

Bytham Woods

Forest Plan 2026-36



The mark of responsible forestry





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What are Forest Plans?

Forest Plans (FPs) are produced by us, Forestry England, as a means of communicating our management intentions to a range of stakeholders. They aim to fulfil a number of objectives:

- To provide descriptions of our woodlands to show what they are like now.
- To show what we intend the woodlands to look like in the future.
- To detail our felling and restocking management proposals for the next 10 years to obtain approval from the statutory regulators.

We use some technical words and phrases in the text because they best describe what we are doing. These technical words are identified throughout the plan with an asterisk (*) and

their meaning confirmed in a standard Glossary at the end of the document (*see p.41-44*).

A FP is a ‘felling and restocking’ plan and is written at a landscape scale. It does not set out the detailed yearly management operations for each small area in a wood, known as a coupe*. It is not possible to say in which year a particular operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it should happen. Operational Plans* are written by the Beat Forester before work is undertaken. These plans outline the site-specific features and constraints, and the measures in place to account and mitigate for these during the works. This FP does not deal with the specific management of recreation, ecological or archaeological features. Planning for these elements follows a different management cycle and process.

The Terms of Reference (*see p.23*) set out the management objectives for the FP area, how these relate to National and District strategies, and how these will be monitored.

All tree felling in the UK is regulated and permission is required before trees can be felled. The scale of tree felling in Central England Forest District is such that the FP is the best mechanism for applying for this.

Responsibility for checking that the FP meets all the relevant standards and statutes lies with the Forestry Commission. If all the criteria are met, full approval is given for the management operations in the first 10 years and outline approval for the medium-term vision (10 years to 50 years).





Pic.1: Bluebells in Braceborough

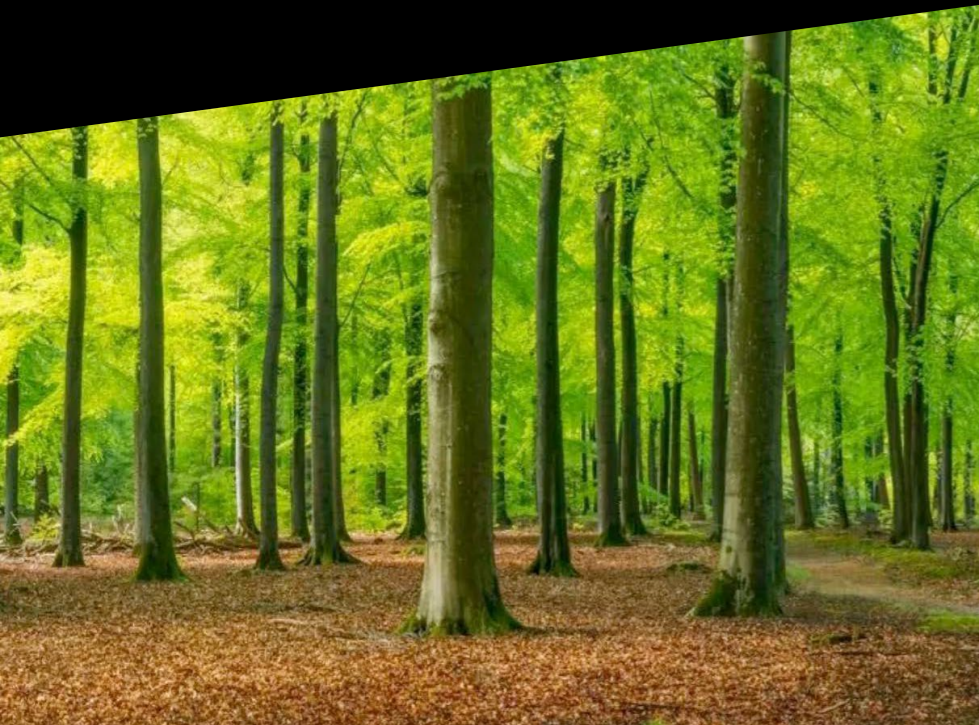


Introduction

This FP summarises proposals by Forestry England for the management of the Bytham Woods.

The Bytham Woods FP area totals 1138.4ha and comprises the following individual woodlands:

- Twyford (215.6ha),
- Morkery (167.1ha),
- Cabbagehill (10.5ha),
- Stretton (30.4ha),
- Little Haw and Addah (63ha),
- Moor Plantation (8.3ha),
- Cowclose Plantation (4.1ha),
- Clipsham Park (69.1ha),
- Clipsham Coronation Wood (219.7ha),
- Pickworth Great (144.1ha),
- Greetham Near (53.4ha),
- Greetham Far (35.6ha),
- Osbonall (17.3ha),
- Careby (54.8ha),
- and Braceborough (45.4ha).



The Bytham Woods are all located within a 9km radius of Little Bytham and straddle the counties of Rutland and Lincolnshire and the corresponding local authorities of Rutland and South Kesteven. Forestry England's tenure of these woodlands is split 64% freehold and 36% leasehold. (See *Location Map, p.7 and Tenure & Access Map, p8*).

The forests are mainly broadleaved ancient and semi-natural* woodland (ASNW), with some coniferous Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)* and a mix of broadleaved and coniferous secondary* woodland. Included within the FP area is the recently-planted Clipsham Coronation Wood which connects the established woodlands of Clipsham Park and Pickworth Great.

The geology of the area is varied, giving rise to a range of soil types from limestone through to heavy clays. The main soil types underlying the Bytham Woods are seasonally waterlogged surface-water gleys and shallow calcareous rendzinas.

The Bytham Woods fall wholly within the Kesteven Uplands National Character Area* (NCA) which is characterised by a gently rolling, mixed farming landscape. The scattered woodlands within this are significant; including semi-natural, ancient and secondary forests. The elevation of the Bytham Woods within the undulating landform ranges between 18m (in Braceborough) and 115m (in Twyford), all woodlands being prominent in the low-lying landscape and visible from respective local roads. (See *Survey Maps, p.16&17*).

The primary management objectives for the Bytham Woods FP are to:

- Sustainably grow commercial timber using species and systems resilient to the impacts of pests, diseases and climate change to maximise yields and prioritise timber quality.
- Continue to progress PAWS restoration and maintain/improve the ecological value of the lowland mixed deciduous woodland priority habitat.
- Use Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems* (LISS) where appropriate to protect woodland ecosystems and reduce season variation in micro-climate.
- Conserve the ecological and heritage features and maintain existing public access where applicable.

The Bytham Woods FP area was previously organised into two separate groups of FPs:

- Rutland (comprising individual plans for Clipsham, Addah and Little Haw; Greetham Near, Far and Osbonall; Pickworth; Moor and Cow and Stretton).
- Central Kesteven (comprising individual plans for Twyford, Morkery, Cabbage Hill, Careby and Braceborough).

These individual FPs were originally approved in May 2006 and subsequently extended to May 2021. Given the alignment of objectives across these woodlands it is appropriate to combine their management under a single FP.



Application for Forest Plan Approval

i Plan Area Identification:

District: Central England Forest District
 Beat: North Northants Beat
 Name: Bytham Woods Forest Plan
 Nearest Town: Stamford
 Local Planning Authorities: Rutland and South Kesteven

Grid References:

Twyford	SK 9464 2371
Morkery	SK 9501 1873
Cabbagehill	SK 9887 1985
Stretton	SK 9555 1705
Little Haw / Addah	SK 9659 1773
Moor and Cowclose	SK 9671 1611
Clipsham Park	SK 9739 1696
Clipsham Coronation	SK 9850 1623
Pickworth Great	SK 9851 1492
Greetham Wood Near	SK 9451 1463
Greetham Wood Far	SK 9534 1452
Osbonall	SK 9613 1494
Careby	TF 0359 1572
Braceborough	TF 0667 1376

ii Designations and Considerations:

Clipsham Old Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest* (SSSI)
 Careby Wood Camp Scheduled Ancient Monument* (SAM)
 NCA* Kesteven Uplands (Profile 75)
 Ancient Woodland* and PAWS*
 Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
 Lincolnshire LNRS (not yet published at time of consultation)

iii Date of Commencement of Plan: On approval

Table 1: Proposed felling and restocking summary for the 10-year FP period

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total
Clear Fell	35ha	35.4ha	70.4ha
Restocking	9.1ha	61.3ha	70.4ha
Coppice	0ha	10.6ha	10.6ha
Regeneration Felling (LISS)	Up to 18.7ha	Up to 188.4ha	Up to 207.1ha

The figures above refer to the gross area and exclude routine thinning operations. Restocking includes both planting and natural regeneration.

Total clear fell area: 70.4ha.

Forest Plan maps are attached.

In addition to the proposed felling, 690.4ha will be managed using LISS*. This will be done through the removal of small groups of trees, removing no more than 40% of the stems within any single management unit or compartment over the plan period. LISS operations will help to encourage initial seeding, provide sufficient light to boost growth of understorey and ground flora, allow adequate space for the development of crowns and stem form for quality timber and accelerate individual tree growth; and also be supported, where necessary, by supplementary planting to increase species diversity.

Bytham Woods FP approved on

All of our forests and woodlands in this Forest District are certified to the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) licence code FSC-C123214 and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) licence code SA-PEFC-FM-006972 standards.

All Forestry England forests and woods are independently certified as sustainably managed, to continue to benefit future generations.



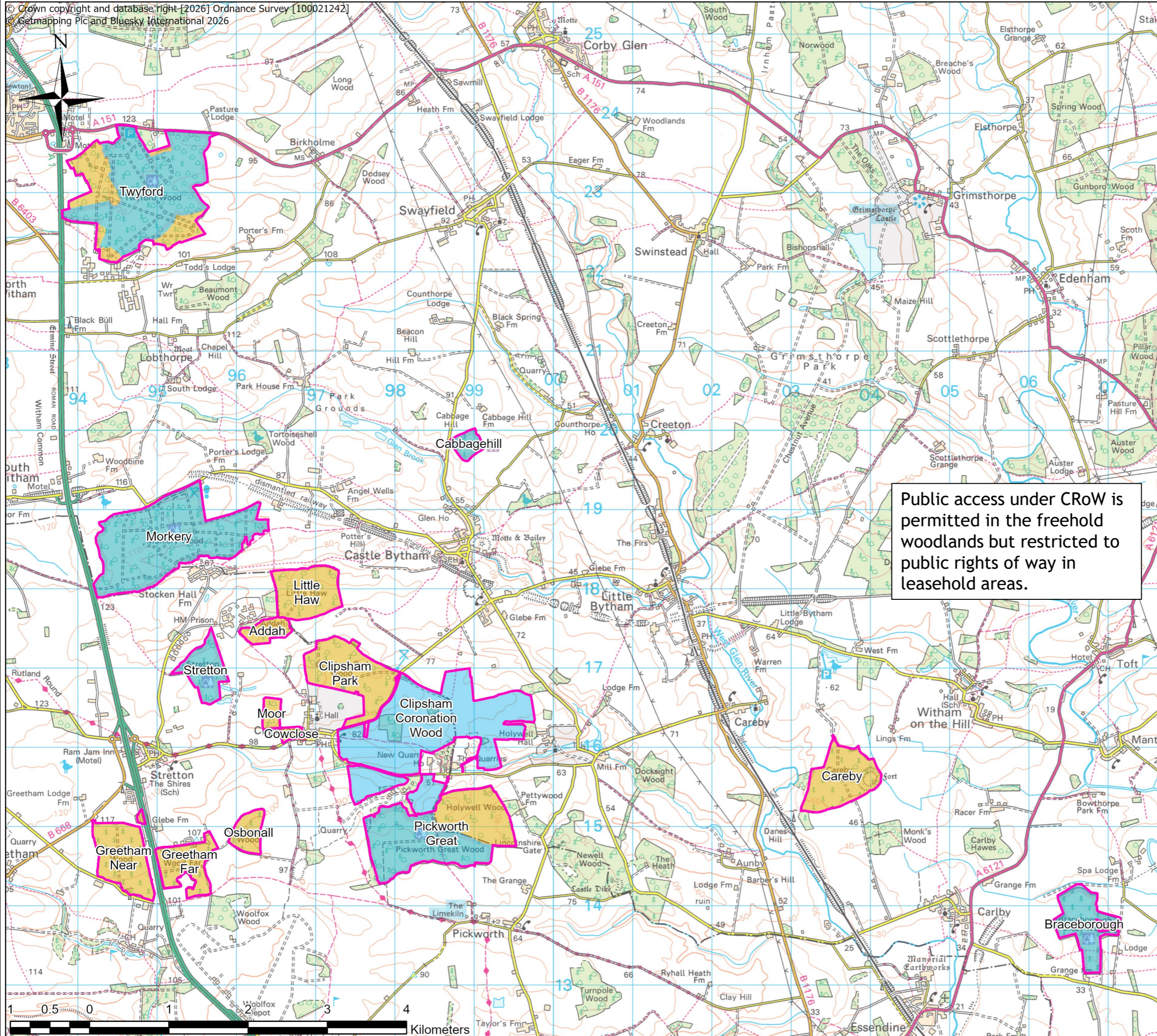
Tenure and Access Map

Date: June 2026
Scale @ A3: 1:45,000

Bytham Woods FP
Area

- Tenure and access
- Freehold with
dedicated open access
 - Leasehold with no
public access

Public access under CRoW is permitted in the freehold woodlands but restricted to public rights of way in leasehold areas.



Analysis

This section of the FP explores the key features, values and drivers within the Bytham Woods in terms of:

- Nature
- People
- Forest Composition

The following maps are included to illustrate the key factors impacting current and future land management:

- Designated Areas
- High Conservation Value Areas
- Survey Summary
- Current Species
- Current Structure
- Analysis Summary



Nature

Ancient* and native* woodlands support high levels of biodiversity and host many priority species. Furthermore, they deliver many ecosystem services including water and soil regulation, carbon storage, support for people’s wellbeing and long-standing cultural values. Nearly 67% of the Bytham Woods FP area is classified as Ancient Woodland (see *High Conservation Value Areas Map, p.15*). The gradual reduction in conifers and reversion to broadleaf species has been ongoing since 2006. To date nearly 77% of the Bytham Ancient Woodland is now restored with over 80% native species cover. **Fig.1** displays this progress since 2013. Continuing to protect and restore Ancient Woodland is a priority for this plan.

The Bytham Woods host a number of important species. These include great crested newt, slow worm, and the brown long-eared bat. Historically-coppiced areas within the Pickworth SSSI have in the past been used by dormouse.

Although these areas remain in a favourable habitat condition for dormouse there have been no sightings since 2011. Notable birds include nightingale, marsh tit, cuckoo, red kite, grasshopper and willow warblers, spotted flycatcher, bullfinch and goldcrest.



Pic.2: Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

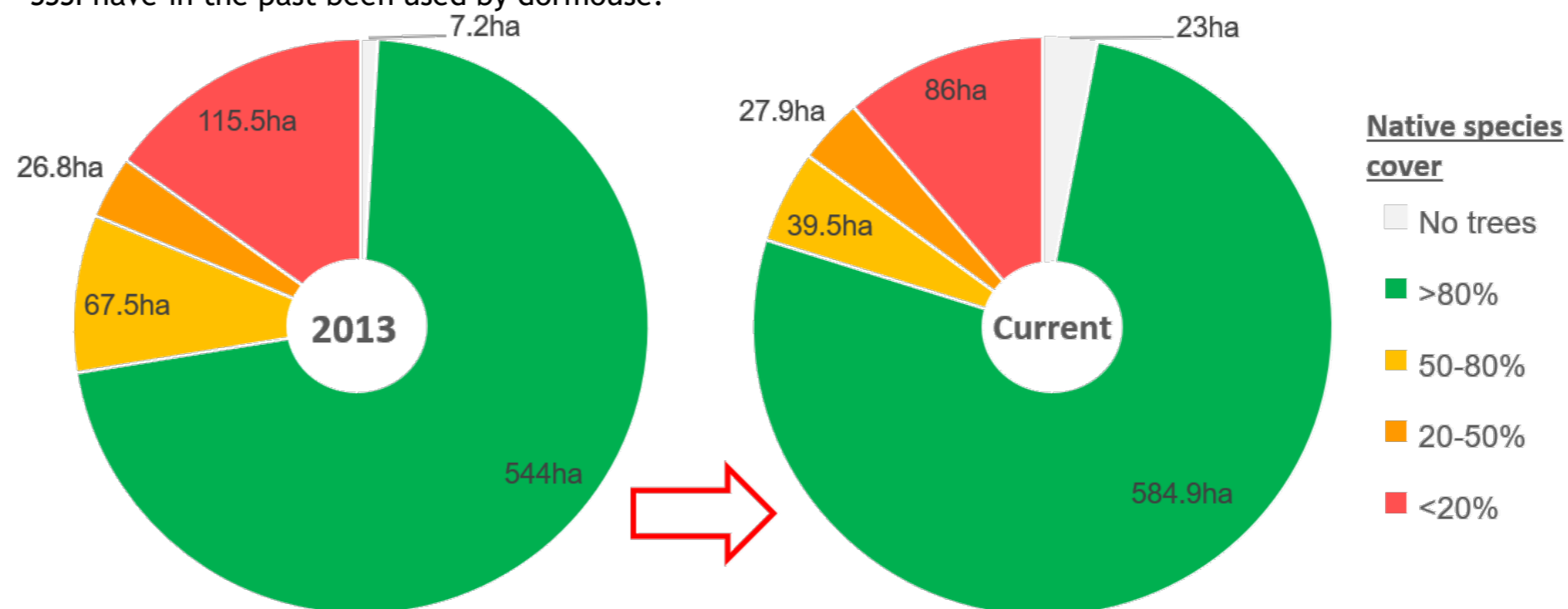


Fig. 1: Bytham Woods Ancient Woodlands area* classified by native species cover (* based on Natural England’s Revised Ancient Woodlands layer as at May 2026)



Another priority for Forestry England is the management of open land and the associated woodland edge habitat for the benefit of wildlife. There is 16.9% open space within the Bytham Woodlands. There are areas of open calcareous grassland along the disintegrating concrete runways in Twyford, providing excellent habitats for glow worm and many species of Lepidoptera. Forestry England and Butterfly Conservation’s Lincolnshire branch have partnered to create two butterfly reserves in areas with the best habitats (*see High Conservation Value Areas Map, p.15*). These reserves support nationally important populations of grizzled and dingy skippers. White letter and green hairstreaks have also been recorded in the Bytham Woods FP area.

Noteworthy moth species include mere wainscot, common fan-foot, light orange and lunar underwings, square spotted clay, bordered beauty, pale oak beauty, white-marked tussock and plume moth, plus the eyelet sober and viburnum button micromoths. The rich invertebrate fauna (particularly its moth assemblage) is noted as an element of the Pickworth SSSI designation.



Pic.3: Dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*)

There are currently 258 Trees of Special Interest* (TSI) recorded within the Bytham Woods, which are to be protected and retained for generations to come. We will continue to record TSI and future TSI as they are identified, so that they can be conserved where possible during management operations. These ancient, veteran and notable trees are highly important for biodiversity and an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage, providing unique ecological conditions and supporting entire ecosystems. The greatest concentration of TSI are in Clipsham and include some of the largest wild service trees found in any wood in the region, plus the topiaried yews of the popular yew tree avenue. The nationally-important wax cap and earth star fungi are present on these yews.

There are many notable plant species, including violet and broad-leaved helleborine; early purple, greater butterfly and bee orchid; yellow star of Bethlehem; hairy lady’s mantle and the adder’s tongue fern. Diverse flora is important in its own right, but the botanically-rich rides and woodland edges in the Bytham Woods also provide valuable nectar sources for invertebrate populations. Ride widening and maintenance is anticipated during the FP period to extend and enhance this habitat.

Ash dieback* is having a considerable impact in the Bytham Woods. The vast majority of ash is heavily infected and already exhibits significant canopy decline.

Wood small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*) poses an additional complication during establishment by rapidly covering felled areas (plus those badly affected by ash dieback canopy loss) and out-competing regenerating and newly-planted trees. The impacts include slower establishment due to competition for nutrients plus added cost

from interventions such as inter-row mowing.

Forestry England will take suitable measures to manage deer and grey squirrel activity where it poses a risk to woodland objectives. The appetite of non-native grey squirrels for bark stripping increases the susceptibility of young broadleaved trees to secondary infections which often lead to tree death. Further adverse effects include stunted tree development and inhibited form, plus reduced carbon capture potential and yield. The significant deer browsing pressure in this region will impact natural regeneration and planted trees alike, so fencing of restock coupes will be a consideration to support establishment. Expanding the ride infrastructure will help to improve pest management.



Pic.4: Canopy decline owing to ash dieback in Pickworth Great Wood



People

The Kesteven Uplands NCA has a rich historic environment so it is unsurprising that there are many important heritage features throughout the Bytham Woods FP area; parts of the woodlands themselves having appeared in the 1088 Domesday Survey.

Specific heritage features include:

Careby Wood Camp - This Scheduled Ancient Monument* (SAM) was an Iron Age enclosure, one of only four multivallate hillforts in Lincolnshire. This will be managed in line with the current SAM Management Plan, retaining the open glade area within the hillfort.

Horse Monument at Morkery - This Grade II listed building is apparently a tombstone or monument to a horse called “The Butcher” belonging to Field Marshall Thomas Grosvenor (1764-1851) who lived at nearby Stocken Hall Farm.

Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue - Once the carriage driveway to Clipsham Hall, the avenue is over 200 years old and comprises 137 yew trees clipped into unusual shapes. The avenue is maintained to a very high standard by the Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue Trust. The piers and gates at the avenue entrance are also Grade II listed.

As identified during the woodland creation survey process, Clipsham Coronation Wood contains a Roman villa and metalworking site, a Roman road and an Iron Age settlement enclosure. These features, plus appropriate



Pic.5: Morkery horse monument

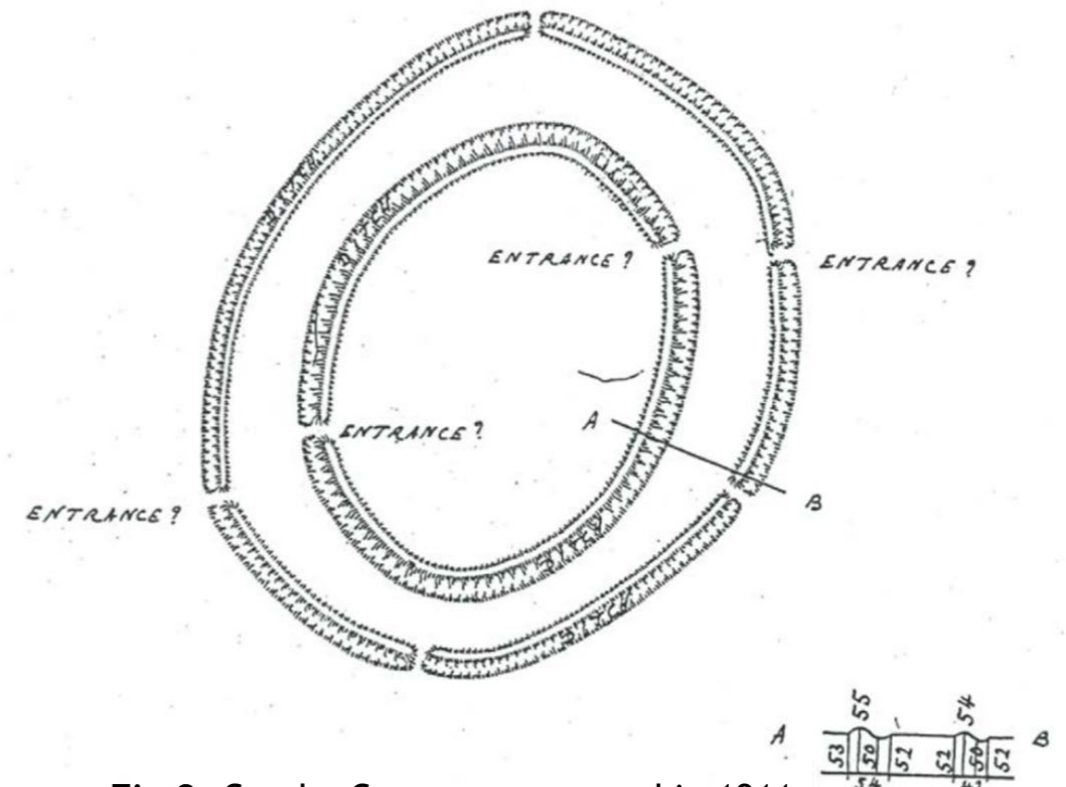


Fig.2: Careby Camp, as surveyed in 1911



Pics.6&7 above: Views of Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue



There are many remnants from WWII in the Bytham Woods, a record of the importance of the local area to the national war effort. Twyford is dominated by extensive concrete runways plus foundations of the watchtower and bomb stores from the former airbase. Morkery was a munitions storage facility and the footings of the buildings and large banks associated with blast shelters still remain. The concrete roads in Greetham Wood Far are relics from the nearby former Woolfox Lodge airfield.

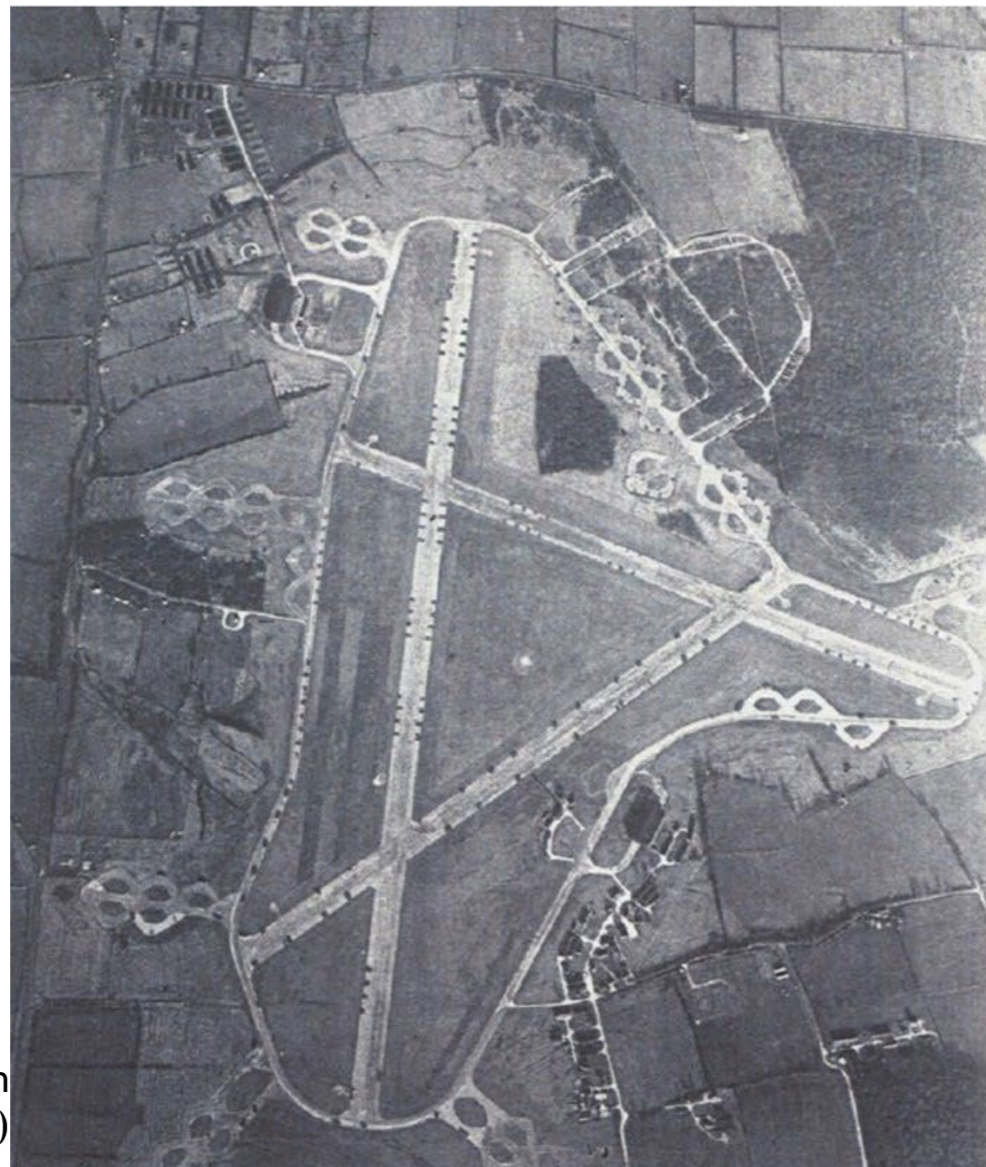
The aerial images below illustrate the WWII heritage and subsequent afforestation at Twyford.

