



**Malvern Hills Trust**

**Special Meeting of the  
Land Management Committee**

**Wednesday 15 February 2023 7.00 pm**

Gueston Suite,  
Lyttelton Well,  
6 Church St,  
Malvern WR14 2AY



## Special Meeting of the Land Management Committee

Gueston Suite, Lyttelton Well, 6 Church St, Malvern WR14 2AY

Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7:00 pm

**Members:** Mr C Atkins, Mr D Baldwin, Mr R Bartholomew, Dr S Braim, Mr P Clayburn, Mr J Michael, Mrs C Palmer, Dr T Parsons, Mr C Rouse, Ms H Stace, Mrs M Turner, Dr D Westbury.

**Members of the public who plan to attend please read the notice at the foot of the agenda.**

### Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chairman's Communications
4. Public Comments
5. Matters arising from previous meeting
6. Management proposals for 5 newly acquired land parcels Paper A
7. Building Colwall Lands Paper B
8. Mountain biking Paper C from meeting 1 December 2022
9. Outdoor visits 2023 Verbal update
10. Urgent business
11. Date of next meeting 13 April 2023

**If you or anyone in your household has experienced any Covid symptoms in the last 7 days, please do NOT attend this meeting unless you have a negative lateral flow test result on the day of the meeting. Symptoms are commonly runny nose, sore throat, headache, fatigue and sneezing and not necessarily a cough, fever or loss of sense of taste or smell.**

Members of the public who wish to attend are asked to notify [cindy@malvern hills.org.uk](mailto:cindy@malvern hills.org.uk) (or write to Mrs L Parish at the Trust's office), in advance of the meeting, giving their name, E-mail address and contact number.

As infection numbers remain high, when attending meetings please:

- Wear a face covering once inside unless you are exempt from doing so (or when speaking).
- Use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter and leave the building

Seats will be placed socially distanced within the venue - please don't move the chairs closer to others unless you have checked that they are happy for you to do



**LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**TITLE:** Discussion and management proposals for five newly acquired land parcels.

**DATE:** 15 February 2023.

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Land Management Plan (LMP) guiding principle 2 is ‘to maintain or expand the existing holding in order to protect the whole Malvern Hills and Commons landscape’.

Since the adoption of the current LMP, MHT has made three land purchases (Upper Purlieu Field, Norbridge Field and most recently, Stonepit Field with Swine Pit Rough) and, in addition, have been bequeathed two parcels of land (Colwall Coppice and West Field). The latter are gratefully received from the late Ms. Barbara Sealy.

A Work Programme for the Upper Purlieu Field has already been agreed at LMC on 13 October and is not considered in this paper.

This paper takes each of the five remaining land parcels in turn and provides a short descriptive account of them and secondly, puts forward a synopsis of the conservation management works that would be needed for the sites. Some of this information and management decisions have already been agreed by the Board at the meetings in which it was decided to purchase the land.

Once agreed, an LMP Management Prescription will be completed and added to the current LMP. The land parcels are:

1. Colwall Coppice, West Malvern parish
2. West Field, Colwall parish
3. Norbridge Field, Evendine Lane, Colwall parish
4. Stonepit Field, Evendine Lane, Colwall parish
5. Swine Pit Rough, Evendine Lane, Colwall parish

A presentation will accompany this paper at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee consider the discussion paper and recommend all Work Programmes to the Board for addition to the LMP.

**Jonathan Bills**  
**Conservation Manager**  
3.11.2022

# 1 COLWALL COPPICE

## 1.1 Introduction

Name(s): Colwall Coppice

Location: A small wood lying in-between the Purlieu track and Brockhill Road, Colwall Parish, Herefordshire. See map below.

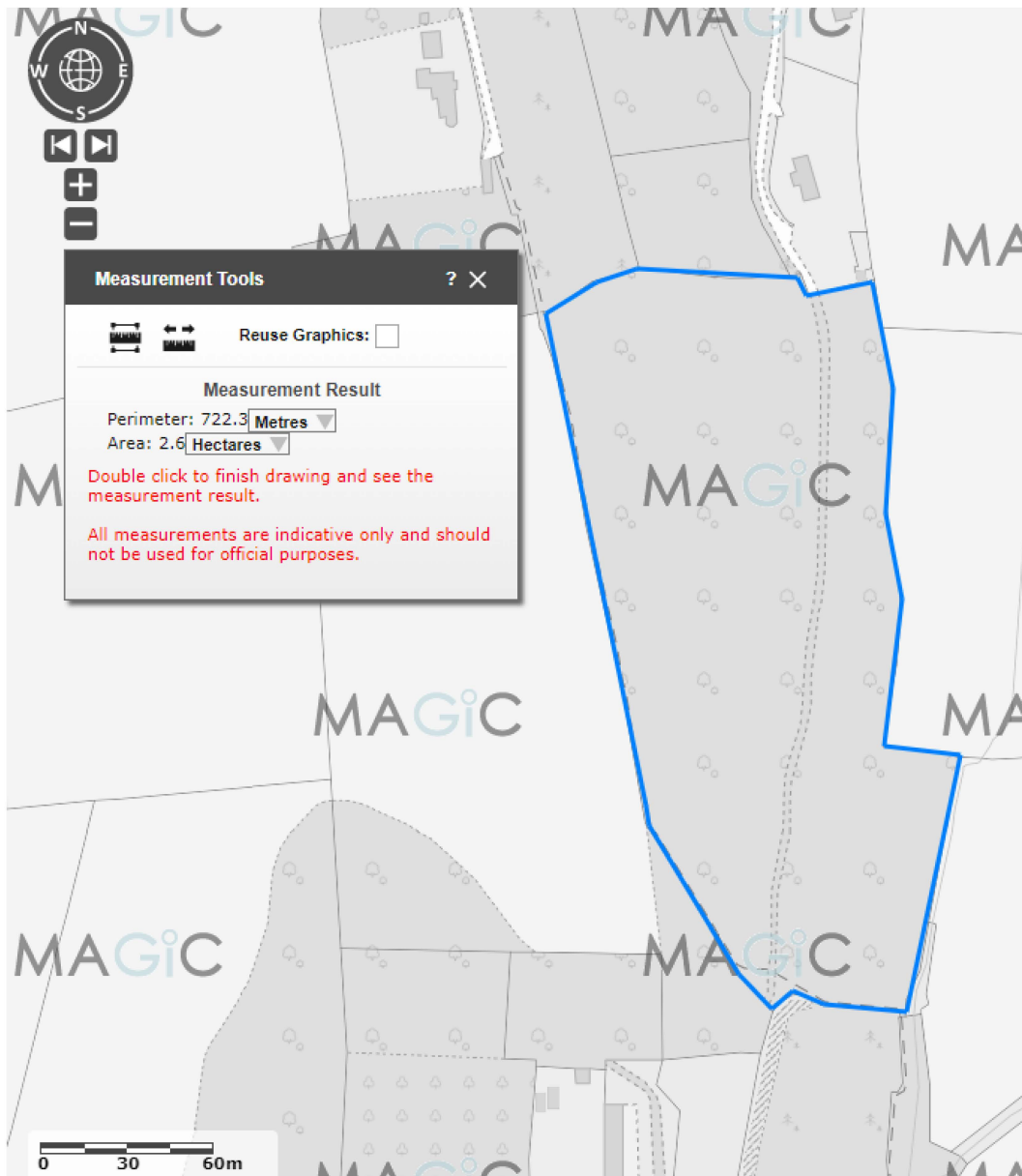
Centroid: S07644 4380

Acquisition: bequeathed to the Trust in 2021 with the transfer complete in September 2022.

