

# **WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2017 – 2027**

**PINEWOODS**

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## The Site

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**Grid Reference:** 429145 454816

**Position:** 1 kilometre south west of Harrogate town centre

**Community Group Involvement:** Pinewoods Conservation Group (PCG)

**Area:** Approximately 96 Acres

**Description:** Semi-Natural Woodland

**Woodland Series:** Identified as a low land mix classification and is within the criteria of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W 18 (*Pinus sylvestris* – *Hylocomium splendens* woodland)

**Access:** Access to the woodland is available through good footpaths from the Harrogate town centre. Parking for cars is available off Crag Lane close to the wood at its most south-westerly point. Access by local residents is generally made on foot.

**Aspect & Topography:** The site runs gently from north-east to south-west, with an overall fall of approximately 10-15 metres between the northern and southern boundary. The wood is characteristically wet at its lowest points during many of the winter months and contains a number ditch channels to help drain surface and sub-surface moisture.

**Soils & Geology:** Situated within a Carboniferous Millstone grits (Red Scar Grit) and Shale. Soils are poor to moderately drained, comprised mainly of silt clay and small stone.

**Climate:** No specific data has been collected but the area may be expected to be typical of this part of the county of North Yorkshire.

**Age Class:** There is a good age class distribution throughout the woodland. There is a clear impact of a young understory of beech, pine, rowan, oak and birch with an age range of 3-15 years. The upper canopy layer predominantly exceeds 70 years.

**History:** A historical description of the moor where the Pinewoods currently stands taken from Thorpe's Guide 1891 is as follows:

*'The rough moor where firs, gorse and heather abound in profusion forming a capital protection for the ground game and feathered tribe'*

The original pines located at the site were planted in 1796 as part of the 'Kings Plantation' and covering some 6 acres in area. The land was purchased from the Earl of Harewood by the 'Corporation' in 1898. Since the purchase extensive planting has taken place to enlarge the woodland to what is seen today. There can be little doubt that the once open moor has been considerably changed by the planting policy, and although this has greatly increased the area and diversity of the original site, parts of the woodland have changed little in the past century.

## Management Plan Objectives

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- To promote the long-term sustainability of the woodland and habitat through ecological diversity enhancement, protection and conservation
- To ensure Plant Biosecurity measures are implemented and adhered to in order to ensure woodland protection going forwards
- To support restoration of the Semi-Natural Woodland status by encouragement of appropriate native species
- To help ensure the safe enjoyment of the woodland to the general public
- To ensure positive links are maintained between the Council, the Pinewoods Conservation Group, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Rotary Club of Harrogate and the Bridleways Association, and to encourage affiliated organisations to assist in the undertaking of woodland management projects
- To encourage and assist the Pinewoods Conservation Group in applying for Grant Funding for woodland projects
- To identify and utilize any available Commuted Sums monies to achieve woodland management projects
- To achieve the above through sound and sensitive arboricultural and silvicultural practice

## The Woodland Management Plan

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The management plan supersedes the woodland management plan for 2006-2016. Some elements of that management plan were not completed due to resources, so the sequence of compartments has been adjusted to reflect where the priorities should now lie. Pages 5-14 of this document set out the proposals in terms of the management of the woodland over a 10-year period. They contain:

- Site Plans 1 & 2: Showing the woodland as is and as broken up in to 10 woodland compartments
- Table 1: 10-year Woodland Management Proposals
- Table 2: Site Infrastructure & Proposed Management

Appendix 1 sets out the current and preferred planting species for this site, and native flora recorded from postal district HG3 (Harrogate area inc. Nidderdale). The site itself is subject to periodic inspection as set out within the Trees and Woodland Policy 2016-2021, or any future amendments to that document. Any works identified as part of that inspection will be undertaken in accordance with their associated risk priorities, which are independent from the woodland management objectives as set out within this document.

## Biosecurity

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This management plan will aim to ensure that the basic Biosecurity principles, as set out within the Biosecurity Position Statement at Appendix 2, are fully adhered to by both the Council and any groups actively undertaking programmed works within the woodland itself.

