

Hollingbury Woods
and Burststead Woods
Management Plan
2012 – 2015

1 Management plan overview

The Management Plan summarises the management activity that will be required over the next five years to promote the wildlife and recreational value of the Hollingbury Woods and Burstead Woods. The plan has been produced by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) City Parks department and the Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods (FHBW). The plan will be reviewed in 2015.

This management plan includes:

- Activities and tasks that the Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods and other groups of volunteers have the skill and ability to achieve
- Work that only Brighton and Hove City Council and professional contractors can accomplish
- Consideration of observations and remarks from the Royal Forestry Society and other environmental bodies

The management actions that are planned will:

- Maintain the woodland
- Support wildlife
- Balance the woodland tree population
- Conserve and enhance the local biodiversity and natural beauty of the woodland
- Encourage public awareness and enjoyment of the Woods

2 Site description

2.1 Summary

Hollingbury Woods and Burstead Woods are located on the northern edge of Brighton, grid reference TQ 315075, and form part of the Hollingbury Wild Park proposed Local Nature Reserve. The northernmost sections of both woods fall within the South Downs National Park (**Map 1**).

Hollingbury Woods is a former beech plantation which appears on the 1780 Ordnance Survey map. Some of the mature beech and elm survived the 1987 storm, but regenerating even-aged sycamore and ash are now dominant in both woods, along with elm as a minor component. Brighton and Hove has very little woodland of comparable age, and the habitat supports important bird, bat and dead wood invertebrate populations. The woods are an important component of a mosaic of habitats, with the adjacent Hollingbury Park/covered reservoir, Hollingbury Golf Course and the allotment sites at Roedale Valley and Lower Roedale. As part of this mosaic, Hollingbury and Burstead Woods serve as a valuable wildlife corridor between the urban area and the wider countryside. They are also significant venues for informal public recreation in their own right, as well as a gateway onto the Downs beyond.

This Management Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the wildlife potential of the woods, particularly in terms of achieving a more varied tree age structure and species mix within the post-1987 regrowth. The plan also aims to balance the existing heavy public use with the need to safeguard the woodland habitat and its aesthetic quality, in accordance with its LNR status. In the very rare instances where public use is incompatible with biodiversity objectives, the preservation of biodiversity will take precedence.

Key changes in management activity described in this plan

- Thinning of some of the post-1987 regrowth, including recreation of the Bee Bank, giving priority to the removal of the non native Sycamore.
- Inclusion of new areas (National Park Wood and northern Burstead Woods)
- Limited new planting extending Hollingbury Woods into Hollingbury Park
- Extending the Easy Access route through National Park Wood into Hollingbury Golf Course
- Creation of circular path and Butterfly Glade in Burstead Woods
- Replenishing dead wood supply by felling and ringbarking
- Establishment of a new hazel coppice in National Park Wood
- New elm hedge to regenerate on Ditchling Road edge of Hollingbury Park Meadow
- Reduction of trees along the Roedale Valley allotment boundary of Hollingbury Woods
- Possible introduction of grazing and associated Butterfly Bank in Hollingbury Park Meadow

2.2 General information

2.2.1 Introduction

Whilst compiling the Plan, potential gaps in existing biological survey data were identified, particularly in relation to deadwood invertebrates, fungi and bat species. There is also substantially more data available for Hollingbury than Burstead Woods. More research may therefore be required.

2.2.2 Location

Hollingbury and Burstead Woods are two distinct, narrowly linear woods, 0.3 km apart, separated by Roedale Valley allotment site and the southern part of Hollingbury Golf Course (**Map 1**)

Hollingbury Woods runs north-south on an east-facing slope, sandwiched between Hollingbury Park to the west and Roedale Valley allotments to the east. The site takes in the 'Triangle Copse', and a native hedge (both of which were planted by the Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods) at the northern end of Hollingbury Park. It also takes in an adjacent area of meadow to the north and east of the Southern Water reservoir within Hollingbury Park. (**Map 1**)

The Woods are approximately 6.6 ha in area, at Grid Reference TQ 315 075.

Burstead Woods runs SW-NE on a west-facing slope, with Lower Roedale allotments/Brentwood Crescent on its eastern boundary, and Hollingbury Golf Course/Burstead Close to the west.

It is approximately 2.6 ha in area in area, at Grid Reference TQ 318 072.

2.2.3 Status

Hollingbury Woods and Burstead Woods form part of the proposed Hollingbury Wild Park Local Nature Reserve, designated for its value for education, public enjoyment and its wildlife habitat. As such they are protected by policy NC3 of the Brighton & Hove Local Plan 2005. The northernmost sections of both woods fall within the South Downs National Park and are therefore subject to a very high level of planning protection. It is within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and a Groundwater protection zone.

Badger setts in the woods are covered by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Regulations 2010. All birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Several UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species may be found in the Woods:

- Slow-worms (*Anguis fragilis*) and Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), both of which are also covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act
- White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrrium w-album*)
- Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

See **Section 2.3.2.2** for more detail on some of these species.

2.2.4 Tenure and interests

All of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods is owned by Brighton and Hove City Council. Part of the northern end of Hollingbury Woods (north of the access road to the golf course club house), and of Burstead Woods (above the north end of Burstead Close) falls within Hollingbury Golf Course – owned by BHCC and managed by Mytime Active (See **Map 1** for Mytime’s boundary, and **Appendix 1** for BHCC and Mytime contact details).

Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods – a group of local conservationists – have carried out regular management tasks and wildlife interpretation for 20 years (henceforth known as FHBW) (See **Appendix 1** for contact details.)

2.3 Environmental Information

2.3.1 Physical

Hollingbury Woods is a mixture of steep ground (on the ‘Southern Slopes’, above Hollingbury Rise West) and level to gently sloping ground in the northern section. Burstead Woods is a predominantly steep valley side. Both are situated on the Seaford Chalk Formation of the Upper or White Chalk, and because of their relatively long history as woodland, the soils are quite rich calcareous brown earths. The northern part of Burstead Woods probably sits on the Clay with Flints cap that underlies part of the Golf Course, which may explain the presence of Gorse here. Drainage throughout is good, with very little waterlogging.

2.3.2 Biological

See **Map 1** for locations of various habitats, particularly for the recently planted woodland, clearings and hedgerows. Note that area figures are approximate.

Habitat type	Area (ha)
Secondary woodland	9.1
Planted woodland	0.3
Grassland clearings	0.3
Hedgerow	285m length
Meadow	1.45

2.3.2.1 Habitat descriptions

A) Secondary Woodland – Hollingbury Woods

(See **Appendix 2** for a detailed species list)

Prior to the 1987 storm, Hollingbury Woods was primarily high forest, dominated by mature Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), English Elm (*Ulmus minor 'vulgaris'*) and Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*).

At that time, it was blessed with a number of 'veteran trees' – large old trees, showing signs of age and decay, and often held in affection by their public. These have value as bat roosts, woodpecker etc nest holes, and for fungi, bryophytes and specialist invertebrates.

The best of the surviving veteran specimens (beech, elm, some ash and sycamore) which survive from the original plantation are now mostly concentrated in the south west corner, with perhaps half a dozen by the boundary with the Bowls Club/tennis courts/playground, and also above the path on the eastern side, which runs parallel to the Roedale Valley allotment site fence. There is a notable row of Field Maples (*Acer campestre*) alongside this path (north of the junction with Roedale Cottages) that may indicate an old hedgerow.

Most of the post-1987 regrowth is fairly uniform even-aged ash and sycamore, along with a significant number of suckering elms and some beech (the latter is to be found primarily on the Southern Slopes). Approximately half of this regrowth – notably much of the young beech on the Southern Slopes – results from planting by Brighton Council and local volunteers following the storm.

However, this new growth has become overly dense in that part of Hollingbury Woods and elsewhere, as illustrated by the spindly nature of the saplings and the lack of ground flora beneath the canopy.

Throughout the Woods, there are also scattered Cherry, Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) adding to the species richness. (Most of the individuals of the last two species have been planted by FHBW volunteers.)

The understorey is relatively abundant in the northern and southern sections of the wood, but is quite species-poor, consisting predominantly of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and ash and sycamore saplings.

The field layer beneath the canopy is rather bare, dominated by Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum*), along with patches of Ivy (*Hedera helix*), scattered Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) and Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*, *hispanica* and hybrids) – the latter deliberately planted in some locations. Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) has also been planted in the 'Snowdrop Glade'.

The flora in the more open trackside or glade situations is a little more varied: the mixture of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), very prevalent Herb Bennet (*Geum urbanum*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), limited Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) points to National Vegetation Classification community W8, *Geranium robertianum* sub-community. The occurrence of many of the species

described above also suggests a history of soil disturbance, nutrient enrichment and a degree of trampling.

A notable feature is the substantial amount of fallen and standing dead wood (the latter sometimes known as 'monoliths') left as a legacy by the '87 storm. Although according to the Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species, there are no Stag Beetle records for Hollingbury/Burstead, they have been previously sighted by Council staff. The decomposing logs are likely to support these or other specialist invertebrates, which in turn serve as a rich food source for birds, hedgehogs and other small mammals.

Secondary Woodland – Burstead Woods

This is broadly similar to Hollingbury Woods in terms of its character and species composition, but with a denser canopy, a much greater dominance of even-aged sycamore and a less well developed understorey. Most of the imposing survivors of the storm tend to be clustered at the southern end of the site or alongside the eastern track running parallel to the Lower Roedale allotment site fence/Brentwood Crescent. The northern end of the Woods appears to be former golf course roughs now succeeding to scrub. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) was found here previously, perhaps indicating more acidic soil conditions than in Hollingbury Woods. The field layer is quite impoverished, mostly consisting of a carpet of ivy (*Hedera helix*) – implying NVC community W8, *Hedera helix* sub-community.

B) Planted Woodland

A significant amount of replanting took place on the Southern Slopes post 1987. FHBW have also planted hazel (along with rowan) as a coppice compartment in Hollingbury Woods' New Glade between 2009 and 2010. Coppicing is a traditional woodland management system, consisting of a set of compartments of trees that are cut on a rotational basis – typically (in the case of hazel) every seven years. The cut wood is useful for making handcrafts and material for dead hedges. The trees regenerate from the stumps and the cycle of growth begins again.

