



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland near Clipsham in Rutland & Lincolnshire

We are planting new woodlands to expand the nation's forests

We are working on designs for a new woodland straddling the Rutland and Lincolnshire border, next to the village of Clipsham, which will adjoin Pickworth Great Wood and Clipsham Park Woods. We would like your comments and feedback on our initial proposals. Your feedback will inform our final designs for the woodland.

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.

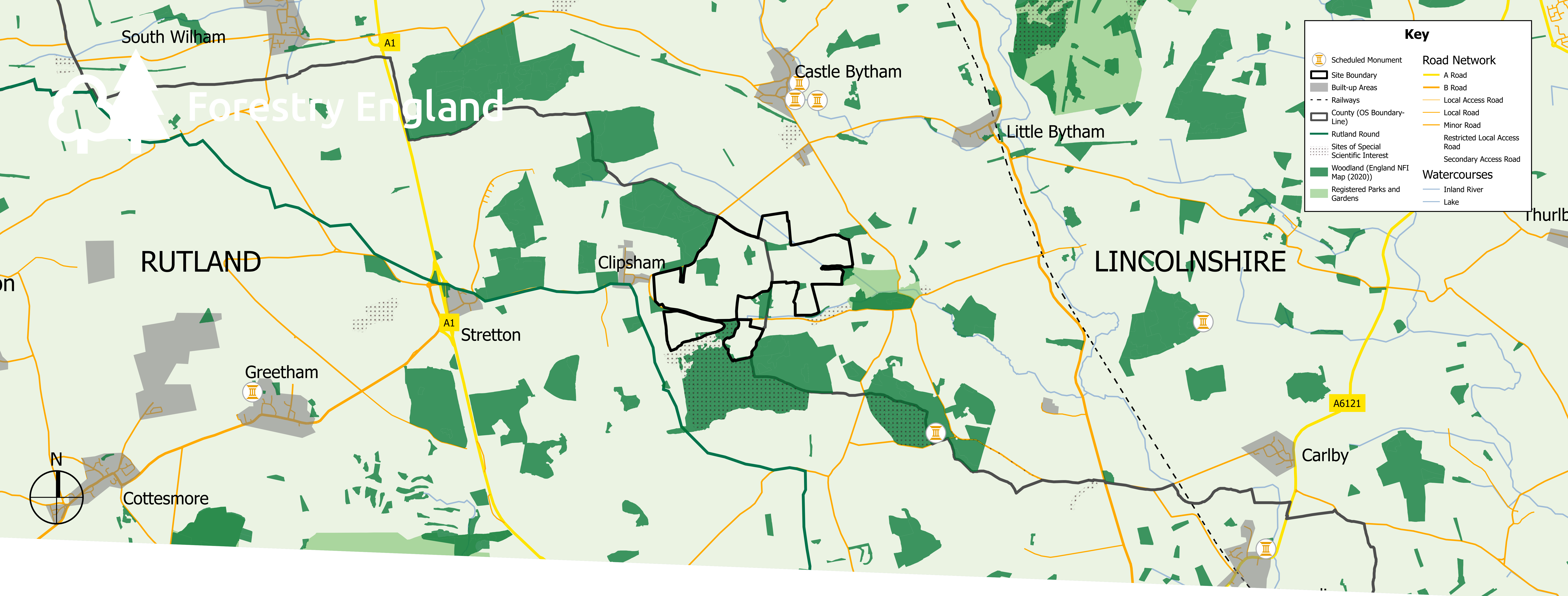
Our plans are part of the government's commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by the end of this parliament, supported by the Nature for Climate Fund. We aim to plant at least 2,000 hectares of new, high-quality woodlands across England.

