

Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust **Update on the Community Woodlands**

The Thornborough and Coombs Woodland Enterprise Trust was established in 2015 to preserve and enhance 168 acres of green space within Thornborough parish, near Buckingham, known as **Thornborough Community Woodlands** and **Coombs Quarry**.

The charity has a number of aims and ideas including setting up an education centre, marking out pathways for walking etc but they want to raise awareness of the land. Click here for more information and a footpath map.

If you would like to be involved in any way with the maintenance of the woodland, either by volunteering time or expertise or through becoming a member or just making a donation you can get in touch via email at **tpcadmin@thornboroughvillage.co.uk** or telephone **01296 711011**.

How to Find Us

Grid reference: Car Park SP731 332; Coombs Quarry SP 733 327.

Ordnance Survey map: Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard Sheet 165.

Geological maps: 1:50,000 series Thame sheet 237 and Aylesbury sheet 238.

Car parking and picnic facilities are available at Coombs car park, off the Coombs to Adstock Road, near Thornborough, Buckinghamshire.

To reach Coombs, take the A421 from Milton Keynes or Buckingham or the A413 from Aylesbury or Buckingham and Thornborough Road runs between both A roads connecting the villages of Thornborough and Padbury.

<http://thornboroughwoods.org.uk/>

<http://www.bucksvoice.net/tpc/thornborough-community-woodlan/>

Website <http://www.bucksvoice.net/tpc/thornborough-community-woodlan/>



Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust

The Maltings, Bridge Street, Thornborough, Buckinghamshire, MK18 2DW T: 01280 813987

A Bit of History

Thornborough Parish Council stepped forward in 2012 to take on Thornborough Community Woodlands and Coombs Quarry from Bucks CC but due to delays in the County Council, a lease was not signed until April 2015. It has been a long journey!

It was always intended that the woodlands would be maintained by an independent charity, entirely separate to the Parish Council but until there was a lease it was impossible to set up an organisation.

This did not stop preparations getting underway. In 2013, the PC set up a Sub Committee to take on planning the running of the Woodlands until a Charity could be established.

Registering as a Charity took much longer than hoped but finally last month we secured our registration. The Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Association model (charity registration number 1163451).

The Sub Committee transitioned into being the inaugural Board for the Charity and also, a team of volunteers, led by Andy Spurr, immediately took on responsibility for maintaining the site. Thanks to their hard work, there has been significant improvement in the paths this summer.

So What's Next?

We have big plans over the next 5 – 10 years. We hope to secure grants to re-develop the depot building into an education facility, add sign-posted paths, undertake a planting / maintenance programme and improve the car park and general accessibility.

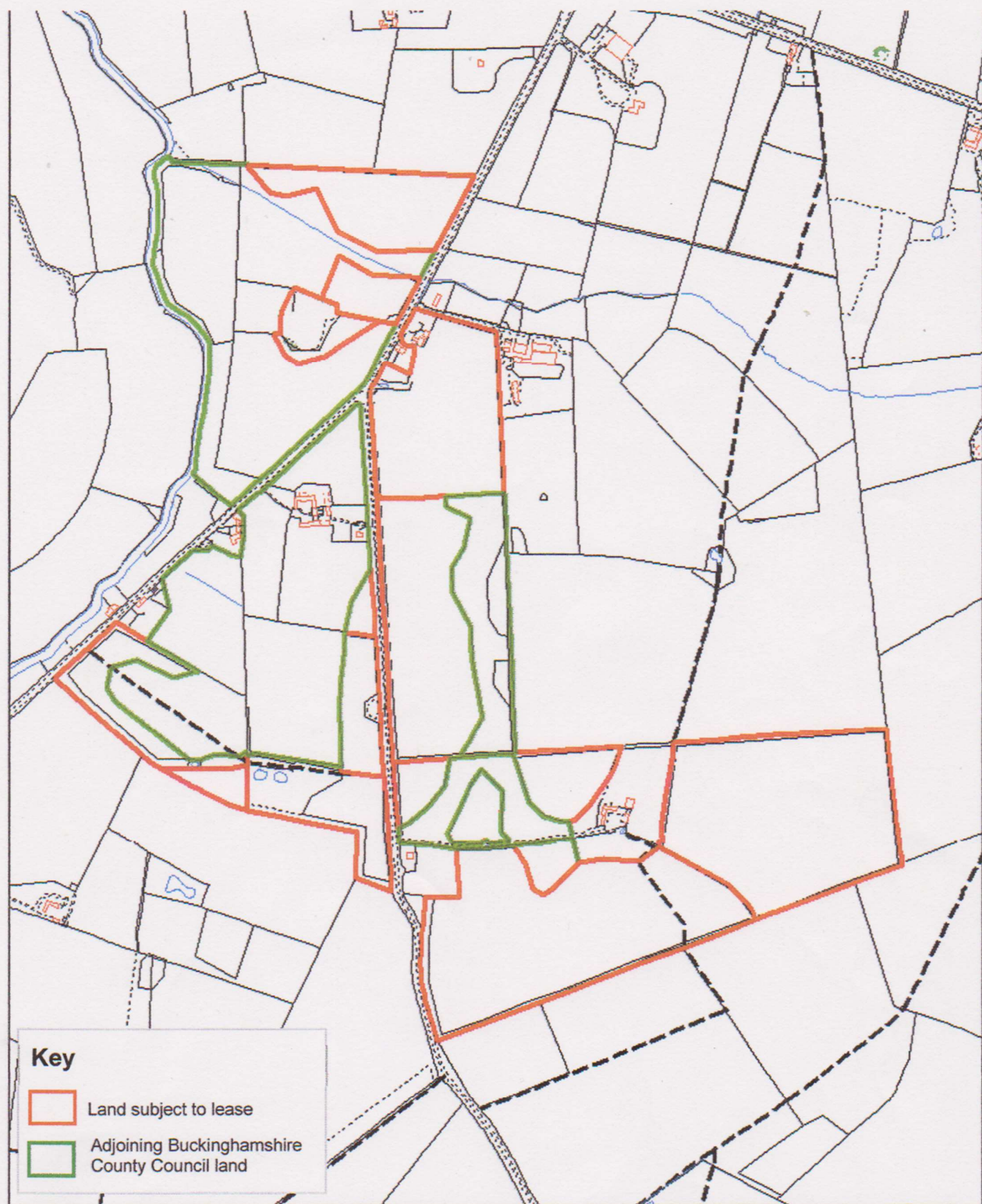
Right now we are trying not to run before we can walk and so, we have focussed on a few short term priorities to get us set up properly:

- We now have a Board with well-rounded experience
- We have a team of volunteers engaged and helping
- We are developing a website, Facebook and Twitter pages to raise our profile
- We have secured investment from the PC to put in bins to improve the site
- We have a good relationship with Bucks Impact, they are helping us to plan for the future

How Can You Get Involved?

We deliberately chose to be a CIO with an Association model so that the community can be actively involved in the running of the Woodlands and Quarry. We plan to undertake a survey to get the community involved in saying what it would like at Coombs and we also intend to set up a friend's scheme.

We have a 168 acres to look after so volunteers are always welcome, any assistance is much appreciated. Please contact us to find out more. We are starting a fundraising committee so that we can start to generate income to spend on making the improvements detailed. Whether your skill is grant applications, holding coffee mornings, corporate sponsorship or rattling a tin, we would love your help. To start the process we are involved with the new Vale Lottery and we are in the process of setting up an online giving page from our website.



Thornborough Community Woodland

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Scale: 1:7,500 at A4