Status: Freehold. No third-party rights.

Size: 2.6ha / 6.3acres.

Designations: MHAONB. Ancient Woodland.



## 1.2 Site Description

**Landscape:** the site forms part of the 'Principal Wooded Hills' landscape character type. Principle Wooded Hills is a densely wooded landscape of ridges and vales...interlocking woodlands, orchards, thick hedges, wooded streams, patches of rough grassland and scrub and long-distance views framed by trees (AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, 2012). Colwall Coppice is an attractive ridgetop woodland and characteristic part of the area.

**Natural heritage:** the site lies on Much Wenlock Limestone and has a calcareous soil, like Park Wood.

The easternmost quarter is of mature, high canopy woodland with oak, ash and some Wyche elm and wild service. There are many ancient woodland indicator species, including early purple orchids, woodruff and the calcicolous spurge-laurel. The understory is dominated by bluebell.

The western three-quarters is a young plantation woodland comprised of a serried mixture of cherry and ash with occasional oak. The stand is now tall, misshapen and dark due to the high tree density. The understorey is predominantly bramble with dog's mercury. Wild service tree is occasional. Generally, there is a paucity of deadwood.

It is highly likely the site contains protected species including dormice, bats, and badgers. It is unlikely the site is of importance for butterflies as it is rather dark.

**Cultural heritage:** the site contains small quarries that may be of cultural/geological interest.

**Land use:** the parcel has long been used as a coppice woodland with hazel understorey and oak standards as timber. Minor limestone quarrying has taken place on the ridgetop.

In 1983 the western three-quarters of the site was clear-felled, the timber extracted and the area replanted with guidance from Abbey Forestry. Cherry and ash have been planted as a nurse crop for oak. Only one partial thinning has taken place and the tree guards have not been removed. Rubble and waste can be found in several areas, possibly as it was used as substrate for vehicular access at some point.

**Access:** Vehicular access is via field gates off the Purlieu to the north and from West Field to the west.

**Public Access:** A public footpath runs north-south along the ridgetop. Part of this route is a large flight of wooden steps.

## 1.3 Ruminations

The site's ancient woodland status and impressive species list mean this should be conserved as a native, deciduous woodland thus benefiting landscape, people and wildlife.

The un-thinned plantation requires work to allow it to develop into a robust, native woodland and reduce the number of diseased trees present. The low species diversity makes the wood susceptible to disease and other stresses, and therefore it would benefit from supplementary in-planting to increase species diversity. Unfortunately, the trees are

not of a commercially viable size and the steep ground and poor access makes any forestry operations even less viable. Any tree felling done would allow sunshine in and benefit many plants and invertebrates.

Public access could be improved beyond the existing linear public right of way (PROW) and possibly joined up with other footpaths or MHT lands. Care should be taken that new access does not degrade the important flora of the woodland. The flight of steps and sensitive flora mean that the site is not suitable for horse-riding.

The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

Site priority: Medium.

#### 1.4 Recommended Work Programme

GF= general fund

MF = memorial fund

Ward = wardens

CT = conservation team

FS = field staff

Vols = volunteers

<b>Work item</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Fund</b>
Continue desk and field research to learn more of the site.	22/23	CT	GF
Remove building waste.	22/23	FS	GF
Remove redundant tree guards.	22/23	Vols	GF
Thin the western two-thirds. Lightly in successful, mixed species areas and heavy in areas dominated by ash. A focus on; removing poor specimens, halo-thinning oak, and removing ash. Pile the cuttings as deadwood.	22/23	FS	GF
Plant native trees into some of the space created, to include wild service, oak, willow, hazel, lime.	23/24	FS Vols	MF
Fell trees to create a scalloped ride beside the existing footpath.	23/24	FS	GF
Improve public access connectivity (see West Field).	23/24	FS	Grant?
Maintain the flight of steps.	all	FS	GF
Add boundary posts and MHC stones.	22/23	FS	GF



## 2 WEST FIELD

### 2.1 Introduction

Name(s): West Field (formerly part of Cockshoot Orchard)

Location: A field lying in-between Colwall Coppice and Brockhill Road, Colwall Parish, Herefordshire. See map below.

