

For external consultation May - July 2024

Haughmond and Shawbury Forest Plan

2024-2034

Reference OP10/10

Rachel Giles
Summer 2024



The mark of
responsible forestry

Forestry England
forests and woodlands
have been certified in
accordance with the UK
Woodland Assurance
Standard (UKWAS)



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Application for Forest Plan approval Haughmond and Shawbury - Summer 2024

Forest district	West England Forest District
Woodland or property name	Haughmond and Shawbury
Nearest town, village or locality	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
OS grid reference	Centre of Haughmond is at SJ 5417 1421 Centre of Shawbury is at SJ 5407 2026
Local authority	Shropshire Council Shawbury, Astley, Upton Magna and Uffington Parish Councils

Plan area	312 hectares
Conifer felling	39.02 hectares
Broadleaf felling	0 hectares

- 1) I apply for Forest Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.
- 2) I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the consultation record attached, incorporated those stakeholders that the FC agreed must be included. Where it has not been possible to resolve specific issues associated with the Plan to the satisfaction of consultees, this is highlighted in the consultation record.
- 3) I confirm that the proposals contained in this Plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
- 4) I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed... **signature**

Kevin Stannard, Forestry England Forest Management Director

Date... **date**

Signed..... Forestry Commission Area Director

Date of approval.....

Date approval ends.....

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About the Forest Plan

Forest plans define the long-term vision for our forests and set out how our management will move towards achieving this vision. They focus on the main features of each woodland, in particular the species and structural composition and biodiversity interests, and set out proposals for how we will manage them to increase resilience, productivity and value for wildlife and people in the future.

Forestry England vision

Forestry England is the country's largest land manager.

Our purpose is to secure and grow the social, economic and natural capital value of the nation's forests.

The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

Our vision for wildlife...

The nation's forests provide the most valuable places for wildlife to thrive and expand in England.

Our vision for people...

The nation's forests are a living treasure for all, deeply connected to people's lives improving the health and wellbeing of the nation.

Our vision for climate...

The nation's forests are resilient to climate change, increasing their value for communities by producing high-quality, sustainable timber and absorbing carbon emissions.

The above is taken from 'Growing the future: 2021-2026':

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/growing-the-future>

For more information about who we are and what we do, please visit:

<https://www.forestryengland.uk>

For an explanation of some of the terms used in this Forest Plan, see [pages 21-22](#).

About Haughmond and Shawbury

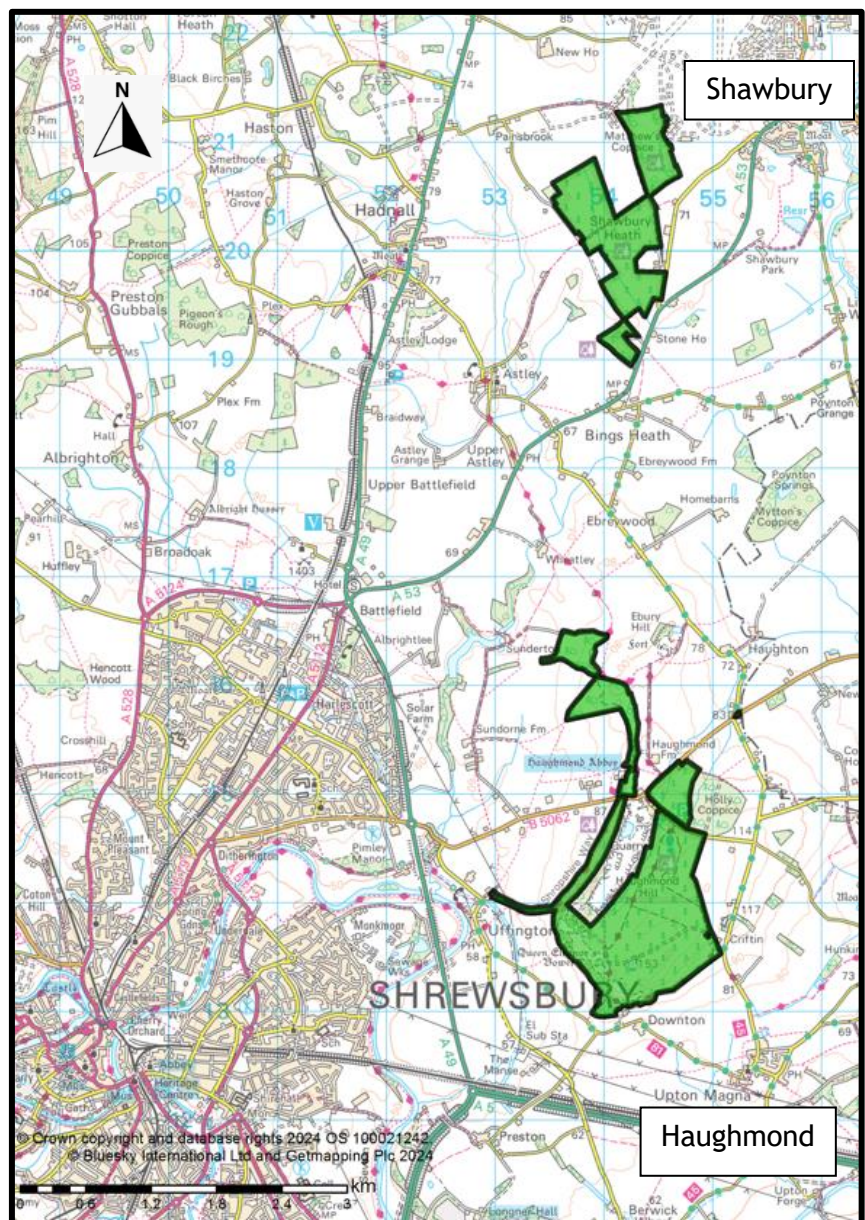
Location

The forest plan area known by Forestry England as ‘Haughmond and Shawbury’ consists of two separate blocks of woodland - Haughmond Hill and Shawbury Heath (Figure 1).

Both lie within 6 miles of the centre of Shrewsbury in Shropshire - Haughmond to the east and Shawbury to the northeast. Together they cover 312 hectares (Haughmond 210ha; Shawbury 102ha).

Figure 1
Location of the
Haughmond and
Shawbury Forest
Plan area

Forestry England
land is shown in
green



Landscape

The forest on Haughmond Hill is prominent in an otherwise mainly flat agricultural landscape, and can be seen from viewpoints along the A49 and A5. Shawbury is flat and therefore less visible in the wider landscape.

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, many authorities carried out extensive research into local landscapes - mapping the various landscape types and describing the combinations of elements and features that make them distinctive. Shropshire County Council published ‘The Shropshire Landscape Typology’ in 2006. In this document, Haughmond Hill sits in the wooded hills and farmlands category (“rolling hills with large blocks of woodland and a patchwork of ancient fields, scattered farms and cottages”, with “limited areas of unimproved rough grassland and heathland on the western side of Haughmond Hill”), whereas Shawbury falls under the enclosed lowland heaths landscape type (“lowland landscapes which were enclosed directly from open heathland between the 16th and 19th centuries”).

Ancient woodland

Ancient woodland is any area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes:

- ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), which is mainly made up of trees and shrubs native to the site, usually arising from natural regeneration;
- plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), which are replanted with conifer or broadleaved trees, but retain ancient woodland features, such as undisturbed soil, ground flora and fungi.

Secondary woodland is that which is growing on a site that has not been continuously wooded since 1600AD.

