

**Notification No: 26/00043CONS**

**Site:** Bernards Copse within Moulands Farm, Winsor Road,  
Winsor, Southampton SO40 2HN

**Conservation Area Tree  
Work Notification:** Woodland management

**Case Officer:** Nik Gruber, Senior Tree Officer

**Parish:** Copythorne

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**1. REASON FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

NFNPA employee is the agent and son of the applicants / owners, therefore, the decision cannot be made under officers' delegated powers.

**2. DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESIGNATION**

No specific designation

**3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS**

Section 211 of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)  
(England) Regulations 2012

**4. PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None received.

**5. ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 Bernards Copse is a predominantly deciduous woodland of approximately seven acres located at Moulands Farm, Winsor Road, Winsor. Access is gained through the farm and is surrounded by agricultural fields. It is approximately 250m from the nearest dwellings and is reasonably central to the A336 Southampton Road, Winsor Road, Winsor Lane and Eadens Lane. It is situated on low lying land and therefore it is difficult to obtain anything more than just glimpses from public vantage points.
- 5.2 The earliest acknowledgement of a defined area but not confirmed as woodland is shown on an 1893 map, while the later 1895 map acknowledges it as a woodland feature and includes the name of Bernards Copse.
- 5.3 The Copse lies within the Forest North East Conservation Area

(hence this Section 211 notice for tree works) and there are currently no other tree protection or specific designations affecting this site. A Felling Licence will not be required in this instance as works will not exceed the removal of 5 cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter and include the removal of windblown trees.

5.4 The woodland composition is made up of English Oak as the dominant canopy with Silver Birch, Beech, Holly, Goat Willow and Aspen as sub-dominant species. Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly and occasional Crab Apple make up the understorey with Bluebells, Snowdrop, Ivy and Bracken making up the majority of ground cover.

5.5 The submitted management plan has identified three separate compartments for the woodland, each to undergo the proposed management listed below:

- Clear storm damaged and fallen trees leaving approximately 30% timber cut up and left as eco-piles.
- 60% of standing dead trees to be retained for ecological habitat benefit.
- Re-coppice lapsed Hazel stools leaving some 25% as standards to aid structural diversity.
- Pollard selected Goat Willow and Holly.
- Protect any suitable naturally regenerated seedlings and include planting of British native trees and shrubs where appropriate to increase diversity.

5.6 Management objectives include the following:

- Produce a low volume, sustainable source of timber for use on the farm and in the farmhouse.
- Maintain and enhance structural diversity (Oak overstorey, Hazel coppice and ground flora).
- Improve and maintain woodland health and biodiversity.
- Maintain light levels to woodland floor, to improve growing conditions for native ground fauna and flora (more specifically the native Bluebells and snowdrops).
- Re-introduce and continue traditional woodland/coppice management through the felling of select trees and the coppicing and copparding of native Hazel and Holly.
- Maintain and clear ditch of self-seeded Goat Willow.
- Control/slow the spread of Phytophthora sp.
- Retain the historic character of a traditional Oak-Hazel coppice system.

