Forestry Commission
England

Forest of Dean

Sallow Vallets

Forest Design Plan

2012 - 2022

Forest Design Plan
Plan Period 2012 - 2022

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General description

Topic	Description	Implications for Management	Proposals
Location	Sallow Vallets is a large contiguous area of 648ha of mixed woodland on the north-western edge of the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. The market town of Coleford lies to the west with the smaller villages of Broadwell, Mile End, Berry Hill, Joyford, Edge End and Worral Hill clustered along its western and northern boundaries. Nearly all of the area lies within West Dean parish with small areas lying in Coleford parish.	Sallow Vallets is part of the extensive area of woodland that makes up the Forest of Dean. It lies within the boundary of the Statutory Forest which follows the north-western edge of the block. The area is subject to the traditions of grazing and the rights of freemining. Grazing is currently limited to the open areas along roadsides on the perimeters of Sallow Vallets. There are a number of active freemines within the area.	Forest management will continue to deliver a range of benefits in line with current policy. Delivery will be guided by the recommendations resulting from local stakeholder consultation and contained in the Forest of Dean Vision 2008 – 2018 document. The practices of grazing and freemining will continue and be supported by the Forestry Commission through its joint work with representative bodies. Current woodland management practice has been independently certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) as complying with the requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).
Tenure & Management Agreements	Sallow Vallets is registered as freehold woodland with the Land Registry.	As freehold woodland the Forestry Commission has dedicated the area as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW 2000).	Restrictions on public access are only likely when forest operations require working areas to be closed to the public for reasons of safety or during events that pose a risk to public safety such as motor rallies. It is unlikely that the whole area will be affected at one time.

Tenure & Management Agreements (cont.)	The area has successfully been developed over the last ten years as the principal destination for off-road cycling in the Forest.	Buildings within part of the old Cannop mine area are leased to locally run company, Pedalabikeaway, who manage a cycle hire business and café. They provide a service for both off-road cyclists and family cyclists. This is one of the principal points from which the family cycle trail running through nearby woodland can be accessed. A successful independent uplift service for off-road cyclists using the trails in Sallow Vallets also operates from here.	The steep and undulating terrain has attracted off-road cyclists since the sport expanded. Developing from a series of loosely regulated unofficial trails, seven official formally inspected red-grade (difficult) downhill trails have been created. Working with local cycling groups a red-grade single track trail has been developed. In 2011 the One South-west project supported the construction of an 11km blue-grade (moderate) standard single track trail. Access from the Pedalabikeaway centre to the family cycle trail was also improved by the construction of the Wimberry bridge to avoid the need for cyclists to cross a well-used council road. The success of the venue for cycling means that the original car parking facilities are inadequate at busy times and further provision is required.
	Across the rest of the area a number of sites are leased for a variety of uses.	The remaining area of Cannop depot owned by the Forestry Commission is leased to Gloucestershire Highways who use it for office space and storage. At the south end of Sallow Vallets in Perch Inclosure, the District Council lease Oak Quarry for a household	Particularly during the summer months the mix of recreational use with lorry and other vehicle traffic to the Highways depot is not ideal. The lease allows some waste collected by FC contractors to be disposed through this facility although this will

Tenure & Management Agreements (cont.)		recycling centre. Other agreements include: • Worcester Lodge camp site. • Hopewell tourist mine • Lakers forest school • Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reserve at Wimberry Quarry • Regionally important geological sites at Wimberry & Oak Quarries	be superseded by new waste contract arrangements effective from the end of 2012. Agreements are renewed at periodic intervals
Physical Environment	Elevation in the plan area ranges from 90 – 220m above datum. Aspect is predominantly to the east or west on either side of the main ridge. On the east side the valleys extending westwards from the Cannop valley also provide localised north and south aspects. Through the central part of the area soils are free-draining acid loams of relatively low fertility. On the lower slopes to the east and west soils are	Although the central part of the area is relatively flat, the eastern and western fringes are marked by steep terrain with a number of steep-sided valleys extending westwards from the Cannop valley. Other than along its western edge, Sallow Vallets is not particularly exposed and windthrow is not a major consideration when undertaking harvesting operations. The free-draining nature of the soils on the crest of the main ridge and upper slopes can result in dry growing conditions for tree	The combination of steep slopes and complex landform in places means that harvesting operations ideally need to be undertaken during drier periods of the year. However, it is often at these times that the area is most heavily used by off-road cyclists. The extreme western edge of the area is the principle area where some consideration should be given to ensuring that felling coupe boundaries follow wind-firm edges where possible. Of the broadleaved species, oak has frequently been planted on these drier soil types in the past. The dry nature of the sites has

