Busy 'A' roads run along the western and northern boundaries, providing an important experience of the Forest for a large number of people. The road from Mitcheldean is a key gateway into the Forest.

The geometric nature of the road network and sub-cpts in Haywood creates a sense of tension in the external landscape, by cutting perpendicular across contours.

A number of transmitter towers occupy an elevated position on the Edgehills Ridge that are highly obtrusive landmarks visible from many miles away as they stand much higher than the surrounding tree canopy.

Fairplay and Merring Meend Ponds both managed by GWT.

Westbury Brook Ironstone mine SSSI and horseshoe bat hibernacula with a number of associated roosts along the eastern slope.

Conifer now replaced with Broadleaves, softening the woodland edge.
Some SP and open space has been retained.

Power lines run perpendicular to contours from Steam Mills upto Edgehills masts.

李 / July 100 / 100 / 100

Area of existing open land on the plateau of Haywood currently being managed towards heathland restoration, with potential for extension to the south.

Areas outlined in red show that around 45% of all larch within the plan area has been statutorily felled due to the notifiable disease

**Phytophthora** ramorum. (33.5Ha in Haywood and a further 1.5ha in Flaxley).

Thinning in Hope Wood during previous thinning interventions has been heavier than normal in order to develop and promote existing broadleaf that exist within the conifer areas.

Shapridge Common dominated by bracken with encroachment of Oak, Birch and some Hawthorn. Overgrown Pond(s) also present.

Archaeological feature of St.Antonies Well has highly developed genius loci. Well visited and regarded as a locally important site.

Areas of Forest Waste

encroached by scrub.

are now becoming

The Eastern ridge of Flaxley is highly visible from the A4136 heading west from between Little London to Longhope. Current design of felling coupes abruptly cut across contours and need remodelling in order to blend more sympathetically with the landscape.

Fringes of ASNW around the peripheral edges of Flaxley often contain Small Leaved Lime, Oak and Ash with Wych Elm, Wild Daffodils and hazel understory in places.

Steep slopes, awkward to work with mid rotation Douglas Fir and Red Cedar and are both species suited to a warming climate.

For the month

Forestry Commission

West England Forest District

Forest Plan

HAYWOOD AND CASTIARD VALE

2014 - 2024

Site Analysis

Some central areas of Flaxley have strong components of broadleaf within the conifer stands. In terms of naturalness scoring these areas are close to moving up a class, with those that are in naturalness class 5 more likely to be better suited to clearfelling & restocking rather than a slow & selective thin.

Restoration of Mugglewort Wood is exhibiting stronger ASNW characteristics with selective broadleaf restocking of coupe FO23114 and acceptance of natural regeneration from the retained parent trees. Coppicing could also be reintroduced to enhance ASNW character.

An area of wet of broadleaf woodland with awkward terrain and long extraction distances meaning increased reinstatement costs.

With the restocking of coupe FO23009 the southern boundary of Flaxley takes on a much stronger ASNW feel, with easily accessible areas of Small Leaved Lime adjacent to it having a good understory of Hazel coppice & other species.

As the conifer elements within Castiard Vale reduces and native woodland increases, habitat is becoming more favourable towards dormice.

All three woods within Castiard Vale are rich in Archaeological features, with Welshbury featuring an Iron-Age Hill Fort designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument that overlies a Bronze-Age field system. A link with Chestnuts Wood is a possibility following a survey in 2003.

Pope Hill - an area of Forest Waste integrated with scattered residencies and farmland, dominated by Bracken & managed annually by selective swiping.

Chestnuts Wood is almost 100% restored to SNW with over 85% of the conifer removed. Although both the 1800 and the 1965 Oak is suffering from dieback which FC research are investigating.

Mature 1800 Oak close to community.

Small scale coal workings worked by the Harding brothers are beginning to yield reasonable outturn.

Haywood is well frequented by the local communities that surround the wood, including Haywood Comprehensive School.

The long north-south ridge of Haywood shows a variety of heathland vegetation and drains predominantly west, gently rising easterly to 270m; before giving way to more diverse topography, with a mix of tree species and age classes along the eastern slopes that drop steeply eastward into the more intimate landscape of Castiard Vale situated on a series of ridges; Chestnut Wood (south), Welshbury Wood (middle) and Flaxley (north). The highest elevation marked in Chestnuts Wood by a trig-point at 190m. The eastern side of Castiard Vale generally falls away steeply to around 30m before entering into the river Severn Catchment.

Scale 1:20,000





A high quality of internal

landscaping within this locale.

Open areas straddling the A4136 will be maintained as a mosaic of open space and scrub. This will produce a soft and well developed transitional edge to the forest. Small areas of acid grassland should be maintained through bracken control where practicable.

Internal landscape quality along the A4136 has a predominantly wooded prospect, with the semimature Douglas Fir and Scots Pine becoming visually attractive and will be maintained as a long term retention. The Red Cedar in and around the scowles on the northern edge of the A4136 should be removed to open up the character of the

The geometric nature of the western slopes will be broken up by future restocking and connect the middle slopes to the skyline, breaking up unnatural horizontal visual influences within landscape. A generous provision of open space either side of the powerline at the time of restocking will also help.

landform and enhance the broadleaves.

Broadleaves have been retained following larch PR fellings. Restocking will be broadleaf and should be bold and varied enough to include species such as: Oak, Hornbeam, Hickory, Cherry, Hazel, Wych Elm, Whitebeam and Wild Service. Some Scots Pine might be retained or planted adding visual interest and diversity.

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Where heathland vegetation is common it is principally associated with outcrops of Drybrook Sandstone and the associated dry, acidic (podzolic) soil types. - Over the next 40 years, the existing heathland area on Edgehills will expand along this outcrop following the north-south ridge. Areas of SP will be retained to add diversity, conservation value and visual interest.

The majority of the eastern slopes of Haywood should be reverted to broadleaves. The approach will be slow with low levels of change and most conifer being removed through thinning. Larch will only be removed if it becomes infected with P.ramorum, with any felling of infected larch in this area being replaced mostly by broadleaf. This will help maintain and enhance the quality of the valley to the east that is distinct from the rest of the Statutory Forest.

NAME OF STREET

Felled due to PR, this area will be

managed by GWT, complimenting

the heathland site to the north.

Open areas around the ponds in the north of the plan area should be maintained as

open habitat.

Use Red Cedar as shelter for broadleaf establishment. Removal of remaining RC once broadleaves are established will create a mosaic of open space complementing

Ensure successful establishment of hedging along the western boundary of Edgehills quarry SSSI to protect sensitive flora.

> Reinstate pond(s) on Shapridge Common.

Thinning in Hope Wood will continue to develop and promote existing broadleaf that exist within the conifer areas.

Shapridge Common to the west.

is difficult to work.

Fringes of ASNW around the peripheral edges of Flaxley will expand through restocking the eastern flank with native broadleaves. Natural regeneration can be accepted, but species composition should be diversified through group planting of other native species following thinning of adjacent PAW crops.

Sympathetically remodelled coupes on the eastern slopes of Flaxley will be managed through clearfelling and restocking rather than selective thinning on this terrain that

Some areas along the western side of the central area fall in naturalness class 5 and having minimal broadleaf components are better suited to clearfelling & restocking.

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West England **Forest District** 

**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and **Castiard Vale** 

2014 - 2024

**Forest Plan** Concept

Existing broadleaf components in this area of Flaxley will continue to be developed through thinning. Some areas will revert to SNW with one thinning intervention; other parts will take longer, notably some areas of NS and in this situation, group felling and planting can be used to ensure the future diversity within the future native species composition and future age class structure.

> ASNW character of Mugglewort will continue to develop by the removal of conifer through thinning and will be enhanced through the introduction of Coppicing in some areas - notably the northern edge in compartment 4149c and the eastern end of Mugglewort in 4150a. Coppicing can begin in 4149e once majority of conifer has been removed.

Thin the overstory in Compartment 4150a prior to starting the introduction of coppicing to promote conservation value. It is an awkward area to work and extraction would incur high reinstatement costs. Coppicing within this area should be done using volunteers such as the Dean Green Team to similar prescriptions as those used in Dymock Woods, leaving produce on site and creating "deadwood wigwams".

Open up riparian zone by removal of remaining NS from Watercourse. Thin remaining conifer to develop broadleaf components. Any natural regeneration will be accepted.

Consolidate and expand belt of broadleaf to create and strengthen habitat linkage to scrubby woodland edge in farmers field by felling small area of DF and restocking with native broadleaves.

As broadleaves will be retained be mindful when thinning remaining conifer along southern boundary not to create a jagged / bitty appearance as viewed from the Flaxley road.

