



## **Hawkhill Mire, Furzey Lodge, Beaulieu Channel Restoration**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Statement**



Prepared by the New Forest National Park Authority on behalf of the Verderers of  
the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

July 2025

## **Hawkhill Mire wetland restoration works on 2 August 2024**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, the New Forest National Park Authority's archaeology team undertook archaeological monitoring of the restoration and infill of an eroded water channel at Hawkhill Mire (Furzey Lodge), Beaulieu (NGR: 436390, 102270) in the New Forest (Fig. 1). These groundworks were carried out as part of mire restoration works for the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

A possible Boiling Site (97/13) had been recorded by the New Forest History and Archaeology group in 2015, though the details had not been submitted to the Hampshire HER. A walk over survey, prior to work commencing, confirmed the feature to be in close vicinity to the proposed groundworks through the discovery of a concentration of burnt stone and a thick layer of charcoal-rich soil in the sides of the eroded channel, Photos. 1 & 2. It was determined that all groundwork should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist to record any archaeological features or artefacts encountered.

The groundworks consisted of the placing of clay plugs in the channel to stop further waterflow along the channel, along with the deposition of gravel to level the ground surface using an excavator. All plugging and levelling works were monitored. Working photographs can be seen in Photos. 3-5.

No damage was done to the visible sections of the Boiling Site. Other than the already exposed layer of charcoal rich soil and burnt flint, no previously unknown features or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered during the works.

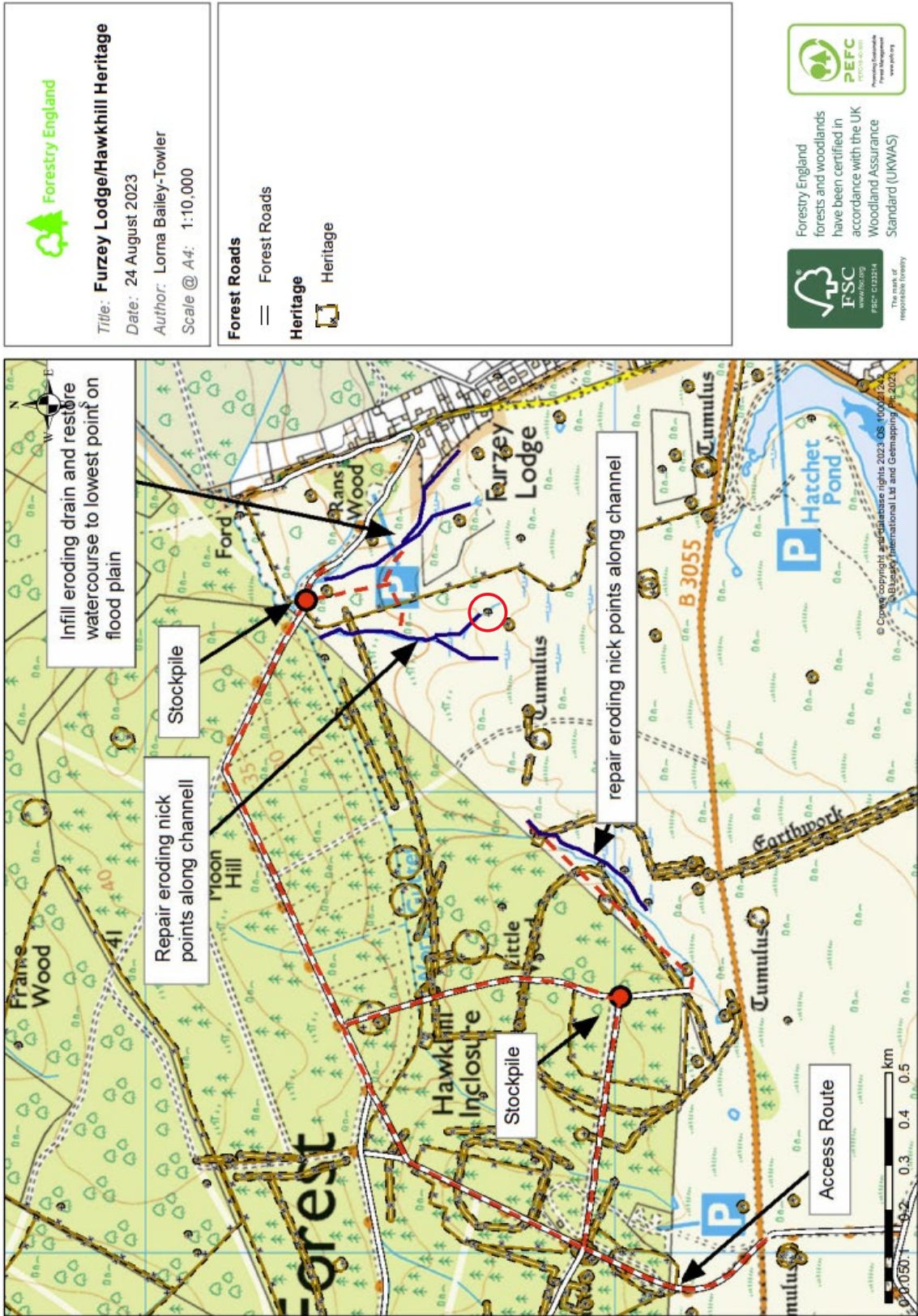


Figure 1: Site location map, with the channel restoration point circled in red.



Photo 1: Boiling Site (NFHAG 97/13). Looking south. (1m scale).



Photo 2: Charcoal-rich layer and burnt stone scatter visible in section.



Photo 3: Working shot of gravel deposition.



Photo 4: Working shot of gravel deposition.



Photo 5: Working shot post gravel deposition before levelling and turf replacement.

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