

Plan Name: Wareham Main Block & Gore Heath

FE Plan Reference Number: **NEW 101**

FC Geographic Block No: **13**

Date of Commencement of Plan: **1 August, 2013**

Approval Period: **1 August, 2013 to 31 July 2023 (10 Years)**

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

All areas in hectares

Activity	Conifers	Broadleaves	Other Open Space	Heathland Or Mire	Total Area
Felling	196.2				196.2
Restocking	171.2				171.2
Other Habitat Restoration				25	25.0

Total Plan Area: 1541 Ha

FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals

Forest District: **South England Forest District**

Woodland / Property Name: **Wareham Main Block & Gore Heath**

FE Reference Number: **NEW 204 and NEW 206**

Nearest town or village: **Wareham**

OS Grid Reference: **Wareham Main Block SY 895 923 (Centre of Site)**
Gore Heath SY 924 916 (Centre of Site)

Local Authority: **Purbeck District Council**

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

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

Signed:

Michael Seddon, Deputy Surveyor, South England FD

Date:

Approved: Conservator

Conservancy:

Date:

4. Wareham Main Block & Gore Heath

NEW 101

Location (See Location Map)

The forest covers a total area of 1542 hectares and is located approximately 10 kilometres west of Poole Harbour between the town of Wareham and the village of Bere Regis. The A35 trunk road is located to the north of the forest and the minor Wareham to Bere Regis road bisects Wareham Main Block as it runs north west to south east. Gore Heath exists as a discreet forest block to the east of Wareham main block separated from it by the B3075 which is located on its western boundary. Outlying areas of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation are located approximately five kilometres east of Gore Heath.

Landscape Context

Topography across the forest undulates gently from between about 10 to 40 metres above sea level. The land rises to 60 metres above sea level at Woolsbarrow Hillfort from where views across the forest and beyond are accessible. External views of the forest are generally seen as edges and glimpses into the forest from public roads but there are also prominent ridges at Gore Heath and Bloxworth Heath where attention to size and scale of felling is important. The forest area contains a large proportion of open space in the form of wet and dry heathland habitat and this plan proposes to expand the area of open space as poorly growing crops are removed to restore heathland and bog margins. The existence of extensive views across open habitats within the forest means that internal landscape issues are particularly significant and internal forest edges will require sensitive treatment. This is a factor which has been broadly addressed within this plan and which will also be addressed in a more detailed way at the Operational Site Assessment stage.

Current Woodland Structure (See Habitat Structure and Age Structure Charts)

Previous Forest Design Plans began the process of age class diversification and this is reflected in the fairly even distribution of woodland between 1 and 60 years of age. The relatively small proportion of woodland greater than sixty years of age reflects past practice in felling crops as they reached economic maturity. The inclusion in this plan of areas managed by continuous cover should increase the proportion of woodland reaching physical

maturity. There is a large proportion of permanent open space (approximately 36% of the recorded forest area) existing predominantly as areas of bog and heathland. Ride widening carried out as part of the previous forest design plan has created a significant amount of linear open space within the forest block and there are a number of smaller scale open heathland areas which have been created and developed by local staff.

The forest is dominated on the podsollic soils by Corsican and Scots Pine which occupy approximately 81% of the woodland area. A further 16% of the wooded area is occupied by other pine species. Wetter areas adjacent to stream corridors have been planted with Norway Spruce in the past and it is proposed to remove this species to recreate a more natural riparian zone. Broadleaves account for less than 3% of the recorded woodland area and are generally limited to pockets of birch which have naturally regenerated amongst the pine. Some planted and naturally regenerated broadleaves are present in areas of more fertile soil along stream corridors and at the north western section of the forest block.

Conservation (See Site Designation Map)

Morden Bog and Hyde Heath SSSI occupy a large part of Wareham main block and are designated for their heathland and mire species communities. The area covered by Morden Bog and Hyde Heath SSSI is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). Morden Bog at the eastern section of Wareham main block is designated as a National Nature Reserve.

Wareham Main Block and Gore Heath contain a further number of localised sites of nature conservation interest that have been developed and maintained predominantly by local staff. There are two sites that have been designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) by the Dorset Wildlife Trust and these relate to areas of heathland and riverine corridor interest. The areas designated SNCI are shown on the Site Designations map to provide context for future management proposals.

Recreation

The whole area is used informally for recreation and the eastern section of the forest is more heavily used with Northport Heath and Gore Heath being the most intensively walked areas particularly in the vicinity of the Sika Trail and Lawson Clump car park. Informal car parking occurs in gateways throughout the block and many local people use the forest for informal walking and dog walking. The area around the Sika Trail has been identified on the Design Concept to be managed primarily for public access and recreation objectives.

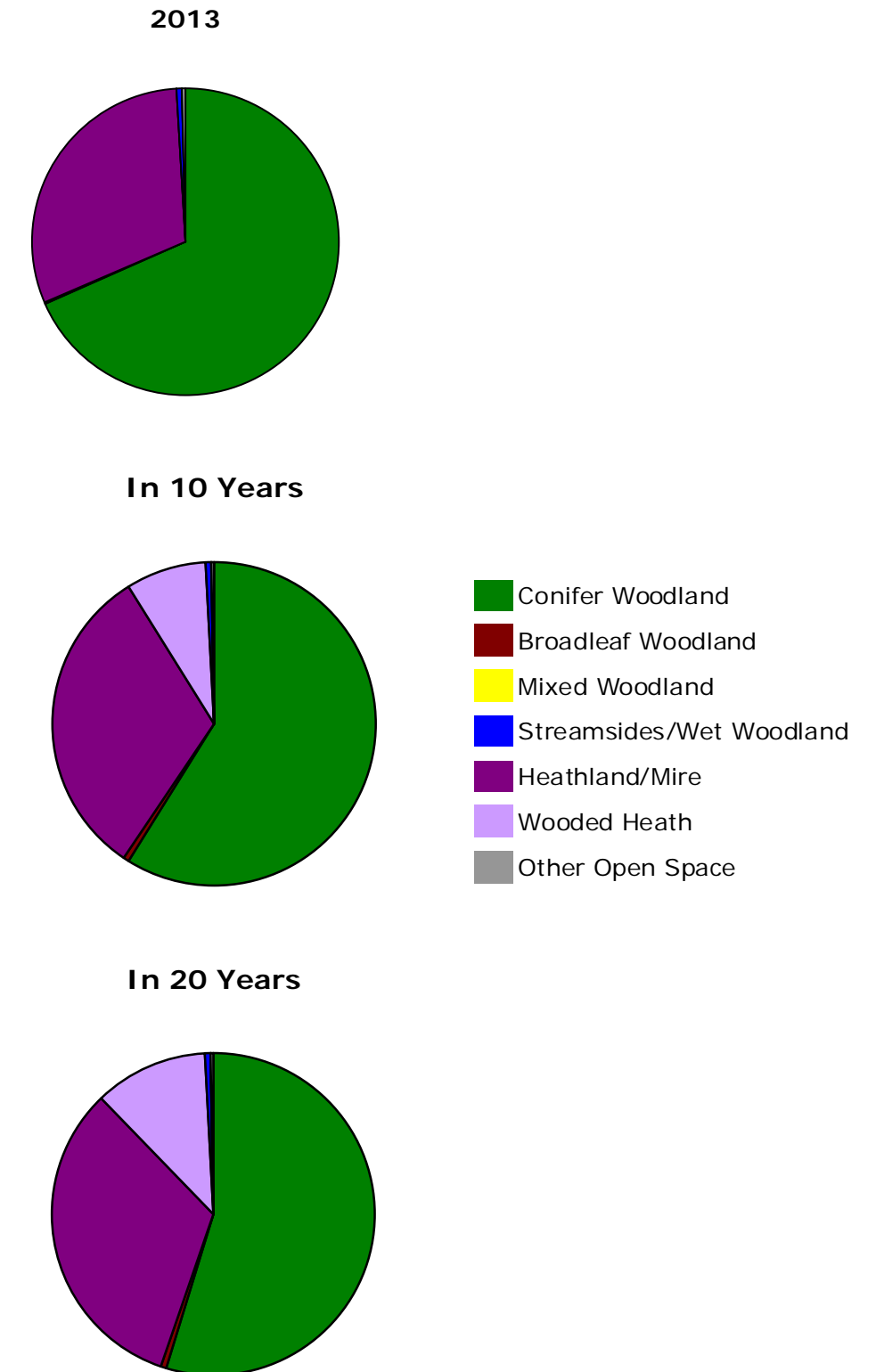
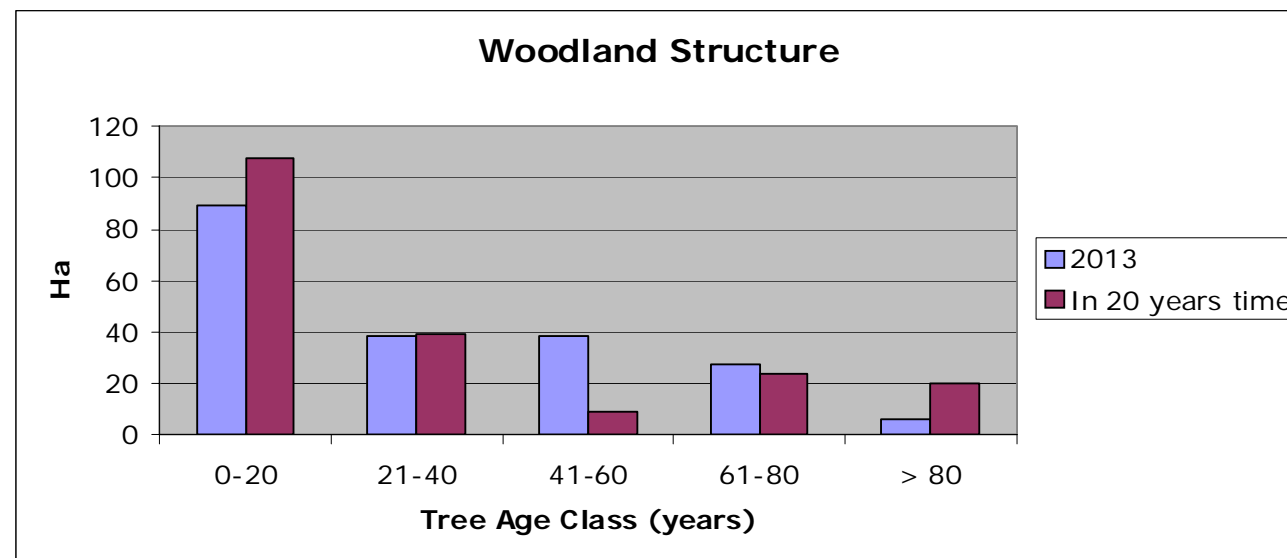
Archaeology (See Site Designation Map)

There are 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the plan area. 8 are Bronze Age barrows (funerary monuments). The remaining Scheduled Ancient Monument is an Iron Age Hillfort known as Woolsbarrow. All of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments have current management plans approved by English Heritage.

Habitat & Age Structure Statistics

Wareham & Gore Heath

Habitat Type	Present Time (2013)	In 10 Years Time		In 20 Years Time	
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Change from Present	Area (ha)	Change from Present
Predominantly Conifer Woodland	1051	908	-143	844	-207
Predominantly Broadleaf Woodland	6	6	0	6	0
Heathland	470	490	20	502	32
Wooded Heath	0	123	123	175	175
Streamsides/Wet Woodland	11	11	0	11	0
Open Water Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Other Open Space	3	3	0	3	0
Total Land Area	1541	1541	0	1541	0



South Forest District NEW 101 Design Concept



Wareham Main Block and Gore Heath

Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term

Legend

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
- Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
- Grazing unit - existing
- Cycle routes
- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Footpath
- Heathland ride management
- Forest roads
- Recreation Zone - area heavily used by the public. Manage to develop an attractive landscape and character features
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Conifer woodland sustained by a cycle of clear felling, replanting and thinning. Woodland will contain a mosaic of open spaces and a diversity of species and age classes to enhance the visual quality.
- Broadleaf woodland to be sustained mainly by natural regeneration to provide a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights. Some small scale felling and replanting may take place where conditions are unsuitable for natural regeneration. Any conifers will be removed over time through thinning or group felling
- Natural regeneration area, left to re-colonise naturally
- Continuous cover mixed woodland sustained by thinning and natural regeneration to produce a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights.
- Continuous cover conifer woodland sustained by thinning and natural regeneration to produce a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights.
- Heathland - areas managed and maintained as open heathland.
- Wooded Heath - areas managed as heathland but with up to 20% tree cover in either isolated groups or individual character trees. Areas have been designated as wooded heath either for landscape purposes or because the area contains a high conifer seed bank that would be difficult to eradicate in the medium to long term and hence meet the criteria for pure heathland.
- Mire (marsh/bog) habitats that will be kept clear of trees and scrub. Hydrological regimes restored and grazing introduced where practical.
- Streamside corridors that will be managed in accordance with the Forests and Water Guidelines.
- Agricultural land
- Car park / buildings

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:
Date:

Conservator:
Date:



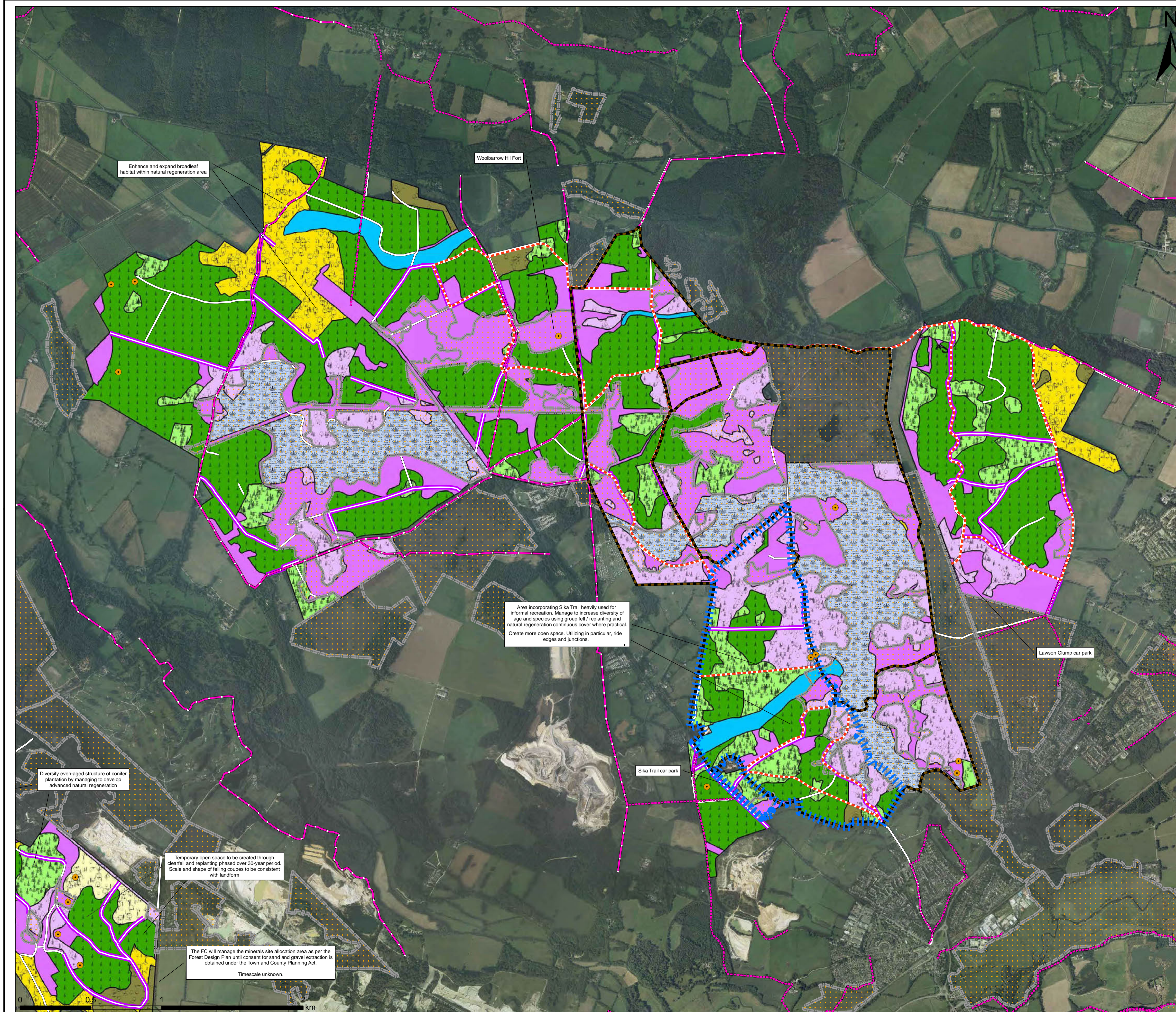
Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



Planting Sustainable Forest Management

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Map date: 2 May 2013



Enhance and expand broadleaf habitat within natural regeneration area

Woolbarrow Hill Fort

Area incorporating Sika Trail heavily used for informal recreation. Manage to increase diversity of age and species using group fell / replanting and natural regeneration continuous cover where practical. Create more open space. Utilizing in particular, ride edges and junctions.

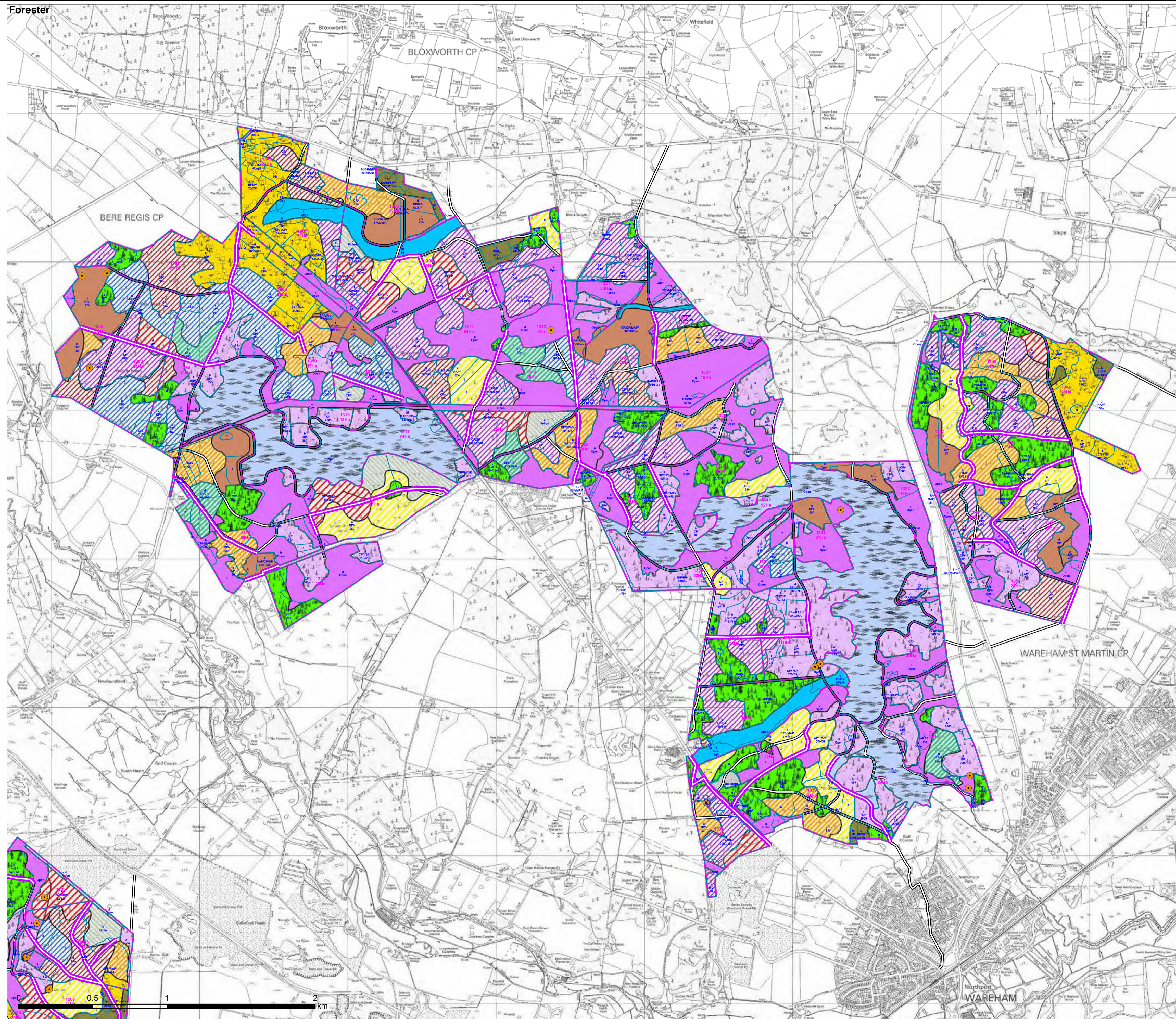
Lawson Clump car park

Sika Trail car park

Diversify even-aged structure of conifer plantation by managing to develop advanced natural regeneration

Temporary open space to be created through clearfell and replanting phases over 30-year period. Scale and shape of felling coupes to be consistent with landform

The FC will manage the minerals site allocation area as per the Forest Design Plan until consent for sand and gravel extraction is obtained under the Town and County Planning Act. Timescale unknown.



South Forest District NEW 101



Felling and Habitat Management

Wareham Main Block and Gore Heath

Illustrates timing of felling and management proposals within period of plan

Legend

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
- Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
- Heathland ride management
- Sub-Compartments
- Compartments
- Forest roads
- Felling period 2007-2011
- Felling period 2012-2016
- Felling period 2017-2021
- Felling period 2022-2026
- Felling period 2027-2031
- Felling period 2032-2036
- Felling period 2037-2041
- Felling period 2042-2046
- Felling period 2047 & beyond
- Manage for continuous cover of conifer using a uniform or group shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration.
- Manage for continuous cover of mixed woodland using a uniform shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration.
- Manage for continuous cover of broadleaves using a uniform shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration. Any remaining conifers to be removed through phased thinning treatments.
- Mire (Bog/Marsh) - Remove/keep clear of trees/scrub. Restore hydrological system using drain blocking and bedlevel raising where required. Graze where possible.
- Streamside Corridors – Manage in accordance with the Forests and Water Guidelines
- Grassland
- Heathland - Restore and maintain heathland using traditional heathland management techniques where possible including grazing, controlled burning, bracken control and gorse swiping.
- Heavily thin to produce heathland flora by retaining wide, irregularly spaced groups and individual character trees
- Agricultural Land managed by tenancy agreement
- Managed by Perenco
- Felled areas to be restocked by planting or natural regeneration or left to revert to open habitat
- Car park / buildings

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:
Date:

Conservator:
Date:



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South Forest District NEW 101



Restocking Plan

Wareham Main Block and Gore Heath

Indicative of the structure of the woodlands at the end of the plan period

Legend

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
- Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
- Forest roads
- Replant with firs
- Replant with conifers
- Natural regeneration of broadleaf woodland
- Area left to re-colonise naturally
- Natural regeneration of mixed woodland
- Natural regeneration of conifer woodland
- Mire
- Wooded heath
- Heathland
- Streamside restoration
- Car park / buildings
- Agriculture

Note:

Restock maps indicate the likely dominant species type within a coupe. In reality, coupes may contain a mixture of different species / components. In order to adapt to climate change and provide a degree of protection against disease, coupes will be restocked with a suitable species mix suited to local site conditions.

Due to the uncertain position with Red Band Needle Blight, and the current FC moratorium on replanting Corsican Pine, no restocking will take place using Corsican Pine.

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:
Date:

Conservator:
Date:



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