



# Chesham Bois Wood

## Management Plan 2018-2023

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## 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 Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations.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.

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## 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®) under licence FSC-C009406 and 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>	Chesham Bois Wood, Blackwell Stubbs
<b>Location:</b>	Chesham, Chesham Bois
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP962002, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 165 SU973993, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 165
<b>Area:</b>	16.00 hectares (39.54 acres) 1.26 hectares (3.11 acres)
<b>Designations:</b>	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Area of Special Control

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Summary Description

This site is made up of a number of smaller woods, Elvidge, Hodds, Little Hodds and Hilbury. In Hodds Wood there is a very tall whitebeam tree which, at 23m high, is recorded as being the tallest in the country. A woodland preservation order covers the entire site.

### 2.2 Extended Description

Chesham Bois Wood is a 16 hectare (40 acre) site that lies between the towns of Chesham (2.2km / 1.4 miles) and Amersham (3km / 1.9 miles) in the Chiltern Hills AONB. The site was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1979 and is made up of 4 historic woods; Elvidge Wood (4ha) to the west, Hodds Wood, Little Hodds Wood and Hilbury Wood to the east (together as a continuous area covering 11ha). Hoods wood (3.5ha) is classified ASNW, but barely distinguishable from the surrounding secondary woodland areas, and so is not treated differently in terms of management.

The site is divided in two by the A416 road with residential properties bordering the wood in the south whilst private woodland and fields laid to pasture surround the wood elsewhere. Significantly it is joined at the easternmost point to Great Bois Wood and Bois Wood, an area of around 20ha of

ancient semi-natural woodland, and Beech wood & Howlet's Wood, around 7.5ha of ancient replanted woodland to the west, therefore together forming a significant block (43.5ha / 107 acres) of woodland only separated by the A416. All of the woodland to the east of the road is identified as Woodland Priority Habitat Network (extracted from Natural England's Priority Habitats Inventory v2.1).

Soils are in the main high fertility slightly acid, loamy and clayey with slightly impeded drainage that is suitable for a wide range of woodland types. They are clay with flint on the plateau with an acid to neutral PH, and becoming more calcareous towards the valley. Main tree species include plantation beech, with cherry, hornbeam, oak and holly as well as a minor component of conifer such as Norway spruce and Corsican pine. Hodds wood to the east of the site is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland (ANSW) and contains specialist woodland plant species such as bluebell, yellow archangel and woodruff, some of which have also colonised the secondary woodland. There are also some mature elm on a field boundary between Little Hodds and Hodds Wood, and a whitebeam measured at 23 metres and reportedly the tallest in the country. The composition is largely even-aged and mature, although several small areas were wind-blown in early 1990's storms and have subsequently regenerated with young ash, beech, Norway maple and sycamore.

Situated on the sides of a valley overlooking Chesham, the woodland is characterised by tall, straight, mature beech trees up to 25 metres high and this is the main impression of the wood from the A416 road. The beech trees would have been planted in the early 1900's to service the furniture industry, which was buoyant during that period. Historically there has been extensive mineral working close by and indeed an impressive old chalk quarry pit called Aldridge's Dell is situated on the northern edge of Little Hodds Wood. The wood was once part of the Du Bois family estate. They acquired the manor of Chesham Bois in the 13th century from the bishop of Bayeux who had owned it since the Norman Conquest.

The wood is well used by local people, being within walking distance of main settlements and linked by public rights of way to the north and south of the wood. There is a good network of paths throughout the wood allowing the visitor a varied experience. The site is actively used as a Forest Schools site by a local school group. Paths around the wood are generally in good condition but can become boggy following wet periods of weather.

The Woodland Trust has given Chesham Bois Wood a category B rating for access (moderate usage site where we do maintain paths).

Blackwell Stubbs is a small 1.6ha site located approximately 1km (0.6 miles) southeast of Chesham Bois Wood, on the eastern edge of the Chesham Bois settlement. It is positioned in a steep-sided valley, again in the Chilterns AONB. The wood is ancient in origin and quite mixed, with the major species being beech, cherry, oak and sycamore, and includes ground flora indicator species such as dog's mercury, particularly in the south-eastern part of the site. Other species present include a few large oak trees to the south of the dell, ash, hornbeam, silver birch and rowan. The understory is made up of holly, hawthorn, elder, and regenerating sycamore, ash and rowan.

