Forestry Commission England

Chiddingfold Forest

Forest Plan

South England Forest District

Forestry Commission England

Woodlands Included Within This Forest Plan

Pockford Woods:

(Duns Copse, Pignuts Copse, Brooklands Copse and Snarham Land)

Sidney Wood

Hog wood

Tugley Wood:

(Lag fold Copse, Botany Bay, Oaken Wood, Old lands)

Kingspark and Ashpark

Fisherlane

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Date of Commencement of Plan: **April 2016**

Approval Period: **April 2016 to April 2026 (10 Years)**

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

A separate Felling License provides approval for standard silvicultural thinning across the South Forest District estate as a whole.

Forestry Activity	Habitat Type (ha)			
	Conifer high forest	Broadleaf natural regeneration or replanting	Mixed natural regeneration or re-planting	Open
Clearfell 2027-2031	5.4		5.4	
Clearfell 2017-2021	3.7		3.7	
Mixed woodland management under a low impact silvicultural system			7.2	
PAWS restoration under a low impact silvicultural system		302.1		
Wet Woodland Management		0.4		
Native broadleaf woodland management under a low impact silvicultural system	480.6			
Establishing Woodland	5.9			
Management of open space				10.8
Research Plantation			16.2	
Rotational Scrub	2.7			
Seed Orchard	3.5			
Other (Car Park and Ponds).				1.2
TOTAL MAPPED AREA	840			

Forestry Commission England

FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Plan Approvals

Forest District:	**South England Forest District**
FC Geographic Block No:	**90**
Forest Plan Name:	Chiddingfold Forest
FE Plan Reference Number:	**304/90/16-17**
Nearest town or village:	Chiddingfold
OS Grid Reference:	TQ 00103325
Local Authority:	Chichester District and Waverly Borough**, West Sussex and Surrey County Council.**

I apply for Forest Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.

I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed:

Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date:

Approved: .....

Forest Services Area Director

Date:

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Forest Planning

Forest Plans define the future vision for a woodland or a collection of woodlands, usually looking 50 to 100 years ahead. It sets objectives and illustrates how management will move towards achieving this vision over the initial 10 to 30 years. Forest plans largely deal with silvicultural management and not the management of non forestry activities which may arise during the plan period.

This plan represents the first major review of the Chiddingfold Woodlands Forest Plan that was originally consulted upon and approved in 1999. The revised Forest Plan has been prepared following a review of the original plan undertaken by FC staff, and in consultation with stakeholders, It has incorporated developments in policy and local initiatives that have occurred in the intervening years.

Consultation and Approval Process

At key points throughout the Forest planning process, we seek the views of external stakeholders, including local communities and organisations involved with nature conservation, public recreation and the timber industry. Through this consultation process we can ensure that an appropriate balance of objectives is achieved. Details of the consultation strategy for this forest plan can be found in Appendix A.

Approval of the Forest Plan is granted by the regulatory arm of the forestry commission, known as Forest Services. This regulatory approval is usually valid for 10 years and grants a 10 year felling licence.

The Approved plan will be reviewed at year 5 to ensure proposals are still relevant, suitable and in line with current policy and guidance. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate the success of management over the 5 year period

Objectives for the Chiddingfold Woodlands

- Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.
- Maintain and enhance the favourable conservation status of a nationally important wildlife site.
- Maintain and enhance where possible the recreational capacity of the woodland.
- Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.
- Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.

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Location

Reference: Location Map

The Chiddingfold block of Woodlands lies approximately 2km north east of Chiddingfold village. The area is heavily wooded and contains a number of Forestry Commission woodlands.

These woodlands lie in close proximity and are intricately connected with other woodlands.

Landscape and Historical Context

The Chiddingfold Woodlands covers an area of 840 hectares enhancing the landscape value by forming a larger woodland complex in the surrounding area. This helps to connect other areas of woodland, heathland and common protecting vulnerable habitats and increasing their resilience. A small section of the woodlands (less than 1%) are located within the South Downs National Park and Surrey Hills Outstanding Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) respectively and 57.9% is covered by a specialist site of scientific interest designation (ref SSSI map). This designation is supported by an additional management plan that will be widely consulted when deciding the most appropriate management regime for the area.

The woodlands lie in an area which historically has been a dynamic and changing landscape for hundreds of years. Examples include the glass working industry and a history of coppice management. These activities have shaped the woodland we see today in particular the amount of ancient and semi natural woodland that exists, Bannister (2006). A further defining feature of the woodlands are the Gill corridors. These deeply incising riverine areas have been relatively untouched by modern management and are a relic of much older woodland.

The gentle sloping landscape elevates to a maximum of 50m above sea level.

The climate is typical of south-east England with rainfall below 700mm per annum and temperatures ranging from a mean 14.2oC for the warmest month and 5.3oC for the coldest month.

The forest falls within South England Forest District and is managed by Forest Enterprise an agency of the Forestry Commission.

Tenure

Reference– Tenure Map

The woods comprise a mixture of freehold and leasehold areas and provide a challenging and dynamic background to the successful management of the blocks. In the leasehold areas the sporting rights are reserved by the landowner and public access is not encouraged and is restricted to public to rights of way. A section of Tugley wood (Oakenwood Copse) is currently under lease to the Butterfly Conservation charity. An area of Sidney wood is currently leased to the Wey and Arun Canal Trust.

Current Woodland Structure

Chiddingfold Forest was predominately planted with Oak in the early part of the 20th century, however about a third was replanted with conifers during the 1960's. In some areas there were attempts to ring bark or poison the Oak which was followed by under planting with conifers. However these attempts were of limited success leading to the structure we see today.

There is a significant Broadleaf component throughout the blocks including Oak, Birch, Ash and other mixed broadleaf's.

Conifer species present include Corsican Pine, Norway Spruce and Western Hemlock

The age of the trees in the canopy ranges from 100 plus years to just over 1 year. However, around 25% of the area accounts for one age class (81-90 years old).

The introduction of continuous cover management systems aims to develop a much more varied age structure and a more resilient woodland in the long term. Across areas with lighter canopy cover, some significant natural regeneration of multiple broadleaved species and conifer species already occurs although this is mixed throughout the blocks. Depending on specific stands, supplemental planting may be used and it is worth noting that in certain parts Ash regen is widespread and the threat from Ash Dieback (Hymenoscyphus Fraxinea) will have to be taken into account during management interventions and appraisals.

Current Woodland structure continued

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland comprises a total of 231.3 hectares which makes up 27.5% of the Blocks.
Plantation on Ancient woodland comprises a total of 556.3 hectares which makes up 66.2% of the Blocks.

Biodiversity and Conservation

The Forestry Commission (FC) manage some 840 ha of Chiddingfold Forest of which 502 ha are designated as being a nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This amounts to approximately 90% of the 543 ha SSSI falling under the management of the PFE. The SSSI occurs in a fragmented arrangement covering the predominately broad-leaved woodland and excluding the larger areas of pure conifer. Below is an overview of the biodiversity and conservation highlights that exist in Chiddingfold forest. For more detail the SSSI plan for Chiddingfold Forest should be consulted.

The forest sits within an intricately connected landscape linked to the wider ecological network of copses, small fields, hedgerows, streams and ponds of the Western Weald. Chiddingfold Forest forms a core forest area within the West Weald Landscape Partnership Project which covers a broad swathe of countryside spanning the Surrey and West Sussex boundary. In the immediate vicinity of the Public Forest Estate (PFE) managed woodland blocks exist both Surrey Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust managed Nature Reserves, Fir Tree Copse and Durfold Wood respectively. In addition The Sussex Wildlife Trust managed Ebernoe Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) exists a few kilometres to the South. The Forestry Commission lease a 10 ha unit of land at Oaken Wood in the Tugley Woods Complex to Butterfly Conservation.

The conservation importance of the site largely depends on the variety of ancient woodland types that are present as well as the important invertebrate assemblage. This comprises a number of nationally and internationally rare butterflies and moths that have suffered from high rates of decline both regionally and nationally in recent decades. A number of these species are considered to be 'indicator species' which serve as a barometer for the wider ancient woodland biodiversity. Chiddingfold Forest is the only known location for Beton Case-bearer (Coleophora wockeella) in the UK and the last stronghold for the Wood White butterfly (Leptidea sinapis) in South East England to which it can be considered an 'emblem' or 'flagship species' for the forest.

In addition to the butterfly interest Chiddingfold Forest supports a diverse array of breeding birds including a number of rare and declining species. The Nightingale (Luscinia megarhynchos) has despite a national decline benefited from the scrub expansion which has occurred across the forest during the past few decades in response to ancient and native woodland restoration (see below) and internal corridor enhancement which has involved a programme of ongoing widening, scalloping and box junction provision along internal woodland roads and rides.

Since the early noughties a significant amount of survey and research work on bats has been undertaken in and around the Chiddingfold complex. The Forestry Commission managed land supports a wide variety of bat species with both barbastelle (Barbastella barbastellus) and Bechstein's bat (Myotis bechsteinii) exploiting the diverse woodland habitats for dispersal and foraging. The accompanying Chiddingfold SSSI plan has sought to effect a more balanced approach with regard to biodiversity conservation, taking account of old-growth woodland associates such as the rare bats as well as the biodiversity of early succession habitats discussed above.

Since the early part of the last decade the Forestry Commission has been pursuing a programme of Ancient and Native Woodland Restoration and the National Policy underpinning this activity, Keepers of Time (2005), was launched in Chiddingfold Forest at an event in 2005. As time has progressed the boundary between SSSI and non-SSSI woodland has been gradually blurred in response to ancient and native woodland restoration activity. The accompanying SSSI management plan adopts a whole-forest approach to biodiversity conservation recognising that the focal species function at a forest and indeed landscape-scale.

A significant amount of Conifer plantation still exists at the present time but this will be gradually removed during the next few decades. The principal native woodland habitat type is W10 Oak woodland with lesser areas of W8 Ash woodland and restricted pockets of W16 Oak woodland on the poorer soils. The Gill corridors described in more detail below support a characteristic flora and invertebrate community due to their more sheltered and humid microclimate. Last but my no means least the Chiddingfold Forest is home to a network of forest meadows and small to medium sized ponds. This combination of different wooded and open habitats give rise to an interesting woodland, grassland and aquatic flora which in turn sustains a diverse faunal assemblage.

During ongoing management interventions, opportunities for corridor widening and wider habitat enhancement will be taken to increase the structural diversity of woodland edges and provide connecting habitats for key species to disperse. The SSSI management plan has demarcated a network of Priority Ecological Corridors (PECs) to target with beneficial management. This network includes internal road and ride margins as well as the Gill corridors. Decisions about where this enhancement and subsequent maintenance work should take place will be made at the operational stage of management using the SSSI plan as a guiding document.

The Chiddingfold Forest SSSI Management Plan provides additional detail as regards the PFE managed forest blocks ecological interest and required conservation management which has been costed over a 5-year period and agreed with Natural England.

Water

The Chiddingfold Forest and its environs support a network of regionally distinctive Wealden Gills. These features comprise stream corridors that are worn into the underlying geology which form part of a regionally distinctive habitat spread across the Weald of Surrey, Sussex and Kent. The Gills will be restored to a native composition over time and managed largely as minimum intervention woodland (forming part of a Woodland Bat Reserve network connecting to clusters of older trees in the wider forest).

In addition to the Gill streams a significant network of historic drainage ditches and (in Sidney wood) stretches of relict canal along with the aforementioned pond network make for a substantial water resource across the forest complex. An analysis of the ecosystem service functions in this part of the Surrey-West Sussex boundary would no doubt flag up the contribution of this heavily wooded landscape towards such issues as sustainable flood management and there may be scope to enhance the water storage potential of the Chiddingfold complex in the years ahead in tandem with habitat restoration activity to the benefit of biodiversity, the wider environment and society.

People

Public access is encouraged in the freehold areas only. The leasehold areas are private and public access is not permitted under the terms of the lease agreement except on the public rights of way. Sidney Wood has a car park and the recreation in permitted areas is defined by local walkers, cycling and horse riding, the latter is managed by a permit system which allows access off the public bridleways and on certain gravel tracks. Recent records of antisocial behaviour include fly tipping, off road vehicle use and irresponsible dog ownership. The woodlands themselves would benefit from further investment in site interpretation to combat this, subject to the appropriate funding and partnerships.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk through the woodlands. During management interventions opportunities to enhance the visual impact of rides and individual trees will be taken by selecting trees for retention based on character as well as widening rides.

Historic Environment

There are a total of 18 recorded historical features within the Chiddingfold woodlands. These range from wells, kilns and a burial mounds to glass working sites and a historic lock site for the Wey and Arun Canal. These are all currently unscheduled. In many woodland blocks remains of old boundary banks can be found, often growing coppiced broadleaf tree's on them. As with all FC sites continued monitoring will take place to ensure that anything relevant found in the future is recorded and fed into operational planning in line with statutory responsibilities and best practice guidelines.

Soils

Chiddingfold lies within a clay basin surrounded by sandstone hills. Soils throughout the forest have been classified as Weald Clay.

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Tree Diseases and Pests

The main diseases of concern currently are Dothistroma (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, Phytophthera ramorum on Larch, Hymenoscyphus Fraxinea (Ash Dieback) and Chronic Oak Dieback. These species are all present in the woodland, however the move towards diversifying species makeup in the long term should make the woodland more resilient if a significant pathogen does arise.
Invasive rhododendron and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera)* are also spreading and will require a joined up landscape wide approach.
However continued monitoring does take place to ensure that species posing a threat to native flora do not become established particular after fly tipping events.

