

Goudhurst Parish Council

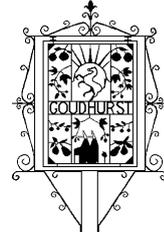


Planning Committee 23.02.21

MEETING
23 February 2021 18:30

PUBLISHED
17 February 2021

Goudhurst Parish Council



To: Cllrs Craig Broom (Chairman), Chris Ditton, Alan Foster, David Knight, Antony Harris, Barry Noakes, Mrs Caroline Richards and Guy Sutton.

I summon you to a Virtual Meeting of the Planning Committee on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 6.30 pm, via Zoom, where business detailed on this agenda will be discussed.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88974943545?pwd=MTViNHZydXR5Z3I1eEpyRWtWUTBUZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 7494 3545

Passcode: 282595

Members of the Public and the Press are welcome to attend this meeting. At the Chairman's discretion, 15 minutes will be set aside for questions from members of the public each one of whom may be invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes in total relating to items on the Agenda or about issues of local concern. Thereafter they have the right, and are welcome, to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1. Please inform the Clerk if you intend to film or record the Meeting.

Claire Reed
Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council
18 February 2021

Goudhurst Parish Council, The Hop Bine, Risebridge Farm, Goudhurst, TN17 1HN
01580 212552 clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk <https://.goudhurst-pc.gov.uk>

A quorum for Planning Committee is 3 Members.

Agenda

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Owner</i> |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Zoom | 23/02/21 | |

1. Apologies for Absence as reported at the meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. Application for a felling licence - Cathedral Wood TQ756391
4. Planning Applications for consideration
 - 4.1. 21/00131 - The Pump House , North Road
Change of use of ancillary building to single dwellinghouse with landscape and biodiversity enhancements; replacement of existing gate; proposed new entrance gate.
 - 4.2. 21/00106 / 21/00107LBC - Mouseden Cottage, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst
Addition of a ground floor window
 - 4.3. 21/00139 - Grove Place, North Road
Erection of a 9.75kw ground mounted photovoltaic array
 - 4.4. 20/03588 - Brandfold Farm, North Road
Conversion of a redundant barn to create one new dwelling with associated annex and change of use of land including landscape and biodiversity enhancement.
5. Next virtual meeting 09 March 2021, 18.30

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| <u>Woodland Property Name</u> | Cathedral Wood | |
| Unique Reference | | |
| Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years) | Approval Date: | To: |
| Five Year Review Date | | |

Approval Criteria – FC Office Use Only

The UKFS states that a management plan should:

| UKFS | Approval Criteria | FC Approval & Notes |
|--|---|--|
| State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved | Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2) | |
| Provide a means to communicate forest proposals and engage interested parties | Have work proposals been communicated in the management strategy (section 6) and felling & restock table (section 8) and potential interested parties identified in Section 7 | |
| Serve as an agreed statement of intent against which implementation can be checked and monitored | Has a five year review period been stated below and achievements recorded in section 3 | |
| Approving Officer Name | | Plan approved <input type="checkbox"/> |

To Maximise Functionality

- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros when prompted;
- where the text is blue and underlined additional information is available, hover over the text with your mouse and double click to open;
- where you see the  symbol, left click on it and press the F1 key for a further explanation of the detail required;
- throughout the document where you see 'Add Box' double click on the text and additional boxes will appear (enable macros first).

1. Property Details

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Name | | Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Email | | Contact Number | |
| Address | | | |
| Agent Name (if applicable) | | | |
| Contact Number | | Email | |
| County | Kent | Nearest Town | Goudhurst |
| Grid Reference  | TQ756391 | Local Authority | TWBC |
| Management Plan Area (Hectares) | 3.25 | | |
| List the maps associated with this management plan | Cathedral Wood Location Plan.pdf Cathedral Wood aerial image 1940.pdf Cathedral Wood aerial image 1960.pdf | | |
| Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland and how you envisage it will be in the future.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

The long term vision is to improve diversity within the woodland in terms of age, species and height class and to add ecological value within the woodland, especially by the regeneration of the area currently planted with conifers through their replacement with broadleaves of local provenance.

This will be achieved by:

- Reinststate 10 year and 15 year coppicing cycle of the neglected sweet chestnut coppice in the 0.6ha area occupied by oak standards.

