

# How to limit damage to historical features in woodland

A blue logging truck with a crane arm is shown in a woodland setting. The truck is loaded with a large stack of cut logs. The crane arm is positioned over the logs, and a single log is being lifted. The ground is covered with green grass and numerous bluebell flowers. Several cut logs are scattered on the ground in the foreground. The background consists of a dense forest of tall, thin trees.

Includes handy  
map pocket

# 1

## Introduction

The ground in woods often hasn't been disturbed for hundreds of years. Banks and hollows exist which were once an important part of the way the land was worked, even before it was woodland. They are now ancient and rare.

These cards are intended to help you avoid damaging these historic features in woodland.

Ideally, the landowner or site manager will have asked someone to check the wood for historic features and you will be provided with a map.

- If you can go around a feature, do so.
- If going over it is unavoidable, you can prevent damage by spreading brash over it.
- Move slowly and you will do less damage.

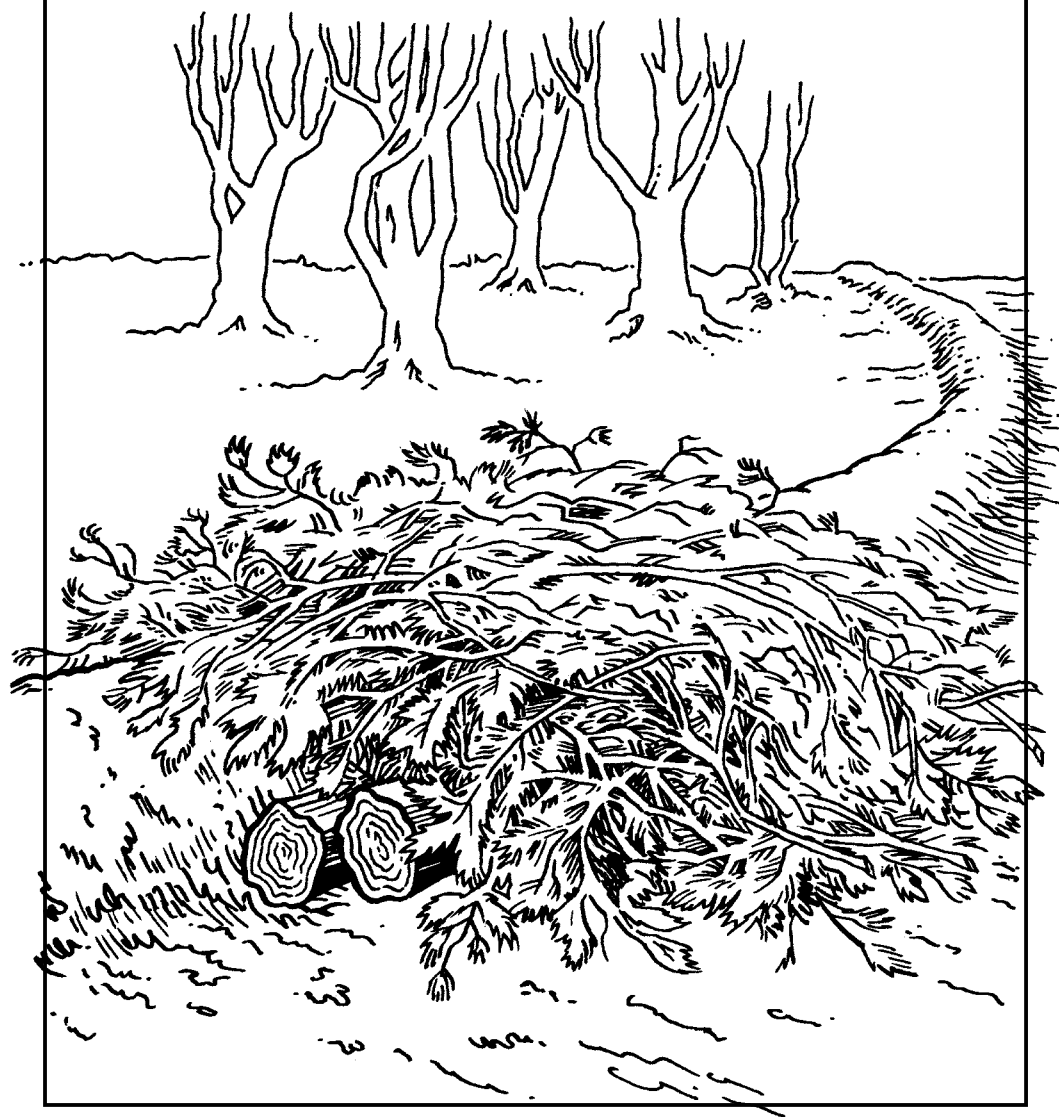
If you need advice or help about your working area, email your phone number to **info@sewaf.org.uk** They will contact you as soon as they can.

