

# Landmarc Forestry Operations

## Erlestoke Woods

Green Spruce Aphid (*Elatobium abietinum*) and Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) have now been confirmed in this woodland and is the cause of the rapid decline and death of the Norway Spruce trees.

The plantation trees have also reached the end of their commercial life, and are due to be felled as part of normal forest crop management (please see map below). Only the Norway Spruce will be felled; all healthy broadleaved trees – Oak, Beech, Ash etc. – will be retained. Particular care will be taken to protect the mature trees such as the large Copper Beech tree.

All forestry operations are managed by Landmarc Support Services on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, with these felling operations due to be undertaken by Euroforest Limited.

During the felling operations parts of the woodland will be closed for public safety. Please observe all signs and barriers, and keep dogs on leads. The work is planned to start in September and is anticipated to take no more than 4 weeks to complete. The start date will be posted on information boards as soon as it is finalised.

The trees will be felled by a purpose-built harvester and the timber stacked beside the tracks to be collected by timber lorries, no more than three times a day. Please therefore be aware and keep clear of large vehicles moving in the wood, and do not park at the main entrance to the wood – alternative parking is available at the church and cricket ground car parks. All operations will be limited to between the hours of 0600 and 1800 Monday to Friday. Outside these times the woodland will be open to the public, but please do not leave the footpaths or climb on the timber stacks.

The initial visual impact of clear felling is often shocking, but woodlands quickly recover.

Once the Spruce has been felled and all the timber removed, these areas will be replanted: Broadleaf species will include Oaks, Maples, Beech and Hornbeam, Rowan, Crab Apple and Cherry. Honey Fungus resistant conifers, including Pines, Firs and Yew, will also make up a small proportion of the planting, as well as scrub species such as Spindle, Hazel and Guelder Rose. This list is not exhaustive and there is likely to be greater variety in the final planting scheme. The reason for such a varied woodland is to provide a highly biodiverse habitat for wildlife and ensure that the woodland is far more resilient to pests and diseases. A total of 3,600 trees will be planted in the late winter months before spring 2017. These will be in tree tubes to protect them from deer damage and provide a microclimate to help each individual tree establish itself.

Along with the increase in sunlight reaching the woodland floor, the forestry operations will disturb the top soil and expose seed banks; this will encourage the ground flora to quickly recover, including species which may have lain dormant in the soil for many years, further improving the diversity and health of the woodland.



Over the coming years the young woodland will be carefully and regularly maintained by Landmarc to ensure successful establishment, replacing losses and controlling any invasive weeds to give the trees the best start. Further forestry operations are planned for the next 3 - 5 years including silvicultural thinning of the remaining conifer and broadleaf crops. This is part of the normal planned forest management to maintain a healthy mixed-age woodland. The broadleaf compartments are managed for Continuous Cover and will not be clearfelled.