Physical Environment (cont.)	seasonally wet base-rich loams or clay soils.	crops. This could potentially be exacerbated by predicted changes in climate.	not suited the species and the ability of this species to thrive on such sites is likely to decline further in the face of a warming climate. In future the use of oak and other native broadleaves should be concentrated on the lower valley slopes where soils are moister. Where conifers are planted on these dry sites, preference should be given to pine or other species better adapted to tolerate such conditions.
Landscape Setting	Sallow Vallets lies within the Forest of Dean and Lower Wye Valley National Character Area. The Forest of Dean Landscape Character Assessment categorises Sallow Vallets as part of the Forest Core (5a) category. Over half of the area of woodland in Sallow Vallets sits on the flat ridge top running north to south through the centre of the area. The land falls away steeply on either side. On the east side where the ground slopes down to the Cannop valley a number of smaller valleys branch westwards towards the ridge of higher ground.	This category demonstrates a strong sense of wilderness and isolation with little built development, although the area is marked by its popularity for recreational pursuits whose presence is masked by the dense woodland cover. Although the woodland is situated on a prominent ridge, there are few viewpoints looking over Sallow Vallets. The western edge is visible from the ridge extending towards English Bicknor and the bowl of lower ground to its east side. The	Extensive woodland cover will be retained throughout this area into the future. The use of conifers should generally be targeted towards the upper ridge slopes and plateau areas where soils tend to be drier and of lower fertility. The use of broadleaves for restocking should be concentrated on the lower ridge slopes and valley bottoms where soils are more fertile and not as dry. Careful consideration of the visual impacts of felling operations on the western edge of the area is required to maintain the quality of the landscape. Elsewhere, wide-ranging views are limited and the scale of working can be extensive to reflect the scale of the landscape. The design of the internal forest

Landscape Setting (cont.)		remainder of the area can be seen from the Beechenhurst ridge further to the east and in parts from the road descending from Beechenhurst to Cannop crossroads. However, the dense forest cover often screens the view from these locations.	landscape will assume greater importance.
	Unscheduled archaeological features most frequently associated with post-mediaeval woodland management and exploitation of coal and stone reserves have been recorded throughout the area. There is also evidence from LiDAR data of significant earthwork features associated with pre-historic and Roman activity.	Known sites are recorded on the GIS mapping system used by site managers.	Forest operations and development of recreation infrastructure will be undertaken with due regard for these sites that will be identified during the operational site planning process.
	There is a scattering of small communities along the western boundary of the area.	In the woodlands of the western half of the area there is consistent usage for informal recreation usage by these local communities. There is a sometimes uneasy tension in this area with off-road cycling.	Development of cycling facilities should recognise the importance of the western fringe to local communities. Excluding the Wimberry heritage and conservation areas, off-road cycling facilities will be concentrated in the main Sallow Vallets block demarcated by the four council roads on its perimeters.

Management Objectives	❖ To continue the sustainable production of woodland products as endorsed by FSC and PEFC that also allows the delivery of a range of other public benefits and that provides future opportunities for the substitution of wood products for fossil fuels and other materials ❖ To ensure that woodland management maintains the quality of the landscape. To deliver well-designed management proposals that comply with current landscape design principles and to develop the quality of the internal landscape ❖ To undertake management that protects and enhances woodland and open habitats and their associated species facilitating their resilience and adaptation to climate change ❖ To conserve cultural and heritage features ❖ To maintain and improve cycling facilities in the area bounded by High Beech Avenue (B4028) in the west, New Road (B4234) in the east, the A4136 to the north and the B4226 to the south excluding the heritage and conservation areas in Wimberry Slade. ❖ To maintain the area for the benefit of low-key informal recreation

Silviculture

Topic	Description	Implications for Management	Proposals
Silviculture: Species Choice (Figs. 1 & 2)	Conifers	Currently conifer species account for 40% of crops in Sallow Vallets.	Commercial conifer species will continue to be planted on felled sites where the impact on native flora and fauna is marginal or there are limited opportunities to develop linkage between areas of native broadleaved species.
		Of the conifer species currently found in Sallow Vallets, Corsican pine is affected by the foliar disease Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) caused by the fungus *Dothistroma septosporum* which dramatically reduces the rate of tree growth through premature defoliation and often results in mortality.	Existing areas of Corsican pine will be removed by 2025. Currently there is a moratorium on planting the species on the public forest estate in England. There is unlikely to be any significant use of this species in the foreseeable future.
		Phytophthora ramorum disease in larch has been identified for the first time at several sites in the Forest of Dean during summer 2012 including one site in Sallow Vallets. This is a quarantine disease that results in mortality and which requires controls to further infection.	As crops are confirmed infected by *Phytophthora* they will be felled and replaced by alternative species. No further larch will be planted during the period of this plan. The situation will be reviewed in the future.
		Current climate change research suggests that summer temperatures will rise by an average of 3-4^{O} C by 2080 under a medium emissions scenario and winter rainfall will increase by 20-30%. With these changes it is possible that further new pests and diseases not usually found in the UK will emerge that may	Climate change adaptation strategies suggest that increasing use should be made of seed sourced from more southerly provenances. In addition restocking should rely on a greater variety of species with more use of mixtures. Of the currently planted conifer species Norway spruce is less likely to

