

Heritage Assets

The Quantock Plan area holds a significant and important cultural history and heritage. The management of the Quantock Plan area will endeavour to protect and enhance this heritage. Designated, undesignated and unrecorded sites will be managed in line with guidance and planning legislation. Where necessary both internal and external experts and organisations will be used to identify sites and issues and guide operations. This assistance will be sort at an operational level and documented in the Operational Site Plans.

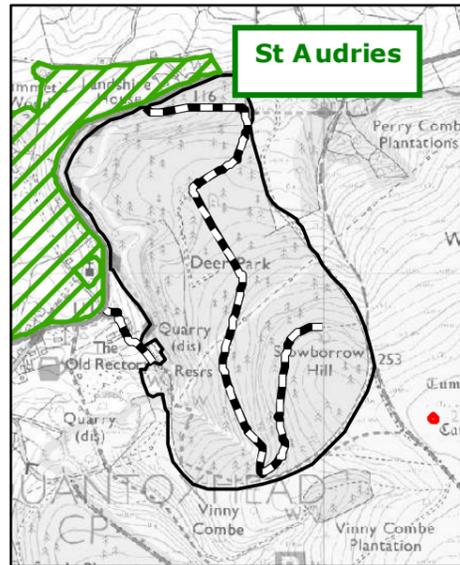
Scheduled Monuments (SM)



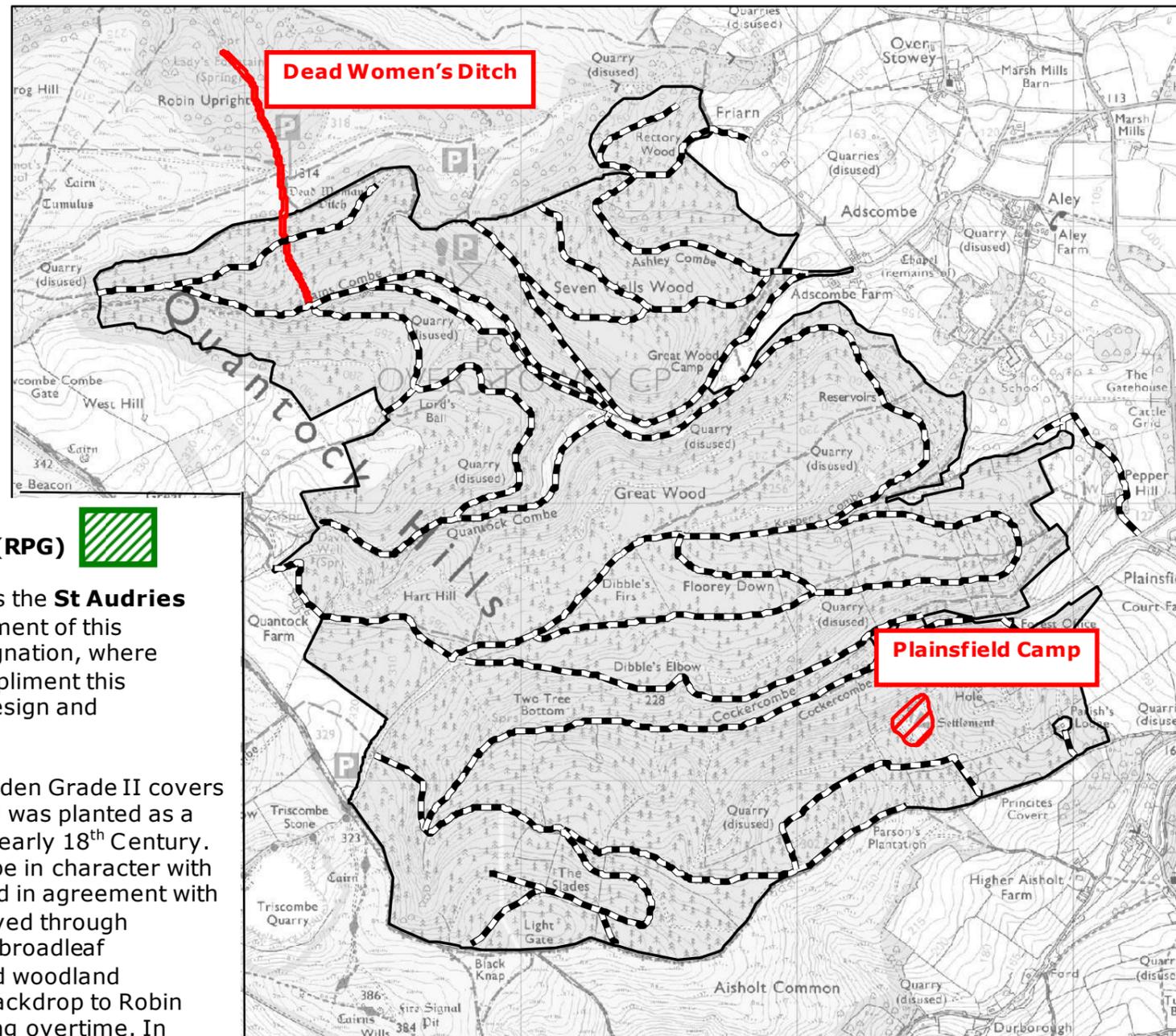
These designated earthwork sites will be maintained, enhanced and preserved for perpetuity.

