

East Devon Forest Plan

2019 - 2029

West England Forest District



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



Declaration by FC as an Operator.

**All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise estate
represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210)**

Ben Robinson
FCE File Ref: OP10/63
OLD Ref: PE 52, 52/1,52/2,53/1,
53/2, 51, 54/1 55, 55/1

Application for Forest Plan Approval

Forest District:	West England
Woodland or property name	Buckley, East Hill, Farway, Hole Common, Monkton Wyld, Morganhayes, Offwell, Parehayne, Trinity Hill, Whitty Hill, Wyld Warren
Nearest town, village or locality:	Sidmouth
OS Grid reference:	SY 119 934
Local Authority District/Unitary Authority:	East Devon District & West Dorset District

Plan Area:	876.2
Conifer Felling:	102.0
Broadleaved Felling:	10.5

- 1. I apply for Forest Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.
- 2. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders that the FC agreed must be included. Where it has not been possible to resolve specific issues associated with the plan to the satisfaction of consultees, this is highlighted in the Consultation Record.
- 3. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
- 4. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed
Forest Management Director

Date

Signed
Area Director

Date of approval.....

Date approval ends.....



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About

The East Devon Forest Plan area is situated south of Honiton between the regional towns of Ottery St Mary and Lyme Regis. The Plan area is made up of a number of scattered and fragmented woodland blocks close to the East Devon coast.

The forests are part of the public forest estate and stretch from East Hill in the west to Wyld Warren in the east.

The public forest here is a predominantly secondary woodland having been planted with conifer to address the national timber shortage of the early Twentieth Century. Some small areas of remnant ancient semi-natural woodland and areas of plantation on ancient woodland do remain and are either made up of oak and birch with ash and alder or coniferised with Douglas fir or Sitka spruce. Most of the Plan area is actively managed to provide timber for local and national businesses, and to improve the quality of the remaining trees.

The Plan area is rich with diverse ecological habitat such as Priority Wet Woodland and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland used by otter, dormice, bats and nightjar as well as other important flora and fauna species.

The entirety of Morganhayes, Parehayne, Wyld Warren, Whitty and Hole Common and parts of Core Copse, Ofwell and Trinity Hill are all freehold open access. These woodlands and the footpaths which bisect them are popular for quiet cycling and walking with views to the Jurassic Coast.

Objectives

The core aim of the Plan is to begin to progress the 50 Year Vision by producing woodlands with increased conservation, recreation and landscape benefits whilst maintaining a viable timber output. The long term aim of management is to continue to sustainably produce timber whilst providing a forest rich in wildlife, attractive to people and increasingly resilient to climate, pests and diseases.

The social, economic and environmental objectives of management are:

- The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.
- To conserve, maintain and enhance cultural and heritage assets.
- Protect and enhance woodland and open habitats and their associated species
 - To protect and enhance areas of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland and restore areas of PAWs in line with 'Keepers of Time'.
- The provision and maintenance of recreation facilities.
- Deliver well-designed forests that both protect and enhance the internal and external landscape in keeping with the AONB landscape character.

The current plan outlines management proposals including felling and restocking over several decades, with felling licence approval for operations up until 2029.

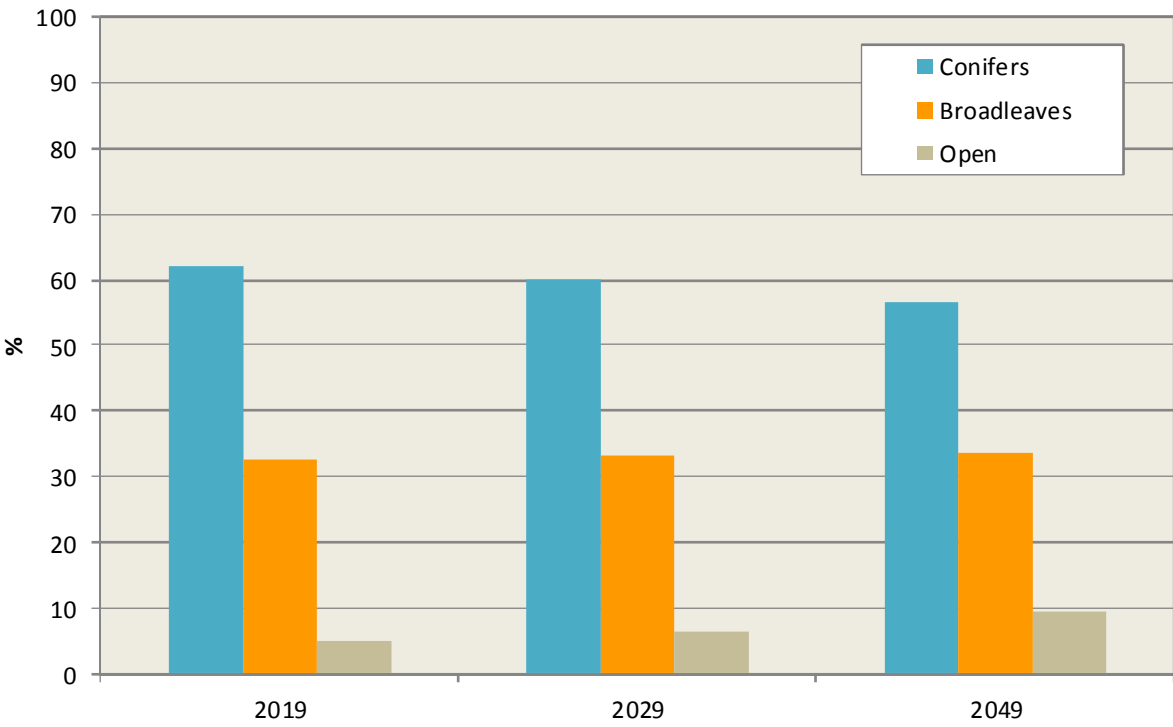
The Plan makes provision to ensure proposals are in keeping the AONB ambition to manage conifer plantations for sustainable timber production, recreation and wildlife, creating new green links to surrounding semi-natural habitats. Implementation and maintenance of an environmental corridor system will continue to increase diversity of habitat and internal landscaping.

The planned areas of clearfelling, restocking and permanent open space creation during the ten years to 2029 are summarised in the chart below.

HECTARES	Conifers	Broadleaves	Open space
Clearfelling	102.0	10.8	-
Restocking/Regeneration	86.9	10.8	15.1

In addition to these defined operations, ongoing thinning and selective felling of both conifers and broadleaves will be carried out in the plan area at five to ten year intervals.

The proportions of conifer and broadleaved woodland and open space at the beginning of the plan period are shown in the bar chart. The increase in native broadleaves within the plan period and over time is indicated in the middle and right hand columns of the chart.

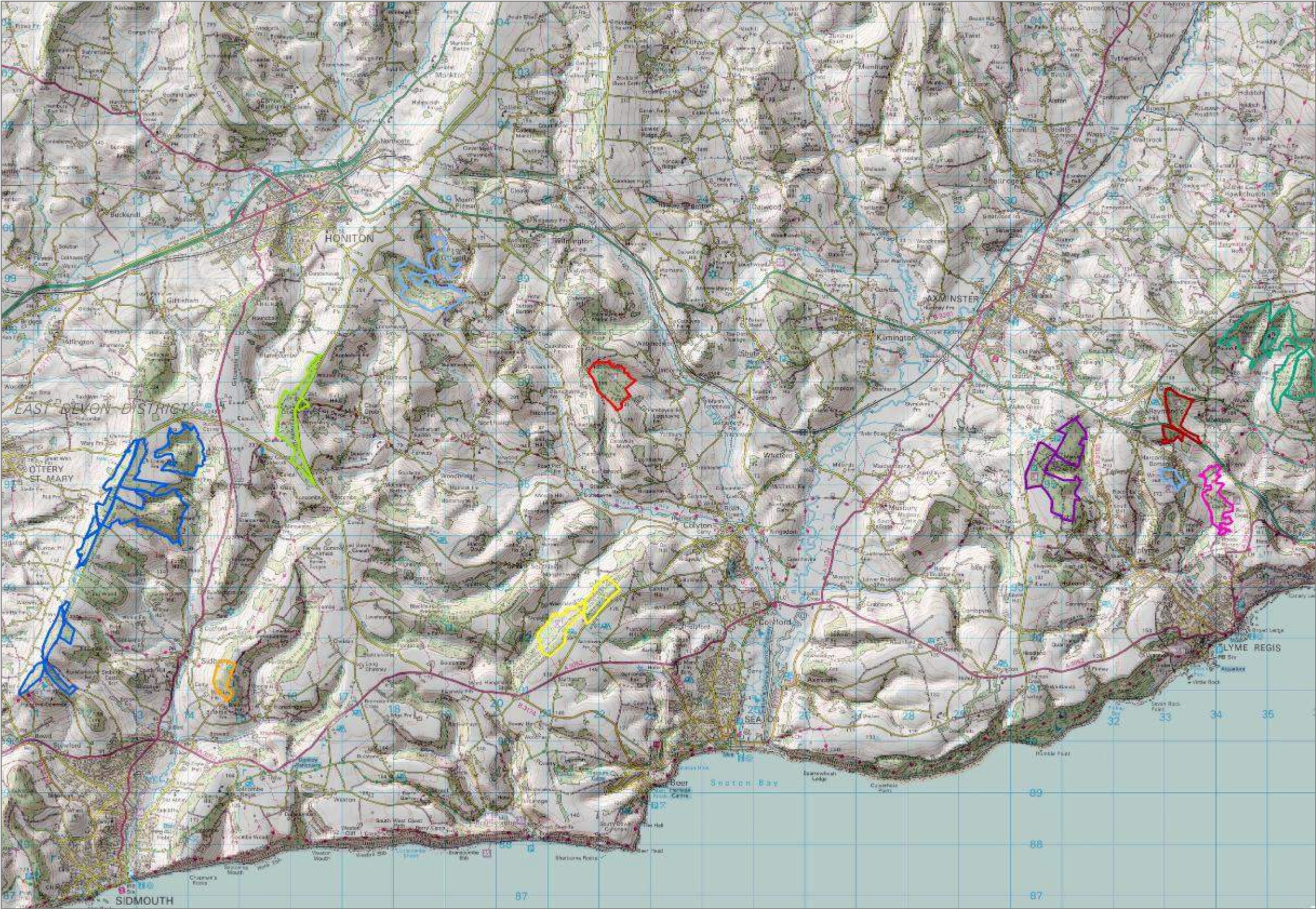


Location

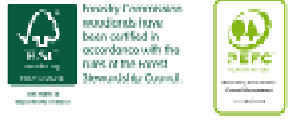
The East Devon Forest Plan area is situated south of Honiton between the regional towns of Ottery St Mary and Lyme Regis. The Plan area is made up of a number of scattered and fragmented woodland blocks close to the East Devon coast.

The Plan area sits within a landscape of narrow, elevated, rolling ridges and steep wooded slopes which provide both a visual feature and recreational attraction for the surrounding area.

The majority of the land is at 60-250 metres above sea level and is undulating to steep in places. The climate is warm and moist influenced by the proximity to the sea. The average annual rainfall is between 1100mm–1400mm, a soil moisture deficit of around 130mm, and an accumulated temperature over 5°C of 1500°C. The soils across most of the East Devon Plan area are poor and dry typical brown earths and surface water gleys over greensand.



	Area	%
Buckley	19.9	2.3
East Hill	263.3	30.0
Farway	55.9	6.4
Hole Common	38.3	4.4
Monkton Wyld	36.9	4.2
Morganhayes	67.9	7.7
Offwell	84.1	9.6
Parehayne	47.4	5.4
Trinity Hill	103.7	11.8
Whitty Hill	9.0	1.0
Wyld Warren	150.1	17.1
Total	876.2	100.0



A 50 Year Vision

The Vision for the future of the Plan area is forward looking but in keeping with the Forestry Commission's key strategic goals and the local and national value which is placed on the area. Set against the backdrop of the valuable Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Landscape Character Area whereby *densely wooded steep scarp slopes of ancient oak with bluebells and primroses; and some conifer plantations extend onto the ridges*, this Vision looks to achieve an area which is a home to a wide variety of wildlife, fun and commercial interests. A 'Key Opportunity' of the Landscape Character Area (Devon County Council, 2008) is to *manage conifer plantations for sustainable timber production, recreation and wildlife, creating new green links to surrounding semi-natural habitats*. In 50 years time this Plan will look to have delivered a rich mosaic of robust habitats which supports a multitude of rare and common flora and fauna species as well as contributing to a low-carbon economy.

The conifer dominated forest will predominantly be managed through a mixture of clearfell and low impact silvicultural systems contributing to a vibrant woodland economy. Rare and common species such as raptor, dormice, otter and bats will continue to call the forest home. The forest will also be a popular and safe place to come exercise, learn and relax in a resilient natural environment. The trees will be valued not only for their ecological and social value but also as a timber product, water regulation and for carbon sequestration which as climate change takes effect will be of increasing importance. A diverse structure of young, thicket and maturing crops across the area will provide suitable continuous habitat over time.

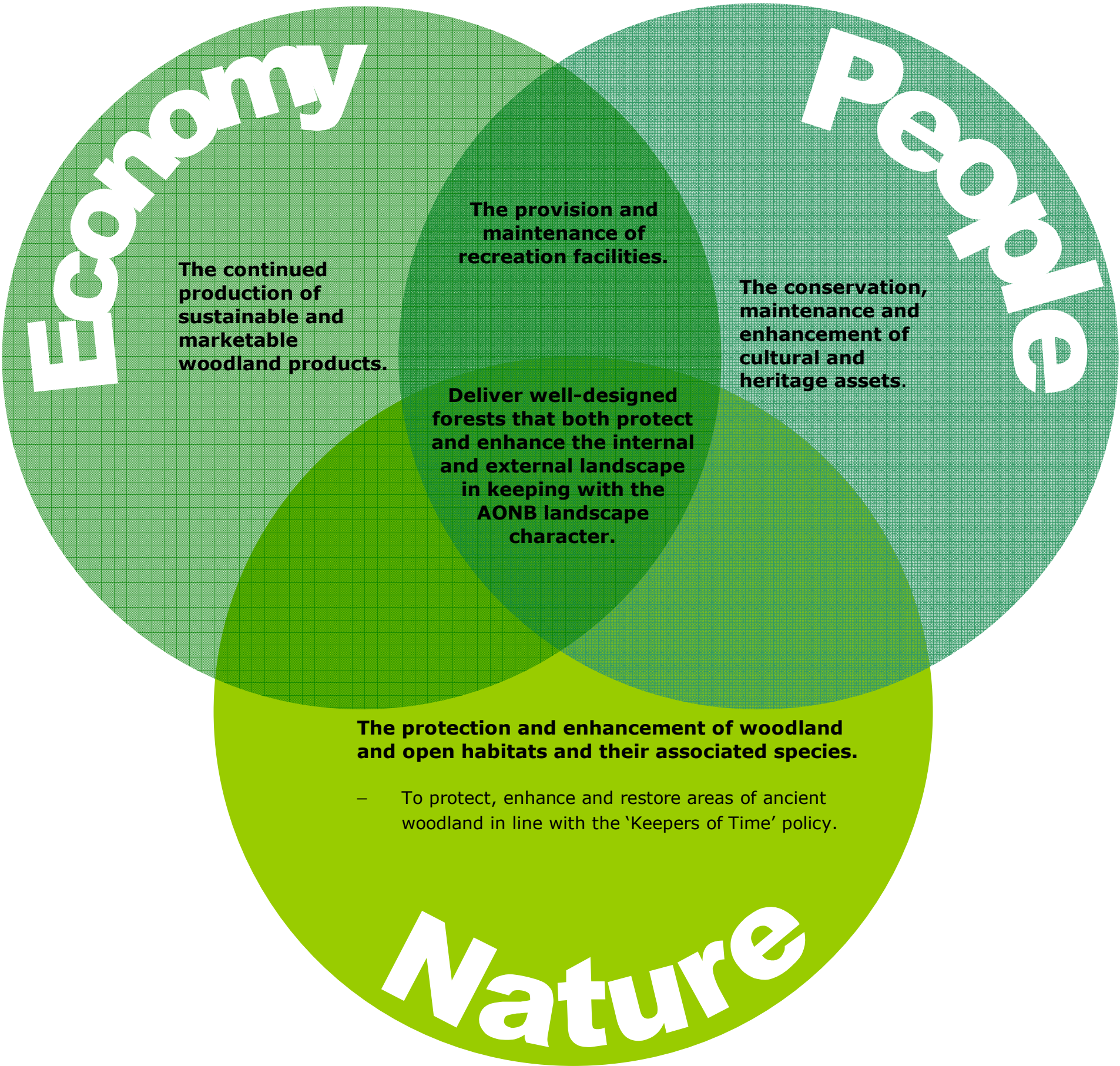
Mixed and broadleaf woodland will grow in size and improve in condition as restoration to native cover takes effect in certain areas. Managed more sensitively but still with productivity in mind through thinning, these more secluded areas will become a haven for a multitude of micro habitats, species and ecosystem functioning. Veteran, mature and future significant trees will be retained and allowed to breakdown providing deadwood habitat and nutrient cycling. Everything from dormice and butterflies to lichens and ground flora will enhance the contribution to ecology, cultural heritage and social value and to the wider landscape. Riparian areas will be enhanced through broadleaf intrusion and opened up to dappled shade to become invaluable to the quality and storage of water that passes through.

Ancient and native woodland, a key part of the Landscape Character, will feature more significantly in the area's makeup. Areas will be restored to oak dominated forest cover gradually to support the rare and protected flora and fauna species which populate these habitats. In addition to these, areas of conifer dominated forest managed through continuous cover forest techniques or clearfell/restock will become a home for numerous conifer and edge loving species such as bats, nightjar and raptors.

The considerable rides and roadside network will be wider than currently and support common and protected butterflies and other rotational scrub loving species. These areas will also be invaluable to the enjoyment of the area for people, creating windows into the wider forest and out into the landscape.

The 50 Year Vision outlined in this Plan will be delivered in part over the next 10 years through the Objectives outlined on pages 7 and 8 with the proposal and prescriptions following.





WEST ENGLAND FOREST DISTRICT

PROTECTING AND EXPANDING ENGLANDS FORESTS
AND WOODLANDS AND INCREASING THEIR VALUE TO
SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

The objectives of this Plan will, in part, deliver the *West England Forest District Strategic Plan* (2013a) and the national *Strategic Plan for the Public Forest Estate in England* (2013b).

Sustainable management of the woodland will be to the standards required to maintain FSC and PEFC accreditation and therefore must deliver economic, environmental and social objectives.

The meeting and monitoring of these objectives is outlined on the following page.



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



Declaration by FC as an Operator.
All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210)

Meeting Objectives



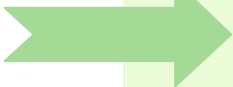
National Vision and Overall Goal:
To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the Public Forest Estate for the people of England.



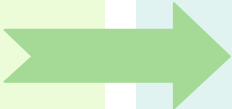
District Strategy



Forest Plan Objective



Meeting Objective



Monitoring

Economy

Maintain the land within our stewardship under FSC/PEFC certification.

Improve the economic resilience of our woods and forests.

Encourage and support business activity on the Estate

Nature

Improve the resilience of the natural environment of the Estate under our stewardship.

Realise the potential of the Public Forest Estate for nature and wildlife.

Maintain and improve the cultural and heritage value of the Estate.

People

Maintain existing established consultation panels and engage with other consultative bodies such as National Park Authorities and AONBs.

Provide high quality woodland based recreational opportunities for people and business focusing on the 3 principle Forest Centres.

The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.

The majority of the Plan area will remain productive through thinning yield.

Some clearfell timber production of mature crops will occur, majority from the conifers.

Comparison of total production forecast yield 29,000m³ (2019-2024) and 68,000³ (2019- 2029) with actual production at the Forest Plan (FP) five and ten-year review.

The protection and enhancement of woodland and open habitats and their associated species.

To protect, enhance and restore areas of ancient woodland in line with the 'Keepers of Time' policy.

Appropriate reinstatement works will be carried out once operations have been concluded.

Protection and enhancement of water supplies and soil quality through sensitive implementation of operations and improved restocking practices.

Restoration of ancient woodland through a gradual thinning process

Operational site planning of harvesting and restocking operations will help monitor the effect of management.

Ongoing monitoring of soil and water quality pre and post harvesting with input from outside stakeholders.

Analysis of naturalness scores at Review stage

Measured at Review stage through analysis of ongoing surveys and records.

The provision and maintenance of recreation facilities.

Visitor numbers will be maintained.

Road and ride corridor and car park aesthetics enhanced and maintained.

Felling together with a delayed restock program will continue to diversify stand and age structure.

Viewpoints enhanced and maintained at time of intervention, where possible.

Visitor feedback comments, to be included in Review where appropriate.

Deliver well-designed forests that both protect and enhance the internal and external landscape in keeping with the AONB landscape character.

Implementation of proposals will soften and better integrate the woodland with the surrounding landscape

Fixed point photography analysis at Forest Plan review stage

The conservation, maintenance and enhancement of cultural and heritage assets .

Protect and enhance scheduled and unscheduled sites at the time of intervention.

Operational site planning of harvesting and restocking operations will help monitor the effect of management.

Designations



Farway Castle is a henge monument, dating from the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. It lies at the heart of the Farway barrow complex which was the subject of 19th century excavations by Reverend Kirwan. Specific management is outlined in Appendix 5.

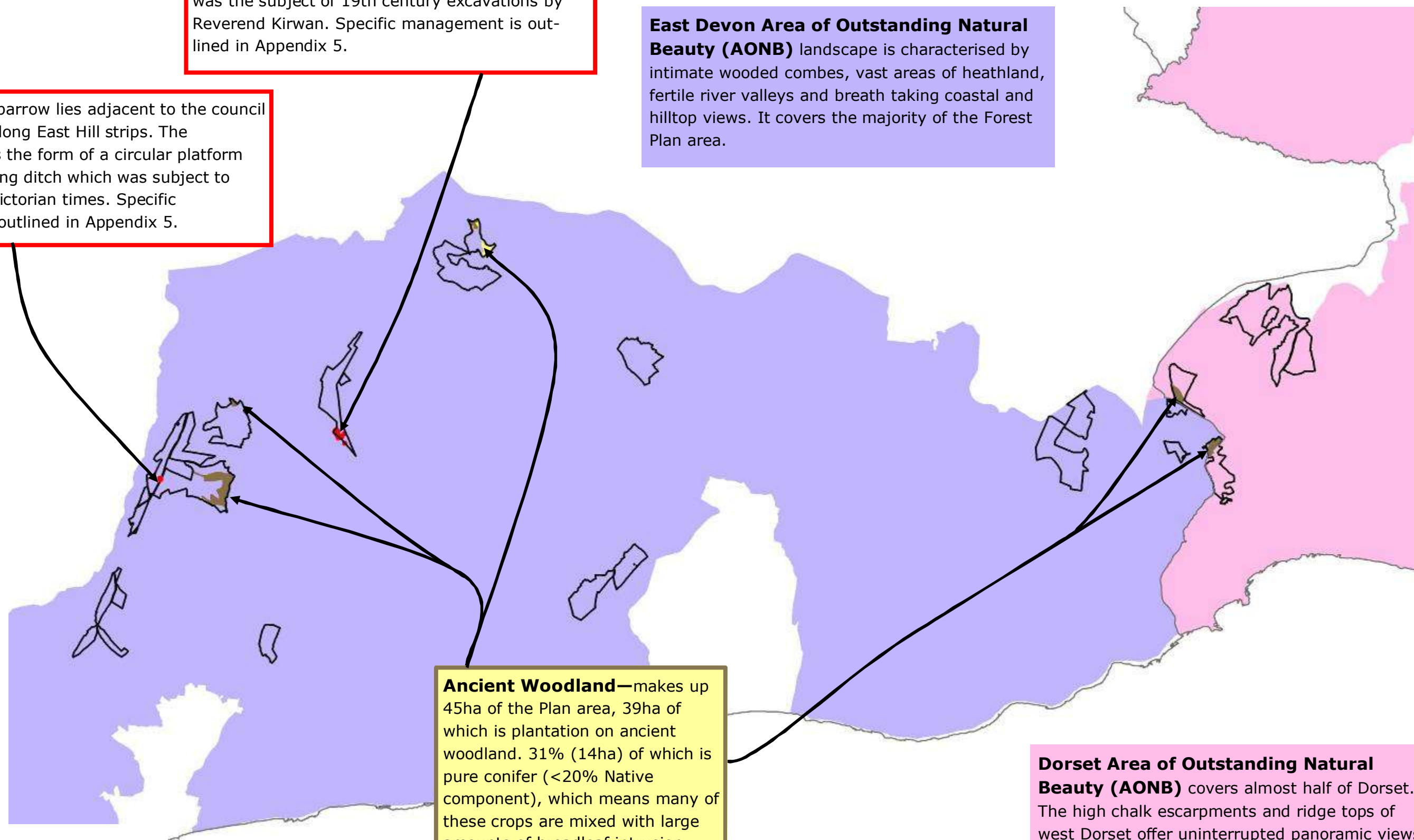
East Hill bowl barrow lies adjacent to the council road that runs along East Hill strips. The Monument takes the form of a circular platform with a surrounding ditch which was subject to landscaping in Victorian times. Specific management is outlined in Appendix 5.

East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) landscape is characterised by intimate wooded combes, vast areas of heathland, fertile river valleys and breath taking coastal and hilltop views. It covers the majority of the Forest Plan area.

Ancient Woodland—makes up 45ha of the Plan area, 39ha of which is plantation on ancient woodland. 31% (14ha) of which is pure conifer (<20% Native component), which means many of these crops are mixed with large amounts of broadleaf intrusion.

Specific management in light of this designation and the objective to restore to native cover is outlined on pages 17-18.

Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers almost half of Dorset. The high chalk escarpments and ridge tops of west Dorset offer uninterrupted panoramic views across the complex pattern and textures of the surrounding landscape. It covers the easterly extents of the Forest Plan area.



Legend

- Scheduled Monument
- Dorset AONB
- East Devon AONB
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
- Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site

Analysis & Concept

East Hill

East Hill is located east of the town of Ottery St. Mary and north of Sidmouth. The block is made up of a string of woodlands along a ridge which is prominent in the landscape and can be viewed from the lower lying settlements, agricultural land and coastal areas. The vast majority of the woodland is made of pine along the ridge with larch and beech with fir and hemlock in the richer, more sheltered areas. The thin soils and high levels of exposure mean that the majority of wood is be managed under a clearfell and restock regime but development of CCF is feasible in some discrete areas. The woodland is a mixture of lease and freehold and with spectacular vantage points is a popular place to visit for locals and visitors alike. A number of formalised, but free car parks are found along the ridge along with a number of gateways and laybys. The woodlands lie adjacent to a number of small but intensively managed heathlands on the high ridges where soils are thin and nutrient availability low. Also some small areas of registered ancient woodland are found towards the periphery of Core Copse and Pin Hill. The main objective within the ancient woodland areas is restoration to native species cover and the associated ecosystem functioning in an economically efficient way. In other areas the continued production and diversification of timber species will be pursued whilst maintaining a woodland valued for biodiversity, recreation and amenity.

- Scheduled Monument
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
- Plantation on Ancient Woodlad
- High landscape impact
- Heathland
- Corsican pine
- Watercourse

Analysis: The westward edges of the woodlands are very prominent on the landscape, particularly from Ottery St. Mary. Due to historic planting patterns some areas appear as a 'checkerboard'.

Concept: Proposals will be sympathetic to the high landscape impact of this edge and its role in the wider AONB landscape, through the targeted thinning and felling or crops which define the 'checkerboard'.

Analysis: Corsican pine diseased with Dothistroma Needle Blight is prevalent along the nutrient poor ridge.

Concept: The management of this area will be sympathetic to ecosystem services and economic potential. This will be through the felling and creation of patchy open space to create space for underplanting.

Analysis: Remnant and restored lowland heathland is found within close proximity to the woodlands

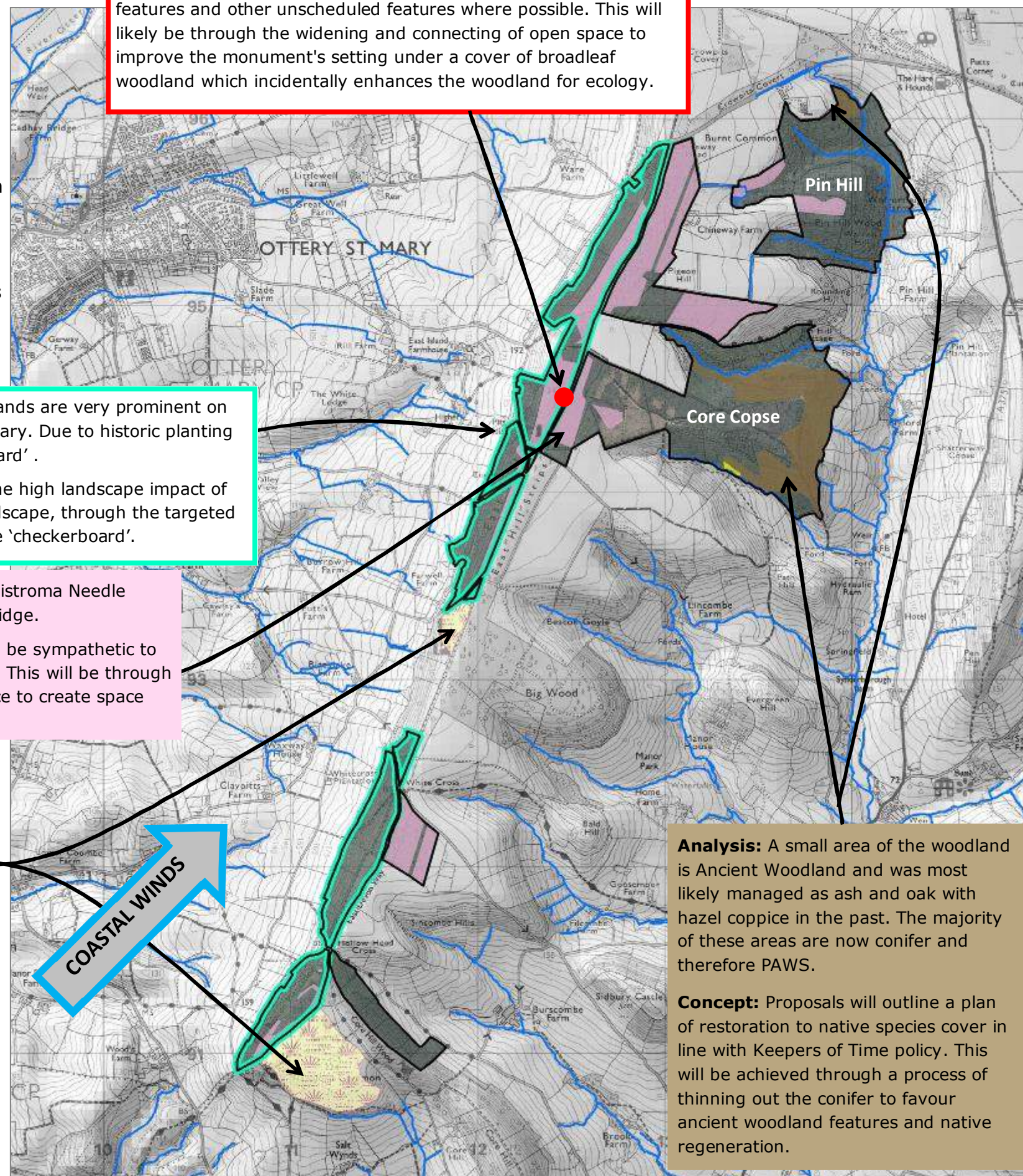
Concept: Proposals will look to complement these valuable habitats at the time of restockig.

Analysis: A number of watercourses source within or close to the forest and feed then into the Rivers Sid and Otter. With the exception of Pin Hill and Core Copse limited riparian woodland exists due to the nature of the landform.

Concept: Prescriptions will be sensitive to the important part the forests play in water storage and management in the local catchments. This will through a mixture of carefully designed and programmed clearfeks, thinning and retention of protective and regulating crops.

Analysis: East Hill bowl barrow lies adjacent to the council road that runs along East Hill Strips. The Monument takes the form of a circular platform with a surrounding ditch which was subject to landscaping in Victorian times.

Concept: Management will be to preserve and enhance these features and other unscheduled features where possible. This will likely be through the widening and connecting of open space to improve the monument's setting under a cover of broadleaf woodland which incidentally enhances the woodland for ecology.



Analysis: A small area of the woodland is Ancient Woodland and was most likely managed as ash and oak with hazel coppice in the past. The majority of these areas are now conifer 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 & Concept



Buckley & Farway

Buckley and Farway are two discrete blocks situated in elevated positions along the catchment edge of the River Sid. The woodlands are prominent and typical of the surrounding landscape and can be viewed from the lower lying agricultural land, coastal areas and settlements, such as Sidmouth. The vast majority of Farway is made of pine along the ridge with larch and beech with Buckley the richer, more sheltered woodland made up of spruce and fir. Within Farway there are a number of features which make up the Farway Castle Scheduled Monument. Both woodlands are held under leases and as such access is only permitted along Public Rights of Way. The main objective will be the continued production and diversification of timber species whilst maintaining a woodland valued for biodiversity, heritage and amenity, ensuring that the natural capital and landscape value are protected.

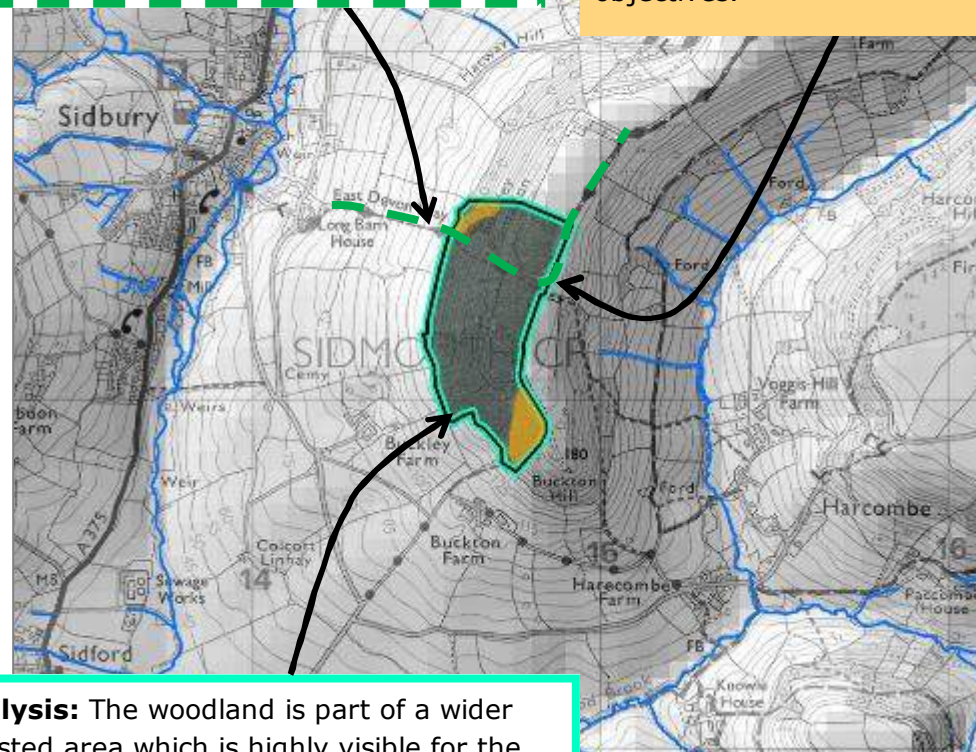
Buckley

Analysis: The East Devon Way is a popular walking route which traverses the eastern edge of the woodland.

