



BikePark Wales

Future Forest Vision

(Management Plan)



This Future Forest Vision document must be used in conjunction with the BikePark Lease and Principal Method Statement (PMS).

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Version History		
Document Version	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0		

1. REVIEW DATE

This document should be reviewed on an annual basis, or sooner on agreement between both parties. Next document review will be in October 2024.

2. DISCLAIMER

Recognition of the documents limitations and the importance of referring to the BPW Lease and PMS .

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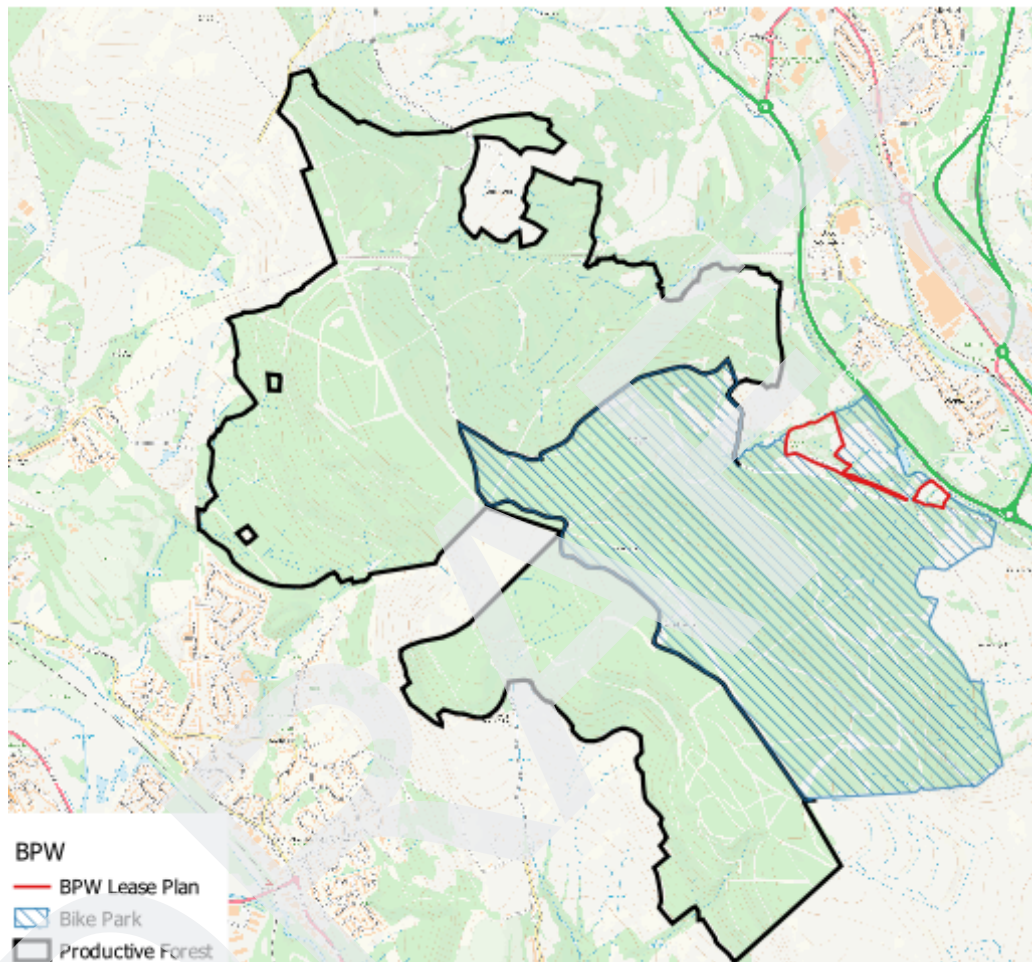
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4. FUTURE FOREST VISION BACKGROUND (FFV)

4.1 Background

Following a review of the management of Gethin Forest and the signing of a new lease with new rights for BPW a decision was made to change the management of the core area (**Blue Hash**) based on from a Clearfell and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems regime to a Long-Term Retention and Minimum Intervention regime to support an environment conducive to the bike park. This allows the core area to be managed with primacy given to the bike park which should be at the heart of all decisions.



Therefore, the priority in this area of the woodland will be for NRW to support the ongoing operation and development of the bike park, provided that this ongoing operation and development is done so in a sustainable way, meeting the aims, and delivering the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

The aim of the Future Forest Vision process is to set up a new type of silvicultural management where NRW / BPW look to achieve a forest area that supplies recreational benefits (through provision of the bike park) and delivery of the approved masterplan (P/22/0192, P/19/0189, P/19/0073 & P/23/0278) as primacy, alongside wider environmental benefits. The silvicultural management of this forest area will also continue to consider the stability of the crops and methods of innovative forest management to support the longevity and biodiversity of the forest.

This opportunity allows BikePark Wales to co-design, in partnership with NRW, the forest around the bike trails known as the 'Core Area' and to create a 'Future Forest Vision'. During its creation the aim will be to minimise the impact of any forestry works on customer experience and potential income for BikePark Wales and to maximise both the revenue potential of the bike park and the sustainability of the forest, always following health and safety best practice.

4.2 Lease Requirements

The Lease between NRW & BPW requires the following expectations, which both parties will work towards achieving:

The Landlord and Tenant will agree a 'Future Forest Vision' (within 12 months of the date of this Lease) which will have regard to the provisions of this Lease, and which will prioritise the requirements of the Bike Park within the Core Area.

The Future Forest Vision will set out the accepted management aims and methods allowed within the Core Area.

The Landlord will ensure that the 'Future Forest Vision' is used to design the future Forest Resource Plans (FRP) and will (as far as it is empowered to do so) use its reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Future Forest Vision is delivered.

The Landlord and the Tenant, during the period of the Lease, will each adhere to the principles agreed in the 'Future Forest Vision' and will each ensure respectively that reasonable resource is spent to ensure delivery over the period of the Lease.

Whilst this Lease is in existence, the Future Forest Vision must support the development of the Bike Park within the Core Area and will not allow commercial forestry within the Core Area.

To enable both parties to fulfil this requirement the following document will identify and define management methods within the core area.

4.3 Future Forest Vision Statement

NRW and BPW wish to create a woodland surround the bike park that is able to achieve the following ambitions, this allowing NRW to maintain a certified forest while allowing BPW to deliver a world class destination for mountain biking in Wales:

- **Retention of crops** at varying ages to create customer experience on trails.
- **Diversity of crops/variety of habitats.**
- **Maximize tree cover** within the core area.
- **Increase resilience** to pests and diseases.
- **Well managed forest** – with the use of alternative thinning techniques.
- Have an **expanded trail network** to offer customers variance in riding.
- Space has given to adapt to market demand as mountain biking develops.
- Delivery of Recreation, health & wellbeing within accordance to UKWAS/UKFS.

4.4 Future Forest Vision Management Process

This document shall be reviewed on an annual basis, subject to the changes being agreed by both NRW and BPW defined below:

Future Forest Vision Revision

Where BPW or NRW propose significant change(s) to agreed FFV, this will be discussed as formal request of change during Annual review or with option to apply a change at the point of occurrence. Timescale for response and sign off to requested revision should be one month: *Example – inclusion of further areas of Bracken management.* Agreement will be sought between both parties and the record of decision captured within the '[FFV Evidence of Change Form](#)'. The SLO will ensure all aspects of the '[FFV Evidence of Change Form](#)' are completed prior to agreement, where consideration will be taken into account for all aspects.

FFV Revisions may occur at any time during lifespan of PMS and can be proposed by either party but must have agreement by both parties and be recorded.

Alternative Contact Procedure

Where the SLO is not present in work during business hours (absence / sick / training), there will be an agreed handover process to the alternative representative. This will reduce risk of issues arising for both BPW and NRW. The following is expected to be actioned:

- SLO will provide alternative representative contact list for BPW contacts,
- SLO will update voicemail and 'Out of Office' response to direct individuals to alternative representative,
- SLO will ensure alternative representative has access to the Activity Calendar, where possible briefing them on the upcoming activities,
- SLO will inform BPW of absence where possible and contact for duration of absence.

Core Area and future changes to boundary

Where both parties find the need to amend the core area boundary, this may occur where justification is provided and agreed for decision. The consideration of change to the boundary must consider the FRP and future coupes that may be affected by the alteration as well as impact on BikePark Wales. Additionally, any area included in the core area must be assessed, and management methods defined in the Future Forest Vision amended to reflect the inclusion of this area.

5. FUTURE FOREST VISION OBJECTIVES

5.1 Objectives

NRW and BPW has identified core staff from BPW and NRW (incl. External Forester) to be involved with the development of the FFV. The group has collectively identified and will deliver the objectives below ensuring delivery of the bike park is at the forefront.

No.	Prioritised Objectives	Indicator of objective being met
1	Deliver the recreation within the forest (delivery of the BPW Lease and supporting plans)	1. Improve customer experience 2. Deliver Approved masterplans 3. Increase visitor numbers 4. Maintain profitability
2	Enhance the Biodiversity of the habitats in the Core Area	1. Enhancement and expansion of the ASNW 2. Removal of conifer trees in broadleaf woodlands identified as Minimum Intervention Areas 3. Monitor Wildlife within the Core area to identify potential impact
3	Implement water management techniques and designs to minimise the impact of the bike park and forest management activities.	1. Identification and implementation of Water Management Plan 2. Trialing techniques of water management for NRW / BPW Staff
4	Implement silvicultural management techniques that allow management of the forest around a bike park	1. Enhance crop stability in the young crops (NOTE SBCPT) 2. Minimised approach to management of crops to deliver LTR/MI?
5	Explore alternative management techniques and timber products	1. Recovery of timber for use by BPW 2. Use of products within community 3. Horse extraction
6	Management and enhancement of the forest to increase carbon capture, climate change mitigation and generation of renewable resources.	● Explore opportunities to increase value of woodland through carbon capture. ● Increase use of renewable resources. ● Identify alternative sources for biproducts produced in the forest. ● Reduce Fire Risk within the Forest, producing fire management plan. ● Incorporate resistance to storms in design plans

5.2 Methods of Monitoring

Monitoring to assess the actual progress against the management objectives will be done in various ways, which shall be evidenced and filed on the ShareFile by the SLO. Where required the SLO may request information from BPW in relation to mitigation works :

- Annual Review Form – [Appendix 2](#)
- Site Visit Records & supporting photographs.

- Site walkovers by conservation expert
- Tendering of forestry works and contract documentation.
- Requested documentation and plans from BPW.
- Planning Consent Documentation and Maps.

5.3 Recording and Interpretation of Monitoring Data

Data will be recorded as per NRW Land Management Manual. Records may take the form of site inspection forms, Habitat Surveys, maps, and photographs. Where objectives are being delivered by BPW the SLO may request information. All data relating to the FFV will be stored in the ShareFile system for reference by both parties.

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6. APPRAISAL OF THE CORE AREA AND SURROUNDINGS

The table below identifies the main issues, opportunities, and constraints of the site in attempting to meet the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) requirements. This considering the impact of bike Park Wales and management of the core area on delivering UKWAS in the wider woodland:

MAIN ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS	MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
The management of negative impacts of natural hazards (floods, wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species) need to be identified and managed under UKWAS 2.5.3.	The establishment of fire breaks and Fire Management Plan within the forest. Management of invasive species (Himalayan Balsam). Impact of livestock on the management of the forest and BPW trails. Impact of additional water flow created by trails on the drainage network and potential effects on water quality.	Risk of windblow from creation of fire breaks and maturing crops within the core area requiring resource to deliver response to an event with constraints of bike park. Use of chemical within proximity of bike park. Setup of contract and plan for managing livestock egress. Procurement rules delaying setup of suitable contract. Delivery of the water management plan by both parties to ensure water flow and quality is maintained.	Ensure contingency plan in place for catastrophic event and regular monitoring of crops within core are for instability Remove invasive species within the Core Area Develop and implement management plan to manage livestock incursion and to prevent damage to habitat. Incorporate emergency plan into FFV. A Wildfire Management plan and a response plan to wind/fire/disease. The establishment of a Water Management Plan to mitigate the effects of water run-off from trail construction.
Open ground , roadside edges, ASNW managed for biodiversity and improvement need to be identified and managed under UKWAS 4.4.2.	Areas of potential open ground, roadside edges and ASNW are identified and assessed. Value of the roadside edges and open spaces for fire breaks are assessed.	There is a cost associated with managing sites. Conifer regeneration could establish within favourable areas and degrade.	Biodiversity Management Plan, including the identification and management recommendations provided, Identifying works in advance and assign costs within budget to allow continued management through secured funding.
Management of the Recreation in alignment with the delivery of UKWAS 5.3.1.	Development of Bike Park will increase local employment. Further customer numbers increase economic growth for local businesses. BPW rental income presents a unique opportunity to manage the forest for improved biodiversity. Increased revenues for BPW means larger rent for	Increased persons in the forest have a bigger impact on biodiversity. Increased impact on the productive forest and delivery of the FRP. Impact on other users of the forest	Support the growth of Bike Park Wales within Lease period in the delivery of masterplan. Monitor impact of bike park on biodiversity through monitoring of wildlife. Investigate opportunities for alternative routes outside the core area for other users or support access where suitable.

	NRW and therefore larger budget for works under FFV.		
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6.1 Testing Opportunities and Constraints

The appraisal process requires the perceived opportunities and constraints to be tested to aid the planning process to identify areas of focus and management techniques. The following will identify the major constraints of the Core Area and identify the possible risks associated with these.

6.2 Negative Impacts of Natural Hazards

Wildfire Risk

Currently the wildfire risk within Gethin forest is medium, with historical fires occurring as recent as July 2023. Currently there is no Fire Plan in place for Gethin Forest, but management of the productive forest to reduce fire has occurred within the last 2 years. Further opportunities to manage existing fire rides and create new fire rides is possible within the forest.

