

COLDFALL WOOD



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Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Coldfall Wood. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the key stakeholders of Coldfall Wood and with input from your local councillors.

Residents have told us that our parks and green spaces are one of the things they love the most about Haringey, and as a council, we agree. We are proud of our green spaces and are committed to doing all we can to make our parks, woods and open spaces the very best they can be.

Most of Haringey's district and local parks have been nationally recognised through the Green Flag Award scheme, and we continue to work with Friends groups to maintain and improve our parks for our community and visitors alike. In a recent resident survey 80% of people told us they were satisfied with parks and greenspaces in the borough.

It is no secret that Haringey – like all local authorities – has been affected by austerity, but we continue to work hard to fund and maintain our parks and open spaces, as well as bringing in external investment to provide a much-needed boost.

Green spaces in Haringey play so many different roles - from a retreat from the busy city, or a place for sport and play, to sites for nature conservation and world-renowned events. Each management plan seeks to balance the many competing demands for each park or open space to allow our community to enjoy the park their way.

This management plan looks to show how the council is meeting and addressing the criteria of the Green Flag Award scheme and sets out the priorities for action and improvement for Coldfall Wood over the coming years.

I hope you find this document useful and I would encourage you to make the most of your local parks, woods and open spaces. If you want to get more involved in the future management of Coldfall Wood why not consider joining the Friends group, attending an event or simply just send us some of your thoughts?

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

Open space vision in Haringey

Our draft vision is that Haringey's parks and green spaces will be places where:

- Residents' lives are being improved by access to quality green space
- Communities take an active role in the decisions about the future of parks and green spaces
- Civic pride and community ownership of parks are encouraged, through a diverse range of volunteering opportunities
- A diverse range of events is offered, providing a backdrop for communities to celebrate together and enhance the borough's cultural offer
- Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, expanded and connected.
- Spaces are protected and future proofed for the next generation
- Funding for parks is sustainable and sufficient to deliver the agreed service standards
- Full advantage is taken of the health and wellbeing benefits

The Parks and Green Spaces Strategy is in development and will be subject to consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders before the Council is asked to formally adopt it in 2021. More details are set out in sections 10.4 and 10.5.

Purpose of the Management Plan

This management plan details and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Coldfall Wood.

In developing this management plan, we particularly want to stress the importance we place on our commitment to involve the whole community in shaping the future of Coldfall Wood. This is because we recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone who lives and works near the park. We believe that the combination of effective management and community involvement of all our open spaces offers considerable potential for helping to make Haringey a thriving and more cohesive community.

This management plan should be treated as a living and evolving document. It is open to review and adaption in an ever-changing environment.

This document is the primary location where all those with a connection to Coldfall Wood - council staff and members, Friends and community groups, partners and residents - should be confident that everything about Coldfall Wood can be found and is set out here.

It also tells a little of the history of the park, how it is today and describes the plans and aspirations and how these are to be achieved.

1. Setting the scene

1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

Haringey is one of 33 London boroughs, and is located to the north of the capital covering 11 square miles (28km²) in total. The borough population in 2020 was estimated to be 289,000 which is 15% more than ten years ago.



Overall Haringey is the seventh most deprived borough in London (out of 32). However, the borough has extreme contrasts. Areas such as the high hilly communities of Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End in the west are some of the most prosperous locations to live in London, while some wards in the east are classified as being amongst the more deprived in the country.

1.2 The demographics of Haringey

The population is very diverse and very youthful. Around a quarter of the borough population is aged 0-19 and only a tenth of residents are over 65. Nearly two fifths of the borough population are from black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) groups and 26% identify as “white other”.

Coldfall Wood is in Fortis Green ward. The population density in Fortis Green ward is 7,064 residents per km² (compared to an average of 10,264 in Haringey and 8,697 in London).

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. This can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

1.3 Open space provision in Haringey

Haringey Council manages most of the public open space within the borough, except for Alexandra Park, Highgate Woods and Tottenham Marshes.

Although much greener than some other London boroughs, Haringey is deficient in all types of open space, including public parks. This fact underlines the importance of improving and maintaining sites like Coldfall Wood to enable more intense and diverse use.

In 2014 24% of Fortis Green ward (in which Coldfall Wood is located) was described as open space. This is below the average open space across Haringey (28%) and London (39%).

Furthermore, only 16.4% of the land area of Fortis Green ward is **public** open space compared to nearly 17% across the whole of Haringey and nearly 19% across London. This demonstrates a shortage of local public open space in this very densely populated area and the importance of Coldfall Wood to the local community.

2. About Coldfall Wood

2.1 Site location and description

Coldfall Wood is an 'ancient' woodland of around 14 hectares in area close to the western border of the London Borough of Haringey. It is owned and managed by Haringey Council.

It is bordered by St. Pancras and Islington Cemetery, a large area of allotments, playing fields, and on two sides by housing. It is freely accessible and is much used by local people.

Map 1: Indicative location of Coldfall Wood (red line)



The wood lies on a northward-facing slope falling about 15m from Creighton Avenue. Streams flowing through the wood have carved out three 'valleys'. Several sections of these streams had been culverted below ground but have resurfaced due to blockages; two lengths in the south-east were never culverted and run in mostly natural beds, up to a metre deep. The stream resulting from these two merging often causes seasonal flooding where it leaves the Wood via a culvert under Muswell Hill Playing Fields. This is being addressed (see below).

The majority of the wood lies on London Clay. However, a narrow band of Dollis Hill gravel overlies the clay near and along the western edge, and a stratum of chalky boulder clay which in turn overlies this outcrops on the extreme western edge of the wood. Soils are mostly slightly acid (pH 6.5) brown earth on heavy clay.

The wood is predominantly oak standard above hornbeam coppice, but the coppice had not been worked for very many years until small scale felling began again approximately 25 years ago.

This lack of coppicing had resulted in shrubs and ground flora being shaded out, producing a woodland which tended to be gloomy and dark, and for the most part contained few of the special plants which should be associated with ancient woodland.

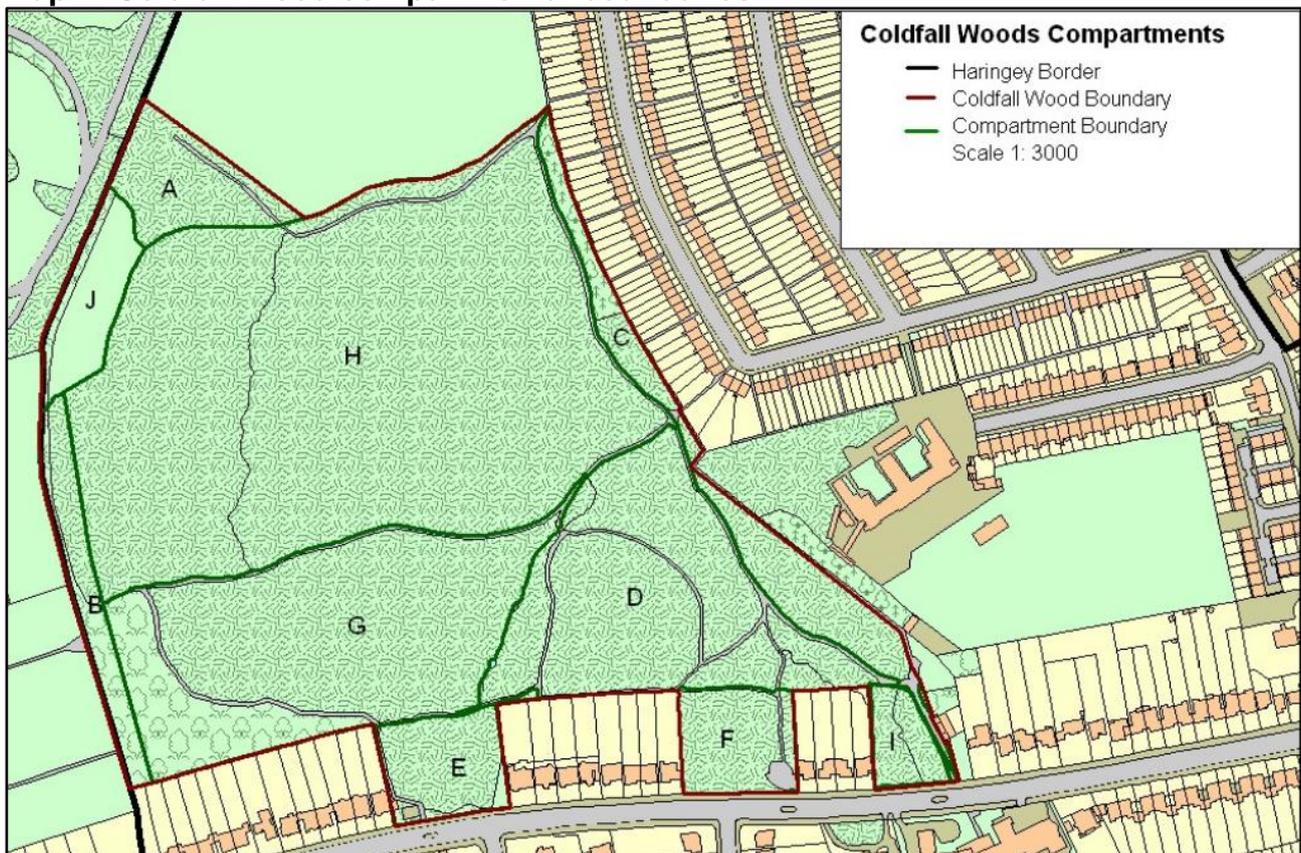
However management over the last 25 years has begun to restore structural diversity to the wood by re-cutting some of the coppice and opening up small glades. This management has been extremely successful, both for nature conservation and in creating visual interest. Although there was resistance from some local people at the start, the benefits of this work are now widely appreciated and supported.

This document describes the condition and composition of the wood and sets out management required to maintain and improve its nature conservation interest and its value for public enjoyment of the natural world.

2.2 Compartment Descriptions

For the purposes of describing the wood, it has been divided into a number of 'compartments', the boundaries of which are shown in the map below. Five coppiced areas that cross compartmental boundaries are described in more detail in section 2.3.1.

Map 2: Coldfall Wood compartmental boundaries



Compartment A

This is an area of secondary woodland lying outside the ancient boundary bank (although there is also a boundary bank on the northern edge). An ill-defined wide footpath passes through it to a large gap in the disused fence line between the wood and the sports ground to the north, which is much used as an entry point for walkers.

The canopy is very largely made up of oak - a mixture of English and some Turkey oaks. Other trees contributing to the canopy include sweet and horse chestnuts and crab apple. Beneath is a mixed sub-canopy and shrub layer of common hawthorn, holly, bramble, sapling sycamores, hornbeam, beech, cherry laurel, wild cherry, Swedish whitebeam, rowan, sapling yew, and sapling Norway maple.

Holly appears to be spreading. The ground flora does not appear to be rich; ivy, wood meadow-grass, garlic mustard, cow parsley and dandelion were noted. Bare ground is frequent.

Compartment B

This is a long thin compartment which lies outside the ancient woodland bank but, as with compartment A, possesses a second bank on its outer edge. Allotments lie adjacent, and there is an old hawthorn hedge on this bank. The path runs through the compartment.

The compartment consists of mixed secondary woodland with a well-developed shrub layer and ground flora. Oaks - Turkey, sessile and English - are present, with a good range of ages, including fine specimens. Sycamore saplings are frequent as is common hawthorn. A wild service tree grows near the southern end of the compartment. Hornbeam seedlings and saplings are occasional.

Wood melick, a very attractive grass and ancient woodland indicator, is frequent, having presumably spread from the boundary bank where it is also present. The compartment also includes quite a number of plants of garden origin, no doubt some originating from the adjacent allotments. These include apple, holm oak, horse chestnut, Swedish whitebeam and garden privet. Cherry laurel, yew and holly are all becoming established.

Compartment C

This compartment lies along the extreme eastern edge of the wood, and is bordered by fencing at the backs of house gardens, a school at the southern end, and a coppiced area at the northern end. There is street lighting along the tarmac path between Everington Road towards Creighton Avenue East gate.

The compartment is of essentially the same character as the bulk of the wood, with hornbeam the dominant tree, differing mainly in exhibiting 'edge effects'. More light reaches the woodland floor, and the shrub and ground layers tend to be better developed, e.g. with patches of bramble. Plants of garden origin are more prominent, and include Spanish bluebell and daffodil.

Compartment D

This is an area of hornbeam woodland. There are some apparently naturally-formed glades, with bramble, goat willow, elder, herb bennet, enchanter's nightshade, remote sedge, creeping soft-grass, pyracantha and other plants. There is a large patch of honeysuckle near the stream.

The stream which passes through this compartment is often dry for much of the year. Near the northern end the stream is a sinuous shallow ditch supporting remote sedge, tutsan (of garden origin) and other plants. Wood sedge and fringe cups (*Tellima grandiflora*), a plant of North American origin have also been recorded here.

Two patches of wood anemone grow here along with a small quantity of remote sedge. A small length of the stream cuts into the corner of this compartment. Lady fern, broad buckler-fern and male fern all grow together on the bank of this stream, just north of the east-west path.

Japanese Knotweed has been identified in the electricity substation site that borders the eastern boundary of compartment D. This is subject to a five year treatment and monitoring plan from the Japanese Knotweed Company.

Compartment E

One of three defined compartments bordering Creighton Avenue, this one is subject to heavy public use.

Major works over 10 years ago saw the creation of two new reed beds designed to filter water as it enters the wood at the head of the main Coldfall stream. Tree felling necessary for the establishment of the reed beds increased light levels and encouraged regeneration.

A stream runs west to east across this compartment from adjacent properties to the reed beds where it has created a well vegetated damp depression just north and west of the reed beds.

Compartment F

The middle of the three compartments bordering Creighton Avenue largely comprising hornbeam coppice with oak standards. As elsewhere in the wood, the heavy shade means there is little ground flora.

Compartment G

This compartment comprises the bulk of the southern section of the wood and slopes down on the eastern side to a stream in a coppice. The compartment consists of hornbeam coppice with oak standards; many of the oaks are large mature specimens. The density of oaks varies. Species which occur rarely or occasionally include holly, common hawthorn and ivy.

The shrub layer is very poorly developed, as is the ground flora, due to the dense shade cast by the canopy, principally the hornbeam. Heavy public use adds to the difficulty of regeneration. Small patches of bramble appear where the canopy is a little lighter.

Compartment H

This compartment is broadly similar to compartment G. It consists of dense hornbeam coppice with oaks, and contains two valleys. A stream is marked on the map in the western valley, but this is seasonal.

There is generally little under storey or ground flora. Small grassy patches, containing creeping soft-grass, occur where there are small gaps or lessening of the canopy. Notable species occurring here include wood meadow-grass, remote sedge, pendulous sedge, hazel and wild service.

The eastern boundary is formed by the edge of a coppice and the wood's main stream. The stream should leave the wood through a grille into a culvert where the wood meets Muswell Hill Playing Fields. However this grille occasionally blocks resulting in seasonal flooding.

Due to heavy shading and flooding this area has had little ground vegetation, however as the flooding has increased in recent years trees are dying back and wetland species such as watercress are beginning to establish themselves.

The compartment extends to the old boundary bank near the western edge of Coldfall Wood. Here the canopy is lighter, and there is a patchy ground flora, including large patches of wood melick. One of the few patches of hazel lies on the western side of this area.

On the northern edge, there is a large entrance to the wood from the adjacent field at the northern end of the seasonal stream valley. Further east, the compartment includes the old boundary bank and the area of woodland between this and the field to the north. Several fine hornbeam trees grow on the old boundary bank. Some of the old hornbeams along the bank, however, are spindly, having been shaded and uncut for a long time.

The ground slopes sharply upwards to the field along much of this edge, supporting woodland and scrub. Dogwood, which may have been planted, together with other trees, occurs towards the eastern end. The dilapidated fence that ran along the edge of the field was removed in 2019, as it was in a very poor state and appeared to serve no real function.

The spider *Hahnia helveola*, which is an indicator of ancient woodland has been found in leaf litter in this compartment.

Compartment I

This is the third and furthest east of all the compartments with entrances onto Creighton Avenue. Situated directly opposite Fortismere Secondary School. This area was previously overlooked by the Wood Keepers lodge which was replaced by private residential properties built about 10 years ago.

A tarmac path (capable of taking vehicles) runs along the eastern edge of the compartment next to these properties. This path gradually slopes down from a high point in the south and is used by pupils walking to both Fortismere Secondary and Coldfall Wood Primary Schools. To the west of the path the land is lower and contains the start of the seasonal stream that flows into Compartment D. As elsewhere the compartment is predominantly hornbeam with oak standards. Garden escapes are common including Spanish bluebell and daffodil. Elder and nettle can be found along this path.

Compartment J

This compartment, known as “Lover's Lawn” or “The Glade”, lies between the old wood bank and the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery. It consists of a band of scrub and trees along the cemetery side, an area of amenity grassland, and larger trees along the woodland side of the compartment.

The scrub and trees on the cemetery side are composed of sycamore, English and Turkey oaks, hornbeam and wych elm. Seedlings and saplings of oaks, Norway maple, sycamore and wych elm are invading the grassland.

English oaks overhang the grassland from the woodland edge, with a smaller quantity of hornbeam. Sycamore seedlings are occasionally found together with bramble, ivy, cleavers, common hawthorn and holly.

2.3 Facilities

Coldfall Wood does not provide any of the facilities or amenities that are generally found in the borough's parks.

However, the site has five bridges, one of which is a boardwalk over a stream that culminates in a pond that seasonally floods.

There are a number of surfaced and unsurfaced paths in various states of repair.

There are a handful of bins, benches, way-markers, entrance signs, noticeboards and interpretation boards around the site.

