

# Burnt Hills Wood

## Management Plan

Date:	2007	to	2027
Owner / tenant:	North Norfolk District Council		
Agent / contact:	Robert Goodliffe		

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 1.1 Location

Nearest town, village or feature	Cromer, Roughton Road
Grid reference	TG219408
Total area (ha)	1.42

### 1.2 Description of the woodland(s) in the landscape

Burnt Hills Wood is part of a series of woodlands along the Holt to Cromer ridge. It lies outside the northern boundary of the North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is visible from a minor road, houses on the edge of Cromer and Roughton Road railway station. Overall it is part of the woodland aesthetics of the Cromer area.

### 1.3 History of Management

Burnt Hills Wood was twice its current size until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was split in two by the extension of the railway. The southern side of the wood has been lost to development and a Tree Preservation Order was served on Burnt Hills Wood in 1969. The site was subsequently given to North Norfolk District Council by a developer after refusal to develop the land. A small area was felled to provide a kick about area for the local youth in the late 1980's and the eastern side of the site was replanted with a mixture of broadleaves. Over the years the boundaries of the wood have been cut back by neighbours with and without permission. A large Beech tree is a remnant of the old woodland which pre-dates the railway.

See site map 1. for areas of the woodland.

## 2. WOODLAND INFORMATION

### 2.1 Areas and features

2.1.1 Designated Areas	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)			
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
Ramsar Sites ( <b>see note on Guidance</b> )			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
Other designations eg: National Parks (NPs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)		X	2, 3, 4 Constraints
<p>Details</p> <p>North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>Tree Preservation Order 22/117</p> <p>Archaeological site along the southern boundary covering the railway line and edge of the woods. ARCS/00/1185</p>			
2.1.2 Rare and important species	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Red Data Book or BAP species			
Rare or threatened species	X		1. Site map
<p>Details</p> <p>Bluebells can be found in the woodland (Sch 8 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Red Data Book Locally Common)</p> <p>Bats are likely to feed on the edges of the woodland and may roost on older trees or under adjacent railway bridge. (Sch 5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)</p> <p>Evidence of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers has been seen in deadwood within the woodland, care should be taken not to destroy nest sites (Sch 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)</p>			
2.1.3 Habitats	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)			
Other semi-natural woodland			
Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
Semi-natural features in PAWS			
Woodland margins and hedges			
Veteran and other notable trees	X		1. Site Map
Breeding sites			
Habitats of notable species			
Unimproved grassland			
Rides and open ground			
Valuable wildlife communities			
Feeding areas			
Lowland heath			
Peatlands			
Others			
<p>Details</p> <p>Veteran Beech tree to the south of the side adjacent to the railway and is a remnant of the older woodland.</p>			

2.1.4 Water	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Watercourses			
Lakes			
Ponds			
Wetland habitats			
Details			
2.1.5 Landscape	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Landscape designated areas		X	2. Constraints
Landscape features	X	X	2. Constraints
Rock exposures			2. Constraints
Historic landscapes		X	4. Constraints
Areas of the woodland prominent from roads	X		
Areas of the woodland prominent from settlements	X		
Details			
North Norfolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is adjacent to the woods. The woods are on the Holt to Cromer ridge, a prominent topographic glacial feature in an otherwise flat area. The Roughton Junction on the railway line lies directly to the south of the site.			
2.1.6 Cultural Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Public rights of way			
Prominent viewing points			
Permissive footpaths	X		1. Site Map
Areas managed with traditional management systems			
Details			
The site is currently open to the public for quite informal recreation.			
2.1.7 Archaeological Features	In Woodland	Adjacent to Woodland	Map
Scheduled monument			
Historical features	X	X	4. Constraints
Details			
Archaeological site along the southern boundary covering the railway line and edge of the woods. ARCS/00/1185			

## 2.2 Woodland resource characteristics

The majority of the wood is a mixed age group of Birch which has regenerated after an unknown period when the main part of the woodland was felled. New planting in the eastern block mainly consists of Sweet Chestnut now approximately 15-20 years old. Older trees can be found around the perimeter of the site which includes Beech, Sycamore and English Oak which have had varying degrees of tree surgery work on in the past.