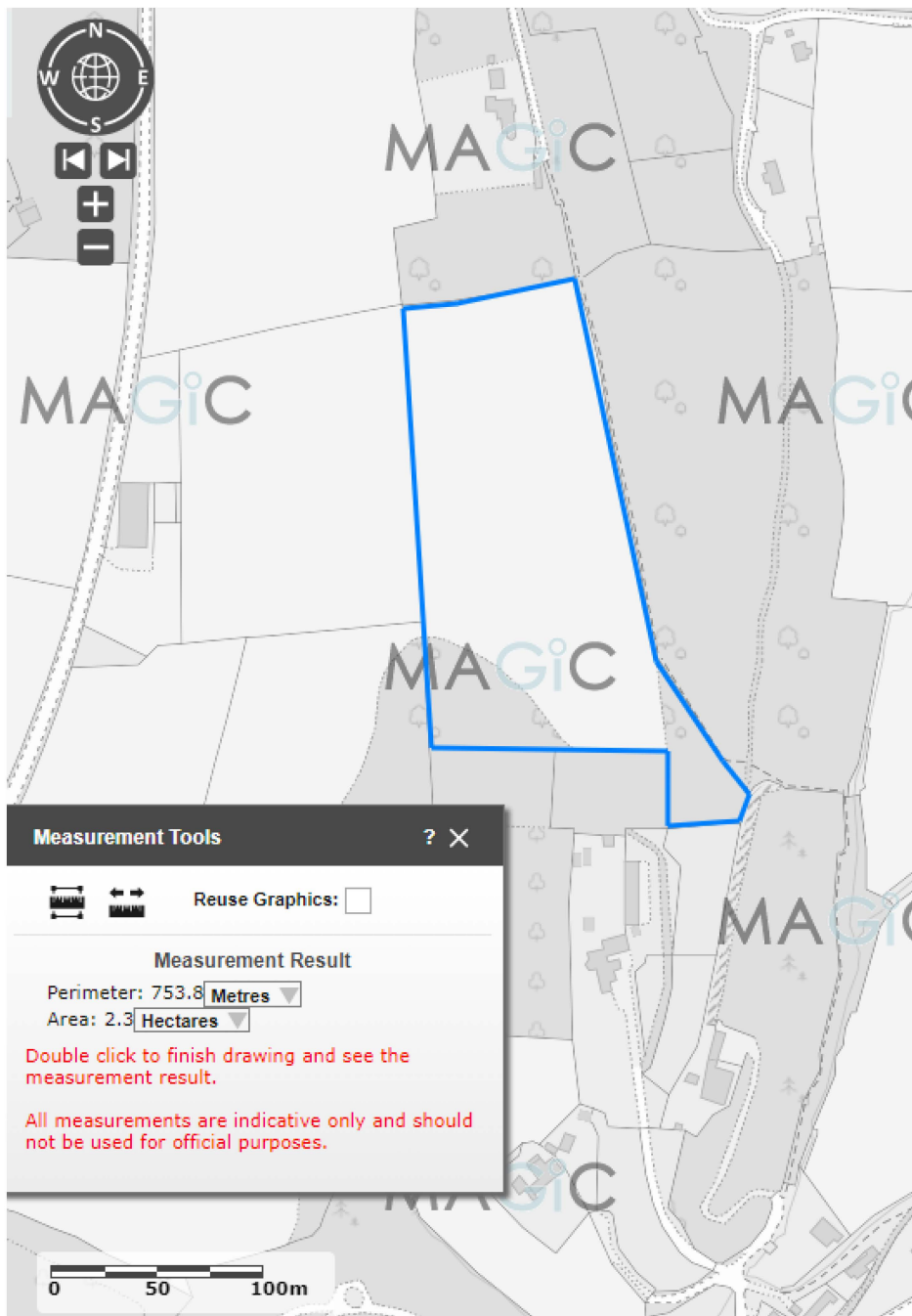
Centroid: S07634 4380

Acquisition: bequeathed to the Trust in 2021 with the transfer complete in September 2022.

Status: Freehold. No third-party rights.

Size: 2.3ha / 5.8acres

Designations: MHAONB.



## 2.2 Site Description

**Landscape:** the site forms part of the 'Principal Wooded Hills' landscape character type. Fine views westward to Wales can be had from the upper half.

**Natural heritage:** this parcel lies on the Much Wenlock limestone geological formation giving rise to calcareous soils.

The majority of this parcel is improved grassland. This is fairly species-poor with ryegrass, white clover, Yorkshire fog and occasional bird's-foot trefoil. On the eastern edge are several mature trees, mainly oak, and this line of trees runs southward to become woodland in the 'dog's leg' corner. This woodland corner is in poor condition as it has been heavily grazed and lacks any shrub layer or ground layer vegetation. Species include; ash, oak, hawthorn, crab apple and wild service tree.

**Cultural heritage:** none.

**Land use:** this parcel was formerly part of the surrounding woodland but was assarted (converted from woodland to farmland) over two hundred years ago. At some point it, together with the adjacent field downhill, formed part of 'Cockshoot Orchard' and in the 1840s they were farmed as an arable field. More recently it has been used as pasture for livestock, chiefly sheep and cut for silage in the 1980s.

The perimeter is 755m made up of boundary fencing of various types and qualities.

**Access:** vehicular access is via Brockhill Road through Colwall Lands.

**Public access:** none to date.

## 2.3 Ruminations

This parcel can be considered in two parts. The wooded 'dog's leg' provides little in the way of grazing but much in the way of fence meterage to maintain (165m). As former woodland that could connect two remaining areas of woodland, it may be sensible to excise the 'dog's leg' and re-establish woodland there.

The main portion of this parcel is grassland and it lies near to several grassland fields used as in-bye land supporting the grazing of the Northern Hills. However, this is no reason to presuppose that that is the fate of this parcel.

With woodland on three sides this would be a good site for woodland creation and ensure that MHT more than meets its target for woodland creation (LMP objective 7). Woodland creation grants are available (£10,000/ha) or there are plenty of public requests to fund tree planting. This would help balance our open habitat restoration works (tree felling) and be a significant carbon sink. On the negative side, this would (as we have seen this summer) create a large maintenance burden on the Trust for the first few years and would lose the westward views and use as an in-bye field if needs be.

It may be that a 'middle ground' is sought through the planting of some trees. A trustee has suggested the creation of a perry orchard here. This would have the advantage of increasing tree cover (perhaps 30-40 well-spaced trees), retaining views (albeit filtered), producing a potentially useful crop, and maintaining the grassland for either in-bye or to be licensed out.

Another option is to use the site as a hay meadow. This would allow a species-rich grassland to develop and provide local supplementary feed for the adjacent livestock.

If the site is to be grazed then logically it should be attached to the adjacent licensee of Colwall Lands. This is firstly because access to West Field will be through the buildings and fields used by the licensee and secondly as this will support the licensee's farm business and therefore the management of the Northern Hills.

