

Surrey Hills Forest Design Plan

2011 — 2041

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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 (2011 - 2021) and outline approval for the medium term vision (2021 - 2041). The plan will be reviewed after the first five years (2016) 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 in-

clude 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 (FDP) covers part of the Forestry Commission woodlands in the Surrey Hills, (Effingham Forest, Ranmore and Highridge Wood) which amount to 256 hectares. It sets out our management proposals for the next thirty years. A further 392 hectares comprising the woods of Buryhill and Redlands currently have an FDP. These will be revised in due course to bring our forest plans for the Surrey Hills AONB up to date with policy.

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

1.1 A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests

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 Surrey Hills 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 Surrey Hills straddle two strategic zones - Downland, and Greensands and Gravels.

- 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.
- Maximise conifer production and financial return on all sites capable of achieving at least yield class 10.
- Encourage Annex 1 bird species by diversifying woodland age structure and creating a succession of open space.
- Maintain existing open heath and support heathland restoration on less productive sites.

- Retain heathland flora along key rides.

Several of these priorities have been overtaken by policy changes. With the exception of Highridge Wood, the majority of the Surrey Hills 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 quality 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 2011/12.

Two additional priorities can 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.

1.3 The Surrey Hills AONB

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

"The Vision (for 2030) for the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for all local partners to embrace and work towards is:

- [Ancient woodlands](#) and other woodlands of high environmental quality are sustainably managed and linked in ways that protect and enhance the landscape, ecological, archaeological and recreational value of the wider Surrey Hills landscape.
- [The biodiversity](#) of the Surrey Hills is enhanced through the management of important habitats and their extension in the wider landscape.
- [The historic and cultural heritage](#) that defines the distinctive sense of place within the Surrey Hills is recorded, protected, managed and celebrated.
- [Local visitors and tourists](#) enjoy and cherish the Surrey Hills as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for its own intrinsic qualities and in ways that contribute to

3. Introduction

the economy of the area, without having a significant adverse impact on local communities and the quality of the environment.

The Surrey Hills is an [attractive, affordable](#) and sustainable place to live, work and enjoy for all members of the local community.”

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.



Crossways, High Ridge Wood

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4. Design Brief

Effingham Forest (East Horsley) is a complex of three freehold woodlands; Dick Focks, Oldlands and Mountain Wood amounting to 145 hectares. It consists of a mixture of conifer (principally Douglas Fir) and broadleaved (principally Beech) species. The key features of these woodlands are the Lovelace Bridges, the woods’ designation as Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), invasive non-native regeneration (Sycamore), one small geological SSSI and some small areas of Yew.

Ranmore is a small freehold woodland of 71 hectares, mixed in character with some larger stands of Beech and other hardwoods. The northern half of the wood is PAWS and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. It lies on an escarpment with excellent views to the north. It contains one small SSSI.

Highridge Wood is a small, outlying woodland of 39 hectares to the east of Dorking. Its key features are a wide variety of species (principally conifer), heavy clay soils and an abundance of public rights of way.

Land and Natural Environment

- Areas of this woodland complex are PAWS. The plans should maintain and where appropriate enhance the remnant features of interest, with the most shade casting conifers targeted for early removal.
- There are two small SSSIs in this FDP area. Plans should take account of their management requirements.
- The Lovelace Bridges are a significant cultural resource. Where appropriate, woodland design should support the aspirations of the Project.
- Open rides and road habitats need to be maintained and where possible expanded to provide a variety of edge habitats.
- There are several areas of neglected coppice within Highridge Wood that may be suitable for re-working.

Communities and Places

- The woodlands are close to Dorking and Leatherhead as well as several local villages. The woodlands should provide an attractive backdrop to the lives of local people.

- All the woods are well used for recreation, both by local people and more travelled visitors. Ranmore in particular borders National Trust ground and the wood is bisected by the North Downs way. Design should maintain and where possible improve the attractiveness of the woodlands for visitors.
- Highridge Wood is prone to anti-social behaviour, notably fly-tipping and car dumping. Design cannot prevent this but active management and continued legitimate public use should reduce this activity.

Working Woodlands

- Design and management of the woods, which are in places exposed and on clay soils, should aim to minimise the risk of windblow, particularly in Dick Focks Wood.
- These are mainly small woods and difficult to manage economically. Opportunities should be maximised to develop the quality of the hardwoods where appropriate and to maintain an economic cycle of conifers on non-ancient woodland sites.
- 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 next three sections describe the Surrey Hills 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

Fourteen letters were sent to Statutory consultees, Non Governmental Organisations, user groups, neighbours and known interested parties in March 2009, 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.

Eleven responses were received and seven received a substantive reply. Comments mainly focused on immediate management issues but some took a longer term view of the woods as a valuable resource for the next generation. Views were received on archaeology, especially support for the Lovelace Bridges, misuse of the woods by motor vehicles and fly tipping, signage/access/path surfacing issues, education opportunities and various suggestions on tree management and operational timing.

On completion of the draft, it was uploaded to the FC website and a final opportunity to comment was offered before final amendments and then signing off by the Forestry Commission’s regulatory officer.

Three further responses were received. NE clarified the status of an SSSI. Surrey Archaeology service queried the level of detail and an explanation was sent. Effingham Parish Council sent a supportive note.



A footpath through Ranmore

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6. Land and Natural Environment



6. Land and Natural Environment

6.1 Location and Ownership

The Surrey Hills woods are freehold woodland located close to Dorking - see map opposite.

6.2 Site Characteristics

Effingham Forest and Ranmore sit at an altitude of approx 150 metres, with Highridge Wood being considerably lower at approx 50 metres. They sit on the general North Downs escarpment with an overall south facing aspect. However, the separating valley between Dick Focks and Mountain Wood (and their lower slopes) has a more enclosed East-West aspect that receives less sunlight.

The surrounding landscape has typical lower Surrey character with a preponderance of broadleaved woodland interspersed with housing (generally individual residences rather than estate) with a very gentle rolling aspect. Most of the land use, previously agriculture, has slowly converted to residential use as a transition to affluent commuter belt. That said the area immediately surrounding Highridge Wood is mostly agricultural with a more open, extended feel. The area around Ranmore has open National Trust land to its southern boundary but woodland to its northern edge. Overall the FC woodlands do not stand out in an external landscape context because of the abundance of woodlands locally, however internal views within the wood are more important as scale decreases and slopes become more visible.

Soils are located on a junction of several materials. The Mountain Wood area is the far east tip of the Netley Heath Beds, namely sand and gravel with some lower Greensand material. Further to the East of this area (Dick Focks Common and Oldlands) is a more Clay with Flints mixture, variably sandy and pebbly clay with nodular flints. Further to the east at Highridge Wood the soils become predominately heavy clay. Soils are of average fertility for forestry.

The average annual rainfall is nationally low at 650mm a year.



View eastwards from White Downs, across the bay of Pickett's Hole, towards Ranmore. The North Downs scarp slope, with its large grassy areas, is evident, as is the abundant deciduous woodland.

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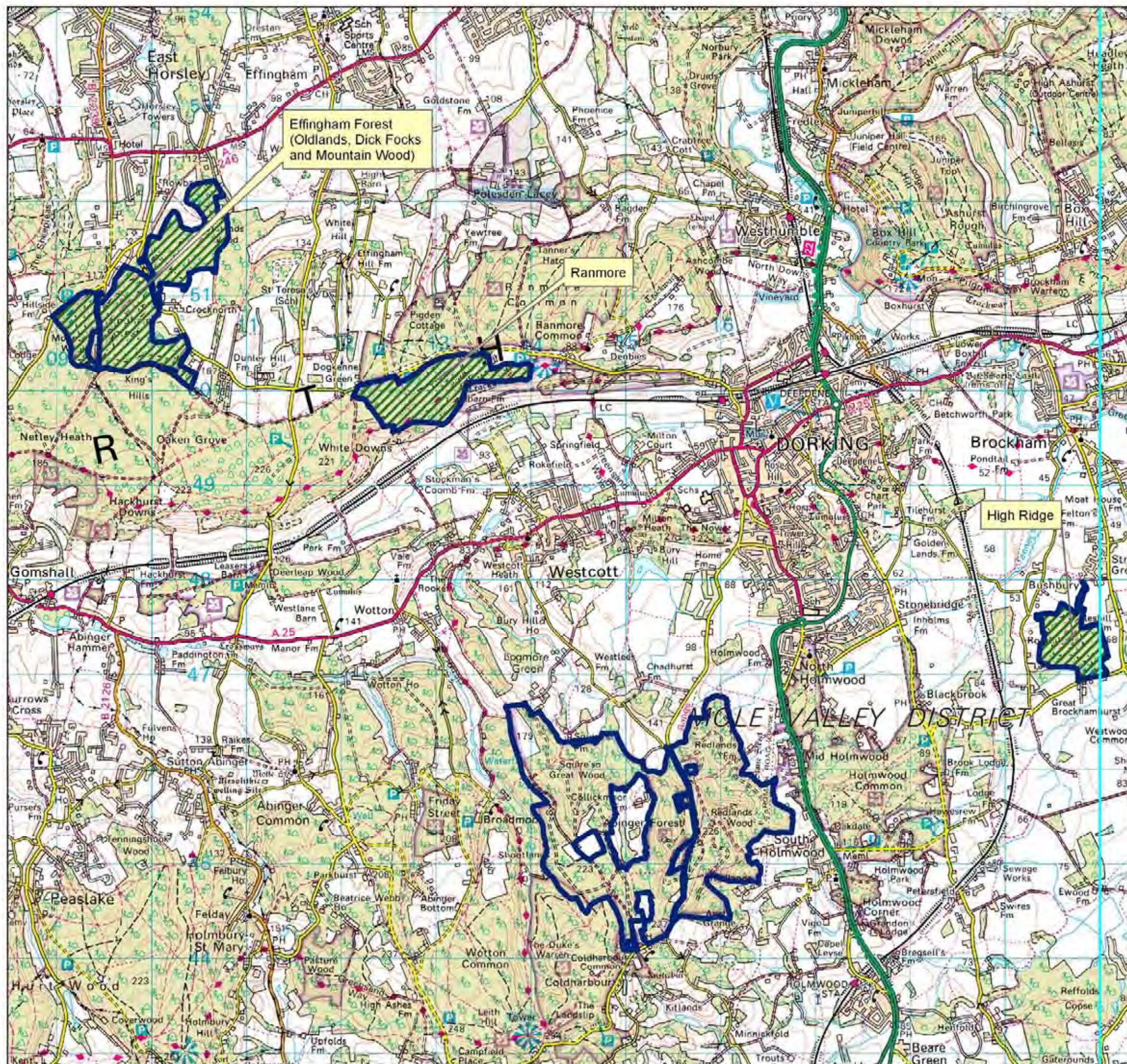
Forestry Commission
England

South East England

Surrey Hills
Forest Design Plan

Location Map

-  Surrey Hills
FC Woodlands
-  Woods in this Plan



Produced by the Planning Team January 2011

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6. Land and Natural Environment

6.3 Conserving Biodiversity

6.3.1 Existing Habitats

Ancient Woodland

Areas of the Surrey Hills are classed as ancient woodland (see map opposite), of which approximately 14 hectares is ASNW and 136 hectares is PAWS. Highridge Wood is not an ancient woodland site.

