



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland at Burriott in North Devon

Forestry England are planting new woodlands to expand the nation's forests

We are planning a new woodland at Burriott, North Devon, about half a mile northwest of High Bickington. We would like your comments and feedback on our initial ideas. Your input will help shape our final designs.

Working with public and private landowners, we're choosing the right places for woodlands to grow and flourish, carefully planting a mix of tree species to be resilient in our changing climate.

Every new woodland will have public access so you can explore and enjoy them to support your health and wellbeing. They will be valuable places for wildlife, often linking other woods to provide green corridors for wildlife to move and thrive across the landscape.

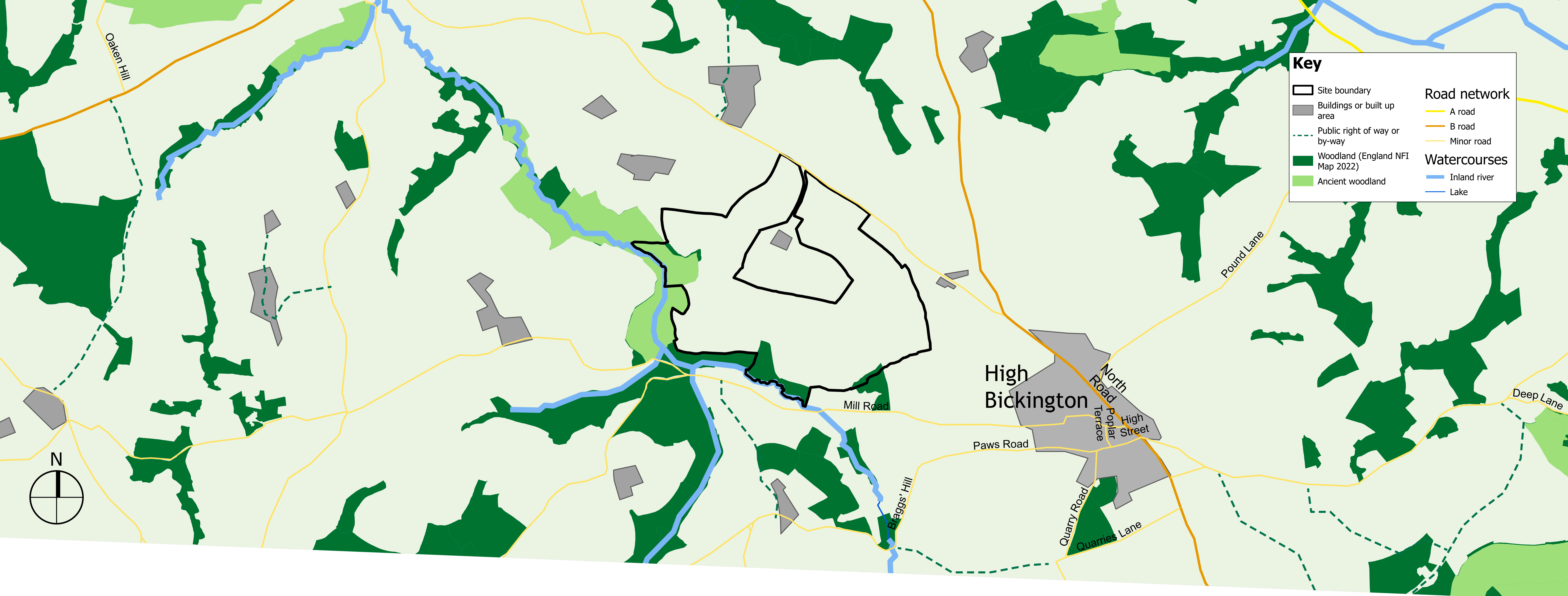
Our plans are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, supported by the Nature for Climate Fund. We aim to plant at least 2,000 hectares of new, high-quality woodlands across England.

In time, each new woodland will provide sustainable timber, contributing to a rural economy. And they'll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and combating flooding.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

