

Hucking Estate

(Plan period – 2025 to 2035)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - 4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland
 - 4.3 f3 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat
 - 4.4 f4 Connecting People with woods & trees
 - 4.5 f5 Carbon
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Hucking Estate

Location:	Hollingbourne Grid reference: TQ843575 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 188
Area:	305.61 hectares (755.18 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance, Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Tree For All Site, Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Hucking Estate (305.72 hectares) is located around the village of Hucking and extends up to the village of South Green, 15.2km (9.4 miles) north east of Maidstone, Kent. Hucking Estate is situated on the North Downs where there are extensive views from the escarpment edge looking south across the Weald of Kent; it is also within the Kent Downs National Landscape (formerly AONB). It was the largest property bought by The Woodland Trust in England at the time in 1997 at 232.69 ha in area and contained only 72.9ha of ancient woodland and 159.79ha of intensively farmed arable land.

Following successful appeals in 2016 and 2020, 47.05ha and 24.01ha of adjacent land was purchased comprising a mixture of permanent grazing land and chalk grassland (44.91ha), arable farmland (14.40ha) and ancient woodland areas (11.83ha). These additional areas of land extend north from the original purchased area.

Following the last acquisitions, to summarise the different land types, Hucking Estate is a mixture of 28% ancient woodland (84.73ha), 35% woodland creation or secondary woodland (105.29ha), 15% natural colonisation areas (44.81ha) and 22% open land (69.00ha) mostly grazed by livestock of which 7.0ha is species-rich chalk grassland with up to 22 chalk grassland indicator species.

The land which now forms Hucking Estate was acquired so that the Woodland Trust could embark on a restoration of the landscape and support Sir John Lawton's principle for existing wildlife sites to be bigger, better managed and more joined up via habitat creation initiatives. Like many similar farmland landscapes on the North Downs, the land which has become known as Hucking Estate had suffered from the ever intensive farming practices of the 1960s to 1980s where woodlands and hedges were sacrificed to create a greater area of farmed land. The land now formed by Hucking Estate itself had approximately 46.2ha of woodland removed between 1870 and 1997, with the bulk of this removed since 1961; 45% of this woodland loss was from within the area purchased in 2016 which saw approximately 21.2ha of ancient woodland removed during this period.

The restoration project started by undertaking extensive woodland creation in 1998 and 1999, and more recently between 2008 and 2012, by planting trees and using natural colonisation to establish certain areas. This established new woodlands around the areas of ancient woodland to buffer and protect them and also to link up isolated small ancient woodland areas. At the same time a number of new hedgerows were established along previous old historical field boundaries. In 1999, what wasn't planted with trees of the remaining arable land was converted to grassland. The 2016 and 2020 acquisition areas were used to create secondary woodland using natural processes at a scale rarely seen in the southern England with a small amount of tree planting completed in 2022. This provides opportunities for nature to express itself, and assist greater species movement through the landscape by reducing the pressures on nature resulting from modern farming systems and human intervention, encouraging more woodland and trees through natural regeneration and managing the existing woodland to create more space and light.

The ancient woodland areas (and corresponding sub compartment number) of Long Wood (1h, 1j), Round Wood (1i), Calves Wood, Crabtree Wood and Eastfield Wood (2c,2d), Stubs Wood (3b), Smokes Wood (3c, 3d), Squawlands Wood, Pudding Dane and Boltons Wood (3f, 3g), Ten Acres and Chitts Wood (3e), Forest Wood (3h), Hall Wood (6b) and Grinnels Wood (7a, 7b) are a mixture of oak standards with mixed broadleaved coppice areas of hornbeam, field

maple, ash and hazel, with some areas of pure sweet chestnut. There are also some fine specimens of small leaved lime and mature beech trees within the woodland which are approximately 200 years old. Typical ancient woodland indicators such as bluebell and wood anemone are abundant within the ancient woodland areas with bramble. Red campion, foxglove, lords and ladies, early purple orchid, primrose, rosebay willow herb and yellow archangel can also be found. Where the soils are thinner over the chalk on the valley sides there is a subtle change with a greater amount of ash, field maple and yew with dog's mercury in the ground flora.

The ancient woodland areas are managed to produce a mixture of actively coppiced areas, with over mature coppice areas managed as high forest and areas of over mature coppice managed by minimal intervention to allow natural process to shape the habitat. Eastfield Wood (2d) is a small area of the ancient woodland notified as a Local Wildlife Site.

Within the woodland creation areas there are 3 areas which have been leased to Forest Research (FR, with the option to extend these leases from 2025 onwards). In one area FR is conducting research on the choice of tree species and different seed sources to combat the influences of climate change; the remaining 2 areas are part of the research to locate provenances of common ash trees which are resistant to the ash dieback fungus.

The site contains numerous sites of archaeological interest including an ancient Drove Road, chalkwells, marl pits and potential iron-ore workings.

Hucking Estate has a good network of permissive paths, public rights of way and a bridleway. There are two way-marked routes with the longer of the two, the Landscape Trail, enabling visitors to view a number of interpretation structures which adds to the visitor experience. There is also a way-marked link to and from the North Downs Way long distant path. There is a car park, with access under a height barrier with a 2 metre clearance located off Church Road east of Hucking village.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In fifty years' time, Hucking Estate will be a resilient landscape retaining its ancient woodland and secondary woodland areas covering approximately 78%. The remaining area will be restored chalk grassland habitat and semi-natural open ground habitats, which will be kept open by grazing. The woodland areas will contain a diverse structure providing a good range of different habitats typical of this native broadleaved woodland type of NVC W10 oak/hornbeam woodland on the thick clay with flint soils to W8 ash/field maple on the thinner soils over chalk. Within the ancient woodland areas there will be a mosaic of actively coppiced areas interspersed amongst stored coppice managed as high forest areas and abandoned coppice areas managed through minimal intervention and an increasing resource of decaying wood. Within the secondary woodland areas, there will be a similar mixture of actively coppiced areas, managed high forest areas through thinning, areas managed through minimal intervention and wood pasture. Linking these areas will be a wide ride habitat centered on some of the main tracks whose edges are coppiced on a short rotation. A diverse suite of habitats will allow the opportunity for a diverse and abundant mix of species to be supported leading to a more resilient woodland habitat.

Through the active management of selected coppiced areas within the ancient woodland and secondary woodland areas, this will be ideal habitat for a range of invertebrate, bird and mammal species, including woodland specialist species which rely on temporary open space. Areas of managed high forest will be evolving a multi layered canopy as interventions by thinning provides gaps in the canopy for natural regeneration and stump regrowth to become established. This will also provide additional habitats for invertebrates and birds. The areas of stored coppice and abandoned coppice habitat being managed through minimal intervention will see an increase in the age of the trees and an increase in dead and decaying wood habitat, which will in turn support a large range of saproxylic invertebrates and fungi. In addition as the trees senesce there will be an increasing prevalence of coppice stools splitting and falling apart. This will not only help to generate more dead and decaying wood but also allow the regeneration of an understorey through increasing light levels. This is to be expected as a previously managed coppice woodland converts to a more semi natural woodland habitat through minimal intervention. The developing wood pasture forming on areas being left to natural processes since 2019 will still be in a juvenile state with evolving scrub and woodland and future veteran trees beginning to be identified.

The semi-natural open ground habitat will be grazed to create a diverse sward, scrubby margins alongside ancient woodland edges and maturing trees outside woodlands providing the links and connections for wildlife between woodland blocks.

The presence of invasive trees and shrubs such as rhododendron and cotoneaster will continue to be monitored and controlled. Deer numbers will be monitored and controlled if numbers become too high to prevent the woodland from regenerating.

Although the site will retain its tranquil character, it will be visited by visitors each year who appreciate and respect walking in a wooded landscape with diverse habitats and archaeological features, along a well-maintained network of paths.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

Description

Hucking Estate is typical of ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) growing on clay with flints over chalk bedrock supporting a tree, shrub and ground flora vegetation community of NVC (National Vegetation Community) W10, oak woodland with bramble and bracken and W8, ash, field maple woodland with dogs mercury. There are small areas which contain NVC W12, beech woodland with dogs mercury, W21, hawthorn and ivy scrub woodland and W25, bracken with bramble under scrub. There is one area of woodland (Eastfield Wood - part of cpt.2d) which is classified as Site of Nature conservation Interest (SNCI) as an example of mixed coppice woodland with standards which include some veteran small leaved lime trees.

The ancient woodland found at Hucking Estate sits within a landscape of similar traditionally coppice managed woodlands on the North Downs. The ground flora within the ancient woodland is not especially diverse although there is an abundance of bluebell and wood anemone flowering in spring. 10 BAP species of bird have been recorded (bullfinch, hawfinch, lapwing, linnet, marsh tit, starling, song thrush, skylark, tree pipit, turtle dove) as well as 21 species of butterfly such as white admiral, orange tip, red admiral, marbled white, small heath, purple hairstreak, white-letter hairstreak, green hairstreak, grizzled skipper and a county important species the silver-washed fritillary. A small area of rhododendron in cpt.3e was eradicated in 2000. In 2023, monitoring of Dormouse began with the installation of nest boxes in cpts 3c and 3d. Surveying will be carried out during this plan period by the National Dormouse Monitoring Project.

Some ASNW areas at Hucking Estate were planted up with sweet chestnut during the 18th century with retained oak standards. The majority of the coppice areas which were not converted to sweet chestnut still contain the native mixed broadleaved species dominated by ash, hornbeam, hazel and birch with invading sycamore. Historically, the ASNW at Hucking Estate and in the neighbouring estates and woods such as Gorham with Admiral Wood were managed as coppice with standards for 100's of years, so providing a network of temporary open space habitat. Since Woodland Trust ownership in 1997, the ASNW has been managed to provide a broader range of habitats of coppice (44%), high forest (15%) and minimal intervention (41%) areas. The majority of the oak standards retained within the coppice are veteran trees. Management is carried out to sustain and nurture veteran trees within minimal intervention areas.