Other heritage features within the Bytham Woods include examples of ridge and furrow, quarries, woodbanks and ditches. All known features of historic and cultural significance are mapped to ensure forest operations in their vicinity are managed appropriately. Similarly any new findings will also be recorded.

The conservation work and ecological surveys provided by local groups such as the Butterfly Conservation Society and Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue Trust are highly valued by Forestry England. We will continue to engage with groups with compatible aims who share our interest in conserving the ecological and cultural value of

the Bytham Woods through our permissions system.

Access to the woodlands is mixed and dependant on tenure: the freehold woodlands are dedicated open access under CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000), whereas there is no public access to the leasehold woodlands beyond the public footpaths (*see Tenure and Access Map, p.8 & Survey Maps, p.16&17*). Twyford and Morkery are the most popular sites for visitors who can use the car parks, forest roads and network of informal paths to enjoy the woods. There is also a car park available for visitors to the Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue.



Pic.8: RAF North Witham (1947)



Pink outline denotes Forestry England ownership

Pic.9: Twyford Wood (2019)



Forest Composition

The Bytham Woods are split about 79% broadleaf to 21% conifer; with oak, ash and birch accounting for nearly 46% of the wooded area (see Fig.3 and Current Species Maps, p.18&19). Corsican pine is the most prevalent conifer species at 5.9% by area, followed by Scots pine at 3.7%.

Fig.4 shows the current structural diversity (See also Forest Structure maps, p.20&21). As to be expected, the Clipsham Coronation Wood creation in 2025 accounts for a peak in both broadleaf and conifers ages in the first decade. The next peak is broadleaves aged 21-30yrs which correlates with significant felling and planting/regeneration in Morkery, Pickworth, Stretton & Careby. The largest peak overall (for broadleaved trees aged 71-80 years old), coincides with the extensive oak planting at Twyford following the closure of RAF North Witham.

There are currently a total of 62 different tree species in the Bytham Woods (38 types of broadleaf and 24 types conifer).

A key objective for Clipsham Coronation Wood was to trial lesser-known species and different silvicultural approaches. As such, the site includes a significant proportion of experimental yet considered species and mixtures. Novel species (in terms of UK productive forestry context) include loblolly pine, dawn redwood, black walnut, tulip tree, field maple and wild service tree. It will be interesting to see how these species and species mixtures establish and develop over the coming decades.

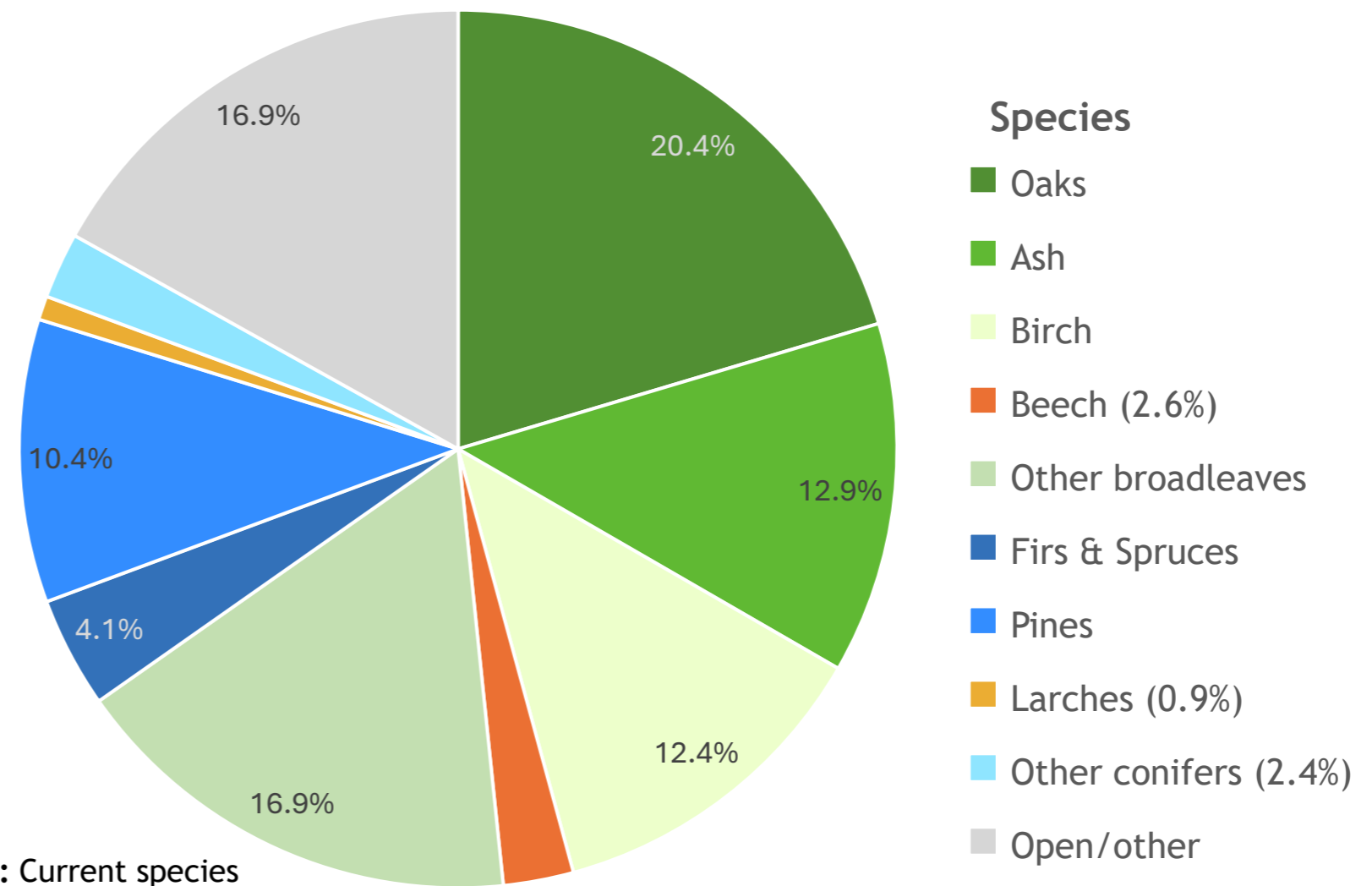


Fig.3: Current species composition of the Bytham Woods

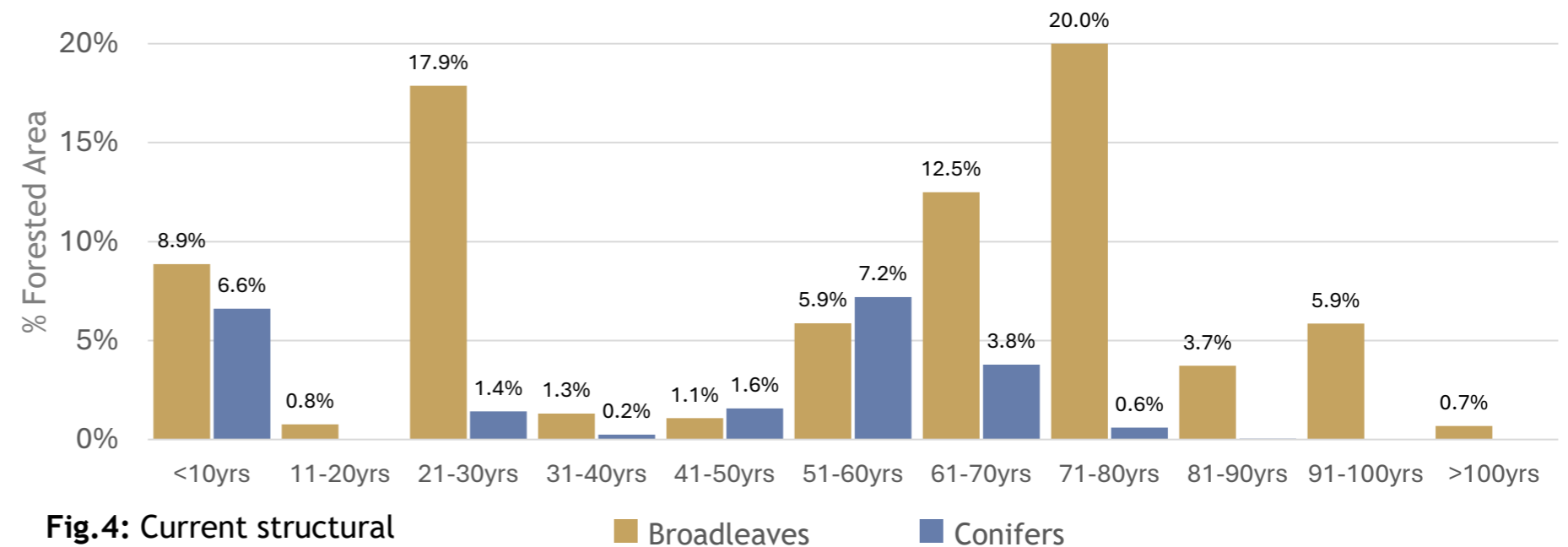


Fig.4: Current structural diversity of the Bytham Woods



**Designated
 Areas Map**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:45,000

-  Bytham Woods FP Area
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Registered Parks and Gardens

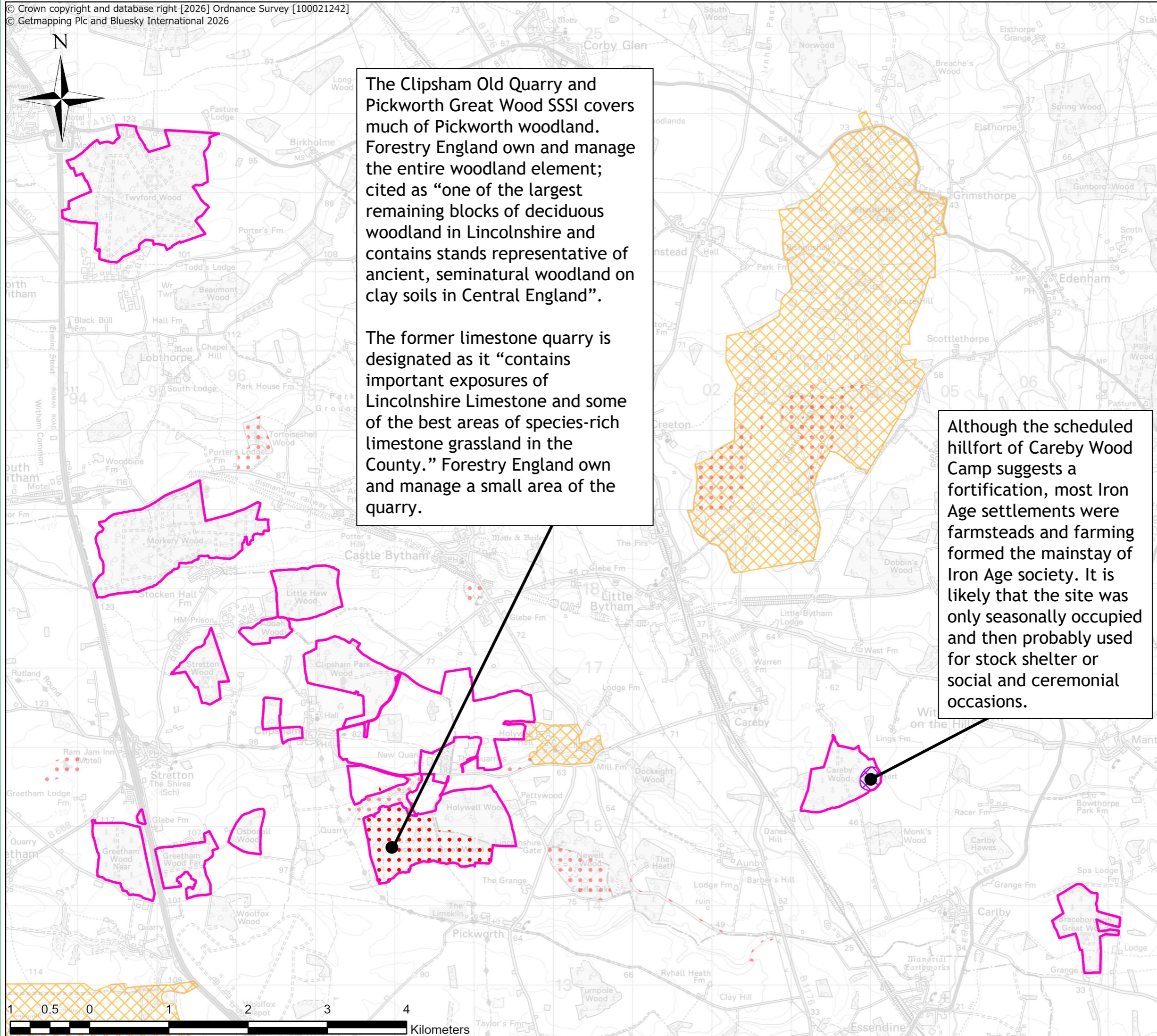
Darker shading of legend elements indicates the feature is situated within the FP area.



The Clipsham Old Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood SSSI covers much of Pickworth woodland. Forestry England own and manage the entire woodland element; cited as “one of the largest remaining blocks of deciduous woodland in Lincolnshire and contains stands representative of ancient, seminatural woodland on clay soils in Central England”.

The former limestone quarry is designated as it “contains important exposures of Lincolnshire Limestone and some of the best areas of species-rich limestone grassland in the County.” Forestry England own and manage a small area of the quarry.

Although the scheduled hillfort of Careby Wood Camp suggests a fortification, most Iron Age settlements were farmsteads and farming formed the mainstay of Iron Age society. It is likely that the site was only seasonally occupied and then probably used for stock shelter or social and ceremonial occasions.





Other High Conservation Value Areas Map

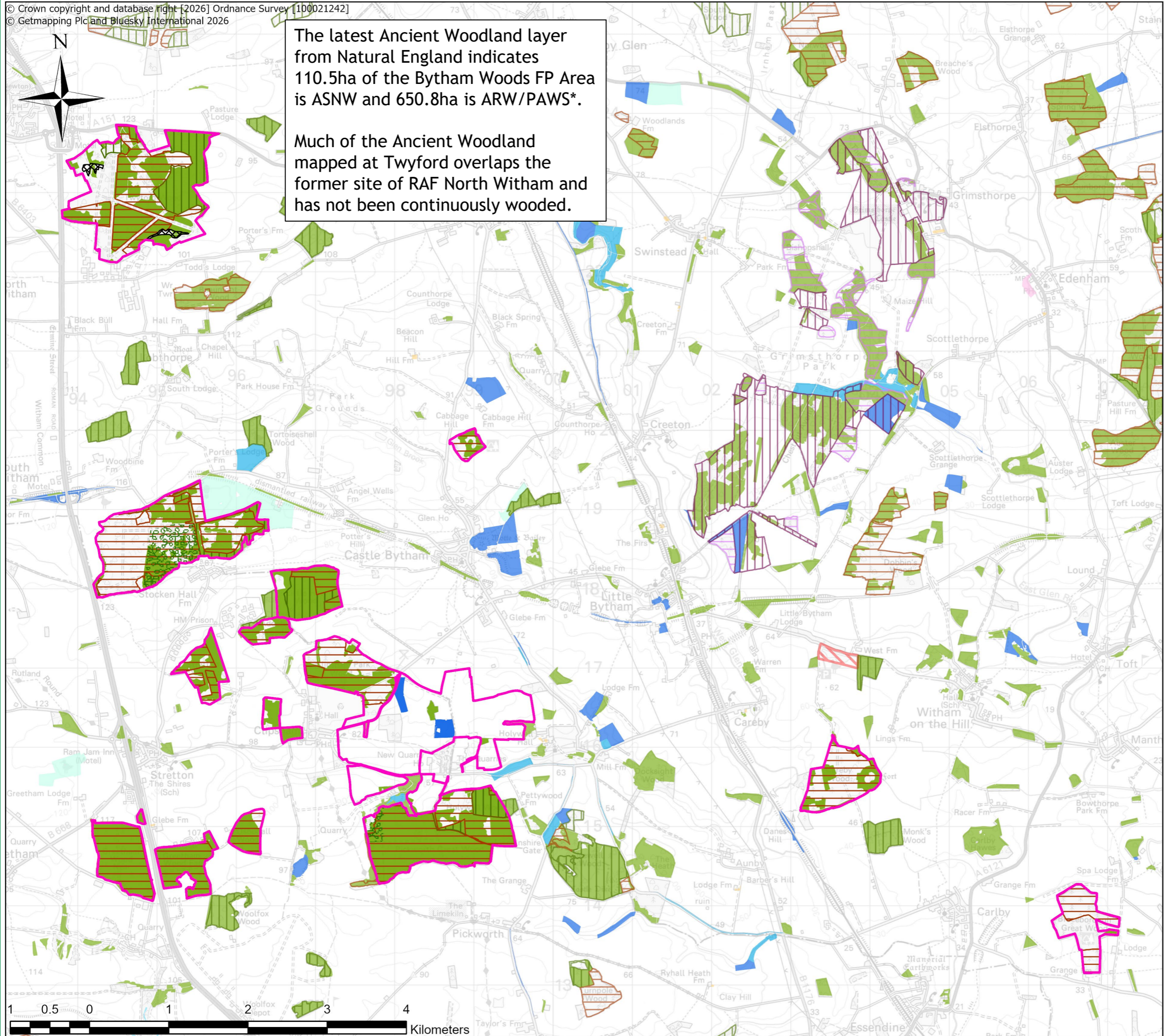
Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:45,000

The latest Ancient Woodland layer from Natural England indicates 110.5ha of the Bytham Woods FP Area is ASNW and 650.8ha is ARW/PAWS*.

Much of the Ancient Woodland mapped at Twyford overlaps the former site of RAF North Witham and has not been continuously wooded.

-  Bytham Woods FP Area
- Ancient Woodland (latest NE layer)
 -  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
 -  Ancient Replanted Woodland (ARW/PAWS)
 -  Ancient Wood Pasture
 -  Infilled Ancient Wood Pasture
 -  Local Nature Reserves
- Priority Habitats
 -  Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
 -  Deciduous woodland
 -  Good quality semi improved grassland
 -  Lowland calcareous grassland
 -  Lowland fens
 -  Lowland meadows
 -  Traditional orchard
 -  Butterfly Reserves
 -  Natural Reserve Areas


Darker shading of legend elements indicates the feature is situated within the FP area.



Although the landform is only gently undulating, the visible boundaries of the Bytham Woods can be prominent in the low-lying landscape since the woods are surrounded by open arable farmland. The local settlements are dispersed villages, so the primary views of the woodlands are from local roads while travelling by car.

The 258 TSI currently recorded within the Bytham Woods include the numerous yews of Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue, plus locally-notable trees including ash, crab apple, elm, hawthorn, lime, oak, wayfaring tree, wild service and wild cherry.

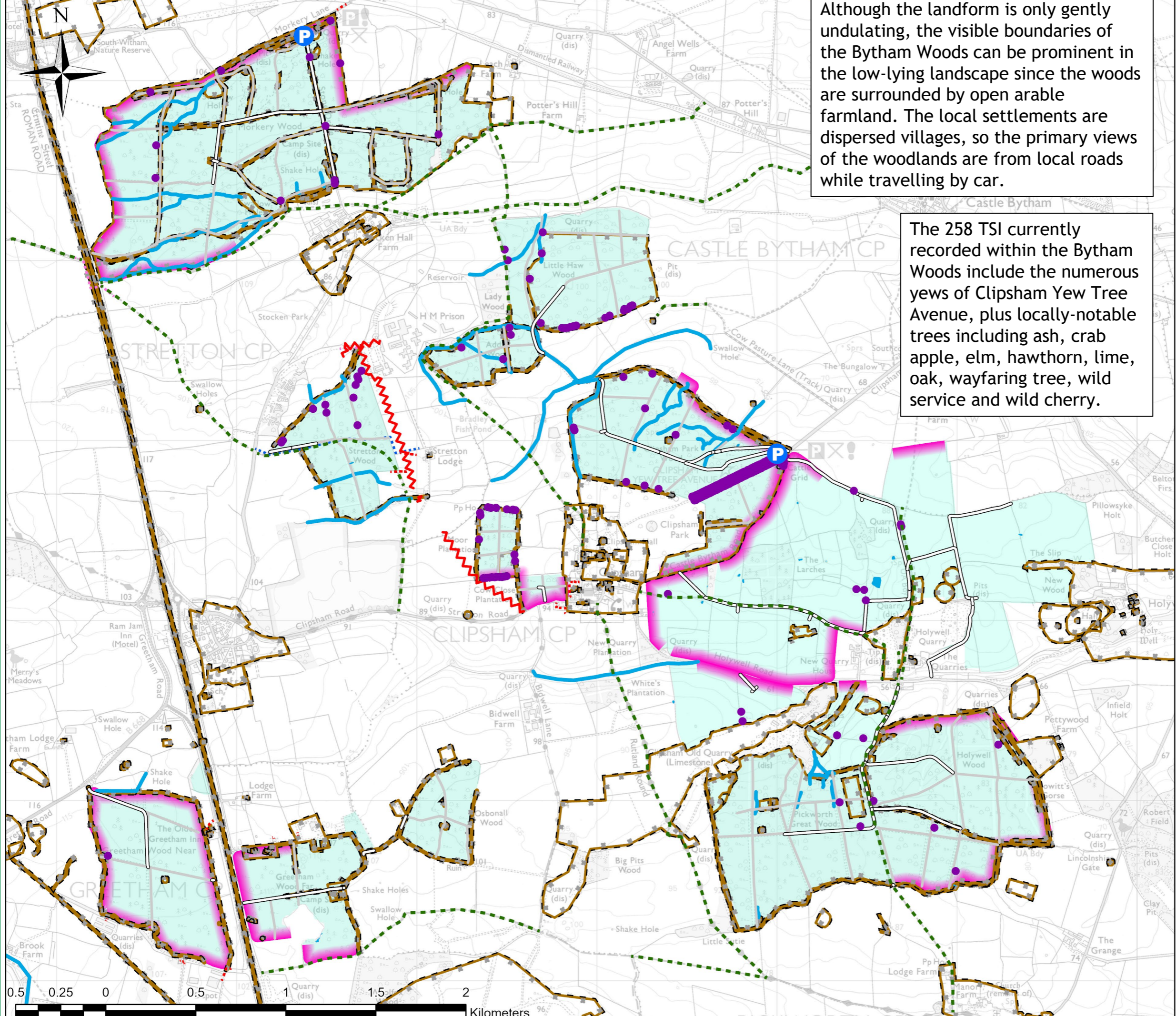
Bytham Woods
 Forest Plan 2026



Survey Map
(Core Woodlands)

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

- Bytham Woods FP Area
 - Visually sensitive boundaries
 - Heritage
 - TSI
 - Watercourses
 - Ponds
- Access
- Forest Roads
 - Rides
 - P Car park
 - Public Rights of Way
- Utilities
- Overhead powerlines
 - Underground powerlines
 - Water pipelines
 - Gas pipelines

