



**National
Trust**

Woodland Management Plan Buckinghamshire, West Oxfordshire and Berkshire Archaeology

Prepared by:

Adrian Cox

NT Regional Archaeologist (Buckinghamshire, W Oxfordshire and Berkshire)

On behalf of:

The National Trust

February 2023

Alongside the maps and tables of both scheduled and unscheduled heritage assets that need to be considered and mitigated for as part of woodland management work, this document provides further details of the heritage assets in Buckinghamshire, West Oxfordshire and Berkshire and includes recommendations for features within compartments that would benefit from selected management practices as part of any wider work.

These recommendations primarily focus on clearance of a significant scheduled or unscheduled site as part of general percentage thinning or felling works when contractors are working in an area.

The suggestions below are based upon on the Historic England Conservation Principles:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/>

The suggestions below seek to preserve and promote:

Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present (it tends to be illustrative or associative).

Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

As well as benefiting the monument and archaeology, these approaches further promote access, understanding and wider engagement with our National Trust woodlands and their history and stories.

[Wider comments on Berkshire, West Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Plan in relation to Archaeology](#)

Although Lidar mapping is now available and has been incorporated in some of the accompanying maps, not all properties within the Management Plan area have had their archaeological landscape surveys updated and enhanced with additional data within the HBSMR, so heritage mapping information is not all considered accurate at this point in time. Please check in with the Regional Archaeologist before any woodland management work commences.

[HART monitoring programmes currently in place](#)

There are currently only two active archaeology monitoring groups in operation in the area, at Cliveden and at Maidenhead & Cookham Commons, although the potential exists at other properties. Such groups should be considered in management work planning, marking up and monitoring where possible through conversation with the Regional Archaeologist, especially with reference to national developments around HART monitoring through 2022-3.

Archaeological Features within Compartments

Ashdown House

Compartments: A1a-d; A2

This woodland has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600. Part of the ASNW in compartment A1b has been classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

Significant Sites: An area of pits and quarries recorded in compartment A1a (MNA130187) may be difficult to detect on the ground when vegetation cover is high, but care needs to be taken to avoid impacts here during felling/replanting work.

An area of field systems (MNA129996) has been recorded at the southern edge of compartment A1e. This relates to earlier forms of farming around Ashdown House but may also be difficult to detect on the ground so care should be taken in this area.

Task: No interventions planned.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: There may be opportunities to reveal and interpret selective features if ns are light.

Aston Wood and Juniper Bank

Compartments: AS1-AS2

This woodland has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

A number of lynchets, boundary banks and hollow ways are recorded in Aston Wood and Juniper Bank. These represent the evidence for earlier forms of agriculture in the area. In some cases, these are sizeable linear features which may be affected by tree cover on or close to them.

It is worth considering the impact on these features when making decisions over the removal of particular trees, and they should be avoided if possible by new planting. Of particular significance are the old turnpike road MNA129658 (in compartment AS1b) and hollow ways MNA129500 (Aston Wood, compartment AS2b) and MNA130257 (Juniper Bank, compartment AS1b).

Task: Little or no woodland interventions are planned, but if thinning is being undertaken it may open up areas of closed canopy woodland allowing better development of ground flora and natural regeneration of native trees. This may eventually obscure historic landscape features. Care should be taken with any works across extant earthworks such as those linear features noted above, and with movements of machinery close to historic routeways such as the hollow ways.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Aesthetic, Evidential & Historical

Basildon Park

Compartments: BA1-BA6

This woodland has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

A number of lynchets (evidence of earlier forms of agriculture) are recorded here, along with linear tracks within the woodland. The most significant lynchets include MNA129284 (compartment BA2h), MNA129926 (compartment BA2b) and MNA130041 (compartment BA1). These may be vulnerable to impacts from scrub growth and machine access during any works, and would benefit from being avoided in any new tree planting activity.

There is a site of probable Roman settlement (MNA129666, associated with a nearby road) in compartment BA4, which should be avoided if possible during any new tree planting activity.

A bank and ditch feature (MNA190761), forming a boundary between the park and a planted line of trees flanking the boundary wall, should be considered when planning any work near the northern edge of compartment BA1. A rectangular mound a short distance to its south-west (MNA130046; compartment BA1) is also vulnerable to machine disturbance during works and should be avoided if possible during any woodland works.

Task: Care should be taken with any works across extant earthworks, and with any movement of machinery near historic routeways and structural remains.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Bradenham

Compartments: B1-B4

The woodland is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning that it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

Bradenham is rich in archaeological features, dating from at least the late Prehistoric period up to the 2nd World War. The NT regional archaeologist should be consulted before major works are undertaken at this property, in order to avoid accidental impacts upon historic features. There are scheduled earthworks in compartment B2j, and a Scheduled Monument of Iron-Age date, Buckinghamshire Grimm's Ditch (the longer lengths of which are represented by MNA129650 and MNA 130074), runs through compartments B3, B2q and u.