The most distinct planted area is the 'Triangle Copse', in the north-east corner of Hollingbury Park (see **Map 1**). Created by FHBW in 1991, it is a quite densely packed mixture of 15 tree and shrub species (see **Appendix 2** for full list). The Copse has thrived and provides the richest area of diversity in the smallest area in the woodland. Its trees and shrubs are especially useful for teaching children and adults how to identify different species. However, it might benefit from some thinning, but without sacrificing its rich variety.

C) Grassland clearings

The 1987 storm substantially opened up the shady beech canopy, increased light levels and permitted a wider range of herbaceous plants to flourish than was previously possible. Whilst these are mostly common species (see **Appendix 2**), this enhanced floral diversity supports a richer insect population and serves as a food source for birds and small mammals.

Five of the post 1987 canopy gaps in Hollingbury Woods have been maintained as glades by regular clearance and mowing – these are known as the Forget-Me-Not,

New, Snowdrop and Tennis Glades, with a fifth – ‘Sheep Lane Glade’ - just south-east of the Bowls Club. (See **Map 1** for locations of Glades).

The glades are small clearings that support varied flora and fauna. They are peaceful and pleasant places where a person can sit and enjoy the woods. Planting has been undertaken in these glades to supplement natural colonisation – eg. primrose, violets and teasels in Sheep Lane in 2011. Benches are sited here for picnics and quiet relaxation.

A derelict golf course green at the northwest end of Burstead Wood is to be managed as a ‘Butterfly Glade’. This part of the woods is already popular with local families and will become a good site for outdoor group activities, as well as providing extra butterfly habitat.

Tennis Glade is the only glade south of the flint barn. This large clearing absorbs considerable effort, but the vegetation is still largely tall rank annuals, such as Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*). These tend to suppress lower growing plants and mosses – such as the violets that could potentially support Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*). Individuals of this attractive woodland butterfly have been noted in Hollingbury Woods in recent years, and could thrive under the right management. White-letter Hairstreak is already abundant here, nectaring on the dominant herbs like Bramble and Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*). The glade may not be big enough to provide full sun for a significant portion of the day.

Part of the slope between the Tennis Glade and the paved track was previously kept open as a ‘Bee Bank’ (See Sec 6.1.7.2.3, Hollingbury Wild Park LNR Plan 1997-2002), with hot, bare soil beneficial for mining bees and other invertebrates, as well as a basking station for reptiles. This is now somewhat overgrown.

D) Hedgerow

FHBW have used a woven ‘dead hedge’ structure to nurture their planting of two lengths of mixed native hedge species: along the southern side of the golf club access road (2005-08), and on the north side of Hollingbury Rise West (2009-10). See **Map 1** for locations, and **Appendix 2** for species list. These hedges deter flytipping, increase floral and insect diversity, offer bird nesting sites and foraging corridors for bats and hedgehogs.

E) Meadow

An area of grassland surrounding the Southern Water reservoir at the northern end of Hollingbury Park (See **Maps 1** and **2** for location) has been managed on a ‘downland cut’ since 1992 (Sec 2.4.8.4.1, Hollingbury Wild Park LNR Plan 1997-2002).

The reservoir supports good populations of orchids and other downland specialists, and may serve as a seed source for this area. Diversity has been enhanced by the mowing regime, and Cowslips (*Primula verum*) and Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) have colonised (See **Appendix 2** for a species list). White-letter Hairstreak occurs on the young elms lining the Ditchling Road side of the meadow.

2.3.2.2 Species

Bats forage along the boundary of Hollingbury Park and Woods and over the Golf Course, and probably roost in the Woods. Which species may be present is unknown and there is a need for further research - there are records for Serotine in immediately adjacent locations (*Sx BRC Desktop Biodiversity Report ESD/10/409*).

Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) may occur in the woods, especially near the allotments (*Sx BRC Desktop Biodiversity Report ESD/10/409*). Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) have been observed on neighbouring roads (*Sx BRC Desktop Biodiversity Report ESD/10/409*) and recently in Burstead Woods, according to local residents.

The White-letter Hairstreak butterfly is relatively common here, indeed, butterfly enthusiasts from all over Sussex now consider this one of the most reliable sites for encountering this species. Some of its major nectar plants are unremarkable species such as Creeping Thistle, Burdock, Bramble (also enjoyed by Silver-washed Fritillary) and Hemp Agrimony, which are found in abundance all along the western edge of Hollingbury Woods, especially in a series of set back bays (**Map 1**). These bays are also utilised by range of other butterflies, hoverflies and other insects.

In addition, the woods host Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), and breeding birds such as Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) and Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) – the last two of which are on the conservation Amber List. The Sussex Ornithological Society believes that Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) are probably breeding here – the former is on the Red list and the latter has Amber status (See **Appendix 4** for details of the SOS bird survey.)

Due to the location near to the coast, the woods are of particular value for migrants as a vital refuelling stop on passage in spring or autumn – this is reflected in the large number of records of unusual species reported for the nearby Hollingbury Hill Fort and Golf Course (*Sx BRC Desktop Biodiversity Report ESD/10/409*).

Overall, little survey work has been done for the site, a situation which should be rectified in the near future. (See **Appendix 2** for a more detailed species list, including vascular plants).

Distinctive species	Rare (list any RDB, BAP etc entries)	Legal protection (list Act / other legislation)
Bats – unknown spp.	----	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981; Habitats Regulations 2010
Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)		Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Nesting birds		Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Slow-worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>)	UK BAP priority	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Common Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>)	UK BAP priority	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
White-letter Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>)	UK BAP priority	
Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	UK BAP priority	
Green Woodpecker (<i>Picus viridis</i>) - breeding	BTO Amber List	
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) - breeding	BTO Amber List	
Stock Dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	BTO Amber List	
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	BTO Red List	

2.3.3 Cultural

As an urban fringe site, the cultural importance of the woods equals and perhaps exceeds their biodiversity value. They are very heavily used by dog walkers and ramblers, often as part of a circuit including Hollingbury Park, the Golf Course and

the Wild Park. Thus the woods already function as important gateways into the National Park for Brighton residents, offering an experience of the transition 'from town to Down'.

Hollingbury Woods in addition is a major east-west route, between Hollingdean and Ditchling Road, to the allotments and the playground, and most significantly for hundreds of secondary school pupils every morning and afternoon.

It serves as a teenage hang out at lunchtimes, after school, and sometimes in the evenings. Litter, vandalism, underage drinking, drug use and disturbance to neighbours can result from such gatherings.

The substantial quantities of litter dropped in the woods detract from the natural beauty of the surroundings and can be dangerous. It ranges from nuisance litter such as sweet wrappers to major items such as builders' rubble. There are also numerous plastic bags of dog faeces that have been tossed into the undergrowth.

More positively the woods also represent a tranquil and restorative haven for many urban dwellers. Here people can enjoy the splendour and tranquility of nature, finding a place to slow down from the hectic pace of everyday life.

Hollingbury Woods is a much more tranquil setting since the road through the Southern Slopes was closed in 1999 – this former joy-riding rat run is now a surfaced track well-used by walkers and cyclists. It is colloquially known as 'Sheep Lane' (**Map 1**), perhaps hinting at former uses. There is still a moderate problem with dirt bikers, predominantly affecting Burstead Woods, although residents report motorbikes regularly using Sheep Lane too.

The LNR as a whole is a long tongue of undeveloped land, extending deep into the built up area. By bringing the countryside so far into town, it is therefore the first (and perhaps only) exposure to nature for many local children and residents. The woods serve as a living laboratory for illustrating the dramatic effects of the 1987 storm, and enabling a wider understanding of ecological processes such as succession. The dead wood provides abundant material for constructing dens and log assault courses.

Some local people informally decorate the Yew trees at Christmas, and Snowdrop Glade's 'Millennium Yew' (planted by FHBW in 2000) will be increasingly valuable as an 'arboreal clock', effectively representing the passage of time from that significant date. Late summer blackberrying is popular, particularly around Burstead Woods.

Brighton has an iconic, nationally important population of elms, which in many ways are our flagship species. However, even within Brighton and Hove it is rare to be able to experience elms in an authentic woodland setting, not just as street trees – Hollingbury and Burstead Woods offer that opportunity.

2.4 Evaluation

2.4.1 Size

Brighton and Hove has very little mature woodland, and Hollingbury and Burstead Woods are relatively narrow and linear, totalling 9 hectares. By comparison, Withdean Woods are 10 ha, Three Cornered Copse 3 ha and Stanmer Great Wood is approximately 100 hectares. The total area of woodland in Brighton and Hove is just under 300 ha (The Brighton and Hove Habitat Audit 2007- 2009).

Due to the surrounding land uses, there is little scope for woodland expansion, but the boundary between the amenity grassland of Hollingbury Park and Hollingbury Woods could be softened. There is limited space for additional glade creation in Hollingbury Woods, as they are so narrow. By contrast, Burstead Woods appears to have significantly expanded its area northwards into the golf course roughs in recent decades.

2.4.2 Structure and Condition

Most of the woodland canopy – particularly in Burstead Woods – is uniform, dense and even-aged, with relatively few large veteran trees. Lack of light is beginning to suppress the growth of the shrub layer, notably in the middle section of Hollingbury Woods. Ground flora is largely absent below the canopy, probably exacerbated by trampling in the southern half of Hollingbury Woods. The flora is much more abundant in the glades and other open locations, though even here it tends to be dominated by taller herbs such as Rosebay Willowherb and Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*) in late summer.

Post-1987 'Dead Wood Gardens' of fallen trunks and root plates are conspicuous in various locations, but are dwindling as they decompose. The oldest (easternmost) part of the golf club house road hedge is now well developed but is fairly open at its base and therefore less hospitable for nesting birds.

2.4.3 Biodiversity

As described in Section 2.2.1, the canopy and shrub layers (with the exception of the Triangle Copse) are dominated by quite a small number of species. (According to some observers, the pre-1987 situation was actually quite similar: a cathedral-like grove composed primarily of beech, with minimal understorey). The glades are the most species rich habitat, with a moderate number of mostly common species present.

2.4.4 Species

Little is known about the invertebrate species present, but these may well be of interest due to the volume of dead wood. White-letter Hairstreak butterfly is here, with the elm trees serving as its larval foodplant. Since Dutch Elm Disease, the elms themselves – particularly in a woodland setting, as here – are particularly distinctive to Brighton and Hove.

No rare or protected plant species have been reported in recent years. The woods' greatest value is for nesting and migratory birds, bats, and perhaps also badgers, reptiles and hedgehogs (see Section 2.2.3 and 2.3.2.2).