TCV undertake conservation activities at the site, the results of which can be seen in the form of woven timber/wicker edges and dead hedges. Occasional 'bivouac-type' shelters made with found wood can be seen.

2.4 Trees

The borough's parks and open spaces are of significant arboricultural importance as they contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the borough. Coldfall Wood is a particularly important site in this respect because it is an ancient woodland, which by definition, are areas which have had woodland cover for centuries and are present on maps dating back to 1600 in England and Wales.

The tree population is predominantly oak and hornbeam. Coldfall Wood has been certificated under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) since 2015, which verifies sustainable woodland management in the UK.

2.4.1 Coppicing in Coldfall Wood.

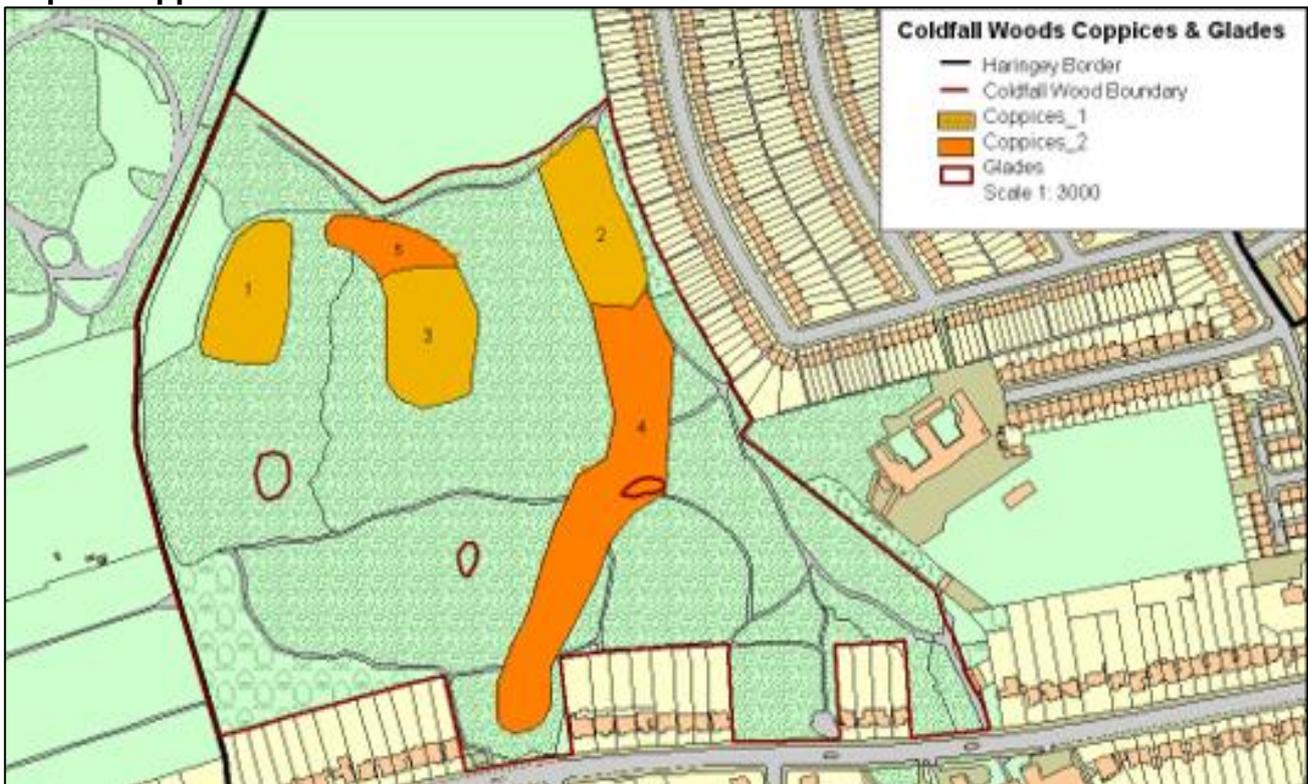
Coppice 1

This was formerly a typical area of dense hornbeam coppice and standard oaks; judging by the surviving oaks, their density was not especially low compared with most of the rest of the woodland. The hornbeam was re-coppiced in winter 2009/10. Beneath is a cover of bramble and silver birch.

Coppice 2

This coppice occupies a west-facing slope, falling to the bottom of a valley, where a stream forms the boundary with Compartment H. The coppice was cut in November 1991 when the stream ran in a culvert. It is now characterised by a slowly thinning but largely impenetrable tangle of trees and shrubs rising above a sea of bramble. The lower, western half is on damp and often flooded ground and is composed of dense tree and shrubs regeneration, with birch abundant, and hornbeam and shrubby willows frequent, although some trees are succumbing to the floods. Fine oak standard grow near the tarmac path which defines the upper edge of this compartment. The eastern half of the compartment contrasts with the lower section in containing a far lower number of regenerating trees and shrubs - mostly hornbeam regeneration with large gaps between the stools, with a very thick, lush growth of bramble between them. Edward Milner reports goat willow, oak seedlings and ash.

Map 3: Coppices in Coldfall Wood



Coppice 3

This coppice was cut in February 1994. It lies on a relatively high section of the wood, with drier soil at the upper, southern, end.

There is very good regeneration in the hornbeam stools in the lower, northern, section of the compartment, extending to perhaps two thirds of the area. The southern third is dominated by dense, uniform silver birch. Here the hornbeam stools have regenerated more poorly, with several weak or dead stools. Oak and hornbeam seedlings are abundant on the southern edge, at the interface of the shaded and unshaded conditions.

Coppice 4

This large coppice felled in November 2006 follows the course of the Wood's main stream along the border of compartments G and D and into compartment H. The stream banks are steep, often near vertical, and for the most part 1-1.5m deep until it reaches the border of compartment H.

In 2000 the stream ran underground in a culvert from this point. This culvert is now blocked and the stream runs in an open channel with wide, shallow and well vegetated banks, and in places has a gravelly bed. The volume of water can increase dramatically during and following storms. There has been a considerable increase in bank, marginal and aquatic vegetation since coppicing.

A set of 7 sub-compartments has been defined for Coppice 4 and these will be coppiced on an annual rotation. One compartment has already been cleared.

Two new footbridges were constructed over the river in 2007 and a further bridge in 2010, improving visitor access.

Coppice 5

A smaller coppice on drier ground surrounded by compartment H and adjacent to coppice 3 was felled in November 2006. There has been good re-growth from coppice stools although ground flora regeneration has been less productive than in much of coppice 4.

Coppice 6

Coppicing was undertaken in 2014 along the ride running from the fingerposts up to the allotments and all of Compartment F. Shire horses were brought in to undertake this work and remove the trees.

3. A welcoming place

3.1 Visiting Coldfall Wood

Coldfall Wood is mostly used by people who live locally and who travel by foot.

3.1.1 Public transport

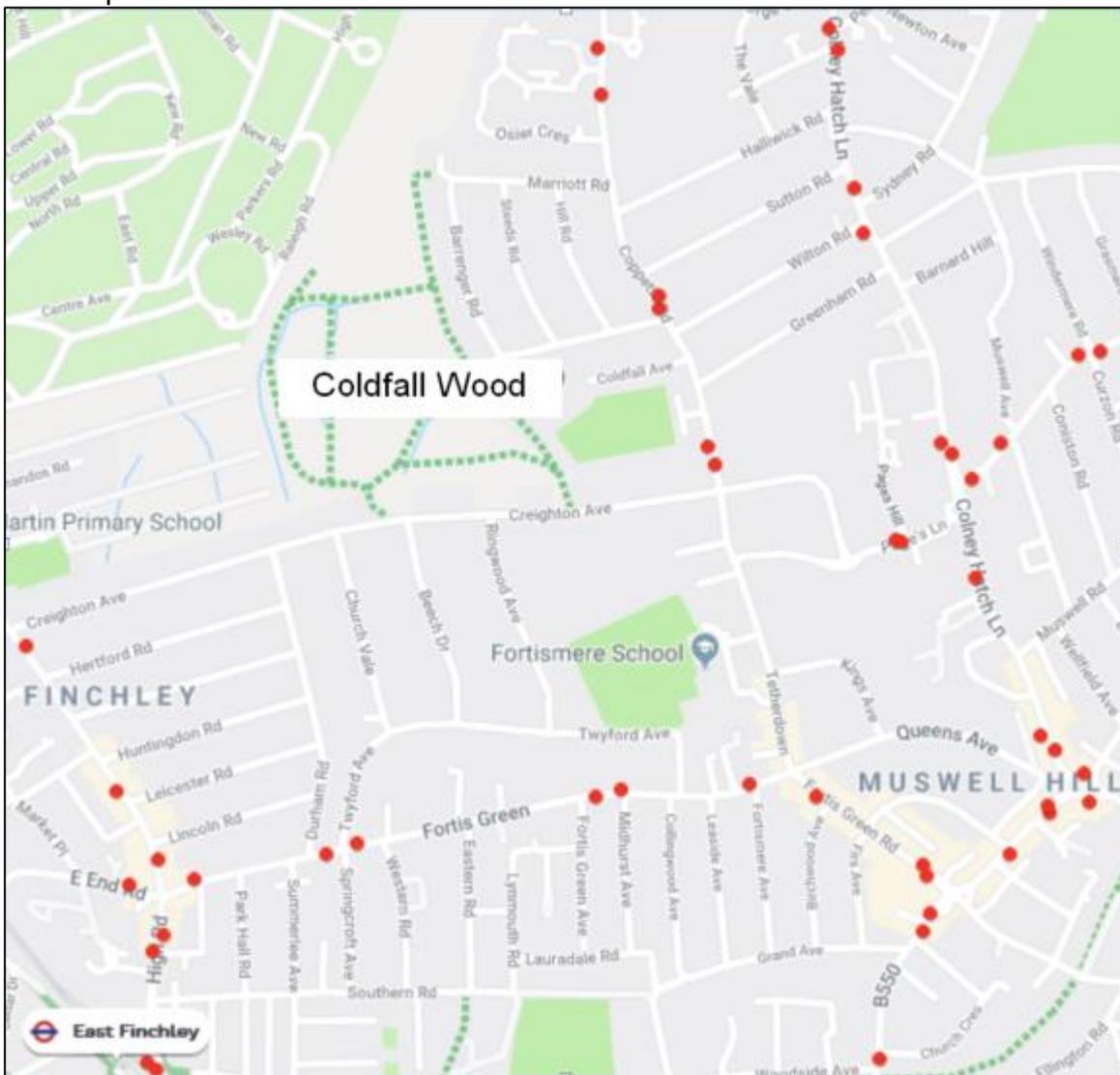
For those travelling from further afield by public transport, Coldfall Wood is most easily reached using the 234 bus which passes along Coppetts Lane. It is about a 200m walk from the Creighton Avenue stop.

Several other buses (102, 234, 603 and 653) pass along nearby Fortis Green some 500m away, and buses 43, 134 and 634 pass along Colney Hatch Lane some 700m away.

The nearest underground station is East Finchley which is on the Northern Line. It is about a kilometre walk from the Creighton Avenue West gate.

Map 4: Public transport access to Coldfall Wood

Bus stop shown as red dots



3.1.2 Vehicles

Motorised vehicles are not permitted in the woods other than those required to carry out essential maintenance or cleaning of the park. Barriers to entry have been created at the access points from the public highway but this does not fully prevent unauthorised motorcycle use in the woods.

For those wishing to drive to Coldfall Wood there no parking restrictions in nearby residential streets, but please park responsibly.

Maintenance vehicles can no longer access the Wood from Muswell Hill Playing Fields.

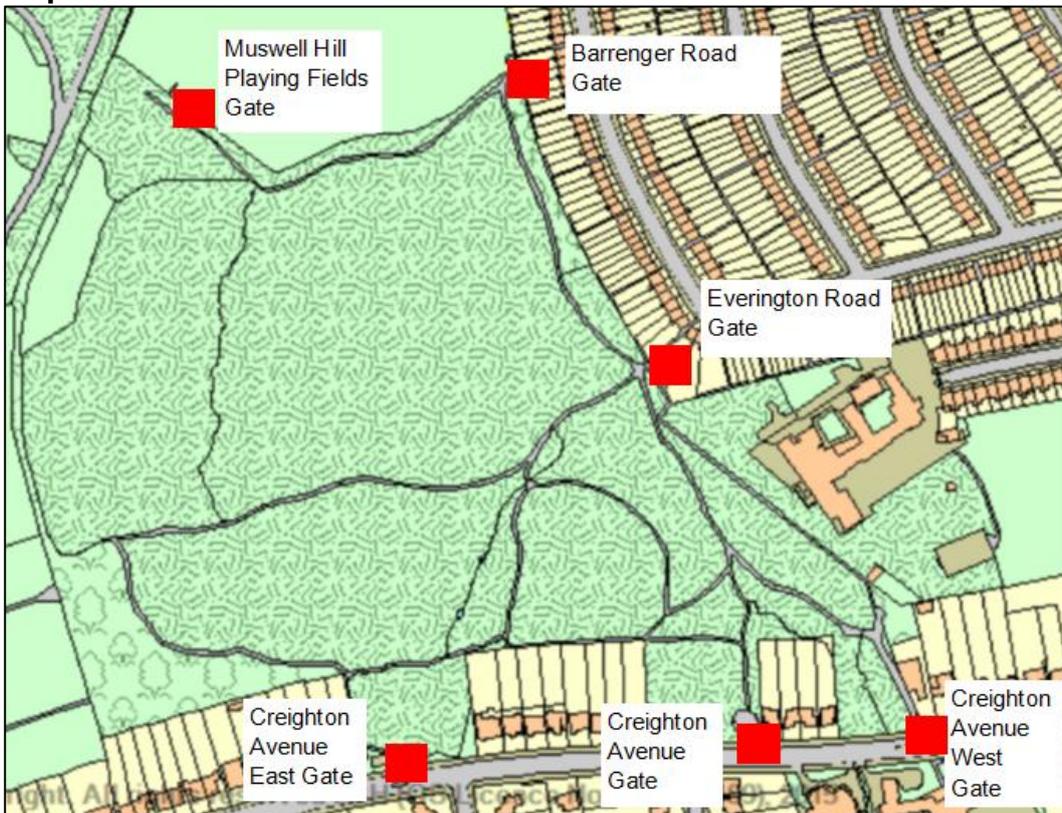
3.1.3 Bicycles

Cycling is not permitted in Coldfall Wood although cycling on the main paths at low speed is usually tolerated. Recently there has been an increase in BMX activity and the creation of ramps and tracks. This is not tolerated and signage has been put up indicating that this is not permitted and action may be taken against anyone damaging the woodland. The action plan includes a review of the policy on cycling in the wood.

3.2 Entrances and paths

There is free public access at all times. There are six official entrances, three on Creighton Avenue and one each from Everington Road, Barrenger Road and from Muswell Hill Playing Fields.

Map 5: Official entrances to Coldfall Wood



There is no official access from the cemetery, a gate in the fence being kept locked. However gaps in the fence have been created and are used. These are generally tolerated.

3.3 Access for all

The 2010 Equalities Act defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal, day-to-day activities’.

Haringey Council and its partners are required by law to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against with regard to access to public places, such as Coldfall Wood.

This is considered whenever changes or improvements are made to the park. This not only benefits disabled users of the parks and their carers/companions, but also benefits those with small children and older people.

As part of the Capital Woodlands Project in 2010 new sloping tarmac paths were installed to improve disabled access from Creighton Avenue. Where slopes or ramps are inappropriate old steps were repaired and have subsequently been maintained. Three of the entrances (the middle one on Creighton Avenue and the Everington and Barrenger Road entrances) are not accessible. There are relatively few hard paths that would be suitable for a wheelchair and some paths have sharp gradients.

Elsewhere in the wood four bridges were constructed at around the same time to allow better access across the stream.

3.4 Signage

The welcome signs at each entrance to the wood show an individual ‘gate’ name for ease of identification. These all relate to the road or location from which access to the park is gained. The entrance signs also show contact numbers for the council, police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

Symbols on the signage also highlight initiatives and make users aware of restrictions in place. These include:

- Shared use walking / cycling symbols (with pedestrian priority)
- no unauthorised vehicles
- keep your park tidy
- three dog control orders with the potential penalty.

The entrance signs also include the Neighbourhood Watch logo to show the partnership the Council has with the Haringey Neighbourhood Watch Association (see section 5.7).

Signage with the ‘old’ Haringey Council logo and branding was replaced with new branding in 2019.

3.5 Toilet facilities and refreshments

Coldfall Wood does not have a public toilet or a café.

The nearest public toilets are at East Finchley Library and South Friern Library. East Finchley Library (Tel: 020 8359 3815) is only open on Monday mornings, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings while South Friern Library (Tel 020 8359 3946) is only open on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday afternoons.

There are several cafes and restaurants in the area, including on Colney Hatch Lane, N10 and on High Road, N2. Most of these also have toilet facilities for customers.

3.6 Events

The council welcomes events of an appropriate scale and nature that are put on for the community in Coldfall Wood. The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow. Small community events and activities are particularly encouraged so we have made the application process easier and events for under 100 people are free of any charge.

Ten walks are held in wood each year, usually on a Saturday, each with its own theme, such as birds, bats or geology. Anyone can attend. These are arranged by the Friends of Coldfall Wood (see section 7.2) and are free of charge, although a voluntary donation may be made. Unfortunately the programme was severely limited in 2020 due to Covid-19.

Event management training is also held each year for groups who want to learn how to put on a safe and exciting event in a park.

4. A Clean and Well-Maintained Park

4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

Responsibility for the management of maintenance of all the borough’s parks is split between two council teams.

