

Pretty Corner

Management Plan

Date:	2007	to	2027
Owner / tenant:	North Norfolk District Council		
Agent / contact:	Robert Goodliffe		

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Sheringham, Holway Road
Grid reference	TG153413
Total area (ha)	30.36

1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Pretty Corner is part of a continuous series of woodlands along the glacial feature of the Holt to Cromer ridge. It lies inside the boundary of the North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is a County Wildlife Site. It is visible from the Town of Sheringham, the lower lying coast line and the A148 and Holway Road. Overall it is an important part of the landscape aesthetics of the Sheringham area and is extensively used for recreation by local people and visitors. The site has some areas of semi-natural broad leaved woodland, plantation and natural regeneration. It lies adjacent to woodland managed by the Woodland Trust.

See Map 1. Designations & Map 2a & 2b Ecological

1.3 History of Management

The site is a complex mosaic which has built up very a long period of management. It contains evidence of semi-natural broadleaf woodland, wood pasture, heathland and grassland. Most of these areas now have tree cover from either natural succession or afforestation.

The site was purchased in stages from 1927 to 1974 by Sheringham Urban District Council for the purpose of public open space. Initially only 2 thirds of the estate was wooded with the open areas in the South West and the Northern areas which were described as grassland, heath and wood pasture. Over the subsequent years the open areas became forested due to the succession of Birch and in the case of the northern areas plantations of Pine and Sweet Chestnut.

Since the passing of the wood to North Norfolk District Council in 1974, further operations have taken place. Paths were cleared around the woods to aid recreation and small plantations of conifers were set (compartments 1b,c,d,e,f). After Dutch Elm disease compartment 1a was replanted with mainly native broadleaves, these have been lightly thinned and pruned. Throughout NNDC ownership light thinning throughout the stand has take place and dead and dieing trees removed along path edges. Compartment 7b was cleared to provide a view point. More recently in 2004-5 Compartment 2a was thinned by one quarter to favour the broadleaved trees and the timber was removed for firewood. In 2005-6 Compartment 3 consisting of Pine was thinned by one third, Compartment 2c was thinned by one third to favour Sweet Chestnuts and Compartment 7c was clear felled leaving feature trees and to provide a viewing point over the town. In these operations approximately 500t of logs were sold for pulp and a small quantities for fencing and timber. Following the 2005-6 felling the southern boundary

of the plains was sown with wild flowers with a great deal of success and support from site users.

See map 2 for current compartments and descriptions.

The site receives quarterly inspections for litter and issues arising and is surveyed annually for tree safety around paths, car parks, the playing field and roads.

The recreation for the site is managed in partnership with the Woodlands Trust who neighbour the site to the East with Old Wood (owned by W.T) and Sherringham Wood (owned by Sherringham Town Council and managed by W.T). The partnership aims to manage access as one across the two very different sites. The sites consist of a semi natural woodland to the north and conifer plantation with heathland regeneration to the south.

Previous funding has included:

WGS 017001466/2

WIG 017004610

2. WOODLAND INFORMATION

2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated Areas	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)		X	1. Designations
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites (see note on Guidance)			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)		X	1. Designations
Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	X	X	1. Designations
<p>Details</p> <p>The site is within North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>Archaeological site in the southern end of the site. ARCS/00/1130</p> <p>County Wildlife Site Csite/00/1146</p> <p>Beaston Common, SSSI and Norfolk Valley Fens (Sheringham and Beeston Regis Common) Special Area for Conservation SAC/00/36 are 300m from the North East corner of the wood.</p> <p>Upper Sheringham Conservation Area lies on the west boundary separated by the Holway Road.</p>			
2.1.2 Rare and important species	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species			
Rare or threatened species	X	X	2a Ecological
<p>Details</p> <p>Bluebells can be found in the woodland (Sch. 8 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) Bats are likely to feed within and on the edges of the woodland and are likely to roost in older trees. (Sch. 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)</p> <p>Glow worms on open areas to the north of the site.</p>			
2.1.3 Habitats	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)			
Other semi-natural woodland	X	X	2b. Ecological
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges	X	X	2b. Ecological
Veteran and other notable trees	X		2a. Ecological
Breeding sites	X		
Habitats of notable species	X		2a. Ecological
Unimproved grassland			
Rides and open ground	X		2a&b. Ecological
Valuable wildlife communities			
Feeding areas	X		2a. Ecological
Lowland heath		X	2b. Ecological
Peatlands			
Others			

Details

Characteristics of semi natural woodland in compartment 6 and adjacent to the site.