The Forest Resource Plan will consider fire within its redesign, with consideration of creating natural broadleaf buffers between coupes post harvesting. Existing mature coupes will be managed to minimise risk, but creation of fire breaks will not occur due to windblow risk until post-harvest.

Water Quality & Flow

The development of the Bike Park as well as clearfell and other forest management practices has created an increased risk of run off, which can lead to a higher waterflow in the woodland's watercourses. BPW have ensured where water is diverted from trails into bare ground to allow a chance for sediment to settle and water to flow naturally into watercourses.

NRW and BPW have established drains and small-scale settlement areas within the forest and roadsides, but in most cases, these are not mapped or have not been maintained in sometime. Additionally in cases the streams mapped within NRW data has been incorrect when identified on the ground.

Initial feedback from NRW is the risk of flooding in the communities to the east of the woodland (downslope) is a risk. Therefore the waterflow following heavy rainfall needs to consider additional water sent across trails, roads, access tracks and areas of clearfell into watercourses. This is higher than normal forest situations as rain water will normally soak away into the ground on contact. However with the creation of trails with compacted surfaces this encourages rain water to follow the trails (usually running downslope) and leaving at points which are created during the trail development to minimise damage.

The 'Principal Method Statement' which supports the lease has identified the requirement for both parties to agree a joint water management plan. The aim of a joint water management plan should clearly identify where key features are: 1. Watercourses, 2. Drains, 3. Ponds, 4. Trails/tracks. Once the features are identified a plan can be developed considering how the water flow comes off the core area and where there are methods that can be used to slow the flow rate (during high rainfall) and improve water quality.

Crop Stability in the present and future

The Core area consists of Mature Spruce on the western top of hillside running down into younger crops to the east. The risk of windblow is a higher risk in the mature coupes, with historic windblow present on some of the edges. NRW in February 2022 asked Pryor & Rickett to undertake a Crop Stability Assessment, which identified the following conclusion:

All the compartments assessed have a top height that is greater than the critical height in the ForestGALES model. This means that new windthrow should be expected annually in these stands. At the time that the coupes were inspected for this assessment there were already areas of major windblow in the South-East areas of the forest, which appear to have been worsened by the recent February storms. It is likely that regular windblow will continue to occur as a result of normal winter storms. Future storm events out with

UK norms are likely to cause catastrophic windthrow at a forest scale. The existing mountain bike routes in the stands are likely to be affected and require frequent clearing up of wind-blown trees.

The report identifies the Mature Spruce as a higher risk for windblow over the coming years, but a decision based on the Wind Hazard Classification (WHC) and historic evidence was made to retain these trees. The average WHC for the mature crops range from 3-4, placing this as medium risk of windblow. Historic windblow has occurred in a few areas post harvesting of neighbouring coupes, which is normal within the forest environment. Monitoring of the existing windblow does show very small amounts of windblow but nothing of concern.

6.3 Biodiversity and Improvement

Natural Designations

Currently within the core area there are no statutory designations, there is the Acidic Grassland (Sensitivity) to the north on the neighbouring property, but this has no impact on the FFV. Other recorded considerations identified within the core area are defined on the [DataMapWales](#):

- Potential Great Crested Newt Habitat (Validation required):
- Tributaries from woodland feed River Taff.
- Potential Habitat for Fritillary Butterflies over Bracken
- Grassland Fungi
- Priority Habitat – High Sensitivity:
 - Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures
 - Upland Heath
 - Lowland Heath
 - Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
 - Marsh Fertility Habitat

There is requirement to identify these species/habitats within the Core Area and define a management plan to enhance or maintain presence.

Development Masterplan

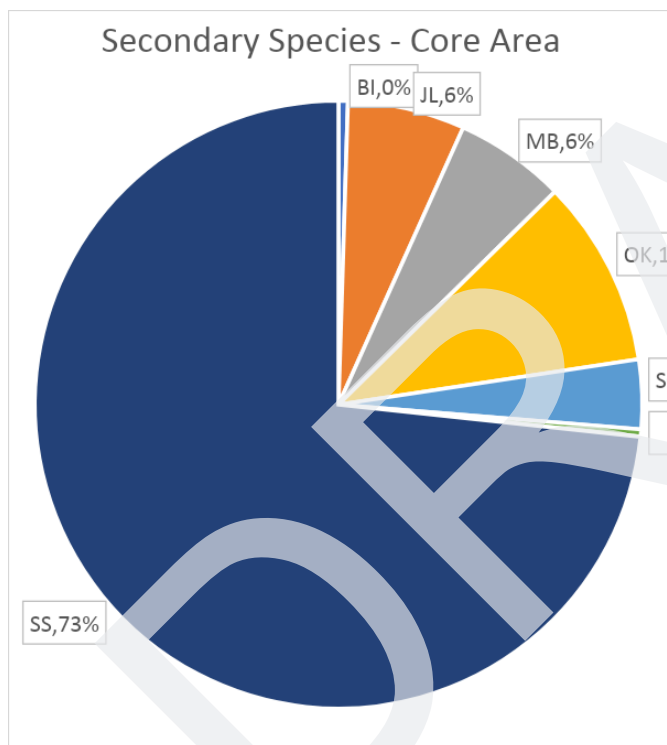
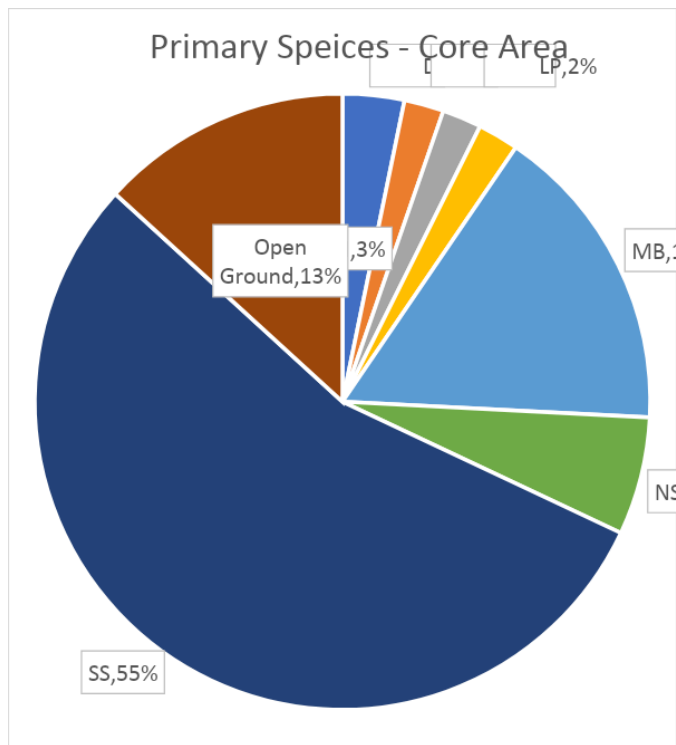
BPW have an approved planning application for the development of the accommodation, trails and other facilities. The planning consent for accommodation has requirements on BPW to deliver the following approved plans:

- Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan
- Woodland Management Plan
- Habitat Management Plan
- Wildlife Protection Plan

BPW must ensure to deliver the above to allow the conditions of planning to be met, which NRW shall ensure is undertaken as statutory landowner. Where BPW undertake these activities, they will ensure to engage competent persons to advise and supervise the works (e.g. Arboriculturist to supervise Tree Protection Plan, Forester to supervise the Woodland Management Plan, etc.).

Tree Species Diversity

The Core Area as an individual unit has a dominant element of Sitka Spruce on the top of the hillside leading down into a more mixed woodland in the lower slopes of broadleaves and other conifers. The below graph shows the current breakout of species (Primary/Secondary) for the Core Area:



The increased species diversity will need to be considered for the WMU (Incl. Gethin, Allen's Estate, Merthyr Vale) to comply with the UKWAS requirements. However, there are opportunities within the core are to increase species diversity, focusing on the Lower Slopes and the young Spruce plantation on the plateau.

Consideration must be given to the long-term plan for the lower slopes which is focused around enhancing the ASNW and enhancing areas around to a similar species structure. Therefore species diversity must consider the ASNW classification and identified species within this. This may reduce some species but will have biodiversity gains and improvement of the current ASNW.

[Open Ground](#)

Within the core area there is an estimated 41.52Ha of open space mapped within the sub compartment data, which is reflective on the ground during assessment.

The current state of the open ground is noted as declining with invasive species such as bracken becoming established and conifer and broadleaf trees present. These two factors are reducing the biodiversity gain of these areas of open ground and without management in time will be lost. The opportunity with the change in management of the forest allows focus on open space and should be considered with the wildfire Management.

Ride Management

The core area has 1 established ride on the western edge of core area, with 2 main road sections with potential to be managed as roadside edge. There have also been 3 other rides identified within core area that could be established, these linking into the wildfire management.

The current rides/roads have had little management over previous years and are now declining and losing their benefits to the woodland. There is a chance to establish more wildlife rich roadsides alongside providing good sightlines for trail exists. Currently the Middle Road has multiple trails exiting onto the road and the management of the roadside edge would benefit BPW by creating a more visible sightline along the road. Species like bracken and conifer species have established, which provide lower biodiversity than native broadleaves or natural grasses and shrubs.

Without future management on a regular basis the rides and forest road edges will become outgrown and reduce their biodiversity. But continue to provide a cost in management for NRW in maintaining sightlines.

Heritage

The Core Area has a number of heritage features present, this consisting of Quarries, Farmsteads, and additionally stone walls. There has been noted a historic building that is not captured within the NRW heritage layer. Most features have had little management in the last few years and have become overgrown or have trees establishing within features. This has in cases led to the deterioration of the feature and will only become worse with time.

The main farmstead off the uplift road has previously been capped with concrete to prevent further decline, but overgrown vegetation and tree saplings are starting to cause impact on feature. Most stone walls across the site have been left in current state and vegetation and tree saplings have started to cause damage. There are places where walls are not visible due to the succession of the bracken hiding the walls under growth.

With time the features will become further dilapidated unless management is undertaken on a more regular basis, ensuring to assess and determine standard practices to maintain features for historic value and create links into educating/visually showing BPW customers the history of the site.

6.4 Management of Recreation

Other Recreational uses of the Core Area

The Core Area has a primacy on the delivery of a Bike Park, but other uses are present within the forest. The Core Area is recorded as 'Open Access Land' as part of the NRW Woodland Estate, additionally the woodland has both bridleways (Forest Roads or Tracks) and footpaths passing through the core area. All legal rights of way are encouraged within the Core Area and will continue too, but limitation on encouragement of further access are limited due to potential conflict with Bike Park Users/vehicles.

The potential to expand offering for alternative access at the Heolgerrig entrance for walkers, casual cyclists, and horse riders. The community access at this entrance is higher and can be further enhanced to allow offering of trails/routes to suite users but avoiding conflict with the Bike Park.

Employment & community benefit

The creation of the new lease with Bike Park Wales safeguards the future of the business and creates an environment in which it can flourish. At the time of creating this document Bike Park Wales directly employs circa 90 people at peak season and potentially double this through indirect employment.

By supporting the BPW development proposals which have been consented by the landlord the forest can continue to provide high quality employment. As the proposals are realised employment numbers are expected to rise and the forest can be a real-life example of diversification of the NRW estate in a manner that benefits people, profit and planet.

Influence of the Forest Resource Plan

The establishment of the bike park in Gethin has influenced the delivery of the Forest Resource Plan, with the constraints on haulage and conflict with harvesting and the bike park. This has led to a delay of coupes being worked and simultaneously leading to NRW/BPW commencing a renegotiation of the Lease. The new lease (due for signing) provides clarification on the management of NRW/BPW activities through the Principal Method Statement and the delivery of the FFV. This required consideration of historic issues:

- Forest management prescriptions defined in FRP undeliverable within Bike Park:
 - Volume expected to be extracted and hauled through bike park (felled outside core area).
 - Extraction constraints working around trails (felling only for non-commercial, management reasons).
 - Timings of operations conflicting with busy periods of bike park.
- No agreed process for the management of activities within the forest where they conflict with Bike Park.

The above have been considered and remedied in the Principal Method Statement and now include agreed methods for the management of activities. The FRP must now be updated to align with the Lease and supporting Principal Method Statement with the bike park and Core Area principles given primacy in forest design.

7. RATIONALE FOR MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Actions required for delivery of the above will be defined and for reference of evidencing actions the 'Annual Inspection Form' is provided in [Appendix 3](#).

7.1 Forest Resource Plan

Core Principles

The Forest Resource Plan must identify within Gethin Forest that Recreation (Bike Park Wales) will take precedence within the core area and that no commercial forestry is permitted in this area. timber production will focus outside the core area. The Bike Park influences all aspects of the forest due to the connection through the forest roads and H&S and environmental factors (e.g. windblow). Example: *Where NRW wish to undertake harvesting in the productive forest the timber must come along the uplift road.*

As the Bike Park has a 33-year lease, which NRW must consider in its management, we need to consider the forest in a different view than normal practice. Therefore as we define the rationale, the core principles below must be applied:

- Bike Park Wales business impact must be considered in all activities within Gethin Forest.
- The Principal Method Statement & Lease will be applied through the delivery of the FFV.
- Bike Park Wales must be involved in decisions and communication maintained through the SLO during the delivery of the FFV.
- The responsibility of the delivery of the FFV will fall upon NRW via the SLO.

Future design of the FRP

The FRP will be redesigned with consultation and agreement of BPW following the completion of the FFV, this will be an opportunity to redesign and recognise the Bike Park, the Core Area and the change in priority here. The FRP will firstly identify the Bike Park and the Core Area within the FRP, ensuring to be clear on the objectives for the Gethin Forest.

