

Pepperboxes Wood

(Plan period – 2024 to 2029)



WOODLAND
TRUST

Management Plan Content Page

Introduction to the Woodland Trust Estate

Management of the Woodland Trust Estate

The Public Management Plan

Location and Access

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

1. Site Details
2. Site Description
3. Long Term Policy
4. Key Features
 - 4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site
 - 4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees
5. Work Programme

Appendix 1 : Compartment Descriptions

GLOSSARY

1. SITE DETAILS

Pepperboxes Wood

Location:	Hampden Bottom, Great Missenden Grid reference: SP865019 OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 165
Area:	13.40 hectares (33.11 acres)
External Designations:	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Wildlife Site, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
Internal Designations:	Ancient Woodland Restoration Project

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Pepperboxes Wood is a 13.5 hectare / 33 acre site located within a mile of the villages of Prestwood and Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, and is within the Chiltern Hills National Landscape Area (NLA) It was purchased by The Woodland Trust in 1991 through a private sale. It was formerly owned by the nearby Hampden estate and more latterly Hampden House. Its name derives from the Lodge House structures located to the north-east of the wood. The wood is also known as 'Lodge Wood' on some maps.

The Chilterns form the northwestern edge of the chalk aquifer that underlies the London basin. These soft rocks form a steep, north west facing escarpment and a more gentle 'dip slope' to the south east. Woodland is widespread, being found on the plateau and as 'hanger' woods in the valleys and on scarp slopes. Woodland blocks are scattered densely across the NLA as a mosaic with other semi-natural habitats and farmed land, except in the northern third where woodlands are present as smaller, more isolated fragments.

Pepperboxes is an ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) dominated by beech and typical of the Chilterns landscape, with a good variety of ground flora present. The site was partially planted in the 1970's with a mix of conifer species and hence there is a 4ha (10 acre) element of planted ancient woodland (PAWS). The 1990 storms blew over many of the mature beech, so they are now thinly scattered with younger mixed woodland (birch, oak, beech & rowan and a minor component of ash) growing in the gaps created. The conifer plantations are mainly Japanese larch with minor components of western hemlock, Norway and Sitka spruce.

Overall the wood approximates to a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) of W14: beech-bramble woodland. Bedrock is largely Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated). The majority of the site is on lightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage with a moderate to high fertility suited to a wide range of woodland types. The soil changes to the north of the site where more freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils emerge with high fertility suited to deciduous woodlands.

There are the remnants of an old avenue on the northern boundary, which has large old lime and sweet chestnut trees. These avenue trees have connections with the very long open ride (owned by the adjoining estate) and known as 'The glade', which is a long grassy vista leading to Hampden House.

The wood has a good network of pedestrian-only paths, some of which are rights of way and link to the surrounding woods and countryside. The wood is most easily accessed from the north, via a right of way off Rignall Road, but it is possible to walk to the wood from Prestwood village via the local rights of way network.

3. LONG TERM POLICY

The long term intentions for Pepperboxes Wood will seek to realise two of the Woodland Trust's three key aims:

- to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife
- to restore damaged ancient woodland

It is intended that over time the wood is gradually restored to semi-natural broadleaved woodland which has a minor percentage of conifer and a good diversity of locally native broadleaved species. Ancient woodland is one of our most valuable terrestrial wildlife habitats, and in England is defined as woodland sites with evidence of continuous wooded cover since 1600 AD. Pepperboxes Wood is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site, where in this case conifers have been planted in the early 1970's following felling. Approximately 35% of the site remains conifer plantation in compartments 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e (2019).

Restoration of PAWS provides the only opportunity to increase the area of ancient woodland with semi-natural characteristics. In general and in line with best restoration and reversion practice, the site has and will continue to be gradually converted to predominantly native broadleaf woodland, which will also provide suitable conditions for native and threatened ground flora to be safeguarded.

