

Chawton Park

Location

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

Tenure

Forestry Commission owns the freehold for Chawton Park.

Landscape

Within the local landscape context, Chawton Park 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 209 hectares and surrounded by mixed agriculture and small towns, the woodland is sizeable within the otherwise fragmented woodland landscape.

In accordance with the European Landscape Convention, these aspects have informed this Forest Plan.

Current Woodland Structure

Approximately 4% of the woodland area (~8ha) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) with around 69% (~145ha) classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). Native broadleaves account for approximately 43% of the total area. Beech is the dominant species, accounting for around 37% of the area, followed by Douglas Fir covering around 20%. A further mix of at least 15 different species makes up the balance.

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to nearly 100 years old. The age distribution is very biased to a limited age range of 61 to 70 years old, with over 70% of the woodland area covered by trees within this age class.

There is also a proportion of open space provided within woodland.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Areas of ancient woodland and associated features are the main points of nature conservation interest within Chawton Park.

Areas of the woodland have been adopted as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) by Hampshire County Council due to the ancient woodland status.

There are no statutory conservation designations on this site.

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

The woodland is dedicated for open access in under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and as such the Forestry Commission permits access for activities in line with its byelaws.

There is a network of formal public footpaths. A bridleway runs through the southern part of the woodland.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk around the woodland. 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 ride widening.

Historic Environment

Chawton Park contains an extensive Park Pale which is not a scheduled ancient monument. This, along with any other features discovered and recorded will be managed in accordance with guidelines and best practice.

Soils

The soils found at Chawton Park are typically base rich brown earths.

Water

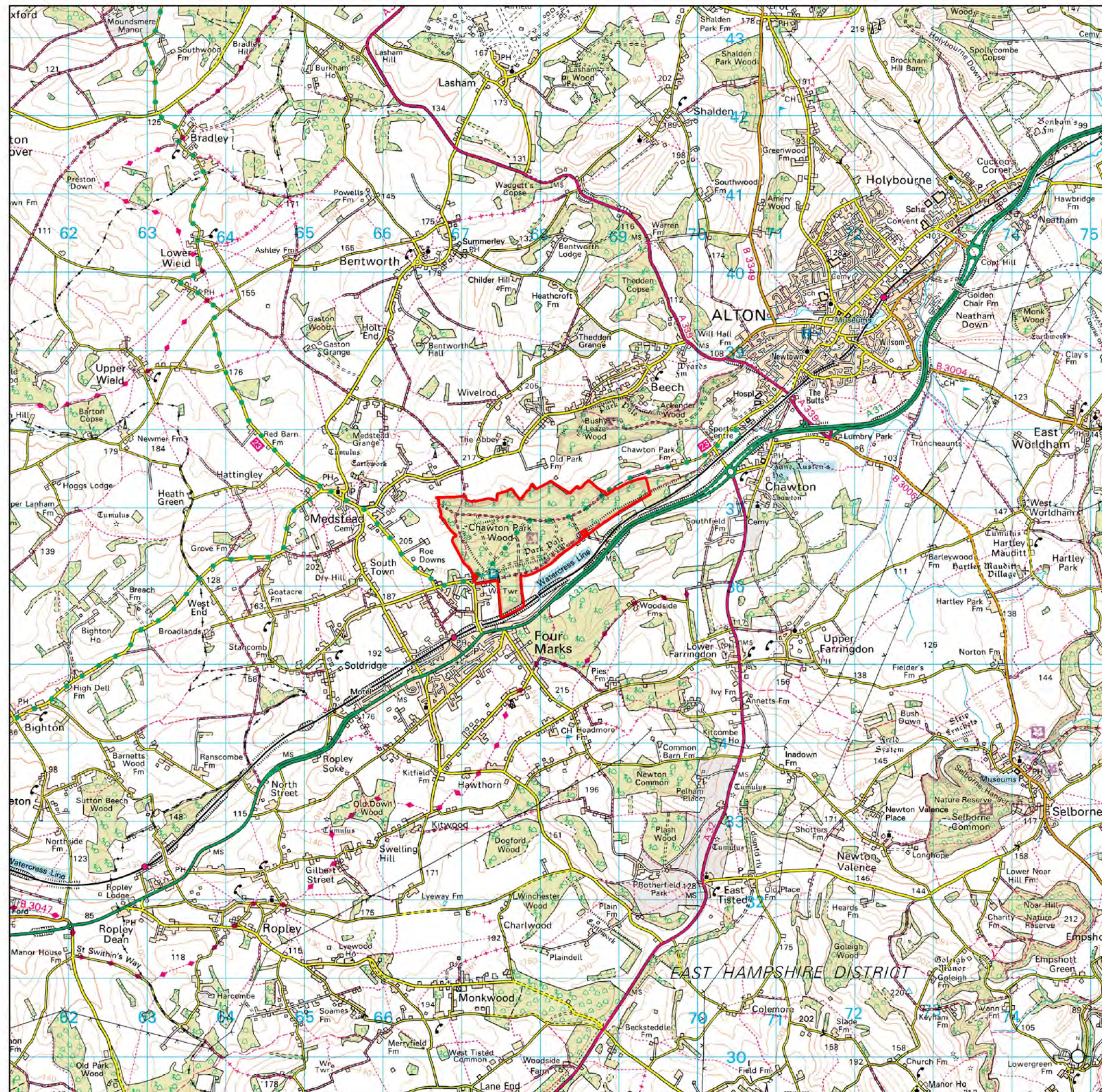
Drains are the only water flows through the woodlands. Opportunities for enhancement of such habitats will be identified during operational planning and acted upon as resources allow.