Gethin Forest will form part of the 'Gethin, Merthyr Vale and Allen's Estate' FRP, which includes two other woodlands with differing objectives. The Forest Resource Planner will need to clearly distinguish the following within the FRP:

1. Recognise the two areas within Gethin Forest known as the Core Area and Productive Forest, with clear description of each (as defined in the PMS).
2. Identify The objectives of Gethin Forest as a recreational site within primacy given to BPW in the core area and future development of trails within the productive forest.
3. Identify the Core Area within the 'Forest Management Systems' as Minimum Intervention, Long-term Retention and Open ground.
4. Identify the Core Area within the 'Long-term primary objectives' as Ancient Woodland Management, Native Woodland Management, Successional Woodland & Open Habitat Management, Standard Forest Management, Upland Wales High Exposure.
5. Identify the Core Area within the 'Forest Types' as Riparian woodland, Mixed Woodland, Predominantly Broadleaf Mixed Woodland, Predominantly Conifer & open land.
6. Recognise the Bike Park in the design of the forest plan, ensuring to implement the following factors:
 - a. Coupe size shall be designed to minimise impact during haulage on BPW where possible, future coupe sizes post harvesting should be designed to 2-5k in volume.
 - b. Crop stability of coupes within the core area and along the uplift road must be protected when designing coupes within the productive forest, considering the use of LISS where possible.

Forest Operations within proximity of core area

Operations planned within proximity of the Core area must be planned to minimise impact on the Bike Park. This process starting at the coupe planning stage. The following is broken down into the two elements of consideration for the activity which has biggest impact, harvesting & Haulage (stone/Timber):

Coupe Planning:

During the coupe planning process the planner will consider the following questions and ensure to consult BPW and record his decisions in relation to Gethin forest:

- Coupe size in relation to volume, has the coupe been designed to reduce timber volume required to be extracted over the uplift road.
- Can extraction routes and stacking locations be identified to remove haulage on the uplift road? No =>
 - Have facilities been designed to keep haulage off the Uplift Road/Core Area where coupes are adjacent?
- Thinning – can thinning racks be designed to reduce impact on the Uplift Road/Core Area? Can single racks be created parallel with road to then allow machines to move away removing risk zones.
- Have timings of harvesting/felling within risk zone of Uplift Road/Core Area been defined as closed days only?

Harvesting:

All harvesting and haulage operations must follow the PMS, which sets out agreed works. This must also consider Engineering works for harvesting coupes, ensuring to follow agreed procedure within PMS.

Forest Resource Plan Actions:

- FRP shall be designed to ensure the Bike Park and crop stability within the boundary of the core area and adjacent to uplift road are factored within design, with consultation with BPW and SLO
- Future Coupes will be consulted with the SLO/BPW at planning stage prior to sale.
- FRP/Coupe Plan and Timber Sales Contracts shall be completed and provided to SLO as evidence.

7.2 Restructuring Conifer Crops

Over the long-term, the present age class distribution, species mix, and silvicultural treatments will be altered within younger crops to provide a more diverse woodland structure. Mature crops will have limited silvicultural management due to impacts of bike park, therefore the species will become static. Where windblow occurs and restocking is required this will bring in further species diversity within conifer crops. The 5 and 20 year plan sets out the process by which the woodland will begin its restructuring process, with a focus to Long term retention.

The management of younger crops will provide an opportunity to increase species diversity within the conifer crops, focusing on more broadleaves encouraged in the young spruce crops. Broadleaves within conifer crops will focus initially along trail edges and tracks where access is suitable. Future trails will consider the retention or spacing of broadleaves along their proposed routes during initial felling.

Consideration of broadleaves within mature conifer crops will only be managed where they do not affect structural stability of the crops.

Although specific areas are zoned to be managed for biodiversity, niche habitats in the form of standing dead timber and fallen dead timber will be maintained throughout the woodland. Additional deadwood will be left in coupes felled during tree safety works along trails.

The removal of conifer species from riparian zones will be undertaken where possible and accessible, ensuring to minimise impact on BPW business activities.

Restructuring Conifer Crops Actions:

- SLO with advice from Planner will identify favourable areas within younger crops to enhance species diversity.
- SLO will identify conifers within riparian zones and plan removal through contract services.

- Evidence of species diversity will be recorded annually and evidenced by SLO.

7.3 Restructuring Broadleaved Areas & ASNW

Existing areas of broadleaved woodland are identified along with potential Low density broadleaf areas, which are within the open ground below.

INSERT MAP

As such they will be managed within NRW's guidelines. Existing broadleaved woodland will be used as hubs for expansion of native woodland identified east of woodland. During the restructuring process conifer crops will be removed from defined areas and natural regeneration of native woodland will be encouraged.

The present native woodland in the eastern lower slopes is varied and Ancient Semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Since these trees provide valuable niche habitats for various organisms the existing broadleaved areas will be treated as natural reserves and Minimum intervention. These areas will be managed to enhance the biodiversity of the woodland, within the long-term objective of expanding and connecting the native woodland area and riparian zones. Operations here will only seek to improve and enhance the native woodland through careful removal of non-natives, such as the spruce.

Expansion of the native woodland through natural regeneration will be attempted. However, it is likely that transplants will have to be used to ensure that stocking densities are reached in reasonable time. Transplants will be of suitable provenances and the species will be selected based on matching the similar ASNW forest type of NVC.

Potential ASNW restoration currently identified equates to 0.22Ha, which will offset the lost ASNW in the Development of the Bike Park Wales Masterplan. Existing broadleaves within the riparian zones will be encouraged and where required weeds/other species removed, including bracken that smother young stems.

Low density broadleaf areas will encourage trees through natural regeneration, with priority given to native species such as Birch, Willow, Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn, depending on location on the site. Where possible old coppices within the PAWS/ASNW will be re-coppiced to create better diversity of ages, ensuring to manage these on a 10–15-year cycle to increase their gain to the woodland structure. Additionally, identified veteran or possible veteran trees will be managed to enhance the gain, this may include removing competing stems.

Restructuring Broadleaves & ASNW Actions:

- Woodland expansion & enhancement shall be mapped and inspected annually.
- ASNW Improvement through management of invasive species shall be recorded.
- ASNW Restoration for lost Ha through Development works shall be evidenced and recorded.

7.4 Management for Biodiversity & Heritage

Management of Rides

The assessment of the woodland has identified the rides that will be brought into management over time more rides considered where funding/resource allows. The aim of the ride management will be for biodiversity gain and sightline management for riders coming onto tracks (where applicable). The management will look to enhance native grasses, shrubs, and trees along the roadside edge to create a diverse forest edge. This will include the management of bracken and removal of selected trees.

The use of chainsaw works, and flailing will be required to establish the ride edge, then an annual/bi-annual flailing programme can be established. Where opportunities for butterfly management are possible this should be encouraged but focused in areas of less traffic. The rides may also have opportunities to establish connecting open spaces, within crop edge, breaking up the woodland edge to prevent the creation of a linear feature. Where these are identified these areas should be brought into management and form part of the ride.

Management of Rides Actions:

- Management Plan shall be implemented by SLO with use of Service contract.
- Established rides shall be mapped and inspected annually to ensure still delivering objectives.

Management of Ponds

Within the core area there is 1 pond located on the edge of the uplift road (Plan XX), this has become overgrown and is losing its potential value. Therefore the removal of established willow around the feature will occur in initial operations, bringing the pond back into light. This may require further monitoring and remedial works as required.

Opportunities to establish a new pond as part of the mitigation for WMP and provide water source for wildfires is suitable within the core area. The establishment of this pond should look to maintain this for its functional use and not biodiversity but monitored for species establishing. There may be other chances within the period of FFV to create small scale ponds/silt ponds, which may form part of the WMP, this should keep biodiversity in mind for these.

Management of Ponds Actions:

- Initial restoration works shall be delivered by SLO, and maintenance works completed post inspections.
- Established ponds shall be mapped and inspected annually to ensure still delivering objectives.

Management of open spaces

Areas dedicated as Open Ground (Plan XX) will be inspected annually to identify any degradation in the biodiversity value, from natural tree regeneration. Natural regeneration or invasive species will be controlled or removed where it detracts from the biodiversity value of the area, though in some instances individual trees are to be retained for ecological value.

Consideration for bracken will be given in the open ground to avoid dominance of this over native plant species. However the consideration of other species favourable to Bracken, such as the Fritillary Butterflies will need to be considered where identified. Where accessible and viable (through funding) the bracken will be treated with mechanical methods to control spread and allow expansion of other native species such as heather, Bilberry, grasses, and native ferns.

Management of Open Spaces Actions:

- Assessment of Open spaces and determination of management methods required by SLO.
- Assessment of suitability Fritillary Butterfly habitat within Bracken areas.
- Annual inspection and recording of enhancement of open space.

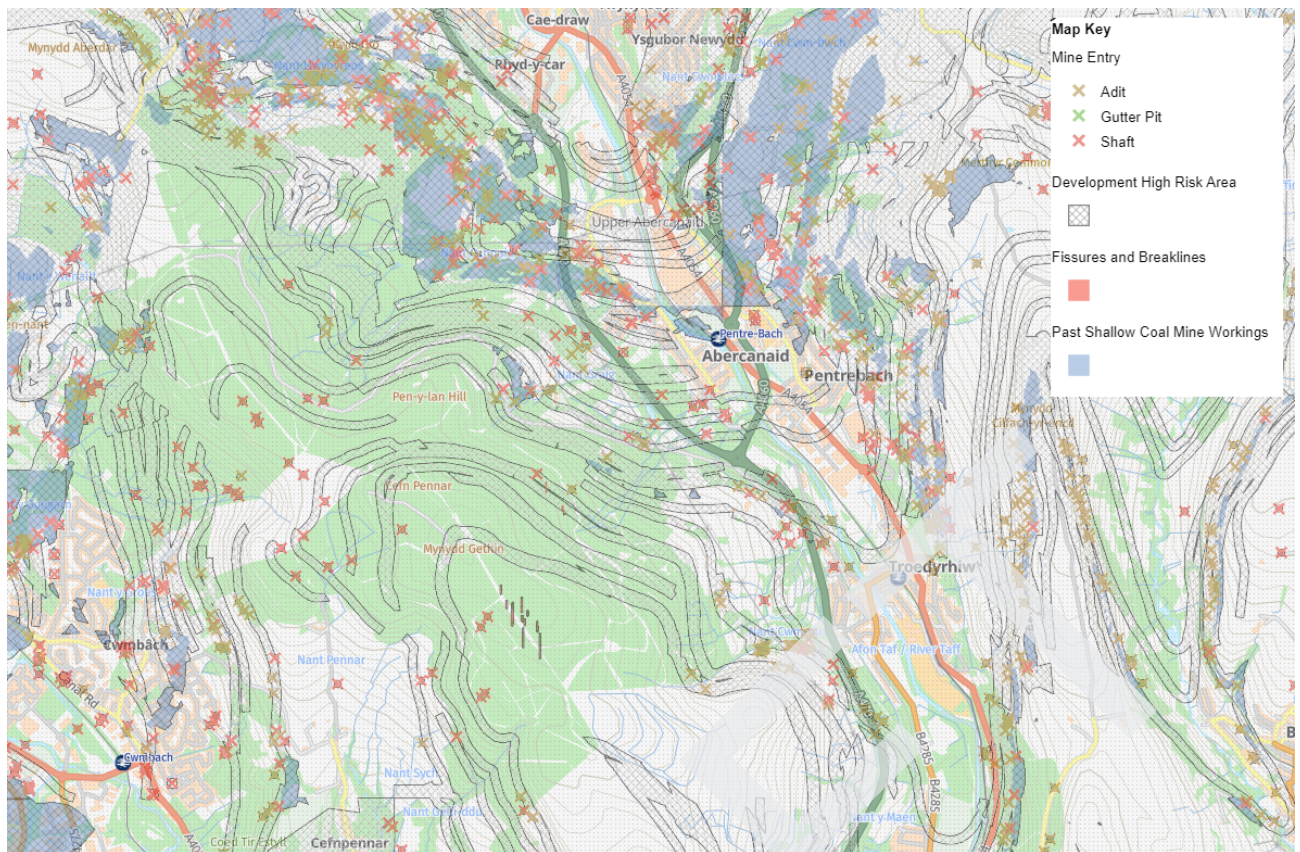
Management of Walls and Heritage Features

The woodland and surroundings have a history of both Old Farm Dwellings and Mining, which are present within the Core Area. The Mine history of the hillside is evident through the Coal Authority Map, which below shows a high presence of shafts and Adits.