In the previous forest plan for Haughmond and Shawbury (2008), the block was described as “mainly secondary woodland with 17ha of ancient woodland along the west slope of Haughmond Hill and 22ha of PAWS alongside the Abbey”. However, an update to ancient woodland boundaries in 2015 changed almost all of this to secondary woodland, so that the only ancient woodland in the Haughmond and Shawbury block is 7.5ha along the steeply sloping hillside below the Haughmond Hill viewpoint (**Figure 2**). No land in the block is recorded as PAWS.

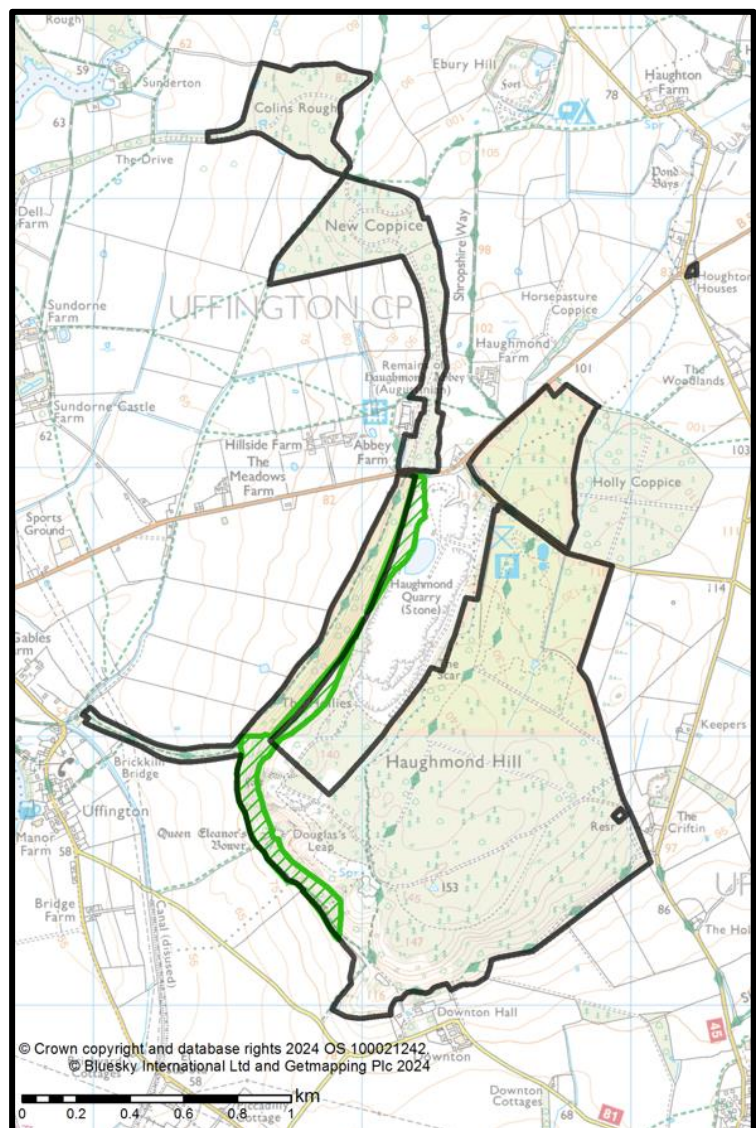


Figure 2

Map to show ancient semi natural woodland on Haughmond Hill



Forestry England land



ASNW

Heritage

There are three scheduled monuments on Forestry England land at Haughmond (**Figure 3**):

- Although **Haughmond Abbey** itself is on adjacent land, the Abbey's scheduled area extends onto Forestry England land, where it consists of earthworks relating to the abbey (12th to 16th centuries), features that relate to a post-medieval manor house (16th to 18th centuries), and areas that relate to the 18th century remodelling of the area as a landscape park by the Sundorne Estate, including ponds, channels and a water conduit house (**photo - right**).
- **Haughmond Hillfort** - the scheduled area includes the earthwork (rampart) and buried remains dating from 8th - 5th century BC, as well as the remains of an 18th century folly (Haughmond Castle), and a world war two spigot mortar emplacement.
- **Queen Eleanor's Bower** - earthworks and buried remains of an unusual medieval fortification known as a ringwork (**photo - below**).



Unscheduled heritage features in Haughmond include a couple of old quarries in the southern end of the site as well as features associated with nearby Sundorne House / Castle, whose land would once have covered the northern end of Haughmond. There are no recorded heritage features in Shawbury.

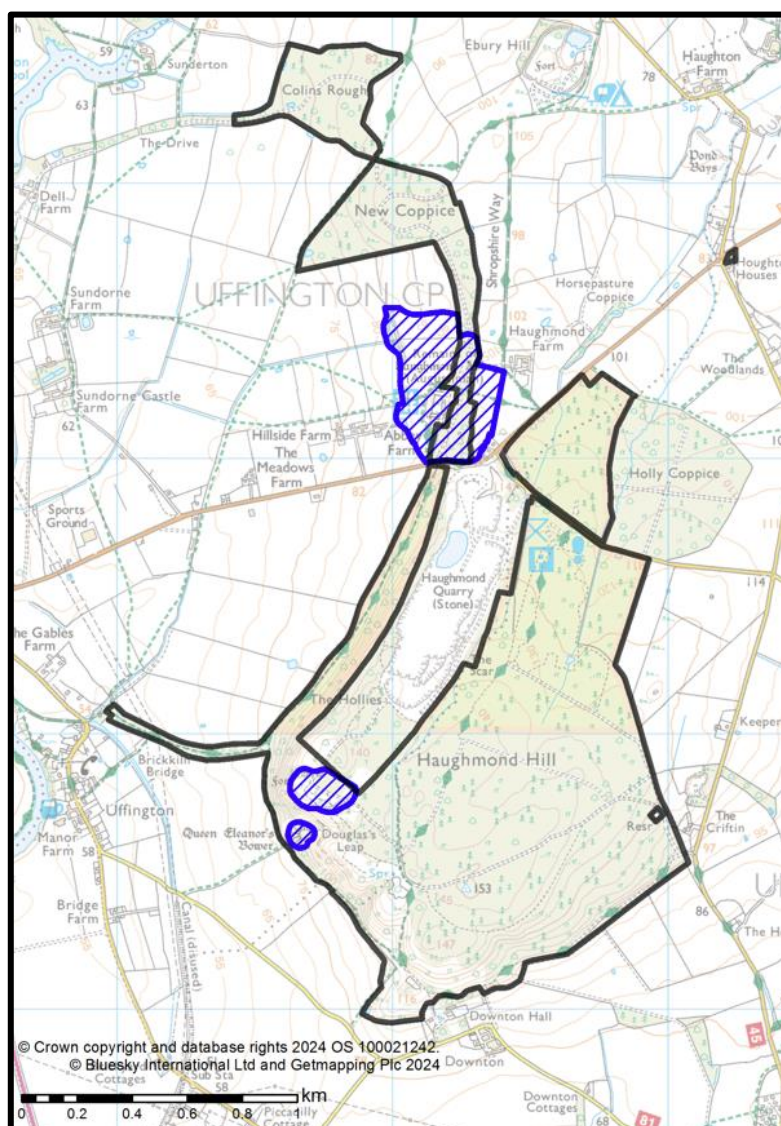
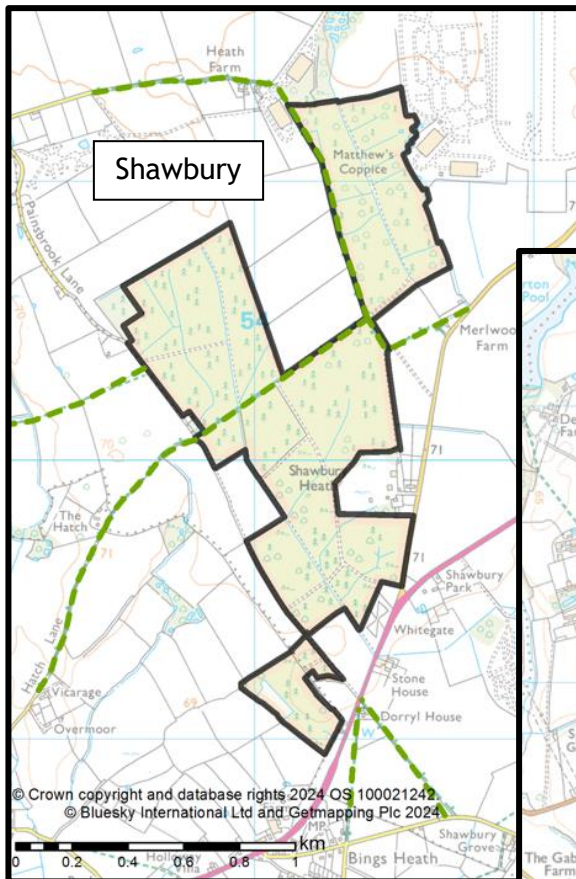