The ancient woodland areas in Effingham forest are all classed as PAWS. There is little evidence that remnant features remain - deadwood and veterans are largely absent and there is only one significant boundary bank on the south side of Mountain Wood. Half the wood is conifer and over 20% is plantation beech which casts a heavy shade. Similarly, Ranmore contains mostly PAWS with a small area of oak dominated ASNW to the east. This wood shows more signs of re-asserting native species with only 25% being conifer. Remnant ground and shrub vegetation is evaluated in the Operational Site Assessment, which allows for targeted management where appropriate.

NVC

A range of NVC types are represented across the woodlands (see map overleaf) which reflects the diversity of soil types and topography within the Surrey Hills. These maps were created from the Ancient Woodland survey of 1999/2000 and do not match the broad woodland habitat data held on Natural England’s site. However, the survey was hampered by the lack of distinguishing vegetation in some compartments. It is fair to say that the woods support a range of vegetation types.

Rides and power line corridors

These are generally limited in extent in these largely conifer woods with few wide rides.

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

Deadwood is not a feature of these woodland blocks, except where older stands of trees

are found, for example in parts of Ranmore. This reflects past management to establish and maintain the woodlands as a largely productive conifer resource.

Open space

There is very little open space adjacent to rides in these woods, giving an enclosed feel for the visitor. However, overall 10% is open within stands, where felling has taken place and including the scout camp. This will increase as more modern approaches to ride management during forest operations take place.

6.3.2 Protected Sites

Effingham Forest and Ranmore are bounded by three SSSIs (see later section). To the west is Sheepleas SSSI, to the east is Ranmore Common and to the south is Hackhurst and White Downs. A small geological SSSI (0.31ha) in Mountain Wood is part of Sheepleas. This is in favourable condition. Only a small area of Hackhurst and White Downs, 2.6 hectares, which comprises a mixture of beech and yew woodland with a disused chalk pit is found on the SE edge of Ranmore. This site on a steep bank is classed as in unfavourable recovering condition. Management prescriptions are adjacent to the citations which follow in a later section.

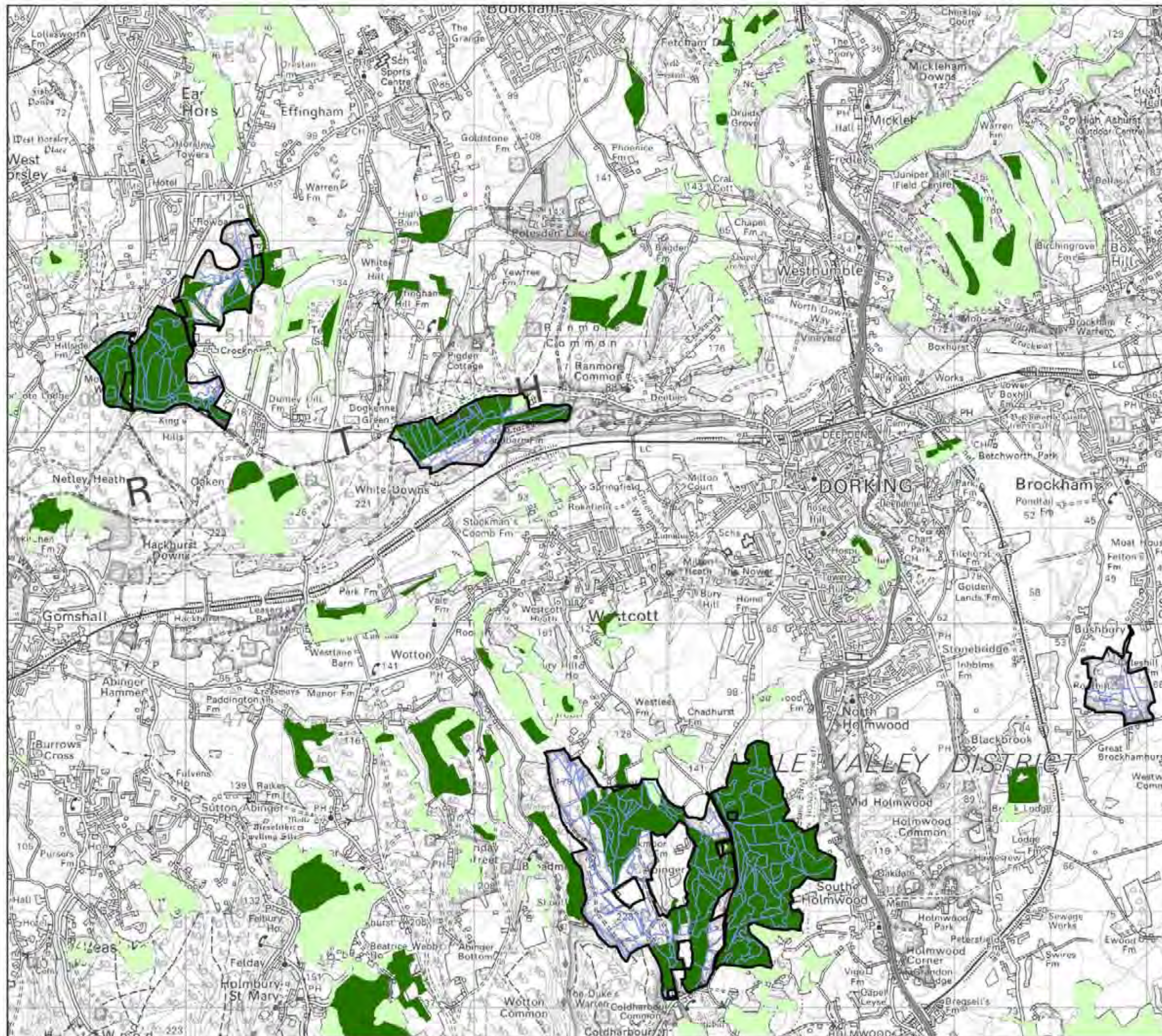
6.3.3 Priority Habitats

Key UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats in the Surrey Hills

UK BAP Priority Habitats	Comments
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Present over most of the woodland, mainly as intruded regeneration or as understorey/scrub.
Lowland Beech and Yew woodland	Mapped in Mountain wood, but yew more widespread in these woods.

6.3.4 Priority Species Tables

These show where our management activities can benefit priority species. 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

Surrey Hills
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 2011

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Forestry Commission
England

South East England

Surrey Hills
Forest Design Plan

NVC

-  W8 Ash-field maple-dogs mercury woodland
-  W10 Pedunculate oak-bracken-bramble woodland
-  W12 Beech, dog's mercury woodland
-  W13 Yew woodland
-  W14 Beech, wild raspberry woodland
-  W16 Oak species-birch species-wavy hair grass

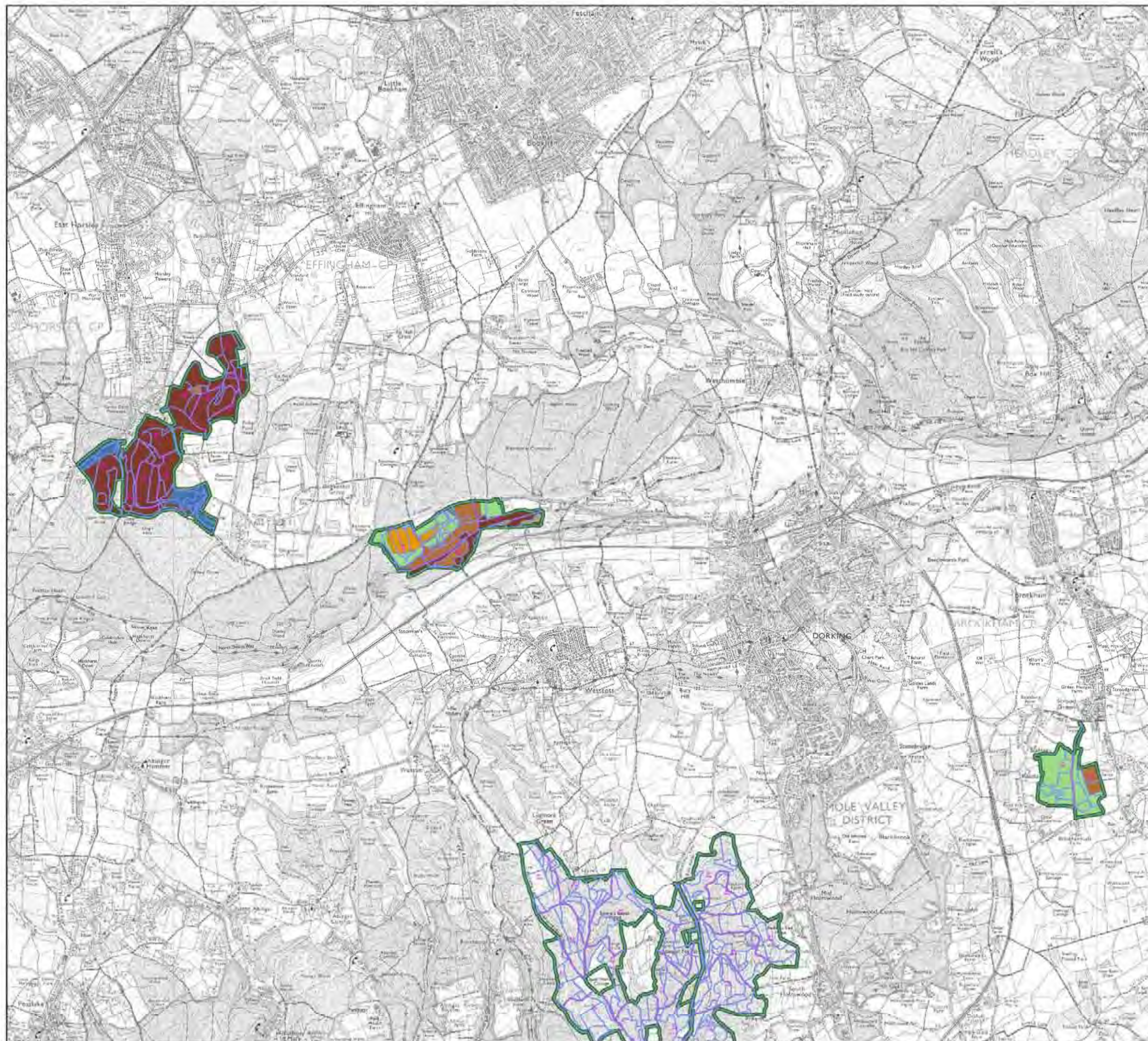
-  Management Area
-  Compartments
-  Sub-compartments

