

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management
*Forest Management Project Summary***

Project Title:

DWSP Harvest Permit Number: 5312

DWSP Proposal ID: WA-25-334/50

DCR Forest Cutting Plan File Number: 282-243301-25

Site Information

Watershed: Wachusett

Town(s): Sterling & West Boylston

Acres: 75.7

Nearest Road: Campground Rd.

Natural Heritage Atlas overlap?: Yes

Public Drinking Water Supply Watershed?: Yes

Forest Types: White Pine/Oak, Mixed Oak, White Pine

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?: No

Soils: Paxton fine sandy loam, Whitman and Ridgebury fine sandy loams, Woodbridge fine sandy loam, Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex

Wetland Resources: There are several wetlands connected by a small intermittent stream along the east side of the powerline and a bordering vegetated wetland along the larger intermittent stream along the far western edge of this area behind the houses on Fairbanks St.

Vernal Pools: None

Harvest Information

Harvest Start Date: 6/25/25

Harvest End Date: 6/28/27

Number of Wetland Crossings: None

Number of Stream Crossings: One

Best Management Practices Applied

Stream Crossings: The stream crossing will be bridged.

Filter Strips: No trees will be cut in the filter strip.

Wetland Crossings: There are no wetland crossings.

Harvesting in Wetlands: There is no harvesting in wetlands.

DWSP Forester supervising this harvest

Name: Greg Buzzell

Forester License number: 025

Phone number: 774-261-1841

Email: greg.buzzell@mass.gov

Narrative

General Description/Forest Composition/History

Working Unit #334 – On the west side of the powerline right-of-way: This property, acquired in 2016, is a west-facing hillside dominated by white pine-oak and white pine stands. The primary species are white pine, red oak, scarlet oak along with black birch and white oak and a few pignut hickory and eastern hophornbeam. Near the base of the hill on the west side there are some black cherry, red maple and shagbark hickory among the white pines. The shrub layer is dominated by witch-hazel along with lowbush blueberry and, on the top of the hill, huckleberry. The only evidence of past harvest activity is perhaps some light cordwood thinning. There are numerous pits and mounds from some long-past wind event.

Working Unit #50 – On the east side of the powerline right-of-way.: This is made up of several properties, the largest of which was acquired in 1998. It's a generally flat piece of land with a few wetlands strung along the western side adjacent to the power line. The forest is comprised of white pine, scarlet oak, black oak, red oak and white oak along with red maple and black birch and a few scattered beech. In the lower areas along the south side there are black gum and yellow birch. There are some very large swamp white oaks in the wetland in the far south end on the east side of the power line. The shrub layer is primarily witch-hazel along with highbush blueberry and sweet pepperbush in the lowest areas and near the wetlands. This area was logged, probably in the late 1980s. There are also many very old pits and mounds from a wind event that must pre-date the hurricane of 1938.

Site Selection

These working units were selected due to both the lack of age diversity in the forests of this subwatershed and in these working units themselves. This area is within subwatershed #16 (Washacum Brook). Only 14% of the forest stands within this subwatershed are 20 years old or less. 57% of the stands are more than 80 years old. Within the 40 manageable acres of Working Unit 334, there are no stands 20 years old or less. The full age structure is as follows: 0%, 0-20 years old; 0%, 21-40 years; 8%, 41-60 years; 0%, 61-80 years; 85%, 81-100 years and 7%, >100 years old. Within the 36 manageable acreage of Working Unit 50, there are also no stands 20 years old or less. The entire forest originated in about 1915 making it nearly 110 years old. Given the lack of young stands in this area and given the presence of good advance regeneration comprised of species well suited to this site, the primary goal will be to increase the proportion of young forest stands in this area while also encouraging the establishment of regeneration where it is currently lacking.

