

Ashmore Woods

Location

Ashmore is located approximately 2km south of Ashmore village and 4km north of Fontwell Magna within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Tenure

Forestry Commission is a tenant of the woodlands. Public access is limited to the network of public rights of way within the woodland and running along the southern boundary.

Landscape

Ashmore is located within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are no other landscape designations present in the woodland.

The proposals in this Plan aim to advance the objectives detailed in the AONB Management Plan 2014-19.

During operational planning, reference will be made to current AONB projects which may be supported by the operation.

Current Woodland Structure

Ashmore Woods is classed as predominantly (~90% or 150 hectares) Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Approximately 1 hectare (<1%) is classed as Plantation on Ancient Woodland. Being.

Beech is the predominant species, accounting for approximately 50% of the woodland canopy. The remaining area is a mixture of conifers, with Douglas Fir and Norway Spruce **accounting for nearly 30% of the woodland. Ash, Hazel, Lawson's Cypress and Birch are the main remaining component species.**

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to around 80 years old. The vast majority (90%) is aged between 50 and 70 years old, illustrating a lack of age diversity across the woodland.

There is a good proportion of open space, mainly associated with the wide edges along the road and ride network.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Ashmore Woods is successfully providing quality habitat for an array of species including protected mammals and insects. Historically, nest box schemes have proved successful in establishing populations which have since flourished into the wider woodland.

During management interventions, opportunities for ride widening and habitat enhancement will be taken to increase the ecotone of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for associated species. Decisions about where such enhancement work will take place will be made at the operational stage of management.

The woodland blocks contain a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs),

highlighting key habitats and species and supporting habitats. Recent records should be

checked by operational managers prior to work activity to ensure opportunities for enhancing these sites, within the scope of the operation, are taken.

People

Ashmore Woods are privately owned and leased to the Forestry Commission. The terms of lease do not allow for open public access, which is permitted only along formal public rights of way.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk along these paths. 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 no recorded historical features within Ashmore Woods. Continued monitoring will take place to ensure that anything relevant found is recorded and fed into operational planning in line with statutory responsibilities and best practice guidelines.

Soils

The woodland mostly lies on upper chalk, although there is a small area in the north and **along the western 'arm' where the chalk is covered by a mantle of Clay-with-Flints.**