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

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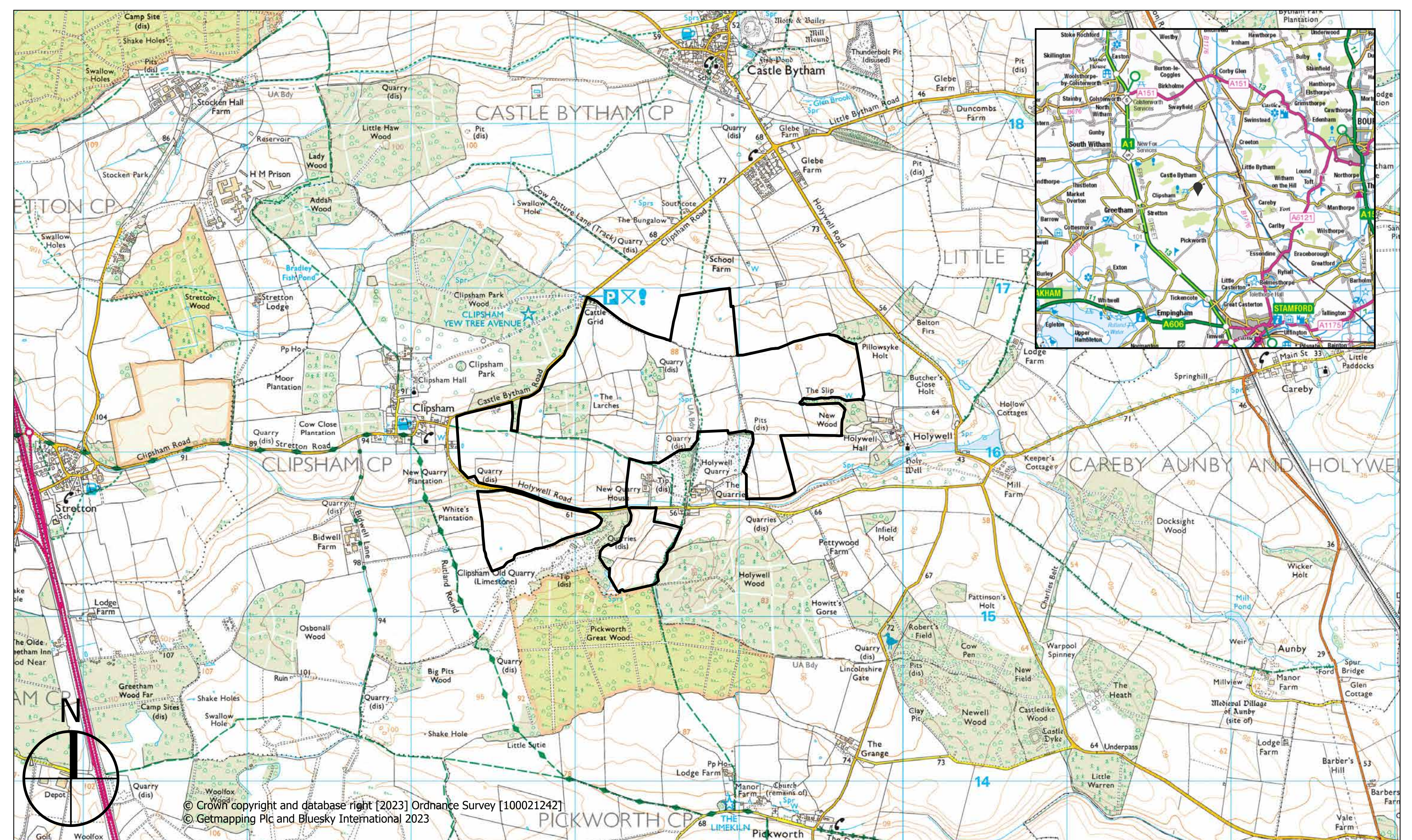




Site Location & Context

The proposed new woodland straddles the Rutland and Lincolnshire border, close to the Village of Clipsham with Clipsham Park Wood to the North and Pickworth Great Wood to the South.

It lies within Natural England’s National Character Area (NCA) 75 Kesteven Uplands. The medium scale landscape has a complex pattern of geometric but irregular arable fields with some pasture interspersed with frequent woodlands from small to medium scale. There are designed landscapes at Clipsham and Holywell Hall (Registered Park & Garden). Clipsham Old Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) adjoins the two southern blocks of the site and Holywell Bank SSSI lies to the south of the main block.



