



**National  
Trust**

# Woodland Management Plan Surrey Archaeology

**Prepared by:**

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**On behalf of:**

The National Trust

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Alongside the maps and tables of both secluded and unscheduled heritage assets that need to be considered and mitigated for as part of woodland management work the following list is a selection of significant features within compartments that would benefit from selected management practices as part of any wider work. This guidance and the identification of potential opportunities to enhance the setting and protection of selected heritage features has only been produced for compartments that are subject to planned thinning or felling activities. All heritage features mapped in our woodlands will be managed in line with the National Trust Woodland Management Policy (May 2022) that contains an objective to 'Protect and enhance cultural heritage'.

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

The suggestions below are based upon on the Historic England Conservation Principles: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/>

As such 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 also approaches further promote access, understanding and wider engagement with our National Trust woodlands and their history and stories.

### [Wider comments on Surrey Management Plan in relation to Archaeology](#)

A limited number of properties within the Surrey Hills Management Plan have had their archaeology landscape surveys updated and enhanced with Lidar data. Though supplied as accurate at point of consultation there are large gaps in our archaeological knowledge across a number of our Surrey sites. The National Trust is working at properties and with partners to address this lack of knowledge. This highlights the need to check in with Regional Archaeologist before any woodland management work commences.

### [HART monitoring programmes currently in place](#)

There is active archaeology monitoring by both National Trust volunteers and local archaeological societies being undertaken in the Surrey area; these groups should be considered in management work planning, marking up and monitoring where possible through conversation with Regional Archaeologist

- Box Hill
- Leith Hill
- Runnymede & Ankerwycke

## Partnership

The knowledge of our sites within these woodland management plans and provision of data to help land managers will be greatly enhanced with the following partnerships

**Surrey Lidar Portal** – Surrey Archaeological Society have built a citizen science portal <https://surreylidar.org.uk/> where members of public can register and using a variety of base maps including historic tithe maps, lidar and various visualisations map the archaeology they identify. Though any resulting data would need verifying on the ground with trained volunteers or by the regional archaeologist it would be an incredibly beneficial project to support not just for Woodland Management Plans but other Surrey Hills Ambitions around understanding and interpretation.

**Surrey County Archaeology Unit** – Will be looked at on a site by site basis below, but a data sharing agreement with Surrey County Council for access to their Historic Environment Record data some of which can be seen on Exploring Surrey's Past:

[https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/collections/search/?s=\\*&map=1](https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/collections/search/?s=*&map=1)

This would also open up potential opportunities to make use of Historic Landscape Characterisation Data: HLC can reveal the patterns and connections within a landscape, spatially and through time, for example in relation to buildings and patterns (of fields, streets and routeways). It also enables consideration of inter-relationships between places, and it provides a framework for the recording and evaluation of the views and perceptions of people, such as their experiences and memories.

[Surrey Hills Countryside - 20180917 HistoricLandscapeCharacterisation Extracts - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

## Priority Archaeological Features within Compartments

### Abinger (SM Barrow)

A number of linear features such as banks, ditches and field systems are mapped in the Abinger woodland compartments that machinery should endeavour to avoid crossing unless making use of agreed existing breaks.

Particular attention is drawn to:

**Compartment:** A8

**Woodland Plans:** T20

**Significant Sites:** Bowl Barrow (Scheduled) [MNA181791](#) potentially belonging to period between 2400-1500 BC survives well and contains archaeological remains and environmental evidence relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed.

**Task:** As part of wider thinning ambition this Barrow should be cleared of vegetation and kept clear of vegetation.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential & Historical

### Box Hill

**Compartment:** B14

**Woodland Plans:** T10

**Significant Sites:** Scheduled Bowl Barrow [MNA127795](#) potentially belonging to period between 2400-1500 BC survives well and contains archaeological remains and environmental evidence relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed.

**Task:** This Barrow has been regularly cleared should be kept clear of vegetation. Thinning operations in this compartment should consider widening the buffer of the Monument to create a Barrow within a larger clearing to allow visitors a better appreciation of what it is.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential, Aesthetics & Historical

**Compartment:** B15a

**Woodland Plans:** T10

**Significant Sites:** Scheduled Bowl Barrow [MNA127104](#) potentially belonging to period between 2400-1500 BC survives well and contains archaeological remains and environmental evidence relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed.

**Task:** This Barrow has been regularly cleared should be kept clear of vegetation. Thinning operations in this compartment should seek to target removal of trees and vegetation on the southern side of this Barrow to open it up. The northern extent is currently encroached on by road

and path so opening up south side will provide a better visual appreciation of this significant and protected heritage feature for our visitors.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential, Aesthetics & Historical

**Compartment:** B2cbevh, B11, B12, B14, B16

**Woodland Plans:** SF and T10-30

**Significant Sites: Pillow Mounds:** A large collection of Pillow Mounds, which were artificial linear mounds used for farming rabbits can be found within a number of compartments on Box Hill. These have the following unique codes in the National Trust Heritage Records Online<sup>1</sup>: MNA191536 – MNA191557. Rabbits were introduced into this country by the Normans who bred them for meat and fur. The pillow mounds were grouped together in warrens often on marginal land such as commons and warreners were appointed to look after the rabbits. A boundary pale or bank was often thrown up around the warren to contain the rabbits. Although warrens are thought to be medieval in origin some were still in use in the 17th and 18th centuries. The earliest documentary evidence for a rabbit warren on Box Hill is 1804. The rabbit activity in the area is reflected in other names such as Warren Cottage and Farm.