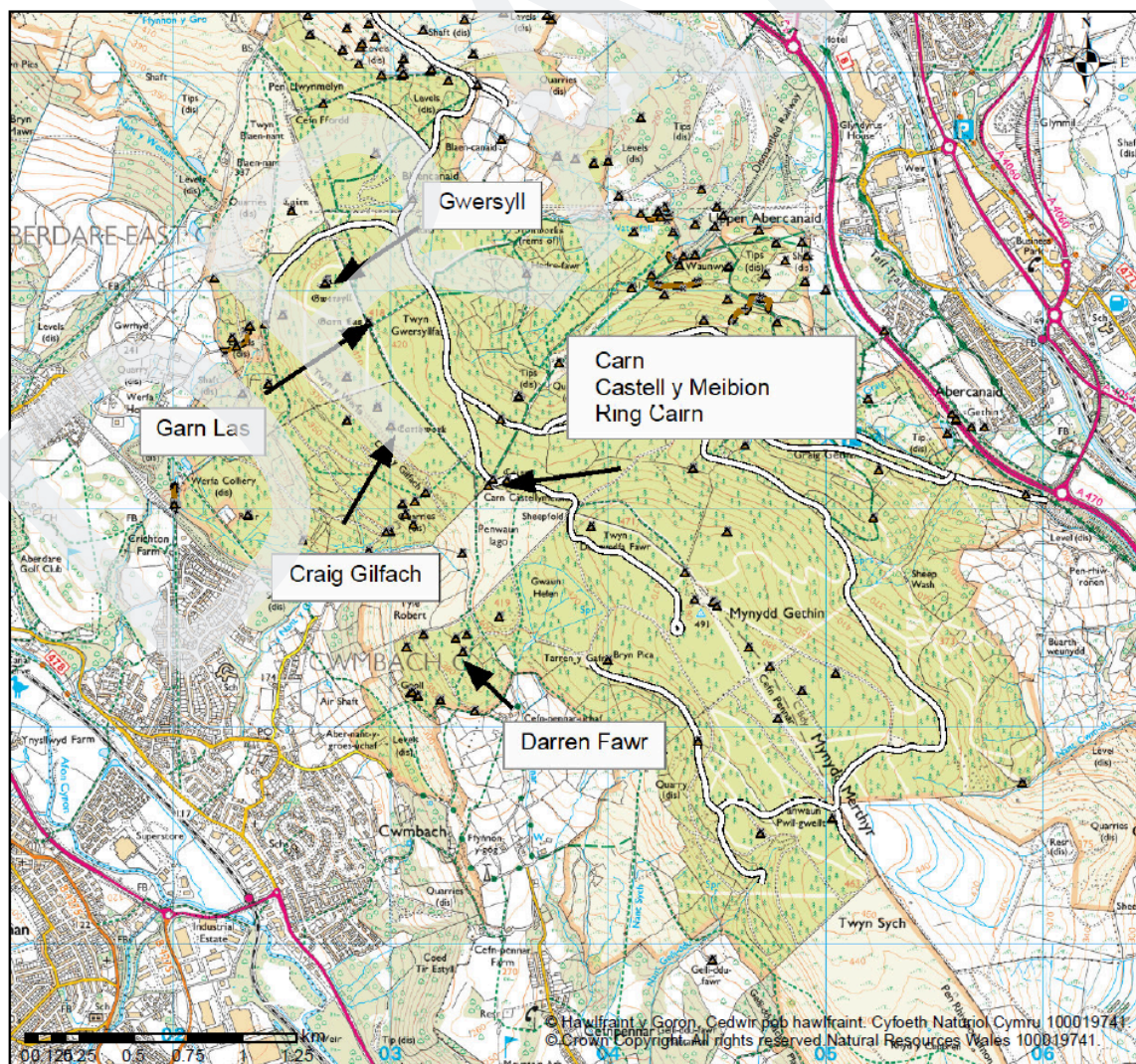
The Archwillio Map shows multiple features recorded as heritage sites, some of these are not present on site, but not all have been validated. The initial idea will to be an assessment of the current heritage, along with stone walls that are not mapped but visually present on site (linked to farmstead). Features identified will be assessed to determine current conditions and works required to preserve features.

Management of Walls and Heritage Features Actions:

- Assessment of Heritage, Mine features and Walls to determine presence and condition.
- Work programme developed and implemented, with annual inspection and evidence recorded.



Coal Authority Map



Management of Other Species

The Woodlands Opportunities Map (WG) identifies other species/habitat presence within the woodland, which in cases has not been inspected to identify. This creates risk that management of the woodland may have a detrimental impact on these species and habitats.

NRW will need to assess these areas identified to determine the presence and provide recommendations to future management. This may require changes in the management of the forest, but consideration for the agreements in place linked to the Lease must take precedence. Where there is a known impact due to previous agreements then NRW will mitigate the impacts in areas which are not impacted by proposed developments.

Management of Other Species Actions:

- SLO to instruct inspection of defined species and habitats to determine presence and current state, providing recommendation to future management.
- SLO to review and apply management requirements into FFV 5 year & 20-year plan.

Management of Masterplan

The Planning consent for the Accommodation and trails will have supporting conditions that must be undertaken by BPW. NRW will have a moral responsibility to ensure these are enacted and completed to the agreed standards. BPW will ensure that all works are completed within agreed timescales, where delays or changes are required, these must be evidenced and recorded by the SLO.

Management of Masterplan Actions:

- BPW to engage competent persons to advise/supervise activities relating to the planning conditions.
- SLO to review and evidence completion of planning conditions.

7.5 Forest Management

Maintenance of Roads, Tracks and Rides

Forest roads and tracks and rides will be mowed, and side vegetation flailed every 2-3 years (unless otherwise defined in the [Ride Management](#)) to maintain their integrity of surface and increase biodiversity. Sections of side drains and culverts will also be inspected annually and works programmed to reduce wear but ensuring to maintain water quality. Favour will be given to vegetated drains where possible to act as natural sediment filter.

BPW will undertake surface maintenance on both tracks and roads regularly to maintain access for business and emergency activities. Re-grading and re-surfacing will be required periodically. Where stone is required, it will be sourced from external quarries. Where NRW undertake road repairs or upgrades stone will be sourced from local borrow pits within woodland.

Management of Roads, Tracks and Rides Actions:

- Annual inspection of NRW managed roads to be undertaken by SLO and evidence recorded.
- Regular inspection of BPW managed roads and tracks to be completed by BPW representative and evidence recorded.

Water on the hillside

The woodland is growing on the plateau leading down onto lower slopes leading down into natural watercourses and traditionally would have been the land that was difficult to cultivate for arable crops. The watercourses are bordered by broadleaf trees, which provide a buffer from the conifer areas. It is an objective to retain these broadleaf areas and increase the broadleaf species planting to provide improvements wherever possible to retain the watercourse habitat and high-water quality.

Water erosion and run off occurs on the extraction tracks and bike trails as well as in areas of ground disturbed by forest operations, this may lead to sediment entering watercourses. Therefore the maintenance and establishment of water controls on these routes to slow or divert water, such as grips, silt traps and blocked drains is required. The current controls in place and future controls will be maintained to ensure effective and where required improvements or new features will occur.

The woodland has an uplift service operating weekly on the uplift road leading to the summit. Controls exist to prevent sediment from road entering watercourse, these are generally in the form of bunds, silt fencing or sediment filters in drains leading along road. This will be reviewed as part of the process when creating the water management plan for the site.

During high rainfall a site visit will be undertaken to ensure assessment of run off and water quality across the site and recorded.

Water on the hillside Actions:

- BPW & NRW to define Water Management Plan and annual inspection programme, led by SLO.

Wildfire Management

A fire plan is to be put in place and annually reviewed by NRW & BPW.

Due to the historic wildfire records and potential fuel source on adjacent land and within areas of the core area (bracken and poorly managed grassland) the risk of fire is High. A fire plan is to be in place and features linked to plan maintained to ensure effective, this should include fire breaks within the core area. During periods of high risk (early spring and late summer), restrictions are not put on public access through the wood, as it is accepted that public access leads to better reporting of fire.

Signage warning of the danger of fire is located at forest entrances to provide key contact details, being maintained during regular inspections. The fire plan will be shared with local parties, incl. Fire Service, which will show access and egress to the site, the location of water supplies and a contact sheet.

Wildfire Management Actions:

- BPW have a draft Fire Response plan, but further works is required to develop a joint fire plan with NRW, led by the SLO.
- NRW will develop a Fire Plan for the productive forest, which will consider access through the Bike Park and procedures.

Crop Stability

The risk of windblow is moderate (WHC 3-4), however, we must consider the fact the critical height for the trees is above the average so a risk is still present, therefore consideration must be considered for two key factors:

1. Catastrophic event – NRW & BPW must consider a plan for an event following an unprecedented storm, which causes significant windblow (e.g. change in wind direction).
2. Minor windblow – BPW must consider minor windblow occurring following high winds within their management of customer safety.

The Mature crop within the forest will continue to provide risk of windblow following unforeseen wind events, which NRW/BPW accept risk due to the higher benefit of the customer experience.

Crop Stability Actions:

- NRW to have a contract in place to manage catastrophic event.
- BPW to have an agreed plan with SLO to manage minor windblow events.
- SLO to undertake inspections of mature crops post storms to identify windblow.

8. 20 YEAR CORE AREA PLAN

Cpt	Activity	Year			
		2024-28	2029-33	2034-38	2039-43
ALL	NRW/BPW – Agreement of Annual Work programme inspection and meeting to agree timetable with Bike Park Wales - Conservation Works - Drainage and ride/road infrastructure - Ride/Road Maintenance - Open Ground Management - ASNW Restoration - Invasive Species Management	X	X	X	X
All	BPW Maintain ride and road infrastructure including culverts on Uplift Road	X	X	X	X
All	NRW Maintain ride and road infrastructure including culverts on Forest Roads	X	X	X	X
All	BPW – Trail Corridor Maintenance	X	X	X	X
All	NRW - Clean and re-space young / thicket crops	X	X	X	X
All	NRW - Review of 5-yr UKWAS plan		X	X	X
All	NRW - Enhancement and maintenance of Open Ground and Roadside verges	X	X	X	X
1015a/c,	Low impact thinnings (12T Machine use)		X		X
1012b, 1013c,	Amenity thinnings, halo thinnings around broadleaves	X		X	
1011c/l, 1016k	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland Mitigation – Establishment of blf	X	X	X	X
1016f, 1010b, 1011m	Felling of SPHN Larch	X	X		
Masterplan	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan	X			
Masterplan	Delivery of Mitigation for Accommodation Masterplan	X	X		
Masterplan	Delivery of Trails Masterplan	X			
Masterplan	Delivery of Mitigation for Trails Masterplan	X	X		

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF 5 YEAR PLAN

Cpt	Responsible	Operation
2024 (Year 1)		
N/A	NRW	inspection of woodland to monitor for pests and diseases, condition of infrastructure and measure progress towards meeting objectives.
N/A	NRW/BPW	Creation of Fire Plan
Rides	NRW	Management of trees along rides to create fire breaks/open space.
N/A	NRW/BPW	Creation of Water Management Plan
N/A	NRW	Inspection of windblow post storm events
Roads	NRW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Forest Roads.
Roads	BPW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Uplift Road.
Roads	NRW	Flailing sides of roads tracks and rides after wildflowers have seeded in late summer.
1011c/l, 1016k	NRW	ASNW Mitigation - Assessment and identify management requirements
1016g	NRW	Cut and Treat Japanese Knotweed
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Trails Masterplan
2025 (Year 2)		
N/A	NRW	Inspection of woodland to monitor for pests and diseases, condition of infrastructure and measure progress towards meeting objectives.
N/A	NRW	Inspection of windblow post storm events
Rides	NRW	Management of trees along rides to create fire breaks/open space.

OG	NRW	Assessment of Open Ground Works
POND	NRW	Clearance of Pond and restoration of vegetation and removal of Silt
Roads	NRW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Forest Roads.
Roads	BPW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Uplift Road.
Roads	NRW	Flailing sides of roads tracks and rides after wildflowers have seeded in late summer.
1011c/l, 1016k	NRW	ASNW Mitigation - Beating up, weed control
1016g	NRW	Cut and Treat Japanese Knotweed
1012b, 1013c,	NRW	Assessment of Amenity thinnings, halo thinnings around broadleaves
1016f, 1010b, 1011m	NRW	Felling of SPHN Larch (Phase 1 – Near trails)
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Trails Masterplan
2026 (Year 3)		
N/A	NRW	Inspection of woodland to monitor for pests and diseases, condition of infrastructure and measure progress towards meeting objectives.
N/A	NRW	Inspection of windblow post storm events
Rides	NRW	Management of trees along rides to create fire breaks/open space.
OG	NRW	Clearance of non-native species within Open Ground
Roads	NRW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Forest Roads.
Roads	BPW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Uplift Road.
Roads	NRW	Flailing sides of roads tracks and rides after wildflowers have seeded in late summer.
1011c/l, 1016k	NRW	ASNW Mitigation - Beating up, weed control, assessment of stocking density
1016g	NRW	Cut and Treat Japanese Knotweed

1012b, 1013c,	NRW	Amenity thinnings, halo thinnings around broadleaves
1016f, 1010b, 1011m	NRW	Felling of SPHN Larch (Phase 2 – Lower section near boundary)
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Trails Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Trails Masterplan
2027 (Year 4)		
N/A	NRW	Inspection of woodland to monitor for pests and diseases, condition of infrastructure and measure progress towards meeting objectives.
N/A	NRW	Inspection of windblow post storm events
WMP	NRW	High Priority works from Water Management Plan
OG	NRW	Clearance of non-native species within Open Ground
Roads	NRW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Forest Roads.
Roads	BPW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Uplift Road.
Roads	NRW	Flailing sides of roads tracks and rides after wildflowers have seeded in late summer.
1011c/l, 1016k	NRW	ASNW Mitigation - Beating up, weed control, planting of native species to bring upto 1600 stems/Ha
1016g	NRW	Cut and Treat Japanese Knotweed
1012b, 1013c,	NRW	Amenity thinnings, halo thinnings around broadleaves
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Trails Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Trails Masterplan

2028 (Year 5)		
N/A	NRW	Inspection of woodland to monitor for pests and diseases, condition of infrastructure and measure progress towards meeting objectives.
N/A	NRW	Inspection of windblow post storm events
WMP	NRW	Low Priority works from Water Management Plan
BRACKEN	NRW	Assessment of Bracken and management of priority areas
Roads	NRW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Forest Roads.
Roads	BPW	Annual maintenance of road drains and culverts on Uplift Road.
Roads	NRW	Flailing sides of roads tracks and rides after wildflowers have seeded in late summer.
1011c/l, 1016k	NRW	ASNW Mitigation - Beating up, weed control to bring upto 1600 stems/Ha
1016g	NRW	Cut and Treat Japanese Knotweed
1012b, 1013c,	NRW	Amenity thinnings, halo thinnings around broadleaves
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Accommodation Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Trails Masterplan
Masterplan	BPW	Delivery of Mitigation for Trails Masterplan

1. RATIONALE FOR THE OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES

1.1 Operational techniques for protection

Control of Insect Pests

Effective management of tree pests and diseases depends on rapid detection, accurate assessment of the risks, and taking any management action deemed necessary promptly. Forest managers therefore need to be vigilant, to know what to look out for by recognising the symptoms of ill-health in trees, and to know who to go to for advice. Where a pest poses a risk to human health be it through direct contact or via its impact on stability of standing crops, action is required to mitigate the risk.