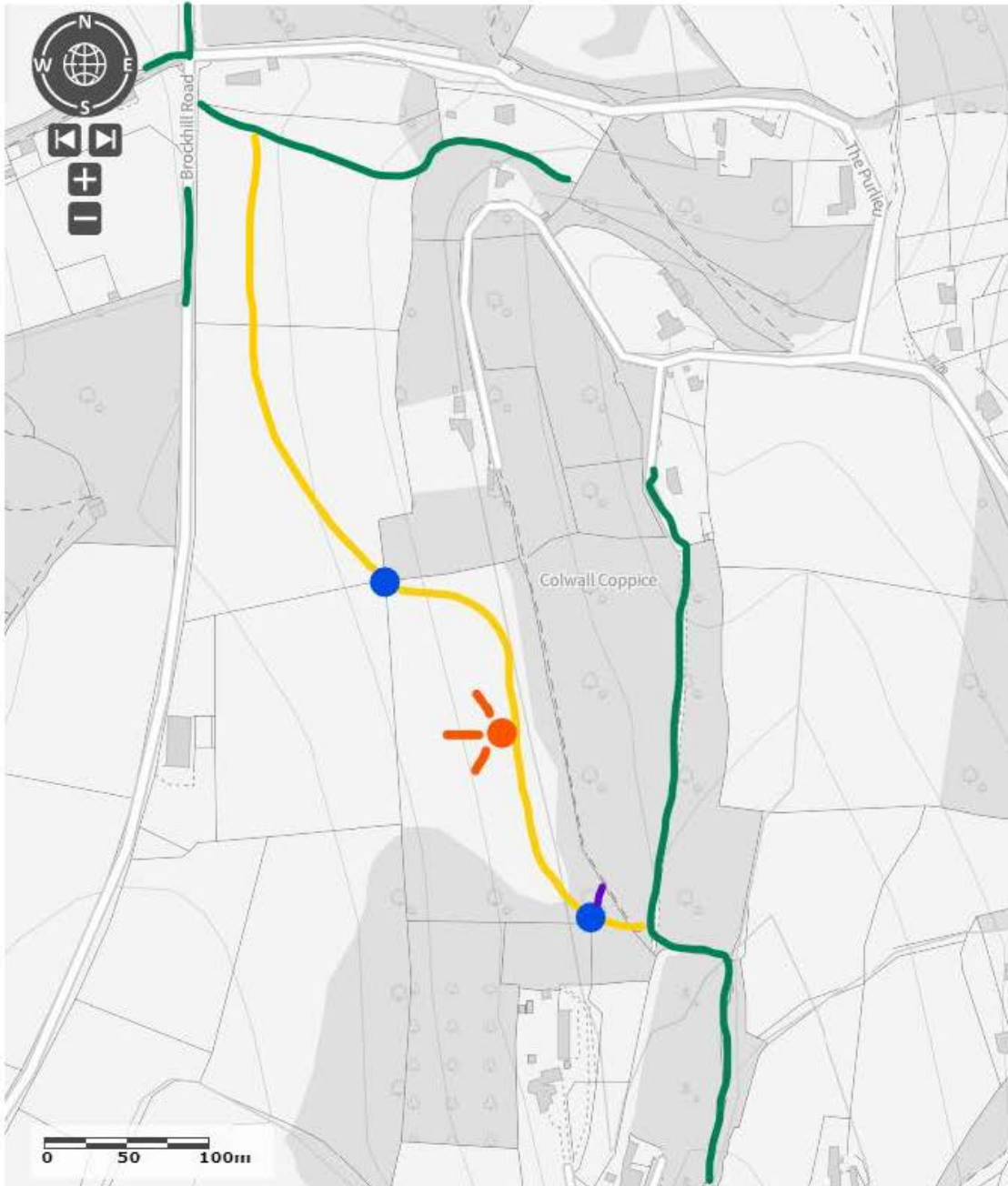
Some of the boundary fence will need replacing / repairing if livestock are still to use the field. The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

For public access it is suggested that the site be improved by linking it to existing MHT fields and Colwall Coppice by means of waymarked trail and hand-gates. See plan below.

Site priority: Low

#### 2.4 Recommended Work Programme

<b>Work item</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Fund</b>
Replace fencelines South and West. 325m. Add new fenceline. 25m. Repair East fenceline. 220m.	22/23	FS	Parl
Incorporate the dog's leg into Colwall Coppice and re-establish woodland.	22/23	FS	GF
Install two hand gates and access waymarkers.	23/24	FS	Grant?
Plant an orchard across the parcel. OR Plant scattered trees	23/24	all	Grant?
Manage the grassland to enhance the floristic interest with light grazing under licence.	all	Licensee CT	-
Add boundary posts and MHC stones.	22/23	FS	GF



Green = existing PROW  
Blue = new hand gate

Yellow = new waymarked footpath route  
purple = new fence line      Orange = views

# 3 NORBRIDGE FIELD

## 3.1 Introduction

Names: Norbridge Field.

Location: adjacent to Evendine Lane, Colwall Parish, Herefordshire.

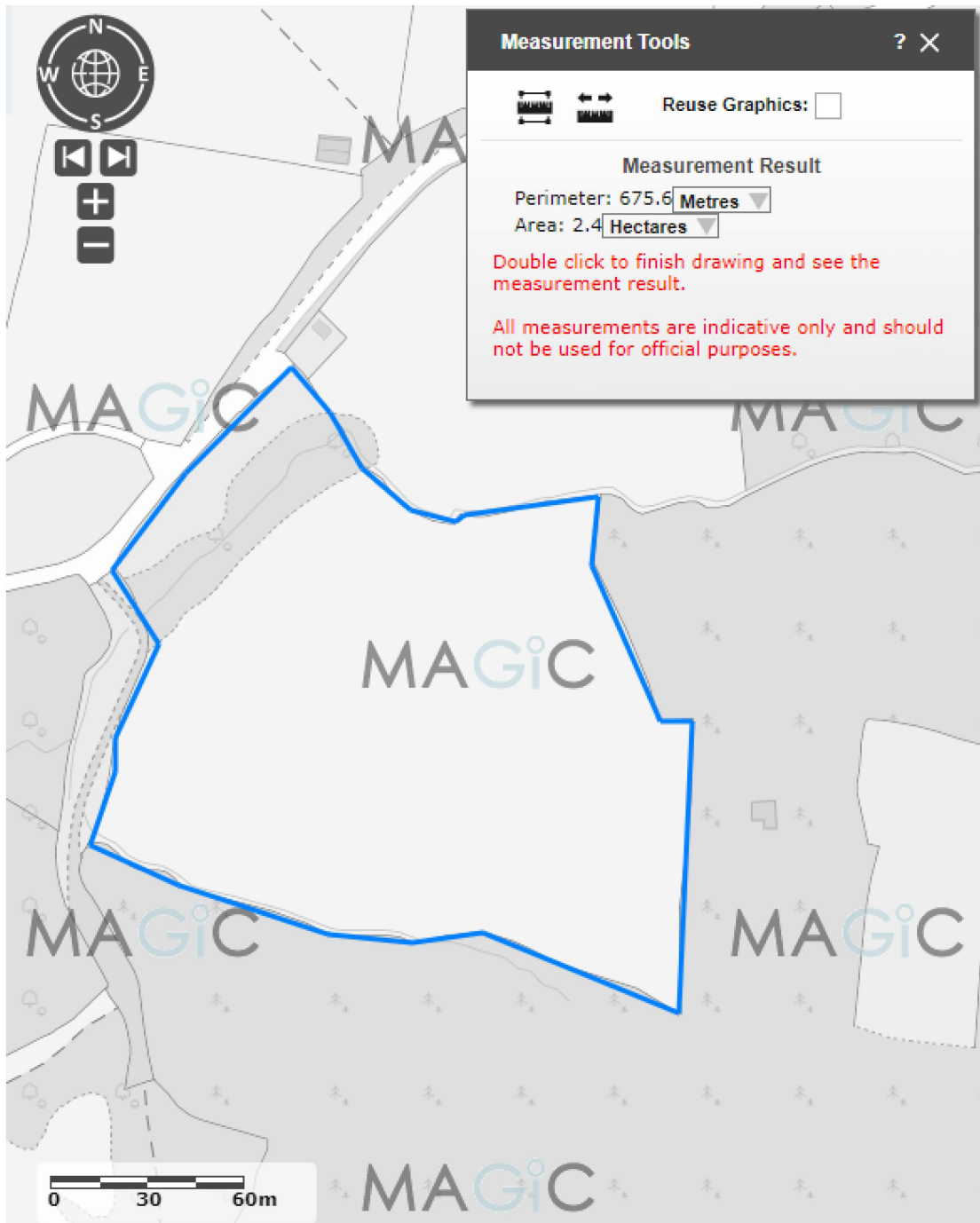
Acquisition: purchased by the Trust in July 2022.