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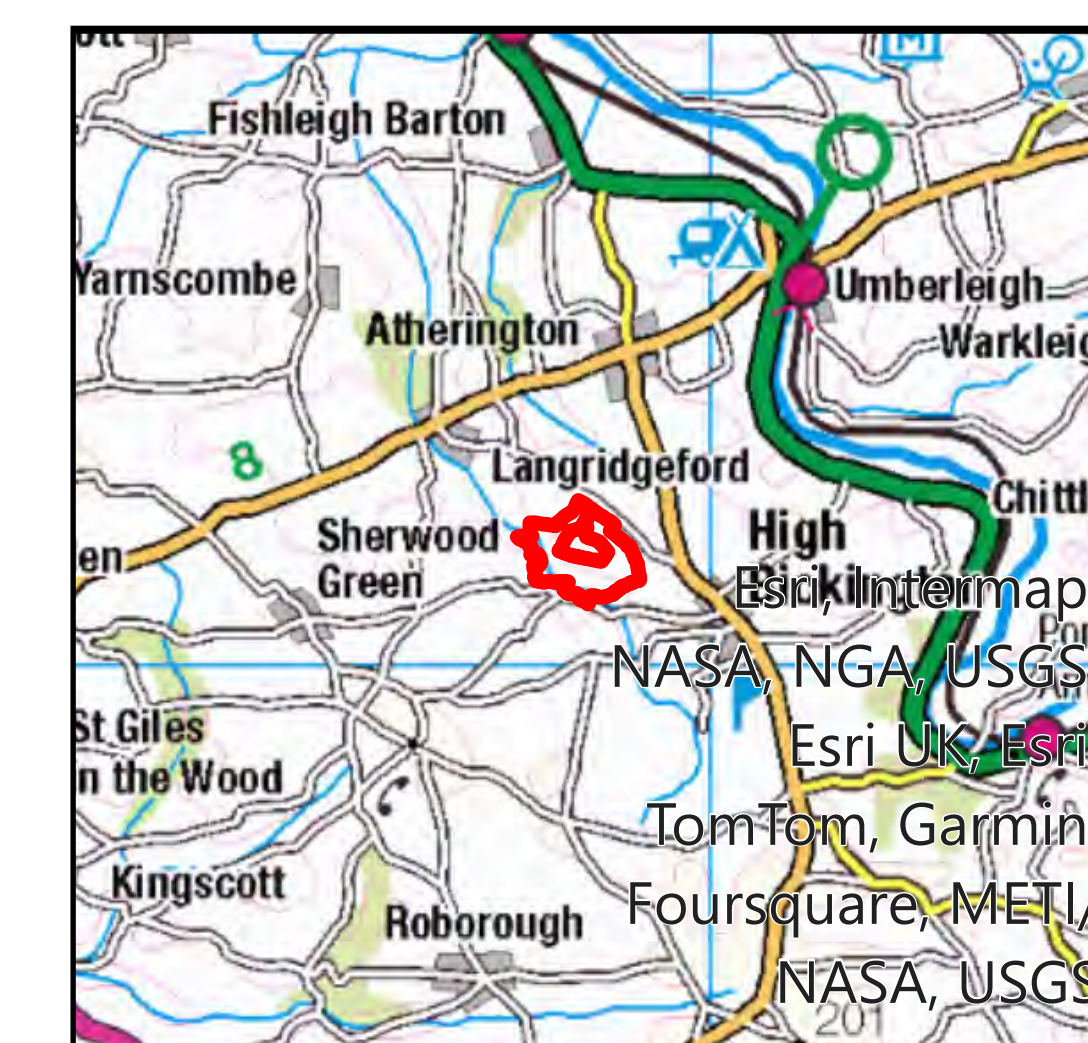
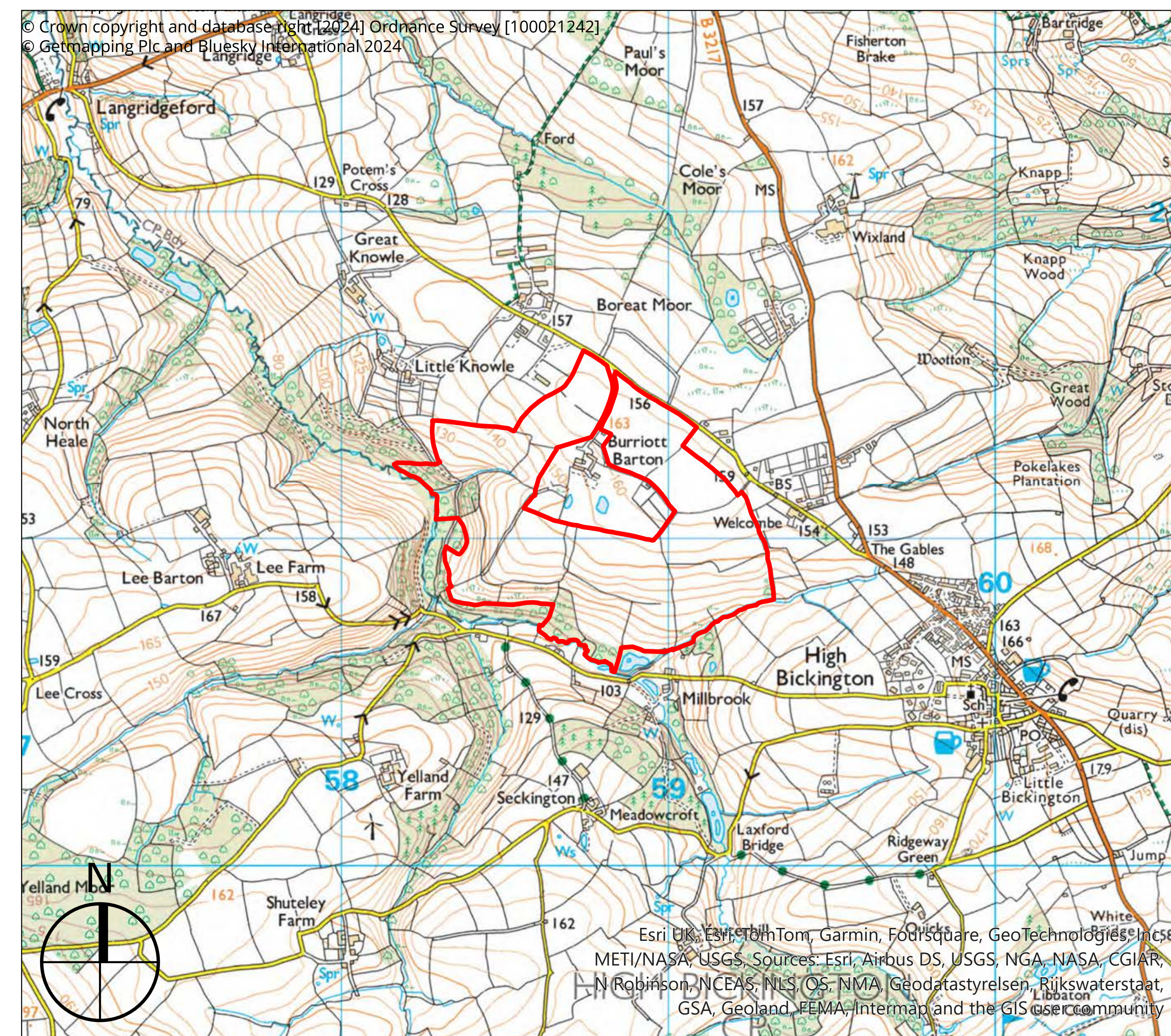