Plainsfield Camp SM, in **Great Wood** has been actively managed since 1974 and is now restored to a stable condition. Ongoing management will be to maintain this with minor treatment of remaining tree stumps.

Dead Women's Ditch SM in **Great Wood** and Ruborough Camp SM in **Wind Down** are both on the Historic England 'At Risk' Register due to threat forestry, i.e. existing woodland cover. Particular and significant steps will be taken to stabilise, and where possible enhance, these sites as outlined in their respective specific plans.



St Audries



Dead Women's Ditch

Plainsfield Camp

Ruborough Camp

Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG)

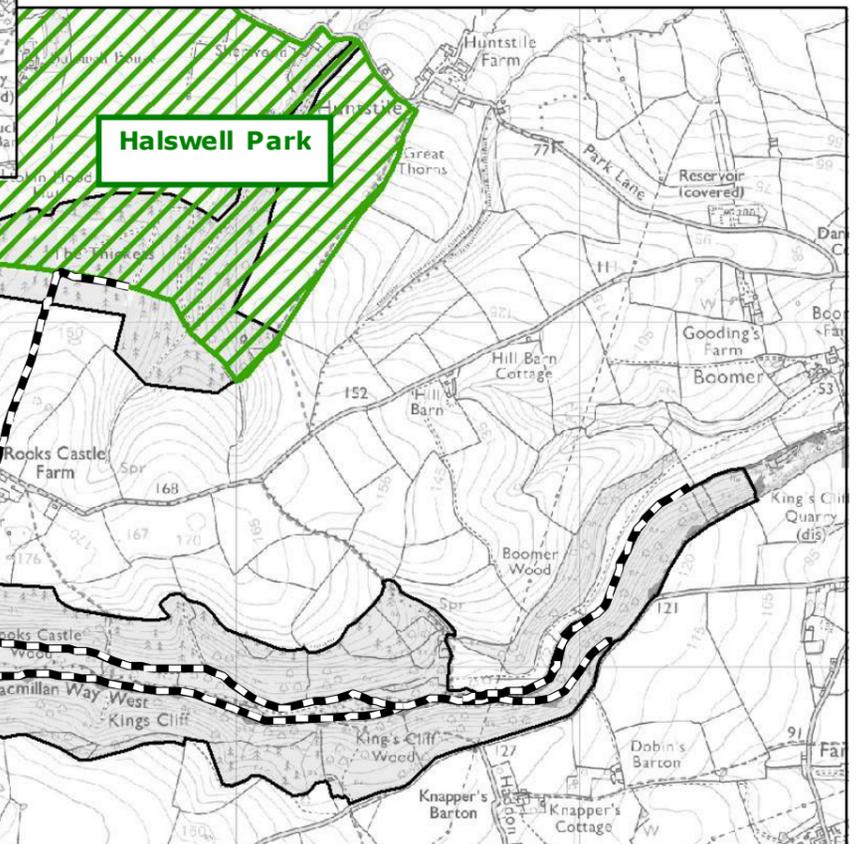


St Audries (House) RPG neighbours the **St Audries** forest block, so whilst the management of this woodland will work under this designation, where appropriate, management will compliment this landscape through quality coupe design and alternatives to clearfell.

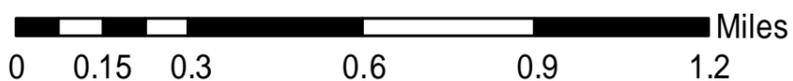
The Halswell Register Park and Garden Grade II covers much of **Goathurst**. The woodland was planted as a back drop to Halswell House in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Management of this woodland will be in character with the rest of the Park and Garden and in agreement with Historic England. This will be achieved through encouraging a larger proportion of broadleaf component to deliver a more mixed woodland composition, maintenance of the backdrop to Robin Wood Hut and reinstate of the Riding overtime. In doing so this Plan will better reflect the original design and function of the woodland and contribute to the Park and Garden's constancy in the future and removal from the 'At Risk' Register.



Haswell House and Park, 2014



Halswell Park



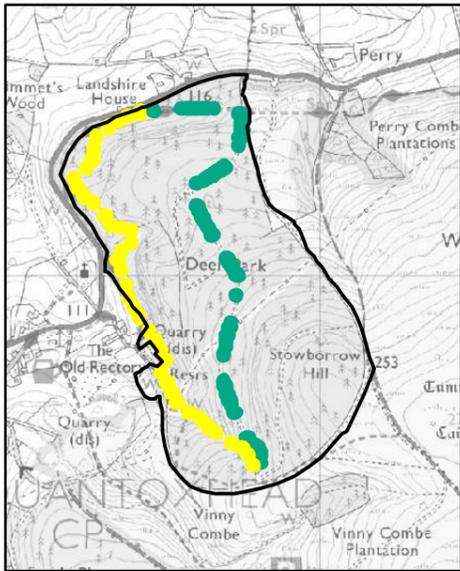
**Habitat Corridors and Edges**

Areas neighbouring or close to SSSIs or SACs will be managed sympathetically to ensure the condition of these does not decline and is enhanced where possible, so as to complement the ecological value of these sites.

