



Rogate

Forest Plan 2026-36



The mark of responsible forestry



Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
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Introduction

Forest Plans

Forest Plans define a long-term vision for a woodland (or group of woodlands) and usually look 50 to 100 years ahead. They set objectives and show how management will move towards achieving the long-term vision over the initial 10 to 30 years.

This plan is a revision of the previous Rogate Forest Plan (approved in 2016). The revision was carried out in consultation with stakeholders and the public; and has incorporated developments in policy and local initiatives that have taken place since 2016.

Consultation and Approval Process

As part of the Forest Planning process, we seek the views of external stakeholders, including local communities and organisations involved with nature conservation, public recreation, and the timber industry. Through this consultation process we can ensure that an appropriate balance of objectives is achieved.

Approval of the Forest Plan is granted by Forest Services, which is the regulatory arm of the Forestry Commission. This regulatory approval

is usually valid for 10 years and grants a 10-year felling license.

The approved Forest Plan will be reviewed at year 5 to ensure proposals are still relevant, suitable and in line with current policy and guidance. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate the success of management over the 5-year period and engage any amendments to the Forest Plan that may be required.

Context

Each section contains site-specific information on location, tenure, landscape and historical context, current woodland structure, biodiversity and conservation, people access and engagement, the historic environment, and the characteristics of soils, and water.

This contextual information supports our decision making, both through the production of the Forest Plan and when planning operational interventions designed to implement the proposals on the ground.





Guiding the Rogate woodlands with decisions shaped by people, strengthened by evidence, and approved for a resilient future.

Rogate

Forest location and landscape context shape the biodiversity, resilience, and distinct identity of these woodlands. Together, these factors determine how the woodlands connect and contribute to the wider environmental network.

Location

The Rogate block is located in West Sussex. The southwestern end of the block of woodlands lies approximately 6km northeast of Petersfield and follows the line of the B2070. Between the woodlands lies the towns of Liss and Liphook. The woodlands of Iron Hill, Shufflesheeps, Hatch Copse, Hatch Fir, Great Hanger, Coldharbour, and Rogate Main (collectively known as the Rogate block) total an area of 330.4 ha.

Tenure and Access

Forestry England is the freehold owner of Hatch Copse, Hatch Fir, Great Hanger, Coldharbour and Rogate Main. The northern corners of Shufflesheeps and Iron Hill (10.73 ha) are managed under long-term leasehold agreement.

Hatch Copse, Hatch Fir, Great Hanger and Coldharbour are dedicated as open access land under Section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). In Rogate Main, public access is limited to the network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the woodland, as well as the northeastern block. In Iron Hill, public access corresponds with the freehold area.

Public access is open and encouraged as per the public forest estate access statement. PRoW and the Serpent Trail pass through or around each of the Rogate woods. The woodlands lie in an area which historically has been a dynamic and changing landscape for hundreds of years.

Landscape and Historic Context

The Rogate woodlands provide important landscape value. In the wider area, they form a larger woodland complex which helps to connect other areas of woodland, heathland and common.

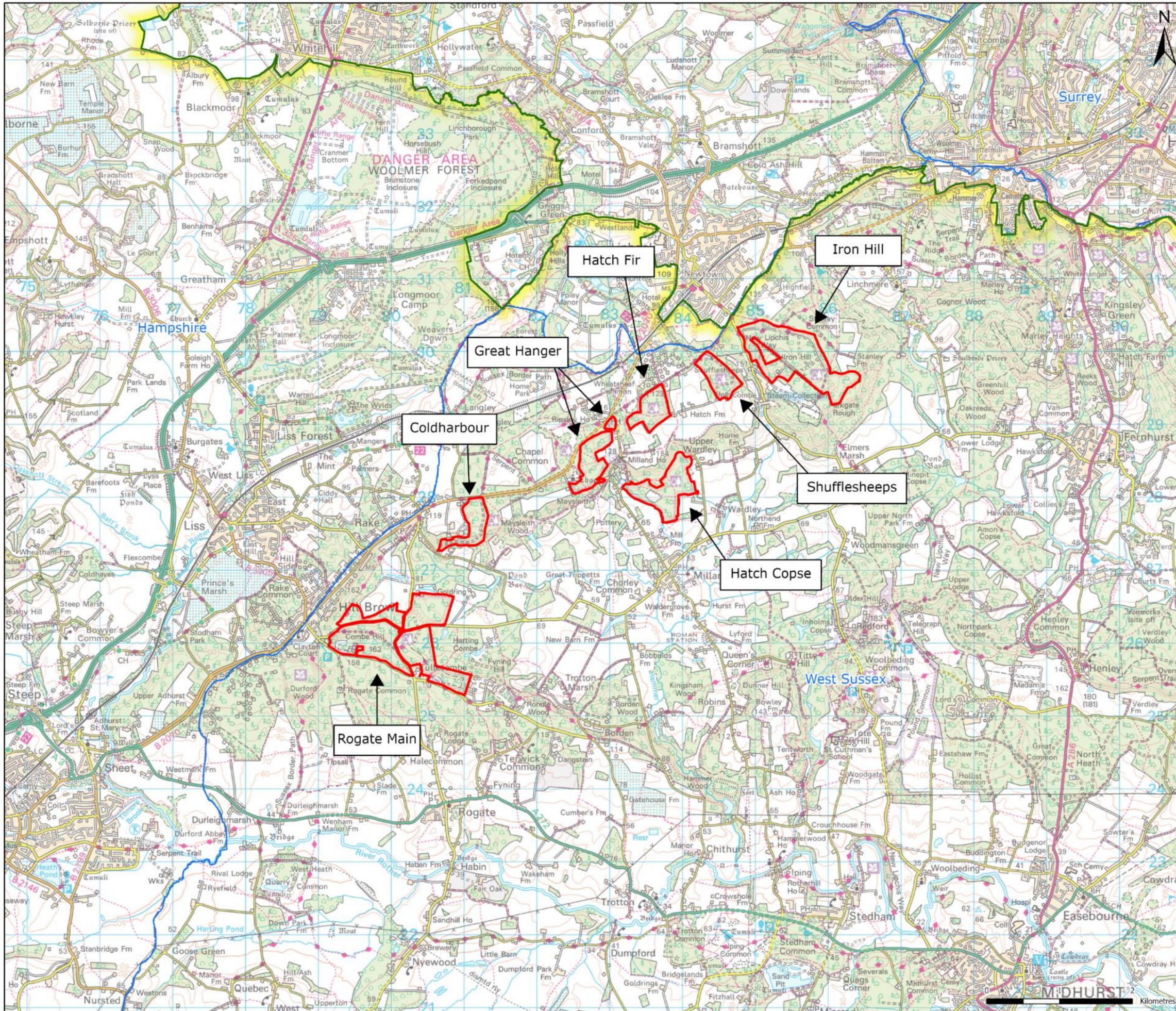
The woodlands are located within the South Downs National Park but aside from this have very little in the way of statutory designations, apart from a Grade II* Registered Park and Gardens designation in one of the northeastern blocks which will not affect the proposed management.

Parts of the woodland block are covered by tree preservation orders (TPO). These will be considered when undertaking work.

The forest falls within Natural England's Wealden Greensand (120) National Character Area typified by an irregular undulating landform with a mix of conifer woodland, heathland, agriculture, and wetlands associated with the River Arun catchment.

Altitude ranges from 90m to 160m with localised steep slopes. The climate is typical of the wider West Sussex county with an average annual rainfall of 783 mm and temperatures ranging from a mean 18°C for the warmest month and 6°C for the coldest month.





Rogate Forest Plan



Location

Forestry England Managed Woodlands in the area.

Legend

- Blocks
- South Downs National Park
- County Boundary

- Iron Hill – SU 8544 2998
- Shufflesheeps – SU 8446 2969
- Hatch Copse – SU 8383 2809
- Hatch Fir – SU 8356 2923
- Great Hanger – SU 8275 2852
- Coldharbour – SU 8114 2768
- Rogate Main – SU 8000 2600

Scale: 1:50,000 (@ A3)



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



Protected Landscapes

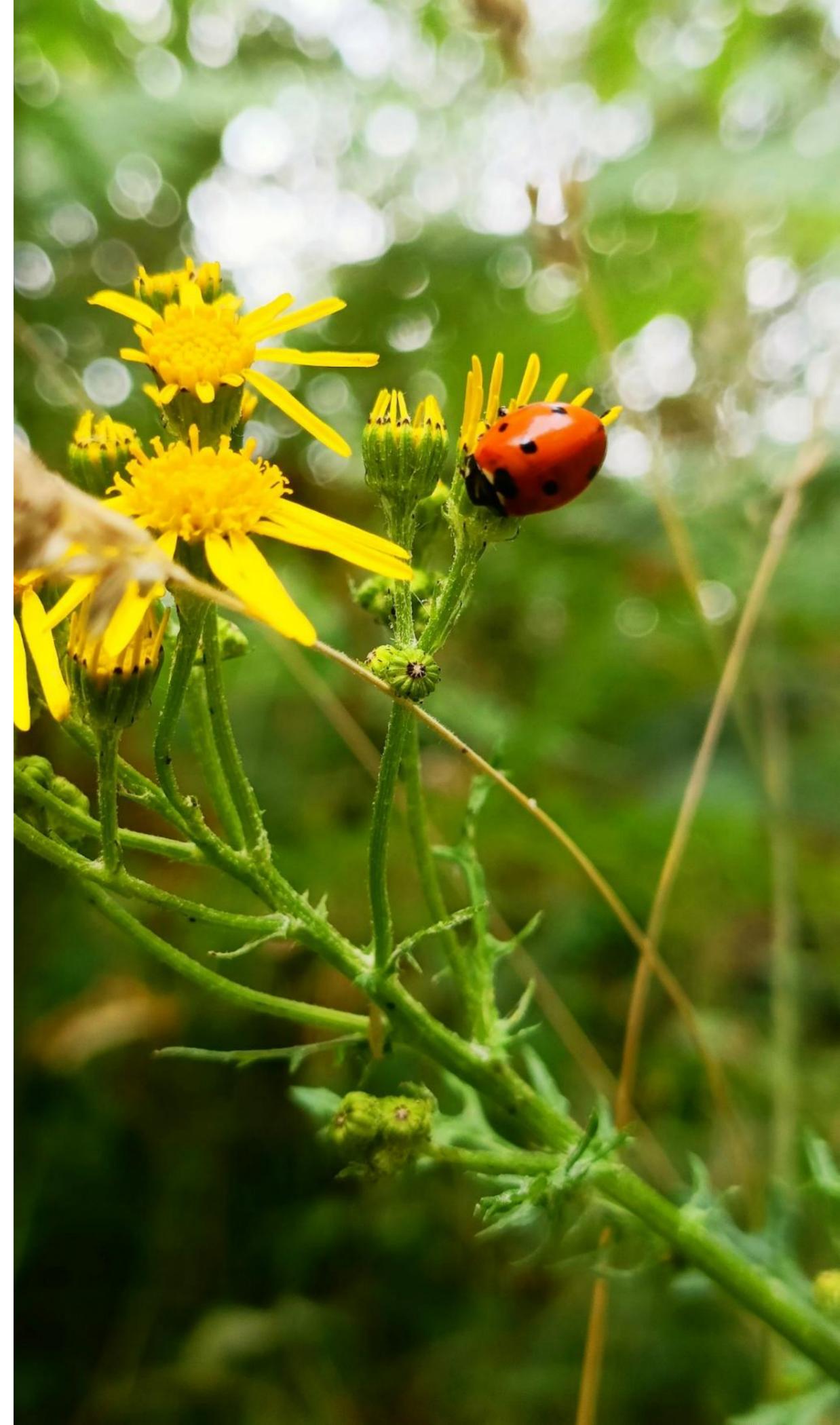
The woodlands in this Forest Plan are within the South Downs National Park (SDNP), England's newest national park, designated in 2010.

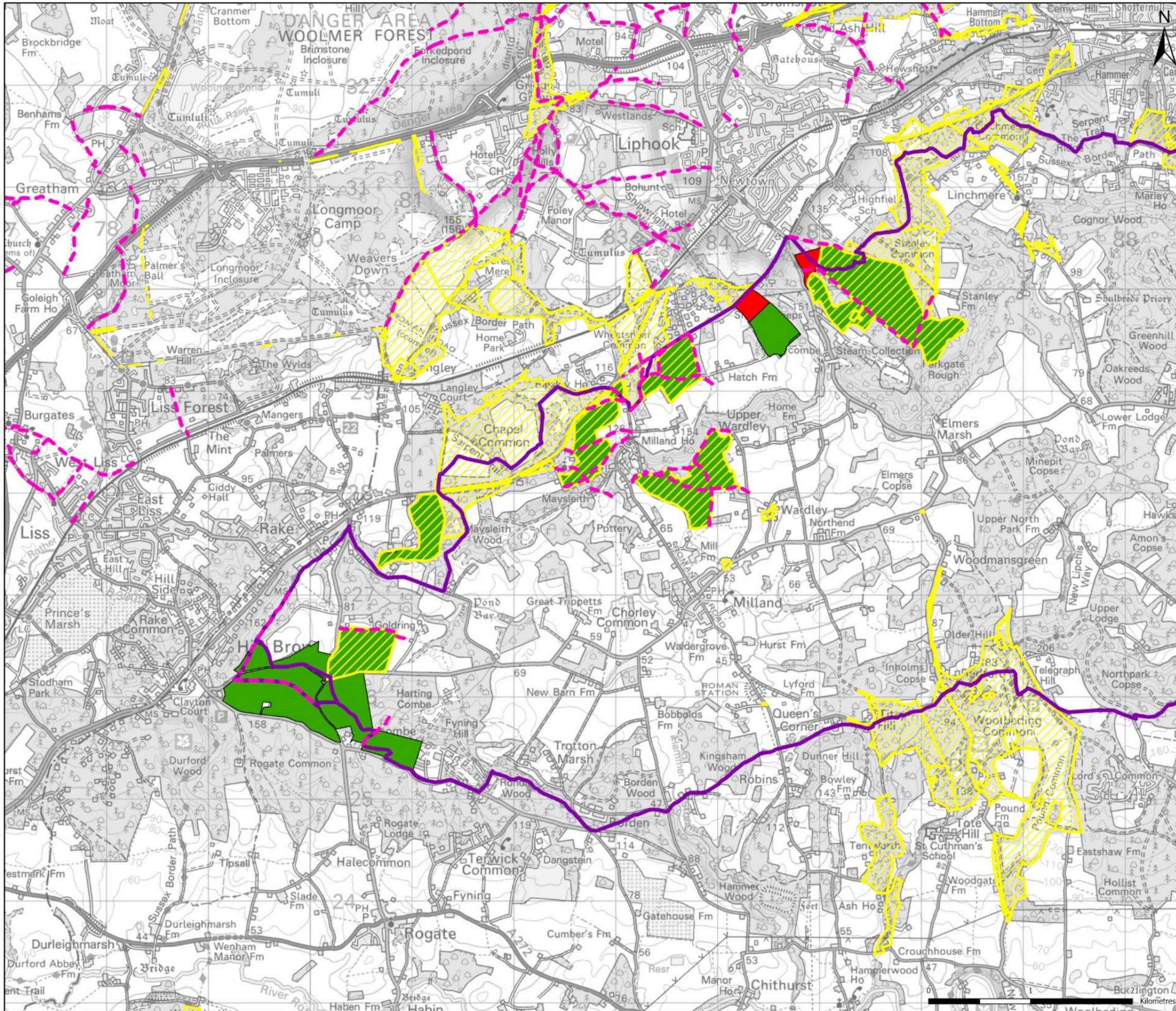
Forestry England works in partnership with SDNP, committed to delivering the shared objectives set out in the Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025. The Outcomes and Priorities set out in the Partnership Management Plan describe what partners across the National Park aim to achieve by 2050. These include, but are not limited to, protecting landscape character, enhancing soil and water quality, improving habitat connectivity, managing priority and invasive species, and conserving the area's cultural and natural heritage. The objectives of this Forest Plan are in accord with the Partnership Management Plan objectives.

National Park purposes

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public
3. To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes

**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK**





Tenure & Access

Freehold or Leasehold land managed by Forestry England in the Rogate area.

Legend

- Legal Status**
- Acquisition Freehold
 - Acquisition Leasehold
 - CRoW 2000 Open Access Land
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Serpent Trail

Scale: 1:35,750 (@ A3)



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



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Analysis

This section identifies key social, environmental, and economic features and drivers; considering opportunities, issues, and risks associated with these.

Considering these aspects helps us determine how the forest landscape functions, evolves, and supports both people and wildlife. By understanding how these elements interact, the Plan can guide management actions that balance ecological integrity with community needs and economic viability, ensuring the forest remains robust and adaptable into the future.



Current Structure

This section outlines the current woodland structure, detailing the proportions of tree species and their spatial distribution. It highlights the extent of ancient woodland and evaluates semi-natural woodland condition scores, which help identify areas requiring restoration.

The Rogate block comprises seven woodlands, with Rogate Main and Iron Hill forming the largest areas (see Figure 1). Open space is present across all sites and includes ride networks, designated open habitats such as heathland and grassland, car parks, and infrastructure corridors including powerlines.

Species Composition

Across the Rogate block, conifers account for 64.3% of all trees, while broadleaves represent 35.7%. The distribution of conifer, broadleaf, and open habitat within each woodland is illustrated in Figure 2.

Overall, Douglas fir is the most common species present. Other prominent conifers include Corsican pine, Scots pine, Western hemlock, European larch, and Norway spruce. Among broadleaves, birch is the most abundant and the second most common species overall. Additional broadleaf species present include oak, Sweet chestnut, and beech. A summary of the principal species across the Rogate block is

shown in Figure 3.

Coldharbour is primarily broadleaf-dominated, with birch as the leading species, followed by oak and Sweet chestnut. At Hatch Copse, Corsican pine is the single largest species at 21%, but the broadleaved species (alder, birch, and oak) together make up the majority of the stand. All remaining woodlands are predominantly coniferous.