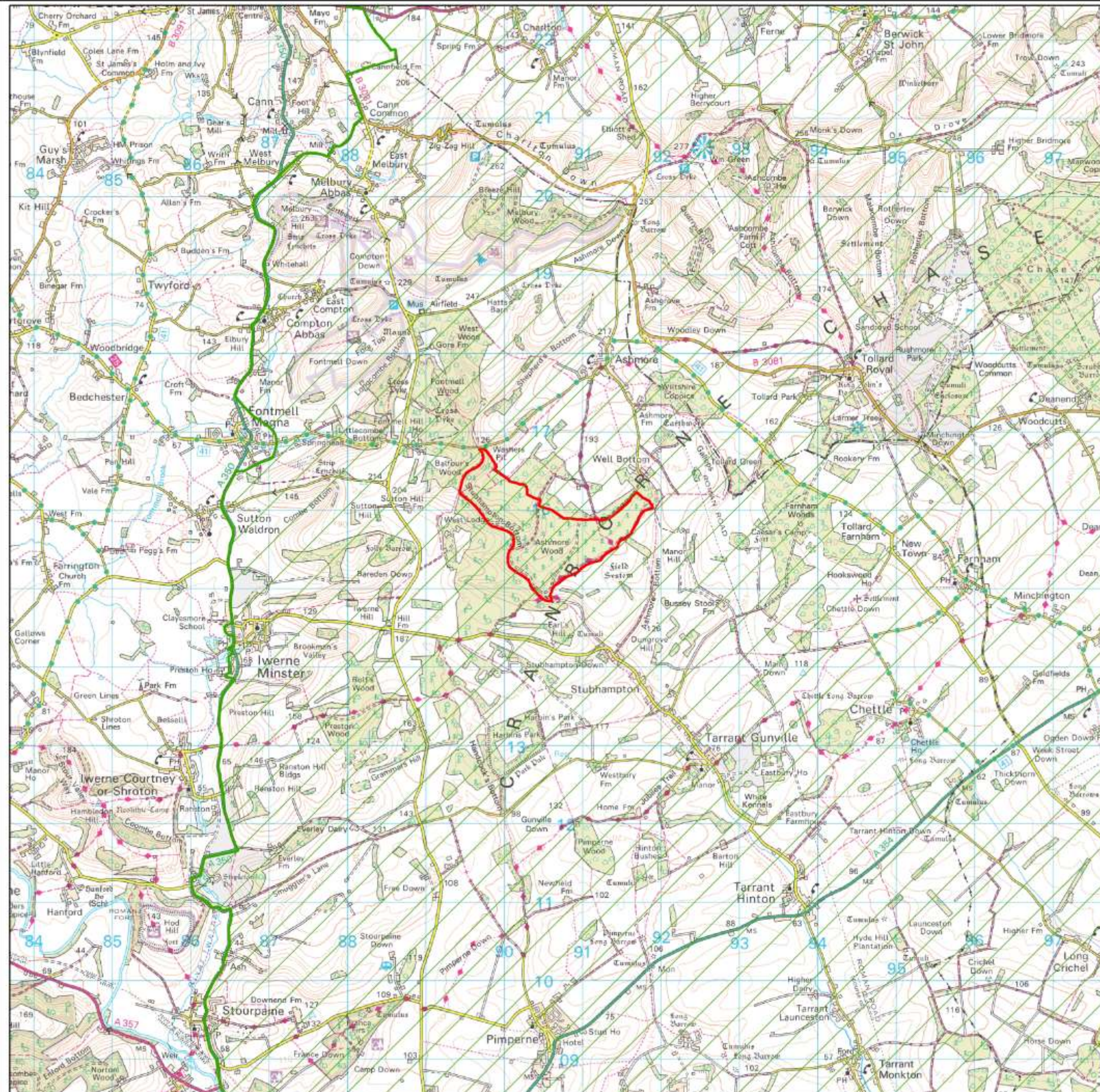
Water

Drains are the only water flows through the woodlands.

Tree Diseases and Pests

The main diseases of concern currently are *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch. Although Ash and Larch are present, their numbers are minimal within the scale of the woodland. Corsican Pine is not present at all. Therefore these particular threats are not considered critical to Ashmore Woods. However, with such a heavy reliance on Beech, the lack of species diversity does make the woodland vulnerable if a significant pathogen does arise

There are no records of invasive non-native plant species within Ashmore Woods, but continued monitoring will take place to ensure that those species which pose a threat to native flora do not become established.