# 2

## Banks

If possible look for a gap in the bank and cross it there.

If you have to go over it, use brash and logs to make a ramp. Always cross there and remember to slow down.



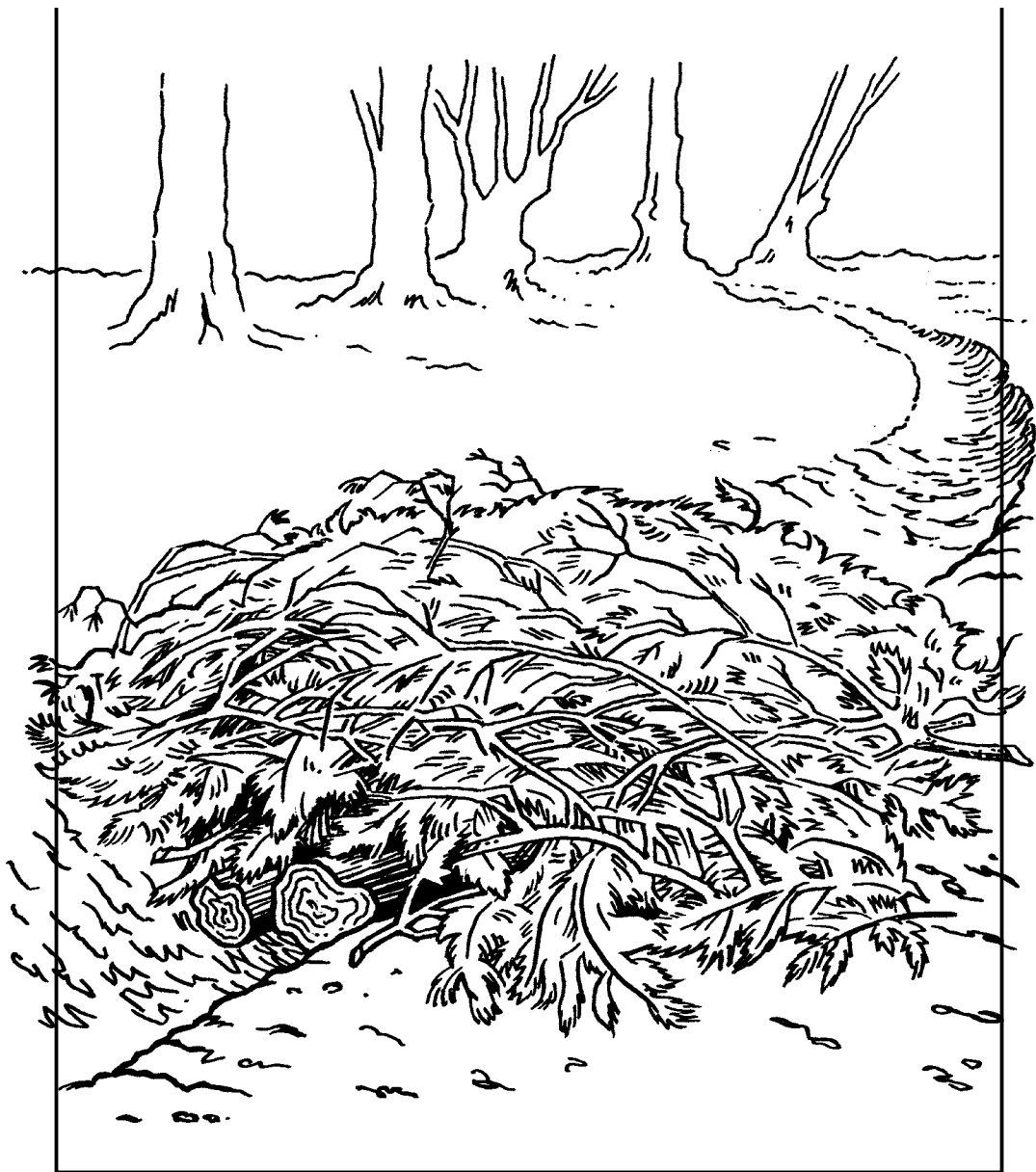
# 3

## Ditches and old tracks

Try not to cross ditches. If possible look for an existing crossing to use.

