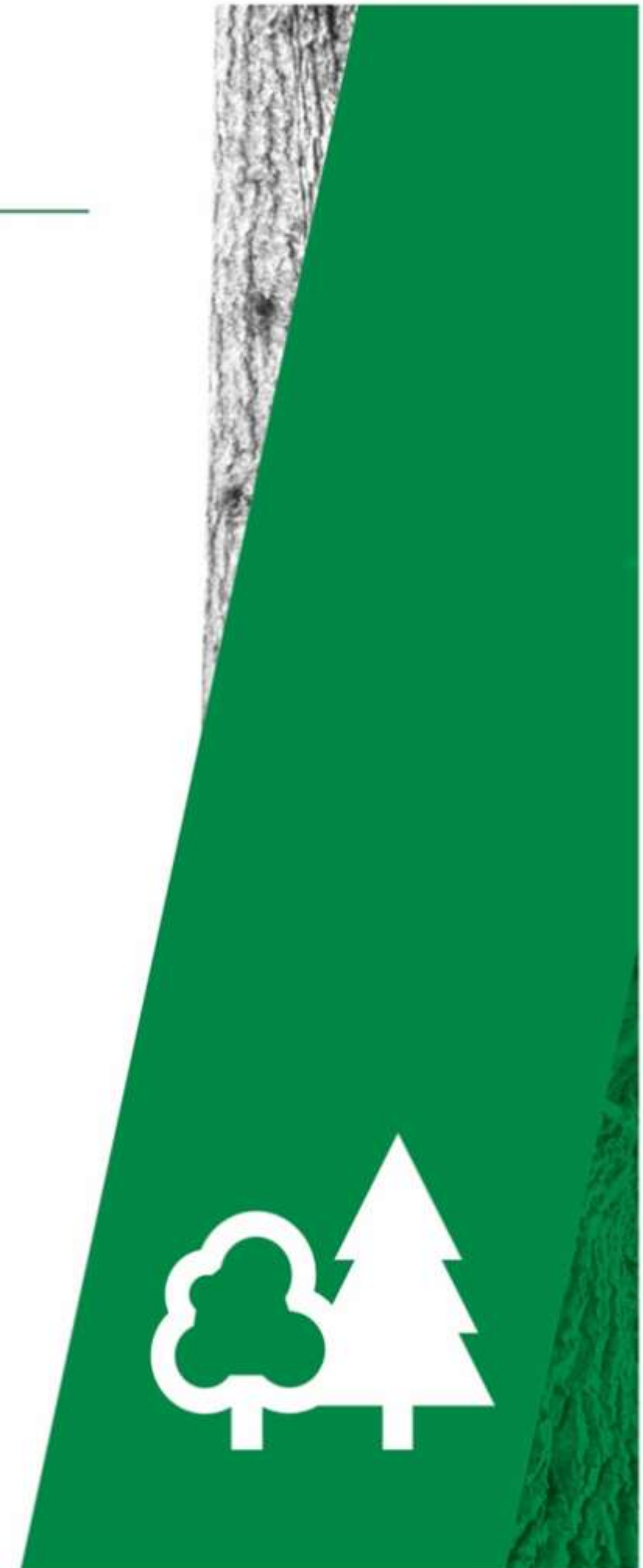


Cannock Chase Forest Plan 2024 – 2034



The mark of
responsible forestry

Forestry England
forests and woodlands
have been certified in
accordance with the UK
Woodland Assurance
Standard (UKWAS)





Summary

Cannock Chase forest as it is today began being planted in 1921 and was one of the first new publicly owned forests in the UK. The forest now covers an area of 2,612ha of which 2,222ha is woodland. It lies 30km north of Birmingham and is surrounded by the towns of Stafford, Rugeley and Cannock. In 1958 the Forest and surrounding area (69km²) was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to conserve and enhance its natural beauty, taking into account the needs of agriculture, forestry and the economic and social needs of the local community. In 2023 the AONB became Cannock Chase National Landscape.

Forestry England's management objectives for the forest are to balance the production of quality timber with maintaining and enhancing Cannock Chase's biodiversity, improving the resilience of the forest to climate change, conserving heritage features and facilitating recreation. In doing so Forestry England will continue to support local businesses and contractors involved in the forestry, recreation and leisure industries in which Cannock forest plays an important role.

The fungal pathogen *Dothistroma Needle Blight* (DNB) has had a major impact on the health of the pine crops that dominate Cannock forest, affecting growth rate and mortality over the last decade. Forestry England has deployed a number of management interventions to remove infected crops and reduce the impact on the remaining pine. Over the last decade Forestry England has introduced 14 new species of conifer which it is hoped will prove more resilient to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases.

The woodlands contain many historic and cultural features associated with past land uses dating back centuries; these include more recent World War I facilities which were used to train more than 500,000 soldiers until the war ended in 1918. Over the last decade Cannock Chase has become increasingly popular with visitors, with approximately 2.5 million day visits now made to the National Landscape each year.

Cannock Chase forest today provides a wide variety of ecosystem services to the region through its timber production and the diverse range of habitats and recreational opportunities it supports while still retaining the feeling of a 'wild landscape'.

Central Forest District - Cannock Chase Forests Plan

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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 show what we intend the woodlands to look like in the future.
- To detail our management proposals (felling and restocking), for the next ten years so we can seek approval from the statutory regulators.
- To evidence that our proposals are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard*, supporting FSC* & PEFC* certification of our forest management and timber products.

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 relevant standards and statutes lies with the Forestry Commission. If all criteria are met, full approval is given for management operations in the first ten years from the date the plan is approved and outline approval for the medium term vision (ten to fifty years).

Terms of Reference (page 11) set out our management objectives for the plan area, how these relate to district and national policies, and how these will be monitored. A Forest Plan is a ‘felling and restocking’ plan and is written at a landscape scale. It 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 in which year a particular operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it should happen. Before felling and restocking operations are undertaken, Operational Plans* are written by the Beat Forester. These detail the site-specific features that need taking into account when undertaking operations. This forest plan does not deal with the management of recreation, ecological or archaeological features. Planning for these elements follows a different management cycle and process. We use some technical words and phrases in the text because they best describe what we are doing. These are identified throughout the plan with an asterisk * and their meaning is shown in a glossary (Appendix I).



Application for Forest Plan Approval

i Plan Area Identification:

Forest District: Central Forest District
 Beat: Cannock
 Name: Cannock Chase Forest Plan
 Nearest Town: Rugeley
 OS Grid Reference: SK 0023 1634

Local Planning Authority: Stafford Borough, Cannock Chase and Lichfield District Councils

ii Designations:

Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS), Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Cannock Chase National Landscape, Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and lies within the National Character Area Profile 67 - Cannock Chase and Cank Wood.

iii Date of Commencement of Plan

As soon as possible once approved.

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total area
Clearfelling	355	34	389
Restocking	331	70	401

NB - All above figures refer to the gross area to be felled and exclude thinning operations
 Total clear fell area 389ha
 Forest Plan maps are attached

In addition to the above felling 716ha will be managed using Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)*. This will be done through the removal of 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 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.

All Forestry England forests and woods are independently certified as sustainably managed, to continue to benefit future generations. All of our forests and woodlands in this Forest District are certified to Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) licence code FSC-C123214 and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) licence code PEFC/16-40-1001 standards.

All timber arising from the Forestry England estate represents a negligible risk under the Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations (UKTR) and UK FLEGT Regulations.

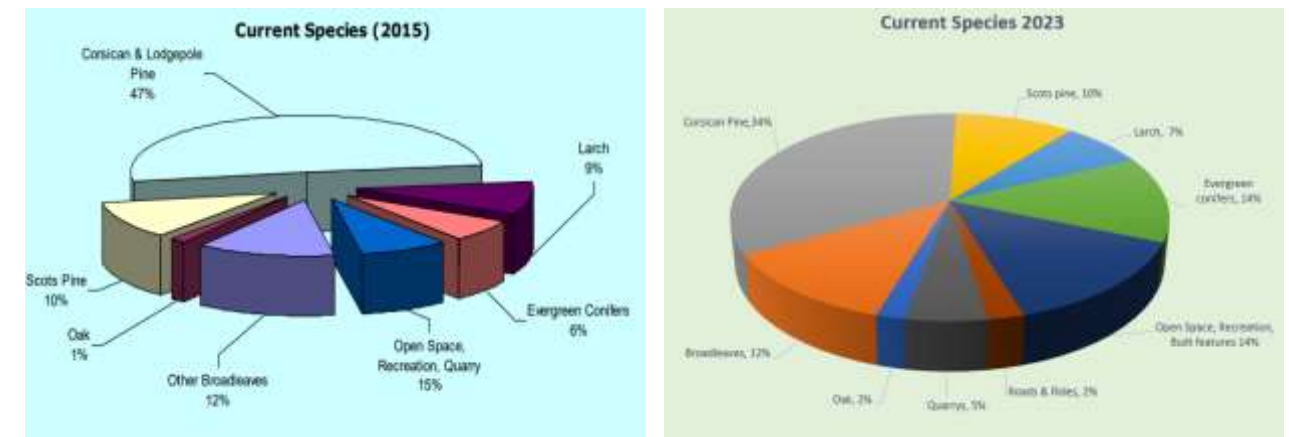
2. Review of Previous Management Plan

The management objectives set out in the 2015 forest plan have all been successfully delivered over the last 9 years;

- I. Produce sustainable high quality timber whilst diversifying age, species and structure of the woodland.
- II. Maintain and improve habitats to enhance diversity.
- III. Monitor and protect rare and priority habitats.
- IV. Provide high quality recreation and educational opportunities and facilities.
- V. Continue to improve both internal and external landscapes.

Over the last 9 years 393ha of clearfells and 117ha of strip felling have been restocked. This has helped diversify species, restructure the woodland and improve internal and external landscape views. The introduction of strip felling has maintained woodland cover in these areas, benefitting wildlife and facilitating the establishment of 14 new species of conifers.

Fig.1 Changes in Species Composition in the Forest



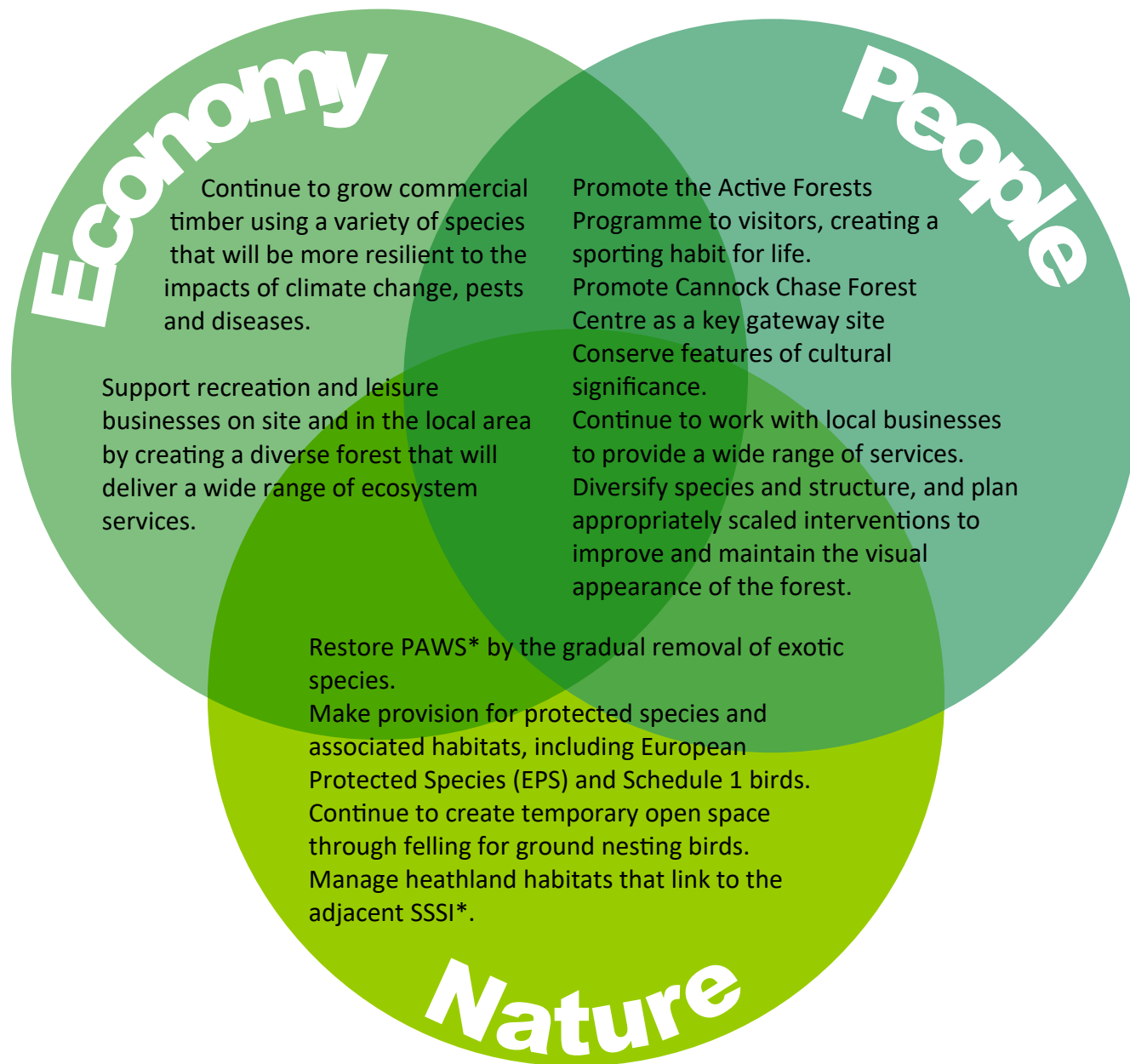
Key habitats for ground nesting birds, insects, reptiles and aquatic species have been carefully managed and monitored by Forestry England in partnership with organisations including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and the Environment Agency. Forestry England recreational facilities and events have encouraged tens of thousands of visitors to come and enjoy outdoor recreation. To reduce the impact on the SAC the bike trail that ran through the Lichfield block and onto the SAC has been closed. Cannock Chase hosts large outdoor events which included the Commonwealth Games MTB events in 2022 and rock concerts each summer which helps attract new audiences to the forest. 1,793ha of the forest is dedicated as Open Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and Forestry England, through its promoted trails and Active Forests programme, welcomes forest visitors on foot, horse or bike.

Forestry England has for over 100 years been growing, shaping and caring for over 1,500 of our nation’s forests for the benefit and enjoyment of all, for this generation and the next. With careful planning and expert management, Cannock Chase forest will continue to thrive, storing carbon, producing a sustainable supply of timber and providing people of all ages and abilities with fresh air and space to breathe. We are always thinking beyond today, planning and planting forests that will help create a sustainable future by balancing the economic, social and environmental benefits the forest provides.

3.0. Management Objectives

Forestry England’s mandate is to protect and expand England’s forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment. Our mission is to connect everyone with the nation’s forests by creating and caring for our forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow.

In Cannock Forest Plan we aim to achieve the following management objectives:



3.1. Economic

Cannock Chase produces over 15,000 m³ of sustainable timber each year from the 2,222ha of woodland. Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) has had a measurable impact on the growth and income generated from the Corsican pine over the last decade. DNB causes the trees to shed needles each year, reducing growth rates, gradually weakening the trees and in some cases, killing them. To counter the effect of the



Pic.1 Harvester processing logs.

DNB the Corsican pine stands are being thinned and rows of trees removed. This will increase aeration in the crowns of the trees, reducing the damp conditions where the fungus spreads rapidly. Felling rows of trees has also created suitable growing conditions for shade tolerant species less suited to large, exposed clearfell sites. This underplanting will allow the site to be managed productively again while phased removal of the Corsican pine takes place. Some younger Corsican pine stands (<25 years old) which are worst affected will be clearfelled* and restocked. In the next 20 to 30 years the early removal of Corsican



Pic.2 DNB turning needles red before they drop off the following season.

pine stands will lead to a drop off in larger log sizes and may affect economic returns from the forest. To help mitigate the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases on the future health of the forest, Forestry England has begun introducing a much wider variety of tree species. New timber markets have also been established to build economic resilience, including shorter rotation biomass production. Squirrel damage is becoming more prevalent and in some cases, killing established trees. Active measures are being taken to reduce squirrel numbers and ensure trees can develop and mature. Deer and rabbit populations are currently at a level that any browsing damage is not preventing regeneration or planting stock becoming established. Populations will be monitored and active management carried out where necessary,

3.1. Economic *continued*

to ensure population density does not increase and prevent the forest regenerating.

Income generation from leisure and tourism is becoming increasingly important at Cannock Chase and Forestry England will continue to support local businesses based in and around Cannock Chase Forest through the provision and promotion of new and existing recreation facilities in the forest.



Pic.3 Cyclists arrive for the opening of a new mountain bike trail

3.2 Nature

Cannock Chase supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, including several nationally and internationally protected species. Forestry England has a long standing relationship with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, West Midlands Bird Club, West Midlands Ringing Group, Butterfly Conservation and the Environment Agency in monitoring, conserving and enhancing local populations and associated habitats.