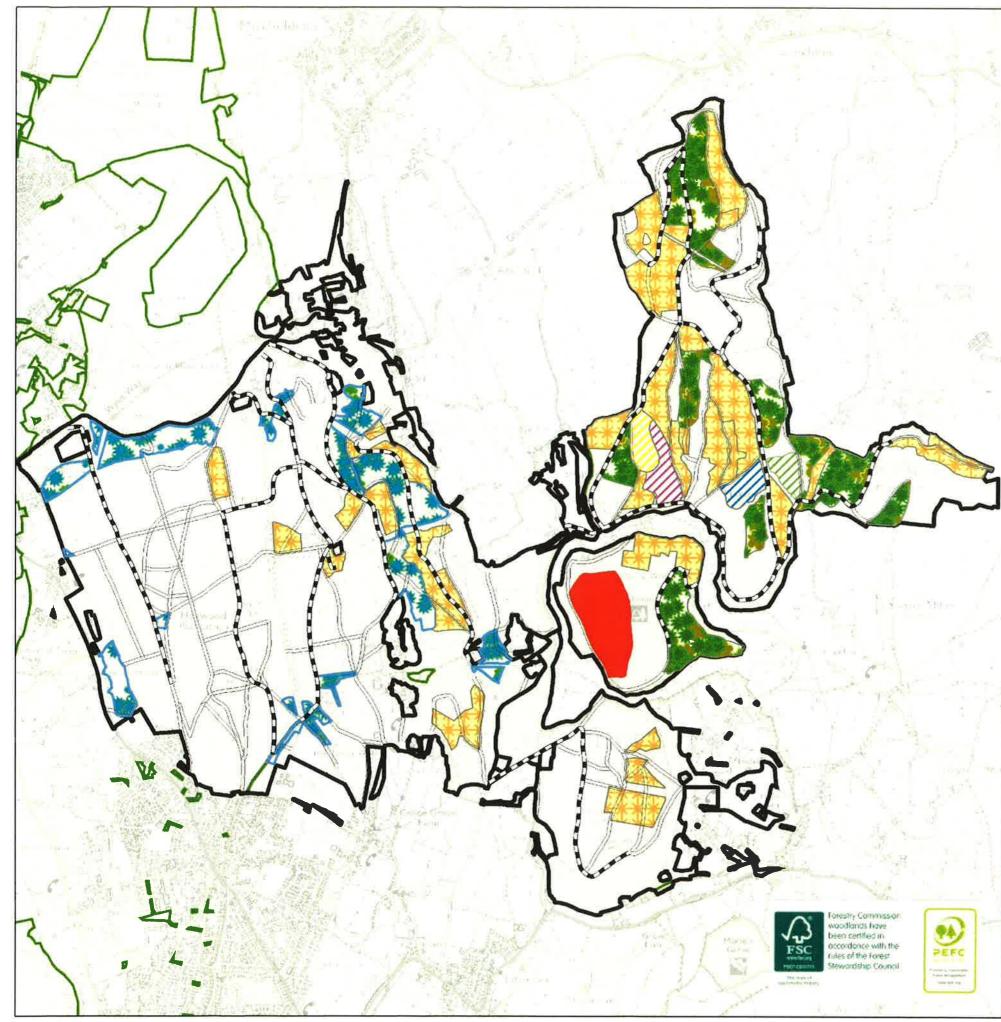
Scale 1:20,000

The FC Research team will investigate Oak dieback that is on landscape scale. Regular aerial surveys will help monitor condition. Thinning will continue under advice from the Research team.

Within Welshbury SAM area, begin coppicing the Small Leaved Lime at an appropriate coupe scale in accordance with the County Archaeologist guidance laid out within the SAM plan.







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**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

**Silvicultural Systems** 



These are areas that have little or no broadleaf components. Within these areas groups of upto 0,75Ha may be felled during routine thinning interventions. Some interventions may have no groups felled at all to further encourage a varied age structure and remain compliant with FS regulation. The gaps created would be restocked with a variety of native broadleaves with final removal of any remaining overstorey dependant on successful establishment and growth rates of the planted groups of trees. Using this method will hopefully achieve a future crop that is commercially viable and ecologically robust.

# Removal of conifers by thinning

Although no target date is set for the final removal of overstorey trees, the understorey will be assessed at each thinning intervention, with natural regeneration of the appropriate size being released and existing broadleaves being haloed. Additional gaps created will be of upto 0.5Ha and used for enrichment planting.

# Conifer retention

These areas will be retained as conifer into the foreseeable future.

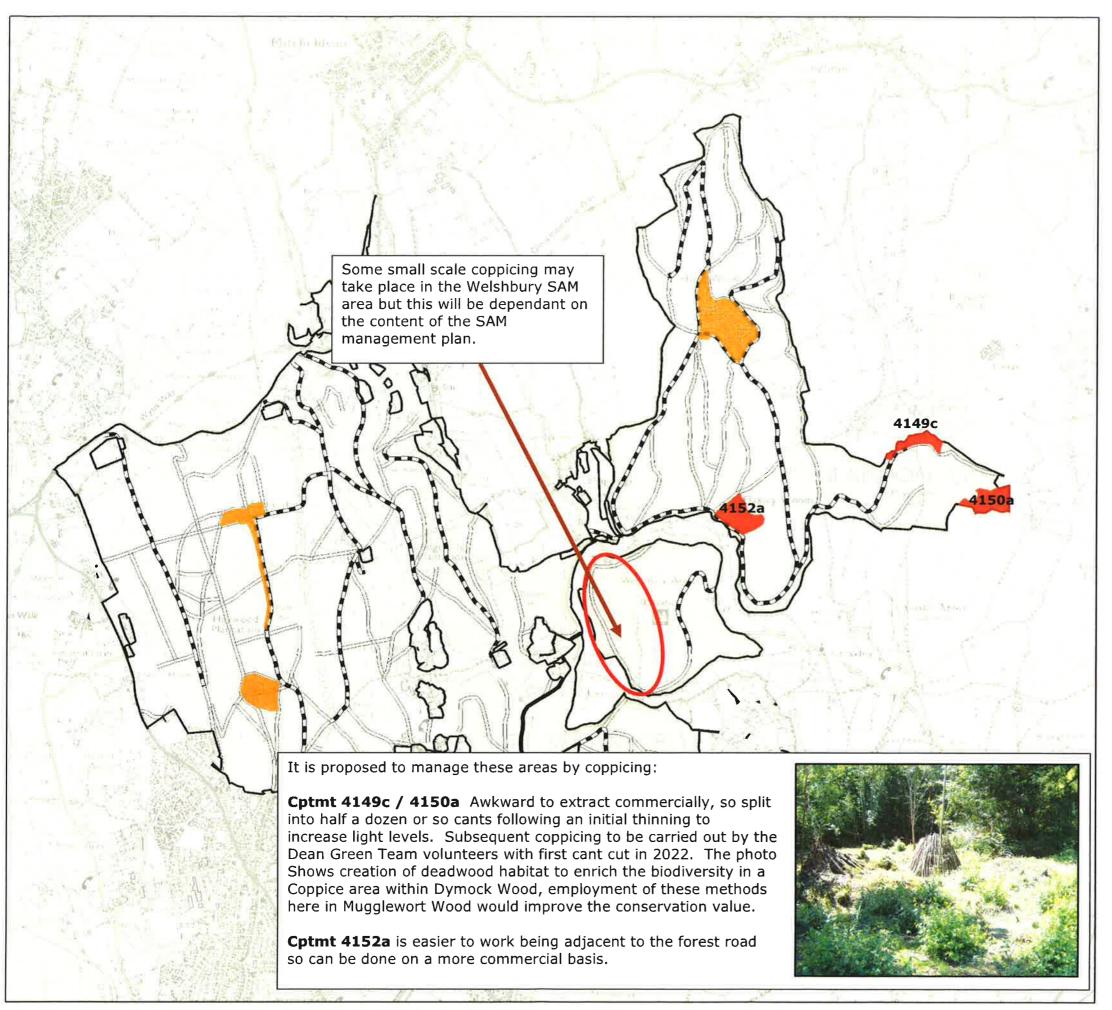
They mainly have conifer species that are better suited to a predicted warming climate and will be managed through routine thinning. Areas may show conifer regeneration which, once at an appropriate size will recruited into what will become a component of the future crop through thinning the surrounding overstorey to favour the regeneration.

# Conifer crop on extended rotation

These areas of conifer will be felled at some point but no fell date has yet been set. They will be managed through routine thinning, promoting the development of native species and may include creation of additional gaps allowing for natural regeneration or enrichment plantings to take place.

