

The Pinewoods

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

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Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

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

Our Vision is:

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

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

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

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

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

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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

The following principles provide an overarching framework to guide the management of all our sites but we recognise that all woods are different and that their management also needs to reflect their local landscape, history and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives.

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene in our woods when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity, safety and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland for all the positive reasons set out in our Conservation Principles, preferably using natural regeneration but often by planting trees, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe. Where possible, we pro-actively engage with people to help them appreciate the value of woods and trees.
4. The long term vision for all our ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The natural and cultural heritage value of sites is taken into account in our management and in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Land and woods can generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We therefore consider the appropriateness of opportunities to generate income from our Estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we encourage our woods to be used for local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the Estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. We maintain a network of sites for long-term monitoring and trials leading to reductions in plastics and pesticides.
10. Any activities we undertake are in line with our wider Conservation Principles, conform to sustainable forest management practices, are appropriate for the site and balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

The Public Management Plan

This public management plan describes the site and sets out the long term aims for our management and lists the Key Features which drive our management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site – their significance is outlined together with our long, 50 years and beyond, and our short, the next 5 years, term objectives for the management and enhancement of these features. The short term objectives are complemented by an outline Work Programme for the period of this management plan aimed at delivering our management aims.

Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and we continually monitor our sites to assess the success of our management, therefore this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme.

Please either consult The Woodland Trust website

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

or contact the Woodland Trust

operations@woodlandtrust.org.uk

to confirm details of the current management programme.

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

Location and Access

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

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

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

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

The Management Plan

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2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
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 - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

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GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

The Pinewoods

Location:	Woodhall Spa Grid reference: TF193632 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 122
Area:	7.63 hectares (18.85 acres)
External Designations:	Tree Preservation Order
Internal Designations:	Welcoming Sites Programme

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The Pinewoods is a secondary woodland purchased by the Woodland Trust as a 'woodland rescue' to prevent its loss due to development. A substantial grant was given by the Countryside Commission for this purpose.

The wood comprises of three compartments extending to 7.8 ha in total, all of which is covered by a Tree preservation order. The main block being about 7.3 ha. The other two, a small section on the corner of Coronation Drive and the other a rectangular arboretum between King George Road and Coronation Hall. The wood has a well-documented history as having been planted over an area known as Scrub Wood by John Parkinson in 1811 to produce pit props for his adjacent coal mine. The mine sank to 1000' and became flooded, forcing it to be sealed. The water seeping from the mine was found to be rich in minerals, particularly iodine and bromine which was found to help sufferers of gout. A small bath house was built in 1830 but its popularity led to a more extensive spa bath system being built in 1834 with the luxurious Victoria Hotel catering for the cream of society. The grounds of the Hotel and baths were landscaped and the adjacent Pinewoods became the centre of delightful sheltered walks with seats placed conveniently along the well kept paths for the chronically ill. Woodhall Spa developed as a town around the baths.

During World War II, the Pinewoods suffered much damage when the military, including the RASC- Royal Army Service Corps, used it to hide army vehicles and ammunition. Much of its landscaped character was lost at this time. It remained popular with local people however as a place for informal recreation, which led to the Trusts eventual purchase.

Today, the Pinewoods are central to the small town of Woodhall Spa, which has grown up around it. The spa and hotels have all but gone, with the Petwood hotel one of the key remaining vestiges to the north, and designated by Historic England as grade II listed parks/ gardens in 2017. The woods, location and accessibility with many paths and entrances mean that it remains heavily used by local people. It is predominantly broadleaved with oak, sycamore and silver birch being the main species. A few scots pines still exist but are generally over-mature and prone to falling during storms. Silver birch and rowan are the primary colonising trees where light levels allow, longer living broadleaves such as oak are also regenerating but more slowly. A wide variety of other trees exist, many being remnants from the formal landscaping described above. Lime occurs along some of the woodland boundaries whilst beech occurs alongside routes such as Church Walk and King Georges Avenue. Exotics are also a feature, particularly closest to the Victoria Hotel site (it burnt down in 1920) where redwoods were planted by visiting Americans. This is now the site of the Coronation Hall as shown on the plan.

The key features for this site are:

- Secondary woodland
- Informal Public Access

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long-term vision for the pine woods is for the woodland to develop under a natural process where feasible. The pinewoods have a healthy and robust high forest ecosystem, dominated by native broadleaf species. However, existing exotic species will not be targeted for complete removal but retained and managed to reflect the past land use and history of the site. They will, however, not be actively replaced where natural regeneration of native species are present. Intervention may be required to facilitate the continued enjoyment of visitors for quiet, informal recreation. Permissive access paths will be maintained to in a safe and useable manner so visitors can enjoy the woods for the long-term future.

