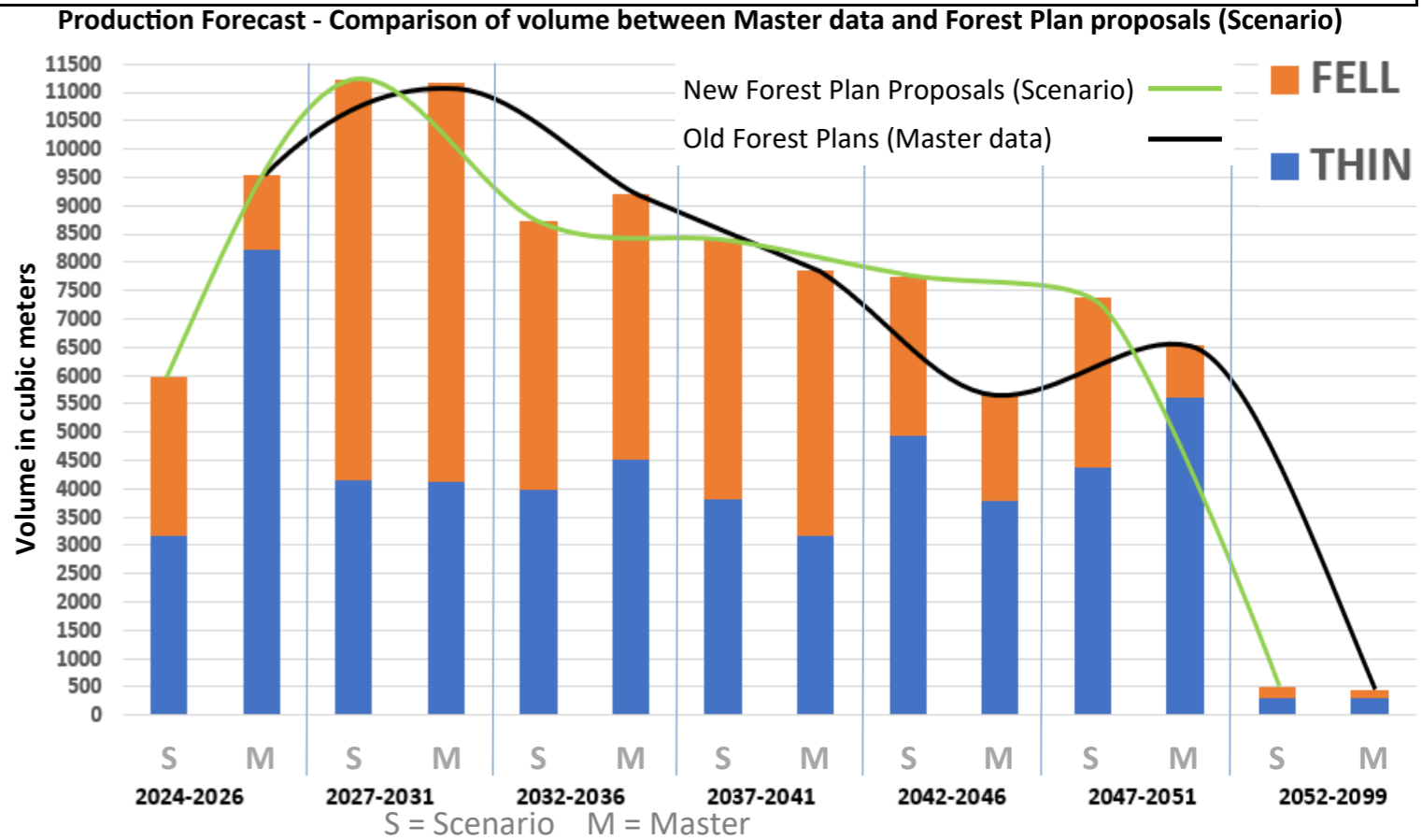
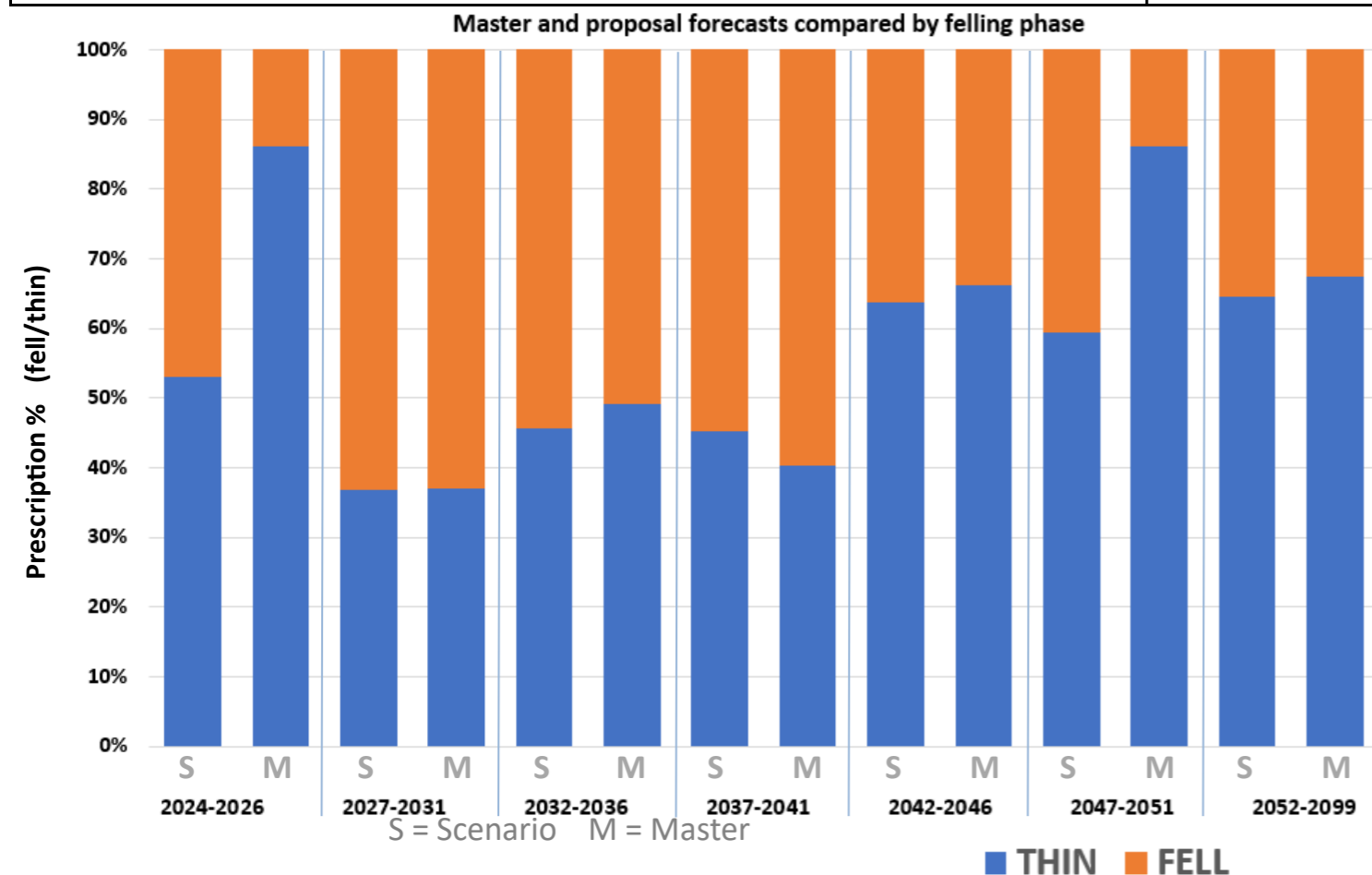


