



SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

**KENT DOWNS
FOREST DESIGN PLAN**

2012 – 2042

Contents

Contents 2

1. What are Forest Design Plans? 3

2. Standard Practices and Guidance 4

3. Introduction 6

4. Design Brief 7

5. Consultation 8

6. Land and Natural Environment 9

 6.1 Location and Ownership 10

 6.2 Site Characteristics 10

 6.3 Safeguarding Our Heritage 10

 6.4 Conserving Biodiversity 12

 6.5 Delivering the Brief 20

 6.6 Land and Natural Environment Objectives 21

7. Communities and Places 23

 7.1 Current provision 24

 7.2 Delivering the Brief 24

 7.2 Communities and Places Objectives 25

8. Working Woodlands 29

 8.1 Tree species and age classes 30

 8.2 Management Prescriptions 35

 8.3 Delivering the Brief 37

 Habitat Restoration and Future Species maps 38

 8.4 Working Woodlands Objectives 50

9. Summary of Proposals 51

10. Record of Amendments 52

11. Glossary of Terms 53



**PROTECTING
AND EXPANDING
ENGLAND'S FORESTS
AND WOODLANDS,
AND INCREASING THEIR VALUE TO SOCIETY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**



1. What are Forest Design Plans (FDP)?

Forest Design Plans are produced by us, the Forestry Commission, to set out the management proposals for the next thirty years for the woodlands we look after. They aim to fulfil a number of objectives:

- They provide descriptions of our woodlands to show what they are like now
- They show the process we go through in deciding what is best for the woodlands' long term future
- They show what we would like the woodlands to look like in thirty years time
- They show our management proposals, in some detail for the first ten years and in outline for the succeeding twenty, so that you can understand how we hope to get to our vision
- The planning process provides an opportunity for you to get involved in the development of the plan, whether you are a user, a neighbour or a member of one of the many statutory agencies that have an interest in the woodlands.

Our aim is to produce a plan that meets your needs for the woodland, meets the needs of the plants and animals that live there and meets our needs as managers. Sometimes there are compromises to be made but we hope that these are explained within the plan or have been explained during the consultation process.

The plan does not set out the detailed yearly management operations for each small piece of a wood, known as a compartment. These detailed site plans are prepared for each operation and their timing and scale is taken from this plan. It is not possible to say which year a particular operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it will happen. Further details on timing can be obtained from the local Forest Enterprise office.

Another part of the Forestry Commission is responsible for checking that the plan meets all the relevant standards and statutes. If it does, full approval is given for the management operations in the first ten years (2012 - 2022) and outline approval for the medium term vision (2022 - 2042). The plan will be reviewed after the first five years (2017) to see if it is meeting its objectives. Natural England will approve management proposals for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are in our woods.

We use some 'forestry' words and phrases in the text because they best describe what we are doing. There is a glossary at the back of the plan that will help you to understand these. If any aspect of the plan is not clear to you, please contact your local Forest Enterprise office.



2. Standard Practices and Guidance

Underpinning the management proposals in Forest Design Plans is a suite of standard practices and guidance described briefly below. Some of these practices are strategic national policy, whilst others are local expressions of national policy to reflect the particular conditions found in SE England - the policy level is indicated in brackets.

1. The United Kingdom Forest Standard (national)

The UKFS sets out standards for the sustainable management of all forests and woodlands in the UK and describes, in outline, good forest practice.

2. The Certification Standard for the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (national)

This certification standard sets out the requirements which woodland and forest owners and managers and forest certification bodies can use to certify woodland and forest management, under the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS). It is the document which guides all of the Forestry Commission's management, and against which the FC is certified by outside consultants to ensure our compliance.

3. Deadwood (national and local)

Deadwood is important in the forest as a host for birds, beetles and some primitive plants. Guidance is given on how we will provide deadwood in the forest of different sorts and sizes and how this will be distributed.

4. Natural reserves (national and local)

Natural reserves are areas of the forest where little or no management activity will take place, to create quiet conditions for trees, plants and animals. These are important in our otherwise actively managed holdings.

5. Ancient Woodland (national and local)

Our ancient woodlands are those areas of the forest where trees were known to be present in 1600. They are not all in good condition and some are covered by non-native species, especially conifers. SE England's project to return these sites to native broadleaves is called Woodscape, and there is a strategy and implementation guidance.

6. European Protected Species (national)

In August 2007 amendments to the Habitat Regulations came into force in England and Wales. Those European Protected Species (EPS) most likely to be found in woodland include all species of bat, hazel dormouse, great crested newt, otter, sand lizard and smooth

snake.

In Forestry Commission managed woodland where one or more of these species has been confirmed, or in the absence of confirmed records the habitat and local distribution of EPS are such that their presence could reasonably be expected, the FC will manage the woodland in accordance with the good practice guidance documents that have been produced by FC and Natural England (NE). On the rare occasion when woodland management operations cannot be undertaken in compliance with the guidance, NE will be consulted and where necessary, an application will be made to undertake the operation under licence.

It is recognised that EPS can occur beyond woodland, and the management of open habitats identified in this Forest Design Plan (FDP) will also need to consider the presence of these species.

7. Corridors (local)

Corridors are the veins and arteries of the forest, centred on streams, roads and tracks and carrying people, wildlife and those working in the woods. This document covers how we manage these, and in particular, how we provide attractive and wildlife rich features.

The local guidance notes have been prepared as separate statements so that we do not have to repeat them in each Forest Design Plan. When they are revised, only one document requires amendment to effect changes to all of the FDP's that refer to them. When national Policy changes, this is usually addressed at the next revision of the Forest Design Plan.

Along with the standard guidance documents, we have individual plans for each of our protected sites - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Scheduled Monuments (SM's). These describe work required to maintain and enhance the designated features. We will gradually integrate these into our Forest Design Plans where appropriate.

In addition, the Forestry Commission has a number of practice guides and specialist bulletins which further inform our management. These have a national context but provide a good general background to working with a particular aspect of forest management. Titles are available on archaeology, birds, water, nature conservation, community woodland design, soil conservation and recreation.

If you wish to look at any of these documents, please ask at the main office in Bucks Horn Oak, near Farnham in Surrey, or contact a member of the Forestry Commission directly.

3. Introduction

This Forest Design Plan covers the Forestry Commission woodlands in the Kent Downs, (incorporating West Wood, Park Wood, Elhampark, Beveridge Bottom, Covert & Covert Woods, Denge & Eggringe Woods) which amount to 1598 hectares. It sets out our management proposals for the next thirty years. Denge Wood is a new plan with the remaining being revisions of plans dating from 1995, 1996 and 2000.

We are guided and directed by a number of policies and strategies - the two main documents are summarised below.

1.1 The Government's Priorities

The Government's priorities for England's trees, woods and forests, and its approach to achieving them, flow from "The Coalition: our programme for government" (Cabinet Office 2010).

Whilst Government formulates the detail underlying this programme, our priorities are to make sure that trees and woodlands help in meeting Government's goals for natural resources, climate change, improved urban environments and a better quality of life for all.

1.2 Forest District Strategic Priorities for the Kent Downs woods

The main priorities listed below are taken from the South East England Forest District's Strategic Plan written in 2000 and due for revision in 2010. The Kent Downs lie within the Downland strategic zone.

- Use continuous cover systems to regenerate and diversify beech woodlands.
- Maintain landscape character within AONB's.
- Diversify species composition when thinning by retaining appropriate minor species.
- Promote downland flora and fauna by gradually widening rides when thinning.

Several of these priorities have been overtaken by policy changes. All of the Kent Downs woods are on the Ancient Woodland register, so the maintenance of conifers as a significant productive resource for the very long term may no longer be appropriate - current guidance prohibits the replanting of conifers (2011). However, it is even more appropriate to grow good quality and/or valuable broadleaves to maintain the economic sustainability of the woodland. The relative importance of heathland on Forestry Commission land has been the subject of a separate policy debate - strategy and implementation will be determined at a National level during 2012/12.

Two additional priorities can therefore be added to reflect policy changes in our management of Ancient Woodland sites and in the delivery of Favourable Condition for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

- To rejuvenate areas designated as Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), maintaining and where appropriate enhancing the features of interest. (The Woodscape programme – see glossary)
- To bring all SSSI's into a 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable Recovering' Condition by 2010 and to maintain condition thereafter.

1.3 The Kent Downs AONB

The whole of the FDP area lies within the Kent Downs AONB. The key elements are taken from the vision statement below.

“The Vision for 2029 describes the Kent Downs AONB that we wish to be passed on to future generations.

- [Landform and landscape character](#) ... the rich diversity of landscape character and qualities distinctive to the Kent Downs are protected, enhanced and managed to the highest standards in a coordinated and continual programme.
- [Biodiversity-rich habitats](#) ... the rich tapestry of distinctive wildlife habitats are in favourable, resilient condition and individual species flourish.
- [Woodland and trees](#) ... the network of ancient and new woodland is conserved and enhanced for its landscape, wildlife and historic value and its extent is intact.
- [Historic and cultural heritage](#) ...the rich heritage of historic buildings, settlements and sites that characterise the Kent Downs' historic and cultural fabric are maintained in favourable condition and are enhanced to reflect their local character.
- [Natural resources, tranquillity and remoteness](#) ... great care is taken by farmers, landowners and managers to conserve and manage the natural resources of the environment particularly soil, ground and river water.
- [Access, enjoyment and understanding](#) ... the Kent Downs AONB is a place where there is opportunity and access for all people and they feel welcome to participate in quiet recreation for relaxation, enjoyment, understanding, and for cultural and artistic expression which does not detract from the natural beauty.

3. Introduction

- [Climate change](#) ... the impacts of Climate Change are being felt but the mitigation and adaptive responses taken to this major challenge are intelligent, effective, measure up to the challenge and are carefully chosen to enhance the qualities and distinctiveness of the landscape rather than detracting from it.

Positive partnerships, local people and land managers act together to conserve, enhance and promote a nationally recognised and valued landscape.” (Kent Downs AONB, 2009)

These priorities are in accord with the priorities of the FC for these woodlands.

The strategic priorities of the Coalition and the Strategic Plan for SE England set the general direction for the future management of the woodland. We take these and our own local knowledge of the site to prepare a ‘Design Brief’. This sets out the main factors we need to take into account within this plan. These may be subsequently modified following consultation. Both the Brief and the rest of the FDP are still arranged around the three themes in the ETWF; Land and Natural Environment, Communities and Places and Working Woodlands. The brief has been consulted with key stakeholders and their responses have been addressed in preparing the proposals.



Landscape view of Covert Wood

(Steve Peters, FC)

4. Design Brief

Land and Natural Environment

- The group of woodlands making up the North Downs Complex are all ancient woodland sites. The plans should maintain and where appropriate enhance the remnant features of interest, with the long term aim of restoring much of the woodland to site native species in an appropriate and effective way.
- The woodlands are all part of a large SNCI. Management proposed will take account where appropriate of the SNCI features.
- The ride network and open space are an important feature of the site and help to support a number of key species.
- A number of the woodlands are notable sites for butterflies according to the Species Action Plan.
- A number of the woodlands are important sites for native downland floral communities.

Communities and Places

- The woodland complex is bounded on its north-east by Canterbury and south-west by Ashford. The woodlands should provide an attractive backdrop to the lives of local people.
- Public usage is high, so careful design and management will be needed to maintain a good balance between providing a safe and enjoyable visit and supporting important habitats and species found in the wood.
- The North Downs Complex of Woodlands are integral parts of The Stour & Elham Valleys. The Plan should aim to deliver a sensitive concept for the future of this fascinating woodland landscape. The plan should reflect the interests and expectations of the partners and the FC.

Working Woodlands

- Approximately 34% of the woodlands are conifer. These areas should be gradually restored to native species throughout the life of the plan.
- Western hemlock is an invasive conifer. It should be targeted for removal in a way that restricts its regeneration.

- A continuing sustainable harvest of timber is vital for the maintenance of other programmes which deliver an enhanced environment, secure the woods for the future and thus provide employment opportunities. Plans should reflect these underlying needs.
- In the absence of mature broadleaves, some mature conifers should be retained to maintain diversity and a wide age structure.
- Natural regeneration will rapidly colonise sites with native broadleaves but these may be of limited timber value. Some planting may be required to maintain the wood's productivity.

The next three sections describe the Kent Downs Woods as they are now and current management proposals. At the end of each section, the descriptive information will be evaluated with reference to the Brief. Future management options to deliver the brief will be discussed and then objectives set, with indicators of how these will be measured.

5. Consultation

Twenty five letters were sent to Statutory consultees, Non Governmental Organisations, user groups, neighbours and known interested parties in December 2008, seeking comment on what is important about the woods, what problems they may have, what opportunities there may be and what are the priorities for future management.

At the same time, notices were posted on the entrances to the woods, notifying visitors that a new FDP was being produced and inviting comments on future use and management of the woodland.

Five responses were received and two received a reply. Most comments covered immediate management issues but some took a longer term view of the woods. Views were received in particular on misuse of the woods by ravers, deer numbers, dormouse and butterflies. A detailed response was received from the AONB unit and from Butterfly Conservation.

On completion of the draft, a further opportunity to comment will be offered before final amendments and then signing off by the Forestry Commission's regulatory officer.

6. Land and Natural Environment



6. Land and Natural Environment

6.1 Location and Ownership

The Kent Downs woods are freehold woodland between Canterbury, Ashford and Folkestone - see map opposite.

6.2 Site Characteristics

“The Kent Downs is one of Britain’s most wooded AONBs. Woodland covers over 20% and is the second largest land use after farming. Woodlands are a vital component of the natural beauty of the Kent Downs, providing a green mantle to the upper slopes of the escarpments and valleys. They emphasise the undulating nature of the dip slopes and scarp, and frame the agricultural lower slopes and settlements.” (Kent Downs AONB, 2009)

Most of the plan woods sit at an altitude of approx 140 metres, rising to 180 metres in the southern part of King’s Wood and West Wood. They are prominent in the landscape along the top of the North Downs ridge and comprise large blocks surrounded by agricultural land. They all lie within the Mid Kent and East Kent Downs landscape character areas.

Soils comprise mainly clay-with-flints (Head, Head Brickearth, Dry Valley & Nailbourne deposits and Sand) over chalk.

The average annual rainfall is nationally low at 750mm a year.

6.3 Safeguarding our heritage

There are eighteen Scheduled Monuments in these woods, mostly burial mounds but with one long barrow in King’s Wood. All have an individual management plan renewed every five years. Conservation of the sites requires no specific woodland design but site specific vegetation control is important to prevent damage and to expose the sites to view where appropriate.

Other cultural and heritage features are considered during pre-operational site assessment.



Looking east to Eggringe Wood

(Steve Peters, FC)



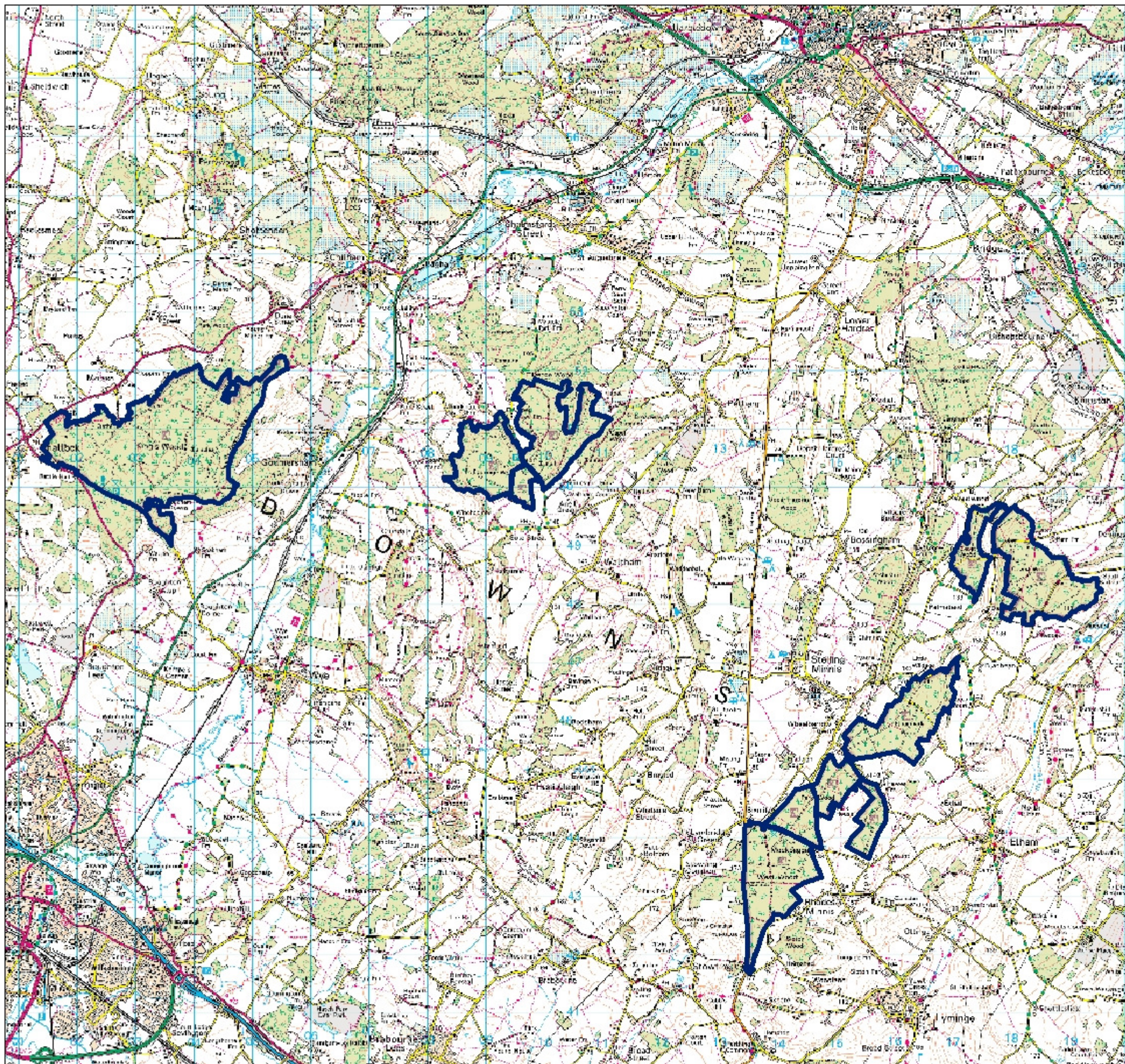
Forestry Commission
England

South East England Kent North Downs

Location Map



Management area



Produced by the Planning Team December 2008

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6. Land and Natural Environment

6.4 Conserving Biodiversity

6.4.1 Existing Habitats

Ancient Woodland

Almost the whole area of the Kent Downs FDP is classed as ancient woodland (see map opposite), of which approximately 35 hectares is ASNW and 1525 hectares is PAWS.

The PAWS areas are dominated by Sweet chestnut, beech and mixed conifer plantations. The small pockets of ASNW tend to be in inaccessible valleys and on steep downland banks. Whilst there are some rare plant species present, much of the area is dominated by a bramble understorey. The dominant regenerating species is birch.

NVC

A range of NVC types are represented across the woodlands (see map overleaf) which reflect the underlying soil types and topography within the Kent Downs. These, however, are only a guide - much of the original character of the ground vegetation has been masked by plantations of conifer and beech and Sweet chestnut coppice. Sweet chestnut is also often present as an understorey in the conifer plantations. Everywhere, birch is regenerating where light levels allow.

Rides

The woodlands are generally well roaded (FC network) and have numerous un-surfaced rides. The ride networks in all North Downs woodlands have more recently been subject to re-structuring, creating a mixture of permanent and transitional open space

Scrub and Coppice

This habitat is also limited in extent, due to the narrow age-class structure - over 90% of the woods are over 40 years old.

Deadwood

Fallen deadwood historically has been left in many Sweet chestnut compartments. Dead conifer snags are left standing after programmed clearfells and episodes of wind damage, providing they are regarded as safe.

Ponds and watercourses

There is little or no water in the North Downs woodland. There are a small number of ponds in Kings Wood and Lyminge Forest but these are not fed by water courses.

Open space

Permanent open space is provided along many rides and beneath power-line wayleaves. In addition, specific areas in Kings Wood, Denge Wood & Lyminge Forest have more recently been created as part of bio-diversity and access projects. Transitional open space is created by active coppicing.

6.4.2 Protected Sites

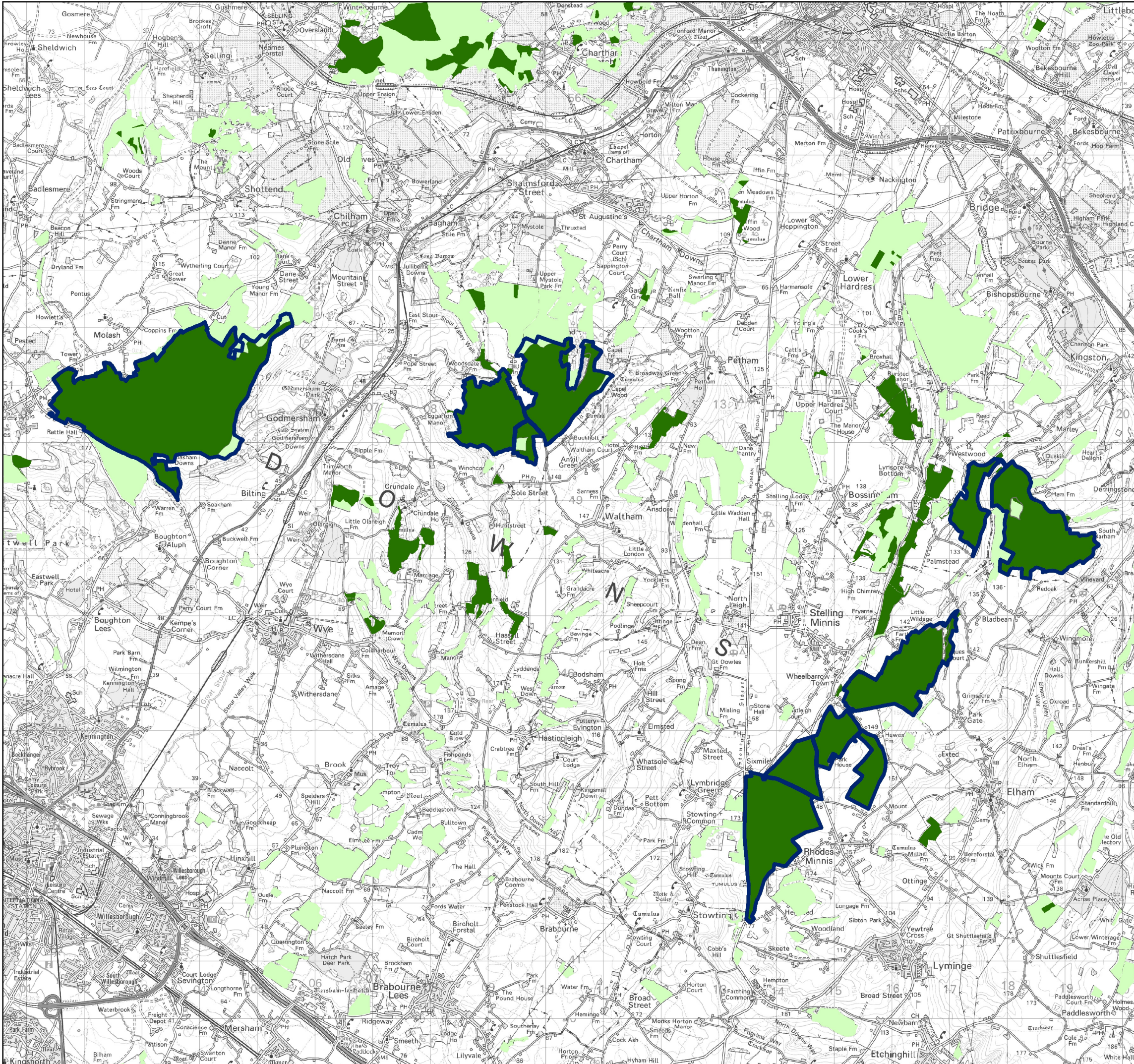
None of the woods is SSSI, but two woods have SSSIs against the boundary. To the south of Eggringe Wood is unit 21 of the Wye and Crundale Downs SSSI (favourable condition) and to the east of Elhampark Wood is Parkgate Down SSSI (favourable condition).

6.4.3 Priority Habitats

UK BAP Priority Habitats	Comments
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Mapped for all of the woodland, but mainly found as intruded regeneration or understorey/scrub.

6.4.4 Priority Species Tables (see pages 16-19)

These show where our management activities can benefit priority species. Forest operations act on the vegetation structure of the woodlands, providing habitat level diversity. Bold type indicates a keystone species, where favourable management will benefit a suite of likeminded other species not listed but which rely on similar conditions.



Forestry Commission
England

South East England
Kent Downs
Forest Design Plan

Ancient Woodland

*Indicates location of ancient woodland
as held in the Natural England
Ancient Woodland Inventory Dataset*

- Ancient and semi-natural woodland (ASNW)
- Ancient replanted woodland (PAWS)
- Forestry Commission management area

Produced by the Planning Team Jan 2009

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Forestry Commission
England

South East England
Kent North Downs
(King's Wood & Denge Wood)
Forest Design Plan

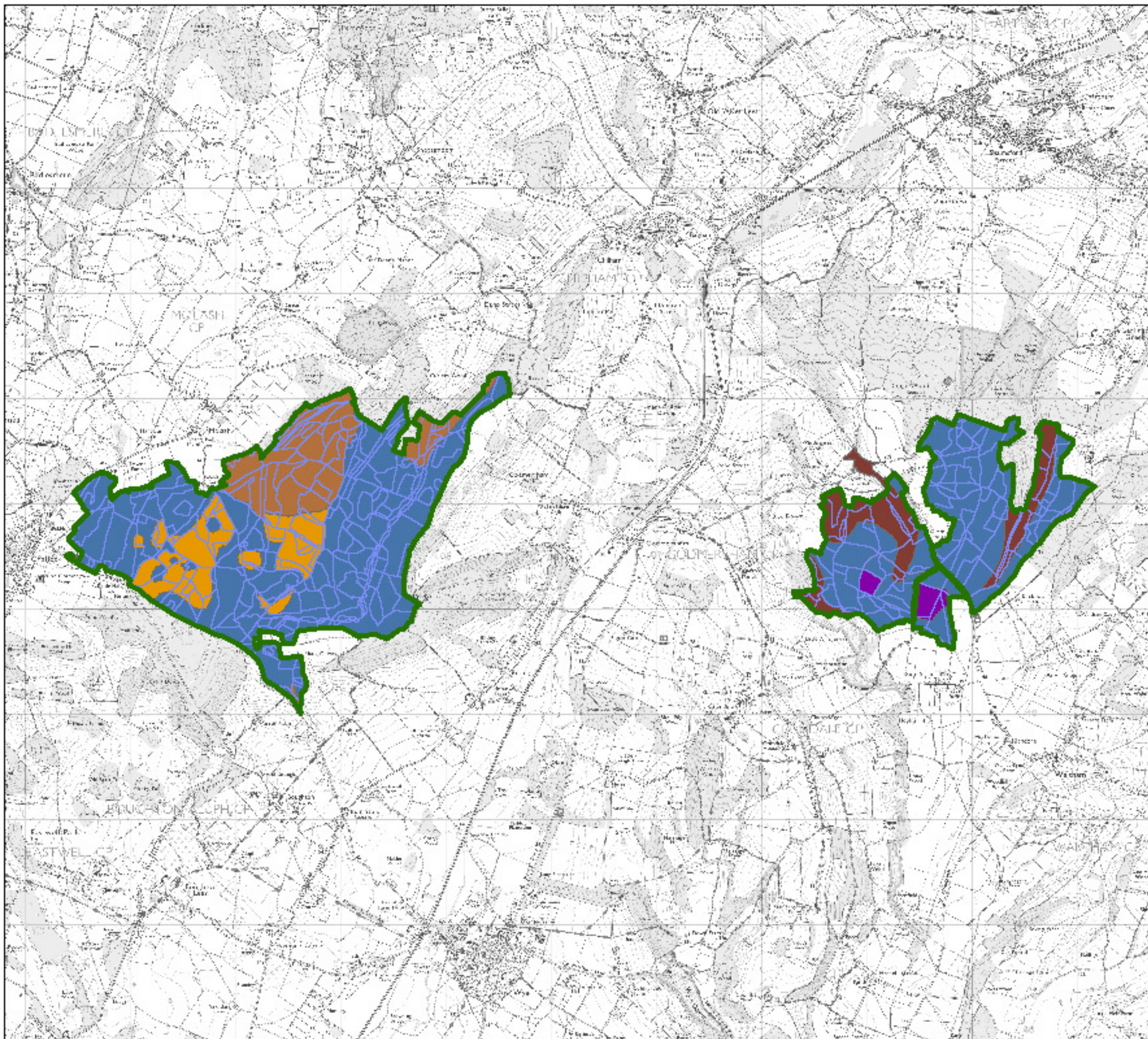
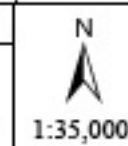
NVC

-  W8 Ash-field maple-dogs mercury woodland
-  W12 Beech - dog's mercury woodland
-  W14 Beech-bramble woodland
-  W15 Beech woodland with wavy hair grass
-  W16 Oak species-birch species-wavy hair grass

-  Management Area
-  Sub-compartments

Produced by the Planning Team November 2009

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Forestry Commission
England

South East England
Kent North Downs
(Covert, Covert & Lyminge)
Forest Design Plan

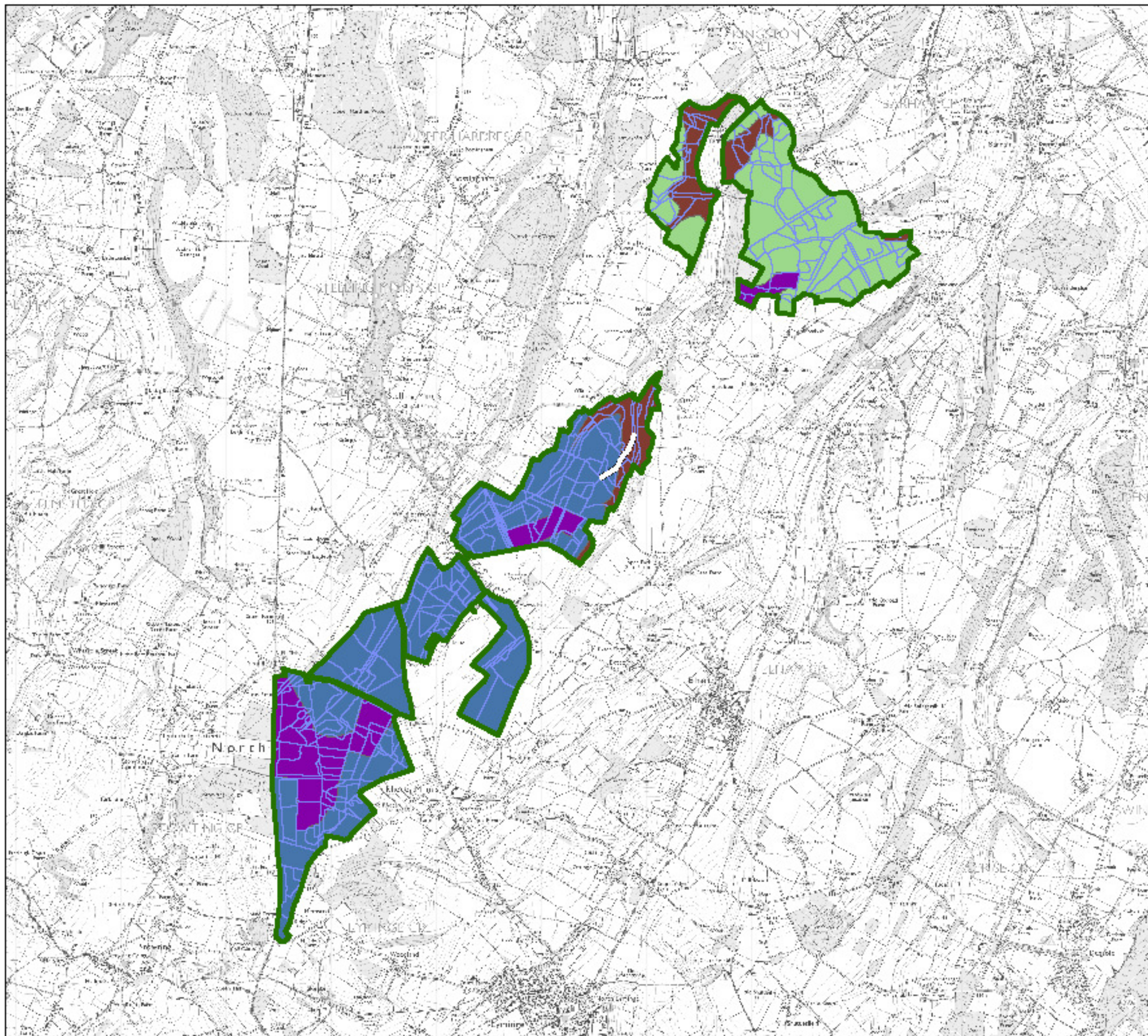
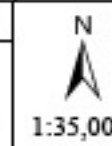
NVC

-  W10 Pedunculate oak-bracken-bramble woodland
-  W12 Beech, dog's mercury woodland
-  W14 Beech, wild raspberry woodland
-  W15 Beech woodland with wavy hair grass

-  Management Area
-  Sub-compartments

Produced by the Planning Team November 2009

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6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat alongside roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the deadwood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Adder	4	4	4	4		4		4	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.
Barbastelle bat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Present in the wider landscape - retention of older trees will promote roosting habitat in future decades.
Barn owl	4	4	4	4	4	4		4	Retention of ancient and veteran trees together with identification of future veterans a priority. Expansion of open space both cyclical and permanent will boost its available foraging habitat.
Bechstein's bat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Present in the wider landscape - retention of older trees containing woodpecker holes will promote roosting habitat.
Bee orchid	4	4	4	4		4			Responds well to cyclical vegetation management on the woodland edge and on open chalk grassland.
Brown hare	4	4	4	4		4			A declining mammal species usually associated with the open habitats beyond our estate but which benefits from the cover afforded on the woodland edge. Improvements to the structural diversity at the woodland edge will likely prove of benefit to the hare.
Brown long-eared bat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	A tree roosting bat. Retention of older trees and zoning of minimum intervention stands will boost its numbers.
Bullfinch	4	4	4	4		4		4	A wider countryside species likely to benefit from open habitat creation and enhancements to the woodland edge
Bumblebees	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	A variety of declining bumblebee species utilise the road and ride edge corridors for landscape scale dispersal.
Chalkhill blue butterfly				4					Requires a mosaic of short and medium height chalk grassland feeding on Horseshoe vetch. Scrub invasion and lack of grazing a key problem where it survives.
Clay fan-foot	4	4	4	4	4	4		4	Associated with oak woodland occurring locally in the South East.
Common frog	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Predominantly terrestrial in its lifecycle. Favours structurally diverse semi-natural habitats with well connected breeding sites and plenty of deadwood.
Common lizard	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.
Common toad	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Associated with aquatic habitats for breeding season but a mobile species in the wider landscape both prior to and after the breeding.
Crossbill		4							Overwintering on the FC estate feeding on conifer seeds and requiring a nearby source of water.

6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat alongside roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the deadwood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Dark green fritillary butterfly	4	4	4	4		4			Requires open sunny habitats feeding on dog violets. Associated with chalk scrub and woodland rides and glades on the FC estate.
Dingy skipper butterfly				4					Internal corridor enhancement and buffering of the woodland edge to promote an ecotonal transition together with a localised enhancement of the chalk scrub and the chalk grassland resource.
Dormouse	4	4	4	4		4		4	Ancient & native woodland restoration likely to enhance habitat through the promotion of a more dense undestorey and improved ride edge habitat will facilitate dispersal.
Duke of Burgundy	4	4	4	4		4			FC playing a leading role in a landscape scale recovery project at the Denge Woods.
European Hedgehog	4	4	4	4	4	4		4	The enhancement of structural diversity and a softer transition between habitat types will improve conditions for this species.
Firecrest	4								Reside in tall, well-vegetated conifers, often Norway spruce, with some deciduous trees along rides. Also breed in semi-natural woodland with a well-developed shrub layer of holly or yew.
Glow worm	4	4	4	4		4		4	Road and ride edges, powerline wayleaves and the woodland edge
Grasshopper warbler	4	4	4	4		4		4	Red listed species requiring scrub, thick grassland and recently established forestry plantation.
Grass snake	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species. Will also benefit from enhancements to wetland habitats such as a network of ponds.
Grey Partridge	4	4	4	4		4			A UK and LBAP priority species of the farmscape which will benefit from beneficial woodland management where this adjoins its foraging areas.
Great crested newt									Likely to benefit from ancient and native woodland restoration and the cyclical management of wet scrub in and around water bodies.
Grizzled skipper	4	4	4	4		4			A characteristic spring butterfly of southern chalk downland and other herb-rich grassland habitats. Requires the maintenance of a continual supply of open space with occasional disturbance.
Harvest mouse	4	4	4	4		4			A species benefiting from enhanced connectivity of native shrubs and grassland - improvements to the ride network will greatly improved the fortunes of this species in this part of Sussex.
Hawfinch	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Associated with mature deciduous forest containing a scrub element.

6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat alongside roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the deadwood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Lady orchid	4			4		4			Kent remains the most important centre of the British population. An open woodland and woodland edge species.
Lesser redpoll	4	4	4	4					Depends on a continual supply of pioneer woodland feeding on birch and alder seeds - a species that is negatively influenced by the creation of permanent open space.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		Increase in abundance of dead and decaying wood component a priority for long term survival. Well developed crowns with a high density of branches are needed for foraging.
Linnet	4	4	4	4		4		4	An edge specialist able to benefit from scrub expansion associated with ancient and native woodland restoration and natural regeneration.
Long-eared owl			4	4		4		4	Favours smaller woods and thickets; close to open feeding habitats, usually where tawny owls are absent.
Marsh tit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Prefer mature, deciduous woodland where oak or beech is commonest tree species. Use wooded riverside habitat and alder carr. Intensively managed commercial woodland is avoided.
Nightingale	4	4	4	4		4		4	Nightingale will benefit from cyclical open space as provided by ongoing forest management practice.
Nightjar		4	4	4		4		4	A UK BAP priority species primarily associated with lowland heathland but cyclical forestry and clearfell will provide useful habitat for this species during PAWS restoration.
Noctule	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Largely associated with deciduous woodland.
Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly			4	4		4			Recent extinction of this species in the past few decades could be reversed as part of a landscape scale reintroduction project. Significant beneficial habitat management underway in and around its former core areas.
Pipistrelle bat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Creation of additional open space will improve foraging habitat and older tree retention will provide an increase in summer roosts.
Red kite				4	4				A recovering species in the South East that was once widespread and abundant. Scattered retention of conifer in native woodland restoration zones a priority to facilitate its continued recovery
Redstart	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Favour mature broadleaved woodland edges. Conservation of older trees a necessity.
Silver washed fritillary	4	4	4	4		4		4	Breeds in broad-leaved woodland, especially oak woodland or woods with sunny rides and glades. Common dod-violet is the main foodplant.
Slow worm	4	4	4	4		4		4	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.

6. Land and Natural Environment

6.5 Delivering the Brief

There are five Land and Natural Environment objectives stated in the brief that the plan should address.

- The group of woodlands making up the North Downs Complex are all ancient woodland sites. The plans should maintain and where appropriate enhance the remnant features of interest, with the long term aim of restoring the woodlands to site native species in an appropriate and effective way.

The actions which deliver this objective are covered under the Working Woodlands section. The emphasis will be on gradual change, targeting the most shading conifers first. A proportion of conifers will be retained into old age to provide structure and diversity and to support raptor nesting.

- The woodlands are all part of a large SNCI. Management proposed will take account where appropriate of the SNCI features.

The priority species lists presented earlier show how different keystone species will benefit from the normal range of forest operations. The management of ancient woodland sites is covered above. Detailed site level management will take account of priority species and appropriate works will be identified in the Operational Site Assessment process.

- The ride network & open space are an important feature of the site and help to support a number of key species.

Works have already taken place in many of the woods under a variety of projects to widen rides and link open space - further work is proposed. Open space creation will aim to produce some wooded heath where soils and site conditions are most suitable.

- A number of the woodlands are notable sites for butterflies according to the Species Action Plan.

Denge Wood is a grade A site for butterflies. FC is working with BC to support the Duke of Burgundy in the Denge woods as part of the South East Woodlands project. Both Skip-pers will benefit from the open rides and edge management.

- A number of the woodlands are important sites for native downland floral communities.

There are no plans to clear areas of forest to re-create downland, but opportunities will arise during management operations to widen rides on chalky sites which will allow

downland flora to establish, and downland species will take advantage of felling on suitable sites to seed and temporarily re-establish.

Climate Change

Forestry is in the early stages of developing strategies to help woodlands adapt to a changing climate. The Kent Downs are fortunate in that they will change gradually to native broadleaves and most of these will be managed under a continuous cover system, which is considered to provide a more stable environment for wildlife. All the native broadleaved species in the area are currently identified as resilient using the 2050 high emission scenario. There are a number of non-native broadleaves which are also resilient but they are inappropriate for planting on ancient woodland sites. The retained conifers will be suited to their sites and therefore more robust in the face of change. The continuing provision of a diverse woodland environment is the best protection for the wide range of species that currently live in the Kent Downs.

Natural Reserves and protected local sites

In general, the woods of the Kent Downs deliver more for nature conservation when they remain in active woodland management and therefore there is only one small area of wet woodland in Covert Wood set aside as a Natural Reserve. However, six small areas have been identified for management to specifically benefit open and BAP priority habitats and species.

Site name /description	Wood	Comp/Sub comp ref	Area ha	Target species or habitat	Management regime
Cutlers & Nut Valley	Kings Wood	9117abf 9130c	11.2 2.9	Reptiles & amphibians Downland flora	Conservation Annual cut and collect
Reptile Valley	Kings Wood	9137a	4.3	Reptiles	Conservation Birch & bramble control as necessary
Wildlife Glade	Kings Wood	9131c	1.0	Reptiles	Conservation Birch-bramble control as necessary
Meadow	Kings Wood	9110f	0.5		Recreation Annual mow
Bonsai Bank	Denge Wood	9299de	4.5	Duke of Burgundy Chalk downland	Conservation Annual cut & collect
Heath	Covert Wood	9222a	2.0	Nightjar, Woodlark Heathland	Conservation Birch-bramble control as necessary

6. Land and Natural Environment

6.6 Land and Natural Environment Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2018)	Monitoring
Land and Natural Environment	Restoration of PAWS is underway and progress has been in line with the plan proposals.	Sub-compartment database records. Aerial photographs. Visual inspections.
	Thinning and felling has taken place as planned to provide habitat change and diversity for a range of species.	Sub-compartment database records. Aerial photos. Species surveys, assessment.
	The ride network has been maintained and improved and has features which can support the key species.	Sub-compartment database records. Aerial photos. Species surveys, assessment.
	Minimum intervention areas are in place and providing suitable habitat for key species.	Sub-compartment database records. Species surveys, assessment.
	The condition of the sites for butterflies (Grade A) under the SAP has been maintained or improved.	Species and site survey. Feedback from BC survey work.
	The small sites identified for their importance for other BAP habitats and species have been maintained in suitable condition.	Sub-compartment database records. Local monitoring reports.
	Records of cultural/archaeological interest within the woodland have been improved. The existing cultural/archaeological interest has been protected and conserved.	Operational site assessments have taken account of woodland archaeology and sought expert advice from English Heritage and the County Archaeologist where appropriate.



New pond in Cutlers Valley, King's Wood

(Steve Peters, FC)

Dead standing tree in Covert Wood

(Steve Peters, FC)



7. Communities and Places



7. Communities and Places

7.1 Current Provision

These woodlands in the Kent Downs provide opportunities for the people who live and work in the surrounding area and from the larger towns of Ashford and Canterbury to explore the landscape, appreciate its wildlife and lead an active lifestyle (see maps over). The woods are widely used by dog walkers, school parties, for husky training, orienteering, rallies, horse riding and by the East Kent Hunt. Most users access the woods by car or coach. All of the woods are dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000.

Each woodland has multiple forest access points, many from barriered gateways. The metal barriers deter misuse of the forest and were a response to the high level of fly-tipping and unlawful activity including raves and abandoned vehicles in the past.

There are formal car parks at King's Wood, Denge/Eggringe and West Wood. In addition, King's Wood has some play furniture and a sculpture trail. The sculpture trail is supported by Stour Valley Arts and includes commissioned pieces which provide permanent and temporary features with a woodland theme along the trail.

There are numerous public rights of way including footpaths, bridleways and BOATS.

Horse riding in the woodland is managed under an existing agreement with TROT (Toll Rides off-road Trust).

7.2 Delivering the Brief

There are three objectives stated in the brief that the plan should address.

- The woodland complex is bounded on its north-east by Canterbury & south-west by Ashford. The woodlands should provide an attractive backdrop to the lives of local people.

Implementation of this woodland plan will result in a more attractive and functional woodland for visitors. The widening and shaping of rides, gradual conversion to broad-leaves whilst retaining feature conifers and the continued attention to habitats and species will produce a visually pleasing and healthy place to visit and enjoy.

- Public usage is high, so careful design and management will be needed to maintain a good balance between providing a safe and enjoyable visit and supporting important habitats and species found in the wood.

These are large woodland blocks so there are many opportunities to provide quiet areas for wildlife and people. Although use is high, users tend to follow existing trails and tracks. Management will take account of key species and habitats when carrying out Operational Site Assessments. None of the sites is currently prioritised for major recreational expansion.

- The North Downs Complex of Woodlands are integral parts of The Stour & Elham Valleys. The Plan should aim to deliver a sensitive concept for the future of this fascinating woodland landscape. The plan should reflect the interests and expectations of the partners where these match those of FC.

This plan focuses on gradual and sensitive change. There is little 'wrong' with this landscape, but the ancient woodland policy places an emphasis on gradual transition from non-site native species to site native species and principally broadleaves. FC has worked closely with the Kentish Stour Countryside Project and much of the ride work and detailed conservation management has received funding support. The plan is sensitive to the aspirations of the Kent Downs AONB management plan.

7.3 Communities and Places Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2018)	Monitoring
Communities and Places	The area of woodland with public access has been maintained.	Record of woodland closure under CROW Act (2000/1).
	The woodland provides high quality accessible natural greenspace and people have been encouraged to use and enjoy the woodland for leisure purposes and healthy living.	Recreation and access web pages on FC website. Facility inspection records. Permission system records. Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer maps show Forestry Commission public access land.
















Attractive ride in King's Wood
(Steve Peters, FC)

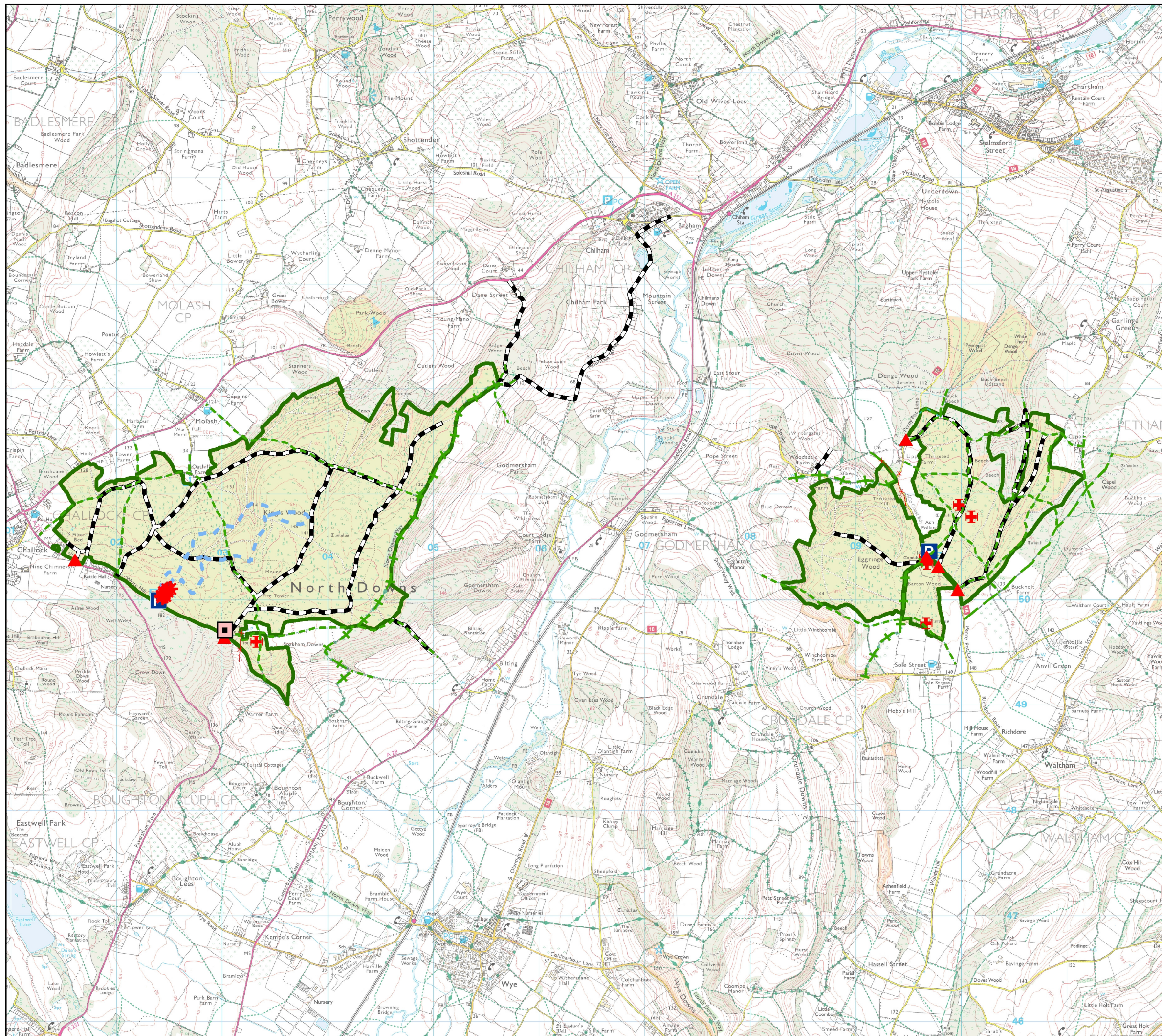


Sculpture in King's Wood
(Steve Peters, FC)

South East England
**Kings Wood & Denge/Eggringe
Kent North Downs
Forest Design Plan**

Recreation and Access

-  Management Area
-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public Path
-  Waymarked Walk
-  Play Facilities
-  Ancient Monument (S)
-  Car park
-  Horse de-boxing area
-  Gate or cattle grid
-  Forest Road
-  Forest Ride
-  Overhead Powerline



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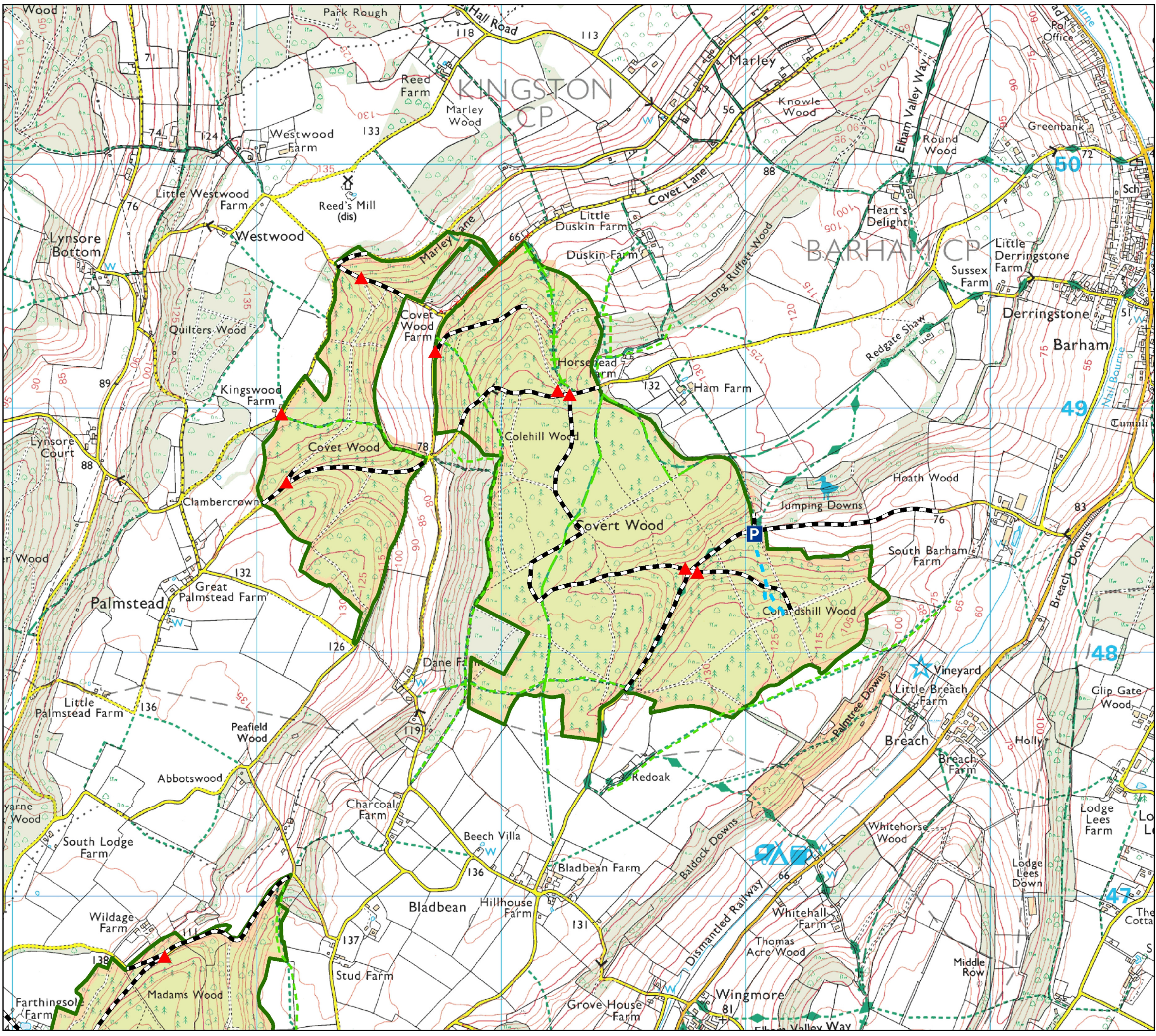


Forestry Commission
England

South East England Lyminge North (Covert & Covert Wood) Kent North Downs Forest Design Plan

Recreation and Access

-  Management Area
-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public Path
-  Ancient Monument (S)
-  Ancient Monument (U)
-  Car park
-  Gate or cattle grid
-  Cycle Route
-  Forest Road
-  Forest Ride
-  Overhead Powerline



Produced by the Planning Team February 2010













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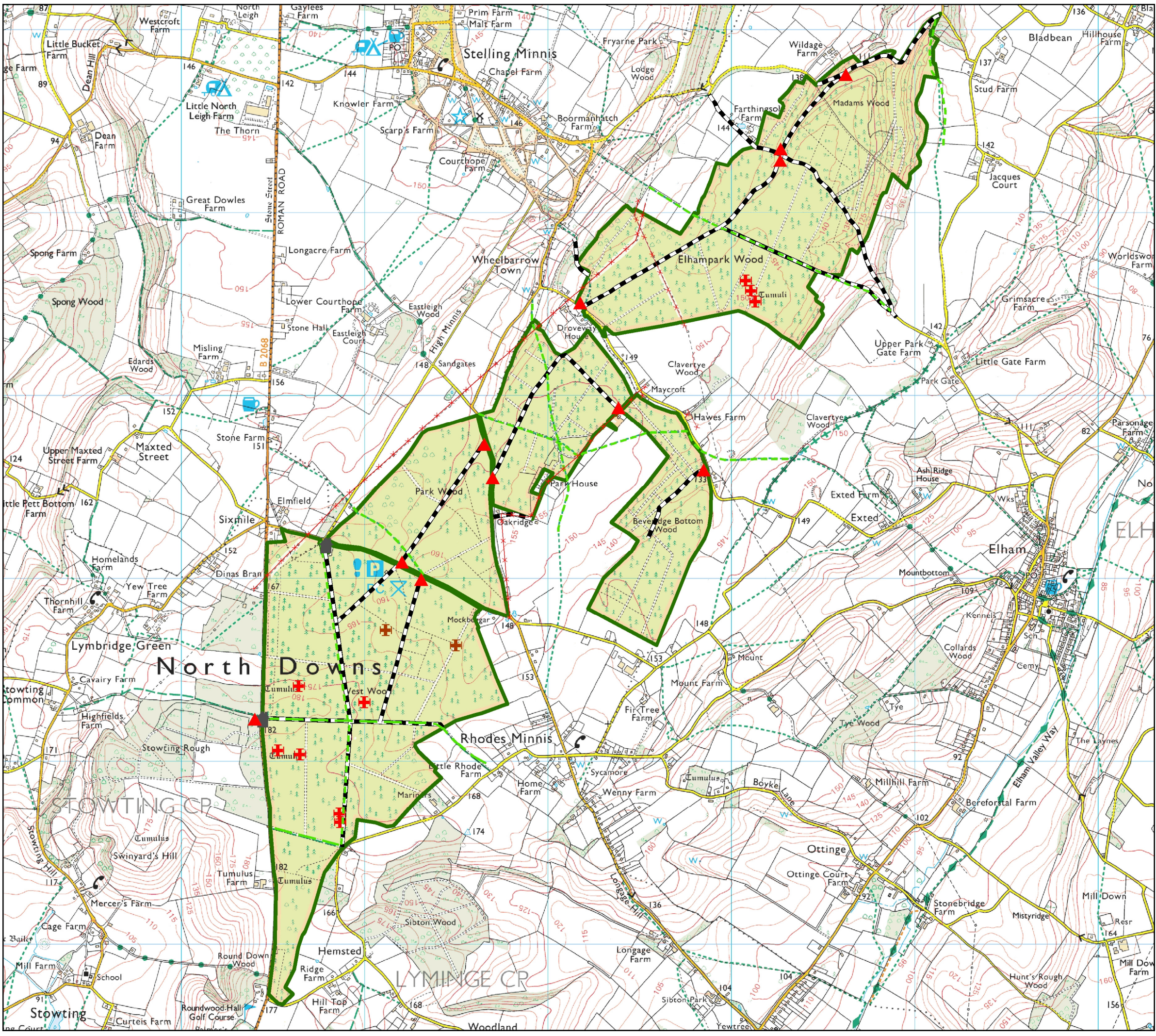
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**South East England
Lyminge South
(Elhampark, West & Park Wood)
Kent North Downs
Forest Design Plan**

Recreation and Access

-  Management Area
-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public Path
-  Ancient Monument (S)
-  Ancient Monument (U)
-  Car park
-  Gate or cattle grid
-  Building
-  Forest Road
-  Forest Ride
-  Overhead Powerline



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8. Working Woodlands

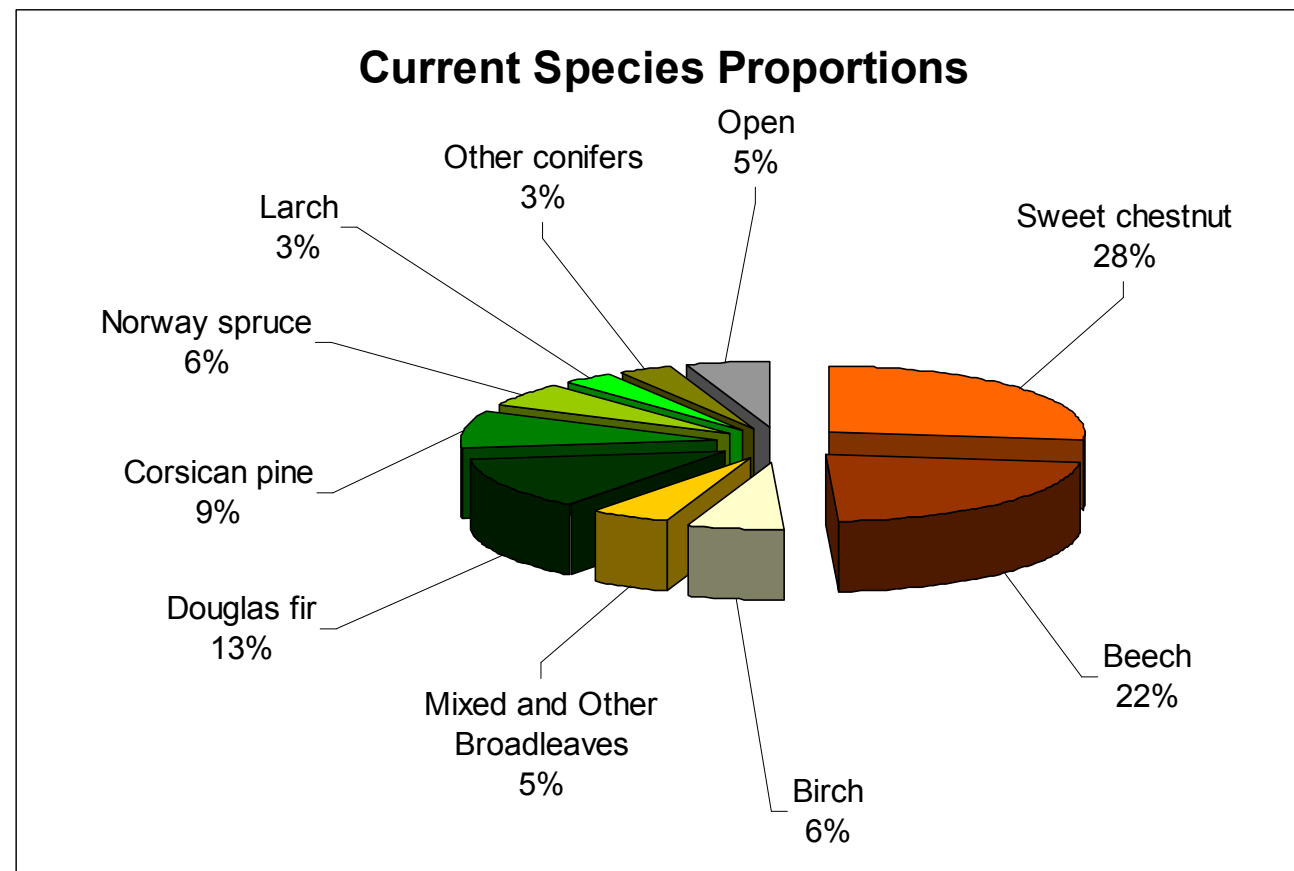


8. Working Woodlands

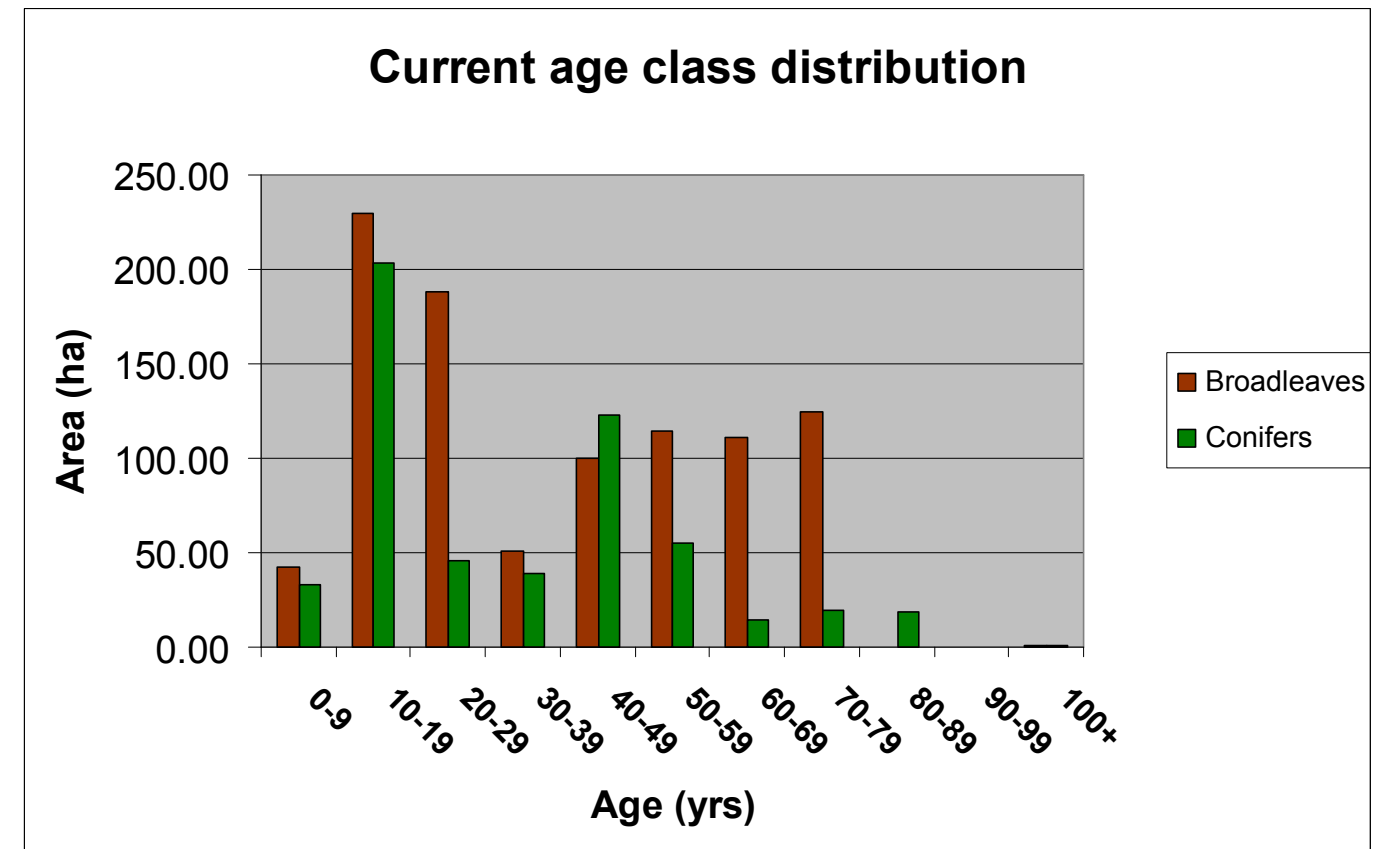
8.1 Tree Species and Age Classes

The woods were all once a mixed coppice of Sweet chestnut, hornbeam, hazel and ash, with oak, ash and beech standards. Lyminge was formerly part of the Broom/Drax estates and came to the FC in 1924/5. Denge/Eggringe was formerly part of Eggerton Manor (1961) and King's Wood was part of the Godmersham Estate (1935). The present distribution of species is shown on the existing species maps opposite and overleaf and reflects changed policy and management under the FC. Overall (see pie chart below), 61% of the wood is broadleaf and 34% is conifer with 5% open or other land use. Most of the conifer compartments contain a proportion of re-asserting broadleaves, although most of this is of poor quality. Some conifer/broadleaf mixtures were planted.

All species have grown moderately well for their type, with Douglas fir and Larch best across the blocks - both Norway spruce and Corsican pine suffer from drought and Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) respectively. The Sweet chestnut coppice is variable with



Species Composition at the start of the Forest Design Plan (data from February 2010)



Tree age distribution at the start of the Forest Design Plan (data from February 2010)

some poor stands on the lighter soils. Beech is widely planted and there are some good stands developing. Birch is the dominant regeneration species and is found on all open areas, sometimes mixed with Scots pine.

The age class structure (see chart adjacent) is unevenly distributed but not as skewed as many sites in the south-east. The broadleaved stands under 20 years old are dominated by Sweet chestnut coppice. The age 40-79 classes are dominated by beech. Beech is not expected to feature much in the next rotation of broadleaves unless squirrel can be brought under control. The conifers under 20 years of age are mostly split equally between Corsican pine and Douglas fir. These young stands of Corsican pine may prove difficult for forest design and management, because the arrival of RBNB, a pernicious fungal infection, threatens their future production and survival. Conifers over 45 yrs (mature) are dominated by Douglas fir. This can present problems for forest design, as these stands are passing economic maturity and become more susceptible to windblow. It is hoped they can be put into a continuous cover system whilst native broadleaves become established.



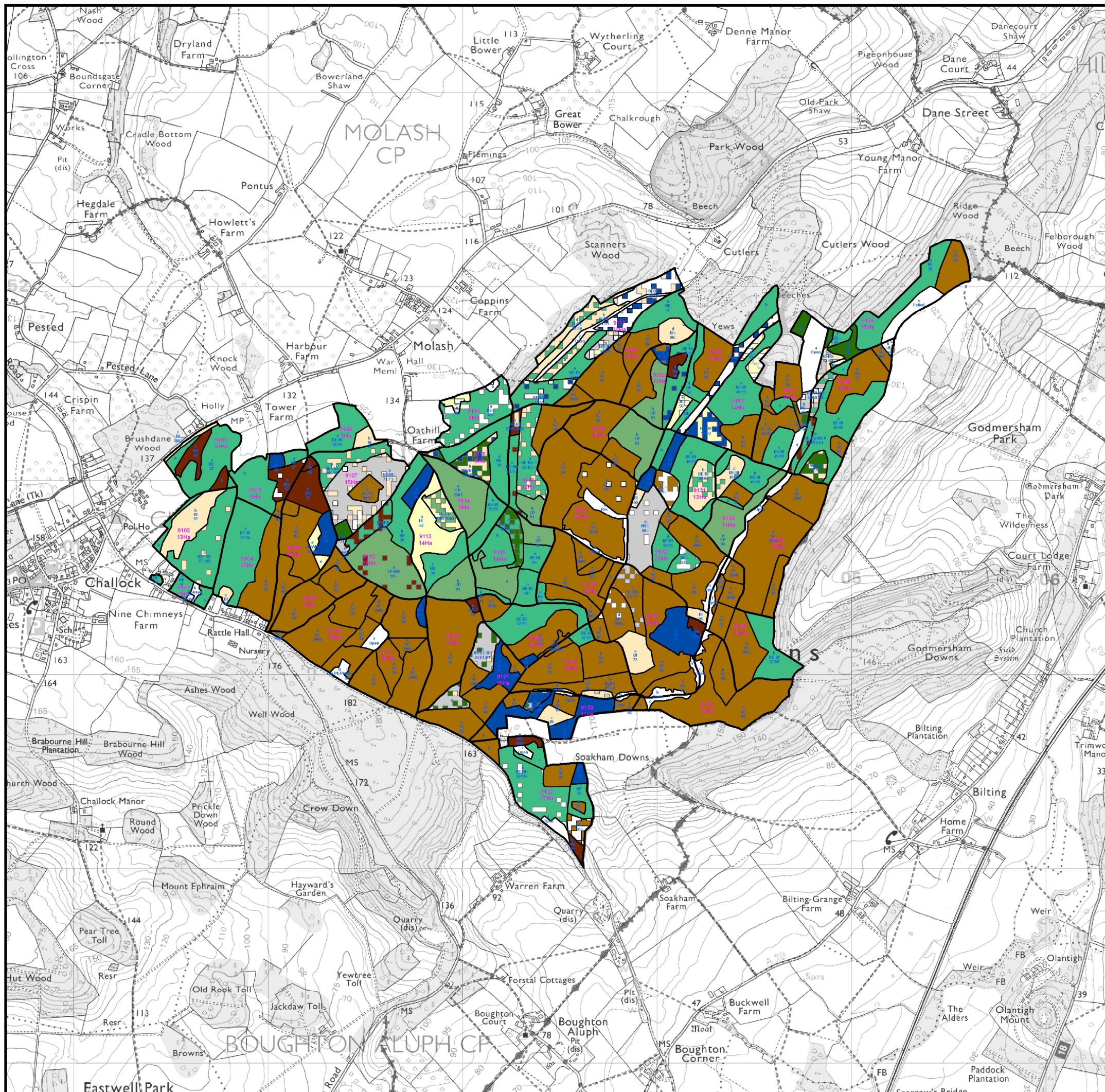
Forestry Commission
England
South East England

Kings Wood Kent North Downs Forest Design Plan

Existing Species

*Schematic representation of existing species.
Indicates species content of subcompartments,
rather than exact distribution of species.*

-  Sweet Chestnut
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Douglas fir
-  Pines
-  Norway Spruce
-  Larch
-  Other Conifers
-  Open



Produced by the Planning Team February 2010

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Denge & Eggring Wood Kent North Downs Forest Design Plan

Existing Species

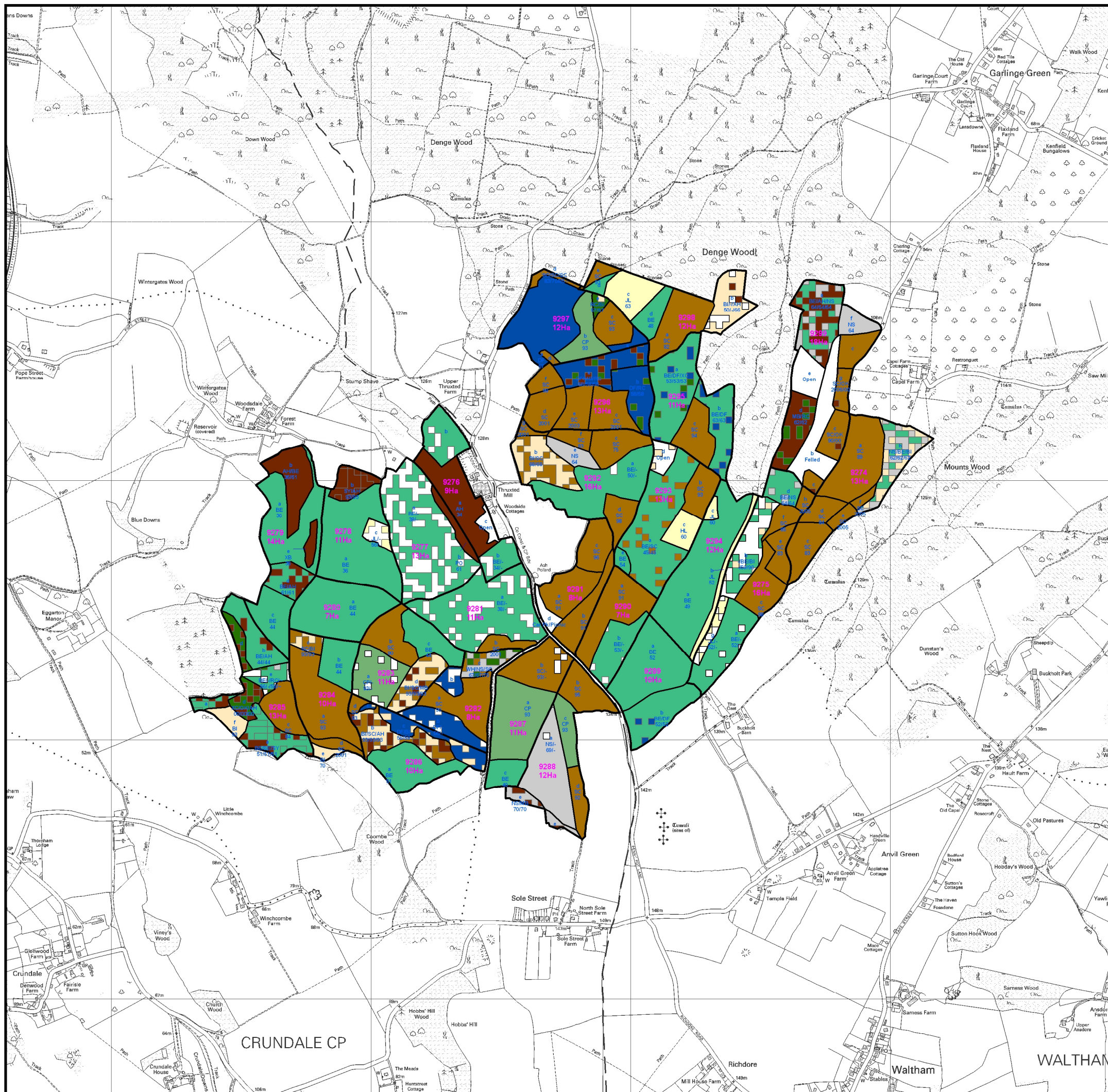
*Schematic representation of existing species.
Indicates species content of subcompartments,
rather than exact distribution of species.*

-  Sweet Chestnut
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Douglas fir
-  Pines
-  Norway Spruce
-  Larch
-  Other Conifers
-  Open

Produced by the Planning Team February 2010

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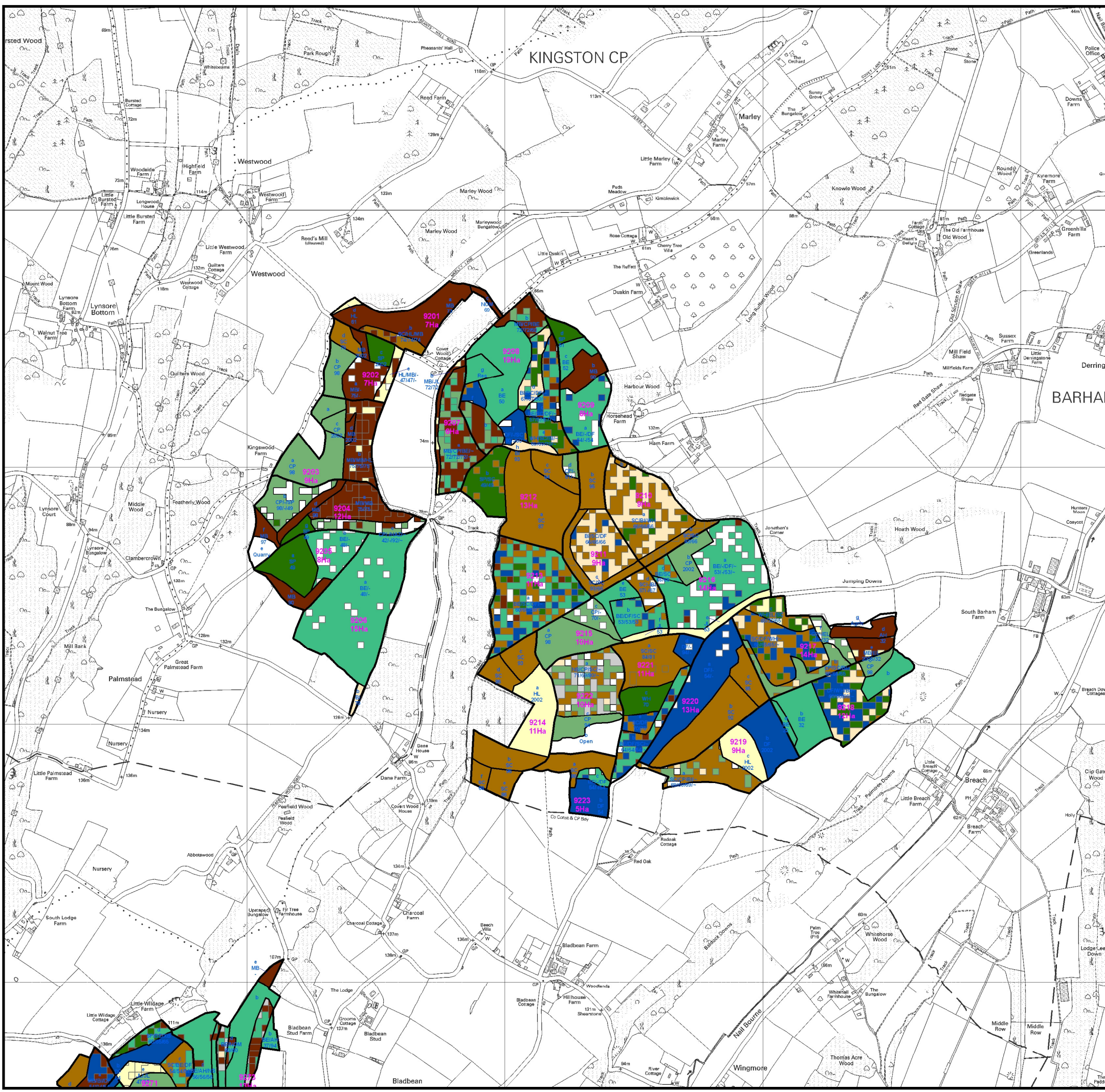
Forestry Commission
England
South East England

Lyminge - Covert & Covert Wood Kent North Downs Forest Design Plan

Existing Species


*Schematic representation of existing species.
Indicates species content of subcompartments,
rather than exact distribution of species.*

-  Sweet Chestnut
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Douglas fir
-  Pines
-  Norway Spruce
-  Larch
-  Other Conifers
-  Open



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Forestry Commission
England
South East England

Lyminge - Elhampark, Park Wood & West Wood Kent North Downs Forest Design Plan

Existing Species

*Schematic representation of existing species.
Indicates species content of subcompartments,
rather than exact distribution of species.*

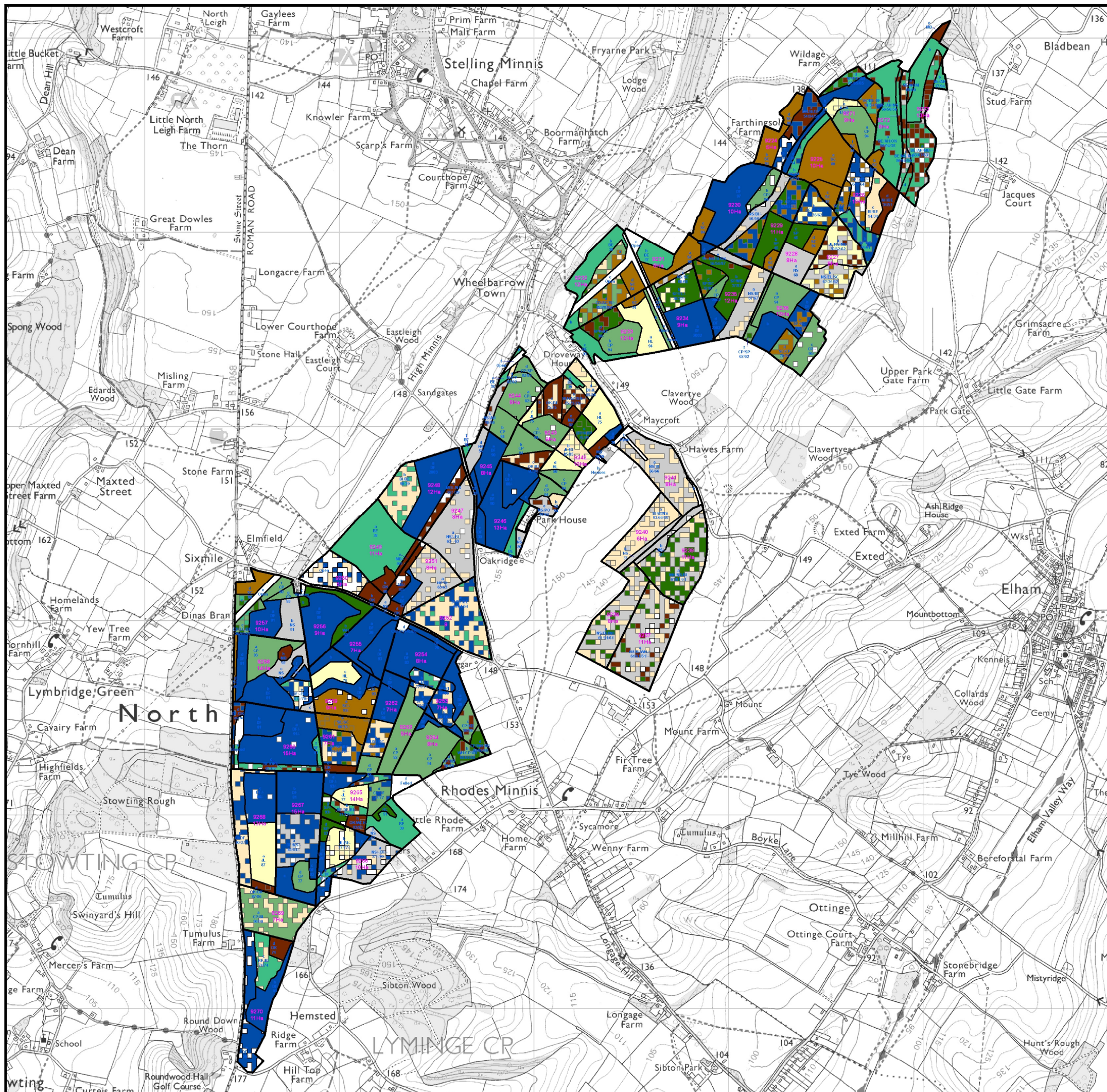
-  Sweet Chestnut
-  Beech
-  Birch
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Douglas fir
-  Pines
-  Norway Spruce
-  Larch
-  Other Conifers
-  Open

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8. Working Woodlands

8.2 Management Prescriptions

(Ref: Habitat Restoration and Felling Map)

Clearfelling

Only 7.0 hectares of mature conifer will be clearfelled during the plan period. All windfirm native broadleaves will be retained; all other broadleaves will be coppiced and allowed to regenerate. Ground preparation in the form of lop and top removal and scarification may be necessary to encourage desirable species regeneration.

PAWS Restoration Felling

There is a small area (5.6ha) in the north corner of Elhampark Wood where it is appropriate to remove the remaining 40% of canopy under conifer in one visit. The remaining 60% of the canopy is native broadleaves. This will take place in the 2017 to 2021 period.

Gradual removal of conifer

This prescription applies to all the other stands currently dominated by conifer. The conifer proportion will be gradually reduced to less than 20%, with the aim of encouraging native broadleaf regeneration under an existing canopy - a group shelterwood system. During thinning, wind firm native broadleaf timber trees will be favoured and encouraged. All non-wind firm broadleaves will be coppiced and allowed to regenerate.

Broadleaved management

Existing native broadleaved areas will be managed to develop into high forest by appropriate silvicultural systems, typically a shelterwood system.

Developing native broadleaved regeneration on clearfell sites will be allowed to grow on and become high forest. Retained native broadleaves on these clearfell sites will provide age class diversity.

All other existing PAWS will be managed to develop into native broadleaf high forest. Where beech is dominant, it will be gradually reduced in favour of native broadleaves.

Sweet Chestnut coppice

Sweet chestnut coppice which is adjacent to or close to the main forest ride network will continue to be maintained on a 15 year economic rotation. All other Sweet chestnut

should be kept in cycle wherever markets allow. It may be appropriate to consider singling or favouring regenerating native broadleaves in some stands to further diversify the woods.

Retention of large conifers for conservation and amenity

These woods have produced a range of attractive large conifers, especially in areas of high public use. These are valued by the public and provide niche habitats for birds like the Firecrest. They will continue to be managed for their aesthetic value.

Open space

Rotational open space is found along the road and ride network. A margin, varying in width from 15 - 30 metres comprising broadleaf coppice, scrub and a herb layer, will be managed on a 7 year rotation.

Temporary open space follows felling when patches are opened to encourage regeneration.

Permanent open space will be centred on some of the conservation sites and the heritage sites.

Natural Reserve - Wet Woodland

This is a small area of 1.6 hectares identified as a natural reserve in the north of Covert Wood. It is a young stand of mixed broadleaves but with some nature conservation interest. It will remain unmanaged for the life of this plan.

8. Working Woodlands



Recently cut Sweet chestnut coppice in King's Wood
(Steve Peters, FC)



Large conifers in Covert Wood
(Steve Peters, FC)

8. Working Woodlands

8.3 Delivering the Brief

There are five objectives stated in the brief that the plan should address.

- Approximately 35% of the wood is conifer. Some of this area should be gradually restored to native species throughout the life of the plan.

Woodland design and the phasing of management, as shown in the Habitat restoration and Felling map and the Future Species proposals, together with the natural 5-10 year cycle of thinning, can deliver this transition in a measured way. A range of silvicultural systems will be employed to manage the different crop types and mixtures. Some veteran conifers will be retained to maintain habitat and landscape diversity. However, conifers have grown well on some sites and this plan will seek to increase rotation lengths to smooth productivity.

- Sweet chestnut coppice is a dominant stand type but can be hard to market. The plan should seek to maintain stands of the best quality and diversify others.

Sweet chestnut is a productive species which has a long history in Kent. It is mostly recorded as PAWS and so policy would suggest conversion to a more appropriate stand type, but it provides important habitats when managed. The plan will seek to maintain the coppice area although ride widening to provide roadside and edge habitats may lead to some small area reduction. Coppice may have an increased role in the emerging woodfuel markets.

- A continuing sustainable harvest of timber is vital for the continuing maintenance of other programmes, which deliver an enhanced environment, secure the woods for the future and thus provide employment opportunities. Plans should reflect these underlying needs.

The age structure in the Kent Downs is not too uneven, but there is a lot of ageing coppice and a lack of old growth. The phasing of felling and the employment of silvicultural systems which maintain woodland cover should gradually smooth the peaks inherent in the current age structure. More gradual restructuring and the use of a wide range of techniques increases diversity in the wood producing an attractive woodland for visitors and a range of niche habitats for a wide range of species. And of course, a steady stream of utilisable timber provides security for those employed in the timber industry. However, in future plans and maybe sooner, some of the maturing conifer should be felled and replaced and currently there is insufficient resource to replace them all with productive stands. Policy should be reviewed at the 5 year check.

- In the absence of mature broadleaves, some mature conifers should be retained to maintain diversity and a wide age structure.

Some stands of pine, Douglas fir and Larch will increase in attractiveness and wildlife value as they mature. They are also attractive features around recreation sites and entrances when they grow old. Our stated policy in relation to restoration is to gradually move sites to a broadleaved character, with the aim of reaching at least 80 percent site-native broadleaves. Retaining some stands of mature conifer complements and supports this objective.

- Natural regeneration will rapidly colonise sites with native broadleaves but these may be of limited timber value. Some planting may be required to maintain the wood's productivity.


Natural regeneration produces a range of woodland types according to the availability of seed sources in the surrounding woodland and the underlying soil type. Cleared areas following the windblow of 1987/90 are dominated by birch with little sign of quality timber trees. Some planting of native broadleaves, either to assist natural regeneration or full planting on the most suitable sites will be pursued.











Natural regeneration of ash on an ancient woodland site managed under a low impact silvicultural system (LISS) (FC)

8. Working Woodlands

8.4 Working Woodlands Objectives








Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2018)	Monitoring
<p>Working Woodlands</p> 	Forestry Commission woodland continues to provide examples of best practice for appropriate and sustainable management and utilisation of England’s woodland resource.	UKWAS Certification and audit. Professional meetings held, e.g. Royal Forestry Society, Institute of Chartered Foresters.
	An output of sustainably produced wood products has been maintained for local and national markets.	Sales Recording Package (SRP). Production forecasts.
	Local contractors have been encouraged to tender/bid for forestry contracts.	Sales Recording Package (SRP).
	Efforts have been made to cut the increment in the forest, including active marketing of the coppice cants.	SRP. Comparison with forecast.
	Productive stands have been established to maintain sustainability.	FMM4 survey.
	Management proposed in this FDP has taken place as intended and is meeting the needs of the organisation .	FDP review based on observation and OSA implementation.

Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

-  Manage native broadleaf woodland using a Shelterwood System to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifer trees may be left in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
-  Gradually reduce conifer over the next 50 years in a series of operations using a Selection System. Leave selected conifer trees in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
-  Select trees individually for thinning, felling and pruning, to enhance the conservation and recreational value of this area.
-  Natural reserve
-  Minimum intervention woodland
-  Retain as conifer woodland
-  Coppice woodland
-  Existing open space.








Clearfell






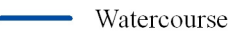


-  2012-2016
-  2017-2021
-  2022-2026
-  2027-2031
-  2032-2036
-  2037-2041
-  Beyond 2042

Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover



-  2012-2016
-  2017-2021
-  2022-2026
-  2027-2031
-  2032-2036
-  2037-2041
-  Beyond 2042

-  Open water
-  Compartments
-  Sub-compartments
-  Forest road
-  Forest access tracks
-  Watercourse

APPROVED BY (FC):

DATE:

Produced by the Planning Team Feb 2012

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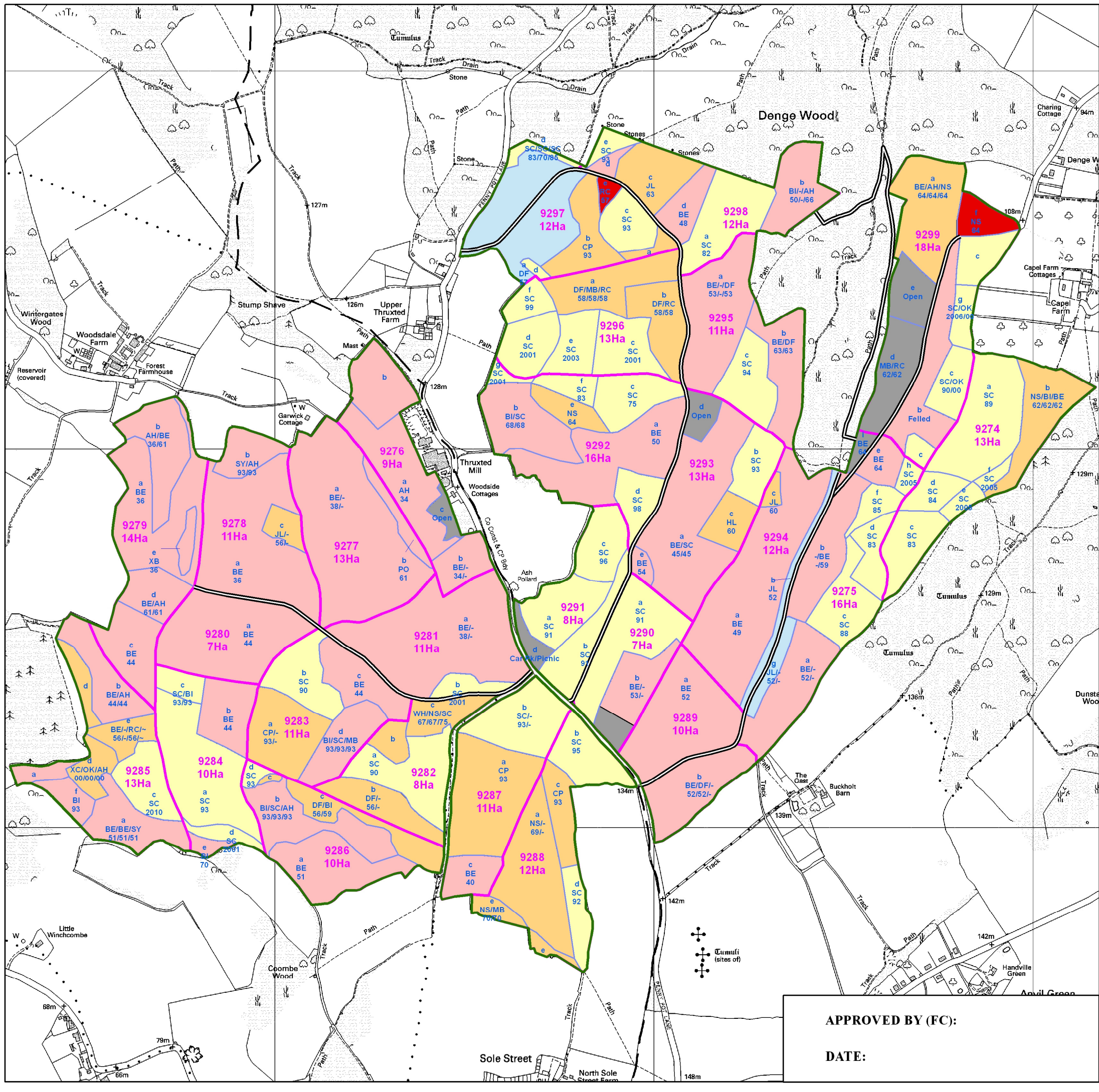
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Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

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- Select trees individually for thinning, felling and pruning, to enhance the conservation and recreational value of this area.
- Natural reserve
- Minimum intervention woodland
- Retain as conifer woodland
- Coppice woodland
- Existing open space.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Clearfell | | Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover | |
| | | | |
| | 2012-2016 | | 2012-2016 |
| | 2017-2021 | | 2017-2021 |
| | 2022-2026 | | 2022-2026 |
| | 2027-2031 | | 2027-2031 |
| | 2032-2036 | | 2032-2036 |
| | 2037-2041 | | 2037-2041 |
| | Beyond 2042 | | Beyond 2042 |

- | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Open water | | Forest road |
| | Compartments | | Forest access tracks |
| | Sub-compartments | | Watercourse |



























APPROVED BY (FC):
DATE:







South East England

Lyminge - Covert and Covert

Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

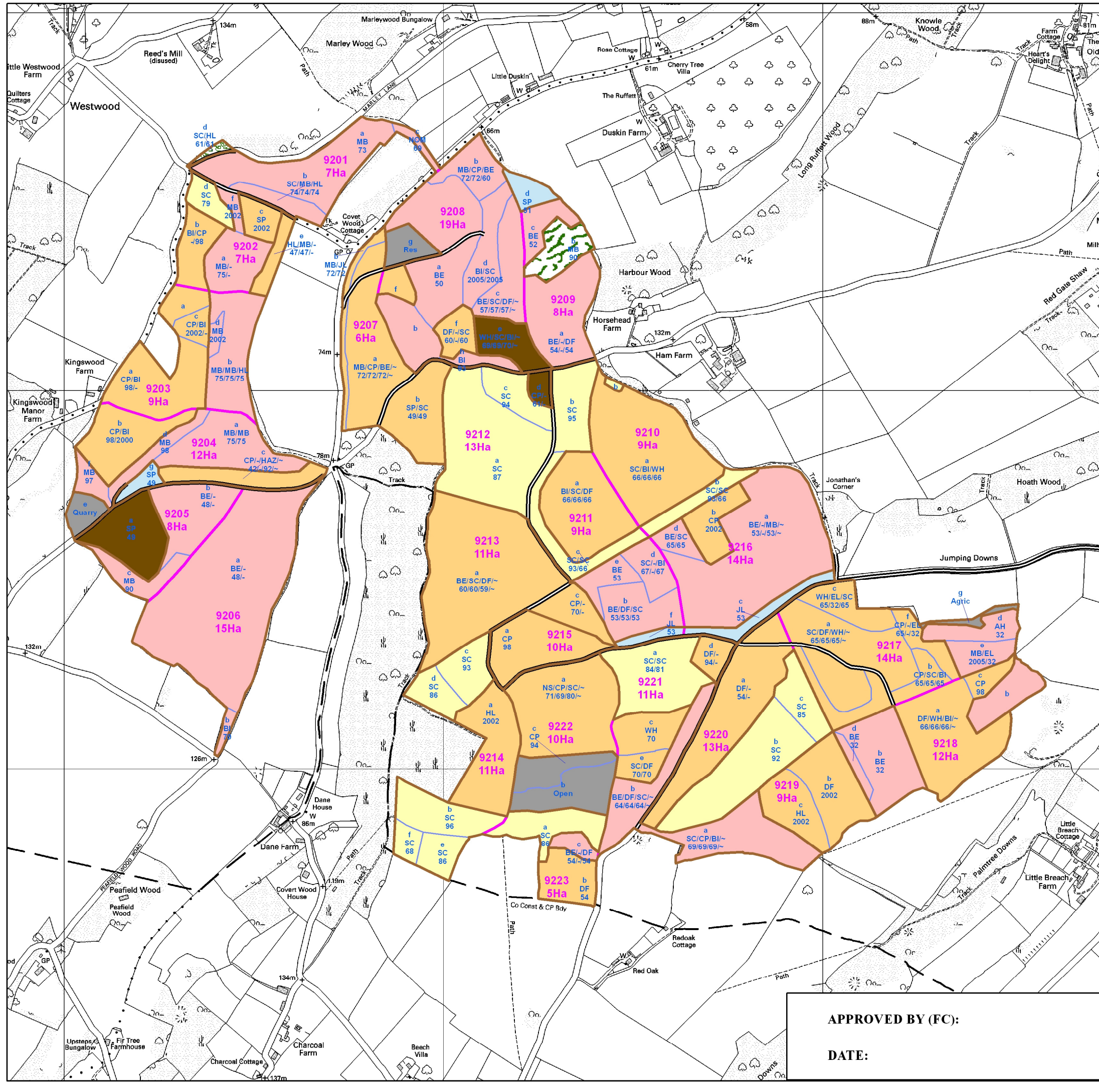
-  Manage native broadleaf woodland using a Shelterwood System to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifer trees may be left in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
-  Gradually reduce conifer over the next 30-40 years in a series of operations using a Selection System. Leave selected conifer trees in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
-  Select trees individually for thinning, felling and pruning, to enhance the conservation and recreational value of this area.
-  Natural reserve
-  Minimum intervention woodland
-  Retain as conifer woodland
-  Coppice woodland
-  Existing open space/conservation area

- | | |
|---|---|
| Clearfell | Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover |
|  |  |
|  2012-2016 |  2012-2016 |
|  2017-2021 |  2017-2021 |
|  2022-2026 |  2022-2026 |
|  2027-2031 |  2027-2031 |
|  2032-2036 |  2032-2036 |
|  2037-2041 |  2037-2041 |
|  Beyond 2042 |  Beyond 2042 |

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Open water |  Forest road |
|  Compartments |  Forest access tracks |
|  Sub-compartments |  Watercourse |

APPROVED BY (FC):

DATE:



Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

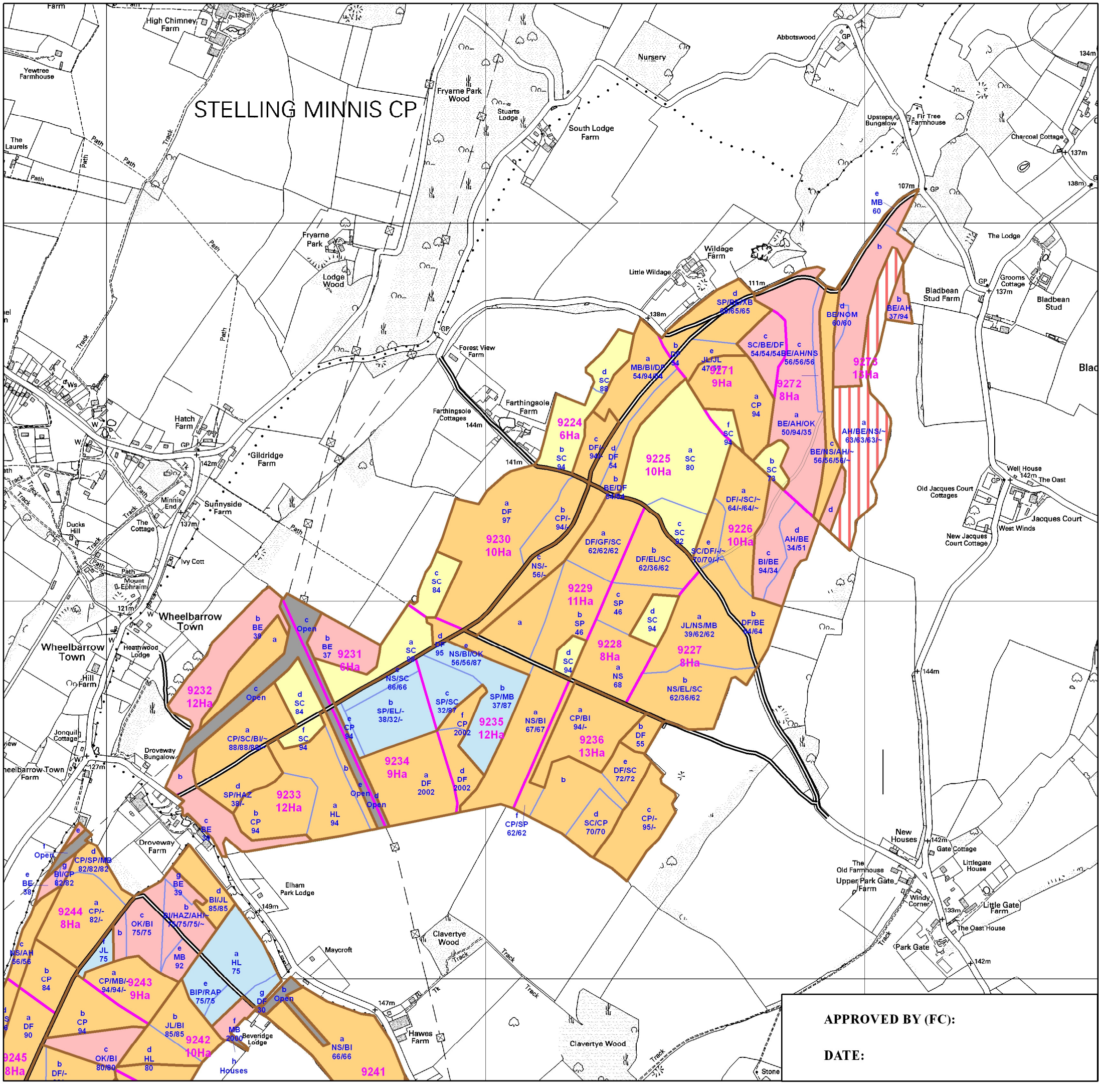
- Manage native broadleaf woodland using a Shelterwood System to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifer trees may be left in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
- Gradually reduce conifer over the next 50 years in a series of operations using a Selection System. Leave selected conifer trees in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
- Select trees individually for thinning, felling and pruning, to enhance the conservation and recreational value of this area.
- Natural reserve
- Minimum intervention woodland
- Retain as conifer woodland
- Coppice woodland
- Existing open space.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--|-------------|
| Clearfell | | Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover | |
| | | | |
| | 2012-2016 | | 2012-2016 |
| | 2017-2021 | | 2017-2021 |
| | 2022-2026 | | 2022-2026 |
| | 2027-2031 | | 2027-2031 |
| | 2032-2036 | | 2032-2036 |
| | 2037-2041 | | 2037-2041 |
| | Beyond 2042 | | Beyond 2042 |

- | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Open water | | Forest road |
| | Compartments | | Forest access tracks |
| | Sub-compartments | | Watercourse |

APPROVED BY (FC):

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Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

- Manage native broadleaf woodland using a Shelterwood System to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifer trees may be left in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
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- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Clearfell | Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover |
| ↓ | ↓ |
| 2012-2016 | 2012-2016 |
| 2017-2021 | 2017-2021 |
| 2022-2026 | 2022-2026 |
| 2027-2031 | 2027-2031 |
| 2032-2036 | 2032-2036 |
| 2037-2041 | 2037-2041 |
| Beyond 2042 | Beyond 2042 |

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Open water | Forest road |
| Compartments | Forest access tracks |
| Sub-compartments | Watercourse |

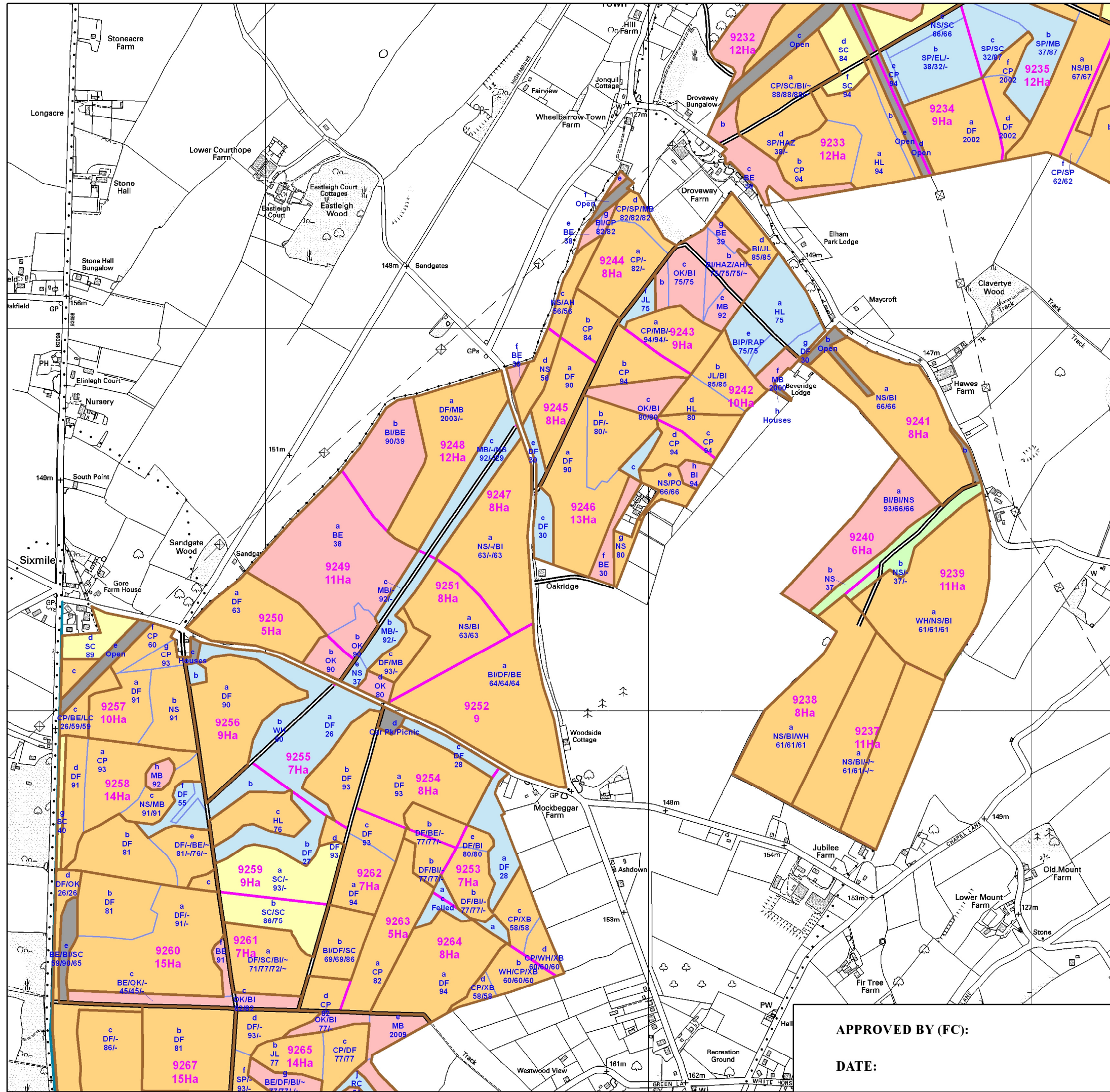
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Produced by the Planning Team Sep 2011

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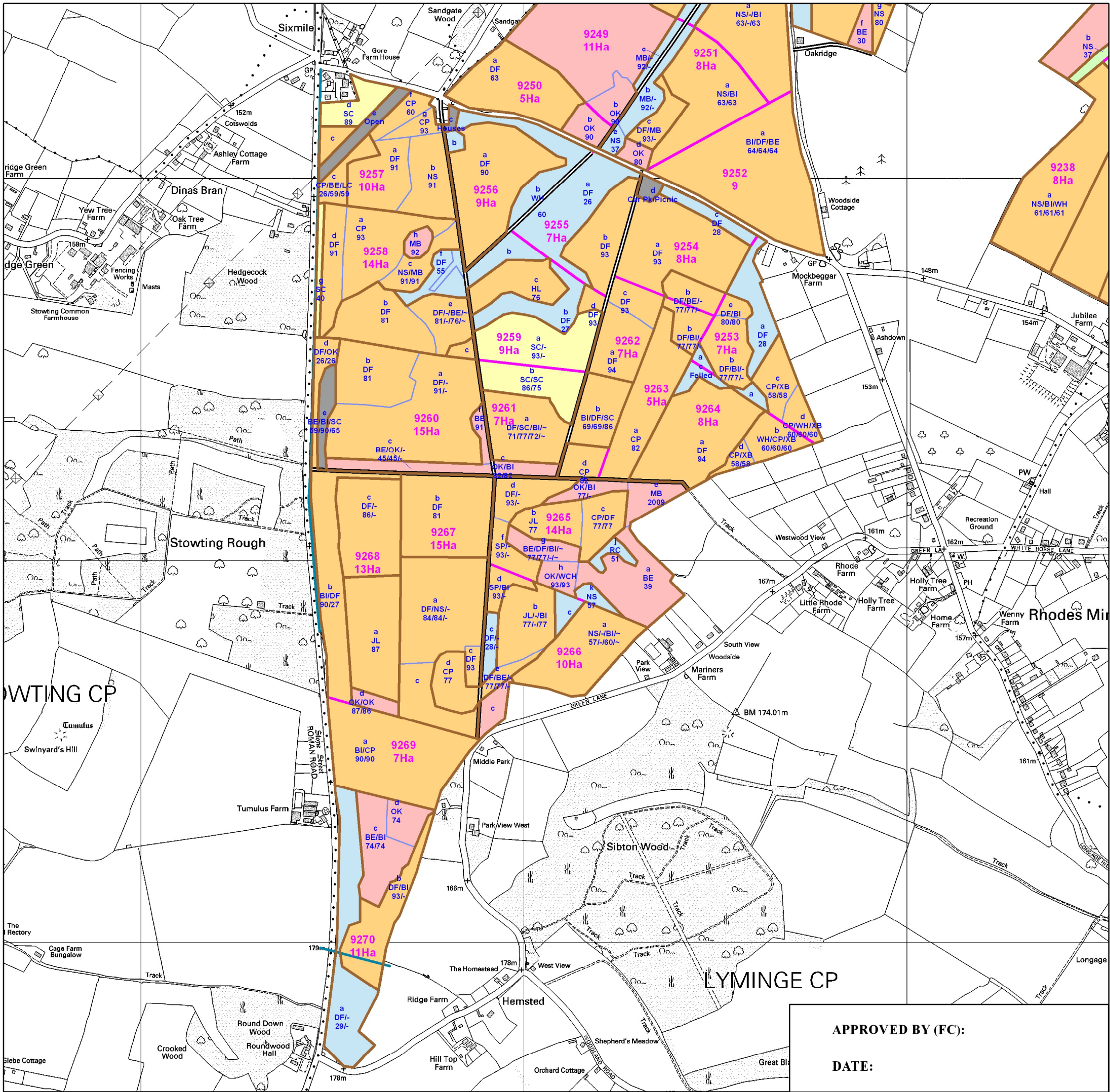
South East England
Lyminge - West Wood

Habitat Restoration and Felling Map

- Manage native broadleaf woodland using a Shelterwood System to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifer trees may be left in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
- Gradually reduce conifer over the next 50 years in a series of operations using a Selection System. Leave selected conifer trees in groups or as scattered individuals where appropriate.
- Select trees individually for thinning, felling and pruning, to enhance the conservation and recreational value of this area.
- Natural reserve
- Minimum intervention woodland
- Retain as conifer woodland
- Coppice woodland
- Existing open space.







- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Clearfell | Remove most conifer in one operation to leave at least 40% broadleaf cover |
| | |
| 2012-2016 | 2012-2016 |
| 2017-2021 | 2017-2021 |
| 2022-2026 | 2022-2026 |
| 2027-2031 | 2027-2031 |
| 2032-2036 | 2032-2036 |
| 2037-2041 | 2037-2041 |
| Beyond 2042 | Beyond 2042 |

- Open water
- Compartments
- Sub-compartments
- Forest road
- Forest access tracks
- Watercourse



APPROVED BY (FC):
DATE:

Future Habitats (Kings Wood)

- 
 Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.
- 
 Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.
- 
 Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.
- 
 Permanent open space
- 
 Open space/conservation areas
- 
 Car Park

-  Management Area
-  FC Road
-  Compartments
-  Rides
-  Sub-compartments
-  Water_courses

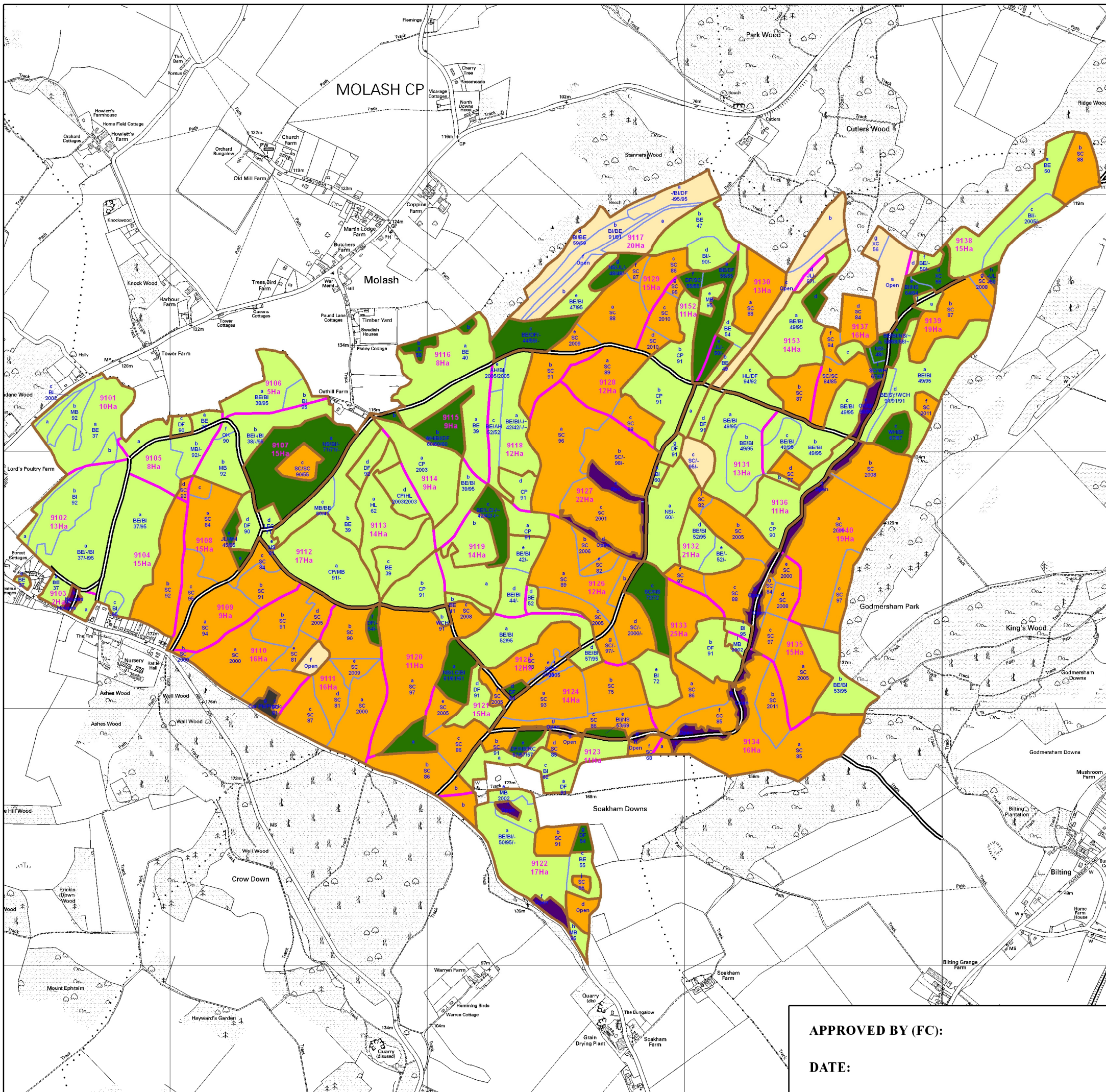
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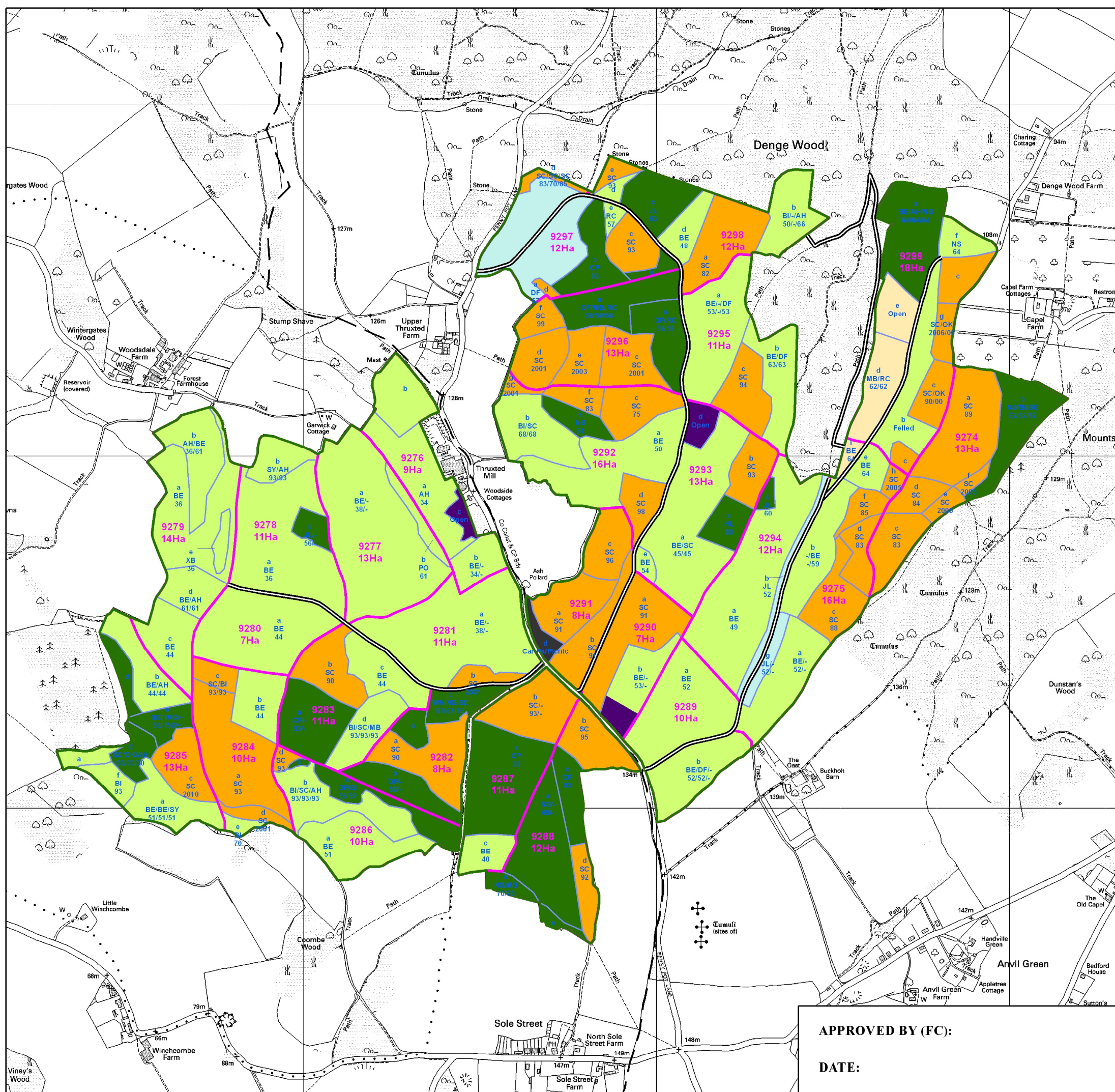
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Future Habitats (Denge/Eggringe)

- 
Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.
- 
Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.
- 
Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.
- 
Large conifer managed for their conservation and recreation value
- 
Open habitat
- 
Open space/conservation areas
- 
Car Park

-  Management Area
-  FC Road
-  Compartments
-  Rides
-  Sub-compartments
-  Water_courses



