

KEEPERS OF TIME?

Exploring cultural heritage issues in the woods and forests of Great Britain. Then, now and tomorrow.

Probos Lecture Mar 2010

Tim Yarnell Forestry
Commission

Current challenges

- Basic management operations and issues
 - Woodfuel and renewable energy
 - Nature Conservation Habitat Management
 - Urban and Growth agenda
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The Forestry Commission is

“The Government Department responsible for the protection and expansion of Britains forests and woodland”

Increasing their value to society and the environment.

Impacts of Forestry

Veteran Trees

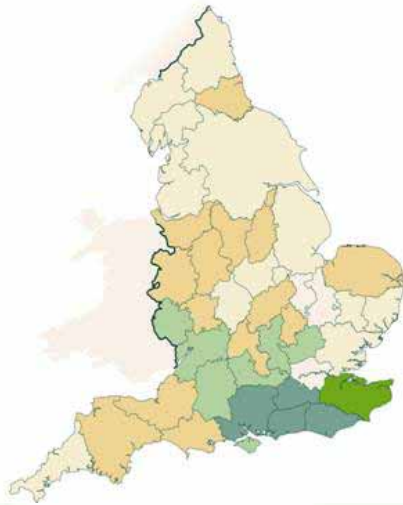
Monitoring

Woodland History

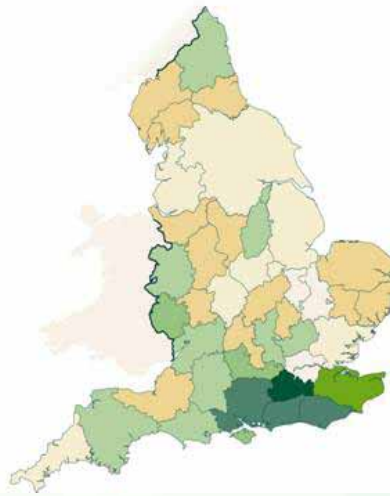
Survey Methodology LiDAR

	England	Scotland	Wales
FC	201,000 ha	447,000 ha	105,000 ha
Private	928,000 ha	894,000 ha	179,000 ha
% 1870	4.9%	4.2%	2.9%
% 2006	8%	17%	14%