Ashmore Woods

Location



KEY

Ashmore Wood

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs

1:50,000

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04/08/2014




Ashmore Woods

Aerial



KEY

 Ashmore Wood

1:25,000

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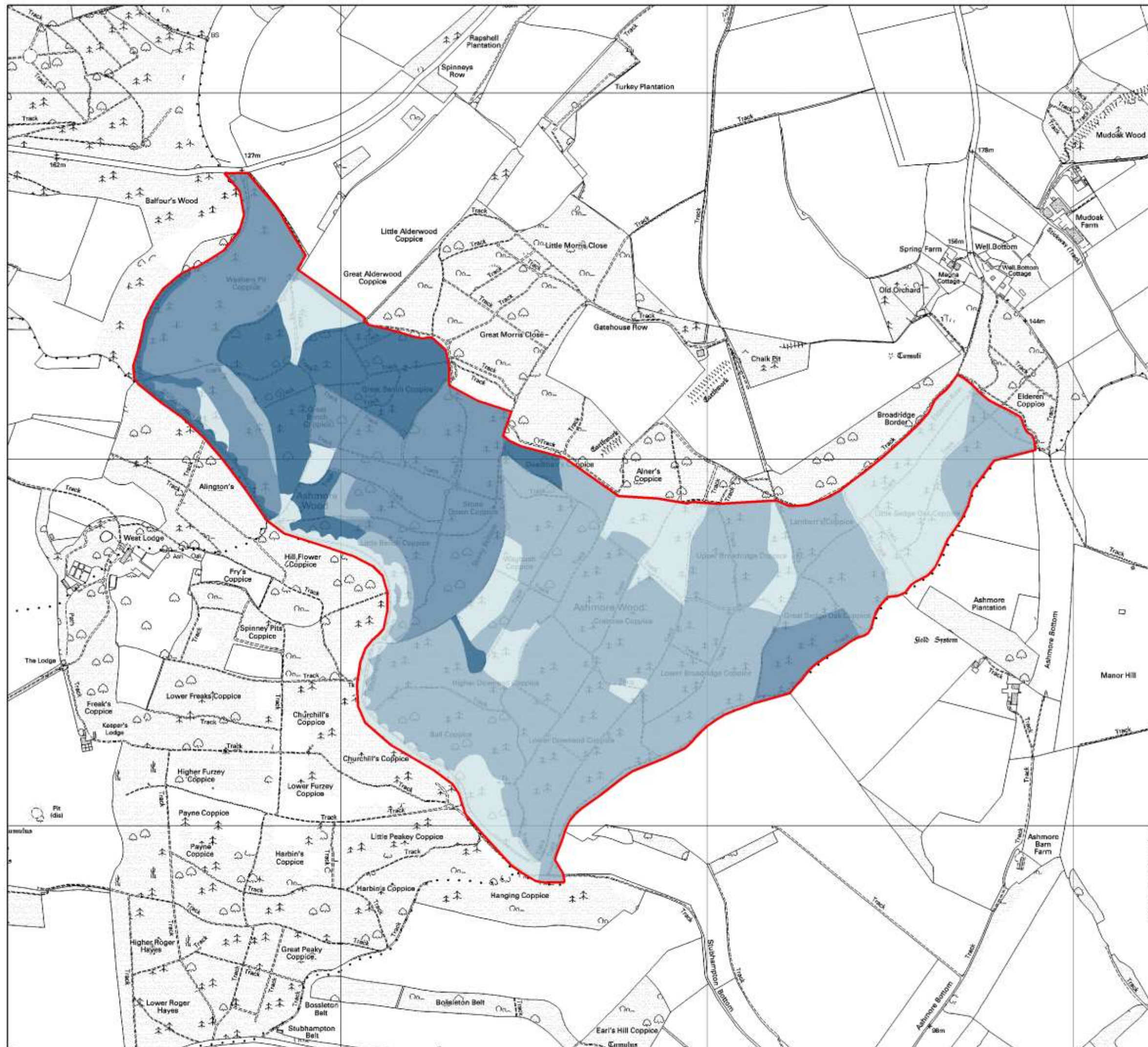
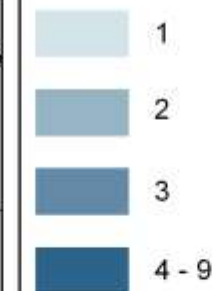
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Species Diversity

KEY

☐ Ashmore Management Area

Number of component species within the canopy (including open space):



01/12/2014

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Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.





Ashmore Wood
Indicative
Age Diversity

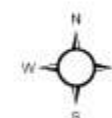
KEY

-  Ashmore Management Area
-  Over 100 Years Old
-  81 - 100 Years Old
-  61 - 80 Years Old
-  41 - 60 Years Old
-  21 - 40 Years Old
-  1 - 20 Years Old

Gaps illustrate indicative or actual open space, or areas covered by recent natural regeneration

