

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 July 2022 13:26
To: info@duddonparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: The Beancroft woods

Dear Christine

Thank you for talking to me this afternoon . I Understand in the past there was some concern in the Broughton in Furness community about the sale of these woods in the Beancroft/Middlescough area. I have been asked by the current owner to look at these woodlands in light of the storm damage last November, and develop some management proposals for their future.

Briefly there are 2 woodlands owned by my client

a) the Native woodland designated as an "Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) between Beancroft and the "back lane" This wood suffered some damage during the storm and individual trees and small groups of trees were blown over. The trees here that could be accessed from the lane have been cleared up and any restocking in the new gaps can be expected to be filled in either by natural regeneration or from existing small trees dveleoping into the canopy. It's a natural process.

The section from the bridleway north is divided into 2 sections and is not an ASNW site and has some 50–60-year-old conifers growing on it, with some beech and other native broadleaves on it. It has 2 distinct areas

b) 1.54 ha of Larch dominating the area, with some Douglas fir, Beech and Birch. It is proposed to leave the Douglas Fir, Beech and Birch/other broadleaves, but remove all the larch and any windblown trees. The Larch will be restocked (replaced) with Native broadleaves such as Oak Birch, Small-leaved Lime, Wild Cherry hazel etc to establish a mainly native woodland. This is the rocky hill section by the road.

c) The lower level area behind the larch is 2.34ha dominated by mature Sitka Spruce, some of which was blown down during last winter's gales. It is my view, based on experience, that these trees will continue to blow down as they get taller/bigger. They currently average just over 1cubic meter each, and are an optimum commercial size. Therefore, it is intended to clear-fell all the spruce and restock this area with the most suitable species for this soil type, which is spruce, with 10% alder along the existing boundary drain.

I have submitted to the Forestry Commission a Felling Licence application, with the above restocking conditions and hope to get their approval soon.

I hope the Parish Council can support this management approach to develop a sustainable mixed woodland for generations to come and see that the long- term future of these woodlands is in safe and responsible hands. I understand the genral perception that people have, is that woodlands do not appear change over time, but they do and that change should be managed as in all aspects of life.

Thank you for letting me put the case for woodland management

Mike Smith B.Sc(hons) MICFor