

Plan Name: Purbeck Forest (Rempstone)

FE Plan Reference Number: **NEW 102**

FC Geographic Block No: 14

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	120				120
Restocking	0				0
Other Habitat Restoration				120	120

Total Plan Area: 563 Ha (excluding 50 hectares of conifer plantation let to Perenco)

FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals

Forest District: **South England Forest District**

Woodland / Property Name: **Purbeck Forest**

FE Reference Number: **NEW 102**

Nearest town or village: **Corfe Castle**

OS Grid Reference: **SY 995 843 (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, New Forest

Date:

Approved: Conservator

Conservancy:

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Date:

.....

5. Purbeck Forest (Rempstone) NEW 102

Location (See Location Map)

Purbeck Forest covers a total area of 612 Ha and is located to the south of Poole Harbour in the Isle of Purbeck. However, 50 ha (conifer plantation) is let to Perenco for landscape screening of the adjacent oil facility. The B3351 Corfe Castle to Studland road runs east west approximately 2 kilometres to the south of the forest and a number of small country lanes provide access to the forest in a northerly direction from this road. The Wytch Farm oil field complex lies within and adjacent to the forest. Access to the forest can also be gained from the A351 to the west of Corfe Castle where a road provides access via the Perenco oil installation gathering station. The town of Wareham is located approximately 7 kilometres to the west and Swanage is located approximately 6 kilometres to the south east.

Landscape Context

Purbeck Forest lies within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The forest gently slopes south to north from about 40 metres above sea level to 10 metres above sea level at the northern boundary. External views of the forest are seen from the B3351 to the south of the forest. These relatively long views mean that the felling can be planned at a bold scale and felling coupes have been designed to complement and fit the large scale context of the forest. Consideration has been taken of the need to screen the Perenco Wytch Farm complex although the forest adjacent to the well heads and gathering station are managed by Perenco for screening objectives.

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

The previous Forest Design Plans have begun a process of age class diversification through felling and replanting. The larger proportion of younger trees (<20 years old) reflects replanting as crops from the initial establishment of the forest have reached economic maturity. But the older trees are still relatively even aged, dominated by woodland of between about 40 to 60 years old.

The woodland is dominated on the podsollic soils by Corsican Pine which occupies 96% of the wooded area. Other pine species make up most of the remainder although some broadleaves are present on the wetter lower lying areas and birch is present throughout the forest where it has naturally regenerated amongst the pine.

Open space has been created throughout the forest as a result of ride widening undertaken during previous thinning operations and through the creation of a series of linear fellings which were undertaken to define the irregular boundaries of felling coupes designed as part of the previous Forest Design Plan. In 2012, 101 ha of clear fell sites from the 2003 FDP remained un-restocked due to political pressure.

The Government Open Habitats Policy and the subsequent Forest Enterprise England Open Habitats implementation plan highlight Dorset as the single National Priority Area where an extensive and ambitious programme of open habitat restoration from former woodland and forestry will take place to create a resilient and sustainable landscape of open heath, mires, pools and patches of scrub, woodland and forestry” From a South England Forest District perspective, the Purbeck FDP woodlands, and in particular Rempstone, are viewed as the area where the greatest additional commitment to heathland restoration can realistically be focused.

The current proposals aim to restore open habitats across a large proportion of the site, aiming towards a 70/30% heathland/woodland split over the next thirty years. The remaining woodland will be concentrated to the south of the site and will be converted to continuous cover which will naturally continue the process of age and species diversification. Some areas of Wooded Heath are proposed where trees will be retained until they reach physical maturity. This will significantly increase the proportion of trees beyond 60 years of age.

Conservation (See Site Designation Map)

Most of Rempstone Heaths SSSI is located within Purbeck Forest and parts of the SSSI are to be found in the Wytch Heath, Rempstone Heath and Newton Heath forest blocks. Godlingstone Heath SSSI is located adjacent to the forest boundary to the south east. Thrashers Heath and Brenscombe Heath SSSI are located to the south of the forest and Hartland Moor NNR is located approximately 1.5 kilometres to the west. All these SSSI sites form part of the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservations (SAC). The heathland restoration proposals aim to restore large scale landscape connectivity between designed sites.

Purbeck Forest contains further localised sites of nature conservation interest. These have been developed by local staff and conservation organisations such as Dorset Wildlife Trust and Herpetological Conservation Trust. These include a number of forest rides designated by DWT as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI).

Recreation

There are no agreements with the lessor regarding provision for informal public access in Purbeck Forest and therefore public access is limited to the network of bridleways and public footpaths which cross the forest. These rights of way are well used however and informal parking in gateways occurs throughout the forest block.

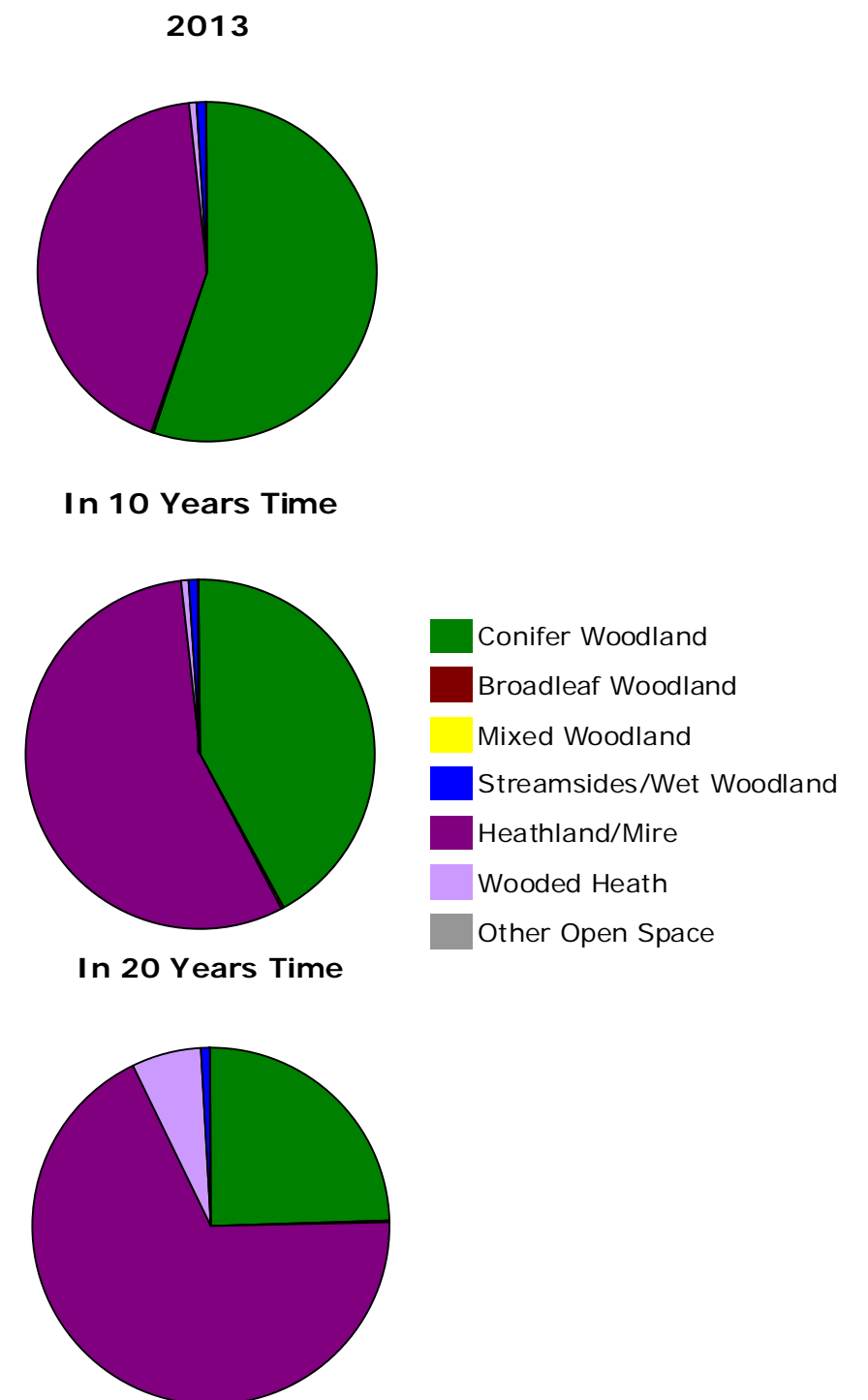
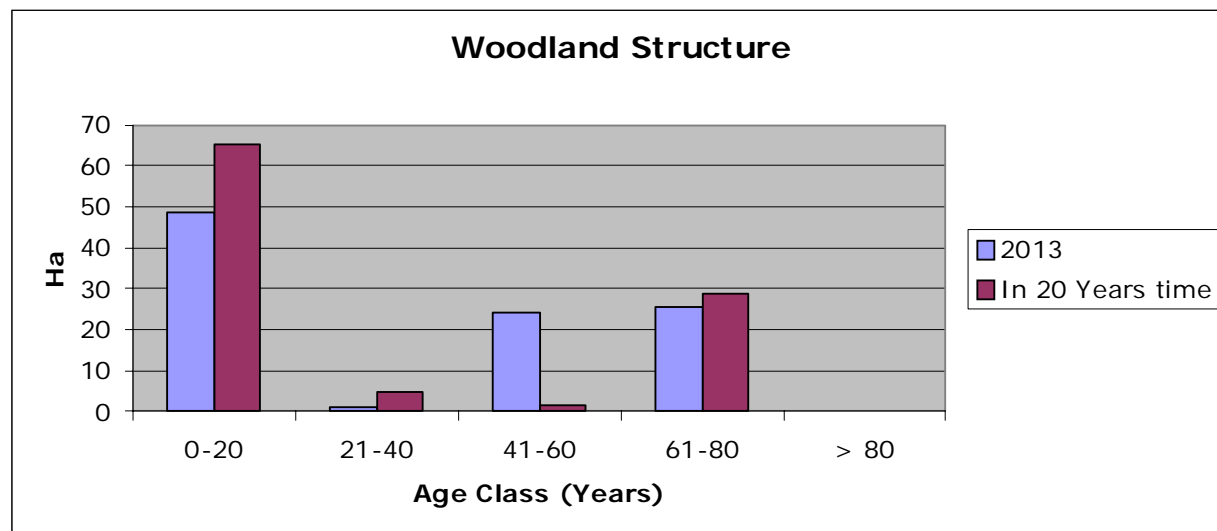
Archaeology (See Site Designation Map)