Site Location & Wider Context

The proposed new woodland is in North Devon, about five and a half miles northeast of Great Torrington and half a mile northwest of High Bickington.

The site for the new woodland lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 149: The Culm. This area is mostly remote and sparsely populated. It is a landscape of rolling ridges and plateaus and small valleys with fast flowing rivers and streams that drain the area. The heavy poorly drained soil supports a pastoral (grazed) landscape. There are also unique culm grasslands, a type of habitat typically found in this area and known for uncommon plant communities such as purple moor grass.

There are few trees on the plateau, except for some wind-sculpted hedgerows, farm trees and patches of conifer. More trees are found in the sheltered valleys. A mosaic of field patterns reflects the historic land use of the Culm.





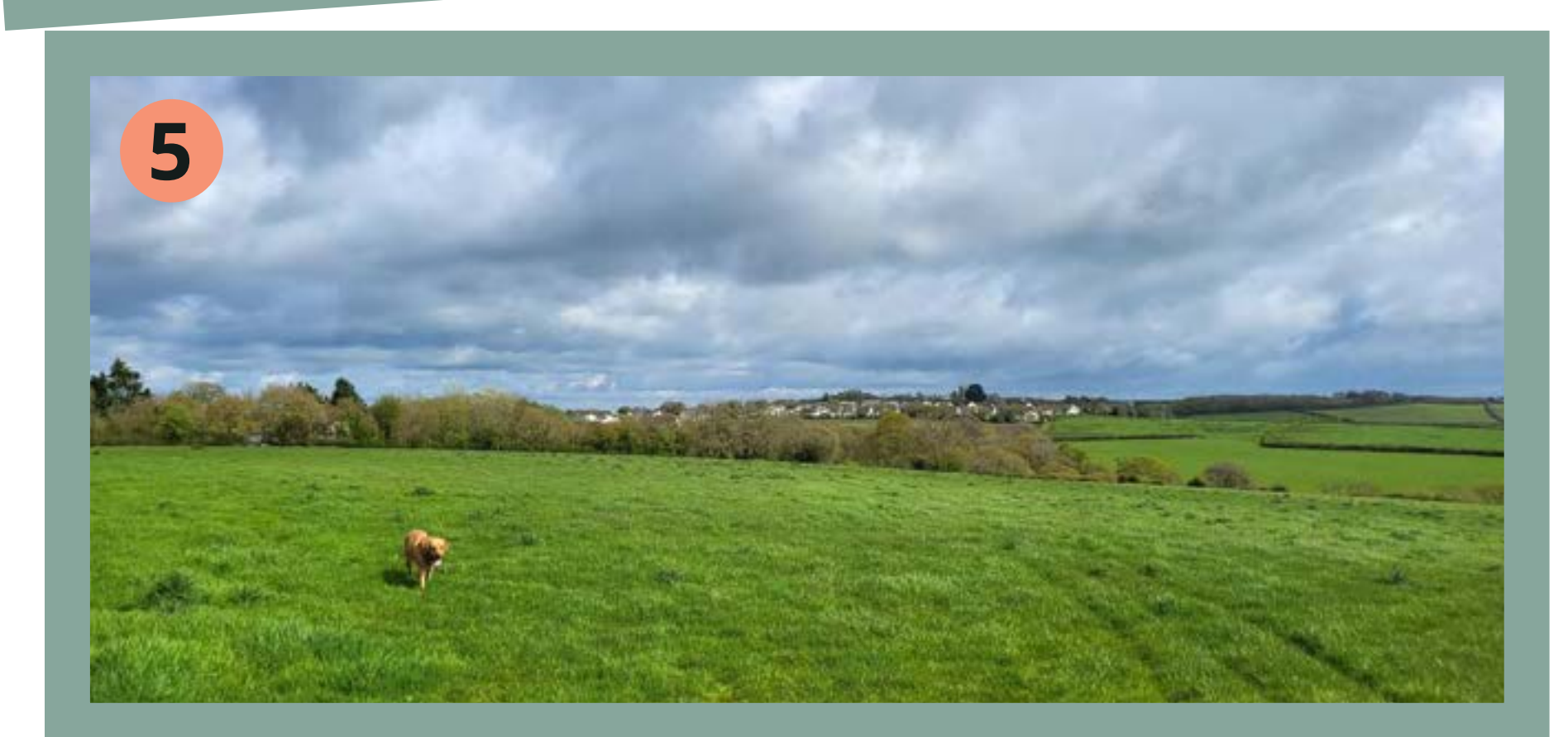
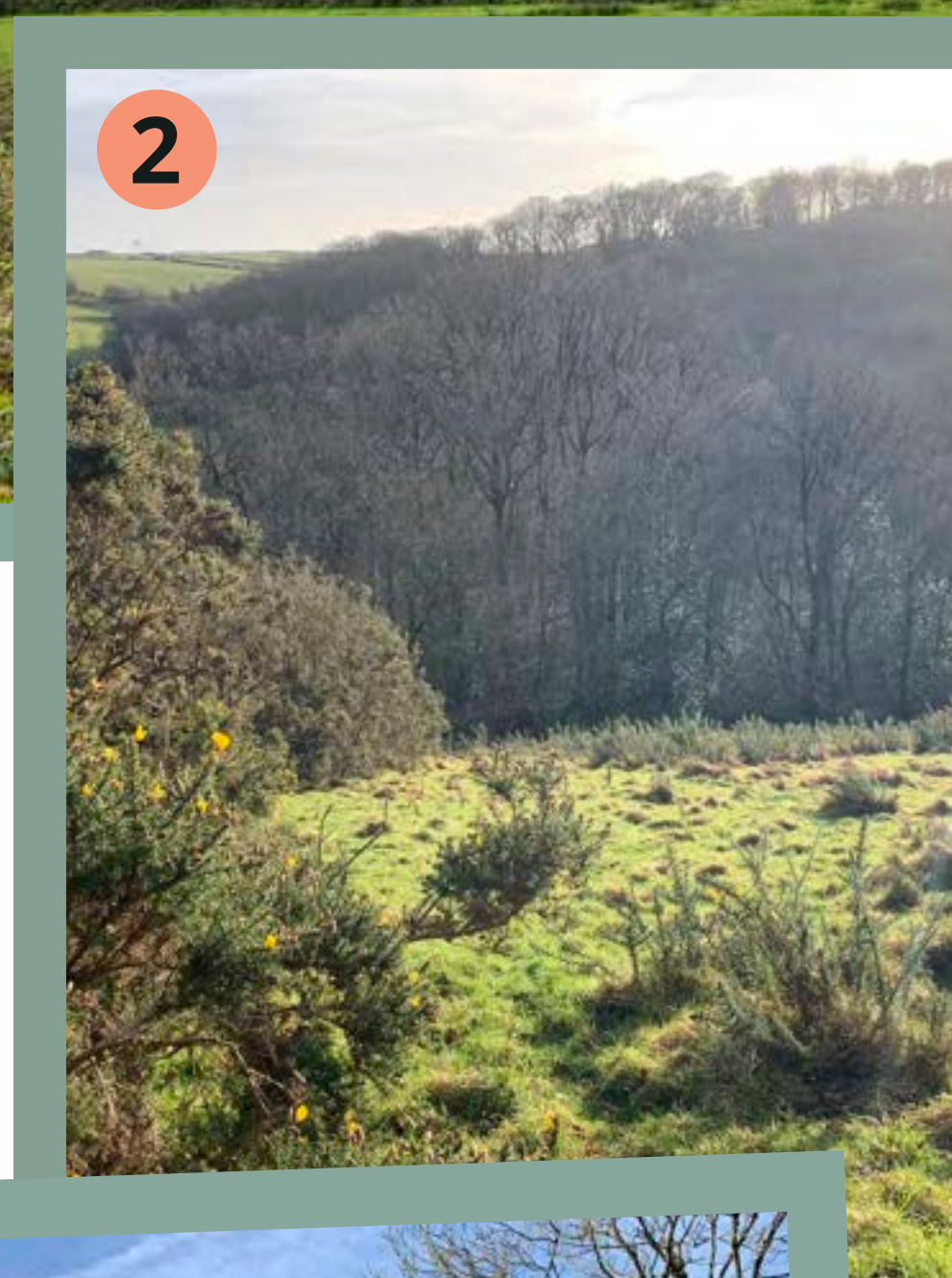
The existing site