The stand has not been managed for timber production and recent operations have included the removal of dead or hazardous trees over paths, roadsides and properties. Timber has not been removed from the site and has been left to decompose.

## 2.3 Site description

This wood is on a sloping site and is only accessible by vehicles through a housing estate via a narrow access up a wet slope. There are several informal footpaths the western end of the woods and these are used by local residents for walking, dog recreation and children playing. The southern side is flanked by a railway line which is fenced off and to the east and north are housing estates. The western boundary is boarded by further private woodland but cut off by a minor road. Current management is for quite informal recreation and there is currently no provision for timber production.

## 2.4 Significant hazards, constraints and threats

The terrain is steep reducing access to the site via a small inappropriate access for vehicles. Foot access is most appropriate.  
Public access is 24 hour and so any work must be carried out in consideration to this.  
The railway line, road, permissive paths and residential areas adjacent to the wood increase the risk of potential tree hazards so annual inspections are required.  
Some of the residents adjacent to the woods have been unsympathetic towards the woodland and have carried out work on their boundaries or without permission.  
The site has an area Tree Preservation Order administered by North Norfolk District Council.  
The site is sometimes used for fly tipping.

# 3. LONG TERM VISION, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

## 3.1 Long term vision

North Norfolk District Council is committed to manage the woods to Green Flag standard and improve all its woodlands for conservation, public access and small scale timber production where appropriate.

## 3.2 Management Objectives

No	Objective
1	Maintain a clean and welcoming place which encourages positive public access and contributes to local wellbeing.
2	Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the wood.
3	Encourage a diverse age structure and replacements for older and veteran trees.

## 3.3 Strategy

The strategy is to begin to create small felling coupes in the Birch stands and encourage natural regeneration of broadleaved target species to include Beech and English Oak. Access will be maintained, site inspections will continue at a quarterly frequency with an annual tree inspection carried out in the autumn. An ongoing species survey will commence.

## 4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS/OPERATIONS

### 4.1 Silvicultural systems

#### 4.1.1 Harvesting

No timber will be removed from site due to poor access and all timber, lop and top will be left on site to provide habitat and barriers to encourage regeneration.

#### 4.1.2 Phased felling and restructuring of plantations

1 small coupe of approximately 15m sq. will be felled per year within the Birch stand starting near the sides of the kick about area.

#### 4.1.3 Establishment, restocking and regeneration

Regeneration will be encouraged by clearing felled areas and preventing access through strategically placing piles of brash. Where this fails or establishment rates are low on target species planting will be used to boost stocking rates.

### 4.2 New planting

Where planting is used local provenance will be sought if possible.

### 4.3 Other operations

Quarterly inspections of the site to check for litter, fly tipping, vandalism or any other hazards. Annual tree inspections to be carried out along paths, boundaries, road edge and railway line. Winter cutting back of paths.

### 4.4 Protection and maintenance

#### 4.4.1 Pest and disease management

Deer and Grey Squirrels do not pose a threat to the tree stock. Correspondence will ensue after damage is carried out to trees by neighbours. Pesticides will not be used on the site.

#### 4.4.2 Fire plan

Bonfires from unknown persons monitored.

#### 4.4.3 Waste disposal and pollution

Litter is removed from site by Rangers and recycled where necessary. Fly tipping is removed by contractors and disposed of through District Council Environmental Protection Team.

#### 4.4.4 Protection from unauthorised activities

Site is monitored for unauthorised activities such as vandalism, fly tipping, motorbikes and quad bikes. Action is taken where possible to deter these issues.

#### 4.5 Game management

N/A

#### 4.6 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

##### 4.6.1 Management of designated areas

Trees to be removed if not dead or dieing must be in accordance with Tree Preservation Order and agreement of tree officers at North Norfolk.

