PINEWOODS CONSERVATION GROUP
AGM

DRAFT WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
2017-2027

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Management Plan Objectives

To promote the long-term sustainability of the woodland and habitat through ecological diversity enhancement, protection and conservation

To ensure Plant Biosecurity measures are implemented and adhered to in order to ensure woodland protection going forwards

To support restoration of the Semi-Natural Woodland status by encouragement of appropriate native species

To help ensure the safe enjoyment of the woodland to the general public

To ensure positive links are maintained between the Council, the Pinewoods Conservation Group, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Rotary Club of Harrogate and the Bridleways Association, and to encourage affiliated organisations to assist in the undertaking of woodland management projects

To encourage and assist the Pinewoods Conservation Group in applying for Grant Funding for woodland projects

To identify and utilize any available Commuted Sums monies to achieve woodland management projects

To achieve the above through sound and sensitive arboricultural and silvicultural practice

Changes to Previous Management Plan

- Variation to the numbered compartments
  (*each compartment number still relates to its sequence within the 10-year plan timeframe*)
- Biosecurity
- *Chalara* Dieback of Ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)
- RHS Harlow Carr – Lease Agreement
- Permissive Bridleway Route

The Woodland Management Plan

The management plan supersedes the woodland management plan for 2006-2016. Some elements of that management plan were not completed due to resources, so the sequence of compartments has been adjusted to reflect where the priorities should now lie. Pages 5-14 of the document set out the proposals in terms of the management of the woodland over a 10-year period. They contain:

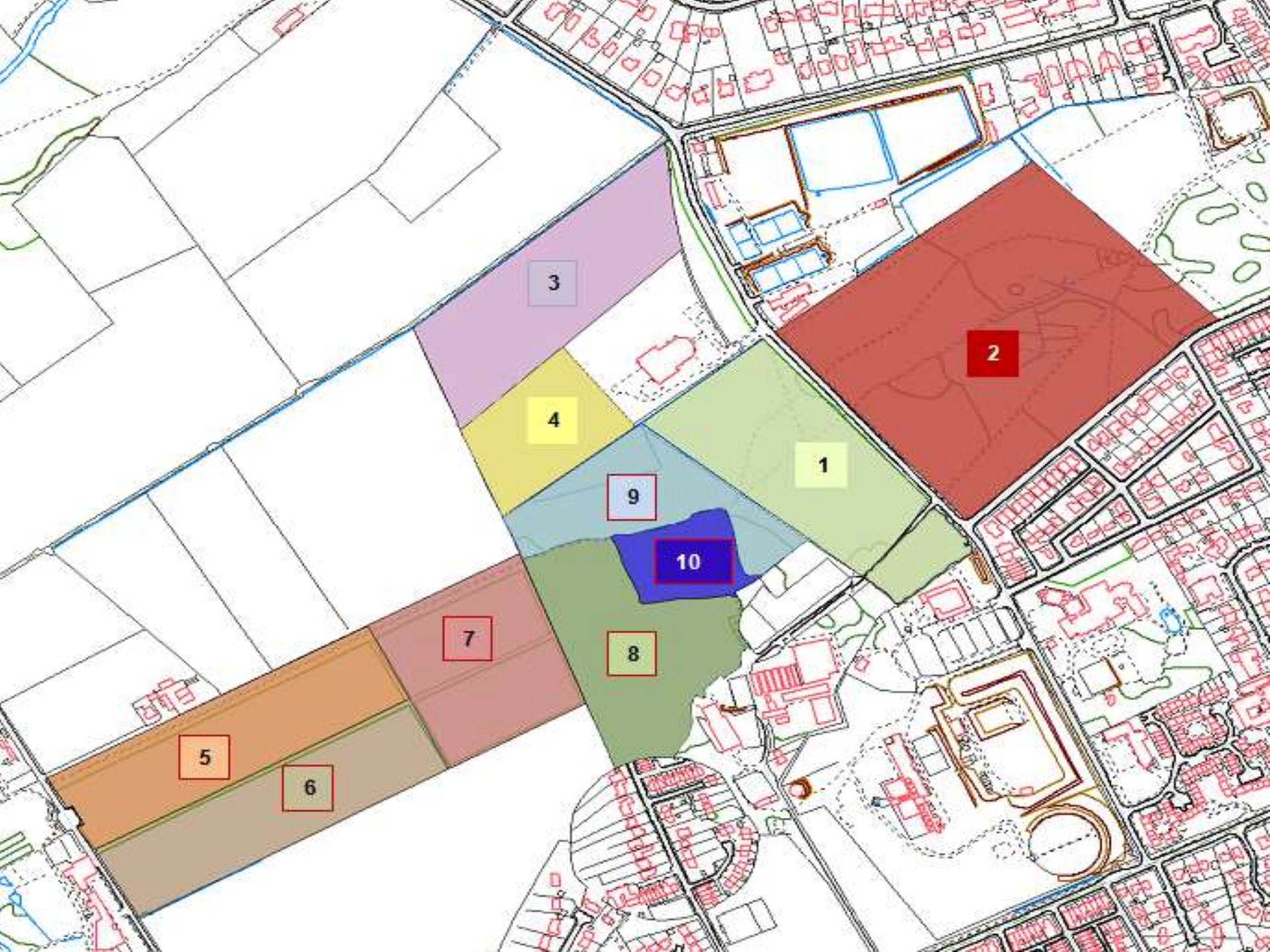
Site Plans 1 & 2: Showing the woodland as is and as broken up in to 10 woodland compartments