In past years, a number of bird and bat boxes have been erected in the woods. However, it is unclear how many boxes are still being used and even where all the boxes are located (see **Section 3.2.1**).

2.4.5 Position in a wider context

Although the connection is partly severed by the A27, Hollingbury and Burstead Woods are part of classic wildlife corridors linking Brighton's urban area and the wider Downs. They are an important component of the matrix of habitats in the LNR as a whole – for example, bats might roost in the woods but forage on the Golf Course. Their position on a migratory 'flyway' is also significant.

2.4.6 Accessibility

As described in 2.3, these urban fringe woodlands are already utilised by a very wide range of user groups, both from neighbouring communities and further afield. There are two car parks for Hollingbury Woods (at the north of Hollingbury Park and at Roedale Cottages – **Map 1**), on-street parking near Burstead Woods, and regular bus services for both.

The woods are permissive Open Access land, indicated as such on Ordnance Survey maps, and have a good network of informal paths maintained by FHBW and BHCC. These well-defined paths serve two purposes. They provide walkers with a route that is easy to traverse, guiding them through the woods by linking the woodland entry points. Secondly, the paths help to discourage walkers from walking on other areas where plant life needs to be undisturbed. Other emerging 'desire line' paths may need re-routing, to prevent trampling of sensitive plants and the onset of soil erosion.

Hollingbury Woods has an Easy Access circuit of specially-surfaced tracks that are designed to facilitate wheelchair and pushchair usage, and this circuit is publicised via the Council website and dedicated leaflets (see **Appendix 3** for details). 'Sheep Lane' across the Southern Slopes (see **Section 2.3.3**) serves as a useful and popular through-route for cyclists, with their behaviour occasionally viewed as dangerous by some local residents. Horse riding is tolerated, although riders are very rarely seen in the woods. An additional Easy Access route is currently projected to pass through the 'National Park Wood'.

2.4.7 Use

There is huge potential for the enjoyment of nature and quiet recreation in Hollingbury and Burstead Woods, much of which has been realised by the very active 'Friends of' group. FHBW have well-attended monthly work days, and promote the woods through a website, local press, stalls at public events and by liaising with other organisations. Five interpretation boards have been installed (**Map 1**). FHBW have also hosted Dawn Chorus walks, along with visits by local primaries, Forest Schools, Cub Scouts and artists, often in conjunction with BHCC. A regular Health Walk passes through the area.

There is scope for even greater use of the woods as an educational resource, particularly given the number of schools in the vicinity. More comprehensive wildlife data for the woods (see **Sec 2.2.1**) would assist with this educational role – local school children might help to collect the data.

There is a severe problem with a minority of irresponsible dog owners allowing their dogs to foul, which might deter other users from accessing the woods. Also, the Hollingbury Rise West edge of the Southern Slopes regularly suffers from flytipping, and it is hoped the new hedge (See **Sec. 2.3.2.1 D**) might prevent such activity. Hollingbury Bowls Club's entrance is another hotspot. There is also a lot of green waste being dumped in Burstead Woods from gardens backing onto the area.

2.4.8 Historical

No major historical interest is known for Hollingbury and Burstead Woods.

Management Evaluation Table

Feature	Rank	Positive factor	Negative factor
Secondary woodland	1	Large area with some mature trees, in context of limited woodland in B&H, Supports nesting/migratory birds, bats and mammals	Dense, even-aged canopy, with minimal undershrub and ground flora in parts. Not much scope for new veteran trees to develop
Public access	2	Very heavy recreation use, as attractive urban fringe woodland setting with good quality paths. Gateway to the National Park. Educational potential.	Litter, vandalism, dog fouling, occasional Anti-Social Behaviour
Elms	3	Nationally important population of elms in B&H; supports W. L Hairstreak butterfly	Threat of resurgent Dutch Elm Disease; competition from Ash and Sycamore
Glades	4	Botanically richer than surrounding woodland; Good nectar sources; venue for benches and views. Scope for public participation in management	Mostly only common species present; dominated by taller herbs in late summer. Little room for more glades
White-letter Hairstreak/other BAP species	5	Flagship species with national obligations for their conservation. Opportunities for interpretation.	Potential conflicts between different species' habitat requirement – eg. Butterflies v dead wood inverts
Public participation	6	Very active Friends of group promoting involvement, education and a sense of ownership, with support from BHCC	Constraints on volunteer and BHCC officer time?
Dead Wood	7	Of great value as habitat for invertebrate species (some rare). (Indirect) food source for birds, protected bats and mammals. Dead wood is generally under-represented habitat due to over-management of woodland	Supply of dead wood is diminishing post-1987
Hedges	8	Increased diversity of shrub species, improved wildlife food resource, use as wildlife corridor, improves appearance and deters flytipping. Scope for public participation in management	Extra workload during establishment phase, and ongoing maintenance. Can clash with public's desire lines and suffer from vandalism
Migratory birds	9	Often charismatic and unusual species. Puts conservation in its international context.	Only present on spring and autumn passages. Woods are only one of the parts of the LNR matrix that they use.

Planted woodland	10	Increased diversity of tree species, Improved wildlife food resource, scope for traditional skills such as coppicing and for public participation in management	Risk of planting inappropriate or invasive species; Restricted space for woodland expansion. Extra workload during establishment phase.
Meadow	11	Enhanced plant diversity supporting butterflies and other invertebrates. Additional habitat in overall LNR matrix. Potential for restoration to unimproved grassland	Dog fouling due to location by car park. Reaction by some members of public to less neat appearance.

Key Management Policy Themes

- Address the age structure of woodland to increase diversity
- Deter litter, dumping, dog fouling and other anti-social behaviour
- Improve public understanding of the reserve through monitoring, survey and interpretation
- Maintain and enhance the path network without endangering wildlife value
- Safeguard the elm population
- Offer substantial opportunities for public involvement in management
- Maintain and enhance the habitat value of the woods, particularly for BAP and protected species.

3 Management activities

3.1 Woodland maintenance

As part of the ongoing work to maintain Hollingbury Woods and Burstead Woods, the Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods, other volunteers and Brighton Council will:

- Monitor and survey woodland
- Clear litter from the woods
- Discourage dog fouling
- Maintain access paths
- Monitor desire line paths, acting where any are dangerous or causing erosion
- Clear growth from glades to preserve them as open areas

3.1.1 Woodland monitoring

- It is intended to keep a photographic record of the woods. At given points at specific times of year, photos will be taken to show the state of the woods. A record should be made of the location & direction of these photos, so that they can be repeated exactly from year to year. The photos will be labelled and archived.
- An area of the woods that has never been surveyed to identify the flora and fauna is the new Butterfly Glade in Burstead Woods (**Map 1**). FHBW will undertake a detailed species survey of this area.
- Local naturalists, organisations and schoolchildren will be encouraged to conduct wildlife surveys, to fill in gaps in the data, or for educational purposes.
- Trees (especially veterans and monoliths) will be monitored regularly to verify that they are in safe condition, and free of Dutch Elm Disease (see also **Sec. 3.3.1.3**)

3.1.2 Litter

- Litter picking is carried out at every FHBW workday
- More substantial detritus remaining from the post-1987 works – such as the old tree guards and defunct fencing in Hollingbury Woods – will be removed during the plan period.
- Local schools will be approached to reduce littering by pupils

The Burstead Woods green waste problem will be addressed by:

- Establishing who owns the gate into the woods from Brentwood Crescent, and potentially arranging for the gate to be locked or removed.

- Distributing information leaflets to local residents to highlight the problems that such dumping can cause, and appealing for information as to who is responsible.
- Investigating the feasibility of hedge planting along the southeast side of the woods.

3.1.3 Dog fouling

Two aspects to dog fouling cause problems in the woods – bagged waste tossed into the woods and fouling on paths. The Council have erected and regularly empty waste receptacles but dog walkers are sometime irresponsible.

- The provision, use and maintenance of the bins will be monitored.
- Park Rangers and Animal Welfare Officers will visit the Woods to deter dog fouling, through education and enforcement.
- Bagged waste will be removed as part of the ongoing litter clearance activities.

3.1.4 Bylaw signage

In addition to regular patrols, within the plan period:

- More signs relating to dog fouling and other bylaws (Eg. Camping, Fires, Dumping) will be installed.
- The involvement of local children will be sought, in creating innovative designs for bylaw enforcement signs.
- Such signage could be sited along the Hollingbury Park boundary, on Hollingbury Rise West, or attached to the existing interpretive boards, taking care to minimise the visual impact on the woods.

3.1.5 Access

Paths will be planned and maintained so as to:

- Provide pleasant, varied and safe routes through and around the woods
- Enable access for people with limited mobility wherever possible
- Encourage responsible use by cyclists, and discourage hazardous cycling behaviour (occasionally experienced on Sheep Lane) with signage and education
- Discourage access that tramples delicate plants, is damaging to wildlife, or causes erosion
- Prevent unauthorised vehicular access, looking at installing a barrier to motorcycle use of Sheep Lane
- Offer a sense of adventure.

3.1.5.1 Easy access paths

The major north-south easy access path in Hollingbury Woods runs alongside the allotment fence on the eastern woodland edge. To keep this accessible for buggies, wheelchairs and others, the following maintenance is required:

- Trimming overhanging branches and encroaching ground growth.
- Monitoring track surface condition and repairing defects.

Elsewhere, such access will be enhanced by:

- Creating an entrance from the car park into Hollingbury Park Meadow (**Map 1**) by removing part of the bund.
- Extending the surfacing of the Easy Access route where the existing surface is unable to take the current or expected footfall.
- Negotiating an extension of the existing Easy Access route through the 'National Park Wood' into Hollingbury Golf Course (**Map 1**), as set out in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

3.1.5.2 Other paths

These are maintained by:

- Clearing overhanging branches and encroaching vegetation.
- Monitoring the condition of steps and revetted path lengths, and replacing as required

In addition, a new circular route will be constructed through the north end of Burstead Woods, in conjunction with the Butterfly Glade (see **Sec 3.2.2**).

See **Appendix 5** for alternative suggestions on the creation of new 'ride' paths in the Woods. These emerged during the consultation period, and could form a basis for discussion in a future Plan review.

3.1.5.3 Desire line paths

Desire line paths are those paths that evolve of their own accord, due to the number of people that walk along the same route frequently.

