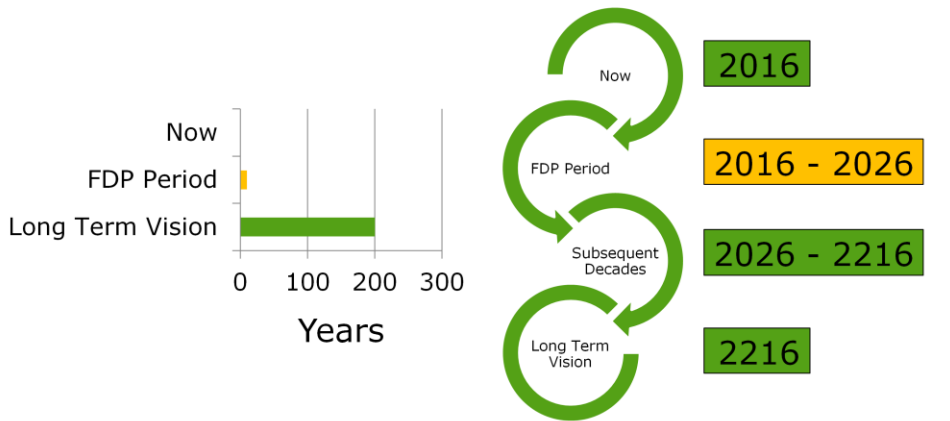


# **New Forest Inclosures Forest Design Plan 2016 - 2026**

A brief overview and background  
to the proposals

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Commission



This slide offers context with respect to the time frame that the proposal is working within.

The FDP approval period of 10 years is a fraction of the journey towards the vision.

Subsequent revisions will take account of the context at the time to aid decision making.



- Long Term (200 Year) Vision developed to help make management decisions for the next 10 years;
- Vision is based on current context and is subject to change over time due to other influences (climate change, societal needs).

Management Types 2016-2016 Map is what we are actually going to do.

All other maps inform the reader of the context and decision making process we have gone through to develop this map.

Move towards native woodlands

Connect old growth woodland

Restore open habitats

These are the main changes that the proposals will lead to in the long term.

- In line with SSSI designations;
- Carried out over a long period of time to limit the impact of change;
- Woodlands will remain as 'working woodlands' producing quality timber products and providing opportunities for enterprise.
- Native = 95% native species (oak, beech etc). Still allows some non-native species of particular interest (landscape enhancing Douglas Fir for example)

General move for all woodland within Inclosures EXCEPT:

Rhinefield Ornamental drive, Waterside Inclosures, Puck Pitts which potentially have cultural / social reasons for retaining coniferous woodland.



A coniferous (non-native) woodland



A 'managed' native woodland.

Note the varied structure, the multiple species of native trees and shrubs and the provision of timber producing canopy trees (high quality hardwood).

Also, the bramble present which is beneficial to invertebrates and birds.

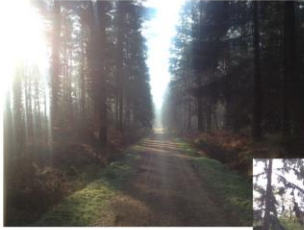


On this journey you have to go through a mixed phase.

This phase is likely to take decades or longer depending on the incumbent conifer species.

This is due to the low-impact, continuous cover type systems prosed where we thin out the conifers over time rather than clearfell and replant.





## 'Continuous cover' systems

> 200 years to achieve

Increased  
resilience  
during this  
transition



Continues to produce timber



Continuous cover (low impact silviculture) relies on thinning woodlands and small group fellings to open up opportunities for natural seeding of trees to replace those felled.

It can lead to woodlands with a much more varied structure.

As thinning favours the retention of native trees the balance of non-native : native trees within the woodland is gradually tipped towards predominantly native. However, this can take several generations to achieve depending on species type.

- In line with SAC / SSSI designations;
- Intended to support the fragmented A&O Woodlands, making them more robust and resilient in the future;
  - For:
    - Associated plants and animals specific to this habitat
    - Rarity / scarcity of this habitat currently makes it vulnerable to climate change, pests / diseases etc
- Identification of 'connections' based on:
  - Adjacency to fragmented A&O Woodland;
  - Presence of suitable trees (>200 year old oak)

Areas identified include:

Islands Thorns Inclosure (grazed), South Bently (grazed), South Oakley, Pond Head & Park Ground (not grazed)



Plantation 19<sup>th</sup> century oak.

Uniform, little to no understorey, historically thinned towards timber crop outcome.



Varied structure, diverse tree ‘architecture’, different light and vegetation levels at the ground due to history of management.

Almost unique. Incredibly rare and scarce. Harbours very rare wildlife and plants.



May require some thinning – but for specific 'structural' objectives

May require some fencing changes in the future to make full connection



May just need to be left to its own devices.

A decision tree has been developed to help us determine when and how these areas should be managed in order to achieve the desired outcome of structure akin to A&O woodlands as opposed to maximised timber value.

- In line with SAC / SSSI designations;
- Fulfilment of programme committed through previous FDPs
- Additional areas identified to 'connect' heathlands and where soil type makes it unsuitable for native woodland.

Identified areas include:

Kings Copse Inclosure, Hawk Hill Inclosure, Highland Water Inclosure



Note the ground vegetation suggests a soil type here which has heathland potential underneath the Corsican Pine trees





Open Forest, heathlands, grasslands, mires, native woodlands etc.





Seeding  
conifer  
following  
clearfell for  
open habitat

The process has its own management obstacles such as regeneration from the seed bank and neighbouring plantations.



Can require significant investment to 'clean out' seed trees after felling

Implemented through clear-felling at economic maturity

Once open, becomes part of the Open Forest



Economic maturity means the age at which the trees growth slows down to a rate where traditionally, it would be more economic to fell and replant than to retain the standing trees, except here of course, the areas will not be replanted.



- Much more detail in the proposal document:
  - What, where and how
- <https://englandconsult.forestry.gov.uk/forest-districts/new-forest-inclosures-forest-design-plan-2016>
- Increasing the resilience of key, vulnerable habitats;
- Maintaining a productive forest;
- Using low-impact methods to slow change down and allow for future changes if required.