Lydford Forest Plan

2023-2033

West England Forest District

Forestry England

Application for Forest Plan approval – Lydford Forest – Month TBC 2023

Forest District	West England Forest District
Woodland or property name	Lydford Forest, Burley Down, Langstone, Asheltor and Cole's Woods
Nearest town, village or locality	Lydford, Devon
OS Grid Reference	Centre of Lydford Forest: SX 4923 8419
Local Authority	Lydford Parish Council
Plan Area	236 hectares
Conifer felling up to 2033	8.76 hectares
Broadleaf felling up to 2033	Up to 4 hectares of broadleaf coppicing

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 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 the 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 …… Forestry England Forest Management Director Date ……

Signed …… Forestry Commission Area Director Date ……

Date of approval ……

Date approval ends ……

FSC www.fsc.org FSC® C123214 The mark of responsible forestry

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

PEFC PEFC/16-40-1001 Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.co.uk

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Forestry England Vision

Who we are.

Forestry England is England's largest land manager. Our purpose is to secure and grow the social, economic and natural capital value of the nation's forests. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

Our vision.

We believe the nation's forests can have an incredibly positive long-term effect on people's lives and England's biodiversity, and with a thriving green economy, we can impact our country's response to the climate emergency. Our vision is set out in our plan "Growing the future: 2021-2026": https://www.forestryengland.uk/growing-the-future:

Our vision for wildlife: The nation's forests provide the most valuable places for wildlife to thrive and expand in England.

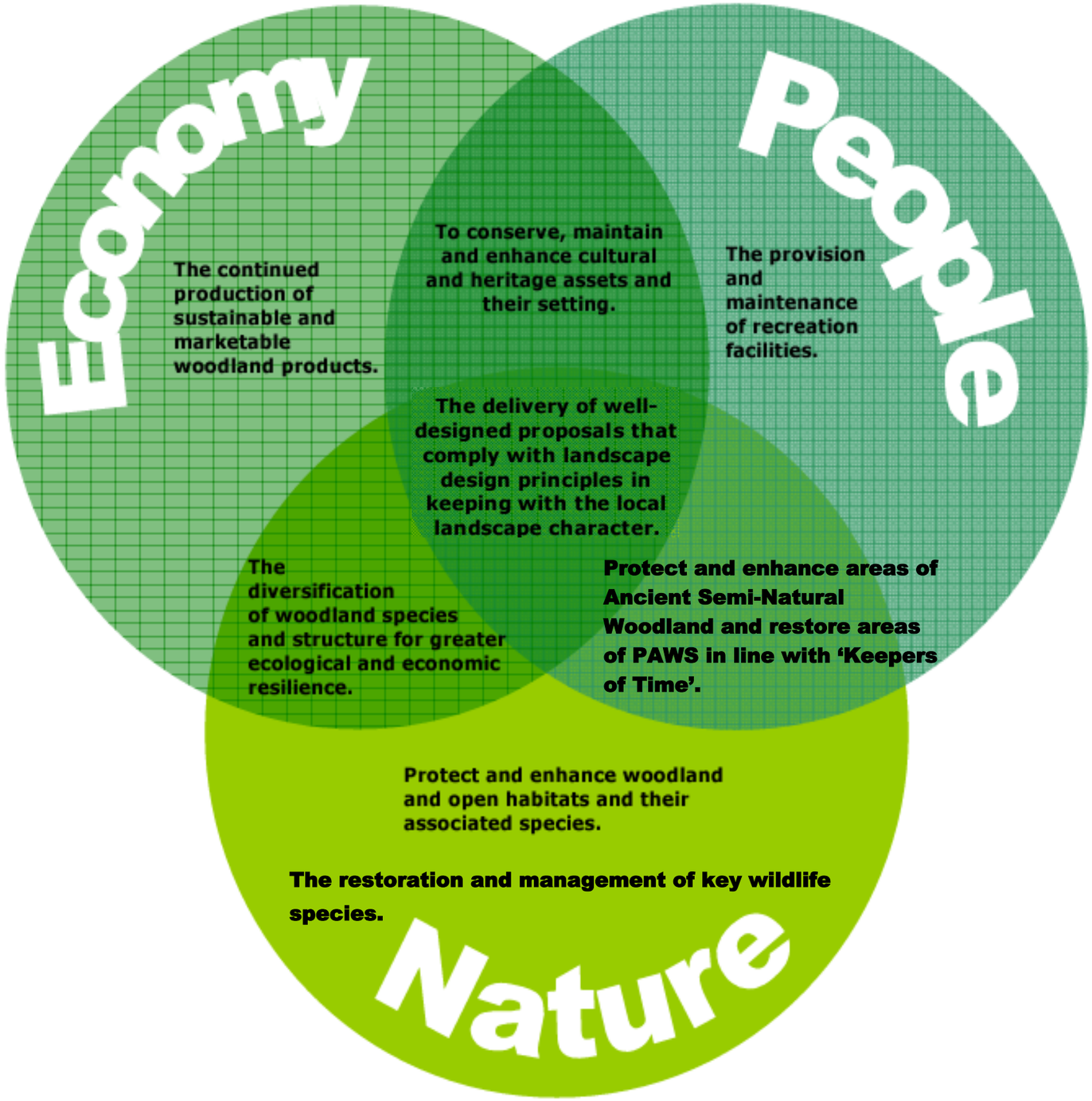
Our vision for people: The nation's forests are a living treasure for all, deeply connected to people's lives, improving the health and wellbeing of the nation.

Our vision for climate: The nation's forests are resilient to climate change, increasing their value for communities by producing high-quality, sustainable timber and absorbing carbon emissions.

The nation's forests will continue to contribute to the growing green economy, supplying renewable timber and forest products as sustainable alternatives.

The objectives of this plan reflect and help deliver this vision, ensuring the sustainable long-term management of the Lydford Forest block for future generations.

For more information about who we are and what we do, please visit: https://www.forestryengland.uk/we-are-for



Lydford Forest Plan Summary

About

The Lydford Forest plan area comprises 236ha of woodlands on the Western edge of Dartmoor, Devon, and includes the Burley Down and Brentor woodlands along with Lydford Forest. The public forest here has a fairly even split between conifer and broadleaf cover, the latter being a dominant feature of Lydford Forest and the Brentor Woods.

The Lydford woodlands are actively managed to provide timber for local and national businesses, and to improve the quality of the remaining tree crop. Lydford Forest is also recognised as a site of biodiversity importance, and as such is managed to benefit rare and threatened butterfly species including the pearl-bordered fritillary. Heritage value is also a key factor in the management of Lydford because of the three scheduled monuments within the public forest.

All the forest blocks are Open Access, confirmed by the Countryside Rights of Way Act. Lydford Forest is particularly popular with visitors, with its proximity to Lydford town, its car park and winding forest road through the woodland making it an easily accessible and inviting place to walk.

Objectives

The long-term aim of management at Lydford is to continue to produce timber while increasing resilience to climate, pest and disease risks, and improving the forest for people and nature.

The social, economic and environmental objectives of management here are:

- The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.
- To conserve, maintain and enhance cultural and heritage assets, their setting and the historical environment.
- The provision and maintenance of recreation facilities.
- The diversification of woodland species and structure for greater ecological and economic resilience.
- The delivery of well-designed proposals that comply with landscape principles in keeping with the local landscape character.
- To 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 restoration and management of key wildlife species.

Responding to climate change

To be resilient to future climate change and associated threats, including pests, diseases and extreme weather, increasing diversity at Lydford is essential. This includes tree species diversity, structural diversity and ecological diversity. Structural and ecological diversity will be increased through implementing a range of low-impact silvicultural systems such as coppicing and group selection systems alongside clearfelling in some areas, which will provide a range of microhabitats suitable for different species. Tree species diversity will be improved through the selection and planting of novel appropriate species where necessary, and through encouraging natural regeneration of native site-adapted species each time we manage a forest stand.

The current plan outlines management proposals including felling and restocking over several decades, with felling licence approval for operations up until 2033. The full list of actions to achieve the objectives above are detailed on pages 13-15, with each aim being key for the sustainable management of the Lydford Forest block according to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

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Location and Landscape Context

The Lydford Forest Plan area (also known as the Lydford block) comprises 236ha of conifer and broadleaf woodlands on the Western edge of Dartmoor, within the parishes of Lydford and Brentor. All of the woodlands lie within 6km of the town of Lydford and within 10km of the Dartmoor National Park boundary. The plan area is made up of 5 distinct woodlands grouped into 3 – Burley Down to the North, Lydford Forest and Brentor Woods (comprising Cole's, Langstone and Asheltor Woods) to the South. Every woodland in the block is freehold (open access).

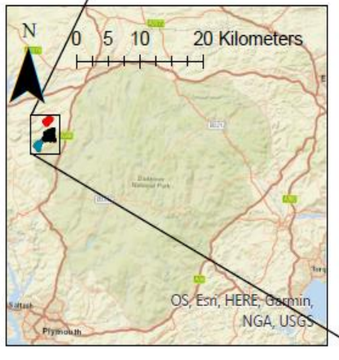
The plan area sits within a wider agricultural and moorland landscape, with most of the block sitting at 150-190m above sea level, ranging between 120-260m above sea level. The climate is warm and moist with around 1277mm rainfall per year.

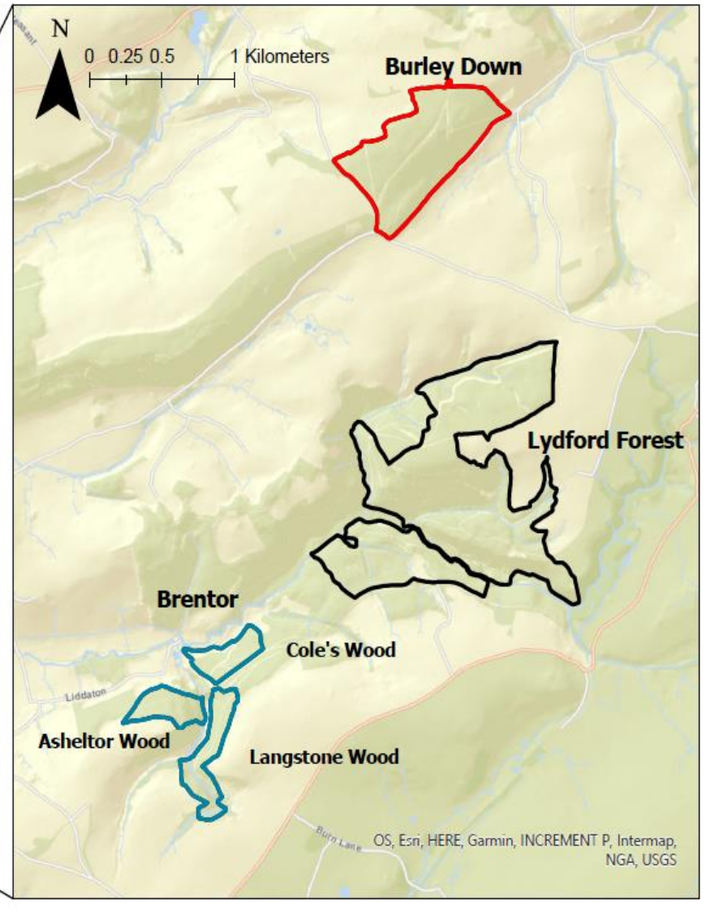
Lydford Forest Plan Area - 236 hectares

Burley Down – 54ha (23% of area)

Lydford Forest – 151ha (64% of area)

Brentor Woods - 31ha (13% of area)





The Lydford Forest Plan Area lies on the intersection of two National Character Areas (NCAs) and its proximity to a third, Dartmoor NCA, means that the following opportunities are relevant to the Lydford plan area.

- Support the introduction of sustainable traditional woodland management practices such as selective felling and coppicing.
- Maintain levels of important scrub habitat for the benefit of bird and rare butterfly species.
- Encourage access to and interpretation of cultural, natural and heritage assets.
- Carefully manage tree planting and land cover to maintain a sense of openness.

The Culm

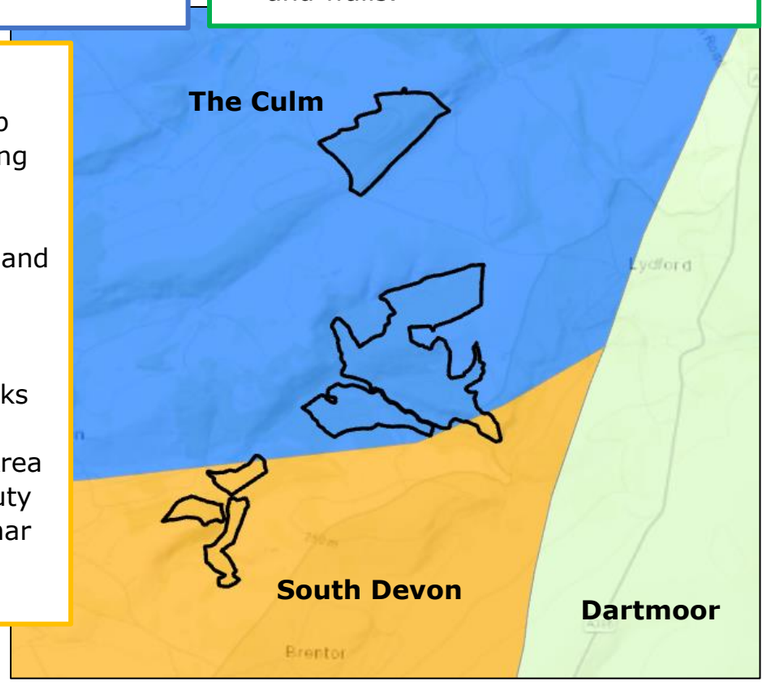
- Rolling ridges and plateaux extending across north-west Devon and north-east Cornwall.
- Open, often treeless ridges separated by an intricate pattern of small valleys forming the catchments of the Rivers Taw, Torridge and Mole.
- Largely remote and sparsely populated landscape.
- Heavy poorly draining soil.

Dartmoor

- Extensive upland moorland, peatland and heathland of international importance.
- Distinctive tors create key landscape features, interrupting otherwise unbroken skylines and ridges, and provide focal points for visitors.
- Isolated farmsteads and scattered villages utilise granite for buildings and walls.

South Devon

- A plateau dissected by steep valleys and rivers, most rising on the adjoining Dartmoor NCA.
- Wooded valleys are remote and hard to access.
- Most of the area consists of mixed farming, with fields flanked by Devon hedgebanks and narrow winding lanes.
- Includes the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and part of the Tamar Valley AONB.