Also recorded is a number of boundary banks, lynchets representing earlier agricultural activities, enclosures and hollow ways.

Iron smelting activities are represented by three main sites, two of which are quite extensive and consist of spreads of waste material from smelting activity (MNA129280, in the southern part of B4 – in B4g, and MNA 130333, in compartment B2q). The latter site is associated with finds of Romano-British pottery. There is also a smaller iron smelting site at MNA129962, in compartment B4b. These types of sites can be difficult to identify on the ground, particularly under vegetation cover, and are vulnerable to both machine access and tree planting work.

Also recorded is the site of a former pond, MNA131354, and scattered throughout the woodland are pits and quarries for the extraction of chalk and clay (eg MNA129351). There is also a number of saw pits of 19th-century date.

A medieval farmstead, apparently representing an isolated example, is recorded in Park Wood (MNA129561), in compartment B2. This should be avoided by heavy machinery and during tree-planting work.

Evidence of activity during World War 2 is represented by a group of RAF hut bases (MNA186849, near the eastern edge of compartment B2), associated with RAF High Wycombe. These are known to represent specific features of the RAF's occupation of the area, including the Post Office, cinema, dining room and the cooks' rest room. Further to the North, the site of a gun emplacement (MNA187888) is recorded in Beamangreen Wood (compartment B3).

Task: Given the richness and density of archaeological structures and other features throughout Bradenham Woods, it is advisable to consult with the NT regional archaeologist before undertaking significant works, to avoid accidental damage to what is an important suite of historical evidence. There may be potential for improving the condition and enhancing the interpretation of specific historic features in the woodland.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Cliveden

Compartments: CL1-CL18

The Woodlands here sit in the Cliveden Registered Park and Garden. Some listed features and a listed statue reside in compartment CL8a and there is a listed gateway in compartment CL11.

Significant Sites:

Archaeological features at Cliveden are relatively well recorded and are being monitored for condition by a small, active group of archaeology volunteers under the guidance of the NT regional archaeologist. Altogether, 203 archaeological features and points of interest are recorded here, although many of these are ornamental structures within the designed garden landscape, and some features are recorded under several entries (for example, the North amphitheatre in the Hanging Woods, recorded as MNA180606, MNA178867, MNA180609, MNA180612, MNA180614 and MNA180615 and the Packway, part of the Park Walks, also recorded as several components). In general, there is a higher density of archaeological sites recorded in the northern half of the area than in the southern half.

Among the less obvious features in the landscape are paths (some redundant), sections of wall, quarries and pits for chalk and possibly clay extraction, saw pits, ditches, terraces and platforms such as MNA180998.

Currently under investigation is a section of mill leat (MNA181021). This, along with many of the other less obvious archaeological features of the landscape, has the potential to reveal further information about the history of the estate here.

Tasks: NT's regional archaeologist should be consulted prior to significant tree felling or planting works at Cliveden, due to the high density and number of archaeological features recorded in the landscape. Some features are well-known and highly visible, but others are more difficult to see on the ground, particularly under vegetation cover. Movements of vehicles and heavy machinery can accidentally damage features, so such movements should also be planned in consultation with the archaeologist if possible. There is potential here for enhancing the condition and interpretation of specific features in the landscape, which help to tell the story of the development of the estate. In such a busy landscape, there is also potential for the surface recovery of artefactual material.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Coombe End Farm

Compartments: CO1-CO6

Compartment CO4 has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), this means it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

Very few archaeological features are currently recorded at this property. Two chalk pits are recorded in Compartment CO5 (MNA130346) and should be avoided by heavy machinery and tree planting works if possible.

Tasks: N/A

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: N/A

Coombe Hill and Low Scrubs

Compartments: C1-C4; LS1

A number of compartments here have been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning that they are areas of woodland that have existed continuously since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

There is a number of banks, enclosures, tracks and pits, evidence of a variety of past activity, within the woodlands here. Of particular note is a small mound near to the western edge of an area of woodland (MNA129375, in compartment LS1a). NT's regional archaeologist should be consulted in advance of significant work in these compartments in order to avoid accidental damage to archaeological features during works.

Tasks: Consultation with the NT regional archaeologist is advisable before significant works are undertaken here, since many recorded features are not easily visible on the ground, particularly under vegetation cover.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Greys Court

Compartments: G1-G6

The woodland has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning that it is a woodland that has existed continuously since or before 1600. Compartment G2b is classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

Significant Sites:

A variety of archaeological features is recorded across this landscape, including lynchets, representing evidence of earlier agricultural activities, park boundary features, banks, ditches and saw pits.