Wood banks throughout site and remnants of hedgerow trees.

Oak pollards as a remnant of wood pasture.

Veteran Beech stand.

Veteran Scots Pine.

Breeding site for *Lampyrus noctiluca* (Glow Worm) on open areas to north of site (Map 2).

Bat habitat and possible roost sites.

Small areas of open ground including newly seeded wildflower meadow.

Newly created areas of open heath on Woodland Trust site adjacent to woods.

Beeston Common is a lowland heath site within 300m.

2.1.4 Water	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Watercourses			
Lakes			
Ponds		X	4. Site Map
Wetland habitats			
<p>Details</p> <p>There are 3 spring fed ponds in the northern section of the woodland managed by Woodland Trust</p>			
2.1.5 Landscape	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas	X	X	1. Designations
Landscape features	X	X	
Rock exposures			
Historic landscapes			
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	X		
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	X		
<p>Details</p> <p>The site is within an AONB an adjacent to a Conservation Area.</p> <p>The woods are a part of the woodlands which can be seen from the town and coast which surround the town.</p> <p>The woods are prominent from the A148 and Holway Road (main route into Sheringham) and from residential areas in the town.</p>			
2.1.6 Cultural Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Public rights of way		X	4. Site Map
Prominent viewing points	X	X	4. Site Map
Permissive footpaths	X		4. Site Map
Areas managed with traditional management systems			
<p>Details</p> <p>The site is currently open to the public for quite informal recreation along a network of paths. There are waymarked walks through the woods and onto the adjoining Woodland Trust area. There are 3 viewpoints from the woodland of varying quality and one potential view point.</p>			
2.1.7 Archaeological Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Scheduled monument			
Historical features	X	X	1. Designations
<p>Details</p> <p>Archaeological site along the southern boundary covering the railway line and edge of the woods. ARCS/00/1185</p>			

2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

Species and Age Class

The woodland has a very diverse age structure with Oak pollards and Beech of 200+ years, Sweet Chestnut, Scots and Corsican Pine plantations from the 1960's, conifer and broadleaf plantations from the 1980,s and succession of Mountain Ash and Birch of varying age classes. Species present include: English Oak, Sessile Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Horse Chestnut, Wych Elm, English Elm, Mountain Ash, Downey Birch, Silver Birch, Hazel, Ash, Wild Cherry, Elder, Goat Willow, various Apple, Holm Oak, Common Lime, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Red Oak, Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, Montrose Pine, Larch sp., Norway Spruce, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir and Monkey Puzzle. Most of these species can be found in a variety of age classes in some part of the woodland.

The diverse collection of species is due to the varied history to the site and changing national policy and requirements. It also represents a history of trees being donated to NNDC and a 'home' being found for them. The age structure has become on the whole varied due to the afforestation of the site over a long period of time. It is also worth noting that limited resources enabled only small areas to be managed at any given time. This has as a result created an interesting traditional mixed age and species structure.

Growth and Yield Management

The production of high quality timber has not been and will remain a low priority. Conservation, landscape and recreation are the key objectives. However, due to the plantation history of compartments, sporadic medium scale timber production is inevitable and small scale firewood production is a useful income to offset costs. Larger scale mechanical forestry practices will be phased out over time and small scale low impact operations will prevail to protect and enhance the important nature conservation features on this County Wildlife Site.

2.3 Site description

The site is at the convergence of two important local roads and two car parks are available for visitor parking. Informal footpaths link with other woodlands and Beeston Common SSSI and access is available from several points from the town. Access for machinery is limited due to the fragile unmade paths and numerous specimen trees, this is particularly important at the northern end of the site where access is required to the plantation areas. In this case the Plains field has been used to move timber across the site to the lower car park for loading to minimise damage to the important trees and path network. Where possible it has been found to be best to create temporary machinery paths within the plantation blocks rather than the permissive public paths. This is wise for the Health and Safety of the public and preservation of the path surfaces. Access to the southern end of the wood is through a gate leading directly off the minor road to the south of the site. See 4. Site Map

Being located on the glacial ridge it is a surprisingly topographic for Norfolk. Steep slopes and hollows are common and can impede vehicle access.