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6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species - Ranmore, East Horsley & Highridge Wood	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat along-side roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the dead-wood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Adder	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.
Adders tongue				✓					A grassland species benefiting from woodland edge and internal corridor management on the FCE estate
Barn owl	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	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.
Bee orchid	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			Responds well to cyclical vegetation management on the woodland edge and on open chalk grassland.
Bird's nest orchid	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			An orchid associated with woodland on calcareous soils
Brown long-eared bat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A tree roosting bat. Retention of older trees and zoning of minimum intervention stands will boost its numbers.
Bullfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	A wider countryside species likely to benefit from open habitat creation and enhancements to the woodland edge
Bumblebees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A variety of declining bumblebee species utilise the road and ride edge corridors for landscape scale dispersal.
Common buzzard			✓	✓					A recovering apex predator and flagship species in the Surrey Hills
Common frog	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Predominantly terrestrial in its lifecycle. Favours structuarally diverse semi-natural habitats with well connected breeding sites and plenty of deadwood.
Common lizard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.
Common toad	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Associated with aquatic habitats for breeding season but a mobile speacies in the wider landscape both prior to and after the breeding season.
Crossbill		✓							Overwintering on the FC estate feeding on conifer seeds and requiring a nearby source of water
Dingy skipper butterfly				✓					Internal corridor enhancement and buffering of the woodand edge to promote an ecotonal transition
Dormouse	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Ancient and 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	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			Extinct in Surrey but the Ranmore environs could form a key site for the reintroduction of this species to the County
European Hedgehog	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The enhancement of structural diversity and a softer transition between habitat types will improve conditions for this species.
Firecrest	✓								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.

6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species Ranmore, East Horsley & High-ridge Wood	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat along-side roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the dead-wood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Glow worm	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Road and ride edges, powerline wayleaves and the woodland edge
Goshawk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	An apex predator slowly reestablishing itself in the Surrey Hills
Grizzled skipper	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			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.
Ground pine									A nationally scarce Plantlife "Back from the Brink" species requiring periodic disturbance
Harvest mouse	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			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 the Surrey Hills.
Hawfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Associated with mature deciduous forest containing a scrub element.
Hobby			✓	✓				✓	Benefits from open space enhancement and the management of water bodies.
Juniper	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			13 species of invertebrate associated only with juniper in the Ranmore environs. Restoration thinning will promote juniper growth in glades, at the ride edge and on the woodland margin.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		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	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	An edge specialist able to benefit from scrub expansion associated with ancient and native woodland restoration and natural regeneration.
Marbled white butterfly									Will benefit from the enhancement of woodland roads and rides - feeds on marjoram.
Nightingale	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Nightingale will benefit from cyclical open space as provided by ongoing forest management practice.
Nightjar		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	A UK BAP priority species primarily associated with lowland heathland but cyclical forestry and clearfell will provide useful habitat for this species during ancient and native woodland restoration.
Noctule bat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Largely associated with deciduous woodland.
Pipistrelle bat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Creation of additional open space will improve foraging habitat and older tree retention will provide an increase in summer roosts.
Peregrine									A landscape scale breeder hunting over our blocks.
Polecat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A recovering species in the South East. A return to the Surrey Hills will assist in regulating rabbit and rodent populations of benefit to ancient and native woodland restoration
Red Kite	✓	✓	✓		✓				A species returning to the South East, likely to nest in the Surrey Hills in coming decades.

6. Land and Natural Environment

UK BAP Priority Species - Ranmore, East Horsley & Highridge Wood	Management Activity								Comments
	Restoration of ancient woodland to native species	Thinning of conifer woodland	Clearfelling of conifer woodland	Enhancement of open and edge habitat along-side roads and tracks	Minimum intervention management of woodland	Coppicing of broadleaf species	Enhancement of the deadwood resource	Enhancement and creation of stream corridors & ponds	
Redstart									A woodland edge species requiring older trees to nest in
Roman snail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		A Surrey Hills flagship species - enhancements to the woodland edge and internal corridors will help safeguard this species
Silver washed fritillary	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Breeds in broad-leaved woodland, especially oak woodland or woods with sunny rides and glades. Common dog-violet is the main foodplant.
Slow worm	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species.
Song thrush	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	Structural enhancements and open space provision will improve conditions for this species whose decline has been more marked in rural areas than the urban and suburban environment
Spotted flycatcher	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Requires mature deciduous woodland where there is a combination of nest sites and open structure, especially rides and glades. Major influences on population beyond Forestry Commission control, most notably habitat change in its overwintering habitat and persecution on their migratory routes
Stag beetle	✓	✓			✓		✓		An old-growth associate that will benefit from ancient woodland restoration and the increasing availability of dead and decaying wood
Turtle dove	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			Woodland edge, scrub and tall hedges used for nesting and field margins and semi-natural grassland used for feeding. Closed canopy mature woodland is usually avoided except where there is a well developed ride edge habitat.
White admiral butterfly	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		Able to cope with more shaded conditions but not complete neglect. Honeysuckle a main associate for this species.
White helleborine									A species of calcareous woodland
Whitethroat	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			Use tall, dense hedgerows, thickets and scrub patches usually with thorns, including scrub colonising glades and regenerating coppice.
Woodcock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	A damp woodland species requiring a well developed shrub layer. Not a UK BAP priority but a flagship species for damp woods and pasture.
NB: Bold text denotes a "Forest Focal Species" (FFS)									

6. Land and Natural Environment

6.3.5 Hackhurst and White Downs SSSI

COUNTY: SURREY SITE NAME: HACKHURST AND WHITE DOWNS

BOROUGH/DISTRICT: GUILDFORD/MOLE VALLEY

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Part of the site is a local Nature Reserve managed by Surrey County Council.

Local Planning Authority: GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, Mole Valley District Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 097487, TQ 124495 Area: 185.0 (ha.) 457.1 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 187 1:10,000: TQ 04 NE, TQ 14 NW, TQ 15 SW, TQ 15 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1955 Date of Last Revision: 1975
(as three separate sites)

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision:

Other Information:
This site is in “A Nature Conservation Review”,* and is managed in part by the National Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

The Hackhurst and White Downs site includes part of the North Downs escarpment west of Dorking. Most of the site is on the steeply sloping Upper and Middle chalk but some small areas overlying the Netley Heath Beds of the Clay-with-Flints plateau are included.

The chalk slopes are mostly south-facing and they are covered by a mosaic of grassland, scrub and secondary woodland habitats.

Variations in grazing pressure have created a graduation of grassland types from areas dominated by upright brome *Bromus erectus* and tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* to areas of close-cropped sheep’s fescue *Festuca ovina*. Typical chalk grassland herbs, such as squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*, yellow wort *Blackstonia perfoliata*, felwort *Gentianella amarella*, bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* are well represented. Rarer species include horse-shoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, autumn lady’s tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, fly orchid *Ophrys insectifera*, and the nationally uncommon burnt *Orchis ustulata*, and man *Aceras anthropophorum* orchids.

Stands of scrub are variable both in density and composition and most of the southern calcareous types are well represented. Common species include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, silver birch *Betula pendula*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, yew *Taxus baccata* and spindle *Euony-*

mus europaeus. Hackhurst Down supports the only sizeable population of juniper *Juniperis communis* remaining on the North Downs which supports thirteen invertebrates reliant on this species. There are also some small areas on the Netley Heath Beds where gorse *Ulex europaeus* dominates the scrub.

The woodland stands on the chalk escarpment range from young ash *Fraxinus excelsior* to mature beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland. Yew is common within these stands and whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, field maple *Acer campestre*, traveller’s-joy *Clematis vitalba* and wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* are also widespread. Where the canopy is fairly open a rich ground flora of dog’s mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, ivy *Hedera helix*, false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, lords and ladies *Arum maculatum* and violets *Viola* spp. can be found. Less common woodland species include white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*, bird’s nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, yellow bird’s-nest *Montropa hypopitys* and greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*. Woodland on the Netley Heath Beds is dominated by pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash, over a shrub layer of hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice and a ground flora of bluebells *Hyacinthoides nonscripta*, brambles *Rubus fruticosus* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

The invertebrate fauna of the chalk escarpment is extremely rich; forty species of butterfly have been recorded and there are good colonies of locally uncommon species such as adonis blue *Lysandra bellargus*, chalkhill blue *L. coridon*, brown hairstreak *Thecla betulae*, Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina*, marbled white *Melanargia galathea* and silver-spotted skipper *Hesperia comma*. Other notable invertebrates include the juniper-specific bug *Cyphostethus tristriatus*, the rare flies *Gymnosoma rotundatum* and *Microdon devius*, four rare beetles (Coleoptera) and *Centromerus albidus*, a spider known from only two other locations in Britain.

