










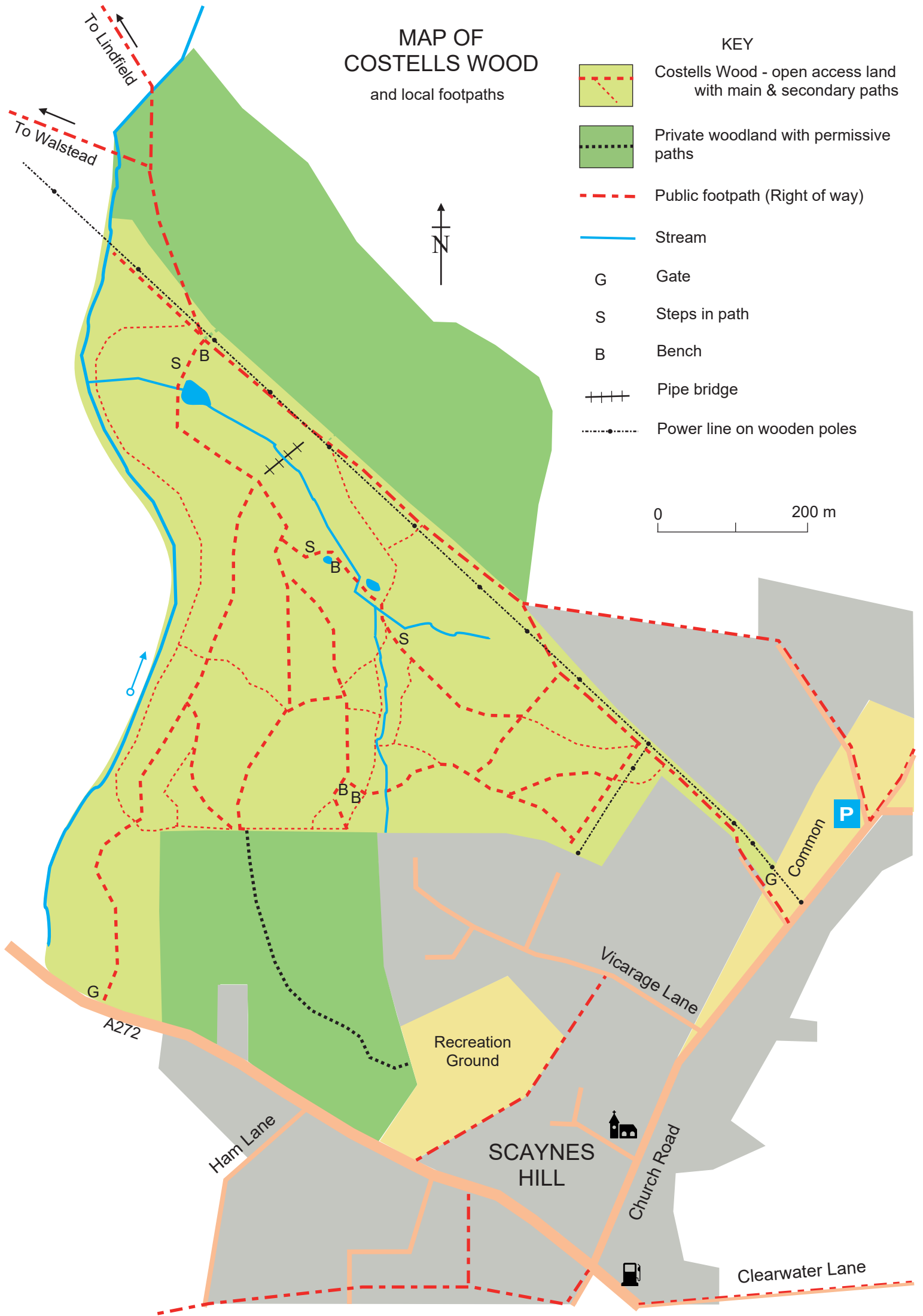
# MAP OF COSTELLS WOOD

and local footpaths

## KEY

-  Costells Wood - open access land with main & secondary paths
-  Private woodland with permissive paths
-  Public footpath (Right of way)
-  Stream
-  Gate
-  Steps in path
-  Bench
-  Pipe bridge
-  Power line on wooden poles

0 200 m

To Lindfield

To Walstead

S

B

S

B

S

B

B

G

A272

Ham Lane

Recreation Ground

SCAYNES HILL

Vicarage Lane

Church Road

Clearwater Lane

Common

P

G



Costells Wood consists of 21 hectares (53 acres) of ancient semi-natural woodland to the north of the village of Scaynes Hill and has been designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI).

The terrain is generally sloping to the north west (away from the village) and is incised by some steep sided valleys (gills) with streams, one through the middle of the wood and another along the western boundary. There are several ponds, one of which has been restored by installation of a small weir on the stream at the northern end of the site.

The woodland consists mainly of native broadleaf trees. Hornbeam, hazel and birch coppice predominate but there are also mature oaks and ash with holly, rowan and the occasional Scots pine. There are pockets of woodland ground flora such as bluebell and wood anemone. The gills, which have a lush feel, include alders and support carpets of mosses and ferns as well as the occasional scarce alder buckthorn. There are also areas of wooded heath with ground flora of heather, bilberry and bracken, which is a scarce habitat in lowland England.

The wood was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1996 and is managed by them as open access land. It forms part of a larger wooded area, the adjoining parts being privately owned but having some permissive paths.

Within the wood there is an extensive network of paths (see map overleaf), which are not surfaced and so become very muddy at times. In the steeper and wetter areas steps and footbridges have been installed to aid access. Regular clearance under the overhead powerline, along the northern boundary of the site, has created a wide grassy ride. This area has a variety of ground and shrub flora which includes common spotted orchids, wood spurge and heather.

There are also a few benches on which to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of the woodland.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### General

The wood is open to all for access but please keep to the paths in order to avoid damaging ground flora and tree roots.

### Access

There are three entrances to the wood from Scaynes Hill. One is from the recreation ground via a permissive path through private woodland, while the other two are off the Common, a squeeze gap next to the main gate and a tarmac footpath next to the parking area. There is also a gate off the A272 to the south and public footpaths from Lindfield and Walstead that enter the wood from the north

### Dogs

Dogs are welcome but please keep your dog in sight and under control. Clear up after your dog. Waste bins are near the Millennium Centre on the Recreation Ground and on the Common. Be respectful to other wood users and if necessary put your dog on a lead. Prevent your dog from entering ponds and disturbing flora and fauna there.

### Parking & toilets

There is a small area of hard-standing parking at the north end of the Common. There are no public toilets on/near the site.

### Further information

For further information about Costells Wood and its management plan visit:-

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/costells-wood/>

For further information about Scaynes Hill visit:-

<https://www.scayneshillvillage.co.uk/index.html>

A brief guide to

# COSTELLS WOOD

Owned and managed by the Woodland Trust



Scaynes Hill  
West Sussex

Prepared by the Scaynes Hill Sustainability Group © 2022

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