The site is on a south facing slope of a long ridge ('Langridge'), that stretches from High Bickington in the southeast to Langridge Cross in the northwest. Several small gullies cut through the slope coming up from the river at the bottom. The river flows north to join Langham Lake before merging with the River Taw.

The land at Burriott is currently used for grazing. From the plateau, you can see towards High Bickington, but hedgerows shorten the view.

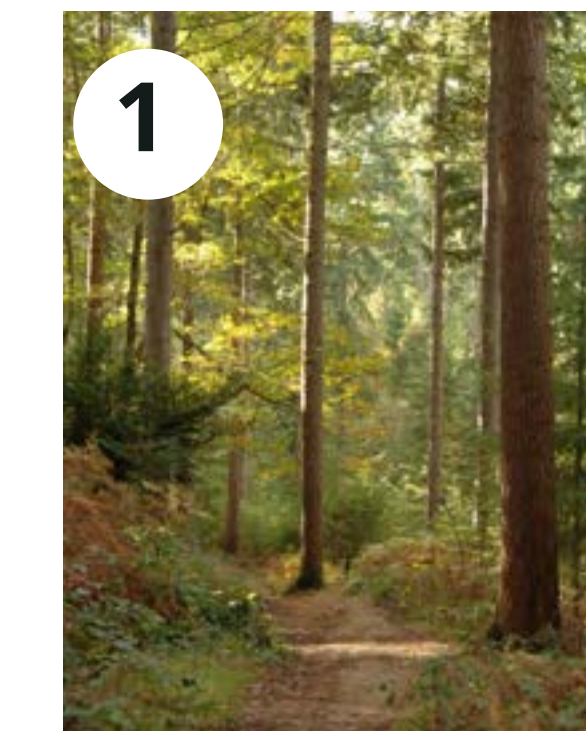
A large section of woodland along the river is ancient semi-natural woodland. Historic maps show that a conifer plantation has existed since 1880 and that there are significant areas of rough pasture (culm) in the landscape. Many hedgerows have been lost since 1880, which would have enclosed the landscape, limiting views and making it feel more wooded.

Photos: 1. View from the public by-way north of Seckington. 2. A view of the current woodland and rough pasture on site. 3. View looking south from the site. 4. View looking west from the site. 5. View towards High Bickington from the site.





Tree species we could plant



1
Douglas fir in mixes with Sessile oak and small-leaved lime



2
Sessile oak in mixes with silver birch, common alder and rowan



3
Hornbeam in mixes with Sessile oak, wild service tree and wild cherry



4
Western red cedar in mixes with Douglas fir



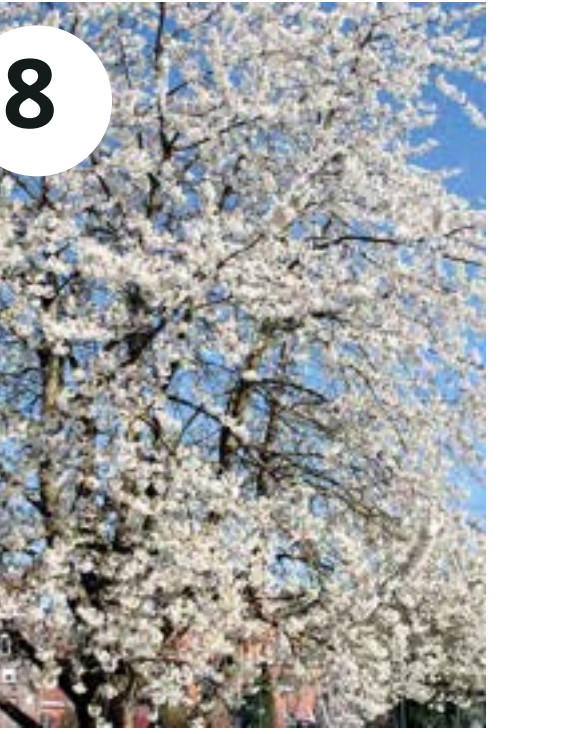
5
Shrubs including **Guelder rose**, rowan, spindle, elder, alder buckthorn, hazel