Situated between residential areas, it is a well-used wood with public rights of way connecting Leonards Road to Stubbs Wood Road as well as to the east. A small circular network of permissive paths run through Blackwell Stubbs for quiet recreation. The wood is best accessed from St Leonard's Road via one of the public rights of way, and is well-used by local people.

The Woodland Trust has given Blackwell Stubbs Wood a category C rating for access (low usage site where we do maintain paths).

## 3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

### 3.1 Getting there

Getting there:

Chesham Bois Wood: The wood lies either side of the A416 Amersham Road about 1 mile south of Chesham and about 1.5 miles north of Amersham. Amersham has a railway station on the line to London Marylebone and the Metropolitan Line serves both Chesham and Amersham. Vehicular parking is very limited on the A416 road and it may be preferable to park in Chesham or Chesham Bois and walk to the site.

One public footpath enters the wood from the A416 through a pedestrian gate and another runs north-south through the eastern portion of the wood. There are numerous permissive paths and all paths are unsurfaced. The ground levels are undulating as Chesham Bois Wood is on the valley side overlooking the River Chess.

Blackwell Stuubs: Public footpaths run along the northeastern boundary (outside WT land) and along the south-western boundary, with several permissive routes joining them and creating a circular route around the wood. The wood is best accessed from St Leonards Road, from which a public path runs straight into the wood. Limited roadside parking is available in St Leonards Road (but please park considerately).

Buses connect both towns which pass through Chesham Bois and close to Blackwell Stubbs - from the bus stop at Anne's Corner, it is about a ten minute walk to the wood.

The paths in both woods are mainly unsurfaced and there are some steep inclines.

Public conveniences: There are public conveniences in both Amersham (Dovecote Close and Woodside Meadow) and Chesham (Star Yard and The Moor) - for further details see [www.chiltern.gov.uk](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk) or call 01494 729000.

For further information about public transport, contact Traveline - [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or phone 0871 200 22 33 .

### 3.2 Access / Walks

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## 4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The long term policy for Chesham Bois and Blackwell Stubbs is focused on one of the Woodland Trusts key aims;

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife

Concentration will be on retaining and improving woodland biodiversity and resilience, with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. Management will also focus on increasing peoples understanding and enjoyment of woodland.

The woodlands are highly prominent features in the landscape, being visible from the town of Chesham and forming a closed beech canopy over the A416. The mature woodland has therefore been a feature of the local area for many decades, and as such any required silvicultural intervention must ensure the mature woodland composition is largely unchanged through a considered continuous cover management approach.

In Chesham Bois, components of the secondary woodland will be managed to diversify the overall age and stand species structure through small scale continuous cover thinning works. This will help increase light levels and improve overall health of retained trees, and encourage natural regeneration (currently largely absent) of species such as beech, birch, cherry and sycamore to facilitate a more varied structure and composition.

The ancient wood component (Hodds Wood) will be retained as a minimum intervention area within the configuration and left to develop through natural processes, as has been the case for many decades. The likely colonisation by ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will affect species composition of the wood over time meaning beech is likely to remain the dominant tree species in the wood as it develops. Some broadleaved trees will be identified as future old growth trees and left to reach old age and decline naturally. Deadwood volume will increase as trees mature and senesce contributing to important deadwood habitat both standing and fallen, particularly for invertebrate and fungal communities, apart from where it poses a significant tree safety risk.

In Blackwell Stubbs, natural processes will continue to shape this small wood, ensuring a range of different species and ages of trees with gaps in the canopy where natural regeneration can thrive. Deadwood will continue to accumulate naturally. Naturally regenerating species include sycamore, birch and rowan with sycamore the likely dominant species as the wood develops. Felling will take place where tree safety dictates, and the operations will open gaps in the canopy to facilitate regeneration.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site, and the likely colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and other pests and diseases monitored and managed where necessary.

