

Client No: 16338 / 74267

# *Tree*

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## *Maintenance Ltd*

**FOREST HOLIDAYS**

**WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024**

Date: November 2024



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## Table of Contents

1.0	Summary .....	3
2.0	Site Description .....	4
3.0	Soils .....	5
4.0	Compartment Description .....	5
5.0	Guiding Principles .....	6
6.0	Ten-year Outline Work Program .....	8

**Appendix 1. Site Compartment Plan**

**Appendix 2: Photographs of the Compartments**

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with our quotation 16338 / 74007 dated 21 October 2024 I have been instructed by Ms Jess Robinson of Forest Holidays to provide a revised Woodland Management Plan to provide ongoing management and improvement of the amenity woodland within the Forest Holidays' Beddgelert Holiday Village.
- 1.2 The plan incorporates and continues work set out in the 2017 Management Plan provided by Alan Morton and aims to maintain, improve and enhance the landscape quality, amenity and ecological habitat value of the site whilst allowing continued development of the site in line with business requirements and budgets.
- 1.3 Trees within the site are regularly inspected every six months for reasons of safety and risk management. This is in accordance with the Forest Holidays Tree Policy. Works arising from the surveys are completed within the specified time frames and as such this plan sets out wider management aims and objectives to be implemented over the next ten years developing into a rolling program of works for as long as the site remains operational.
- 1.4 The site currently provides sixteen high-quality holiday cabins, site shop, office and recreational facilities. In addition, there are 57 hard-standing pitches at the southern end of the site and a camping field to the southeast both with amenity facilities. The phase two proposals are for the creation of a further twenty-two self-contained holiday lodges with associated access, parking, recreational facilities and landscape planting. Existing hardstanding will also be removed as part of the development works.
- 1.5 The site is divided into four compartments.
  - 1.5.1 Compartment 1. The area north of the main drive is dominated by mature conifers mainly Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar and Japanese Red Cedar with some pockets of Oak, Beech and Rowan. The site is divided and contained by the River Colwyn and has informal access over an existing footbridge from the main drive.
  - 1.5.2 Compartment 2. The central cabin and amenity recreational area which consists of mainly mature Oak, Birch and Willow with underplanting of Pine. The area consists of more widely spaced trees with more ornamental planting of Lawson Cypress and Japanese Red Cedar close to the shop and recreational services.
  - 1.5.3 Compartment 3. Hard stand area is a mix of native and Red Oak with a limited understorey of Hazel and Holly supported with plantings of Spruce and Sorbus. The eastern bank down to the river consists of Oak, Beech and Lawson Cypress. The Lawson Cypress have been subject to decline and windthrow in recent years and are being gradually removed.
  - 1.5.4 Compartment 4. This is the camping field and field access road. This consists of rather dense riparian woodland of Common Alder, Goat Willow and Birch to the south of the access road with mature Oak, Alder and occasional Larch trees enclosing the field along the top edge of the riverbank.
- 1.6 Across the site there are thickets of Rhododendron and Laurel which although provide year-round screening and cover are non-native and suppress the development of a more diverse understorey. Work will aim to remove these non-native invasives over the period of the plan.
- 1.7 Aims of the woodland management plan include:

- Maintain and develop a sustainable woodland structure that supports the landscape, ecological and recreational use of the site.
- Improve the age structure and genetic suitability of trees across the site to ensure continuous and improving canopy cover over the site.
- Maintain manage and improve the woodland understorey to support native species.
- Develop and maintain a wider range of habitats to support and sustain local native wildlife.
- Encourage the development of graduated woodland edges minimising risk to the adjacent railway.
- Retain mature trees or tree parts where possible.

## 2.0 Site Description

2.1 Beddgelert Forest, encompassing approximately 700 hectares within Eryri National Park, is situated north of Beddgelert village, accessible via the A4085. The forest's western boundary is defined by the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway, while the Afon Colwyn delineates its eastern edge (Figure 1 Site Location and Boundary).

