

2.0 Location Map



3.0 General Description

Topic	Description	Implications for Management	Proposals
3.1 Woodland Summary	<p>Ethy is a mixture of productive conifer plantation and mature / regenerating broadleaves. It is classified as an ancient woodland site and scattered small groups and individual examples of the older remnant native broadleaves are still evident. The Ancient woodland survey show predominantly W10 – pendunculate oak, braken, bramble with smaller areas of W14 – beech bramble and W16 oak, birch and wavy hair grass.</p>	<p>The present and future commercial value of the conifer crops is significant in this relatively small and isolated woodland, but is impacted upon by the access (see below).</p> <p>Ongoing management of the broadleaves will develop and enhance woodland structure and promote its expansion.</p>	<p>Apply a mixed model approach including some clearfell areas spread over a wide time period, but manage the majority of the woodland under a lower impact system.</p> <p>Increase the potential for natural regeneration throughout.</p>
3.2 Location & Access	<p>Ethy Wood is located roughly 4 kilometres South East of Lostwithiel. It lies between the River Fowey and the River Lerryn.</p> <p>It is within St Winnow Parish council area and very close to St Veep Parish council boundary.</p> <p>Vehicular Access to the FC landholding is from a network of B roads through an agricultural holding which then leads to an unmetalled road belonging to the National Trust.</p> <p>The 51.1 Hectares of land is predominantly wooded and has good internal access routes.</p>	<p>The woodland is well used for walking by local people and visitors to this popular tourist area and there is a well signed Public Right of Way.</p> <p>The approach road is in fairly poor condition and large vehicle movements are likely to impact on the surface. Consideration needs to be given to other users of the road.</p>	<p>The scale and timing of intervention needs to take account of the potential damage to the road and safety of users, whilst remaining economically viable.</p> <p>Consultation with neighbours and the Council Highways department at operational planning stage is essential.</p> <p>Smaller timber wagons may need to be used.</p>
3.3 Tenure & management agreements	<p>Ethy is registered as freehold woodland with the Land Registry.</p>	<p>As freehold woodland the Forestry Commission has dedicated the area as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW 2000).</p>	<p>Restrictions on public access are only likely when forest operations require working areas to be closed to the public for reasons of safety.</p>

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<p>3.4 Physical Environment</p>	<p>Elevation of the plan area ranges from 0 – 60m above datum.</p> <p>Aspect of the woods is mainly southerly. The river Fowey and Lerryn boundary two sides of the woods.</p> <p>Rainfall ranges from 444mm in the Summer to 724mm in the winter.</p> <p>The underlying geology is Cornish Killas and Granites, Middle & upper Devonian. Soil type is Brown Earth. The Soil Moisture Regime is fresh and the Soil Nutrient Regime is medium.</p> <p>Slopes range from level to 33% with a few areas on the river banks above 33%.</p> <p>Aspect ranges from Easterly to South Westerly.</p>	<p>Of the main species present on site the Forestry Commission Ecological Site Classification (ESC) tool currently rates them as Suitable or very suitable. The only exception to this is Noble fir which is rated marginal due to moisture deficit.</p> <p>Using the same tool the 2050 Hi model which predicts impact of climate change rates the main species as follows:</p> <p>Suitable / Very Suitable – Radiata Pine, Japanese Larch, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Beech, Pedunculate Oak, Wild Cherry and Sweet Chestnut.</p> <p>Marginal / Unsuitable – Ash, Norway spruce, Douglas fir, Noble fir. The main limiting factor for Norway spruce and Douglas fir is stability and for Noble fir and Ash it is moisture deficit.</p>	<p>Due to its status as an ancient woodland site, conifers will not be planted on the site in future. Management will aim to expand the area of native broadleaved woodland where possible by means of natural regeneration.</p>
<p>3.5 Landscape Setting and Designations 3.5 Landscape Setting and Designations (cont'd)</p>	<p>Countryside Agency Landscape Character Area (LCA) CA21 Fowey Valley.</p>	<p>Relevant extracts from the LCA: The Lerryn creek flows to the Fowey Ria (drowned Valleys). The banks of the Ria and creeks are very steep in places enclosed by large expanses of Oak woodland, some of it ancient. Woodland around water is the dominant characteristic of the lower section of this Character Area. Many Ancient woodland sites have been planted with conifers, maintaining continuous woodland but with 'ancient' sites fragmented and declining, diluting the local historic landscape pattern. One of the pressures affecting the condition is further change from broadleaved woodland to conifer plantation. Guidelines for planning and management quote 'Encourage woodland regeneration both along the banks of the Ria and in the inland valleys' and 'Conserve existing areas of Ancient Woodland</p>	<p>Forestry Commission Policy for managing ancient woodland sites is in line with LCA and Cornwall AONB recommendations for such sites.</p> <p>The woodland will be managed to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits in such a way that the quality of the local landscape will be maintained or enhanced.</p>