The public's enjoyment of the woodlands will be enhanced by maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. On-going monitoring of both sites will ensure access and boundaries



remain as safe as possible. This will be achieved through a managed path and entrance network and regular safety inspections of site infrastructure and of higher risk tree zones. Archaeological features such as pits will be monitored and protected for future generations of visitor to enjoy. Entrances, boundary fences, and benches will be maintained as necessary and the appropriate access provision will be monitored and delivered.

## 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 Secondary Woodland

#### Description

Secondary woodland forms the major portion of Chesham Bois Wood, totalling 12.7ha (74% of the whole site) and comprising of Elvidge Wood, Little Hodds Wood and Hilbury Wood.

Soils are slightly acid-loamy and clayey with impeded drainage. They are clay with flint on the plateau with an acid to neutral PH, and becoming more calcareous towards the valley. The woodlands approximate to a mixture of W14 (beech with bramble) & W12 (beech with dog's mercury) under the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). They are dominated by mature and tall plantation beech trees, (planted 1915 - 1925), with minor components of other species such as ash, wild cherry, oak, hornbeam and elm. Some natural regeneration of beech, ash and sycamore is developing although this is suppressed by the mature trees around them which have a closed canopy structure. A minor component (<5%) of conifer (Norway spruce, Corsican pine and European larch) is present in Elvidge Wood.

The flora is more diverse in Little Hodds and Hilbury Woods with species such as yellow archangel, woodruff and sanicle present, as well the scarce yellow bird's nest (*Monotropa hypopitys*), and these woods are clearly benefiting from their proximity to Hodds Wood (ancient woodland). Aldridge's Dell, a large old quarry pit, is an impressive feature in compartment 2 and was clearly worked over many years, presumably for chalk extraction.

#### Significance

The secondary woodland acts as a buffer to the ancient wood, Hodds Wood (3.5ha). The proximity to Hodds Wood is leading to the attainment of ancient woodland characteristics (woodland flora) in both Little Hodds Wood and Hilbury Wood, and in parts is almost indistinguishable from the ancient woodland area.

Hoods Wood, Little Hodds Wood and Hilbury Wood which form compartment 2 of Chesham Bois Wood, were recognised as a County Wildlife Site in 2007 due to its diverse flora.

#### Opportunities & Constraints

**Constraints:**

- Access for timber extraction is challenging due to A416 road, surrounding settlements and site topography
- Woodland archaeology is present and damage must be avoided during any management operations
- Access can become boggy in wetter weather. Any management work should be carefully timed with drier site conditions

**Opportunities:**

- To ameliorate tree safety risk and reduce associated cost burden along A416 through silvicultural intervention
- To develop a diverse and mixed woodland that is more resilient to pests and diseases
- Opportunity to collaborate with surrounding landowners on cooperative management

**Factors Causing Change**

- Mammal damage (deer, squirrel)
- Death of ash due to colonisation of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)
- Increasing shade and loss of structure within stands
- Changes in structure and gaps in canopy due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* in ash
- There has been garden rubbish dumping at the site in the past, some dumped garden exotics have previously rooted within the woodland area and been cleared

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

The woodland will be an uneven aged, self-regenerating stand of high conservation and amenity value. Deadwood habitat will have increased over time as some trees have been left to age and collapse naturally.

The secondary beech-dominated compartments 1a and 2a (comprising Little Hodds, Elvidge and Hilbury Wood) will require management intervention in order to vary the stand composition in terms of age, structure and species diversity. This will be achieved through small scale continuous cover thinning operations and will help increase light levels and improve overall health of retained trees, and encourage natural regeneration of species such as beech, birch, cherry and sycamore. Enrichment planting may be considered if natural regeneration is poor in these areas.

Deer damage to broadleaved trees will be monitored and action taken if damage becomes unacceptable.

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

Roadside felling & potential re-stocking, and small-scale thinning works are proposed for the secondary woodland component of Chesham Bois Wood (Little Hodds, Elvidge and Hilbury Wood - cpt 1a & 2a) in order to alleviate tree safety concerns alongside the A416, and facilitate structural and species diversity by appropriate management of light levels to encourage natural regeneration within the stands. Due to the high sensitivity contiguous with the site location, and visual impact of intervention (where felling of mature roadside trees in a populous area is concerned), appropriate consultation will take place prior to implementation of any operations.