NRW OGN 002 provides information on who should be contacted in the event of finding evidence of a suspected pest on site. NRW internally have a tree health team. Alongside the internal team, colleagues from Forest Research, Forestry England/Scotland and the Animal and Plant Health Agency can be used for guidance and confirmation of sightings.

Below is a list of potential pests that could be found within the woodland environment:

Large pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*)

Widespread across the UK, Big threat to conifer plantations, common treatment procedures include insecticides, debarking stumps, removing stumps, introducing nematodes, timing felling and planting to avoid peak weevil activity.

[Large pine weevil \(*Hylobius abietis*\) - Forest Research](#)

Oak Processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*)

The caterpillars (larvae) of oak processionary moth (OPM) are pests of oak trees (trees in the *Quercus* genus), and a hazard to human and animal health. OPM was first accidentally introduced to England in 2005 and is subject to a government-led programme of survey and control to minimise its population, spread and impacts. Sightings must be reported to monitor spread and implement control measures. Eradication on site should be carried out by a competent professional and can involve removal, treating with an insecticide, and pheromone trapping.

[Oak processionary moth \(*Thaumetopoea processionea*\) - Forest Research](#)

Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*)

Great spruce bark beetles damage spruce trees by tunnelling into the bark of living trees to lay their eggs under the bark. The larvae which emerge from the eggs feed on the inner woody layers. This weakens, and in some cases can kill, the tree. Trees are killed by being girdled at one or more points along the stem, although this might take several years of sustained attack. However, large breeding populations can be building up long before individual trees are killed, creating a risk of spread to nearby trees.

Complete eradication is not possible however controls can be used such as introducing the predatory beetle *Rhizophagus grandis* into areas where the pest has been found.

Sightings can be reported to:

Nick Fielding

nick.fielding@forestresearch.gov.uk

0300 067 5926 / 07836 381090

[Minimising the impact of the great spruce bark beetle \(forestresearch.gov.uk\)](#)

Pine tree lappet moth (*Dendrolimus pini*)

The larvae, or caterpillars, of pine-tree lappet moth are a serious pest of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) forests in some parts of continental Europe, periodically causing large-scale damage to them. They can also attack other coniferous tree species.

Defoliation by the caterpillars can impair tree growth, vigour and health. This makes the trees more susceptible to other threats such as bark beetles and wood-boring insects. This can ultimately lead to

tree deaths and significant ecological disruption, economic and social impacts, and an increased risk of fire as the dead tree material dries.

Sightings should be reported to:

In England and Wales, contact the local office of the Plant Health & Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) of the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), or the PHSI headquarters in York:

e-mail: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk;

Tel: 0300 1000 313.

web: www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls.

[Pine-tree lappet moth \(Dendrolimus pini\) - Forest Research](#)

Control of Mammalian Pests

Grey Squirrel

Grey squirrels(GS) can have a significant impact on biodiversity, woodland ecosystems, and carbon sequestration by causing damage to both broadleaf and conifer woodland. The economic cost of GS damage and management in Wales was estimated at £914,500 per year in 2010 when warfarin poison was a management option. Warfarin was banned in 2015, so the manpower intensive trapping option is likely to have increased that cost beyond £1million per year.

Cage trapping is the current preferred best practice method as it allows the release of nontarget species while enabling the humane dispatch of GS. See UKFS Technical note below for best practice:

[ukfstn022_m7ldper.pdf \(forestresearch.gov.uk\)](#)

Currently NRW's Grey Squirrel management strategy is in its infancy. Development is highly reliant on reported GS damage and how widespread it is. Particularly vulnerable species are broadleaves within the age band 8-35 years. Damage throughout the core area will be assessed intermittently and site-specific management strategies produced if the levels of damage warrants action.

Deer

Deer can have a substantial impact on woodland vegetation and play a significant role in woodland ecosystem function. In the absence of control, deer populations can rise to very high densities due to lack of predators and to the regular provision of ideal habitats through felling and planting in woodlands. Management of deer populations is necessary to limit their impact, particularly in ancient semi-natural woodlands. simplify vertical structure by selectively browsing on herbs, shrubs, and young trees. Vegetation changes brought about by deer browsing are also detrimental to some vertebrate and invertebrate woodland fauna. Without appropriate management, deer populations will impose long-term changes on the composition of native woodlands.

NRW have extended guidelines and procedures for managing deer on the WGWE. Currently no culling operations take place in Gethin woodland as there is not considered to be a deer population present. If signs of deer browsing become evident and there is deemed to be negative impact on the woodland, the internal Wildlife manager should be contacted to perform an impact survey and steer population control processes. The SLO will review recorded figures on an annual basis of reports/sightings and report to Wildlife Manager.

Control of Domestic Livestock and Fencing

Due to the potential high-risk outcome of riders on site coming into contact with livestock a process has been agreed on how to mitigate this impact. The below process has been developed through joint meetings with BikePark Wales to standardise the approach:

- NRW will identify fencing liabilities along the boundary of the forest by carrying out quarterly inspections. Where condition of fence lines is poor the owners shall be contacted by NRW to inform them of legal responsibility and actions required.
- Following the inspections, the SLO will undertake take steps to remove any obstruction on NRW land e.g. vegetation that would impede fence repairs.

- SLO will report and liaise with farmers / landowners on repairs required as set out in relevant deeds. An incursion log will be kept identifying hotspots and repeat offenders. Where the risk is considered immediate or high and / or deed is silent, whilst landowner has a duty to fence in livestock, NRW may consider emergency repairs (case-by-case-basis also dependent on incursion log evidence).

NRW will use the existing shepherd contract in place, to manage stock incursions on site as identified by either party following the procedure set out below:

- Where an occurrence happens, and stock enter the core area the SLO should be informed immediately.
- The SLO will arrange for the attendance of the shepherd to assist in the removal of stock at the earliest opportunity (SLO will provide BPW with an update on timescales).
- BPW must assess risk to trails from stock present and determine if trails are to be temporarily closed until sheep removed. Risk assessments to be produced by BPW with shepherd controls in mind.
- During stock removal BPW will be requested to place temporary closures in place while stock removed from site (if necessary). Sheep, where identity confirmed, will be returned to owner (all information to be passed to NRW for incursion log) and sheep are to be removed from BPW and retained land (transportation via trailer or walked off NRW land).
- Sheep that are unidentified are currently taken to Resolven Office compound, where Trading Standards are contacted to identify owner through livestock ownership records. Where sheep remain unidentified, stock are held until sale (details recorded in incursion log).

Control of Tree Diseases

Monitoring for serious diseases (P ramorum, P pluvialis) will be done during site inspections and operations.

Small amount of Ash is present in the woodland and as such *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* is not a major concern. Annual OGB 1 survey is undertaken across the site to manage NRW's tree safety obligations. Ash dieback trees will be picked up during these surveys and dealt with accordingly.

The occurrence of butt rot or other diseases will be recorded when found and information stored spatially to monitor its spread and impact.

1.2 Operational use of Pesticides and fertilisers

The main use of pesticides and fertilisers across the NRW estate is in relation to commercial crop resilience and protection. Traditional commercial forestry strategies will not be implemented in the core area at BPW. Therefore, herbicides will focus solely on the removal of invasive species to enhance the ecological aspects of the core area and deliver on the UKWAS principles that underpin NRW woodland management processes.

Further to this, the use of herbicide should be seen as a last resort as per the Forest Research guidance on Reducing Pesticide Use in Forestry and NRW's OGB 15 Chemicals in the forest. The BPW core area is an extremely busy site with a myriad of trails, forest roads and footpaths dissecting it. It is strongly advised to use mechanical methods to target invasives such as bracken and Himalayan Balsam due to the likelihood of proximity with the general public. A strict annual mechanical regime can have a lasting impact on these species.

Japanese knotweed has been identified on site. Future occurrences should be spot treated in the late summer/autumn with a suitable glyphosate herbicide.

1.3 Waste Disposal

Redundant Materials

Redundant materials such as old fencing and signage will be removed from site as they are replaced. This will either be through a contractor or NRW staff. All individuals removing material/waste from an NRW site must hold a valid in date waste carrier's licence.

Old structures such as jumps, and features will be recycled where possible by BPW. These features are mostly built with natural materials. If re-using is not an option, rotting materials such as timber should be staked off trail into deadwood habitat piles.

NRW Waste Disposal

Waste produced from operations will be removed from site by the contractor carrying out the work, under supervision of SLO. Other waste products including fly tip will be collected by a competent contractor and removed from site through the supervision of the SLO.

All individuals removing material/waste from an NRW site must hold a valid in date waste carrier's licence.

Waste will be taken to the nearest NRW compound (Llanwynno) where it will be sorted and arranged to be collected by a pre-approved waste disposal firm. All waste collected by NRW is weighed and recorded at the point of disposal. A Waste transfer note (WTN) is provided to NRW when the material is collected from an NRW compound by the pre-approved contractor.

BPW Waste Disposal

...

1.4 Use of biodegradable oils

...

1.5 Chemical and Oil Spill Emergency Plan Procedures

NRW issue an environmental awareness document to all operators working on the WGWE. This forms part of NRW's environmental policy which is certified to the ISO14001 environmental standard. There is a 24 hour incident reporting line and guidance on pollution prevention within this document.

...

1.6 Operational techniques for Forest Management

Control of felling Operations

During trail construction the responsibility to manage any felling operations will fall on BPW. Regular comms with the SLO will ensure that there will be no conflict with NRW planned operations in the core area. BPW must manage the site in accordance with FISA best practice ensuring all operators are up to the required standard and suitably trained. The SLO reviews BPW staff tickets during annual audits. Any updates/refreshers through the year should be shared with the SLO. Works carried out by BPW will be subject to site visits from the SLO.

Any NRW planned operations within the core area must consider BPW activities and opening hours (Closed Tuesday / Wednesday outside of school holiday periods. Operational Hours (8:30am to 5pm during Winter Hours Period 1st November – 31st March; 8:30am to 7pm during Summer Hours Period 1st April – 31st October; with the exception of Thursdays in May, June, July and August 08:30-9pm).

It is extremely important that works do not impact bike trails or uplift during opening hours unless prior agreement is sought with BPW. NRW felling operations within the core area must target the periods listed above and ensure that all works will be made safe for the re-opening of the bike park. Any works planned will be communicated to BPW via the SLO as outside of operating hours listed above there will still be staff present on site and marketing events carried out by BPW. NRW will be responsible for all contractors conducting the works within the core area. There will be opportunities to implement forestry techniques to enhance the core area and mitigate future windblow potential. All planned works will be communicated to BPW.

Road Track and Ride Management

Rides, roadsides, and edges are important habitats in forests. Their priority in forest management for conservation is further emphasised by The UK forestry standard statement on the importance of '*...maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems...*' as a key criterion in sustainable forest management. Forest edges have microclimatic conditions which are favourable to many species of conservation importance. These arise mainly from the availability of direct sunlight and shelter.

Throughout the core area annual maintenance flailing will be adopted along all major forest road routes including the uplift road and middle access road. Where the opportunity presents itself along these routes

scallops will be created at staggered intervals at key sun trap locations. In some cases, this may mean removing some pioneer vegetation/coppice. These scallops will be cut on a bi-annual basis allowing for flower generation and small-scale succession.

Much of the work planned for wildfire mitigation and preparation will include opening closed off rides and putting these into structured flailing programmes. This will greatly increase the ride habitat throughout the core area. Each ride will be assessed, and a plan adopted for determining annual or bi annual flailing.

The impact of bike trails on conservation and creating diversity amongst the forestry habitats should not be ignored. Trail edges themselves form mini rides in places which further enhance this habitat throughout the site. Trail cameras will be adopted on site to monitor wildlife movement and ground flora surveys conducted to determine their significance.

An in-depth guide on managing rides and roadside can be found here: [Forestry Commission Bulletin: Managing rides, roadsides and edge habitats in lowland forests \(forestresearch.gov.uk\)](https://forestresearch.gov.uk/forestry-commission-bulletin-managing-rides-roadsides-and-edge-habitats-in-lowland-forests)

General Forest Management Activities

General forest management activities outside of BPW maintenance activities will fall under NRW's remit. These will include (not limited to) fencing, barrier maintenance, signage works, flailing, OGB1 tree safety (outside of trail corridors), roadside drainage works and strimming activities. These works shall form part of the ongoing management of the core area utilizing the BPW specific budget and other funding sources and helping deliver the FFV objectives. Site specific contracts will be developed to implement these works.

BPW will continue with their annual works alongside the management activities of NRW. All trail infrastructure maintenance and tree work (within the trail corridors), BPW branded signage and fencing relating to BPW specifically will be managed by BPW, as will the general works relating to the devolved area and uplift road.

Management of Health and Safety

Any works undertaken by BPW will fall under the health and safety management of BPW staff and procedures. These include (not limited to) trail maintenance + development, OGB 1 works that fall under the responsibility of BPW, maintenance and drainage works, works in relation to expanding and developing the site.

As works are planned BPW are to inform the SLO with adequate notice to allow for landowner responsibility checks to take place. Although BPW have the responsibility of planning and managing the operation, NRW have a landowner legal responsibility to ensure these works are carried out to the standards required.

Certain works will require input from the NRW commercial team. In these instances the SLO will inform the commercial team of the proposed plans so that relevant procedures can be applied.

During the implementation of the FFV, particularly in regards to the 5 and 20 year operational plans, work will be directly sourced via the SLO through the NRW procurement process. Close interaction between NRW and BPW will be needed during these works to minimise conflict on site and ensure BPW can steer on managing the health and safety of undertaking works around bike trails. The SLO will ensure contractors meet NRW's requirements for working on the WGWE and BPW will implement timings and controls of when and how these works occur.

Community Benefits and wood products

During trail construction and forest operations within the core area there will be multiple opportunities to recycle the timber products if it is extracted. Once deadwood targets have been met (see deadwood management) opportunities to utilise the timber both on site and locally should be considered.

