

Windmills Copse

Location

Windmills Copse is situated approximately 1 mile east of Ampfield Wood and 3.5 miles south of Winchester between the B3093 and the Hursley to Otterbourne Road.

Tenure

Forestry Commission holds a long-term lease for Windmills Copse from the Hursley Estate.

Landscape

Although being about 20% of the size of Ampfield Wood, Windmills Copse is still large within the context of the surrounding landscape. Surrounded by mixed agriculture, small villages and the larger conurbation of Chandler's Ford to the south.

Current Woodland Structure

Approximately 60% of the woodland area (~30ha) is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) with around 35% (19ha) classified as plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS). There is significant conifer component throughout the woodland including Norway

Spruce, Douglas Fir and Corsican Pine. A small amount of Larch is also present. Oak is the dominant broadleaved species with some Ash, Birch and Beech also present. The age class of canopy trees ranges from 0 to over 100 years old. The age range is quite diverse with a fairly even spread between 20 and 80 years old.

There is also a proportion of open space provided by the overhead powerlines running through the woodland.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Areas of ancient woodland are the main points of nature conservation interest within Windmills Copse.

The Ancient Woodland parts of the woodland have been adopted as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) by Hampshire County Council due to the ancient woodland status.

There are no statutory conservation designations on this site.

There are no formal records of conservation interest within the woodland but 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

Windmills Copse is managed under a leasehold agreement and due to restrictions on the lease public access is not permitted.

Historic Environment

There are no recorded historical features within Windmills Copse.

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

Soils

The soils of Windmills Copse are characterised as Gleys.

Gley soils are characterised by permanent or seasonal waterlogging and are among the most common forest soils. (Kennedy, 2002)

Water

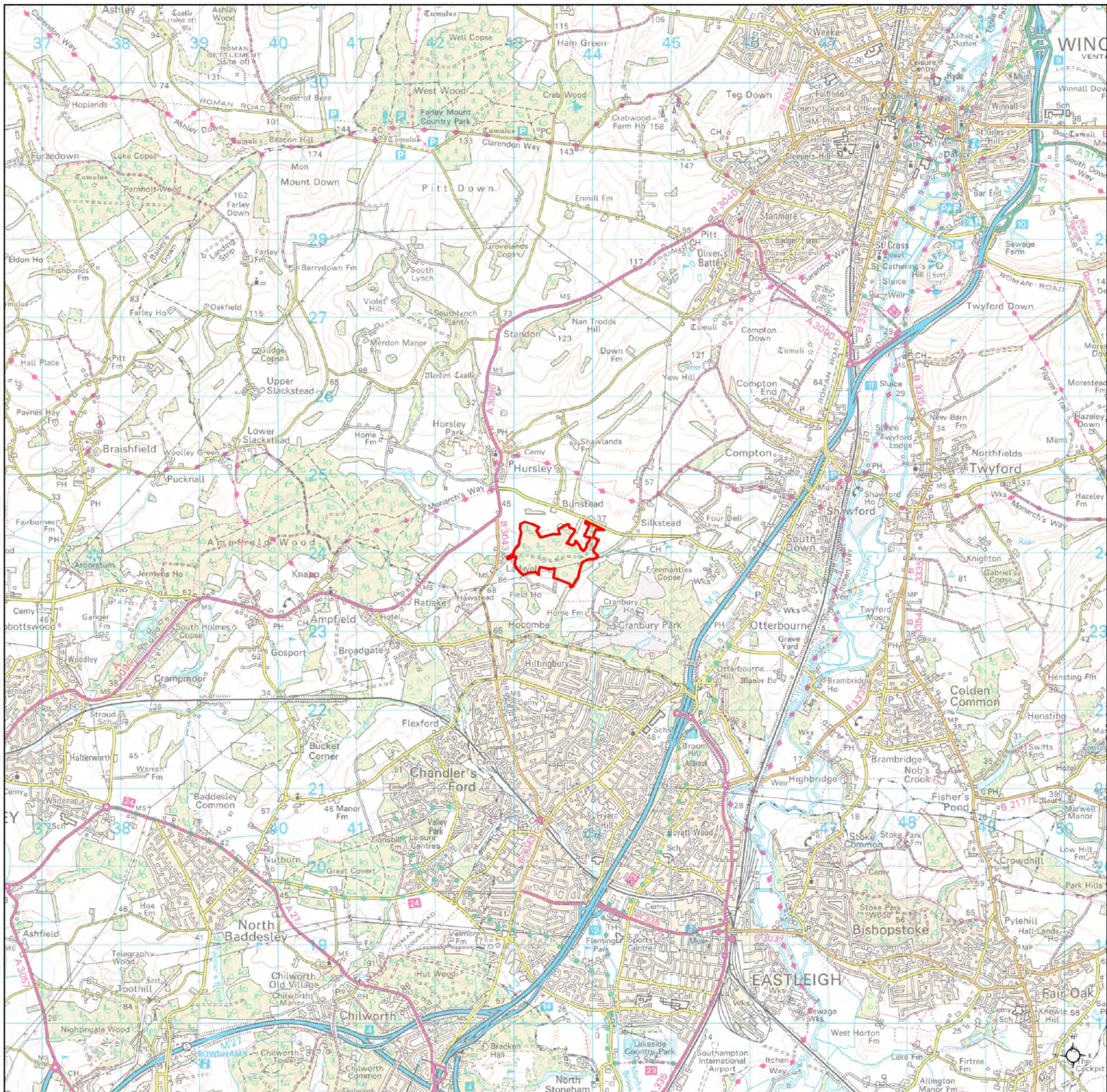
Drains are the only water flows through Windmills Copse. Upon leaving the woodland the water journeys through farm land, other woodlands and urban conurbations before entering any secondary rivers. Management practices can have an influence on downstream temperatures and water quality.