The soil is mostly free draining sands and gravels with a wet build up of leaf litter in the valleys and on the level areas at the top of the slopes.

Wind throw has not been a significant problem; this may be due to the sheltered nature of the valleys, protection from surrounding woodlands and the diverse age structure of the stand. The northerly winter winds can pose a threat as they blow directly up the valleys.

2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

Hazards

Steep slopes are a significant hazard to machinery.

Constraints

Limited access for machinery and small loading areas.

Public access is 24 hour and so any work must be planned and executed with this as a consideration.

Public expectations of the woods and its facilities are high so all operations should be preceded with public consultation/interpretation.

Roads adjoin the wood on two sides and residential property on another, all operations and prescriptions must be carried out to minimise the risk of an accident occurring.

Threats

The site is sometimes used for fly tipping.

The site does attract unlicensed bonfires by the local youth.

The northern open area has been used by travellers illegally.

Rhododendron and Sycamore encroachment.

3. LONG TERM VISION, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

3.1 Long term vision

The long term vision for Pretty Corner is to create a predominantly native broadleaf woodland with areas of Scots Pine. It will be maintained to have a diverse age structure including open space which will create many different habitats and providing replacements for the older and veteran trees. The site recreation will be managed in partnership with the Woodlands Trust to encourage members of the public to use, respect and learn more about the woodland ecosystem. Occasional feature non native trees will be retained for public interest and education.

3.2 Management Objectives

No	Objective
1	Maintain a clean and welcoming place which promotes positive public access.
2	Manage the wood to maintain a diverse age structure and reduce non-native plantings to favour climax species and a diverse field layer.
3	Maintain existing veteran and potential veteran Oaks, Beech and Sweet Chestnut (target species) and prevent competition from non-natives and pioneer species.
4	Encourage regeneration of native broadleaves and Scots Pine for future replacements.
5	Maintain veteran Birch and encourage replacements.
6	Provide small quantities of timber in the short to medium term whilst increasing deadwood.
7	Maintain occasional non-native feature tree.

3.3 Strategy

The strategy is to:

Encourage visitors by

- Improving site marketing
- Maintaining quality of paths by limiting heavy vehicles and utilising lower impact systems in the future.
- Encourage diversity of wildlife through management
- Improving visitor facilities

Deliver sustainable woodland management through

- Gradual removal of non-native trees to favour target species.
- Selective thinning around target species where required to encourage natural regeneration and colonisation of areas of birch.
- Maintaining landscape aesthetic by continuous cover forestry and small scale clear felling.
- Monitor natural regeneration of climax broadleaves.
- Monitor condition of veteran/potential veteran trees and thin competitors if required.
- Provision of small to medium scale timber production to offset costs.
- Provide deadwood by leaving habitat piles and ring barking instead of thinning away from public areas.

4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS/OPERATIONS

4.1 Silvicultural systems

4.1.1 Harvesting

Over the next 20 years harvesting will vary over the different compartments to achieve the overall objectives.

Compartment 1. will be selectively thinned by hand with some ring barking to provide standing deadwood. Timber will be removed where accessible and lop and top left to degrade naturally.

Compartment 2 will continue to be mechanically selectively thinned to favour Sweet Chestnut, English Oak and in 2b also Scots Pine. Lop and top left to degrade naturally

Compartment 3 will continue to be mechanically thinned with timber removed and one third clear felled to provide view points.

Compartment 4 Silver Birch to be thinned by hand around target species of all age cohorts. Veteran Silver Birch to be retained and replacements in adjacent areas encouraged. Rhododendron and young sycamore removed.

Compartment 5 to be monitored with minimal intervention.

Compartment 6. continue to thin Sycamore, Birch and Rowan to favour mixed native broadleaves of all age cohorts with particular care around veteran trees. Retain lop and top and leave to naturally degrade. Remove Rhododendron and burn.

Compartment 7 retain as open areas.

4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

The long term aim is to continuously restock through natural regeneration to achieve a mixed native broadleaved climax woodland with areas of Scots Pine. Currently there is a high proportion of non native planting and pioneer Birch, these will be reduced to feature trees and areas of mixed age Birch with veterans. Regeneration will be monitored for success and reviewed on a 5 year cycle.

4.2 New planting

New planting is to be minimised and where planting is used local provenance will be sought where possible.