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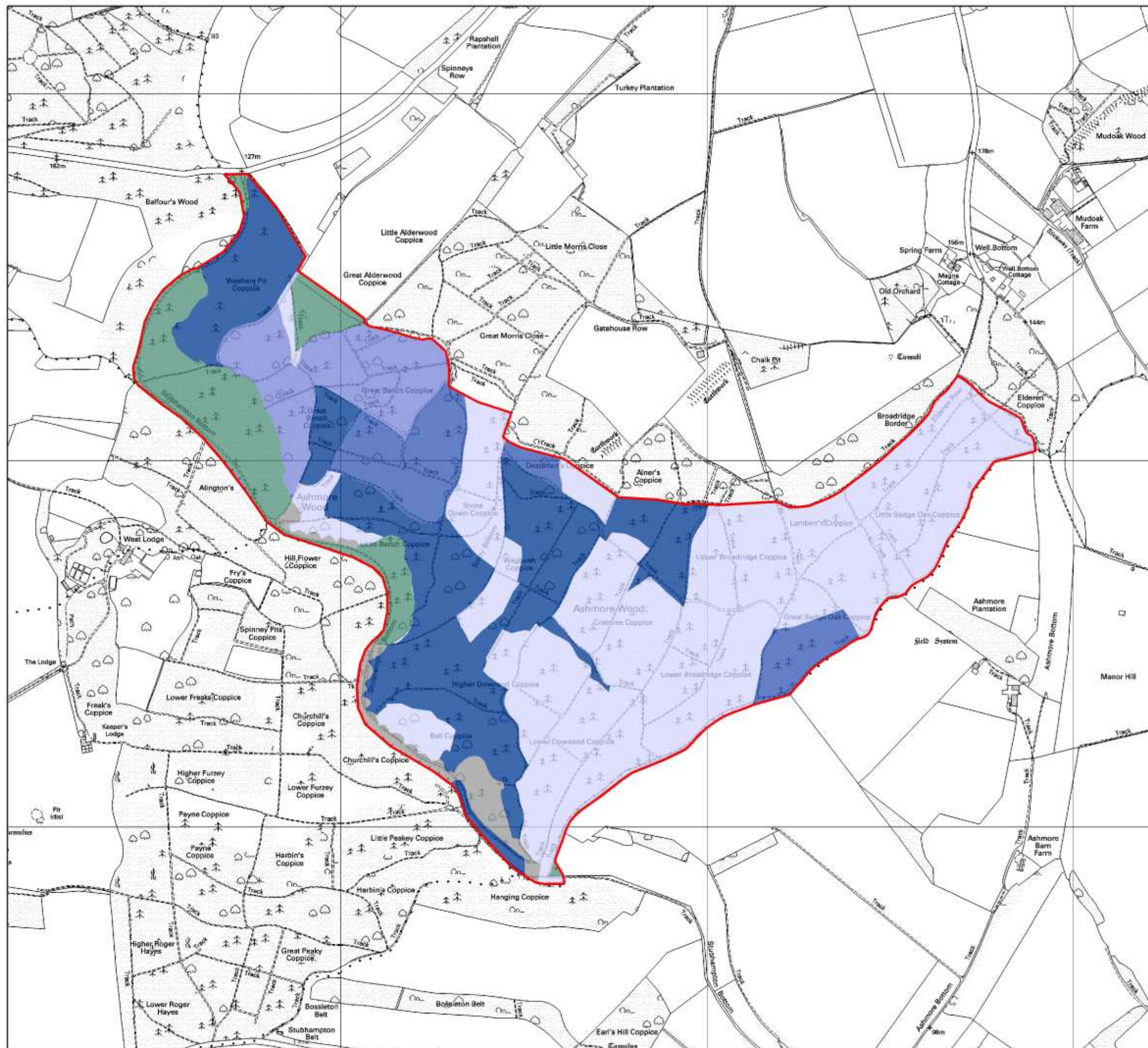




Ashmore Wood
Ancient Woodland (NE)
& Semi-Natural Scoring

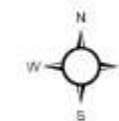
KEY

-
- Ashmore Management Area
- 1 - Over 80% native
- 2 - Between 50% and 80% native
- 3 - Between 20% and 50% native
- 4 - Less than 20% native
- Currently open or un-established woodland
- Not Ancient Woodland



