

# HAZEL & THOROUGHSALE WOODS

*Reviving the green heart for Corby and its wildlife*

## HISTORY

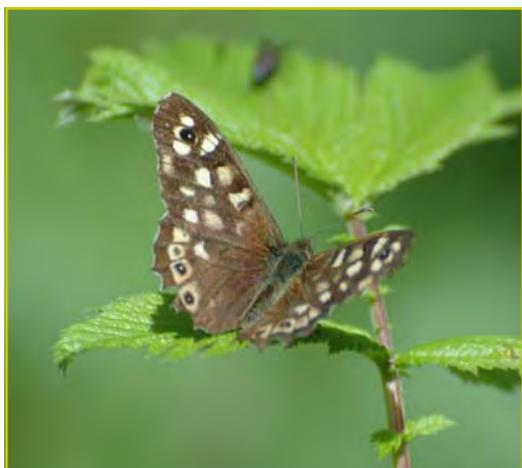
Hazel & Thoroughsale Woods are historically part of the Rockingham Forest and are today one of the most notable areas of woodland in Corby. *Occupying 73 hectares in central Corby, these woods are a valuable green space for the people of Corby and for wildlife.* However, there is considerable scope to improve their condition, attractiveness and accessibility.



*Friends of Thoroughsale and Hazel Wood*

## OPPORTUNITY

North Northamptonshire Council with partners have recognised the need and the opportunity to transform Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods into a vibrant, safe, attractive and well-managed green asset for its community to enjoy, and to conserve its wildlife.



## THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan has been produced by North Northamptonshire Council with Lockhart Garratt Ltd; independent trees, woodland and forestry consultants.

It sets out how the transformation of the woods will be undertaken *to revive Corby's green heart and deliver multiple benefits to the Borough.* It provides a clear, strategic and holistic framework (social, environmental and economic) of work over a 15 year period [and will be sustainable into the future].

## REVIVING THE GREEN HEART OF CORBY

The Management Plan will deliver a multitude of improvements and benefits for the people of Corby and its wildlife. The wide ranging and integrated activities envisaged will ensure that these improvements and benefits are long term and sustainable.



*Corby Boating Lake*

# IMPROVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Some of the key improvements and activities are outlined below:

## Creating a clean, safe and inviting environment

A substantial clean-up programme will remove rubbish and hazards across the whole site, to provide safe, attractive and clean areas for recreation. This will be linked into a wide range of local incentives and community activities to tackle anti-social behaviour.



## Traditional woodland management



Use of traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing and pollarding will be used to help to restructure and regenerate the woodland.

This work *will revitalise the woods and create more diverse habitats and improved opportunities for wildlife*, especially flowering plants, insects and birds.

## Improving access and management

To enhance the usage of Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods, the *existing route between the town centre, and the boating lake complex is being improved and signage provided*.

The introduction of structured ride management techniques to create a mosaic of uneven-aged vegetation layers by *using different cutting cycles and grass mowing regimes*, will result in *more attractive ride edges and better habitats for wildlife*.



A programme of regular path maintenance, *upgrading of main routes* and creation of new paths combined with the provision of *welcoming, clear and attractive signage and information boards will encourage greater access and recreation use*.

The creation of open spaces to encourage natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and flowering plants will *help the woods to evolve and to adapt to climate change*.

The enhancement of *discrete, quiet areas for wildlife* will be facilitated by minimising access and disturbance in these places.



*International swimming pool complemented by its woodland setting*

## Veteran Trees

Specialist care and management of veteran trees through e.g. pollarding, will to help maintain their health and longevity.



## Recreation and Education



The provision of *attractive recreational areas for rest and play* both within woodland setting and in open grassed areas will cater for different users.

The creation of *informal and formal educational opportunities for children and adults* will provide *novel learning opportunities* which will be linked to the management of the woodlands.

## Ancient Monument

The *promotion and interpretation of the Roman Road Scheduled Monument* in Hazel Wood will provide a cultural point of interest.

## The Green Flag Award

All planned activities in the Management Plan will, in the longer term, contribute positively to the towns to retain the highly regarded Green Flag Award for Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods. The *Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales* which recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country.



## THE NEXT STEPS

The Management Plan and its implementation is essential if they are to become Corby's Green Heart. North Northamptonshire Council with its partners is working to ensure this vision becomes reality.

