

Work Plan – Nore Barn Wood

Aims

Nore Barn Woods are part of the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the southern edge and marsh is a SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).

The aims of work in the wood are:

- To maintain and improve the woods, retaining the general character
- To improve wildlife by creating a range of habitats
- To ensure the long term survival of the woods so that future generations can enjoy



Disease
resistant
elms
have
been
planted

What are the threats to the woods?

The hawthorn trees are over-mature, so they are toppling early and leaving bare areas which are difficult to repopulate. They are also too tall, so light does not reach the forest floor.

Holly is spreading, crowding out more desirable plants.

The age range of oaks is very limited, all being about 60 years old. This is not good for continuous tree cover in the future.

There is full public access to the wood which causes trampling of undergrowth and dogs chasing wildlife. There is also occasional vandalism.

How will the aims be achieved and the threats minimised?

To improve wildlife a variety of habitats will be created and maintained. These are:

- Dead fallen timber – timber piles are good for insect life
- Standing dead timber – dead trees support bird and bat life
- Central ride – the edges of the open area are excellent for flowers
- Glades – also good for flowers and butterflies
- Bramble – home to birds
- Improve and replant the hedge – good for bird life and to act as a corridor for all wildlife
- Consider climate change and plant appropriate species

The amount of light within the wood will be increased by coppicing or pollarding selected areas of trees, and allowing them to regrow. Invasive and non-native plants will be controlled.

All work will be carried out following accepted conservation practices.

To define this conservation work a 3 year plan has been agreed with Havant Borough Council (HBC), based on a Woodland Plan approved by the Forestry Commission. All tree work is covered by a Felling licence from the Forestry Commission. To monitor progress HBC visits yearly. If you wish to have further information, or to comment upon the work plan, please contact the Chairman.

