



**Longhorn beetle** Another reason for promoting deadwood as the plan area is known to provide suitable habitats for Longhorn Beetle, especially in Bucknell. (Photo left shows Speckled Longhorn *Pachytodes cerambyciformis*, also found Tobacco-coloured Longhorn *Alosterna tabacicolor*. The prize Welsh Oak Longhorn Beetle *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* has also been known in Bucknell.)

Diversity and habitat interest is sustained through retaining fallen branch wood (Photo below, second from left in Bedstone Hill) and whole windblown trees. (Photo below, second from right in Well Wood.)



## Conservation Features

**Ancient Woodland** The photo to the left shows AW in Bucknell.

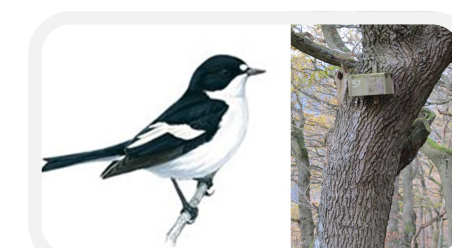
There are 22Ha of AW on the AW register within the Forest Plan area has and a further 66Ha of native broadleaf woodland that is somewhat fragmented across the plan area. The plan will target areas for clearfell that threaten security of native wood and AW.

**Trees of Significant Interest (TSI) and deadwood** There are many veteran trees and TSI within the plan area. Above far left shows an Oak tree in Bucknell. Whilst above far right shows Veteran Oaks in a belt of remnant AW in Bucknell. Any Forest operation and the management of veteran trees/TSI follows guidance laid out in FC Operations Instruction 31.

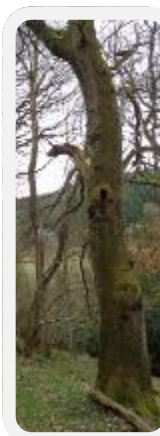


**Dormice** There are records of Dormice being present in Bucknell Wood, with potential favourable habitat found across the Plan area (see left). Clearfalls programed alongside rides and roads will improve rideside structure too ensuring appropriate habitat provision. Management should regard FC/NE 2018 Protocol.

**Raptor** Notably Goshawk (above left) and Buzzard are known to nest and hunt within the forest areas. Many of the species choose to rest in high well branched conifer trees and then feed over surrounding open ground making the forests ideal raptor habitat in an otherwise varied landscape. Restock sites will provide perches through the retention of standing snags (above right, Bucknell) and the management of appropriate retention will ensure that habitat provision is maintained.



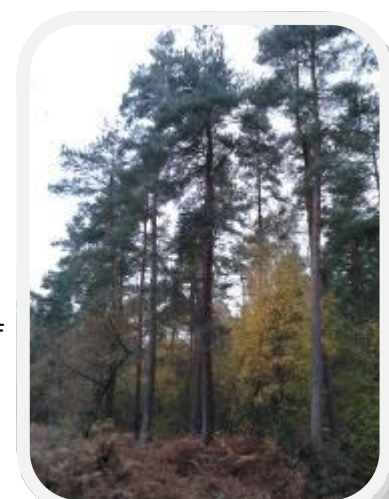
**Pied Flycatchers** the Plan area has had a nest box trial for Pied Flycatchers in previous years with 100 boxes in Bucknell that are still present. (Photo right)



**Bats** In the above left photo one can see Cwm Cottage. This is a derelict farm house on the western side of Bucknell Wood, since transformed into a maternity roosting site for Lesser Horseshoe bats. The plan area also contains numerous other suitable bat roosting points (above middle shows a typical Oak suited for bats in Well Wood). Through the wider adoption of Alternative to Clearfell systems, for example strip felling that better suit conifer crops on steeper ground, (above right, Bucknell), forest management is sympathetic and in line with the European Protected Species Best Practice Guidance for bats version 3 laid out by FC & NE in 2013.



**Large diameter conifer,** like these Sequoia and Douglas Fir (left, Hopton) provide species diversity, visual interest, with some being retained for biological maturity. In Kinsley the Scots Pine has a developing understory of native broadleaf and over time the Scots Pine will be thinned to develop large crowns and managed as mixed woodland.







## Conservation Habitats



### Open space habitat

Open space habitats throughout the plan area are somewhat limited. One of the main areas of open space is Titterhill in Hopton. This area relates to 1.2Ha with a further 1.8 Ha to be added by end of the plan period. This area will be a mosaic of open space (80%) and minor native broadleaf species (20%)



### Open water

There is limited open water within the plan area. This photo shows the pond at Kinsley Wood that is in need of clearing of sediment and vegetation, with Parrots foot being prevalent. Some coppice work of water edge trees would also benefit the pond.