Centroid: S07631 4093

Status: Freehold. No third-party rights.

Size: 2.4ha / 6acres.

Designations: MHAONB.



### 3.2 Site Description

**Landscape:** this parcel sits in the 'Principal Wooded Hills' character type.

**Natural heritage:** the site lies on the Coalbrookdale Formation, a calcareous mudstone of Silurian age.

The north-western 0.3ha of the site is a mixture of roadside hedge/trees, bramble underscrub and coppiced, old alder woodland lining the small stream. The remainder of the site is grassland. The sward is rather rank as it has not been managed in a few years resulting in coarse grasses becoming dominant, such as False-oat Grass and cock's-foot. However, the plentiful supply of these larger tussocks is supporting a host of butterfly species, with tens of small, Essex and large skippers all benefitting.

Small pockets of finer grasses and herbs persist possibly due to grazing by deer. Species include: common spotted orchid, black knapweed and in the damper areas are meadowsweet and mare's tails. It is likely to be unimproved pasture that's been undermanaged and therefore has the potential to become floristically rich again.

**Cultural heritage:** none.

**Land use:** historically this site was arable land in 1841. More recently it has been pasture used for grazing and/or making hay for horses.

Other than the streamside northern boundary, the perimeter fencing is predominantly in poor condition. The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

**Access:** vehicular access is via a private track from Evendine Lane.

**Public access:** none at present.

### 3.3 Ruminant

A flower-rich meadow surrounded by an ancient woodland acts as a giant woodland glade, benefiting wildlife from both habitats. This has been observed by volunteer recorders here already who recorded high numbers of invertebrates here including dark green fritillary butterfly. This combination makes an attractive scene, highly reflective of the western foothills.

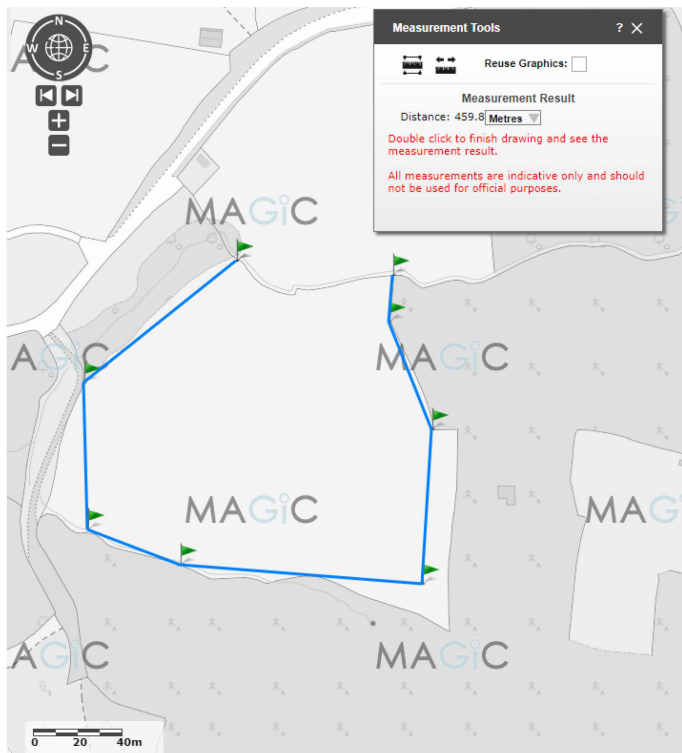
There are several options for grassland management here all revolving around ensuring that the site does not succeed to woodland whilst retaining features of interest. However, this is a peripheral site and should not be occupying a large amount of MHT resources.

The simplest regime would be to periodically graze the grassland, providing a naturalistic, low intensity and low-cost method which uses little fossil fuels and inputs to the food market. Light cattle grazing would be best as cattle graze unselectively and create a more flower-rich and varied sward compared with sheep.

An alternative would be to have hay made by contractor. Although this can remove all vegetation in one go and the technique is highly weather dependant.

The site has little variation with open grassland giving way instantly to the surrounding woodland high canopy. To benefit wildlife, woodland edge / scrub could be permitted to

develop in a few places. This could easily be delivered by pinching in the new livestock fence, see plan below. The actual perimeter is 540m. A pinched fence line would be ~460m. This also reduces ongoing maintenance costs.



The addition of many trees here will likely be to the detriment of the character and grassland. As a means to increase tree cover, the roadside strip of bramble could be allowed to develop into wet woodland. A small number of trees (aspen, willow) could be planted here too.

Public access could be improved by the plan detailed in '4 Stone Pit Field' below.

Site priority: Medium

### 3.4 Recommended Work Programme

Work item	Years	Who	Fund
Maintain and improve the grassland flora through periodic, sensitive livestock grazing.	all	Licensee CT	GF
Replace the fence line with a pinched route. 460m.	22/23	cont	Parl
Permit some rough areas and scrub to develop.	all	all	GF
Add boundary posts and MHC stones.	22/23	FS	GF
Continue to research and record the site.	all	CT	GF
Plant and guard around 6 trees.	23/24	Vols	MF?
Add roadside trees to safety survey.	all	CT	-

## 4 STONEPIT FIELD

### 4.1 Introduction

Names: Stone Pit Field

Location: adjacent to Evendine Lane, Colwall Parish, Herefordshire.