A network of managed wide rides in Smokes Wood and Bolton's Wood (Cpt 3) provides additional temporary open ground and scrub habitats, being managed by short-rotation coppicing and mowing. These wide rides link up the areas under coppice management with the semi natural open space habitats and woodland creation areas.

Throughout the ASNW there are relics of human disturbance as recorded in the archaeological survey carried out by Dr. Nicola Bannister (1998). Features such as chalk pits, shallow quarrying sites and ancient boundaries or woodbanks have been recorded.

Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) was noted within the ASNW in 2012 and most obviously seen affecting young natural regeneration at that time. By 2018, a significant proportion of mature ash trees were showing signs of crown reduction with some trees almost dead. The resulting increase in light levels to the woodland floor has seen an increase in bramble growth and regeneration of ash, hazel, hawthorn and sycamore.

Six sub compartments have been set aside as minimal intervention areas (1h, 1i, 3a, 3b, 3g, 7a and 3h) totalling 18.90ha to allow natural processes to shape their habitat.

Significance

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is a dwindling and irreplaceable habitat and as such all remnants of ancient woodland needs to be protected from further loss. On the North Downs the ASNW areas are predominately situated within an intensive farmed (arable) landscape, with little habitat connectivity. This has been reversed at Hucking Estate to produce a better connected landscape, with areas of ASNW buffered and linked by woodland creation.

Protection of ASNW is a key objective of the Woodland Trust. The 75.1ha of ancient semi-natural woodland at Hucking Estate is significant particularly now that it is set within a connected landscape which is being managed sympathetically for the benefit of biodiversity.

Within Hucking Estate there is a significant area of coppice still within rotation. The benefits of coppicing are a continuity of the coppice habitat and its associated bird, mammal, invertebrate and plant assemblages which have survived under this type of management for 1000 years or more; maintains an intimate mixture of mainly light demanding tree species which would otherwise not be represented in woodlands; coppicing has enabled the direct links with original-natural (primaeval) woodland to be maintained; coppice woodlands provide opportunities for flora to survive along the ride network due to the higher light levels maintained within the woodland due to coppice activity.

Over each plan period significant areas are due to be coppiced to maintain this habitat type.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunity:

To use this site to demonstrate a landscape scale management/restoration and resilient wooded landscapes. To enable Forest Research and other external organisations to use the site for research.

To explore options for woodland support via higher level stewardship, as applications open in future years.

Constraints:

A small part of Hucking Estate is bounded by arable farmland which is currently being actively farmed and thus there is no opportunity to link to other woods or other semi-natural habitats from this part.

The clay soils which become wet in winter time and the European Protected Species status of dormouse which are

present, restricts the seasons in which active management work can be accomplished.

Factors Causing Change

Invasive plants:

Rhododendron and cotoneaster were once present within the ancient woodland. The presence of threatening invasive species will be monitored to ensure they are absent or minor with containment and eradication work carried out if necessary.

Climate Change:

This may bring changes and negative affects to the ancient woodland habitats. Aim to keep canopy as closed up as possible.

Plant health:

Ash dieback, identified on site since 2012, is having a significant impact on ash trees across ASNW areas, causing the serious decline and death of many ash of all ages. Within ASNW cpts, away from public areas, ash will be retained as long as possible to give the greatest chance of survival for resilient trees. It is however expected that most will continue to decline over this plan period, which will serve to open up the canopy, allowing space for natural regeneration and creating stores of deadwood. Declining ash will be removed from path edge and boundary areas.

Deer:

First observed at Hucking in early 2025 in compartment 6d. Currently no impact with ASNW areas but may change over time.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Woodland biodiversity tends to be greater in wooded areas which are structurally diverse in terms of their age, species, edge habitat potential, understory and dead and decaying wood component.

The long term objective is to develop varied and robust native woodland with diverse and complex structure within the different woodland habitat types such as managed high forest, coppice, standards, rides, dead and decaying wood, areas left to develop by natural processes and all well represented within this woodland. This will be achieved through thinning, coppicing and retaining standards and other interventions such as ride side management.

Areas to coppice during particular plan periods will be dictated by their rotation age and their condition as a result of windblow and tree disease. The aim is to achieve a diverse age range of actively coppiced areas covering approximately 35ha connected to semi-natural open ground habitat, other secondary woodland areas managed by coppicing and to a maintained wide ride habitat of approximately 6km in length, all set within an ancient woodland matrix formed of managed high forest and over mature coppice managed as minimal intervention where natural processes will be allowed to shape the habitat. This will result in some of the coppice stools collapsing and splitting apart. This latter habitat will be showing the development of more naturalised woodland characteristics with a broader age range of trees through increasing amounts of regeneration, a developing woody shrub layer and the proportion of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood will be increasing. Aim to have 40m³ of decaying wood per hectare, with some compartments having up to 150m³ per hectare.

To maintain this diverse habitat to ensure survival of a healthy and secure ground flora with appropriate deer numbers. The presence of threatening invasive species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work as necessary.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

The short term objective is to contribute towards the creation/ maintenance of structurally diverse woodland within a resilient woodscape through coppicing, ride management and the removal of exotic invasive species if present. This will be achieved through:

- Coppicing

6.44 of mixed broadleaved coppice to be felled through the plan period (4.73ha in 2027, 1.71ha in 2028) in compartments 2d, 3c and 3e. Standards will be retained within the areas coppiced and the recruitment of new standards will occur to create (in the long term) a density of approximately 20-30 per ha, with additional standards recruited where necessary each time the areas are coppiced. Standards are to be a mixture of long term species (oak, hornbeam, wild cherry). Adjacent cants will not be cut until the coppice regrowth has reached a minimum of 2m in height with successful regrowth of cut stools, supplemented with natural regeneration of tree species to maintain an adequate stocking density where coppice stools have died of no less than 1100 stems per hectare.

- Thinning

5.76ha of stored coppice to be thinned in cpt 3d (1.56ha in 2030, 4.2ha in 2032), with the intention of gradually opening up the canopy to allow the further development of natural regeneration in the understorey.

To thin 2.7ha of chestnut coppice in cpt 7b Grinnels Wood, as a first restoration intervention to convert to high forest in 2025.

In 2027, to thin 0.3ha of cpt 3h east of the drove road and around pond margins, with the intention to remove declining ash and to single sweet chestnut coppice stools.

- Maximising Ecological Integrity

To identify future 'legacy trees' for retention in minimal intervention areas of cpts 3b, 3g and 7a. Ensure these trees are individually marked and mapped during 2027 at up to ten trees per ha, depending on density across individual cpts. To be a variety of age classes to ensure a continuity of legacy trees.

In 2029, Halo thin around identified legacy trees scattered through the minimal intervention areas of cpts.3b, 3g and 7a. For each selected tree, the underwood and previously coppiced trees to be cut up to 5m beyond drip line of legacy tree canopies. For 25% of legacy trees (and those furthest from paths and public areas), to be achieved by ring barking of underwood trees, to provide a more sensitive Halo over time and to create standing deadwood. All remaining underwood to be left in pole length where possible and retained in-situ to contribute to stores of deadwood on the ground.

As part of coppicing and thinning operations during this plan period, to retain all brash and up to 10% of stems on the ground to further grow stores of deadwood.

Wherever tree safety works (Zone B) are being implemented to mature trees, to prioritise the use of retrenchment pruning and veteranisation techniques to create features of interest.

- Ride edge management

During the plan period the existing 3 zone wide ride habitat with short rotation coppiced edges is to be maintained along approximately 5km of rides maintaining pinch points where designated. There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the 3 zones with zone 1 areas cut annually, zone 2 areas cut on a rotation of 3-5 years, and zone 3 areas cut on a rotation of 10-12 years, and all cut in a piecemeal fashion. This will accentuate the woodland edge habitat providing valuable temporary open space coppice habitat. Sections to be between 5 - 8 metres in width.

An additional 750m of new 3 zone wide ride habitat is to be created in cpts 2b, 2c and 2d, to be managed in the same manner as existing 3 zone rides.

Ride edge ash felling along 2.6km of rides (dead and dying ash dieback infected trees within 20m of edges) in cpts 3b, 3d, 3g, 6b and 7a in 2025.

Fell declining ash on drove road boundary and Colyers Wents boundary at cpt 4c in 2026.

-Surveys

To undertake annual herbivore impact assessment (HIA) lite/abbreviated surveys for impact of deer. Also, to undertake a full HIA and thermal drone census at the mid-point plan review (2030) and just prior to plan end (2035) to complement the five yearly woodland condition assessments.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition assessments to be undertaken to inform mid-point and full management plan reviews in 2030 and 2035.

4.2 f2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Between 1997 and 2022, 105.29 ha of secondary woodland (approximately 199,800 trees and shrubs) was established by planting with the majority (approximately 75ha) established between 1998 and 1999 and 28.27ha established between 2008 and 2012 and 2.50ha established in 2022. In addition approximately 44.81ha has been set aside for natural regeneration to establish woodland. Species which were planted included pedunculate oak, hornbeam, wild cherry, sweet chestnut, beech, ash, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, whitebeam and yew. Three main woodland types have been planted to mimic W8, W10 and W12 woodland according to the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). Within the planting design, open rides and glades were left in strategic places to add diversity and interest. The species of tree and woody shrubs becoming established through natural regeneration include pedunculated oak, hazel, hawthorn, field maple, hornbeam and willow.

The purpose of creating secondary woodlands was to increase the wooded area of Hucking Estate. The positioning of the secondary woodland was planned so that the majority of this new habitat buffered existing ancient woodlands, linked up small isolated ancient woodland blocks to form larger and more contiguous woodlands and thus created the conditions and opportunities for wildlife migration by increasing the permeability of the landscape.

