

# Bushey Leaze

## Location

Bushey Leaze is located South West of Alton, Hampshire, near the town of Four Marks close to the A31

## Tenure

Forestry Commission is the freehold owner of the woodland.

## Landscape

Within the local landscape context, Bushey Leaze is significant in size, although not as large as the blocks of Micheldever and Black Wood to the west and Alice Holt to the east. Being 86 hectares and surrounded by mixed agriculture and small towns, the woodland is sizeable within the otherwise fragmented woodland landscape.

## Current Woodland Structure

Approximately 90% of the woodland area (~78 ha) is classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). Native broadleaves account for nearly 50% of the total area. Beech is by far the dominant broadleaf species, making up 47% of the woodland. Conifers are also significant, accounting for approximately 46% of the woodland. Western Red Cedar is the dominant conifer at 24% of the woodland. Larch and Corsican Pine are also present.

The age class of canopy trees is limited to 70 years old. The age distribution is very biased to older classes, with nearly 90% of the woodland area covered by trees of between 50 and 70 years old.

There is also a good proportion of open space, mainly concentrated within the main block, but supported by wide edges to the road and ride network.

## Biodiversity and Conservation

Areas of ancient woodland are the main points of nature conservation interest within Bushey Leaze.

There are no statutory conservation designations on this site.

Records show significant number of ancient woodland indicator species within the woodland. Monitoring will be ongoing, particularly at the operational stage.

During management interventions, opportunities for ride widening and 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.

## People

Bushey Leaze is used informally for recreation by many local people for an array of activities including cycling, running and walking.

The woodland is dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (CRoW).

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

Bushey Leaze contains a number of historical features, all of which are unscheduled monuments. They include boundary ditches and banks and earthworks.

Continued monitoring during the operational management of the woodland will take place in line with best practice guidelines.

## Soils

The soils of Bushey Leaze are characterised as Brown Earths.

Brown Earths are free draining with good aeration with organic matter well incorporated into the mineral soil. (Kennedy, 2002)

## Water

Drains are the only water flows through Bushey Leaze. Opportunities for enhancement of such habitats will be identified during operational planning and acted upon as resources allow.

## 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. These species are present within Bushey Leaze, accounting for a total of around 20% of the woodland area. Larch being the most significant, covering 17% of the woodland. Monitoring for disease will take place on an ongoing basis and thinning will presume to favour the removal of vulnerable species.