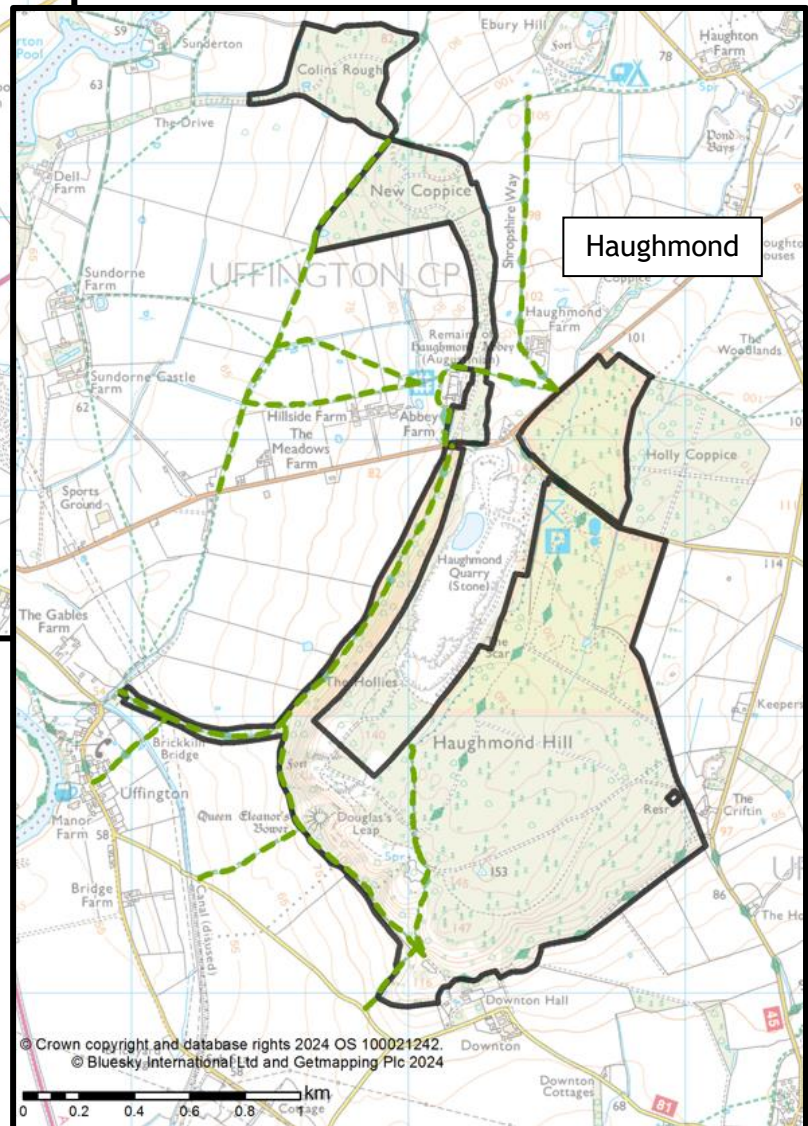
Figure 3

Map to show designated heritage sites at Haughmond (from north to south - Haughmond Abbey, Haughmond Hillfort, Queen Eleanor's Bower) 

Access and recreation



Although part of Haughmond is leasehold, the rest of Haughmond and all of Shawbury are owned by Forestry England, and both woods have public access throughout. Shawbury is popular with local dogwalkers and horse riders, and a bridleway runs through the site (**Figure 4 - left**).



The Shropshire Way national trail and other public footpaths run to, and through, Haughmond (**Figure 4 - right**), which has become a busy visitor hub in recent years, with a 'pay on arrival' car park, café, toilets and waymarked trails, one of which leads to a viewing platform overlooking the neighbouring quarry, and the magnificent viewpoint towards Shrewsbury and beyond (**photo below**).



Figure 4
Maps to show public rights of way in Haughmond and Shawbury

Habitats and species of interest

There are several potentially interesting water features within both woodlands. The ponds and system of channels within the Haughmond Abbey scheduled monument area would have supplied the abbey with water and are historically significant - now they also provide habitat for great crested newts (GCN), which are a European Protected Species (EPS). There are two more small ponds in the main block of Haughmond.

Shawbury is very wet in places - the water table is high and the neighbouring land drains into the forest. The site was heathland before it was drained and subsequently planted with trees, and it is criss-crossed with drainage channels (**photo - right**), some of which were probably streams which were straightened and widened. There are also some small ponds in the northeast corner, in which GCN have been found.



The Hollies - a strip of very old woodland to the western side of Haughmond - provides excellent deadwood habitat (**photo - below right**) (of benefit to fungi and invertebrates and the birds and mammals that feed on them) and numerous notable and veteran trees (ideal habitat for bats and hole-nesting birds such as woodpeckers).

There is an area of unimproved grassland with scrubby trees on the southern slopes of Haughmond Hill - we have records from this sunny, semi-open area of a variety of butterflies, moths and other invertebrates, including a couple of unusual species. At the bottom of this slope is also the only area of ancient woodland recorded within the block.

25 hectares in the northwest corner of Shawbury was restocked between 2012 and 2015 with a mixture of conifers and broadleaves - the broadleaf area has been identified as potentially favourable habitat for dormice (**photo - below left**).



Current tree species

The block as a whole contains a mixture of broadleaves and conifers, with 33 species in total.

Shawbury is made up of:

- 55% conifer (Scots, Corsican and Lodgepole pine feature in the top four conifer species);
- 36% broadleaf (birch and red oak are the top two);
- 9% open (which includes areas which are temporarily open following felling and open space within and between crops).

Haughmond consists of:

- 46% conifer (as in Shawbury, the pines are common here, along with Norway spruce);
- 41% broadleaf (birch and oak are the top two);
- 13% open (which includes the area of semi-open umimproved grassland, the car park and open space around the main visitor areas and waymarked trails).

Current area in hectares (ha) and proportions of broadleaves, conifers and open space as recorded in Forestry England’s subcompartment database are shown in [Table 1](#) below. Proportions of species groups for the whole block are shown in [Figure 5](#).