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.

Corsican Pine accounts for around 7% of the woodland, with larch and ash presence minimal. As such there is limited risk of forced structural change in these areas. With Beech accounting for over a third of the canopy, there is a risk of forced change for this significant area if a pervasive pathogen of Beech occurs.

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



Chawton Park

Location



Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Key



Chawton Park Management Area

Date: 06/05/2014

1:50,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]



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





Chawton Park
Aerial



Key

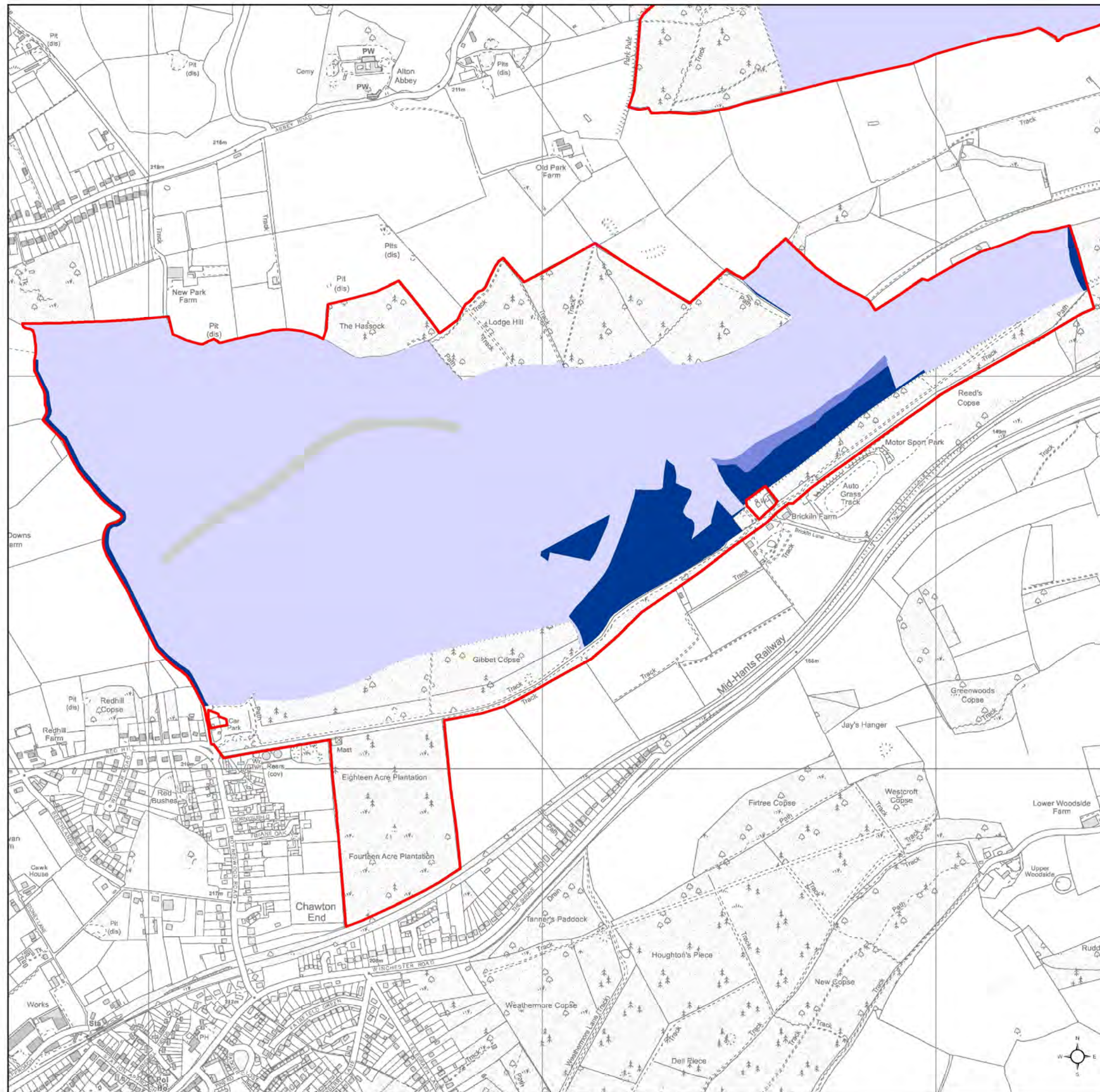
 Chawton Park Management Area

Date: 06/05/2014

1:25,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]