Practically this means that the conifer and a minor broadleaf plantation component mostly comprising beech, where identified after assessment as a threat to diverse broadleaf regeneration and/or forming dense shade suppressing ground flora, will be gradually thinned. The intention is to achieve more semi-natural broadleaved conditions over time. In subsequent continuous-cover (where there will be no loss of woodland cover) operations to thin stands to robust levels, (where the threat from plantation species to remnant features is minimal) the management will consider practice which may provide an economic return. A minor component of conifer, no more than 20% and scattered distribution, will be retained long-term to provide increased biodiversity and woodland resilience.

As the woodland matures, operational management will diversify the overall age and stand species structure. Some broadleaved trees will be identified and left to reach old age and decline naturally. Deadwood, both standing and fallen will be maintained to provide important niche habitats within the wood, particularly for invertebrates and fungi, except if they pose a significant tree safety risk. Full restoration of the wood is not likely to occur until around 2050. The PAWS stands are then likely to be a mixture of beech, birch, oak, rowan and hazel, with a minor component (10-20%) of conifer.

Ride / path management at Pepperboxes Wood will help to create lighter conditions within the wood which will enhance the edge vegetation, as well as helping to dry out the surface for visitors which tend to remain damp. This management will also be aimed at the enhancement of habitat for butterfly populations such as speckled wood and large skipper that have been identified at the site.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site, and the colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and other pests and diseases monitored and managed where necessary. Ash occurs occasionally at the site, and there is good regeneration of a mix of other species such as birch, oak and cherry making the requirement for replacement planting unlikely.

The public's enjoyment of the woodland will be enhanced by improving and maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, boundary fences, and benches will be maintained as necessary and the access provision will be monitored and provided in line with the designated category C access (low usage site where we do maintain paths).

4. KEY FEATURES

4.1 f1 Ancient Woodland Site

Description

Pepperboxes wood is predominantly ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). Just over one third of the site is further classed as PAWS (planted ancient woodland site) due to an area of approx. 4.1ha being felled and replanted with conifers in the early 1970's. The conifer stands are split into 5 blocks with Japanese larch being the major tree, as well as smaller components of western hemlock and Norway & Sitka spruces. The conifer stands also contain a variable broadleaved component, with the main species being beech, cherry, rowan and birch.

The majority of the wood is a mixed-structure, beech woodland. Mature beech (which pre-date the last re-planting est. 1930) are spread throughout but are not closely spaced on the whole. Beneath and between the mature beech is a mixture of semi-mature trees, composed of birch, rowan, hazel, oak, beech and cherry. This varied structure is the result of regeneration following the 1990 storms which blew over many mature beech and opened the canopy. The boundaries of the wood contain old coppiced trees (hornbeam, cherry and hazel) on top of very old boundary wood-banks, and the northern boundary has a line of old sweet chestnut and lime trees which are believed to be the remnants of an old tree avenue. Wild service trees are also present in the wood. There are also a number of old quarry pits and historic track-ways through the wood.

Specialist woodland flora such as woodruff, wood sorrel, bluebell and wood spurge are present, and especially abundant towards the northern boundary. The ground vegetation also contains more coarse and dominating species such as bracken and bramble, with the bracken forming small occasional glades.

Soils are mildly acidic and of clay with flints (with underlying chalk bedrock). Overall the wood approximates to a National vegetation classification (NVC) of W14: beech-bramble woodland.

Approximately 20% of the conifer plantation composition was thinned in 2014; PAWS stands (2a, 2b, 2c & 2d over 4.1ha). A mixture of ring barking and felling was used, and timber was not extracted. In early 2019 compartments 2b, 2c and 2d (3.5ha) were thinned, removing around 80% of the standing dead and previously ring-barked trees for operational safety reasons. A further 20% of living trees were felled and a proportion of the felled timber from 2014 that was still viable on the ground, was extracted.

Significance

Buckinghamshire is a county where 45% of ASNW has been lost to agriculture and housing development since the Second World War with only 4000 ha remaining. ASNW is irreplaceable, and the amount in Britain has been drastically reduced over the last century. ASNW is very important due to the continuity of woodland cover over hundreds of years which allows for a diverse range of wildlife and vegetation to develop over time that cannot be found in new woodland creation sites, and a key aim of the Woodland Trust is to prevent any further loss of ancient woodland.