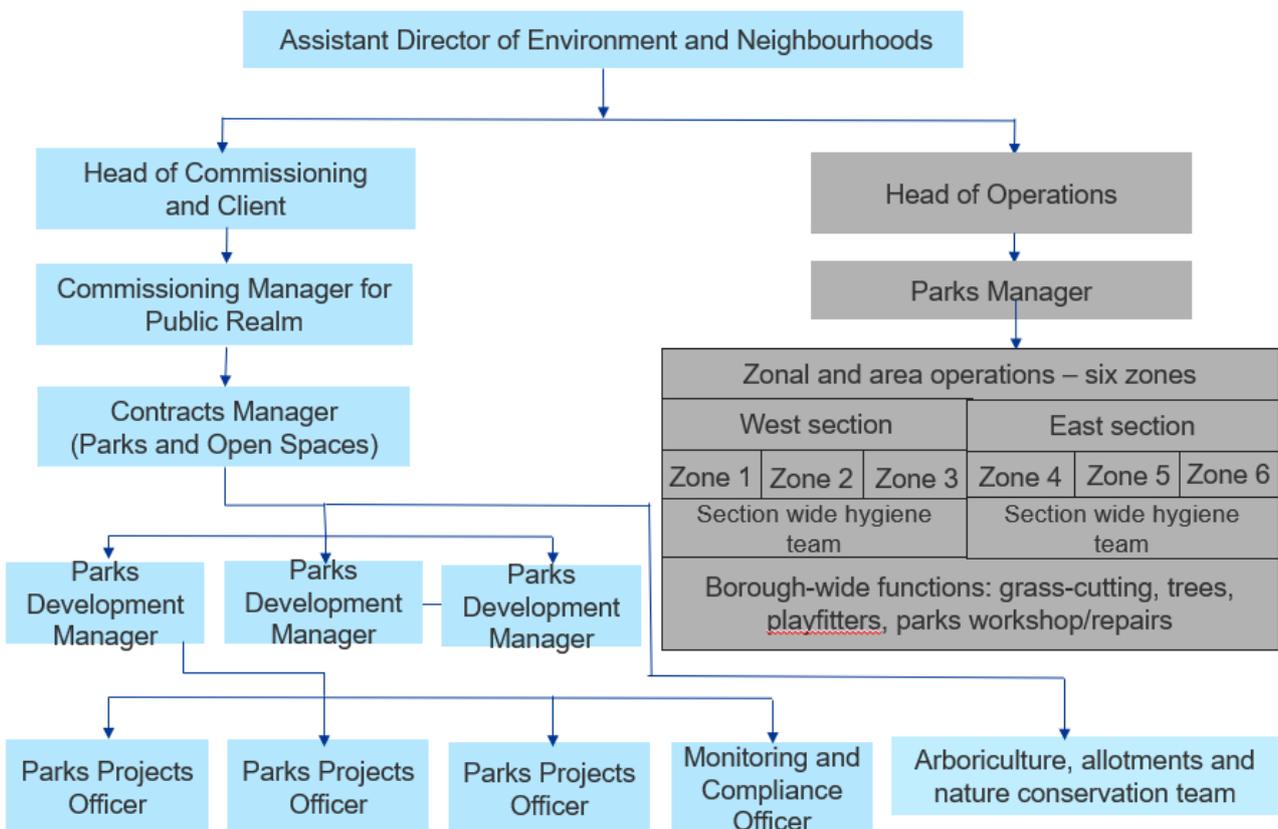
The Parks Operations team is responsible for the grounds maintenance and management of litter and hygiene within the park, while the Commissioning and Client Team is responsible for the physical assets within parks and the management of projects within parks, and for arboriculture, allotments and nature conservation.

4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

The structure chart overleaf shows a simplified overview of the work of the Park Operations Team.

As shown, the borough is divided into two geographic sections (east and west), each of which is divided into three zones, giving a total of six zones across the borough. The zones are shown in the map overleaf.

Chart 1: Simplified parks structure



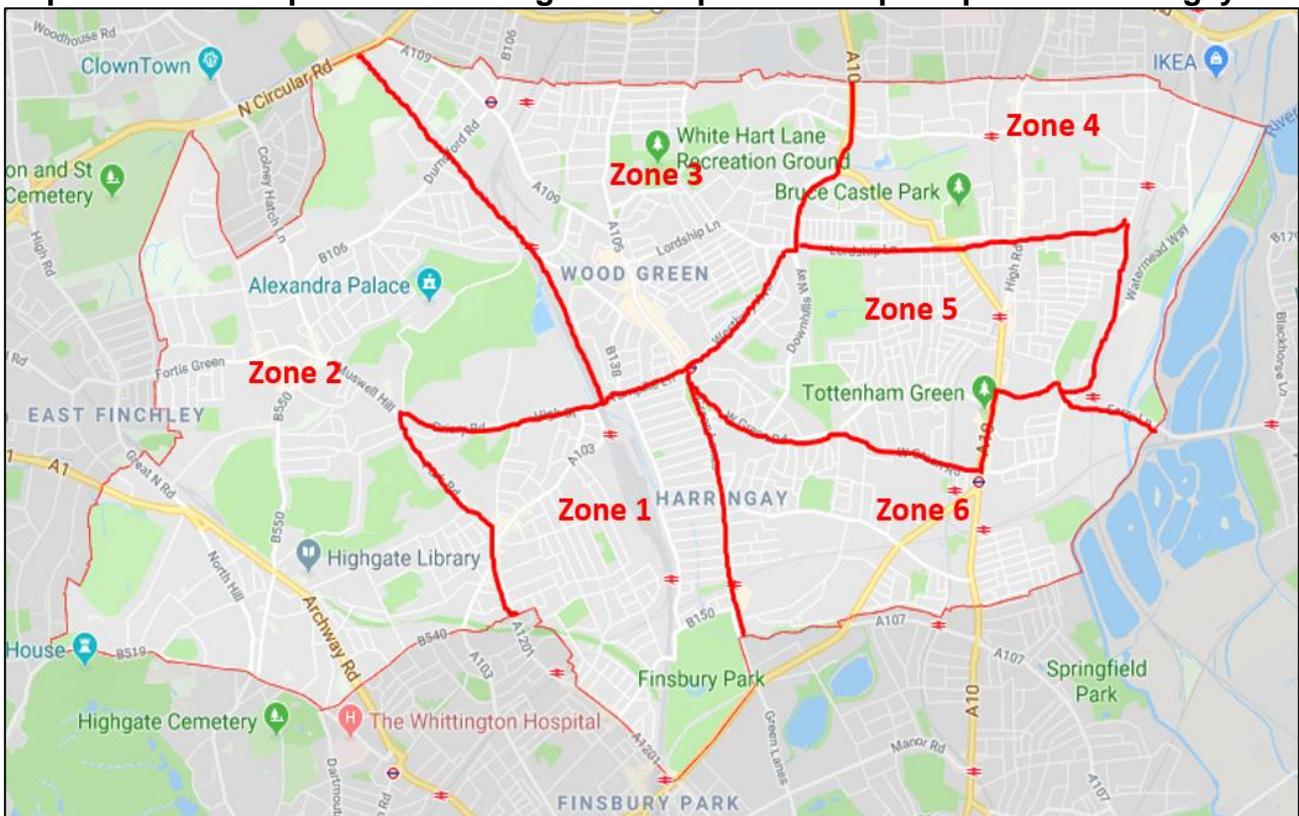
A more detailed structure is shown in section 10.2.

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Coldfall Wood is in operational zone 2.

The Parks Operations structure is the total resource available for all parks and open spaces. This not only includes council parks and open spaces, but also all the Homes for Haringey sites across the borough.

In addition to the zonal operations, the hygiene function is organised at a section-wide basis, one team operating in the east section of the borough and the other in the west. The hygiene teams empty litter bins across all parks and open spaces to an agreed schedule. They also respond to emergency cleansing and hygiene requests.

Map 6: Zones for operational management of parks and open spaces in Haringey



At a borough-wide level there are also two play fitters who undertake maintenance and repair of playground equipment and outdoor gyms, and a team of two in-house arboricultural staff who carry out tree planting and supplement the use of external contractors for tree maintenance and responsive arboricultural work. Tractor-based mowing of larger areas of grass is also carried out as a borough-wide activity.

There are also two parks workshop fitters who carry out regular servicing of equipment and reactive repairs to parks machinery. They are based in dedicated parks workshop at Ashley Road depot.

Most park operatives work Monday – Thursday 7.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 7.30 to 1.30pm. However, limited weekend work also takes place with pitch marking and hygiene activities for example.

4.3 Asset management and management of projects in parks

The Parks Development team now works to the same six zones as the operations team. A new zonal team has been created within the Parks Development team with each zonal team member being responsible for two zones. Each zonal officer has responsibility for:

- Regular asset inspections
- Asset related enquiries
- Non-emergency asset repairs
- Management Plan input
- Project identification
- Friends Groups liaison
- Support for Friends-led development work
- Councillor liaison
- Identification of volunteering opportunities

The allocated officer for Coldfall Wood is Glynis Kirkwood-Warren, Parks Zonal Officer.

A Nature Conservation Officer has responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Chestnuts Park.

4.3.1 Contact details

The key staff and people involved in the management of Coldfall Wood are:

Name	Responsibility	Email
Glynis Kirkwood-Warren	Physical assets; community liaison; capital projects	Glynis.kirkwood-warren@haringey.gov.uk
Tim Pyall	Grounds maintenance	tim.pyall@haringey.gov.uk
Sahina Choudhury	Litter and hygiene	sahina.choudhury@haringey.gov.uk

4.3.2 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Coldfall Wood is described as a local site (A3) as it is between 2-20 hectares in area.

Since January 2019 the council has also instigated a programme of park asset inspections with the frequency dependent on the type of park. As a 'local site' open space Coldfall Wood is inspected every quarter.

The inspections cover hard assets, including:

- Bins, benches, bollards, lighting columns
- Bridges
- Signage, noticeboards, interpretation
- Paths, steps, handrails, areas of hardstanding, car parking and roadways
- Railings, fencing, gates, walls
- Historic/heritage features and war memorials
- Fountains, artworks, structures, pergolas
- Water bodies, SUDs, water leaks, drain covers
- Cycle stands, raised beds

- Bird & bat boxes

If other issues, such as fallen trees close to paths, are spotted they will be reported to the appropriate council officer as part of the inspection process.

Parks assets are inspected and rated according to their condition, as follows:

A: Excellent: No action required

B: Good: No action required

C: Acceptable: No action required

D: Improvement required: Defects will be addressed as budgets allow

E: Emergency repair required: Make-safe within 24 hours. Full repair within 28 days.

From 2019-20 we will use the Confirm database system to record the outcomes of all inspections, defects and customer enquiries. Confirm Connect handheld devices will be the main tool for recording site inspections.

Defects can also be reported by the public, Friends, councillors and stakeholders online via the Council's website at www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem or by using the Our Haringey smart phone app or by calling the council on 020 8489 0000.

As part of our zonal approach we have also started to hold 'Spotlight meetings' with councillors, Friends and key stakeholders of Coldfall Wood every quarter. This is an opportunity to look at the park together to identify issues and opportunities within the park and by the stakeholders. The first of these was held in July 2019.

4.3.2 Capital projects

A parks capital project commences once a project brief has been approved by the councils Parks & Leisure Board and a capital budget and project manager has been allocated. The project manager is a member of the Parks Development team's 'projects' team.

At the time of writing there are no capital projects in the wood, but there is a small project to resolve a drainage issues at the point where Muswell Hill Playing Fields meet Coldfall Wood, close to the Barrenger Road entrance to the wood. Every winter the poor surface drainage results in a large muddy area that is extremely difficult for visitors to (or from) the wood to pass if they approach from this entrance. It is planned to try to improve the drainage and to install two gravel paths extending over the affected area.

4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The table below provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Coldfall Wood. The only routinely scheduled maintenance is bin emptying

Table 1: Scheduled maintenance in Coldfall Wood

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
Grounds maintenance	Reactive	No routine, scheduled maintenance.
Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bins are emptied • The site is not routinely litter picked and may have a small amount of scattered litter in low traffic areas. • Predominately free of detritus except for some light scattering. 	Twice weekly Reactive Reactive	Dog fouling dealt with when reported.
Other Fly tips and other hygiene issues Sweeping of hard surfaces.	Reactive Reactive	In response to emergency call-outs.

4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

The quality of grounds maintenance and cleanliness of parks and open spaces is assessed via a simple four-point assessment system, called the Parks Quality Scoring system. The scoring categories are:

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Acceptable
- D - Unacceptable

These service standards are set out in a booklet that is made available to all grounds maintenance and hygiene operatives. The aim of the booklet is to clearly and visually illustrate the different standards. Photographs, alongside brief and simple text, provide staff with a clear means of assessing the standards they are expected to achieve.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) within this scoring system are for three main areas of activity and a fourth more seasonal category:

- Grass (which includes the grass cut height, follow up and final finish)
- Shrubs (which includes pruning, weeding of beds and general appearance)
- Hygiene (which is made up of 3 separate scores of litter and bins, detritus and graffiti)
- Seasonal and other categories (horticultural seasonal work such as hedges, leaf clearance, rose bed maintenance and seasonal bedding as well as nature conservation and some infrastructure points such as pathways).

Only the hygiene measure is specifically relevant to Coldfall Wood.

The Monitoring and Compliance Officer visits each park and open space on a regular basis to assess these aspects of the park against the service standards. In 2018-19 65% of sites across the borough were assessed as good or excellent for litter and hygiene (against a target of 55%).

4.6 Monitoring the condition of equipment and physical assets

Since January 2019 a Park Projects Officer also carries out a quarterly site inspection of the physical assets in Coldfall Wood. The condition of each item is noted and where applicable repairs (or replacements) are requested. Any grounds maintenance or hygiene issues that are observed, such as overflowing bins or dumped rubbish are raised with the appropriate officer within Parks Operations (or other council service).

The asset inspections do not include play and outdoor gym equipment which are inspected by a specialist company. However as there is no play or outdoor gym equipment in Coldfall Wood this does not take place.

4.7 Tree maintenance programme

Since 2016 a four-year planned inspection programme was introduced to identify any necessary works. Such works are prioritised and carried out within available resources.

Tree works in parks, open spaces and woodlands are usually undertaken to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. For example works to trees in Coldfall Wood have in the past been carried out to remove diseased or dead trees and to reduce overhanging branches into adjacent properties.

Standing dead wood and dead branches are retained where safe to do so.

4.8 Graffiti

As with most parks and open spaces in the borough Coldfall Wood does suffer from occasional graffiti. The walls along the boundary with the school have been particularly targeted as they provide an attractive 'canvas' for graffiti. Physical assets such as bins and benches are also sometimes targeted.

All graffiti of an obscene or offensive nature is removed within 24 hours of being reported. We aim to remove all other graffiti within three working days. Small bits of graffiti can be removed by parks operatives who have access to specialised graffiti removal kits.

Park users can report graffiti using the 'Love Clean Streets' smart phone app, and the council website. The Council also has a 'hotline' number (020 8885 7700) direct to Veolia (the council's waste management contractor) to report obscene or offensive graffiti in parks and other public places.

4.9 Maintenance of buildings, equipment and landscape

Parks buildings are split into two categories.

- Properties that are leased or otherwise let to third parties. These fall under the responsibility of the council's strategic property team
- Properties that are used by the Council's Parks Operations team as offices or for storage, such as the parks depots. These fall under the responsibility of the council's corporate landlord team.

Coldfall Wood does not have either building type.

4.10 Hygiene

The Hygiene Team has responsibility for all hygiene matters in the borough's parks and open spaces. This includes all aspects of cleansing of any waste or spillages, spilled or dumped rubbish, dog waste etc. The team is managed by Parks Operations.

There are five litter bins within Coldfall Wood. These were installed in 2020 to replace the previous bins and dog waste bin. Recyclable items and other waste can be deposited in separate compartments. Bagged dog waste can be put in with general waste. The bins are emptied twice a week (usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays).

Any dumped rubbish that is reported to the parks service will be removed.

5. Healthy, Safe and Secure

5.1 Smoking

Smoking is permitted (though discouraged) in Coldfall Wood although priority 2 of the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies smoking as a key factor in reducing life expectancy.

Cigarette ends should be stubbed out and disposed of in the bins provided to reduce the risk of fire.

5.2 Alcohol

Alcohol is permitted in Coldfall Wood. Anyone who consumes alcohol should ensure the empty bottles or cans are taken home or placed in a rubbish bin. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to anti-social behaviour.

Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) can be used to manage anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption in public places. These are in place in 11 wards in Haringey but not in Fortis Green ward (in which Coldfall Wood is located).

In the event of anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption it is advised that users of the woods report this using the non-emergency police telephone number 101. If a crime is being committed 999 should be used.

5.3 Walking

Walking is an excellent way to adopt a more active lifestyle and the health benefits can really make a difference. It's also a great way to get out and meet people.

Coldfall Wood and the adjacent Muswell Hill Playing Fields provide an interesting and varied opportunity for walking. Guided walks take place from time to time. These are advertised on the [Friends of Coldfall Wood website](#). All walks start at the East entrance to the wood, on Creighton Avenue, opposite Fortismere School (N10 1NT). Most last up to two hours. Walks are free, though a donation of £3 per person is appreciated. It helps to book in advance to help to gauge numbers and to contact you if there are any changes to the programme.

Further details on walks and walking groups in Haringey can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking>.

5.4 Health and safety

The health and safety of visitors to, and staff and contractors working in Coldfall Wood is given the highest priority. Health and safety within the wood is managed by ensuring that:

- infrastructure items are inspected regularly as detailed elsewhere in this document.
- planting and landscaping is designed to minimise the risk to park users, and the operational maintenance programme keeps these risks managed
- there is one well-lit route from Creighton Avenue East entrance to the pathway from Everington Road.

5.4.1 Raising health and safety concerns

Anyone visiting Coldfall Wood, including those involved in the parks maintenance and management are encouraged to report any health and safety concerns.

