

Fineshade Forest Plan 2020-2029



Summary



Certificate of Approval for Tree Felling

*This is to certify that tree felling under
Forest Design Plan ref. Central/09(20)
Fineshade Woods
has been approved by the Forestry Commission as
being in accordance with Government policy for
the sound management of a renewable resource.*

*This certificate is valid only for the
period of the felling approval.*

Signed 

Forestry Commission Officer

Date 10/03/2020

The Fineshade Forest Plan (FP) summarises proposals by Forestry England for the management of Fineshade Woods (499ha), Wakerley Woods (261ha) and Southwick Woods (390ha). The FP lies within Rockingham Forest landscape character area (LCA) which comprises of a patchwork of woodlands and large to medium sized fields commonly bound by well managed hedgerows. Fineshade and Wakerley Woods are a mixture of freehold and leasehold woodlands, provide open public access and are popular with visitors. Fineshade has a visitor center, café, car park and waymarked trails. Wakerley Wood has a small car park and informal trails. Southwick Wood and the leasehold areas within Fineshade and Wakerley Wood are managed by Forestry England's for forestry purposes only and public access is restricted to designated rights of way only.

Each of the three woodlands comprises of a mixture of broadleaved and coniferous woodland with extensive areas of semi-mature stands and high value timber crops. 50% of the FP area is secondary woodland (new woodlands), 15% ancient woodlands (continuously wooded since 1600) and 35% plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS). Ecologically the woodland are very diverse, partially due to the wide network of rides and open space. Forestry England is working in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation and the Wildlife Trust for Northampton, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire to manage the woodland edge habitats, where and a wide variety of Lepidoptera and birds species have been recorded across the FP area.

Principle management objectives for the FP will be to; diversify the species and age structure to mitigate against the impacts of climate change, pests and disease; grow sustainable commercial crops; gradual reversion of PAWS back to mixed woodlands dominated by broadleaves; facilitate public access on freehold land; conserve the landscape and conservation value of the woodlands and manage the natural resources to maintain soil and water quality.

Central Forest District - Fineshade Forest Plan
Maps

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Forest Plan written, designed and produced by

Alastair Semple – Planning Forester
 Lady Hill
 Birches Valley
 Rugeley
 Staffs
 WS15 2UQ
 Forestry England

Alastair.Semple@forestryengland.uk

1. What are Forest Plans?

Forest Plans are produced by us, Forestry England as a means of communicating our management intentions to a range of stakeholders. They aim to fulfil a number of objectives:

- To provide descriptions of our woodlands to show what they are like now.
- To explain the process we go through in deciding what is best for the woodlands' long-term future.
- To show what we intend the woodlands to look like in the future.
- To detail our management proposals, for the first ten years so we can seek approval from the statutory regulators.

This plan does not set out the detailed yearly management operations for each small piece of a wood, known as a coupe*. It is not possible to say which year a particular operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it should happen.

All tree felling in the UK is regulated and a licence is required before trees can be felled. The scale of tree felling in Central England Forest District (which this plan forms part of) is such that the Forest Plan is the best mechanism for applying for this licence. Responsibility for checking that the plan meets all the relevant standards and statutes lies with the Forestry Commission (FC). If all the criteria are met, full approval is given for the management operations in the first ten years (2019 - 2028) and outline approval for the medium-term vision (2028 - 2067). The plan will be reviewed after the first five years (2023) to assess if the objectives are being achieved.

We use some technical words and phrases in the text because they best describe what we are doing. There is a glossary at the back of the plan (Appendix II) with some commonly used technical forestry terms and abbreviations. These technical words are identified throughout the plan with an asterisk*.

A Application for Forest Plan Approval

i Plan Area Identification:

Forest District:	Central Forest District	
Beat:	North Northants	
Name:	Fineshade Forest Plan	
Nearest Town:	Corby	
OS Grid Reference:	Fineshade	SP 9866 9852
	Wakerley	SP 9586 9783
	Southwick	TL 0065 9286
Local Planning Authority	Northamptonshire County Council	

ii Designations:

*Secondary Woodland**, *Ancient Woodland**, *Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)**, *Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** and lies in the *Rockingham Forest—National Character Area Profiles No.92**.

iii Date of Commencement of Plan

As soon as possible once approved.

Area (ha)	Conifers	Broadleaves
Felling	20.7	77.7
Restocking *	19.3	78.6
Open Space		0.5

NB - All above figure's refer to the gross area and excludes thinning operations that take place on a 5 year cycle in conifers and 10 year cycle in broadleaves.

Total clear fell area 98.4 ha
Forest Plan maps are attached

In addition to the above felling 740ha will be managed using Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS). This will be done through the removal of single and small groups of trees, removing no more than 40% of the stems within any single management unit/compartment over the plan period. This operation will include, provide sufficient light to boost growth of understorey and ground flora, allow adequate space for the development of crowns and stem form for quality timber and accelerate individual tree growth.

I apply for Forest Plan approval for the area described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.

I undertake to obtain any permission necessary for the implementation of the approved plan.

Signed Andrews Lawers Approved [Signature]

FDM

District Central England Conservancy E & E M

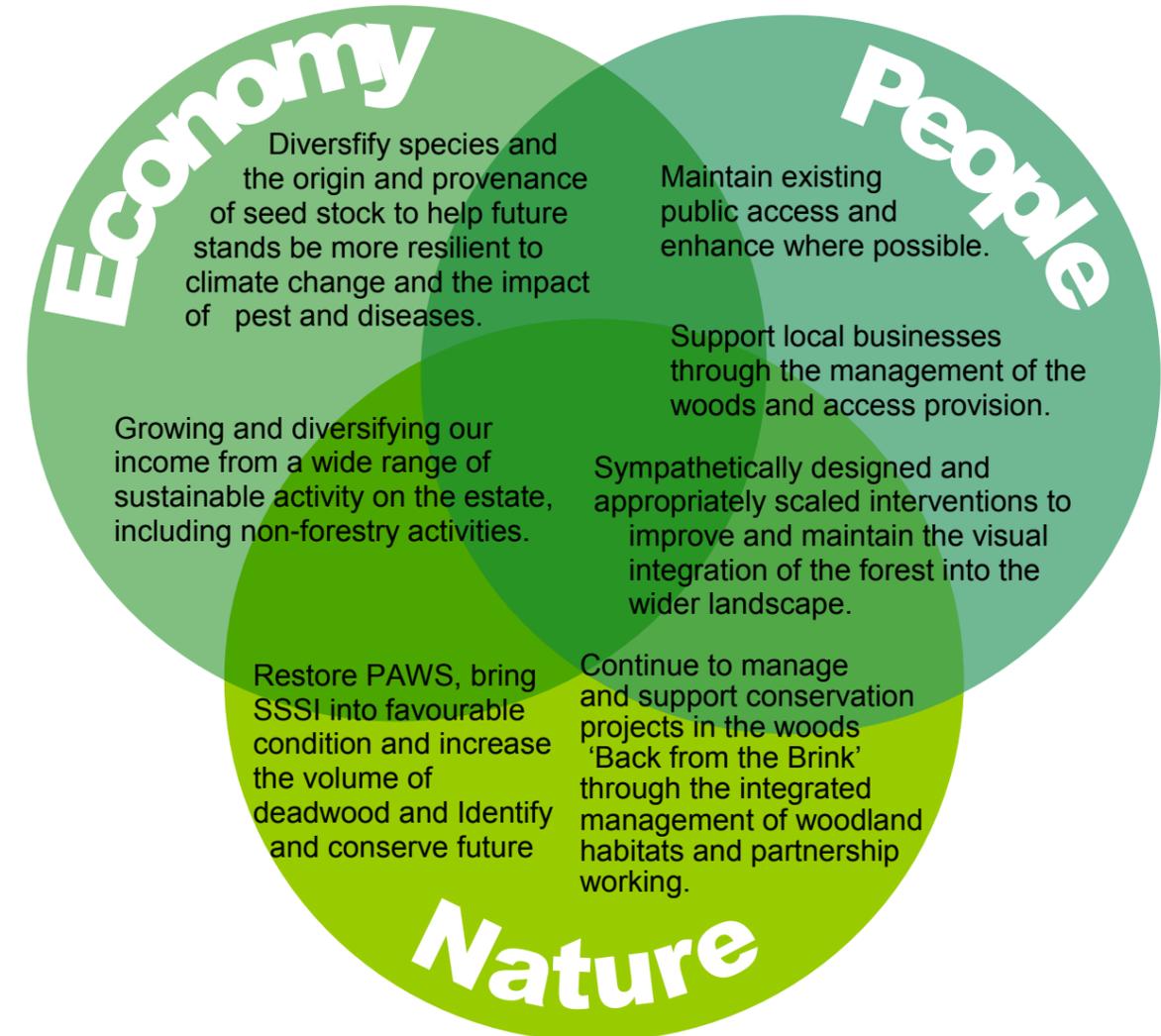
Date 26.11.19 Date 28/2/2020

All of our forests and woodlands in this Forest District are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ (PEFC™). All Forestry England's forests and woods are independently certified as sustainably managed, to continue to benefit future generations.



2. Management Objectives

Protecting and Expanding England's Forests and Woodlands and Increasing their Value to Society and the Environment

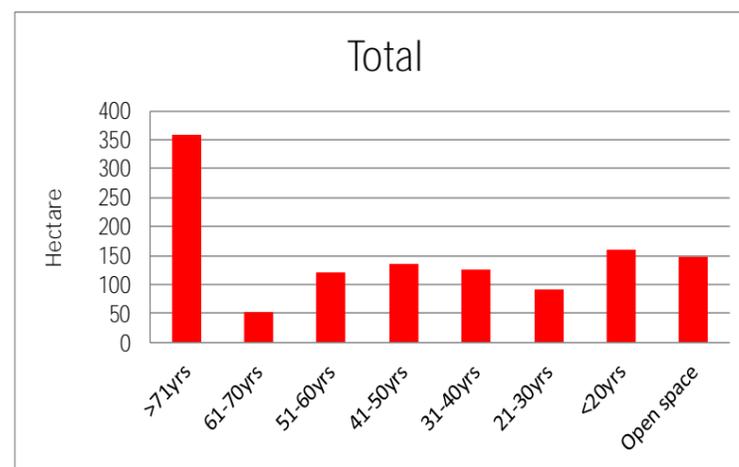


NB—Management objectives arise from the Terms of Reference (Appendix I) written at the outset of each plan by the senior district management staff, beat team and planner.

2.1 Economic

The woodlands today comprise of a wide variety of species with a wide variety of age classes with 30% over 70 years old and the rest evenly distributed, figure 1. Within the 3 woodlands there are approximately 1,069,225 trees with a standing volume of 182,477 m³. The average annual yield of 8.2m³/ha, which is quite low due to the large percentage of broadleaves as opposed to conifers.

Fig1 Current age structure



Wakerley and Southwick both contain some magnificent stands of oak planted on both PAWS and secondary woodland sites. These stands cover 130ha and are uniform in structure, fully stocked with closed canopy. The management objectives for these stands will be to begin group felling removing 10ha in coupes of ≤2ha in size on a 10 year cycle. This will help diversify the current stand structure, increase available habitats for wildlife and produce sustainable yields. The long term objective will be to produce quality logs on a 140-160 year rotation.

Chalara ash die back is a serious disease that is killing ash across Europe, and the ash in each of the woodlands are now showing signs of infection. This will have a dramatic effect on the young ash, which will die out quite quickly, while the demise of the mature ash will be more gradual. This will have a significant financial impact with the loss of so many trees, and the medium term loss of predicted yields from the ash.

However, when more than 50% of mature trees are infected the economic value and condition of the trees will decline rapidly. Public safety is likely to be one of the biggest management issues, with most of the promoted trails leaving Fineshade car park being dominated by ash and increasing the need for early removal to reduce the risk of falling dead trees and branches.

120ha of the Fineshade was felled in the mid 1990's, and this was left to naturally regenerate, now creating dense stands dominated by goat willow, birch and ash. These dense uniform stands are even aged and their economic and ecological value is limited currently. The management proposals will be to introduce some small-scale clearfells followed by phased group felling to restructure these stands and the cut material sold for biomass. This phased cutting programme will create a sustainable harvesting programme with a patchwork of transitional open spaces being created as areas are cut on a 30 year rotation increasing the areas ecological value for wildlife. Some of the areas cleared will be restocked or nest planted* to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives with the long term aim of open high forest developing with a young understory. The use of new planting stock will allow for the introduction of new species that will be more resilient to environmental changes and threats.

The current and future management objectives will be to produce quality broadleaved and conifer saw logs using a variety of silvicultural systems that produce sustainable yields, and are in keeping with the economic, environmental and social management objectives set out in the forest plan.

2.2 Environmental

The Fineshade FP has a diverse mixture of species associated with it making them an extremely valuable resource in the natural environment. Over 2300 species have been recorded, far more than many major nature reserves, and thought to be the highest total of any FE woodland. The lists include 4 European Protected Species (EPS), 98 bird species, 827 moths, 36 butterflies



Pic 1 Adder



Pic 2 Chequered Skipper
Picture– Dave James

and 451 vascular plants including 8 species of elm. 50% of the woodland forms part of what was once known as Rockingham Forest which dates back to the 11th century. 70% of this was cleared during the World Wars and replanted with conifers. Forestry England management objectives include restoring these sites back to mixed woodland dominated by



Pic 3 Gate Keeper

broadleaves. Forestry England is working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation in the 'Back from the Brink' project. The project will help manage woodland and secondary woodland, creating the appropriate habitats needed to support some of England's most threatened species. This work has included vegetation management to help with the reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper and future projects include Forestry England creating new transitional open spaces to help the local Adder population.

The impact of climate change, pest and disease is now having a measurable effect on the trees and associated flora and fauna. Sudden oak death has now been identified in all three woodlands and Chalara ash die back and Dethistroma Needle blight are also affecting the ash and Corsican pine across all three woodlands. The effect of Chalara on the ash will provide an increase in deadwood habitat in the short-term and some of this will be retained where it safe to do so. Deadwood habitat and Trees of Special Interest (TSI) are currently sparse, and one key management objective is to



Pic 4 Ancient Ash

identify and conserve future TSI and increase the volume of standing and fallen deadwood. Future TSI will be identified, marked for retention and recorded in the Conservation data set held by Forestry England to ensure they can be maintained in perpetuity.