Restoration of ancient woodlands, by removing the shading effects from conifers, is the only way the area of ancient semi natural woodland can be increased. Pepperboxes Wood is part of one of the largest concentrations of ancient woodland in the UK (Chilterns National Landscape Area), where over 13% of the land area is ancient woodland.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Most of the rides/paths can be wet for much of the year round due to the local topography and soils, so any management work has to be carefully timed with drier site conditions. Management access is also across privately owned land and therefore timber extraction must be carefully timed to avoid ground damage
- Low timber quality and volumes make thinning works largely uneconomical
- Protected species present – to include badgers and Red Kites that are found wide spread across the Chiltern National Landscape Area.

Factors Causing Change

- Mammal damage (deer, squirrel) – Roe and muntjac, trees being stripped by squirrels and regeneration of broad leaf species being browsed by deer present.
- Increasing shade and loss of structure in minimum intervention stands.
- Changes in structure and gaps in canopy due to wind-blow and disease/dieback e.g. ash die back *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* of ash - where many ash trees are at risk from this fungus but of a relatively low impact to the woodland as ash is not a major species on site.

Long term Objective (50 years+)

In 50 years' time the PAWS areas within Pepperboxes Wood should all be predominantly broadleaved in character, with all other major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition, including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. The PAWS stands will then be a mixture of naturally regenerating native broadleaves such as beech, birch, oak, rowan and hazel, with only a minor component (10-20%) of conifer remaining.

The broadleaf dominated parts of the site will continue to develop with all major ancient woodland components in a secure and improving condition including old growth trees, ground flora, archaeological features, and a diverse deadwood component. The colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will have affected the species composition of the wood over time and ash will make up a minor component of the wood with a few resilient specimens remaining. The resulting mixed stands (oak, cherry, birch, rowan and hazel being the most common species) of high forest will continue to be managed on a continuous cover silvicultural system to produce uneven-aged, self-regenerating stands of high conservation and amenity value.

There will be a network of wide sunny rides in places along the more popular paths, where ride edge are managed on a

short rotation coppice to maintain well-structured woodland ride habitats to support a diverse assemblage of flora and fauna.

Any threats to the biodiversity or historic features of the wood will be monitored and resulting action taken, such as deer damage to the broadleaf trees will be monitored and action taken if the damage becomes unacceptable.

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

Active management within this plan period will focus on improving woodland condition and resilience through managing PAWS compartments, restoration of rides and managing the decline of ash by responding to the spread and severity of the impact and continued deer management program .

This section should be read in conjunction with the PAWS assessment and strategy maps and Woodland Condition Assessment (WCA)

- PAWS thinning as follows: compartments 2a, (2025) 2b, 2c, and 2d (2029) – 3.5 ha in accordance with the long term plan to restore them. We will first focus on compartment 2a in 2025- which is mostly comprised of Norway Spruce and remove unhealthy/ sick trees to reduce the chance of ips typographus occurring.

- Ride management and glade creation --Ride edge management during the plan period of 3 zones wide ride habitat is to be maintained along approximately 900m of rides maintaining pinch points where designated. There will be an annual program of works to cut vegetation within the 3 zones, with zone 1 being cut annually, 5no. zone 2 areas to be cut at least once during the plan period on a rotation of 3-5years to an approximate width of 6 meters and 4no. zone 3 areas to be cut once during the plan period on a rotation of 10-15 year to an approximate width 9 meters and all cut in a piece meal fashion. This will increase woodland edge habitat and provide valuable temporary coppice open space habitat. Total distance approximately 900m, through all Cpts 1a, 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d

- Breaking up holly where it dominates the woodland - Cutting 6no 20m sections through the holly band on the south west boundary- to open up light to the woodland floor and reduce its impact on regeneration for broad leaf species Cpts1a - 2026

-All tree safety zones will be alleviated from the threat of ash dieback by the end of this management period with annual summer surveys carried out to quantify what areas need addressing for duration of the plan period

- Deer impacts will be monitored annually by an Herbivore Lite Impact assessment. An annual cull will take place targeting muntjac, roe and fallow. The deer population should not be impacting coppice regrowth, natural regeneration or ground flora. A full Herbivore Impact Assessment and drone survey is next due in winter 2028/2029 to inform the management plan review.