Table 1: 10-year Woodland Management Proposals
Table 2: Site Infrastructure & Proposed Management

The completion of the majority of the works will require Grant Funding as applied for by the PCG. The Council will support funding applications where appropriate. Outside of Grant Funding, the Council will look to use Commuted Sums if available.

Both the PCG and the Council have to be realistic about what can be achieved on site and ensure that pre-programming of projects with appropriate lead-in times and available resources are given due consideration. If projects cannot be achieved through lack of resources or poor programming, then the project will not be taken on.

Outsourcing of works to external contractors, as well as utilising the Council's tree team and applying for external woodland grant schemes (WGS), will be explored but should not be relied upon.


3
2
4
1
9
10
7
8
5
6

The majority of the compartments require the following works;

Reduce the numbers of Holly and Rhododendron species and, subject to available funding, replant with more suitable under-story planting.

Retain all tree debris on site, habitat stack log piles and recycle mulch into woodland or onto existing internal paths (*excluding identified Ash Dieback, which will be burnt*).

The infrastructure requirements, of which the Council will rely heavily on the PCG to identify faults or repairs, are;

MAIN FOOTPATHS (BITUMEN)	1
FOOTBRIDGES	4
INFORMATION BOARDS & TELESCOPE	5 Boards 1 Telescope
FINGERPOSTS	10
BRIDLEWAY POSTS & SIGNS	c.10
BIRD & BAT BOXES	>40

Millennium Wood

As per the 2006-2016 Plan, this is referred to as Compartment 4

This management plan was drafted prior to the submission of the Harrogate Spa Water Planning Application, and therefore does not consider what the potential impacts or implications of that application are for the woodland going forwards.

Biosecurity

The management plan aims to ensure that the basic Biosecurity principles, as set out within the Biosecurity Position Statement at Appendix 2 of the document, are fully adhered to by both the Council and any groups actively undertaking programmed works within the woodland itself.

In essence it controls how trees are procured and planted, as well as ensures compliance within the supply chain.

Biosecurity in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry

Position Statement

The Arboricultural Association is committed to promoting the implementation and understanding of good biosecurity practices to assist in safeguarding the future of our trees from the introduction and spread of harmful organisms.

This statement outlines some basic biosecurity principles that should be adopted to reduce the unwanted introduction and spread of tree pests, diseases and invasive tree species:

1. Operatives and organisations undertaking work on or around trees should consider the reasonably foreseeable consequences of their activities. Adopting biosecurity risk assessment processes and policy commitments are prudent first steps.
2. Those undertaking work on or around trees have a responsibility to implement routine biosecurity control measures for all sites and specific measures for higher risk sites highlighted by the biosecurity risk assessment process. This should include the cleaning and disinfection of clothing, PPE, tools, equipment and vehicles.
3. Arboricultural operations such as pruning, felling and planting should be planned, managed and supervised to minimise the movement of arisings and soil. All arisings must be appropriately disposed of.
4. Organisations working on sites with trees should ensure that their operatives understand biosecurity issues and comply to adopted biosecurity measures. Training, guidance and supervision should be provided when necessary.
5. Anyone planning, designing, or implementing planting projects should aspire to source home grown and nursed specimens avoiding, where possible, directly imported stock to reduce the risk of introduction of pests and diseases.
6. Anyone responsible for tree supply should ensure that trees and associated soil are supplied to customers free of pest and disease at all points in the supply chain. Consideration must be given to the latency period* and life cycles of all pests and diseases in order to achieve this. Special attention must be given to imported stock.
7. Good urban forestry practice involves managing tree populations to increase species and genetic diversity by focusing on the establishment and maintenance of trees with qualities suited to the site and the prevailing climatic conditions. Additionally, good species composition, age structure, stock quality and condition will help reduce the future loss of trees due to the introduction, hybridisation or spread of tree pests and diseases.
8. Anyone involved with trees must encourage and promote adherence to these guiding principles and above all act as role models in this regard.