If you have to cross, reinforce the sides by filling the ditch with brash or logs to avoid damaging the edges. Some ditches and old tracks are very shallow but it is still better to overfill them than to ignore them.

Always cross there and remember to slow down.



# 4

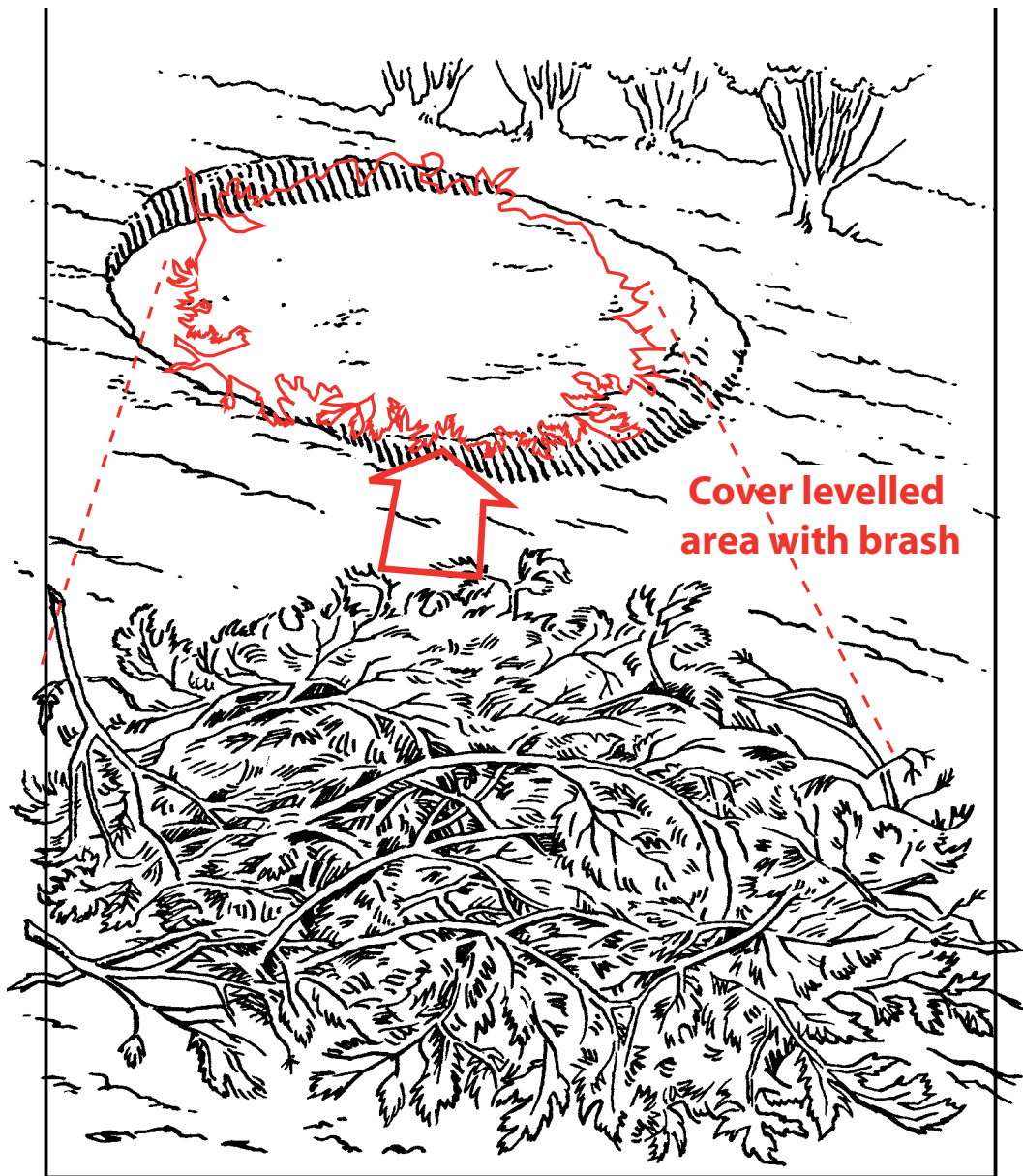
## Levelled areas

Most levelled areas have been dug by hand so the downhill half is not very compacted. Going over it will cause damage.

If you see it, go around it.