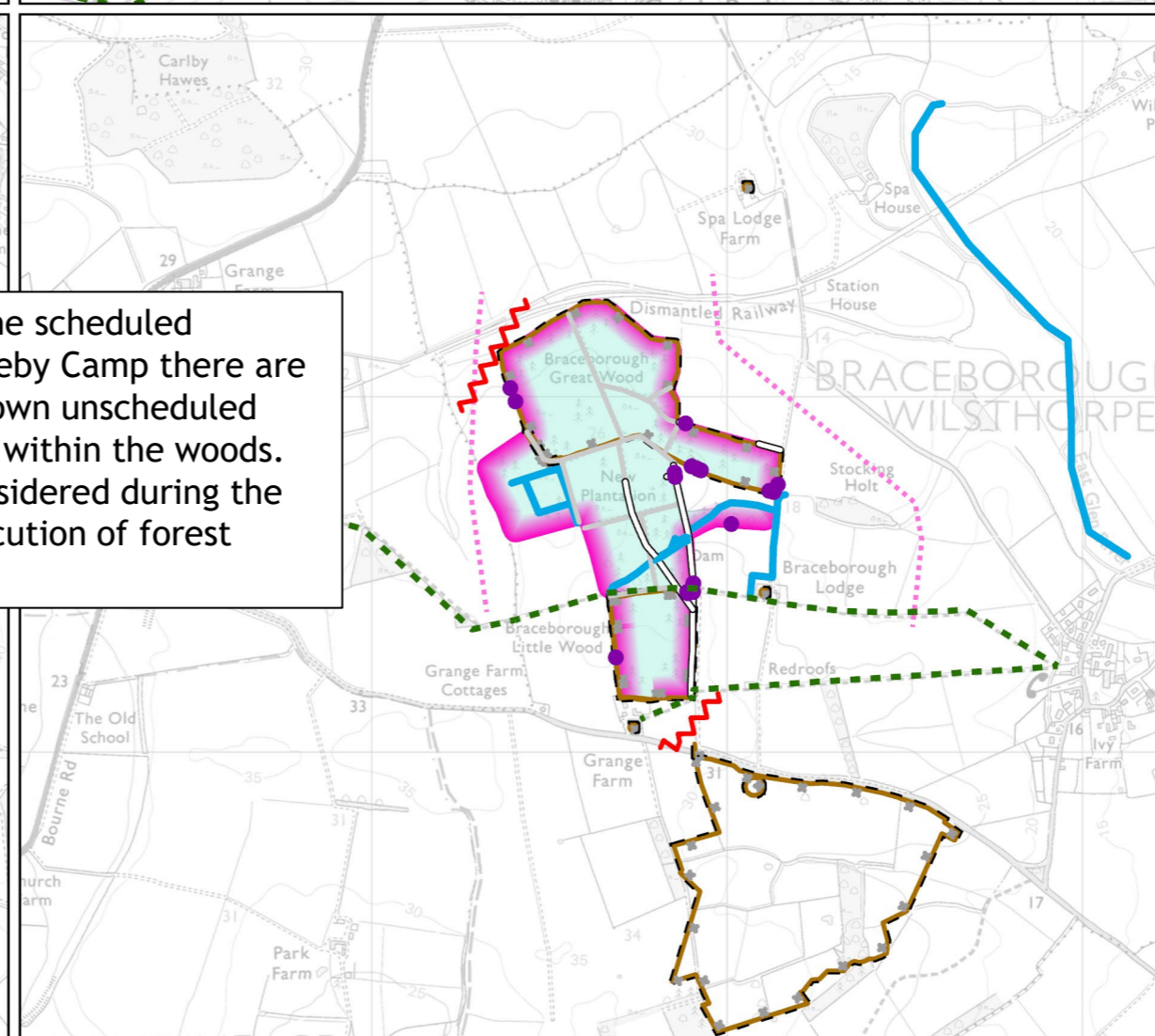
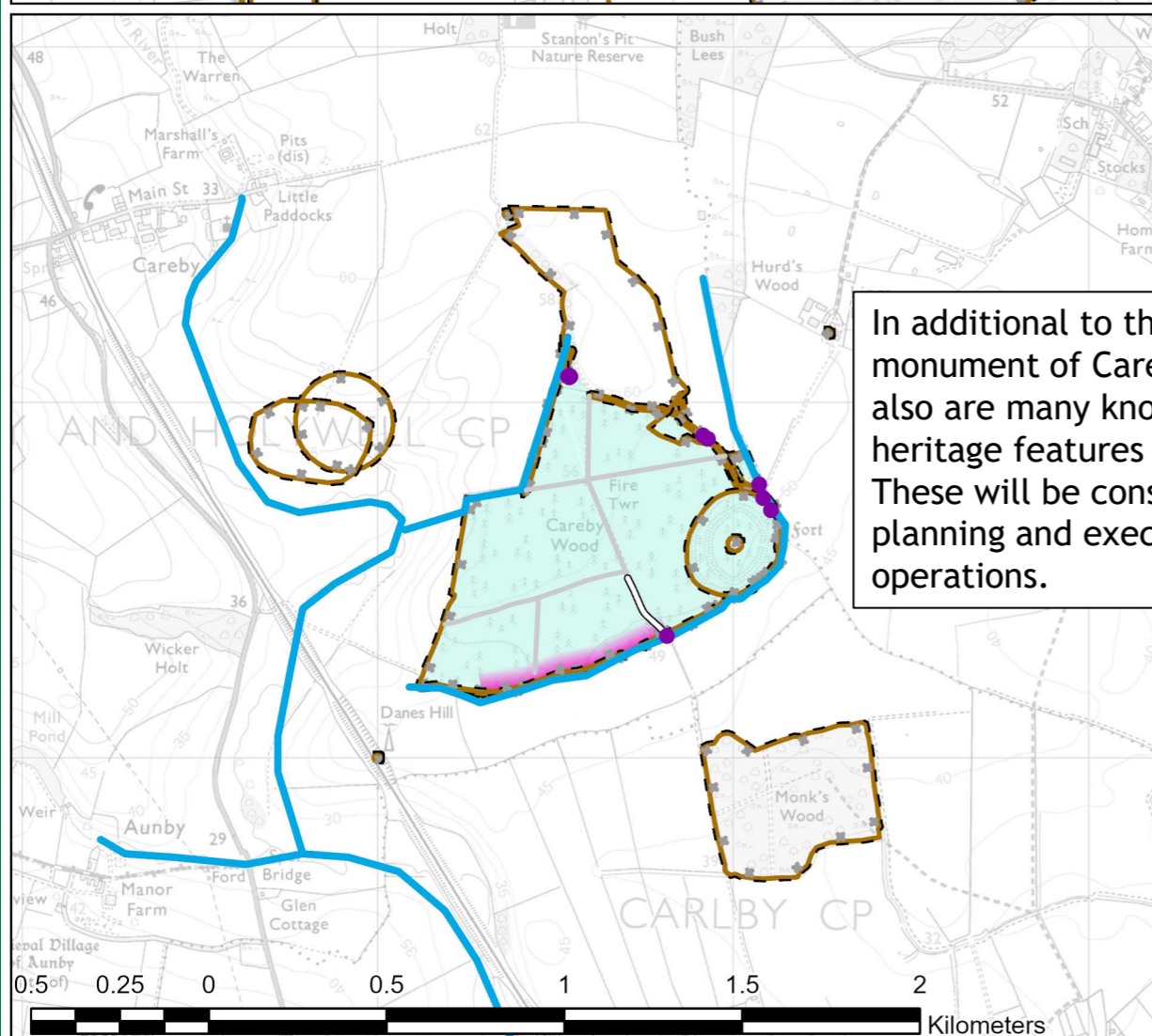
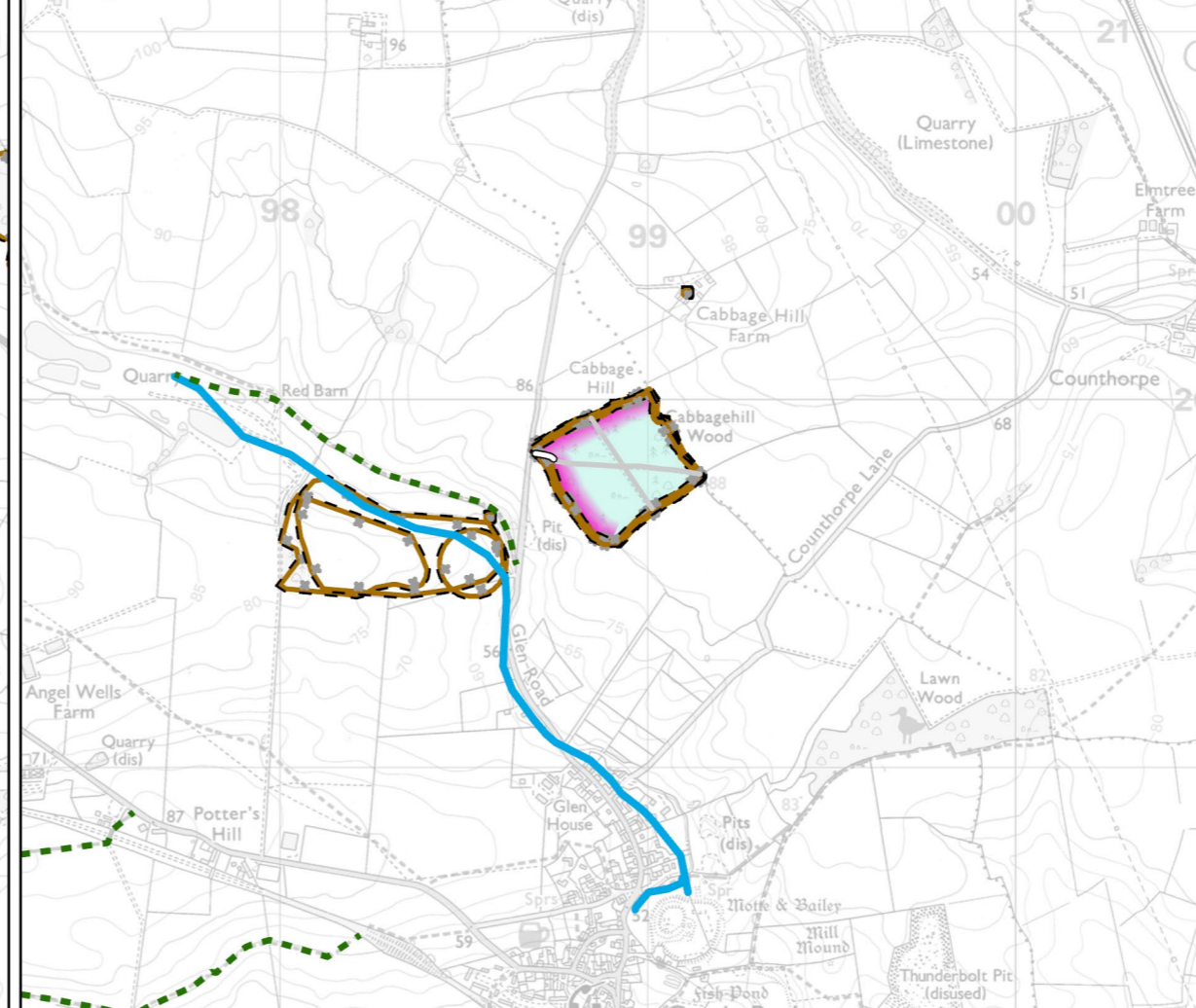
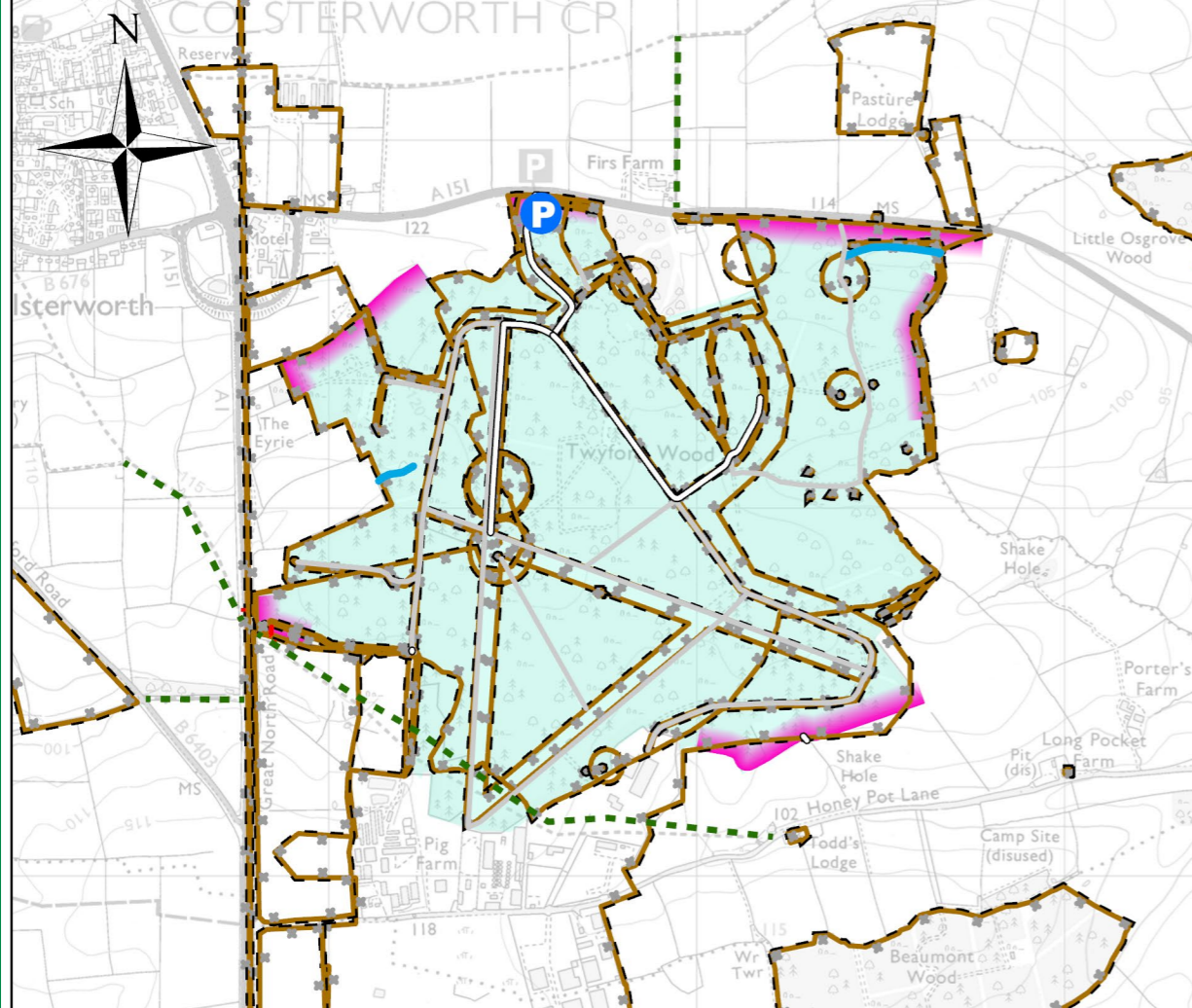




**Survey Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Visually sensitive boundaries
- Heritage
- TSI
- Watercourses
- Ponds
- Access**
- Forest Roads
- Rides
- P Car park
- Public Rights of Way
- Utilities**
- Overhead powerlines
- Underground powerlines
- Gas pipelines



In additional to the scheduled monument of Careby Camp there are also many known unscheduled heritage features within the woods. These will be considered during the planning and execution of forest operations.





**Current Species Map
 (Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

Current tree diseases and challenges:

- Oaks on seasonally wet soils are struggling with poor health and reduced yield. In many areas of the Bytham Woods they are suffering from Chronic Oak Decline* with some showing early symptoms of Acute Oak Decline*. Defoliation by tortrix moth caterpillars has been particularly severe in recent consecutive seasons.
- Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)* is present and negatively impacting Corsican pine and to a lesser extent Scots pine.
- Chalara ash dieback* is widespread in the local area and exhibiting high levels of infection. Ash represents a 12.9% component of the Bytham Woods.
- Although not endemic in the UK, Ips typographus* is considered a significant threat to Norway spruce (and potentially other spruce species). As such, the health of Norway spruce in the Bytham Woods will be continue to be monitored.

Bytham Woods FP Area

Forest Roads

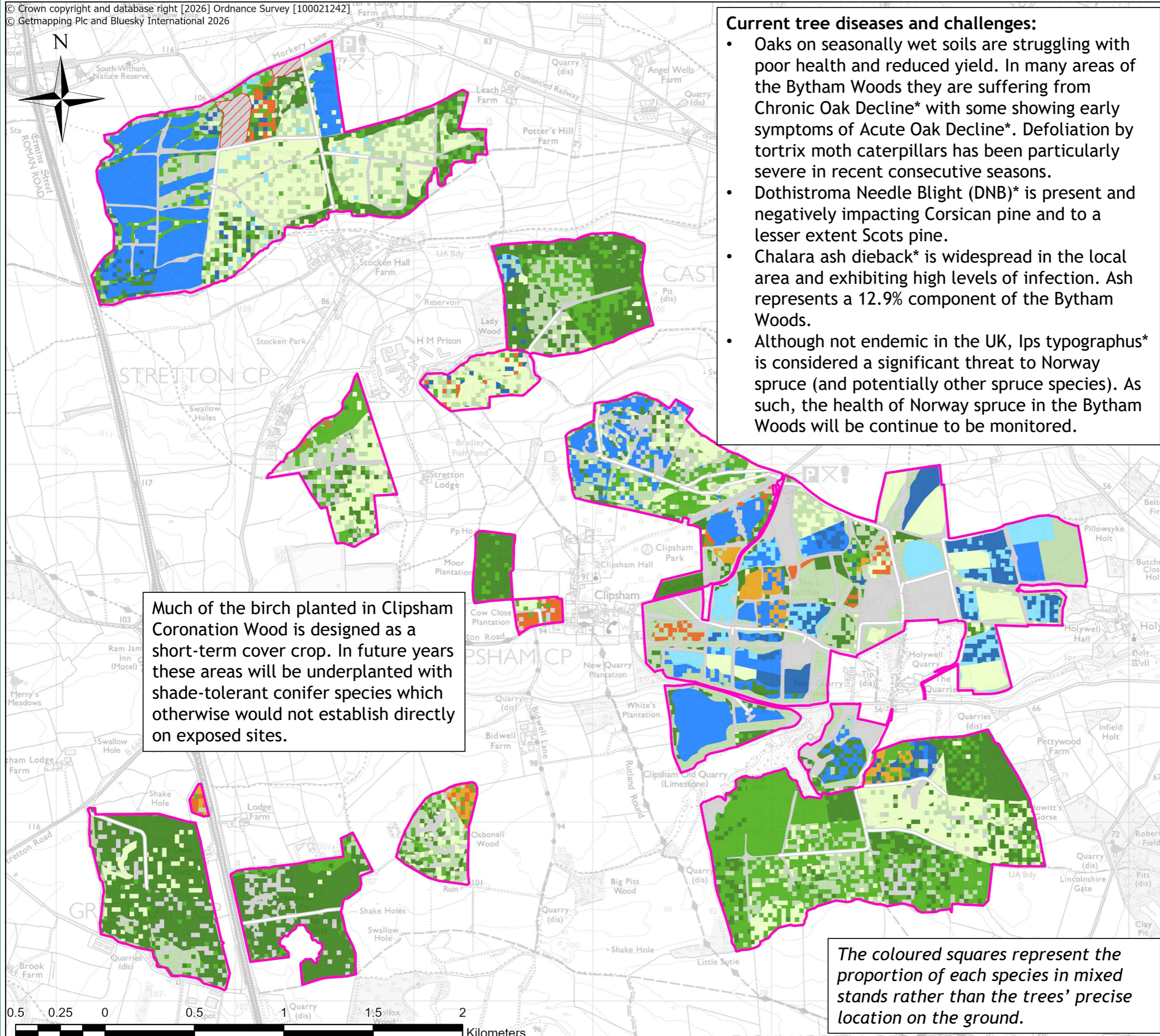
Felled

Current Species

- Oaks
- Ash
- Birch
- Beech
- Other broadleaves
- Firs & Spruces
- Pines
- Larches
- Other conifers
- Open/other

Much of the birch planted in Clipsham Coronation Wood is designed as a short-term cover crop. In future years these areas will be underplanted with shade-tolerant conifer species which otherwise would not establish directly on exposed sites.

The coloured squares represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather than the trees' precise location on the ground.

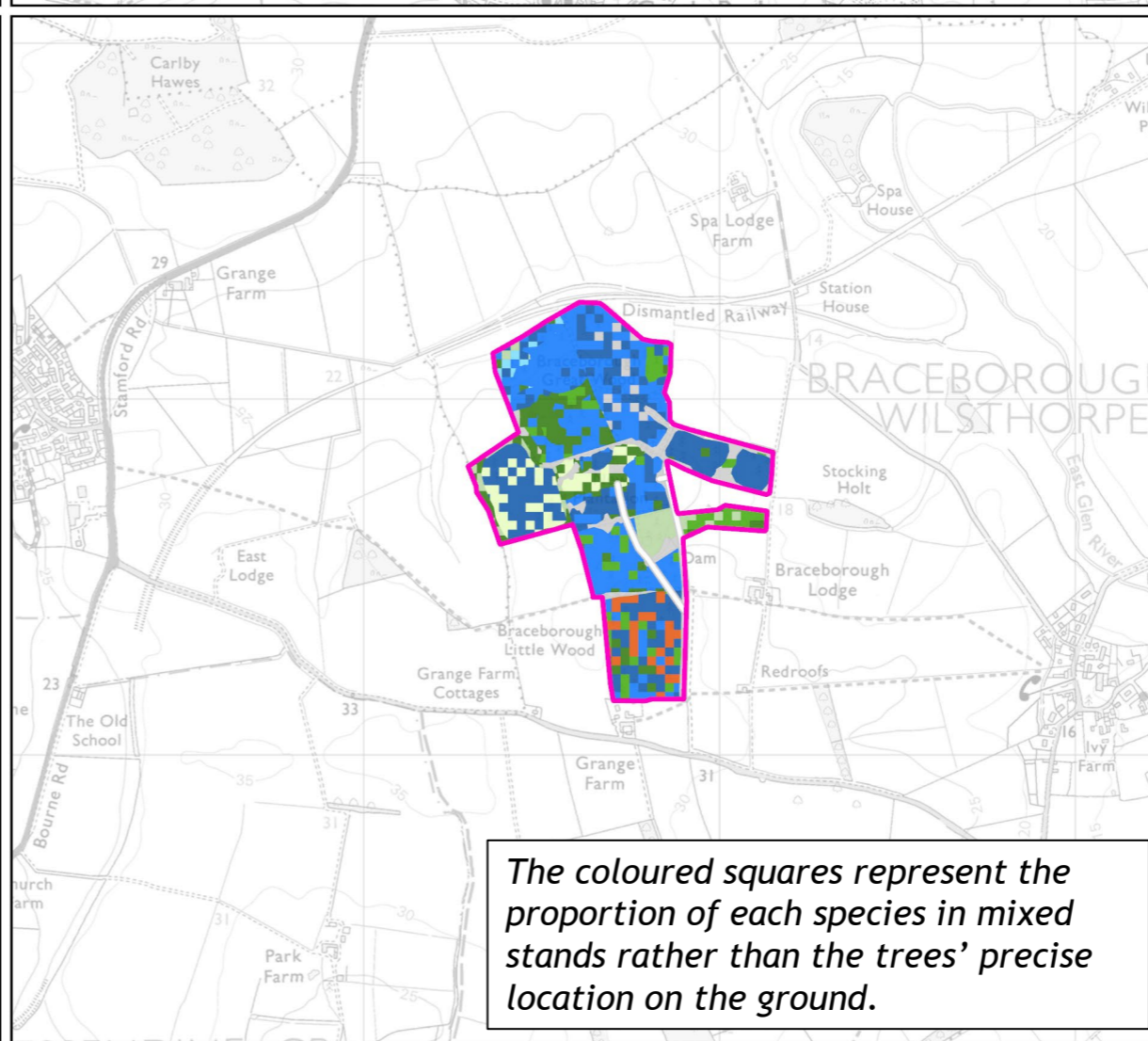




**Current Species Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Forest Roads
- Felled
- Current Species**
- Oaks
- Ash
- Birch
- Beech
- Other broadleaves
- Firs & Spruces
- Pines
- Larches
- Other conifers
- Open/other



The coloured squares represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather than the trees' precise location on the ground.



**Forest Structure Map
 (Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

Bytham Woods FP Area
 Forest Roads
 Felled
 Open/other

Age Class

(Broadleaves)	(Conifers)
 <10yrs	 <10yrs
 11-20yrs	 11-20yrs
 21-30yrs	 21-30yrs
 31-40yrs	 31-40yrs
 41-50yrs	 41-50yrs
 51-60yrs	 51-60yrs
 61-70yrs	 61-70yrs
 71-80yrs	 71-80yrs
 81-90yrs	 81-90yrs
 91-100yrs	
 >101yrs	



The coloured squares represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather than the trees' precise location on the ground.



**Forest Structure Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

Bytham Woods FP Area

Forest Roads

Felled

Open/other

Age Class

(Broadleaves)

(Conifers)

<10yrs

<10yrs

11-20yrs

11-20yrs

21-30yrs

21-30yrs

31-40yrs

31-40yrs

41-50yrs

41-50yrs

51-60yrs

51-60yrs

61-70yrs

61-70yrs

71-80yrs

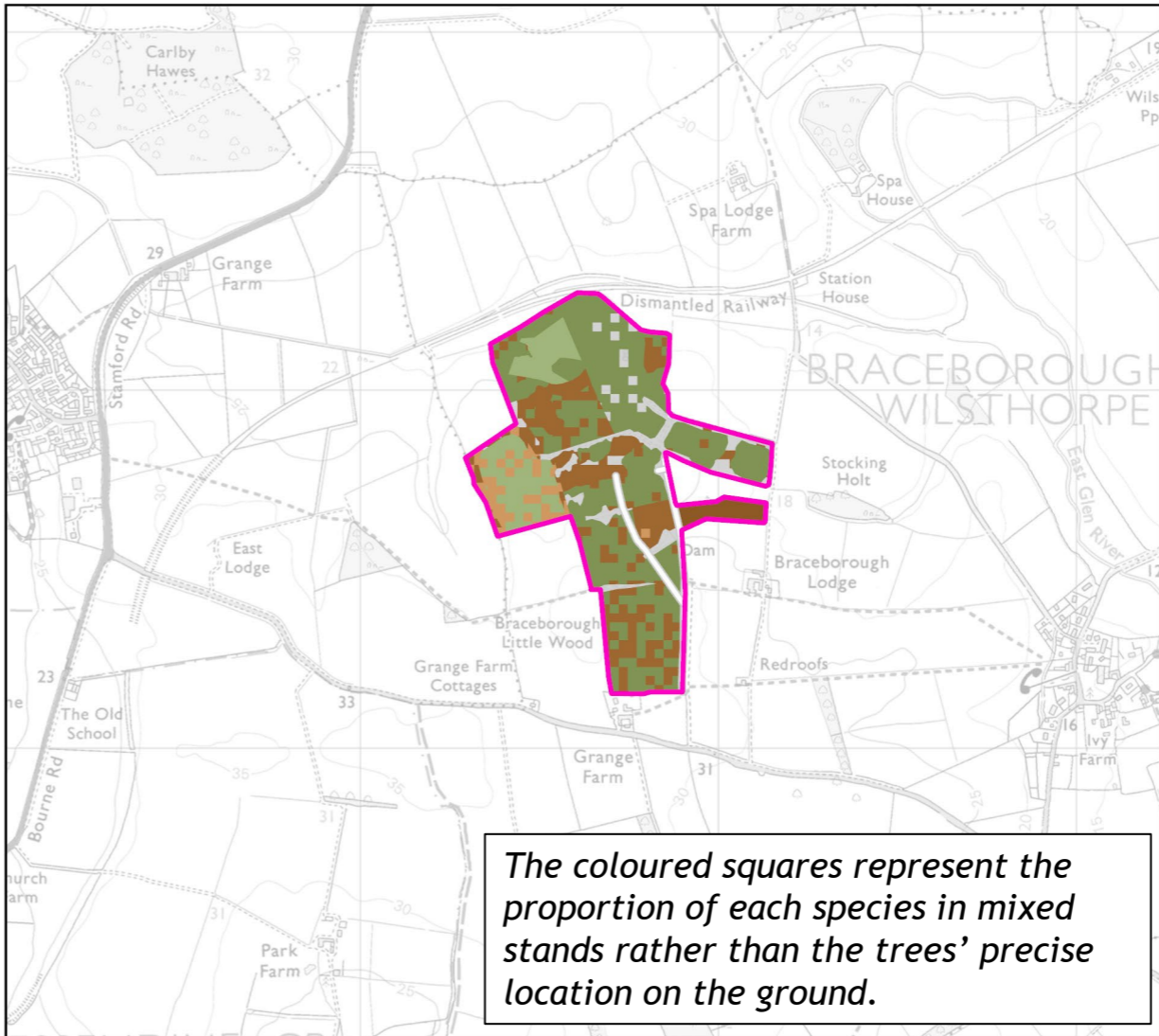
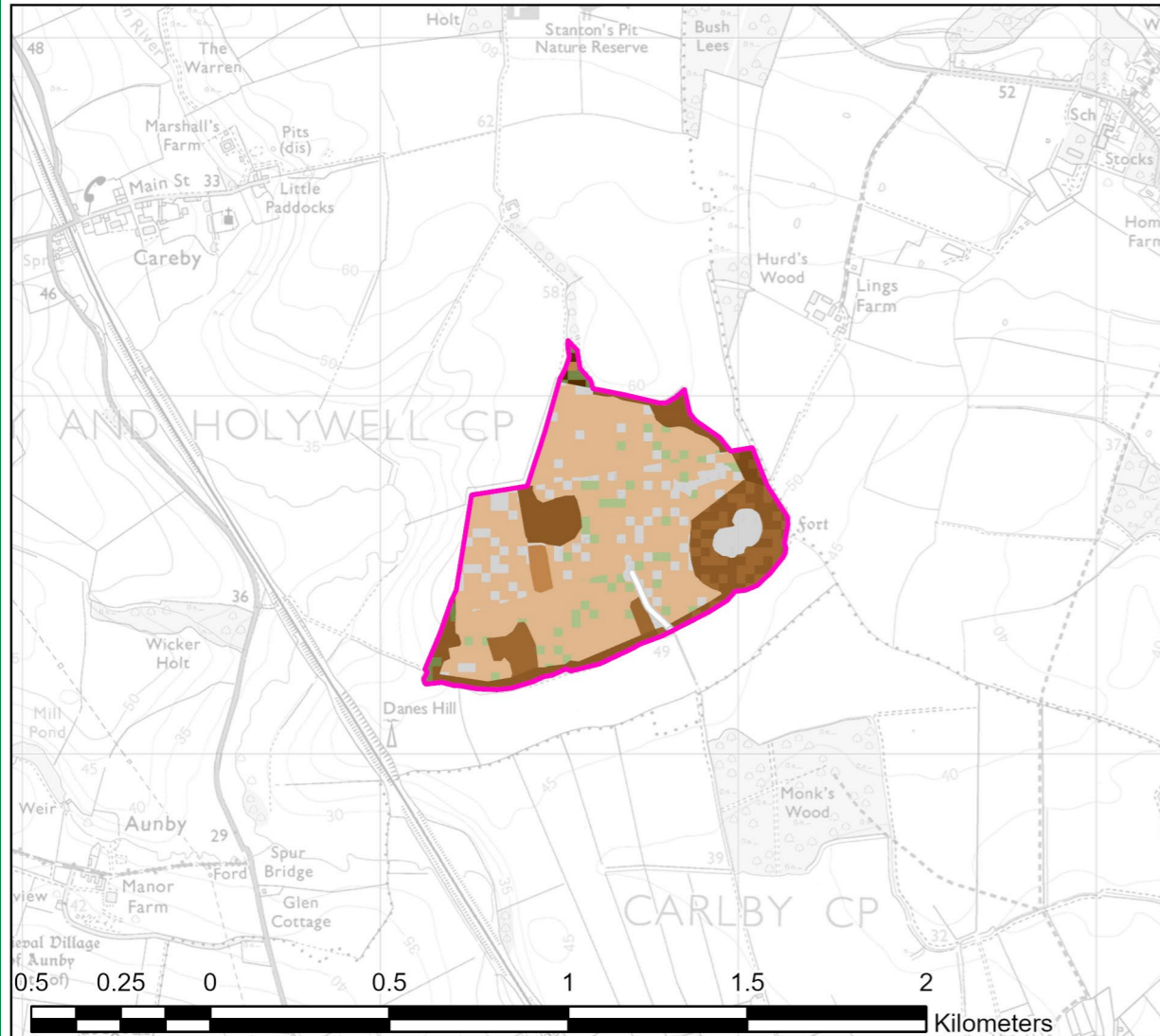
71-80yrs

81-90yrs

81-90yrs

91-100yrs

>101yrs



The coloured squares represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather than the trees' precise location on the ground.