Guidance and action plans regarding plant health are constantly evolving to adapt to plant health threats. The sudden emergence of a disease can result in the in the need to fell a coupe earlier than planned or alter restocking plans. We will continue to monitor for disease as required and take appropriate action. Any changes to the forest design plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with the relevant guidance.

Mammal browsing is also a threat to the sustainability of woodlands in southern England. Muntjac and Roe are the most prevalent browsing mammals within the Rogate Woodlands.

Deer will be managed in accordance with the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy. Invasive non native plant species which may pose a threat to native flora and fauna will be monitored in accordance with policy and guidance.

Climate Change

Climate change represents one of the greatest long-term challenges facing the world today. Conventional forest management systems have developed in a climate that has undergone fluctuations but remained relatively stable since the end of the last ice age (around 10,000 years ago). However, the average global temperature is now rising, there is evidence that rainfall patterns are changing. There is also likely to be an increase in the incidence of extreme weather and the frequency and severity of summer drought.

This is likely to represent the greatest threat to woodlands from climate change in the UK over the coming decades. UK forest management needs to respond to these threats in two principal ways: through mitigation, including ensuring management is sustainable and adaptation, including species diversification.

Forest plan maps

When Consulting on the maps, please refer to the glossary, for further details about the prescriptions.

Location

Shows the location of the woodlands in the wider landscape.

Aerial

Shows the location of the woodlands in the wider landscape using aerial photography

Tenure

Show which areas are owned by the Forestry Commission and which are managed under a lease agreement.

SSSI Extent

Shows which areas of the woodland have been designated as a specialist site of scientific importance.

Ancient Woodland

Shows which areas are categorised as ancient woodland (woodland which has existed for several centuries of more) and the % of native trees.

Indicative age

Shows the planting year and age of the trees in the woodland.

Species diversity

Gives an indicative illustration of the number of different species within the woodlands (includes open space). However it should be noted that the data only accounts for trees in the canopy and should only be taken as a general overview of the number of different species present.

Medium Term Vision

Illustrates the proposed long term structure of the woodlands and other habitats consistent with the Forest Plan objectives. While there is no fixed time scale for the habitat transformations depicted , an indicative term of around 20 years is assumed.

Long Term Vision

Illustrates the proposed long term structure of the woodlands and other habitats consistent with the Forest Plan objectives. While there is no fixed time scale for the habitat transformations depicted , an indicative term of around 100 years is assumed.

Current structure

An overview of the current habitat types existing in the woodlands.

Habitat restoration and felling

Shows the management proposals in the shorter term, 10 to 30 years. These proposals are the initial stepping stones towards achieving the long term vision.

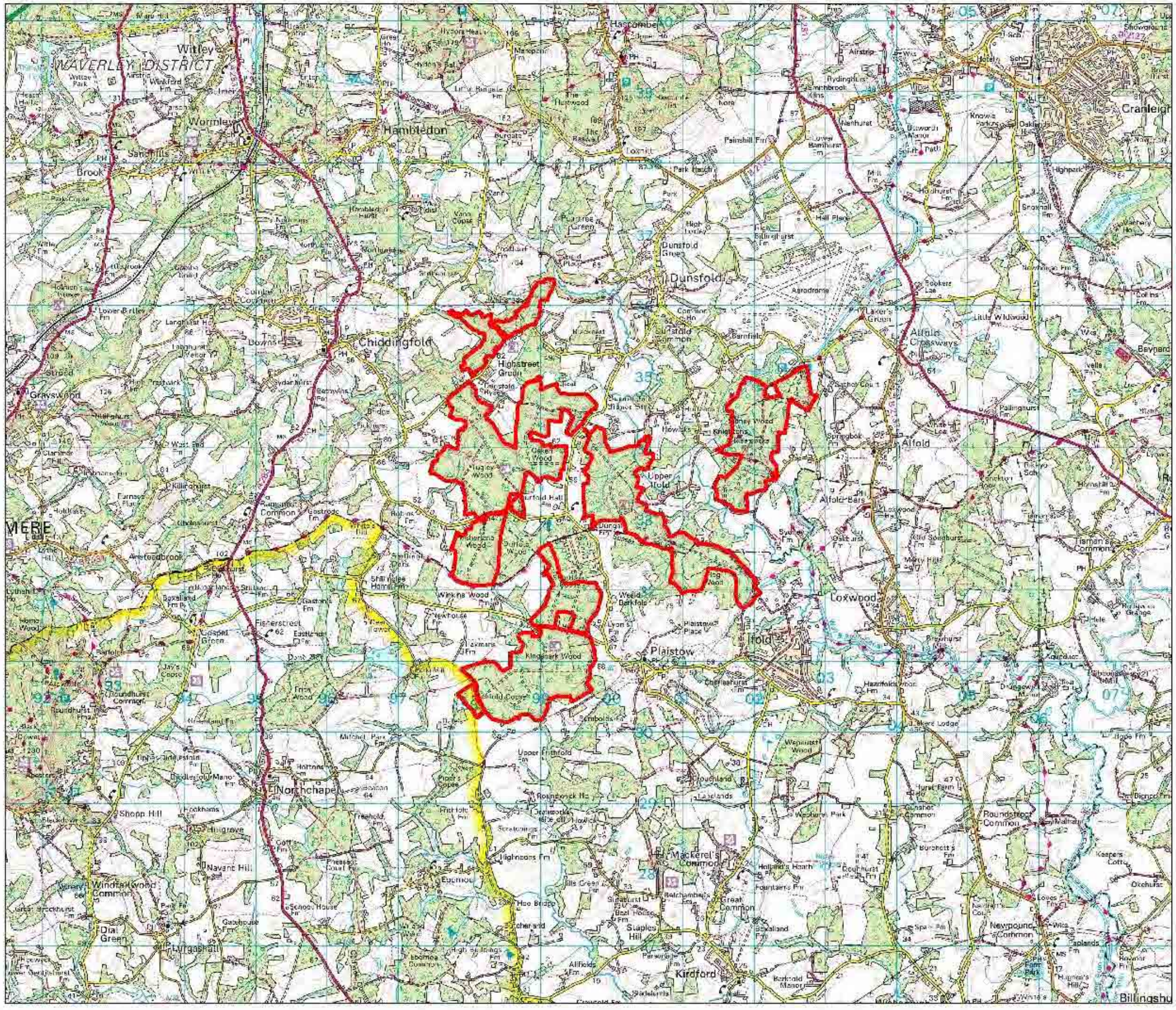
Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