### ***Chalara die-back of Ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)***

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Ash die-back has been identified on site within area 3 of site plan 2. This has been reported to the Forestry Commission (FC) and the situation is currently being monitored. The Council will take any necessary and appropriate action if advised to do so by the FC. Outside of any advice from the FC the Council may look to remove any Ash whips from area 3, subject to available resources, as part of the management of that compartment. In any event Biosecurity control measures, as set out at Appendix 2, would be applied and adhered to in order to control and prevent the spread of Ash die-back throughout the site or further afield.

### **RHS Harlow Carr – Lease Agreement**

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There is a lease agreement between the Council and RHS Harlow Carr for a section of the Pinewoods located adjacent to Crag Lane. The section of land in question is shown at Appendix 3. The area of land in question falls within the management remit of the RHS. As per the agreed Heads of Terms, the RHS will engage in consultation with Harrogate Borough Council's Arboricultural officer to ensure that the woodland within the leased area is managed in line with the principles and objectives of the Pinewoods Management Plan 2017-2027, Forestry Commission rules and regulations and the requirements of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. In addition, all infrastructure maintenance and repair within the leased area remains the responsibility of the RHS.

### **Permissive Bridleway Route**

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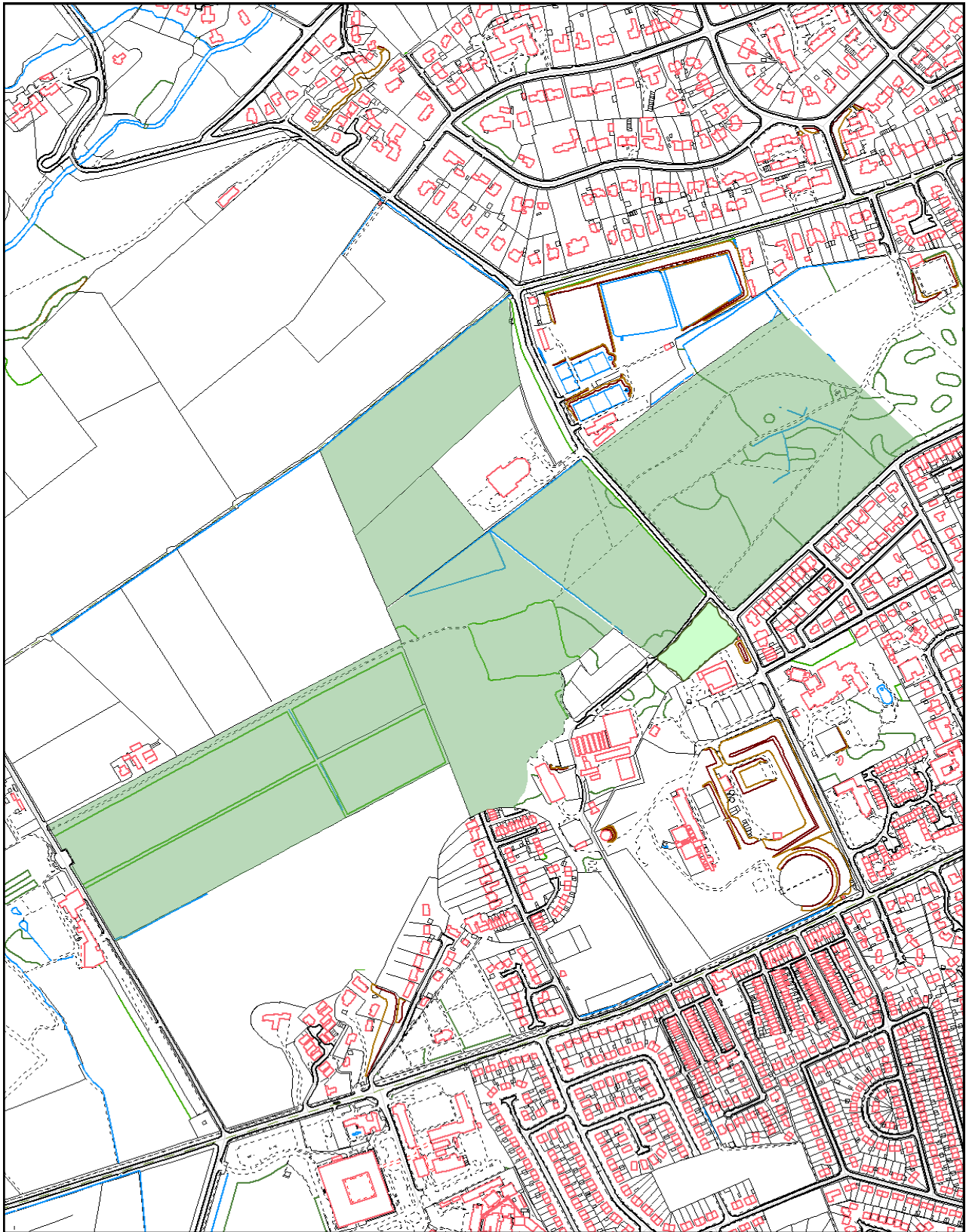
There exists a permissive bridleway route through the Pinewoods, linking Crag Lane to Harlow Moor Road. A plan of the route can be seen at Appendix 4. The site contains a number of signs, funded by the PCG, identifying the route. The Council, working in collaboration with the PCG and other volunteers, will aim to ensure that the designated route is kept clear of vegetation when necessary to maintain access for horses and riders.

