

Rose Hill Woods Work Plan 2022 - 2026



This plan has been prepared by White Horse Ecology on behalf of Swale Borough Council.

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Work Plan

This work plan contains two tables. The first is a list of recommendations and enhancements to Rose Hill Woods that have been suggested by stakeholders and White Horse Ecology. This table contains recommendations for which additional funding will be required. This will have to be raised either by Swale Borough Council or with the assistance of volunteers.

The second table contains a set of management prescriptions for the wood that ideally should be carried out. The management prescriptions in the second table are currently unfunded though there are some activities that can be carried out by volunteers.

A map that will help to pinpoint the exact locations of management prescriptions is found at the back of this work plan.

The rationale and objectives for management can be found in section 4 of the management plan. More detailed information about some of the prescriptions can be found in section 5 of the management plan.

N.B. It should be noted that whilst resources are minimal at present, Swale Borough Council should prioritise tree surveys to identify potentially hazardous trees and remedial felling if required.

Rose Hill Woods Recommendations

The table below contains recommendations for actions that should be taken as and when financial and time resources allow. They have largely been identified following public consultation. They are outside of the scope of the day to day management prescriptions that need to be carried out to maintain the woods but should be used to inform and prioritise future actions and funding applications. Not all these recommendations will necessarily be achieved within the lifetime of this management plan.

Rose Hill Woods Recommendations

What	How	When (season)	3 rd party involvement	Where	Volunteer task?
Creation of Friends of Rose Hill Woods (FORHW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact stakeholders and potential key volunteers to draw up roles of group and set practicalities in place 	Anytime	FORHW, SBC, MKDCP, HRGS, SinB	All	Y
Volunteer warden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be a key role within the FORHW group held by one or more people. This person or people could act as the 'eyes and ears' of the woodland and report damage, anti-social behaviour and/or other simple tasks such as litter picking 	Anytime	FORHW, SBC	All	Y
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for placing benches made from the trunks of felled trees on slopes and near site of house 	Anytime	SBC, MKDCP	1 & 3	Possibly installing
Rose Hill House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision to be made about how to leave the in situ remains of Rose Hill Wood and whether to expose footings and walls or not 	Anytime	SBC, HRGS, KCC, MKDCP	1	Possibly

School engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand from Grove Park School of r continued events such as the archaeology week held in 2015 or surveying trees/wildlife 	Anytime	KCC/MKDCP	All	N
Community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community involvement not seen as important as at The Meads but support for volunteer activities and some events was strong 	Anytime	All	All	Y
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interpretation plan is funded and will be completed after the Woodland Wildlife Hidden History project has been completed 	Anytime	SBC, MKDCP, HRGS, SinB	All	To assist
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From trim trails to children’s wildlife and history trails 	Anytime	All	All	Y
Wildlife friendly features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bat and bird boxes, insect hotels, beetle banks, hibernacula and other features can all be installed and created relatively cheaply 	Anytime	FORHW	All	Y

SBC = Swale Borough Council (or their contractors)
 MKDCP = Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership
 KCC = Kent County Council Heritage
 HRGS = Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne
 SinB = Swale/Sittingbourne in Bloom

Rose Hill Woods Management Prescriptions

This table provides a list of activities that will maintain Rose Hill Woods and implement the ongoing management recommendations of the management plan across the next five years. Clearly there are budgetary restrictions on what can be achieved but volunteer input could achieve several of the prescriptions outlined here. **It should be noted that tree safety surveys and remedial work should be prioritised.**

The volunteer column denotes whether volunteers could be involved in carrying out the task. The locations of activities and their timings are shown in the maps following this table.

Rose Hill Woods Management Prescriptions

What	How	When (time of year)	3 rd party involvement	Where (compartment)	Volunteer task?	When (if not annual)
Tree management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pull sycamore and holm oak saplings by hand or any other invasive species. To be focused in areas where sycamore clearance/glade creation as taken place 	Anytime	FORHW	1,2 & 3	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thin sycamore in compartment 2 alongside path 	Oct to March	Contractor	2	N	Any year as resources become available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create glades around house and behind pavilion 	Oct to March	Contractor	1 & 2	N	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut sycamore in compartment 3. 	Oct to March	Contractor	3	N	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut glade near house and behind pavilion annually 	Oct to March	FORHW	1 & 2	Y	