The opportunity to convert through natural processes approximately 43ha of permanent pasture and ex arable land to secondary woodland following the 2016 and 2020 purchases (in cpts.6a, 6c, 6e, 6f, 6h, 6i and 7c) is at a scale rarely seen in southeast England. Commercial grazing in cpts 6 ceased in 2018 and the last cereal harvest from cpt.7c was in September 2020. Livestock will be reintroduced at low numbers in the long term (not during this plan period) to help

shape and create the habitat in cpt.6. The changes which will come about through natural processes of tree and scrub regeneration as well as how wildlife responds to these changes will be monitored. This new woodland habitat will buffer ancient woodland within cpts 6b, 7a and 7b. It will also extend out and link up to Squirrel Wood, a large privately owned woodland to the north of Hucking Estate. Important small populations of skylark and meadow pipit are breeding within compartments 6c and 6f.

A long term study to analyse and record the changes which occur to the soil chemistry of ex arable farm land following the creation of woodland and plotting the changes as these areas mature to become secondary woodland was established by the Woodland Trust, using 76 permanent plots marked in cpt.4a during 2001. Formal surveys were then carried out in 2002, 2012 and 2024. Records of how the ground flora changes are also being recorded, and for the first time in the 2024 survey colonisation by mycorrhiza also surveyed. Comparisons are being made with adjacent ANSW soils and ground flora in cpts.3b and 3d.

Two other long term monitoring projects have been set up by Forest Research. In 2011 a 1.96ha species migration trial plot containing oak, wild cherry and ash was planted to assess whether native tree species can be given a 'helping hand' in adapting to a warmer climate by mixing local trees with those from European provenances of the same species. In 2013, a 2ha plot was planted with different UK provenances of ash to see if there were any provenances or individual trees which show a resistance to ash dieback fungus (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). In 2016 a second ash provenance trial site was also established in the northwest of cpt.4a. This latter trial tested ash trees that had, pre ash-dieback, been part of an "elite" tree selection programme, selection being on form, growth rates and timber quality, run by the Future Trees Trust. These trials will continue to be monitored, albeit on a more selective basis during this plan period as most ash have become affected by ash dieback.

Significance

New native planting of this kind increases the area of native woodland in an area of the country where there is intensive and increasing development (road construction, Channel Tunnel rail link, housing development etc.).

Through establishing secondary woodlands next to ASNW habitats, this is designed to make the ASNW more robust in the face of climate change by buffering the core ancient woodland areas as well as helping to join up isolated blocks of woodland to form bigger woods and to provide a more connected landscape.

The study of woodland creation on ex arable soils will help understand the soil chemistry changes which occur over the decades since trees become established. Between 1999 and 2012 the soil chemistry analysis shows that the legacy of intensively managed arable farm soils with altered soil parameters of P, K, Mg, N, C (phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, nitrogen, carbon) and pH status when compared to ASNW and undisturbed soils has caused minor effects on tree growth. The planted trees particularly of oak, small leaved lime and hornbeam have tended to fair better closer to the margins of existing mature ASNW where the pH values are lower and soil nutrients are more favourable. 2024 survey results demonstrated that soil mycorrhizal associations decreased with distance away from existing ASNW. In addition, natural regeneration of tree species within the planted areas is now forming a significant component of the species composition. This is particularly so where the planting is adjacent to mature ASNW and downwind of them, and where canopy closure by the planted species has shaded out the competing grassy vegetation so allowing seedlings to develop more easily.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To continue the decades long term monitoring project on soils which started in 2001 to measure the changes in soil chemistry, PH and the distribution of soil mycorrhizal associations and to see how these affect tree growth and also survey the change in ground flora following woodland creation on arable land (compartments 3d and 4a). Survey on a ten year cycle, with the next survey due in 2034.

There is an opportunity to widen the scope of the monitoring project with the first thinning intervention in cpt 4a, potentially exploring how different plots respond to thinning or being unmanaged. Work with Forest Research and the university research teams to devise a sensitive thinning regime that could create options for further research in the P98/99 areas of the project, acknowledging the need to balance long term monitoring with the necessary management.

To use the site as an example to evidence connectivity as a result of the secondary woodland establishment and natural process areas to buffer and link up ancient woodland areas.

To continue hosting Forest Research ash and assisted migration trial plots.

To create significant areas of secondary woodland to buffer and link ancient woodland habitats. This follows the Lawton principle of bigger, better and more joined up.

To engage with Forestry Research or colleges within the industry to design a suitable monitoring programme to help monitor the changes and progress of natural processes.

In the long term, to initiate squirrel control within woodland creation areas, where damage levels are increasing, and form and vitality of planted trees are suffering. This will be subject to the outcome of any impact assessments, species management plan and funding streams.

Low intensity grazing within cpts.6a, 6c, 6e, 6f and 6h will be implemented in future years (but not in this plan period) and these areas will be surveyed to monitor species richness and diversity, the success of natural processes and to inform any changes that be required with stock and stocking density.

Constraints:

New native woodlands or secondary woodlands are species poor for 100's of years compared to ASNW areas, particularly if ASNW is not adjacent to new plantings.

Factors Causing Change

Plant health:

Ash dieback, identified on site since 2012, is having a big impact on young ash trees within the secondary woodland causing many of the ash trees to die. This will cause a negative effect in the long term by the loss of ash from these areas. Natural regeneration of other mixed broadleaves on site is expected to fill in gaps created by dead ash over the next 5-10 years. Retain ash trees away from public areas as long as possible so that resilient trees can be identified and retained.

Deer:

First recorded on site in 2025 (fallow in cpt 6d). Herbivore impact assessments will be carried out and culling may be

undertaken if woodland components are being damaged and/or threatened.

Grey squirrels:

Squirrel damage to planted trees is evident in some compartments, especially those P98/99 creation areas. Production of high quality timber is not a key objective of the Woodland Trust, so grey squirrel control is not a top priority during this plan period. This is a reflection of the difficulties of achieving adequate control levels on an estate of this size and with significant numbers in the wider landscape. However, subject to impact assessment results and potential funding, squirrel control could be implemented in the longer term.

Invasive plants:

Cotoneaster was once present within the secondary woodland. The presence of threatening invasive species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work is carried out if necessary.

Climate Change:

This may bring changes and negative affects to the woodland habitats. Aim to keep canopy as closed up as possible.

Natural regeneration and scrub:

Lack of natural regeneration would seriously affect the pace of development of the project. Excessive development of one species or dominance of scrub will be a temporary but negative effect on the species richness of the habitat.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The use of livestock will be used to produce a wood pasture habitat within a part of the secondary woodland area, in particular those that are naturally colonising.

Cyclical management interventions by thinning will drive the long term conversion to high forest habitat, with a range of ages and structures across the planted areas. Thinning will give light and space for canopy trees to develop, and create gaps for natural regeneration of an understory and thus making them a more resilient habitat.

Secondary woodland managed by minimum intervention will be showing the development of semi natural woodland characteristics with increasing signs of regeneration and a developing woody shrub layer. The proportion of standing and fallen deadwood within the secondary woodland will be increasing. Periodic interventions through thinning will be well established to encourage the development of an understory.

The presence of threatening invasive species to be absent or minor with containment and eradication work as necessary.

Through the long term monitoring projects, data will be collected to increase the scientific knowledge to inform guidance, strategies and policies for future site management.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

The short term objective is to contribute towards the creation and maintenance of structurally diverse woodland through thinning, ride management, the removal of invasive species (if present) and maintaining recently planted areas. This will be achieved by:

- Ride edge management

During the plan period a 3 zone wide ride habitat with short rotation coppiced edges is to be developed along 1.2km of rides in cpts 2i and 4a (where P98/99 areas adjacent to rides are significantly shading path edges) to correspond with similar work in the adjacent ASNW habitat. Management to begin in winter 2026 to same specification as established 3 zone rides, on a piecemeal basis along full length of identified rides.

There will be an annual programme of works to cut the vegetation within the 3 zones with zone 2 areas cut on a rotation of 3-5 years, and zone 3 areas cut on a rotation of 10-12 years. This will accentuate the woodland edge habitat providing valuable temporary open space coppice habitat.

- Thinning

First thinning of P98/99 secondary woodland areas in compartments 1a, 1c, 1d, 1f, 2a, 2c, 2e, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2j, 4a and 4d during 2028, 2029 and 2030. This will be the start of an eight year thinning cycle in these compartments with the intention of diversifying structure, encouraging the development of an understory through natural regeneration and ground flora and enhancing deadwood habitat.

51.71ha of P98/99 woodland to be thinned by up to 20% (of total number of stems) in 2028 (15.49 ha in 1c, 2a, 2i and 4d), 2029 (23.15ha in 1a, 2c, 4a and 1f) and 2030 (13.07ha in 1d, 2e, 2g, 2h and 2j). Lop and top and up to 20% of timber to be stacked in respective compartments to begin growing stores of deadwood (that are inevitably lacking in these plantation areas currently). Thinning will create racks through planted areas, with every fifth row felled. From the created racks, groups of shrub species (hawthorn, field maple and hazel predominantly) and self-seeded willows will be cut to create gaps for natural regeneration and to diversify structure.

Cpt 4a will be thinned differently to take account of the long term monitoring project.

Some areas of P98/99 creation (1b, 2f) to be retained as minimal intervention areas with no thinning or coppicing, instead allowing natural processes to shape their structure.

- Natural regeneration

To allow approximately 43ha of former pasture and arable land acquired in 2016 and 2020 in sub cpts. 6a, 6c, 6e, 6f, 6h, 6i and 7c to naturally regenerate.

- Maintenance of woodland creation areas

Annual removal (until 2030) of noxious weeds and lank growth around planted trees (by strimming) within cpt.7c, plus beating up in subsequent seasons if required.

- Survey and understand the changing woodland structure

To continue to permit Forest Research access to their species trial plot on climate change and their ash provenance plots researching into resistance to ash dieback fungus.

To plot the changes brought about by natural processes in cpts.6a, 6c, 6e, 6f, 6h and 7c through regular fixed point photography positions taken at 3 yearly intervals in 2026, 2029, 2032 and 2035.

To carry out 3 yearly breeding bird survey of natural regeneration areas in cpts.6a, 6c, 6e, 6f, 6h and 7c with surveys in 2027, 2030 and 2033 to help monitor the changes brought about by natural processes.

- 5-yearly formal woodland condition assessments to be undertaken to inform mid-point and full management plan reviews in 2030 and 2035.

