

# Great Ridings Wood

## (Plan period – 2026 to 2036)



WOODLAND  
TRUST

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## Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

# Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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

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](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

or contact the Woodland Trust

[operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

## Location and Access

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

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

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

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

# The Management Plan

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Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

## 1. SITE DETAILS

### Great Ridings Wood

|                        |                                                                    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location:              | East Horsley Grid reference: TQ105539 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 187    |
| Area:                  | 28.51 hectares (70.45 acres)                                       |
| External Designations: | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order |
| Internal Designations: | N/A                                                                |

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Great Ridings Wood extends to an area of 28.51 ha (70.45 acres), and was purchased in 1996 with funds raised by public appeal and supplemented by generous donations from local councils. The freehold was placed with East Horsley Parish Council and leased to the Woodland Trust to manage for the next millennium. There is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the ancient woodland that makes up Ridings Wood (sub-compartment 1a).

Great Ridings Wood sits in the heart of a more extensive woodland spanning around 150 hectares of Greenbelt between East Horsley and Effingham and is bordered by Greatlee and Littlelee Wood to the north and Garden Grove and Park Wood to the south. Most of the surrounding woodland is in private ownership with limited public access. Administratively, the wood is split between the parishes of East Horsley and Effingham.

The wood is made up of ancient woodland, a number of old plantations (Leewood Field Plantation, Great Ridings Plantation, and Orestan Plantation), woodland shaws and former fields that have reverted to woodland over the past century or so. There are many old banks and ditches within the woodland which demarcate these historic field/woodland boundaries. Only Ridings Wood to the west of the Old London Road (sub-compartment 1a) and two small sections of woodland shaw to the east and south of the site (sub-compartments 2c & 2d) are designated as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). Ridings Wood is also designed as a County Wildlife Site (SNCI).

The whole of Great Ridings Wood lies within Thames Basin Lowlands National Landscape Area (NCA 114), characterised by gently undulating lowlands crossed by meandering rivers with broad and flat valley plains; a pastoral landscape interspersed with woodland and shaws, hedgerows and trees, remnant commons, villages and farmsteads. The NCA is 60% urban, with a moderately wooded landscape, with 13% overall tree cover. The wider woodland block that includes Great Ridings Wood is one of the largest areas of woodland within the whole NCA.

The woodland soils are slowly permeable, seasonally wet and slightly acidic but with base-rich loamy and clayey soils derived from the underlying London Clay. As a result, Great Ridings Wood is a rich woodland dominated by oak, ash and hornbeam with a smaller component of birch and other mixed broadleaves, and an understorey of holly and hazel. A scattering of mixed conifers can also be found which may hint at a past, more formal, historic use. Over the last decade, an extensive programme of removal of non-native invasive species has eradicated the large, dense stands of rhododendron that once dominated parts of the wood, especially within sub-compartment 2a. Ash dominates the canopy in the east of the site and is present across the site. Much of the ash are showing signs of ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), and harvesting operations in 2022 removed dangerous dead and dying ash from rides and paths. Other permissive paths running through dense stands of ash have been closed to the public for their safety and to enable the ash to fight the disease and decline naturally.

Although Great Ridings has no statutory designated archaeological sites, the wood nevertheless contains some interesting historical features. The wood is dissected by the Old London Road track-way which was an ancient pack-horse route connecting the Tillingbourne Valley to London and is believed to have been used to transport products such as ironwork, gunpowder and banknote paper. The track-way itself is not under the management of the Trust but splits the wood east/west between compartments 1 and 2. Another feature of interest which runs alongside the Old London Road is the Old 'hundred' earth bank which marks the parish boundary. The bank is six feet high in places and historically marked the division between the Woking and Copthorn Hundreds. A hundred was an Anglo-Saxon land unit containing a hundred hides, a hide being the area of land required to support one household.

Great Ridings wood has a good network of permissive and public footpaths and one public bridleway on the Old London Road (BW No. 143), which is not owned by the Trust. In 2025, Surrey County Council's Rights of Way surfaced the public footpath that runs from the entry point at High Park Ave through sub-compartment 1a to meet the public bridleway to the south (FP No. 601). The Horsley Diamond Jubilee trail also passes through the wood as does Surrey County Council's 'Horsley Woodland Circular Walk'. The wood is popular with local residents for dog-walking and informal recreation. The main management site access is from the High Park Avenue entrance with access also possible from the Orestan lane entrance.

