

Cobham Woodland Management Plan Summary 2022-2032

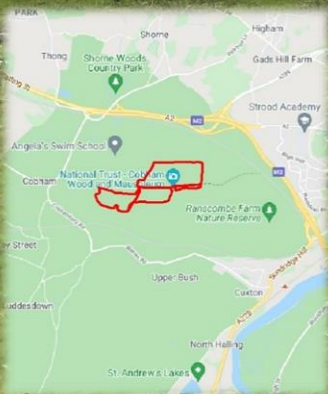


National
Trust

Compartment C3a



**74.03 hectares of mixed
broadleaved woodland
and wood pasture in Kent**



Habitats and Species

Cobham has extensive areas of wood pasture conforming to the Wood Pasture & Parkland Priority Habitat, these contain large numbers of veteran trees. Within the wood pasture / wooded habitat mosaic there are also some areas of woodland that conform to the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat.

Open grassland areas within the wooded complex include a small, but nevertheless valuable area of unimproved calcareous grassland conforming to the Lowland Calcareous Grassland Priority Habitat. Areas of the Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Priority Habitat occur around the Mausoleum, supporting open ground plants.

Hollow nesting birds reported in the past include Red & Priority Listed spotted flycatcher and lesser spotted woodpecker, and Amber Listed stock dove and green woodpecker. More recently a pair of Red & Priority Listed marsh tits were present in 2015. Other notable and regular breeding birds reported include the Red and Priority Listed, cuckoo, song thrush, starling and yellowhammer. Skylark also bred in 2011 & 2012, and there are older records of hawfinch (listed on the SSSI citation). Other significant species include Amber Listed nightingale which has not been detected since 2011.

Loose bark and cavities provide suitable habitat for roosting bats, open glades provide valuable bat feeding habitat. At least 6 species of bat have been detected on the property, including three Priority List species – Soprano pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared. Reptiles known to occur include the Priority Listed slow-worm and common lizard.

There are Nationally Notable beetles associated with ground ivy, and notable invertebrates associated with the leaf litter layer.

The woodland supports a variety of notable plants such as pyramidal orchid, common rock-rose and wild strawberry – the latter two on the England Red List as well as common cudweed (GB & England Red List). Path edges also support plants such as common spotted orchid.

Designations

All of the woodlands at Cobham sit within the Kent Downs AONB.

All of the woodlands sit within the Cobham Woods SSSI, designated for nationally rare plant species occurring in the arable land close to the wood as well as the outstanding assemblage of plants present at this site, and also because of its importance for breeding birds.

The woodlands here sit within a Registered Park and Garden.

Management Approaches

Areas of semi-natural woodlands in good condition with no issues will be managed with little or no intervention.


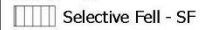

The importance of ancient and semi-natural woodland and veteran trees will be recognised due to their value for wood decay and epiphyte communities. Veteran trees will be identified and protected from competition for light from adjacent trees through targeted thinning and selective felling.

Where thinning or selective felling takes place, regeneration will be achieved through natural processes where possible. This includes allowing natural regeneration from seed or management to encourage coppice regrowth.

Ash dieback and acute oak decline are present at this site. Where dying trees could present a risk to health and safety they will be pruned or felled to make them safe. Where they do not pose a risk to safety, they will be retained, adding to the woodland's deadwood resource.

Legend

Activity

-  Coppice - FC
-  Selective Fell - SF
-  Thin - T

Phase

-  1 (First 5 Years)
-  2 (Second 5 Years)
-  LTR
-  Water

Selective felling and thinning will be used to release veteran trees from competition and to deal with health and safety issues arising from ash dieback and acute oak decline



Selective felling of sweet chestnut coppice in C4f will be managed to restore wood pasture



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