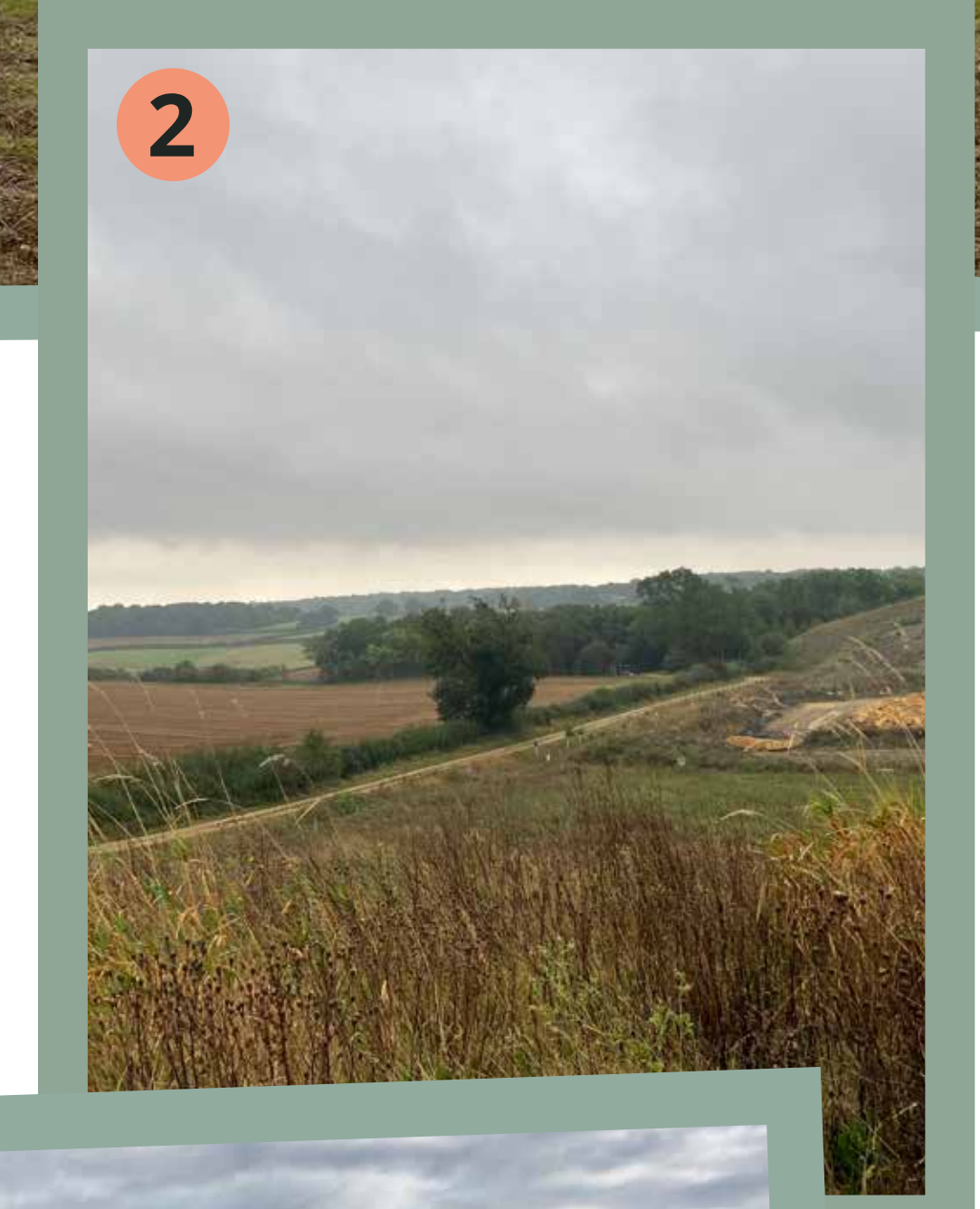


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The existing site

The gently undulating site is a mixture of arable and pasture farmland with small pockets of mixed and conifer woodland. There are a number of ponds, including a man-made pond near the centre of the site. Mature hedgerows as field boundaries are characteristic of this area. Areas of good quality semi-improved grassland and calcareous grassland have been identified within the site where land has been grazed.