- These paths will be monitored, and where they are dangerous, erosive, or damaging to wildlife, continued use of the route will be prevented by installing a brash barrier, fencing or new planting.
- The creation of bike jumps will be discouraged.
- Old wire fencing by a steep desire line on the Southern Slopes will be made safe, perhaps by burying, and part of the route will be blocked
- Consideration should be given to re-routing desire line paths which currently give direct lines of sight from one edge of the Woods to the other.

3.1.6 Glade maintenance

For all glades, care must be taken when carrying out clearance, as taller grass and herbs can host hedgehog nests from spring through till autumn.

3.1.6.1 Tennis Glade

- The northern half of the glade will be kept at tall herb level, being cleared once yearly in the early autumn, allowing Hemp Agrimony to flower, and brambles to fruit. The candidate veteran tree in this part of the glade will be retained.
- Bare ground habitat will be restored on the 'Bee Bank' (the slope between the Tennis Glade and Sheep Lane) by clearing the encroaching vegetation. Its open aspect will then be maintained by intermittent clearance.
- The area around the bench in the southern part of the glade will continue to be mown regularly.
- View lines from the bench across to Race Hill will be restored by moderate tree thinning on the Southern Slopes immediately below the glade, which will also allow more sun onto the Bee Bank.
- To promote the spread of violets, the southernmost part of the glade will be cleared twice a year, in early spring and then before the tall herbs set seed in late summer.
- Cut material will be removed from the glade after clearance.

3.1.6.2 Snowdrop Glade

- Cleared twice yearly – in early spring, after the snowdrops have flowered, and late summer, before the willowherb seeds. The western edge where daffodils have been planted must be kept clear.
- A modest shrub layer will be allowed to develop along the eastern edge, adding to structural diversity. The old elders in this glade will be monitored to assess whether they need removing.

3.1.6.3 Forget-me-not Glade

- Cleared twice yearly – in early spring and late summer
- The numerous elm trees that have begun to appear in Forget-me-not Glade will not be cut down. This will be reviewed in the next plan period if it is felt that they are beginning to affect the viability of the glade.

In the area directly east of Forget-me-not Glade (in the corner of the Roedale Valley allotment fence) (**Map 1**), the following project will be carried out in the plan period:

- Clear scrub from the south-facing fenceline
- Supplement existing violets with wildflower plug planting
- Thin around selected candidate veteran trees and 'monolith' standing dead wood.

3.1.6.4 New Glade

This will be managed as a coppice in the future.

- In the initial phase of the coppice cycle, while the trees are establishing the glade will receive an annual spring clearance, excluding the raspberry patch and bramble edge on the west of the Glade.
- Buddleia, elder etc will be removed, to maximise light reaching the floor.
- The trees will be cut for the first time late in 2015.
- The cut hazel poles will be used for fence creation on site, or where that is not possible, in other projects around Brighton and Hove.

New Glade has been mistakenly planted with non-native bluebells and efforts will be made to eradicate the non-natives here to favour the native bluebells.

3.1.6.5 Sheep Lane Glade

- Cleared at least once a year in early spring, with a second, autumn cut brought in as required
- A shrub screen must be retained for the houses backing on to the Glade.
- Vigorous regrowth of Snowberry to be controlled through regular uprooting
- Within the plan period, fell or trim several of the larger trees south of the Glade, to admit more light.

3.2 Wildlife support

The following actions will be taken to improve the quality of the habitat for wildlife:

- Installation of more nesting facilities for bats and birds
- Creation of a new butterfly habitat
- Provision of corridors for wildlife
- Where appropriate, temporary signage highlighting features of interest and the reasons for management actions

3.2.1 Bird and bat boxes

- An inventory of all bird and bat boxes will be carried out over successive winters, and an assessment will be made as to the need for repairs and additional boxes.
- The order of work will be to inventory and provide bird boxes and then to do the same for bat boxes.
- Annual cleaning of boxes is required to prevent the build-up of parasites.

3.2.2 Butterfly habitat

Burstead Woods

A new glade at the north end of Burstead Woods is to be created to attract butterflies. This is an open sunny spot of considerable beauty overlooking part of the golf course.

The work planned for this glade over the next five years includes:

- Clearing the glade in early spring and early autumn to encourage butterfly attracting plants, while retaining at least half the existing nettles and brambles for larval foodplants/nectar/berries/nesting cover
- Planting violets, as an early nectar source
- Building revetments at the entrance to the glade
- Erecting a bench

Hollingbury Park Meadow

To support the population of butterflies and other insects:

- The meadow will continue to be mown annually, in the autumn (See **Map 2**), and the paths around it mown more regularly during the summer months.

The Council will consider grazing the meadow with sheep once yearly, but only after undertaking major public consultation. This would completely remove the need for mowing. If grazing were to be introduced:

- Permanent fencing would be installed along the Ditchling Road (western) boundary.
- Temporary stock fencing would be used along the Hollingbury Woods (eastern) side, preserving a porous boundary between the meadow and the Woods. Sheep would also be fenced out of the Triangle Copse.
- In conjunction with grazing, the feasibility of constructing a butterfly bank on part of the meadow will be explored. Construction would involve removing enriched soil and reseeded (perhaps with seed from the Reservoir), similar to the work undertaken by the nearby Dorothy Stringer School. Any such bank would respect the existing desire line paths
- The line of young elms on the Ditchling Road bund will no longer be mown but will be allowed to develop into a hedge, serving as a buffer between the Road and the meadow, and sustaining its resident White Letter Hairstreak population. The developing hedge will then be pruned annually in late summer. It should be kept at shoulder height, in order to retain views into and out of Hollingbury Park.

3.2.3 Hedges for wildlife

The traditional use of hedging has been to contain stock, but with the side benefits of providing not only a protected habitat for wildlife but also a safe corridor for travel.

Golf Club access road

- The established hedge will be maintained by weeding around the planted trees and replacing any trees that have died.
- This hedge will be trimmed as needed, restricting height to two metres, to create better nesting habitat by promoting bushier growth. It will be kept from projecting out into the road, as this may increase the risk of walker/vehicle collisions.
- The older part of the hedge (north of Forget-Me-Not Glade) is a candidate for laying and a determination will be made as to when this should happen.
- A new section of hedge will be planted along the line of the bund immediately adjacent to the car park/recycling point. Existing desire lines into Hollingbury Park Meadow will be left as unplanted gaps.
- This section of hedge will then be kept cut at a lower height than the rest, to retain southward views from the car park.

Hollingbury Rise West

- As above, this new hedge will be weeded and enhanced with further planting.
- The dead hedging will be monitored and rewoven as needed.
- The young hedge will be monitored and trimmed as required in the plan period.

3.3 Tree and shrub management

3.3.1 Principles of woodland management

One reason so many trees were lost in the 1987 Storm is that the beech woodland was a shallow-rooted monoculture. As the woodland has regenerated, an overabundance of sycamore and ash began to thrive, to the detriment of other species.

Sycamore is non-native, with relatively low biodiversity value and a dense canopy which tends to suppress the understorey and ground cover. Ash is native, already common, and its canopy is less dense, so ground cover can survive. The White-letter Hairstreak also feeds on honeydew on ash.

The ideal is a resilient woodland that can survive any future weather incident, climate change or disease outbreak. It should have a good variety of mostly native trees species, with a reasonable distribution of age and size.

3.3.1.1 Sycamore and ash overpopulation

The over-abundance of sycamore will be progressively decreased, and carried out in accordance with the following principles:

- No one area will be completely cleared at any one time
- Young and weak trees will be the candidates for thinning
- The glades will be kept free of ash and sycamore saplings
- Any felled trees (other than elm) will be kept on site to rot down
- No candidate veteran sycamore or candidate veteran ash will be removed unless there is a safety risk
- The understory of hawthorn, blackthorn and elder (which support many insect species) will not normally be thinned
- Where it is considered necessary, a canopy will be retained over the 'Dead Wood Gardens' (**Section 2.4.2**), to keep a suitable microclimate – although according to recent research, full shade may not be an essential requirement for healthy dead wood habitat.

Tree thinning needs to be carried out sensitively, avoiding 'hollowing out' of narrow parts of the Woods, with the risk of increased windblow, climatic deterioration and the formation of potentially destructive new desire lines. Felling licence conditions must also be explored before significant thinning is carried out.

In the plan period, thinning efforts will be initially focused on:

- The most overgrown parts of the Southern Slopes
- The section of Hollingbury Woods from the old barn to the Tennis Glade,
- Parts of Burstead Woods.
- The failing non-natives and conifers in the south-east corner of the National Park Wood.

See **Appendix 5** for alternative suggestions on the extent of thinning and creation of new 'ride' habitats in the Woods. These emerged during the consultation period, and could form a basis for discussion in a future Plan review.

3.3.1.2 Encouraging a greater variety of species

To avoid a uniform age structure and dominance by any one tree species, certain preferred species will be encouraged.

Oak is unlikely to thrive. Lime and Yew are favoured, but the primary targets are Elm, Brighton being a haven for this species, and Beech.

As a tribute to the history of Hollingbury Woods, there is a desire to (re)create beech woodland – but not to the exclusion of all other species. It should also be borne in mind that beech may be more susceptible to climate change than some other species: its shallow root plates are prone to drying out with warmer and extended temperatures, with the potential for failure on fast draining sites

- To encourage the beech trees that are currently thriving on the Southern Slopes, selective thinning of other tree species will be carried out. Any elms here should also be retained.

3.3.1.3 Elms

- Monitor for signs of Dutch Elm Disease, particularly in Burstead Woods, where there have been recent cases.
- Investigate the feasibility of training local volunteers as 'elm lookers'.
- Identified DED cases will be removed.
- Even small specimens of cut elm must be disposed of in line with good practice – burning on site, speedy removal of *all* bark, or removal to the Waterhall disposal site.

Within the plan period, the elm population needs to be assessed and any additional measures that could be taken to encourage them explored. For example:

- Planting an elm hedge, regularly pruned to keep it less susceptible to disease
- Any newly planted trees must be more disease resistant varieties.

3.3.1.4 Triangle Copse

This is already the most species-rich part of Hollingbury Woods (**Sec 2.3.21**). Within the plan period it is intended to:

- Thin some of the Copse, to give a more varied age structure. This will focus on the southern section, and concentrate on the more common species such as Blackthorn
- Cut back the canopy of the trees which fringe the paths through the centre of the Copse and along its eastern edge, helping the worn path surfaces to dry out and recover
- Leave the remainder of the Copse uncut, to provide dense cover for birds
- Cut at least one 'scallop' into the eastern side of the Triangle, facing onto the Woods
- Consider using planting to expand the Woods outwards, into the track running between it and the Triangle.