### 3. LONG TERM POLICY

The areas of secondary and ancient woodland within Great Ridings Wood will mostly be left to develop under the influences of natural processes, except where intervention is required to address issues caused by pests and diseases and to control invasive non-native species. The loss of ash from the canopy – caused by ash dieback – will temporarily increase deadwood across the site and open up gaps in an otherwise closed canopy (specifically sub-compartments 1a, 1b, and 2a). Species such as hornbeam, oak, and birch are likely species to fill these gaps. In the younger secondary woodland area of sub-compartment 2b, where ash is a dominant feature of the canopy, the species composition change may appear more drastic with sycamore and field maple likely to take its place.

Intervention to protect ancient woodland features such as woodland specialist ground flora, precursor and veteran trees, deadwood, and archaeological features may be required from time to time; particularly to control invasives and non-natives such as rhododendron and cherry laurel.

Management of tree safety hazards and threats brought on by pests and diseases will be required in high risk areas next to the path network and along boundaries shared with residential housing. Whilst trees showing resistance to ash dieback will be retained as a seed source to create future resistant generations of ash, ride-side management has removed many dangerous ash trees. This work has widened some rides, particularly in compartment 2b, enhancing the structural diversity and visual interest of the wood.

The Trust will ensure the public can continue to enjoy open access to Great Ridings Wood by maintaining the entrances, providing an appropriate level of signage, and supporting waymarkers for the local long-distance walk initiatives (like the Horsley Diamond Jubilee trail). An annual path cut will help maintain the public and permissive footpaths throughout the wood and annual inspections will check that paths and visitor infrastructure such as gates and benches remain safe and enjoyable for all visitors to the site.



## 4. KEY FEATURES

### 4.1 f1 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p>The majority of the surrounding woodland within the wider woodland complex of Greatlee Wood, Garden Grove and Parkwood is designated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) records just 4.53 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) within the Woodland Trust holdings of Great Ridings Wood. The largest area occurs within sub-compartment 1a which is an area of ancient semi-natural woodland dominated by oak dating from around 1900 with a substantial component of hornbeam, other scattered mixed broadleaves including ash, and a sparse understorey of hazel and holly. Specialist woodland flora indicator species such as bluebells occur in patches. A few non-native conifer species such as Scots pine, monkey puzzles and western red cedars are also present but account for less than 1% of the canopy and are not invasive.</p> <p>There are two further small areas of ASNW within the otherwise secondary woodland that comprises the eastern part of the wood. Formerly part of Sub-compartment 2b, these two areas of ASNW now form their own sub-compartments, 2c &amp; 2d. Sub-comp. 2c is 0.5 Ha in size and is located between sub- comps. 2a and 2b. Sub-comp. 2d is 0.4 Ha in size and is a thin linear strip running along the southern and south-eastern boundary of the wood. Both areas were originally shelter belt woodlands between the former agricultural fields and appear on maps at least as far back as 1767. However, on the ground, both areas appear similar in age and structure to a secondary woodland. An intimate mix of ash and oak dominate the canopy and there is a covering of bluebells in the spring, which is particularly heavy in sub-comp. 2c. Something distinctive about these areas is a complete lack of mature hornbeam, and the presence of wild service tree.</p> <p>Extensive clearance of rhododendron took place between 2012 and 2017 in order to protect and encourage regeneration of the ancient woodland flora. The rhododendron is now under control, but regeneration of these areas is minimal at present, typical of areas previously heavily infested with rhododendron.</p> |
| Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>The amount of ancient woodland left in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. and now covers just 2.5% of the UK's land area. Approximately 40% of England's ancient woodland is found in the Southeast. Ancient woodland is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites. In a heavily wooded area where woodland has become fragmented, larger areas of woodland are able to withstand external pressures such as climate change much better. Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and the prevention of its loss is one of the main aims of the Trust.</p> <p>This ancient woodland forms part of a wider woodland block that is one of the largest areas of woodland in this National Character Area (NCA No.114). Locally, it provides a beneficial habitat diversity and contributes to the overall ecological resilience of the site.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use tree safety interventions to help create natural glades or open up rides to increase light levels and encourage the development and spread of ancient woodland species especially where bare ground is dominant due to low light levels in hornbeam dominated areas.</li> </ul> <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety issues from decline/death in ash trees along internal paths and around the woodland perimeter adjacent to properties due to ash dieback disease.</li> <li>- Wet ground that means winter management operations would create unacceptable ground damage.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Squirrel damage on younger hornbeam and some deer browsing slowing natural regeneration</li> <li>- Spread of coarse species such as bramble and bracken out-competing woodland specialist species.</li> <li>- Pest &amp; diseases resulting in loss or damage to trees. Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) will continue to have a significant impact on the population of ash trees within Great Ridings over the next decade and the wood is also at risk from chronic &amp; acute oak decline and spread of oak processionary moth (OPM).</li> <li>- Climate change - greater increase in extreme events has the potential to cause woodland restructuring (i.e. windblow during storm events).</li> <li>- Path creep and development of a network of unofficial trails and paths throughout the woodland compacting soil and damaging ground flora.</li> <li>- Reluctance of adjacent landowners to control invasive non-native species such as rhododendron and laurel in adjacent woodland means that these species will continue to threaten Great Ridings and on-going monitoring and control will be necessary.</li> <li>- Damage to ancient woodland caused by anti-social behaviour, including bike jump and camp constructions, unauthorised quad bike and dirt bike use, litter, and garden waste dumping.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>The long term objective will be to support a structurally diverse robust ancient woodland, comprising predominately native broadleaf species. Ancient woodland components will continue to be evident and lower storeys secured by natural regeneration. The under-storey will comprise of native shrubs with a ground layer of specialist woodland plants and ancient woodland indicator species. The ash trees that are lost from the upper canopy and the eventual regeneration of the areas where rhododendron control took place will help encourage this diversification of the lower storeys. The few remaining mixed conifers which are non-invasive will be left to mature and follow their natural life cycle. Good deadwood habitat will be present through standing and fallen dead trees and ancient living trees. Veteran trees of the future will be developing in character. Archaeological features such as earth banks will be preserved and protected as part of the general woodland monitoring programme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>In the next 10 years' the main objective for the ancient woodland areas is to retain the varied composition and structural diversity of the ancient woodland areas. This can mostly be achieved through a programme of minimal</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