4.3 f3 Semi Natural Open Ground Habitat

Description

The semi-natural open ground habitat comprises the following four areas totaling 69.00ha:

- A) Ex arable land converted to grassland in 1999 and grazed by livestock within cpts.5a, 5b, 5c and 6i (48.89ha);
- B) Ex arable land converted to grassland in 1999 and subsequently planted in 2012 with fruit trees to form the community orchard at the northeast end of cpt.5b (1.18ha);
- C) Ex arable land in cpt.5d converted to grassland in 1999 near the Church Road car park which is periodically managed to keep open for internal views (3.93ha);
- D) Chalk-rich grassland of 8.64ha along with areas of improved grassland within cpts.6d, 6g and 7d (15.00 ha).

More details about each area follows:

A) The conversion of ex arable land in cpts.5a, 5b, 5c and 5d to native grassland in 1999 was through sowing native grass seed mixtures; cpt.6i was ex arable and grassed over at the time of acquisition in 2016. No artificial or organic fertilisers have been applied to this habitat since their conversion from arable to grassland. These areas are situated on the escarpment of the North Downs, within the dry valley and in the northern area of Hucking Estate north of Church Road. The dry valley is a typical landscape feature of the North Downs National Landscape often without woodland and grazed by livestock, and this feature has been restored at Hucking Estate. The grass swards still show immaturity in terms of their sward content due to their high soil nutrient status following decades of arable farming and conform to mostly a neutral grassland type (MG5). There are however certain “species-rich areas” within the fields west and north of Hucking village within the dry valley as well as on the escarpment edge at the south of the site. These areas match with some of the more species-rich swards of CG3 and CG6 chalk grassland and are to be found on the banks to the valley where historical intensification and cultivation was presumably too difficult to achieve. As well as being species-rich, these specific areas and the surrounding field are in support of a high number of invertebrate and bird species. 7 BAP bird species have been recorded within the semi-natural open space habitat: grey partridge, turtle dove, skylark, song thrush, linnet, bullfinch, corn bunting.

The Hollingbourne Downs SSSI lies close to the southern part of Hucking Estate.

30 individual trees were planted in 2011 across this habitat in cpts.5a, 5b and 5c each within a post and rail stockade to replace trees lost to the previous intensive agricultural use. A further 50 livestock proof stockades were installed during 2015 and 2016. These areas are grazed by livestock. Up until 2023 spring and summer grazing has been carried out by sheep but from Autumn 2023 onwards winter grazing by a small number of cattle has been used to encourage a more scrubby habitat to form.

1.6 km of new hedges were planted along known historical boundaries within the farmed landscape and along certain road edge boundaries.

B) The conversion of ex arable land to native grassland followed the same methods as described in A) above. A community orchard was planted in 2012 at the northeast end of cpt.5b. It is designed as a traditional orchard with relatively wide planting distances, growing 132 fruit trees on vigorous root stock, and containing a mixture of apples (desert and cookers), plums, cherries and quince. The intention is to graze the grassy sward once the trees are out of reach of livestock. Grizzled skipper and green hairstreak butterflies are present. A small ephemeral pond is present in

the orchard.

C) The conversion of ex arable land to native grassland followed the same methods as described in A) above although creeping red fescue was the dominant grass species planted. Visitors can appreciate the internal views as they begin their walk from the Church Road car park into the site, with views up to the Norman aged church in Hucking. This area is kept open by cyclical cutting of grass/scrub habitat.

D) As part of the 2016 acquisition chalk-rich grassland covering approximately 4.9ha in 6d and 0.9ha in 6g forms parts of compartments 6d (10.3ha) and 6g (1.86ha). The remaining areas within 6d and 6g contain improved grassland. The chalk-rich grassland is the most diverse and richest ground flora at Hucking Estate. 22 indicator species have so far been identified from surveys in 2016, 2017 and 2023 and include: bee orchid, bladder campion, burnet saxifrage, carline thistle, downy oat-grass, dwarf thistle, fairy flax, field scabious, glaucous sedge, greater knapweed, hairy rock cress, harebell, marjoram, pyramidal orchid, quaking grass, rough hawkbit, salad burnet, small scabious, upright brome, wild basil, wild thyme and yellow-wort.

In the 2020 acquisition, "Pig Field" in cpt.7d contains approximately 2.84ha of an important chalk grassland flora, which has been encroached by bramble banks and scrub prior to acquisition. The surviving grassland holds salad burnet, upright brome, cowslip, marjoram, field scabious, greater knapweed, fairy flax, yellow oat, quaking grass, hoary plantain and pyramidal orchid as confirmed during the 2023 survey. Other plants indicative of old neutral grassland here are grass vetchling, agrimony, yarrow and eye bright. The presence of ant-hills throughout the field indicates that it has not been cultivated, at least in recent history. At the time of purchase in 2020 encroaching bramble scrub onto the grassland area was identified as a potential problem, and remains the case in 2025 at the start of this plan period despite efforts during the previous plan period to tackle.

Careful grazing of these habitats is key to ensuring their survival and to maintain species richness.

Significance

Species diversity is much greater in semi natural grassland areas than in intensively farmed areas. With 68% of farmland in Kent managed quite intensively this means semi-natural habitats such as grassland have suffered considerable losses in the 20th Century. Any opportunity to create or restore such habitats will have a significant impact upon the landscape and to the species that rely on them.

80% of the UK's chalk grassland area has been lost since 1945 due to intensive farming practices. Chalk grassland is home to an incredibly rich and diverse range of plant and insect life. Kent holds 5% of the UK resource, so chalk grassland is rare and fragmented making any remnants important habitats to conserve and manage.

An estimated 80% of traditional orchards have been lost from the UK farmed landscape since 1900. Many of these orchards contained regionally important fruit tree varieties, but also provided important semi natural habitats.

Establishment of a scrubby habitat is one of the missing habitat links between open grassland and woodland. Scrub is an important habitat for birds and invertebrates.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To continue low intensity winter grazing of the fields in cpts.5a-5c with a small number of cattle which will allow the development of scrub habitat.

The species rich chalk grassland purchased in 2017 has been poorly managed in recent years so we have an opportunity to protect, restore, enhance and increase the area of species rich chalk grassland through appropriate management. Suitable grazing is to be implemented over the summer and winter months in line with the Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship grazing prescriptions.

To establish an appropriate monitoring regime to inform of any changes as well as the right stocking levels and future management.

Establishment of an orchard with Kent varieties, wildflower meadow and engagement with local people to manage it. To work with Kent Downs National Landscape team on their Heritage Ponds Project, exploring the history and wildlife associated with the orchard pond and longer term options to enlarge.

To use low intensity grazing as the primary management tool in the orchard, reducing the need for mechanical intervention and diversifying the sward.

To explore options for use of surplus fruit in abundant years, as fruit trees mature. This could be through the use of a third party (established local orchard/business) to press apples for the production of fruit juice – initially for consumption by the orchard community group, with long term possibilities of expanding if proven a success.

To work with our grazier and neighbouring landowners to facilitate access in to cpt 7d Pig Field, allowing grazing with cattle to begin.

To pursue funding options for grassland via Higher Level Stewardship or Sustainable Farming Incentive as funding windows open.

Constraints:

Pests and diseases affecting fruit trees.

Dominance of rank vegetation and coarse grasses.

Conflict between livestock (cattle in particular) and visitors, leading to restricted grazing options/timing.

Access issues into compartment 7d "Pig Field", is limiting options for grazing.

Factors Causing Change

Ragwort may start to dominate the open areas if grazing isn't present and therefore suitable control methods might need to be implemented to prevent its spread onto neighbouring land where there is livestock.

Dominance of rank vegetation and coarse grasses will be a negative effect for this habitat which may require a change of management style.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

During the next 50 years the amount of open semi natural open ground will decrease by approximately 5ha (through scrub succession) so that within Hucking Estate this habitat is reduced from 69.00ha to 64.00ha or 22% of the site.

In 50 years' time the main grazing areas contained in cpts.5a, 5b, 5c, 6d, 6g and 7d will contain chalk grassland plant

communities where this habitat is present and all areas to have a range of grasses of varying heights and meadow flora will be well-represented and managed through rotational grazing and cutting. The grassy sward in the traditional orchard area will be managed in the similar way.

Successional scrub growth should be allowed to develop around the edges of the fields in cpts.5a, 5b, 5c adjacent to ancient woodland areas so as to soften the woodland/field boundaries and to provide a richer and more naturalised woodland edge habitat. Scrub to cover no more than 5ha of the habitat in cpts.5a, 5b, 5c. All chalk grassland habitat in cpts.6d, 6g and 7d to contain no more than 10% scrub coverage.

Trees outside woodlands within cpts.5a, 5b, 5c should provide shade and shelter for livestock and additional tree cover for the benefit of biodiversity and should number a minimum of 120.

Hedgerows will be diverse in structure and composition following a variety of management from laying to flailing on roadside boundaries, and minimal intervention in some areas. Boundary and hedgerow trees will be plentiful with new trees recruited and establishing after management and losses from disease such as ash dieback. These habitats will form corridors connected to the wider landscape, and will also be integrated into the site with transitional habitats such as scrub and long grass swards.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

The short-term objective is to maintain and enhance the diversity of the sward of the semi-natural grassland (sub-compartments 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d) and chalk grassland areas (sub-compartments 6d, 6g and 7d). This will be achieved through a combination of grazing and mechanical cutting. Diversity will also be encouraged through successional scrub growth on the field margins beside hedges and woodland areas in sub-compartments 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d but not at any loss of chalk grassland habitat in sub-compartments 6d, 6g and 7d.

- Grazing:

Grazing is the primary management tool for maintaining the open grassland habitat over 49.57ha within cpts. 5a, 5b and 5c. Successional scrub growth to be allowed to develop where permitted around the field margins next to ancient woodland areas and in areas where cattle visit less frequently. Noxious weeds are to be controlled, particularly ragwort if affecting grazing areas beyond the Woodland Trust boundary. Achieving correct stocking densities and appropriate timing is key to development of a diverse ground flora.