**Figure 1 Site Location and Boundary (Google Earth 2024)**



2.2 To the north and west, Beddgelert Forest extends along the western side of the Nant Colwyn. The eastern side of the valley features predominantly open, rough grazing land ascending towards the slopes of Yr Wyddfa. The village of Beddgelert is located just to the south.

- 2.3 The woodlands at Beddgelert are prominent on the valley slopes overlooking the Nant Colwyn. The broader Beddgelert Forest is a popular local destination, offering a well-developed network of access roads, cycleways, and waymarked trails. Notably, the Eryri National Park's Lon Gwyrfaï multi-use trail, connecting Beddgelert to Rhyd Ddu, traverses the forest. The area is bordered by woodland on all sides, with stands of coniferous and mixed broadleaved trees providing internal views within the woodland. The area is visible from the A4085 to the east.
- 2.4 For more detailed information on Beddgelert Forest, including specific trails and visitor amenities, please refer to Natural Resources Wales ( [Click Here](#) ).

### **3.0 Soils**

- 3.1 I visited the site in November 2024 and noted the north and northeast areas (Compartment 1 and recreational areas around the shop and amenity buildings) although wet appeared well drained. The remaining compartments were very wet with poorly drained waterlogged soils and standing water in flatter areas and drainage ditches. Ground vegetation consisted of grass and reeds indicating waterlogged ground conditions for much of the year.
- 3.2 Underlying geology is till deposits of the Cwm Eigiau formation. Basic soil information has been obtained using the Cranfield University website and provides a broad overview of the soils within the general locality. Soil data © Cranfield University (NSRI) and for the Controller of HMSO 2014 ([click here](#)).
- 3.3 The native soils are likely to consist of slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface within the western side of Compartments 1, 2 and Compartment 3. East of Compartments 1 and 3 and Compartment 4 are indicated as being freely draining acid loamy soils over rock.
- 3.4 British Geological Society borehole data is not available for this area at present.
- 3.5 At the time of survey the site contained significant areas of ponding and waterlogging with evidence of flooding in the eastern camping field.
- 3.6 As the site has been substantially re-engineered as part of previous developments, soils are likely to be substantially altered from their natural state. I recommend that a site-specific soil survey is undertaken, as this will be of assistance when developing the drainage and landscape scheme.
- 3.7 Peat soils are likely to be poorly draining and will be easily damaged and degraded if travelled over by plant and equipment in the course construction or management works. Wheeled equipment poses the greatest risk but even light, tracked or pedestrian-operated equipment can negatively impact soil structure if not adequately protected.
- 3.8 As a minimum, soils should be handled and managed in accordance with BS 3882 Top Soil 2015 and DEFRA guidance Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites 2009 ([click here](#)). It is advised that any imported soil has a certificate of compliance from the soil supplier.

### **4.0 Compartment Description**

- 4.1 The site has been divided into four main compartments as shown on the site compartment plan at Appendix 1. Photographs of the Compartments are included at Appendix 2.