intervention, except for the following management activities:

- Annually monitoring for tree safety in garden boundary trees (Zone A in subcpt 1a) and every two years along formal footpaths (Zone B in subcpt 1a, 2c and 2d); address any concerns as required. Intervention will be focused on trees impacted by ash die back (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), but surveys will look at all trees/species within Zone A and B.
- Maintain the success of the programme of rhododendron/laurel removal by monitoring and digging out any regrowth in the north of sub-compartment 1a, and two other areas of ancient woodland - sub-comps. 2c & 2d. Total area is approximately 0.25 Ha.
- Undertake Herbivore Impact Assessment surveys (HIA-lite) for deer impact assessment in late winter 2026. Repeat in 2029 to inform the management plan review in 2030.
- Undertake a Thermal Image Count (TIC) drone survey to establish deer species and numbers present during winter 2026/27.

## 4.2 f2 Natural Secondary Woodland

### Description

The majority of Great Ridings wood is secondary woodland derived from both plantation establishment and natural colonisation. The older stands appear to date from around 1900 (sub-compartment 2a) with further woodland development on former agricultural field in the 1930's (sub-compartment 2b). There are many old banks and ditches which indicate how the area was formerly divided up into fields and plantations.

The woodland is generally dominated by pedunculate oak although ash is more dominant towards the southern and eastern edge of the wood and mature hornbeam is notable throughout large parts of the woodland. In localised areas, the dense canopy shade created by the hornbeam suppresses the development of the ground flora, particularly in sub-compartment 2a. Although there are still areas of dog's mercury, wood anemone, common spotted orchid, honeysuckle, nettle, bluebells and various mosses. In sub-compartment 2b, ash was thinned in 2005 and rides opened up from the removal of path-side dead and dying ash in 2022, There is generally a more developed ground layer here than the rest of the wood. Whilst there are areas where the ground flora is dominated by bramble and bracken with clumps of pendulous sedge, Timothy and other grass species, dock, cleavers, nettle and buttercup are also present. The woodland is a particular stronghold for hawfinch in Surrey, which likes to feed among hornbeam and ash. A seasonal pond and ditch in the south-west sector of the wood along with wet flushes along the eastern slope, often colonised by pendulous sedge, helps to add to the habitat diversity within the secondary woodland.

