

Central Forest District

Location Map

Cannock Chase Forest Plan (2,684ha) comprises of predominantly conifer woodland with small area of ancient woodland, former wood pasture and open heathland. It lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), has a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within it and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) adjacent to it.

Cannock Chase is a key visitor attraction with over 2.5 million day visits to the area each year. The Birches Valley Forest Centre provides the key access point for visitors who come to enjoy a wide range of recreation pursuits such as walking, horse riding, cycling and orienteering.

Cannock Forest plays an important role in the local economy supporting a wide range of jobs directly through the timber industry and increasingly through leisure and tourism.

The active management of Cannock forest has created a diverse woodland structure and secondary woodland habitats that support a wide variety of plants and animals. This Forest Plan will try to deliver the right balance of forest management based on the environmental, social and economic considerations associated to the forest and surround landscape.

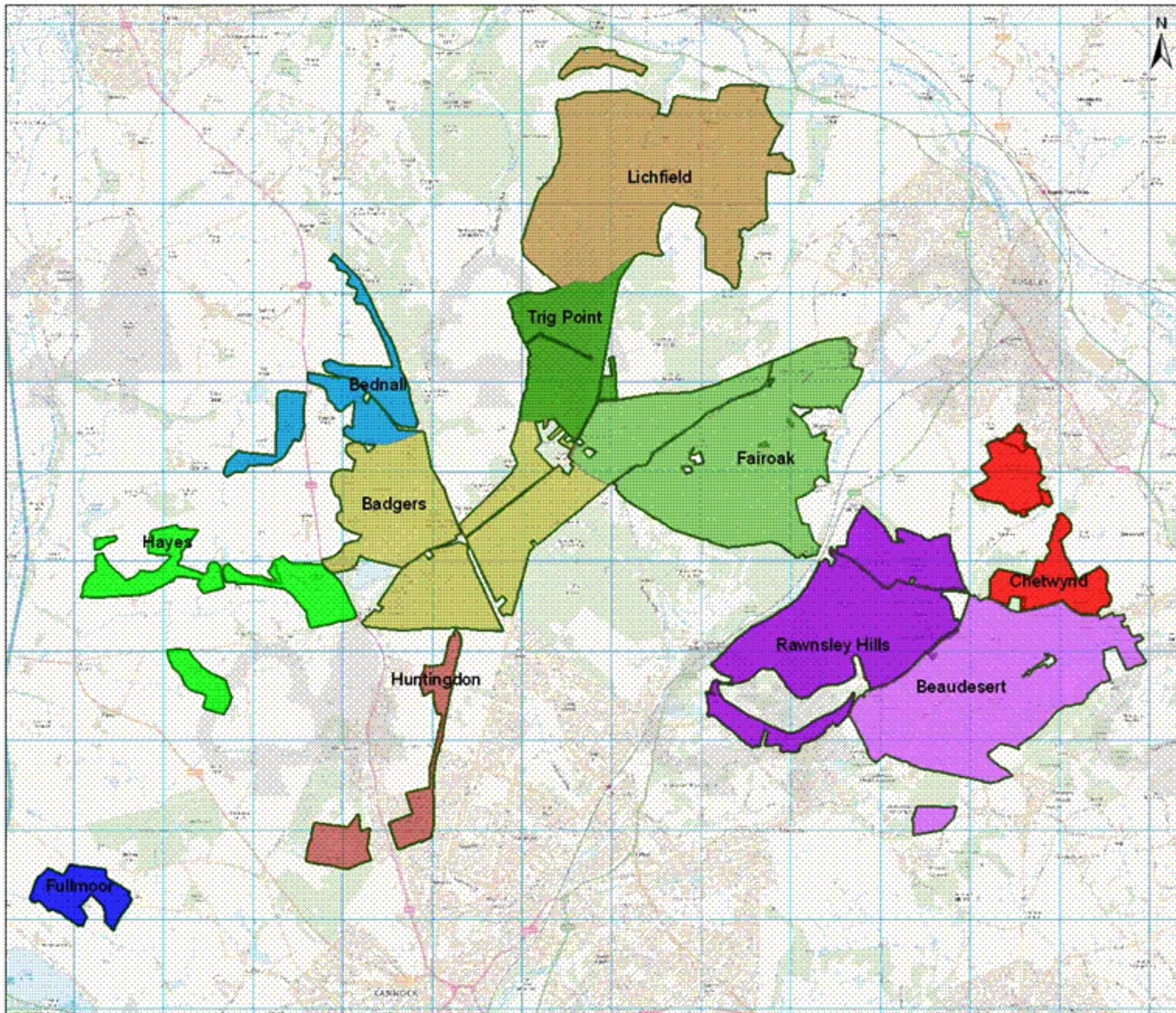


Forestry Commission
England

1:250,000
scale at A3



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Central Forest District



Cannock Chase Forest Plan (FP) has been divided up into 11 areas so that the felling and restock maps can be clearly shown on 1:10,000 scale maps.

Their names of each forest area are shown in BLACK on the adjacent map.



Forestry Commission
England

1:40,000
scale of A3



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The protective nature of the forest has conserved a wealth of archaeological features from many time periods. Most numerous are the bell pits, wood banks and military features. There is only one Scheduled Ancient Monument in the Forest and that is a World War I trench.

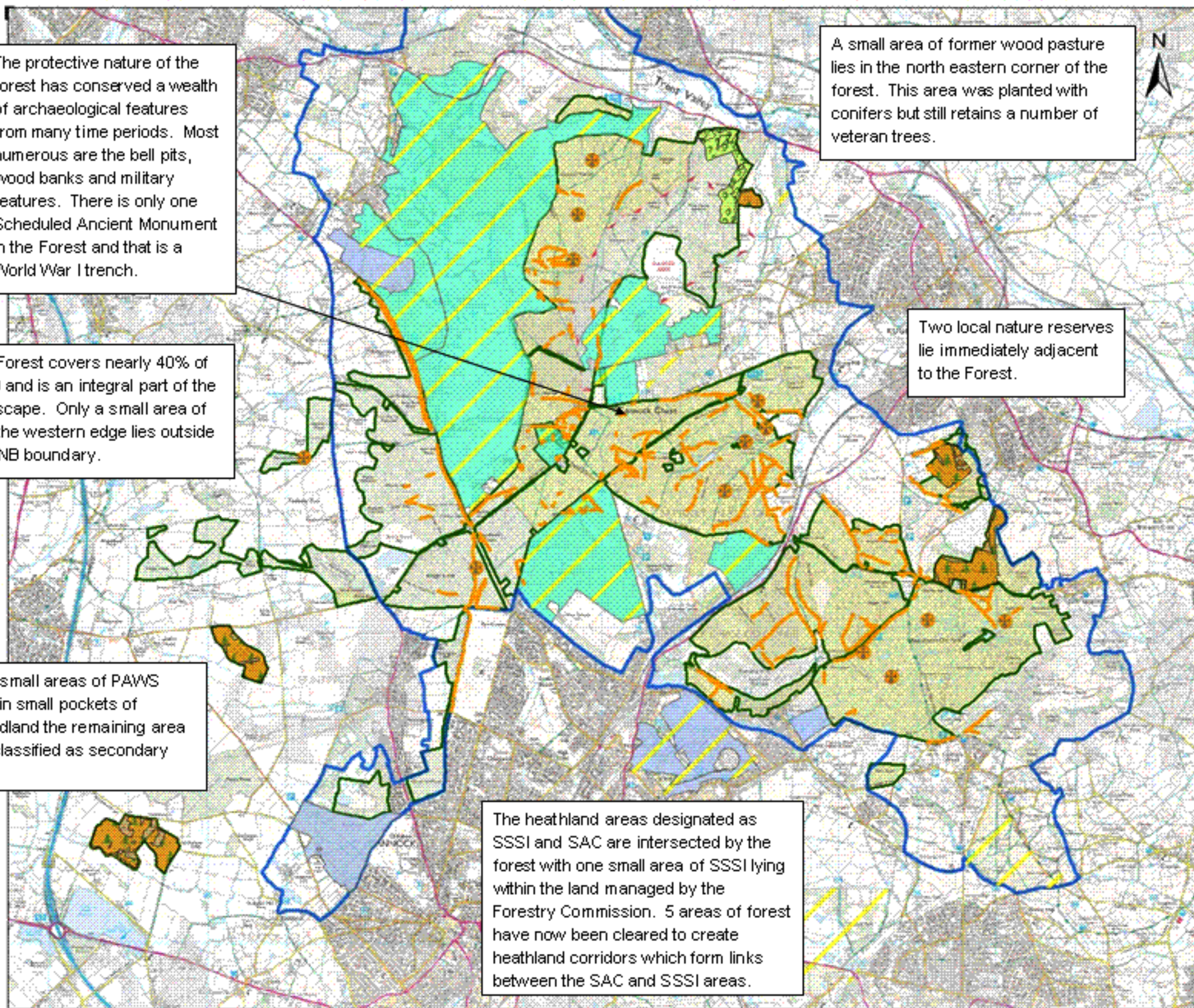
Cannock Forest covers nearly 40% of the AONB and is an integral part of the local landscape. Only a small area of forest on the western edge lies outside of the AONB boundary.

