

Wardour

Location

Wardour totals 86 hectares in area and is located approximately 2km east of the village of Donhead St. Andrew. The village of Tisbury lies approximately 3 km to the north east. The **A30 Shaftesbury to Salisbury runs adjacent to the woodland's southern boundary, while** access is gained through a gateway located towards the south eastern section of the woodland.

Tenure

Forestry Commission are the leasehold managers of Wardour.

Landscape

Wardour 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.

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

The woodland is viewable from the A30 Shaftesbury to Salisbury which runs adjacent to the southern boundary.

Current Woodland Structure

The whole of Wardour is classified as Ancient Woodland, which is predominantly PAWS.

Douglas fir is by far the dominant species, accounting for 39% of the area. The next species is Norway Spruce which covers 12% of the woodland area. There is a wide variety of broadleaf species present in the woodland, including Silver Birch, Sycamore, Beech and Oak among others which together account for around 25% of Wardour

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 21 to over 100 years old. The majority (77%) of the woodland is aged between 41 and 60 years old, illustrating a lack of age diversity across the woodland.

8% of the area is recorded as open space. The open space is spread across the woodland. A further 2% is recorded as open water.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Wardour successfully provide quality habitat for an array of species including protected mammals and birds of prey.

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.

People

Wardour is privately owned by The Wardour Estate 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. These run through the western arm of the woodland and adjacent to the eastern boundary.

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

Almost all of Wardour is designated as Historic Park and Garden. We will continue to manage the woodland in accordance with our statutory responsibilities.

There are no scheduled archaeological sites in Wardour. However, there are numerous unscheduled archaeological features found across the woodland which are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The precise location of these sites will be recorded in the Operational Site Assessment for the woodland, to ensure that these features are protected during operation activities.

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

Wardour lies almost entirely on the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay. The eastern corner is situated on the Portland Beds.

Water

Horwood Pond is situated towards the centre of the woodland, with two streams either side.

Tree Diseases and Pests

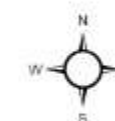
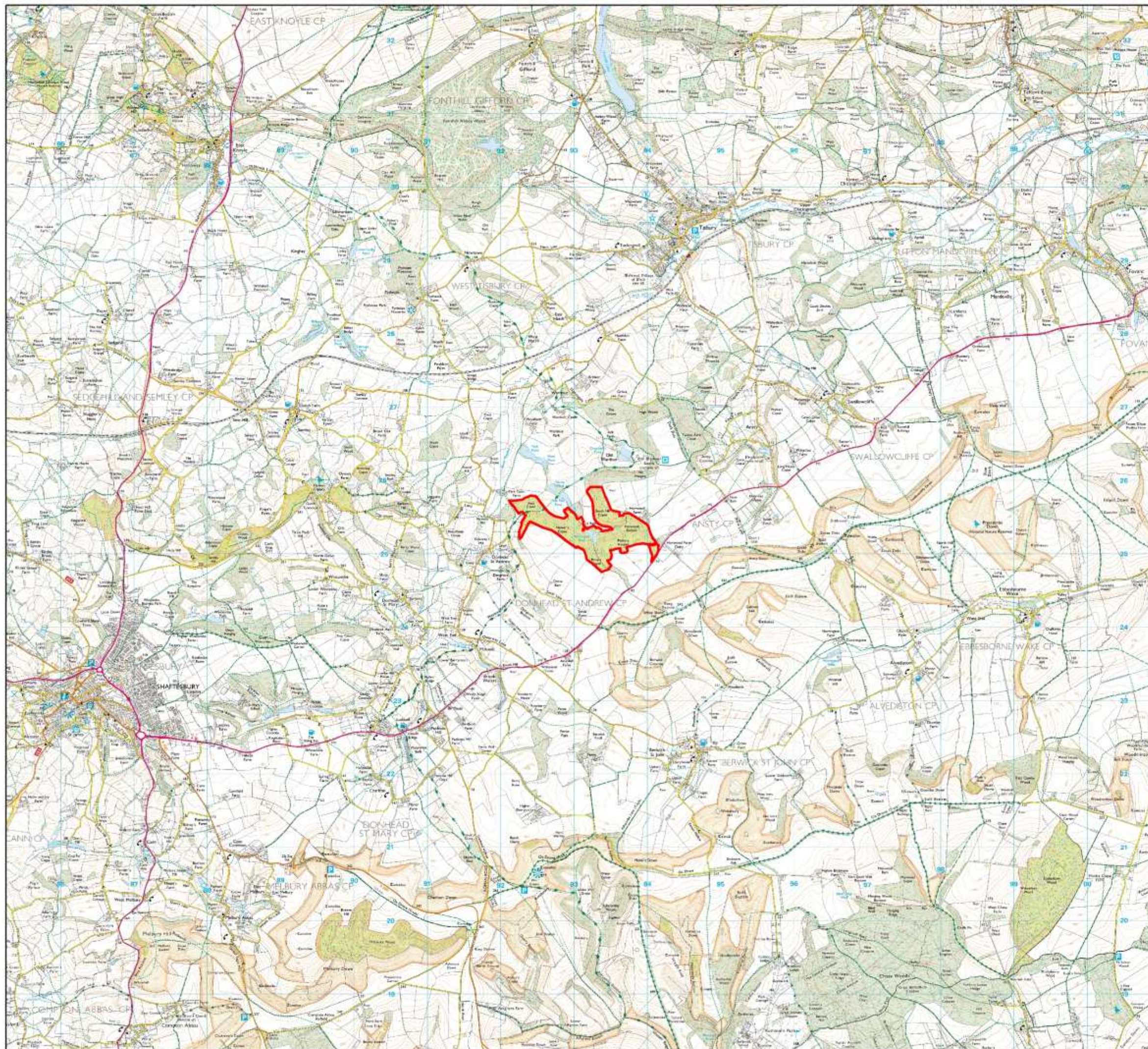
The main diseases of concern currently are *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch. Although larch and Ash are present, their numbers are minimal within the scale of the woodland and so these diseases do not pose a great risk to the current woodland character. There is no Corsican pine present in the woodland.

There is some Rhododendron present within the woodland. This will continue to be managed towards eradication. Monitoring will take place to ensure that those species which pose a threat to native flora do not become established.

Wardour Location

KEY

 Wardour Management Area



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Forestry Commission
England

South England Forest District

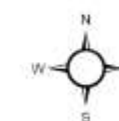
Wardour

Aerial

KEY



Wardour Management Area



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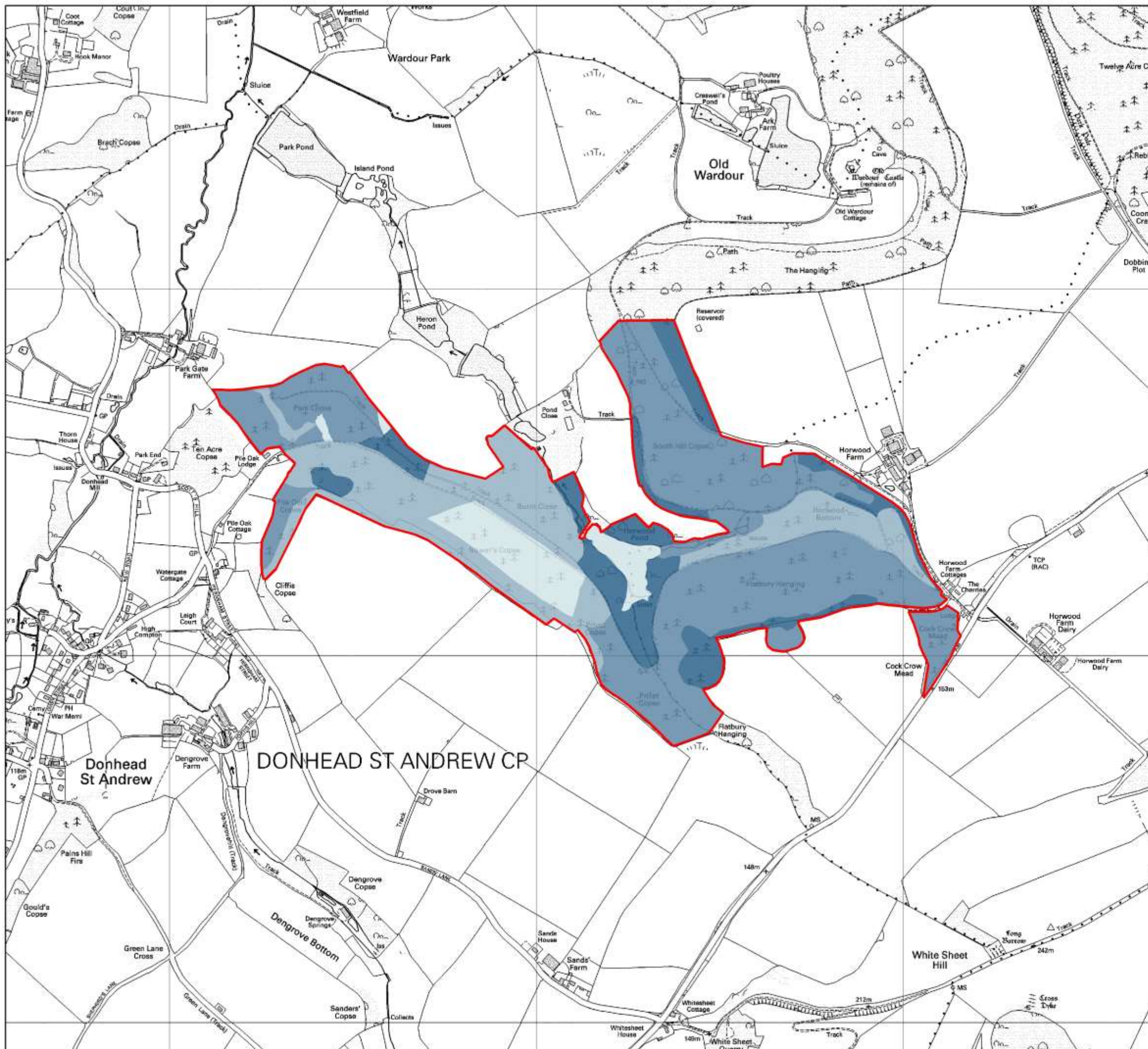
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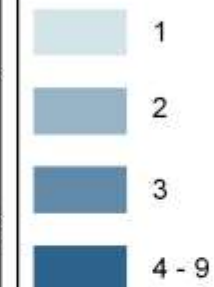


Wardour Indicative Species Diversity

KEY

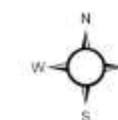
 Wardour Management Area

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



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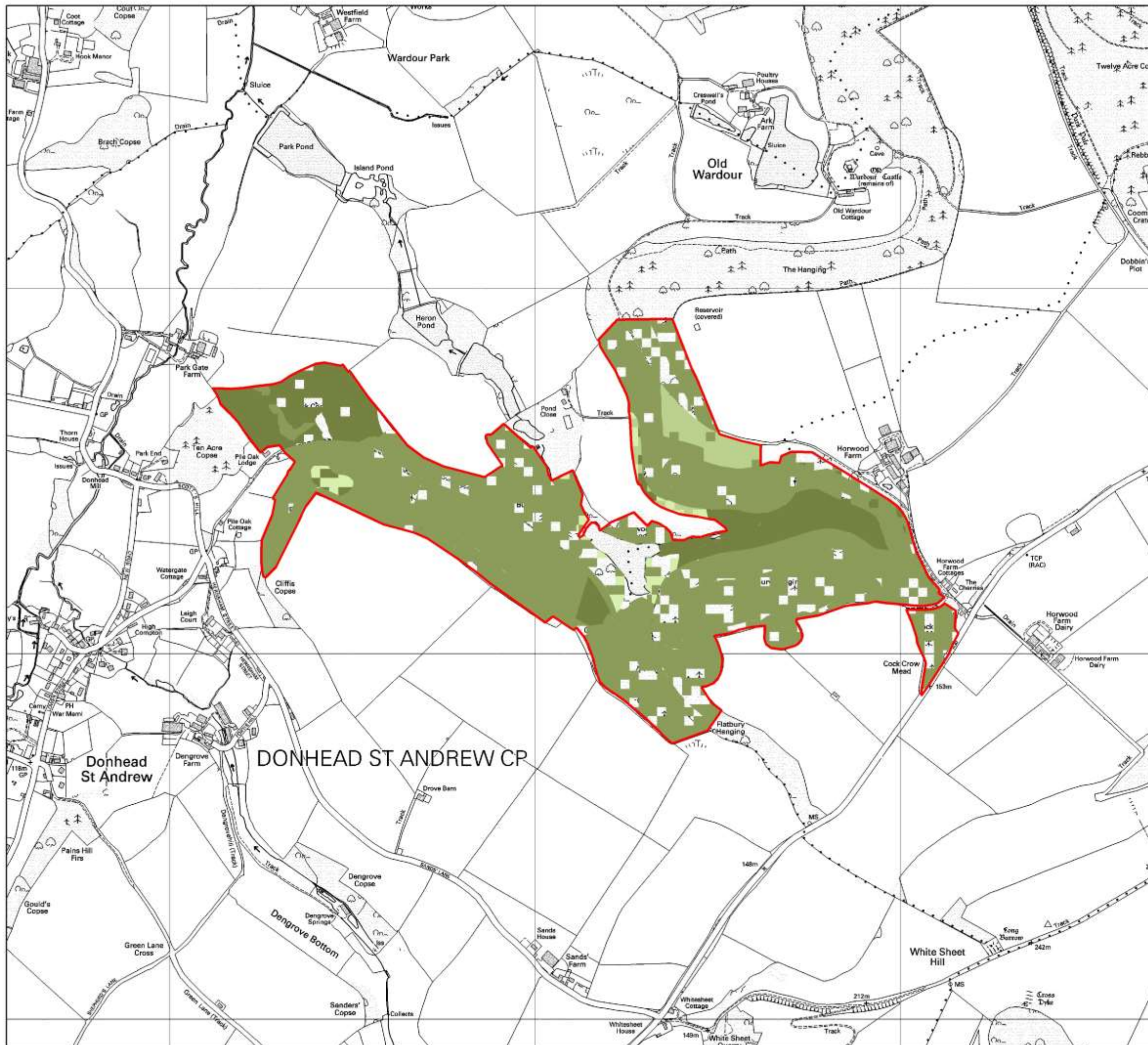


Wardour Indicative Age Diversity

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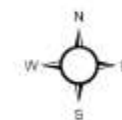
- Wardour Management Area
- Over 100 Years Old
- 81 - 100 Years Old
- 61 - 80 Years Old
- 41 - 60 Years Old
- 21 - 40 Years Old
- 1 - 20 Years Old

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



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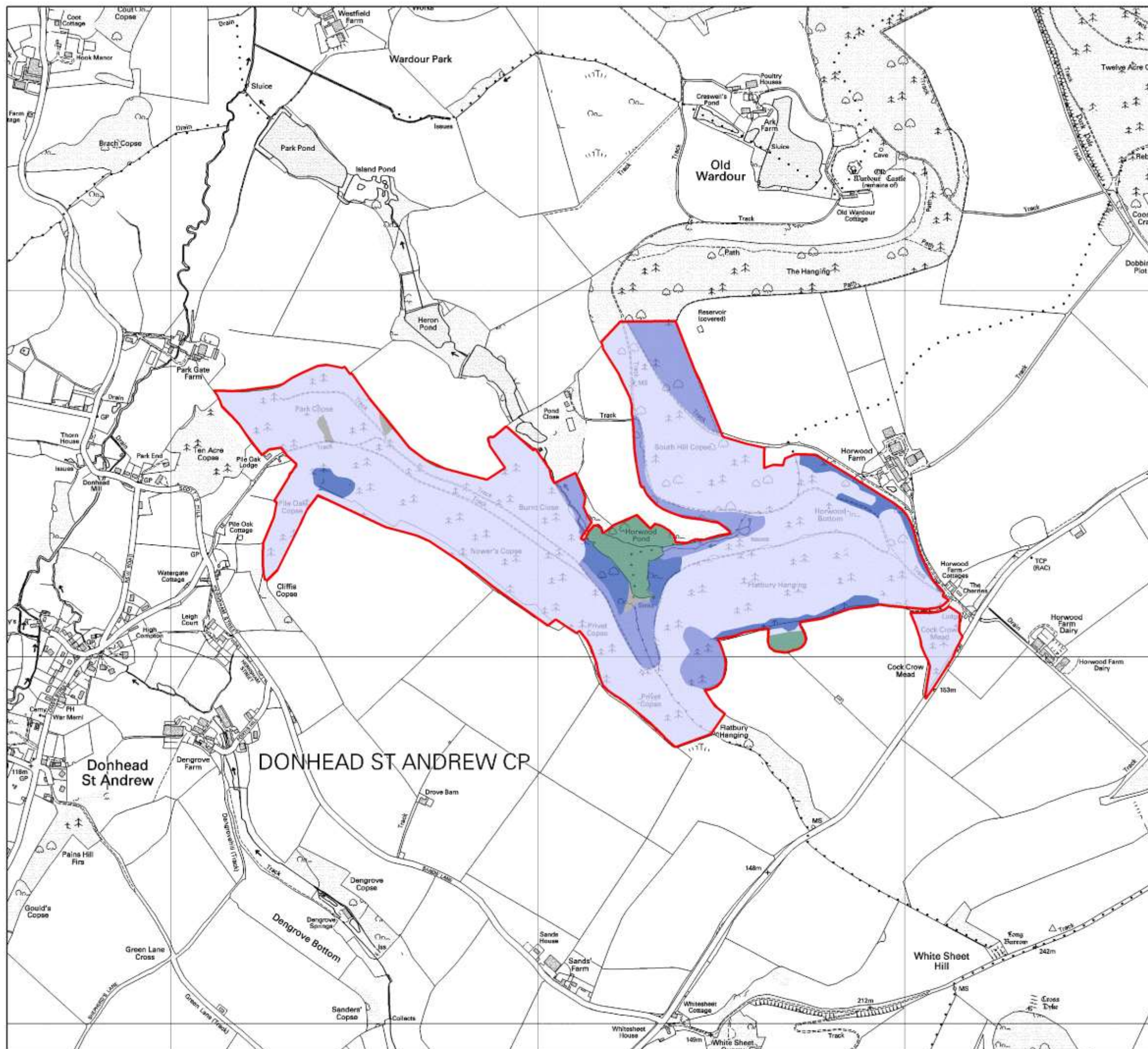
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England

South England Forest District

Wardour Ancient Woodland (NE) & Semi-Natural Scoring

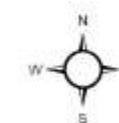
KEY

-  Wardour 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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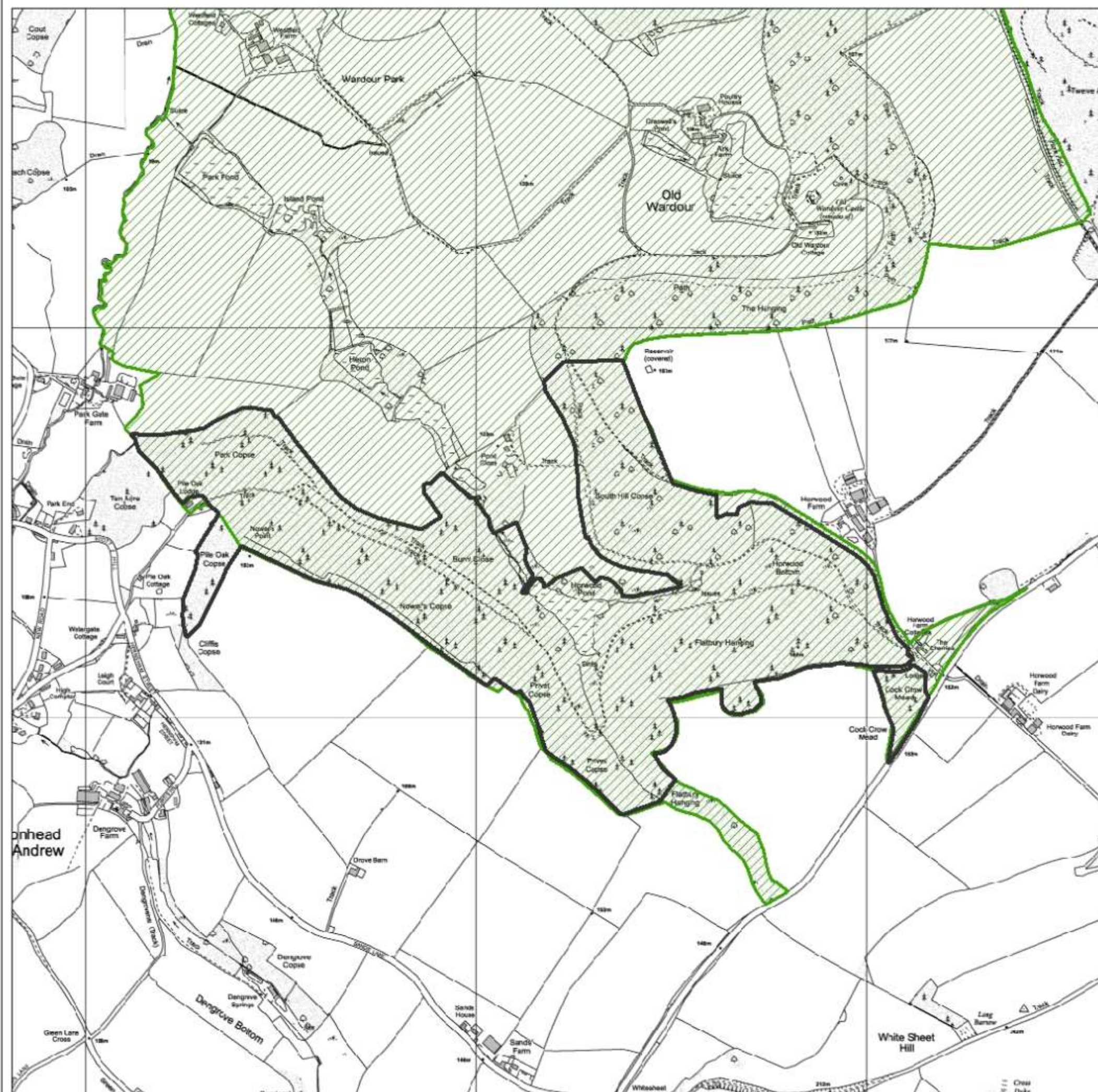
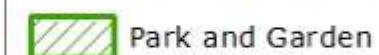
Wardour Historic Environment Designations



Legend



DESIGNATION TYPE

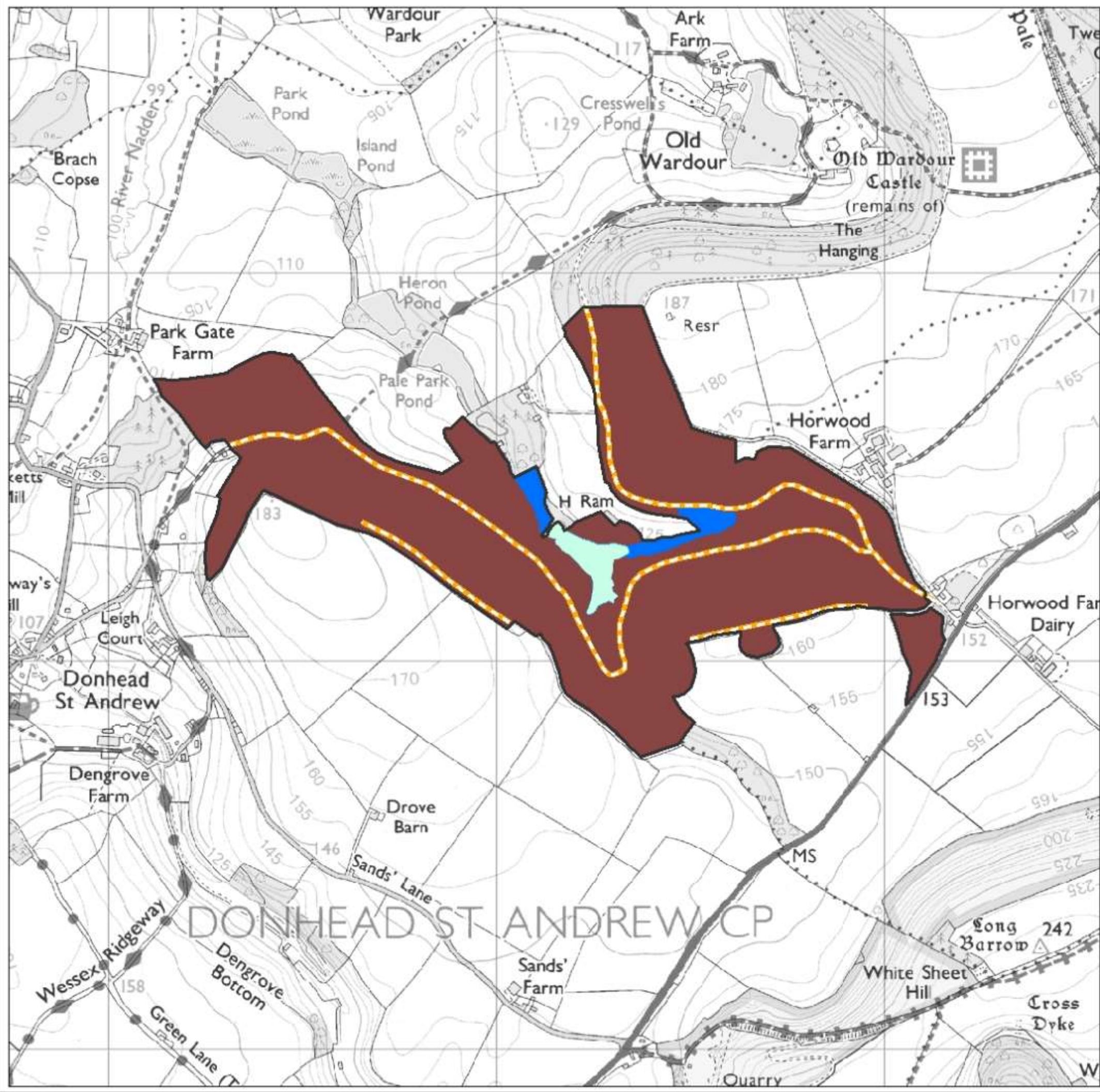


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Wardour Long Term Vision



Illustrates the long-term structure of the woodland.

Legend

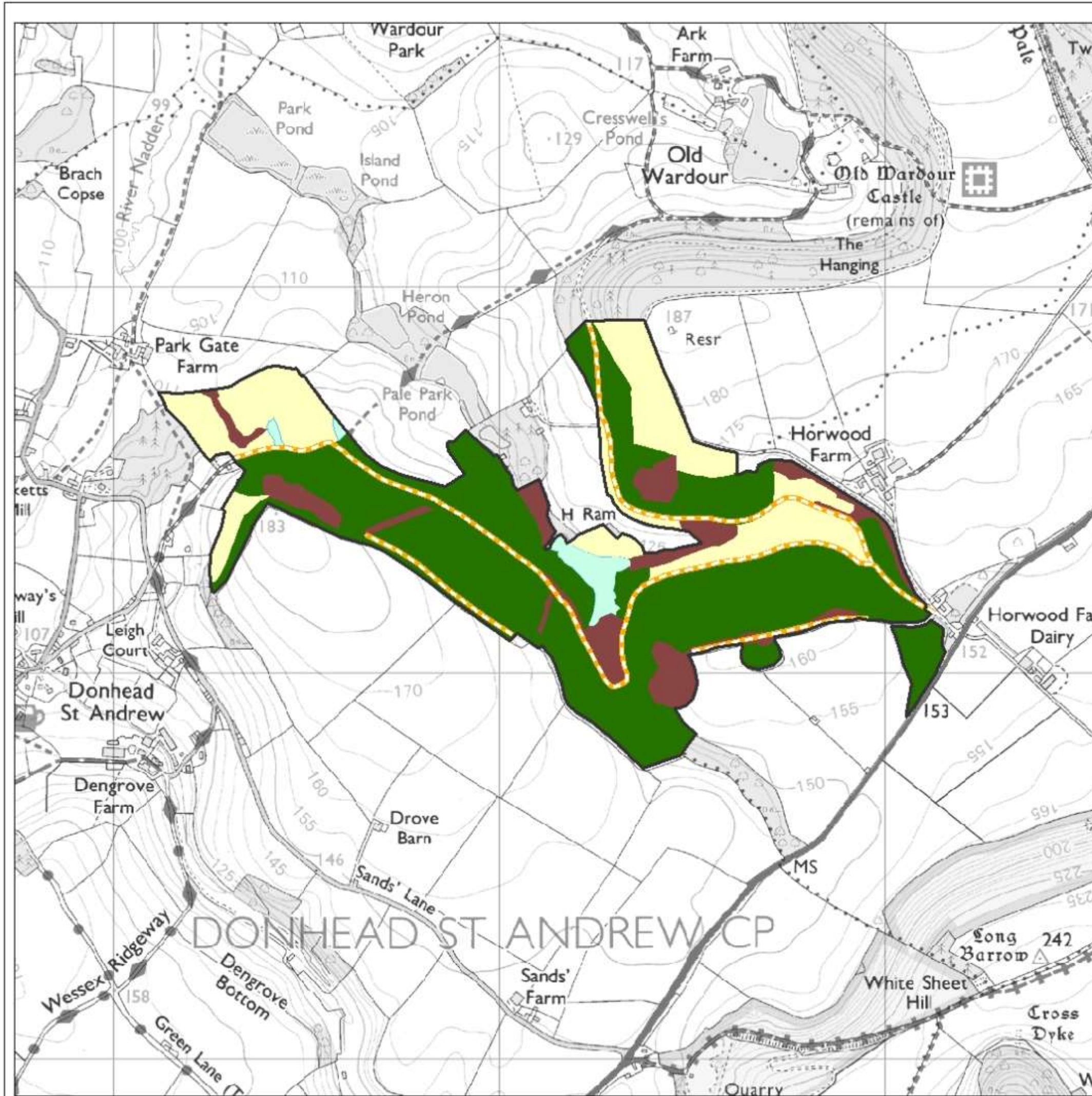
- Management Area
- Native Woodland.
Woodland which is predominantly (>80%) native species of a high forest structure with well-developed under-storey and areas of transitional open space.
- Wet Woodland.
- Open Water
- Wildlife Corridors.
A scalloped network of roads, rides and tracks providing migration routes and high quality habitat for associated species.

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



Wardour Current Structure



Illustrates the structure of the woodland in 2016.

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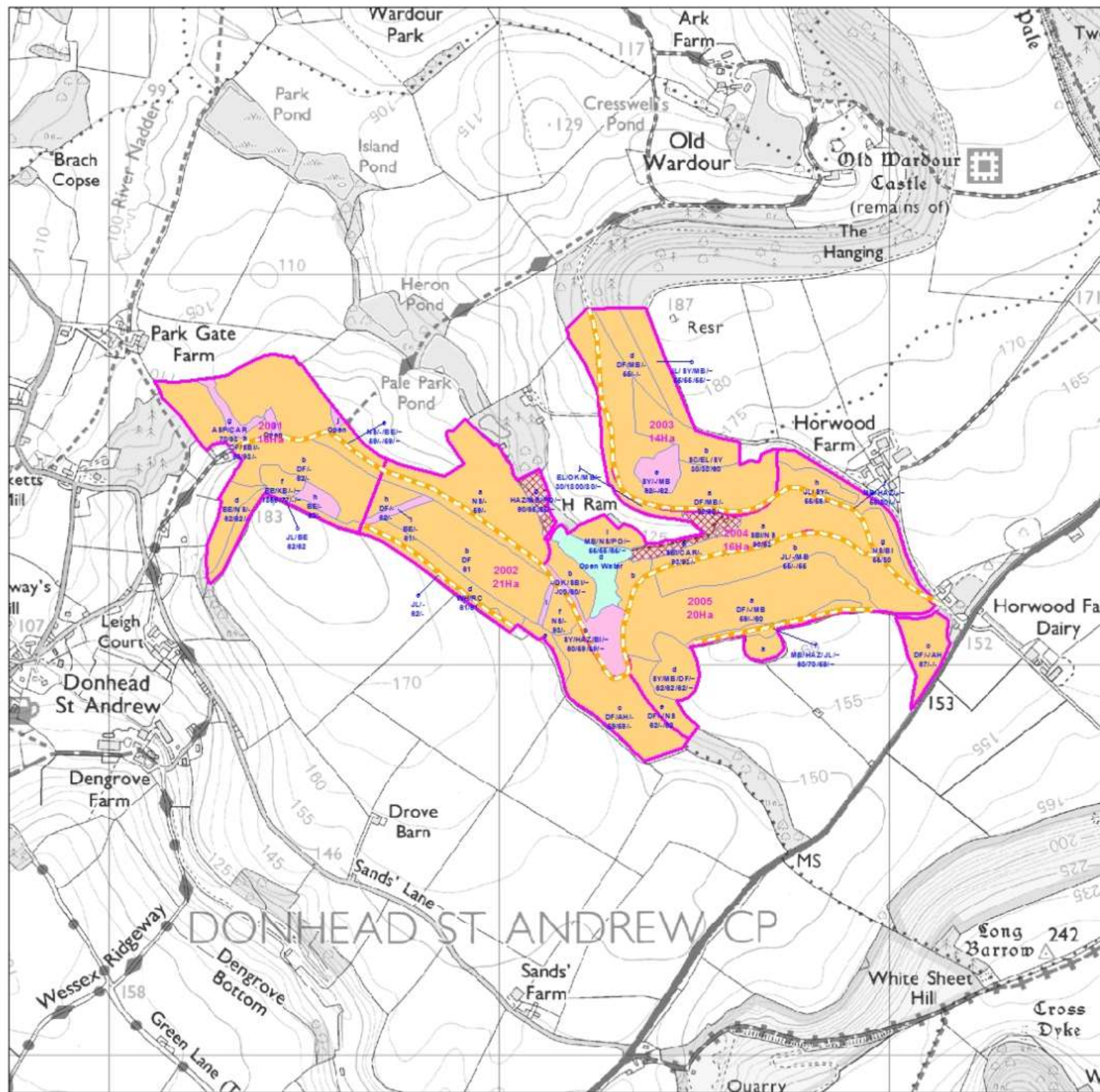
-  Management Area
-  Native Woodland.
Woodland which is predominantly (>80%) native species of a high forest structure with well-developed under-storey and areas of transitional open space.
-  Mixed Woodland.
No species type (broadleaf or conifer) represents more than 80% of the canopy.
-  Predominantly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

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Wardour 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.
-  Natural Reserve Wet Woodland.
Intervene only if a specific health and safety
or plant health issue arises.
-  Open Water
-  Wildlife Corridors.
A scalloped network of roads, rides and
tracks providing migration routes and high
quality habitat for associated species.

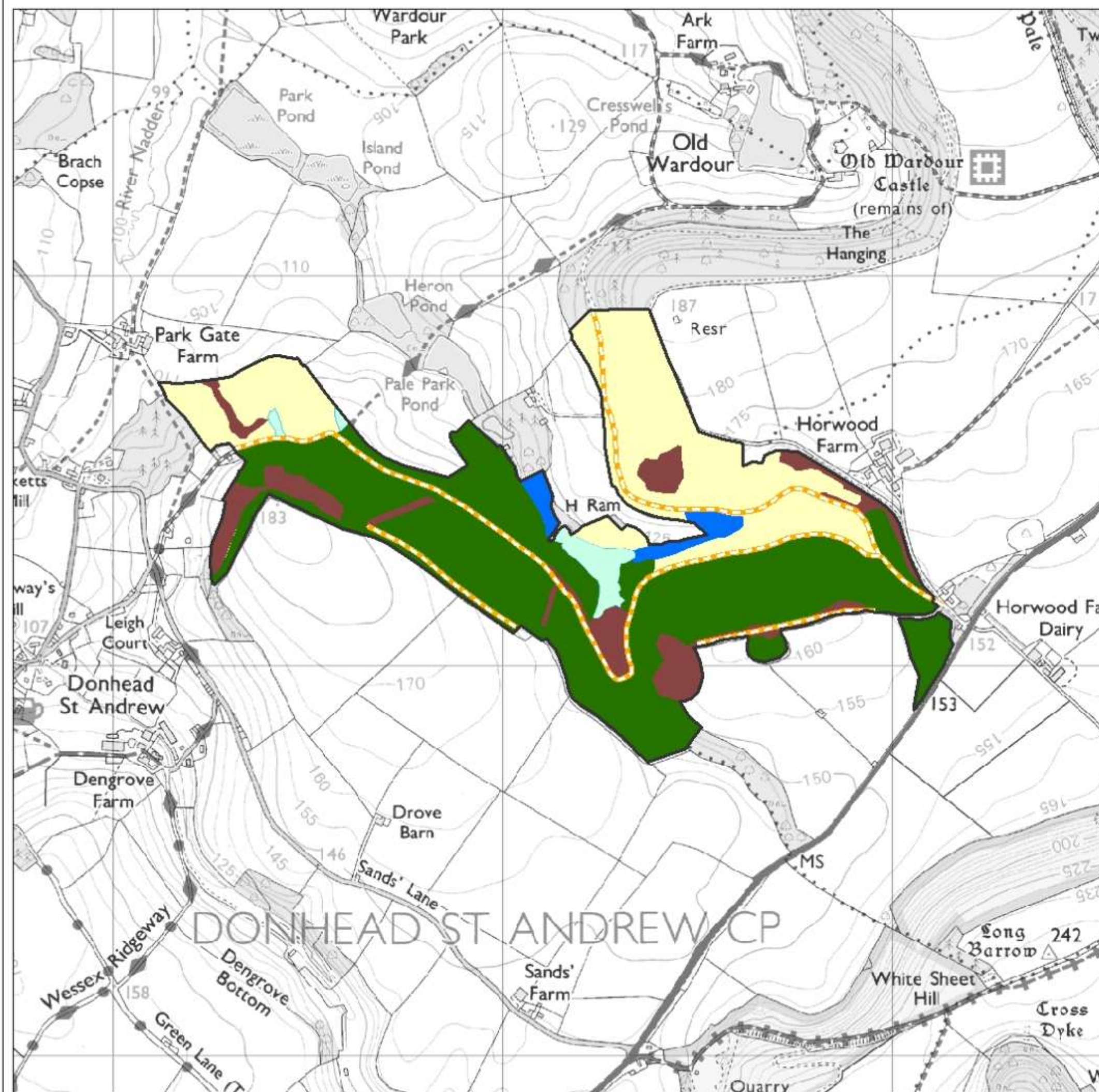
Declaration by FC as an operator.
All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise Estate
represents a negligible risk under the EUTR
(No. 995/210).

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