To combat the current and future impacts of climate change, pests and diseases it is essential that we begin to restock the woodlands with a more diverse range of species that have been sourced from a latitude 2 to 5 degrees south of Northampton if the next rotation of trees are to be able to adapt to the predicted climate change.

Forestry England will use the Ecological Site Classification (ESC) tool developed by Forest Research to help select trees that are best suited to the local soils and effects of lower summer rainfall, wetter winters, increased temperatures and the increased frequency of catastrophic winds. This work will be undertaken as part of the operation plans written prior to any forestry operation being undertaken.



Pic 5 Scots pine in Wakerley to be conserved as future TSI

Wakerley Spinney SSSI is currently in an 'Unfavourable Recovering' status. Forestry England will continue to work with Natural England in accordance with the SSSI management plan to ensure that when forestry operations are undertaken, appropriate measure are taken to improve the SSSI habitat and bring it back to a favourable condition.



Pic 6 Primrose in Wakerley Spinney SSSI

Dormice are present within these woodlands and all forestry operations will be carried out in accordance with the associated legislation. As part of the Ops1* process the beat team working with the ecologists will manage the understory to conserve and enhance the available habitat for dormice. When any forestry operations take place opportunities will be taken to widen and scallop rides where appropriate to create more open habitat within the woodland to benefit a range of species. All rides will be maintained as open habitats and managed on a rotational mowing cycle.

2.3 Social

Finshade and Wakerley Woods are popular destinations with over 130,000 visitors using Fineshade's car park each year. Fineshade is a key visitor hub for Forestry England providing a café, information desk, bike shop and hire, toilet facilities, volunteer group activities, promoted trails and a busy events calendar throughout the year.



Pic 7 Fineshade visitor centre

The current use of the site is limited by the restricted vehicle site access, but recent car park improvements have helped cater for the growing visitor demand on weekends and during holiday periods. Fineshade Wood has a number of promoted (themed) trails that all start at the visitor centre and cater for all user groups. Many of the trails are well surfaced and provide easy access throughout the year.

Wakerley Wood has a small car park and picnic area with unsurfaced informal access trails which could restrict access for some. Southwick and the southern half of Fineshade Wood know as Westhay Wood is managed under a lease agreement for forestry purposes only, this lease restricts Forestry England from providing access facilities.

The Forestry England will continue to work in partnership to support local businesses in tourism and leisure to facilitate the growing demand for access into the countryside. Its planned forestry operations will incorporate sympathetic designs that will increase the visual enjoyment people experience when visiting the working forest.



Pic 8 Wakerley picnic area and informal path

it



Pic 9 Families using surfaced trails

The woodlands contain a variety of cultural features, the most notable being a Bronze age cairn (Wakerley Wood) which is unscheduled, but will be managed by Forestry England as if it was scheduled and of national importance. The long-term aim is to protect the monument by maintaining the clearing, preventing tree root damage and encroachment and to

ensure that the monument was not inadvertently damaged during forestry operations. Numerous earthworkings associated to past land uses have also been identified across each of the woodlands (Roman or Medieval iron-workings, swallow holes, ridge and furrow, woodbanks and ditch). Some of these are still clearly visible in places and will be mapped and taken into consideration when operational plans are written to ensure features of cultural significance are conserved and enhanced where possible.



Pic 10 View from wildlife hide across pond in Fineshade Wood

3. Intended Land use

The woodlands' composition and structure will change gradually over time, through the introduction of small-scale felling operations and the introduction of new planting stock that will be better suited to the predicted climate that Northamptonshire will experience in the later part of the 21st Century. Beech and larch will not tolerate the higher temperatures, drier summers and wetter winters and Corsican pine, despite being very well suited to the predicted climate changes, will not be planted due to Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB). Ash stands that are widespread throughout the woodlands will be lost due to Chalara ash die back and this will create a dramatic change in the short term, especially in areas where ash dominates, (see current species map). Prior to any planting being undertaken the forester will assess each site looking at aspect, soils and hydrology and then using the ESC* models select a range of species that are best suited for each site and that have been sourced from latitude 2 to 5 degrees south of Fineshade. This will increase the tree's suitability to future climatic conditions and increase the chances of the woodland remaining a healthy productive ecosystem long into the future.

On mature ancient woodland sites (AWS) low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) will be favoured to protect the soils from prolonged exposure to the elements. Cutting patterns will allow the development of a more varied canopy structure between and within management coupes. Natural regeneration of suitable species will be utilised, as well as some enrichment planting that will be used to diversify the origin and provenance of species currently present. In areas that are predominately Ash, restocking may be required.

In the young AWS (120ha), where cutting will begin to diversify the uniform age structure, nest planting will be used within the cleared areas to introduce climax broadleaf species most suitable for each site. These planted trees will then be allowed to mature, while the surrounding areas regenerate and are cut on a 30 year rotation. This will allow these areas to gradually develop back into high forest with a diverse age structure and species mixture.

On PAWS replanting will be necessary in most areas due to the limited availability of seed trees. Where natural regeneration does occur of both conifer and broadleaves it will be utilised to form part of the next rotation. Future forestry operations will aim to develop mixed stands dominated by broadleaves of different ages.

Secondary woodland sites currently planted with conifers will continue to be managed as conifer woodland in future rotations. Where broadleaves are present these will be retained and managed under the same coupe management prescription as the conifer stand. The large areas of oak planted on the secondary woodland site will be managed under a LISS, and restocked through both natural regeneration and planted trees. The use of nursery grown trees will again allow new provenances and different species to be introduced to increase resilience to pest, disease and climate change.

The level of predation from deer on young trees and squirrels on mature trees is increasing and now effecting the health of the woodlands. Forestry England's rangers will monitor and control the local population of deer and squirrels to help reduce the level of damage to the trees. Fencing will be used to prevent deer access onto restock sites or areas being left to regenerate. To help offset the damage caused by squirrels Norway spruce will be retained in existing stands, and Serbian and Oriental spruce used as a mixture in new stands, as their cones provide a food source for squirrels, which helps reduce the level of damage. Norway spruce is seen as very unsuitable to future climatic conditions, hence the introduction of oriental and Serbian spruce that will be better suited to the area.

Table.1 Fineshade Forest Plan Contribution towards the Central District commitments to UWAS and UKFS.

	Forest Plan Area	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area	Forest District Percentage
Total Area	1144.8	100	28,170	100
Total Wooded Area	1007.5	88	23,859	84.6
Open Habitat (>10%)	110	9.6	4,311	15.3
Natural Reserves - Plantation (1%)	0	0	171	1.4
Natural Reserves - Semi Natural (5%)	2.4	0.2	398.4	3.3
Longterm Retentions & Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (>1%)	740	64	14,344	60.1
Area of Conservation Value (>15%) including designations, PAWS, AW, ASNW, NR, LTR and LISS	740	64	15,892	56.4

4. Consultees

The consultation undertaken in the preparation of this plan has been wide ranging and extensive. Full documentation including letters, notes of conversations etc. are held at our District Offices.

Consultee	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issues Raised	Forest District Response to Issues
Butterfly Conservation	7/10/19	8/11/19	Would like to see more reference to rideside management and maintenance of open space for Back to the Brink project species.	Wording of the plan amended to make more specific reference to the annual mowing of rides, creation and maintenance of open woodland edge habitats.
Bat Conservation Trust	7/10/19	7/11/19	Supplied survey data of bats recorded and made recommendations for the retention of ash to provide veteran trees and deadwood habitats for bats.	Forestry England will where it is safe to do so ensure that diseased large diameter ash is left in situ to provide deadwood habitats. Ash will also be monitored and any healthy trees retained to help identified resilient genus. Bat survey data will be used when undertaking future operations to minimise impact on the local population.
Natural England	7/10/19		Would like to see natural regeneration encouraged throughout most areas of operations. The plan should describe what trees are to be restocked and why, with species seen throughout the Rockingham Forest area. We feel the plan should show a preference to the planting of more hardwood species with PAWS, these woodlands should be moving away from softwood replanting, although we do consider the need for any future commercial aspirations. We feel the plan could delve into the impacts of deer more and measures required to control them which is key to the plan's success. Rockingham Forest is at a constant threat from deer. The plan could describe the interests of other supporting habitats i.e. ponds/glades or any supporting grassland interest. Potentially worth a mention of the wider landscape and linkage with the wider Rockingham Forest.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mrs Vibert		18/11/19	Concerned about access issues and loss of public facilities at Wakerley Wood, would like to see the site made available for markets.	The forest pan outlines harvesting and restocking operations and does not deal with the day to day management of recreation facilities, comments were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Kent		7/11/19	Concerned about the amount of timber left on site and ruts following recent forestry operations. Concerned about lack of coppice management, oak removal and damage to reptilian habitats following recent forestry operations.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mrs Hacker			Concerned about access issues, mountain bikes and loss of public facilities at Wakerley Wood.	The forest pan outlines harvesting and restocking operations and does not deal with the day to day management of recreation facilities, comments were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Ms Flanagan		7/11/19	Wheel chair user who would like to see the toilets at Wakerley Wood opened up again and wanted to know what can be done and what resources would be necessary to make this happen.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Ms Stewart		5/11/19	Concerned over toilet being closed in Wakerley Woods and how restrictive this is for length of visits to the wood and would like that taken into consideration when managing the wood. Would like to see coppice management introduced and the woodlands managed for wildlife. Would like to see native broadleaves planted to replace the ash.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Galpin		1/11/19	Required more information on the definition of Nature reserves and the management intentions for squirrel control, public access, recreation provision, open space, conifers, native broadleaves and low impact silvicultural systems.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments, provided clarification and will take these comments into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.

As part of the local consultation a public drop in day was held at Fineshade Visitor centre on 23rd October 2019, 23 stakeholders were contacted, notices placed on site, copies of the plan placed in Stamford and Corby reference libraries and on the Forestry England website. Comments received and the Forestry England's responses recorded above.

4. Consultees

<i>The consultation undertaken in the preparation of this plan has been wide ranging and extensive. Full documentation including letters, notes of conversations etc. are held at our District Offices.</i>				
Consultee	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issues Raised	Forest District Response to Issues
Mr Critchley—Small Woods Association		8/11/19	Concerned that the plan did not incorporate coppice management. He considered this to be a poor judgement of management considering the social, economic and environmental benefits that a rotational coppice crop would bring. Mr Critchley invited Forestry England to attend some events he was hosting.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Ms Benjamins		7/11/19	Give consideration to planting native hardwoods for the commercial elements of your Plan. The financial gain will be greater in the long run, and the development of these trees will be better for wildlife and the environment. Otherwise the fact that you have made this Plan is welcome and it is pleasing that areas for conifers are not to be extended.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Ms Pacey		8/11/19	Overall happy with plans objectives but would like to see more broadleaves and fewer conifers.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Ms Thistlethwaite		8/11/19	Would like to see greater emphasis on broadleaves for nature rather than conifers for economic reasons. No mention of further development of recreation facilities and the careful planning this needs.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan. Comments also forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Wagstaff		7/11/19	Wants to see a better balance with public facilities/access and commercial forestry, better safer access onto A43.	The forest plan outlines harvesting and restocking operations and does not deal with the day to day management of recreation facilities, comments were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Lind		8/11/19	Not happy with plan objectives, does not want to see more conifers, just broadleaves.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Tempest		7/11/19	Reduce the planting of more conifers. Broadleaf native species must be the majority.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Rolls		5/11/19	Whilst overall there are positive aspects in the plan, I am concerned about the re-planting of many conifers. I would have hoped that this would be an opportunity to plant more native species, albeit with some lesser stands of appropriate conifers. The idea of leaving an area to re-generate naturally over time is a good one - could the area be expanded?	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Izzard		1/11/19	Happy with the plan and wanted to ensure the Ancient woodlands were managed correctly.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Cadman Northamptonshire Archaeological Field Group	7/10/19	8/11/19	Disappointed at the absence of any clear reference to the historic environment and archaeology as vital and inseparable parts of the wider environmental interest in these woods. Merits highlighting within the Forest Plan.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan. Forestry England will continue to work with Northamptonshire Archaeological Field Group to help conserve historic features.
As part of the local consultation a public drop in day was held at Fineshade Visitor centre on 23rd October 2019, 23 stakeholders were contacted, notices placed on site, copies of the plan placed in Stamford and Corby reference libraries and on the Forestry England website. Comments received and the Forestry England's responses recorded above.				

4. Consultees

<i>The consultation undertaken in the preparation of this plan has been wide ranging and extensive. Full documentation including letters, notes of conversations etc. are held at our District Offices.</i>				
Consultee	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issues Raised	Forest District Response to Issues
Mr Batchelor		8/11/19	Would like to see conifers removed to bring the woodlands alive with nature and wildlife.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments.
Ms Moore		7/11/19	Not happy with the plan, no specific comments left.	
Mr Grimes		8/11/19	Does not want to see any more conifers planted.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Green		8/11/19	Not happy with management objectives but no specific comments left.	The forest pan outlines harvesting and restocking operations and does not deal with the day to day management of recreation facilities, comments were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Tutin		7/11/19	Happy with the plan but concerned over access onto the A43 from Fineshade and would like to see speed restrictions applied on the A43.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and these were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mrs Galpin		8/11/19	Lack of details of restocking clearfell areas - exotic species of tree seem to be given greater priority than native trees and this does not promote biodiversity. Leisure facilities - there is no indication that forward planning takes place. The recreational facilities impact directly on those who appreciate Fineshade for its tranquillity and beauty. Surely there should be transparent long-term planning and public consultation about this.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan. Comments also forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Bloomfield		7/11/19	Happy with the plans objectives—no comments left.	
Ms Cambridge		5/11/19	Concerned about the rate of tree felling and removal and the impact this will have on climate change and carbon sequestration.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan.
Mr Steventon	7/10/19	1/11/19	Social objectives are quite limited and ambiguous. Zero mention of Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's referenced in the plan. How does this tally the current strategic review of Forestry England's contemporary art programme?	The forest pan outlines harvesting and restocking operations and does not deal with the management of Social facilities/objectives, comments were forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr and Mrs Newby		7/11/19	Concerned over lack of coppice management and opportunities to reintroduce small scale coppicing, closed toilet facilities at Wakerley, obstructed access following harvesting, no mention to the management of understory and vegetation, missed opportunities to work and train youngsters in traditional forest crafts.	Forestry England acknowledged the comments and will take these into considered alongside others received during the consultation when implementing the management operations outlined in the plan. Comments also forwarded onto the recreation team.
Mr Brookfield		7/11/19	Happy with the plans objectives—no comments left.	
As part of the local consultation a public drop in day was held at Fineshade Visitor centre on 23rd October 2019, 23 stakeholders were contacted, notices placed on site, copies of the plan placed in Stamford and Corby reference libraries and on the Forestry England website. Comments received and the Forestry England's responses recorded above.				