Overhead powerlines are a strong linear feature across this farmland. Adjacent to the site are two working quarries, both dominant features in the landscape. There are a number of historic features within the site including evidence of an Iron Age enclosure and a Roman Villa.



1: Panoramic view south overlooking arable fields, hedgerows and Pickworth Great Wood in the distance. 2: View southeast from Quarry bund towards Pickworth Great Wood. 3: Glade within existing woodland 'The Larches'. 4: View east from the footpath leaving Clipsham Village. 5: View north from fields south of Holywell Road.



Types of woodland we could plant



1 Scots Pine with Red Oak



2 Norway Maple with Sycamore and Big Leaf Maple



3 Douglas Fir and Dawn Redwood



4 Aspen, Wild Service Tree, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Hazel



5 Shrubs including Guelder Rose, Spindle, Elder, Alder Buckthorn, Hazel



6 Dawn Redwood, Giant Redwood, Sycamore



7 Common Alder research plot

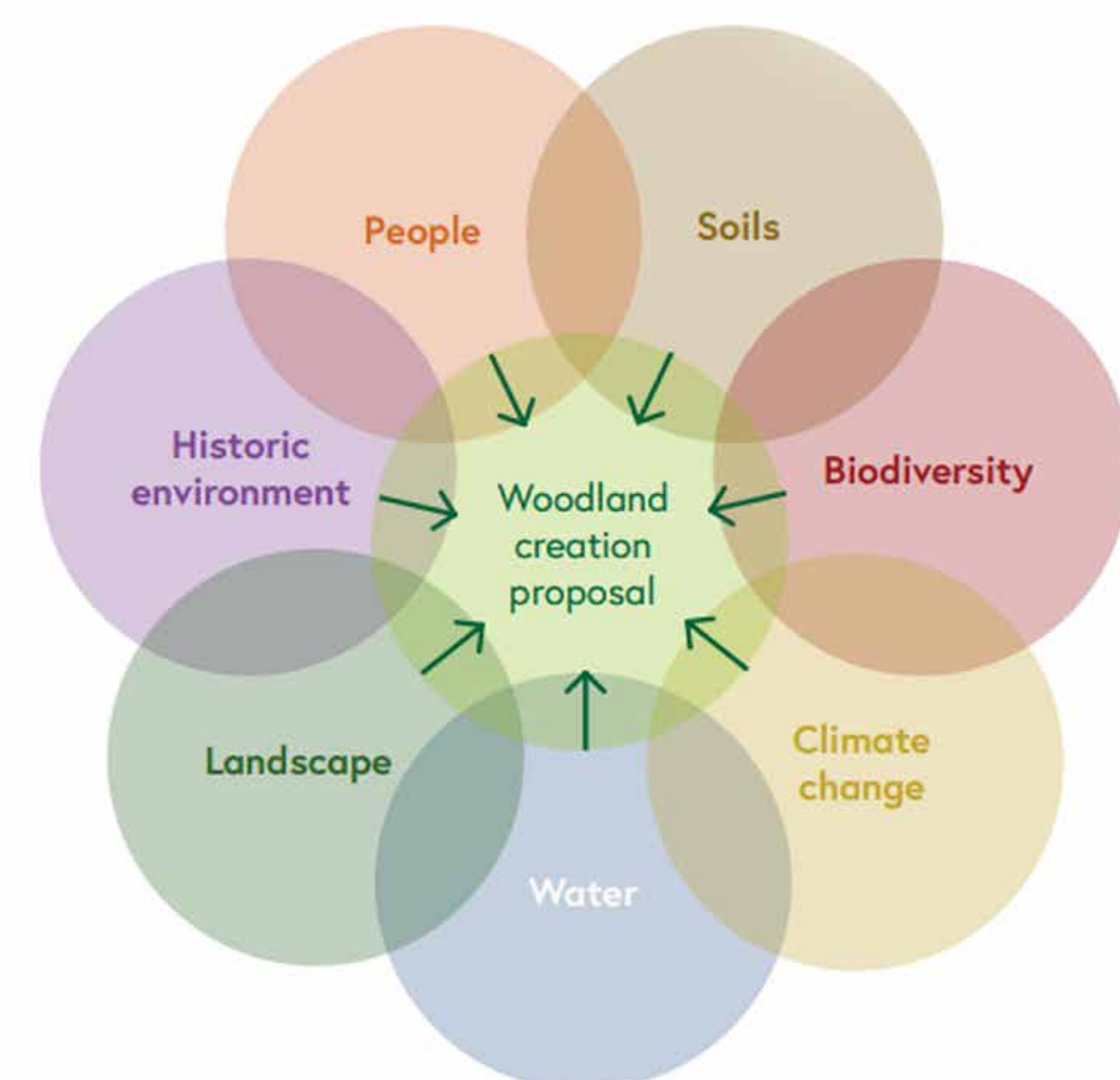


8 Silver Birch, Small-leaved Lime, Aspen

Draft Design

How we design new woodland

We are designing the new woodland with a natural capital approach, with benefits for people, wildlife and the wider landscape. Our designs meet the UK Forestry Standard, which takes into account the following elements (Forestry Commission, 2021):



