

Surrey Hills Forest Plan

2025-2035

Bury Hill and Redlands

East Horsley

Highridge

Ranmore

South England Forest District

South 304/09/25-35



Forestry England
forests and woodlands
have been certified in
accordance with the UK
Woodland Assurance
Standard (UKWAS)



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2. FOREST PLANS

- Forest Plans define a long-term vision for a woodland (or group of woodlands), and usually look 50 to 100 years ahead. They set objectives and show how management will move towards achieving the long-term vision over the initial 10 to 30 years.
- This plan is a revision of the previous Surrey Hills Forest Plan (approved in 2011), which covered East Horsley (also known as Effingham Forest), Highridge and Ranmore. It also incorporates a revision of the current plan for Bury Hill and Redlands Forest (which was approved in 2016), and will be part of the Surrey Hills Plan from this point forward.
- The revision was carried out in consultation with stakeholders and the public; and has incorporated developments in policy and local initiatives that have taken place since 2011.

Consultation and Approval Process

As part of the Forest Planning process we seek the views of external stakeholders, including local communities and organisations involved with nature conservation, public recreation, and the timber industry. Through this consultation process we can ensure that an appropriate balance of objectives is achieved.

Approval of the Forest Plan is granted by Forest Services, which is the regulatory arm of the Forestry Commission. This regulatory approval is usually valid for 10 years and grants a 10-year felling license.

The approved Forest Plan will be reviewed at year 5 to ensure proposals are still relevant, suitable and in line with current policy and guidance. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate the success of management over the 5-year period and engage any amendments to the Forest Plan that may be required.

Context

Each section contains site specific details of location, tenure, landscape and historical context, current woodland structure, biodiversity and conservation, people, historic environment, soils, water, and timber production.

This contextual information supports our decision making, both through the production of the Forest Plan and when planning operational interventions designed to implement the proposals on the ground.



3. OBJECTIVES FOR THE SURREY HILLS WOODS

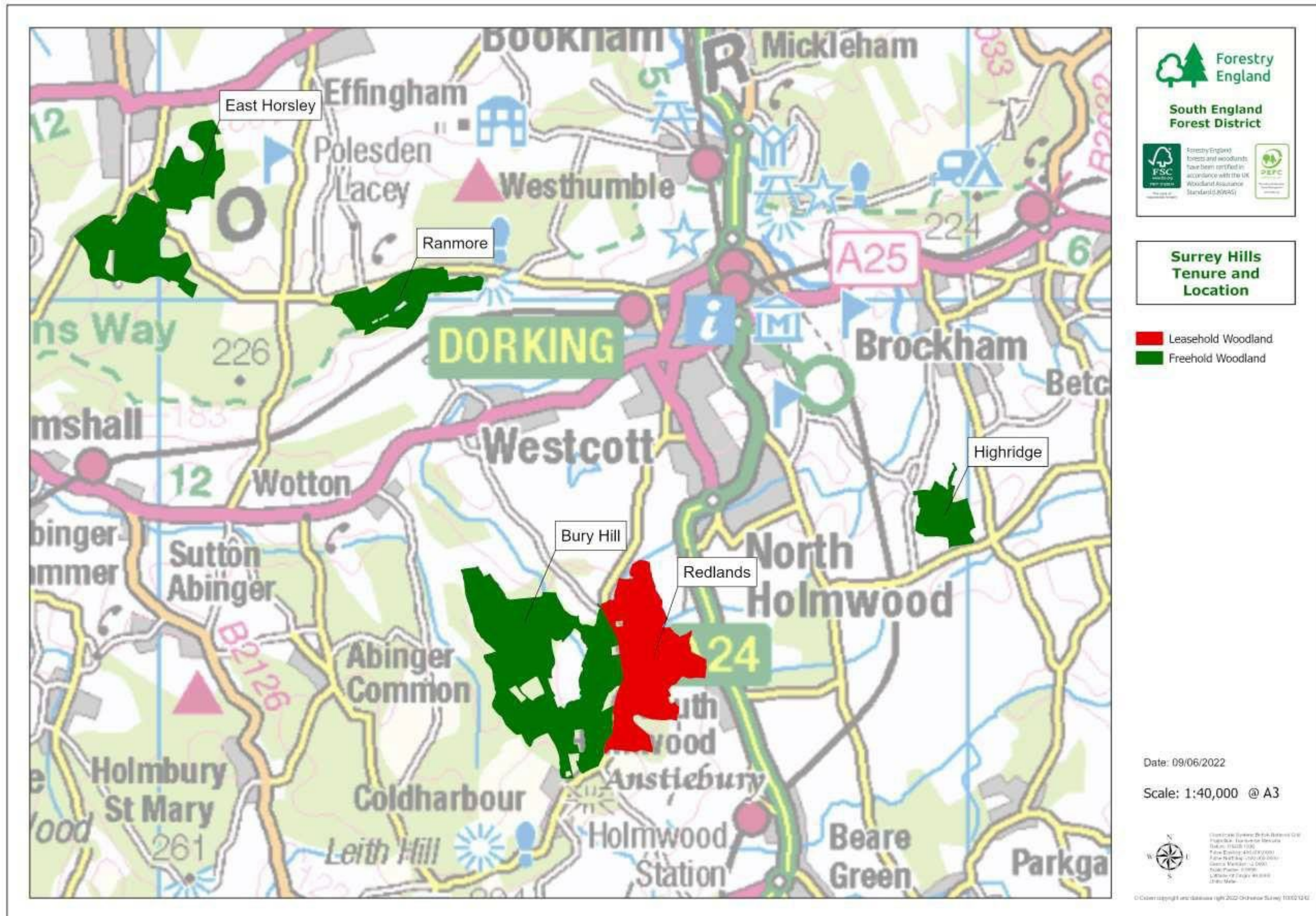
The Surrey Hills woods will be managed in line with Forestry England’s five-year strategic plan: Growing the Future. Our objectives will aim to deliver the following national targets:

- Build climate change resilience into our woods.
- Maintain, improve, and restore habitats and ecological function where possible and appropriate.
- Provide a valuable resource where people can interact with the natural environment.

SURREY HILLS OBJECTIVES:

- **Develop economic and ecological resilience against disease and climate change impacts by:**
 - Increasing the species and age diversity of the woodland through forest management operations.
 - Where site constraints allow, use natural regeneration to restock after felling.
 - Where possible, plant trees from a suitable provenance matched with our likely future climate.
- **Promote species, habitat and functional diversity by:**
 - Maintaining Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units in favourable condition.
 - Continuing to restore Planted Ancient Woodland Sites towards native and near-native broadleaves.
 - Taking opportunities to manage open space and ride edge habitats for the benefit of wildlife.
 - Continue wet woodland habitat restoration by removing Rhododendron from the affected area and regenerating alder coppice.
- **Maintain and improve functioning forest soils that drive nutrient and water cycling, and underpin habitat management by:**
 - Moving towards the use of Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) in suitable stands.
 - Taking opportunities to promote soil enhancing species such as birch, hornbeam, and small-leaved lime, and alder in areas of wet woodland.
- **In woods that are accessible to the public:**
 - Maintain the existing recreational capacity of the woodland.
 - Look for opportunities to develop recreational capacity and a high-quality visitor experience, while retaining woodland resilience.





4. Tenure and Access

Forestry England is the freehold owner of East Horsley, Ranmore, Highridge and Bury Hill woodlands, while Redlands Wood (150 ha east of Coldharbour Lane, which runs south from Dorking) is managed under a long-term lease.

Apart from Redlands, all the woods in this plan are dedicated as open access land under Section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). In Redlands, public access is limited to the network of public rights of way within the woodland.

Part of the Summer Lightning mountain bike trail runs along and through the western edge of Bury Hill. Horse riding access is managed under the Toll Roads Off Road Trust (TROT) Scheme, which defines which paths, rides and roads may be used by riders.

5. Landscape and Historical Context

East Horsley is on the dip slope of the North Downs, in an area defined by the National Character Area profile (NCA 119) as a series of dry valleys, ridges and plateaux. In East Horsley, these features range in elevation from around 120m to 185m above sea level.

Ranmore is on the edge of the steep scarp slope of the North Downs, with part of the woodland extending to the bottom of the slope. It ranges from a high point of around 195m at the top of the slope, down to around 100m above sea level at the bottom.

Highridge Wood is within the Low Weald National Character Area (NCA 121), which is mainly a low-lying clay vale. Elevations within Highridge are lower than the other three woods in this plan, at around 60m - 70m above sea level.

Bury Hill and Redlands is divided between two National Character Areas. Redlands Wood (to the east of Coldharbour Lane) falls within the Low Weald (NCA 121), as does a small part of Bury Hill (in the areas shown as Abinger Forest and Squires Great Wood on Ordnance Survey maps). The remainder of Bury Hill is within the Wealden Greensand (NCA 120), an area typified by greater elevations and a topography of scarp and dip slopes, with clay vales in between. The elevation of these woods increases from east to west as the Low Weald grades into the Greensand Ridge, climbing from around 110m to 240m within Redlands Wood, and varying from between 140m to 230m within Bury Hill.

Apart from Highridge, the woods in this plan are part of a heavily wooded landscape, and do not generally stand out. There are a few areas where they become visible in the wider

landscape, such as the view of Ranmore from Dorking and Westcott, or the view of Bury Hill and Redlands from Dorking. Highridge is more isolated in a relatively open agricultural landscape.

The climate is typical of south-east England with rainfall below 700mm per annum and temperatures ranging from a mean 14.2°C for the warmest month and 5.3°C for the coldest month.

6. Surrey Hills National Landscape

All the woods except Highridge are within the Surrey Hills National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The vision and aims below are taken from the Surrey Hills Management Plan 2020-25.

6.1 Vision

The Surrey Hills National Landscape is recognised as a national asset in which its natural and cultural resources are managed in an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs, and commons. It provides opportunities for business enterprise and for all to enjoy and appreciate its natural beauty for their health and well-being.

6.2 Aims

- Woodlands, hedgerows, and veteran trees are sustainably managed and linked to conserve and enhance the landscape, ecological, archaeological, and recreational value of the wider Surrey Hills landscape.
- The biodiversity and water resources of the Surrey Hills are conserved and enhanced.
- The cultural heritage that defines the distinctive sense of place within the Surrey Hills is recorded, protected, managed, and celebrated.
- The Surrey Hills will be enjoyed and cherished as a National Landscape for its own intrinsic qualities and in ways that contribute to people's health and well-being.

The Objectives of this Forest Plan are in accord with the Surrey Hills National Landscape Management Plan.

7. Current Woodland Structure

7.1 Ancient Woodland Definitions

Ancient Woodland is defined as areas that have been under continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 CE. The definition includes areas that have been felled and re-generated. Ancient Woodland can be divided into:

- **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland** (ASNW; generally containing a high percentage of native broadleaved tree species).
- **Planted Ancient Woodland Sites** (PAWS; areas that have been planted with monocultures of generally non-native trees species, but also including areas that have been planted with native species such as beech).

The table below shows the total area of each forest, and the area within them classified as either ASNW, PAWS, or other woodland.

Forest	Total Area	ASNW	PAWS	Other Woodland
Bury Hill and Redlands	390 ha	39.65 ha	236.47 ha	113.88 ha
East Horsley	145.44 ha	0.13 ha	97.87 ha	47.44 ha
Highridge	39.68 ha	0.02 ha	19.17 ha	20.49 ha
Ranmore	71.36 ha	24.31 ha	27.88 ha	19.17 ha

7.2 Semi-Natural Scores

Beginning in 2005, a semi-natural score has been calculated for each sub-compartment. This involves classifying the trees in each sub-compartment as native or non-native and summing the percentage of each. The classification used is:

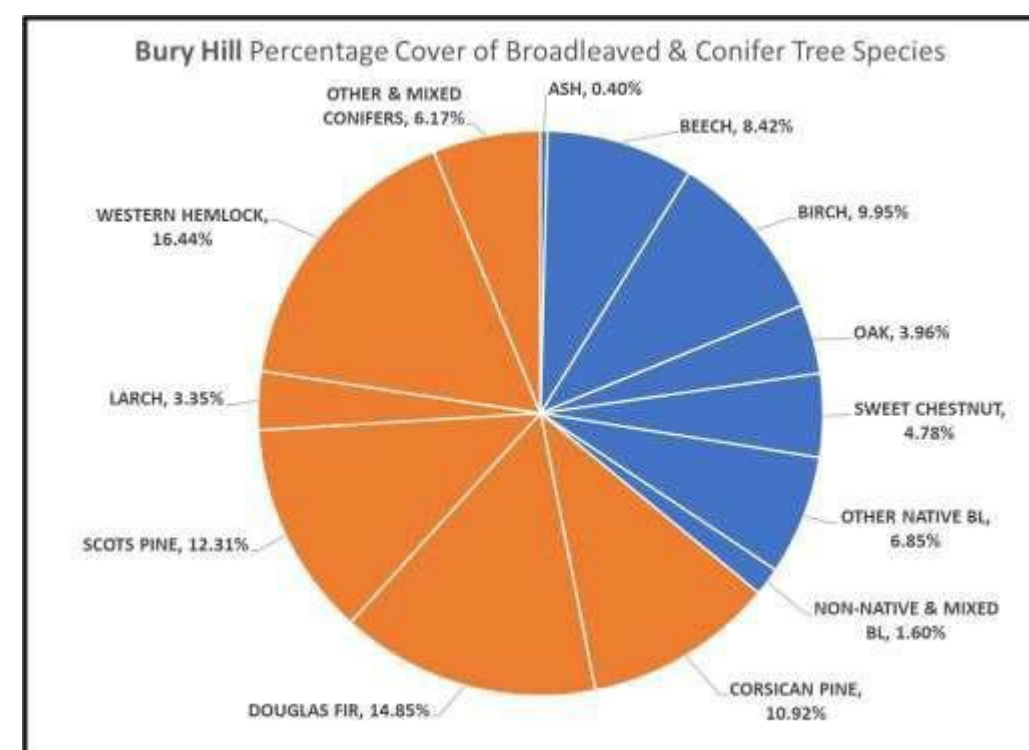
- **SN 0** = 0% (no trees are present)
- **SN 1** = 81%-100% (mostly or fully native tree species)
- **SN 2** = 51%-80%
- **SN 3** = 21%-50%
- **SN 4** = 1%-20% (predominantly non-native, usually conifer, but may also be beech)

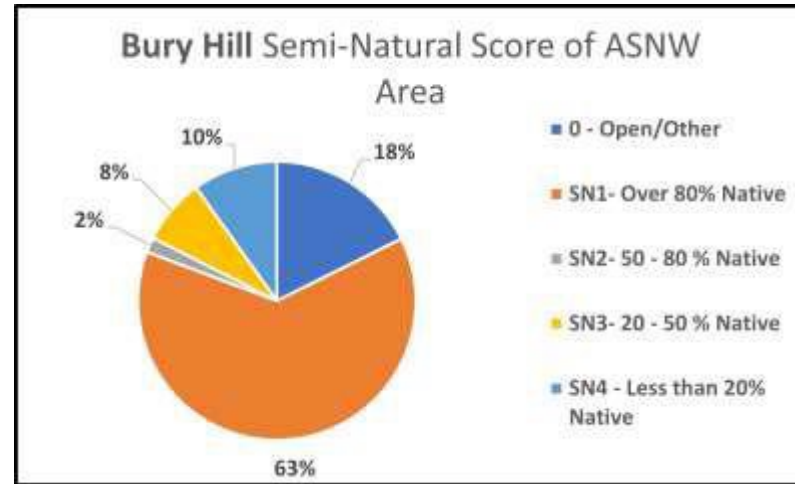
Semi-natural scores can be useful when assessing whether operations to diversify stands or restore PAWS to native woodland are proceeding in the desired direction. Our target is for our PAWS to have improved by at least one semi-natural score by 2044. The semi-natural scores in this document are only used for ASNW and PAWS areas.

7.3 Bury Hill and Redlands

Bury Hill and Redlands is the largest woodland in the Surrey Hills Plan area at 390 ha. Coniferous stands cover 64% of the total forest area, both within PAWS and non-ancient areas of the woodland. The main conifer species are western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Scots and Corsican pine (*Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*). Most of the conifer stands are pure monocultures, with a small amount of intruded broadleaved species such as birch (*Betula* sp.) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). In wetter areas of the wood, these stands may also include an element of common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

The main broadleaved species are beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), birch (*Betula pendula*), oak (*Quercus robur* and *Quercus petraea*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Between them, these species cover around 27% (97 ha) of the forest. Roughly 7% (25 ha) of the forest area is classified as Other Native Broadleaf, 23 ha of which are made up of common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). A significant amount of this species occurs as alder coppice running along the length of the Pipp Brook. There are also very small areas of black poplar (*Populus nigra*) and small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*).

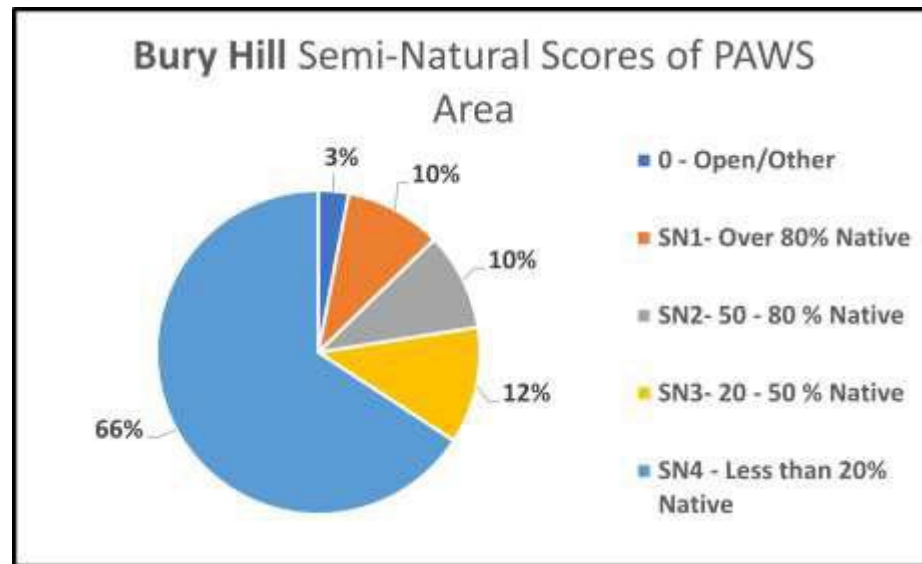




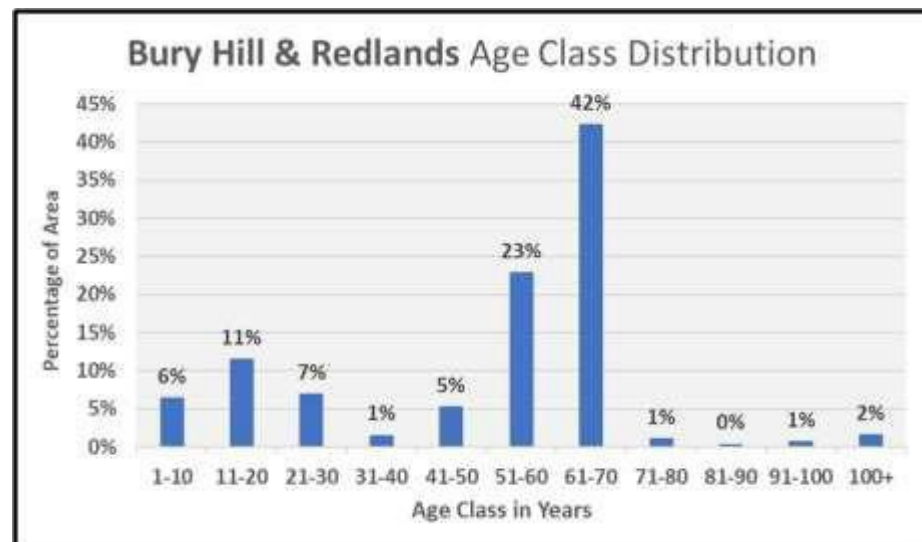
The woodland is made up of 236 ha of PAWS, 40 ha of ASNW, and 114 ha of non-ancient woodland. Within this 40 ha of ASNW, around 63% of the area is classed as SN1 (mostly of fully native). The reverse is true in the PAWS area (236.47 ha), with around 66% or 156 ha classified as SN4, which is mainly non-native. Most of this SN4 area (137 ha) is covered by

a range of conifer species, but 21 ha is stocked with a range of native broadleaved species.