### Roads and rides edge structure

There is good opportunity to improve the structure and ecological value of rides and roads within the plan area, as currently structure is somewhat limited. Hopton and Well Wood would especially benefit from the development of ride structure.

The photo far left shows forest edge structure adjoining the main forest road at the entrance to Kinsley Wood beginning to develop and left you can see some nice scree habitat along the east-west facing road edge within Well Wood. If opened up this roadside may encourage and provide suitable habitat for the likes of Grayling and Dingy Skipper and other lepidoptera.

In this wood and on other sites across the plan area future thinning work should develop ride edge structure and by doing so improve habitat for the likes of Wood Whites and Fritillaries. These edges should be accessible by machine for maintenance purposes.



### Kinsley - Scots Pine in compartment 1540d

This area of Scots Pine sits above Knighton surrounded by open habitat. One can see from the far left photo the earth bank that adjoins the Scots Pine has remnant hawthorn trees probably from when the area was enclosed for grazing at some point. - Within the landscape context the plan will see the Scots Pine being under-planted with large groups of minor native species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn Rowan, Holly and Crab Apple creating diversity of habitat. This will see the woodland develop a more complementary character within its landscape context.

The compartment will then become more ecologically valuable too, appealing to a much wider variety of species. Any windblown Scots Pine will be retained too adding further diversity to the site.



### Ancient Woodland remnants

The plan contains several examples of AW remnants. These two examples are from Purslow Wood.

Through forestry operations the plan will help safeguard these types of features throughout the plan area. This will be achieved through selective thinning and targeted clearfelling, with restocking targeting native planting adjacent to these types of habitat to further protect these features.



## Heritage Features

Most heritage features within the plan area tend to be lineal features such as the ones illustrated here. - they are usually to do with the way in which the surrounding woodland was managed in the past or inform us about the transport routes people used to use.

1. At Hopton this feature shows overstood or stored coppice that would have been actively managed forming hedges that also would have demarcated boundaries. One can see this one has a lot of gaps.
2. Sunken track in Purslow Wood.
3. Old boundary bank adjacent to Kinsley, but not on FC land, showing land was once enclosed.
4. A woodbank in Kinsley, probably a boundary although the flat section between the bank and wood may have once been a footpath.
5. Holloway in Hopton.
6. Woodbank in Hopton, that coincides with the boundary for Ancient Woodland on the AW register.

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the plan area, although the Offa's Dyke passes close to the boundary of Kinsley.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.





