



Forestry Commission
England
West England Forest District

Forest Plan
Haywood and Castiard Vale
2014 - 2024
Locational Map

Castiard Vale view points

- 1 - Plump Hill looking south-east
- 2 - A4136 Longhope looking south
- 3 - A48 Westbury looking west
- 4 - Popeshill looking west
- 5 - Breezy Cottage looking north
- 6 - Stockwell Green looking north-east

Haywood view points

- 1 - Steam Mills looking south-east
- 2 - Ruardean Hill looking south-east
- 3 - Winners Garage looking east

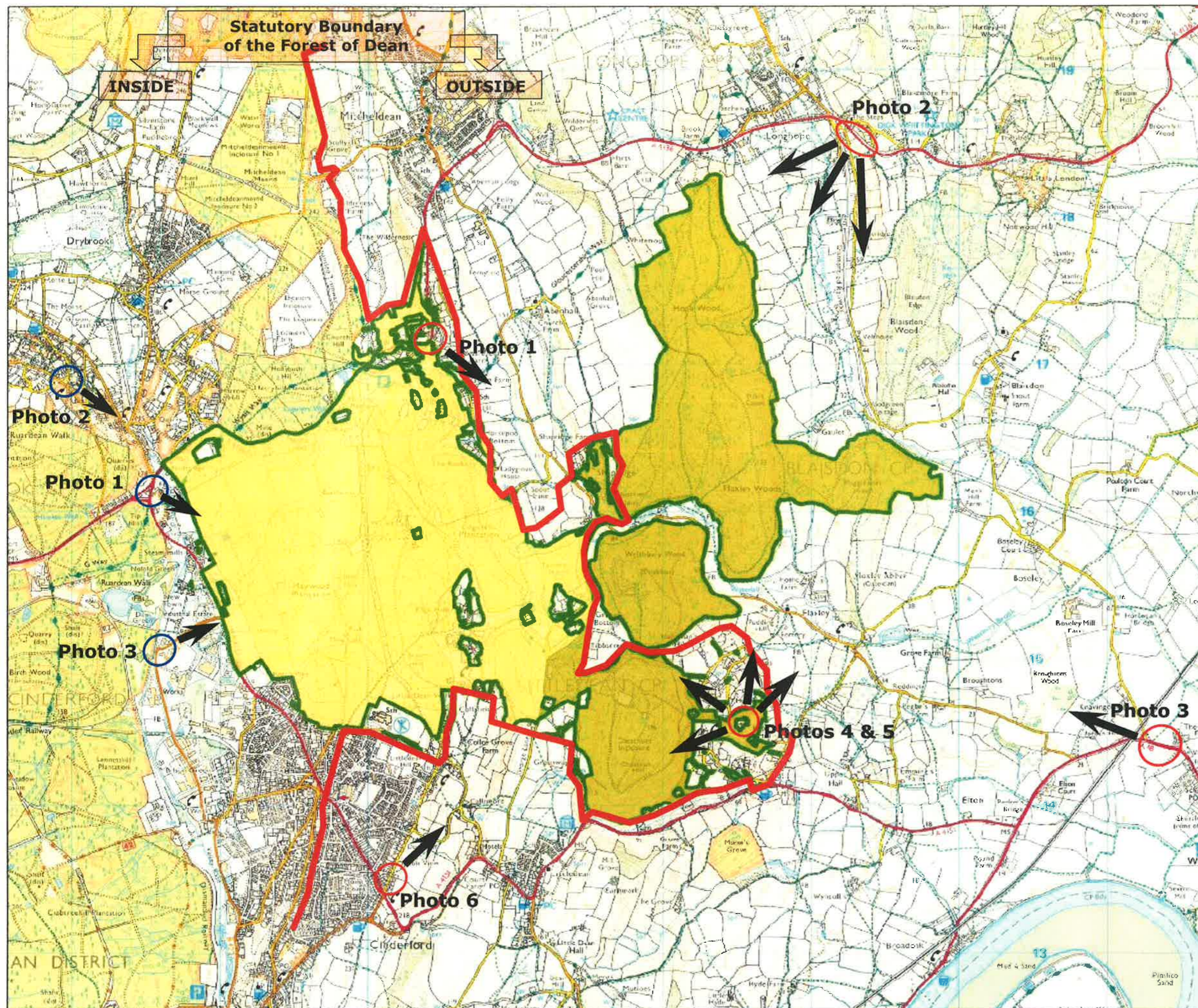
Legend

- Forest Plan outline
- Castiard_Vale
- Haywood

Scale 1:25,000



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



Viewpoint 1: A4136 at Steam Mills traffic lights looking south-east



Photograph 1: Current view from Steam Mills traffic lights looking south-east towards The Branch