Contact phone, email and web details for the Council appear on all welcome signage, as well as the police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

When people call the council with a concern, these are logged, assessed and assigned to a relevant team/member of staff to deal with and respond to in an appropriate timescale, using the Confirm system.

5.4.2 Friends

Members of the Friends of Coldfall Wood (see section 7.2) can report issues within the park in the same way as members of the public, but they also have close links with the Park Projects Officer, who they can approach directly.

5.4.3 Risk assessments

The Parks Development Team ensures that prior to any works being undertaken on council land, its consultants, contractors and other organisations prepare for approval all necessary risk assessments and method statements (RAMS) covering all proposed works operations. In addition to the usual operations, the Council requires consultants and contractors to provide specific RAMS covering potentially contaminated land, underground services and other unforeseen underground matters, such as unexploded ordnance, and measures to protect the public during any works. Contractors are further required to undertake CAT scans prior to excavations.

The team ensures that, where excavations are to take place, underground services information is obtained from utility providers and the council's pollution team prepares contaminated land desk studies.

5.4.4 Safety representatives

The parks operations service holds a quarterly Health and Safety Working Group, which is chaired by a council health and safety specialist. It is attended by representatives of operational management, staff from both east and west areas, and trades unions.

These quarterly meetings provide the opportunity to raise issues that have not been fully addressed elsewhere. The group is also a place to discuss health and safety issues and legislation, and their implications on working practices and plays a key role in generating continual improvement in health and safety standards.

5.4.5 Staff reporting

All staff are encouraged to raise health and safety issues with their manager or with the health and safety representative who can raise concerns at the quarterly Health and Safety Working Group.

5.5 Reporting issues with the ‘Love Clean Streets’ app

The “Love Clean Streets’ phone app makes it quick and easy to report problems when people are out and about in the borough. Once the app has been downloaded to a smart phone, park users can take photos of the problem and send it directly to the team responsible for fixing it using the Confirm system. They will then receive progress updates and will be told when the reported issue has been fixed.

Unlike many other ‘report it’ style apps, “Love Clean Streets’ asks the user to choose from a list of Haringey specific categories for the problem, which ensures the report goes to the right team, first time so it will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

5.6 Community safety and policing

Parks in Haringey remain relatively safe places, especially during the hours of daylight. Over the whole of 2012 there were 767 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across all the parks and open spaces in Haringey – an average of 63 incidents per month.

The breakdown of stats for 2021 is only available for January to September. During this period a total of 492 incidents were reported to Police across all parks in Haringey – an average of 54 per month. This is a decrease of 16% and could be due to parks being much busier and therefore deterring the most commonly reported crime in parks in 2021 remains robbery, which accounts for about 22% of reported crimes, but this is a 7% decrease from the previous year. The majority of these took place after dark. Reports nearly trebled over the spring / summer months compared to the rest of the year due to higher footfall in parks.

Between January and April in Coldfall Wood there were 8 reported crimes. Coldfall Wood accounted for 1.6% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Fortis Green ward responds, as needed, to any issues raised by local residents and community groups. The team’s contact number for non-urgent enquires is 07876 038059. As always 999 should be used in the event of an emergency or a crime in progress.

5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks

Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough are encouraged to adopt a local park or green space. Members are encouraged to proactively report issue or concerns they have relating to crime or safety in the park.

Four neighbourhood watches have adopted Coldfall Wood. They are:

- Coldfall Wood Watch (Durham Road)
- Creighton Avenue
- Nelson Mandela Close
- Woodside Avenue (Woodside Avenue and Holt Close)

The Neighbourhood Watch Officer has been proactive in helping to reduce crime in our parks through interventions such as asking all Neighbourhood Watch Groups to include their local park or green space in the Watch and report any issues of concern, organising a monthly dog walk in a different park every month, where dog walkers are asked about how safe they feel and encourage ongoing engagement with the police, regular communication with Friends of Parks Groups and the Friends Forum, including attending their meetings when invited, and providing monthly crime statistics to the Council and senior police officers showing crime trends and where resources are required.

Coldfall Wood last hosted a Dog Watch walk in May 2019 (see photo below). It was not possible to hold a similar event in 2020.



5.8 Designing out crime

It is widely recognised that key factors in ensuring park and green space safety and the perception of safety are to ensure high usage, adequate onsite staffing presence, good maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and a high level of community involvement and 'ownership'. These matters are dealt with in other sections.

Sensitive landscape management can also assist in reducing crime. Assessing accessibility and potential crime spots, known as 'designing out crime' may result in the removal of inappropriate tall shrubs and their replacement with a more suitable low growing species. In other instances, entrances may be redesigned, or lighting installed.

Despite the low level of reported crime in the woods we are not complacent, and we retain a watching brief for opportunities to further reduce the risk of crime in Coldfall Wood.

5.9 24-hour access

Coldfall Wood is open to the public at all times. Gates are not locked.

5.10 Dogs

Dogs and dog walking are a valuable part of the park scene, and dog owners are one of the main daily user groups in Coldfall Wood. Their collective presence is a key ingredient of green spaces being populated and safe to use, especially at quieter times of the day and year. Dog walkers are often described as ‘eyes and ears’ of a green space.

Professional dog walkers often use Coldfall Wood as a safe and convenient location to walk dogs.

5.10.1 Control of dogs

We recognise that most dog owners and professional dog walkers are responsible and respectful to their local community. However, the council sometimes receive complaints from residents about dog fouling and the behaviour of some dogs (and their owners).

Well behaved dogs can be walked or exercised freely off lead in all large parks and open spaces (over half a hectare) including Coldfall Wood. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

However, a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the borough to control the behaviour of dog owners. The prohibitions have been designed to be as simple as possible, giving clarity and outlining expectations. These prohibitions cover five aspects of dog control:

- Dog fouling
- Keeping dogs under control
- Putting dogs on a lead if directed to do so
- Limiting to six the number of dogs that one person can bring to Coldfall Wood (or any other park)
- Keeping dogs out of designated areas (such as children’s playgrounds)

Failure to comply with the requirements of the order can result in a fine or to court if the fine is not paid within a specified timeframe.

The PSPO is in force for three years from October 2020 and is likely to be extended for a further three years. Full details can be found at www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/noise-and-animal-control/dog-control-orders#types-of-dog-control-orders

Our policies on dogs and dog controls are currently being reviewed as part of the new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

6. Sustainability

6.1 Greenest borough strategy

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy was adopted in 2008 in response to growing concerns around climate change.

The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners' commitment to tackle climate change under seven environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute to:

- improving the urban environment
- protecting the natural environment
- managing environmental resources efficiently
- leading by example
- encouraging sustainable design and construction
- promoting sustainable travel
- raising awareness and involvement.

The management and maintenance of parks and how they are used relate back to many of the individual targets within the strategy. Where possible these have been instilled in everyday working practices in relation to Coldfall Wood.

6.2 Pesticide use

The council uses a range of herbicides to control weeds in parks. It remains the most effective in terms of the required resources – with two treatments per year often sufficient to prevent weed growth, as opposed to regular treatment by hand or other means.

Chemicals are stored, handled, used and disposed in accordance with manufacturer/supplier requirements, and a COSHH assessment is prepared for each of the substances used.

Reliance on mechanical methods of weed control (e.g. strimming) is reducing as this has an impact on both the operator and does not address the weed at its roots.

The use of herbicides as a principal form of weed control is increasingly under scrutiny, and the parks department is routinely considering alternatives. This is particularly true of weedkillers containing the component glyphosate. This has received a lot of press coverage subsequent to court cases in the United States, but it remains licensed for use in the UK and Europe.

Officers of the council monitor developments in scientific findings. At this stage, glyphosate appears not to cause harm to humans or any animals larger than micro-organisms.

The use of pesticides and chemicals will be reviewed as part of the development of the new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

A pilot scheme is being undertaken in one of Haringey's parks in 2022 trialling a no-pesticide approach: the findings of which will be rolled out to other parks in the borough where appropriate.

6.3 Sustainable use of materials

The parks service refrains from the use of non-sustainable peat-based products and challenges nursery suppliers to provide alternative supplies. Where plants are obtained from private nurseries, we request plants grown in a peat free environment.

Our infrastructure procurement policy is to use recycled materials where possible. We aim to acquire recycled plastic benches where possible; or where timber is required, we seek to use those from sustainable sources.

6.4 Recycling

Although some parks and green spaces have dedicated onsite recycling bins, all waste collected from parks be it from standard waste bins, or recycling bins is taken to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) depot. Materials that can be recycled are extracted and processed accordingly.

Where possible green waste is recycled on-site; grass cuttings are left on the grass; and hedge cuttings are mulched and placed under the hedge or in other areas of the park.

In autumn when a large amount of green waste is generated, that which cannot be used or composted on site is taken to the NLWA depot for recycling. The resulting compost is then collected for use in the parks.

6.5 Pollution reduction

All new machinery used in parks is required to have low vibration levels and low emissions. Machinery is serviced on a regular basis by our in-house parks workshop, helping to ensure low emission and pollution levels. Vehicles meet current emission requirements, and the fleet will comply with the requirements of the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone when that is introduced in October 2021 to include Haringey.

We also aim to reduce vehicle emissions through increasing the amount of on-site composting; and through reducing downtime caused by excessive travelling.

Bonfires are not used for safety reasons as well as health concerns due to the smoke.

6.6 Water efficiency

Drought resistant plants and trees are increasingly being chosen by parks managers to ensure that they survive the drier and warmer months and require less watering during these periods.

7. Community Involvement

7.1 Volunteering in parks and open spaces

Haringey Council actively supports and encourages volunteering in our parks and green spaces. There are two main mechanisms to support volunteering and community involvement.

New Community Engagement Officer and Volunteering Officer posts have been created and will be recruited in 2022.

7.1.1 Community Volunteering

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) are based at Railway Fields, N4. They deliver conservation volunteer days across the borough on behalf of Haringey Council. They also support delivery of training opportunities as well as development of site-specific conservation action plans.

During 2020, TCV delivered 100 conservation days across parks in Haringey, involving 772 volunteers. In addition, three training days were provided for volunteers on tree felling with hand tools, hedge laying and invasive species management.

Despite the lockdown periods TCV ran 10 volunteer days in Coldfall Wood with 72 attendees. The work included coppicing, dead hedging and bramble removal from coppice coups.

GoodGym also undertakes voluntary work in the woods. They combine fitness runs with voluntary work such as litter picking.

7.1.2 Corporate volunteering

Haringey Council actively supports companies and corporate volunteers within our parks and green spaces. Corporate volunteering provides an opportunity for employees to be involved in a different experience whilst supporting our management and improvement of green spaces.

TCV also supports corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails. Additional corporate volunteer days were delivered at parks across Haringey, facilitated by Friends groups.

Specific opportunities for corporate volunteers are to be included within site Conservation Action Plans (section 8.4) to ensure that the sessions support wider management of the site whilst providing an engaging and rewarding opportunity for the volunteers.

7.2 Friends of Coldfall Wood

Friends Groups across the borough do a huge amount of work and put in thousands of hours of volunteer time each year to:

- help develop maintenance and management plans for our parks and green spaces
- raise funds for improvements needed
- prevent inappropriate development in parks and green spaces
- plant trees, shrubs and flowers and help create play areas, seating etc
- conduct regular walkabouts with parks staff and produce maintenance updates
- organise activities that encourage local residents to safely use their local open spaces, including festivals involving up to thousands of local people.

The current Friends group was set up in 1999 when plans were mooted for the development of Muswell Hill Playing Fields into a golf range. The community and footballers objected, and the group was formed.

The Friends of Muswell Hill Playing Fields soon expanded its remit to include Coldfall Wood which was unloved and largely unused at the time. The heavy canopy in the woods meant they were dark, and people were scared to go in there. The only users were occasional dog walkers.

In the early years the Friends helped to clear the woods of dumped vehicles and helped to install gates and barriers at entrances to prevent vehicles accessing the woods. As footfall increased the Friends turned their attention to coppicing and maintenance of plants to bring more light into the woodland. This is referred to elsewhere in the management plan. The Friends also worked hard to clean the polluted stream running through the woods. Finally, Thames Water with the Environment Agency identified a large number of 'missed connections' where properties were emptying polluted water into the stream along with road run off.

The Friends worked with the council to secure National Lottery funding to build the reedbeds to filter pollution and help clean the water naturally. Bridges were built to reconnect the woods where the flooding arises near the fields and information boards installed to aid visitors. A nature walk was signposted and appears on the council's website.

The Friends have funded - and still fund - surveys of plants, insects and birds. They also arrange 10 educational walks a year in the woods with themes such as birds, bats or geology. These are usually held at the weekends and are free to attend though a donation is encouraged to cover the cost of the walk leader.

The Friends don't plant in the woods – their policy is let nature do what it wants – but they arrange occasional litter picking events and work with local schools and the children go in and litter pick.

Over the last 20 years the Friends have benefitted from a great number of people bringing different skills who have provided their time and love of the woods free of charge through the group. They also continue to work with and provide an invaluable continuity and source of local information for, council officers.

In 2019 the Friends of Coldfall Wood were asked to identify their top three priorities. They were:

- Resolving the waterlogging issue that ends up with the boardwalk being flooded in wet weather conditions (with the water level up to 1.4m higher than the footway).
- Resurfacing the lit path
- Monitoring and controlling invasive species, coppice management and water quality control.

These are all reflected in the management plan.

The Friends website can be found at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

7.3 Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

The borough-wide Haringey Friends of Parks Forum was set up by Friends groups as an independent network in 2002. It is a coalition of over 40 Friends of parks groups and is committed to protecting and improving open space within the borough. The Friends of Parks Forum meets six times a year and is attended by representatives of the Friends of Coldfall Wood.

The Forum provides an opportunity for Friends groups to work together for the benefit of Haringey's green spaces and green space users. The Forum's ['What We Do and How We Do It'](#) document describes the work of the forum and of individual friends' groups.

Amongst other things the Forum has been effective in lobbying and campaigning for

- better planning policies as they affect open spaces
- more ambitious and effective open space standards
- greater levels of on-site staffing
- giving support to individual Friends' groups

Friends Groups communicate and co-ordinate through the Forum's email list. The Friends Groups liaise closely with all council park services and have been key agents in helping to bring in millions of pounds in external funding to improve facilities for local people.

The Forum is supported by the Council and park officers attend a session during the Forum's meetings to take note of each local Friends group's issues, and to discuss wider issues of common concern. The Council is publicly committed to active partnership working with Friends groups and the Forum. Minutes of all Forum meetings are published on the Forum website.

7.4 Community Activity

The Wood is well used by the local community for recreation and formal and informal education. Visitors are mainly local residents, particularly dog walkers and families with young children.

The Wood provides a rich resource for local people to enjoy the natural world and is suitable for education at all ages. Coldfall Primary School, Fortismere School, Eden School and the Workers Educational Association use it for classes and guided walks as occasionally does the London Natural History Society.

The Bat Conservation Trust has used the Wood to hold training for their 'Count Bat' project in the Wood and at Coldfall Primary school who donated classroom space. Teachers also learn forestry skills in the woods.

Coldfall Primary School runs Forest Schools classes in the Wood and pick up litter on each visit. They have also designed posters to highlight the problem of dog fouling.

Both the geography and biology departments of Fortismere have used Coldfall Wood in the past.

8. Conservation and Heritage

8.1 Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The term biodiversity refers to the variety of life around us, including plants, animals and the ecological interactions that take place in our environment. Haringey supports a wide diversity of wildlife and habitats ranging from woodland and wildflower meadows to ponds, streams and wetlands.

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is currently under review. During 2021 a new BAP will be produced, aligned with the new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. The new BAP will include detail on priority habitats, development of high value ecological corridors and the integration of biodiversity conservation into wider council initiatives.

Priorities within the BAP will help support updating or developing Conservation Action Plans for parks in Haringey including Coldfall Wood. See section 8.4.

8.2 Habitat representation

Coldfall Wood covers just over 14ha of green space. The habitat type of the entire wood is described as native broadleaf woodland.

8.3 Designation status

Natural England and Local Authorities have a system of designating greenspace depending on certain characteristics and their value - locally, regionally and nationally. Coldfall Wood is a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) and is listed as Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation and as Metropolitan Open Land.

Coldfall Wood was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 2013. Local Nature Reserves are designated for both people and wildlife. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. LNRs are designated by the local authority under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) provide a framework for ongoing management of sites for their biodiversity value. They provide guidance on conservation actions and activities that can be carried out throughout the year and form a basis for the conservation work of TCV, Friends groups and other community organisations.

CAPs detail site specific opportunities as well as supporting borough wide conservation efforts and requirements, such as contributing to habitat creation targets or demonstrating the positive management of SINCs.

The CAP for Coldfall Wood is attached in full at Appendix 1 to this document. It is several years old and needs to be brought up to date.

With the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan during 2021, existing CAPs for all parks and open spaces – including that for Coldfall Wood - will be updated to ensure they are aligned with the new BAP. They will detail conservation actions and requirements, including maintenance, enhancement opportunities and potential future projects.

8.5 Site history and heritage

Coldfall Wood is one of four woods in Haringey which are almost certainly ancient. The others are Queens Wood, Highgate Wood and Bluebell Wood.

People have greatly altered the composition and structure of Coldfall Wood over the year, but it is likely that it has been continuously wooded since prehistoric times. Pollen analysis from a site on Hampstead Heath, a few miles away, shows the first appearance of cereals and weeds of cultivation around 3,000 BC. The wood was probably managed as coppice from at least Roman times onwards. In about 1650 Coldfall Wood was all but surrounded with common land and was apparently subject to the rights of commoners to pasture their animals. However, grazing animals would damage the woodland if allowed in too often or too soon after cutting, and the wood was protected by a bank with a ditch on its outside. These ancient defences still survive along the northern and western boundaries of the wood, all the more extraordinary considering the wood's position well within a major city.