Objectives and Vision

This section of the FP describes the multiple objectives for the Bytham Woods.

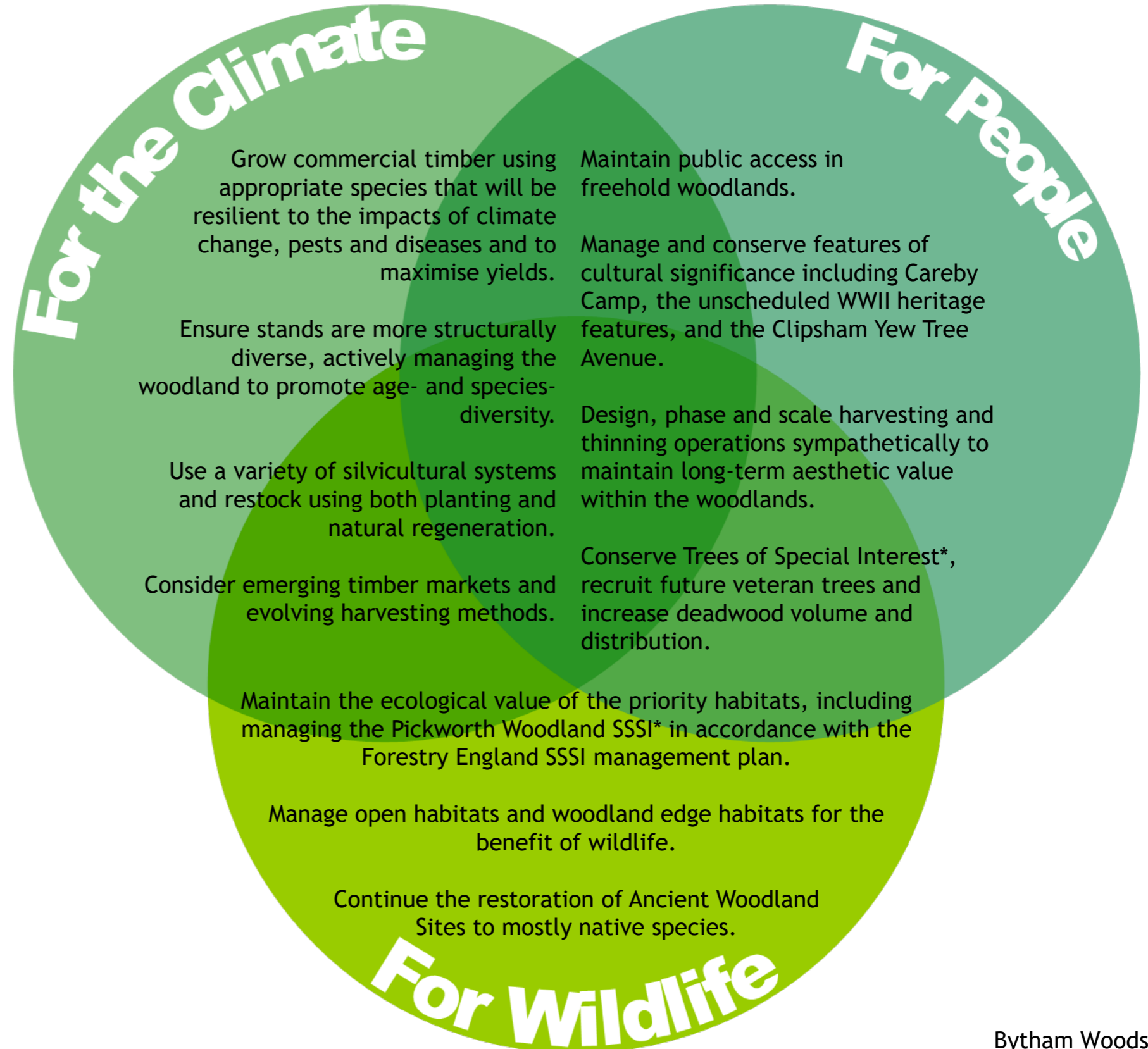
How these relate to our District Strategy and how they will be monitored are shown in the Terms of Reference overleaf.

The Synopsis and Concept Maps which follow display the key elements and factors spatially, including commentary on how these have been considered and have influenced the formation of the FP.



Forestry England’s mandate is to protect and expand England’s forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment. Our mission is to connect everyone with the nation's forests by creating and caring for our forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow.

Across the Bytham Woods we aim to achieve the following management objectives:





Terms of Reference

Forestry England purpose:	To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the nation's forests.
Forest Plan Vision:	To balance objectives across the Bytham woodlands and maintain our focus on resilient forestry for multiple benefits, continuing the restoration of Ancient Woodland Sites while taking a more production-orientated approach in secondary woodland areas.

Strategic Goal	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
For the Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailor forest management to the unique character and conditions of each woodland, ensuring expert, evidence-based stewardship that meets national standards and supports a sustainable forestry sector, including providing sustainably produced timber and forest products. Diversify woodlands by introducing a wider range of suitable conifer and broadleaf species, trialling new species where appropriate, and adopting flexible silvicultural systems. Increase species and age diversity in new and restocked areas to strengthen resilience to climate change, pests and diseases, helping forests adapt to future environmental pressures. Maintain healthy, productive forests that store carbon effectively, contributing to long-term climate action. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to grow commercial timber using a variety of appropriate species that will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases and to maximise yields. Ensure stands are more structurally diverse, actively managing the woodland to promote age- and species-diversity. Use a variety of silvicultural systems based around the light requirements of the trees to be established. Carefully plan restocking and regeneration areas challenged by Calamagrostis and stands impacted by ash dieback. Consider emerging timber markets and evolving harvesting methods. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Operations and restocking will be recorded in the Forestry England inventory database and monitored at 5yr FP review and 10yr renewal. Monitor as part of the 10yr renewal. Record the silvicultural systems used in the Forestry England GIS system. Monitor establishment and intervene where necessary. No monitoring required.
For Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use environmentally sensitive harvesting methods, following current Forestry England guidance, to minimise impacts on soils, ground vegetation and fragile ecosystems. Continue targeted programmes to manage deer and other browsing pressures, enabling vulnerable flora, fauna and natural regeneration to thrive. Enhance ecological conditions by creating more varied habitats, including increased deadwood to support specialist species. Restore and reconnect priority habitats to help reverse biodiversity decline and strengthen woodland resilience. Work collaboratively with local communities, conservation bodies and other partners to protect and enhance biodiversity, cultural heritage and the unique character of each forest. Build strong partnerships to maximise collective impact and ensure forests continue to support healthy, resilient ecosystems for the future. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the Clipsham Old Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood SSSI areas in accordance with the Forestry England SSSI management plan. Identify key species and habitats, including European Protected Species associated with Forestry England's land, and make appropriate provision for their requirements. Maintain the ecological value of priority habitats. Maintain and improve open and woodland edge habitats to benefit flora and fauna, continuing the programme of ride-widening within the woodlands. Continue the partnership with Butterfly Conservation to enhance conditions for key species. Continue restoration of Ancient Woodland through the gradual reduction of non-native species and replacement with appropriate, mostly native species better suited to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases. Identify existing Trees of Special Interest and manage appropriately to retain these, recruit future veteran trees and increase the volume and distribution of deadwood. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored as part of the operational planning process. As above. As above. Ancient Woodland restoration monitored as part of the 10yr forest plan renewal. Existing and future TSI to be recorded in the Forestry England GIS system and reviewed as part of operational planning process.
For People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure woodlands remain welcoming and accessible, providing inclusive spaces for people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature. Improve accessibility and maintain high standards of visitor safety to support physical, mental and social wellbeing. Offer a varied recreational experience, from peaceful, nature-rich areas to more adventurous activities, allowing visitors to choose what best suits their needs. Expand opportunities for outdoor learning, community involvement and citizen-science activities, creating meaningful experiences for schools, families and individuals. Support external environmental educators and partner organisations to broaden learning opportunities across the public forest estate and deepen understanding of forests, sustainable land management and climate-nature challenges. Strengthen partnerships with local communities, businesses, public bodies and stakeholders to co-create recreational and educational opportunities that enrich the estate and support wider social and economic wellbeing. Maintain strong collaborative relationships to ensure forests remain vibrant, valued places that bring people and nature together while delivering lasting regional benefits. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain informal public access on foot in all freehold areas. Design, phase and scale harvesting and thinning operations sympathetically to maintain long-term aesthetic value within the woodlands. Continue management of the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Careby Camp in line with the agreed management plan. Continue working with Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue Trust to maintain the historic yew tree avenue. Conserve unscheduled heritage features in line with Forestry England's Historic Environment guidance. Engage with third party partners and businesses where compatible with wider Forest Plan objectives. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No monitoring required. Species composition, age structure and coupe design reviewed at 5yr mid-term review and as part of the 10yr forest plan renewal. Monitored as part of the operational planning process. Monitor via Forestry England's lease & permit systems.



**Synopsis Map
 (Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

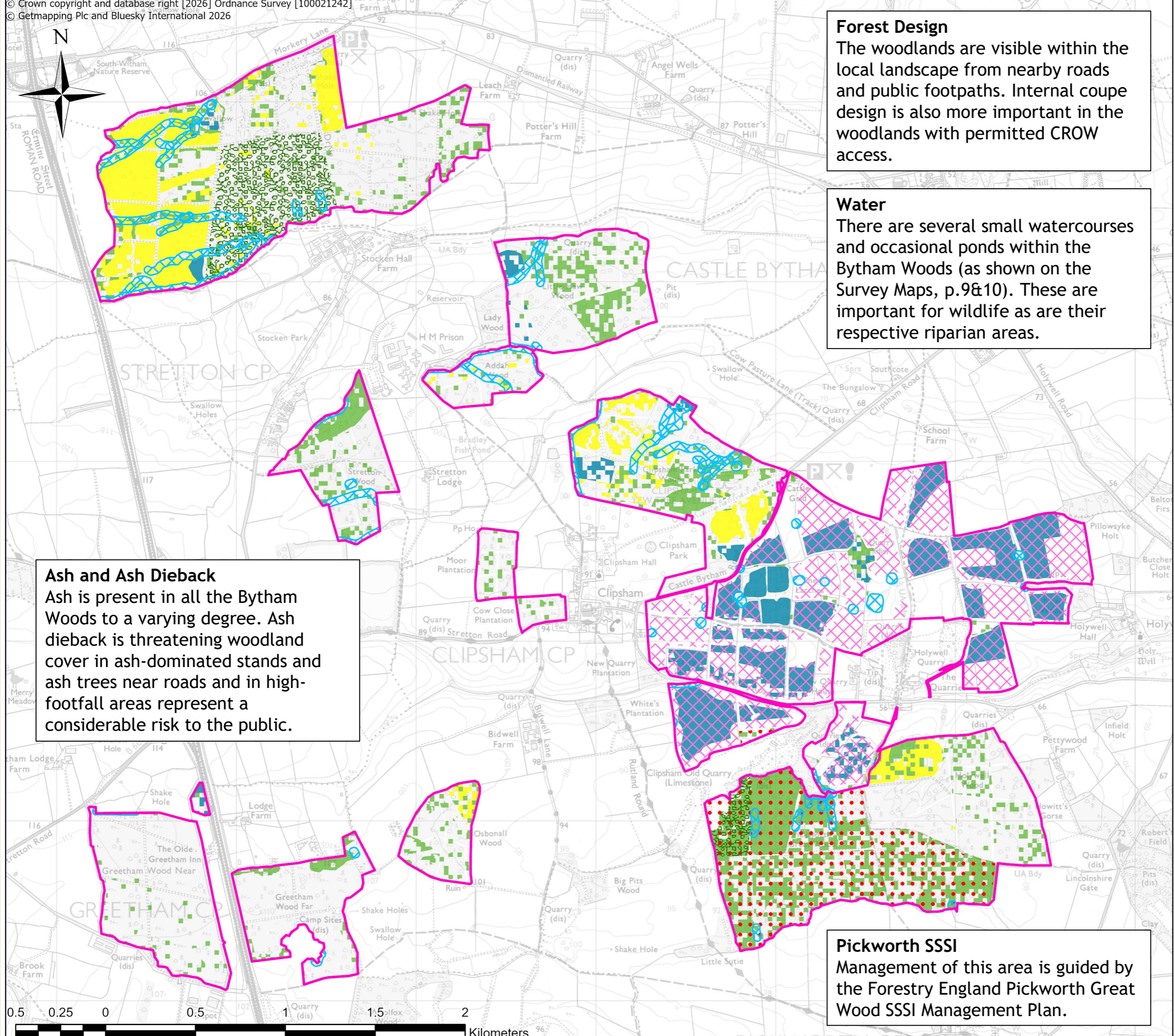
- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Riparian Areas
- Recent Woodland Creation
- Natural Reserve Areas
- Pickworth SSSI
- Ash
- Coniferous Secondary Woodland
- Unrestored Ancient Woodland

Forest Design
 The woodlands are visible within the local landscape from nearby roads and public footpaths. Internal coupe design is also more important in the woodlands with permitted CROW access.

Water
 There are several small watercourses and occasional ponds within the Bytham Woods (as shown on the Survey Maps, p.9&10). These are important for wildlife as are their respective riparian areas.

Ash and Ash Dieback
 Ash is present in all the Bytham Woods to a varying degree. Ash dieback is threatening woodland cover in ash-dominated stands and ash trees near roads and in high-footfall areas represent a considerable risk to the public.

Pickworth SSSI
 Management of this area is guided by the Forestry England Pickworth Great Wood SSSI Management Plan.

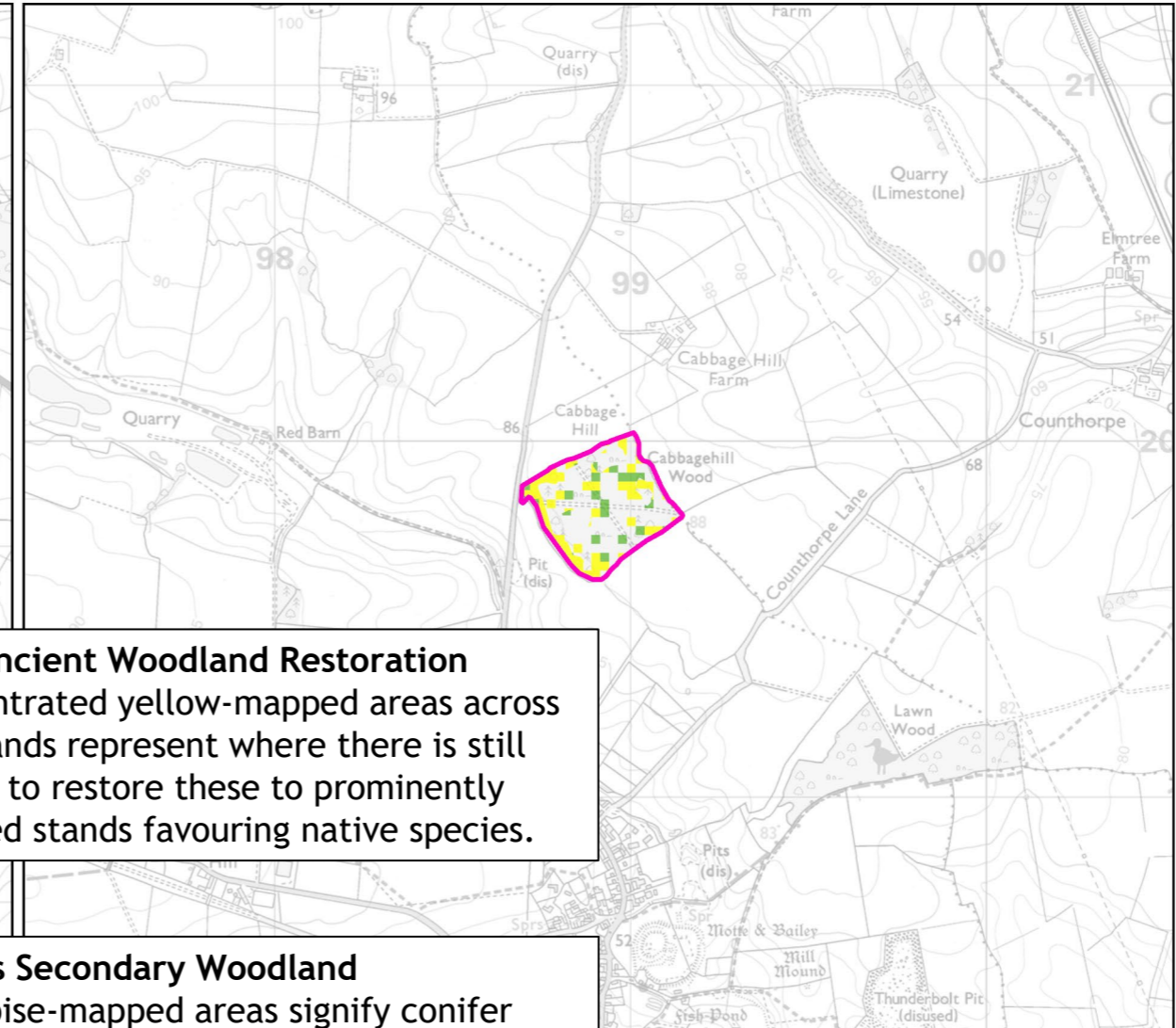
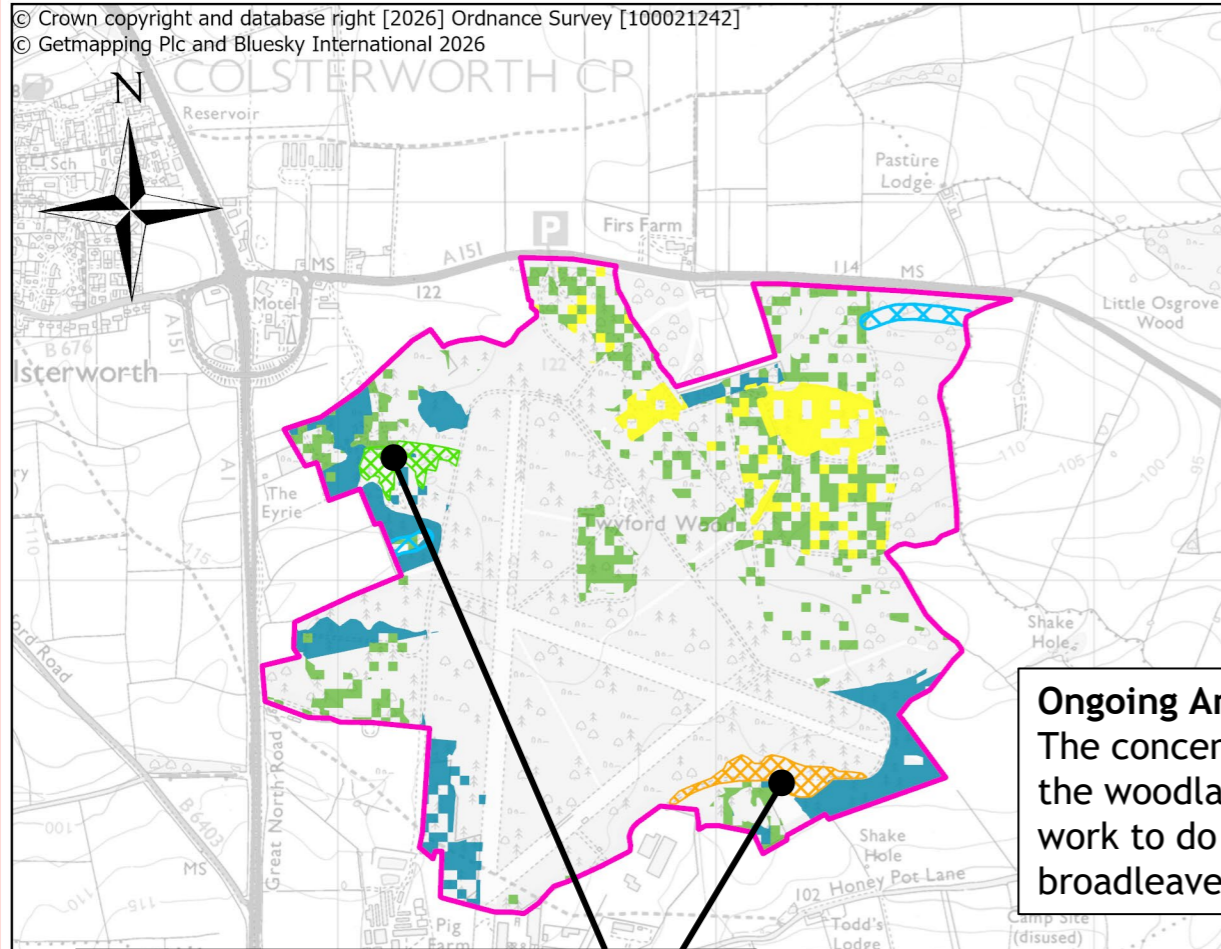




**Synopsis Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

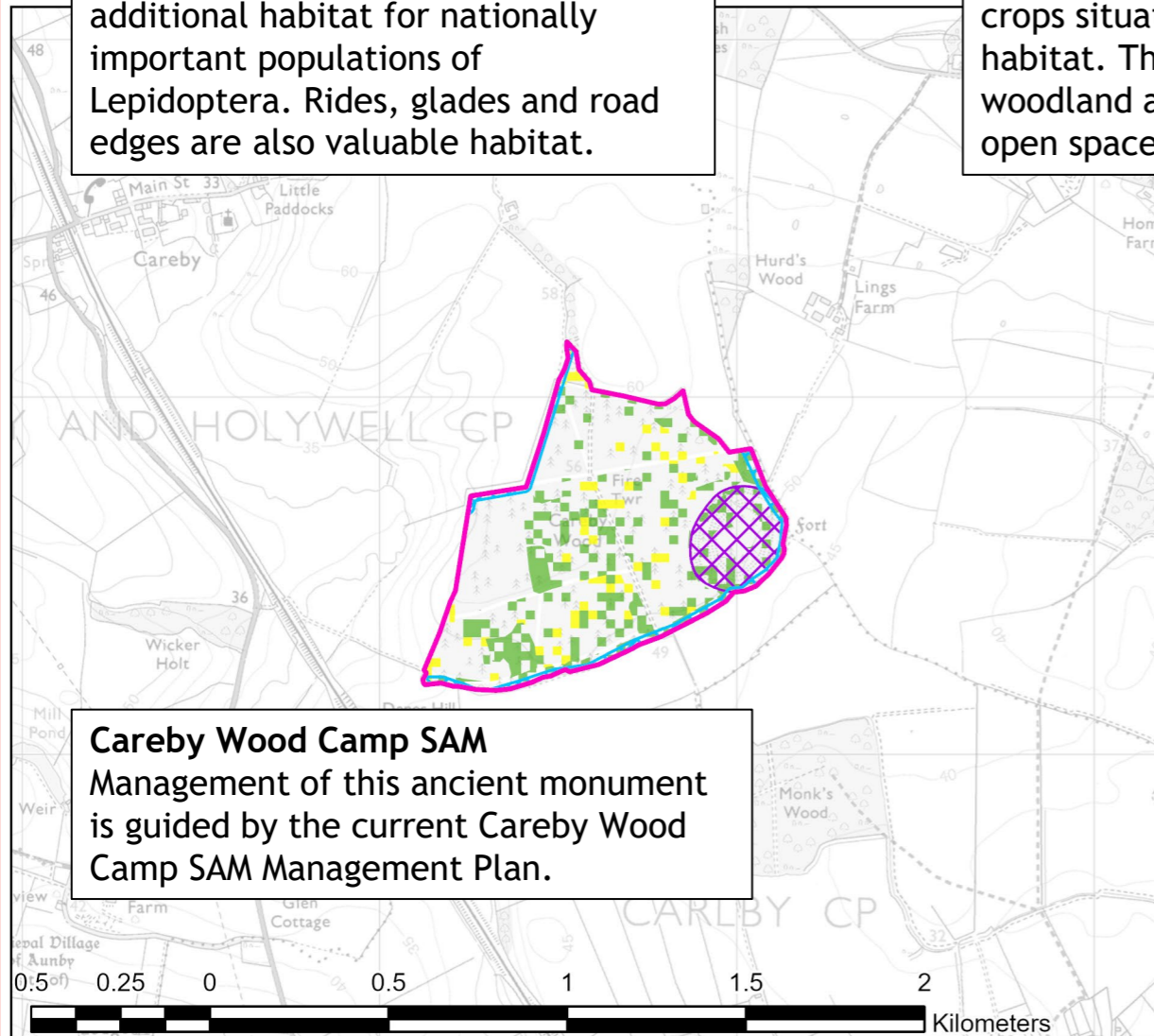
-  Bytham Woods FP Area
-  Riparian Areas
- Butterfly Reserves
 -  "The Sanctuary"
 -  "The Glades"
-  Careby Camp SAM
-  Ash
-  Coniferous Secondary Woodland
-  Unrestored Ancient Woodland



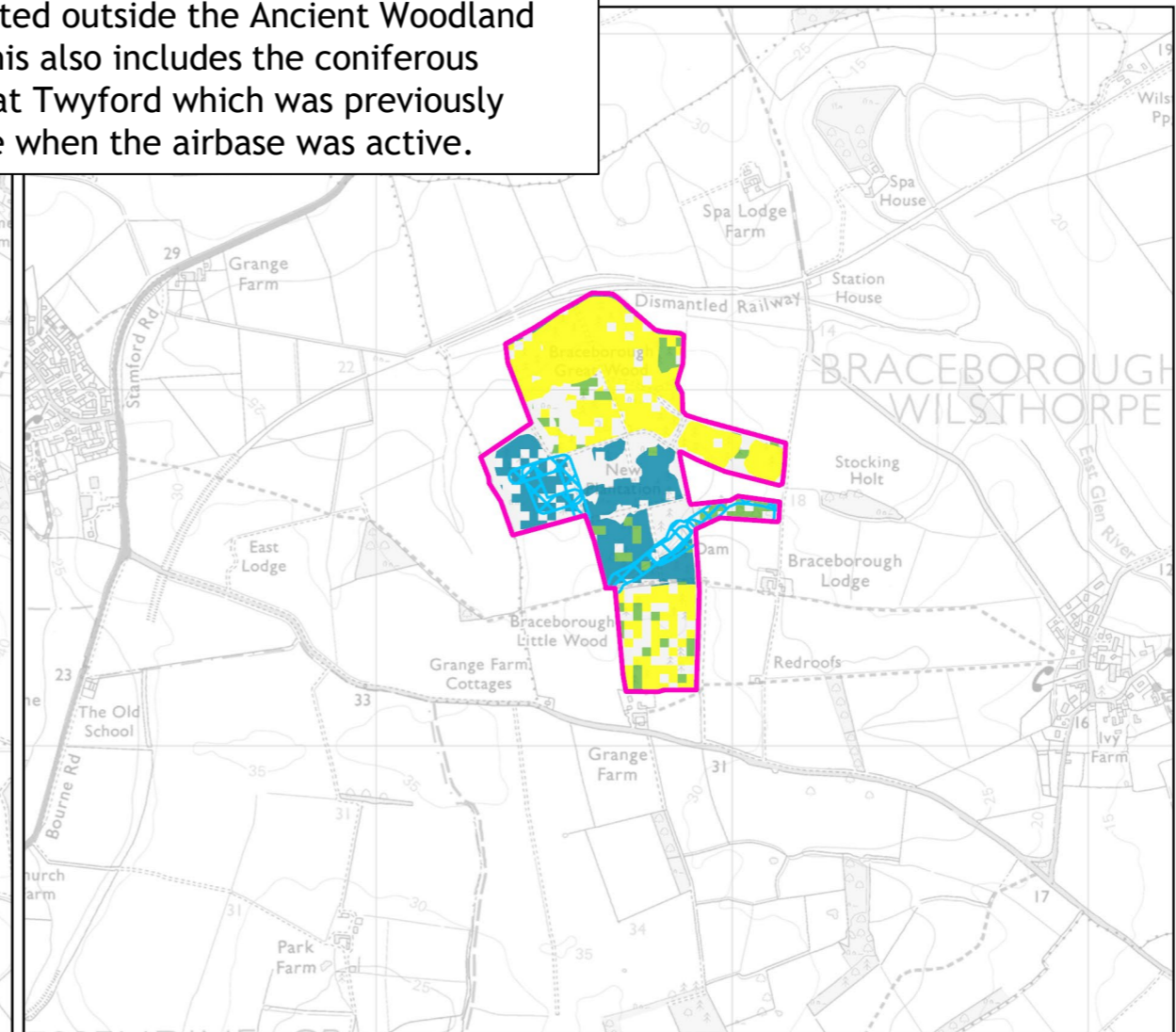
Ongoing Ancient Woodland Restoration
 The concentrated yellow-mapped areas across the woodlands represent where there is still work to do to restore these to prominently broadleaved stands favouring native species.