Concept: This route as well as many of the other popular access tracks and trails will be managed in line with the District Corridors policy. This work will look to open up the tracks to more sunlight, views and ecological diversity.

Analysis: Recent fellings, within the last ten years are struggling to establish.

Concept: The Plan and future management will ensure that productive forest management is pursued where possible to ensure efficient and effective use of lands inline with UK standards and guidelines, when in line with the Plan objectives.



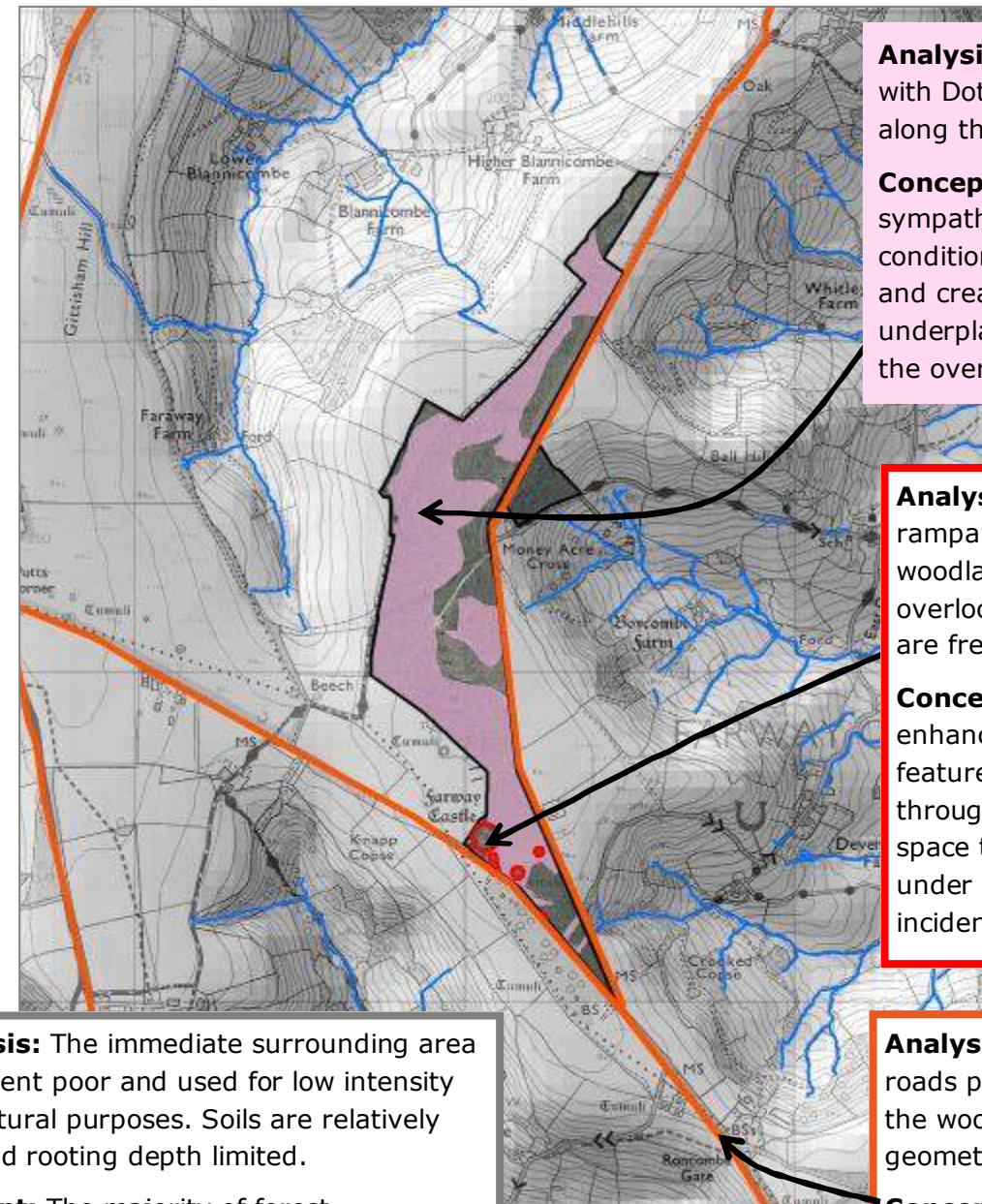
Analysis: The woodland is part of a wider forested area which is highly visible for the coastal tourist town of Sidmouth.

Concept: Proposals will outline a plan which takes in to consideration the landscape impact of any management and its affect on other ecosystem services, such as water management.

Legend

- East Devon Way
- High landscape impact
- Poor establishment
- Watercourse

Farway



Analysis: Mature pine some of which is diseased with Dothistroma Needle Blight is prevalent along the nutrient poor ridge.

Concept: The management of this area will be sympathetic to ecosystem services and soil condition. This will be through heavy thinning and creation of patchy open space to create underplanting positions after which clearfelling of the overstorey will occur.

Analysis: The castle and associated tumuli and ramparts are situated towards the south of the woodland in a commanding location overlooking the ground. Most of these features are free of tree cover.

Concept: Management will be to preserve and enhance these features and other unscheduled features where possible. This will likely be through the widening and connecting of open space to improve the monument's setting under a cover of broadleaf woodland which incidentally enhances the woodland for ecology.

Analysis: The immediate surrounding area is nutrient poor and used for low intensity agricultural purposes. Soils are relatively thin and rooting depth limited.

Concept: The majority of forest management will be delivered through clearfelling and restocking designed in a way to minimise risk to windblow and be in keeping with the surrounding landscape.

Analysis: A number of fast and busy public roads pass close to the woodland. In someways the woodland mirrors their straight and geometric shape.

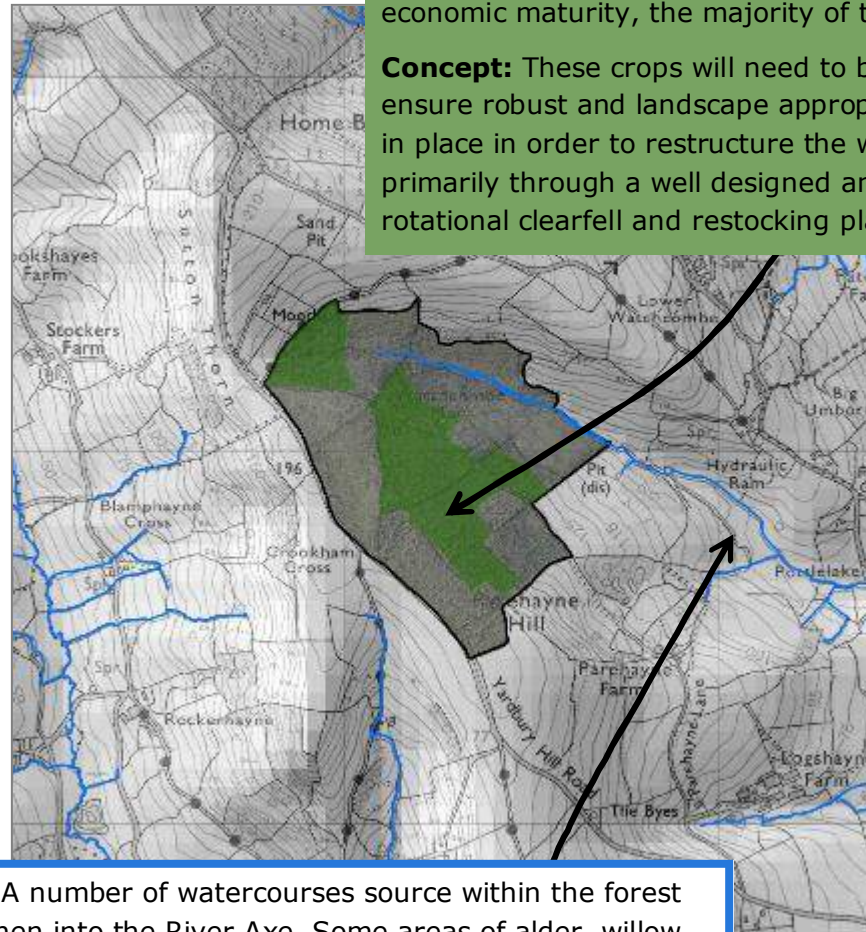
Concept: Proposals will be live to the visual impact of management to these routes.



Parehayne & Offwell

Parehayne and Offwell are two more, discrete blocks situated in elevated positions within East Devon. They sit within the higher catchment of the River Axe. The woodlands are prominent and typical of the surrounding landscape and can be viewed from the lower lying settlements and agricultural land. The soils are rich and fertile with good moisture availability and therefore species diversity. Parehayne is a freeheld and open access woodland, quietly enjoyed by local residents. Whilst the majority of the areas of Offwell is leased the area of woodland that backs on to the hamlet of Offwell is permitted access and is widely used by local residents. It is also utilised in partnership with the Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust as a Woodland Education Centre. Some small areas of registered ancient woodland are found towards the periphery of Offwell. The main objective within the ancient woodland areas is restoration to native species cover and the associated ecosystem functioning in gradual, efficient and ecologically sensitive way. In other areas the continued production and diversification of timber species will be pursued whilst maintaining a woodland valued for biodiversity, recreation, education and amenity.

Parehayne



Analysis: Missed clearfell coupes mean that a significant proportion of the woodland is mature and at economic maturity, the majority of this is Douglas fir.

Concept: These crops will need to be managed to ensure robust and landscape appropriate measures are in place in order to restructure the woodland. This will primarily through a well designed and programmed rotational clearfell and restocking plan.

Analysis: A number of watercourses source within the forest and feed then into the River Axe. Some areas of alder, willow and ash dominated riparian woodland are situated along the stream sides.

Concept: Prescriptions will be sensitive to the important part the forests play in water management. This will be through targeted removal of some overly shade bearing conifers and management towards 50% open 50% dappled shade, provided by regenerated broadleaves.

Legend

- Mature Douglas fir
- Watercourses

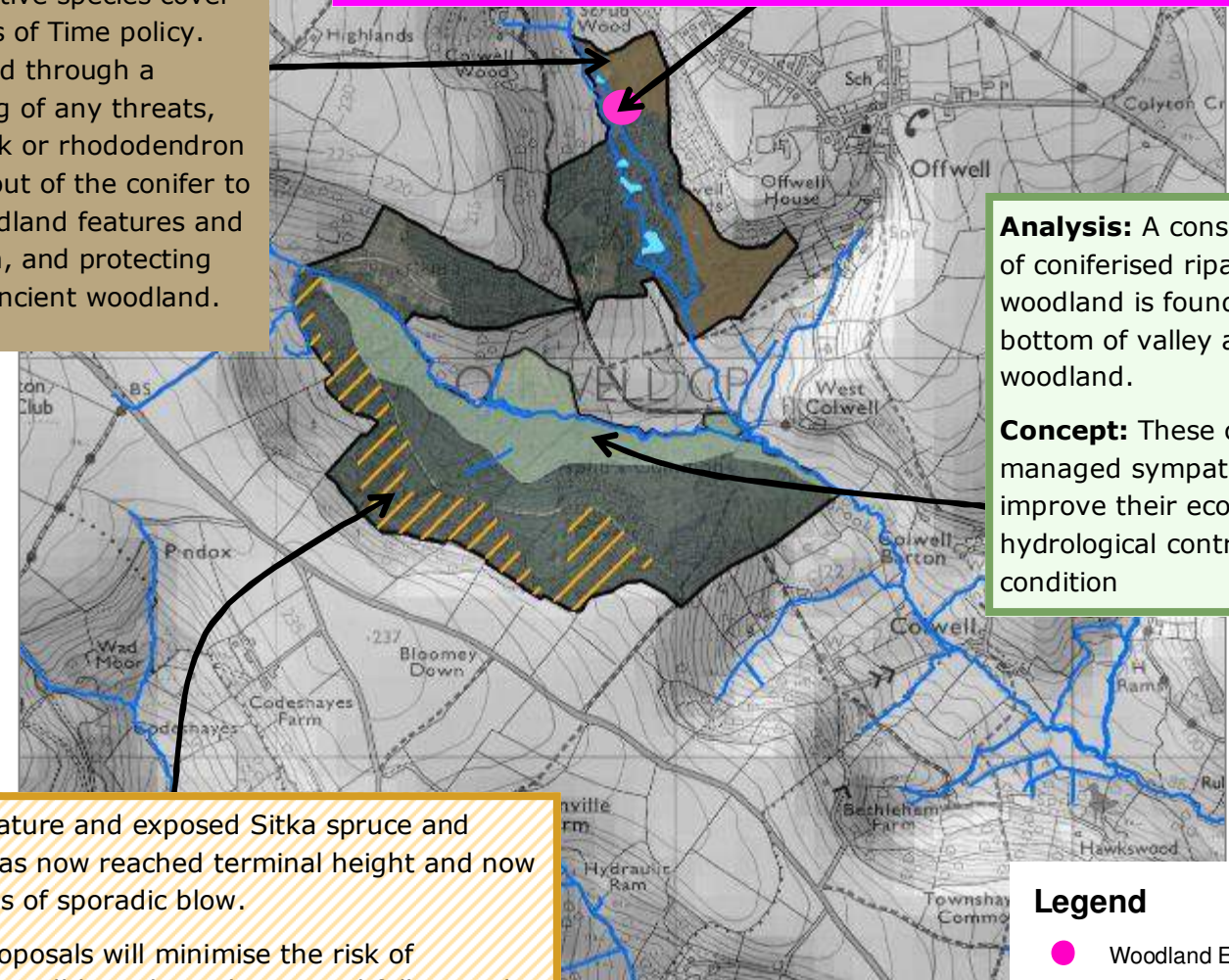
Offwell

Analysis: Two small areas of the woodland are Ancient Woodland and were most likely managed as ash and oak with hazel coppice in the past. The majority of these areas are now conifer 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 removing of any threats, such as the hemlock or rhododendron and then thinning out of the conifer to favour ancient woodland features and native regeneration, and protecting areas of remnant ancient woodland.

Analysis: A Woodland Education Centre run by the Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust is located to the north of the woodland within a stand of mature Douglas fir and looking out on to broadleaved wet woodland.

Concept: The management of this area will be sympathetic to the needs of the Trust and supportive of them, to jointly enhance the ecological features of the woodland.



Analysis: A considerable area of coniferised riparian woodland is found through the bottom of valley and woodland.

Concept: These crops will be managed sympathetically to improve their ecological and hydrological contribution and condition

Analysis: Mature and exposed Sitka spruce and Douglas fir has now reached terminal height and now showing signs of sporadic blow.

Concept: Proposals will minimise the risk of catastrophic windblow, through targeted felling and restocking.

Legend

- Woodland Education Centre
- Ancient woodland
- Windblow risk
- Riparian corridor
- Open water
- Watercourses

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

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Ordnance Survey [100021242]



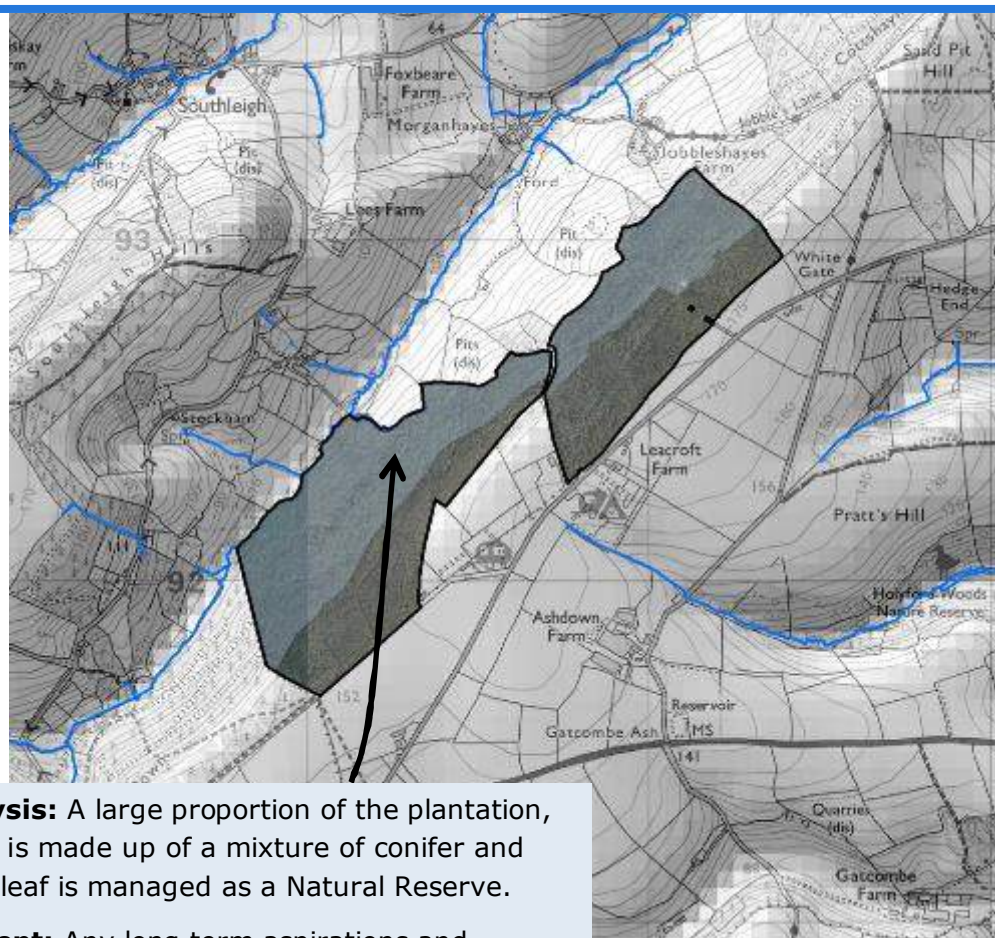
Morganhayes & Trinity Hill

Morganhayes and Trinity Hill are two large secondary woodland plantations situated in elevated positions close to the settlements of Colyton and Uplyme. The majority of the plantations are low fertility, sandy soils with poor moisture regimes. Therefore species diversity and yield is limited along the ridge and made up of pine, larch and beech with some smaller areas of richer, more sheltered woodland made up of spruce and fir. The thin soils and high levels exposure mean that majority of wood is managed under a clearfell and restock regime but development of low-impact silvicultural systems are feasible in some discrete areas. The woodland is a mixture of lease and freehold and close to popular coastal towns are a popular place to visit for locals and visitors alike. The plantation at Trinity Hill lies adjacent to a small but intensively managed heathland on the high ridges where soils are thin and nutrient availability low. The main objective will be the continued production and diversification of timber species whilst maintaining a woodland valued for biodiversity, heritage and amenity, complementing the surrounding ecosystem and landscape value.

Morganhayes

Analysis: The plantation is part of a wider woodland escarpment which is secluded but significant in the local water catchment which feeds into the River Coly and then Axe.

Concept: Prescriptions will be sensitive to the important part the forests play in water management. This will be through targeted removal of some overly shade bearing conifers and management towards 50% open 50% dappled shade, provided by regenerated broadleaves. This may in places be achieved through the clearfelling of mature conifer crops on stream sides.



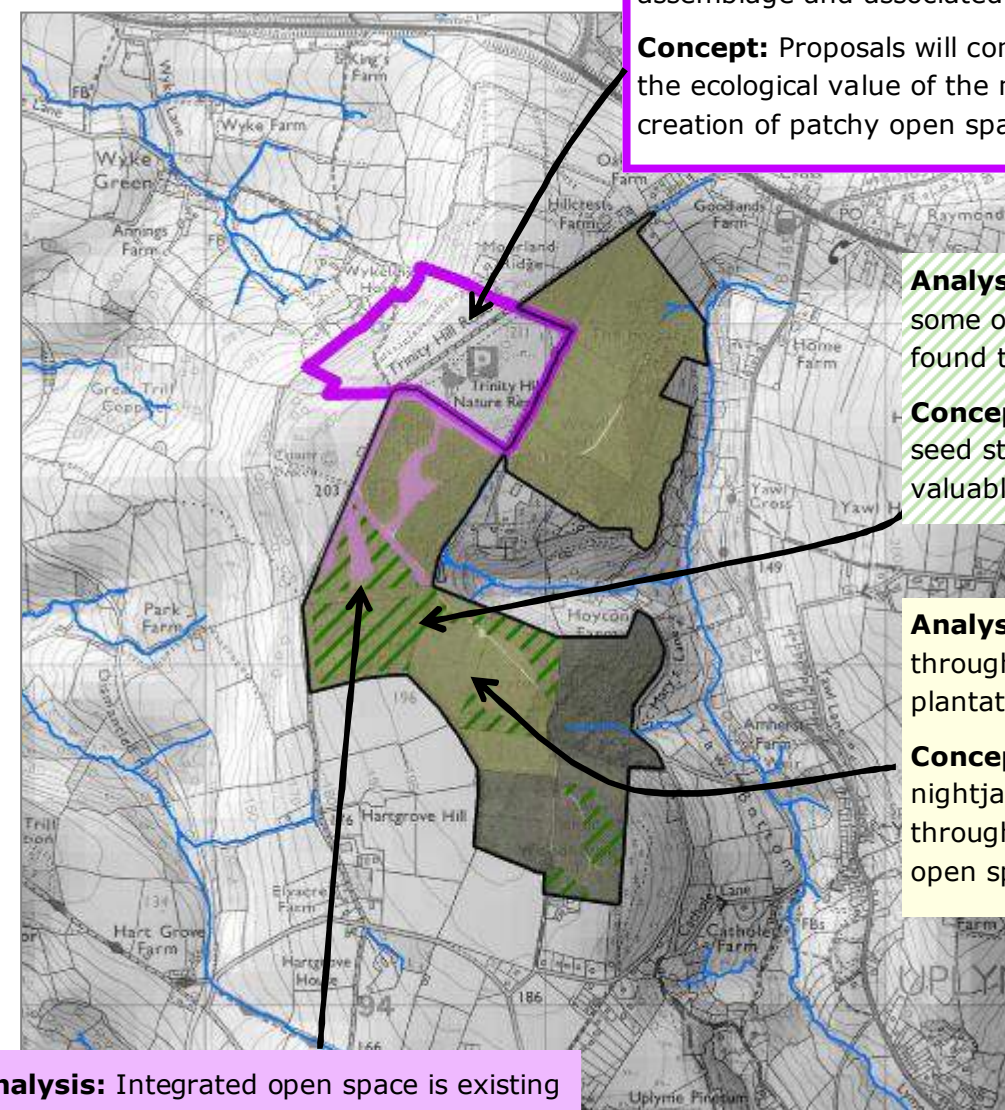
Analysis: A large proportion of the plantation, which is made up of a mixture of conifer and broadleaf is managed as a Natural Reserve.

Concept: Any long term aspirations and management of this area will be for the benefit of the ecological significance of this site.

Legend

- Natural Reserve
- Watercourses

Trinity Hill



Analysis: The Trinity Hill Nature Reserve managed by East Devon District Council is surrounded on three sides by the pine plantation. This Nature Reserve is particularly valued for its heathland assemblage and associated fauna.

Concept: Proposals will complement and where possible enhance the ecological value of the neighbouring Nature Reserve through the creation of patchy open space and healthy heath assemblages.

Analysis: Western hemlock of poor form, some of which is seeding profusely is found throughout the woodland.

Concept: Proposals will look to improve seed stock and minimise seeding threat to valuable features.

Analysis: Nightjar are known to nest throughout the higher, heathier areas of the plantation.

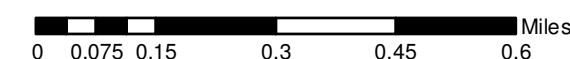
Concept: Proposals will ensure that the nightjar habitat is maintained and enhanced, through a continued delivery of transient open space as a result clearfelling

Legend

- Trinity Nature Reserve
- Integrated open space
- Western hemlock
- Nightjar habitat
- Watercourses

Analysis: Integrated open space is existing within the highest elevations of the plantation.

Concept: Proposals will ensure that this habitat is maintained and enhanced.



Analysis & Concept



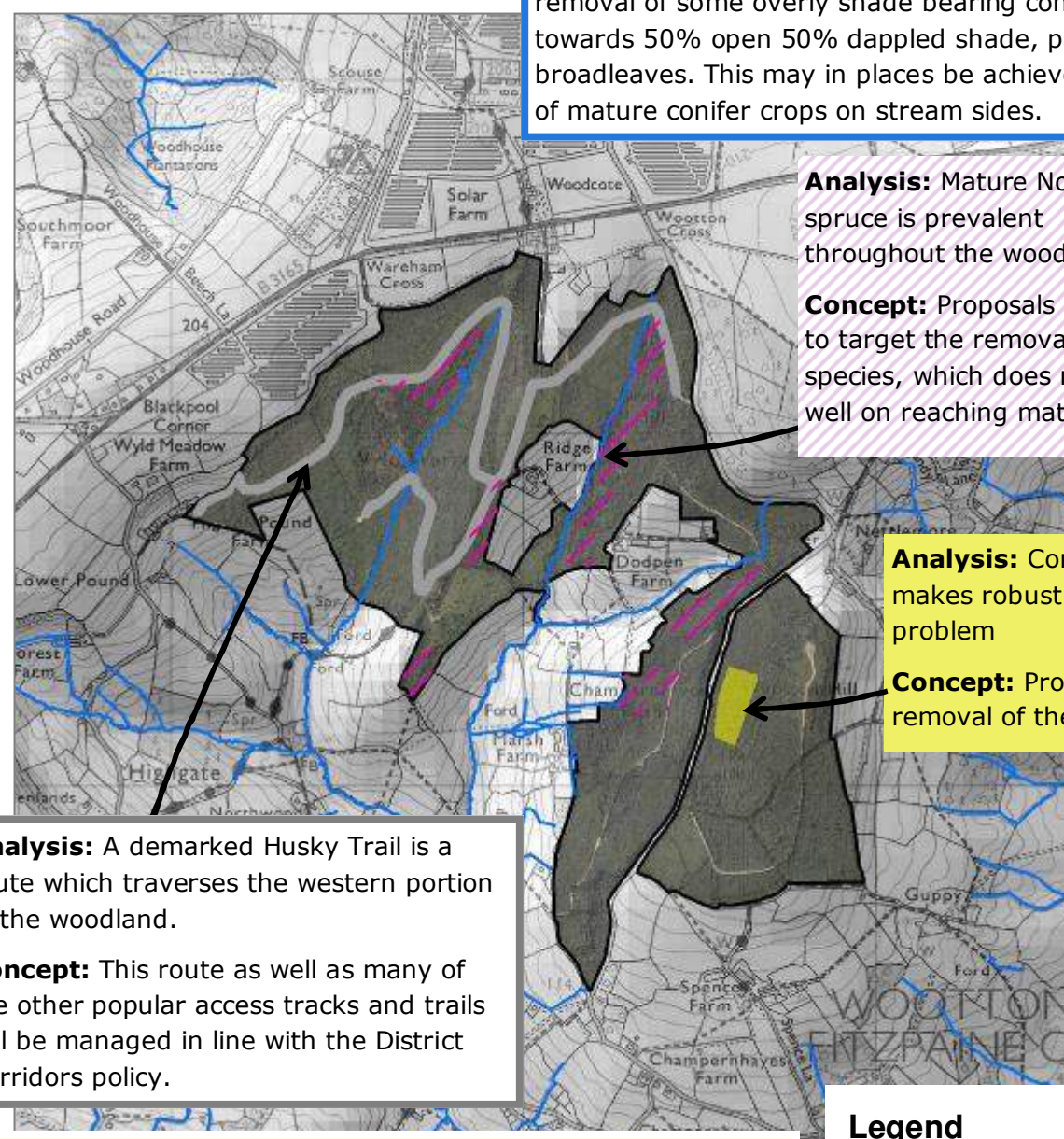
Wyld Warren, Monkton Wyld & Hole Common

The cluster woodlands which sit between the towns of Lyme Regis and Axminster lie in the upper catchments of the Rivers Axe and Char. The woodlands, as are the catchments, are dissected by the main Dorchester to Honiton road, the A35. Despite this the woodlands are relatively inaccessible and therefore experiences little public access. The exception to this is Wyld Warren which experiences quiet and informal but regular public usage. The majority of soils are rich and fertile with good moisture availability and therefore species diversity. Some small areas of registered ancient woodland are found within Monkton Wyld and Hole Common. The main objective within the ancient woodland areas is restoration to native species cover and the associated ecosystems. In other areas the continued production and diversification of timber species will be pursued whilst maintaining a woodland which delivers and is valued for biodiversity, recreation and amenity.

Analysis: A number of watercourses source within the forest and feed into the River Char. Some areas of alder, willow and ash dominated riparian woodland are situated along the stream sides.

Concept: Prescriptions will be sensitive to the important part the forests play in water management. This will be through targeted removal of some overly shade bearing conifers and management towards 50% open 50% dappled shade, provided by regenerated broadleaves. This may in places be achieved through the clearfelling of mature conifer crops on stream sides.

Wyld Warren



Analysis: A demarked Husky Trail is a route which traverses the western portion of the woodland.

Concept: This route as well as many of the other popular access tracks and trails will be managed in line with the District Corridors policy.

Analysis: Nightjar are known to nest throughout the higher areas of the woodland in areas recently felled.

Concept: Proposals will ensure that the nightjar habitat is maintained and enhanced, through a continued delivery of transient open space as a result clearfelling

Analysis: Mature Norway spruce is prevalent throughout the woodland.

Concept: Proposals will look to target the removal of this species, which does not last well on reaching maturity

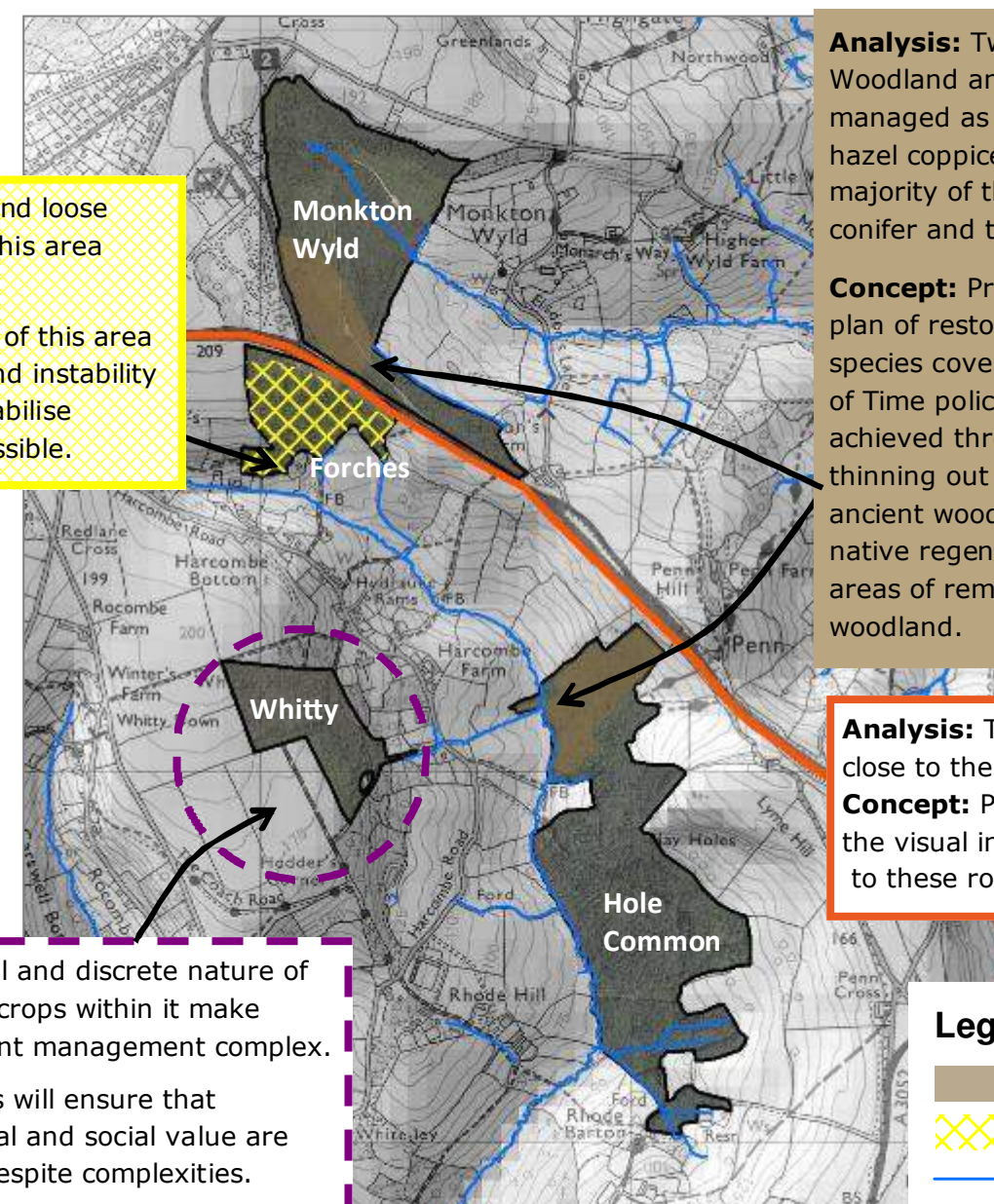
Analysis: Complex historical planting makes robust management and yield a problem

Concept: Proposals will look to target the removal of these crops.

Legend

- Mature Norway spruce
- Complex crop structure
- Husky trail
- Watercourses

Monkton Wyld & Hole Common



Analysis: Two areas are Ancient Woodland and were most likely managed as ash and oak with hazel coppice in the past. The majority of these areas are now conifer 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, and protecting areas of remnant ancient woodland.

Analysis: The busy A35 passes close to the woodlands.

Concept: Proposals will be live to the visual impact of management to these routes.

Analysis: Steep gradients and loose geological conditions make this area liable to landslip.

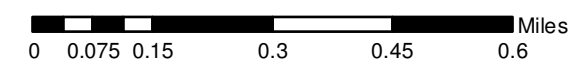
Concept: The management of this area will be sensitive to the ground instability and make provision to re-stabilise ground conditions where possible.

Analysis: The small and discrete nature of Whitty Hill and the crops within it make effective and efficient management complex.

Concept: Proposals will ensure that landscape, ecological and social value are not compromised despite complexities.