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





# Bushey Leaze

## Location



### KEY

 Bushey Leaze

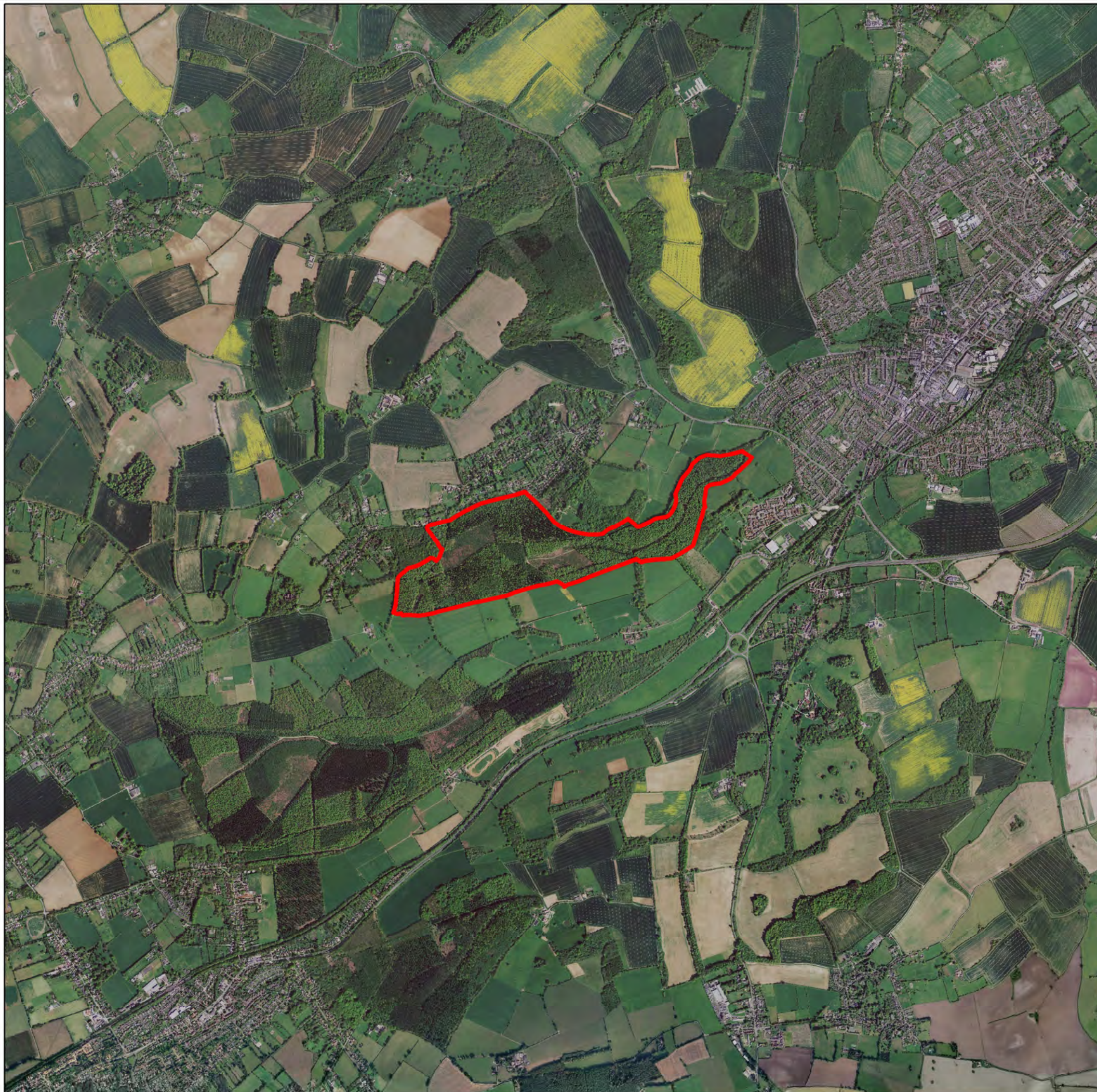
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## Bushey Leaze