Silvicultural Objectives

With the overall goal of having a forest with a diverse age structure with at least 3 age-classes distributed throughout both the subwatershed and the 40 acres within Working Unit 334 and the 36 acres within Working Unit 50, the older overstory is being removed in patches. These patches will total 9.6 acres within Working Unit 334 and 2.8 acres within Working Unit 50. These nine (9) openings range in size from 1.0 to 2.0 acres. They are as well distributed throughout the working units as possible, taking advantage of where the advance regeneration is present. Within working unit 334 there are also 14 acres where the work is focused on encouraging the establishment of regeneration where it is lacking, including where witch-hazel is interfering with the development of a young forest. This is accomplished by removing up to 50% of the overstory, concentrating on taking the trees of below-average health and size while maintaining all of the present species diversity of trees in the overstory.

Cultural Resources

There are none known other than stone walls. Any cultural features that are located before or during the harvest will be mapped, photographed, flagged, avoided and protected, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the 2017 DWSP Land Management Plan.

Rare or Endangered Species

None known.

Figures

Figure 1. Forest Cutting Plan

Figure 2. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features

Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-E

Products to be Harvested*

Species	Mbf/Cds		Mbf/Cds
White Pine	168.7	Red Maple	
Red Pine		Sugar Maple	
Pitch Pine		Red Oak	17.2
Hemlock		Black Oak	11.4
Spruce		White Oak	0.2
Other Sftwd.		Other Hdwd.	
White Ash		Total Mbf	201.1
Beech		Cordwood (Cds)	159
White Birch		SW Pulp (Tons)	154
B & Y Birch	3.6	HW Pulp (Tons)	
Black Cherry		Chips (Tons)	

*Note: Volumes and values indicated in the Plan are as reported by the plan preparer and have not been independently verified by the service forester upon approval. Mbf = thousand board feet.

Cutting Standards

Indicate location on map	ST-1	ST-2	ST-3	ST-4
Forest Type	WO	OM	WP	RM
Acres	44.4	15.3	7.7	8.3
Landowner Objective	LT	LT	LT	LT
Designation of Trees	CT	CT	CT	OT
Type of Cut	SH	SH	SH	n/a
Source of Regeneration	SE/AD	AD	AD	n/a

Landowner Signature

The most important information on a cutting plan is the Landowner's objective, as this will determine which trees will be harvested and which will remain; **this decision will also determine the future condition of the forest for decades to come.** After having read the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Plan Information Sheet on page one, indicate your objective by checking the appropriate box below.



LT - Long-term Forest Management

Planned management of the forest to achieve one or more of the following objectives: produce immediate and maximize long-term income, enhance wildlife habitat, improve recreational opportunities, protect soil and water quality, or produce forest specialty products.



ST - Short-term Harvest

Harvest of trees with the main intention of producing short-term income with minimal consideration given to improving the future forest condition, which often results in a forest dominated by poor quality and low value species.

I (we) have read the Massachusetts Cutting Plan Information Sheet, and am aware of my (our) management options.

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have the legal authority to carry out the operation described above.

I (we) certify that I (we) have notified the Conservation Commission in the town in which the operation is to take place and the abutters of record within two hundred feet of the area to be harvested.

I (we) understand that the volumes and values (Ch61 only) in this plan have not been independently verified by the service forester upon approval and will report final values and volumes to the Director or his/her agent if the final figures differ from those reported.

Kelley Freda
Signature of Landowner(s)

6/4/05
Date

Determination and Status 282.43301-25

Approved Disapproved Expires

Cutting Plan



06-04-27

[Signature]
Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

6/19/25
Date

Extension



Expires

Ser. For. Ints.

Amendment

App 1

Dis 1

App 2

Dis 2

Final Report and Comments

I hereby certify that the afore described Forest Cutting Plan and all relevant statutes have been substantially complied with.

Signature of Service Forester/Director's Agent

Date

Forest Types

WP White Pine
WK WP/Hem
WH WP/Hdwd
WO WP/Oak
RP Red Pine
SR Red Spruce

HK Hemlock
HH Hem/Hdwd
BC Blck Cherry
BB Bee/Bir/Map
OH Oak/Hdwd
OR N Red Oak
OM Mixed Oak
RM Red Maple
BE Beech
SF Spruce/Fir
SM Sugar Maple
PP Pitch Pine

Designation of Trees

CT Cut Tree
LT Leave Tree
SB Stand Boundary
OT Other
Landowner Objective
LT Long-term Mgt
ST Short-term Har.