A few non-native conifer species such as Sitka spruce, Japanese cedar and western red cedars are also present in localised areas but account for less than 1% of the canopy and are not regenerating. Many of the conifer stems are in poor condition due to over shading and are likely to collapse or die out naturally.

An extensive programme of non-native invasive control started in 2013 has successfully eradicated dense stands of rhododendron and laurel from the wood. However, these species are still thriving in the adjacent woodland right up to the Trust's boundary. This is particularly true for laurel expanding into sub-compartment 2a & 2b from the Old London Road. The area affected is roughly from the southern boundary north to the pond. This encroachment is creating

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| extensive shading, affecting the ground flora and causing extensive path creep in this area due to the waterlogged paths in wetter conditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Significance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| The stands of secondary woodland are important because they are largely native woodland and long established. These areas thus contain features normally be found in ancient woodland, such as large swathes of bluebells. Large areas of the secondary woodland have developed naturally from scrub and the composition and structure are therefore very natural and supportive of a good diversity of wildlife, including the hawfinch which is on the UK red list for conservation concern. The natural secondary woodland forms part of a wider woodland block that is one of the largest in this National Character Area (NCA No.114).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Opportunities &amp; Constraints</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where opportunity arises, use tree safety interventions to help create natural glades or rides to increase light levels and encourage the development and spread of woodland species especially where bare ground is dominant due to low light levels in hornbeam dominated areas.</li> <li>- Pond maintenance/vegetation clearance to maintain/increase habitat diversity and interest of the pond.</li> </ul> <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safety issues from decline/death in ash trees along internal paths and around the woodland perimeter adjacent to properties due to ash dieback disease.</li> <li>- Wet ground that means winter management operations would create unacceptable ground damage.</li> <li>- Pond is popular with dogs, with constant poaching preventing sub-marginal and marginal vegetation from establishing.</li> </ul>                                                                                                             |
| <b>Factors Causing Change</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Squirrel damage on younger hornbeam and some deer browsing slowing natural regeneration</li> <li>- Pest &amp; diseases resulting in loss or damage to trees. Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) is likely to continue to have a significant impact on the population of ash trees within Great Ridings and the wood is also at risk from chronic &amp; acute oak decline and spread of oak processionary moth (OPM).</li> <li>- Climate change - greater increase in extreme events has the potential to cause woodland restructuring (i.e. windblow during storm events).</li> <li>- Path creep and development of a network of unofficial trails and paths throughout the woodland compacting soil and damaging ground flora.</li> <li>- Reluctance of adjacent landowners to control invasive non-native species such as rhododendron and laurel in adjacent woodland means that these species will continue to spread into Great Ridings and on-going monitoring and control will be necessary.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Long term Objective (50 years+)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| The secondary woodland of Great Ridings will be left to mature as native broadleaf woodland. The areas of healthy understory, specifically in sub-compartment 2b, and the drifts of specialist woodland flora throughout will be encouraged through strategic ride management, mostly dictated by the need for intervention to deal with tree disease and other safety factors. Areas of heavily shading hornbeam (subcpt 2a) will be left to self-thin, which will create gaps in the canopy for subsequent natural regeneration. Except where public safety along the path network requires                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

intervention, the younger secondary woodland (subcpt 2b) which has a heavy component of ash, will be left to transition to a new species composition naturally. Sycamore, oak, and hornbeam may make up a larger proportion of the species mix as a result.

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

The short term objective is to contribute towards the maintenance of a structurally diverse woodland, aiming to increase woodland resilience, particularly in the face of tree disease. Management of diseased ash will continue where necessary along zoned paths and boundaries but otherwise be left to decline naturally. Regeneration of large areas lost to ash, particularly in the natural secondary woodland that makes up most of the east of the site could be impeded by excessive deer browsing and will require monitoring to assess impact. INNS (Invasive non-native species) such as rhododendron and cherry laurel will continue to be removed where they remain, and prevented from re-establishing in the wood:

- Annually monitoring for tree safety of garden boundary trees (Zone A in subcpt 1b) and every two years along formal footpaths (Zone B in subcpt 2a, 2b); address any concerns as required. Intervention will be focused on trees impacted by ash dieback , but surveys will look at all trees species within Zones A and B.
- Maintain the species-rich wide ride (200m from SE maintenance gate) by cutting 3m wide path annually and rotationally cutting scallops in the scrub at the woodland edge every 5 years.
- Cut and dig out remaining invasive laurel growing in the SE of sub-comp. 2a to the ditch-line which constitutes our boundary in 2027. Any regrowth/new saplings will be dug out in 2029, and repeated every two years, as necessary until permanently removed from this area.
- Maintain the success of the programme of rhododendron/laurel removal in subcpt 1b and 2a measuring approximately 0.25 Ha by monitoring and digging out any regrowth.
- Undertake Herbivore Impact Assessment surveys (HIA-lite) for deer impact assessment in late winter 2026. Repeat in 2029 to inform the management plan review in 2030.
- Undertake a Thermal Image Count (TIC) drone survey to establish deer species and numbers present during winter 2026/27.

### **4.3 f3 Connecting People with woods & trees**

#### **Description**

The whole of the Trust's holdings at Great Ridings Wood (28.5 ha) is open to the public for quiet informal recreation and is rated with a WT access category B (maintained site with moderately regular use). The woodland connects the parishes of East Horsley and Effingham through a series of formal public rights of way used for walking, cycling and horse riding. West Horsley is also within walking distance. Together the three parishes support a combined population of around 12,000 people (2021 Census). Urban centres such as Guildford, Great Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead are within easy travelling distance of the wood by train, bus or car.

To help visitors enjoy the site, there are information boards at three of the main entrances to the wood - in the west

(High Park Avenue), north (Old London Road) and east (Orestan Lane). Three public footpaths (nos. 565, 601 & 602) and one public bridleway (no. 131) cross the site together with a network of informal permissive paths. Although Bridleway 131 (Old London Road) dissects the wood, the curtilage of the right of way lies outside the Trust's ownership and management responsibility. Some footpaths within the wood form part of the Horsley Diamond Jubilee Trail which is a 14.5km circular walk exploring the woodlands and open spaces of East and West Horsley and Effingham. There are two dedicated benches, both along permissive paths within sub-compartment 2a.

Most of the paths throughout the woodland are un-surfaced and can be muddy during the wetter months of the year, which is typical of poorly draining underlying clay soils. During drier times of the year, the London Road bridleway is potentially usable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Pushchairs can also access through the kissing gate at the High Park Avenue entrance. In 2025, Surrey County Council Rights of Way surfaced public footpath no. 601, connecting High Park Avenue with the surfaced public bridleway no. 109 to the south of the site. Much of this path runs through Woodland Trust's property within sub-compartment 1a and provides a safe walking route to school in Effingham for pupils living in East and West Horsley,

Horses and bikes are not permitted on Great Ridings Wood's permissive path network, but both can use the Old London Road bridleway (no. 131), which connects with the rest of the public bridleway network in the wider area.

Parking in the area is limited, with public roads to the east of site offering the nearest opportunity. Roads leading to the site from the west are all private. Therefore, most visitors to Great Ridings Wood are locals, or visitors passing through the site along public paths during longer walks.

### **Significance**

Great Ridings Wood provides open access for quiet informal recreation to a significant area of accessible, natural greenspace and is a valued, local woodland for people living in Effingham and the Horsleys within a busy part of the country. The location of Great Ridings Wood between the parishes of East Horsley and Effingham mean that the wood, together with its PROWs provide an important, strategic link between communities. As most of the surrounding woodland is in private ownership with no public access, Great Ridings wood is a particularly valuable site for allowing people to enjoy and connect with their local woodland.

### **Opportunities & Constraints**

#### **Constraints:**

- There is no formal car parking and the woodland is bounded by private roads with limited or no parking;
- The wood is often used as a cut-through for children going to and from school and has had some vandalism in the past, most notably to the interpretation boards;
- Many of the paths are wet and muddy during the winter;
- Some access routes to the site from public transport hubs have some dangerous sections where no pavement exists.