- 4.2 Compartment 1 (3.07 ha) (light green on plan) - A large roughly triangular plantation to the north and east of the main access road. The compartment has informal access provided by a footbridge over the tributary from the carpark. Orienteering and fairy trails have been installed increasing the woodlands use. The area is also utilised for activities by the rangers. The woodland is predominantly mature conifer plantation of Western Hemlock Lawson Cypress, Western Red Cedar, Scots Pine and several Japanese Red Cedar. There are occasional glades of middle aged Beech, Oak and Lime with a developing understorey of Hazel, Holly and young Hemlock where light permits. Hemlock regeneration is dense and prolific in places suppressing any kind of diverse ground flora or transitional zones along the southern tributary edge. Evidence of historic windthrow as a result of shallow soils over bedrock. Gradual thinning is required to allow the development of better-quality specimens and diverse understorey whilst maintaining stand stability.
- 4.3 Compartment 2 (4.13 ha) (dark green on plan) - Cabin and recreational areas. Poorly drained in upper sections and flatter areas. Predominantly Birch and Oak woodland with Willow and Hazel understorey, occasional Holly widely spaced and more open in character. Railway along west boundary. Occasional ornamental planting of mature Japanese Red Cedar and Lawson Cypress around The Retreat and activity area. Small clumps of Rhododendron and Laurel supressing ground flora but providing visual separation from lower cabins. Limited successful new planting due to ground conditions and browsing by sheep.
- 4.4 Compartment 3 (2.74 ha) (orange on plan) - Hard Stand Pitches. A poorly drained and undulating area with significant soil compaction, service installation and ground level changes. High voltage power line crossing lower southern section of site. Predominantly Common and Red Oak on the western side around pitches with Rhododendron clumps along western boundary. Understorey of Hazel and Holly where light and ground conditions permit. Oak and Beech to the west with section of windthrown Lawson Cypress and Norway Spruce to northeast edge with staff and facilities area.
- 4.5 Compartment 4 (1.36 ha) (blue on plan) - Camping Field and Access Road. High-density mature and middle-aged Birch Willow and Oak woodland to the south of the access track. The woodland area poorly drained with some understorey planting of Norway Spruce and Scots Pine. Field area enclosed with mature Oak and occasional Larch on river edge. Denser areas of bracken and bramble reducing access into woodland. Rhododendron along access and river edge boundary. Occasional dead and declining Lawson Cypress.

## 5.0 Guiding Principles

- 5.1 The woodland will be managed in line with the Welsh Government's *Woodlands for Wales* strategy, using a low-impact, continuous cover approach to minimise clear felling. Management will follow best practices, regular monitoring, and collaboration with Natural Resources Wales ("NRW"). This approach will preserve ecological diversity, prevent abrupt changes to tree cover and habitats, and enhance biodiversity, conservation, and recreational value.
- 5.2 The existing broadleaved, conifer, and mixed woodland is an important feature within the site in terms of ecological and landscape value, as a recreational resource and to support the wider business ethos. It holds considerable potential for enhancement thorough habitat, structural and species diversity. However, the aggressive spread of Western Hemlock and Rhododendron threatens the site's long-term ecological value, while the future of Larch remains uncertain due to the spread and development of *Phytophthora*.

