


 The NT will be entering this area under an HLS scheme in order to fund restoration of Wood Pasture within the central part of Croft Wood. Croft Wood is leased from the NT. FC are working in partnership with NT to achieve restoration. Restoration will be covered by a Farm Business Tenancy Agreement that will detail NT responsibilities in relation to future planting and thinning within the HLS area to achieve restoration undertaken as part of the plan amendment approved by Forest Services.


 The diverse mix of native species along the valley in Lady Wood and across towards Bircher Common will be encouraged to develop through Natural regeneration and will be monitored. Group planting maybe considered in order to achieve the desired species composition. Notable mature species that should be monitored for regeneration and considered for planting include: Wych Elm, Hawthorn and Hornbeam.


Mature SP around the northern boundaries will be retained adding a structural interest and at the same time will maintain landscape character.


The mature Scots Pine (SP) provides landscape character and structure to the wood so will be retained. The younger under storey of SP will be broken up into groups as soon as possible; developing their crowns and the early thinning will also give a chance for the groups to become wind-firm for the future and adding further landscape interest and structure.


 All pollards alive or dead will need careful management to ensure their survival and minimise loss of habitat both for bats as well as other invertebrates, fungi and lichen. Additional survey work maybe required to confirm the presence of any of the above e.g. rarities such as pinhead lichen; so conditions can be managed as required. The NT intends drawing up plans for the management of both live and dead veteran remnants within the HLS area.

 A large part of the central area of Croft will be felled in 2014 by the FC to begin the process of restoring Wood Pasture. Temporary retentions of Hemlock or Douglas Fir (DF) maybe required in line with the Collins bat report.

 Young Larch and Douglas Fir within this PAWs area will be thinned to encourage broadleaf development. Group felling and restocking will take place within Larch areas to add diversity and structure.

 The National Trust will manage areas of retention within HLS area. These areas will be restored to Wood Pasture over at least a 20 year period through careful thinning in line with the Collins bat report. Produce from thinnings will be put to roadside by the NT and marketed by FC.

 The remaining conifer within this PAW area will be gradually thinned to encourage crown development of existing broadleaf trees along with natural regeneration. Some group felling and planting should be carried out to diversify species composition within the area and at the same time bolster existing broadleaf groups. It is envisaged that work to restore this area is likely to take 40 years or more.

 To comply with EPS regulations, linkages for bats will be left to prevent fragmentation of habitat. The location and depth of the linkages should follow guidance from the report prepared in September 2013 by *Collins Environmental Consultancy Ltd*. Future thinning and subsequent plantings within these linkages will be carried out by NT. They will contain native species such as Oak, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Rowan and Crab Apple; that will provide a good nectar source for the insects on which bats feed. The remaining conifer overstorey and WH regen will be removed once the planted broadleaf groups have reached 2 metres in height in order to maintain suitable habitat and perpetuate linkages for the bats.

A Hazel and Hawthorn hedgerow along the southern boundary between points **A** & **B** should be retained in its current maiden state rather than being laid, at least until the broadleaf plantings for bat linkages have been established.

Species composition here will gradually move towards native broadleaf. Mature Grand Fir (GF) and some under-storey will be removed through heavy thinning and group felling over the next 20 years or so. Felled groups will be replanted with a mix of Oak, Hornbeam, Field Maple and some SP to complement the mature SP along the northern boundary. The GF under-storey will be felled at first thinning and replanted with the same mix of species but will include a mosaic of upto 30% open space. It is estimated that at this time 80% of the over-storey will have been removed during previous thinnings and fellings. At this stage any remaining GF under-storey with the last 20% of the mature over-storey will be felled. This approach will allow development of structure and landscape interest within the wood and add to species diversity.

