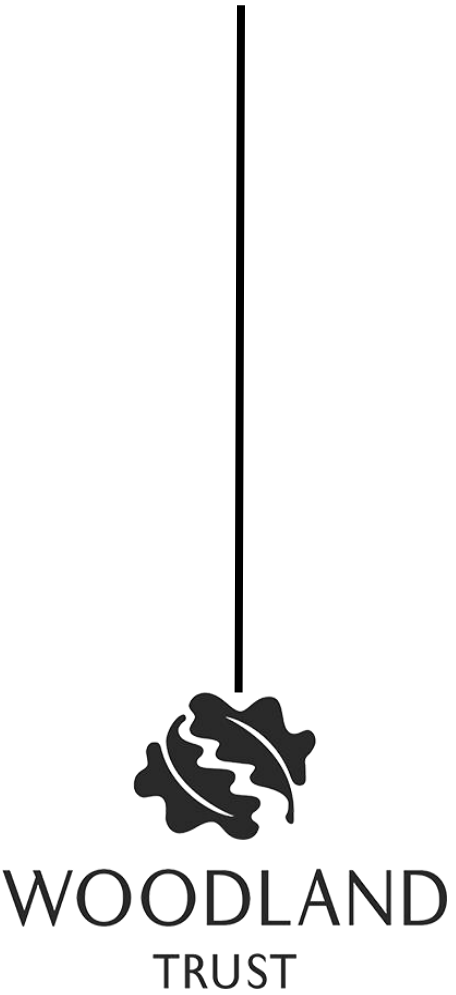
Binswood

(Plan period – 2021 to 2026)



Management Plan Content Page

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

Binswood

Location:	East Worldham Grid reference: SU764371 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 186
Area:	61.53 hectares (152.04 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, National Park, Registered Common Land, Site of Special Scientific Interest
Internal Designations:	Within WT Focus Area

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1985, Binswood is a 61.5 hectare (152 acre) wooded common located between East Worldham and Kingsley in Hampshire, in the northern extremity of the South Downs National Park. This area of the National Park is situated within the Wealden Greensand National Character Area (NCA), a curved Greensand ridge between the North Downs and Thames Basin Heaths to the north, the Hampshire Downs to the west, and Low Weald to the east.

The Wealden Greensand NCA is characterised by its variable mosaic of habitats including heathland, river valleys, mixed farmland including areas of fruit production and approximately one quarter comprising extensive belts of ancient and mixed woodland and conifer plantation. The Greensand is scattered with landmarks such as heath or wooded 'common land' that document the activities of previous centuries and make important contributions to England's heritage.

Binswood is one such example of Registered Common Land which has sustained a tradition of commoners' rights to grazing, turbary (to take turf) and estovers (to take dead wood) at the site to the present day. Before 1300AD the common formed part of a large tract of royal hunting forest known as Woolmer Forest and it had a close association with and survived the enclosure of Worldham Park, a medieval deer park. This continuity of management has led to the commons Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation as 'wood pasture', a mosaic of habitats including large tracts of poorly drained unimproved acid grassland, scrub and woodland overlying Gault Clay and Sand that have evolved over hundreds, possibly thousands, of years. 17th century surveys indicate that Binswood had a similar composition to the enclosed pasture woodland of the nearby royal hunting forest of Alice Holt, though Alice Holt is now vastly changed following 20th century forestry management.

Wood pasture habitats are transient in nature, changing between grassland, scrub and woodland as areas are cleared, cut, grazed or re-colonised with naturally regenerating trees and shrubs. However, historically, the majority of Binswood has comprised ancient woodland (up to 50ha according to the ancient woodland inventory) with open parkland stands in the north and east and denser high forest and coppice stands to the south and west, with three peripheral areas of grassland, interspersed with scrub, in the north, east and west making up the remainder. A number of veteran oak and beech trees are present throughout the site, though many were cleared in the 1970s by a former owner.

The site is virtually surrounded by historic boundary banks and is connected via hedgerows, hollow lanes and other wildlife corridors to two other nearby SSSI's - Shortheath Common to the east and Wick Wood and Worldham Hangers (part of the East Hampshire Hangers Special Area of Conservation) to the west. Apart from old banks, ditches and two very slight seasonal stream valleys that drain the site, the site is mainly flat, and is consequently often part-waterlogged in wet conditions.