Heathland habitats that have been created over the last 20 years now provide wildlife corridors between the adjacent lowland heathland areas designated as SSSI* and SAC*. Forestry England working in partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust have managed a successful grazing project on parts of the heathland to deliver a traditional low impact management system. Forestry England continues to actively manage its own heathland SSSI in accordance with the agreed SSSI management plan to keep it in favorable condition.

Key wetland habitats on Forestry England land and the adjacent SAC will be considered when forestry operations take place and conifers will gradually be removed from water bodies in accordance with forestry and water guidelines*. Broadleaved buffers will be established around water courses, improving habitat quality and reducing interception of rainfall. In addition lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS)* will be used in conifer stands adjacent to the Sherbrook Valley, regulating any movement of soil nutrients or runoff following felling (see Future Forest Models p33). Forestry England will continue to manage White Clawed Cray-fish habitats and the Alder Carr woodland for conservation.

Ancient woodlands* are irreplaceable and are one of our oldest land-uses and most diverse ecosystems. In previous decades, many were planted with non-native conifers under which some features were lost. However, some are still present, while the seeds of others still remain in the soil. We will manage PAWS* to improve their ecological value and ultimately restore them to resilient native woodland (featuring >80% native species).

The relic wood pasture in the Lichfield area contains some of the best veteran trees in Cannock forest. These areas will be managed to conserve ancient features and gradually remove any exotic or invasive species without exposing the veterans too quickly.



Pic.4 TSI at Anson Clump



Pic.5 Stream with woody debris creating ideal habitat for White Clawed Cray-fish

These AWS, PAWS and relic wood pastures hold an extraordinary diversity of life and are particularly known for their rich flora and diverse fungi. Trees of special interest (TSI) including veteran trees will be protected and new future veterans will be recruited to maintain the continuity of biologically mature trees.

3.2 Nature continued

Deadwood habitats are very important for woodland ecology and the management team will ensure deadwood habitats are retained as operations are carried out, where safe to do so, in both broadleaved and conifer woodlands.



Pic.6 Standing deadwood providing important habitat

Mature open canopy woodland provides important nesting habitats for crossbills and ravens and some of these areas will be managed through minimum intervention for their conservation value. Monitoring carried out by the Midlands Bird Club has also shown the importance of transitional open space created following clearfells for breeding nightjars and woodlarks. Forestry England will ensure that within each management zone at least two clearfells take place within any five year management period to provide a variety of suitable nesting sites across the forest.



Pic.7 Open mature woodland managed as a Long Term Retention

Over the next ten year period one of Forestry England’s management objectives is to increase the area of scrub habitat along woodland edges and heathland corridors for the benefit of birds such as Garden warbler and Song thrush. Currently there is limited structural diversity between the short heathland and ride-side vegetation and the coniferous high forest.



Pic.8 Ride sides with no ‘shrub’ or herbaceous layer, typical of woodland edges and heathland corridors at Cannock. Future management will promote a more diverse structure as illustrated below.



Forestry England is managing open glades and outcrops of rocks to create warm, sunny conditions for Cannock’s adders, slow worms and common lizards and is working with Butterfly Conservation to manage woodland edges for fritillary. Following discussions with Natural England a new heathland corridor linking Cannock Chase SSSI through Rawnsley Hills and Beaudesert to Castle Ring and onto Gentleshaw Common has been proposed to improve habitat connectivity and support nature recovery across the wider landscape. Forestry England will explore opportunities to secure the



Pic.9 New oak clumps have been planted in the relic wood pasture to become future pollards and veteran trees.

additional resources needed to create and maintain this proposed heathland corridor (see concept map, p23).

3.3 People

The Cannock Chase area receives over 2.5 million day visitors a year who come to enjoy the countryside and outdoor recreation. Forestry England’s focus for its public facilities is in the Fairoak



Pic.10 Children’s bike skills area

Valley, which lies between Cannock Chase forest centre and the Cannock Chase visitor centre (see Recreation and Access map, p.19). The forest helps absorb the large numbers of visitors in the landscape while still retaining the sense of a ‘wild place’. Facilities include play areas, bike trails for all levels of experience, picnic areas, cycle hire, a Go Ape aerial walkway, walks and summer concerts.

Forestry England has always promoted outdoor education in the forest and each year thousands of school children and students come to enjoy a sensory exploration of nature, science and maths. Classrooms and education resources are available for teachers and group leaders to immerse their classes in a range of subjects and spark the imagination, delivering learning in the outdoor environment that is so important for many youngster’s learning and mental health.



Pic.11 Outdoor learning—Classrooms without walls

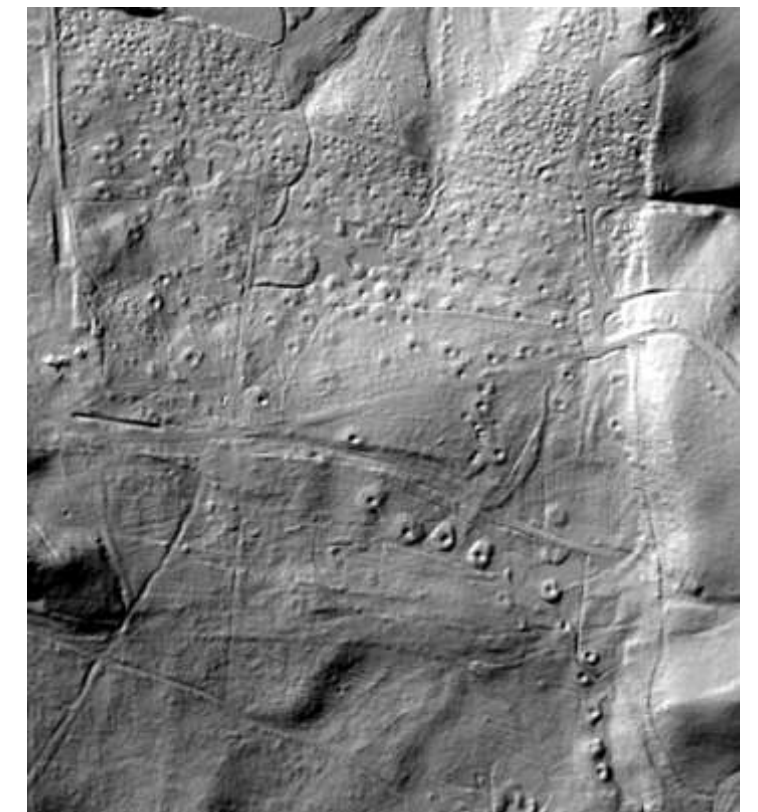
Forestry England will continue working with partners to support existing events and new sustainable business and leisure facilities that are in keeping with the other objectives laid out in this Forest Plan. Our visitor activities are focused in the recreation zone, with the wider forest offering additional opportunities for quiet recreation. By providing accessible opportunities for diverse communities to enjoy adventurous, playful, social and healthy activities Forestry England contributes to the local economy and brings as wide an audience as possible into contact with nature.

Woodland within the recreation zone around the Tackeroo and Cannock Chase Forest Centre events areas will be managed through a group felling programme. This will create a more open forest structure, with groups of shrubs, understory species and climax species of varying ages developing over the next 30 to 50 years. Thinning in these areas will be carried out on a 10 year cycle as opposed to a 5 year cycle elsewhere. This will reduce impacts on recreational infrastructure and planned events. In outlying areas of the forest beyond these recreational zones formal public access is much lower and there is limited built infrastructure.

1,793ha of the forest is freehold and is designated as Open Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The remaining 819ha is managed under a long term lease agreement for forestry purposes and there are some restrictions on public access in these areas (see Recreation and Access Map, p.19).

Cannock Chase has been wooded throughout its history and it was not until more recent times (17th Century) when mining, sheep and rabbit farming created the first major changes in landuse. During The Great War hundreds of thousands of soldiers were brought to Cannock Chase for training in trench warfare before being sent to the Western Front. Although the military buildings have now gone their concrete foundations and the numerous trenches and rifle ranges dug still remain today. One model trench system has been scheduled as an ancient monument (SAM).

Staffordshire County Council and Historic England carried out a LiDAR survey of Cannock Chase in 2016. This has provided Forestry England with detailed landform analysis of past landuses that is now used when planning operations to ensure all heritage features are conserved and managed in accordance with UKFS*, UKWAS* and Forestry England's Historic Environment guidance.



Pic.12 LiDAR of Beaudesert showing entrances of disused Bell pits dug by hand in the 17th Century.

4. Harvesting Operations

Our key management objective is to produce quality conifer and hardwood logs of varying sizes for a variety of markets, whilst conserving other important features. Forestry England have had to adapt harvesting operations over the last 10 years in response to the declining health of infected Corsican pine crops, with many being removed decades before their due felling dates. In the younger Corsican pine crops (25 to 40 years old) strip felling has been introduced to begin phased removal while maintaining woodland cover. This helps protect the soils and retain a stable microclimate, benefitting woodland ecology. It has also helped create more sheltered planting sites, supporting



Pic.12 Infected needles have fallen from the Corsican pine branches leaving just last years growth on their tips, reducing the trees ability to photosynthesise.

establishment of alternative species less tolerant of exposure.

This has allowed a much wider range of species to be introduced into the forest, building resilience to the future impacts of pests, diseases and climate change over the next century. Strip felling will continue where the pine still retains some needles and will continue to grow, but badly affected trees will be clearfelled.

The effect of DNB* on the more mature Corsican pine and Scots pine stands is currently moderate and Forestry England hopes to be able to manage these on their conventional economic rotation.

Lower Impact Felling Systems (LISS) will be used on both broadleaf and conifer crops in specific areas to help develop mixed stands. Methods such as crown thinning and small group felling (<2ha) in the LISS stands will be used to encourage regeneration, and where present, allow it to become established. LISS or coupe felling will not take place until the adjacent felled area have become fully established (2m growth).

5. Intended Landuse

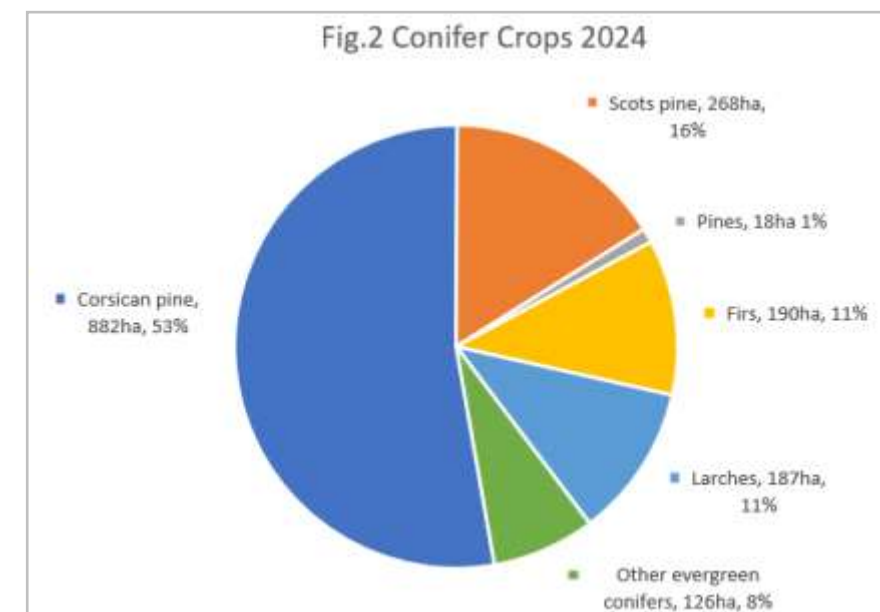
No major changes are planned to the overall proportion of woodland habitats and the current balance of 74% conifers, 14% broadleaves and 12% open habitats will continue over the next rotation. The current age structure is reasonably diverse (see Current Species map p.21) with 24% young and not yet thinned, 40% mid rotation and 27% mature.

Due to the early removal of infected Corsican pine over the next 10 years we will see an increase in young stands and a drop off in mid rotation trees. This will be a short term pattern, with a gradual reversion to mid rotation trees dominating the forest structure once again.

To increase forest-scale resilience to current and future pests, diseases and climatic changes we aim to introduce a wider range of tree species during restock where appropriate. This forms part of our portfolio approach to restock, which also includes accepting natural regeneration and using planting stock of local provenance and/or from 2 to 5 degrees south where possible.

Our objective is that no one species will dominate the future forest structure and a wider variety of species will gradually become established over the next 50 years, including some mixed stands.

Fig. 2 shows the current distribution of conifer species, with Corsican pine still occupying 882ha. Broadleaf stands will be restocked using a combination of planting and natural regeneration where site conditions allow. Management operations will look to develop stands of high quality timber in both broadleaf and conifer stands.



Forestry England will continue to work with Forest Research to help monitor the health of Britain's tree species and use their decision support tools to inform selection of species and mixtures that are best suited to conditions, climate predictions and management objectives for each area. Species choice will also be guided by our foresters expertise and site-specific factors such as designations, browsing pressure and competition from ground vegetation. Analysis for Cannock Forest suggests the following species will remain productive through till 2080.

Table. 2 - Most productive species using ESC* climate models (2080) for the two main soil types found on Cannock Chase

Soil types	Gravelly or sandy podzols—Cannock Chase central plateau	Loamy brown earth—Cannock Chase western and eastern fringes
Conifers	Scots pine, Norway spruce, Maritime pine, Leyland cypress, Weymouth pine, Douglas fir, Oriental spruce, Lawsons cypress, Western red cedar.	Serbian spruce, Western red cedar, Macedonian pine, Pacific fir, Coastal redwood, European silver fir, Japanese red cedar, Western hemlock.
Broadleaves	Grey alder, Sweet chestnut, Sessile & Pedunculate oak, Rowan, Silver birch, True service tree, Beech.	Grey alder, White willow, Pedunculate oak, Black poplar, Wych elm, Norway maple, Small-leaved lime, Hornbeam

To reduce the resources needed to establish restock sites Forestry England is in many cases planting felled areas within 6 months of felling operations being completed. This reduces competition from weeds and the need for mechanical or chemical vegetation management.

During restocking, Forestry England will plant to achieve establishment of at least 1,100 stems/ha (broadleaves) and 1,800 stems/ha (conifers) across at least 20% forest cover. If at year 5 (from felling year – year 0) the minimum stocking density has not been reached on at least 20% forest cover, the site will be planted in years 6 or 7 to achieve this threshold. Where natural regeneration is the chosen restocking method, Forestry



Pic.13 Sustainable forestry—Larch logs at roadside awaiting delivery to the timber mills

England will ensure at least 1,100 stems/ha (for all species) across at least 20% forest cover by year 10 (from felling year – year 0). If at year 10, 1,100 stems/ha across at least 20% forest cover has not been covered the site will be planted in years 11 or 12 to achieve this threshold.