Type of Cut

SH Shelterwood
ST Seed Tree
CC Clear Cut
SE Selection
SA Salvage
SN Sanitation

Intermediate Harvests:

CT Commercial Thin
NT Non Com Thin
Non-Standard Systems:
HG Highgrade*
DL Diameter Limit*
OT Other*

Source of Regeneration

AD Advanced
SE Natural Seed
PL Plant
CO Coppice
DS Direct Seed
OT Other

*If Other (OT) or a non-standard system is used an explanation must be given on attached narrative page

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Forest Cutting Plan

Narrative Page

Use only if further explanation is required of information on pages one or two or if "other" was used in any category.

DCR/DWS/PLWM
Landowner: WACHUSETT / SUBURBAN
Town: STERLING / W. BOYLSTON
File Number: 282.43301.25

BMPs	<p><u>No trees are marked in the filter strip.</u></p> <p><u>The filter strip associated with the stream along the western edge of the sale area does not extend beyond the bordering wetland and so is not mapped. No trees are marked within about 100' of the stream.</u></p>
Silviculture	<p><u>In order to release advance regeneration, 9 openings in the overstory are being created, covering 12.5 acres. These openings range from 1.0 acre to 2.0 acres in size with an average of 1.4 acres. They are as well distributed throughout the area as they can be taking advantage of the advance regeneration comprised of white pine, oaks, and other hardwoods.</u></p> <p><u>A 14 acre section in the white pine/oak and white pine stands is receiving an establishment cut where up to 50% of the overstory is being removed in order encourage the establishment of regeneration. In general, the biggest and best quality trees are being retained along with maintaining the overstory species diversity with the exception of black birch.</u></p>
Object	<p><u>The objective of this operation is to diversify the age structure of the forest by removing the overstory in patches thereby releasing the advance regeneration and to encourage the establishment of regeneration in some of the areas where it is lacking. The current age structure is limited with an insufficient component of young forest.</u></p>
Other	<p><u>Haul roads have been flagged except for the portion that follows the road under the powerline.</u></p> <p><u>Trees are only being cut within the 9 overstory removal patches, the 12.5 acre partial-cut area and, of course, as needed at the landing and along haul roads.</u></p> <p><u>No trees are being cut in ST-4.</u></p> <p><u>The wood may end up being landed at various locations along the east side of the Newell Hill Rd. Extension between where the landing icon is located on the map and Gate S6.</u></p> <p><u>The portion of the sale that is in West Boylston is within the Asian Longhorned Beetle regulated zone. The landing/s is in Sterling. Any ALB host material will be handled in a manner consistent with the requirements of the ALB Eradication Program.</u></p>

dcf



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of State Parks and Recreation

FILE #

282.43301.25

FOREST CUTTING PLAN CERTIFICATE

W

Post this in a conspicuous place within the area in which the harvesting operation is to take place.

This certifies that

DCR/DWSP/OWM 180 Beaman St.

Wachusett Sudbury W. Boylston

(Name of Owner)

in accordance with the

(Address)

provision of M.G.L. Chapter 132, Section 40-46, filed in

Clinton

with the Dept. of Conservation

and Recreation, Division of State Parks and Recreation, a Notice of Intent to cut forest products upon the

Campgrounds Rd lot.

Approval Date

6/19/25

Director's Agent

Chris Capone

DCR Phone No.

857-406-0175

ISSUED BY:

Paula Geigis

Priscilla E. Geigis, Director
Division of State Parks and Recreation

Figure 2. Maps of harvest area showing approximate boundary, proposed openings and other features