### **Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam**

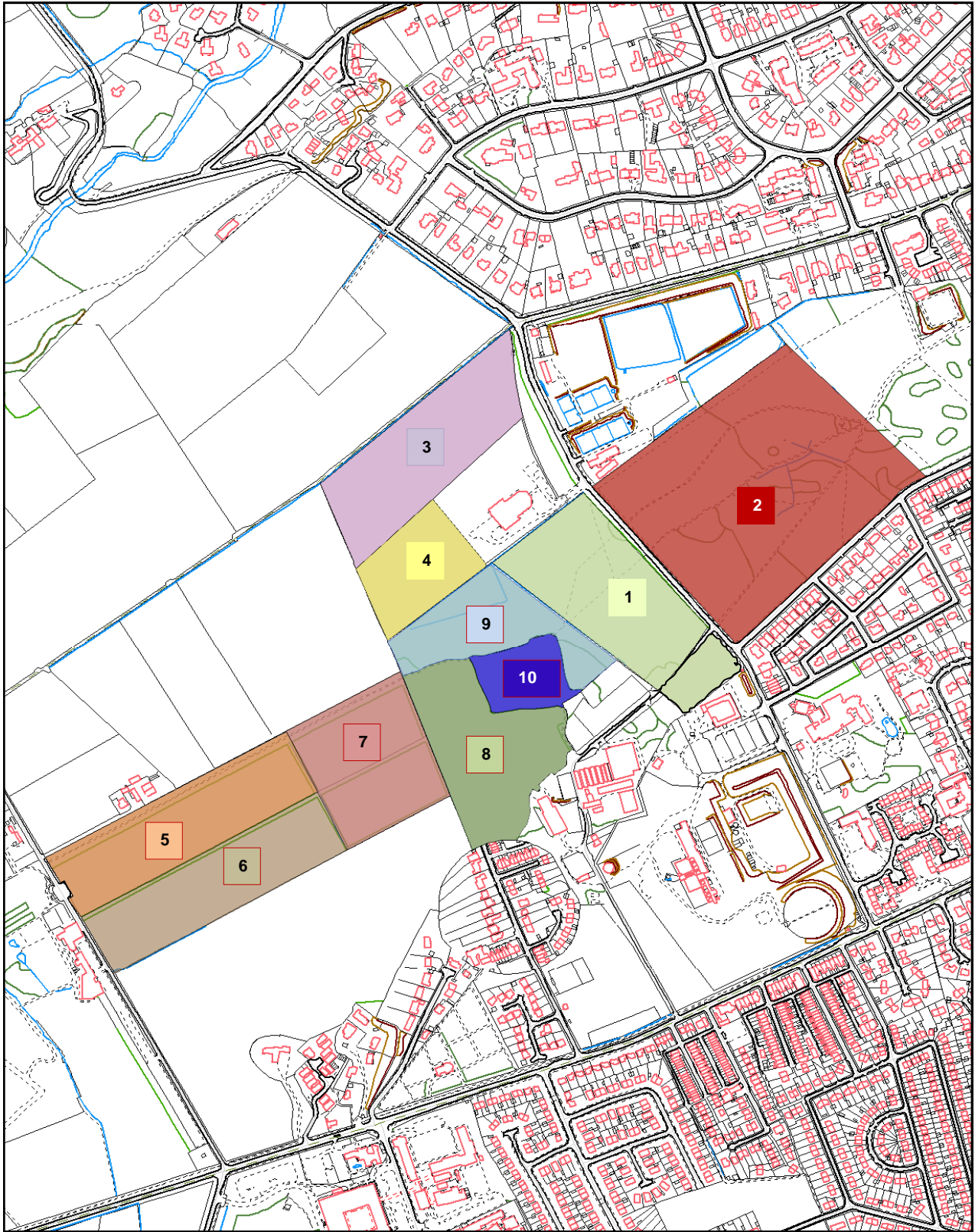
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Japanese Knotweed has been found in area 10 of site plan 2 and is treated annually by the Council in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Himalayan Balsam is prevalent throughout the site and the PCG has funded some periodic treatment of this invasive plant in some areas.

