Forestry Commission
England

Stoke Park Wood

Location
Stoke Park wood totals some 91 hectares in area lying some 3 miles to the north-east of the City of Southampton.

Tenure
The Forestry Commission owns the freehold of Stoke Park Wood.

Landscape
Stoke Park wood lies on a low plateaux above Bishopstoke. The gently undulating topography results in the woodland being a significant landscape feature from Bishopstoke but becoming far less dominant in the landscape as distance increases.

Current Woodland Structure
Approximately 9% of the woodland area (~8ha) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland and around 89% of the woodland area (~79ha) is classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site. The woodland consists of approximately two thirds broadleaved species. Beech being the most abundant, accounting for around 35% of the area. Larch is the most abundant conifer, accounting for around 18% of the area. Around 4% of the area is open space in addition to the ride and road network throughout the woodland.

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to 70 years old. The age diversity is severely biased towards the 51-60 and 61-70 age classes. Over 75% of the area is accounted for within these age classes.

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 through the woodland gives rise to suitable habitats for invertebrates and in turn woodland birds. Medium mammals and bats have been recorded in recent years.

There are a number of areas where streams and wet areas have the potential to devlope further wet woodland characteristics. Some of these areas already contain associated species such as Alder.

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
Although Stoke Park Wood is not dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), the Forestry Commission manages the woodland for appropriate open public access for activities detailed within its Byelaws.

In recent years, play infrastructure has been upgraded to reflect the growing use of the woodland by the local community.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk around Stoke Park Wood. During management interventions opportunities will be taken to enhance the visual impact of rides and individual trees by selecting trees for retention based on character.

Historic Environment
There are no historical features recorded within Stoke Park Wood. 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
Stoke Park wood lies in the Hampshire basin on a low plateaux above the river Itchen. The underlying geology is of sand and clay at higher elevations, part of the Bracklesham beds, with Bagshot sands at lower elevations in the southern part of the wood.

Water
There are several tertiary rivers within Stoke Park Wood. All of which eventually flow into the River Itchen.

Management practices within the woodland can have an impact on downstream temperatures and water quality.

Tree Diseases and Pests
The main diseases of concern currently are *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthera ramorum* on Larch. Although Although Ash is minimal and Corsican Pine is not present within Stoke Park Wood, Larch does account for nearly 20% of the woodland. If the larch is found to be infected at any point, then management practices would need to change in order to speed up the removal of this species.

With Beech accounting for such a high proportion of the woodland, there is a risk of forced structural change if a prolific Beech pathogen arises, highlighting the need for increased species diversity.

There are no records of invasive non-native plant species within Stoke Park 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