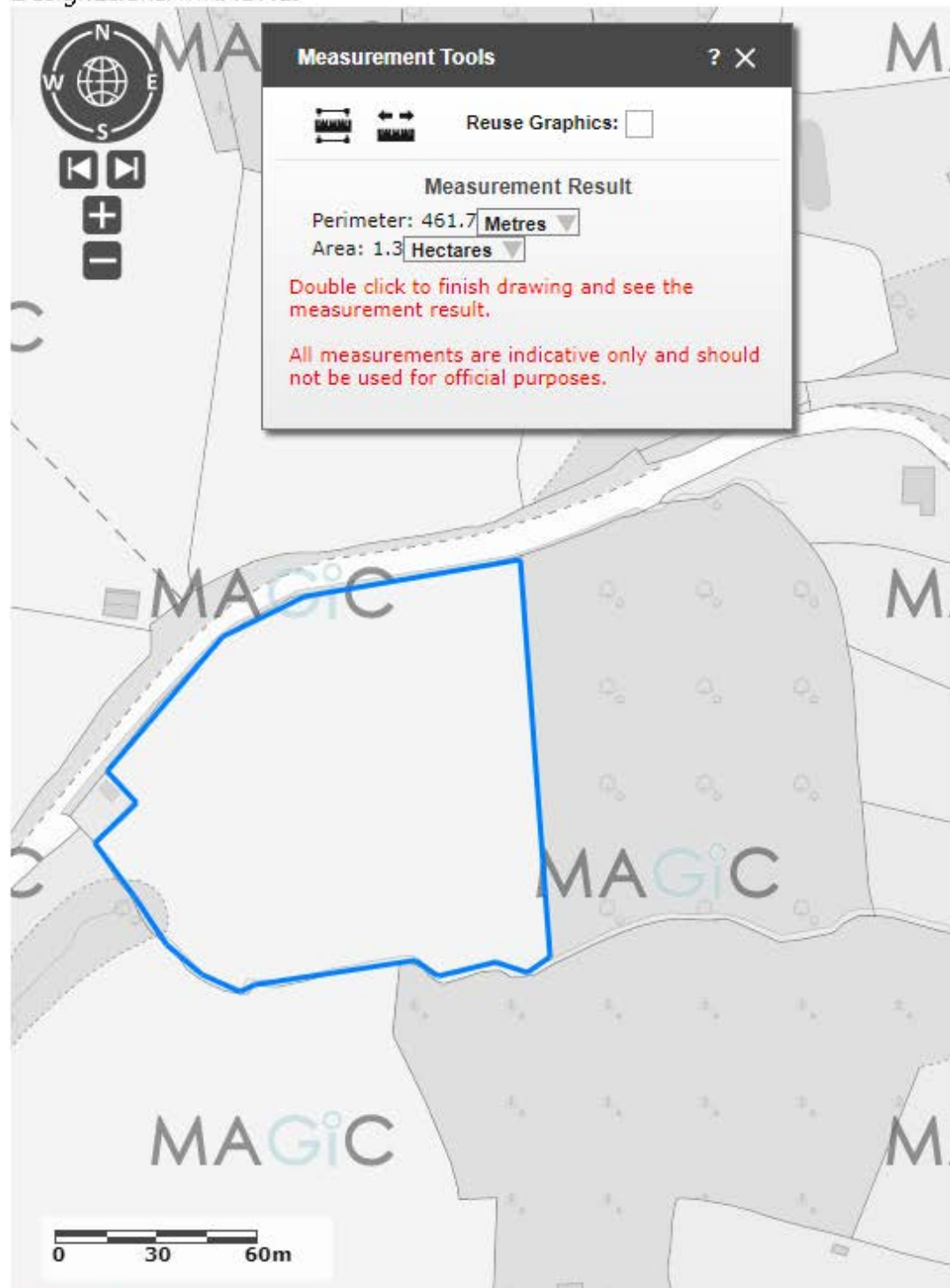
Centroid: SO7635 4106

Acquisition: Purchased by the Trust in 2022 (along with Swine Pit Roughs).

Status: Freehold. No third-party rights.

Size: 1.3ha / 3.2acres (total land purchased is 2.5ha / 6.2acres).

Designations: MHAONB.



#### 4.2 Site Description

The grassland parcel, Stonepit Field, is very similar to Norbridge Field and many details are the same.

**Landscape:** this parcel sits in the 'Principal Wooded Hills' character type.



**Natural heritage:** The grassland is semi-improved but with more herbs and wildflowers than Norbridge Field.

**Cultural heritage:** none.

**Land use:** the tithe map of 1841 records this field as arable farmland. More recently it has been cut for hay and/or grazed by livestock. Management has been more consistent here.

The boundary fencing is predominantly in poor condition in the south and east. It is reasonable in the north and west. The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

**Access:** vehicular access is via a field gate onto Evendine Lane.

**Public access:** none at present.

### 4.3 Ruminant

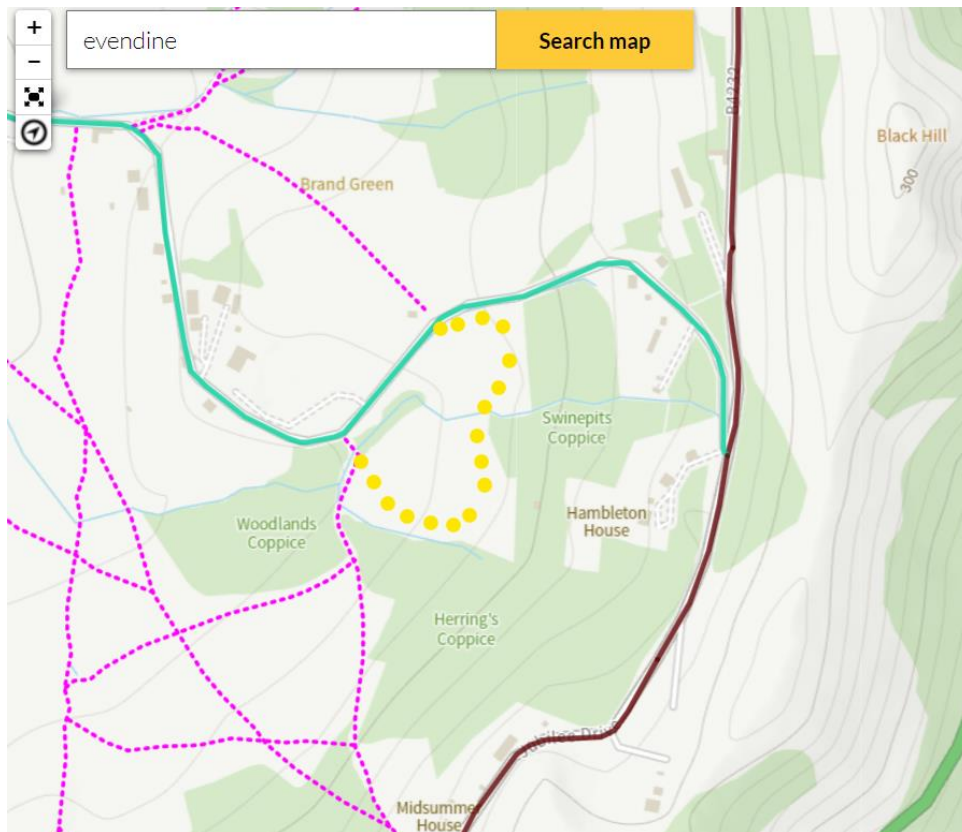
This grassland parcel is very similar in status and nature to Norbridge Field and so the management considerations are the same. See Norbridge Field (above).

Tree planting is difficult here as it would detract from the existing landscape character, and the grassland present. Some scrub should be allowed to develop in awkward corners to create woodland edge habitat.

The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

There is little scrub on site and, as with Norbridge Field, a pinched fenceline would give room for some. The perimeter at present is 460m. Pinching in the south would reduce this down to 440m.