**Site Plan 1:** Showing the entire Pinewoods area (shaded green)



**Site Plan 2:** Showing Pinewoods broken up into 10 compartments, relative to the 10-year management plan proposals for the site





**Table 1: 10-year Woodland Management Proposals**

<b>AREA 1 - YEAR 2017-2018</b>	<b>AREA 2 – YEAR 2018-2019</b>	<b>AREA 3 – YEAR 2019-2020</b>
Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.	Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.	This area contains c. 7,000 whips planted in 2007/08 as well as picnic areas and marsh/wet areas. Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.
Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.	Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.	This area has been identified as containing Ash Die-back. Any thinning works must ensure that all debris is burnt in a controlled manner, with no debris being left on site.
Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.	Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.	Encourage woodland fringe softening by looking to extend the woodland out into the field area in a more natural fashion.
<b>AREA 4 – YEAR 2020-2021</b>	<b>AREA 5 – YEAR 2021-2022</b>	<b>AREA 6 – YEAR 2022-2023</b>
This area was planted in collaboration with the Harrogate Rotarians and is known as Rotary Centenary Wood. It is developing woodland, requiring a 'light touch' management.	Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.	Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.



Remove tree stakes and guards where necessary and appropriate.	Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.	Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.
Look at introducing new planting in areas where it can be accommodated.	Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.	Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.
<b>AREA 7 – YEAR 2023-2024</b>	<b>AREA 8 – YEAR 2024-2025</b>	<b>AREA 9 – YEAR 2025-2026</b>
Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.	Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.	Undertake selective thinning & planting works in line with good woodland management practices.
Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.	Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.	Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species located within this area and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.
Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.	Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.	Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths.

AREA 10 – ANNUAL to 2027	ADDITIONAL NOTES
<p>Area known as the Recreation Field. Predominantly a grassed area used by dog walkers and the annual PCG Open Day event.</p>	<p>The main resources required to undertake all works within the Management Plan include the Arboricultural Manager, the PCG and other stakeholders. Throughout the period of this management plan, the Council will endeavour to strengthen existing links with the PCG, the local community, the Army Foundation College and local schools and stakeholders in order to ensure that projects can be delivered.</p>
<p>The area contains a small cluster of Japanese Knotweed. This will be treated annually by the Council until eradicated. It is not to be cut, pulled, moved or dispersed by any persons.</p>	<p>The completion of the majority of the works will require Grant Funding as applied for by the PCG. The Council will support funding applications where appropriate. Outside of Grant Funding, the Council will look to use Commuted Sums if available. Both the PCG and the Council have to be realistic about what can be achieved on site and ensure that pre-programming of projects with appropriate lead-in times and available resources are given due consideration. If projects cannot be achieved through lack of resources or poor programming, then the project will not be taken on.</p> <p>Outsourcing of works to external contractors, as well as utilising the Council's tree team and applying for external woodland grant schemes (WGS), will be explored but should not be relied upon.</p>