There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument in Purbeck Forest, a linear earthwork (Newton Gulley) associated with China Clay production. There are two recorded unscheduled ancient monuments comprising barrows (funerary monuments). An earthwork thought to be a form of ancient enclosure has recently been discovered to the south of Newton Gulley.

The Scheduled Ancient Monument has a current management plan approved by English Heritage. All other unscheduled archaeological features will be afforded protection in accordance with the Forestry and Archaeology guidelines.

Habitat & Age Structure Statistics
Purbeck (Rempstone)

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	310	236	-74	138	-172
Predominantly Broadleaf Woodland	1	1	0	1	0
Heathland	242	316	74	384	142
Wooded Heath	5	5	0	35	30
Streamsides/Wet Woodland	5	5	0	5	0
Open Water Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Other Open Space	0	0	0	0	0
Total Land Area	563	563	0	563	0



South Forest District NEW 102 Design Concept

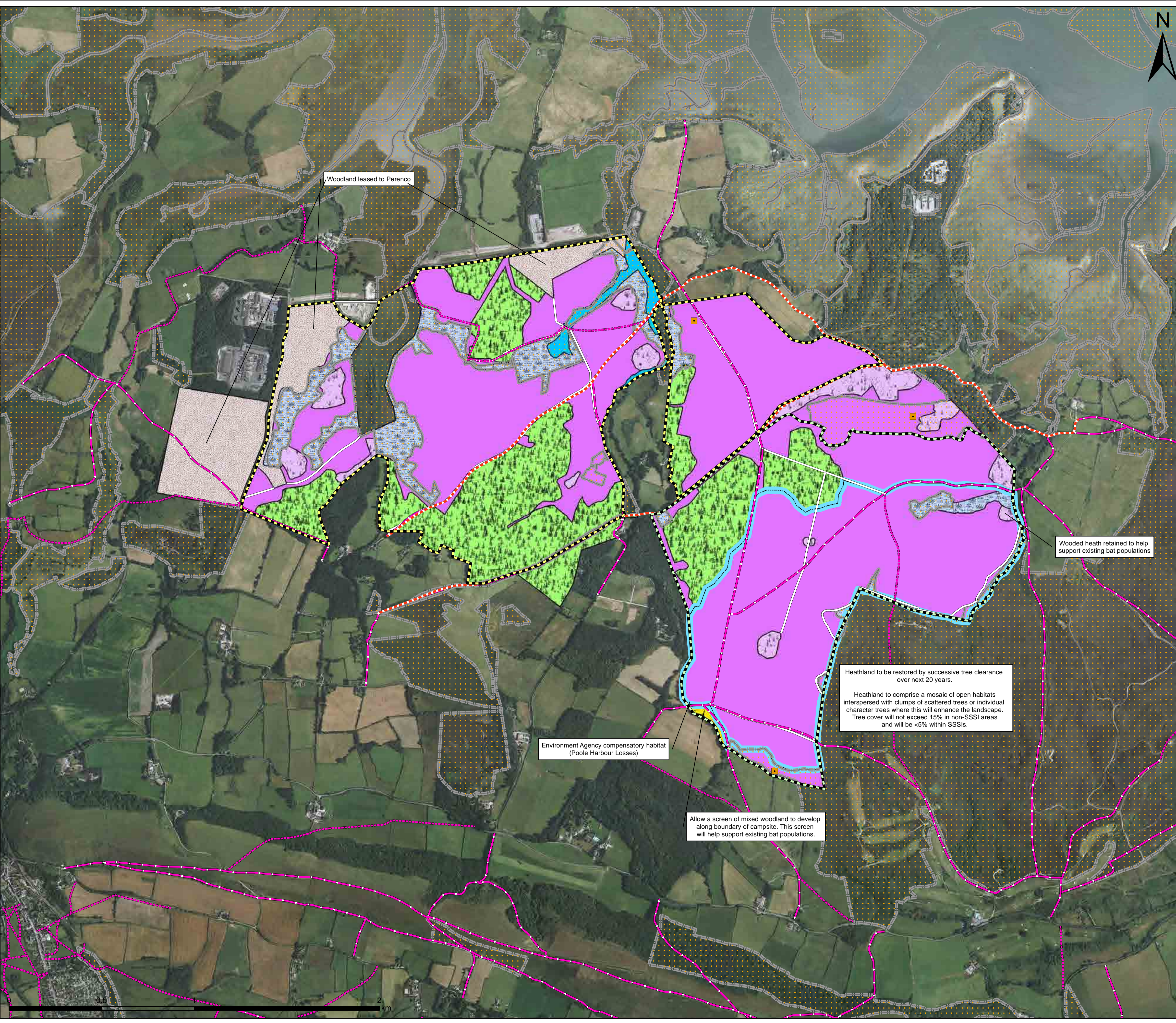


Purbeck Forest

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
- Cycle route
- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Footpath
- Forest roads
- Proposed grazing unit
- Grazing unit
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Environment Agency compensatory habitat (Poole Harbour Losses)
- 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.
- Let to Perenco



Woodland leased to Perenco

Wooded heath retained to help support existing bat populations

Heathland to be restored by successive tree clearance over next 20 years.
Heathland to comprise a mosaic of open habitats interspersed with clumps of scattered trees or individual character trees where this will enhance the landscape. Tree cover will not exceed 15% in non-SSSI areas and will be <5% within SSSIs.

Environment Agency compensatory habitat (Poole Harbour Losses)

Allow a screen of mixed woodland to develop along boundary of campsite. This screen will help support existing bat populations.

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:
Date:

Conservator:
Date:

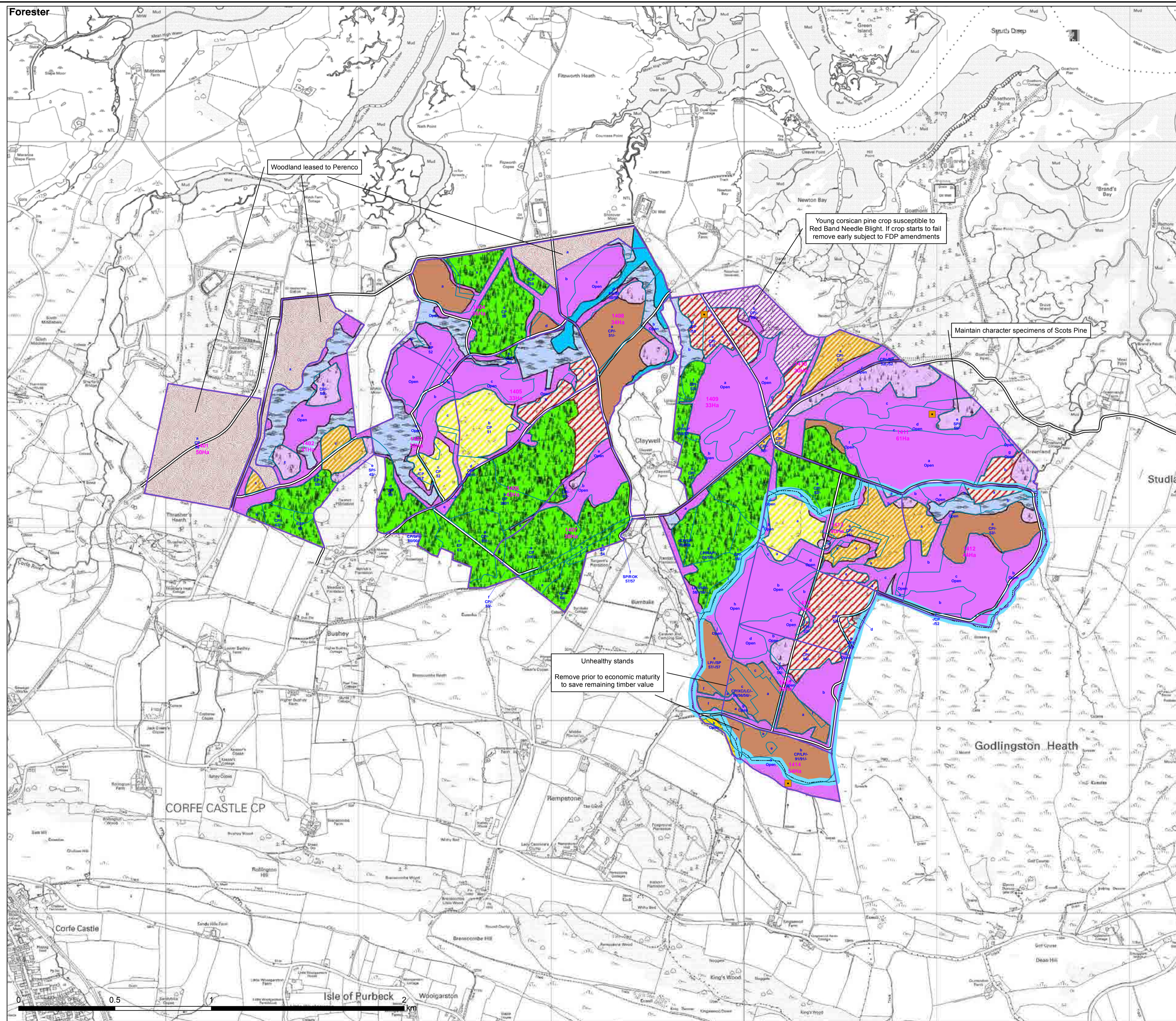


Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



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Map date: 2 May 2013



South Forest District NEW 102



Felling and Habitat Management

Purbeck Forest

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
- Environment Agency compensatory habitat (Poole Harbour Losses)
- 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:

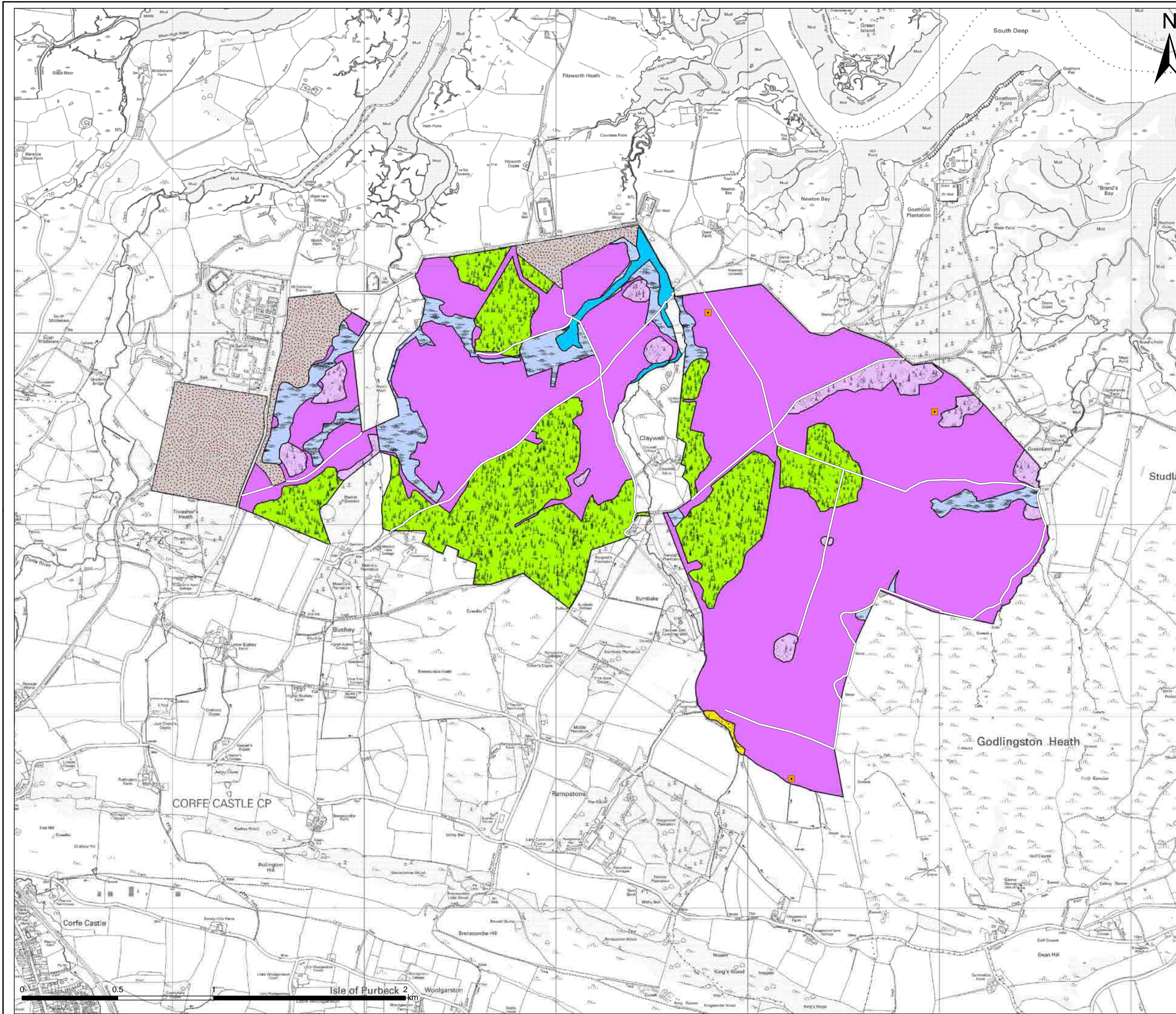


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**South Forest District
NEW 102
Restocking Plan
Purbeck Forest**



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
- Natural regeneration of mixed woodland
- Natural regeneration of conifer woodland
- Mire
- Wooded heath
- Heathland
- Streamside restoration
- Managed by Perenco

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: _____ Conservator: _____
Date: _____ Date: _____