Parking in the vicinity of the site is extremely scarce, with Shortheath Common offering the nearest car park with pedestrian access to Binswood available via a 1km walk along the public footpath and bridleway network. Within the site there is a 5km network of footpaths and eight pedestrian entrances offering access and egress to the site and surrounding countryside.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

In fifty years' time the overall condition of the site will be 'favourable' as defined and assessed by Natural England (NE) SSSI criteria, with a high structural diversity across the site as a whole.

Open space will be at a minimum of 30% (18ha) of the site to fall within the mandatory NE thresholds of 20 - 40%, including permanent areas of established acid grassland with indicator species, wide rides and junctions with flower and scrub-rich margins. Removal of nutrients and arisings from cut and collect mowing in combination with grazing over successive years will maintain established acid grassland and promote a diversity of species and sward heights. Areas of open space restoration and maintenance will be based on the Ordnance Survey Epoch series of historic maps which indicate past levels of open space and remnant open space habitats to capitalise on.

Scrub will be maintained by rotational cutting at 10% - 20% coverage of the site, comprising a variety of successional stages and species including hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble, gorse and goat willow.

Cattle will graze the whole site at the optimum livestock density (units per hectare) and timings approved by Natural England at sufficient levels to be a positive influence on the condition of all habitats across the site, with any opportunities to minimise mechanised operations taken. A grazing licence, site monitoring and communication with a local grazier will tailor management to the needs of the site within the parameters of NE and grant or stewardship prescriptions.

Woodland cover will occupy a maximum of 70% of the site and will comprise a variety of stand-types including semi-open 'parkland' with open-grown trees, high forest and coppice, influenced by a combination of grazing, coppicing, selective felling and natural processes. This combination of stands will provide a varied age and compositional structure, including areas of dense woodland with a sparse shrub layer alongside semi-open woodland with an abundant shrub layer and swathes of ancient semi-natural woodland ground flora. A sustainable veteran tree population with existing veterans and a cohort of successors will be secured from threats and catastrophic failure where viable, with appropriate specialist tree management practices such as halo thinning and retrenchment pruning. The majority of high forest and hazel coppice stands, which have been developing naturally for decades, will be left overstood to favour lichens, fungi and dead wood accumulation with senescence and windthrow resulting in natural thinning and canopy gaps. Short-term successional habitats will be plentiful on ride edges following a cyclical programme of ride side coppicing and selective felling that will benefit specialists which rely on temporary open space and scrub habitats such as scrub nesting birds and butterflies, in addition to those that benefit from the continuity of minimum or non-intervention areas, such as saproxylic invertebrates. Stands of the most dominant species (e.g. holly and goat willow) will be scalloped to break up the edge profile, with occasional pinch-points retaining canopy connectivity and path junctions capitalised on to create glades.
Standing and fallen dead wood will be abundant where it does not pose a safety risk, with a small proportion of timber from operations retained to supplement natural dead wood habitat, without smothering the woodland floor.

Natural regeneration including oak, birch, hazel, holly and goat willow, will sustain the variety of stand types including replacement following losses from diseases such as ash dieback and will provide the successors to sustain the veteran tree population. Regenerating scrub species such as bramble, blackthorn, and hawthorn will play an integral role in 'nursing' tree saplings and ensuring their random and sustained distribution across the site.

Pests and diseases will be monitored and management undertaken where essential to prevent detrimental impact to the overall condition of the site. The sites diverse habitats and structure will provide resilience, particularly to single species threats such as ash dieback disease (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus).

Watercourses (e.g. ponds, streams and wet flushes) will be thriving riparian habitats providing damp and shady conditions, standing water, non-intervention areas and openly accessible banksides for a variety of flora and fauna. Water quality and soil pH will be unaltered due to the absence of chemical inputs (e.g. herbicides, pesticides, supplementary feed or veterinary medicines).