- 5.3 The long-term goal is to implement a continuous cover forestry system to reduce landscape impacts and support nature conservation. The site offers opportunities for natural regeneration, complemented by enrichment planting with climate-resilient species such as Sessile Oak, Birch, Willow, and Alder.
- 5.4 Thinning will focus on improving tree health, encouraging natural regeneration, and enhancing woodland structure and species diversity. Early thinning and cleaning will prioritise minor species and high-quality trees with long-term potential, while creating clearings in dense Western Hemlock stands. A "little and often" approach will be adopted, limiting thinning to 10 - 15% intensity at intervals of 3–5 years. This gradual method will reduce exposure risks and wind damage while providing trees with more crown space over time and space for the planting of suitable understorey species. Management will remain flexible, adapting to climate change and disease challenges, with guidance from NRW's expertise and the invaluable support of the local forest management team.
- 5.5 Invasive plants including Rhododendron, Laurel and Japanese Knotweed is widespread, especially along river corridors, and needs to be removed. Stems should be cut to ground level, and stumps treated with an approved herbicide. Alternatively, stems can be treated by injection, with any remaining growth cleared after it dies back. All waste must be chipped and taken off-site, with follow-up spraying to stop regrowth if needed. Herbicides must be used in line with current rules on pesticides and the environment, taking extra care to protect rivers and water bodies.
- 5.6 Habitat diversification and creation will be achieved through the gradual ongoing woodland management process. Edges of woodlands will be periodically felled and cut back to create a diverse graduated woodland edge. This will provide a diverse habitat from field and grass layers to shrub, understorey and sub-canopy layers of vegetation. Dead wood, standing trunks, limbs and fallen sections on the forest floor are a vital wildlife resource. Its retention will be encouraged where it poses no risk to public safety. Oak trees often hold dead wood for many years, and this will be kept where practical. Hazardous branches will be managed through "conservation dead-wooding," removing unstable wood by hand while preserving secure dead wood. Where possible all cut material will be retained within woodland areas with trees which are being felled retained as high stumps. Stable high stumps will include nest / roost box cuts into the stems to further diversify habitat value.
- 5.7 Planting is required on an ongoing basis if a multi-aged, continuous cover tree stock is to be achieved. Wherever possible the aim will be to obtain good quality native stock from a reputable local nursery and will be genetically suitable to the environment in which it is to be planted. Planting and aftercare will be completed by trained and experienced personnel. Planting sites will be carefully selected and prepared to ensure new plants have the best possible chance to establish and this will include decompaction, drainage and installation of suitable support. All planting will be protected with either individual tree shelters or by fencing where larger areas of structural landscape planting are to be installed. Planting will be maintained annually until it is independent. Maintenance will include weeding and mulching, formative pruning, adjusting tree supports and removing protection and supports when it is no longer required. Details of planting of Compartments 3 and 4 are as stated in the Land Studio - Landscape Masterplan 415-LST-XX-XX-DR-L-0101. Planting within Compartments 1 and 2 will be a rolling program completed as space and budgets allow,

