

Woodlands of Cranborne Chase & North Dorset Forest Plan

South England Forest District

Woodlands Included Within This Forest Plan

Ashmore

Grovely

Hare Warren

Stonedown

Vernditch

Wardour

Blandford Forest:

Milton Abbass & Whatcombe

Shillingstone, Bryanstone & France Down

Date of Commencement of Plan: 27 July 2016

Approval Period: 27 July 2016 to 26 July 2026 (10 Years)

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

Forestry Activity	Area (ha)			
	Conifer high forest	Broadleaf natural regeneration or replanting	Mixed natural regeneration or replanting	Open
Clearfell in period 2014-2024	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Felling in period 2014-2024	2	2	0	0
Area managed under a shelterwood system	1607			
Coppice Management	21			
Coppice with Standards (standards to be thinned to max. 20% canopy)	29			
Management of permanent open space	35 (plus transitional open space created by Coppice Rotations, Regeneration Fellings and Clearfellings)			
Natural Reserve	2			
Rotational scrub management	30			
Other (car parks, buildings etc)	0.6			
TOTAL MAPPED AREA	1726.6			

FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Plan Approvals

Forest District: South England Forest District

FC Geographic Block No: 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Forest Plan Name: Woodlands of Cranborne Chase & North Dorset

FE Plan Reference Number: 304/15/13-14

Nearest town or village: Shaftsbury, Dorset

OS Grid Reference: ST 867 232

Local Authority: North Dorset District Council, Wiltshire 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:

Forest Planning

The Forest Plan defines the long term 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.

This plan represents a review of the Forest Design Plan previously approved in 2004. The revised Plan has been prepared following a review of the original plans undertaken by Forestry Commission staff, and in consultation with stakeholders and the public. It has incorporated developments in policy and local initiatives that have occurred in the intervening years.

Our mission is to protect and expand forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

As well as timber forests we successfully manage native woodlands and other important habitats for wildlife and conservation such as heathlands and bogs. But more than this, our work is also increasingly benefiting people through improvements to their environments – close to where they live and where they work.

This Forest Plan aims to maintain and increase the value of these woodlands to people, nature and the economy.

Consultation and Approval Process

At key points throughout the Forest Planning process, we will 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 within this document.

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 license.

The approved Forest 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 and engage any amendments to the Forest Plan that may be required.

Implementation of the Plan

The Forestry Commission manages its woodlands in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. This Standard, underpinned by the UK Forestry Standard ensures that management is sustainable, takes due regard of features such as biodiversity and landscapes and balances multiple objectives.

Context

Each section contains site specific details of location, tenure, landscape and historical context, current woodland structure, biodiversity and conservation, people, historic environment, soils, water and timber production

This contextual information supports our decision making, both through the production of the Forest Plan and when planning operational interventions designed to implement the proposals on the ground.

This Plan has been drawn up to balance the requirements of a number of policies and **guidance documents, as detailed in the 'References' section of the Plan. While the relevance** of each decision proposed and how it relates to each relevant section of each policy or guidance is not illustrated, the general principles of the proposal forward the main outcomes of each, for example: maintaining and restoring native features and habitats; connecting fragmented habitats; protecting historic features; planning for resilience and maintaining economic sustainability over time.

Forest Plan Maps

Maps are presented for each woodland within this Forest Plan. Where appropriate the maps are annotated to describe issues on the site and include the following (other maps may be included where appropriate):

Location

Aerial

Ancient Woodland and Native Species Scoring

Illustrates the Ancient Woodland status of the woodland and the percentage of native species within various parts of the woodland.

Indicative Species Diversity

Gives an indicative illustration of the number of different species within sub-compartments (including open space).

Indicative Age Diversity

Gives an indicative illustration of the age range within sub-compartments (including open space).

Long Term Vision

Illustrates the long-term structure of the woodlands and other habitats consistent with the Forest Plan objectives. While there is no fixed time scales for the habitat transformations depicted, an indicative term of 10 to 100 years depending on the habitat objectives is assumed.

Current Structure

An overview of the current makeup of the woodland.

Habitat Restoration and Felling

Shows the timing and shape of individual felling areas (coupes). These will either be replanted or restored to important non-woodland habitats. It also identifies areas not to be clear felled, but managed using less impactful management systems where natural regeneration or open habitat management techniques will be employed.

Tolerance thresholds for adjustments to felling coupe boundaries, timing of restocking, change of species, wind blow clearance and changes to road lines will be as per those recorded in Forestry Commission Countryside Services Memorandum 6.

Regeneration Plan

Details the method of regeneration which will be used to develop future habitats.

Medium Term Structure

Illustrates how the woodland structure may look in 20 to 30 years time.

At this map scale (1: 10,000), it is difficult to show detail of small-scale unplanted areas or retentions. A detailed restocking plan will be produced as part of an operational site assessment for the woodland nearer to the time of implementation.

Statistics

The plan is supported by charts showing how management proposals contained within the Forest Plan may affect the habitat and age structure of the woodlands over time.

Climate Change

Climate change presents 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 and 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.

Tree Diseases and Pests

Throughout southern England, established and newly recognised tree pests and diseases have been causing significant concern in recent years. Of particular concern at the present is the spread of *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch. Where affected species are extensive, woodlands are at a fairly high risk of unplanned and undesirable structural change. 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 need to clear fell a coupe earlier than planned or alter restocking plans. We will continue to monitor for diseases as required and take any action required. Any changes to the Forest Design Plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with relevant guidance.