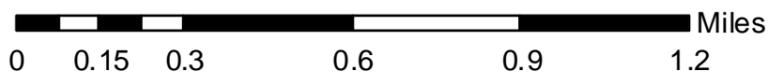
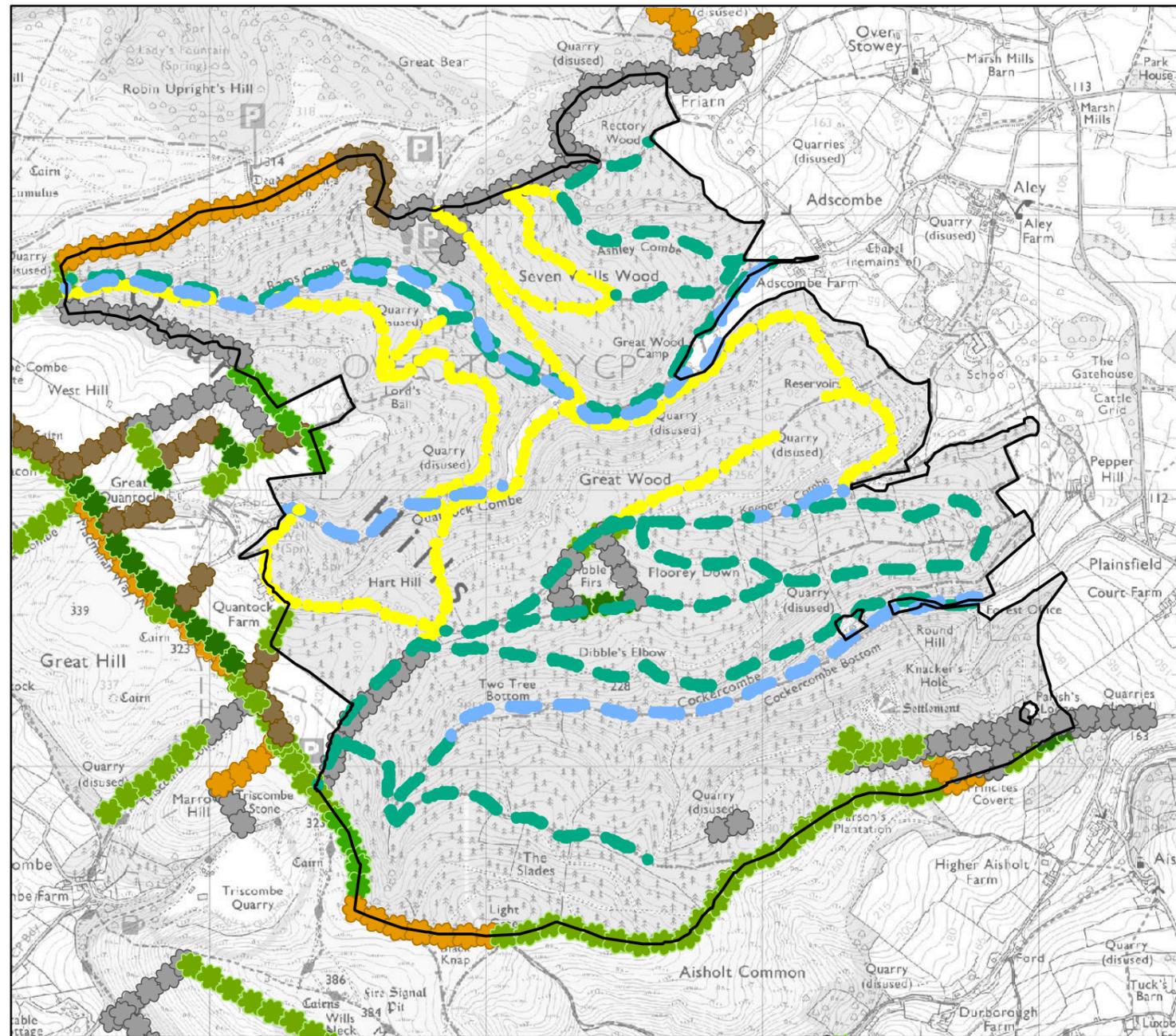
Beech hedge banks have been mapped and their condition measured as part of a larger AONB-wide survey. Where resources and logistical constraints allow, steps will be taken to restore these banks to a stable condition through cutting and replanting in line with "Restoration Plan for the Beech Hedgebanks of the Quantock Hills" (AONB 2005).

Ride and road sides, together with watercourses and hedgerow management will conform to the prescriptions outlined in the District document, *Design and Management of Environmental Corridors* (Lucas, 2006). The ride network within Great Wood will be utilised to extend and connect with the surrounding heathland, this will be achieved through targeted widening and unstocking of edges to some coupes following felling operations to create a mixed transient open and scrubby habitat. This will provide a transient habitat for a multitude of species.

Dormice (European Protected Species) require pinch points across corridors to allow habitat connectivity between broadleaved woodland, particularly in stands with a high hazel components. The prescriptions outlined in the Environmental Corridors document will ensure appropriate habitat provision and management will be in line with Best Practice Guidance (FC& NE, 2007).

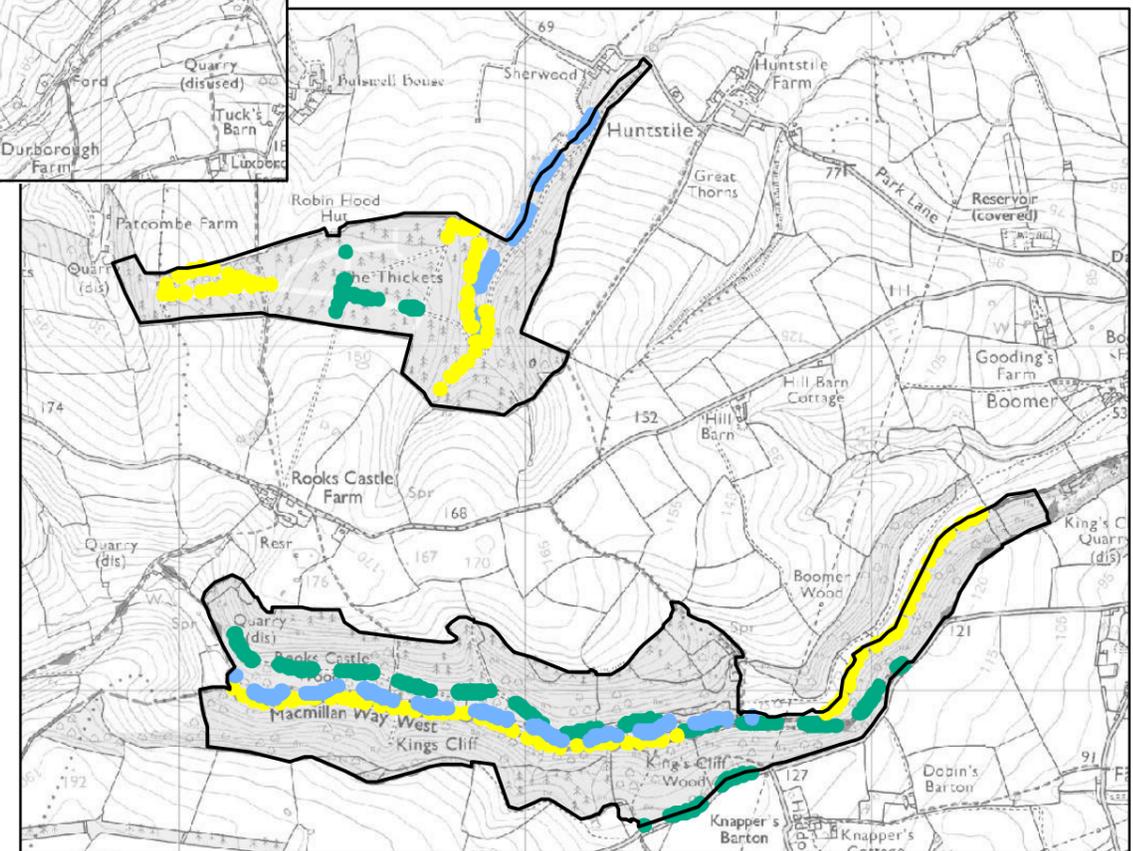
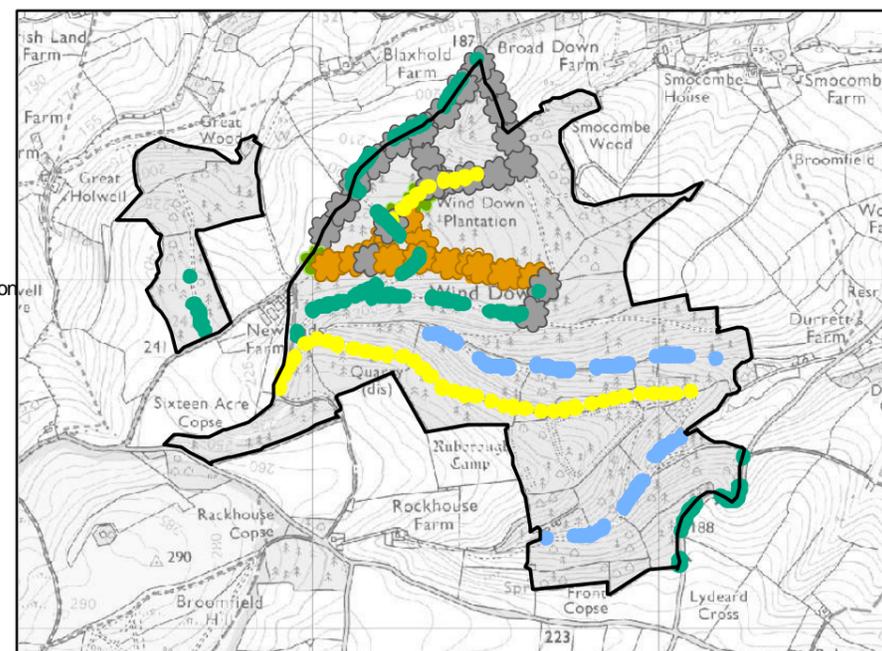


Beech hedge bank in Wind Down, 2014



**Legend**

- Beech Hedge Banks Condition**
- Road Edge
  - Stable
  - Moderate-Stable
  - Moderate
  - Declining-Moderate
  - Declining
  - No Record
  - Conservation + Recreation
  - Watercourse



### Ecological Features

Numerous valuable flora and fauna features inhabit the Plan area. Regular consultation with internal and external ecologists will ensure that management enhances the habitats in which they are found so that the area remains a haven for wildlife.

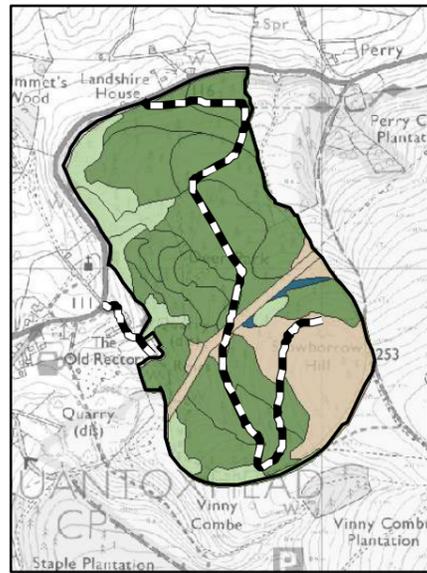
Nightjar is a nationally important bird and the local region, including St Audries and Great Wood, supports over 1% of the national population. The provision of both permanent and transient open space through periodic clearfelling and open space maintenance will continue to support this important species.

Bats are a European Protected Species and multiple species use the woodlands for roosting and feeding. Management of the woodlands will be in line with Best Practice Guidance (FC & NE, 2013) so as to ensure their conservation for the future.

Brown Hairstreak butterfly require young blackthorn growth as a habitat, any quality concentrated components will be managed on a prolonged cutting cycle to ensure suitable habitat maintained.

Deer numbers will continue to be monitored and managed through fencing and culling so that they do not have a detrimental impact on habitat and crop condition. This will also ensure their impact does not lead to a decline in condition on neighbouring SSSIs and SACs.

Rhododendron encroachment continues to be managed through a mixture of mechanical and chemical weeding so that, along with holly, it does not have a detrimental impact on habitat and crop condition or on the neighbouring SSSI. There is an aspiration to reach 0% rhododendron in Great Wood, but this will take significant resource and a considerable amount of time.



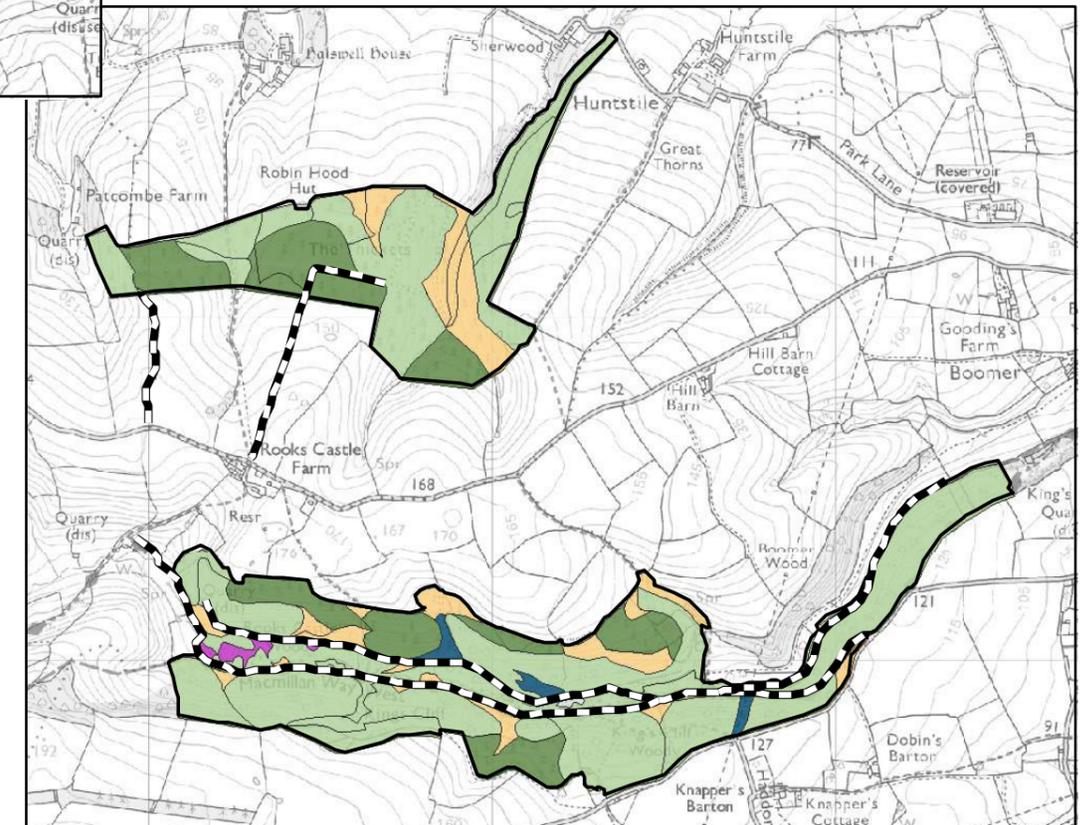
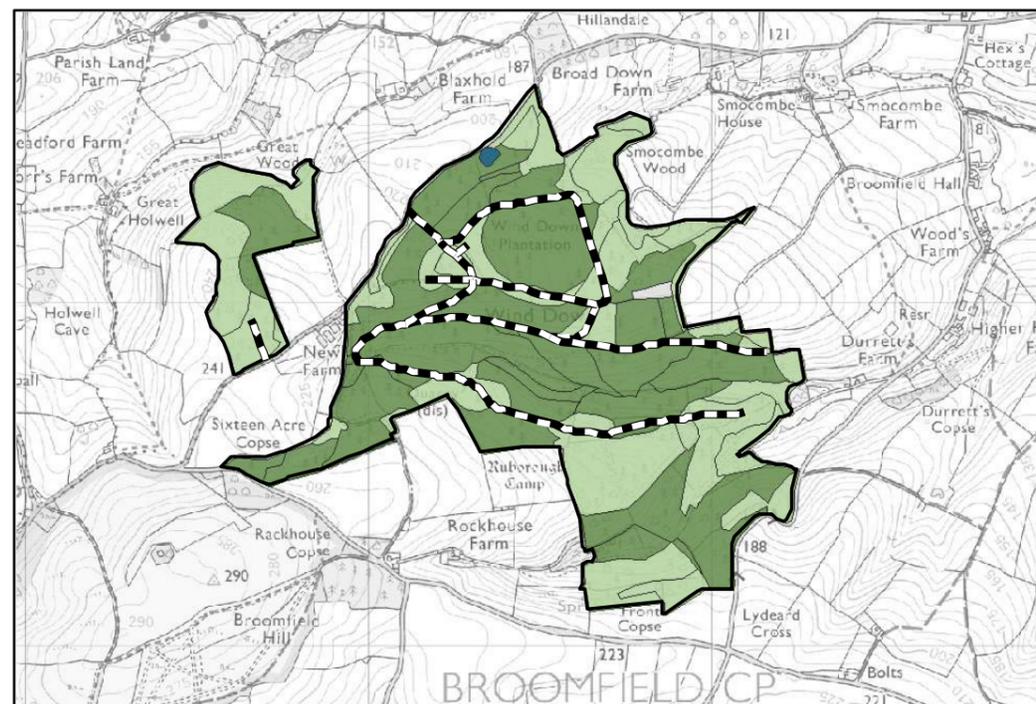
### Legend

- Landholding
- Road Segments
- Successional
- Woodland - Broadleaves
- Woodland - Coniferous
- Heathland
- Bracken
- Water
- Built up areas and gardens
- Unknown

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Ordnance Survey [100021242]



Veteran trees will be retained for perpetuity. When crops are thinned veterans crowns will be released slowly on so to minimise the impact of sudden exposure to desiccating winds and sun scorch. Management will be in line with FC Guidance (Ops No. 31)



## Recreation and Access

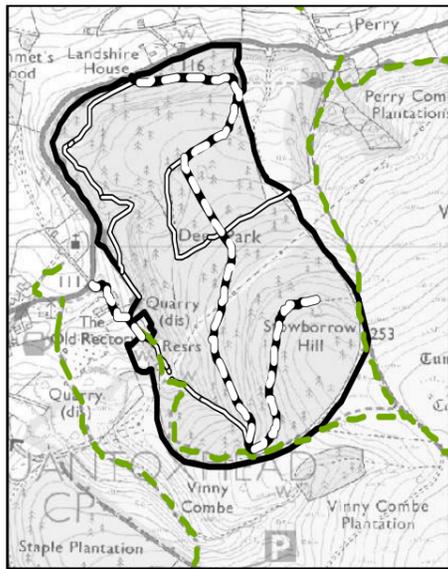
The Plan area experiences a high level yet of low-key recreational usage. The vast majority of the Plan area is Open Access, this is confirmed by the Countryside Rights of Way Act, with the exception of Wind Down which is *de facto* Open Access due to the nature of the landholding.

This is predominantly made up of walkers (approx. 11,000 per year), horse riders and mountain bike riders (approx. 7,000 per year).

A number of Public Rights of Way in the form of footpaths and bridleways traverse the Plan area and connect with the surrounding landscape. Many of these Rights of Way are designated and/or signposted.

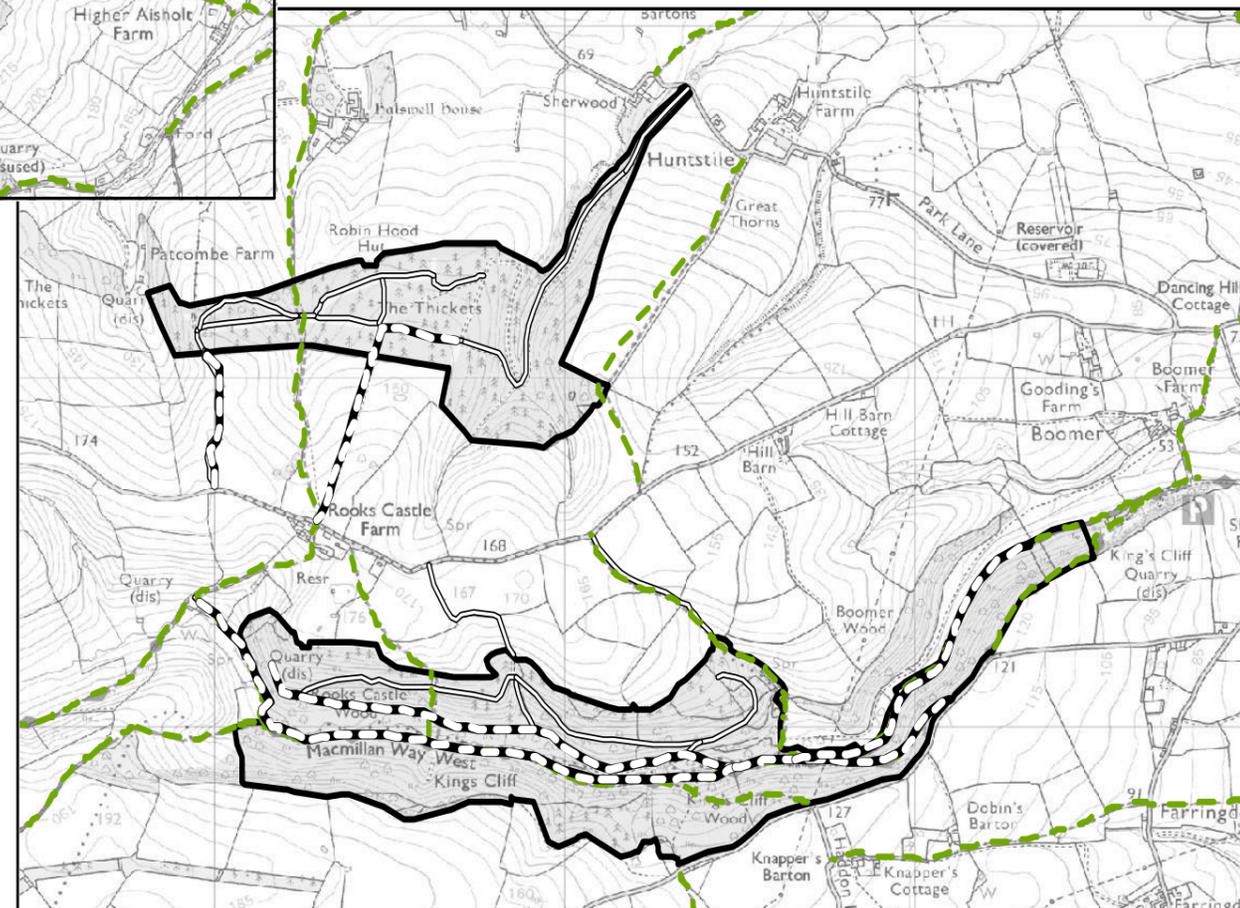
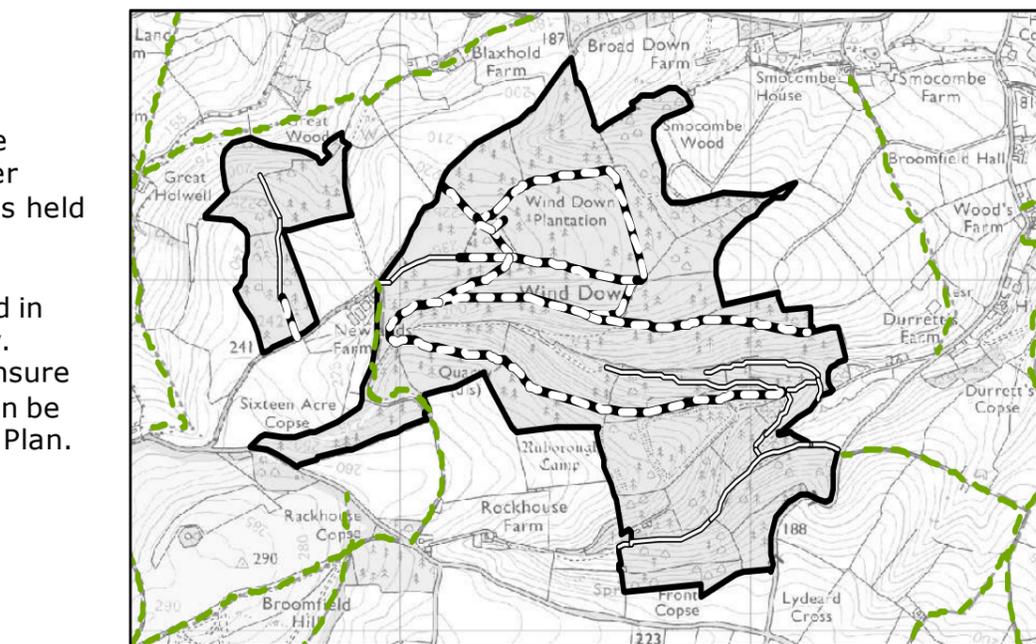
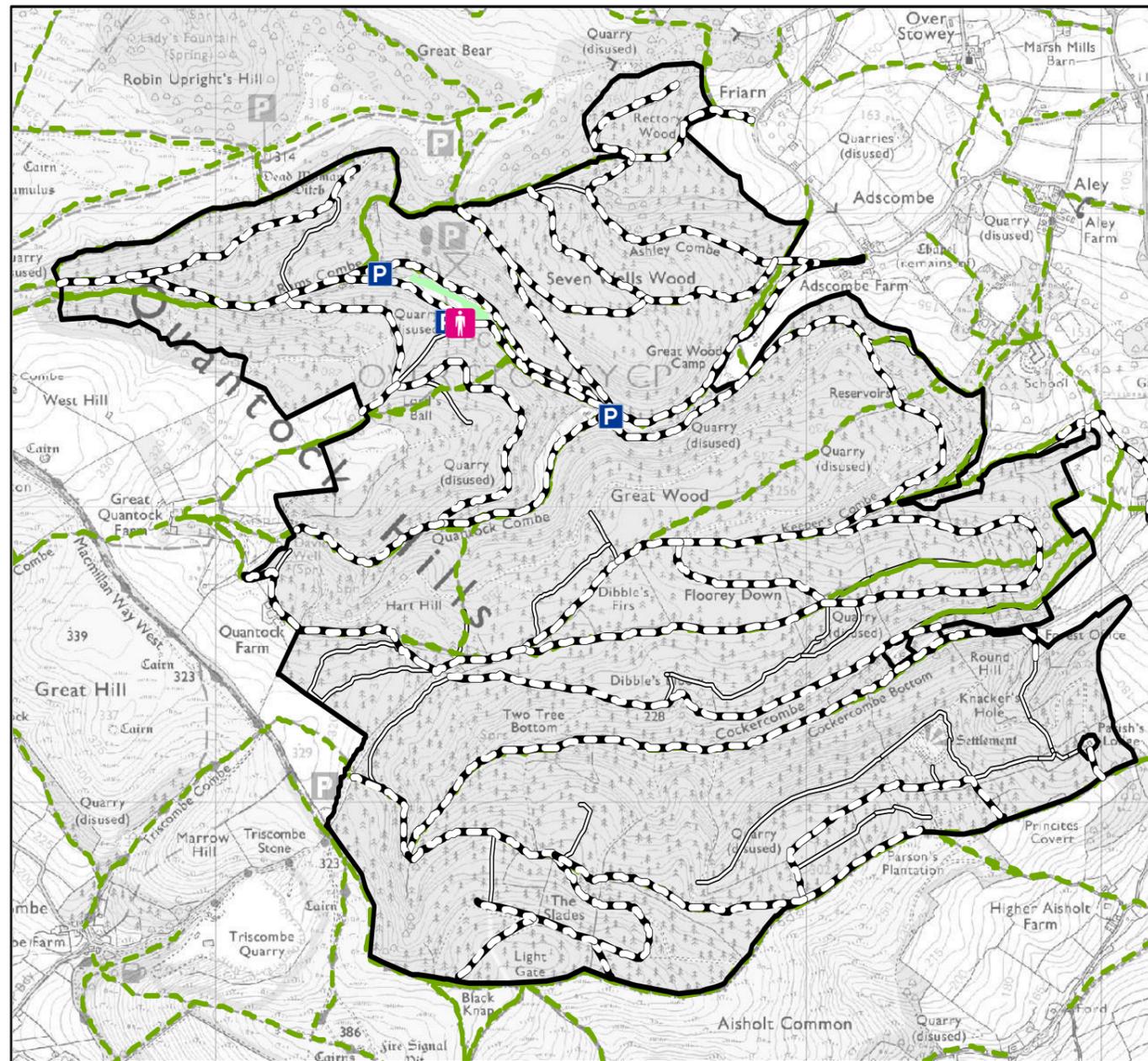
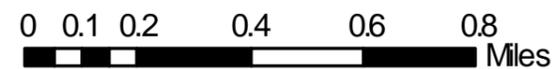
Numerous one-off and annual permissions are granted throughout the Plan area for recreational purposes. These include educational visits, sports and mountain biking events and cultural events.

The heavy usage of the Plan area by local individuals and groups demonstrates the value of the woodland to the local community, these features will be maintained in balance with ecological value. It also absorbs a lot of the recreational pressure which is placed on the AONB and therefore protects the fragile heath land.



### Legend

-  Toilets
-  Forest car park
-  Road Segments
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Forest Rides
-  Visitor Areas



## Tenure and Agreements

With the exception of Wind Down, the majority of the Plan area is held under freehold. The entirety of Wind Down is held under leasehold.

A rough shooting agreement is leased in Goathurst and is managed externally. Considerations have been made to ensure quality game rearing and shooting can be provided within the objectives of this Plan.