

## Update on Greenhills Woods



Greenhills Wood is currently managed by the Town Council, but was once owned by the Forestry Commission. The wood was a mixture of native British species of trees. In **1960** the Commission cleared an area of native trees at the highest point in the wood and planted just under one hectare of Corsican Pines. This was intended as a cash crop to be harvested by the Forestry Commission, but the timber was later considered to be both physically difficult to harvest and also financially unviable. It was then offered to the Council as a recreational area, as it remains today.

The Corsican Pines are now showing signs of deterioration and some have fallen due to combinations of old age, beetle infestation and high winds. Obviously there is now a danger that they will fall and cause injury, so Costessey Town Council had to decide how to deal with this problem.

In 2015 the Council found a contractor who was willing to fell the area shown on the aerial photograph overleaf. We liaised with the Forestry Commission and applied for the necessary licences. Felling commenced in late 2016 and will continue through to the end of February 2017, weather permitting. The licence is valid for five years but we aim to fulfil the conditions much sooner.

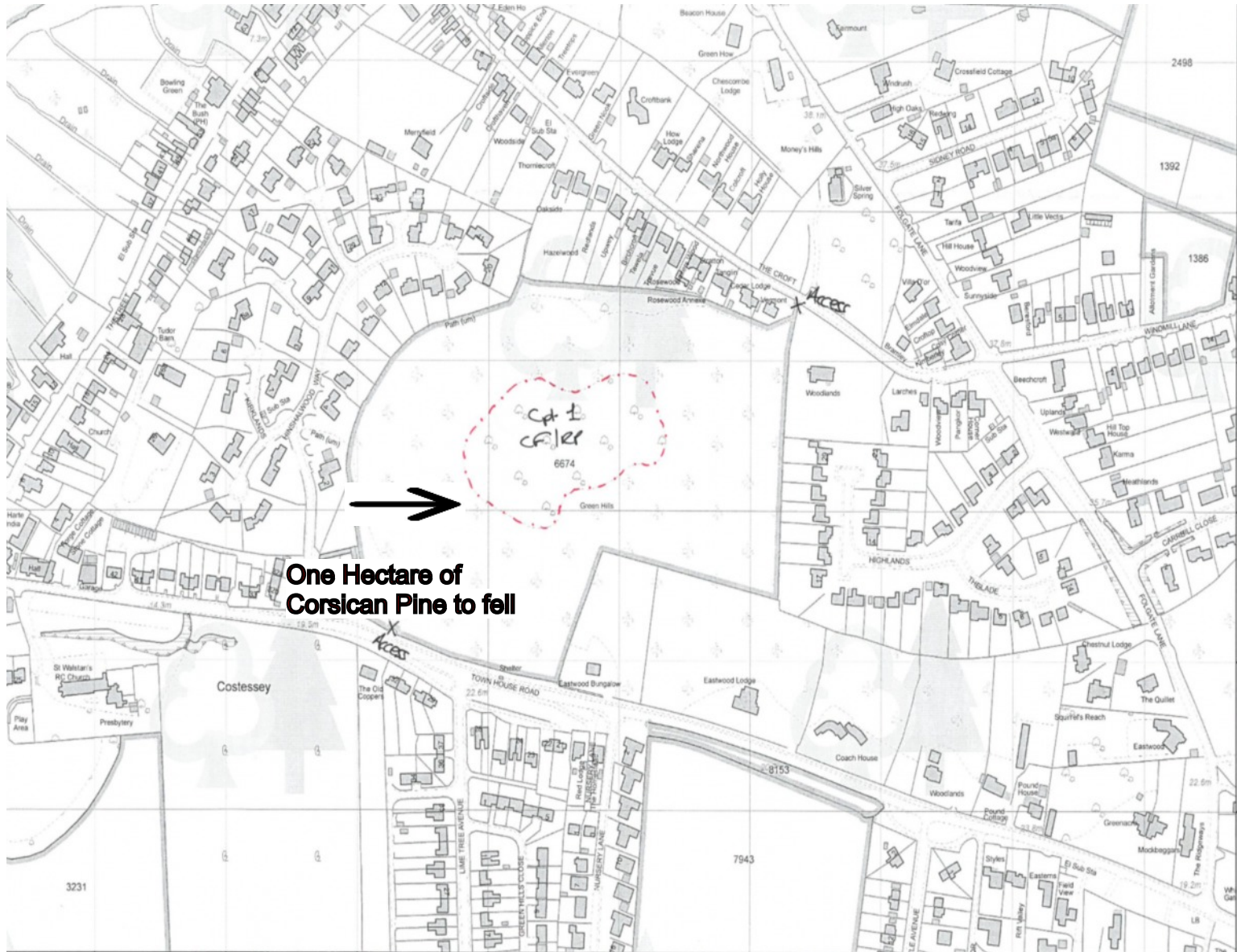
The contractor will be moving the 3.7 metre logs out to the sawmills over the spring and summer, with some more felling and ground clearance taking place over the next winter 2017-2018. The wood will be sold to recover some of the project costs.

We must make it clear that the work is only taking place in the top part of the wood. All other areas will remain untouched with the exception of the odd tree deemed unsafe. These would have been identified and removed as part of our annual inspections anyway

**During this time it will be necessary to restrict public access to much, if not all of the wood. We ask that you please keep away as it is very dangerous. Notices will be displayed and may include weekend work.**

After clearance the area will be planted with young British native trees which will grow and mature over the next 50 years and will be a great legacy to leave to our descendants. About 1100 trees are growing for us, including Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Ash, Beech, Silver Birch, Hawthorn and Hazel. Existing viable trees in the area will be saved where possible, especially the Holly. The area will be equipped with new benches, and maybe a viewing area.

We are very much aware that this type of forestry work can be disruptive to the animals and insects and we are trying to keep disturbance to a minimum.



Working with our volunteer tree warden, we aim to engage schools, community groups and residents with future plans during the replanting phase. For updates and a full copy of the licence which includes the restocking conditions go to [www.costessey.org.uk](http://www.costessey.org.uk) or contact us at The Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane, NR8 5AH 01603 742958 [info@costesseytc.org](mailto:info@costesseytc.org)

