

## Landowner permission request letter

DATE:

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to ask for your permission to gain access to your land in order to carry out a survey.

Wood pasture is an important habitat, positively teeming with life and vital to preserve. The splendid trees they often contain are some of the oldest living things in our country, providing a direct link with bygone landscapes and homes to many rare and threatened species.

Historically, wood pasture hasn't been regarded as a distinct habitat, often mistaken for degraded woodland, leaving it overlooked and understudied. Despite its wildlife value, we know little about how much wood pasture is left or what condition it's in.

A provisional inventory of wood pasture and parkland exists, created by Natural England using mainly historical maps and aerial photography. The inventory could become an excellent resource for conservation but currently remains provisional as none of the sites have been visited or verified. We don't know how many of these wood pasture sites remain intact or what condition are they in. We would like your help to find out.

**We would be very grateful if you could help support our survey by granting access to your land.**

We've devised a simple survey technique to assess the condition of wood pastures, which we are asking landowners and volunteers alike to take part in. The survey is not intrusive and does not require samples to be taken; it is a simple structured walk in which various features are counted, estimated or noted.

The inventory indicates that your land might contain ancient wood pasture or parkland, or remaining fragments of it. **Please contact the volunteer named below to let them know you are happy for them to access this land.**

We have over a decade of experience using a very similar process to the one proposed here. We produced a habitat inventory of approximately 43,000 traditional orchards and recruited volunteers to ground truth and assess 20% of these sites. The success of our traditional orchard project demonstrates the practical conservation value of carrying out large scale landscape surveys using volunteer effort.

If you would rather carry out this survey yourself, that is absolutely fine. The survey is very simple to conduct, and has detailed instructions. Please go to [www.ptes.org/wpp](http://www.ptes.org/wpp) to request a survey pack.

If you have any further queries about the survey, please contact me on the telephone number or email address below.

Yours faithfully,

Megan Gimber

Key Habitats Project Officer    [megan.gimber@ptes.org](mailto:megan.gimber@ptes.org)    Tel: 020 7062 8625

**Volunteer name:**

**Volunteer contact details:**