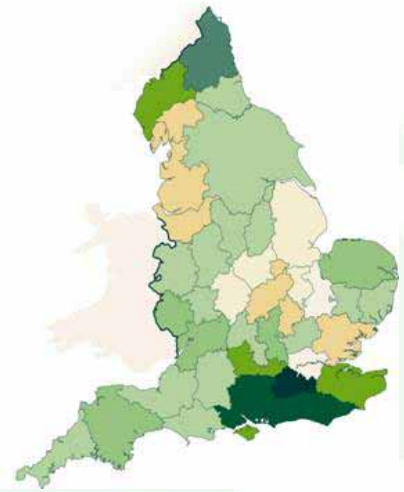
Woodland cover for England



1895

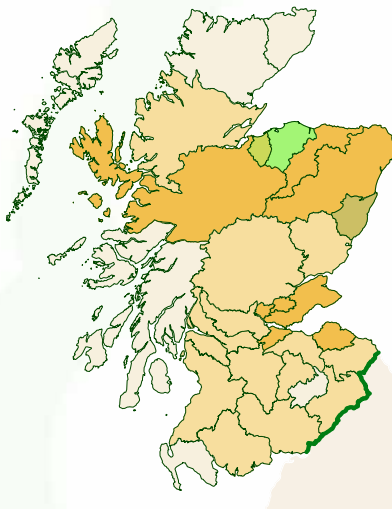


1947

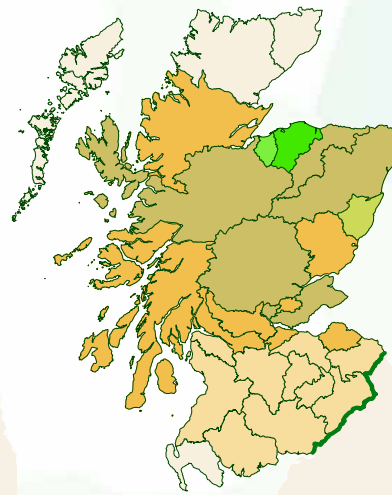


1998

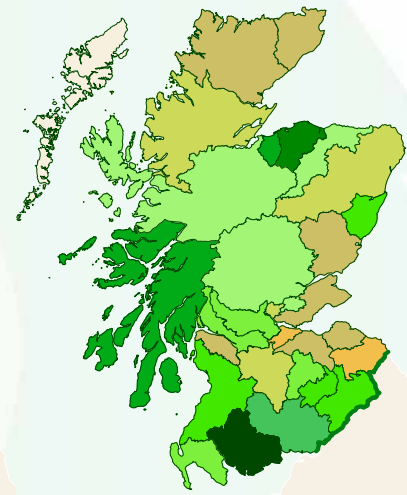
Woodland cover for Scotland



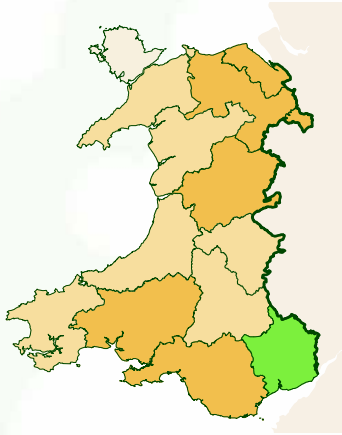
1895



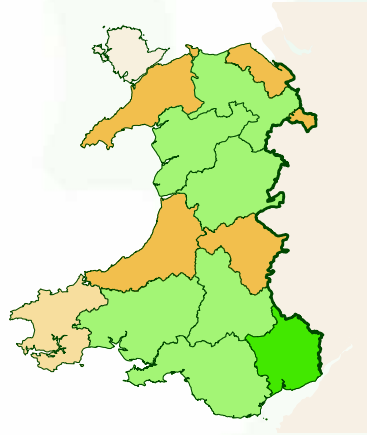
1947



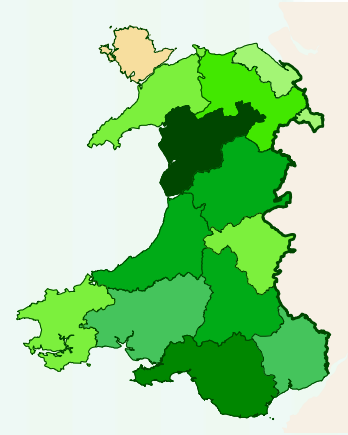
1995



1895



1947



1997

Grant Schemes

Design Plans

Corporate Targets

Public Outreach



- International Agreements
- UKFS
- UKWAS
- Forest Strategies

- Rio, Helsinki, Vienna
 - Native Woodland Guides
 - Archaeology guidelines
 - UKFS and UKWAS
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MCPFE : Identification of cultural interests in woods and forests. Includes archaeology on and of woods, veteran trees and trees of cultural significance.

UKWAS:

UKFS : Conservation of heritage features.

Archaeological Officer

Cultural Heritage Adviser

Historic Environment Adviser



- Often the only evidence about past societies
 - Important part of identity and contribution to place
 - Useful educational and recreation resource
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“ works of people or the combined works of nature and people including archaeological sites and responses to these in art, literature and personal belief ”

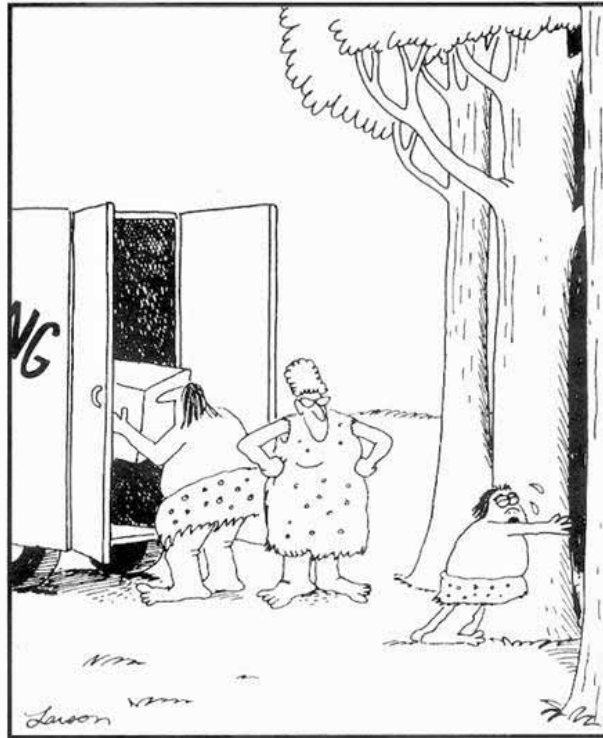
adapted from UNESCO world heritage convention.

WHAT????