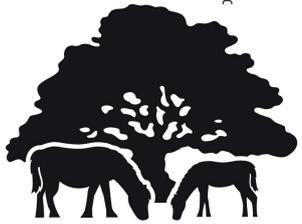
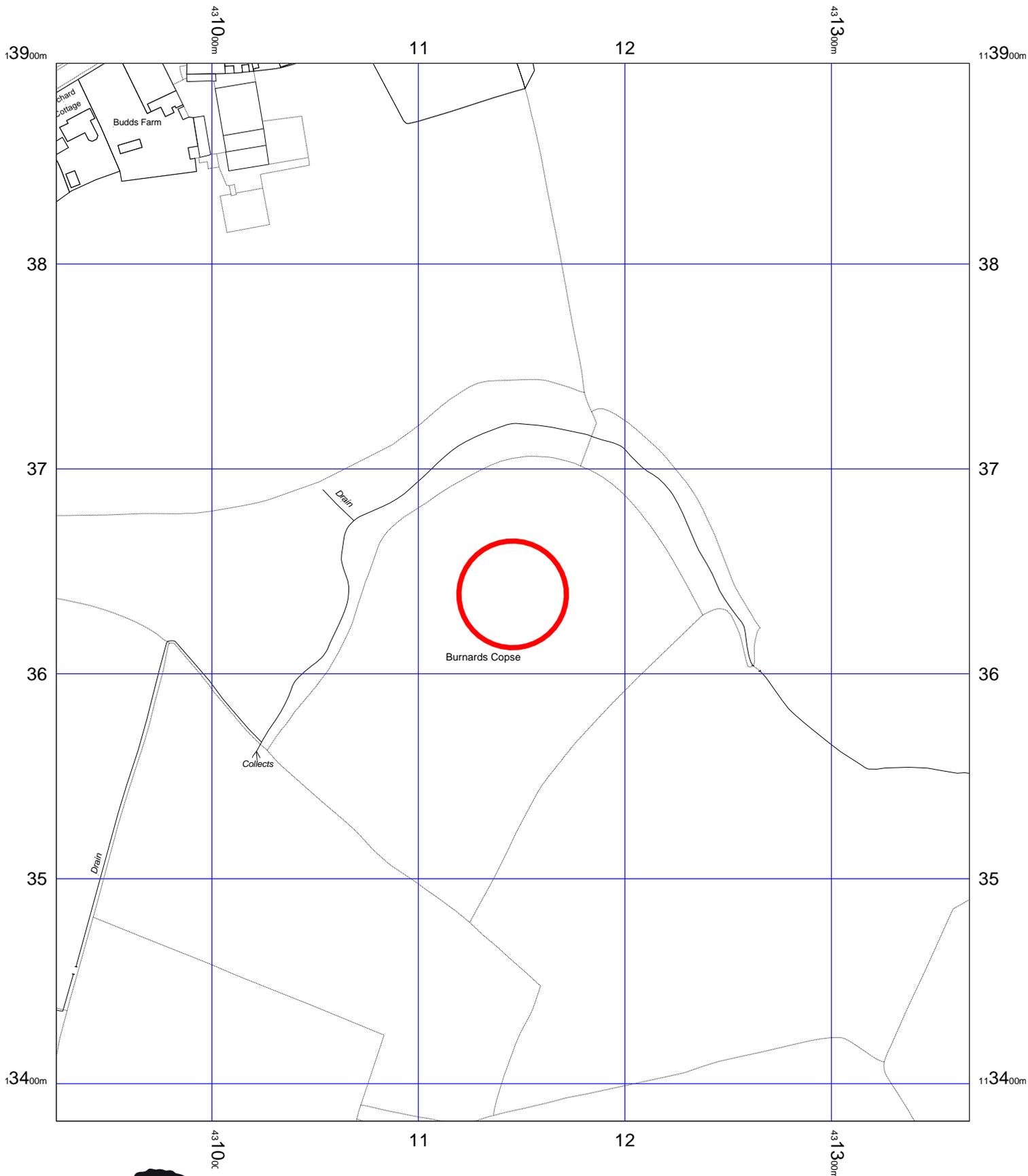
5.7 While no records are available to confirm exact past management, the structure of the copse is indicative of a traditional small holding/farm copse and would have been used as a source of fuel from firewood, woodland products and hedging

material. The site has undergone limited management over the past 30 years with works being purely reactive through the clearance of fallen trees and broken branches.

- 5.8 Part of the proposed management proposal is to review and monitor the health and regrowth of copse which can help with making any sensitive changes over the five years.
- 5.9 The proposed work is considered sound woodland management which will benefit the long-term health and diversity of the woodland and improve its nature conservation value.
- 5.10 There will be little or no change in the visual amenity of the woodland and further protection by a TPO is not considered necessary.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

Raise no objections to the proposed woodland management and allow an extended five years for the consent for the works to be completed.



NEW FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road,  
Lymington, SO41 9ZG

Tel: 01590 646600 Fax: 01590 646666

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