Table 1 - Proportions of broadleaves, conifers and open space in spring 2024	Haughmond		Shawbury		Whole block	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Broadleaves	87ha	41	37ha	36	124ha	39
Conifers	96ha	46	56ha	55	152ha	49
Open	27ha	13	9ha	9	36ha	12

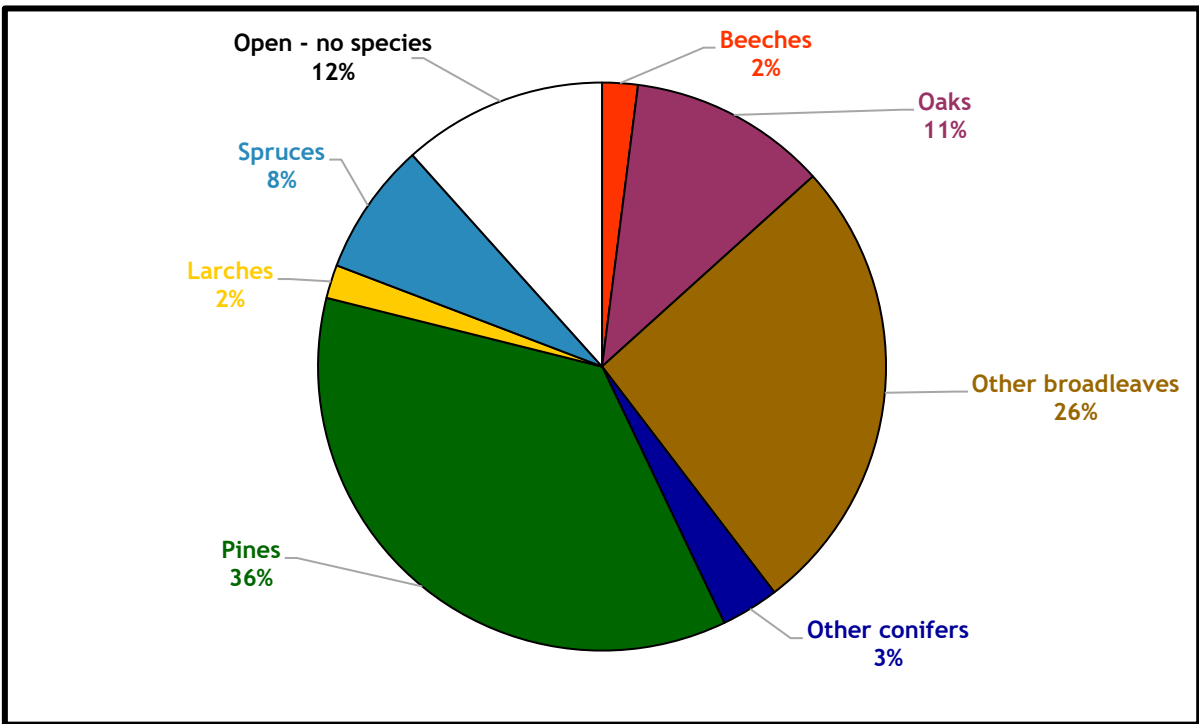
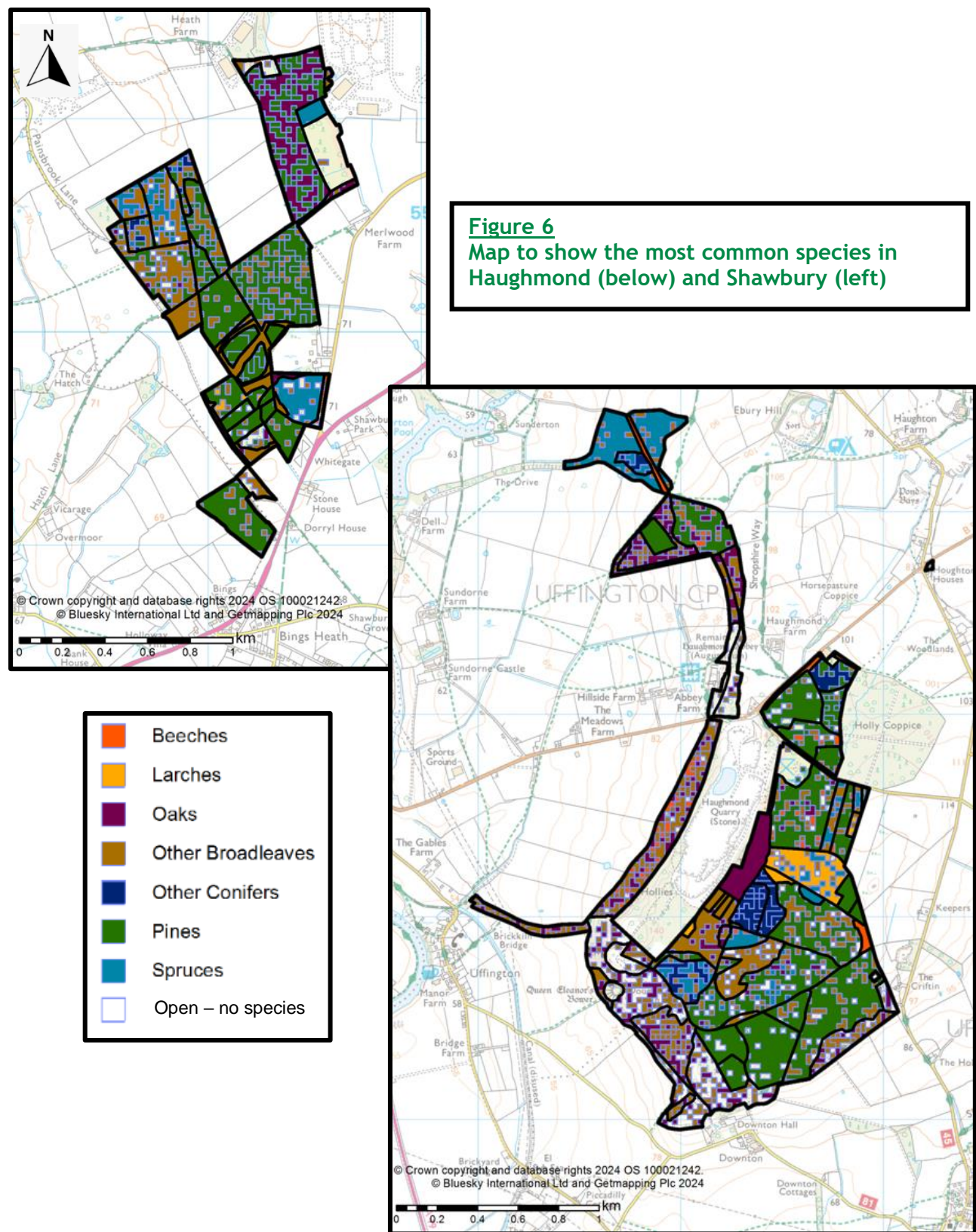


Figure 5
Chart to show proportions of different species groups in Haughmond and Shawbury

Current tree species (continued)

Figure 6 shows how the tree species groups are distributed within Haughtmond and Shawbury.