### **Factors Causing Change**

- Ash dieback: This tree disease affects public access provision, requiring tree safety works and path closures to maintain safe access.
- Vandalism to site fixtures and fittings
- Occasional unauthorised horse riding off the Old London Road bridleway damaging paths and site features.
- Occasional unauthorised quad bike and/or dirt bike use across the site damaging paths and site features such as old

wood banks.

- Footpath creep due to wet, muddy conditions
- Dangerous trees necessitating footpath diversions
- Desire lines altering paths and creating new routes
- Damage from increased use of the site

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

Great Ridings Wood will continue to offer a quality visitor experience in line with a category B access designation (a maintained site with moderately regular usage). Free and open access will continue to provide the local community and surrounding area with a well-maintained site with walking paths, and entrance infrastructure. Information boards, and suitably placed benches will provide a welcoming atmosphere to visitors.

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

The short-term objective is to provide a quality experience for visitors which is safe and enjoyable and befits its Access Category status. This will be reviewed in year 5 of this 10 year Management Plan, and any alterations made as necessary to ensure the objective continues to be met.

- Approximately 2.7km of paths and entrance points will be maintained to allow continued access across the site. This will include annual strimming of path and ride edges and cleaning/repairing entrance signage and infrastructure as required at the 3 external entrances and 4 internal access points that separate the Old London Road bridleway from the footpaths.
- Regular tree safety inspections – annually for Zone A and every 2 years for Zone B. Follow up tree safety work will be carried out as needed.
- Remove the waymarked internal RED trail as little evidence for its use. Instead, replace ageing waymarker posts for the established community circular walk 'Horsley Jubilee Trail', part of which runs along permissive paths through Great Ridings Wood.
- Orientation boards at 3x entry points will be updated and re-designed in conjunction with Woodland Trust's People & Engagement team in 2026. Various access point infrastructure will also be refreshed during this management plan period.
- Entry point into site from public bridleway in far South East of site will be closed off. This entry point is no longer required due to similar entry point nearby.

## 5. WORK PROGRAMME

| Year | Type Of Work                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Due Date  |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2026 | WMM - General Site Management       | Works associated with maintaining conservation and physical features within the sites such as boundary ditches, fences and walls, hedges,                                                                                                                      | February  |
| 2026 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control        | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                 | March     |
| 2026 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control        | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                 | September |
| 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, | September |
| 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, | September |
| 2026 | 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 |
| 2026 | CS - Ecological Survey & Assessment | Use of external consultants to support the provision of ecological surveys, assessment and biodiversity / species monitoring                                                                                                                                   | January   |
| 2026 | 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.                                    | February  |
| 2027 | PE - Interpretation & Signage       | Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets                                                                                                                                                       | May       |
| 2027 | PE - Interpretation & Signage       | Works associated with the provision of visitor signage, waymarking, interpretation features and leaflets                                                                                                                                                       | September |
| 2027 | 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, | September |



| Year | Type Of Work                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Due Date  |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2027 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2028 | 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, | September |
| 2028 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control    | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                  | September |
| 2028 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2029 | 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, | September |
| 2029 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2030 | 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, | September |
| 2030 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control    | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                  | September |
| 2030 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2031 | 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, | September |
| 2031 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |

| Year | Type Of Work                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Due Date  |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2032 | 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, | September |
| 2032 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control    | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                  | September |
| 2032 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2033 | 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, | September |
| 2033 | WMM - Ride Management           | Works associated with the management of existing rides/open areas for biodiversity - ride edge coppicing and thinning programmes, ditch works                                                                                                                  | February  |
| 2034 | 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, | September |
| 2034 | WMM - Invasive Plant Control    | Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants—such a repeat cutting and control treatments                                                                                                                                                  | September |
| 2035 | 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, | September |

## APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

| Cpt No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Area (ha) | Main Species      | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints                   | Designations                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3.63      | Oak (pedunculate) | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site       | Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order |
| An area of ancient semi natural woodland, known historically as Ridings Wood, is dominated by oak dating from around 1900 with other mixed broadleaves including birch, hornbeam, field maple, hazel, ash, holly, scattered Turkey oak, hawthorn, Norway maple and sycamore. Ground flora is limited, probably due to factors such as shade and previous covering of rhododendron and deer browsing, but patches of bluebells are still present. Ivy, bramble and mosses are also present. There are scattered ornamental conifer trees from a previous era including Scots pine, Monkey puzzles and western red cedars. Rhododendron was removed from the northern edge of the subcpt 2013.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |           |                   |      |                   |                                                |                                     |
| 1b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1.36      | Oak (pedunculate) | 1950 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site       | Green Belt                          |
| This subcpt is a narrow area of secondary woodland with mostly broadleaf species dominated by oak, but also hornbeam, birch, hazel, field maple, ash, aspen, sweet chestnut, wild service and holly present. Ground flora consists of bramble and some bluebells, but gorse and bracken are also present. An extensive programme of Rhododendron and laurel removal has taken place between 2012 – 2017 which has been successful in eradicating these invasive plants from the subcpt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |                   |      |                   |                                                |                                     |
| 2a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 13.93     | Oak (pedunculate) | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, null | Green Belt                          |
| Mature secondary mixed broadleaved woodland (historically Leewood Field Plantation, Great Ridings Plantation, and The Walleps) that is dominated by oak in most areas with a significant component of hornbeam. The mixed conifer component is <1% and comprises occasional stems of species such as Sitka spruce, Japanese cedar and Corsican pine. Most of the conifer is in poor condition and is not showing any signs of regeneration. Understorey species include hazel, birch, hornbeam, holly, turkey oak, sweet chestnut, field maple, ash and aspen. The ground flora includes dog's mercury, wood anemone, common spotted orchid, Geum spp, honeysuckle, nettle, bramble, bluebells and mosses. There was a large area of rhododendron in the west of the subcpt and alongside the Old London Road that has now been cleared. There is also a seasonal pond and stream in the southwest of the subcpt. An area of 3.4 hectares located in the square earth embankment between The Walleps and Great Ridings Plantation was former agricultural land that was converted to woodland around 1914. |           |                   |      |                   |                                                |                                     |

| Cpt No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Area (ha) | Main Species      | Year | Management Regime | Major Management Constraints                   | Designations                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2b                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 8.59      | Ash               | 1930 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site       | Green Belt                                |
| <p>Historic maps show most of this area of the wood, containing Orestan Plantation, was established in the 1930's. The earth banks found throughout the compartment are the remnant boundaries of former agricultural fields. The upper canopy is dominated by an intimate mix of ash and oak, although ash is particularly dominant along the north-eastern side of the subcpt. This area of ash was last thinned in 2005. This subcpt is notable for its lack of mature hornbeam. Natural regeneration is abundant with development of a mid and lower canopy comprising ash, oak, sycamore, rowan and hawthorn. Some young hornbeam regeneration is also present. Through much of the subcpt the ground flora is dominated by bramble and bracken with clumps of pendulous sedge. Timothy and other grass species, dock, cleavers, nettle and buttercup are also present. The ground vegetation is generally more developed than in the rest of the wood probably due to higher light and fertility levels. Ride widening (2013) along the main SE/NW footpath leading from the entrance from Orestan Lane has helped increase the biodiversity and visual interest.</p> |           |                   |      |                   |                                                |                                           |
| 2c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 0.54      | Oak (pedunculate) | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site, null | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt |
| <p>A former woodland shaw of ASNW, now surrounded by 2ndry woodland established from abandonment of former agricultural fields. Sub-comp boundary evident on the ground as old woodland banks/field boundaries. Mostly oak and hornbeam within the sub-comp, with small amounts of ash, sweet chestnut, birch spp., cherry and field maple. 1x wild service tree present at side of permissive path that runs through the centre of sub-comp.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                   |      |                   |                                                |                                           |
| 2d                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 0.36      | Oak (pedunculate) | 1900 | Min-intervention  | Diseases, Mostly wet ground/exposed site       | Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Green Belt |
| <p>Small linear strip of ASNW that forms the eastern and southern border of the site in the Southeast corner. A former woodland shaw, separated from sub-comp 2b by distinct woodbank/field boundary on the ground. Mix of tree species more diverse here than in the 2ndry woodland of sub-comp 2b, which formed following the abandonment of former agricultural fields. Mix of oak, ash, sycamore, holly, elm with understorey of hazel, hawthorn, &amp; blackthorn.</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**