Option 1 – The Current seven Forest Plans (Master)	Option 2 – Proposed Forest Plan (Scenario)
Deliver well-designed forests that protect and enhance the internal and external landscape in keeping with the local landscape character.	
Old plans for the main adequately addressed landscape issues in most cases, whilst external landscapes are nominal the internal landscaping has room for improvement with some obvious anomalies e.g. the valley from Piano corner up to Newham Bottom.	Couping detail in the new plan concentrates on putting into place a longer term coupe design based on the well thought out designs from the mid -1990s, but this will take time to achieve given the prescribed increased use of Low Impact Silviculture. (LISS)
Conservation and Ecology objectives (various)	
For the majority the suite of conservation objectives in the old plans were fairly broad in their statements, but in some instances specifics were mentioned e.g. open habitats, protected species, old oak woodlands and individual species such as Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.	This new plan covers an area between 5-6 times larger and recognises that in their entirety the conservation and ecology objectives from the old plans address issues that are still current. However, specific examples concurrent to Our Shared Forest have been highlighted in this new landscape scale amalgamation, e.g. Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), Open Habitats and their associated species, connectivity of open habitat and water management
The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.	
Timber production was sustained primarily through thinning and clearfelling being the prime mode for managing structure and species change. LISS and Minimum Intervention being in their infancy for the delivery of other objectives.	Timber production delivered in a sustainable way remains an important objective. To this end the plan looks to implement a higher proportion of LISS (+123Ha) as a means to deliver sustainable production and as an alternative means of increasing structural diversity within stands and the wider landscape. Reliance on clearfelling will therefore be reduced and value of natural capital will be balanced through more coppicing.
The diversification of woodland species and structure for greater ecological and economic resilience.	
Clearfelling and restocking have been used for the past 30 years to implement a strategy for diversifying species and age class. For various reasons including pest and disease and needing to maintain a sustainable delivery of timber the restructuring programme has fallen behind schedule. Not that there is a rush, but does mean the realising of resource potential may suffer.	LISS will be used as a means of managing the burden of Statutory Plant Health Notices that either have been or have potential to be served. So 51% of Clearfell sites (70% by area) surveyed to be felled over the next ten years (2034) have been found to be suitable candidates for managing through LISS. Retaining 49% of sites for clearfell (30% by area) means that other objectives such as providing transitory open habitats for ground nesting birds can be achieved. Proportion of coppicing will increase to compensate for reduction of clearfelling (transitory habitat).
To conserve, maintain and enhance cultural and heritage assets.	
Management proposals were in line with management intentions laid out within the Forest Plan.	Management proposals will continue these intentions supported by the site planning process that will look to identify and record any heritage features that may be impacted by forest operations as well as those previously unidentified. The Heritage Layer will be used to record those previously unidentified features for future reference.
The management and maintenance of Sites of Scientific Interest/ SAC/ SAM and key wildlife species habitat	
Management proposals were in line with management intentions laid out within the Forest Plan.	The Forest Plan looks to increase ecological and biological value by linking up fragmented habitat that will lead to an overall increase in the Natural Capital of the plan area, e.g. enhancing and creating more riparian habitat or the consolidation of small pockets of semi-natural woodland.
The provision and maintenance of low-key recreation that will benefit peoples physical, emotional and mental health	
Management proposals were in line with management intentions laid out within the FP.	Management proposals are in line with management intentions. With the ever increasing pressure on the Public Estate to provide better connection to nature and to help people’s physical, emotional and mental health, all previous objectives look to help meet this one.



Option 2 is the preferred option and will be instigated

	Coupes that were Clearfell that are now Low Impact Silviculture
	Coupes that were Clearfell that are now a mixture of Low Impact Silviculture and Clearfelling
	Coupes that were Clearfell assessed as not being suitable for LISS that will remain as Clearfell

Coupe prescription for areas of LIS previously identified for Clearfelling

SR = Short Rotation
BC = Butterfly Conservation
CF = Clearfell

comment	management type applied	Felling date applied	MAI for largest component	+/- MAI date	Quick glance LISS / CF or both	Map	Block	OLD coupe number	New Forest Plan Proposals Main coupe number 1	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 2	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 3
Leave open space along Cycle trail and vary stocking intensity to improve aesthetics, on steeper slopes visible from cycle trail. Could we plant some sequoia perhaps? - adding to Sense of Place and longevity.	Irregular Shelterwood	2095/96	not available	not available	okay 06/03/24	2	Astonbridge	42102	42003		
It would be possible therefore, given the secluded nature of the site and the difficulties in working the site to ringbark and fell some of the BE to create both standing and fallen deadwood. - Will be managing this in sympathy and complimentary to the watercourse. 20m water buffer extended to cover old flood plain and 'holding' area that fed the Mill down stream	Group Selection	N/A			okay 06/03/24	3	Astonbridge	42098	42040		
Oak and SP to be planted (tubes) and in high density in order to stop UAT use.	Group Selection	N/A			okay 06/03/24	4	Astonbridge	42063	42009		
Retain eastern strip running N-S but remove as much CP and WH from western section as possible without damaging the understory and surrounding broadleaves. Underplant or group plant in resulting gaps within crop to enrich future species composition.	Single Tree and Group Selection	N/A			okay 06/03/24	5	Astonbridge	42074	42092	42079	
Alternative and emerging species to be planted	Uniform Shelterwood	2094/95	2068 2041 2050	+26 +53 -44	Changed from CF to ShWd okay 06/03/24	7	Astonbridge	42151	42136		
Split restock into two. (east and west) whole site will be SP/OK/MB/XB but west side = 40/60 bias to broadleaves and east side 60/40 bias toward conifer	Irregular Shelterwood	2084/85	2058	+26	okay 06/03/24	10	Astonbridge	42038	42107		
Beaver/watercourse buffer. Scots Pine within Beaver enclosure will remain operationally thinnable. Develop crown of SP for future potential veteran/ character trees	Long Term Retention and Group Selection	2124	2051	+73	okay 06/03/24	11	Astonbridge	42091	42082	42027	
	Goup Selection	N/A			okay 06/03/24	13	Astonbridge	42118	42012		