Coldfall Wood was purchased by Hornsey Council in 1930. Hornsey Council became part of the London Borough of Haringey in 1965.

Ring counts of the hornbeam in the early 1990s showed that the coppice had last been cut more than 50 years ago. In the early 1990s three coppice 'falls' were cut in the northern part of the wood and a further two in November 2006.

8.6 Habitats, Flora and Fauna

This following is based on the Management Brief prepared by Meg Game for the London Borough of Haringey in January 2000, together with data from documents listed in the references (below) and unpublished information provided by Ian Holt, former Nature Conservation Officer, LB Haringey, and the naturalists David Bevan and Edward Milner. Full references to the documents are listed at the end of this section.

Birds

Nineteen species of bird were noted by David Bevan during his study for Woodland Contrasts, produced in 1986. This included nuthatch, treecreeper and willow warbler. Green and great spotted woodpecker, long-tailed tit and tawny owl were added to the list in 1991. Redwing are occasional visitors, mainly to the adjacent playing field, and sparrowhawk may breed in the adjacent cemetery.

A jack snipe was flushed from Coppice 2 (the wettest of the three) in about 1994; grey wagtail was seen along the stream in September 1999 and several pairs of parakeets were first recorded nesting in the Wood in 2010.

In 2019 a bird survey was commissioned by the Friends. It was undertaken by David-Darrell-Lambert who is an expert in the birds of north London.

Butterflies

Twelve species of butterfly are regularly found in the coppices; speckled wood has particularly benefited from the coppicing. Purple hairstreak is also recorded.

Molluscs

Information on molluscs is given in Bevan (1986). Species found then included *Cepaea nemoralis*, *Oxychilus helveticus* and *Euconulus fulvus*.

Mammals

Foxes are seen regularly but no earth is recorded in the wood. Bats have been recorded in the Wood and the Friends of Coldfall Wood have installed a variety of bat roosting boxes (2007). Rats have also been spotted; grey squirrel is common.

Invertebrates

An invertebrate survey was carried out by E.Milner in 2009-10. Fifty-six species of spiders, 79 species of beetle, and 3 species of pseudoscorpion were recorded during this study period. The totals for these groups for the wood as a whole are: 119 spider species, 106 beetle species. (including three Nationally Notable Species) and three pseudoscorpions species.

The most interesting beetle recorded during the survey is the very rare Lesser Glow-worm, *Phosphaenus hemipterus* (Lampyridae).

Sources

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9. Marketing and communications

9.1 The marketing approach

The marketing of Coldfall Wood involves more than simply publicising and promoting the park. It also involves listening to the users of the park. Our main aim is to put the needs and concerns of stakeholders, park users and residents at the centre of business marketing approach.

This section outlines how Coldfall Wood is promoted and publicised and how users are positioned at the centre of the business.

9.2 Websites - www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces

The Haringey council website contains extensive information on the borough's parks and open spaces, including Coldfall Wood. Information such as location, facilities and transport links for all Haringey parks and open spaces is available.

Policy information such as the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which draws upon a range of information and seeks to establish a long- term vision for the borough's parks and open spaces is also available.

Information detailing the council's partnerships with Friends Groups, The Conservation Volunteers and the Metropolitan Police is available online along with links to their websites.

Detailed information about Green Flag Awards with links to the Green Flag park pages within the Haringey Council site can also be viewed.

9.3 Social media

Social Media is now a regular way of communicating information between relevant parties and beyond. Haringey Council encourages all partners to use social media when communicating with communities.

Haringey Council has a Twitter feed ([@haringeycouncil](https://twitter.com/haringeycouncil)) with just under 17,000 followers. It is used to proactively release live information to keep people informed and updated and to respond to queries and complaints posted by others. This is checked throughout the day and provides residents and visitors with another communication channel.

The Council also uses other forms of communication such as Facebook and YouTube.
www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil
www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil

We also like to keep our residents informed about the events that are taking place, and regularly ask that stakeholders and park hirers submit details about their event on the Council website on our "What's On" listings section at www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event. There is no charge for this service.

9.4 Publications

Haringey People is the Council magazine, distributed six times a year by direct mail to all households within the borough. The magazine is produced by the Council's Central Communications Team which has editorial control over the content.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine>

Several articles are published each year promoting the borough's parks as well as the work and events that key stakeholders and partners organise in parks throughout the year.

9.5 Notice boards

There is a notice board located close to the Creighton Avenue East entrance and another at the junction of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields (by the Barrenger Road entrance). These are used to display information about the Friends and council services, campaigns and events.

In 2014 a set of guidelines detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them.

In 2019 the council developed a simple A2, updateable poster that gives key contact information for council and other public services.

9.6 Campaigns

Haringey Council supports and promotes several national campaigns via social media to highlight key issues affecting the borough's parks and open spaces. These include:

- Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly
- Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership
- Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. National Tree Week is also supported
- Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering
- Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough's parks and the events that they put on
- The Big Lunch - supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces
- The Great Get Together - supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.
- Play Weekend - supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities
- Playday - supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.

9.7 Awards

In 2021 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. One of these is Coldfall Wood.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and is seeking to secure Green Flag status for at least 22 parks in 2023.

9.8 Tree and bench sponsorship

A sponsorship scheme is provided where members of the public can sponsor the planting of a tree or the installation of a bench in any council run park and open space. This can be done to commemorate a loved one or an event.

The sponsor pays for the item and planting / installation, thereafter the council maintains it subject to certain conditions. Should sponsors wish to, they can also help in maintaining their item.

Tree sponsorship is not promoted in Coldfall Wood because of its nature as an ancient woodland to ensure that the tree stock is not compromised. The preferred approach is through natural regeneration.

9.9 Consultation and market research

Haringey is committed to listening to the views and ideas of our stakeholders, park users and residents. Council officers attend the Friends of Parks Forum on a bi-monthly basis and maintain open channels of communication with key stakeholders. This is a good way to listen to concerns and engage in a constructive dialogue about individual parks.

When planning any new project work within parks, we make sure that key stakeholders are included in discussions from the beginning of the process and where possible hold open engagement sessions so we can listen to the thoughts, needs and concerns of the wider park community.

Budget cuts have hit our capacity to undertake regular surveys of park users. We include a question about satisfaction with parks in a borough-wide survey about environmental and waste services. The survey is commissioned by Veolia.

In 2018, four in five respondents to the survey (80%) said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with parks and open spaces. This is slightly down from 2016 (81%) but in 2018 parks was the service in this survey with the highest satisfaction rating.

10. Management

10.1 Setting the financial scene

The parks service gross budget for 2017/18 was a total of £5.1m with a revenue income of £4.5m and operated a net deficit of £600k. According to a survey by Parks for London this represents the second lowest operating deficit in London.

Whilst the service has borne its share of austerity related budget reductions, in recent years the service has chosen to focus on generating additional income to mitigate these reductions rather than impact service delivery on the ground. The service has managed this by growing the amount of income generated through: -

- Increasing the number of park properties let
- Increasing the number paying a market rent,
- Growing the number of commercial events
- Growing the level of filming income
- Increasing the range of services offered to other organisations

A breakdown of the 2017/18 revenue budget is set out below: -

a) Revenue Expenditure – Employees, Premises, Transport, Supplies and Services, Third Party Payments, Support Services etc

a. Total Parks expenditure	£5,142,184
b. Employees	£2,665,995
c. Premises related expenditure	£534,054
d. Transport related expenditure	£144,885
e. Supplies and Services	£398,471
f. Third Party Payments	£662,463
g. Support Services	£583,987
h. Capital Charges	£152,330

b) Revenue Income - Customer and Client Receipts, Recharges etc

a. Total Revenue Income	£4,467,442
b. Customer and Client Receipts	£3,753,447
c. Recharges	£713,995

The council seeks to secure external investment from a number of sources. The council has its own ten-year capital strategy which currently includes over £11m of capital funding for parks. The service seeks to add to this sum and has secured further investment from the following sources over recent years:

- Section 106
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- National Lottery
- London Marathon Charitable Trust
- Environmental Funds
- Greater London Council
- Event Income

Another important part of the overall funding mix is the fundraising carried out by Friends Groups across the borough. A wide variety of groups have been able to secure funds to deliver the priorities they identified. In 2017/18 the council directly invested the following amounts: -

c) Capital Expenditure – names of Capital schemes and expenditure on each scheme.

a. Park Asset Management	£377,288
b. Active Life in Parks	£263,477
c. Parkland Walk Bridges	£126,780

The Council continues to face significant financial challenges with many millions of pounds of savings to find over the coming years. A goal therefore for the service over the coming years is to maintain a stable budget position and therefore continuing with a strategy to generate additional income will be an important financial focus for the service.

10.2 Management structure

The Parks Service sits within the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate and is overseen by the Director and the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The service is organised across Commissioning and Client Services and Operations business units.

Responsibility for the service falls to the respective heads of each business unit and they are supported by two commissioning managers and a parks manager.

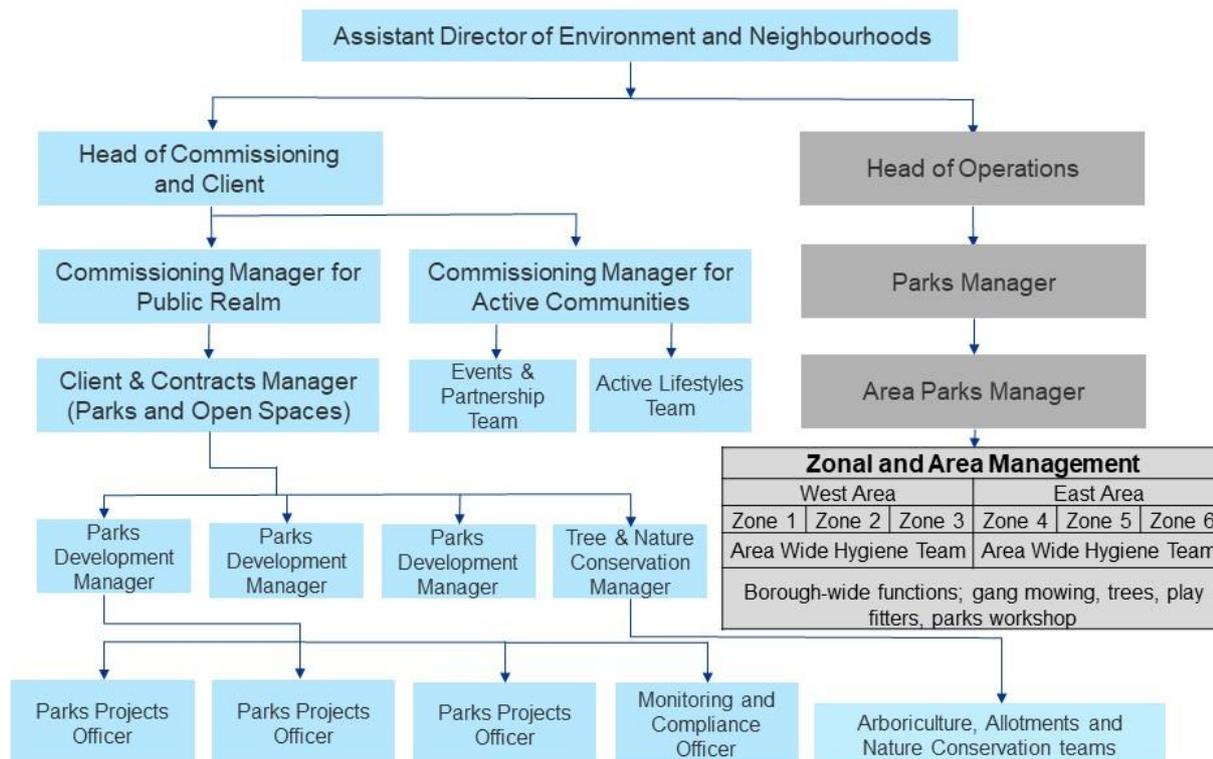
The structure chart (overleaf) shows the three core strands of the parks service, which are:

- Park Operations Team – this team takes the lead on all day to day operational aspects of maintaining each green flag park.
- Active Communities Team – this team takes the lead on all event management, community activation in the park, partnership working and small grant awards. This team also secures sport related external funding
- Public Realm Team – this team takes the lead on asset management, investment in parks, policy development, nature conservation and arboriculture.

These three core teams are supported internally by colleagues across Community Safety and Enforcement, Planning Services, Regeneration, Adults and Children’s services on a variety of issues from homelessness, to new cycle routes, to improvement in existing green spaces and access and activities for older and young people.

External support for the service comes through the Friends Forum, our partners within the Police and The Conservation Volunteers alongside organisations such as Parks for London, Keep Britain Tidy and APSE.

Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)



1

10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023

Following the local elections in May 2018 the new council and its partners have developed a Borough Plan setting out their vision and priorities for the next four years. Following extensive public consultation, it was agreed by Cabinet in February 2019.

The plan sets out the council's priorities and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. Outcome 10 of the plan is for "a healthier, active and greener place". The plan places importance on the role of parks and open spaces in delivering this outcome through four objectives.

Objective 10a is to "Protect and improve parks, open space, and green space, promoting community use".

The Plan identifies several ways in which this will be achieved:

- Continue with partners to invest in our parks with over £15 million of improvements planned over the next five years, including new playgrounds and sports facilities
- Develop a new Parks and Open Spaces strategy and consult with partners and local communities about how we will work together to protect, enhance and, where possible, extend green and open space in Haringey
- Promote the use of our parks for a wide range of events and activities, including more community use
- Plant more trees to make our streets and open spaces greener
- Work with partners, including environmental community groups, to maintain the borough's watercourses, maximising their environmental and health benefits.

Parks are also important in delivering Objective 10b of the plan. It is to “increase the levels of physical activity across the borough” by “creating healthier places, including parks and open spaces, in line with the Mayor of London’s Healthy Streets plan...”

However, we cannot achieve the priorities in the plan on our own. We trust that our partners locally and our residents will work together with us on achieving them.

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf

10.4 Parks and Greenspaces Strategy

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

Work has begun on developing a new strategy for parks and open spaces. The importance of a new parks and greenspaces strategy is underlined by the explicit reference to it in Borough Plan 2019-2023.

The new strategy will build on the Parks Scrutiny Review that took place in March 2018. It will be co-produced with Friends, residents and councillors. As part of the process there will be a series of workshops and a period of public consultation.

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 15 years. It will set out approaches to the maintenance, management and usage of parks. It will also set out clear policy positions on issues relating to parks and open spaces. In some cases new policies will need to be developed (such as security in parks and licensable activity).

The strategy will also describe the funding landscape. One key element of this will be to balancing revenue funding for the service against the agreed service standards. It will also provide a context to inform the long-term capital strategy including mapping out the external funding opportunities that can be used to the benefit of the service

The timetable is for a draft 15-year strategy to have been agreed, following public consultation in June 2021 and for Cabinet to agree the document in February 2022.

10.5 The Greenest Borough Strategy

Haringey’s Greenest Borough Strategy responds to growing concerns around climate change. The Strategy sets out the Council’s and its partners’ commitment to tackle climate change under a number of key environmental policies to ensure achievement of their ‘green’ vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough

10.6 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy

This strategy aims to reduce health inequalities through working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for adults and children to enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life, through several key outcomes.

Those that specifically relate to parks include increasing physical activity and improving health and mental wellbeing.

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy

10.7 Finance and funding

The revenue budget for Coldfall Wood sits within the overall Parks Operations budget.

Capital expenditure on parks and open spaces is planned at a borough level rather than at an individual park level. Match funding and other sources of external funding are sought to fund capital projects wherever possible.

10.7.1 Parks and open spaces Small Grant Scheme

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for several years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of Parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2019-20 was £40,000.

More information can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants

10.7.2 Events income

At the end of 2013 a review of the parks events policy was conducted to inform and guide changes of how events would take place in the borough's parks. It was also to realign and invest income from parks events back into park improvements. In January 2014 the Council adopted the [Outdoor Events Policy](#), and each year the [Events Fees and Charges](#) are reviewed to ensure they align with council policy and are comparative and competitive with other similar parks in London.

Income generated from all events in parks and open spaces is used within the park the event took place. In the first instance this will pay towards the management and maintenance of the park. Where significant sums of money are generated from events, this will be reinvested back into the park where the event took place.

All applicants who hold events are charged a fee based on the events fees and charges structure that is agreed by the Council each year. The structure of charges differs from the type of event (ie community, charity or commercial) and by the size of the event proposed.

The environmental impact fee will be kept separate from other income received in respect of events. This additional income can be used by the Friends of the park in which the event was held to address their immediate priorities for the park.

11. Improving Coldfall Wood

11.1: Recently undertaken works/activities

Many of the achievements in the last couple of years have been referred to earlier in this plan, but some highlights include:

- Drainage and path works to improve access to Muswell Hill Playing Fields by Barrenger Road entrance
- Clearing of the culvert at the northern end
- Replacement of old and damaged entrance signage
- Repairs and replacements of several damaged benches
- Replacement of old and damaged bins with larger capacity dual-use bins
- Removal of c.200m of dilapidated fencing from the northern boundary
- Bridge repair at Creighton Avenue West and minor repairs to other bridges

11.2 Next steps

Section 12 contains an action plan has been drawn up that sets out the actions to be taken over the next three years.

Coldfall Wood is a natural environment that needs to be carefully managed to ensure it does not lose its natural appearance and charm. Care needs to be taken to preserve these qualities. New amenities such as bins or benches need to be unobtrusive and sympathetic to the surroundings.

However, it is important to ensure that, within these constraints, the wood is safe and accessible to as many people as possible.