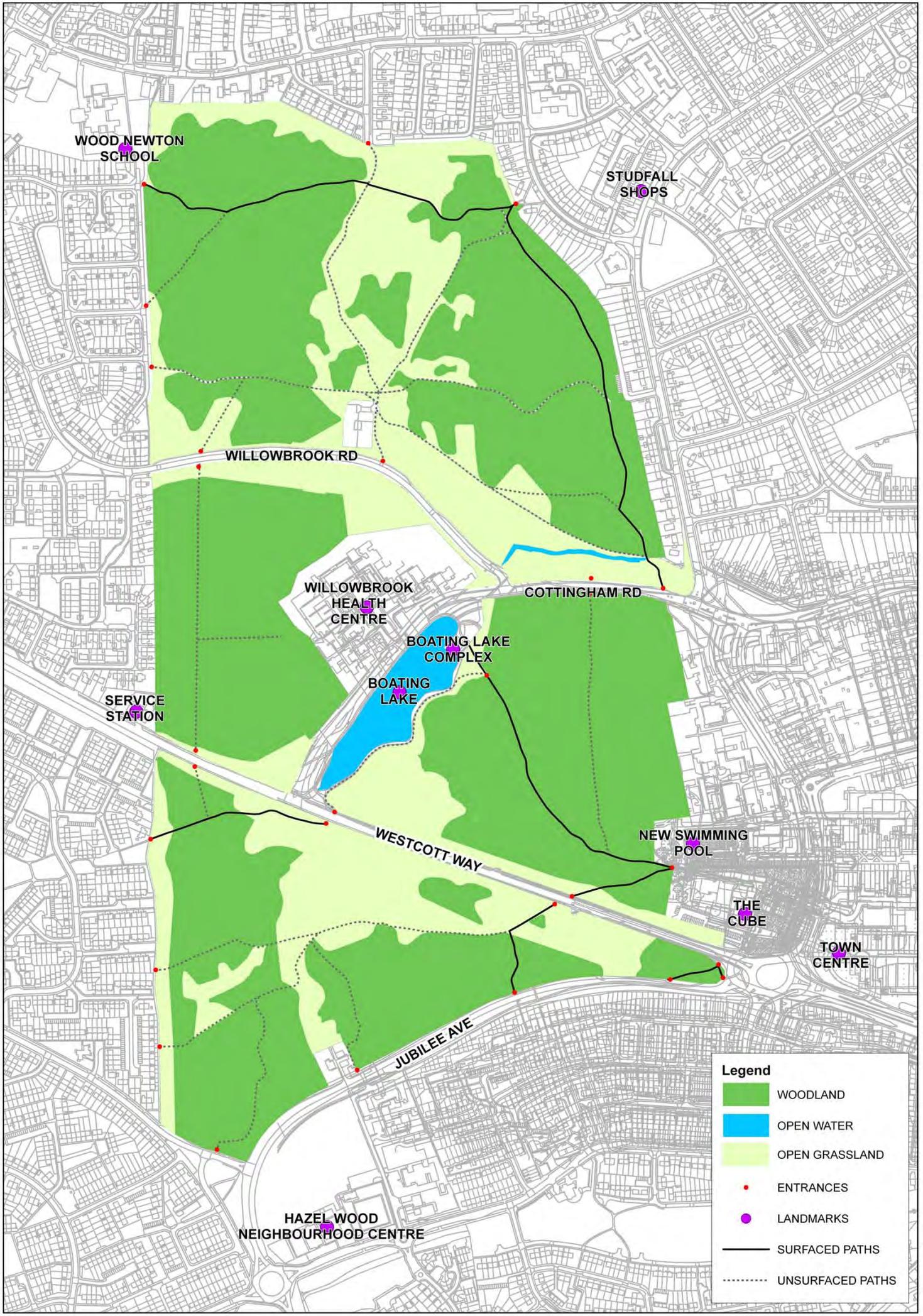
Funding is currently provided through Section 106 development funding, which provides substantial financial support towards the project's costs. The Management Plan is implemented by the Woodland Project team within the Council working with local contractors and includes joint working arrangements with the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, The Wildlife Trust and Groundwork North Northamptonshire. We also have heavy support from the award winning Friends of Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods and other 'Friends of' groups in the town.



**If you would be interested in finding out more or becoming involved, please contact:**

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WOOD NEWTON SCHOOL

STUDFALL SHOPS

WILLOWBROOK RD

WILLOWBROOK HEALTH CENTRE

COTTINGHAM RD

BOATING LAKE COMPLEX

BOATING LAKE

SERVICE STATION

NEW SWIMMING POOL

WESTCOTT WAY

THE CUBE

TOWN CENTRE

HAZEL WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

JUBILEE AVE

**Legend**

- WOODLAND
- OPEN WATER
- OPEN GRASSLAND
- ENTRANCES
- LANDMARKS
- SURFACED PATHS
- UNSURFACED PATHS