Coupe prescription for areas of LIS previously identified for Clearfelling (cont...)

comment	management type applied	Felling date applied	MAI for largest component	+/- MAI date	Quick glance LISS / CF or both	Map	Block	OLD coupe number	New Forest Plan Proposals Main coupe number 1	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 2	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 3
Create irregular structure to help with shelter to farmers field.	Irregular Shelterwood	2080/81	2056 2060	+24 +20	okay 06/03/24	16	Astonbridge	42168	42066		
Remove larch and WH through thinning and potentially u/p to enrich alternate species (not WH) e.g. JRC/RSQ/ESF - Retain mature DF	Group Selection	N/A			okay 06/03/24	18	Astonbridge	42156	42030		
Fairly sheltered south facing bank	Uniform Shelterwood	2100/01	2057 2043	+43 +57		21	Astonbridge	42083	42077		
Thin to remove larch and RC and underplant. RC not suitable under ESC 2080 high NOTE change from red cedar to ESF due to climate ESC constraints.	Irregular Shelterwood	2124/25	2048 2055	+76 +69		22	Astonbridge	42095	42039		
Seed stand retain on selection system, but may need felling due to PR. feasible fell date 2059	Single Tree Selection	N/A				24	Astonbridge	42164	42064	42063	
Thin out Larch to help create plantable areas	Uniform and Group Shelterwood	2084/85 2090/91	2059 2053	+25 +37		25	Astonbridge	42170	42131	42132	
well thinned and good potential for underplanting Conifer restock	Irregular shelterwood	2101/02	2052	+49		26	Astonbridge	42202	42133		
Diversify understorey plantings further with JRC/RSQ	Uniform Shelterwood	2065/66 2101/02	2067 2053	-2 +48		27	Astonbridge	42191	42134	42133	42045
Retain as Conifer but diversify species in the future possibly following first thinning (circa 2042) - <u>should this be moved to broadleaves in future years???</u>	Irregular shelterwood	2104/05	2057	+47	okay 04-03-24	1	Crabtree Hill	43254	43078		
visually improves the aesthetics of what would otherwise be a very boring large open space in a prominent location. - Reain as Long-term retention, which will continue to add aesthetic value and also continue providing shelter for wildlife and the grazing animals. Realistically NS will be retained impertuity which will also add value through retaining past biological maturity.	LTR (Non-Forecastable)	2079/80	2044	+35	okay 04-03-24	2	Crabtree Hill	43302	43187	43186	
Felled and restocked with SP TUL NS IAR in 2023 - potential frost pocket. Wood spurge present but scarce. SP OK BE HAZ BI woodland surrounds this site and runs along this valley. - Nice feature with variable ground conditions. - a good mix of species for site conditions.	Group Selection	N/A			okay 04-03-24	3	Crabtree Hill	43264	43083		
Deer and Boar will be the initial issue if recoppiced. Coppicing and enrichment with other coppicable native broadleaves. Perhaps some Red Oak ?? or similar for autumnal colour, given the location of the site and would enhance visitor experience.	Coppice	2036/37	2088	-52	okay 04-03-24	5	Crabtree Hill	43232	43063	43153	
Only continue removing conifer that will not cause damage to remaining Oak trees, consider enrichment palnting with complementary native species to the adjacent open habitat.	Group Selection	N/A			okay 04-03-24	10	Crabtree Hill	43280	43134	43135	

comment	management type applied	Felling date applied	MAI for largest component	+/- MAI date	Quick glance LISS / CF or both	Map	Block	OLD coupe number	New Forest Plan Proposals Main coupe number 1	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 2	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 3
Coppicing to be undertaken by DGT Create habitat piles	SR Coppice	coppice date not set	2031		coppice possible area for BC?	14	Crabtree Hill	43357	43178		
Continue thinning to encourage regeneration. Consider enrichment planting to further diversify species composition	Irregular Shelterwd	2083/84	2036	+47	okay 04/03/24	17	Crabtree Hill	43275	43140		
enhance the adjacent Napolionic Oak with the 40% MB	Irregular Shelterwood	2121/22	2048	+73	okay 04/03/24	21	Crabtree Hill	43341	43104		
once subcpt 4316 L is converted to other broadleave species through shelterwood, combine with coupe 43060 (4316 B) and manage as a selection system.	Group Selection	N/A			okay 04/03/24	1	Serridge	43113	43275	43040	
One year old broadleaf restock. Will eventually be managed through Group Selection	Group Selection	N/A			okay 04/03/24	2	Serridge	43102	43276		
Open with scattering of broadleaves and scrub species - Potential for future wood pasture habitat	Open	N/A			okay 04/03/24	3	Serridge	43020	43043		
	Strip Shelterwood Group Selection	2065/66	2054	+11	okay 04/03/24	4	Serridge	43405	43247	43245	
Skeletal shallow soils due to old mineral extraction activity	Group Selection	N/A			okay 04/03/24	5	Serridge	43421	43221	43240	
maintain cover for Bats Remove NS only, retaining SP	Strip Shelterwood Group Selection	2065/66	2054	+9	due to bats and stability issues	11	Serridge	43163	43245	43247	
Clearfell northern block adjacent to OHP Strip fell the southern block adjacent to OHP Was subject to Northern Quarter mitigation	Clearfell and Strip Shelterwood	2050/51	2054	-4	CF 2065/66 due to bats and stability issues	12	Serridge	43652	43243	43246	
Remove any larch through thinning Future thinning will give a more open structure to the stand and possibility for futher enrichment planting of other species. Consider planting groups of redwood for longevity. SP sould eventually replace CP.	Group Selection and Irregular Shelterwood	2049/50	2024 2062	+25 -13	okay 04/03/24	13	Serridge	43528 and 43687	43248	43240	43251
No signs of windblow. Reduce stocking level to suit the safey margins of OHP corridors. Not to be restocked	Single Tree Selection	N/A			okay 04/03/24	15	Serridge	43641	43258		
On restocking increase level of minor species such as HAW/HAZ/CAP/WEM/ABR	Clearfell and Group Selection	2025/26 2031/32	2051 2070	-26 -39	CF 25/26 okay 06/03/24	6	Astonbridge	42077	42098	42095	42012
Soils look to be dry and shallow with some skeletal elements. - steep slope of around 30 deg that's south facing. NS is very boney. The site has remnant veteran napoleonic OK scattered throughout with components of mature WH. Very few broadleaf options. FDT would tend to suggest SOK/SP as being one of the better options and this would tie in with the stand of BE/SP just to the north in 4204f	Half Clearfell and half Group Selection	2032/33	2055 2053	-23 -21	CF 32/33 okay 06/03/24	12	Astonbridge	42085	42091	42090	
	Clearfell and Single Tree Selection	2025/26 2030/31	2050 2072	-25 -42	okay 06/03/24	14	Astonbridge	42868	42095	42098	

