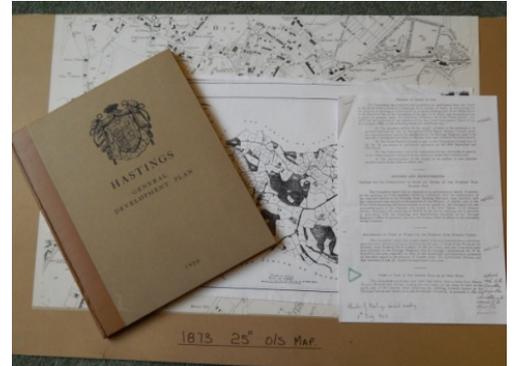




The Future of Speckled Wood in the new Hastings Development Management Plan is to be decided by the Public Inspector November 2014

Speckled Wood is a 12.7acre 5.1h woodland in Ore, Hastings which was given to the Public as a Public Open Space in 1930 as part of the Hastings Corporation Management Plan. This area has been used as a common ground public-space by people in Hastings ever since. The Woodland is host to the same species of plants and fauna as the Country Park which is a SSSI. There is a beautiful stream running through the Woodland.



The Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust is a Trust and HMRC Registered Charity. It is the only local group campaigning to save the entire valley as green space for community enjoyment. The Trust has been working in the woodland having adopting its Management Plan that was presented to Hastings Cabinet November 2012. The trust is working closely with Hastings Voluntary Action, Local Schools, the Scouts, in2Play and The Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust.

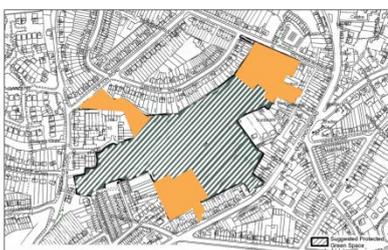
The Trust has taken the Publics objections to the Outline planning Application.

In August over five hundred and twenty objections were placed by the public against this to-date this means the communities have lodged **3560 objections** to building Houses on this Woodland. Please keep objecting.

<http://friendsofspeckledwoodmanagementtrust.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/update-on-consultation.html>



Following on from our very successful campaign to encourage supporters to respond to the last Local Plan Consultation in April 2012 and call for Speckled Wood (the Upper Ore Valley) to be re-designated as protected Green Space, 1231 people took the trouble to send their views to the Hastings Borough Council Planning Department. This matter was taken to the Hastings Cabinet in November 2012 by the Trust. The Council was asked to swap land so that the developers could develop a different site in Hastings. The Council promised to save 70% of the Woodland and talk to the land owners about making the site a Nature Reserve. These objections have swelled through the Outline Planning for Victoria Avenue and the last Consultation of the Development Management Plan



As a result the current Hastings Borough Plan has at least two thirds of Speckled Wood designated for housing development, leaving only the Valley floor and even this is not protected green space. The Public believe this open space has been stolen from them.

The Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust has learned that the area off Clifton Road can only have three houses built on it due to its enforceable covenants. This would seem not viable especially as the local community uses part of this this land as a Village Green.

During 2014 Speckled Wood became a Community Asset.

In August 2014 The Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust met the developer for the Speckled Wood site landowners whilst working in the Woodland. The gentleman was very interested in the Woodland and could not believe how wonderful it was. He said he would talk to the land owners on their return to see if they would be interested in a land swap. It appeared that they had not been contacted in 2012 and the Council had not followed the Cabinet Decision in 2012.

This was a historic point in the 8 year campaign to save the Upper Ore Valley (Speckled Wood) from development achieved mainly by Friends of Speckled Woods recent involvement.

We are very close to saving a vitally important area of urban woodland in Ore for the community.

Look at our proposals on the web site as to how Speckled Wood could be enhanced for community use, while protecting wildlife habitat and the wonderful views down the Valley.

How can you get Involved.

You can help by watching this web site or, better still, by and getting involved

[Joining Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust and Registered Charity](#) – It's FREE. (If you don't use Facebook you can join our Google+ group.)

Whether you can litter pick for half an hour, help us maintain and clear Speckled Wood, or put your name forward for the committee, we'd love to hear from you.

There is much more to do, both to keep the stream and footpaths clear, remove rubbish and undertake conservation work in the Woodland. Conservation and Woodland work training sessions have been organised in the past. Volunteer working parties are organised on selected days please join our group for more details of these activities.

FOSWMT Committee Contact:

Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust

Speckled Wood, 128 Frederick Road, Ore Village, Hastings TN35 5EU

Email: friendsofspeckledwood@gmail.com

<http://www.friendsofspeckledwoodmanagmenttrust.org.uk/>

The Friends of Speckled Wood also operate a group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofspeckledwood/>

Please see our Constitution document for more information.

Speckled Wood

Area: 5.14Hectares

Grid Reference: TQ834112

Speckled Wood

<http://www.speckledwood.org.uk>

Speckled Woods own website on FB is here: <https://www.facebook.com/SpeckledWood>