Legend

- Ancient Woodland
- Landslip risk
- Watercourses
- A35



Woodland Composition

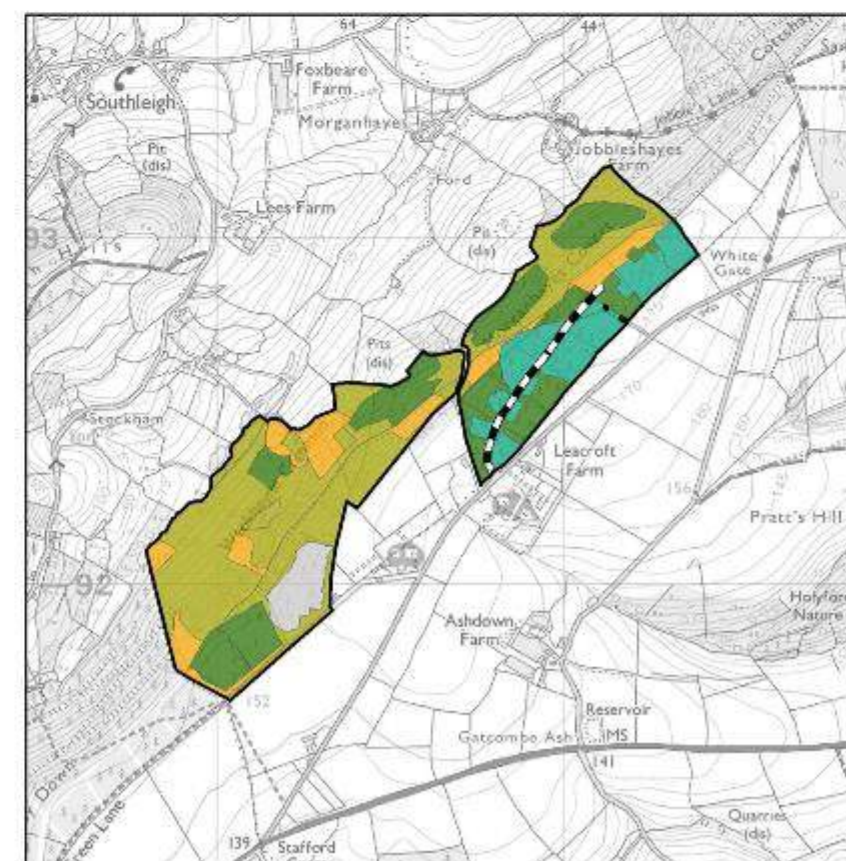
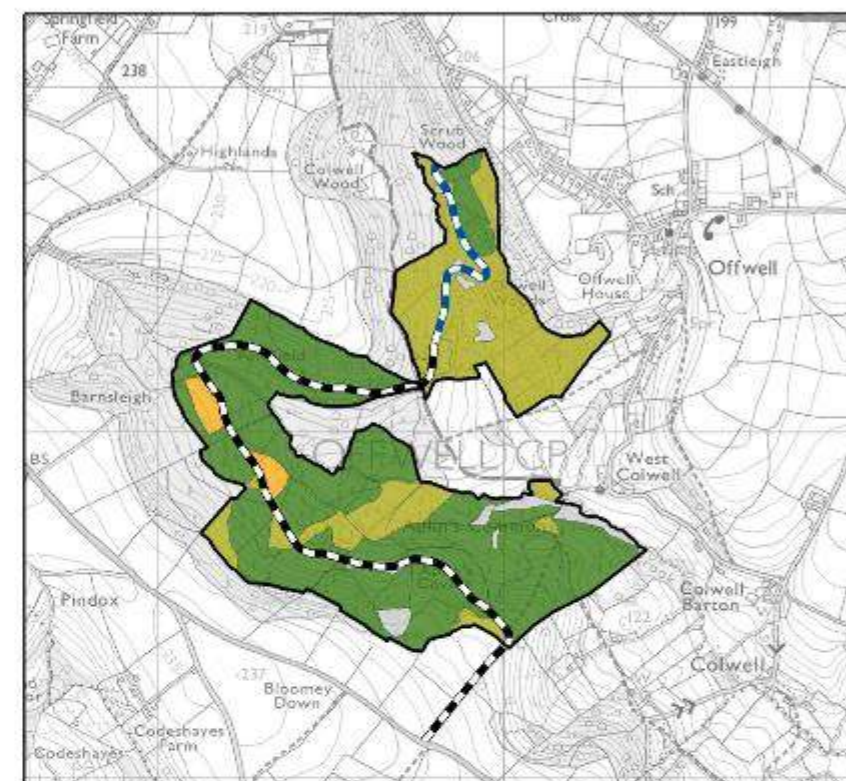
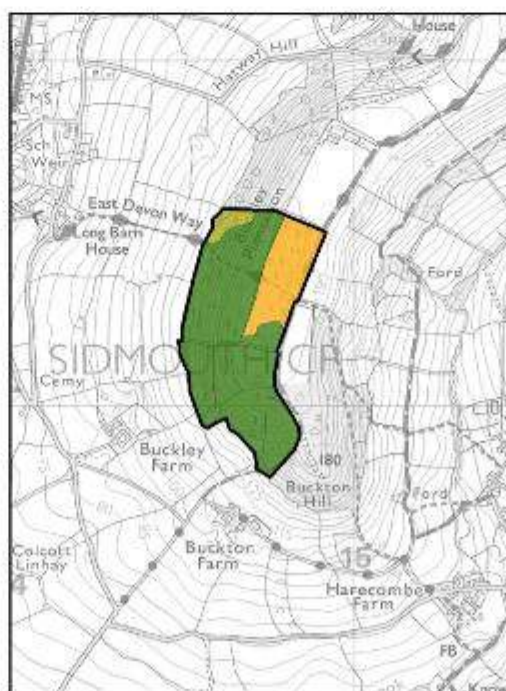
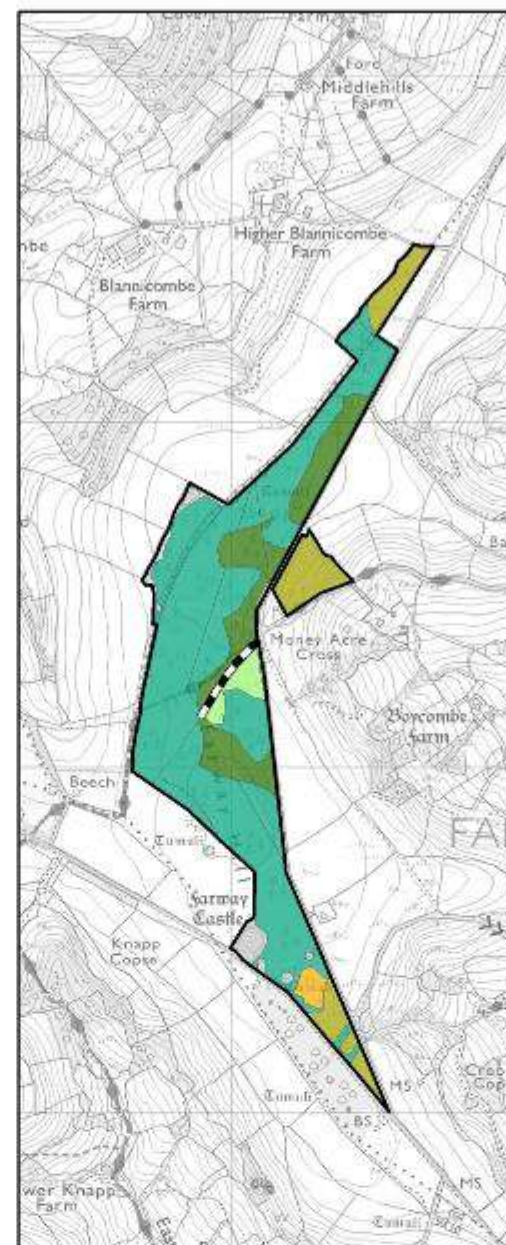
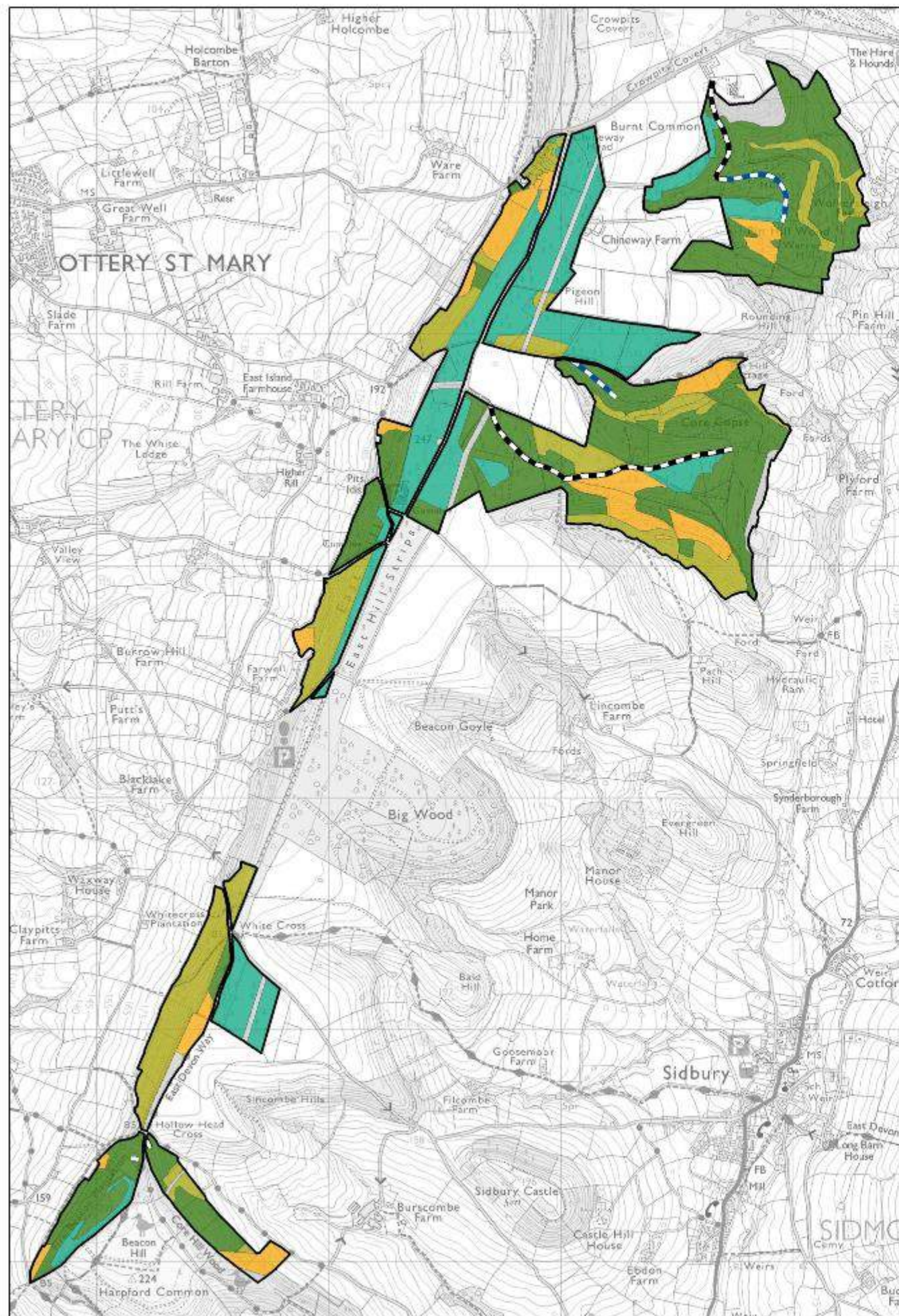
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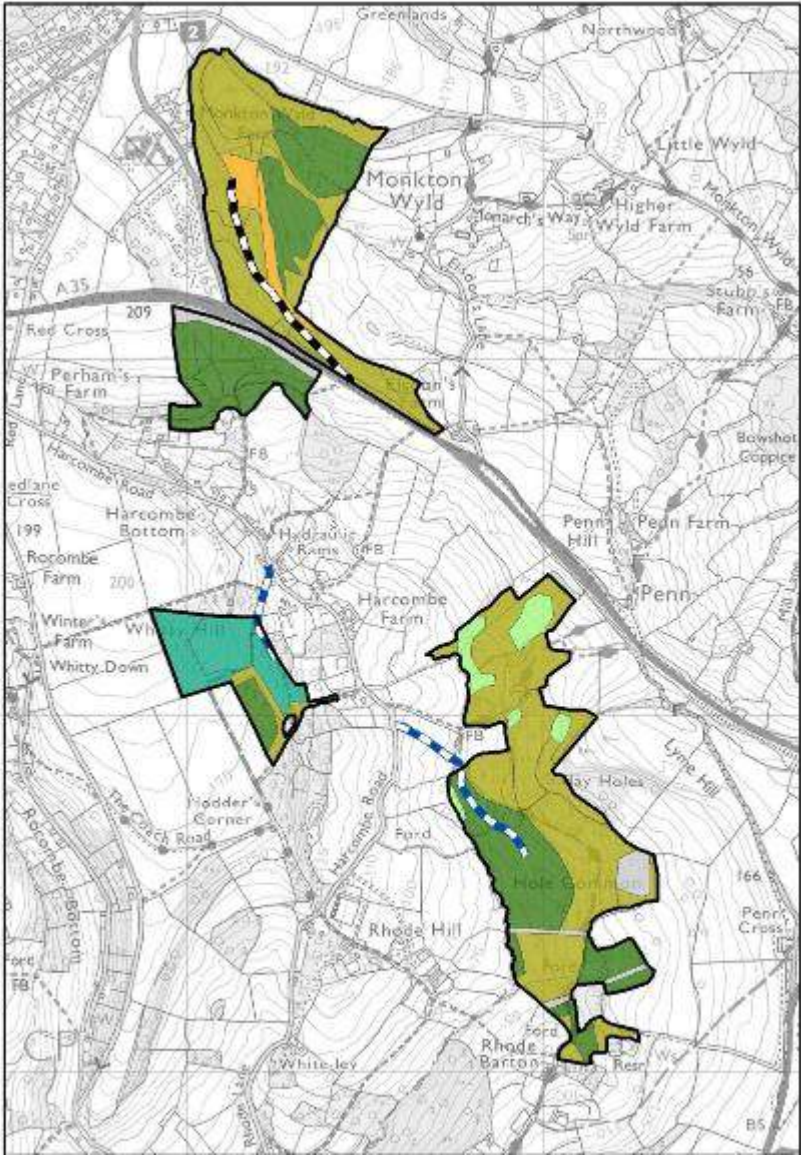
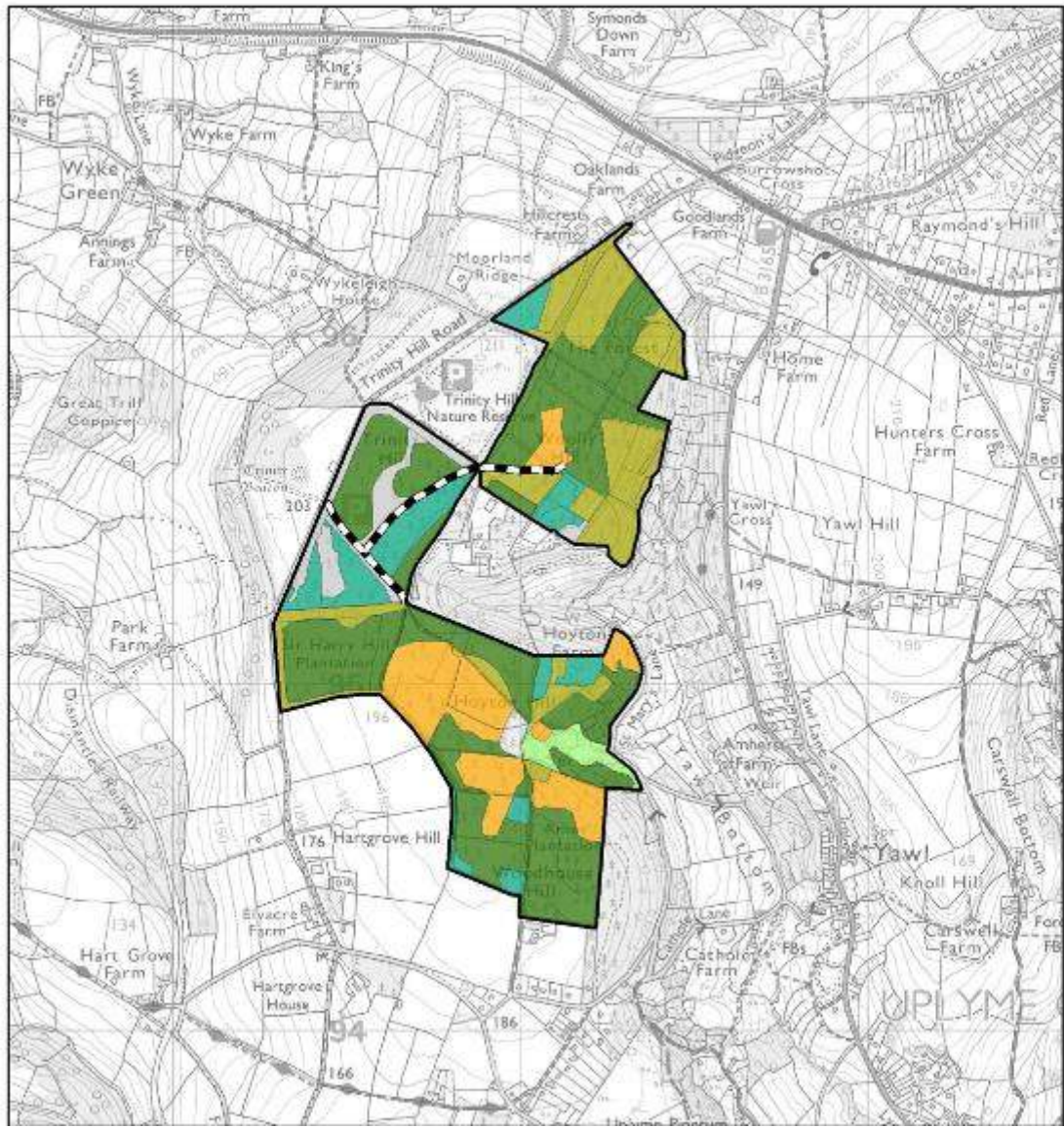
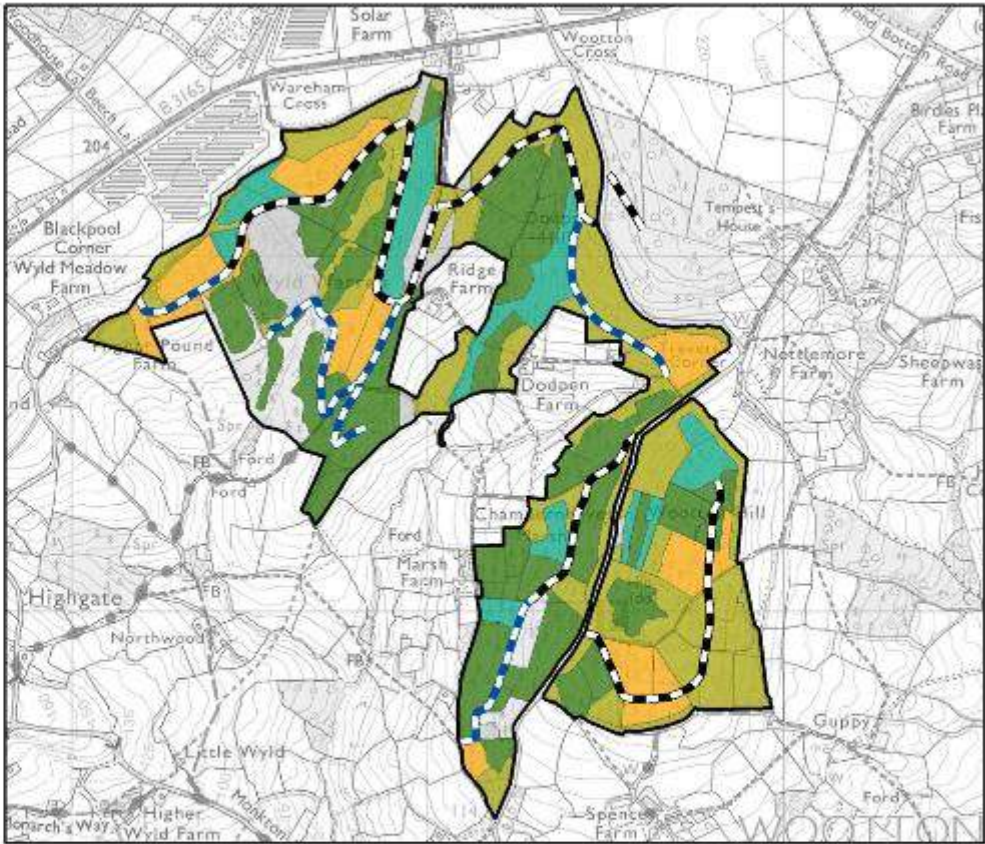
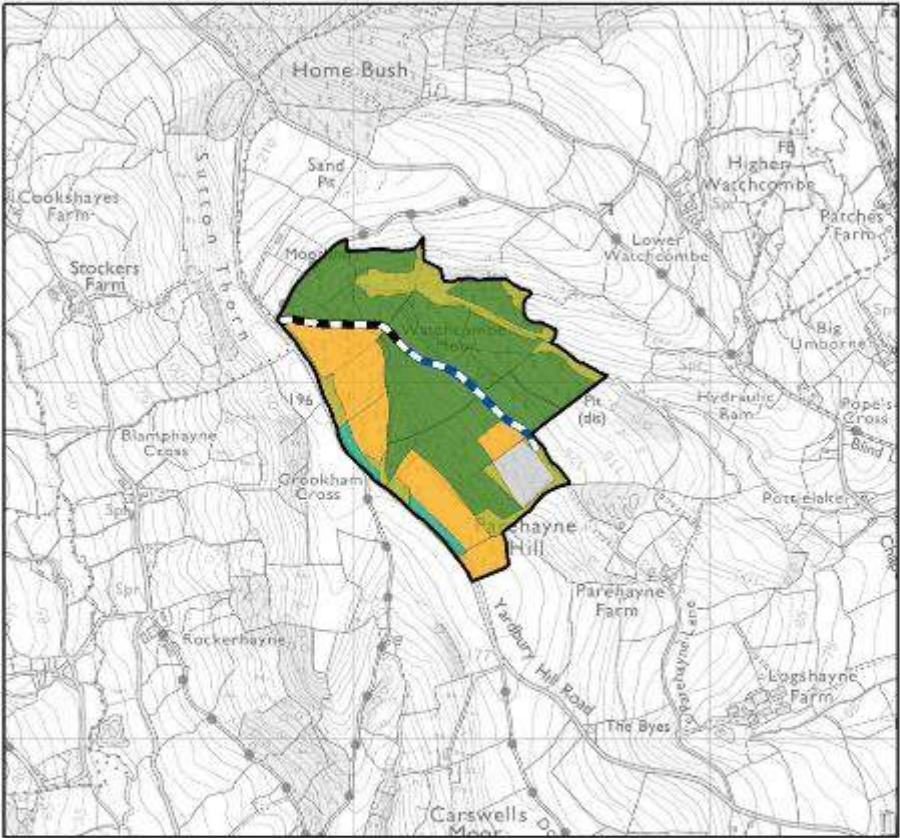
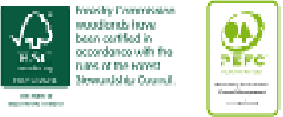
Legend

- Evergreen Conifer
- Pines
- Larches
- Native & naturalized broadleaves
- Non-native broadleaves
- Open/other

Note: Beech, sycamore and sweet chestnut are considered to be not within their native range but are considered to be 'naturalised'



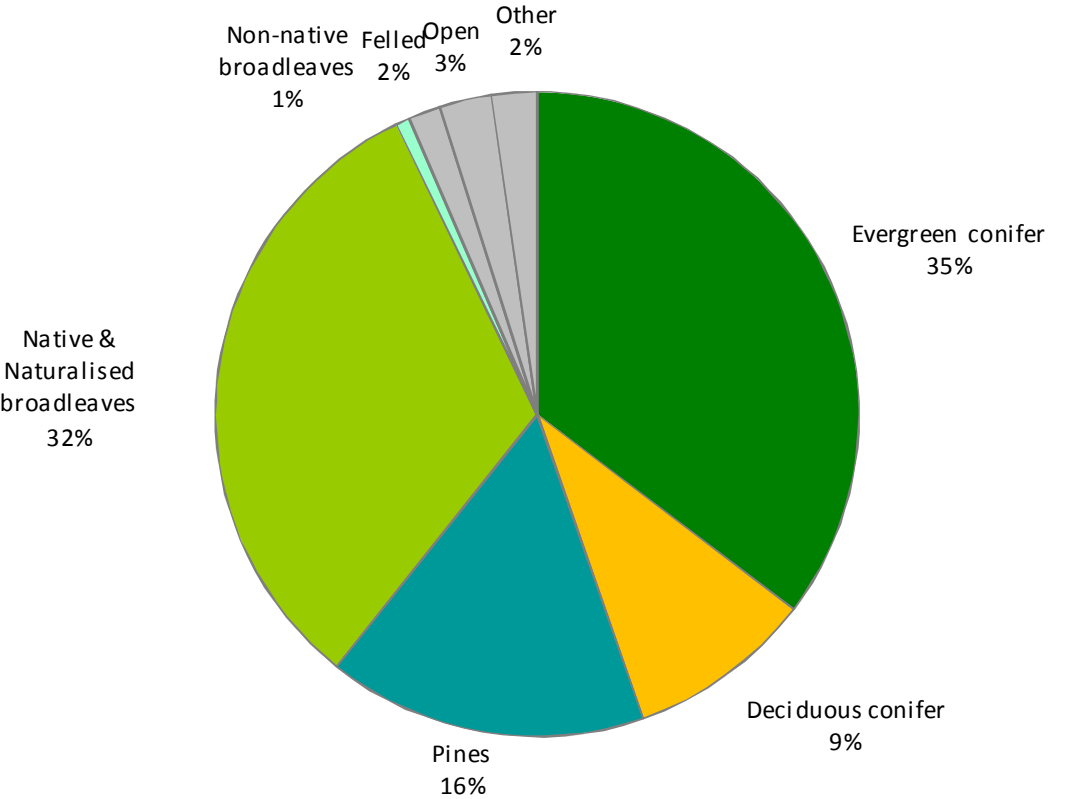
Woodland Composition



The Plan area is dominated by conifer, the majority of which is made up of quality of Douglas fir (152ha), Corsican pine (83ha) and Sitka spruce (80ha). After Douglas fir, beech is the second largest component (93ha) and is often in mixture with Scots pine.

The age of crops is spread between peaks of considerable planting having occurred in the 1960s and 70s and then in the early 2000s. The thinning of conifer crops has ensured that understorey development is beginning to establish, which in time will deliver a more structurally diverse woodland composition.

The broadleaf components of the Plan area comprise a mixture of beech, oak, ash and birch. Ash, birch, alder and willow are evident as pioneer species within discrete areas of the Plan area. The majority of stands are simple structured with understorey development evident but not always establishing as a secondary crop. Where broadleaf features within conifer crops, these have been favoured and halo thinned where appropriate to assist crown development.





Naturalness on Ancient Woodland

Class 1 – Semi-Natural Woodland

(> 80% site native species)



Class 2 – Plantation Woodland

(50 - 80% site native species)



Class 3 – Plantation Woodland

(20 - 50% site native species)

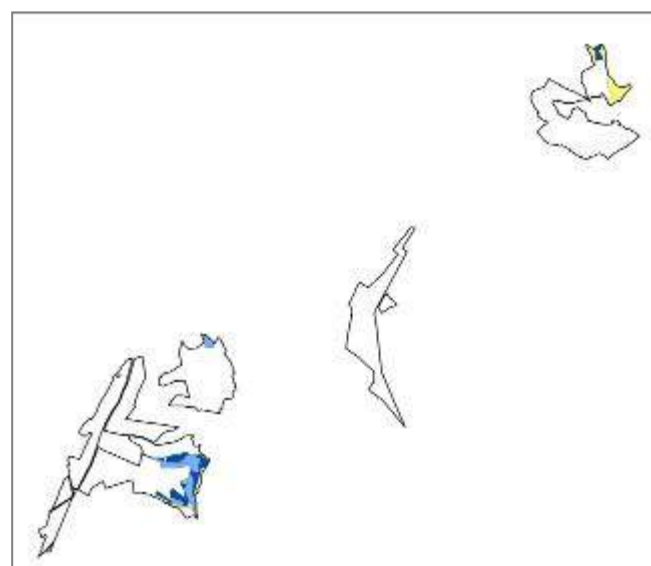


Class 4 – Plantation Woodland

(< 20% site native species)



2009

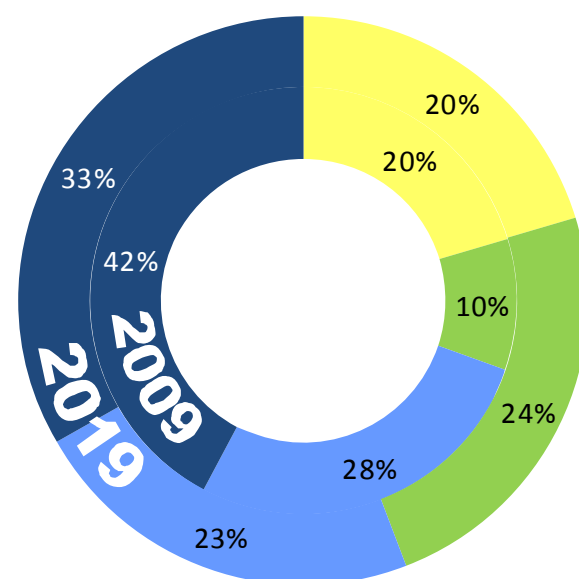


Naturalness is the measure to show the percentage of site native tree species in a given area. This measure is used to record and monitor the naturalness and restoration of Ancient Woodland Sites previously planted with non-native species. For this reason secondary woodland sites (i.e. Trinity Hill, Morganhayes, Parehayne and Wyld Warren) have been omitted from this chapter.

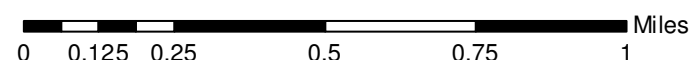
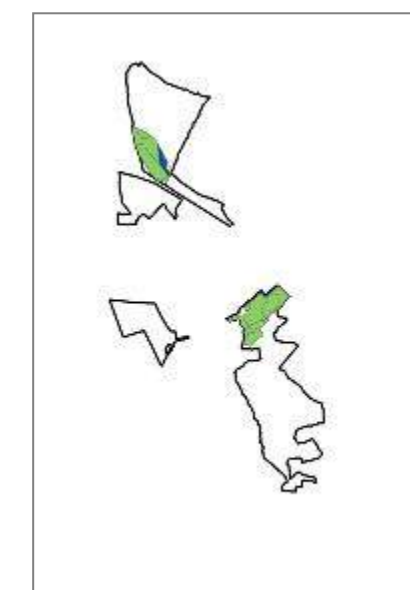
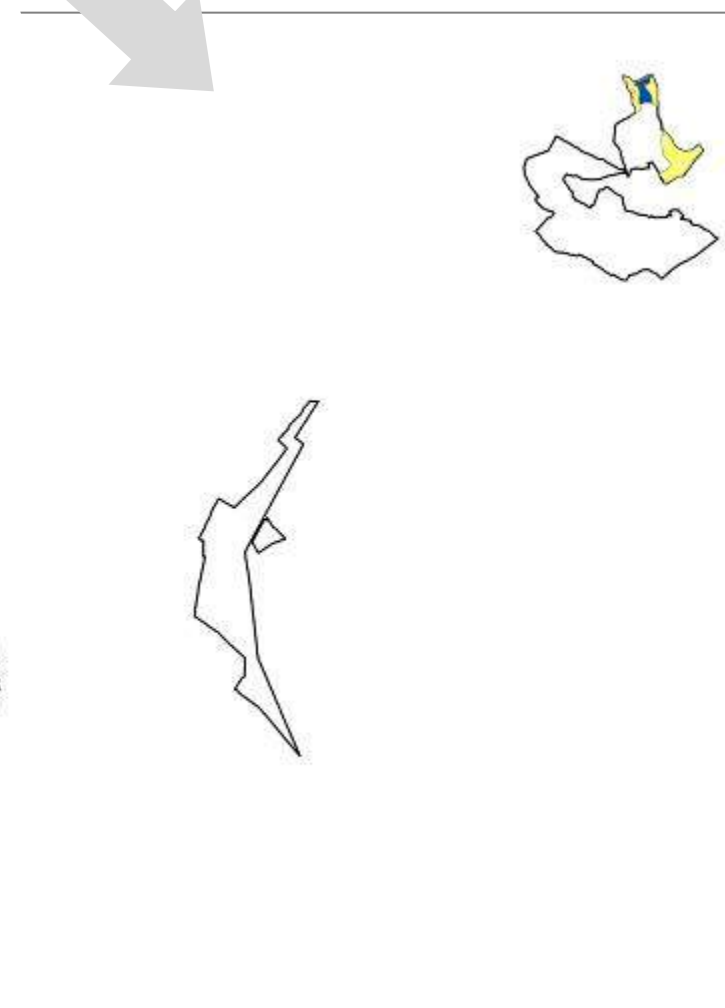
Classes 2, 3 and 4 are classified as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). Areas of Semi-Natural Woodland (Class 1 - > 80% site native species) are mostly found towards the bottom of valleys, in wetter riparian areas where the soils are richer.

The transformation of Classes 2, 3 and 4 AWS towards Class 1 is a key objective of this Plan and is in line with the Forestry Commission England, *Keepers of Time* Policy (Forestry Commission, 2005).

These maps and chart show the transition in naturalness across the ancient woodland in the Plan Area between 2009 and 2019.



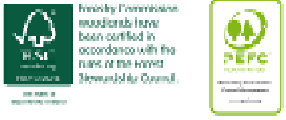
2019



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Legend

- Class 1 - > 80% Site Native Species
- Class 2 - 50-80% Site Native Species
- Class 3 - 20-50% Site Native Species
- Class 4 - <20% Site Native Species



Transition Zone

The indicative proportion of native tree species is 50% or more of the crop. Removal of remaining conifer will be achieved through repeated thinning operations.

The establishment period to predominantly native woodland within this category is anticipated to be 20 – 30 years but is dependant on successful regeneration and establishment although maybe sooner depending on the level of conifer needing to be removed. Scattered individual conifers or small groups may remain.

Preparation Zone

Areas within this category contain less than 50% of native tree species but have a proportion greater than 20% of the crop and the area neighbours an area of significant native species cover which can be utilised as a seed source. Enhancement of native content will continue through thinning of the conifer content.

These areas will be thinned heavily to release ancient woodland remnants and features and to encourage natural regeneration and intrusion in to the non-native crop.

The anticipated time scale for establishment of predominantly native species is expected be around 50 – 60 years or so, but could be as long as 70 - 80 depending on success of establishing the future crop.

Non-native Zone

The proportion of native tree species within a management area is less than 20% of the crop.

Thinning in both these sub-categories should encourage crown development of broadleaf components. Progress will be monitored and crops moved into the Preparation zone depending on development of stand structure and the response of natural regeneration.

