



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

10. Briefing Note

Lost Woods Proposal

For Finance, Governance & Estates Committee 20 November 2025

Introduction

Following a Hurst Meadows Working Group meeting with AIRS and the Woodland Trust in Tilley's Copse and a small part of Wilderness Wood on the 8th October 2025, the Woodland Trust have proposed the following works to be carried within Tilley's Copse, of which they will fund and organise.

Proposed works

Thinning

Undertake thinning in the southern half of Tilley's Copse, this thinning works would focus on the larger sycamores and a small number of the smaller oaks. This work would further open up the canopy, helping to increase the variety in age structure whilst also introducing more light to the woodland floor aiding regeneration of understory.

Coppicing

Consider small areas of coppice, alongside the thinning works. Coppicing the existing understory species such as hazel in the thinned areas enable fresh regeneration growth. Coppicing without thinning would likely result in little / weak regrowth due to heavy shading.

Lost woods could arrange contractors to undertake a coppice area as part of the thinning or alternatively (as previously mentioned) attempting to run volunteer or training event for community involvement. It is not essential for volunteering to be part of this management as it can be completed by contractors, however involving local people, and upskilling for future management would have benefits in engagement and understanding of the value of the woodland areas as well as providing potential future volunteer resource for ongoing management in the future.

Halo release

Within Tilley's Copse there are a number of large trees, some of which becoming surrounded and overgrown with Holly. Small scale felling around 2 large oaks to give these older trees space to thrive for the future.

INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species)

Removal of 1 small Portuguese laurel noted on site visit.

Continue monitoring and removal / containment of species such as Lesser Periwinkle where possible, whilst considering signage to prevent future non-native species through fly tipped garden waste.

Access

As part of thinning and coppicing works, consider creating dead hedges with cut material to discourage / rationalise small unofficial paths throughout the woodland, preventing trampling of woodland flora.

Future visit to further explore if future works would be beneficial within the Wilderness

Future / ongoing management

INNS monitoring, awareness and removal if resources allow.

Potential future small scale coppicing work

Discourage multiple desire line paths through adding to dead hedges etc when works occur.
Ongoing tree safety work

Recommendation

It is the Hurst Meadows Working Groups recommendation to allow the Woodland Trust to go ahead with the thinning, Halo release and to organise some coppicing session, to help train our volunteers. Using coppicing arisings to create dead hedges to discourage invasive paths. All funding will be supplied by AIRS and the Woodland Trust. The Committee is asked to agree to proceed with these proposed works from Woodland trust in Tilley's Copse.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to agree to proceed with these proposed works from the Woodland Trust within Tilley's Copse.