Forestry Commission England

Statistics

Current Structure

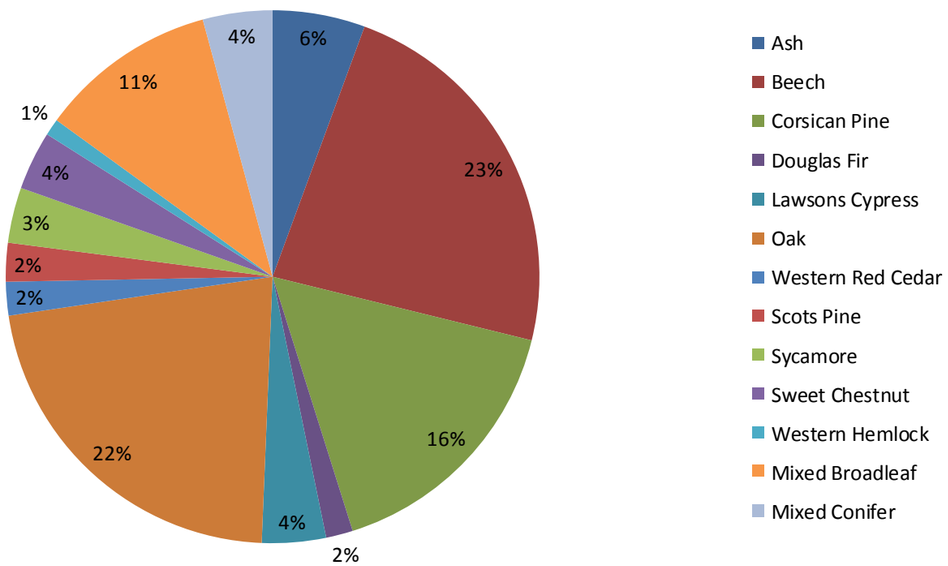

Chart shows the woodland structure broken down into the individual tree species. Only species which make up more than 1% of the total area are represented.

Age Diversity

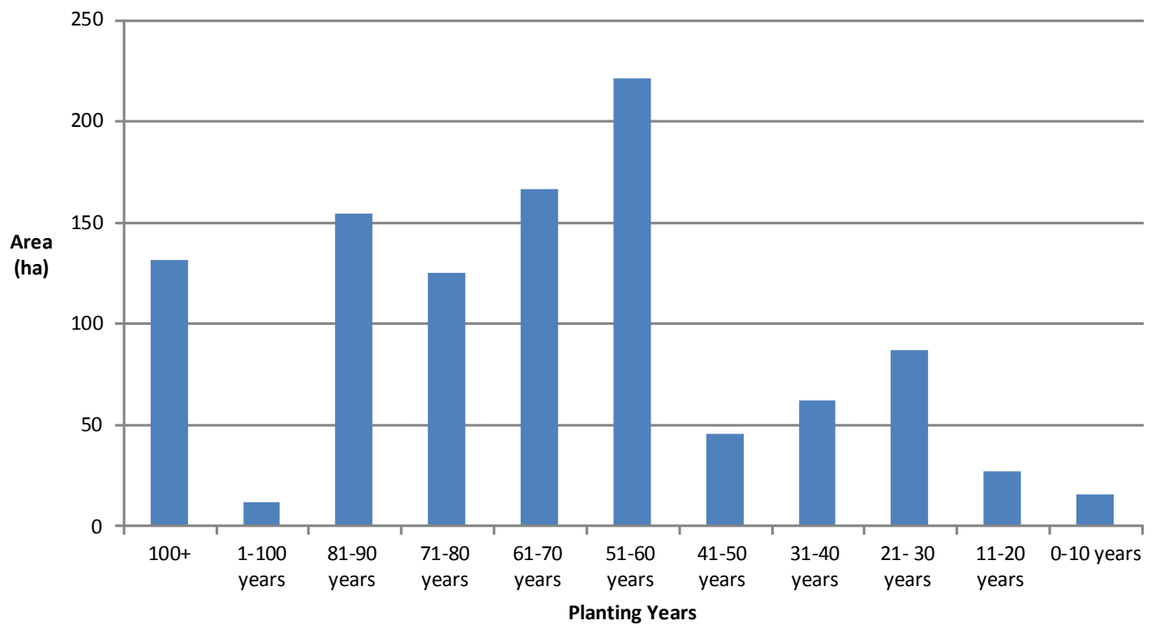

Chart shows the age structure of the woodland broken down into planting years.

IOW Woodlands Semi Natural Scoring

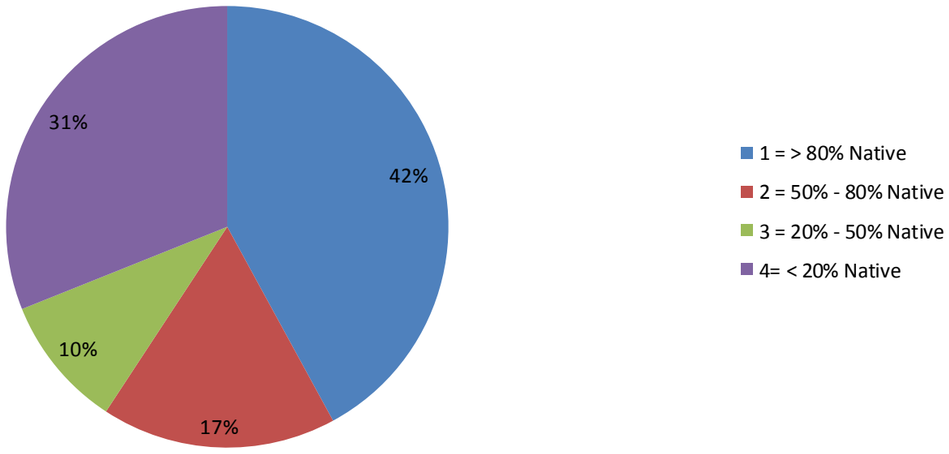

Chart shows the percentage of native species in ancient woodland areas

IOW Woodlands Current Structure

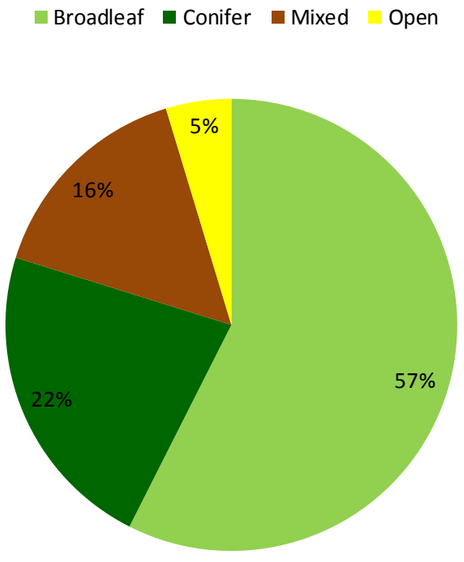

Chart shows the current structure of the woodlands separated into generalised habitat types

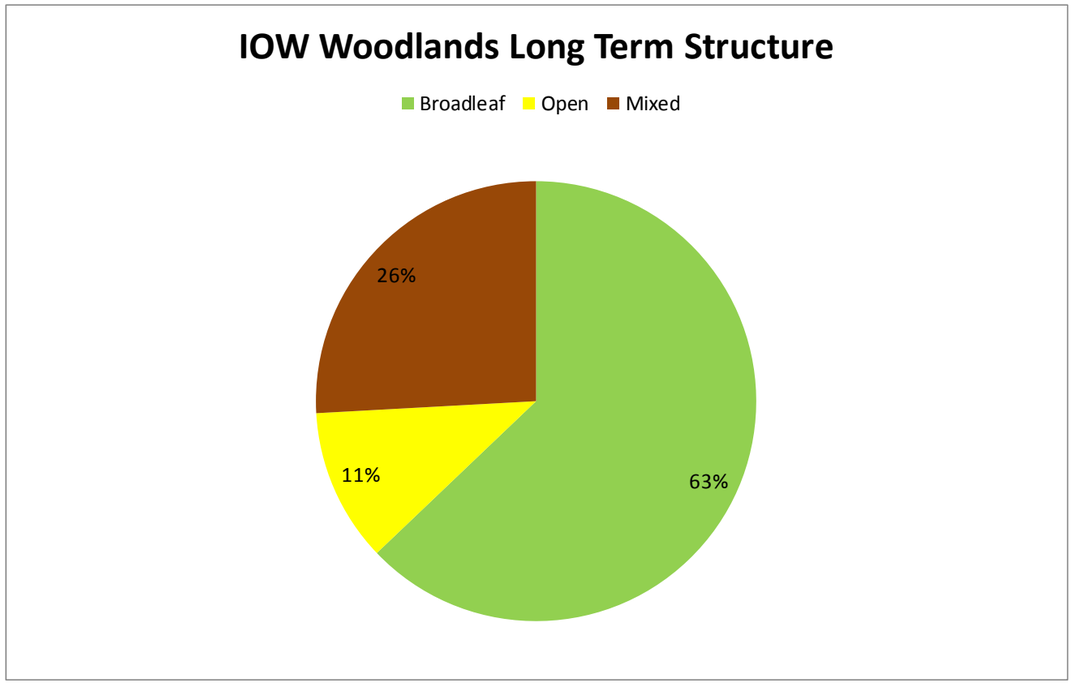

Chart shows the long term structure of the woodland separated into generalised habitat types. Time scale is around 200 years.

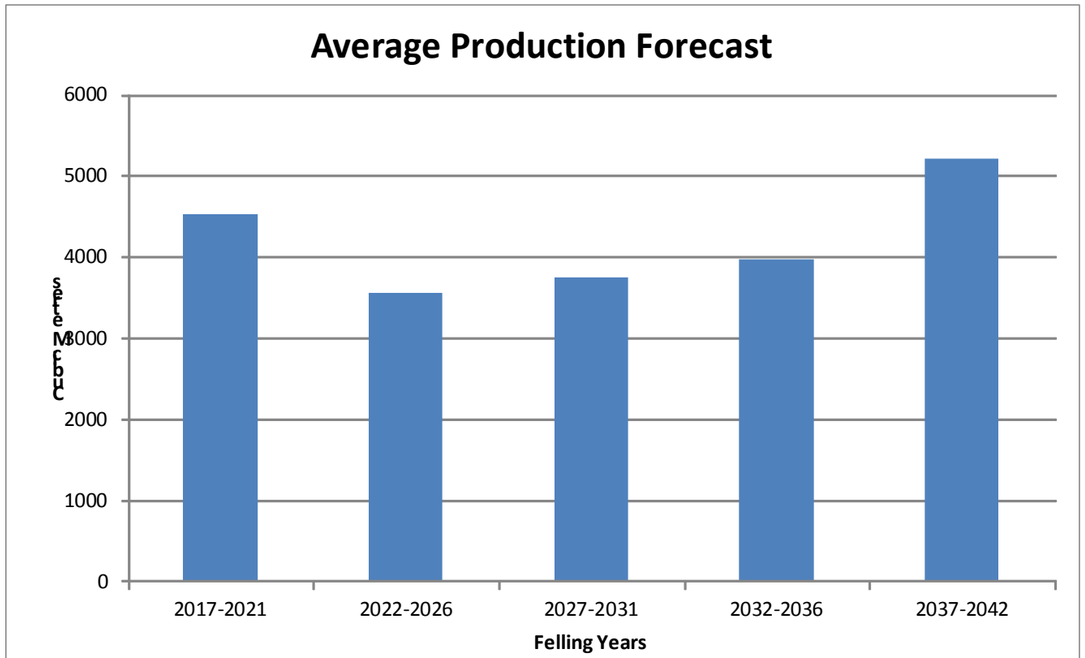

Chart shows an indicative average timber volume forecast to be produced in 5 year intervals

Forestry Commission England

Wildfire Risk Assessment

A wildfire risk assessment is an evaluation of the likelihood of a wildfire occurring and the severity of damage it might cause if it does occur.

Forest/woodland name; Isle of Woodlands					
What are the Fire Hazards?	**Who/what might be harmed and how?**	**What are you already doing to manage the risk?**	**Initial Risk Rating**	**What else do you need to do?**	**Revised risk rating**
Large blocks of coniferous woodland.	General Public and emergency services	Long term plan to diversify the make up of the blocks, creating mixed species woodlands and restoring appropriate areas back to native woodland.	Medium	Evaluate high risk compartments and consider ways of speeding up the change of species makeup. Evaluate fuel loading during regular intervals.	
Fires spreading from the road network adjacent to the blocks.	General Public and emergency services	The majority of the road network is either bordered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	low	Increase vegetation management to reduce fire risk. A verge clear of vegetation should be 3.5m either side of access routes.	
Fires spreading from residential properties adjacent to the blocks	General Public and emergency services	The majority residential properties are bordered by open space or low risk broad-leafed woodland.	low	Actively engage with owners about the risks of fire to both the PFE and their property to create an awareness of fire safety.	
Fires spreading from formal recreation areas (BBQ's/ campfires etc.).	General Public and emergency services	Interpretation both onsite and online discourages BBQ use. Regular inspection of facilities by FC staff to inform site planning	low	Deploy fire breaks where necessary.	
Fires spreading from powerlines and underground utilities (gas pipes).	General Public and emergency services	Any powerlines that go through woodland blocks already have a mandatory exclusion zone, free of high risk vegetation	low	Conduct ad-hock checks on the state of wayleave vegetation, contacting the relevant utility companies when appropriate	

Bouldnor Forest and Hamstead Cliffs SSSI Citation

File ref:

County: Isle of Wight Site Name: Bouldnor and Hamstead Cliffs SSSI

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Isle of Wight County Council, South Wight Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SZ 390910 Area: 95.65 (ha) 236.35 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 1:25,000: SX 28/38

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951 Date of Last Revision: 1977

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 27.1.1987 Date of Last Revision: –

Confirmed: 25.6.1987

Other Information:
The foreshore of this site is within the Newtown Harbour Local Nature Reserve.

Reasons for Notification:

Bouldnor and Hamstead Cliffs are of great importance of geology because of the complete succession which they provide through the series of rocks of Oligocene age (some 30 million years old) known as the Hamstead Beds. Within the site is also the type-section of the Bouldnor Formation – the youngest Tertiary strata developed in the Hampshire Basin. The cliffs are also of importance because of the rich faunas of fossil mammals, reptiles, birds and insects which occur within the Hamstead Beds; the rocks also contain important fossil floras of similar age. The combination of this wide variety of particular interests makes the Bouldnor and Hamstead Cliffs site one of the most important localities for rocks of this age anywhere in Britain.

Bouldnor Cliff is the principal site in Britain for fossil mammals of Oligocene age, having yielded an extensive fauna of over 24 species; it is the only known mid-Oligocene fauna anywhere in Britain. The site is also the best locality in Britain for fossil reptiles of Oligocene age, including turtles, crocodiles and snakes. Fossil birds belonging to five species occur in the Lower Oligocene rocks of the site. The Hamstead Beds yield a very important fauna of Oligocene fossil insects, and is one of the most significant sites in Britain for these animals: fossil Diptera (flies), Coleoptera (beetles) and Hymenoptera have been collected from here. The cliff and foreshore section is also of great value for studies of Tertiary fossil plants from the Bembridge Marls and the Hamstead Beds, and contains the type locality for a species of the tree Sequoia ; the site is important both for studies of plant structure and for the palaeoecology of the plants and their associated faunas. It is the only locality in Britain to yield fossil plants from the Middle and Upper parts of the Hamstead Beds and is also the only locality in Britain at which detailed studies of the palaeoecology and sedimentology of Oligocene fossil plant-bearing rocks have been undertaken.

Bouldnor and Hamstead Cliffs are of great ecological as well as geological importance. Ecologically the cliffs display a wide range of habitat types ranging from broad-leaved woodland through a variety of scrub communities to a variety of early pioneer plant communities. All these habitats are strongly influenced by the cliff stability, acidity and availability of water. This range of plant communities from almost bare ground to mature woodland shows examples of all stages in a primary succession and is of great ecological interest.

Thorness Bay SSSI Citation

County: Isle of Wight Site Name: Thorness Bay SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Isle of Wight County Council, Medina Borough Council, South Wight Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SZ 455935

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 1:25,000: SZ 49 **Area:** 86.18 (ha) **Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1966 **Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 26 February 1987 **Last Revision:** 23.2.95 **Date Confirmed:** 6 August 1987 **Date Confirmed**: 21.11.95.

Other Information:

The site, formerly known as Gurnard Ledge to Saltmead Ledge SSSI was extended in 1987. The SSSI includes land which has been proposed for designation under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, and as a Special Protection Area under EU Directive

79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Part of the site is listed in the Geological

Conservation Review.

Reasons for Notification:

The site extends along approximately three kilometres of undeveloped and little disturbed coastline on the north west of the Isle of Wight. It comprises considerable areas of soft maritime cliffs with large expanses of intertidal sand and shingle interspersed with rocky outcrops or ledges composed of Bembridge Limestone. Two small areas of brackish marsh known as Thorness Marshes lie adjacent to the shore. The invertebrate fauna and flora of Thorness Marshes and the sea shore support large numbers of overwintering wildfowl and waders which, with the adjacent Newtown Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest to the west, contribute to the internationally important estuarine bird populations of The Solent. Thorness Marshes is also an important site for breeding waterfowl.

The coastal section between Gurnard Ledge and Saltmead Ledge is of geological importance because of the rock sequence which occurs, and because of the fossil plants and insects which are found within the rocks. Rock exposures occur in the intertidal zone, in outcrops at the base of the slipped cliffs, and in landslip scars above the beach. The fossil flora and insect fauna are of particular importance, providing large numbers of specimens which are not known to occur elsewhere. The diverse cliff vegetation is also of considerable ecological importance in displaying a great range of successional types from pioneer communities to mature woodland.

Thorness Bay displays a full succession of rocks from the upper part of the Headon Hill Formation through to the lowest beds of the Bouldnor Formation. The best exposures are of the Bembridge Limestone and Bembridge Marls, and local changes in the thickness of the Bembridge Limestone are of particular importance in understanding the geological history of the Thorness Bay area. Near the base of the Bembridge Marls is a thin limestone, known as the

'Insect Limestone', which is the most important source of Tertiary fossil insects anywhere in Britain. Over 250 new species have been found within the limestone, including tree-ants and termites. The Insect Limestone also contains a unique flora of fossil plants, belonging to over

120 different species; 39 of these species have their type-locality here, and 20 are unique tothis site in Britain. Of particular importance is the excellent preservation of the fossil plants, which allow the recognition of plant organs not usually seen in fossilised specimens. Fossil plants also occur at other levels in the Bembridge Limestone and Bembridge Marls, and the site is of critical importance for studies of European Tertiary palaeobotany. Structurally the cliffs are divided into a series of parallel slumps and mud-flows running perpendicular to the coast. The most recently formed cliff slumps are largely unvegetated and support only scattered pioneer plants such as coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*, giant horsetail Equisetum telmateia, tall melilot *Melilotus altissima* and a variety of grass species. The more mature cliff slumps develop a vegetation dominated by wood small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*, common reed Phragmites australis and giant horsetail in association with species more commonly found on calcareous grasslands such as yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata*, rest harrow *Ononis repens* and common centaury *Centaurium erythraea*. The longest established parts of the cliff have developed a dense scrub vegetation, often on raised ridges between the younger slumps. This is composed of a number of shrub and tree species ranging from sallow *Salix cinerea*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and alder *Alnus glutinosa* in the wetter areas to gorse *Ulex europaeus*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and privet *Ligustrum vulgare* in the drier areas. The semi-natural woodland on the landslip area at Burnt wood supports the nationally rare fly *Dorycera graminum* which is listed in the British Red Data Book (RDB 3). Thorness Marshes comprise a range of botanically rich communities and supports important numbers of overwintering and breeding waterfowl. The marshes grade from reed *Phragmites australis* beds, freshwater and brackish grazing marsh alongside a small stream, through to a rich saltmarsh community developed behind a shingle bar. The grazing marsh includes areas dominated by sea club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, sea couch-grass *Elymus maritima*, and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, with saltmarsh rush *Juncus gerardi* and two nationally scarce species – divided sedge *Carex divisa* and marsh-mallow Althaea officinalis occurring locally. A diverse saltmarsh community has developed behind the shingle bar which guards the marshes, and includes saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia spp*., sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*, sea aster *Aster tripolium*, sea arrow-grass *Triglochin maritima*, sea milkwort *Glaux maritima* and lesser sea-spurrey *Spergularia marina*. The shingle bar displays a diverse community dominated in places by sea sandwort *Honkenya peploides* and including yellow horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum, orache Atriplex spp.,* yellow *melilot Melilotus* officinalis, henbane *Hyoscyamus niger* and in places at the shingle/saltmarsh interface monospecific stands of the nationally scarce divided sedge.

The rich marine invertebrate fauna of Thorness shore includes large numbers of lugworm Arenicola marina, ragworm Nereis diversicola, mason worm Lanice conchilega and cockles Cerastoderma edule. The rocky limestone ledges form low platforms, dissected by rectilinear cracks, which rise up to 1.5 metres above the sand and shingle shore. They provide classic examples of a rocky shore habitat on the north west coast of the Isle of Wight. The rich algal flora they support is dominated by toothed wrack *Fucus serratus,* commonly with Irish moss *Chondrus crispus*, Japanese seaweed *Sargassum muticum*, and, on the lower shore, *oarweed Laminaria* species. The invertebrate fauna on these ledges includes an abundance of limpets *Patella vulgata*, periwinkles *Littorina* species and hermit crabs *Eupagurus bernhardus.*

Thorness Bay forms an important component of The Solent estuarine system which has been identified as an internationally important site for over-wintering wildfowl and waders. Thorness shore and marshes provide important feeding and roosting grounds for significant numbers of waterfowl including dark-bellied Brent geese *Branta bernicla*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, teal *Anas cracca*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, and snipe *Gallinago gallinago.* Thorness shore is a particularly important site in The Solent system for its overwintering turnstone *Arenaria interpres.* Less frequently occurring species include spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus,* greenshank *T. nebularia,* green sandpiper *T. ochropus* and jack snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus.* The marsh also supports important numbers of breeding waterflow including redshank *T. totanus,* lapwing *Vanellus vanellus,* and occasional mallard *Anas platyrhynchos;* together with reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* and reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus.* Ringed plover nest in small numbers on the shingle.

Parkhurst Forest SSSI Citation

File ref:

County: Isle of Wight Site Name: Parkhurst Forest SSSI

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Local Planning Authority: Isle of Wight County Council, Medina Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SZ 473915

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 196 1:10,000: SZ 49 SE

Area: 183.46 (ha) 453.34 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): - Date of Last Revision: - Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: - Other Information:

Most of the site is owned by the Forestry Commission.

Reasons for Notification:

The Parkhurst Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest covers gently undulating Bamstead Clay with localised areas of superficial plateau gravel, capping the higher ground. The Site of Special Scientific Interest comprises extensive areas of acid sessile oak, beech and ash-hazel- pedunculate oak woodland interspersed with conifer plantations and crossed by a network of wide grassy rides rich in heathland plants and insects. The broad-leaved woodland retains a high forest structure with features characteristic of the ancient royal hunting forest from which it derived. This woodland structure, the combination of acid sessile oak and beech woodland and the wide rides of heath and acid grassland, comprise the best example of wood pasture derived habitats on the Isle of Wight and have many interesting parallels with the New Forest.

In 1850 the areas of broad-leaved woodland found within the Site of Special Scientific Interest today were planted with oak. From the existing woodland structure of these areas it seems likely that the oaks were planted into the well spaced trees of ancient wood pasture. Over much of the woodland the canopy is now dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and beech Fagus sylvatica of varying age, with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and sweet chestnut *Castanea satula* in varying amounts, probably derived from planting. Young silver birch *Betula pendula* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* are also common along ride sides. Many of the beech, especially to the north of the forest, are of considerable age and probably originate from the

18th century. These show a pollard branch structure derived from cropping the tree for wood at a height above the reach of grazing animals. This structure is characteristic of the open parkland-like woodland used for hunting. These old trees support a rich epiphytic lichen flora and contain many dead and decaying limbs which provide a valuable habitat for several rare deadwood insects such as empid Oedales apicalis, a rare species of fly.

The shrub layer is sparse, being dominated by holly *Jlex aquifolium* with hazel *Corylus avellana* and in places gorse *Ulex europaeus* and grey willow *Salix cinerea*. The ground flora is also characteristic of old acid grazing woods and includes butcher's-broom *Ruscus aculeatus*, common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*, slender St. Johns'-wort *Hypericum pulchrum* and a rich moss flora including fork moss *Leucobryum glaucum*.

In the east of the Site of Special Scientific Interest the woodland covers less acid soils. This is reflected by the absence of beech, the greater abundance of pedunculate oak and the presence of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* in the canopy. The shrub layer is also more dense in this area, being dominated by hazel commonly with holly, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. The ground flora is dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and locally bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* with associated species including enchanters nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, wood avens *Geum urbanum*, bluebells *Hyacinthoides* non-scripta and *tutsan Hypericum androsaemum*.

The broad-leaved woodland is rich in butterfly species such as purple hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*, silver washed fritillary *Argynis paphia* and white admiral *Ladoga camilla* and the very rare white-letter hairstreak *Strymonidia W-album* whose larvae feed on wych-elm.

Conifer plantations of varying age and species composition are scattered throughout the site. The youngest plantations are rich in heathland plants such as bell heather *Erica cinerea*, cross- leaved heath *Erica tetralix,* purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and green-ribbed sedge *Carex binervis*. The heathland plants disappear under the dense shade of the more mature plantations. Bere, the interest is confined to the grassy rides which are to be found throughout the site. These rides are rich in acid grassland and heathland plants and insects, and include many woodland plants. Purple moor-grass and common bent-grass *Agrostis capillaris* are the dominant species with bell heather, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, *tormentil Potentilla erecta* and carnation sedge *Carex panicea* occurring commonly and locally bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* on more shaded banks. Woodland species include the rare narrow-leaved lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia*. Some rare heathland butterflies have also been recorded from these rides such as the small pearl and pearl bordered fritillary *Boloria selene* and *B. euphrosyne*.

In the centre of the forest is a small group of unimproved meadows. These are rather species- poor being dominated by Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. The pond in these meadows, however, is rich in aquatic plants and insects including six species of dragonfly while the thick hedges around these meadows are composed of wych-elm and support large colonies of white-letter hairstreaks.

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Briddlesford Copses

Unitary Authority/County: Isle of Wight

SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005

Grid reference: SZ548907

SAC EU code: UK0030328

Area (ha): 167.22

Component SSSI: Briddlesford Copses SSSI

Site description:

This complex of woodlands is the most structurally-diverse and species-rich area of ancient broadleaved woodland on the Isle of Wight. Ash – hazel (*Fraxinus excelsior – Corylus avellana*) and pedunculate oak – birch (*Quercus robur – Betula* sp.) woodlands cover large areas whilst there is a small area of sessile oak – birch (*Quercus petraea – Betula* sp.) woodland on the most strongly acid soils. Patches of hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, alder *Alnus glutinosa* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* dominated woodland also occur. Woodland rides and railway verges support species rich neutral to acidic grassland. The site supports a breeding population of Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*. The bats use holes and crevices in mature trees for roosting and the interconnecting woodlands for feeding.

Qualifying species: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*

Briddlesford Copses SSSI Citation

Site Name: Briddlesford Copses SSSI County: Isle of Wight

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) re-notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Local Planning Authority: Isle of Wight Council

National Grid reference: SZ 549904 **Area:** 167.22 hectares **Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000: 196 1:10,000: SZ 58 SE SZ 59 NE Date Notified (under 1981 Act): 6 February 2003

Date Confirmed: 12 August 2003

Reasons for Notification:

The Briddlesford Copses, Firestone Copse and Combley Great Wood complex of woodlands represent the most varied, structurally diverse and species-rich cluster of ancient broadleaved woodland on the island. They also support a nationally important breeding population of the rare Bechstein's bat Myotis bechsteinii.

General description:

The majority of the Briddlesford Copses and much of Firestone Copse have a coppice with standards structure. The remainder of the site consists of high forest.

The species composition of the woodlands is closely related to local topography and geology, a pattern indicative of their antiquity. The base-enriched alluvial soils along the western

creek edge and the many small tributaries which flow into it support ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards over a hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre* coppice layer. The ground flora in these areas is characterised by dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and lime-loving shrubs such as privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. Further upstream, at the head of Wootton Creek, an important stand of wych elm *Ulmus glabra* occurs, also on strongly base-enriched but very wet alluvial soils. Although the largest wych elms have died due to Dutch elm disease, many young saplings survive. The ground flora in this stand includes the green hellebore *Helleborus viridus* and thin-spiked wood sedge *Carex strigosa*, both uncommon species indicative of ancient woodlands. Higher on the valley side in Briddlesford Copse and on the lower slopes of Combley Great Wood a more neutral ash and pedunculate oak woodland with a dense hazel understorey occurs. The ground flora in these areas is rich in bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and narrow-leaved lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia,* a species which around the shores of the Solent and its tributaries is rigidly confined to ancient woodland. Further upslope in Briddlesford Copse, Combley Great Wood and Firestone Copse a more acidic coppice with standards woodland has developed where gravels cap the upper valley slopes. Here the canopy is composed of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and pedunculate oak commonly with silver birch *Betula pendula* over a hazel

coppice layer. The ground flora in these areas is characterised by an abundance of red campion *Silene dioica*, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* and pignut *Conopodium majus*. The woods include significant areas of pure sessile oak high forest on strongly acidic soils.

This type of woodland occurs both in Briddlesford and Firestone Copses but is otherwise very unusual on the Isle of Wight. There is little or no shrub layer. The ground flora is dominated by bracken *Pteridium aquilinium* and includes many species commonly associated with heathlands such as bell heather *Erica cinerea*, heath grass *Danthonia decumbens* and green-ribbed sedge *Carex binervis*. The woodland is further diversified by stands of hornbeam *Carpinus betulus,* beech *Fagus sylvatica* and along stream edges and spring lines alder *Alnus glutinosa*. There is a remarkable abundance of wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis,* an uncommon species on the Isle of Wight found only in the oldest woodlands.

The woodlands support a maternity roost of the Bechstein's bat. They use holes and crevices in mature trees for roosting and the interconnecting woodlands for feeding. The rare barbastelle bat also uses the woodlands for roosting and feeding. A total of eight bat species have been recorded in the woodlands, the others being whiskered *Myotis mystacinus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, the pipistrelles *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and *P. pipistrellus*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus, noctule Nyctalus noctula* and Natterer's *Myotis nattererii*. In addition to these mammals numbers of both dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* and red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* are also found within the site and form a mammal assemblage not known elsewhere in the UK.

The rides in Firestone Copse and Combley Great Wood and by the railway line traversing Briddlesford Copse display a rich assemblage of woodland, grassland and heathland plants such as narrow-leaved lungwort, dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and heather *Calluna vulgaris.* The rides and railway cuttings also provide a valuable habitat for a variety of woodland butterflies including silver-washed fritillary *Argynnis paphia*, purple hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*. The nationally scarce wood-cricket *Nemobius sylvestris* is very common in Briddlesford Copse. Dormouse and red squirrel occur on the site.

At Wootton Creek there is an ecologically interesting transition from woodland through freshwater marsh to sea couch-grass *Elymus pycnanthus* dominated saltmarsh. The saltmarsh provides a feeding ground for a variety of wildfowl and wading birds including snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and heron *Ardea cinerea:* there is a heronry within the site.

Other information:

Dormouse, red squirrel and all species of bat are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Dormouse and all species of bat are protected under Annex IV of the European Community Habitats Directive. The site supports a rich assemblage of ancient woodland indicator invertebrates.

Forestry Commission England

Objective	Proposed Actions to Meet Objective	Ref	Output year 10	Monitoring	Indicators of Success
Maintain and increase the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland.	Invasive and non native species will be monitored and managed accordingly to ensure the quality of ASNW is not degraded.	1a 1b	Maintained percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites Any invasive or non-native plant species found In ASNW are recorded and managed accordingly with a pre-sumption of eradication.	Semi-Natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10 Recording during Operational site assessments with appropriate action taken.	Ancient semi-natural woodland areas will show a maintained semi-natural score of '1' at years 5 and 10 No recorded invasive or non-native species present within ASNW.
Initiate restoration of planted ancient woodland sites to native and honorary native woodland.	Managing PAWS area under a shelter wood system, favouring the retention of native broadleaves will help to reduce the non native component of these areas.	2	Increased percentage of native tree species within ancient woodland sites.	Semi natural scoring via sub compartment database at years 5 and 10.	Plantation on ancient woodland areas will show an increasingly native semi natural score at years 5 and 10.
Take opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of existing habitats and enhance and support the development of open space.	Implementation of the accompanying SSSI plan as agreed with Natural England. During management interventions, opportunities for corridor widening and wider habitat enhancement will be taken in line with the SSSI management plan to increase the structural diversity of woodland edges and provide connecting habitats for key species to disperse.	3	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan. Achieve and maintain favourable condition in all SSSI units.	OSA checks at implementation stage. Natural England rolling condition assessments	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate. Natural England's favourable condition table scoring and comments

Work with partner agencies to provide, maintain and enhance where possible the recreational capacity of the woodland.	Look at increasing the accessibility of footpath and trails in the woodlands with a process of vegetation management around key areas. Safety checks of car parks and trails continued as per OGB 1 and 42.	4	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage. A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.
Maintain and increase the species and age diversity of the woodland.	Managing non ancient woodland areas as mixed woodland allows the woodland to support a greater species diversity. This will benefit disease and climate resistance as well as adding to the aesthetic variation. The development of natural regeneration at various stages, will break up the currently rigid age structure	5a 5b 5c	Maintained number of tree species. Increased age diversity. Evidence of natural regeneration occurring.	Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sub compartment data base at year 5 and 10. Query sales and recording package at year 5 and year 10.	At least the same number of different tree species present at year 10 Improved age diversity at year 10 Increased successful establishment of
Control invasive plant species and reduce their impact across the sites.	Conduct regular monitoring of invasive plant species, reacting appropriately when threats are identified.	6	Opportunities are identified at Operational Site assessment (OSA) stage, acted upon and recorded within this plan.	OSA checks at implementation stage.	A record of identification of opportunities, assessment of feasibility and fulfilment if appropriate.
Provide a regular supply of quality timber to support local employment and local timber processing industries.	Regular management will provide a sustainable supply of wood products to the industry.	7	Wood products supplied sustainably to industry in line with the production forecast.	Query sales recording package at year 5 and year 10.	Wood products supplied to the timber industry in line with production forecast whilst fulfilling other objectives.

Forestry Commission England

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
1a				
1b				
2				
3				

Forestry Commission England

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
4				
5a				
5b				
5c				

Forestry Commission England

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
4				
5a				
5b				
5c				

Forestry Commission England

Ref	Comments year 5	Success?	Comments year 10	Success?
6				
7				

	Forest Plan Area	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area (ha)	Forest District Percentage of Habitat/management type (%)
Total Area	**1152ha**	**N/A**	**45941**	**N/A**
Total Wooded Area	**995.6ha**	**86.4%**	**30726**	**66.8%**
Natural Reserves Plantation (1%)	**8.6ha**	**0.7%**	**520**	**1.1%**
Natural Reserves Semi Natural	**91ha**	**7.8%**	**3141**	**6.9%**
Long Term Retentions and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems	**957.8**	**83.1%**	**22050**	**47.9%**
Area of conservation value (>15%) including designations, PAWS,AW, ASNW,NR, LTR and LISS	**1063.4ha**	**92.3%**	**29532***	**64%***

*Figure represents SSSI only. Figure for all conservation value areas may well be higher, however many sites have multiple designations so have not been included.

Forestry Commission England

Glossary

Ancient Woodland

A classification for woodland which has been in continuous existence from before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and from 1750 in Scotland.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

The trees and other plant species within an ancient woodland site appear to have arisen naturally rather than having been planted and are predominately (>80%) native to the site and surrounding area.

Biodiversity

Life in all its diversity spanning genetic, species, populations, habitats and ecosystems.

Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA)

Mapped ecological restoration zones which cover large areas enabling a landscape-scale approach to nature conservation. Some ten BOAs have been identified on the Isle of Wight. It is intended that this network will help to expand, buffer and connect key sites for wildlife.

Clear-fell

Cutting down an area of woodland typically greater than 0.25 hectares.

Compartments/Sub Compartments

Sections of woodland used to delineate and plan management.

Local Wildlife Sites or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

Local Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites which are valuable for wildlife. They have substantive nature conservation value and their continued presence makes a significant contribution to maintenance of biodiversity. They may also have an important role in contributing to public enjoyment and understanding of nature. DEFRA guidance is that they should encompass all areas of substantive value, including both the most important and the most distinctive species, habitats, geological and geomorphological features within a national, regional and local context.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland consisting of a fairly even mixture of broadleaf and conifer species.

Native (and honorary-native)

The trees making up the woodland are part of England's natural (or naturalised) flora. Determined by whether the trees colonised Britain without the assistance of humans since the last ice age (or in the case of 'honorary' native were brought here by people but have naturalised in historic times) ; and whether they would naturally be found in the part if England.

Native woodland

Woodland predominately made up of tree species that would naturally be found on that site.

Natural Reserve

A protected area of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest managed under a system of minimum intervention.

Natural regeneration

The process of allowing a cleared area of woodland to regenerate naturally by the germination and development of seeds found within the soil on site. These may be still require some protection from overbearing plant species and mammal browsing . Some enrichment planting may also be necessary or desirable in areas were natural regeneration is showing limited success or in order to diversify the species range of the woodland.

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Open Habitat

An area of ground that will have tree cover <5% and support a range of site suitable species.

Plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS)

The trees within an ancient woodland site appear to have been planted. These species may or may not be native to the site and surrounding area.

Priority Ecological Corridors

A network of internal road and ride margins that will be managed in a sympathetic way to increase the structural diversity of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for wildlife.

Red Squirrel Reserve

An area managed to provide breeding, feeding and dispersal habitat for the Red Squirrel. This involves the long term retention of a conifer component but might also include the maintenance of a broadleaf coppice cycle.

Recreation Area

An area of woodland which is managed with recreation as the core focus. The woodland will still be managed but operations should be to enhance the recreational aspects of the area.

Research Plantation

Woodland that is being used to run an experiment managed principally by the research arm of the Forestry Commission.

Reserve Shelter Wood System

Woodland management system whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling, generally being no single interruption of tree cover of more than 0.25 hectares with a maximum of 2 interruptions of this size per hectare. Residual seed trees are left for an extended period of time after the new forest has been established.

Opportunities to enhance the existing areas of natural regeneration will be taken along with increasing woodland edge habitat by scalloping ride and road edges for the benefit of biodiversity.

Rotational scrub

A woodland component managed on a rotational basis.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A site that has been designated as being of national importance for its wildlife and/or geological interest.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A site designated under the Habitats Directive. These sites, together with Special Protection Areas (or SPAs), are called Natura sites and they are internationally important for threatened habitats and species.

Yield Class

The maximum average rate of volume increment which a particular stand can achieve per hectare.

References

This Forest Plan has been influenced by various key policy statements and guidance documents as listed below.

Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement—January 2013

This document sets the direction of travel for forestry policy within England and is the reference point around which main aims and objectives of forestry and woodland management are designed.

The statement sets out the following key objectives, in priority order:

Protecting the nations trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.

Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, peoples lives and nature.

Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value.

Strategic plan for the public forest estate in England

This plan sets out the direction and goals for the public forest estate in England and indicates the actions we will be taking to achieve these between now and 2020. Our ambitions are long term and we will use a normal cycle of review over 5 years to embed these in local forest plans and ways of operating.

Our mission for the estate.

To work with others to keep the Pubic Forest Estate as a special place for wildlife, people to enjoy and businesses to thrive—and achieve this by adopting a strategy that integrates all the three drivers of sustainable land management; economy, people and nature.

Our Vision and Overall Goal

"*To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the public forest estate for the people of England*"

South District Forest Strategic Plan

The strategic management plan is a Forest Enterprise District Level document that informs local Forestry Commission Staff about the management direction of the Public Forest Estate and the associated policies. The Forest Plans are a key mechanism for delivering policies on the ground.

Open Habitat Policy, 2010

This is Government policy on how to decide when to convert woodland to open habitat in England.

United Kingdom Forestry Standard

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. The UKFS, supported by its series of guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK government to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

UK woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

An independent certification standard for verifying sustainable management in the United Kingdom.

Keepers of Time

This policy statement celebrates the importance of our native and ancient woodland and sets out a basis on which to achieve the following vision.

"*Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits"*

Managing ancient and native woodland in England: Practice Guide

This practice guide has been produced to help practitioners translate what measures and practical action can be taken to protect and enhance our ancient and native woodlands and guides implementation of the approaches to management and restoration trialled in woods around the country.

Managing deadwood in forests and woodland 2012

A practice guide encouraging owners and managers to develop a strategic approach to deadwood with an emphasis on working with natural processes.

Choosing stand management methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites, 2013.

A practice guide showing different silvicultural methods for restoring planted ancient woodland sites.

References

European Landscape convention

The European landscape convention—also known as the Florence convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation of landscape issues.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1995): a national strategy for biodiversity conservation establishing a list of key habitats and species for which habitat and species action plans (HAPs and SAPs respectively) would be prepared. Key habitats and species later re-worded as Priority Habitats and Species.

List of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England: includes 56 habitats and 943 species referred to as Section 41 Habitats and Species – established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) **http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx**

Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services: this document builds on the Natural Environment white paper and sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy across both land and sea between 2011-2020:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services

The Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2014-2019: The plan outlines the policies and objectives for the management of the islands Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Isle of the Wight AONB Authority. [Online] Available at < http://wightaonb.org.uk/partnership/wight-aonb-management-plan-2014-2019/ > [accessed September 2016].

Biodiversity Action Plan for the Isle of Wight December 2009 - Heathland and Acid Grassland Habitat Action Plan: Gives an overview of the extent of heathland and acid grassland habitats on the Isle of Wight and provides an indication of how the national objectives for these two habitats can be translated into effective action.

Wild on Wight. [Online] Available at <http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjMxKKw1Y7PAhUHBsAKHSEjCgEQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wildonwight.co.uk%2Fpublications%2Fhaps%2FSolentCoastalHAP.pdf&usg=AFQjCNFcswhjpvj69TfZx3cVfXXZeDLOhg&bvm=bv.132479545,bs.1,d.d24> [Accessed September 2016].

Habitat Ecology of the Red Squirrel (Sciurus Vulgaris) on the Isle of Wight: This document provides guidance on the habitat preference of the red squirrel in the absence of grey and looks into the effects of habitat fragmentation.

Grey, J. 2016. *Habitat Ecology of the Red Squirrel (Sciurus Vulgaris) on the Isle of Wight.* BSc University of Reading.

Woodland Habitat Action Plan for the Isle of Wight 2009: this documents forms part of the IOW BAP and identifies 6 native woodland types as priority habitats and aims to identify actions to conserve them

Wild on Wight. [Online] Available at <http://www.google.co.uk/url? sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjauO2p_I7PAhUkM8AKHQNdAq4QFgghMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wildonwight.co.uk%2Fhabitats%2Fwoodland.php&usg=AFQjCNE57x4iXsSvfIZpDYgzHe867s5Ttw [Accessed September 2016].

The Wessex Lichen Group Website; a website for an informal group studying lichens in Wessex, giving a record of past meetings and news on lichen related issues.

Sanderson, 2013. *Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight, Saturday, 20th April 2013*. In Wessex Lichen Group [Online] Available at <http://wessexlichengroup.org/Previous_Meetings/styled-12/page48/> [accessed September 2016]

Natural England Website: a website for the governments advisor for the natural environment in England.

Natural England (2016). *Natural Areas—Isle of Wight—Lowland wood pasture and parkland* [Online] Available from: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Science/natural/NA_HAbDetails.asp?Name=Isle+of+Wight&N=76&H=37 [Accessed September 2016].

A brief ecological history of Parkhurst Forest: A journal article providing an account into the vegetation and management of Parkhurst Forest from the earliest documented times to the end of the 19th century.

Chatters, C (1993) A Brief Ecological History of Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight. In *The Proceedings of the Isle of Wight Natural History Archaeology Society,* 11, pp.43-59.

Forestry Commission England

Stage 1

- Internal review of the previous forest plan
- Policy review and broad discussions.
- Site visits and preparations of draft maps.

Stage 2 17 March—28 April 2017

- Online survey
- Amendments made following feedback

Stage 3

- Further consultation on the Forest Services Public register of grants and felling applications
- Amendments made and felling approval sought

Consultees

Environment Agency| Butterfly Conservation | Isle of Wight Natural History Society | Wight Squirrel Project | Peoples Trust for Endangered Species | Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | RSPB | Natural England | Isle of Wight Council | Woodland Trust | Yarmouth Town Council | Shalfleet Parish Council | Calbourne Parish Council | Brighstone Parish Council | Shorewell Parish Council | Newport Parish Council | Wotton Bridge Parish Council | Fishbourne Parish Council | Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust | National Trust | Ancient Tree Forum | Botanical Society of the British Isles | British Dragonfly Society | IOW Bat Group | Wessex Lichen Group | British Mycological society | Buglife | Bumblebee Conservation Trust | Freshwater Habitats Trust | Plantlife | The Deer Initiative | BSW Timber Group | Isle of Wight Local Record Centre | Isle of Wight Local Access Forum | Defence Infastructure Organisation | Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service | Challenge and Adventure | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust

Online Survey Results

Respondents were asked to score how well the plan address their needs and interests, whether the proposals achieved an appropriate balance of objectives and were invited to provide further comments.

Feedback was largely positive with over 50% of respondents commenting that the plan met their needs and interests and that a balance of sustainable objectives was achieved.

Responses both negative and positive have been broken down into topics on the next pages.

Changes following consultation

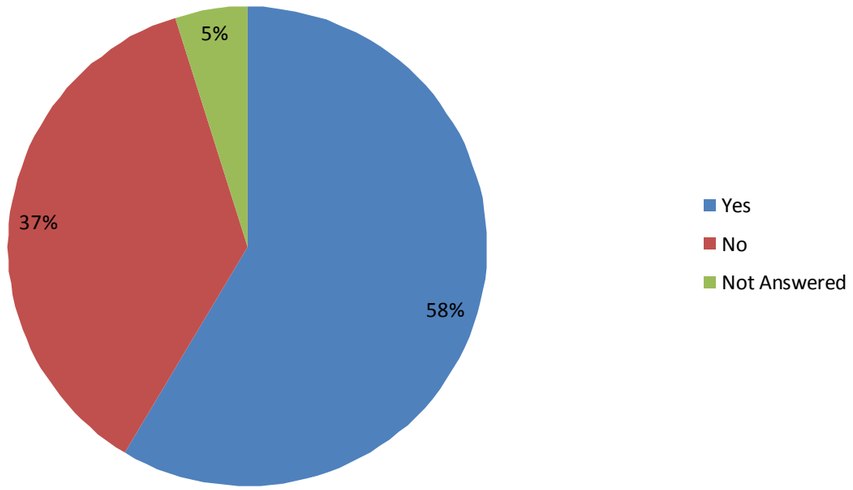
All comments have been passed to the appropriate teams. The majority of feedback received concerned the provision of recreation on the island and at this time the forest plan's primary focus is on the silvicultural aspects of the woodlands. A recreation strategy for the island is currently being discussed. After reviewing responses it was deemed that no major changes were needed.

Forestry Commission England

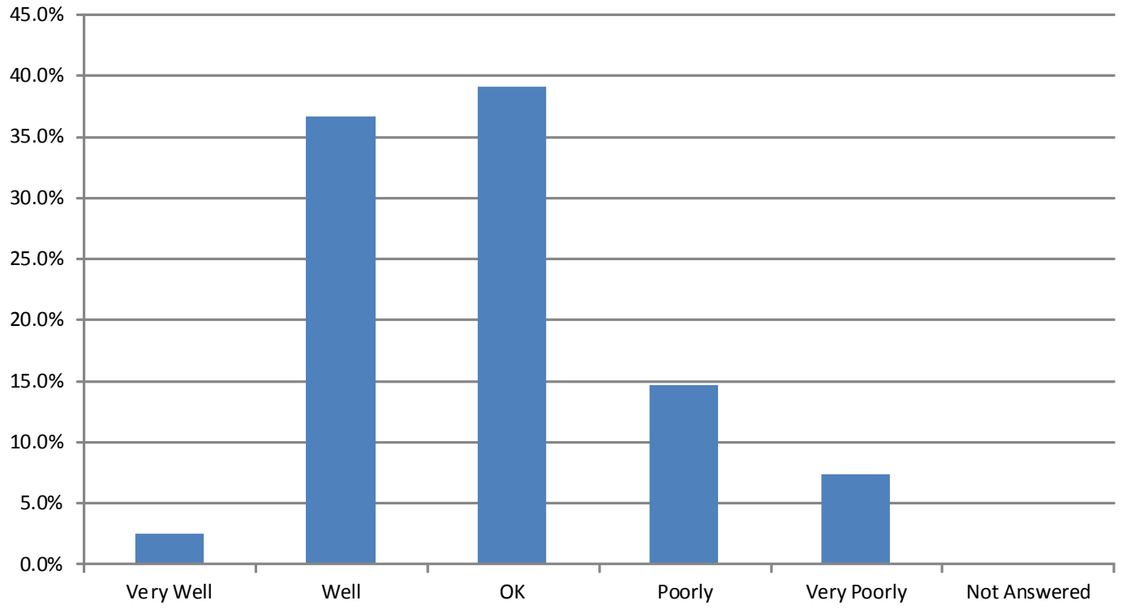
Consultation Record

Breakdown of consultation feedback

Question 1 . Do you agree that the plan achieves an appropriate balance of social, economic and environmental objectives for the woodland?



Questions 2. How well does the plan address your needs and interests or those of your organisation?



Negative Feedback Topics Question 1

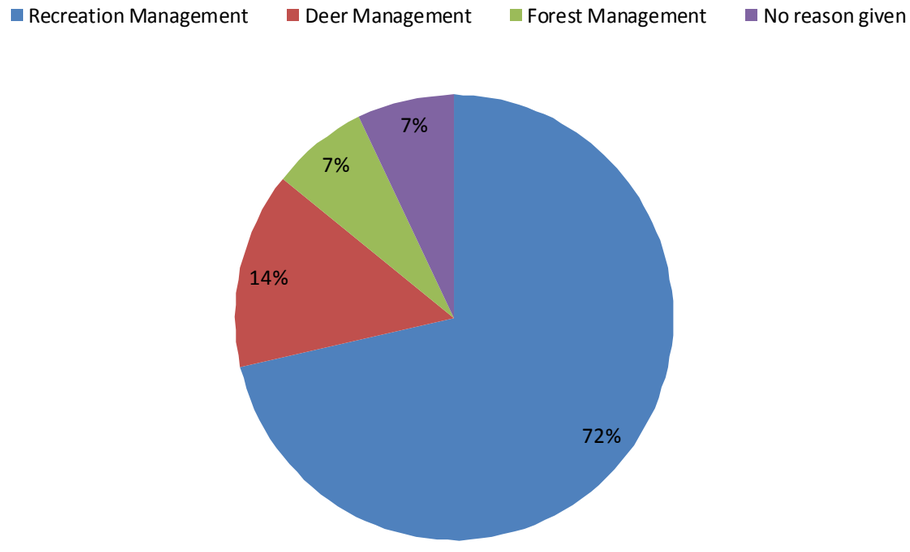


Chart shows the response topics for each respondent who answered 'No' for question 1.

Negative Feedback Topics Question 2

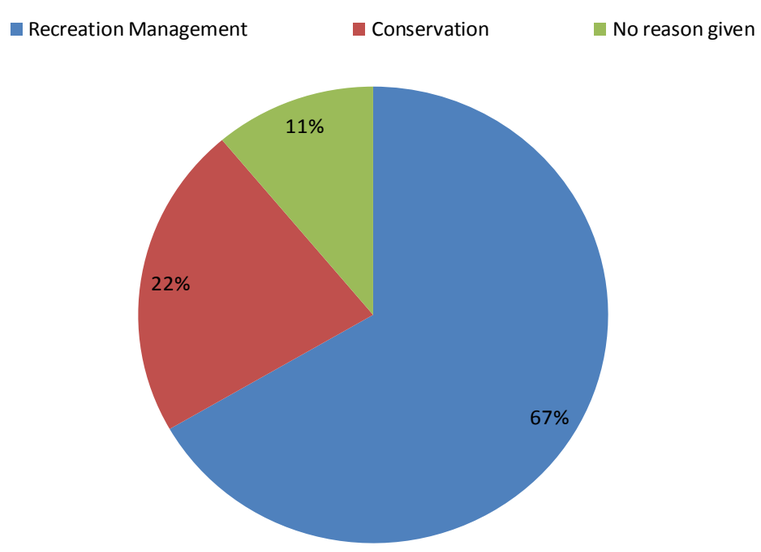


Chart shows the response topics for each respondent who answered either 'Poorly' or 'very poorly ' for question 2.

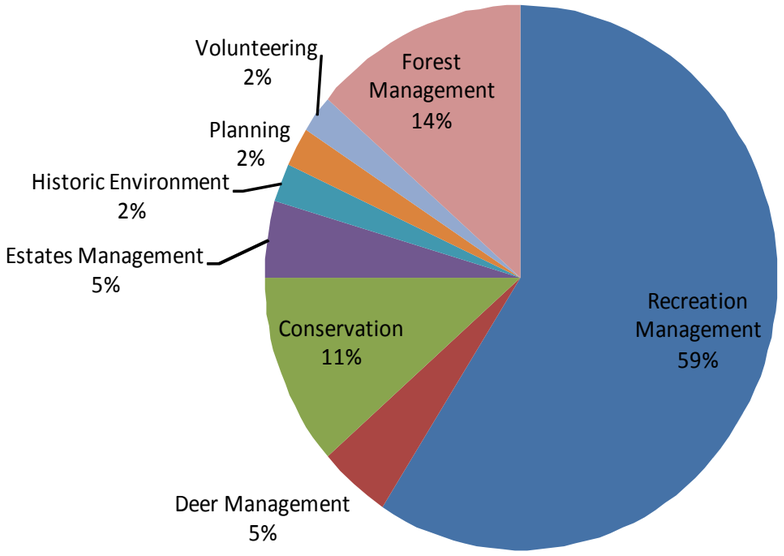


Chart shows the topics covered in the feedback responses

Appendix B: CSM 6 — Amendments to Approved Forest Enterprise Plans

Forestry Commission (Forest Services and Forest Enterprise) should agree baseline tolerance thresholds for operations in each District beyond which exchange of letter/map or formal amendment is required. Unless otherwise specified or agreed by the Forestry Commission, amendment will be by formal revision of the plan.

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	**Timing of Re-stocking**	**Changes to species**	**Windthrow clearance (2)**	**Changes to road lines (3)**
FC Approval normally not required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers; broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less			0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly windblown trees > 2ha to 5ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	> 5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity

Notes on Tolerance Table

1. There are circumstances in which changes - of less than 0.5 ha for example - could have a dramatic visual effect. The above model does require a sensible approach to be taken by Forest Enterprise in notifying Forestry Commission when such cases arise. Local staff need to be sensitive to issues which may influence the situation (bearing in mind that small adjustments to felling coupes will not appear on the Public Register).
2. It is important that Forest Enterprise keep the FC informed about windblow clearance, which can be problematic in cases of public complaint, and in FC compliance monitoring. In some cases a modification of the proposals for the remaining area of the Plan may need to be submitted and approved. Clearance of blow should not require approval but will be needed for related standing trees.
3. It is recognised that roading proposals as marked on Road Plans are necessarily somewhat indicative, in that actual roading operations require to take account of features not always apparent at the time of roadline planning. Accordingly some leeway is acceptable to account for this.

Forestry Commission England

FOREST ENTERPRISE **Application for Forest Plan Approvals**

Forest District:	**South England Forest District**
FC Geographic Block No:	**57,58,59,60**
Forest Plan Name:	Isle of Wight Forest Plan
FE Plan Reference Number:	**304/57,58,59,60**
Nearest town or village:	Newport
OS Grid Reference:	SZ50288934
Local Authority:	Isle of Wight Council.

I apply for Forest Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.

I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed:

Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date: 10/10/2017

Approved: .....

Forest Services Area Director