Woodlands of Chiddingfold

Key

Management Area

1:50,000



Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 17/11/2015

Forestry Commission
England
South England Forest District

Woodlands of Chiddingfold Aerial

Key

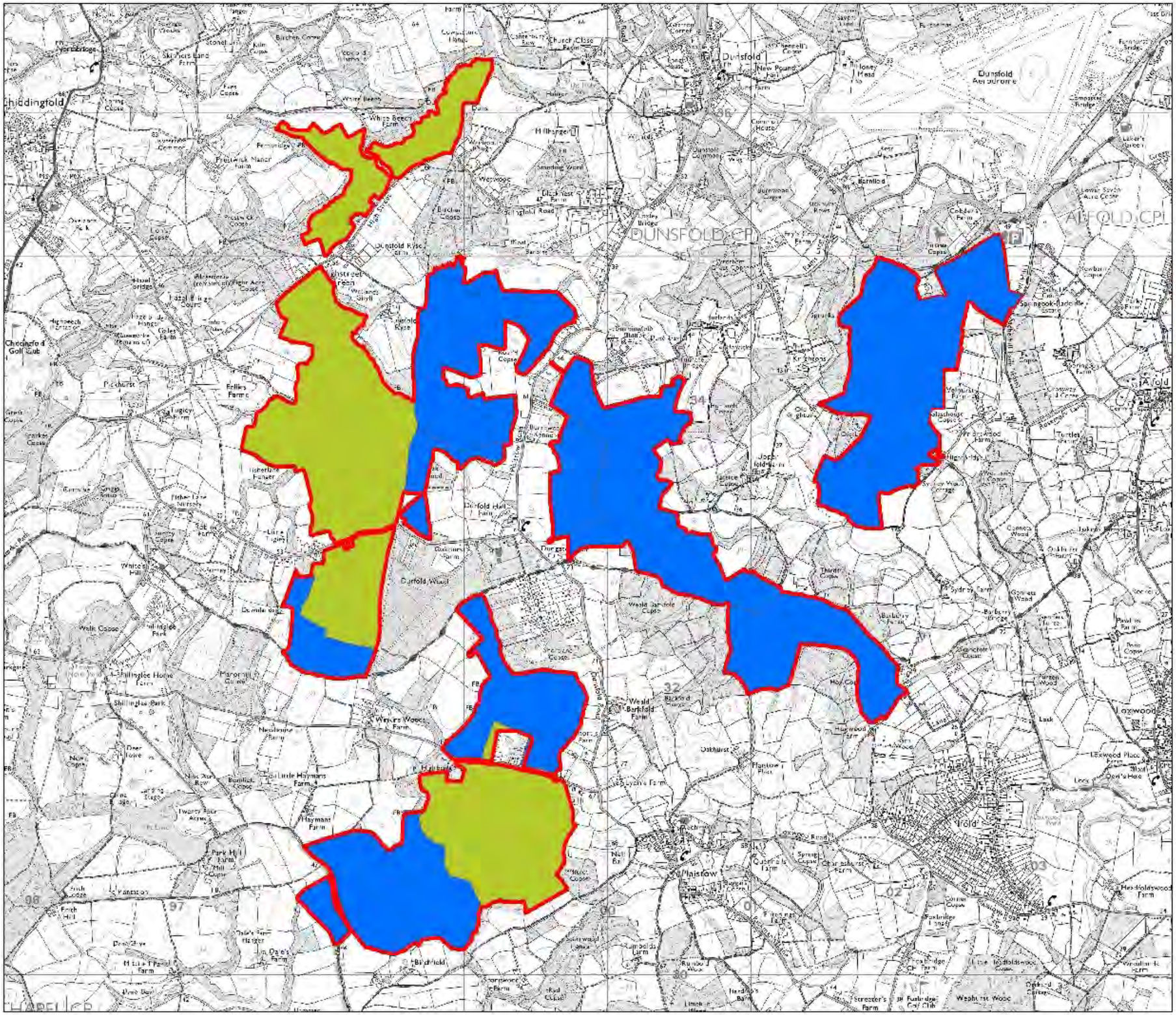
Management Area

1:50,000

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 17/11/2015

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Tenure Map



Key

- Management Area
- Freehold Woodland
- Leasehold Woodland

1:25,000

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 17/11/2015

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest SSSI Extent

Key

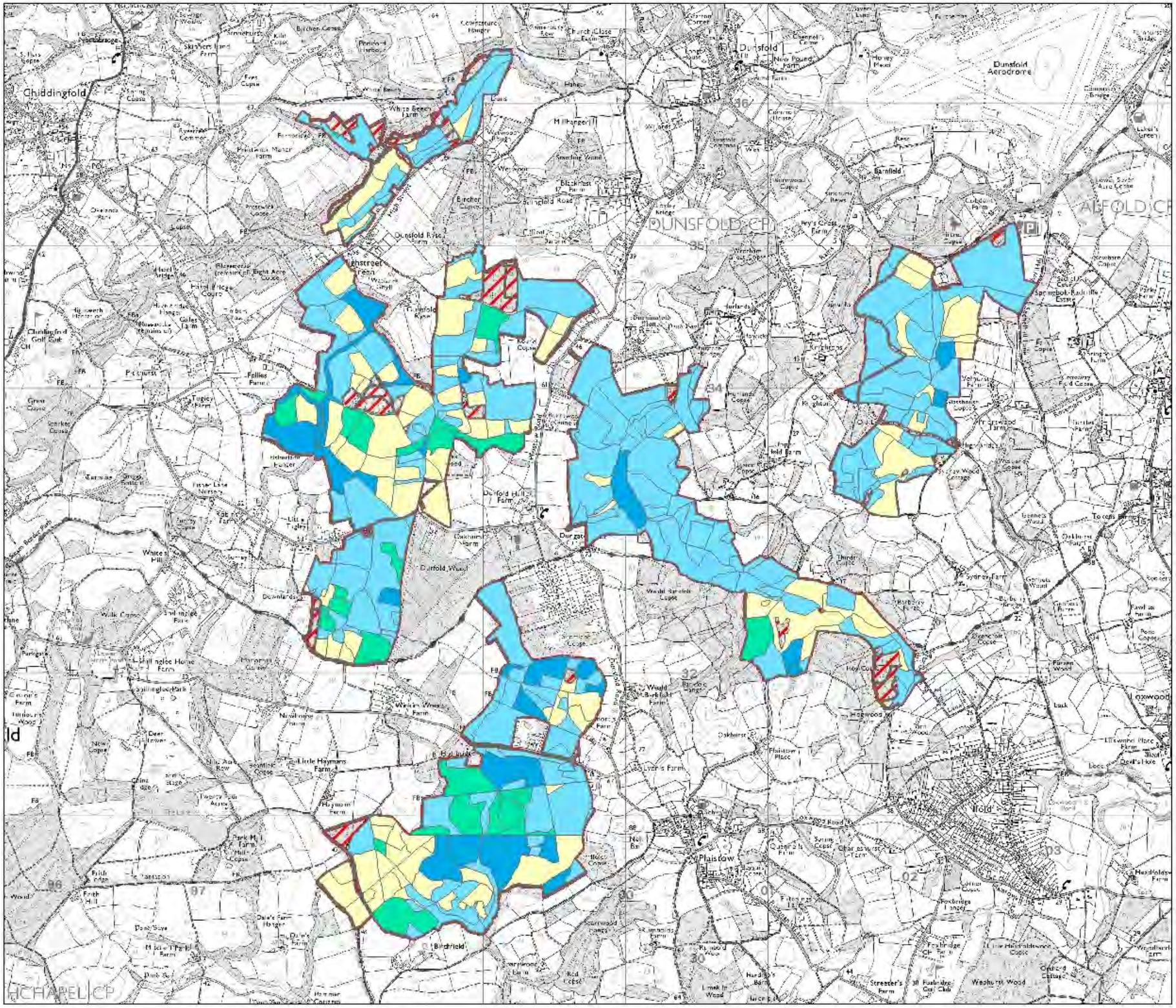
Site of Special Scientific Interest

Chiddingfold Block

1:25,000

N

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 20/11/2015



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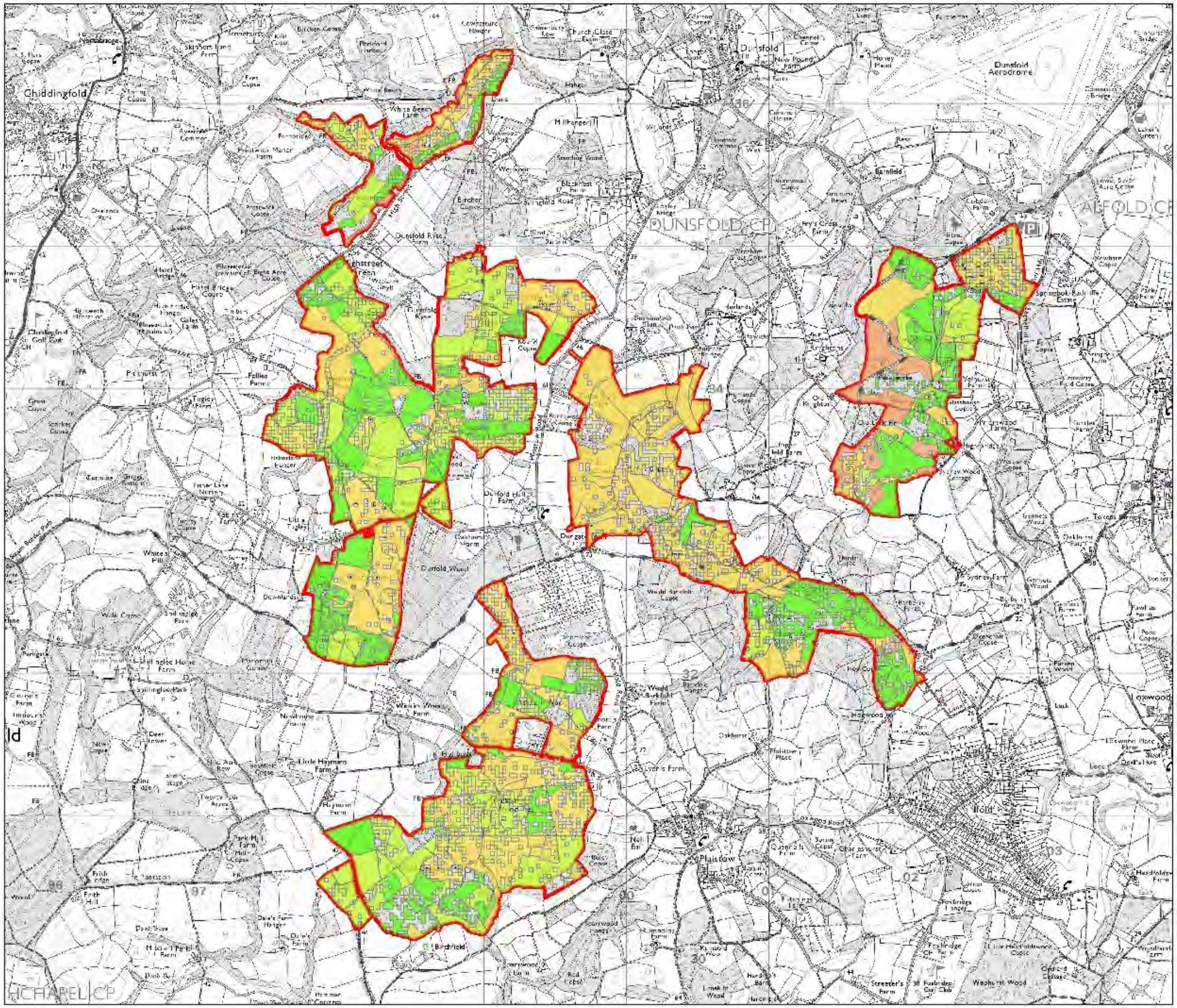
Chiddingfold Forest Ancient Woodland & Semi Natural Scoring

Key

☐	Management Area
🟦	1 Over 80% native
🟦	2 Between 50% and 80% native
🟩	3 Between 20% and 50% native
🟨	4 Less than 20% native
▨	0 Currently open or unestablished woodland
▨	Not Ancient Woodland

1:25,000

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 17/11/2015



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South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Indicative Age Diversity

Key

Management Area

Planting Years

- 1500
- 1501 - 1882
- 1883 - 1945
- 1946 - 1977
- 1978 - 2016

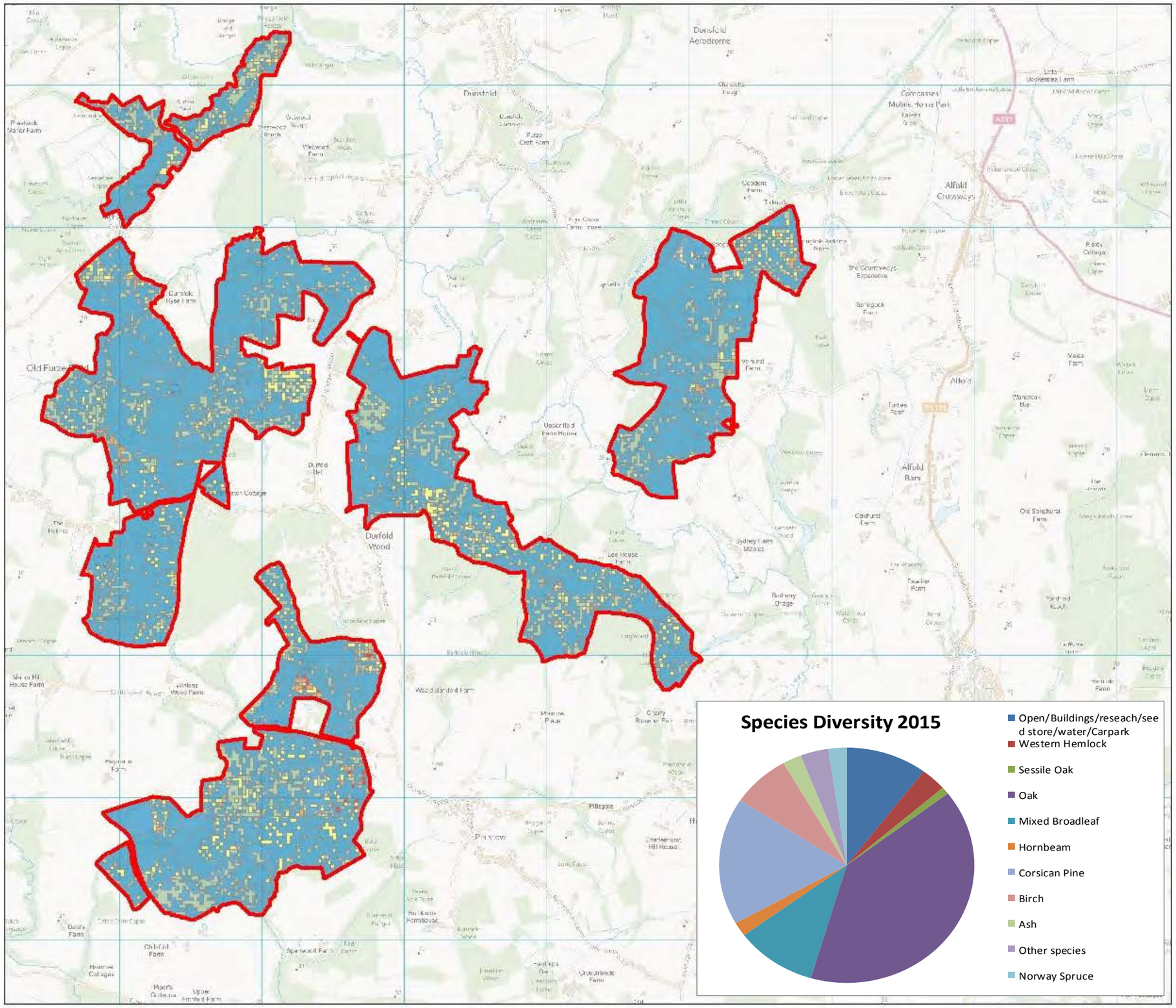
Gaps illustrate open space, areas covered by recent natural regeneration, non woodland areas or missing data.

1:25,000

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 17/11/2015

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Indicative Species Diversity



Key

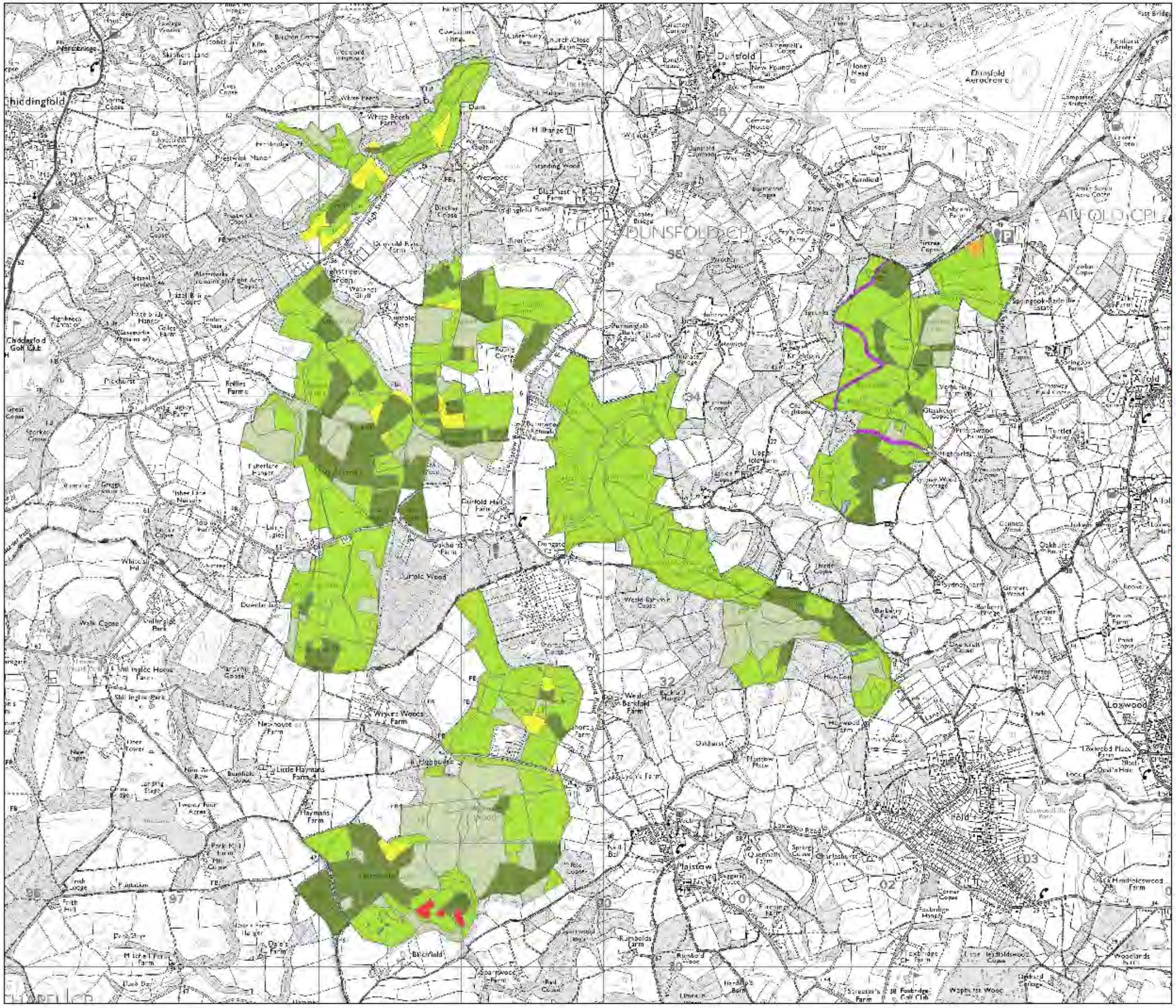
- Management Area
- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- 6-7
- 8-9

Shows the number of species within the canopy
(including open space).