Butterfly Reserves
 There are two butterfly reserves in Twyford totalling 4.2ha, providing additional habitat for nationally important populations of Lepidoptera. Rides, glades and road edges are also valuable habitat.

Coniferous Secondary Woodland
 The turquoise-mapped areas signify conifer crops situated outside the Ancient Woodland habitat. This also includes the coniferous woodland at Twyford which was previously open space when the airbase was active.



Careby Wood Camp SAM
 Management of this ancient monument is guided by the current Careby Wood Camp SAM Management Plan.





**Concept Map
(Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Riparian Areas
- Recent Woodland Creation
- Natural Reserve Areas
- Pickworth SSSI
- Ash
- Coniferous Secondary Woodland
- Unrestored Ancient Woodland

Forest Design

Windfirm external broadleaf edges will often be retained during operations and enhanced during restock to provide consistent views of the woodlands locally and in the wider landscape.

Where possible, individuals and small groups of windfirm trees will be retained in clearfell areas as bird perches and for future standing deadwood recruitment. In addition to utilising windfirm edges, the shape and scale of coupes have been influenced by the immediate wooded landscape to manage their visual impact both internally and externally.

Ash and Ash Dieback

Managing the ash will be through a combination of targeted thinning, LISS* group felling and clearfelling.

The felling programme (see Felling Phases Maps, p.28-33) prioritises the clearfell coupes at Twyford, Stretton, Little Haw and Clipsham. Where appropriate non-ash species will be retained, as will individual ash trees displaying tolerance and potential resistance. Restock will be through a combination of natural regeneration and planting of suitable alternative species.

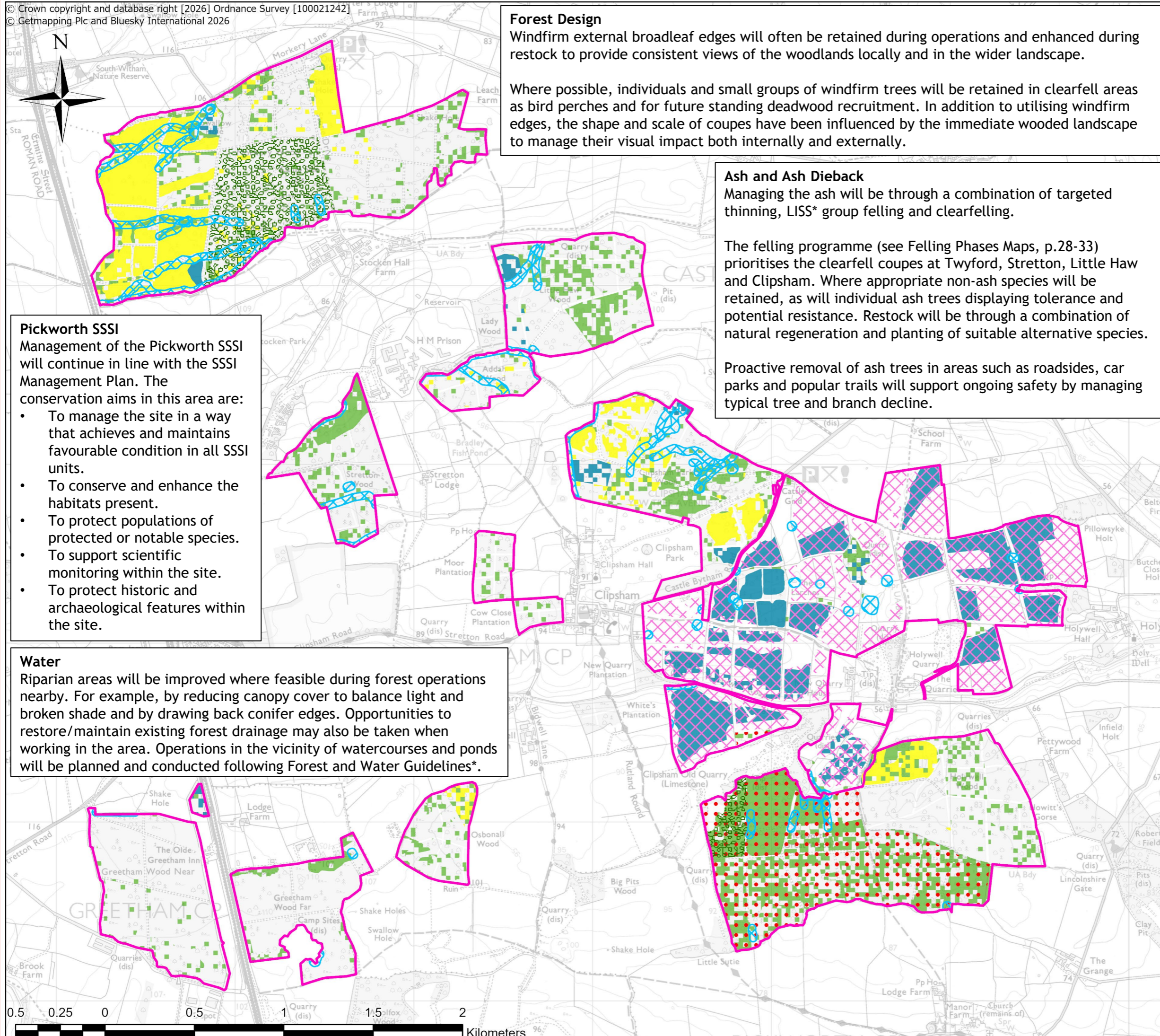
Proactive removal of ash trees in areas such as roadsides, car parks and popular trails will support ongoing safety by managing typical tree and branch decline.

Pickworth SSSI

- Management of the Pickworth SSSI will continue in line with the SSSI Management Plan. The conservation aims in this area are:
- To manage the site in a way that achieves and maintains favourable condition in all SSSI units.
 - To conserve and enhance the habitats present.
 - To protect populations of protected or notable species.
 - To support scientific monitoring within the site.
 - To protect historic and archaeological features within the site.

Water

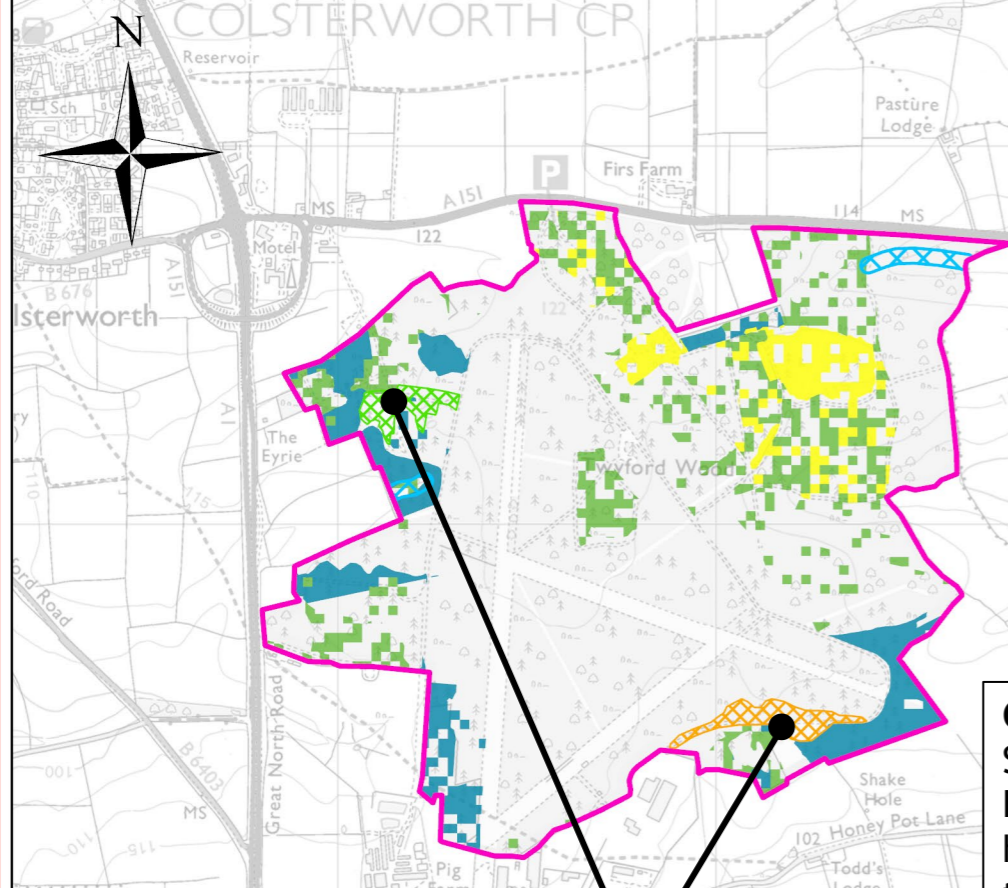
Riparian areas will be improved where feasible during forest operations nearby. For example, by reducing canopy cover to balance light and broken shade and by drawing back conifer edges. Opportunities to restore/maintain existing forest drainage may also be taken when working in the area. Operations in the vicinity of watercourses and ponds will be planned and conducted following Forest and Water Guidelines*.





**Concept Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000



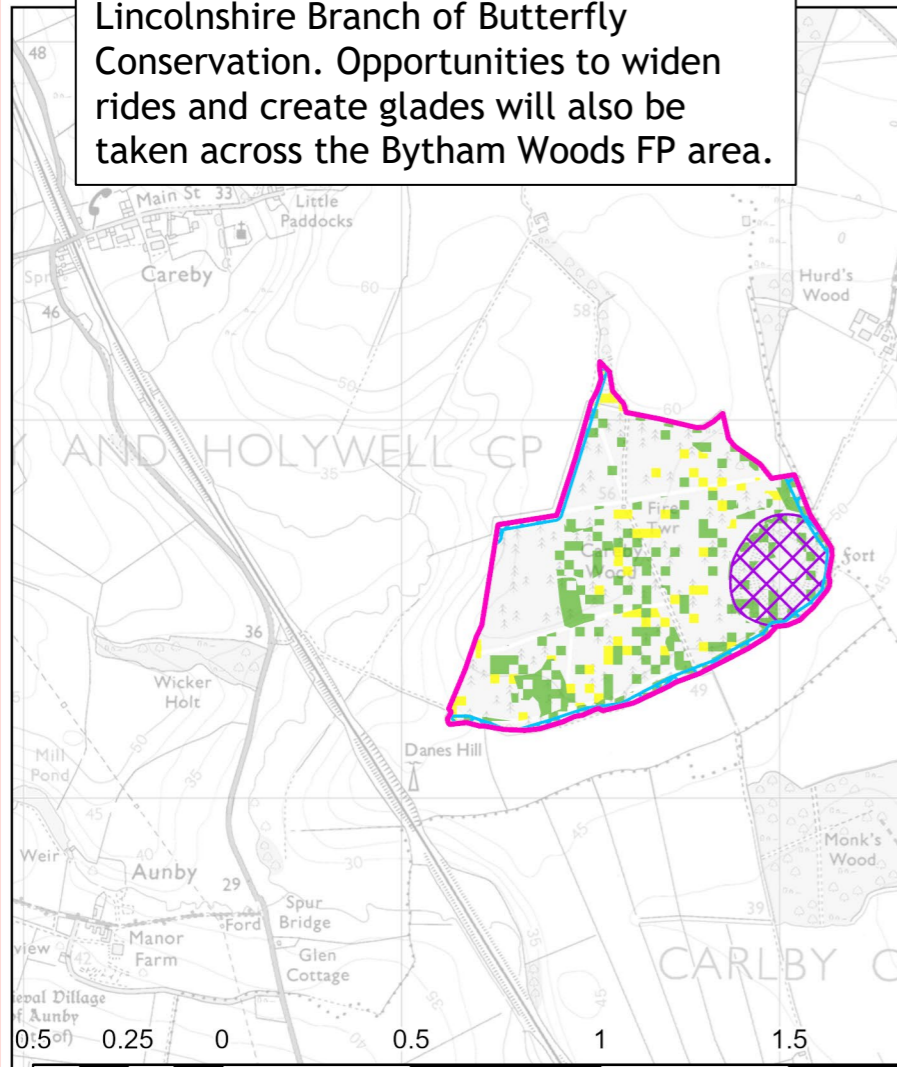
Ongoing Ancient Woodland Restoration
 These uncontested coniferous areas will be gradually restored to broadleaf-dominated woodlands through successive thinning and felling operations. Restock prescriptions will include planting and/or natural regeneration of acceptable species.

Coniferous Secondary Woodland
 Softwood timber production is an important objective for Forestry England woodlands. In addition to faster growth and a higher proportion of timber grade material than broadleaves, the inclusion of conifers helps to improve species-diversity and forest resilience. Accordingly, most of these coniferous stands on secondary woodland will continue to be managed under a traditional clearfell and restocking programme, providing transitional open space for wildlife and cost-effective timber production.

The wider range of conifer species introduced at Clipsham Coronation Wood should offer more opportunity for implementing management through LISS in the future.

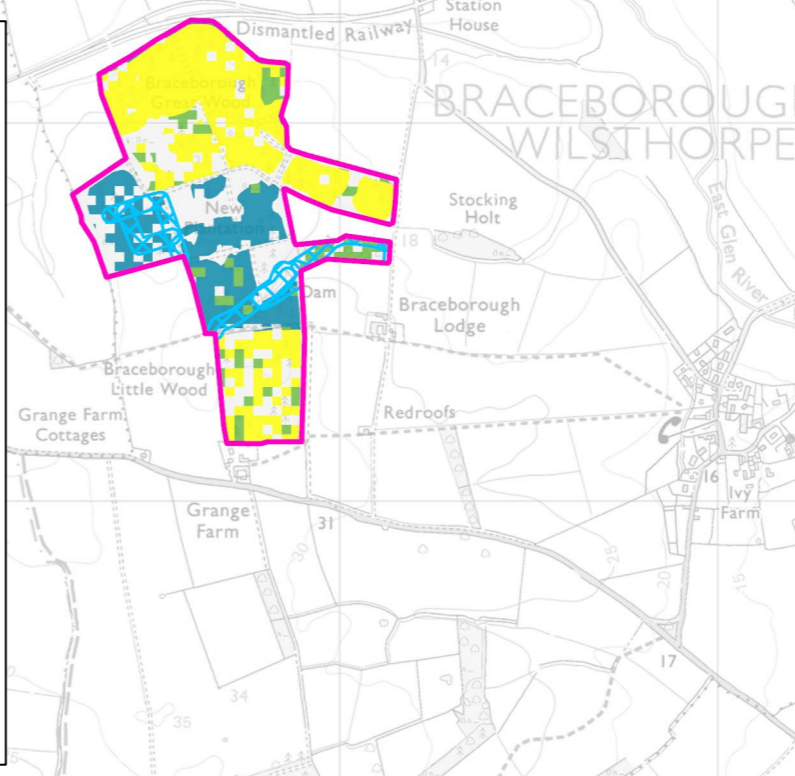
Butterfly Reserves
 The reserves will continue to be managed in partnership with the Lincolnshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation. Opportunities to widen rides and create glades will also be taken across the Bytham Woods FP area.

- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Riparian Areas
- Butterfly Reserves**
 - "The Sanctuary"
 - "The Glades"
- Careby Camp SAM
- Ash
- Coniferous Secondary Woodland
- Unrestored Ancient Woodland



Careby Wood Camp SAM
 Management of the Careby Wood Camp SAM will continue in line with the current SAM Management Plan. The aim of ongoing management is to safeguard the surviving archaeological remains, by:

- ensuring wildlife is free to graze, whilst not damaging the monument further
- removing undesirable vegetation including regenerating saplings, brambles, bracken, and other woody shrubs
- removing mature trees likely to fail
- retaining the open glade area within the hillfort





Proposals

This final section summarises the forest management and felling proposals in the Bytham Woods during the FP period in terms of:

- Harvesting Operations and Timber
- Intended Landuse

The following maps are included to illustrate these proposals:

- Silvicultural Systems
- Felling Phases
- Intended Landuse



Harvesting Operations and Timber

Timber production will be managed on a sustainable basis, improving future revenues by focussing on quality broadleaf and conifer sawlogs and by maximising yield. During restock for subsequent rotations, Forestry England will continue to introduce more species and species-mixes into the Bytham Woodlands to improve resilience against future pests and diseases and to ensure the woodland habitats can be adapted to the rapid climate change we are now seeing. This will enable us to continue to provide the sustainable timber resources needed by society while maintaining other woodland ecosystem services*.

A range of silvicultural systems* will be adopted in the Bytham Woods, designed to create ideal conditions to establish the next rotation of trees (see Fig.5 & Silvicultural Systems Maps, p.31&32).

Nearly 25% of the wooded area will still be managed under a traditional clearfell and restocking programme, providing transitional open space for wildlife and cost-effective timber production. A total of 70.4ha of clearfell will be undertaken during the 10yr FP approval period comprising 16 coupes throughout the woodland area (see Felling Phases Maps, p.36-41). These felling coupes involve PAWS* restoration, conifer clearfell/restock on secondary woodland areas, short rotation biomass production and management for ash dieback.

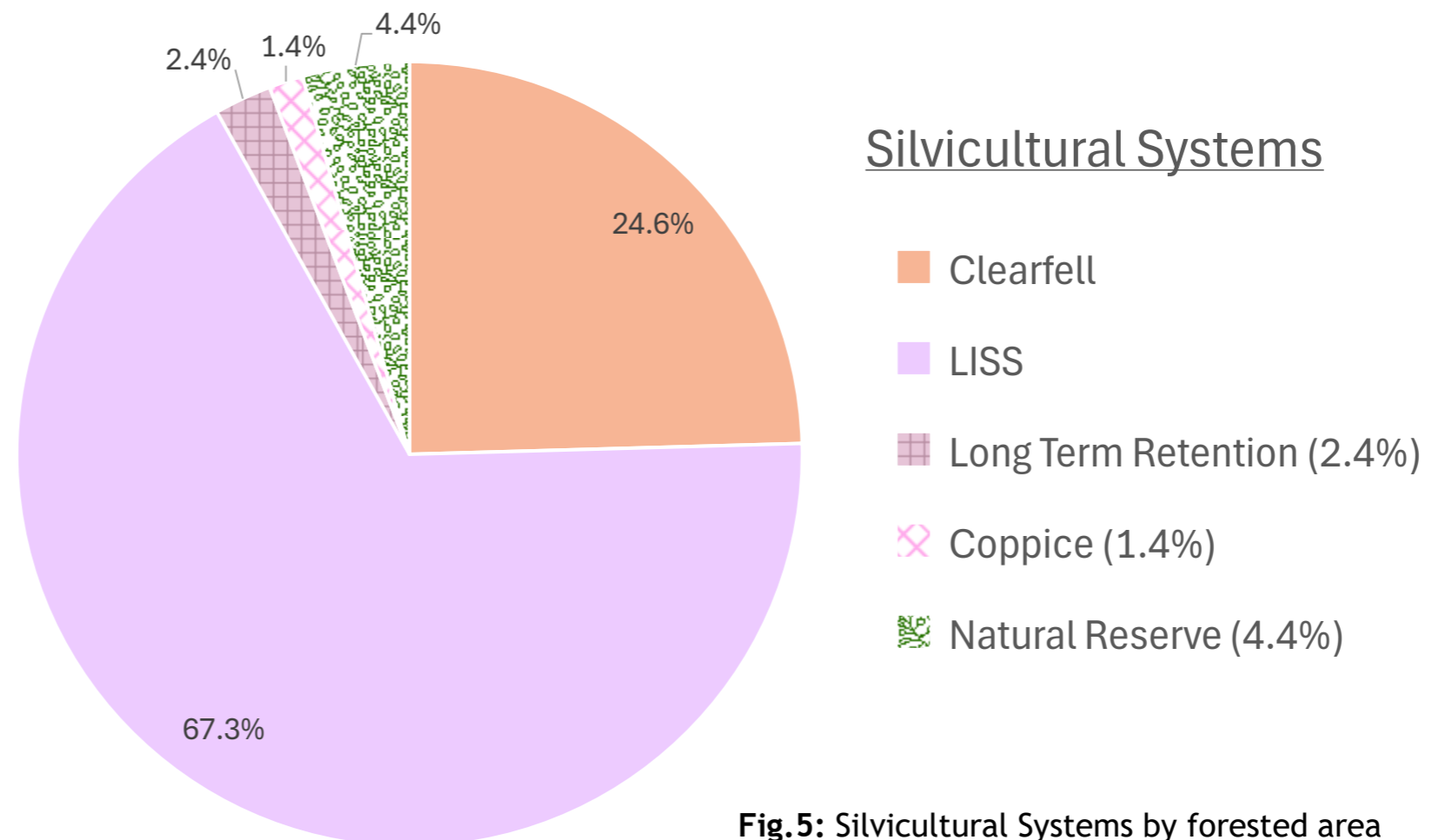


Fig.5: Silvicultural Systems by forested area



The management of broadleaf stands will be predominantly through LISS* group felling systems (group selection and small coupe felling), wherein small clearings of up to 2ha are created to restructure the crop and diversify the age- and species-composition. The size and shape of the clearings will be designed around the light requirements of the trees to become established (including aspect* and shade cast by adjacent stands), helping create optimum growing conditions. For the benefit of wildlife, the larger clearings may be elongated to maximise edge habitat. It is hoped the use of LISS will also reduce the likely impacts of more extreme weather events. LISS offer greater protection to soils and ground flora by maintaining canopy cover, thus reducing the variation in microclimates throughout the day and between seasons.

In the ash-dominated stands ash dieback fundamentally threatens woodland cover, in particular areas within Pickworth, Clipsham, Little Haw & Stretton woods. These stands will be managed using LISS or clearfell as appropriate, using both restock and/or natural regeneration to increase the proportion of other species going forward. Individual ash trees displaying tolerance and potential resistance may be retained where safe to do so. Again, where appropriate, dead and dying trees will be retained to increase ecologically-valuable deadwood habitat.

In line with the SSSI Management Plan, 14.9ha of Pickworth Great Wood will be managed as coppice through mechanised operations. Of this, 10.6ha is planned to be worked during the Forest Plan period subject to suitable ground conditions. Small scale traditional coppicing methods have proved no longer practically- nor

economically-viable. Accordingly, increased coupe sizes and use of machines will provide a more sustainable approach in these areas while still offering the habitat benefits of understorey management.

45.1ha of woodland is to be managed as Natural Reserve* with a further 24.2ha planned for Long Term Retention*. These management types prioritise conservation and environmental benefit over other objectives.

In addition to the aforementioned felling programme, thinning assessments will be made every 5 years and thinning operations planned accordingly. Managing stand density and light availability through thinning is essential for each tree's crown and root system to develop fully, helping ensure the trees remain stable in the wind as they mature. Thinning operations are

also an important source of timber and timber revenue.

As part of our Operational Planning* process, all forest operations are carefully considered beforehand, and their delivery takes into account the particular ecological and heritage features plus any other site-specific conditions. Operations will be carried out in line with all relevant regulations and best practice guidance as summarised in UKFS* and UKWAS*. Forestry operations may take place at any time of the year. This is necessary to strike a balance between the greatly increased risks of damage to flora and increased soil compaction associated with working during the wetter winter months and the need to minimise disturbance to designated habitats, species and breeding birds.



Pic.10: Forestry harvester machine equipped with a tree shear head



Intended Landuse

The woodland composition within the Bytham Woods is split approximately 79% broadleaves to 21% conifers by area. PAWS* restoration over the next rotation will result in the broadleaf component increasing to an estimated 86% (see Fig.6).

To increase forest-scale resilience to current and future pests, diseases and climatic changes we aim to increase species diversity during restock where appropriate. This forms part of Forestry England’s portfolio approach to restock, which includes embracing natural regeneration and sourcing planting stock of local provenance and/or from 2 to 5 degrees south where possible.

Ash stands will regenerate or be restocked with alternative broadleaved species, enhancing the woodlands’ resilience and adaptive capacity in the wake of ash dieback. Similarly, Corsican pine will gradually be replaced with other conifers in the coniferous secondary woodland areas due to DNB.

Future Species Selection

Forest Research decision support tools such as Ecological Site Classification* (ESC) help identify which tree species are most likely to thrive under local soil and current/future climate conditions. The results suggest that water availability (in terms of moisture deficit and soil moisture regime) will be the limiting factor for many tree species for the Bytham Woods in the future.