Detailed desktop surveys, site surveys and analysis have and will inform our design, this research includes:

- Preliminary ecological appraisal (Spring 2023 & 2024)
- Breeding bird survey
- Natural Vegetation Classification
- Hedgerow Survey (Spring 2024)
- Historic Environment Records
- Geophysical Surveys
- Landscape Appraisal
- Local Environment Records
- Soil Mapping
- Ecological Site Classification
- Climate matching tools
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

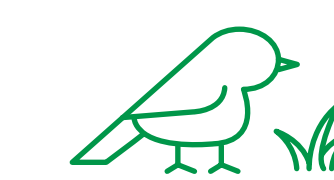
Objectives for the new woodland



Future forest resources and resilience: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of FSC and PEFC certified sustainable timber. Incorporate seed stands and research plots, helping to secure future supply of climate resilient tree species.



Sequester carbon: support Government net zero emissions targets by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios.



Retain and Manage Important Habitats: Link adjacent ancient woodlands at a landscape scale to improve habitat connectivity. Maintain ponds and hedges and create open space within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.



Benefits for the wider landscape: help to reduce soil erosion and flooding, and improve the soil and air quality.



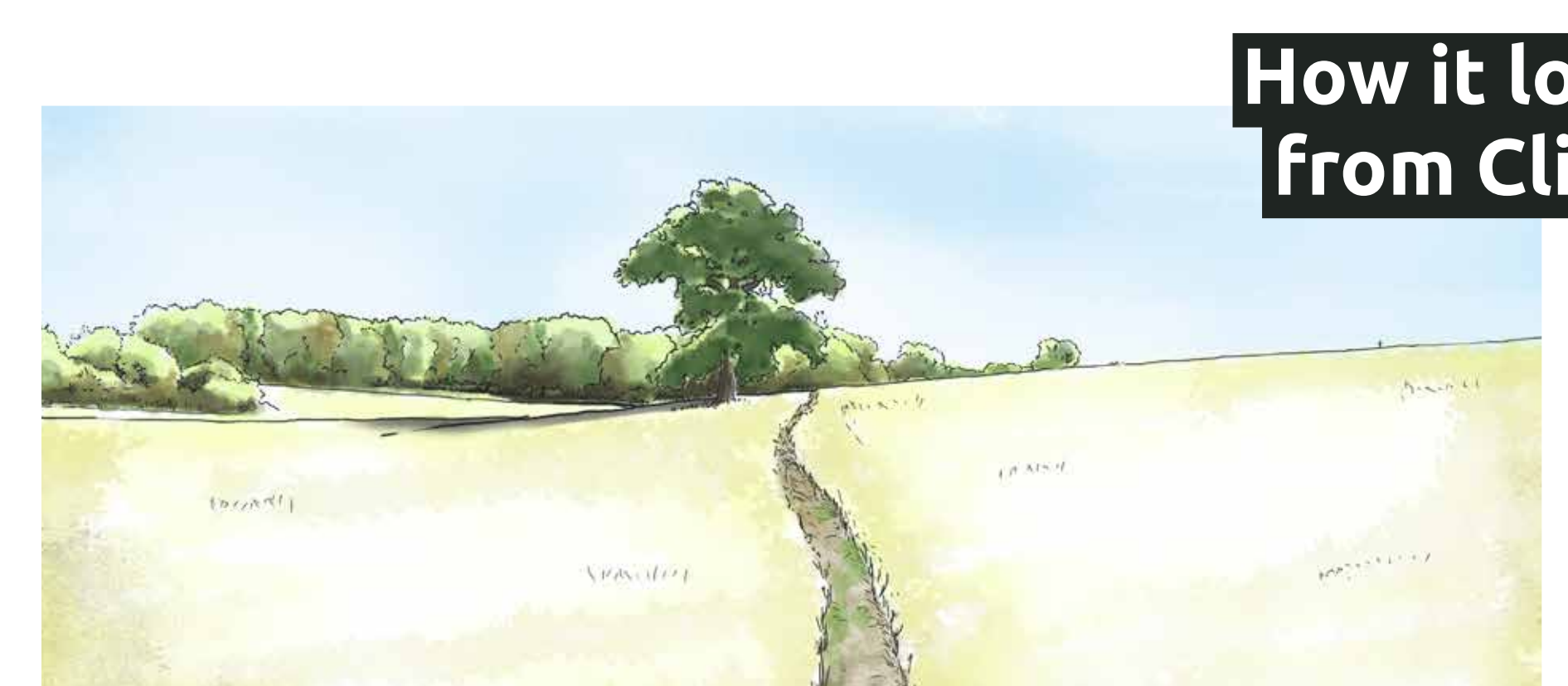
Public access for health and wellbeing: create low-key public recreation opportunities by increasing access to the countryside