5. Meeting and Monitoring Management Objective

National Strategy	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
<p>Economy:</p> <p>1) Maintain the land within our stewardship under UKWAS certification, 2) Improve the economic resilience of our woods and forests, 3) Encourage and support business activity on and around the Estate.</p>	<p>1) Adapting our management practices to suit the character and requirements of local woodlands whilst satisfying national standards and business requirements.</p> <p>2) We will use the opportunity presented by additional, unscheduled clear felling as a result of disease control to accelerate the diversification of both conifer and broadleaf species appropriate to each local area and site type. In some areas trialling species which may not have been previously planted in forest conditions, using a range of silvicultural systems.</p>	<p>1) Initiate a structured and sustainable programme of felling and thinning operations to include infrastructure requirements, support local contractors and businesses.</p> <p>2) Select suitable species and appropriate silvicultural techniques to regenerate (either naturally or through planting) commercially productive forests.</p> <p>3) Ensure stands are more structurally and species diverse, making them more resilient to the impacts from climate change, pests and disease.</p>	<p>1) This will be reviewed every 10 years as part of the FP review process and any changes recorded in the sub compartment data base.</p> <p>2) Stocking density, growth rates, stems/ha, species origin and provenance will be recorded and monitored ensuring a diverse mixture of species develops in future rotations. Production forecasts will be run annually to predict and monitor volumes of timber to be made available to the market.</p> <p>3) When Operation Plans (Ops1) are written for restock sites the Ecological Site Classification tool, Forest Research notes and local knowledge will be used to help select suitable species to produce and maximise timber yields and deter predation.</p>
<p>Nature:</p> <p>1) Improve the resilience of the natural environment of the Estate under our Stewardship, 2) Realise the potential of the Public Forest Estate for nature and wildlife, 3) Maintain and improve the cultural and heritage value of the Estate.</p>	<p>1) Adapting more sensitive timber harvesting arrangements and adopting recent Forestry Commission guidance to reduce the impact of forest operations on soils and ground vegetation on sensitive sites.</p> <p>2) Contributing to and undertaking control programmes to limit the impact of deer and other species on woodland habitats in order to reduce the adverse impacts of grazing and disturbance to native habitats and their flora and fauna.</p> <p>3) Where possible, work with interested parties to explore ways to maintain or improve features of cultural or heritage value to the local community.</p>	<p>1) Restore AWS by the gradual removal of exotic species over the next 70 years, introduce a wide distribution of species that will be better suited to the impacts of climate change, pests and disease.</p> <p>2) Identify existing locations of TSIs and demonstrate appropriate management to recruit future veteran trees and increase the volume and distribution of deadwood.</p> <p>3) Conserve and enhance the habitats associated to European Protected Species (EPS) and to bring the SSSI into favourable condition. Continue to work closely with Natural England, Butterfly Conservation ('Back from the Brink'), Friends of Fineshade, Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust and local volunteers in the management of woodlands and rides, monitoring and recording flora and fauna and review forest management accordingly.</p>	<p>1) The restoration of AWS and the introduction of a wider range of species will be monitored via the subcompartment database as part of the FP review process.</p> <p>2) Trees of Special Interest (TSI), deadwood habitats and future TSI will be identified and recorded on the conservation layer to ensure they are retained in perpetuity. TSI will be monitored as part of the Ops1 process.</p> <p>3) All forestry operation will be carried out in accordance with the associated conservation guidelines for each species and Forestry England will continue to work in partnerships with Natural England and Butterfly Conservation on delivering agreed conservation management plans. These objectives will be monitored via the Ops1 and as part of the Forest Plan review process</p>

5. Meeting and Monitoring Management Objective continued

National Strategy	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
<p>People:</p> <p>1) Encourage communities to become involved in the Estate, its management and direction.,</p> <p>2) Provide high quality woodland-based recreational opportunities for people and business.</p> <p>3) Enable everyone, everywhere to connect with the nations' trees and forests so that they understand their importance and act positively to safeguard forests for the future.</p>	<p>1) Provide safe and accessible woodlands.</p> <p>2) Offer opportunities for quiet recreation and adventurous activities, to enable people to experience the potential health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>3) Develop partnership with private businesses and public bodies to expand and improve recreational opportunities across the estate.</p> <p>4) Create a wide variety of opportunities for schools, groups, families and individuals to engage with and learn about trees and forests in accordance with National and District Strategies.</p> <p>5) Encourage third party environmental educators and other partners to offer learning opportunities on the public forest estate</p>	<p>1) Continue to co-ordinate a programme of events and activities for volunteer groups and members of the public.</p> <p>2) Diversify species composition and structure, and plan sympathetic designed and appropriate scaled interventions to improve and maintain the visual integration of the forest for visitors and onsite businesses.</p> <p>3) Continue to work with local businesses to provide a wider range of services and facilities on site.</p>	<p>1) Public access, facilities and events will be monitored and maintained by the Forest Centre team on a regular basis throughout the year.</p> <p>2) Forest operations within the Key recreation zones will be monitored by the Forest Centre team at the Ops 1 stage to ensure that works are carried in conjunction with the recreation team's activities.</p> <p>3) The forest centre team and estates department will monitor existing and future contracts with private businesses annually.</p>

Appendix I

Glossary

Biological Diversity

The richness and variety of wildlife and habitats.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees.

Clearfell System

The removal of all trees in one operation (>0.5ha).

Coupes

Areas of forest that have been or will be managed together.

Ecological Site Classification (ESC)

ESC is an online tool set up by Forest Research that assists a user in choosing a tree species for a given site. The system is built on four climatic variables and two edaphic (soil) properties.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem includes all the living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other, and also with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate).

England Forestry Strategy (now England's Trees Woodlands and Forests)

Describes how the Government will deliver its forestry policies in England, and sets out the Government's priorities for the next five to ten years.

Forestry England

The part of the Forestry Commission that following devolution is responsible for the management of the Public Forest Estate woodlands in England.

Forestry and Water guidelines 5th edition 2011

Forests and Water is one of a series of seven guidelines that support the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS and guidelines outline the context for forestry in the UK; set out the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management; define standards and requirements; and provide a basis for regulation and monitoring; including national and international reporting.

Forestry Commission Guidelines

Outline the principles and standards of good management practices in forests and woodlands for landowners, land managers and their advisors.

Forest Plan (FP)

An approved plan that outlines felling operations over a 10 year period, outlining proposals over the next 50 years. The FP's are reviewed every 5 years and redrawn and approved every 10 years.

Glossary

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

An internationally recognised body made up of non-government organisations promoting sustainable forest management to the forest industry and consumers.

Historic Environment

The physical remains of every period of human development starting from 450,000 years ago and include earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Landscape Character

England is renowned for its rich, diverse and beautiful landscapes which have their own distinct local character. These have been shaped over many thousands of years by natural influences such as soil and landform and by generations of human activity.

Lepidoptera

Lepidoptera is an order of insects that includes butterflies and moths.

Long Term Retention

Trees that are being retained beyond their normal economic / commercial age.

Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Describes a number of felling systems (shelterwood, group felling, selection systems) which avoid large-scale felling coupes and which maintain forest canopy at one or more levels.

Natural Areas

England is divided into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity.

Natural regeneration

The growth of trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees and shrubs.

Natural Reserve

Natural reserves are predominantly wooded, are permanently identified and are in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative management has higher conservation or biodiversity value.

Nest Planting

Small, closely planted groups of trees scattered across felled areas, with the space between planted trees left to naturally regenerate.

Glossary

Open grown trees

Trees that have been given space to develop a large crown and natural shape as opposed to tree planted closely in a plantation managed for timber and biomass.

Operational Plans (Ops1)

Detailed site plans that are prepared in advance of all major forest operations and identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Provenance

The geographic locality of a stand of trees from where the seed was collected.

Public Forest Estate (PFE)

The woodlands managed by Forestry England which would include both freehold and leasehold land.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Access routes open to the public through legal designation.

Restocking

The re-establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration, but it is more usually associated with replanting.

Ride

Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland.

Secondary Woodland

Woodlands that have been established on land that was formally used as pasture, meadow, arable, quarries, etc and has not continually been wooded

Selective Felling

Where individual trees of varying sizes are selected and removed from a stand. The whole stand is worked, and the aim is to maintain full stocking of all tree sizes and ages, from seedlings to mature trees, in any one area.

Silvicultural Systems

Techniques of managing a forest through a variety of cutting / felling patterns over varying time scales.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest comprising a more or less homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. Their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

Glossary

Strategic Plan

Serves as a guide to the management of woodlands within Central England Forest District. It divides the district into zones for the purpose of management, and ensures that forestry activities reflect the local ecological, social and cultural individuality of woodland. Strategic objectives for each zone are presented within the context of the Government's strategic priorities for forestry in England (e.g. forestry for rural development; forestry for economic regeneration; forestry for recreation, access and tourism and forestry for the environment and conservation).

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of the trees in a sub-compartment to improve the quality of the remaining trees, accelerate individual tree growth and provide income.

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)

Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to the growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests.

Understorey Woodland Species

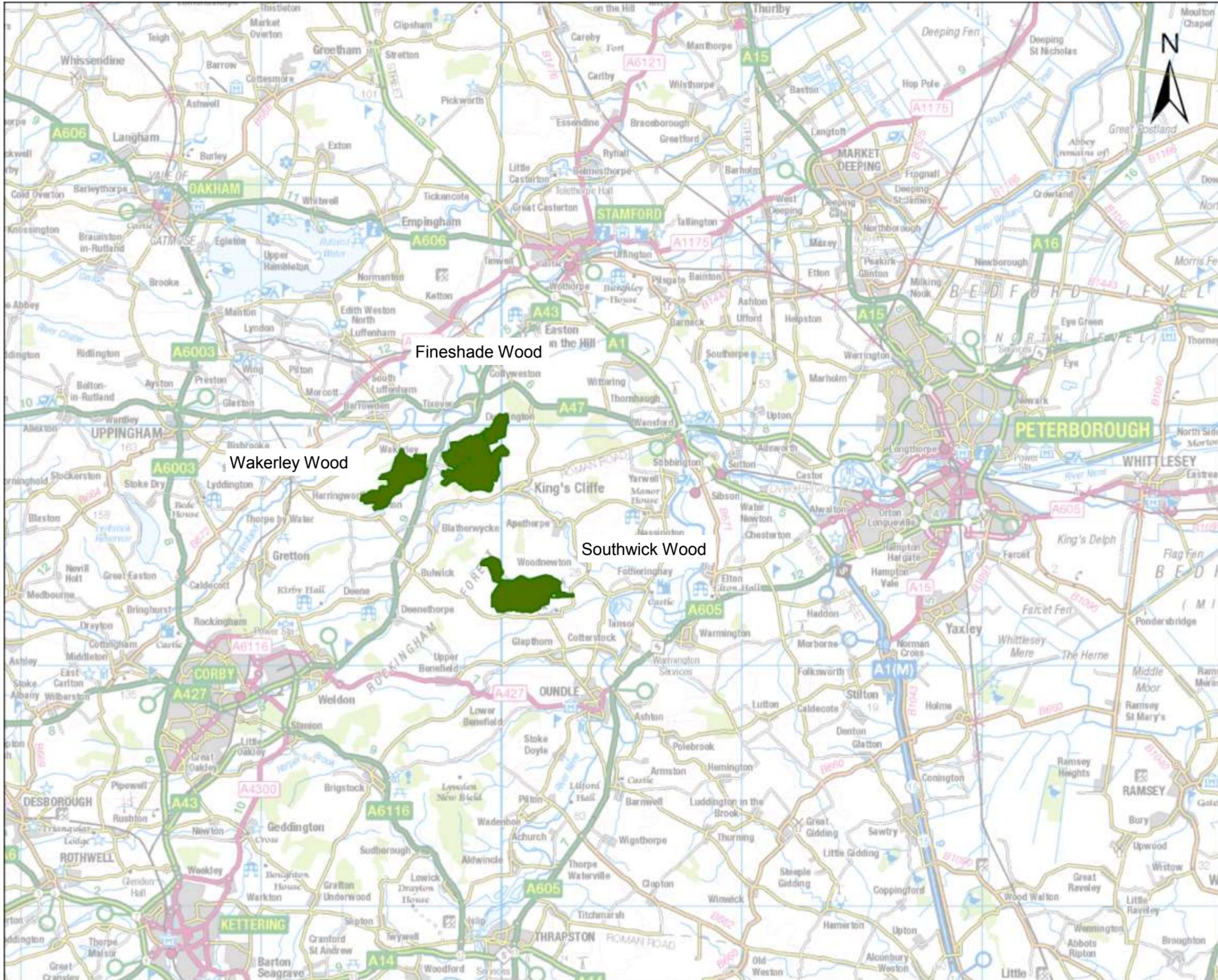
Minor tree species that live under the top canopy trees, or are pioneer species that arrive in clearings before climax tree species become established. Once the overstorey becomes established these minor species are usually restricted to the woodland edge where light levels allow them to survive.

Trees of special interest (TSI)

A tree that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, or a tree that is in the ancient stage of its life, or a tree that is old relative to others of the same species.

Yield Class

Yield class is a measure of the growth rate of a tree crop and is the maximum average rate of volume increment (increase) that a particular crop can achieve. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual increment of 14 m³ per hectare has a yield class of 14.



Central Forest District

Location Map

Fineshade Forest Plan refers to 3 woodlands that cover an area of 1,144.8ha. The woodlands currently comprise of 61% broadleaves, 27% conifers and 11% open habitats or buildings.