-Monitoring inspections will take place over the plan period to assess the success of the recent thinning works, and make recommendations for future management – 2026, 2029

- A full woodland condition assessment and PAWS assessment will be undertaken to inform management plan review-

2028.

4.2 f2 Connecting People with woods & trees

Description

Pepperboxes wood lies in the heart of the Chilterns Natural Landscape area. Prestwood (population 8000) is the closest town and is 1.4 miles (2.25km) to the south. Great Missenden (population 2192) is 3 miles (4.8km) to the east.

There is no car park but parking is possible at a layby on Rignall Road, to the north of the wood, which can park 2-3 cars. There are 8 pedestrian access points to the wood and these all link to rights of way in the surrounding landscape, and a network of public rights of way and permissive paths cross the site. In total there are approximately 1.5 miles (2.5km) of paths, which are just for pedestrian use.

Overall visitor facilities are low key and the visitor numbers are not high, however the wood offers the visitor a peaceful place in which to enjoy the natural environment, and has a path network covering the majority of the wood which allows a variety of circular walks for the visitor.

Pepperboxes Wood is categorised as a 'low usage site', where less than 5 people are using one entrance each day, but where paths are maintained.

In 2016 all 7 access points were reviewed and in 2018 improvements made such as replacement of signage and vegetation management in line with recommendations and guidance for the category C grading of the site and subsequent use. In 2022 a further access audit was carried out, showing the majority of access at Pepper Boxes is in good condition.

Significance

This relatively remote site provides a quiet area for walking and recreation for some people living within walking distance of the woodland, within easy reach of Prestwood and Great Missenden, and is a site of interest for some local naturalists.

One of the Woodland Trust's main objectives is the promotion of public access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands. The site has a variety of habitats and historic features that can be used to engage the public, including children, in appreciating the landscape on a wider scale.

Opportunities & Constraints

Constraints:

- Most of the woodland paths can become very muddy during wet weather
- Vehicular parking is limited to a roadside verge
- Un-surfaced paths, entrance stiles and some steep slopes might limit access for less-abled visitors

Opportunities:

- Path widening will help to create more open, drier path surfaces for visitors.

Factors Causing Change

Changes in vegetation along rides

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Public access for informal and quiet recreation will be maintained in perpetuity. The woodland will be kept as safe as practical for visitors and there will be a managed network of paths, together with visible and clearly signed entrances.

An on-going program of maintenance will ensure as much as possible safe and uninhibited access along clearly defined routes for quiet recreation. Provision of infrastructure will be kept low key as appropriate for the grading of this site: Category 'C' 'low usage site'.

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

Visitor and access management:

- There are no improvements proposed to entrance infrastructure within this plan period - Routine management for access including ride/path maintenance and remedial works will be undertaken annually
- Annual tree safety inspections along high amenity areas and increased annual survey along zone B (path network) due to the presence of ash affected by dieback

Monitoring:

- Monitoring inspection will take place over the plan period to assess the access and visitor provision, and make recommendations for future management – 2026.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2025	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2025	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	October
2025	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	December
2026	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2026	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	December
2026	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	December
2027	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2027	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	December
2028	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August

Year	Type Of Work	Description	Due Date
2028	WMI - Ride Restoration	Works associated with the initial restoration, creation or significant reinvestment to new/existing woodland rides such as – initial coppicing and felling for widening, ditching etc.	December
2029	AW - Visitor Access Maintenance	Works associated with the maintenance of existing visitor access infrastructure and paths. Work could include items such as repairing pot-holes and path surfaces, mowing grass paths, path widening, maintaining footbridges and steps, cleaning signage etc,	August
2029	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	October
2029	WMI - PAWS Restoration	Works associated with the restoration phase of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) such as halo thinning around existing native trees, thinning and felling works, ride restoration, access improvements to aid restoration.	November

