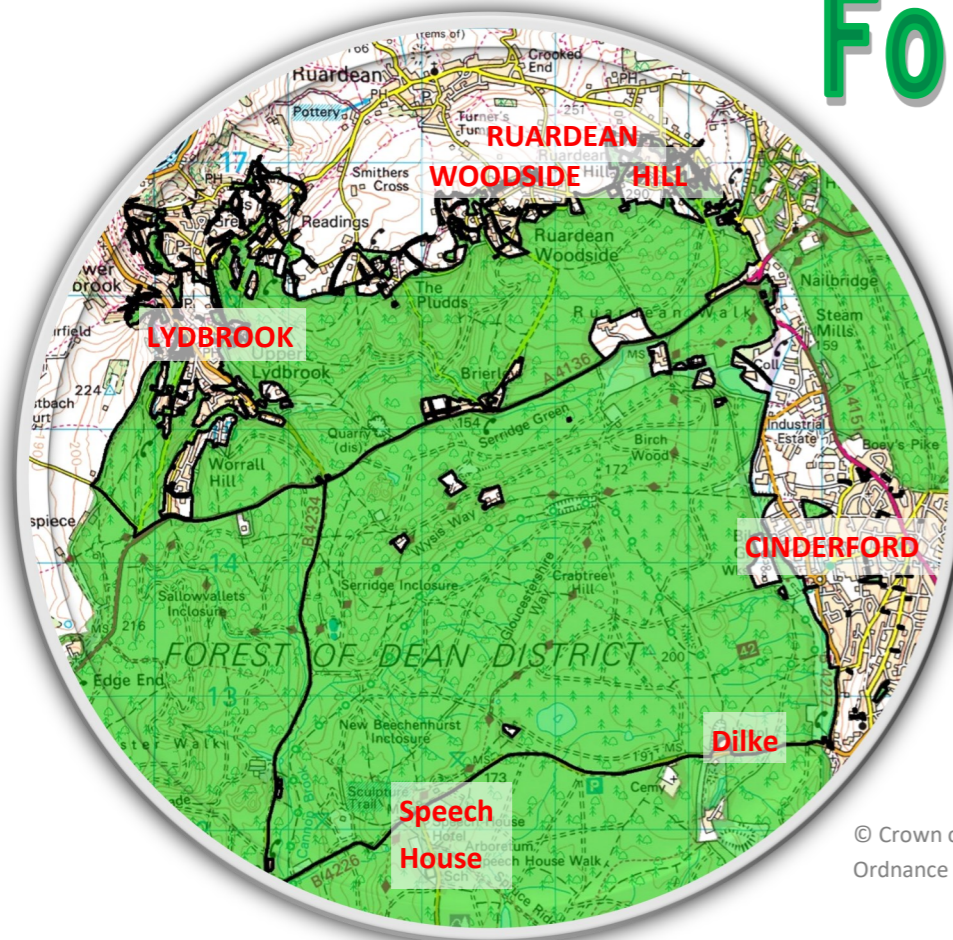


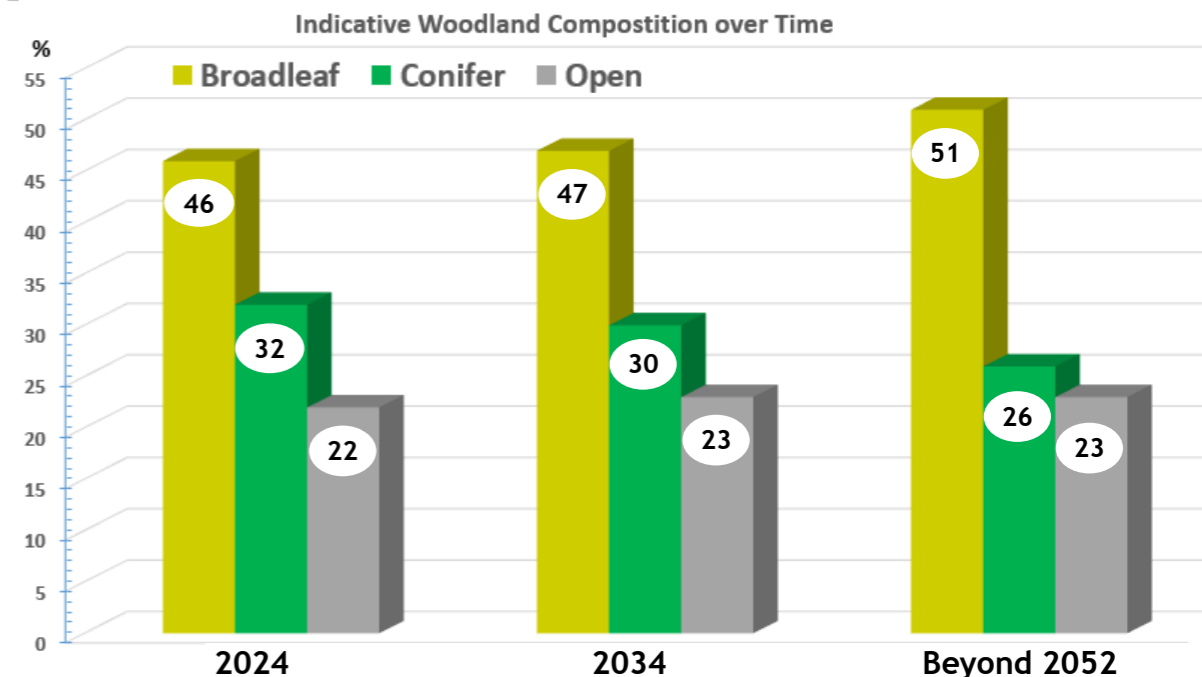
# Forest Plan SUMMARY



Forest name	Area	% of plan area
Crabtree Hill and Kensley	706 Ha	42
Serridge	391 Ha	23
Astonbridge	574 Ha	35
	<b>1671 Ha</b>	<b>100 %</b>