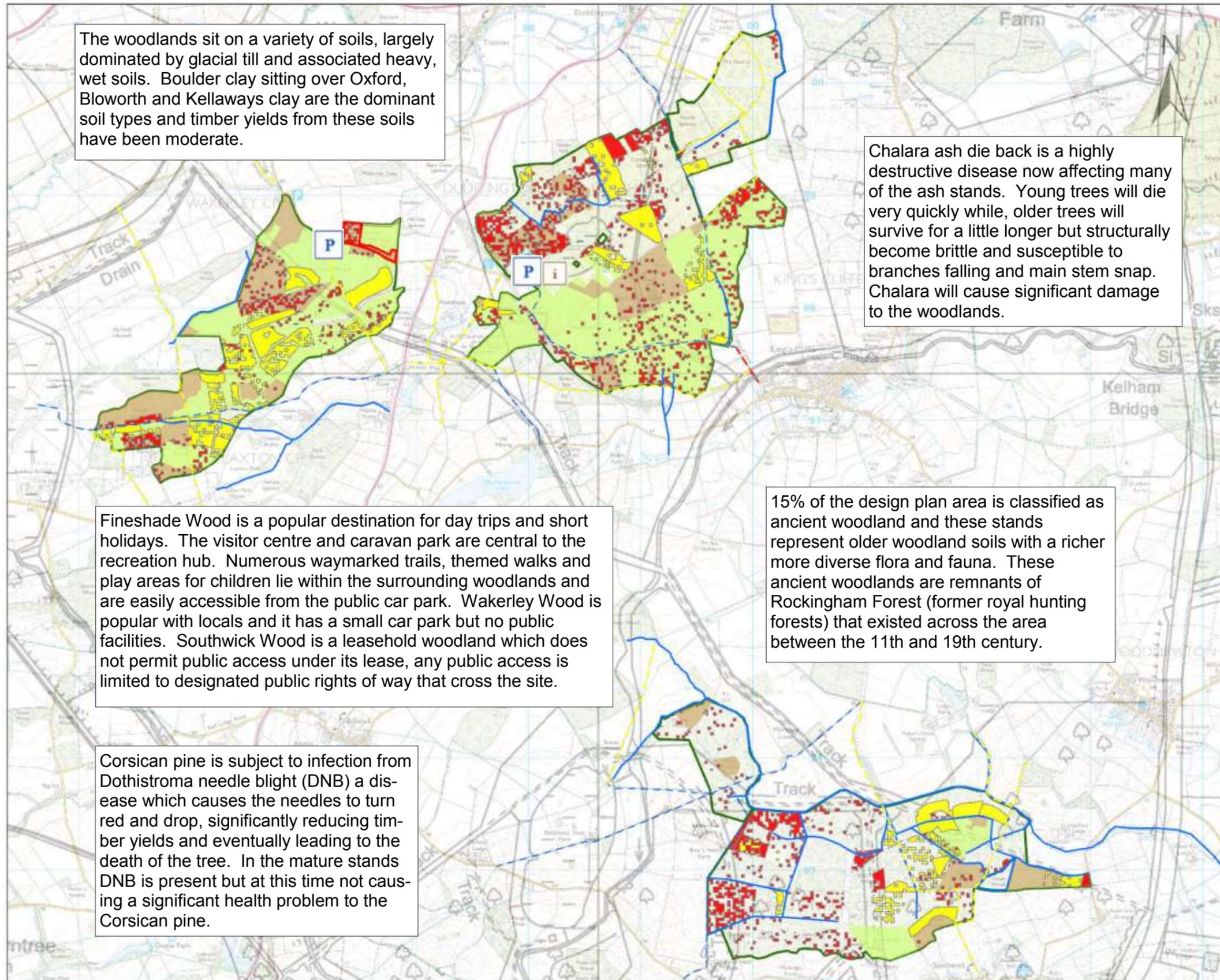
The woodlands lie in the Rockingham Forest Natural Character Area which is associated with the Royal Hunting forest that covered large parts of the region between the 11th and 19th centuries.

The woodlands are very important sites for wildlife, with over 2000 species recorded. Forestry England will ensure that the conservation value of the woodland habitats will be maintained, and where possible enhanced still further.

Scale: 1:150,000



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Central Forest District

Survey Map

- Sites of Special Scientific (SSSI)
- Ash
- Corsican pine
- Ancient woodland
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Watercourses
- Visitor centre
- Car park
- Bridleway
- Byway
- Footpath
- Woodland boundary

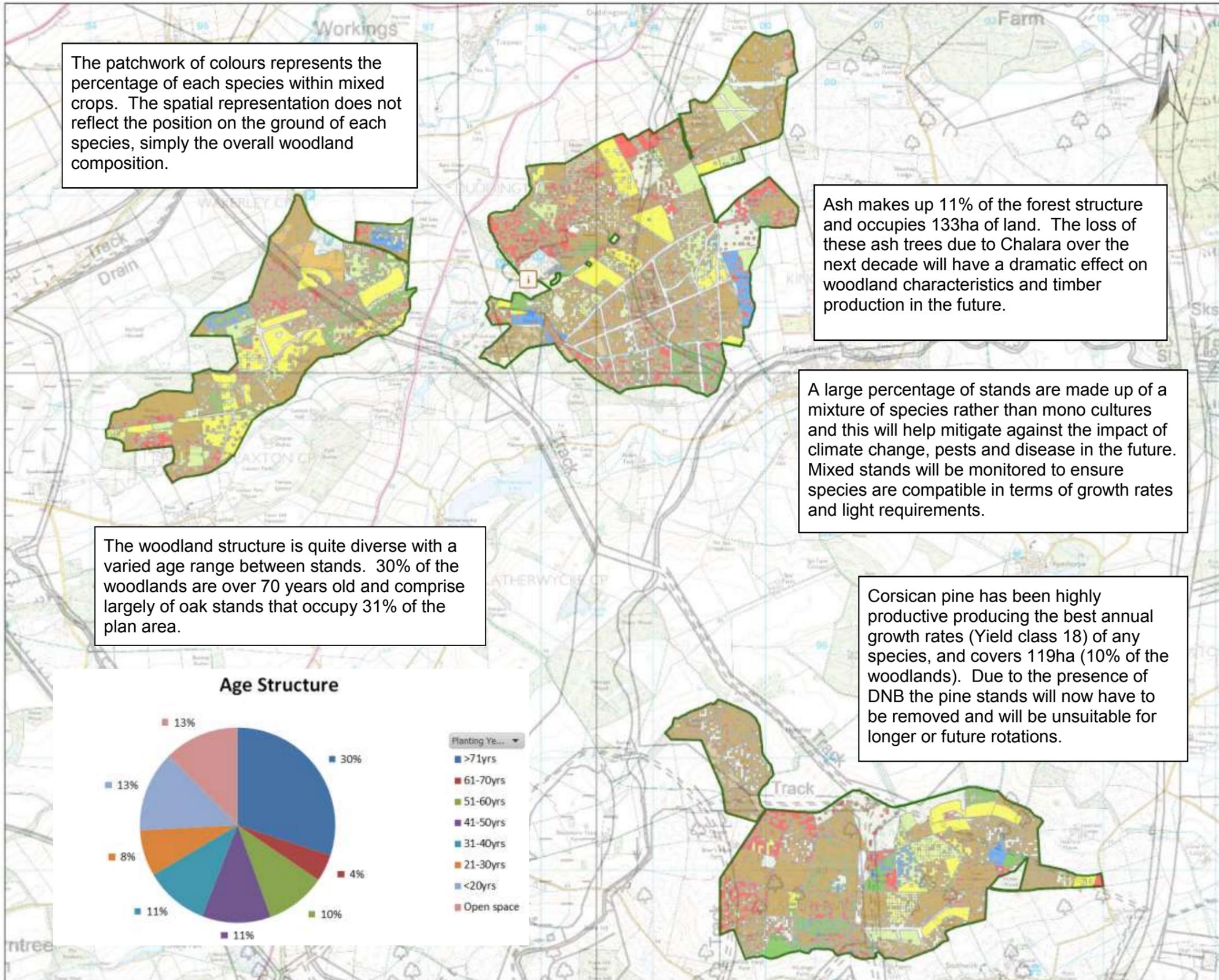
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Central Forest District

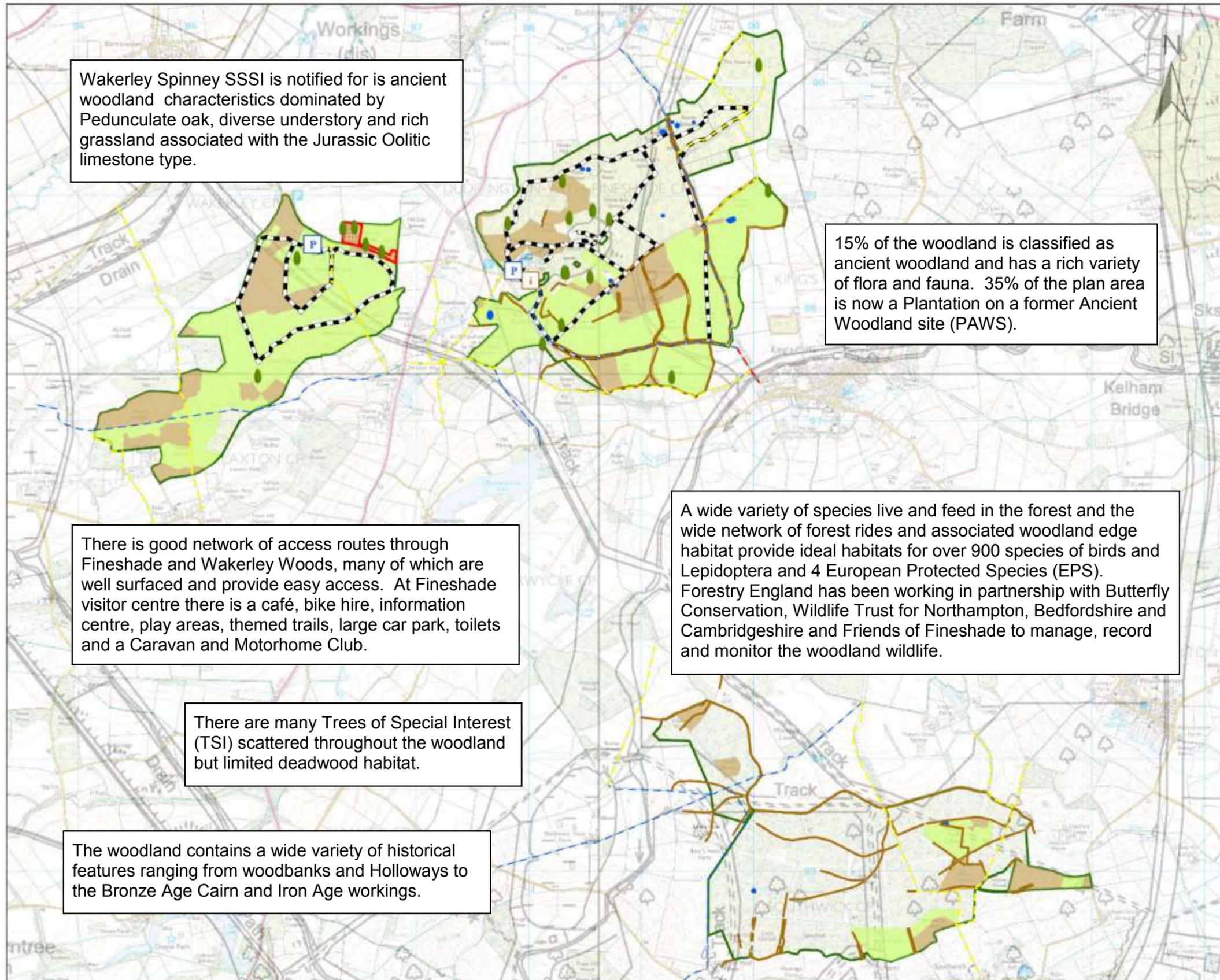
Current Species

- Open Space
- Ash
- Corsican pine
- Firs
- Larch
- Scots pine
- Broadleaves Climax species
- Broadleaved understory
- Evergreen conifers
- Blocks

Scale: 1:32,000



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Wakerley Spinney SSSI is notified for its ancient woodland characteristics dominated by Pedunculate oak, diverse understory and rich grassland associated with the Jurassic Oolitic limestone type.

15% of the woodland is classified as ancient woodland and has a rich variety of flora and fauna. 35% of the plan area is now a Plantation on a former Ancient Woodland site (PAWS).

There is good network of access routes through Fineshade and Wakerley Woods, many of which are well surfaced and provide easy access. At Fineshade visitor centre there is a café, bike hire, information centre, play areas, themed trails, large car park, toilets and a Caravan and Motorhome Club.

A wide variety of species live and feed in the forest and the wide network of forest rides and associated woodland edge habitat provide ideal habitats for over 900 species of birds and Lepidoptera and 4 European Protected Species (EPS). Forestry England has been working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation, Wildlife Trust for Northampton, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and Friends of Fineshade to manage, record and monitor the woodland wildlife.

There are many Trees of Special Interest (TSI) scattered throughout the woodland but limited deadwood habitat.

The woodland contains a wide variety of historical features ranging from woodbanks and Holloways to the Bronze Age Cairn and Iron Age workings.