##### 4.6.2 Measures to enhance biodiversity

The following measures are being put in place to enhance biodiversity:

- Management of new plantings
- Encouragement of natural regeneration
- Creation of uneven age structure.
- Retention of standing deadwood away from paths and boundaries and maintained where possible in other areas
- Felled timber retained for habitat piles.
- Avoid woodland management in nesting season (April-July)

##### 4.6.3 Special measures for ASNW and SNW

N/A

##### 4.6.4 Special measures for PAWS

N/A

#### 4.7 Management of social and cultural values

##### 4.7.1 Archaeology and sites of cultural interest

The area along the railway boundary is a classified archaeological site; no disturbance to the soil is planned in this area and will not be permitted.

##### 4.7.2 Public access

See Site Map 1. for permissive paths, access points and public areas.

## 5. CONSULTATION

Organisation/individual	Comment	Response/action
North Norfolk District Council	Tree Preservation Order	
Town Council	Prior to work being carried out	Letter to inform of proposed actions
Public	Prior to work being carried out	Use of local press and sign to inform of future plan.
Cromer in Bloom	Prior to work being carried out	Letter to inform of proposed actions
Forestry Commission	Felling licence for work above 5 cubic metres.	Monitor

## 6. MONITORING PLAN SUMMARY

Objective number, issue or UKWAS Requirement	Indicator	Method of assessment	Monitoring period	Responsibility	How will information be used
Maintain a clean and welcoming place which encourages positive public access	Condition of site	Inspection	Quarterly	Owner	Identification of issues arising from inspections will feed into the Ranger work programme and hazards/issues identified can be managed accordingly.
Local wellbeing	Feedback from public	Letters/ phone calls/ Informal on site discussions	Ongoing	Owner	Issues arising will be feed into management planning process and actions taken when in accordance with management plan.
Maintain and enhance the conservation value of the wood.	Species Present	Survey	Ongoing	Owner	To highlight sensitive areas and special areas requiring further enhancement/protection.
Encourage a diverse age structure and replacements for older and veteran trees.	Regeneration of broadleaf species	Survey cleared areas	Annually	Owner	If regeneration is inappropriate species control through pulling and cutting will commence. If regeneration is of low density further planting will be commence.

## 7. WORK PROGRAMMES

### 7.1 Outline long-term work programme (2007 to 2027)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year		
		6-10	11-15	16-20
All	Fell small felling coupe	X	X	X
Felled coupes	Natural Regeneration	X	X	X
Paths	Cut back in winter	X	X	X

### 7.2 Short-term work programme (2007 to 2011)

Compartment or area	Activity	Year				
		1	2	3	4	5
All	Small felling coupes	X	X	X	X	X
Coupes	Natural regeneration	X	X	X	X	X
Coupes	Habitat piles	X	X	X	X	X
Paths	Cut back in winter	X	X	X	X	X

## 8. MAPS

List all maps here and append to plan.


Map No/Title	Description
1	Site Map
2	Constraints – Area of Outstanding natural Beauty
3	Constraints – Tree Preservation Order
4	Constraints – Archaeological Site