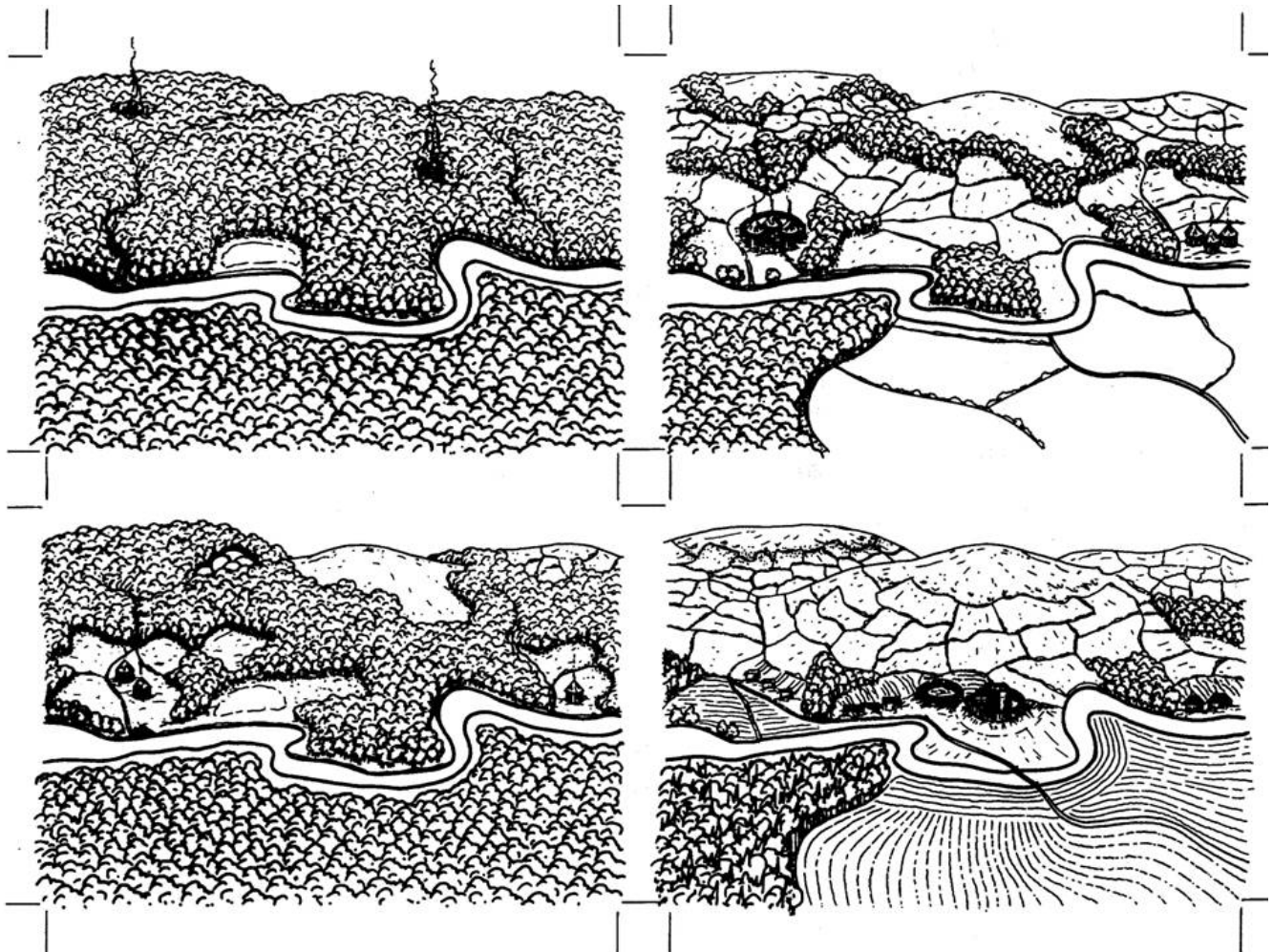
“The historic Environment includes all aspects of our surroundings that have been built,formed or influenced by human activities from earliest to more recent times”

“The historic environment is one of our greatest resources. It brings social economic and environmental benefits and affects everyone of us”