3-D representation of photograph 1



3-D representation of photograph 1 after felling coupe 24902 in the period 2017 - 2021



Forestry Commission
England

West England Forest District

Forest Plan

**Haywood and
Castiard Vale**

2014 - 2024

Landscape Assessment



Forester

Viewpoint 2: From the triangle junction of The Hollow on the Ruardean road looking south-east



Photograph 2: View from the triangle on the road to Ruardeanhill at the junction with The Hollow



3-D representation of photograph 2



3-D representation of photograph 2 after felling coupe 24902 in the period 2017 - 2021



**Forestry Commission
England**

West England Forest District

Forest Plan

**Haywood and
Castiard Vale**

2014 - 2024

Landscape Assessment



Viewpoint 3: From Winners Garage on Valley Road looking east



Photograph 3: View from Winner Garage on Valley Road looking east



3-D representation of photograph 3



3-D representation of photograph 3 after felling coupe 29402 in the period 2017 - 2021



Forestry Commission
England

West England Forest District

Forest Plan

**Haywood and
Castiard Vale**

2014 - 2024

Landscape Assessment



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



View point 1: Welshbury and Chestnuts Wood from Plump Hill

Thinning out of the conifer in compartment 4154 continues

Coupe 41107 now "greened up" and re-established with site native broadleaves. Visual impact is constantly being reduced.

Top: Landscape Assessment as per the 2002 Forest Plan
Middle: Landscape Assessment for 2014 Forest Plan
Bottom: Impression of management proposals 2014-2051

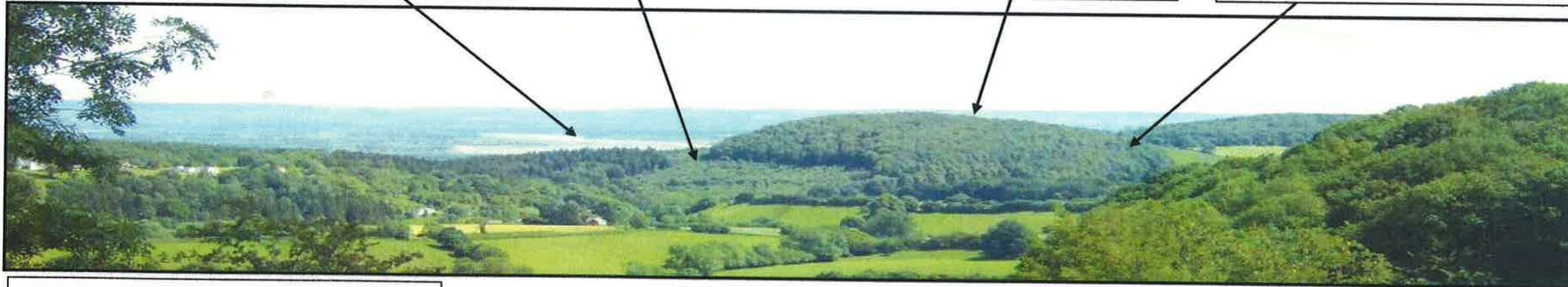


Conifer will continue to be removed from compartment 4154 through the 2014 plan period

Felling of Coupe 41107 has achieved exactly what the previous plan had envisaged.

Welshbury SAM will begin a process of transformation over to coppice to safeguard archaeological features.

Whilst western peripheries of Welshbury contain archaeological features the area is thought to be less sensitive in nature.

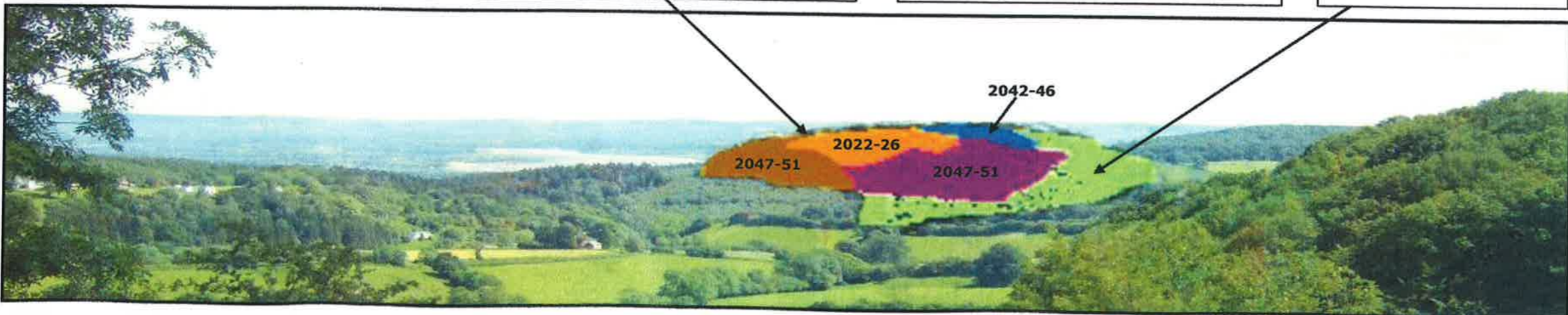


The SAM will be managed in accordance to prescriptions drawn up by the County Archaeologists in conjunction with FC. Recommendations are to coppice the woodland covering the SAM.

The first cant to be coppiced in 2017-2021 is not visible as it sits behind the brown and orange cants due for coppicing in 2047-2051.

Coppicing will minimise future risk of windthrow and potential for damaging the earthworks due to increasing levels of exposure, as the trees grow larger and taller.

Peripheral belt of Small Leaved Lime not to be coppiced but managed as broadleaf shelterwood.



Forestry Commission
England

West England Forest District

Forest Plan

Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

Landscape Assessment



View point 2: Flaxley from A4136 at Longhope looking south

Top: Landscape Assessment for 2014 Forest Plan

Middle right & Bottom left: Impression of management proposals 2014-2051

Flaxley wood is the dominant feature in this landscape, occupying the whole of the skyline and is dominated by conifers although the fringe of broadleaves helps buffer the transition to agricultural land.

The crest of DF and RC in Coupe 23052 has become more prominent on the horizon since the felling of coupe 23114. Rather than clearfelling, a gradual change to native broadleaf will be promoted through thinning in order to retain a wooded appearance and avoid an ugly step in the skyline.

This block of broadleaf sits isolated within an otherwise coniferous landscape.

Numerous broadleaf field & hedge trees assist with visual integration between the wooded landscape and the agricultural one.

The series of coupes as per the 2002 FDP are highlighted here. They run north to south and show there is visual conflict within the landscape that would, if felled, crudely interrupt the appearance what is currently a contiguously wooded ridge.

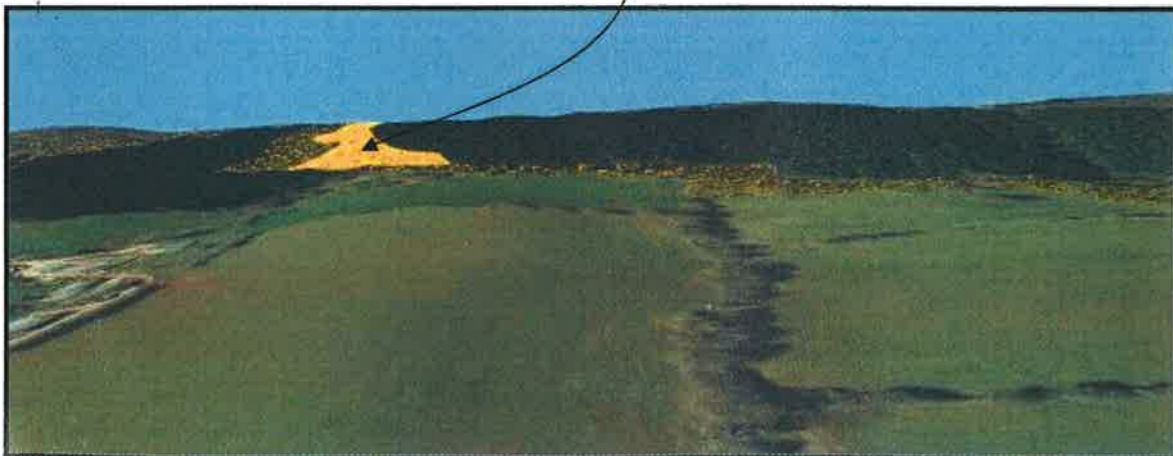


Below left:

This illustration shows the isolated block of broadleaves identified at the top of the page.

The light brown area will be felled in 2017-2021 and restocked with a mixture of minor native broadleaf species to improve diversity.

The fragmented nature of the isolated broadleaves in this area including the broadleaf habitat in the corner of the farmer's field and the peripheral fringe broadleaves will be linked creating a more robust habitat that will also sit more favourably within the landscape.



Above right:

Remodelled coupe boundaries along eastern slopes are now more sympathetic to landform and landscape quality has been improved.

Coupe remodelling has drawn on natural features and boundaries of existing broadleaves to try and achieve a more natural appearance.

Flaxley is experienced in the middle distance from this view point and the remodelled coupes are large enough to create visual impact.

Felling dates given are a reflection of the amount of felling being undertaken elsewhere within the plan area to meet other objectives, and will provide a more diverse age structure. Coupes shown here will continue to be routinely thinned and will develop a mixed composition before final felling of remaining conifer.

Forest Plan

Haywood and Castiard Vale

2014 - 2024

Landscape Assessment

View point 3: Castiard Vale and Haywood viewed from A48 at Westbury-on-Severn



Forestry Commission
England

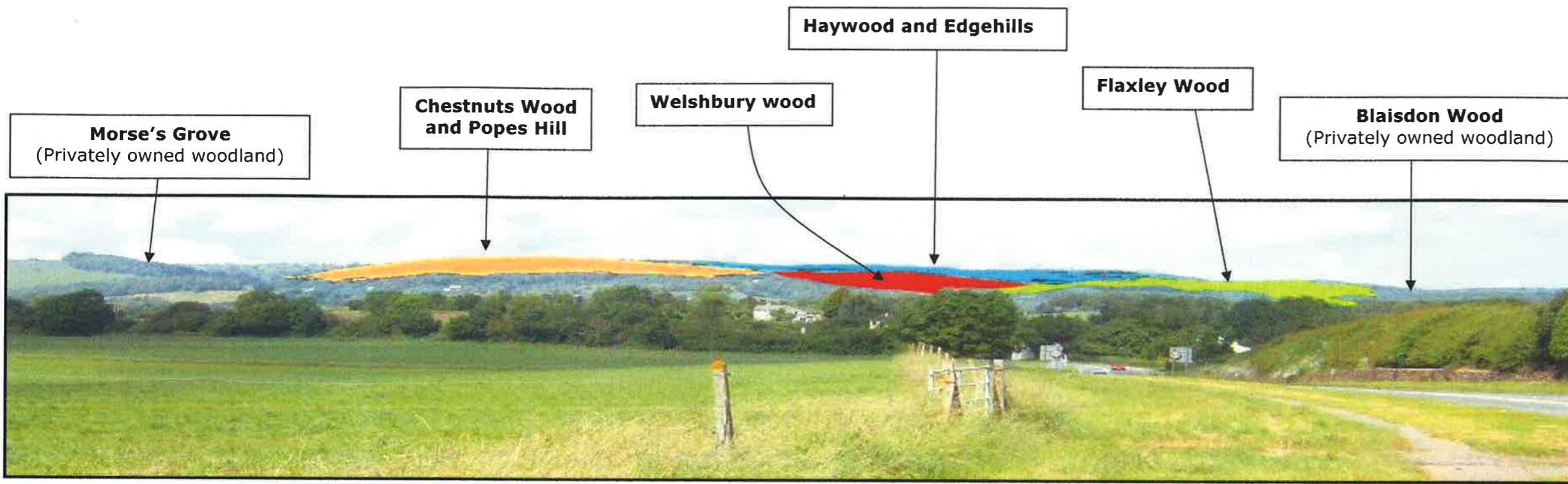
West England Forest District

Forest Plan

**Haywood and
Castiard Vale**

2014 – 2024

Landscape Assessment



The ridge is a strong feature from this view point and provides a well wooded appearance.

Over the next 40 years the northern end of Haywood ridge will be extensively modified through clearfelling, although the scale of these fellings are unlikely to impact on the landscape viewed at this distance.

Telecommunications masts at Edgehills are barely visible on the ridge behind Flaxley.

The eastern slopes of Flaxley will begin to be transformed through clearfelling, although unlikely to impact on the landscape viewed at this distance.

The clarity between conifer and broadleaf along the skyline at this distance is somewhat smudged and indistinct.

The Plan area dominates the ridge in the far distance.



View point 4 and 5: Views from Popes Hill

Forest Plan
Haywood and Castiard Vale
2014 - 2024
Landscape Assessment

Having been restored to native broadleaf during the previous plan period both the peripheral Oak and Sweet Chestnut planted in the 1800s along with the more recently planted oak of the 1940s within Chestnuts Wood are now facing the threat of Oak decline. Investigations are being carried out by Forest Research, a department of the Forestry Commission and future management of Chestnuts Wood will be guided by their advice.

Mill Wood
(Privately owned)

The cap of Edgehills and the telecommunications towers are just visible in the distance.

Welshbury forms a strong feature and will soften as reversion to broadleaf continues.

View 4



Conifer in **Welshbury Wood** will disappear over time as the wood is thinned and felled and returned to native broadleaf.

The internal wooded slopes and ridges of **Flaxley** are extremely visible from this view point, with the view from here softening over time as composition moves towards native woodland through a mixture of felling and thinning and replanting.

The eastern side of Flaxley known as **Mugglewort Wood** drops away steeply. Conifer that is just in sight will revert over time to native broadleaf and in the process unify the broadleaf fringe adjacent to the field edge with the broadleaf landscape behind that leads the eye to May Hill in the distance.

Clearfell planted in 2011 with native broadleaf.

Blaisdon Wood
(Privately owned)

Wood belonging to Flaxley Abbey

View 5
From Breezy Cottage