It is also important to ensure that the environment continues to provide a safe and suitable home for the wide range of plant and animal species that it has historically supported.

The action plan also identifies scheduled activities that will occur on a regular basis. One of these is to update the management plan on an annual basis. This plan will next be reviewed in December 2021 as well the Conservation Action Plan which has not been updated for several years. A full re-write of the plan will take place in 2022, once the new Parks and Open Spaces strategy has been adopted.

12. Action Plan

12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

This is a schedule of annual or routine tasks which are neither developmental nor fall within the remit of routine grounds maintenance or hygiene functions.

Heading	Action	Frequency	Responsible	When?
Clean and well maintained	Site inspection to be undertaken	Quarterly	Park Zonal Officer (PZO)	Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct
	Site inspection: annual boundary check	Annually	Park Zonal Officer	February
Healthy, safe and secure	Inspection & repair of the lighting from Creighton Avenue to the Everington Road pathway, including any necessary tree works	Annually	Tree Officer Lighting Team Park Zonal Officer	Annually
Management	Review the Park Management Plan annually	Annually	Park Zonal Officer	December
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Park Zonal Officer	Quarterly Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct
	Larger, high value projects and improvements	As Identified	Parks Projects Officer (PPO)	As Identified

12.2 Coldfall Wood development plan

This plan (overleaf) describes the work we would like to carry out. Budget availability and more urgent unplanned work may mean that it cannot all be fulfilled. Other repairs and general maintenance may have to take precedence. The content of this plan will be reviewed at least annually towards the end of each calendar year.

This plan shows the work we would like to carry out.

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
A welcoming Place	Replace old and damaged interpretation boards	M	PZO	£1500	Council	March 2023	Awaiting copy from Friends
	Review and upgrade directional and information signage	L	PZO, Friends	£4,000	Not identified	As budgets allow	Not started
	Installation of an accessible route through the woods	M	PPO	tbc	Council	As budgets allow	Consultation due 2023
A clean and well-maintained park	Replace/repair damaged benches	H	PZO	£1,000	Council	Ongoing	As needed
	Install further new benches subject to funding (consider simple memorial benches)	L	PZO	tbc	Council	As budgets allow	As needed
	Replace broken and damaged waste bins	H	PZO	£1000	Council	Ongoing	As needed
	Repair culvert at northern end of woods such that a pond forms in winter but there is an overflow to prevent the board walk from flooding	H	PZO	£2500	Council	July 2023	Working with Flood and Drainage Team on a solution

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Repair and repaint boundary railings, fences and gates (subject to funding and/or through Community Payback).	L	PZO/Parks and Greenspaces Volunteering Officer (PGVO)	Not known	Council	Summer 2023	Not started
	Audit the quality of paths throughout the woods and draw up a prioritised programme of urgent improvements that are appropriate to the setting in which the paths are located.	M	PPO/Friends	Nil	Council	Mar 2023	Underway
	Undertake path improvements (including by Everington Road entrance) appropriate to the setting subject to available funding.	M	PPO	Up to £50k	Council (subject to budget)	As budgets allow	Not started
	Rapidly remove and actively discourage graffiti	M	PZO, Veolia	Unknown	Existing contract	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Explore scope and appetite for removing wall along boundary with school – in consultation	L	PZO	Unknown	External funding?	June 2023	Not started

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	with stakeholders - as it is a canvas for graffiti.						
	Check safety of the wall along the school edge/lit path (currently leaning on Lamppost CA458C) and if necessary, undertake repairs to make safe/replace	M	PZO, Council lighting team	tbc	Council	Mar 2023	Underway
	Undertake enforcement action against people in breach of the dog control orders where possible.	L	Enforcement Team	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Arrange for the Enforcement Team and the Friends Group to meet to discuss dog control matters	M	Parks/Friends/Enforcement team	n/a	n/a	Spring 2023	Not started
	Monitor and take action against mopeds or other motorised vehicles in the wood.	L	PZO; Enforcement Team; Police	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Establish and publicise policy on cycling in the wood.	L	PZO; Friends	Nil	n/a	Spring 2023	Not started

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Review access to the cemetery in discussion with LB Islington	L	Parks/Cemetery (LB Islington)	Nil	n/a	Spring 2023	Underway
	Undertake annual boundary inspection to check for encroachment issues	M	PZO	Staff-time	n/a	Quarterly Inspection practice	Partially completed
A sustainable place	Undertake coppicing as set out in the updated Conservation Action Plan.	H	Nature Conservation Officer; TCV	Not known	Not yet identified	Subject to funding	Not started
	Monitor tree regeneration in coppiced areas.	M	Friends; Nature Conservation Officer	Not known	Not yet identified	Subject to funding	Not started
	Establish clear policy and practice on use of the wood by forest schools and similar activities)	H	PZO, NCO	Nil	n/a	To Agreed as part of the PGSS	Underway
	Review the use of chemicals as part of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	H	Parks	Nil	n/a	To be agreed as part of PGSS	Underway
Community Involvement	Seek to increase the membership of the Friends of Coldfall Wood and to encourage the	M	Friends/PGVO	Tbc	Small Parks Grant?	Ongoing	Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	active participation of members in events and activities.						
	Hold regular volunteer working parties and events in the wood at weekends and during the week .	H	Friends/TCV	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Sustain the programme of educational walks in the wood.	L	Friends	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Explore opportunities for increasing use by local schools of the wood for educational and physical activities.	L	PGVO/Schools	Nil	n/a	May 2023	Not started
	Review and update Conservation Action Plan for Coldfall Wood	H	Nature Conservation Officer	Nil	n/a	Date	To be Agreed as part of the PGSS
	Assess and improve condition of the watercourse in the reed bed area	M	Friends/NCO/TCV?	Unknown	To be secured	Subject to funding	Not started
	Monitor water quality of streams in the wood	M	NCO	Under £2k	To be secured	Subject to funding	Not started
	Monitoring of flora and fauna (such as ground	L	Nature Conservation Officer; Friends	Under £2k	To be secured	Subject to funding	Not started

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	flora, invertebrates, bats).						
	Review and (possibly) update nature trail.	L	Friends/PPO/NCO	£1000	Small Parks Fund?	Spring 2023	Not started
	Monitor for and control invasive species including Japanese Knotweed.	H	Friends; Council/NCO; TCV?/Utility company	Unknown	Council	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Audit and repair bird and bat boxes; add new boxes subject to funding.	L	NCO/Friends/PZO	£1000	External funding bid?	September 2023	Not started
	Explore scope to renovate the Coldfall Wood sign with Fortismere School (that was created by a former pupil).	L	PZO/Friends	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Not started
Marketing and communication	Improve appearance, content and relevance of information posted on the noticeboards.	M	PZO	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Update and maintain Friends of Coldfall Wood website.	M	Friends	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Raise awareness and understanding of PSPOs for dog owners among park users; enforce if necessary.	H	PZO/Enforcement	Nil	n/a	Spring 2023	Not started
	Seek opportunities to promote Coldfall Wood as a destination for walking and nature within the borough.	L	PZO NCO	Nil	n/a	Ongoing	Walk in the Park booklet produced by Friends Forum
Management	Prepare new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and associated documents for adoption by Council	H	Head of Parks & Leisure	?	Officer time and revenue funding	Summer 2023	Underway
	Map all park assets on the council's CONFIRM database.	M	PZO	Nil	n/a		Completed
	Drafting, consultation & roll-out of the new parks restructure.	H	Head of Parks & Leisure	tbc	Officer time and revenue budget tbc	2021	Completed

APPENDIX 1:



Conservation Action Plan

Coldfall Wood

Reclaiming green spaces since 1959

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is a trading name of BTCV
Registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (976410)
and as a charity in England (261009) and Scotland (SC039302)
Registered Office: Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 8DB



Background

Coldfall Wood is a fascinating 'ancient' woodland of some 14 hectares lying in the London Borough of Haringey. It is freely accessible and is much used by local people.

The wood is predominantly oak standard above hornbeam coppice, but the coppice had not been worked for very many years until small scale felling began again approximately 20 years ago.

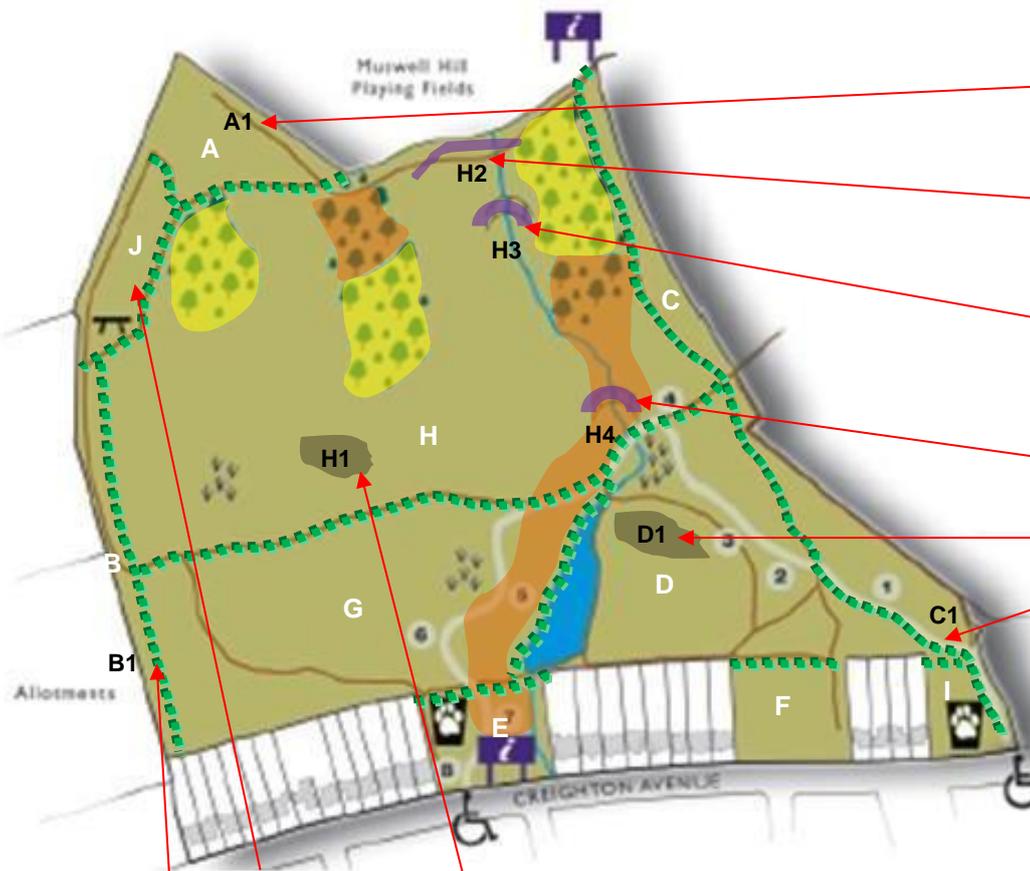
This lack of coppicing had resulted in shrubs and ground flora being shaded out, producing a woodland which tended to be gloomy and dark, and for the most part contains few of the special plants which should be associated with ancient woodland.

However management has begun to restore structural diversity to the wood by re-cutting some of the coppice and opening up small glades.

This management has been extremely successful, both for nature conservation and in creating visual interest.

Although there was antagonism from local people at the start, users now appreciate and support the benefits of this work.

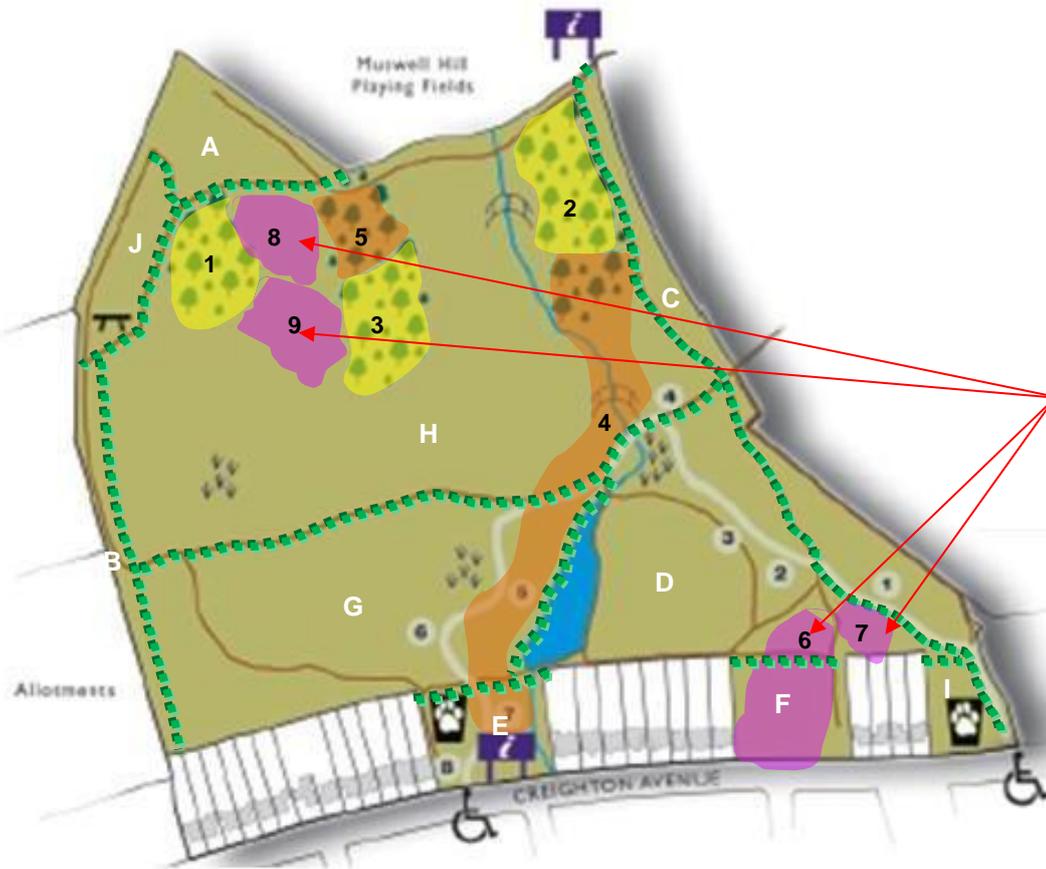
Coldfall Wood Compartments



- Compartments A to J.**
- Monitor health and safety of trees, especially those near to paths and buildings. Record and report any concerns.
 - Monitor and maintain footpaths.
 - Clear vegetation and overhang back from all paths
 - **A1.** Cut vegetation back 1.5m from paths
 - **Boardwalk & Bridges H2, H3, H4**
 - Install French Drains on approaches to the bridges and boardwalk
 - Lay and compact Hogging on these approaches to prevent erosion and deep mud.
 - **D1.** Thin out up to 10% of the Hornbeam coppice stools to allow more light to ground layer
 - Monitor and record flora
 - **C1.** Clear Japanese Knotweed patch either by herbicide treatment or regular cutting back of the emerging canes.
 - Keep notice and interpretation boards clean and clear of vegetation.

- **B.** Wood Melic Grass (*Melica uniflora*) grows in this compartment along the boundary bank and ditch. Monitor and control encroaching vegetation.
 - **B1.** Monitor and control Holly growth along this compartment
 - **J.** Control encroaching vegetation on to grassland areas
 - Allow 1.5m wide strip of no mow long- grass border along shrubby edge. Cut 75% in Nov and the remaining 25% in April.
 - Monitor overhead tree cover and crown lift when necessary.
 - Monitor and record flora and fauna
 - **H1.** Thin out Hornbeam around the Silver Birch and Bracken to allow the development of ground flora.
 - **F.** Remove Norway Maple saplings
- A, H, E, F and I.**
- Keep all entrances and street fence line clear of encroaching and overhanging vegetation.
 - Keep notice and interpretation boards clean and clear of vegetation.

Coppice Habitats

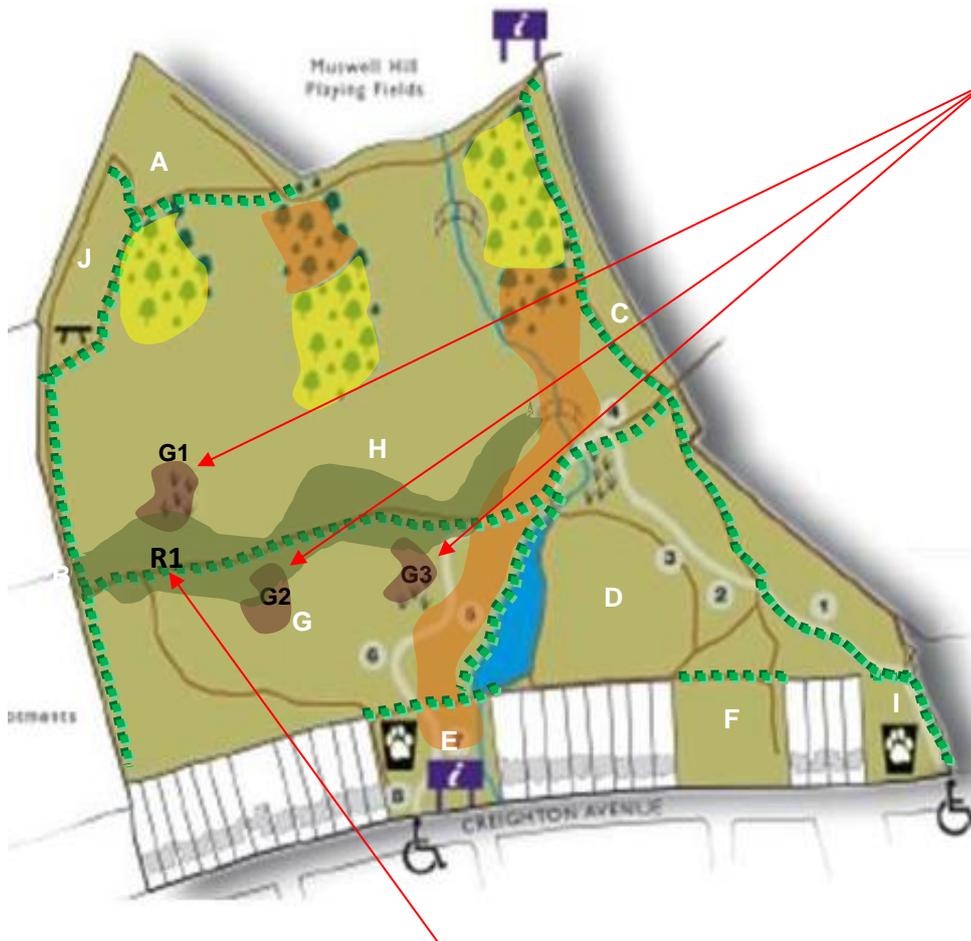


- New Coppice areas**
- Create a series of new coppices 6,7,8,9 starting 2014 (see timeline chart)
 - Use the timbers and brashings to create Stag beetle loggeries, dead-hedges and habitat piles etc
 - Monitor and record fauna & flora

- Coppice cycle**
- All copses need to be monitored to assess their readiness for coppicing.
 - No coppicing is required until 2013/14 and should start with copse 3. This should then be followed by copse 5 and 4 in the following consecutive years and so on (see timeline chart).
 - Use the poles and brashings for hedging, wood piles, dead-hedging etc.
 - Monitor and record fauna & flora
 - Note: The majority of the Hazel stools dotted across the woodland have recently been coppiced at the same time and will not require coppicing until approx 2020.
 - Coppice 15-20% of the remaining Hazel starting 2014 to maintain some mature growth.