* ‘A Nature Conservation Review’, D A Ratcliffe (1977), Cambridge.

Management Prescriptions

Priorities for the delivery and maintenance of conservation interest at this site are as follows:

- Thinning of beech woodland to promote the natural regeneration of site native species and provide opportunities for yew woodland expansion
- Retention of veteran trees to benefit woodland birds, bats, lichens, fungi and invertebrates associated with old-growth habitat
- Maintenance of a scattered resource of standing and fallen deadwood
- Promotion of chalk scrub within internal gaps and at the woodland margins to benefit invertebrates, bats, ground flora and woodland birds
- Scrub removal and light ground disturbance in the environs of the Ground pine clusters as a means of sustaining a robust population of this priority plant species associated with disturbed conditions on calcareous soils

6. Land and Natural Environment

6.3.6 Sheepleas SSSI

COUNTY: SURREY SITE NAME: SHEEPLEAS

BOROUGH: GUILDFORD

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TQ 090515 Area: 98.3 (ha.) 242.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 187 1:10,000: TQ 05 SE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1975 Date of Last Revision: ₤

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: ₤

Other Information:

Sheepleas is managed by Surrey County Council as a public open space. The site is being extended to incorporate Mountain Wood, a Geological Conservation Review site.

Reasons for Notification:

Sheepleas is a diverse site situated on the dip-slope of the North Downs. It includes examples of pedunculate oak-ash-beech woodland on chalk and several fragments of south-east chalk grassland, both of which are nationally rare habitats. The combination of woodland, scrub and grassland communities supports a considerable diversity of invertebrates, especially butterflies (Lepidoptera) and several nationally uncommon species have been recorded. A trackside cutting in Mountain Wood is also of geological importance.

The woodland which is largely of secondary origin consists principally of beech *Fagus sylvatica*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and hazel *Corylus avellana* together with scattered holly *Ilex aquifolium*, yew *Taxus baccata*, field maple *Acer campestre* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Parts have been modified by small plantations of larch, *Larix decidua*, pine *Pinus spp.*, Norway spruce *Picea abies* and other exotics, but most of the woodland retains a semi-natural shrub and field layer. This, however, becomes very sparse in areas dominated by beech and yew which cast a dense shade. The woodland ground flora includes dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, woodruff *Galium odoratum* and spurge laurel *Daphne laureola*. Woodland orchids include bird's nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, broad-leaved helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*, white helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* and narrow-lipped helleborine *Epipactis leptochila*, the latter an uncommon plant, largely confined to southern England and rare in Surrey. Another rare Surrey plant, yellow bird's nest *Monotropa hypopitys* and the nationally uncommon grass *Bromus benekenii* also occur in the woodland.

The chalk grassland areas are botanically very rich. Characteristic species include sheep's fescue grass *Festuca ovina*, purging flax *Linum catharticum*, dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule*, small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, and less commonly bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, fly orchid *O. insectifera* and bastard toadflax *Thesium humifusum*, an uncommon plant with a restricted distribution in Surrey.

Mixed scrub of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and hazel has encroached on the chalk grassland in many parts of the site. Associated with the scrub communities are two plants which are uncommon in Surrey: pale St John's wort *Hypericum montanum* and stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*.

Sheepleas supports a rich and varied invertebrate fauna, which includes two nationally rare flies *Norellia spinipes* and *Microdon devius*, the rufous grasshopper *Gomphocerippus rufus*, a species almost entirely confined to chalk hills in southern England, and the pearlbordered fritillary butterfly *Boloria euphrosyne*. This site is also notable for its colonies of the Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina*.

A trackside cutting in Mountain Wood exposes the Mountain Wood gravel, a unique Pleistocene deposit composed almost entirely of chert from the Lower Greensand, here resting on the chalk dip slope of the North Downs. The composition of this gravel implies that it was emplaced prior to the erosion of the Gault Clay Vale to the south, and it therefore has important implications for the Quaternary history of the Weald, as well as for evolution of the London Basin.

Management Prescriptions

Priorities for the delivery and maintenance of conservation interest at this site are as follows:




- The SSSI is a unique exposure of Pleistocene gravels and must remain free from scrub, trees and brash.
- It must be protected from vehicular movements and remain exposed.
- It should be demarcated to show its boundaries, to prevent accidental damage by passing vehicles.

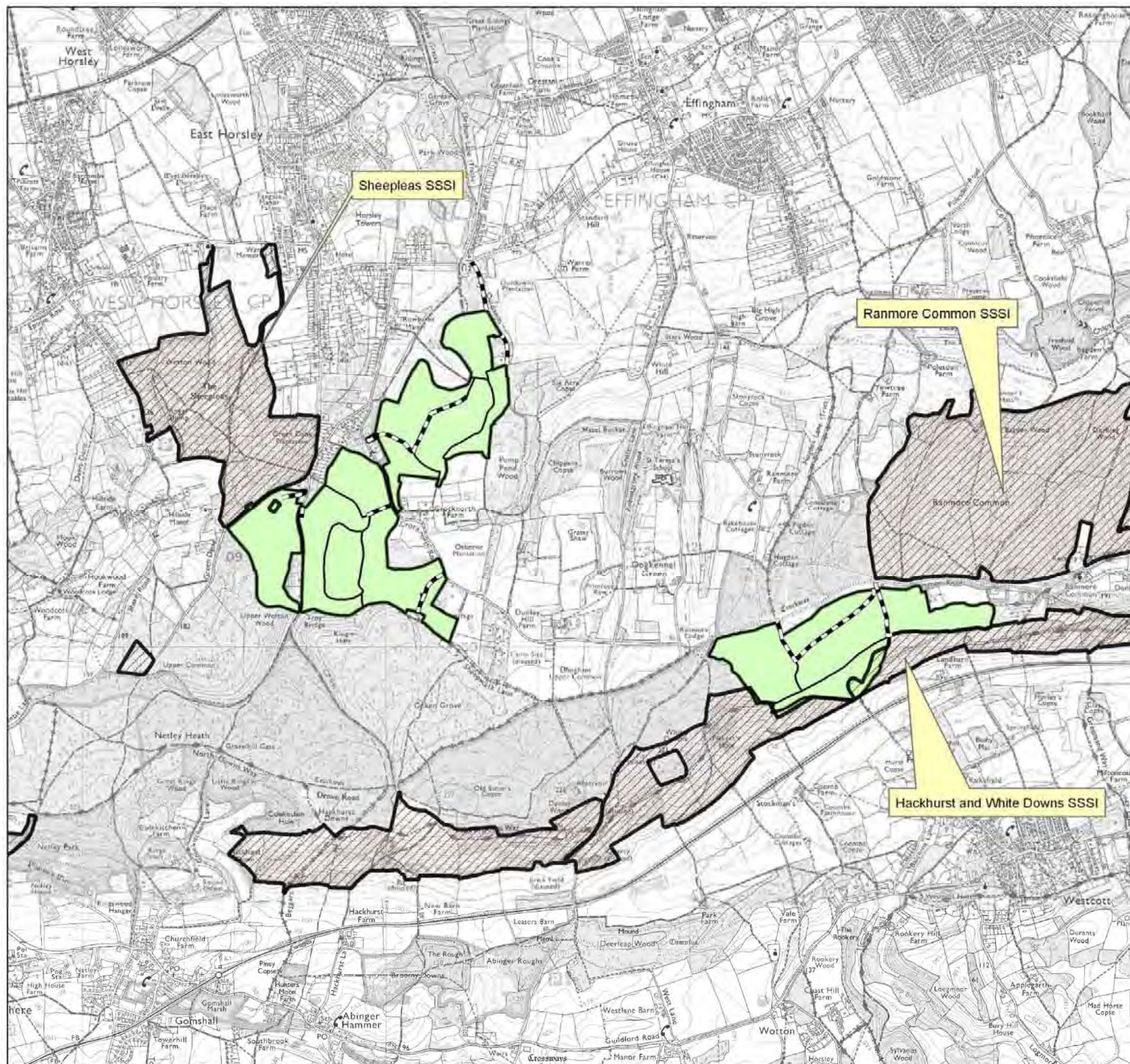


Forestry Commission
England

South East England Surrey Hills Forest Design Plan

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

-  Management Area
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  Forest road



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6. Land and Natural Environment

6.4 Safeguarding our heritage

Effingham Forest contains the Lovelace Bridges, a series of Grade II listed structures built by Lord Lovelace on his Horsley Estate in the mid-nineteenth century. Ten of the bridges are within the FC estate but only five survive.

Conservation of the bridges requires no specific woodland design but site specific vegetation control is important to prevent physical damage and continuing maintenance and repair is necessary to prevent further deterioration. This is an expensive commitment and the FC is grateful for the support and enthusiasm of the Horsley Countryside Preservation Society, which campaigns actively for funding and leads on protection of these valuable heritage assets.



Stoney Dene Bridge, following restoration

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Ranmore contains a number of WWII Pillboxes. These features are a rapidly diminishing resource and can sometimes be difficult to manage. They will be retained and there may be options for their reuse. The HER also notes the presence of a former Lime Kiln at Ranmore.



White Downs Pill Box

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6. Land and Natural Environment

6.5 Delivering the Brief

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

- Areas of this woodland complex are PAWS. The plans should maintain and where appropriate enhance the remnant features of interest, with the most shade casting conifers targeted for early removal.

The actions for this objective are covered under the Working Woodlands section as they will be delivered by routine woodland management. The emphasis will be on gradual change, targeting the most shading non-native species first. Operational Site Assessments will identify remnant features and ensure their maintenance wherever practicable.

- There are two small SSSIs in this FDP area. Plans should take account of their management requirements.

Hackhurst and White Downs SSSI will be managed according to the prescriptions on page 16. The fragment of Sheepleas appears to be a mapping anomaly.

- The Lovelace Bridges are a significant cultural resource. Where appropriate, woodland design should support the aspirations of the Project.

During woodland management operations, necessary work to maintain open areas around the bridges will take place. Other detailed site management is outside the scope of this plan and should be discussed locally.

- Open rides and road habitats need to be maintained and where possible expanded to provide a variety of habitats.

Standard management operations for environmental and other corridors will take place to support and extend this important area of edge habitat.

- There are several areas of neglected coppice within Highridge Wood that may be suitable for re-working.

Coppice working is rarely economic so this must be viewed as a cost operation and low priority. However, initiatives for restoring coppice to provide wood fuel will be welcomed.

Climate Change

Forestry is in the early stages of developing strategies to help woodlands adapt to a changing climate. The Surrey Hills woods in this plan will begin the process of change to native species and most of these will be managed under a continuous cover system, which is considered to provide a more stable environment for wildlife. Many of the broadleaved species specifically identified as resilient are non-native and therefore not favoured for planting on an ancient woodland site. Where we wish to continue with conifers in Highridge Wood, which is not an Ancient Woodland site, we will select conifers best suited to the site and a changing climate. The continuing provision of a diverse and well-managed woodland environment is the best protection for the wide range of species that live in the Surrey Hills.

Natural Reserves

These are a group of smaller woods which are dominated by plantation conifer. There are no obvious coherent areas where non-intervention management will be more beneficial to wildlife than active management, other than a tiny area of Lime in Ranmore. Other sites in the Surrey Hills at Buryhill and Redlands offer better opportunities associated with the wet woodland flushes.

6. Land and Natural Environment

6.6 Land and Natural Environment Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2021)	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.
	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.
	A small part of Ranmore is an SSSI . Management proposed in this plan has maintained the unit in target condition.	Sub-compartment database records. SSSI condition monitoring reports.
	The existing cultural/archaeological interest in the Lovelace Bridges and pill boxes has been protected and conserved.	Operational site assessments have taken account of woodland archaeology and sought expert advice from English Heritage and County Archaeologist where appropriate.

7. Communities and Places



7. Communities and Places

7.1 Current Provision

These woodlands in the Surrey Hills provide opportunities for the people who live and work in the surrounding area to explore the landscape, appreciate its wildlife and lead an active lifestyle. At present, visitors use the woodland principally for dog-walking, rambling and cycling. All of the woods are dedicated for open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000, which allows for quiet enjoyment on foot.

Effingham Forest - There are five bridleways that cross or run against the forest but no public footpaths. A permit scheme for riders is operated for wider access to the woodlands. The Lovelace Bridges trail, a walk of up to 6 miles, provides a route connecting these interesting structures. There is no formal car park, but cars can and do use forest entrances.

Ranmore - Ranmore is mostly accessed from a National Trust car park which is adjacent to the northern entrance to the wood. It is also bisected by the North Downs Way, a long distance footpath, which traverses the wood from east to west along the top of the chalk escarpment. A bridleway connects the car park with the southern edge of the wood, offering attractive views south to Westcott and southeast to Dorking. At the eastern end of the wood there is a small field leased to the Scouts.

Highridge Wood is particularly valued by the resident local community to the north, who make extensive and regular use of the wood on foot, on the public footpaths and numerous informal paths. There is a small car park which has been reduced in size to deter misuse and flytipping. One public bridleway runs from north to south.

Horse riding in Effingham Forest and Ranmore 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 woodlands are close to Dorking and Leatherhead as well as several local villages. 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 native species whilst retaining feature conifers and the continued attention to habitats and species will produce a visually pleasing and healthy place to visit and enjoy.

- All the woods are well used for recreation, both by local people and more travelled visitors. Ranmore in particular borders National Trust ground and the wood is bisected by the North Downs way. Design should maintain and where possible improve the attractiveness of the woodlands for visitors.

The woodland design pays attention to balance and diversity. Public areas will gradually be opened to provide a sense of security. Other areas, away from the main paths and trails, provide a quiet space for wildlife. In Highridge Wood, the paths are enclosed and the soil conditions make access less pleasant in wet weather. Opening up of the main paths during operations should improve matters. The finer detail of forest operations and management is dealt with during the Operational Site Assessment.

- Highridge Wood is prone to anti-social behaviour, notably fly-tipping and car dumping. Design should consider options to reduce this activity.

The problems have reduced since the car park was restricted and generally the wood is most used by local people on foot. No further changes are planned for this fairly remote car park unless users request it and funds can be found for sustainable improvements.

South East England

Surrey Hills

Forest Design Plan

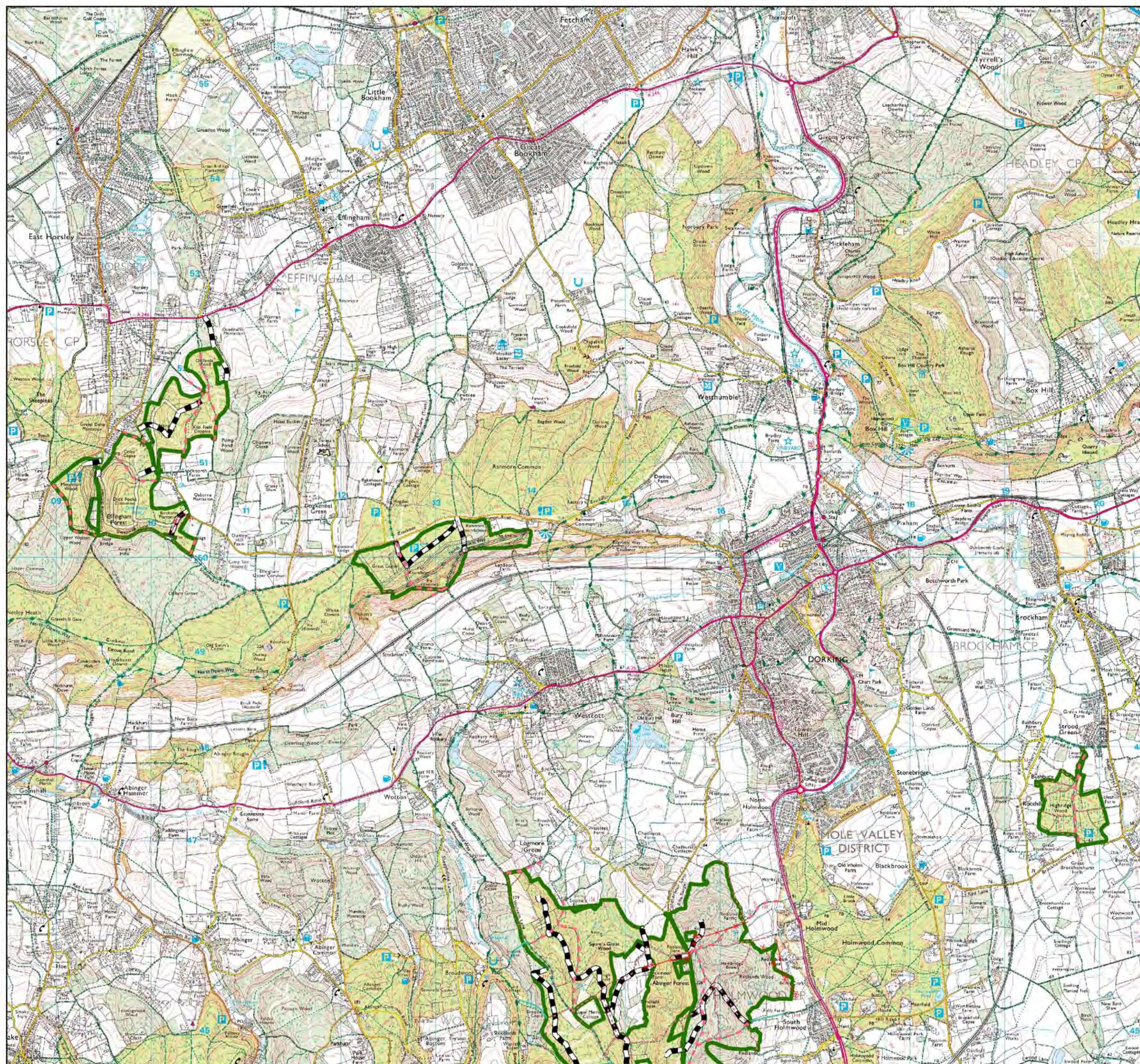
Recreation and Access

-  BOAT
-  Bridleway
-  Public Path
-  Management Area
-  Forest Road
-  Forest Ride
-  Overhead Powerline

Produced by the Planning Team Nov 2009

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7. Communities and Places

7.3 Communities and Places Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2021)	Monitoring
Communities and Places	The area of woodland with public access has been maintained.	Record of woodland closure under CROW Act (2000/1).
	The woodlands provide good 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.

8. Working Woodlands



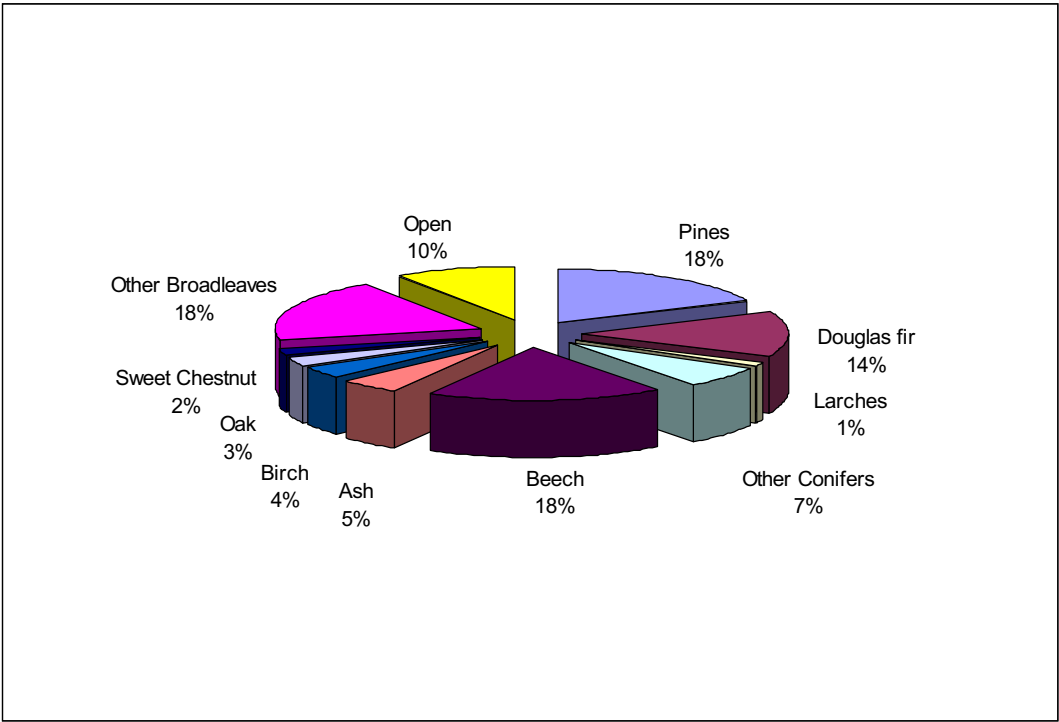
8. Working Woodlands

8.1 Tree Species and Age Classes

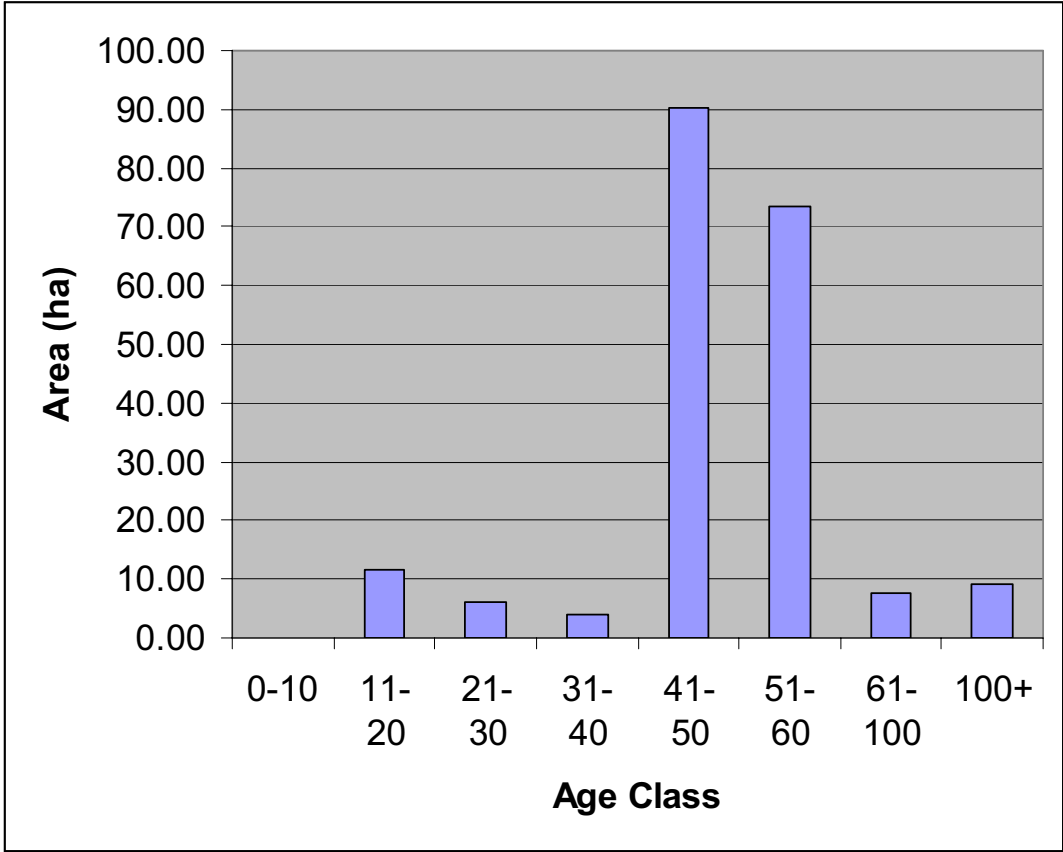
The present spatial distribution of tree species is shown on the existing species map opposite - the pie chart below shows the proportions. Overall, 40% of the woodland area is conifer and 50% is broadleaves with 10 % open or other land use. Most of the conifer compartments contain a proportion of re-asserting broadleaves, although most of this is of poor quality. Some conifer/broadleaf mixtures were planted, particularly in Effingham Forest and Ranmore.

All species have grown moderately well for their type, with Corsican pine doing best across the blocks and Beech the most productive of the broadleaves.

The age class structure is unevenly distributed with the majority of trees over 40 years old. This presents problems for forest design, as the conifer stands are approaching maturity and should be harvested.



Species Composition at the start of the Forest Design Plan (data from December 2009)



Tree age distribution at the start of the Forest Design Plan (data from December 2009)



Forestry Commission
England

South East England Surrey Hills Forest Design Plan

Existing Species

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

-  Pines
-  Douglas fir
-  Larches
-  Other Conifers
-  Beech
-  Ash
-  Birch
-  Oak
-  Sweet Chestnut
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Open

Produced by the Planning Team Dec 2009

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8. Working Woodlands

8.2 Delivering the Brief

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

- Design and management of the woods, which are in places exposed and on clay soils, should aim to minimise the risk of windblow, particularly in Dick Focks Wood.

Windblow risk is reduced in a number of ways - by maintaining steady management with no sudden changes, by felling stands starting from the leeward edge and by replanting with more stable species where appropriate. Stands are also more stable if they are not exposed or thinned during the wetter and windier winter months, although little can be done about the inherent problems of waterlogged clay soils and exposed sites. However, European regulations can sometimes prevent felling during the drier spring and summer months to protect important species. Design will try to take into account the threat of windblow when choosing coupes.

- These are mainly small woods and difficult to manage economically. Opportunities should be maximised to develop the quality of the hardwoods where appropriate and to maintain an economic cycle of conifers on non-ancient woodland sites.

Economics are important for woodlands, in order to produce an income which can be reinvested in social and environmental benefits. Small woods need to be grouped together to be worked efficiently. Where stands contain broadleaves of good form and growth, thinning will aim to favour their development. The existing areas of conifer woodland in Highridge Wood will have their cycles adjusted to smooth production, whilst gradually moving the conifer stands elsewhere on ancient woodland sites towards a more broad-leaved character.

- 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 short period of clearance and replanting following acquisition has produced the current uneven age class distribution shown in the earlier graph. Breaking up this age structure into one where a steady stream of harvestable timber can be produced will take time, unless total production is compromised by taking trees down before they are mature. The phasing of felling and the employment of silvicultural systems which maintain woodland cover will gradually smooth the peaks inherent in the current age structure. In the absence of mature broadleaves, some mature conifers should be retained to maintain diversity and

a wide 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.

8. Working Woodlands

8.3 Management Prescriptions

(Ref: Habitat Restoration and Felling Map)

Clearfelling

With the exception of Highridge Wood, only limited clearfelling will take place under this plan, with clearfelling confined to a diseased stand of mainly pine near the main south-east entrance to Effingham Forest, and small areas where clearfelling will support our other management objectives, such as the maintenance of view points and the creation/maintenance of open space around recreational sites and trails. All windfirm native broadleaves will be retained; all other broadleaves will be coppiced and allowed to regenerate.

Highridge Wood is not ancient and so has been split into coupes to be mostly managed under a clearfell/replanting system. Over time, this will provide a mix of tree species of all ages to improve the amenity value of this wood.

Gradual reduction in conifer

This prescription applies to mixed stands on ancient woodland sites, where gradually reducing the conifer enables the maintenance of woodland conditions. The proportion of conifer will be gradually reduced to less than 20%, with the aim of encouraging native broadleaf regeneration under an existing canopy. During thinning, windfirm native broadleaf timber trees will be favoured. All non-windfirm 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. There may be opportunities for coppicing in Highridge Wood.

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

Open space

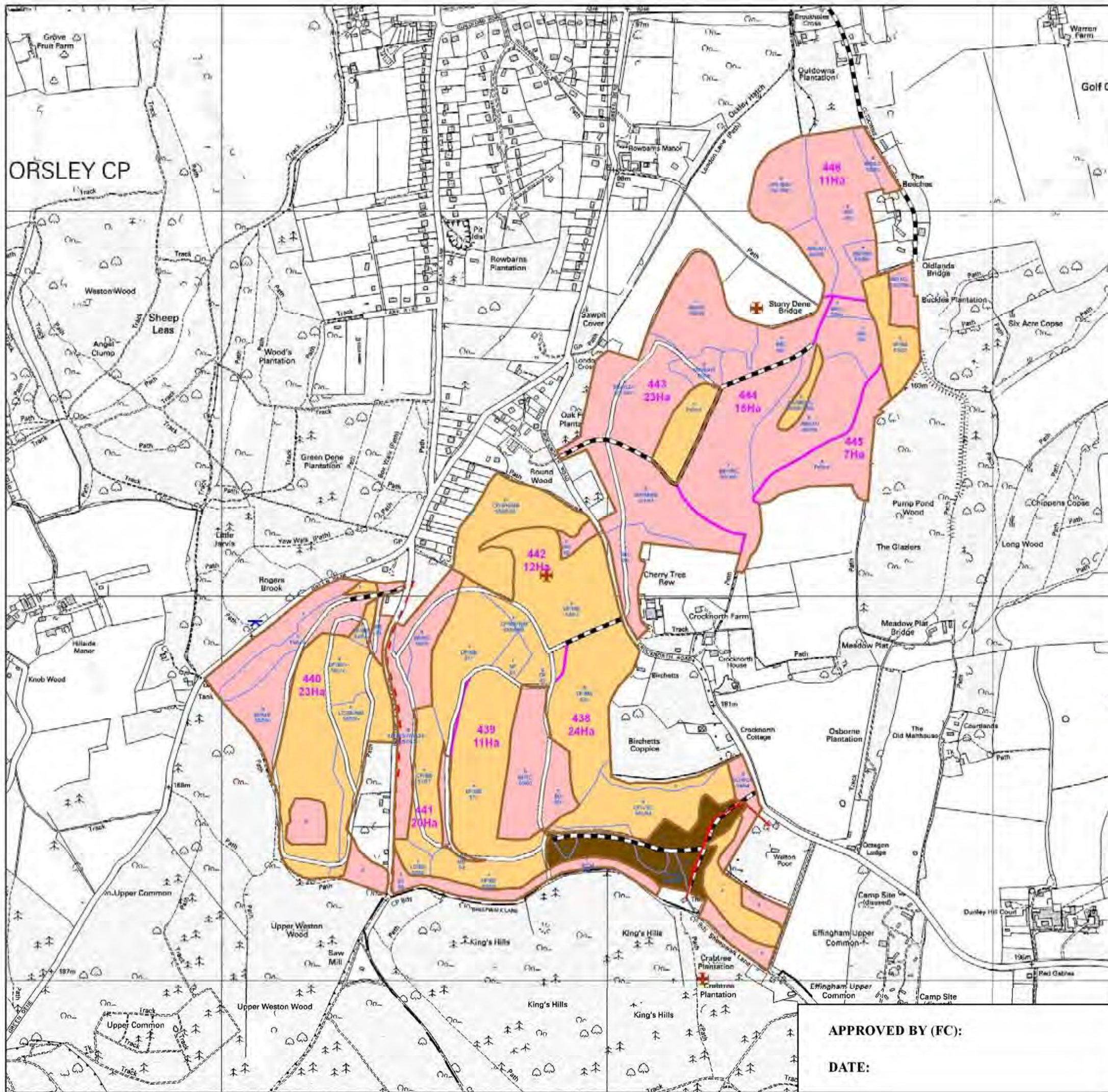
Options for the creation and maintenance of permanent open space are limited in the Surrey Hills. The generally heavy soils and the dominating ancient woodland designation means that full woodland cover is likely and desirable. Rides, roads and tracks will be

periodically opened up when harvesting passes through and some will be selected for annual maintenance where public and operational use is high. There is one small area of permanent open space in Ranmore used as a scouting field.

Temporary open space follows felling when the site is relatively open before the next stand of trees develops. This will periodically create open areas particularly in Highridge Wood, and when small coupes are felled to encourage the regeneration of predominantly native broadleaves.

Natural Reserve

There is only one small area in Ranmore, a stand of old Lime, which could be considered for classification as a natural reserve but it is close to a main track and the road and therefore subject to a degree of public use and traffic noise. However, it is a rare habitat within SE England and will be placed under a non-intervention regime.



South East England Surrey Hills Forest Design Plan

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.
- Minimum intervention woodland
- Existing open space

Clearfell

- 2007-2011
- 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

- 2007-2011
- 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

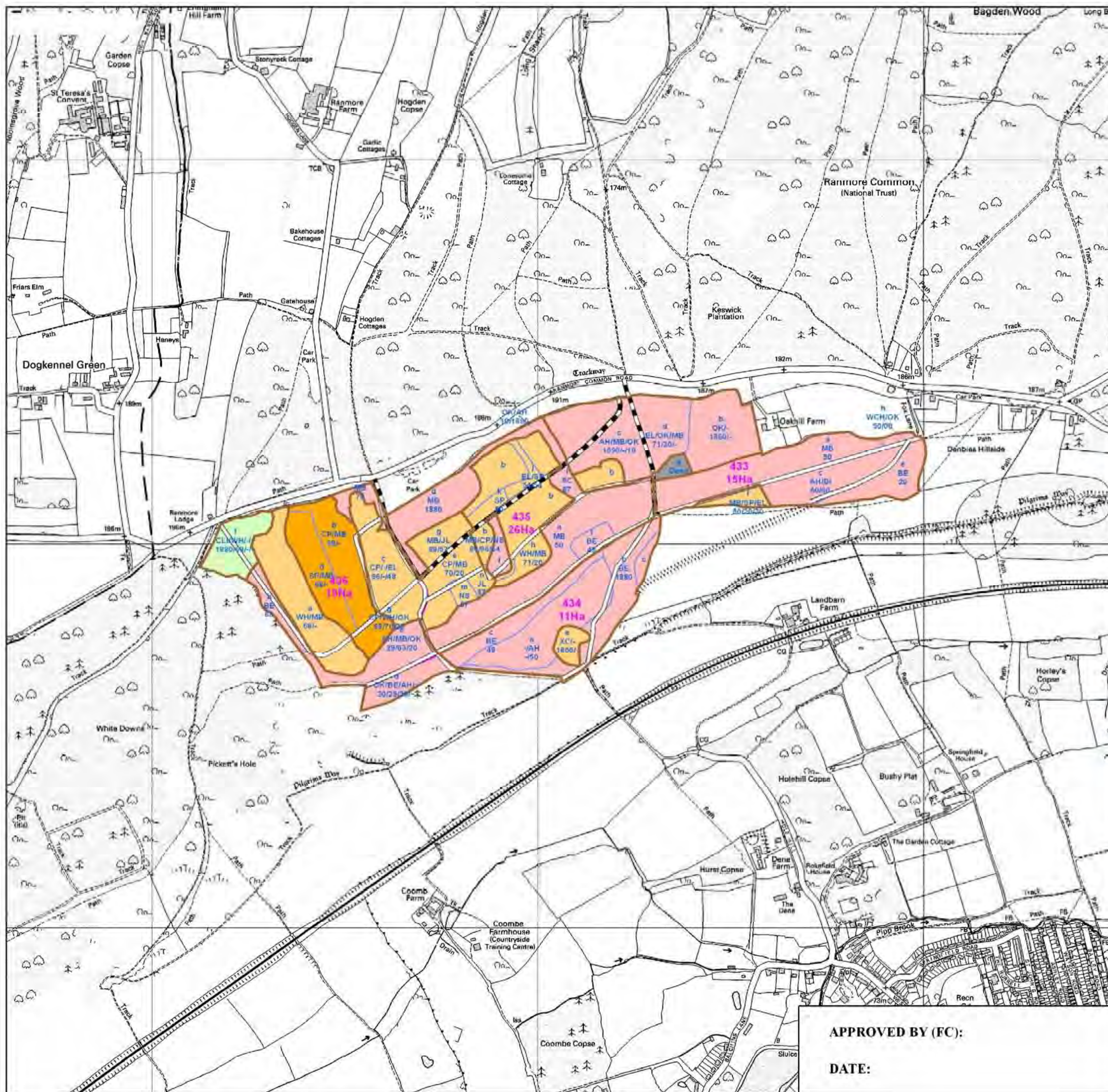
APPROVED BY (FC):

DATE:

Produced by the Planning Team Jan 2011

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South East England Surrey Hills Forest Design Plan

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.
- Minimum intervention woodland
- Existing open space

Clearfell

- 2007-2011
- 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

- 2007-2011
- 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

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Habitat Restoration and Felling (Highridge Wood)

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

Manage native woodland using a shelterwood system, to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifers may be left in groups or as scattered individuals.

Reduce conifer in a series of operations using the Group Selection System, leaving selected conifer trees for raptors

-  Manage native woodland using a shelterwood system, to allow young native broadleaf trees to become established under the shelter of existing trees. Conifers may be left in groups or as scattered individuals.
-  Reduce conifer in a series of operations using the Group Selection System, leaving selected conifer trees for raptors
-  Compartments
-  Sub-compartments

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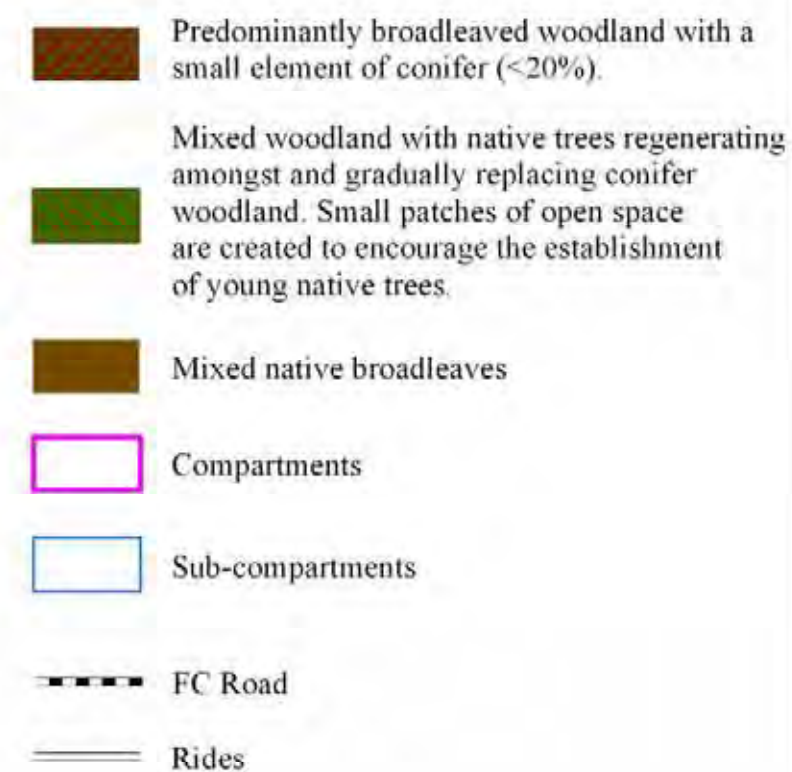
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Future Species Map (Effingham Forest)