Current age composition

Figure 7 shows how many hectares of tree planting (or natural regeneration following coppicing or felling) took place in Haughmond and Shawbury in each decade. In terms of age structure, Haughmond is more diverse, with some pre-1900 trees and several decades where significant planting took place. Shawbury’s crops date predominantly from the 1960s and 2010s

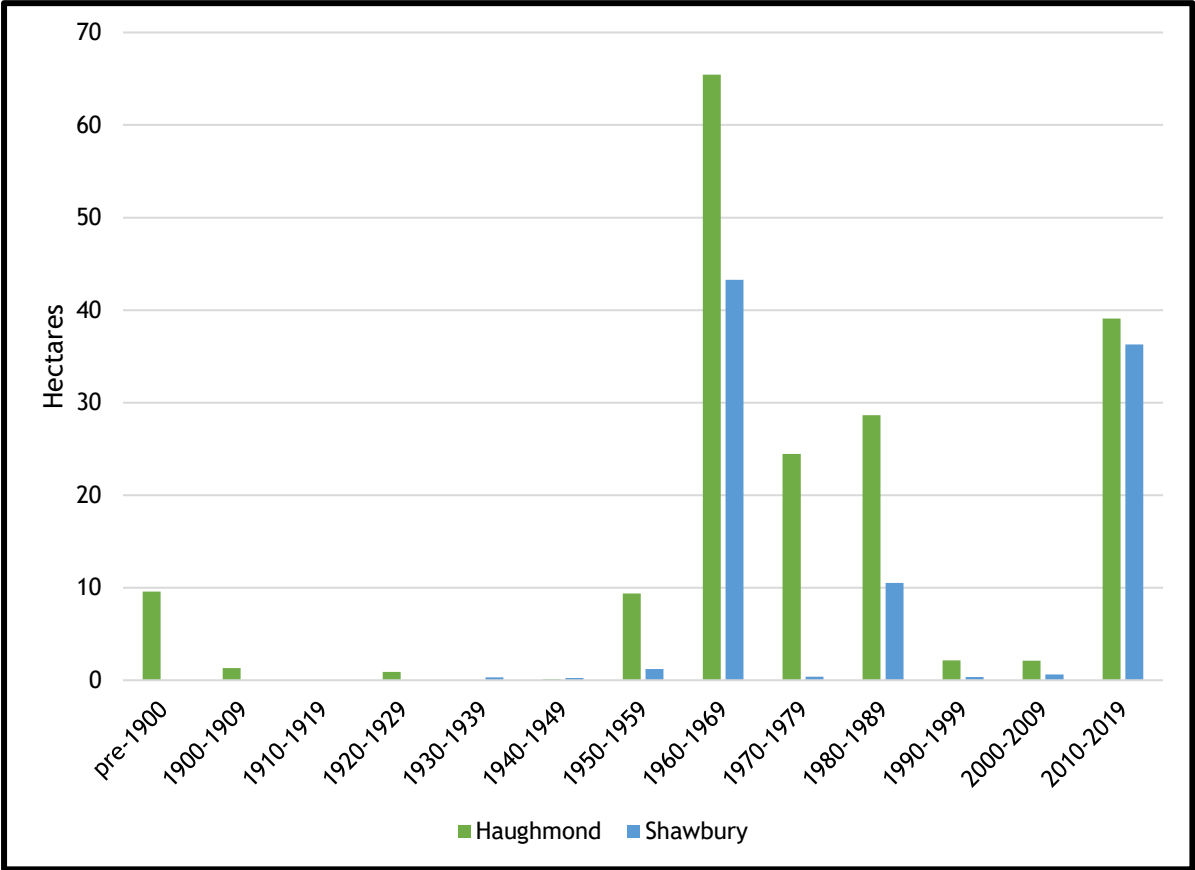


Figure 7
Chart to show area (in hectares) of Haughmond and Shawbury that was established in each decade

What we are going to do

Our Forest Plan objectives, and how they link to the Forestry England vision, are listed in [Table 2](#) below. Our analysis (what is there now) and concept (what we'll do) for each site is on the following two pages.

Some objectives are relevant across all Forestry England land, for example increasing the resilience of our woodlands under the anticipated future climate is important everywhere. Other priorities relate more to one wood than another, so while we will, of course, continue to welcome visitors to Shawbury, there are no plans to develop our recreational offer at that site, whereas we recognise the importance of Haughmond as a destination for a wide demographic of visitors, and will therefore put less emphasis on productive forest management here and more on visitor enjoyment. Identifying and improving habitats for woodland species is important in both woodlands, whereas the presence of scheduled heritage features means that protection of the historic environment is an objective at Haughmond only.

Table 2
Objectives of management in Haughmond and Shawbury

Haughmond and Shawbury Forest Plan objectives	Higher (H) or lower (L) priority		Forestry England vision for the nation's forests		
	Haughmond	Shawbury	Our vision for wildlife: The nation's forests provide the most valuable places for wildlife to thrive and expand in England.	Our vision for people: The nation's forests are a living treasure for all, deeply connected to people's lives, improving the health and wellbeing of the nation.	Our vision for the climate: The nation's forests are resilient to climate change, increasing their value for communities by producing high-quality, sustainable timber and absorbing carbon emissions.
Generate forest products to suit current / changing markets	L	H			✓
Increase resilience to future changes in climate, pests and diseases	H	H	✓	✓	✓
Protect and improve habitats and ecological condition	H	H	✓	✓	✓
Protect the historic environment	H	L		✓	
Provide opportunities for recreation	H	L		✓	

Haughtmond - Analysis (A = what is there now) and Concept (C = what we'll do)

A: There is an avenue of beech trees in the northern end of the site - they are not particularly old, but are an attractive feature (**photo** below)



C: The beech avenue is marked as TSI (trees of special interest) on our GIS system, meaning that it will be noted and protected during forest operations

A: Great crested newts (GCN) have been recorded in the ponds in the Abbey Strip

C: Ponds will be surveyed prior to forest operations, and GCN habitat will be protected

A: Although Corsican pine has been affected by the disease red band needle blight, recently planted mixtures of a variety of pine species are thriving

C: We will continue to plant species mixtures that we think will be resilient under the future threats of climate change and pests and diseases

A: Haughtmond has three scheduled heritage features (Haughtmond Abbey, Haughtmond Hillfort and Queen Eleanor's Bower)

C: These features will be managed according to the scheduled monument plans that were approved by Historic England in 2023

A: The Hollies is an area of veteran trees and deadwood - ideal habitat for bats, hole-nesting birds and invertebrates

C: This area will be managed as minimum intervention - although the health of these old trees is deteriorating, they will become even more valuable as a wildlife habitat over time

A: To the east of the quarry is an area with numerous veteran oak trees

C: These ecologically valuable old trees will be monitored for safety purposes and otherwise left alone

A: Multiple rotations of conifers in the centre of the site have led to a reduction in soil fertility and tree health has suffered

C: This area is being managed under an 'enrichment rotation' - groups of conifers are gradually being removed and replaced with broadleaves (through natural regeneration supplemented by planting - **photo** below) in order to improve the soils for future generations of trees

A: The accessible trail that leads to the toposcope and viewpoint currently stops about 20 metres short of the end, becoming uneven and rocky at this point

C: We're hoping to acquire consent from Historic England to extend the surfaced path as far as the viewpoint in order to facilitate access for everyone

A: Unimproved grassland on the southwest-facing slopes of Haughtmond Hill provides habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates; this is also the most prominent view of the woodland from outside and has the only strip of recorded ancient woodland at the bottom of the slope

C: We will remove scrub and regenerating trees from the grassland from time to time, in order to retain this area as around 50% open, providing a soft edge to the site

A: Two trial stands of eucalyptus were planted in 2014, and have grown much more quickly than the adjacent native broadleaves planted at the same time (**photo** right)

C: We will continue to monitor the eucalyptus as a potential timber tree of the future, and will look for opportunities to trial other experimental species in our restocks where appropriate

A: Recent thinning around the visitor hub has improved the aesthetics of the internal landscape

C: The most heavily used areas of woodland will be kept fairly open, providing views through the trees, and plenty of space to walk and play

A: Ponds and streams provide interesting features on the waymarked trails (**photo** below)



C: We may fell some trees around these riparian areas if they are becoming too shaded



Shawbury - Analysis (A = what is there now) and Concept (C = what we'll do)

A: The ground is often very wet in Shawbury because much of the neighbouring land drains into the forest

C: Forest operations will be timed to coincide with dry weather in order to minimise damage to soil

A: Birch regenerates prolifically in Shawbury, adding a broadleaf component to planted conifer crops

C: The density of birch will be assessed and reduced if necessary when the conifers receive their first thinning, so that it continues to add to species diversity but doesn't outcompete the productive conifers