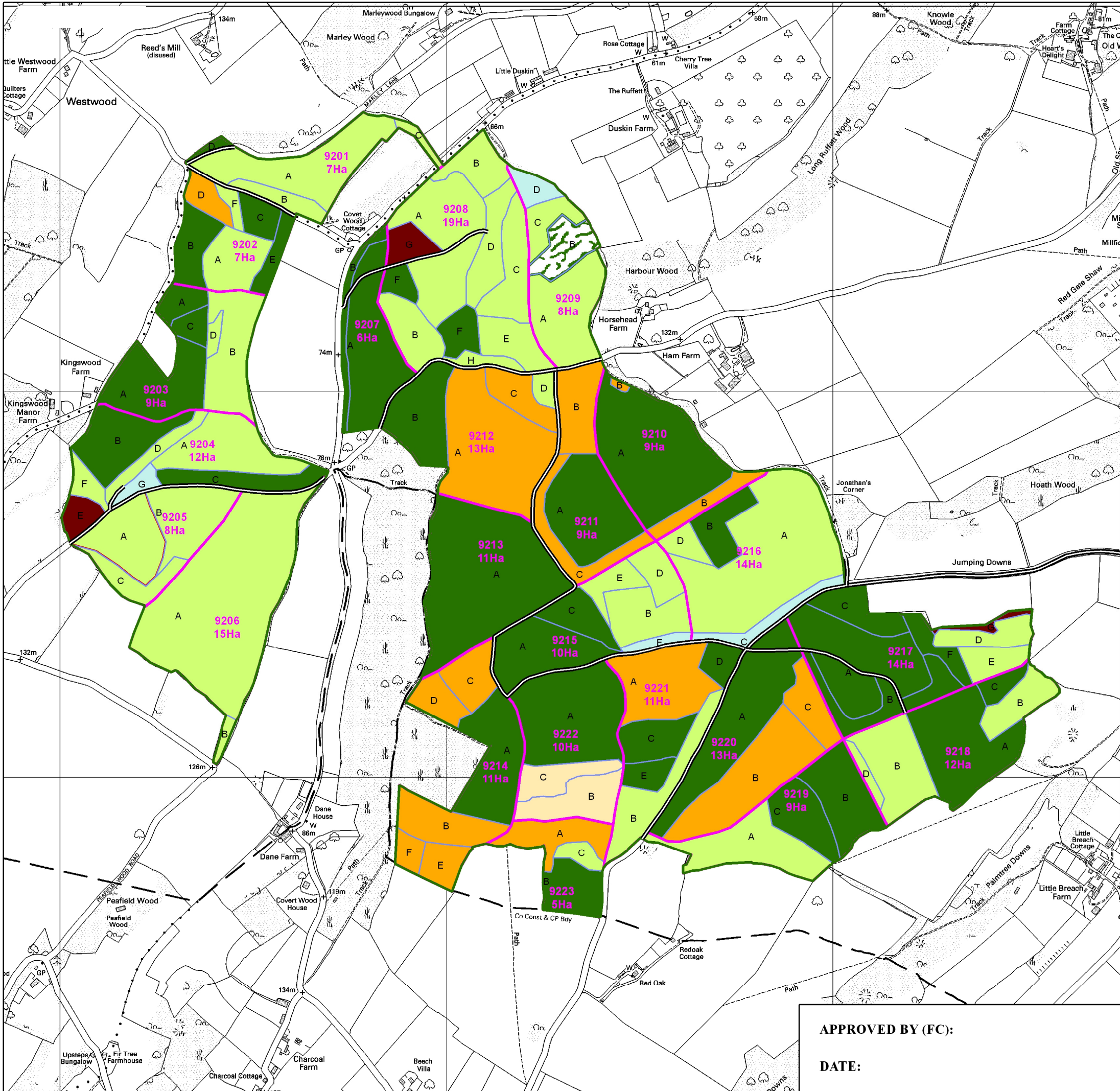
Future Habitats (Covert and Covet)

- 
Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.
- 
Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.
- 
Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.
- 
Large conifer managed for their conservation and recreation value
- 
Open space - Quarry, Agricultural or Research Plot
- 
Open space/conservation areas
- 
Natural Reserve

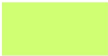





-  Management Area
-  FC Road
-  Compartments
-  Rides
-  Sub-compartments
-  Water_courses

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DATE:



Future Habitats (Elhampark)

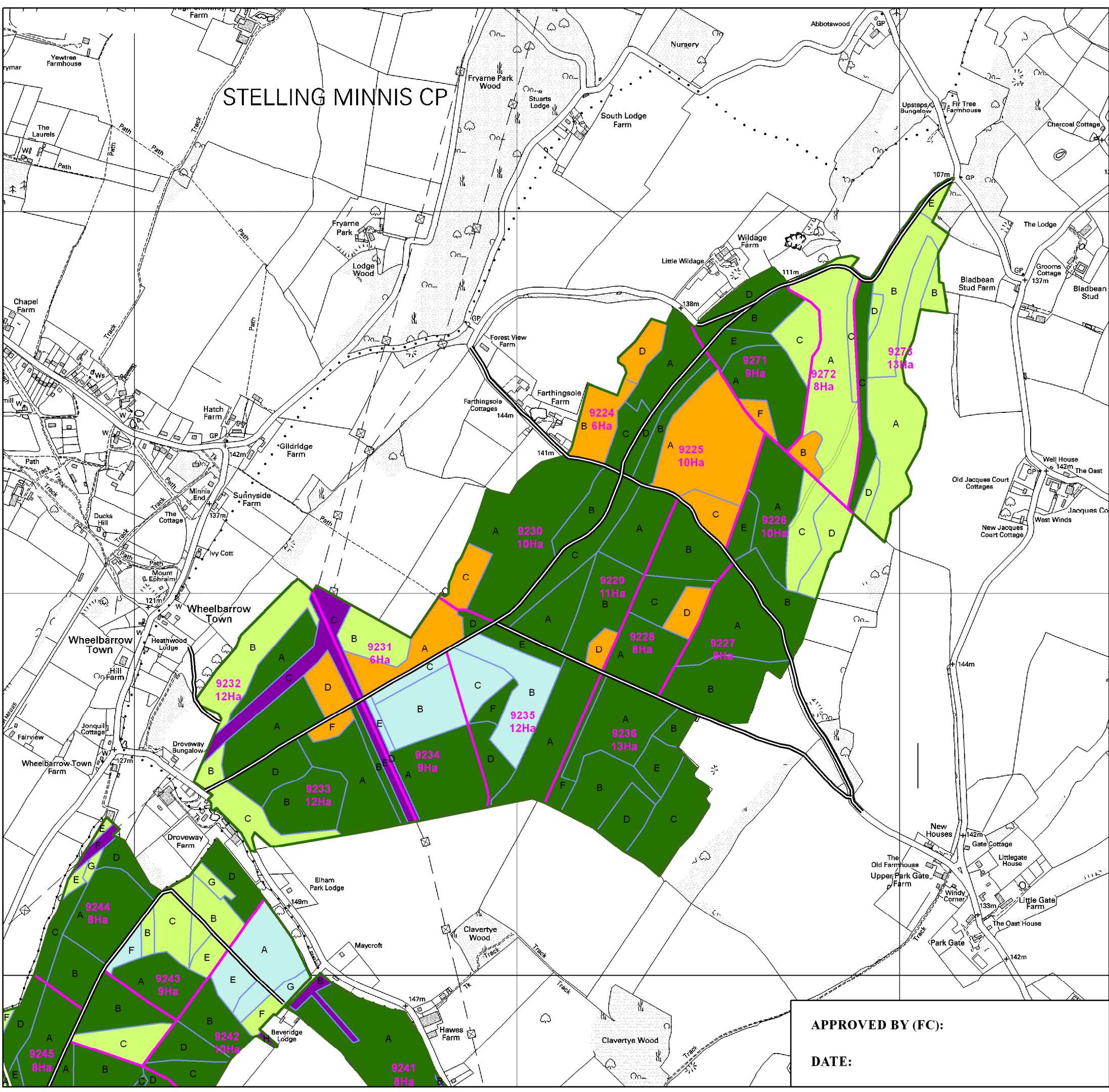
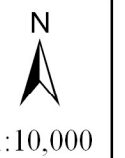
- 
Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.
- 
Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.
- 
Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.
- 
Large conifer managed for their conservation and recreation value
- 
Open space - environmental corridors
- 
Open space/conservation areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Management Area <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Compartments <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Sub-compartments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> FC Road <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Rides <li style="margin-bottom: 5px;"> Water_courses |
|---|---|


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Future Habitats (Beveridge and Park Wood)


 Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.

 Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.

 Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.

 Large conifer managed for their conservation and recreation value

 Open space - environmental corridors, housing and car park

	Management Area		FC Road
	Compartments		Rides
	Sub-compartments		Water_courses

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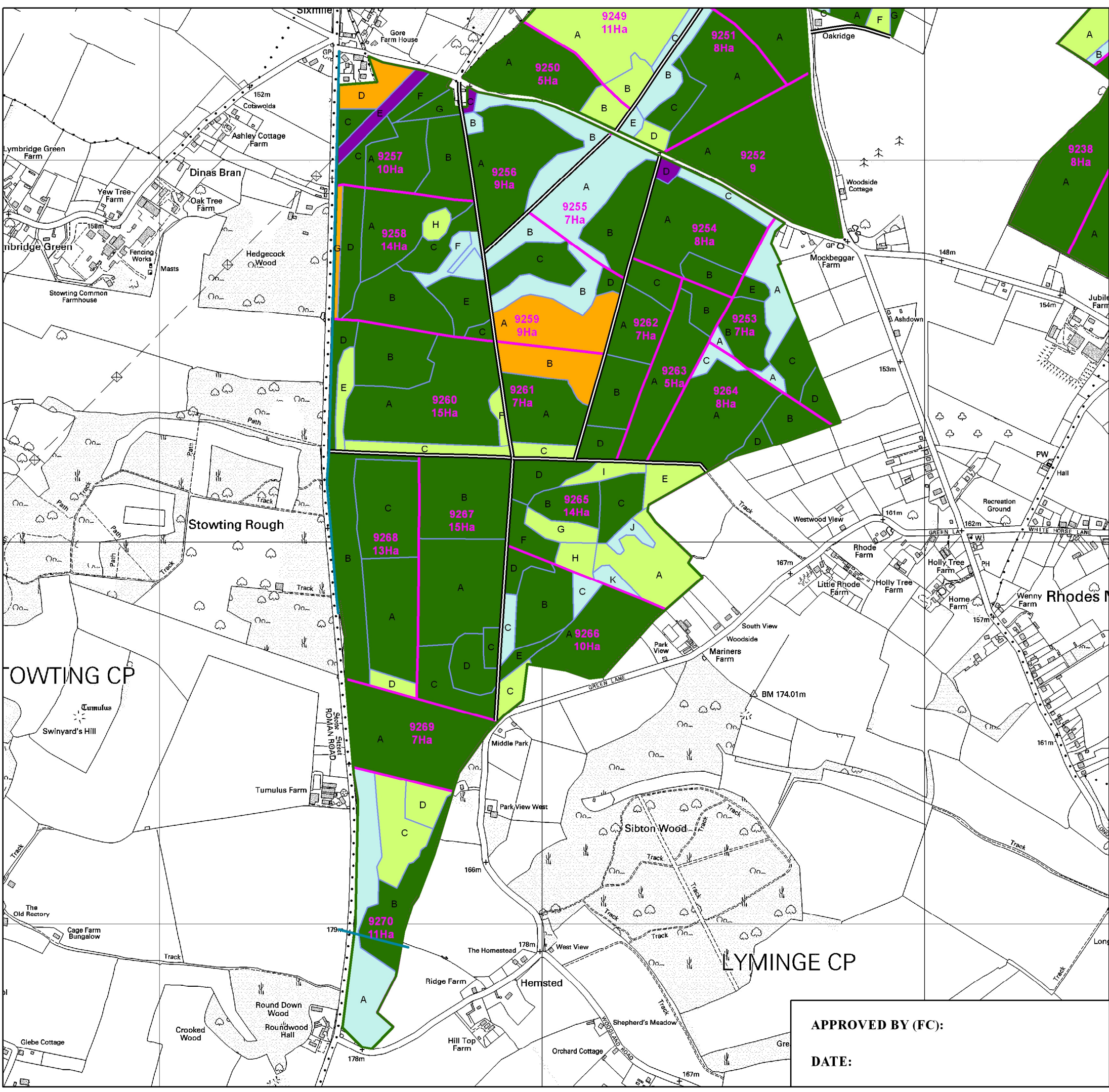


Future Habitats (West Wood)

-  Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%). Small patches of open space support early successional vegetation during the establishment of young trees.
-  Mixed woodland with native trees regenerating amongst and gradually replacing conifer woodland. Small patches of open space are created to encourage the establishment of young native trees.
-  Sweet chestnut coppice on a rotation, providing cyclical open space with early successional vegetation during the re-growth phase of the stools.
-  Large conifer managed for their conservation and recreation value
-  Open space - environmental corridors, housing and car park

-  Management Area
-  Compartments
-  Sub-compartments
-  FC Road
-  Rides
-  Water_courses

APPROVED BY (FC):
DATE:



9. Summary of Proposals

Date of commencement of the plan: 1 July 2012

Expiry Date: 30 June 2022

Review Date: 30 June 2017

Signed

FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Date

Signed

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Date

<i>Forestry Activity</i>	Area (ha)			
	Conifer high forest	Broadleaf natural regeneration or replanting	Conifer natural regeneration or replanting	Open
Clearfell in period 2012-21	7.0	7.0	0	0
Clearfell in period 2022-41	0	0	0	0
Broadleaf regeneration felling in period 2012-21	0			
Broadleaf regeneration felling in period 2022-41	5.6			
Management of areas under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems	1137.5			
Management of areas under a Coppice System	385.1			
Management of areas by limited intervention	4.4			
Management of permanent open space	58.5			
TOTAL AREA				

Record of Amendments

Amendment	Date

Glossary of Terms

Ancient woodland sites

Sites which have been continuously wooded since before 1600 AD in England. Some of these woodlands may be primary (i.e. remnants of our prehistoric woodlands) and others will have arisen as secondary woodland on ground cleared sometime prior to 1600 AD. Ancient refers to the history of the *site* as woodland.

Ancient semi-natural woodland

An ancient woodland where the trees and shrubs are semi-natural, i.e. predominantly composed of trees and shrubs that are native to the site and are not obviously planted.

Biological Diversity

The richness and variety of wildlife and habitats.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees.

Compartments

Permanent management units of land within a forest, further divided into sub-compartments.

Coupes

Areas of forest that have been or will be managed together.

Cubic metres

A standard forestry unit of volume. A cubic metre is roughly equivalent to a tonne of wood.

England Forestry Strategy (now England's Trees Woodlands and Forests)

Describes how the Government will deliver its forestry policies in England and sets out the Government's priorities for the next five to ten years.

Favourable condition

English Nature's definition for an SSSI in its intended state.

Forestry Commission Guidelines

Outline the principles and standards of good management practices in forests and woodlands to enable landowners, land managers and their advisors to satisfy Forestry Commission policy.

Group regeneration system

A management system that allows young crops to become established under the side shelter of existing crops. Several areas of 0.1 to 0.5 ha are felled across an area to bring about natural

regeneration on the ground beneath the existing tree crop. Once adequate regeneration has been achieved in these gaps, further groups of trees are removed and the cycle is repeated until the desired area is completely regenerated.

Habitat Action Plans

UK wide plans for priority habitats defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. They contain quantitative targets for conserving, restoring and expanding the habitats.

Historic Environment

These are the physical remains of every period of human development from 450,000 years ago and include earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP)

Sets out the requirements for the sustainable management of all historic environment sites.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

The definitive database of all known Historic Environment remains which is managed by the County Archaeology Service.

Native woodland

Woodland containing tree and shrub species which colonised Britain unaided by the influence of man after the last Ice Age.

Natural regeneration

The growth of trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees and shrubs.

Non-native species

Trees and shrubs that have been introduced to the UK by the activities of man. Also used to describe species not native to the site and locality.

Operational Site Assessment (OSA)

Detailed site plans that are prepared in advance of all major forest operations and identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

Planted woodlands of any species on ancient woodland sites.

Red Data Book species

Species that are included on Red Data lists published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The lists are based on a global system developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN) for classifying species according to their extinction risk.

Restocking

The re-establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration but as a term, it is more usually associated with replanting.

Ride

Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland.

Scheduled Monuments

Nationally important archaeological sites which are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979.

Semi-natural woodland

A woodland predominantly composed of trees and shrubs that are native to the site and are not obviously planted.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (also SNCI and LNR)

A non-statutory designation, recognising a site's local importance for nature conservation. These sites are identified by the Local Authority and should be taken account of in planning.

Species Action Plan

A conservation plan under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for species based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements, which identifies the action needed to stabilise and improve its status.

SSSI

Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest comprising a more or less homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. Their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

Strategic Plan

Serves as a guide to the management of woodlands within South East England Forest District. It divides the district into zones for the purpose of management and ensures that forestry activities reflect the local ecological, social and cultural individuality of woodland. Strategic objectives for each zone are presented within the context of the Government's strategic priorities for forestry in England (e.g. forestry for rural development; forestry for economic regeneration; forestry for recreation, access and tourism and forestry for the environment and conservation).

Succession

Applied to the natural sequence of species change on a site over time, or more simply, the following on of one thing after another. So successional open space is the open space and the plants associated with it, that persist for a short time after felling of trees.

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of the trees in a sub-compartment to improve the quality of the remaining trees, accelerate individual tree growth and provide income.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK government response to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio de Janeiro: includes actions to safeguard key habitats and species.

UK Forestry Standard

Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)

A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to the growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests. It has been designed to ensure that it reflects the requirements of both the Government's UK Forestry Standard - and through this the guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993 - and the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC's) GB Standard.

Uniform Shelterwood System

A management system that allows young crops to become established under the overhead shelter of existing crops. The existing tree crop is evenly and gradually removed over time in successive regeneration fellings to bring about natural regeneration on the ground beneath.

Veteran tree

A tree that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, or a tree that is in the ancient stage of its life, or a tree that is old relative to others of the same species.

Windthrow (or sometimes windblow)

Uprooting or breakage of trees caused by strong winds.

Yield Class

Yield class is a measure of the growth rate of a tree crop and is the maximum average rate of volume increment (increase) that a particular crop can achieve. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual increment of 14 m³ per hectare has a yield class of 14.