Among the most significant, and potentially vulnerable, sites are the hollow ways MNA129357 (near the northern edge of compartment G3) and MNA130144 (compartment G3), a rectangular enclosure (MNA130131, compartment G2c) and the site of fishponds to the West of the house (MNA130324).

Tasks: The NT regional archaeologist should be consulted prior to any significant woodland works, in order to avoid accidental impacts to archaeological features. Care should be taken with any works across earthworks, and with any vehicle movement / machinery near historic features.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Hogback Wood

Compartments: HO1

Significant Sites:

There are two recorded quarry sites for the historical extraction of gravel or chalk, and a small number of possible sawpits.

Tasks: Any significant works in Compartment HO1 should involve consultation with the NT regional archaeologist in order to avoid accidental impacts upon archaeological features.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Hughenden Manor

Compartments: H1-H5

Compartments H1a, b, d, f, and g sit within designated registered park and garden.

Much of the woodland here has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW), meaning that it has been continuously wooded since or before 1600.

Significant Sites:

With 53 archaeological features recorded within the five woodland compartments, this property is rich in archaeological features and they occur in quite high densities. It is advisable to consult with

the NT archaeologist prior to carrying out any significant woodland works here, to avoid accidental impacts upon archaeological remains.

There are several linear banks and boundary features throughout the woodlands here, and of particular significance are a number of lynchets, evidence of earlier agricultural activities. Lynchets are recorded in Flagmore Wood (MNA129152, in compartment H1), and Little Tinkers Wood (MNA129371, in compartment H3). Further lynchets survive in Woodcock Wood (MNA129816), in Common Wood (MNA129909 and MNA130080) and in woods West and South of the Manor (MNA130151).

Also of significance and interest are the hollow way (MNA129619, in compartment H1g) and a range of other linear earthworks, which should be avoided, if possible, by heavy machinery during works in the woodlands.

Tasks: Consultation with the NT regional archaeologist is advised prior to any significant woodland works. Care should be taken with any works across extant earthworks, and with any vehicle movement / machinery near historic routeways and structural remains.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Maidenhead and Cookham Commons

Compartments: M1-M26

There is a large number of small areas of woodland here, containing a variety of archaeological features of Prehistoric to industrial period date. Compartment M21c contains 'Robin Hood's Arbour, and d contains a bowl barrow – both are scheduled monuments.

Significant Sites:

A programme of recording and monitoring by archaeology volunteers at this property has yielded a complex archaeological record, with recorded sites including a series of earthworks and banks and a number of find spots. Significant sites at the property include a possible Roman road (MNA129450), a lynchet on Cockmarsh (MNA129968) and a brickworks on Winter Hill Road (MNA130279). Given the range and density of recorded archaeological sites here it is advisable to consult with the NT archaeologist prior to undertaking any significant works in the woodlands.

Tasks: It is beneficial to consult with the NT regional archaeologist prior to undertaking significant works here, to avoid accidental impacts upon archaeological features. Care should be taken with any works across earthworks, and with any vehicle movement / machinery near historic features.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

Watlington Hill and Woods

Compartments: WA1-WA5

Compartments WA3 and WA4 have been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) - this means they have been continuously wooded since or before 1600.

Significant sites:

There are numerous archaeological features recorded in these woodland compartments, including hollow ways, lynchets, clay extraction pits, chalk extraction pits and saw pits. Significant clusters of saw pits occur in Greenfield Copse Woods and in Howe Wood. Several chalk extraction pits are recorded in Lower Deans Wood. These features can be difficult to identify on the ground, particularly when under vegetation cover, so it is recommended that the NT archaeologist is consulted if undertaking woodland works in this busy archaeological landscape.

Tasks: Consultation with the NT regional archaeologist is advised prior to any significant woodland works. Care should be taken with any works across extant earthworks, and with any vehicle movement / machinery near historic routeways and structural remains.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical

West Wycombe

Compartments: W1

This site has been designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) - this means it has been continuously wooded since or before 1600.

A scheduled monument, 'Camp on Church Hill' overlaps with the south east edge of this wood.

Significant sites:

There is a small number of features recorded here, including remains of hollow ways, woodland boundary features, tracks and a single recorded quarry site. These features can be difficult to identify on the ground, particularly when under vegetation cover, so it is recommended that the NT archaeologist is consulted if undertaking woodland works in this busy archaeological landscape.

Tasks: Consultation with the NT regional archaeologist is advised prior to any significant woodland works. Care should be taken with any works across extant earthworks, and with any vehicle movement / machinery near historic routeways and structural remains.

Benefits for Heritage and Visitors: Evidential & Historical