Stoke Park

Location

Key

Stoke Park

1:50,000

Date: 15/01/2014

Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Stoke Park

Aerial

Key

Stoke Park

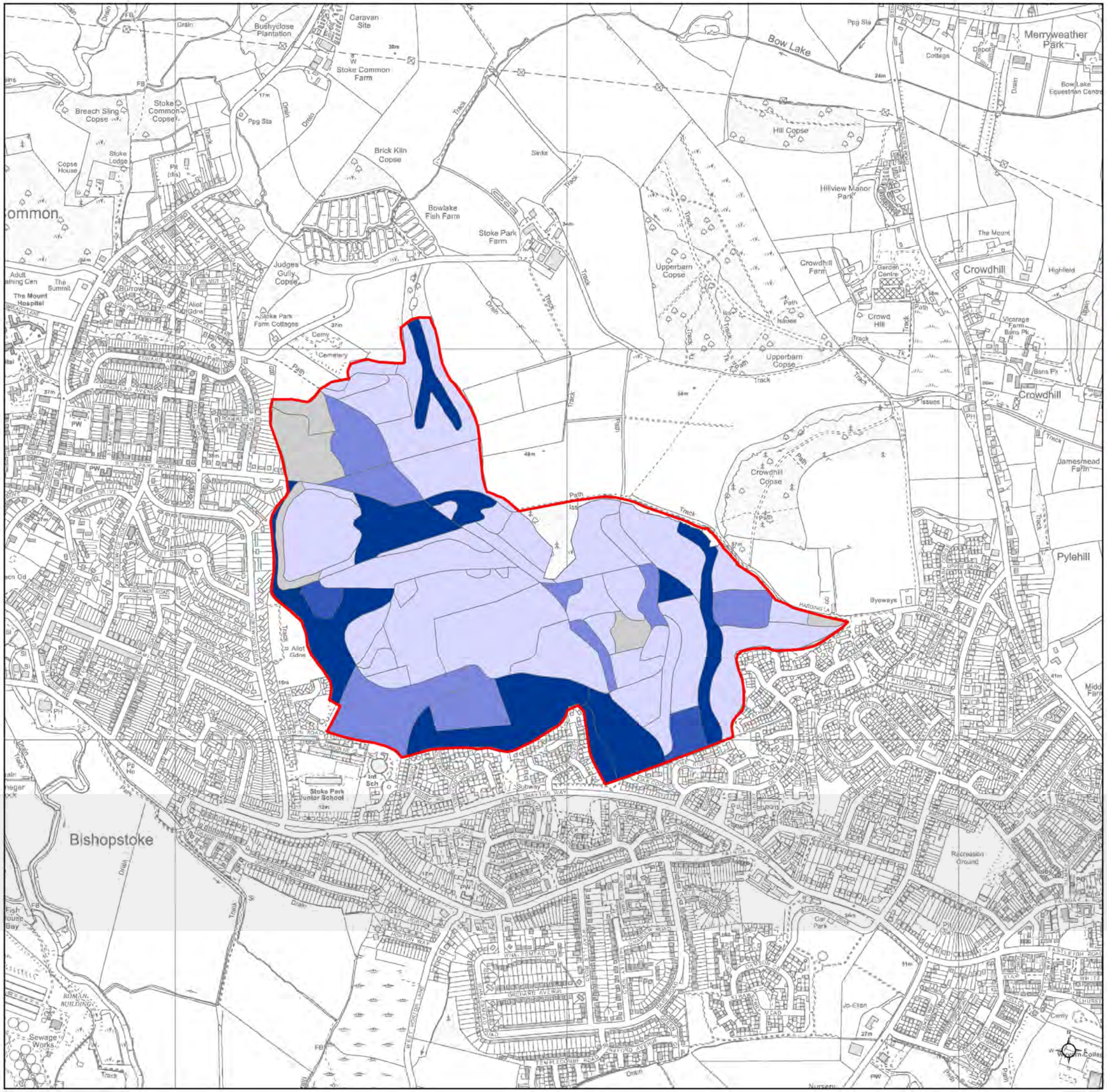
1:25,000

Date: 15/01/2014

Stoke Park

Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Scoring

Forestry Commission
South England Forest District



Key

Ancient Woodland Areas

- 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
- Forest of Bere Management Area

Date: 11/04/2014

1:10,000

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

Stoke Park

Indicative Species Diversity

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

KEY

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

- Havant Block Management Area
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 - 9

1:10,000

Date: 03/09/2014

Stoke Park

Indicative Age Diversity

Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

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
- Stoke Park Management Area