Bury Hill has a relatively low diversity of age classes, with 65% of the forest area planted between 50 and 70 years ago. Older age classes are less significant, with trees of 70 and older making up around 4% of the forest area. The

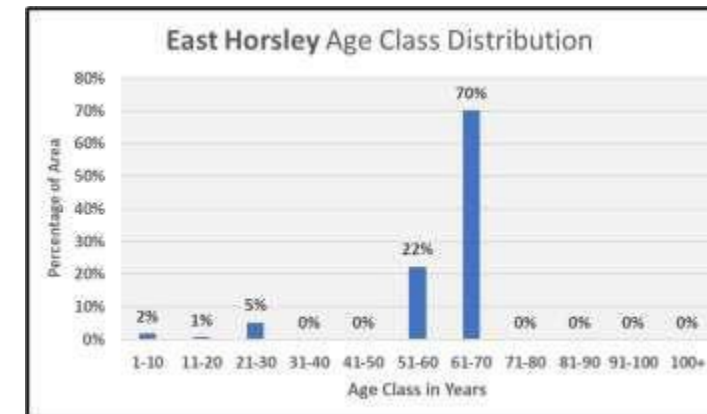
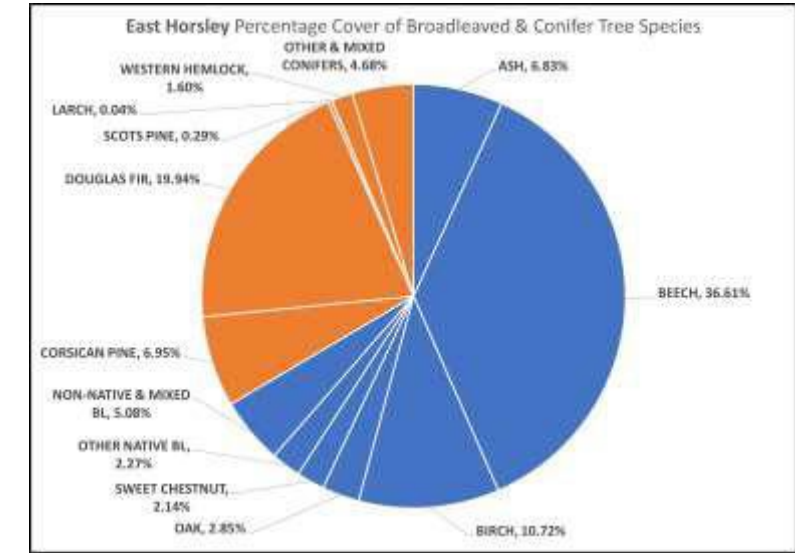


remaining third of the forest area is covered by younger age classes. In recent years, most planting has been of broadleaved species.



7.4 East Horsley

East Horsley covers 145.44 ha in total. The forest is dominated by broadleaved woodland, which covers two thirds (66%/89 ha) of the total area. The main broadleaf species is beech, covering 37% (49 ha) of the area. This is mainly plantation beech from the 1950s. Several of these beech sub-compartments also contain a proportion of naturally regenerated (and some planted) ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and to a

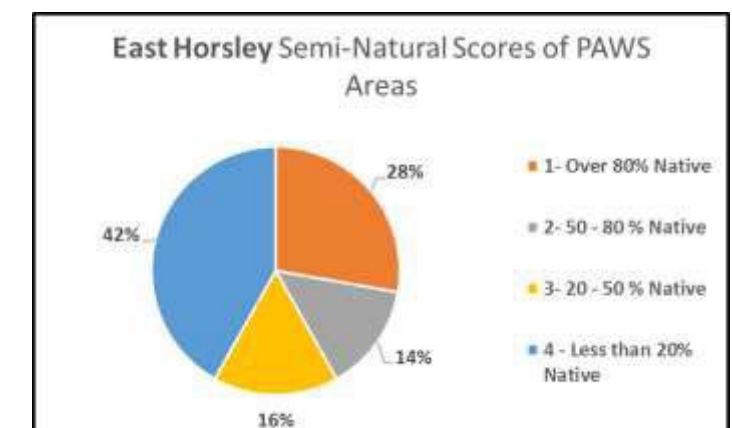


lesser extent, sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A few have remnants of what may have been nurse crops such as Lawsons cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

The 45 ha of conifer sub-compartments consist mainly of Douglas fir (27 ha), with other

species including Corsican and Scots pine, larch species (*Larix spp.*), and western hemlock. Several of the conifer areas (apart from the western hemlock stands) have naturally regenerated broadleaves intruded into the crop trees. There are also small areas of yew (*Taxus baccata*) in several sub-compartments.

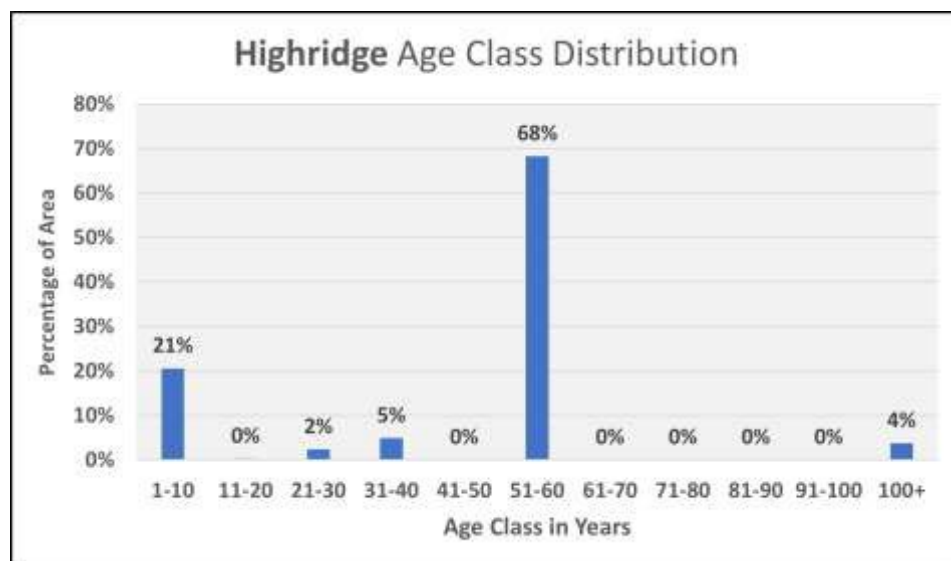
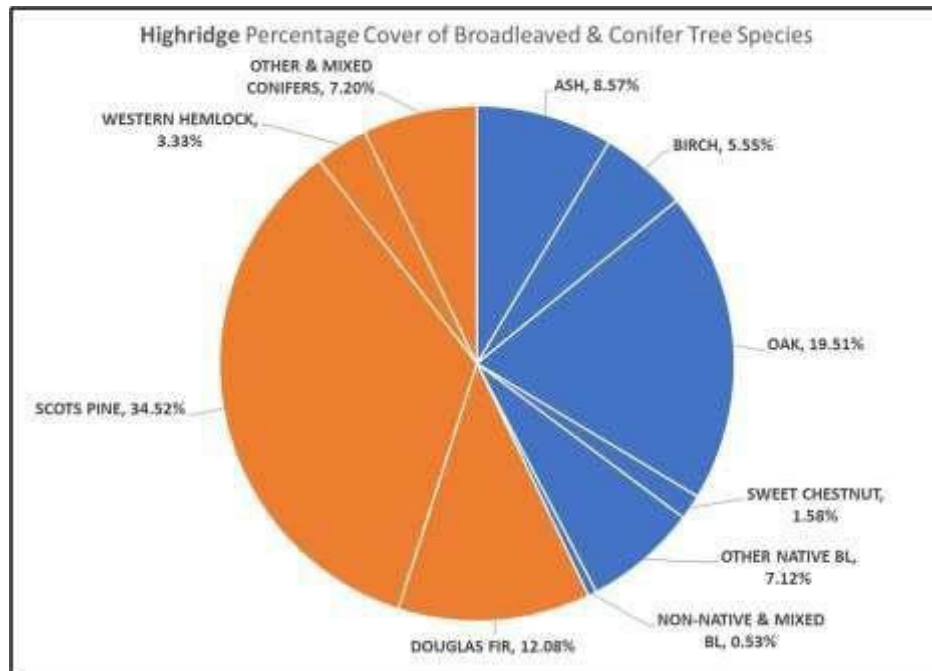
East Horsley has a small area (0.13 ha) of ASNW, 98.23 ha of PAWS and 47.08 ha of other woodland. Within the PAWS area, a little over a quarter (28% or 27.27 ha) is classed as SN1, and around 42% (41.08 ha) as SN4. A large part of the SN1 area (just under 16 ha) is made up of beech compartments with a reasonable proportion of



other native tree species. Most of the SN4 area (31.32 ha) consists of conifer sub-compartments, with a large part of the remainder made of beech stands of low diversity.

7.5 Highridge

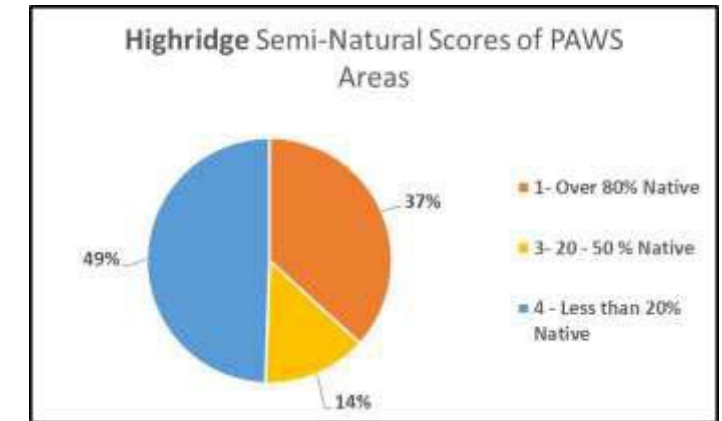
Highridge is a small woodland of 39.31 ha. The balance between broadleaves (43% or 16.85 ha) and conifers (57% or 22.46 ha) is more even than in the other Surrey Hills woods. Scots pine and oak are the most numerous species (respectively at 35% and 20% of the total area). The remainder of the area is made of broadleaves such as ash, birch, and sweet chestnut; and conifers such as Douglas fir and western hemlock.



Highridge is mainly even aged, with around 68% of the wood planted between 50 and 60 years ago. Encouragingly, a reasonable percentage of the woodland area (21%) has been replanted in the last 10 years. If this rate of regeneration continued, Highridge

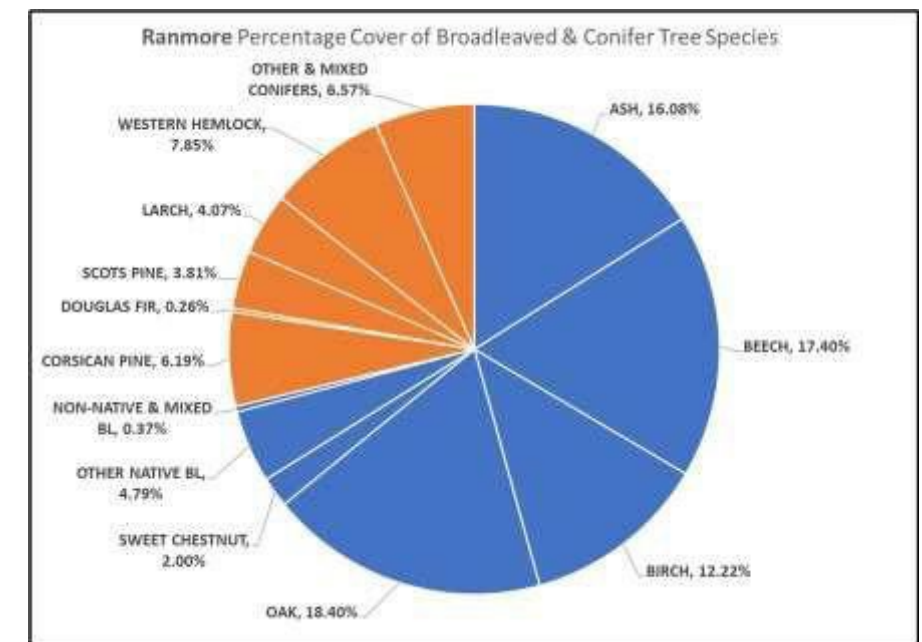
will move towards a better distribution of age classes across the woodland area.

Around half of the woodland area (19.17 ha) is classified as PAWS. There is a small area (0.02 ha) of ASNW; and the rest of the woodland is more recent. The PAWS area of Highridge is mainly classified as SN4 (49% or 9.49 ha). Around 83% of this SN4 area is dominated by mature conifers, with the remaining area made up of recently planted oak. A little under 37% (7.05 ha) of the PAWS area is currently classified as SN1.



7.6 Ranmore

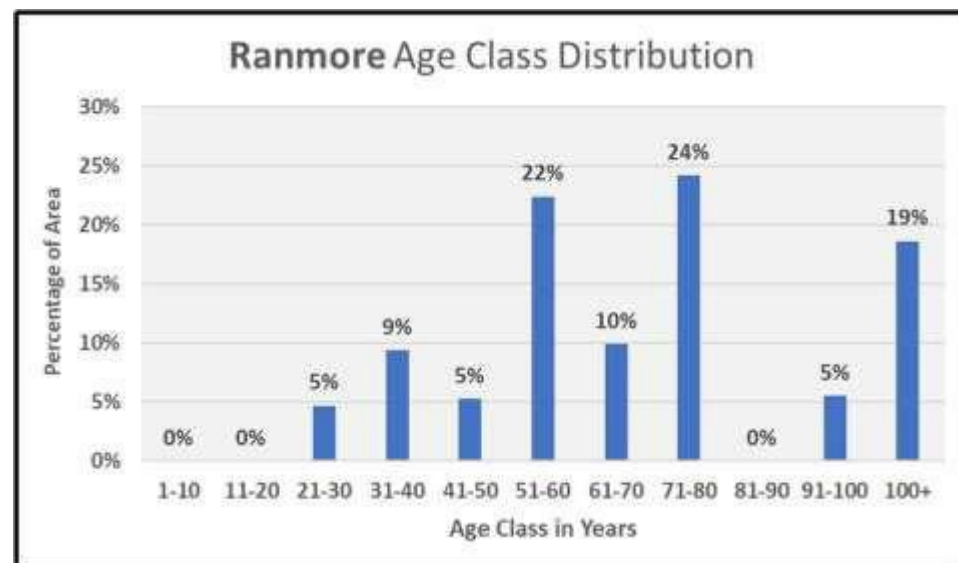
Broadleaves dominate this woodland, covering 71% (49.58 ha) of the total area. The main broadleaf species are beech, ash, oak, and birch. Ash accounts for 16% (11.19 ha) of the total woodland area, but this area will be greatly reduced as most of the ash has recently been felled due to the presence of ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinea*).



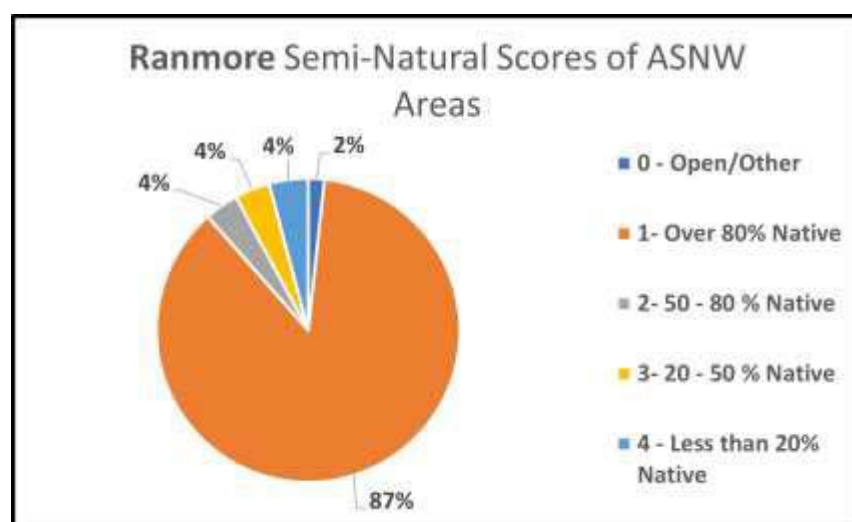
The main reason for this ash felling is to reduce danger to the public from dead and dying trees in this well used woodland with several Public Rights of Way, including the North Downs Way National Trail. The felled areas will generally be restocked with native broadleaved species, although some areas will be allowed to regenerate naturally.

Conifer species cover 29% (20 ha) of the total woodland area. The main species are western hemlock, Corsican pine, larch, and Scots pine.

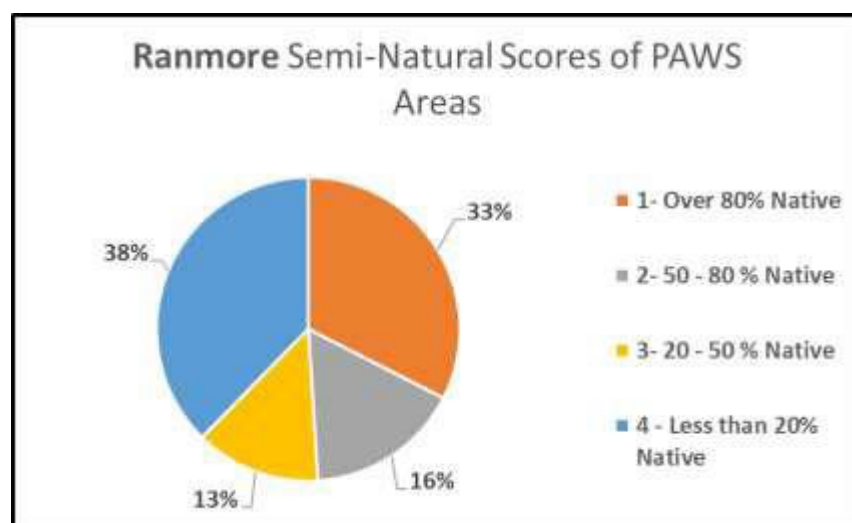
A significant part of Ranmore is even aged, with around 56% of the woodland planted between 50-80 years ago. Compared with the other Surrey Hills woods, Ranmore has a larger area of trees in the oldest age class, with just under 20% of the area at greater than 100 years of age. The removal of a large area of infected ash trees will



strongly affect the age-class distribution of this wood.



Ranmore is 71.36 ha in total, made up of 24.31 ha of ASNW, 27.88 ha of PAWS, and 19.17 ha of other woodland. Around 87% (21.09 ha) of the ASNW area is classified as SN1, and 4% (1.01 ha) as SN4. A little over a third of the PAWS area (38% or 10.50 ha) is classified as SN4, with a similar amount classified as SN1 (33% (2.8 ha) as SN1. Around 10 ha of the SN4 area is coniferous, and the remaining half hectare is broadleaved.



8. Proposed Silvicultural Systems

Previous Forest Plans have continued to use clearfell with replanting as an important method of supplying timber and regenerating areas of forest. Current advice on building climate change resilience recommends that clearfelling is avoided in favour of continuous cover silvicultural systems (also known as Low Impact Silvicultural Systems or LISS), which are better at preserving the structure and function of forest soils.

This plan redesignates several areas that were previously being managed under a clearfell system as LISS, and these areas will be felled and regenerated gradually. The ideal scenario with LISS systems is to use natural regeneration in felled areas, both to restock with site adapted species, and to reduce the cost of restocking. However, natural regeneration may be unsuitable in some areas where the regenerating species are predicted to be unsuitable for the site as the climate becomes warmer, or where we are restoring PAWS to native/near-native species. Planting will be necessary on these sites, ideally with planting stock from more southerly species provenances that will be suitable for a warming climate. It is likely that clear felling will still be necessary as a short-term response in areas affected by pests and diseases e.g., *Ips typographus* in areas of Norway spruce.

- We will move towards diversifying stand species and structure in both conifer and broadleaf stands. Planning for diversification will be based on Forest Development Types (FDTs), a framework for forest stand management developed recently by Forest Research. We will use FDTs to guide our interventions as we work towards creating continuous cover stands with mixtures of species and greater variety of stand structures.

9. Biodiversity and Conservation

9.1 Protected Sites

East Horsley and Ranmore share boundaries with two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and small areas of each SSSI are within the forest blocks. Bury Hill and Redlands is bounded by Leith Hill SSSI but has no designated sites within the woodland area. The following is a summary of each SSSI:

- **Sheeples SSSI** is adjacent to the western edge of part of East Horsley known as Mountain Wood (separated by a lane called Green Dene). Unit 1 of this SSSI, a small area of geological SSSI (0.31ha), is in the Mountain Wood part of east Horsley. This Unit is currently in favourable condition. The rest of the SSSI area (Units 8 and 9) is cited for the occurrence of oak-ash-beech woodland on chalk and several fragments of south-east chalk grassland. The site supports a diversity of invertebrates, especially butterflies. This area is owned by Surrey County Council and managed by them and Surrey Wildlife Trust.