A: Great crested newts (GCN) have been recorded in the small ponds in the northeast corner

C: Ponds will be surveyed prior to forest operations, and GCN habitat will be protected

A: There are several drainage channels crossing the site, which were probably created from existing streams

C: We have a small annual budget to try to keep these clear and flowing

A: An area restocked between 2012 and 2015 has developed into potentially favourable dormouse habitat

C: When we are planning forest operations in this area, we will consider how to improve the broadleaf areas for dormice and other native woodland species

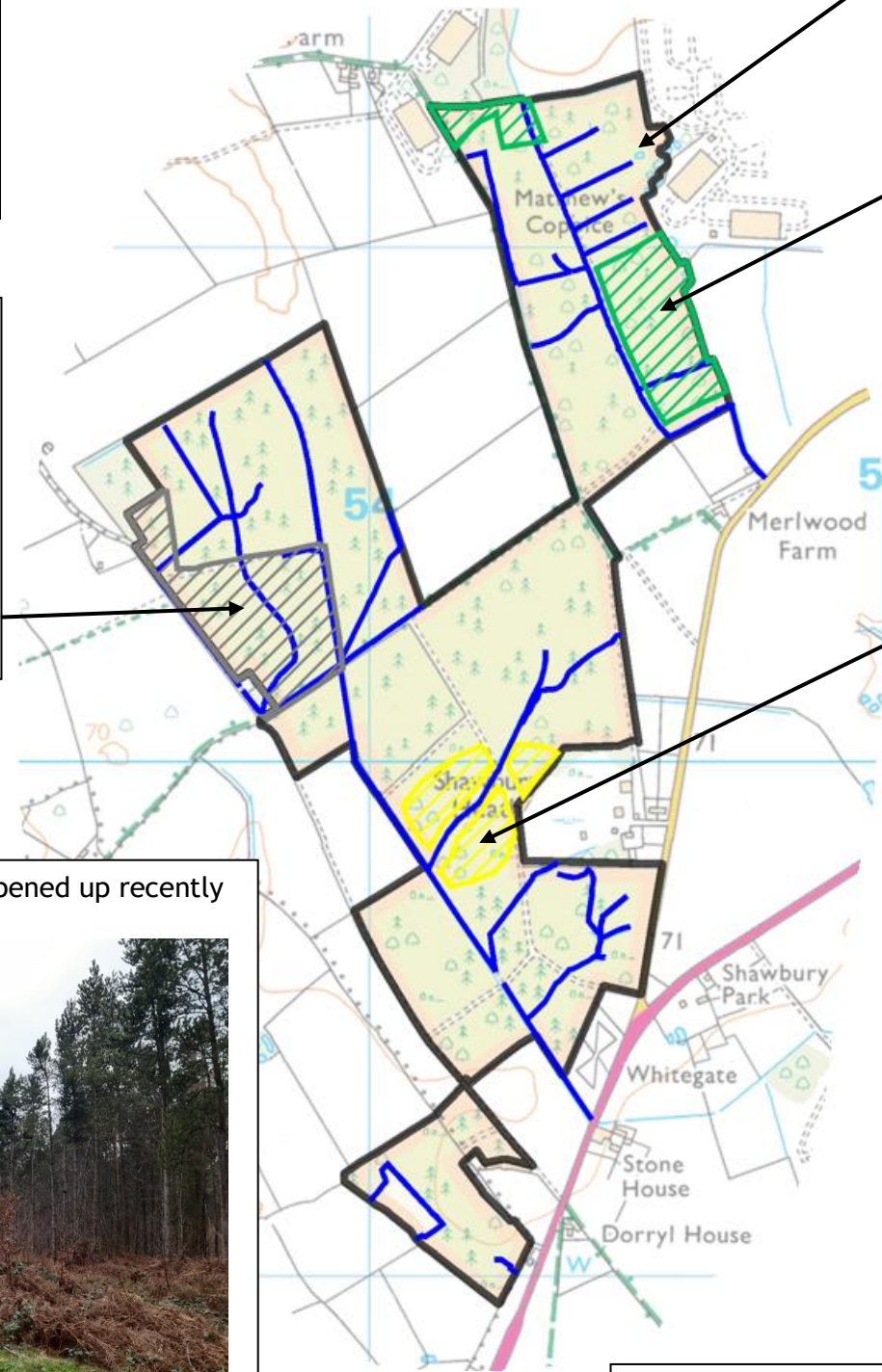
A: Several ridesides have been opened up recently



C: Each time we carry out thinning or felling, we will look for opportunities to clear the vegetation from ridesides - this creates dynamic habitat where ground flora and scrub gradually become established (photo above), supporting a variety of species

A: Most of the crops in Shawbury are conifer dominated, with some areas of broadleaves, especially along ridesides and forest edges

C: Conifers will be assessed for readiness for thinning every five years, and have been given fell dates based on anticipated economic maturity; broadleaves will be managed as shelterwood systems, where the overstorey provides seed and shelter for the next generation of trees



A: Storms in 2023 led to a fair bit of windblow in the northeast corner

C: This area will be restocked with a mixture of pines and broadleaf natural regeneration in 2025

A: Recent planting in the centre of Shawbury includes a variety of pine species (at least three species can be seen in the photo below)



C: We will continue to plant species mixtures that we think will be resilient under the future threats of climate change and pests and diseases

A: Although many of the crops in Shawbury are relatively young, there are occasional older individual trees (photo below)

C: Trees of Special Interest (TSIs) are marked on our GIS system and protected during forest operations