1:25,000

N

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 15/04/2016



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Chiddingfold Forest Indicative Current Structure

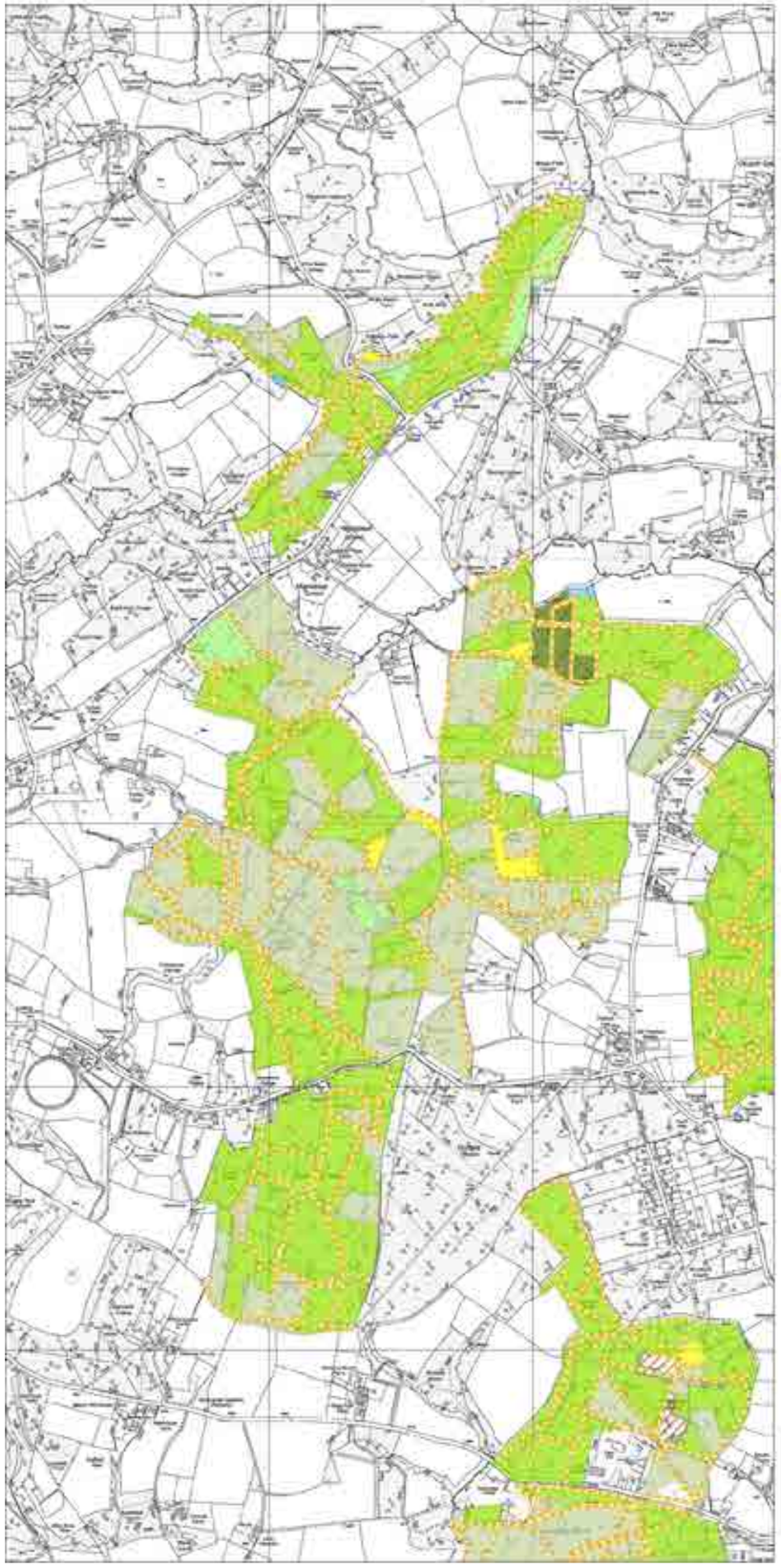
Key

- 🟩 Native and Honourary Broadleaf
- 🟩 Conifer
- 🟥 Non-Native Broadleaf
- 🟨 Open Habitat
- 🟩 Mixed Woodland
- 🟦 Open water & Ponds
- 🟧 Car Park
- 🟪 Historic Canal

1:25,000

N

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 07/07/2016



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Medium Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Conifer Woodland

Predominantly (>80%) conifer woodland

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodiversity.

Research Plantation

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balance between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Open water

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Seed Orchard

Manage as open habitat

1:10,000

A4S

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 08/04/2010

Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Medium Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodversity.

Manage as open habitat

Rotational Scub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Seed Orchard

Wet Woodland Management

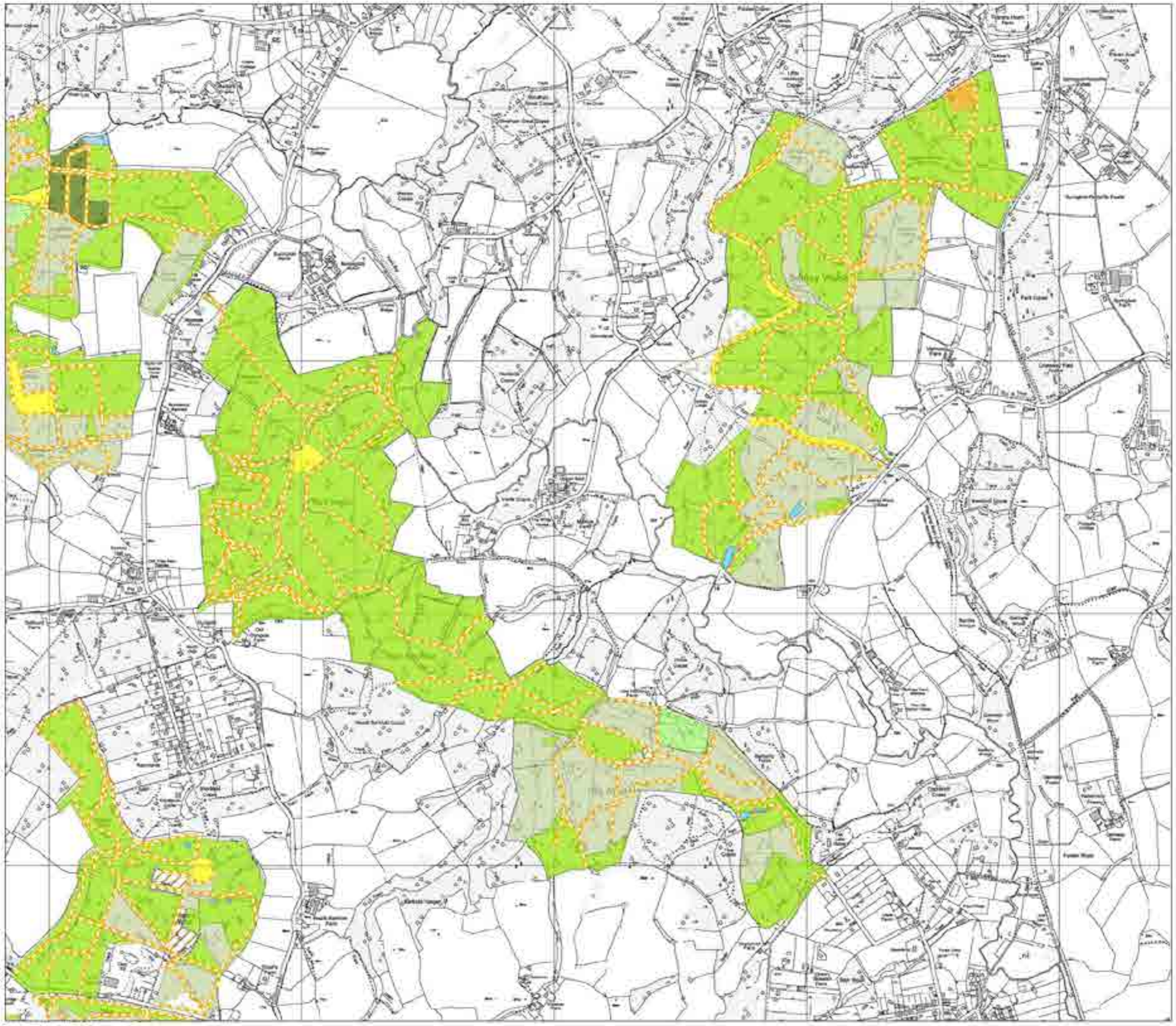
Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Open water & Ponds

Research Plantation

1:10,000 at A3

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 07/03/2016



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Medium Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

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Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road netowrk, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodveristy.

Conifer Woodland

Predominantly (>80%) conifer woodland.

Rotational Scub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Seed Orchard

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland and riverine habitat.

Open water & Ponds

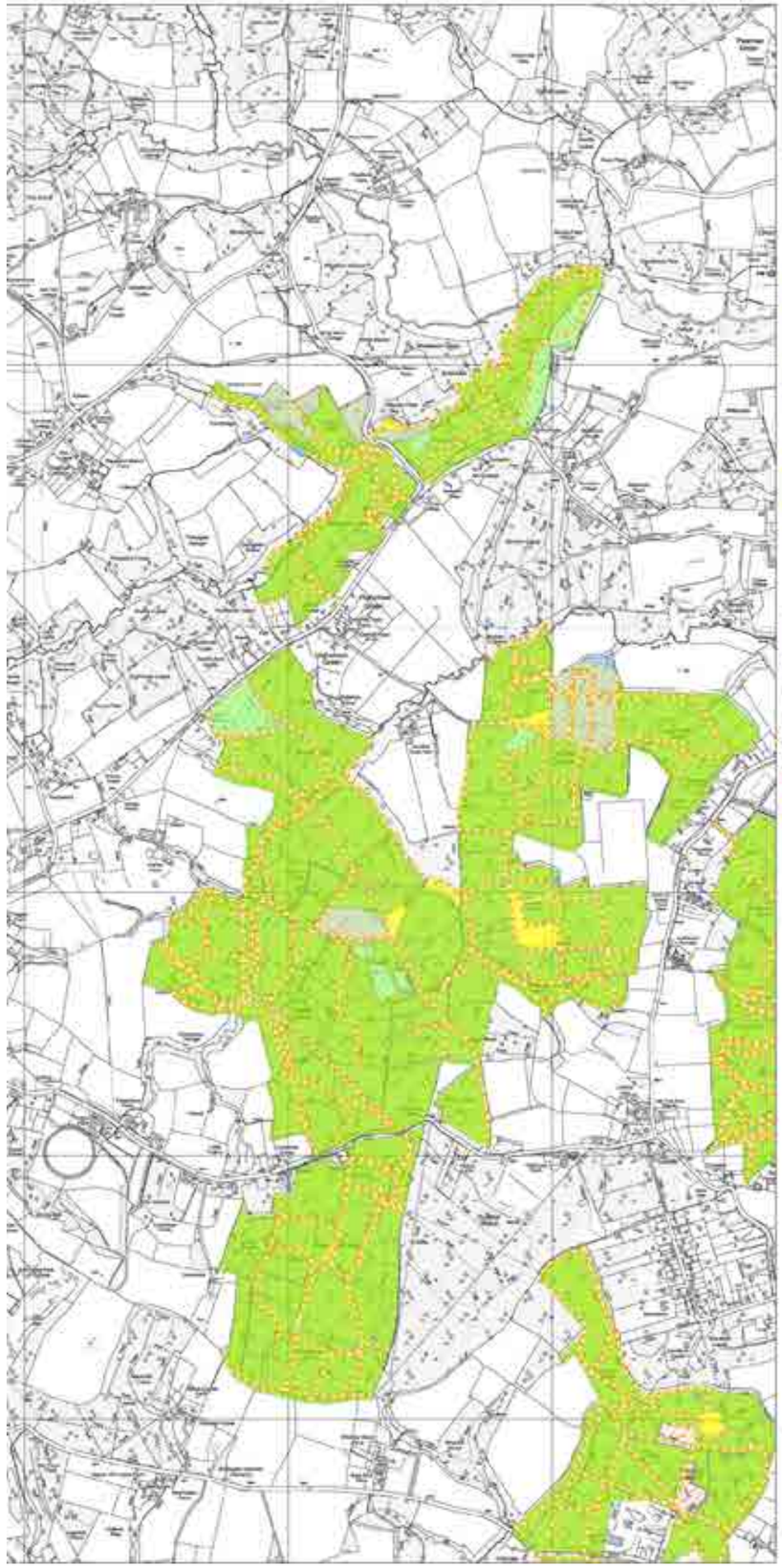
Research Plantation

Car Park

Manage as open habitat

1:10,000 at A2

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 08/04/2016



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Long Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Manage as open habitat

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodiversity

Research Plantation

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balance between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Open water

