

Plan Name: *Horton Wood (Queens Copse)*

FE Plan Reference Number: *NEW209*

Date of Commencement of Plan: *1st September, 2009*

Approval Period: *1st September 2009 to 31st August 2019*

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

**NB. All Activities during approval period aimed at restoration of native woodland to be achieved by thinning. No felling or restocking proposed during period of plan.**

All areas in hectares

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Conifers</i>	<i>Broadleaves</i>	<i>Other Open Space</i>	<i>Heathland or Mire</i>	<i>Total Area</i>
Felling	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Restocking	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Other Habitat Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**Total Plan Area: 77 Ha**

Forest District: *New Forest District*

Woodland / Property Name: *Horton Wood (Queens Copse)*

FE Reference Number: *NEW 209*

Nearest town or village: *Horton*

OS Grid Reference: **SU 040 063 (Centre of Site)**

Local Authority: *East Dorset District Council*

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

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

Signed:

Michael Seddon, Deputy Surveyor, New Forest

Date: 12 June, 2009

Approved: ..... Conservator

Conservancy: .....

Date: .....

## **10. Horton Wood (Queens Copse) NEW 209**

### **10.1 Location** *(See Location Map)*

Queens Copse covers an area of 77 hectares and is located to the west of Horton Heath approximately one and a half kilometres east of Horton village. The minor Ringwood to Horton road runs along the north eastern boundary and Holt wood is located the south of the wood adjacent to its southern boundary.

### **10.2 Landscape Context**

Topography within the woodland is gentle with the whole wood lying between 30 and 40 metres above sea level. A stream running east west bisects the wood and a shallow valley formation affords some variation to the predominantly flat character of the woodland. External views of the woodland are limited to glimpses from the Ringwood to Horton road and more extensive views from the area surrounding Horton Tower to the west where the ground rises to approximately 60 metres above sea level.

### **10.3 Current Woodland Structure** *(See Habitat Structure and Age Structure Charts)*

Much of the woodland comprises conifer plantations established from the late 1950s through to the early 1970s. Douglas Fir and Larch has grown particularly well on the fertile clay soils and have produced high quality conifer stands. Interventions in recent years have focused on removing conifer by thinning to restore PAWS woodland and as a result the area of Class 1 (Semi-Natural Woodland) and Class 2 (Reasserting Semi-Natural Woodland) has been steadily increasing.

There are also some relic areas of semi natural woodland within Queens Copse including an impressive stand of native Small Leaved Lime. Areas of reasserting semi natural woodland are present particularly along the margins of the stream corridor and evidence of native woodland regeneration is present as an understorey across a large proportion of the woodland. There is a small area of worked Sweet Chestnut Coppice in the north of the woodland.

Open space has increased as a result of recent work to open up rides and tracks throughout the woodland and past work involving clearance of conifers along the stream corridor although this area is now freely regenerating with native broadleaves.

### **10.4 Conservation** *(See Site Designation Map)*

Queens Copse is ancient in origin and is recorded as a Planted Ancient Woodland Site in the Dorset Ancient Woodland Inventory. Planted Ancient Woodland Sites have been surveyed across the forest district to identify priorities for restoration to native woodland. Queens Copse is classified as being a high priority site for ancient woodland restoration and the Forest Design Plan has been developed to support this aim. Holt Wood which lies to the south and is contiguous with Queens Copse is classified as an Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and a National Nature Reserve.

Plant species of interest within the woodland include the white helleborine. Butterfly populations are generally under recorded but the wood is noted for holding good numbers of White Admiral. Evidence of nests and feeding signs indicate that the site holds a population of dormice.

### **10.5 Recreation**

Public access is gained at the eastern point of the woodland where informal car parking by the barrier occurs. Some people use the gravel road within the woodland as a circular walk but the woodland is not heavily used by the public. A recent residential development lies adjacent to the south west and public access is increasing from this source. A bridleway runs through the northern section of the woodland.

### **10.6 Archaeology** *(See Site Designation Map)*

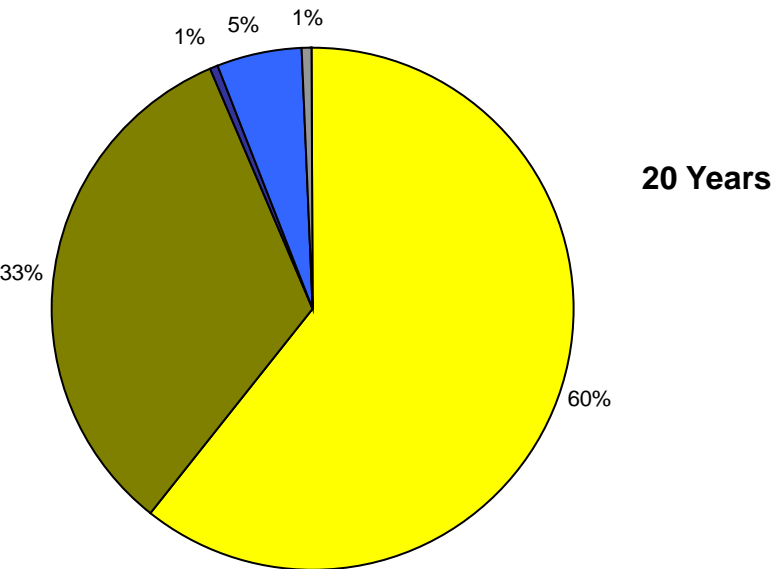
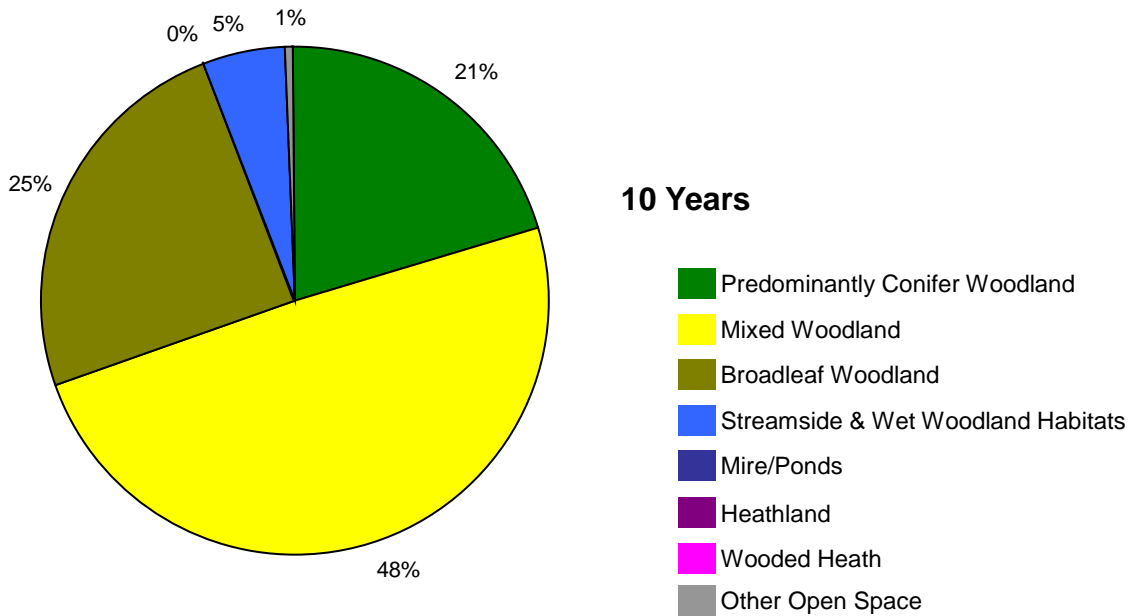
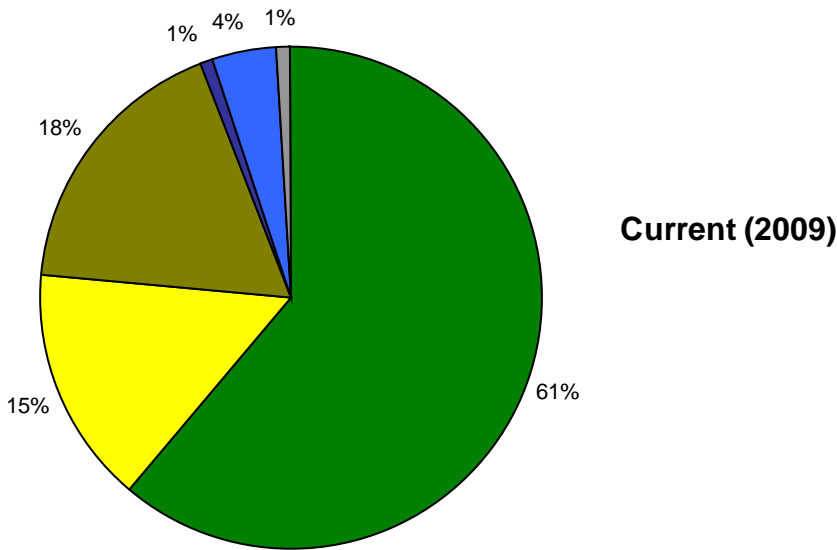
There are no scheduled archaeological sites within Queens Copse but there are a number of ancient boundary banks within the woodland. Additionally there are a number of earthworks in the eastern portion of the woods, which are believed to be ancient but are of uncertain origin. Medieval fishponds in this area are also a notable feature worthy of protection. All of these sites will be afforded protection as work arising from the Forest Design Plan progresses.

SUMMARY STATISTICS OF HABITAT TYPES  
Horton Wood (Queen’s Copse) New 209

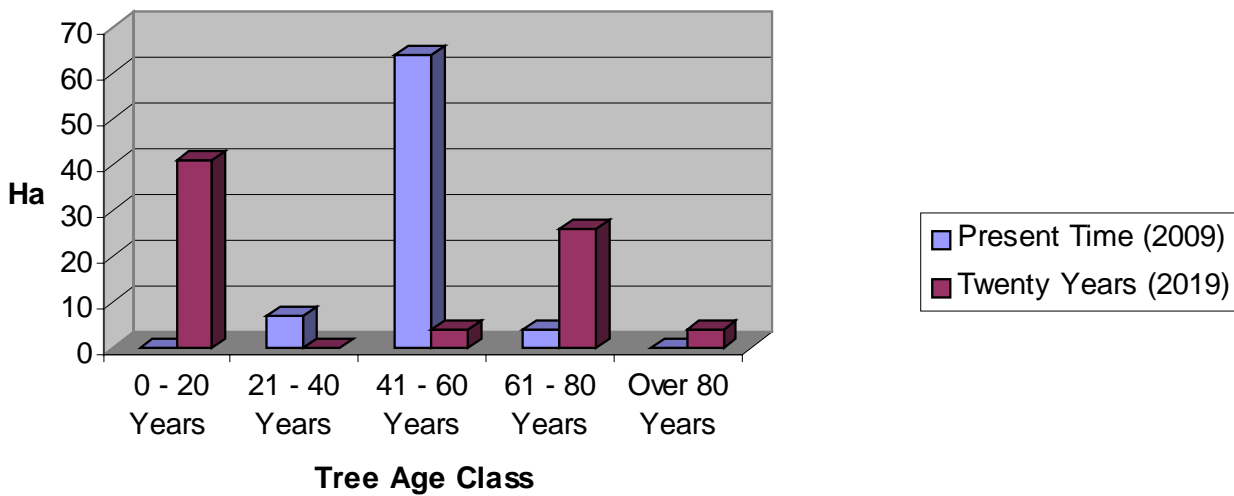
Habitat Type	Area (Hectares)				
	Present Time (2009)	In 10 years time	Change from present	In 20 years time	Change from present
Predominantly Conifer Woodland	47.0	16.0	31.0	0.0	-47.0
Mixed Woodland	11.8	37.7	-25.9	47.0	35.2
Broadleaf Woodland	13.8	19.2	-5.4	25.6	11.8
Mire/Bog /Ponds	0.5		0.5	0.5	0.0
Streamside habitats/wet woodland	3.2	4.0	-0.8	4.0	0.8
Other Open Space	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	-0.3
Total Land Area	77.1	77.4		77.6	

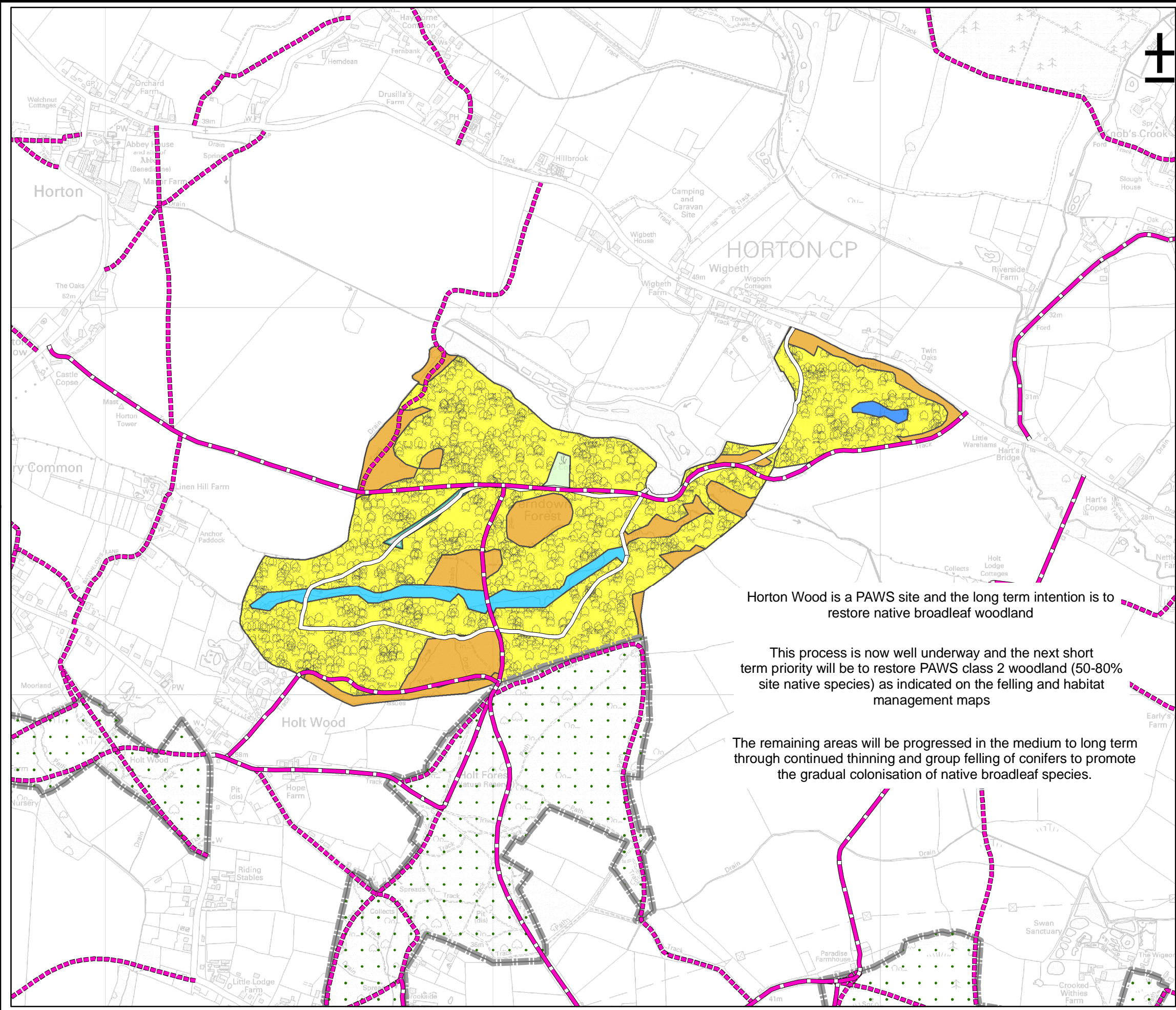
Notes:

**Predominantly Conifer Woodland** – conifer species occupy at least 70-80% of the canopy.  
**Mixed Woodland** – neither broadleaved or conifer species occupy more than 70-80% of the canopy.  
**Streamside Habitats/Wet Woodland** – Mixture of open habitats and broadleaved woodland along watercourses or areas of wet/bog woodland.  
**Heathland** – Open heathland habitat with less than 5% tree cover  
**Wooded Heath** – Heathland with up to 30% tree cover comprising scattered groups and individual trees  
**Mire** – Open habitat comprising wet mire communities possibly interspersed with niches of wet and dry heath.  
**Other Open Space** – areas of permanent open space including agricultural land, wayleaves, car parks etc.



Woodland Age Structure





## New Forest District NEW 209

# Design Concept

### Horton Wood (Queens Copse)

Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term

#### Legend

- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Footpath
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Existing Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW). Woodland that contains greater than 80% site native species.
- PAWS restoration sites - areas where ancient woodland sites have historically been replanted with non-native species. The intention is to restore these sites over time to contain greater than 80% native species through thinning and natural regeneration.
- Coppice stands maintained using traditional rotational coppice techniques
- Streamside corridors that will be managed in accordance with the Forests and Water Guidelines.
- Pond
- Felled / unplanted areas

Horton Wood is a PAWS site and the long term intention is to restore native broadleaf woodland

This process is now well underway and the next short term priority will be to restore PAWS class 2 woodland (50-80% site native species) as indicated on the felling and habitat management maps

The remaining areas will be progressed in the medium to long term through continued thinning and group felling of conifers to promote the gradual colonisation of native broadleaf species.

Approved by:

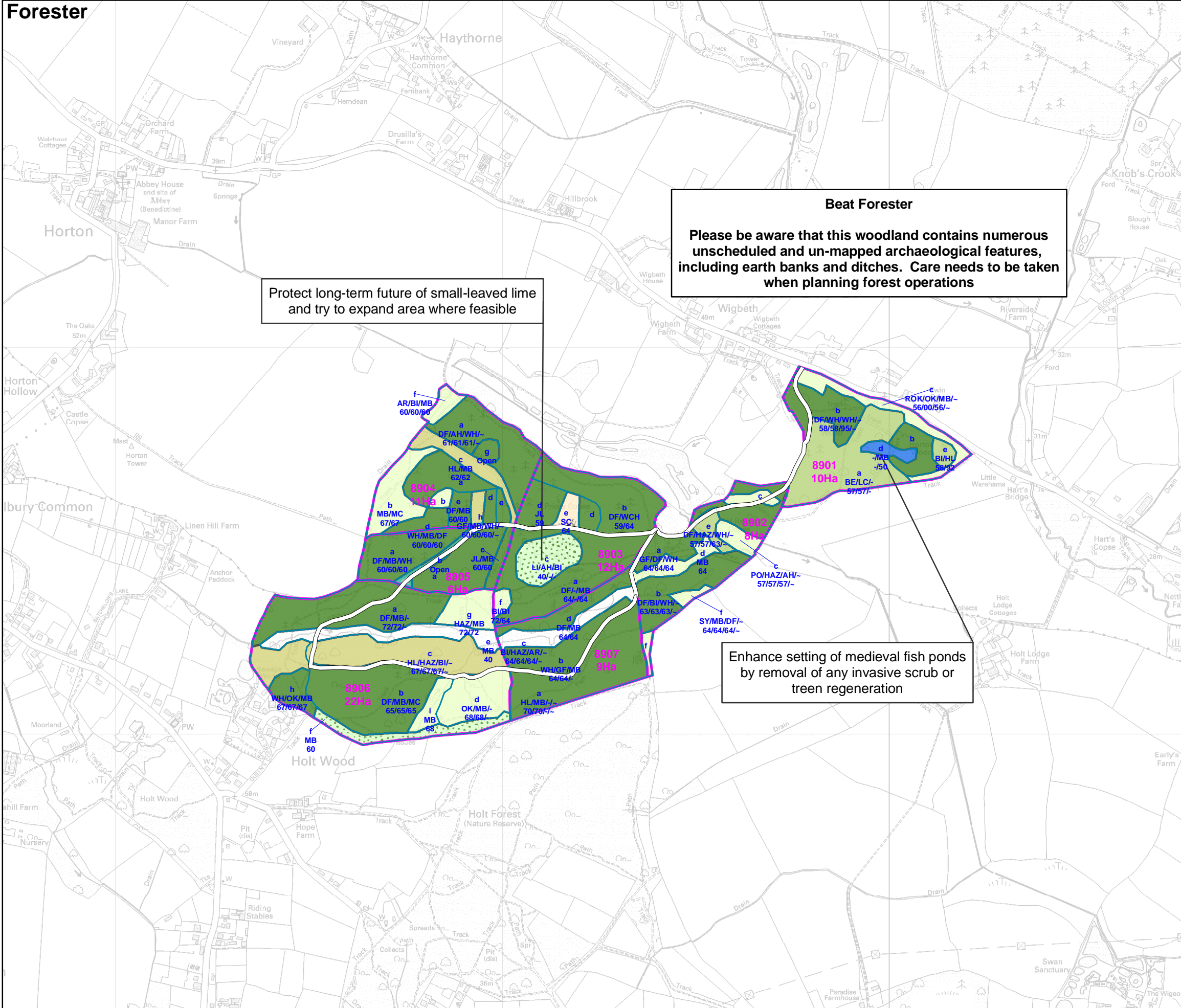
Deputy Surveyor:	Conservator:
Date:	Date:

Date: 1 May 2009      Scale: 1:10,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Forestry Commission. 100025498



## Forester



## New Forest District NEW 209



## Felling and Habitat Management

## Horton Wood (Queens Copse)

Illustrates timing of felling and management proposals within period of plan

### Legend

- ! Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
  - / Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
  - Heathland ride management
  - Sub-Compartment
  - Compartment
- Manage existing Semi-natural woodland through selective thinning and coppicing of the understorey (where appropriate) to promote regeneration of native broadleaves.
- Class 1 Semi-Natural Woodland (PAWS) Manage existing Semi-natural woodland through selective thinning and coppicing of the understorey (where appropriate) to promote regeneration of native broadleaves.
- Class 2 Reasserting Semi-Natural Woodland (PAWS). Plantation with 50-80% site-native species. Priority areas for removal of conifer and non-native broadleaves by thinning. Manage to promote native broadleaf regeneration including coppice where appropriate.
- Class 3 Plantation (PAWS) with 20-50% site-native species. Manage to promote gradual regeneration and establishment of native species through phased thinning and small group fells of conifer and non-native broadleaves.
- Class 4 Plantation (PAWS) with less than 20% site-native species. Undertake phased thinning and small group fells of conifer and non-native broadleaves to promote the gradual regeneration and establishment of native broadleaved species in the longer term.
- Pond
  - Coppice stands maintained using traditional rotational coppice techniques
  - Felled / unestablished areas

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:  
Date:

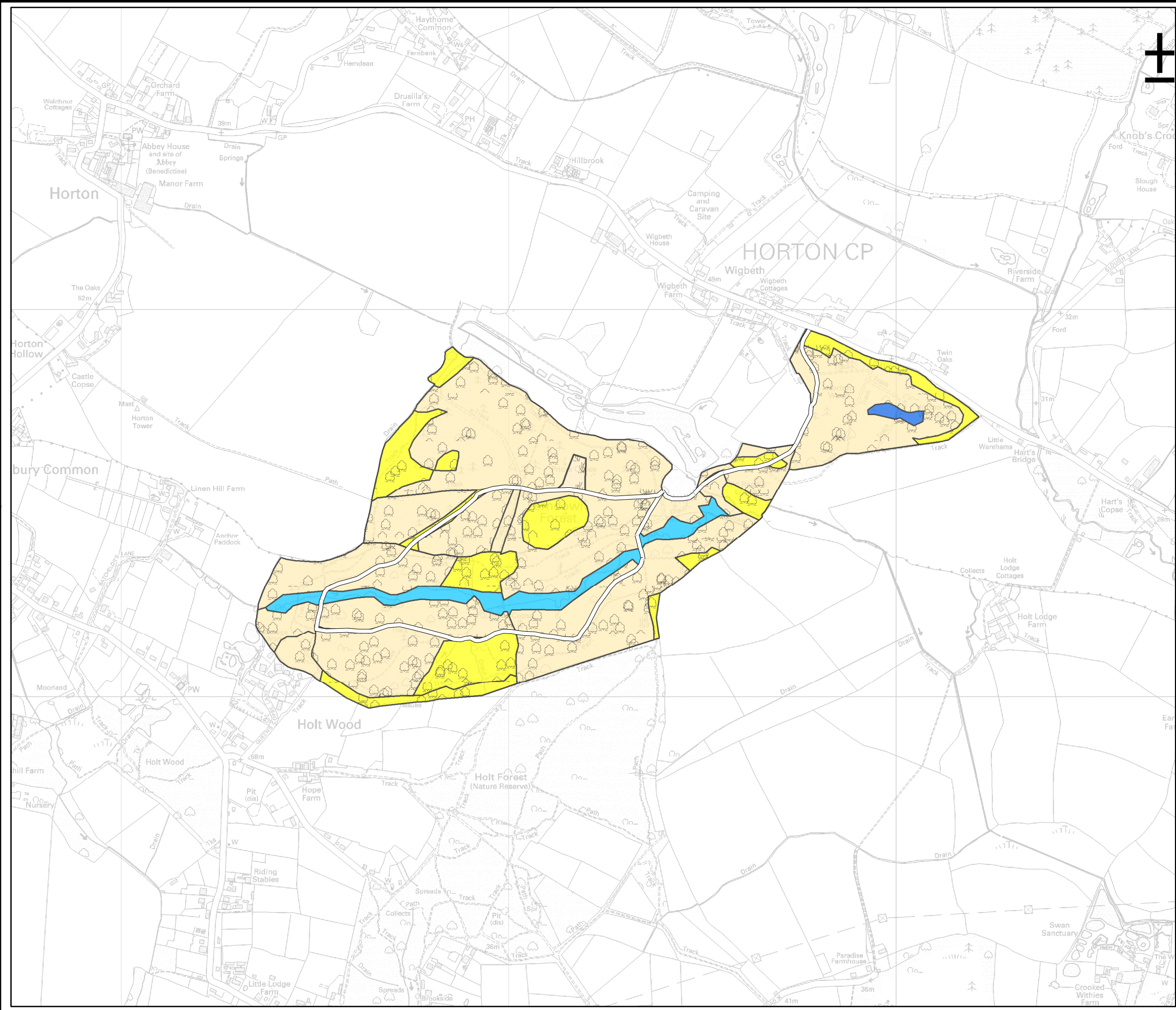
Conservator:  
Date:

Date: 30 March 2009

Scale: 1:10,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Forestry Commission. 100025498





New Forest District  
NEW 209  
Restocking Plan  
Horton Wood (Queens Copse)

Indicative of the structure of the woodlands at the end of the plan period

Legend

Natural regeneration of native broadleaves

Natural regeneration of native broadleaves through thinning

Coppice

Streamside restoration

Pond

Open

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:  
Date:

Conservator:  
Date:

Date: 1 May 2009

Scale: 1:10,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Forestry Commission. 100025498