Clearfell Zone

A number of clearfells will be used to convert PAWS in the coming years. This is felling of Western hemlock or is required to ensure the integrity of the coupe which is predominantly secondary woodland. This will be restocked with site suitable native species.

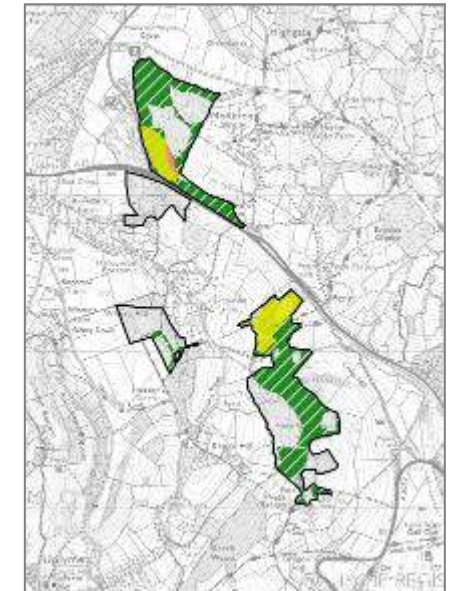
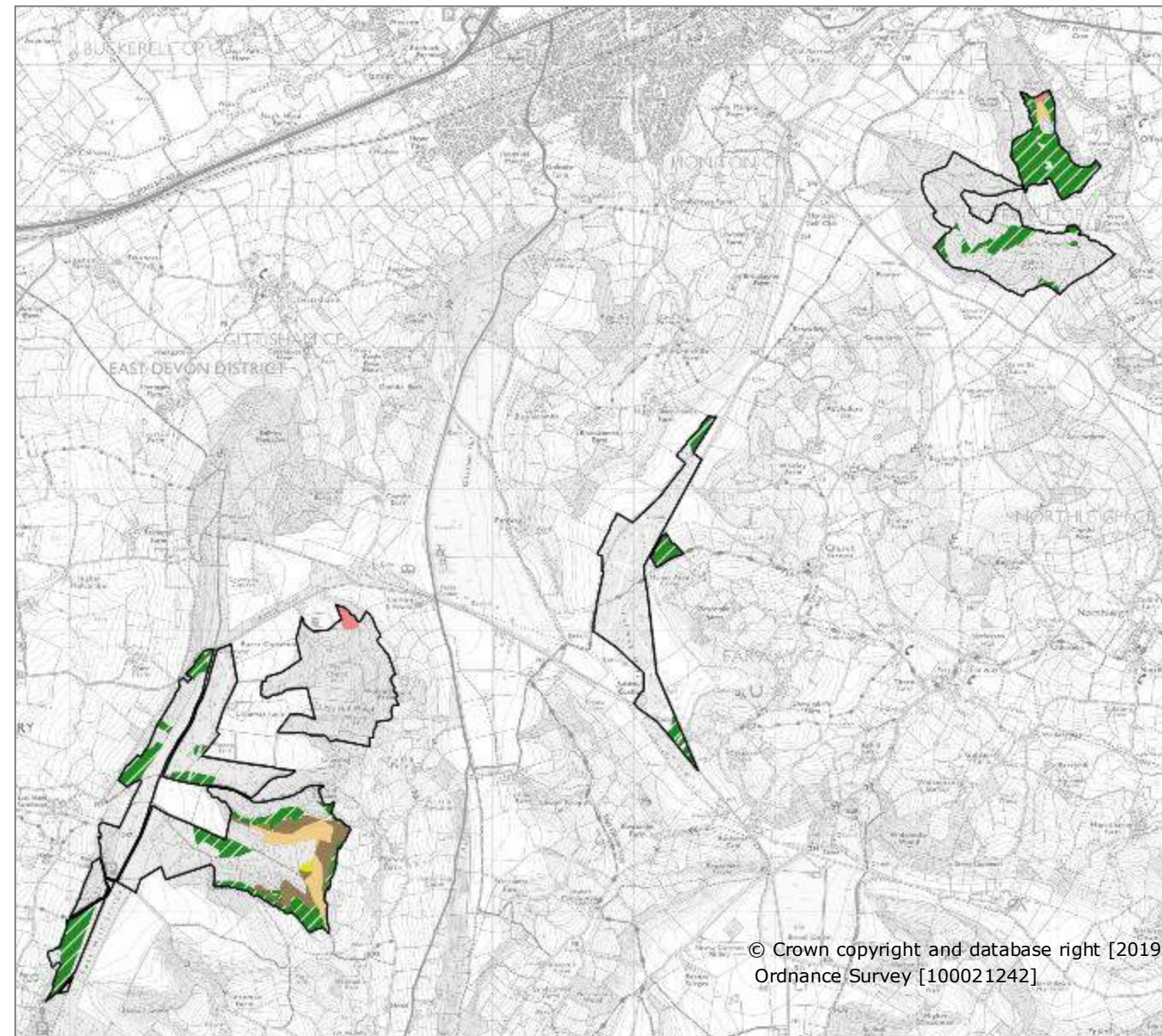
PAWS Management

Restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) has already begun and this continued restoration is going to take a considerable amount of time and resource because of the limited native remnants from which sites can regenerate.

Therefore a proactive yet realistic approach will be used to transform these sites over a period of time.

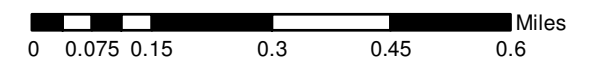
The aim of the transitional period to woodland containing 80% or more of native species should be to achieve:

- a varied age structure with varying ratios of high canopy, secondary canopy and understory throughout.
- transition that ensures a minimum future content of 3 native species, with 4 to 5 species being the preferable target.
- a minimal reliance on monocultures especially of birch, ash, hazel or oak. In practice this may involve either underplanting or group felling and planting within existing mid rotation broadleaf crops.
- restoration of beech and sweet chestnut stands will not be prioritised as these species are to be naturalised and offer greater broadleaf diversity and therefore resilience.
- If adequate regeneration is not evident in the 'Transition' and 'Preparation' zones after 10 years a reappraisal of the prescription will be needed.



Legend

- Building Block (native seed source)
- Transition Zone
- Preparation Zone
- Non-native Zone
- Clearfell

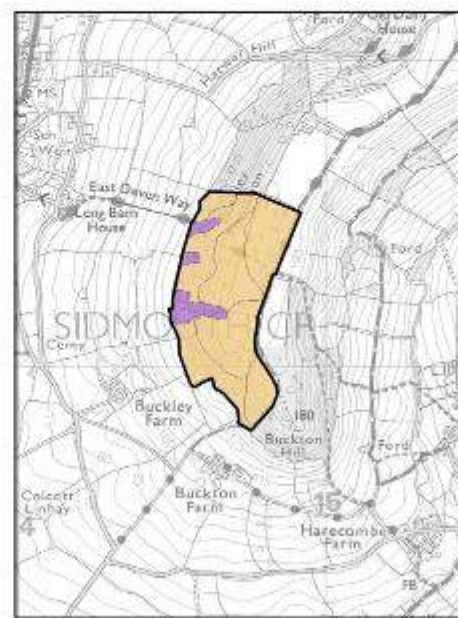
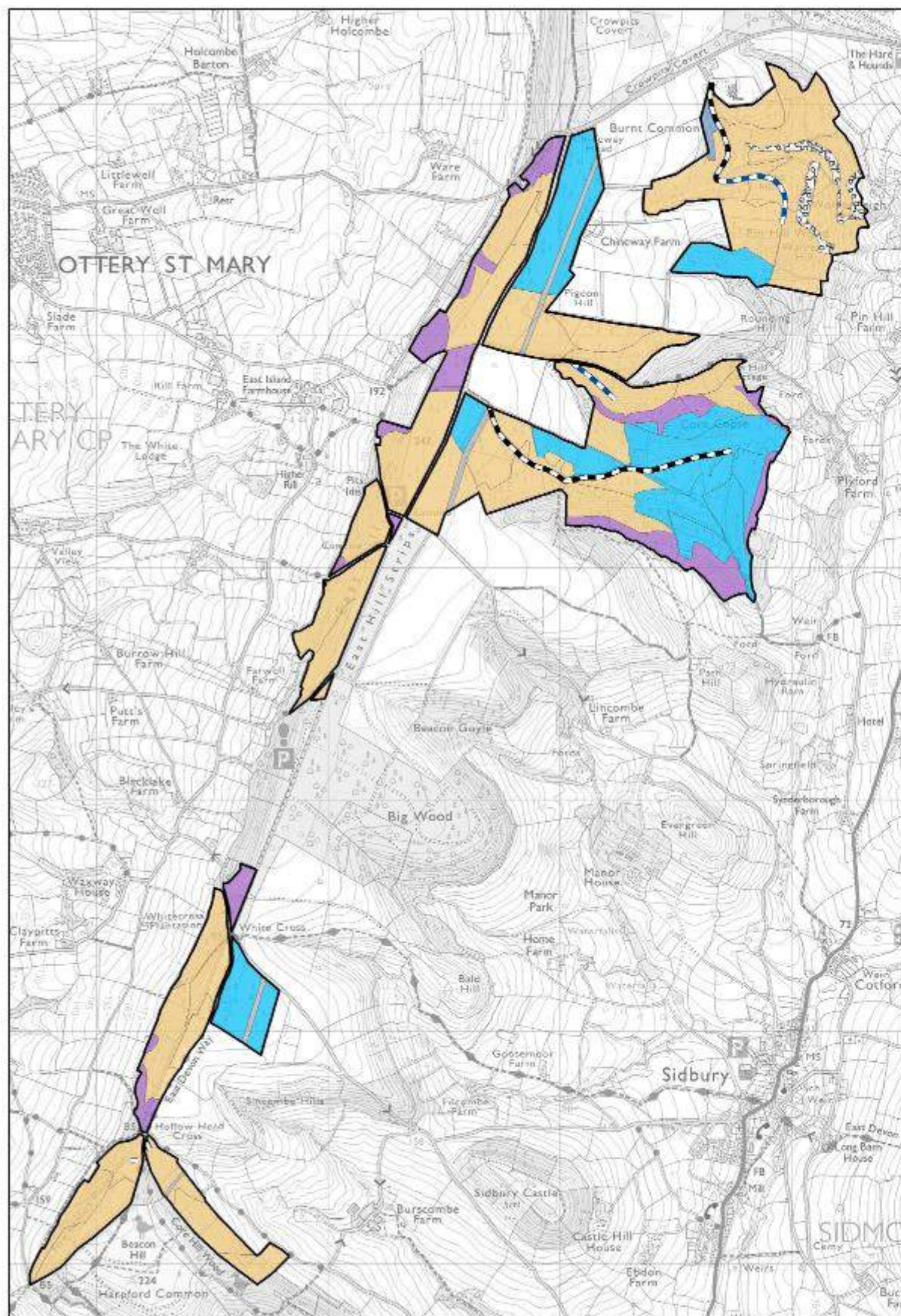


Silviculture

Clearfell coupes will simply be managed through clearcutting (of over 0.25ha) and restocked either through natural regeneration, replanting or a combination.

Long term retentions are in place where the landscape value of the woodland is key.

Minimum Interventions are predominantly inaccessible or ecologically valuable areas where intervention will only occur to protect and ensure the future succession of key habitats and species.

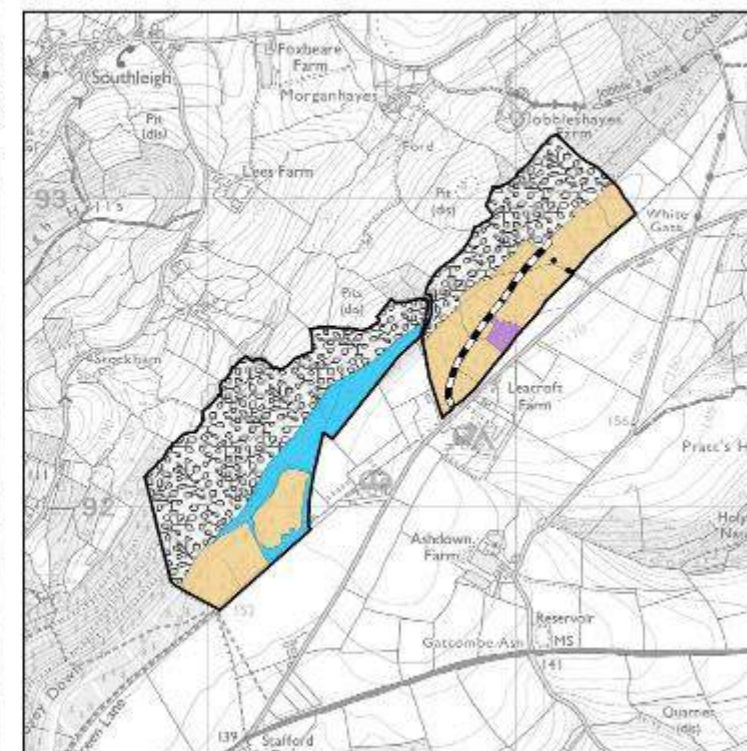
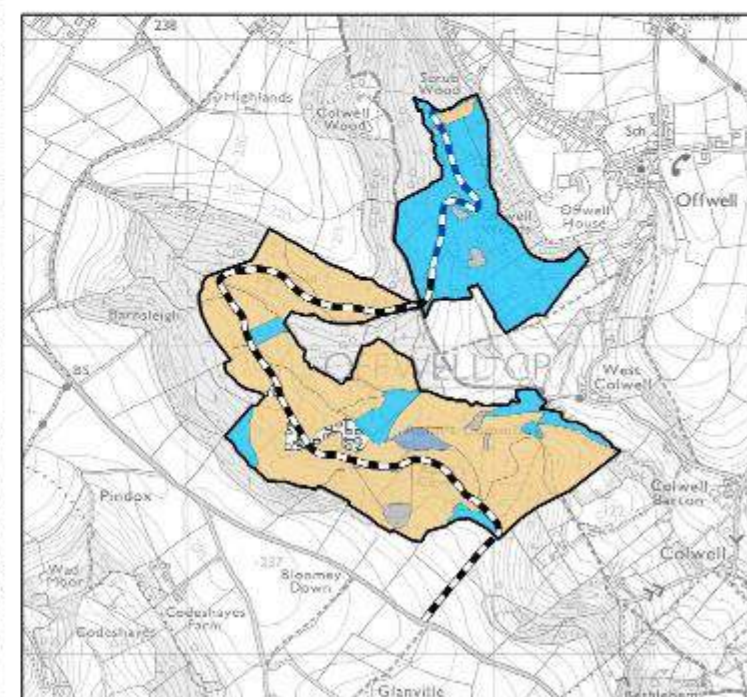


Legend

- Clearfell
- Long Term Retention
- Shelterwoods
- Selections
- Open
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

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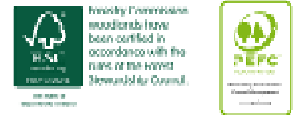
Open space is managed to ensure forest cover does not exceed 2m in height, a tolerance of 20% forest cover will be accepted on some lower priority sites.

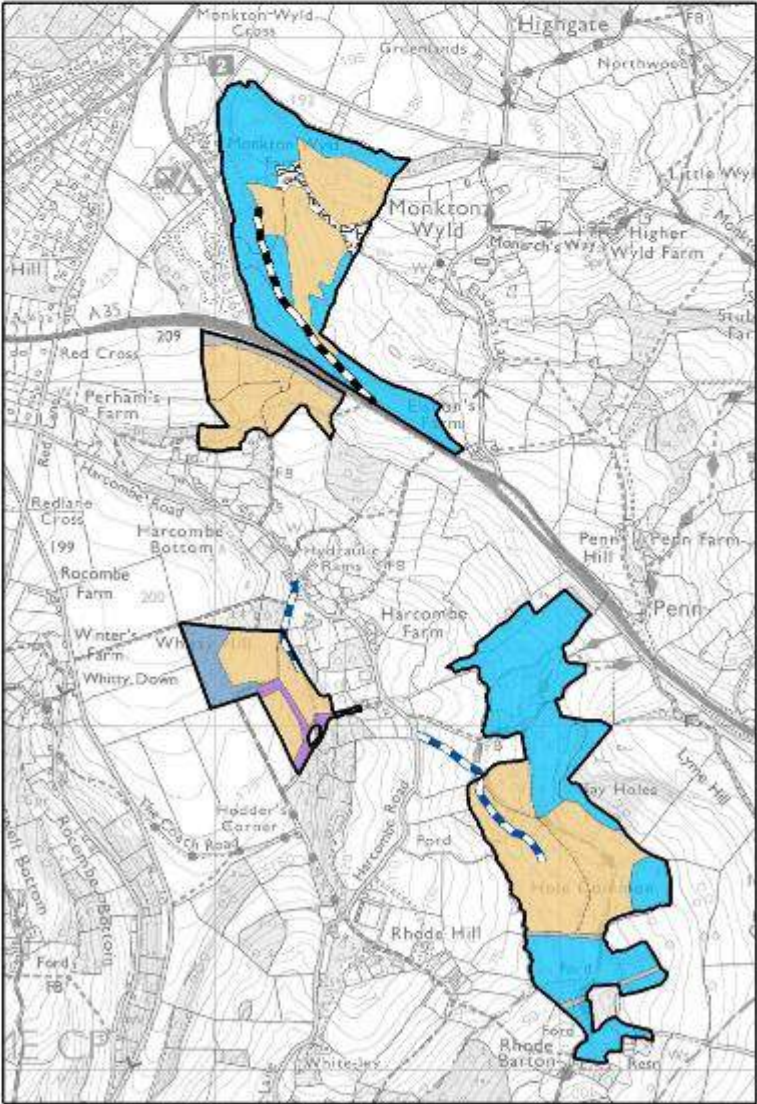
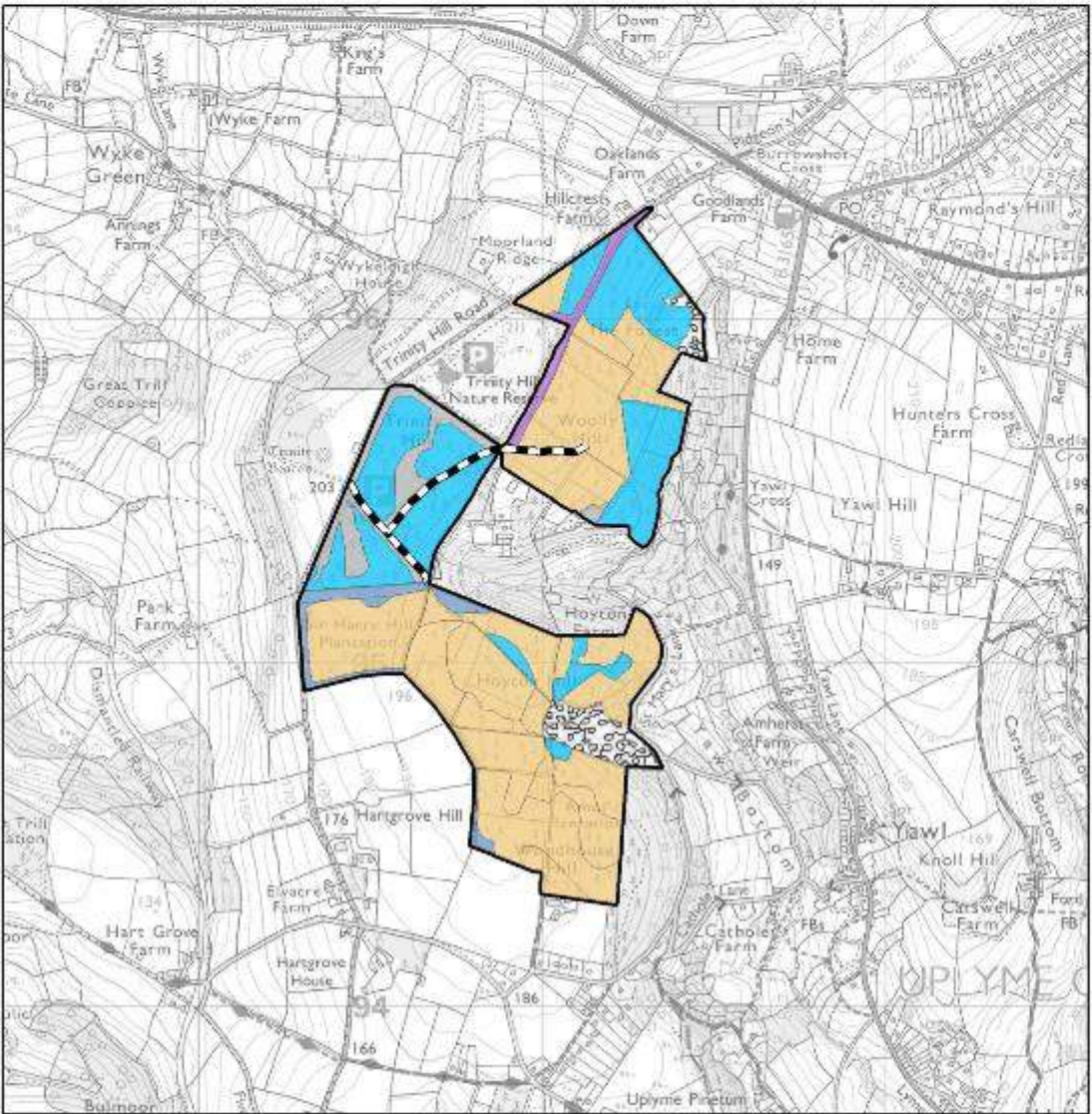
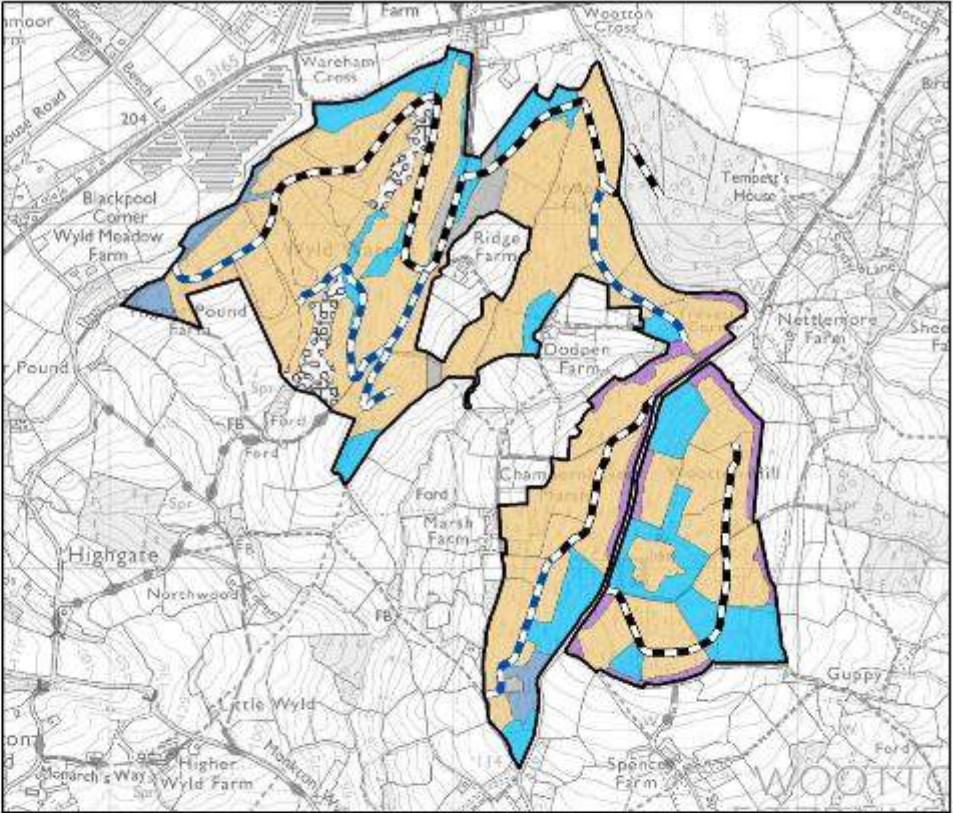
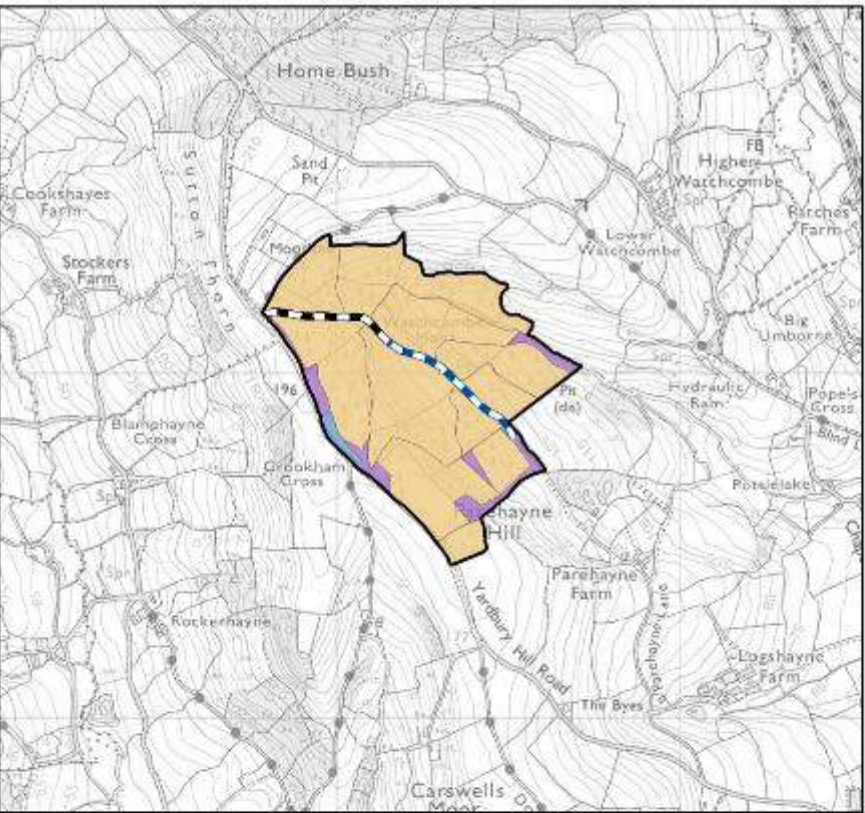
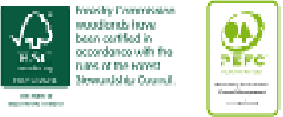
Uniform shelterwoods are predominately broadleaved dominated and ASNW sites which will be managed using seeding fellings with possible under planting of site suitable species to control light levels and develop good timber quality. Small coppice coupes of less that 0.25ha may be used to inject diversity into the broadleaf woodland

Irregular shelterwoods will look to develop a complex structure through the identification and thinning towards quality final crop trees for the future.

Group shelterwoods are used on windfirm, accessible crops to proactively diversify the woodland structure and composition, possibly through the use of enrichment replanting.

Selections are used on windfirm, accessible crops to proactively diversify the woodland structure and composition through group fellings or in established complex systems where single-tree selection will achieve management objectives whilst maintaining production. Group selections are mainly used for landscape purposes to create a complex matrix of transient open space and high forest. Single tree selections are used on established complex old age crops with an established understorey where the overstorey is intended to be retained.





Thinning

Areas will be assessed and approved for thinning on a site-by-site basis by the local Beat Team. As attempts to improve the structural diversity of the crops are made, initiation of thinning may be made early (uneconomic) or later to address windfirm concerns. The intention to intervene every 5 years as well as on multiple occasions may not be appropriate and therefore will be administered in an adaptive approach by the Beat team.

Conifer Thinning

Areas of conifer are assessed for thinning every 5 years with the targeted removal of larch species a key objective. Other factors such as the quantity, condition, age and distribution of any broadleaf content, will also help decide if an area of conifer is to be thinned or not, with light levels, existing ground vegetation and any evidence of natural regeneration also impacting on how many trees are marked for removal.

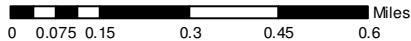
Broadleaf Thinning

Broadleaf high forest will be assessed for thinning every 10 years with a visual inspection of the stand. Thinning will allow sub-dominant broadleaves sufficient light and space to mature or will release existing advanced regeneration. Younger patches of regeneration can be thinned to favour site native species with trees of good form and vigour being retained. Where broadleaves consist primarily of a single species, it may be possible to enlarge natural gaps through irregular thinning rather than create new gaps through group felling, however, in all cases the size of gap will be dependent on slope, aspect and site fertility and must not be detrimental to crop stability.

Legend

- Clearfell
- Long Term Retention
- Shelterwoods
- Selections
- Open
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve

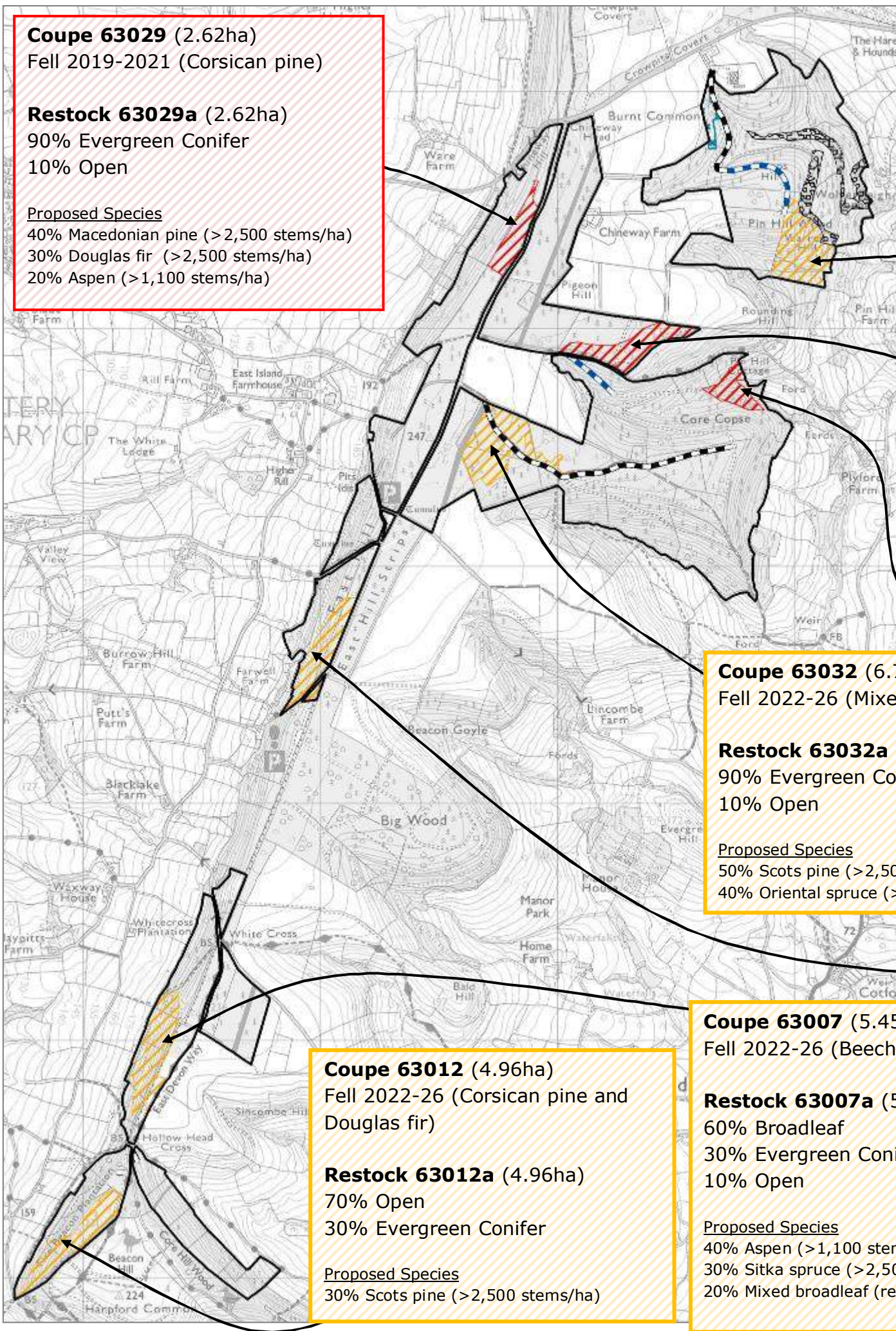
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Felling and Restocking

East Hill
2019 - 2029



Coupe 63029 (2.62ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Corsican pine)

Restock 63029a (2.62ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

40% Macedonian pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Aspen (>1,100 stems/ha)

Coupe 63015 (6.05ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Douglas fir & Sitka spruce)

Restock 63015a (6.05ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

60% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Noble fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
10% Mixed broadleaf (regeneration)

Coupe 63051 (4.43ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Corsican pine)

Restock 63051a (4.43ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

50% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Western hemlock (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63054 (2.03ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Douglas fir & Sitka spruce)

Restock 63054a (2.03ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

50% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Western hemlock (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63032 (6.7ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Mixed conifer)

Restock 63032a (6.7ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

50% Scots pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63037 (4.46ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Beech & Scots pine)
Birch and oak to be retained

Restock 63037a (4.46ha)
45% Broadleaf
25% Evergreen Conifer
30% Open

Proposed Species

25% Maritime pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
25% Beech (>1,100 stems/ha)
20% Aspen (>1,100 stems/ha)

Coupe 63012 (4.96ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Corsican pine and Douglas fir)

Restock 63012a (4.96ha)
70% Open
30% Evergreen Conifer

Proposed Species

30% Scots pine (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63007 (5.45ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Beech and Scots pine)

Restock 63007a (5.45ha)
60% Broadleaf
30% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species

40% Aspen (>1,100 stems/ha)
30% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Mixed broadleaf (regeneration)

Legend

- Fell 2019 - 2021
- Fell 2022 - 2026
- Fell 2027 - 2029
- Coppice
- Wood Pasture
- Retentions
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve
- Other/Open land
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

Detailed coupe prescriptions as a result of felling and restocking 2019-29 are outlined on page 36.

NB. Whilst 'Restock Proportion' is often prescribed at 100% Evergreen Conifer the use of suitable broadleaves to build in resilience and utilise site conditions is anticipated and in places is proposed.



