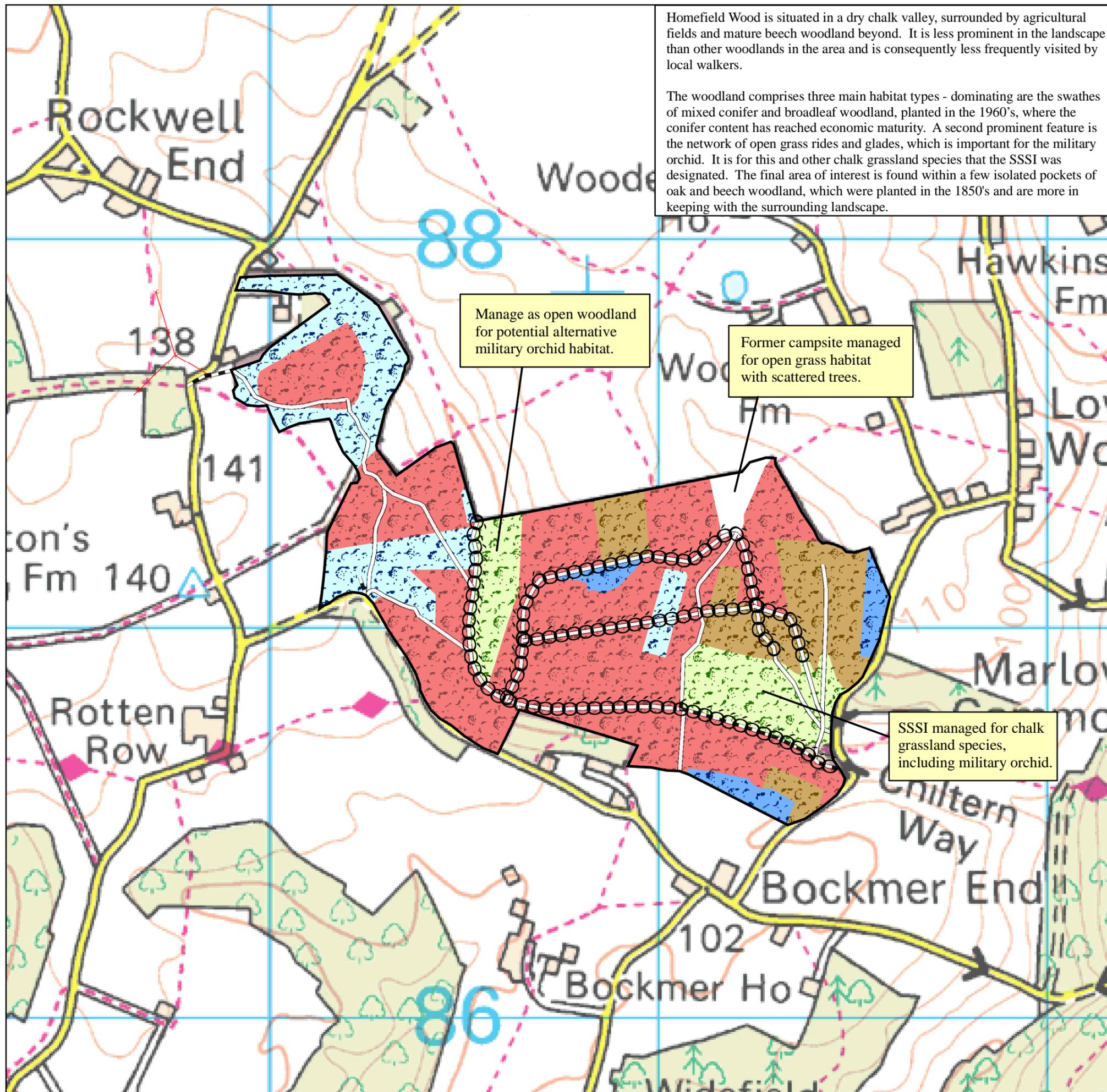


Design Concept

A diverse broadleaf woodland with scattered conifer trees for biological diversity and potential raptor sites. An open ride network with glades, maintained to enhance the diversity of flora and fauna. Increased public awareness of the benefits of partnership working within the woodland to conservation important species.

Homefield Wood is situated in a dry chalk valley, surrounded by agricultural fields and mature beech woodland beyond. It is less prominent in the landscape than other woodlands in the area and is consequently less frequently visited by local walkers.

The woodland comprises three main habitat types - dominating are the swathes of mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland, planted in the 1960's, where the conifer content has reached economic maturity. A second prominent feature is the network of open grass rides and glades, which is important for the military orchid. It is for this and other chalk grassland species that the SSSI was designated. The final area of interest is found within a few isolated pockets of oak and beech woodland, which were planted in the 1850's and are more in keeping with the surrounding landscape.



Manage as open woodland for potential alternative military orchid habitat.

Former campsite managed for open grass habitat with scattered trees.

SSSI managed for chalk grassland species, including military orchid.

-  Conifer woodland managed to provide a diversity of habitats, landscape interest and marketable timber.
-  Non-native species removed from these areas to create a broadleaf woodland with scattered conifer trees for potential raptor nesting sites. (Predominantly conifer species at present: >60% of tree canopy cover at 2006).
-  Non-native species removed from these areas to create a broadleaf woodland with scattered conifer trees for potential raptor nesting sites. (Predominantly broadleaf species at present: >60% of tree canopy cover at 2006).
-  Broadleaf woodland managed to create a diversity of species and age classes.
-  Mature broadleaf woodland retained for biodiversity and aesthetic value.
-  Area managed for special conservation interest.
-  Area of permanent open space managed for biodiversity or amenity value.
-  Open water
-  Watercourse
-  Forest road
-  Rides and tracks
-  Overhead wayleave
-  Managed open space and edge habitat alongside roads and rides.