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

Date: 01/04/2014

1:10,000

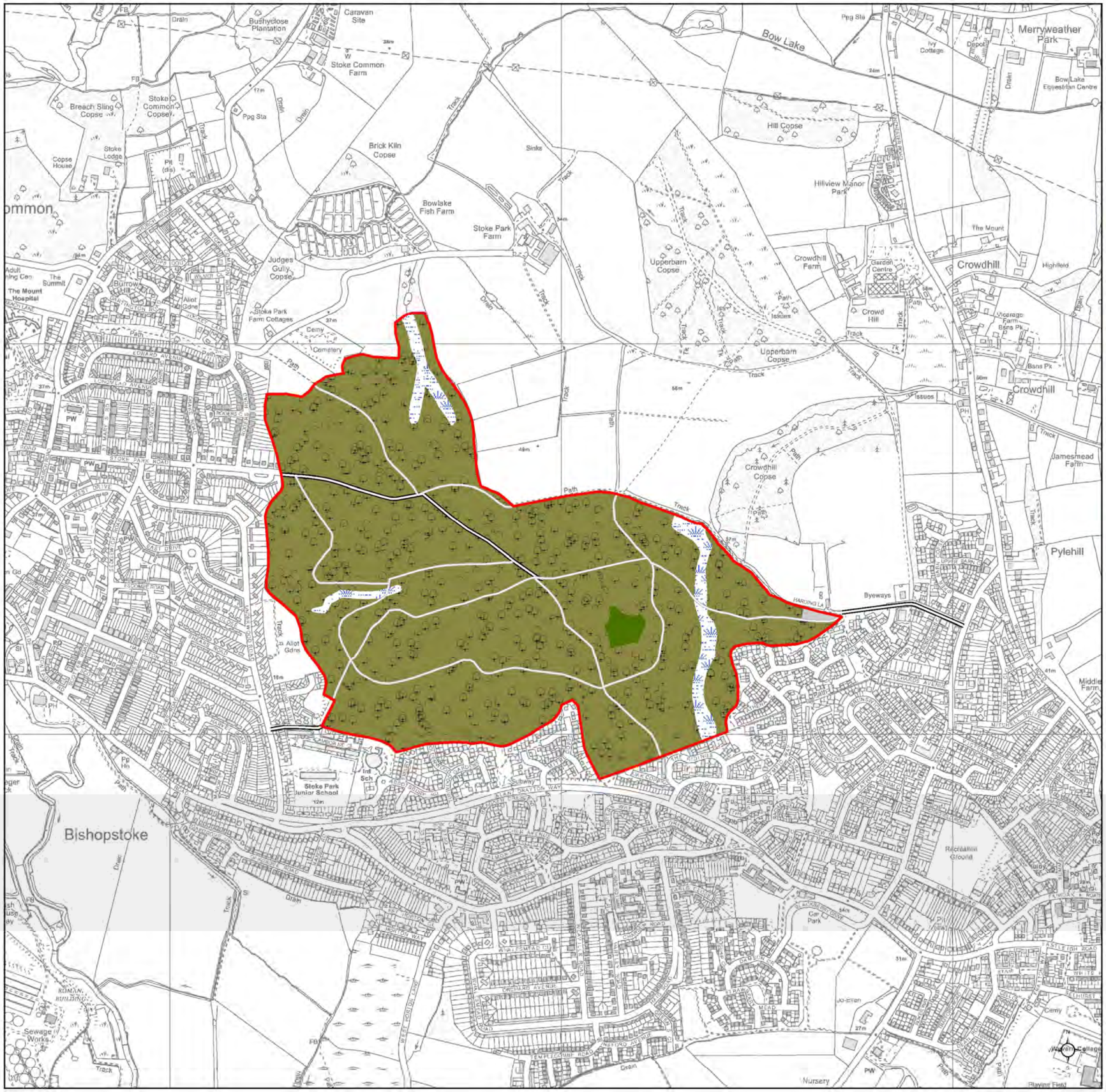
Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council