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Secondary Woodland

Description
<p>An attractive and historic mixed native woodland with Scots pine lying in the very centre of the town of Woodhall Spa. It is 7.8 ha in extent, lying within three distinct and separate compartments, the largest of which is about 7.3 ha.</p> <p>The woodland retains a significant number of pines, but these are no longer dominant, contrary to the woodland name. These were believed to have been planted in 1811 for coal mine pit props; but the new mine subsequently flooded with mineral rich water around which the Spa town developed in the 1830's. The Pinewoods provided important sheltered walks for visitors to the Spa, aiding the recovery of the chronically ill. Additional exotic species were planted during the Spa period when the woodland became largely an ornamental park. The woodland was badly damaged during World War II when it was used for hiding army vehicles. Purchase by the Woodland Trust in 1985 prevented development and its eventual loss.</p> <p>The woodland canopy now largely comprises of oak but includes silver birch and rowan, ash, beech, sweet chestnut, hornbeam, willow, and lime along some of the margins that have naturally regenerated in the past. Exotic species include redwoods, rhododendron, and laurel. The understorey is dominated by Holly, Rhododendron and Laurel. Prior to 1811 the site was known as the Scrub Wood of the Scrubs, indicating a much longer history of trees on the site. It is possible therefore that the site is an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, but this has not been possible to prove to date.</p> <p>A network of historical ditches keep the woodland drained, the water flowing towards the NW.</p>
Significance
<p>The Trust has been given the responsibility for the long-term care of The Pinewoods, saving them from development and ensuring their future. Their known history, location, and role in the development of Woodhall Spa makes the woodland very important within the locality.</p>
Opportunities & Constraints
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- community support and interest (future volunteer group?)- easy access for management (roads on 3 sides)- little vandalism or antisocial behaviour <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Poorly drained making management access challenging during the winter months.- extensive consultation required on management decisions (TPO, Parish council, etc)- fairly narrow age class of trees, with limited natural regeneration at present.

- urban location and high visitor use means Tree safety a significant and costly obligation.
Factors Causing Change
Tree regeneration, Frequent Wind Damage, Local Opinion - TPO, Poor drainage, Invasive species (rhododendron/ Japanese knotweed)
Long term Objective (50 years+)
A predominantly native high forest woodland with scattered Scots pine and other exotic trees left to maturity and senescence. The site will exhibit a broad age structure through allowing the natural regeneration of native broadleaf trees to establish in gaps created by fallen trees. Rhododendron, laurel, and holly should not be allowed to dominate the understory or reach a point which is impeding regeneration of tree species.
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)
Management will be predominantly through minimal intervention during this plan period, other than for public safety - annual zone A and Zone B inspection. Laurel, Holly, and rhododendron will be coppiced back along sections of the main rides to maintain a wide accessible path structure.
<p>Work Programme:</p> <p>Tree safety inspections:</p> <p>Undertake 12-18month Zone A tree safety inspection, 24-36 Zone B inspection.</p> <p>November 2026:</p> <p>Where canopy is thin within focus area (Highlighted in Green on map). Cut and clear 6 - 10m x 10m coups removing Holly, Rhododendron and Laurel, retaining any other tree and shrub species. Restock with Hornbeam, Oak, Hazel, and Rowan. Whilst to Keep the historical context of the wood underplant with Scots pine and sweet chestnut also. Protection for the trees can either be fenced enclosures or 1.2m eco/biodegradable tree tubes.</p> <p>2027 ></p> <p>Maintenance: Annually cut invasive regeneration within planting coups to reduce competition – September</p>

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description
<p>The Pinewoods is an 18-acre broadleaved woodland in the centre of the small Lincolnshire town of Woodhall Spa. The wood contains a mixture of mature native and naturalised exotic species which makes for an interesting and attractive destination within walking distance of the town centre. The Pinewoods is at the centre of the attractive Edwardian resort village of Woodhall Spa.</p> <p>The site also sits on the edge of the ‘Lincolnshire Lime woods’, and the Lincolnshire Wolds which this is an area rich in wildlife and historical significance.</p> <p>The wood has no boundary fence, and multiple entrances to the well-used path network. All entrances are open entrances with no gates onsite.</p>

Approximately 5km of informal paths cover the woodland which are generally dry underfoot except in winter or after prolonged rain. The central path running north to south between Coronation Walk and Coronation Road is suitable for some wheelchairs and pushchairs in dry conditions (although is still an unsurfaced path) and has seating. There are no official car parks on site, although there is informal parking on verges at a number of entrances. The site is used widely by the local community, and we are happy to be approached by the local groups who want to use the site for formal and informal recreation.