	Forest Plan Area	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area	Forest District Percentage
Total Area	2,612	100	27,147	100
Total Wooded Area	2,222	85	23,461	86
Open Habitat (>10%)	390	15	3,235	12
Natural Reserves - Plantation (1%)	13.8	0.5	251	1.57
Natural Reserves - Semi Natural (5%)	0	0	380.9	4.81
Longterm Retentions & Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (>1%)	844	32	14,637	55.2
Area of Conservation Value (>15%) including LISS	1,135	43	17,582	64.8

Table.1 Cannock Chase Forest Plan Contribution towards Central District commitments to UKWAS and UKFS

6. Terms of Reference

National Strategy	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
<p>Economy:</p> <p>1) Maintain the land within our stewardship under UKWAS certification,</p> <p>2) Improve the economic resilience of our woods and forests,</p> <p>3) Encourage and support business activity on and around the nation’s forests.</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, and in some areas trialling species which may not have been previously planted in forest conditions, using a range of silvicultural systems.</p>	<p>Continue to grow commercial broadleaves and conifer crops using a variety of species that will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases to maximise yields. Ensure no one species dominates the forest in future rotations.</p> <p>Use a variety of silvicultural systems based around the light requirements of the trees to be established.</p> <p>Ensure stands are more structurally and species diverse through the use of varying silvicultural systems to link trophic levels both horizontally and vertically.</p> <p>Support the recreation and leisure businesses on site and in the local area by creating a diverse forest that will deliver a wide range of ecoservices.</p> <p>Use broadleaved buffers around heathland areas to reduce the risk of wildfires in the forest.</p>	<p>Record changes in the sub compartment data base (SCDB).</p> <p>Record the Silvicultural systems used in the GIS*.</p> <p>Review the landscape impact of proposed felling through 3D modelling and landscape perspectives. Monitor operations that have taken place at the 5 year review and 10 year forest plan renewal.</p> <p>No monitoring required.</p> <p>Record changes in the sub compartment data base (SCDB).</p>
<p>Nature:</p> <p>1) Improve the resilience of the natural environment of the nation’s forests under our Stewardship,</p> <p>2) Realise the potential of the Nations Forests for nature and wildlife,</p> <p>3) Maintain and improve the cultural and heritage value of the nation’s forests.</p>	<p>1) Adapting more sensitive timber harvesting arrangements and adopting recent FC guidance on forest operations 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>Restore AWS by the gradual removal of exotic species. Introduce a wide variety of deciduous species that will be better suited to the impacts of climate change, pests and disease.</p> <p>Operations will consider potential impacts on protected species and their associated habitats, including European Protected Species (EPS) and Schedule 1 birds. Where required, suitable mitigation will be implemented in line with relevant legislation, guidance and policy.</p> <p>Continue to create temporary open space created through felling operations >1.5ha for ground nesting birds.</p> <p>Manage heathland habitats away from areas with increased visitor pressure that link the adjacent SSSI.</p>	<p>Restoration will be monitored at the 5 year and 10 year review of the species composition recorded in the SCDB.</p> <p>Monitored as part of the operational planning process.</p> <p>Monitored as part of the 10-year forest plan renewal.</p> <p>No monitoring required.</p>

6. Terms of Reference

National Strategy	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
Nature:		<p>Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver nature conservation across Cannock Chase.</p> <p>Manage TSIs in the woodlands and demonstrate appropriate management to recruit future veteran trees and increase the volume and distribution of deadwood away from areas of high public use.</p>	<p>No monitoring required.</p> <p>Monitored as part of the operational planning process.</p>
People: <p>1) Encourage communities to become involved in the nation’s forests, 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 nation’s 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) Offering opportunities for quiet recreation and adventurous activities, to enable people to experience the potential health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>3) Developing partnership with private businesses and public bodies to expand and improve recreational opportunities across the estate.</p> <p>4) Creating a wide variety of opportunities for schools, groups, families and individuals to engage with and learn about trees and forests in accordance with the National and District Strategies.</p> <p>5) Encouraging third party environmental educators and other partners to offer learning opportunities in the nation’s forests.</p>	<p>Promote Cannock Chase forest centre as a key gateway site from which an extensive network of promoted trails for walkers, horse riders, and mountain bikers originates.</p> <p>Conserve features of cultural significance including earthworks and World War I features.</p> <p>Continue to work with local businesses to provide a wide range of services and facilities on site.</p> <p>Promote the Active Forests Programme aimed at creating a sporting habit for life for visitors through communication, partnership and engagement.</p> <p>Diversify species composition and structure, and plan sympathetically designed and appropriately scaled interventions to improve and maintain the visual appearance of the forest.</p>	<p>No monitoring required.</p> <p>Monitored as part of the operational planning process.</p> <p>No monitoring required.</p> <p>Monitored as part of Forestry England national active forests programme.</p> <p>Review at the 10-year forest plan renewal stage.</p>

Appendix I

Acute Oak Decline

Acute oak decline is a complex syndrome in which several damaging agents interact and cause a serious decline in tree condition, and can kill oak trees within four to six years of the onset of symptoms. The agents can be abiotic or biotic; the latter often include insects and fungi which are not capable of invading healthy trees but which can be very destructive to stressed oaks. Symptoms include characteristic weeping cankers/lesions in the bark.

Ancient Woodland

Areas of semi-natural native woodland that have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600. They are particularly rich in biodiversity and this is often notable in their characteristic ground flora.

Aspect

The direction a slope faces. This can have a strong influence on the microclimate, ground vegetation, soils and hydrology.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees. The shade it casts has a strong influence on the plants, trees and shrubs beneath it.

Carr Woodland

A wet woodland area, usually dominated by willow, birch and alder species.

Chalara Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a highly destructive fungus killing native ash trees across the UK. Young and coppiced trees will die quickly once infected, more mature ash may survive for a number of years once infected. Causes the timber to lose strength, become brittle and trees to start dropping limbs.

Chronic Oak Decline

Chronic oak decline is a complex disorder of oak trees in which several damaging agents interact either simultaneously or sequentially to bring about a serious, long term decline in tree health and condition. It differs from acute oak decline (above), which causes a much faster, and usually fatal, decline in tree health.

Clearfell System

Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). Sometimes scattered trees or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.

Climax Species

Tree species that will eventually dominate the forest canopy, maximising their exposure to sunlight and out-competing other species.

Coppice

Coppicing is a Lower Impact Silvicultural System (LISS) based on regeneration by regrowth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and regrowth. Coppice can also refer to an area of woodland in which trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide wood products. 'Coppice with standards' refers to coppice with a scatter of trees grown on a long rotation to produce larger-sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.

Coupes

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

Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)

DNB is a fungal disease affecting mainly pine species. The fungus affects the needles of the infected tree, which are eventually shed. This can continue year on year and gradually weaken the tree, significantly reducing timber yields. It can also eventually lead to mortality.

Ecological Site Classification (ESC)

ESC is an online tool developed by Forest Research to help a forester choose tree species that are suited to a specific site. It models how well each species is likely to grow using information on climate and soil properties. It can also be used to forecast how climate change may impact suitability.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is an interconnected network formed of all the living things in a given area (plants, animals and organisms) and their interactions with each other and their non-living environments (eg: weather, earth, sun, soil & climate).

Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are goods and services that people depend on that arise from ecosystems. They are usually categorised into Provisioning (eg: timber, water, food production), Regulating (eg: regulation of climate and diseases), Cultural (eg: recreational opportunities, aesthetic value) and Supporting services that underpin these (eg: crop pollination).

England Trees Action Plan

Sets out the Government's long-term vision for the treescape it wants to see in England by 2050 and beyond.

Forestry England

Forestry England is the executive agency of the Forestry Commission that is responsible for managing the Nation's Forests in England.

Forests and Water Guidelines

One of seven sets of guidelines that support the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS and guidelines outline the context for forestry in the UK; set out the UK Government's approach to sustainable forest management; define standards and requirements; and provide a basis for regulation and monitoring, including national and international reporting.

Forest Plan (FP)

A FP is primarily a landscape-scale felling and restocking plan. It provides a holistic, long-term approach to planning and forest design, detailing felling operations over a 10 year period for the purposes of licensing felling and outlining proposals over the next 50 years. FPs are reviewed every 5 years and redrawn and approved every 10 years.

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)

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

Group Selection

A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups. Group selection involves felling groups of trees (generally <0.25 ha per group)

Historic Environment

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

Landscape Character

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

Long Term Retention

Individual, stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond their normal economic age or size.

Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems. LISS are generally compatible with windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.

Minimum Intervention

Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally permitted are fencing, control of exotic plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work. Management only involves the basic inputs required to protect the woodland from external forces or ensure succession of key habitats and species.

The Nation's Forests

The woodlands managed by Forestry England. These include both freehold and leasehold land. (Previously referred to as the Public Forest Estate.)

National Character Area (NCA)

Broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'.

National Landscapes

There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK. These are places with national importance, protected for the nation's benefit, but cared for by local teams with a deep understanding of the distinctive web of interconnecting factors that make these places special.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

NNRs were established to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Most NNRs offer opportunities to the public to experience wildlife first hand and learn more about nature conservation.

Native

Native tree species colonised Britain without human assistance at the end of the last ice age, before the English Channel cut Britain off from mainland Europe.

Naturalised

Naturalised trees have colonised Britain since the land divide with mainland Europe and are growing and reproducing successfully within their natural climatic range without human intervention.

Natural Regeneration

The growth of new trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees. Regeneration only occurs where suitable seed sources and conditions are present.

Natural Reserve

Natural Reserves are areas which are predominantly wooded, usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value..

Nest Planting

Trees planted in small groups which are distributed across a restock site with remaining unplanted areas left to naturally regenerate. A useful way to introduce new species or provenances to a site.

Notifiable Disease

Some tree pests and diseases are notifiable, which means that, in England, they must be reported to the Forestry Commission or Animal & Plant Health Agency. Notifiable tree pests and diseases are typically those with the potential to cause greatest damage to our trees, woods and forests.

Open Grown Trees

Trees that have been given space to develop a large crown and natural shape. In comparison trees planted closely in a plantation managed for timber or biomass tend to have a more uniform shape.

Open Space

Areas within a forest without trees, such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, water bodies, rocky areas, roads and rides.

Operational Plans

Detailed site plans prepared in advance of all major forest operations providing guidance to Forestry England staff and contractors. They identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Phytophthora ramorum and *P.pluvialis*

P.ramorum is a very destructive pathogen affecting over 150 plant species, particularly larch trees. Some broadleaved plants (such as sweet chestnut and rhododendron) can also host *P.ramorum*. *P.pluvialis* was first recorded in the UK in 2021 and affects a range of species including Douglas fir and western hemlock.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

Ancient Woodland areas where semi-natural woodland has been cleared and replaced by plantation, often including non-native species. PAWS sites can include both broadleaved and conifer woods and often retain remnant ancient woodland features like species-rich ground flora or undisturbed soils. Also known as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

Pollarding

A form of pruning where the upper branches of a tree are removed, promoting a dense head of foliage and branches. Cutting is usually around 2.4 metres above ground – the height that wild animals or domesticated stock could reach. Traditionally, trees were pollarded for fodder or for wood.

Production Forecast

The projected volume of biomass that the forest will produce each year. Calculations are based on species, age, net area and yield class.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Access routes open to the public through legal designation. These include footpaths, by-ways and bridleways.

Respacing

Thinning of dense natural regeneration at a young age (generally when trees are 2-5m tall) to produce a more consistent crop, focus available resources on the remaining trees and promote good development.

Ride

Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland which provide access for management and other activities.

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)

A scheduled monument is a site that is legally protected because of its historical importance.

Secondary Woodland

Woodland that has been established on land formerly used for another purpose (eg: as pasture, arable fields, quarries, etc.). Unlike ancient woodland it has not been continuously wooded in the past.

Seed Trees

Trees with good shape and growth rates chosen to produce seed for restocking. Seed trees need to be of an age and size where they produce fertile seeds in large quantities.

Selective Felling (Regeneration 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.

Semi-natural woodland

Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland.

Shade Tolerant Species

Trees that have adapted to lower light levels and will regenerate and establish freely under the shade of the surrounding tree canopy, as opposed to light demanding species which require full sun/high light levels to establish and grow.

Silvicultural Systems

Silviculture is the process of tending, harvesting and regenerating a forest. Different patterns of felling and regeneration form distinct 'silvicultural systems'. Different systems may be suitable for different management objectives (eg: conservation in an ancient woodland or timber production in a conifer plantation).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A SSSI is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that is of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or geographical features that lie in its boundaries. SSSIs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Small Coupe Felling

A small-scale clearfelling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically up to 2 ha in extent, with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

SACs are protected areas in the UK designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales. These areas form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving Annex I and Annex II habitats and species.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

SPAs are protected areas selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or specific regularly occurring migratory species. They form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving important habitats and species.

Strategic Plan

Forestry England's guide to the management of woodland in Central England Forest District. It divides the district into zones for the purpose of management and ensures forestry activities reflect the local ecological, social and cultural individuality of each woodland.

Strip Felling

Strip felling involves removal of some trees in rows, leaving strips of mature trees in place rather than clearfelling a crop in one operation. This creates space between remaining trees suitable for planting new trees (especially species that require sheltered growing conditions) and maintains woodland cover while new trees are established. The width of strips may vary and multiple strips are removed from a stand at a time.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest that form a homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. They may be split across several locations and their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of trees in a forest after canopy closure, usually to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.

Trees of Special Interest (TSI)

Trees that are of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, or trees that are in the ancient stage of their life, or trees that are old relative to others of the same species. Also referred to as Veteran or Ancient trees.

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

Understorey Woodland Species

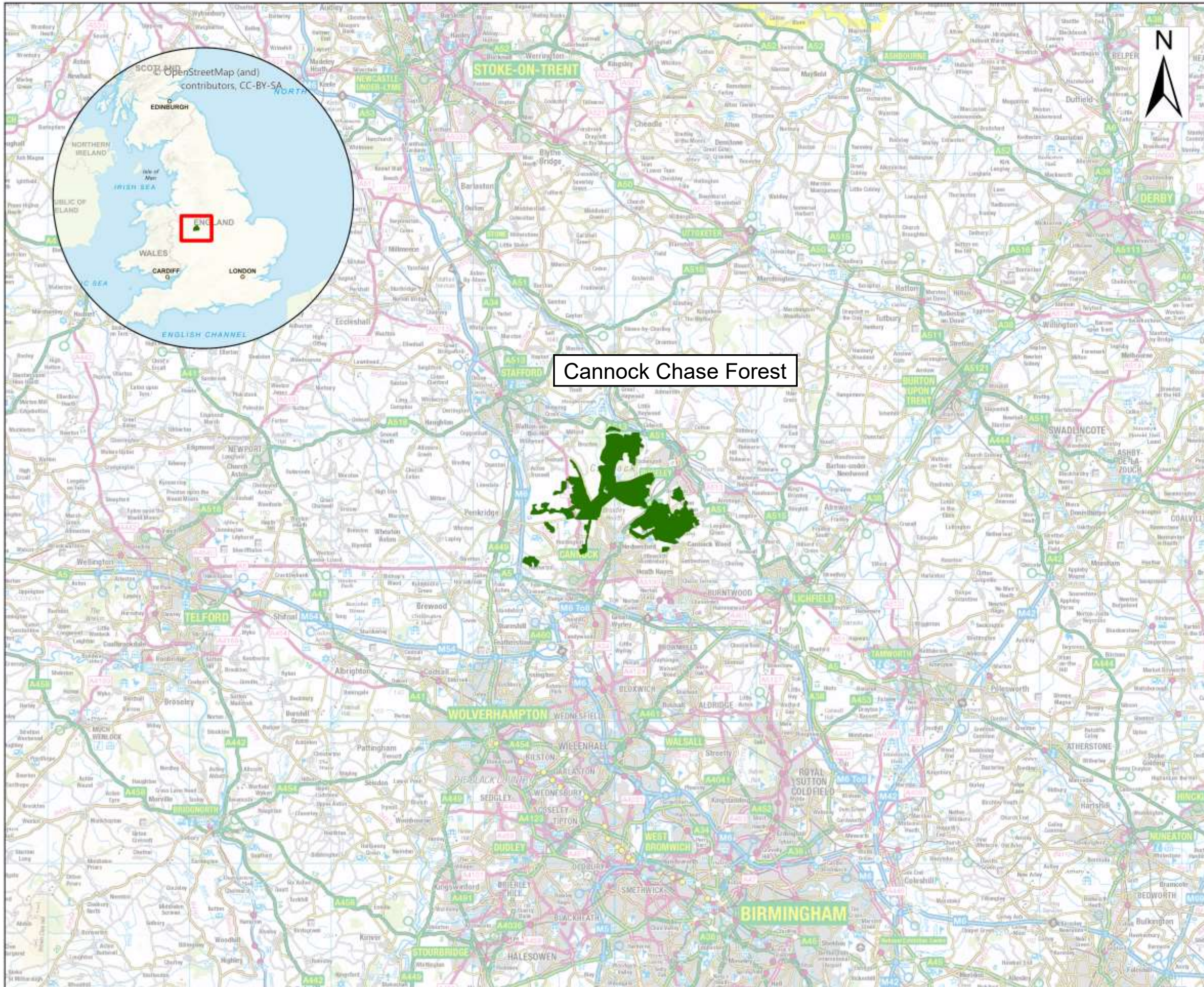
Minor tree species that live under top canopy trees or are 'pioneer' species that arrive in clearings before climax species become established. Once the overstorey is established understorey species are more common on woodland edges and in clearings where light levels are higher.

Yield Class

Yield class is a measure of the growth rate of a tree crop on a given site. It describes the maximum average volume increase that a particular crop can achieve on 1 ha of land each year. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual growth of 14 m³ per hectare has a yield class of 14. Yield Class varies depending on factors including the species, how it is managed and local site conditions.

Wood Pasture

Wood pasture is derived from the traditional practice of managing trees in tandem with grazing, characteristically combining at least some open grown or pollarded veteran trees or shrubs and diverse and dynamic open and open-woodland habitats.



Central Forest District

Location Map

Cannock Chase forest (2,622ha) is dominated by conifers with small areas of ancient woodland, heathland and former wood pasture. It lies within Cannock Chase National Landscape, which attracts over 2.5 million day visitors each year. Cannock Chase Forest centre provides the key access point for visitors who come to enjoy the wide range of recreation pursuits on offer.

Through active forest management Cannock Chase forest now supports a wide variety of plants and animals, many of which are protected. Newly created heathland corridors link adjacent heathland habitats designated as sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

Cannock Forest plays an important role in the local economy supporting a wide range of jobs directly through the timber industry and through leisure and tourism.