- Selective thin of mature beech in cpt 1a & 2a, (12.7ha - 2019-2023), to improve the health and vitality of retained trees, vary the age & structure of the stands and encourage the development of natural regeneration by increasing light penetration - under consultation
- Roadside felling of mature trees to mitigate tree safety concerns, (approx. 1ha - 2019-2023), and to re-stock with suitable species forming a buffered edge to the woodland and a varied structure for increased habitat diversity - under consultation
- Deer impact surveys will be carried out every 3 years to assess any increase in levels of damage - The next survey is due in 2020
- A woodland condition assessment will inform the next management plan - 2022

## 5.2 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

### Description

Hodds Wood (Subcpt 2b, the most eastern block of Chesham Bois Wood - 3.5ha) and all of Blackwell Stubbs Wood (Subcpt 3a - 1.3ha) are designated as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW).

Soils comprise in the main high fertility slightly acid, loamy and clayey with slightly impeded drainage that is suitable for a wide range of woodland types. Hodds Wood approximates to W14 (beech with bramble) under the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). The main tree species is beech with wild cherry, hornbeam, oak, whitebeam and elm. Some very large English elms stand on the woodbank on the western boundary of Hodds, and within the woodland is a very large whitebeam over 23m in height. The ground flora is especially diverse in Hodds, with a wide collection of woodland specialists including bluebell, yellow archangel, woodruff, sanicle and wood anemone. Coral-root bittercress is also present, which is a national rarity. There is good quantity of standing and lying dead wood. The flora in Hodds is acting as a reservoir for colonisation of the adjacent well established secondary woodland (Hilbury and Little Hodds).

Blackwell Stubbs approximates to W12 (beech with dogs mercury) under the NVC. The increasing presence of sycamore is replacing beech as the dominant tree species. Oak, ash, silver birch, cherry and rowan are also present. There is again a good quantity of standing and fallen dead wood. The southern boundary has an old woodbank which contains some old veteran oaks and beeches. The flora is not as diverse, though dog's mercury is present.

### Significance

The amount of ASNW left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century and ancient woodland is irreplaceable. Approximately 40% of England's ASNW is found in the South East. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. A key aim of the Woodland Trust is to prevent any further loss of ancient woodland. The Chilterns AONB is one of most heavily wooded areas of the UK with a very high concentration of ancient woodland (over 13% of the land area). Both Hodds Wood and Blackwell Stubbs contain ancient woodland vascular plant indicator species. Hodds Wood in particular is acting as a seed source for colonising adjoining woodland.

### Opportunities & Constraints

**Constraints:**

- Woodland archaeology is present and damage must be avoided during any management operations
- Access can become boggy in wetter weather. Any management work should be carefully timed with drier site conditions if possible
- There is evidence of deer on site but impact is being minimised via regular public access
- There has been garden rubbish dumping at the site in the past, some dumped garden exotics have previously rooted within the woodland area and been cleared

**Opportunities**

- Selecting and promoting old growth trees well into the future to enable them to become veteran and ancient trees; this will require some control of competing trees
- Improvement of tree age range, structure and species diversity through silvicultural management

**Factors Causing Change**

- Mammal damage (deer, squirrel)
- Increasing shade and loss of structure in minimum intervention stands
- Changes in structure and gaps in canopy due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* in ash

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

The ancient woodland area of Chesham Woods (Hodds Wood - 3.5ha) will be allowed to develop largely through natural processes where the deadwood habitat is likely to increase over time through trees being left to age and collapse naturally.

The composition will remain predominantly broadleaved, with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. The mixed stands (beech, cherry, sycamore, birch, and oak being the most common species) of high forest will be self-regenerating and of high conservation and amenity value.

Blackwell Stubbs (1.3ha) will be also allowed to develop largely through natural processes unless intervention is required to address safety concerns, and is likely to become more dominated by sycamore but beech will still remain a major component.