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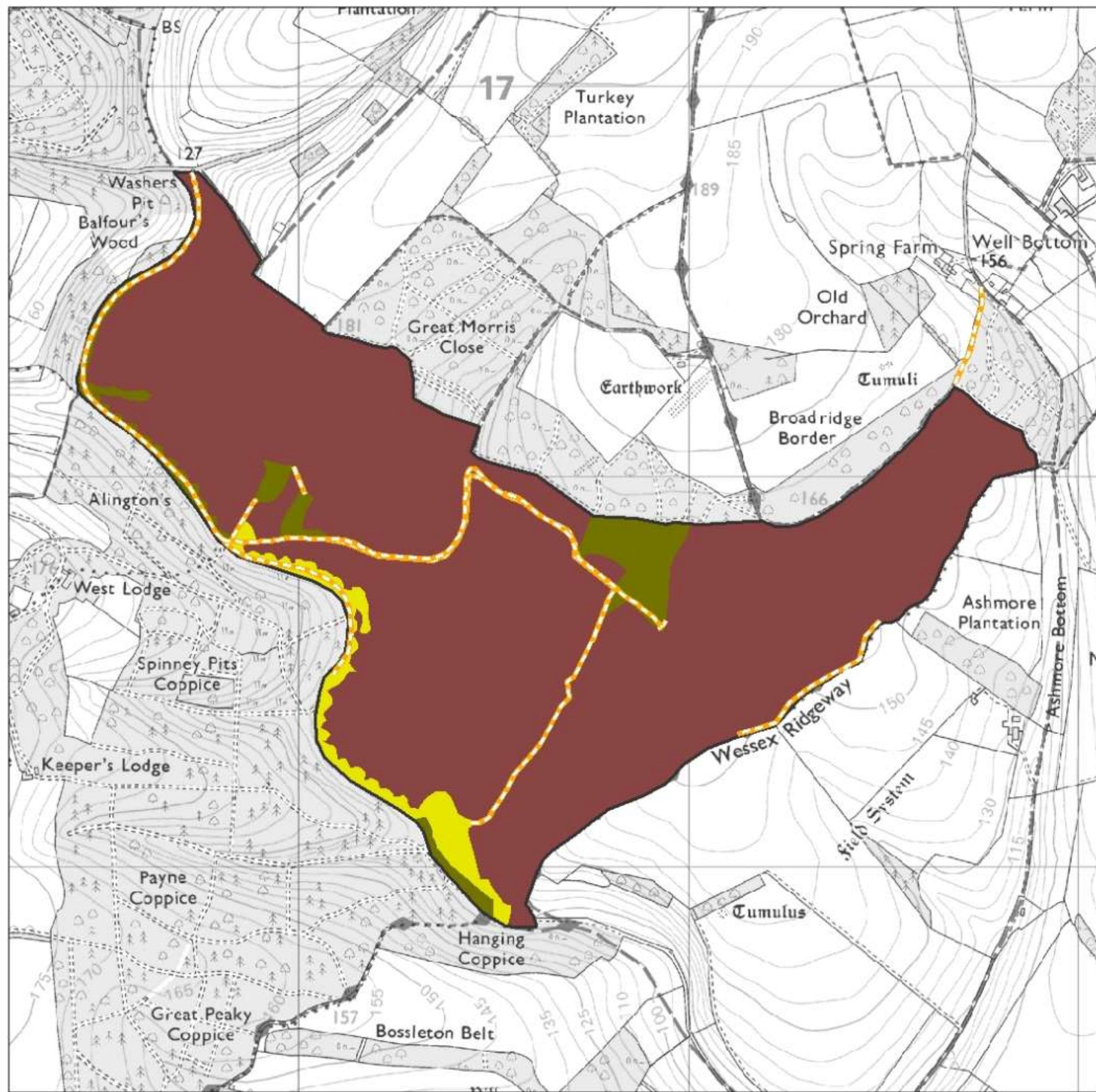


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woodlands have
been certified in
accordance with the
rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council





Ashmore Long Term Vision



Illustrates the long-term
structure of the woodland.

Legend



Management Area



Native Woodland.
Woodland which is predominantly (>80%)
native species of a high forest structure
with well-developed under-storey and
areas of transitional open space.



Coppice.
Woodland with a coppice structure of
Low-growing, multi-stemmed trees with
areas of transitional open space.



Open Space.
Area of permanent open space including
grasslands, heathlands and meadows.