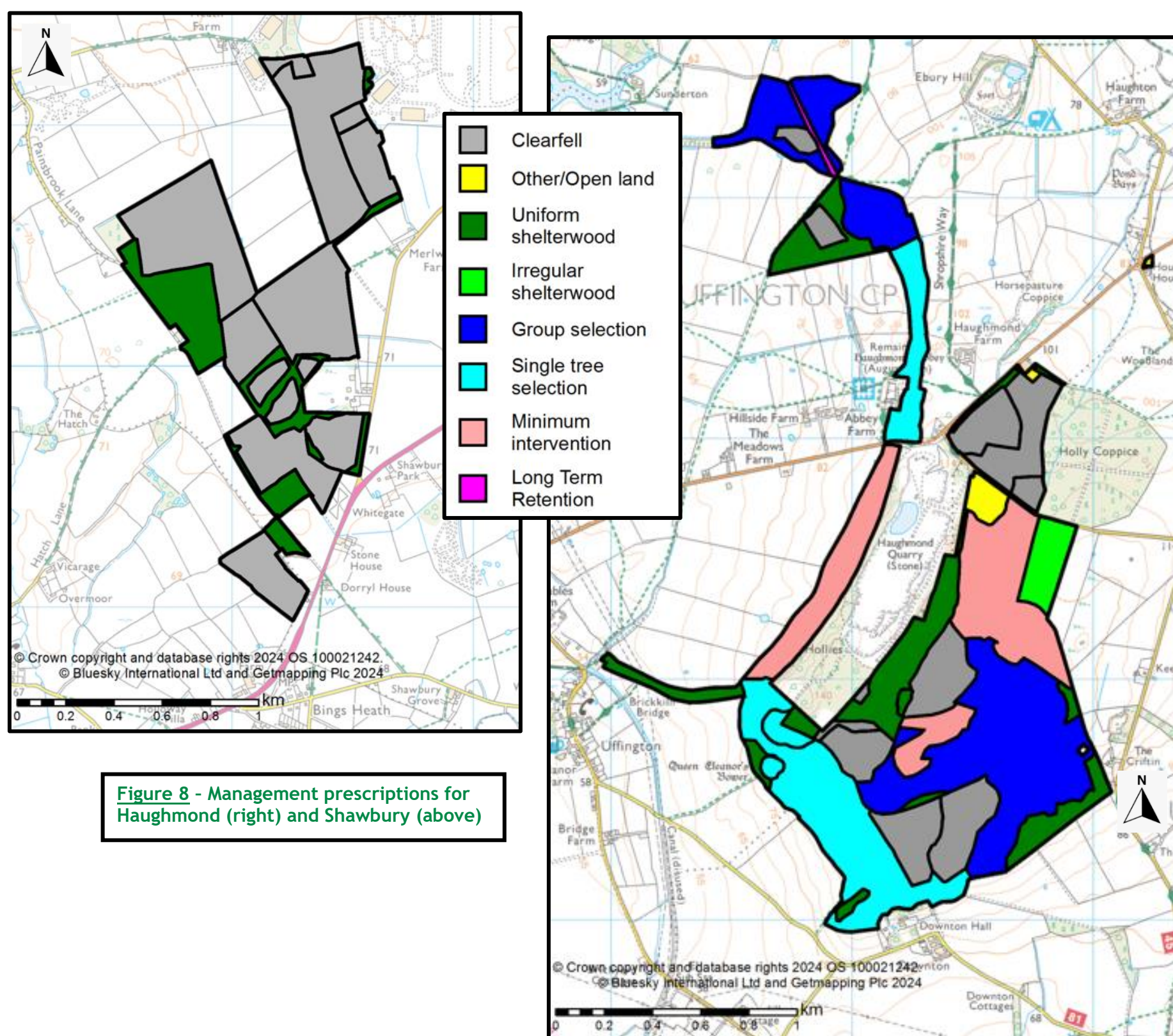
Action Plan - what we will do (2024-34)	Objectives (from page 13) - what we hope to achieve					Monitoring - how we will measure success
	Generate forest products	Increase resilience	Habitats and ecological condition	Historic environment	Recreation	
Thinning As a general rule, broadleaves will be assessed for readiness for thinning every ten years and conifers every five years	✓ Timber generated from thinning provides income which is reinvested in the nation's forests	✓ Thinning creates space around trees allowing them to grow bigger, stronger and healthier	✓ Thinning allows light to the forest floor		✓ Thinning has already led to an attractive area around the Haughmond visitor hub	Has thinning been carried out on a regular basis?
Clearfelling and restocking 39.02 hectares of conifers will be felled during the plan period (25.94ha at Shawbury, and 13.08ha at Haughmond (Figure 9 - page 18) Restock mixtures will generally include planted conifers, especially pine species, with birch and other natural regeneration; we may also trial small stands of experimental species	✓ Timber generated from clearfelling provides income which is reinvested in the nation's forests	✓ Clearfells provide opportunities to increase species diversity and to choose restock species to suit the future climate and forest conditions	✓ Clearfells create temporary open space			Have clearfells / restocks been carried out as per the felling plan?
Enrichment rotation at Haughmond Small groups of conifers (up to 0.25ha in size) will be felled in the central parts of the site, and replaced with broadleaf natural regeneration supplemented by planting	✓ Felling of groups will generate small quantities of timber	✓ Gradual change from conifer to broadleaf will increase species and structural diversity and therefore resilience	✓ The broadleaf rotation will provide habitats for native wildlife and improve the condition of forest soils		✓ Increasing species and structural diversity will increase the aesthetic appeal of the forest	Have groups of conifers been felled - working towards the broadleaf enrichment rotation?
Heritage Actions are described in detail in scheduled monument plans agreed with Historic England in 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haughmond Abbey - tree surveys to identify trees at risk of falling - Haughmond Hillfort - gradual removal of scrub and bracken, and monitoring of erosion - Queen Eleanor's Bower - identify and fell trees at risk of falling; scrub clearance if feasible Non-scheduled heritage features are marked on our GIS and will be protected during forest operations				✓ Historic features will be protected through delivery of scheduled monument plans and use of GIS		Are scheduled monument plans being implemented and heritage features protected?
Recreation / public enjoyment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain public access and visitor facilities - Seek consent from Historic England to surface path to the toposcope - Carry out tree safety checks along waymarked trails, and monitor the condition of the 1850 oaks at Haughmond - Provide opportunities for volunteers to carry out practical tasks where possible 					✓ Main recreation opportunities are at Haughmond, but visitors will continue to be welcome to Shawbury	Has the path to the toposcope been surfaced? Are regular tree safety checks carried out? Are opportunities provided for volunteers?
Habitats and biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor / protect significant species (eg great crested newt) and habitats (eg potential dormouse habitat in Shawbury) - Provide temporary / dynamic open space along ridesides, along watercourses and within stands where possible 			✓ Species and habitats will be protected and enhanced			Are habitats and species monitored and protected during forest operations? Are opportunities taken to increase temporary open space?

Our management prescriptions for Haughmond and Shawbury

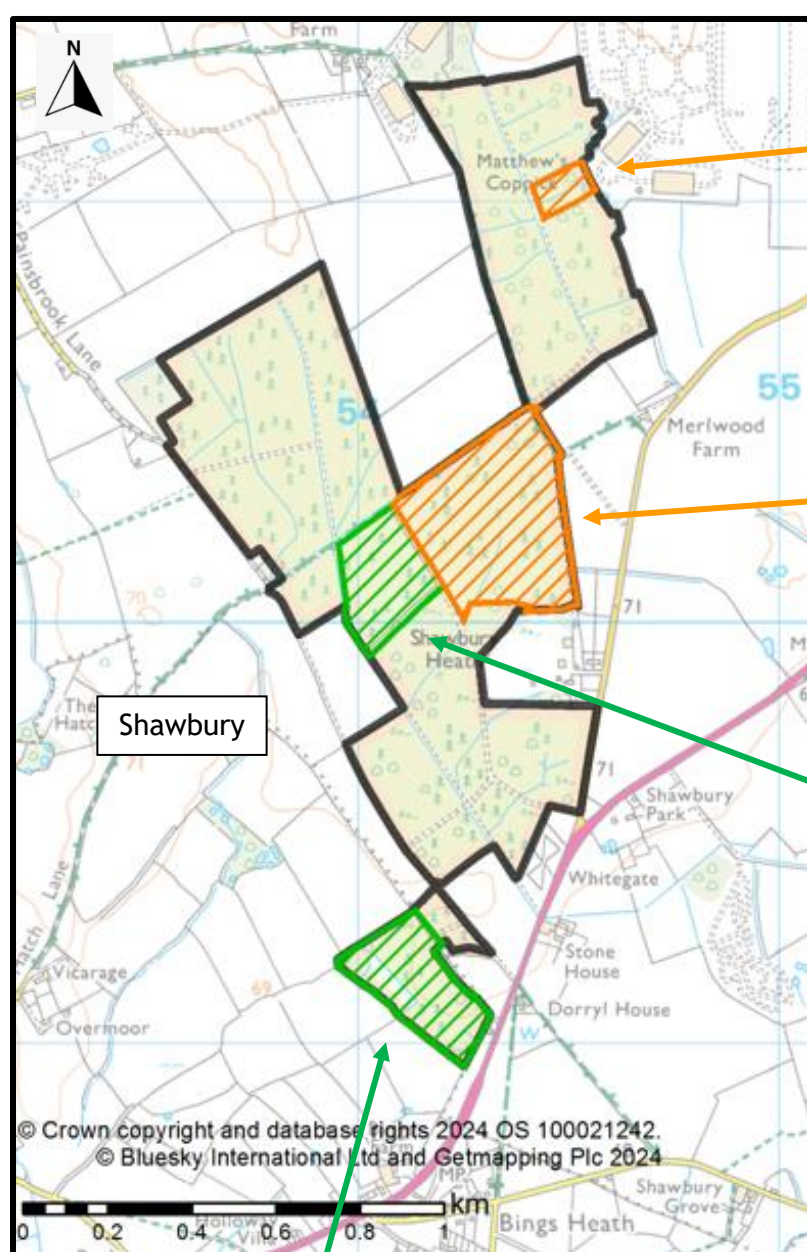
Most crops are assessed for readiness for thinning every five years for conifers and every ten years for broadleaves. If stand density is appropriate for thinning, then selected trees will be marked for removal in order to achieve the objectives for the site.