Chawton Park

Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Scoring



Key

Ancient Woodland Areas

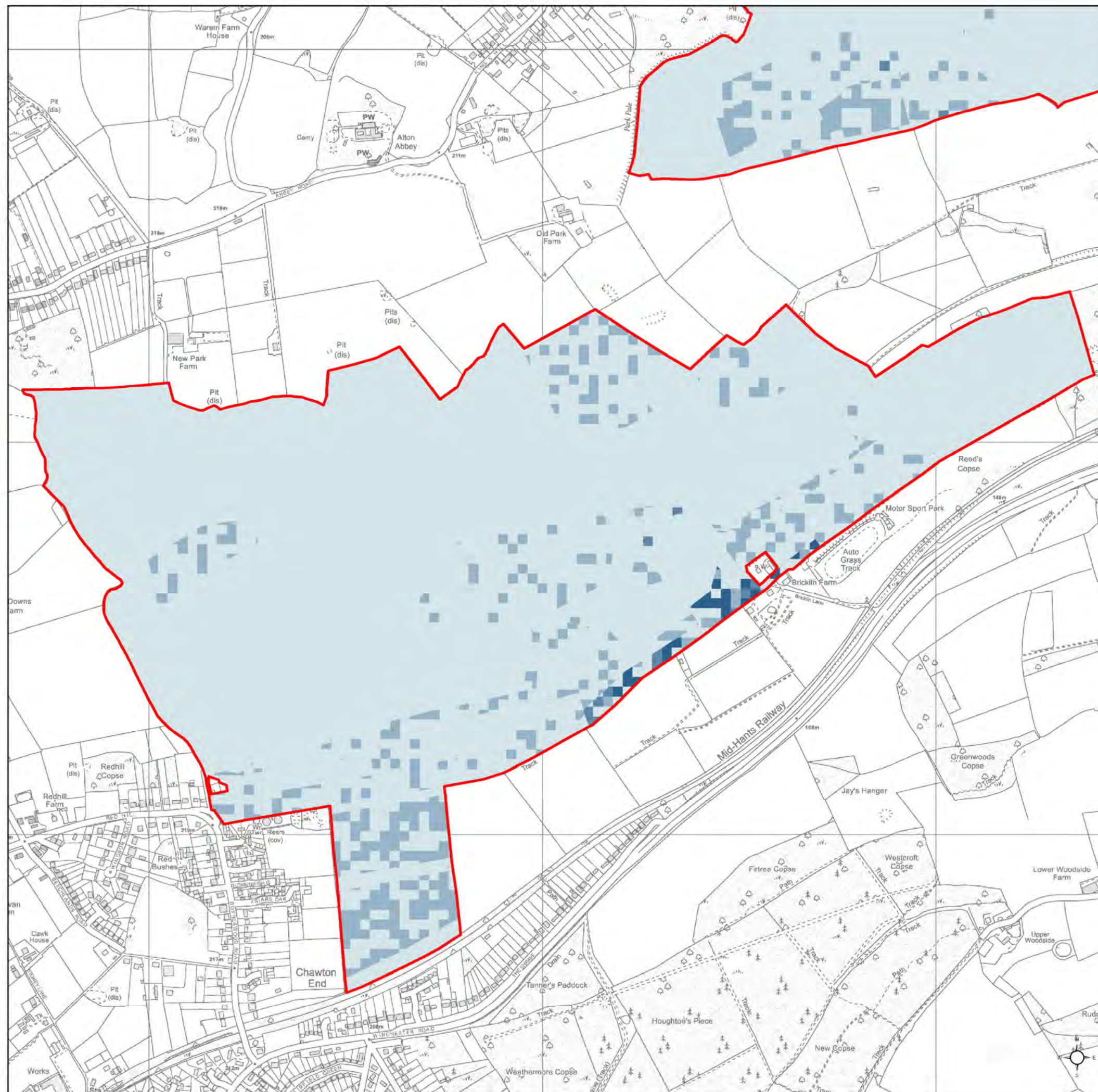
- 1 - Over 80% native
- 2 - Between 50% and 80% native
- 3 - Between 20% and 50% native
- 4 - Less than 20% native
- Currently open or un-established woodland
- Hampshire Downs Management Area

Date: 02/05/2014

1:10,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]





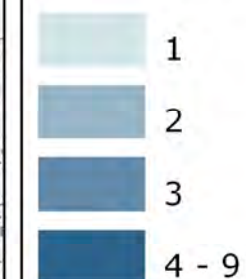
Chawton Park

Indicative Species Diversity



Key

Number of component species within canopy
(including open space)



Hampshire Downs Management Area

Date: 02/05/2014

1:10,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]