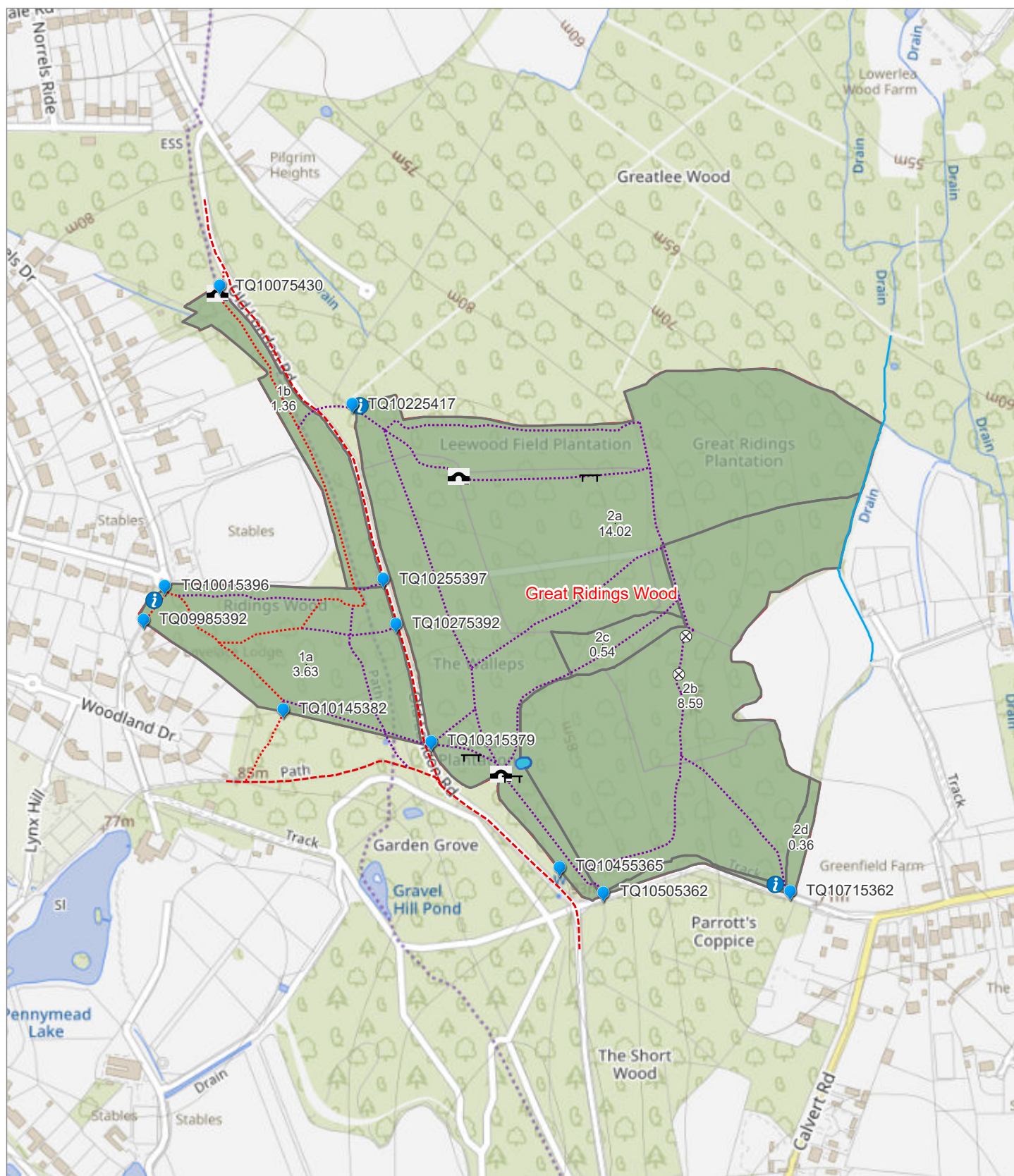
Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.

**Registered Office:**

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

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- |                |                     |                              |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Access Points  | Information board   | Water Bodies                 |
| Access points  | Path Network        | SubCompartments              |
| Other Features | Legal-Footpath      | Habitat                      |
| Seat           | Legal-Bridleway     | Existing Woodland            |
| Culvert        | Permissive-Footpath | Woodland Trust Site Boundary |
| Bridge         | Watercourses        |                              |

## Great Ridings Wood - Site Map 2026

Scale: 1:6,000 @A4

Date: 16 July 2026

Author: