

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve

Proposed Cycle Route (Woodland Section)

June 2024

Fairfax

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Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

NOTICE

This document has been produced on behalf of Fairfax by Davies Landscape Architects for the sole purpose of planning for the project below:

Document Title: Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve, Proposed Cycle Route - Woodland Section

Document Reference: DLA/2131//CR/RPT/03/V1 - Proposed Cycle Route - Woodland Section

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Rev.	Purpose	Author	Checked	Date
V1	Planning	NP	SH	06.04.23

Revision	Description Of Changes
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set out the rationale of the proposed route of the proposed cycle route through the woodland sections of the Reserve.

The route has been plotted from GPS co-ordinates taken during a site visit following identifiable existing routes through the woodland, avoiding areas of higher sensitivity, and linking to existing glades.

The following sheets provide a record of various points along the route that are considered to record the character and quality of the woodland and experiences along the route.

The fencing, gates and construction details are set out under separate cover in DLA.2131.RPT.02.

It is considered that the route can be successfully integrated within the woodland avoiding any notable impacts on sensitive trees. There is plenty of scope for the route to be slightly realigned to avoid conflicts.



Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 01



View looking north along existing informal track



View looking east along the existing track



Woodland west of the existing track



Typical character of woodland, view towards the south

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

Plantation, semi-mature, mixed deciduous native species woodland: predominantly pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, willow *Salix sp* and cherry *Prunus avium*. The ground flora was generally sparse, species-poor and denuded with ground ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, pendulous sedge, common nettle, male fern, light scattered bramble, occasional dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* with large amounts of bare ground. Heavy deer pressure was evident. Land was formerly an open field.

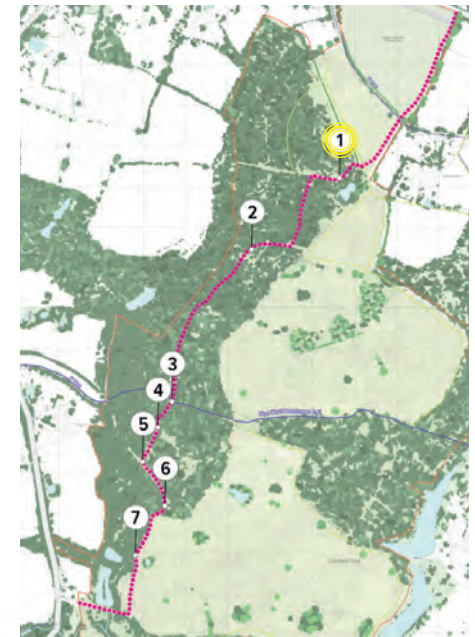
Quality:

Moderate.

Route:

The proposed route will run through the existing low quality plantation woodland, removing smaller sapling as part of the management and allowing larger trees to develop their canopies.

Where the route meets the east x west 'glade' there is an opportunity to develop the species diversity further.



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 01

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 02



Footpath weaves through woodland



View southwards on the footpath, facing low quality woodland



East x west track forms a notable 'glade' along the route



View east of the track

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

Regenerated, semi-mature, mixed deciduous native species plantation woodland: predominantly birch, willow, oak & ash. Denser planting than photo location 1, with an impoverished herb/ground flora. Heavy pressure on vegetation from deer evident. Land was formerly an open field.

Quality:

Moderate quality tree stock, impoverished herb/ground flora.

Route:

The proposed route will run through the existing low quality plantation woodland, removing smaller sapling as part of the management and allowing larger trees to develop their canopies.

Where the route meets the east x west 'glade' there is an opportunity to develop the species diversity further.



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 02

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 03



View north- plantation woodland character



View east



South- Footpath weaves through woodland - some maturing trees



View west

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

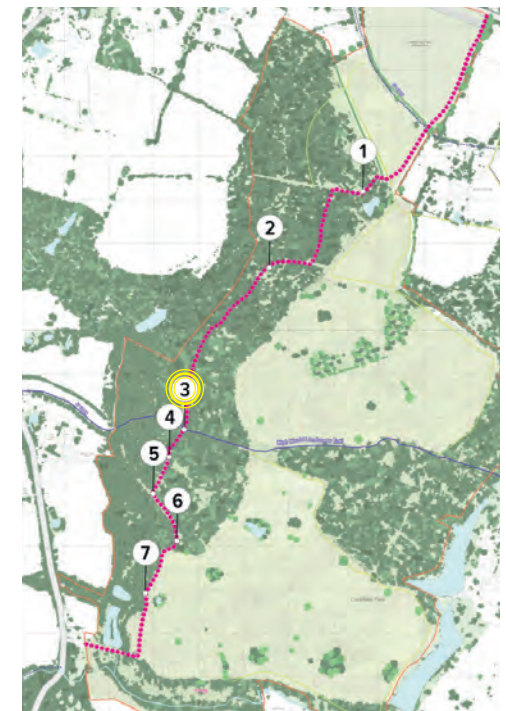
Plantation of rows of poplar (*Populus spp*), ash, oak and birch, predominantly. Land was formerly an open field.

Quality:

Low quality tree stock: large majority of ash displaying symptoms of ash dieback disease. Impoverished ground flora, some orchids noted.

Route:

Removal of some of the smaller saplings/ developing trees will afford an easy route through. Ongoing management will include the removal of the rhododendron.



