

Cobham Wood



COBHAM ASHENBANK
MANAGEMENT
SCHEME

Landscape Restoration

Work is underway on a three-year programme to restore the historic landscape of Cobham Wood. The work includes restoration of the wood pasture habitat, re-introduction of cattle grazing and the re-instatement of historic vistas. Public access will be improved; for the first time horse-riders and cyclists will be able to access Cobham Wood legitimately.

Cobham Wood is an internationally important area of 165 acres of former wood pasture within the boundary of historic Cobham Park and is part of the much larger Cobham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest. Plans for its restoration have been developed over several years in conjunction with Natural England.

Wood pasture is a rare and valuable wildlife habitat. Grazing helps to maintain a balance between the different areas of vegetation and prevents any one species from taking over.



Wildlife is once again thriving in Cobham Wood since habitat restoration began

Cobham Wood was grazed by deer and cattle until after World War II. The subsequent unchecked growth of scrub and young trees slowly reduced the amount and variety of wildlife and threatened the survival of the many veteran trees that are a feature of the wood.



Wood pasture

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What Is Involved

- progressive reduction of competing vegetation crowding out the veteran trees
- the removal of selected individual trees, saplings and scrub in order to create a woodland structure that supports wood-pasture, and to re-establish views into and out of the woodland
- the retention of selected trees to form the next generation of veterans
- reduction in bramble and bracken cover to promote a greater diversity of ground flora and reduce the risk of damage by fire
- re-use of brush and logs through the creation of habitat piles
- creation of new paths and a multi-user trail to improve access for visitors
- installation of new fencing and gates to support cattle grazing and ensure the safety of the cattle

Public footpaths will remain open throughout but it is important to exercise caution at all times.

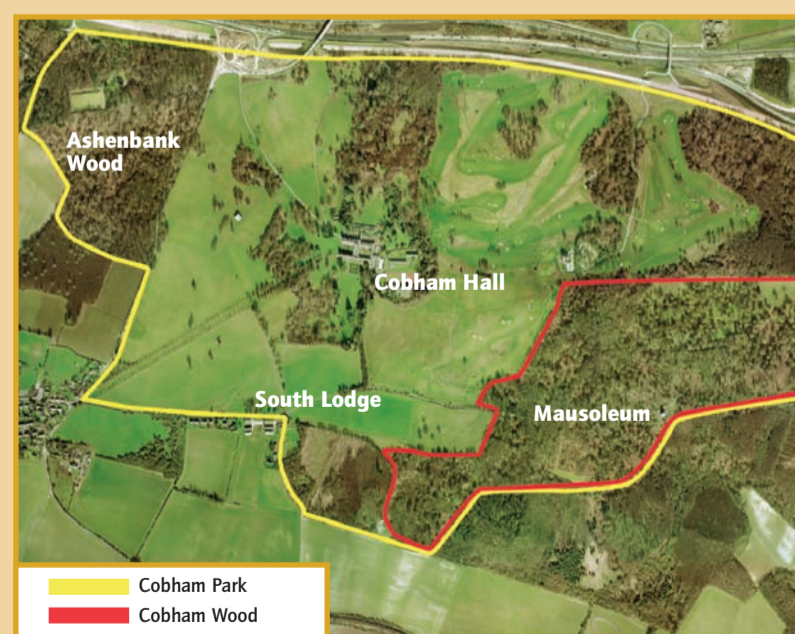
The Cobham Park Heritage Project aims to reverse the many years of decline, vandalism and abuse that occurred to one of Kent's great estates.

Work began in 2006 to restore:

- the Darnley Mausoleum
- garden structures in the grounds of Cobham Hall
- the Repton designed Pleasure Grounds around the Hall
- the historic landscape of Cobham Wood.

In addition to the restoration of nationally important heritage assets, the project is also providing new opportunities for recreation, countryside access and education.

The Cobham Park Heritage Project is grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Department of Communities and Local Government, English Heritage, and Union Railways. It is run by the Cobham Ashenbank Management Scheme, a partnership launched in 1997 to undertake a programme of projects to conserve and enhance historic, nature conservation, and landscape interests within the Historic Cobham Park and Ashenbank Wood area.



The Cobham Ashenbank Management Scheme (CAMS) is a partnership of:

- Gravesham Borough Council
- Natural England
- The National Trust
- Cobham Hall
- Kent County Council
- English Heritage
- The Woodland Trust
- Union Railways

