

Gallowsfield Wood Haughley

To commemorate 1987 European Year of the Environment Suffolk County Council decided to create an entirely new woodland, the object of which would not only be to enhance the local landscape but to manage the site in a way that would encourage and promote nature conservation and at the same time demonstrating a number of woodland management techniques. Additionally the site would also provide an educational and recreational facility for public use.

Gallowsfield is a 4.2ha plantation woodland at Quarries Cross, Haughley just north of the A14. It forms part of a larger site totalling 8ha containing a carpark, picnic area and established woodland.

The former arable field was deep cultivated and harrowed before a local tree planting contractor moved on to the site to erect a deer and rabbit proof fence. Before any planting took place the rides were marked out in a network that would provide public access and also allow the extraction of timber and thinnings as the wood matured. In the autumn of 1987 the rides were sown with a grass mixture containing a variety of wildflower species.

Gallowsfield Wood consists of 2 main features:

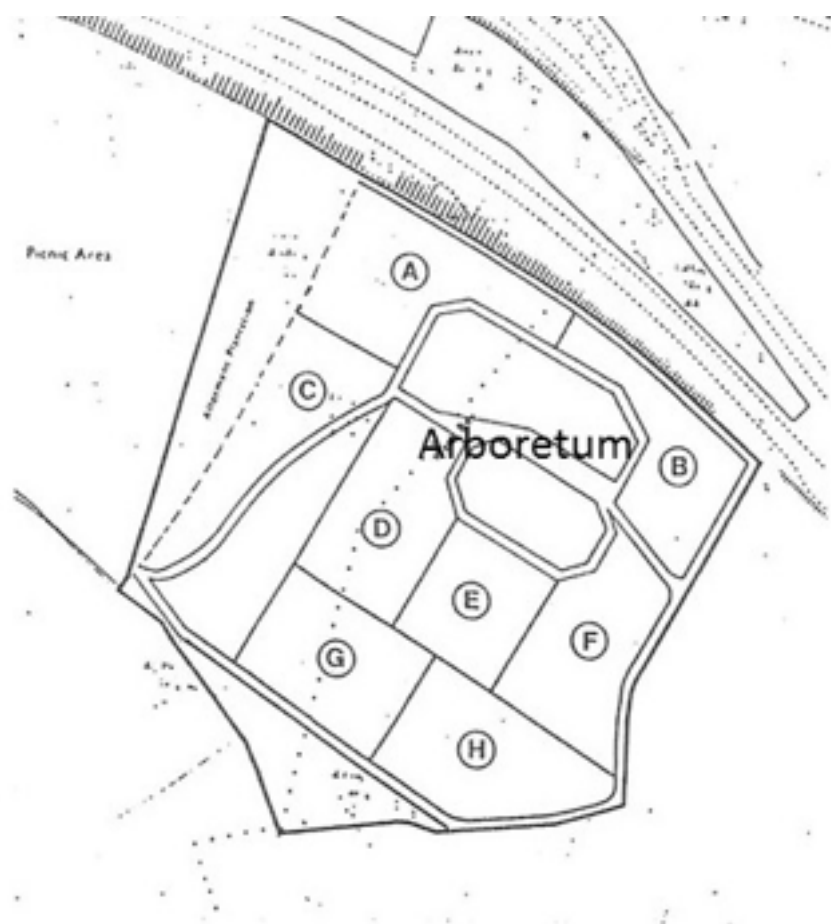
1. The Arboretum in 2 separate sections
2. The Woodland Demonstration plots in eight different compartments.

The Arboretum consists of small blocks of all the indigenous tree and shrub species found in Eastern England and specifically Suffolk. The Arboretum is bisected by a grassy ride that divides the larger woodland type tree species on the north side and smaller to medium size species on the south side.

The Wood consist of 8 compartments with a differing mix of deciduous species that give both diversity and some flexibility in future management, and an Arboretum at the centre of the site.

Each woodland planting block contains a block of English oak with a matrix of other species based on the traditional system of long term standards with rotational coppice understorey. Where blocks form part of the perimeter of the site or adjoin a ride these sections were lined with shrub species to give a graduated edge to the woodland. Planting was carried out at 2 metre spacing at a density of 2,500 trees per ha. and has been thinned twice over the past 20 years. The scheme was grant aided by The Forestry Commission.

In 2013 ownership of the both the picnic site and Gallowsfield Wood was passed to Haughley Parish Council.



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