Silviculture: Species Choice (cont.)		threaten tree health.	withstand the projected changes in climate. Ongoing research suggests that other species planted in Sallow Vallets will tolerate the projected changes, although the range of suitable sites on which they are presently planted may reduce. Given the soil types found in Sallow Vallets, greater use should be made of alternative species such as Weymouth pine, Scots pine and Macedonian pine. Other conifer species to be considered include Coast redwood, Wellingtonia, Western hemlock and Oriental spruce.
	Broadleaves	Broadleaved species currently account for 49% of crops in Sallow Vallets.	The use of broadleaved species will continue to expand. Preference will be given to native species but alternative species will also be used to increase adaptation to climate change.
		Recent years have seen an increase in tree health conditions such as acute and chronic oak decline adversely affecting oak in the UK. In the Dean, oak has been planted on many sites that are sub-optimal increasing physiological stress on the species. Predicted changes in climate are likely to exacerbate this situation.	Oak will be preferred for use on the lower valley slopes where soils are moister and the impact of summer droughts will be lower. It will not be used on the drier soils on the higher ridge slopes and plateau areas. On what are considered to be the better 'oak sites' preference should be given to *Q robur* that is expected to extend its range under projected changes in climate.

Silviculture: Species Choice (cont.)		Although not a native species, Sweet chestnut has been planted in this area over a long period of time and is considered naturalised. It is, however, affected by the disease *Phytophthora ramorum* that results in the death of affected trees.	Sweet chestnut would have been the preferred broadleaved species to be planted on drier sites were it not for the impact of *Phytophthora ramorum.* Other minor species will need to be considered as alternatives in the short term but the situation will need reviewing in the future.
		Chalara fraxinea has been confirmed in the UK during 2012. This fungal disease causes dieback in native ash resulting in death of the tree. Largely confined to the east side of the country at present, it is likely to spread in the coming years.	Ash is found in parts of Sallow Vallets in mixture with other species. It is possible that trees may in the future be affected by *Chalara.* As with conifers a greater diversity of native broadleaves should be considered for restocking as a disease and climate change adaptation strategy. The use of more southerly provenances of current broadleaved species is advocated. In addition, greater use of alternative species such as Red oak, and Italian alder should be considered, the latter being used in mixture with species such as oak.