Tree Diseases and Pests

The main diseases of concern currently are Chalara Fraxinea (Ash Dieback), Dothistroma (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and Phytophthora ramorum on Larch. Corsican Pine is present, along with a small amount of larch. The small percentage of cover of affected species, coupled with the long-term aim of predominantly broadleaved woodland across the whole area means that the risk of forced structural change is low.

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

Mammals, particularly fallow and roe deer pose a significant threat to the regeneration of Windmills Copse. Without appropriate protection, the proposed low impact shelterwood system may have to be reviewed.



Windmills Copse

Location



Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Key



Hampshire Downs Management Area

Date: 07/05/2014

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Windmills Copse

Aerial



Key

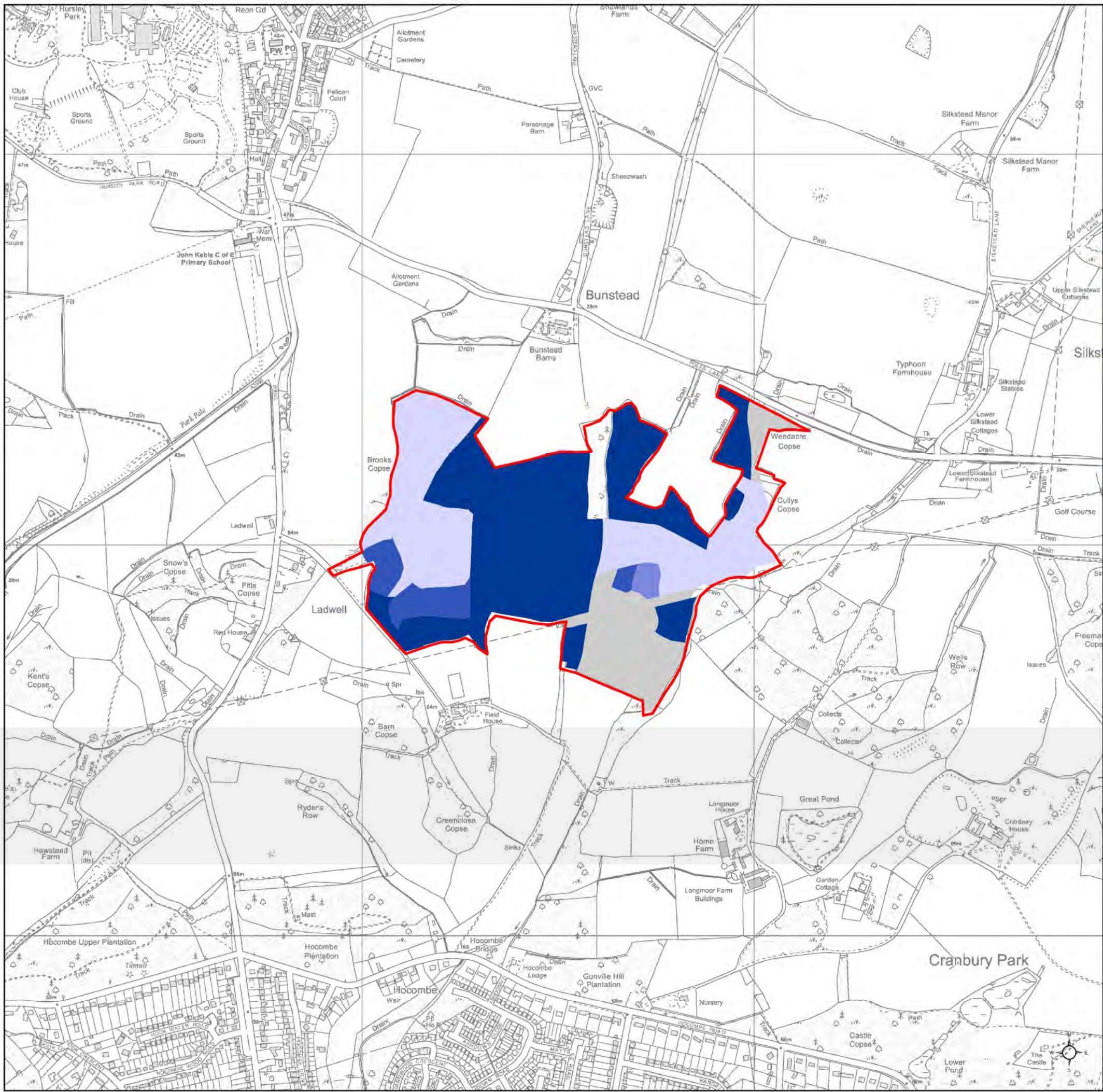
 Hampshire Downs Management Area

Date: 07/05/2014

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Windmills Copse

Ancient Woodland Semi-Natural Scoring



Forestry Commission
South England Forest District

Key

Ancient Woodland Areas

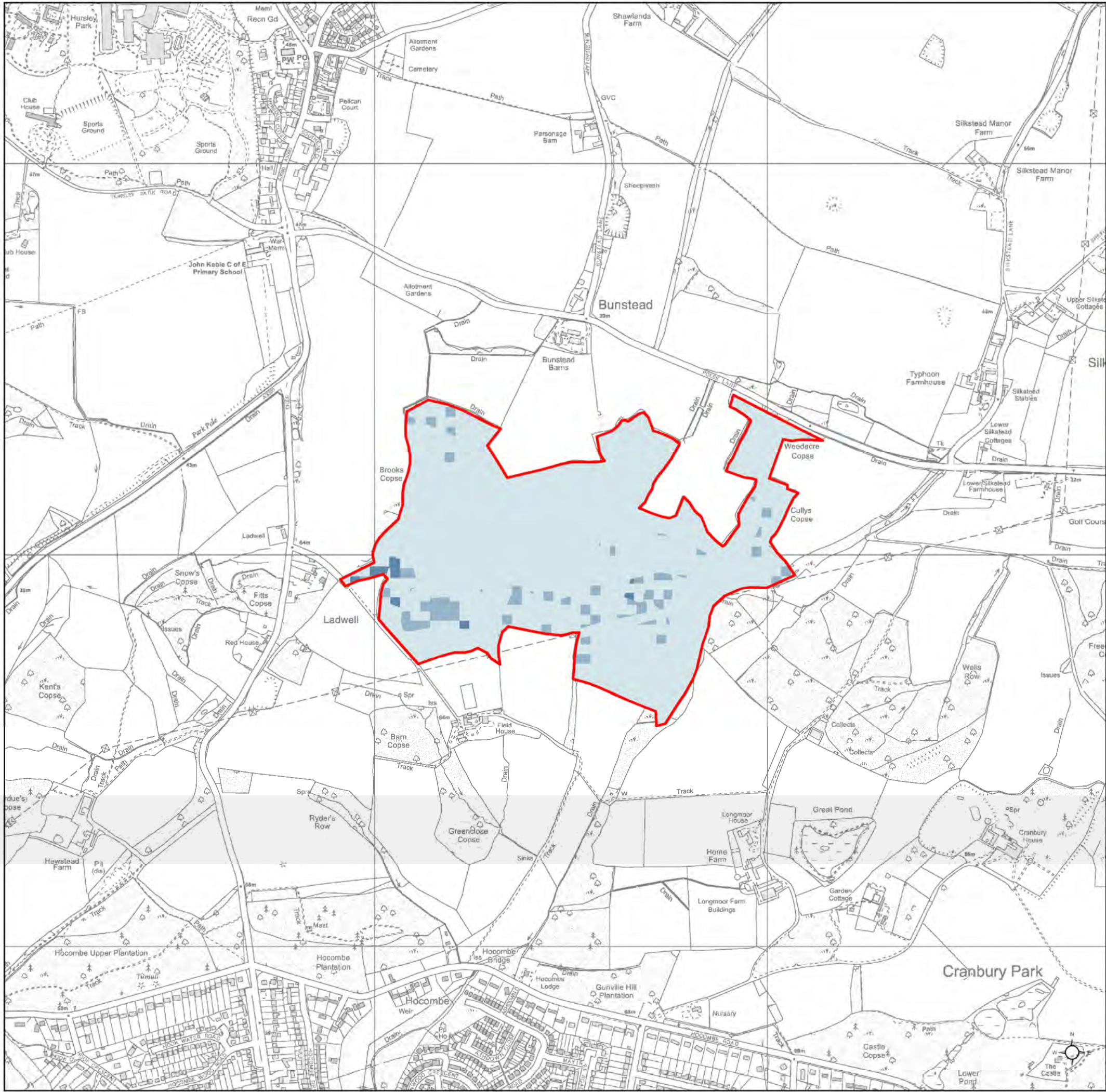
- 1 - Over 80% native
- 2 - Between 50% and 80% native
- 3 - Between 20% and 50% native
- 4 - Less than 20% native
- Currently open, un-established woodland or unclear data
- Hampshire Downs Management Area

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Windmills Copse

Indicative
Species Diversity



Forestry Commission

South England Forest District

Key

Number of component species within canopy
(including open space)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 - 9