This will remain a safe and accessible and tranquil site for quiet recreation activities via signed entrances and a network of maintained but largely natural paths, with maintained rights of way links to the wider countryside.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Wood Pasture

Description
The sites condition is currently registered as 'unfavourable recovering' with Natural England (NE) following the last formal condition assessment in 2010. The assessment noted that overall the site was in "good condition" and the unfavourable status was largely due to "a reduction in the proportion of open habitats to closed woodland" with the proportion of open habitat below the 20-40% threshold at that time. However, following adjustments to grazing, bracken control, scrub cutting and ride-side coppicing under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) from 2010 to 2021, NE informally estimated the proportion of recovering or established open space in 2019 at the lower end of the 20 to 30% (12 – 18ha) HLS threshold, along with an increase in temporary open space. The whole site has been open to year round cattle grazing at 1.5 livestock units per hectare (Lu/ha) – calculated at 19ha- from 2010 – 2021. The majority of open space is comprised of the largest tracts of acid grassland in cpts 1b and 1c (approx. 10ha). These have been dominated by rushes in recent years. However, cut and collect mowing within the last management plan period has seen a reduction in rush cover, with the diversity of acid grassland species increasing, particularly in the drier meadow of cpt 1c. Cpt 1c is adjoined by two 'drifts', extending east into cpt 1a. These are historic 'corridors' (visible on 1910 OS map) of open grassland, scrub and coppice which have closed over following succession of goat willow, birch, holly, hazel and oak. The northern drift was re-opened in the last management plan period, however, the southern drift remains closed over. Recent scrub cutting has also increased transitional habitat, however, the abundance of scrub species including blackthorn, hawthorn, gorse, bramble, birch and goat willow across the site mean that scrub levels appear to be nearer the upper limit of the 20% WT threshold, but within the HLS threshold of up to 35%, with goat willow frequent in wetter areas. The woodland is collectively diverse in structural and age composition due to the variety of NVC stand types represented: W10 - Oak (Quercus robur) - Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) - Bramble (Rubus fruticosus) woodland W12 - Beech (Fagus sylvatica) - Dogs mercury (Mercurialis perennis) woodland W14 - Beech (Fagus sylvatica) - Bramble (Rubus fruticosus) woodland W8 - Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) - Field maple (Acer campestre) - Dogs mercury (Mercurialis perennis) woodland The majority of the oldest remaining trees are approximately 150–200 years old with rare veterans including lapsed pollards exceeding that range. Ancient woodland ground flora is abundant and typically includes bluebells, wood-sorrel and wood anemone between swathes of grasses, sedges, ferns and patches of coarse vegetation at ride edges and glades.

Ash canopy cover was at approximately 5% (3.5ha) at its peak in 2018. It is only a significant component of one high forest stand to the west of the cpt 1a which in 2020 is showing mid to advanced ash dieback decline symptoms and has been left to decline naturally. Single trees or groups in the north and east of the site (cpts 1b and 1d) have been removed for safety and those that remain show earlier signs of decline from the disease.

In some high forest stands (particularly beech dominated) holly is dominant in the understorey and represents the most frequent natural regeneration. However, rideside coppicing including specific targeting of holly in some areas has opened up previously closed rides and widened existing rides and junctions throughout the site. A significant number of young and semi-mature oaks have been haloed and scrub nursing saplings (mainly oak) retained to sustain the open grown tree cover and recruit into the veteran tree population in the long-term.

Woodland glades in some areas, particularly within the semi-open parkland stands, have become dominated with bracken which historically link to clear fell areas of disturbance by the owner in the 1970s. A change of management prescription from rolling to cut and collect mowing with assent from NE part-way through the 2016-2021 management plan period was put in place and has begun the reduction of the largest concentrations in the north and south of the site. Non-native invasive species are absent.

Three artificially created ponds and a spring fed stream through the centre of the site are ephemeral and have not received any intervention in recent years. Archaeological features include wood banks on the majority of the site perimeter and a roman road which crosses cpt1a at the western end.

Significance

Ancient wood pastures such as Binswood are nationally rare ecosystems due to their habitat and management continuity over hundreds of years, with approximately 40% of England's ASNW and the majority of ancient wood pastures found in the southeast of England. The Woodland Trust and Wealden Greensand NCA objectives include protecting, managing and significantly enhancing the mosaic and connectivity of ancient woodland habitats for the benefit of biodiversity, pollination, soil and water regulation, landscape character and enhanced adaptation to climate change.