Age Composition

The average tree age across the Rogate block is 48 years, with the 60-70-year age class being the most common.

The oldest trees date from the 1850s. These oldest age classes (1850-1900) occur at Rogate Main, Hatch Copse, and Iron Hill. Only a small proportion (4.8%) of the current standing stock was planted before 1950 (see Figure 4).

Most planting took place during the 1950s, with 71.57 ha established during that decade; 60% of this occurred at Rogate Main. At Iron Hill, much of the current woodland originated from planting in the 1960s and 1980s.

No planting prior to 1950 is recorded at Coldharbour, Great Hanger, or Shufflesheeps. The most recent planting occurred at Coldharbour in 2020, covering 4.2 ha.

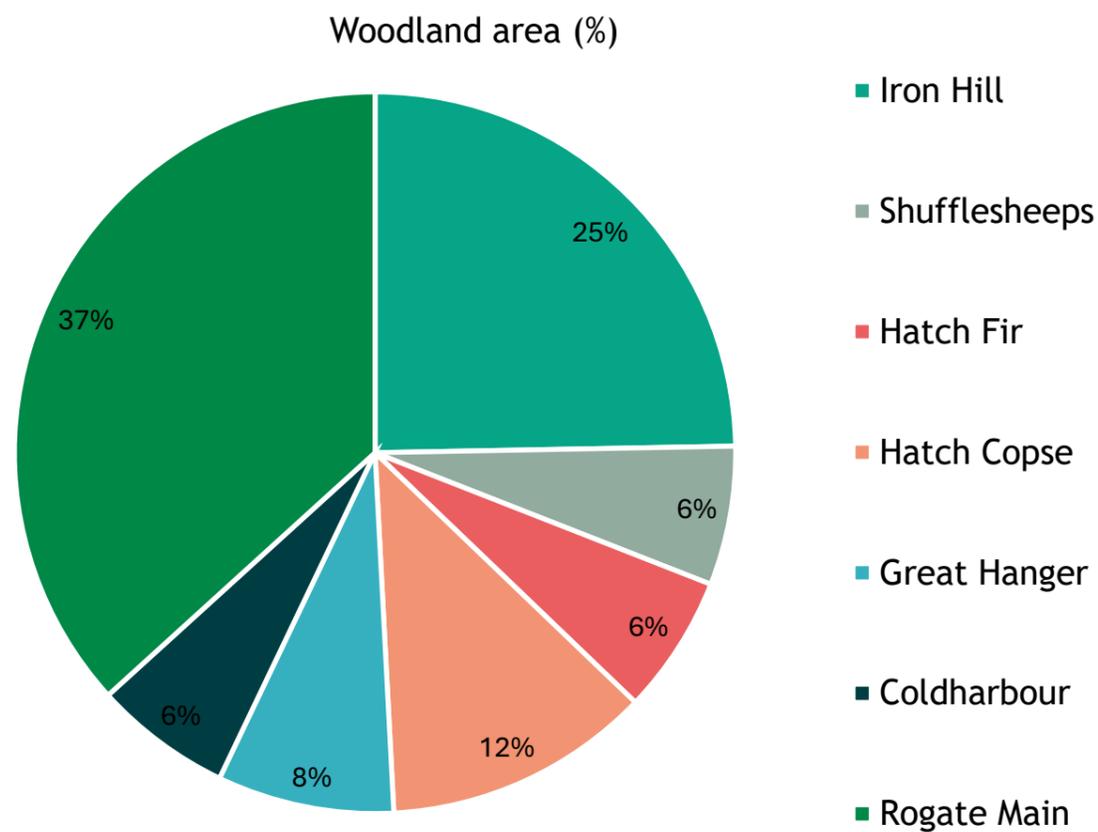


Figure 1 - Rogate - Proportion of each block within the Forest Plan area in %

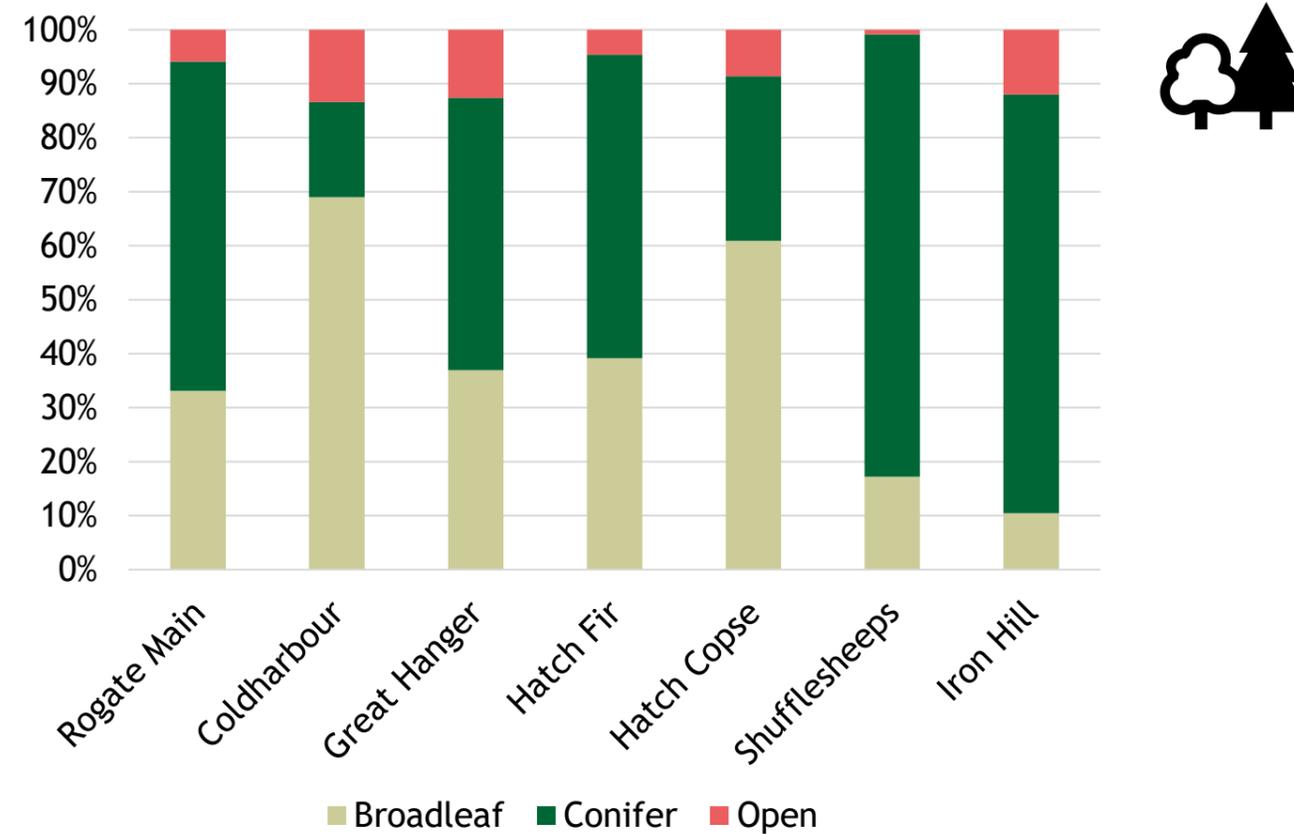


Figure 2 - Rogate - Species composition per wood in %

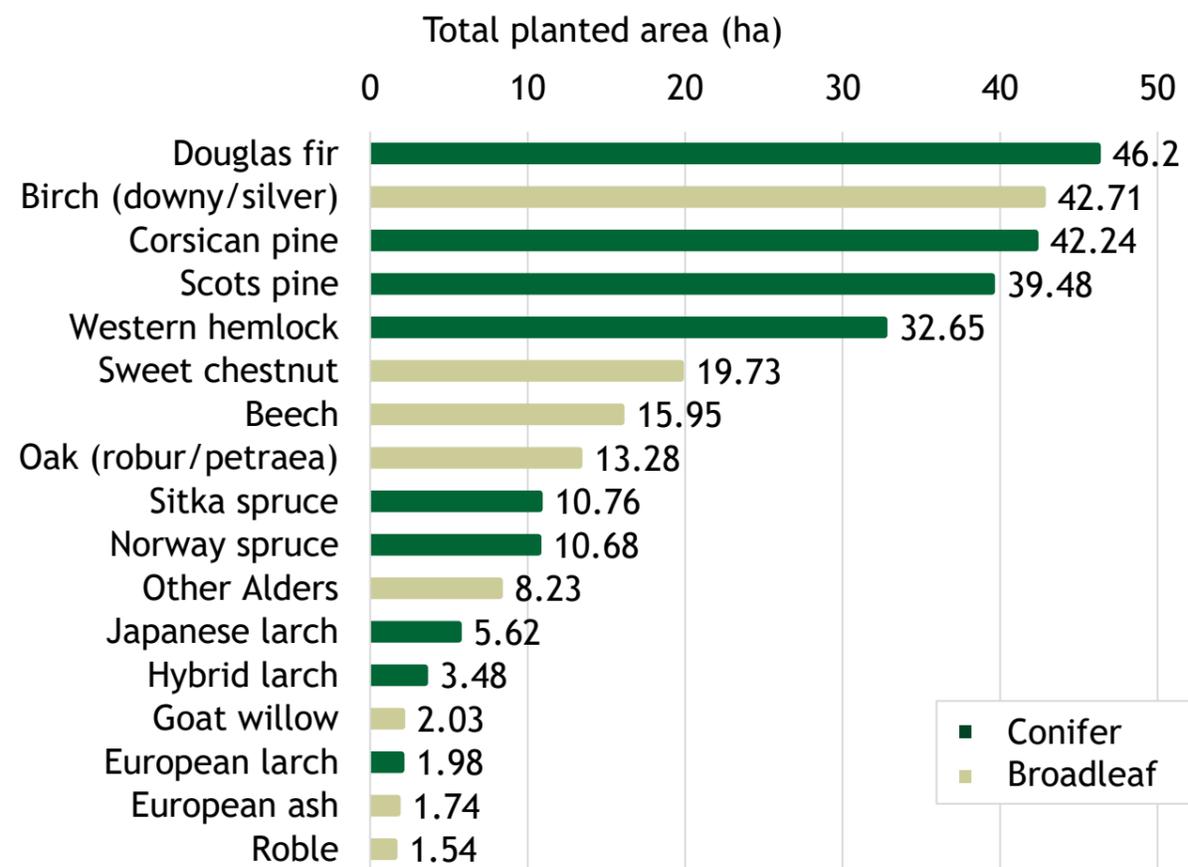


Figure 3 - Rogate - Main tree species composition in ha.

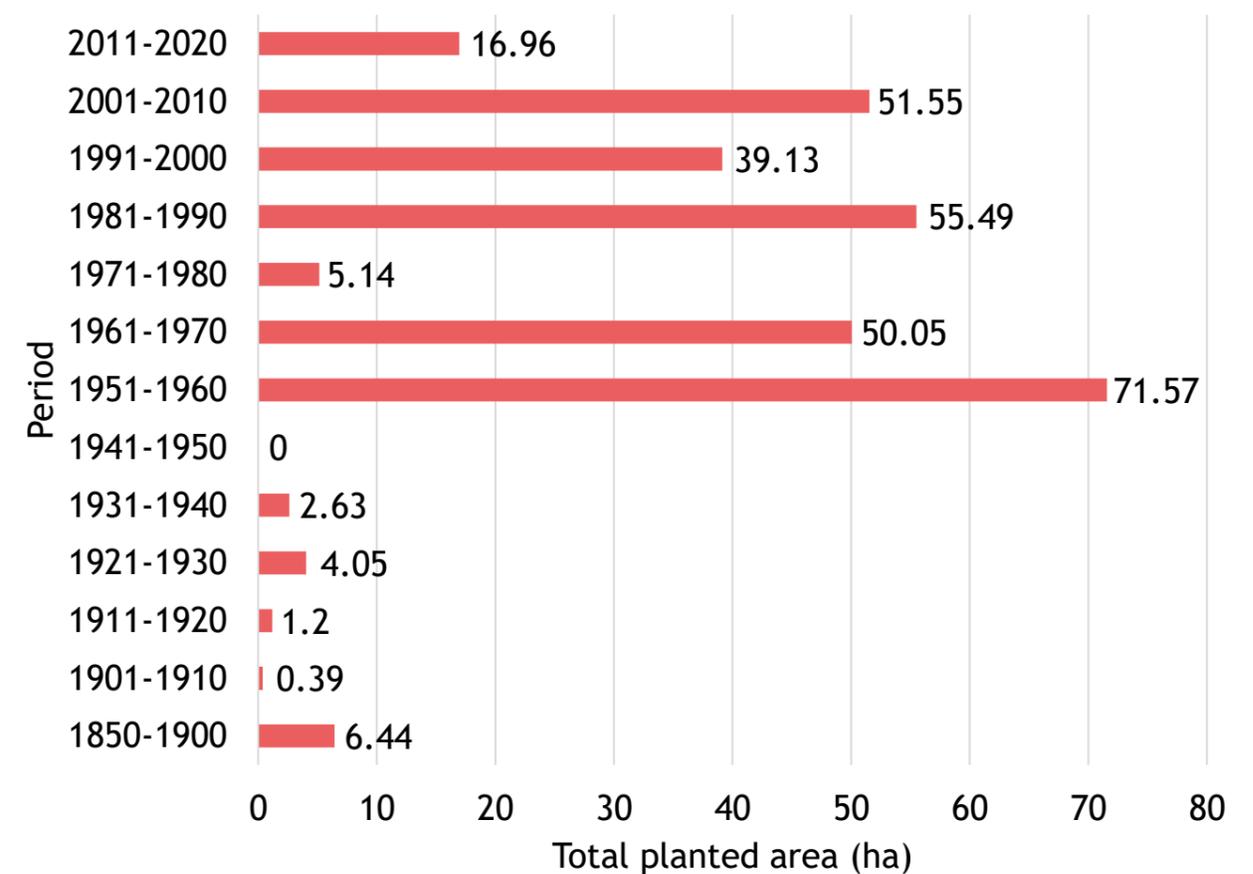


Figure 4 - Rogate - Total planted area per decade in ha



Ancient Woodland

Ancient Woodland is defined as areas that have been under continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 CE. The definition includes areas that have been felled and re-generated. Ancient Woodland can be divided into:

- **Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW):** generally containing a high percentage of native broadleaved tree species.
- **Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS):** Ancient Woodland areas where semi-natural woodland has been cleared and replaced by plantation, often including non-native species. PAWS sites can include both broadleaved and conifer woods and often retain remnant ancient woodland features like species-rich ground flora or undisturbed soils. Also known as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

ASNW comprises a total of 14.16 hectares which makes up 4.3% of Rogate block. PAWS comprises a total of 54.38 hectares which makes up 16.5% of the block. Coldharbour and Hatch Copse contain the largest PAWS areas, and there are smaller areas in Rogate Main, Great Hanger and Iron Hill.

Table 1 shows the total area of each forest, and the area within them classified as either ASNW, PAWS, or other woodland.

Forest	Total Area (ha)	ASNW (ha)	PAWS (ha)	Other woodland (ha)
Iron Hill	81.64	0.38	0.85	80.41
Shufflesheeps	20.60	0.00	0.00	20.60
Great Hanger	26.20	1.56	1.88	22.76
Hatch Fir	20.55	0.00	0.00	20.55
Hatch Copse	39.67	11.80	21.07	6.80
Coldharbour	20.38	0.18	19.98	0.22
Rogate Main	121.38	0.23	10.61	110.54

Table 1 - Areas of ASNW and PAWS per woodland in ha



Semi-Natural Scores

Beginning in 2005, a semi-natural score has been calculated for each sub-compartment. This involves classifying the trees in each sub-compartment as native or non-native and summing the percentage of each. The classification used is:

	SNS 0	0%	No trees are present
	SNS 1	81% - 100%	Mostly or fully native tree species
	SNS 2	51% - 80%	
	SNS 3	21% - 50%	
	SNS 4	1% - 20%	Predominantly non-native, usually conifer

Semi-natural scores can be useful when assessing whether operations to diversity stands or restore PAWS to native woodland are proceeding in the desired direction. Forestry England will continue its work to enhance the biodiversity of its unrestored PAWS. By 2044, we will elevate the semi-natural score of these sites by at least one class, moving them towards a more dominant native canopy and a richer, more natural woodland environment. The semi-natural scores in this document are only used for ASNW and PAWS areas.

When aggregating all blocks, the largest proportion (43%) of ASNW areas fall within SNS 1, representing the highest degree of nativeness. For PAWS, most areas (78%) have SNS 3 or 4, indicating that more work needs to be done to increase the nativeness of these woodlands.

Table 2 breaks down the semi-naturalness of ASNW and PAWS areas within each Rogate woodland.

The Semi-Natural Scores maps also provide a visual representation of the distribution of semi-naturalness across the Rogate woodlands.