4.3 Other operations

Quarterly inspections of the site to check for litter, fly tipping, vandalism of facilities or any other hazards.

Annual tree inspections to be carried out along paths, boundaries, road edges.

Winter cutting back of paths.

Summer cutting of car parks, some paths and around facilities.

Cutting and removal of arisings on plains meadows.

Clearance of open areas and view points.

Monitoring of veteran trees, wildlife and natural regeneration.

4.4 Protection and maintenance

4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Deer and Grey Squirrels do not pose a threat to the tree stock.
Pesticides will only be used to control invasive species.

4.4.2 Fire plan

Bonfires from unknown persons monitored.

4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

Litter is removed from site by Rangers and contracted litter pickers, it is recycled where possible. Fly tipping is removed by contractors and disposed of through District Council Environmental Protection Team.

4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Site is monitored for unauthorised activities such as vandalism, fly tipping, motorbikes and quad bikes. Action is taken where possible to deter these issues.

4.5 Game management

N/A

4.6 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

4.6.1 Management of designated areas

The site is managed within the scope of the AONB Management Plan.

4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity

The following measures are being put in place to enhance biodiversity:

- Encouragement and monitoring of natural regeneration
- Continued management of an uneven age structure.
- Retention of standing deadwood away from paths and boundaries and maintained in other areas
- Some felled timber and lop and top retained for habitat piles.
- Avoid woodland management in nesting season (April-July).
- Felled trees inspected for potential bat roosts.
- Avoid damage to woodland banks.
- Avoid crossing bluebell areas in spring and summer.
- Prolong life of veteran trees through thinning to reduce competition.
- Autumn ride cutting
- Management of meadow area on the plains.
- Clearance of open areas

4.6.3 Special measures for ASNW and SNW

All semi-natural woodland areas (Compartment 6) to be managed with wildlife biodiversity as a primary objective. Where these conflicts with public safety options should be explored and actions taken to mitigate hazard whilst maintaining wildlife feature. Remove/reduce competition to veteran trees. Control young sycamore and rhododendron. Expand areas of broadleaf woodland through natural regeneration and succession on areas of Birch.

4.6.4 Special measures for PAWS

N/A

4.7 Management of social and cultural values

4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

See map 4 for wood banks.
See map 4 for archaeological feature.

4.7.2 Public access

See Site Map for permissive paths, access points, public areas and viewing point. These are to be retained and enhanced where in accordance with objectives.

Future improvements include the provision of a site map with interpretation and leaflet dispenser.

5. CONSULTATION

Organisation/individual	Comment	Response/action
Neighbouring woodland owners, Woodland Trust, National Trust	Consultation of management plan.	
Town Council	Consultation of management plan and prior to work being carried out.	Letter to inform of proposed actions and consultation draft.
Public	Consultation of management plan and prior to work being carried out.	Letter to inform of proposed actions and consultation draft.
Cromer in Bloom	Consultation of management plan and prior to work being carried out.	Letter to inform of proposed actions and consultation draft.

6. MONITORING PLAN SUMMARY

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
Maintain a clean and welcoming place which encourages positive public access	Condition of site	Inspection	Quarterly	Owner	Identification of issues arising from inspections will feed into the Ranger work programme and hazards/issues identified can be managed accordingly.
Structural diversity of age and species	Structure and regeneration after operations.	Walk over survey	Annually	Owner	Feedback into planning of harvesting and need for further encouragement of regeneration.
Maintain Veterans and replacements	Condition	Walk over survey	Annually	Owner	Feedback into thinning of control species.
Provide small quantities of timber and some deadwood retained	Timber and deadwood quantities	Quantities recorded	Annually	Owner	Identify quantity of deadwood being retained so extraction can be adjusted.