Mammal browsing is also a threat to the sustainability of the woodland by having the potential to limit regeneration. Deer will be managed in accordance with the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy. Continued monitoring will take place to ensure that those native and non-native invasive plant species which pose a threat to native flora do not become established.

Timber Production

Within these woodlands, sustainable timber harvesting helps to deliver the objectives of this Forest Plan by: creating space within the woodland for young trees to flourish, thus encouraging genetic diversity and longevity of the woodland; generating dynamic transitional habitats which are vital for local wildlife; creating dynamic internal landscapes which increase the interest and experience for local users; delivering a sustainable timber resource to local timber markets and supporting employment across a number of sectors.

Regeneration

Unless otherwise stated, the preferred method of regeneration will be through the adoption of natural regeneration. It may be necessary to enrich such restocking with some planting.

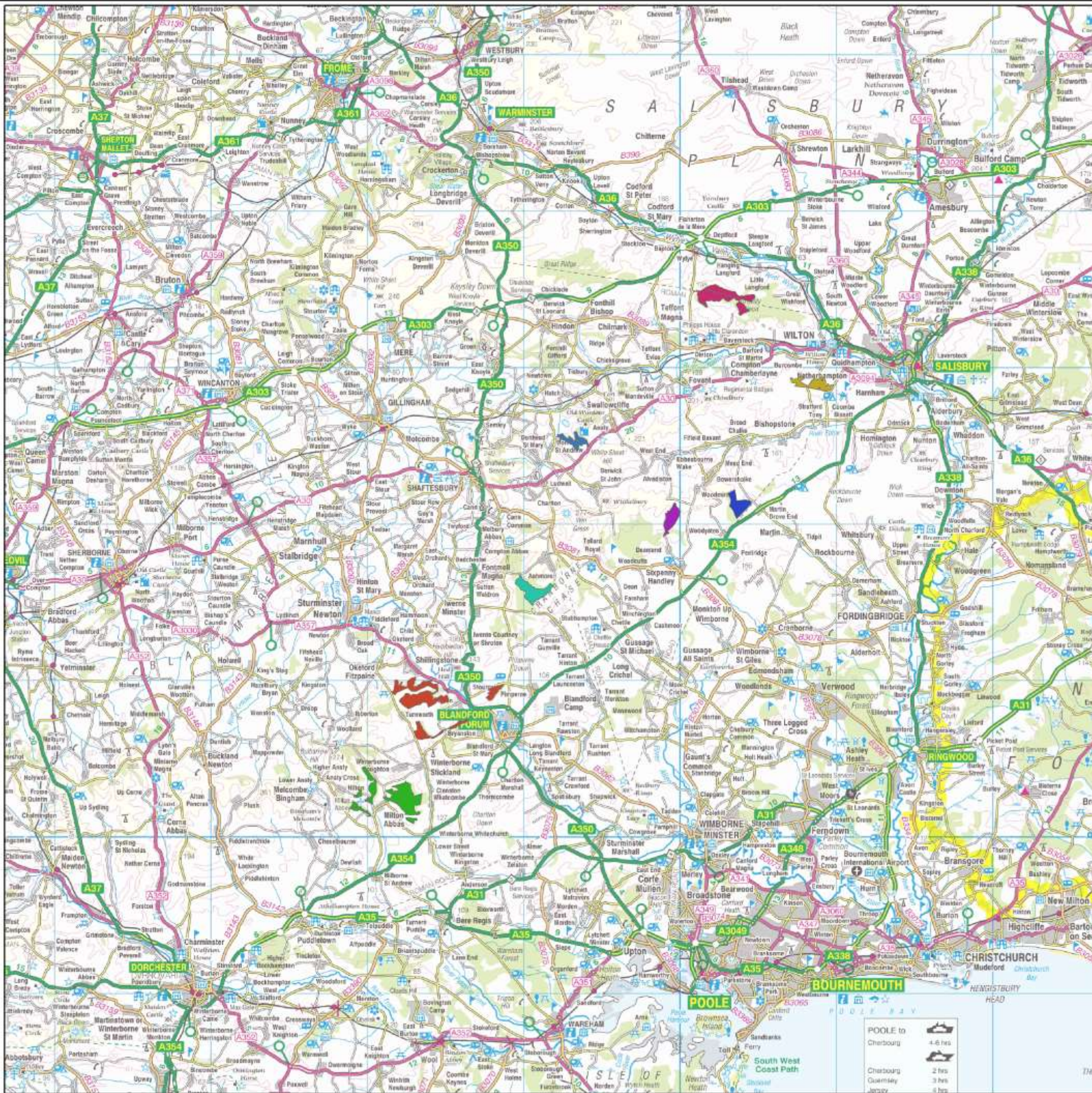
Objectives for the Woodlands

- Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Restore planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.
- Maintain sustainable access and the provision for recreation within the woodlands, taking opportunities to enhance the experience where appropriate.
- Take opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of other existing habitats.
- Maintain and enhance the value of the woodlands to the landscape character of the area.
- Maintain and take opportunities to increase the resilience of the woodlands by diversifying age structure and appropriate species mix within the woodland.
- Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.

Cranborne Chase & North Dorset Woodlands



Location



KEY

- Ashmore Wood
- Grovely
- Hare Warren
- Milton Abbas & Whatcombe
- Shillingstone, Bryanston & France Down
- Stonedown
- Vernditch
- Wardour

POOLE to		4-6 hrs
Christchurch		2 hrs
Guernsey		3 hrs
Jersey		6 hrs

1:250,000

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