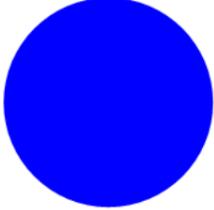
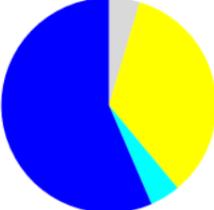
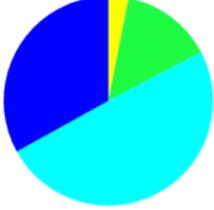
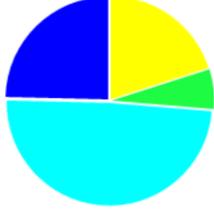
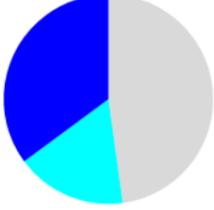
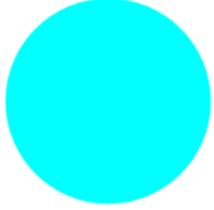
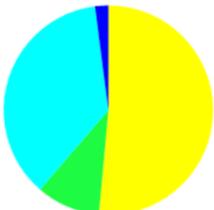
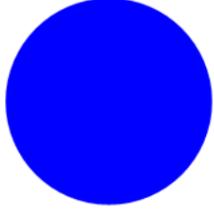
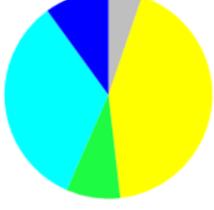
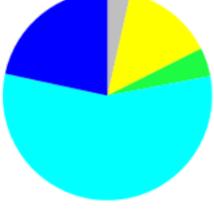
Wood	ASNW	PAWS
Rogate Main		
Coldharbour		
Great Hanger		
Hatch Fir	N/A	N/A
Hatch Copse		
Shufflesheeps	N/A	N/A
Iron Hill		
OVERALL		

Table 2 - Semi-natural score proportions per woodland

Biodiversity and Conservation

Conserving biodiversity in woodlands is essential for protecting native species, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and supporting habitats. Woodland conservation strengthens ecological networks, safeguards declining wildlife, and maintains vital functions such as soil health and carbon storage, ensuring future generations inherit thriving, nature-rich landscapes.

Protected Sites

None of the woods in the Plan are designated. Two of the woodlands border Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this will be taken into account when construing the most appropriate management interventions.

- **Rake Hanger SSSI** is adjacent to the northwestern boundary of Rogate Main. Area of Sessile oak ancient woodland on an incline with alders found within the wetter ground at the foot of the escarpment.
- **Chapel Common SSSI** adjoins the northwestern boundary of Great Hanger. Most of the common is heathland but there are also areas of woodland, grassland and scrub. Heathland birds include woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler. The site also contains rare and scarce invertebrates, as well as all four common reptile species.

Within a 2km radius of the Rogate woods, the following designated sites are found:

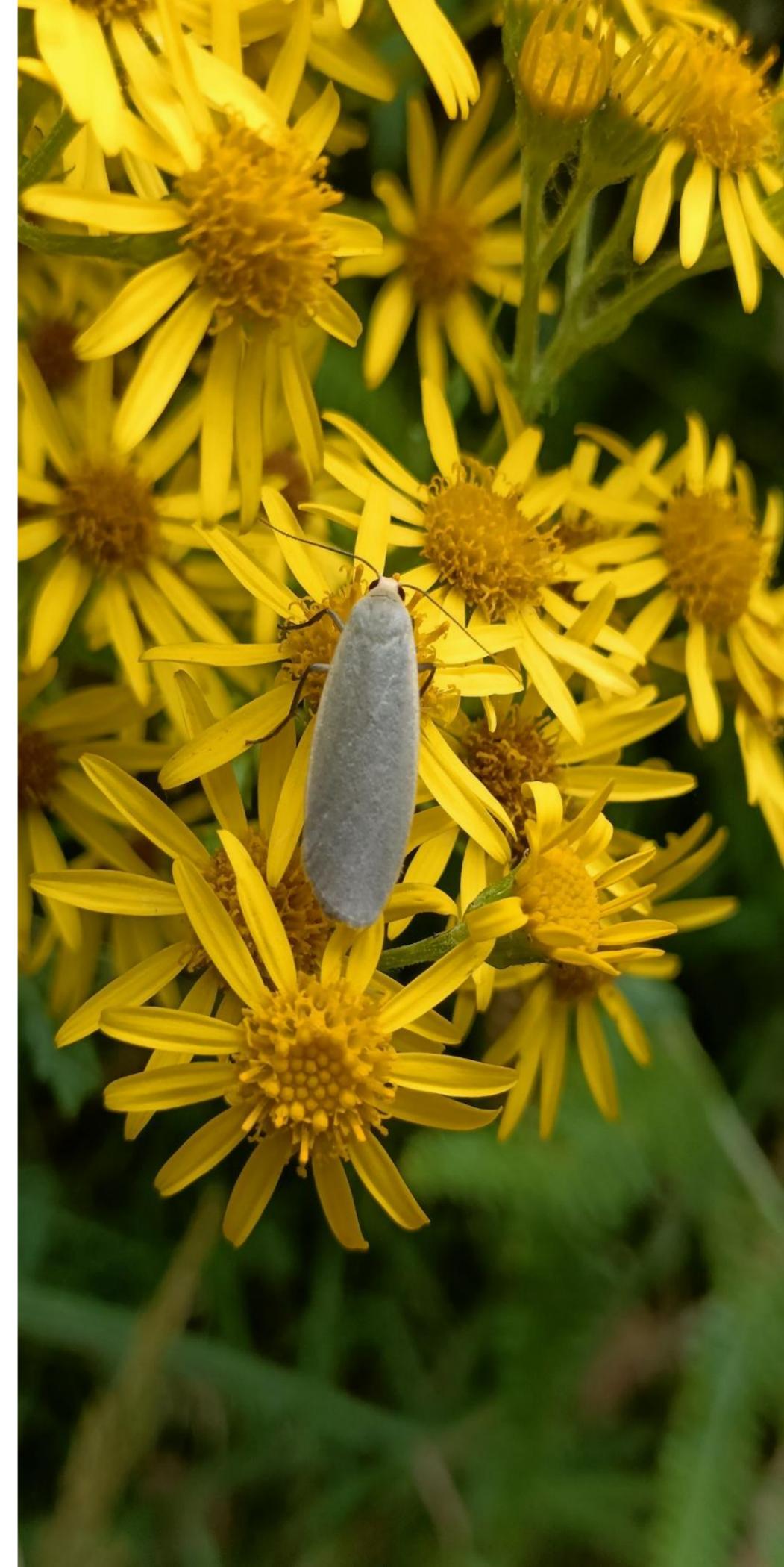
- Forest Mere SSSI
- Flying Moor SSSI
- Woolmer Forest SSSI/SAC/Wealdon Heaths Phase II SPA

Within a 5km radius of the Rogate woods, the additional sites are found:

- Iping Common SSSI
- Woolbeding and Pound Commons SSSI
- Northpark Copse to Snapelands Copse SSSI
- Perry Copse Outcrops SSSI
- Bramshott and Ludshott Common SSSI
- Upper Greensand Hangers SSSI/SAC
- Wealdon Edge Hangers SSSI/SAC

Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are non-statutory, locally designated areas of nature conservation value, acting as vital wildlife corridors and refuges. Only one falls within the Rogate block with others situated on land adjoining the woods. Tullecombe LWS contains a herb rich afforested woodland patch with heathland components of high entomological importance and conservation value.



Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) show where improved management (or restoration and re-creation) of Priority Habitats will enhance landscape connectivity for the benefit of Priority Species. The Sussex Nature Partnership has developed several BOAs covering the county, three of which are relevant to this Forest Plan:

- Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA
- Hampshire Rother watershed BOA
- Rogate Common BOA

Priority Habitats identified include lowland heathland and woodland. Each BOA document also lists the Priority Species that would benefit from habitat management and restoration. These benefits are achieved through actions such as:

- Woodland management, restoration and creation
- Heathland management, restoration and creation
- Ecological networks

Many of these actions are already embedded in our routine forest management, but we will actively seek additional opportunities to promote and expand BOA habitats where appropriate.

Protected Species

Protected Species are an important consideration within the Rogate area, and woodland operations must be designed to avoid disturbance and maintain suitable habitats.

- ✓ **Bats** may roost in mature trees or deadwood features, so retention of veteran trees, standing deadwood, and continuous canopy links is essential.
- ✓ **Dormice** require well-connected, species-rich understories, meaning management should safeguard dense shrub layers, maintain continuous hedgerows, and avoid large-scale fragmentation.
- ✓ Where streams or wet woodland occur, there is potential for **otter** activity from the Rother and Arun Rivers catchment. Maintaining riparian buffer zones, undisturbed banks, and good water quality is therefore important.
- ✓ **Lepidoptera**, including moths and butterflies, rely on structurally diverse woodland with sunny glades, rides, and diverse ground flora, so ride widening and rotational edge management support their populations.
- ✓ A wide range of **bird** species may breed within the woodland and heathland, requiring careful timing of operations outside the nesting season, as well as retaining habitat features such as scrub and varied age structure.



Habitat Management

By actively managing habitats, we can promote structural diversity, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and improve landscape connectivity, all of which help the forest adapt to environmental pressures such as climate change, pests, and diseases.

The Rogate woodlands are providing quality habitat for an array of species including protected mammals and insects and support the following UK Biodiversity Action Plans.

Principal: Woodland, Lowland Heathland

Minor: Lowland dry acid grassland, Lowland Meadows and Ponds

Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement include increasing ecological networks, diversification and restoration of woodlands and heathlands. These opportunities will be addressed during management interventions. A systematic process of ride widening will be carried out as well as connecting areas of open space to existing heathland in the wider landscape. A range of silvicultural systems will increase diversification and create periodic areas of different age habitats and a diverse range of species in the blocks. The Forestry England policy of restoring ancient woodland and maintaining and increasing native woodland will also be a benefit for biodiversity enhancement.

Coppice in the form of Sweet chestnut is present, and management interventions will look to continue this habitat on a cyclical basis.

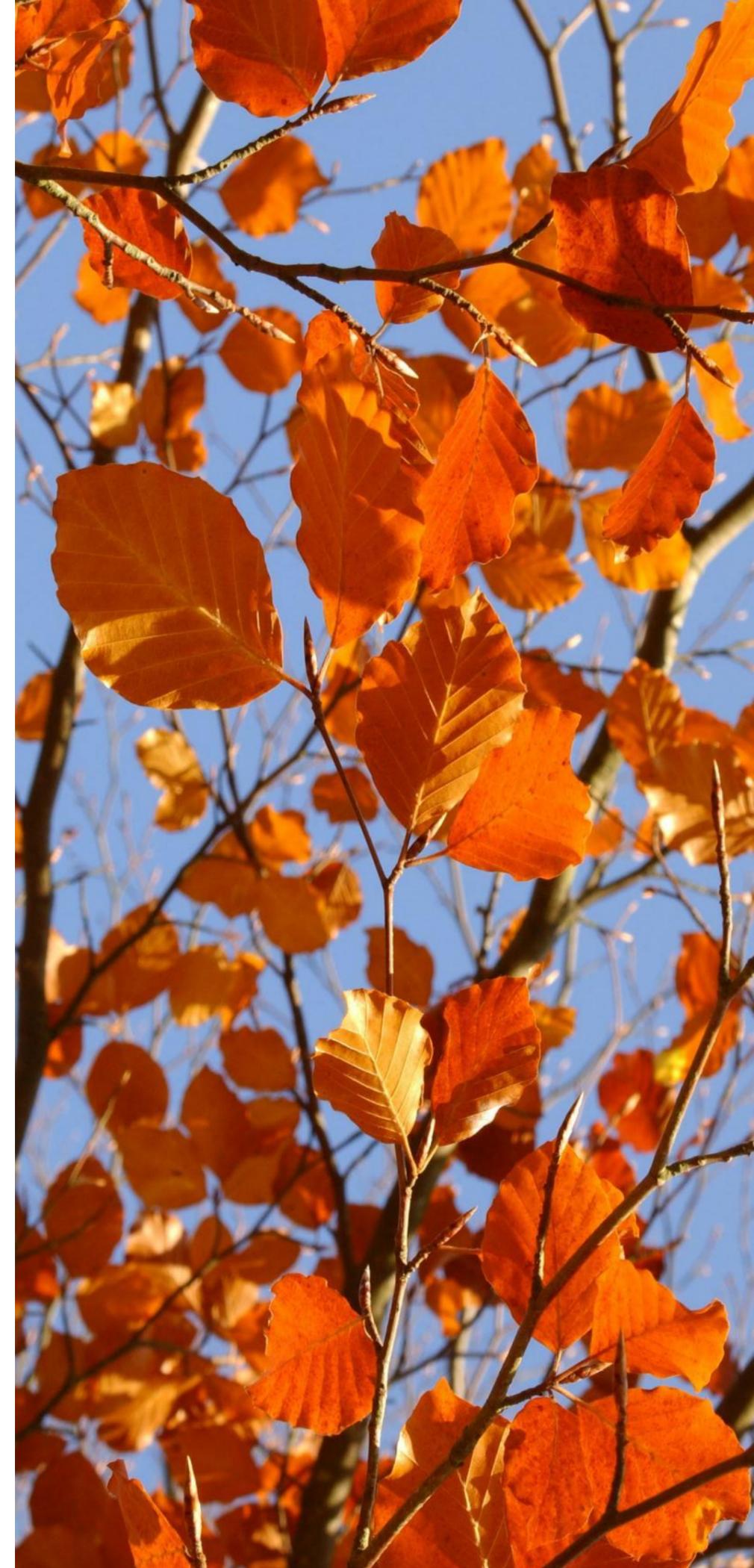
Rogate Main and Hatch Copse also have important areas of wet woodland which will be maintained and enhanced. Decisions about the scale and location of interventions will be made at the operational stage of management.

Invasive rhododendron, Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), and Skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) are also present. Continued monitoring takes place to ensure that species posing a threat to native flora do not become established.

The biodiversity interest in the woodlands has been enhanced and maintained through a history of sustainable forest and open habitat management. During the lifetime of this plan, interventions will aim to identify opportunities to enhance rides further, strengthening structural diversity and improving ecological connectivity across the blocks. This will be of principal benefit to invertebrates associated with open and warm conditions as well as any resident reptile populations.

Woodland biodiversity depends on the factors below, which can be promoted by appropriate management:

- Habitat structure
- Open space
- Deadwood





Habitat Structure

One of the main factors affecting woodland biodiversity is vegetation structure. As an example, several bird species are known to be dependent on particular types of vegetation structure within stands. Some prefer high canopies with little understorey, and others need varied layers of ground and shrub vegetation in which to live, feed and reproduce. Most of the woodland in this Forest Plan will be managed using Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (see Proposals). As stands are regenerated, these systems should result in a wider range of vegetation structures. Most of these systems also depend on maintaining canopy cover, which helps ensure habitat continuity for a wide range of species.

In areas where open habitats are next to forest stands (such as ride edges), the most favourable habitat structure tends to grade from low grassy vegetation through a taller band of shrub vegetation, which then phases in to the taller canopy trees. This is usually referred to as two or three zone ride management. Two zone ride management typically consists of a central grass strip flanked by a single edge zone of taller vegetation, providing basic habitat diversity and sunlight penetration. In contrast, three-zone ride management adds an intermediate herbaceous zone between the grass strip and the shrub edge, creating a more gradual transition from open ground to woodland. These approaches significantly increase structural diversity, supports a wider range of species (including butterflies, birds, and invertebrates), and improve connectivity across the woodland.

Scallops (curved indentations along ride edges) will further enhance microhabitats and increase the availability of warm, sheltered conditions for wildlife.

Open Space

Open space is another major contributor to woodland biodiversity. We will identify opportunities to enhance open space by managing roads, rides, and box junctions through the selective removal of trees, the implementation of three-zone ride management, and the creation of scalloped edges where appropriate. In addition, we will explore the creation of woodland glades and small meadows, which provide valuable habitats for pollinators and light-demanding species. Open areas can also be generated through group felling, creating temporary clearings that encourage natural regeneration and increase structural diversity within the woodland. Most ride enhancement will take place as part of harvesting operations, but we will seek funding for additional work if suitable project areas can be identified.

Deadwood

Dead and decaying wood is an important part of several woodland food webs and plays a major role in ecosystem functioning. Stag beetles, for example, have been identified to occur in the wider area, and retention of deadwood will provide suitable habitat for the species.

We will assess the current levels of standing and fallen deadwood, as well as veteran trees within forest stands. These assessments will either align with national surveys, such as the National Forest Inventory and the Ancient Tree Inventory, or use locally developed survey methods where appropriate. Where gaps are identified, we will actively create additional deadwood habitats to enhance ecological value and support biodiversity.





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.

As the majority of the Rogate woodlands are owned by Forestry England, public access is encouraged and open in nature. A network of public footpaths runs through the blocks including a 64-mile long distance walk called the Serpent Trail. Horse riders and cyclists are able to use the network of bridleways. The PRow will be managed as part of the ride & road management programme.

The rest of the block's highlights include viewpoints and beauty spots overlooking wooded and down land valleys and two car parks. Regular recreation permissions active in the blocks include Serpent Trail races and mountain bike races.

The Rogate Downhill Bike Park, set within Rogate Main, is evolving. There is recently approved planning permission to develop a 127 space car park to serve the site, subject to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The area for the development and proposed planning are highlighted on the Proposals maps.

The woodland areas are also important to local community groups who use them for a variety of purposes. Examples include a volunteer group which carries out conservation tasks to increase heathland and herpetofauna habitat.