58% of SSSIs within the Wealden Greensand NCA are in 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Therefore, though modest in size, Binswood is of significant value in the landscape and its restoration is a priority, being a wood pasture SSSI under FSC certification, managed primarily for nature conservation and recreational access. The fact that this form of management is in contrast to much of the surrounding intensively managed land means that Binswood is a sanctuary and potential hub from which wildlife may populate the surrounding land.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:
The site is Registered Common Land with registered commoners with legal rights.
The habitat management and cultural heritage of the site is dependent on grazing, stock numbers suitable for conservation grazing, suitable graziers and stock.

Potential Red Water Fever (which has affected livestock in the past) and other diseases affecting movement and availability of livestock.

Waterlogging in wet periods and autumn/winter limits the duration and number of cattle suitable for grazing and timing of operations and timber extraction, due to the risk of poaching and ground damage from livestock and vehicles.

Factors Causing Change

Grazing/animal damage: Timing and number of managed grazing stock and cattle breed selection. Browsing deer.

Ash dieback (hymenoscyphus fraxineus): Ash trees will only be removed on ride edges where required for safety reasons or habitat enhancement (e.g. ride side coppicing). The majority will be left to progress naturally within the woodland. Therefore, any loss of ash is below the NE SSSI threshold of "no rapid loss of native species due to unnatural factors greater than 10% in a five year period".

Oak processionary moth: The abundance of oak at the site and expanding distribution of this species in southern England may result in colonisation and the requirement for risk based approach management of the species within the foreseeable future.

Pollution: There is a low threat of nitrification/acidification/pollution from run-off from adjacent land and via direct connectivity of watercourses.

Climate change:
Drier, hotter summers increase the risk of fires, however, breaks in bracken and grassland are maintained through annual mowing of rides and open spaces. There is also increased risk of loss of mature and veteran trees and associated saproxylic invertebrates, lichens and fungi, and increased risk of sun-scorch and death of beech trees.

Warmer/wetter winters may result in greater survival of tree pests and diseases, resulting in increased mortality of trees, browsing and grazing pressure and reduced establishment of natural regeneration. Prolonged waterlogging from increased rainfall may result in mortality of trees such as beech which are particularly vulnerable because of their shallow root system.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the site will be a diverse mosaic of native woodland, grassland and scrub with each habitat connected and blurring into each other.

Woodland will remain varied in age, structure, species and flora composition with all four of the existing NVC woodland types (W8, W10, W12, W14) represented, with the exception of ash in W8 which will diminish due to ash dieback and will be replaced by the natural regeneration of other native broadleaves (e.g. oak, birch and field maple). The woodland will be sustained by natural regeneration with all age classes from saplings to veteran trees represented, with individual open grown trees, groups and stands of high forest and coppice. Dead wood and overstood coppice will be abundant.

Open space will be at a minimum of 30%, mainly consisting of established acid grassland, supplemented by additional temporary open space transitional habitats up to a maximum of 40% total cover.

Scrub will be maintained at 10 – 20% coverage across the whole site.

Pests and diseases will not be affecting the overall condition of the site and there will be no non-native invasive species

present.

Archaeological features and riparian habitats will be secure with soil and water quality intact.

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

To restore the site to favourable condition by 2032, determined by Natural England condition assessment, including the restoration of a minimum of 30% total cover of established and transitional open space habitats. This will be achieved through the following operations from 2021 – 2026:

Whole site management:
•Entering the site into a 10 year Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme of wood pasture restoration for commencement in 2022.
•Annual grazing with cattle to the optimum timing, stock density (livestock units/hectare) and breeds in line with NE/CS prescriptions and WT grazing licence.
•Replacement of whole site perimeter boundary post and wire stock fencing (approximately 4000m) in 2022.
•Annual management of scrub (bramble, blackthorn, hawthorn, gorse and goat willow) to comprise a maximum of 10 to 20% cover of the whole site by rotational cutting in line with NE/CS prescriptions.
•Completion of a herbivore impact assessment in 2022 to determine a monitoring and management schedule for the plan period.
•Completion of a woodland condition assessment to inform the next management plan review in 2025.