There are 5 small areas of PAWS which contain small pockets of ancient woodland the remaining area of forest is classified as secondary woodland.

The heathland areas designated as SSSI and SAC are intersected by the forest with one small area of SSSI lying within the land managed by the Forestry Commission. 5 areas of forest have now been cleared to create heathland corridors which form links between the SAC and SSSI areas.

A small area of former wood pasture lies in the north eastern corner of the forest. This area was planted with conifers but still retains a number of veteran trees.

Two local nature reserves lie immediately adjacent to the Forest.



Central Forest District

Designations

-  Ancient Woodland Site
-  PAWS - Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites
-  Wood Pasture
-  Heritage Point Feature
-  Historic Line Feature
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
-  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Management Area



1:45,000

Scale 1:45,000



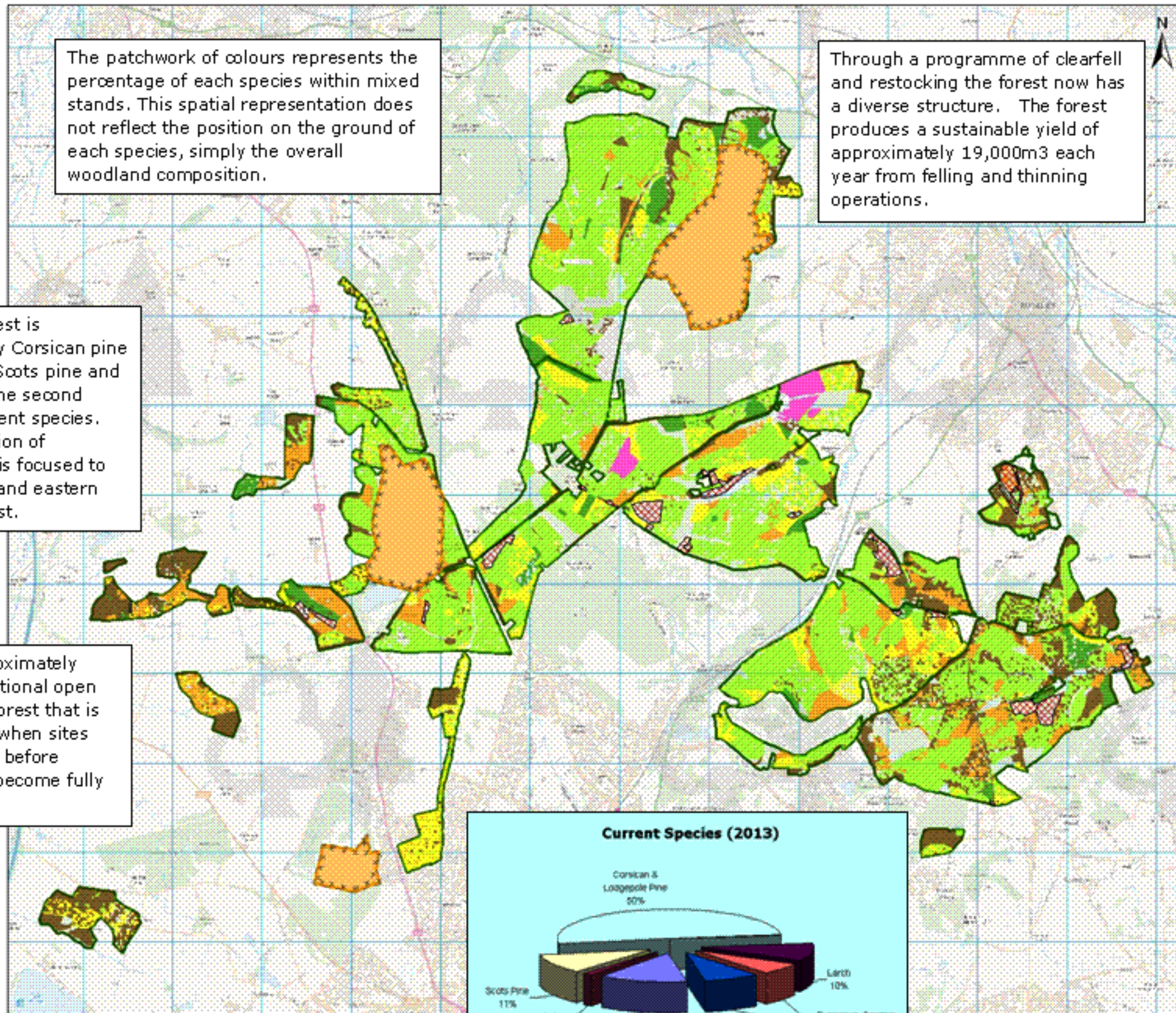
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The patchwork of colours represents the percentage of each species within mixed stands. This spatial representation does not reflect the position on the ground of each species, simply the overall woodland composition.

Through a programme of clearfell and restocking the forest now has a diverse structure. The forest produces a sustainable yield of approximately 19,000m³ each year from felling and thinning operations.











Cannock Forest is dominated by Corsican pine stands with Scots pine and larch being the second most prominent species. The distribution of broadleaves is focused to the western and eastern areas of forest.

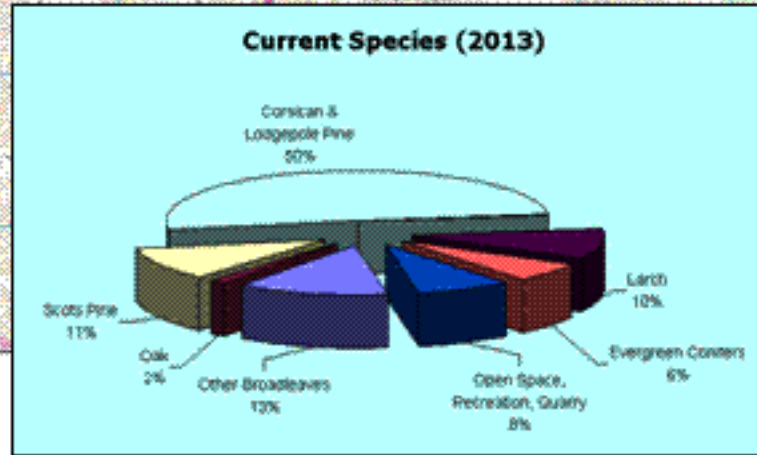
There is approximately 24ha of transitional open space in the forest that is created from when sites are felled and before restock sites become fully established.



Central Forest District

Current Species

-  Open Ground
-  Corsican & Lodgepole pine
-  Other Evergreen Conifers
-  Larch
-  Scots pine
-  Broadleaves
-  Quarry
-  Recreation
-  Water
-  Felled
-  Management Area



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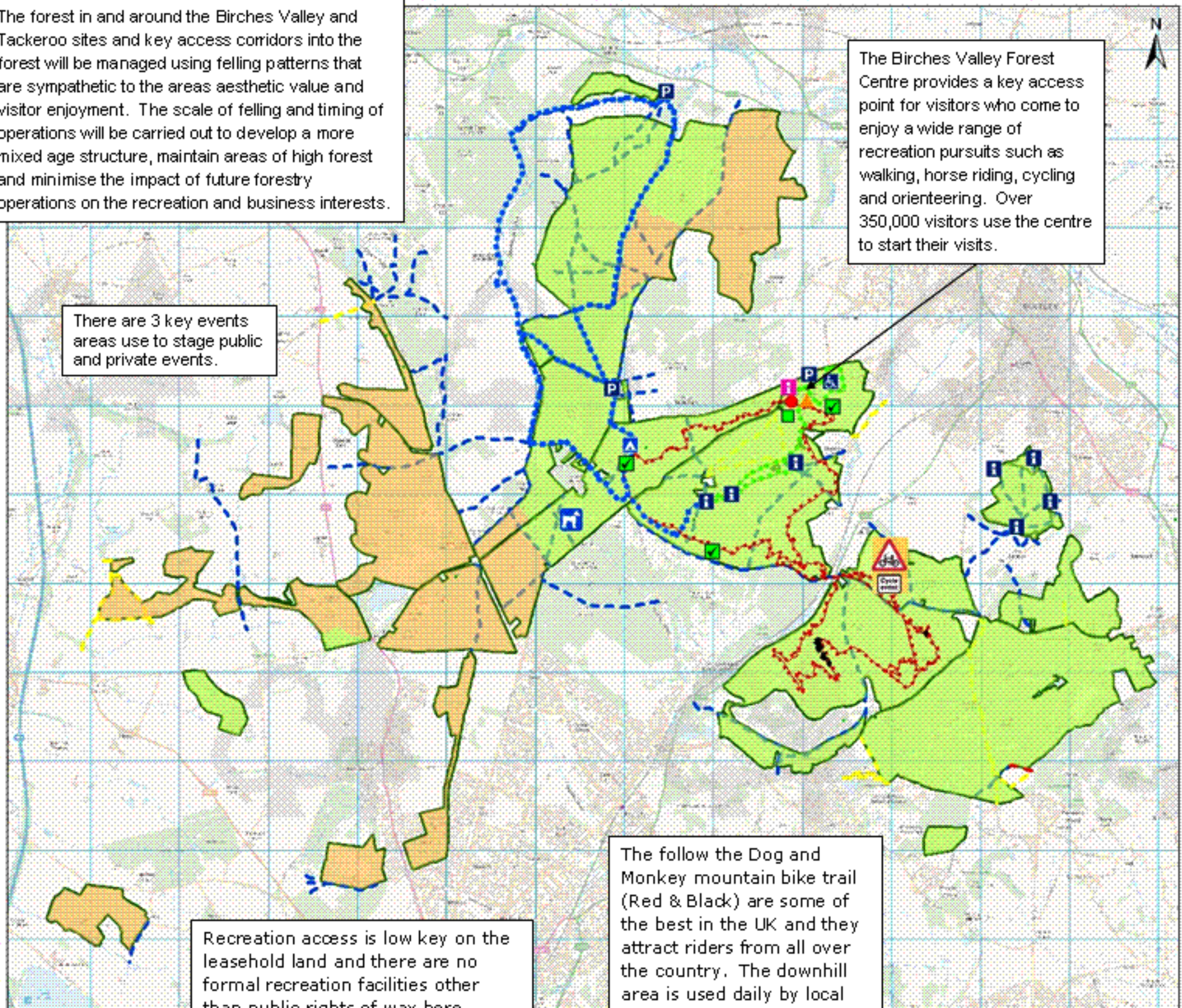
The forest in and around the Birches Valley and Tackeroo sites and key access corridors into the forest will be managed using felling patterns that are sympathetic to the areas aesthetic value and visitor enjoyment. The scale of felling and timing of operations will be carried out to develop a more mixed age structure, maintain areas of high forest and minimise the impact of future forestry operations on the recreation and business interests.

The Birches Valley Forest Centre provides a key access point for visitors who come to enjoy a wide range of recreation pursuits such as walking, horse riding, cycling and orienteering. Over 350,000 visitors use the centre to start their visits.

There are 3 key events areas use to stage public and private events.

Recreation access is low key on the leasehold land and there are no formal recreation facilities other than public rights of way here.

The follow the Dog and Monkey mountain bike trail (Red & Black) are some of the best in the UK and they attract riders from all over the country. The downhill area is used daily by local riders and throughout the season for organised events.



- Central Forest District**
- Recreation & Access**
- Events Area
 - Car Park
 - Cycle Centre
 - Disabled Access Routes
 - Education Centre
 - Forest Centre
 - Go Ape
 - Huslie
 - Information
 - Tackeroo Camp Site
 - Green - Easy
 - Blue - Moderate
 - Red - Difficult
 - Black - Severe
 - Downhill Mountain Bike Events Area
 - Bridleway
 - Byway
 - Footpath
 - Freehold - Dedicated Open Access Land
 - Leasehold - No Right of Access
 - Management Area

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