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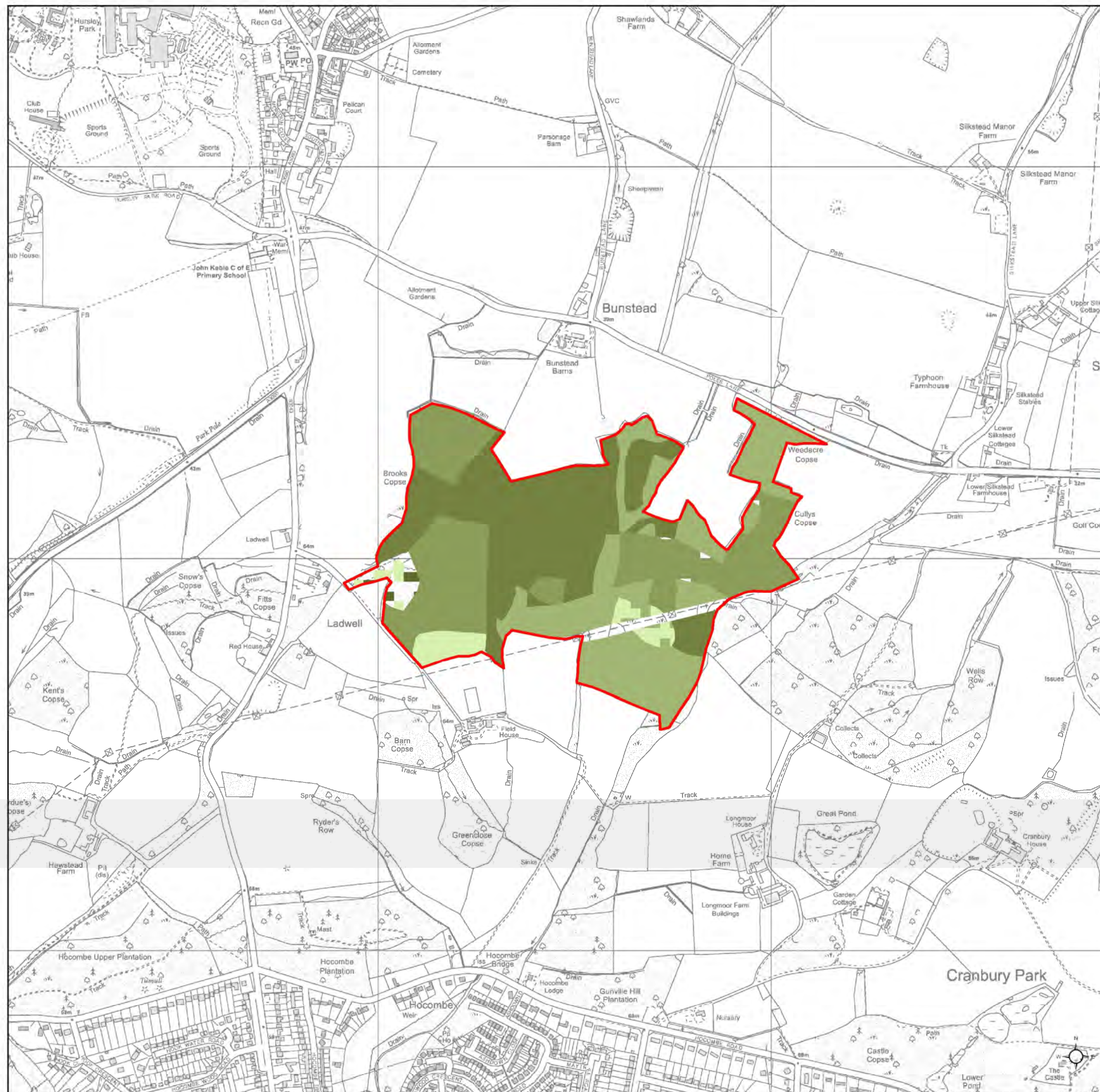
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Forestry Commission
woodlands have
been certified in
accordance with the
rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council