Central Forest District

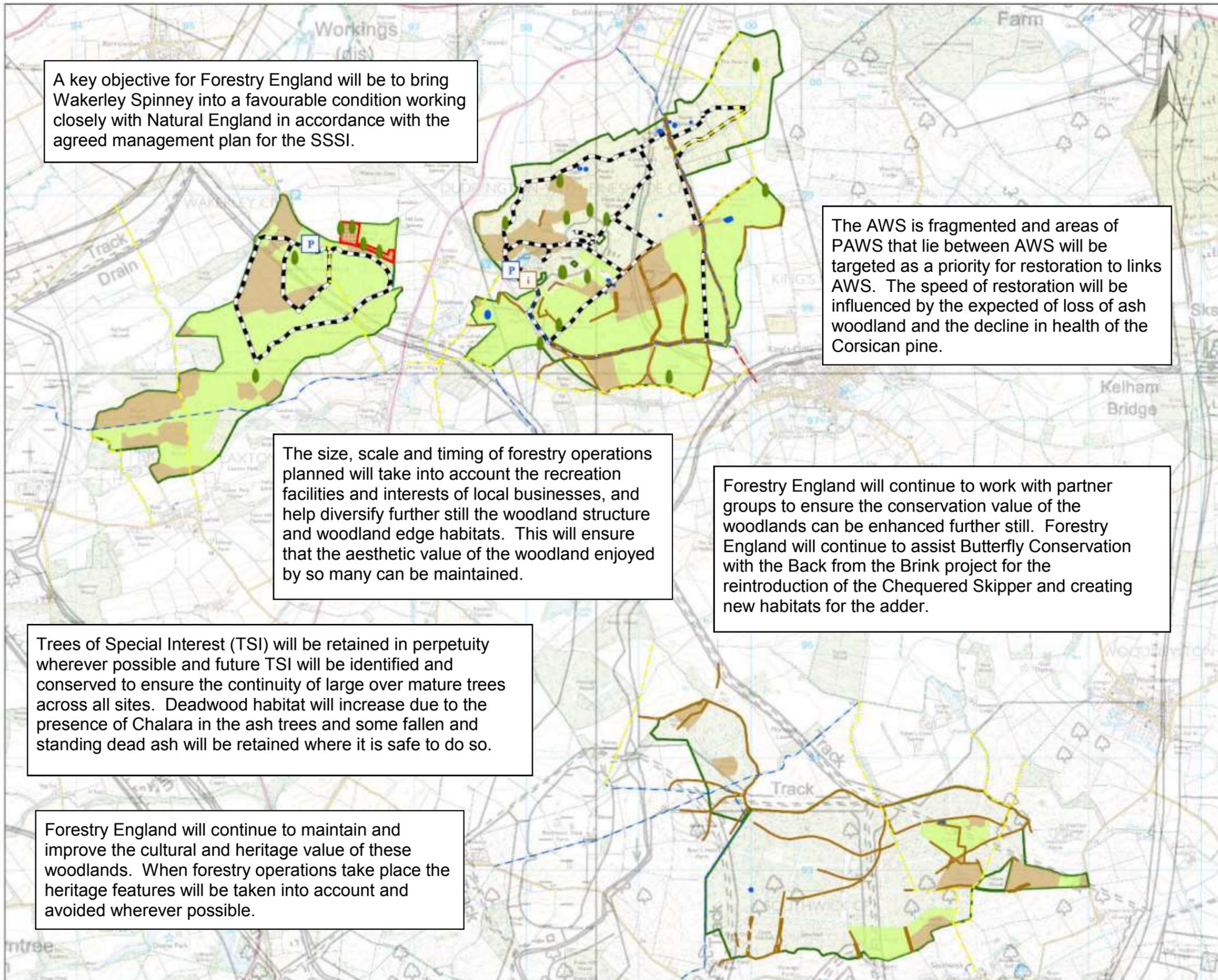
Analysis Map

- Tree of Special Interest
- Forest trails
- Bridleway
- Byway
- Footpath
- Woodbank & ditches
- Ponds
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Ancient woodland
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Visitor centre
- Car park
- Woodland boundary

Scale: 1:32,000



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A key objective for Forestry England will be to bring Wakerley Spinney into a favourable condition working closely with Natural England in accordance with the agreed management plan for the SSSI.

The AWS is fragmented and areas of PAWS that lie between AWS will be targeted as a priority for restoration to links AWS. The speed of restoration will be influenced by the expected loss of ash woodland and the decline in health of the Corsican pine.

The size, scale and timing of forestry operations planned will take into account the recreation facilities and interests of local businesses, and help diversify further still the woodland structure and woodland edge habitats. This will ensure that the aesthetic value of the woodland enjoyed by so many can be maintained.

Forestry England will continue to work with partner groups to ensure the conservation value of the woodlands can be enhanced further still. Forestry England will continue to assist Butterfly Conservation with the Back from the Brink project for the reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper and creating new habitats for the adder.

Trees of Special Interest (TSI) will be retained in perpetuity wherever possible and future TSI will be identified and conserved to ensure the continuity of large over mature trees across all sites. Deadwood habitat will increase due to the presence of Chalara in the ash trees and some fallen and standing dead ash will be retained where it is safe to do so.

Forestry England will continue to maintain and improve the cultural and heritage value of these woodlands. When forestry operations take place the heritage features will be taken into account and avoided wherever possible.

Central Forest District

- Concept Map
- Tree of Special Interest
- Forest trails
- - Bridleway
- - Byway
- Footpath
- Woodbank & ditches
- Ponds
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Ancient woodland
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Visitor centre
- Car park
- Woodland boundary

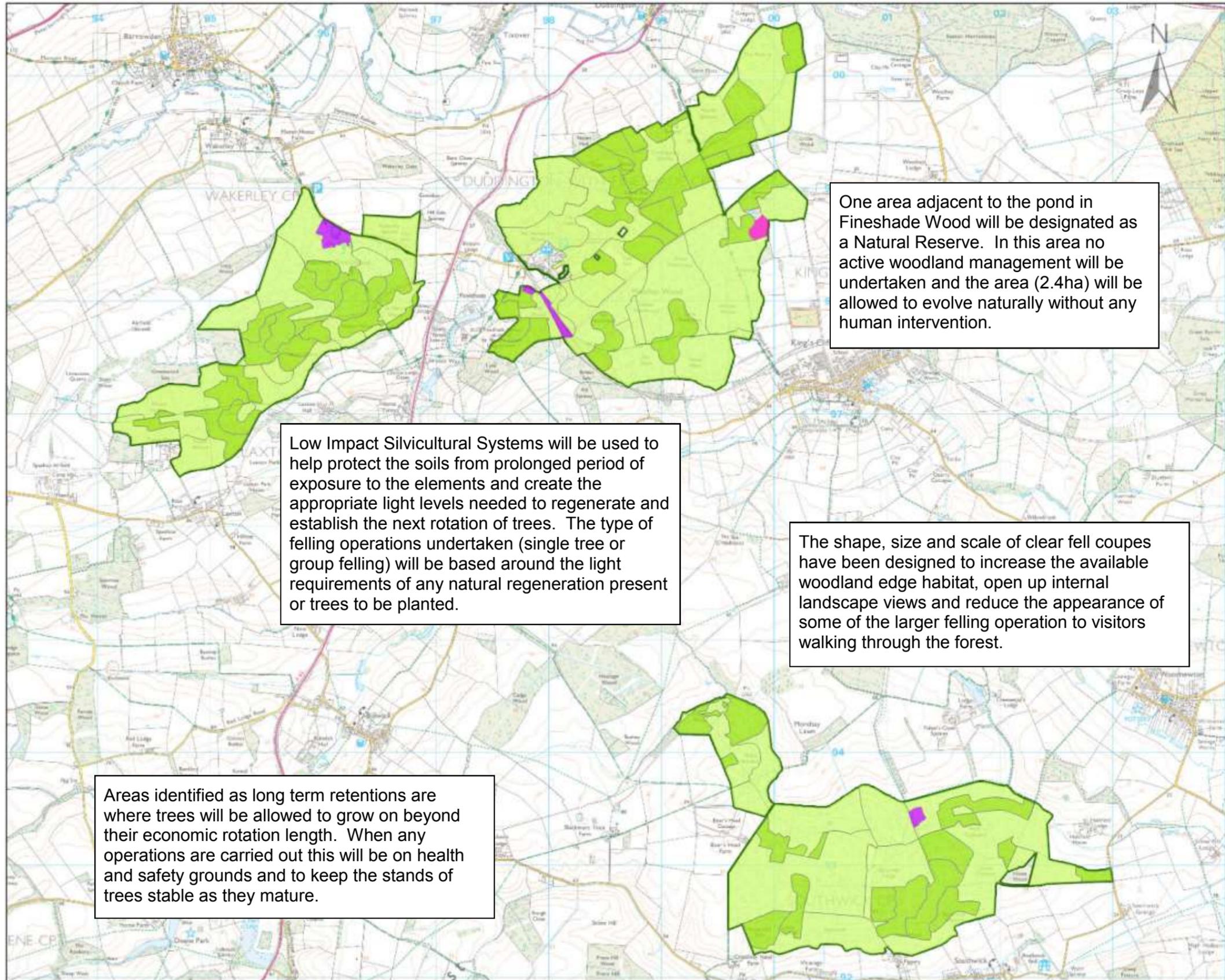
Scale: 1:32,000



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One area adjacent to the pond in Fineshade Wood will be designated as a Natural Reserve. In this area no active woodland management will be undertaken and the area (2.4ha) will be allowed to evolve naturally without any human intervention.

Low Impact Silvicultural Systems will be used to help protect the soils from prolonged period of exposure to the elements and create the appropriate light levels needed to regenerate and establish the next rotation of trees. The type of felling operations undertaken (single tree or group felling) will be based around the light requirements of any natural regeneration present or trees to be planted.

The shape, size and scale of clear fell coupes have been designed to increase the available woodland edge habitat, open up internal landscape views and reduce the appearance of some of the larger felling operation to visitors walking through the forest.

Areas identified as long term retentions are where trees will be allowed to grow on beyond their economic rotation length. When any operations are carried out this will be on health and safety grounds and to keep the stands of trees stable as they mature.

Central Forest District

- Silvicultural Systems
- Clear Fell
 - Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)
 - Natural Reserves
 - Long-term Retention
 - Open Space

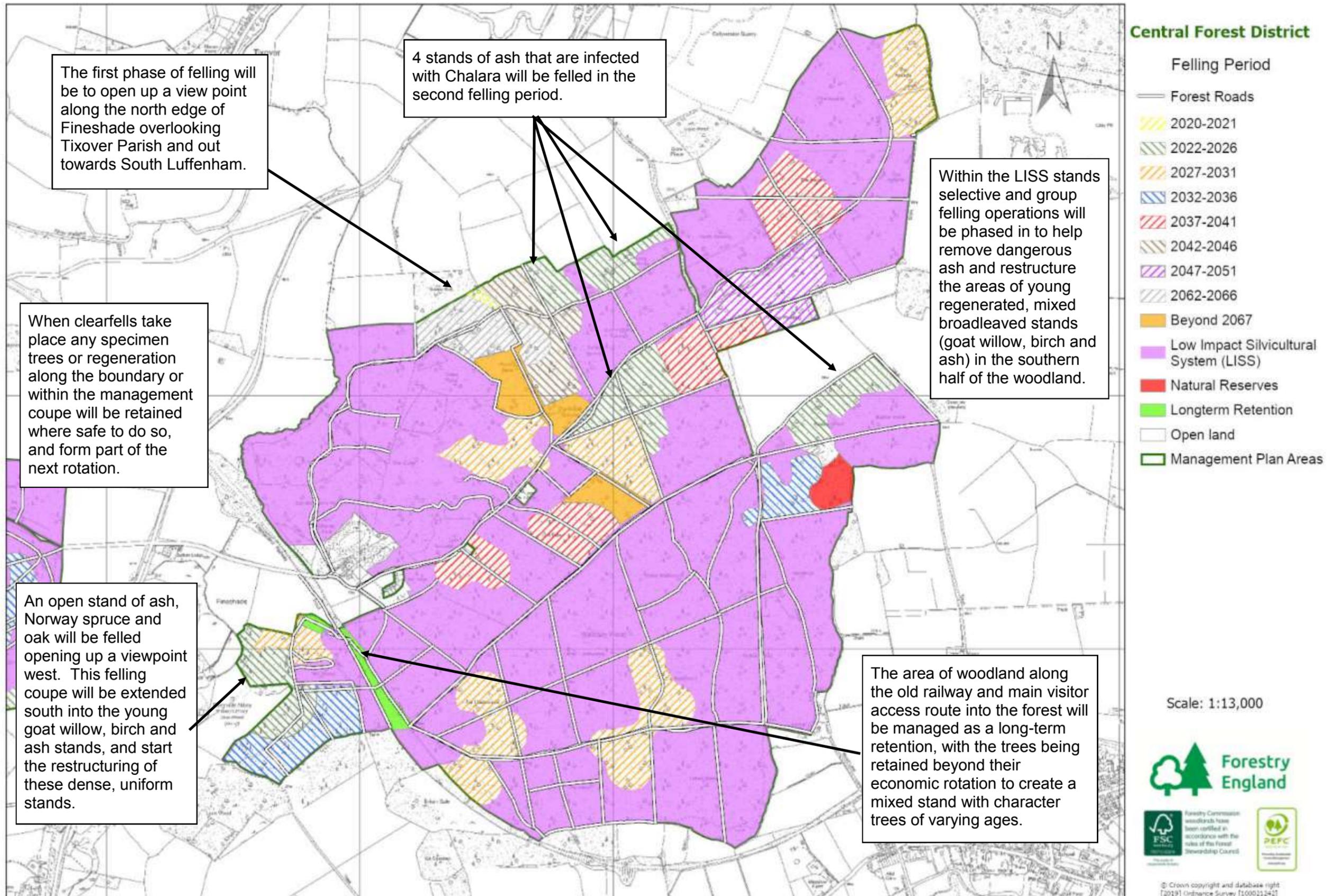
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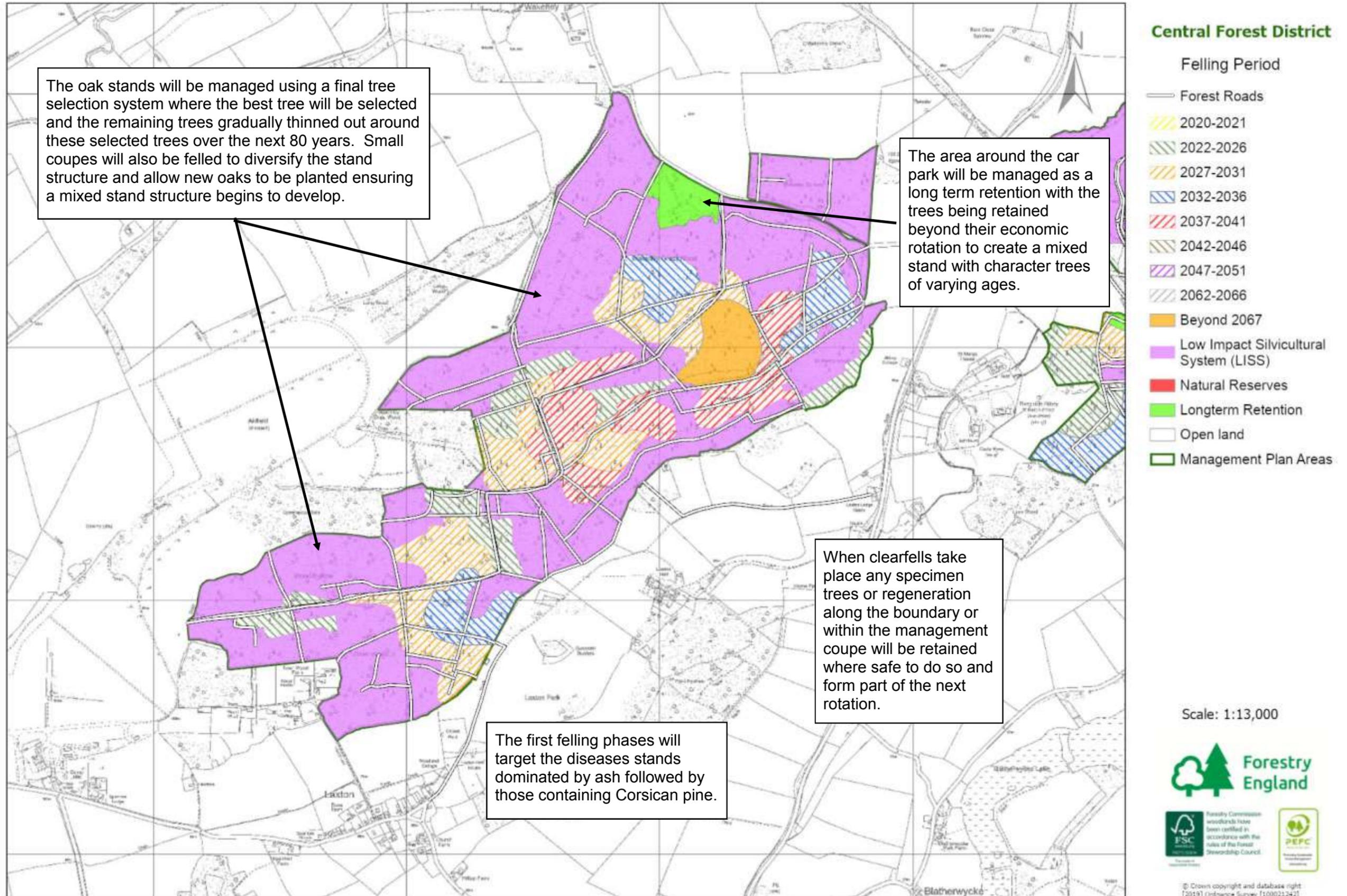