Wet Woodland Management

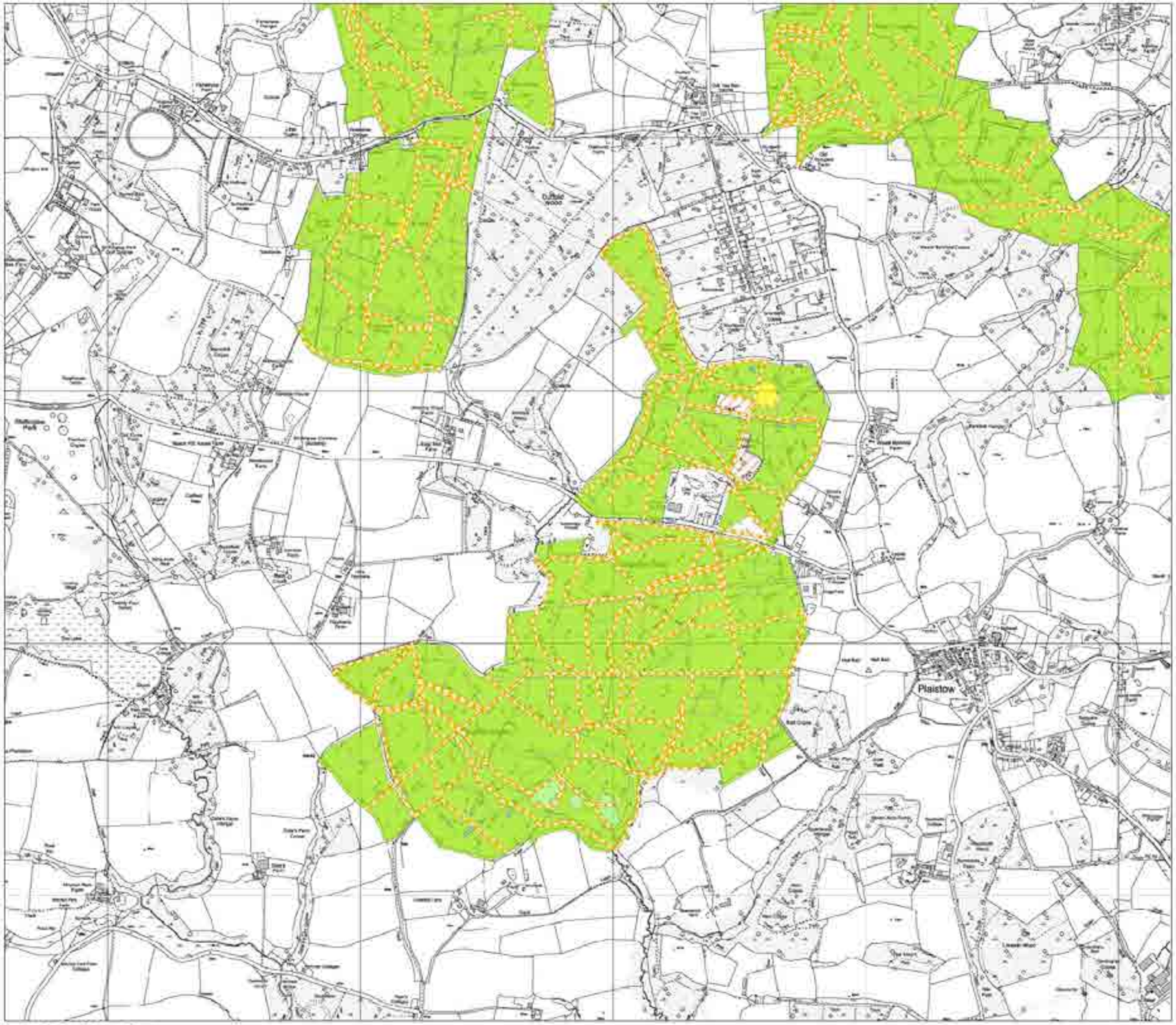
Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Seed Orchard

1:10,000

A4

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 07/03/2018



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Long Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodversity.

Manage as open habitat

Rotational Scub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Seed Orchard

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Open water & Ponds

Research Plantation

1:10,000 at A2

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 07/03/2016

Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Long Term Vision

Key

Managed Native Woodland

Native broadleaved woodland. Predominantly (>80%) native or honorary-native species.

Mixed Woodland Management

Woodland consisting of a mixture of native and non-native tree species, neither of which dominates more than 80% of the canopy.

Priority Ecological Corridors

Open ride and road network, connecting habitats and woodland for enhanced biodversity.

Manage as open habitat

Rotational Scub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland.

Seed Orchard

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland and riverine habitat

Open water & Ponds

Research Plantation

Car Park

1:10,000 at A3

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 07/03/2016

Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Habitat Restoration & Felling

Native Broadleaf Woodland Restoration

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and the gradual reduction of non-native species to 20% (5% in SSSI) of the canopy or less.

Native Broadleaf Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system, favouring the best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber.

Road/Ride Edge Management

Enhance the woodland edge, developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines in the SSSI management plan.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

Native Broadleaf Woodland Restoration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balances between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Seed Orchard and Open Habitat

Car Park

Open water and ponds

Manage as open habitat

Research Plantation

Sub-Compartments

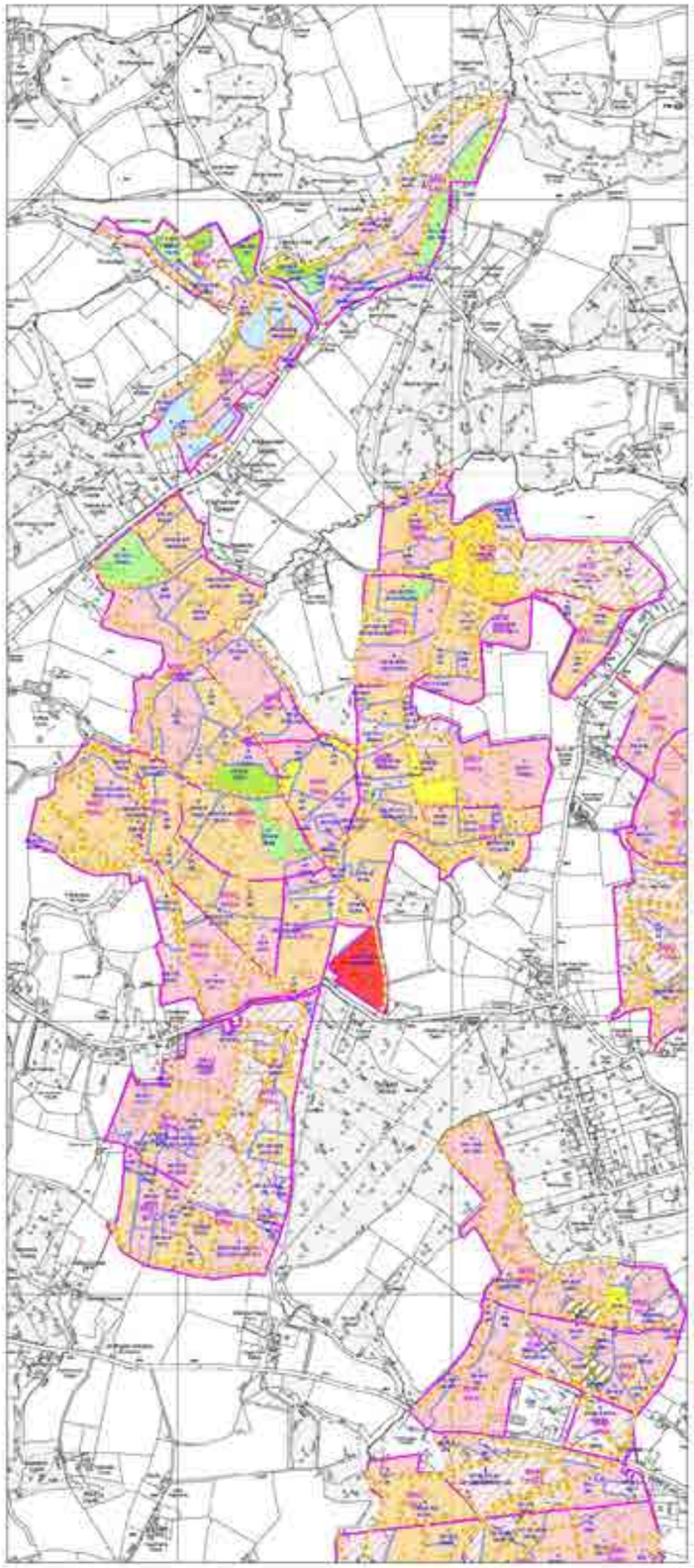
Compartments

1:10,000 at A2

N

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 15/04/2016

Declaration by FC as an operator. All Timber arising from the Forest Enterprise Estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210).



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Habitat Restoration & Felling

Native Broadleaf Woodland Restoration

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and the gradual reduction of non-native species to 20% (5% in SSSI) of the canopy or less.

Native Broadleaf Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system, favouring the best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber.

Road/Ride Edge Management

Enhance the woodland edge, developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines in the SSSI management plan.

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balance between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Wet Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate silvicultural system. Favouring best native tree, focussing on the development of wet woodland and riverine habitat characteristics.

Research Plantation

Manage under direction from the Forest Research programme manager.

Establishment Phase

Area left to naturally regenerate from surrounding native seed source.

Clearfell 2027-2031

Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with a mixture of native broadleaves and conifers.

Mixed Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and species diversity.

Clearfell 2017-2021

Silvicultural thinning until clear fell then restock with native broadleaves.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Manage under an appropriate continuous cover system, favouring best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Felling coupes must be no more than 20% of the contiguous block, non-adjacent and up to 2ha in size. For remaining thresholds see the felling table.

Mixed Woodland Regeneration

Manage under an appropriate continuous cover system. Favouring best tree and focussing on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Felling Coupes must be no more than 20% of the contiguous block, non adjacent and up to 0.25ha in size. For remaining thresholds see the felling table.

Manage as open habitat

Open water and ponds

Seed Orchard and Open Habitat

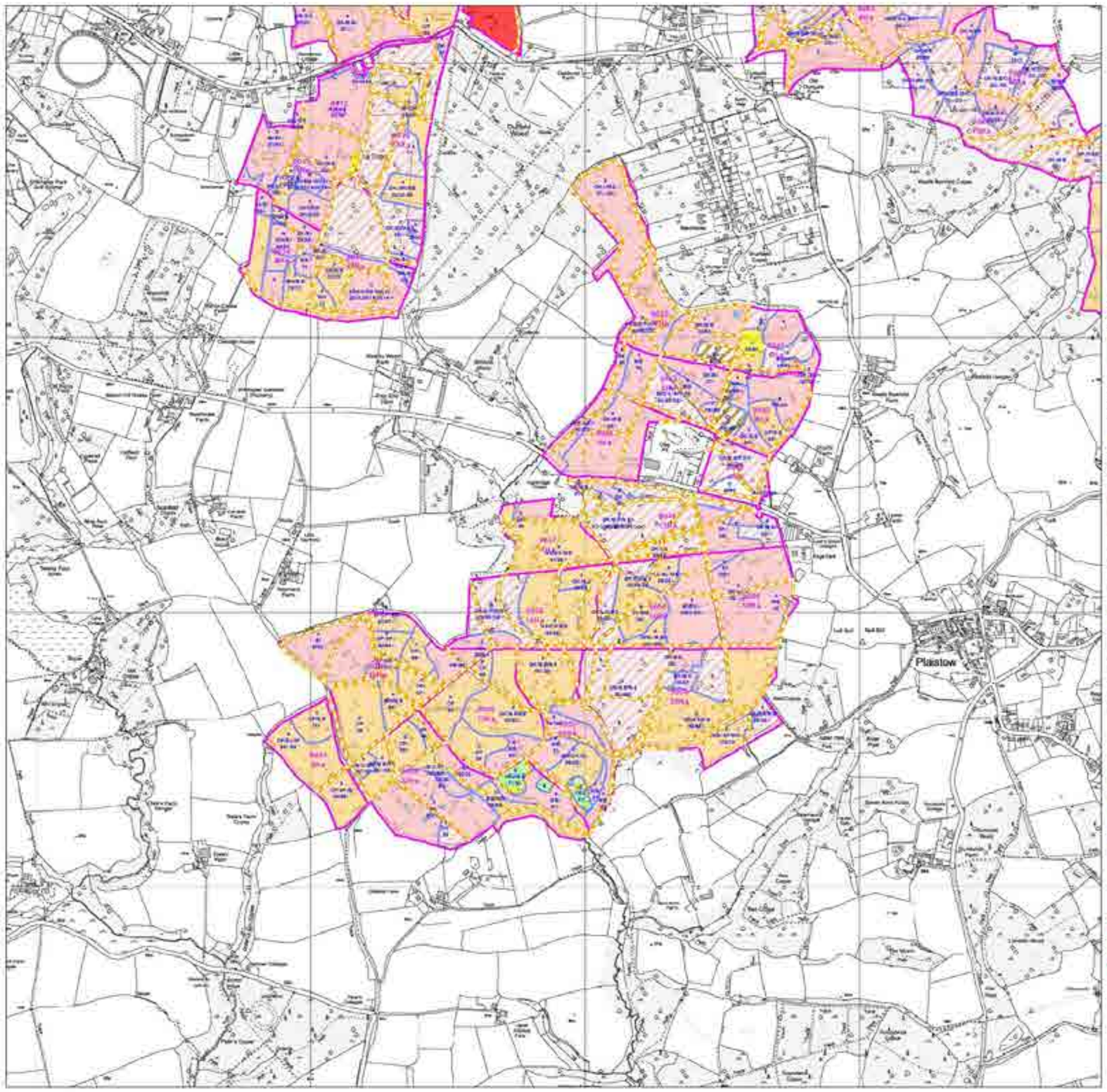
Compartments

Sub-Compartments

1:10,000 A4

N

Declaration by FC as an operator. All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise Estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210).