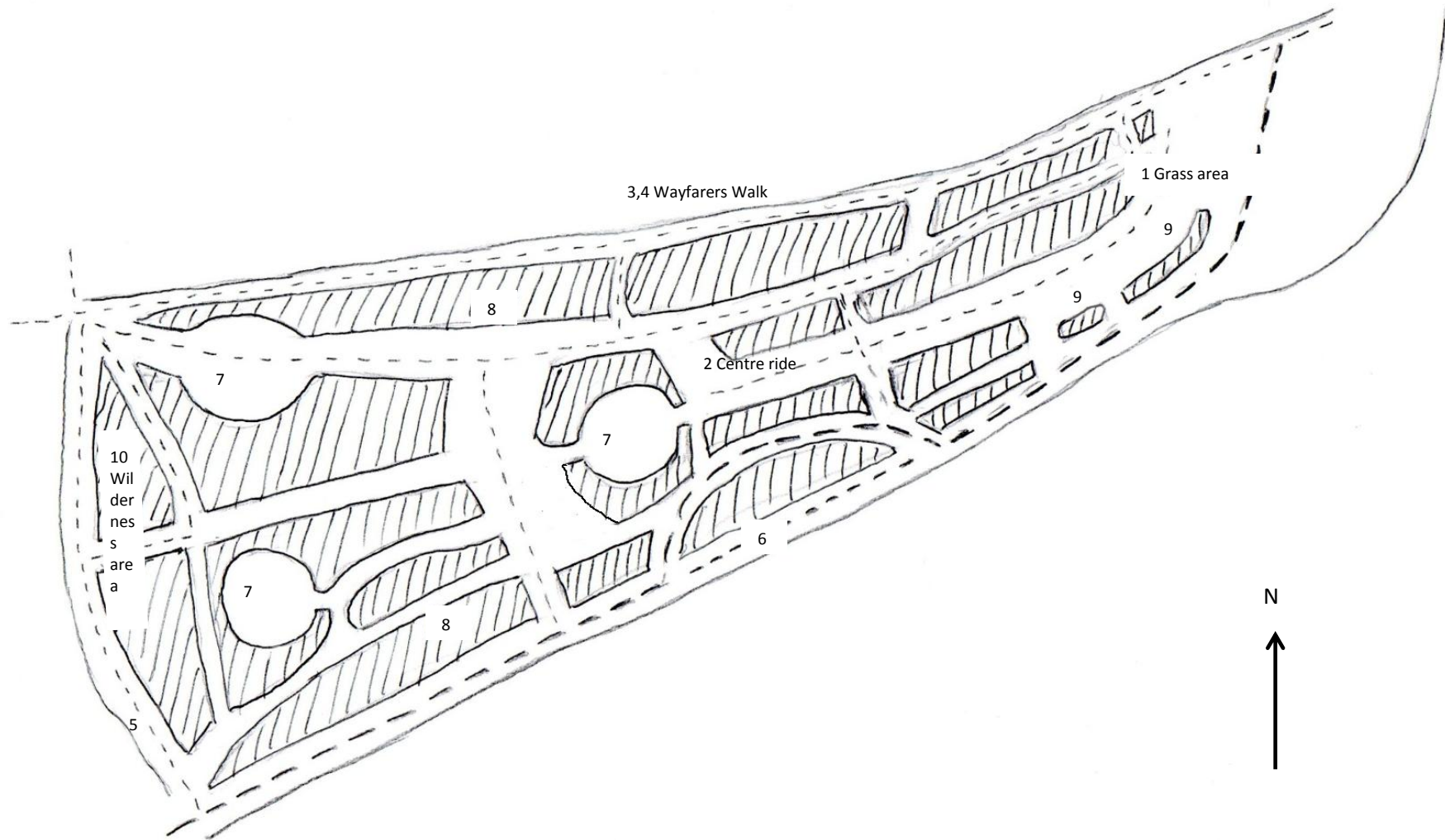


Hedge
coppiced
and replanted

What conservation work will be done over the 3 year period?

Area	Feature	Purpose	Action
1,2	Grass area / centre ride	Treat as a summer flowering meadow.	Cut grass and collect (not the marsh area) once a year in September
3	Wayfarers Walk verges	To control nettles and encourage flowers.	Cut/rake nettles and plants to the ground on both sides of the path in September
4	Hedge	To maintain hedge on the Wayfarers Walk,	Has been replanted and will be laid in due course.
5	Hedge (SW)	To screen woods from SW winds	Blackthorn hedge has been planted
6	Hedge (S)	To screen woods from SW winds	Hedge will be laid/replanted over several years
	Paths	To maintain public access	Rake leaves in December
7	Glades	To maintain a sheltered sunny area, to encourage butterflies and birds.	Cut to remove woody growth and rake off
	Oaks	To improve age range of oaks	Pollard or manage several
	Holly	To prevent dominance. One of few shrubs to grow in shade	Remove where other things will grow
	Ash	Native. High conservation value. Can spread	Encourage in the western end of the wood, prevent from spreading East
	Bay	Non-native, invasive. Harbours "sudden oak death" disease	Fell several
	Dead wood	Excellent habitat for insects	Create hidden log piles
8	Over-mature hawthorns	To allow spindly trees to regenerate before they topple, making replacement impossible in the large gaps created	Coppice several each year, in small areas and allow to regrow
9	Bramble	To provide habitats for birds, but prevent invasion	Maintain specific areas of bramble, but prevent spread
10	Wilderness areas	To provide a people-free habitat for wildlife	Leave untouched

Work areas within the wood



Frequently Asked Questions

Q It's a natural wood – why don't you leave it alone?

A The wood would gradually consist of tall trees with no ground cover or wildlife beneath. A managed wood is a healthy wood.

Q Nettles are good for butterflies – why are they being removed?

A Nettles in the sunshine are good for butterflies, but can block paths and prevent other plants from growing. A balance is kept by controlling some nettles, particularly beside paths.

Q Ivy kills trees – why isn't it being removed?

A Ivy doesn't kill trees, it only invades dying trees. Ivy is good for bats and birds. We deal with dying trees by coppicing the tree to promote regrowth.

Q I like holly – why is it being removed?

A Holly is good in moderation, being one of the few shrubs to grow in shade. But it is spreading vigorously. Some of the holly is being removed to keep it under control.

Q I've heard that ragwort kills horses.

A Ragwort is an important plant for wildlife that supports over 100 insect types. It only needs to be controlled within 100m of grazing horses, so in Nore Barn Woods it is encouraged.