### Aerial

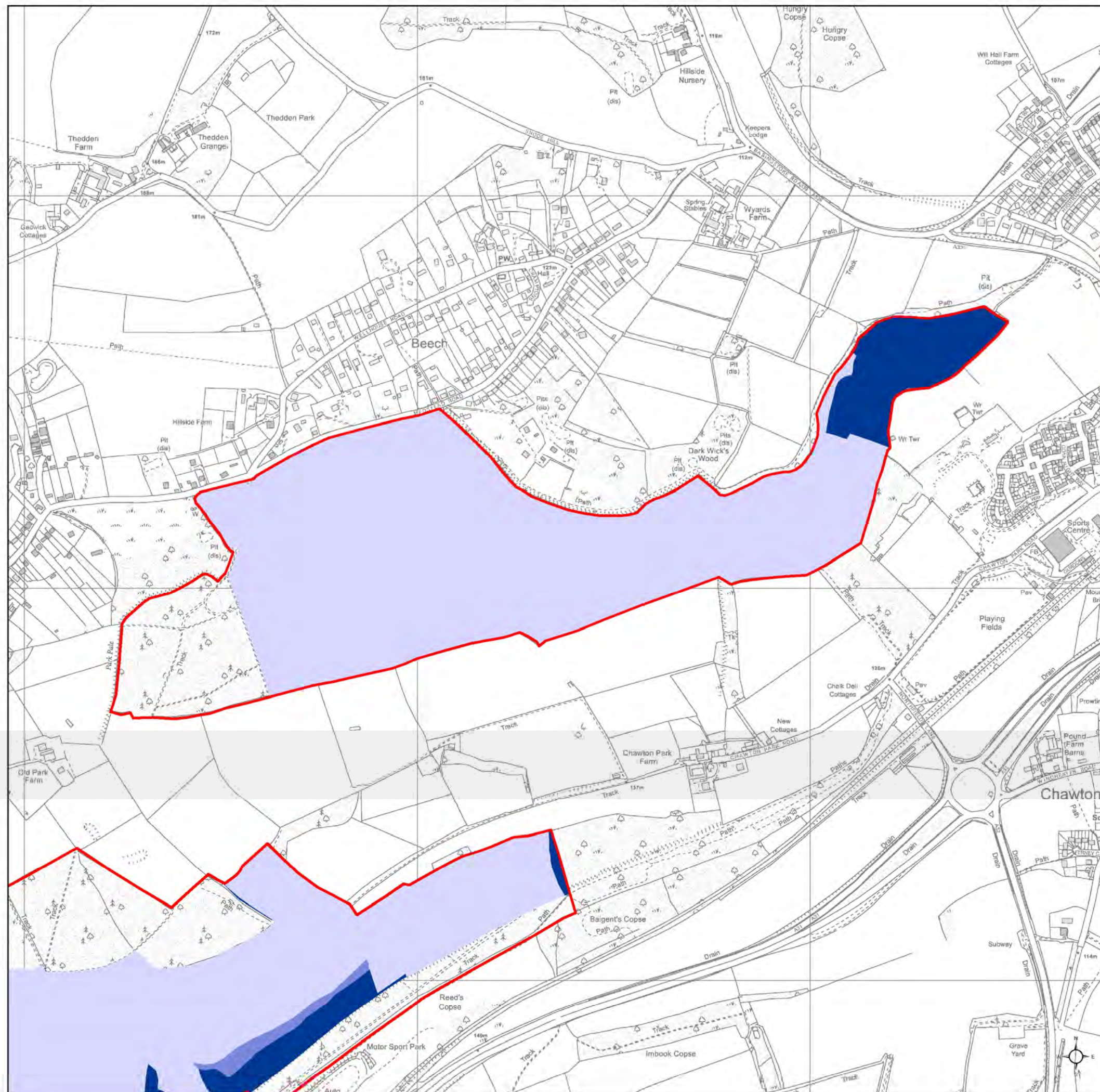
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 Bushey Leaze