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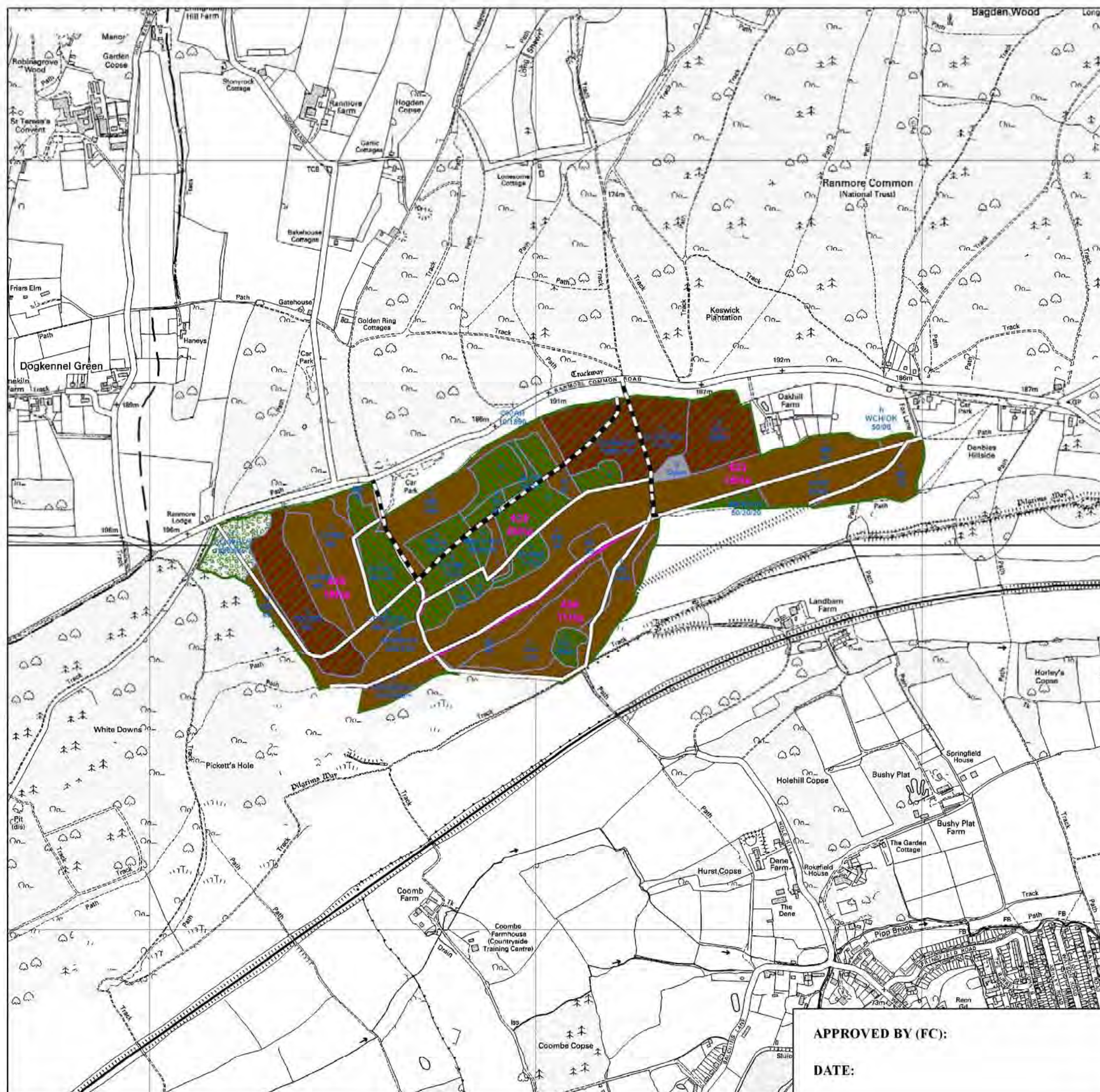
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Future Species Map (Ranmore)



- Predominantly broadleaved woodland with a small element of conifer (<20%).
- 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.
- Mixed native broadleaves
- Open space - scout field
- Old lime - minimum intervention area
- Compartments
- Sub-compartments
- FC Road
- Rides

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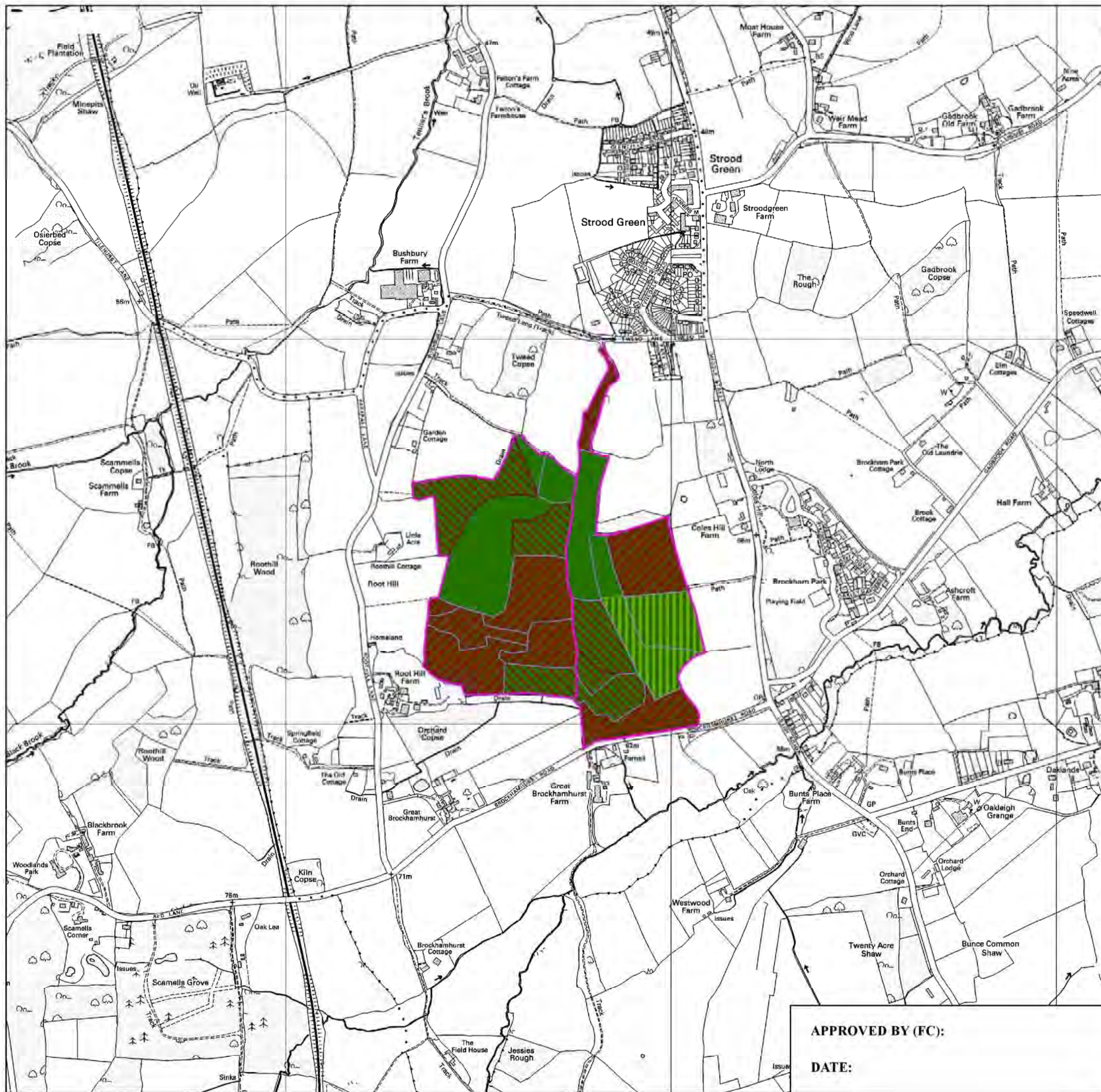
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South East England

Surrey Hills
Forest Design Plan

Future Species Map (Highridge Wood)

-  Evergreen conifer
-  Broadleaves, <20% conifer
-  Conifers, <20% broadleaves
-  Mixed conifer
-  Compartments
-  Sub-compartments

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8. Working Woodlands

8.4 Working Woodlands Objectives

Forest Design Plan Objectives	Forest Design Plan Outputs At Year 10 (2021)	Monitoring
Working Woodlands 	Forestry Commission woodland continues to provide examples of best practice for appropriate and sustainable management and utilisation of England’s woodland resource.	FSC Certification. UKWAS 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).
	Timber products have been produced from the woodlands through sustainable thinning, felling and lower impact silvicultural systems.	Sales Recording Package (SRP). Operational site assessments have prescribed sustainable thinning volumes.
	The woodlands have been designed to provide an attractive backdrop and managed to provide multi-functional green space near the existing local communities.	The forest design plan and operational site assessments have been prepared with the FC Landscape Guidelines in mind.

7. Summary of Proposals

Date of commencement of the plan: 1 October 2011

Expiry Date: 30 September 2021

Review Date: 30 September 2016

Forestry Activity	Area (ha)			
	Predominantly conifer high forest	Broadleaf natural regeneration or replanting	Conifer natural regeneration or replanting	Open
Clearfell in period 2011-21	14.6	4.8	8.8	1.0
Clearfell in period 2022-41	20.9	6.9	13.0	1.0
Broadleaf regeneration felling in period 2011-21	0			
Broadleaf regeneration felling in period 2022-41	0			
Management of areas under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems	218.2			
Management of areas under a Coppice System	0			
Management of areas by limited intervention	1.9			
Management of permanent open space	0.7			
TOTAL AREA	256.3			

Signed S.R. Abbot
PP FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, FC

Date 20. September 2011

Signed [Signature]
PP REGIONAL DIRECTOR, FC

Date 22/9/11

Signed
NATURAL ENGLAND

Date

10. Record of Amendments

Amendment	Date

11. 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 Standard (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 trees to become established under the overhead shelter of existing trees. The existing tree stand 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.