**Table 2: Site Infrastructure & Proposed Management**

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ITEMS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WORKS REQUIRED</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
<b>MAIN FOOTPATHS (BITUMEN)</b>	1	From Valley Gardens to RHS Harlow Carr (Mile Walk)	Regular inspection for damage and necessary repairs	Regular annual inspections by the PCG - Repairs subject to PCG Grant Funding, subject to state of disrepair or priority.
<b>FOOTBRIDGES</b>	4	Within Areas 5 & 6 of Site Map 2	Regular inspection for damage and necessary repairs	Regular annual inspections by the PCG - Repairs subject to PCG Grant Funding, subject to state of disrepair or priority.
<b>INFORMATION BOARDS, PICNIC BENCH &amp; TELESCOPE</b>	5 Boards 1 Telescope 1 Picnic Bench	Lectern & Information Boards located within Areas 2, 3, 5, 7 & 10 Telescope located within Area 7 Picnic Bench within Area 3	Inspect & Update Information on Boards Inspect & Repair Items	Regular annual inspections by the PCG - Repairs subject to PCG Grant Funding.
<b>FINGERPOSTS</b>	10	Along main footpath routes throughout the Pinewoods	Inspect & Replace when necessary	Regular annual inspections by the PCG - Repairs subject to PCG Grant Funding.
<b>BRIDLEWAY POSTS &amp; SIGNS</b>	c.12	Located within Areas 1, 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Site Map 2	Inspect & Replace when necessary	Regular annual inspections by the PCG - Repairs subject to PCG Grant Funding.
<b>BIRD &amp; BAT BOXES</b>	>60	Within Various Areas of Site Map 2	Inspect & Replace when necessary	Annual inspection by trained Bat Handler appointed by the PCG

## APPENDIX 1: Current & preferred species and native flora recorded at postal district HG3

MAJOR TREE SPECIES CURRENTLY ON SITE	MINOR TREE SPECIES CURRENTLY ON SITE	PROPOSED REPLACEMENT TREE SPECIES
Scots Pine ( <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> )	Common Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> )	Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> )
English Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> )
Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> )	Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	Scots Pine ( <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> )
Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> & <i>Betula pubescens</i> )	Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> )	Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )
Holly ( <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> )	Whitebeam ( <i>Sorbus aria</i> & <i>intermedia</i> )	Sessile Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea</i> )
	Yew ( <i>Taxus baccata</i> )	Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> & <i>Betula pubescens</i> )
	Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )
	European Larch ( <i>Larix deciduas</i> )	Alder ( <i>Alnus spp.</i> )
	Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	Wild Cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )

**Table outlining some Native flora recorded from postal district HG3 (Harrogate area inc. Nidderdale)**

<b>Tree</b>	<p>Ash  Aspen  Bay Willow  Beech  Black-poplar  Common Whitebeam  Crack-willow  English Elm  Field Maple  Hornbeam  Sessile Oak  White Willow  Wych Elm</p>	<p><i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>  <i>Populus tremula</i>  <i>Salix pentandra</i>  <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>  <i>Populus nigra</i>  <i>Sorbus aria</i>  <i>Salix fragilis</i>  <i>Ulmus procera</i>  <i>Acer campestre</i>  <i>Carpinus betulus</i>  <i>Quercus petraea</i>  <i>Salix alba</i>  <i>Ulmus glabra</i></p>
<b>Large Shrub or Small Tree</b>	<p>Alder Buckthorn  Almond Willow  Bird Cherry  Buckthorn  Crab Apple  Dogwood  Elder  Grey Willow  Guelder-rose  Hawthorn  Osier  Purple Willow  Rock Whitebeam  Spindle  Wild Privet</p>	<p><i>Frangula alnus</i>  <i>Salix triandra</i>  <i>Prunus padus</i>  <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>  <i>Malus sylvestris</i>  <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>  <i>Sambucus nigra</i>  <i>Salix cinerea</i>  <i>Viburnum opulus</i>  <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>  <i>Salix viminalis</i>  <i>Salix purpurea</i>  <i>Sorbus rupicola</i>  <i>Euonymus europaeus</i>  <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i></p>

<b>Annual</b>	Common Whitlowgrass Corn Buttercup Corn Spurrey Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Cut-leaved Dead-nettle Dense-flowered Fumitory Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Dwarf Mallow Dwarf Spurge Early Forget-me-not Early Hair-grass Eyebright Eyebright Eyebright Fairy Flax Fat-hen Field Forget-me-not Field Madder Groundsel Hairy Bitter-cress Hairy Buttercup	<i>Erophila verna</i> <i>Ranunculus arvensis</i> <i>Spergula arvensis</i> <i>Geranium dissectum</i> <i>Lamium hybridum</i> <i>Fumaria densiflora</i> <i>Geranium molle</i> <i>Malva neglecta</i> <i>Euphorbia exigua</i> <i>Myosotis ramosissima</i> <i>Aira praecox</i> <i>Euphrasia confusa</i> <i>Euphrasia micrantha</i> <i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i> <i>Linum catharticum</i> <i>Chenopodium album</i> <i>Myosotis arvensis</i> <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> <i>Ranunculus sardous</i>
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<b>Perennial</b>	Broad Buckler-fern Broad-leaved Dock Brookweed Brown Sedge Bulbous Rush Burnet-saxifrage Bush Vetch Carnation Sedge Cat's-ear Chickweed-wintergreen Chicory Cloudberry Clustered Dock	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> <i>Samolus valerandi</i> <i>Carex disticha</i> <i>Juncus bulbosus</i> <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> <i>Vicia sepium</i> <i>Carex panicea</i> <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> <i>Trientalis europaea</i> <i>Cichorium intybus</i> <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> <i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>
<b>Marsh Plant</b>	Bladder-sedge Bogbean Bottle Sedge Bristle Club-rush Broad-leaved Cottongrass Common Butterwort Common Cottongrass Common Reed Common Spike-rush Common Water-starwort agg. Compact Rush Creeping Forget-me-not Creeping Yellow-cress	<i>Carex vesicaria</i> <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> <i>Carex rostrata</i> <i>Isolepis setacea</i> <i>Eriophorum latifolium</i> <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> <i>Phragmites australis</i> <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> agg. <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i> <i>Myosotis secunda</i> <i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>





## APPENDIX 2: Biosecurity



### Biosecurity in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Position Statement

The Arboricultural Association is committed to promoting the implementation and understanding of good biosecurity practices to assist in safeguarding the future of our trees from the introduction and spread of harmful organisms.

This statement outlines some basic biosecurity principles that should be adopted to reduce the unwanted introduction and spread of tree pests, diseases and invasive tree species:

1. Operatives and organisations undertaking work on or around trees should consider the reasonably foreseeable consequences of their activities. Adopting biosecurity risk assessment processes and policy commitments are prudent first steps.
2. Those undertaking work on or around trees have a responsibility to implement routine biosecurity control measures for all sites and specific measures for higher risk sites highlighted by the biosecurity risk assessment process. This should include the cleaning and disinfection of clothing, PPE, tools, equipment and vehicles.
3. Arboricultural operations such as pruning, felling and planting should be planned, managed and supervised to minimise the movement of arisings and soil. All arisings must be appropriately disposed of.
4. Organisations working on sites with trees should ensure that their operatives understand biosecurity issues and comply to adopted biosecurity measures. Training, guidance and supervision should be provided when necessary.
5. Anyone planning, designing, or implementing planting projects should aspire to source home grown and nursed specimens avoiding, where possible, directly imported stock to reduce the risk of introduction of pests and diseases.
6. Anyone responsible for tree supply should ensure that trees and associated soil are supplied to customers free of pest and disease at all points in the supply chain. Consideration must be given to the latency period\* and life cycles of all pests and diseases in order to achieve this. Special attention must be given to imported stock.
7. Good urban forestry practice involves managing tree populations to increase species and genetic diversity by focusing on the establishment and maintenance of trees with qualities suited to the site and the prevailing climatic conditions. Additionally, good species composition, age structure, stock quality and condition will help reduce the future loss of trees due to the introduction, hybridisation or spread of tree pests and diseases.
8. Anyone involved with trees must encourage and promote adherence to these guiding principles and above all act as role models in this regard.

\* A period of time where a plant may be infected or infested by a particular pest or disease but where there are no physical symptoms that indicate ill health.