Coppice Cycle Timeline									
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2013 / 2014									
2014 / 2015									
2015 / 2016									
2016 / 2017									
2017 / 2018									

Glade and Ride Habitats



Glades

Manage the glades to maintain a shrubby margin moving into a herb layer and then a grassy ground layer

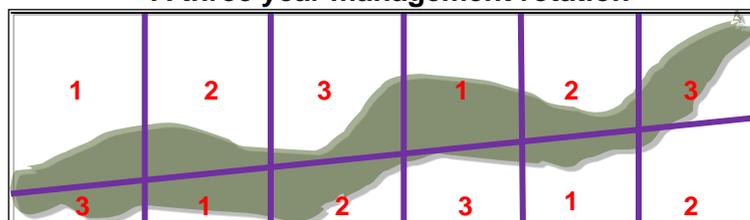
- **G1 and G2.** Expand glades to converge with the new 'Ride' to form scallops and warm zones.
- Clear 25% Bramble and other encroaching vegetation on a four year rotation.
- Monitor overhead tree cover and crown lift or thin out branches when necessary.
- Monitor and record flora and fauna

R1. New Ride

A new Ride was created in 2014 and has greatly increased the bio-diversity in the wood. Following the existing path from east to west, the Ride should be cut 10m each side of the path on a slightly zigzag pattern and tapering at each end. This allows more sunlight onto the woodland floor and avoid becoming a wind tunnel. It also creates more edge zones of mixed vegetation that make good feeding ground for many species.

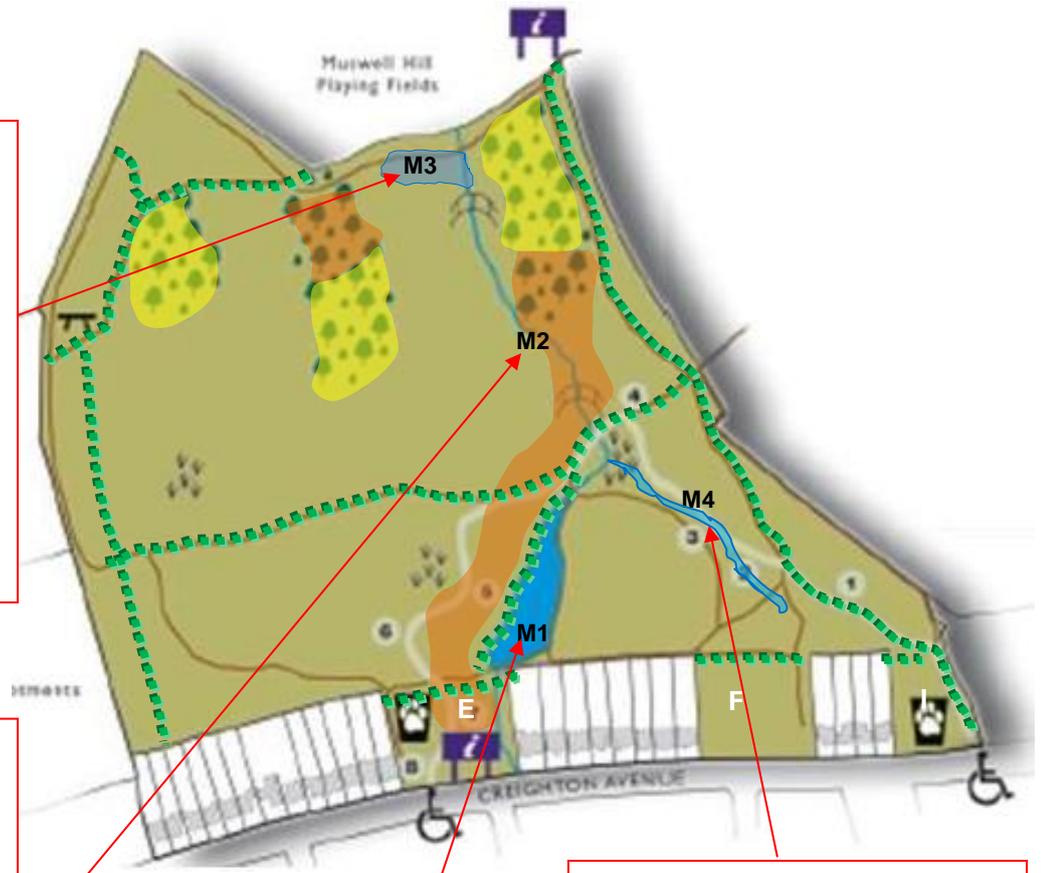
The Ride consists of a central path/grass zone gradating out into an herbaceous layer and then a shrub layer on both sides.

A three year management rotation



- The central path/grass area should be regularly maintained on a monthly basis, either by mowing or weeding. Remove all cuttings
- The herb layer should be cut on a three year cycle as shown in the diagram above.
- Allow the development of the shrub layer but control encroachment into the herb layer annually
- When shrub layer has developed cut back on a three year cycle as shown in the diagram above, and then allow to develop again for a further three years before starting the cycle again. This will effectively leave six years between cutting in each section

Wetland Habitats



M3. Flood zone/Marsh

- Monitor the health of the mature Hornbeam. These may need to be felled.
- Monitor wetland plant development
- Monitor and coppice shrub and Willow when required

M2. Stream

- 25% of the stream should be cleared of accumulated silt, on a four year rotation. Nov/Jan
- Clear and coppice 25% of encroaching vegetation along the banks alternating along each side of the stream on a four year rotation

M4. New stream

- 25% of the stream should be cleared of accumulated silt, on a four year rotation. Nov/Jan
- Clear 25% of encroaching vegetation along the banks alternating along each side of the stream on a four year rotation

M1. Pond + wetland

- Monitor and record frogspawn, toad spawn and adult amphibians in the pond. February /May
 - Monitor the amount of free-floating and floating-leaved rooted plants covering the pond. Remove excessive growth in June/Aug.
- Remove any rubbish/logs from the pond as soon it is noticed
- Clear marginal plants spreading into the centre of the pond from its 'invading front', on the inner side of the margin. This leaves the landward side as undisturbed habitat. Nov/Jan. Leave the dead stems and leaves of other the marginal's over winter
 - Rake off floating Autumn leaf fall, and remove some of those that settle on the bottom. Nov onwards
 - Coppice 25% of the Willow on a four year cycle

Boundary Habitats



- Muswell Hill Playing Fields Boarder**
- Graduate from shrub layer to herbaceous layer and then a long grass strip
 - Control invasive vegetation
 - Cut scallops into herb and shrub layer
 - Monitor fauna and flora

- Explore options with the Friends for creating a dead-hedge alongside the bridge to Lover's Lawn to protect the ancient ditch

- Hawthorn Hedge**
- This old hedge is casting a lot of shade onto the and suppressing the growth of the ground layer vegetation
- In alternating sections pollard and coppice 33% of the old Hawthorn over three years.
 - Trim back each section over three years as required
 - Monitor and record fauna and flora

Compartments General Management Timeline											
Activity	Monitor health of trees	Monitor and maintain footpaths, bridges and boardwalk	Cut long grass strip	Cut vegetation back from path	Install French Drains and Hogging	Thin out Hornbeam coppice	Clear Japanese Knotweed and Maple saplings	Maintain all notice boards and interpretation boards	Control encroaching vegetation	Clear encroaching vegetation from entrances and street fence line	Monitor and record fauna and flora
January	All	All		A1	H2,H3,H4	D1,H1			B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
February	All	All		A1	H2,H3,H4	D1,H1			B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
March	All	All		A1	H2,H3,H4		C1, F		B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
April	All	All	J 25%		H2,H3,H4		C1, F			A,H,E,F,I	All
May	All	All			H2,H3,H4		C1, F			A,H,E,F,I	All
June	All	All			H2,H3,H4		C1, F			A,H,E,F,I	All
July	All	All			H2,H3,H4		C1, F			A,H,E,F,I	All
August	All	All			H2,H3,H4		C1, F			A,H,E,F,I	All
September	All	All			H2,H3,H4		C1, F		B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
October	All	All	J 75%		H2,H3,H4		C1, F		B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
November	All	All	J 75%	A1	H2,H3,H4	D1,H1			B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All
December	All	All		A1	H2,H3,H4	D1,H1			B,J	A,H,E,F,I	All

Coppice and New Coppice Management Timeline										
Activity	Create new copse	Coppice stools and clear bramble and excessive ivy growth	Monitor fauna and flora	Coppice Hazel	Control bramble and invasive vegetation encroachment	Monitor coppice growth	Create a few small scrapes and monitor new vegetative growth	Build stag beetle loggeries	Construct habitat piles and dead hedges	
January	6,7,8,9	1 - 5	All	20%	1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
February	6,7,8,9	1 - 5	All	20%	1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
March	6,7,8,9	1 - 5	All			All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
April			All			All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
May			All			All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
June			All			All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
July			All			All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
August			All		1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
September			All		1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
October			All		1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
November			All	20%	1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	
December	6,7,8,9	1 - 5	All	20%	1 - 5	All	1 3	All	6 7 8 9	

Glades and Ride Management Timeline							
Activity	Survey, mark out and cut out a Ride	Monitor and record fauna and flora	Maintain a shrubby margin moving into a herb layer and then a grassy ground layer	Remove scrub encroachment, Bramble, Ivy and tree saplings	Monitor overhead tree cover and crown lift or thin out branches	Expand glades to converge with the new ' Ride' to form scallops and warm zones	Clear 25% Bramble and other encroaching vegetation
January	R1		R1	R1	G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
February	R1	All	R1	R1	G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
March	R1	All	R1	R1	G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
April		All		R1	G1 G2 G3		
May		All			G1 G2 G3		
June		All			G1 G2 G3		
July		All			G1 G2 G3		
August		All			G1 G2 G3		G1 G2
September		All			G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
October	R1	All	R1		G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
November	R1	All	R1	R1	G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2
December	R1		R1	R1	G1 G2 G3	G1 G2	G1 G2

Waterways Pounds and Pond Management Timeline									
Activity	Monitor wetland habitat fauna and flora	Remove excessive floating plant growth	Coppice shrub and Willow	Remove any rubbish from the pond as soon it is	Clear marginal plants spreading into the centre of	Clear banks of encroaching vegetation	Rake off floating Autumn leaf fall, and remove some of those that settle on the	Accumulated silt should be dug out	Cut stream banks
January			All	All	M1	All		All	M1,M2,M4
February			All	All	M1	All			M1,M2,M4
March	All			All					M1,M2,M4
April	All			All					
May	All			All					
June	All	M1		All					
July	All	M1		All					
August	All	M1		All					
September	All	M1		All					M1,M2,M4
October	All			All	M1	All	M1,M2,M4	All	M1,M2,M4
November	All		All	All	M1	All	M1,M2,M4	All	M1,M2,M4
December			All	All	M1	All		All	M1,M2,M4

Hedges & Boundaries Management Timeline									
Activity	Trim 33% of Hedge. Put clippings into habitat piles & dead-hedges	Construct Dead-hedge	Monitor and record fauna and flora	Top up Dead-hedge	Control Bramble & encroaching vegetation	Coppice and Pollard Hedge	Building stag beetle loggeries and other habitat piles	Trim shrubs and coppice	Keep ground flora clear of scrub encroachment
January									
February									
March									
April									
May									
June									
July									
August									
September									
October									
November									
December									

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APPENDIX 2: Management history – a detailed account

Purpose

This long and detailed description about the site management and history was in the 2012 management plan. It is included so as not to lose this thorough insight into the history and past management of the wood.

Management History

The wood was managed as coppice with standards for many centuries. Underwood was cut on a cycle with a period which may have varied through different historical periods, but was typically between 5 and 20 years. Normally only part of a wood was cut in any one year, but, using evidence from the 17th century court rolls of the Manor of Hornsey, Silvertown (1978) suggested that the woods were coppiced throughout in one season. Bevan (1992) states that the lack of any internal boundary banks in the wood today supports this view. Standard trees, here mostly oak, were allowed to grow on until of sufficient size for timber. All grades of wood were in short supply, and there would have been few if any 'over-mature' trees and little or no dead wood.

Coppice woodland began to be neglected in the 19th century, when demand for wood, especially underwood obtained from coppice, declined. Coldfall Wood had not been cut for 50 years or more years until coppicing was resumed in December 1990, when a hectare was re-cut (Bevan 1992). The work was carried out by the BTCV, the Friends of Coldfall Wood and the Haringey branch of the London Wildlife Trust. In each coppice a dead-hedge was constructed around the edge using brushwood from the cut hornbeam, to protect the area from trampling by people and dogs, and provide nesting habitat for certain birds. Hornbeam poles were stacked and allowed to decay on site to provide deadwood habitat for invertebrates and fungi. Coppice stools re-sprout best if they are regularly worked, whereas here they had not been cut for at least half a century. Nevertheless most stools did survive and have regenerated well. Two further coupes were cut in November 1991 and February 1994, and three small glades since then.

Initially there was considerable local opposition to this work, which was seen as destructive felling. This abated as the coppice regrew and strong local support helped in the delivery of Coldfall Wood part in the 'Capital Woodlands' project. The Capital Woodlands Project funded the felling of two new coppices in November 2006 along with the installation of new interpretation panels, a nature trail, benches, footbridges, reed beds and footpaths. Invasive species such as Norway maple and Turkey oak have also been controlled and botanical surveys have been carried out.

The first coupe was successfully re-coppiced in the winter of 2010/11 by volunteers including BTCV, Haringey Council staff and staff from the City of London based at Highgate Wood and Hampstead Heath.

In addition to these works LB Haringey have set aside an area of Muswell Hill Playing Fields to the north of the Wood as a buffer zone where the amenity grassland is now only mown once a year.

Many local residents now welcome the new growth, increased nature conservation interest and more interesting landscape that the works have created.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields take an active and important role in managing and promoting the Wood by organising public events such as clean up days and raising funds for items such as benches and bat boxes.

Coldfall Wood receives both a Woodland Management Grant and a Woodland Improvement Grant from the Forestry Commission through the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

The LB of Haringey has successfully gained United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard certification for Coldfall Wood to verify sustainable management.

Management objectives

The overall management objectives are:

- Maintain and increase the nature conservation value of the Wood
- Preserve and maintain the historical features of the Wood
- Provide for and promote use of the Wood for informal recreation and for formal and informal education
- Encourage local participation in managing and general monitoring of the Wood
- Maintain records of management in the Wood and its effects, and of flora and fauna more generally.
- Ensure public safety; discourage inappropriate use of the woods.

Constraints on management

Constraints on management arise from Coldfall Wood being much used and loved by local people. People are generally resistant to change, as witnessed by earlier attitudes to coppicing. Although much of the opposition has abated, largely due to good community consultation and involvement, and many people now regard the coppices and glades as a success, there will always be a limit to what is acceptable. This is evident with regard to concern over flooding in Compartment H which has value as a wildlife habitat.

Misuse of managed areas might be a difficulty, for example anti-social behaviour in dense regeneration, or burning of dead-hedges. However, this does not appear to have been a problem to date.

The following additional issues have been identified as significant hazards, constraints or threats to management:

- **Stream Pollution**

The stream suffers from intermittent pollution problems, caused by faulty plumbing in the catchment area to the South of the Wood. Although considerable effort has been made to fix these misconnections and reed beds have been installed to filter the stream as it enters the Wood, vigilance will be required in case of further occurrences.

- **Flooding**

The stream is susceptible to seasonal flooding, especially during the winter months. This is due to high volumes and the blocking up of the grille where the stream enters a culvert. Until recently this has been managed through non intervention but it has caused some

limited public concern. It has been agreed that the flooding will be drained at the first available opportunity unless a review beforehand deems this unnecessary or unbeneficial.

- **Vandalism**

The Wood suffers from the usual array of urban vandalism problems, including fly tipping, motorbike “scrambling”, vehicle dumping, fire-raising, graffiti, and tree house construction.