Coupe prescription for areas of LIS previously identified for Clearfelling (cont...)

comment	management type applied	Felling date applied	MAI for largest component	+/- MAI date	Quick glance LISS / CF or both	Map	Block	OLD coupe number	New Forest Plan Proposals Main coupe number 1	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 2	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 3
WH marginal in ESC (only just) consider underplanting with alternative species perhaps ESF (also marginal) add in SOK & SP	Uniform Shelterwood	2065/66 2032/33	2061 2055	-4 -23	CF larch 2032/33 okay 03/06/24	15	Astonbridge	42130	42017	42059	42125
reduce PR risk by felling	Group selection & Clearfell	2032/33	2026 2055	+8 -23	okay 06/03/24	17	Astonbridge	42159	42059	42029	
mixed conifer and broadleaf PHF. NOTE change from red cedar to ESF due to climate ESC constraints.	Irregular Shelterwood	2124/25	2038 2055	+86 +69		23	Astonbridge	42090	42039	42088	
Remove larch within CP through thinning and then underplant CP with alternate conifer species suggest something long term that will add to the sense of place given sites proximity to Beechenhurst and the Sculpture trail that runs through it. Perhaps establish a redwood grove around the decommissioned sculpture ("Bois Mort") to both retain and enhance the sculptures ambience (which I think we should honour)	Clearfell & Irregular Shelterwood	2025/6 (HL) 2083/84 (CP)	2027 2054	-2 +29	CF 2025/26 okay 04-03-2024	4	Crabtree Hill	43230	43085	43084	
Improve landscaping along cycle trail - Remove 40-50% and leave standards, leading to an improvement for butterflies. - due to original coupe size merge with adjacent coupe 43269 Diversify with coppiceable species other than SC.	Coppice with Standards	2055-56	2060 2097	-5 +42	20yr cut okay 04-03-24	6	Crabtree Hill	43269	43191		
At risk from PR due to larch on other side of cycle trail. Remove redundant feneline. Replant with coppiceable alternate broadleaved species in mosaic with open space. Stagger cutting frequency with adjacent coppice coupes - spray off stumps and replant with other species - Due to awkwardness of working, coupes 43262 and 43261 may end up getting felled together.	Coppice with Standards	coppice date not set	2097		30yr cut okay 04-03-24	7	Crabtree Hill	43268	43159		
	Coppice with Standards	2044/45	2060	-16	20yr cut okay 04-03-24	8	Crabtree Hill	43262	43181		
	Coppice with Standards	2044/45	2060	-16	20yr cut okay 04-03-24	9	Crabtree Hill	43261	43185	43181	
Remove larch component through thinning plant felled gaps to diversify species (CAR/SP??) clearfell northern boundary as part of open habitat linkage corridor (coupe 43182)	LTR / Clearfell	2079/80	2034	+45	Remove Larch okay 04-03-24	13	Crabtree Hill	43360	43177	43182	
Split into 2 coupes northern one strip fell creating dormouse favourable habitat. Southern Coupe Irregular shelterwood or Singel tree selection Planting mixture of SP HAZ HAW and NS in varying ratios, split over 3 coupes (northern strip, middle and southern)	Strip Shelterwood Single Tree Selection	2053/54	2058	-5	okay 04/03/24	6	Serridge	43787	43208	43244	
Retain eastern DF and remove EL thorough thinning Replant with alternate/emerging species	Clearfell and Irregular Shelterwood	2026/27 2114/15	2024 2024	+2 +90	CF 25/26 okay 04/03/24	10	Serridge	43133	43046	43206	
develop open habitat connectivity by felling roadside strip connecting open habitats to the SW and NE	Clearfell and Irregular Shelterwood	2027/28 2110/11	2045	-18 +65	CF 27/28 okay 04/03/24	14	Serridge	43048	43255	43256	
ground prep will be required for underplanting consider fencing. Slopes to east and exposed from west.	Clearfell	2075	2024	51	moved back to CF re: larch management CF 2055/56 okay 06/03/24	1	Astonbridge	42018	42061	42051	
Coupe 42105 - clearfell everything except hedgerow trees Spray off SC stumps and regrowth Restock whole site using alternate species: DF JCR RSQ XC	Coppice	2043/44 2030/31	2068	-25 -38	30/31 & 43/44 okay 06/03/24	8	Astonbridge	42176	42105	42104	42106

Coupe prescription for areas of LIS previously identified for Clearfelling (cont...)

