

Harpsden & Peveril Woods

(Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

The Woodland Trust owns and cares for well over 1,250 sites covering almost 30,000 hectares (ha) across the UK. This includes more than 4,000ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and almost 4,000ha of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites and we have created over 5,000ha of new native woodland. We also manage other valuable habitats such as flower-rich grasslands, heaths, ponds/lakes and moorland.

Our Vision is:

“A UK rich in native woods and trees for people and wildlife.”

To realise all the environmental, social and economic benefits woods and trees bring to society, we:

- **Create Woodland** – championing the need to hugely increase the UK’s native woodland and trees.
- **Protect Woodland** – fighting to defend native woodland, especially irreplaceable ancient woodland and veteran trees; there should be no loss of ancient woodland
- **Restore Woodland** – ensuring the sensitive restoration of all damaged ancient woodland and the re-creation of native wooded landscapes.

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, 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. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our 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 natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities 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 encourage our woods to be used for 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. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

A short glossary of technical terms can be found at the end of the plan.

Location and Access

Location maps and directions for how to find and access our woods, including this site, can be found by using the following link to the Woodland Trust web-site which contains information on accessible woodlands across the UK

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

In Scotland access to our sites is in accordance with the Land Reform Act (of Scotland) 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

In England, Wales and NI, with the exception of designated Public Rights of Ways, all routes across our sites are permissive in nature and where we have specific access provision for horse riders and/or cyclists this will be noted in the management plan.

The Management Plan

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Harpsden & Peveril Woods

Location:	Harpsden Grid reference: SU760803 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 175
Area:	18.69 hectares (46.18 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Landscape, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	N/A

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Harpsden & Peveril Woods are situated on the edge of the Chilterns National Landscape Area and within the Parish of Harpsden, approximately 1 mile south of Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire. The Chilterns National Landscape Area is one of the most heavily wooded landscapes in the country, in which over one-fifth is woodland. Immediately north of the site is Henley Golf Club and to the west the woodland habitat continues, intermixed with detached properties and gardens, before opening out onto agricultural land and maintained golf course greens. To the east further area of woodland, non-intensive grassland and residential areas are present with the Thames River forming a major landscape feature.

The woods were once part of the Phillimore Settled Estate which was broken up and sold in the 1990's. The majority of the wood (Harpsden Wood) was acquired by The Woodland Trust (WT) in 1991 with the help of substantial contributions from local residents. In 1995 the area known as Peveril Wood (named by the donor) to the north was added. Woodlands Road winds through the site dividing the wood into 3 blocks with similar woodland types.

The majority of the wood (Harpsden Wood, compartments 1b and 1c) sits on a plateau at approximately 75m above sea level, where the soils are predominantly slightly acidic clay with poor drainage. To the north of the site, the plateau drops away into a dry chalk valley and along this north facing slope (Peveril Wood, compartment 1a) the bedrock is more exposed resulting in shallow lime/chalk rich soils.

Harpsden & Peveril Woods are designated ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and the whole of this woodland area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) recognised for its diverse ground flora and soil types. Over 40 flora species associated with long established woodland have been recorded (including several uncommon helleborines), and the wood has also been noted for its diversity of fungi with over 170 species recorded. On the plateau, the canopy is dominated by mature beech high forest, with pedunculate oak, cherry and ash becoming increasingly common to the south with a mix of broadleaf understory including silver birch, holly and hazel. On the northern slope other species include whitebeam and field maple and there is a greater diversity of understorey in this area following natural regeneration and subsequent loss of ash due to ash die back (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). A large tree safety operation in 2024 removed most of the mature ash trees along the roads and golf course boundaries.

The wood has historically been managed as high forest and much of the beech was almost certainly planted. The site's archaeological features suggest there has been a long history of the woodland being worked. Features include saw pits, man-made quarry pits and a holloway upon which the bridleway follows.