**Task:** These mounds would have had no trees and the linear mounds would have likely been surrounded by water filled ditches. As part of the grouping priority should be given to removing trees and vegetation growing on the bank, in the partially filled ditches or close to the mounds. Well established trees such as some of the Box trees should be preserved as help date some the mounds.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential & Historical, Aesthetics & Communal

## Chapel Farm

Small area with three mapped archaeological features; a woodland linear bank MNA186875, old farming lynchets MNA186874 and a quarry MNA186839. Thinning activities in this compartment should take care to avoid damaging these linear features during works so access routes and stacking areas should be agreed with archaeologist.

## Finchampstead

No individual feature is highlighted for Finchampstead, but attention is drawn to the number of linear banks and ditches that collectively tell of the changing uses of the woodland over time. Access and thinning operations in compartments should avoid crossing these features or dragging timber across them. Existing breaks in features can be utilised as agreed with the regional archaeologist.

## Hatchlands

**Compartment:** HA11

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<sup>1</sup> <https://heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk/HBSMR/MonRecord.aspx?uid=MNA191536>

**Woodland Plans:** T30

**Significant Sites:** In addition to the Holloway, quarry and Icehouse in this compartment a number of historic graffiti including figures has been recorded on a number of trees: [MNA192374](#) & [MNA192375](#). These are believed to have been carved by past visitors or residents of the house potentially evacuees.

**Task:** Wider survey of this compartment before proposed thinning to check for any other graffiti to record and if possible seek to retain trees with historic graffiti

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Historical and Communal

## Reigate

**Compartment:** RG1

**Woodland Plans:** T10

**Significant Sites:** Military Earthwork [MNA198988](#) survives as a 400m long earth bank running east-west with its northern side enhanced by regularly spaced abutments. Surrey Archaeology Society undertook a survey of the feature in 2014 and suggested the feature is a pre WWI feature with the spaces between abutments providing shelter for infantrymen using muskets or rifles.

**Task:** As part of wider thinning work in the compartment opportunities should be taken to clear the feature of vegetation both on bank and along northern side as it would have been whilst in use.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential and Historical

## Runnymede & Ankerwycke

**Compartment:** R4

**Woodland Plans:** SF10

**Significant Sites:** Scheduled monument of Ankerwycke Priory [MNA147315](#). A Benedictine nunnery, founded in the late C12, that was then adapted into a Tudor House and then a Georgian Pleasure Ground. The site has been subject to ongoing research and evaluation as part of the Runnymede Explored Project.

**Task:** Any management activities on this site must be checked with regional archaeologist due to sensitivity of buried remains. As a significant scheduled site, the heritage and history of the site should prescribe how this site and trees are managed.

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential & Historical

## Witley

**Compartment:** W2A

## Woodland Plans: T10

**Significant Sites:** Witley Camp [MNA192483](#) which was one of the major training and transit camps for both the British Army and the Canadian Expeditionary Force throughout WWI. Camp was reused in WWII and was part of Polish Resettlement Corps HQ post WWII. Godalming Museum undertook a NLHF project researching Witley Camp. In addition to excavation they have installed an audio trail on Witley Common.

**Task:** Maps of the camp exist and these should be consulted before work commences in this compartment to avoid any damage. Little remains visible of the camp above ground, but excavation has shown that buried material is preserved on site

**Benefits for Heritage and Visitors:** Evidential

## Hydon's Ball

Currently no data held within the National Trust HBSMR beyond the two memorial features in the form of the WWI War Memorial [MNA197248](#) and Octavia Hill Bench [MNA197250](#). These are very visible features unlikely to be damaged, however the opportunity could be taken to improve viewpoints from and too these features during selective felling on 20% within compartment HY1.

Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence and lack of knowledge makes this a high risk site in terms of accidental damage to heritage features. A brief look at Surrey HER, old maps and Surrey Lidar Portal shows there is evidence of surviving visible earthworks and possible archaeological features including linear woodland banks that could be damaged by woodland management if operations team are not made aware. The NT archaeologist and volunteers will endeavour to prioritise data capture on research on these sites.

In line with the NT woodland policy there is a requirement on land managers undertaking thinning or felling work within these compartments to engage as early as possible with the NT archaeologist.

## Denbies, Emley, Headley Heath, Holmwood, Little Kings, Oxted, Winkworth & Witley.

Currently no data held within the National Trust HBSMR. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence and lack of knowledge makes this a high risk site in terms of accidental damage to heritage features. A brief look at Surrey HER, old maps and Surrey Lidar Portal shows there is evidence of surviving visible earthworks and possible archaeological features including linear woodland banks that could be damaged by woodland management if operations team are not made aware.

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