comment	management type applied	Felling date applied	MAI for largest component	+/- MAI date	Quick glance LISS / CF or both	Map	Block	OLD coupe number	New Forest Plan Proposals Main coupe number 1	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 2	New Forest Plan Proposals Part coupe number 3
Clearfell and restock - suggest OK / SP mix 60:40 with perhaps some hazle and hornbeam. Very awkward terrain	Clearfell	2042/43	2056 2071	-14 -29	CF 27/28 okay 06/03/24	9	Astonbridge	42021	42028	42149	
Mature CP/DF planted in 68 exists 200m to south. With this in mind clearfelling whole of coupe would not remove all favourable habitat and potential nesting options. There are also records of nightjar from adjacent restock clearfell would provide further habitat for them.	Clearfell	2046/47	2059	-13		19	Astonbridge	42013	42052		
	Group Selection	N/A				20	Astonbridge	42037	42114	42121	
Restocking to be changed to remove larch and replace with SP.	Clearfell and Group Selection	2025/26	2024 2043	+1 -18	okay 04/03/24	16	Serridge	43041 and 43038	43051	43259	43043
Partial LTR of windblown NS - retain to achieve biological maturity and deadwood habitat.	Clearfell and LTR	2025/26	2055	-30	CF 2025/26 okay 04-03-2024	11	Crabtree Hill	43336	43103	43174	43061
split in half Eastern side of water buffer fell 25/6 and West of buffer fell in 32/33 - Retain mature character SP Leave eastern end of coupe open to enhance and create open habitat linkages. (coupe 43182)	Clearfell	2034/35 2025/26	2036	-2 -11	CF 2025/26 CF 32/33 okay 04-03-2024	12	Crabtree Hill	43348	43155	43156	43182 43025
Retain Character SP along boundary expand broadleaf habitat on western boundary to expand mature Oak habitat	Clearfell	2047/48	2038 2042 2056	+9 +5 -9	CF 31/32 CF 2121/22 okay 04/03/24	15	Crabtree Hill	43343	43195	43026	
Reduce reliance on SC by enrichment planting with broadleaf	Coppice	coupe 43192 date not set coupe 43152 = 2033/34	2088	-55	Coppice okay 04/03/24	16	Crabtree Hill	43233	43192	43152	43084
Alternative and emerging conifer planting	Clearfell	2035/36	2045	-10	CF 35/36 okay 04/03/24	18	Crabtree Hill	43314	43196		
Alternative and emerging conifer and broadleaf planting	Clearfell	2029/30	2049	-20	CF 29/30 okay 04/03/2024	19	Crabtree Hill	43329	43197		
Preemptive removal of larch component only. Restocking/underplanting with a mixture of OK MB and XB	Selective pre-emptive Clearfell	2046/47	2024	-22	CF 28/29 okay 04/03/24	20	Crabtree Hill	43352	43198		
disturbed soils from adjacent mineral tip	Clearfell	2033/34	2024	+9	CF 33/34 okay 04/03/24	22	Crabtree Hill	43339	43162		
Subject to Northern Quarter Mitigation proposals	Clearfell	2037/38	2033	+4	CF 37/38 okay 04/03/24	7	Serridge	43128	43211		
Gradual thinning due to windthrow potential and develop openstructure through the thinning to benefit drab looper moth.	Clearfell	2044/45	2044	0	CF 44/45 okay 04/03/24	8	Serridge	43078	43214		
Thinning should target the removal of NS for the retention & development of SP crowns	Clearfell	2038/39	2024	+14	CF 38/39 okay 04/03/24	9	Serridge	43079	43222		

Name: *Phytophthora ramorum* (known as PR)

First appearance: 2009

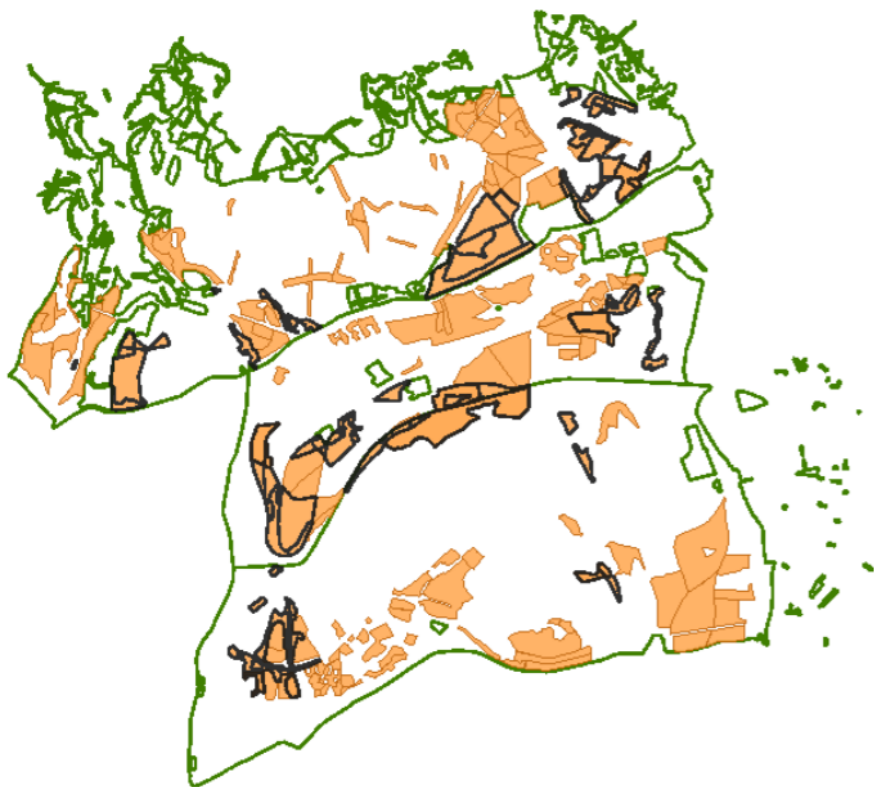
Attacks: Larches and Sweet Chestnut

Impact on plan area: **HIGH**

P. ramorum was first found in the UK in 2002 and until 2009 in the woodland environment had largely been associated with rhododendron species acting as a host from which spores are produced. In August 2009 *P. ramorum* was found on a small number of dead and dying Japanese Larch in South West England, causing particular concern since some affected trees were not close to infected rhododendron and showing a significant change in the dynamics of the disease than experienced previously. Following this, testing in Devon and west Somerset confirmed the presence of PR in mature Japanese larch as well as species in its under-storey, including sweet chestnut, beech, birch, oak, Douglas fir and Western hemlock. On some sites there is little or no rhododendron present. It is now known that Japanese larch and Sweet Chestnut can produce very high quantities of disease-carrying spores when actively growing in spring and summer, at much higher levels than those produced by rhododendron. These can be spread significant distances in moist air. PR is a notifiable disease dealt with by felling the infected area under a statutory plant health notice (SPHN) issued through FERA and the Forestry Commission.

Components of larch will be removed through thinning and larger areas will require clearfelling. Some areas may have a significant influence in the landscape.

Areas of Sweet Chestnut are outlined in black and may also



contain components of Larch shaded brown.