6
Monterey pine in mixes with Oriental spruce



7
Oriental spruce in mixes with small-leaved lime

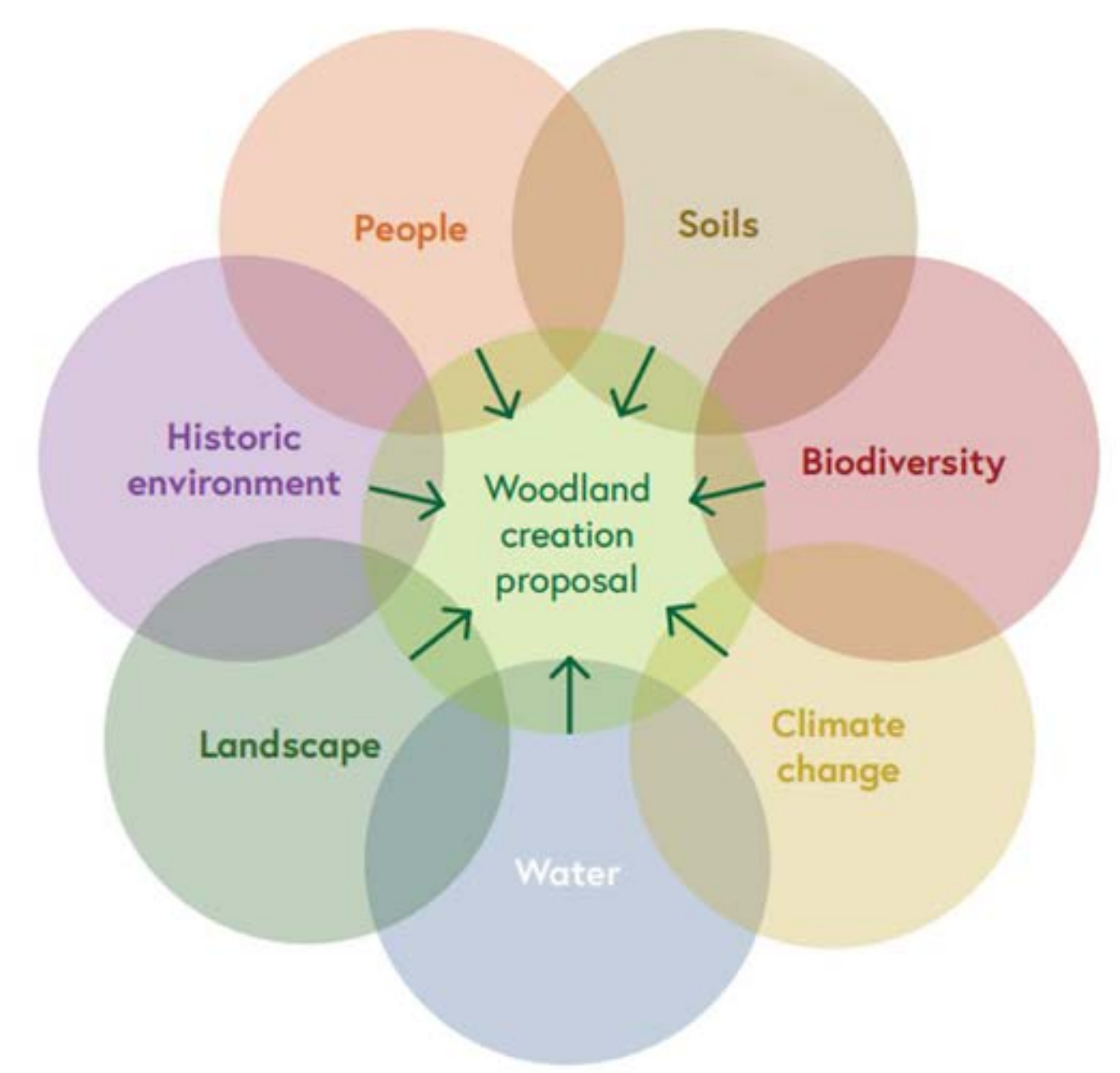


8
Wild cherry tree in mixes with rowan, silver birch, whitebeam, field maple, black walnut and wild service tree.

Draft design

How we design new woodland

We are designing the new woodland to benefit people, wildlife and the wider landscape (natural capital approach). Our design meets the UK Forestry Standard, which takes into account the following elements (Forestry Commission, 2021):