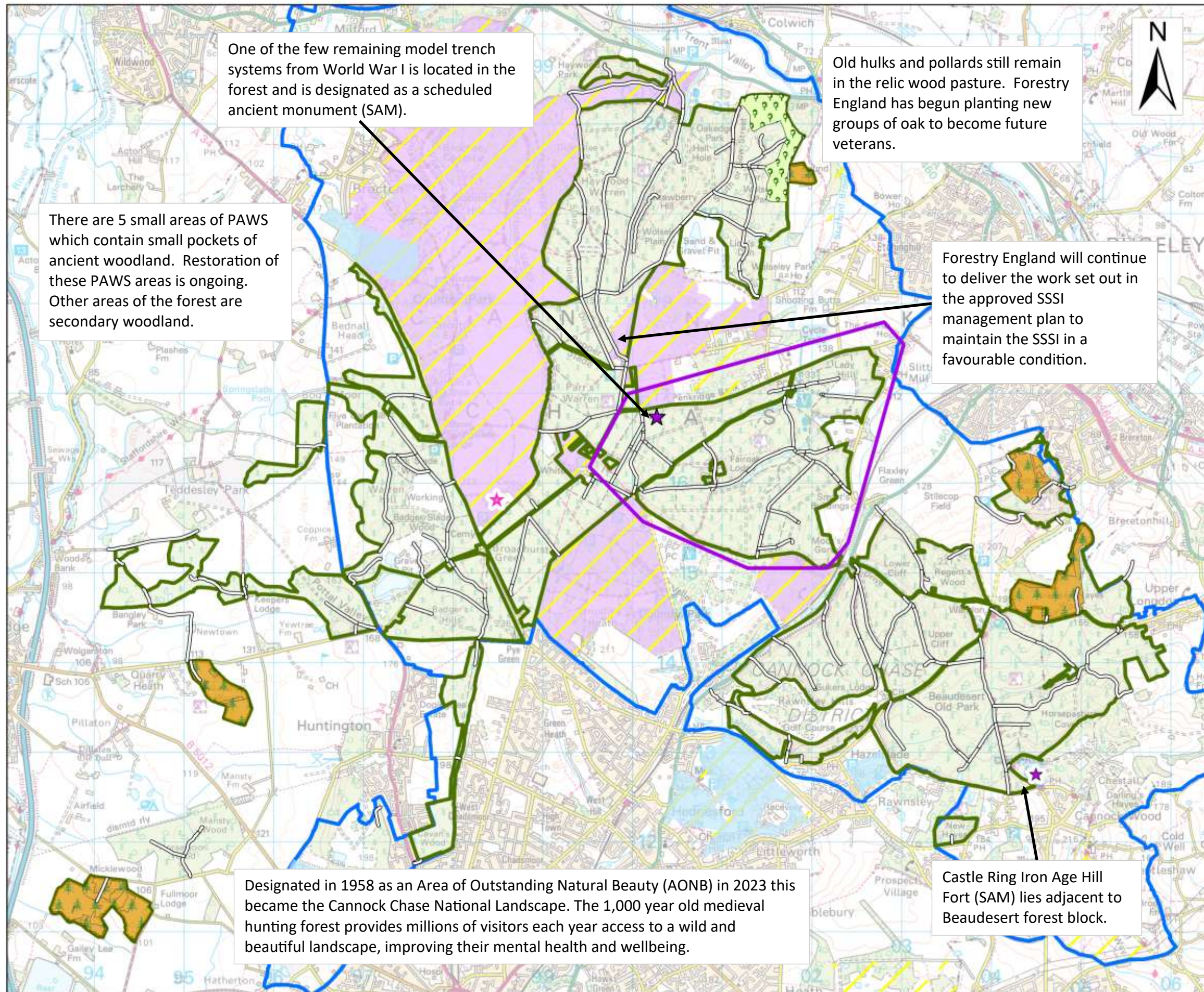
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One of the few remaining model trench systems from World War I is located in the forest and is designated as a scheduled ancient monument (SAM).

There are 5 small areas of PAWS which contain small pockets of ancient woodland. Restoration of these PAWS areas is ongoing. Other areas of the forest are secondary woodland.

Old hulks and pollards still remain in the relic wood pasture. Forestry England has begun planting new groups of oak to become future veterans.










Forestry England will continue to deliver the work set out in the approved SSSI management plan to maintain the SSSI in a favourable condition.

Designated in 1958 as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 2023 this became the Cannock Chase National Landscape. The 1,000 year old medieval hunting forest provides millions of visitors each year access to a wild and beautiful landscape, improving their mental health and wellbeing.

Castle Ring Iron Age Hill Fort (SAM) lies adjacent to Beaudesert forest block.

Central Forest District

Designations

-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland
-  Relic Ancient Wood Pasture
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
-  German Military Cemetery and Cannock Chase War Cemetery
-  National Landscape
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Management Boundary

Scale: 1:40,000

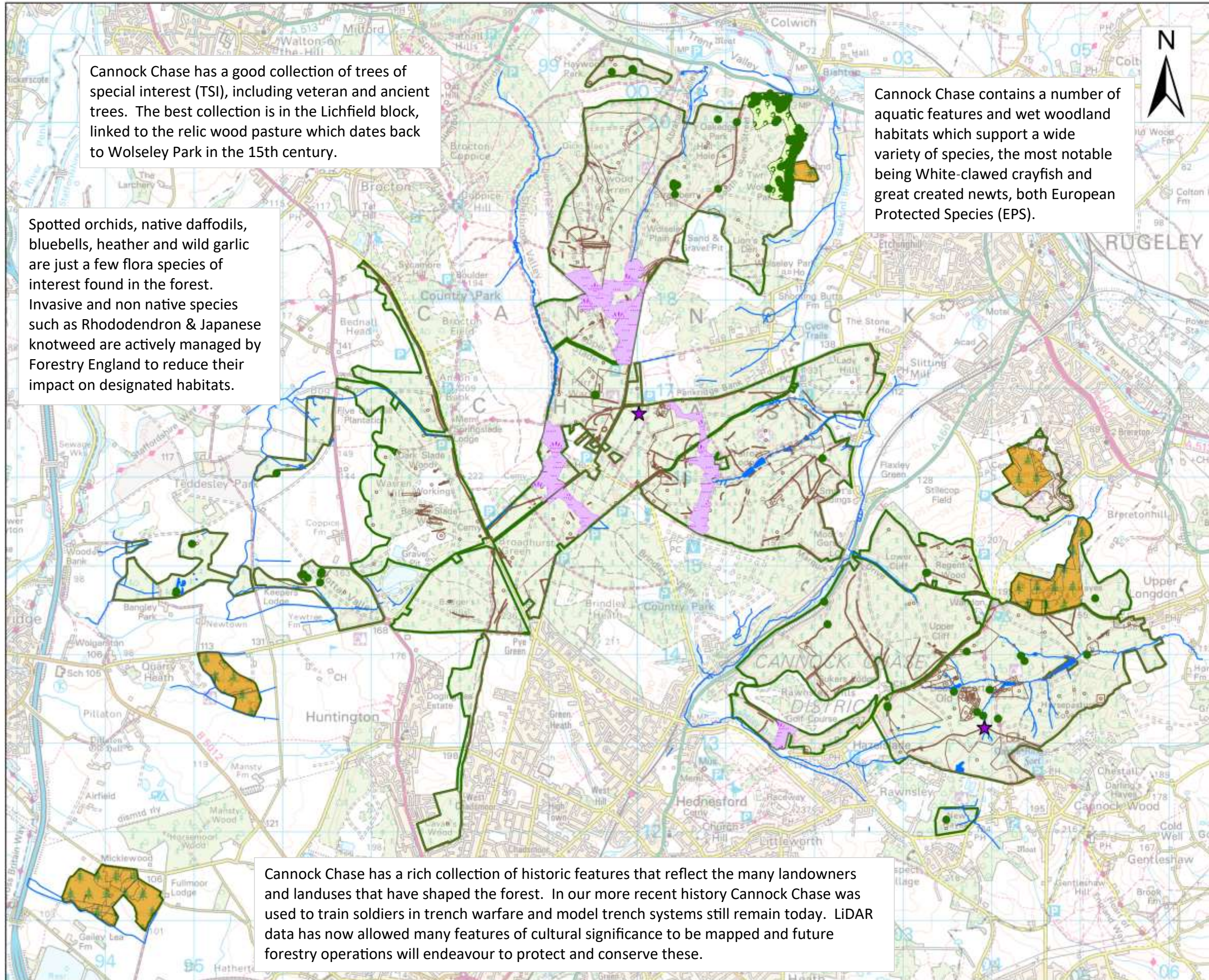


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Cannock Chase has a good collection of trees of special interest (TSI), including veteran and ancient trees. The best collection is in the Lichfield block, linked to the relic wood pasture which dates back to Wolseley Park in the 15th century.

Spotted orchids, native daffodils, bluebells, heather and wild garlic are just a few flora species of interest found in the forest. Invasive and non native species such as Rhododendron & Japanese knotweed are actively managed by Forestry England to reduce their impact on designated habitats.

Cannock Chase contains a number of aquatic features and wet woodland habitats which support a wide variety of species, the most notable being White-clawed crayfish and great crested newts, both European Protected Species (EPS).

Cannock Chase has a rich collection of historic features that reflect the many landowners and landuses that have shaped the forest. In our more recent history Cannock Chase was used to train soldiers in trench warfare and model trench systems still remain today. LiDAR data has now allowed many features of cultural significance to be mapped and future forestry operations will endeavour to protect and conserve these.

Central Forest District

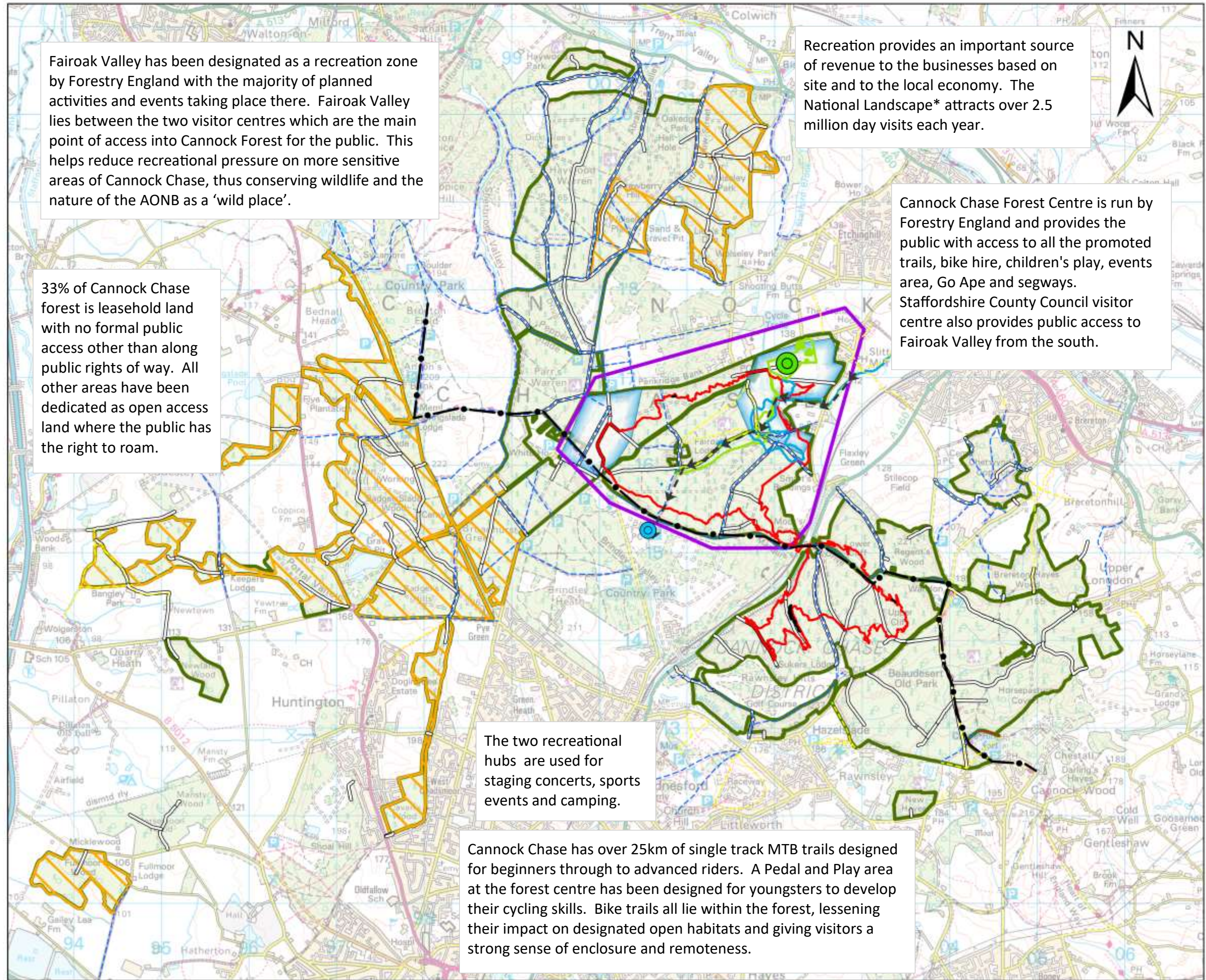
- Heritage and Conservation
- Heathland corridors
 - Plantation on Ancient Woodland
 - Relic Ancient Wood Pasture
 - Tree of Special Interest (TSI)
 - Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
 - Unscheduled Heritage features
 - Water features / Wetland habitat
 - Management boundary

Scale: 1:40,000



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Central Forest District

- Recreation & Access**
- Cannock Chase forest centre
 - Cannock Chase visitor centre
 - Recreation Hub
 - Walking trail
 - Forest roads
 - Bike - Moderate
 - Bike - Difficult
 - Bridleway
 - Byway
 - Footpath
 - Recreation Zone
 - Heart of England Way
 - Heritage Trail
 - Leasehold - no public access
 - Management boundary

Fairoak Valley has been designated as a recreation zone by Forestry England with the majority of planned activities and events taking place there. Fairoak Valley lies between the two visitor centres which are the main point of access into Cannock Forest for the public. This helps reduce recreational pressure on more sensitive areas of Cannock Chase, thus conserving wildlife and the nature of the AONB as a 'wild place'.

Recreation provides an important source of revenue to the businesses based on site and to the local economy. The National Landscape* attracts over 2.5 million day visits each year.

Cannock Chase Forest Centre is run by Forestry England and provides the public with access to all the promoted trails, bike hire, children's play, events area, Go Ape and segways. Staffordshire County Council visitor centre also provides public access to Fairoak Valley from the south.

33% of Cannock Chase forest is leasehold land with no formal public access other than along public rights of way. All other areas have been dedicated as open access land where the public has the right to roam.

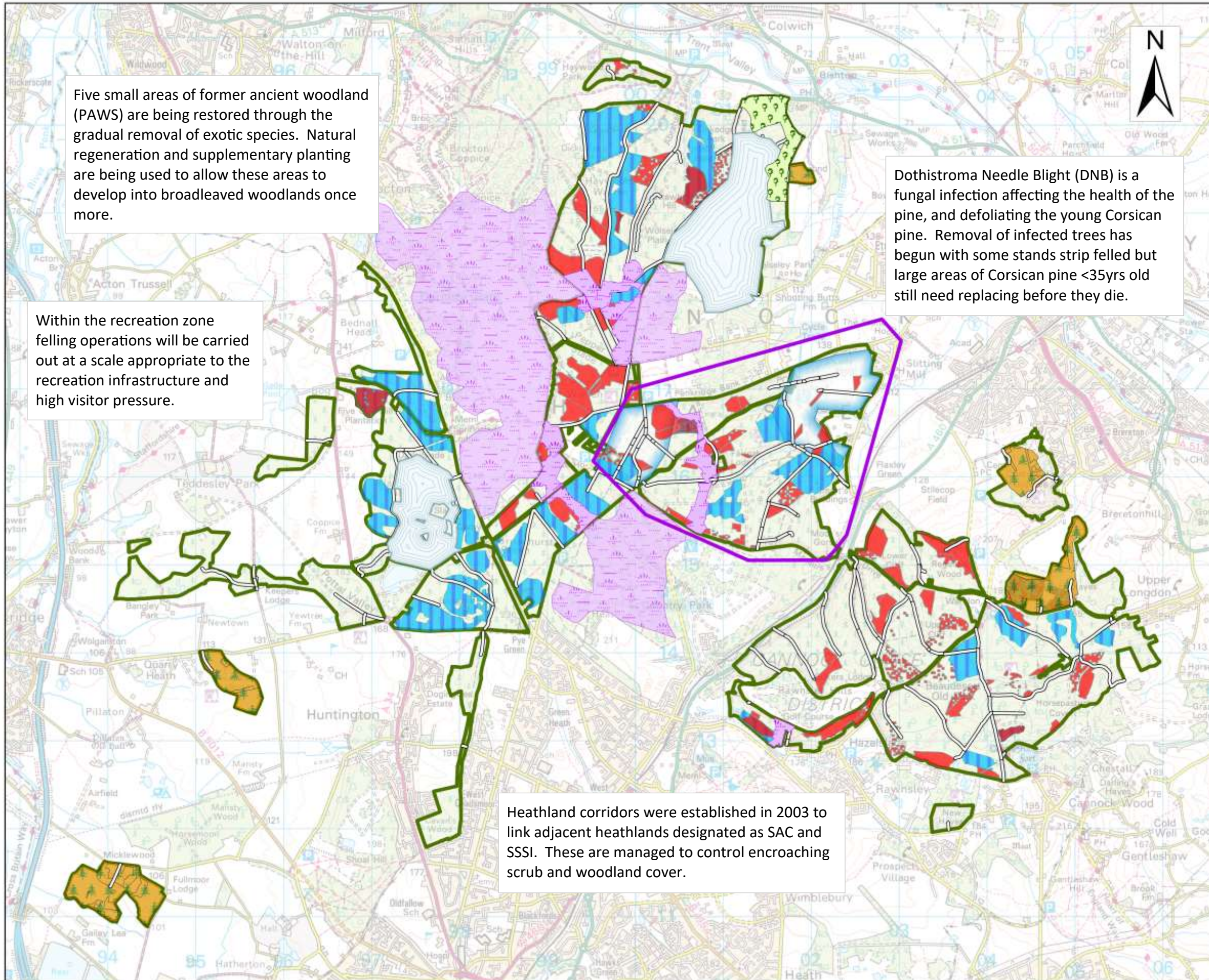
The two recreational hubs are used for staging concerts, sports events and camping.