Name: *Phytophthora pluvialis*

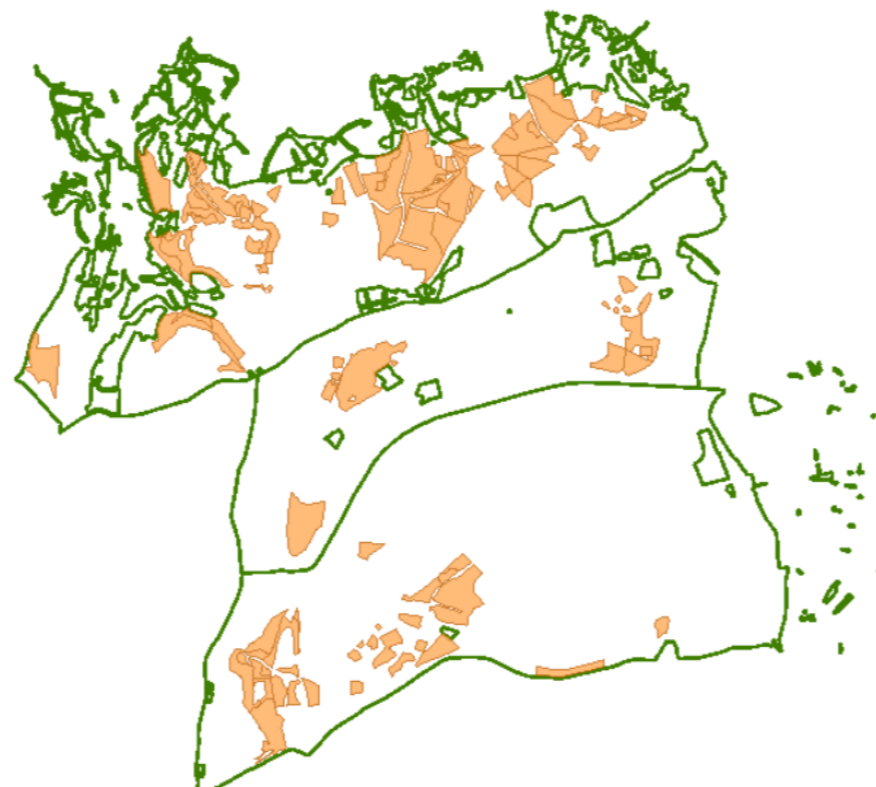
First appearance: 2021

Attacks: Douglas Fir and Western Hemlock

Impact on plan area: **MEDIUM** but potentially **HIGH**

Newly discovered in Cornwall in summer 2021 following surveillance for *Phytophthora ramorum*. This variant of *Phytophthora* originally reported in USA in 2013 and New Zealand in 2014 can cause symptoms such as needle cast, shoot dieback, and lesions on the stem, branches, and roots. It is a notifiable disease which results in mandatory felling through the issuing of SPHN from FERA.

Being a main conifer species within the plan area and mostly monoculture in nature. The plan will seek to continue the process of breaking up the age structure as well as begin to diversify these crops with other conifer species through underplanting or group planting.



APPENDIX 2: Management considerations -

Pests & Diseases affecting the Plan

Note - Maps in each column show species distribution for that species which could be affected by that particular disease

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Name: *Dothistroma Needle Blight* (DBN)

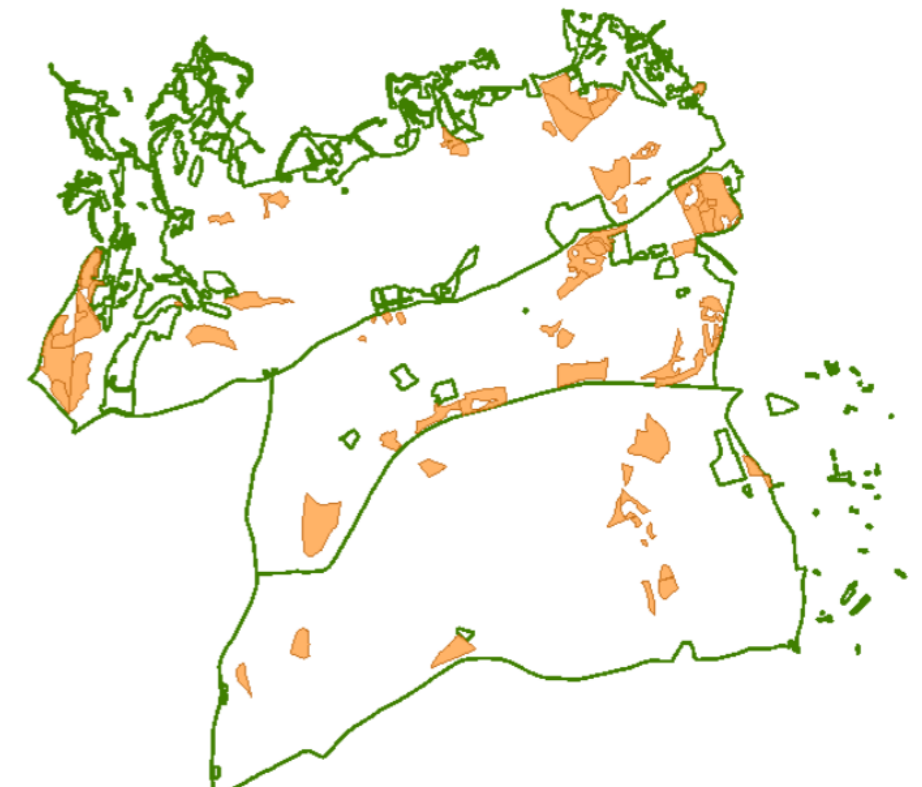
First appearance: mid 1990s

Attacks: Pine species

Impact on plan area: **MEDIUM**

Often referred to as Red Band Needle Blight (RBN) and can reduce growth rates by between 70 and 90%. Effects of RBN are managed through thinning the wood more heavily than you would normally to introduce higher levels of air flow through the remaining crop.

Most areas of Corsican Pine are well thinned in line with current best practice. Within the plan these areas are being taken as an opportunity to diversify species through underplanting or group planting after the appropriate stocking density has been reached.



Name: Oak 'dieback' or 'decline'