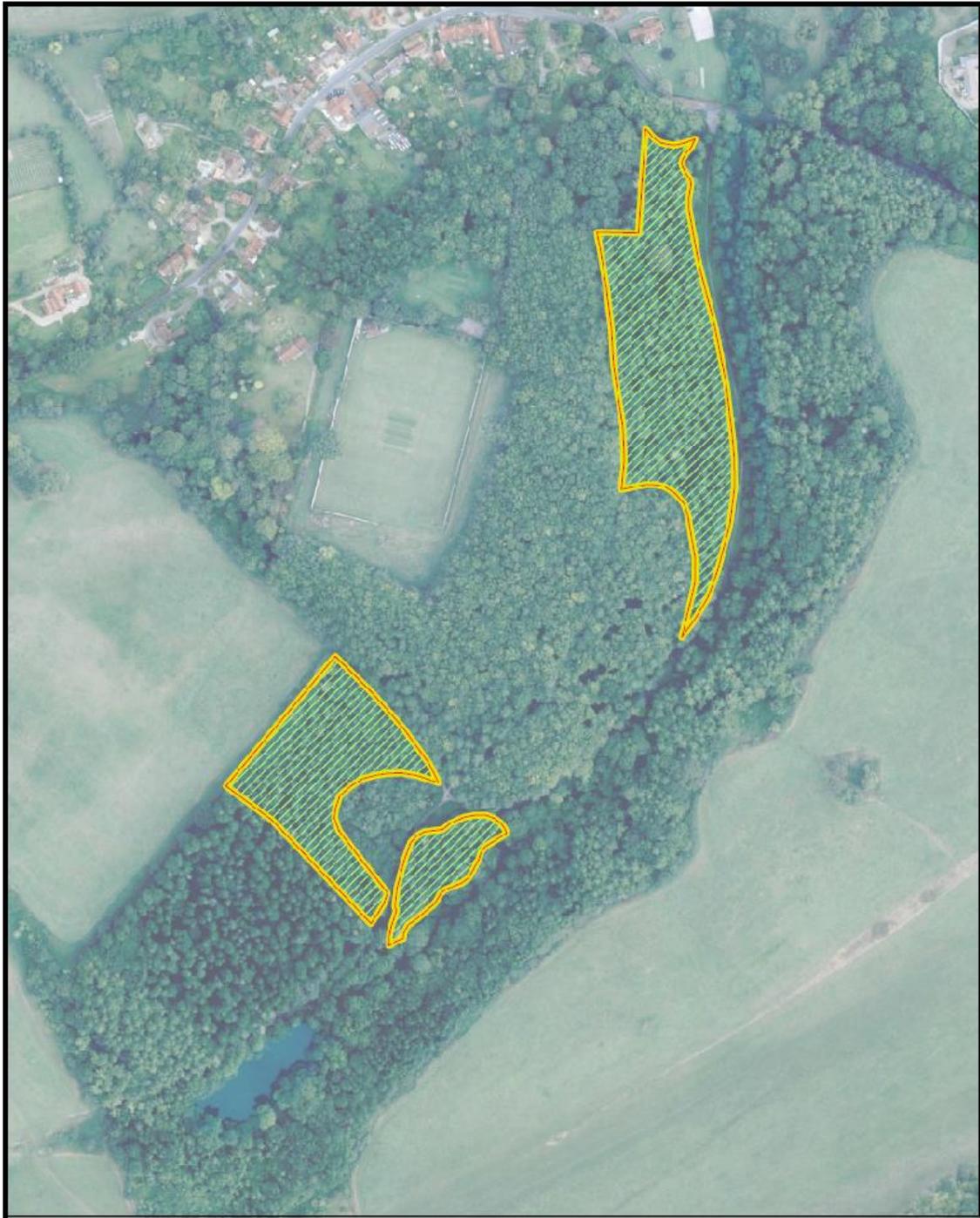
The long-term aspiration for Erlestoke Woods is to sympathetically restore the historic ornamental pond system and network of permissive paths. Funding from a number of sources will be applied for to repair and improve the tracks and paths, making the woodland more accessible to all. The proposed project will include restoring the ponds, complete with causeway dams and cascades; this work will involve clearing the pond edges, cutting back the Rhododendron and de-silting the ponds where necessary, whilst ensuring minimal disturbance to public access and taking into consideration all the environmental, ecological and heritage concerns.

If you have any questions or would like further information on the forthcoming work, please contact Landmarc Support Services National Service Centre on **0800 0223334**. Staff at the Service Centre (which is based at Westdown Camp near Tilshead and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) have been briefed on the works and will be able to direct your call to the appropriate member of staff. (This number should also be used if you wish to report any incident or safety issue on the Training Area).

**Please note that public access to these woodlands is permissive: there are no designated Public Rights of Way.**

**Health & safety is paramount: the parking restrictions and temporary closure of parts of the woodlands are to safeguard the public and ensure the felling operations are completed as quickly and safely as possible to allow the woodlands to be reopened to the public.**

**Please abide by all warning notices and barriers – they are for your safety.**



<p><b>Salisbury Plain Forest Management</b></p> <p><b>Erlestoke Park Woodland</b></p>	<p><b>PLAN LEGEND</b></p>  <b>Spruce clearfell</b>	<p><b>Defence Infrastructure Organisation</b></p>  <p>Landmark Support Services Building 9, Westdown Camp, Tidford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 4RS email: ITServiceDesk@landmarc.mod.uk web: www.landmarc.co.uk</p> <p>This map is © Crown copyright MOD 2011-2015 and may not be copied or reproduced in any form, nor added to or otherwise altered in any way without the written permission of Geographical Services (DSU). © Crown Copyright and database right 2011-2015, Ordnance Survey 10002218.</p> <p><b>Please Note</b> The scale stated is accurate when reproduced by HQ Landmark Support Services, Westdown Camp at the point of plan construction. Any other reproduction by conventional or electronic means, e.g. printing from a PDF, may alter the scale of the map. Please check the dimensions of the grid to confirm any change in scale before taking measurements.</p>
<p><b>PLAN DETAILS</b></p> <p>Version: 1 Date: 24 August 2010 Scale: 1:2,500 Drawn By: Tom Thred</p>	 