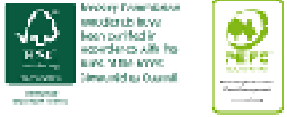




# PART 3 – Character, analysis & concept





## National Character

The National Character Area (NCA) profiles guide and inform planning decision-making. The information they contain will support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale to ensure proposals are in keeping with the character of the region and continue in their contribution to the nation.

The vast majority of the Plan Area sits in the Devon Redlands National Character Area (NCA). North Wood is with The Culm NCA and Great Plantation within South Devon NCA.

### National Character Assessment – 148 Devon Redlands

The Devon Redlands National Character Area (NCA) has a very strong, unified character. The underlying red sandstone and consequent red soil dominate the landscape through ploughed fields, cliffs and exposures, and are visually evident in the traditional stone and cob farmsteads, hamlets and villages that are scattered across the area. To the south-west of Exeter, the Haldon Hills, a ridge of heathland and woodland, dominate the skyline. Long fingers of coniferous plantation and broadleaved woodland follow ridge lines, enclosing steep pasture on both sides of the dramatically rising ridge. Conifer plantations are softened by wide margins of bracken, birch and heath and there are far-reaching views eastwards over the Exe Estuary and beyond to the Blackdowns and westwards to Dartmoor.

#### Opportunities

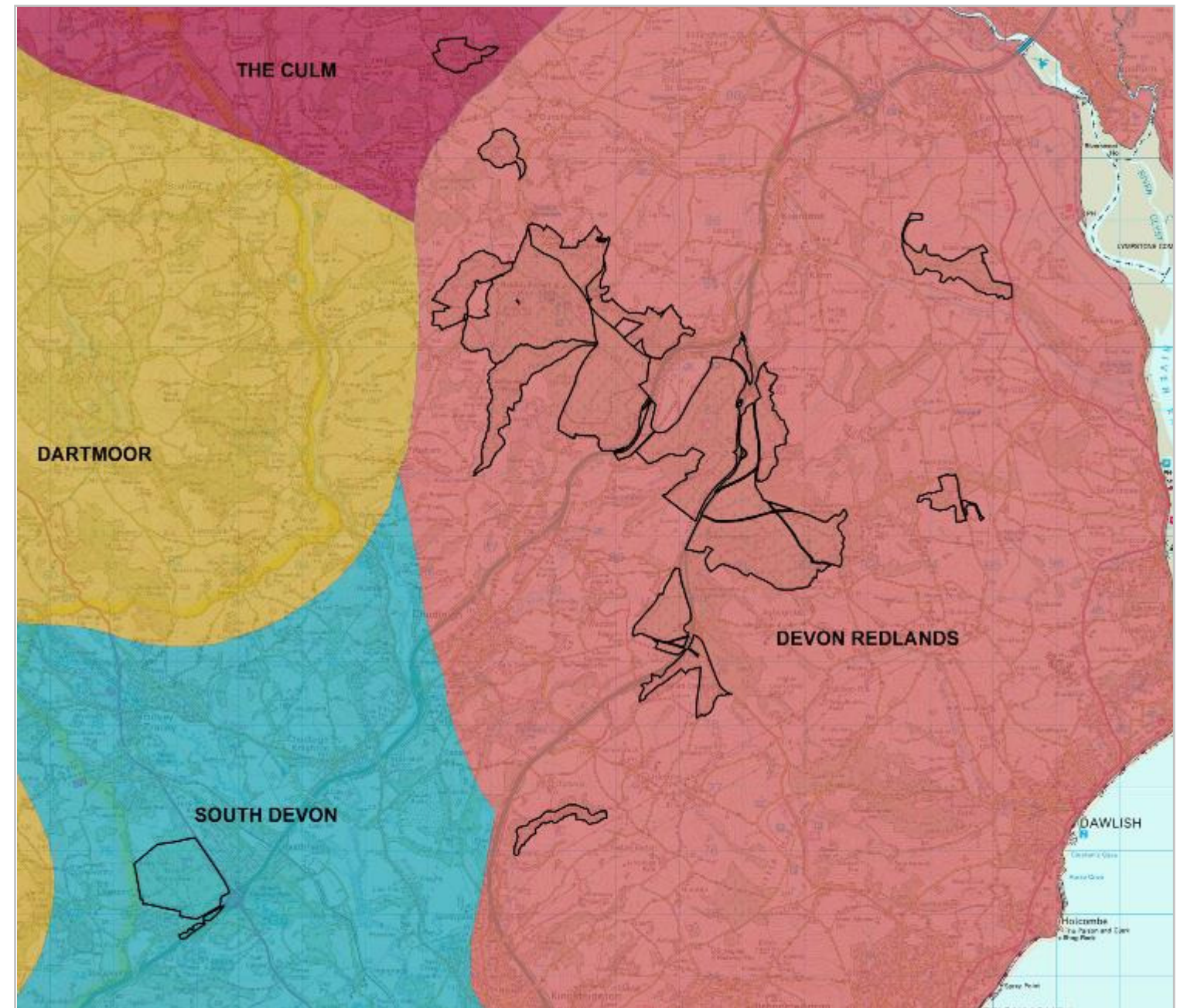
Plan the future management of the commercial areas of woodland, particularly the visual impact of felling and balance the need for replanting against the regeneration of semi-natural habitats and mass recreation. Increase sequestration of CO2 through increased woodland area, and encouraging sustainable management of woodlands; the management and restoration of heathland and associated mire habitats and the expansion of wetland habitats in the river valleys. Avoid clear felling areas of woodland on steep slopes, and encourage new woodland planting to impede overland flows. Provide wide grass buffer strips and reed beds adjacent to river banks to act as silt traps, preventing livestock access to the water's edge. Plant areas of wet woodland and expand/interlink existing valley woodlands to further minimise soil erosion. Restructuring existing conifer plantations as they reach maturity, to allow for reversion to lowland heath and associated mire habitats, and enhancement of the setting of historic assets, while maintaining the wildlife interest of Haldon Forest and balancing recreational demand

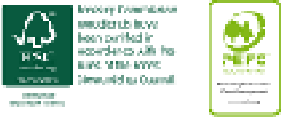
### National Character Assessment – 151 South Devon (Great Plantation)

In the east the Bovey valley widens to a basin ringed by wooded hills. It is characterised by the lakes, ponds, and spoil heaps of the ball clay industry, and some pockets of heathland. Provision of timber is currently low. Timber exists in the form of just over 2,223 ha of coniferous plantation across the area, although the majority of woodland is broadleaved at approximately 8,894 ha with nearly 3,500 ha recognised as ancient semi-natural woodland.