Cannock Chase has over 25km of single track MTB trails designed for beginners through to advanced riders. A Pedal and Play area at the forest centre has been designed for youngsters to develop their cycling skills. Bike trails all lie within the forest, lessening their impact on designated open habitats and giving visitors a strong sense of enclosure and remoteness.

Scale: 1:40,000



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Central Forest District

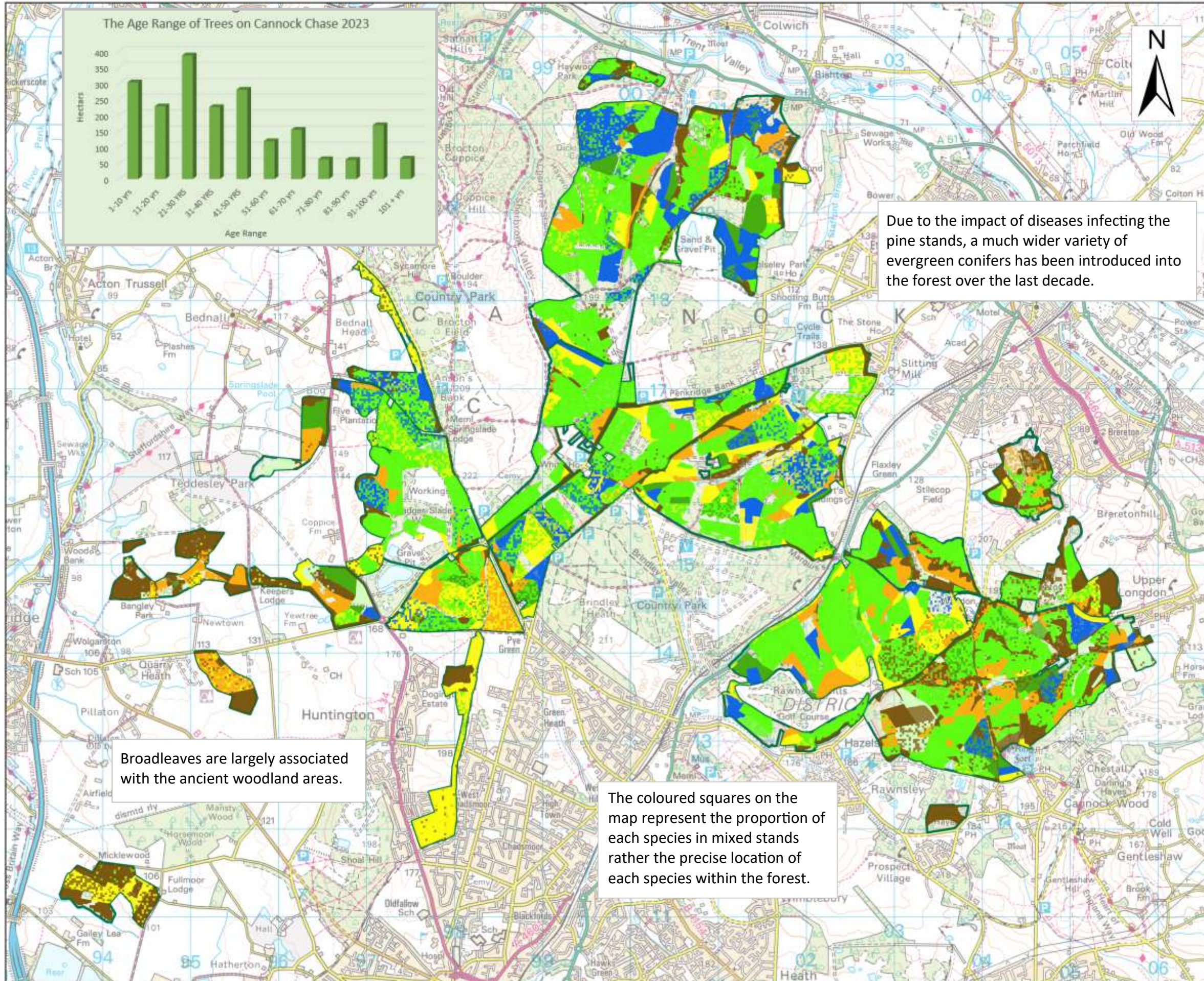
Survey Details

- Forest roads
- Relic Wood Pasture
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Strip felling
- Corsican & Lodgepole pine <35yrs
- Heathlands
- Recreation Zone
- Quarry
- Recreation Hub
- Management boundary

Scale: 1:40,000



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Central Forest District

- Current Species**
- Open space or felled
 - Broadleaves
 - Corsican pine
 - Pine
 - Larches
 - Spruces
 - Firs
 - Other Evergreen conifers
 - Management boundary

Due to the impact of diseases infecting the pine stands, a much wider variety of evergreen conifers has been introduced into the forest over the last decade.

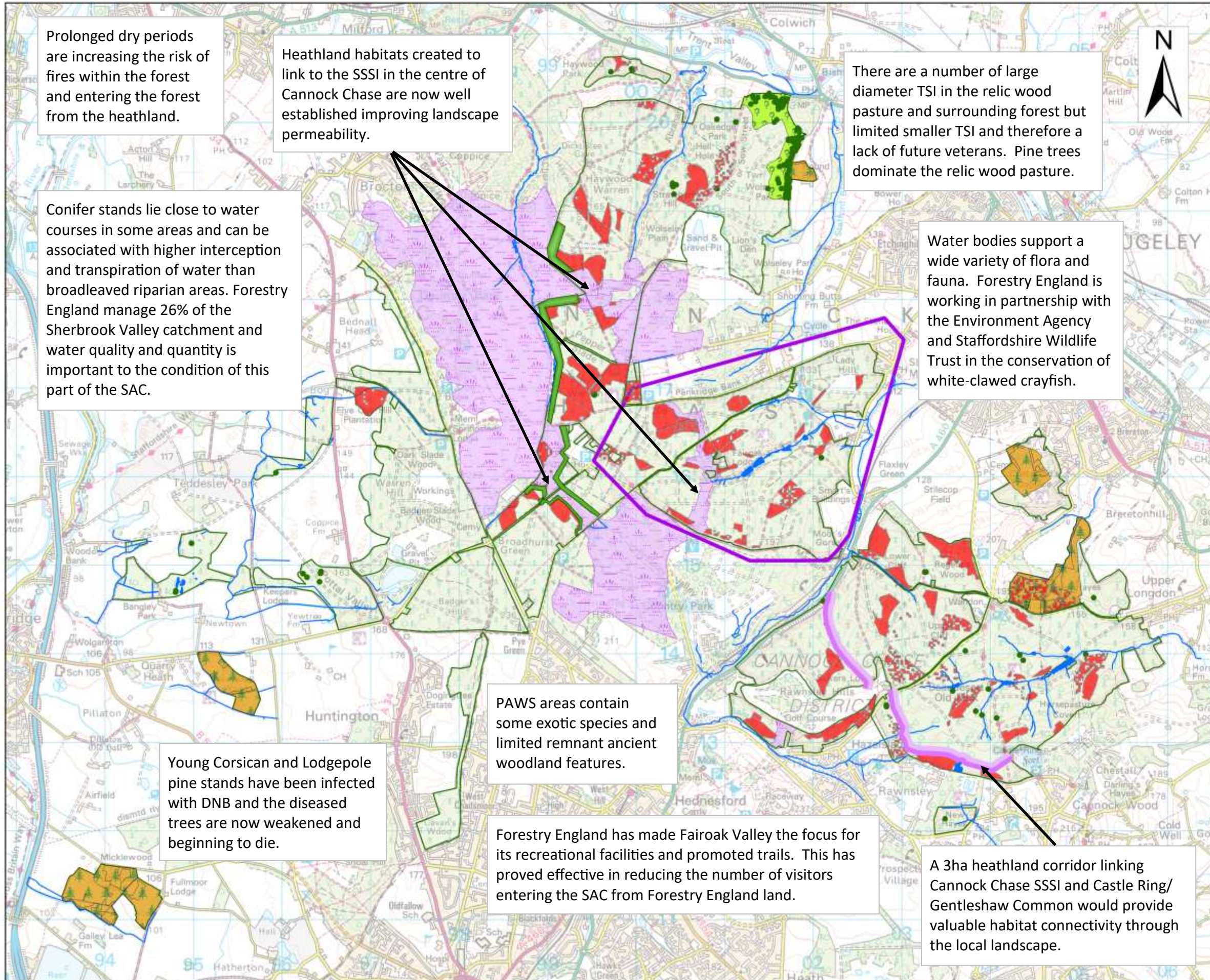
Broadleaves are largely associated with the ancient woodland areas.

The coloured squares on the map represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather the precise location of each species within the forest.

Scale: 1:40,000



Designed by Alastair Semple



Central Forest District

Analysis Map

- Corsican & Lodgepole pine <35yrs
- Plantation on Ancient Woodlands (PAWS)
- Relic Ancient Wood Pasture
- Broadleaf and LISS buffer to heathland and SAC
- Heathland habitat
- Heathland corridor
- Tree of Special Interest (TSI)
- Water features / Wetland habitat
- Recreation Zone
- Management Boundary

Prolonged dry periods are increasing the risk of fires within the forest and entering the forest from the heathland.

Heathland habitats created to link to the SSSI in the centre of Cannock Chase are now well established improving landscape permeability.

There are a number of large diameter TSI in the relic wood pasture and surrounding forest but limited smaller TSI and therefore a lack of future veterans. Pine trees dominate the relic wood pasture.

Conifer stands lie close to water courses in some areas and can be associated with higher interception and transpiration of water than broadleaved riparian areas. Forestry England manage 26% of the Sherbrook Valley catchment and water quality and quantity is important to the condition of this part of the SAC.

Water bodies support a wide variety of flora and fauna. Forestry England is working in partnership with the Environment Agency and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in the conservation of white-clawed crayfish.

PAWS areas contain some exotic species and limited remnant ancient woodland features.

Young Corsican and Lodgepole pine stands have been infected with DNB and the diseased trees are now weakened and beginning to die.

Forestry England has made Fair oak Valley the focus for its recreational facilities and promoted trails. This has proved effective in reducing the number of visitors entering the SAC from Forestry England land.

A 3ha heathland corridor linking Cannock Chase SSSI and Castle Ring/ Gentleshaw Common would provide valuable habitat connectivity through the local landscape.

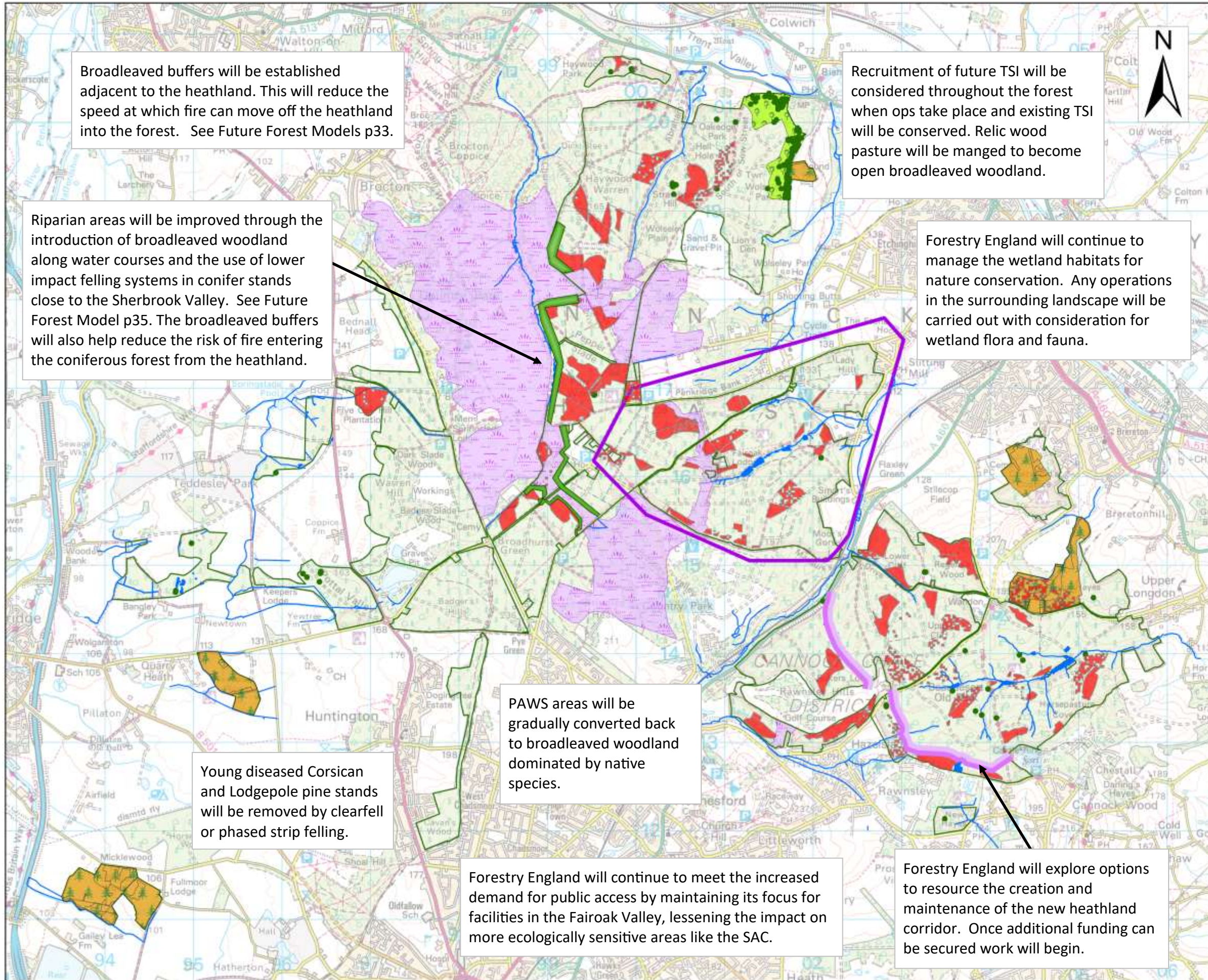
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Designed by Alastair Sample



Central Forest District

Concept Map

- Corsican & Lodgepole pine <35yrs
- Plantation on Ancient Woodlands (PAWS)
- Relic Ancient Wood Pasture
- Broadleaf and LISS buffer to heathland and SAC
- Heathland habitat
- Heathland corridor
- Tree of Special Interest (TSI)
- Water features / Wetland habitat
- Recreation Zone
- Management Boundary

Broadleaved buffers will be established adjacent to the heathland. This will reduce the speed at which fire can move off the heathland into the forest. See Future Forest Models p33.

Riparian areas will be improved through the introduction of broadleaved woodland along water courses and the use of lower impact felling systems in conifer stands close to the Sherbrook Valley. See Future Forest Model p35. The broadleaved buffers will also help reduce the risk of fire entering the coniferous forest from the heathland.

Recruitment of future TSI will be considered throughout the forest when ops take place and existing TSI will be conserved. Relic wood pasture will be managed to become open broadleaved woodland.

Forestry England will continue to manage the wetland habitats for nature conservation. Any operations in the surrounding landscape will be carried out with consideration for wetland flora and fauna.

PAWS areas will be gradually converted back to broadleaved woodland dominated by native species.