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



PEFC
The World's Leading
Woodland Management
Certification



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

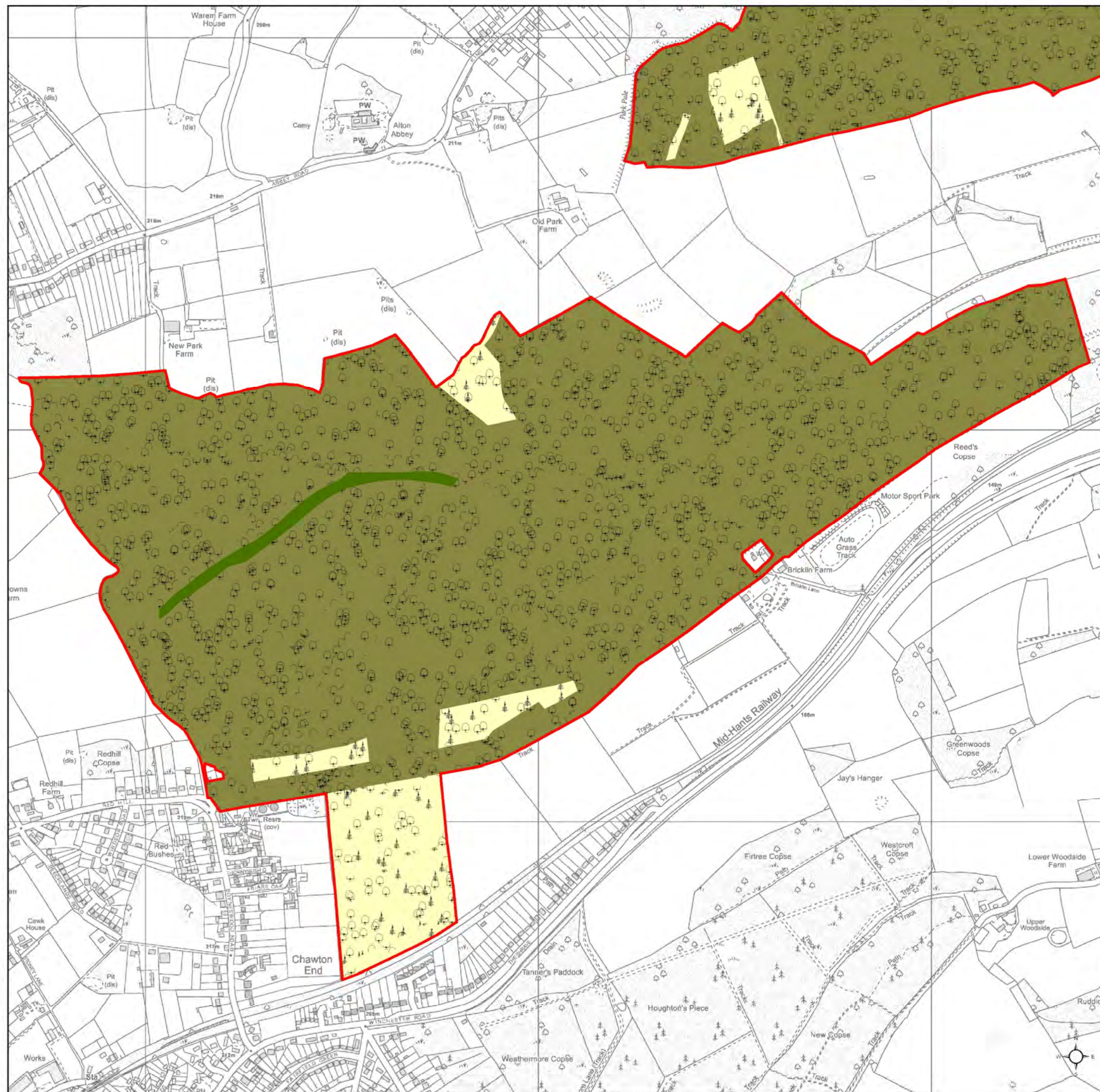
Hampshire Downs Management Area

Date: 02/05/2014

1:10,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]









Chawton Park

Long Term Vision



Key

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

Date: 02/05/2014

1:10,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]