Windmills Copse

Indicative Age Diversity



Forestry Commission
South England Forest District

Key

Gaps illustrate indicative or actual open space



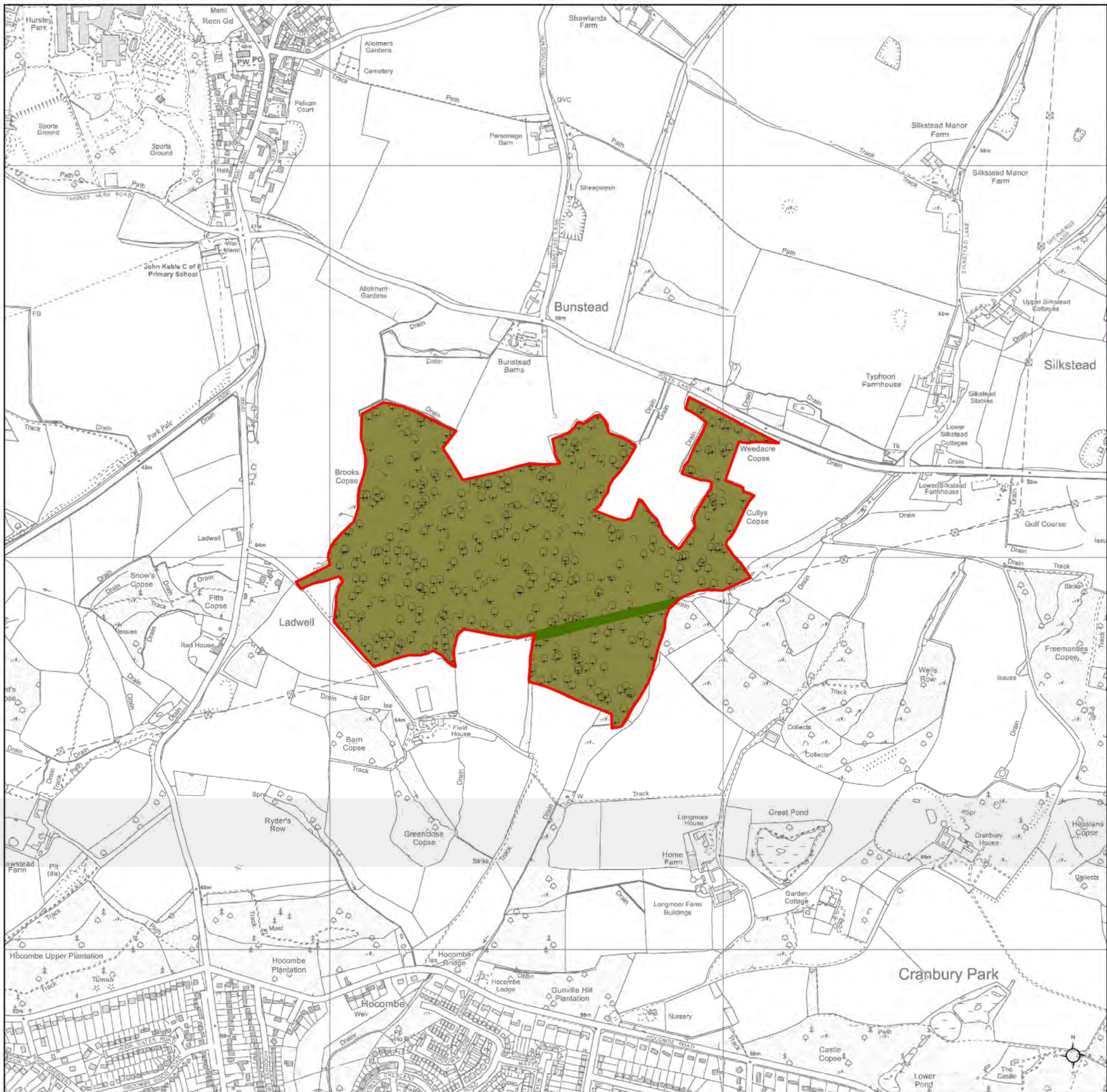
☐ Hampshire Downs Management Area