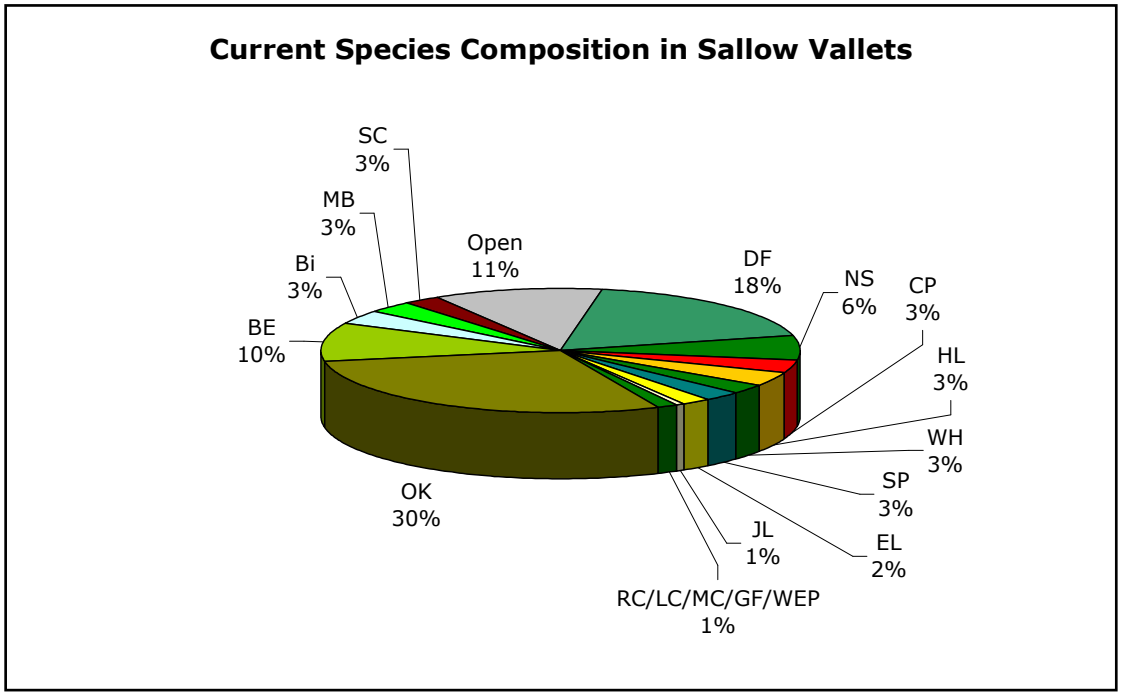

Figure 1: Current Species in Sallow Vallets

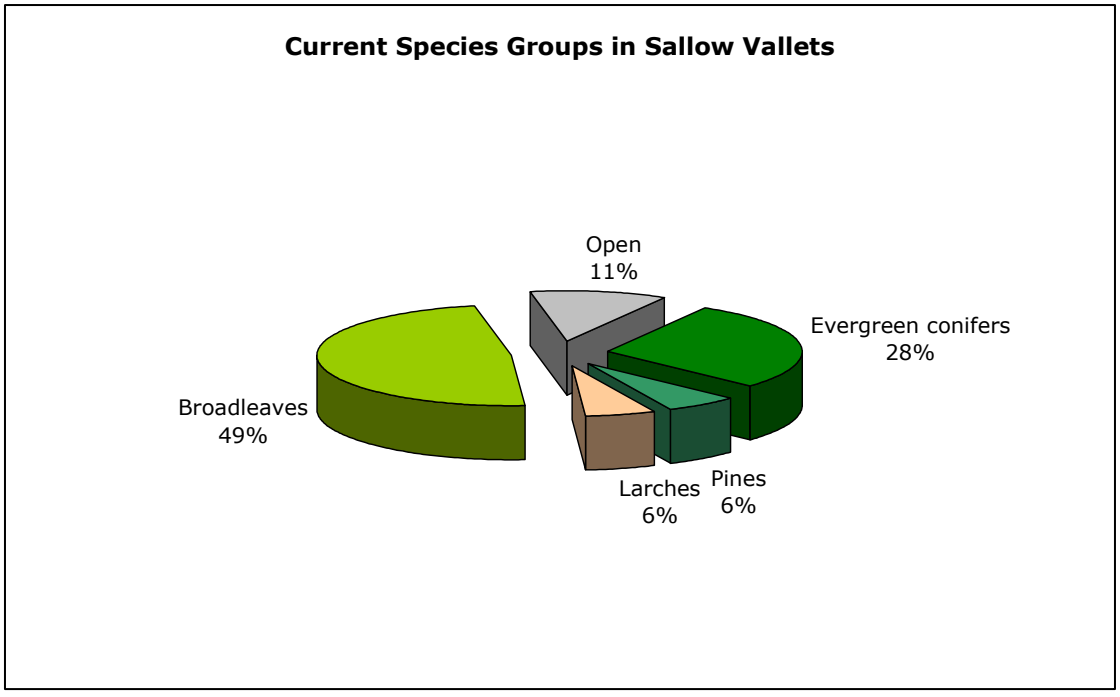

Figure 2: Current Species Groups in Sallow Vallets

Silviculture: Age Class Structure (Fig. 3)	**Conifers & Broadleaves**	There is a relatively wide distribution in age-class structure of both conifers and broadleaves. As is typical in other areas within the Dean, there is a spike in the rate of conifer planting in the 1960s.	Some gradual levelling of the peak in conifer planting through phased felling of crops in this age category would be beneficial.