### National Character Assessment – 149 The Culm (North Wood)

Woodland and parkland often indicates the presence of estate land with sporting interests and continuity of ownership and management for hardwood timber production. In general, the character of the landscape is unchanging and somewhat timeless. In places, the woodland and timbered nature of the landscape has increased and been enhanced. The relatively high proportion (13 per cent) of woodland in this area is not reflected in the availability of timber. Much of the woodland is located in the very difficult to access coastal combs and steep-sided valleys.





### Haldon Ridge and Foothills

The Haldon Ridge and Foothills has a strong sense of place and is one of the most prominent landscape features in eastern Devon, affording a textured, rising backdrop to much of the surrounding landscape, including the towns of Teignmouth and Dawlish and parts of Exeter. The area encompasses a narrow, forested plateau with adjoining steep scarp slopes broadening to more open farmed ridges and valleys to the south. From this landscape there are spectacular panoramic views east to the coast and west to Dartmoor. In places, the sides of the main wooded ridge are deeply incised with combs and small river valleys lending topographic interest. This landscape supports a diverse range of habitats including heathland, conifer plantations, mixed and broadleaved woodland, with a higher concentration of pasture and arable fields to the south. Collectively these land uses give rise to high scenic quality and provide varied texture and seasonal changes. This landscape also includes notable areas of parkland.

**Strategy**—To protect the panoramic views to and from the wooded ridge as well as to key features and landmarks such as Haldon Belvedere; manage the network of valued semi-natural habitats including broadleaved woodland and heathland and varied historic features. Opportunities are sought to restore broadleaved woodland particularly along valley sides and steep slopes and to restore and connect areas of heathland. The landscape’s time-depth continues to have a strong influence, whilst opportunities for sustainable recreation and limited low-carbon development are sensitively accommodated. Field patterns are reinforced through the restoration and management of Devon hedgebanks using traditional management techniques. New development is sympathetic to the existing field pattern, woodland and lanes and reflects existing patterns and local vernacular

Protect	Manage	Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect dramatic panoramic views to and from the ridge by sensitive siting of development, particularly tall structures, and the avoidance development on prominent ridges and valley sides.</li> <li>Protect the overall strong sense of tranquillity and dark night skies.</li> <li>Protect views to historic landmarks, such as Haldon Belvedere (Lawrence Castle).</li> <li>Protect and appropriately manage the rich cultural heritage of the area including Bronze Age barrows, hillforts and historic parklands through appropriate management agreements and conservation management plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage existing field enclosures and enhance the network of hedgerows and hedgebanks through reinstatement of enclosure where it has been previously lost.</li> <li>Manage the network of broadleaved woodland, banks and lines of mature trees; and remove laurel and rhododendron where they have colonised.</li> <li>Manage the mosaic of heathland habitats for landscape and wildlife benefits</li> <li>Manage the areas of historic parkland and associated features including veteran trees through the development of conservation management plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to screen visually intrusive sections of the A38 and A380 corridors to limit the impact of noise and movement on the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>Plan for gradual heathland restoration through reduction in conifer plantations and replacement with a balanced mix of broadleaved woodland and heathland;</li> <li>Plan for the planting of deciduous edges to coniferous plantations to reduce impact of harsh edges and clear fells.</li> <li>Plan for the progressive restoration of quarries and associated landfill sites, including woodland, grassland and wetland enhancements.</li> <li>Plan for the interpretation of features of ecological, geological and historic interest</li> </ul>

### Bovey Basin

The Bovey Basin is a relatively small area, characterised by predominantly flat, broad alluvial floodplain enclosed by encircling hills and, importantly, by the influence of ball clay extraction activities. The quarrying activity has resulted in large areas of despoiled land including open cast quarries, spoil heaps (creating regular-shaped hills), settling lakes, and large modern industrial buildings. These features, along with road infrastructure and development, have altered the river basin character, giving rise to a fragmented and disturbed ambience in places. Nevertheless, there are remnant areas of irregular, mainly pastoral fields with hedgerows, woodlands and some important areas of acid heath, e.g. Bovey Heath and Chudleigh Knighton Heath, reflecting the presence of underlying sand and gravel. The tree-lined Rivers Bovey and Teign also provide a more naturalistic character amongst an otherwise complex, settled landscape; and the designed parkland of Stover Estate lends a sense of continuity within an area which has undergone considerable change. This is generally an inward-looking landscape due to the basin landform and the presence of notable areas of mixed and coniferous woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure.

## Landscape Character

Devon’s landscape character assessment describes the variations in character between different areas and types of landscape in the county. It provides an evidence base for local development frameworks and plans, articulating what people perceive as distinctive and special about all landscapes in Devon. It also set out strategies and guidelines for the protection, management and planning of the landscape.

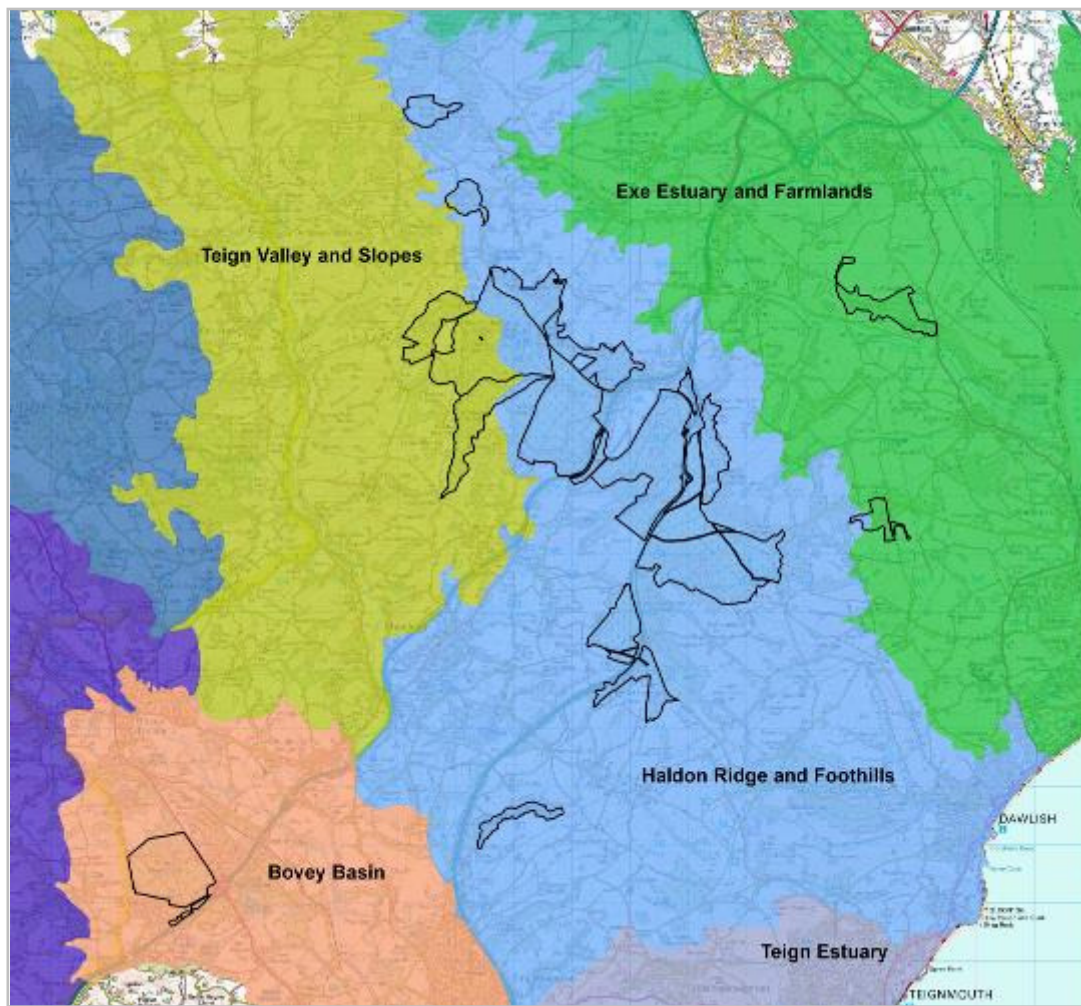
The Plan Area sits in four Devon Character areas (as show) which is then split into 7 Landscape Character Types. The Haldon ridge is the key landscape component of the Plan Area dominating both the area and skyline. Proposals will ensure that the key features and aspirations for these areas are accounted for.

### Exe Estuary & Farmlands

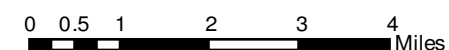
The estuary is the visual focus of this area; and although Devon has a number of estuaries few are as extensive as the Exe. This is a landscape of open skies characterised by the sound of seabirds, the masts of boats, and mud and dunes at Dawlish Warren. Views over the river are distinctive and the detail of the scene changes according to tide and season. The open expanse of intertidal mudflat when covered with water reflects the colour of the huge skies above. The whole scene is framed by rising landform on either side, which provides low level enclosure. The land rises gradually to the high ground of Woodbury Common to the east and Haldon to the west.

### Teign Valley & Slopes

The Teign valley is perhaps the most dramatically steep and consistently wooded valley in Devon. Its steep, deep, narrow valley, twisting course, woodlands and nearby moor on Dartmoor are inspiring. It provides a wooded and often rocky flank to the eastern boundary of Dartmoor National Park. The steepness of the valley sides is accentuated by the height of the land either side, giving it a distinctive appearance in the wider landscape. The valley floor is relatively narrow (even in the south) and is flat-bottomed, open and marked by the tree-lined course of the river with occasional historic stone bridges, which add interest. Frequent broadleaved woodland along the valley sides (some ancient), gives a heavily wooded appearance, although many areas are in fact pastoral. These are marked by small, irregular fields with mature hedges and broken by a series of interlocking tributary valleys – particularly to the north where the valleys become narrower and more intimate. This is a landscape with high levels of tranquillity and dark night skies. Within the valley are scattered settlements and farmsteads and there has been a history of mining, reflected in the now dismantled railway.



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# Analysis & Concept

## Powderham

**Analysis:** Area of recently felled ground has remained unstocked with the intention having been to plant with broadleaves.

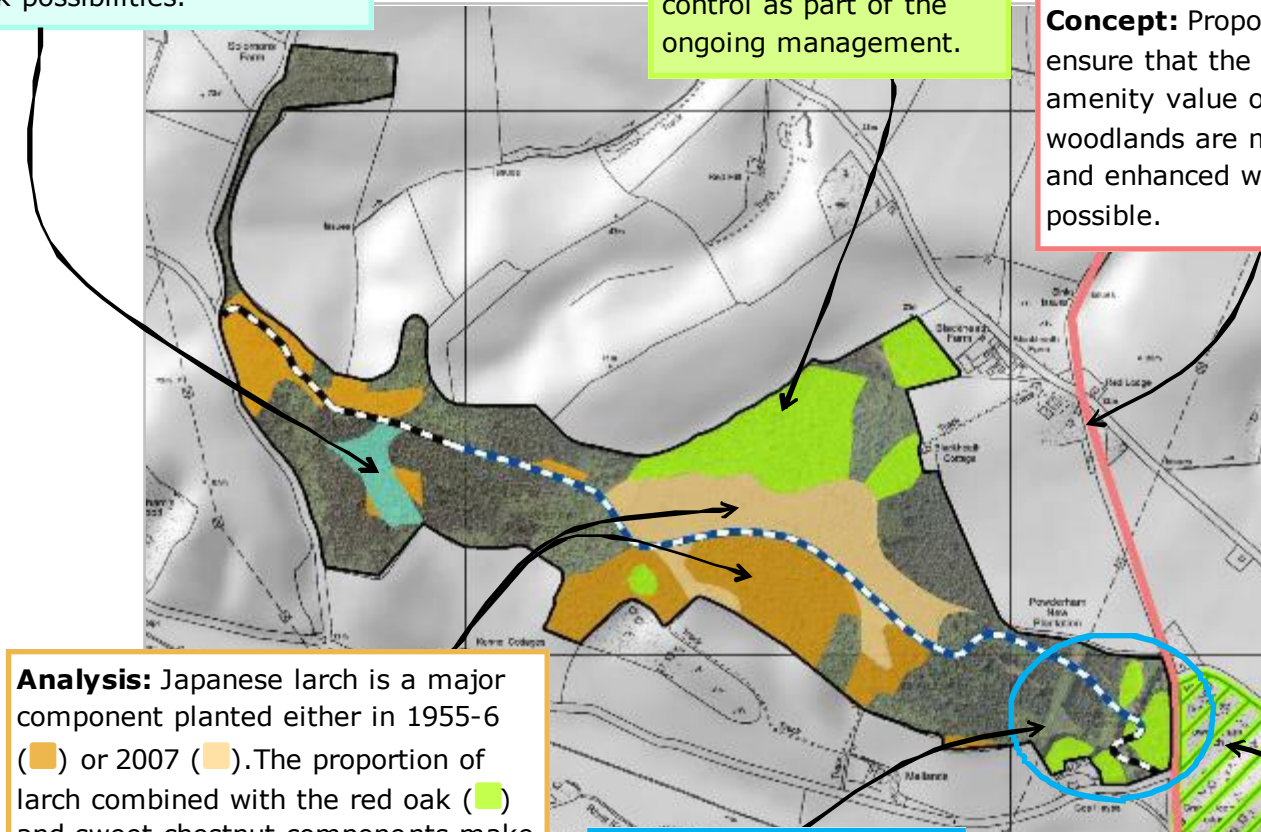
**Concept:** Prescriptions need to outline a plan, considering both conifer and broadleaves as restock possibilities.

**Analysis:** The mature Red oak stand here is of good form with laurel intruding underneath.

**Concept:** Thinning will continue with laurel control as part of the ongoing management.

**Analysis:** The A379— to Dawlish and Teignmouth road, popular with tourists, passes adjacent to the forest.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the safety and amenity value of the woodlands are maintained and enhanced where possible.



**Analysis:** Japanese larch is a major component planted either in 1955-6 (orange) or 2007 (light orange). The proportion of larch combined with the red oak (green) and sweet chestnut components make this woodland vulnerable to *Phytophthora ramorum*.

**Concept:** The reliance on these disease susceptible species needs to be addressed to ensure resilience is not compromised.

**Analysis:** The roadside and two overhead powerlines (11kV & 132Kv) mean that this is complex and fragmented area of woodland to manage

**Concept:** Where possible proposals will look to simplify the management of the crops and constraints in this area.

**Analysis:** Powderham Park part of the Powder Castle and Estate is a Registered Park and Garden which abuts the woodland on the eastern edge.

**Concept:** Whilst the designation does not cover the woodland, proposals will look to complement the Park Garden where possible.

### Legend

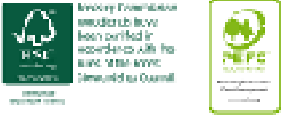
- Powderham Castle RPG
- p.54 Red Oak
- p.55.56 Japanese larch
- p.2007 Japanese larch
- Felled/Unstocked
- A379
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

0 0.1250.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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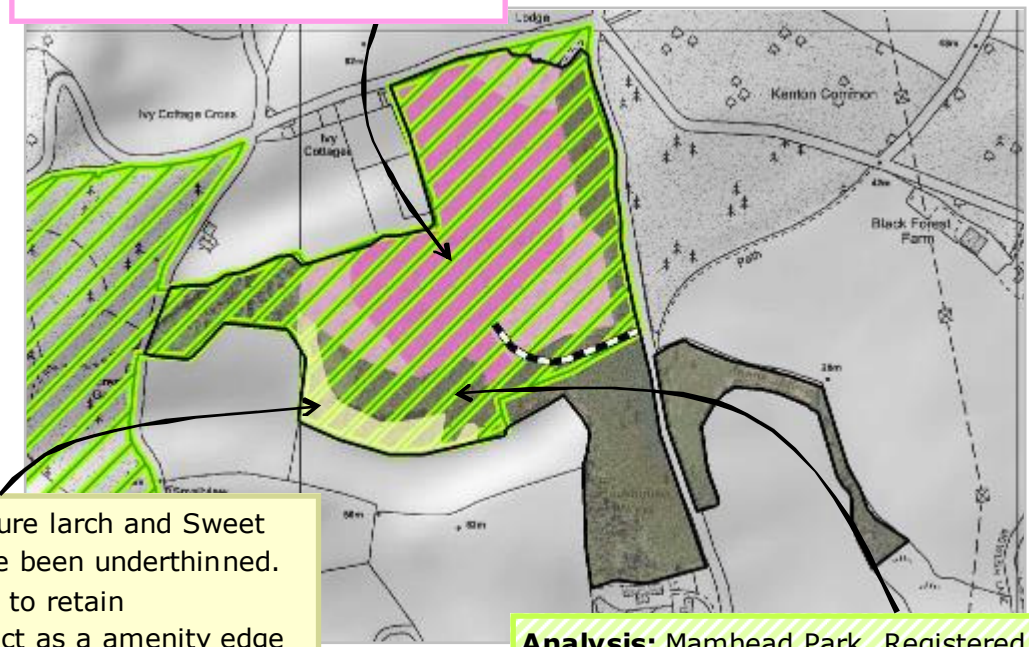
# Analysis & Concept

## Black Forest



**Analysis:** Significant areas of quality mature and mid-rotation sweet chestnut are key components. These areas are now due for intervention to release crops and stimulate structural diversity.

**Concept:** Options of patch felling and different thinning regimes will be considered to best achieve this.

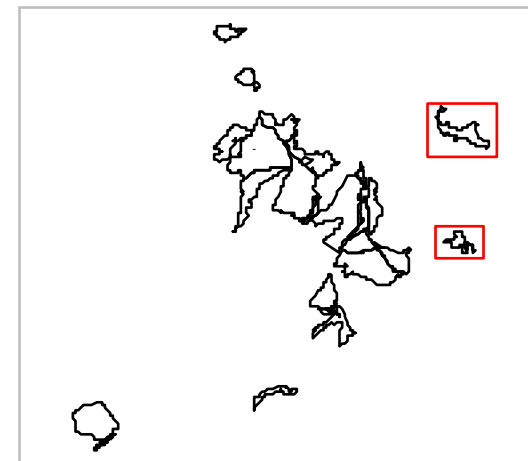


**Analysis:** The mature larch and Sweet chestnut crops have been underthinned. This has been done to retain windfirmness and act as a amenity edge to the recent clearfell to the north.

**Concept:** These crops will retained until the crop behind has reached a sufficient height so as not to create a significant change on the landscape. Thinning will need to be minimal.

**Analysis:** Mamhead Park, Registered Park and Garden is a designated parkland partly attributed to Lancelot Brown, with landscape structures, around an early C19 mansion.

**Concept:** Black Forest, adjoins the north-east drive from the House, and was described by Loudon in 1842. It is noted for its mixed woodland structure which will be retained.

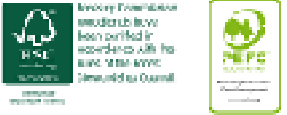


### Legend

- Mamhead Park RPG
- p. 16 Sweet chestnut
- p.71 Sweet chestnut
- Unthinned edge
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

# Analysis & Concept

## North Wood



**Analysis:** A large Statutory Plant Health Notice felling due to *Phytophthora ramorum* occurred in 2010 means a considerable area in the heart the forest restocked recently.

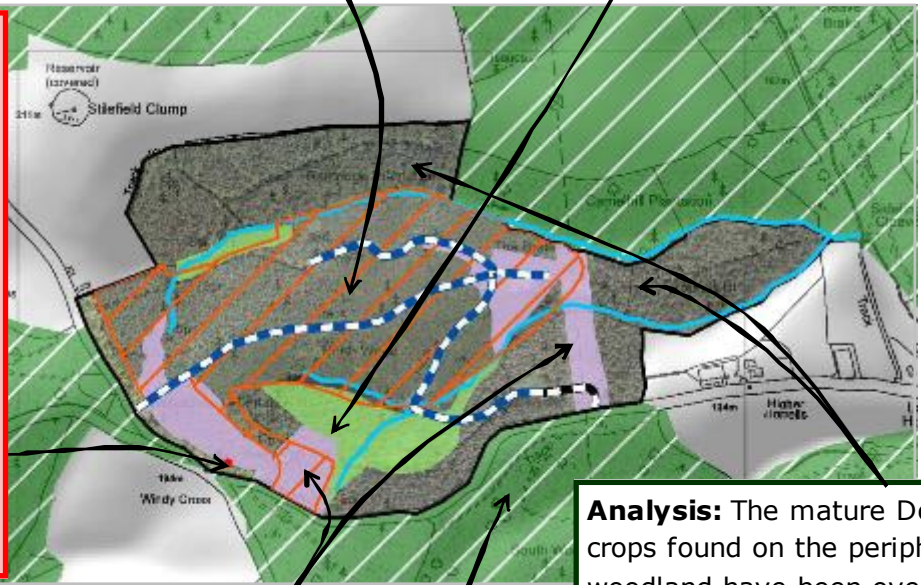
**Concept:** The site is now well established. However given the significant intervention, retaining structural diversity through surrounding mature crops for the next 20 years is important.

**Analysis:** Seeding western hemlock is continuing to colonise riparian zones.

**Concept:** Proposals will address the need for riparian zones to be of dappled shade, provided predominantly broadleaf in mixture with discreet conifers.

**Analysis:** Windy Cross Scheduled Monument is found on the boundary of the woodland.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with Historic England to ensure this cultural feature and its setting is maintained.



**Analysis:** Areas managed for pearl-bordered fritillary are a mixture of maintained open habitat and young conifer crops.

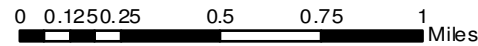
**Concept:** Dialogue and partnership work with Butterfly Conservation will remain ongoing to ensure these and other sites are maintained and continue to deliver exceptional biodiversity value.

**Analysis:** The mature Douglas fir crops found on the periphery of the woodland have been overthinned. Excessive opening up (to light) has led to bramble explosion, fir regeneration is evident in places.

**Concept:** Thinning and clearfelling will be delayed to allow the crops to close canopy again.

**Analysis:** Much of the forest block sits in an intimate wooded landscape and is surrounded by neighbouring broadleaf and conifer woodlands.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with neighbours to ensure management complements adjacent crops and habitats.



# Analysis & Concept

## Webberton

**Analysis:** A minor road dissects north to south, and boundaries the woodland on the eastern edge.

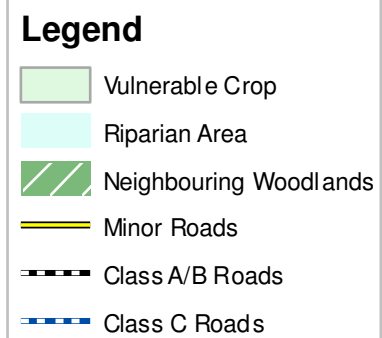
**Concept:** Proposals will ensure the integrity of crops are maintained and driver experience enhanced where possible through scalloping.

**Analysis:** Much of the forest block sits in an intimate wooded landscape and is surrounded by neighbouring broadleaf and conifer woodlands.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with neighbours to ensure management complements adjacent crops and habitats.

**Analysis:** Riparian areas of scrubby broadleaf are found around the source and on the banks of the small stream that starts in the woodland.

**Concept:** These areas will be retained for water quality and soil stability.

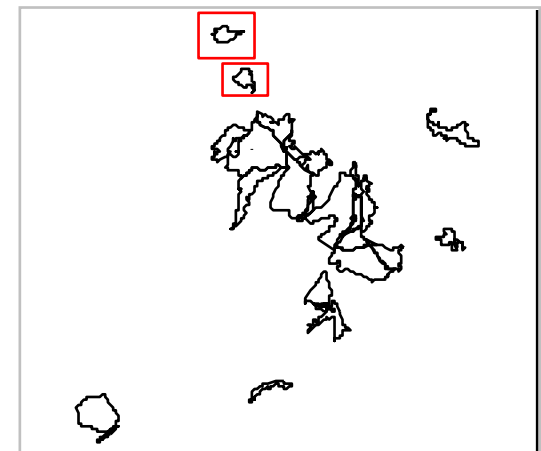


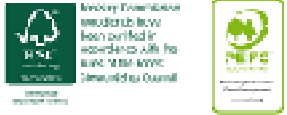
**Analysis:** Here there is evidence of old industrial working with used limekilns found in the area.

**Concept:** These areas will be retained and protected at the time of operation.

**Analysis:** The crop here is adjacent to two roads, and is underthinned and vulnerable to the wind.

**Concept:** This area will remain unthinned and will require one single removal intervention in the near future, to ensure road and public safety.





## Analysis & Concept Main Block (North)

**Analysis:** The 'Raptor Viewpoint' has not received the treatment intended for it and is now in need of intervention to improve the visibility and management of the point.

**Concept:** Opportunities to open up the viewpoint and include external partners in the management and interpretation of this site will be explored.

**Analysis:** A Go Ape high ropes course uses the Corsican and Scot pine crops here as a framework to work from.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that these crops are protected and made resilient for the future, so as to protect their current recreation value.

**Analysis:** A large proportion of Gatepark has windblown following one recent catastrophic event. The remaining crops continue to suffer from exposure.

**Concept:** Proposals will address the significant structural change and stability of the site as well as the restock and SSSI implications.

**Analysis:** Whiteway wood runs north to south along the west flank of a spur from the ridge. This is Ancient Woodland and most likely managed as oak coppice in the past. The majority of this areas is now Douglas fir and larch dominated and therefore PAWS.

**Concept:** Proposals will outline a plan of restoration to native species cover in line with Keepers of Time policy. This will be achieved through a process of thinning out the conifer to favour ancient woodland features and native regeneration.

**Analysis:** The Tower Wood and Bullers Hill Quarry SSSIs are notified for displaying the residual facies of the different Palaeogene 'Haldon Gravels'. Both are in 'favourable condition'.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure there is no loss in condition.

**Analysis:** The Douglas fir and spruce dominated ridgeline, some of which is original 1920s planting creates, a large visible mass on the landscape.

**Concept:** Proposals will look to diversify and lighten the ridge where possible, using a mixture of well-designed clearfells and continuous cover systems.

**Analysis:** The Forest Park Gateway is the focus of formal recreation provision, with paid car parking, a café, play and picnic sites, Segway and Go Ape and the start of numerous marked trails.

**Concept:** Proposals will enhance visitor experience though improving amenity and stability of crops around areas of high recreation pressure.

**Analysis:** Catastrophic windblow has occurred in numerous sites across the forest, most of which has been tidied up. This area in Freers remains blown and unstable.

**Concept:** Proposals will address the instability and visual impact of this site, ensuring the SSSI features are accounted for and enhanced.

**Analysis:** The wooded areas of the heathlands, predominantly the spruce and Corsican pine, need considering given their poor stability and health and their high landscape impact.

**Concept:** Proposals will address failing tree crops to produce a valuable ecological assemblage and high amenity landscape.

**Analysis:** Remnant and restored lowland heathland is found in a number of places. The SSSI units are in 'unfavourable recovering' condition ( ). Most open areas are recovering adequately through constant management, however some discreet areas require significant resource to be recovered.

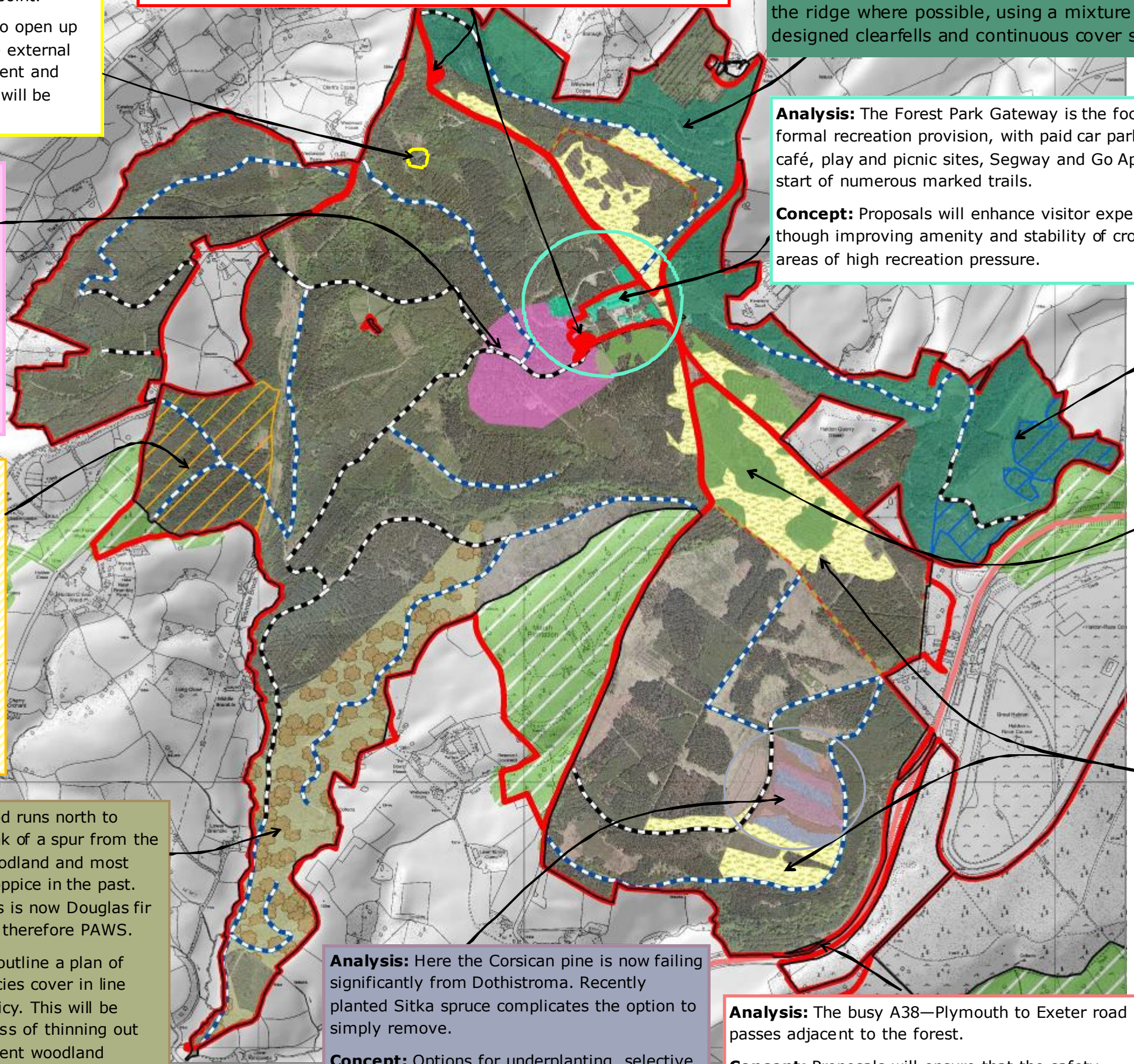
**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with Natural England and be effective in delivering a resilient and productive heathland habitat and landscape. Consideration will be made for where to target and significantly extend open habitat.

**Analysis:** Here the Corsican pine is now failing significantly from Dothistroma. Recently planted Sitka spruce complicates the option to simply remove.

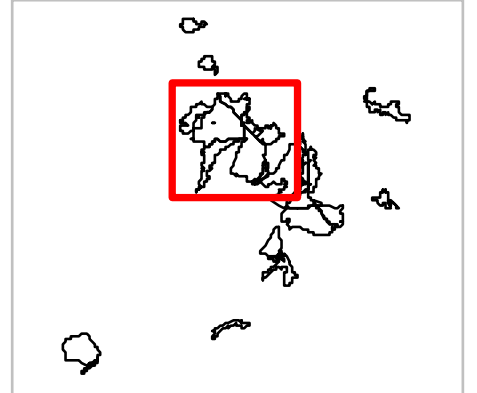
**Concept:** Options for underplanting, selective or delayed felling will be explored to resolve the complex forest structure.

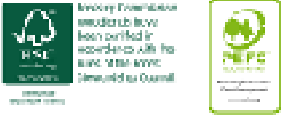
**Analysis:** The busy A38—Plymouth to Exeter road passes adjacent to the forest.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the safety and amenity value of the woodlands are maintained and enhanced where possible.



- Heathland and SSSI Units
- Quarry SSSIs
- Priority Lowland Heathland
- Whiteway Ancient Woodland
- Visible Ridge Crops
- Wooded Heathland Features
- Forest Park Facilities
- GoApe
- Gatepark
- Freers
- Neighbouring Woodlands
- A38
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads





## Analysis & Concept Main Block (South)

**Analysis:** The busy A38 and A380 roads are the main routes south of Exeter and dissect and abut the forest.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the safety and amenity value of the woodlands are maintained and enhanced where possible.

**Analysis:** Pine species, namely Scots, Corsican, Weymouth and Radiata dominate the cover in this area of the forest.

**Concept:** Proposals will address Dothistroma infection where possible, using heavy thinning, species choice and underplanting where appropriate.

**Analysis:** Remnant and restored lowland heathland is found in a number of places. The SSSI units are in 'unfavourable recovering' condition ( ——— ). Most open areas are recovering adequately through constant management, however some discreet areas require significant resource to be recovered.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with Natural England and be effective in delivering a resilient and productive heathland habitat and landscape. Consideration will be made for where to target and significantly extend open habitat.

**Analysis:** Dawlish Water is a watercourse prone to flooding which rises in Haldon and run through the centre of Dawlish town. Riparian areas of mature broadleaf are found at and around the source.

**Concept:** These areas will be retained and enhanced for water quality and soil stability. This will ensure that the value of the forest to flood management is maintained

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0 0.1250.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

**Analysis:** The fir and spruce dominated ridgeline, creates a large dominant mass on the landscape.

**Concept:** Proposals will look to diversify and lighten the ridge where possible, using a mixture of well-designed clearfells and continuous cover systems.



**Analysis:** Much of the forest block is surrounded by neighbouring broadleaf and conifer woodlands, some of which are within the SSSI.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with neighbours to ensure management complements adjacent crops and habitats.

**Analysis:** The Mamhead Obelisk is a historic feature of Mamhead Park, having been installed to guide ships into the Exe Estuary. It is now a focal point for recreational users with spectacular views out towards the mouth of the River Exe

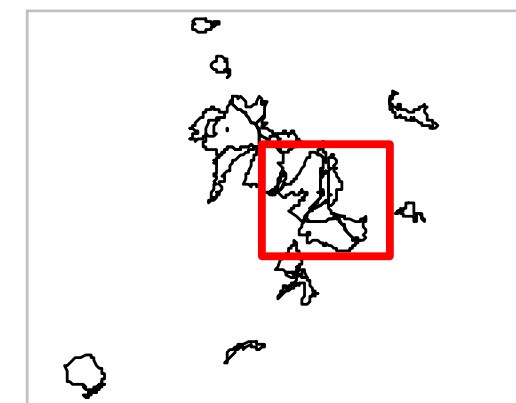
**Concept:** This feature will be protected, with the feasibility of peeling back crops from the Obelisk to make it more visible, explored. This will be for the purpose of enhancing and restoring its cultural value and will only be undertaken with input and agreement with other parties.

**Analysis:** Mamhead Park, Registered Park and Garden is a designated parkland partly attributed to Lancelot Brown, with landscape structures, around an early C19 mansion.

**Concept:** Obelisk Plantation is part of the designation and noted for its mixed woodland structure. This character will be retained.

### Legend

- Mamhead Obelisk
- Priority Lowland Heathland
- 'Unfavourable - recovering' SSSI Units
- Mamhead Park RPG
- Pines
- Neighbouring Woodlands
- Old Riparian Broadleaf
- Visible Ridge Crops
- A Roads
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads
- Dawlish Water





# Analysis & Concept

## Ideford & Waddon Brake

**Analysis:** Restored lowland heathland makes up the Ideford Common. Not designated, this is good condition and provides habitat for numerous rare and protected species.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the quality of this habitat is maintained.

### Legend

- Great Haldon Heath SSSI
- Priority Lowland Heath
- Heathland scrub
- Developing shelterwoods
- Corsican pine crops
- A Roads
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

**Analysis:** Great Haldon Heath SSSI is located either side of Ideford Common.

**Concept:** The restoration work has complemented the designation. Proposals will look to ensure the condition of this SSSI is maintained.

**Analysis:** The A380 to Torquay road passes adjacent to the forest.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the safety and amenity value of the woodlands are maintained and enhanced.

**Analysis:** Felling of these crops has been delayed with regeneration of spruce, fir and hemlock now sporadic across the sites.

**Concept:** Proposals will outline a programme to develop a set of shelterwood and selections systems to precipitate natural regeneration where possible.

**Analysis:** Small stands/singles of Corsican pine remain, following heathland restoration.

**Concept:** Proposals will look to remove these over time, given their exposure and infection of Dothistroma needle blight.

**Analysis:** An area of heathland restoration is now developing scrub. This is acceptable in the cycle of management.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure this area remains as open habitat for the long term.

# Analysis & Concept

## Well Covert

**Analysis:** A large areas of PAWS is on the west portion of the woodland, predominantly pole stage Douglas fir.

**Concept:** Proposals will outline a plan of restoration to native species cover in line with Keepers of Time policy.

### Legend

- ASNW
- PAWS
- Surrounding Woodlands
- A Roads
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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**Analysis:** A large areas of ASNW is on the east portion of the woodland, predominantly managed coppice with standard beech, ash and oak.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the quality of this habitat is maintained.

# Analysis & Concept

## Great Plantation

**Analysis:** Industrial estates residential areas are with close distance of the block, with Bovey Tracy town within 2km.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with neighbours to ensure management complements adjacent crops and habitats.

**Analysis:** Areas are managed for Pearl-bordered fritillary through periodic cutting.

**Concept:** Dialogue and partnership work with Butterfly Conservation Trust will remain ongoing to ensure these and other sites are maintained and continue to deliver exceptional biodiversity value.

**Analysis:** This area on the periphery is richer with a higher proportion of regenerating broadleaves.

**Concept:** These sites will be managed sensitively and consideration will be given to increase the broadleaf components where appropriate.

**Analysis:** Sites felled in 1998 and restocked through SP seed trees are not fully stocked and under producing.

**Concept:** Proposals will look to remedy these sites to full production, possibly through enrichment/under planting.

**Analysis:** The A38—Plymouth to Exeter and A382 Bovey roads pass adjacent to the forest on two sides.

**Concept:** Proposals will ensure that the safety and amenity value of the woodlands are maintained. This may mean felling mature crops adjacent to the road (e.g. ) are prioritised.

**Analysis:** Much of the forest block is surrounded by neighbouring broadleaf and conifer woodlands.

**Concept:** Proposals will be in consultation with neighbours to ensure management complements adjacent crops and habitats.

**Analysis:** Whilst the vast majority of the Block is made up of pine, only a relatively small proportion is Corsican pine which is suffering from Dothistroma needle blight.

**Concept:** Given the extent and age of these crops, underplanting would not be appropriate here. Proposals will prioritise the addressing of these crops.

### Legend

- Pearl bordered fritillary
- Corsican pine crops
- Surrounding Woodlands
- Rich broadleaf area
- Scots pine regeneration sites
- Urban/built areas
- A Roads
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