Table 2 shows the likely suitable tree species

for most of the Bytham Woods as modelled by ESC.

ESC is a useful broad guide and starting point for species selection but does not account for all aspects of suitability and natural regeneration will be welcomed on many sites. Where planting is used, species choice will be determined by the Forestry England Beat Team which will conform to the requirements of underlying land designations. Consideration will also be given to site-specific factors including management objectives, hydrology, browsing pressure and palatability, pests and diseases, competition from ground vegetation, planting stock provenance and availability.

Table 2: ESC-generated species report for the Bytham Woods

Broadleaves	Conifers
Oaks (pedunculate and red oak)	Pines (lodgepole, Scots, Corsican and Macedonian pine)
Hornbeam	Coast redwood
Willow species	Spruces (Serbian, oriental and Norway spruce)
Poplars (aspen and black poplar)	Nordmann fir
Alders (common, grey and red alder)	Western red cedar
Wild cherry	Cypresses (Leyland and Lawson’s cypress)
Small-leaved lime	Western hemlock
Maples (sycamore and Norway maple)	
Rowan	
Silver birch	

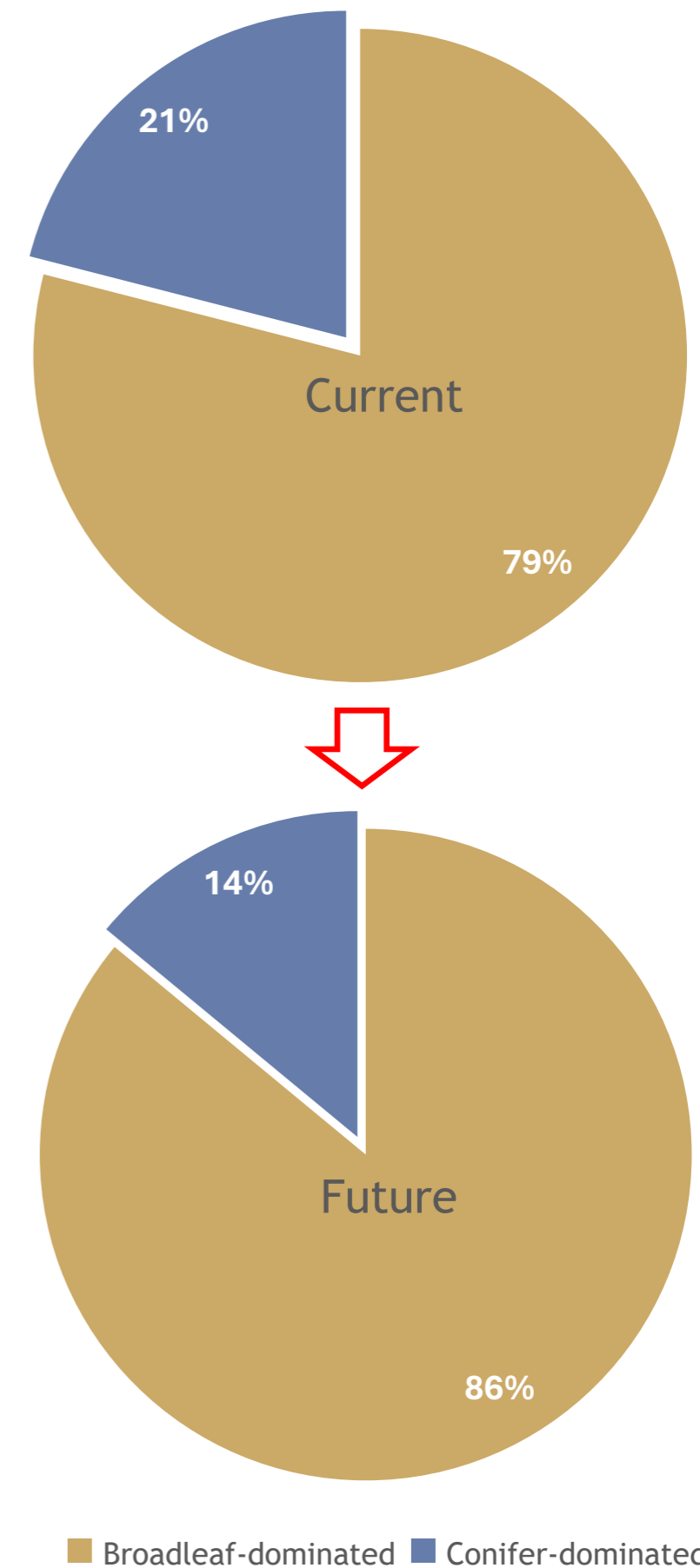


Fig.6: Woodland composition change



**Silvicultural Systems
 Map
 (Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

-  Bytham Woods FP Area
-  Forest Roads
- Management Type**
-  Clearfell
-  LISS & Open
-  Long Term Retention
-  Coppice
-  Natural Reserve

LISS*
 Over 67% of the FP area will be managed using LISS; mostly group selection and small coupe felling systems (up to 1ha coupe size coupe size in Pickworth SSSI and up to 2ha elsewhere). This will promote establishment by creating the optimum growing conditions for young trees; developing a more diverse woodland structure comprising trees of varying age and species within the same stand. The timings of LISS operations will be aligned to the thinning cycle in the respective woodland.

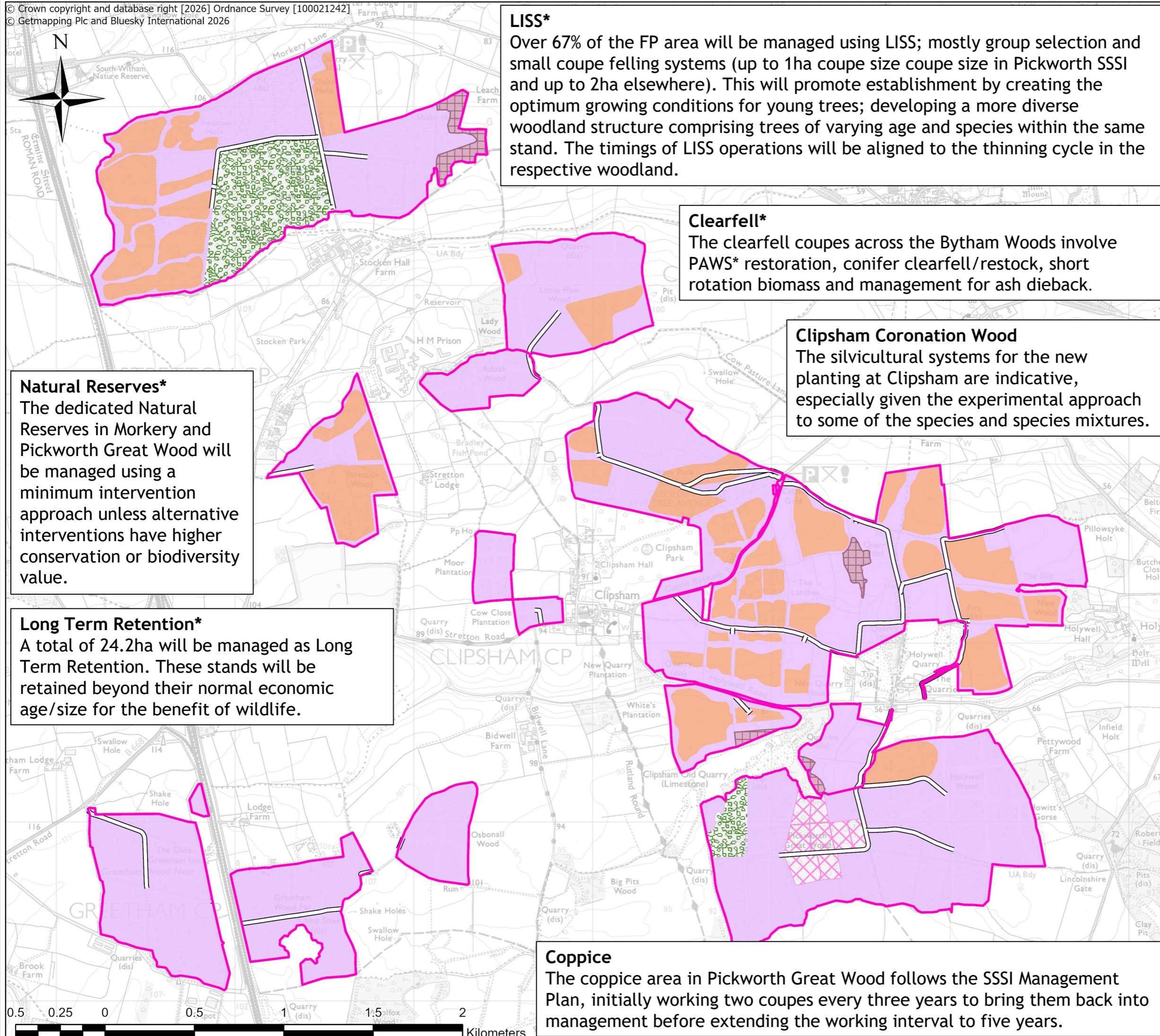
Clearfell*
 The clearfell coupes across the Bytham Woods involve PAWS* restoration, conifer clearfell/restock, short rotation biomass and management for ash dieback.

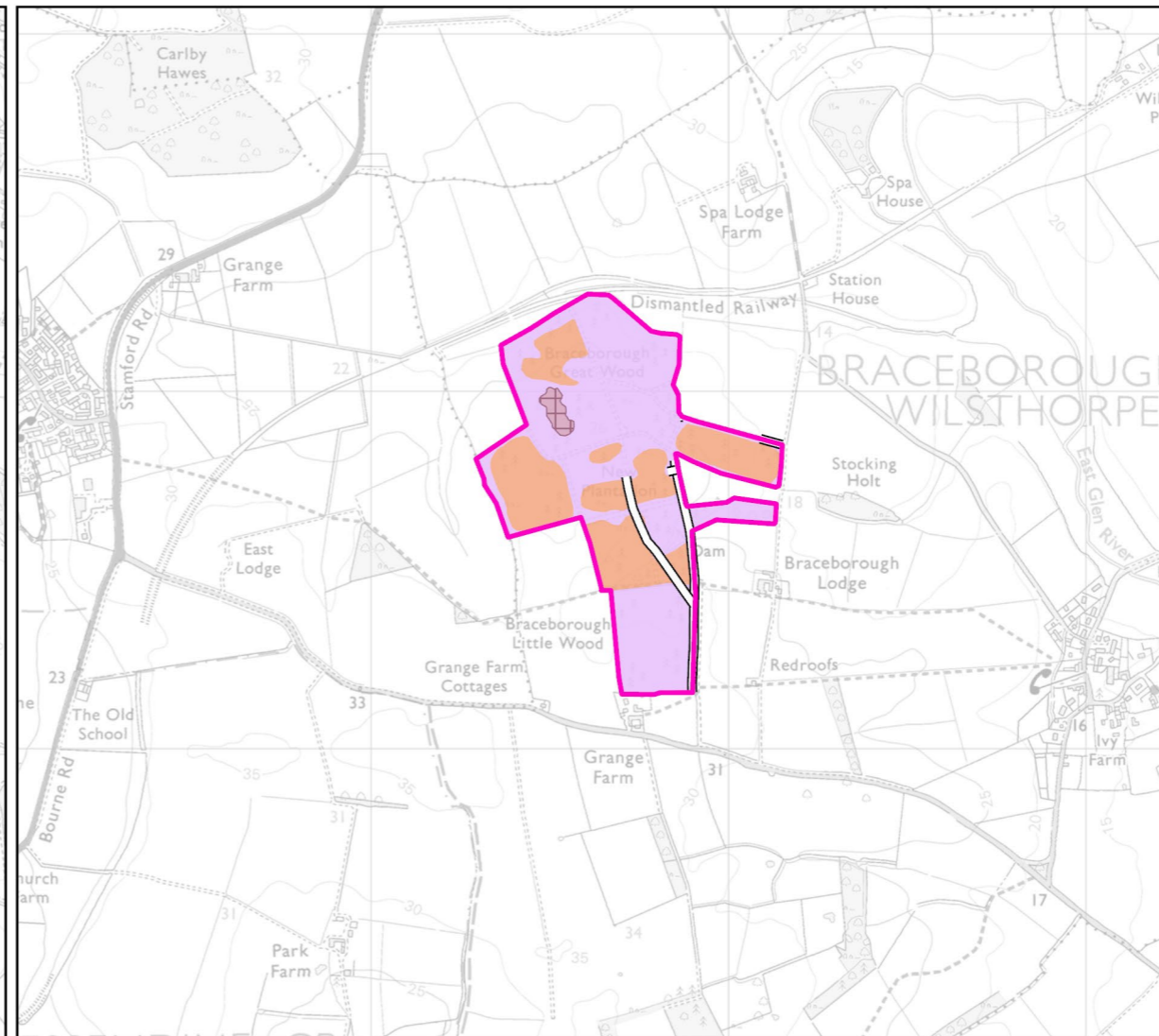
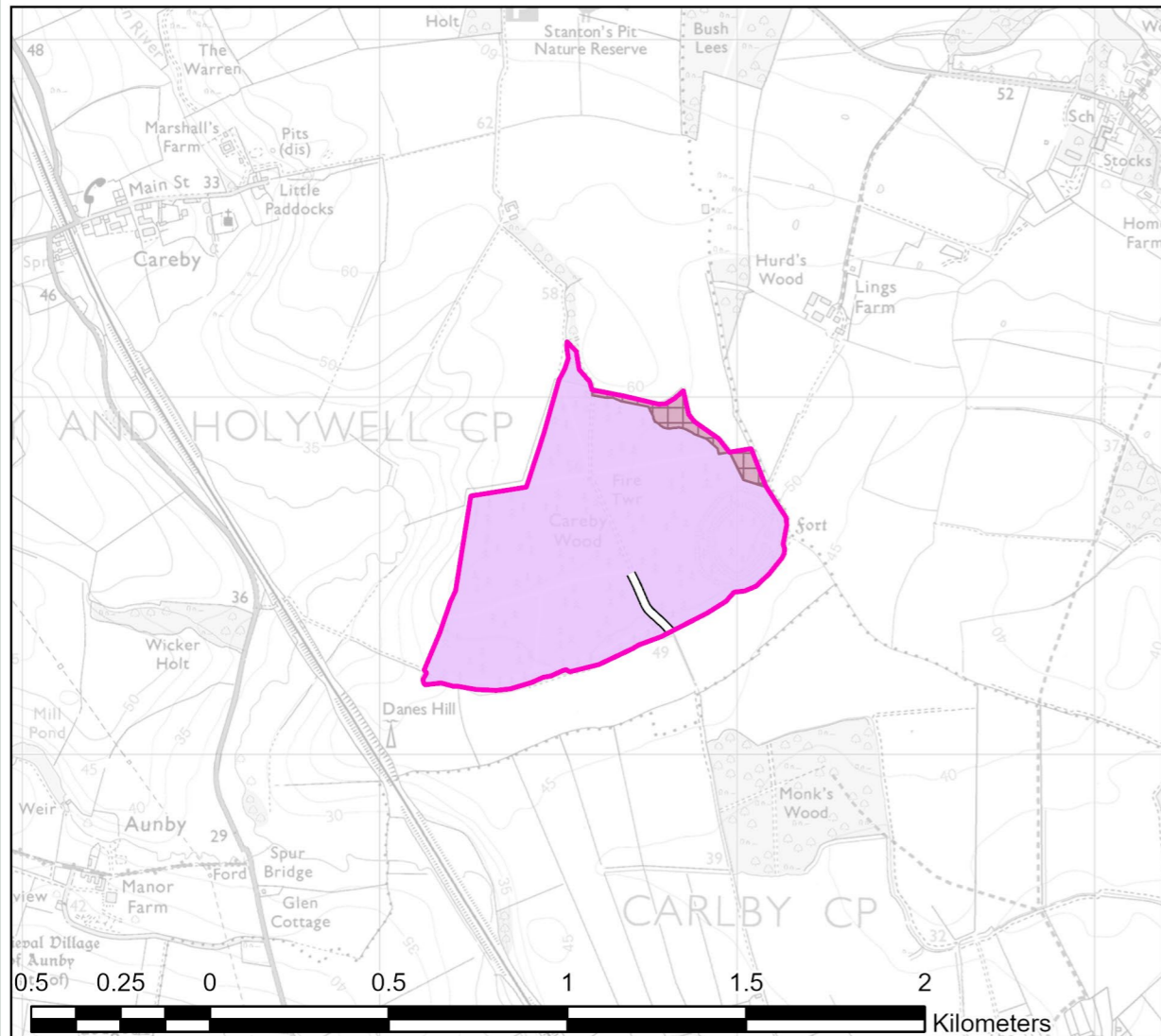
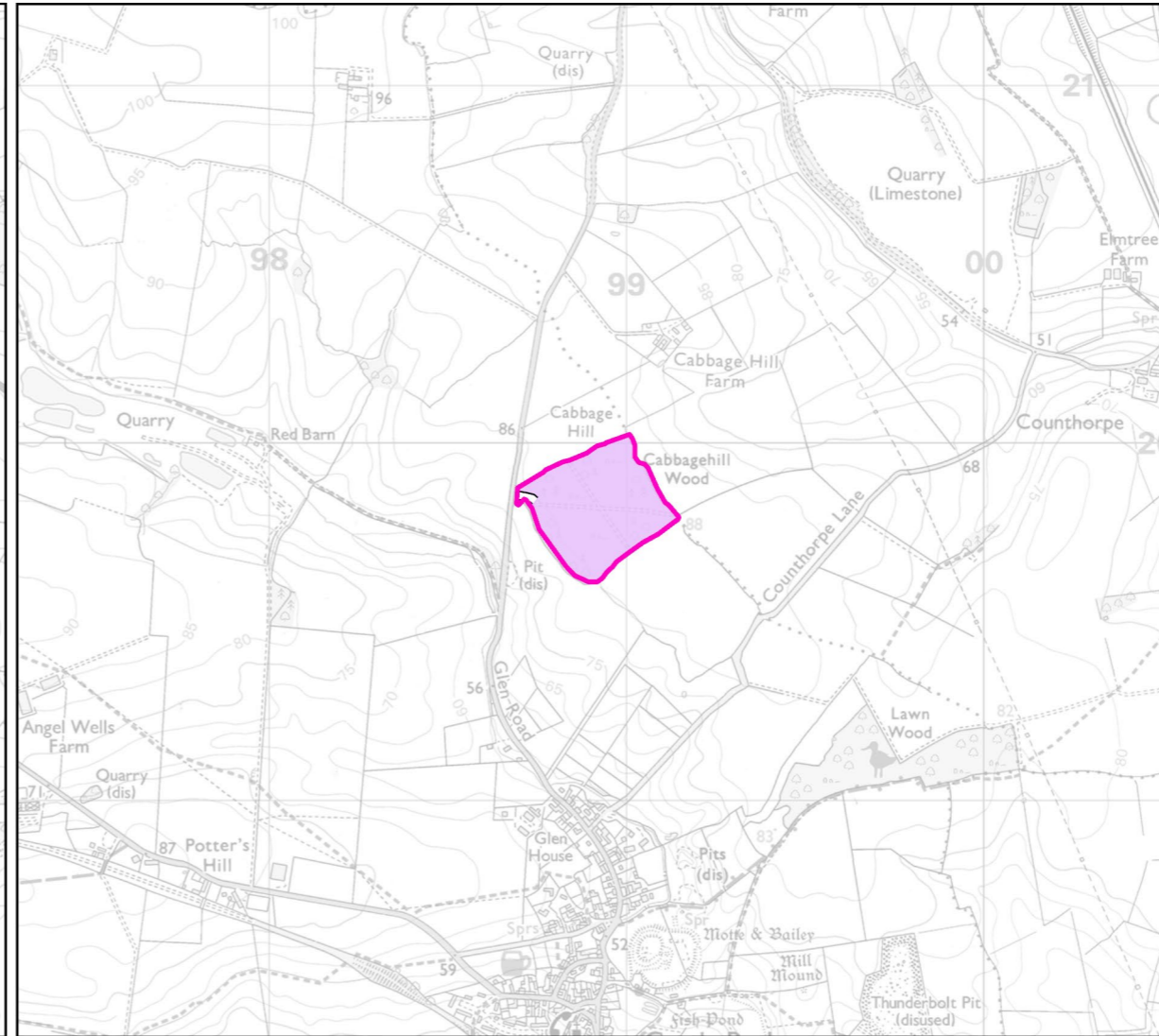
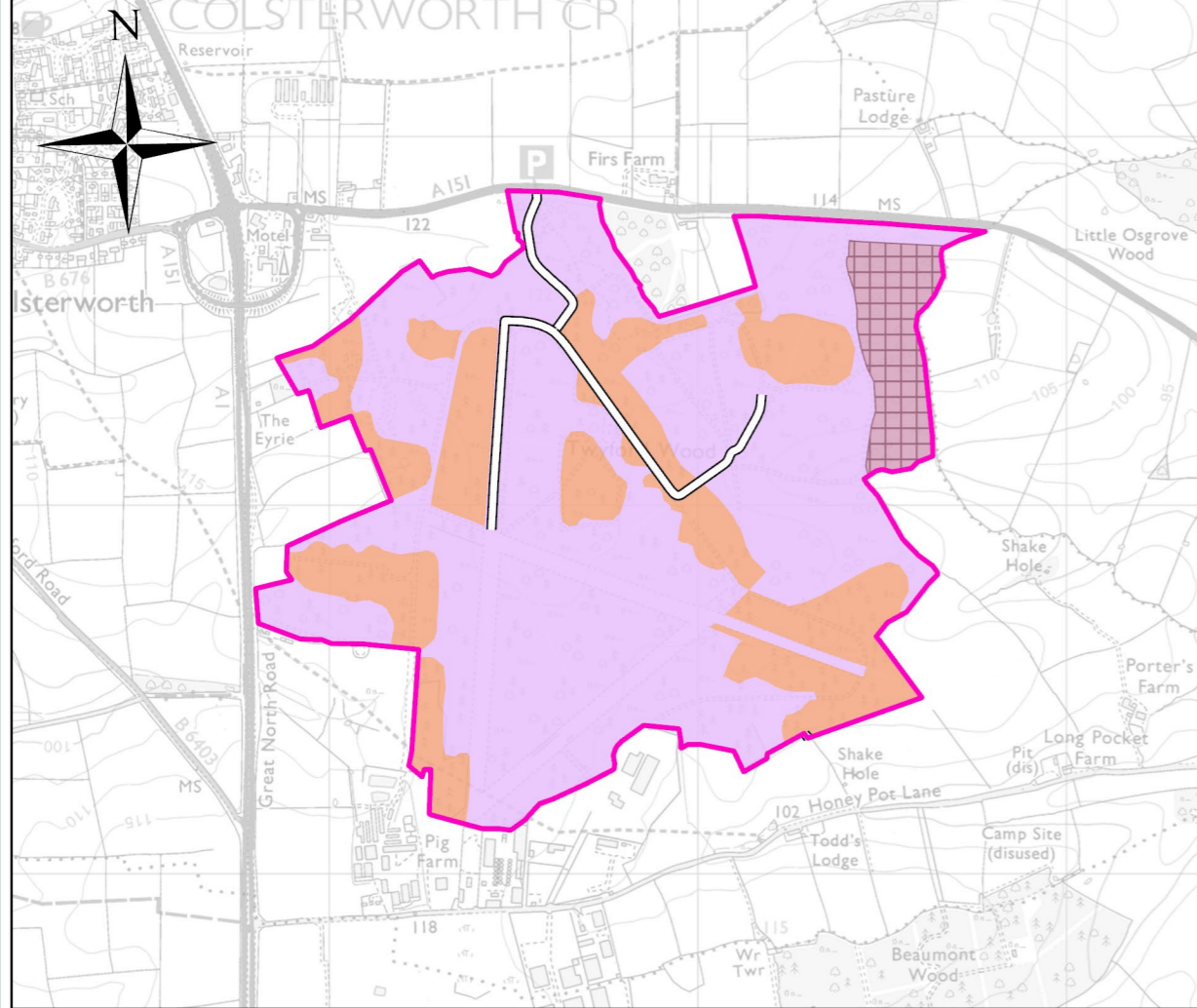
Clipsham Coronation Wood
 The silvicultural systems for the new planting at Clipsham are indicative, especially given the experimental approach to some of the species and species mixtures.

Natural Reserves*
 The dedicated Natural Reserves in Morkery and Pickworth Great Wood will be managed using a minimum intervention approach unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value.

Long Term Retention*
 A total of 24.2ha will be managed as Long Term Retention. These stands will be retained beyond their normal economic age/size for the benefit of wildlife.






Coppice
 The coppice area in Pickworth Great Wood follows the SSSI Management Plan, initially working two coupes every three years to bring them back into management before extending the working interval to five years.





**Silvicultural Systems
 Map
 (Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

-  Bytham Woods FP Area
-  Forest Roads
- Management Type**
-  Clearfell
-  LISS & Open
-  Long Term Retention



**Felling Phases Map
 (Twyford)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:10,000

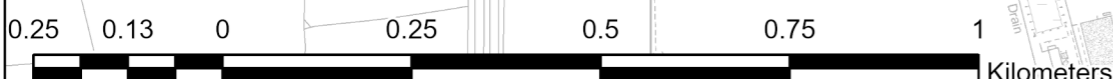
There are three short-rotation biomass coupes in Twyford managed on 15yr rotations, with one coupe felled every 5yr period. The red-striped coupe has recently been worked under a separate felling licence, and the remaining two coupes are to be worked during this FP approval period.

Parts of this Scots pine coupe are not growing particularly well nor have responded to previous thinning interventions. It is intended for the second felling phase.

This diseased ash coupe is intended for felling later this year (2026).

All timber arising from the Forestry England estate represents a negligible risk under the Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations (UKTR) and UK FLEGT Regulations.