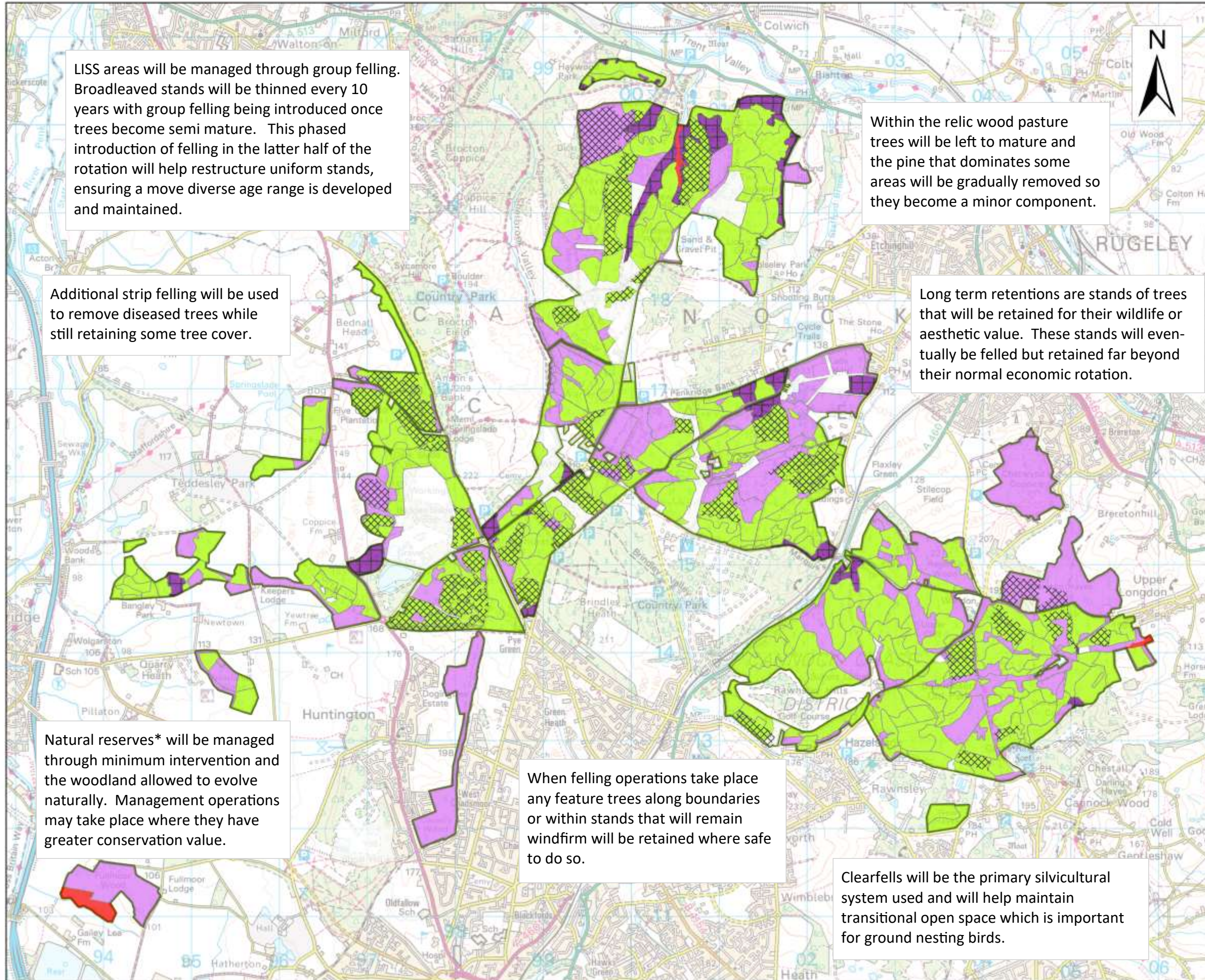
Young diseased Corsican and Lodgepole pine stands will be removed by clearfell or phased strip felling.

Forestry England will continue to meet the increased demand for public access by maintaining its focus for facilities in the Fair oak Valley, lessening the impact on more ecologically sensitive areas like the SAC.

Forestry England will explore options to resource the creation and maintenance of the new heathland corridor. Once additional funding can be secured work will begin.

Scale: 1:40,000





LISS areas will be managed through group felling. Broadleaved stands will be thinned every 10 years with group felling being introduced once trees become semi mature. This phased introduction of felling in the latter half of the rotation will help restructure uniform stands, ensuring a more diverse age range is developed and maintained.

Additional strip felling will be used to remove diseased trees while still retaining some tree cover.

Within the relic wood pasture trees will be left to mature and the pine that dominates some areas will be gradually removed so they become a minor component.

Long term retentions are stands of trees that will be retained for their wildlife or aesthetic value. These stands will eventually be felled but retained far beyond their normal economic rotation.

Natural reserves* will be managed through minimum intervention and the woodland allowed to evolve naturally. Management operations may take place where they have greater conservation value.

When felling operations take place any feature trees along boundaries or within stands that will remain windfirm will be retained where safe to do so.

Clearfells will be the primary silvicultural system used and will help maintain transitional open space which is important for ground nesting birds.

Central Forest District

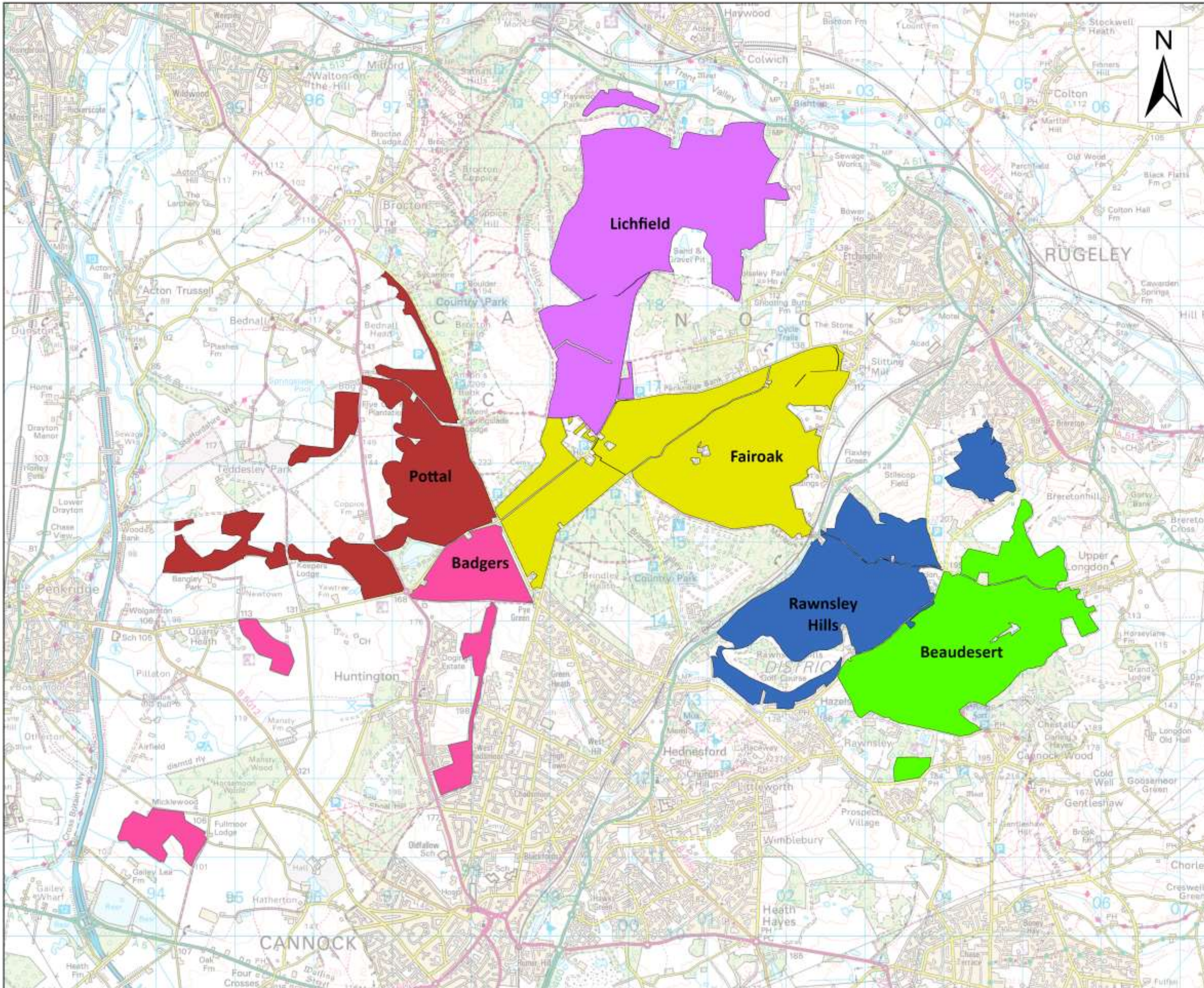
Silvicultural Systems

- Clearfell
- Strip felling
- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)
- Natural Reserve
- Long Term Retention (LTR)
- Open habitats
- Management Boundary

Scale: 1:40,000



Designed by Alastair Semple



Central Forest District



Management Zones

Cannock Chase Forest Plan has been divided into six areas so that felling maps can be clearly shown at 1:20,000 scale.

The names used by Forestry England to refer to each forest area are shown on the adjacent map.

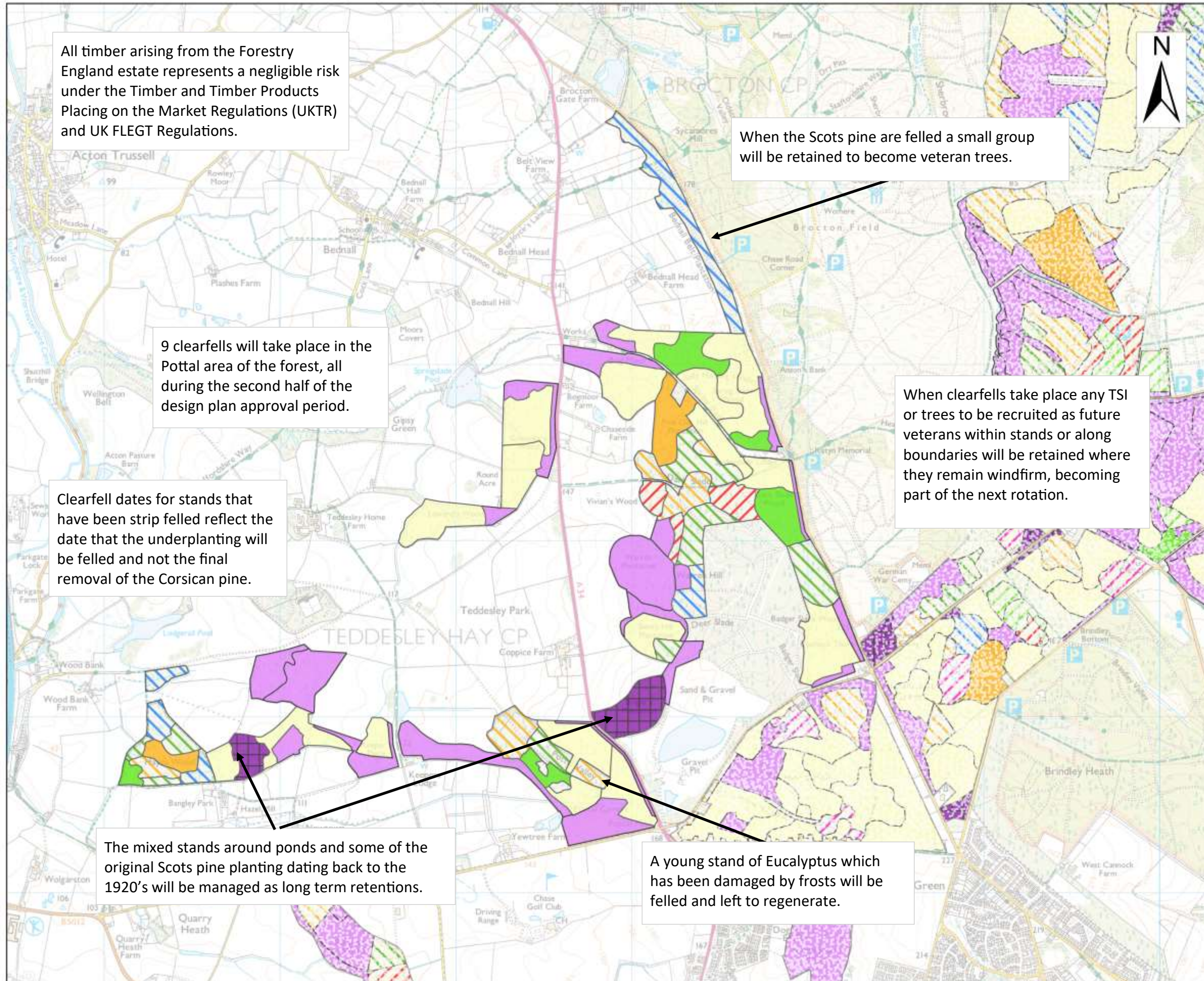
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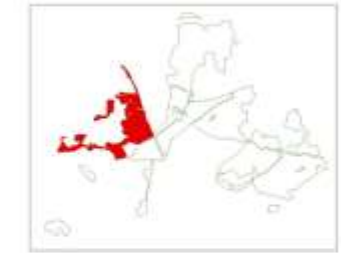
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Designed by Alastair Semple



Central Forest District



Felling Periods

- Forest Roads
- Open habitats
- 2022-2026
- 2027-2031
- 2032-2036
- 2037-2041
- 2042-2046
- 2047-2051
- 2052-2056
- 2057-2061
- Beyond 2062
- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)
- Long Term Retention
- Natural Reserve
- Management Boundary

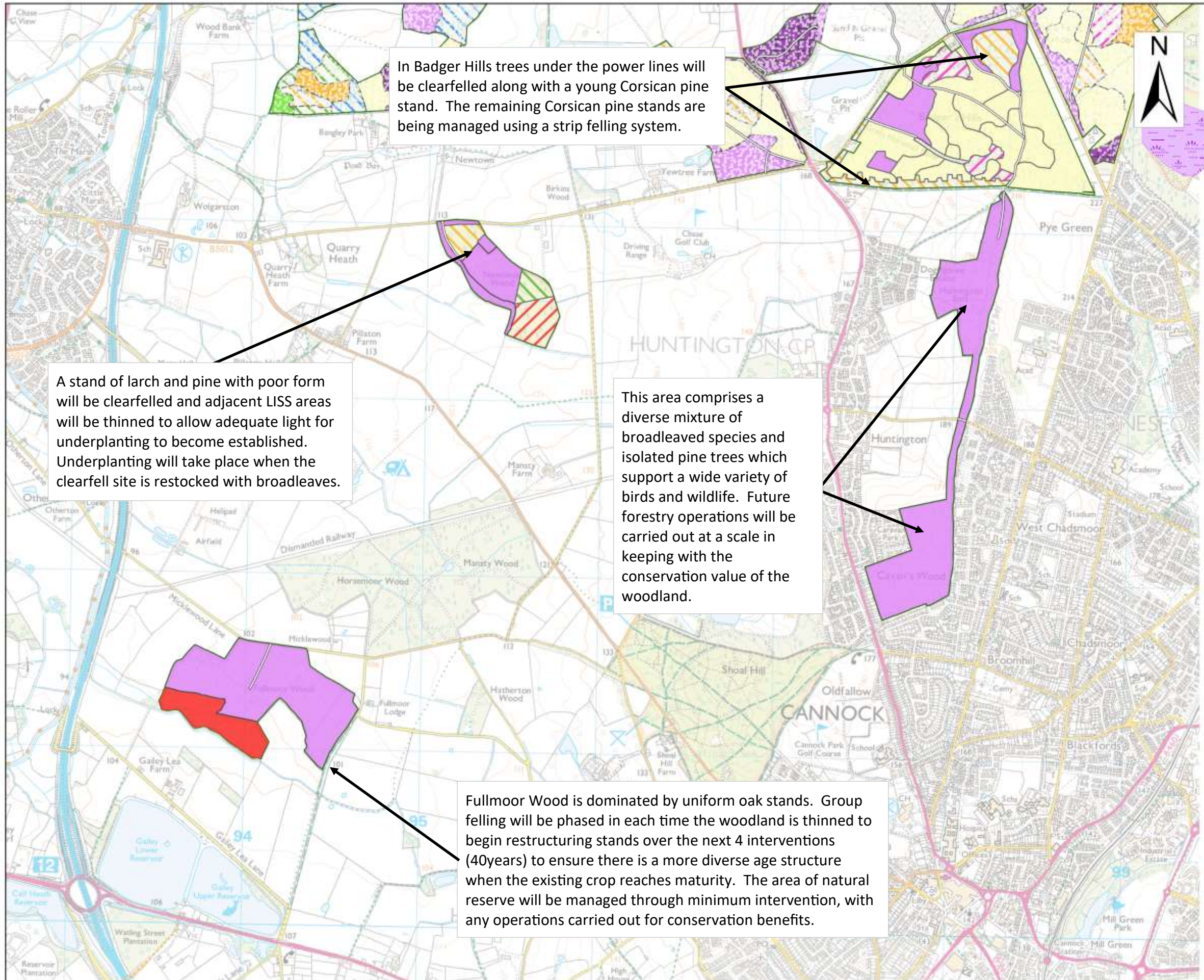
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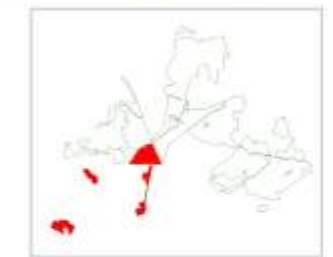
In Badger Hills trees under the power lines will be clearfelled along with a young Corsican pine stand. The remaining Corsican pine stands are being managed using a strip felling system.

A stand of larch and pine with poor form will be clearfelled and adjacent LISS areas will be thinned to allow adequate light for underplanting to become established. Underplanting will take place when the clearfell site is restocked with broadleaves.

This area comprises a diverse mixture of broadleaved species and isolated pine trees which support a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Future forestry operations will be carried out at a scale in keeping with the conservation value of the woodland.