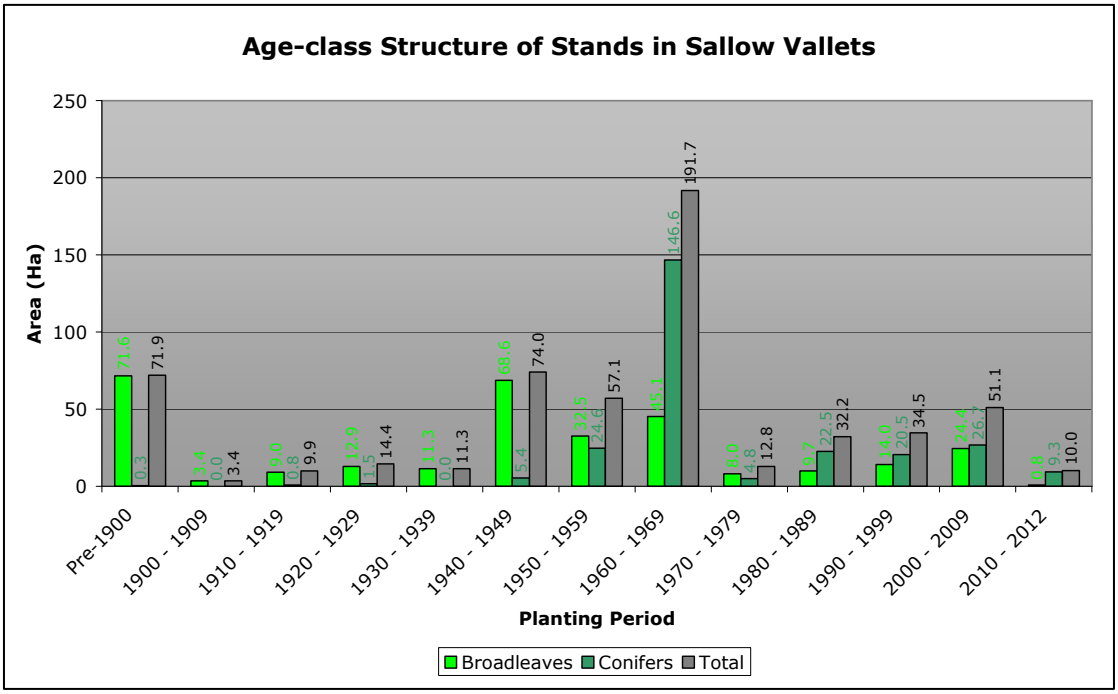

Figure 3: Age-class Structure of Stands in Sallow Vallets

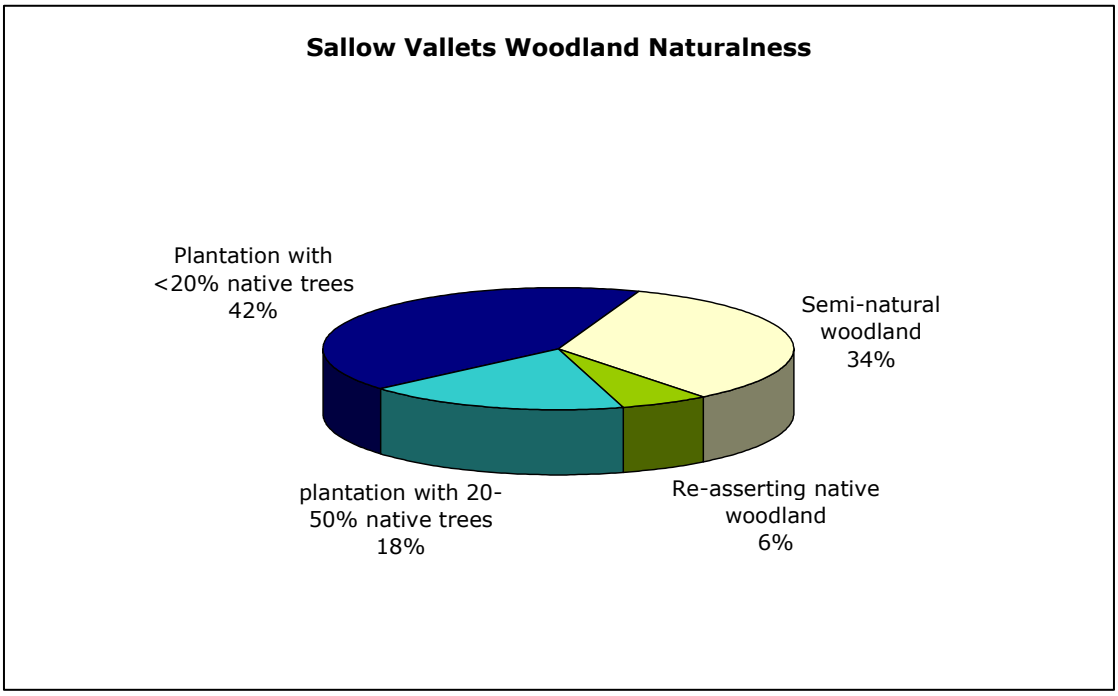

Figure 4: Woodland Naturalness in Sallow Vallets

Silviculture: Native Broadleaved Woodland (Fig. 4)	Nearly all of the area is recorded as ancient woodland on the provisional ancient woodland register.	The area has been subject to intensive timber exploitation as well as mineral exploitation and grazing all of which have contributed to dynamic shifts in land-use and woodland coverage over the centuries.	A statement has been agreed with Natural England (2008) that redefines the statutory Forest of Dean as ancient forest rather than ancient woodland in recognition of the wider cultural landscape. Management will maintain the current wooded area with the long-term aim of increasing the proportion of native woodland. At the same time there is acknowledgement that there is a role for the continuing production of quality conifer timber on appropriate sites to support local sustainable development.
	40% of the area is either semi-natural woodland or re-asserting native woodland.	Progressive conversion to stands of native species by thinning or felling of conifers and recruitment of broadleaved natural	Some increase in the proportion of birch as a result of natural regeneration would be acceptable. However, given

Silviculture: Native Broadleaved Woodland (cont.)	The remainder is plantation in nature, two thirds of which is composed of less than 20% native species.	regeneration is likely to result in a significant increase in the proportion of birch that readily regenerates on the site types found in Sallow Vallets. Birch is of limited commercial value, forms dense uniform stands and may be at risk under future climate-change scenarios.	questions on its overall value and its potential susceptibility to changes in climate, restocking using species such as oak and other broadleaves of a suitable provenance should be employed to enrich areas where the use of natural regeneration is the preferred method to expand the proportion of native broadleaves. Clear-felling conifers and restocking with site native broadleaves will also continue to be an accepted management approach. Where restocking using native broadleaves is undertaken, at least two main crop species will be used with at least one minor species such as hazel.
	In areas of semi-natural woodland and re-asserting native woodland, oak is the predominant species. .	Areas of semi natural and re-asserting native woodland are all derived from plantations.	Future management of these areas should seek to diversify species as far as possible by favouring alternative species during thinning or recruiting natural regeneration of alternative species where it occurs. This will contribute towards increasing the climate-change adaptability of these woodland areas.
Silviculture: Thinning & Felling	Conifer Thinning	Conifer stands will be thinned on a five-year cycle.	Conifers will be thinned if the stand basal area is close to or exceeds the minimum pre-thinning threshold basal area. Where the intention is to convert conifer stands to native woodland, conifer thinning will favour native species.

