

Map 3 demonstrates one of the challenges within the Southend area:

- Large areas of the site were planted in the 1960s and 1970s with productive conifers, predominantly Sitka Spruce
- The age and size of these crops makes them susceptible to damage during storm events
- The lack of age diversity is also concerning and efforts will be made to improve both species-diversity, and age-diversity across the site in coming years

The map clearly shows just how much of the planted areas within Southend are covered in legacy coniferous plantations:

Orange areas on the map denote conifers planted in 1960 (25 hectares)

Yellow areas on the map denote conifers planted between 1961 to 1970 (626 hectares)

Green areas on the map denote conifers planted between 1971 to 1980 (652 hectares)

Within the Southend Land Management Plan area, 62.5% of the crops are over 45 years old.