7. WORK PROGRAMMES

7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2007 to 2027)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year		
		6-10	11-15	16-20
1	Selective thin and ring bark	X	X	X
2	Selective thin	X		
3	Selective thin two thirds	X		
3	Clear fell one third	X		
4	Selective thin and ring bark	X	X	X
6	Selective thin and ring bark Sycamore/Birch/Rowan to favour climax native broadleaves	X	X	X
7	Clear of vegetation	X	X	X

7.2 Short-term work programme (2007 to 2011)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year				
		1	2	3	4	5
1a	Thin to favour broadleaves					X
1b	Thin and ring bark by one third	X				
1c	Thin and ring bark by one third		X			
1e & f	Thin and ring bark by one third			X		
1d	Thin and ring bark by one third				X	
2b	Thin	X	X			
4a	Thin	X	X			
4c	Thin			X		
4b	Thin				X	X
6	Selective thin and ring bark Sycamore/Birch/Rowan to favour climax native broadleaves	X	X	X	X	X
6 & 4	Rhododendron control	X	X	X	X	X
7a	Cut	X	X	X	X	X
7b	Clear vegetation	X			X	
7c	Clear vegetation		X			X
7d	Cut and remove margins	X	X	X	X	X





8. MAPS

List all maps here and append to plan.

Map No/Title	Description
1	Designations
2	Ecological
3	Compartments
4	Site Map


MAP 1 – Designations

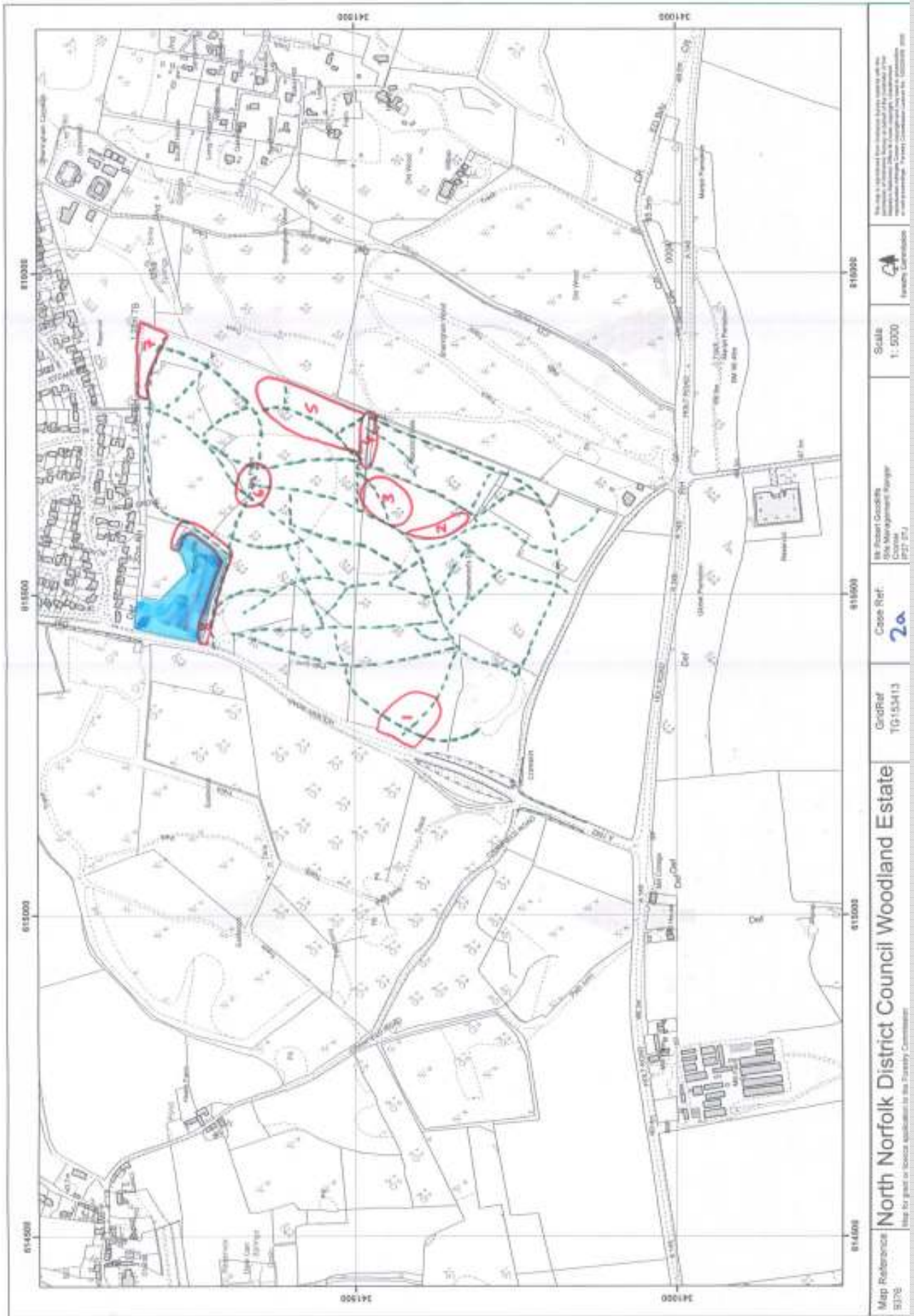
Key

Special Area of Conservation & Site of Special Scientific Interest	
County Wildlife Site	
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Whole site and surrounding area
Upper Sheringham Conservation Area	
Archaeological Site	