### Scheduled Ancient Monument site

Management will be dictated by the SAM management plan drawn up by the archaeological department from Gloucestershire County Council. This may involve coppicing at a small scale to minimise damage resulting from wind throw. (See Appendix 2 for draft proposals as to how this maybe implemented)





Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

Coppicing

# Legend

CastiardVale\_&\_Haywood\_Roads

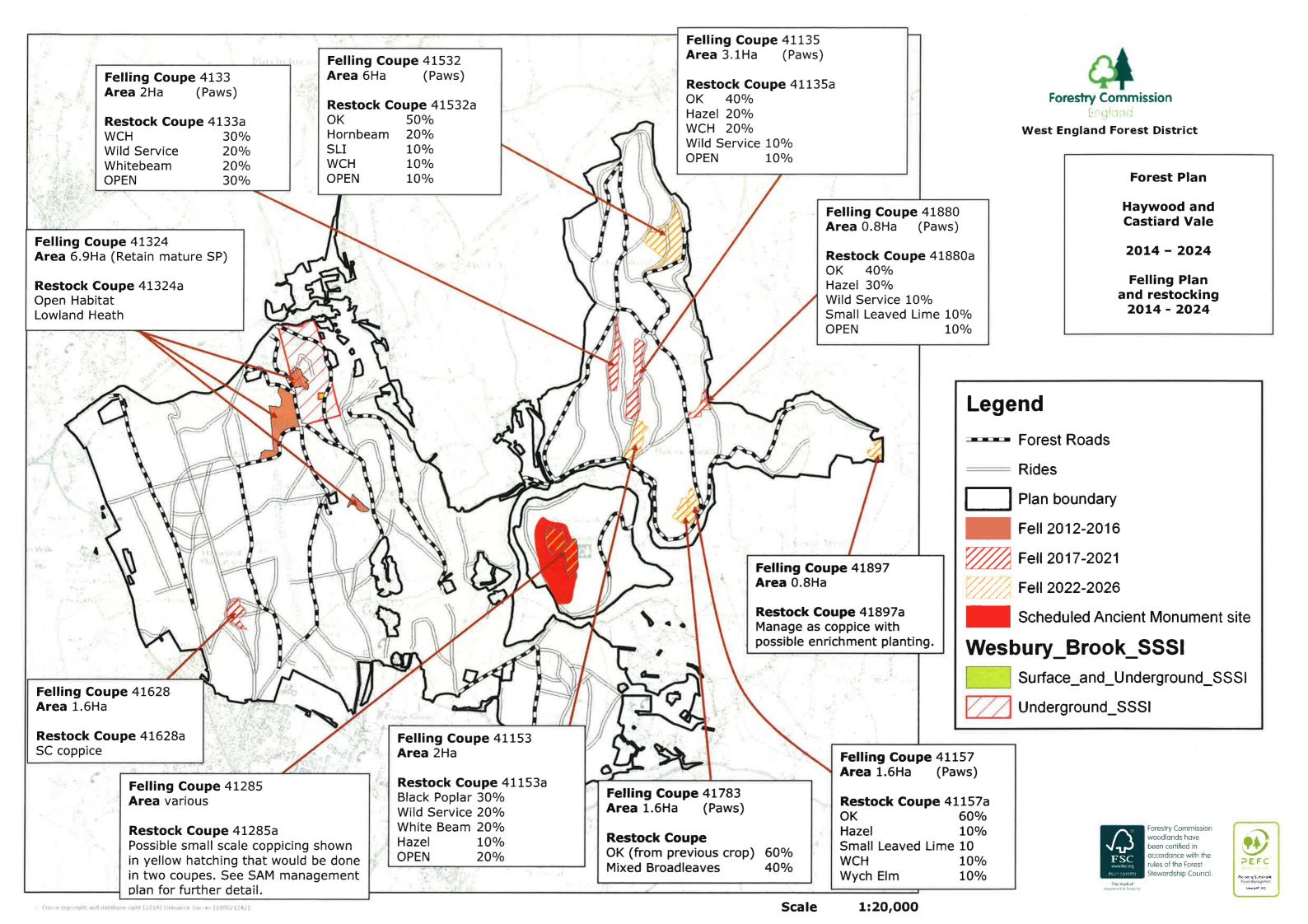