Public access of Norbridge and Stone Pit fields can be improved. Technically, MHT would only need to ensure each field was separately open to the public but Map 2 below shows how, by connecting the fields, a new path could provide an enjoyable walk, an alternative to walking on the road and connect the two disparate Public Rights of Way. An appropriately sized gated-bridge would be required over the steep-sided stream that allows both public and livestock to cross.



Map 2: PROW in purple. Proposed new route in yellow.

Site priority: Medium

#### 4.4 Recommended Work Programme

Work item	Years	Who	Fund
Maintain and improve the grassland flora through periodic, sensitive livestock grazing.	all	Licensee CT	GF
Replace the E & S fence line with a pinched route.	22/23	cont	Grant?
Permit some rough areas and scrub to develop.	all	all	GF
Add boundary posts and MHC stones.	22/23	FS	GF
Add a bridge, waymarkers and hand-gates.	23/24	FS	Grant?
Continue to research and record the site.	all	CT	GF

(Nix gives £8.74/m for livestock fencing)

## 5 SWINE PIT ROUGH (woodland)

### 5.1 Introduction

Names: Swine Pit Rough.

Location: adjacent to Evendine Lane, Colwall Parish, Herefordshire.

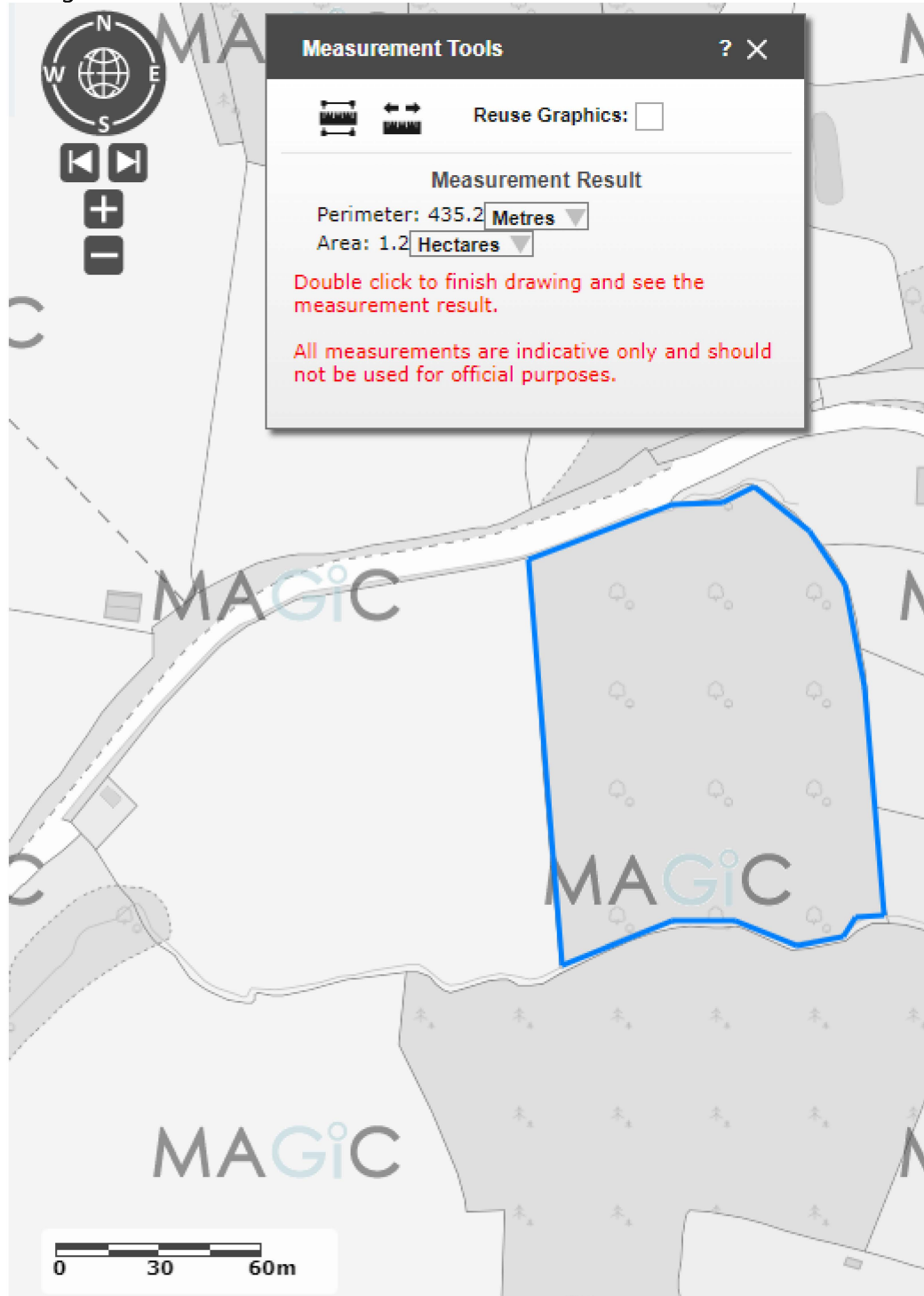
Centroid: S07646 4107

Acquisition: Purchased by the Trust in 2022.

Status: Freehold. No third-party rights.

Size: 1.2ha / 3acres.

Designations: MHAONB. Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).



## 5.2 Site Description

**Landscape:** this parcel sits in the 'Principal Wooded Hills' character type.

**Natural heritage:** the woodland crosses three Silurian geologies – the Coalbrookdale Formation, the Woolhope Limestone Formation and the Wyche Formation, a sandstone.

The woodland is not ancient as the 1842 tythe map records it as pasture. However, it must have soon after become woodland as it now holds many ancient woodland indicator plants and some old trees. These include bluebell, wood spurge, deer grass, yellow pimpernel and toothwort.

The woodland canopy is a mixture of planted trees. A handful are very old oaks but the majority are mature trees around 1/3 of which have been planted as a timber crop including Douglas fir, European larch, Japanese larch, Lawson cypress and western hemlock. The age classes suggest a planting around the 60s and another in the 2000s. Native species include: oak, hazel, goat willow, rowan, wild service, yew and sycamore. The sparse understorey is made up of hazel and cherry laurel but these are infrequent due to the heavy shade cast by the trees. The structure of the wood is uniform with no open spaces (rides, glades etc).

It is highly likely the site is of importance to birds and used by protected species, chiefly bats.

**Cultural heritage:** a large ditch and bank defines the western edge against the pasture, Stone Pit Field.

**Land use:** although planted with commercial evergreen trees, these have not been thinned or harvested and the crop stands today. Recent management has been light touch health & safety works, minor charcoal-making and felling of some of the exotic trees. The landowner managed it in a nature-friendly way.

The boundary fence is in poor condition. However, it is adequate for ownership demarcation.