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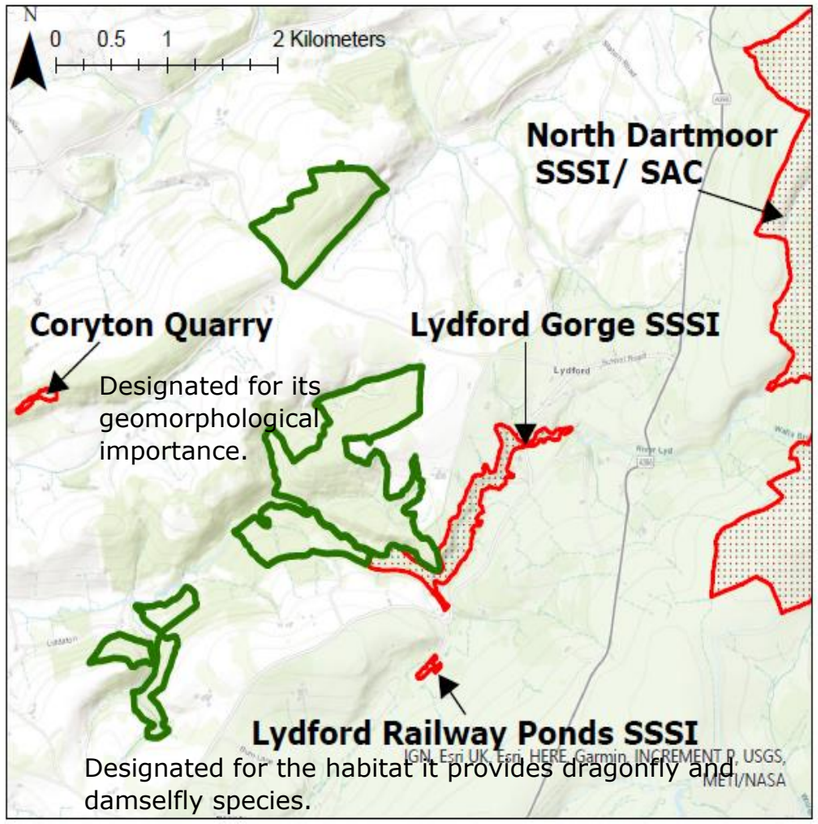
Ecology and Conservation

Designated Sites

The landscape surrounding the Lydford Forest block contains a range of nationally designated sites for ecology, overseen by Natural England. Of note is Lydford Gorge SSSI, which directly borders the stretch of the river Lyd to the south of the Lydford Forest.



Lydford Gorge (SSSI): Lydford Forest directly borders Lydford Gorge SSSI. This area is designated because of its unique geological features and habitats that support a wide diversity of species, including rare bryophytes and mosses and a range of bird and plant species associated with ancient oak woodland. It is the deepest river gorge in the southwest and includes a 30m waterfall.

North Dartmoor SAC: Designated for its extensive areas of wet and dry heath and blanket bog habitats and its nationally rare old sessile oak woodland.

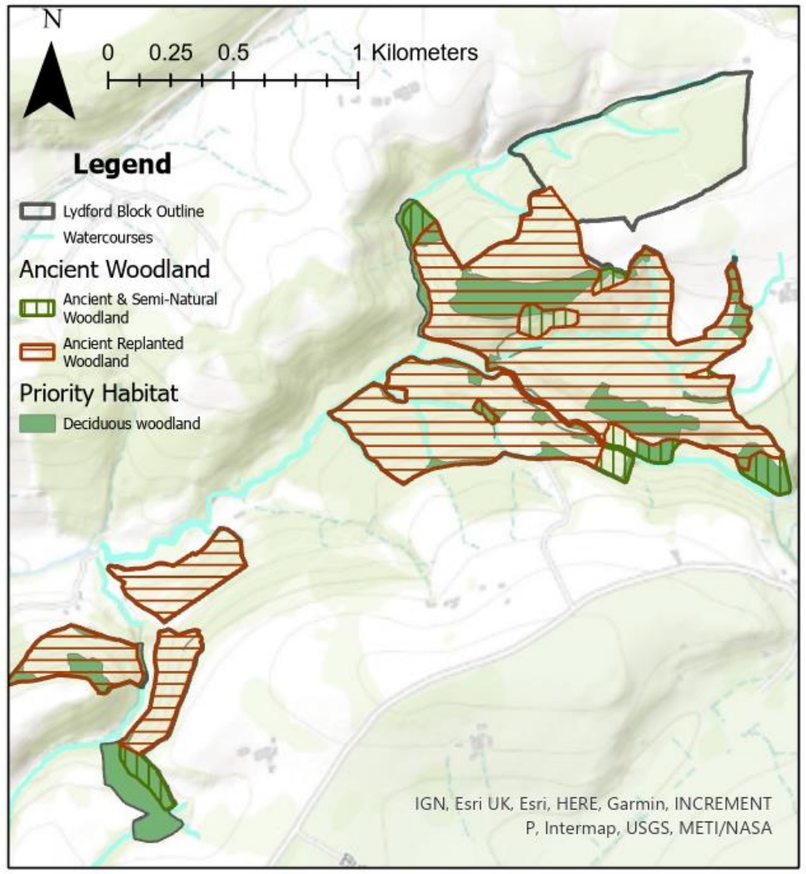
North Dartmoor SSSI: Covers 13,561ha (the same area as the SAC) and contains one of the largest areas of upland semi-natural habitat in southern Britain.

Figure 1: View of Dartmoor SSSI/SAC from Burley Down

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodland is any area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600AD. It comprises **ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)**, which is made up of native species that have naturally regenerated, and **plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)**, which are planted woods with either conifers or broadleaves but retain ancient woodland features.

139ha (59% of the total area) of Lydford Forest block is considered ancient woodland, 12ha (5%) of which is ASNW and 127ha (54%) of which is PAWS. Burley Down has no ancient woodland present so is not included in the map on the right. Most of the ancient woodland in Lydford is under irregular shelterwood systems, which has involved thinning to favour broadleaf components where they exist in PAWS. Restocking on ancient woodland since the start of the previous Forest Plan has been exclusively with broadleaves, either through planting or natural regeneration, and species such as oak, ash and silver birch dominate across these areas.



Priority Habitat

There are several areas of priority deciduous woodland habitat across Lydford Forest and Brentor Woods as shown in the map above. These areas are also considered ancient woodland and are dominated by broadleaves that have either been planted or have naturally regenerated after clearfelling.

Priority habitats are those which are considered priorities for conservation action in UK policy. It is therefore an objective of this plan to ensure that broadleaf cover remains the dominant feature of these areas and across the ancient woodland at Lydford, and that invasive species and conifer intrusion is managed appropriately.

Conservation Features

The Lydford Forest block has a range of features valuable to biodiversity - Lydford Forest and the Brentor woods have high amounts of ancient woodland and are home to numerous species that frequent the site, including bats, butterflies, otters, birds of prey and dormice. Lydford Forest is of particular importance for rare butterfly (Lepidoptera) species such as the pearl-bordered fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary and the heath fritillary, and work with Butterfly Conservation to create open space, better connectivity between open areas and structural diversity through coppicing has aimed to improve numbers.

Open Space

The previous plan for Lydford focused predominantly on restocking areas previously felled (66ha in total) due to the tree disease *Phytophthora ramorum*. As such, the amount of open space provided by the block has fluctuated throughout the last 10 years as areas have been felled and subsequently restocked. Open space creation and maintenance is key at Lydford as there is a good opportunity to maintain, connect and expand open areas through Lydford Forest for biodiversity benefit.

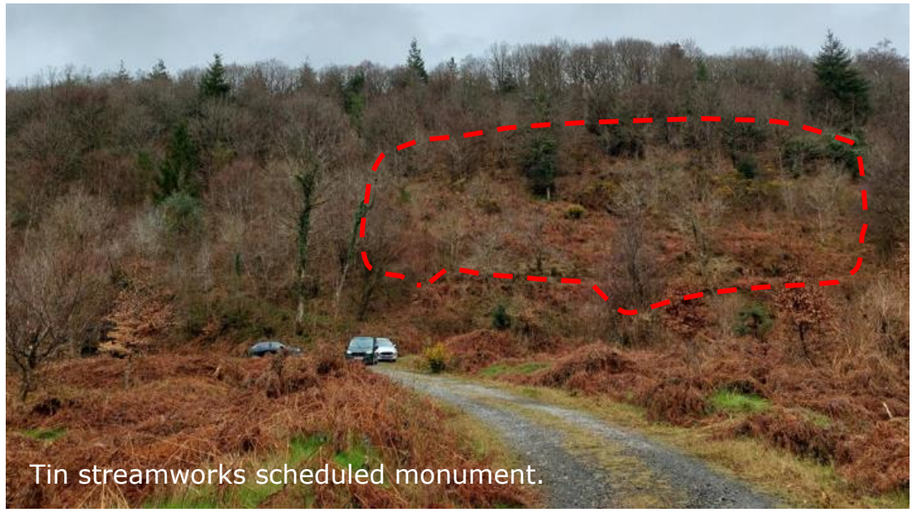
Connectivity

Connecting open spaces through habitat corridors, roads and rides is just as important as maintaining areas of open space as it facilitates travel between areas and improves structural diversity of vegetation. For example, roadsides through Lydford Forest are currently managed with alternate mowing, which involves mowing along short sections of the road in different years to create a patchwork of vegetation ages and heights. This is of particular benefit to butterflies who require different vegetation types through the various stages of their life cycle.

Large patches of open space have been created since restocking this area with broadleaves.

Coppicing and butterflies

Recent work to coppice and create transitory open space across the broadleaved stands in Lydford Forest has been undertaken (outlined in red) along the forest road adjacent to the river and scheduled monument. The wooded area to the left of the red line has not been coppiced, but further coppicing along this hillside would allow greater connectivity between the open areas at the bottom and top of the slope. Coppicing is also beneficial to dormice as it improves habitat structural diversity and food provision.



Tin streamworks scheduled monument.

Natural Reserve

A natural reserve is an area that is managed with minimal intervention for the benefit of species that do well with low disturbance. The natural reserve at Langstone Wood (Brentor) presents good potential habitat for bat roosting with high levels of deadwood, mature trees with distinctive features and mines throughout the area.

Watercourse and pond management

Lydford Forest contains one pond and many small and larger watercourses. Rivers and streams here are managed by maintaining dappled shade, riverside trees and woody debris, all of which is beneficial for the otter populations which use the river as corridors and for foraging. The river is also an important area for spawning salmonids, so maintaining riparian vegetation is important here. Mature trees and root plates directly next to the river and piles of rocks are maintained as potential otter holts.

Mine entrance at the natural reserve in Langstone Wood. Numerous mines can be found throughout the natural reserve area.

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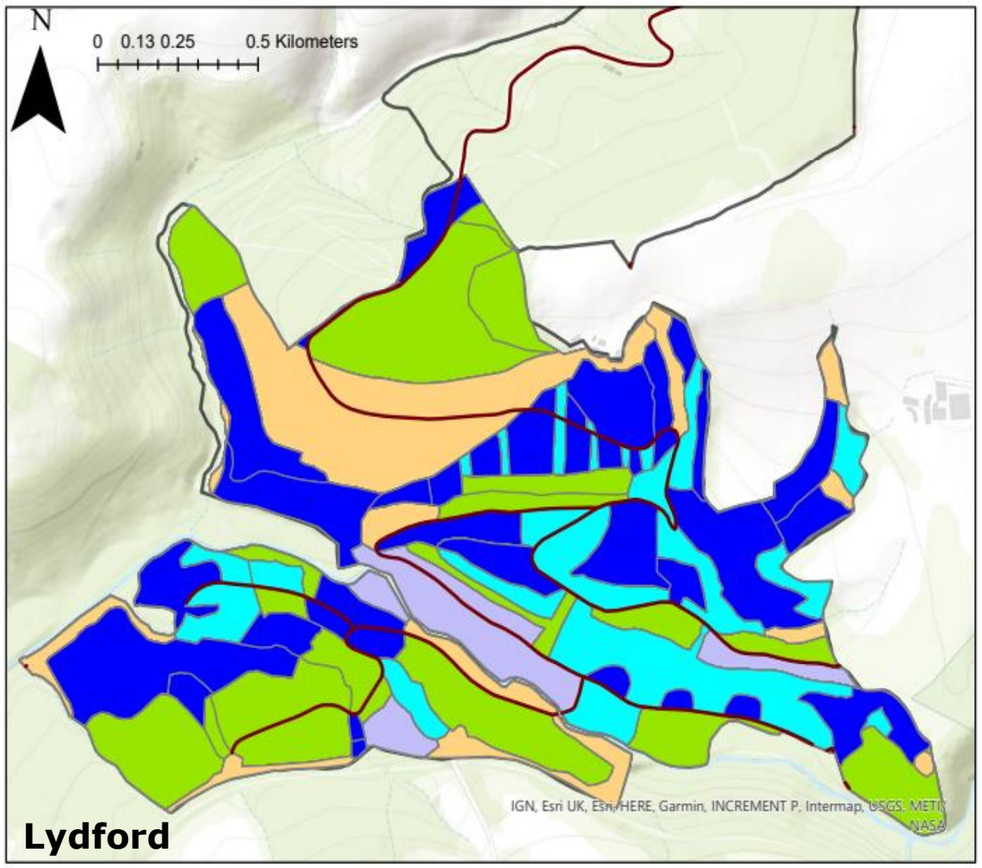
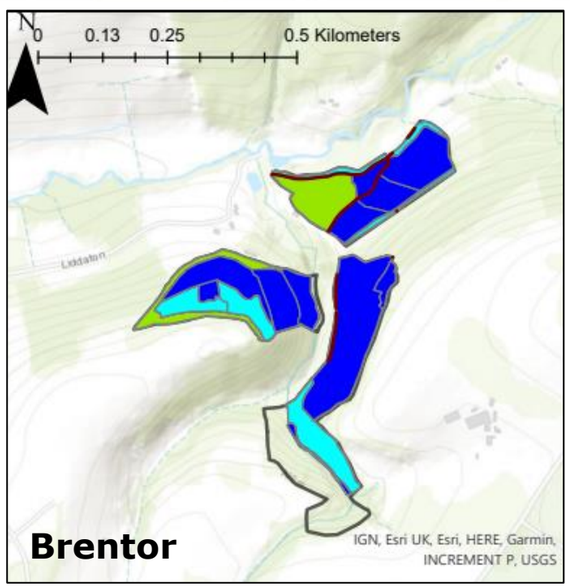
Naturalness on ancient woodland





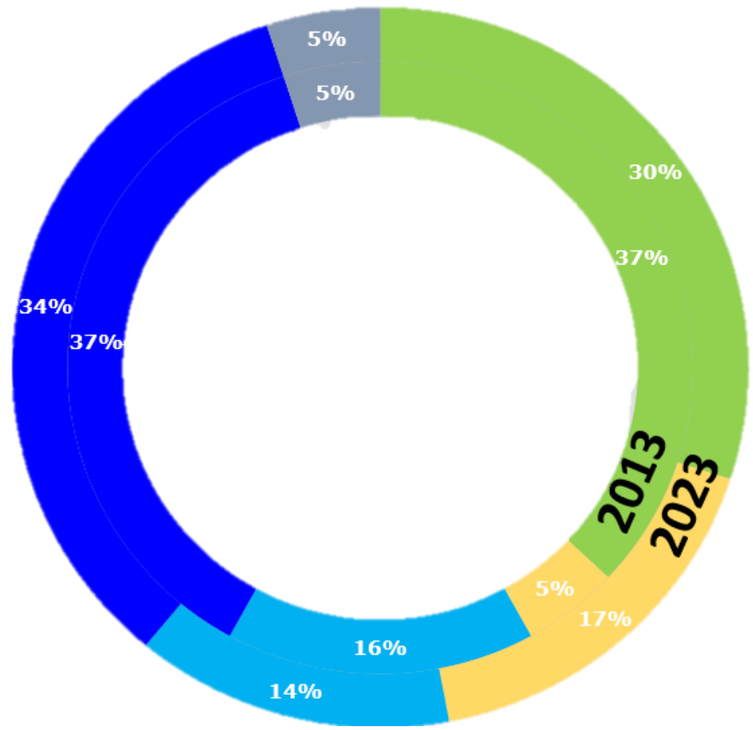
Naturalness and PAWS restoration

Naturalness scores show the percentage of site native tree species in an area. This measure is used to monitor the condition of ancient woodland and measure progress towards restoring PAWS to native broadleaf cover. Beech, sycamore, sweet chestnut and felled areas contribute to a higher non-native score.