Forestry Commission England

South England Forest District

Chiddingfold Forest Habitat Restoration & Felling

Native Broadleaf Woodland Restoration

Manage under an appropriate thinning system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and the gradual reduction of non-native species to 20% (5% in SSSI) of the canopy or less.

Native Broadleaf Woodland Management

Manage under an appropriate thinning system, favouring the best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber.

Road/Ride Edge Management

Enhance the woodland edge, developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines in the SSSI management plan.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Manage under a reserve shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and focus on the production of quality timber and natural regeneration. Retain a proportion of shelter trees beyond the regeneration period. For more detail see the felling table.

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland. Maintain an approximate 50:50 balances between scrub and open space. High canopy will be maintained at less than 20% cover by removal of individual trees as necessary.

Seed Orchard and Open Habitat

Open water and ponds

Manage as open habitat

Research Plantation

Sub-Compartments

Compartments

1:10,000 at A2

N

Produced by the Planning Team
Date: 15/04/2016

Declaration by FC as an operator. All Timber arising from the Forest Enterprise Estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210).

Forestry Commission England

Felling Table

Felling Coupes Thresholds

Felling must be limited to 10% of the contiguous area in a 5 year period (20% for the duration of the forest plan).

An indicative regeneration period of 40-70 years is assumed depending on species type.

Native Woodland Regeneration

Coupes must be up to than 2ha in size and non – adjacent.

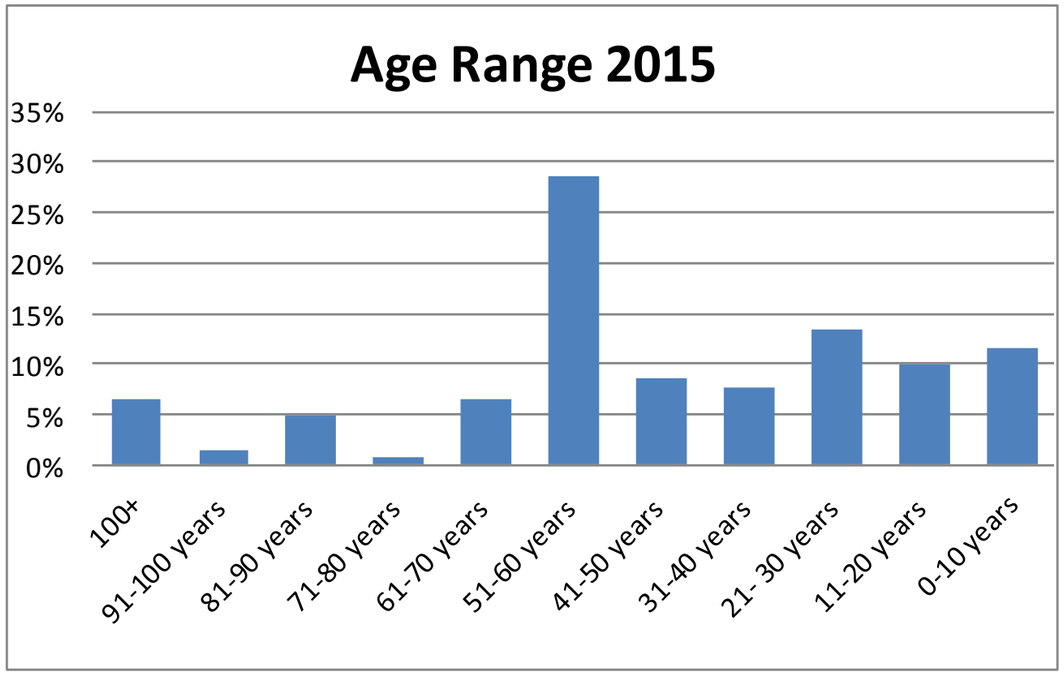
PAWS Regeneration

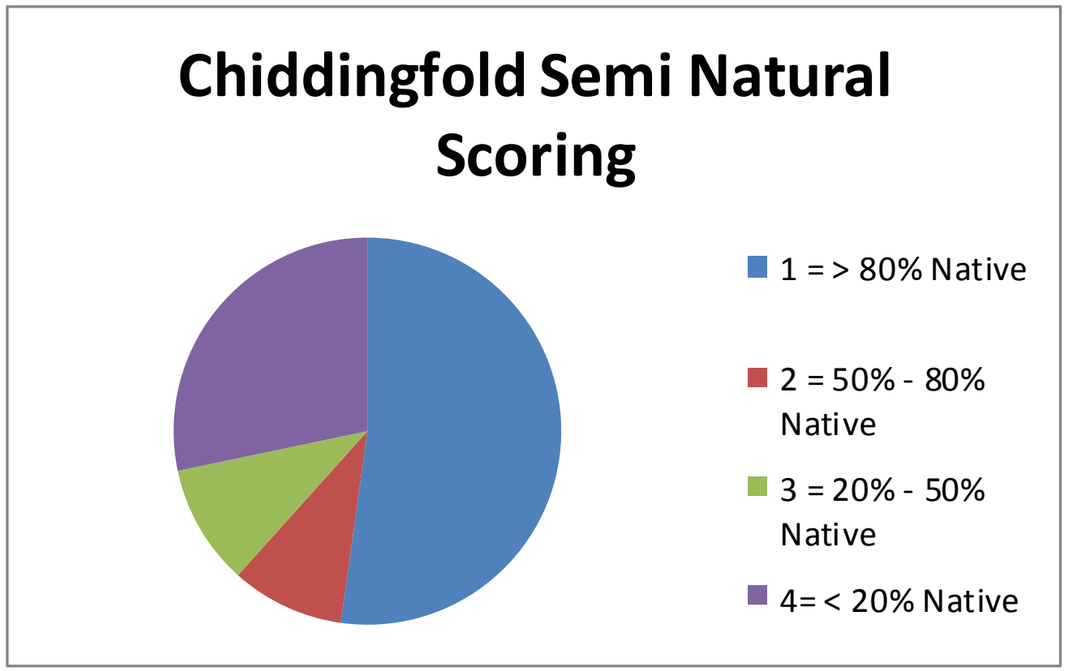
Coupes must be up to than 0.25ha in size and non – adjacent.

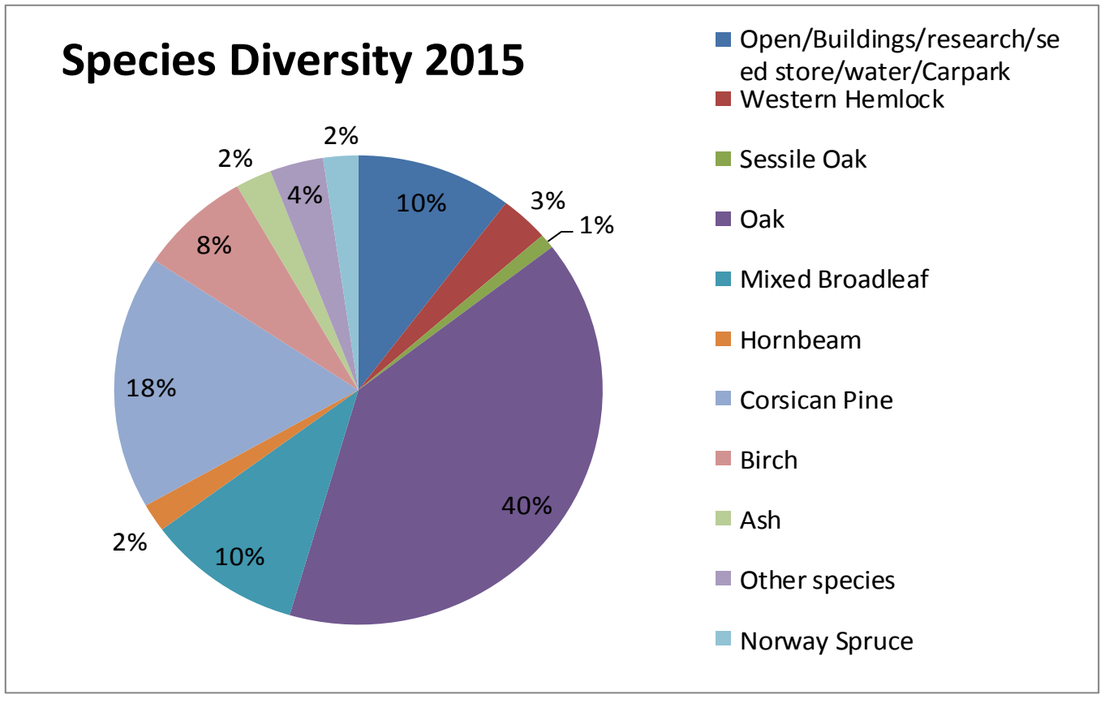
Mixed Woodland Regeneration

Coupes must be up to 0.25ha in size and non – adjacent.

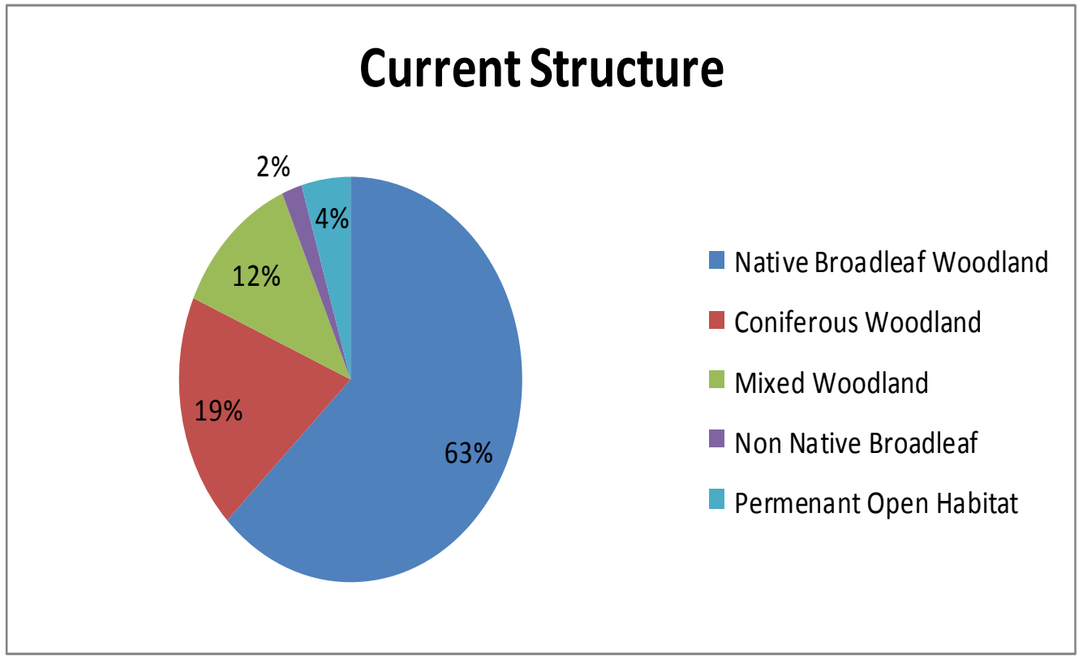
Inclosure	Maximum size of combined felling coupes in a 5 year period.	Maximum size of combined felling coupes in a 10 year period.	Date of Intervention and area worked.
Pockford	4.8ha	9.7ha	
Tugley/Fisherlane	27.4ha	54.8ha	
Ashpark/Kingspark	20.4ha	40.8ha	
Hog Wood	17.3ha	34.7ha	
Sidney	13.1ha	26.2ha	