CastiardVale\_&\_Haywood\_Rides

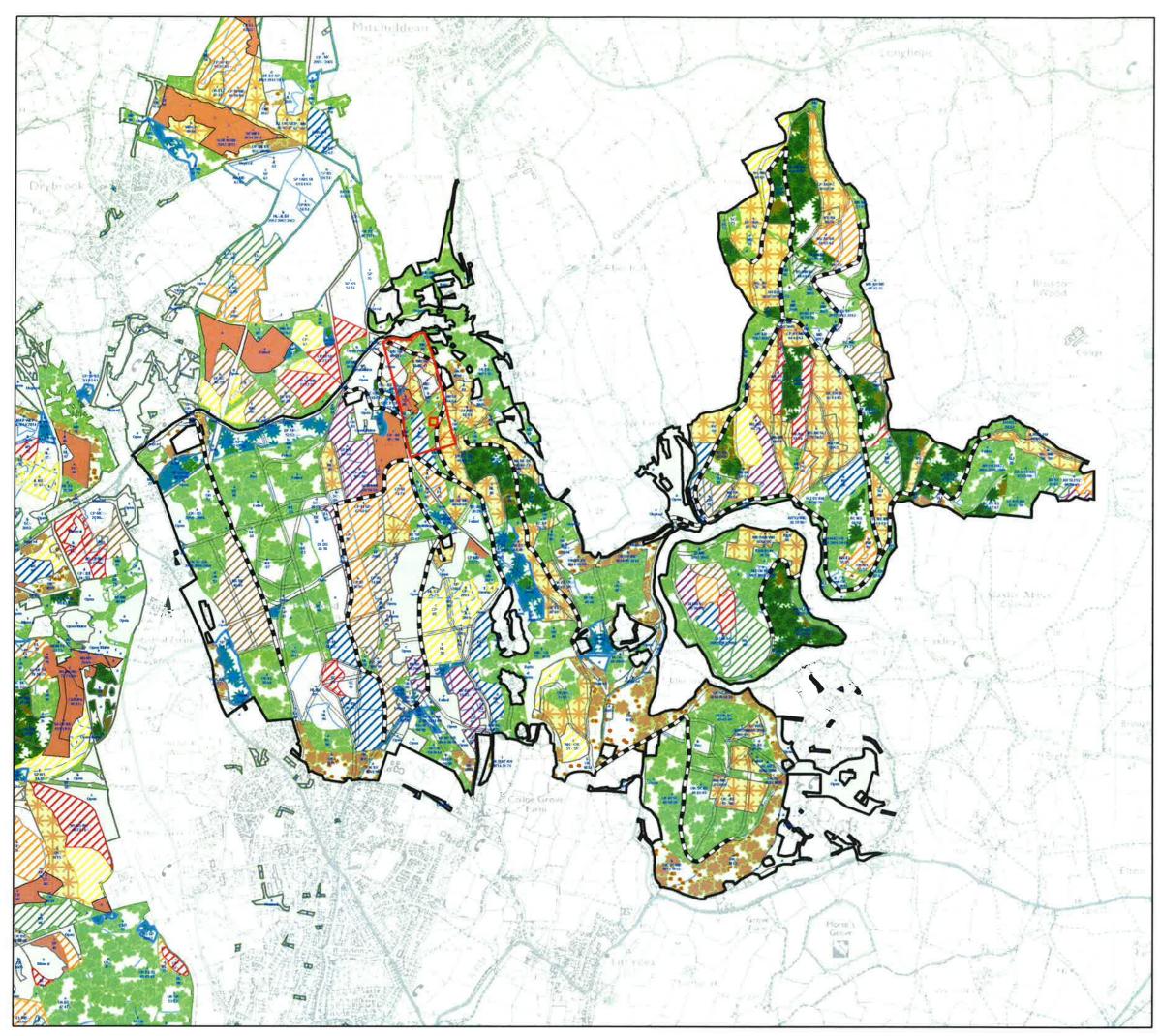
exisiting areas of working coppice

New areas proposed for coppicing









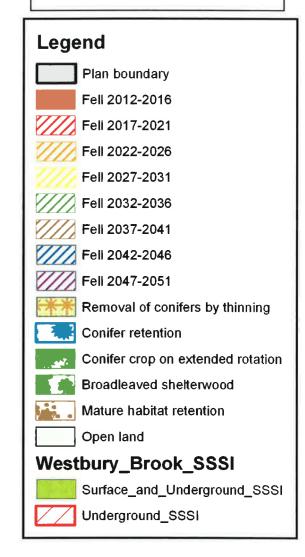


**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

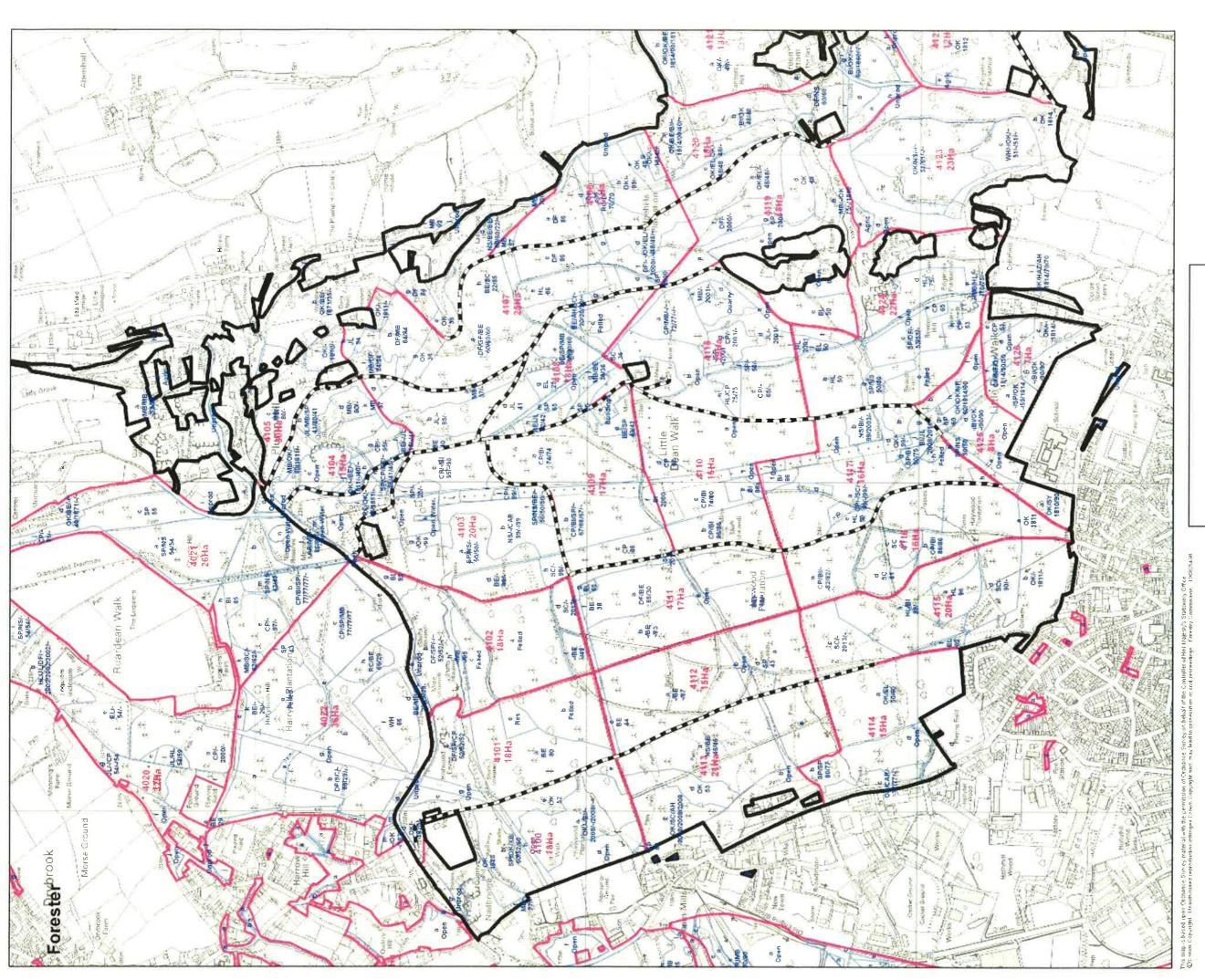
2014 - 2024

Felling Plan 2014-2054 (incl adj FP areas)











Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

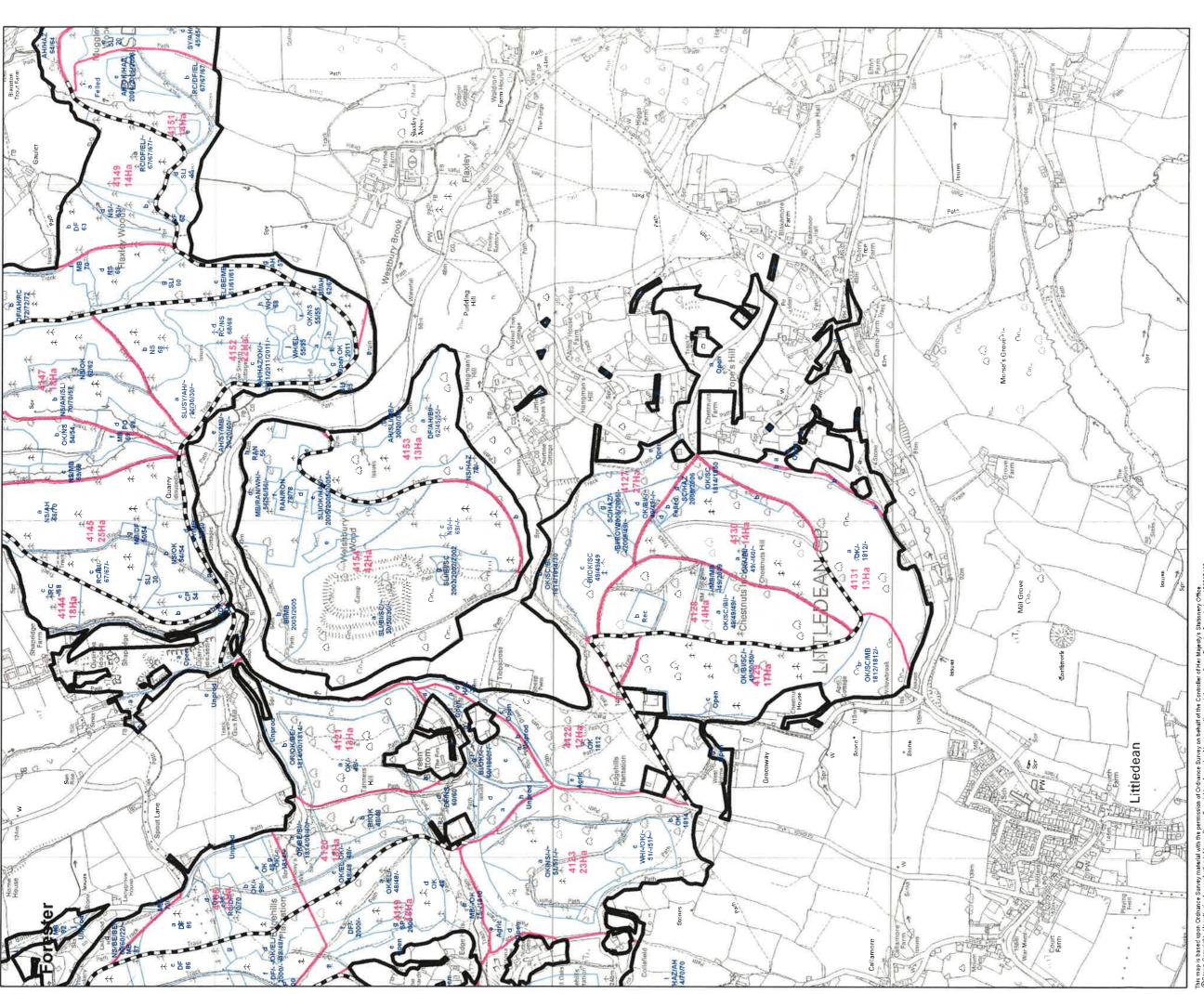
Stocking data 01/04/2014 Map 1 of 3 - Haywood