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## Bushey Leaze

### Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Scoring



#### 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
- Hampshire Downs Management Area

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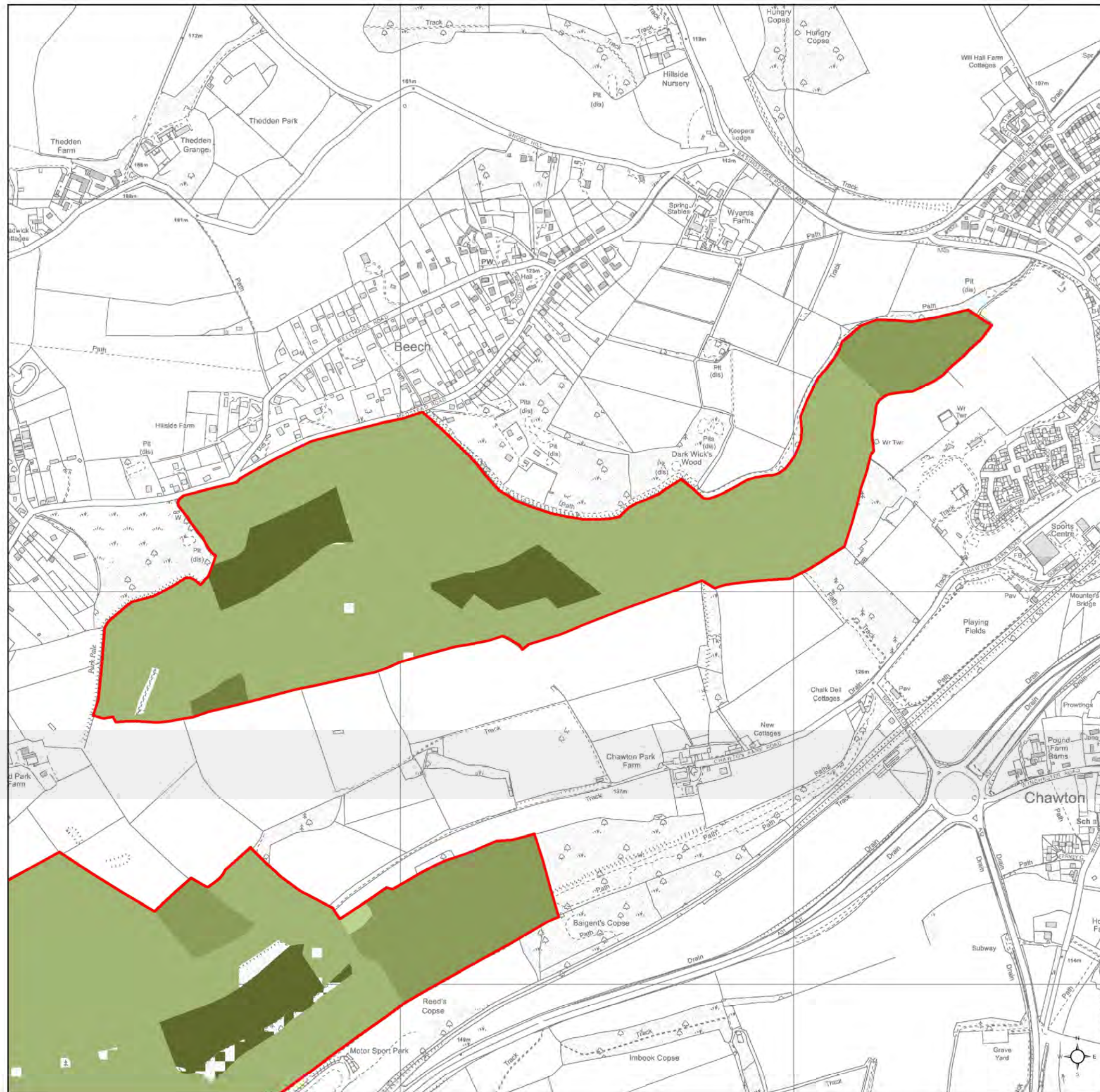
Forestry Commission  
woodlands have  
been certified in  
accordance with the  
rules of the Forest  
Stewardship Council











# Chawton Park

## Indicative Age Diversity



### Key

Gaps illustrate indicative or actual open space

- Over 100 years old
- 81 - 100 years old
- 61 - 80 years old
- 41 - 60 years old
- 21 - 40 years old
- 1 - 20 years old