Significance

The Pinewoods is historically significant and has a well-documented history, which is described in the summary description of this management plan.

The site has significance as part of 2 county trail networks – the Viking Way and Lincolnshire Lime woods. Both trails are promoted and waymarked by Lincolnshire County Council.

The Pinewoods location at the heart of Woodhall Spa is also significant. It is a well-used site and resource within the town, and also acts as a green lung. Urban woods and trees are significant for many reasons; they provide places of retreat for those within the town, contributing to health, well-being and improving quality of life. They can be used to promote community involvement and engagement and give people an opportunity to interact with woods, wildlife, and our cause. They are also key in providing fragments of habitats in a wider landscape to help increase connectivity for wildlife.

Opportunities & Constraints

Opportunities

- Active local community.
- Annual 1940's festival.
- Local tourism.
- Part of larger walking routes across Lincolnshire.
- Proximity to local town for use of facilities –parking, cafes, shops, toilets.

Constraints

- Limited flat open spaces make events (other than guided walks) difficult.
- Lack of designated car parking – narrow lanes.
- Paths can become wet in winter.
- Vandalism has occurred sporadically in the past.

Factors Causing Change

Scrub encroachment from Holly, Rhododendron and Laurel, Poor drainage, Vandalism

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Entrances and signage will have a welcoming appearance and there will be a network of well-maintained paths and rides providing a variety of seasonal routes suitable for walkers through varied habitat types, integrated with active woodland management. The woodland will provide an area of quiet informal recreation to a wide range of users both from the local community and from further afield.

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

The paths and entrance points will be managed annually through an estates management contract where paths will be cut to a minimum of 2m in width at least once a year. Annually inspect all internal pedestrian infrastructure and undertake when required remedial or replacement works on infrastructure that has become unfit for purpose.

Ride edge coppicing:

Sept – October 2025

Within Plan period cut back to a depth of 2m's either side of the main rides within the plan period to reduce encroachment from invasive species (Holly, Rhododendron, Laurel) and restricting access and visibility for visitors of the Pinewoods. Retain all other tree and shrub species within the ride edge coppice zone. All cut arisings can be either chipped into the woodland or removed from the wood as to not leave a build-up of material that could become a fire hazard.

Work Programme:

Annually – Cut - September/October

All managed paths are kept free from encroaching vegetation, and that access points and internal infrastructure, are kept in good order and repair.

Ongoing Maintenance:

The site is kept safe and welcoming by repairing damage caused by vandalism; clearing of fallen trees where access is obstructed as require within the plan period.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	October
2026	WMI - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the initial phase of invasive plant control – such as rhododendron felling and mulching	November
2027	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	September
2028	WMM - Invasive Plant Control	Works associated with the on-going management of invasive plants– such a repeat cutting and control treatments	September

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	8.12	Mixed native broadleaves	1800	Min-intervention	Mostly wet ground/exposed site, People issues (+tve & -tve), Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Tree Preservation Order

The Pinewoods has been regarded as a single compartment for the purpose of this plan. The compartment comprises of three separate areas, the management being similar for each.

Lying right in the centre of Woodhall Spa, the Pinewoods are highly accessible to the public. It has numerous paths but facilities are deliberately kept low-key. Public highways run along many of the boundaries, which together with the level of visitor use, makes tree safety and public amenity highly important.

The wood is thought to be possibly Ancient Semi-Natural although heavily modified over the last hundred years or so, including a spell in the second world war when the area served as a vehicle and equipment store and training ground for the RASC- Royal Army Service Corps. The wood consists of a mixture of native species such as oak, rowan, holly and birch together with sycamore: but the whole is interspersed with scattered exotic conifers including many pines that were planted as a result of a failed coal mining enterprise in the early 19 century and later as landscaping for the various spa hotel grounds that sprung up in the later 19 century when Woodhall Spa became a top tourist destination. Many of these trees are mature to over-mature now but there is natural regeneration taking place slowly in the gaps left by fallen trees. This tends to be mainly birch and some rowan but oak is also present. Ground flora is consistent with the low lying damp acid soils, and holly regeneration over the last five years has been extremely vigorous.

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established.