Scale 1:10,000



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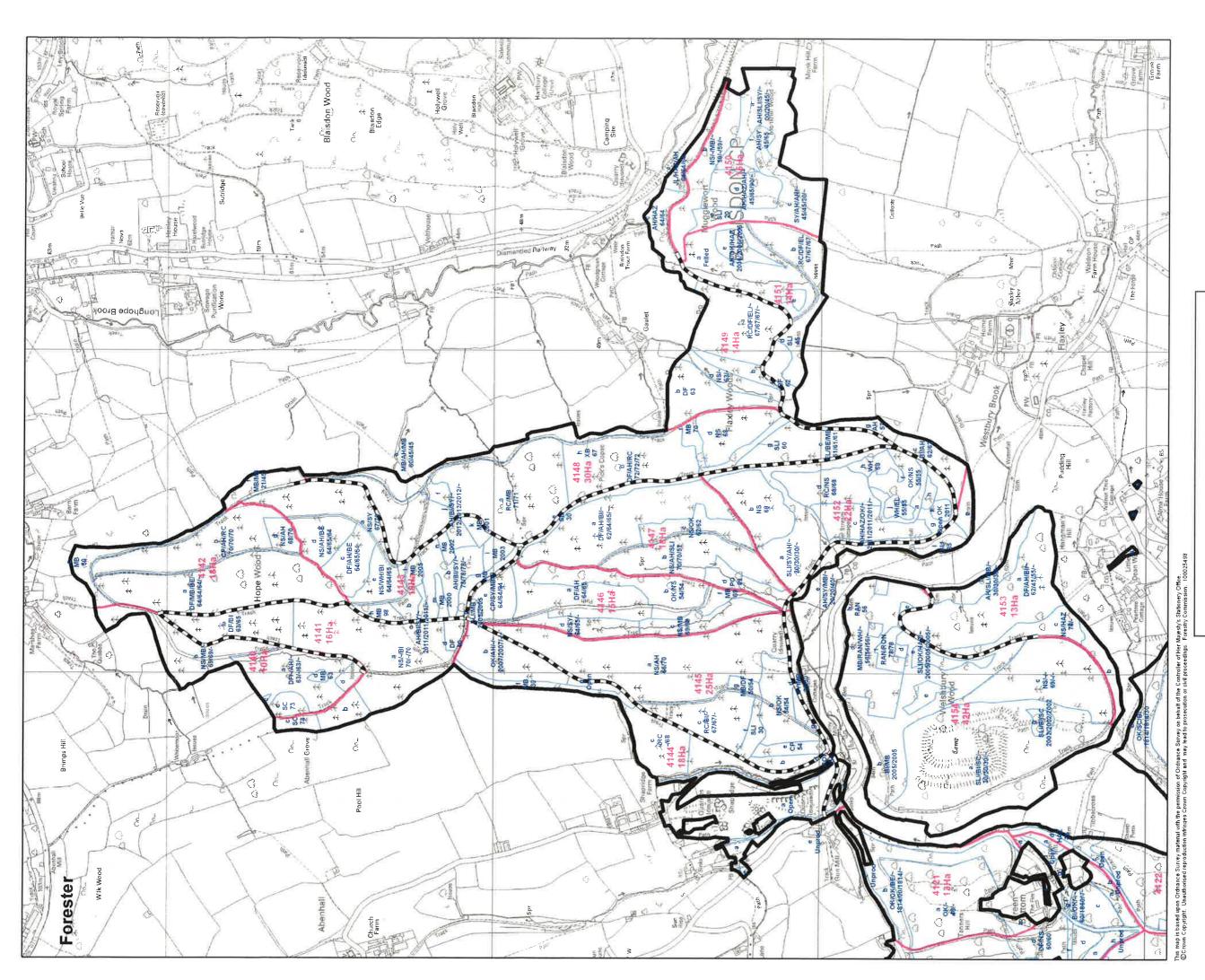
Haywood and Castiard Vale

Stocking data 01/04/2014 Map 2 of 3 – Welshbury & Chestnuts Wood

1:10,000







Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

Stocking data 01/04/2014 Map 3 of 3 - Flaxley Wood

1:10,000 Scale

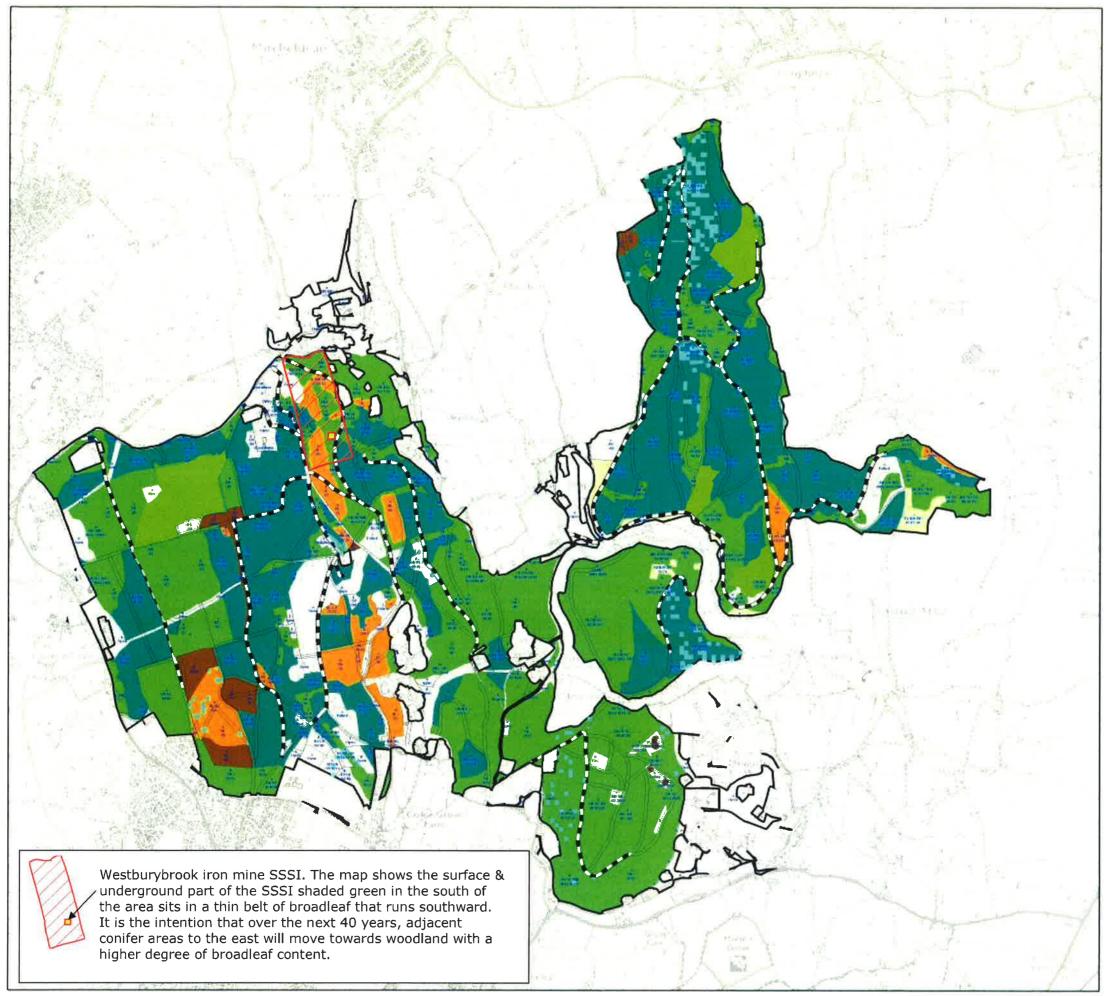






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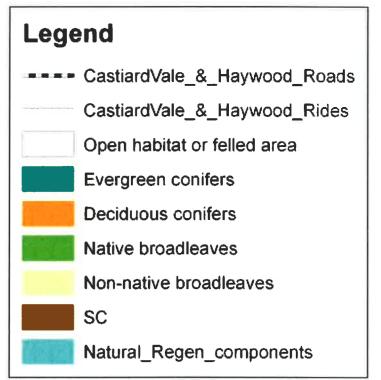




Haywood and Castiard Vale

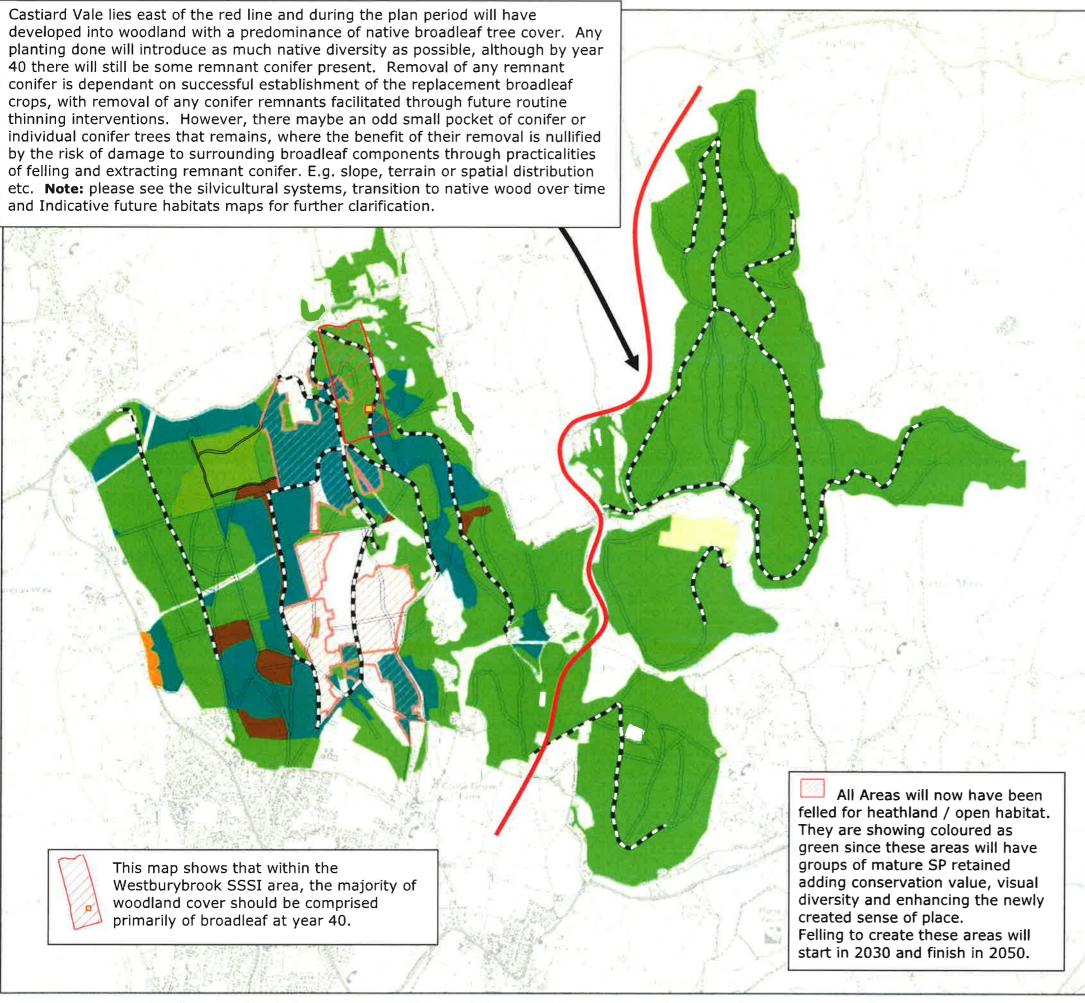
2014 - 2024

Indicative future species at year 10











**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

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Indicative future species at year 40