UKWAS states as a requirement under Rural economy:

The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:

- o Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives*
- o Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services.*

Timber can be used within BPW for building trail features, fencing, cladding and firewood. Once the timber reaches its operational lifecycle (logs used for jumps starting to degrade) this material should be recycled on site in the form of deadwood habitat. This creates a situation where the timber produced is committed to a life cycle within the area it was produced.

It will be important to explore other opportunities for timber to be used offsite in the local community. This further bolsters the UKWAS principles above and underpins NRW's SMNR principles. It will also further enhance NRW and BPW's relationship with the local community. Local outdoor education groups, schools and community centres should be contacted when timber is available that may be fit for their needs.

If an operation occurs on site that produces adequate timber then these local markets should be explored at this time and a plan of extraction/sale formulated.

Local Economy

The creation of the new lease with BikePark Wales and NRW safeguards the future of the business and creates an environment in which it can flourish. At the time of creating this document BikePark Wales directly employs circa 90 people at peak season and likely double this through indirect employment.

By supporting the BPW development proposals which have been consented by the landlord the forest can continue to provide high quality employment. As the proposals are realised employment numbers are expected to rise and the forest can be a real-life example of diversification of the NRW estate in a manner that benefits people, profit and planet.

At the time of writing BPW is close to welcoming its one millionth customer through the doors. An ambitious development plan including a new suite of trails and accommodation on site is due to commence in January 2024.

1.7 Historical & Environmental Techniques

Water Quality & Management

Currently the watercourse/drain map of the core area is out of date and inaccurate. During the first stages of the operational plan a new up to date map will be created. On the back of this, a combined water management plan can be developed between NRW and BPW. Currently BPW implement their own WMP relating to the bike trails. The management of the water before it reaches the trails is just as important and will form an integral part of the new joint WMP. Water runoff must also be considered on extraction routes/access tracks and during any wider operations within the core area.

Best practice developed in the UKFS can be found here: [The UK Forestry Standard \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/ukfs_standard.pdf)

Currently, water erosion and run off can occur on MTB trails which could lead to sediment entering watercourses. The establishment of water controls is required on these routes to slow or divert water, such as grips, silt traps and blocked drains. During trail construction, water run-off is considered when completing the trail assessment form (PMS Appendix). The current controls in place and future controls will be maintained by BPW.

Rides

Rides, roadsides and edges are important habitats in forests. Their priority in forest management for conservation is further emphasised by The UK forestry standard statement on the importance of '*...maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems...*' as a key criterion in sustainable forest management. Forest edges have particular microclimatic conditions which are favourable to many species of conservation importance. These arise mainly from the availability of direct sunlight and shelter.

Throughout the core area annual maintenance flailing will be adopted along all major forest road routes including the uplift road and middle access road. Where the opportunity presents itself along these routes scallops will be created at staggered intervals at key sun trap locations. In some cases, this may mean removing some pioneer vegetation/coppice. These scallops will be cut on a bi-annual basis allowing for flower generation and small-scale succession.

Open Space

Areas dedicated as Open Ground will be inspected annually to identify any degradation in the biodiversity value, from natural tree regeneration. Natural regeneration will be controlled or removed where it detracts from the biodiversity value of the area, though in some instances individual trees are to be retained for ecological value.

There are areas of heathland type habitat in the open space particularly on the upper sections of the hill which is covered with a mixture of heather and molina grass. This provides an important open habitat for ground nesting birds. Due to the reduction of commercial forestry felling within the core area which can create open space habitat current areas should be maintained by removing bracken and regenerating non-native tree species.

ASNW Management

Areas of broadleaves will be maintained within the forest in line with UKWAS and UK forest standard. The areas of ASNW that have been identified in the core area will be enhanced and expanded where the opportunity presents itself.

A baseline condition assessment will be conducted upon completion of this document from which active monitoring can take place to assess the impact of the management techniques adopted.

Assessments should generally provide core information on:

- woodland status e.g. continuity, age, origin, nativeness,
- trends: is the wood improving in condition and quality, or are there some causes for concern,
- evidence of squirrel damage to trees
- native woodland habitat types, using a classification system such as National Vegetation Classification or similar,
- any rare, threatened, protected and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species known to be present,
- key cultural and historic features, including archaeological features, wood banks, pollards and coppice, woodland industry features and former field systems,
- non-woodland habitats and communities including rides, glades, wet flushes, ponds and watercourses,
- accessibility for maintenance, recreational usage and timber extraction, and the condition of fences, paths and other infrastructure,
- the landscape context of the woodland, i.e. surrounding land uses, the nature of nearby woodland, interactions with other nearby habitats and the wider landscape setting.

Key Resource: [ancient-woodland-restoration-management-principles.pdf \(woodlandtrust.org.uk\)](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ancient-woodland-restoration-management-principles.pdf)

Deadwood Management

Dead and decaying wood is an essential part of maximizing the ecological benefits of a woodland habitat. Given its high ecological value, UKWAS makes recommendations for deadwood management as part of its certification standards for sustainable woodland. These include:

- The owner/manager shall plan and take action to accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the woodland management unit, including felled areas.
- The owners/managers shall identify areas where deadwood is likely to be of the greatest nature-conservation benefit and shall plan and take action to accumulate large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees in those areas.

Guidance suggests around 20 cubic metres per hectare, which would be similar to a lorry load, or five to 10 mature trees. The size and distribution of deadwood must be considered also. Larger diameter timber (over 10cm) and an irregular distribution are considered to be of greater ecological value. NRW encourages landowners to focus deadwood retention in areas of ASNW and PAWS as these are deemed habitats which would benefit most from deadwood retention.

There will be many opportunities to meet the recommended deadwood retention figures within the core area. Trail building and carrying out forestry operations will both contribute to these figures. Standing deadwood must be carefully considered. The high recreation use of the core area means any standing deadwood should be retained in areas of low footfall away from all designated trails, footpaths and forest roads.

Long Term Retention

UKWAS defines LTR as stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the woodland enterprise.

LTR's are retained primarily for their environmental benefits. This could be to provide age class diversity or to provide refugia for rare and protected species. Additionally, areas of 'cathedral like stands' can be maintained around recreation facilities for additional benefits. Ideally LTR areas should be managed with Low Impact Silviculture Systems. Very rarely will long term retention require zero management due to the ever-changing nature of the woodland environment.

The core area has been taken out of traditional productive forestry. As a result of this, much of the core area with mature standing crops could be viewed as LTR. It's important to note that due to the high volume of visitors to the core area some forestry practices such as selective thinning and tree spacing works will be required to enhance the visitor experience, create stable crops and improve environmental diversity amongst the woodland habitats.

Consideration should be given to leaving small LTR's that experience catastrophic windblow as deadwood retention. These may be allowed to develop as Natural Reserves with natural regeneration.

The 5 and 20 year operational plan will consider areas suited to LTR.

Minimum Intervention

UKWAS defines MI as management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally permitted are fencing, control of invasives, maintenance of paths and rides and safety works. LTR's and Natural Reserves make up minimum intervention areas where LTR areas may not be permanent, but NR's will be. MI areas can consist of either young or mature crops.

The 5 and 20 year operational plan has identified areas that will benefit from minimum intervention.

Natural Reserve

Natural reserves 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. NR's are permanent designations.

Natural Reserve will be focused on areas of retained broadleaves (ASNW). Areas with Native broadleaves with the intention of minimum intervention once established are to be retained as Natural Reserve in the life of the forest.

There are multiple areas (As identified in map [Plan 8: ASNW and PAWS Management](#)) that will be classified as a natural reserve within the core area, some of this will be ASNW. Where conservation potential can be increased through small scale management, this should be implemented in these areas.

The lower section of the hill is where much of the broadleaf is concentrated whereas the upper section is predominantly conifer species dominated by spruce. Between these areas is what can be described as a hard border where there is an obvious change in species distribution. During the course of the FFV the aim will be to soften this border and allow a blend where broadleaf expands into the coniferous portion of the hill. This will create a more natural transition and increase the spread of natural broadleaves throughout the site.

Open Ground

Areas dedicated as Open Ground will be inspected annually to identify any degradation in the biodiversity value, from natural tree regeneration. Natural regeneration will be controlled or removed where it detracts from the biodiversity value of the area, though in some instances individual trees are to be retained for ecological value.

Consideration for bracken will be given in the open ground to avoid dominance of this over native plant species. Where accessible and viable the bracken will be treated with mechanical methods to control spread and allow expansion of other native species such as heather, Bilberry and native ferns, which then increases the fauna.

Seed Source

Within the core area the retention of trees and small-scale thinning works will allow the creation of specimen trees. This will allow NRW to identify possible seed source trees, which can be used for seed collection to produce native province trees. Within the Core Area NRW will undertake a survey to identify potential seed source trees, which will be assessed and determined if suitable for seed collection. This will occur on a regular basis as trees mature and possible specimen trees are identified.

Management of Archaeological Features

There are numerous archaeological features including both Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) and Unscheduled Ancient Monuments (USAMS) throughout Gethin. The list of SAMS and their locations are as follows:

- Gwersyll SO 02698 04031
- Garn las SO 02890 03835
- Graig Gilfach SO 03006 03368
- Darren Fawr SO 03346 02431
- Castell y Meibion SO 03535 03116

Only Castell y Meibion sits within the core area however the others are listed above as a reference if MTB trails extend outside the core area in the future. The standard approach for monument management is to clear all vegetation, saplings, and trees off the feature. Sometimes this can extend to felling surrounding trees to allow light on to the feature if overhanging limbs are creating a detrimental environment. If access to a feature is also overgrown its recommended to clear a pathway to help with future surveys.

Any structural repairs/earthworks required on the feature must be cleared by CADW. CADW will often visit SAMS with members of NRW to conduct structural surveys where necessary and give recommendations.

It is best practice to treat any USAM's on site in the same manner. The locations of these features will be provided to BPW prior to trail construction to avoid any conflict. Where possible, if a feature sits near a trail and there is an opportunity to enhance access to it then the works should be tied in with the trail construction. There is opportunity to educate and inform the public on the history of these features (buildings near bridleway). Interpretation boards can be produced by NRW for these locations.

10. Community & Economy Techniques

Community Engagement

BikePark Wales engage with the community (both local and the wider mountain bike community in a variety of ways to encourage inclusion, a healthy and active lifestyle and respect for the environment

- Regular litter pick days with TrashFree Trails. Those who give time to these events receive free ride passes,
- Online community groups (BPW women's group and BPW community group),
- Events (races, jump jams, social rides),
- BikePark Wales supported local riders with free access to the bike park and bikes/kit for promising riders,
- 50% off season pass for all riders within 5 miles of BPW,
- 50% off season pass for many local mountain bike clubs,
- Attending events with local college,
- Speaking at events for regional tourism and economic fora,

Local Economy

Historically biproducts of forest operations have been felled to waste within the woodland. However there are opportunities for this wood to be used as fuel both by BPW itself and for some of it to be made available to the local community for use as fuel via local groups.

Public Access

There are several designated PROW's and bridleways throughout the core area. The [Plan 6: Constraints & Opportunities](#) shows the core area shaded blue and the rights of way as dashed green lines. RoW must always be kept clear and are subject to tree safety surveys by both BPW and NRW (BPW tree safety focuses on MTB trails).

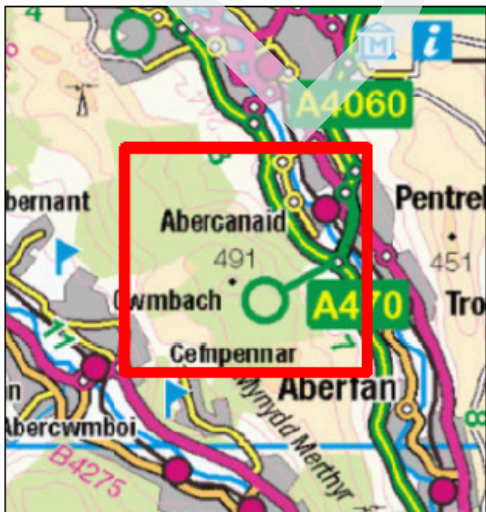
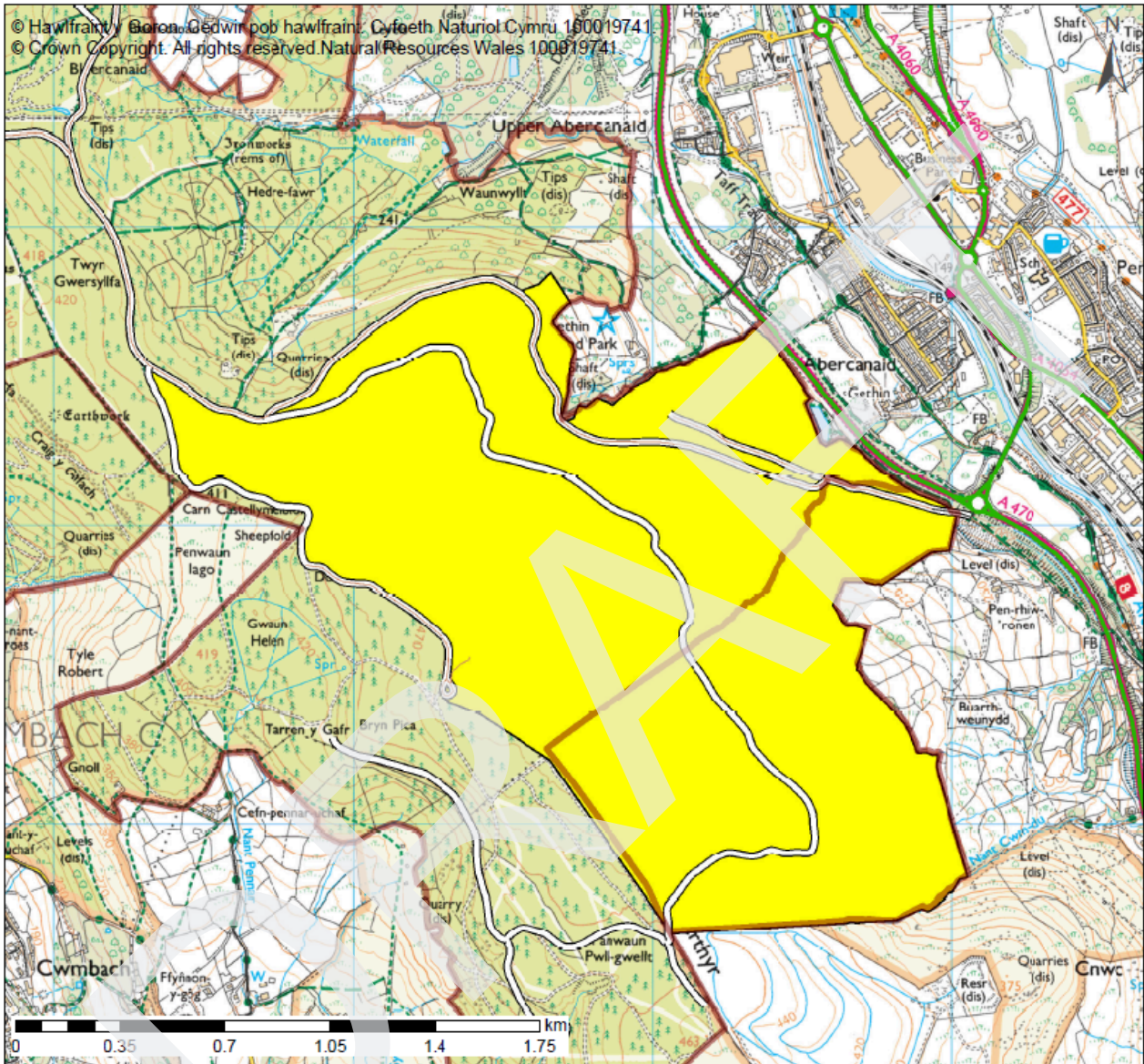
The Welsh Government Woodland Estate is subject to the CROW act and therefore can be accessed by the public. MTB trails cross PROWs in several locations. These crossing points should be signed and managed by BPW to inform MOPs of the hazard present.