APPENDIX 1 : COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
1a	8.17	Beech	1930	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>Beech high forest which has suffered from past storm damage. Mature beech trees are thinly scattered and the intervening matrix is composed of young birch, rowan and beech which have naturally grown up after the 1990 storm. Wild service and wild cherry is also present. Dense patches of holly can also be found in this compartment, notable along the south western boundary and in other dense patches throughout the compartment.</p> <p>Ground flora includes bluebell, yellow archangel, wood-sorrel, wood goldilocks, dog's mercury, yellow pimpernel, wood sedge, wavy hair-grass, marsh willowherb and wood meadow-grass.</p>						
2a	0.66	Norway spruce	1970	PAWS restoration	Site structure, location, natural features & vegetation	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Mixed plantation of mainly Norway spruce and Sitka spruce, with minor component of Japanese larch. Minor component of oak, beech and birch. This sub-compartment was last thinned in 2015.</p>						
2b	2.2	Japanese larch	1970	PAWS restoration	Sensitive habitats/species on or adjacent to site	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>Plantation of Japanese larch with a minor broadleaved component of birch, beech, holly and hazel. The sub-compartment was last thinned in 2019.</p>						
2c	0.76	Japanese larch	1970	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Designations
<p>Plantation of mainly Japanese larch with a minor component of Western hemlock on the edges (west and east). Minor broadleaved component of beech, birch and holly. Pockets of specialist woodland flora are present, including woodruff and wood spurge. This sub-compartment was last thinned in 2019.</p>						
2d	0.55	Western hemlock	1970	PAWS restoration		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Planted Ancient Woodland Site
<p>This is a plantation of European larch and western hemlock, mixed with beech, oak and cherry. This sub-compartment was last thinned in 2019.</p>						
2e	0.86	Beech	1970	High forest		Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<p>A former plantation of Japanese larch which is now restored. Broadleaved trees are therefore now dominant with beech and sycamore being the main species. Older and mature sweet chestnuts and limes are also present, especially towards the northern boundary. Specialist woodland flora is especially notable in this sub-compartment, including woodruff, bluebell and wood sorrel.</p>						

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.

Registered Office:

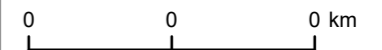
The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL.

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- Estate SubCompartments
- Estate SubComp Labels
- EstateManagementUnitsPolygonsGB