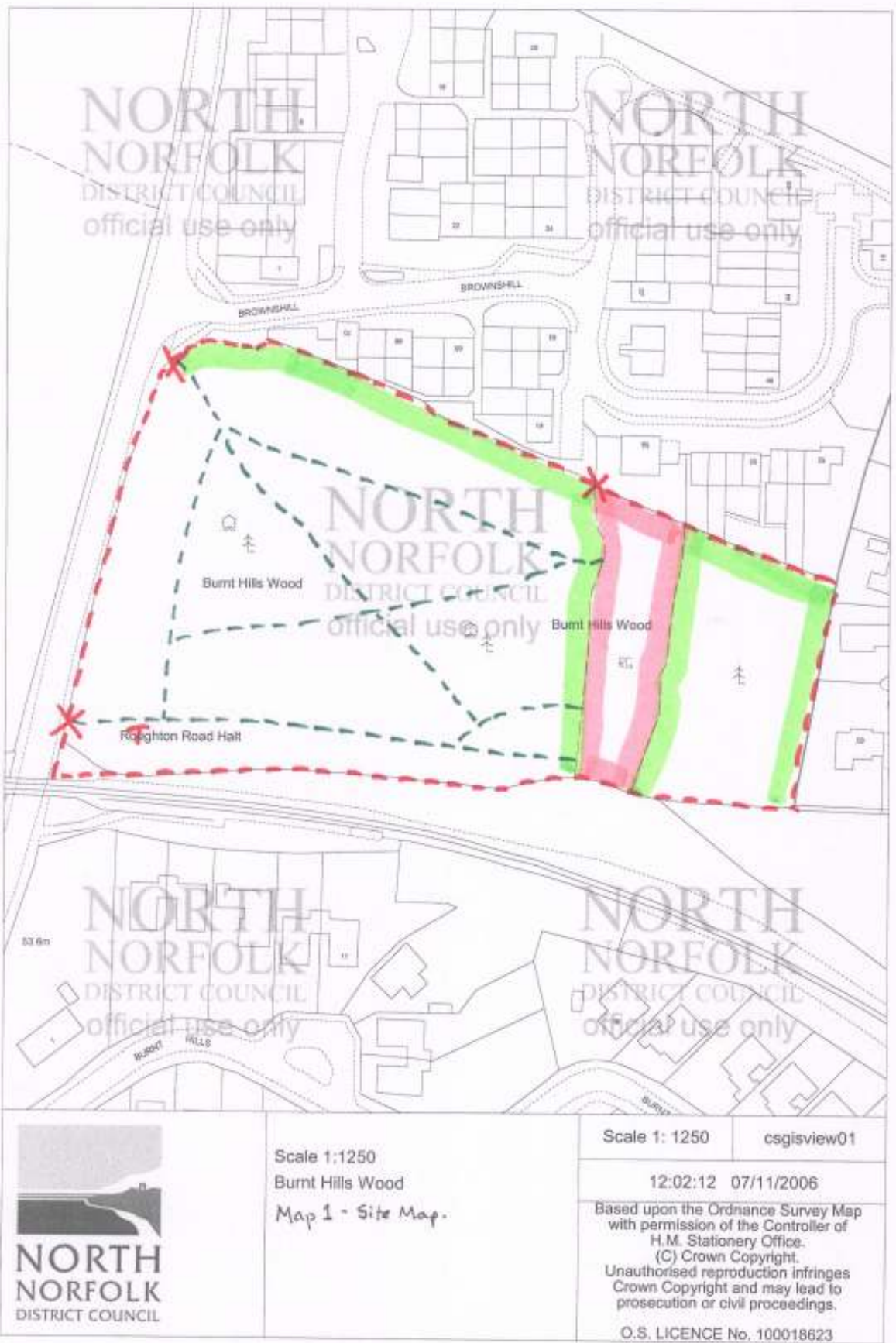


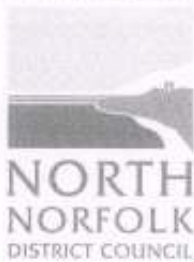
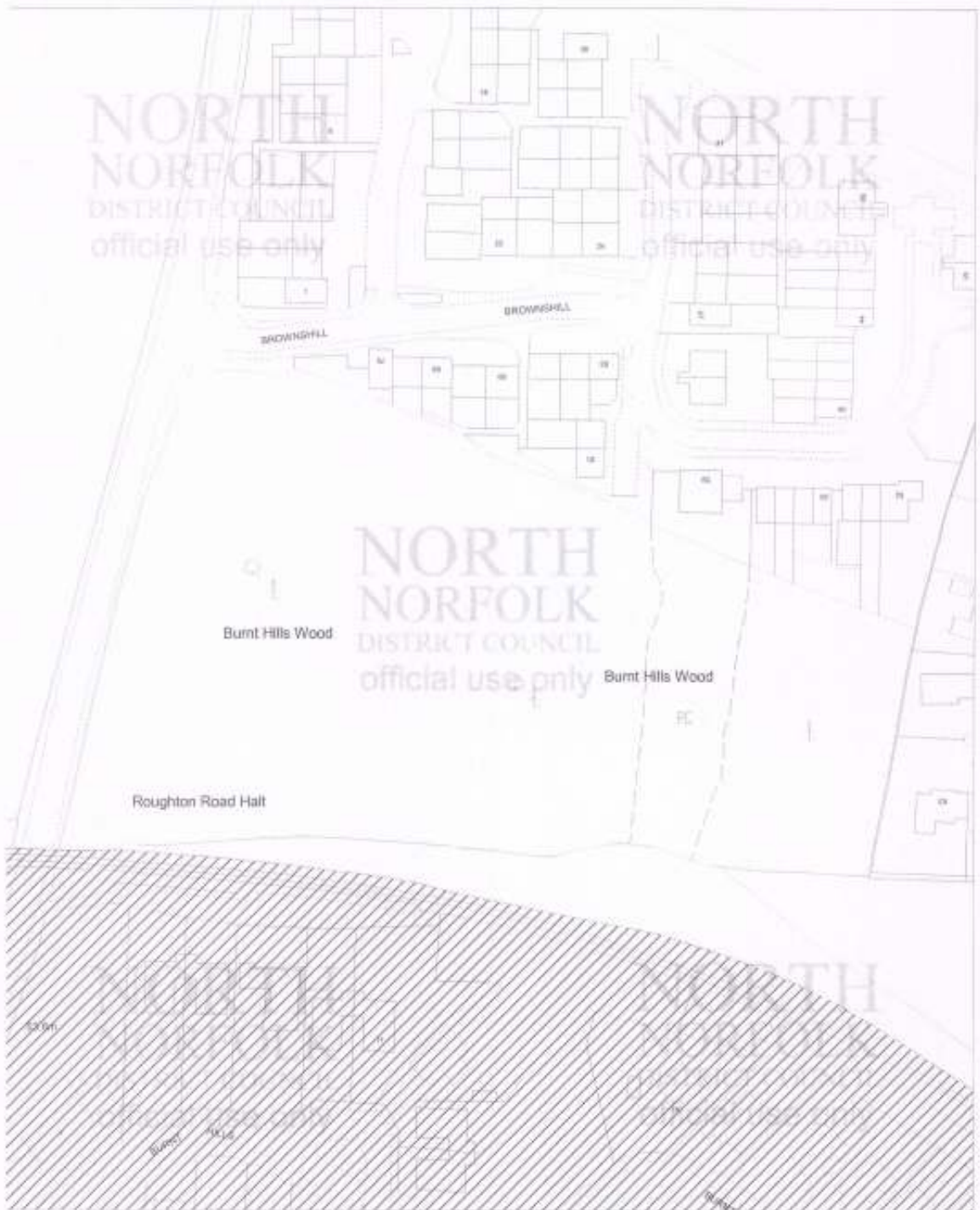
## MAP 1 - Site Map - Burnt Hills Wood

### Key

Permissive Path	
Notable Beech	
Woodland Margins	
Kick About Area	
Site Boundary	

Access Points 





Burnt Hills Wood  
 Scale 1:1250  
 Map 2  
 Area of Outstanding  
 Natural Beauty