For the known 12.16ha chalk grassland swards in cpts.6d and 6g, winter grazing with a low number of sheep to remove rank vegetation, plus light summer grazing with cattle to maintain a desired sward height of between 5 and 15cm.

Grazing within cpt.7d (Pig Field) will start during this plan period, subject to securing access for livestock delivery.

During this plan period, undertake negotiations with grazier and with neighbouring landowner at Horserace Shaws to facilitate access in to 7d.

To establish grazing in the orchard, with the intention of limiting mechanical interventions and diversifying the sward height and content. This will require infrastructure installations to support, see details given below.

- Surveys:

In 2028 and 2033, 5 yearly survey of the species rich chalk grassland areas to monitor changes and effectiveness of grazing in cpts.6d, 6g and 7d.

In 2027 and 2032, 5 yearly ground flora surveys in grazing cpts 5a, 5b and 5c.

To plot the changes brought about by grazing and development of scrub with three yearly fixed point photos. This will

enable the succession of scrub to be monitored/recorded and grazing prescriptions to be altered if required.

- Mechanical cutting:

The semi-natural open ground habitat in sub-compartment 5d is to be managed by flailing the successional scrub growth on a 4 year rotation to maintain internal views for the benefit of public access. Occasional pockets of scrub and in-field trees to be retained during flailing operations. Management in 2026, 2030 and 2034 (eastern area A) and 2028 and 2032 (western area B).

Cut and collect within cpt 7d (Pig field) to prevent the succession to scrub and facilitate access for livestock. Up to 50% of field area to be flailed, with arisings removed, in late summer 2026.

- Hedgerow management: annual flailing along road edges to occur by trimming the road side of hedge and the top to achieve a managed height of approximately 5ft (1.5 m). Allow other “internal” hedges to grow and mature.

- Capital Works:

2700m of stock fencing to be renewed around grazing areas in compartments 5b and 5c in 2025, along with replacement of twelve wooden field gates, to replace failing twenty year old infrastructure.

Stock fencing to be renewed around north and western boundary of cpt 6d chalk grassland, to replace failing stretches and those areas damaged by falling trees. Approximately 425m of stock fence to be replaced in 2026.

- The Orchard:

Pruning of fruit trees within community orchard as and when is necessary during the plan period.

At the start of the plan period, to mow grass three times per year (April, July and September) to control rank vegetation. Between planned whole orchard mows, to strim or mow the established path route through the orchard for management and public access (two occasions per year).

In 2026 and 2027, during the September mow, to heavily scarify identified areas of the orchard sward to create areas of bare ground for the sowing of yellow rattle. Sowing of this plant will help to control vigorous grasses and encourage the development of a more diverse sward.

In 2026, to lay the hedge along the southern and eastern orchard boundary. Approximately 190m of hedge to lay, having first removed one side of the double fence and old tree tubes.

In 2027, to install 200m of stock proof fence on northern and eastern boundaries to ensure a stock proof barrier against residential gardens and the church yard. To install a water trough adjacent to existing stand pipe supply. To install individual weldmesh tree guards to each fruit tree. Establish sensitive seasonal grazing with sheep in the orchard from 2027 onwards.

In 2026, trial the pressing of surplus apples at a local farm for the production of fruit juice, for the use of the orchard community group.

4.4 f4 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Hucking Estate is classified by The Woodland Trust as a category A site, where there is a high level of public access (15-20 visitors using one entrance every day).

The whole of the Hucking Estate is open access, and a network of permissive footpaths and Public Rights of Way enable visitors to explore mature woodland, new planting areas and chalk grassland. The public have access to the wood from

two main formal access points – from the Woodland Trust car park off Church Road and from an entrance beside the Hook and Hatchet Pub. There are also 34 other access points off the public highway or by Public Rights of Way, including the North Downs Way long distance path. All the entrances lead the visitor onto an extensive path network through Hucking Estate. There are two way-marked trails to follow. The short ‘blue’ route is just over a mile, takes approximately 30 minutes and starts from the Hook and Hatchet Pub where visitors can also park and gain entry on to the estate via an ‘all access’ kissing gate. The longer ‘green route’, known as The Landscape Trail, is just over 3 miles and takes around 1 ½ hours, starting from the Woodland Trust’s car park. The paths can become very muddy with high use during the wet winter months. Horse riders have access along permissive routes, a bridleway and permissive routes operated through Toll Rides Off-Road Trust which link to public highways.

Hucking Estate is well used by mainly dog walkers during the daytime and serves communities from Hollingbourne (4km/2.5miles, pop. 949), Bearsted (6km/4 miles, pop. 8209), Maidstone (10km/6 miles, pop. 113,137) and others from further afield.

The Visitor Improvement Project (VIP) 2012-2014 enabled improvements to be made to the visitor experience. These included installing brown tourist signs off the A249 to help promote the site’s position and how to get to it; better signage and interpretation with 5 timber structures laid out around the 2 way marked trails. The two extensions, following successful appeals in 2016 and 2020, opened up new areas for visitors to explore to the north of the original acquisition. There are no formal waymarked routes through the extension areas, and these northern reaches of the Estate are less well explored compared to the southern half of the estate which connects to the two main parking areas.

Within a short distance (less than 10 miles) there are a number of other attractions and areas for outdoor recreation including Leeds Castle, White Horse Wood Country Park, Queendown Warren Nature Reserve, Doddington Place Garden and Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway.

Significance

Public access to this woodland within the Kent Downs National Landscape enables access to a landscape containing significant areas of ASNW of great variety and interest set amongst open grazed fields and gives an opportunity for the Woodland Trust to promote the message of ancient woodland habitats and the importance of its protection. There are extensive views within the site and out of the site south across the central Weald of Kent and north towards the Medway estuary.

The North Downs Way which passes along the southern boundary has since 2013 had a way-marked detour in place. This gives walkers the opportunity to walk onto the Hucking Estate to the view point for a better view than if following the original North Downs Way route.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:

To use recently completed (2024) access and interpretation audit data and recommendations to make improvements for a wider range of visitors and to improve the visitor experience.

Explore options for an easy access trail, as recommended in the 2024 access audit. This could be a 'there and back' route from the WT car park, and would build on all access work completed in 2025 which saw the installation of a disabled parking bay, all access gate on to the estate and an all access surface to the existing picnic bench.

To be able to use the land as an educational resource for students, colleges, universities and Forest Research and public engagement.

To engage with more visitors to promote interest and connection with the habitats and management, including events, educational workshops and forest schools. Opportunity to forge closer links with organisations such as the Kent Down National Landscape team who occasionally deliver such third party events on the Estate.

To engage volunteers to carry out conservation tasks, site monitoring and surveys.

As a demonstration site for our woodland management approach.

As an opportunity to engage with the public on the benefits of woodland creation, and especially natural colonisation, on a large scale.

The facilities offered by the Hook and Hatchet pub are a great asset for Hucking Estate and through advertising events at the pub will widen the audience who learn about the Woodland Trust and what the Woodland Trust can offer.

Constraints:

The clay with flint soil tends to make winter walking muddy and slippery on well used paths.

None of the permissive paths have any surfacing which makes wheelchair and buggy access difficult.

The road network within the area to access the Hucking Estate is mostly single track and twisty narrow lanes not suitable for high volumes of traffic or for large vehicles or coaches.

The rural location means that the site is only accessible by car for the majority of visitors.

Conservation grazing (sheep and cattle) in fields with public access has the potential to deter some visitors who are uncomfortable or unfamiliar with livestock.

Factors Causing Change

Fly Tipping, littering, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and aggressive dog behaviour towards other visitors.

Increased visitor numbers could potentially bring conflicts with livestock and dogs.

Damage to unsurfaced paths, trampling of specialist ground flora by formation of 'desire lines' and disturbance to wildlife through increased visitor numbers.

The future of the Hook and Hatchet pub.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

A well established and safe network of paths for informal public access throughout Hucking Estate where responsible visitors can appreciate and respect this wood with its different habitats, archaeological and wildlife interest. This should include provision of a short all access route from the main car park. The visitor numbers to be in line with its category A status with provision for parking on site in one WT owned car park. The provision of way marked routes, interpretation structures, a site leaflet and information boards to be available on site.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (10 years)

During this plan period, the short term objective is to continue to provide public access at Hucking Estate which is safe and enjoyable. How this will be achieved:

- To deliver interpretation audit recommendations:

Produce a new edition of the site leaflet, with refreshed and updated map and interpretative content. 5000 copy print run in early 2027. Additional print run of 5000 copies in 2029, 2032 and 2035.

Design and install two new A1 sized welcome and orientation boards, complete with refreshed map and content – one each at the WT car park and at the Hook and Hatchet pub. Early 2027.

Design and install two new A2 sized welcome and orientation board/panel, complete with refreshed map and content – at entrances close to the North Downs Way. Early 2027.

Design and install two new stand alone interpretation panels to highlight key habitats and Woodland Trust work (ASNW and the community orchard). Early 2027.

In 2026, install 40 x new aluminium A3 sign frames on access gates in to compartments 5a, 5b, 5c and 6d to facilitate the display of consistent livestock signage for public awareness and safety. Trial new frames at limited locations (x3) during 2025 to ensure effectiveness and robustness prior to wider installation in 2026.

Design and install three new sculptures on the landscape trail, with accompanying new information panels. Specifically, a new carved bench to replace the Living Log, which has decayed, and two new sculptures to interpret ASNW management and farming practices. Late 2026.

Two existing sculptures, which are in good condition (shepherd in 5c and the wild boar in 5b), will be retained and will have newly designed information panels to accompany them. Early 2027.

Remove the axe sculpture from compartment 5b (near the Hook and Hatchet). Late 2026.

- Path mowing

All rides and paths for pedestrians (17.9km) and for horses, where permitted, (3.2km) within the site will be maintained annually through an appropriate cutting regime. For the plan period two cuts, in June and September, are proposed with the September cut including ride verges.