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

Forests improve our physical health

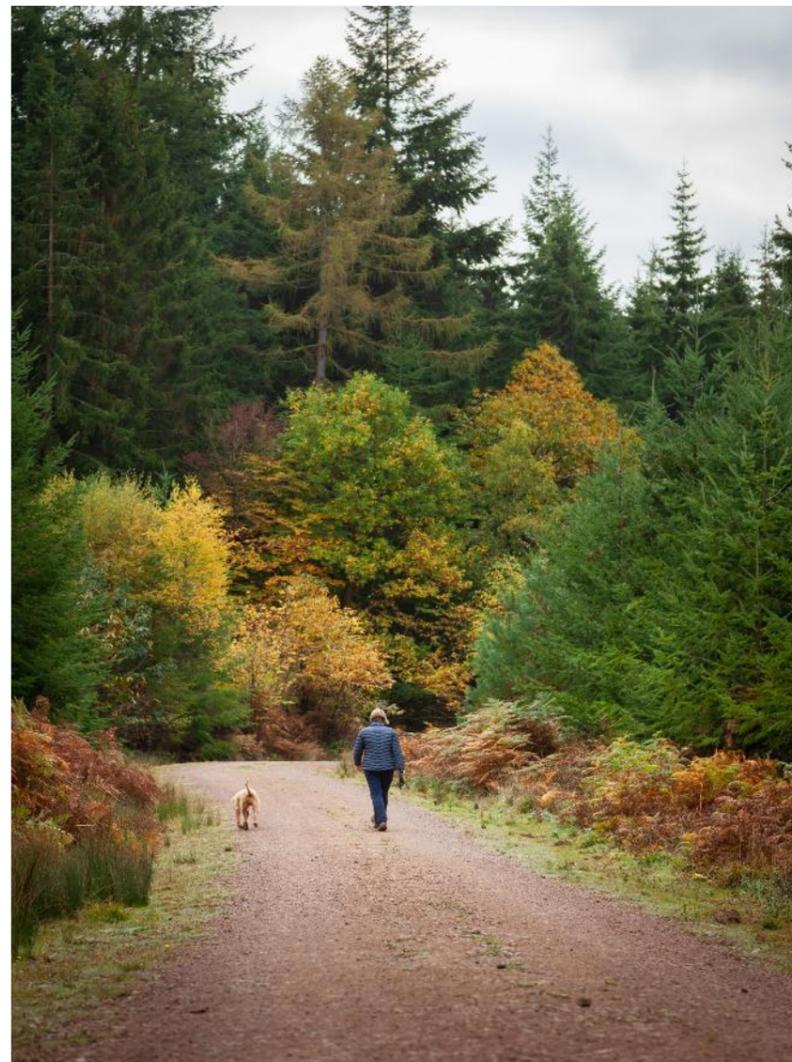
Forests encourage people to be more active, helping reduce health risks linked to inactivity and supporting overall physical wellbeing.

Forests restore our physical and mental balance

Time in forests can lower stress, blood pressure, and heart rate, while boosting positive emotions and overall wellbeing.

Forests as spaces for social connection

Forest environments can help people feel more connected to others, supporting social wellbeing and shared experiences.





Historic Environment

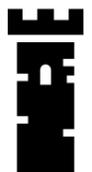
Protecting historic woodland features strengthens cultural identity and enriches forest stewardship.

There are a total of eight recorded historical features within the Rogate Woodlands. These range from sandpits, boundary stones and limekilns to iron working sites and a hydraulic ram. These are all currently unscheduled. As with all Forestry England sites, operational planning before management interventions will look to safeguard these important features in line with guidance set out in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). We also arrange desk-based assessments and, if necessary, walkovers by archaeologists when planning forestry operations.

Shufflesheeps falls within Hollycombe House (Registered Parks and Gardens), registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest. It is described as early 19th century pleasure grounds and gardens extensively developed as a woodland garden from the 1870s onwards. Shufflesheeps is a woodland planted on what was previously a common, which forms an extension to the Victorian arboretum.

Did you know?

The nation's forests boast nearly 4% of all nationally protected scheduled monuments found in England.



Geology, Soils, and Water

Geology, soils, and water underpin sustainable forestry by shaping site productivity, tree species suitability, and long-term resilience. Understanding these factors helps protect soil structure, prevent erosion, manage nutrient cycles, and safeguard water quality. Sound planning based on these environmental foundations supports healthy forests, biodiversity, and climate-adapted woodland management.

Geology and Soils

Soils types throughout the block are classified as typical podzols. Soils at most of Rogate are described as freely draining, very acidic, sandy and loamy.

The northeastern corner of Rogate Main is made up of fine clayey or loamy soils.

Hatch Cope is characterised by loamy over sandy soils, resulting in naturally wet gleys mottled grey and brown immediately below the topsoil.

Water

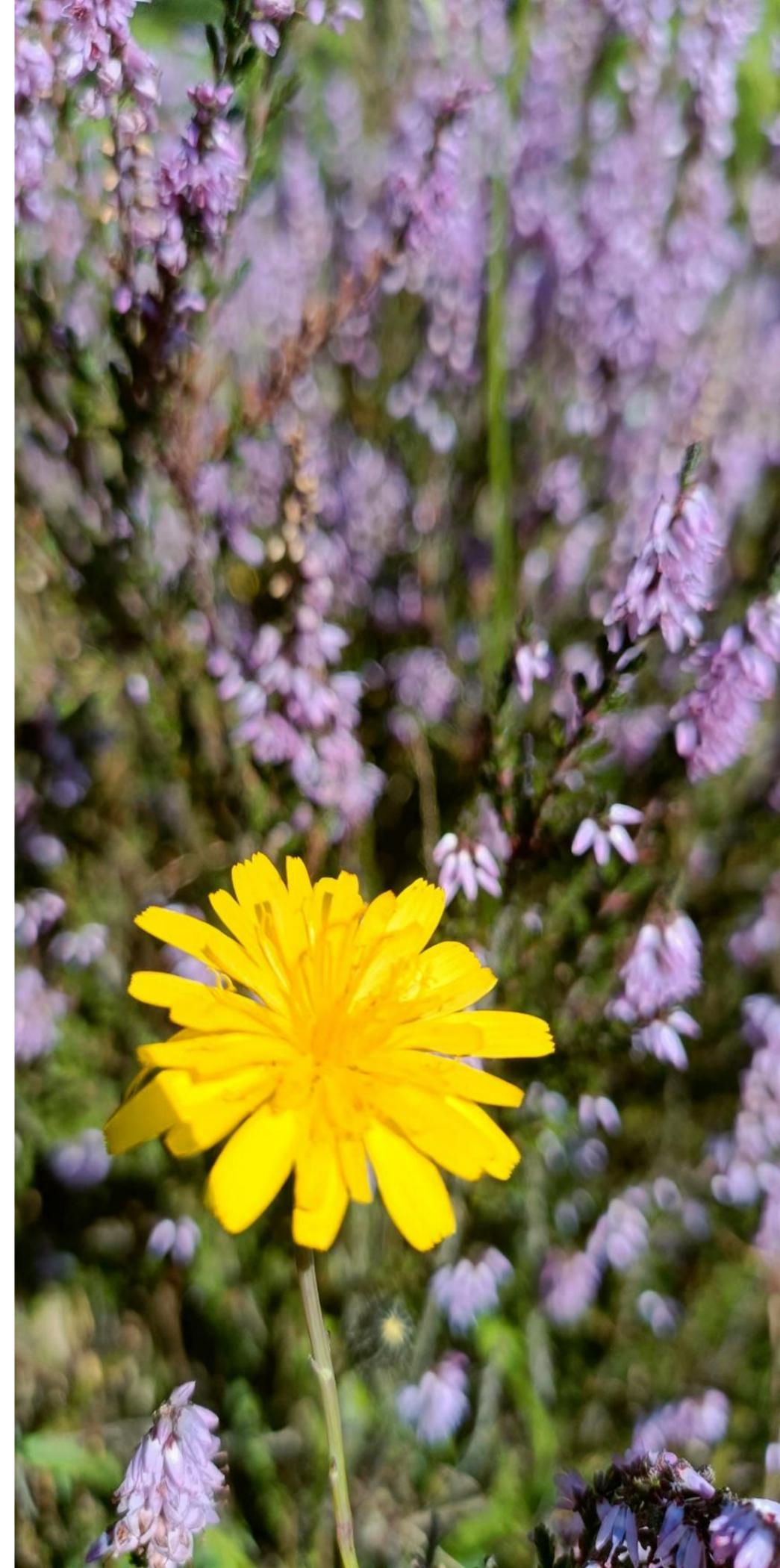
Drainage channels and streams provide flowing water within the woodlands, and four small ponds are present within Rogate Main and Hatch Cope.

The main soils are permeable and well drained so readily accept winter rain. Prolonged heavy rain can cause erosion on steep slopes where well-trodden paths or tracks break the vegetation cover (e.g. Rogate Main).

The northeastern corner of Rogate Main is seasonally waterlogged due to slow vertical drainage. Trees in this area need to be tolerant of prolonged winter waterlogging.

Hatch Cope is wet throughout the year, affected by naturally high groundwater. Tree species need to be adapted to wet conditions, such as willows and alders.

Water is an important feature in a forested environment. All forest management operations follow the guidance set out in the UKFS regarding good practice when working around waterbodies, taking into account issues such as acidification, sediment delivery and nutrient enrichment. Water bodies are mapped on the relevant maps. Some of the woodlands contain a network of permanent and seasonal watercourses and drains and a scattering of important wildlife ponds.





Pests and Diseases

Effective pest and disease management is essential for maintaining healthy forests, protecting tree species, and sustaining long-term woodland resilience. By monitoring threats and responding quickly, managers can prevent large-scale damage, safeguard biodiversity, and limit losses from pathogens and invasive pests. Proactive management also supports climate-resilient woodlands, ensures sustainable timber production, and helps preserve the ecological, cultural and recreational value of forest landscapes.

Pest and disease outbreaks can mean woodlands are at high risk of unplanned change through premature felling and altered restocking plans. Our guidance and action plans regarding plant health are regularly evolving to adapt to plant health threats. We will continue to monitor for diseases as required and take any action required. Any changes to the Forest Plan will be notified or agreed with Forest Services in accordance with relevant guidance.

Deer

Mammal browsing is also a threat to the sustainability of woodlands in southern England. Roe and Muntjac are the most prevalent browsing mammals within the Rogate Woodlands. Deer will be managed in accordance with the South Forest District Deer Management Strategy and in the wider landscape through partnership work with relevant agencies such as the Deer Initiative.

The pests and diseases that are relevant to the Rogate Forest Plan are summarised in the table below.

Pest/Disease	Management measures
Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (<i>Ips typographus</i>)	<i>Ips typographus</i> is a destructive pest of spruce trees. Although the beetle is not currently present in the Plan's woods, the block is within the Plant Health Demarcated Area Notice, which places legal obligations and restrictions on the management and movement of infected timber and other material within this area. In response to the threat, we will fell Norway spruce within these forests over the ten years of the Forest Plan period.
Red Band Needle Blight (<i>Dothistroma septosporum</i>)	Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) causes premature needle defoliation, resulting in loss of timber yield and, in severe cases, tree death. Although DNB is not currently a concern, Corsican pine is a significant component (12.8%) of Rogate. The fungal disease will continue to be monitored and proactively managed to ensure risks are minimised.
Ramorum disease (<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>)	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> is a highly destructive, algae-like organism called a water mould. It causes extensive damage and death to more than 150 plant species, including forest species. Larch are particularly susceptible. Although larch is present at Rogate, its occurrence is low (3.6%), meaning the potential impacts of the disease are not currently of concern. Rhododendron and bilberry are also affected, and these are found in significant numbers at several Rogate woods.
Ash dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>)	Ash dieback is a highly destructive disease of ash trees (<i>Fraxinus</i> species), especially the UK's native ash species, common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>). The disease is also known as 'Chalara'. Although ash is present, its number is minimal within the scale of the woodland, therefore it is not considered critical to the wood. Healthy ash will be retained to allow natural regeneration, enabling natural selection to act and promote resilience.

Grey squirrels

Grey squirrels are present at Rogate and proactively managed according to the standard methods adopted by Forestry England to ensure that their pressure does not have a negative impact on the condition of habitats and crops.



Rogate in a nutshell

	Iron Hill	Shufflesheeps	Hatch Fir	Hatch Copse	Great Hanger	Coldharbour	Rogate Main
Area (ha)	81.64	20.6	20.55	39.67	26.2	20.38	121.38
Tenure	Freehold with a corner of leasehold in northwest of site.	Freehold with a bit of leasehold at the north of site.	Freehold.	Freehold.	Freehold.	Freehold.	Freehold.
Biodiversity	Connected to Lynchmere Commons Local Nature Reserve (Stanley Common) to the north. Within Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA.	Within Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA.	Within Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA.	Within Hampshire Rother watershed BOA.	Adjacent to Chapel Common SSSI. Within Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA.	Close to Chapel Common SSSI. Within Weavers Down to Lynchmere BOA.	Adjacent to Rake Hanger SSSI. Within Rogate Common BOA. Tullecombe LWS.
Recreation	Mostly open access. PRow and Serpent Trail run through. Iron Hill Carpark. Popular with dogwalkers.	No public access.	Open access. PRow. Low footfall.	Open access. PRow and bridleway. Only used by small local community.	Open access. PRow and Serpent Trail run through.	Open access. Low footfall.	Open access limited to PRow and Serpent Trail. Tullecombe carpark. Rogate Downhill Bike Park.
Heritage	Adjacent to Hollycombe House (Registered Parks and Gardens). Undesignated archaeological features.	Within Hollycombe House (Registered Parks and Gardens).	Undesignated archaeological feature.	Undesignated archaeological features.	N/A	N/A	Undesignated archaeological features.



Rogate in a nutshell (continued)

	Iron Hill	Shufflesheeps	Hatch Fir	Hatch Copse	Great Hanger	Coldharbour	Rogate Main
Habitat	Plantation woodland, lowland heathland, coppice	Plantation woodland	Plantation woodland, coppice	Mixed woodland, wet woodland with streams and pond	Plantation woodland, coppice	Plantation woodland, coppice	Plantation woodland, coppice, lowland heathland, semi-improved grassland, wet woodland, coppice
Species composition	77% conifer 10% broadleaf 13% open	82% conifer 17% broadleaf 1% open	56% conifer 39% broadleaf 5% open	31% conifer 60% broadleaf 9% open	50% conifer 37% broadleaf 13% open	28% conifer 59% broadleaf 13% open	61% conifer 33% broadleaf 6% open
Dominant tree species	Western hemlock (34.8%)	Scots pine (52.4%)	Scots pine (28.6%)	Corsican pine (21.1%)	Douglas fir (33.3%)	Birch (44.1%)	Douglas fir (23.4%)
Ancient Woodland	ASNW & PAWS	N/A	N/A	ASNW & PAWS	ASNW & PAWS	Almost entirely PAWS	ASNW & PAWS
Average Semi-Natural Scores (weighted by area, includes PAWS and ASNW)	3.96	N/A	N/A	2.44	2.51	2.79	2.77
Soils	Podzol	Podzol	Podzol	Ground-water Gley Surface-water Gley Podzol Brown Earth	Podzol	Podzol	Podzol Surface-water Gley Brown Earth
Texture	Sandy, some loamy	Sandy, some loamy	Sandy, some loamy	Mostly loamy, some sandy	Sandy, some loamy	Sandy, some loamy	Sandy, some loamy and clayey
Drainage	Freely draining	Freely draining	Freely draining	Mostly naturally wet	Freely draining	Freely draining	Mostly freely draining, with some areas of impeded drainage



Wildfire Response

Reducing the number of incidences and impact of wildfires in forests through planning is important for sustainable forest management and the protection of forest ecosystems. This plan will aim to build on the wildfire resilience already present in the woodland by acting on the following points:

- Managing the vegetation to maintain a network of fire breaks, reducing fuel across an entire site especially along roads and rides.
- Using LISS forestry to develop a more diverse woodland structure.
- Where appropriate fragmenting high risk species and habitats into smaller areas to reduce the risk of fire spread.
- Increasing broadleaved native woodland, particularly around high-risk areas.
- Using appropriate species relative to the forests' wildfire risk when restocking.

These principals will be implemented during the operational stage and are intended as a guide only.

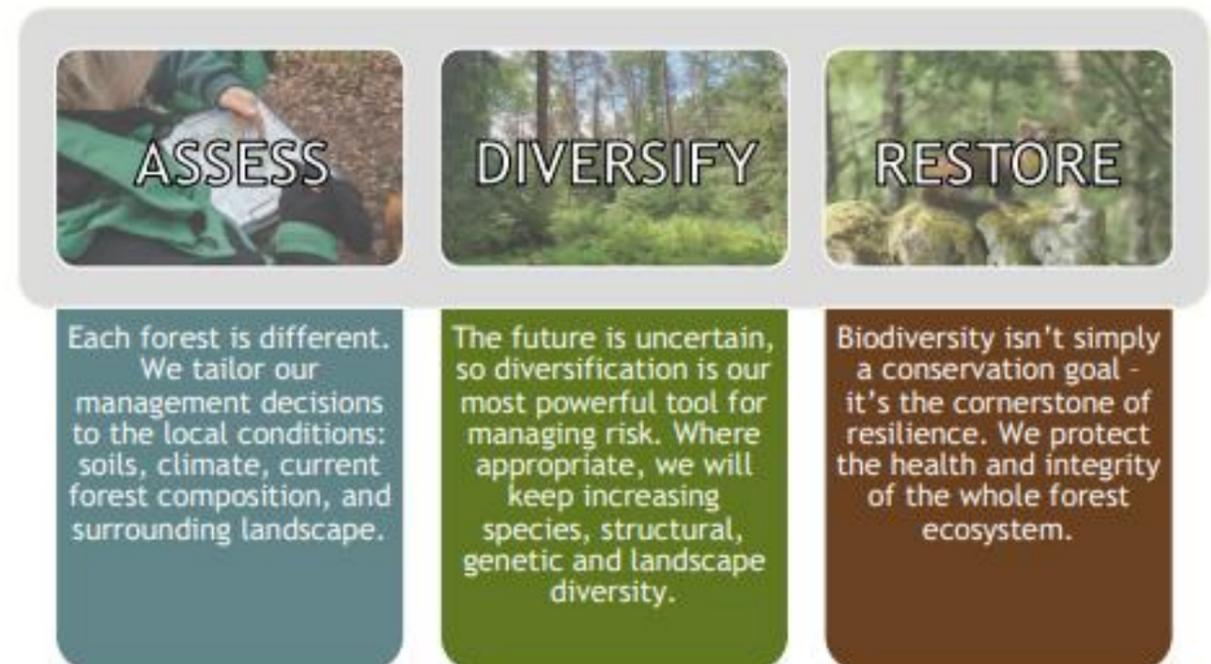
The wildfire risk maps included in this Forest Plan show vegetation-based fire risk, assessed depending on the current species composition (conifers are more flammable than broadleaves), age of crop (young crops are at higher risk than older ones), and thinning status (fire is less likely to spread in previously thinned areas).

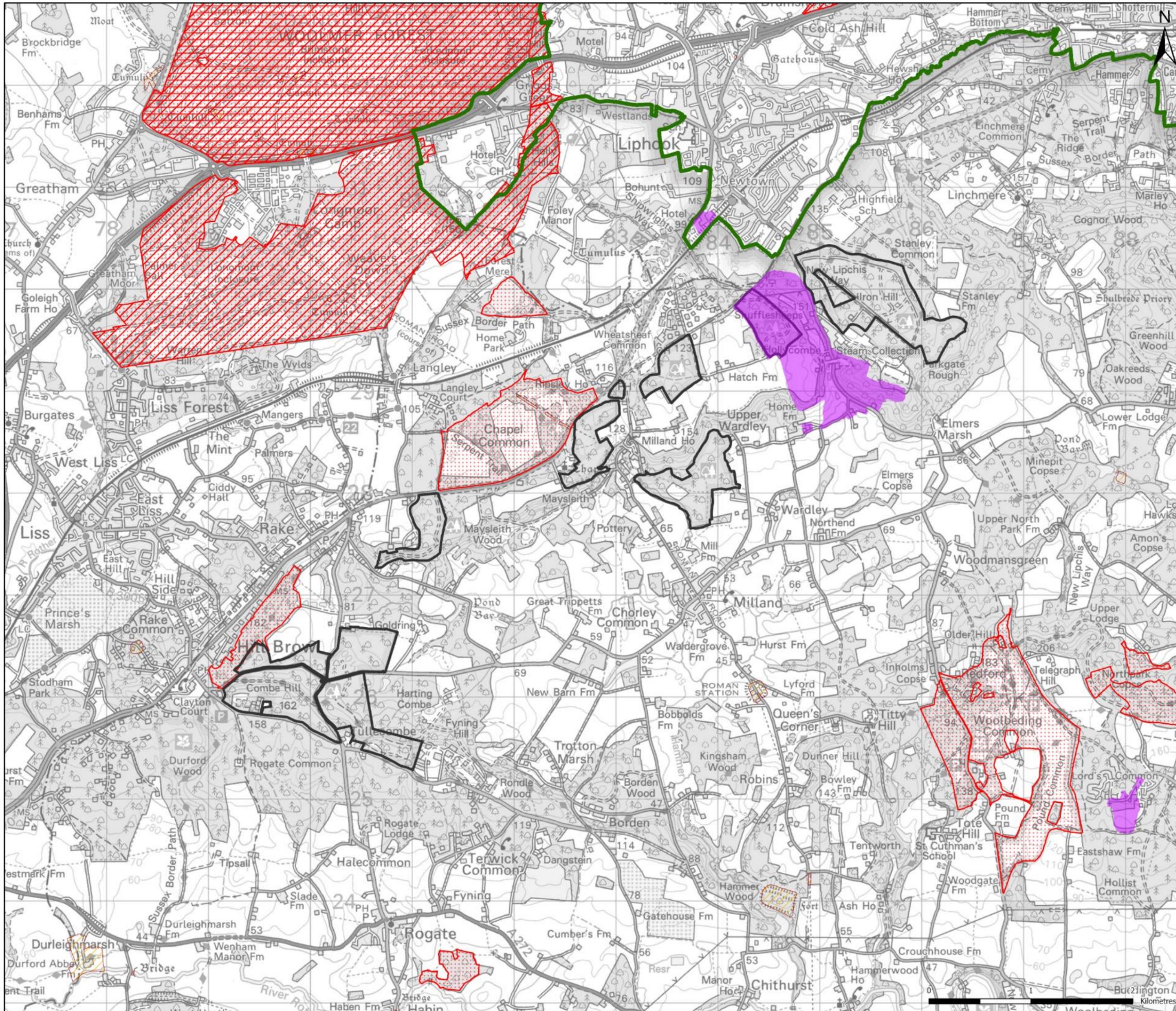
Climate Change

Climate change represents one of the greatest long-term challenges facing the world today. Conventional forest management systems have developed in a climate that has undergone fluctuations but remained relatively stable since the end of the last ice age (around 10,000 years ago). However, the average global temperature is now rising and there is evidence that rainfall patterns are changing. There is also likely to be an increase in the incidence of extreme weather and the frequency and severity of summer drought.

This is likely to represent the greatest threat to woodlands from climate change in the UK over the coming decades. UK forest management must respond to these threats in two principal ways: through mitigation, by ensuring that management practices are sustainable; and through adaptation, by increasing species diversification and enhancing resilience.

Our Forest Resilience Strategy sets out Forestry England's long-term approach to preparing our forests for the escalating challenges of climate change, pests and diseases, biodiversity loss, and evolving social pressures—ensuring they remain healthy, resilient, and thriving for generations to come. This plan focuses on creating diverse, healthy, and adaptable forests by expanding the range of tree species we grow, protecting soils and water, restoring habitats, and adapting our management to a changing climate. It focuses on three essential principles: assess, diversify, and restore.

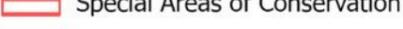
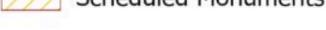




Designated Areas

Land designated as important conservation sites on Forestry England managed land in the area.

Legend

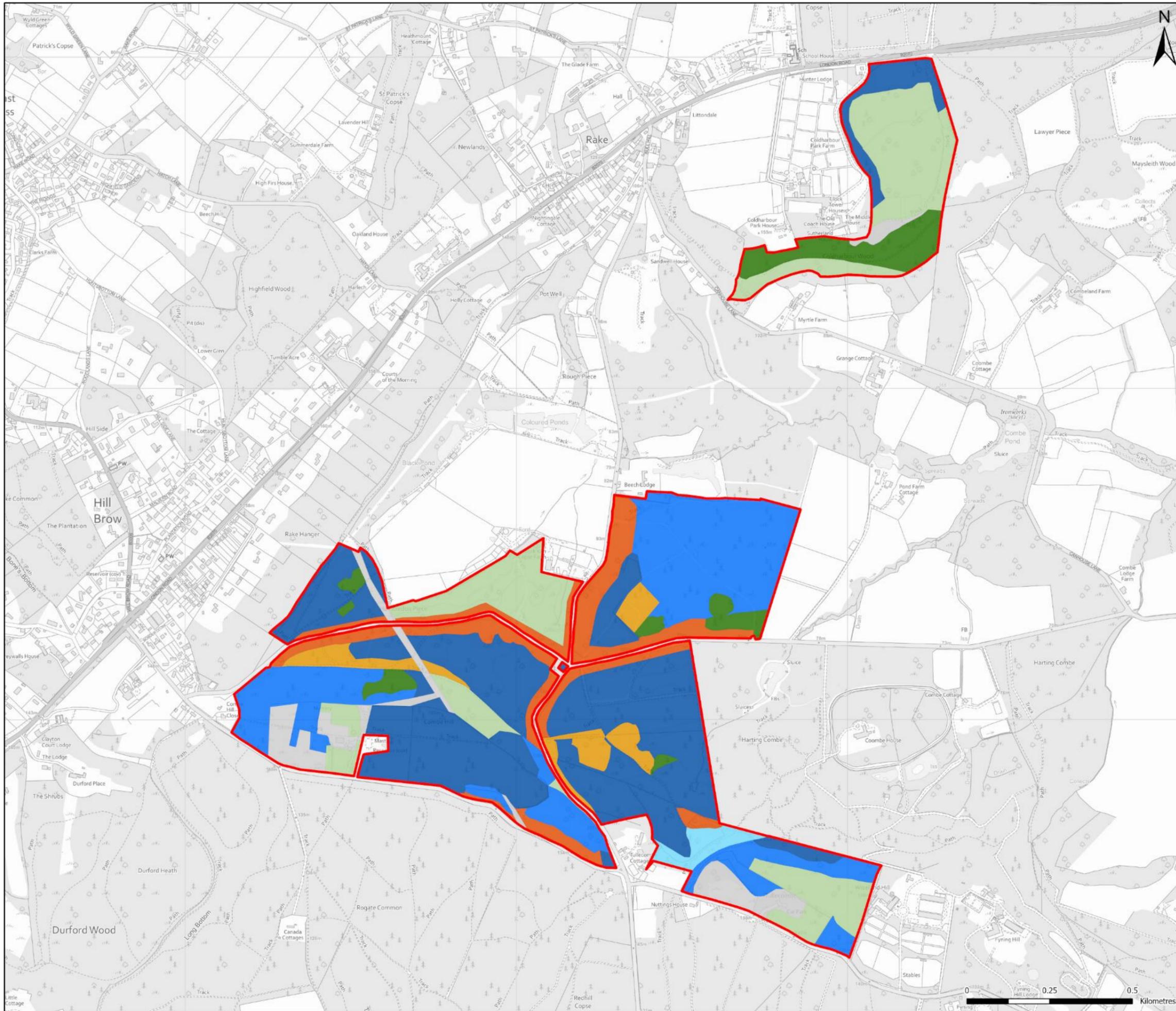
-  Blocks
-  South Downs National Park
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  Special Protection Areas
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Scheduled Monuments

Scale: 1:35,750 (@ A3)



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





Rogate Forest Plan



Current Structure

Current landscape structure depicted by habitat or woodland type.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Legend

Blocks

Detailed Species

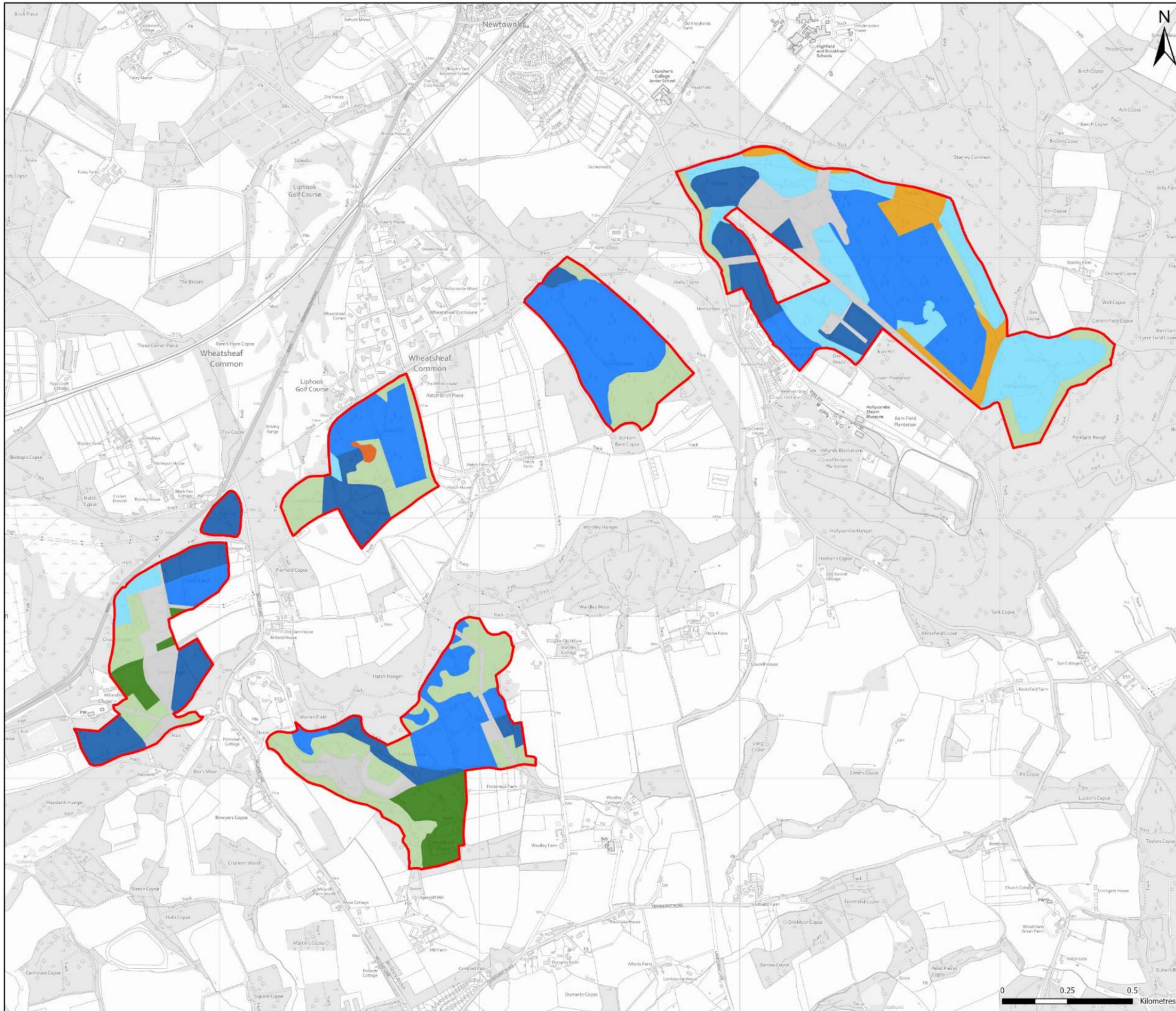
- Oaks
- Beech
- Larches
- Other broadleaves
- Firs & Spruces
- Pines
- Other conifers
- Open/other

Scale: 1:11,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



Current Structure

Current landscape structure depicted by habitat or woodland type.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

Blocks

Detailed Species

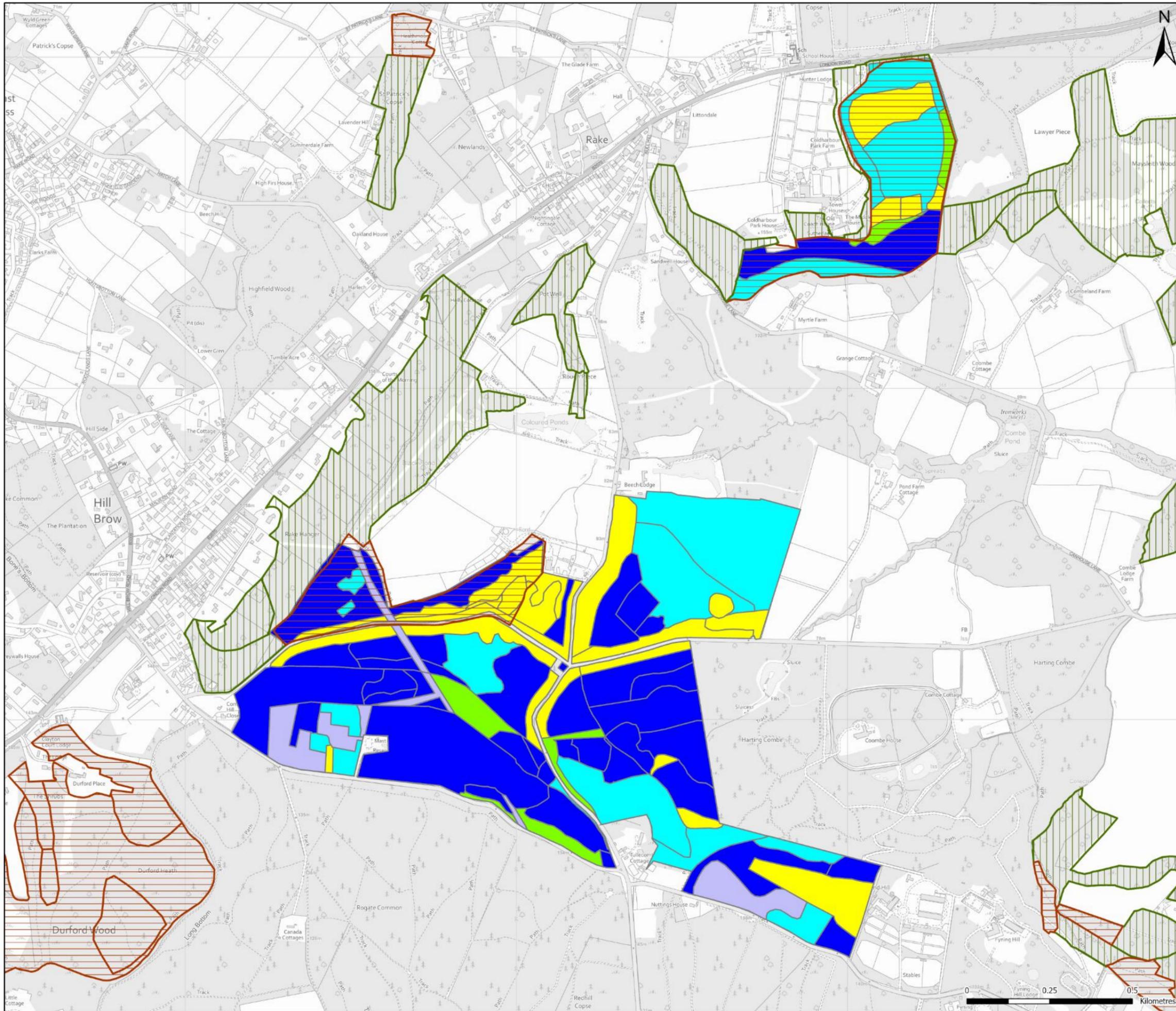
- Oaks
- Beech
- Larches
- Other broadleaves
- Firs & Spruces
- Pines
- Other conifers
- Open/other

Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



Semi-Natural Scoring

Presents Semi Natural Score of woodland.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Legend

Ancient Woodlands

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

Semi-Natural Scores (2025)

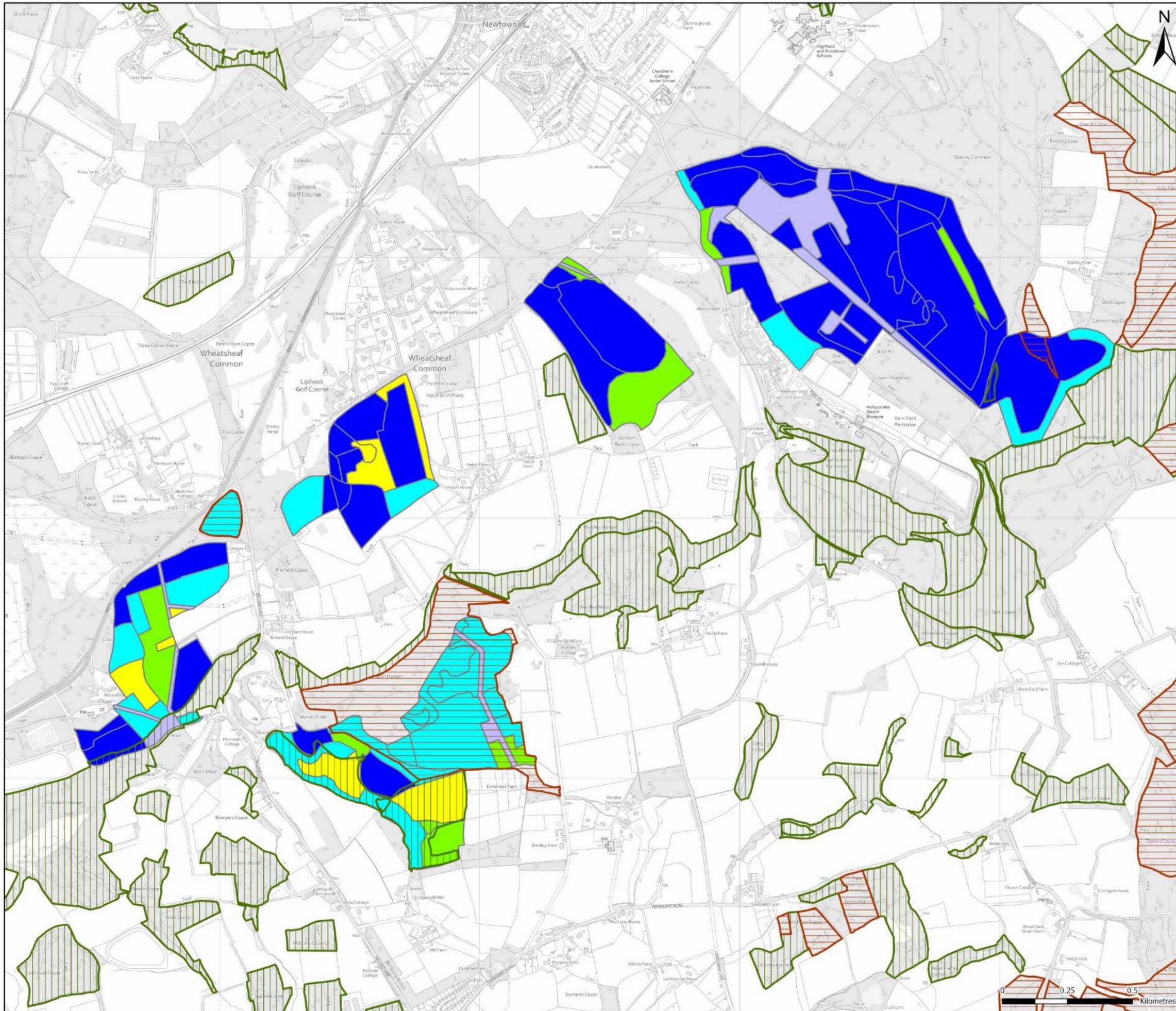
- SN 1
- SN 2
- SN 3
- SN 4
- No Trees

Scale: 1:11,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



Semi-Natural Scoring

Presents Semi Natural Score of woodland.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

Ancient Woodlands

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

Semi-Natural Scores (2025)

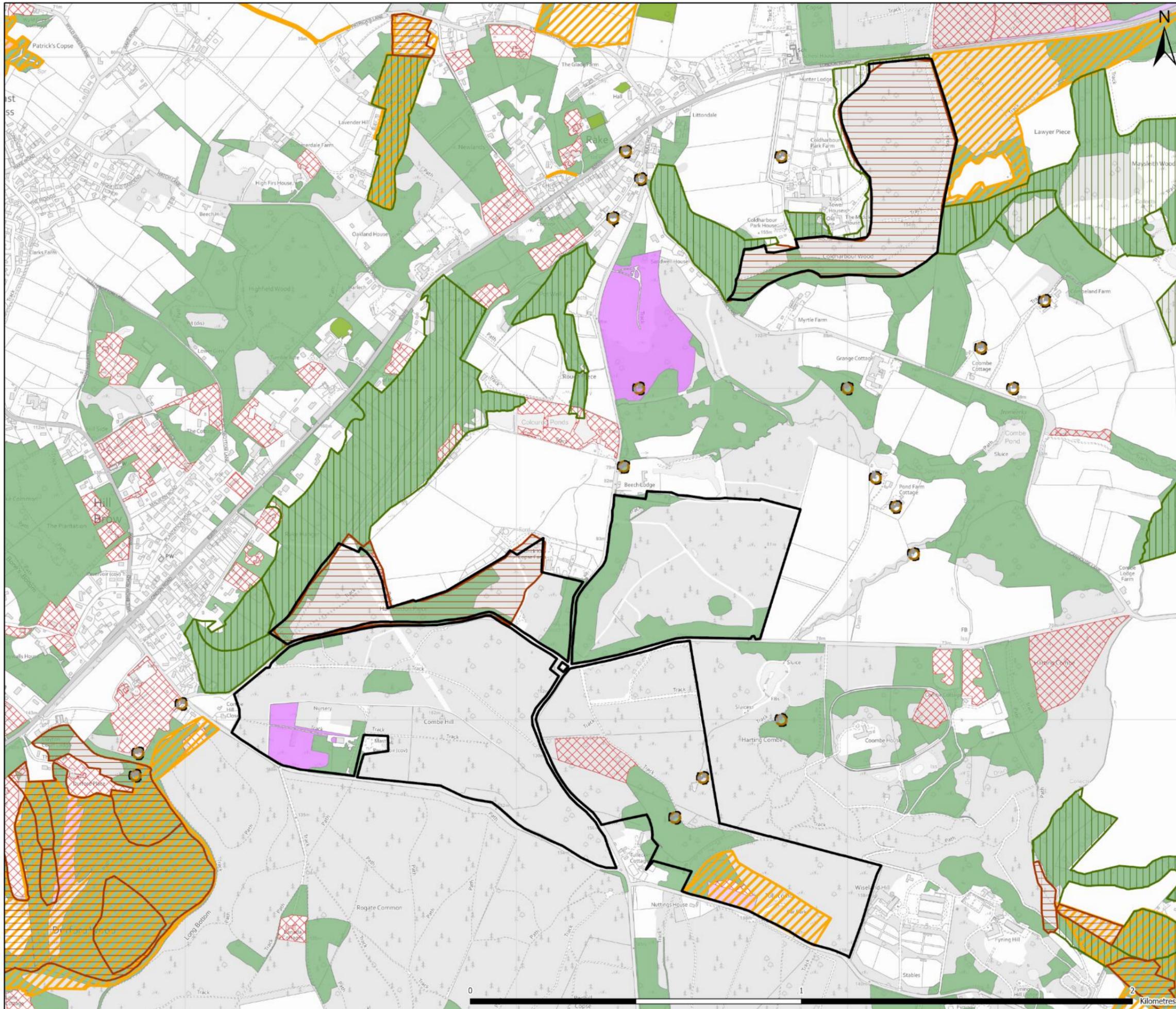
- SN 1
- SN 2
- SN 3
- SN 4
- No Trees

Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



High Conservation Value Areas

Areas of importance for conservation.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Legend

- Blocks
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Heritage

Priority Habitats

- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland heathland
- Traditional orchard
- No main habitat but additional habitats present

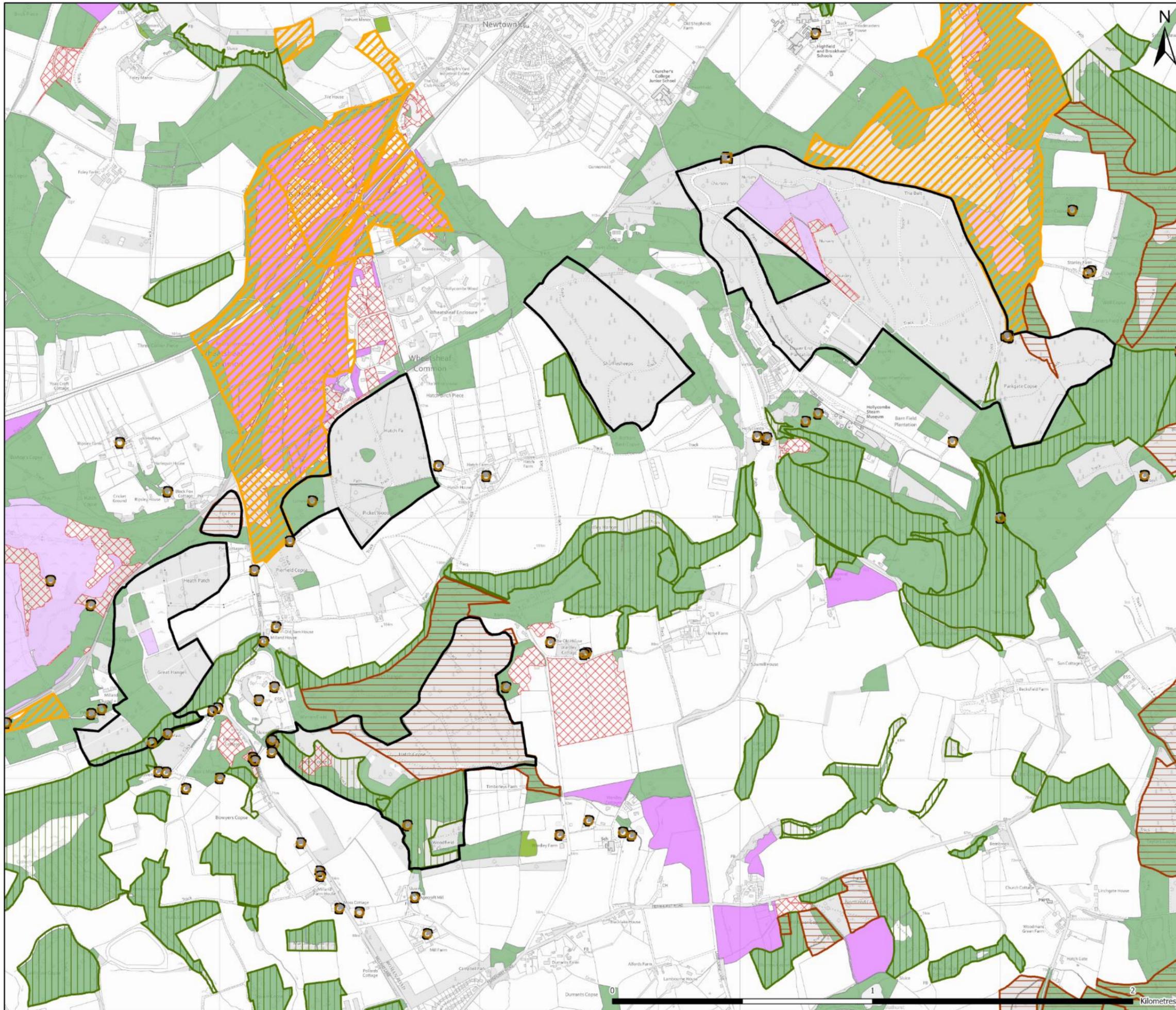
Priority Habitats is a Natural England dataset that describes the indicative extent and location of Section 41 habitats of principal importance in England. Priority Habitats are those which have been deemed to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity being listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Scale: 1:11,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



High Conservation Value Areas

Areas of importance for conservation.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

- Blocks
 - Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Ancient Replanted Woodland
 - Local Wildlife Sites
 - Heritage
- Priority Habitats**
- Deciduous woodland
 - Good quality semi improved grassland
 - Lowland heathland
 - Traditional orchard
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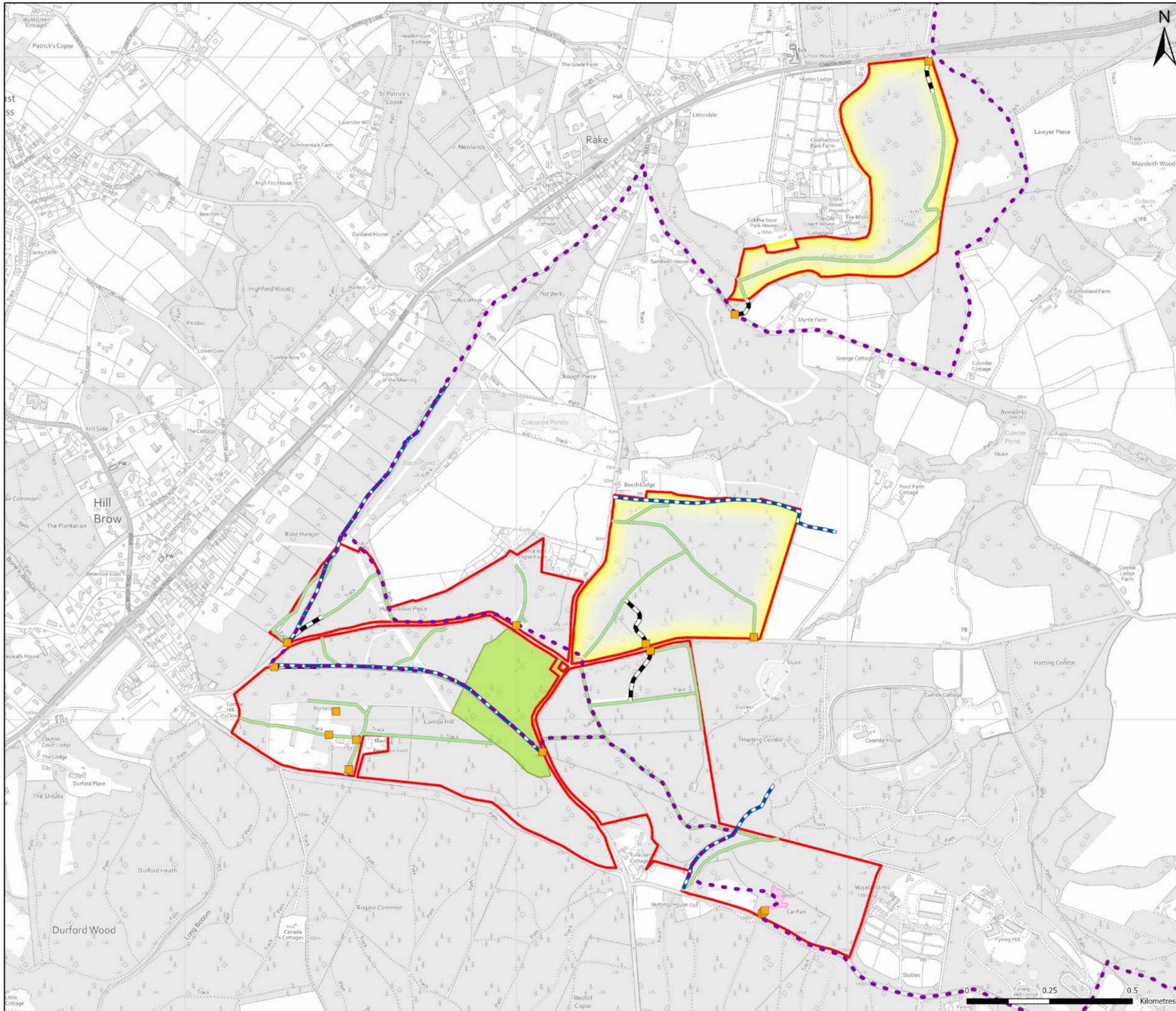
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Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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Recreation & Access

Facilities available to the public to use and related recreational infrastructure.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

- Legend**
- Blocks
 - CROW Dedicated Land
 - Car Parks
 - Gates/Barriers
 - Rides
 - Forest Roads
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Serpent Trail
 - Sports

Scale: 1:11,000 (@ A3)

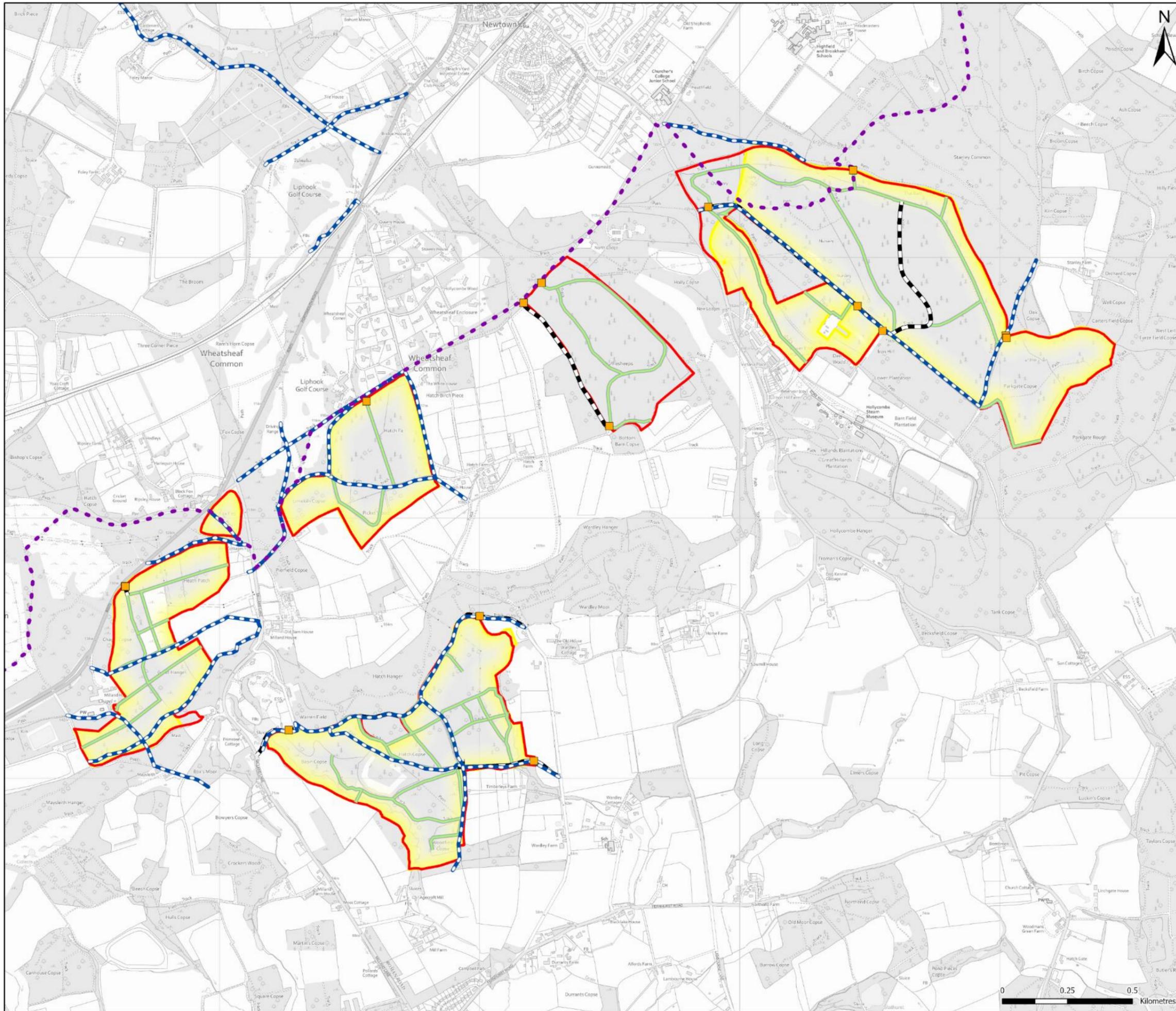


FSC
www.fsc.org
FSC® C123214
The mark of responsible forestry

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



Rogate Forest Plan



Recreation & Access

Facilities available to the public to use and related recreational infrastructure.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

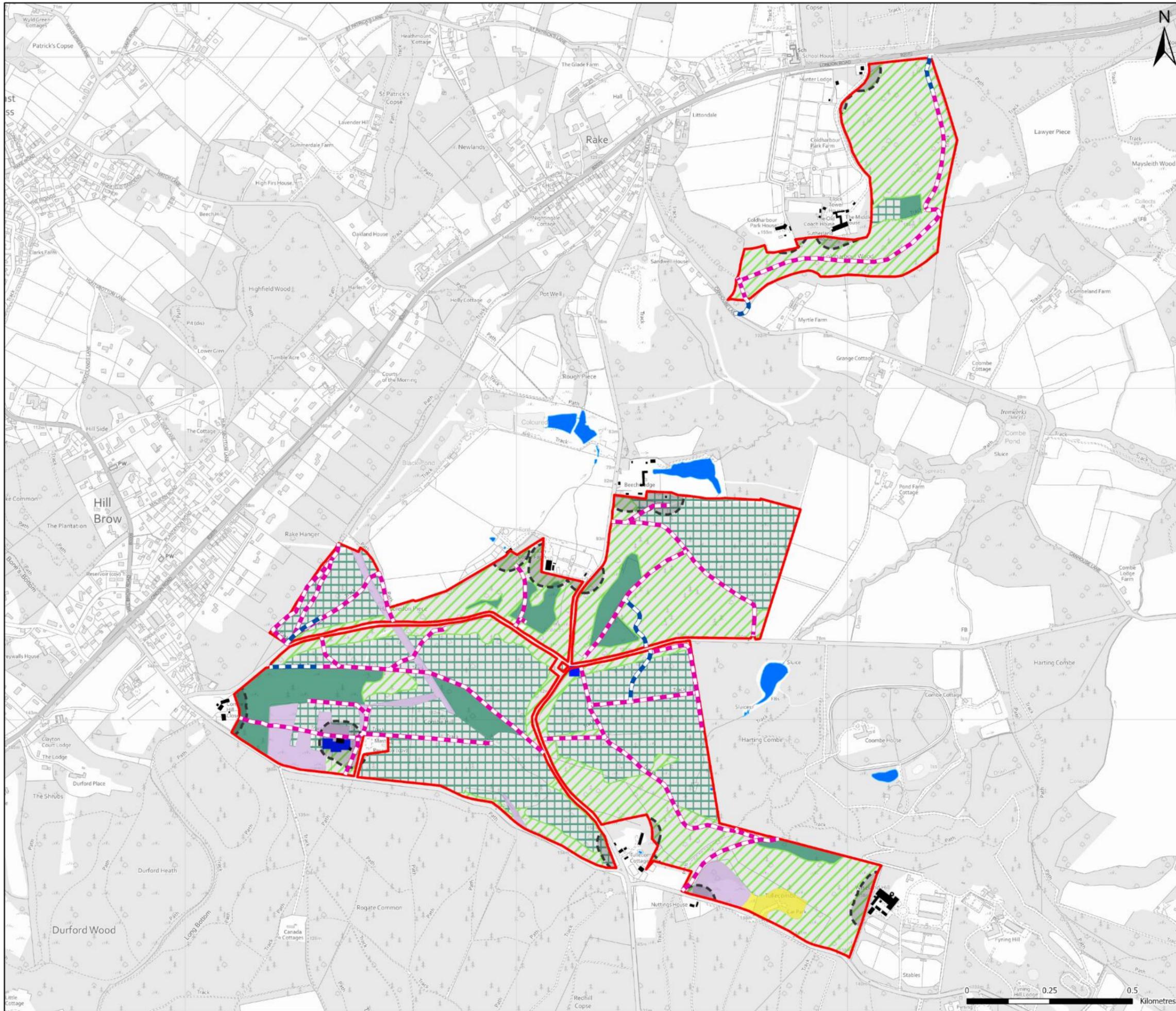
- Blocks
- CROW Dedicated Land
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- Rides
- Forest Roads
- Public Rights of Way
- Serpent Trail

Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



Fire Risk

Illustrates the fire risk on sub-compartment level.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Legend

- Blocks
- Fire Break
- Fuel Break
- Water Supply Points
- Open Water
- Fuel Hazard**
- High Risk Conifer
- Low Risk Conifer
- Low Risk Broadleaf
- High Risk Heath
- Open
- Buildings
- Buildings 50m buffer

Scale: 1:11,000 (@ A3)

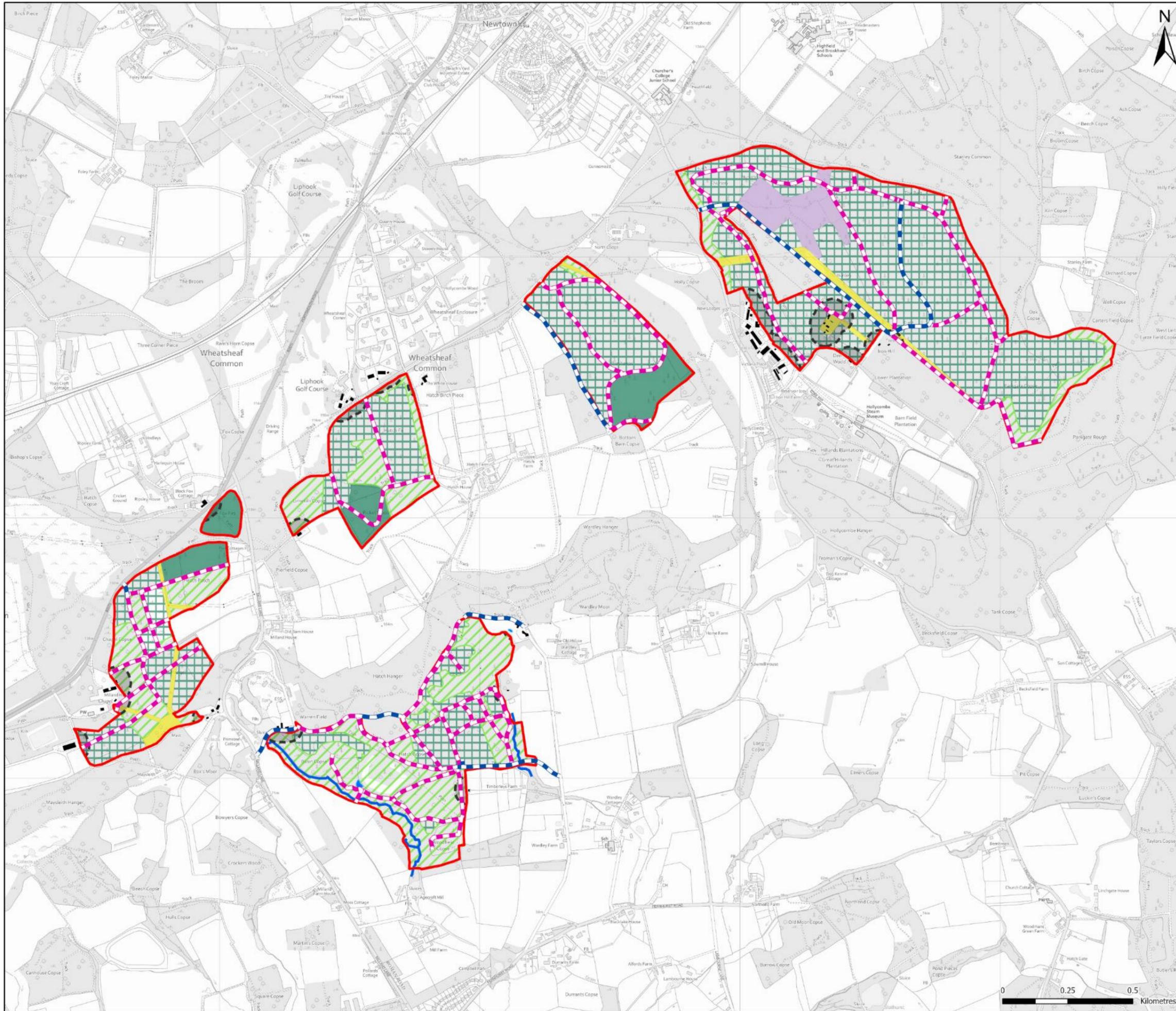


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The mark of responsible forestry

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.co.uk



Rogate Forest Plan



Fire Risk

Illustrates the fire risk on sub-compartment level.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

- Blocks
- Fire Break
- Fuel Break
- Watercourses
- Open Water
- Fuel Hazard**
- High Risk Conifer
- Low Risk Conifer
- Low Risk Broadleaf
- High Risk Heath
- Open
- Buildings
- Buildings 50m buffer

Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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0 0.25 0.5 Kilometres



Vision and Objectives

This section sets out a long-term vision and policy direction for the Plan area. It clearly defines the Plan’s objectives, giving balanced consideration to environmental, economic, and social priorities. These objectives are aligned with organisational strategy and are supported by measurable indicators of success to enable effective monitoring and evaluation.

The Forestry England National Vision and Overall Goal:

“To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the Public Estate for the people of England.”



The Rogate woods will be managed in line with Forestry England’s five-year strategic plan: Growing the Future. Our objectives will aim to deliver the following national targets:



For wildlife

- Maintain, improve, and restore habitats and ecological function where possible and appropriate.



For the climate

- Build climate change resilience into our woods.



For people

- Provide a valuable resource where people can interact with the natural environment.

Rogate will be managed as a resilient, diverse, and ecologically rich landscape, where PAWS restoration strengthens ancient woodland character and a broader range of species enhances long-term adaptability. The forests will continue to transition away from vulnerable conifers and ageing monocultures, with proactive responses to pests - particularly the removal of Norway Spruce to mitigate against the threat of *Ips typographus*.

Accessible sites will provide high-quality recreational experiences through maintained and enhanced ride networks, while habitat connectivity and species recovery remain central to future management.



Table of objectives

Forestry England National Strategic goal	District Strategic Objective	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
<p>For the Climate</p>	<p>Creating resilient, diverse forests that can adapt to changing conditions, expanding woodland cover to boost carbon sequestration, and managing existing forests to maximize carbon storage while maintaining sustainable timber production</p>	<p>Promote resilience via species, habitat and functional diversity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and increasing the native composition of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW). • Restoring planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS) to native and honorary native woodland. • Increasing the species and age diversity of the woodland through forest management operations. • Actively manage and remove Norway spruce stands. • Use natural regeneration where possible to restock after felling. 	<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural scores at years 5 and 10. • Summaries of felling, species and age distribution from the sub-compartment database at years 5 and 10. • Operational Site Assessments (OSAs) to confirm component removal or clearfelling of Norway spruce. • Assessments of stocking density and natural regeneration 5 years after restocking.
<p>For Wildlife</p>	<p>Healthy woodland and forest biodiversity is a valued component of sustainable forest management, contributing to the successful functioning of woodland ecosystems. The nation's forests contribute through species diversity, genetic variability and the provision of larger less fragmented forest and woodland habitats, integrated with other habitats.</p>	<p>Increase the conservation value of a range of habitats present at Rogate, leading to enhanced biodiversity value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take opportunities to increase the nature conservation value of existing habitats and enhance and support the development of open space. • Control invasive plant species and reduce their impact across the sites. • Identify and map Priority Ecological Corridors. 	<p>Consult OSAs and engage with the Beat team and Ecology team at years 5 and 10 to assess ride/open space management.</p>
<p>For People</p>	<p>The nation's forests contribute significantly to the quality of life for people in rural and urban communities alike, assisting in reducing air pollution and providing important health and learning benefits as well as providing a significant tourist destination.</p>	<p>In woods that are accessible to the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing recreational capacity of the woodland. • Look for opportunities to develop recreational capacity and high-quality visitor experience, while retaining woodland resilience. 	<p>Consult OSAs and engage with the Beat team and Recreation team at years 5 and 10 to assess existing and new opportunities for recreational use.</p>

Proposals

This section presents the final concept of the Plan with clear presentation of proposals for sustainable management, together with rationale for each management description.

We are growing the future. We think beyond our own generation. We are developing forests today while carefully planning the future.

Silvicultural Systems

Silviculture is the process of tending, harvesting and regenerating a forest. Different patterns of felling and regeneration form distinct 'silvicultural systems'. Different systems may be suitable for different management objectives (e.g. conservation in an ancient woodland vs. timber production in a conifer plantation).





Clearfell

A clearfell is a forestry operation involving the cutting down of all or most trees within a defined area of woodland. A scatter or small clumps of trees may be retained within the felled area to provide structural or habitat continuity.

For much of the 20th century, clearfelling was the dominant silvicultural system across the UK. It fit the priorities of the time; rapid timber production, operational efficiency, and ease of management. However, over the past decades, forestry has been shifting towards the increased use of Lower Impact Silvicultural (LISS) systems.

Lower Impact Silvicultural System

LISS are silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems. LISS are generally compatible with windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.

In contrast to clearfelling, these systems aim to balance timber production with long-term ecological resilience. Instead of removing entire stands at once, LISS works with the forest's natural processes, maintaining continuous cover and structural diversity. At Rogate, these principles are applied wherever conditions allow, promoting resilient forests that deliver multiple ecosystem services.

Whether using planting or natural regeneration,

we will use the minimum densities of young trees of 1100 per hectare for broadleaves, and 1800 trees per hectare for conifers.

It is likely that clearfelling will still be necessary as a short-term response in areas affected by pests and diseases (e.g. *Ips typographus*). Planting will be required on these sites, using tree species and provenance that are well matched to the local and future conditions. The Forestry Commission's "Guide to restocking your woodlands" has indicative suggestions for species.

LISS Regeneration Felling

Regeneration felling is a type of tree felling specifically carried out to create new forest growth. It represents the final stage in the current forest cycle and is undertaken specifically to create the environmental conditions needed for successful regeneration of the next tree crop.

Removal of mature trees allows regenerated stands to establish, either naturally through seeds and seedlings already present on or near the site, or through planting or direct seeding following felling.

The choice of approach depends on factors such as site conditions, desired species composition, and long-term management objectives.

Following regeneration felling, the site is monitored and, where necessary, managed to ensure successful establishment of new woodland. This may include soil preparation, planting, vegetation control, or protective measures against browsing wildlife.

Coppice

Coppicing is silvicultural system based on regeneration by regrowth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and regrowth. Coppice can also refer to an area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide wood products. 'Coppice with standards' refers to coppice with a scatter of trees grown on a long rotation to produce larger-sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.

Sweet chestnut coppice occurs at Iron Hill, Hatch Fir, Great Hanger, Coldharbour, and Rogate Main.

Wet Woodland Management

Wet woodland management focuses on maintaining and enhancing the ecological health of waterlogged wooded habitats by protecting natural hydrology, promoting structural diversity, and supporting associated wildlife. Key practices include avoiding drainage or soil disturbance, controlling invasive species, allowing natural processes like deadwood accumulation, and using light-touch interventions such as selective thinning or coppicing only where needed to improve light levels.

Wet woodland is found at Hatch Copse and Rogate Main.

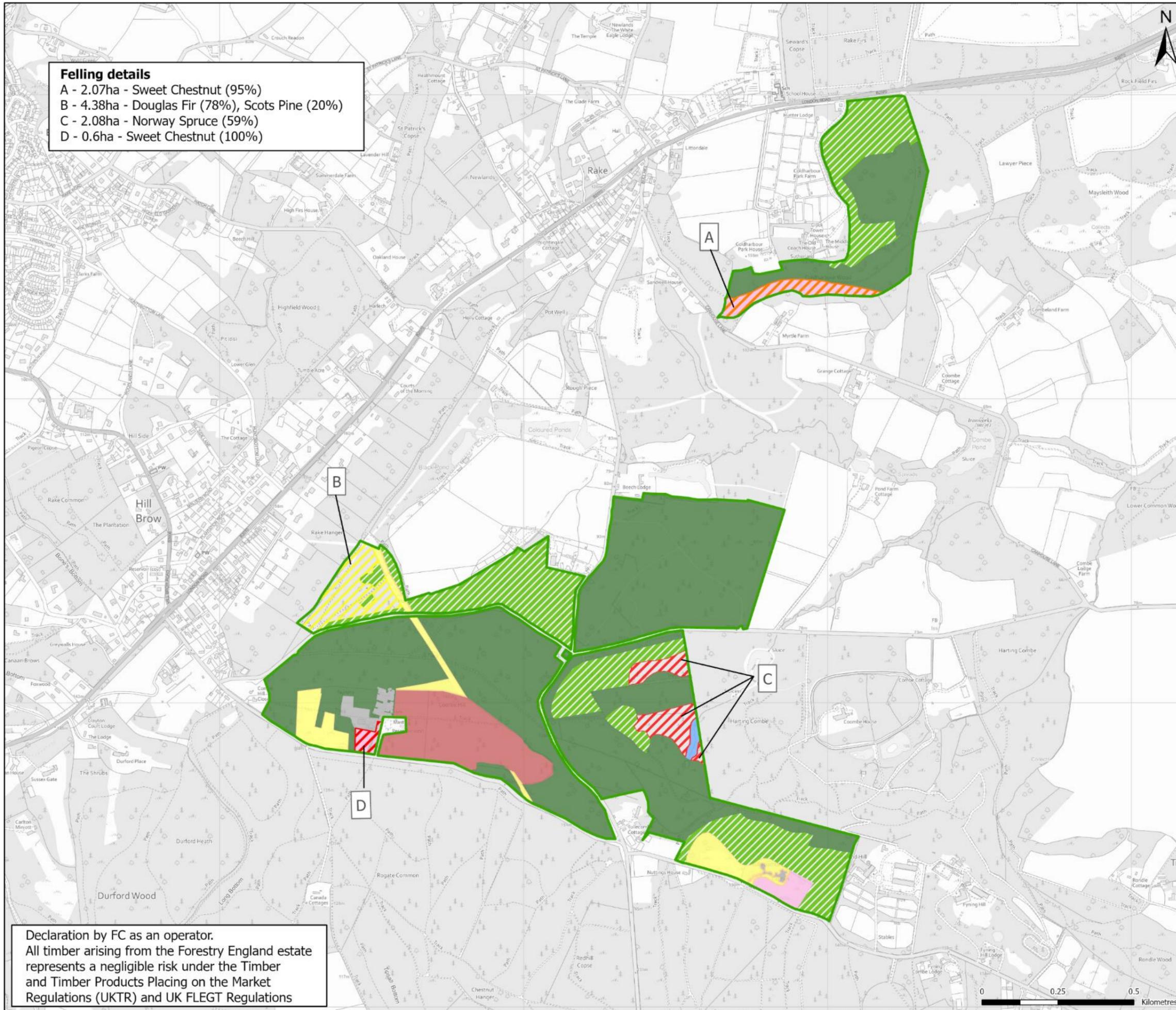
Felling & Habitat Management

Describes how, over the course of this plan, we will manage the forest to advance towards the long term vision.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Felling details

- A - 2.07ha - Sweet Chestnut (95%)
- B - 4.38ha - Douglas Fir (78%), Scots Pine (20%)
- C - 2.08ha - Norway Spruce (59%)
- D - 0.6ha - Sweet Chestnut (100%)



Legend

- Blocks
- Management Description**
- Clearfell 2026-2030
- Clearfell 2031-2035
- Clearfell 2041-2045
- Clearfell 2046-2050
- Clearfell 2051-2055
- Clearfell beyond 2055
- LISS
- LISS Regeneration Felling
- Coppice
- Wet Woodland Management
- Seed Stand
- Open
- Buildings; Car Park

Declaration by FC as an operator.
All timber arising from the Forestry England estate represents a negligible risk under the Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations (UKTR) and UK FLEGT Regulations

Scale: 1:12,000 (@ A3)



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



Felling & Habitat Management

Describes how, over the course of this plan, we will manage the forest to advance towards the long term vision.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Felling details

- E - 3.49ha - Western hemlock (100%)
- F - 0.75ha - Norway spruce (88%), Birch (12%)
- G - 2.92ha - Norway spruce (47%), Western hemlock (30%), Birch (12%), Scots pine (11%)
- H - 2.24ha - Norway spruce (100%)
- I - 2.38 ha - Sweet chestnut (71%)
- J - 8.55ha - Scots pine (100%)
- K - 0.62ha - Norway spruce (100%)
- L - 5.53ha - Corsican pine (100%)

Felling details

- M - 0.35ha - Western hemlock (100%)
- N - 1.89ha - Douglas fir (54%), Birch (20%), Western hemlock (13%), Scots pine (10%), Corsican pine (3%)
- O - 0.87ha - Douglas fir (100%)
- P - 0.76ha - Corsican pine (100%)
- Q - 1.32ha - Norway spruce (28%), Lawson cypress (24%)
- R - 1.87ha - Western hemlock (19%), Norway spruce (12%)
- S - 0.37ha - Norway spruce (50%)
- T - 0.9ha - Roble (100%)

Declaration by FC as an operator.
All timber arising from the Forestry England estate represents a negligible risk under the Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations (UKTR) and UK FLEGT Regulations

Legend

- Blocks
- Management Description**
- Clearfell 2026-2030
- Clearfell 2031-2035
- Clearfell 2041-2045
- Clearfell 2046-2050
- Clearfell 2051-2055
- Clearfell beyond 2055
- LISS
- LISS Regeneration Felling
- Coppice
- Wet Woodland Management
- Seed Stand
- Open
- Buildings; Car Park

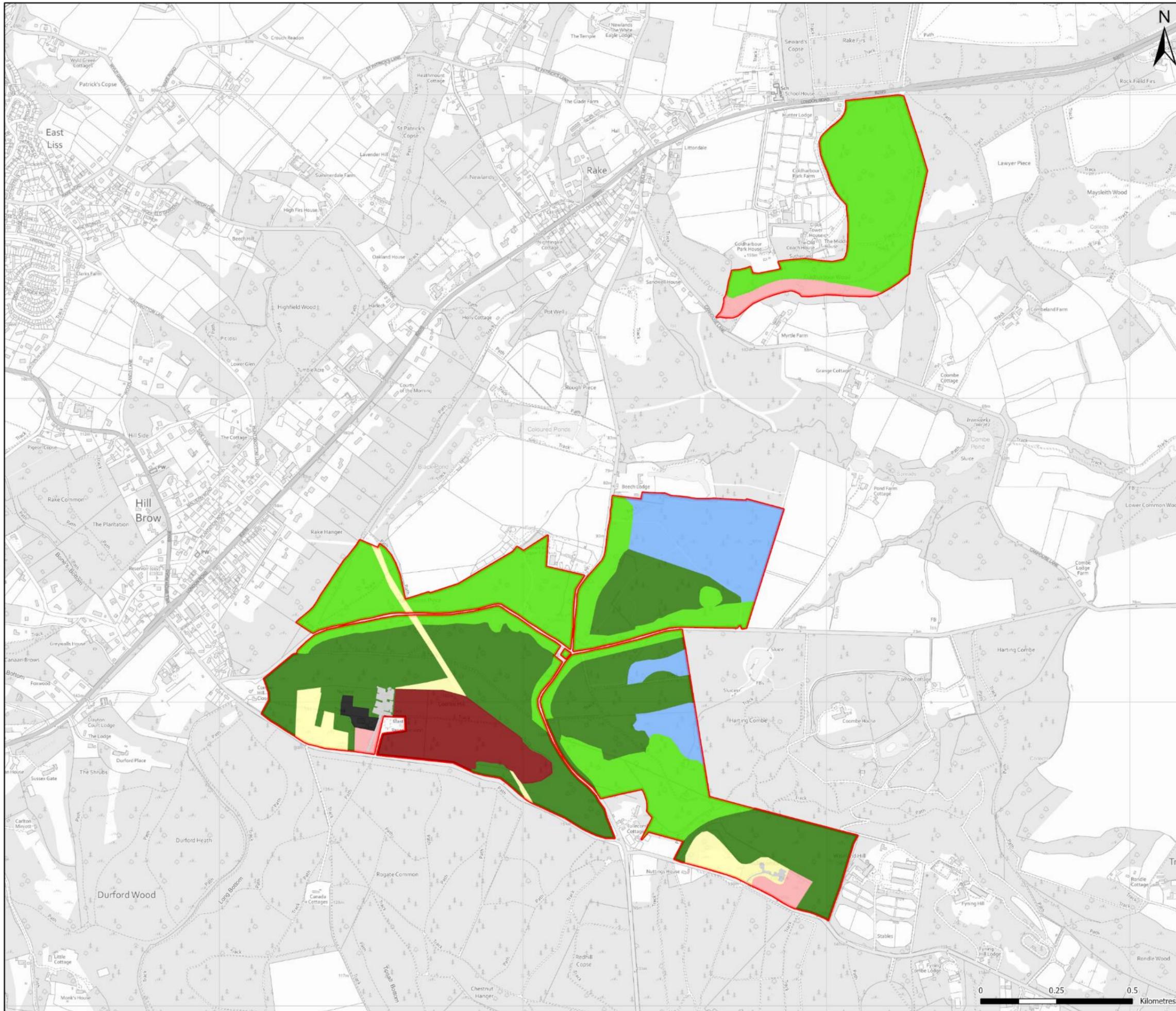
Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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0 0.25 0.5 Kilometres



Rogate Forest Plan



Design Concept

Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term.

Rogate Main, Coldharbour

Legend

Blocks

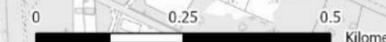
Management Objectives

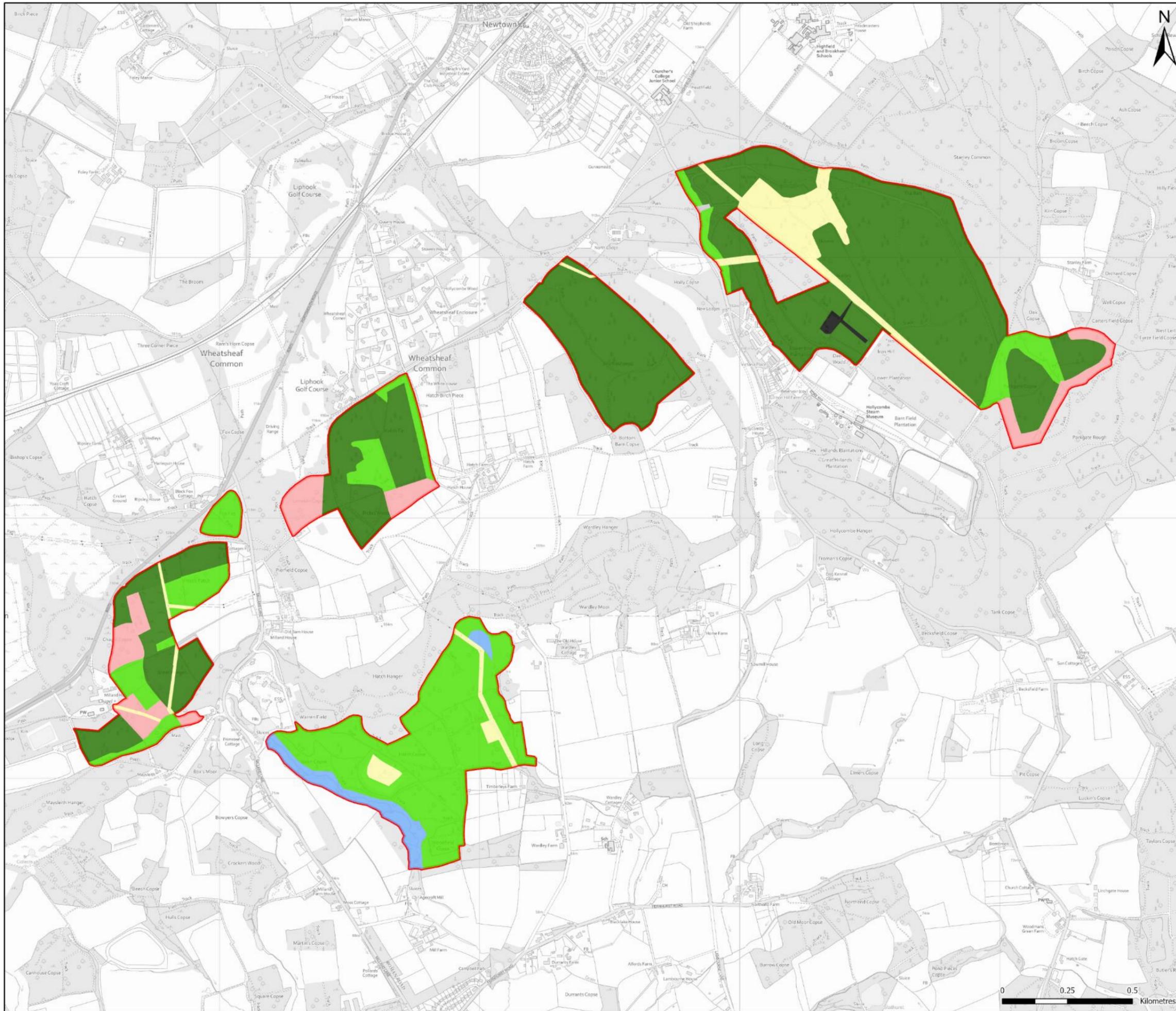
- Managed Native Woodland
- Managed Mixed Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Coppice
- Seed Stand
- Open
- Buildings
- Car Park

Scale: 1:12,000 (@ A3)



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Rogate Forest Plan



Design Concept

Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term.

Great Hanger, Hatch Fir, Hatch Copse, Shufflesheeps, Iron Hill

Legend

Blocks

Management Objectives

- Managed Native Woodland
- Managed Mixed Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Coppice
- Open
- Buildings
- Car Park

Scale: 1:14,000 (@ A3)



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Glossary

Ancient woodland: Areas of semi-natural native woodland that have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600. They are particularly rich in biodiversity and this is often notable in their characteristic ground flora.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) Ash dieback (also known as Chalara ash dieback) is a highly destructive fungus killing native ash trees across the UK. Young and coppiced trees will die quickly once infected, more mature ash may survive for a number of years once infected. Causes the timber to lose strength, become brittle and trees to start dropping limbs.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): An approach to development that ensures wildlife habitats are left in a measurably better than before work begins. In England, BNG is a legal requirement under the Environment Act 2021, mandating at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value.

Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA): BOAs are areas that have been identified and mapped as giving the best opportunity for enhancing biodiversity for Priority Habitats and Priority Species (a set of habitats and species defined as being of high importance for nature conservation).

Canopy: The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees. The shade it casts has a strong influence on the plants, trees and shrubs beneath it.

Clearfelling: Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland, it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). A scatter or small clumps of trees may

be left standing within the felled area.

Coppice: Coppicing is silvicultural system based on regeneration by regrowth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and regrowth. Coppice can also refer to an area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide wood products. 'Coppice with standards' refers to coppice with a scatter of trees grown on a long rotation to produce larger-sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.

Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB): DNB is a fungal disease affecting mainly pine species. The fungus affects the needles of the infected tree, which are eventually shed. This can continue year on year and gradually weaken the tree, significantly reducing timber yields. It can also eventually lead to mortality.

Ecosystem Services: Ecosystem services are the goods and services that people depend on that arise from ecosystems. They are usually categorised into Provisioning (e.g.: timber, water, food production), Regulating (e.g.: regulation of climate and diseases), Cultural (e.g.: recreational opportunities, aesthetic value) and Supporting services that underpin these (e.g.: crop pollination).

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is an interconnected network formed of all the living things in a given area (plants, animals and organisms) and their interactions with each other and their non-living environments (e.g.: weather, earth, sun, soil & climate).

FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council): An international non-profit organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests. Forestry England forests are FSC certified.

Historic Environment: The physical remains of every period of human development starting from 450,000 years ago and including earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Ips typographus (larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle): Although the beetle prefers stressed or weakened trees, under the right environmental conditions its numbers can increase enough to result in attacks on healthy trees. If left uncontrolled, the beetle could cause significant damage to the United Kingdom's spruce-based forestry and timber industries.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): Non-statutory areas recognised for their high local conservation value, selected using locally agreed, scientifically based criteria.

Lower Impact Silvicultural System (LISS): Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems. LISS are generally compatible with windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.



Glossary

National Character Area (NCA): Broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'.

Native: Native tree species colonised Britain without human assistance at the end of the last ice age, before the English Channel cut Britain off from mainland Europe.

Natural Capital: The stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people.

Natural regeneration: The growth of new trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees. Regeneration only occurs where suitable seed sources and conditions are present.

Near Native / Honorary Native: In a changing climate many tree species native to continental Europe will spread north. These species are classified as 'honorary/near-native': a species previously considered to be non-native, but whose climate envelope will expand over England as a result of climate change.

Open space: Areas within a forest without trees, such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, water bodies, rocky areas, roads and rides.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS): Ancient Woodland areas where semi-natural

woodland has been cleared and replaced by plantation, often including non-native species. PAWS sites can include both broadleaved and conifer woods and often retain remnant ancient woodland features like species-rich ground flora or undisturbed soils. Also known as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

Priority Ecological Corridors (PEC): Key habitat linkages within wider ecological networks that allow wildlife to move safely between core habitats, supporting species dispersal, climate-change resilience, and overall landscape connectivity. They function as corridors and stepping-stones connecting important habitat areas and are recognised in ecological network frameworks as essential for maintaining ecological processes.

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification): An international non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management through independent third-party certification.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW): Access routes open to the public through legal designation. These include footpaths, by-ways and bridleways.

Resilience: The ability of a forest ecosystem to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties such as pests, diseases, fire, and climate change (as noted in your diagram's central intersection).

Restocking: The establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration, but it is

more usually associated with replanting.

Ride: Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland which provide access for management and other activities.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): A SSSI is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that is of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiographical features that may lie in its boundaries.

Thinning: The removal of a proportion of trees in a forest after canopy closure, usually to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.

United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS): Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS): A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of sustainable forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests.

Veteran Trees: Trees that are of interest biologically, culturally, or aesthetically because of their age, size, or condition.

Contact information

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