The woods are valuable for recreation, for their contribution to the local landscape and for their habitat and conservation value. Most regular users of the site are local residents using the wood as part of a longer circular walk and those living in Henley-On-Thames. A large network of footpaths provides good access for those on foot, and there is also a public bridleway offering an alternative route for cyclists and horse riders away from Woodlands Road. There is limited parking available and is restricted to informal lay-bys.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In 50 years time, many of the mature beech, oak and cherry trees will now start to exhibit veteran features (age-related features such as hollowing trunks, dead wood, and fungal decay which provide crucial wildlife habitats) or will have fallen due to natural processes. While all ancient trees are veterans, a veteran tree can be younger but bears the biological "scars" of trauma or natural decay. The impact of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will result in ash becoming a minor component of the species mix. Crown dieback, tree death and increased windblow, will create gaps in the canopy allowing natural regeneration of a mix of broadleaved species such as sycamore, beech and silver birch thereby increasing the overall structural diversity and species composition of the wood. The woods will continue their current trajectory as an increasingly mixed aged broadleaf woodland with a mosaic of varying tree heights and species whilst still retaining the important features of the SSSI status.

On-going path and road-side management will ensure there is a limited proportion of open space maintained within the woodland block. This will reduce the risk that the declining trees pose to road traffic while increasing light to the forest floor and enhancing the habitat for the uncommon floral species present on site (e.g. helleborines). Invasive non-native species including rhododendron, and cherry laurel will not impede the natural woodland functions by ongoing control with the goal of eradication where possible.

Archaeological features such as the wood banks, saw pits and holloways will have been mapped and protected from damage during woodland management operations, ensuring their long-term conservation.

A small number of benches will be present where visitors can rest and enjoy the surroundings. Site information will be low-key and discrete signage present to mark the direction of the public rights of way and highlight the site entrances. Visitors will continue to enjoy a safe and enjoyable woodland experience with maintained paths guiding people through the varied age woodland habitats managed in a way that prioritises biodiversity, resilience and public enjoyment, in line with the Trusts charitable objectives and in compliance with UKWAS requirements.

Vehicle parking will remain limited to informal laybys and physical restrictions such as posts and natural features such as fallen trees will be in place to prevent damage to the ground and trees from unwanted parking or overnight stays.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Harpsden and Peveril Woods are designated ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW) where woodland has been present since at least 1600AD. There is an additional 16.9ha (41.76 acres) of ASNW immediately connected making a contiguous block of 34.58ha (85.5 acres) which is a significant size in this area. Harpsden and Peveril woods also have Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation (notified in 1990) on account of its ground flora and fungi diversity of regional importance. Across the SSSI there are forty recorded species of flowering plants strongly associated with old woodland which reinforces the ASNW status. Uncommon plants include bird's nest orchid, yellow bird's nest, narrow-lipped helleborine, green-flowered helleborine, cow-wheat and goldilocks. The woodland on the chalk slope (compartment 1a) is especially important for these species. Other more common woodland plants include bluebell, woodruff and dog's mercury. The SSSI was recorded as in favourable condition when surveyed by Natural England in 2011.

The woods structure is dominated by mature beech, with a scattering of pedunculate oak, occasionally sessile oak, cherry, ash and silver birch. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) approximates to W14 - beech with bramble for most of the woodland area on the southern plateau, leading to NVC W12a – beech/oak/ash with a dog's mercury sub-community on the north-facing slope. Bracken grows freely in the canopy openings. The deadwood habitat is developing with fallen and felled trees largely retained on site. A large number of fungi species are present with a survey in 1999 recording 171 species, of which 9 are rare.

Compartment 1b and 1c have a largely closed canopy high forest structure, dominated by mature beech. Oak and cherry abundance increases towards the south of compartment 1c creating a more even mix of broadleaves. The understorey under the closed beech canopy is sparse, however, in areas of previous windblow events (most notable in 1987 and 1990) or under lighter canopies, species present include silver birch, hazel, holly, field maple, rowan, sycamore, horse chestnut and wayfaring tree. Cpt 1c contains remnants of planted conifer, with 16 large Norway spruce still growing. Yew is present where the soils are thin and the chalk is exposed along where Woodlands Road was cut into the northern slope.