There are multiple signs on the boundaries of the core area informing the public that they are entering a paid MTB facility.

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11. SUPPORTING PLANS

11.1 Plan 1: Location Map



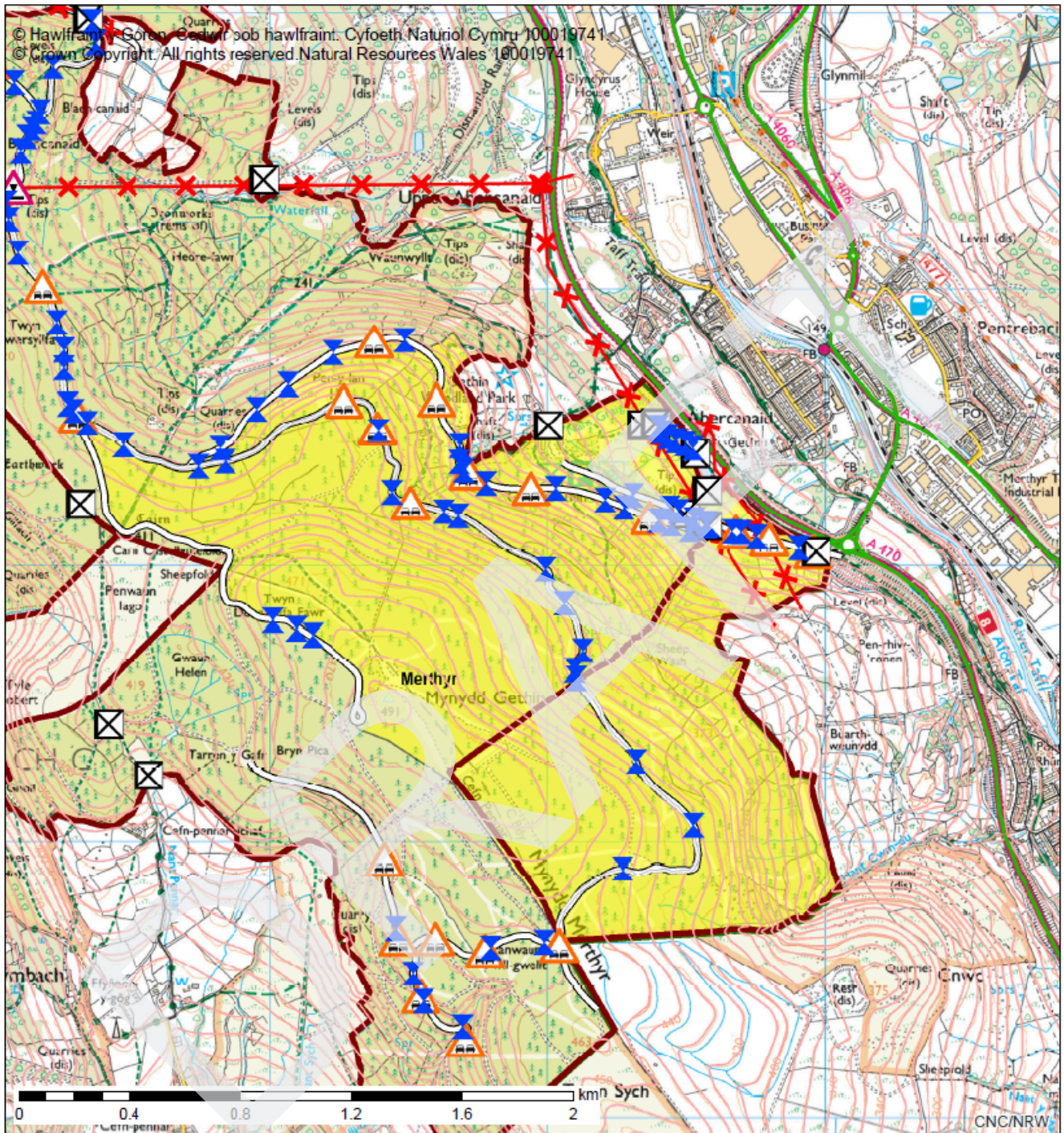
1. Location

A4 Scale:
1:20,000

Contract Type:	Service - Harv - Fell, Thin and Extract
Forest District:	NRW Estate
Contract Name:	
Contract No:	1
Framework/Service Contract:	
Extent Name:	
Prepared By:	Gareth Rosser
Date Prepared:	27/06/2023
Contract Manager:	Gareth Rosser
Contract Status:	Open

COLOUR MAPS MUST NOT BE PHOTOCOPIED IN BLACK & WHITE - ONLY VALID WITH ACCOMPANYING LEGEND PAGE

11.2 Plan 2: Access Map



2. Roads and Access

A4 Scale:1:20,000

Forest District: NRW Estate

Contract Type: Service - Harv - Fell, Thin and Extract

Contract Name:

Prepared By: Gareth Rosser

Contract No: 1

Date Prepared: 27/06/2023

Framework/
Service Contract:

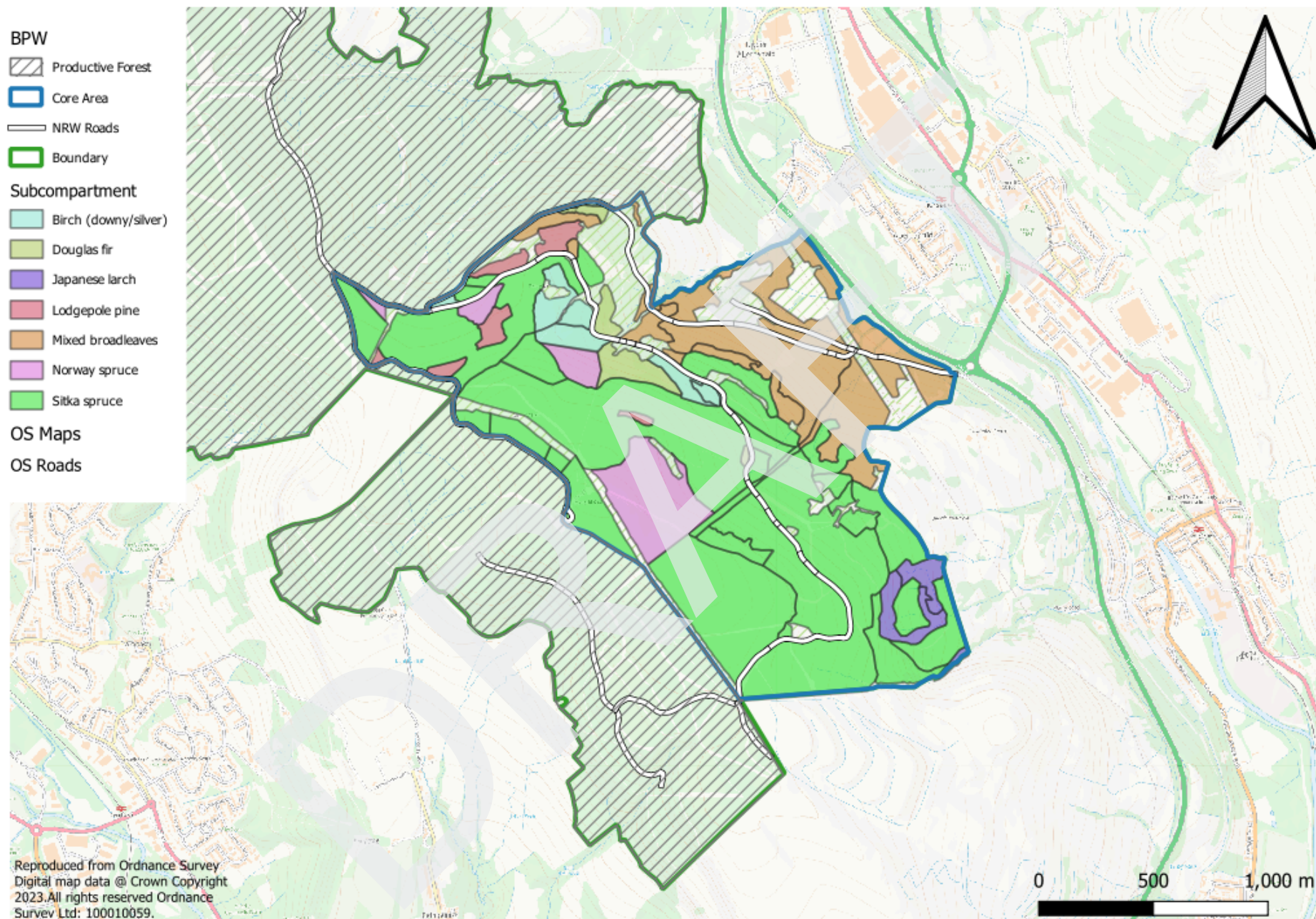
Contract Manager: Gareth Rosser

Extent Name:

Contract Status: Open

COLOUR MAPS MUST NOT BE PHOTOCOPIED IN BLACK & WHITE - ONLY VALID WITH ACCOMPANYING LEGEND PAGE

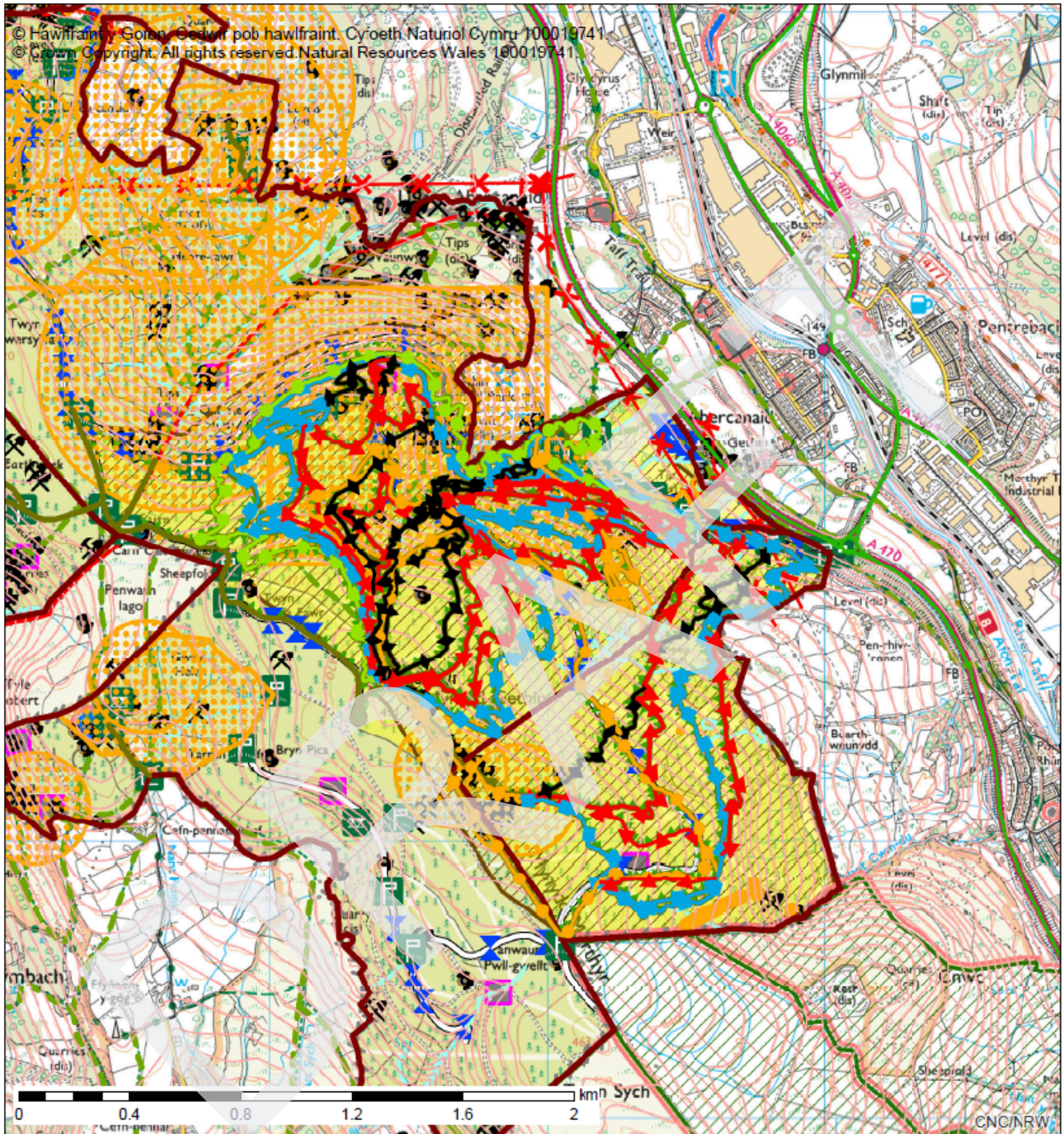
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11.5 Plan 6: Constraints & Opportunities