3.3.2 Veteran/candidate veteran trees

Hollingbury Wood has around half a dozen such veterans, and perhaps 20 candidate veteran trees, capable of reaching veteran status. This includes several in the northern 'National Park Wood' section. Burstead Woods has a few candidates also.

- Apart from where they pose a danger to public safety, veterans should be preserved wherever possible.
- Within the plan period, all the veterans/candidates will be identified, and an initial risk assessment carried out for each, identifying maintenance requirements for both the short and long term. These should then be individually monitored – perhaps by volunteer 'tree lookers'.

- In order to prolong the life of identified veteran trees, it may be necessary to remove dangerous snags or side branches to prevent the crown becoming top heavy. Works to maintain the veterans will be in accordance with the practices set out in English Nature's "Veteran Trees: A Guide To Good Management" and "Veteran Trees: A Guide To Risk and Responsibility".

3.3.2.1 Ivy

Many of the candidate veteran trees are top heavy with ivy, which has great value as nesting cover, is a late berry and nectar source, and also supports the holly blue butterfly. It can however create a 'sail effect', making a tree more vulnerable to high winds, and can mask minor and major defects that may affect structure and public safety.

- Assess the extent of ivy on individual trees, and begin a programme of removal where necessary, with a presumption to retain valuable habitat wherever possible.

3.3.3 Dead wood

The supply of both standing and horizontal dead wood needs to be replenished, as it has dwindled from its post-1987 peak.

- Monitor existing monoliths for risk of collapse.
- 'Candidate monoliths' should be identified in order to have their top stems and larger branches reduced and made safe
- Carefully selected trees could be 'ringbarked', creating new standing dead wood and allowing more light to reach ground level
- The target area for both existing and candidate monoliths should be determined. Any trees with a target area spanning a path or publicly frequented area should be felled to fallen timber status
- To refresh the supply of fallen dead wood, any moderately large tree felled in the Woods should be left in situ – unless blocking a path or DED-infested.
- Some of the larger sycamores might be specifically felled to serve as dead wood.

3.3.4 Coppices

(See **Sec 2.3.2.1**). Within the plan period, it is proposed to plant a new hazel coppice at the east end of the National Park Wood (**Map 1**), subject to analysis of the soil for herbicide residue.

3.3.5 Lack of understorey

Limited light levels currently restrict the growth of an understorey and field layer in Hollingbury and Burstead Woods. This will be addressed by:

- Selective tree thinning within the woods, as in **Sec 3.3.1.1**.

- ‘plashing’ (or laying) individual shrub trees, to promote quick understorey development, and act as a natural barrier. Attempt in upper and middle parts of Hollingbury Woods, where less likely to be damaged in vulnerable early growth phase.
- Reducing trees down to the level of the Roedale Valley allotments fence. This would preserve the screening effect for allotment holders while allowing more light into the eastern side of Hollingbury Woods. This work will focus on the section of the fence from the barn/Upper Roedale Cottages northwards.
- These trees will then be maintained at this level by annual pruning
- Planting with suitable shrub cover, such as hawthorn, in conspicuously bare parts of the woods.

3.4 Enhanced woodland beauty

To make the woods a more beautiful place, it is planned to:

- Allow Burstead Woods to have a less managed feel while making some improvements
- Make the border between the west side Hollingbury Woods and Hollingbury Park less defined

3.4.1 Burstead Woods improvements

Of the two woods, Burstead Woods has a ‘wilder’, less managed feel. In addition to the development of the Butterfly Glade (**Sec 3,2.2**), basic maintenance undertaken will include:

- Minimal tree thinning, focusing on sycamore to improve age and species diversity.
- Litter clearance
- Path clearance and repair
- Maintenance or replacement of bird boxes
- Conserving the gorse site by cutting back competing vegetation
- Within the plan period, ameliorate the impact of the new Burstead Close development by appropriate planting along its perimeter.

3.4.2 Soften the border along the woodland perimeter

The richest woodland has multi-level vegetation, with low grass blending gradually into a field layer replete with herbaceous plants such as bramble. In Hollingbury Woods the division between the meadow or recreational grass and the woodland is abrupt and obvious. Softening this transition from mown land to wooded land is both aesthetically and ecologically beneficial.

3.4.2.1 Hollingbury Park/Hollingbury Woods Boundary

- A three metre grassland strip along the eastern edge of Hollingbury Park, (from the south end of the Reservoir as far as the Playground) will be mown once every two years, in the autumn. The section north of the Roedale Cottages road will be cut in the first year of the two year cycle, with the section to the south of this road being cut in the second year (see **Map 2**).

This should boost invertebrate populations and thereby benefit bats foraging along the wood/park boundary.

- The 'brambly strip' just within the western edge of Hollingbury Woods will be cut on a five year cycle, with half of the length cut in the first year and the other half cut in the third year, to ensure that mature bramble is always present. The cut should occur no earlier than October - to preserve its value as butterfly habitat, and allow a full blackberry fruiting season. Care must be taken when carrying out clearance, as taller grass and herbs can host hedgehog nests from spring through till autumn. Hedgehogs are especially likely to occur in this woodland edge situation.

3.4.2.2 The bays

There are three sheltered sunny bays along the western edge of Hollingbury Woods, where the tree line is set back (**Map 1**).

- These 'scallops' will be cut on a five year cycle with the large bay cut in the first year and the two smaller ones cut in the third year of the cycle. This will take place no earlier than October. Memorial trees will be retained, but saplings will be removed. Care must be taken when carrying out clearance, as taller grass and herbs can host hedgehog nests from spring through till autumn. Hedgehogs are especially likely to occur in such a woodland edge situation.
- Within the plan period, shrubs will be planted at the northern and southern ends of each bay, to build the Woods out into the Park. This planting will focus on native and local varieties of fruit trees.
- Sensitive thinning will be undertaken to extend the bay back into the tree line, without eating into the Woods to an excessive extent.

See **Appendix 5** for alternative suggestions on planting out from the Woods into the Park, north of Roedale Cottages. This emerged during the consultation period, and could form a basis for discussion in a future Plan review.

Work schedule

Key:

= FHBW

& = BHCC Ranger Service

> = BHCC Arboriculture

^ = BHCC Gardeners

† = BHCC Allotments

◇ = BHCC Animal Welfare

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Glade - existing coppice site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring clearance of vegetation (inc. Buddleia/Elder) around planted hazel (# &) • Control of non-native bluebells (spring) (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring clearance of vegetation around planted hazel (# &) • Control of non-native bluebells (spring) (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance no longer required as hazel established • Control of non-native bluebells (spring) (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of non-native bluebells (spring) (# &) • Coppice hazel late 2015 (# &)
National Park Wood - new coppice site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazel planting (late 2012), after soil analysis (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring + late summer clearance of vegetation around planted hazel. (# &) • Thinning of failing non-native/conifers – late 2013 (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring + late summer clearance of vegetation around planted hazel. (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring + late summer clearance of vegetation around planted hazel. (# &)
Snowdrop Glade	Early spring + late summer clearance of	Early spring + late summer clearance of	Early spring + late summer clearance of	Early spring + late summer clearance of

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
	vegetation (# &)	vegetation (# &)	vegetation (# &)	vegetation (# &)
Tennis Glade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn clearance – north section (# &) • Early spring + late summer clearance – south section (# &) • Regular mowing around Bench area (^) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn clearance – north section (# &) • Early spring + late summer clearance – south section (# &) • Regular mowing around Bench area (^) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn clearance – north section (# &) • Early spring + late summer clearance – south section (# &) • Regular mowing around Bench area (^) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn clearance – north section (# &) • Early spring + late summer clearance – south section (# &) • Regular mowing around Bench area (^)
Bee Bank (below Tennis Glade)	Early 2012: Clearance of saplings on bank, and reduction of trees on Southern Slopes below (# &)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring: clear encroaching vegetation (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring: clear any encroaching vegetation (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring: clear any encroaching vegetation (# &)
Sheep Lane Glade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance in early spring (# &) • Assess if autumn cut is required • Uproot snowberry shoots – summer (&) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance in early spring (# &) • Assess if autumn cut is required • Uproot snowberry shoots – summer (&) • Reduction of larger trees south of Glade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance in early spring (# &) • Uproot snowberry shoots – summer (&) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance in early spring (# &) • Uproot snowberry shoots – summer (&)
Forget-me-not Glade	Early spring + late summer clearance (# &)	Early spring + late summer clearance (# &) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2013: clear scrub in corner to east of Glade and plant 	Early spring + late summer clearance (# &)	Early spring + late summer clearance (# &)

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
		wildflower plugs (# &)		
Butterfly Glade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear early spring + autumn (# &) • Summer: Wildlife survey (#) • Autumn: plant violets (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear early spring + autumn (# &) • Install bench (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear early spring + autumn (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear early spring + autumn (# &)
Triangle Copse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coppice part of southern section, reduce trees over paths – late 2012 (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2013: Cut ‘scallop’ into eastern edge of Copse (# &) 	<p>Late 2014: Plant out from western edge of Woods into track alongside Triangle Copse</p>	
Golf Access Road Hedge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace any failed trees – early winter (# &) • Prune hedge – late summer (# &) • Weeding around tree guards – summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune hedge – late summer (# &) • Weeding around tree guards – summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2014: Plant new section of hedge by car park • Prune hedge – late summer(# &) • Weeding around tree guards – summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune hedge – late summer (# &) • Weeding around tree guards – summer (# &)

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hollingbury Rise West Hedge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge reweaving/verge weeding/Litter clearance – summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge reweaving/verge weeding/Litter clearance – summer (# &) • Assess if pruning is required (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge reweaving/verge weeding/Litter clearance – summer (# &) • If necessary, prune late summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge reweaving/verge weeding/Litter clearance – summer (# &) • If necessary, prune late summer (# &)
Southern Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path revetment (summer) (# &) • Tree thinning (late 2012) (# &) 			
Roedale allotment fence, eastern edge Hollingbury Woods		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late 2013: reduction of trees at selected locations along fence line († &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pruning of regrowth on reduced trees – autumn (&) 	
Burstead Woods – Pioneer House site	<p>Late 2012/early 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflower planting • Hedge planting 			
Burstead Woods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear vegetation around Gorse site – early spring (# &) • Flyering local residents re green waste dumping, investigating gate closure (&) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear vegetation around Gorse site – early spring (# &) • Thinning of sycamore (early 2013) (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear vegetation around Gorse site – early spring (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear vegetation around Gorse site – early spring (# &)
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install additional 'No Fouling' (Hollingbury Park/Wood edge) and No Dumping signs (Hollingbury Rise West) – 			

