).	30/09/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Path and entrance works. Include clearing paths, checking entrances, cleaning signs, reporting back any issues.	30/09/17
2017	SL - Routine Safety Work	Clear fallen squirrel damaged sycamore limb from car park. Undertake visual inspection from the ground of other sycamore trees around car park for potential limbs likely to fail and report back to site manager any work which needs doing .	31/10/17
2017	WC - Invasive Plant Control	Manage Japanese Knott Weed in two locations	31/10/17
2017	HF - Invasive Plant Control	Cut and treat rhododendron within Harrocks wood. 10 man days for initial hit.	30/11/17

2017	WC - Fencing	<p>Deferred to 2018 due to budget constraints.</p> <p>Supply and erect 125m of 3 strand post and wire fence from southern end of roadside boundary at Harrocks, north to derelict wooden field gate.</p> <p>Remove and dispose any old fencing material.</p> <p>Retain old field gate in situ as evidence of historical access point but fence across to ensure non-functional/secure.</p> <p>Utilise traffic management as necessary.</p>	30/11/17
2017	AW - Management Access Capital	<p>Deferred to 2018 due to budget constraints.</p> <p>Pending clarification from utilities re suitability of existing stoned tracks over buried sewerage + electrics for forest operations</p> <p>If unsuitable, Reinstate old carpark/landing on western edge of Harrocks Wood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Clear site of scrub</li> <li>2) Scrape and restore surface</li> <li>3) Ditch and drain 160m perimeter</li> <li>4) Fence 160m perimeter</li> <li>5) Reinstate derelict 100m link track from car park to main ride (clear ,scrape, ditch, pave)</li> <li>6) Erect signage as appropriate at car park</li> </ol>	30/11/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	<p>Deferred to 2018 due to budget constraints.</p> <p>Supply and erect 20m of post and rail fence along northern road edge of Merlins Wood to link onto existing kissing gate. Create squeeze gap where actual desire line/access is occurring.</p> <p>Replace kissing gate and surround and refresh/replace steps leading to it.</p>	30/11/17
2017	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	<p>Clear and reinstate 2m wide footpath along old track/access route through Merlins Wood.</p>	30/11/17

## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	3.60	Ash	1970	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Compartment 1a forms the southern strip of Harrocks Wood. Despite being ancient semi-natural woodland in origin, the woodland has been subject to many interventions, most recently in the 1960's when large areas were felled and replanted with conifers. Many of these subsequently died leaving quite large open areas, which have become colonised with sycamore and ash. The well stocked stand also contains a few cherry, beech, birch and a decent crop of mature larch. The understorey consists of holly, goat willow, hazel, elder and ash and sycamore regeneration. The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury, bluebells, primroses, bracken and assorted ferns. There are several depressions, the legacy of old gravel and flint extractions, which, despite being quite deep have graded banks and so do not pose a serious risk to the visiting public. A public footpath known as Finches Avenue touches the southern tip of the compartment and a well-used permissive path runs east / west along the entire length of the northern edge. A mains sewer also runs under this path.</p>							
1b	7.90	Sycamore	1970	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

Sycamore, birch, ash, sweet chestnut and Douglas fir are the most common canopy species, aged around 50 years. Thinned in 1997 much of the sycamore is sprouting coppice regrowth which is adding to the already quite dense understorey of holly and occasional rhododendron. Ground flora includes nettle, dog's mercury, bluebell, primrose, bramble, honeysuckle, moss and bracken. The most important plant in the wood is the coralroot bittercress, which grows along ridesides and likes quite dark damp conditions. The area to the west of Finches Avenue stretching to Redhall Lane contains the site of the old woodworker's cottage by the road which is relatively open with a stand of Japanese knotweed. An underground power cable runs the entire length of Finches Avenue with two parallel spurs running east / west through the compartment to the main road. One is underground with a single pole and transformer on Finches Avenue and the other is over ground, suspended on poles from the main cable on Finches Avenue to Potten Cottage.