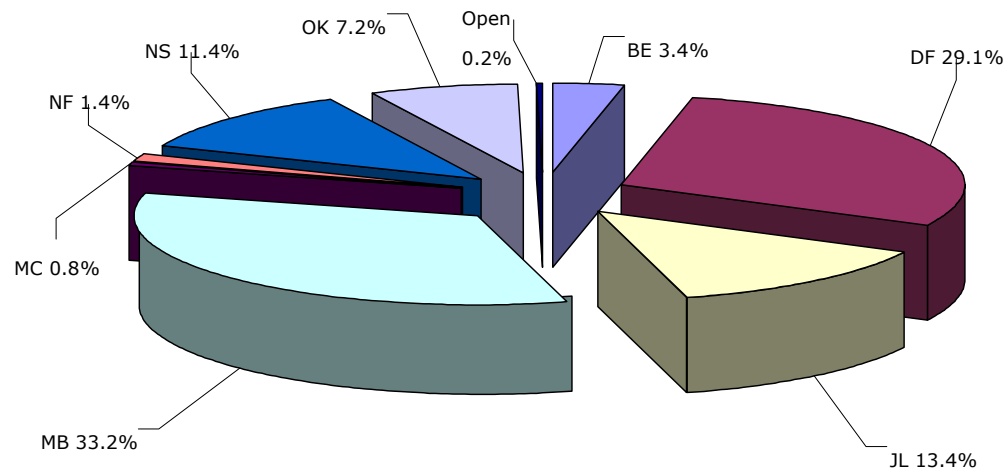
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	Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	<p>and encourage reversion of plantations to broadleaved woodland when felled’.</p> <p>The Cornwall AONB Management plan endorses the following actions which are relevant to this design plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exemplify diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats, - The landscape is accessible - Habitats are actively managed 	

4.0 Management Objectives

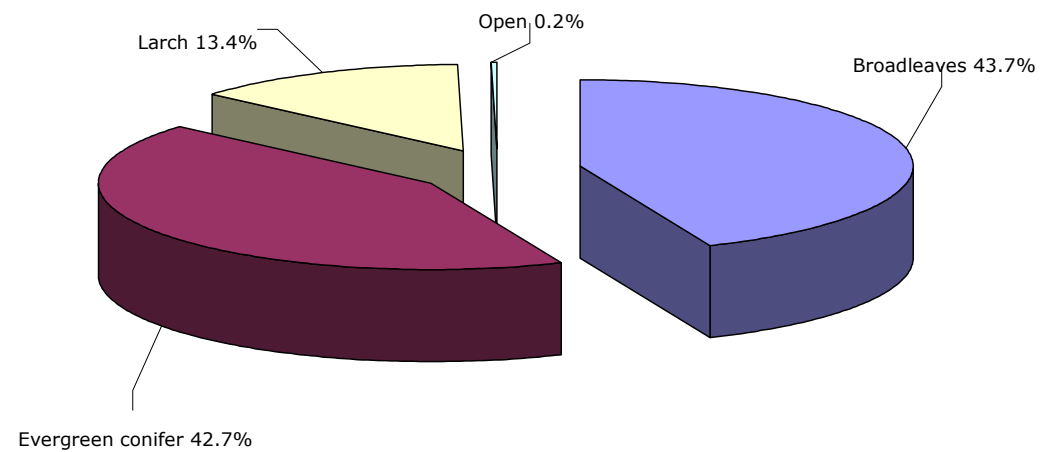
- Continue sustainable management of the woodland resource to the standards required to maintain FSC & PEFC accreditation.
- Promote the development of native woodland species to replace existing areas of conifers ideally by means of natural regeneration.
- Develop the woodlands resilience to changes in climate & the impact of tree diseases through diversification of of species and woodland structure.
- Maintain the wooded landscape and ensure quality of coupe design enhances the external landscape. Continue to develop a greater diversity in age structure within the woodland and develop areas of permanent open space.
- Protect and conserve all heritage & cultural features.
- Maintain the high quality of the landscape and promote opportunities for it’s enjoyment from the woodland.
- Maintain low key informal recreation provision in the woodland.