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Plant shrubs and lower density broadleaf edges close to Clipsham, maintaining the view from the public footpath to the veteran Oak tree. Retain open space where priority habitat and heritage features have been identified.
- Create ecological links by connecting broadleaf habitat in Clipsham Park Wood, Pickworth Great Woods (ASNW) and Holywell Hall Registered Park and Garden.
- Provide visual diversity in the landscape by planting a mix of conifer, broadleaf and conifer/broadleaf mixes as well as native tree and shrub mixes.
- Include a seed stand to ensure the future supply of climate resilient trees.
- Create a circular route linked to the Public Rights of Way, complimenting the existing footpaths and informal access on surfaced forest roads and grass rides.



How it looks now from Clipsham



How it could look after planting



How it could look in 20 years



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Clipsham Park
Wood & Yew
Tree Avenue

Holywell Hall
Registered Park
& Garden

Clipsham
Village

Pickworth
Great Wood

Key

□ Site Boundary	--- Public Rights of Way	▨ Research and Trial Plots
● Existing Trees	— Existing Track	■ Broadleaf Woodland
— Existing Hedgerows	--- Overhead Power Lines	■ Coniferous Woodland
■ Existing Ponds	- - - Proposed Surfaced Route	■ Low Density Planting
⊕ Potential Public Access to Future Car Park	--- Proposed Trails	■ Mixed Woodland
▲ Potential Operational Access	--- Possible Location of Future Car Park (subject to local need and surveys)	▨ Shrub Edge
--- Potential Future Access to Pickworth Great Wood	■ Pond to be Restored to Natural Wetland Landscape	▨ Plant & Seed Supply
▲ Pedestrian Access		▨ Sites of Special Scientific Interest



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/clipsham-coronation-wood>

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

- woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by Sunday 24th March 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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How we have incorporated your early engagement into our designs

We invited local people to share their initial views about our plans to create a new woodland near Clipsham. We've set out below our response to the key themes and how the proposals cover these:

Public access

The new woodland at Clipsham will be open to the public.

The proposed provision of new trails has been designed for local people to enjoy the site whilst being mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic.

Existing Public Rights of Way, stone vehicle tracks and unsurfaced grass rides will provide access for pedestrians throughout much of the new wood, with a short circular route proposed from Clipsham village for visitors to enjoy.

Our draft design includes open spaces and glades that will provide peaceful picnic spots.

We are carefully considering where we can afford to spend our limited money for the best benefit, so our proposals do not include surfacing sections of the unsurfaced bridleway.