**Access:** vehicular access is via a field gate from Stone Pit Field.

**Public access:** there is no previous public access here. There is only one possible point of access which is the field gate from Stone Pit Field. The other boundaries are with private dwellings or the highway edge.

The Trust's ownership boundary is not marked on the ground.

## 5.3 Ruminations

Whilst the site could in theory be changed to another land use, this mature woodland has much merit in terms of landscape, conservation and delivery of wider environmental goods. The sound care and enhancement of this woodland should be the focus here.

Whilst exotic trees can make a diverse woodland (in the same way an arboretum is) they support very little local wildlife nor landscape character. Larch and rhododendron also harbour several tree diseases. The heavy shade cast creates a 'dead' area beneath the

trees. The removal of some or all of the exotics would create space and light for a diverse ground and shrub layer.

Selective felling could be done piecemeal over many years or be done all in one go. The costs of mobilising forestry equipment are significant as is the disturbance that comes with this kind of work. However, woodland ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to sudden change especially those that are shady and damp, as is the case here. (See: Restoration of Native Woodland on Ancient Woodland Sites practice guide, Forestry Commission, 2003). Works should first free the areas with overtopped native trees and areas with remaining flora of value.

Size of timber may also be relevant – waiting a further period will result in larger timber and possibly add to the cost recovery value of the timber.

Without livestock here to enclose there is no need to re-fence, however the existing fence could do with bolstering to ensure the boundary remains marked.

Access for public – the site can be opened to the public for open access. This would only be ‘dead-end’ due to the boundaries with private lands and no PROW present. An informal, unsurfaced, circular route could be fashioned to guide people away from private boundaries and from any sensitive areas too.

Site priority: Medium

#### 5.4 Recommended Work Programme

<b>Work item</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Fund</b>
Continue to research and record the site.	all	CT	GF
Develop a viable plan for removing the exotic trees and establishing new, site-appropriate tree/shrub species.	23/24	CT	GF
Enact the plan.	23/24	cont	Grant?
Add boundary posts and MHC stones.	22/23	Ward	GF

END



## **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**TITLE:** Improvements to agricultural buildings at Colwall Lands - revisited

**DATE:** 15 February 2023

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Land Management Plan (LMP) 2021-2026

LMC paper E 13.10.2022

### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2022, the LMC considered three improvements to the Trust's built assets at Colwall Lands. The buildings and land here are included within the Northern Hills Grazing Licence to make that role viable. A fit-for-purpose grazing 'base' also facilitates livestock grazing on other sites too, such as Ballards Land. This base becomes ever more important as the hectareage of land in need of livestock grazing rises as MHT continues to acquire more land.

Two of those improvements considered were given the go ahead (additional hardstanding and track) and one, the replacement of temporary tarpaulin shed with a permanent, multi-use structure, was rescheduled for decision in early 2023.

The reason for the delay was to permit several other projects, funded by the Parliamentary Fund, to complete or be reassessed, leaving trustees and staff in a better place to assess the use of the balance.

### **PARLIAMENTARY FUND**

The balance on 31 January 2023 is £513,000. There has been no expenditure from the fund to date this financial year (2022/2023).

Any additions to Parliamentary Fund are largely from the granting of new easements. The annual amount received is highly variable..

Planned expenditure from the Parliamentary Fund over the next 2 years is:

- Black hill car park changes (2022/23 budget) £6,000 (Approved November 2022)
- Lower shed (BP 2.4.4) £100,000
- Works at Manor House (BP 2.4.1) £50,000
- Top Shed storage (BP 2.4.3) £30,000
- Groundworks at Colwall Lands (approved by Board Nov 22) £7,900
- Earnslaw car park wall (approved by Board Jan 23) £10,000

Other anticipated expenditure for the Parliamentary Fund, not included in the LMP/Business Plan (BP) includes:

- Several new pieces of land have been acquired (Upper Purlieu Field, Norbridge Field, Swinepit Roughs, Stone Pit Field, Colwall Coppice and West Field). Capital improvements here, to improve public access and grazing infrastructure, could be shared between the Land Purchase Fund (~£15,000) and the Parliamentary Fund (~£8000). These items are also eligible for Stewardship funding or the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' (FIPL) fund. Staff will try and obtain grant aid for these works.

Recent savings made to the Parliamentary Fund include:

- LMP project 29. Snookes Croft – replacement cattle / hay shed. £50,000. Project has been shelved as there is no demand for the facility at this location currently. Originally anticipated to be grant-funded or from Parliamentary, or a mixture of both. LMP project 16/BP
- LMP project 16/ BP 1.1.6. Ragged Stone Hill. £3000 was not spent on securing this site as livestock collar technology has made this work obsolete.
- LMP project 27/BP 2.4.4. Brockhill Road. £5000 not spent as all research/design has been done in-house.

The predicted balance of the parliamentary fund with the revised costs for various items, as compared to the predictions at the last review of the BP, is shown in Table 1 here:

<b>Updated forecast including Brockhill Road stock shed</b>					
<b>Parliamentary fund 5-year forecast</b>					
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Outlook	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
4350 - Easements	20,000				
4500 - Income from investment portfolio	15,000	13,214	10,021	7,952	7,782
<b>Total income</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>13,214</b>	<b>10,021</b>	<b>7,952</b>	<b>7,782</b>
<b>Administration and governance expenses</b>					
6115 - Investment managers' charges	2,373	2,643	2,004	1,590	1,556
<b>Total administration and governance expenses</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,556</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year before transfers	32,627	10,571	8,017	6,362	6,226
Transfer to other funds	(86,000)	(117,000)	(77,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)
Transfers from other funds					
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year after transfers</b>	<b>(53,373)</b>	<b>(106,429)</b>	<b>(68,983)</b>	<b>(5,638)</b>	<b>(5,774)</b>
Parl funds brought forward	493,839	440,466	334,037	265,054	259,416
Parl fund carried forward	440,466	334,037	265,054	259,416	253,642
<b>Fixed asset purchases</b>					
Blackhill car park upgrade	6,000				
Lower Shed	10,000	50,000	40,000		
Top Shed storage		30,000			
Manor House		25,000	25,000		
Earnslaw wall	10,000				
Stock shed Brockhill road	40,000				
Uplift items on new land holdings	8,000				
	74,000	105,000	65,000	0	0



## **CONCLUSION**

The LMP stated that, at Colwall Lands, staff would 'assess existing buildings against operations and progress any capital improvements'. The resultant costs were not therefore included within the LMP nor the BP.

However, savings and payments for the granting of new easements mean that the projected balance of the Parliamentary Fund, would be little different after accommodating an expenditure of £40,000.

Increasing MHT's built infrastructure will aid future land management of the MHT estate.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the LMC consider and approve the expenditure of up to £40,000 from the Parliamentary Fund on a building to replace the temporary structure at Colwall Lands.

**Jonathan Bills**  
**Conservation Manager**

31.1.2023