## 6.0 Ten-year Outline Work Program

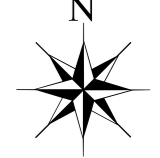
**Table 1 Programme 2025 -2035**

Compartment	Operation	2025/26	2027/28	2029/30	2031/32	2033/34
All	Safety inspection and tree works					
All	Litter pick					
1	Thinning concentrating on the removal of dense hemlock, particularly along riverbanks					
1,3,4	Thin high density trees by 10 -15%					
1,2,3,4	Remove invasive species and treat stumps					
3	Stabilise larger trees within falling distance of railway					
1,2,3,4	Install understorey planting within existing woodland areas					
1,2,3,4	Select and install high canopy native species where space and light permits					
1,2,3,4	Maintenance of new planting					
1	Thin and cut back woodland edge to create graduated habitat					
1,2,3,4	Modify standing deadwood stumps to provide nesting and roosting opportunities					
All	Review and update plan					



## Appendix 1. SITE COMPARTMENT PLAN

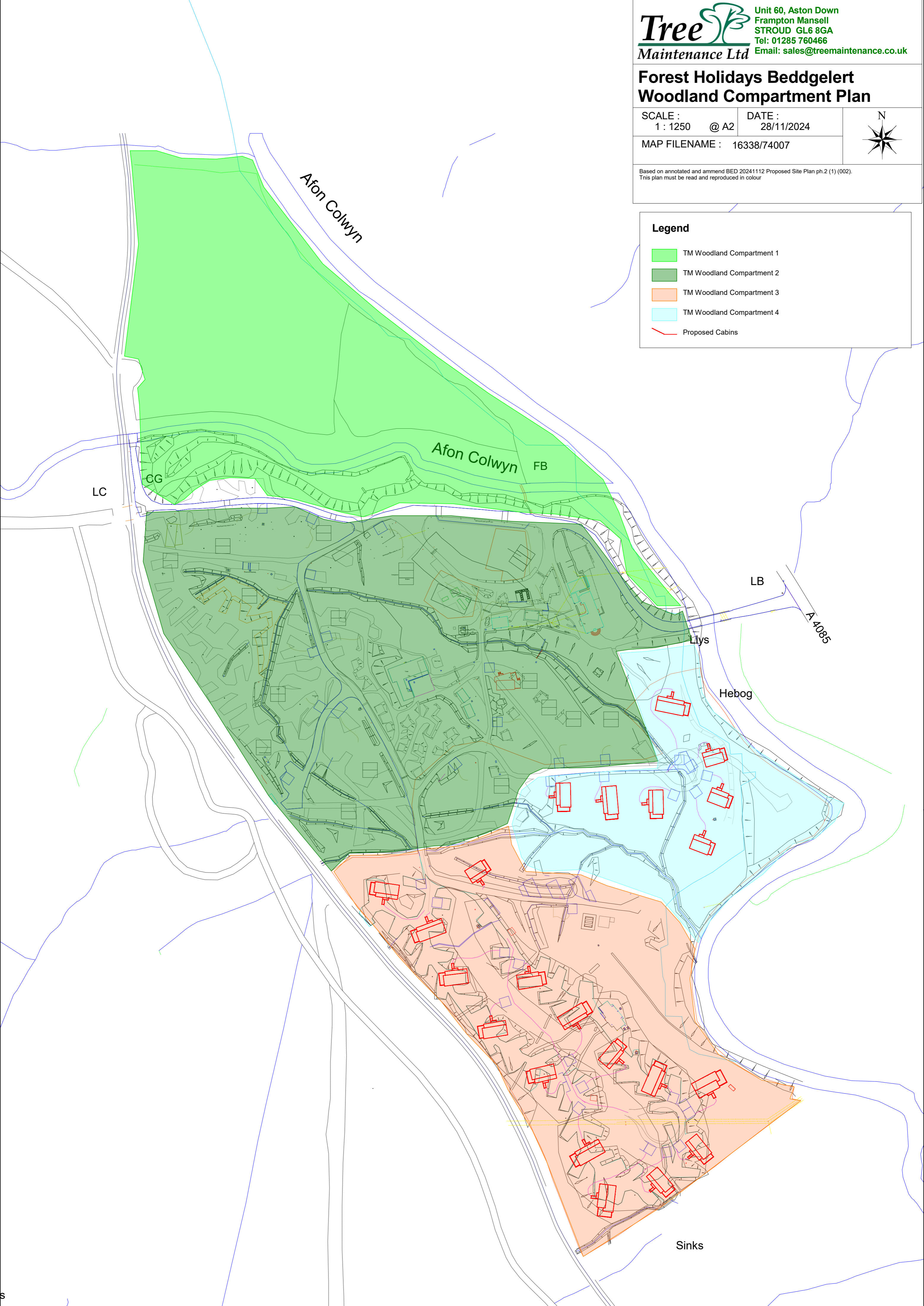
**Forest Holidays Beddgelert  
 Woodland Compartment Plan**

SCALE : 1 : 1250 @ A2	DATE : 28/11/2024	
MAP FILENAME : 16338/74007		

Based on annotated and ammend BED 20241112 Proposed Site Plan ph.2 (1) (002).  
 This plan must be read and reproduced in colour

**Legend**

- TM Woodland Compartment 1
- TM Woodland Compartment 2
- TM Woodland Compartment 3
- TM Woodland Compartment 4
- Proposed Cabins



**Appendix 2. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COMPARTMENTS**

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COMPARTMENTS

Site. Forest Holidays, Beddgelert

Client Forest Holidays

Date: November 2024



Photograph 1: Compartment 1.  
High density hemlock  
regeneration along river edge.



Photograph 2: Compartment 1.  
High density hemlock  
regeneration along river edge.