- Capital works

In 2025, to install nineteen new metal medium mobility kissing gates at entrances in to compartments 5b and 5c, to replace existing dilapidated wooden structures. This is part of a wider programme of stock fence and access improvements across these compartments during 2025. To repair/replace worn out access infrastructure elsewhere on the Estate when necessary.

- Monitoring of antisocial behaviour

To monitor the car parks and the surrounding woodland for signs of antisocial use and liaise with Kent Police when this occurs to try and prevent it from reoccurring. The vegetation around the car park to be kept short during the summer months linked to the path cuts.

- Annual inspections

All site infrastructure such as the car park surface, signs and steps will be inspected annually and any remedial work undertaken in an appropriate timescale. The sculptures on the Landscape Trail (both existing and new) to be annually checked to ensure they are fit for purpose and safe.

- Site based information and enjoyment

Provision of a site leaflet from dispensers at the Woodland Trust car park off Church Road, at the Hook and Hatchet pub.

- Tree safety in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy

Annual Zone A tree safety inspection. Fungal survey to be carried out once in every 24 month period in the autumn and an annual summer survey to check trees' crowns and in particular ash trees.

Zone B tree safety inspections are to be carried out annually in June/July due to ash dieback fungus. Arboriculture work to be carried out when necessary.

- Site boundary management

The hedges along the public road are to be flailed in November/December each year to ensure there is no interference with users of the highway; where applicable that there is a minimum height clearance above the full width of the highway to 5.1m.

- To liaise and work with the owners of the Hook and Hatchet pub to enhance the public's vision of the estate.

4.5 f5 Carbon

Description
Thinned Project. 2.26ha of new native woodland is in Woodland Carbon Code. The precise area under commitment is shown on the UK Land Carbon Registry, and the Carbon data layer in GIS.
Significance
The Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) is the quality assurance standard for woodland creation projects in the UK, and generates high integrity, independently verified carbon units, backed by the Government. High quality carbon projects drive the Woodland Trust to achieve its 'create' goal via creating woodlands that benefit nature, climate and people into the future.
Opportunities & Constraints
Opportunity – Should the woodland grow at a greater rate than projected, additional carbon units will be produced. Constraint – Commitment to ensuring the Woodland Carbon Code area meets it's carbon unit delivery projections.
Factors Causing Change
None identified at this stage
Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure, at minimum, the woodland delivers the quantity of carbon units as specified for the project in the UK Land Carbon Registry. This will be monitored at year 5, and every subsequent 10years, via independent verifications undertaken by the carbon team.

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

- To ensure that stocking density is at least 1100sph by year five.
- To ensure the net planted area as shown in the UK Land Carbon Registry is maintained.
- To ensure no significant changes (<10%) to species composition as set out in the UK Land Carbon Registry

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	June
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	July
2025	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	July
2025	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	August
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	August
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	August
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	September
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September
2025	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	September
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September
2025	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	September
2025	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	September
2025	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	October
2025	NWH - Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing of a non-woodland habitat to protect and enhance its conservation value – grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs etc	October
2025	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	October
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	October
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	November
2025	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	December
2025	AW - Management Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of management access infrastructure and tracks Such as repairs to vehicle entrance points, maintaining vehicle bridges and repairing / reinstating surfaced management access routes.	December
2026	WC - Tree Planting / Seeding	Works associated with tree planting / tree seeding for woodland creation sites	January
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	January
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	February
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	March
2026	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	March
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	April
2026	LC - Routine Litter Picks	Planned/routine litter picks using contractors	May
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	May

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2026	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	June
2026	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	July
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	August
2026	WMI - Wood Pasture Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as grazing infrastructure, fencing, initial tree felling/clearance works	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September
2026	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	September
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	September
2026	AW - Management Access Capital	Works associated with installing new or replacement management access infrastructure. Such as management access gates, vehicle bridges, fencing and surfacing works.	September
2026	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2027	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	January
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	April

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2027	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	May
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	May
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	June
2027	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	July
2027	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	August
2027	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	August
2027	WMI - Wood Pasture Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as grazing infrastructure, fencing, initial tree felling/clearance works	August
2027	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	April
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	May
2028	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	August
2028	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2029	PE - Interpretation & Signage	Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets	February

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	April
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	May
2029	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	August
2029	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	September
2029	WC - Site Maintenance	Works associated with routine site management and maintenance works on Woodland Creation sites such as boundary ditches and fencing works , hedge trimming etc	December
2030	CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment	Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring	March
2030	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	April
2030	NWH - Maintenance Work	Works associated with the maintenance of non-woodland habitats – mechanical management, hay cutting, fence and wall maintenance etc	May