Stoke Park

Long Term Vision

Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

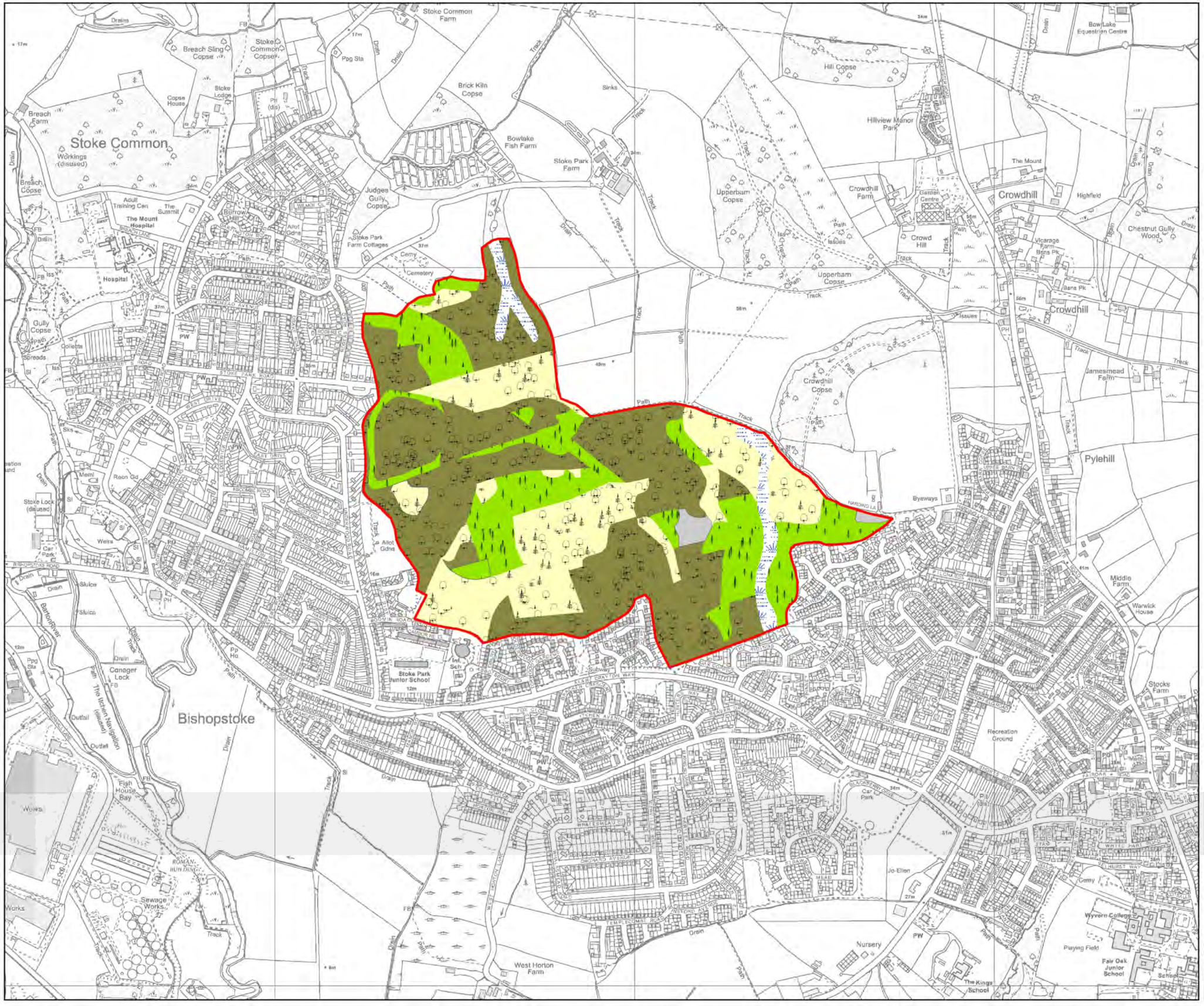


Key

- Predominantly (<80%) native and honourary-native broadleaved woodland
- Riverine habitat
- Open Space/Wooded Glade
- Road Segments
- rides
- Buildings
- Management Area

Date: 05/06/2014

1:10,000



Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Stoke Park

Indicative Current Structure

Key

- Predominantly (>80%) native and honourary native broadleaved woodland.
- Mixed woodland. No species type (conifer or broadleaf) represents more than 80% of the canopy.
- Predominantly (>80%) conifer woodland.
- Riverine habitat and wet woodland.
- Stoke Park Management Area

1:10,000

Date: 03/04/2014

Stoke Park Habitat Restoration & Felling

Forestry Commission England
South England Forest District

The ride and road network already benefits from wide edges, providing a graded woodland edge. This will be maintained and enhanced during management interventions.

Although a good proportion of the woodland comprises native species, the structure is fairly uniform. Proposals to manage under a shelterwood system are designed to break up this structure and increase the species and structural diversity of the wood.

Remnant ancient woodland characteristics, such as Bluebells shown here will be maintained and enhanced during management interventions.

Areas along watercourses show the potential for developing much more robust and diverse riverine habitat. Species selection through thinning will aid this development whilst further opportunities for beneficial works will be explored as they arise.

Recreational infrastructure has received investment in recent years and is an important resource for the local community.

PAWS areas, also shown here will be managed to develop native woodland characteristics. The preferred method, the shelterwood system, is less intrusive than a traditional clearfell and replant system and also offers the benefit of a more gradual, sustainable transition.

KEY

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.

Wet Woodland/Riverine Habitat Management.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the development of wet woodland and riverine habitat characteristics.

Wet Woodland/Riverine Habitat Restoration.
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system. Favour best native tree, focussing on the removal of non-native species and the development of wet woodland and riverine habitat characteristics.