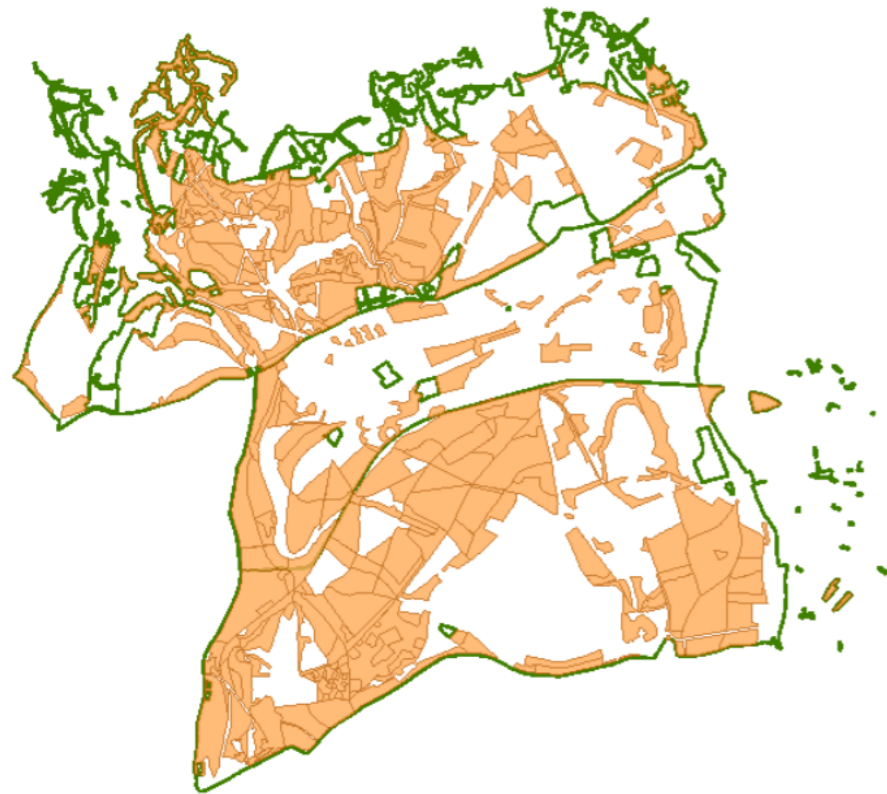
First appearance: unknown

Affects: OAK

Impact on plan area: **HIGH**

Oak 'dieback' or 'decline' is the name used to describe poor health in oak trees and can be split into Chronic decline and Acute decline. Chronic decline is protracted taking effect on the Oak over a number of decades whilst Acute decline is much swifter acting over much shorter periods usually five years or so. Symptoms can be caused by a range of living agents e.g. insect and fungal attack, or non-living factors, e.g. poor soil and drought. Factors causing decline can vary between sites, as can the effects of the factors through time. Oak decline is not new; oak trees in Britain have been affected for the most part of the past century. Both native species of oak are affected, but Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) more so than Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*). Successive exposure to any of these agents on a yearly/seasonal basis further reduces the health of the tree(s) by predisposing them to other living (Biotic) agents that can often spell the eventual death knell for the tree.

Within the Dean Main block the type of dieback is going to be assessed through a program of survey work that will look to gather field data and observations to try and help assess the extent of the issue along with mensuration data that will help determine management prescriptions.



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**APPENDIX 2: Management considerations -
Pests & Diseases affecting the Plan
(continued)**

Name: *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (formerly *Chalara fraxinea*)

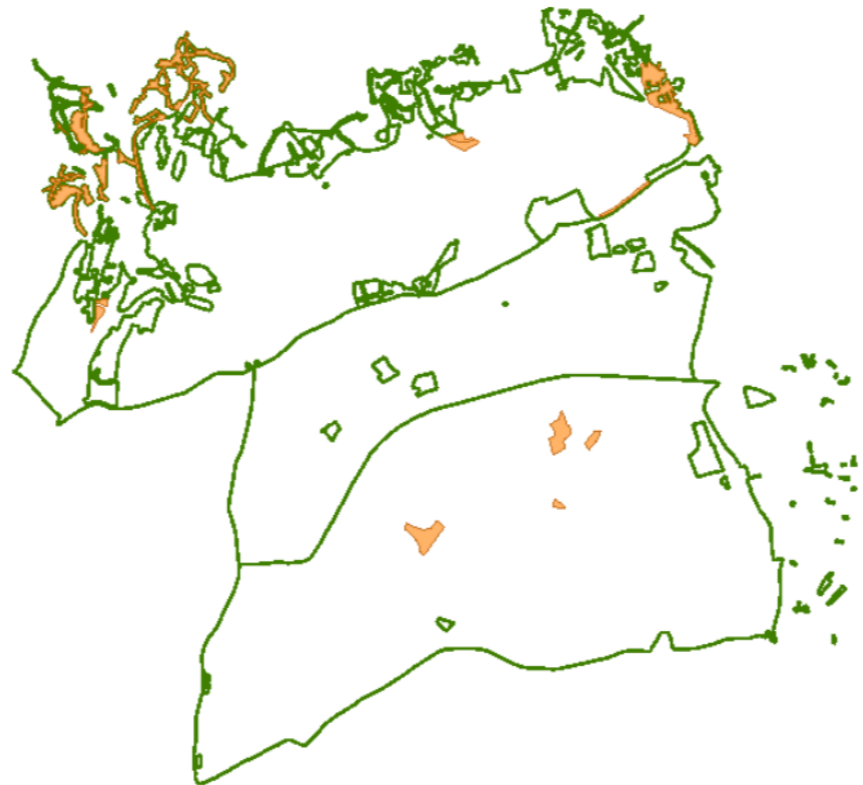
First appearance: circa 2016

Attacks: Ash

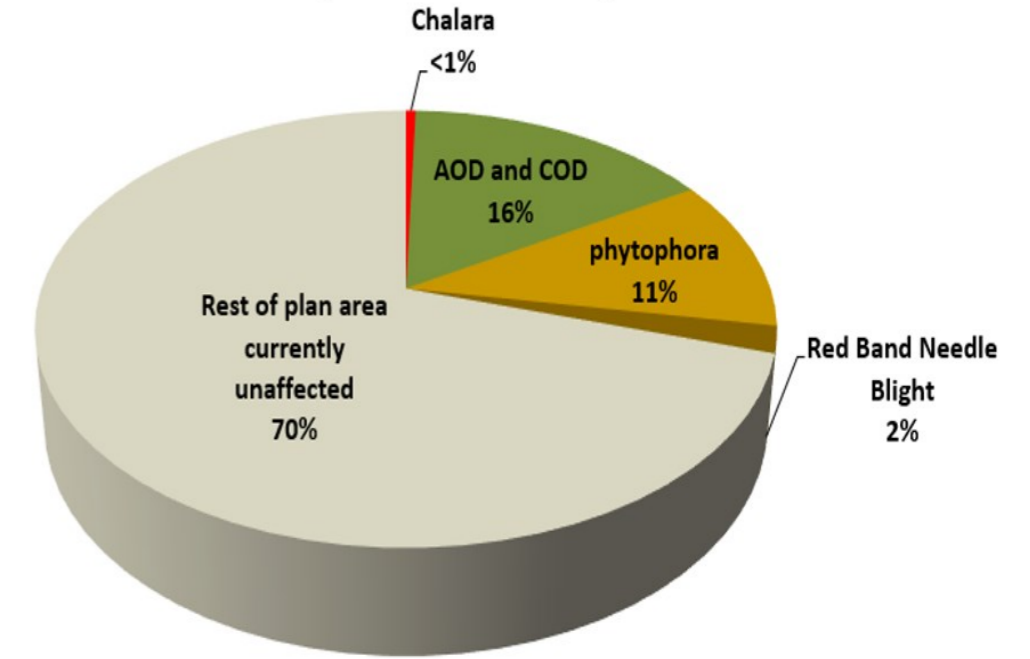
Impact on plan area: **LOW**

First reported in Poland in 1992 and now pretty rampant in Europe, showing up in 2012 mainly along the East Anglian coastline. Now a major disease within most Ash woodland across England. The disease causes dieback from the top of the tree, with branches or stem girdled before foliage wilts and gradually turns black. Eradication of the disease has been deemed not to be a feasible option and so felling is generally only along council roads, Public Rights of Way. Ash is often retained in the hope that natural resilience will be found that can be used to breed future Ash trees resistant to the disease.