- Implementing a continuous cover forestry (CCF) approach in a site-specific way through the progressive felling of the neglected conifer plantation, combined with managed natural regeneration and restocking using self-set seedling trees and understorey plants of local provenance transplanted from a nearby broadleaved wood in my ownership.
- Retention, where possible, of existing oaks planted within the rows of conifers to enable their recovery to maturity from their currently etiolated growth habit.
- These measures will proceed slowly over the next 10 to 20 years, because they will be undertaken by me personally in my spare time, when I am not otherwise engaged in managing other woods in my ownership. This will inevitably lead to the generation of a diverse woodland consisting of broadleaved trees and understorey plants of varying ages and sizes.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations) |
|-----|--|
| 1 | To enhance and maintain species and habitat biodiversity. |
| 2 | To create a more diverse canopy, species and age structure. |
| 3 | To enhance the capital value of the land. |
| 4 | To derive income from milled timber, planks and beams. |
| 5 | |

Add Box

3. Plan Review - Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

| Objective | Achievement |
|-----------|-------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Add Box

4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints: designations, European Protected Species etc.

Woodland information for your property can be found on the [‘Magic’](#) website or the Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#).

Brief description of the woodland property

Location.

Cathedral Wood is located 200m from the northern end of Old Park Wood, near its boundary with Round Green Lane. Old Park Wood lies approximately 1 mile east of Goudhurst and 3 miles west of Sissinghurst. The northern half of Old Park Wood containing Cathedral Wood is named on OS and other mapping as Spring Wood.

Description

Old Park Wood covers a total of 115.3ha and Cathedral Wood covers 3.5ha. Cathedral Wood consists of two very distinct compartments:

- 0.6ha of sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards
- 2.9ha of Japanese Larch and Norway Spruce

Topography

Old Park Wood is 1.5 miles long from north to south and generally slopes inwards to two valleys, each with tributaries forming a stream flowing westwards. The two valleys lie 0.5m from the northern end and 1m from the southern end of Old Park Wood. There is also a completely separate valley system with lakes at the south-western end of Old Park Wood, near the A262.

The main access track running through Old Park Wood and some other tracks within the wood have drainage ditches and culverts to convey surface water to the streams the issue from the western side of the wood.

Cathedral Wood occupies a site sloping south-westwards from approximately 80m to 70m AOD.

There are no watercourses within Cathedral Wood, but the western boundary with the main access track through Old Park Wood has a drainage ditch, which very occasionally has running water, during only the wettest periods of the winter.

There are old woodbanks on the boundary and within the 0.6ha coppice with standards part of the wood.

Geology & Soils

According to the British Geology Survey, the bedrock underlying the whole of Old Park Wood is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation: interbedded sandstone and siltstone. There are no superficial deposits mapped over the site. Soils are deep to intermediate sandy loam to silty loam.

Designations

Under 'Protected sites and landscapes', the Forestry Commission's Land Information Search (LIS) mapping shows Old Park Wood to fall into two types of woodland designations:

1. Ancient and semi-natural woodland. This includes the 0.6ha of sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards within Cathedral Wood
2. Ancient Replanted Woodland

The 2.9ha compartment of Japanese Larch and Norway Spruce within Cathedral Wood falls outside both these two designations.

No part of Old Park Wood falls within any of the following designations:

- AONB
- CRoW2000 Registered Common Land
- Community Forest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Ramsar site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protected Area.

No part of Old Park Wood lies within any designation under 'Historic Environment'. There are no Tree Preservation Orders applicable to Old Park Wood.

Kent County Council's KLIS mapping identifies the whole of Old Park Wood as a Local Wildlife Site, with the exception of the coniferous plantation occupying Cathedral Wood and Chanterelle Wood, which lies adjacent across the main access track. This classification is based upon the site being ancient woodland, but considers "*The most interesting areas are restricted to the southern and western edges along the sides of streams, where the original broadleaved woodland is still present. The soils are damp and heavy and support a richer flora.*"

In contrast, Cathedral Wood lies at the north-eastern end of Old Park Wood.