# Legend

CastiardVale\_&\_Haywood\_Roads

CastiardVale\_&\_Haywood\_Rides

Haywood\_potential\_Heathland

Evergreen conifers

Deciduous conifers

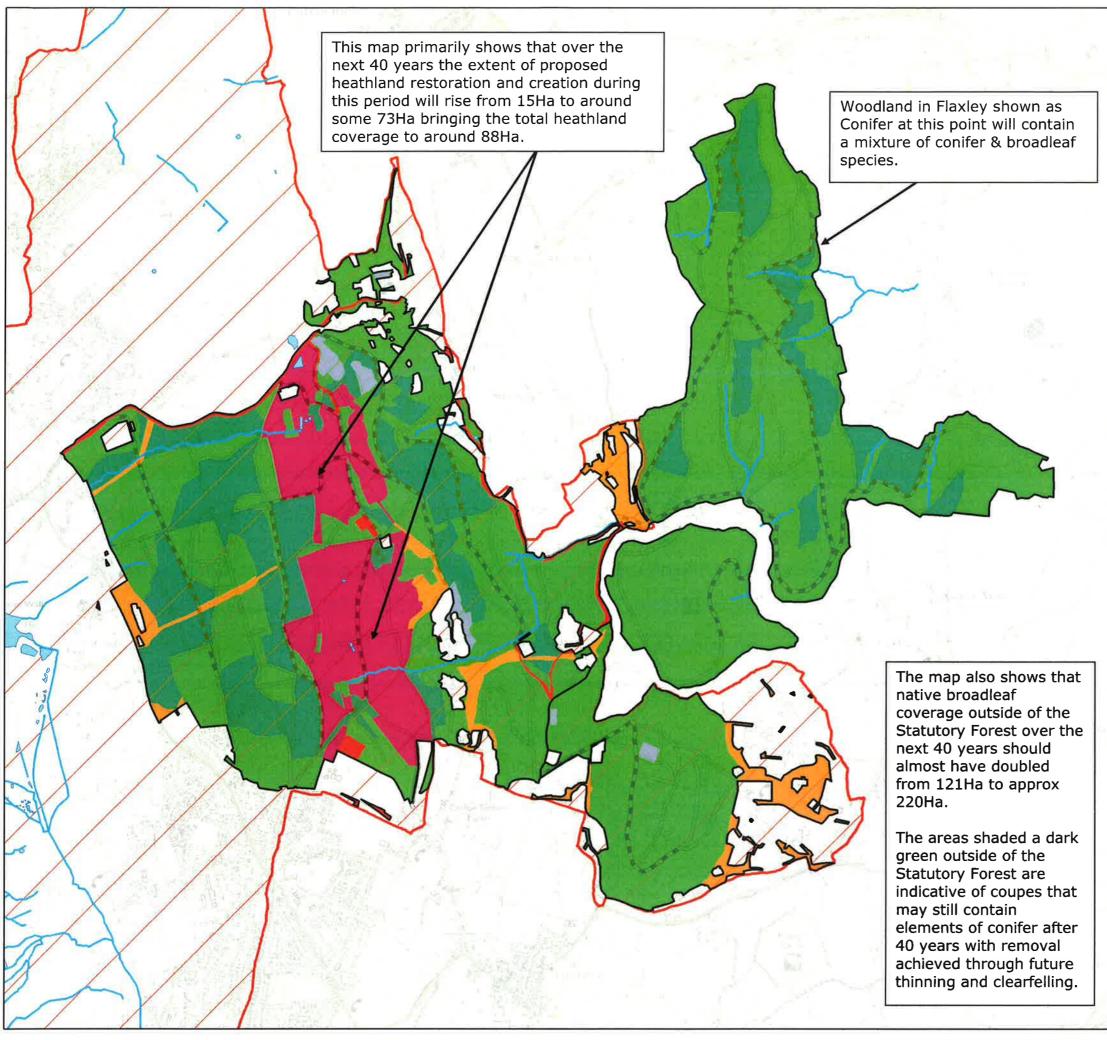
Native broadleaves

Non-native broadleaves

SC









**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

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Indicative future Habitat types at year 40

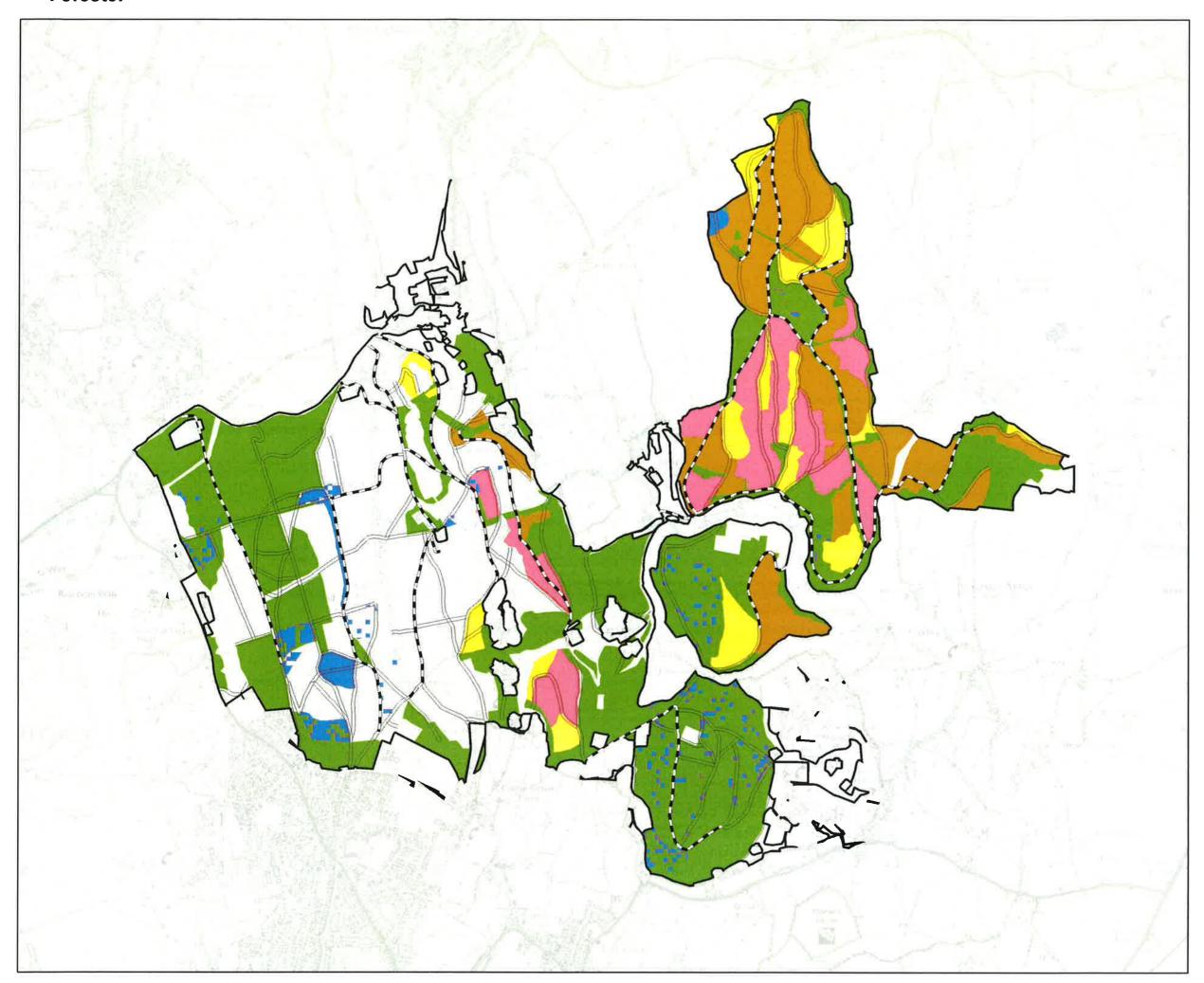
# Forest Road Forest Ride Statutory\_Boundary water\_courses open\_water urban infrastructure Woodland - Broadleaves Woodland - Coniferous Grassland / Meadow / Arable Heathland Bracken