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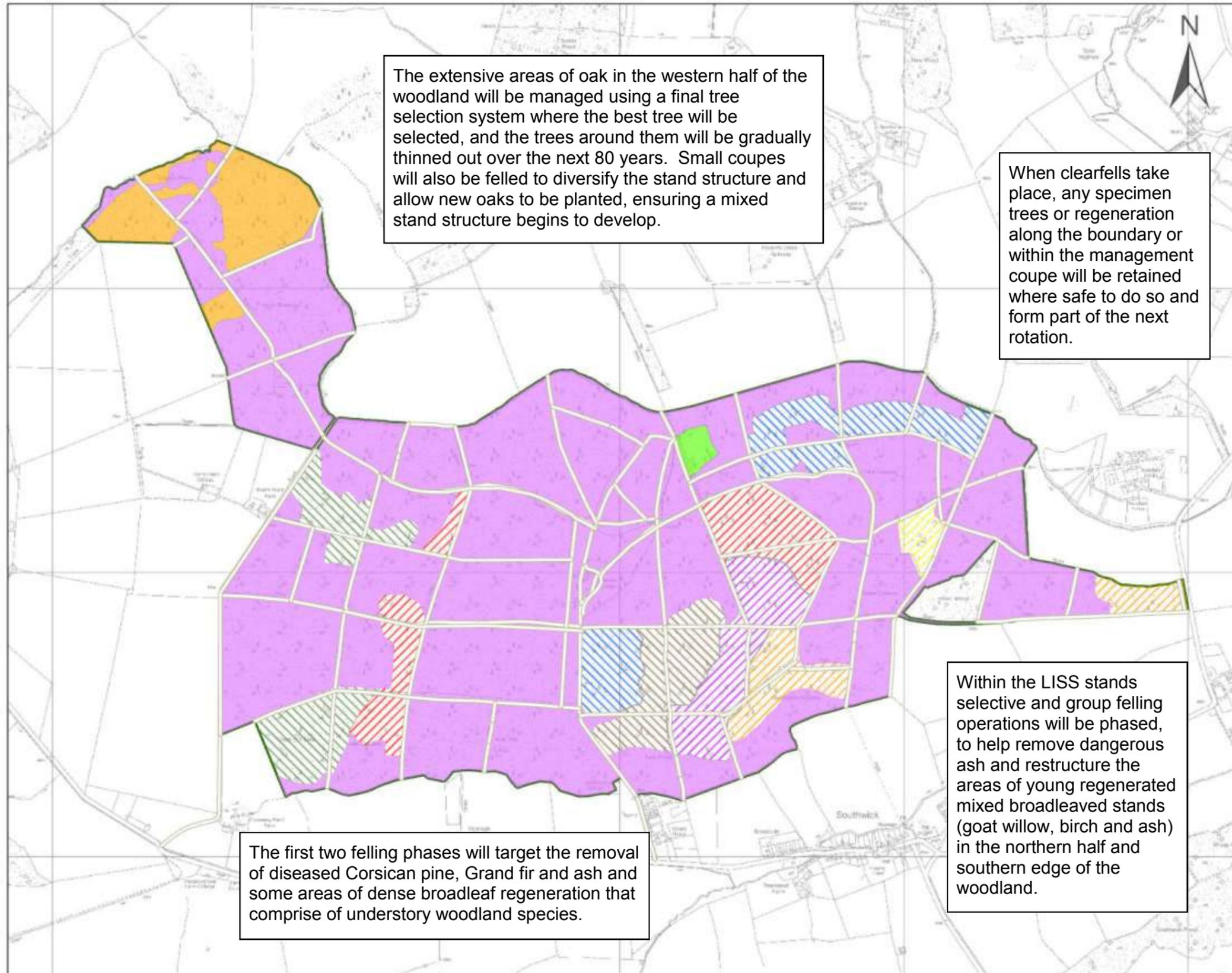


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Central Forest District



The extensive areas of oak in the western half of the woodland will be managed using a final tree selection system where the best tree will be selected, and the trees around them will be gradually thinned out over the next 80 years. Small coupes will also be felled to diversify the stand structure and allow new oaks to be planted, ensuring a mixed stand structure begins to develop.

When clearfells take place, any specimen trees or regeneration along the boundary or within the management coupe will be retained where safe to do so and form part of the next rotation.

Within the LISS stands selective and group felling operations will be phased, to help remove dangerous ash and restructure the areas of young regenerated mixed broadleaved stands (goat willow, birch and ash) in the northern half and southern edge of the woodland.

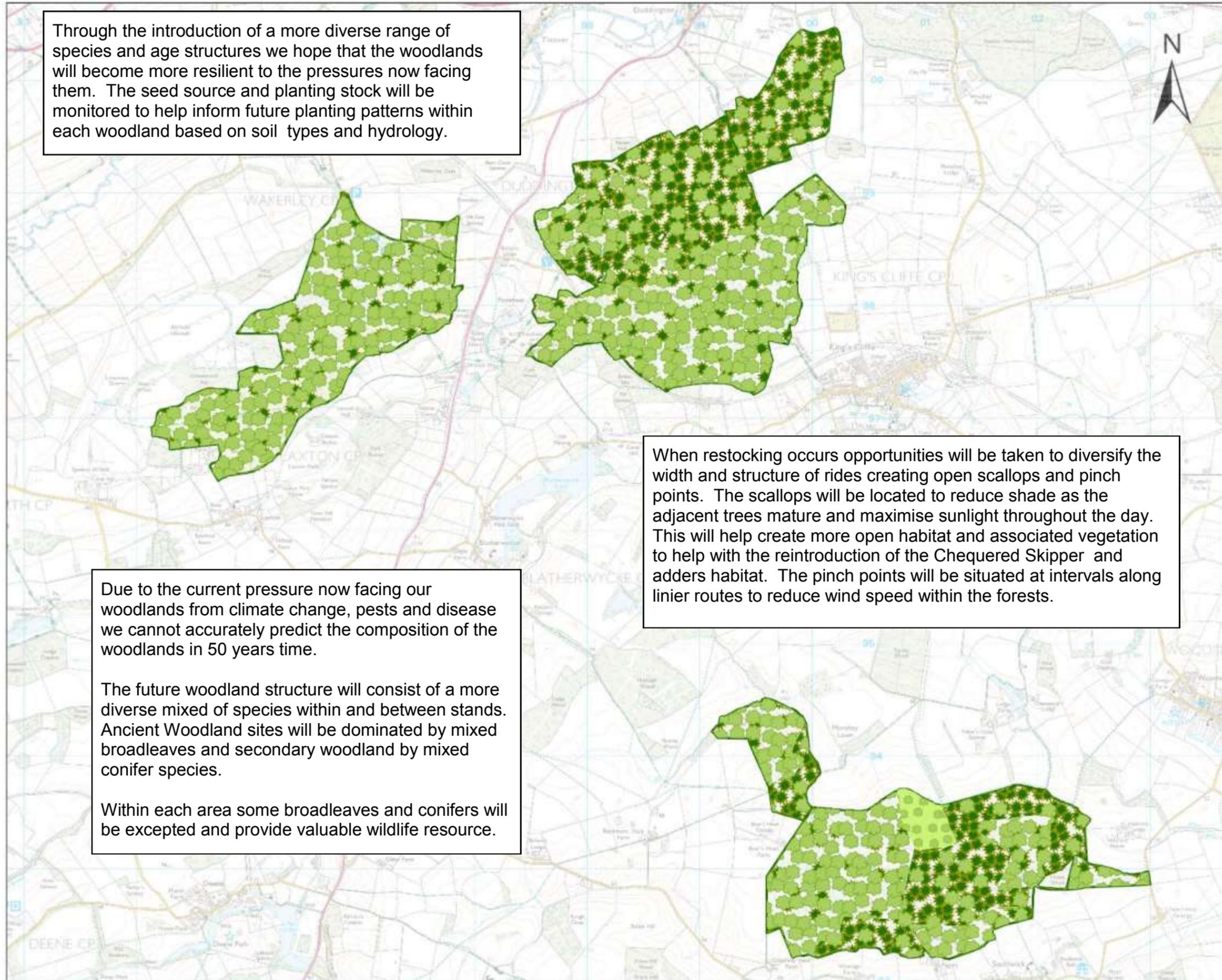
The first two felling phases will target the removal of diseased Corsican pine, Grand fir and ash and some areas of dense broadleaf regeneration that comprise of understory woodland species.

- Felling Period**
- Forest Roads
 - 2020-2021
 - 2022-2026
 - 2027-2031
 - 2032-2036
 - 2037-2041
 - 2042-2046
 - 2047-2051
 - 2062-2066
 - Beyond 2067
 - Low Impact Silvicultural System (LISS)
 - Natural Reserves
 - Longterm Retention
 - Open land
 - Management Plan Areas

Scale: 1:13,000



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Through the introduction of a more diverse range of species and age structures we hope that the woodlands will become more resilient to the pressures now facing them. The seed source and planting stock will be monitored to help inform future planting patterns within each woodland based on soil types and hydrology.

When restocking occurs opportunities will be taken to diversify the width and structure of rides creating open scallops and pinch points. The scallops will be located to reduce shade as the adjacent trees mature and maximise sunlight throughout the day. This will help create more open habitat and associated vegetation to help with the reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper and adders habitat. The pinch points will be situated at intervals along linier routes to reduce wind speed within the forests.

Due to the current pressure now facing our woodlands from climate change, pests and disease we cannot accurately predict the composition of the woodlands in 50 years time.

The future woodland structure will consist of a more diverse mixed of species within and between stands. Ancient Woodland sites will be dominated by mixed broadleaves and secondary woodland by mixed conifer species.

Within each area some broadleaves and conifers will be excepted and provide valuable wildlife resource.

Central Forest District

Intended Landuse

-  Mixed woodland dominated by broadleaves
-  Mixed woodland dominated by conifers
-  Open woodland
-  Management Area

Scale: 1:32,000



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Fineshade Wood Southern Perspective

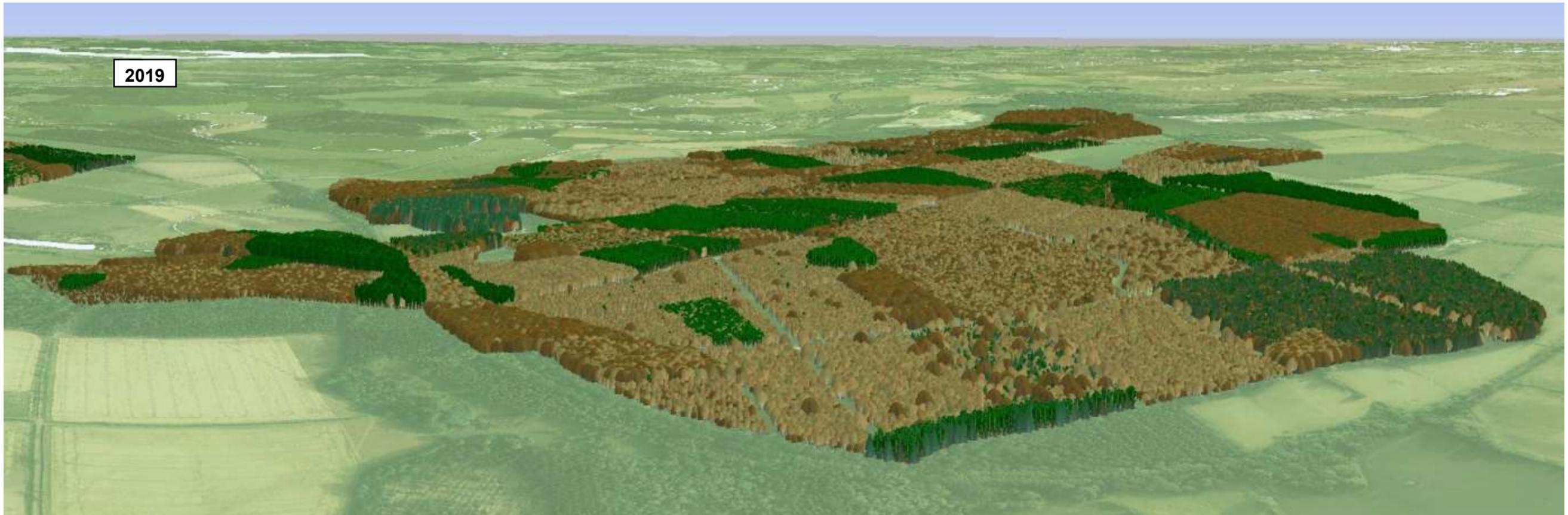
Using the current stock data and proposed management coupes set out in the new forest plan computer models have been built to show the current forest structure (2019), at the end of the design plan approval period (2029) and the long term forest structure in 50 years time (2069). Autumn tree colour has been used to help distinguish between evergreen and deciduous species and an elevated perspective has been used to show views of the whole forest which would otherwise not be seen in the flat low lying landscape.