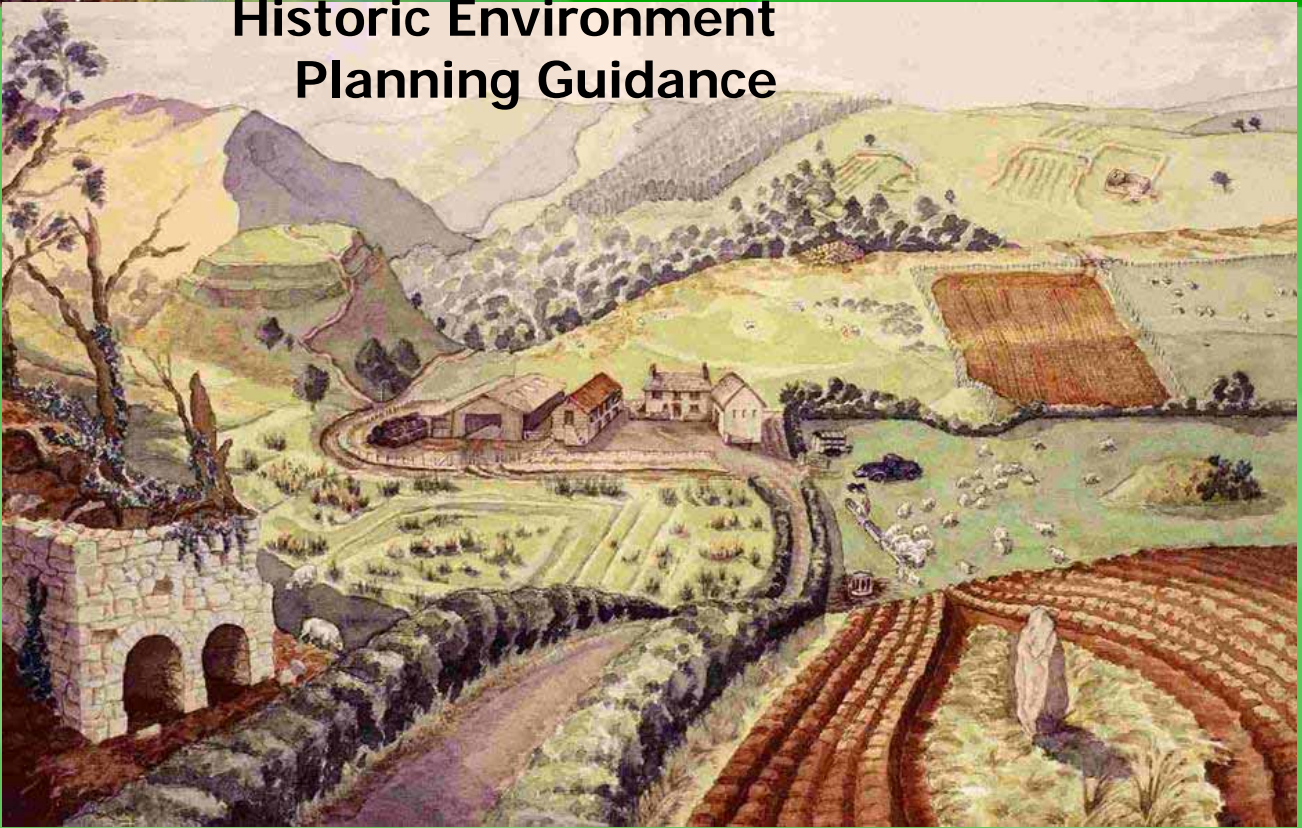




Primitive Man leaves the trees



Historic Environment Planning Guidance



Can you spot all ten historic environment features? Can you rank them in order of importance?