MAP 2a – Ecological

Key





1. Veteran/notable trees – Sweet Chestnut and English Oak	①
2. Veteran/notable trees – Scots Pine	②
3. Veteran/notable trees – Beech	③
4. Veteran/notable trees – Sweet Chestnut on old hedge bank	④
5. Veteran/notable trees – English Oak pollards	⑤
6. Veteran/notable trees – English Oak Avenue	⑥
7. Veteran/notable trees – English Oak	⑦
8. Veteran/notable trees – English Oak on old hedge bank	⑧
Rides	---
Important breeding feeding areas for Glow Worm	
Important breeding feeding areas for bats	Whole Site

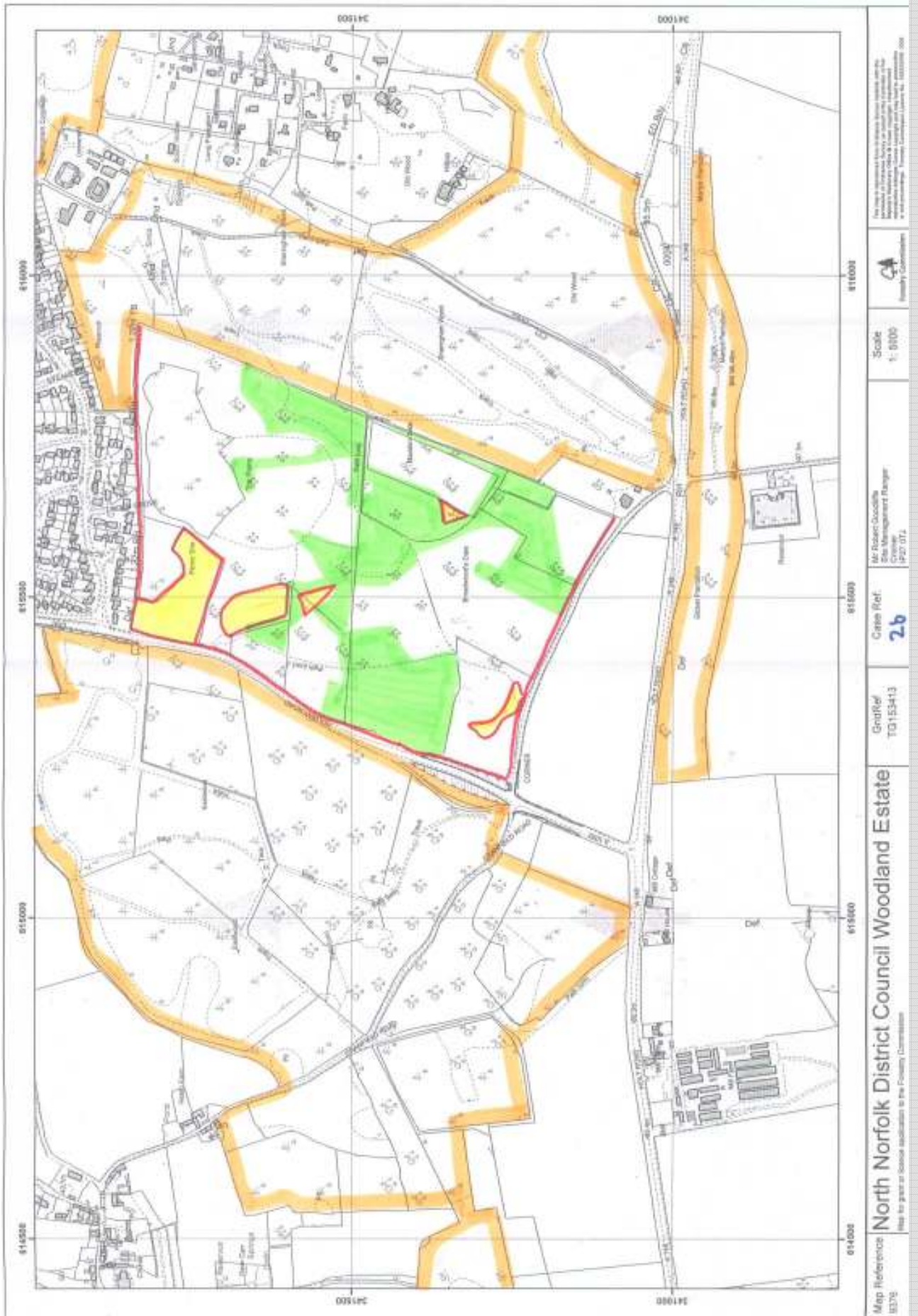


Map Reference 9376	GridRef TG153413	Case Ref 2a	Scale 1: 5000	
Map Reference 9376	GridRef TG153413	Case Ref 2a	Scale 1: 5000	
Mr Robert Goodwin Site Management Engineer 01253 810000 P22 274		No. 10 is a registered firm, authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) to provide financial promotion services. The firm is authorised to provide financial promotion services in the United Kingdom. The firm is authorised to provide financial promotion services in the United Kingdom. The firm is authorised to provide financial promotion services in the United Kingdom.		

MAP 2b – Ecological

Key

Semi Natural Woodland	
Woodland Margins	
Open Ground	
Adjacent Woodland/Heath	



MAP 3 – Compartments

Descriptions

Compartment	Description
1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planted in 1982.• Mixed Broadleaves with small conifer section.• Brushed and lightly thinned.• Even age structure.• Small row of specimen Monterey Pine to the West of the compartment.
1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larch plantation.• Even age structure.• Approximately 20 years of age.
1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larch plantation.• Even age structure.• Approximately 20 years of age.
1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corsican Pine plantation.• Even age structure.• Approximately 15 years of age.• Lightly thinned.
1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larch Plantation.• Approximately 15 years of age.• Even age structure
1f	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixed conifers with some broadleaves.• Approximately 10 years of age.• Even age structure.
2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweet Chestnut, English Oak, Sycamore, Larch, Scots Pine.• Even age structure.• Approximately 40 years old• Thinned by one third 2004/5 to favour Sweet Chestnut and English Oak.
2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweet Chestnut dominant to east of compartment with increasing conifers to west including Sweet Chestnut• Even age structure.• Approximately 40 years old