Cpt 1a, on the north-facing slope has a greater proportion of open space in amongst mature beech. and a more abundant and diverse understorey including yew, whitebeam, spindle, hawthorn, privet, field maple, holly and hazel. Regenerating species include beech, cherry and ash; silver birch is common in a large clearing within the northern part of compartment 1b.

Small patches of non-native invasive flora species are still present, namely rhododendron and cherry laurel in compartment 1c and more widely spread variegated yellow archangel which is locally frequent particularly on roadsides. All are likely to have originated from neighbouring residential gardens.

There is a large man-made hollow in compartment 1b and three in compartment 1c which are thought to derive from historic quarrying. Other historic features include sawpits, the holloway along which the bridleway follows on the eastern boundary of compartment 1b and the wood bank on the northern boundary with the golf course in compartment 1a.
Significance Harpsden & Peveril Woods are situated within the Chilterns National Landscape Area, one of England's most heavily wooded areas, with woodland covering nearly 24% of the landscape and over 60% (approximately 10,000 hectares) of this woodland is classified as ancient. These ancient woodlands, which have been continuously wooded since before AD 1600, are a significant ecological, cultural, and historical feature of the local landscape and the wider national context. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat and a priority for the Woodland Trust having suffered extensive loss fragmentation across the UK with significant loss of area over the last 40 years, now covering only 2.5% of the country. Nearby there are two further ancient woods; Lucy's Copse 300m (0.2miles) and High Wood 640m (0.4 miles), enhancing landscape connectivity. The site also carries nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation for its rich and varied flora including rare orchid species and a large number of fungi species. These underpin the sites conservation value and justify why it's been identified as a key feature, reflecting its importance in regional biodiversity objectives and the UK Biodiversity Framework.
Opportunities & Constraints Opportunities Harpsden and Peveril Woods provide a high-quality example of ancient woodland in favourable condition, offering opportunity to showcase Woodland Trust woodland conservation principles and where we could share good management practice informally with owners and managers of the adjoining and nearby ancient woodland, through advice and dialogue. Constraints - Steep terrain in parts of Peveril Wood is a constraint to timber extraction and woodland management. - The woods are crisscrossed by footpaths plus a surfaced highway, Woodlands Road, and a private surfaced residential road on the western boundary. These routes require increased people management to minimise the risk to people and property. - Archaeology in the form of quarries and pits restrict access for woodland management.
Factors Causing Change - Vegetation browsing and bark stripping by grey squirrels and deer, most notably the growing population of non-native muntjac and the wandering herds of fallow. Natural tree and shrub regeneration is being prevented from establishing and once the trees reach a certain height and girth are then often bark stripped by grey squirrels resulting in tree branches, including the tree leader, dying. - Climate change associated extreme weather events are becoming more common with extended periods of rain and drought. The results will be more drought stress and mortality, wind and storm damage with episodes of large scale mature tree loss, an increased threat from pests and diseases due to milder winters, reduction in plant species richness and more generally an overall population decline of the flora and fauna species present. - Suppression of native species by invasive plants, pests and diseases – medium risk given the presence of garden escapes, cherry laurel and rhododendron and an increase in tree pests and diseases in recent years.

- There is a high risk of losing the majority of the ash trees due to ash dieback which will mean the loss of the mature ash trees which will change the tree canopy composition and species strongly associated with ash trees. The death of the ash will lead to a period of increased available deadwood habitat and canopy openings triggering a flush of ground flora and tree regeneration.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The long-term objective is to secure, enhance and sustain the ancient woodland components of the site to achieve a resilient woodland where there is structural and species diversity, natural regeneration and natural dynamism is occurring. The aim is to maximise ecological integrity by embracing natural processes alongside balancing sympathetic management interventions to create or preserve certain features of old-growth woodlands. Any intervention must ensure that in the long term the overall wooded appearance is largely unchanged by using continuous tree cover management and natural gap creation. The overall composition will remain broadleaved, with all major ancient woodland components present in a secure condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component.