## Map showing Public Rights of Way

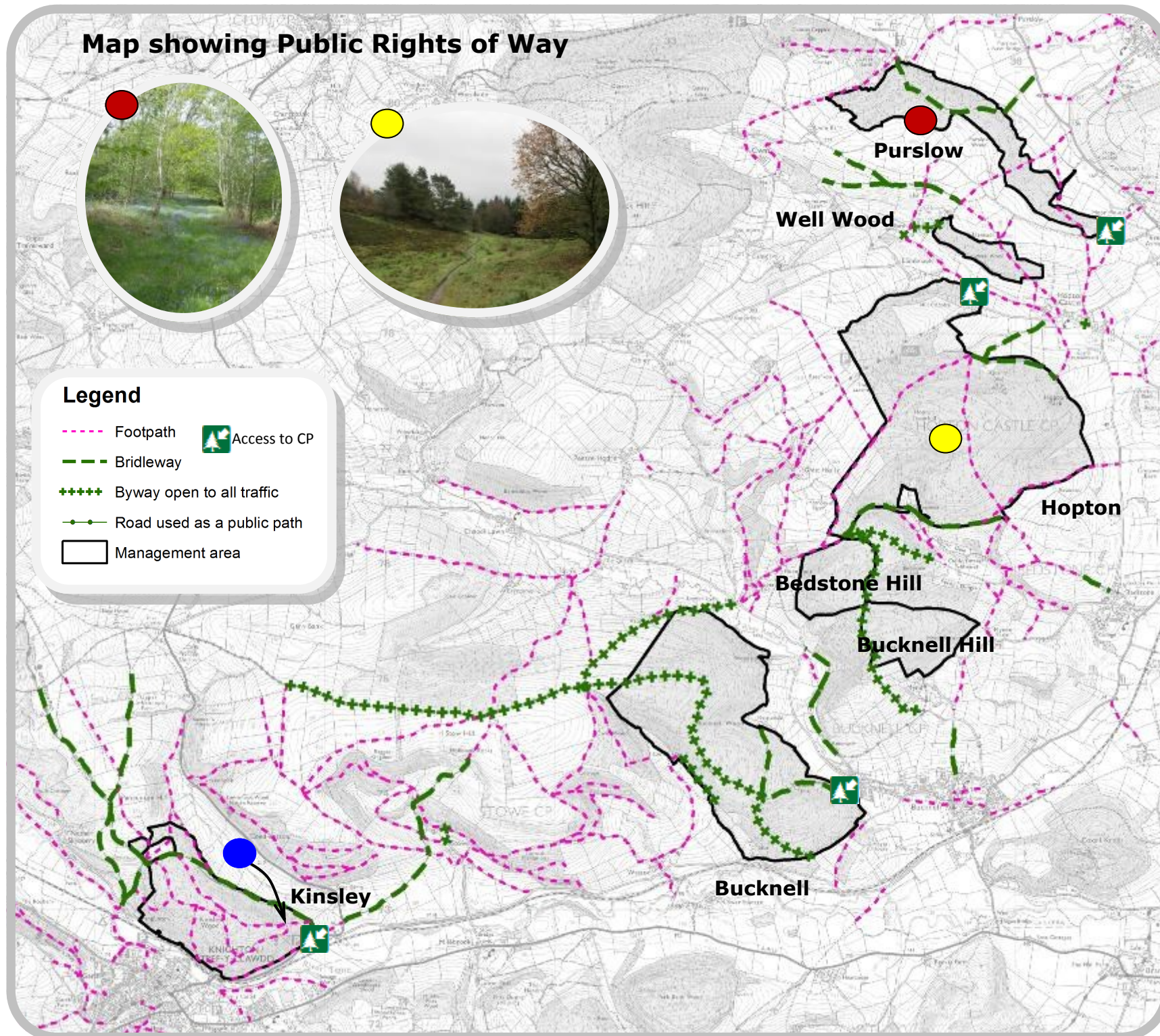


### Legend

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- +++++ Byway open to all traffic
- Road used as a public path
- Management area



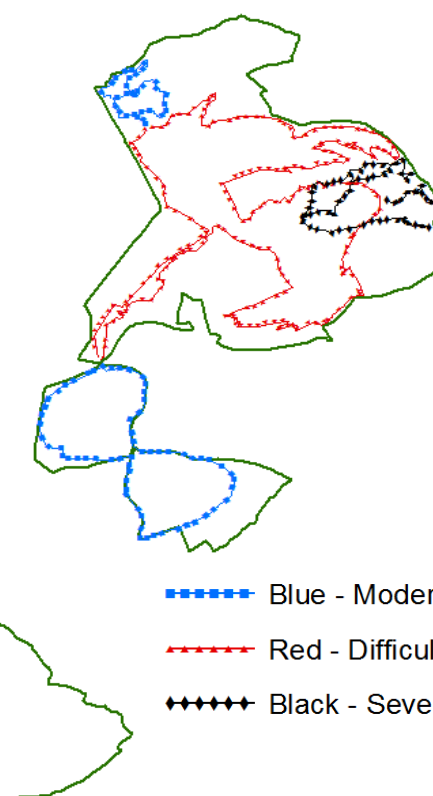
Access to CP



## Recreation and Public Access



**Cycling** the plan area is well known for providing good terrain for mountain biking at a variety of skill levels including the 7.5mile Pearce XC and Hopton Blue trails (left) with the map (right) showing routes within Hopton and Bucknell.



- Blue - Moderate
- Red - Difficult
- Black - Severe



**Walking and Horse riding** With the Offa's Dyke trail on its doorstep and the beautiful scenic landscapes of Shropshire, the plan area is well supported by public rights of way that also cater for horse riders.

"Walking with Offa 10: Bucknell and Stowe Hill" is a circular 6.5 mile route that passes through Bedstone Hill, Bucknell Hill and Bucknell Wood.



**Internal and external landscapes** The plan area lies completely within the Shropshire Hills AONB and throughout the plan area from various vantage points one can appreciate the fantastic views of the surrounding Shropshire countryside. Within the woodlands one can also enjoy a diverse range of landscapes such as the open area at Titterhill and the rides through Purslow. (see map)