Hampshire Downs Management Area

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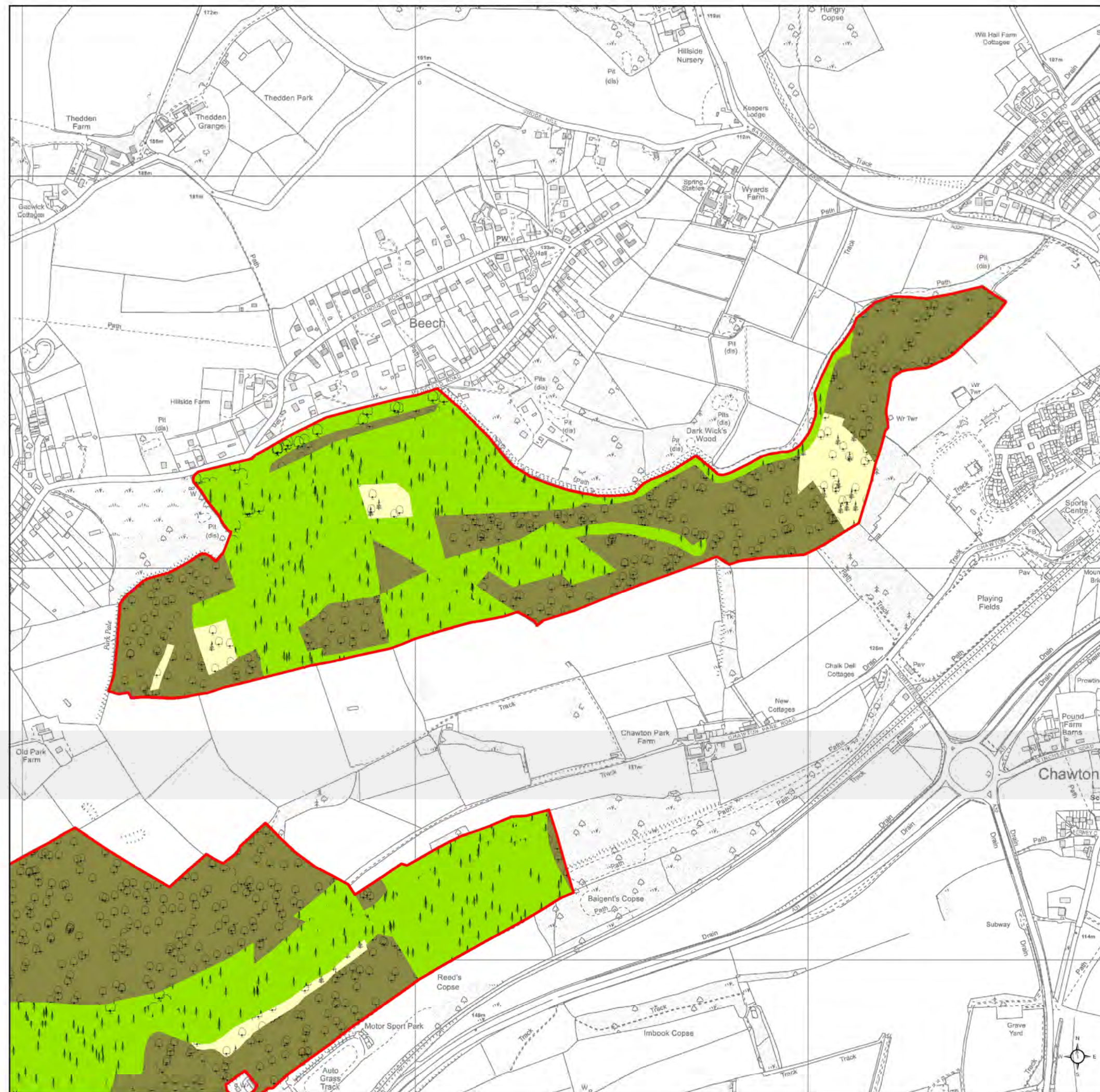
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# Bushey Leaze

## Current Structure



### Key

-  Predominantly (>80%) native and honourary-native broadleaved woodland
-  Mixed Woodland. No species type (broadleaf or conifer) represents more than 80% of the canopy
-  Conifer Woodland. Predominantly (>80%) conifer species
-  Predominantly (>80%) non-native broadleaved woodland
-  Hampshire Downs Management Area