- **Hackhurst and White Downs SSSI** runs along the southern edge of Ranmore. Unit 6 of this SSSI (2.6 ha) is within the Ranmore block. It comprises a mixture of beech and yew woodland on steep ground with a disused chalk pit. This unit is also currently in Favourable condition. The remainder of the SSSI is cited for a habitat mosaic of grassland, scrub and secondary woodland which support a wide range of herbaceous and woody plants including juniper (*Juniperus communis*). The diverse plant communities support a wide range of invertebrates, especially butterflies.
- **Leith Hill SSSI** adjoins Forestry England land in the southwestern part of Bury Hill and Redlands (Units 3, 5, 8 and 9). This area has been cited for a variety of acidic woodland habitats from secondary woods on former heathland to ancient semi-natural woodland and springline wet woodland. Several Red and Amber list bird species such as lesser-spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*), wood warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) and redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) have been recorded on the SSSI, as have a wide range of nationally rare invertebrates.

9.2 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) show where improved management (or restoration and re-creation) of Priority Habitats will enhance landscape connectivity for the benefit of Priority Species. The Surrey Nature Partnership has developed several BOAs covering the county, two of which are relevant to this Forest Plan:

- North Downs - ND02: North Downs Scarp and Dip.
- Wealden Greensands - WG08: Leith Hill, Wotton, Abinger & Holmwood Greensand Ridge

Each BOA document shows the Priority habitats that occur within the area and lists the Priority species that would be promoted by the management and restoration of that habitat. Both BOAs list several Priority woodland habitats:

- Beech and yew woodland
- Mixed deciduous woodland
- Wet woodland

Other habitats identified in the BOAs are:

- Acid grassland
- Calcareous grassland
- Heathland

Each BOA also gives a list of species that should be positively affected by good management and/or restoration of the above habitats. East Horsley and Ranmore are covered by North Downs - ND02 and Bury Hill falls within Wealden Greensands - WG08.

- Where appropriate, we will look for opportunities to promote BOA habitats and species, such as by managing for wet woodland in Bury Hill.

9.3 Habitat Management

Woodland biodiversity depends on the factors below, which can be promoted by appropriate management:

- Habitat structure
- Open space
- Deadwood

9.4 Habitat Structure

One of the main factors affecting woodland biodiversity is vegetation structure, both within stands and at the junction between open areas (such as forest rides) and stand edges.

As an example, several bird species are known to be dependent on particular types of vegetation structure within stands. Some prefer high canopies with little understorey, and others need varied layers of ground and shrub vegetation in which to live, feed and reproduce. Most of the woodland in this Forest Plan will be managed in the future using Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) and varying degrees of continuous cover forestry. These systems generally produce a more varied canopy structure within woodland stands than traditional clearfelling systems. Using several different LISS should result in a range of vegetation structures within stands. Most of these systems are also reliant on maintaining canopy cover, which give more opportunity to provide habitat continuity for several species.

In areas where open habitats are next to forest stands (such as ride edges), the most favourable habitat structure tends to grade from low grassy vegetation through a taller band of shrub vegetation, which then phases in to the taller canopy trees. This is usually referred to as 2 or 3 zone ride management, where each zone contains vegetation of a similar height.

9.5 Open Space

Open space is another major contributor to woodland biodiversity. In the past this has included temporary open space created by clearfelling operations, which has resulted in rotational habitat for species such as nightjar (*Caprimulgus caprimulgus*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and adder (*Vipera berus*). However, clearfells are likely to become less frequent as we move towards using continuous cover forestry methods, which will result in reduced availability of temporary open space. Those clearfells that are carried out will generally be smaller than in the past, in keeping with our UKFS (UK Forestry Standard) and UKWAS/PEFC (UK Woodland Assurance Scheme/Programme for

the Endorsement of Forest Certification) commitments. In woodland areas not classified as ASNW or PAWS, we will continue growing conifers and mixed woodland, but will move towards using continuous cover systems rather than clearfelling. The move towards these systems is driven by the need to protect forest soils and ecological function as a climate change resilience measure.

- We will look for opportunities to enhance open space by managing roads, rides, and box junctions to remove trees; and by introducing 2 or 3 zone ride management and creating scallops where appropriate. We will also look for opportunities to enhance edge habitats for certain species, such as by planting disease resistant elm (*Ulmus* spp.) trees for white letter hairstreak butterflies (*Satyrrium w-album*). Most ride enhancement will take place as part of harvesting operations, but we will seek funding for additional work if suitable project areas can be identified. There are some areas where we will be trying to link improved ride management with adjacent habitats to promote ecological linkage and landscape permeability, and these will be mentioned in the section for each woodland below.

9.6 Deadwood and Veteran Trees

Dead and decaying wood is an important part of several woodland food webs and plays a major role in ecosystem functioning.

- We will carry out assessments of current levels of standing and fallen deadwood and veteran trees within forest stands (either linking into national surveys such as the National Forest Inventory or developing local survey methods) and will create more where necessary.

9.7 Bury Hill and Redlands

Most of the areas directly adjacent to Leith Hill SSSI are not classified as ASNW or

PAWS, and the long-term objective for these areas in previous Forest Plans has been

to carry out clearfelling and replant with appropriate conifer species. Dry heathland species occur along many of the edges of internal corridors particularly at higher elevations on the freer draining sandy soils. We will look for opportunities to enhance this vegetation by carrying out ride-widening and management as part of forest operations.

Wet woodland is an important feature of this woodland block and occurs around springlines and wet flushes along the course of the Pipp Brook, which flows from south to north through the wood from Coldharbour village. A project has been carried out in partnership with the Environment Agency to investigate the effectiveness of leaky woody dams as a tool for natural flood management along the course of the Pipp

Surveys carried out as part of this work recorded a range of invertebrate species indicative of good biological quality along the Pipp Brook, and this area has been considered as a possible site for the reintroduction of beavers (*Castor fiber*) in the past. Since 2013, we have been removing areas of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) which have encroached on the wet woodland area and reduced overall habitat quality. This removal will continue in coming years, along with control of Rhododendron regrowth, until the species has been removed from the wet woodland area.

- The wet woodland area will be zoned as a Natural Reserve to be managed as near-natural woodland.

Wet woodland restoration and management will increase the value of the habitat for a range of threatened species such as otter (*Lutra lutra*), lesser-spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*) and willow tit (*Poecile montanus*), as well as a range of invertebrates, mosses and liverworts.

9.8 East Horsley

- In Mountain Wood, we will maintain Unit 1 of Sheeples SSSI in Favourable condition. This involves keeping the area geological interest free of encroaching vegetation.
- In the same area, we will look for opportunities to create habitat permeability by linking to open space and ride management within the SSSI area.

9.9 Ranmore

- We will maintain Unit 6 Of the Hackhurst and White Down SSSI in Favourable condition and look for opportunities to carry out work such as ride management and widening, and box junction creation for the benefit of the adjacent SSSI Units 7, 8 and 10. This work will also improve butterfly habitat within the wood.

10. People

Brook.

The woodlands of the Surrey Hills provide opportunities for people from the surrounding area and further afield to explore the landscape and its wildlife, and to lead an active lifestyle. At present, the woods are mainly used for walking (including dog walking) and cycling.

East Horsley, Ranmore and Highridge are dedicated as open access areas under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), which means that public can walk anywhere within these woods. Bury Hill is also dedicated, but Redlands (the woodland area east of Coldharbour Lane) is not, restricting walkers to Public Rights of Way within this part of the wood.

Horse riders are able to use the network of bridleways and green lanes in all the Surrey Hills woods, as well as a range of tracks permitted under the TROT scheme (Toll Rides Off-Road Trust) in Ranmore, East Horsley, and in Bury Hill. Redlands and Highridge are excluded from this scheme.

Cyclists can make use of bridleways and green lanes in the same way as horse riders. They may also use the main forest roads within the areas designated as open access. Mountain biking is growing in popularity and scale within the Surrey Hills woods in this area, and there is a need to move towards more sustainable management of this activity. Any changes in management of mountain biking would also need to take account the views of walkers, horse riders and other users.

Visitors to Ranmore usually use a National Trust car park next to the northern entrance to the wood. Highridge Wood has a small car park at the southern end of the wood. East Horsley has no formal car park, but visitors can and do use forest entrances. There is no formal car park at Bury Hill and Redlands, but a number of small car parks for nearby Leith Hill are provided by the National Trust, which visitors use when accessing our woods.

11. Historic Environment

There are no Scheduled Monuments in any of the Surrey Hills woods, but there are a range of non-scheduled archaeological features. As well as a number of banks, mounds, and ditches throughout most of the woods, there are also other features of particular interest:

- **East Horsley** contains the Lovelace Bridges, a series of Grade II listed structures built by Lord Lovelace on his Horsley Estate in the mid-19th century. There are five surviving bridges within the wood. No specific measures are needed within this plan to conserve the bridges, but vegetation control is important to prevent physical damage and continuing maintenance and repair is necessary to prevent further deterioration.
- **Ranmore** contains two second world war pillboxes, a former lime kiln, and a slit trench.
- **Bury Hill** has Mag's Well, a 17th century well originally used for bathing in its reputedly healing waters.
- **Redlands** has a section of the Roman road called Stane Street, which ran from Chichester to London.

■ We will continue to manage areas with archaeological features using best

12. Geology and Soils

12.1 East Horsley and Ranmore

East Horsley is on the dip slope of the North Downs, while Ranmore is on the edge of the steep scarp slope (with part of the woodland extending to the bottom of the slope). The North Downs are underlain by chalk with superficial deposits of clay-with-flints on parts of the dip slope, with some areas of river terrace deposits.

The soils under most of East Horsley are classified as freely draining and slightly acid loamy soils consisting of argillic brown earths, with some areas of gleying. In the northern parts of Mountain, Hanger and Oldlands woods, soils are classified as shallow and lime rich over chalk and limestone, made up of typical brown earths (and some calcareous brown earths) and rendzinas.

12.2 Highridge

Highridge Wood lies on the Weald clay formation. The soils in this area are classified as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. They are mainly surface water gleys with some areas of argillic brown earth.

12.3 Bury Hill and Redlands

Most of this forest is underlain by the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand ridge with Weald clay present in the stream valleys and at lower elevations. Soils are strongly acid, permeable, and free draining. Soil types range from podzolic brown earth to typical podzols with more neutral gleyed soils in the valley bottoms.

13. Water

practice, and in consultation with our archaeological advisors.

East Horsley and Ranmore have no watercourses or waterbodies. They sit on top of the North Downs ridge on generally porous soils and highly porous bedrock. Highridge is adjacent to a small number of watercourses but has no features within the wood-land area.

Springline wet woodland is an important feature in Bury Hill. It occurs both on wet flushes emanating from slopes spread across the complex as well as flanking the Pipp Brook which flows north-east through the forest. A phased programme of Rhododendron removal has been carried out in this area since 2011, which will continue as resources allow. This area has also been the subject of an Environment Agency (EA) project on the effects of leaky woody dams, a number of which have been installed along parts of the Pipp Brook. As part of this project, studies of fish and invertebrates in the Pipp Brook show the stream to be of high ecological quality. We have designated the whole area as Natural Reserve and will continue to restore the area to functioning wet woodland by removing remaining area of conifers within this area to allow the development of native vegetation, and by seeing whether the remaining large alder stools will successfully re-coppice.

14. Pests and Diseases

A number of existing and new pests and diseases are known or thought to be present in the Surrey Hills blocks. These include:

- Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), which has become a major problem in recent years, particularly in Ranmore.
- Dothistroma needle blight (*Dothistroma septosporum*) mainly affects Corsican pine and is present throughout the area.
- Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is not present in these blocks, but the Surrey Hills blocks are within the Plant Health (*Ips typographus*) Demarcated Area Notice, which places legal obligations and restrictions on the management and movement of infected timber and other material within this area.
- Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*). This species is currently spreading through the south-east and has been found in low numbers on three oak trees in Bury Hill over the last two years.
- Oriental Chestnut Gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) is suspected to be present in the area but has not been confirmed.
- *Phytophthora pluvialis* has recently been found in Britain, and its presence was confirmed in East Horsley in early 2022. The Surrey Hills woods are covered by a recently issued Plant Health (*Phytophthora pluvialis*) Demarcated Area Notice, which places legal obligations and restrictions on the management and movement of infected timber and other material within this area.

Pest and disease outbreaks can mean woodlands are at high risk of unplanned change through premature felling and altered restocking plans. Our guidance and action plans regarding plant health are regularly evolving to adapt to plant health threats.

- In response to the threat from *Ips typographus*, we will fell Norway spruce within these forest blocks over the ten years of the Forest Plan period.
- We will continue to monitor for diseases as required and take any action required. Any changes to the Forest Plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with relevant guidance.

Browsing by deer on young trees is also a threat to woodland regeneration in southern

England. Roe (*Capreolus capreolus*) and Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) are the most common deer species within the Surrey Hills woods.

- Deer will be managed in accordance with the South England Forest District Deer Management Strategy and in the wider landscape through partnership work with local Deer Management Groups.

15. Glossary

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAS)/Priority Habitats/Priority Species

BOAs are areas that have been identified and mapped as giving the best opportunity for enhancing biodiversity for Priority Habitats and Priority Species (a set of habitats and species defined as being of high importance for nature conservation).

Deadwood and veteran trees

Deadwood is made up of dead, dying and decaying wood from fallen branches and trees. It is of high conservation importance, and is vital to the ecology of woodlands. Veteran trees are standing old trees that may have developed deadwood features, such as holes, cavities and crevice within the tree. All of these features provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Forest Development Types (FDT)

FDTs describe a desired forest stand structure and tree species composition for a range of different soil type and climate combinations. They describe the potential management of these sites, and cover both native and non-native species.

Lower Impact Silvicultural System (LISS)

Historically, most forestry in the United Kingdom has been carried out using the clear-fell-restock system, where even-aged, single-species stands of trees have been felled and replanted. These areas of clearfell can be extensive.

LISS are a set of felling and regeneration techniques that are thought to have a lower site impact than clearfell, and may retain a significant cover of trees on a site during regeneration.

National Character Area (NCA)

NCAs represent areas of distinct and recognisable character based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape, not county or district boundaries.

National Landscape

National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) are areas of the countryside with significant landscape value that have been designated to conserve and enhance their natural beauty.

Natural Regeneration

The growth of new trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees. Natural regeneration only occurs where suitable seed sources and site conditions are present.

Open space

Areas of forest without extensive tree cover. Trees and shrubs may encroach, and management is usually needed to keep spaces open.

Selection system

Selection systems are **Silvicultural Systems** that usually involve the felling and regeneration (by planting or **Natural Regeneration**) of individual or small groups of trees. This is done as part of a rolling programme of felling and regeneration that means the site always retains tree cover.

Shelterwood system

Shelterwood is a **Silvicultural System** that retains some tree canopy cover to shelter newly planted or naturally seeded young trees.

Silvicultural System

A silvicultural system is the process of tending, harvesting and regenerating a forest. Different spatial patterns of felling and regeneration are used by different silvicultural systems.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

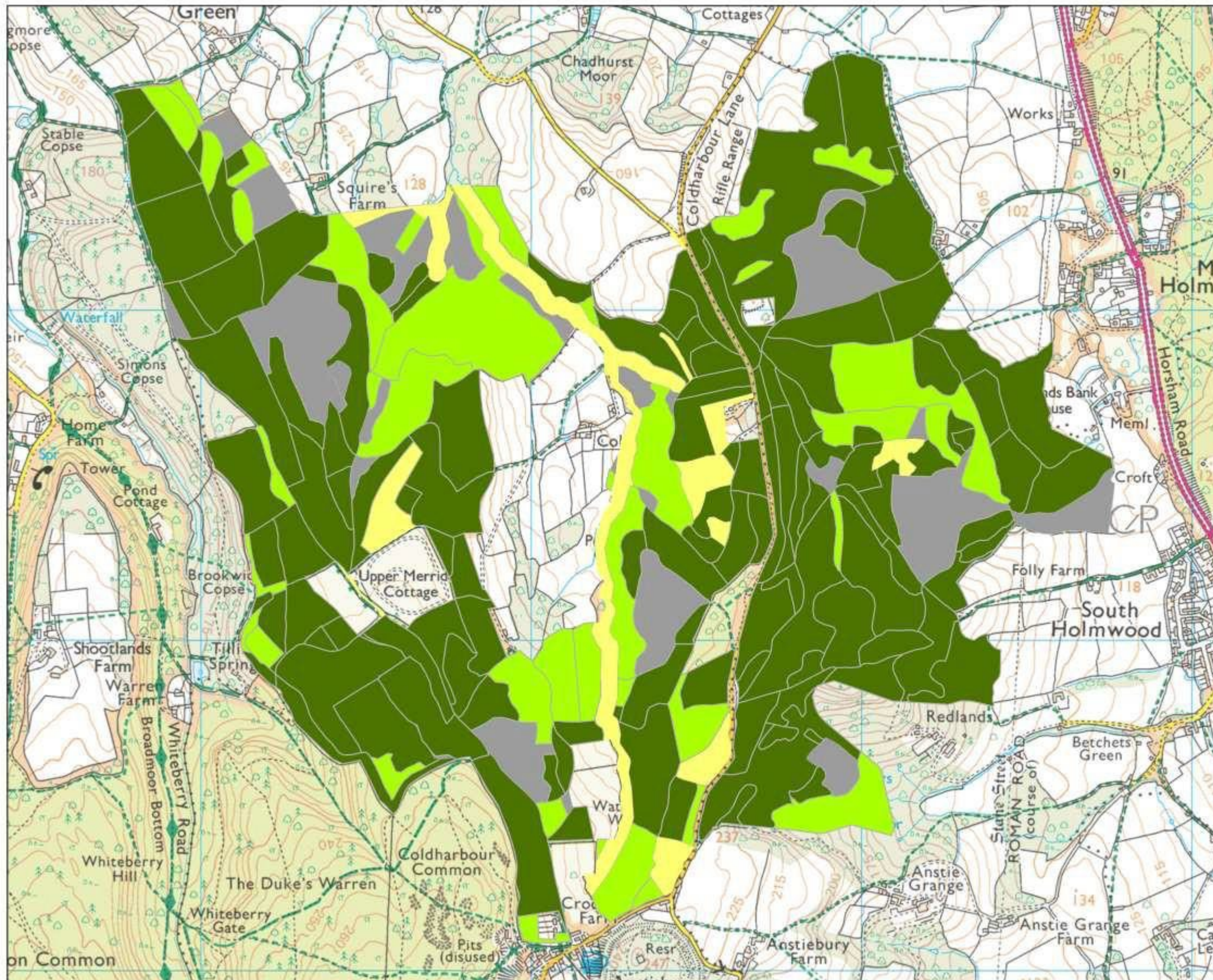
SSSI is a statutory conservation designation that gives legal protection to a site. Sites may be designated due to the presence of animals, plants or habitats thought to be of high conservation value. Sites may also be designated due to their geological importance.

United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS)

The UKFS defines government requirements and recommendations for sustainable forest management.

UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

UKWAS is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK.



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Bury Hill/Redlands Current Woodland Structure

- Legend**
- Woodland Type**
- Native & Honorary
 - Native Woodland
 - Mixed Woodland
 - Coniferous Woodland
 - Open & Other

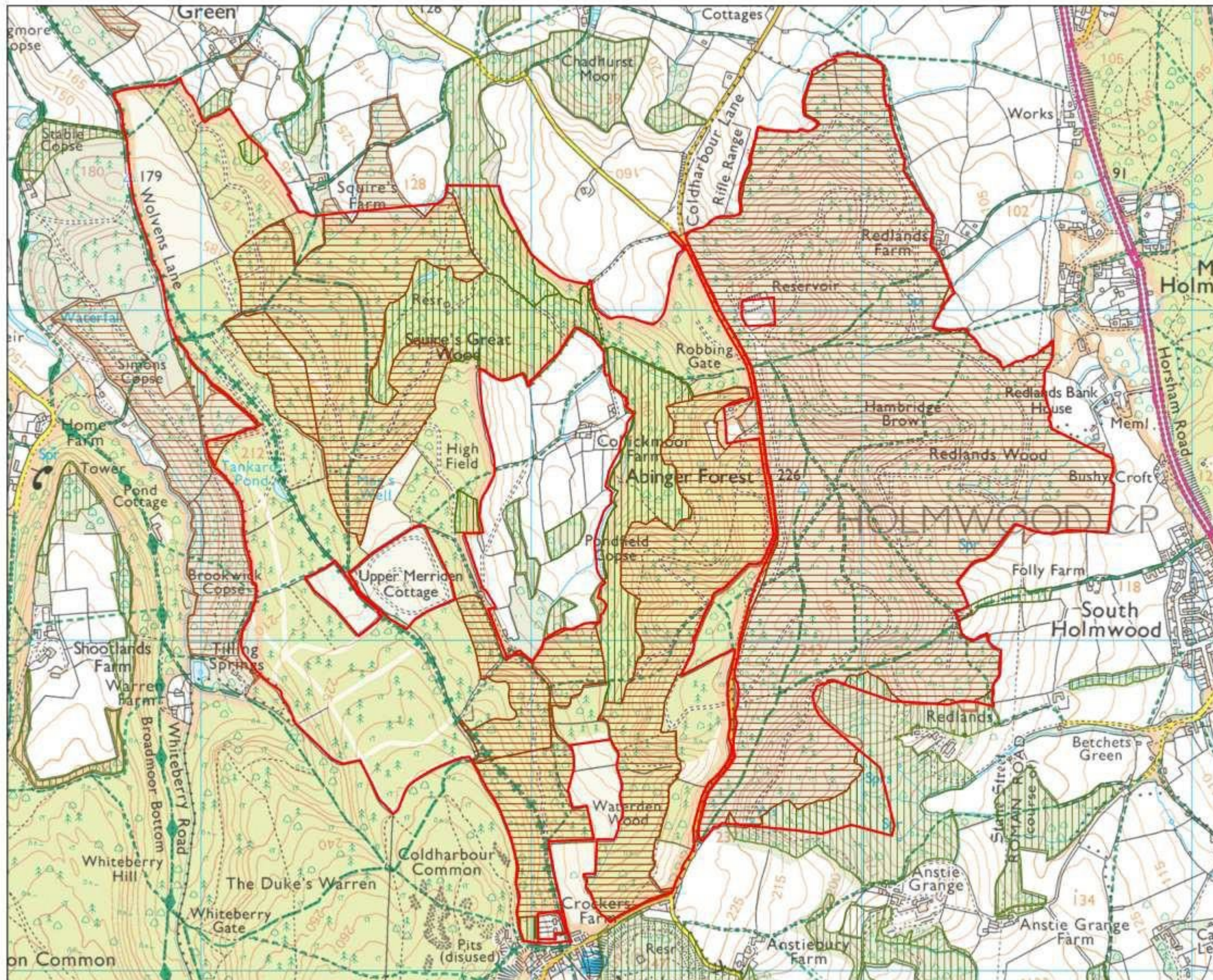
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 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude of Origin: 49.0000
 Units: Meter

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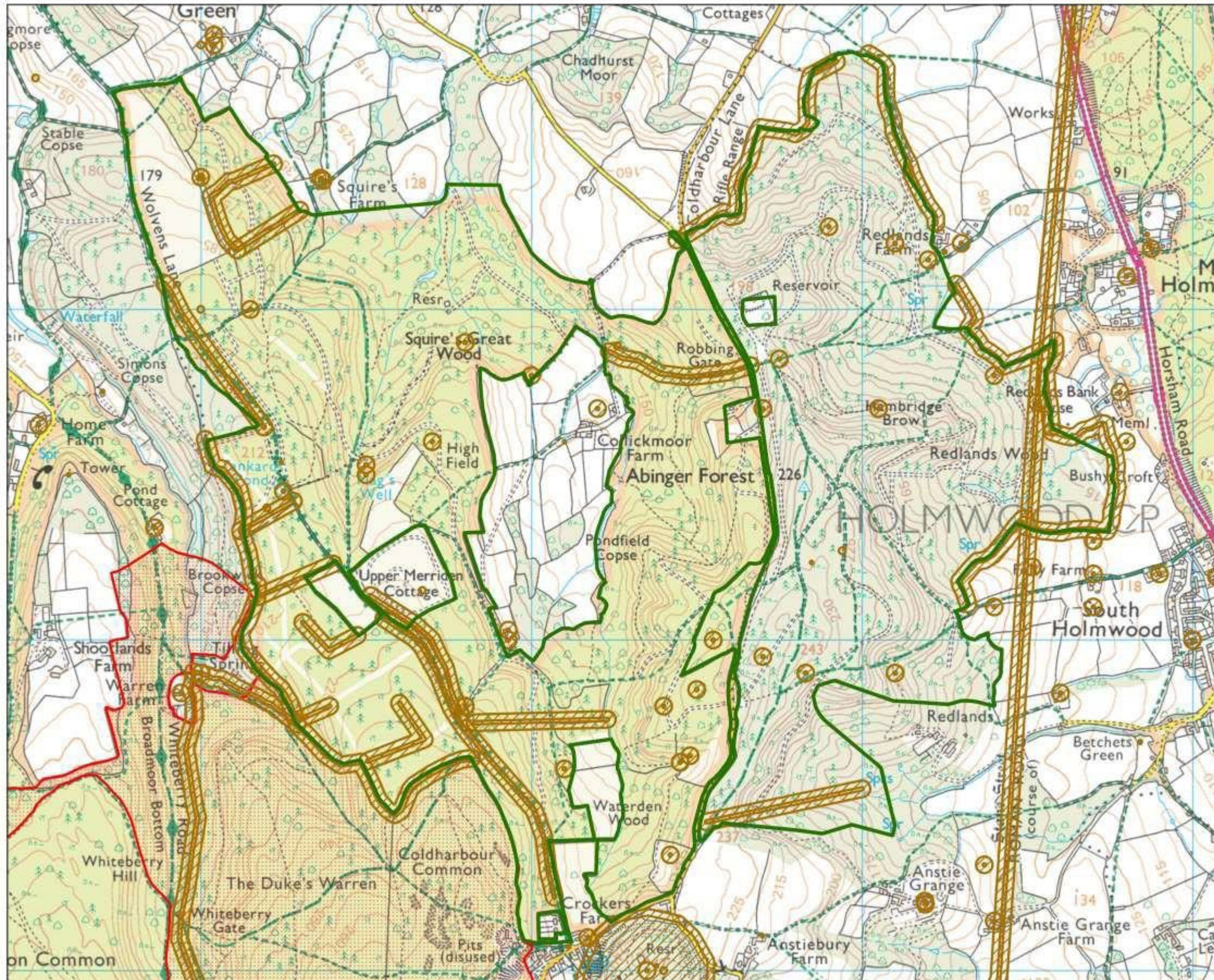
Bury Hill/Redlands Ancient Woodland

- Legend**
- Ancient Woodlands Within Blocks**
 - Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Ancient Replanted Woodland
 - Surrey Hills Blocks**
 - Surrey Hills Blocks

Date: 20/05/2024
 Scale: 1:11,000 @ A3

Coordinates System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
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Bury Hill/Redlands Designations and Heritage Features

- Legend**
- Surrey Hills Blocks
 - Heritage
 - Heritage Impact Zones
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest

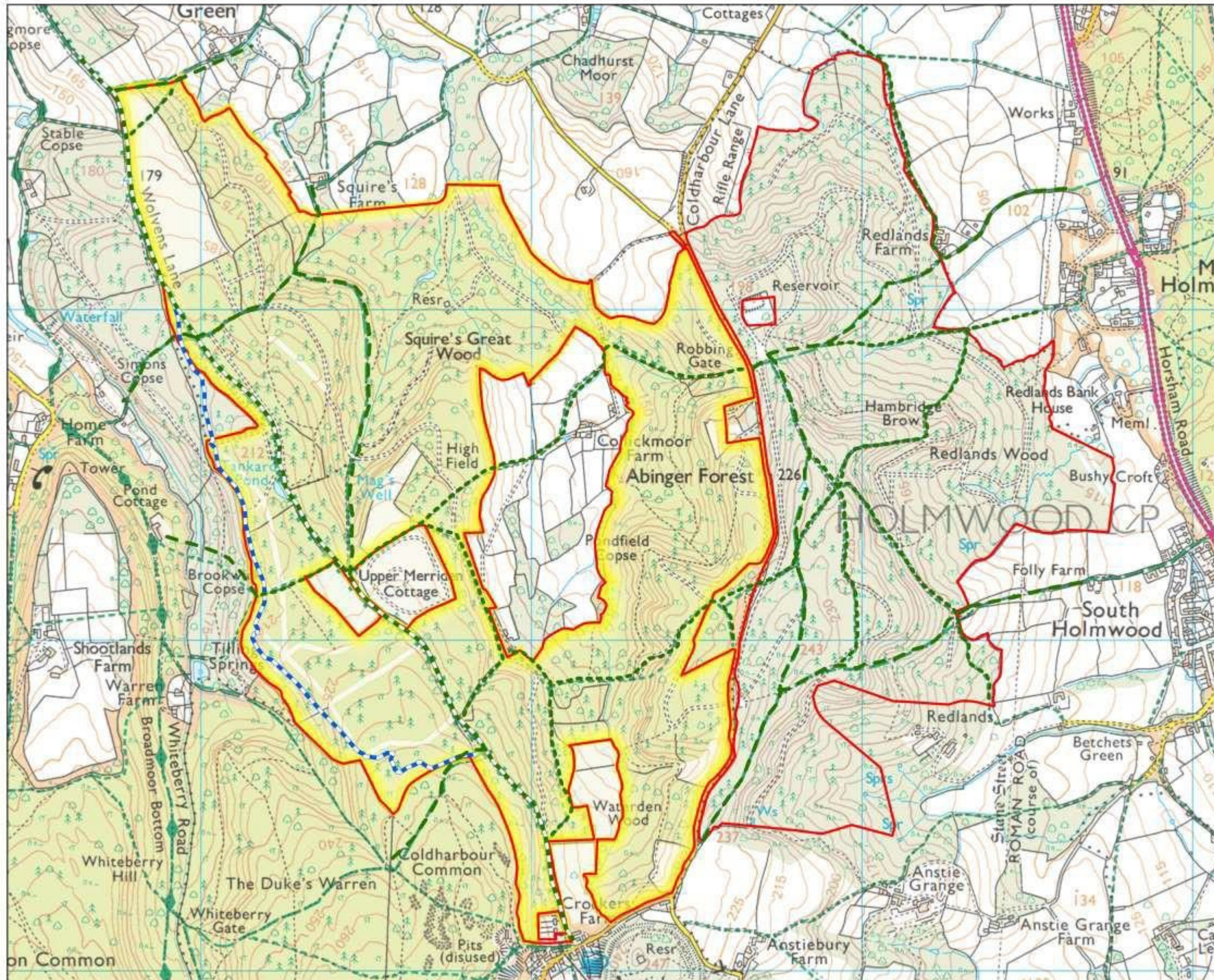
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 Units: Metre

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Bury Hill/Redlands Access

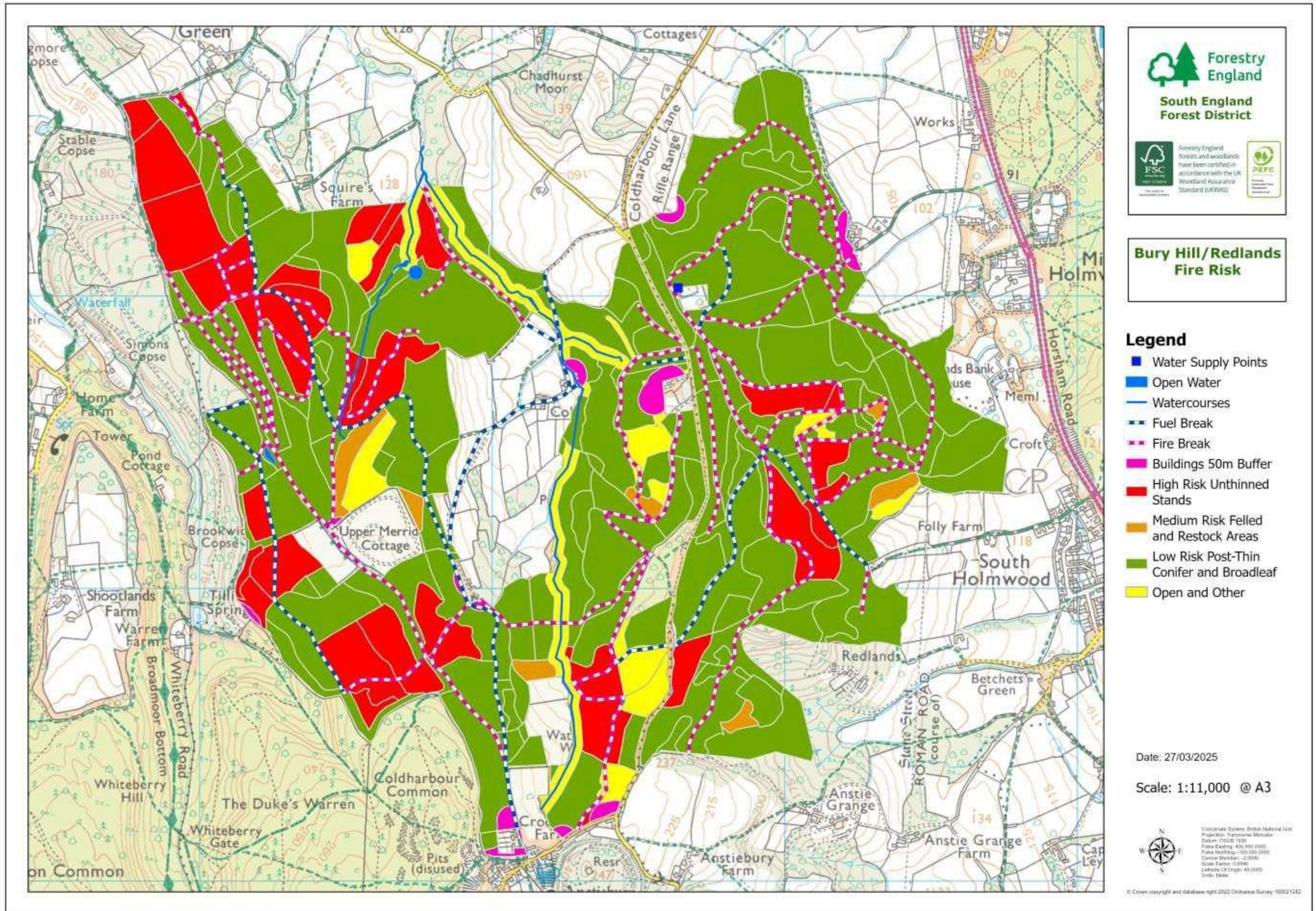
- Legend**
- Surrey Hills Blocks
 - Public Rights of Way**
 - Byway
 - Footpath
 - Bridleway - Other Access**
 - Summer Lightning Cycle Route
 - Open Access Land

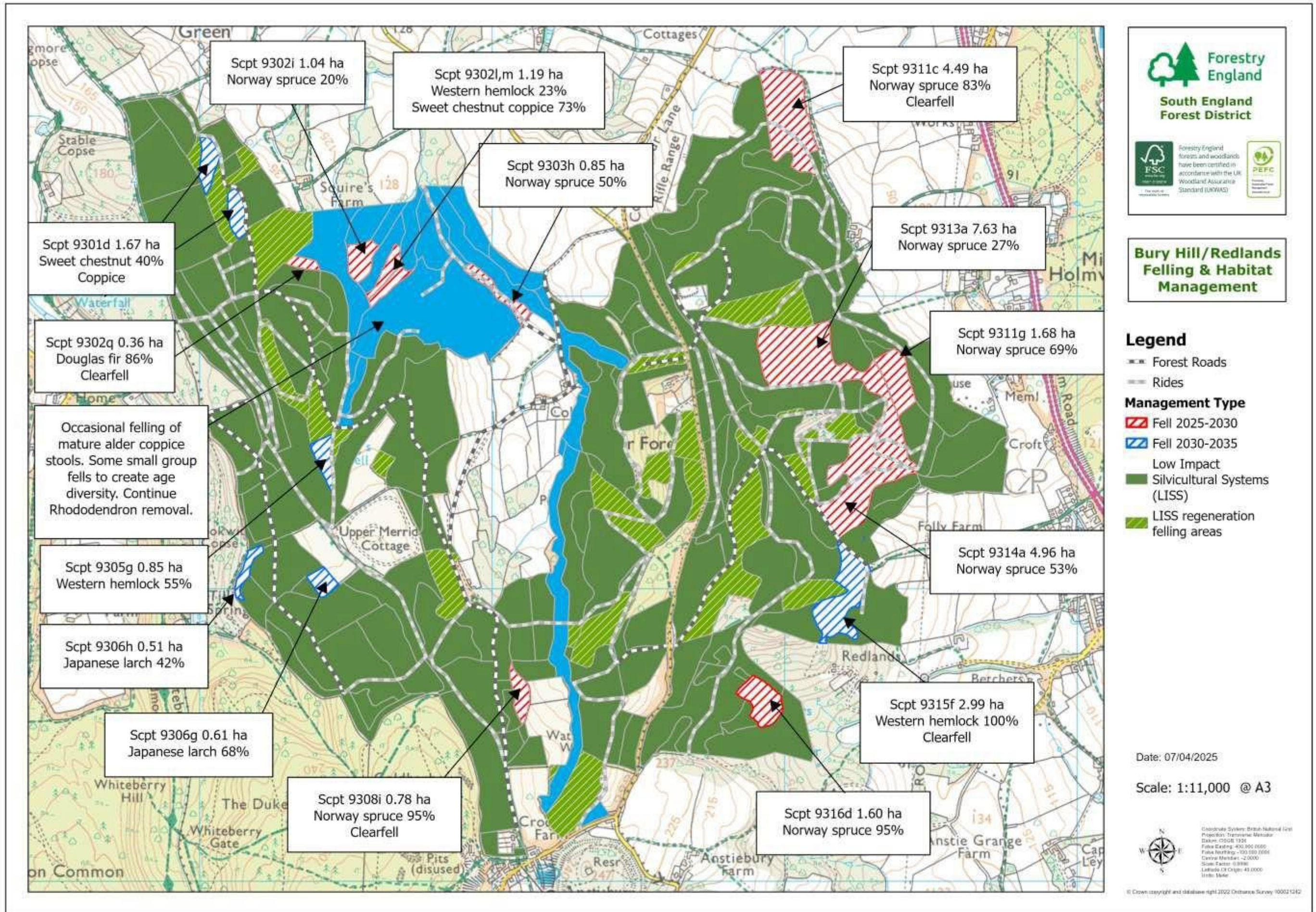
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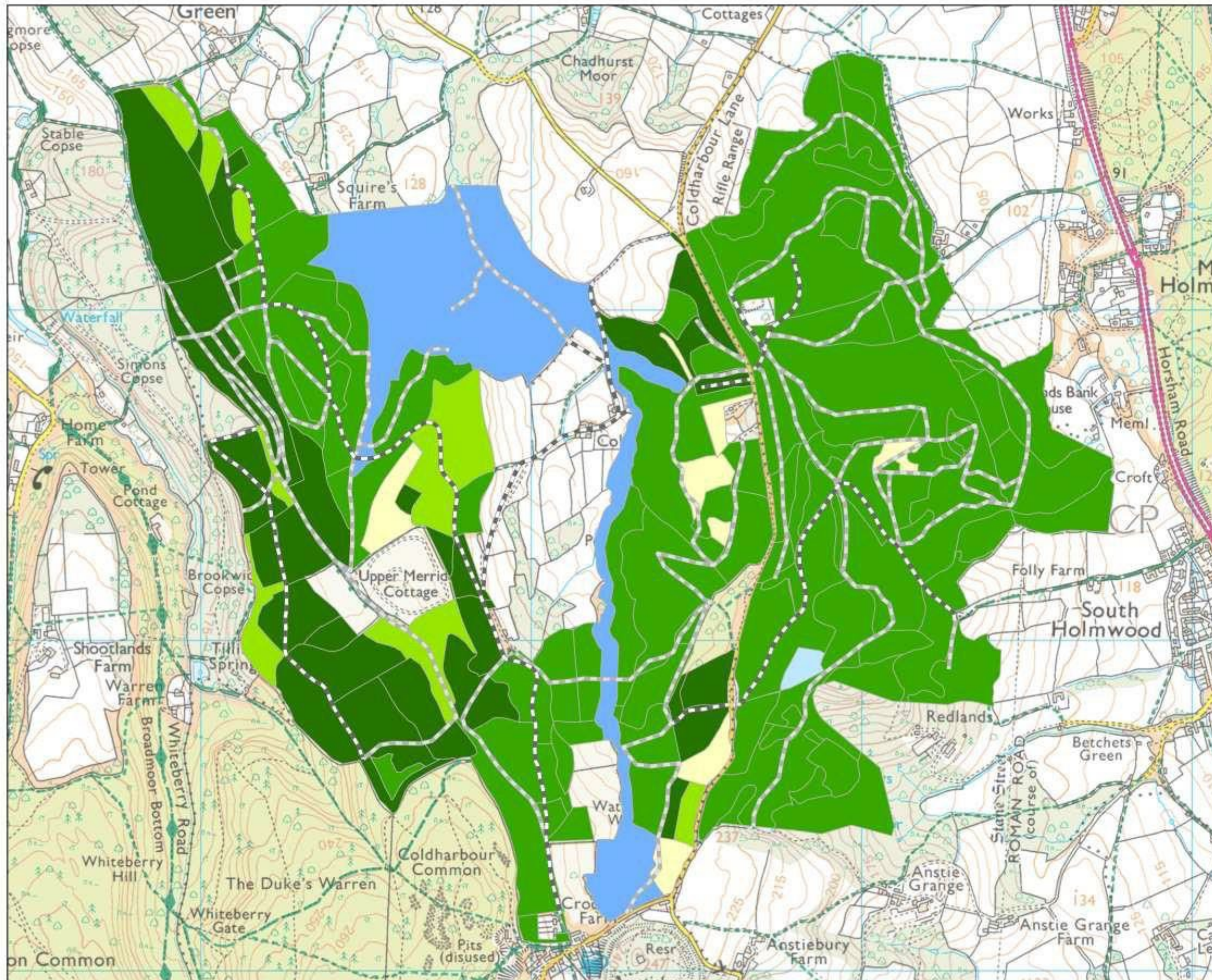
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 Units: Metre

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 Certified

Bury Hill/Redlands Long-Term Vision

Legend

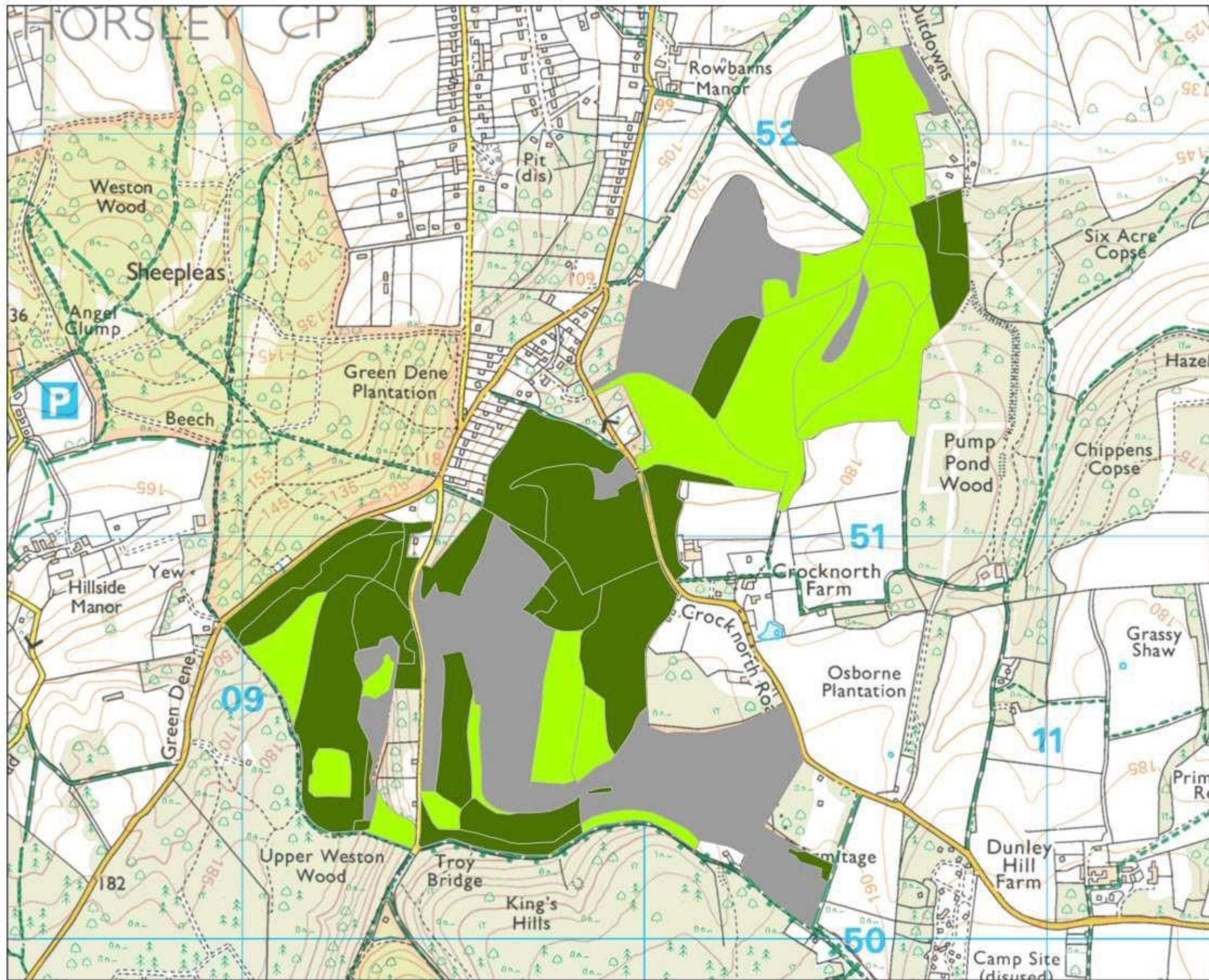
- Forest Roads
- Rides
- Habitat Type**
- Managed Native Woodland
- Managed Mixed Woodland
- Managed Conifer Woodland
- Natural Reserve
- Long Term Retention
- Open and Other

Date: 16/04/2025

Scale: 1:11,000 @ A3

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East Horsley Current Woodland Structure

Legend

- Woodland Type**
- Native & Honorary Native Woodland
 - Mixed Woodland
 - Coniferous Woodland

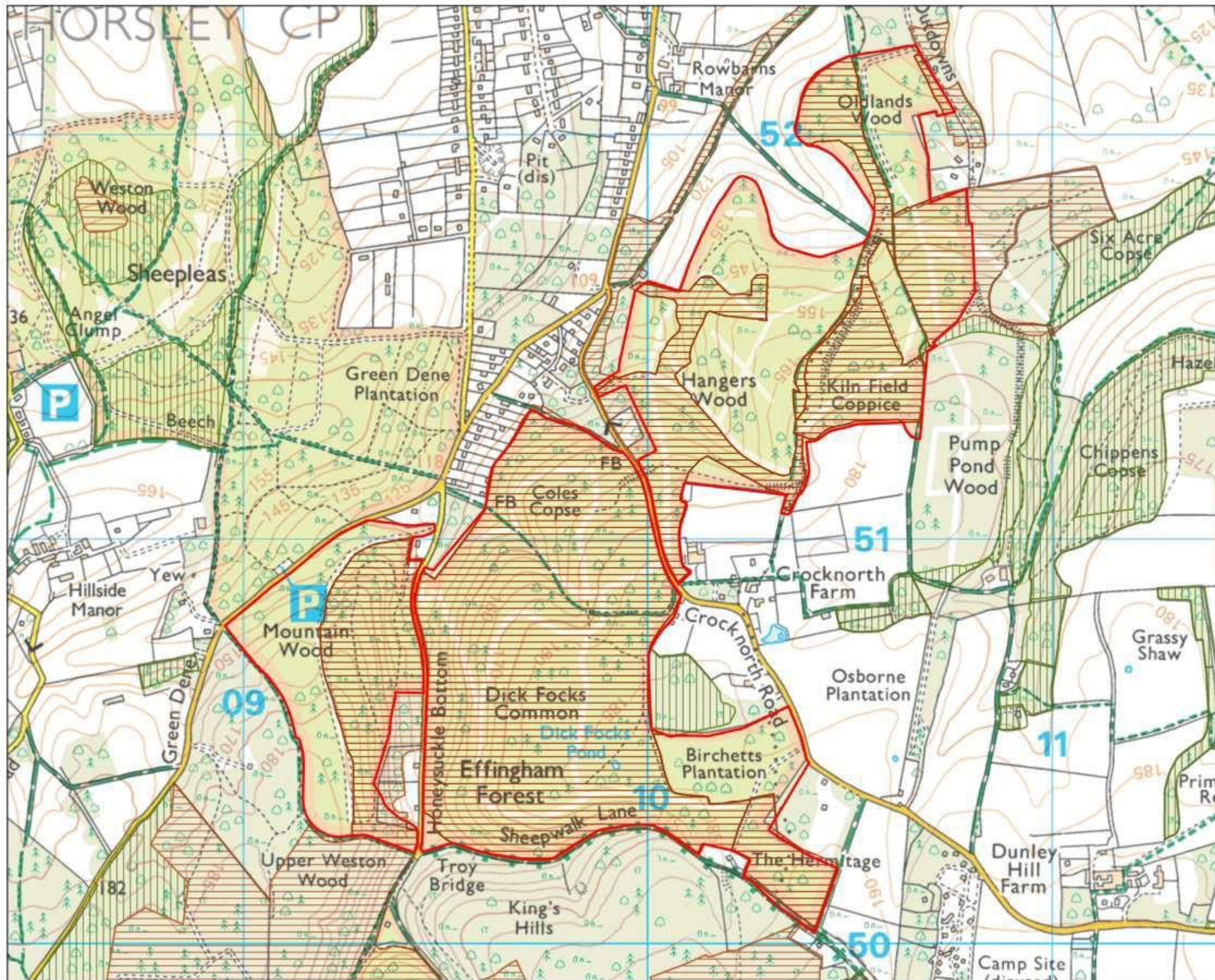
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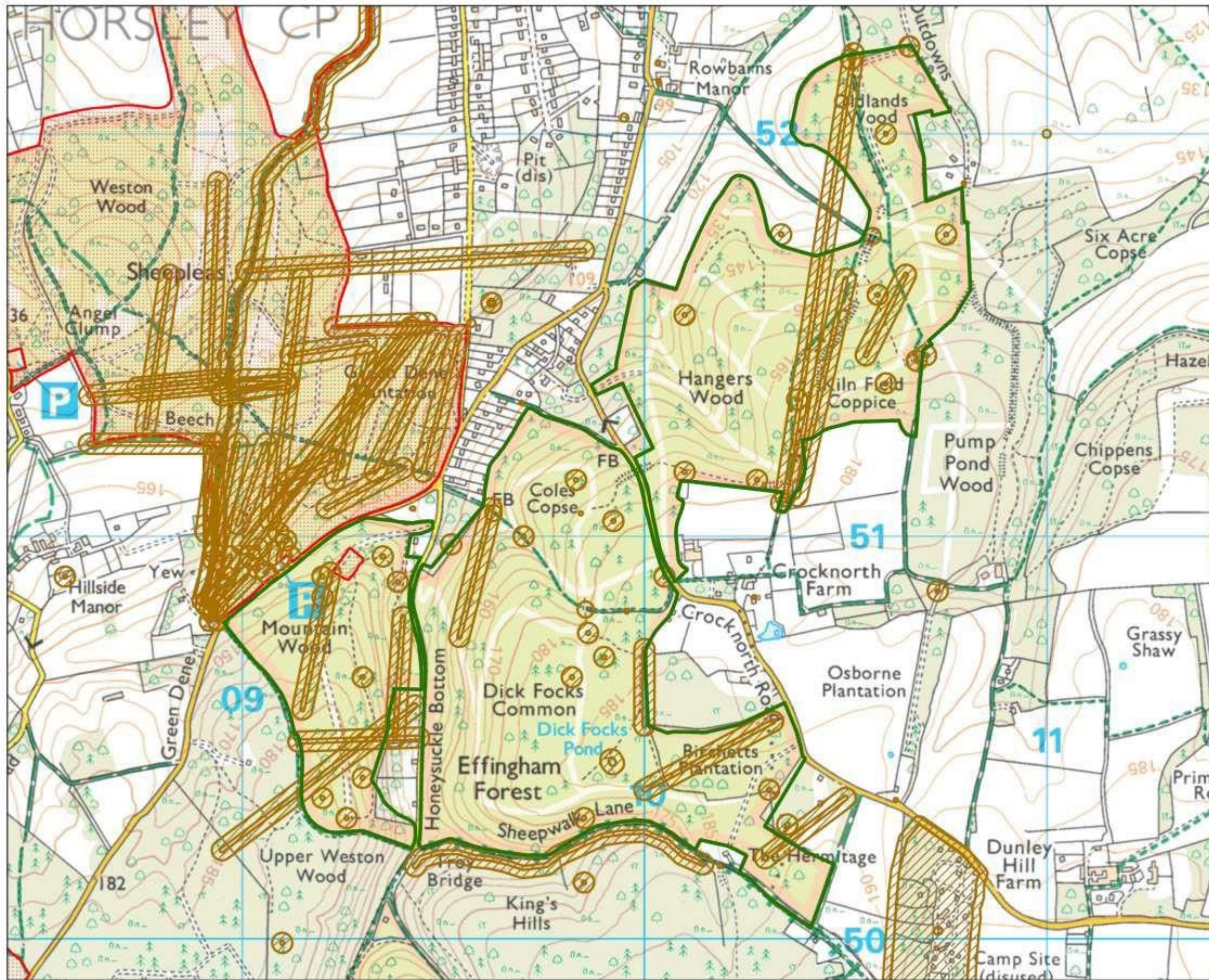
East Horsley Ancient Woodland

- Legend**
- Ancient Woodlands Within Blocks**
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Surrey Hills Blocks**
- Surrey Hills Blocks

Date: 20/05/2024
Scale: 1:9,000 @ A3

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Units: Meter

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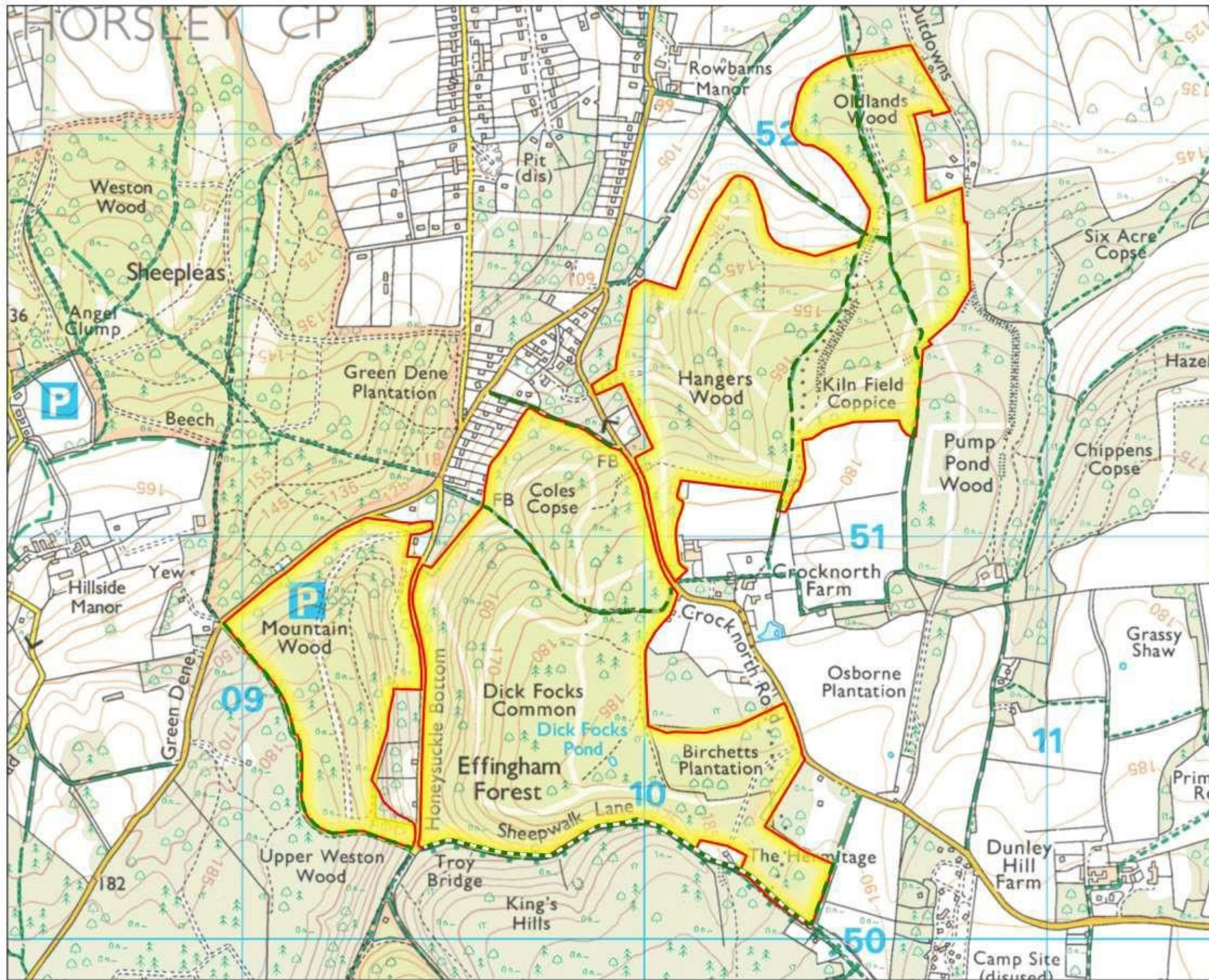
East Horsley Designations and Heritage Features

- Legend**
- Surrey Hills Blocks
 - Heritage
 - Heritage Impact Zones
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Date: 20/05/2024
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 Units: Meter

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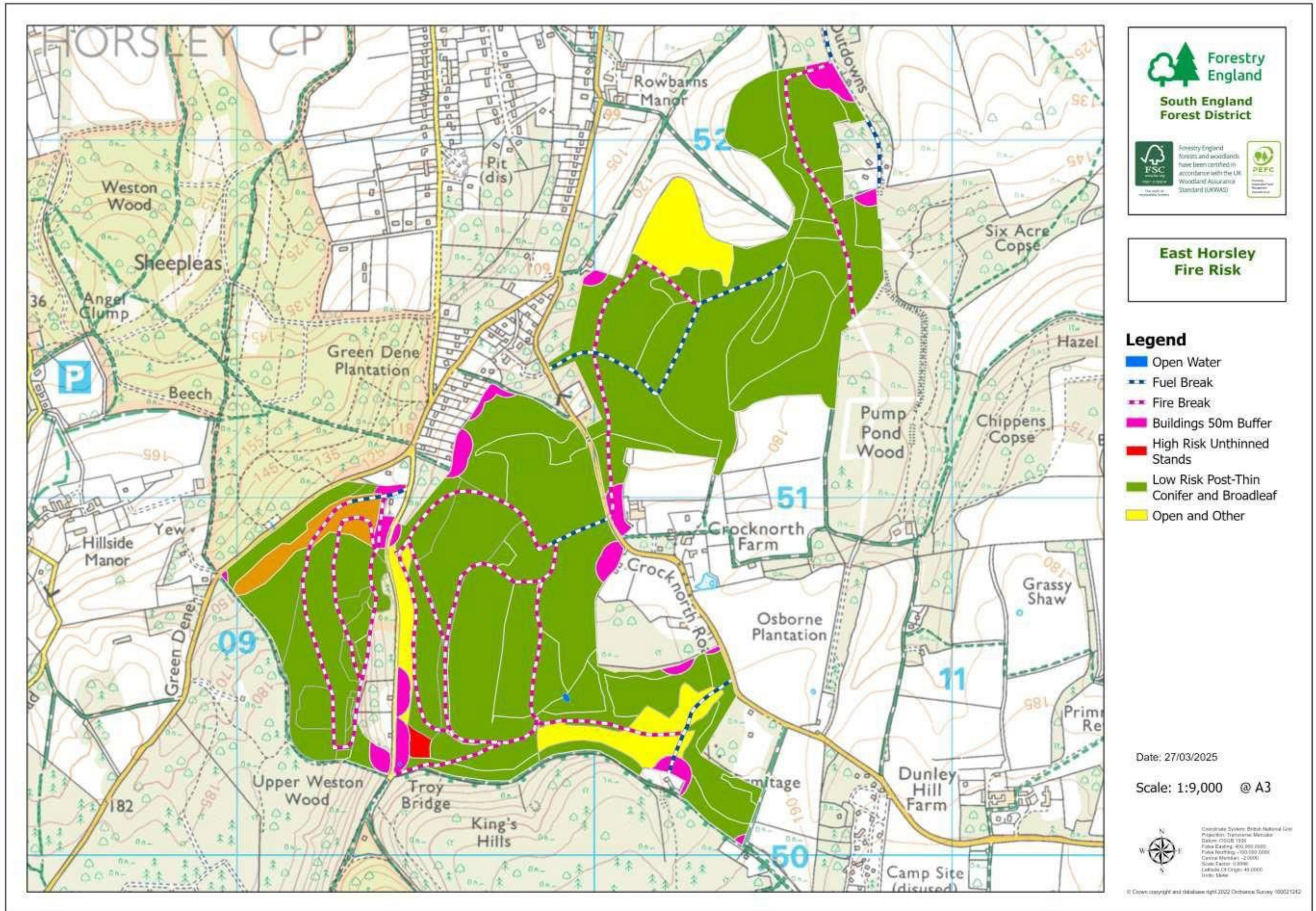
East Horsley Access

- Legend**
- Surrey Hills Blocks
 - Public Rights of Way**
 - Byway
 - Bridleway - Other Access**
 - Open Access Land

Date: 20/05/2024
Scale: 1:9,000 @ A3

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Units: Metre

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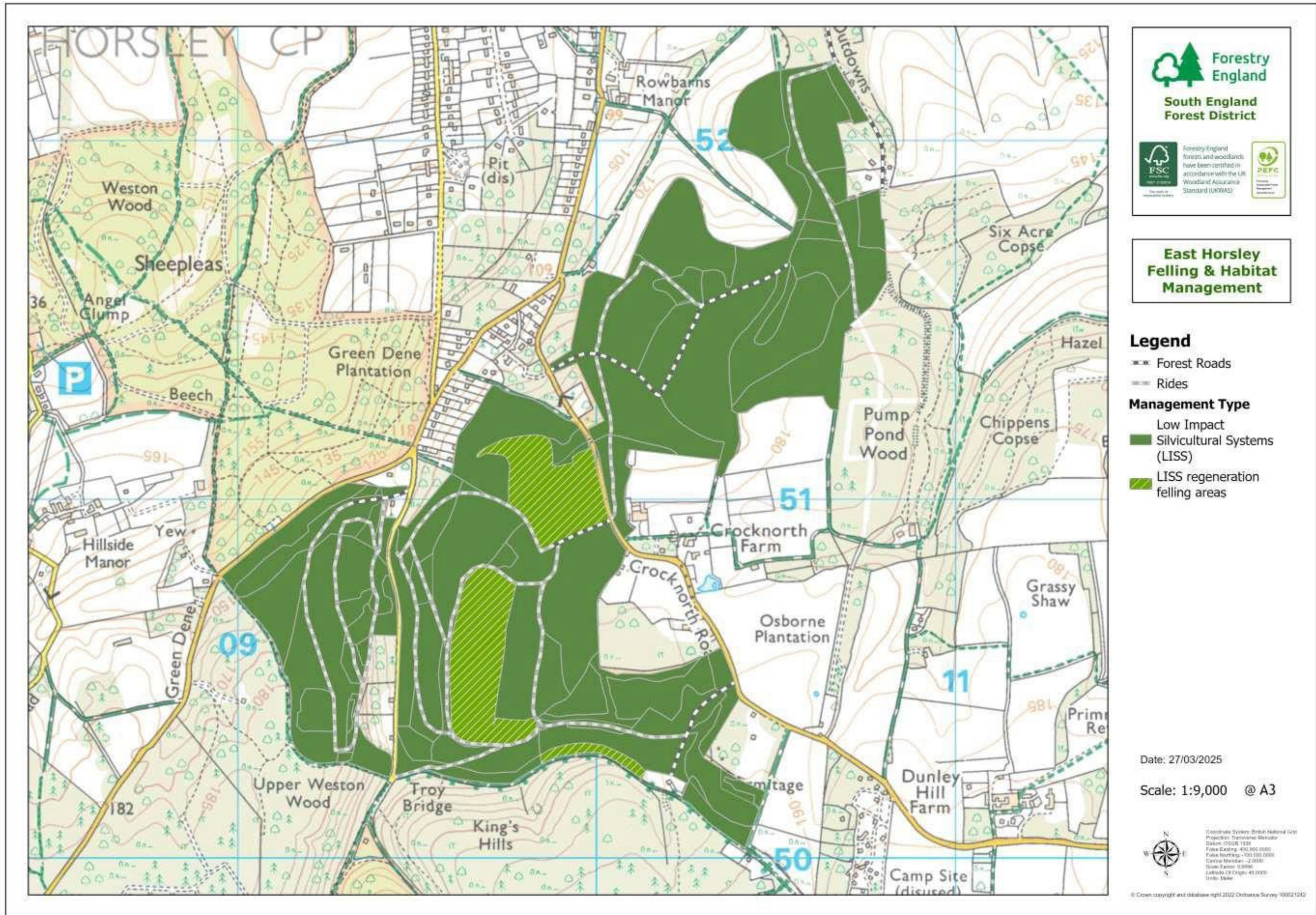
East Horsley Fire Risk

- Legend**
- Open Water
 - Fuel Break
 - Fire Break
 - Buildings 50m Buffer
 - High Risk Unthinned Stands
 - Low Risk Post-Thin Conifer and Broadleaf
 - Open and Other

Date: 27/03/2025
Scale: 1:9,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
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Units: Metre

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Woodland Assurance
Standard (UKWAS)

**East Horsley
Felling & Habitat
Management**

Legend

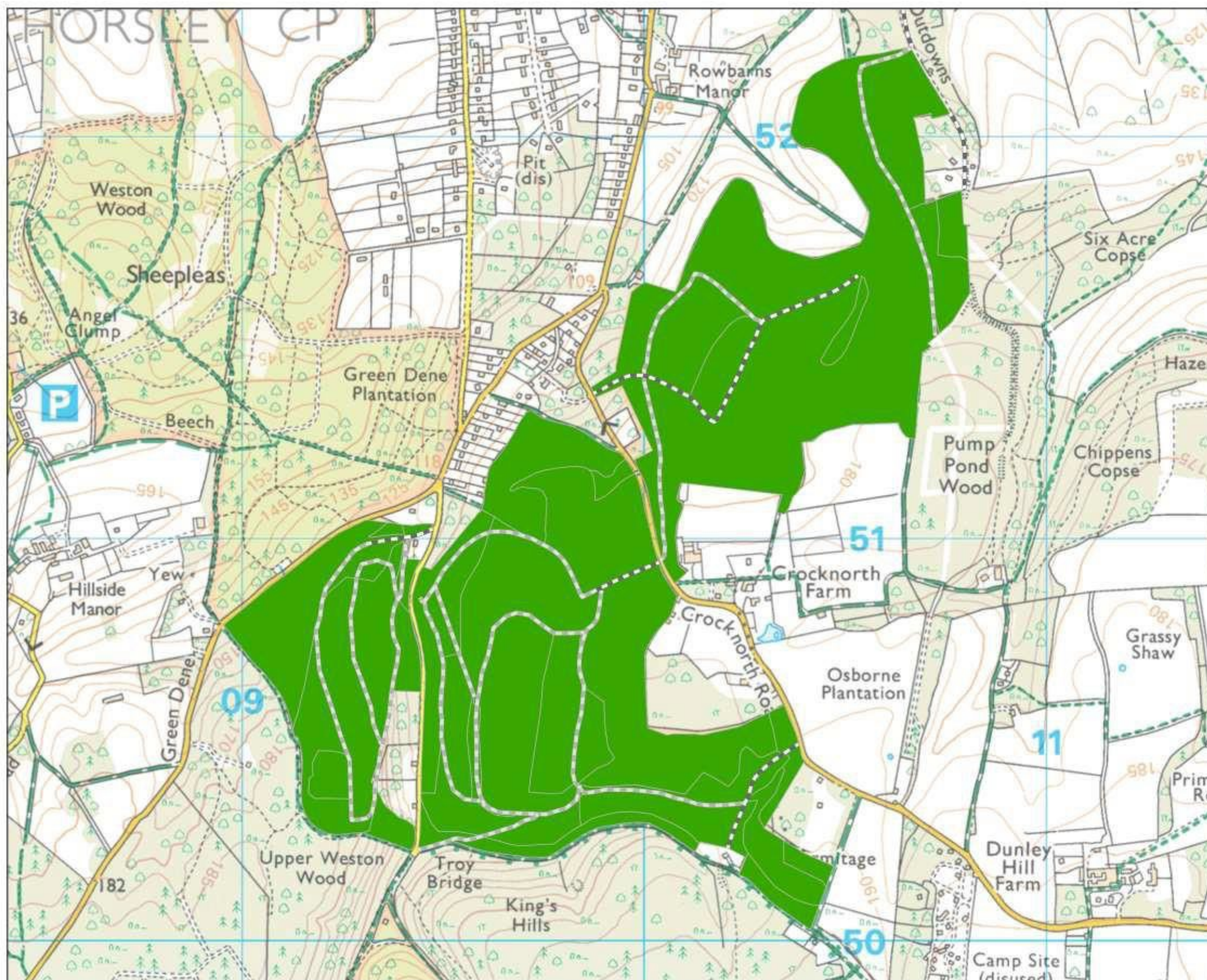
- Forest Roads
- Rides
- Management Type**
- Low Impact
- Silvicultural Systems (LISS)
- LISS regeneration felling areas

Date: 27/03/2025

Scale: 1:9,000 @ A3

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Projection: Transverse Mercator
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Scale Factor: 0.9996
Latitude 01 Origin: 49 0000
Units: Metre

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East Horsley Long-Term Vision

Legend

- Forest Roads
- Rides
- Habitat Type**
- Managed Native Woodland

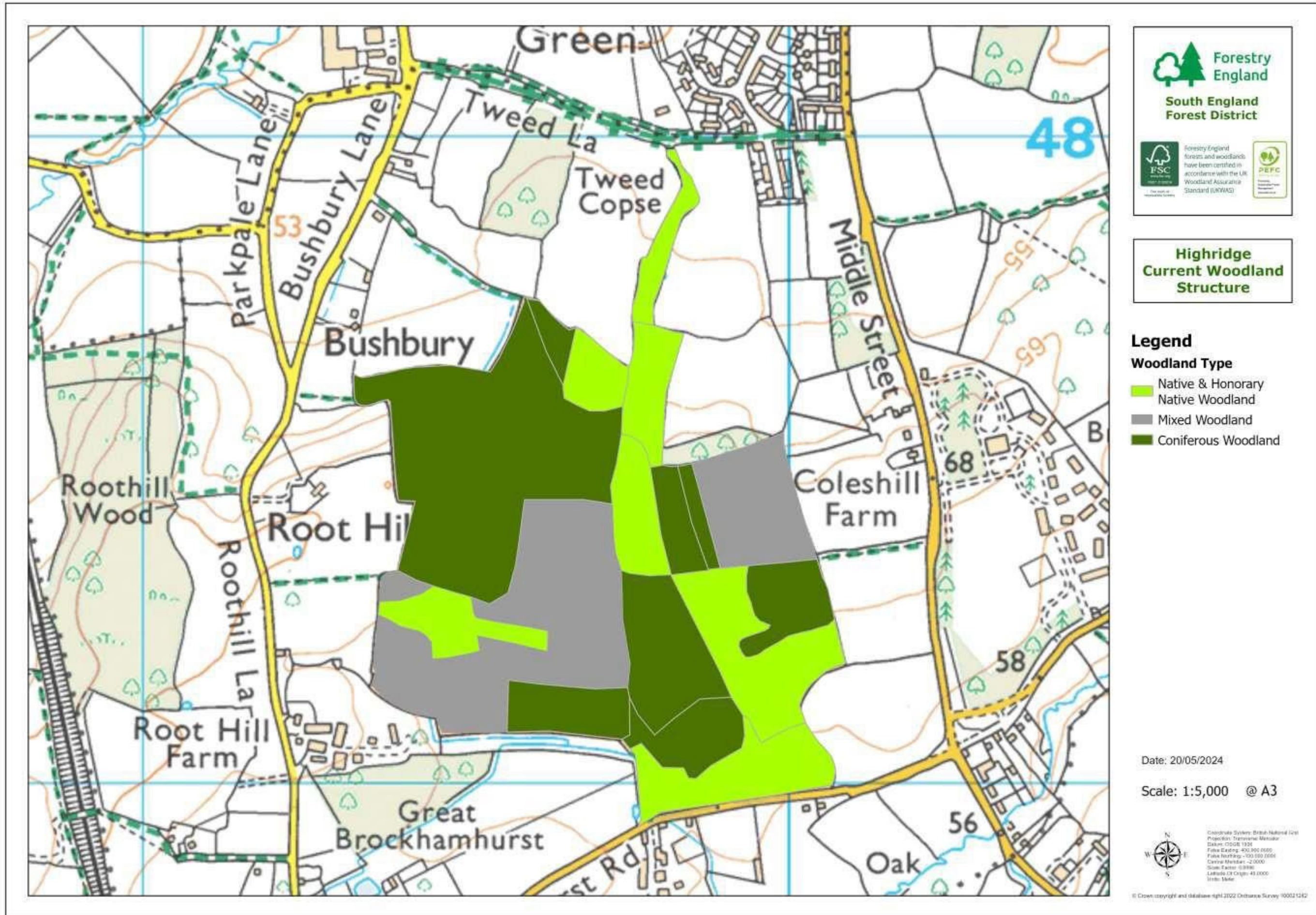
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 UTM Zone: 30
 Units: Meter

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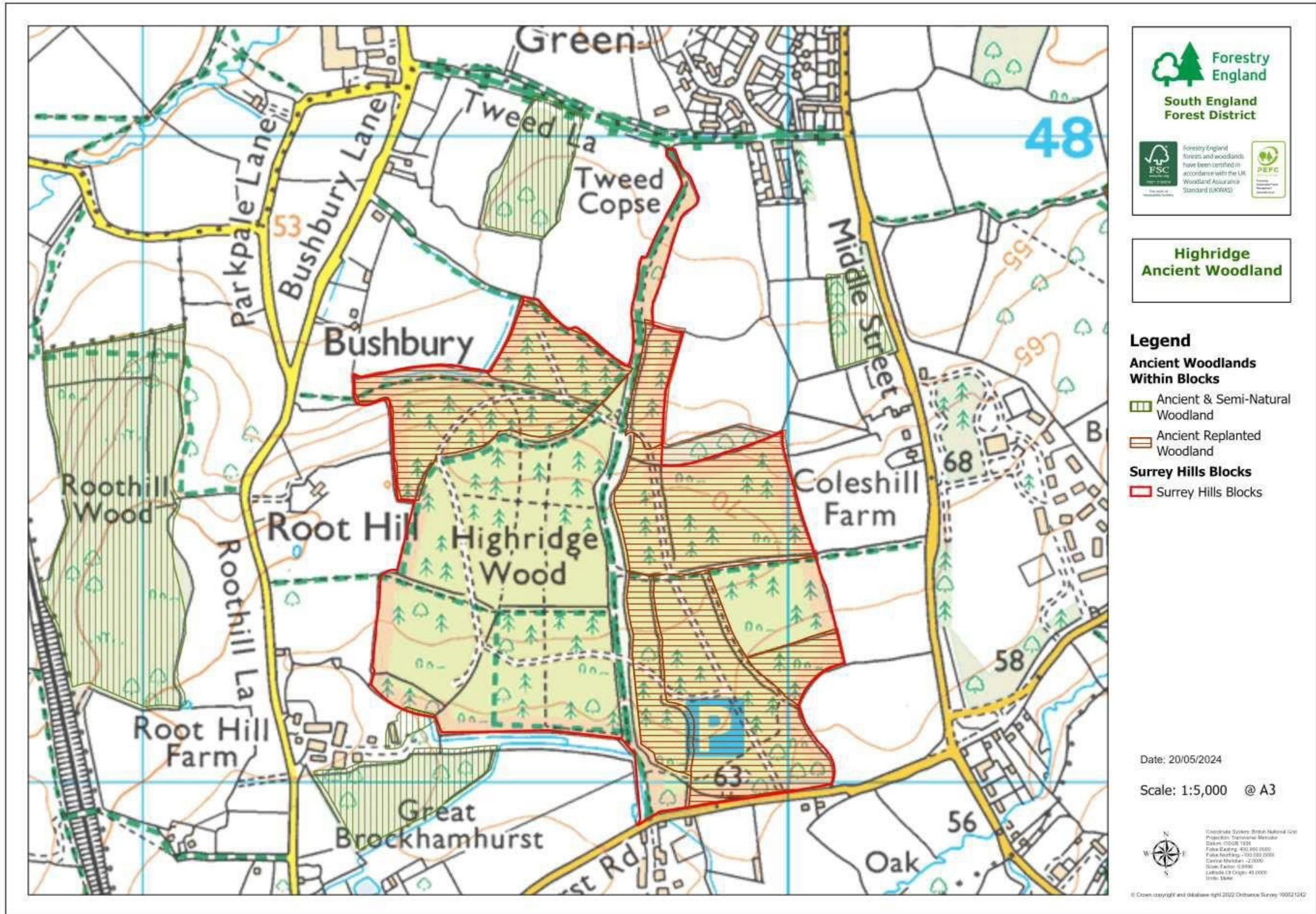
Highridge Current Woodland Structure

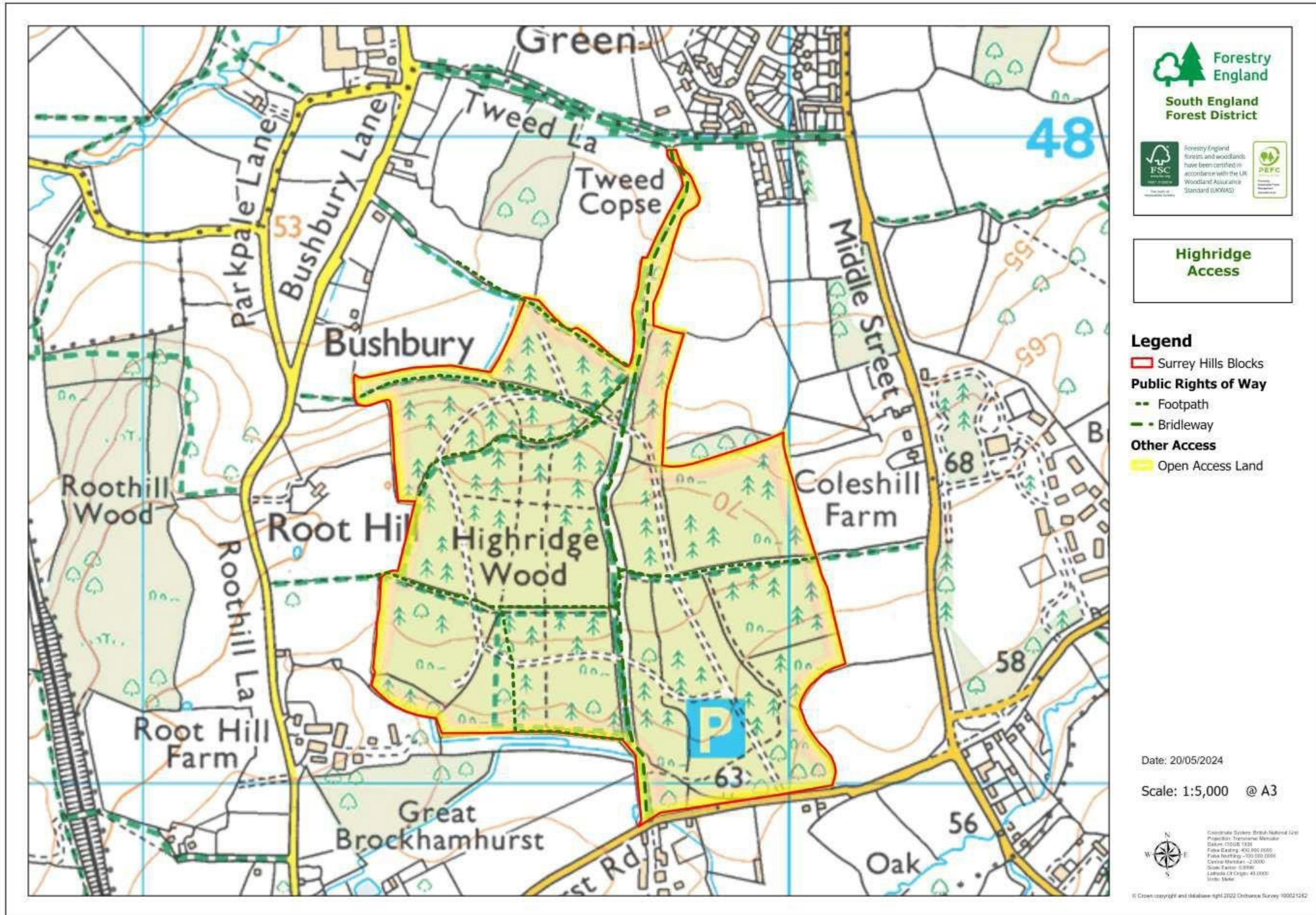
- Legend**
- Woodland Type**
- Native & Honorary Native Woodland
 - Mixed Woodland
 - Coniferous Woodland

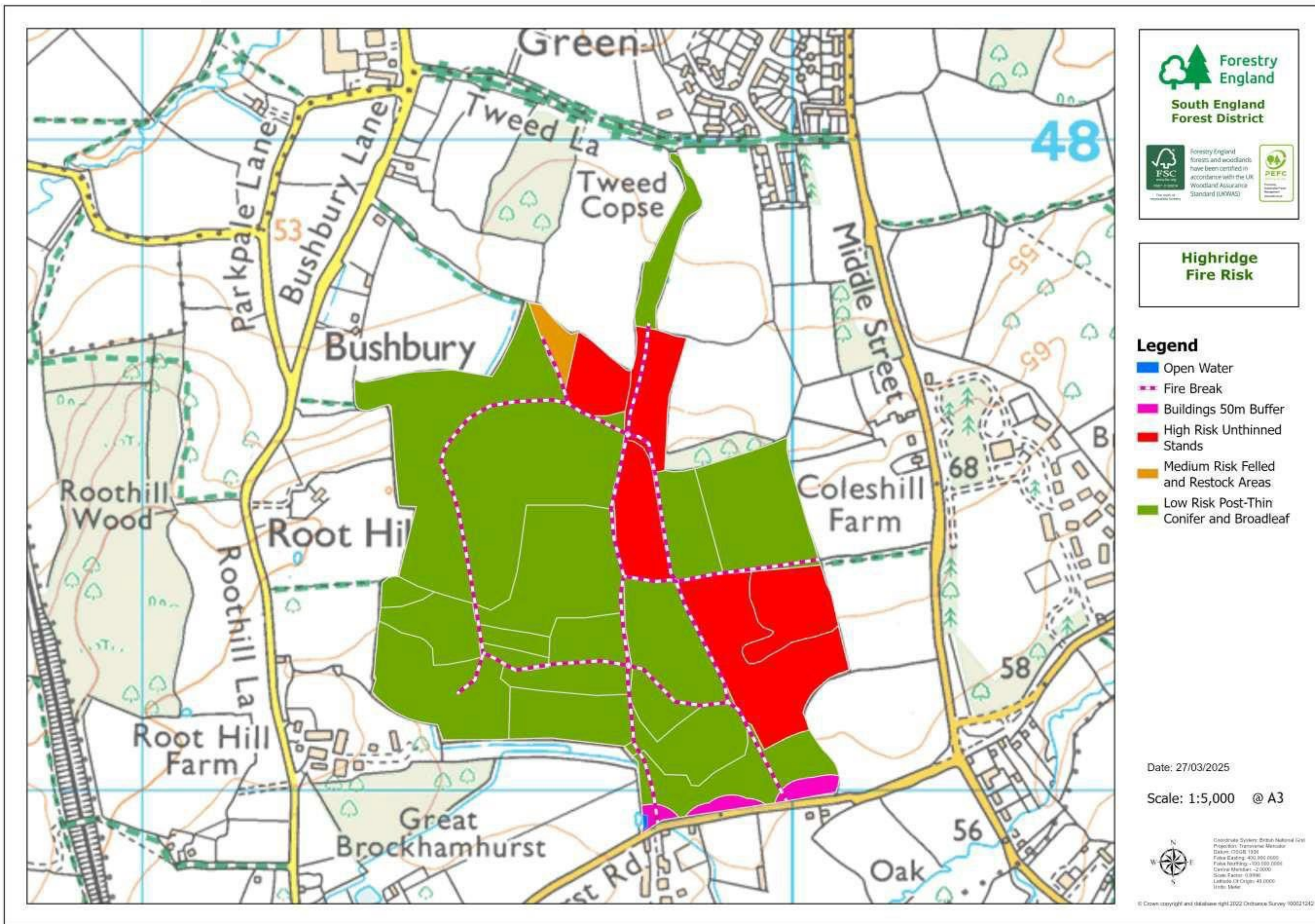
Date: 20/05/2024
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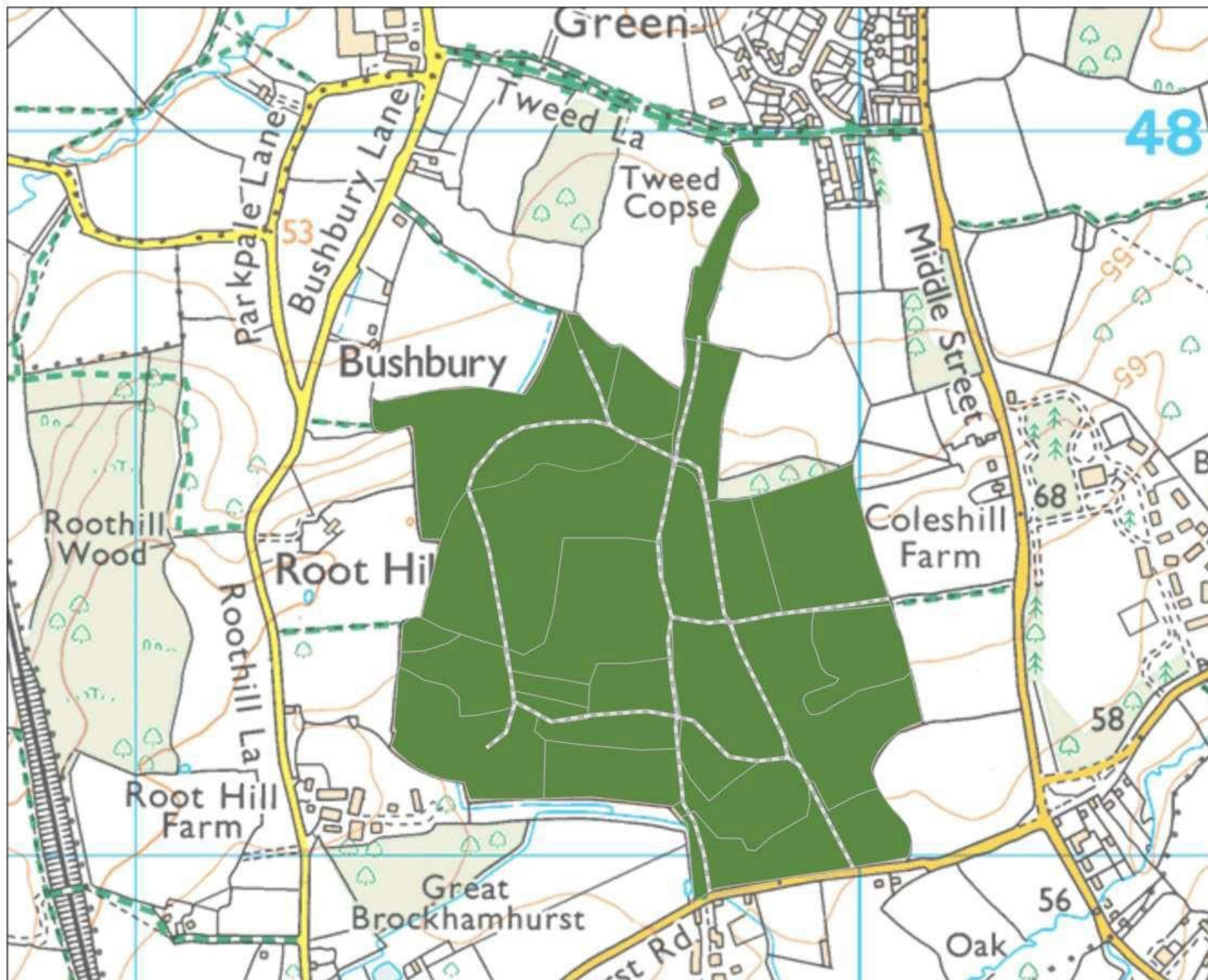
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 Scale Factor: 0.9996
 Latitude Of Origin: 49 00000
 Units: Meter

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South England Forest District

FSC
Forestry England
forests and woodlands have been certified in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

PEFC
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
Member of the PEFC Network

Highridge Felling & Habitat Management

Legend

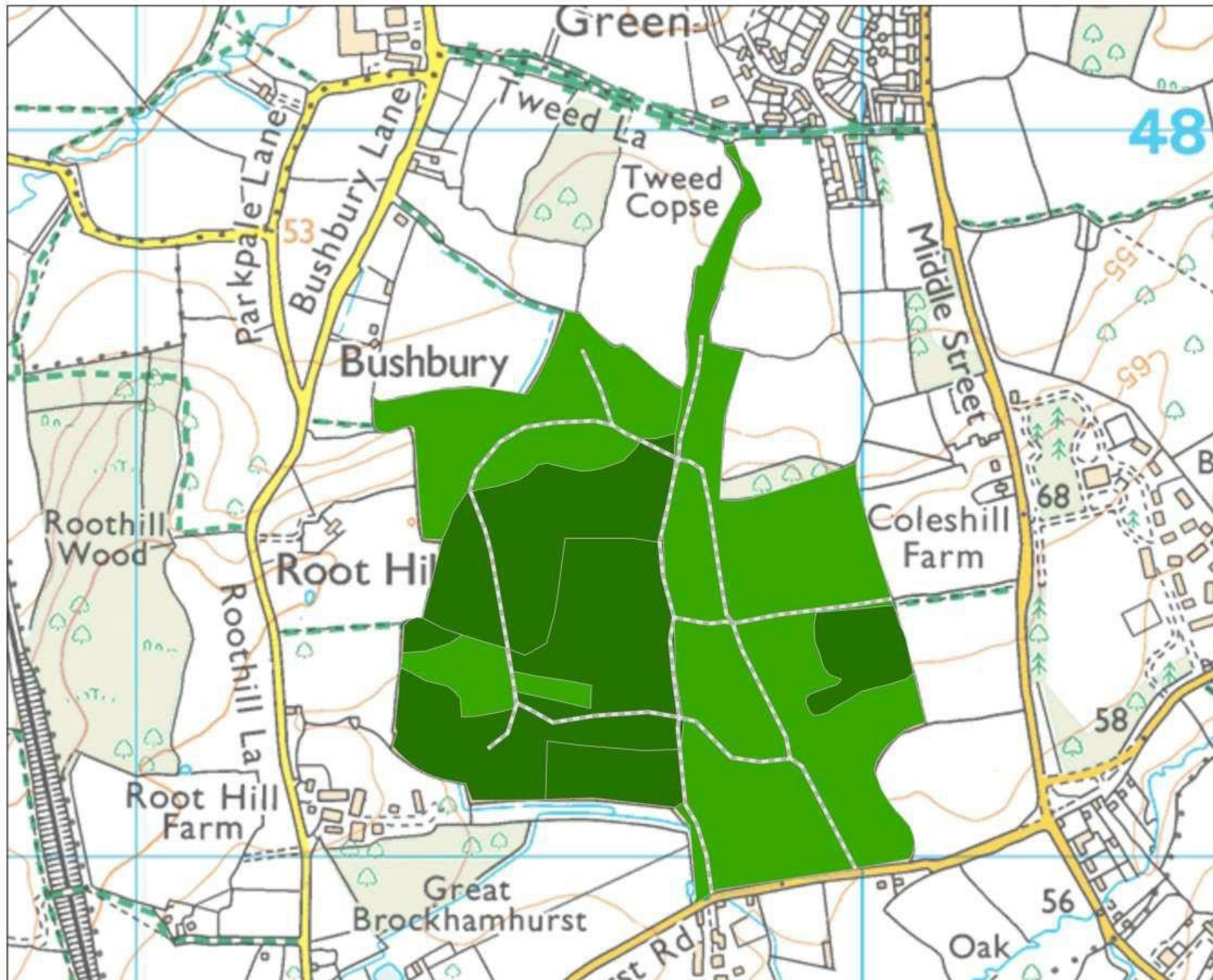
- Forest Roads
- - - Rides
- Management Type**
- Low Impact
- Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Date: 27/03/2025

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

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Units: Metre

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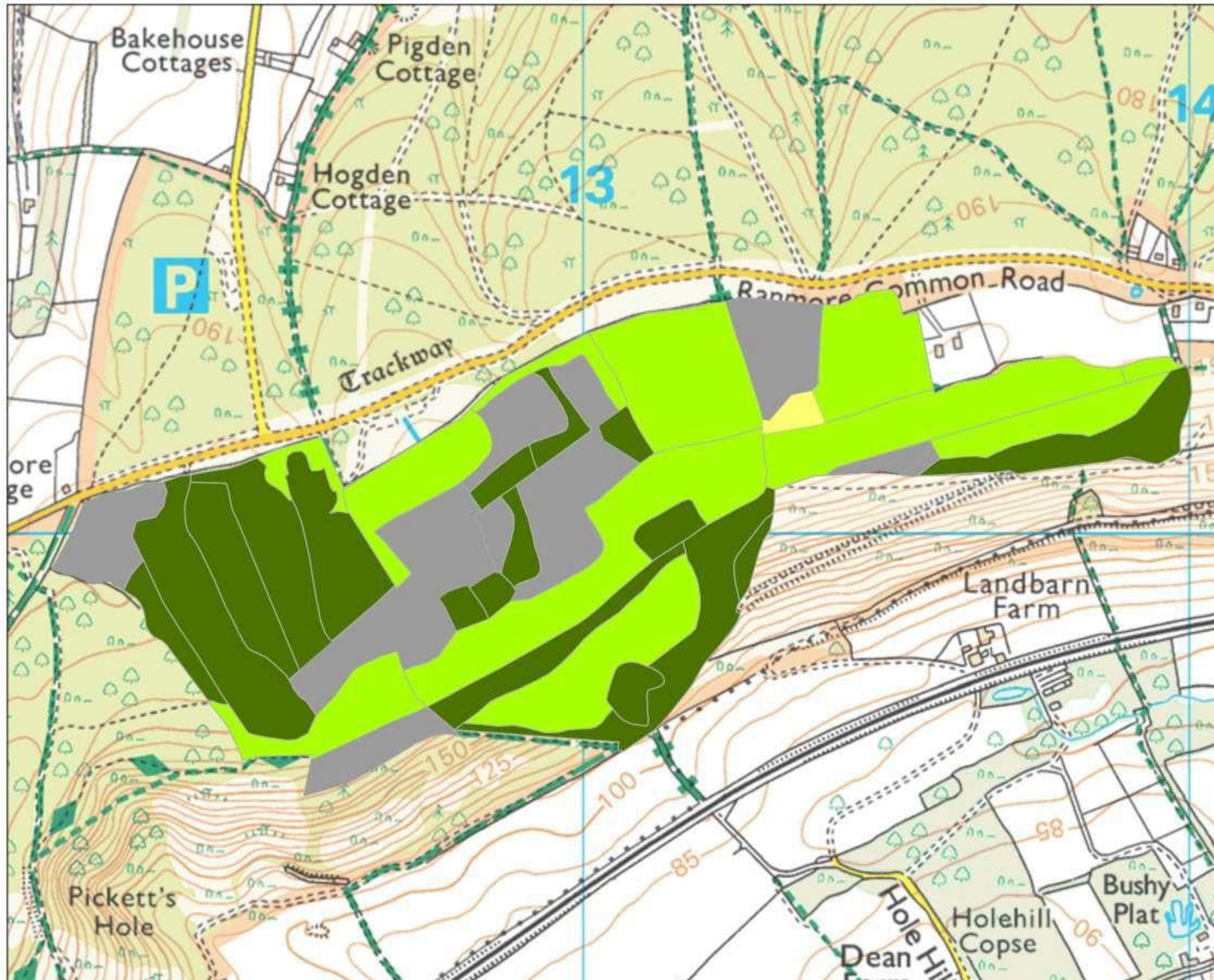
**Highridge
 Long-Term Vision**

- Legend**
- Rides
 - Managed Native Woodland
 - Managed Conifer Woodland

Date: 16/04/2025
 Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Grid Reference System: British National Grid
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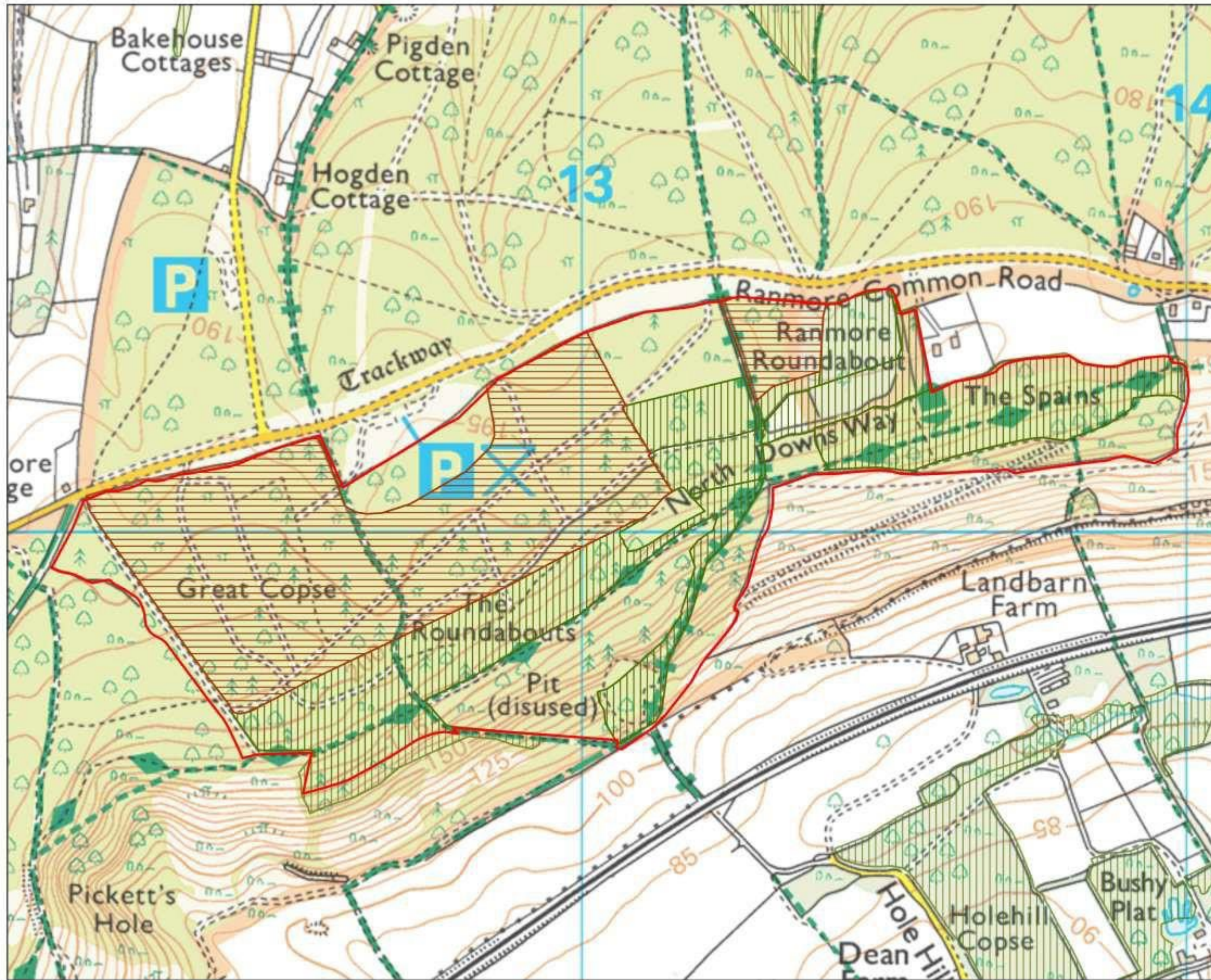
Ranmore Current Woodland Structure

- Legend**
- Woodland Type**
- Native & Honorary
 - Native Woodland
 - Mixed Woodland
 - Coniferous Woodland
 - Open & Other

Date: 20/05/2024
Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
False Easting: 400 000 000
False Northing: 600 000 000
Central Meridian: -2 00000
Scale Factor: 0.9996
Latitude Of Origin: 49 00000
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Ranmore Ancient Woodland

Legend

- Ancient Woodlands Within Blocks**
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Surrey Hills Blocks**
- Surrey Hills Blocks

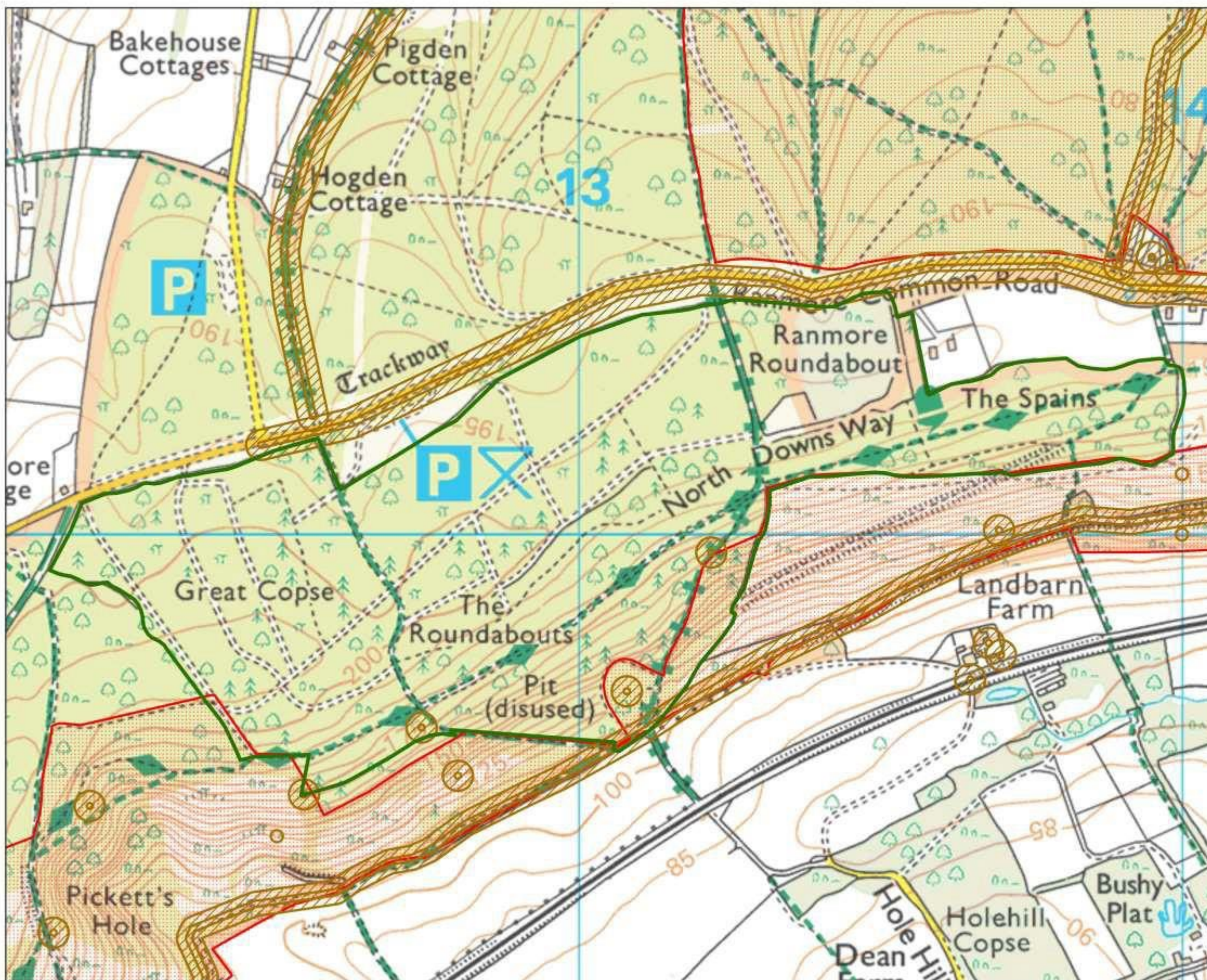
Date: 20/05/2024

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

North arrow symbol

Coordinate System: British National Grid
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Ranmore Designations and Heritage Features

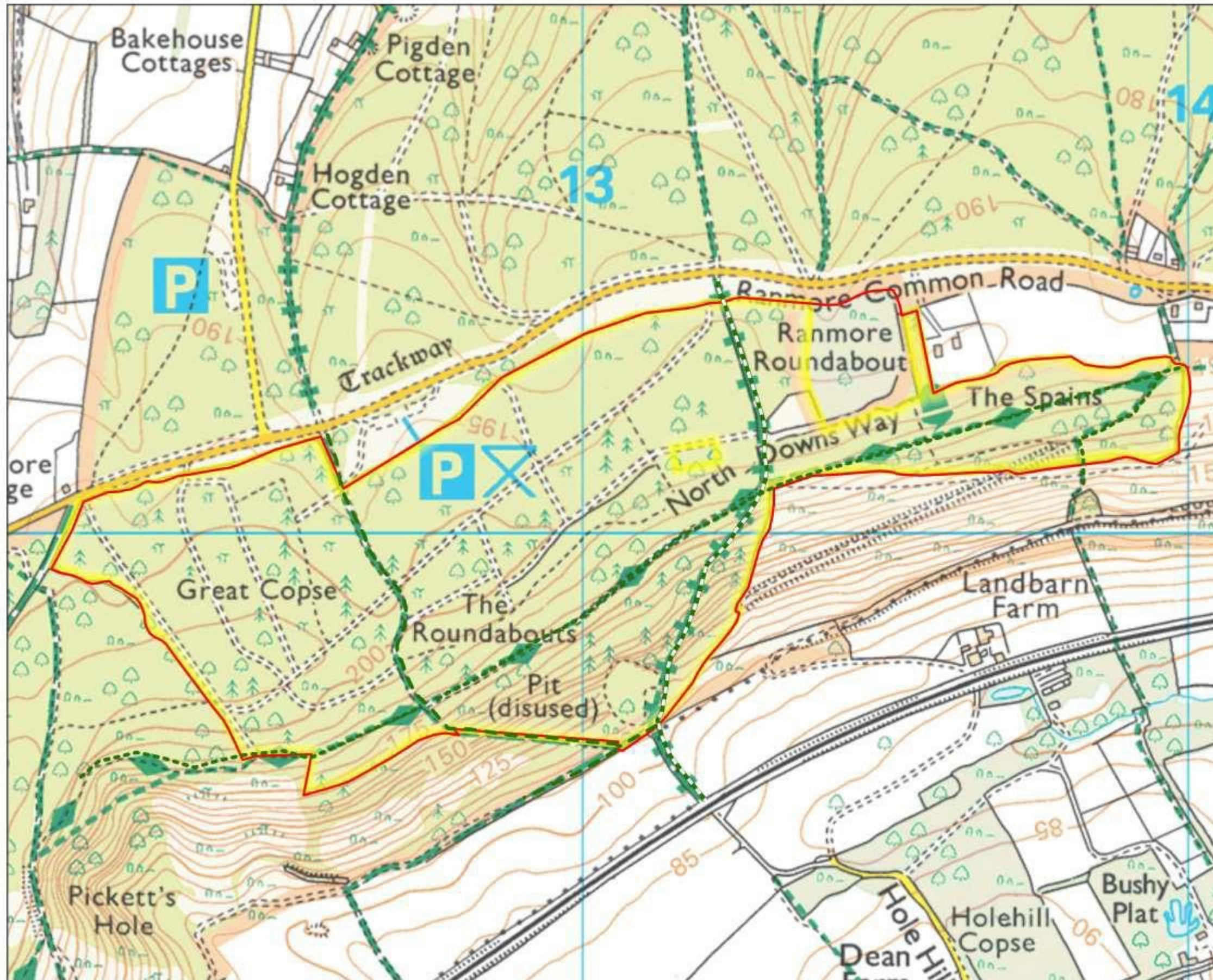
- Legend**
- █ Surrey Hills Blocks
 - ▨ Heritage
 - ▨ Heritage Impact Zones
 - ▬ Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Date: 20/05/2024

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: OSGB 1936
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 False Northing: 100 000 000
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 Scale Factor: 0.9996
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Ranmore Access

Legend

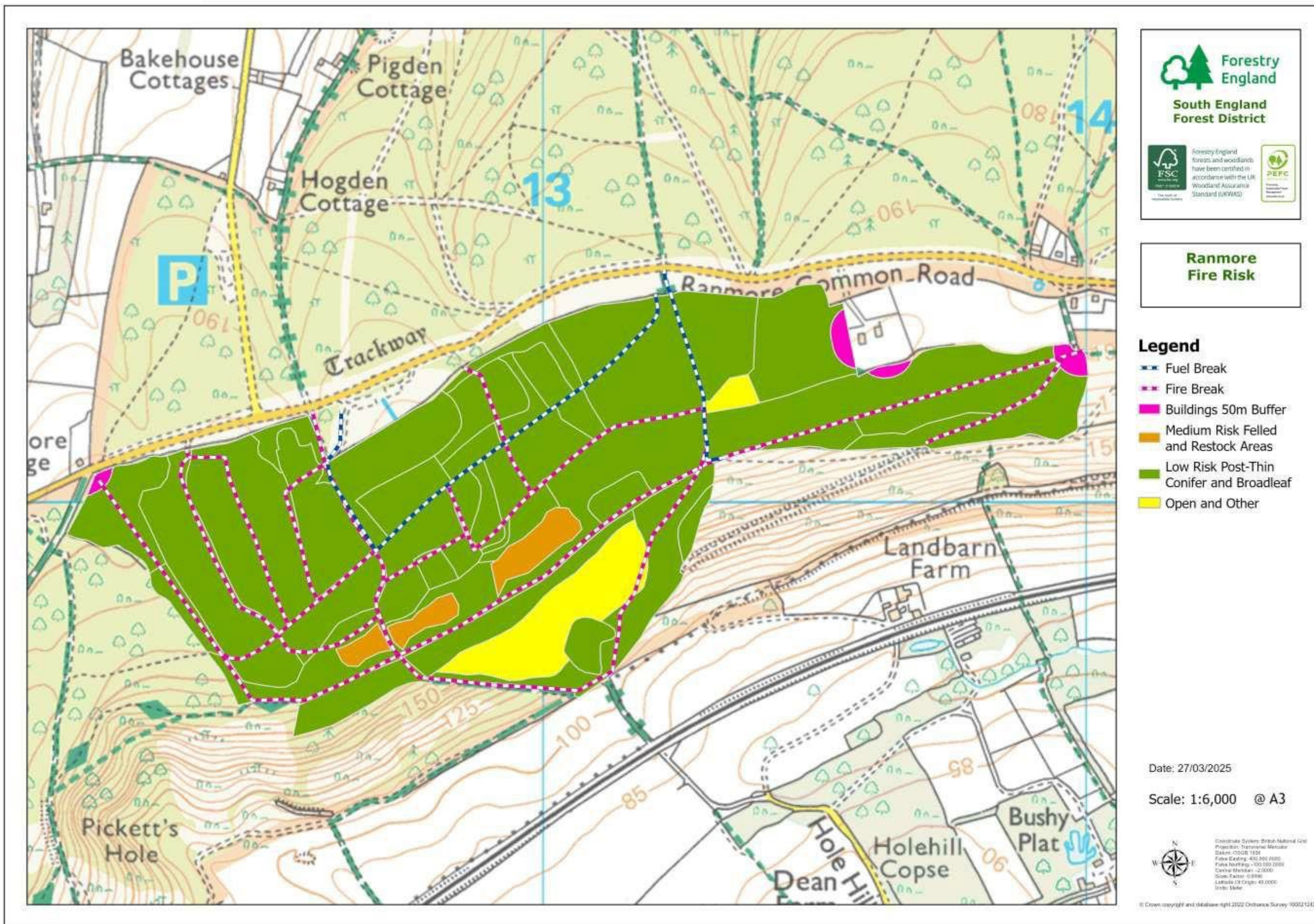
- Surrey Hills Blocks
- Public Rights of Way**
- Byway
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Other Access**
- Open Access Land

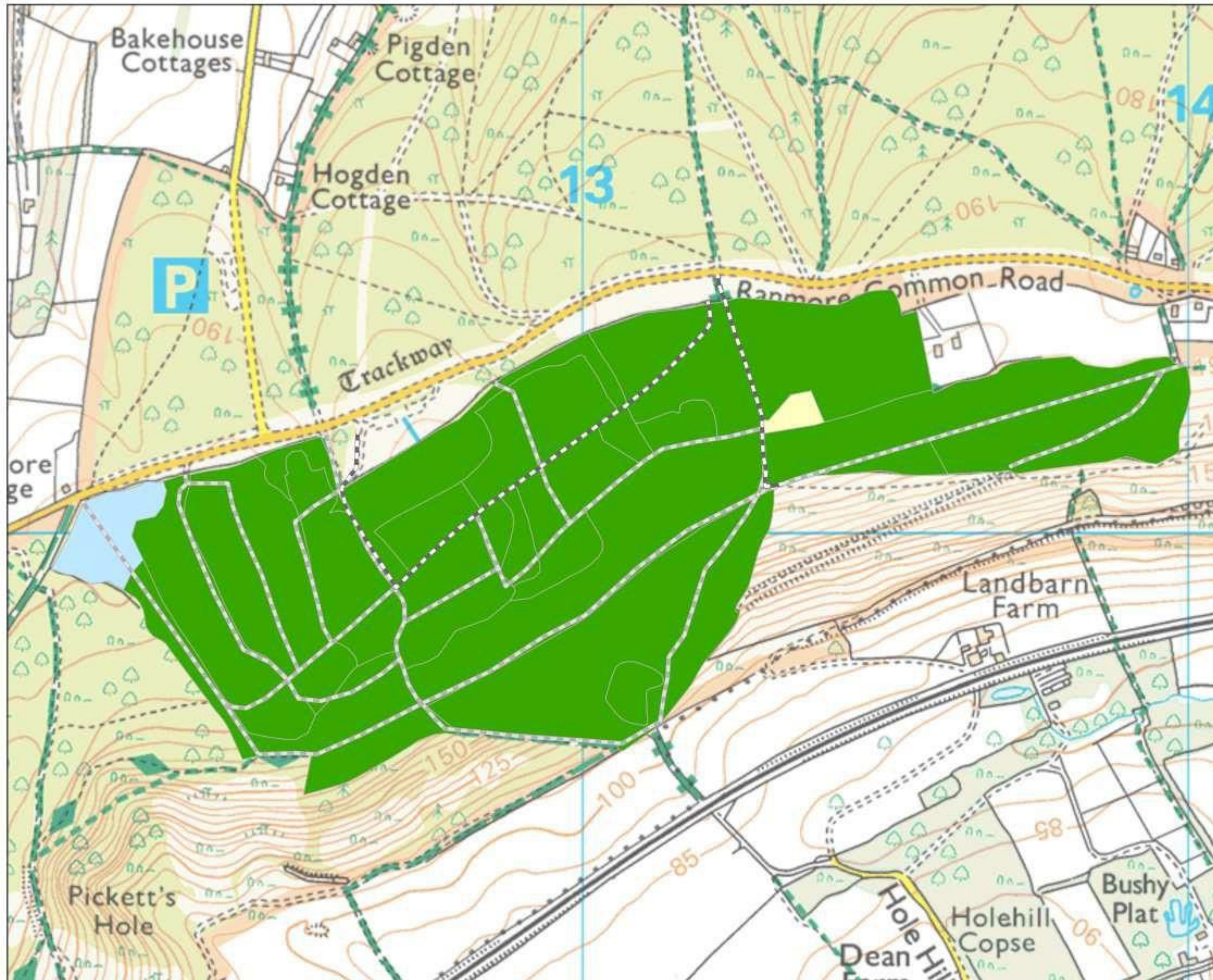
Date: 20/05/2024

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid
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Central Meridian: -2 000 000
Scale Factor: 0.9996
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Ranmore Long-Term Vision

Legend

- Forest Roads
- Rides
- Habitat Type**
- Managed Native Woodland
- Long Term Retention
- Open and Other

Date: 16/04/2025

Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3

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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
False Easting: 400 000 000
False Northing: 600 000 000
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Scale Factor: 0.9996
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Appendix 1: UKWAS Compliance Table

	Forest Plan Area	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area	Forest District Percentage
Total area	649 ha		47565 ha	
Total Wooded area	636 ha	98%	28280 ha	59%
Natural Reserves (Plantation)	0 ha	0%	286 ha	1%
Natural Reserves (Semi-Natural)	45 ha	7%	2959 ha	6%
Long-term Retentions and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems	586 ha	90%	21264 ha	45%
Area of conservation value including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland • Planted Ancient Woodland Sites • Natural Reserves • Long-Term Retentions • Low Impact Silvicultural Systems • Sites of Special Scientific Interest 	638 ha	98%	26404 ha	56%

Appendix 2: Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Swapping of felling coupes	Adjustment to felling operation	Clearance of standing trees associated with wind-blown areas	Timing of restocking - including natural regeneration	Species choice	Tree health
Formal approval by area team required	>25% of the coupe area	Where changes to the felling sequence is likely to result in a significant breach ¹ of the UKFS adjacency rules	Thinning to selective felling or clear felling	Clearance of >1 Ha or 10% of the area (whichever is less) in sensitive ² areas, >5 ha or 25% of the area (whichever is less) in non-sensitive areas	Where this is > 4 planting seasons from the date of felling	From mixed, predominantly broadleaves to evergreen conifer	Where no SPHN issued and felling required
Written approval only required from area team³	Between 10-25% of the coupe area	Where changes to the felling sequence is likely to result in a minor breach ⁴ of the UKFS adjacency rules			Where this is at least 2 but no more than 4 planting seasons from the date of felling	Deciduous conifers to evergreen	Thinning > 50% but < 65%
Formal approval by area team <u>not</u> required⁵	< 10% of the coupe area	Where changes to the felling sequence does not result in a breach of the UKFS adjacency rules.	Clear felling to selective felling or thinning	Clearance of <1 Ha or 10% of the area (whichever is greater) in sensitive ² areas, <5 ha or 25% of the area (whichever is greater) in non-sensitive areas	Where this is < 2 planting seasons from the date of felling	Any other changes	Where SPHN is issued or thinning up to 50%

¹Greater than 20% of the coupe boundary

²Definition of sensitive areas is as per the EIA guidance

³Approval letter retained for compliance inspection purposes

⁴20% or less of the coupe boundary

⁵District team must retain all relevant documentation for compliance inspections

Appendix 3: Monitoring and Measurement of Success

Objective	Monitoring
<p>Develop economic and ecological resilience against disease and climate change impacts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the species and age diversity of the woodland through forest management operations. Where site constraints allow, use natural regeneration to restock after felling. Where possible, plant trees from a suitable provenance matched with our likely future climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summaries of felling, species and age distribution from our sub-compartment database at years 5 and 10. Assessments of stocking density and natural regeneration using an appropriate method. Consult Operational Site Assessments (OSAs) and Beat Team at years 5 and 10 to assess what opportunities have been taken to diversify species and age classes, use natural regeneration or plant trees of a more southerly provenance.
<p>Promote species, habitat and functional diversity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units in favourable condition. Continuing to restore Planted Ancient Woodland Sites towards native and near-native broadleaves. Taking opportunities to manage open space and ride edge habitats for the benefit of wildlife. Continue wet woodland habitat restoration by removing Rhododendron from the affected area and regenerating alder coppice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summaries of felling, species and age distribution at years 5 and 10 from our sub-compartment database. Consult OSAs and Beat Team at years 5 and 10 to assess what opportunities have been taken to maintain SSSI status, carry out PAWS restoration, ride/open space management and wet woodland restoration.
<p>Maintain and improve functioning forest soils that drive nutrient and water cycling, and underpin habitat management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving towards the use of Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) in suitable stands. Taking opportunities to promote soil enhancing species such as birch, hornbeam, and small-leaved lime, as well as alder in areas of wet woodland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult OSAs and Beat Team at years 5 and 10 to assess what opportunities have been taken to move towards the use of LISS and promote soil enhancing species.
<p>In woods that are accessible to the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the existing recreational capacity of the woodland. Look for opportunities to develop recreational capacity and a high-quality visitor experience, while retaining woodland resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult OSAs and Beat Team at years 5 and 10 to assess what opportunities have been taken carry this out.