Open space management:
•An increase of approx. 2.8ha of annual mowing (cut & collect) of bracken dominated areas within all cpts, to approx. 5ha in 2022 to reduce cover and density in line with NE/CS prescriptions.
•An increase of approx. 5ha of annual mowing (cut & collect) of rush dominated acid grassland areas within all cpts, to approx. 12ha by 2023 to reduce cover and density in line with NE/CS prescriptions.
•Restoration of the southern drift in cpt 1a by coppicing approximately 1.2ha of mixed broadleaf trees and understorey in 2022 and annual mowing (cut and collect) from 2023.

Woodland & veteran tree management:
•Thinning of up to 30% of suppressed and poor form oak and goat willow in approximately 5.7ha (2km ride side) of cpt 1a between 2022 and 2026.
•Annual coppicing of ride-side trees and understorey up to 10m width (20m width where holly is present) along approximately 550m of ride in cpts 1a & 1d.
•Halo thinning and veteran tree pruning to secure 17 veteran trees in critical or threatened condition to a specification in line with NE/CS prescriptions following a survey in 2021.
•Halo thinning and protection of 15 young oak trees from animal browsing to promote and sustain a long-term population of open-grown and veteran trees.
•Retention of standing dead trees where safe to do so, and retention of fallen dead wood in-situ in natural form or as large sections as possible.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Binswood is a WT category B access site (Moderate usage sites. Regular usage, 5 – 15 people using one entrance per day).

Situated in the rural countryside of the South Downs National Park in northeast Hampshire, Binswood is a 61.5 hectare (150 acre) site mid-way between the towns of Alton (pop. 16,584) and Bordon (pop. 16,035). It is located halfway along Green Street (B3004), approximately 2km (1 mile) west of East Worldham and 2km (1 mile) east of Kingsley.

Binswood also falls within the catchment of the Selborne Landscape Partnership (SLP) which the Trust joined in 2018. Along with the Woodland Trust, the SLP consists of 14 local farms, the National Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the Gilbert White House museum who collaborate to achieve landscape scale conservation across the partnership catchment. SLP members also collaborate with the South Downs National Park Authority for assistance with the delivery of its conservation objectives.

There is no visitor car park available at Binswood. The nearest car park is located aprroximately 1km (0.5miles) east of the site at Hampshire County Council's Shortheath Common, Oakhanger Rd, Bordon GU35 9JP.

Pedestrian access to the site is available via five public rights of way, three of which traverse the site from northwest to southeast:
The 'Green Lane' bridleway from Shortheath Common to Green Street at the north end of the site.
A public footpath from Shortheath Common to Green Street through the centre of the site.
The 'Hangers Way' footpath from Shortheath Common to East Wordlham at the south end of the site.
A public footpath joins the north end of the site from Green Street.
A public byway joins the site at the west end from West Worldham.

Visitors are advised to consult OS maps and plan a route prior to visiting.

There are a total of eight pedestrian access points on the rights of way, spread evenly around the perimeter of the site. These include single gates, kissing gates and stiles.

Within the site there is a path network of more than 5km (3 miles), with Trust maintained sections in addition to the public footpaths and bridleways. Paths are natural and can be very muddy during autumn and winter or prolonged periods of rainfall, and two wooden bridges facilitate access across seasonal streams in the north and centre of the site.

The connectivity of the site to the wider countryside via the rights of way allows visitors to take longer walks to other nature reserves in the locality. Shortheath Common is a 58ha SSSI with mixed heathland, woodland and mire. Warners Wood and Pheasant Wood, the two nearest hanger woodlands of the East Hampshire Hangers SAC, immediately abut the site on the west boundary. Noar Hill, the 20ha Hampshire Wildlife Trust chalk downland site is approximately 9km (6miles) to the south.

For longer walks the Hangers Way provides a 34km (21 mile) waymarked footpath through Hampshire from Alton Railway station to Queen Elizabeth Park, via Petersfield and Selborne and incorporates Binswood.

Alternatively there are other places of interest within driving distance:
Gilberts White's house and gardens are also situated only 4.5 miles away in Selborne, a celebration of 'The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne' for which the author is best known.