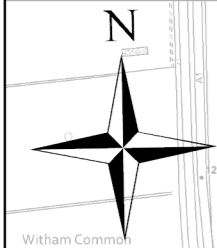
- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Forest Roads
- Clearfell Phase**
 - Fell 2022-2026
 - Fell 2027-2031
 - Fell 2032-2036
 - Fell 2037-2041
 - Fell 2042-2046
 - Fell 2047-2051
 - Fell 2052-2056
 - Fell 2057-2061
 - Fell beyond 2062
- Non-clearfell Systems**
 - Long Term Retention
 - LISS & Open
 - Coppice
 - Minimum Intervention
 - Natural Reserve



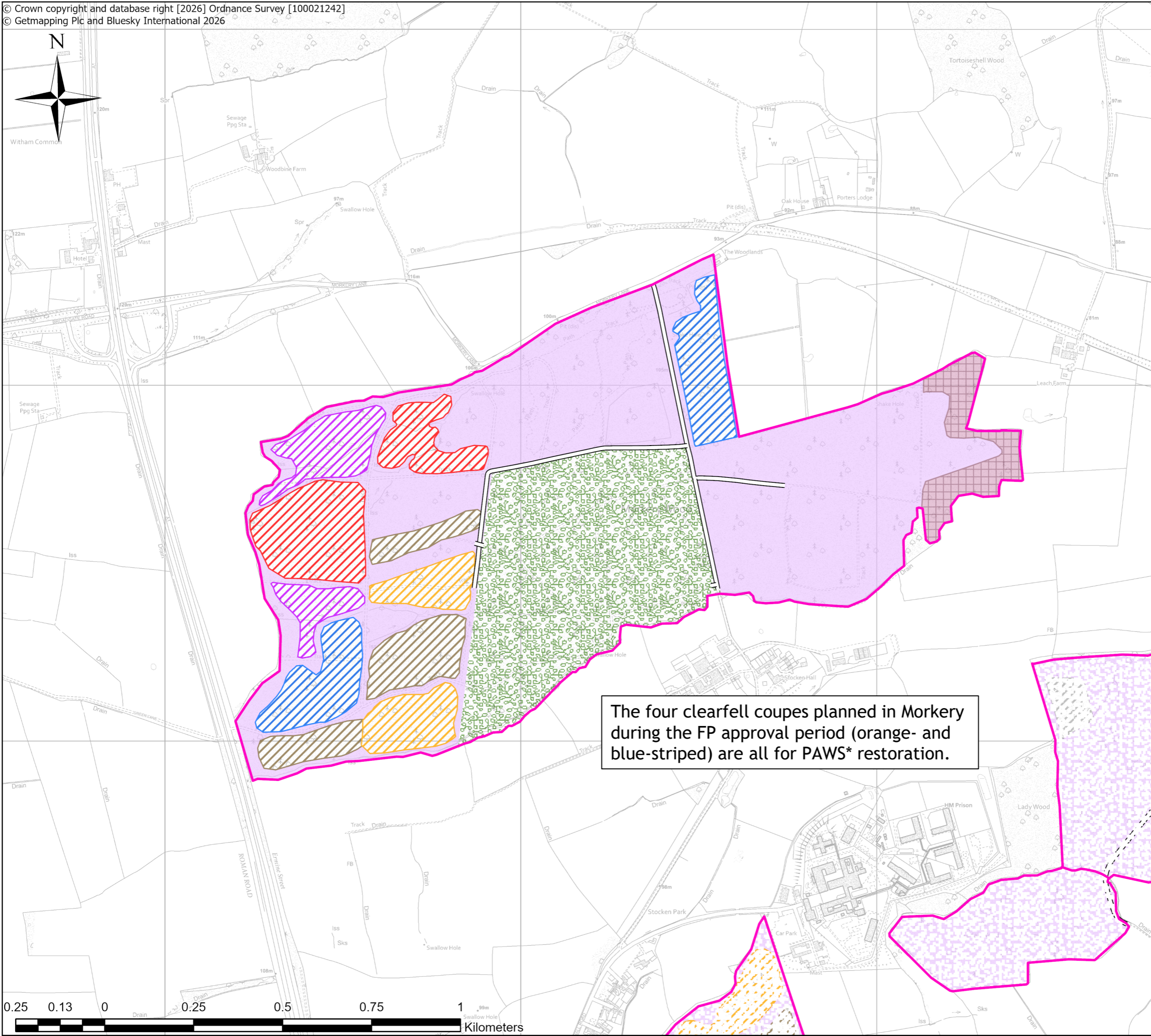


Felling Phases Map (Morkery)

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:10,000



Witham Common



The four clearfell coupes planned in Morkery during the FP approval period (orange- and blue-striped) are all for PAWS* restoration.

Bytham Woods FP Area

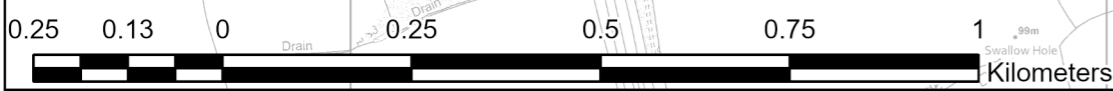
Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-2061
- Fell beyond 2062

Non-clearfell Systems

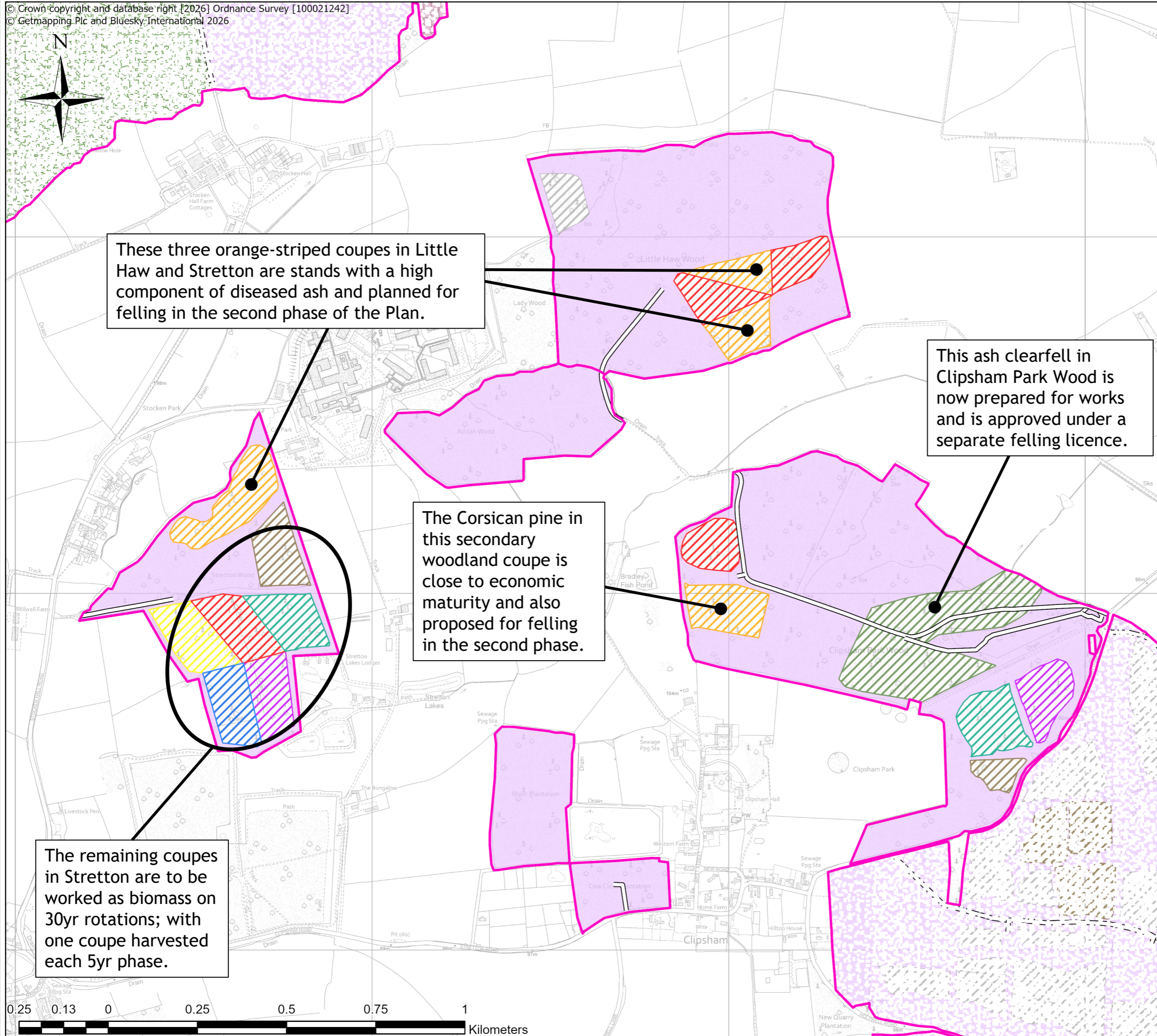
- Long Term Retention
- LISS & Open
- Coppice
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve





**Felling Phases Map
 (Little Haw, Stretton
 & Clipsham Park)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:10,000



These three orange-striped coupes in Little Haw and Stretton are stands with a high component of diseased ash and planned for felling in the second phase of the Plan.

This ash clearfell in Clipsham Park Wood is now prepared for works and is approved under a separate felling licence.

The Corsican pine in this secondary woodland coupe is close to economic maturity and also proposed for felling in the second phase.

The remaining coupes in Stretton are to be worked as biomass on 30yr rotations; with one coupe harvested each 5yr phase.

Bytham Woods FP Area

Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-2061
- Fell beyond 2062

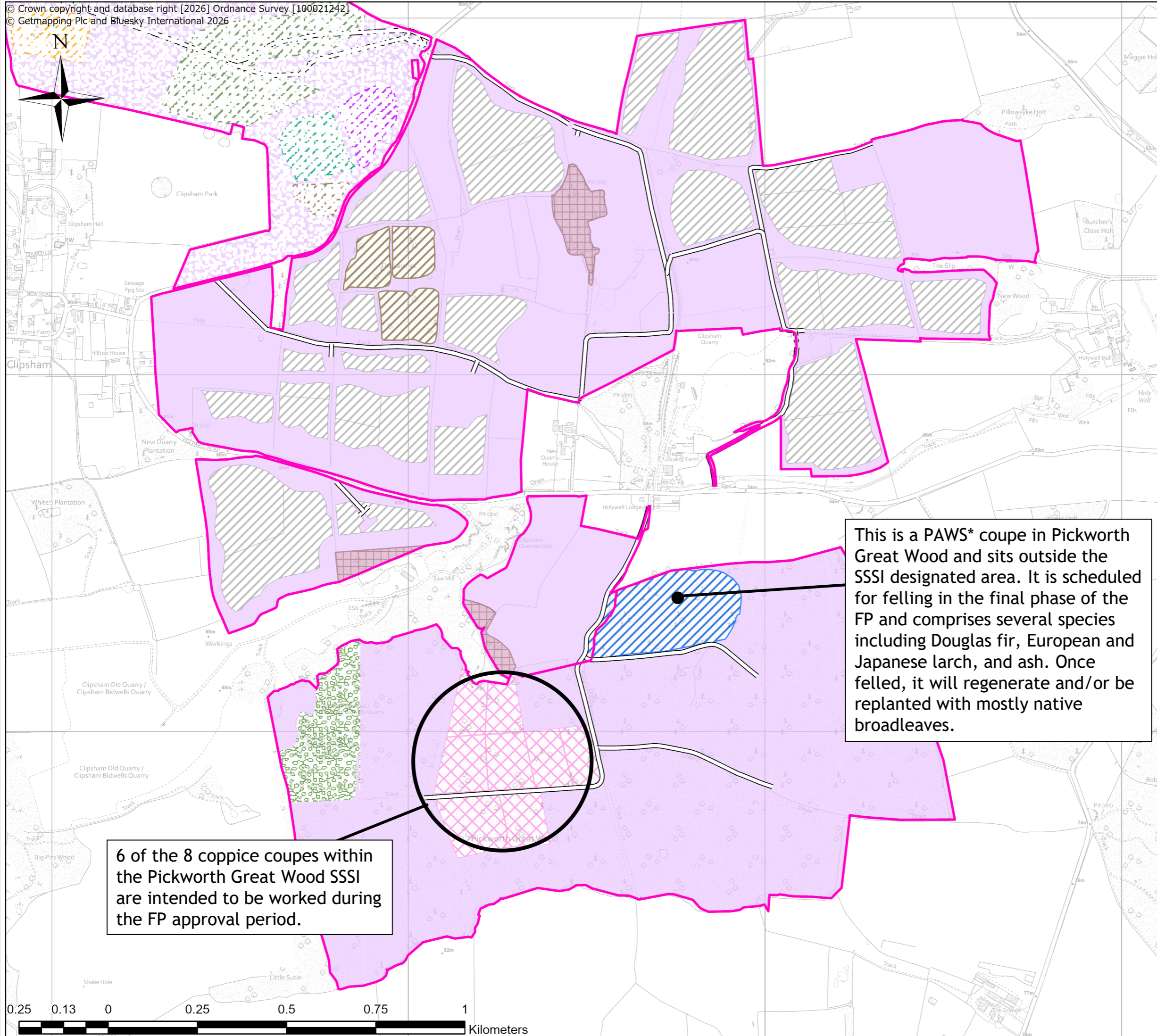
Non-clearfell Systems

- Long Term Retention
- LISS & Open
- Coppice
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve



**Felling Phases Map
 (Clipsham Coronation
 & Pickworth Great)**

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:10,000



Bytham Woods FP Area

Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-2061
- Fell beyond 2062

Non-clearfell Systems

- Long Term Retention
- LISS & Open
- Coppice
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve

This is a PAWS* coupe in Pickworth Great Wood and sits outside the SSSI designated area. It is scheduled for felling in the final phase of the FP and comprises several species including Douglas fir, European and Japanese larch, and ash. Once felled, it will regenerate and/or be replanted with mostly native broadleaves.

6 of the 8 coppice coupes within the Pickworth Great Wood SSSI are intended to be worked during the FP approval period.



Felling Phases Map (Greetham Near & Far & Osbonall)

Date: June 2026
 Scale @ A3: 1:10,000

There are no intended clearfells in Greetham Near, Greetham Far and Osbonall Wood (*nor Cabbagehill and Careby overleaf*). Management of these predominantly broadleaf woods will be through LISS*.

Bytham Woods FP Area

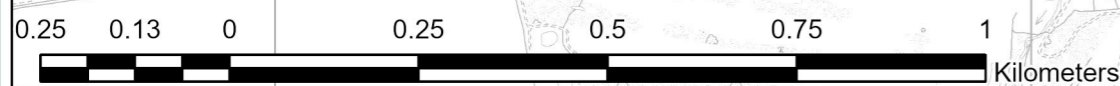
Forest Roads

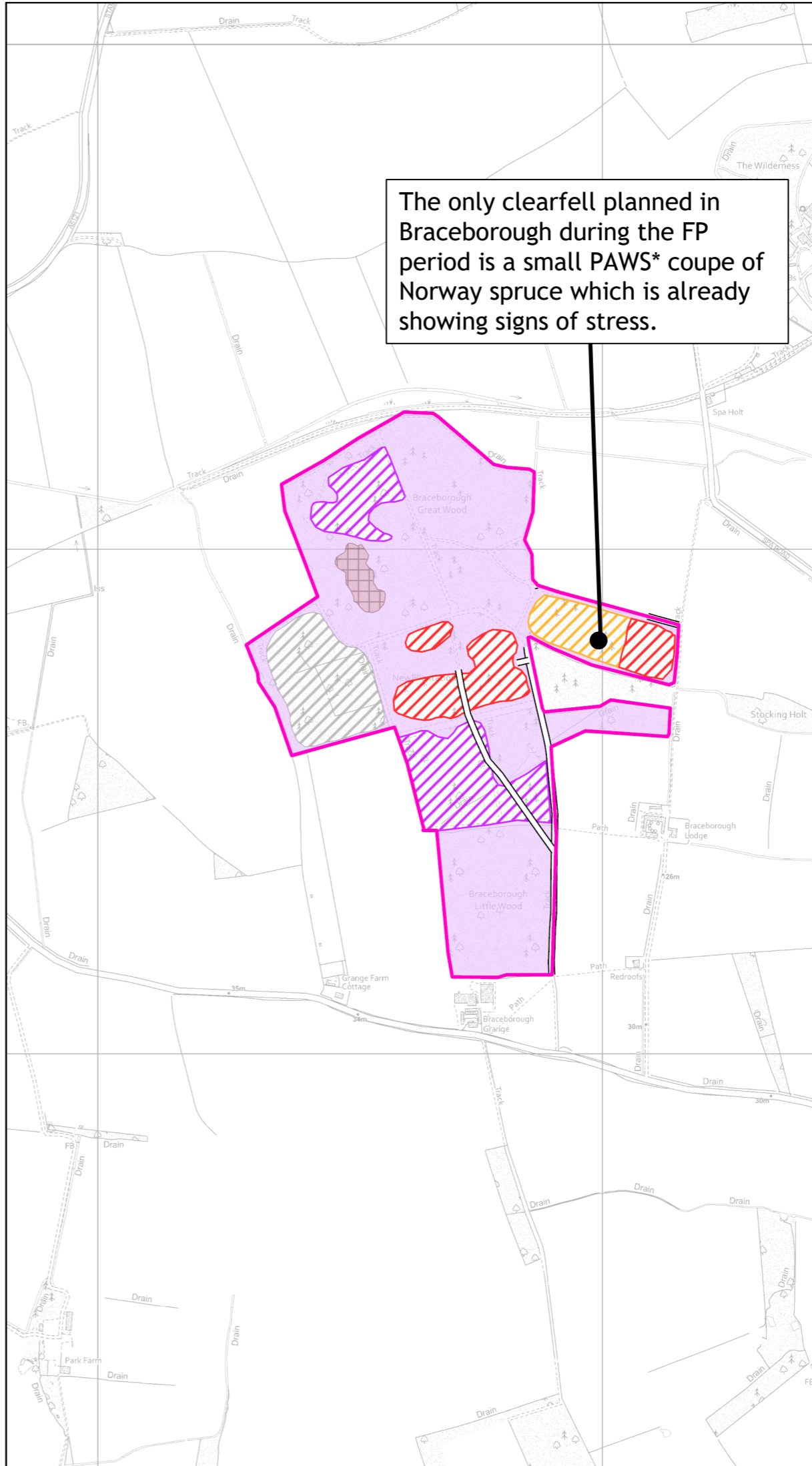
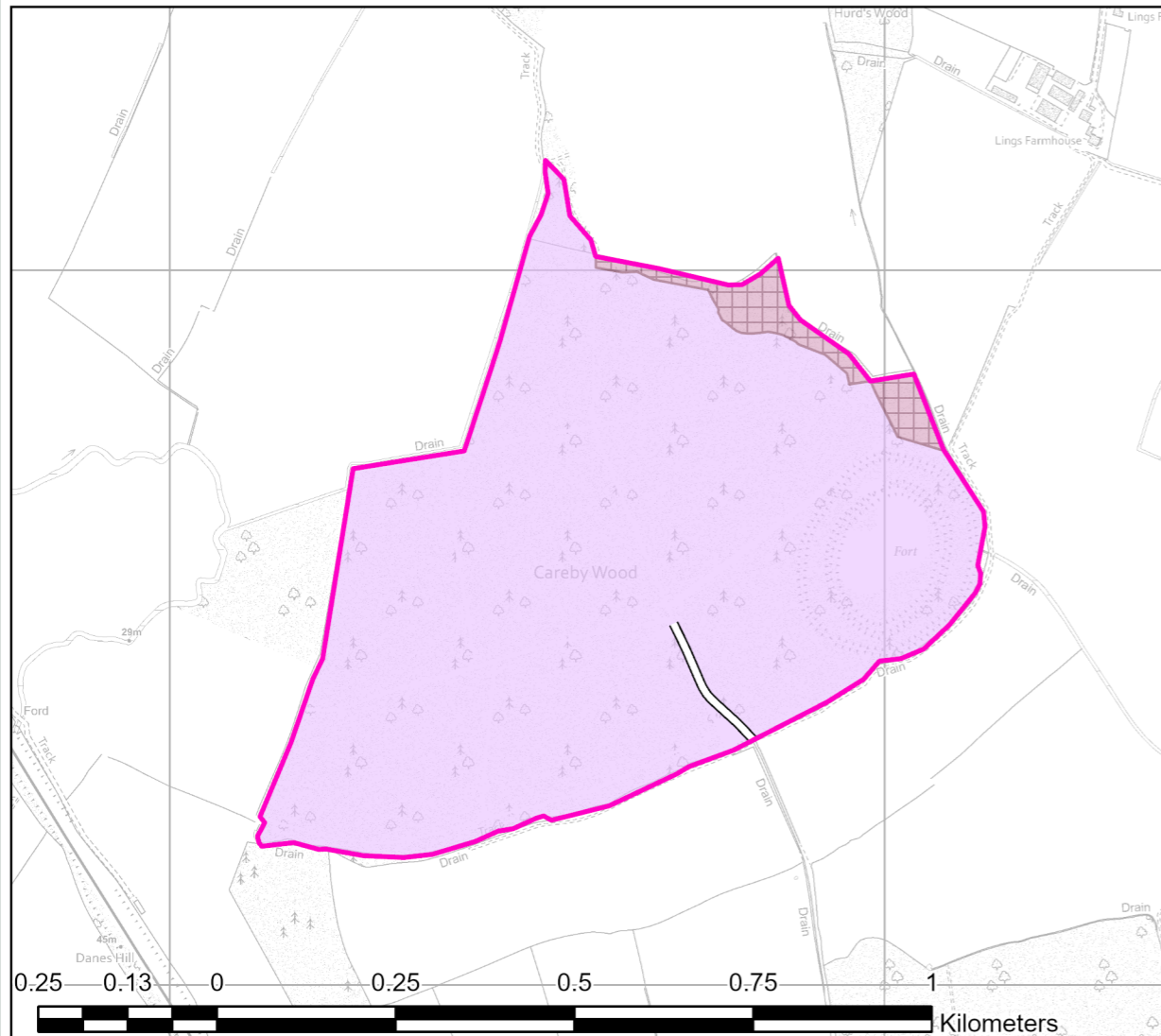
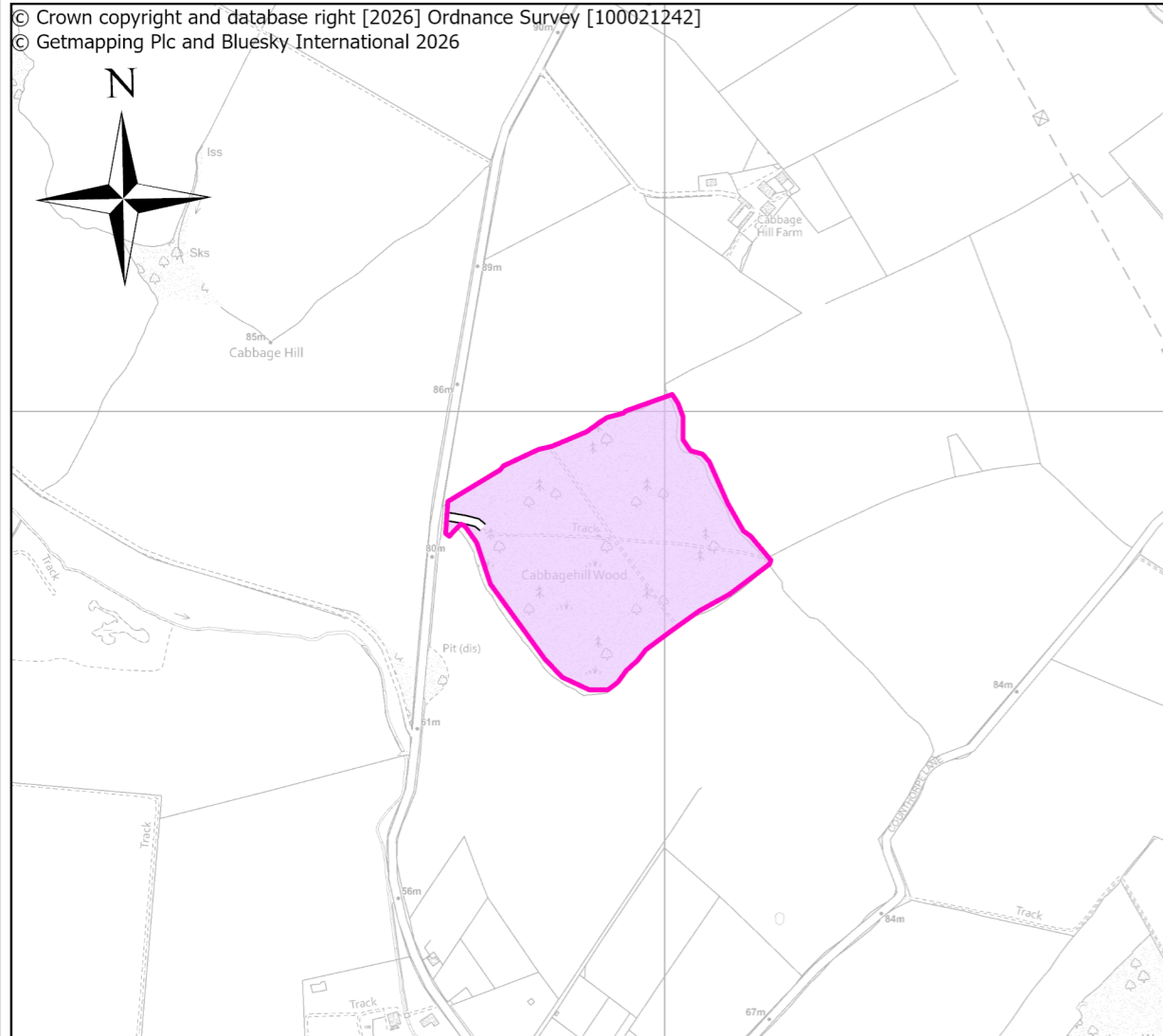
Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-2061
- Fell beyond 2062

Non-clearfell Systems

- Long Term Retention
- LISS & Open
- Coppice
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve





Felling Phases Map (Cabbagehill, Careby & Braceborough)


Date: June 2026
Scale @ A3: 1:10,000

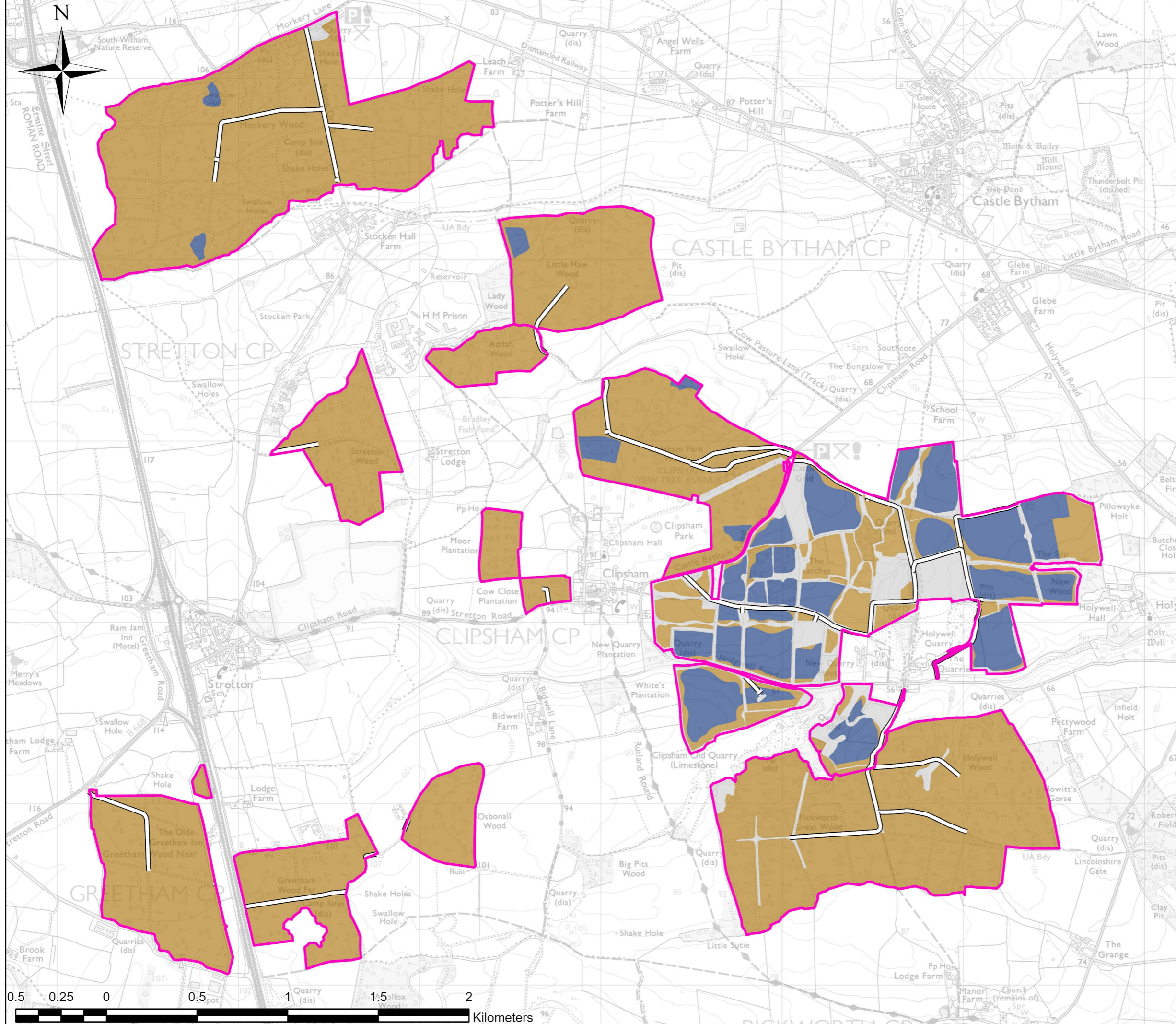
- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Forest Roads
- Clearfell Phase**
- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-2061
- Fell beyond 2062
- Non-clearfell Systems**
- Long Term Retention
- LISS & Open
- Coppice
- Minimum Intervention
- Natural Reserve