Management History and Composition

The Sale Particulars published in 1999 by John Clegg & Co relating to Old Park Wood state that Old Park Wood formed part of the Glassenbury Estate, the Glassenbury Manor still extant and located south of the A262. The Sale Particulars offer the following description:

"The woods contain a much wider variety of species than is usually found in Kentish woodlands where Chestnut coppice usually predominates. Old Park Wood benefitted during the Alsford ownership from positive management when a variety of commercial conifers were used in restocking and new planting..."

The combination of species in Spring Wood is unusual for Kent where the planting of conifers was in a small minority for most decades of the past 100 years. During the 1960s many Kentish woodland owners were persuaded about the quicker returns of softwoods. This included the owners of Spring Wood who in 1965/67 established 12.6 acres of Scots pine which is now into its productive phase. Further softwood planting took place in 1969 and during the two subsequent decades with Japanese and Hybrid larch, Norway spruce, Scots pine and Douglas fir. As can be seen from many of the stands, management was carried out to a high standard and the crops show the benefit. In recent years management input has been limited and many of the conifers would now benefit from a thinning which should provide tax free income."

The sales particulars also provide a Stocking Schedule, which indicates that Oak, Norway Spruce and Japanese Larch were planted in Cathedral Wood in 1978.

The 1873 OS six-inch map and aerial photography from 1940 and 1960 show the coniferous area of Cathedral Wood as historically being open pasture. The evidence from maps strongly indicates that the 1978 coniferous planting took place in what had been until that time open pasture within Spring Wood.

Further evidence is provided by the remains of livestock fencing around the eastern boundary of the coniferous area within Cathedral Wood.

The Forestry Commission's LIS mapping records that a felling licence was granted 25/2/1997 and valid until 25/2/1999 for 'Clear Fell (conditional)' in the broadleaved part of Cathedral Wood. This area would now benefit from selective coppicing of Sweet Chestnut to benefit the growth and shape of the Oaks.

The coniferous compartment has many windthrown trees. The Norway Spruce tend to be completely snapped off, whereas the Japanese Larch tend to be uprooted whole or to rip and tear at the base. The fallen trees have significantly impacted upon adjacent standing trees, particularly the etiolated oaks, many of which have been irreparably damaged. The windthrown trees have often hung up in adjacent trees and in many cases this has then caused a 'domino' effect, uprooting those trees which in turn then lean into further trees causing further damage.

There are also many trees with heaving root plates, i.e. showing evidence of movement out of the ground due to the action of wind.

In addition to windthrown and damaged trees, there are many trees, including oaks, which are dead, the likely consequence of insufficient light beneath the dense canopy of Norway Spruce.

Current Management

I purchased Cathedral Wood in March 2013, at which point there had been no active management for between twenty-five and thirty years.

- The 0.6ha compartment of sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards, classified as ancient and semi-natural woodland, was last coppiced in 1984-87 and had received no further management.
- The 2.9ha of coniferous compartment, planted in 1978, showed no evidence of brashing or thinning of the coniferous trees at all; light levels were very low and there was no ground flora, apart from patches of bramble where windthrown trees allowed light to penetrate the dark wood.

Over the last eight years, starting at the northernmost tip of the coniferous compartment, I have slowly cleared many fallen, damaged, heaving and dead trees. The majority were conifers, but unfortunately there were also some oaks in these categories.

I have also felled standing conifers within the Forestry Commission's calendar quarter personal allowance of 5m³ of growing trees.

I note the guidance provided by the Forestry Commission (Operational Guidance Booklet No.7) "*Stands that have been regularly thinned are more likely to be successful with CCF*". My management is thus continuous cover forestry adapted to this specific, unmanaged woodland compartment, consisting of dense Japanese Larch with an average diameter of 280mm dbh and Norway Spruce with an average diameter of 230mm dbh (measured 1.3m from the base).

This process has exposed a number of living, but very etiolated oaks planted with the conifers, which I have deliberately retained where possible and which are now showing evidence of vigorous new growth. They have increased trunk diameter and developed strongly-growing new branches on their bare lower trunks, which promise in the long term to correct the etiolated form of these trees.

In the cleared area, the previously bare woodland floor is initially colonised by wildflowers, such as Violets, Scarlet Pimpernel and Figwort, and then by self-set Birch, Poplar and Willow. The colonisation by these trees is gradual, so there are now stands of mixed ages, which I periodically thin to promote good growth.