Manage as a recreational glade

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

Car Park

Compartments

Sub-Compartments

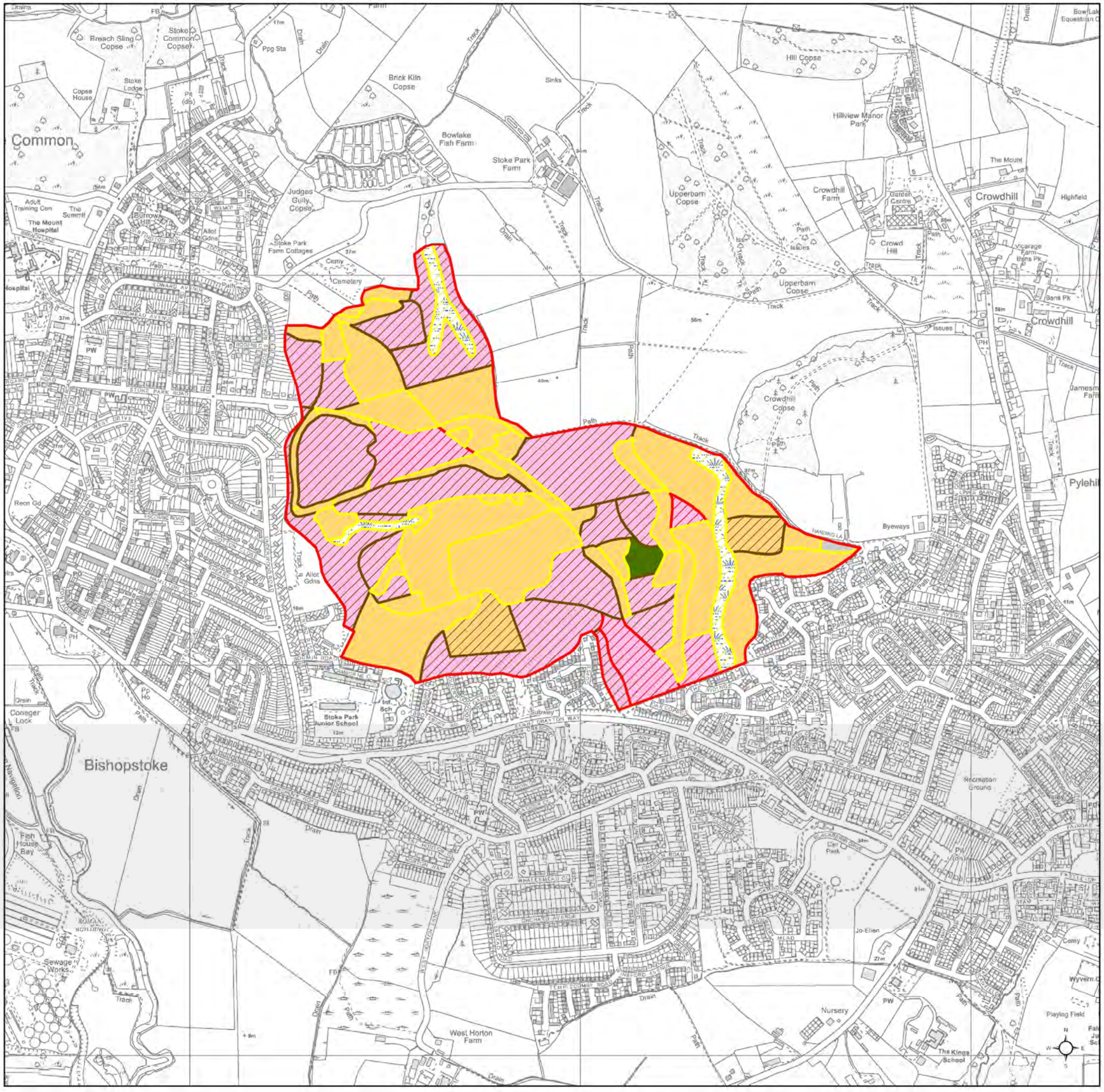
1:10,000 Date: 11/07/2014

Stoke Park

Predicted Timeline for Intended Future Habitats

Forestry Commission

South England Forest District



Key

- Establish next generation of native broadleaved woodland by 2150
- Establish next generation of native broadleaved woodland by 2200
- Establish native broadleaved woodland by 2100
- Establish native broadleaved woodland by 2150
- Establish next generation of riverine/wet woodland habitat by 2100
- Manage as open space.
- Buildings
- Stoke Park Management Area

Date: 08/04/2014

1:10,000