

# CASE STUDY.

## Savernake Forest.



# What and Where is it?

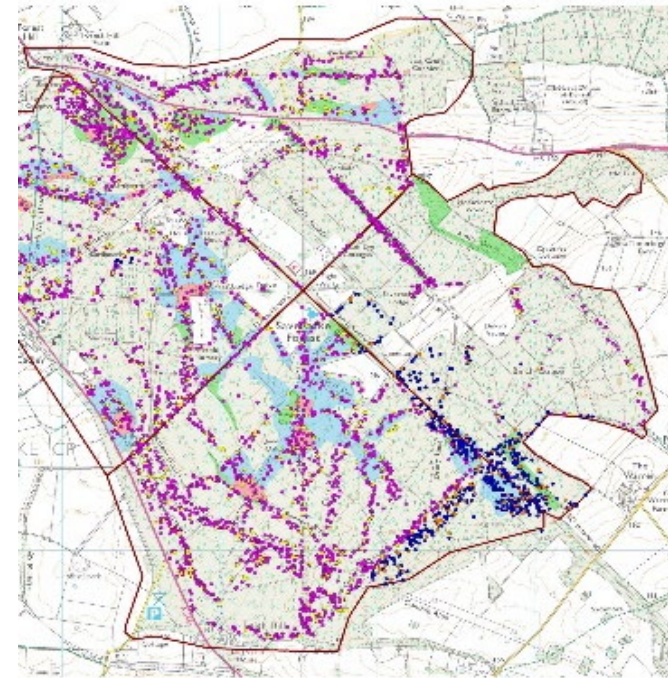
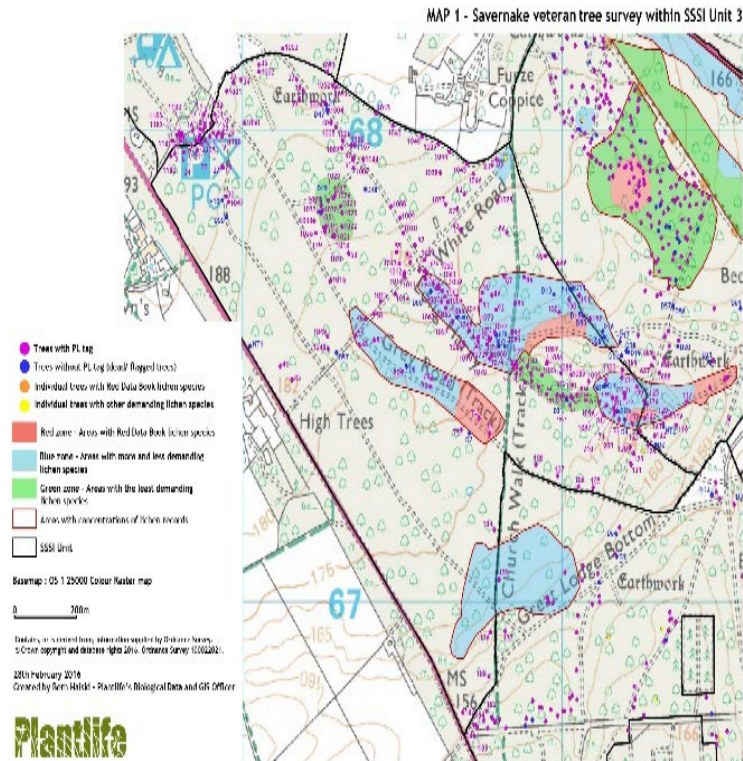
- Savernake Forest is in North Wiltshire, just south of Marlborough and is one of the oldest Forests in the UK dating back to 900 AD.
- It was one of the hunting forests used by Henry VIII
- Today it is privately owned by the Earl of Cardigan and Forestry England has a lease over 3500 acres of the forest to produce timber
- The forest is a designated SSSI for its lichen communities





# The Significance of Savernake

BACK  
FROM THE  
BRINK



# Target Species



## Bats.

- *Barbastella barbastellus* - barbastelle bat – woodland specialist that roosts, breeds, and hibernates in tree crevices and cavities (commonly behind lifted bark). Favours old & veteran trees and deadwood.
- *Nyctalus noctule* - Noctule bat – roosts, breeds and hibernates in mature deciduous trees, mainly in rot holes and woodpecker holes, forages over open habitats e.g. wood pasture and parkland.
- *Plecotus auratus* - Brown long-eared bat

## Birds

### **Lesser spotted woodpecker**

*Dendrocopus minor*

## Fungi

***Piptoporus quercinus*** – oak polypore – associated with 250+ year old oaks. this is one of relatively few species able to decay oak heartwood, causing a ‘brown-rot’. It is found on living or standing dead oaks, and on both fallen oak trunks and limbs (including ones at least 40 years old).

***Hericium erinaceus***- bearded tooth-



# Target Species

- **Lichen**
- *Bacidia incompta* – the sap-groove lichen – found in nutrient runs e.g. wound tracks on trees with more basic bark, at Moccas on horse chestnut and field maple.
- *Collema Fragrans*
- *Caloplaca herbidella*
- *Enterographa soriadata*
- *Lecanora sublivescens*



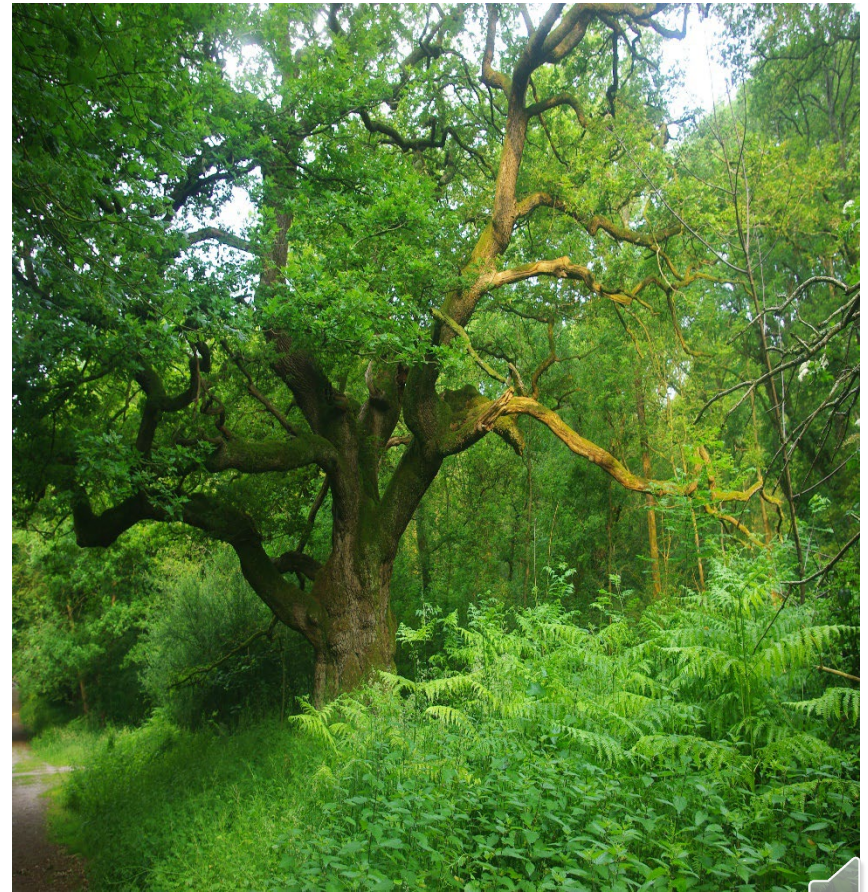


# The Issues: Threats to Ancient Trees





# Continuity of habitat





# Habitat Fragmentation and Loss





# Demanding Lichen species needing old bark on open grown trees



# Missing Components

Recruit ancient  
trees

Standing and  
fallen dead and  
decaying wood

Adequate  
nectar sources





# Vital Components Brown/Heart Rot Fungi





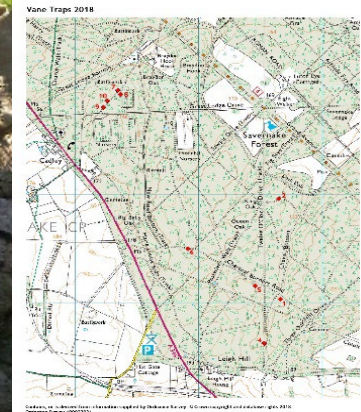
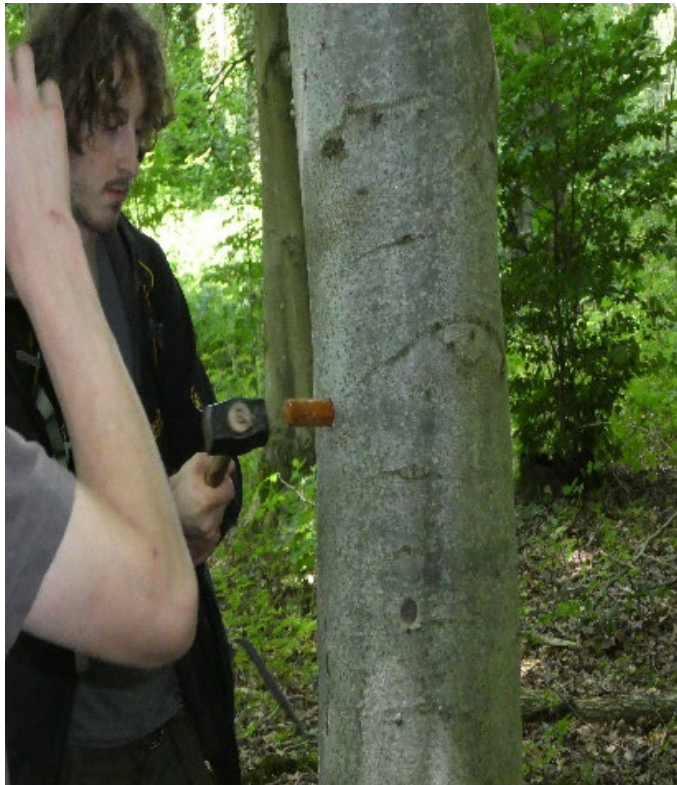
# What was done to begin to address these issues?





# Fungi Inoculation and Vane trapping

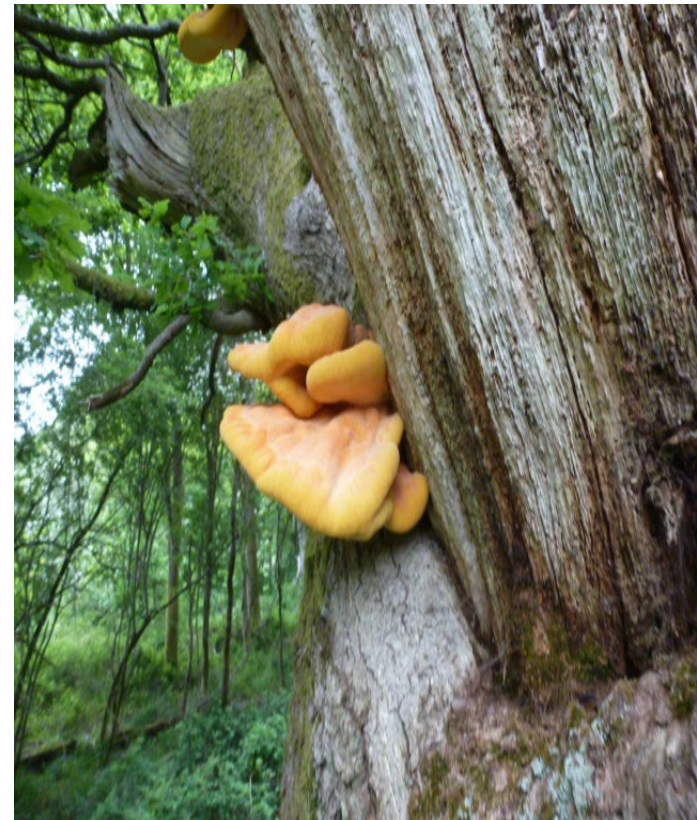
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# Finding Illusive Species





# Building Resilience





# Thank you

