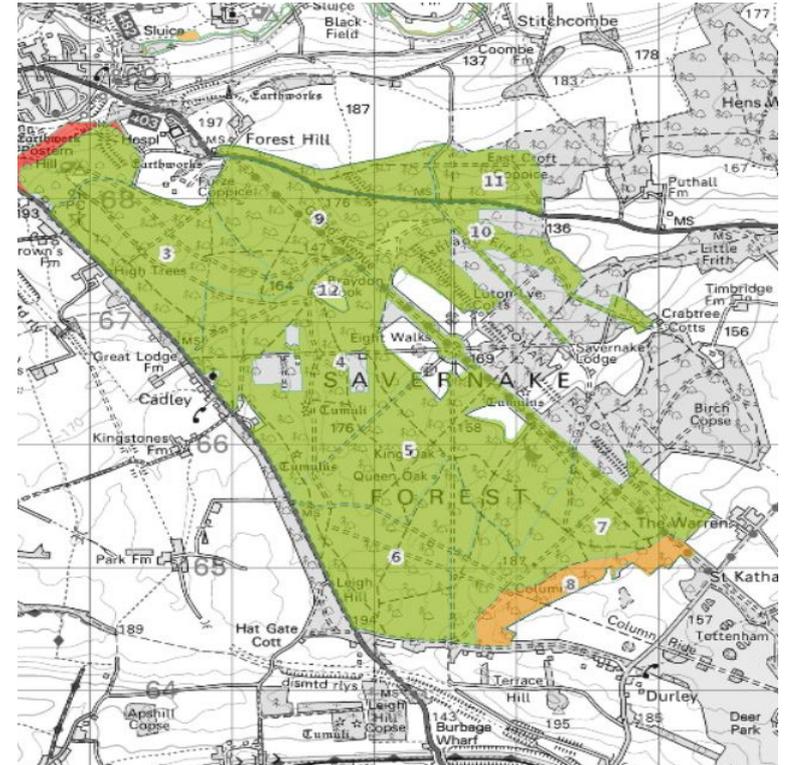


CASE STUDY. Savernake Forest.



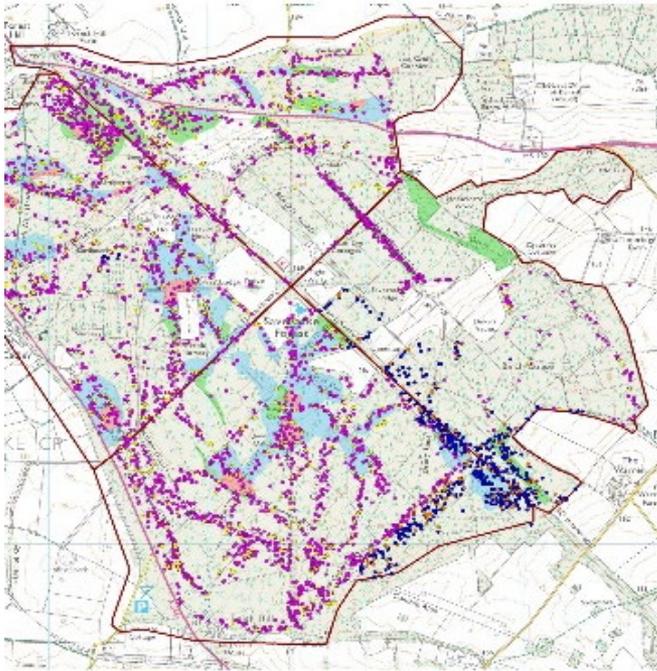
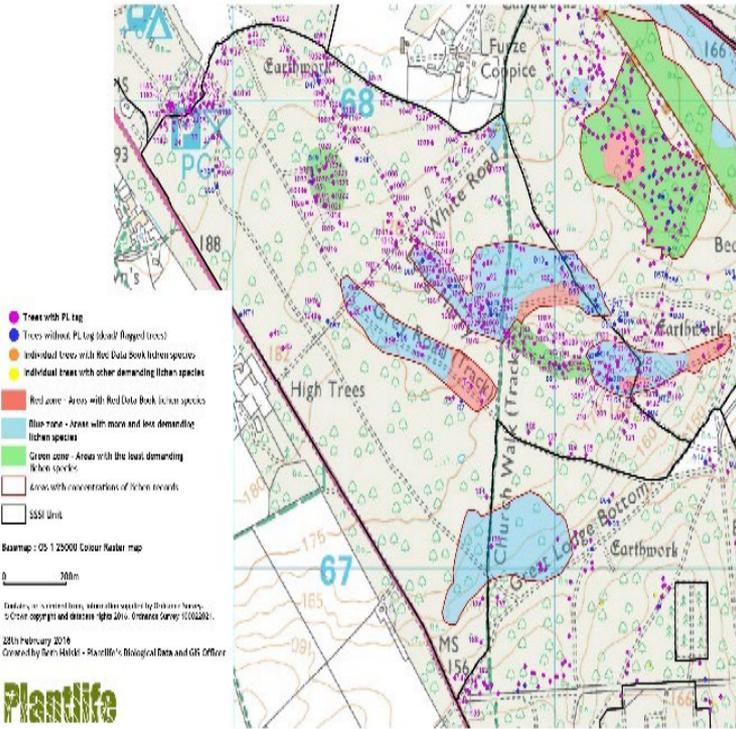
What and Where is it?

- 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

MAP 1 - Savernake veteran tree survey within SSSI Unit 3



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



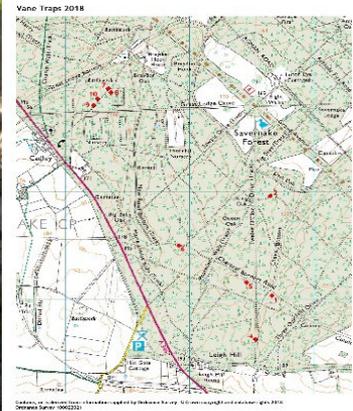
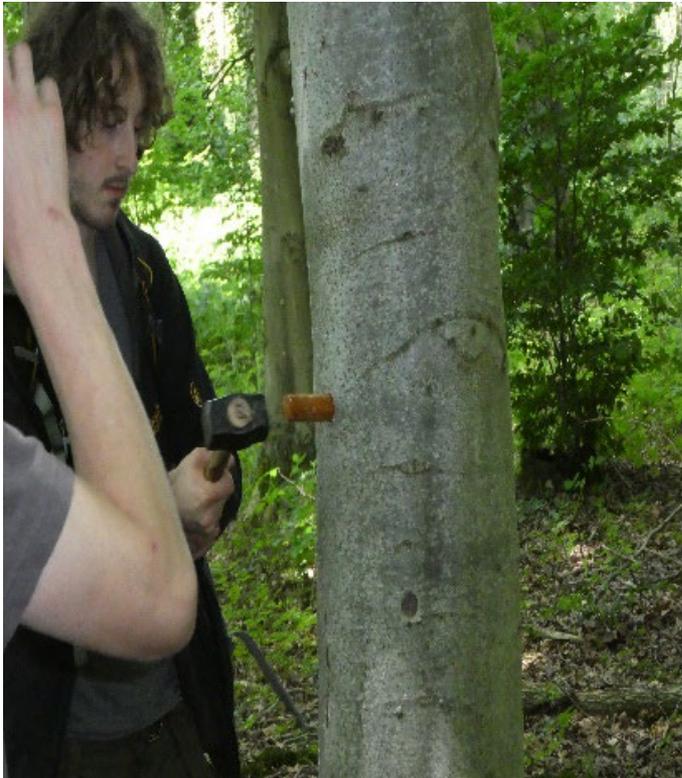
Vital Components Brown/Heart Rot Fungi



What was done to begin to address these issues?



Fungi Inoculation and Vane trapping



Savernake Forest Acoustic Survey (Static)

7th September 2019 (1 night)

Bat species (and number of bat passes)

Survey start time: 20:30 Survey finish time: 07:06

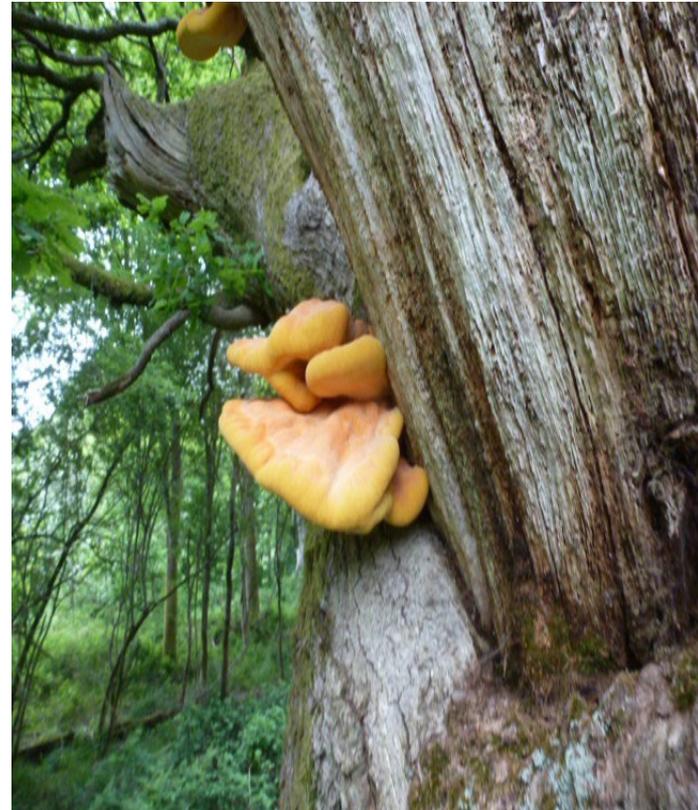


- Point 1 - Common Pipistrelle (18)
- Point 1 - Noctule (1)
- Point 1 - Soprano pipistrelle (1)
- Point 1 - Brown long-eared bat (2)
- Point 1 - Myotis species (0)
- Point 2 - Common Pipistrelle (8)
- Point 2 - Myotis species (3)
- Point 2 - Soprano pipistrelle (3)
- Point 3 - Myotis species (1)
- Point 3 - Soprano pipistrelle (5)
- Point 3 - Common Pipistrelle (3)
- Point 3 - Barbastelle (1)
- Point 4 - Soprano pipistrelle (8)
- Point 4 - Common Pipistrelle (7)
- Point 4 - Myotis species (2)

This is a summary of bat passes, not the number of bats flying around. Recordings of BfB Ancients of the Future target species (Primary – barbastelle & noctule, Secondary – brown long-eared bat, greater and lesser horseshoe bats) were manually checked and confirmed. Some recordings are not possible to classify with certainty to species from echolocation calls alone. This includes Myotis species (Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, whiskered bat, Alcaethoe bat, Bechstein's bat and Brandt's bat) and in some cases Big bat species (serotine, noctule and Leisler's bat) can have similar calls when recorded in a cluttered environment. Further surveys under a licence with experienced bat workers will need to be carried out to identify these species in the hand.



Finding Illusive Species



Building Resilience



Thank you