I selectively brushcut bramble growth to prevent it smothering new tree and understorey growth.

I have also transplanted self-set seedling Hornbeam and understorey plants including Hazel and Hawthorn from Limberlost Wood, a separate deciduous woodland in my ownership in Old Park Wood. Future Oak seedling transplants will derive from 150 year-old oaks, also growing in Limberlost Wood.

I use a Vahva Jussi forwarder trailer with low ground pressure tyres and towed by a modified off-road vehicle to pick up and transport timber out of Cathedral Wood and into one of my other nearby woods, where I have a small static sawmill. I confine vehicle movements to a single track within Cathedral Wood to minimise potential impact on the ground across the wood. I created two crossing points to the main Old Park Wood access track over the drainage ditch, incorporating pipes to allow water flow to continue.

Biodiversity

No formal ecological survey has yet been completed in Cathedral Wood and the following comments are based upon my own observations.

Protected Species

Badgers. There is an active badger sett within the broadleaved compartment of Cathedral Wood and also other badger setts in neighbouring woods.

Other Species

The gradual clearance of conifers accompanied by the renewed growth of retained oaks and managed natural regeneration of trees and understorey plants has been accompanied by sightings of Buzzards perched in the trees bordering the clearing. They are obviously finding prey amongst the new growth on the previously bare forest floor and have sufficient space for their large wingspan.

The coppice with standards compartment of Cathedral Wood is rich in Bluebells. There is great potential for the diverse seedbank of the original ancient woodland flora in Old Park Wood to flourish once more under the new diverse and managed broadleaved trees that will gradually replace the non-native conifers removed under this Management Plan.

Over the eight years of my management of Cathedral Wood, there has been an influx of insects, butterflies, songbirds and owls.

During 2021, I plan to install nest boxes for Tawny Owl and bats on suitable Oaks growing within the 0.6ha compartment of sweet chestnut coppice with oak standards.

5. Woodland Protection

This section allows you to consider the potential threats facing your woodland(s). Where relevant, under the following headings, describe any potential threats and as informed by both the likelihood of presence and potential impact, communicate any required management response. This could, for example, be providing information in relation to putting in place a plan, monitoring or direct action.

Plant Health

Its location in south east England places it in *phytophthora ramorum* risk zone 2; i.e. areas of high risk, but where no infection on Larch has yet been found. There is no evidence of this disease apparent in Cathedral Wood.
 There is no evidence of either Rhododendron or Himalayan Balsam in Cathedral Wood.

Deer

Roe deer are present wandering throughout Old Park Wood. One of their routes is to follow the southern boundary of Cathedral Wood, cross over the main Old Park Wood access track and continue along the southern boundary of Chanterelle Wood. When I plant saplings transplanted from my other woodland, I build protective towers of logs, approximately 50mm diameter, around each plant. These seem to put off the deer from eating the plant. I have created a dry hedge along the western boundary, which limits access by deer.

Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrels are present throughout Old Park Wood and cause damage to deciduous trees through their habit of stripping bark. My control measures are limited to periodically culling using an air rifle when I have time available to do so.

Livestock and Other Mammals

There are no livestock in Old Park Wood. Other mammals are limited to foxes, rabbits and other rodents.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc)

The acidifying impact of the conifers planted within Cathedral Wood will be progressively reduced by its transformation into diverse broadleaved woodland.

Environmental (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc)

Windthrow continues to occur in the coniferous compartment of Cathedral Wood. I will progressively clear windthrown trees and their replacement broadleaves will be a combination of self-set seedlings or transplanted seedlings. The diverse species and age structure will aid resilience to wind damage.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

The coniferous compartment of Cathedral Wood is not resilient to the impact of climate change as it lacks diversity, has a uniform structure and a high proportion of Japanese Larch. Its conversion over time to mixed broadleaved woodland will significantly improve its resilience, particularly as new trees will originate from local provenance within Old Park Wood.

6. Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features and issues identified within the previous sections of the plan. The information provided should be succinct.

| Mgt Objective/Feature | Outline Work Prescriptions/Operations | Year |
|---|--|-----------|
| Slow and progressive conversion of neglected coniferous plantation into diverse broadleaved semi-natural woodland. | Continue slow and progressive removal of dead, dying, damaged, heaving and windthrown trees, alongside removal of standing conifers. | 2021-2031 |
| Management of natural regeneration to promote healthy growth of desirable species. | Control achieved through selective use of brush-cutter and chainsaw. | 2021-2031 |
| Increase proportion of local provenance Oaks, other broadleaves and understorey plants. | Supplement natural regeneration with transplanted broadleaved seedling trees and understorey plants from Limberlost Wood. | 2021-2031 |
| Manage the Sweet Chestnut coppice to create a 'halo' effect around the old oak standards to improve their growth and form | Establish a 10-year coppicing cycle around oak standards and 15-year cycle in other areas. | 2021-2031 |
| Increase numbers and diversity of invertebrates | Establish habitat piles throughout Cathedral Wood using a mixture of wood from coppiced and felled trees. | 2021-2031 |

Add Box

7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to [Operations Note 35](#) for further information.

| Work Proposal | Individual/Organisation | Date Contacted | Date feedback received | Response | Action |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------|--------|
| Management Plan | Goudhurst Parish Council | | | | |
| Management Plan | Owners of neighbouring woods | | | | |

Add Box

8. DisplayText

Should you wish to associate a felling licence with your management plan please complete the table below. Set out your felling intentions by identifying individual species where they comprise more than 20% of the volume to be felled. Individual species at or below 20% need to be grouped as MB (mixed broadleaf) and/or MC (mixed conifer).

| Cpt(s) | Sub Cpt | Fell-ing Type | Species | Area of Felling (ha) | Est Volume M³ (Bdlv/Con) | Pref Fell Year | Restock Species | Restock Area (ha) | % of Total Restock Area | Map No | TPO | Designation |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1a, 1b | CF | BE, MB, JL, MC | 1.3 | 100/200 | 16/17 | OK/BI/BE/WCH | 1.3 | 100 | 1 | No | No |
| 2 | | CCF | JL & NS | 2.9 | 2,000m ³ conifers | 2021 to 2031 | AR/BI/CA P/FM/HA W/HAZ/H BM/HOL/ MB/ROW/ | 2.9 | 50 | | No | No |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

9. Monitoring

Indicators of success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Use the below section to identify when and how monitoring is to be carried out. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

| Management Objective | Indicator of Success | Method of Assessment | Frequency of Assessment | Responsibility | Assessment Results |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Slow and progressive conversion of neglected coniferous plantation into diverse broadleaved woodland through natural regeneration combined with restocking with local provenance trees. | Observable reduction in area covered by conifers. Increase in areas of broadleaved trees and understorey. | Visual | Quarterly | Peter Mitchell - Wood owner | |
| Management of natural regeneration to promote healthy growth of desirable species. | Observable increase in area covered with thinned self-set broadleaves | Visual | Quarterly | Peter Mitchell - Wood owner | |
| Increase ground flora volume and diversity through maintaining open areas throughout the new broadleaved woodland | Observable increase in ground flora volume and diversity | Visual | Quarterly | Peter Mitchell - Wood owner | |
| | | | | | |

Add Box

Cathedral Wood: aerial image dated **1960** from Google Earth



From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:
Attachments:

Dear Parish Clerk,

I live in . I own and, in my spare time, actively manage five woods within Old Park Wood.

I am applying to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence for one of these woods and, as part of the procedure, I am required to consult neighbouring wood-owners and also Goudhurst Parish Council as the representative body of the local community.

Please note that this particular piece of woodland is private and neither accessible nor visible from any public right of way or viewpoint.

In simple terms, my plans for the woodland in question are twofold:

- Reinstatement of periodic coppicing in an area of neglected sweet chestnut coppice.
- Gradual transformation of a dark, neglected coniferous plantation into a diverse semi-natural broadleaved woodland of trees and plants of local provenance. The conifer plantation was created in 1978 on what had historically been pasture land, not woodland.

All operations required to achieve these objectives will be undertaken by my wife and myself over the next ten years.

I attach for your reference my Cathedral Wood Management Plan and an aerial image taken in 1960 showing the location of Cathedral Wood.

I would be very pleased if you could provide me with any comments that you may wish to make on the Management Plan at your earliest convenience, so that I may include them in my application to the Forestry Commission.

I hope that you will feel able support my Management Plan. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,