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 03

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 04



The route through is well defined by pendulous sedge



View west - Rhododendron is well established in areas



View north



View south

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

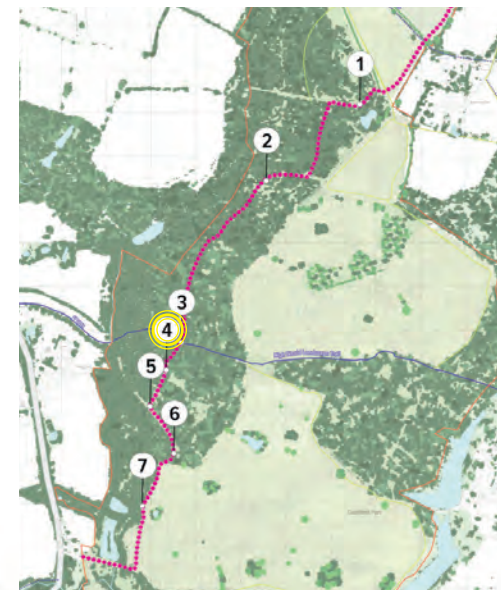
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). South of the High Weald trail. Regenerated, semi-mature, mixed deciduous native species woodland: predominantly birch, willow, oak & ash. Ground flora present, but dominated by Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*).

Quality:

Moderate quality tree stock, dominated by birch. Ground/herb layer dominated by invasives. This area had been subject to some form of management over the previous 10-20 years. The woodland was subject to relatively high browsing and grazing pressure from deer, predominantly fallow *Dama dama*, which was recorded during the site visit

Route:

Removal of some of the smaller saplings/ developing trees will afford an easy route through. Ongoing management will include the removal of the rhododendron and



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 04

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 05



Route north defined by a linear clearings through the woodland



View east



View south



West- The current route affords access over several steep streams that traverse the woodland.

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

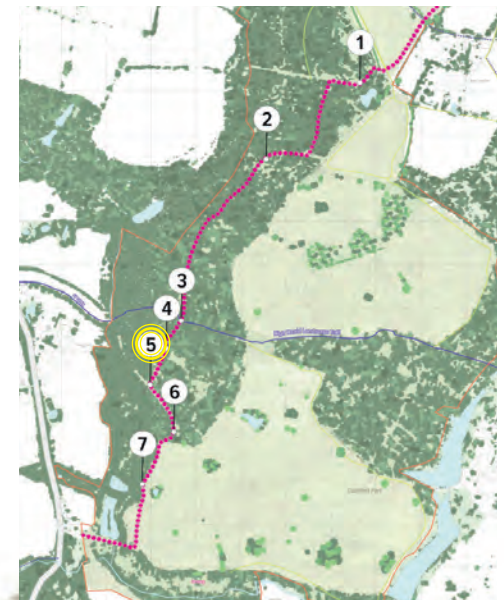
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). Regenerated, semi-mature, mixed deciduous native species woodland of predominantly birch, willow, oak, and ash, with individual standards of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), oak and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Ground flora present, but dominated by Rhododendron and Pendulous sedge. Other species recorded included occasional hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, thin-spiked wood sedge *Carex strigosa*, stinging iris *Iris foetidissima*, betony *Betonica officinalis*, ivy *Hedera helix*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, bush vetch *Vicia sepium*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, tufted hairgrass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*

Quality:

Moderate quality tree stock. Ground/herb layer dominated by invasives, but heavily grazed and browsed by deer within woodland.

Route:

Removal of some of the smaller saplings/ developing trees will afford an easy route through. Ongoing management will include the removal of the rhododendron.



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 05

Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 06



Route heading northwards - defined by a visibly clear swathe of ground flora



View west- Woodland either side of the swathe typically close planted and dense



Route passes through clearing to the gate on the southern boundary of the wood



NOTES:

Woodland Character:

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). Regenerated, semi-mature, mixed deciduous native species woodland of predominantly birch, willow, oak, and ash. Impoverished ground flora to south of glade, due to grazing and browsing by deer.

Quality:

Moderate quality tree stock. Ground/herb layer heavily grazed by deer.

Route:

The route follows a clearly defined linear opening through the ancient woodland, noticeable by the extent of ground



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 06



Beechy Bottom Parkland Reserve - Cycle Path Photographs

Photograph Location 07



View looking north on the approach to the woodland edge



View east



View west



View looking south from the egress of the southern gate

NOTES:

Woodland Character:

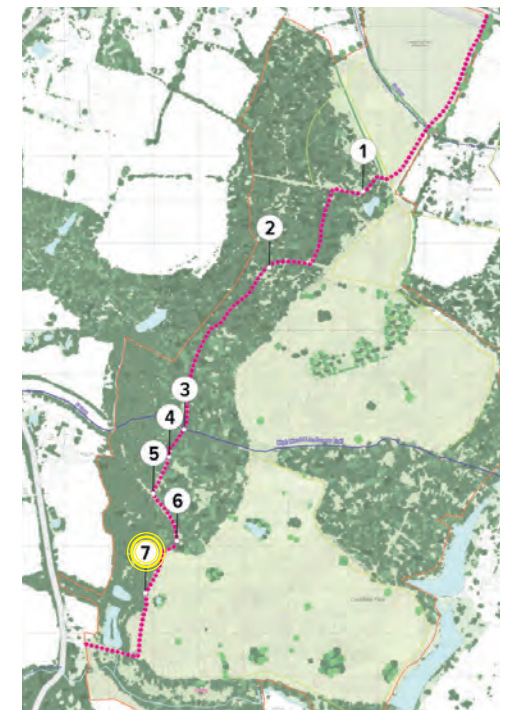
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). Older tree stock at the southern end of the wood, with hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), ash and field maple (*Acer campestre*) present additionally to birch and oak. Impoverished ground flora due to grazing by deer.

Quality:

Moderate quality tree stock. Ground/herb layer heavily grazed by deer.

Route:

The approach to woodland will be located within a fenced pathway with the field remaining open for grazing.



Cycle Path Photograph Location Map: 07