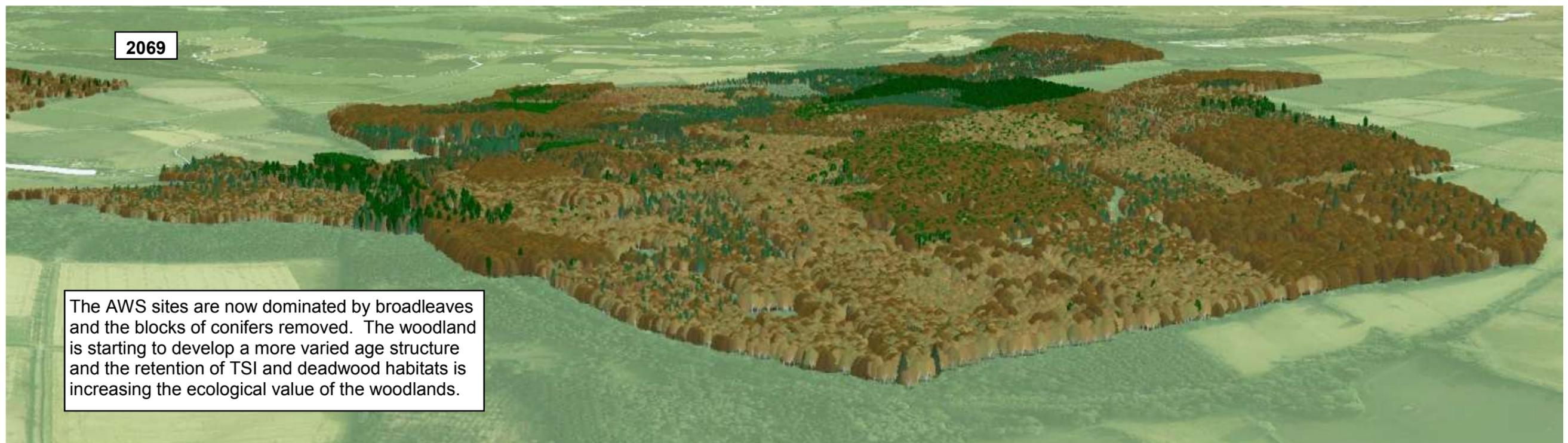
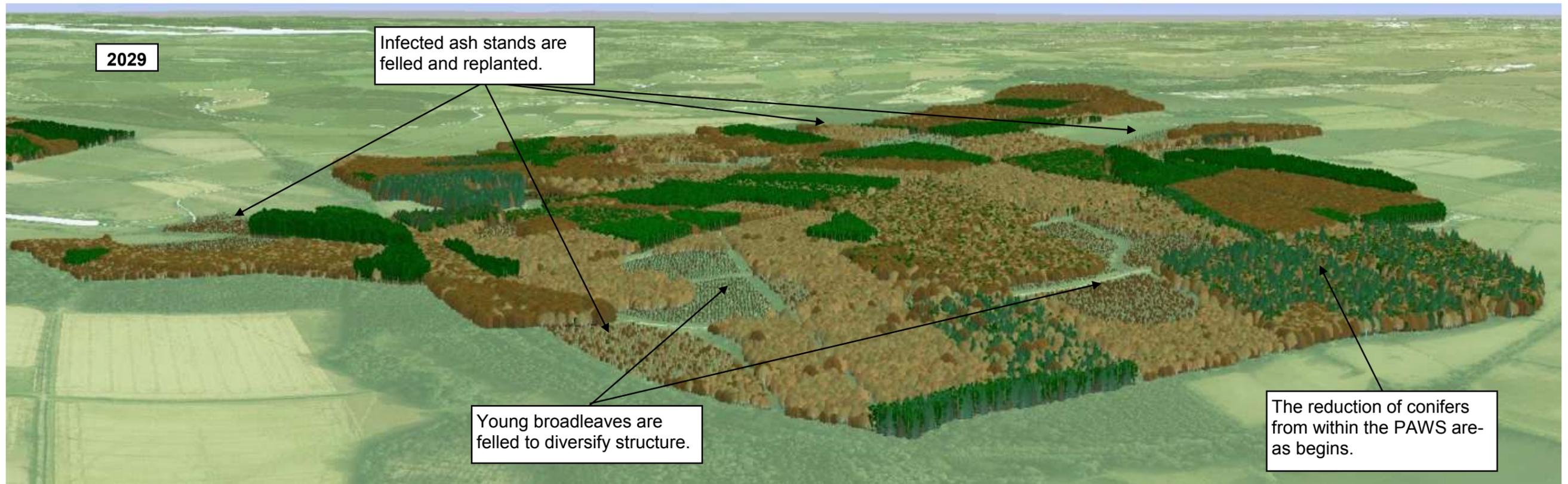
The current woodland structure (2019) is quite uniform in age and species across the majority of the site with limited areas of mixed deciduous and evergreen species. Strong geometric patterns have been created by planting patterns following the network of forest roads.

In the next 10 years new clearfell coupes will be created to diversify the woodland structure in the 120ha of young broadleaves and remove infected ash stands in the western half of Fineshade Wood.

Within the PAWS areas conifers will be gradually removed to allow space for broadleaves to become established with a small percentage being retained for biodiversity, cover for wildlife and a food source for squirrels.

Large areas will be managed using Low Impact Felling Systems where the forester will at the Ops1 level decide on which individual or small groups of trees to remove to allow a more diverse stand structure to develop, creating varying light levels into the woodland and areas of transitional open space. This programme of work will prove very beneficial for wildlife that relies on more open habitats like the adders and fritillary.





Fineshade Wood Western Prospective

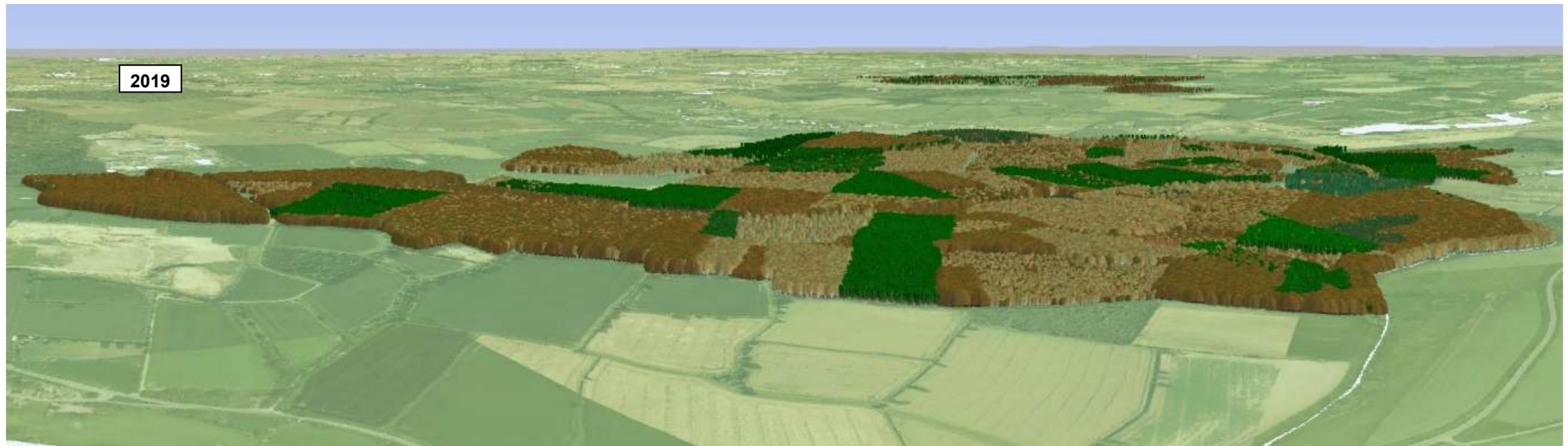
Using the current stock data and proposed management coupes set out in the new forest plan computer models have been built to show the current forest structure (2019), at the end of the design plan approval period (2029) and the long term forest structure in 50 years time (2069). Autumn tree colour has been used to help distinguish between evergreen and deciduous species and an elevated perspective has been used to show views of the whole forest which would otherwise not be seen in the flat low lying landscape.

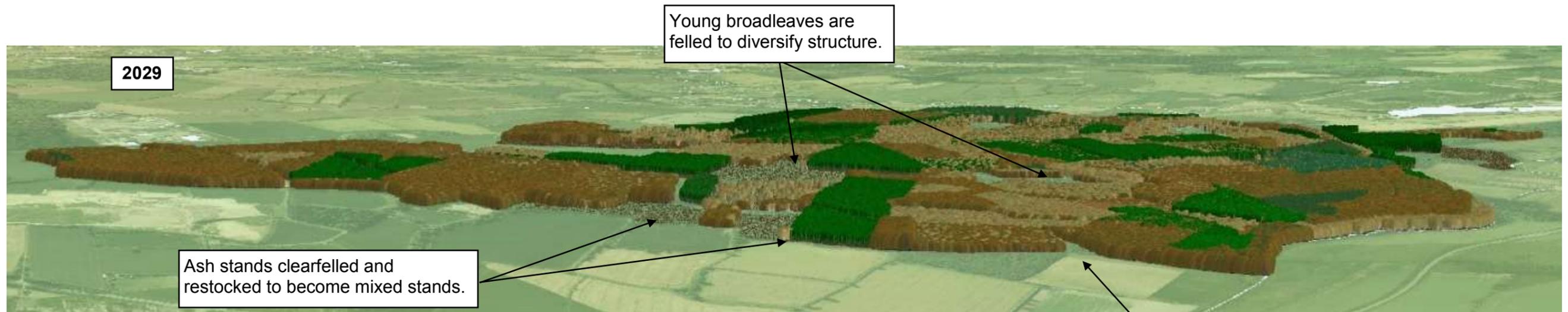
The western side of the woodland is dominated by mature stands of broadleaves and conifers. Some recent felling has created small areas of young regeneration but largely the area is dominated by high forest. Mature ash trees occupy a large percentage of the southwestern part of Fineshade and due to the presence of chalara ash die back is likely that most of these trees will be lost in the next decade and have a dramatic effect on the woodlands current appearance.

In the next 10 years felling operations will focus on the removal of ash stands, creating open habitats for the adder and opening up a view point into the surrounding landscape.

The western half of Fineshade is largely secondary woodland and the conifer stands will be grown on a full economic rotation before being felled and replanted. The area of AWS near the visitor centre will be managed as high forest using LISS. LISS areas will be managed in order to meet the FP economic, environmental and social management objectives.

When forestry operations take place opportunities will be taken to increase the width of some of the forest trails as these are currently quite enclosed.



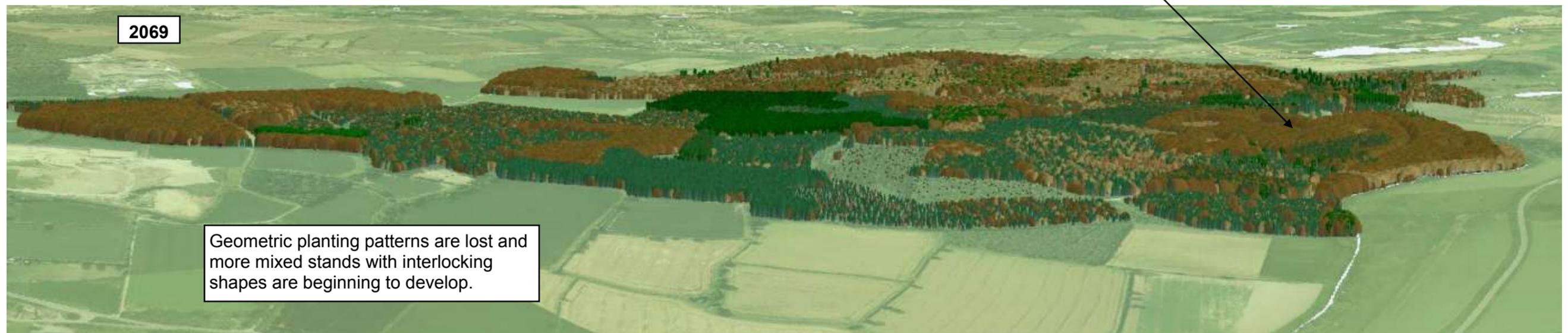


2029

Young broadleaves are felled to diversify structure.

Ash stands clearfelled and restocked to become mixed stands.

Trees felled to create a vista and open up a new viewpoint west towards Luffenham.



2069

The mature stands of broadleaves in the AWS near the visitor centre has developed a more irregular diverse structure.

Geometric planting patterns are lost and more mixed stands with interlocking shapes are beginning to develop.

Wakerley Northern Prospective

Using the current stock data and proposed management coupes set out in the new forest plan computer models have been built to show the current forest structure (2019), at the end of the design plan approval period (2029) and the long term forest structure in 50 years time (2069). Autumn tree colour has been used to help distinguish between evergreen and deciduous species and an elevated perspective has been used to show views of the whole forest which would otherwise not be seen in the flat low lying landscape.