Deer damage to the broadleaf trees will be monitored and action taken if the damage becomes unacceptable.

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

As natural processes will be allowed to shape the ancient woodland component of Hodds Wood and Blackwell Stubbs Wood, there are no planned interventions over the course of this management cycle apart from those deemed necessary for the safety of visitors and in response to routine inspections.

Inspections and informal site visits will monitor the development of the wood within the plan period, specifically:

- Deer impact surveys will be carried out every 3 years to assess any increase in levels of damage - The next survey is due in 2020
- A woodland condition assessment will inform the next management plan - 2022

## 5.3 Connecting People with woods & trees

### Description

Chesham Bois Wood and Blackwell Stubbs Wood are located on the west and east extremities of the Chesham Bois settlement (population 3117) with Chesham (population 22,356) 2.2km / 1.4 miles to the north and Amersham (population 17,711) 3km / 1.9 miles to the south. Chesham Woods are classified as access category 'B', or "regular usage, 5 - 15 people using one entrance per day". Blackwell is access category 'C' sites, defined as; "low usage sites but where we do maintain paths".

In Chesham Bois Wood, public rights of way connect the site in the east to both Chesham and Chesham Bois. In Blackwell Stubbs, public rights of way connect Stubbs Wood Road and St Leonard's Road on the western edge of the site whilst also connecting to the wider right of way network in the east. Both sites contain permissive path networks providing varied circular walks. Whilst path networks are managed to ensure uninhibited and safe access, they are occasionally steep and uneven and can be boggy in wet weather.

### Significance

The woodland provides an important natural setting for informal recreation in a busy part of the country between Chesham and Amersham. The fact that they are within walking distance of large settlements means they have the potential for routine use by many people.

Chesham Bois in particular provides a convenient location for recreation and is well used by local people including a forest schools group. The impressive trees, undulating terrain and historic features such as Aldridge's Dell create an interesting experience for visitors. In addition, the wood provides a more scenic route of access between Chesham and Chesham Bois/Amersham, than that of the roadside pavement.

Blackwell Stubbs is a smaller, quieter site nestled between residential streets. This Wood provides a convenient route of access as well as short peaceful walks amongst diverse and mature woodland.

### Opportunities & Constraints

#### Constraints:

- Chesham Bois has no car parking facility
- Chesham Bois is split between the busy A416 road
- Blackwell Stubbs is a small site with steep banks on either side

#### Opportunities:

- Chesham Bois already hosts a successful Forest Schools group, opportunity for increased community involvement in management of the wood through volunteering activities
- Chesham Bois sits on a regularly used public path between settlements, opportunity to further develop relationships with local partners e.g. Chilterns AONB for cross-promotion and joint working on engagement activities
- Chesham Bois is within 1km of three primary schools (The Beacon School, Our Lady RC Primary School and Thomas Harding Primary School) and could provide a location for 'one-off' educational visits

### Factors Causing Change



- Antisocial activities, e.g. fly tipping, fires, cycling off permitted routes
- Government adopted local housing targets will lead to increased development in the area and further pressure on the wood through increased visitor numbers

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

Public access for informal and quiet recreation will be maintained in perpetuity. The woodlands will be kept as safe as possible for visitors and there will be a managed network of paths, together with visible and clearly signed entrances.

An on-going programme of maintenance will ensure as much as possible safe and uninhibited access along clearly defined routes for quiet recreation. Provision of infrastructure will be kept low key as appropriate for the grading of these sites:

Chesham Bois - B (moderate usage where we do maintain paths)

Blackwell Stubbs - C (low usage where we do maintain paths)

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

A programme of maintenance and tree inspections will ensure the wood remains open and as safe as possible to visitors.