Chawton Park

Current Structure



Key

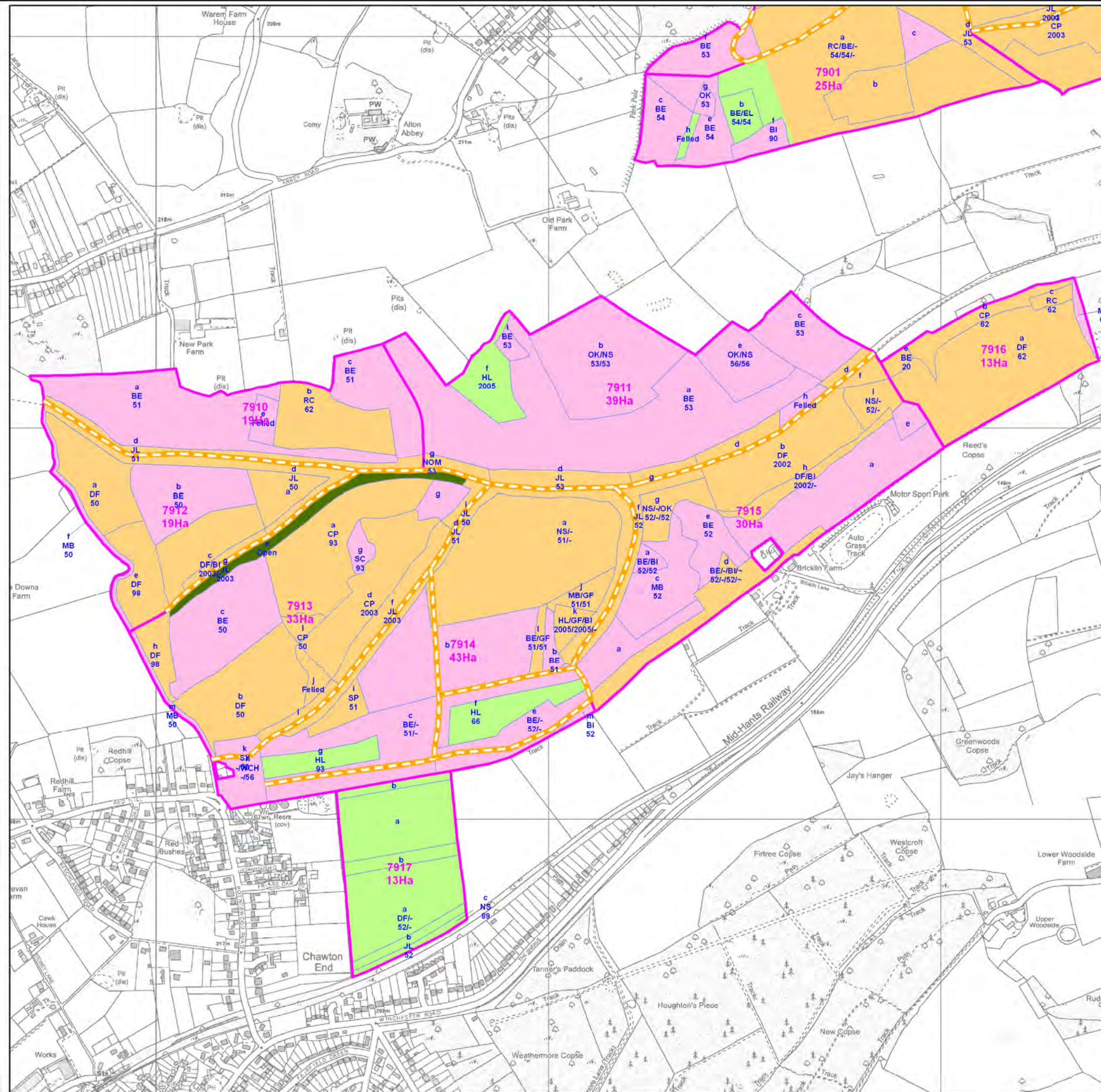
-  Predominantly (>80%) native and honorary-native broadleaved woodland
-  Mixed Woodland.
No species type (broadleaf or conifer) represents more than 80% of the canopy
-  Conifer Woodland.
Predominantly (>80%) conifer species
-  Predominatly (>80%) non-native broadleaved woodland
-  Open Space
-  Hampshire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

Date: 02/05/2014

1:10,000

© Crown copyright and
database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey
[100021242]





Chawton Park 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

1:10,000

Date: 24/07/2014

© Crown copyright
and database right [2014]
Ordnance Survey [100021242]