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
	summer (& ^)			
Bird boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory existing bird boxes - early 2012 (# &) • Erect new boxes - late 2012 (&) 			
Bat boxes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory existing bat boxes - early 2013 (# &) • Erect new boxes - late 2013 (&) 		
Hollingbury Park/Wood edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three metre strip along eastern edge of Park mown once every two years, autumn (^) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brambly strip within western edge of Wood cut from October (&) – Half cut now (year one of five year cycle), other half in year three (2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three metre strip along eastern edge of Park mown in autumn (^) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of brambly strip within western edge of Wood cut from October (&)
Hollingbury Wood 'Bays'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut the large bay after beginning of October (&). This is year one of five year cycle. The two smaller bays to be cut in year three (2014) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant shrubs out into Park from mouth of the large bay – early 2014 (# &) • Cut the two smaller bays in October or later (&) 	
Hollingbury Park Meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mown annually in autumn (^) • Access constructed through bund by car park N of meadow (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mown annually in autumn (^) • If required, pruning of elm hedge on Ditchling Rd edge – late summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mown annually in autumn (^) • If required, pruning of elm hedge on Ditchling Rd edge – late summer (# &) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mown annually in autumn (^) • If required, pruning of elm hedge on Ditchling Rd edge – late summer (# &)
Removal of old	Summer 2012: (&)			

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015
fencing materials, Hollingbury Woods				
Veteran trees and candidate monoliths	Identify and map – late winter 2012 (# &)	Risk Assessments on individual veterans and monoliths (>)		
Ivy	Assess where removal is necessary (winter 2012, and commence rolling removal programme (# &))			

The following activities are ongoing, as required, during the Plan period:

- Commissioning of wildlife surveys from various providers (# &)
- Litter picking and flytip removal (# &)
- Enforcement and education regarding dog fouling (◇ &)
- Keeping paths clear from encroaching vegetation (summer - # &)
- Monitoring step/revetment condition and replacing if necessary (# &)
- Monitoring and blocking desire line routes (if necessary) – particularly Southern Slopes (# &)
- Monitoring of safe condition of trees, especially veterans and monoliths, followed by works if required (>)
- Monitoring for Dutch Elm Disease (summer - # & >)
- Monitoring noticeboards: clean, remove graffiti or repair (# &)
- Repairing or replacement of benches (# &)
- Removing ivy (&)

2012 Seasonal Work Schedule

Winter	Early spring	Late spring/summer	Late summer	Autumn	Winter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Bee Bank saplings - Replace failures on Golf Road hedge - Inventory bird boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear around New Glade hazel - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Sheep Lane Glade - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Clear Butterfly Glade and around gorse in Burstead Woods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control bluebells in New Glade - Uproot snowberries, Sheep Lane Glade - Wildlife survey in Butterfly Glade - Clear around golf rd hedge plants - Cut E Access path through golf rd bund - Clear around HRW hedge plants - Revet S Slopes paths - Install new bylaw signage - Remove old fencing materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Prune golf rd hedge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flyer local residents re Burstead Woods green waste dumping - Clear Tennis Glade (north) - Clear Butterfly Glade - Plant violets in Butterfly Glade - Mow Hollingbury Park Meadow - Mow the eastern edge of Hollingbury Park - Cut the large bay on the west side of Hollingbury Woods, from October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant hazels in National Park Wood (Clearance required before) - Thin Triangle Copse

2013 Seasonal Work Schedule

Winter	Early spring	Late spring/summer	Late summer	Autumn	Winter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear scrub in corner to east of Forget Me Not glade, plant plugs - Cut scallop into eastern edge of Triangle Copse - Inventory bat boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear around New Glade hazel - Clear around National Park hazel - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Sheep Lane Glade - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Clear Butterfly Glade and around gorse in Burstead Woods - Clear vegetation from Bee Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control bluebells in New Glade - Uproot snowberries, Sheep Lane Glade - Clear around golf rd hedge plants - Clear around HRW hedge plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Prune golf rd hedge - Clear around National Park hazel - Prune Ditchling Rd elm hedge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Tennis Glade (north) - Clear Butterfly Glade - Install bench in Butterfly Glade - Mow Hollingbury Park Meadow - Cut half of the bramble strip inside western edge of Hollingbury Wood from October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thinning non-natives/conifers in N Park Wood - Reduce larger trees south of Sheep Lane Glade - Reduce trees along Roedale Valley allotment fence line - Install bat boxes

2014 Seasonal Work Schedule

Winter	Early spring	Late spring/summer	Late summer	Autumn	Winter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant new section of golf rd hedge by car park - Plant trees out into the Park from the mouth of the large bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear around New Glade hazel - Clear around National Park hazel - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Sheep Lane Glade - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Clear Butterfly Glade and around gorse in Burstead Woods - Clear vegetation from Bee Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control bluebells in New Glade - Uproot snowberries, Sheep Lane Glade - Clear around golf rd hedge plants - Clear around HRW hedge plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Prune golf rd hedge - Prune HRW hedge - Clear around National Park hazel - Prune Ditchling Rd elm hedge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Tennis Glade (north) - Clear Butterfly Glade - Mow Hollingbury Park Meadow - Mow the eastern edge of Hollingbury Park - Cut the two smaller bays on western side of Hollingbury Woods, from October - Prune regrowth on reduced trees along Roedale Valley allotment fence line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant trees out into track between Triangle Copse and wood edge

2015 Seasonal Work Schedule

Winter	Early spring	Late spring/summer	Late summer	Autumn	Winter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear around New Glade hazel - Clear around National Park hazel - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Sheep Lane Glade - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Clear Butterfly Glade and around gorse in Burstead Woods - Clear vegetation from Bee Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control bluebells in New Glade - Uproot snowberries, Sheep Lane Glade - Clear around golf rd hedge plants - Clear around HRW hedge plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Snowdrop Glade - Clear Tennis Glade (south) - Clear Forget Me not Glade - Prune golf rd hedge - Prune HRW hedge - Clear around National Park hazel - Prune Ditchling Rd elm hedge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Tennis Glade (north) - Clear Butterfly Glade - Mow Hollingbury Park Meadow - Cut half of the bramble strip inside western edge of Hollingbury Wood from October - Prune regrowth on reduced trees along Roedale Valley allotment fence line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coppice hazel in New Glade

Appendix 1 – Community contacts

Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods



Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods was set up after the great storm of 1987. We are a group of local volunteers who look after two areas of woodland off Ditchling Road near Hollingbury Golf Course, so that people can enjoy the area and wildlife can thrive.

We hold monthly work sessions carrying out a range of tasks including clearing glades to encourage flora and fauna, planting native trees and flowers, litter picking and maintaining paths. Our work is carried out with the agreement and support of the Brighton and Hove City Council's Park Rangers.

Our mission is to:

- Nurture Hollingbury and Burstead Woods towards diverse and splendid urban woodland set in its context
- Encourage learning and affection for the woods among all age groups

Our objectives are to:

- Ensure the trees and other vegetation flourish
- Conserve and enhance the wildlife, recreational and educational value of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods
- Encourage public awareness and community involvement in the woods

When managing the woodland, we strive to:

- Use hand tools in preference to motorised tools
- Favour native plants
- Protect and respect wildlife
- Allow fallen trees to remain on the ground
- Use traditional methods of woodland management
- Encourage volunteers to learn conservation skills
- Remove waste from glades to minimise soil enrichment
- Use materials from the woods for tree stakes and revetments
- Support biodiversity through the variety of flora and provision of wildlife habitats
- Make the woods a safe and accessible place for people
- Promote the woods as a learning resource for schools and youth groups

Friends of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods
Membership Secretary
14 Harrington Villas
Brighton
BN1 6RG

Email: info@fhw.org.uk

Council responsibilities

Activities that would be unsafe for FHBW to undertake, or that require specialist skills:

1. Advanced tree care, including felling larger trees or aerial work
2. Erect bird boxes
3. Erect bat boxes
4. Mowing
5. Collecting dog faeces
6. Collecting sacks of litter and flytipped materials
7. Enforcement of bylaws.
8. Provision of some materials and tools

Mytime Active

Hollingbury Park Golf Course
Ditchling Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 7HS
Tel: 01273 500086

E-mail: hollingbury@mytimegolf.co.uk

Brighton and Hove City Council Park Rangers

Cityparks
Stanmer Nursery
Lewes Road
Brighton
BN1 9SE

Email: cityparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Telephone: **01273 292929**

Appendix 2 – Hollingbury Woods species list

Golf Club Access Rd and Hollingbury Rise West Hedges

Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
 Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
 Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
 Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
 Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
 Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
 Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
 Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
 Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
 Purging Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
 Shepherd's Bullace (*Prunus insititia*)
 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
 Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
 Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*)

Triangle Copse

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees at S end – (medium size, self-sown?)
 Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
 Birch (*B. pendula*)
 Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
 Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
 Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
 Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
 Lime (*Tilia* sp.)
 Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*)
 Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
 Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*)
 Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)
 Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

Forget Me Not Glade

Dock (*Rumex* sp.)
 Forget-me-not (*Myosotis* sp.)
 Mint
 Violet - found elsewhere in other glades, ridesides and banks throughout the wood

New Glade

Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*)
 Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*)
 Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) – fruiting, N end of New Glade

Snowdrop Glade

Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*)
 Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
 False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)
 Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), growing on stump
 Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) (also occurs in FMN Glade)
 Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)
 Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), opposite Millennium Yew

Tennis Glade

Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*)
 Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) – common, but excellent for butterflies – useful with ‘Bee Bank’
 Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
 Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)
 False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)
 False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) – S end
 Forgetmenot (*Myosotis* sp.)
 Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) – by path edges
 Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) – S end of Glade
 Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) – S end
 Hedgerow Cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*)
 Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*)
 Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*)
 Smooth Hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*) – S end
 Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) **or perhaps** Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*)
 Violets, (good patch at S end – some white)
 White Campion (*Silene latifolia*)

Burstead Woods - Butterfly Glade

Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*)
 Bindweed
 Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
 Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*)
 Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)
 Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon pratensis*)
 Lady’s Bedstraw (*Galium verum*)
 Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)
 Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*)
 Nettles (*Urtica dioica*)

Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*)
 Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
 Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*)
 Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

Throughout Hollingbury Woods, mainly on more open sites (paths, glades, banks)

Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) scattered throughout, definitely planted in New Glade and NP Wood – Predominantly Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) or associated hybrids
 Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) – espec. on western, Park edge of Wood
 Burdock (*Arctium* sp.) – Throughout, inc under shady canopy
 Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) – eg in Sweet Chestnut planting area
 Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)
 Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*)
 Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)
 Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) – especially on western edge
 Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) – by track just to N of Forget-Me-Not Glade, possibly elsewhere
 Forgetmenot (*Myosotis* sp.)
 Ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)
 Hartstongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) – eg. on allotment path bank and to east of Forget me not Glade
 Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) – throughout, along tracksides
 Herb Bennet (*Geum urbanum*) – probably the most common plant in field layer
 Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
 Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) – mainly in sunny locations
 Ivy (*Hedera helix*) – as part of field layer, as well as on trees (not as widespread as in Burstead)
 Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*)
 Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum*) – throughout, but especially on barer ground S of Snowdrop Glade
 Nettles (*Urtica dioica*)
 Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)
 Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) – patch just to N/E of N. Park Wood; in S/W corner of New Glade; In bay on Wood/Park edge, opposite junction of Ditchling Rd and Friar Rd
 Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)
 Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) – small patch on bank by Roedale allotment path
 Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) – eg opposite barn and south of there, scattered
 White Dead-nettle (*Lamium album*)

Understorey/shrub species

Beech/ash/sycamore saplings
 Black Bryony (*Dioscorea communis*) - by New Glade

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) – particularly in Triangle Copse and N end of Hollingbury Woods
 Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
 Elms – many suckering
 Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna/laevigata?*) – good berry source, supports many insect species
 Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) – in New Glade; in Snowdrop Glade (1 by Yew, 2 nr S/W corner, 2 in S/E corner); large one at S end of Tennis Glade; 2 by road opposite Roedale Cottages)
 Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) – scattered individuals throughout, partic just S of Snowdrop Glade
 Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*) – small amount, eg by path, near SE corner of New Glade
 Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
 Rose by path, just north of New Glade, and north-east of barn

Notable or unusual ground flora:

Butchers Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) (to east of FMN Glade)
 Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) – By entrance to Lower Roedale allotments in Burstead Woods
 Gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*) – 2, north of New Glade; also alongside lower/western path in Burstead Woods
 Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) - Path between Triangle Copse area and Forget Me Not Glade; by Roedale Valley allotments entrance at top of Golf Drive
 Ploughman's Spikenard (*Inula conyza*) – west side of Snowdrop Glade

Notable or unusual tree species

Apple tree, in Tennis Glade, and on Southern Slopes near Bee Bank
 Birches on N side of Southern Slopes road
 Cherries (clump of 3-4) by bench at N/W end of Snowdrop Glade
 Field Maples (*Acer campestre*): row on western/wood edge of 'allotment path', N of barn (possible remains of old hedgerow)
 Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*): large, in NP Wood, and one at southern end of Burstead Woods
 Oak (small, by path, due east of large beech in Secret Glade. Also, good sized Oak in National Park Wood, near the fork in the path.
 Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) – several planted in New Glade, 1 self-seeded? by Eastern path in Southern Slopes; 1 planted in Hollingbury Woods/Park edge just north of Playground
 Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) near lower path junction in Burstead woods
 Walnut (planted?) – in bay on Park/Wood edge opposite junction of Ditchling Rd and Friar Rd
 Yew ('Millenium') in Snowdrop Glade.

Hollingbury Park Meadow

Bindweed
 Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatum*)
 Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
 Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*)
 Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)
 Cowslip (*Primula veris*)
 Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
 Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)
 Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
 Dovesfoot Cranesbill (*Geranium molle*)
 Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*)
 Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon pratensis*)
 Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*)
 Hedge Mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*)
 Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*)
 Lesser Burnet-Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*)
 Mignonettes (*Reseda lutea*)
 Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*)
 Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)
 Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
 Perforate St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
 Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
 Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
 Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)
 Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*)
 Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)
 Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)
 Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
 White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)
 Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*)
 Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Fungus

Dryads Saddle
 Earthstar (in NP Wood)
 Freckled Dapperling
 Jew's Ear (*Auricularia auricula-judae*) – eg on dead elder
 Red Cracking Bolete (*Boletus chrysenteron*) - in NP Wood
 Trumpet Oyster (nr barn)

Birds

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)
 Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)
 Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
 Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) - nesting? in Burstead Woods

Butterflies and moths

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

Cinnabar Moth (*Tyria jacobaeae* - caterpillar in Park Meadow)

Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)

Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*)

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

White-Letter Hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*)

Appendix 3 - Hollingbury Woods Easy Access Trail

A Constantly Changing Rainbow of Colour



Spring

Spring brings the sparkling whites of blackthorn blossoms and snowdrops. Some areas of the wood are cut back occasionally to maintain open glades. This allows the sun to warm the ground. This encourages the first flowers such as forget-me-nots and violets to appear, along with insects like the bumblebee and butterfly. Listen out for the bird song.



Summer

The leaves on the trees are fully open now with every hue of green to be seen. A time of lazy days, of picnics in the park or a stroll in the woods where the cool canopy of the trees provides shade from the sun. This is the best time to enjoy the grassy areas. The meadow is only mown occasionally to allow flowers to set seed and insects to breed; can you hear the grasshoppers? Visit at dusk to watch the bats hunting for insects.



Autumn

Autumn is the time of golds and browns as the trees prepare to shed their leaves to wait out the winter. The damper days of autumn are also the time to look out for fungi growing on the fallen trees. A great variety of beetles and other insects depend upon the fallen dead wood. Standing dead trees are as important as fallen ones. Can you spot the many holes made by woodpeckers?



Winter

Winter brings the stark beauty of the steel grey bark of the beech trees and maybe the white of snow against a vivid blue sky. Wrap up warm against the crisp air as you look out for the woodland birds. They are easily spotted through the bare branches. Watch the resident squirrels go in search of their hoard of buried nuts.



Open up leaflet to see map

Want to explore some more?

Look out for other 'Downs on your Doorstep' leaflets, or use the orange Explorer 122 Ordnance Survey map (available from bookshops).

Why not try other walks on the Downs that start and finish at local bus stops? Leaflets are available from the South Downs Joint Committee, please contact:

Tel: 01243 558700

e-mail: comms@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk
www.southdownsonline.org

Take a look at our events listings by visiting:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/countryside



How to Get There



26, 46, 46A, 56, 79 stopping along Ditchling Road

50, 50A stopping at Burstead Close

Brighton & Hove Bus Company

01273 886200 www.buses.co.uk

Brighton & Hove City Council

Public Transport Travel Advice

01273 292480 www.citytransport.org.uk

National Rail enquiries

08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

Traveline

To plan a door-to-door journey by bus and train

0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.info



Healthwalks



Want to be more active, get out in the fresh air and make new friends? Why not join a Healthwalk? Healthwalks are short, social walks led by trained walk leaders across the city. If you would like a copy of the current programme, please contact:

Tel 01273 292564

e-mail: healthwalks@brighton-hove.gov.uk
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthwalks

Want to Help Out?

Following the great storm in 1987, the Friends Of Hollingbury and Burstead Woods were formed to help the woods recover and to care for them in the future. If you are interested in helping look after the woods and would like to join the group, then please contact:

e-mail: info@fhw.org.uk
www.fhw.org.uk



Your Countryside Service

We help look after the amazing countryside in and around Brighton & Hove. We focus on the conservation of the local wildlife, landscape and historical features. We also encourage responsible enjoyment of this natural heritage. To find out more please contact us:

Brighton & Hove City Council
 Countryside Services, Town Hall
 Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ
 Tel: 01273 292140



e-mail: countryside@brighton-hove.gov.uk
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/countryside
www.CityWildlife.org.uk (local wildlife info)

Leaflet available in large print, contact us for a copy

Hollingbury Woods Easy Access Trail

THE DOWNS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Hollingbury Woods

Experience the constantly changing rainbow of colour that is Hollingbury Woods.



The Walk

This walk is mainly through woodland and glades and partly through the park. The woods provide shade in the summer and shelter during the winter, while the park is ideal for picnics and informal games.



Rotting dead wood is an essential part of the life cycle of a healthy wood.



The Great Storm

It is believed that the Great Storm of October 1987 uprooted 15 million trees across the UK. Hollingbury Woods did not escape the devastation and you can still see many of the stumps from these fallen trees.

Many trees have been planted to replace those lost in the storm. Naturally occurring local species have been chosen so that the woods will maintain their natural appearance and benefit wildlife.

Key

- Easy Access Trail
- Bus Stop
- Car Park
- Phone
- Entrance Point

Route Suitability



The route is free from gates and stiles to make it easy to use. The path has a smooth, wide surface which makes it very suitable for families with children in buggies, people using wheelchairs or with restricted mobility. Along the way there are benches where you can sit, enjoy the surroundings and rest.

There is a gradual slope up from Osborne Road/Golf Drive to Woodbourne Garage. There is also a gradual slope from Golf Drive up to Osborne Road. If you are unsure whether you can manage this you could catch a bus from Osborne Rd to Woodbourne Garage and walk downhill.

The full route takes about an hour or you can do a shorter loop by returning from the cottages.

Scale: approximately 250 metres



View from above the Southern Slope in 1905

MAP © COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE 2011 DESIGN AND CARTOGRAPHY: HADSDEN DUSTY 06590

Appendix 4 - Sussex Ornithological Society Breeding Bird Survey of Hollingbury Woods and Burstead Woods, 2011

I carried out a survey of breeding birds during April-June 2011 at the above sites managed by Brighton & Hove City Council. I walked through the sites in the early morning 5 times during the breeding season, marking the positions of singing males and any other contact with birds, noting any breeding evidence obtained. I then compared the resulting maps to arrive at an approximate number of territories (pairs) for each species.

The BTO codes used to denote levels of breeding proof are shown in column 3 and explained below.

The BTO designates species into Red (high), Amber (medium) and Green (low) according to levels of conservation concern. Species with Red or Amber designations are shown in column 4, the remainder are Green.