Scale

1:20,000









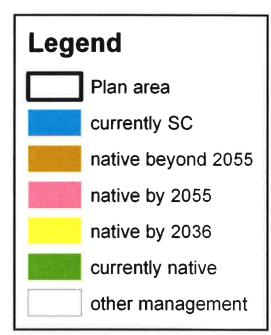
**West England Forest District** 

**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

**Transition to Native Woodland over time** 







# Viewpoint 1: A4136 at Steam Mills traffic lights looking south-east



Photograph 1: Current view from Steam Mills traffic lights looking south-east towards
The Branch



3-D representation of photograph 1



3-D representation of photograph 1 after felling coupe 24902 in the period 2017 - 2021



**West England Forest District** 

**Forest Plan** 

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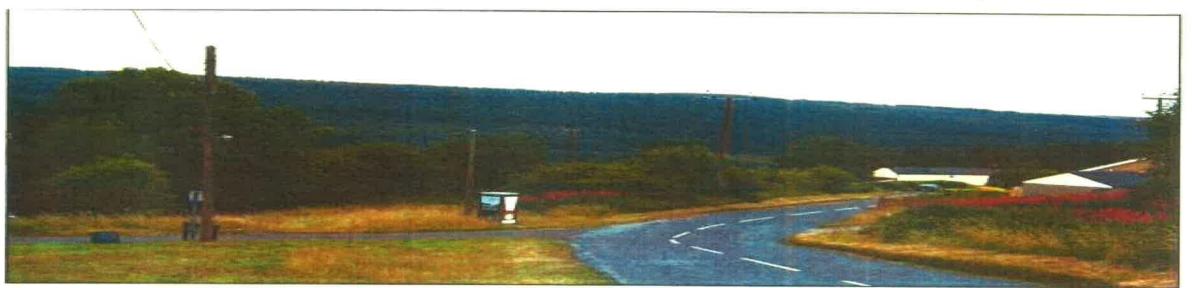
**Landscape Assessment** 





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Viewpoint 2: From the triangle junction of The Hollow on the Ruardean road looking south-east



Photograph 2: View from the triangle on the road to Ruardeanhill at the junction with The Hollow



3-D representation of photograph 2



3-D representation of photograph 2 after felling coupe 24902 in the period 2017 - 2021



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**Viewpoint 3: From Winners Garage on Valley Road looking east** 



Photograph 3: View from Winner Garage on Valley Road looking east



3-D representation of photograph 3



3-D representation of photograph 3 after felling coupe 29402 in the period 2017 - 2021



West England Forest District

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### **View point 1: Welshbury and Chestnuts Wood from Plump Hill**

Thinning out of the conifer in compartment 4154 continues

Coupe 41107 now "greened up" and re-established with site native broadleaves. Visual impact is constantly being reduced.

**Top:** Landscape Assessment as per the 2002 Forest Plan **Middle:** Landscape Assessment for 2014 Forest Plan **Bottom:** Impression of management proposals 2014-2051



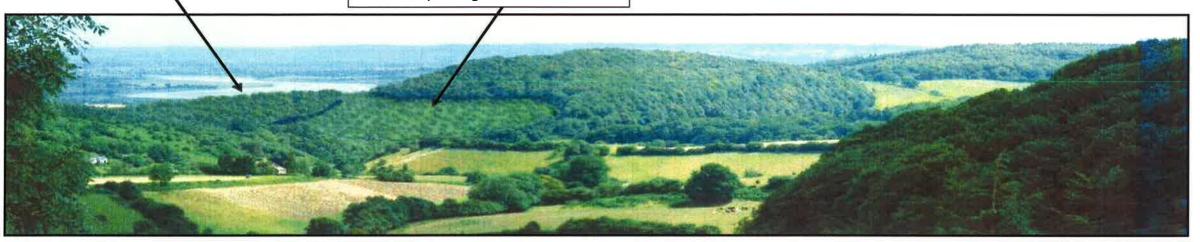
**West England Forest District** 

**Forest Plan** 

Haywood and Castiard Vale

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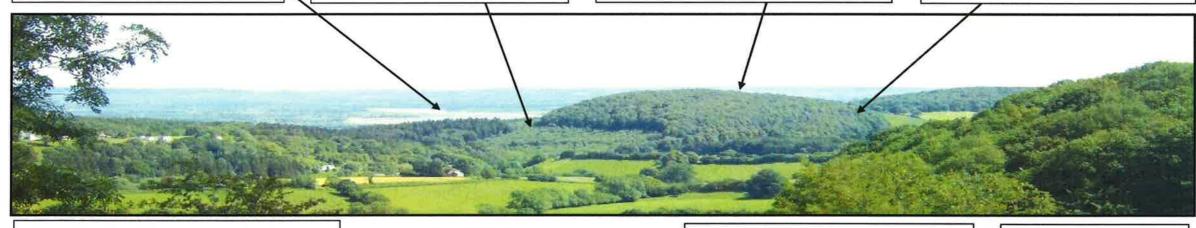
**Landscape Assessment** 



Conifer will continue to be removed from compartment 4154 through the 2014 plan period

Felling of Coupe 41107 has achieved exactly what the previous plan had envisaged.

Welshbury SAM will begin a process of transformation over to coppice to safeguard archaeological features. Whilst western peripheries of Welshbury contain archaeological features the area is thought to be less sensitive in nature.

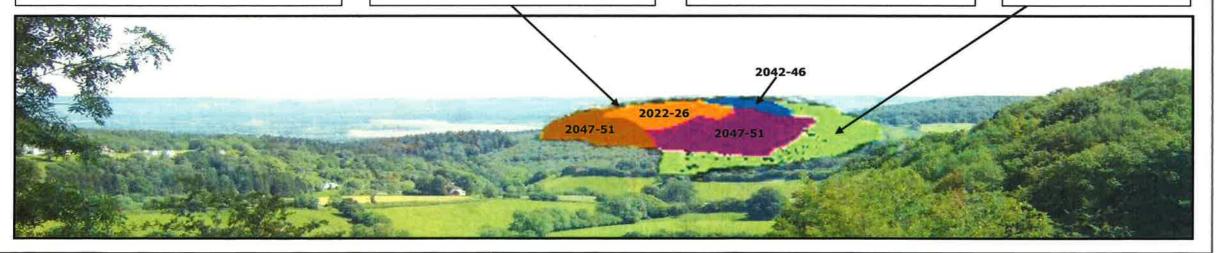


The SAM will be managed in accordance to prescriptions drawn up by the County Archaeologists in conjunction with FC. Recommendations are to coppice the woodland covering the SAM.

The first cant to be coppiced in 2017-2021 is not visible as it sits behind the brown and orange cants due for coppicing in 2047-2051.

Coppicing will minimise future risk of windthrow and potential for damaging the earthworks due to increasing levels of exposure, as the trees grow larger and taller.

Peripheral belt of Small Leaved Lime not to be coppiced but managed as broadleaf shelterwood.







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### View point 2: Flaxley from A4136 at Longhope looking south

**Top:** Landscape Assessment for 2014 Forest Plan

Middle right & Bottom left: Impression of management proposals 2014-2051

Flaxley wood is the dominant feature in this landscape, occupying the whole of the skyline and is dominated by conifers although the fringe of broadleaves helps buffer the transition to agricultural land. The crest of DF and RC in Coupe 23052 has become more prominent on the horizon since the felling of coupe 23114. Rather than clearfelling, a gradual change to native broadleaf will be promoted through thinning in order to retain a wooded appearance and avoid an ugly step in the skyline.

This block of broadleaf sits isolated within an otherwise coniferous landscape.

Numerous broadleaf field & hedge trees assist with visual integration between the wooded landscape and the agricultural one.

The series of coupes as per the 2002 FDP are highlighted here. They run north to south and show there is visual conflict within the landscape that would, if felled, crudely interrupt the appearance what is currently a contiguously wooded ridge.



West England Forest District

Forest Plan

Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

**Landscape Assessment** 



### **Below left:**

This illustration shows the isolated block of broadleaves identified at the top of the page.

The light brown area will be felled in 2017-2021 and restocked with a mixture of minor native broadleaf species to improve diversity.

The fragmented nature of the isolated broadleaves in this area including the broadleaf habitat in the corner of the farmer's field and the peripheral fringe broadleaves will be linked creating a more robust habitat that will also sit more favourably within the landscape.