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	22.77	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This contains a mixture of secondary woodland (7.93ha) planted in 1999, an area of semi-natural ancient woodland (0.1ha) and an area covering 10.66 which was planted in 2014/15. In the middle of this sub-compartment a shallow dry valley runs northwards out beyond The Woodland Trust boundary. Within this valley are a number of shallow chalk pits including a chalk hole or pit called Cobler's Hole. This sub-compartment joins onto a small area of semi-natural ancient woodland called Four Acre Wood along the northern edge beyond the Woodland Trust's boundary. Our 0.1ha area of ancient woodland links to this woodland block, and this has a ground cover typical of W10 woodland (Dogs mercury, bramble and bluebells) with hornbeam coppice stools, beech standards and wild cherry trees.</p> <p>Within the secondary woodland area are the 2 Forest Research long term species trial plots which cover 4.08ha, each within individually deer fenced enclosures. (1.1ha to be leased to the owner of Pond Farm in 2014 which includes the Atcost barn.)</p>						
1b	1.46	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1999/2000. A water pipe runs beneath this sub-compartment to supply Pond Farm.</p> <p>To be managed as a minimal intervention area, with natural processes allowed to shape the woodland structure.</p>						
1c	5.15	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1999/2000. A small area exists in the extreme southwest corner next to Pond Farm which is being stocked through natural regeneration since 2009.						
1d	3.5	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment is situated on the eastern slope of the main dry valley which runs through Hucking Estate and on part of the flat plateau area above the valley. It is partly formed of 2.30ha of secondary woodland planted in the winter of 1999/2000 which links to sub-compartment 1i which is ancient woodland. A further 1.18ha on the plateau was planted in the winter of 2013/14.						
1e	2.01	Oak (pedunculate)	2014	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
This sub-compartment is being stocked by natural regeneration from the mature field boundary hedge formed of mainly ash and small leaved lime which runs through the middle of it, and supplemented by tree planting in the winter of 2013/14. It was fenced off from the surrounding grazed area in 2007.						
1f	4.64	Oak (pedunculate)	2010	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
This contains a mixture of secondary woodland established during the winter of 1999/2000 (1.86ha) along the eastern boundary next to the public highway, and the remaining area of 2.77ha which was planting under the Tree For All project between 2008 – 2010. Along the southern boundary with the public highway runs a small strip of mature mixed broadleaves (mainly ash) and within it lie 3 depressions of which the most easterly one could be an old chalk hole, measuring 4-5m diameter and 3m deep.						
1g	0.57	Oak (pedunculate)	2013	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Preservation Order
Secondary woodland established during the winter of 2012/13.						
1h	2.31	Ash	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This is an area of W8 semi-natural ancient woodland known as Long Wood and is formed of mixed broadleaved coppice with occasional oak and beech standards. It is situated on the western slope of the main dry valley which runs through Hucking Estate. The ground slopes steeply down from west to east. The coppice has not been cut since 1970's, stools are widely spaced, with ash regeneration appearing in the gaps in the canopy where coppice stools have been windblown in 1987/90 or collapsed. An active badger sett lies within this sub-compartment. Ground flora dominated by dog's mercury with bluebell, moschatel (<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>), wood anemone, lord's-and-ladies, toothwaite (<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>), yellow archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>) and bramble.</p>						
1i	0.97	Ash	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Known as Round Wood, the oak exists as scattered standards with occasional mature ash and beech (150 - 200 years) intimately mixed with elder, sycamore coppice and maidens, field maple, hornbeam coppice, goat willow and hawthorn. Replanting of understocked areas was carried out in 1998/99 in the southern part adjacent to the road (Glass Hill) with native mixed broadleaves. The ground cover is bramble, nettle and grasses with bluebell established under the Ancient Wooded parts.</p> <p>To be managed as a minimal intervention area, with natural processes allowed to shape the woodland structure.</p>						
1j	1.38	Sycamore	1700	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This is an area of W8 semi-natural ancient woodland known as Long Wood and is formed of mainly sycamore with mixed broadleaved coppice species and the occasional oak and beech standards. It is situated on the western slope of the main dry valley which runs through Hucking Estate. The ground slopes steeply down from west to east. Ground flora dominated by dog's mercury with bluebell, moschatel (<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>), wood anemone, lord's-and-ladies, toothwaite (<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>), yellow archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>) and bramble. The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 1j1, 1j2.</p>						
2a	0.56	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 with native mixed broadleaves. This is a narrow strip planted along the site boundary adjacent to a public highway.</p>						
2b	1.43	Ash	1999	Wood establishment	Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Existing secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/99 with native mixed broadleaves which buffers the northern end of Crabtree Wood an ancient woodland area; the remaining secondary woodland area which buffers the eastern side of Crabtree Wood and the northern part of Calves Wood in the south east corner of this sub-compartment is being stocked through extensive ash natural regeneration suffering from ash dieback fungus but also contains a small area of wild cherry planted in 1998/99.</p>						
2c	2.5	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 with native mixed broadleaves as a buffer to an area of ancient woodland to its east known as Crabtree Wood. Sponsored Woodland Creation plots are situated amongst the planting.</p>						
2d	11.85	Ash	1700	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This sub-compartment is formed of 2 areas of semi-natural ancient woodland Crabtree Wood and Eastfield Wood which is joined together by a narrow strip of ancient woodland beside Broadstreet Hill public highway. Crabtree Wood is a mixture of W10 woodland on the higher ground and W8 on the slopes down into the shallow valley which runs through this area. It is an ancient woodland area which has been mainly managed as coppice with standards and contains mixed broadleaved coppice species with oak standards. A small area of oak high forest is situated in the north west of this sub-compartment. Ground flora dominated by bramble, bluebell and patches of bracken under gaps in the canopy. A substantial lynchet runs north east-south west through this sub-compartment at the southwest end. Eastfield Wood is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest and predominately W10 woodland with a small area of W8 along the eastern side. The ground flora contains a good mix of common woodland plants: bramble and bluebells dominate the more acidic clays (W10) but moschatel (<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>), early purple orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>), greater burnet saxifrage (<i>Pimpinella major</i>), early dog-violet (<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>), Wood anemone and dog's mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) are common in the calcareous W8 part. The tree species are dominated by ash and field maple managed historically for coppice with oak and the occasional small leaved lime standard.</p> <p>The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 2d1, 2d2, 2d3, 2d4, 2d5, 2d6, 2d7, 2d8, 2d9.</p>						
2e	8.28	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This contains an area of secondary woodland (5.22ha) planted in 1998 which buffers along the eastern side of Eastfield Wood and the southern boundary of Crabtree Wood, and an additional area (3.06ha) planted in the winter of 2011/12 which extends the planting down into the slopes of the dry valley giving the valley woodland boundary a more naturalised edge to it.</p>						
2f	2.42	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 with native mixed broadleaves. This is a narrow strip planted along the site boundary adjacent to Broadstreet Hill public highway at the top of the scarp slope of the North Downs. To be managed as a minimal intervention area, with natural processes allowed to shape the woodland structure.</p>						
2g	3.38	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 to buffer the edges of Smokes Wood. The boundary between sub-compartment 2g and 5c is approximately the alignment of the ancient ridgeway route along the crest of the North Downs.</p>						
2h	0.94	Ash	1999	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 which was planted to buffer the western side of Forestall Wood along the southern site boundary at the top of the scarp slope of the North Downs.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
2i	14.01	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	Coppice	Diseases	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 to buffer the edges of Smokes Wood with an area being left for natural regeneration in the far southeast of this area which contains ash suffering from ash dieback disease. Due to ash dieback disease the 2.30ha of natural regeneration area was planted with mixed native broadleaved trees in winter of 2014/15. Sponsored Woodland Creation plots are situated amongst the secondary woodland. Along the eastern side of this sub-compartment runs the ancient track called the Droveaway. The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 2i1, 2i2, 2i3.</p>						
2j	2.01	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland planted in winter of 1998/1999 with native mixed broadleaves along the northern edge with the public road. A smaller area (0.78ha) on the plateau was planted in the winter of 2011/12 with native mixed broadleaves.</p>						
3a	1.41	Ash	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Known as Hucking Bank, this sub-compartment forms a west to south westerly facing bank with a steep slope down into the valley from east to west. This was once a linear chalk quarry, with a scarp face of 4-10m high. Trees of W8 woodland type are found here mainly yew with some ash and beech which was partly windblown with some of the windblown areas replanted with ash, beech and yew in 2000. Regeneration of elder and wild clematis has filled in most of the unplanted gaps.</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
3b	7.82	Hornbeam	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This forms the northern part of the core ancient woodland area at Hucking Estate which includes Stubbs Wood and part of Smokes Wood. It is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. Historically the trees in this sub-compartment have been managed as coppice with oak standards, with coppice stools of hornbeam, ash, field maple, sycamore, hazel and hawthorn. The majority of the coppice stools are now too old to coppice. The south western edge along the edge of the dry valley has a number of old chalk quarry workings dug into the valley side.</p>						
3c	5.78	Sweet chestnut	1800	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Part of Smokes Wood core ancient woodland area, this sub compartment is formed of sweet chestnut and native mixed broadleaved coppice with oak standards and is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. It also contains part of the managed wide ride habitat. The "Living Log" sculpture is situated at the major ride junction. The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 3c1, 3c2, 3c3, 3c4, 3c5.</p>						
3d	10.65	Sweet chestnut	1800	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>Part of Smokes Wood core ancient woodland area, this sub compartment contains sweet chestnut coppice which has been singled and thinned to convert it towards high forest. The northwest part contains ash and field maple coppice. It is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. It also contains part of the managed wide ride habitat.</p>						
3e	18.75	Sweet chestnut	1800	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>London Wood, Chitts Wood and Ten Acres all part of the core ancient woodland area form this sub compartment, which contains mostly sweet chestnut coppice with some native mixed broadleaved species such as ash, hazel and field maple. Chitts Wood contains a collection of over mature beech trees which are all in a state of decline due to their age. It is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. It also contains part of the managed wide ride habitat along the Drove way which is itself the route of an ancient track. An old chalk hole is located next to the Drove way in Ten Acres which has security fencing around its perimeter to prevent access. This chalk well was surveyed in 1965 by the Swale Archaeological Research Group who reported it in Archaeologia Cantiana, and was reported to be in good condition. Between 1965 and 1998 it was filled with rubbish and soil and this was cleared out by the Kent Underground Unit in 2006 for a potential bat habitat and subsequently fenced.</p> <p>At the southern end of Ten Acre Wood next to the Drove way is a line of excavations which are now water filled and appear as a pond today. These were marked on the 1801 map and have been identified as iron diggings in the Lenham Beds.</p> <p>The northern boundary of Chitts Wood has a bank situated along its edge with the Drove Way, and this is the Parish boundary between Hollingbourne and Hucking and was probably established after the Norman Conquest.</p> <p>The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 3e1, 3e2, 3e3, 3e4, 3e5, 3e6, 3e7, 3e8, 3e9, 3e10, 3e11, 3e12, 3e13, 3e14, 3e15.</p>						
3f	1.74	Sycamore	1800	Coppice		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>This compartment is formed by Pudding Dane Wood as part of the core ancient woodland area and contains mostly sycamore coppice with some native mixed broadleaved species such as ash, hazel and field maple and oak and ash standards. It is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. The following coppice cants are contained within this sub compartment: 3f1, 3f2.</p>						
3g	11.01	Oak (pedunculate)	1700	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This compartment is formed by Squawlands Wood and Bolton's Wood as part of the core ancient woodland area. It is classified as a W10 woodland type with a ground flora dominated by bluebell and bramble. The central part of this sub-compartment has an open characteristic to it with a more scrubby woodland type of mature hawthorn trees and oak standards. Historically this was woodland but was converted to agriculture in the late 1600's approximately and reverted back to woodland again during the early 20th century. The southern part is ash coppice which has been singled and thinned to convert it towards high forest. This sub compartment also contains part of the managed wide ride habitat.</p>						
3h	3.09	Oak (pedunculate)	1700	Min-intervention		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>This compartment is formed by Forestall Wood as part of the core ancient woodland area and is at the southern end of Hucking Estate at the top of the scarp slope of the North Downs and which is W8 woodland type.</p>						
4a	21.46	Oak (pedunculate)	2000	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>Secondary woodland established during the winter of 1999/2000 with mixed native broadleaves and open ground or unplanted land which is converting to secondary woodland. The main southern area planted buffers the eastern side of Stubbs and Smokes Wood. The existing secondary woodland consists of 3 separate areas which were planted totaling 16.38ha, except for 0.73ha in the south western block which has been established through natural colonisation. The natural colonisation area consists of goat willow and ash at present. Significant regeneration nearest to the semi-natural ancient woodland edge is now occurring through the planted area, particularly now that canopy closure has started which shades out the competing grass rich ground vegetation. 21 species have been recorded: ash, goat willow, pedunculate oak, hawthorn, bramble, downy birch, willow, sycamore, clematis, hornbeam, dog rose, blackthorn, dogwood, silver birch, hazel, buddleia, aspen, gorse, field maple, and ivy. Through the middle of this sub compartment are 2 additional areas set aside for natural colonisation which was started in 2005 where hawthorn, oak and ash are becoming established.</p>						
4b	1.75	Oak (pedunculate)	2011	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Secondary woodland established during the winter of 2011/12 with mixed native broadleaves planted over 0.6ha and the remaining area (1.15ha) left to natural processes where oak, ash, field maple, hazel, hawthorn and willow have become established.</p>						
4c	0.92	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
<p>Part of Spratts Dane Wood of W8 woodland type semi-natural ancient woodland, contains mature mixed broadleaved coppice of Sweet chestnut, hazel, birch, some aspen and scattered oak standards in the northwest part of this compartment. To the south and east there is a higher concentration of oak standards over mainly hazel coppice. Ground cover dominated by bluebells. An open chalkhole is present in this compartment.</p>						
4d	2.2	Oak (pedunculate)	1999	High forest		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
						Tree Preservation Order
Secondary woodland established during the winter of 1999/2000 with mixed native broadleaves. It also includes an area of ex arable land on its eastern side which is converting to secondary woodland through natural regeneration with oak, hazel and hawthorn being recorded.						
5a	18.18	Open ground	1999	Wood pasture		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
Semi-natural open space area to be grazed. In 2011, 9 individual oak trees were planted across this sub compartment as trees outside woodlands each surrounded by a post and rail corral.						
5b	13.6	Open ground	1999	Wood pasture		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
Semi-natural open space area to be grazed. This also includes approximately 1.18ha set aside for the community orchard immediately south of Hucking village and the village church containing 132 fruit trees (apple, cherry and plum) planted since 2012. In 2011, 7 individual oak trees were planted across this sub compartment as trees outside woodlands each surrounded by a post and rail corral.						
5c	18.29	Open ground	1999	Wood pasture		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Semi-natural open space area to be grazed. In 2011, 9 individual oak trees were planted across this sub compartment as trees outside woodlands each surrounded by a post and rail corral.						
5d	3.93	Open ground	1999	Non-wood habitat		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
Ex arable land which is not part of the grazing area, but is being kept open by mowing. In 2011, 5 individual oak trees were planted as trees outside woodlands.						
6a	9.09	Hawthorn species	2018	Wood establishment	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. This whole sub compartment was completely wooded during the 19th century. 9.09ha of ASNW was therefore removed during the 19th and 20th centuries.						
6b	2.16	Ash	1700	High forest	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tree Preservation Order
The remnant and only area left called Hall Wood (which used to be more extensive), ASNW woodland of mostly ash with hornbeam and field maple. Hall Wood is situated on the north-western slope of the dry valley through cpt.6 and is contiguous with Grinnels Wood on the south-eastern side of the valley and the Woodland Trust boundary. Bluebell, wood anemone and bramble are the ground cover where present.						
6c	5.88	Hawthorn species	2018	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. This occupies a flat plateau position along the edge of a dry valley. Approximately 1.8ha of ASNW was removed during the 19th and 20th centuries.						
6d	10.3	Open ground	2018	Non-wood habitat	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016 which contains a significant chalk grassland sward over 4.69ha on the steep slopes which is to be retained and grazed. Cpt.6d is formed of the south easterly facing steep valley side and valley bottom of a dry valley. Approximately 5.55ha of ASNW was removed during the 19th and 20th centuries.						
6e	2.66	Hawthorn species	2018	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. Approximately 0.33ha of ASNW was removed during the 19th and 20th centuries.						
6f	9.02	Hawthorn species	2018	Wood establishment	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. This occupies a flat plateau position along its western edge and steep slopes of a dry valley along the eastern side. Approximately 3.46ha of ASNW was removed during the 19th and 20th centuries. Along the eastern edge is a 0.35ha remnant strip of ANSW along the edge of Hayes Lane.						
6g	1.86	Open ground	2018	Non-wood habitat	Gullies/Deep Valleys/Uneven/Rocky ground	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016 which contains a significant chalk grassland sward over 1.03ha on the steep slopes which is to be retained and grazed. Cpt.6g is formed of the south easterly facing steep valley side and valley bottom of a dry valley. Approximately 1.7ha of ASNW was removed during the 19th and 20th centuries.						
6h	1.66	Hawthorn species	2018	Wood establishment		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. This cpt. occupies the valley bottom position of a dry valley along the eastern side of Hayes Lane.						
6i	4.31	Hawthorn species	2018	Non-wood habitat		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Area of permanent pasture purchased in 2016, to be left to regenerate to native broadleaved woodland. This cpt. occupies the valley bottom and shallow slopes of a dry valley. Arable crops were being grown in this cpt. up until at least 2000.						
7a	3.3	Hornbeam	1900	High forest		
<p>Semi natural ancient woodland historically managed by coppicing. No active coppicing has taken place for at least 80 years.</p> <p>Hornbeam, wild cherry, field maple and birch with oak and beech standards scattered through the sub compartment make up the majority of species.</p> <p>Ground flora contains bluebells, wood anemones, moschatel and violets in places. Due to pheasant rearing under previous ownership with high concentrations of birds in fenced release pens in this area, nettle, bramble, elder and other rank species are abundant in certain parts within this wood.</p>						
7b	5.28	Hornbeam	1900	Coppice		
<p>Continuous with sub cpt.7a, ASNW managed by coppicing, and last coppiced approximately 30-40 years ago. Sweet chestnut mixed with hornbeam, ash, birch and field maple make up the majority of species with oak and beech standards within the woodland. Woody shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn form the sub canopy and spindle exists around the edges with sub cpt.7c.</p> <p>Due to pheasant rearing under previous ownership with high concentrations of birds in fenced release pens in this area, nettle, bramble, elder and other rank species are abundant in certain parts within this wood. A large pheasant rearing pen was situated in the eastern end of this sub cpt which was removed in 2021. Areas of rank vegetation such as nettle, elder and bramble in the northeast of this area but with bluebell and wood anemone, yellow archangel and early purple orchid over much of the remaining area.</p> <p>To be managed as a minimal intervention area.</p>						
7c	12.6	Pedunculate/common oak	2021	Wood establishment		
<p>An area of arable farmland up until September 2020 with small areas left as set aside for a number of years. In March 2022 woodland creation was established over 2.4ha in 5 discreet blocks and replanted in winter of 2022/23</p>						