The Woodland Trusts Home Farm, a 136ha mixed woodland and grassland site is also approximately 14km (9 miles) to the west, nearest postcode GU34 5RT. Home Farm is a 'Welcoming Site' which offers access for all with RADAR key gates and parking. See the Woodland Trust website for more information.

Significance

With its status as Common Land, Binswood has provided open access to the public for centuries and 12 registered commoners hold specific rights of access for grazing, turbary and estovers to this day.

In addition to the Trusts aims to provide publically accessible woodland, it is one of the Wealden Greensand NCA objectives (Statements of Environmental Opportunity) to conserve and enhance its "historic landscape character, tranquillity, sense of place". This includes improving links in the landscape along rights of way and enhancing access provision to maintain public benefit from and enjoyment of the area.

Therefore, as a connective component in the wider Hampshire landscape and with its significant heritage and tranquility, Binswood provides an important ecological and recreational resource to residents and visitors, providing benefits to both mental and physical health.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities:
To positively influence landscape scale management beyond the sites boundaries through collaboration with the Selborne Landscape Partnership and South Downs National Park Authority, by demonstrating and delivering best practice management consistent with other landowners within the partnership catchment and the South Downs National Park.

To recruit Woodland Trust volunteer Wildlife Monitors to set up flora and fauna surveys and data collection.

The ecological diversity of the site is suitable for research or education projects such as higher education dissertations, flora and fauna surveys and training (e.g. phase 1 habitat courses etc) which could be accommodated when appropriate.

Constraints:
The lack of parking facilities and availability close to the site means that the site is only accessible on foot for the majority of visitors.

Although there are footpaths through the whole site, these are largely natural and unsurfaced, meaning that many of the paths are muddy during the winter or prolonged periods of rainfall. The cost of permanent surfacing is prohibitive and would spoil the natural rural aesthetic of the site and damage the ecology.

Factors Causing Change

The current increase in housing developments in the southeast is likely to increase the local population. Increased visitor numbers could potentially bring positive and/or negative effects e.g. conflicts with cattle/ground-nesting birds and dogs or increased interest in the welfare of cattle/ground-nesting birds and dogs, incidences of fire and littering, damage to paths and trampling of specialist ground flora.

Seasonal increases in visitor numbers, including a major annual summer festival on adjacent land also have the potential to impact the site with the issues listed above, in concentrated periods.

Cyclists and horse riders not following the designated public bridleway.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the site infrastructure will be safe and accessible to accommodate the number of visitors and will facilitate access along the public rights of way to the wider countryside.
Footpaths will remain natural, with minimal infrastructure where essential (e.g. wooden bridges to facilitate access across the seasonal streams) to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for visitors.
The sites heritage will be upheld through the rights of registered commoners and the wood-pasture aesthetic with grazing cattle, and the tranquil character will be valued and supported by local residents, visitors and sympathetic activities.

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

To upgrade and maintain site signage and infrastructure to facilitate access and egress at the site and improve rights of way links to the wider countryside. This will be achieved through the following from 2022 – 2031 (unless otherwise stated):

- Annual entrance maintenance and mowing of rides twice a year (May and July) to maintain approximately 5km of accessible footpaths and 8 entrances.
- Pedestrian and maintenance access infrastructure upgrades at the north entrance (cpt 1b) in 2022.
- Installation of new wooden welcome signs at public right of way entrances (7 total) in 2022.
- Replacement of one existing pedestrian bridge across the seasonal stream in cpt 1a in 2023.
- Annual infrastructure inspections and maintenance.
- Annual tree safety inspections in line with the Trusts Tree Risk Management Policy and remedial works as required.
- An assessment of access infrastructure in 2025 as part of a whole site woodland condition assessment.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2021	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	November
2021	SL - Tree Safety Works - Zone B	Work associated with planned tree safety works alongside routes such as paths and rides within the woodland	December
2021	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	December
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	April
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	July
2022	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	September
2022	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.	September
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	September