The plan has few areas of Ash but where it does appear it tends occur in areas that are residential or along council roads, so from this perspective Ash is more of a concern rather than the wider Forest Plan area.

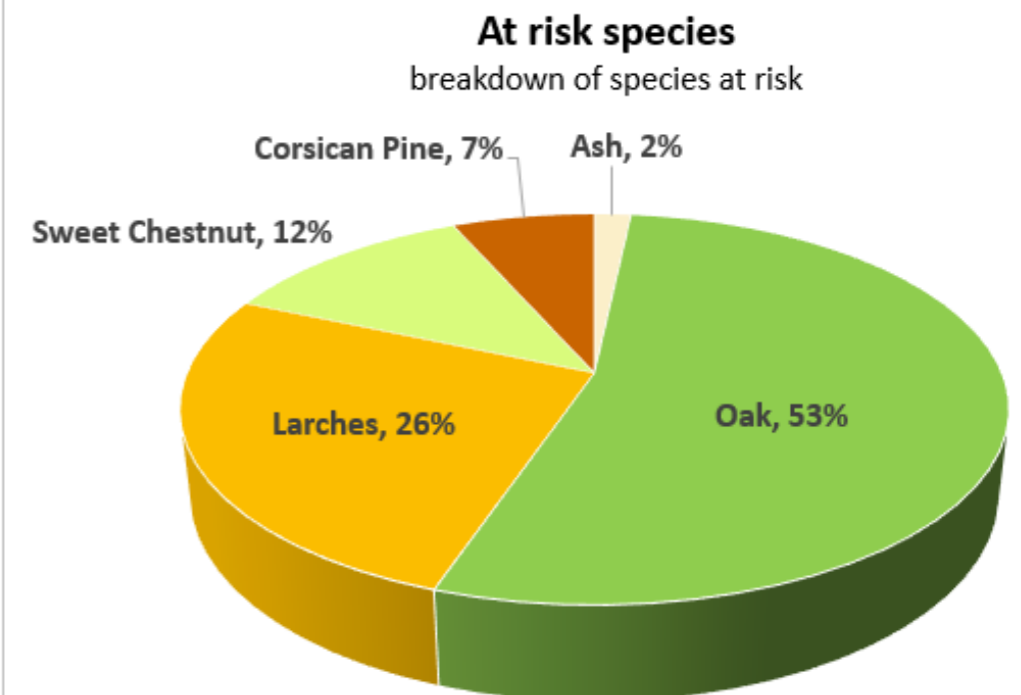


Potential area of plan at risk from pest & disease



Acute and Chronic Oak Decline	266 Ha
Phytophthora ramorum ¹	189 Ha
Dothistroma (Red Band Needle Blight)	33 Ha
Chalara	8 Ha
<u>Unaffected area of plan</u>	1175 Ha

¹ Larches	130 Ha	(26%)
Sweet Chestnut	59 Ha	(12%)



Of the overall plan area 30% is at risk
(Phytophthora/ AOD & COD/ Chalara/ Red band needle blight)

Speech House Walk and Ruardean Walk Forest Plan

Fire Prevention, adaptation and creating resilience

Hazards

1. Open habitats:
 - Lowland heath sites and other open habitats/sites
 - Forest Road and Ride edges managed for open habitat
 - Clearfell sites prior to planting with high fuel loading of fine, medium and course material
2. Planted clearfell sites upto thicket stage
3. Young restock sites at thicket stage to pole stage
- 3b. CCF sites with a thicket understorey
4. Conifer sites with high ground coverage of dead needles and cones.
5. Sites infected with RBNB that are unthinned or heavily stocked, due to presence of high density of fine fuel loading i.e. dead pine needles throughout the tree canopy and the stand.
6. Oak plantations suffering dieback, increases to fine, medium and course fuel loading as the canopy dies back and quantity of dead wood rises.
7. Other broadleaf crops with high deadwood content & Squirrel damaged crops
8. Pure conifer crops especially un-brashed or poorly thinned stands, contribute to medium and course fuel load.
9. Areas where surface coal and coal seams are present.
10. Intimate nature of the topology (gullies and valleys being of a higher risk, exacerbate the speed at which fire can spread)

Risk

1. The plan area is one large contiguous wooded area surrounded by other woodland.
2. Higher percentage of CCF is proposed.
3. Increase in woodland edge could lead to higher fuel loads as the scrub layer develops.
4. Increased public usage.
5. Reduced proportions of clearfells (changes the risk rather than increases risk??)
6. Structure of woodland still being reasonably even aged.
7. High fuel loadings accruing:- deadwood, decades worth of layered dead bracken and having more sites managed for heathland and grazing that may decrease drying times of fuel loads as:-
8. Drier and hotter summers are on the increase.

Controls

- ⇒ Within the plan area rides will be widened as per the coupe prescriptions. This will include specific felling work to achieve this but should also be a consideration when carrying out routine thinning.
- ⇒ The plan area is bounded and divided into smaller wooded areas by the public road network that will act as natural fire breaks.
- ⇒ A revival of coppice management, both simple systems and sites with retained standards.
- ⇒ Overall increase in broadleaf cover, partly as a result of more SPHN felling work.
- ⇒ Prescribing the planting of a much wider species pallet for both conifer and broadleaf, with an increase in the use of mixtures.
- ⇒ Careful implementation of LISS - i.e. use of a wider range of Silvicultural Systems.
- ⇒ Remodelling of valley bottoms e.g. from Piano Corner upto Newham Bottom where conifer is present replacing with broadleaved species.
- ⇒ Leaving 10 meter unplanted traces where coupe boundaries are changing and are in need of identification to achieve landscaping objectives, these boundaries may well infill with broadleaf nat-regen which will add resilience.
- ⇒ Introduction of watercourse buffering to 10 and 20 meters on prioritised stretches, where all conifer will be removed and only broadleaves will remain or be planted at different densities, in matrix with open space.
- ⇒ Areas of wet woodland habitat types will increase creating higher potential for water retention.
- ⇒ In areas affected by RBN ensure thinning follows District protocol to give wider spacing that will minimise fuel loading and likely hood of crown fire.
- ⇒ Increase in Broadleaves in general, that includes bolstering existing weak lineal components that follow rides or cut through conifer crops and a decrease in broadleaf fragmentation.