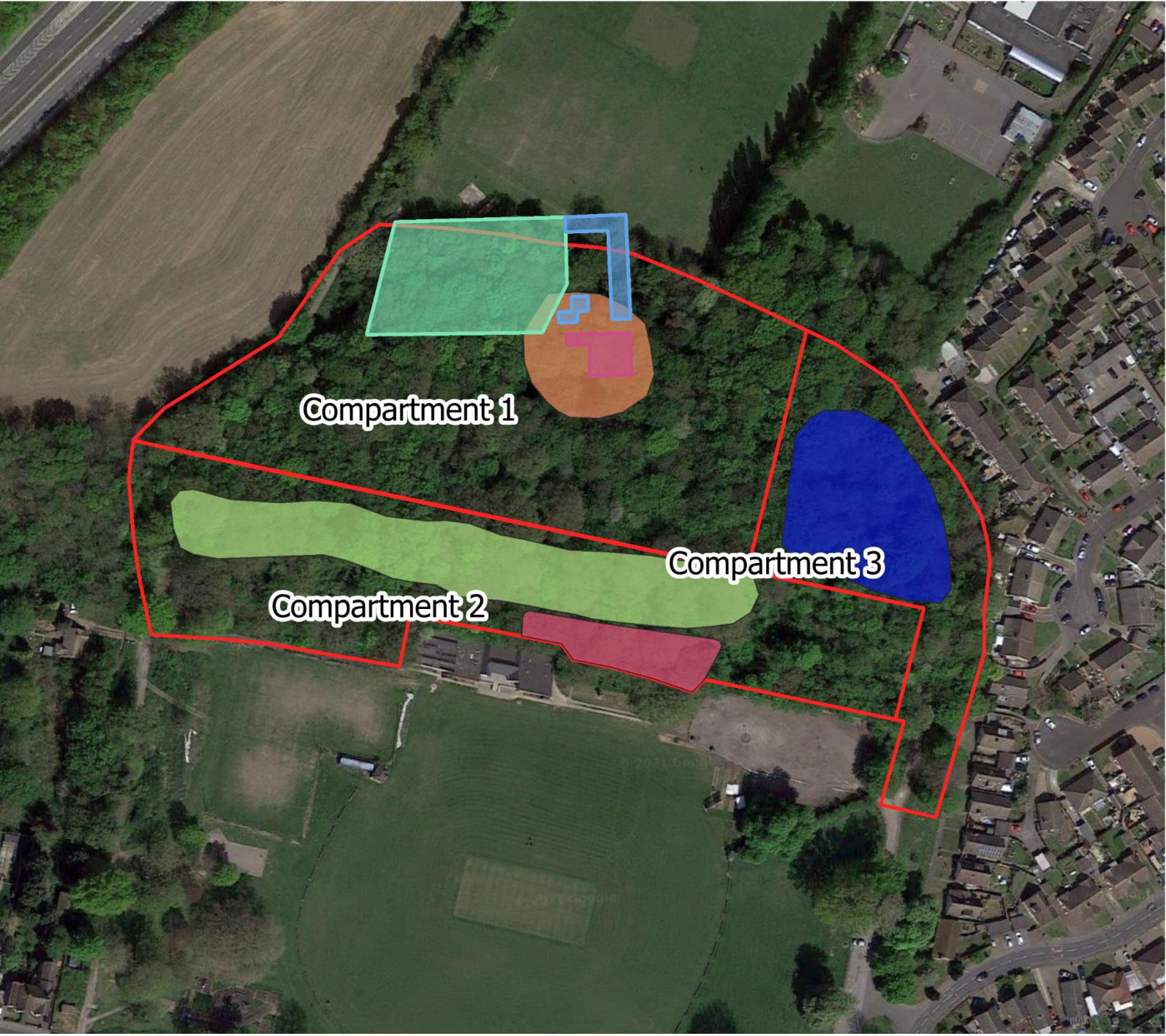
Health and safety (most important prescription)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor potentially hazardous trees near areas with high levels of public access and fell if necessary 	Anytime	SBC	All	N
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the safety of installed structures such as benches, litter bins, interpretation and log piles. Remove or repair as necessary 	Anytime	FORHW/ SBC	All	Y
Fallen wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where fallen wood exists or is felled and can't be left in situ log piles and/or dead hedges to be created where possible and secured in place 	Anytime	FORHW /SBC	1,2 & 3	Y
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear main paths of vegetation if needed so that they can be used safely by public 	Spring /summer	FORHW/SB C	All	Y
Archaeological Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued excavations and maintenance of cleared area around house 	Spring/sum mer/autum n	HRGS, KCC and FORHW	1	Y
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick litter from paths and other areas Remove fly-tipped waste 	Anytime	All	All	Y
		Anytime	SBC	All	Y
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant in areas where sycamore has been removed 	Nov to Feb	FORHW	3	Y
Wildlife recording (all records to be sent to Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre and relevant recording)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bat surveys using detectors 	Summer	FORHW, KBG	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree surveys of significant /specimen trees 	Anytime	FORHW	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds 	Anytime	FORHW	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildflowers 			All	Y

group) In approximate order of importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small mammal surveys (mice, shrews, voles) 	Spring/summer	FORHW, KFC	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc visual surveys (larger mammals) 	Winter	FORHW, KMG	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nest box or nesting tube surveys for dormice 	Anytime	FORHW	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invertebrate surveys but particularly moth and butterfly surveys 	Summer	FORHW, KMG	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roofing felt refugia placed in grassland areas (when created) to check for reptiles 	Summer	KFC	All	Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.B. Licence required for dormouse and bat surveys if disturbance of animals likely to take place 	Mar to Oct	KRAG, FORHW	1 & 2	Y

Management Plan review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update management plan with particular reference to management prescriptions and key species 	April	MKDCP /White Horse Ecology/All	All	Y	Annual if possible
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<p>FORHW = Friends of Rose Hill Woods</p> <p>KBG = Kent Bat Group</p> <p>KFC = Kent Field Club</p> <p>KRAG = Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group</p> <p>KCC = Kent County Council Heritage</p>	<p>SBC = Swale Borough Council (or their contractors)</p> <p>MKDCP = Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership</p> <p>KMG = Kent Mammal Group</p> <p>HRGS = Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne</p>
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Rose Hill Woods - Management



□ Rose Hill compartments

Rose Hill Management

- Rose Hill House glade
- Southern glade
- Thin sycamore
- Cut sycamore and replant

Rose Hill House

- Outbuildings
- Rose Hill House
- Walled Garden of Rose Hill

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