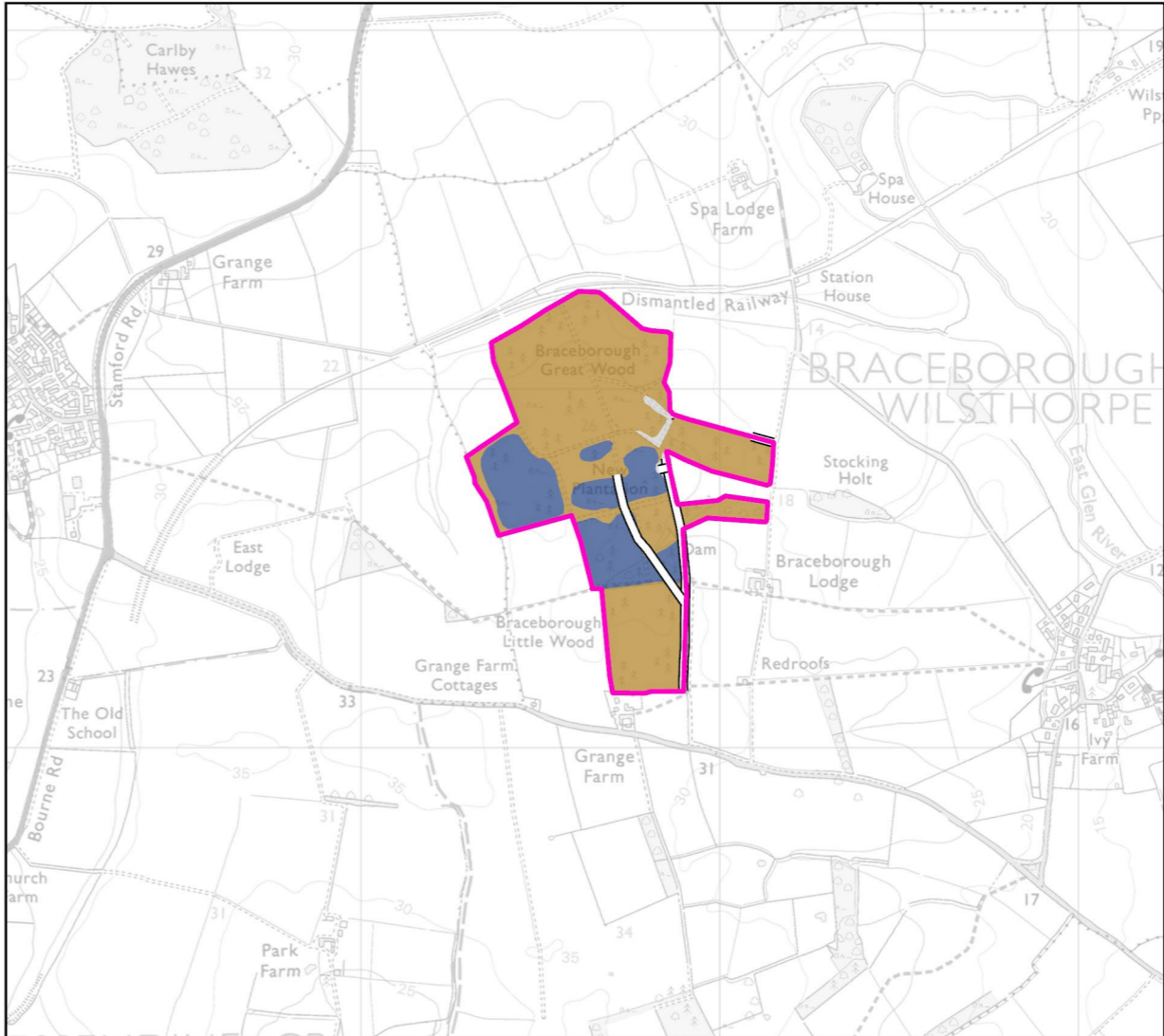
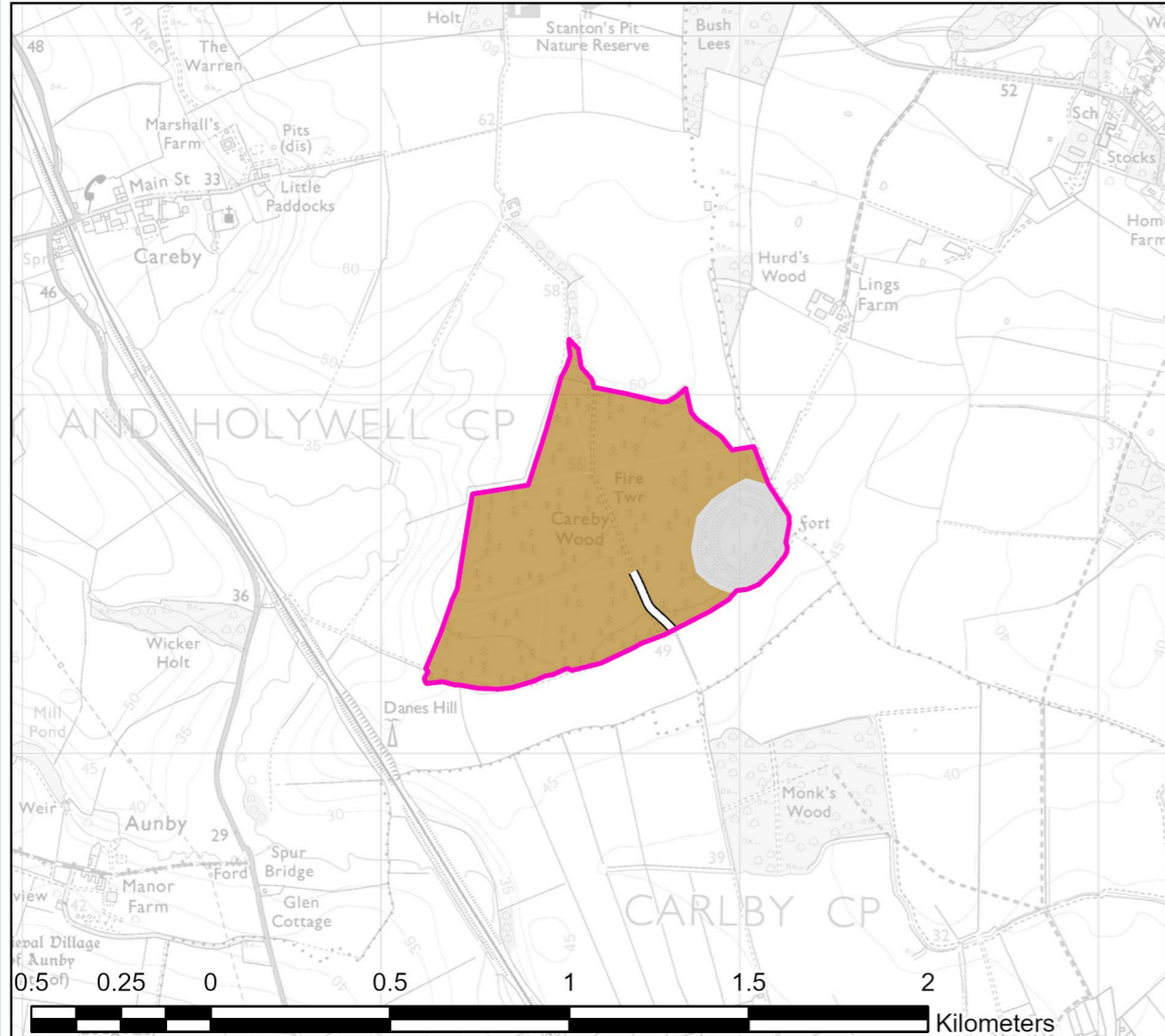
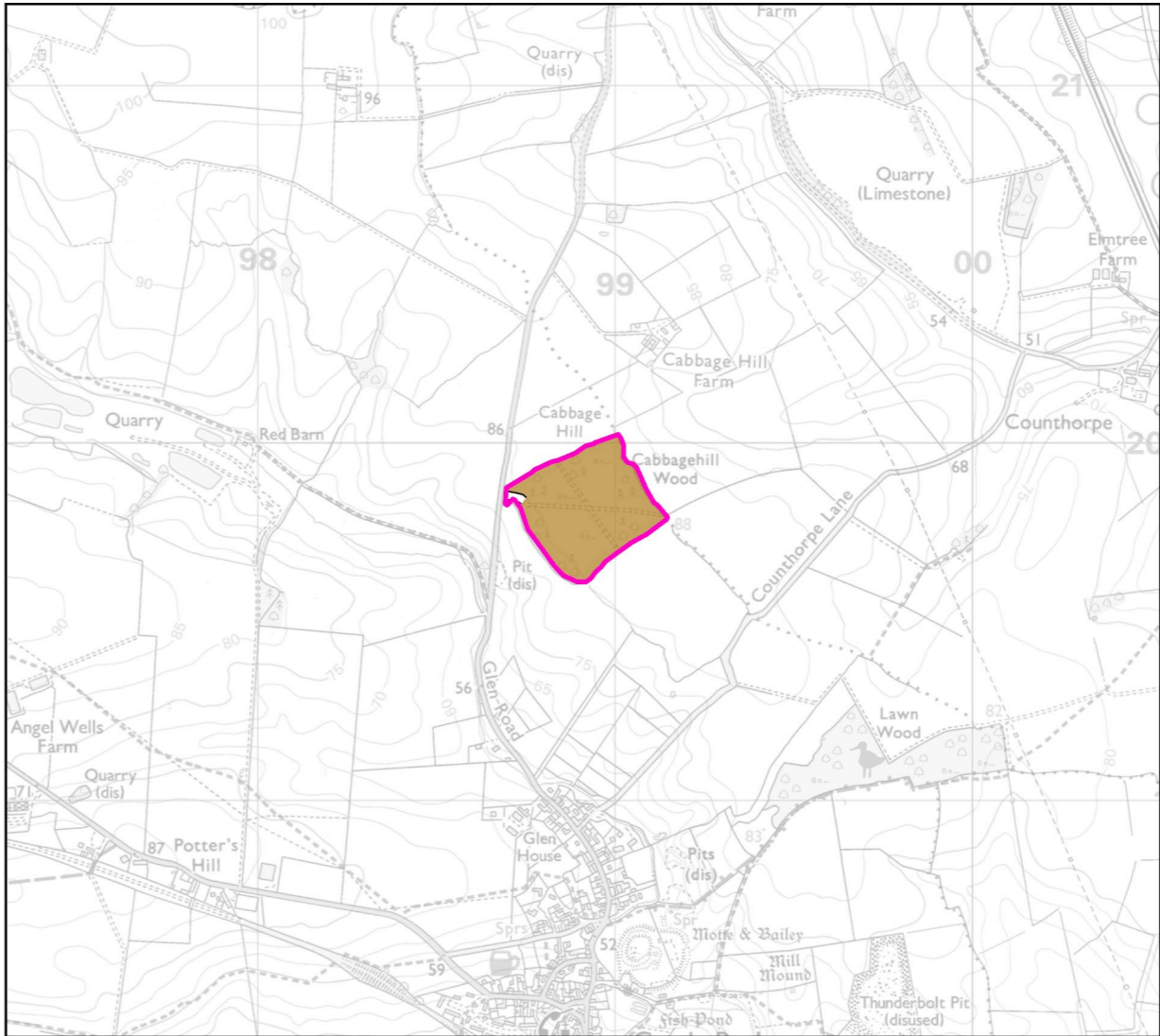
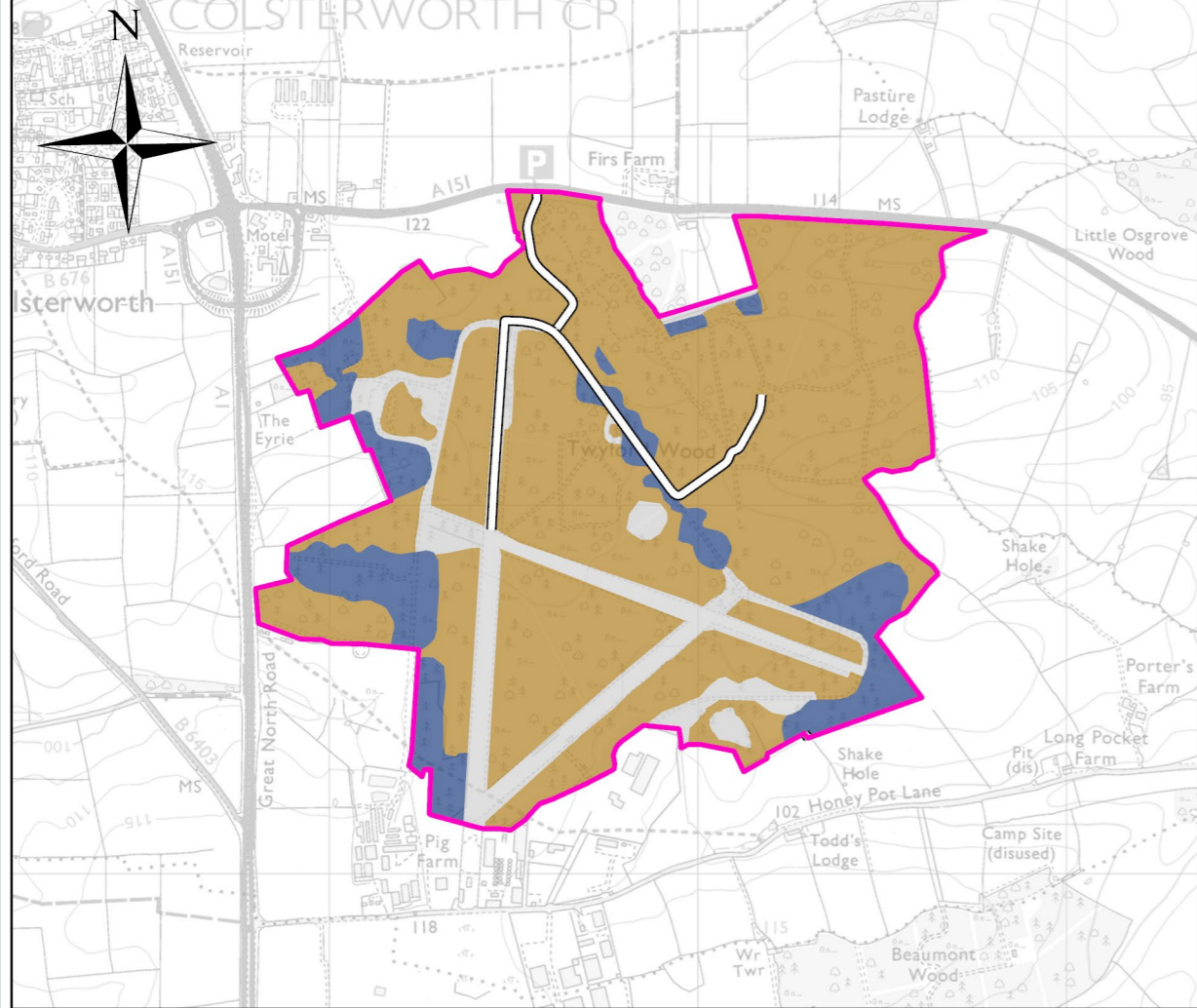


**Intended Landuse Map
(Core Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

-  Bytham Woods FP Area
-  Forest Roads
- Future Woodland Type**
 -  Broadleaf-dominated Woodland
 -  Conifer-dominated Woodland
 -  Open





**Intended Landuse Map
(Outlying Woodlands)**

Date: June 2026
Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

- Bytham Woods FP Area
- Forest Roads
- Future Woodland Type**
- Broadleaf-dominated Woodland
- Conifer-dominated Woodland
- Open



Glossary

Acute Oak Decline

Acute oak decline is a complex syndrome in which several damaging agents interact and cause a serious decline in tree condition and can kill oak trees within four to six years of the onset of symptoms. The agents can be abiotic or biotic; the latter often include insects and fungi which are not capable of invading healthy trees but which can be very destructive to stressed oaks. Symptoms include characteristic weeping cankers/lesions in the bark.

Ancient Woodland

Areas of semi-natural native woodland that have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600. They are particularly rich in biodiversity and this is often notable in their characteristic ground flora.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)

Ash dieback (also known as Chalara ash dieback) is a highly destructive fungus killing native ash trees across the UK. Young and coppiced trees will die quickly once infected, more mature ash may survive for a number of years once infected. Causes the timber to lose strength, become brittle and trees to start dropping limbs.

Aspect

The direction a slope faces. This can have a strong influence on the microclimate, ground vegetation, soils and hydrology.

Canopy

The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees. The shade it casts has a strong influence on the plants, trees and shrubs beneath it.

Carr Woodland

A wet woodland area, usually dominated by willow, birch and alder species.

Chronic Oak Decline

Chronic oak decline is a complex disorder of oak trees which several damaging agents interact either simultaneously or sequentially to bring about a serious, long-term decline in tree health and condition. It differs from acute oak decline (above), which causes a much faster, and usually fatal, decline in tree health.

Clearfelling

Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland, it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). A scatter or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.

Climax Species

Tree species that will eventually dominate the forest canopy, maximising their exposure to sunlight and out-competing other species.

Coppice

Coppicing is silvicultural system based on regeneration by regrowth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and regrowth. Coppice can also refer to an area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide wood products. 'Coppice with standards' refers to coppice with a scatter of trees grown on a long rotation to produce larger-sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.

Coupes

Areas of forest that have been or will be managed together.

Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)

DNB is a fungal disease affecting mainly pine species. The fungus affects the needles of the infected tree, which are eventually shed. This can continue year on year and gradually weaken the tree, significantly reducing timber yields. It can also eventually lead to mortality.

Ecological Site Classification (ESC)

ESC is an online tool developed by Forest Research

to help a forester choose tree species that are suited to a specific site. It models how well each species is likely to grow using information on climate and soil properties. It can also be used to forecast how climate change may impact suitability.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is an interconnected network formed of all the living things in a given area (plants, animals and organisms) and their interactions with each other and their non-living environments (eg: weather, earth, sun, soil & climate).

Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are the goods and services that people depend on that arise from ecosystems. They are usually categorised into Provisioning (eg: timber, water, food production), Regulating (eg: regulation of climate and diseases), Cultural (eg: recreational opportunities, aesthetic value) and Supporting services that underpin these (eg: crop pollination).

Forest Plan (FP)

A FP is primarily a landscape-scale felling and restocking plan. It provides a holistic, long-term approach to planning and forest design, detailing felling operations over a 10 year period for the purposes of licencing felling and outlining proposals over the next 50 years. FPs are reviewed every 5 years and redrawn and approved every 10 years.

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)

An internationally recognised body promoting sustainable forest management to the forest industry and consumers.

Forestry England

Forestry England is the executive agency of the Forestry Commission that is responsible for managing the Nation's Forests in England.



Forests and Water Guidelines

One of seven sets of guidelines that support the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS and guidelines outline the context for forestry in the UK; set out the UK Government's approach to sustainable forest management; define standards and requirements; and provide a basis for regulation and monitoring, including national and international reporting.

Group Selection

A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups. Group selection involves felling groups of trees (generally <0.25 ha per group).

Historic Environment

The physical remains of every period of human development starting from 450,000 years ago and including earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Ips typographus (larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle)

Although the beetle prefers stressed or weakened trees, under the right environmental conditions its numbers can increase enough to result in attacks on healthy trees. If left uncontrolled, the beetle could cause significant damage to the United Kingdom's spruce-based forestry and timber industries.

Landscape Character

England is renowned for its rich, diverse and beautiful landscapes which have their own distinct local characters. These have been shaped over many thousands of years by natural influences such as soil and landform and by generations of human activity.

Long Term Retention

Individual, stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond their normal economic age or size.

Lower Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS)

Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling,

coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems. LISS are generally compatible with windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.

Minimum intervention

Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally accepted are fencing, control of non-native plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work

National Character Area (NCA)

Broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

NNRs were established to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Most NNRs offer opportunities to the public to experience wildlife first hand and learn more about nature conservation.

Native

Native tree species colonised Britain without human assistance at the end of the last ice age, before the English Channel cut Britain off from mainland Europe.

Natural Regeneration

The growth of new trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees. Regeneration only occurs where suitable seed sources and conditions are present.

Natural Reserve

Natural Reserves are areas which are predominantly wooded, usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wild-life interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or

biodiversity value.

Naturalised

Naturalised trees have colonised Britain since the land divide with mainland Europe and are growing and reproducing successfully within their natural climatic range without human intervention.

Near Native / Honorary Native

In a changing climate many tree species native to continental Europe will spread north. These species are classified as 'honorary/near-native': a species previously considered to be non-native, but whose climate envelope will expand over England as a result of climate change.

Nest Planting

Trees planted in small groups which are distributed across the restock site with remaining unplanted areas left to naturally regenerate. A useful way to introduce new species or provenances to a site.

Notifiable Disease

Some tree pests and diseases are notifiable, which means that, in England, they must be reported to the Forestry Commission or Animal & Plant Health Agency. Notifiable tree pests and diseases are typically those with the potential to cause greatest damage to our trees, woods and forests.

Open Grown Trees

Trees that have been given space to develop a large crown and natural shape. In comparison trees planted closely in a plantation managed for timber or biomass tend to have a more uniform shape.

Open Space

Areas within a forest without trees, such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, water bodies, rocky areas, roads and rides.



Operational Plans

Detailed site plans prepared in advance of all major forest operations providing guidance to Forestry England staff and contractors. They identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Phytophthora ramorum

P.ramorum is a very destructive pathogen affecting over 150 plant species, particularly larch trees. Some broadleaved plants (such as sweet chestnut and rhododendron) can also host P.ramorum.

Phytophthora pluvialis

P.pluvialis was first recorded in the UK in 2021 and affects a range of species including Douglas fir and western hemlock.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)

Ancient Woodland areas where semi-natural woodland has been cleared and replaced by plantation, often including non-native species. PAWS sites can include both broadleaved and conifer woods and often retain remnant ancient woodland features like species-rich ground flora or undisturbed soils. Also known as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

Pollarding

A form of pruning where the upper branches of a tree are removed, promoting a dense head of foliage and branches. Cutting is usually around 2.4 metres above ground - the height that wild animals or domesticated stock could reach. Traditionally, trees were pollarded for fodder or for wood. Fodder pollards are generally pruned every two to six years, wood pollards at longer intervals, usually of eight to 15 years, to produce upright poles for eg: fence rails and posts.

Production Forecast

The projected volume of biomass that the forest will produce each year. Calculations are based on species, age, net area and yield class.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Access routes open to the public through legal designation. These include footpaths, by-ways and

bridleways.

Respacing

Thinning of dense natural regeneration at a young age (generally when trees are 2-5m tall) to produce a more consistent crop, focus available resources on the remaining trees and promote good development.

Restocking

The establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration, but it is more usually associated with replanting.

Ride

Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland which provide access for management and other activities.

Scheduled Monument

A scheduled monument is a site that is legally protected because of its historical importance.

Secondary Woodland

Woodland that has been established on land formerly used for another purpose (eg: as pasture, arable fields, quarries, etc.). Unlike ancient woodland it has not been continuously wooded in the past.

Seed Trees

Trees with good shape and growth rates chosen to produce seed for restocking. Seed trees need to be of an age and size where they produce fertile seeds in large quantities.

Selective Felling (Regeneration Felling)

Where individual trees of varying sizes are selected and removed from a stand. The whole stand is worked and the aim is to maintain full stocking of all tree sizes and ages, from seedlings to mature trees, in any one area.

Semi-natural woodland

Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland.

Shade tolerant species

Trees that have adapted to lower light levels and will regenerate and establish freely under the shade of the surrounding tree canopy, as opposed to light demanding species which require full sun/high light levels to establish and grow.

Shelterwood

The shelterwood system involves the felling of a proportion of the mature trees within an area whilst leaving some trees as a seed source and shelter for natural regeneration. The seed trees are subsequently removed. Note that the term 'seed tree system' is often used to describe 'shelterwoods' with densities of <50 retained mature trees per hectare.

The spatial arrangement of the retained trees can be uniform, in groups, or in strips, so giving rise to the name of different shelterwood systems. The removal of the seed trees can involve several felling operations

Silvicultural Systems

Silviculture is the process of tending, harvesting and regenerating a forest. Different patterns of felling and regeneration form distinct 'silvicultural systems'. Different systems may be suitable for different management objectives (eg: conservation in an ancient woodland vs timber production in a conifer plantation).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A SSSI is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that is of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiographical features that may lie in its boundaries.

Small Coupe Felling

A small-scale clearfelling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically up to 2 ha in extent, with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high.



Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

SACs are protected areas in the UK designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales. These areas form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving Annex I and Annex II habitats and species.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

SPAs are protected areas selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or specific regularly occurring migratory species. They form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving important habitats and species.

Strategic Plan

Forestry England's stated priorities which are to be delivered across an extensive landscape, such as a District or nation-wide, which then informs the vision and objectives of a Forest Plan at a more local scale.

Strip Felling

Strip felling involves removal of some trees in rows, leaving strips of mature trees in place rather than clearfelling a crop in one operation. This creates space between remaining trees suitable for planting new trees (especially species that require sheltered growing conditions) and maintains woodland cover while new trees are established. The width of strips may vary and multiple strips are removed from one stand at a time.

Sub-compartments

Areas of forest that form a homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. They may be split across several locations and their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

The nation's forests

The woodlands managed by Forestry England. These include both freehold and leasehold land. (Previously referred to as the Public Forest Estate.)

Thinning

The removal of a proportion of trees in a forest after canopy closure, usually to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.

Trees of Special Interest (TSI)

Trees that are of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, or trees that are in the ancient stage of their life, or trees that are old relative to others of the same species. Also referred to as Veteran or Ancient trees.

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)

Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)

A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of sustainable forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests.

Understorey Woodland Species

Minor tree species that live under top canopy trees or are 'pioneer' species that arrive in clearings before climax species become established. Once the overstorey is established understorey species are more common on woodland edges and clearings where light levels are higher.

Wood Pasture

Areas of historical, cultural and ecological interest, where grazing may be/have been used in combination with a proportion of open tree canopy cover

Yield Class

Yield class is a measure of the growth rate of a tree crop on a given site. It describes the maximum average volume increase that a particular crop can achieve on 1 ha of land each year. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual growth of 14 m³ per hectare has a yield class of 14. Yield Class varies depending on factors including the species, how it is managed and local site conditions.

Contact information

Forest Planning
Central England Forest District

Forestry England
Sherwood Pines
King's Clipstone
Mansfield
NG21 9JL