If you have to cross it, keep to the uphill half, and cover the whole area with brash.





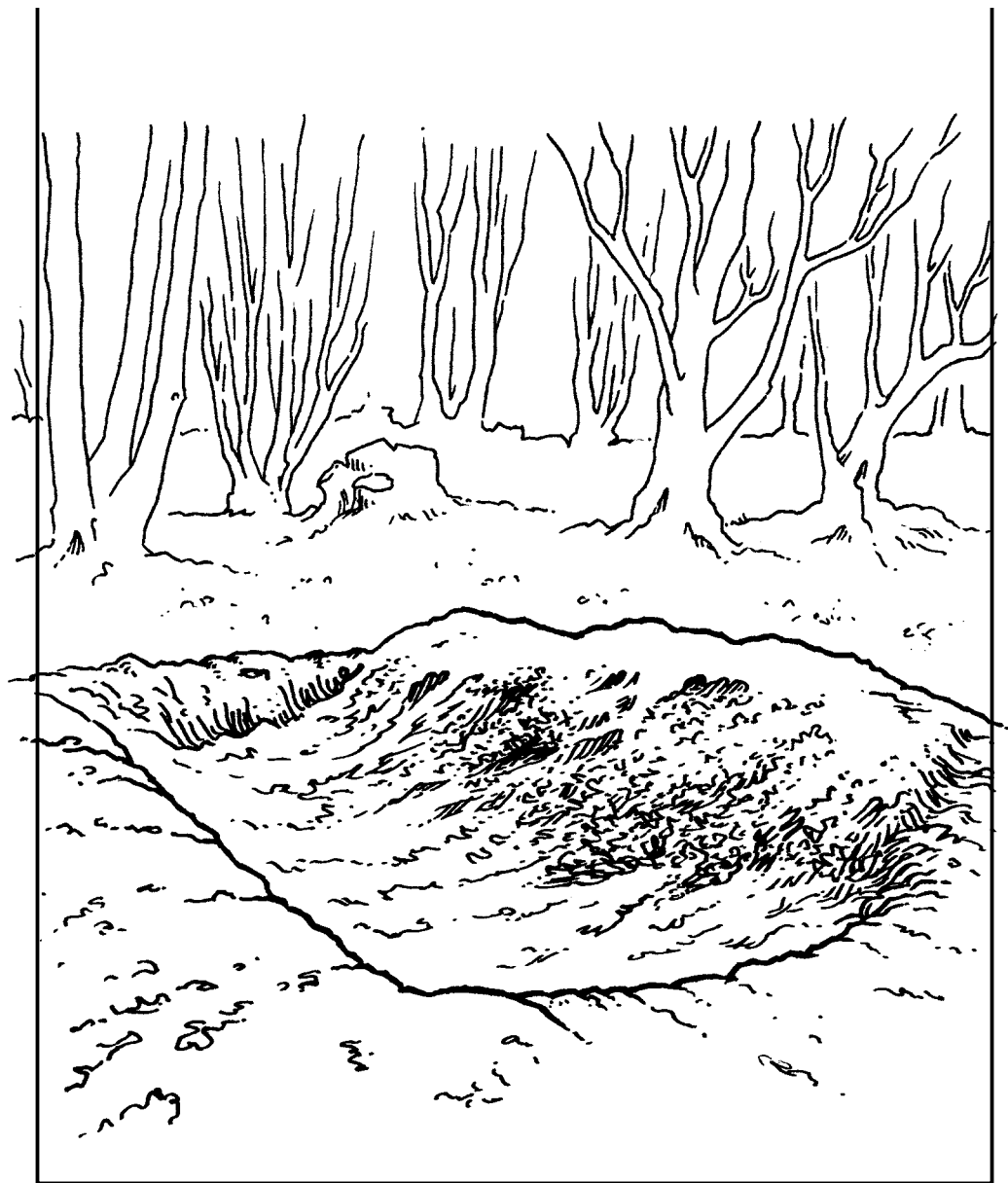
# 5

## Small hollows

Hollows are generally unstable and should be avoided.

Isolated hollows could be a collapsed well, unfilled sawpit, military trench or World War 2 bomb crater.

A cluster of hollows could be minepits where iron ore was extracted several hundred years ago.