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	September
2022	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	September
2022	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2022	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	November
2022	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2022	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2022	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	February
2023	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	March
2023	WMI - NR Protection / Promotion	Physical works, other than tree felling / thinning, undertaken to encourage/promote / protect natural regeneration – such as fencing to protect natural regeneration	April
2023	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	April
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2023	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2023	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	July
2023	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2023	AW - Visitor Access Infrastructure	Works associated with the construction of a new or extension to existing car parking facilities.	September
2023	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	September
2023	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2023	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	November
2023	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	December
2023	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	March
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	April
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2024	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	July
2024	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	September
2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	September
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	October
2024	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	November
2024	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2024	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	March
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	April
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing	July

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
		pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	July
2025	WMM - General Site Management	Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,	September
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	September
2025	WMM - Wood Pasture Management	Works associated with the on-going management of wood pasture and parkland sites – such as the need to mechanically manage open areas, bracken control etc	November
2025	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	December
2025	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	December
2025	WMM - Ride Management	Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works	December
2025	WMM - Coppice Management	Works associated with the management of coppice areas – such as coppicing, maintenance of protective fencing, etc	December
2026	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	March
2026	WMM - Wood Pasture Grazing Work	Works associated with the maintenance of grazing regimes to manage wood pasture and parkland sites such as grazier costs, fence repairs, water supply costs	April
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	June

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	45.19	Oak (pedunculate)	1850	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site, Services & wayleaves	National Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest
This sub-cpt comprises the majority of the site. A corridor of open-space and regenerating scrub (mainly gorse and bracken) runs beneath power lines crossing loosely east to west across the whole width of the site towards the north end, following cyclical cutting by the service provider. 'Open pasture wood' to the north and immediately south of the powerlines and adjacent to Binswood Farm. Mainly open grown and stands of oak with grassland/bracken, with scrub patches of bramble, gorse, blackthorn or hawthorn. 'Grazed high forest' of oak/hazel, oak/beech and beech/hazel, with occasional encoppicement stands of hazel across the remainder (majority). One stand of oak/ash in the west corner adjacent to sub-cpt 1e. Hazel is abundant where oak and ash dominate, Holly is abundant where beech dominates and goat willow is frequent in wetter areas. Birch, field maple, crab apple, wild cherry and aspen are also present. ASNW ground flora is abundant in oak, ash and hazel coppice stands. Bracken, bramble and grasses are present at glades and rides, with bare ground beneath the densest beech stands. A seasonal stream runs loosely south to north through the centre. Two small ephemeral ponds are located in the south corner nearest Binswood Farm. There are several paths that cross the sub-cpt (see KF2) and the remains of a Roman road that crosses the sub-cpt loosely north to south towards the west end.						
1b	8.61	Open ground	1850	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor	National Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	
This sub-cpt is located at north end of the site, extending south on the eastern side. Predominantly open space dominated by acid grassland with seasonal stream crossing at the north end with wet flushes, rush beds and occasional scrub: bramble at random, gorse frequent towards the north end, and goat willow frequent towards the south end. 'Parkland' stands of oak at the north end, with occasional bracken.						
1c	1.37	Open ground	1850	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	National Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest
This sub-compartment is located at the south west of the site (adjoined and extended by two drifts – 'corridors' of open space which extend east into sub-cpt 1a) A drier meadow of acid grassland with a number of species indicative of species-rich habitats, including ragged robin, tormentil, lousewort and heath bedstraw, among a complex grassland mosaic of acid grassland and rush-pasture communities. Goat willow and birch scrub is abundant on the north and south boundaries, with bramble patches elsewhere.						
1d	5.74	Oak (pedunculate)	1850	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species	

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
					on or adjacent to site	
This sub-cpt is located at north end of the site, extending along the upper half of the east boundary. 'Open pasture wood' with mainly open grown and stands of oak with grassland/bracken, with scrub patches of bramble, gorse, blackthorn or hawthorn. One small ephemeral pond is located in the east corner nearest the bridlway entrance/exit on the east boundary.						
1e	0.63	Open ground	1850	Wood pasture	Management factors (eg grazing etc), No/poor vehicular access within the site, Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	
This sub-cpt is located in the west corner of the site. It is a small but distinctly open area of grassland with blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble scrub with peripheral oak trees. A covered well is located adjacent to the west boundary.						

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearfell
Felling of all trees within a defined area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed Woodland
Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

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

Native Species
Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

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

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

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

Shrub Layer
Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

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

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

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

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

Weeding
The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

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.