In time Harpsden & Peveril Woods will support a mixed broadleaved woodland with a greater abundance of oak, cherry and sycamore with an understorey of hazel, rowan, silver birch, holly and field maple. The holly component will not impede natural regeneration by shading. The mature beech trees present today will display more veteran features as a result of storm damage, limb loss, fungus and grey squirrel bark stripping. A number will have succumb to disease and either fallen or have been felled due to their location posing a safety hazard. Ash will still be present as a minor component of the tree species mix with the majority in the younger age class barring a few resilient mature trees. Deadwood habitat is likely to increase over time through the retention of felled or fallen trees on the site. Standing and elevated dead wood will be retained where it does not cause an unacceptable risk to public safety. The target volume in a mature natural functioning woodland is a minimum of 40m³ of dead wood habitat per hectare. Due to the number paths, roads and shared boundaries this may not be achievable for safety reasons.

The important SSSI designation will be rated as in favourable condition with the broad spectrum of flora and fungi present within the diverse woodland habitat. Invasive plant species such as the cherry laurel and rhododendron, will be subject to ongoing monitoring and control with the aim to eradicate if possible. Herbivore browsing by deer and grey squirrel will be assessed regularly and population control instigated where safe and practicable to do so. The aim will be to reduce the unsustainable damage and loss to mature trees, tree and shrub regeneration and ground flora, which would result in the loss of species diversity and recruitment of trees.

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

Management of invasive plants and herbivore browsing;

- By 2030 - to have an understanding of the impact of deer browsing on natural regeneration across the site by undertaking a herbivore impact assessment at each of the 5 year woodland condition reviews – spring 2030 and 2035 and a thermal imagery survey Jan 2030.

- To reduce cover of cherry laurel and rhododendron in the northwestern section of compartment 1c (currently individual plants covering less than 0.1ha), alongside the paved lane, and prevent further expansion of these non-native invasive flora using non-chemical methods in the first instance. Cutting to ground to occur annually in January 2027-2029. Map plants still present in winter 2031. New management strategy 2032-2036.

- The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is considered a serious pest on spruce in Europe. Trees at Harpsden and Peveril Woods will be monitored annually at the same time as the Zone A tree safety survey. Identified trees showing signs of stress or decay will be felled and removed as a precautionary measure. This is to assist in limiting the spread of the beetle to the wider area.

Develop natural woodland structure and varied biodiversity;

- By 2030, enhance the future veteran quality and longevity of selected canopy trees by reducing competitive pressures around 8 identified oak in compartment 1c, resulting in improved crown development, increased light availability at ground level and increase in deadwood through retaining cut wood. Outcomes will be assessed during the 2035 woodland condition assessment.

- By 2035, reduce excessive holly dominance across approximately 1.7ha of the site in compartment 1c so that natural regeneration of a wider range of native broadleaves trees is present. Work to occur November 2028 and potentially winter 2034/35 following the woodland condition assessment results in 2030.

Surveys;

- In 2030 and 2035, undertake a woodland ecological condition assessment (WECA) across the entire woodland to help direct and create management objectives and actions.

- By 2027 - across the entire woodland, record ancient and veteran tree locations, their physical measurements, species, presence of veteran features and their condition. This will take up to 3 days and is vital to safeguard any identified trees and their immediate environment due to their ecological importance within the woodland and wider setting both now and in the future.

Preserve site archaeology;

- By 2028, safeguard the sites archaeology from potential damage by future woodland operations and negative visitor impacts by populating the Woodland Trust GIS features layer with known survey data and a site audit. Data can then be readily available to assist in planning and preparing constraint maps.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Harpsden & Peveril Woods are popular with local people for recreational walking with visitors arriving on foot and by a lesser extent, vehicle. The woods have a Woodland Trust internal category B - a moderate usage site where paths are maintained.

The nearest residential areas are Henley on Thames, population approximately 12,000 (1.9km, 1.1 miles) and Lower Shiplake village, population approximately 2,000 (1.4km, 0.8 miles).

Two public rights of way (PRoW) including one footpath and one bridleway in compartment 1b and one footpath in compartment 1c. passing through the woods. The long distance 135mile walking route known as the Chiltern Way passes just 200m to the south of the site boundary and is linked by a public footpath. Currently the Thames Path has a diversion that passes through Harpsden Wood.