RESULTS – HOLLINGBURY WOODS

SPECIES	NO. OF PAIRS	HIGHEST BREEDING EVIDENCE	BTO STATUS
WREN	12	FL	
ROBIN	10	FL	
WOODPIGEON	9	P	
BLUE TIT	9	P	
BLACKBIRD	7	FF	
BLACKCAP	5	T	
COLLARED DOVE	5	FL	
GREAT TIT	5	FL	
CHAFFINCH	4	T	
SONG THRUSH	4	T	Red
CHIFFCHAFF	4	T	
DUNNOCK	3	FL	
GREENFINCH	3	T	
STOCK DOVE	3	T	Amber
MAGPIE	2	N	
CARRION CROW	1	T	
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	T	
JAY	1	FL	
LONG-TAILED TIT	1	FL	
TOTAL SPECIES BREEDING	19		
Confirmed	11		
Probable	8		

In addition, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Goldfinch and Mistle Thrush were seen on one date only, the former two were probably migrants passing through, the latter two probably breeding nearby.

(See next page for Burstead Woods results.)

RESULTS – BURSTEAD WOODS

SPECIES	NO. OF PAIRS	HIGHEST BREEDING EVIDENCE	BTO STATUS
WREN	5	T	
ROBIN	4	T	
BLACKBIRD	4	T	
BLUE TIT	3	T	
WOODPIGEON	3	T	
BLACKCAP	2	T	
GREAT TIT	2	T	
COLLARED DOVE	2	T	
SONG THRUSH	2	T	Red
GREENFINCH	2	T	
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	H	
DUNNOCK	1	T	
CHIFFCHAFF	1	T	
WHITETHROAT	1	T	
MAGPIE	1	H	
CHAFFINCH	1	T	
TOTAL SPECIES BREEDING	16		
Confirmed	0		
Probable	14		
Possible	2		

In addition, Lesser Whitethroat was seen on one occasion only, and is therefore best treated as a migrant passing through.

The breeding codes shown in column 3 in the above tables are those used by the BTO to indicate levels of breeding evidence, as follows: (This is not a complete list of the codes, only those obtained during this survey).

Possible Breeding

H – seen in suitable breeding habitat

Probable Breeding

T – bird singing or holding territory one more than one occasion

P – pair seen

N – seen visiting probable nest site

Confirmed Breeding

FF – Bird carrying food or faecal sac

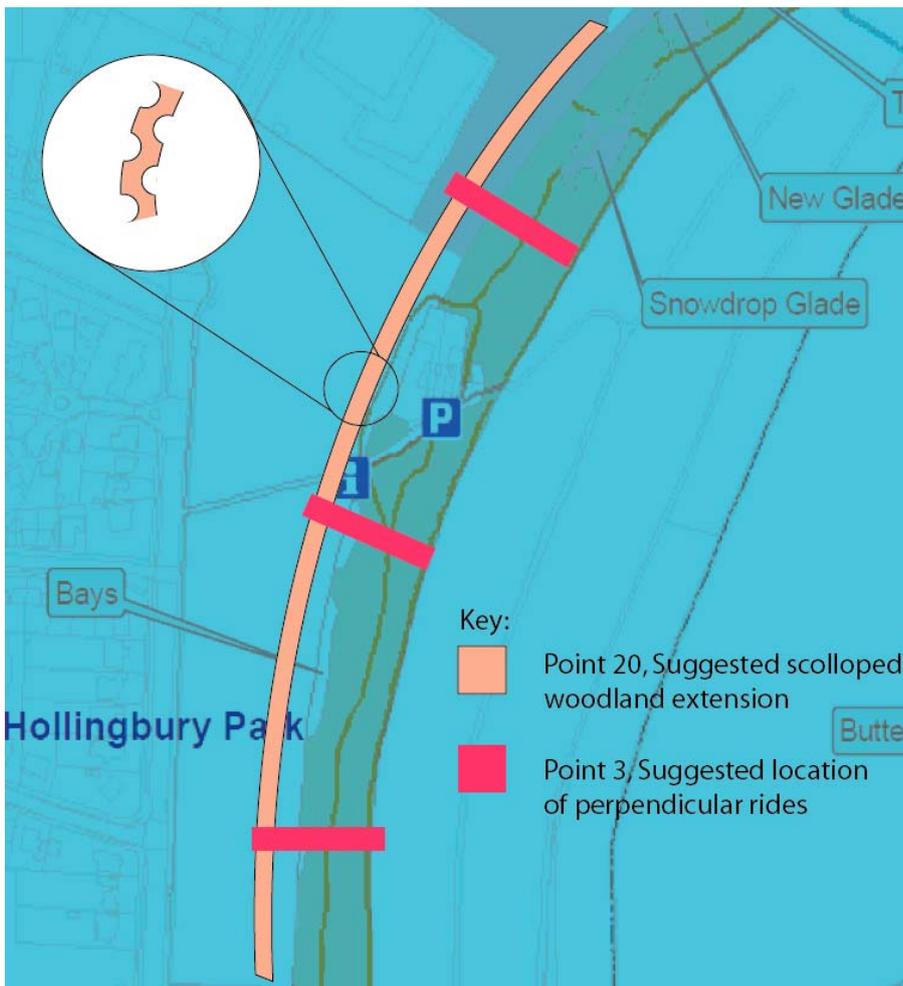
FL – Recently-fledged young seen

The Sussex Ornithological Society can be contacted via their website:

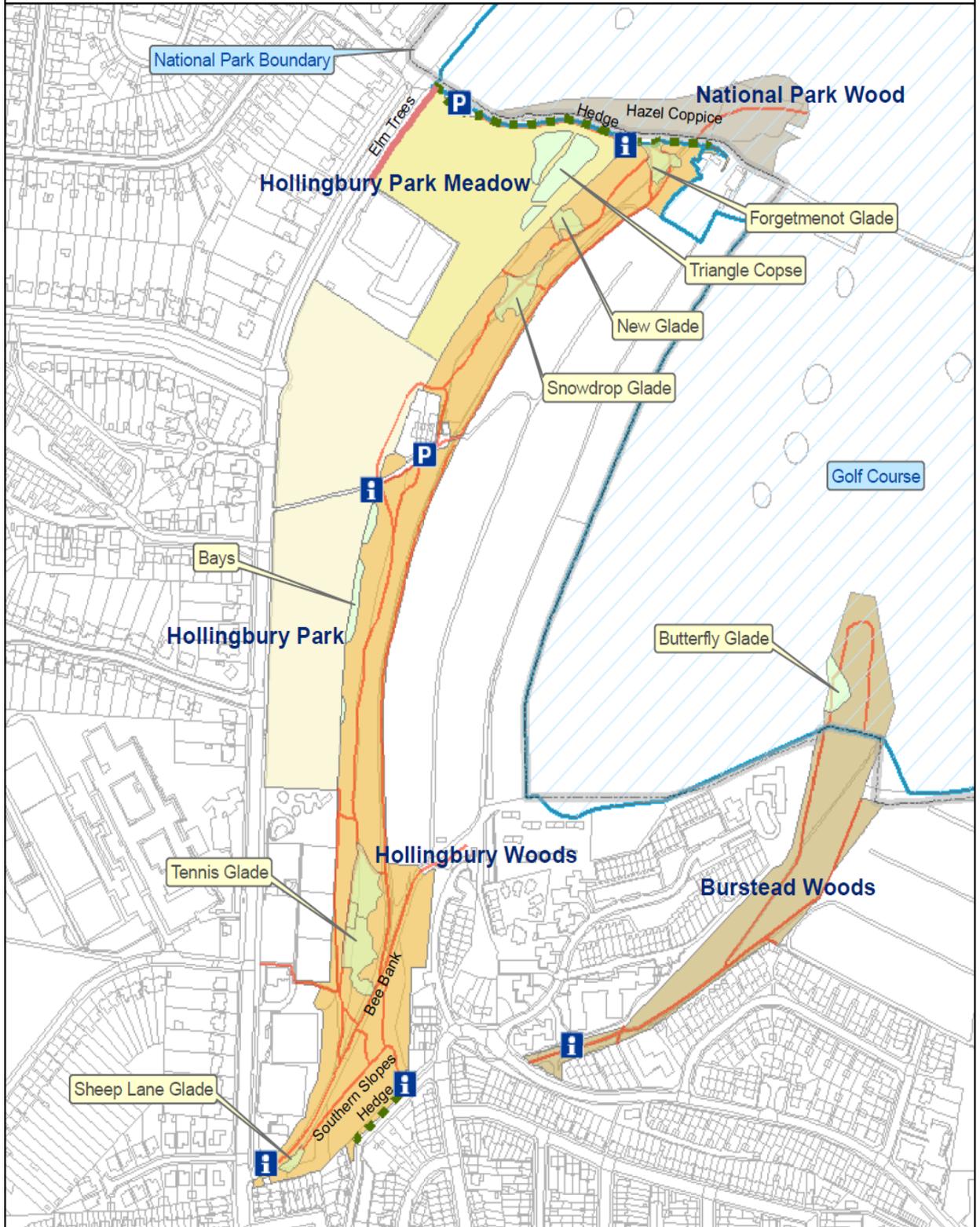
<http://www.sos.org.uk>

Appendix 5 - Comments by Dr Dan Danahar
Conservation Officer (Brighton & Hove) for the Sussex
branch of Butterfly Conservation.

- Thin 60% of the post-1987 regrowth.
- Include three new rides which run perpendicular to the central ride that runs through the spine of the woodland, connecting with the open space of Hollingbury park? (See Map below) Also, perhaps through the Southern Slopes. In Burstead woods, is there any opportunity to put in new rides either through or across this woodland? The introduction of new rides is one of the primary means by which you can increase the diversity of flora and fauna, and would benefit all the resident BAP species.
- I suggest that if you have any perpendicular rides, you make sure that you remove the corners where the rides/paths intersect so creating new glades at these intersections (see diagram below)
- Even though you have little or no records of dead wood invertebrate species, the nature of this urban woodland site (i.e. size and fragmentation effect) precludes the likelihood of major finds for notable deadwood species. In contrast however, the value of the site for sun loving butterflies and national scarce species such as the White-letter hairstreak would tend to favour the conservation of this species and the potential for Silver-washed fritillaries at this site, over the dead wood habitat specialists. Given the amenity value of sunny glades for wildflowers, as well as reptiles and sun loving invertebrates, the decision to focus the management work in favour for these species is not a difficult one to make. Despite any historical factors.
- Burstead Woods Butterfly Glade: have you considered disturbing the soil to reset the successional clock?
- I would encourage the planting of a woodland strip that is scalloped on both sides, on the western edge of Hollingbury Woods (see Map below).



Map1: Hollingbury and Burstead Woods



Map 2: Mowing Plan