5.0 Silvicultural Management and Implementation

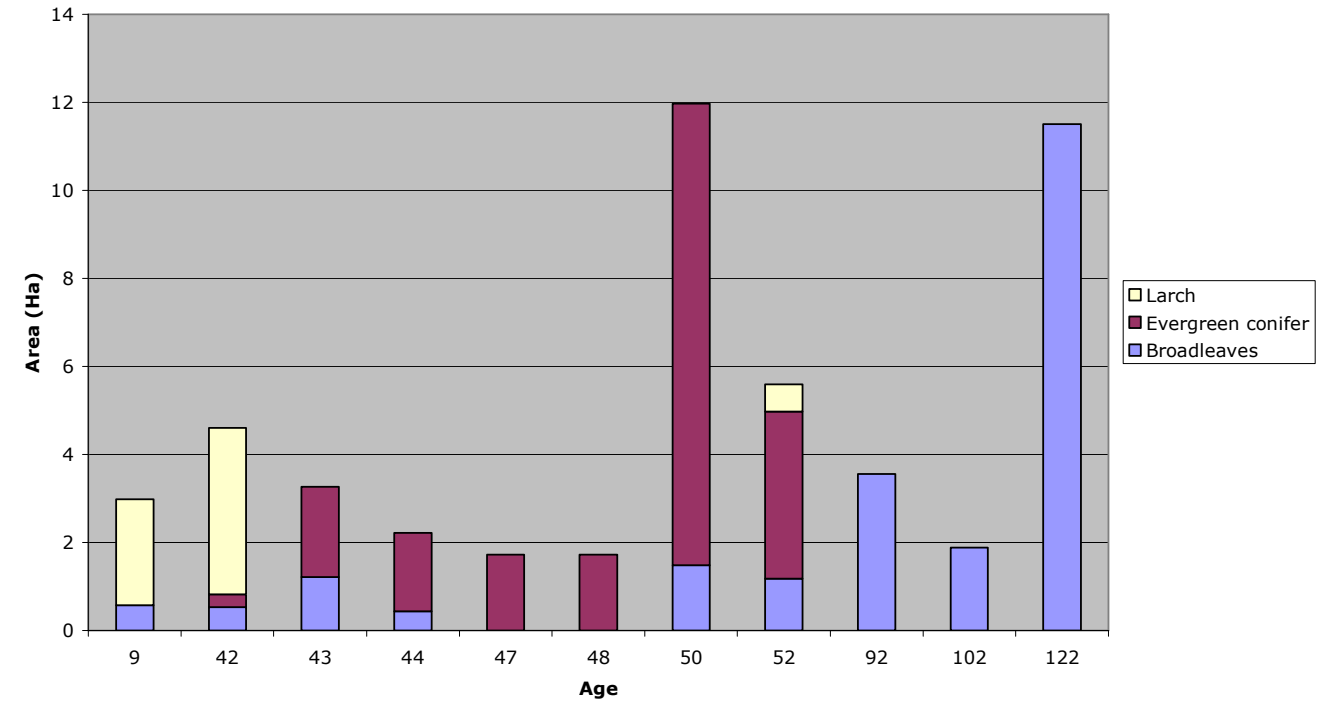
Current Species Composition in Ethy



Current Species Groups in Ethy



Ethy - Age class distribution 2013



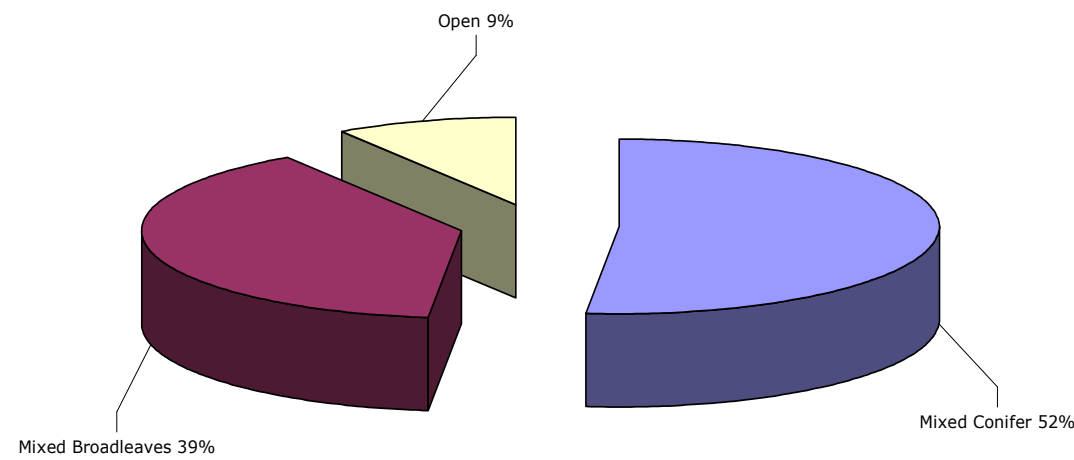
Species and Habitat Composition

This design plan starts to deliver a move from conifer plantation towards a greater proportion of Broadleaved species. There is advanced regeneration of various broadleaved species, shown as MB in the illustrations on this page. The amount of permanent open space will be increased during the life of this plan.