The well-used entrances have branded signage and PRoW finger posts are present. Three benches are present in compartment 1b for visitors to use as rest points.

In addition to the PRoW's, the wood's have a network of approximately 3km of maintained permissive paths allowing a variety of circular walks. Parking is possible but limited to several informal layby's off Woodlands Road.

Significance

Harpsden & Peveril Woods provides an extensive area for quiet, informal recreation in an area of high scenic value which is appreciated by many walkers and cyclists.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Car parking is limited to the unimproved laybys only as the site does not have a car park.

- The northern section of the site included all of Peveril Wood is steep which limits access to some visitors.

Factors Causing Change
- Regular fly-tipping along the road edges threatens public health, harms wildlife, attracts vermin, results in environmental damage and is costly to clean up. Reducing the number of laybys limits the opportunity to leave waste. - Unauthorised motor vehicles encroaching into the woods including camping destroys the ground flora, damages tree root systems, churns up the soils, can leave waste such as litter and faeces and impacts visitors enjoyment of the site. Erecting and maintaining roadside barriers such as posts and fallen trees can reduce the opportunity of encroachment. - The increase in use of bicycles upon the footpaths and within the woodland plus the building of bike park features such as jumps and berms. Compaction, disturbance of the ancient woodland soils, damage to vegetation and increase in litter are often negative impacts of this activity. - The increase in the number of visitors often results in the increase of desire line paths that become part of the network of access over time. Compaction of the soils, destruction of the ground flora and disturbance to wildlife due to the encroachment and accompanying dogs reduces overall biodiversity of the site. - Due to the site being in close proximity to the popular tourist destination Henley On Thames, campervans and overnight stays are on the increase. Where the vans and cars do not have washroom facilities, there is the risk of the woodlands being used as a toilet which has health and social impacts. Increased compaction of the soils from encroachment – parking on the side of the road – and a negative impact on other visitors enjoyment and feeling of safety.
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Harpsden and Peveril woods will continue to be a welcoming and low key natural woodland destination for the local community and those utilising longer routes. There will be a network of safe and maintained paths including a bridleway where the impact of recreational use won't interfere with the woodland key feature objectives, designations and more general conservation approach. Information for visitors such as signage will remain low-key given the site categorisation. Parking will remain low key and informal, limited to a number of already established laybys. Users of Woodlands Road and the private lane will enjoy unimpeded safe access with encroaching woody vegetation cut back from the surfaced roads whilst retaining the wooded character and edge habitats.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
- Throughout the plan period, maintain a safe, clearly defined and resilient access network by ensuring ten site entrances and approximately 3.8km of paths remain usable and clear from vegetation. An audit of the paths will be undertaken in 2027 to determine if it is possible to reduce the extent of the small, less used paths with the objective to reduce disturbance and damage to the woodland habitats in keeping with the wildlife conservation objectives. Work to brash up paths to reduce the length of the path network by 10% by 2030. - Following the audit in 2025, it was highlighted that steps are required to reduce damage to the ancient woodland soils and tree roots by vehicles leaving the highway and parking upon the site. The objective is to close one lay-by, reduce the extent of two further lay-bys that have incrementally grown, and use posts where necessary to delineate retained parking. Work to be completed by 2027. - By 2030, ensure entrance infrastructure and signage is clear, proportionate and effective in guiding visitors onto the designated path network and discouraging informal access. This will be achieved through an audit in 2029 and 2034 of entrance infrastructure and signage with any recommendations being undertaken within 12 months of each audit. - To maintain visitor and highway safety from potentially dangerous trees, annual tree safety surveys will be undertaken along approximately 2.9km of Zone A's (roads and identified property boundaries) every year alternating between summer and autumn and approximately 3.4km of Zone B's (path network) every two years.