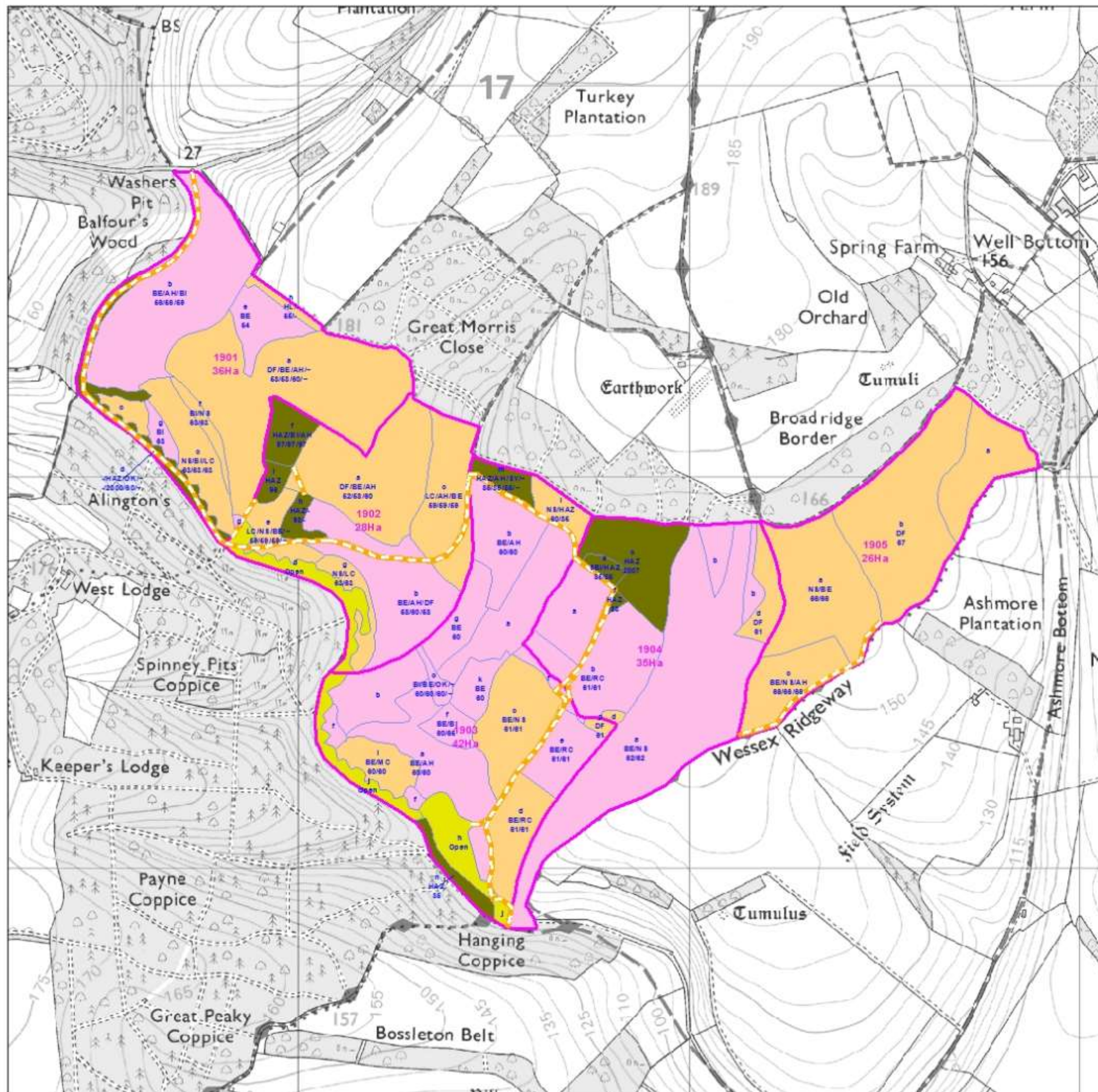
Wildlife Corridors.
A scalloped network of roads, rides and
tracks providing migration routes and high
quality habitat for associated species.

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Ashmore Habitat Restoration & Felling



Illustrates the management types
to be used over the period of this Plan.

Legend

-  Management Area
-  Native Broadleaved Woodland Management.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood
system favouring best native tree and
focussing on the production of quality timber.
-  Native Woodland Restoration.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood
system. Favour best native tree, focussing on
the production of quality timber and the
gradual reduction of non-native species to
20% of the canopy or less.
-  Coppice.
Woodland with a coppice structure of
Low-growing, multi-stemmed trees with
areas of transitional open space.
-  Open Space.
Area of permanent open space including
grasslands, heathlands and meadows.
-  Wildlife Corridors.
A scalloped network of roads, rides and
tracks providing migration routes and high
quality habitat for associated species.