1c	7.70	Sycamore	1960	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
----	------	----------	------	-------------	--	---	---

1c is a diverse sub compartment containing mostly over-mature coppice with standards. Sweet chestnut, oak, birch, ash, sycamore and European larch are the most common canopy species. The well stocked compartment has some mature specimen trees. Ground flora is abundant with bluebell dominating. Other ground flora species include bramble, fern, bracken, moss, dog's mercury and honeysuckle.

1d	5.30	other oak spp	1950	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Order
----	------	---------------	------	-------------	--	---	---

Fairly open sub compartment with a diverse canopy of oak, birch, ash and European larch ranging from 40 - 60 years. Some beech and cherry aged approx 60 years also exists. The abundant ground flora includes bluebell, bracken, honeysuckle, fern, primrose and moss. The sub compartment also borders Finches Avenue to the west, Rousebarn Lane to the east and improved grassland over the boundary to the north.

2a	7.20	Birch (downy/silver)	1980	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Compartment 2a is known as Merlins Wood. This woodland appears scrubbier in structure to Harrocks. Mostly birch with pockets of ash, oak, cherry and sweet chestnut, some of significant size. Merlin's Wood underwent an extensive thinning operation in 1981, which has left some large gaps and promoted colonisation by birch, ash and sycamore. This is also the best woodland to see bluebells in the spring. There is a bank and ditch feature just south of the Merlins Wood car park which marks the boundary between the ancient Merlins Wood and the open ground of Newlands Spring. The slightly more acid soils have allowed bracken to flourish in the numerous gaps enhancing the scrubby appearance. The extensive understorey includes holly, elder and hazel.</p>							
3a	6.60	Ash	1950	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Compartment 3a is known as Newlands Spring. The canopy is dominated by ash along with birch, oak, sycamore and wild cherry. A rich understorey is present, mainly consisting of prolific ash regeneration and hazel coppice. Bluebells are to be found along the edges of Newlands Spring in the area of old coppice. Other ground flora species include dog's mercury, moss, bracken, bramble and honeysuckle. The soils are more base rich with less bracken present. There is a well used circular path running from the car park which allows access to Dell Wood.</p>							
4a	4.50	Birch (downy/silver)	1965	High forest		Ancient Woodland Site, Informal Public Access	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Landscape Value, County Wildlife Site (includes SNCI, SINC etc), Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order

Compartment 4a is known as Dell Wood for obvious reasons; the area is dominated by the major earthworks in the middle of the compartment. Several large open areas and abandoned quarries are also present. The tree canopy is similar to Merlins Wood with birch and ash dominating. Ash regen, holly and hazel make up the understorey. Ground flora is generally abundant, with bluebell, bracken, bramble, nettle, ivy, dog's mercury, fern, moss and honeysuckle. Dell Wood was described in 1951 as having valuable quantities of beech, oak and ash timber. These trees have since been felled and replacement trees were either never planted or have long since died out. Now mainly birch scrub of about 40 years of age covers the wood.



## GLOSSARY

### **Ancient Woodland**

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

### **Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland**

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

### **Ancient Woodland Site**

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

### **Beating Up**

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

### **Canopy**

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

### **Clearfell**

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

### **Compartment**

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

### **Conifer**

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

### **Continuous Cover forestry**

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

### **Coppice**

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

### **Exotic (non-native) Species**

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

### **Field Layer**

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

### **Group Fell**

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

### **Long Term Retention**

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

### **Minimum Intervention**

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

### **Mixed Woodland**

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

### **National vegetation classification (NVC)**

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

### **Native Species**

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

### **Natural Regeneration**

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

## **Origin & Provenance**

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

## **Re-Stocking**

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

## **Shrub Layer**

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

## **Silviculture**

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

## **Stand**

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

## **Sub-Compartment**

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

## **Thinning**

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

## **Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes**

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

## **Weeding**

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

## **Windblow/Windthrow**

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.