We hope to host a community planting day when we begin planting the new woodland for local people to join in creating this special place.

Traffic and parking

So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use an existing access point to the north of Clipsham off Castle Bytham Road to manage the main site. For land south of Holywell Road, we are exploring the possibility of creating a new access from the road or using the existing access.

To plant and manage this woodland, forestry vehicles will use routes we already use to manage and maintain woodlands next door.

It will be about 10-20 years before any timber can be harvested from the site.

Transport routes for the sustainable timber will be agreed with the local highways authority as required.

Our draft design includes a small car park to the south of Castle Bytham Road. This would need funding and planning permission to go ahead.

Views and neighbouring properties

The design sensitively considers how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours. The design includes open space closest to properties with shrubs and low-density broadleaf trees before the main woodland. We will have more broadleaf species in these areas because they are shorter than some conifer species, generally live longer and need managing less often.

We clearly heard that it is important to have views from the public footpaths within and around the site. Where possible, our design will frame and enhance existing views and we will establish open spaces between the new woodland and key viewpoints.

Wildlife and archaeology

We want to keep existing hedgerows, which we will survey over the coming year.

Our design keeps open spaces to protect and maintain the archaeological features and existing important habitats.

Our design takes account of other important designations. For example a strip of broadleaf trees has been included in the areas closest to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Our breeding bird survey that followed British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) guidelines found 48 bird species on site. The new woodland is likely to benefit species such as the green woodpecker, mistle thrush, yellowhammer and willow warbler.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

Without predators, deer populations can become unnaturally large and their browsing can damage young trees.

We will use deer fencing to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in smaller areas.

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.

Deer fencing will be removed after trees become established.

Tree Choices and Species

Using a mix of tree and shrub species will also help make the wood resilient to climate change and tree diseases and support a wider range of wildlife.

Some areas will be planted with a mix of trees, including broadleaved trees and conifers. This will complement the local landscape, provide seasonal colour for visitors and increase resilience.

One of our main priorities is to grow a sustainable supply of timber to meet increasing demands for renewable materials. Fast-growing softwoods like Scots pine, Douglas fir, spruce and Loblolly pine will be planted, along with smaller areas of less common species expected to grow well in our warming climate. Conifers will also provide year-round woodland cover for wildlife. In decades to come, the timber from these could be used for things like building materials or fences.

We will also plant large areas with broadleaved trees including birch, field maple, Rauli beech, wild service and red oak. These will connect existing broadleaved woodland in Pickworth Great Wood, Holywell Wood and Clipsham Park, providing new corridors for wildlife to move. Native trees and shrubs will be especially valuable next to important habitats such as ancient woodland, streams and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Most areas of broadleaved trees will also be managed to produce timber, helping fund ongoing

management of the site and maintaining a mosaic of habitats as our new woodland matures.

Around 20% of the trees we want to plant are native and the site will also feature 'near-natives' such as sycamore, walnut and Norway maple which are already naturalised or likely to adapt to climate change. The non-native trees have been carefully chosen to provide a sustainable timber crop, improve resilience of the woodland to climate change and increase biodiversity.

What is a Seed Stand

Seed stands are trees specially grown to collect their seeds for growing new trees. The seed stand trees are managed for seed production and collection, much like a fruit orchard.

The trees in the stand are kept low, about 6ft, and are gradually thinned out to have wider space between them. This makes the trees easier to pick from and helps produce more seed.

We plan to plant Norway maple, hornbeam, wild service tree, Atlas cedar and Macedonian pine to provide a future supply of seeds.

What are the research trials you are planning?

To keep our forests resilient to climatic changes, we need to plan now for what trees and mixtures of species we will be planting in the future.

We will test seed from some common tree species that we could continue to plant in the future, collected from different locations with differing climate conditions. Where seed comes from is known as its provenance. For example, we will compare trees adapted to milder, wetter conditions with those from warmer, drier regions to identify any obvious differences.

We are planning to have some small provenance trials of birch, alder and spruce at Clipsham. This will help identify local varieties of tree species which might be expected to survive and thrive in an altered, future climate.

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