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>due to the severe drought of summer 2022; 2.56ha is to be left as permanent open space habitat/wayleave/tracks; a small area of secondary woodland (0.31ha) is situated beside the public right of way running northeast-southwest containing oak, hornbeam, field maple and elder; the remainder of the area (7.33ha) is to be left to natural processes with stubble left in place from the last cereal crop.</p>						
7d	2.84	NULL	2021	Non-wood habitat		
<p>Open field locally known as Pig Field. It supports an important chalk grassland flora, but also encroaching bramble banks and scrub at the time of purchase in 2020. The surviving grassland holds salad burnet, upright brome, cowslip, marjoram, field scabious, greater knapweed, fairy flax, yellow oat, quaking grass, hoary plantain and pyramidal orchid. Other plants indicative of old neutral grassland here are grass vetchling, agrimony, yarrow and eye bright. The presence of ant-hills throughout the field indicates that it has not been cultivated, at least in recent history. A small slither of secondary woodland is included along the western side with hornbeam, field maple and birch. 50% of the encroaching bramble thickets along the western fringe and within the northern part of the field were mulched and a new perimeter stock fence established in Spring 2021. New fencing and a water supply for livestock are in place as of 2023. Access in to Pig Field for grazing is difficult given the steep approaches and limited vehicle access.</p>						

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.

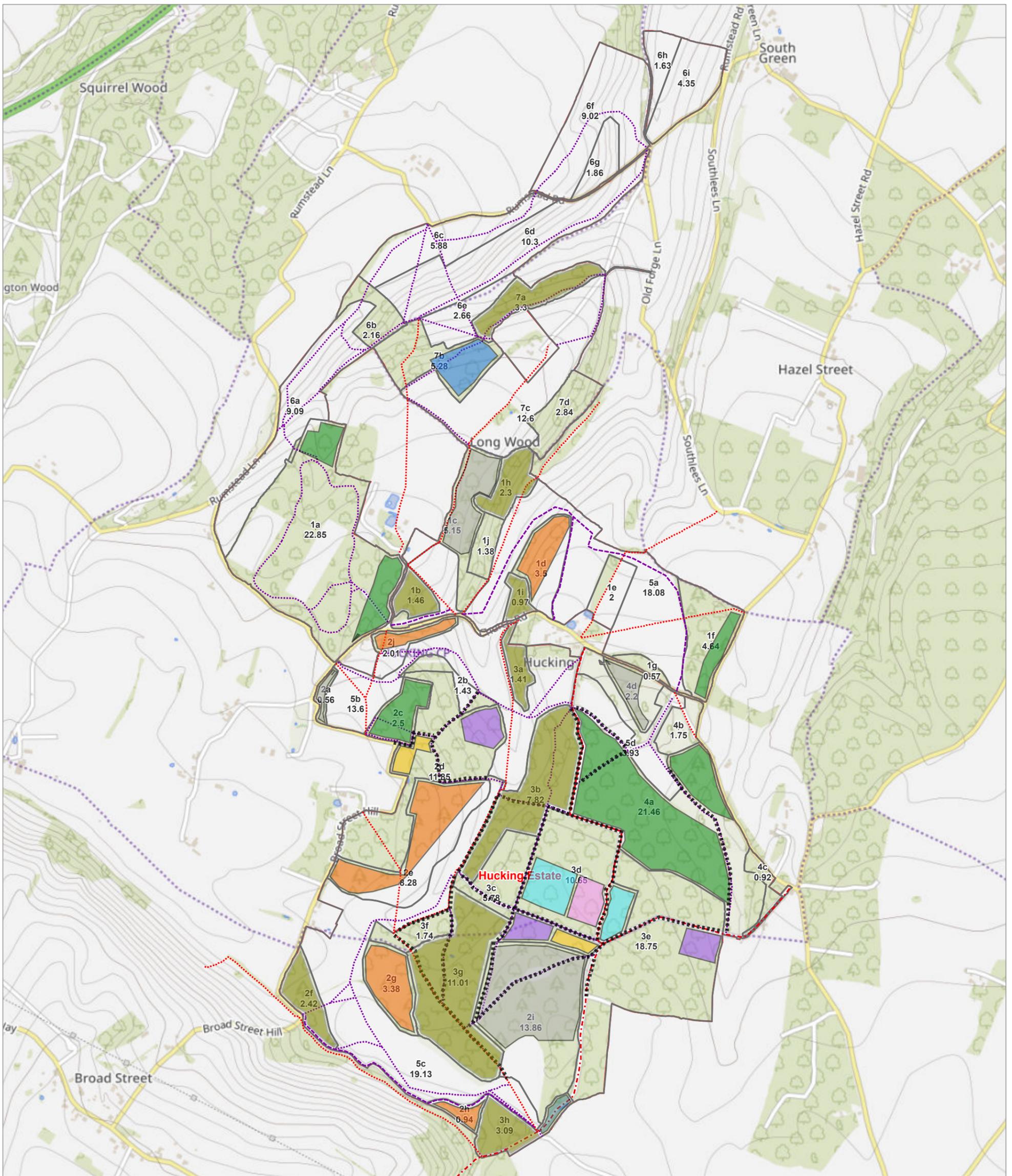
Windblow/Windthrow

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

Registered Office:

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales no. 294344 and in Scotland no. SC038885. A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England no. 1982873. The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark.



Path Network

- ⋯ Legal-Footpath
- Legal-Bridleway
- ⋯ Permissive-Footpath
- Permissive-Bridleway
- BOAT
- SubCompartments
- Woodland Trust Site Boundary

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2028 - Thin P98/99 area | 2032 - Thin of high forest |
| 2029 - Thin P98/99 area | 2030 - Thin of high forest |
| 2030 - Thin P98/99 area | 3 Zone wide ride network |
| 2027 - Coppice | 2027 - Thin cpt 3h and pond margins |
| 2028 - Coppice | Minimal intervention areas |
| 2025 - Thin of chestnut coppice | |

Hucking Estate

**Management Plan Consultation Map
2025 - 2035**

0 230 460 m



Scale: 1:11,500 @A3

Date: 29 May 2025

Author: Sam Pettman



This product includes mapping data licensed from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright and/or database right 2025. All rights reserved. Licence AC0000813451. © Getmapping plc. The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 294344) and in Scotland (No. SC038885). A non-profit-making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 1982873.