- **Occurrence of exotic species**

A number of introduced exotic tree species have become established in parts of the Wood, especially around the perimeter. Turkey oak, Sycamore, and Norway maple are the main tree species that need to be monitored and controlled. Also of concern is Himalayan Balsam which has entered the water course, perhaps from plants introduced to the new pond/reed beds. There is a small area of Japanese Knotweed in the east of the Wood bordering an electricity sub station and Coldfall primary School where it is also present. The Japanese Knotweed is being successfully treated in all of these areas.

- **Pests**

There is a significant population of grey squirrels in the Wood. They damage young trees by gnawing the bark. Hornbeam is particularly vulnerable. Public opinion is unlikely to accept control measures such as culling. Lack of finance can be another limiting factor.

Management Rationale

Coppicing and glade creation - Why coppice?

Before cutting re-commenced, Coldfall Wood had developed into more-or-less uniform, dense canopied even-aged hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Hornbeam comes into leaf early and produces a thick canopy, and the dense shade throughout the majority of the wood had led to the demise of shrub and field layer vegetation, and a gloomy atmosphere. Hazel, dogwood and other shrubs require light to thrive, and they would have declined gradually until they became sparse or completely absent. There was a spectrum in ages of the standard trees except that very few saplings and seedlings were present as there was no recent regeneration.

Without any form of management, this situation would have continued for many years. Eventually windblow, disease and competition among the hornbeams would have created natural glades and Coldfall would have become more varied again in both composition and structure. However, this would have taken at least many decades to happen, and in addition the old coppice stools which are such a feature of the wood would have been lost.

Six areas have been re-coppiced in the last two decades. Hornbeam stools have generally re-sprouted well, but a small percentage have died. Other trees have come in by seed, notably birch, which has formed very dense stands on drier soils, willows on damper soils, and a scattering of sycamore. This recent management work has therefore changed the composition of trees and shrubs in Coldfall Wood to some extent. Some might regard this negatively, being concerned that the wood is not being preserved in its former historical state. However, in many ways some change is an advantage: the flora and fauna are benefited by diversity in the tree species and structure, and the landscape is more interesting. In any case woodland management changed through the centuries to cater for the demand and conditions of the time, so that in fact a purist and preservationist attitude

would be misplaced. There is every reason to welcome natural changes now as long as Coldfall Wood retains its essential overall character of hornbeam coppice with oak standards (but see below concerning non-native species). Natural regeneration should also be easier to manage, since the species which have seeded in and grown are adapted to the conditions, and it will not be necessary to control them in order to favour hornbeam.

Ancient woods are often rich in plants (and animals), but the shade cast by overstood coppice erodes the field layer until it contains but few species. Some species may regenerate if conditions improve, and this has certainly happened in Coldfall Wood. The cut areas are extremely rich compared with the uncut areas and contain several ancient woodland indicator species such as yellow pimpernel, which came up in glade 4; it had not been seen in the wood for decades.

The avifauna has increased since coppicing began. Many birds need a well-developed shrub layer for feeding and breeding, and the wood now supports good numbers of blackcap, for example.

The creation of small-scale glades has also been successful, and further glades would be beneficial. These can include extensions to existing glades or coppices. In addition, advantage can also be taken of chance events; where a tree has to be felled for safety or other reasons it may be possible to coppice a few neighbouring trees to make a glade.

Overall, therefore, the coppicing and glade creation have been extremely successful.

Where and how much?

There is scope for re-cutting a seventh coupe mostly likely in compartments D, F, G or I, however the re-cutting of existing coppices should probably be the priority as it would represent the successful completion of a traditional coppice cycle and regenerate stools which have suffered from recent squirrel damage.

Density of standards: Coppicing is most successful if the canopy of the standard trees is light; this is particularly important where natural regeneration of oaks is hoped for. Traditionally some standard trees might have been harvested when a coupe was cut, and this would be ideal here. Although choosing an area with a low density of existing standards could be used as one of the parameters influencing choice of location avoiding any negative public reaction which might arise from felling large trees BTCV (1980) state that a density of 10 standards to the acre, or 5 if large, is suitable, and that in any case it should be less than 20 to the acre.

Streams and other features: These may influence siting, for example it may be useful to bring more light to the other woodland streams to promote bankside and aquatic vegetation and possibly improve water quality.

Presence of rare or uncommon species of plants or animals: If these are known to be present, it is important to consider the effects on them of opening up the canopy followed by re-growth and invasion of other plants such as bramble. This could, for instance, apply to the clumps of wood anemone in compartment D. Many species, including hazel and other shrubs, would benefit from increased light. Hazel, which has been shaded out in the wood, could be increased where present by layering in coppiced areas.

Safety: Public safety and its perception may influence the siting of cut areas, for example away from main entrances and routes through the wood. Although initial felling creates new sight lines and a perception of increased safety.

Neighbouring properties: It may not be possible to carry out work along boundaries with other properties. At a minimum detailed consultation will be required.

Tree and shrub promotion and planting

One of the objectives of coppicing is to obtain young trees which will eventually form the overstorey in decades to come. Natural tree regeneration is preferable, but is variable; this is especially true of oaks, which do not produce good crops of acorns every year and do not regenerate well underneath an oak canopy. The quantity of natural regeneration should be monitored, tree saplings cleared round if appropriate, and whips planted if necessary. The latter might be grown by local people from seed collected in the wood. If not, they could be bought in. 'British' oaks already contain foreign genes from extensive imports and breeding programmes in the past, so these in Coldfall Wood may well be a mixture already. However, of course it would be preferable to use local material or, if that is not possible, 'native' stock from trees grown in southern Britain.

Hazel would have been a major component of the shrub layer, but is rare in the wood now. If any hazel occurs in a coppice coupe or glade, it could be increased by layering.

Treatment of non-native trees and shrubs

Sycamore is not especially common in the bulk of the wood but may become numerous in cut areas. It should be controlled where practical, and especially in coppice coupes and glades. It is not necessary to remove every seedling and sapling, as many will die through competition before they reach seedling age. However, any which are seeding or which are likely to grow into trees should be removed. An exception is along the western boundary, where sycamores are numerous and seed-bearing trees in the adjacent cemetery are abundant. Control is probably not worth the effort here. Norway maple and Turkey oak can be treated similarly.

Cherry laurel is relatively easy to control, if necessary. It is not yet common in the wood outside of compartments B and D. Holly may become too abundant in the north-west and also require control..

Boundary features

Historical boundary features should be protected and maintained. Re-cutting of old boundary pollards might be considered.

Dead wood

Dead wood is a vital aspect of biodiversity, especially important for invertebrates and fungi, prior to the November 2006 coppicing there was a paucity of dead wood in the wood and its distribution remains poor. Dead boughs should be left on trees where not a safety hazard. Otherwise dead wood should be left lying on the ground in piles if possible, in a variety of situations - shaded and unshaded, damp and dry, lying and piled up.

Amenity and public safety

A regular cycle of ad hoc litter picking has been implemented by local volunteers and pupils from the adjacent primary school. Motor vehicle barriers have been installed on all

access points into the woodland and playing field complex. Although not entirely successful they have reduced the number of motorbikes ridden and dumped in the wood.

The Borough has a responsibility to ensure public safety. This requires periodic safety checks and follow-up action. This includes checking entrances, paths and steps, and for dangerous dead and dying wood. It also means paying attention to safety issues when planning and carrying out management work.

Education

The wood offers many opportunities for both historical and ecological studies. It provides a valuable resource for two adjacent schools, Fortismere, a comprehensive secondary, and Coldfall Primary School.

The Wood has been used as a training base for teachers which wish to learn and qualify as Forest School leaders. Staff at Coldfall Primary now take an average of 60 pupils a week into the Wood for Forest School classes. A new gate has been installed directly from the school to the Wood to cut journey times and increase safety.

Both the geography and biology departments of Fortismere have used Coldfall Wood in the past, and Haringey's nature conservation officer, is keen to continue to encourage further use. Fortismere art department designed a notice board for the wood and also often use the wood for classes.

Interpretative material

A nature trail has been installed and a nature trail leaflet produced which is available in both hard and electronic copy. The Friends of Coldfall Wood are also developing their own electronic and interactive map as an educational tool. There are interpretation panels at two of the main entrances and a new noticeboard.

Prescription by Compartment

Note: The compartment map is reproduced overleaf as an aid to the following sections

General

Try to retain windblow hornbeam, but fell if necessary for safety reasons.

Compartment A

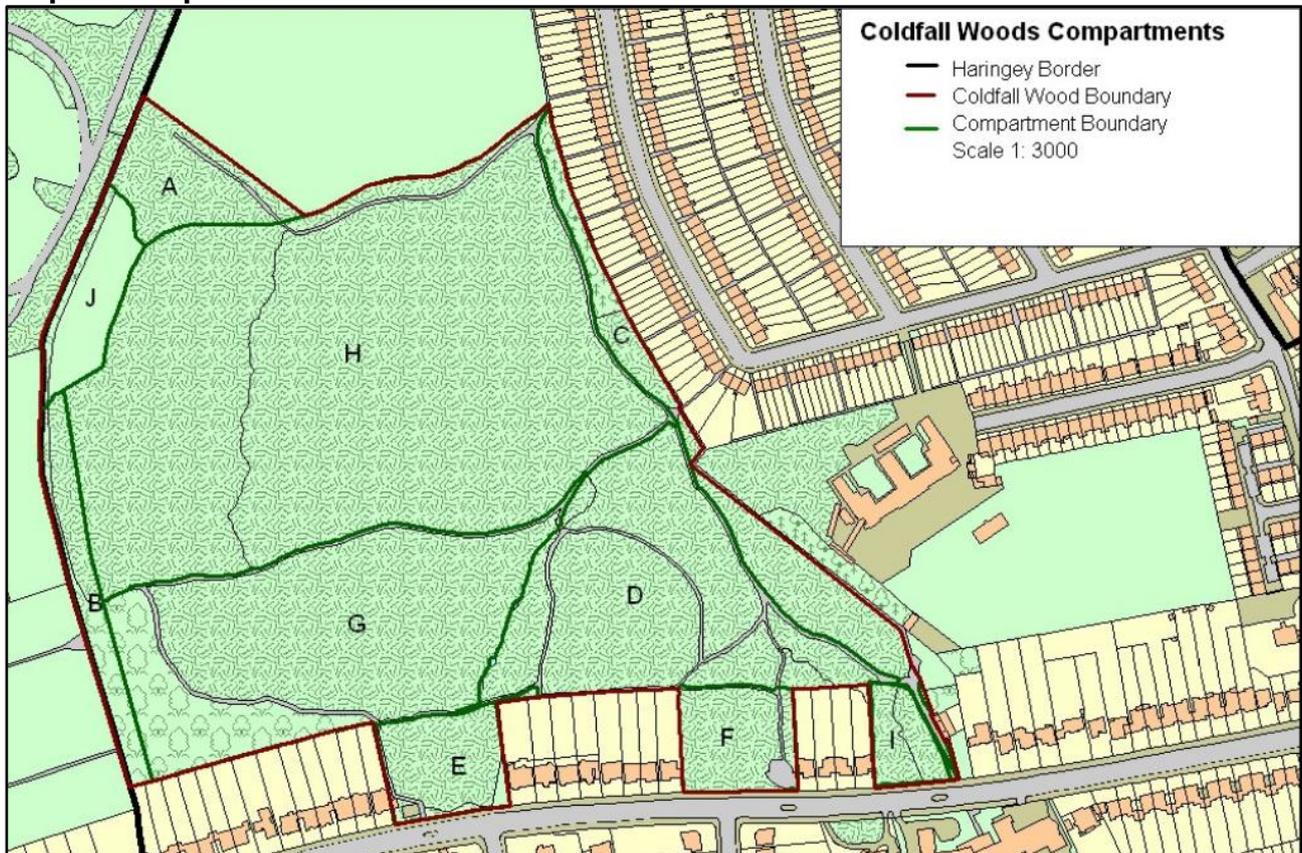
Unlike most of the wood, this is not ancient coppice woodland. Coppicing is therefore inappropriate. This compartment should be managed as high forest, with trees of a range of ages present. There is scope to thin amongst the oak to help promote the few good quality stems of native oak into mature specimens for the future. Only a small volume of oak should be removed as it is proposed to repeat this operation regularly every 5-10 years to avoid being drastic at any one time. Regeneration can be encouraged by careful intervention with hand tools or clearing saw.

There is a mature crab apple in the compartment. Fruit from this could be collected, stratified and germinated, and used to plant in other suitable areas of the wood.

Saplings of sycamore and horse chestnut which are likely to survive into seed-bearing trees and which are not on or near the outside of the wood should be removed. Likewise

cherry laurel and holly should also be controlled. This management will be a continuing need. Logwood should be removed and brush should be left in place in such a way as to protect areas of young regeneration from walkers. It is important to stop further encroachment into compartment J.

Map of compartments within Coldfall Wood



Compartment B

This compartment is also not ancient woodland and coppicing is not therefore appropriate. A multi-layered woodland should be retained. Small-scale thinning, formative pruning and high pruning mainly with hand tools is proposed, to promote the best trees for the future. Sycamore and horse chestnut trees and saplings that are likely to grow into seed-bearing trees should be removed along with Cherry Laurel. The increasing numbers of young holly should be thinned and yew should be monitored. The path through this compartment running along the boundary with the allotments should be cut back annually to control bramble and promote woodland grasses. Regular monitoring of the boundary should include the removal of any waste or escapes from the allotment. These will be continuing tasks.

Compartment C

The boundaries of the wood along this edge tend to be unattractive, being a mix of concrete, metal and wooden fencing of various styles although now mainly in good repair. It would be nice to screen these by promoting dense vegetation between the outer path and the fences but this could only be achieved at the widest points by coppicing and it

could hide garden waste from detection.. Graffiti and dumped garden waste needs to be monitored and removed as necessary.

Approximately 10m of tarmac path should be laid to gap the space between paths at the North Eastern entrance into the playing fields where deep mud has become a problem in winter.

Compartment D

Glade creation would be advantageous. However, the area in the vicinity of the wood anemone should be retained as too much opening of the canopy might lead to this plant becoming swamped by taller vegetation.

Common cow-wheat was present in this compartment approximately 25 years ago near a honeysuckle patch/glade. Glade creation might allow this to regenerate from buried seed. Unusually for a plant typical of ancient woodland, this species is an annual, and therefore may well have a long seed viability. It is hemi-parasitic on grass and will therefore require grass to be present.

Compartment E

The establishment of the reed-beds needs to be monitored and weeding of competing plants should take place if the reeds are struggling to take hold. The reed-bed may need to be de-silted and replanted after several years and the need for this should be monitored along with any notable increase in pollution incidents. Control of invasive species such as Norway maple and Himalayan Balsam should continue and particular vigilance for invasive aquatic species is important.

Footpath improvements from 2010 should be monitored to determine their success..

Compartment F

Some tree thinning would improve views into the woodland and make the entrance more welcoming to visitors. This compartment has been coppiced.

Compartment G

A new coupe could be cut in this compartment. A possible site would be to the south-east of glade 5, where there are areas with a relatively low density of oak standards. In addition, further glades could be created and glade 5 re-cut and expanded

Vigilance for invasive aquatic species such as Himalayan Balsam will be necessary along the stream; any found should be removed immediately.

Approaches to the newly installed footbridge (2010) should be monitored and appropriate action taken if should they become slippery as with the old bridge..

Compartment H

The hornbeams along the northern boundary bank are interesting historical features. Many seem healthy, but those along the western half are more spindly, and heavily shaded. The

tradition of cutting or 'stubbing' these to make boundary 'coppards' could be continued by cutting these; some surrounding trees should also be cut in small glades to allow sufficient light to reach the cut hornbeams. There is otherwise the danger that these trees will eventually die. Some have suffered from waterlogging due to flooding.

The issue of motorcycles entering the Wood here has largely been dealt with through barriers being installed at other entrances to the adjacent playing fields. However pedestrian access from Muswell Hill Playing Fields is also difficult due to the steep bank and wet ditch where new steps are needed. These problems are probably best addressed in the proposed improvement plan for the playing fields.

The management of the strip of grassland bordering Compartment H which is currently cut once annually should be formalised within any new management plan for the fields. Rotational cutting leaving some areas long for over-wintering invertebrates would be beneficial.

Compartment I

This compartment should be coppiced to improve sight lines into the Wood and improve streamside vegetation. The fact that the entrance path in this compartment is raised above the main woodland means that safety issues considered in Compartment F are minimised. A strip should remain unfelled along the edge of the road.

Compartment J

With the proximity of the cemetery and its abundant sycamores, it is probably not worth attempting to eradicate sycamore from the cemetery side of this compartment. However, it may be worth controlling sycamores along the wood side if they are otherwise likely to survive to become seed-bearing trees.

A hoggin path was laid through the centre of the compartment as heavy footfall and erosion had created a large area of mud and bare earth.

Coppice 1

Re-coppiced in late 2009 early 2010 after 20 years removing squirrel to coppice regrowth in the process. An assessment of oak regeneration should be made and restocking considered if necessary.

Coppice 2

Due to regular flooding the western edge of this compartment should be left to develop naturally as it heads towards a wetland habitat. Re-coppicing the eastern side should be further considered as a possibility. Changes should be monitored.

Coppice 3

Re-coppicing this area should be considered in 2 or 3 years time this will allow for some regrowth in the re-cut coppice 1 and vary ages across the site. Again the level of oak regeneration should be monitored and restocking considered.

Coppice 4

Monitoring will be necessary to determine whether or not the coppice re-growth will hinder public access along the stream or negatively affect the streams flora. For this reason a shorter coppice rotation may be necessary than elsewhere in the Wood.

Coppice 5

Only recently coppiced along with No.4 in 2006/07 there is currently no practical management necessary here although further monitoring is required regarding species re-growth. Whether this coppice should be extended to meet Coppice No.1 should also be considered.