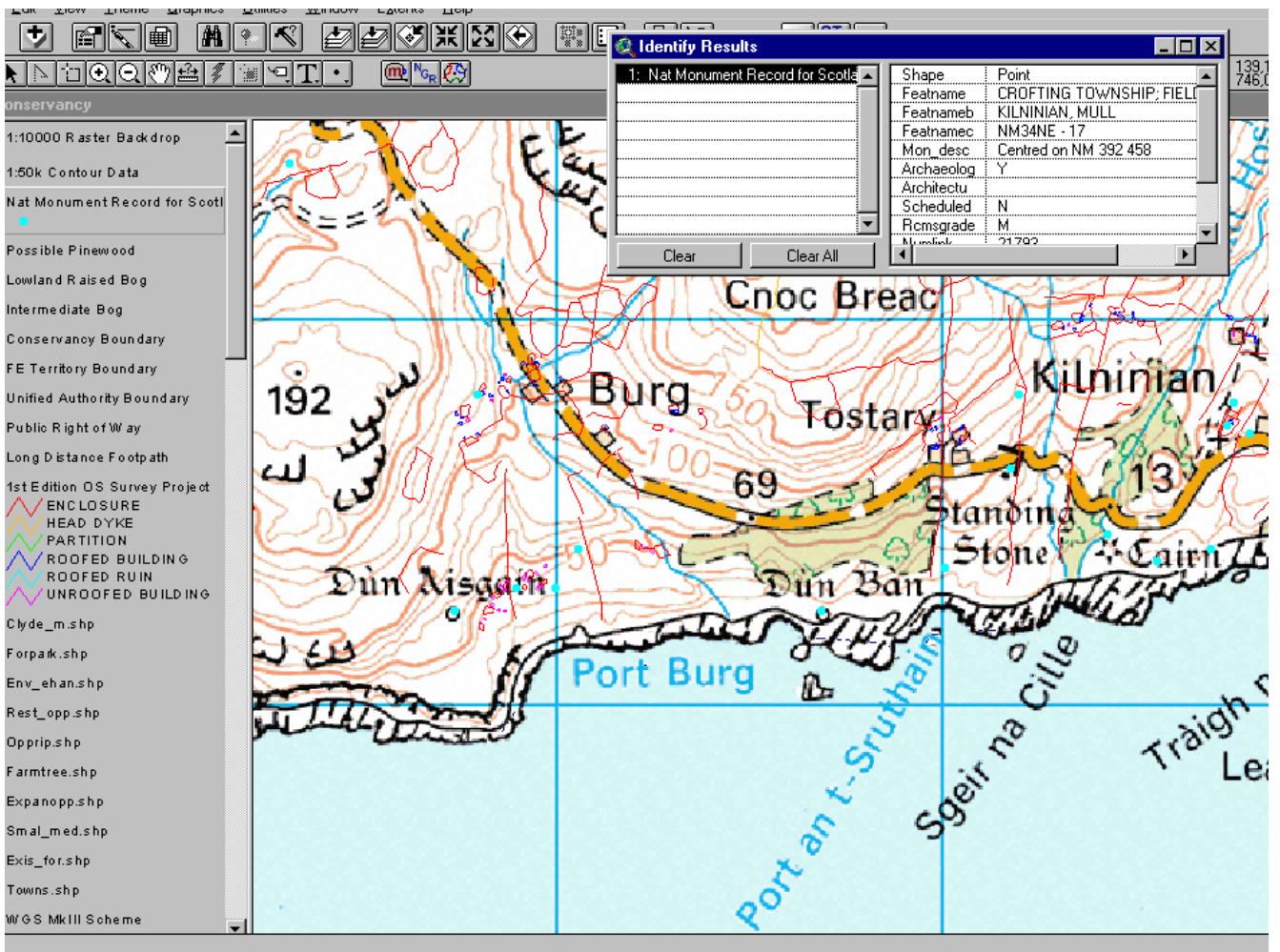




Figure 3

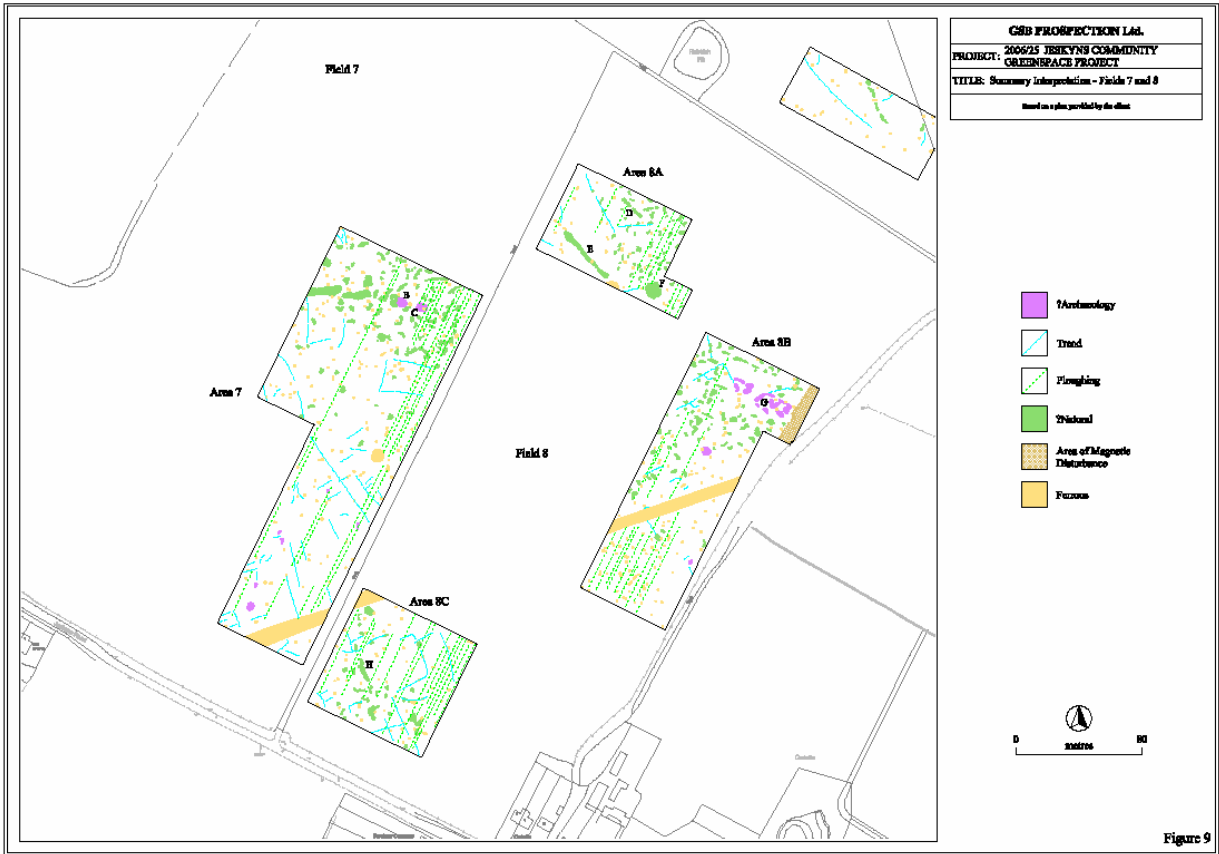


Figure 9

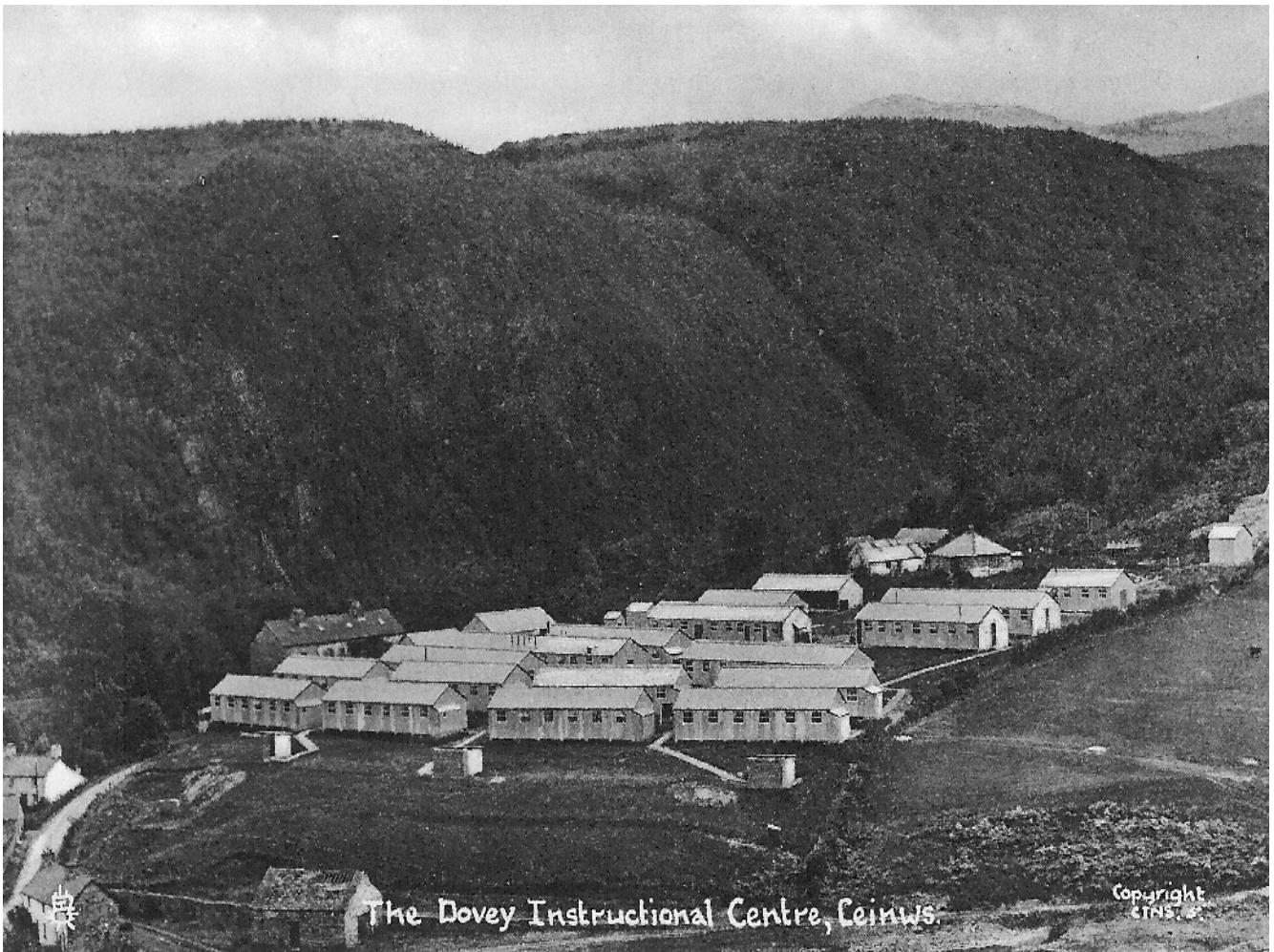


Domesday Woods











Woodland: just a bunch of trees!!!

- Historical record
- Past people lived
- Utilising resources
- Events and association

“Of the Woods.....

- Banks and enclosures
- Charcoal Hearths
- Bloomeries
- Veteran trees
- Pasture

and the land they occupy”

- Settlement
- Field systems
- Burial Sites
- Pottery Kilns
- Fortifications



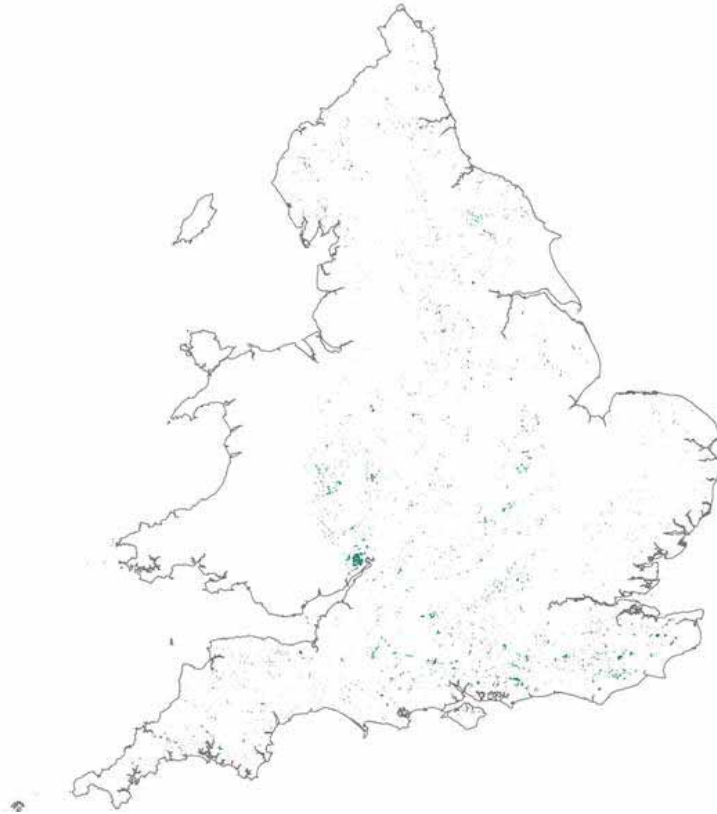




Woodfuel Reigniting the Past

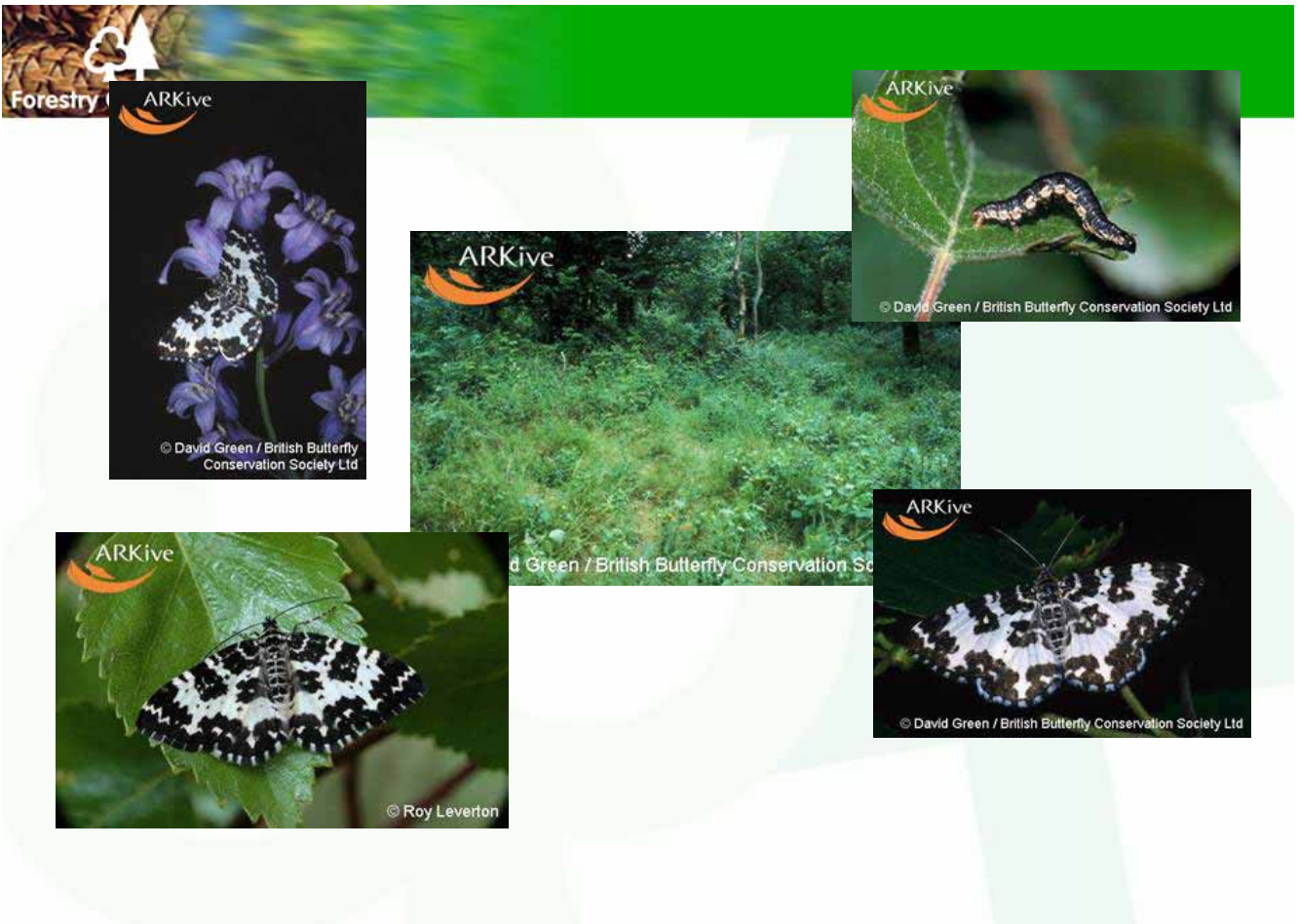
- Perceptions of natural.
- The working wood.
- Links between then and now.





Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites.
Woodland that has been in existence since
c1600 (national variation)
A degree of subjectivity

“Restoration”
Perceptions
Diversity
History











Future Space in the Right Place(s)

Impact and Mitigation

Historic landscape Character (include perception)

Designed Landscapes

Above ground heritage (visible)

Below ground heritage (invisible)

Context for the project

Can be a positive for the historic environment

Can be disastrous e.g.

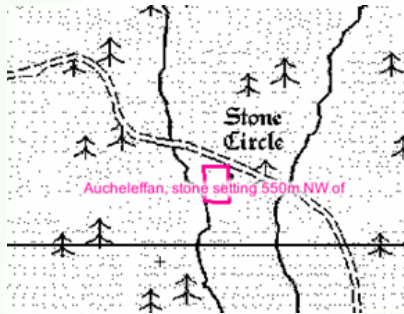
Spatial and temporal scale

Ongoing Commitments



Category A: national importance

Value	Action	During forestry management, harvesting and FCE operations
National Importance (Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings)	Protect and undertake conservation management works. Indicate on all constraints mapping.	In consultation with Historic Scotland and/or the FCS Archaeologist, mark out and avoid, affording an appropriate buffer zone during operations.



SM polygons available on FCS Browser



Late Neolithic 'four poster' stone circle, Arran

Veteran trees

Forest District in which tree occurs: SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Species: *Quercus robur* | Age: >300 | NGR eg. SU 12345 67890 | Easting: 412300 | Northing: 145600

Forest/Site: Example 2 | Height (m): 12 | Approx DBH (cm): see note | Hollow Trunk?: | Sudden dieback?: | % dieback: 40

Survey Date: 16/01/04 | Fungal bodies?: | Heavy crown deadwood?:

Tree name - if any: Example 2

District Id: | Number in group: 4

Form of tree eg. Pollard: Coppice

Landscape setting: Neglected wood pasture


Submitted by: Fred Bloggs | Email: fred.bloggs@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Add Record

History - Please enter any known history about the tree
The tree has been managed as coppice in the past. Known locally as the "wishing tree". Believed to have been studied by Gilbert White

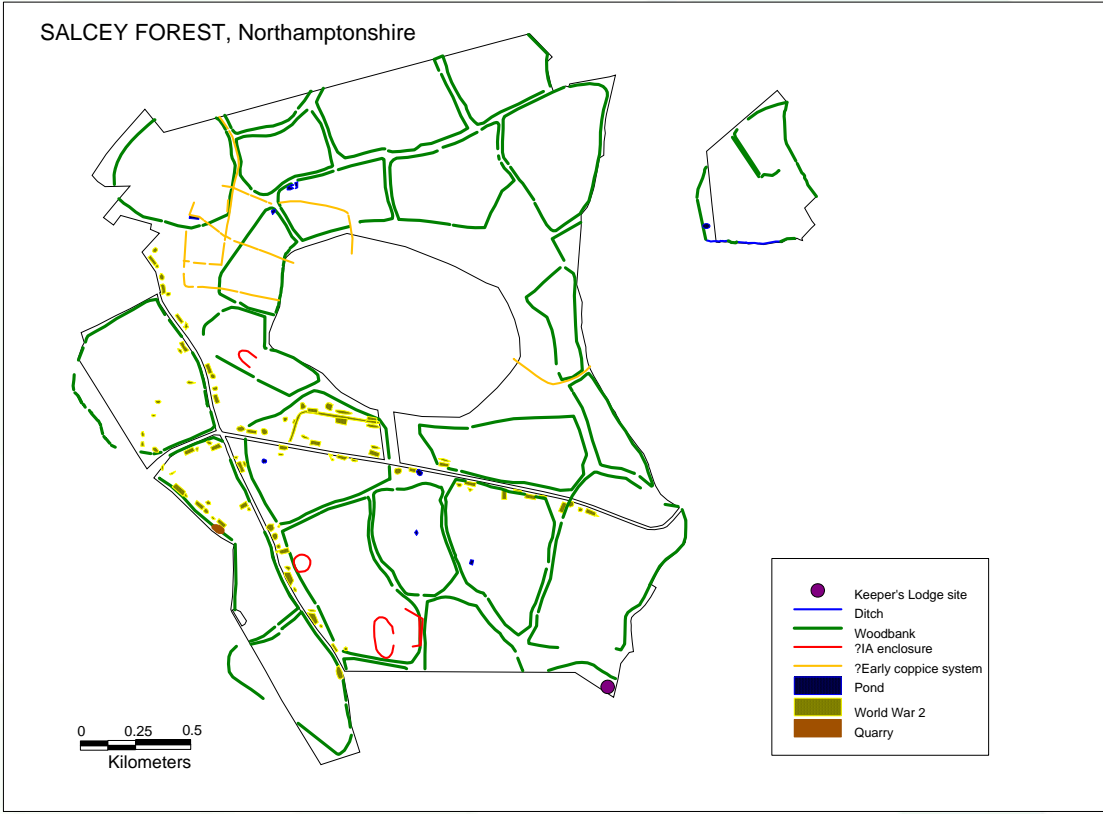
Comments - eg. general condition and health of the tree
The shape of the tree make a single DBH measurement impractical. However, the average of the 4 stems is 85 cm. The tree has shown sudden dieback in the past year.

Photograph - double click here to add a jpeg image file (create from file and browse...)



Large image files make the database too large to email.
Please adjust the picture to a resolution of 96 dpi (25 dp cm) with a maximum size of 10 cm. This should create an image of <50 KB. Alternatively, send the image as a separate email attachment.

Record: 1 of 2



How can LiDAR be applied to the woodland ?



First return data from the LiDAR (from the canopy)



LiDAR data (25cm) following initial processing (vegetation removal)