Windblow/Windthrow

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

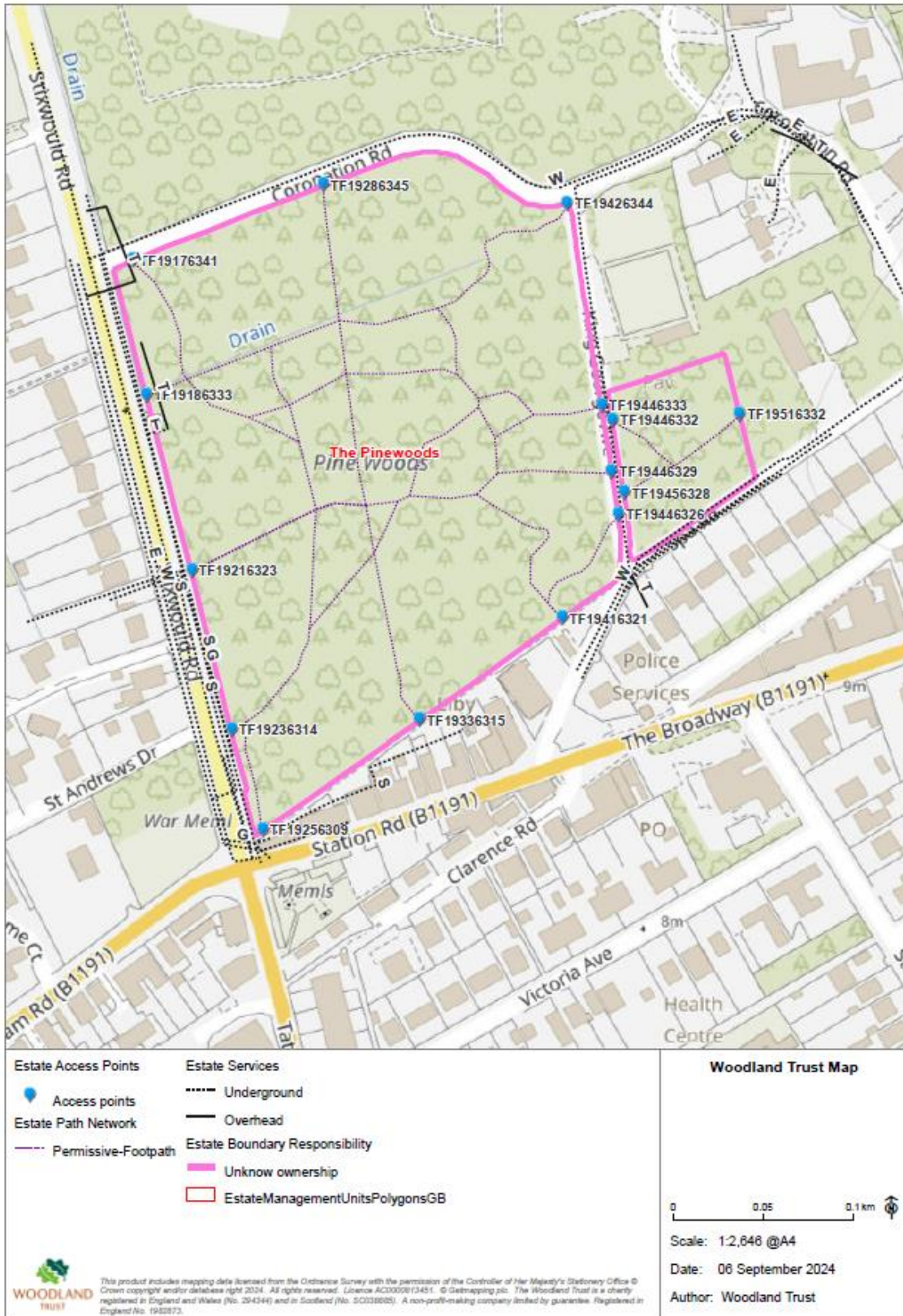
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Conservation Map



Legal Map



Ride edge coppicing:
 Sept – October 2025
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Where canopy is thin within focus area (Highlighted in Green). Cut and clear 10m x 10m coups removing Holly, Rhododendron and Laurel, retaining any other tree and shrub species. Restock with Hornbeam, Oak, Hazel, and Rowan. Whilst to keep the historical context of the wood underplant with Scots pine and sweet chestnut also. Protection for the trees can either be fenced enclosures or 1.2m eco/biodegradable tree tubes.
 Maintenance: Annually cut invasive regeneration within planting coups to reduce competition.

Management Proposal Maps