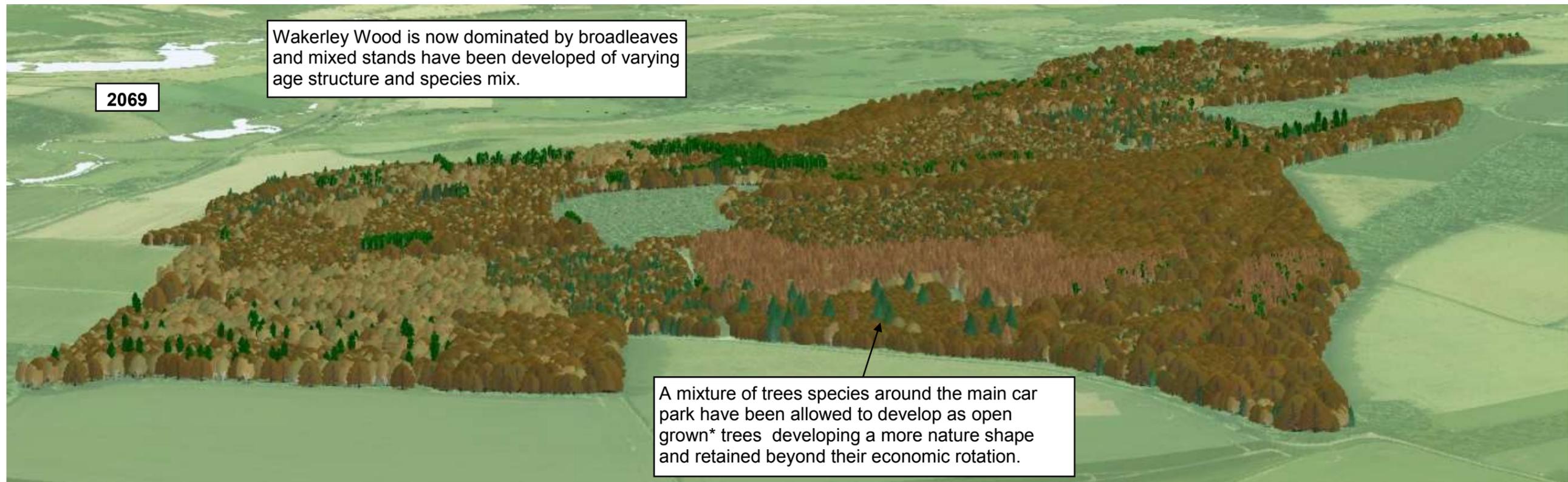
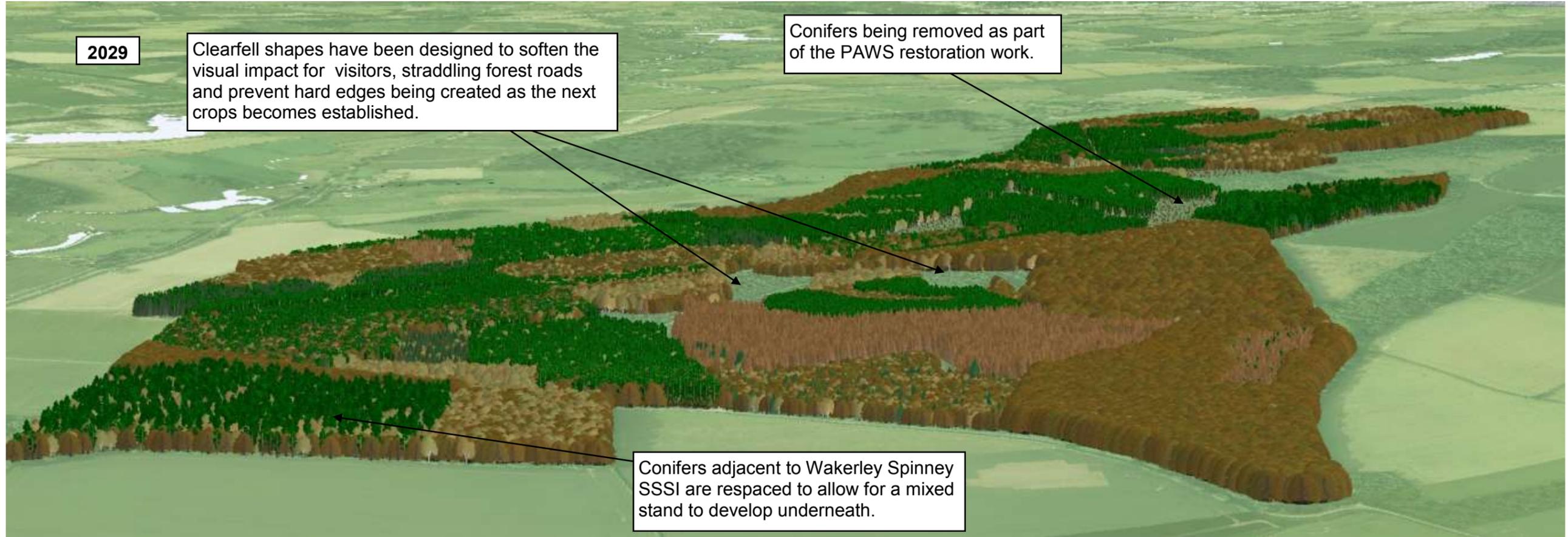
The current woodland structure (2019) comprises largely of broadleaves with a good percentage of conifers. With the exception of some recent felling adjacent to Wakerley Spinney that was left to regenerate the stands are all dominated by single species and are quite uniform in structure.

In the next 10 years new clearfell coupes will focus on the removal of ash stands and then Corsican pine which are now diseased.

The whole of Wakerley Wood is AWS or PAWS and the longterm objective for this woodland is for it to be dominated by broadleaves again. When any forestry operations take place opportunities will be taken to retain any quality broadleaves or natural regeneration where these will remain windfirm and form part of the next rotation.

Dormice are present in some areas of the woodlands and operations will be carried out at the appropriate time of the year in accordance with current legislation. Special care will be taken in these areas to conserve and where possible enhance the understory that is very important habitat for dormice. Connectivity in the crowns of the trees will also be taken into account when any felling operations take place or carrying out roadside management.





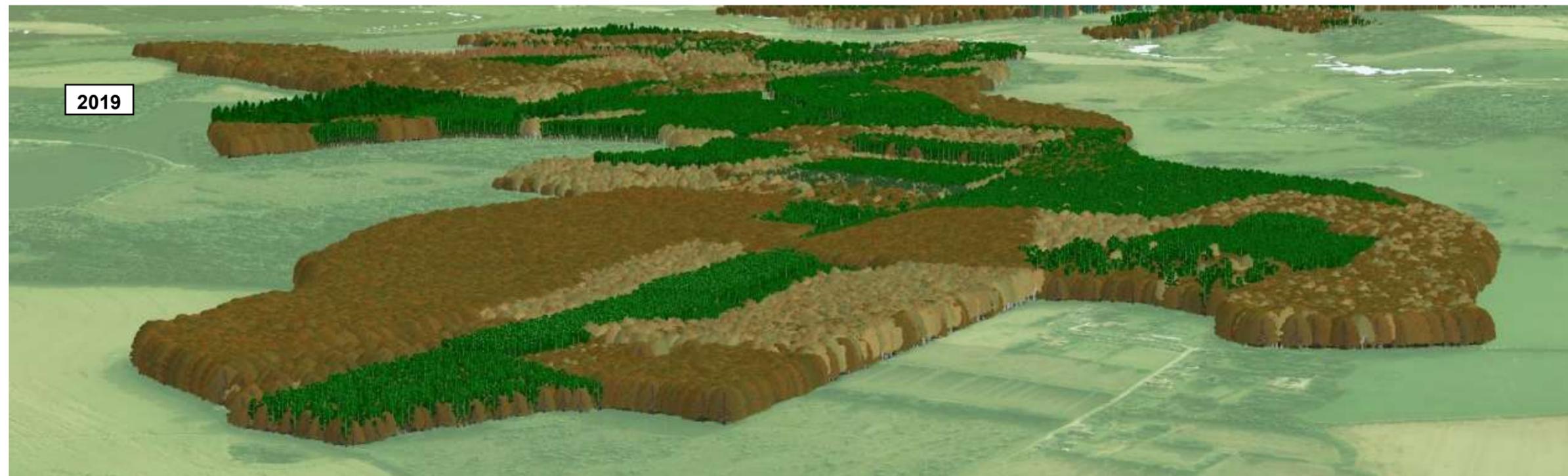
Wakerley Wood Southwestern Prospective

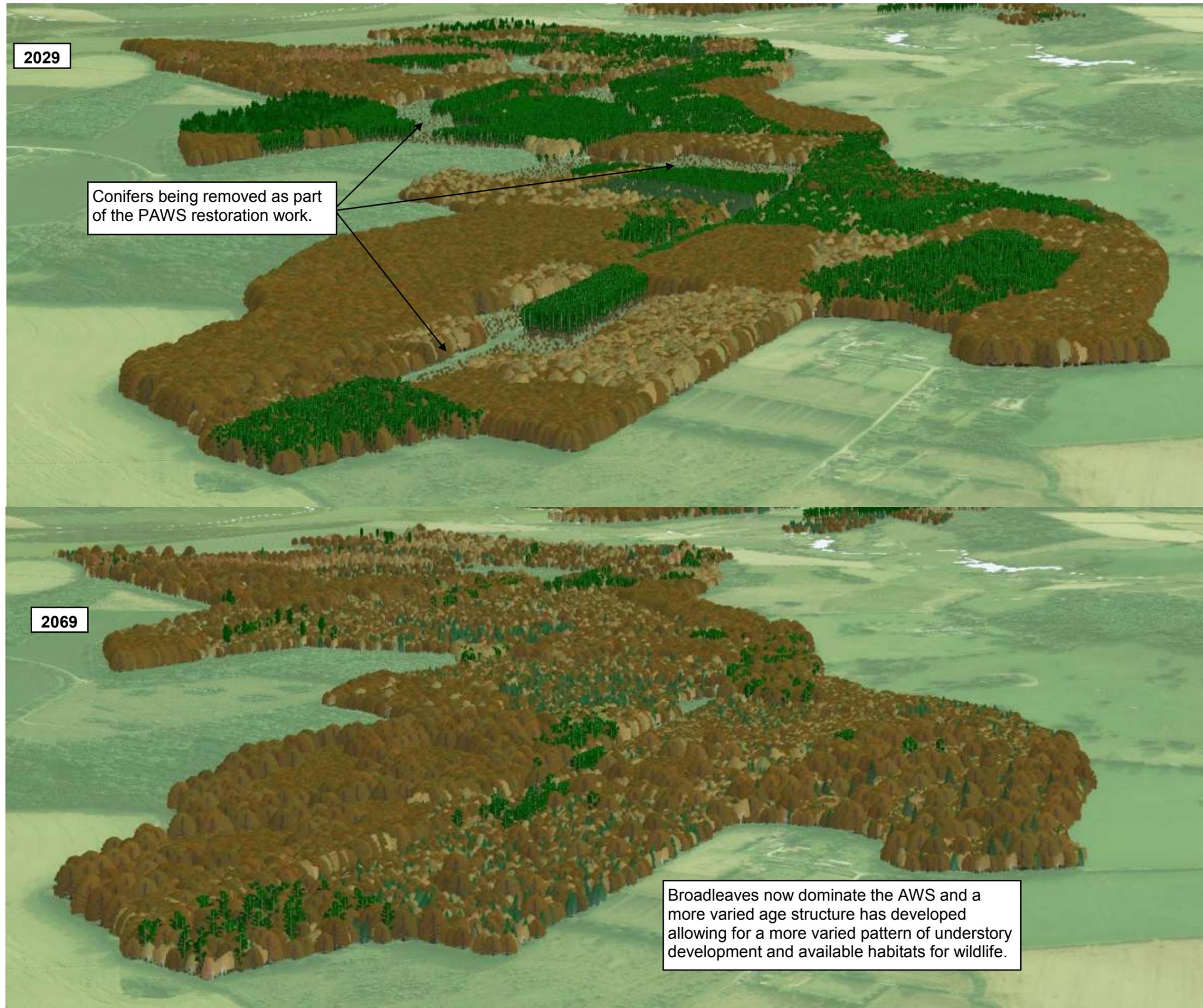
Using the current stock data and proposed management coupes set out in the new forest plan computer models have been built to show the current forest structure (2019), at the end of the design plan approval period (2029) and the long term forest structure in 50 years time (2069). Autumn tree colour has been used to help distinguish between evergreen and deciduous species and an elevated perspective has been used to show views of the whole forest which would otherwise not be seen in the flat low lying landscape.

Strong geometric patterns created by the conifer stands dominate the view. The whole area is dominated by mature stands with no recent clearfell operations taking place.

Large areas of oak were planted in the 1930's and these stands have now created uniform oak high forest with very limited understory. To diversify these stands group felling operations will slowly be introduced based around a final tree selection system that will see these trees grown on a 160 year rotation. Over the next 70 years approximately 60% of the oak will be felled as groups. Felling will be carried out every 10 years and ensure that in 70 years time when the remaining overstory is removed there is a good proportion of oaks ranging from 10 to 70 years in age.

The majority of the woodland will be managed using Low Impact Felling Systems where the forester will at the Ops1 level work with the ecologists and planning team to ensure their operations meet the FD long term objectives and conserve and enhance the heritage and conservation features.





Southwick Wood Southern Prospective

Using the current stock data and proposed management coupes set out in the new forest plan computer models have been built to show the current forest structure (2019), at the end of the design plan approval period (2029) and the long term forest structure in 50 years time (2069). Autumn tree colour has been used to help distinguish between evergreen and deciduous species and an elevated perspective has been used to show views of the whole forest which would otherwise not be seen in the flat low lying landscape.

The current woodland structure (2019) is dominated by oak high forest to the west, young broadleaves regeneration in the northwest and mid rotation conifer and broadleaved stands to the east.

In the next 10 years clearfell operations will focus on the removal of ash and poor quality stands with limited economic value. Within the PAWS areas conifers will be gradually removed to allow space for broadleaves to become established. Within the mature oak high forest small group felling will take place to begin the regeneration and diversification of the age structure with these areas.



