

Plan Name: ***Hethfelton***

FE Plan Reference Number: ***NEW 104***

FC Geographic Block No **12**

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

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Conifers</i>	<i>Broadleaves</i>	<i>Other Open Space</i>	<i>Heathland or Mire</i>	<i>Total Area</i>
Felling	20.4				20.4
Restocking	12.1	4			16.1
Other Habitat Restoration				4.3	4.3

Total Plan Area: 157 Ha

FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals

Forest District: ***South England Forest District***

Woodland / Property Name: ***Hethfelton***

FE Reference Number: ***NEW 104***

Nearest town or village: ***Wool***

OS Grid Reference: ***Hethfelton SY 857 885 (Centre of Woodland)***

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, New Forest

Date:

Approved: Conservator

Conservancy:

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Date:

6. Hethfelton NEW 104

Location (See Location Map)

Hethfelton covers a total area of 157 Ha and is located two kilometers north east of the village of Wool in south east Dorset. The woodland straddles the ridge between the river valleys of the Piddle to the north and Frome to the south. The A352 Dorchester to Wareham road forms the southern boundary of the woodland and the woodland stretches across the ridge to a minor public road in the north. The woodland rises from an altitude of 20 metres above sea level on its southern boundary to 55 metres above sea level on the ridge top in the north west corner.

Landscape Context

Although the woodland lies across the ridge between the rivers Piddle and Frome they are not prominent in the landscape and both woodlands lie just to the north of the Dorset AONB. In general people using the public roads around the woods are not aware of their full extent but do see the immediate woodland fringe. The southern boundaries of Hethfelton contain an element of broadleaves that soften the visual impact of the woodland and field boundary. The harsher straight boundary at the north edge of the woodland is largely obscured from the road by trees and scrub growing adjacent to the road itself. This screen also helps to obscure the mineral workings between the road and the woodland.

Internally the woodland generally lack visual diversity of structure and consists predominantly of even aged pine but there are mixed woodlands on the better soils in the south. Open space is expanding as a result of heathland restoration. The developing areas of heathland provide important points of visual interest in the woodlands.

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

Most of the current woodland in Hethfelton dates from the 1960s and was planted over a four year period. There is a small proportion of broadleaves dating from before Forestry Commission acquisition. Today pines occupy approximately 70% of the woodland, Douglas Fir approximately 25% and broadleaves approximately 5%

Conservation (See Site Designation Map)

Hethfelton lies at the core of the Dorset Heaths Natural Area. The natural area contains a number of key habitats of which lowland heathland is the most important on a local and national scale.

Most of the Dorset heathlands are recognised as important at a European level and are designated as the Dorset Heaths SAC. The areas designated were largely coincident with existing areas designated as heathland SSSI. They are also designated under the European Birds Directive as the Dorset Heathlands SPA because of their regular use by Dartford Warbler, Nightjar, Woodlark, Hen Harrier and Merlin.

A small part of the woodland (3.8 Ha) is designated as part of Stokeford Heaths SSSI and hence SAC/SPA. These areas are existing open spaces around archaeological features or where heathland has re-established following tree removal.

To ensure appropriate liaison with Natural England over management of land within the SSSI boundary FC has produced a five year SSSI management plan. This plan will set out objectives for management to protect and enhance the interest for which it is designated and to ensure that the SSSI reaches and is maintained in favourable condition.

The woodland also contains areas of local conservation interest. These have been compiled from the knowledge of local staff and from conservation organisations such as the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Recreation

Hethfelton is not extensively used by the public for recreation and no formal facilities or waymarked paths currently exist. The main use is by local walkers and dog walkers who use the gateway splays alongside the A352 for parking and access. The gravel track and main rides provide a good network for walkers and circular routes through the woodland using this network are most heavily used. Occasionally horse riders use the woods but safe access to the woodland from neighbouring areas is limited.

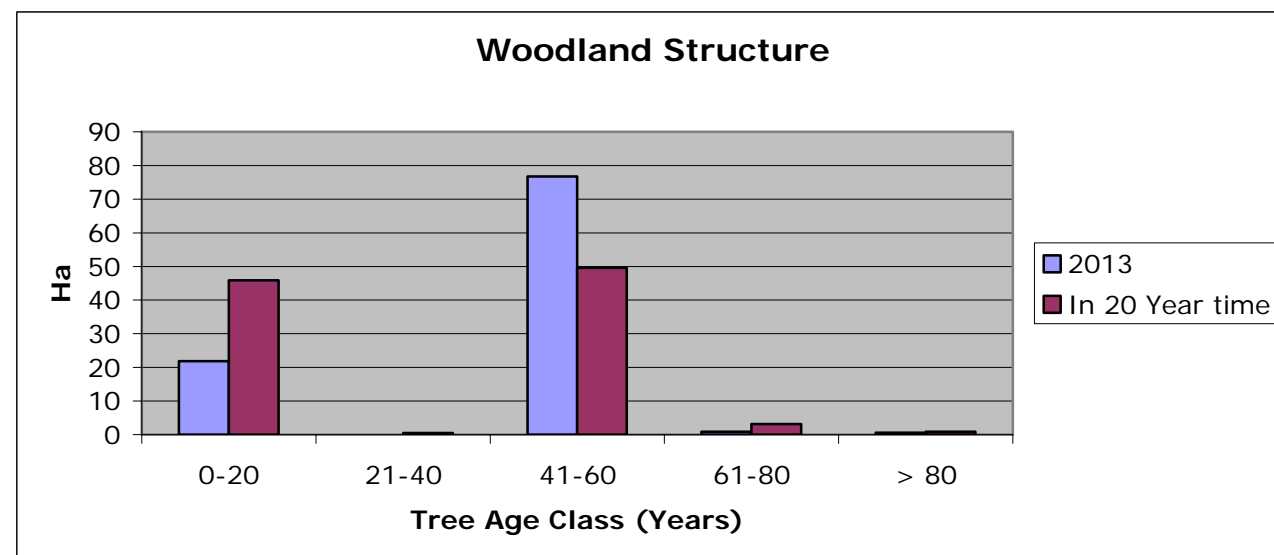
Archaeology (See Site Designation Map)

Hethfelton contains four Scheduled Ancient Monuments three of which are bowl barrows (funerary monuments) and the fourth, a linear earthwork known as Battery Bank which is part of a group of similar monuments that extend for a distance of some five km along the ridge between the rivers Piddle and Frome. The archaeological sites are all located on the south and west facing slopes above the Bakers Well valley

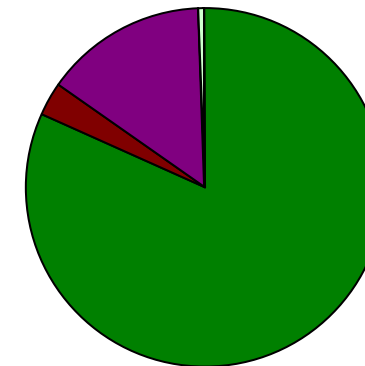
The Scheduled Monuments have current management plans approved by English Heritage and the sites will be managed in accordance with these management plans.

Habitat and Age Structure Statistics Hethfelton

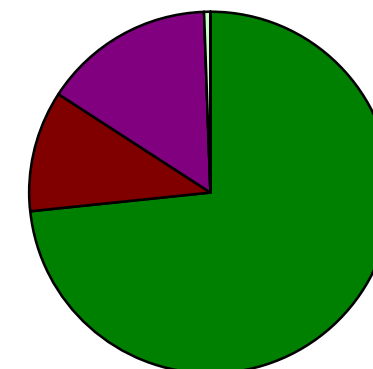
	Present Time (2013)	In 10 Years Time		In 20 Years Time	
<i>Habitat Type</i>	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Change from Present	Area (ha)	Change from Present
Predominantly Conifer Woodland	128	115	-13	101	-27
Predominantly Broadleaf Woodland	5	17	12	17	12
Heathland	23	24	1	28	5
Wooded Heath	0	0	0	10	10
Acid Grassland	1	1	0	1	0
Open Water Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Other Open Space	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Area	157	157	0	157	0



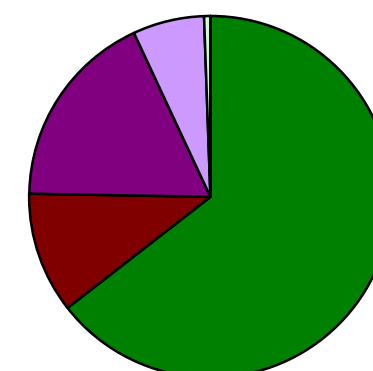
2013

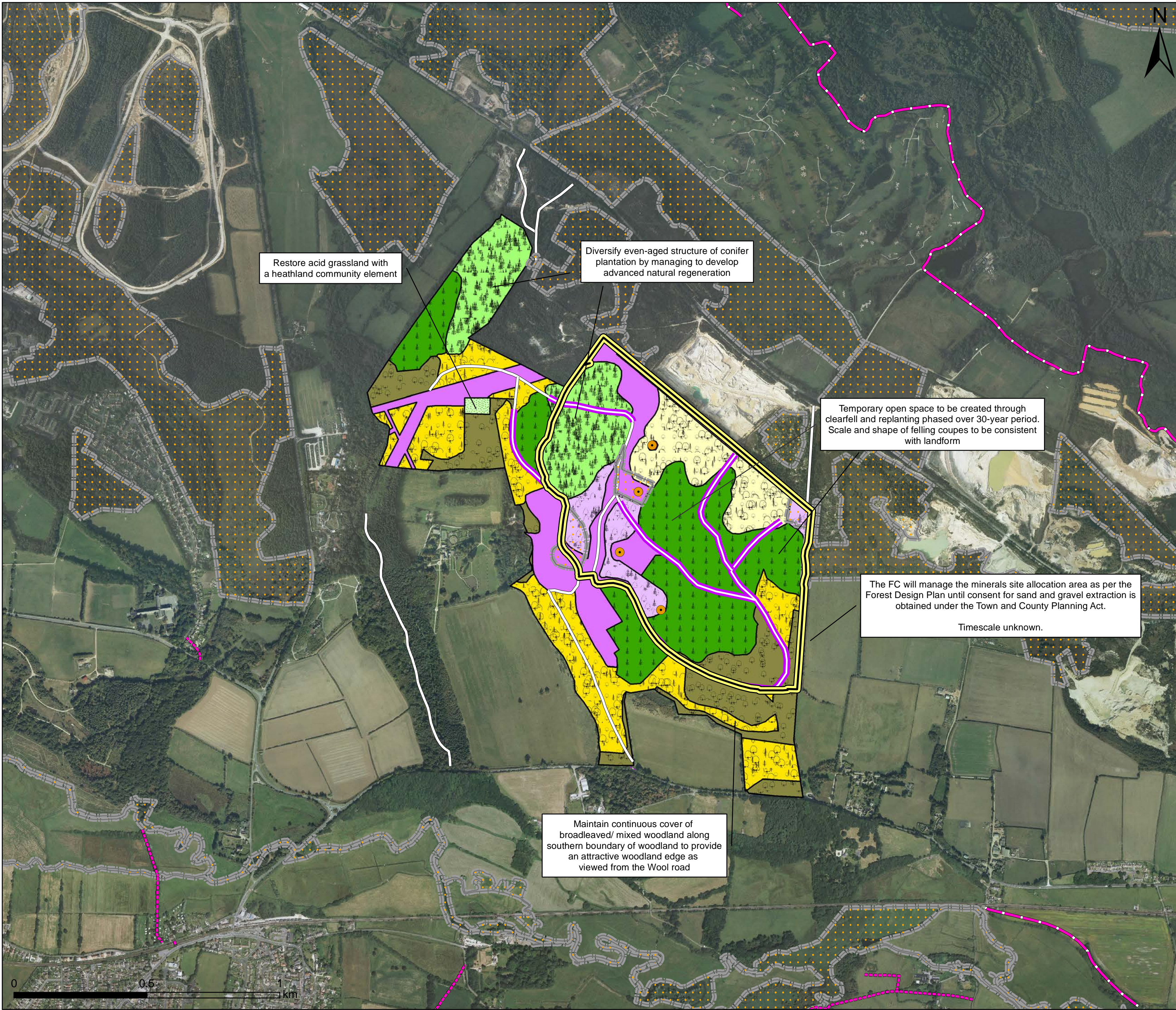


In 10 Years



In 20 Years





South Forest District NEW 104 Design Concept Hethfelton

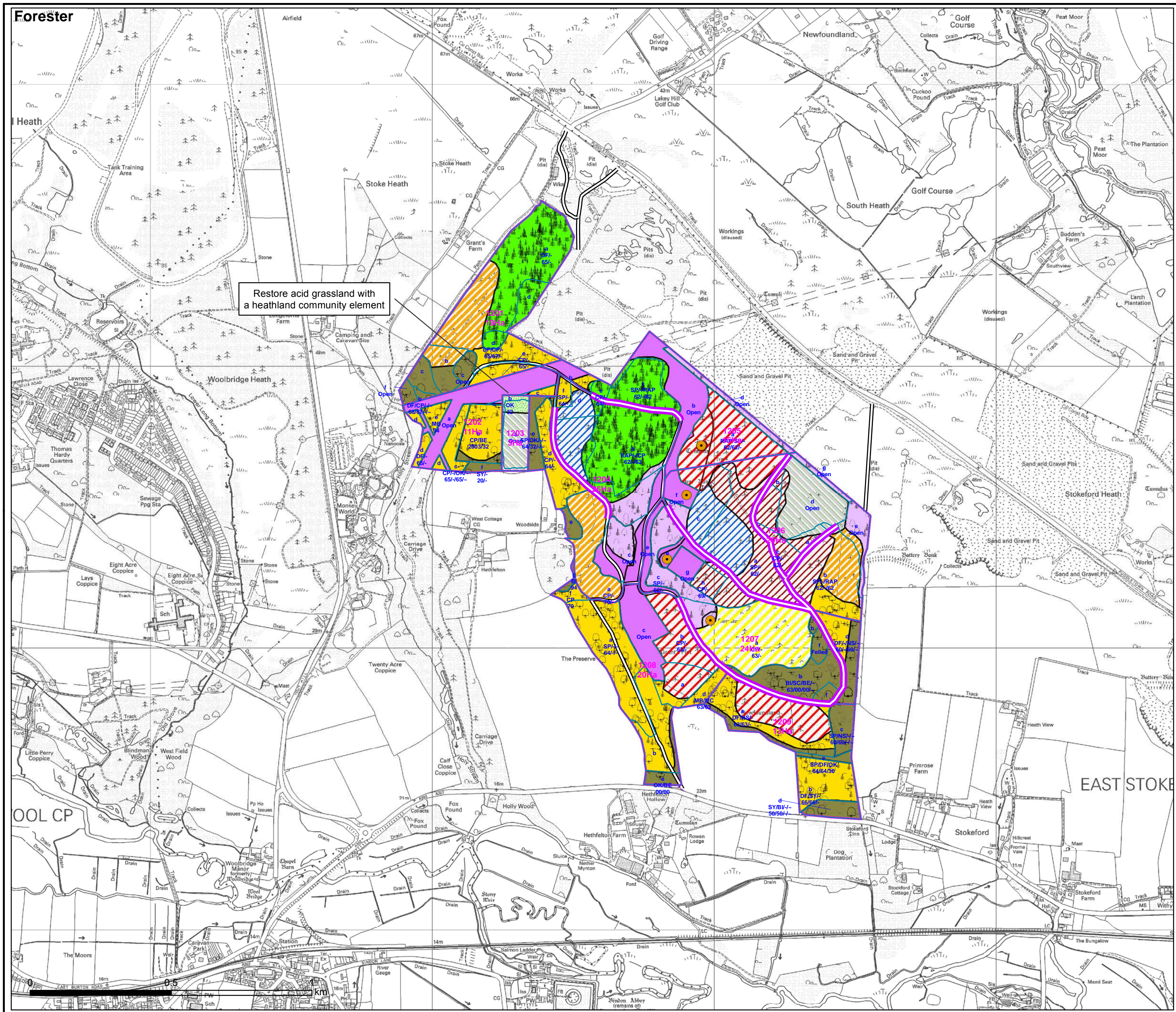
Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term



- Legend**
- Scheduled Ancient Monument managed through approved plan
 - Unscheduled Ancient Monument
 - Bridleway
 - Byway open to all traffic
 - Footpath
 - Heathland ride management
 - Forest roads
 - Potential sand and gravel site (Dorset County Council MSAD AS10)
 - 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.
 - Grassland - area maintained as open grassland

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor: Date:	Conservator: Date:
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South Forest District NEW 104

Felling and Habitat Management

Hethfelton

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-Compartment
 - Compartment
 - 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
 - Car park / buildings

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor: _____
Date: _____

Conservator: _____
Date: _____

South Forest District
NEW 104
Restocking Plan
Hethfelton



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 broadleaves
 - Replant with firs
 - Replant with pines
 - Natural regeneration of broadleaf woodland
 - Natural regeneration of mixed woodland
 - Natural regeneration of conifer woodland
 - Area left to re-colonise naturally
 - Grassland
 - Wooded heath
 - Heathland

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:



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



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Forestry Commission. 100025498. 2012

Map date: 3 May 2013