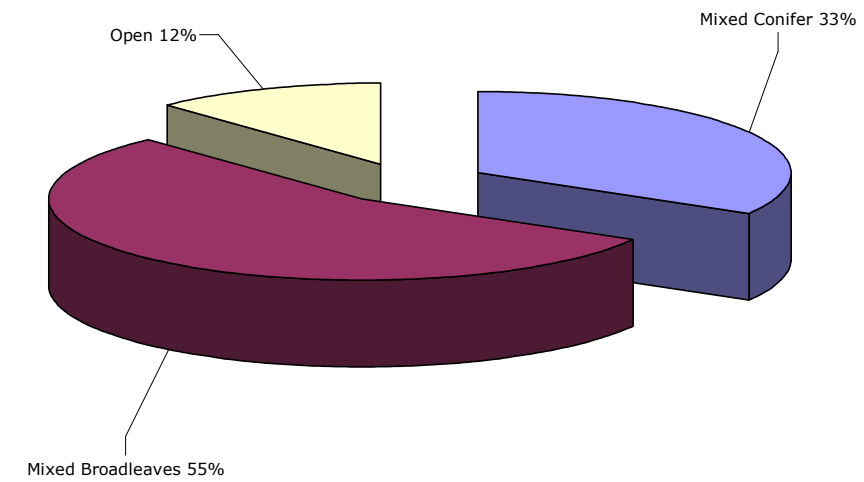
Age structure

The plan aims to increase the diversity of the age structure and begin the process of achieving a greater degree of naturalness.

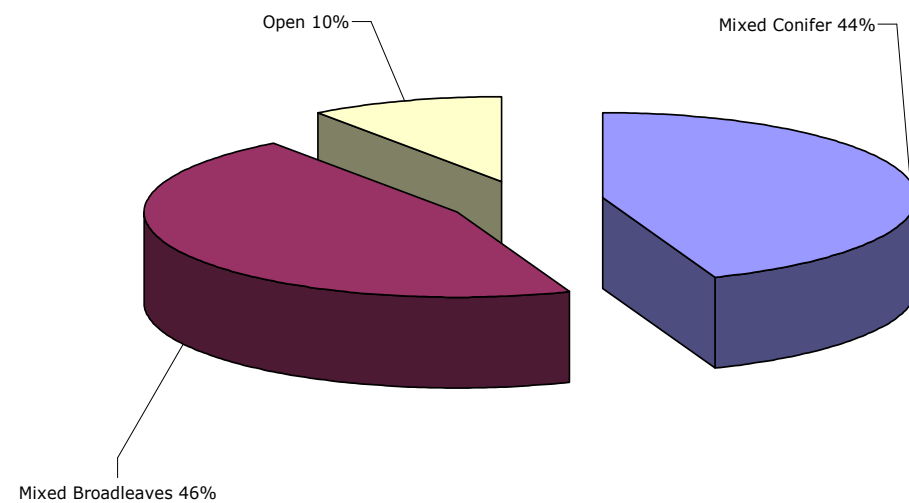
Projection of Future Species Groups in 2017



Projection of Future Species Groups 2080



Projection of Future Species Groups in 2038



Future Species Model

Because the main silvicultural system in this woodland block is one of continuous cover relying on natural regeneration, the timing of establishment and composition of species is difficult to predict. The charts on this page seek to illustrate how the woodland is expected to develop over time given the management interventions (woodland thinning and felling) described in this plan.

Because Ethy is classified as PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site) a mixed model approach for management here is designed to see how the woodland responds in terms of colonisation with native broadleaved species. The preferred method of regeneration is to allow it to occur naturally. Two factors which will have an influence on regeneration is lack of seed source and competition from vegetation. There are other issues such as predation by mammals but the rationales deal only with silvicultural management.

Rationale for Clearfell coupes

The areas selected for clearfell are those least likely develop a greater degree of naturalness through thinning. Each coupe has different attributes which either enhance or reduce the possibility of regeneration. The coupes selected for felling in this plan period (i.e. felling phase 2017 – 2021) have varying levels of advanced regeneration and availability of suitable seed sources either within or adjacent to them. How these areas respond in terms of regeneration may influence how we manage the remainder of the clearfell areas proposed in this plan.

Rationale for Lower Impact Systems

Similarly there is a range of sites chosen for this system. However, in general there is a greater proportion of advanced regeneration and, or mature / semi mature native broadleaves present, either individually or in groups. The Establishment date in the attribute data for the continuous cover coupes (Group and individual selection) is an estimate of when the area is likely to develop a complex structure – i.e. more than 2 storeys. As with the clearfell system there is no certainty that the woodland will respond in this way, within this period of time.

Implementation

In order to provide the best opportunity for the woodland to regenerate naturally it would be appropriate to apply some common practice when carrying out thinning interventions. In short this would entail:

- Removing competition from potential seed sources and / or any advanced regeneration.
- Managing the remaining canopy to control the growth of weed species.