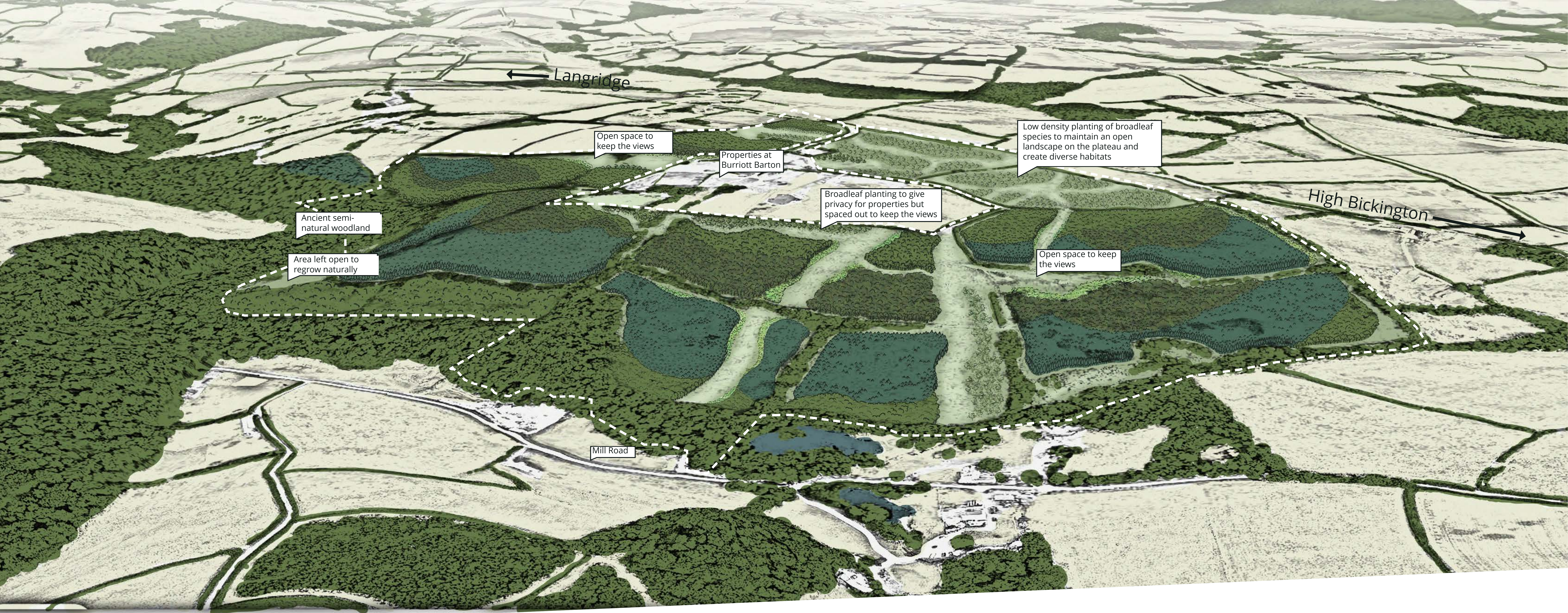


Detailed desktop surveys, site surveys and analysis will inform our design. This includes:

- Preliminary habitat assessment
- Historic environment records
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Local environment records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- Climate matching tools
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland

-  **Create a mixed resilient woodland:** plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of certified sustainable timber.
-  **Improve woodland connectivity and enhance existing ancient woodland:** link adjacent ancient woodlands to improve habitat connectivity. Maintain hedges and create open spaces and areas to regrow naturally (natural regeneration) within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.
-  **Public access for health and wellbeing:** provide low-key recreation opportunities by improving access to the countryside.
-  **Sequester atmospheric carbon:** help meet net zero emissions goals by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climates and create new areas to store carbon.



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Protect and improve the ancient semi-natural woodland with native broadleaf buffers and open areas for natural regeneration.
- Plant a mix of conifer, mixed and broadleaf woodland sensitively placed within the landscape to provide both timber security and biodiversity.
- Create grass rides next to hedgerows and plant shrubs at the edges of woodland to create areas for wildlife to thrive.
- Create grass paths for walkers to explore the new woodland, taking in views and different types of trees and habitats.
- Maintain important views from properties at Burriott Barton by leaving open spaces near their boundaries or planting shrubs and trees more sparsely.
- Grow a small fruit orchard for the residents of Burriott Barton.



Forestry England



Your views are important to us - let us know what you think



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Responding to this consultation

We encourage you to submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views by completing the online feedback form at:

- <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult>

If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at

- woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by Sunday 28th July 2024

What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Initial planting (Winter 2024)

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A Coronation Wood at Burriott - our response to key themes from early engagement

We invited local people to share their initial views about our plans to create a new woodland at Burriott. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Public access

The new woodland at Burriott will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for people to enjoy. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

There will be pedestrian access off the road into the site which will allow people to explore the new woodland by a series of grass paths. There is no plan to include surfaced trails, cycling or horse riding specific infrastructure.