- The woody vegetation alongside Woodlands Road (1.2km) will be cut back to prevent damage to vehicles and harm to other users in 2028, 2032 and 2036.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	November
2026	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	November
2026	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2028	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	November
2028	WMM - AWS silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within ancient woodlands to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	November
2028	WMM - Ancient / Veteran Tree Work	Works associated with the on-going management of ancient, veteran or culturally significant trees including the creation of next generation of such trees. Activities may include works to prolong the life of the tree, removal of competing trees, the creation of new pollards	November
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2029	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	December
2030	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	January
2030	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	February

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2030	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September
2032	SL - Legal Obligation Work	Works that have to be undertaken by Woodland Trust as part of with legal agreements made with third parties such as erection of boundary fencing, surfacing of joint access tracks , maintenance of drainage ditches. Also works associated with safeguarding the Woodland Trust legal position – such as erection of boundary markers on open boundaries, removal of illegal third party structures/vehicles/ campsites	November
2026	WMM - AWS silviculture	Works associated with silvicultural operations within ancient woodlands to meet our primary aims of conserving woodlands and encouraging public enjoyment– such as the removal of non-natives, thinning and promotion of native trees and shrubs, creating and managing view points and providing welcoming sites for visitors	November
2035	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	February
2035	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	2.22	Beech	1900	Min-intervention	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Landscape, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Order
Part of the site known as Peveril wood. The canopy is dominated by mature beech (80%); other species include ash (15%), cherry (5%) and silver birch, yew, spindle, hawthorn, privet, hazel, holly, field maple and sycamore. In 1990, mature beech and cherry fell and existing natural regen was protected with rabbit guards. Some 330 beech trees were planted at this time to help re-establish the hillside. The success of this planting is variable. The cpt. has a greater proportion of open space and a thinner canopy compared to the other cpts, likely due to increased windblow events. Ground flora is noticeably most diverse with the chalk slope providing unique soils for important species such as bird's nest orchid, yellow bird's nest, narrow-lipped helleborine, green-flowered helleborine, cow- wheat and goldilocks. NVC W12a – beech/oak/ash with a dog's mercury sub-community. Compartment is covered by a TPO. 1.56ha (stteep slope) of compartment 1a has the internal designation of natural reserves.						
1b	4.86	Beech	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Landscape, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Cpt 1b has a closed canopy structure mostly dominated by mature beech. Other secondary species include oak, ash, horse chestnut, goat willow, holly, hazel, and silver birch. Silver birch, ash, goat willow and hawthorn dominate in the canopy gaps. Ash regen dominates gaps in the south of the compartment, some were possibly planted. Under denser canopies ground flora is sparse, bramble dominates in clearings whilst woodland specialist ground flora is found along the rides and roads and these include bluebell, woodruff and dog's mercury. of non-native Variegated yellow archangel is spreading along the roadside.						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Standing dead wood is rare and dead wood on the ground is also low. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) approximates to W14 - beech with bramble.						
1c	11.68	Beech	1900	High forest	No/poor vehicular access within the site	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Landscape, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Beech dominates the majority of the cpt canopy accounting for 75-95% in the north and central part of the block. The southern third of the cpt is more mixed, mature oak accounts for 30% of the canopy, birch 20%, cherry 15% and ash 5%. Horse chestnut and wayfaring tree are also present in low numbers. There are 16 Norway spruce still present that are being monitored and felled swiftly if they die to prevent the potential colonisation of the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (<i>Ips typographus</i>) which is present in the south east of England. Under denser canopies ground flora is sparse but bramble and bracken dominate in clearings. Woodland specialist ground flora is found along the path edges and roads and these include bluebell, woodruff and dog's mercury. Small patches of non-native invasive species are present, namely rhododendron, cherry laurel and variegated yellow archangel is now endemic along the road verges. Dead wood abundance is low with a couple of mature trees as standing deadwood and fallen timber is left on site. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) approximates to W14 - beech with bramble.						