Pepper Boxes Compartments



Scale: 1:2,646 @A3 Date: 13 September 2024

Author: Woodland Trust



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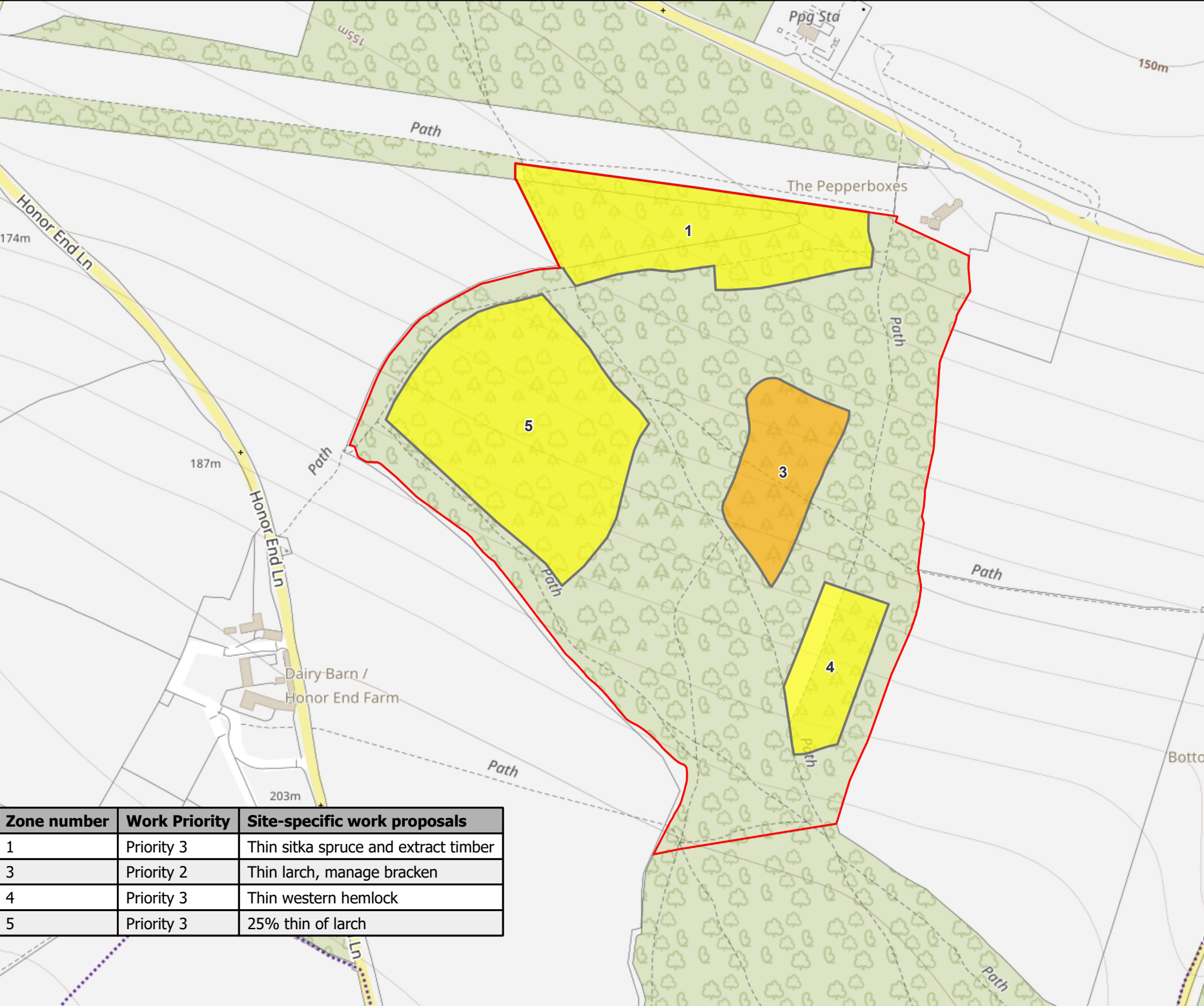
Pepperboxes Wood