Classes 2, 3 and 4 are classified as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). Whilst transformation of Classes 2, 3 and 4 towards Class 1 is an objective of this Plan, this is a long-term goal as restoration will predominantly take place through thinning over time rather than clearfelling and replanting with broadleaves.

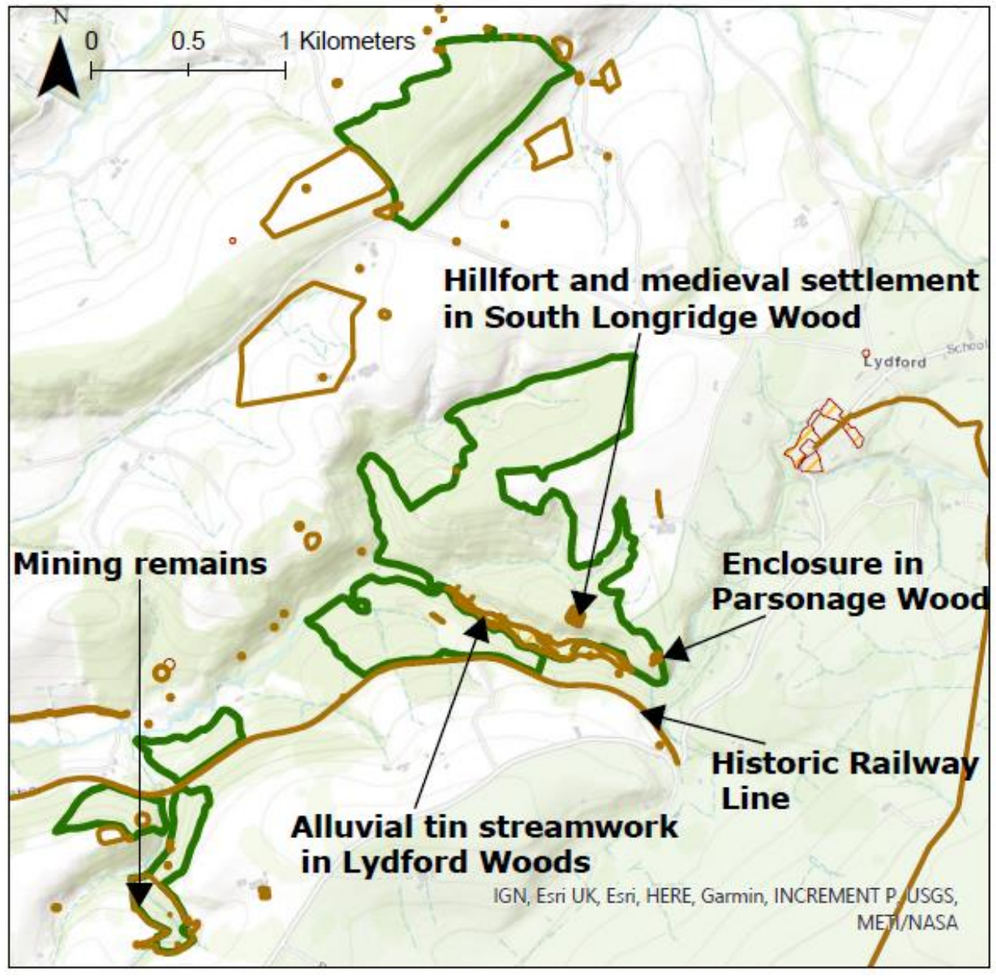
The pie chart shows the naturalness scores across the ancient woodland area at Lydford. The data show that since 2013, the amount of area in the highest naturalness category has reduced by 7%, and that the area in SN 2 and 3 has increased. This reduction in naturalness in some areas is likely due to beech regeneration on broadleaf sites, as beech is not considered a native species in the southwest. When this plan is reviewed in 5 years' time, an analysis will be undertaken to look at whether naturalness has improved across the site after the actions proposed on pages 13-15 have taken place.

- SN 1: 80% or more native broadleaves
- SN 2: 50-80% native species
- SN 3:20-50% native species
- SN 4: Under 20% native species
- No Species



Historical Features

Heritage features are an important management consideration for Lydford Forest, which contains three scheduled monuments. Open space is maintained at each of these sites in line with the Scheduled Monument Management Plan for the forest (Appendix 2). Heritage features, including unscheduled features, are highlighted on maps prior to operations so that they can be avoided by machinery.



Tin streamwork (SM): An alluvial tin streamwork situated at the foot of a steep sided valley formed by the river Lyd, at the Southern end of Lydford Forest. The streamwork contains a range of well-preserved earthworks which suggest multi-phase exploitation of the tin deposits.

Enclosure (SM): An enclosure, interpreted as a later prehistoric hilltop enclosure, situated on a steep hill overlooking the valley of the river Lyd. Enclosures such as this are generally thought to have been for containing stock or storing agricultural produce. This scheduled monument is of national importance, with only 25-30 hilltop enclosures recorded in England.

Hillfort (SM): An Iron Age univallate (single walled) hillfort with internal medieval structures. It is situated on the top of a steep slope overlooking the valley of the river Lyd to the south and a further steep valley to the north. The hillfort survives as a rectangular enclosure defined by a rampart and outer ditch, with medieval structures within which attest to subsequent reuse. It is important for understanding the Bronze/Iron Age occupation of Dartmoor.

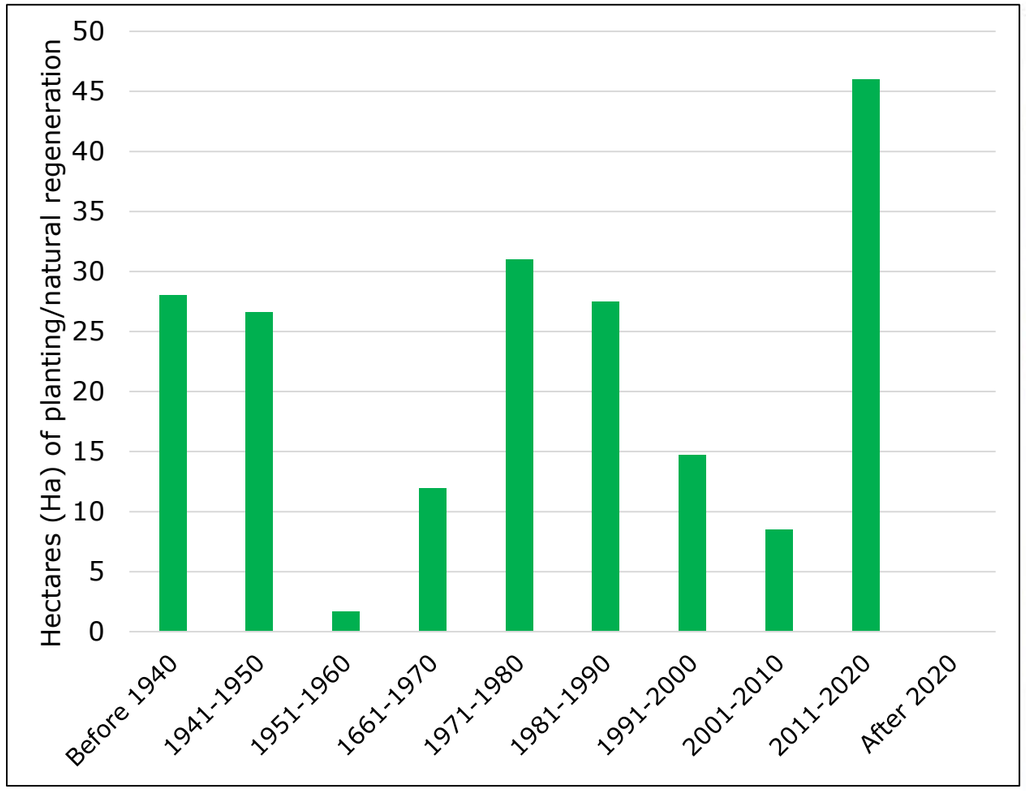

Alluvial tin streamworks (Lydford Forest)


Enclosure, Parsonage Wood (Lydford Forest)


Hillfort, South Longridge Wood (Lydford Forest)

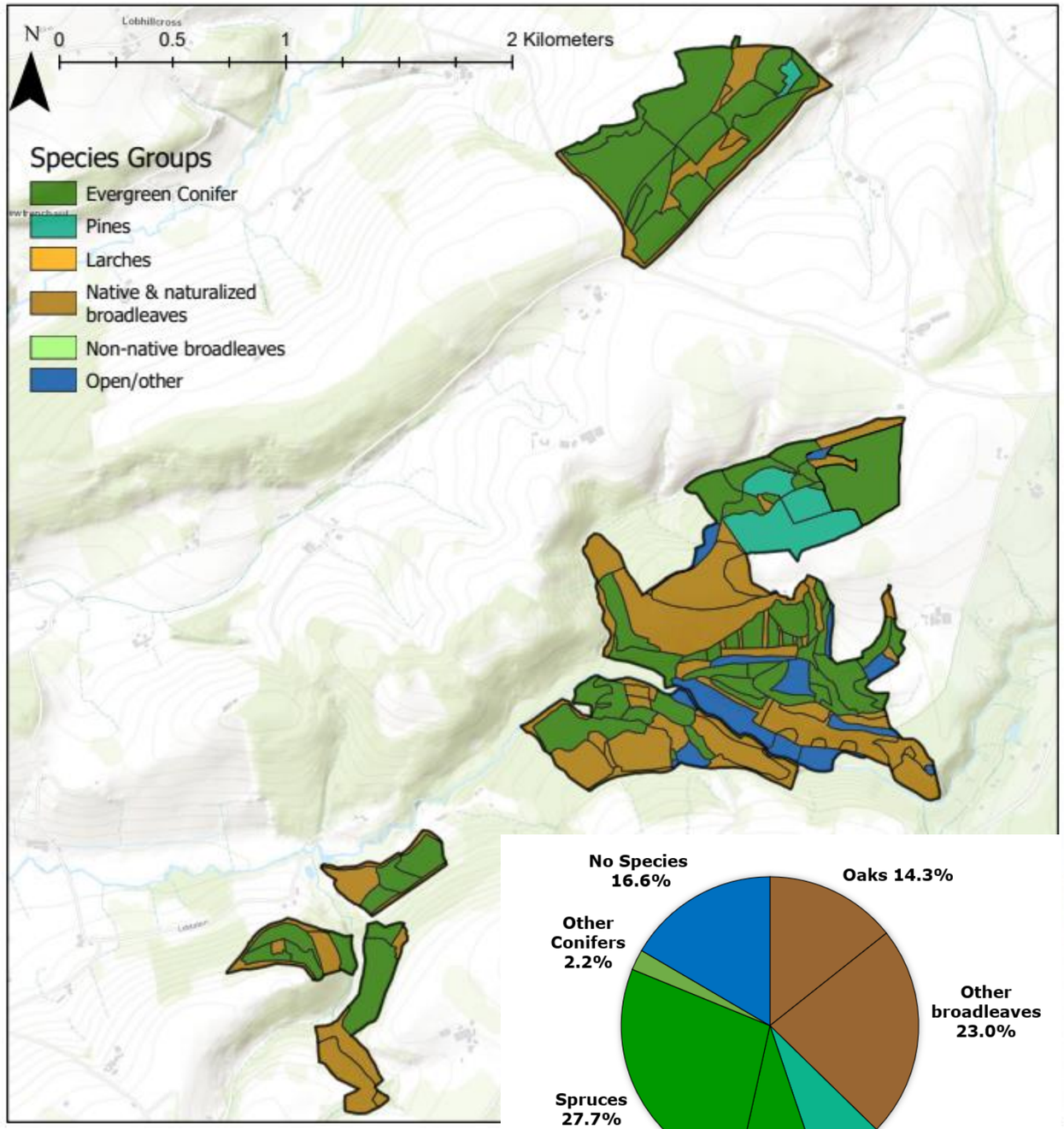
Alongside these scheduled monuments are numerous unscheduled heritage features. These include mining remains covering the southern half of Langstone Wood and a historic railway line running along the southern end of Lydford Forest and through the Brentor woods. Though these are not designated, they still give important historical context to the local area.

Current tree species and age composition



This chart represents the different age classes of trees growing across the Lydford block. Most planting has occurred from 2011 onwards, with the widespread restocking of over 66 hectares of diseased larch which was felled due to the disease *Phytophthora ramorum*. There is also a significant amount of planting from 1970-1990, meaning a lot of Lydford Forest is covered in mature broadleaf and conifer trees 50-70 years old.

Most of the planting at Burley Down occurred from 1970 onwards, with the large Sitka spruce stands north of the forest road planted within the same two years. The pie chart on the right shows that although Sitka spruce is still dominant across the forest block, oaks and other broadleaves together represent almost 40% of woodland cover. A significant portion of the block remains unplanted, which includes felled land but also the car park, archaeological sites cleared of vegetation and open water.