3. Constraints and Hazards

A4 Scale:1:20,000

Forest District: NRW Estate

Contract Type: Service - Harv - Fell, Thin and Extract

Contract Name:

Prepared By: Gareth Rosser

Contract No: 1

Date Prepared: 27/06/2023

Framework/
Service Contract:

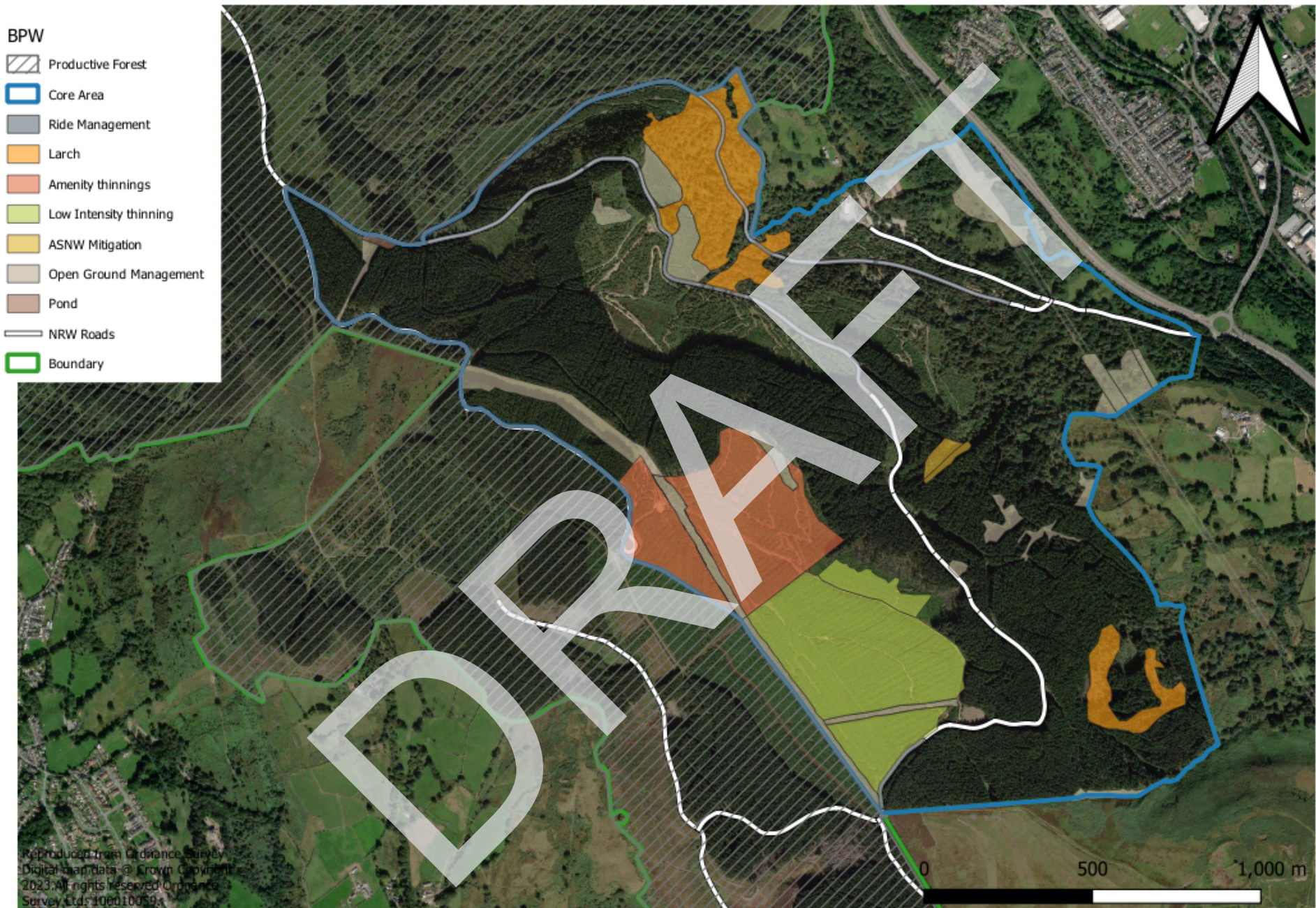
Contract Manager: Gareth Rosser

Extent Name:

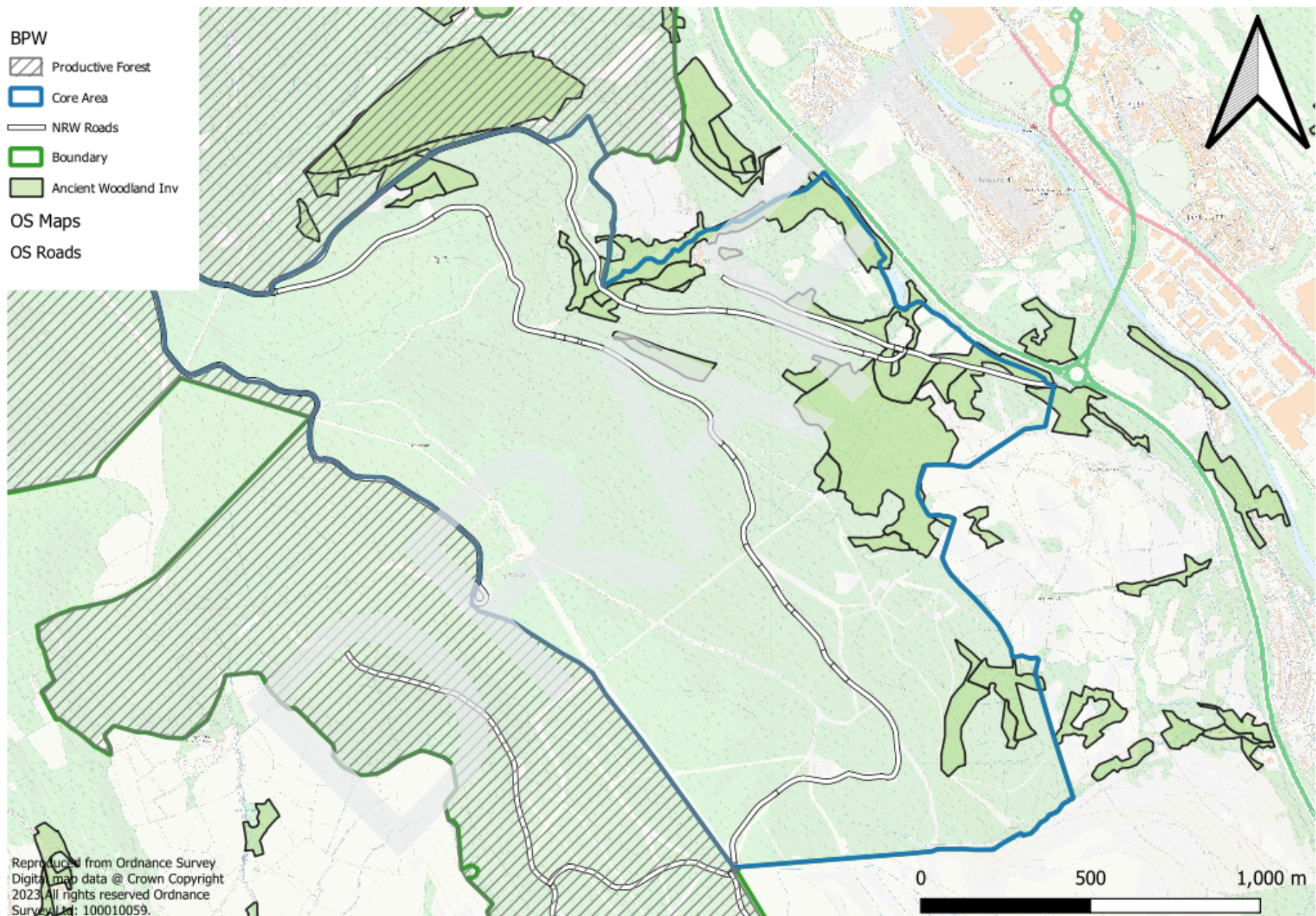
Contract Status: Open

COLOUR MAPS MUST NOT BE PHOTOCOPIED IN BLACK & WHITE - ONLY VALID WITH ACCOMPANYING LEGEND PAGE

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11.7 Plan 8: ASNW and PAWS Management



● APPENDIX 1 – FFV EVIDENCE OF CHANGE FORM

This form is to record decisions around management changes within the FFV for auditability and evidencing decisions in line with UKWAS/UKFS. This must be completed for each change requested by either party by the SLO and agreed with BPW representative.

Examples of Changes:

Change of use of equipment – use of tree shears in place of chainsaw works.

Inclusion of additional areas into management – more bracken areas identified, and funding secured.

Removal of areas defined within FFV – Removal of area due to conflict with BPW business.

○ NRW/BPW Representatives Present

Please list staff names involved in discussions relating to proposed Changes:

NRW Representatives Present / liaised	
BPW Representatives Present	
Date(s):	

○ FFV Proposed Change:

Define below the required changes, providing supporting images (at end of form) and maps:

Comments

○ Reasons for Change:

Please define the reasons for change requested along with feedback from relevant persons:

Comments

o **Potential Impact/Benefit to the FFV**

Please note any potential impact or benefits the change will have on the FFV and how both parties will look to mitigate any impacts of change:

Impact
Benefits
Mitigation

o **FFV Actions List**

Please define agreed actions from discussions to be completed following FFV Change. The SLO or BPW representative will record any notes during period action is to be completed (delays / parts completed / changes) and attach any supporting evidence (photos).

No.	Action	Assigned to	Date completed
-----	--------	-------------	----------------

1			
Notes:			
2			
Notes:			
3			
Notes:			
4			
Notes:			
5			
Notes:			

o Agreement / Notes

Both parties' agreement of FFV and actions. BPW will be responsible to complete agreed actions and supply evidence of completion to SLO on request.

BPW Rep signature		Date	
SLO signature		Date	

o Supporting Photographs

Please insert supporting images to evidence decisions / discussions or actions. Where required a link to Shared Folder (ShareFile) location can be pasted where images exceed document size.



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● APPENDIX 2 – OBJECTIVE REVIEW FORM

○ NRW/BPW Representatives Present

Please list staff names involved in discussions relating to proposed Changes:

NRW Representatives Present		
BPW Representatives Present		
Date(s) of Review:		

○ Objectives Review Notes

Please record comments in relation to how indicators have been delivered in the previous year, referencing supporting documentation/photos.

No.	Prioritised Objectives	Indicator of objective being met	Review Notes
1	Deliver the recreation within the forest (delivery of the BPW Lease and supporting plans)	● Improve customer experience ● Deliver Approved masterplans ● Increase visitor numbers ● Maintain profitability	
2	Enhance the Biodiversity of the habitats in the Core Area	● Enhancement and expansion of the ASNW ● Removal of conifer trees in broadleaf woodlands identified as Minimum Intervention Areas	

No.	Prioritised Objectives	Indicator of objective being met	Review Notes
		Monitor Wildlife within the Core area to identify potential impact	
3	Implement water management techniques and designs to minimise the impact of the bike park and forest management activities.	- Identification and implementation of Water Management Plan - Trialing techniques of water management for NRW / BPW Staff	
4	Implement silvicultural management techniques that allow management of the forest around a bike park	- Enhance crop stability in the young crops (NOTE SBCPT) - Minimised approach to management of crops to deliver LTR/MI?	
5	Explore alternative management techniques and timber products	- Recovery of timber for use within BPW fire pits? - Use of timber products in features of the Trails? - Use of products for the management of water?	
6	Management and enhancement of the forest to increase carbon capture, climate change mitigation and generation of renewable resources.	- Explore opportunities to increase value of woodland through carbon capture. - Increase use of renewable resources. - Identify alternative sources for bioproducts produced in the forest. - Reduce Fire Risk within the Forest.	

● APPENDIX 3 – ANNUAL INSPECTION FORM

○ NRW/BPW Representatives Present

Please list staff names present for inspection:

Inspector Name:	Features to be Inspected:	Date(s) of inspection:

○ Inspection Notes

Please record comments in relation to inspection.

Feature Name & Condition:	Works required:	Actions:	Date Completed:
Name: Condition:		1. 2. 3.	/...../...../...../...../...../.....
Name: Condition:		1. 2. 3.	/...../...../...../...../...../.....
Name: Condition:		1. 2. 3.	/...../...../...../...../...../.....
Name: Condition:		1. 2. 3.	/...../...../...../...../...../.....

● **APPENDIX 4 – NRW Supporting Contract Guidance**

1. NRW Environmental Policy
2. Environmental Incident Reporting
3. Pollution Prevention
4. Waste Management
5. UKWAS
6. Welfare Standard for those working on the WGWE
7. FISA 806 – Welfare
8. Biosecurity – Good working practice for those involved in forestry
9. First Aid Standard for those working on the WGWE
10. Protection Measures



Contract
Guidance.pdf

● APPENDIX 5 – Supporting Maps