AWR Strategy Map

Legend

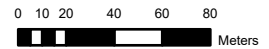
Work Priority

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5
- Woodland Trust Boundary

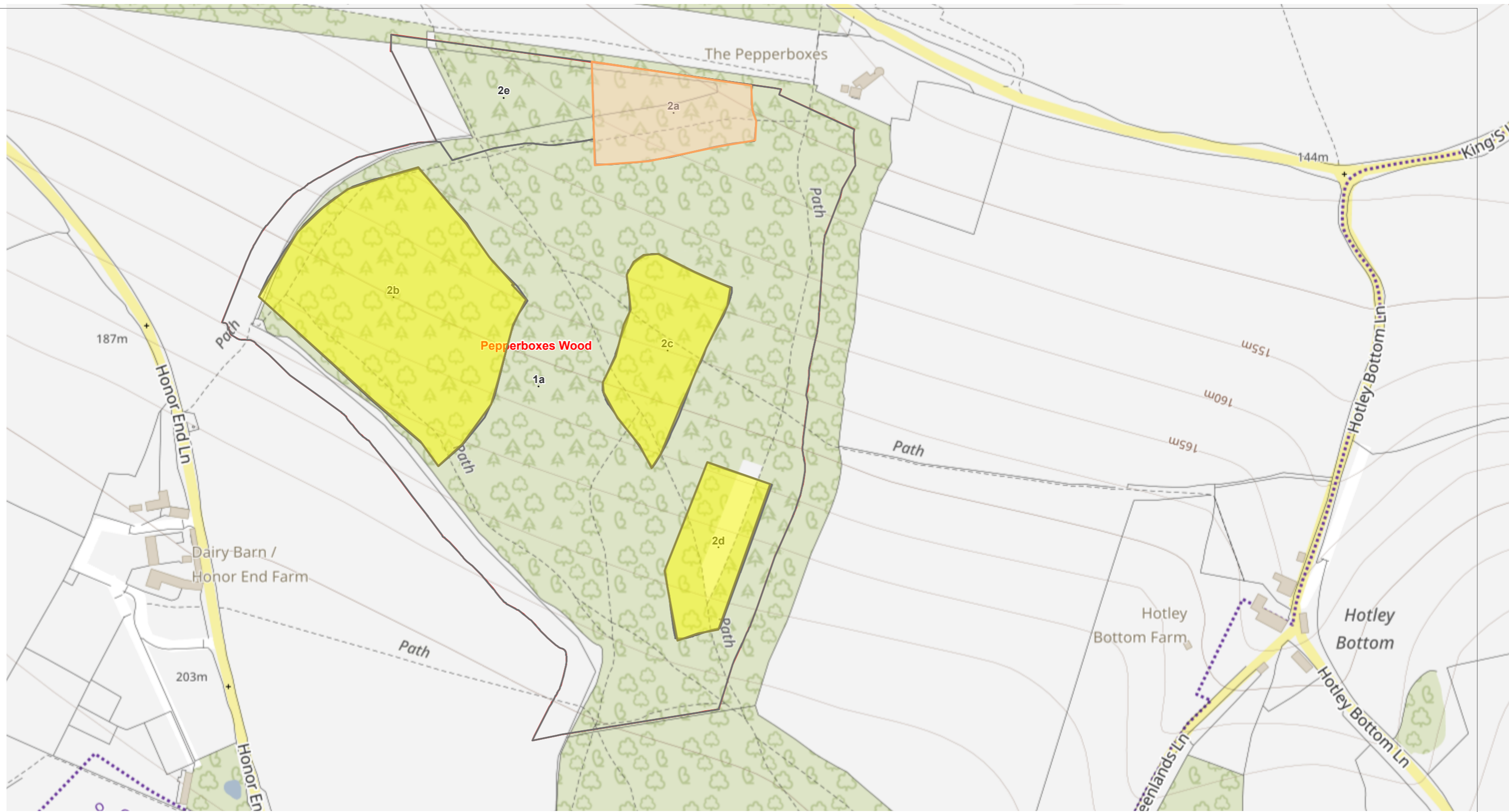


Zone number	Work Priority	Site-specific work proposals
1	Priority 3	Thin sitka spruce and extract timber
3	Priority 2	Thin larch, manage bracken
4	Priority 3	Thin western hemlock
5	Priority 3	25% thin of larch

Date: 18/12/2024 | Scale: 1:3,500 | User: SBU

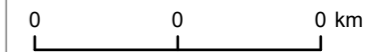


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- Harvesting Year
- 2025
 - 2029
 -
- Estate SubComp Labels
- EstateManagementUnitsPolygonsGB

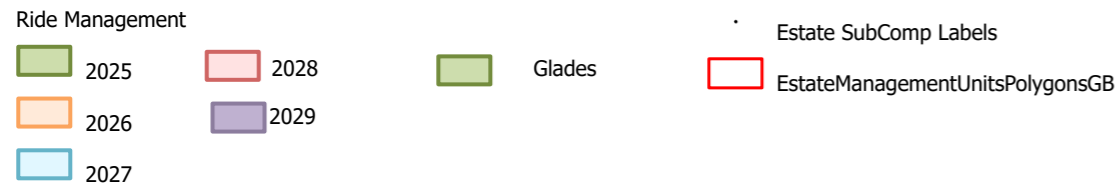
**Pepper Boxes Harvesting Plan
2025-2029**



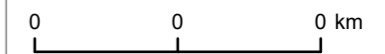
Scale: 1:2,646 @A3 Date: 29 November 2024

Author: Woodland Trust





Pepper Boxes Ride and Glade Management



Scale: 1:2,646 @A3 Date: 25 November 2024

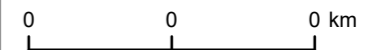
Author: Woodland Trust





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|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Areas | Estate Path Network | Estate SubCompartments |
| Holly | Legal-Footpath | Estate SubComp Labels |
| | Permissive-Footpath | EstateManagementUnitsPolygonsGB |

Pepper Boxes - Area of Holly to be Managed



Scale: 1:2,646 @A3 Date:03 December 2024

Author: Woodland Trust