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.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

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Access Points

 Access points

Other Features

 Seat

Path Network

 Legal-Footpath

 Legal-Bridleway

 Permissive-Footpath

 SubComp Labels

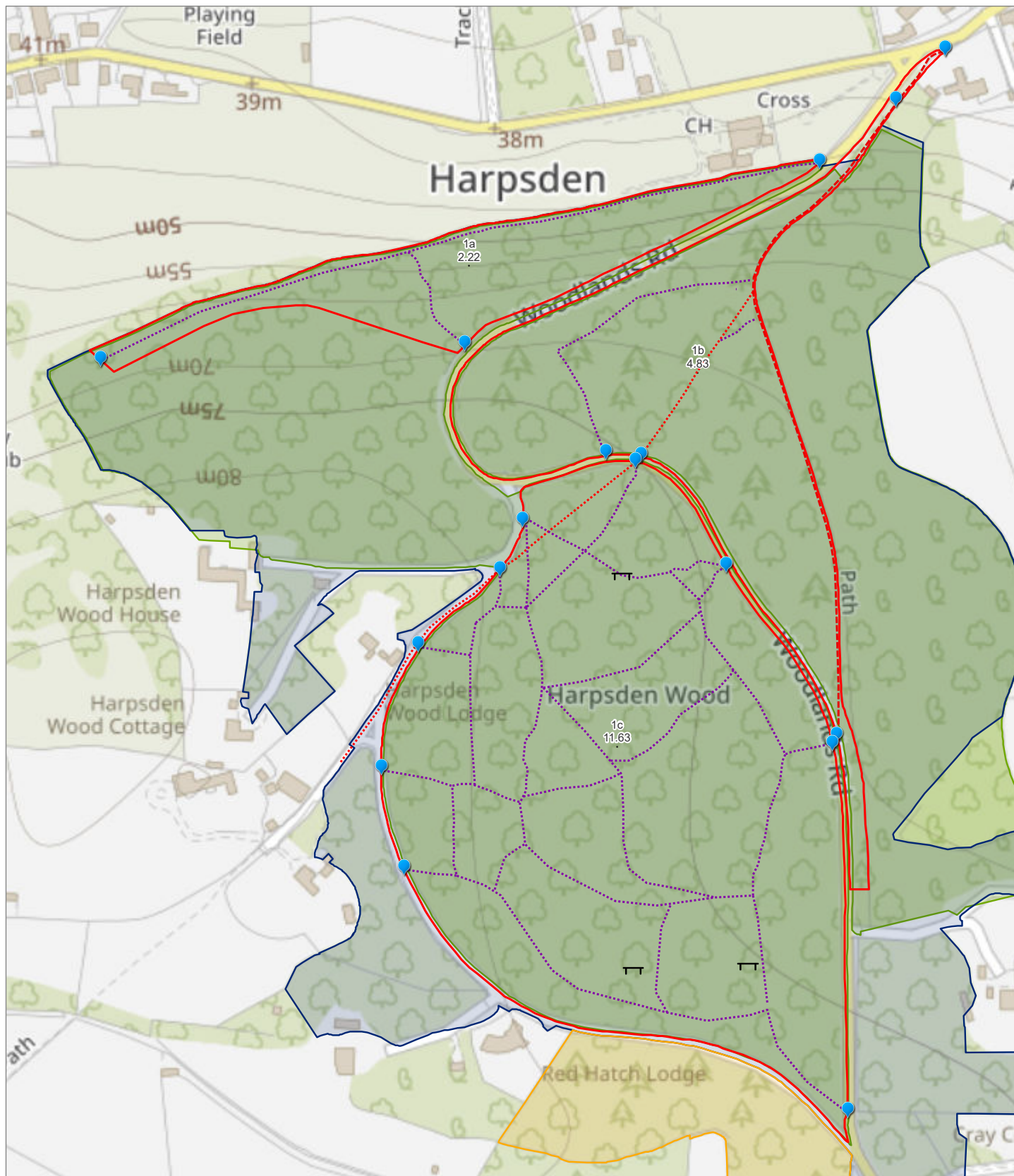
 Woodland Trust Site Boundary

Harpsden and Peveril Management Plan Map

Scale: 1:4,000 @A4

Date: 28 September 2026

Author:



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 Access points

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 Woodland Trust Site Boundary

Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) - England

 Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland

 Ancient Replanted Woodland

 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - England

Harpsden and Peveril Designation Map

Scale: 1:4,000 @A4

Date: 28 September 2026

Author: