

Havant Holt, Havant Thicket & The Queens Inclosure

Location

The Queen's Inclosure lies roughly in the centre of Cowplain in south east Hampshire.

Havant Thicket lies to east of the A3(M) and the south-west of the B2149, immediately north of the town of Havant. Havant Holt lies adjacent to the Thicket on the north-east of the B2149.

Tenure

The Forestry Commission owns the freehold of Havant Thicket and most of The Queen's Inclosure. Around 20% of The Queen's Inclosure and all of Havant Holt are managed by the Forestry Commission under a long term lease agreement.

Landscape

The Queen's Inclosure sits wholly within the urban setting of Cowplain. While providing accessible green space for local residents as well as being a sizeable habitat for wildlife, it is not visible in the wider landscape.

Havant Holt and Havant Thicket are connected by a strip of woodland not managed by the Forestry Commission. Together this block is of significant size within the local area, being surrounded by agricultural land which is interrupted by scattered, smaller pieces of woodland. The woodlands are also very close to the urban conurbations of Havant to the south, Cowplain to the west and the village of Rowlands Castle to the east. The A3(M) is directly adjacent to the western edge of Havant thicket. In terms of scale, this woodland block is mirrored to the east by Stansted Forest.

Current Woodland Structure

Havant Holt

Approximately 98% of the woodland area (~126ha) is classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site. The northern third of the woodland is dominated by Beech with the rest of the woodland being a much more intimate mixture of other broadleaves such as Ash, Oak and Birch with conifer species such as Norway Spruce, and Douglas Fir.

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 5 to 60 years old.

There is also a good proportion of open space, mainly concentrated within a central band running through the block from the north-west to the south-east. This band is interspersed with broadleaved species in clumps and larger groups creating a good mosaic of open space with developing woodland. The wide edges to the road and ride network also add to the open feel of this woodland.

Havant Thicket

Approximately 14% of the woodland area (~20ha) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland and around 78% of the woodland area (~108ha) is classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site. There is significant conifer component throughout the woodland including Norway Spruce, Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Corsican Pine. A small amount of Larch is also present. Oak is the predominant, planted broadleaved species with birch and willow also present in fairly high proportions. Some Ash and Beech are also present.

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to 70 years old.

There is a good proportion of young, fairly open, establishing broadleaved woodland as well as mature high forest. These open areas are supported by wide edges to the road and ride network.

The Queen's Inclosure

Approximately 12% of the woodland area (~5ha) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland and around 80% of the woodland area (~32ha) is classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site.

This woodland is almost entirely broadleaf, with only scattered over-mature characterful Scots Pine present with a good proportion of veteran Yew as well. Oak is the predominant broadleaved species with some Ash, Birch and Beech also present.

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to 120 years old.

There is also a good proportion of open space, mainly centered around entrances and a pond in the middle of the woodland, but supported by wide edges to the road and ride network.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Areas of Ancient Woodland and associated features are the main points of conservation interest within the woodlands.

The variety of broadleaved and coniferous woodland, added to open space along the ride and road network and through the woodlands gives rise to suitable habitats for invertebrates and in turn woodland birds. Medium mammals, reptiles and bats have been recorded in recent years.

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 invertebrates and other associated species such as woodland birds. Decisions about where such enhancement work will take place will be made at the operational stage of management.

People

Free hold areas are dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)., allowing open public access. The leasehold area of The Queen's Inclosure is also managed with open public access for uses within the Forestry Commission Byelaws.

Public access is limited to the Public Rights of Way within the leasehold area of Havant Holt.

Around the Queen's Inclosure, the only car parking space is provided by local on-street parking. Visitors therefore tend to be local residents, accessing the wood on foot. For Havant Thicket, there is a well used formal woodland car park accessed from the B2149 main Horndean to Havant road.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk around the Havant Woods. 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.

The proposed development of a reservoir to the south of the woodland is likely to increase visitor pressure on Havant Holt and Havant Thicket. Such increases will have to be monitored and if required, mitigation will be needed to ensure there is no detrimental impact on existing habitats.

There is a pedestrian link between the open access areas of Staunton Country Park and Havant Thicket which increases the potential for walkers' enjoyment of the woodlands.

Historic Environment

There are two Scheduled Monuments within Havant Holt. These will continue to be managed in accordance with our statutory responsibilities. Continued monitoring will take place to ensure that anything further and relevant found is recorded and fed into operational planning in line with statutory responsibilities and best practice guidelines.

Soils

The soils, though variable, are predominantly stagnogleys associated with the Wickham series and are generally slowly permeable with fine loamy / silty texture.

Water

Hermitage Stream runs through The Queen's Inclosure and Havant Thicket. As it flows through the woodlands, management practices can have an influence on downstream temperatures and water quality.

There also a number of ponds; one in The Queen's Inclosure and three in Havant Thicket; as well as swallow holes.

Drains are the only other water flows through the woodlands.

Opportunities for the improvement of these habitats should be identified at the operational planning stage.

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 minimal if present at all within the woodland, Corsican Pine is a significant species. Dothistroma therefore poses some risk of forced structural change.

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



Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Havant Holt, Havant Thicket & The Queen's Inclosure

Location

Key

-  Havant Thicket
-  Havant Holt
-  The Queen's Inclosure

1:50,000

Date: 15/01/2014

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Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Havant Holt, Havant Thicket & The Queen's Inclosure

Location

Key

-  Havant Thicket
-  Havant Holt
-  The Queen's Inclosure

1:25,000

Date: 15/01/2014

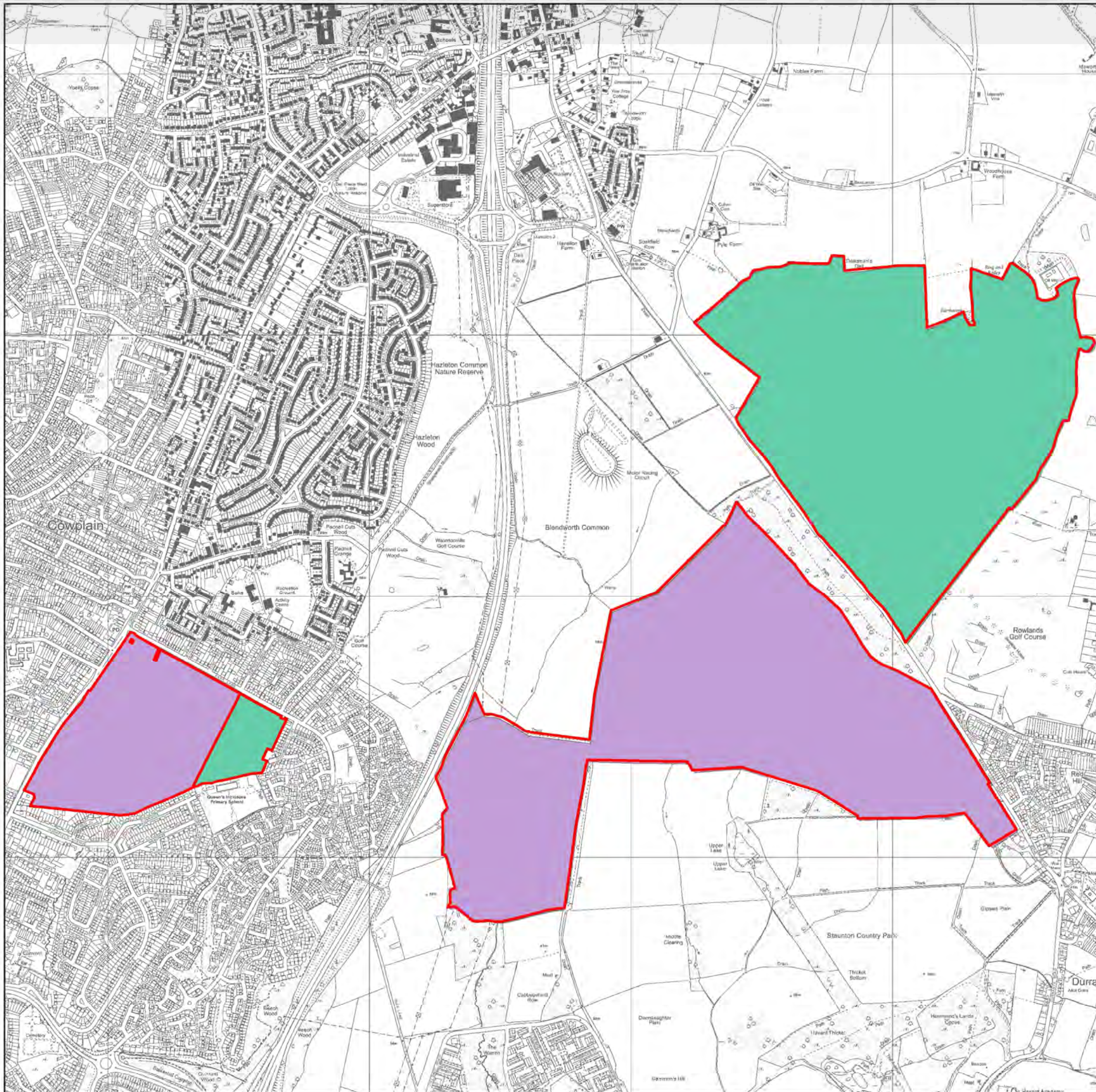


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accordance with the
rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council





Havant Block

Tenure



KEY

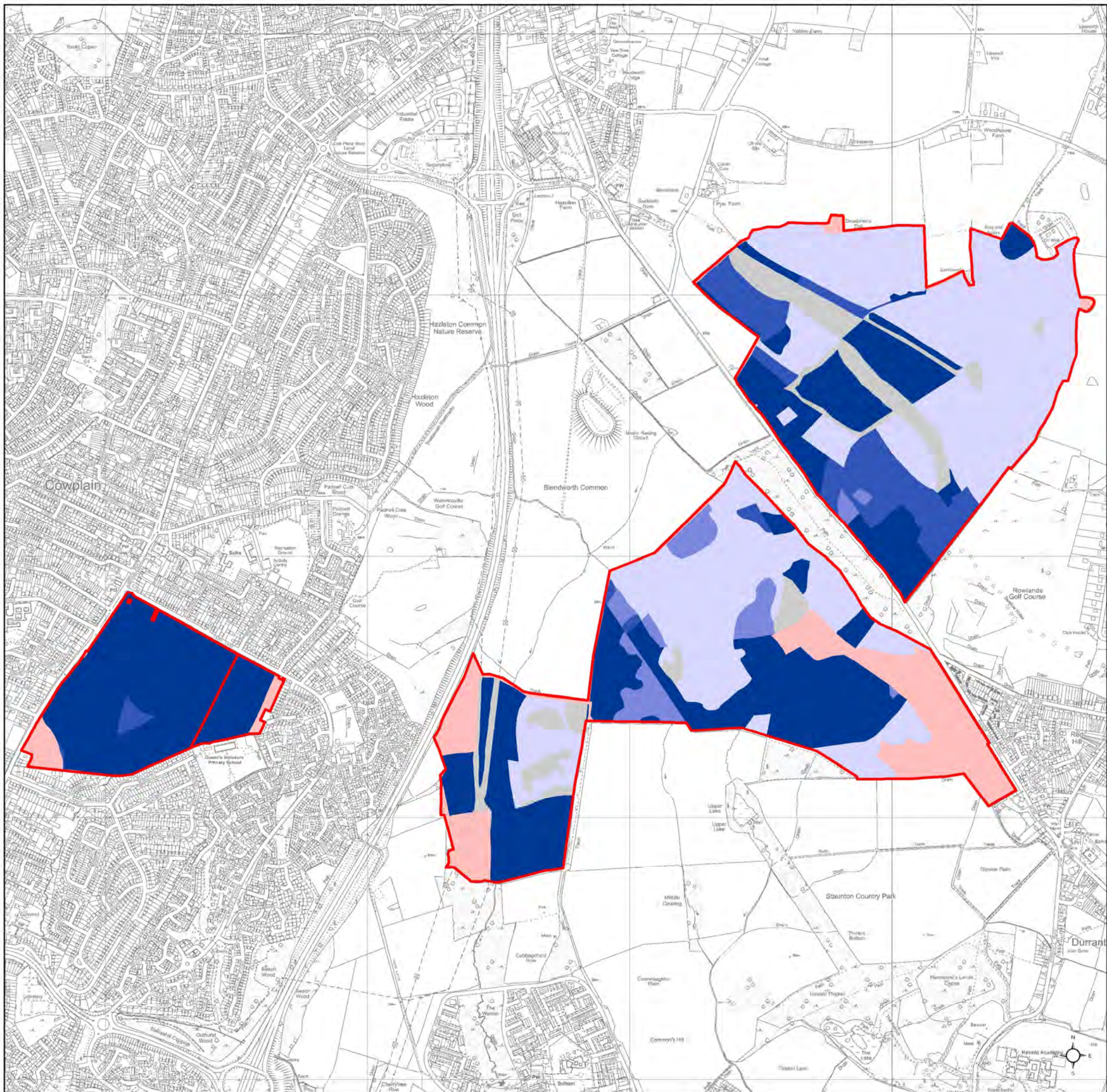
- Havant Block Management Area
- Freehold
- Leasehold

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Havant Block

Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Scoring



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Key

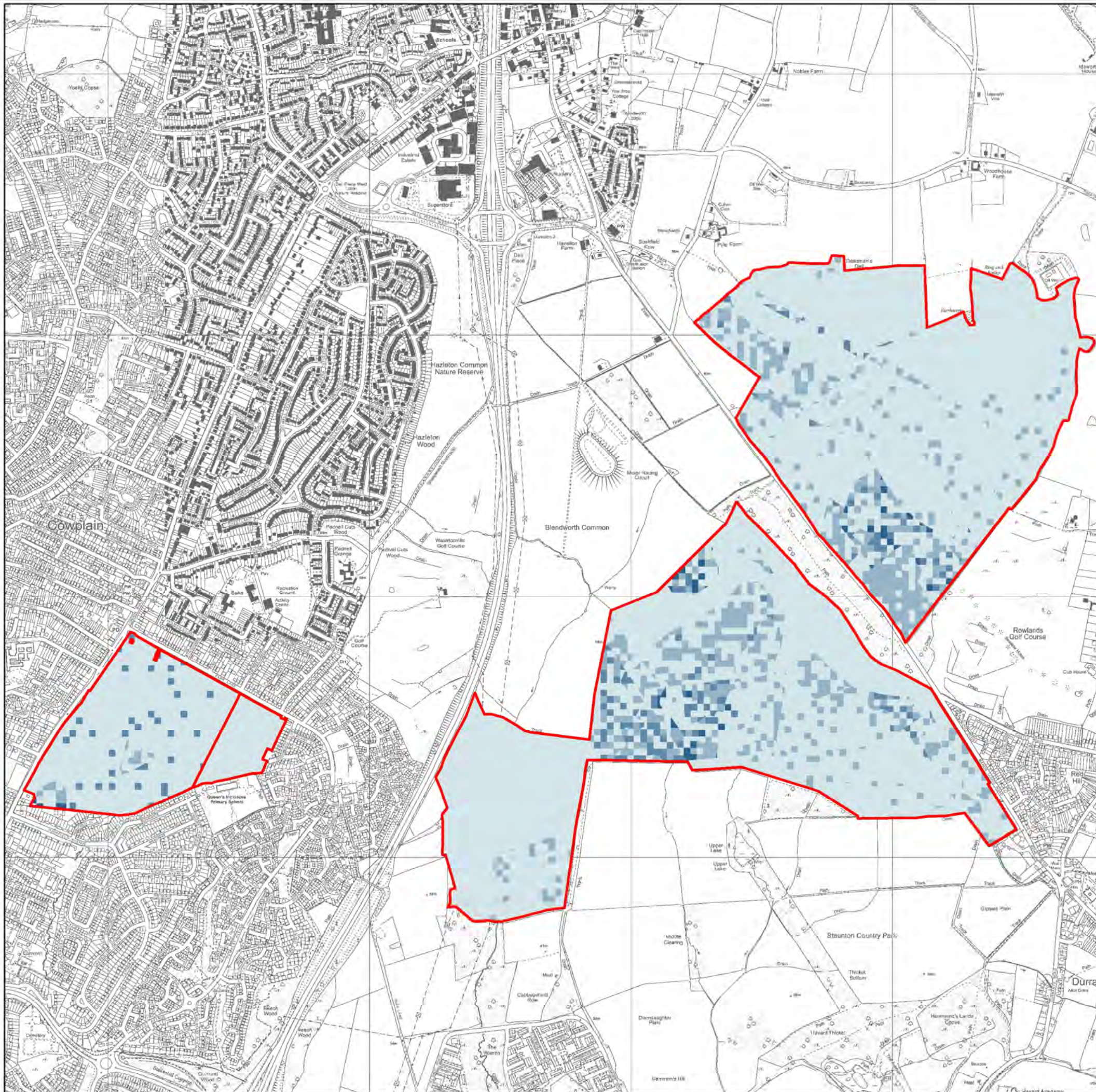
- 1 - Over 80% native
- 2 - Between 50% and 80% native
- 3 - Between 20% and 50% native
- 4 - Less than 20% native
- Currently open or un-established woodland
- Not Ancient Woodland
- Forest of Beer Management Area

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Havant Block

Indicative Species Diversity



KEY

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



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Havant Block

Indicative Age Diversity



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Key

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

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

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Havant Block



South England Forest District

Habitat Restoration & Felling

AMENDMENT TO 6517b

KEY

Native Broadleaved Woodland Management.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system, favouring best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber.

Native Broadleaved 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.

Maturing (>80 year old) Oak Woodland Management.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system, favouring best native tree and focussing on the production of quality timber. In addition, implement regeneration fellings in accordance with the table below.

Open Mosaic Woodland.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system. Favour best native tree and manage to retain a balance of approximately 50% woodland and 50% open space.

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

Long Term Retention.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system. Favour best tree, focussing on the retention of character trees and those of particular amenity, cultural or diversity value.

Manage as a recreational woodland glade

Clearfell 2014-2016

Road/Ride Edge Management.
Enhance the woodland edge, developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines.

Car Park

Sub-Compartments Compartments

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11/12/2014

Compartment 6517 b to be restocked by planting with native broadleaves following felling

Mature broadleaf in The Queen's Inclosure will benefit from regeneration fellings designed to promote the advancement of naturally regenerating oak for the future.



Veteran trees, such as this Yew in The Queen's Inclosure will be maintained and sensitively managed throughout the Plan period. Seedling Yew should also be recruited and protected where viable.

Plantation conifer on ancient woodland sites will take some time to restore to native woodland. The shelterwood system proposed is a low impact method of achieving this objective.



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Regeneration Felling Areas

Compartment	Sub-Compartment	Maximum individual regeneration felling area (ha)	Maximum number of non-adjacent felling coupes within 10 year period
6500	a, b & c	2	4








Forestry Commission
South England Forest District

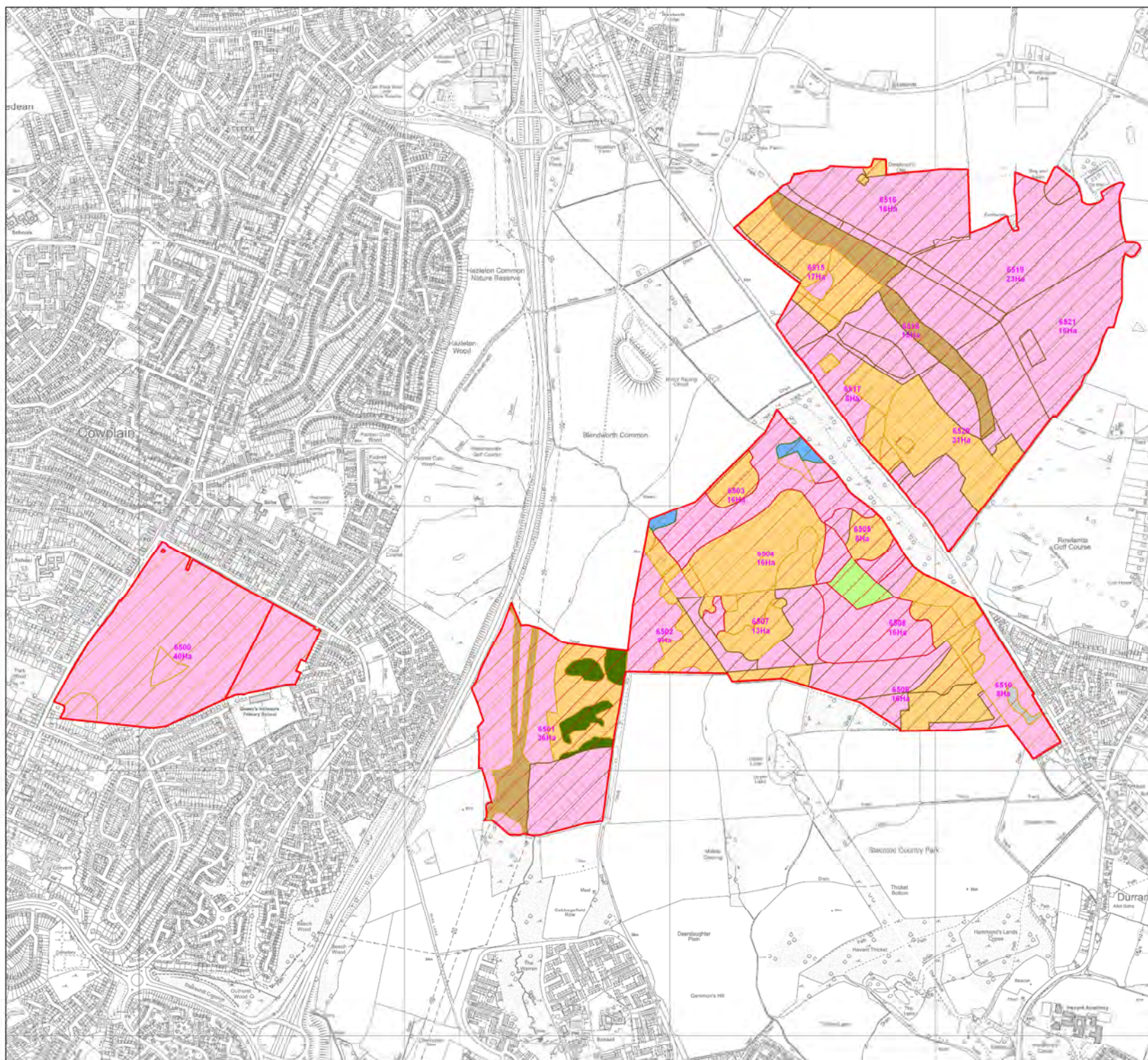
Havant Block

Predicted Timeline for Intended Future Habitats

KEY

Establish next generation of desired habitat by:

-  2050
-  2100
-  2150
-  2200
-  Havant Block Management Area



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