(Area given to the nearest Ha and percent to nearest %)

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Ordnance Survey [100021242]



## About

The Plan lies within the Statutory Boundary of the Forest of Dean, The Hundred of St. Briavels and the county of Gloucestershire. The plan covers 6.5 square miles, or around 1700 hectares, with mixed coniferous and broadleaved woodland. Numerous villages nestled along the peripheral edges of the forest are integral to the feel of the woodland, and Sense of Place that makes the Forest unique.

Commanding a prominent location, external views into the block remain oblique, seen by driving along the A4136 from Lydbrook to Steam Mills. Minor roads give an indication as to the varied nature of topography that lies within, especially from Brierley to The Pludds. The A4136 and New Road at Speculation both evoke ruminations of the past industrialisation of the Forest<sup>1</sup> that have lent to the diverse Sense of Place.

At Woorgreens<sup>2</sup>, statutory removal of diseased Larch in 2021 expanded existing heathland by 12 hectares, exposing the "Rig and furrow". This is a technique originally used to enhance tree establishment, following reinstatement of the coal opencast that closed in 1983. As a result, Woorgreen now encompasses greater variety and diversity of habitat, featuring a selection of ponds and scrapes that enhance the ecological and landscape value of the site. It is designated a Key Wildlife Site and benefits a wide breadth of bird, Invertebrate, amphibian, reptile, flora and fungi species. Unfortunately, *Phytophthora ramorum* continues to threaten woodlands within this plan, but offers Forestry England opportunity to further diversify tree species composition, improving connectivity of habitats e.g. the recent forest operations at The Delves.

The mixed woodland and open space provide a rich mosaic of habitat for a wide range of wildlife and flora. These include a stable population of Goshawk, Fallow deer and Wild Boar, with recent reintroduction of Pine Marten and Beaver. It is hoped Pine Marten will have a positive effect on reducing Grey Squirrel numbers, while Beavers at Greathough Brook help control water flow and further improve the woodland's ecology. The plan also features several watercourses<sup>3</sup> that are punctuated with ponds and lakes<sup>4</sup> and feed into both the River Severn and River Wye.

The Forest of Dean remains one of England's prime Ancient Woodland forests that contain remnant Napoleonic Oak and Sweet Chestnut, yet is also able to produce quality hard and softwood timber.

People are also able to enjoy the woodlands in this plan area through a good network of trails. This includes the Colliers Trail (was the Family Cycle Trail), with Beechenhurst being home to the start of the celebrated and cherished Sculpture Trail and for the more adventurous a tree-top adventure provided by Go-Ape.

<sup>1</sup>for stone, coal and iron as well as the timber.

<sup>2</sup>Woorgreens was open cast between 1979 and 1983 producing some 402,753 tonnes of coal

<sup>3</sup>Cannop Brook, Brierley Brook, Greathough Brook, Littlehough Brook and Cinderford Brook

<sup>4</sup>Woorgreens, Mireystock, Meadow Cliff and Steam Mills.

## Aims and Objectives

The Forest Plan aims are to protect and enhance existing habitats, through sustainable management that is in context with the surrounding landscape and character, whilst providing a sustainable flow of timber to market throughout the plan duration. Not in any particular order, the plans objectives are:

- ◇ The diversification of woodland species and structure for greater ecological and economic resilience.
- ◇ Protect and enhance woodland, open habitats and their associated species.
- ◇ Deliver well-designed forests that both protect and enhance the internal and external landscape, in keeping with the local landscape character.
- ◇ To protect and enhance areas of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland with reference to increasing native diversity, structure, resilience and natural capital.
- ◇ The protection and enhancement of veteran trees (VT)/trees of special interest (TSI) and recruitment of future generations of both.
- ◇ The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.
- ◇ To conserve, maintain and enhance cultural and heritage assets.
- ◇ The restoration and management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest / Scheduled Monuments / Key Wildlife Species.
- ◇ The provision and maintenance of recreation facilities.

## What we will do

The Forest Plan outlines management proposals, including felling and restocking, permanent open habitat and creation of transient open habitat, with felling licence approval for operations until 2035. Summary of planned areas for the next ten years are (in hectares):

- \* Clearfelling, Restocking/regeneration of broadleaves: 18Ha
- \* Clearfelling, Restocking/regeneration of conifer: 81Ha
- \* Open space and open habitats: <10Ha

Crops will be managed for a mixture of objectives, including timber production. Low Impact Silvicultural Systems will be favoured, seeing a reduction of approximately 60% in clearfelling for the next 10 years until 2034, although diseased areas will still require statutory felling.

Priority watercourses will see integration of a varying degree of open habitat with removal of non-native conifer species and some Beech and Oak. Native broadleaf content will increase through planting, coppice, or natural regeneration, including species like Alder, Aspen, Willow.

Wet woodland and open habitat will be expanded, consolidating, connecting and protecting priority habitats. Adders and other priority species such as Lepidoptera will benefit from this work. This will include beginning to regenerate areas of stored coppice. Delivery of this work will improve, increase and enhance woodland permeability, diversity of habitat, and quality of internal landscaping.

Routine thinning of both conifer and broadleaf will occur at five and ten-year intervals.