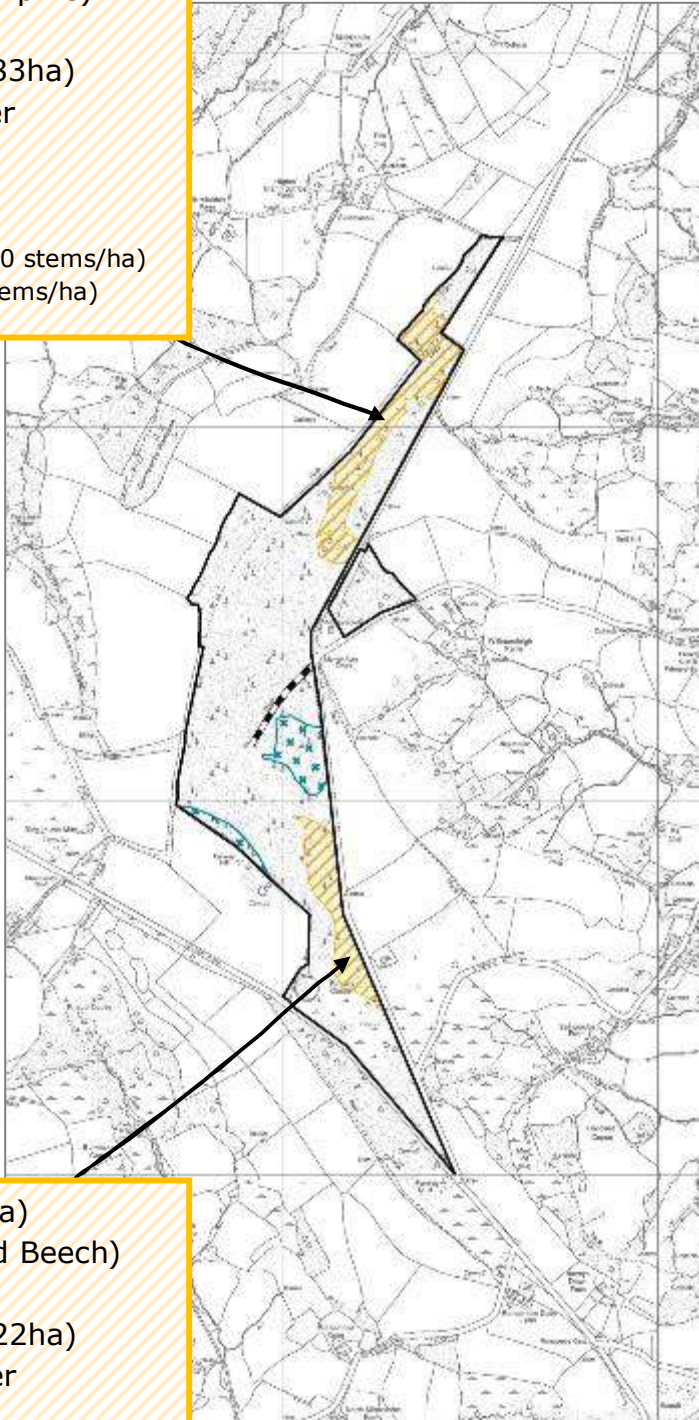
Felling and Restocking

Farway and Buckley
2019 - 2029

Coupe 63096 (5.83ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Corsican pine)

Restock 63096a (5.83ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

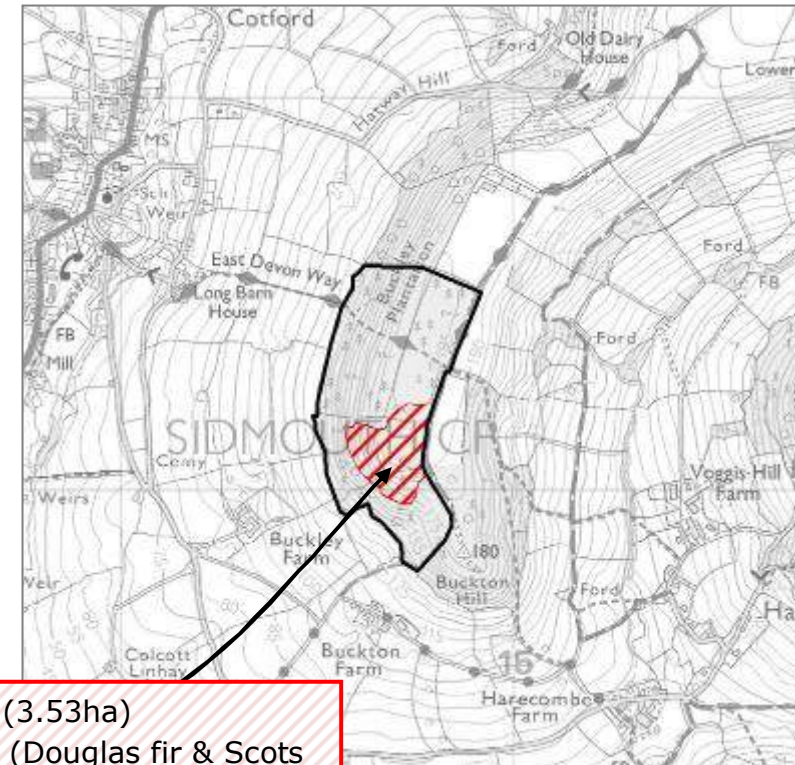
Proposed Species
50% Monterey pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Scots Pine (>2,500 stems/ha)



Coupe 63087 (3.22ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Pine and Beech)

Restock 63087a (3.22ha)
70% Evergreen Conifer
20% Broadleaf
10% Open

Proposed Species
35% Scots Pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
35% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Aspen (>1,100 stems/ha)



Coupe 63024 (3.53ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Douglas fir & Scots pine)

Restock 63024a (3.53ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Coast redwood (>2,500 stems/ha)

Legend

- Fell 2019 - 2021
- Fell 2022 - 2026
- Fell 2027 - 2029
- Coppice
- Wood Pasture
- Retentions
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve
- Other/Open land
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

Detailed coupe prescriptions as a result of felling and restocking 2019-29 are outlined on page 36.

NB. Whilst 'Restock Proportion' is often prescribed at 100% Evergreen Conifer the use of suitable broadleaves to build in resilience and utilise site conditions is anticipated and in places is proposed.

Declaration by FC as an Operator.

All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210)

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0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

Felling and Restocking

Offwell and Porehayne
2019 - 2029



Coupe 63094 (4.83ha)
Fell 2027-2029 (Douglas fir)

Restock 63094a (4.83ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Coast redwood (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63088 (0.52ha)
Fell 2019-21 (Western hemlock)

Restock 63088a (0.52ha)
90% Native broadleaf
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Oak (>1,100 stems/ha)
20% Hornbeam (>1,100 stems/ha)
20% Wild service (>1,100 stems/ha)

Coupe 63044 (4.71ha)
Fell 2027-2029 (Douglas fir & Sitka spruce)

Restock 63044a (4.71ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
70% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Red alder (>1,100 stems/ha)

Legend

- Fell 2019 - 2021
- Fell 2022 - 2026
- Fell 2027 - 2029
- Coppice
- Wood Pasture
- Retentions
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve
- Other/Open land
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

Coupe 63090 (3.42ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Douglas fir)

Restock 63090a (3.42ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Coast redwood (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63070 (5.25ha)
Fell 2019-21 (Sitka spruce & Douglas fir)

Restock 63070a (5.25ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Coast redwood (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63071 (3.36ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Douglas fir)

Restock 63071a (3.36ha)
60% Evergreen conifer
30% Broadleaf
10% Open

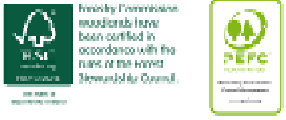
Proposed Species
50% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Red alder (>1,100 stems/ha)

Detailed coupe prescriptions as a result of felling and restocking 2019-29 are outlined on page 36.

NB. Whilst 'Restock Proportion' is often prescribed at 100% Evergreen Conifer the use of suitable broadleaves to build in resilience and utilise site conditions is anticipated and in places is proposed.

Declaration by FC as an Operator.

All timber arising from the Forest Enterprise estate represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210)



Felling and Restocking

Morganhayes and Trinity Hill
2019 - 2029

Coupe 63048 (4.04ha)
Fell 2027-2029 (Douglas fir & Corsican pine)

Restock 63044a (4.04ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
40% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
20% Western hemlock (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63066 (4.53ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Western hemlock)

Restock 63066a (4.53ha)
90% Evergreen conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Japanese cedar (>2,500 stems/ha)

Legend

- Fell 2019 - 2021
- Fell 2022 - 2026
- Fell 2027 - 2029
- Coppice
- Wood Pasture
- Retentions
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve
- Other/Open land
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

Detailed coupe prescriptions as a result of felling and restocking 2019-29 are outlined on page 36.

NB. Whilst 'Restock Proportion' is often prescribed at 100% Evergreen Conifer the use of suitable broadleaves to build in resilience and utilise site conditions is anticipated and in places is proposed.

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0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles



Felling and Restocking

Wyld Warren, Monkton Wyld &

Hole Common

2019 - 2029

Legend

- Fell 2019 - 2021
- Fell 2022 - 2026
- Fell 2027 - 2029
- Coppice
- Wood Pasture
- Retentions
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve
- Other/Open land
- Class A/B Roads
- Class C Roads

Detailed coupe prescriptions as a result of felling and restocking 2019-29 are outlined on page 36.

NB. Whilst 'Restock Proportion' is often prescribed at 100% Evergreen Conifer the use of suitable broadleaves to build in resilience and utilise site conditions is anticipated and in places is proposed.

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Coupe 63076 (4.21ha)
Fell 2027-2029 (Corsican pine)

Restock 63076a (4.21ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
50% Scots pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Sitka spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63074 (2.69ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Norway spruce)

Restock 63074a (2.69ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
50% Oriental spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Western hemlock (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63081 (1.41ha)
Fell 2022-26 (Norway spruce)

Restock 63081a (1.41ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed Species
50% Serbian spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)
40% Noble fir (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63072 (3.37ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Sitka spruce & Norway spruce)

Restock 63072a (3.37ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
60% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Serbian spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63068 (1.72ha)
Fell 2019-2021 (Sitka spruce & Scots pine)

Restock 63068a (1.72ha)
90% Evergreen Conifer
10% Open

Proposed species
60% Douglas fir (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Serbian spruce (>2,500 stems/ha)

Coupe 63067 (7.61ha)
Fell 2027-2029 (Norway spruce & mixed broadleaves)

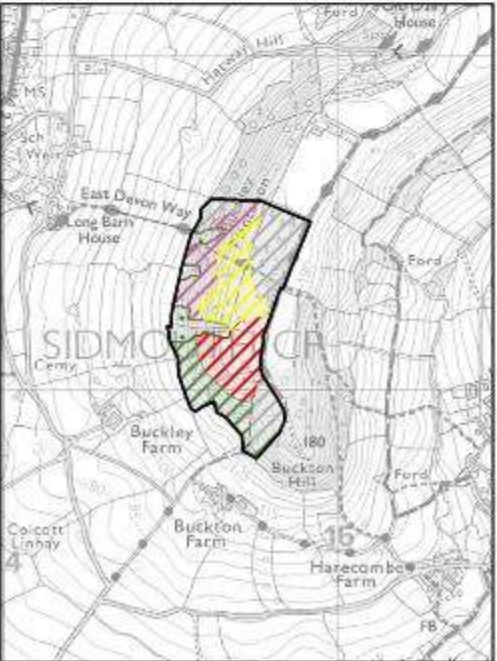
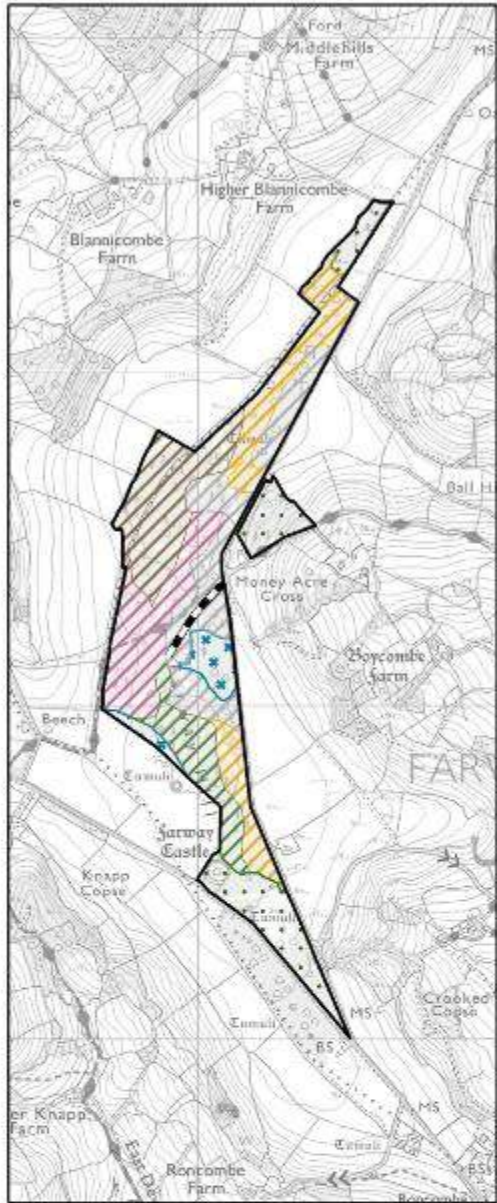
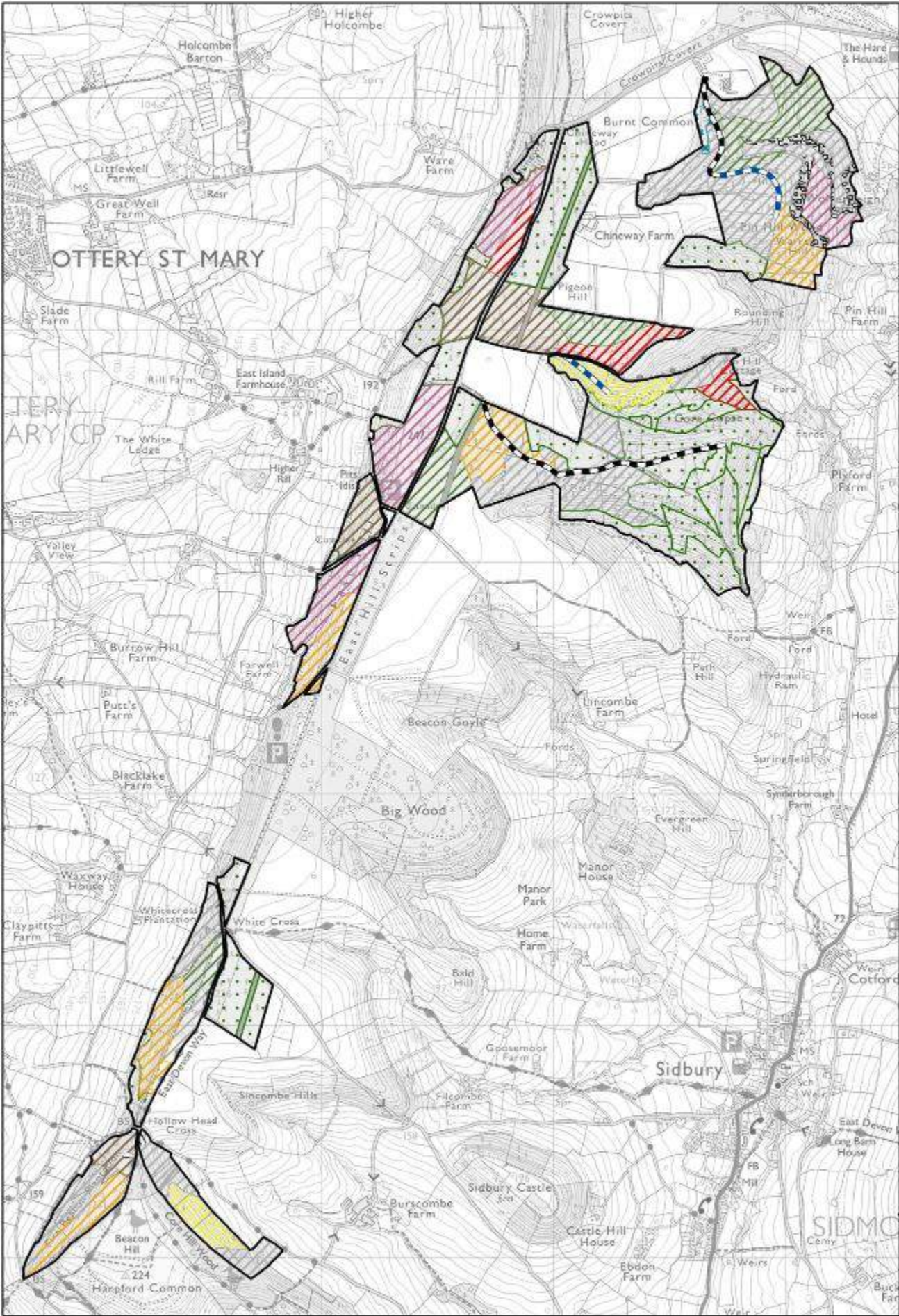
Restock 63067a (7.61ha)
60% Evergreen conifer
30% Broadleaf
10% Open

Proposed species
30% Western red cedar (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Monterey pine (>2,500 stems/ha)
30% Pedunculate oak (>1,100 stems/ha)

Management Prescriptions

2019 - 2048

An outline of the intended management prescriptions for the Plan area for the next 30 years, including silvicultural, felling and open proposals.

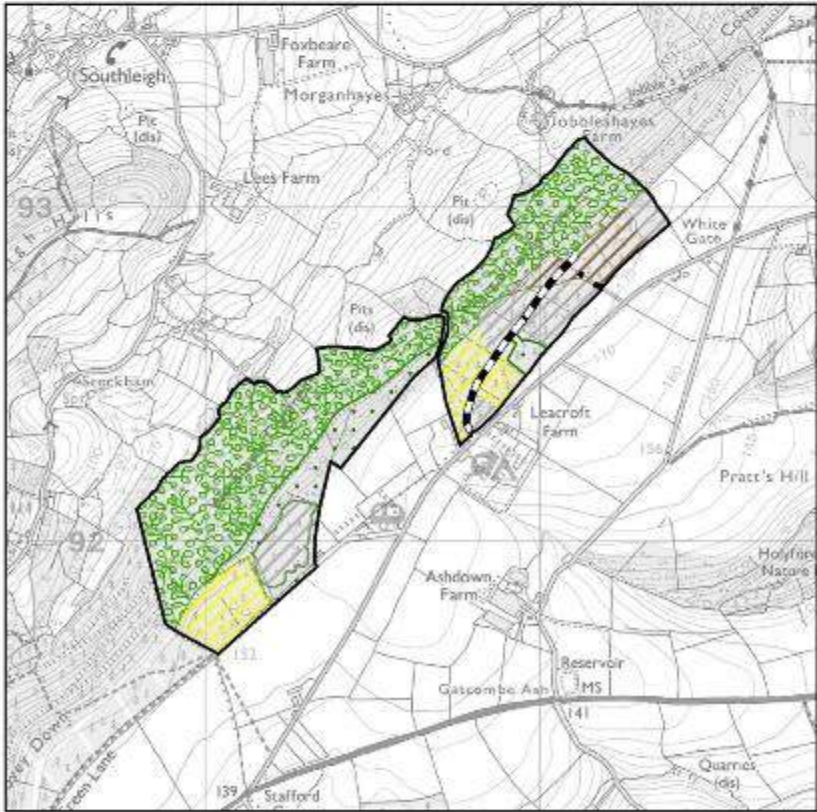
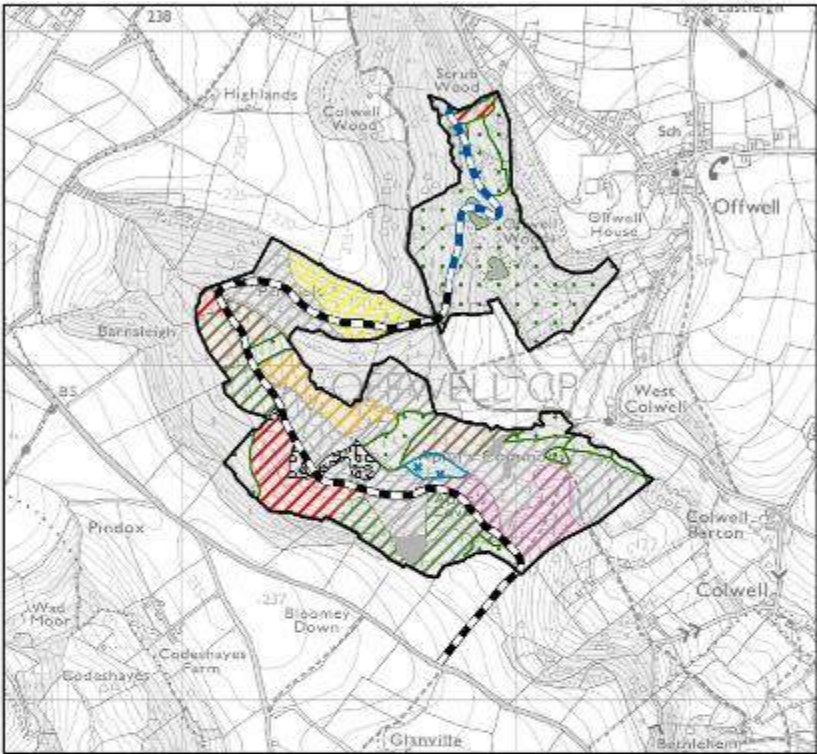


Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Alternatives to Clearfell | Fell post 2046 |
| Fell 2019 - 2021 | Coppice |
| Fell 2022 - 2026 | Wood Pasture |
| Fell 2027 - 2031 | Retentions |
| Fell 2032 - 2036 | Minimum Intervention |
| Fell 2037 - 2041 | Natural Reserve |
| Fell 2042 - 2046 | Open |

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

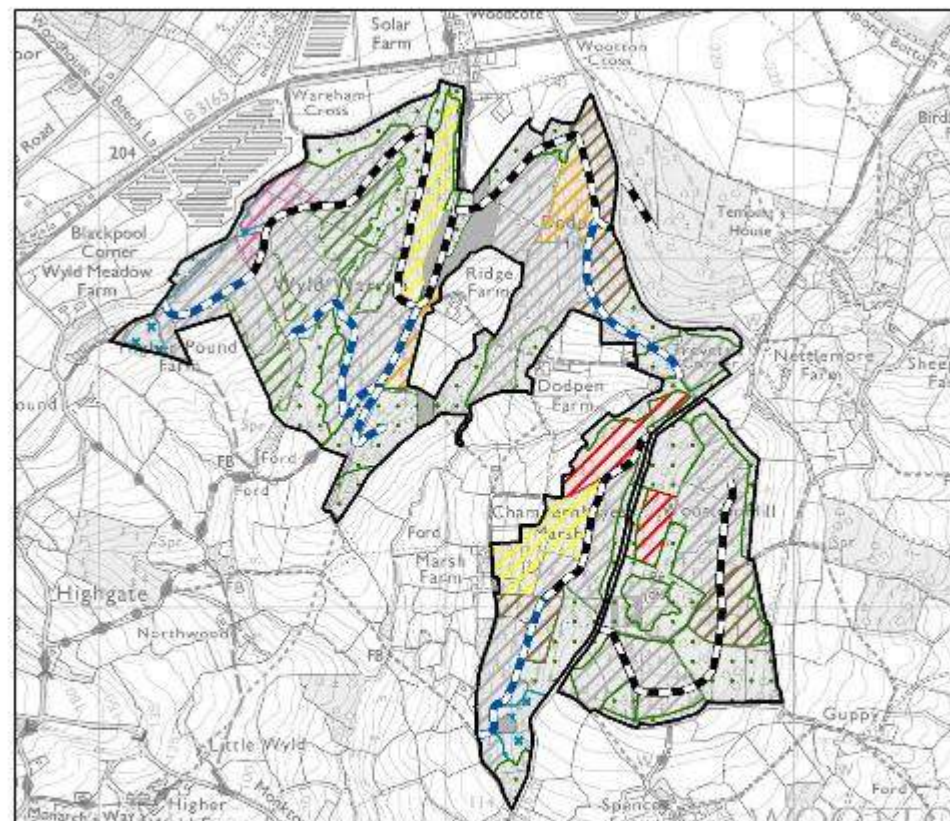
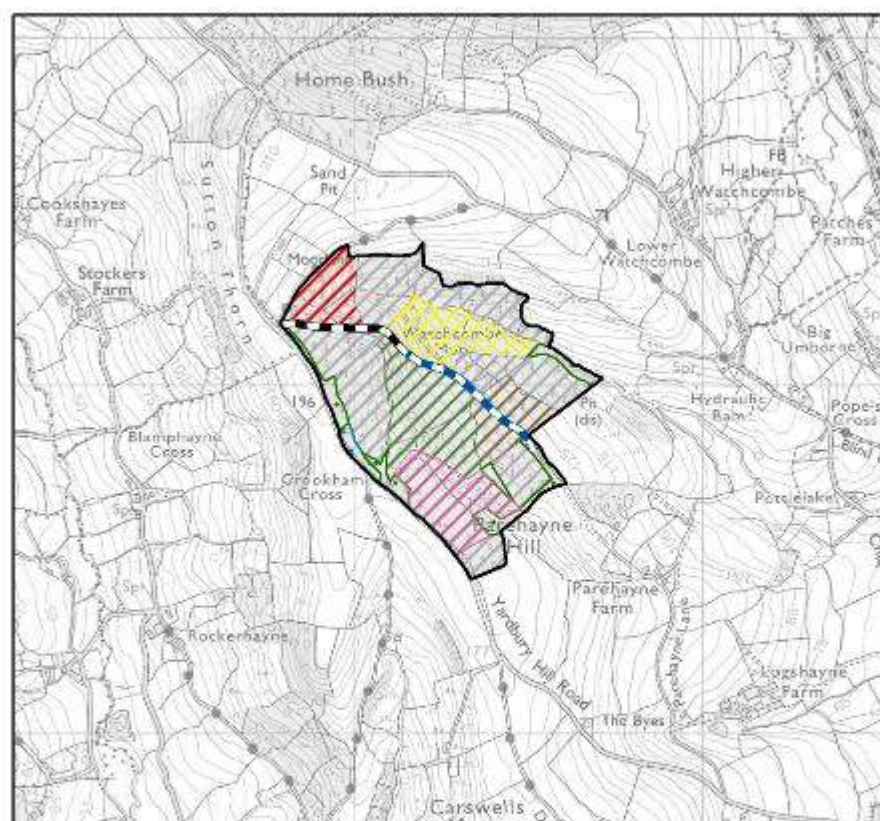
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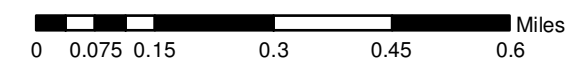
Management Prescriptions

2019 - 2048

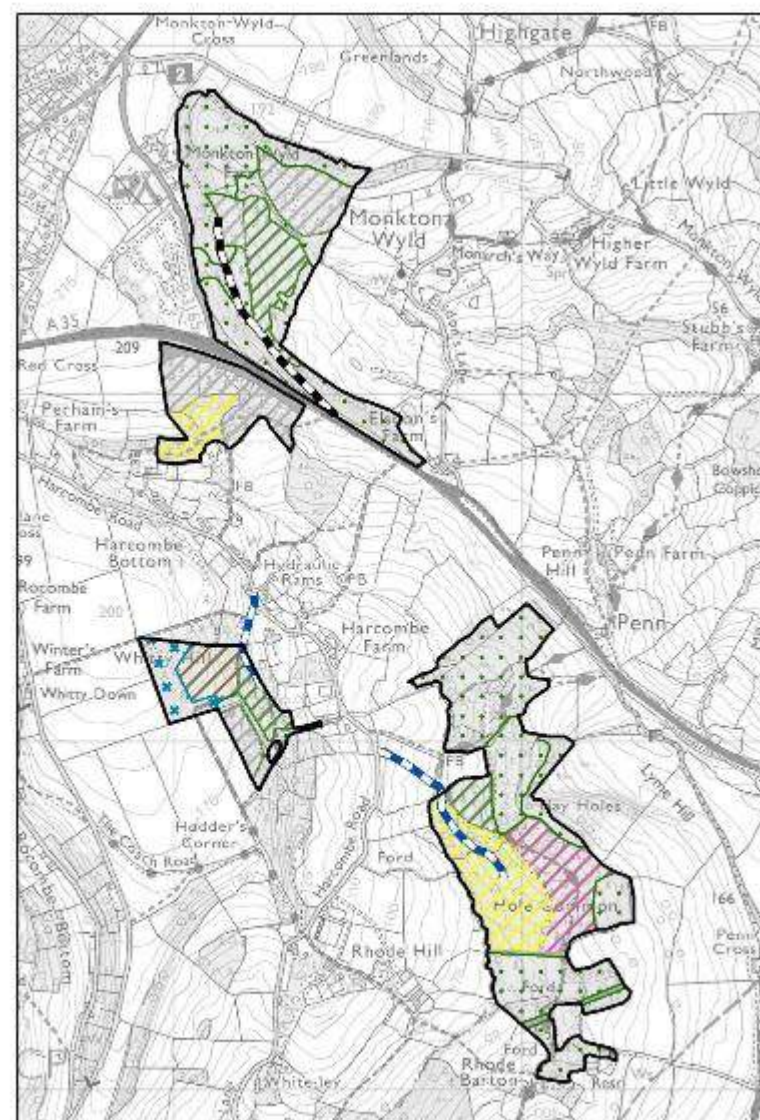
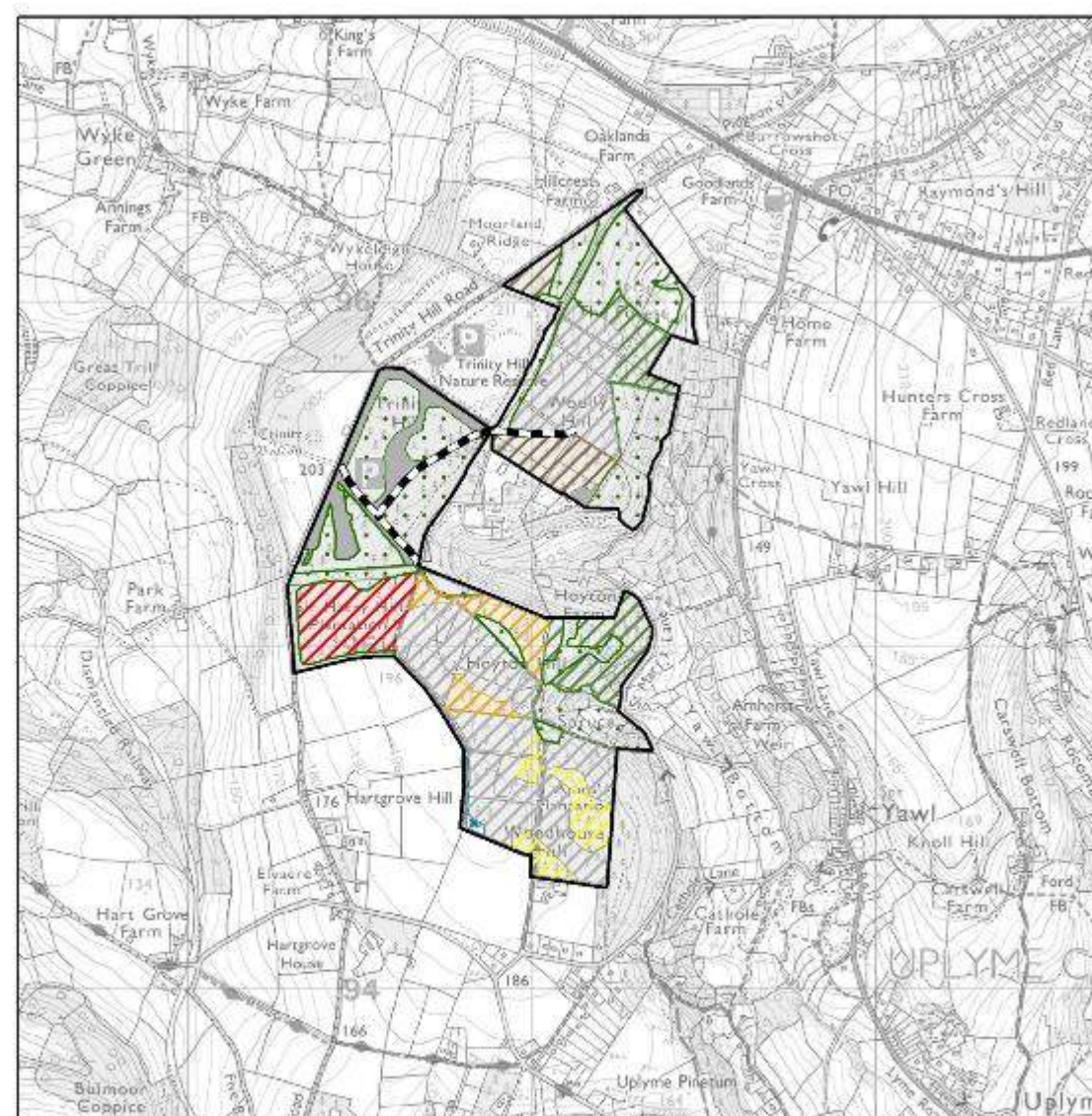


Legend

	Alternatives to Clearfell		Fell post 2046
	Fell 2019 - 2021		Coppice
	Fell 2022 - 2026		Wood Pasture
	Fell 2027 - 2031		Retentions
	Fell 2032 - 2036		Minimum Intervention
	Fell 2037 - 2041		Natural Reserve
	Fell 2042 - 2046		Open



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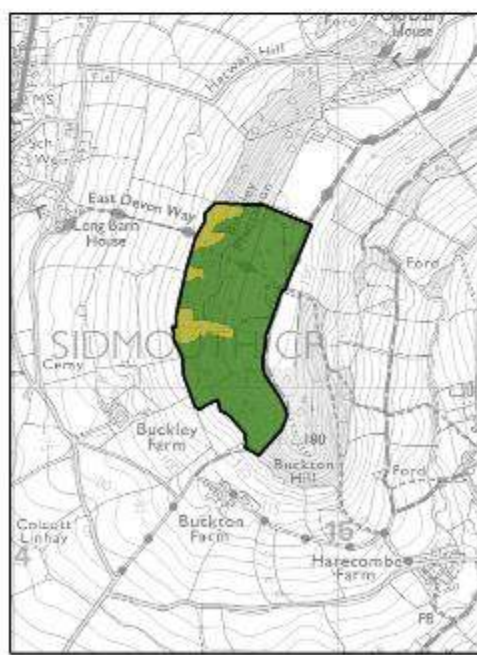
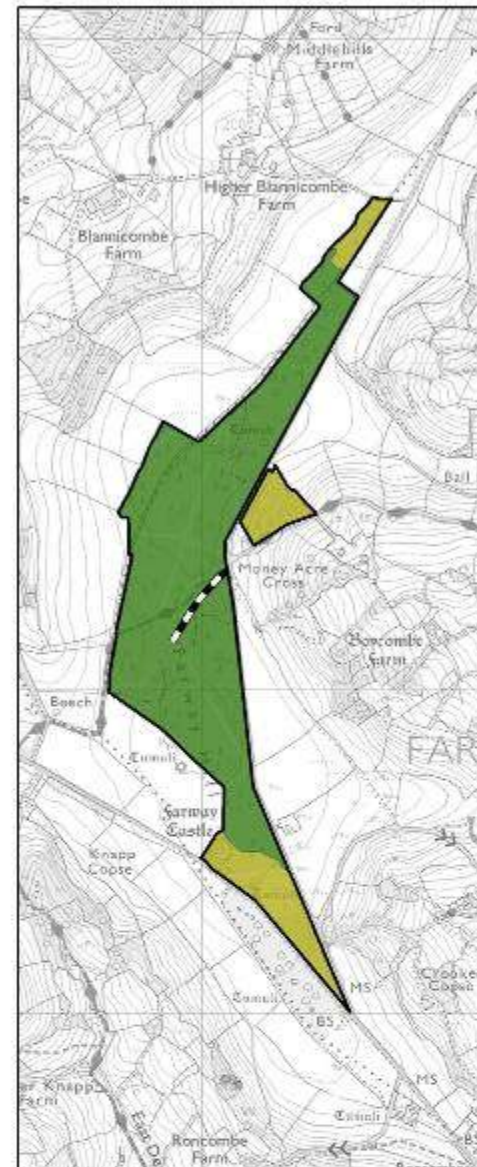
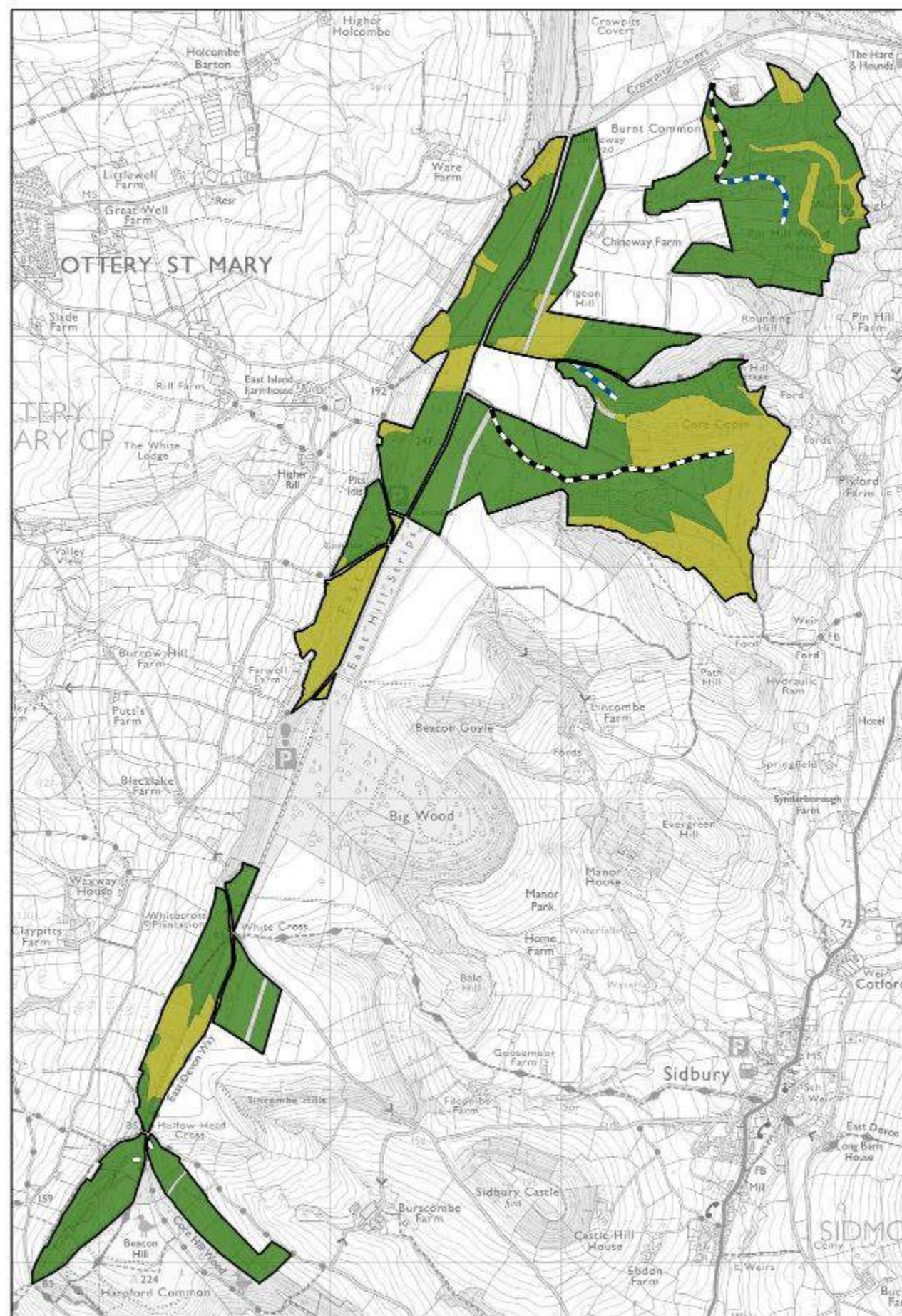


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Restock Prescriptions

An outline of the intended restocking prescriptions through planting or natural regeneration for the next rotation, following the removal of the current stock.



Legend

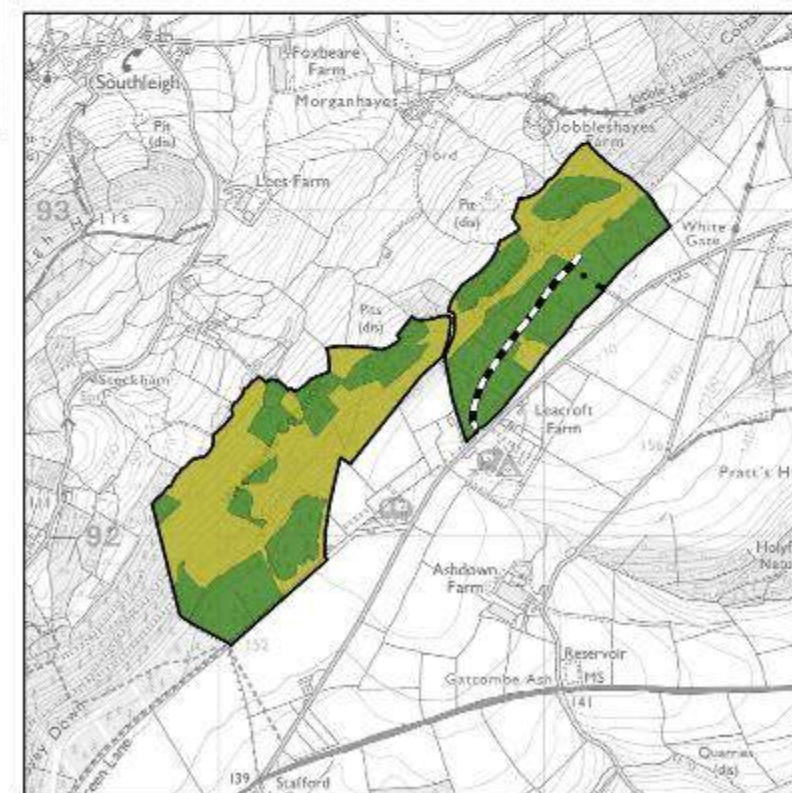
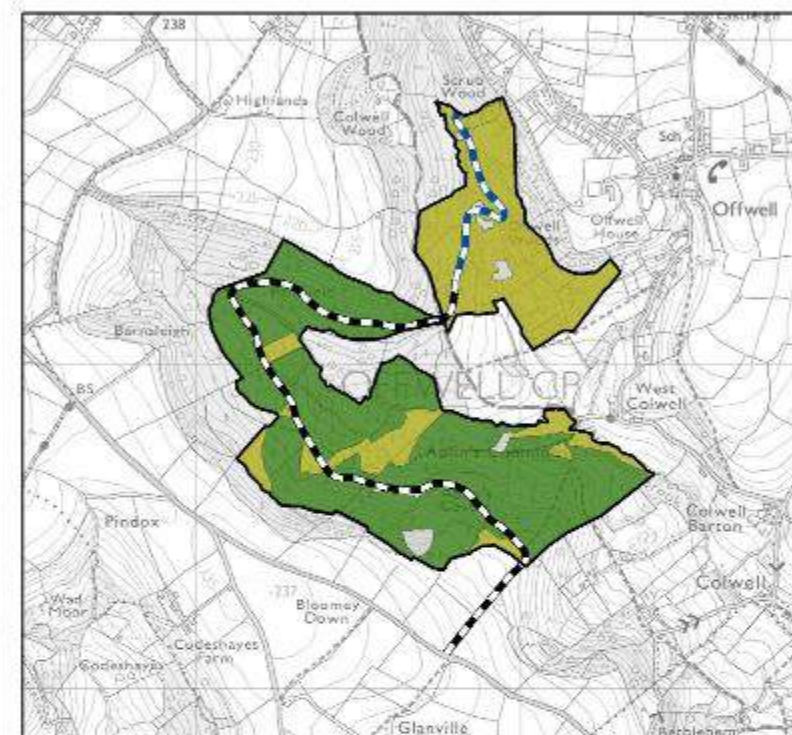
- Conifer dominated forest
- Broadleaf dominated forest
- Open/other

Class A/B Roads

Class C Roads

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

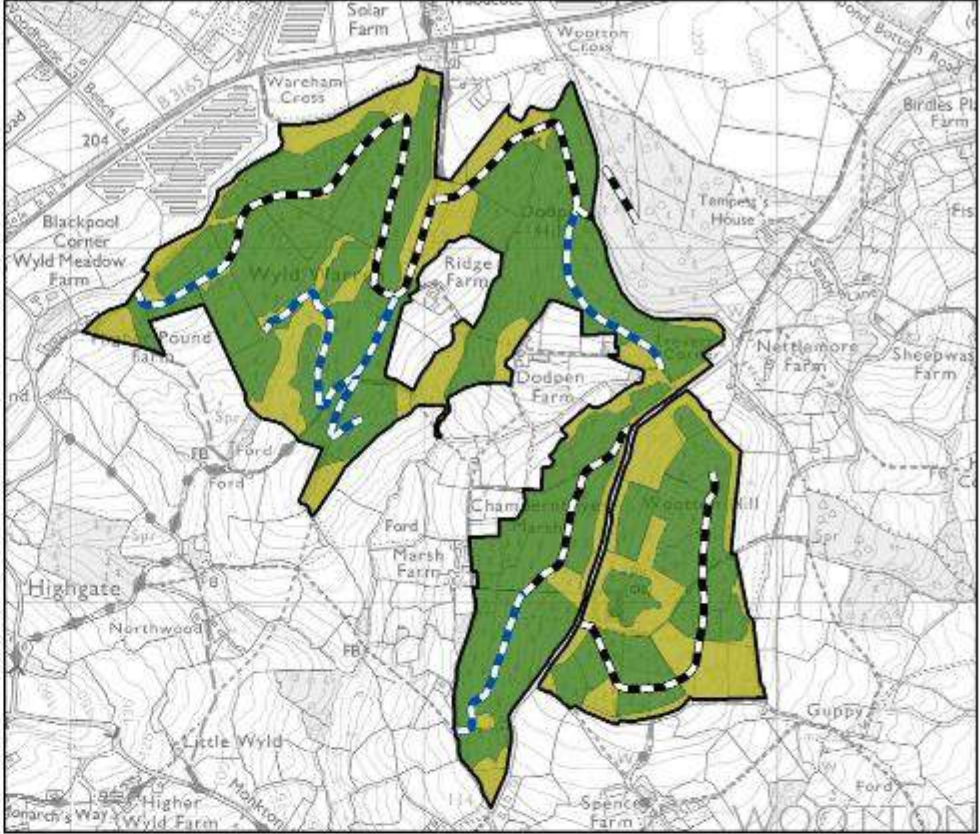
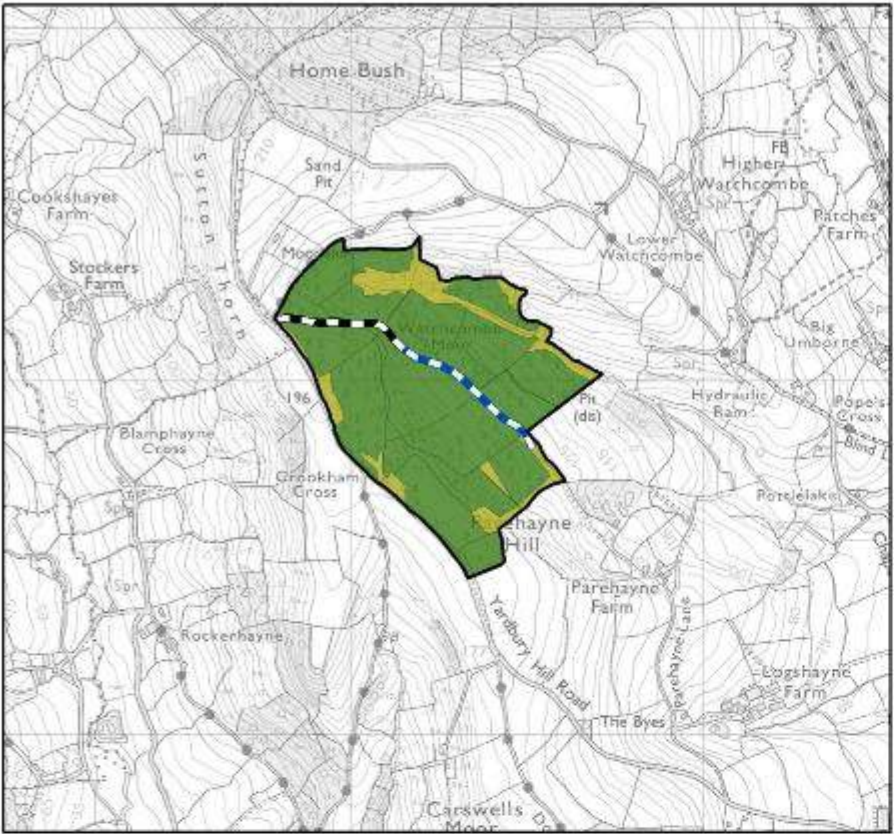
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Restock Prescriptions

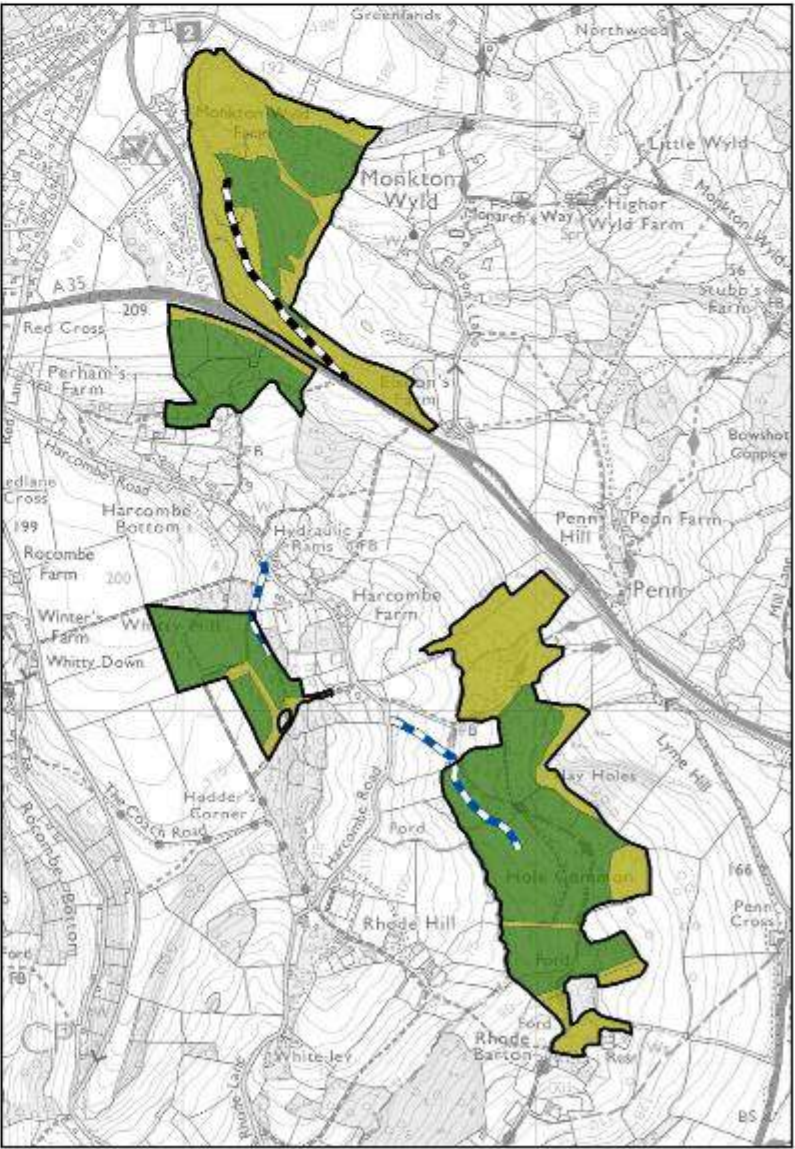
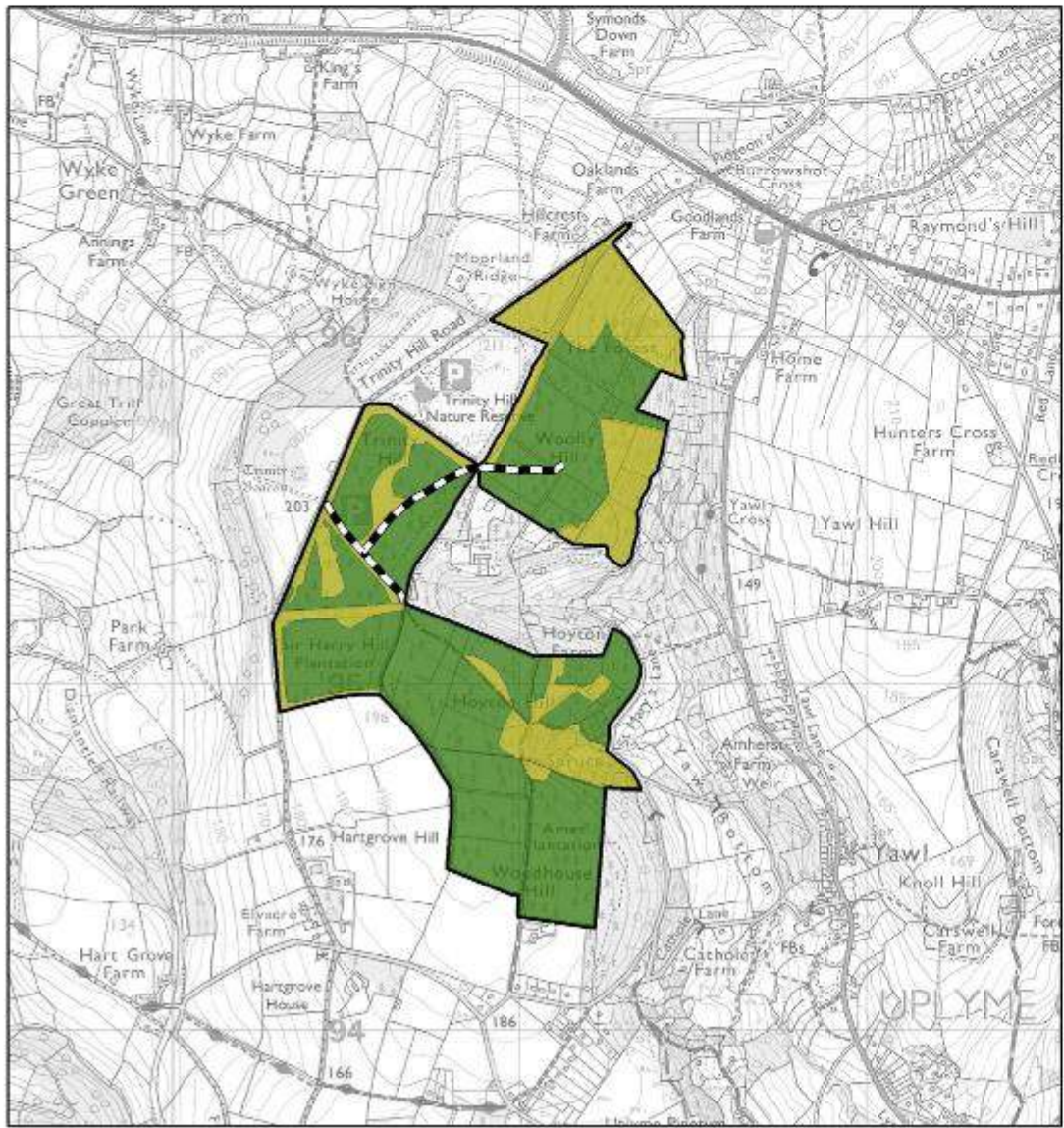


Legend

- Conifer dominated forest
 - Broadleaf dominated forest
 - Open/other
 - Class A/B Roads
 - Class C Roads
- 0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

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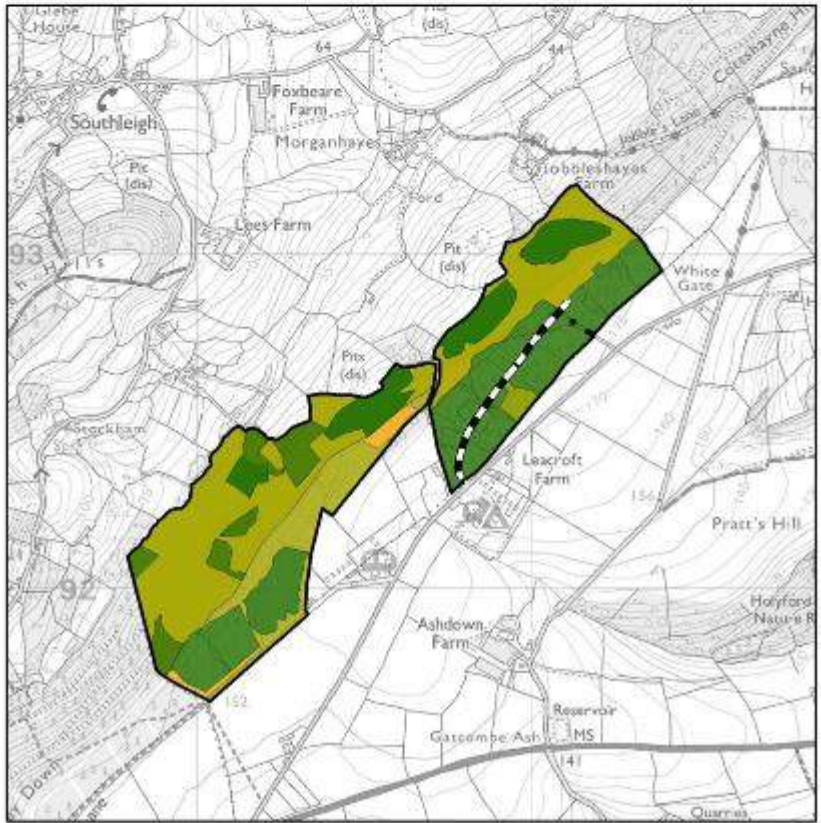
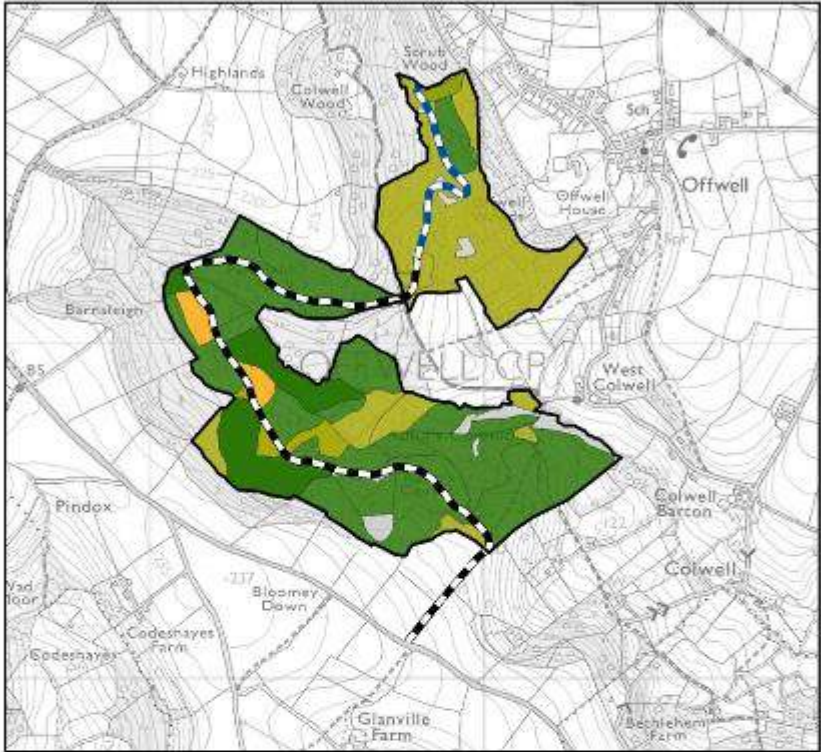
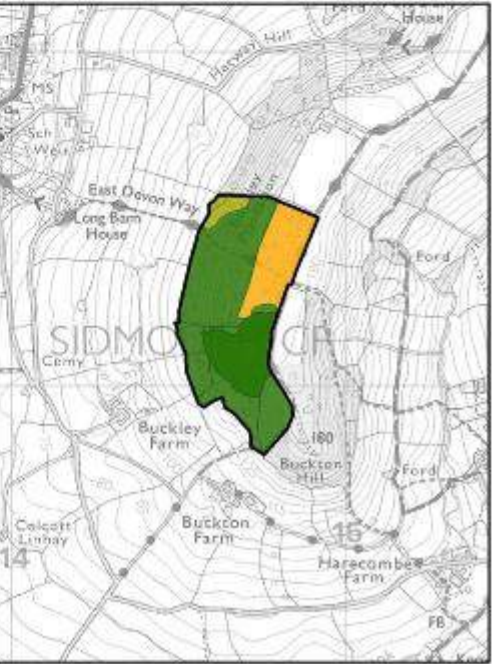
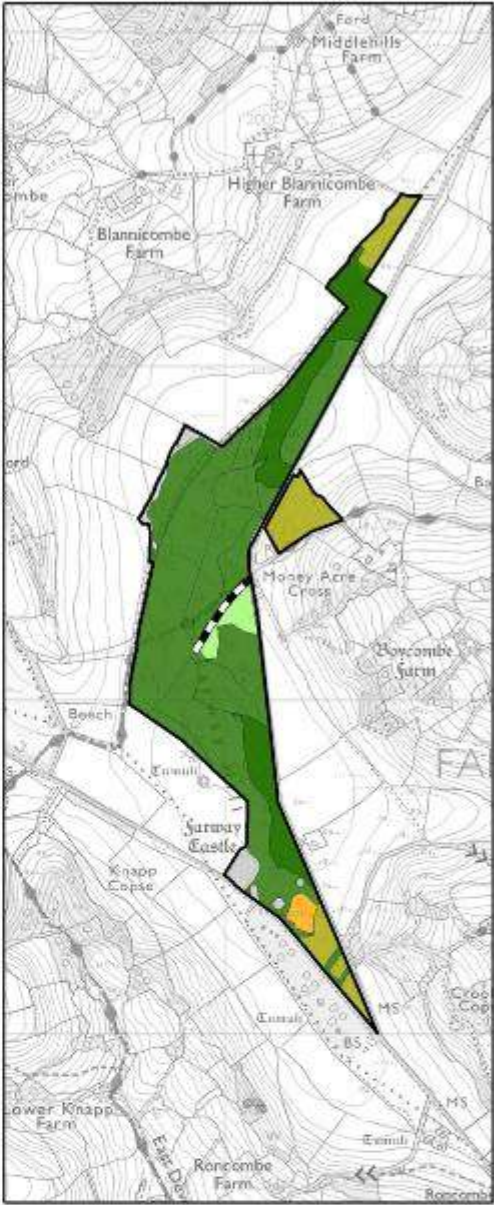
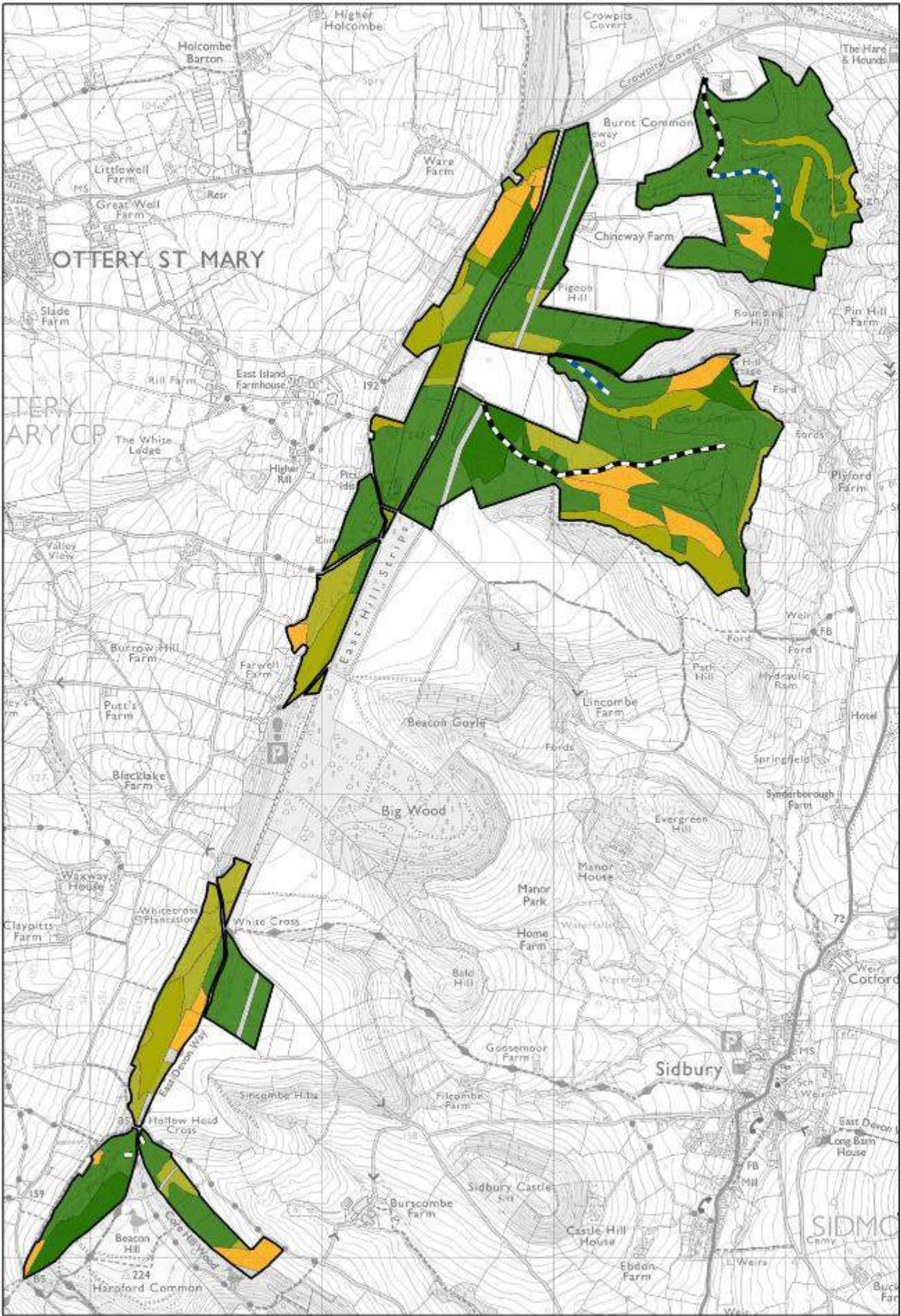
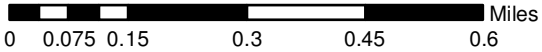
Indicative Future Species 2029

The projections made are indicative of species composition in ten years time. They do not constitute a guarantee and merely act as an indicator of how the vision for the Plan area will be delivered over time.



Legend

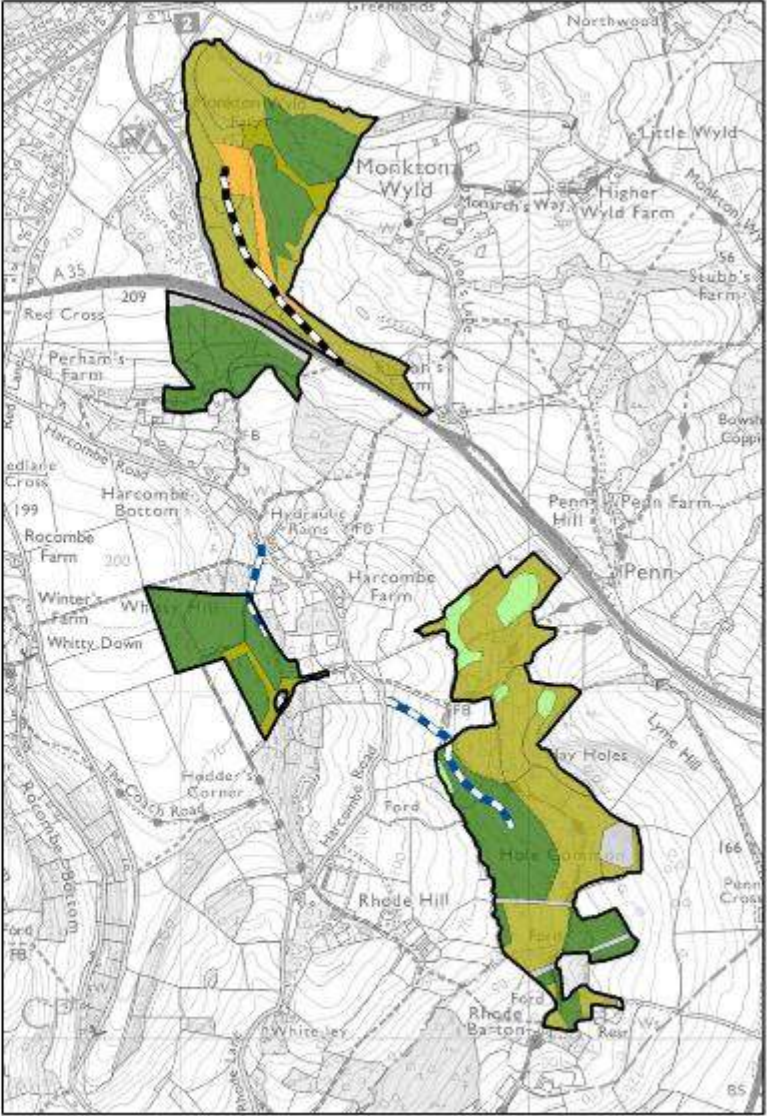
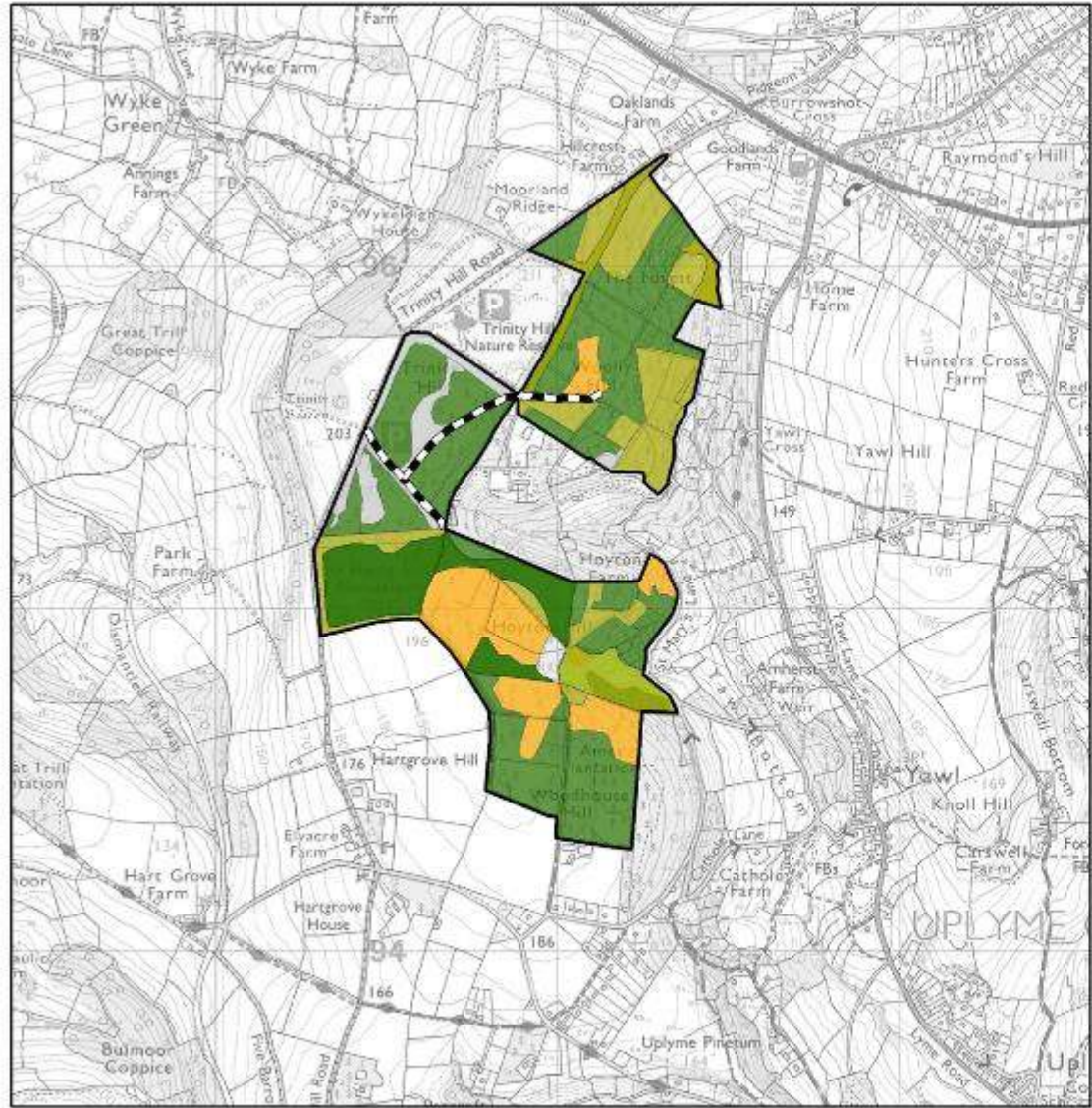
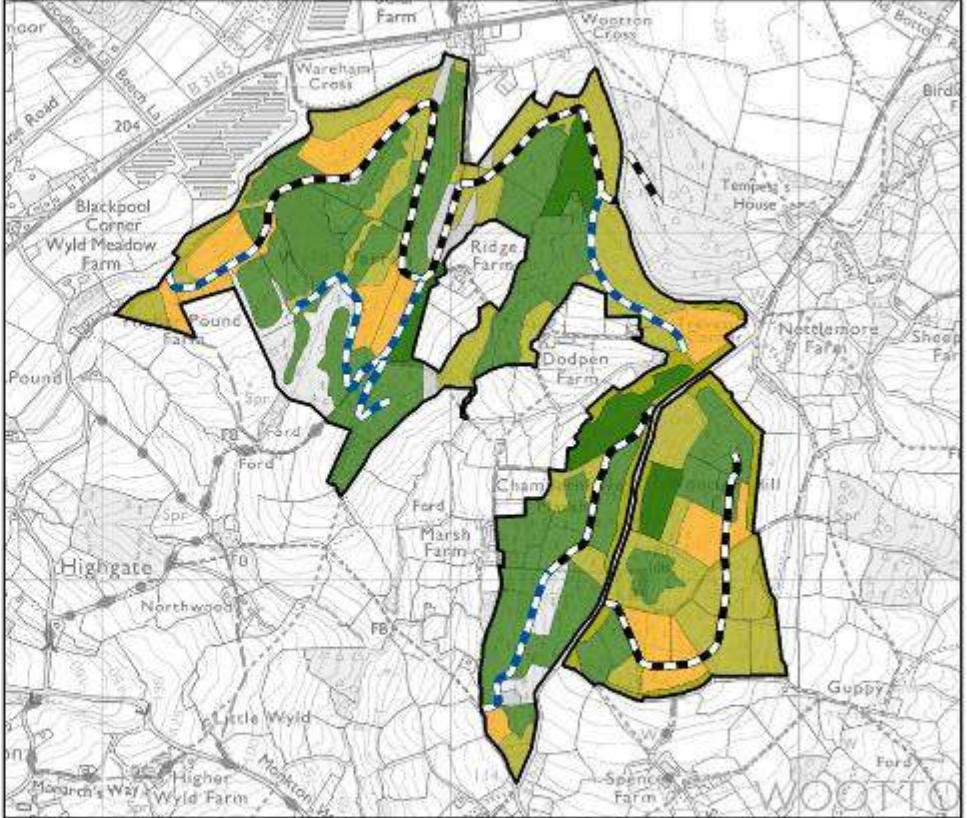
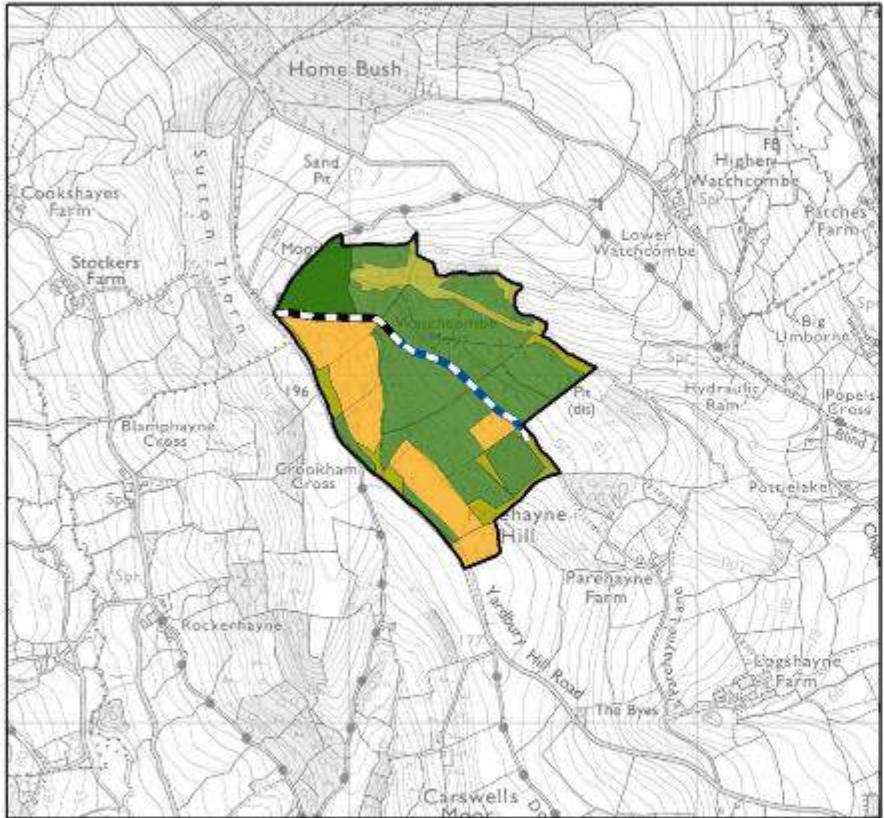
- Evergreen Conifer
- Deciduous Conifer
- Native & naturalized broadleaves
- Non-native broadleaves
- Open/other



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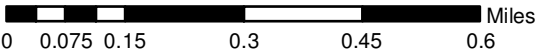
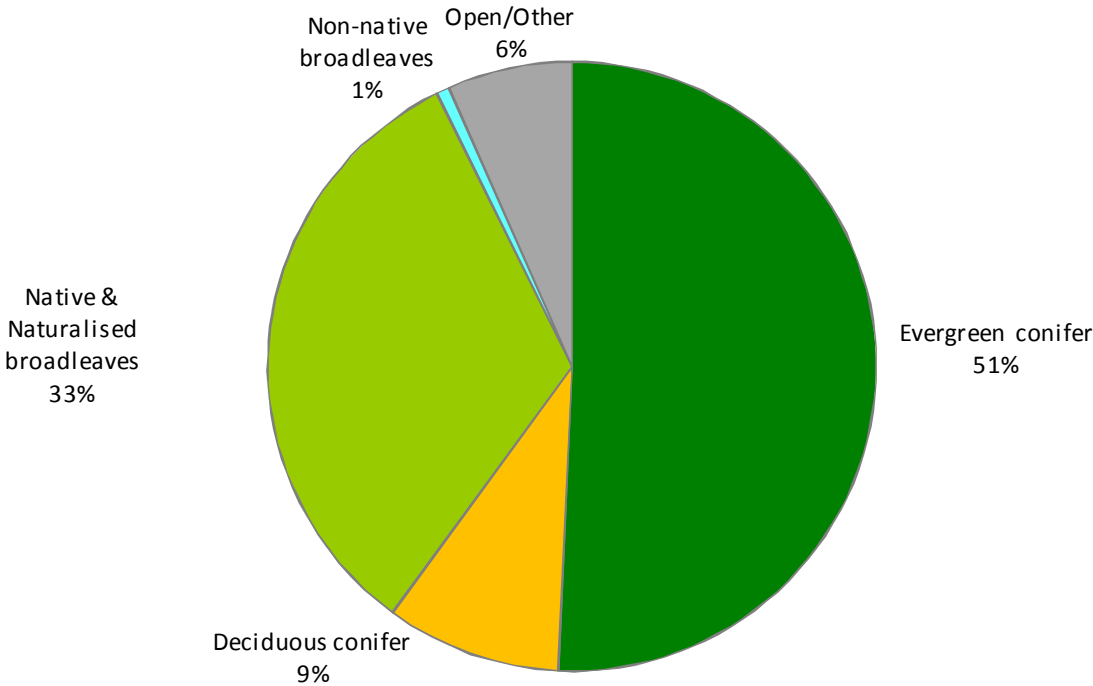
**All timber arising from
the Forest Enterprise
estate represents a
negligible risk under
EUTR (No 995/210)**



Legend

- Evergreen Conifer
- Deciduous Conifer
- Native & naturalized broadleaves
- Non-native broadleaves
- Open/other

2029



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Indicative Future Species 2049

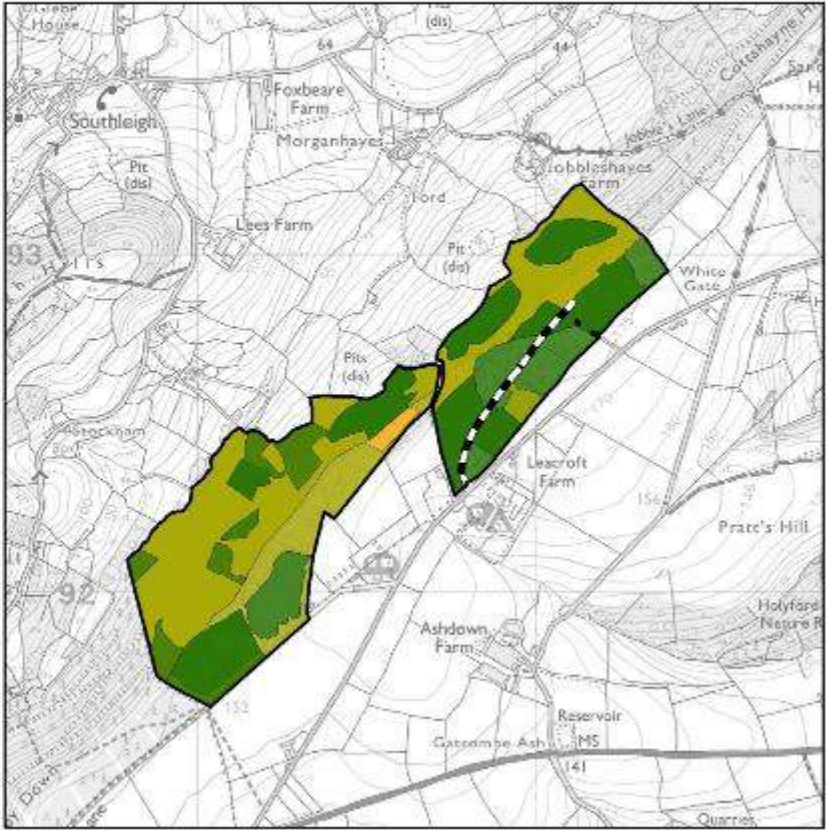
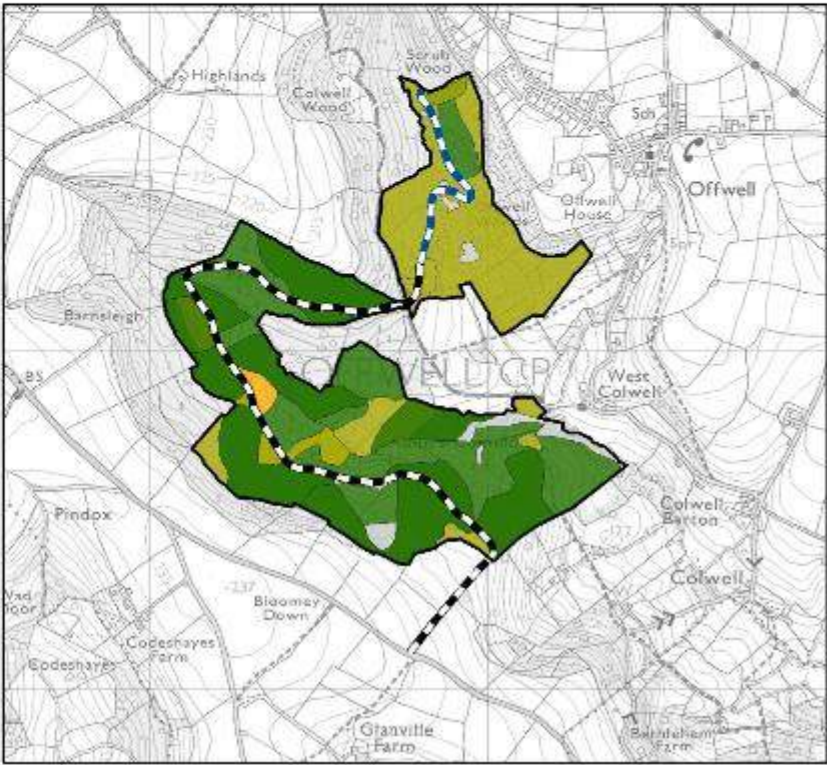
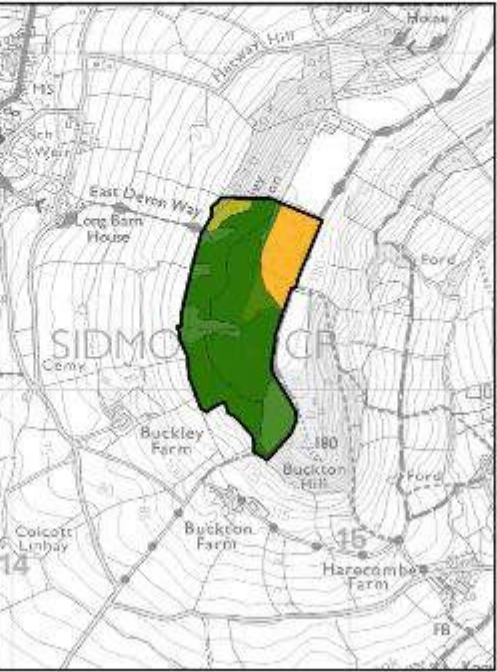
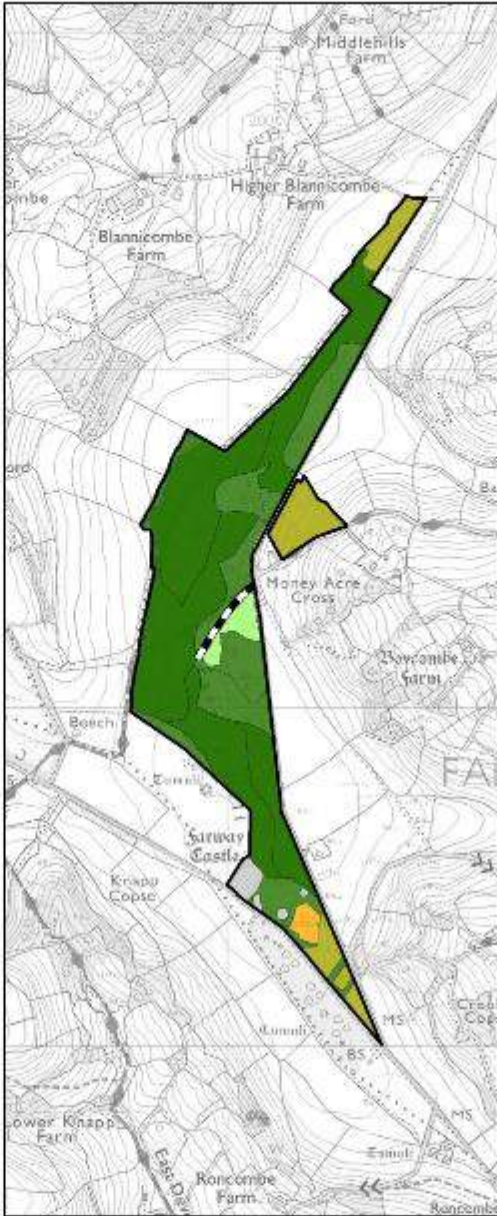
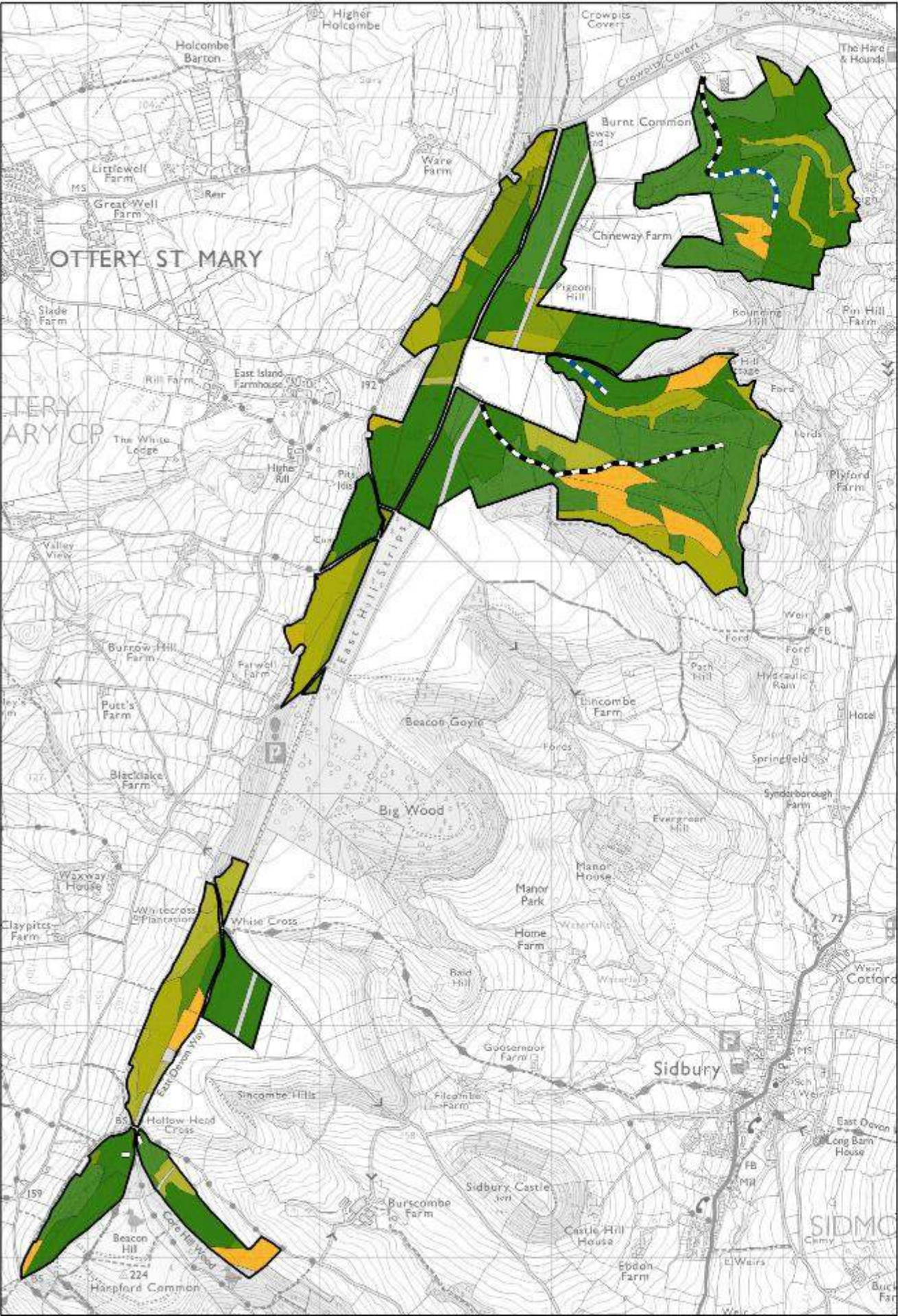
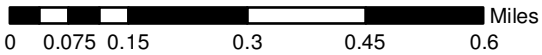
The projections made are indicative of species composition in ten years time. They do not constitute a guarantee and merely act as an indicator of how the vision for the Plan area will be delivered over time.



Legend

- Evergreen Conifer
- Deciduous Conifer
- Native & naturalized broadleaves
- Non-native broadleaves
- Open/other

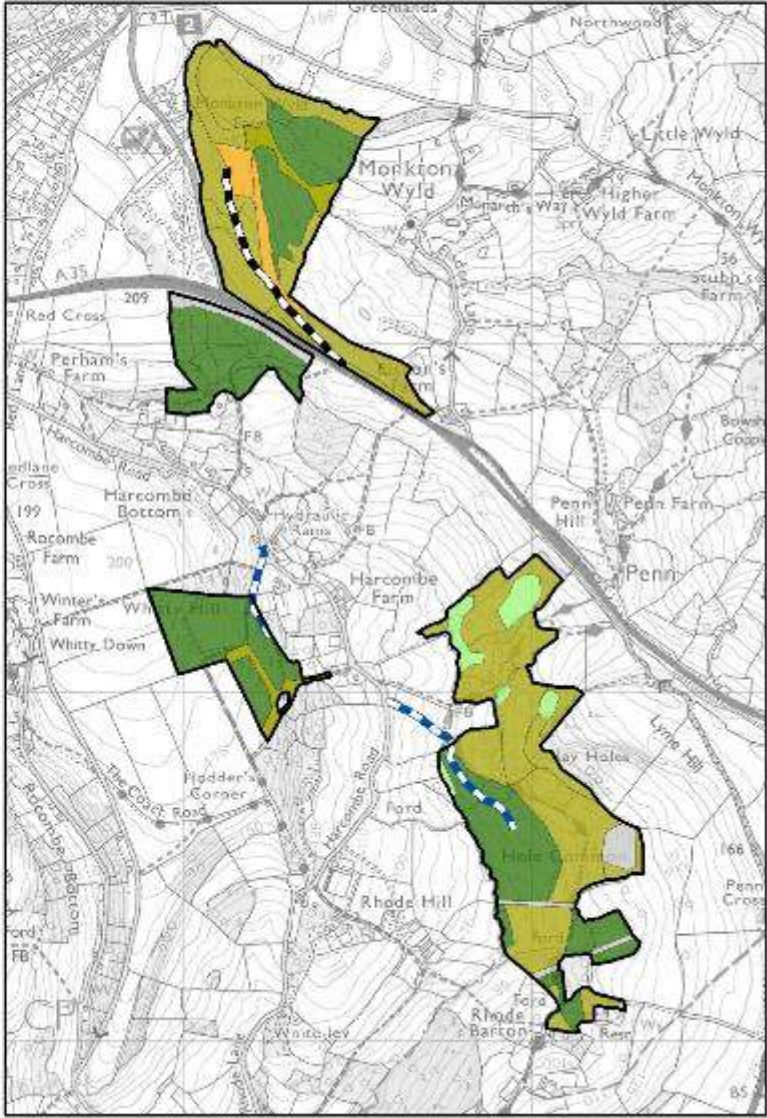
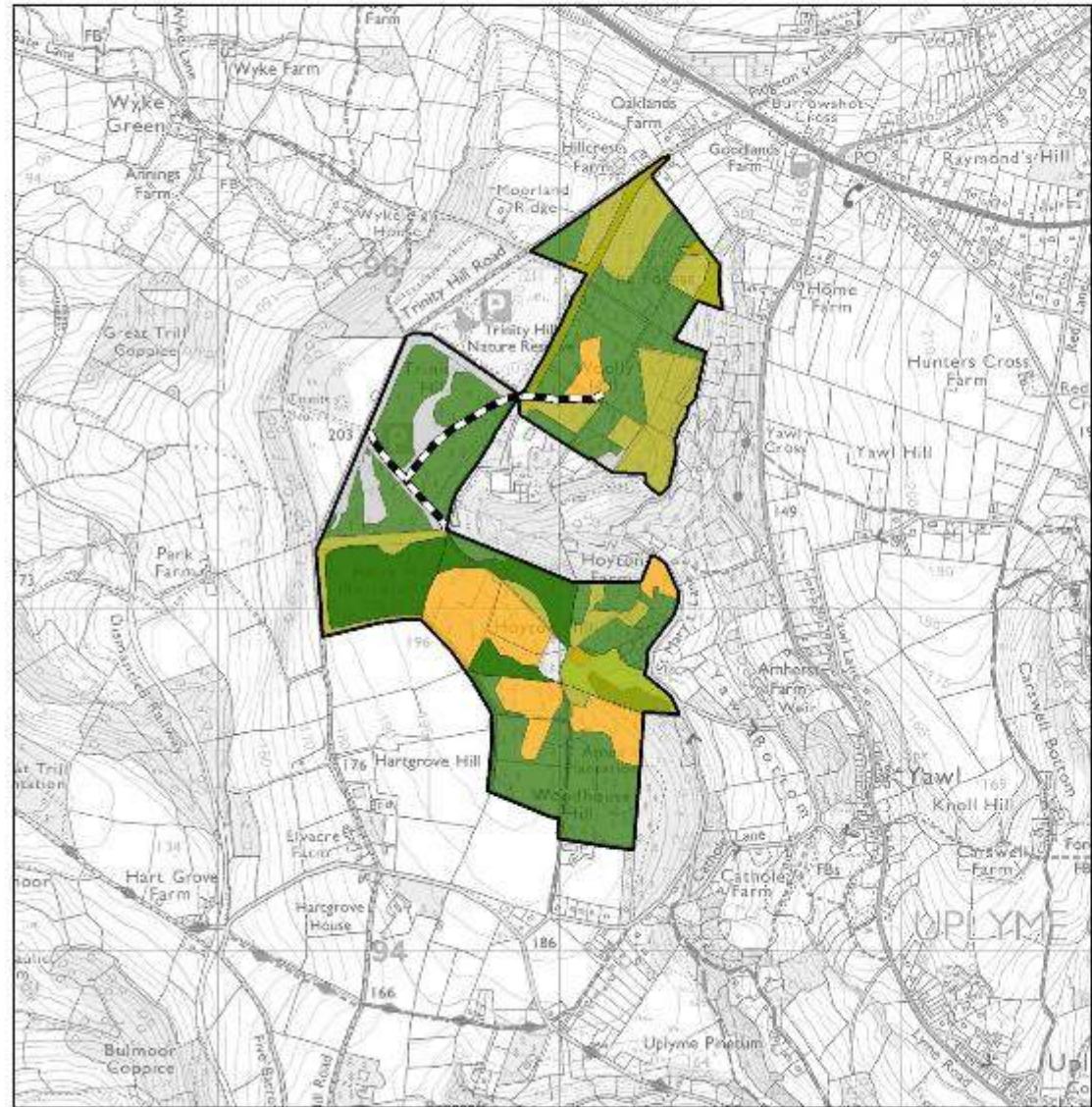
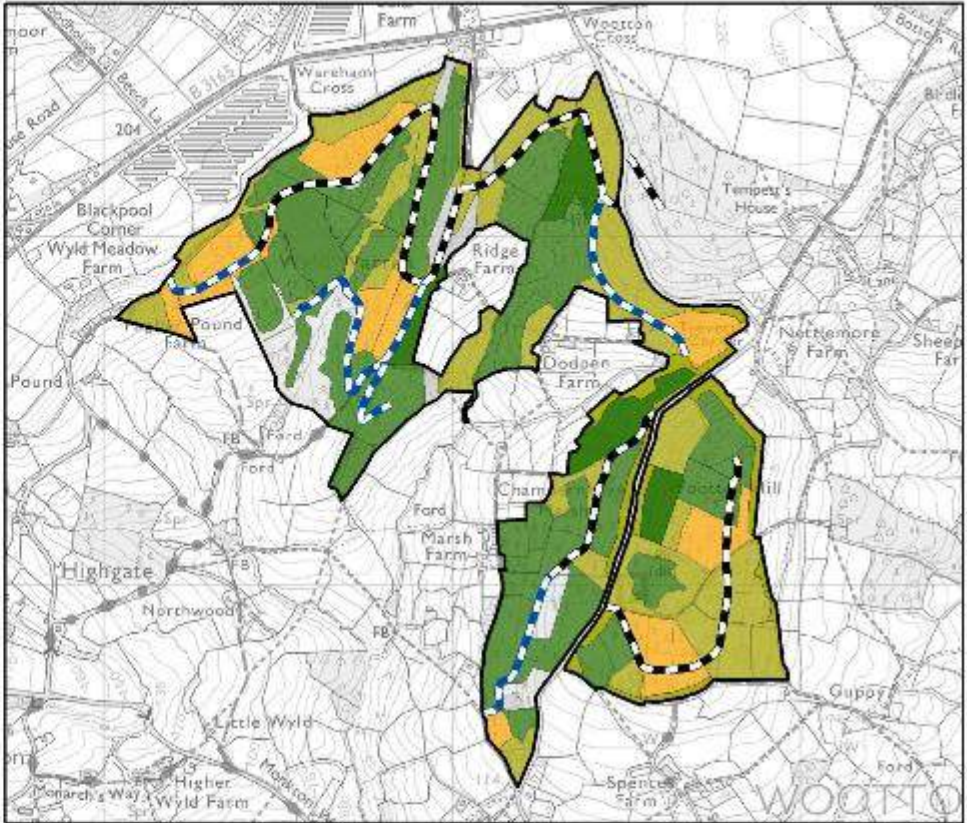
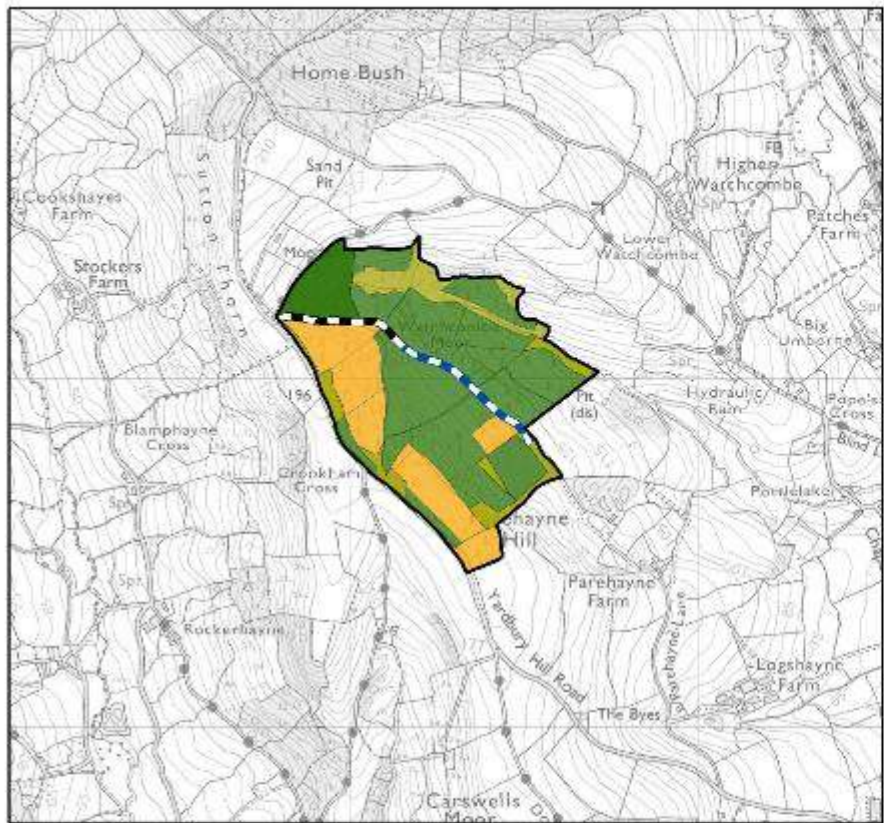
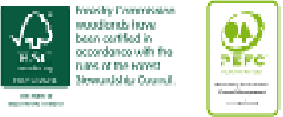
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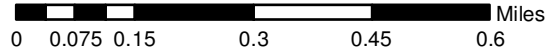
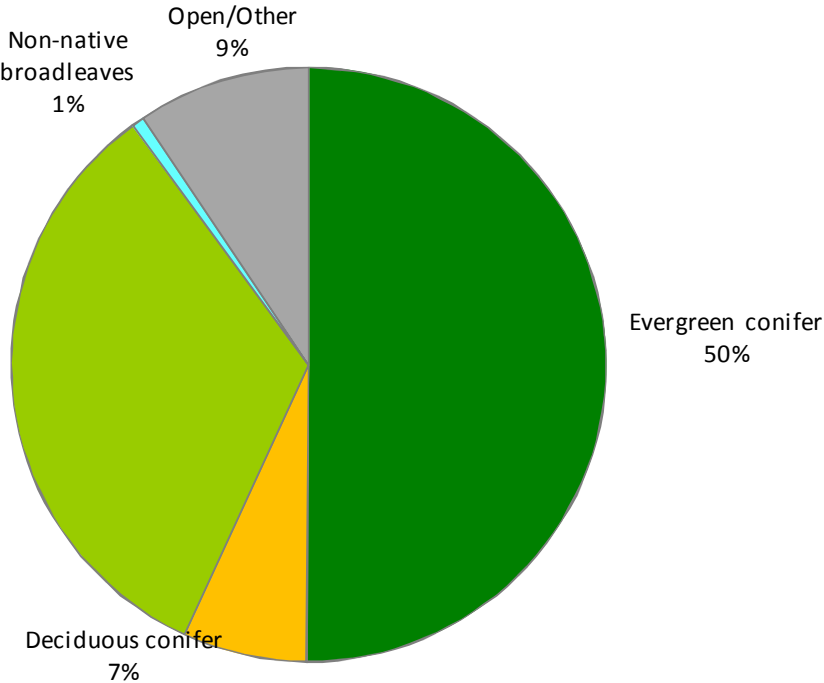
Indicative Future Species 2049



Legend

- Evergreen Conifer
- Deciduous Conifer
- Native & naturalized broadleaves
- Non-native broadleaves
- Open/other

2049



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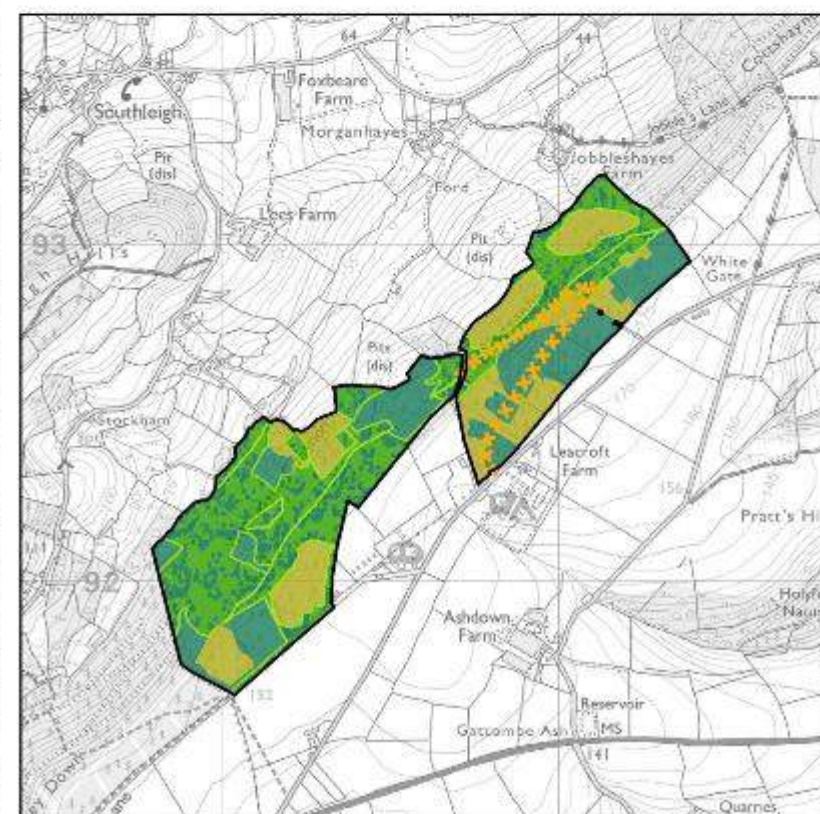
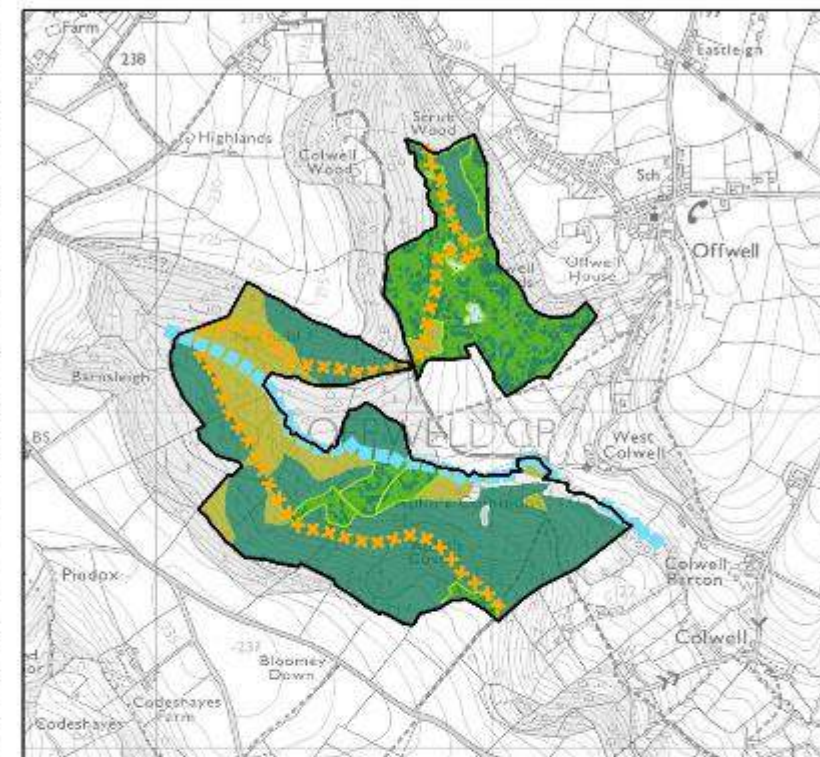
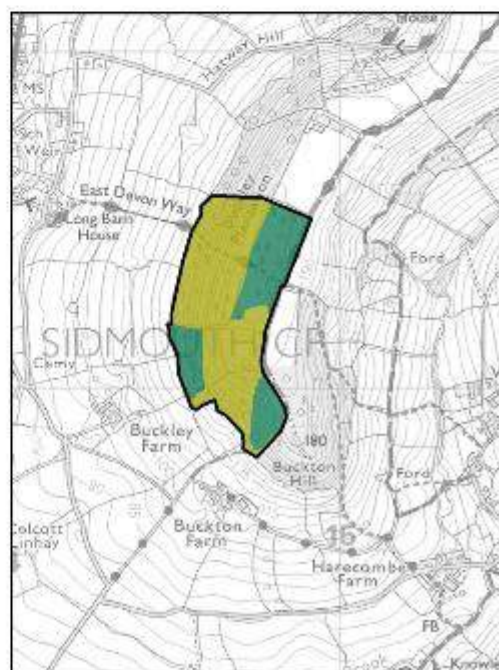
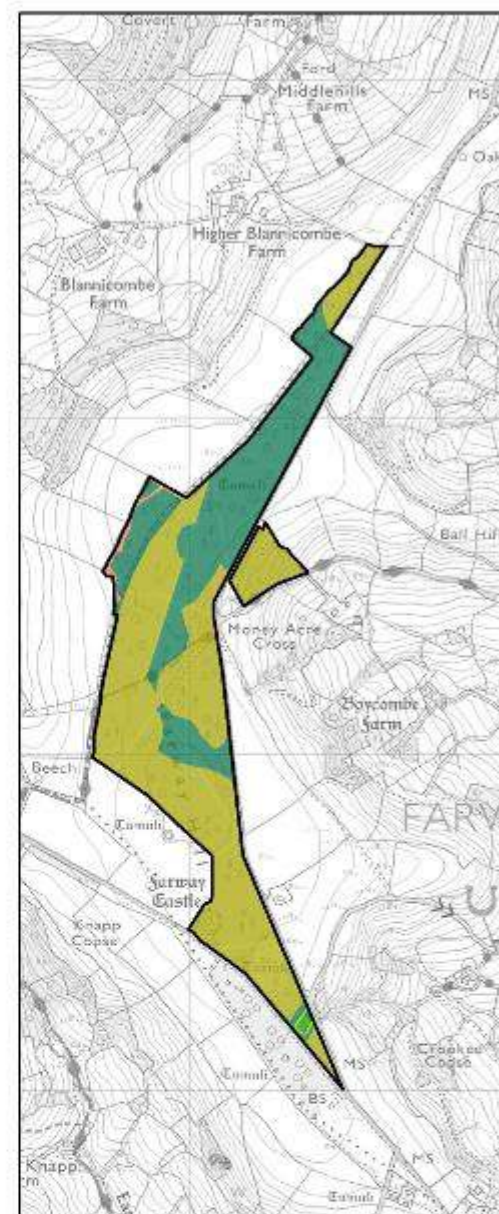
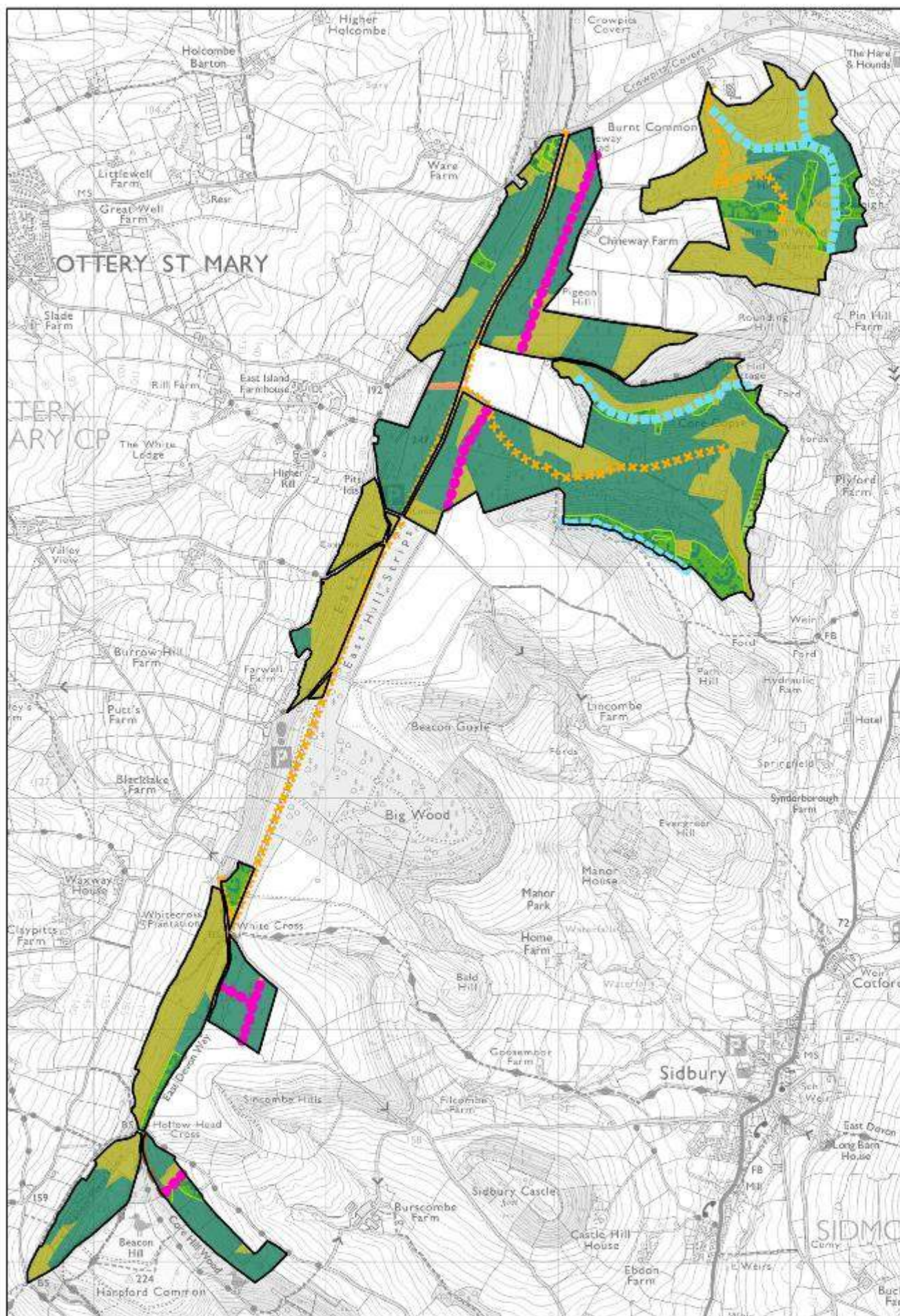
Conservation - Habitats

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

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Legend

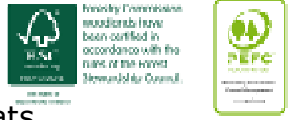
- BROADLEAVED; MIXED/YEW WOODLANDS
- CONIFEROUS WOODLANDS
- BOUNDARY & LINEAR FEATURES
- IMPROVED GRASSLAND
- NEUTRAL GRASSLAND
- Upland mixed ashwoods
- Wet woodland
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Moorland & Heathland
- Streamsides
- Tree hedges, belts & groups
- Forest & Public Roads & Utility Wayleaves
- Windfirm & Graded Edges



Conservation - Habitats

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

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Legend

- BROADLEAVED; MIXED/YEW WOODLANDS
- CONIFEROUS WOODLANDS
- BOUNDARY & LINEAR FEATURES
- IMPROVED GRASSLAND
- NEUTRAL GRASSLAND
- Upland mixed ashwoods
- Wet woodland
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Moorland & Heathland
- Streamside
- Tree hedges, belts & groups
- Forest & Public Roads & Utility Wayleaves
- Windfirm & Graded Edges

Wet Woodland Habitats

The streamsides and wet woodland found at the bottom of hollows and small valleys will be managed at the time of intervention to aid the recruitment of suitable wet woodland species such as alder, willow and birch encouraged as well as patchy open space to create dappled shade and light penetration.

Corridor Habitats

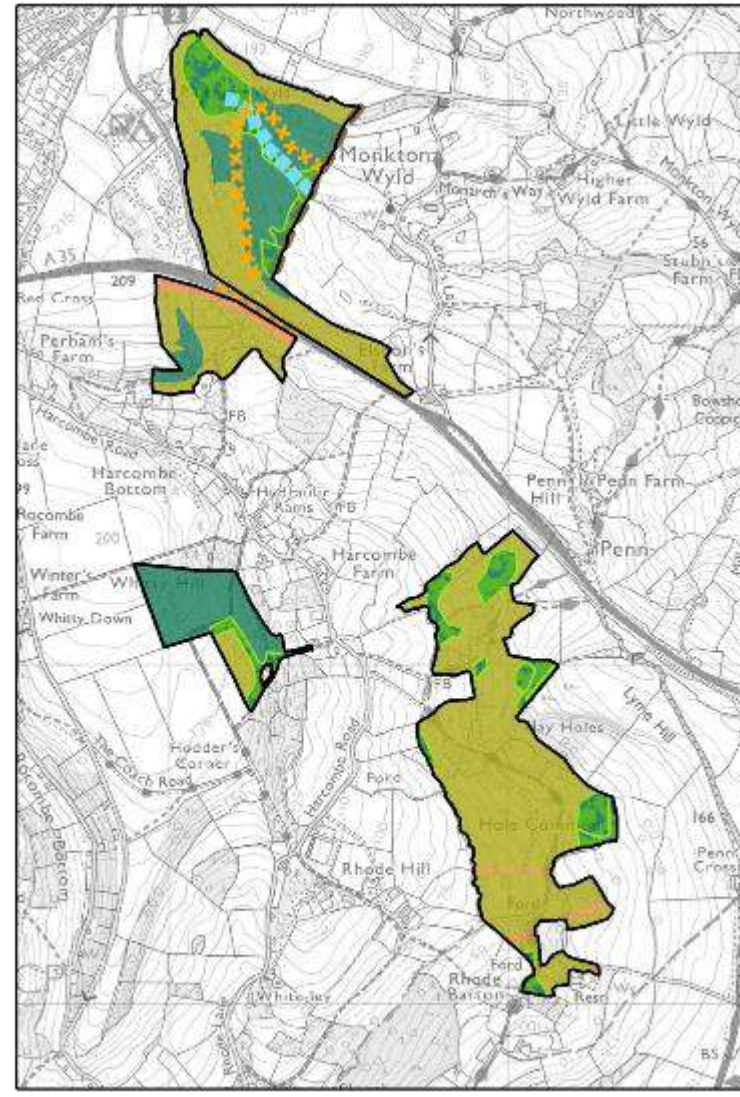
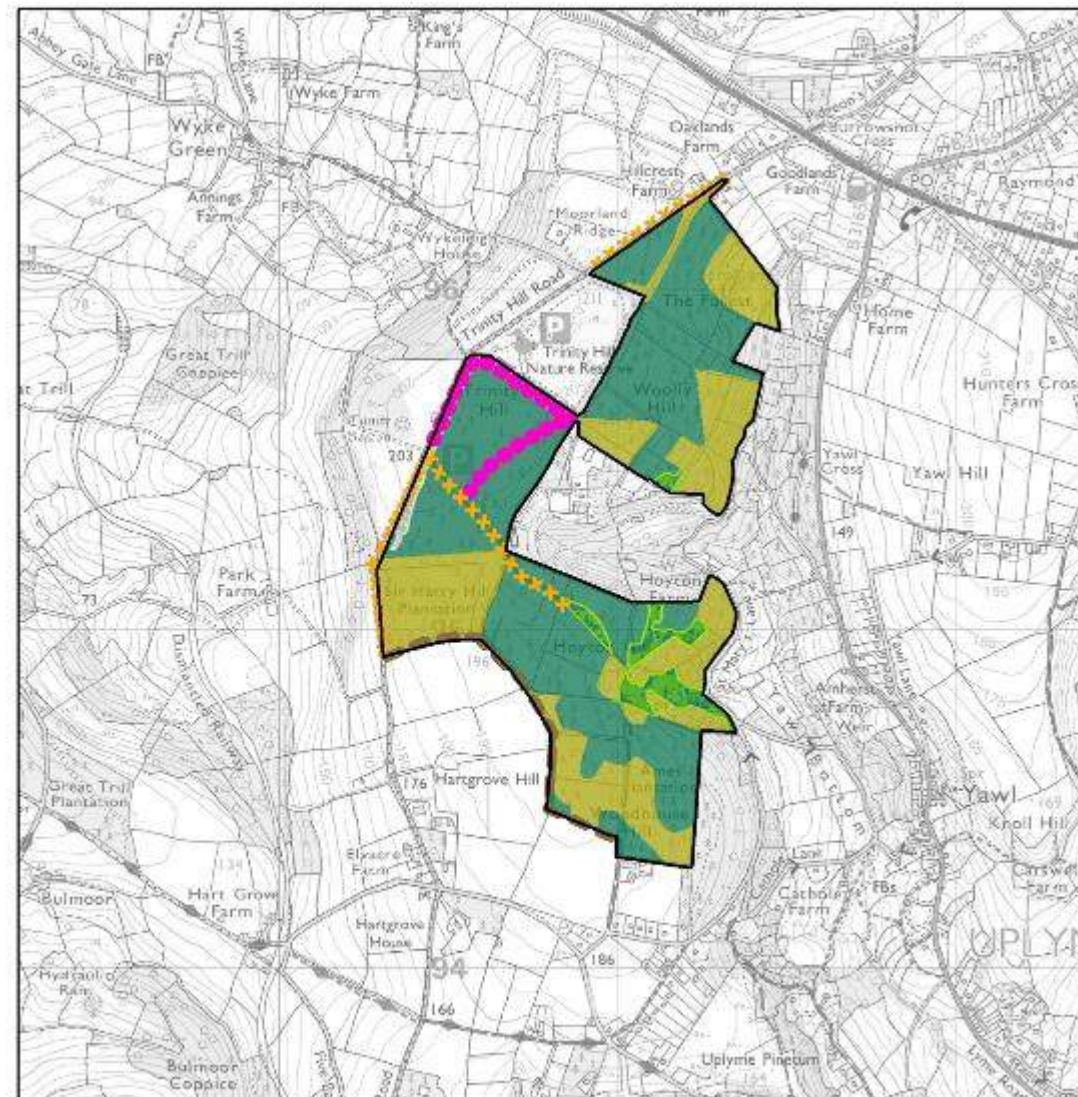
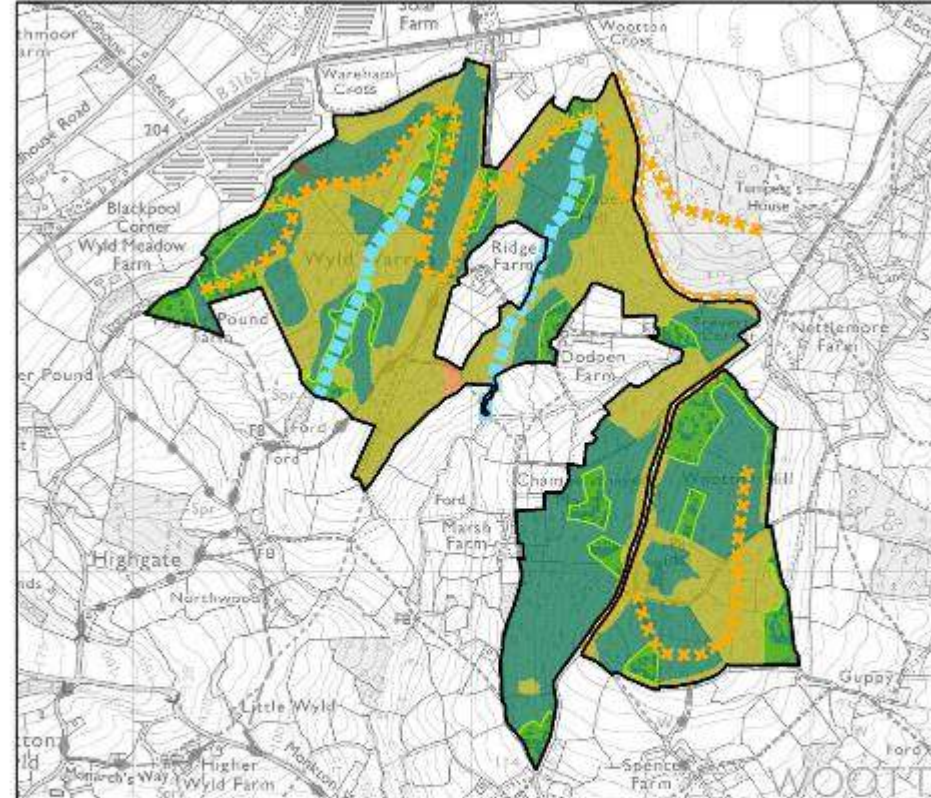
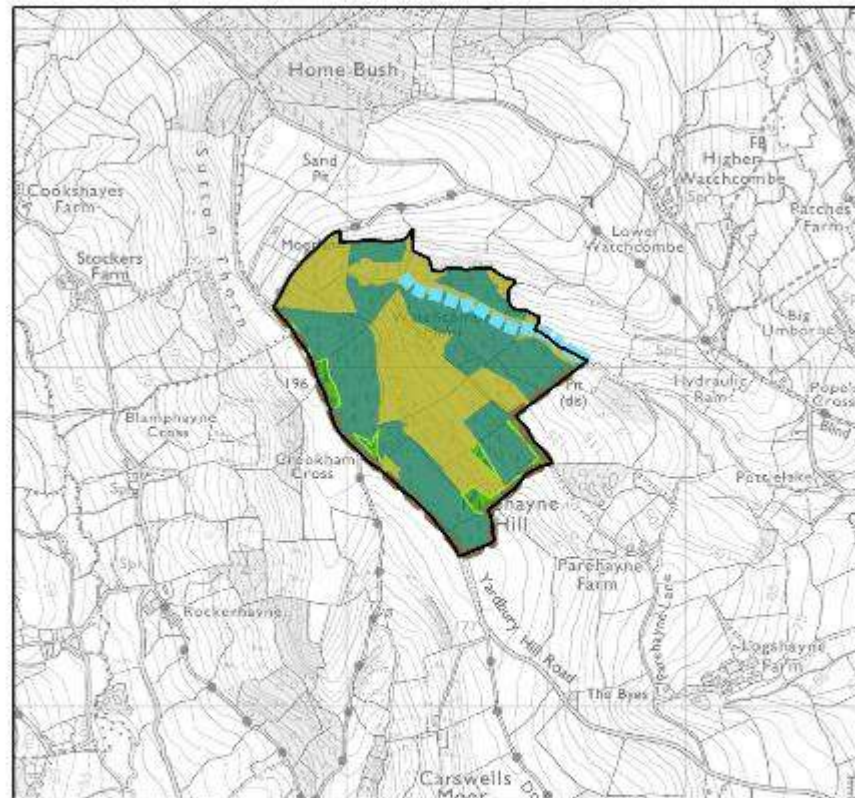
Road and rides sides will conform to the prescriptions outlined in the District document, *Design and Management of Environmental Corridors* (Lucas, 2006). The road and ride network within the Plan area will be utilised to extend and connect ride side habitats and transient open spaces, this will be achieved through targeted widening and unstocking of edges to some coupes following felling operations to create a mixed transient open and scrubby habitat for a multitude of species. In practice this means that regenerating vegetation on road sides will be regularly cut where access is easiest to create a dynamic edge habitat which the likes of Lepidoptera, insects and small birds choose to inhabit. Whilst wetter and less well used rides which are not used for deer control will be allowed to regenerate to provide habitat and linkage for a variety of species.

Deadwood

Mature established broadleaved trees with their moss and fauna will be retained as much as possible, and allowed to develop in senescent habitats. A variety of deadwood will be retained according to the level of ecological value and in line with Guidance (Humphrey & Bailey, 2012). Retaining decaying snags and logs as well as senescent trees throughout the forest will create suitable deadwood habitat for numerous associated species including raptor, smaller birds and an array of insects.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

A number of areas of remnant lowland mixed deciduous woodland (as shown) are found across the Plan area. These are predominantly made up of Sessile and pedunculated oak, ash, birch and beech. Some evidence of coppicing of hazel exists and looks to reassert. Management of these areas will be sensitive to ensure the quality is maintained in perpetuity. Thinning will be reviewed on a ten yearly cycle with the aim of enhancing and improving the condition of the habitat. Removal of invasive or un-suitable species, such as laurel, rhododendron or conifer will ensure that this habitat is maintained and used as a building block for future native broadleaf restoration.





Conservation — Natural and Cultural Heritage Features

The Forest Plan area is used by an array of common and rare flora and fauna some of which are highlighted below. On the other hand some non-native flora and grazing fauna species can have a detrimental impact on the forest and its features if their numbers are too high. Species such as rhododendron, wild deer and squirrel will all be managed in line with District Strategy to ensure that their pressure does not have a negative impact on the condition of habitats.

The introduction of new tree species, in the bid to diversify the forest structure means that deer and small mammal populations will need to be managed. Protection and control will need to be increased and strategically targeted. This will include fencing, planting design and new deer glades which will be created following felling.

Raptor - such as buzzard, kestrel and goshawk are known to roost and hunt within the forest areas. Many of the species choose to rest in high well branched conifer trees and then feed over open ground, making the forests ideal raptor habitat in an otherwise minimally treed landscape. The management of appropriate large or potentially large trees for long retentions will ensure that habitat provision is maintained.

Otter - are known to use the full length of the Rivers Sid and Axe and its tributaries and is widespread across most rivers in Devon and Cornwall. This protected species experienced a decline in previous decades but has recovered well in the south west of England. They inhabit streamside and wetland areas and the riparian woodland habitats found within the Plan area are ideal for nesting otter. The management of riparian wet woodland where a light touch intervention will be employed will ensure that a rich diversity of open space, scrub and high forest will ensure otter habitat is preserved to support this species.



Trees of significance are found throughout the Plan area and will be retained for perpetuity. The majority of these trees are beech boundary trees. When crops are thinned crowns will be released slowly to minimise the impact of sudden exposure to desiccating winds and sun scorch. Management will be in line with FC Guidance (Ops No. 31).

Heritage features - are found across the Plan area, demonstrating its rich cultural significance. East Devon contains a significant collection of hillforts and barrows. The Farway Hill Barrow, of which the Scheduled Farway Castle is part, complex comprises the most extensive and densest concentrations of barrows in east Devon. At least 57 barrows are located within a 3 miles stretch covering parts of Gittisham Hill, Farway Hill and Broad Down.

These features and the internal surrounding landscape needs to be preserved, and enhanced where possible, to retain and develop the Plan Area's cultural heritage. All unscheduled monuments will be identified and treated sympathetically at the time of operation in consultation with the County Archaeology team.



Nightjar - is a nationally rare bird and the East Devon forests support a contingent of the south west England population. The bird nests in freshly cleared areas, most notably clearfell sites. The provision of both permanent and transient open space through rotation clearfelling and scrubby open space creation and management of existing areas will continue to support this important species into the future.



Dormouse favourable habitat is found fragmented throughout the Plan area. This European Protected Species requires pinch points across corridors to allow habitat connectivity between broadleaved woodland, particularly in stands with a high hazel and/or sweet chestnut components. The increase in coppicing in hazel dominated stands will significantly enhance habitat quality with prescriptions outlined in the Environmental Corridors document also ensuring



appropriate habitat provision and management will be in line with Best Practice Guidance (FC & NE, 2007).

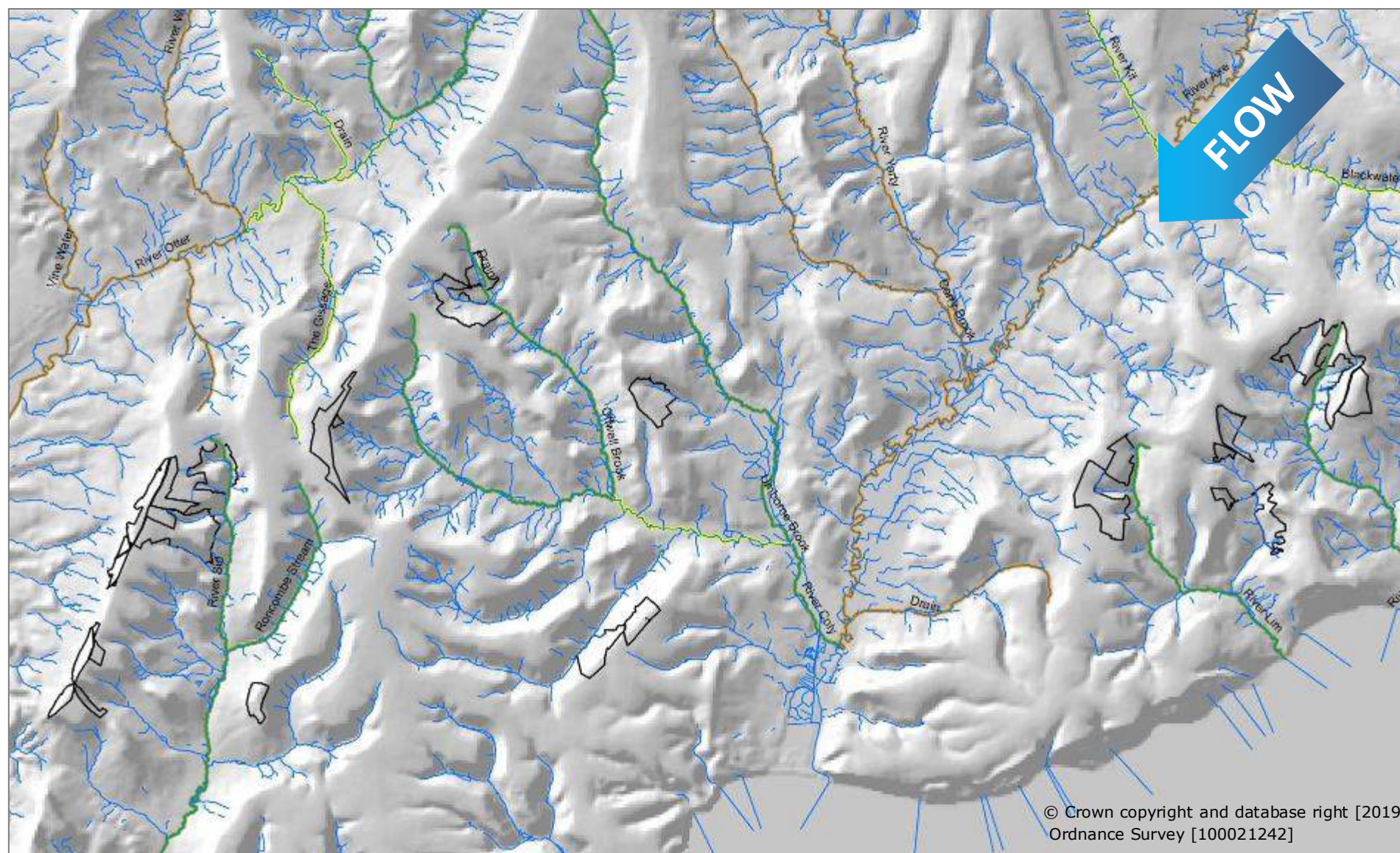
Water & Riparian Management

Riparian Management

All watercourses and riverine areas will be management sensitively to protect and enhance water and soil quality in line with best practice. Riparian zones will be developed to create and maintain areas of up to 50% continuous forest cover through gradual regeneration or enrichment with site appropriate tree species, such as *Alnus*, *Salix* and *Ulmus* spp. A gradual change to this type of wet woodland habitat through coppicing at the time of intervention (usually clearfell), will create a environment of dappled shade with good light penetration and aeration as well as buffer the riverine systems from forestry operations.

Clearfells within the area have been designed and phased to minimise surface water runoff and soil erosion ensuring the riverine systems are protected and improved into the future. All felling and restocking operations will work within the guidelines set out in UKFS, Forests and Water with the aim of developing further riparian areas at the time of intervention to stimulate native species regeneration.

The East Devon Plan area is a component of for the Otter, Axe and Sid catchments all close to their output into the sea. Therefore soil stabilisation and surface runoff, retaining forest cover and a move towards continuous cover systems together with maintained drains and water storage will ensure this continues to slow down peak flows into the future.



Legend

- Watercourse
- High
- Good
- Moderate
- Bad
- Poor

Environment Agency
Grading

South West Catchment District

Just over 3 million people live in the South West River Basin District. The economy is dominated by the service sector, and each year millions of visitors to the district make a vital contribution to the economy. However, the resulting seasonal fluctuations in population bring challenges for protecting the water environment, especially in coastal areas.

The district has a huge network of internationally, nationally and locally recognised wildlife sites, from the uplands of Dartmoor and Exmoor and outstanding rivers such as the Camel and Hampshire Avon, to the fantastic estuaries and coastline. There are two national parks, and the Jurassic Coast in Devon and Dorset is the only natural world heritage site in England.

The farming and land management sector has a big role in looking after and improving the quality of the rural environment. Agriculture accounts for approximately three quarters of the land area in the South West River Basin District.

East Devon Catchment

The East Devon catchment has a varied landscape and stretches from Exmoor and the Blackdown Hills in the north to Exmouth and the Jurassic coast and west Dorset. At approximately 750 sq.km, the East Devon catchment drains the rivers Exe, Otter, Sid, Axe and Lim. Only 7% of the catchment is developed compared to the national average of 16%. The catchment contains one National Park and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) covering 66% of the catchment.

There are 103 river water bodies in the catchment as well as 4 lakes, 4 estuaries, 10 groundwater bodies and coastal waters to the south. Rivers, groundwater and coastal waters in East Devon are used for drinking water, recreation and should support healthy fisheries and wildlife. There are a number of water problems affecting the Rivers Axe, Otter and Clyst mainly related to manures, slurry and soil entering the river. There are also water quality problems related to sewage and runoff from urban areas. However, the pressure from manure and slurry from farming is greater.

In 2009 30% of water bodies in the East Devon catchment were classified at good ecological status or better under the Water Framework Directive. The Environment Agency has investigated the possible reasons for failure and found that diffuse pollution from agricultural sources account for 54% of the water bodies not achieving good status and barriers to migratory fish account for 23%.