- Routine safety inspections of the trees in the higher risk zones, such as alongside footpaths, roads and boundaries with buildings. Inspections of footpaths will be carried out formally every 2 years with the next inspection due summer 2019. Inspection of boundaries with roads and buildings will be carried out on an annual basis alternating between summer and autumn. The next inspection is due summer 2018
- Entrance infrastructure will be inspected annually with any remedial work undertaken as and when appropriate
- An annual path cut will be undertaken in July
- Replace welcome signage at both Chesham Bois Wood and Blackwell Stubbs Wood - 2018
- Blackwell Stubbs - Entrance P2 - clean graffiti from entrance sign - 2018
- Chesham - Entrance P1 - Remove breadboard from management gate when installing new breadboard at squeeze gap + Replace rotten posts on squeeze gap entrance - 2018
- Chesham - Entrance P3 - Kissing gate - One post rotten and another loose - Reset/replace posts, replace spar with graffiti. Check concrete steps are secure - 2018
- Chesham - Entrance P4 - Reset breadboard posts - 2018
- Chesham - Entrance P6 - Breadboard backboard and posts situated 10m down from steps
- Relocate breadboard so visible from pavement + Reinstall hand rail down steps - 2018

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## 6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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## APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	5.17	Beech	1925	High forest	Archaeological features, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Compartments 1a, 2a and 2b refer to Chesham Bois wood, 1a being the compartment to the west of the Amersham Road A416, 2a and 2b to the east of the highway, 3a refers to Blackwell Stubbs

### Compartment 1a:

This is the part of Chesham Bois Wood to the west of the A416 and known as Elvidge Wood. Beech is the major tree species, and the mature trees are tall and of exceptional form. Minor components of other species are present such as oak and cherry. There is some limited regeneration of beech underneath the mature trees, as well as holly, elder and bramble in the understory. There is a minor component of conifers to the east of the compartment (Norway spruce, Corsican pine and European larch).

2a	7.57	Beech	1915	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
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Compartments 1a, 2a and 2b refer to Chesham Bois wood, 1a being the compartment to the west of the Amersham Road A416, 2a and 2b to the east of the highway, 3a refers to Blackwell Stubbs

Compartment 2a:

The area of Chesham Bois Wood to the east of the A416. It comprises 2 historic woods: Little Hodds Wood and Hilbury Wood. The majority of the compartment is dominated by mature tall beech trees of a very straight form. Gaps in the canopy have been created by the 1990 storms and these have naturally filled with young beech, ash and sycamore. There is a field bank separating Little Hodds and Hilbury Wood. Hoods wood adjacent is classified ASNW, but barely distinguishable from the surrounding secondary woodland areas.

2b	3.27	Beech	1700	High forest		Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	
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Compartments 1a, 2a and 2b refer to Chesham Bois wood, 1a being the compartment to the west of the Amersham Road A416, 2a and 2b to the east of the highway, 3a refers to Blackwell Stubbs

The easternmost section of the site known historically as (Hodds Wood). This sub compartment is classified as ASNW and is more diverse in species and consists of beech, cherry, hornbeam, oak and holly with minor components of elm and whitebeam. Although ancient, Hodds wood is barely distinguishable from the surrounding secondary woodland areas.

3a	1.26	Sycamore	1900	High forest	Archaeological features, Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground, Housing/infrastructure, structures & water features on or adjacent to site, No/poor vehicular access within the site, People issues (+ve & -ve), Services & wayleaves, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Connecting People with woods & trees, Secondary Woodland	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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Compartments 1a, 2a and 2b refer to Chesham Bois wood, 1a being the compartment to the west of the Amersham Road A416, 2a and 2b to the east of the highway, 3a refers to Blackwell Stubbs

Compartment 3a:

Sycamore is naturally regenerating in the woodland and is now the dominant species, particularly in the northern part of the wood, although the wood is a diverse mixture of species throughout. Very old beech and oak trees are present on the southern boundary. Other species present include ash, wild cherry, hornbeam, silver birch, rowan and holly. Understory is made up predominantly of holly, hawthorn, elder and regenerating sycamore, ash and rowan. The steep-sided valley woodland is ancient in origin.

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**Appendix 2: Harvesting operations (20 years)**

Forecast Year	Cpt	Operation Type	Work Area (ha)	Estimated vol/ha	Estimated total vol.
2020	1a	Thin	4.50	50	225
2020	1a	Clear Fell	0.85	94	80
2020	2a	Clear Fell	1.08	93	100
2020	2a	Thin	5.00	50	250

## 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.