Fullmoor Wood is dominated by uniform oak stands. Group felling will be phased in each time the woodland is thinned to begin restructuring stands over the next 4 interventions (40years) to ensure there is a more diverse age structure when the existing crop reaches maturity. The area of natural reserve will be managed through minimum intervention, with any operations carried out for conservation benefits.

Central Forest District

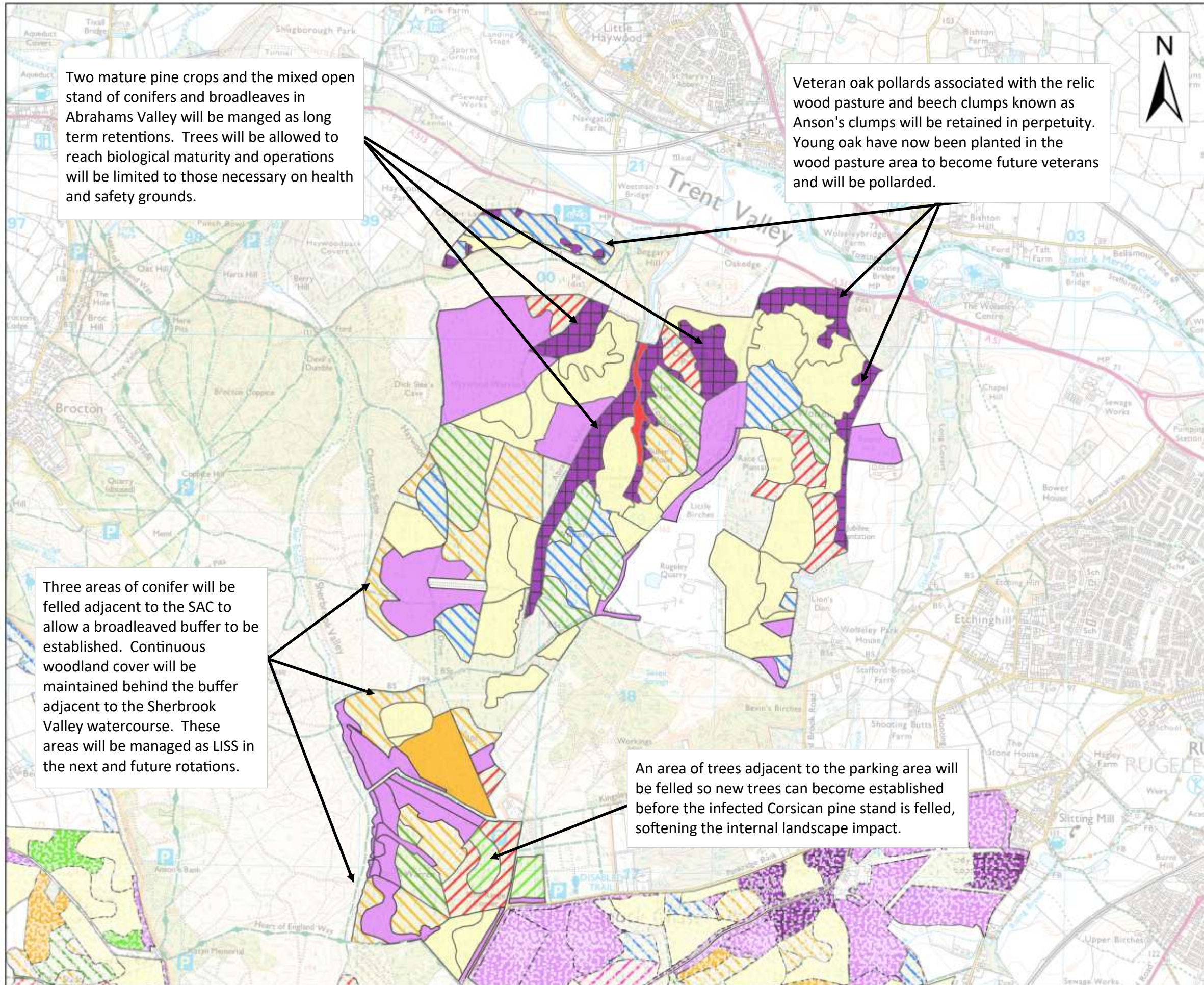


- Felling Periods**
- Forest Roads
 - Open habitats
 - ▨ 2022-2026
 - ▨ 2027-2031
 - ▨ 2032-2036
 - ▨ 2037-2041
 - ▨ 2042-2046
 - ▨ 2047-2051
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 - ▭ Management Boundary

Scale: 1:20,000



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Central Forest District



Felling Periods

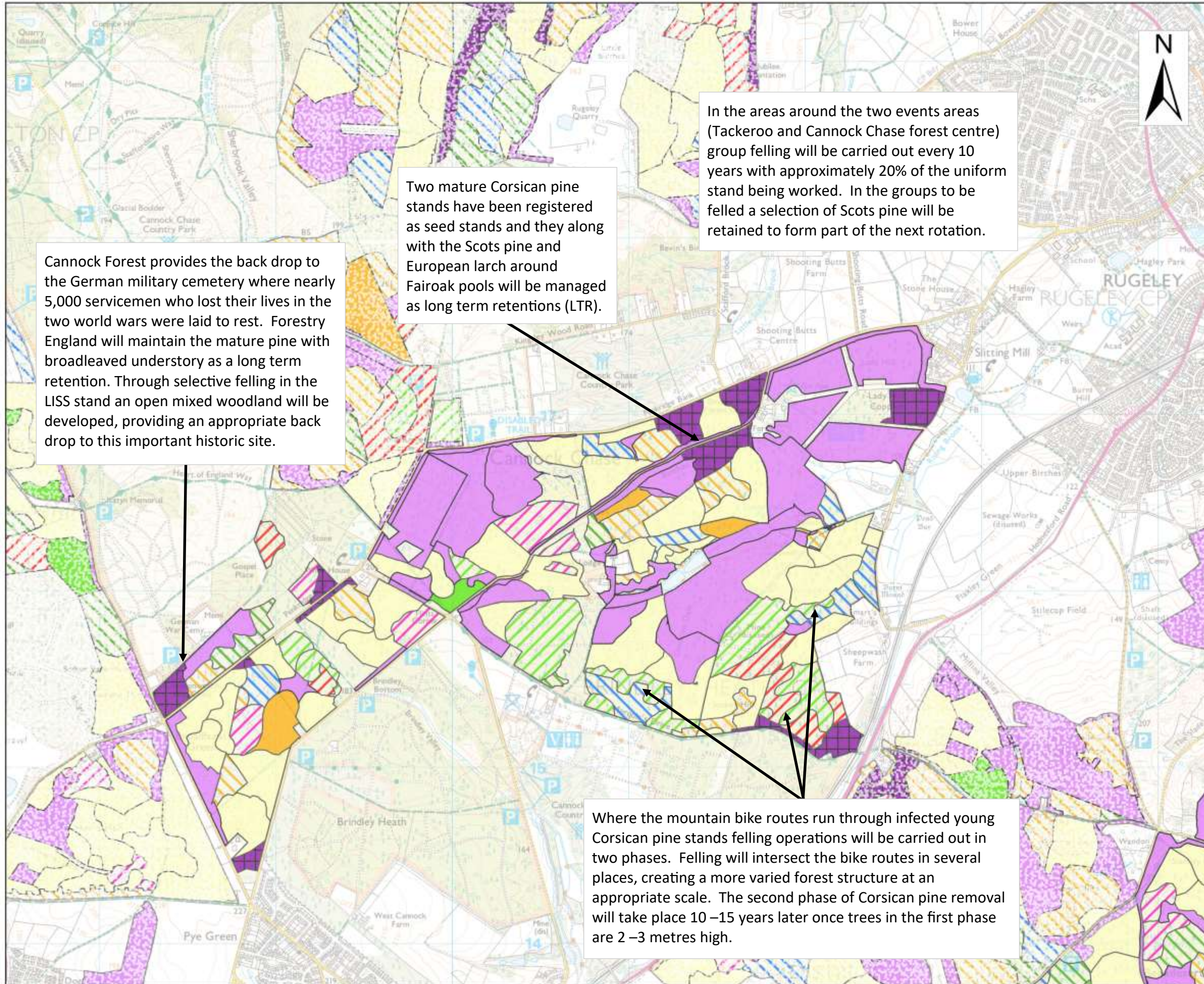
- Forest Roads
- Open habitats
- 2022-2026
- 2027-2031
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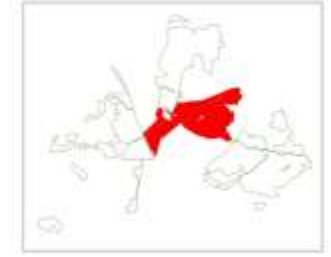
Cannock Forest provides the back drop to the German military cemetery where nearly 5,000 servicemen who lost their lives in the two world wars were laid to rest. Forestry England will maintain the mature pine with broadleaved understory as a long term retention. Through selective felling in the LISS stand an open mixed woodland will be developed, providing an appropriate back drop to this important historic site.

Two mature Corsican pine stands have been registered as seed stands and they along with the Scots pine and European larch around Fair oak pools will be managed as long term retentions (LTR).

In the areas around the two events areas (Tackeroo and Cannock Chase forest centre) group felling will be carried out every 10 years with approximately 20% of the uniform stand being worked. In the groups to be felled a selection of Scots pine will be retained to form part of the next rotation.

Where the mountain bike routes run through infected young Corsican pine stands felling operations will be carried out in two phases. Felling will intersect the bike routes in several places, creating a more varied forest structure at an appropriate scale. The second phase of Corsican pine removal will take place 10–15 years later once trees in the first phase are 2–3 metres high.

Central Forest District

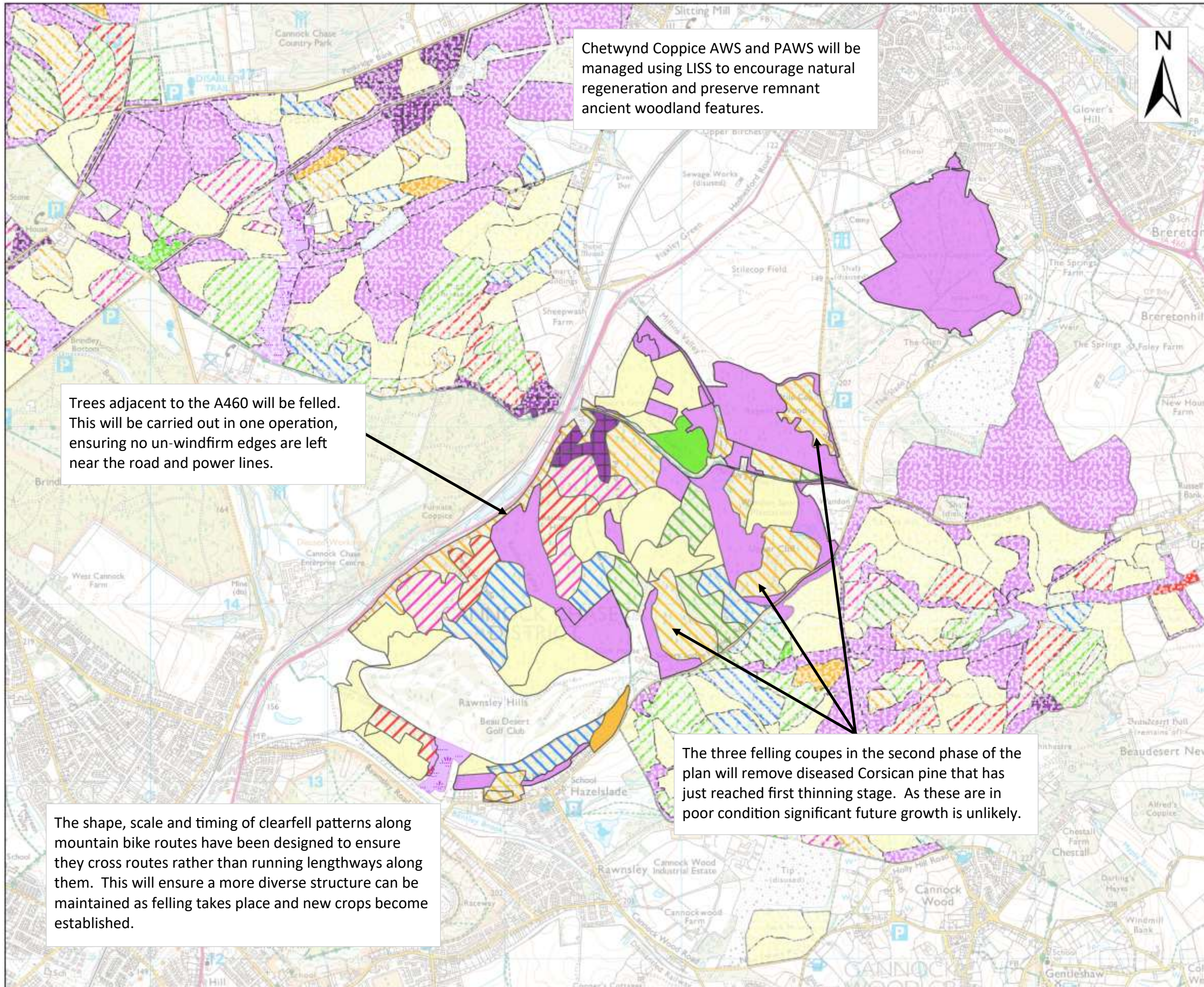


Felling Periods

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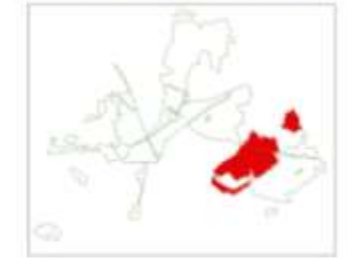
Chetwynd Coppice AWS and PAWS will be managed using LISS to encourage natural regeneration and preserve remnant ancient woodland features.

Trees adjacent to the A460 will be felled. This will be carried out in one operation, ensuring no un-windfirm edges are left near the road and power lines.

The three felling coupes in the second phase of the plan will remove diseased Corsican pine that has just reached first thinning stage. As these are in poor condition significant future growth is unlikely.

The shape, scale and timing of clearfell patterns along mountain bike routes have been designed to ensure they cross routes rather than running lengthways along them. This will ensure a more diverse structure can be maintained as felling takes place and new crops become established.

Central Forest District



Felling Periods

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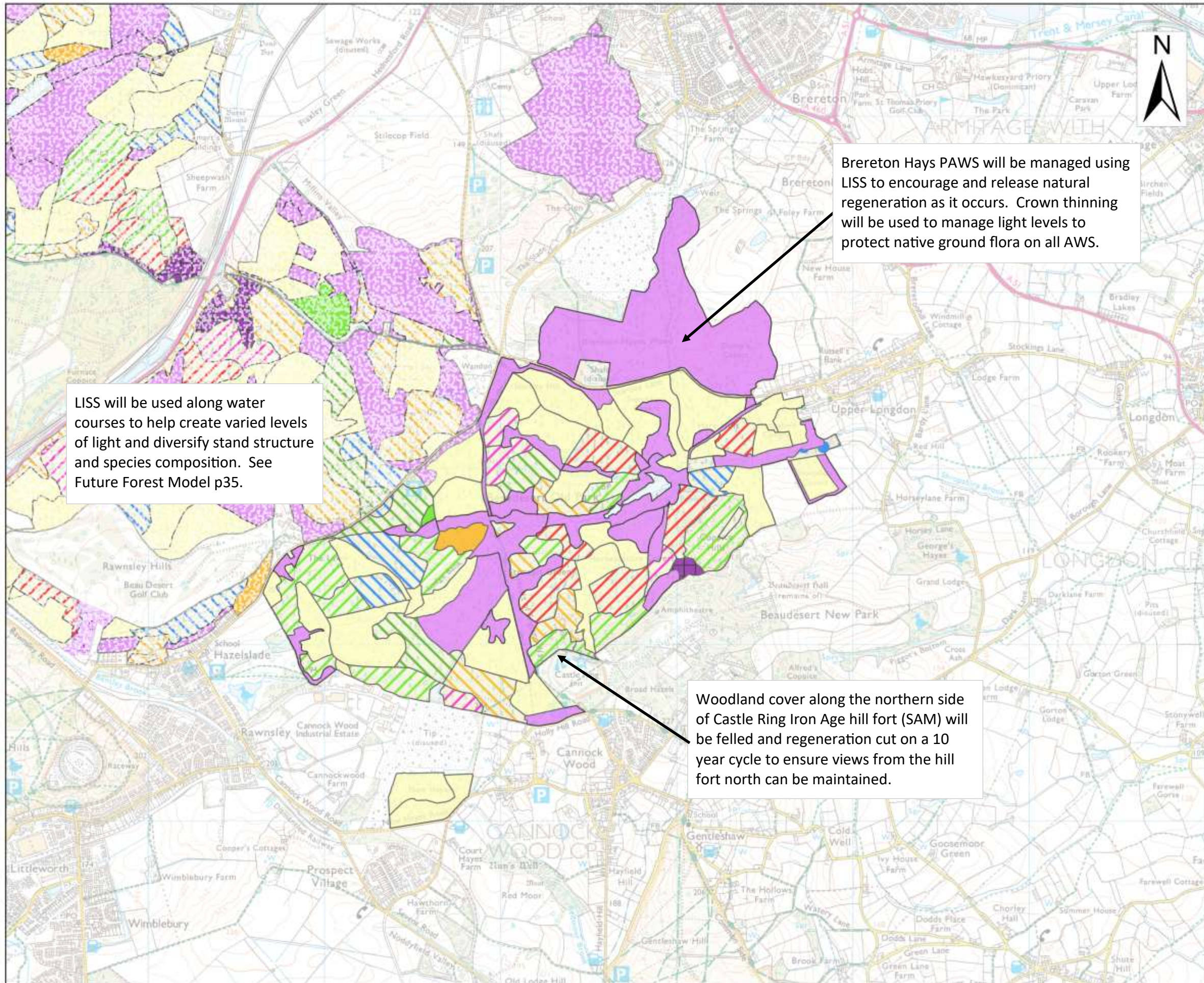
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Central Forest District