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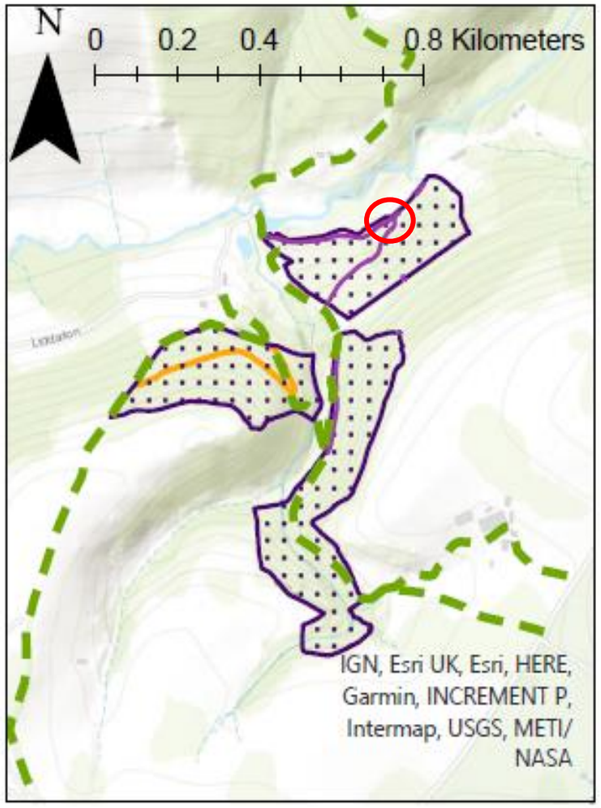
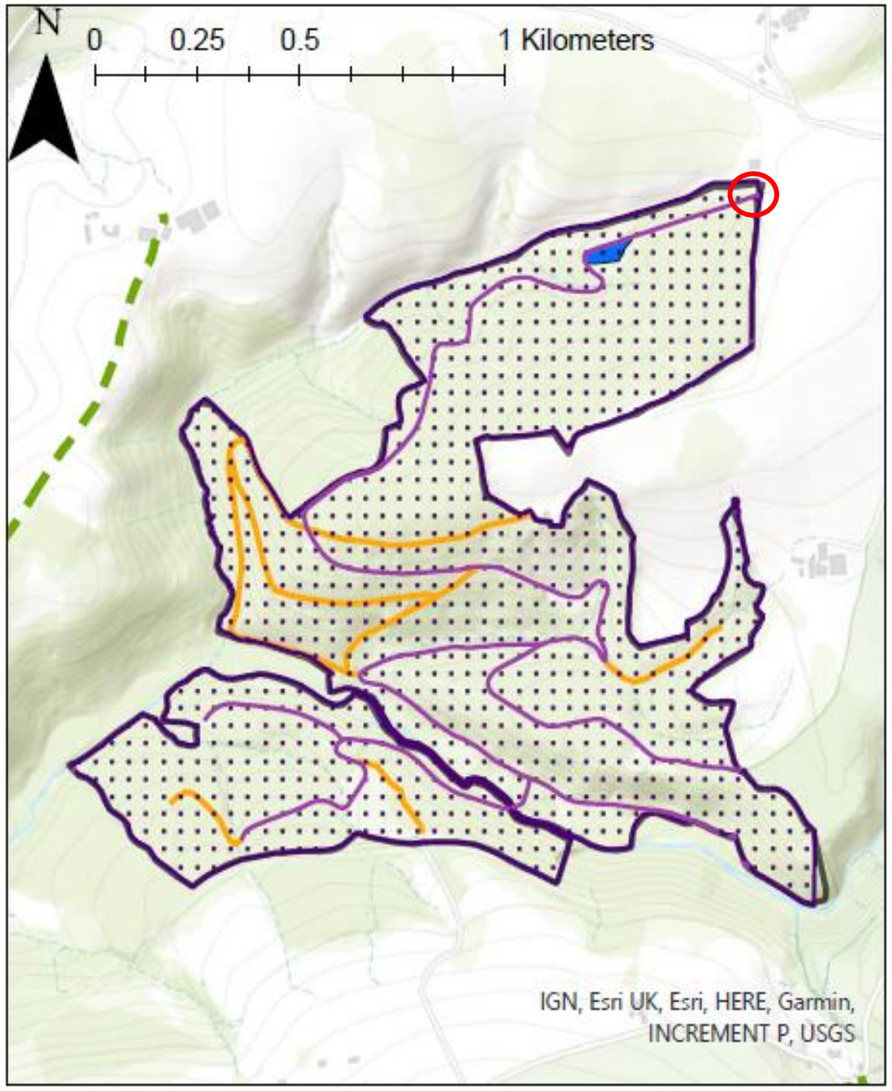
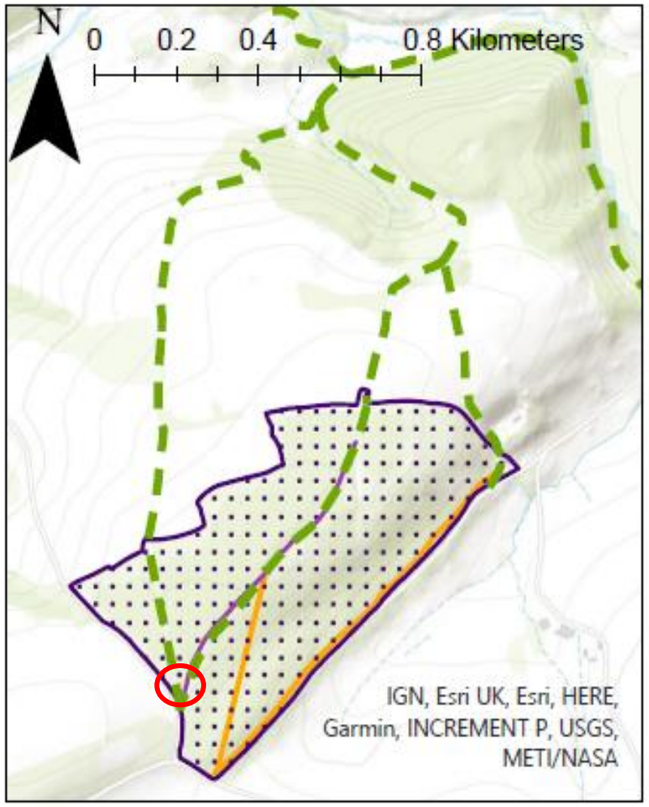
Recreation and Access







Legend

- Public Rights of Way
- Forest Road
- CRoW Designated Land
- Car Park
- Forest Ride
- Lydford block boundary
- Main Entrance

All the woodlands in the Lydford plan area are open access. There is one formally maintained car park at Lydford Forest, which receives a small number of visitors throughout the year. Although there are no public rights of way through Lydford Forest, the network of roads and rides within are well maintained and accessible.

Burley Down is predominantly used by local people for walking. The woodland is easily accessed via the gate (circled), outside which cars are often parked. The woodland is small and the central forest road relatively flat and accessible.

The Brentor woodlands are used frequently by the local community but are harder to access, and access to two of the woodlands (Langstone and Asheltor Woods) is only by foot. Both forest blocks are part of the public rights of way network that surrounds Lydford.

Planning for the future

The Brentor woodlands and the majority of Lydford Forest are considered ancient woodland (page 4). One of the long-term goals therefore is to remove most of the non-native conifers in these areas. This will be done gradually across Lydford block predominantly through managing irregular shelterwood systems, which involve selectively thinning out (removing) conifers to allow for broadleaf crops to either be planted underneath or naturally regenerate in the space that is created. This technique has been used across Lydford to encourage species diversity as it is a site that regenerates freely with broadleaf species.

Where conifers are not on ancient woodland, clearfelling will occur as the stand reaches economic maturity. This is the case over most of Burley Down and the Northern section of Lydford Forest (page 16).

To be resilient to future changes in climate and threats from pests and diseases, the Lydford woodlands need to be diverse – in terms of species, structure and ecology. Structural diversity will be increased through variations in thinning regimes and patterns, and through coppicing with standards in some areas, clearfelling and managing different types of shelterwoods. Other stands of trees will be retained for the long term because of their biodiversity and aesthetic value.

We will increase species diversity using a portfolio of restock methods. These include allowing some areas to regenerate naturally and planting others with a mixture of species. Sourcing seed from more southerly locations will be appropriate in some cases, to improve the trees' chances of survival in a warmer climate and, where appropriate, using small numbers of experimental non-native species (within PAWS restoration guidelines).

This section of the plan will explain the management objectives, felling plan and other actions that will be taken in the next 10 years and beyond, thinking long term to ensure that the woodlands in this plan area remain healthy and sustainable into the future.

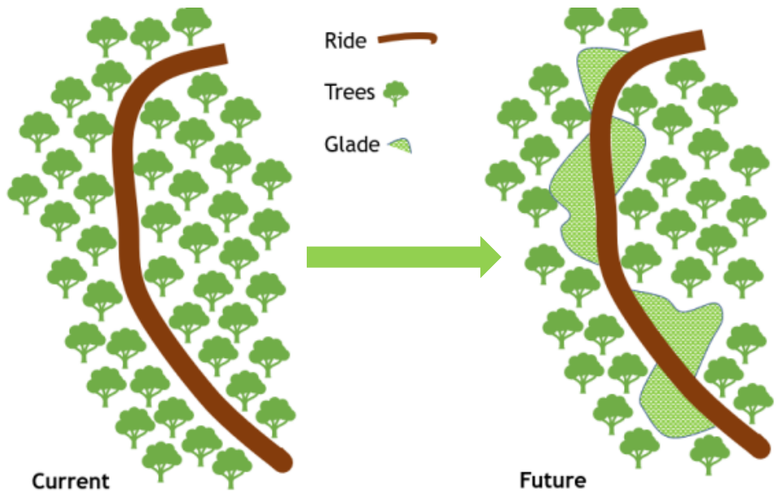
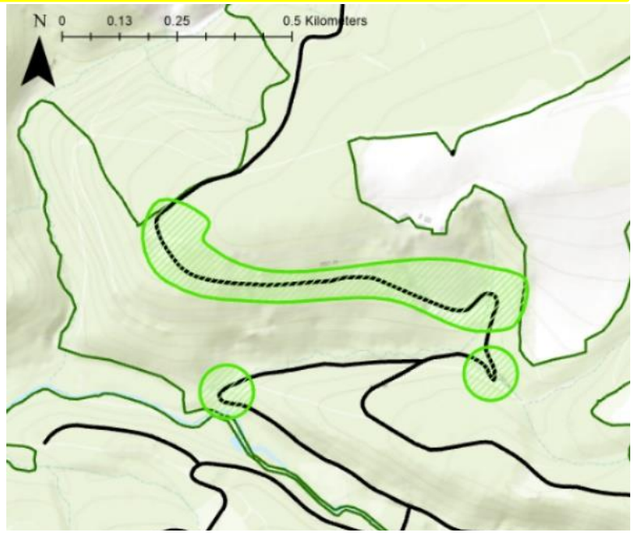


Illustration showing how trees will be removed from roadsides to widen them and allow shrubby vegetation to grow in the glades, increasing structural diversity of the roadsides.

Projects we will undertake during the Forest Plan period include:

- Coppicing – a key aim of this plan is to start and maintain a coppicing rotation across key areas of the woodland.
- PAWS restoration - gradual removal of conifers from both woods to restore areas of native woodland.
- Roadside management – Roadsides will be managed through widening by removing adjacent crops. This will create small glades and transitional open spaces with varied vegetation for the benefit of species which use this habitat.
- Open space – Open space will be created through the block through coppicing and roadside widening, as well as through maintaining open space across the three scheduled areas in Lydford Forest.

These projects, our objectives and how we will meet these objectives are explained in the following pages.



The area of Lydford Forest highlighted in green along the black road will be the focus of roadside widening, which will take place in line with when the forest is being felled and thinned.

Analysis and Concept – Burley Down and Brentor Woods

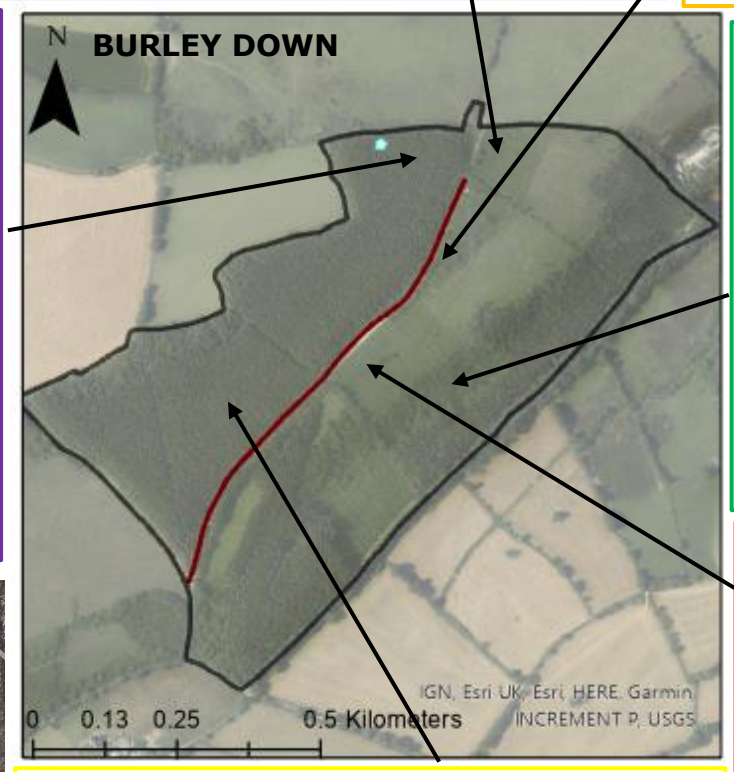
Analysis: Burley Down naturally contains elements of heathland habitat including heather and gorse. The previous Forest Plan aimed to maintain open space in Burley Down to recover and connect heathland features, however this was not undertaken during the plan period and the open area has since grown broadleaves. There are minimal heathland features to connect within and outside of the forest boundary.
Concept: Compensatory open space will be created in Lydford Forest through coppicing and roadside management, where it will serve a greater function for improving connectivity and diversity and generally be more ecologically beneficial. The area of broadleaf habitat which has developed at Burley Down will be maintained.

Analysis: Burley Down is an easily accessible woodland with a wide forest road bisecting it through the middle.

Concept: Access will be maintained and ride-side widening undertaken where possible. Access is important here as Burley Down will continue to be important for timber production and will be regularly worked to extract timber.

Analysis: Burley Down is much more exposed than the rest of the block due to its hilltop location. This makes crops vulnerable to wind damage.

Concept: The forest will continue to be carefully managed to minimise damage to crops due to windblow. This includes altering thinning regimes and maintaining the broadleaf roadside edges to act as buffers to the crop.



Analysis: Burley Down is a conifer dominated woodland. However, areas of mixed broadleaves add structural and species diversity in some areas.

Concept: Broadleaf areas will continue to develop with patches of temporary open space and will be managed regularly thinned to improve structural diversity and habitat quality, as well as timber quality.

Much of Burley Down looks like this, a mature dense Sitka spruce stand.

Analysis: Burley Down is dominated by productive commercial timber, primarily Sitka spruce, and is an important source of sustainable timber in Devon.

Concept: Conifer crops will be surveyed and thinned every 5 years to maintain timber quality and production over the lifetime of the trees.

Analysis: Old beech banks can be found lining the road through the woodland and across the Western edge of the forest. These banks act as buffers to the conifer crops and add structural and aesthetic diversity to the woodland.

Concept: Beech banks will be carefully avoided during operations to preserve their structural and aesthetic value.

Analysis: Recent planting of oak, as well as naturally regenerating broadleaves like hazel and silver birch, have increased the species and structural diversity of the Brentor Woods and moved it towards PAWS restoration.

Concept: Maintaining and improving broadleaf cover will continue to be a priority for PAWS restoration and to improve habitat provision for wildlife.

Analysis: All three woodlands are considered ancient woodland (PAWS or ASNW).

Concept: Heavy thinning and favouring broadleaf components at each intervention is key to achieving the long-term aim of restoring native broadleaf species to areas currently planted with conifers.

Analysis: Vehicular access from a road to the north of Cole's Wood. Access here is difficult due to the surrounding narrow road network, and access through Langstone Woods is by foot only.

Concept: Because machine access is difficult in parts of Brentor, thinning contracts will be carefully managed to minimise damage to soils and flora. Where access by machine is not possible, areas will be managed with minimum intervention or through hand felling.

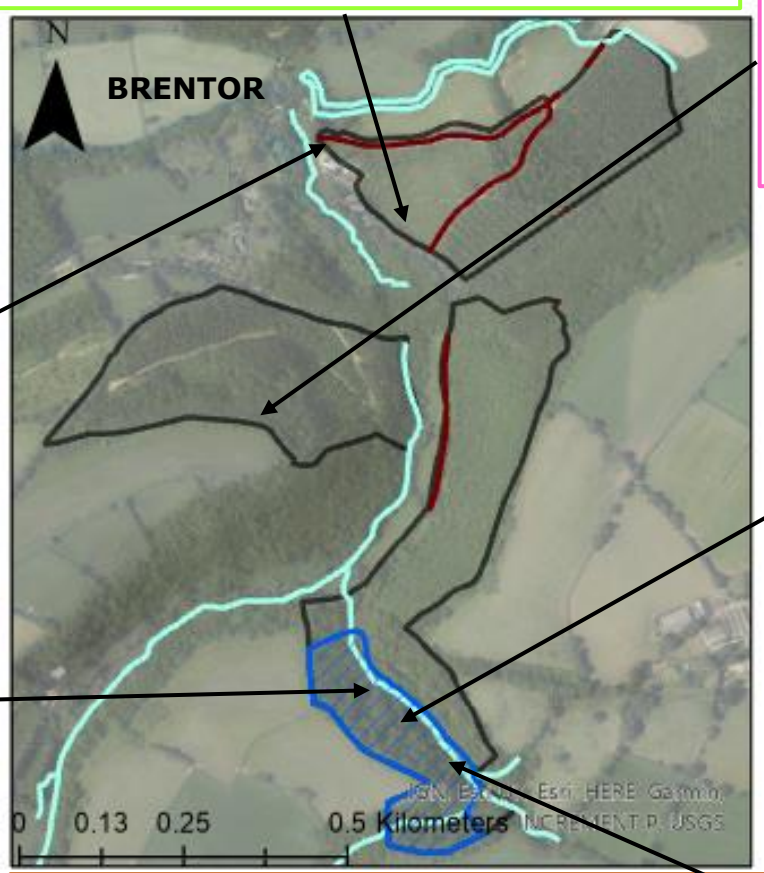


Photo of the Natural Reserve area. A beech-dominated steep-sided valley with lots of deadwood and features for bat habitat.

Analysis: Natural Reserve with a large amount of historic mine workings. This area is on very steep ground leading down to the watercourse.

Concept: Maintain as a minimum-intervention natural reserve. Natural reserves are maintained to biological maturity to promote wildlife potential at an undisturbed site.

Analysis: A watercourse runs through the centre of the woods where it cuts a steep-sided valley through Langstone Wood.

Concept: The river valley sides will continue to be managed as minimum intervention, to maintain dappled shade and broadleaf cover.

Analysis and Concept – Lydford Forest

Analysis: Most of the forest is managed under low-impact silvicultural systems (LISS) such as irregular shelterwood, with operations focused on maintaining woodland cover rather than clearfelling and restocking. This is because a large proportion of Lydford Forest (and Brentor) is ancient woodland.

Concept: LISS management will continue across the forest with a particular focus on developing future crops in the understorey and improving broadleaf cover as part of PAWS restoration. Some areas are more appropriate for LISS management than others – LISS will be considered where it is suited to site conditions.

Analysis: Lydford Forest is a quietly popular location with easy access from the nearby town of Lydford. A car park is situated at the north of the woodland and a well-maintained road runs through the entire forest.

Concept: Current levels of recreational use will be maintained, and the roads and car park kept in good condition.

Analysis: The north-eastern section of Lydford has experienced windblow damage multiple times, most recently in 2019-20 which led to a large area being felled.

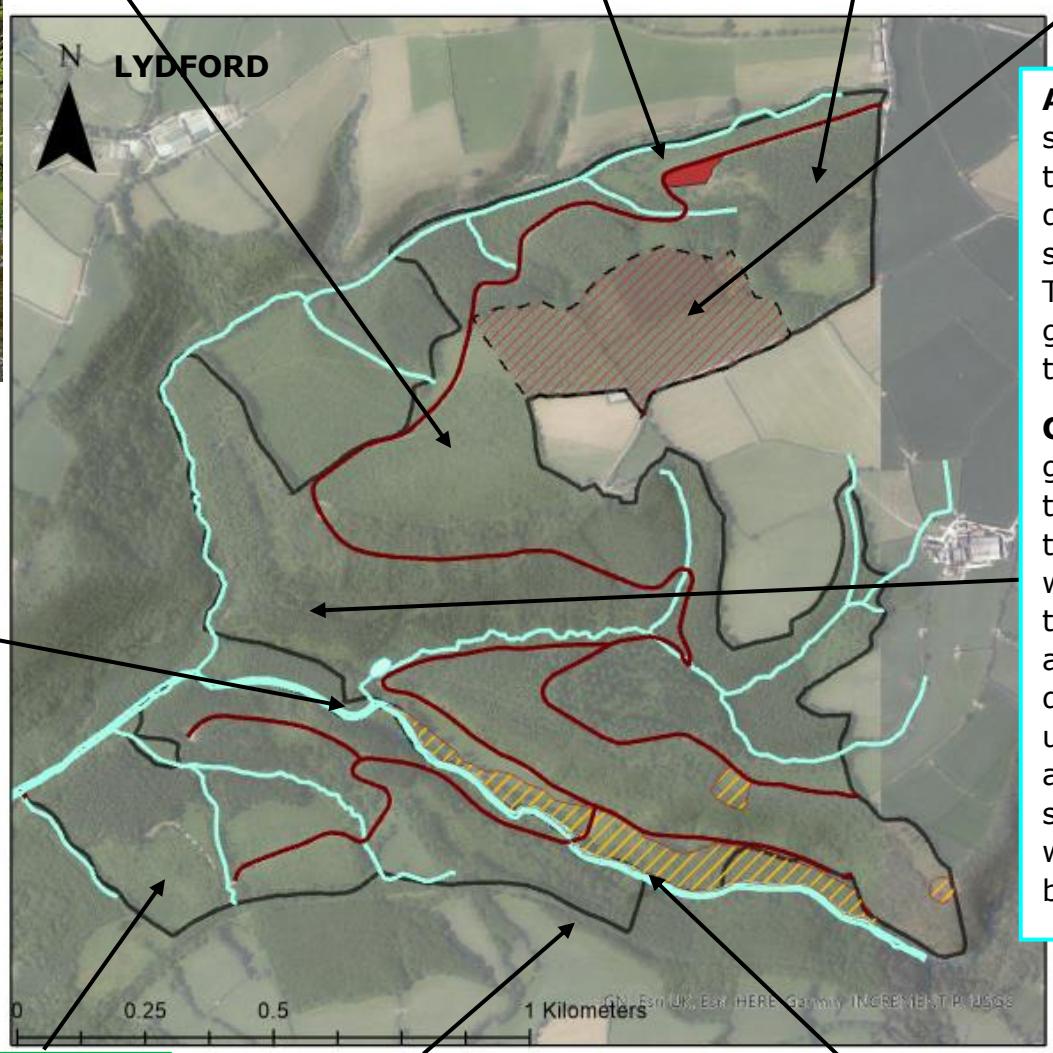
Concept: The area surrounding the car park was restocked in 2023 with a mixture of conifer species. This will improve the species diversity of the woodland and increase resilience to future pests and diseases. The crop will be managed to mitigate the impacts of windblow as much as possible through regular thinning.

Analysis: A portion of Lydford Forest is managed by Plant and Seed Supply. This area includes two Scots pine seed stands and a Lodgepole pine stand.

Concept: The Scots pine seed stands will be permanently maintained and managed by colleagues in Plant and Seed Supply. The Lodgepole pine stand will be felled within the plan period and restocked with an appropriate conifer species or species mix.

Analysis: The river Lyd runs through Lydford Forest, cutting through the woodland to the south. The river is wide and fairly shallow through the majority of its course through Lydford Forest and is home to otters.

Concept: Riversides will continue to be managed to maintain dappled shade along the watercourse. Riparian trees will be kept to minimise damage to soils and otter habitat.



Analysis: A prominent south-facing slope of the woodland is beech-dominated and densely shaded in many areas. This is preventing the growth of younger trees underneath.

Concept: Beech will gradually be removed through heavy thinning to open areas of the woodland, creating transitory open space and allowing the development of an understorey. This will also create better open space connections on warmer slopes for butterflies.

Analysis: Areas of open space within the crop have been developing due to a low stocking density of broadleaf crops and regular mowing. Broadleaves regenerate very well across Lydford and are an important component of the woodland for promoting diversity and resilience.

Concept: Maintain this area as a mixture of open space with patches of broadleaves to continue to manage as a series of small deer glades. Connect to the wider open space network through creating transitory areas of open space during thinning. Opportunities to establish a grazing scheme will be explored during the plan period, to expand the mosaic of open and wooded habitat conditions across this southern-most section of Lydford Forest and to help maintain open space across scheduled areas.

Analysis: Lydford is a site of importance for butterfly species including the pearl bordered fritillary. Work with Butterfly Conservation has created areas of permanent and transient open space to improve their habitat.

Concept: Regular coppicing on a 10–15-year cycle in large areas of the woodland and along roadsides will improve structural diversity and improve open space provision across the site. Sections of East to West roads will be opened up by removing the adjacent crops to create glades and temporary open space.

Analysis: Lydford Forest contains three scheduled areas.

Concept: Restore and maintain heritage assets according to their Scheduled Monument Plans, by managing bracken growth across the area. Keeping scheduled areas clear of trees will also benefit butterfly habitat and improve connectivity between open areas.

Beech-dominated area with small patches of regenerating broadleaves where it is more open.

Our objectives and actions

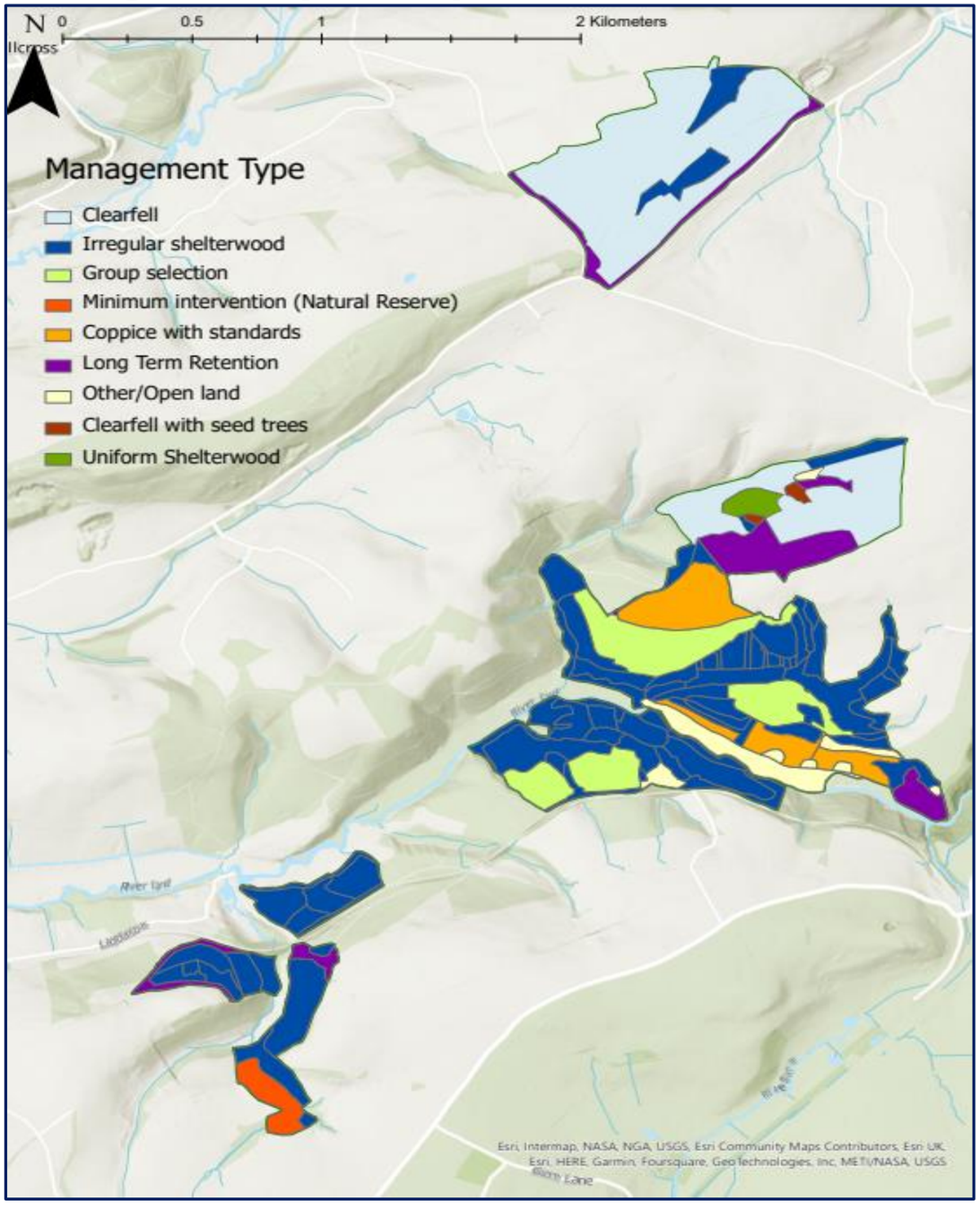
	Forest Plan Objective	Proposed actions	Monitoring
Economy	The continued production of sustainable and marketable woodland products.	1) Continue managing Burley Down for conifer production. This will involve regular thinning interventions during the lifetime of the crop to optimise trees for timber quality. 2) Clearfelling will not be undertaken on ancient woodland habitat to protect soils and ground flora. Instead, Lydford will be managed through regular thinning interventions, irregular shelterwood systems, coppicing and group felling (low impact silvicultural systems) to gradually change species proportions over time. 3) Thin naturally regenerating broadleaf stands to select the best trees and promote timber quality.	• Comparison of production forecast with actual timber volume at the 5-year review (2028). The production forecast indicates that around 9,000m^3 will be produced from the whole block over the next 10 years to 2033.
Nature	Protect and enhance woodland and open habitats and their associated species.	4) Create and maintain useful permanent and transient open habitats for biodiversity benefit. 5) Improve connectivity and roadside structural diversity through management to push back crop edges from forest roads and rides. Scallops and scrapes will be created alongside roads to further develop open space across Lydford Forest.	• Check species and open space proportions at 5-year plan review. • Stocking assessments and data analysis to determine the proportion of species planted on site and survival rates of these species.
	The diversification of woodland species and structure for greater ecological and economic resilience.	6) Introduce site-appropriate alternative species where possible to create complex and diverse woodland structures. When choosing which species to plant, we will consider the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) woodland type and other site features, such as aspect and soil, and use the Forest Development Types (FDT) system as and when it is adopted by Forestry England. 7) Coppicing will be continued and enhanced throughout the block particularly on south-	

	Forest Plan Objective	Proposed actions	Monitoring
		facing slopes to improve habitat provision for Lepidoptera and connectivity to existing open areas. This will create diverse, uneven structures important for butterflies through their different life stages, and for other wildlife including dormice. An ambitious quantity of broadleaf coppice is proposed for this Forest Plan period – we will be reactive to market changes and contractor availability when deciding how much can actually be worked. 8) Coppicing will be undertaken on a 10–15-year rotation and follow the following guidance: a. Standards will be maintained with tree cover no more than 10-15% of the coppiced area or no more than 15 large trees kept per hectare. These will be maintained to promote structural diversity and to shade out bracken to prevent bracken dominance over the site. b. Areas of no larger than 4ha will be cut in any one intervention. 9) Deer management will be essential in ensuring that broadleaved crops can develop and be maintained over time, and that coppicing will have the desired effect for structural diversity and ecological benefit. Damage by deer will be monitored and management adapted accordingly e.g., by using fencing on vulnerable crops.	
	To protect and enhance areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and restore areas of PAWS in line with 'Keepers of Time'.	10) Conifer stands on PAWS will continue to be thinned to favour broadleaf elements. Broadleaf cover will be maintained and improved across all ancient woodland sites.	
	The restoration and management of the Site of Special Scientific	11) Potential for a grazing scheme across the southern section of Lydford Forest will be	• Results from Lepidoptera and bird surveys.

	Forest Plan Objective	Proposed actions	Monitoring
	Interest/ SAC/SAM/Key Wildlife Species	explored in this plan period. The aim of having grazing animals at Lydford would be to diversify habitat structure and maintain open space across broadleaf areas to the south of the block, and to improve the management of open space across the scheduled monument areas. 12) Streamsides will be managed with minimum intervention with mature trees being left in situ to increase potential for otter breeding sites. The pond at the south of Lydford main block will be restored during the plan period and maintained in good condition.	
People	To conserve, maintain and enhance cultural and heritage assets.	13) Scheduled monuments within the plan area will be managed according to their SM management plan, which will be reviewed in 2027. This will involve managing vegetation (especially bracken which can dominate the open areas) to keep the scheduled areas as clear as possible.	• Ground survey at 5-year review and comparison of photographic evidence from the scheduled monument plans and subsequent work records.
	Deliver well-designed forests that both protect and enhance the internal and external landscape in keeping with the local landscape character.	14) Ensure that forest operations do not have a negative impact on local landscape through following planned management coupes. 15) The trees around the car park will be retained indefinitely for their aesthetic value.	• Review works completed in the plan period during in 2027 and any unplanned works which may have impacted the local landscape.
	The provision and maintenance of recreation facilities.	16) Maintain the forest roads across the plan area and the car park at Lydford Forest.	• The local beat team will monitor the condition of the roads and car park and act accordingly.

Forestry England

Management prescriptions



Areas of **clearfelling** are planned for non-ancient woodland across Burley Down and the north of Lydford Forest around the car park.

Most of the broadleaf and conifer areas in Lydford Forest and Brentor will be managed under **irregular shelterwood systems**. This is where mature canopy trees are gradually thinned over time to allow the understorey to establish. **Uniform shelterwood systems** are different in that thinning is more uniform rather than in individual groups.

Other areas of the woodland will be managed through **group selection**, which involves the removal of trees of all ages in groups to alter the structural composition of a stand. At Lydford, group selection will be used to create pockets of open space which will allow for other species to develop within established crops. This combined with coppicing work will connect other establishing areas of open space such as on the scheduled monuments.

An area of **minimum intervention**, where forest operations only take place for tree safety reasons or to improve biodiversity, will be maintained at the south of Langstone Wood to preserve the habitat features for biodiversity benefit.

Large areas of **coppicing with standards** will be developed in Lydford Forest primarily for the benefit of butterfly conservation. Standards, trees which are not coppiced in an area that is otherwise coppiced, will be maintained to create a diversity of habitat and in some places, to cast shade to help manage bracken.

Some particularly old stands of broadleaves will be **retained in the long term** for their habitat potential and their aesthetic value, such as those directly next to the car park. The Scots Pine seed stand will also be retained – this is the large purple area of long-term retention at the Northern end of Lydford Forest.

Felling Plan

Three areas of clearfelling are planned for the next 10 years and are outlined below. The rest of the clearfelling will be completed when the crops reach economic maturity as shown on the map.

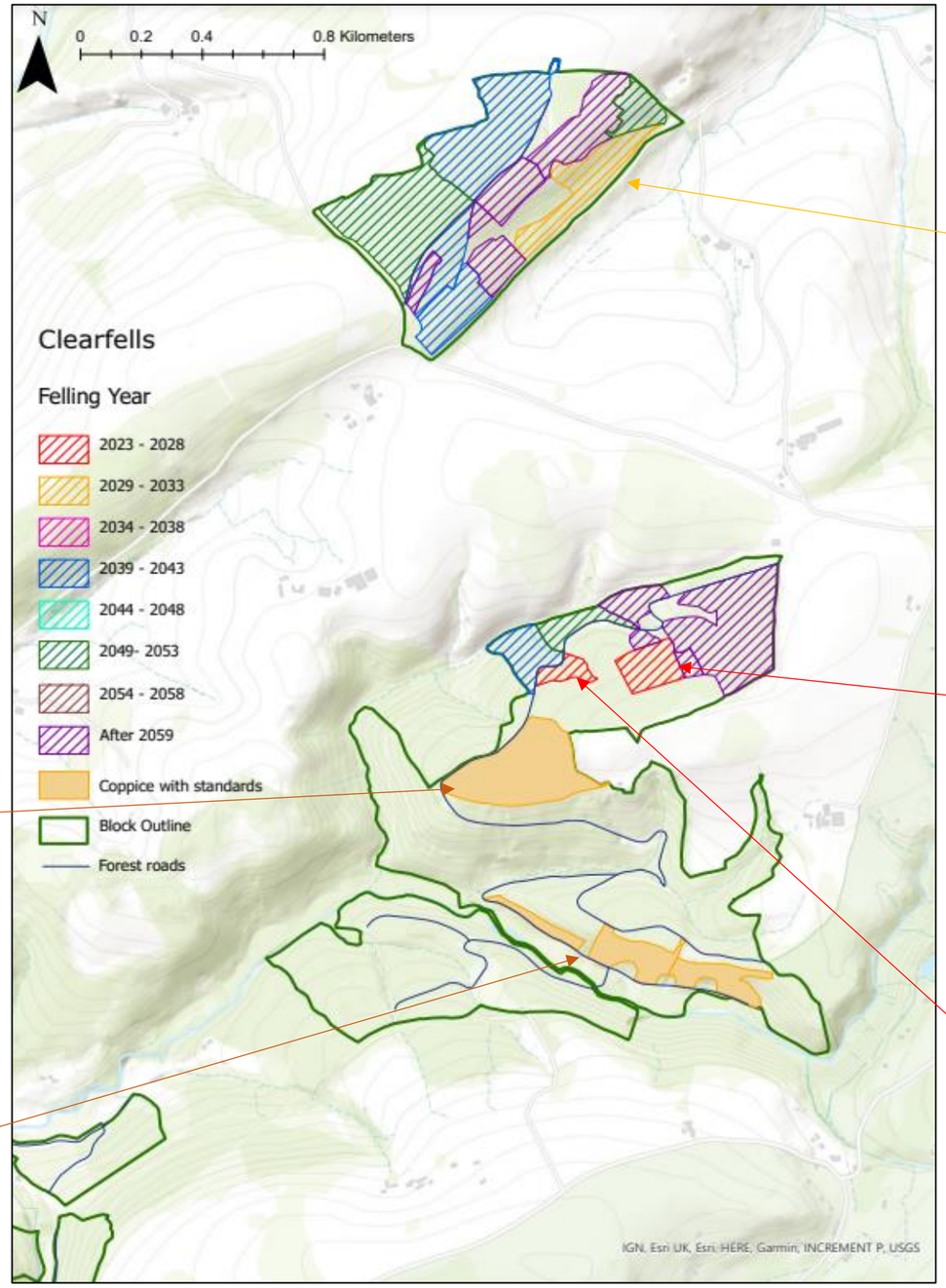
Large areas of coppicing are also mapped – these areas will be coppiced on a rotational basis, with a focus to open up roadsides on south-facing banks and connect existing open spaces across the block.

Coppice with standards Coupe 74009 (8.84ha)

Coppicing with standards here will include the removal of conifers across the area and maintaining the mature broadleaves as standards.

Coppice with standards Coupes 74035, 74019 and 74014 (6.51ha)

South-facing coupes along this road will be coppiced on a 10–15-year rotational basis, with no greater than 15 large trees maintained per hectare. Up to 4ha will be coppiced across all coppicing coupes in the next 10 years.



Clearfell Coupe 74033 (5.02ha)

Fell 2029-2033

Restock:

Planting 100% Evergreen conifer or working with natural regeneration should the right species develop over time.

Clearfell Coupe 74029 (2.60ha)

Fell 2023-2028

Restock:

Planting 100% Evergreen conifer. Restock species should not include Scots Pine, as this site is adjacent to the Scots Pine seed stand.

Clearfell Coupe 74056 (1.14ha)

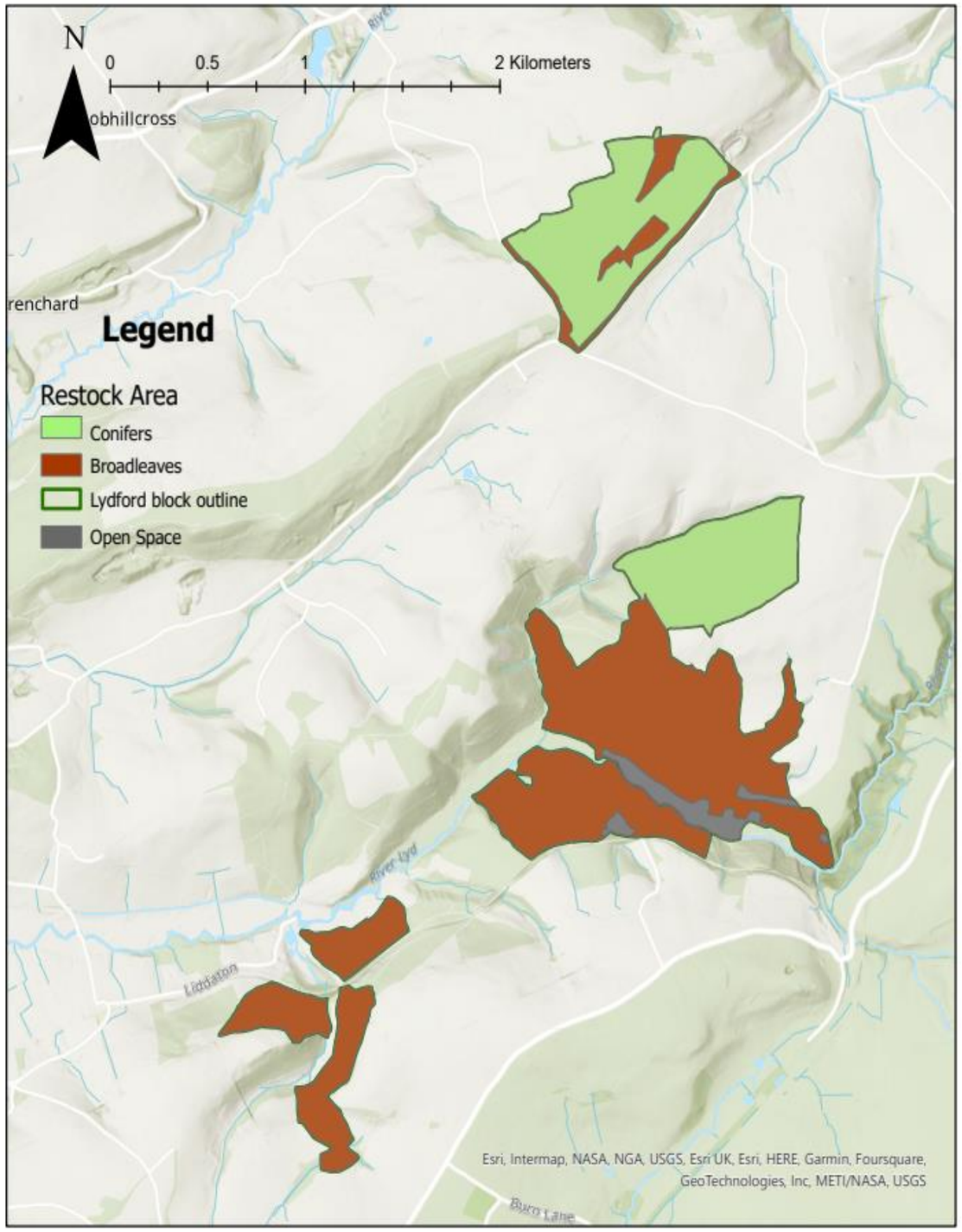
Fell 2023-2028

Restock:

Planting 100% Evergreen conifer or working with natural regeneration should the right species develop over time.

Forestry England

Restock Prescriptions



Restocking plan

Most restocking will be with broadleaves, across all areas that are currently broadleaf and all those that are on ancient woodland. This is with the long-term aim of restoring the PAWS sites across the block, which means encouraging broadleaf regeneration and planting in areas currently growing conifer crops.

Open space provision is also important for the block – the grey areas shown on the map are scheduled areas, which are to be kept open in line with the scheduled monument management plan for Lydford Forest (Appendix 2). Open space (both permanent and temporary) will also be created through coppicing and roadside management as described on page 10. One area of underplanting is proposed in the uniform shelterwood part of Lydford Forest (page 16) – this would be with the intention to improve the poor stocking of the area and establish an understorey of conifer crops.

Some areas will continue to grow conifer crops. These areas include the majority of Burley Down and the part of Lydford Forest that is not ancient woodland. This is to ensure that there is a sustainable supply of timber into the future and that the woodlands are economically productive.

A note on species choice

When choosing which species to restock with, several factors will be taken into consideration. These include:

1. Which species naturally regenerate in the area – Lydford regenerates well with broadleaf species such as oak and birch, and using species which are already present ensures that they are suitable to the site.
2. Forest Development Types (FDTs) – these are a series of species options which can be selected according to the soil types and future climate scenario for the site. FDTs are a new system through which foresters can make informed decisions on which species would be most appropriate for the long-term.
3. Which species are already growing successfully across the block – knowing which species already does well considering landscape and wind hazard helps inform which species might do well in the future at the site.
4. Species palatability to deer – The Lydford block has a history of deer damage to both broadleaf and conifer crops, so this needs to be considered when choosing which species to plant. Mitigation and prevention measures will have to be considered alongside species choice when restocking areas by planting crops.

Forestry England

Appendix 1: Consultation Record (to be filled in after external consultation)

Forestry England

Appendix 2: Lydford Scheduled Monument Plan 2017-2027

1. Agreement and Consent

District	West England Forest District
Name of SM	Lydford
OS Grid reference	Hillfort SX 4970 8385 Enclosure SX 5012 8365 Tin Streamworks SX 4951 8373
Period of Plan	2017-2027

Forestry Commission England
Date

Historic England
Date

2. Introduction

Two of the monuments are situated in the South East corner of Lydford Forest and are approximately 500 metres apart. The third, an alluvial tin streamwork, lies adjacent to the river Lyd in the valley bottom. The ownership of the southeastern section of this Scheduled area is outwith the management of the Forestry Commission.

All the sites have been actively managed by Forestry Commission England (FCE) and the aim of this plan is to formally agree the future management of these sites with Historic England.

3. Management Objectives

The prime objective is to prevent deterioration of the sites. We will:

1) Control ground vegetation within the scheduled areas if it occurs. This will be achieved by mechanical cutting of woody weeds as required using clearing saws/chainsaws

2) Judiciously remove trees and shrubs on the scheduled areas where they present a threat to the future stability of the monuments and their underlying archaeology.

3) Cut windblown trees and leave the root plates in situ.

4) Protect the sites during forest operations. Future restocking will be kept a minimum of 15m from the archaeological site.

5) Maintain public access at a low level.

6) Monitor the sites by formal annual inspection with FE staff and informal visits by FE and other interested parties throughout the year.

SM Management Plan

4. Description and List Entry

Hillfort and medieval settlement in South Longridge Wood

LIST NUMBER: 1018518 (UID: 30349)
DATE FIRST SCHEDULED: 13 April 1977

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:
Slight univallate hillforts are defined as enclosures of various shapes, generally between 1ha and 10ha in size, situated on or close to hilltops and defined by a single line of earthworks, the scale of which is relatively small. They date to between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (eighth - fifth centuries BC), the majority being used for 150 to 200 years prior to their abandonment or reconstruction. Slight univallate hillforts have generally been interpreted as stock enclosures, redistribution centres, places of refuge and permanent settlements. The earthworks generally include a rampart, narrow level berm, external ditch and counterscarp bank, while access to the interior is usually provided by two entrances comprising either simple gaps in the earthwork or an inturned rampart. Postholes revealed by excavation indicate the occasional presence of portal gateways while more elaborate features like overlapping ramparts and outworks are limited to only a few examples. Internal features included timber or stone round houses; large storage pits and hearths; scattered postholes, stakeholes and gullies; and square or rectangular buildings supported by four to six posts, often represented by postholes, and interpreted as raised granaries. Slight univallate hillforts are rare with around 150 examples recorded nationally. Although on a national scale the number is low, in Devon they comprise one of the major classes of hillfort. In other areas where the distribution is relatively dense, for example, Wessex, Sussex, the Cotswolds and the Chilterns, hillforts belonging to a number of different classes occur within the same region. Examples are also recorded in eastern England, the Welsh Marches, central and southern England. In view of the rarity of slight univallate hillforts and their importance in understanding the transition between Bronze Age and Iron Age communities, all examples which survive comparatively well and have potential for the recovery of further archaeological remains are believed to be of national importance.

Despite afforestation the hillfort in Longridge Wood survives well and provides information concerning the character of Iron Age occupation on the fringes of Dartmoor. This enclosure is one of a group of three later prehistoric enclosures lying within the Lyd valley. The reuse of the hillfort in the medieval period is unusual and provides evidence for continuity of occupation. The location of the hillfort and settlement immediately above a rich alluvial tin deposit may suggest that they were sited to take advantage of this resource..
DESCRIPTION: This monument includes an Iron age univallate hillfort with internal medieval structures. It is situated on the top of a steep slope overlooking the valley of the River Lyd to the south and a further steep valley to the north. The hillfort survives as a rectangular enclosure defined by a rampart and outer ditch, with medieval structures within which attest to subsequent reuse. The enclosed area measures 66.5m long from north to south by 62m wide from east to west. The outer ditch which surrounds the monument on three sides measures up

to 5.2m wide and 1.1m deep. To the north this ditch is replaced by a steep natural scarp. The rampart measures up to 9m wide at the base and up to 1.4m high internally. To the south an outer bank is also apparent above a very steep natural slope, this measures up to 1.4m wide and 0.3m high. The whole enclosure slopes gently to the north. There is an apparent entrance on the eastern side. Within the hillfort are a range of medieval structures. Central to the area is a longhouse which measures internally 29.3m long, 6.3m wide and is defined by low banks which measure up to 1.2m wide and 0.4m high. Surrounding this, on all but the southern side, are a series of circular and oval pits and depressions, as well as a two celled building and a square structure, representing further traces of the sites's medieval occupation.

SM Management Plan

Enclosure in Parsonage Wood

LIST NUMBER: 1020341 (UID: 30348)
DATE FIRST SCHEDULED: 13 April 1977

REASONS FOR DEISGNATION:
Hilltop enclosures are defined as sub-rectangular or elongated areas of ground, usually between 10ha and 40ha in size, situated on hilltops or plateaux and surrounded by slight univallate earthworks. They date to between the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (eighth-fifth centuries BC) and are usually interpreted as stock enclosures or sites where agricultural produce was stored. Many examples of hilltop enclosures may have developed into more strongly defended sites later in the Iron Age period and are therefore often difficult to recognise in their original form. The earthworks generally consist of a bank separated from an external ditch by a level berm. Access to the interior was generally provided by two or three entrances which consisted of simple gaps in the rampart. Evidence for internal features is largely dependent on excavation, and to date this has included large areas of sparsely scattered features including post and stakeholes, hearths and pits. Rectangular or square buildings are also evident; these are generally defined by between four and six postholes and are thought to have supported raised granaries. Hilltop enclosures are rare, with between 25 and 30 examples recorded nationally. A greater number may exist but these could have been developed into hillforts later in the Iron Age and could only be confirmed by detailed survey or excavation. The majority of known examples are located in two regions, on the chalk downland of Wessex and Sussex and in the Cotswolds. More scattered examples are found in north-east Oxfordshire and north Northamptonshire. This class of monument has not been recorded outside England. In view of the rarity of hilltop enclosures and their importance in understanding the transition between Bronze Age and Iron Age communities, all examples with surviving archaeological remains are believed to be of national importance.

Despite afforestation, the hilltop enclosure in Parsonage Wood survives comparatively well and will provide information concerning the character of later prehistoric agricultural economy on the fringes of Dartmoor. This enclosure is one of a group of three later prehistoric enclosures lying within the Lyd valley.

DESCRIPTION:
This monument includes an enclosure, interpreted as a later prehistoric hilltop enclosure, situated on a steep inland promontory overlooking the valley of the River Lyd. The monument survives as an oval enclosure which measures internally 38.3m long from south west to north east by 33.4m wide from north west to south east. It is defined to the north and west by a bank which measures up to 6.4m wide and 0.7m high and an outer ditch which measures 5.2m wide and 0.4m deep. The whole enclosure slopes to the south and to the south and west is defined by the natural steeply sloping valley sides. There is no trace of an entrance.

SM Management Plan

Alluvial tin streamwork in Lydford Woods

LIST NUMBER: 1017248 (UID: 28698)
DATE FIRST SCHEDULED: 15 February 1999

REASONS FOR DEISGNATION:
On Dartmoor, tin streamworks represent intermittent tin working activity dating from the medieval period to the 20th century. During this time previously abandoned works were often brought back into production, while some streamworks are still not exhausted, raising the possibility that they may become viable once again. Streamworks exploited tin deposits that had been detached from the parent lode and redeposited by streams and rivers within either alluvial deposits in valley bottoms or in eluvial deposits in shallow, steeper tributaries on hillsides. The technique involved large scale extraction (which has left major earthworks visible in the landscape) and the use of water to separate tin from the lighter clays and silts which contained it. The water derived either from canalised streams or reservoirs fed by specially constructed leats which can be seen running for several miles along the contours of many hillsides. The streamworks themselves survive as a series of spoil dumps, channels and disused work areas which indicate their character and development. Streamworking was particularly prevalent on Dartmoor, being by far the most numerous and extensive type of tinwork on the moor. Remains are to be found in most valley bottoms and on many hillsides, where they make a dominant contribution to landscape character as well as providing unusually detailed evidence for medieval industry. Streamworks on Dartmoor will be considered for scheduling where they are well preserved and representative of the industry in this area, or where there is a demonstrable relationship with medieval and later settlement and its associated remains.

Despite agricultural activity and afforestation, the alluvial tin streamwork in Lydford Woods survives well and contains information concerning the developing technology associated with the exploitation of valley bottom tin deposits. Of particular interest, is the evidence for the reuse of disused tyes as dumping areas for dressing wastes..

DESCRIPTION:
The monument includes an alluvial tin streamwork situated at the foot of a steep sided valley formed by the River Lyd. The streamwork contains a range of well preserved earthworks which suggest multi-phase exploitation of the tin deposits. The southern limit of the streamwork is denoted by the River Lyd, whilst most of the northern edge is defined by a wide channel which lies immediately next to the Bridestowe/Brentor parish boundary bank. The area between these two prominent features includes a large number of distinctive parallel linear earthworks which represent the dumps from alluvial streamworking. The dominant alignment of these dumps is north east to south west, meaning that most lie approximately at right angles to the River Lyd. There are however, three distinct areas where the dumps lie approximately parallel with the river. A programme of survey, excavation and augering has revealed the general sequence of events and identified areas where waste slimes from the dressing process were dumped. The forest tracks leading through the monument are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground below is included.

SM Management Plan

5. Management Prescriptions

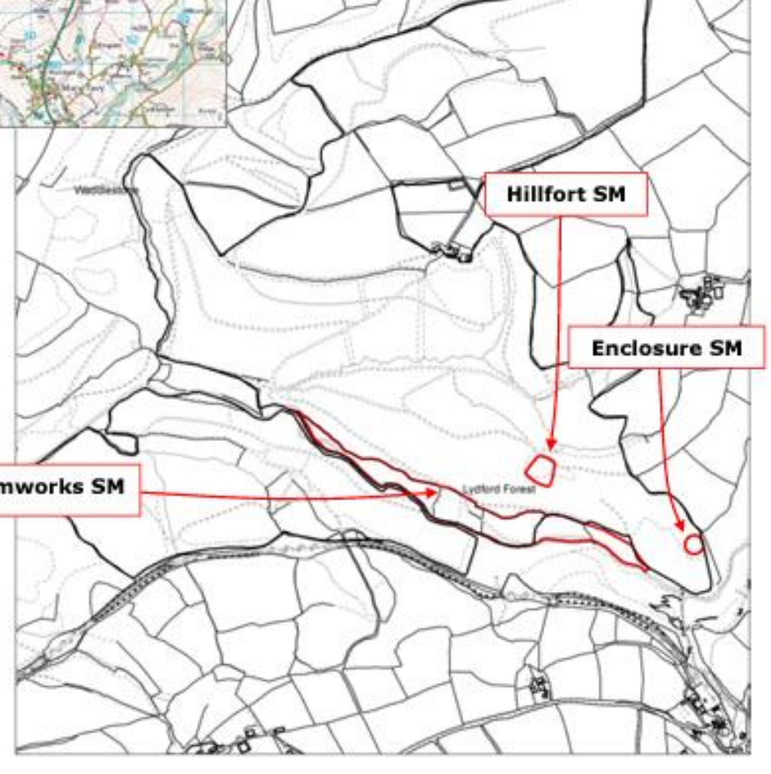
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hillfort and Enclosure										
Inspection of all trees on monument with removal of any tree with stability problems		◆				◆				
Site monitored for threats	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Vegetation cut if exceeding parameters	◆		◆		◆		◆		◆	
Tin streamworks										
Inspection of all trees on monument with removal of any tree with stability problems		◆				◆				
Site monitored for threats	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
1/3 of area cut if exceeding parameters	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Fell 1.4ha of mature Norway spruce to open space situated within designated area (see map 3)	◆									

Appendix

6. Location Maps

Map 1 – Lydford Location

Map 2 – Scheduled Monuments Overview



Map 3 – Tin Streamworks Restoration felling

Legend

- Scheduled Monument
- Norway spruce felling (2017)
- Landholding

7. Photographic record

Photo 1 – Cleared Hillford from the west (Summer 2017)

Photo 2 – Cleared Hillford from the east (Summer 2017)

Photo 3 – Cleared Enclosure from the north (Summer 2017)

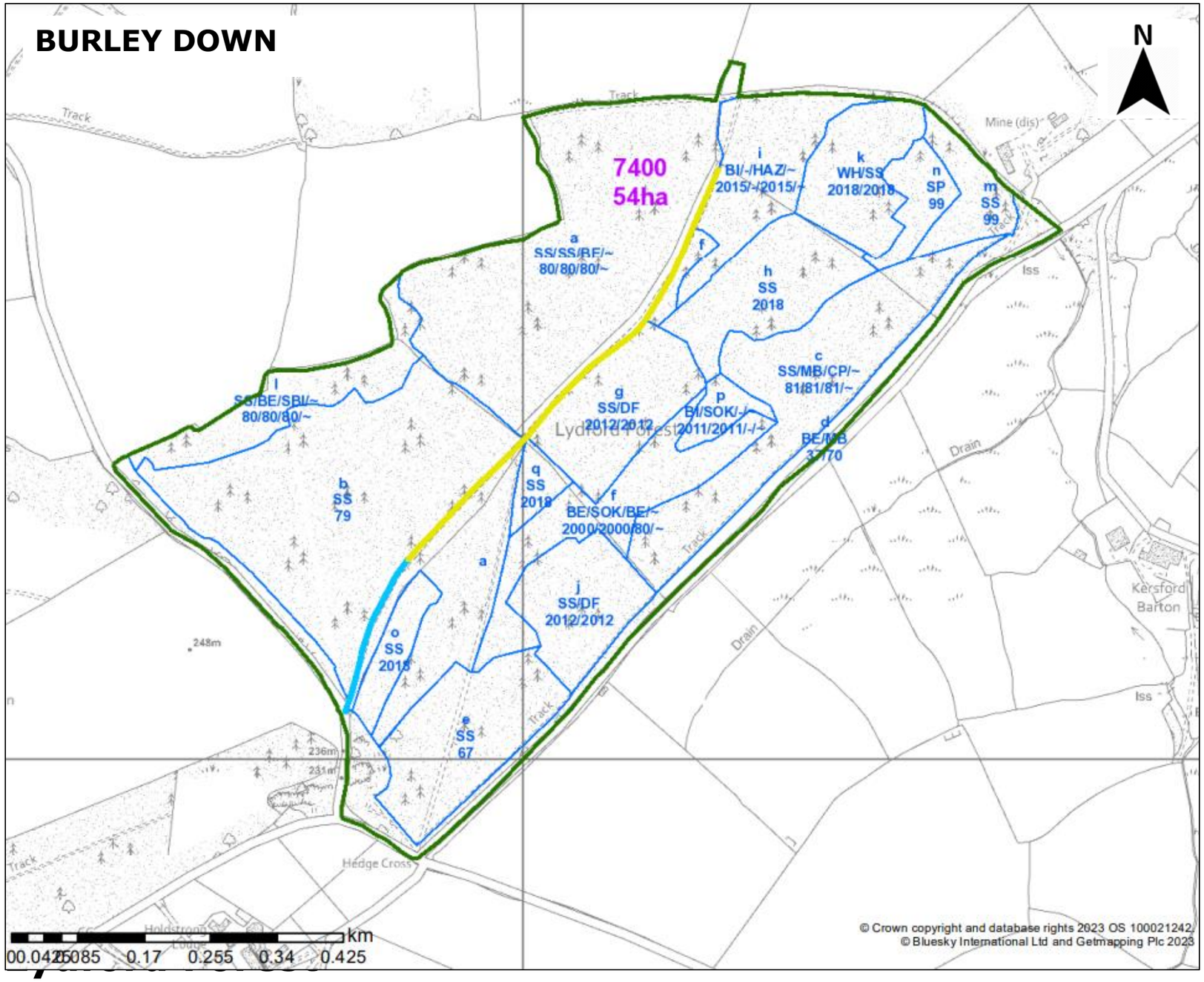
SM Management Plan

Photo 4 – Tin Streamworks from the west (Summer 2017)

Photo 4 – N. spruce on to be removed from Tin Streamworks (Summer 2017)

Forestry England

Appendix 3: Stock Maps



Forest Roads (Classification)

- Class A
- Class B
- Class C
- Restricted
- Transfer Point
- Unclassified

Blocks

- Blocks

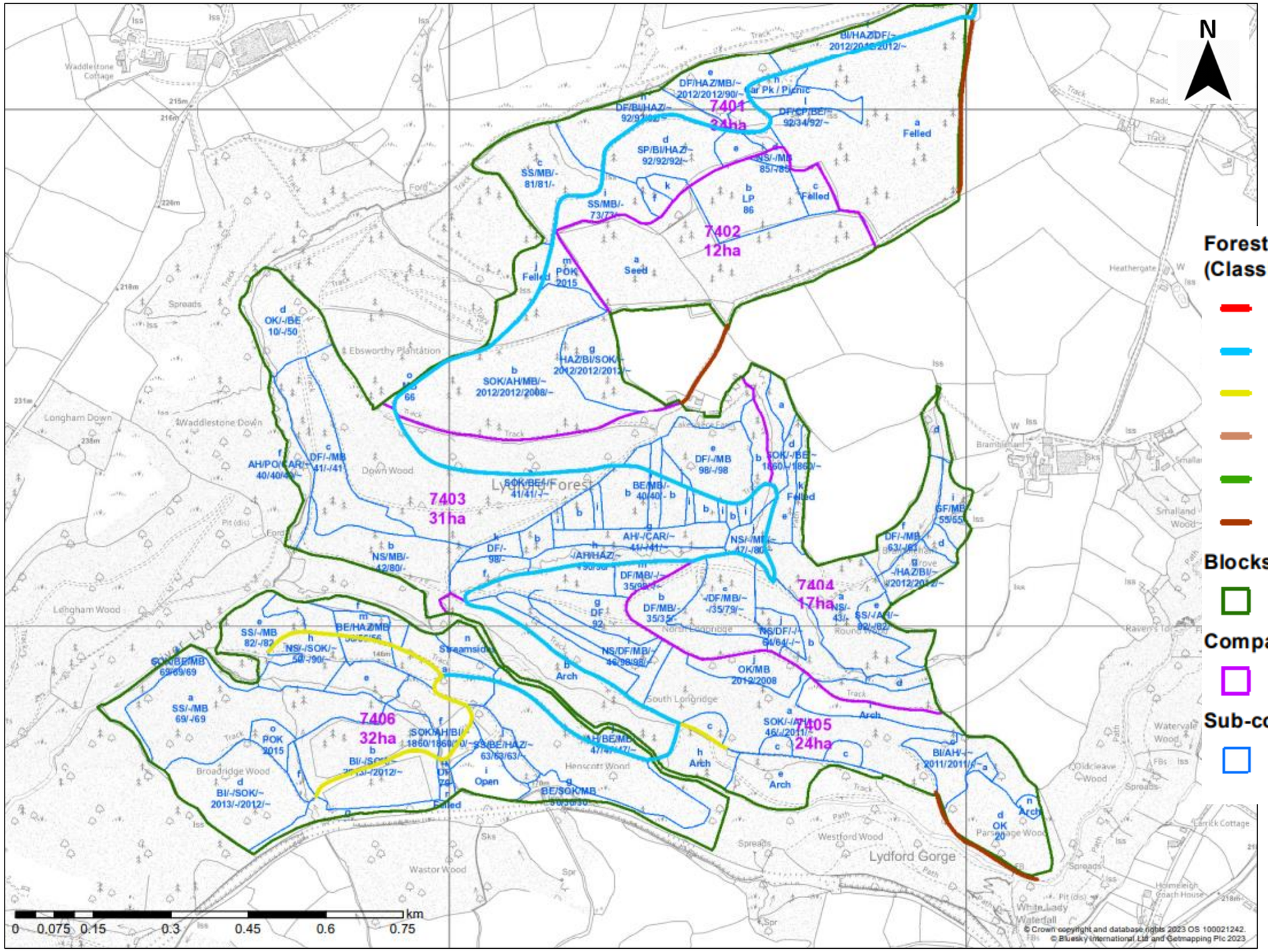
Compartments

- Compartments

Sub-compartments

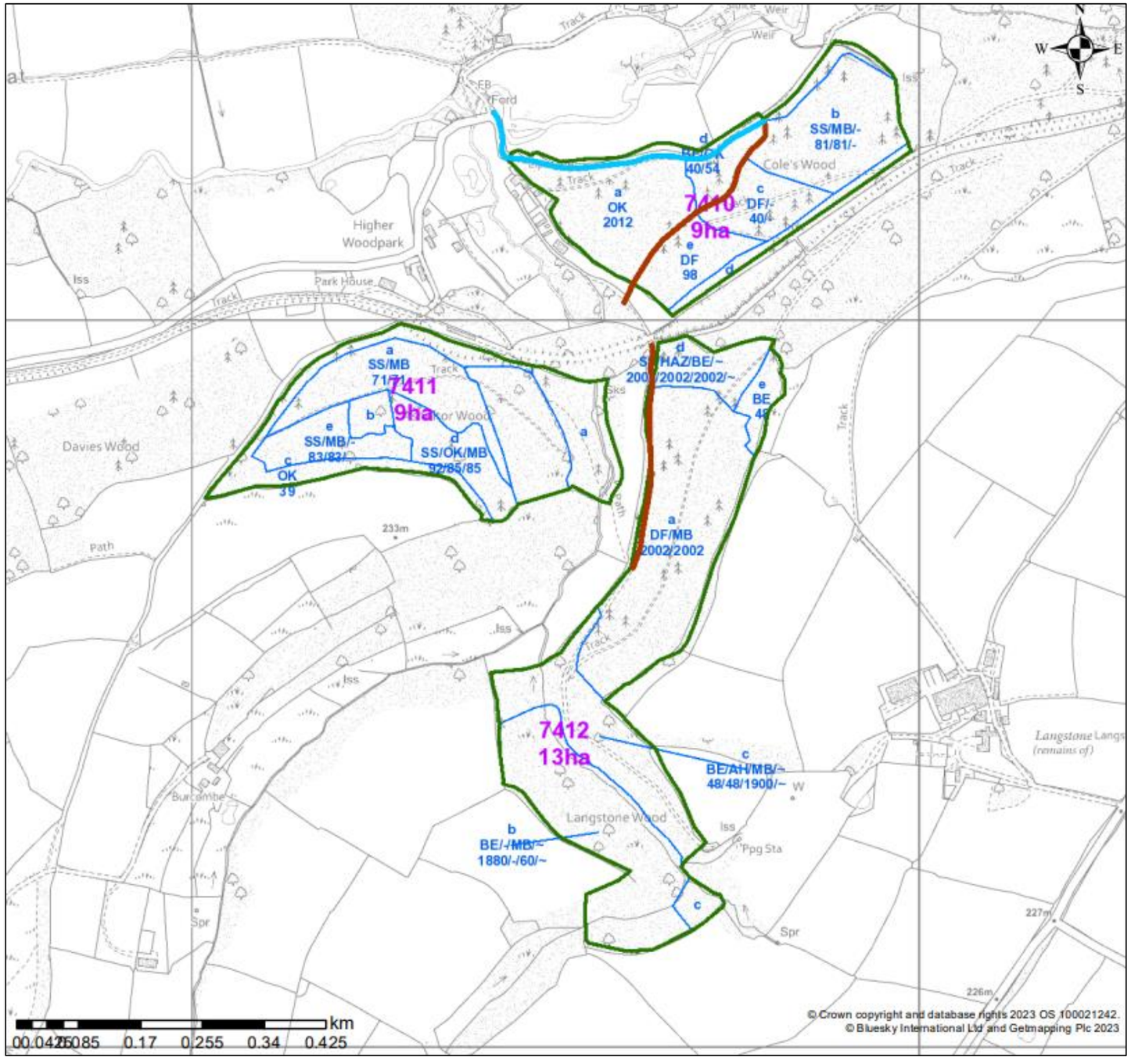
- Sub-compartments

Forestry England



Forestry England

Brentor



N

Forest Roads (Classification)

- Class A
- Class B
- Class C
- Restricted
- Transfer Point
- Unclassified

Blocks

- Blocks

Compartments

- Compartments

Sub-compartments

- Sub-compartments

Forestry England

Appendix 4: Glossary

Ancient woodland	A site which has been wooded since 1600AD and is unlikely to have been converted to farmland in the last few centuries. This is determined by the history of land use at the site and identified by indicator species, historic maps, woodbanks and other features.
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	Areas that have been continuously wooded since 1600AD and comprise of naturally occurring (rather than planted) native broadleaves and shrubs.
Broadleaves	Trees with broad flat leaves such as oaks, chestnuts, sycamore and beeches. Most broadleaves are deciduous and lose their leaves in the winter.
Clearfelling	Removing all the trees in an area of at least 0.5ha in one intervention.
Conifers	Trees with cones and needles such as pines, spruces and larches. Most are evergreen and do not lose their needles in the winter, apart from the larches, which do.
Coppicing (with standards)	A traditional woodland management technique that involves cutting broadleaves at their base allowing multiple new steps to sprout from the cut stump. Standards are mature trees which are left un-coppiced in an area of coppicing.
Coupe	Forests are divided into management coupes, which describe the future management of an area of the woodland. For example, a clearfelling coupe contains the information for a clearfelling intervention over part of the forest.
Deer glade	An area of open space maintained to facilitate deer control.
Forest development types (FDTs)	A system which is being introduced across Forestry England to better inform species choices across woodlands according to soils and suitability to future climate change.
Hectares (Ha)	The main unit of measurement used in Forestry England. One hectare is equal to $100m^2$ or around 2.5 acres.
Low-impact silviculture systems (LISS)	These are alternative forest management techniques to clearfelling and include coppicing, shelterwood systems and selection systems.
Long term retention	Retaining crops or individual trees for the long term with no intention to fell them.
Minimum intervention	An area where forest operations only take place for tree safety reasons.
Natural Reserve	An area designated as minimum intervention for the benefit of biodiversity.
Natural regeneration	When trees colonise new ground from existing local sources e.g., surrounding mature trees where seed is dispersed by birds, mammals, wind or by vegetative colonisation from adjacent trees.
Open Space	Open space is defined by Forestry England as any area with less than 20% tree canopy cover.
Plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS) and PAWS restoration	Plantation on ancient woodland sites. These are plantations (deliberately planted areas) which currently sit on ancient woodland sites (continuously wooded since 1600AD).

	Plantations can be conifer or broadleaf. PAWS restoration is the process of restoring ancient woodland back to its native species composition through the removal of non-native species, including conifers.
Restocking	The process of getting trees back onto a site after felling. This can be through natural regeneration or through planting.
Ride	A track through the forest.
Special area of conservation (SAC)	A legally protected area of high conservation importance.
Scheduled monument (SM)	A heritage feature which has been recognised by Historic England as nationally important and is protected through scheduled monument management plans.
Seed stand	A stand of trees that are grown from good genetic stock to produce seed. These are managed by another branch of the Forestry Commission called Plant and Seed Supply.
Shelterwood systems e.g., irregular	Where mature trees are gradually removed over time to provide enough shelter that saplings can grow beneath.
Selection systems e.g., group	When specific groups of trees of all ages are removed from a stand in an irregular way to create areas of open space and change the structural composition of the stand.
Site of special scientific interest (SSSI)	Site of special scientific interest. A site which has been recognised by Natural England as nationally important for biodiversity.
Stand	An area of trees that are more or less the same in terms of species composition and age.
Thinning	Reducing the density of trees in a stand to improve the quality and growth of remaining trees, alter species composition in a stand, improve stand health or disturb established ground flora to promote natural regeneration.
Understorey	The trees and shrubs that grow underneath the main timber crop (the overstorey). These can be naturally regenerated by the surrounding trees or directly planted. This will often become the next crop of trees when the overstorey is fully removed.