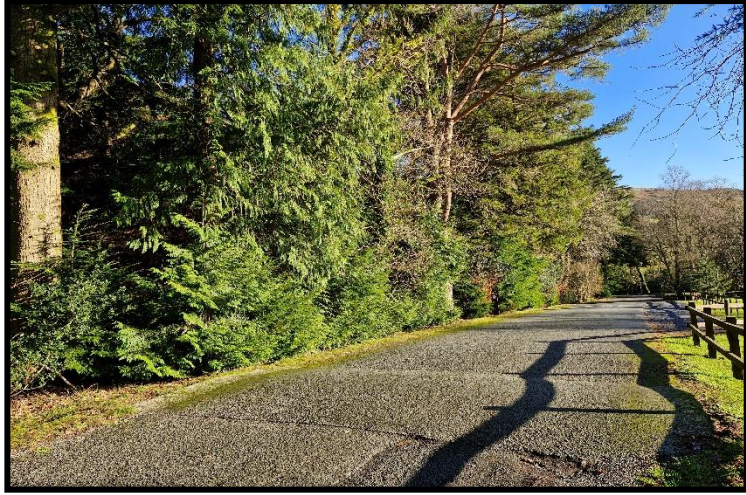
Photograph 3: Compartment 1.  
Evidence of historic windthrow,  
shallow peat soils over bedrock.



Photograph 4: Compartment 1.  
High-density Hemlock requiring  
gentle regular thinning.



Photograph 5: Compartment 1.  
Developing western edge of  
woodland adjacent to railway,  
requiring ongoing management.



Photograph 6: Compartment 1. High canopy trees to edge of access road. Gradual management required to achieve graduated woodland edge and diverse habitat.



Photograph 7: Compartment 2. Oak and Birch woodland of more widely spaced trees



Photograph 8: Compartment 2. Developing Rhododendron clumps developing in all compartments requiring eradication.



Photograph 9: All Compartments. Sheep entering the site and browsing former planting areas. New planting requiring individual protection or fencing.



Photograph 10: Compartment 3. Heavily compacted ground conditions due to pitch and road use.



Photograph 11: Compartment 3. Overhead HV cable through southern part of group



Photograph 12: Compartment 3.  
Poorly drained waterlogged  
ground conditions. Surfaces  
being eroded by heavy rain.

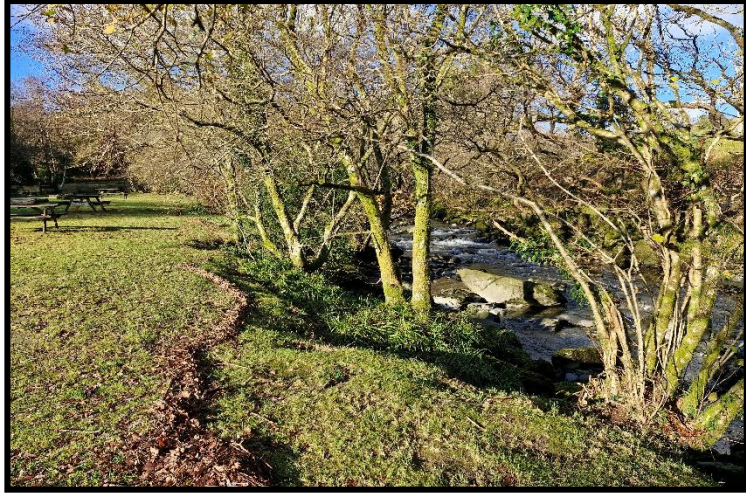


Photograph 13: Compartment 3.  
Poorly drained waterlogged  
ground conditions. Surfaces  
being eroded by heavy rain.



Photograph 14: Compartment 4.  
Poorly drained waterlogged  
ground conditions. Oak and Birch  
woodland with Willow and Hazel  
understory.





Photograph 15: Compartment 4. Driver edge trees are subject to soil erosion and instability. River flood line visible in foreground



Photograph 16: Compartment 3 and 4. Declining Lawson Cypress (Wind thrown in Compartment 3. Likely due to waterlogged ground conditions.



Photograph 17: Compartment 4. Invasive Laurel to rear of the retreat and activity building. Some screening value but requiring eradication and replacement with native woodland planting.



Photograph 18: Compartment 4. Invasive Laurel to rear of the retreat and main drive. Some screening value but requiring eradication and replacement with native woodland planting.