

Chapter 6.0: Section Boundary Editing in the Software

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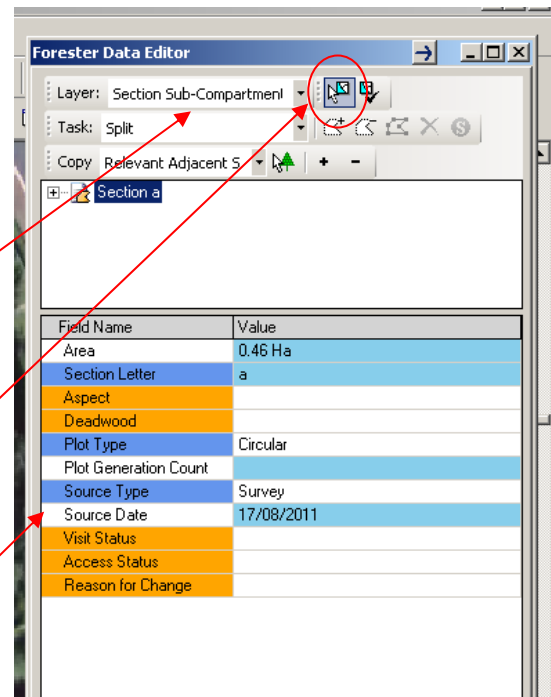
6.0 Section Boundary Editing in the Software

6.1 Selecting a Section (Section Sub-Compartment)

In the Forester Data Editor window use the Layer drop down box to choose Section Sub-Compartments.

Click on the Select Features button and then click in the Section in the map to be assessed. The Section will now be highlighted with blue hatching.

A list of data entry fields will appear in the lower half of the Forester Data Editor window.



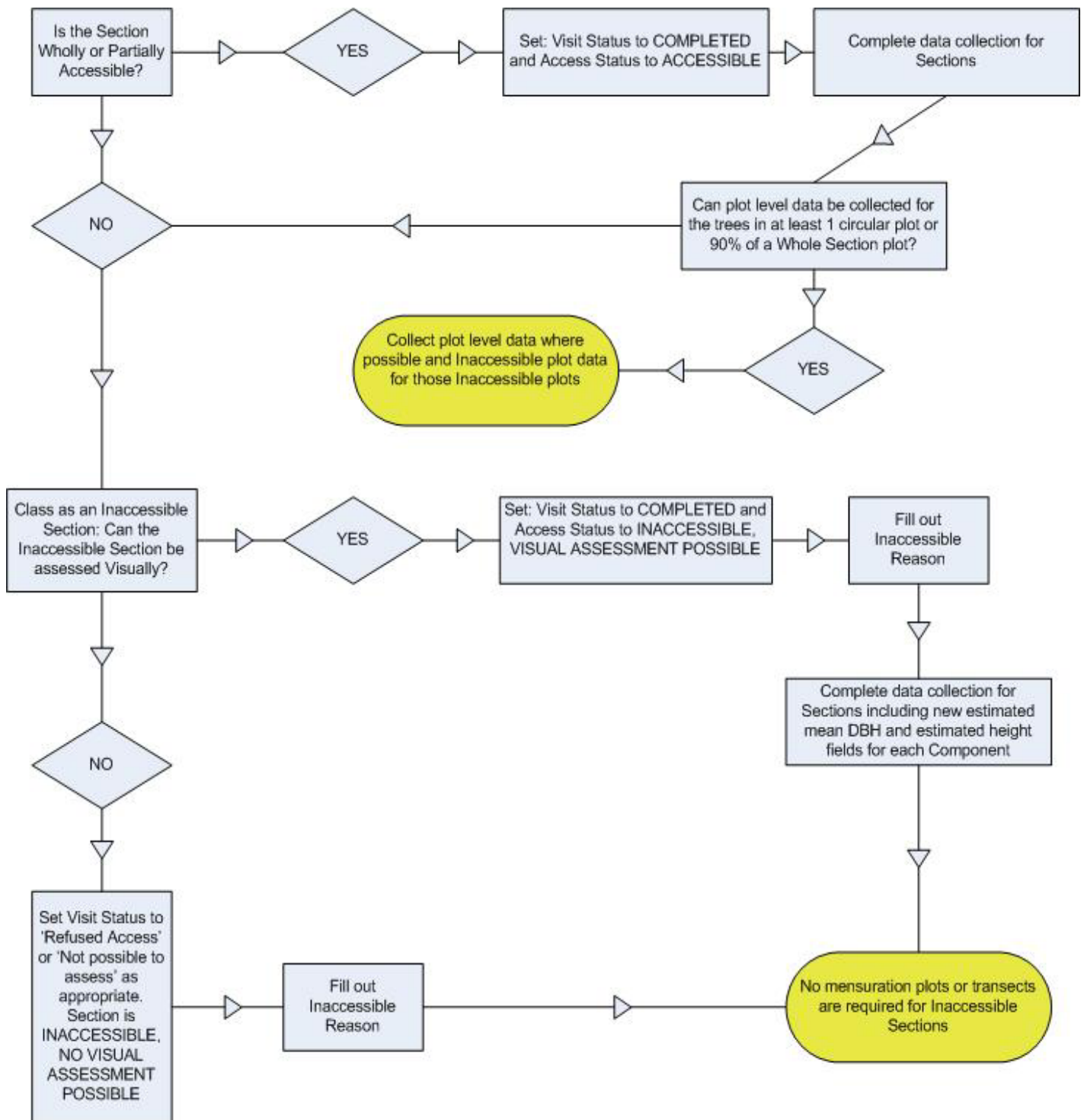
6.2 Data Entry

The number of data fields to complete will depend upon the accessibility of the Section. *NB: The Section is Accessible as long as $\geq 50\%$ of the measurable stems are accessible. Where stems are inaccessible their mensuration parameters (e.g. DBH) may be estimated.*

6.2.1 Accessible/Inaccessible flow chart for Section level assessments:

Follow Flowchart 6-1 below to determine the accessibility level of the Section to be assessed. Repeat for all Sections.

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Flowchart 6 - 1: Section accessibility

Where 'Accessible' means that part or all of the section can be accessed physically including at least 1 circular plot or 90% of a Whole Section plot..

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6.2.2 Data to be entered depending upon accessibility

Fill out the orange mandatory fields. Depending upon the Access Status selected at the Section level the data entry fields will vary.

Accessible

Field Name	Value
Area(Ha)	0.66 Ha
Section Letter	a
Aspect	<null>
Deadwood	<null>
Plot Type	<null>
Plot Generation Count	2
Source Type	<null>
Source Date	24/10/2012
Visit Status	<null>
Access Status	<null>
Reason for Change	<null>

Inaccessible, visual assessment possible

Field Name	Value
Area(Ha)	0.66 Ha
Section Letter	a
Aspect	<null>
Deadwood	<null>
Plot Type	<null>
Plot Generation Count	2
Source Type	<null>
Source Date	24/10/2012
Visit Status	Completed
Access Status	Inaccessible, visual assessment possible
Reason for Change	<null>
Inaccessible Reason	<null>

Inaccessible, NO visual assessment possible

Field Name	Value
Area(Ha)	0.66 Ha
Section Letter	a
Aspect	<null>
Deadwood	<null>
Plot Type	<null>
Plot Generation Count	2
Source Type	<null>
Source Date	24/10/2012
Visit Status	Not possible to assess
Access Status	Inaccessible, NO visual assessment possible
Reason for Change	<null>
Inaccessible Reason	<null>

Where possible non-mandatory fields, (the white fields), should be filled out by surveyors.

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6.2.3 Section data entry fields

Table 6 - 1: Section data entry

Data Field	Options	Comments
Area	N/A	Allocated by the software
Section Letter	N/A	Allocated by the software
Aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North • Northeast • Northwest • East • West • South • Southeast • Southwest • No slope 	Choose the dominant aspect for the Section. Check against contours on the OS 1:25,000 layer.
Deadwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low • Medium • High • None • Not applicable 	See 6.2.4 Visual Deadwood Estimation for details. Do not use not applicable.
Plot Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular • Whole Section Sub-Compartment • Not applicable 	Assign Plot Type see Chapter 13.1 . 'Not applicable' to be used in non treed and non NFI Sections, and also for Inaccessible Sections.
Plot Generation Count	Generated by the software	
Source Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey • Remote Sensing • FE change • Grants & License • Data Repair 	The Remote Sensing Field may be filled in already by IFOS staff. Change this to Survey to show that the site has been surveyed. In later years as the map data changes one of the lower three choices will be entered by IFOS to show where the new data comes from.
Source Date	Generated by the FC	
Visit Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvisited • In progress • Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'In progress' can be used if the surveyor needs to leave the site before completing data entry (e.g. it gets dark before completion).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refused Access • Not possible to assess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should only be used if the entire Section is Refused Access AND is Inaccessible NO visual assessment possible. • 'Not possible to assess' should ONLY be used if the Access Status is 'Inaccessible, NO visual assessments possible'. See Flowchart 6 - 1: Section accessibility. <p><i>When the Sample square is completed each Section must have one of the following Visit Status':</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Refused Access • Not possible to assess <p><i>Unvisited and In Progress must not be recorded when the square is sent back to the FC.</i></p>
Access Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible ▪ Inaccessible, visual assessment possible ▪ Inaccessible, NO visual assessment possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Select this if any part of the section is accessible and at least 1 circular plot or 90% of the whole section plot is accessible. See Flowchart 6 - 1: Section accessibility. • If 'Inaccessible but visual assessments possible' is chosen then an Est. Top Height and Est. Mean DBH for each Component is required. To estimate Top height, estimate the mean height of the component. • If visual assessment is not possible the software does not allow Component or sub-component level data to be entered.
Inaccessible reason (this Field only appears if one of the two Inaccessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inaccessible thicket ▪ Inaccessible health and safety ▪ Inaccessible slope ▪ Inaccessible obstruction 	<p>Thicket definition:</p> <p>'Stands of trees where the bases of the live crowns of the trees are below 1m height and the live crowns interlock so tightly that access is impossible'.</p>

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options above are chosen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inaccessible wind blow ▪ Inaccessible other 	Where vegetation (e.g. dense gorse) stops access use 'Inaccessible other'.
Reason for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change • Real change • Error change • Spatial error • 1st Assessment • Original 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For use in the 2nd NFI • For use in the 2nd NFI • For office use only • As above but a Spatial error • Always use this option if this is the 1st time a sample square is being assessed. • Unchanged data from IFOS

6.2.4 Visual Deadwood Estimation

Visually assess the quantity and continuity of lying and standing deadwood into 1 of 3 categories (Low, Medium or High), where applicable, for the Section based upon Table 6 - 2. When assessing current level of deadwood and continuity enter the lowest category into the software. E.g. if the current level of deadwood is Low but the Continuity is High, enter Low.

Lying deadwood is defined as fallen trees & branches and cut logs, with a minimum diameter of 7cm at the largest end (including material hung up by other trees). Dead windblow is included in this assessment. The deadwood **MUST** be from trees and not include material such as fence posts etc.

Standing deadwood is any dead tree >1.3m tall and ≥4cm DBH. It does not include dead branches still in the tree crowns or stumps i.e. standing stems <1.3m tall.

Where there is no deadwood use one of the following:

- Not applicable – for office use only
- None – no deadwood

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Table 6 - 2: Deadwood value of Section (Source: Managing Deadwood in Forests and Woodlands).

Factor	Current value of site or wood		
	Low	Medium	High
Current levels of deadwood on site	<p>Low/little fallen deadwood and none/few dead standing stems.</p> <p>Few veteran trees and mature trees also scarce</p>	<p>Some fallen deadwood and/or dead standing stems. Average of 1-3 veteran trees per ha or majority of trees mature</p>	<p>A lot of fallen deadwood and/or dead standing stems.</p> <p>Average of more than 3 veteran trees per ha and some/many mature trees</p>
Continuity of deadwood habitats over time	<p>Known that there has been little continuity of habitat, and current resource of recent origin with reduced range of decay stages.</p>	<p>History of current resource and continuity not clear but some evidence of a range of different decay stages</p>	<p>Known or suspected high continuity of deadwood habitat; occurrence of large diameter deadwood and/or deadwood in a wide range of different decay stages</p>