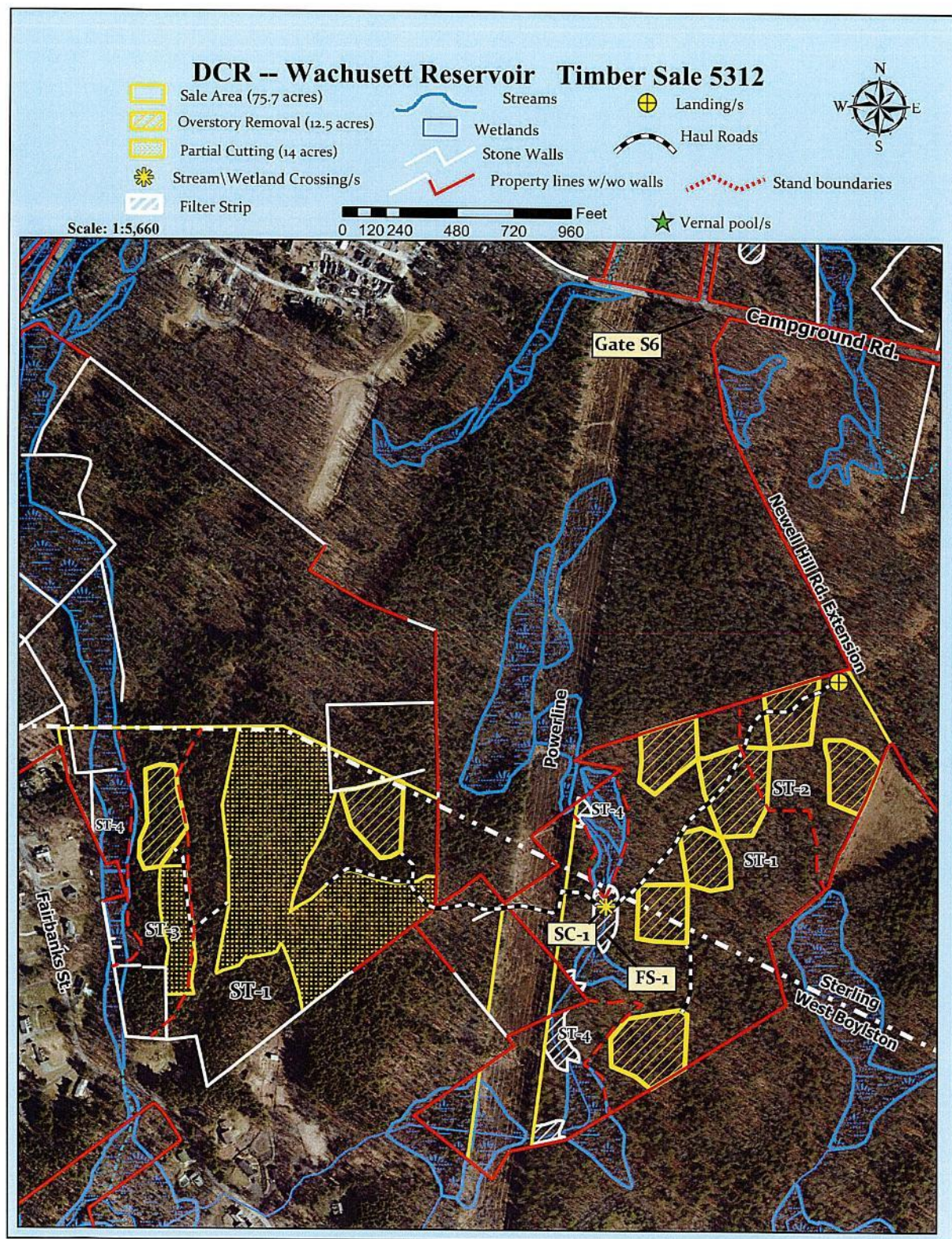


Figure 3. General locus map showing the location of the proposed timber harvest

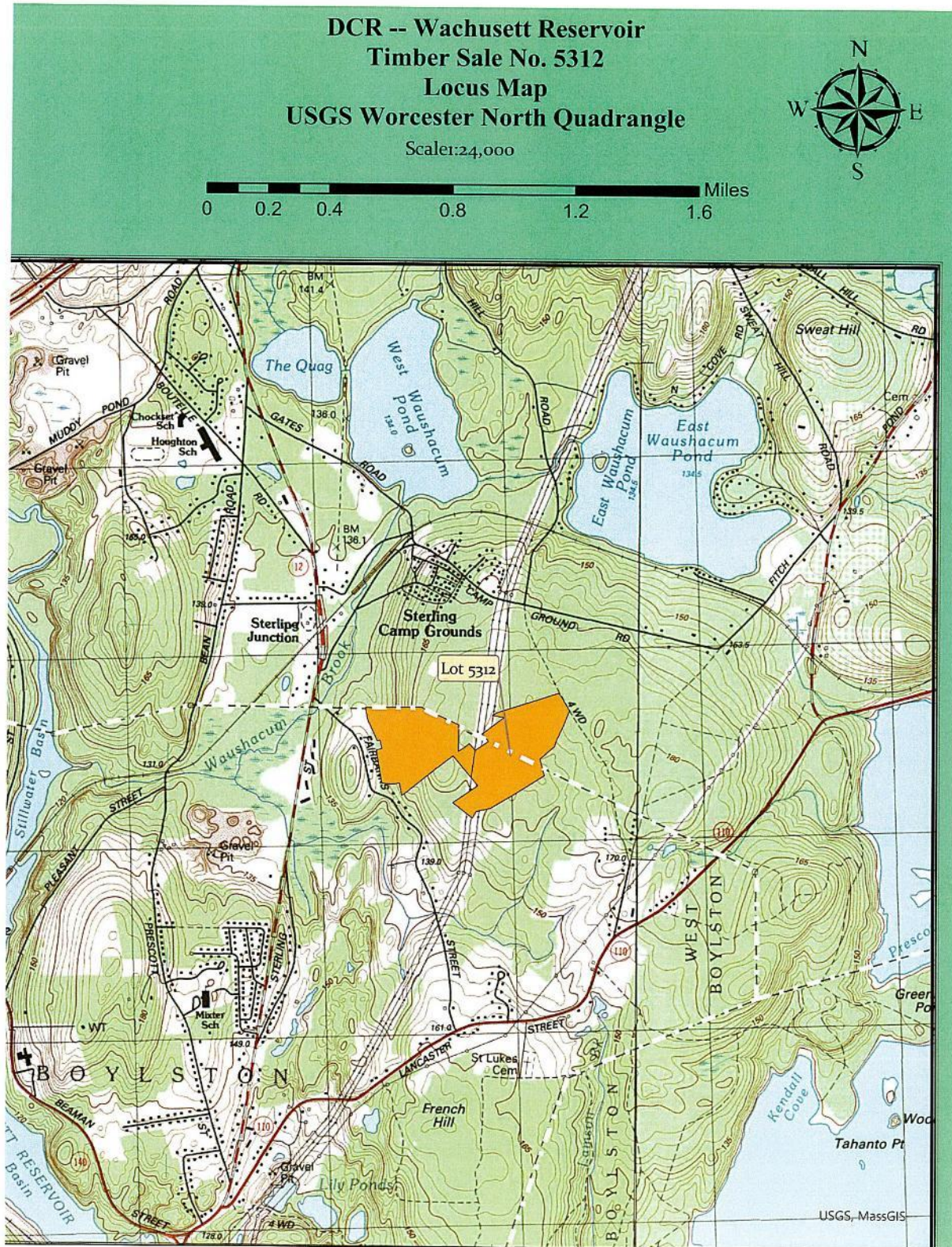


Figure 4. Pre-Harvest Photographs, A-E



A. The primary landing location on Newell Hill Road Extension. Some wood may be landing at various appropriate locations along the road heading north towards DCR Gate S6.



B. One of the only two openings west of the powerline right-of-way. The excellent understory of pine and hardwoods will be released by the removal of the older overstory.



C. These two pignut hickory trees are being retained while many of the pines in the background are being cut in order to encourage the establishment of diverse regeneration.



D. The very large white in the middle of the photo and the nearer oak are being retained in this area on the east side of the power line where the excellent regeneration is being released by the removal of the overstory.



E. Rather than cross the stream here, where long-use of the old cart path has destroyed the stream banks, the stream will be cross just downstream from this location where the stream is narrow, with good banks to support temporary timber bridging.