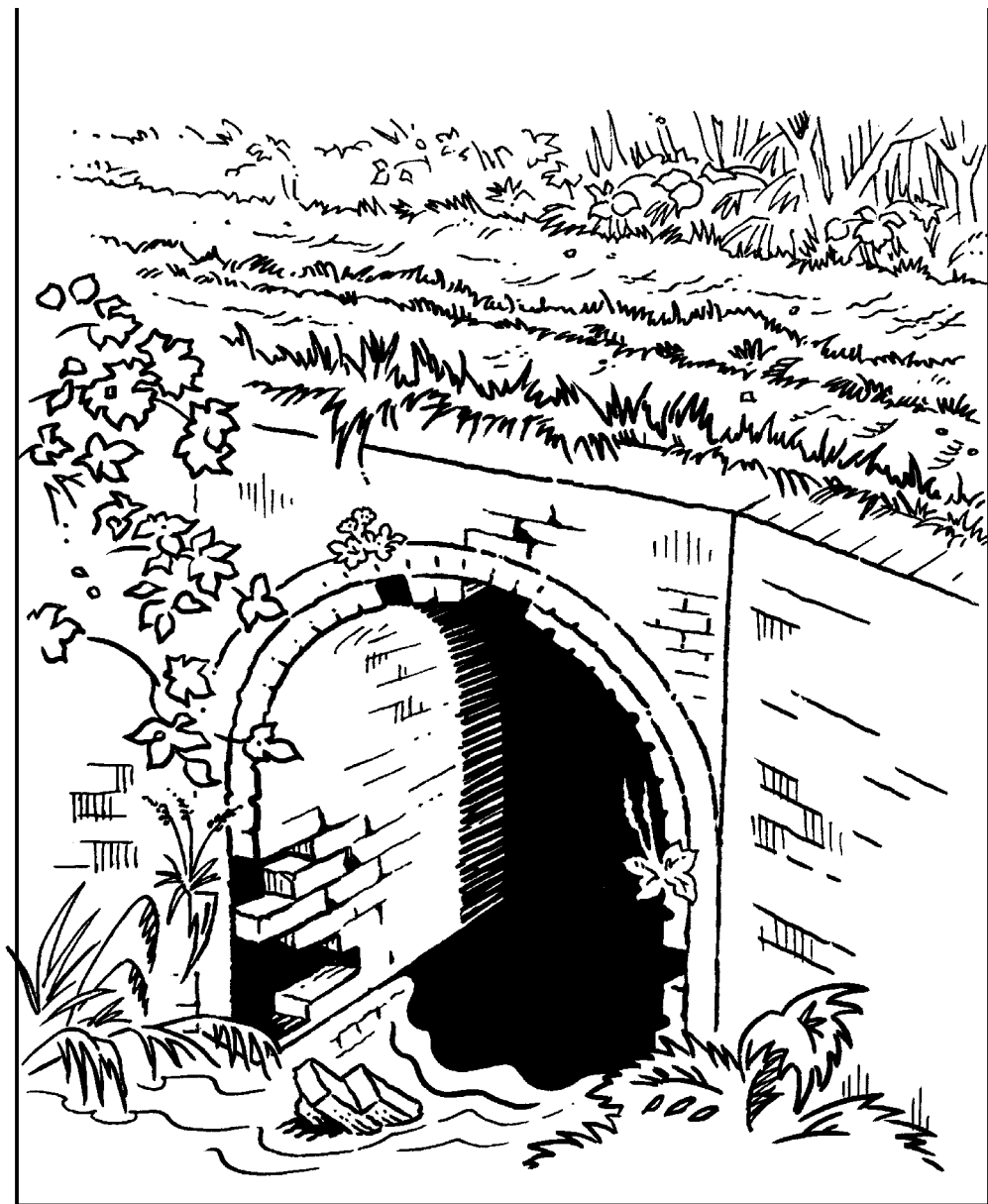


# 6

## Culverts

If you are crossing a stream via a culvert, check the structure of the culvert will take the weight of your machine.

If you are unsure about possible damage, do not cross via the culvert.





Woodbank and field edge,  
separated by a track and  
now overgrown.





Sawpit, with spoil dump  
on the downslope side.



Hollows and spoil where iron ore was extracted.





Military trenches vary from short 'slit' trenches to long straight, or zigzag, hollows.



Levelled areas may be charcoal burner's platforms, from 5 to 12m across, often with blackened soil.



These cab cards were designed to help heavy machine operators working in woodland on the High Weald of Kent and Sussex. They were produced as part of the Historic Environment Awareness Project, a partner project within the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme.

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([www.sewaf.org.uk](http://www.sewaf.org.uk))

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