

Wardour

Location

Wardour totals 86 hectares in area and is located approximately 2km east of the village of Donhead St. Andrew. The village of Tisbury lies approximately 3 km to the north east. The A30 Shaftesbury to Salisbury runs adjacent to the woodland's southern boundary, while access is gained through a gateway located towards the south eastern section of the woodland.

Tenure

Forestry Commission are the leasehold managers of Wardour.

Landscape

Wardour is located within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are no other landscape designations present in the woodland.

The woodland is viewable from the A30 Shaftesbury to Salisbury which runs adjacent to the southern boundary.

Current Woodland Structure

The whole of Wardour is classified as Ancient Woodland, which is predominantly PAWS.

Douglas fir is by far the dominant species, accounting for 39% of the area. The next species is Norway Spruce which covers 12% of the woodland area. There is a wide variety of broadleaf species present in the woodland, including Silver Birch, Sycamore, Beech and Oak among others which together account for around 25% of Wardour

The age class of canopy trees ranges from 21 to over 100 years old. The majority (77%) of the woodland is aged between 41 and 60 years old, illustrating a lack of age diversity across the woodland.

8% of the area is recorded as open space. The open space is spread across the woodland. A further 2% is recorded as open water.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Wardour successfully provide quality habitat for an array of species including protected mammals and birds of prey.

During management interventions, opportunities for ride widening and habitat enhancement will be taken to increase the ecotone of the woodland and provide connecting habitats for associated species. Decisions about where such enhancement work will take place will be made at the operational stage of management.

People

Wardour is privately owned by The Wardour Estate and leased to the Forestry Commission. The terms of lease do not allow for open public access, which is permitted only along formal public rights of way. These run through the western arm of the woodland and adjacent to the eastern boundary.

Open junctions, wide rides and clear paths enhance the experience of a walk along these paths. During management interventions opportunities to enhance the visual impact of rides and individual trees will be taken by selecting trees for retention based on character as well as widening rides.

Historic Environment

Almost all of Wardour is designated as Historic Park and Garden. We will continue to manage the woodland in accordance with our statutory responsibilities.

There are no scheduled archaeological sites in Wardour. However, there are numerous unscheduled archaeological features found across the woodland which are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The precise location of these sites will be recorded in the Operational Site Assessment for the woodland, to ensure that these features are protected during operation activities.

Continued monitoring will take place to ensure that anything relevant found is recorded and fed into operational planning in line with statutory responsibilities and best practice guidelines.

Soils

Wardour lies almost entirely on the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay. The eastern corner is situated on the Portland Beds.

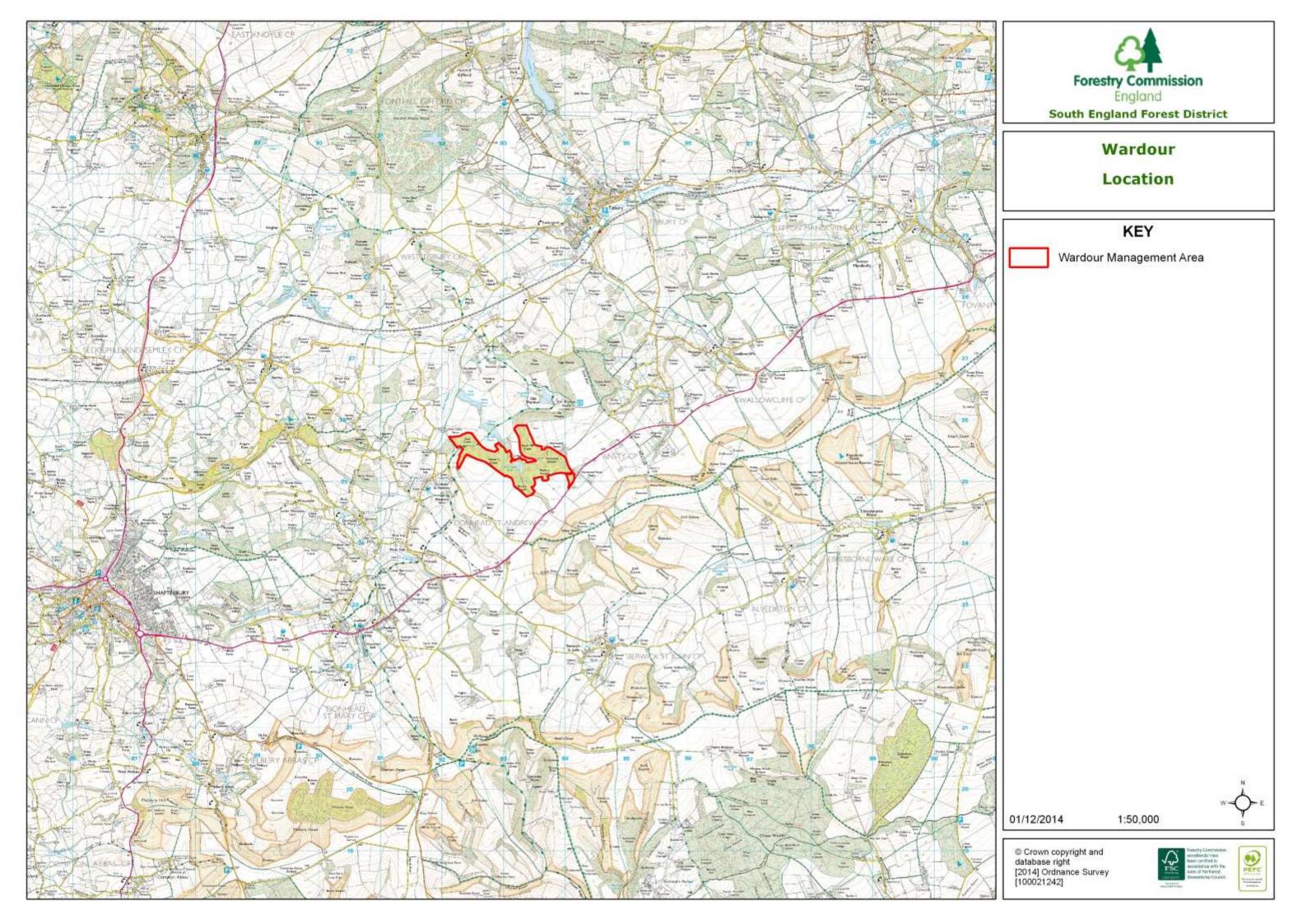
Water

Horwood Pond is situated towards the centre of the woodland, with two streams either side.

Tree Diseases and Pests

The main diseases of concern currently are *Chalara Fraxinea* (Ash Dieback), *Dothistroma* (red band) Needle Blight on Corsican Pine, and *Phytophthera ramorum* on Larch. Although larch and Ash are present, their numbers are minimal within the scale of the woodland and so these diseases do not pose a great risk to the current woodland character. There is no Corsican pine present in the woodland.

There is some Rhododendron present within the woodland. This will continue to be managed towards eradication. Monitoring will take place to ensure that those species which pose a threat to native flora do not become established.







South England Forest District

Wardour **Aerial**

KEY

Wardour Management Area

01/12/2014

1:25,000