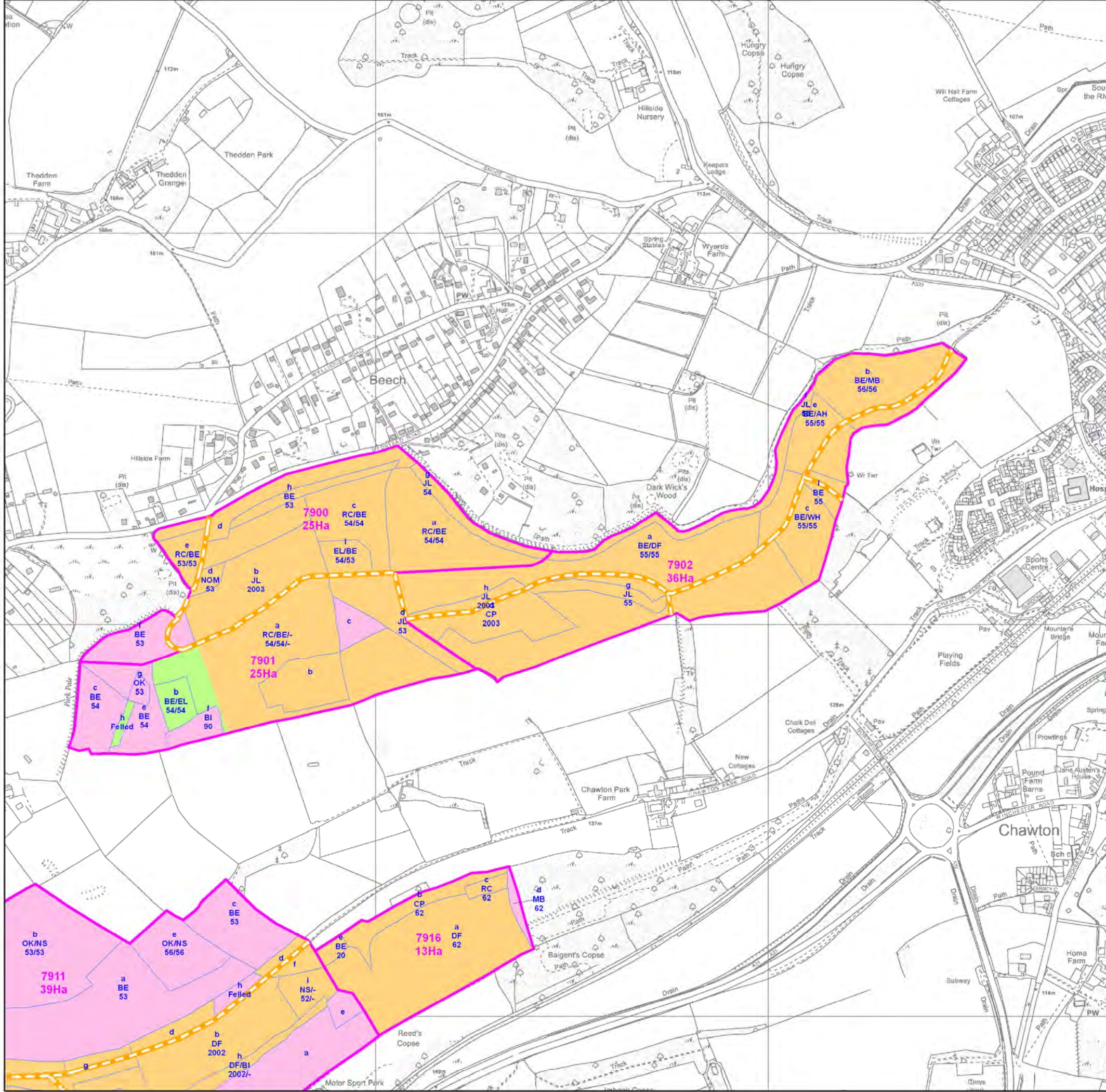
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# Bushey Leaze Habitat Restoration & Felling



## 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.
- Mixed Woodland Management.  
Manage under an appropriate shelterwood system. Favour best tree, focussing on the production of quality timber and species diversity.
- Open
- Road/Ride Edge Management.  
Enhance the woodland edge, developing a scalloped and graded structure in accordance with best practice guidelines.
- Compartments
- Sub-Compartments

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