We are mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic particularly as the road is narrow. Our proposal does not include public parking. We will consider signs to discourage parking along the lane should this be necessary.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, we won't put a fence around the whole woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forest and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Design

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and closeness to nearby properties. Planting native broadleaf trees on the edges of the ancient woodland will support a wide range of wildlife including different species of birds, mammals, insects and fungi all of which thrive in the diverse environment created by these trees.

Our draft design includes grass paths, open spaces and keeps the existing hedgerows to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connect to existing open spaces outside the woodland.

Trees will be planted away from the hedgerows which will benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and this will be an attractive environment for many birds. The existing hedgerows will be maintained, providing nesting areas for birds and we are looking at the possibility of including owl boxes.

We are doing ecology and habitat surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems at Burriott and this will help shape our final design for the new woodland.

Our plan for the new, resilient woodland with a variety of trees at Burriott, aims to:

Create mixed productive and resilient woodland that delivers benefits for people, nature and economy

- Improve woodland connectivity in the landscape
- Provide additional opportunities for informal access to the countryside
- Sequester atmospheric carbon, supporting achieving net zero emissions targets
- Improve connectivity and enhance existing ancient woodland
- Provide a supply of sustainable timber

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to plan in detail for the trees we will plant for the new woodland. Our surveys help us to choose the trees most suitable for the site now and as the climate changes. Our professional foresters carefully choose what trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the soil, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species and geographical features nearby. We also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to keep woods as healthy as possible.

The species will be a mix of broadleaf and conifer, planted together in mixtures, with shrub species along edges to increase the variety and provide seasonal colour and texture. Species have been chosen to produce a future source of sustainable softwood timber. This supply of homegrown wood products will support the wider British timber and forestry industry, helping to reduce the demand for imports from other countries.

Species at Burriott will include conifers such as Douglas fir, western red cedar, oriental spruce, and broadleaves such as oak, small leaved lime, birch, rowan, wild cherry and hazel.

Landscape and Views

A landscape and visual appraisal has informed our designs and we have carefully considered how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours. Where properties have important views, we will leave open spaces and plant shrubs at the edges of the woodland near the houses to make it more visually appealing. We will also plant more broadleaf trees in these areas because they are shorter than some conifers, generally live longer, and will help keep the view open.

Within the woodland we will create framed views and open spaces at key viewpoints, with grass paths to enhance the landscape for visitors. Near powerlines and underground services, there will also be grass paths to open up the views. These paths will have a natural shape with shrub edges to blend in with the surroundings.

The woodland has been carefully designed to blend with the surrounding landscape and to consider how it looks from outside the site. On the higher ground we will plant broadleaf trees sparsely to keep the skyline open. At the lower end of the site, the broadleaf trees will be a continuation of the existing ancient woodland and the broadleaf woodland in the valley.

Establishing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 24/25. Maintenance during the first five years is important to ensure the long-term success of the woodland. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and local contractors. So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to upgrade an existing entrance on the northern boundary to manage the site and to create one new entrance.

As part of our ongoing management of the woodland, we will begin to remove some trees after about 25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of timber and help the woodland

to thrive for decades to come.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

The UK is home to six species of deer, and their natural predators, such as bears, lynx and wolves, are extinct. Without predators, deer populations can become unnaturally big and their browsing can damage young trees. In the short-term, this can kill the trees and in the longer-term, it can reduce the resilience of the new woodland to climate change, reduce plant and animal diversity and lower the amount of carbon captured from the atmosphere.

Forestry England is part of the [Deer Initiative](#)¹, a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. We will use deer fencing within the site boundary to protect the new woodland. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers replace the role of Britain's missing predators by safely and humanely controlling deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our [website](#)².

Rabbit and deer fencing around the blocks of trees, will protect the young trees from browsing by deer and rabbits, and treeshelters (a protective tube or casing placed around a young tree) will protect smaller, wide spaced areas of trees.

Treeshelters and fences will be removed after approximately 10 years, after the woodland has become established, with materials being recycled where possible.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

Forestry England is creating new woodlands which will capture carbon, restore and connect habitats, enhance biodiversity, supply sustainable homegrown timber and great places for people to enjoy. Sites are individually and carefully assessed so they are suitable for woodland creation and sensitive to the local landscape. This assessment considers the existing land use, and we target lower-quality or less productive land to create new woodlands.

Our plans are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025 and provide a source of sustainable homegrown timber. Currently the UK imports over 80% of its timber³ and we are more reliant on imported timber than imported food (40% of food is imported)⁴.

Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Burriott is graded at 3 and 4. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.

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¹ <http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/>
² <https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests>
³ [Forestry Facts & Figures 2023](#) (forestryresearch.gov.uk)
⁴ [United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources](#) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)