Silviculture: Thinning & Felling (cont.)			In the main block of Sallow Vallets the conifer stands at the northern end are next due for thinning in 2013 and in the southern end in 2016. In the Ninewells area on the western side conifer stands are due for thinning during 2012.
	Broadleaved Thinning	Broadleaved stands will be thinned on a ten-year cycle.	Management of broadleaved stands will be in accordance with the Forest of Dean District Broadleaved Management Plan. Stands will be considered for thinning if they have either achieved their pre-thinning threshold basal area or there is considered to be a silvicultural need. Broadleaved stands in the southern end of the main block of Sallow Vallets are next due for thinning in 2016. and in the northern end in 2018. In the Ninewells area and along the western edge of sallow Vallets broadleaved stands are next due for thinning in 2019.
	Conifer Felling	Subject to other management constraints, stands will be felled as close to economic maturity as possible.	Stands identified for felling will be felled as one operation at some point during the five-year period to which they have been allocated. Sites due to be restocked will normally be left fallow for at least nine months after felling. Restocking of either conifers or broadleaves will aim to establish a minimum of 2500 evenly spaced stems per hectare. A minimum of two species will be used in

Silviculture: Thinning & Felling (cont.)			restocking with the primary species not exceeding 65% of the total.
		Suitable sites in Sallow Vallets support the growth of high quality Douglas fir. Visitors to forests particularly appreciate the opportunity to enjoy large trees. Such trees are also valued by timber buyers.	Douglas fir stands will be retained on rotations longer than 65 years. Natural regeneration of the species is more likely in stands of this age and older. It is also more likely that stand structure will diversify with age as a mixed under-storey develops in the more open conditions resulting from ongoing thinning operations.
	Broadleaved Felling	With the exception of coppice operations, large-scale clear-felling of broadleaved stands will not be undertaken.	Stands of old broadleaves may be lightly thinned but preference will be given to retaining a proportion of trees of value for conservation.