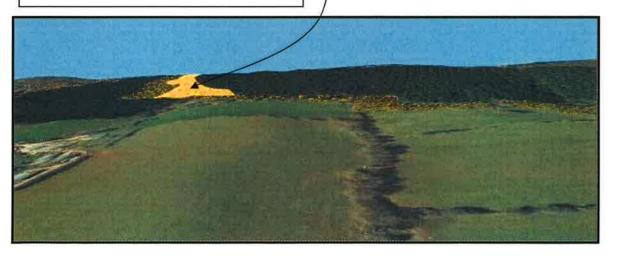
### Above right:

Remodelled coupe boundaries along eastern slopes are now more sympathetic to landform and landscape quality has been improved.

Coupe remodelling has drawn on natural features and boundaries of existing broadleaves to try and achieve a more natural appearance.

Flaxley is experienced in the middle distance from this view point and the remodelled coupes are large enough to create visual impact.

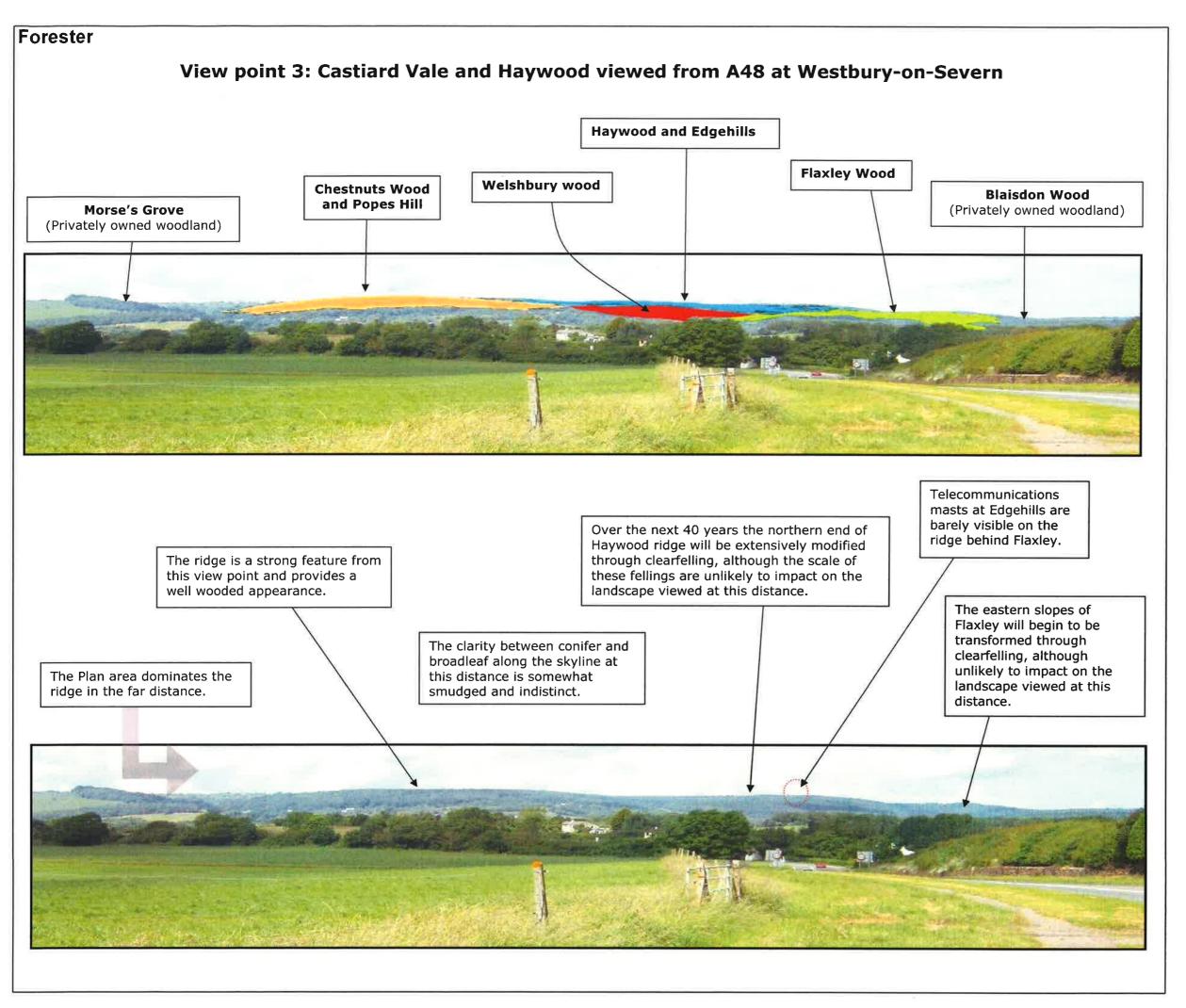
Felling dates given are a reflection of the amount of felling being undertaken elsewhere within the plan area to meet other objectives, and will provide a more diverse age structure. Coupes shown here will continue to be routinely thinned and will develop a mixed composition before final felling of remaining conifer.







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Haywood and Castiard Vale

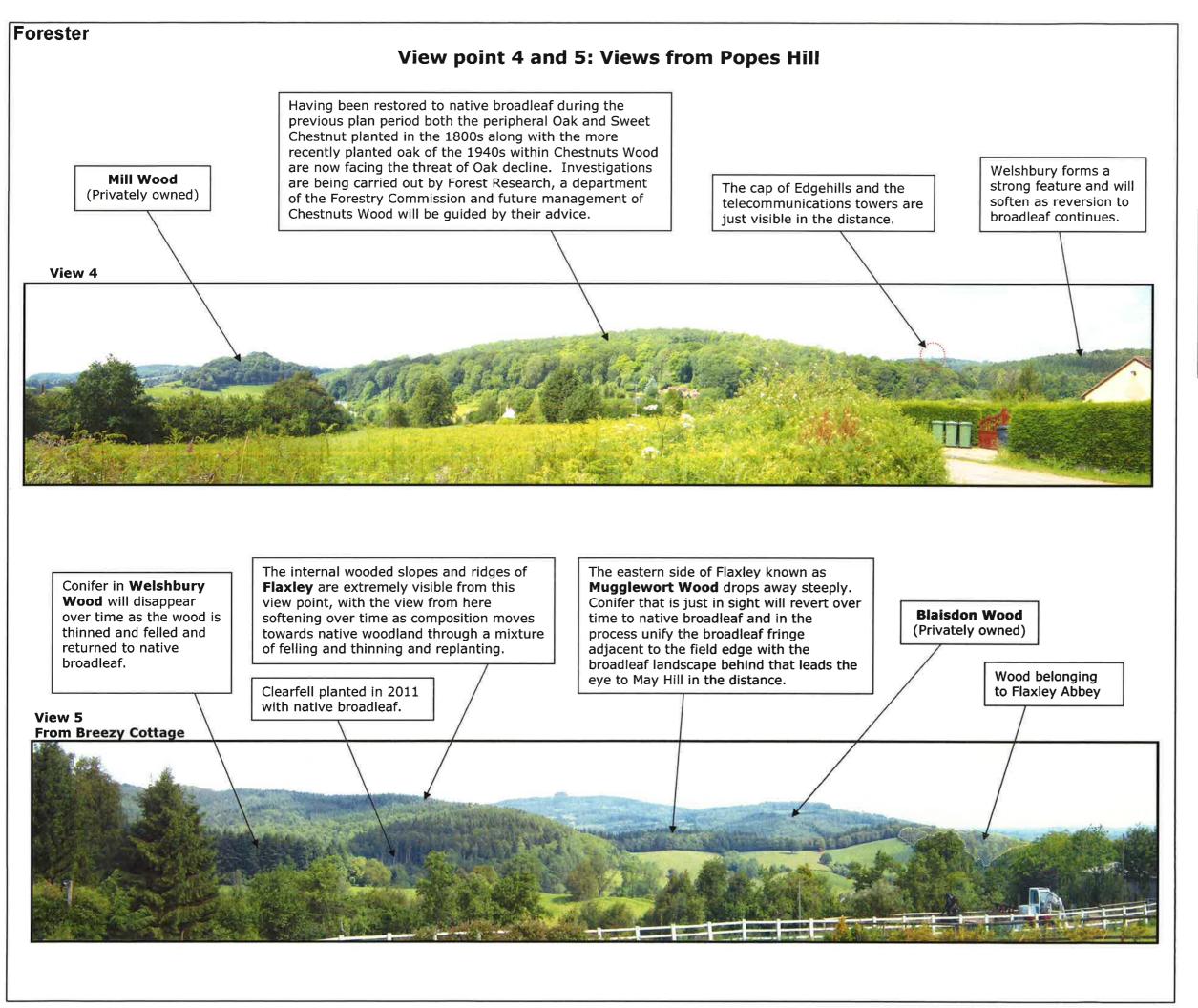
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