2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweet Chestnut, Scots Pine, Corsican Pine.• Even age structure.• Approximately 40 years old• Thinned by one third 2005/6 to favour Sweet Chestnut and English Oak

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scots and Corsican Pine • Line and matrix thinned 2005/06 by one third to favour Sweet Chestnut and Oaks on edges halo thinned. • English Oaks present on edges and in valley in centre of compartment. • Approximate age of Pine 40 years, Oak various.
4a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant Birch and Rowan with Sweet Chestnut, English Oak and Beech of various age cohorts including potential veterans climax broadleaves. • Veteran Birch.
4b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant Birch and Rowan with Sweet Chestnut, English Oak and Beech of various age cohorts including potential veterans climax broadleaves. • Veteran Birch.
4c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant Birch and Rowan with Sweet Chestnut, English Oak and Beech of various age cohorts including potential veterans climax broadleaves. • Veteran Birch.
5a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scots Pine stand with many mature to over mature trees. • Increasing frequency of broadleaves to the north of the compartment.
5b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scots Pine stand with many mature to over mature trees with few broadleaves.
5c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old pine specimens with mixture of broadleaf trees and shrubs of various age cohorts.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large spread compartment stretching throughout site. • Mixed broadleaves with a general dominance of Sweet Chestnut and English Oak with occasional conifer. • Diverse age structure with occasional over mature to veteran Beech, Oak and Scots Pine. • Sycamore and Rhododendron present. • Oak pollards to be found in East of compartment.
7a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open area in centre of woodland with field lay of Bracken and Creeping Corydalis. • 'Woodhenge' sculpture
7b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open ground creating vista. • Dense Birch and Rowan regrowth.
7c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open ground creating vista.
7d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing field with wildflower margins.

MAP 4 – Site Map

Key

Public Right of Way	
Permissive Path	
View Point	
Woodbanks	
Access Points	
Ponds	
Car Park	