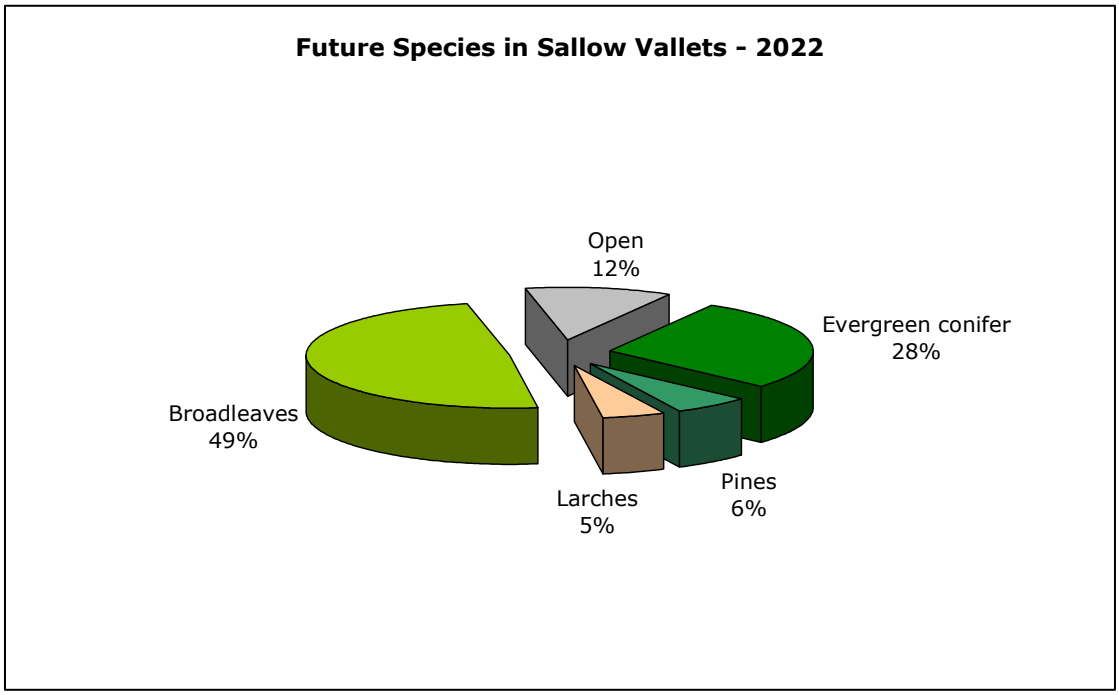

Figure 5: Future Species in Sallow Vallets in 2022

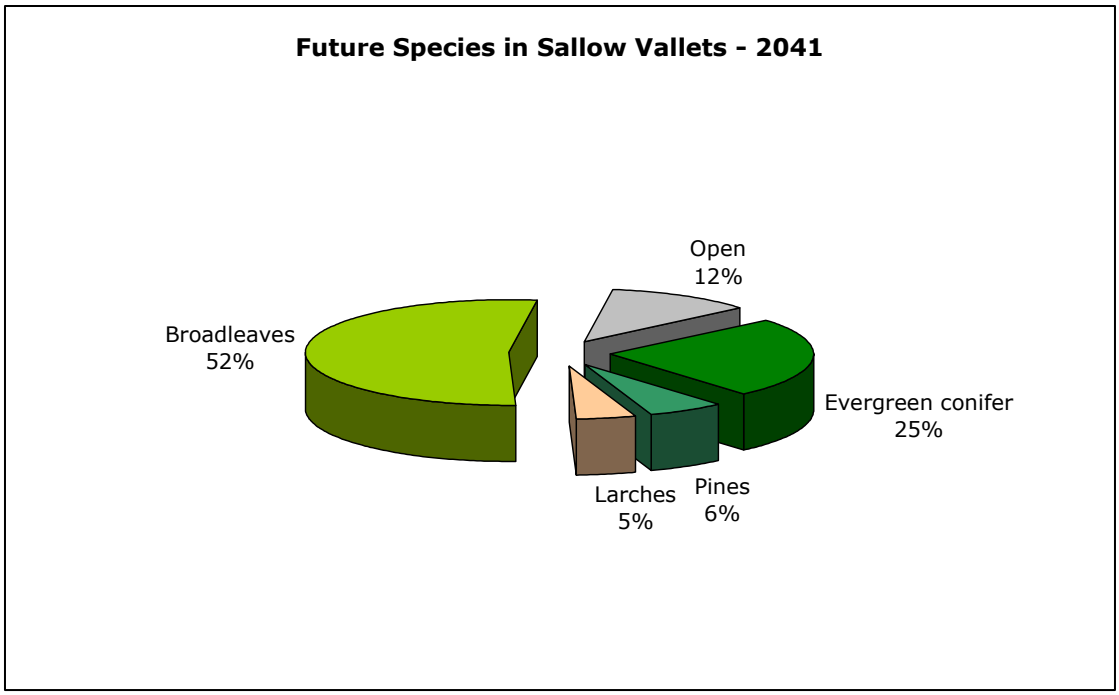

Figure 6: Future Species in Sallow Vallets in 2041

Silviculture: DevelopingWoodland Structure (Figs. 5 & 6)	Evergreen conifers currently account for 28% of the area with pines and larches each accounting for 6%. Broadleaves account for 49% of the area.	In the first ten years of the plan there is little change in these proportions although the area of larch reduces slightly.	The small reduction in the area of larches is due to the impact of felling diseased crops. Although the proportion of pine doesn't alter significantly, there is an ongoing programme to replace diseased Corsican pine with other pine species less susceptible to DNB.
		In the following 20 years the proportion of evergreen conifers declines by a further 3%. The proportion of broadleaves increases by a similar amount but the proportions of pines and larches remain the same.	The reduction in the proportion of evergreen conifers is matched by an increase in the proportion of broadleaves as native woodland replaces areas of conifers. It is likely that due to the impact of *Phytophthora* on larch species, the proportion of larch will actually decline further with a corresponding increase in both evergreen conifers and broadleaves used to replace it.
Woodland Conservation Features	European Protected species (EPS)	A number of bat roost sites have been identified within and adjacent to Sallow Vallets. Species such as Lesser Horseshoe and Barbastelle have been recorded. Other species almost certainly use the woodland for foraging and roosting given the extent of broadleaved woodland and the age of some stands of trees.	All operations will comply with the guidance agreed with Natural England regarding the management of woodlands where EPS may be present. Operational site plans will confirm compliance with EPS guidance. A number of other species that have legal protection are also

Woodland Conservation Features (cont.)		Otters have also been recorded as road casualties on the Cannop Brook on the eastern boundary of Sallow Vallets. Although there are no large water bodies within the FDP area, otters may utilise the small watercourses and marshy areas.	recorded through the area. The pre-operational planning process will identify these and ensure they are not adversely affected by operations. Future management will aim to maintain and enhance other features of nature conservation interest.
	Dead wood habitats	The areas of mature broadleaved woodland contain higher levels of dead wood. Given the long period of intensive management of the woodland, dead wood resources elsewhere are more limited.	In line with district policy, existing dead wood habitats will be maintained subject to operational and safety requirements. As forestry operations are undertaken throughout the area, measures to increase the number and variety of dead wood habitats will be put in place. These will include retaining felled material on site and the creation of new standing dead wood where appropriate, particularly on felling areas where standing dead wood snags can be created at the time of felling.
	Notable and Veteran trees	A number of notable trees are scattered throughout Sallow Vallets. These include not only old oaks and beeches but also conifer species such as Weymouth pine and Yew. One of the most well-known trees in the	Notable trees will be conserved and protected from damage during forest operations in accordance with national guidance currently being developed. Adequate allowance will be made to ensure that operations do not impact on the

Woodland Conservation Features (cont.)		area was the Crad oak south of Sallow Vallets Lodge. Thought to date from the mid C17th the tree finally collapsed in 2008. There are a number of young oaks growing on the site that are thought to be derived from the original tree.	trees or their root zones.
	Fallow deer and feral wild boar	Fallow deer and boar are found across the Forest of Dean as are small numbers of Muntjac deer. Fallow deer readily browse unprotected broadleaf restocking and natural regeneration. Feral wild boar can cause extensive rooting damage. They have the capacity to breed quickly and their impact on the ecology of the forest and neighbouring communities is likely to increase.	Numbers of deer and boar will continue to be controlled in accordance with district policies.