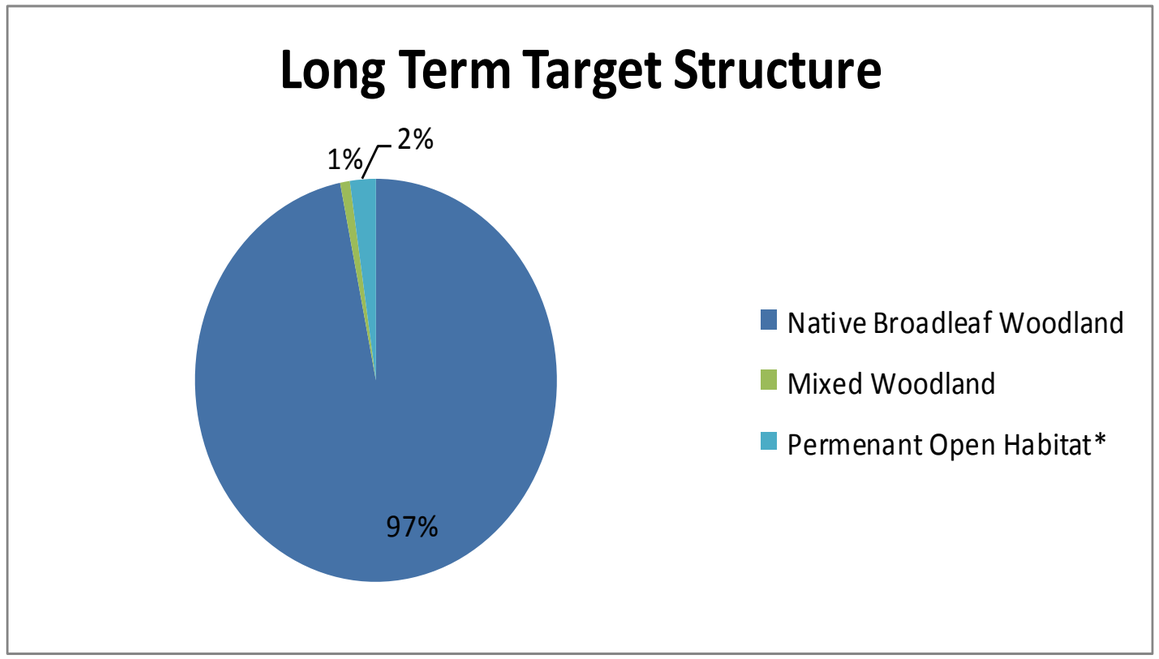


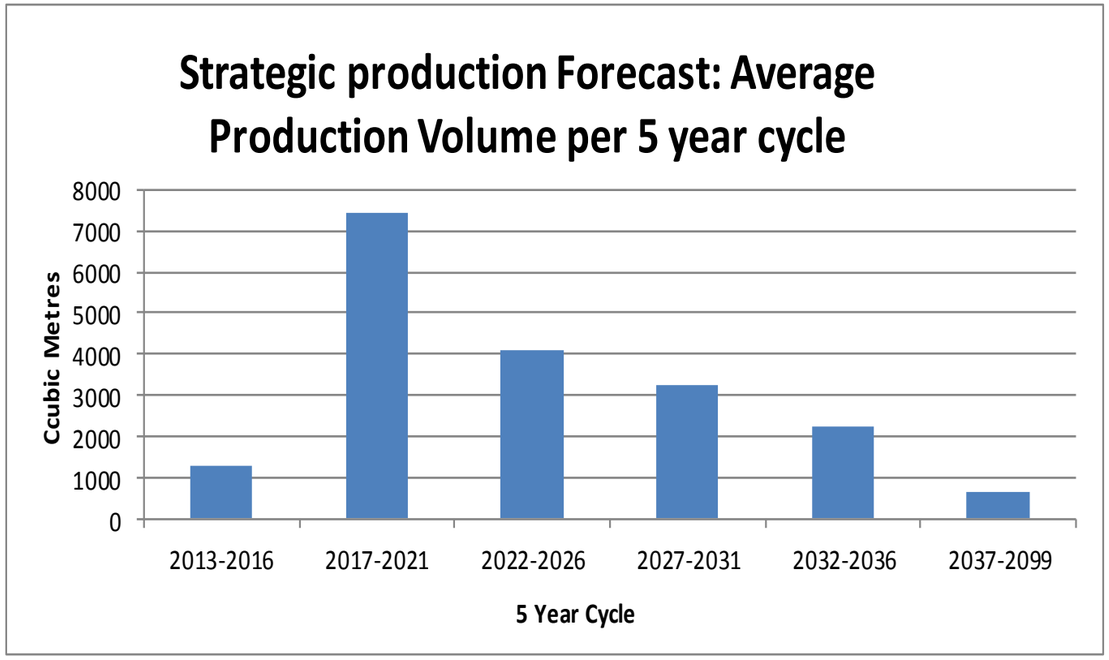




Source: FC Sub compartment database 10/1/16







*Additional rotational open habitat areas between 0.25-2ha in size will be created during the duration of the plan using the shelterwood silvicultural system. A programme of ride and road maintenance will further add this by developing a scalloped and graded structure to the woodland edge and connecting habitats.

Source: FC Sub compartment database 10/1/16

Monitoring and Indicators of Success

Objective	Proposed Actions to Meet Objective	Ref	Output year 10	Monitoring	Indicators of Success
Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.	Invasive and non native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded.	1a 1b	Maintained percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites Any invasive or non-native plant species found In ASNW are recorded and managed accordingly with a presumption of eradication.	Semi-Natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10 Recording during Operational site assessments with appropriate action taken.	Ancient semi-natural woodland areas will show a maintained semi-natural score of '1' at years 5 and 10 No recorded invasive or non-native species present within ASNW.
Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.	Managing PAWS area under a shelter wood system, favouring the retention of native broadleaves will help to reduce the non native component of these areas.	2	Increased percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites.	Semi natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10.	Plantation on ancient woodland areas will show an increasingly native semi natural score at years 5 and 10.
Maintain and enhance the favourable conservation status of a nationally important wildlife site.	Implementation of the accompanying SSSI plan as agreed with Natural England. During management interventions, opportunities for corridor widening and wider habitat enhancement will be taken in line with the SSSI management plan to increase the structural diversity of woodland edges and provide connecting habitats for key species to disperse.	3	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan. Achieve and maintain favourable condition in all SSSI units.	OSA checks at implementation stage. Natural England rolling condition assessments	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate. Natural England's favourable condition table scoring and comments

Provide, maintain and enhance where possible the recreational capacity of the woodland.	Look at increasing the accessibility of footpath and trails in the woodlands with a process vegetation management around key areas. Safety checks of car parks and trails continued as per OGB 1 and 42.	4	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage. A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.
Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.	Regular management will provide a sustainable supply of wood products to the industry.	5	Wood products supplied sustainably to industry in line with the production forecast.	Query sales recording package at year 5 and year 10.	Wood products supplied to the timber industry in line with production forecast whilst fulfilling other objectives
Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.	Managing non ancient woodland areas as mixed woodland allows the woodland to support a greater species diversity. This will benefit disease and climate resistance as well as adding to the aesthetic variation. The development of natural regeneration at various stages, will break up the currently rigid age structure	6a 6b 6c	Maintained number of tree species. Increased age diversity. Evidence of natural regeneration occurring.	Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sales and recording package at year 5 and year 10	At least the same number of different tree species present at year 10 Improved age diversity at year 10 Increased successful establishment of natural regeneration.

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
1a				
1b				
2				
3				

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
4				
5				
6a				
6b				
6c				

Glossary

Ancient Woodland

A classification for woodland which has been in continuous existence from before AD 1600 in England, wales and Northern Island and or from 1750 in Scotland.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

The trees and other plant species within an ancient woodland site appear to have arisen naturally rather than having been planted are predominately (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

Compartments/Sub Compartments

Sections of woodland used to delineate and plan management.

Priority ecological corridors

A network of internal road and ride margins as well as Wealden gill corridors that will be managed in a sympathetic way to increase the structural diversity and provide connecting habitats for key species.

Clearfell

Cutting down an area of woodland typically greater than 0.25 hectares.

Shelter Wood System

Woodland management system whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling, generally being no single interruption of tree cover of more than 0.25 hectares with a maximum of 2 interruptions of this size per hectare.

Opportunities to enhance the existing areas of natural regeneration will be taken along with increasing woodland edge habitat by scalloping ride and road edges for the benefit of biodiversity.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland consisting of a fairly even mixture of broadleaf and conifer species.

Native (and honorary-native)

The trees making up the woodland are part of England's natural (or naturalised) flora. Determined by whether the trees colonised Britain without the assistance for humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary native were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times) ; and whether they would naturally be found in the part if England.

Native woodland

Woodland predominately made up of tree species that would naturally be found on that site.

Natural regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These may be still require some protection from overbearing plan species and mammal browsing . Some enrichment planting may also be necessary or desirable in areas were natural regeneration is showing limited success or in order to diversify the species range of the woodland.

Plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS)

The trees within an ancient woodland site appear to have been planted. These species may or may not be native to the site and surrounding area.

Open Habitat

An area of ground that will have tree cover <5% and support a range of site suitable species.

Research Plantation

Woodland that is being used to run an experiment managed principally by the research arm of the Forestry Commission.

Rotational Scrub

A mosaic of open space and scrub woodland that will be maintained though cycles of cutting and regrowth.

Seed Orchard

An intensively-managed plantation of specifically arranged trees for the mass production of seeds.

Selection System

Woodland management system whereby the individual trees are selected for retention based on their character or specific qualities. The area will be thinned to favour the retention of these trees.

Wet Woodland

Rare and ecologically rich woodland with soils frequently at or near to saturation usually on a floodplain or adjoining a river channel. Managed using low impact or no intervention silvicultural practices.

Yield Class

The maximum average rate of volume increment which a particular stand can achieve per hectare.

References

This Forest Plan has been influenced by various key policy statements and guidance documents as listed below.

Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement—January 2013

This document sets the direction of travel for forestry policy within England and is the reference point around which main aims and objectives if forestry and woodland management are designed.

The statement sets out the following key objectives, in priority order:

Protecting the nations trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.

Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, peoples lives and nature.

Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value.

Strategic plan for the public forest estate in England

This plan sets out the direction and goals for the public forest estate in England and indicates the actions we will be taking to achieve these between now and 2020. Our ambitions are long term and we will use a normal cycle of review over 5 years ti embed these in local forest plans and ways of operating.

Our mission for the estate.

To work with others to keep the Pubic Forest Estate as a special place for wildlife, people to enjoy nad buisnesses to thrive—and achieve this by adopting a strategy that integrates all the three drivers of sustainable land management; economy, people and nature.

Our Vision and Overall Goal

"*To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the public forest estate for the people of England*"

South District Forest Strategic Plan

The strategic management plan is a Forest Enterprise District Level document that informs local Forestry Commission Staff about the management direction of the Public Forest Estate and the associated policies. The Forest Plans are a key mechanism for delivering policies on the ground.

Open Habitat Policy, 2010

This is Government policy on hoe to decide when to convert woodland to open habitat in England.

United Kingdom Forestry Standard

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

UK woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

An independent certification standard for verifying sustainable management in the United Kingdom.

Keepers of Time

This policy statement celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodland sets out a basis on which to achieve the following vision.

"*Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits''*

Managing ancient and native woodland in England: Practice Guide

This practice guide has been produced to help practitioners translate what measures and practical action can be taken to protect and enhance our ancient and native woodlands and guides implementation of the approaches to management and restoration trialled in woods around the country.

Managing deadwood in forests and woodland 2012

Choosing stand management methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites, 2013.

European Landscape convention

The European landscape convention—also known as the Florence convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation of landscape issues.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1995): a national strategy for biodiversity conservation establishing a list of key habitats and species for which habitat and species action plans (HAPs and SAPs respectively) would be prepared. Key habitats and species later re-worded as Priority Habitats and Species.

List of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England: includes 56 habitats and 943 species referred to as Section 41 Habitats and Species – established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) **http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx**

Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services: this document builds on the Natural Environment white paper and sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy across both land and sea between 2011-2020:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership. (2015) Biodiversity Opportunity Area document for the Chiddingfold Complex. [Online] Available from: https://www.biodiversitysussex.org.uk/file_download/169/ [Accessed: 22 October 2015]

This document recognises an area around Chiddingfold as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) as it represents a priority area for the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. This is one of 75 such areas across Sussex. The BOA covers approximately 731 hectares.

Forest Enterprise England & Dr N Bannister, Chiddingfold Forest design and SSSI plan, 1997,

Bannister, N. (2006) Woodland: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland. In *West Weald landscape HLC Analysis* [Online]. (4.3 i). P7. Available from: http://www.westweald.org.uk/pdf/West%20Weald%20Landscape%20HLC%20Analysis.pdf [Accessed 10 November 2015].

The aim of the West Weald Landscape Project [WWLP] is to encourage positive land use management which will encourage connectivity of woody hedges, woodland corridors, wetlands and less intensive forms of farming and forestry management to benefit many of the rare species of wildlife that live in this forested landscape.

Appendix A—Consultation

The forest plan proposals are being consulted on over three main stages:

Stage 1: The woodland owners

Stage 2: Stakeholder Consultation 25/1/16 - 7/3/16

Environment Agency
Butterfly Conservation
Surrey County Council
West Sussex County Council
Waverly Borough Council
Chichester District
West Sussex and Surrey Wildlife Trust
RSPB
Woodland Trust
Sussex Gardens Trust
South Downs National Park Authority
Chiddingfold Parish Council
Dunsfold Parish Council
Alfold Parish Council
Plaistow Parish Council

National Trust
Natural England
Surrey and West Sussex Wildlife Trust
Surrey Hills AONB
Surrey and Sussex Bat Group
The Woodland Trust
Surrey Countryside Access Forum
Surrey and Sussex Bird Club
Amphibian and Retiles Trust
Ancient Tree Forum
Bat Conservation Trust
Wey and Arun Canal Trust
Botanical Society of the British Iles
British Bryological Society
British Dragonfly Society

British Mycological Society
Buglife
Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Freshwater Habitats Trust
Peoples Trust for Endangered Species
Plantlife
Surrey and Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Surrey Mammal Group
The Deer Initiative
BSW Timber Group
Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership

Stage 3: Any further consultation required by Forest Services.

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response	FC Follow Up
Butterfly Conservation	26/2/16	Key concerns were the conservation of priority lepidoptera. A list of species was provided with an outline of the habitats needed to help conserve them. Also offered to help co-ordinate an effort to monitor and survey for priority lepdoptera and the associated habitats.	Thanked for response, and reiterated the FCs commitment to its targets under the governments Biodiversity 2020 initiative which includes the conservation of priority Lepidoptera. Referenced the forthcoming SSSI plan for Chiddingfold Forest and how the documents complement each other. Thanked for the offer of monitoring and spoke about ongoing internal discussions that were happening around that subject.