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Windmills Copse

Long Term Vision



Key

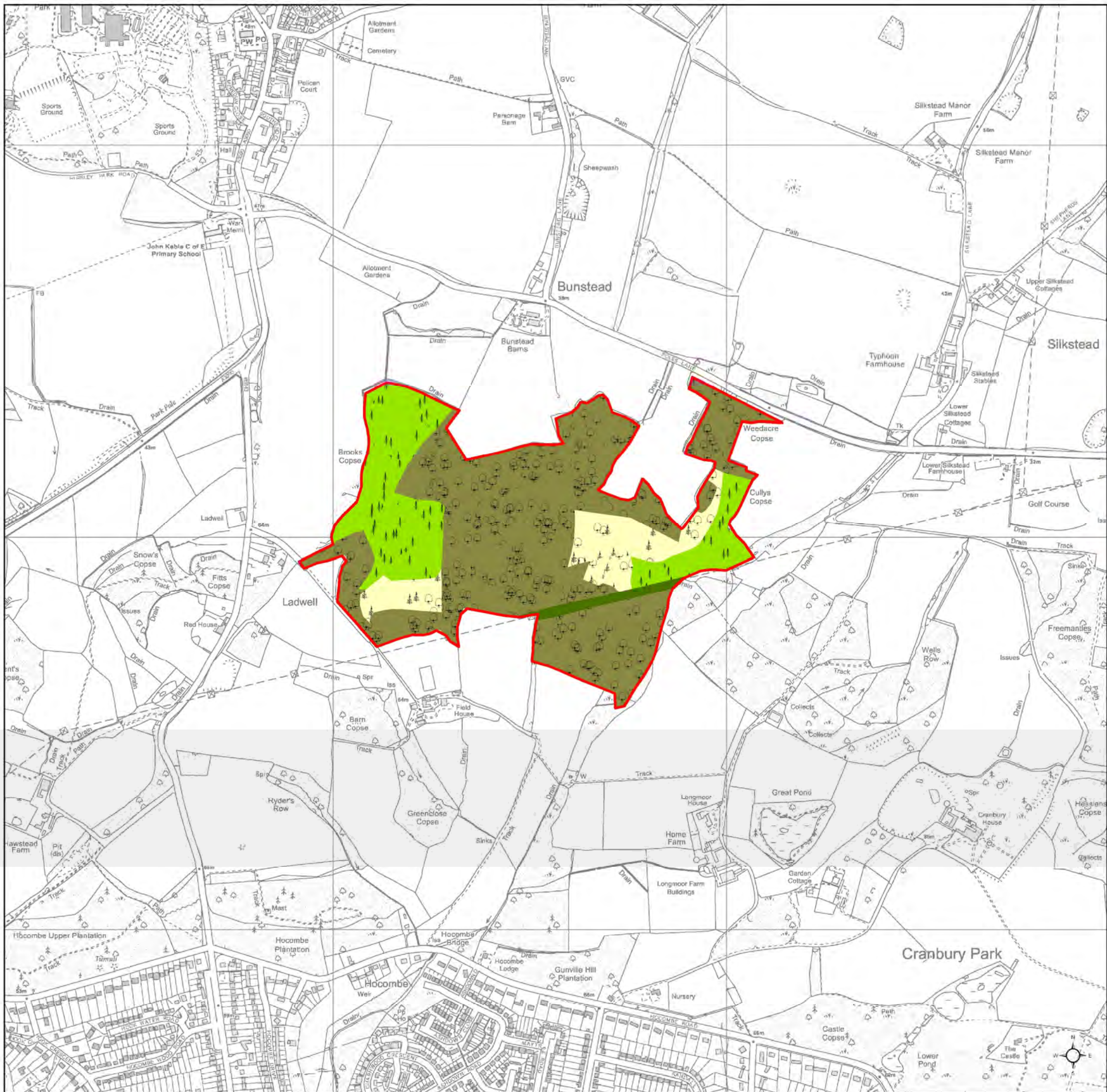
-  Predominantly (>80%) native and honorary-native broadleaved woodland
-  Hampshire Downs Management Area