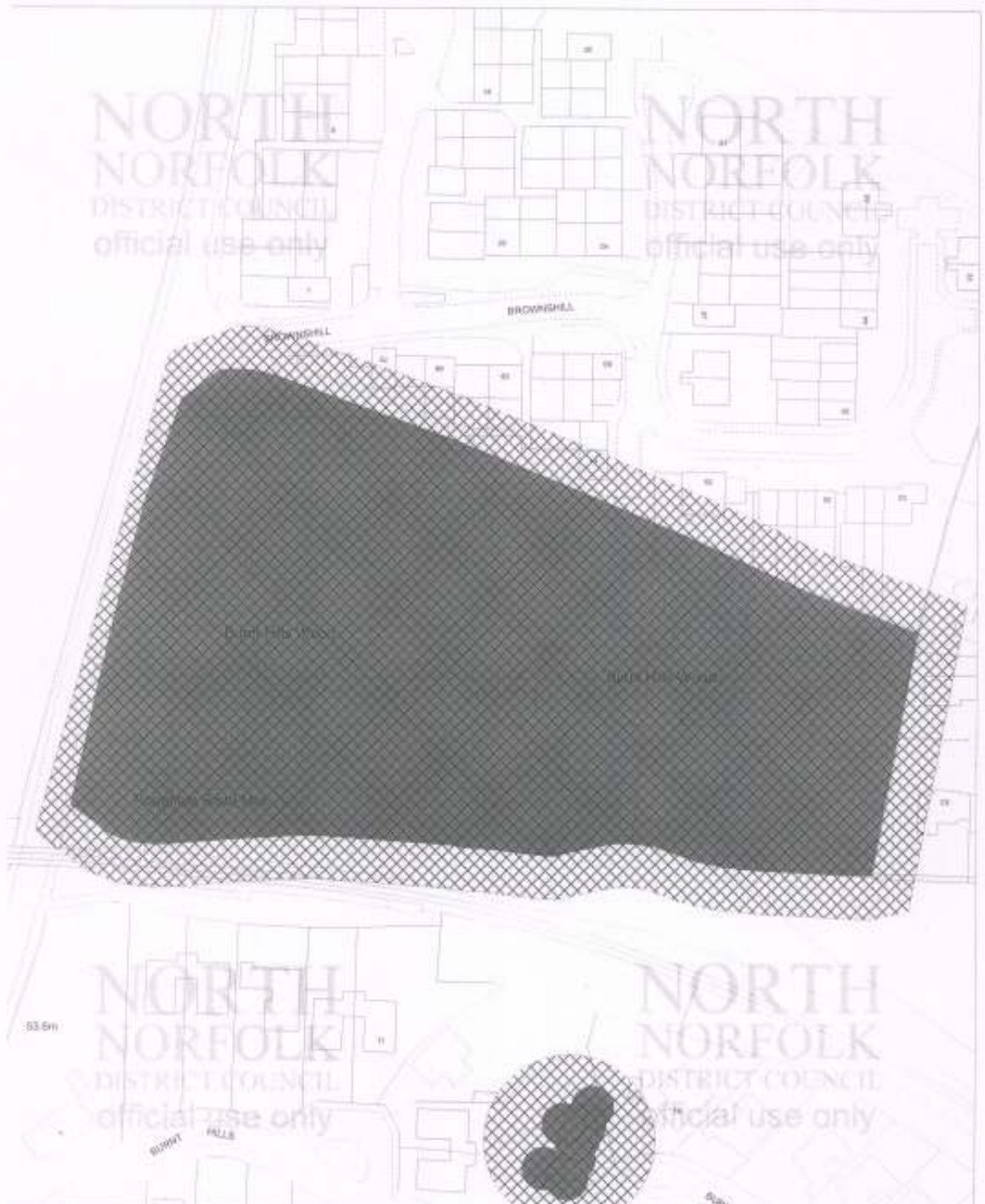
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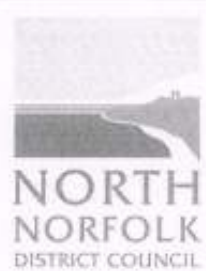
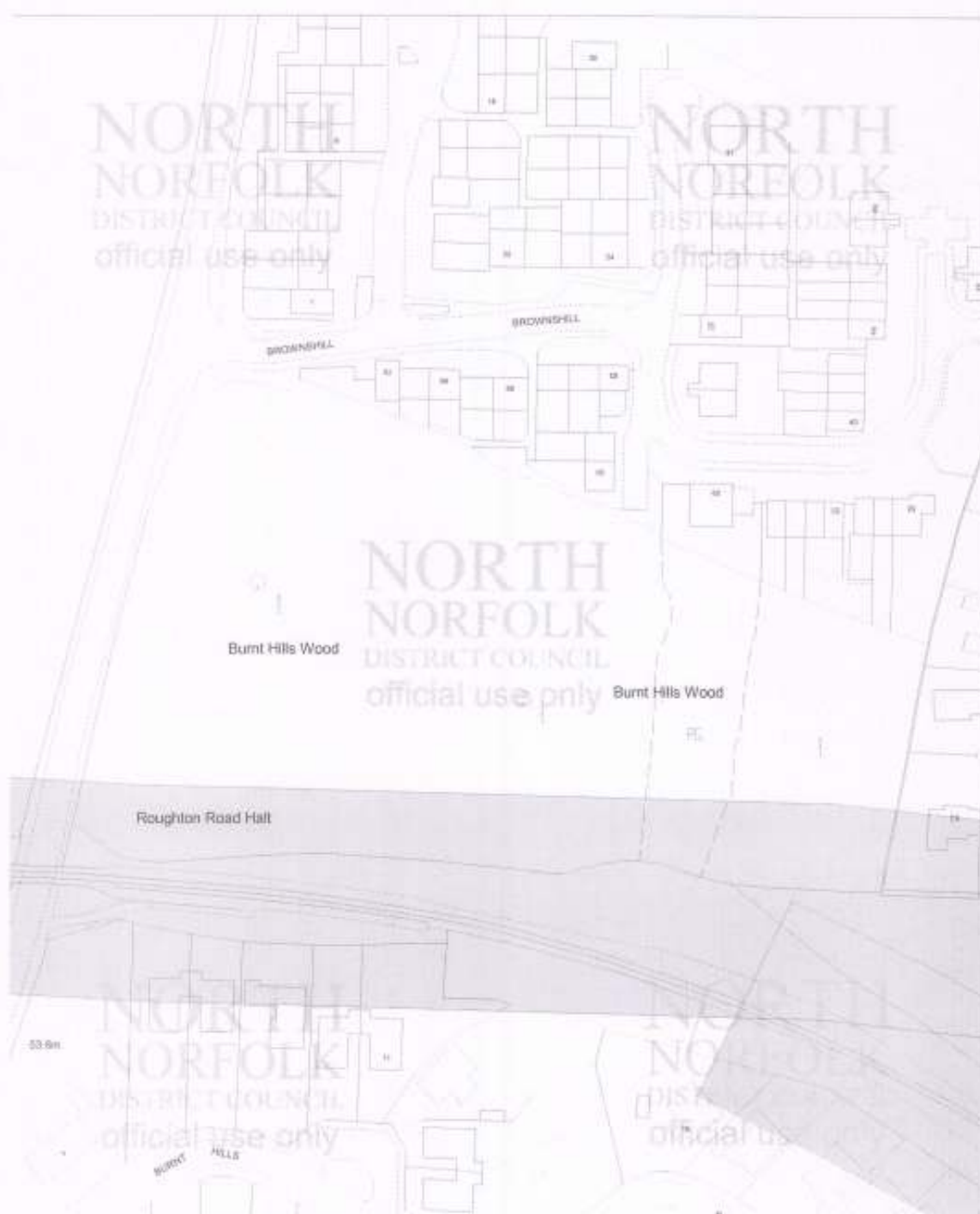
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Burnt Hills Wood  
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 Map 3  
 Tree Preservation Order

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Burnt Hills Wood  
 Scale 1:1250  
 Map 4  
 Archaeological Site

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