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response	FC Follow Up
The Deer Initiative — Jamie Cordery	28/2/16	Thanked for the opportunity to comment, mentioned that the section on deer was brief but sufficient.	Thanked for response, agreed that the section on deer is brief and mentioned the importance of effective deer management in the future, particularly with the move towards more continuous cover silvicultural systems.
Ross Baker— Surrey Bat Group	09/02/16	Thanked for inviting views and stated broad support of the plan. Mentioned ambitions to elevate the conservation designation to SAC level. Mentioned an FC commissioned Bat report by David Hill and the recommendations within. Asked about the levels and types of timber extraction with specific reference to Oak and the widening of rides. Also enquired about an FC response to a consultation to a current development proposal to the North of the forest.	Thanked for response and support of the plan. Stated support for a change in the conservation designation. Went into detail about the forthcoming SSSI plan and how this details more specifically how the management of the forest will cater for the bat population. Mentioned the district ecologist for further info. Spoke about our consultation response to the proposed development.
Local Resident—Dr Greta Allsopp	03/2/16	Stated that the paths in Ashpark Forest have suffered a marked decline over the last 9 years because of fallen trees, overgrown vegetation, and harvesting damage. Mentioned concerns particularly in the summer at the levels of ticks and how the overgrown paths exacerbate this and the potential for contracting Lyme disease. Made suggestions to; Open up and widen the paths as well as maintain the vegetation levels during the summer. Replant 2 areas that have become scrub of silver birch and bramble with hardwoods in particular an area in Ashpark Actively maintain ditch network to improve drainage and prevent erosion.	Thanked for response, and agreed that the paths have not been closely managed. Re-iterated that the revision to the existing forest plan sets out to manage the tracks and paths across the complex by the 'priority ecological corridors' and that once signed off significant time and investment will go into these areas over the 10 year period of the plan. The scrub areas are part of a habitat being managed on medium term rotation of clearance and regrowth and the other is under continuous forestry, being restocked via natural regeneration and will be supplemented with under planting if this fails.
Natural England	10/5/16	Concern over the lack of detail about the SSSI management, but overall had no issue with the plan.	Spoke directly and talked about the separate SSSI management document and how the Forest Plan is strategic in nature. Explained that a detailed work programme will be drawn up via the FC''s operational planning process nearer the time

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Bill Downey Butterfly Conservation Surrey and SW London	5/3/16	The Surrey and South West London Branch of Butterfly Conservation welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Chiddingfold Forest Plan. The Branch is aware of the response already submitted by Steve Wheatley, Butterfly Conservation's Senior Regional Officer for the South East and fully endorses all the statements made in his document. It is not necessary to repeat these again and so the content of this response is additional to his. The Branch welcomes Objective Three of the Plan: 'Maintain and enhance the favourable conservation status of a nationally important wildlife site'. In particular we are encouraged by the recognition within the Plan of the importance of maintaining the habitat of the Wood White butterfly: 'Chiddingfold Forest provides the last stronghold for the Wood White butterfly in South East England and it can be considered an "emblem" or "flagship species" for the forest'. The Wood White is one of the species earmarked for the highest priority of conservation action in Butterfly Conservation's current review of its Regional Action Plan. The maintenance of suitable habitat for the butterfly in the Chiddingfold complex is critical in achieving this. The Branch therefore welcomes the statement in the Plan that, 'opportunities for corridor widening and wider habitat enhancement will be taken to increase the structural diversity of woodland edges and provide connecting habitats for key species to disperse'. We also note with approval that the SSSI management plan has identified a network of Priority Ecological Corridors where conservation management work should take place. What has concerned the Branch has been the increased 'darkening' of the forest rides – for example close to the entrance of Botany Bay – caused in some cases by the growth of Corsican Pines. Of concern also is the growth of Bracken and Pendulous Sedge on many of the ride verges which shade out the grasses, nectar sources and larval food plants of the butterfly. It is very obvious from walking the forest rides that the Wood White is only found in a handful of places where sufficient sunlight gets through to the ground and nectar sources such as Fleabane and Betony are able to flourish. The Branch is aware of the successful conservation work for the Wood White carried out between the Forestry Commission and Butterfly Conservation at Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire. This involved the widening of rides and the rotational cutting of the verges which, we believe, should form the basis for similar conservation work at Chiddingfold. There are however a number of larval foodplants for butterflies and moths which need to be retained along the woodland edges. These include sallows for the Purple Emperor butterfly, elms for the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, honeysuckle for the White Admiral butterfly and the Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, and Broom for the Coleophora calycotomella moth. Those conducting conservation work need to be aware of the importance of not eliminating these trees and plants. We also welcome the recognition in the Plan of the value of the forest meadows (e.g. Triangle Meadow and the open areas in Lagfold Copse) and open ride junctions (e.g. those in Fisherlane Wood). Such open areas are invariably butterfly hotspots and are potential habitat not just for the Wood White but also for other priority species such as the Grizzled Skipper. The Branch would like to see the maintenance of these existing open areas and ideally the creation of new ones, where possible. Similarly, Oaken Wood contains important open areas, tracks and nectar sites designed specifically for insects to use. The Branch would like to point out that these important areas are not recognised as Priority Ecological Corridors in the maps entitled 'Chiddingfold Forest Medium Term Vision' which simply label this area as 'Managed native woodland'. We believe this is an important omission as Oaken Wood is the only UK site for the Betony Case-bearer moth – and is therefore of national importance - and is a stronghold also for other rare species such as the Grass Wave and Small Black Arches moths.. It is clear from walking the forest rides and looking at Ordinance Survey maps that some forest roads have fallen into disuse, become overgrown and are now impassable – (e.g. a ride on the map which formerly went from Old Lands to join the road through Tugley Wood). The restoration of these 'lost rides' would enhance the opportunities for wildlife in the complex and increase connectivity. Such an aim would also be consistent with Objective Four of the Plan: 'to maintain and enhance the recreational capacity of the woodland'. Obviously this would only be possible within the freehold area of the forest. The Surrey Branch has existing butterfly transects routes in Chiddingfold Forest and Oaken Wood and generates timed count statistics on Wood White abundance. The Sussex Branch additionally has transects in Ashpark and Kingspark Woods. The Surrey Branch intends to continue this monitoring and has the aim of extending this into such areas as Canterbury Copse and Sidney Wood, either as transects or as one-off surveys. The results of transect monitoring are placed in the public domain. It is also important that the ad hoc monitoring of moths in the Chiddingfold complex should carry on and that permission should continue to be granted to entomologists to conduct this. As is recognised in the Plan, butterflies are 'indicator species which serve as a barometer for the wider ancient woodland diversity'. As such the monitoring which both Surrey and

FC Follow Up

Dear Mr Downey,

Many thanks for your response and suggestions for the Chiddingfold Forest Plan. I am pleased to note that you welcome several of the objectives and statements within it.

Thank you for the additional information about the larval food plants and associated habitats. I can confirm that these are included in the SSSI plan which provides the basis for conservation management in the complex. Further to that our ecologist Jay Doyle has been consulting with Steve Wheatley, Butterfly Conservation Senior Regional Officer - South East and is acting on many of the recommendations that were put forward by him to develop a landscape scale approach.

Whilst I recognise that there may be areas of open space, tracks and nectar sites that are not represented in the area of Oaken Wood mentioned, the current 'managed native woodland' prescription is still the most appropriate one to use. This is the overriding vision for the area in both the medium and long term and is an important reference for our foresters when approaching an intervention. Within the prescription however open space is an expected component and the shelter wood silvicultural system allows for small open areas up to 0.25 ha in size and no more than 20% of the total area which should happily accommodate the other areas.

The Forest Plan together with the SSSI plan will a be a large investment into the road and ride network in the complex over the 10 year approval period. Whilst we would like to open up every ride and track we have to prioritise which ones to invest in, these being the priority ecological corridors.

Monitoring of species is an important part of the management and I am sure any application to carry out such work would be welcomed and I have added you to our mailing list for future consultations and will be in touch in due course.

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response	FC Follow Up
Surrey Wildlife Trust—Mike Waite	8/3/16	Provided information on a guidance document produced by Surrey Nature Partnership for a biodiversity opportunity area that Chiddingfold Forest is part of. Mentioned that the plan meets the objectives of the BOA especially in the regarding the restoration of PAWS woodland. Highlighted a couple of errors in the text sections of the introduction.	Thanked for response and for the information on the guidance document. Noted that its good the plan meets the BOA's objectives and thanked for highlighting the text errors.

Stake-holder	Response Date	Response
Wey and Arun Canal Trust	27/5/16	**Introduction** The Wey and Arun Canal Trust, from the early 1970s, has been restoring the canal with the intent of eventually re-opening "London's lost route to the sea" from the River Wey at Shalford in Surrey to the River Arun at Pallingham just north of Pulborough in Sussex. Part of the old canal route passes through the Chiddingfold Forest area, known as Sidney Wood, and we are preparing to intensify our work on that stretch during the next decade or two. Currently we are restoring Gennets Bridge Lock on the Surrey-Sussex Border path south of the Forest, and are reconstructing Compasses Bridge into Dunsfold Airfield north of the Forest. Since 1990, under a lease agreement with Forest Enterprise (FE),we have been undertaking basic maintenance on the forest stretch and as a result have regular involvement with FE's local office. The leased land includes the route of the old canal bed and in certain locations up to a 10-metrestrip of woodland both sides of the canal. **The Chiddingfold Forest Plan consultation** Recognising the Plan is primarily concerned with silvicultural management, and not a comprehensive plan for non-related activities, we do seek to make comment about the Plan in relation to the Canal. Our comments are summarised under the following headings:- Historic Environment Biodiversity and Conservation Recreation **Historic Environment** There is recognition in the Plan that the Canal forms part of the historic environment of the woodland through the old canal bed and historic lock site. That having been said, it should be noted that it is likely to become a more prominent feature of the woodland with the restoration of the canal gathering pace. Because it might not necessarily follow the exact line of the old canal where local circumstances determine otherwise, the historic infrastructure will need to be adapted at some locations .This will lead to benefits for recreation, conservation and biodiversity. Where the Trust restores the canal and locks a key element of that process is to identify and interpret the historical character of the old canal. **Biodiversity and Conservation** The demise of the canal in 1871 has led to the abandoned canal locks and canal bed "reverting to nature" over the last 140 years. The canal has provided a habitat in its own right and become an integral part of the wildlife associated with Sidney Wood. These features of the canal will inevitably change with restoration and in so doing provide opportunities for enhancement of the flora and fauna associated with Sidney Wood. In our pre-planning for this stretch of canal, our discussions with Natural England have suggested there would be real ecological benefits in preparing for such changes by modifying silvicultural practice along the bank margins of the canal within the area we lease. It is suggested that work to open up the woodland margins as it abuts the canal will create a more suitable woodland edge for biodiversity. The Plan notes that such management intervention would result in "internal corridor enhancement" by "widening and scalloping" the woodland edge.The Plan goes on to say this "corridor widening and wider habitat enhancement will increase structural diversity of the woodland edge and provide connecting habitats for key species to disperse." We very much identify and support this view and would like to see it applied to the canal and it's woodland margins. This will further support your Plan objective to "maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland".

Stakeholder	Response Date	Response
Wey and Arun Canal Trust	27/5/16	We would seek in the Plan that the Green Corridor that the canal creates should be recognised as one of the Priority Ecological Corridors [PEC's] throughout the woodland, and that silvicultural practice reflects this designation. **Recreation** Restoration of the canal and the locks will further enhance the existing recreational opportunities afforded by the canal channel and towpath through Sidney Wood. Work currently consists of towpath repairs and establishing links to other corridors through Sidney Wood. This is undertaken by volunteer work-groups provided by the Trust, in itself creating recreational activity. Both of these recreational advantages are at home within the Plan's objective to: "maintain and enhance where possible recreational capacity of the woodland". These comments have been submitted by Ian Burton, Conservation Advisor, Wey & Arun Canal Trust on behalf of the Trust.
		FC Follow up Dear Ian Many thanks for taking the time to comment on the Forest Plan for Chiddingfold Forest. Your thoughtful comments and suggestions will be taken into due consideration when planning future operations in Sidney Wood.

Appendix B: CSM 6 — Amendments to Approved Forest

Forestry Commission (Forest Services and Forest Enterprise) should agree baseline tolerance thresholds for operations in each District beyond which exchange of letter/map or formal amendment is required. Unless otherwise specified or agreed by the Forestry Commission, amendment will be by formal revision of the plan.

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	**Timing of Re-stocking**	**Changes to species**	**Windthrow clearance (2)**	**Changes to road lines (3)**
FC Approval normally not required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers; broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less			0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly windblown trees > 2ha to 5ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	> 5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity

Notes on Tolerance Table

1. There are circumstances in which changes - of less than 0.5 ha for example - could have a dramatic visual effect. The above model does require a sensible approach to be taken by Forest Enterprise in notifying Forestry Commission when such cases arise. Local staff need to be sensitive to issues which may influence the situation (bearing in mind that small adjustments to felling coupes will not appear on the Public Register).
2. It is important that Forest Enterprise keep the FC informed about windblow clearance, which can be problematic in cases of public complaint, and in FC compliance monitoring. In some cases a modification of the proposals for the remaining area of the Plan may need to be submitted and approved. Clearance of blow should not require approval but will be needed for related standing trees.
3. It is recognised that roading proposals as marked on Road Plans are necessarily somewhat indicative, in that actual roading operations require to take account of features not always apparent at the time of roadline planning. Accordingly some leeway is acceptable to account for this.