

The Plym Forest Plan covers 559 hectares of the Public Forest Estate immediately to the North East of Plymouth. It is a mixture of Freehold and Leasehold.

The woodlands are comprised of quite a varied mix of conifer and broadleaf species. The primary conifer species present (Douglas fir and Western hemlock) grow vigorously and are generally of good quality. Beech and Oak are the most prominent broadleaf species but there is a wide range of other broadleaves and shrubs. The quality of some older broadleaf stands is fair, but younger age groups are vulnerable to squirrel damage. The majority of stands are between 50 and 70 years old, although approximately 31% are under 30 years old.

Clearance of approximately 147 hectares of larch over the period 2010 - 2012 due to infection with *Phytophthora ramorum* has had a significant impact in this area. The cleared areas were stratified according site characteristics as well as the impact the clearance had on landscape and recreation. A number of sites (roughly 52 hectares) were selected based on these criteria and subsequently re-stocked with a mix of native broadleaves and shrubs in order to achieve maximum benefit from an aesthetic perspective as well as providing a solid foundation for future silvicultural management options. The remaining areas will develop more gradually according to natural processes.

The woodlands are not particularly prominent in the wider landscape but form part of larger contiguous block of woodland in and around the Plym Valley. Longer range views of the woodlands are mainly restricted to quiet roads or non residential areas.





The primary access point to the main block of woodland is from a managed car park located on the eastern boundary. The remote blocks have no formal parking facilities and access is restricted to most of these. The woodlands are well serviced by a good internal network of forest roads and rides. The woodland is regularly used by large numbers of local walkers who utilise the forestry infrastructure and way marked trails. The river Plym also provides a popular destination for visitors. There is also a strong community of mountain bike riders who benefit from the geography of the valley.

The variety of habitat types and land use provides good habitat for raptors and ground nesting birds as well as invertebrates.

Approximately 431 hectares (77%) of the plan area is classified as an Ancient Woodland Site. This is comprised of 406 ha of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and 25 ha of semi-natural woodland.

There are several scheduled and unscheduled heritage features within the plan area.

Plym - Analysis Map

-  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
-  Ancient Replanted Woodland
-  Main Water Courses
-  Plym Forest Plan Outline



1:40,000



Forestry Commission



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



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