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Windmills Copse

Current Structure



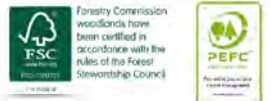
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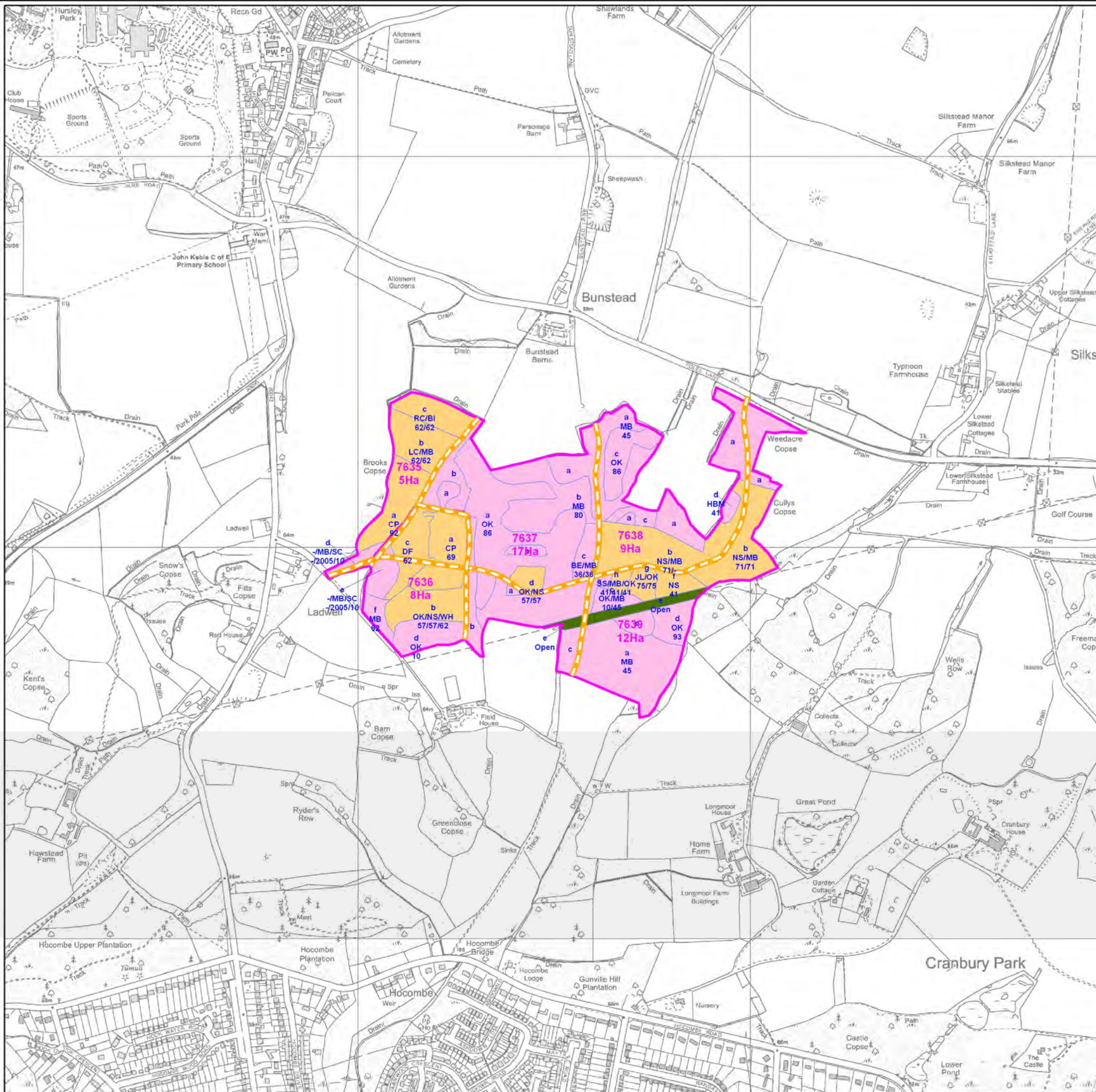
-  Predominantly (>80%) native and honorary-native broadleaved woodland
-  Mixed Woodland. No species type (broadleaf or conifer) represents more than 80% of the canopy
-  Conifer Woodland. Predominantly (>80%) conifer species
-  Open Space
-  Hampshire Downs Management Area

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Windmills Copse 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.

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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Windmills Copse Predicted Timeline for Intended Future Habitats



KEY

Establish next generation of desired habitat by:

- 2050
- 2100
- 2150
- 2200

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