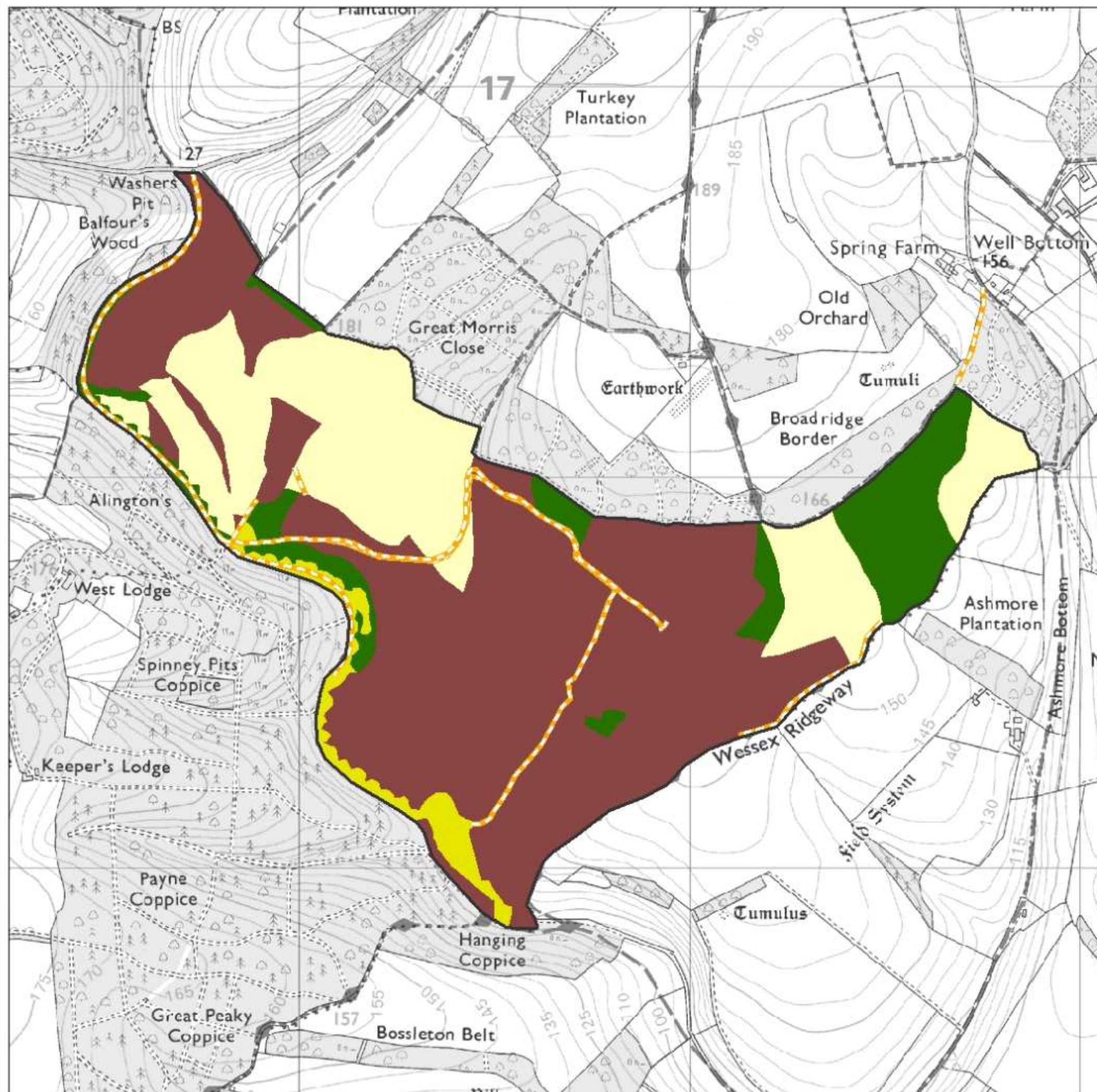
Declaration by FC as an operator.
All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise Estate
represents a negligible risk under the EUTR
(No. 995/210).

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Ashmore Medium Term Structure

Illustrates the potential structure of
the woodland in 2036.

Legend

-  Management Area
-  Native Woodland.
Woodland which is predominantly (>80%)
native species of a high forest structure
with well-developed under-storey and
areas of transitional open space.
-  Mixed Woodland.
No species type (broadleaf or conifer)
represents more than 80% of the canopy.
-  Predominantly (>80%) conifer or other
non-native woodland.
-  Open Space.
Area of permanent open space including
grasslands, heathlands and meadows.
-  Wildlife Corridors.
A scalloped network of roads, rides and
tracks providing migration routes and high
quality habitat for associated species.

1:10,000

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