If you are unsure about any of these guiding principles do not ignore them. More information and guidance can be found from the following sources:

Arboricultural Association  
[www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

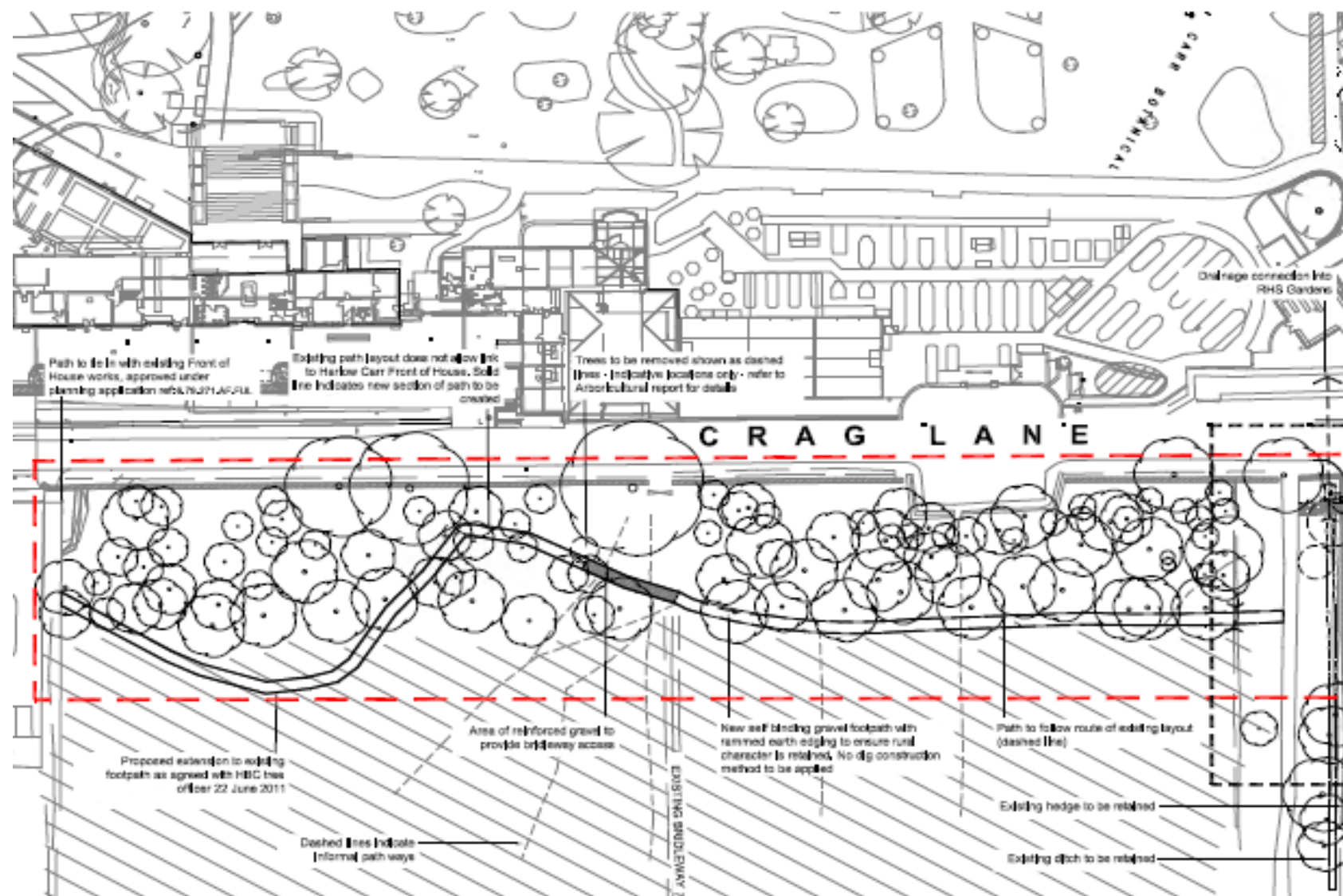
Forestry Commission England  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/england-keepitclean](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-keepitclean)

These principles are supported by the following organisations





## APPENDIX 3: RHS Leased Area (edged in red)



## APPENDIX 4: Permissive Bridleway Route

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