Chalara Dieback of Ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)

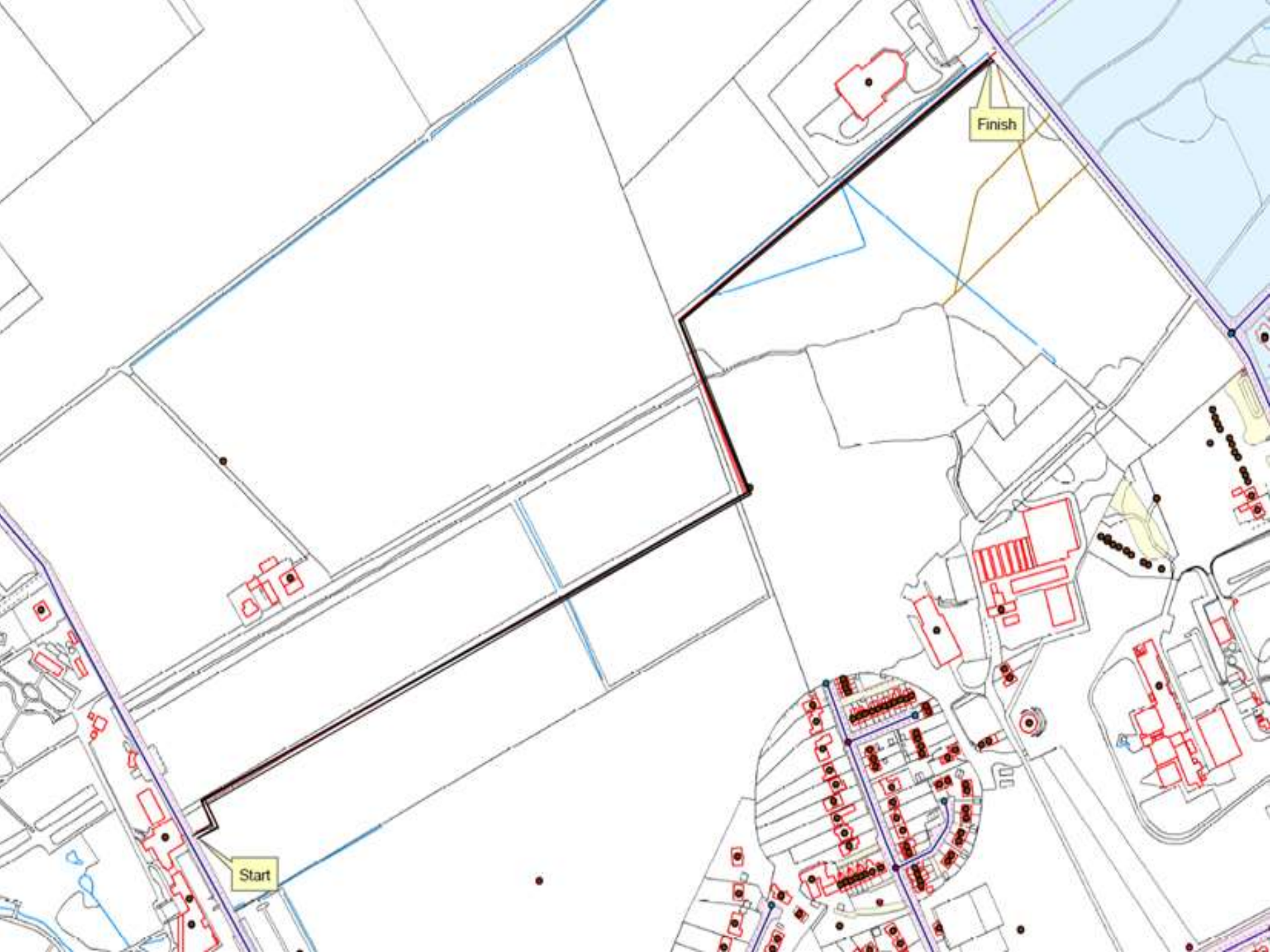
Ash Dieback has been identified on site within compartment 3 of site plan 2.

This has been reported to the Forestry Commission (FC) and the situation is currently being monitored. The Council will take any necessary and appropriate action if advised to do so by the FC. Outside of any advice from the FC the Council may look to remove any Ash whips from this area, subject to available resources, as part of the management of that compartment.

In any event Biosecurity control measures, as set out at Appendix 2, would be applied and adhered to in order to control and prevent the spread of Ash dieback throughout the site or further afield.

Permissive Bridleway Route

There exists a permissive bridleway route through the Pinewoods, linking Crag Lane to Harlow Moor Road. The site contains a number of signs indicating the route and the Council, working in collaboration with the PCG and other volunteers, will aim to ensure that the designated route is kept clear of vegetation when necessary to maintain access for horses and riders.


Finish
Start

Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam

Japanese Knotweed has been found in compartment 10 and is treated annually by the Council in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The thing to stress here is that it should not be moved, lifted or transplanted by anybody other than the Council.

Himalayan Balsam is prevalent throughout the site and the PCG has funded some periodic treatment of this invasive plant in some areas.

Thank you for Listening

Questions or Comments