Meeting Objectives

Objective	Description	Proposals & Monitoring
To continue the sustainable production of woodland products that also allows the delivery of a range of other public benefits and that provides future opportunities for the substitution of wood products for fossil fuels and other materials	As part of the forest district's business plan and the organisation's customers' charter, the forest district is committed to financial and sustainable timber marketing targets. Management of the district's woodlands is undertaken in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme as endorsed and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.	Production forecast runs covering the period of the plan indicate that the proposed programme of felling and restocking combined with the ongoing production from thinning operations should ensure a sustainable supply of timber over the next thirty years. Sustainable production will be monitored as part of the forest district's marketing plan, five year production forecast and at the FDP five-year review. This process is audited as part of the FSC forest certification process. The Forestry Commission is already committed to making supplies of timber available for the wood-fuel market and this will be monitored as part of the district's marketing plan.
To ensure that woodland management maintains the quality of the landscape. To deliver well-designed management proposals that comply with current landscape design principles and to develop the quality of the internal landscape	Parts of the eastern side of the central ridge are visible from sites on the opposite side of the Cannop valley within the Forest. Woodland along the western boundary is also in a prominent position where it sits on the edge of the Dean scarp. However, a large part of the area is not particularly prominent in the landscape and the design of the internal woodland landscape will be of higher priority.	Where felling operations have been proposed, they have been designed to minimise any adverse impact on landscape quality. Principal viewpoints have been identified and the use of the Forester 3-D landscape graphics application has allowed felling proposals to be refined so that they conform with accepted landscape design principles. When operations are undertaken, their impact on the landscape will be

		assessed as the operation progresses. If required, small amendments can be incorporated at the time of the operation providing that the changes are not in excess of the thresholds detailed in the tolerance table in CSM 6. The impact of coupes will be assessed by fixed-point photography from principal viewpoints. Such reviews will help to inform future proposals.
To undertake management that protects and enhances woodland and open habitats and their associated species facilitating their resilience and adaptation to climate change	Forestry Commission England is committed to managing woodland is such a way that its resilience to projected changes in climate can be increased. This includes increasing the range of species planted and a re-evaluation of the provenance of seed used to produce seedlings used for restocking. Management of the public forest estate aims to deliver a range of woodland benefits including working towards habitat improvement and linkage. Such an approach will facilitate the ability of species to adapt and respond to changes in climate. Given the conservation importance of the area for a range of species including some that have protection under British and European legislation, forest management aims to maintain and improve habitats for the benefit of species found in the Forest. .	The sustainable programme of thinning and felling will continue to diversify stand and age structure that will benefit a wide range of species. The commitment to following agreed best practice will provide every opportunity for the maintenance of protected species present in Sallow Vallets. Ongoing formal and informal monitoring of habitats and species by FC staff, other stakeholder organisations and recording by individuals will provide feedback on the impact of woodland management. Analysis of the sub-compartment database will provide details of the increase in the proportion of lowland mixed woodland priority habitat. On a number of restocking sites alternative tree species have been identified for planting. This will increase

		the variety of tree species and contribute towards making the woodland more resilient to projected changes in climate. The operational site planning system will minimise the risk of adverse impact resulting from forest operations and will also highlight opportunities where conservation benefits can be delivered.
To conserve cultural and heritage features	Forestry Commission England is committed to maintaining and conserving the historic environments present in its woodland.	The pre-operational site planning system (that also covers recreation infrastructure development) drawing on the database of the location, significance and appropriate management of heritage features provided by the County Archaeology Service, direct liaison with the County Archaeology Service to discuss management operations on significant sites where appropriate, ongoing contract management and supervision and the contract closure review system should ensure that operations can be undertaken without adverse impact on heritage features. As appropriate, guidance and feedback on the impact of forest management on heritage features can be assessed by the Archaeology Panel that reviews heritage management in the Forest of Dean.
To maintain and improve cycling facilities in the area bounded by High Beech Avenue (B4028) in	The steep wooded terrain found through the central part of Sallow Vallets makes	Local Forestry Commission staff will continue to work with representative groups

the west, New Road (B4234) in the east, the A4136 to the north and the B4226 to the south excluding the heritage and conservation areas in Wimberry Slade.	it an ideal location for off-road cycling for a range of abilities. The provision of suitable cycling routes has been achieved by working with local cycling groups, other forest users and local community groups. The Forest of Dean is now recognised in England as being at the forefront of Forestry Commission sites that offer quality cycling facilities for all ages and abilities.	to maintain and improve cycling facilities whilst seeking to maintain a woodland environment that is attractive for all woodland users. Any future cycling developments will be outlined in a Forest Recreation Strategy. Feedback on the use of the area by cycling interests will be monitored both informally by recreation staff and formally through forums such as the Forest of Dean Recreation Panel and liaison meetings with recreation providers.
To maintain the area for the benefit of low-key informal recreation	There is consistent low level recreation usage of the area particularly around the margins near the communities.	Forest operations will inevitably have an impact for woodland users. This should be minimised through communication regarding timing of operations, effective planning to minimise the impact of operations and appropriate re-instatement works when operations have been concluded. Recreation use will continue to be monitored informally by local staff and reviewed at five-year intervals as part of the wider FDP review process.