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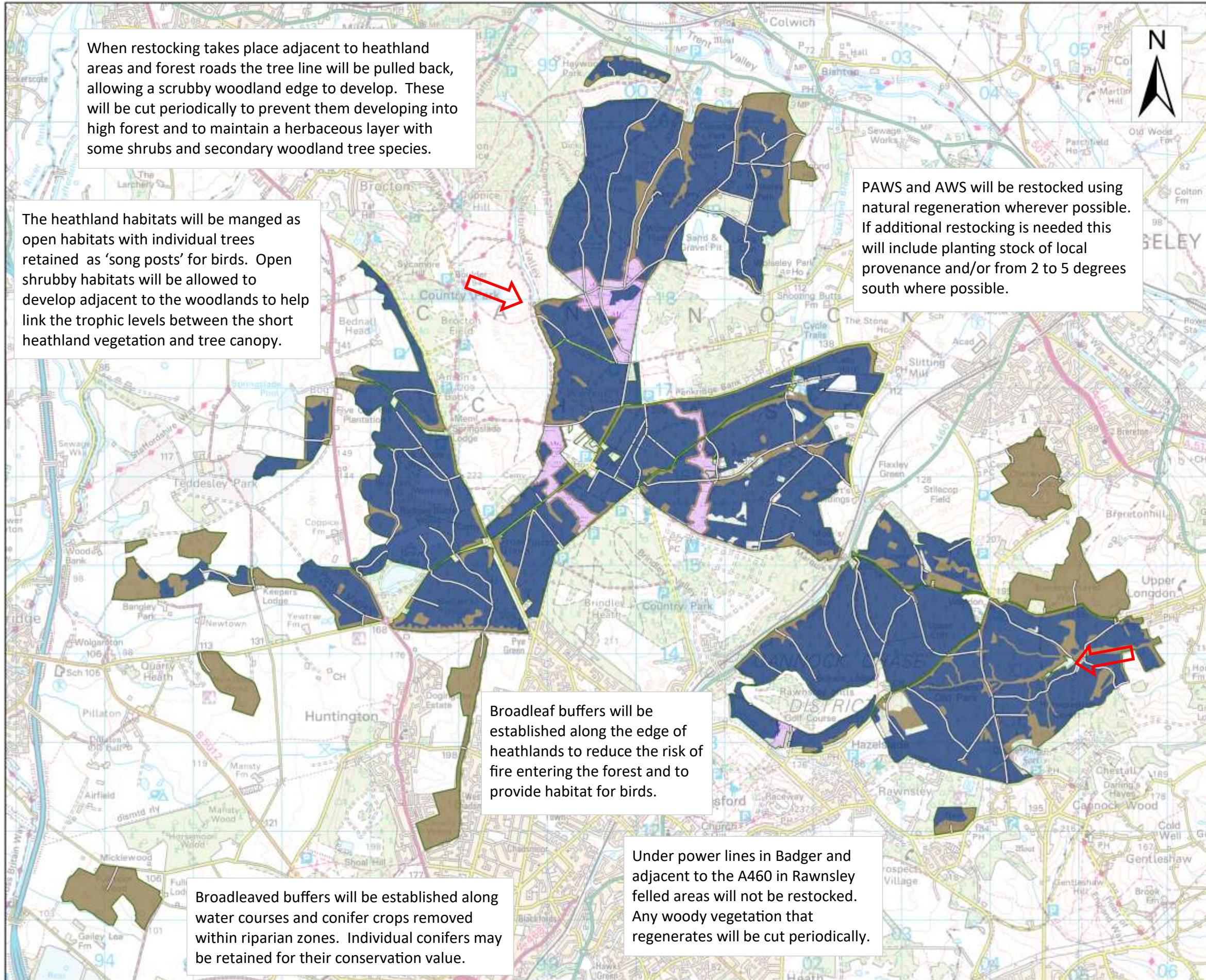
Scale: 1:20,000



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Designed by Alastair Sample



Central Forest District

- Intended landuse
- Broadleaves with some conifers
 - Conifers with some broadleaves
 - Open habitats
 - Heathlands
 - Forest Roads
 - Future Forest View Points
 - Management Boundary

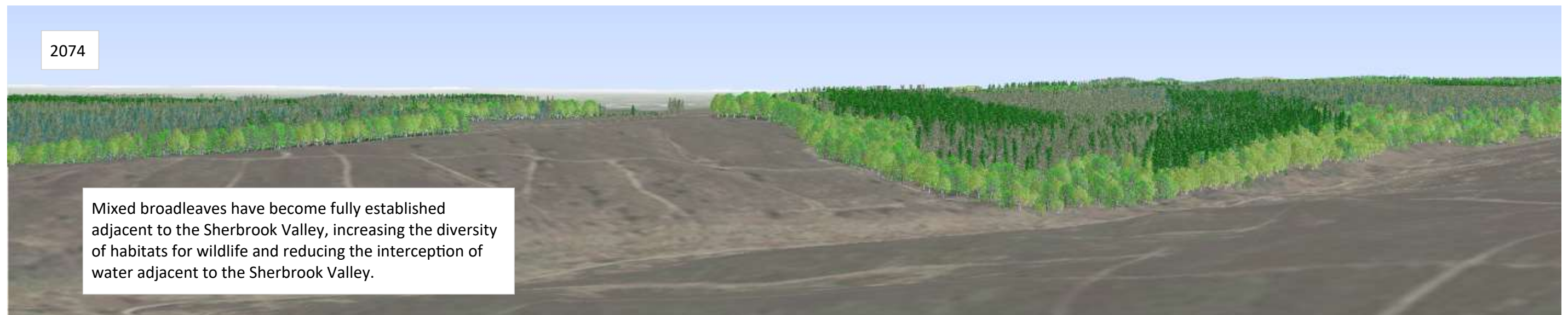
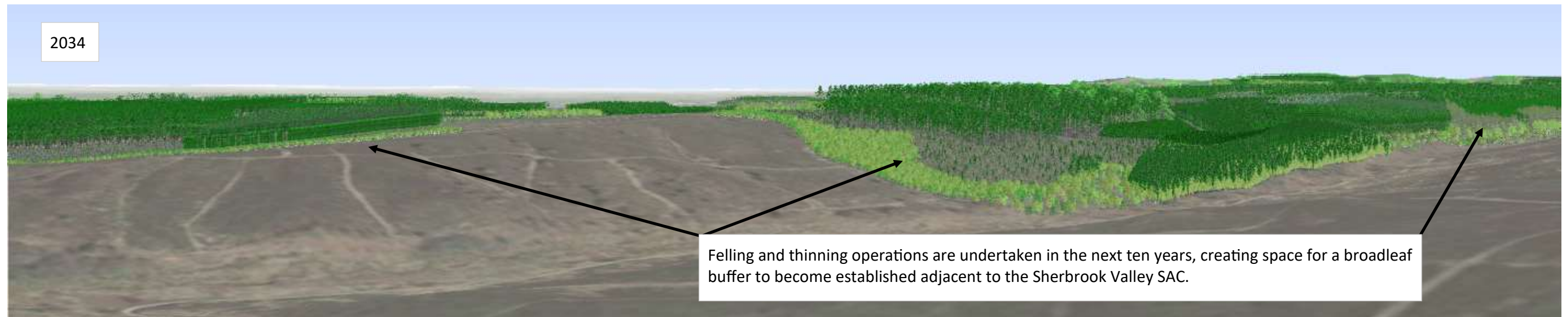
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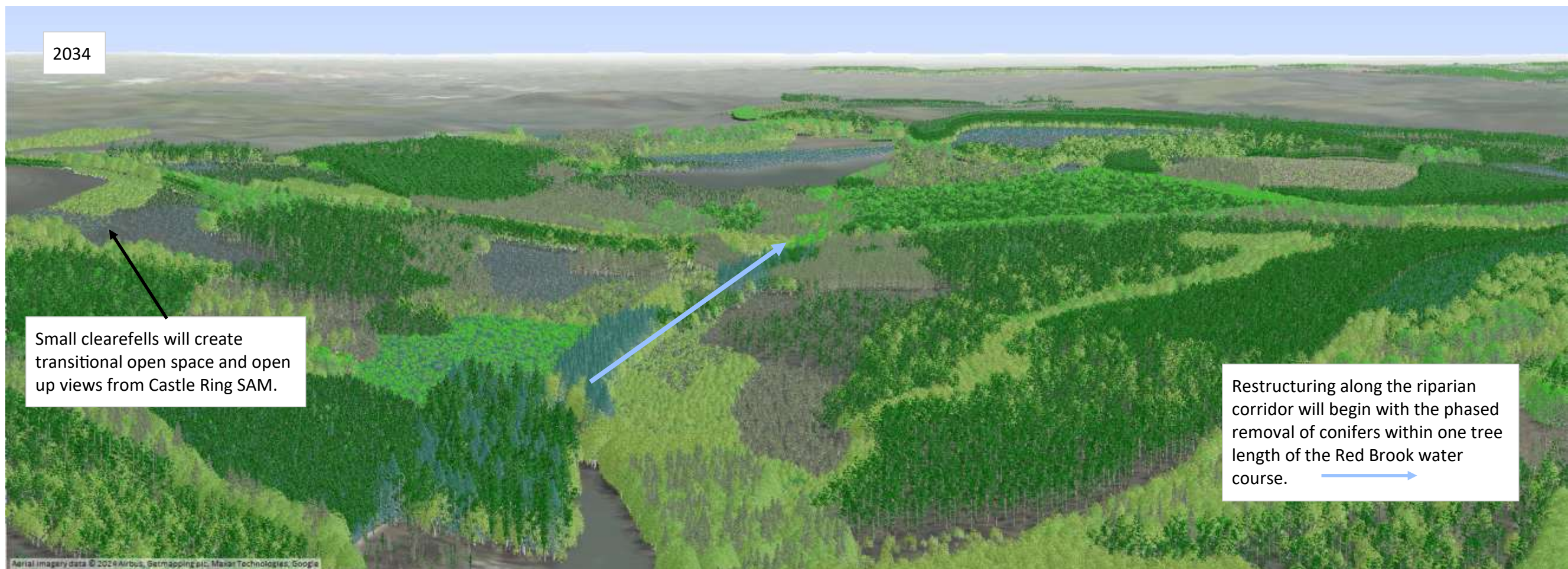
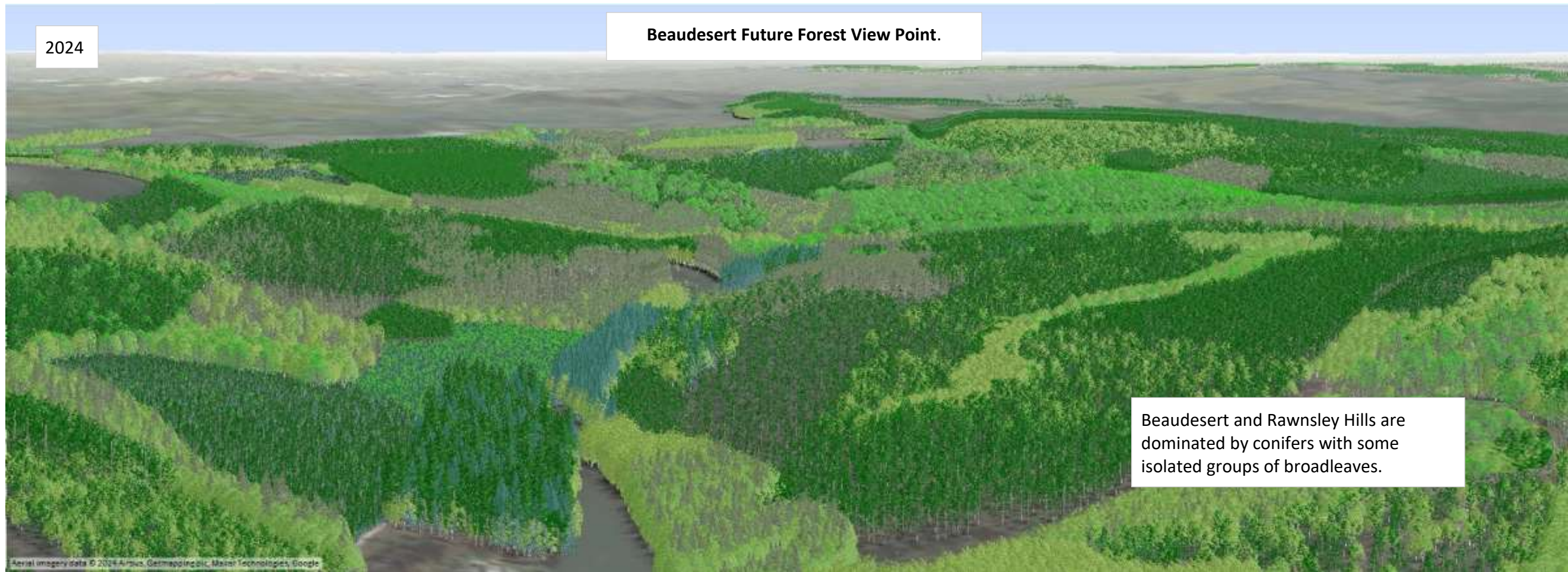


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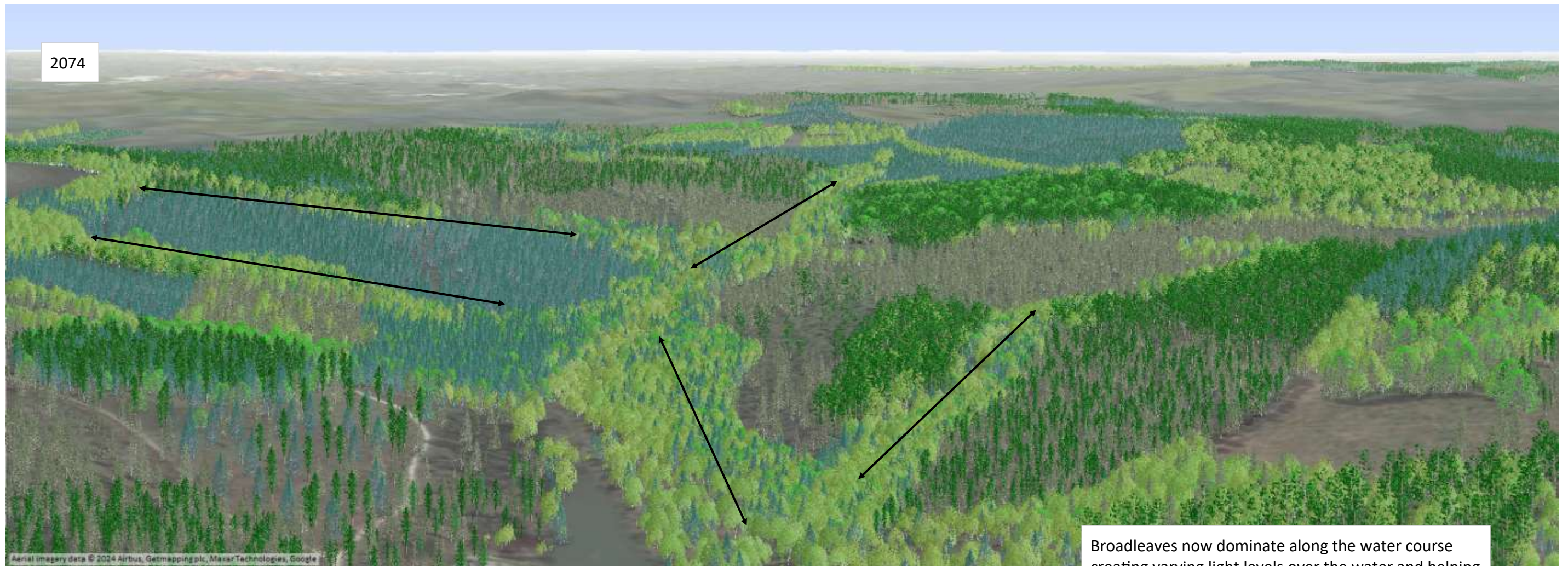


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Beadesert Future Forest View Point.



Broadleaves now dominate along the water course creating varying light levels over the water and helping to regulate water temperature. Isolated stands of broadleaves have now been link up, creating wildlife corridors across the forest. ↔