Each stand in the plan area has been given a management type (**Figure 8**):

- All conifer crops in Shawbury will be **clearfelled** at, or close to, economic maturity; these areas will be **restocked** with resilient species mixtures that continue to deliver the site objectives.
- In Haughmond, conifer crops will be treated in two different ways: some will be **clearfelled** and **restocked**, whereas others will be managed under a **group selection system** - where groups of trees (up to 0.25ha in size) are felled and replaced with natural regeneration, sometimes supplemented by planting. The proposed 'enrichment rotation' in the centre of the site is an example of **group selection** - conifers will gradually be replaced with broadleaves which, over the coming several decades, will help to improve the soil.
- Broadleaf stands will generally be managed as **shelterwoods** - thinning creates space between the trees, and allows light to reach the ground, and when the overstory is mature enough, it provides seed and shelter for the next generation of trees.
- The areas of woodland that are part of the scheduled monuments, and the unimproved grassland with scrubby trees on the western slopes of Haughmond, are to be managed as **single tree selection** systems. Individual trees of all ages and sizes are removed in order to achieve particular objectives. In the case of the scheduled monuments, this means identifying and felling trees which may be at risk of falling and therefore damaging the archaeological remains, and on the western slopes, it means removing sufficient trees to maintain the area at around 50% open.
- The beech avenue in the northern end of Haughmond is managed as **long term retention**, which means that the trees are retained beyond economic maturity.
- The Hollies, with its veteran trees and deadwood, and the stand in the centre of the site where conifers have been removed and dense birch has regenerated, will both be managed as **minimum intervention** in order to allow natural processes to take place, and habitats to develop, under low levels of disturbance. Also to be managed as minimum intervention, but for different reasons, is the woodland around the Haughmond visitor hub, which has been heavily thinned recently and will be left alone for this plan period in order to minimise disturbance to visitor facilities. We would generally expect that the only forest operations that will take place in these areas are for safety reasons.



Haughmond and Shawbury - felling plans 2024-2034 (Figure 9)



Shawbury coupe 10009 (1.10ha)

Fell 2030/31 - IF adjacent restock from 2025 planting has reached 2m tall

Clearfell: 1960 Norway spruce

Restock:

50% Sitka spruce (planted)
25% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)

Shawbury coupe 10005 (13.70ha)

Fell 2030/31 - IF adjacent restock (10004) has reached 2m tall

Clearfell: 1968 Scots pine and Corsican pine
Retain individual trees of interest eg old SP along central ride

Restock:

75% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)

Shawbury coupe 10004 (5.17ha) Fell 2026/27

Clearfell: 1961 Scots pine
Retain individual trees of interest eg old SP along central ride

Restock:

75% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)

Shawbury coupe 10008 (5.97ha)

Fell 2026/27

Clearfell: 1964 Scots pine

Restock:

75% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)

Haughmond coupe 10030 (7.08ha) Fell 2027/28

Clearfell: 1966 Scots pine and 1967 Corsican pine

Restock:

65% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)
10% other broadleaves (trials of emerging species)

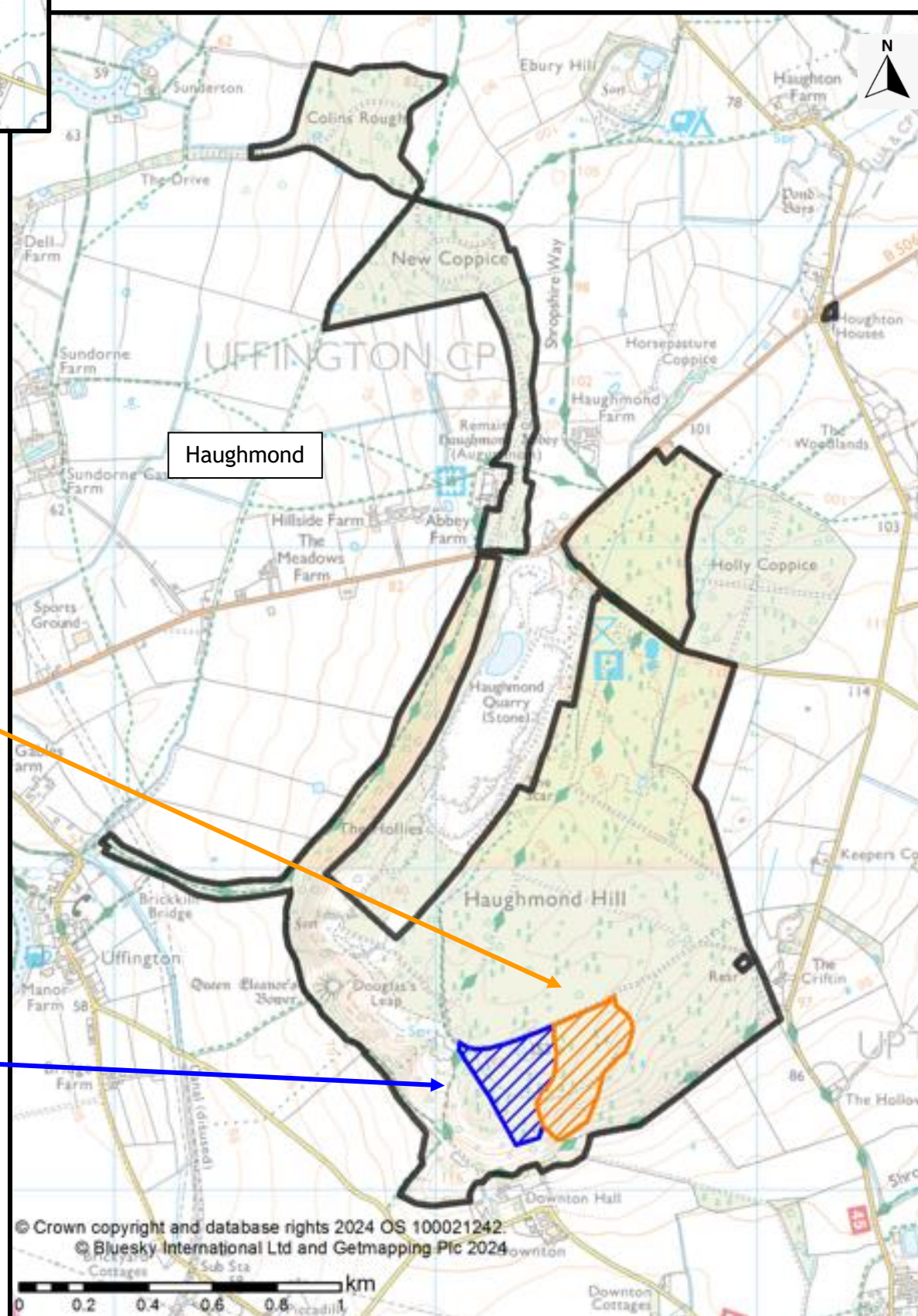
Haughmond coupe 10031 (6.00ha)

Fell 2032/33 - IF adjacent restock (10030) has reached 2m tall

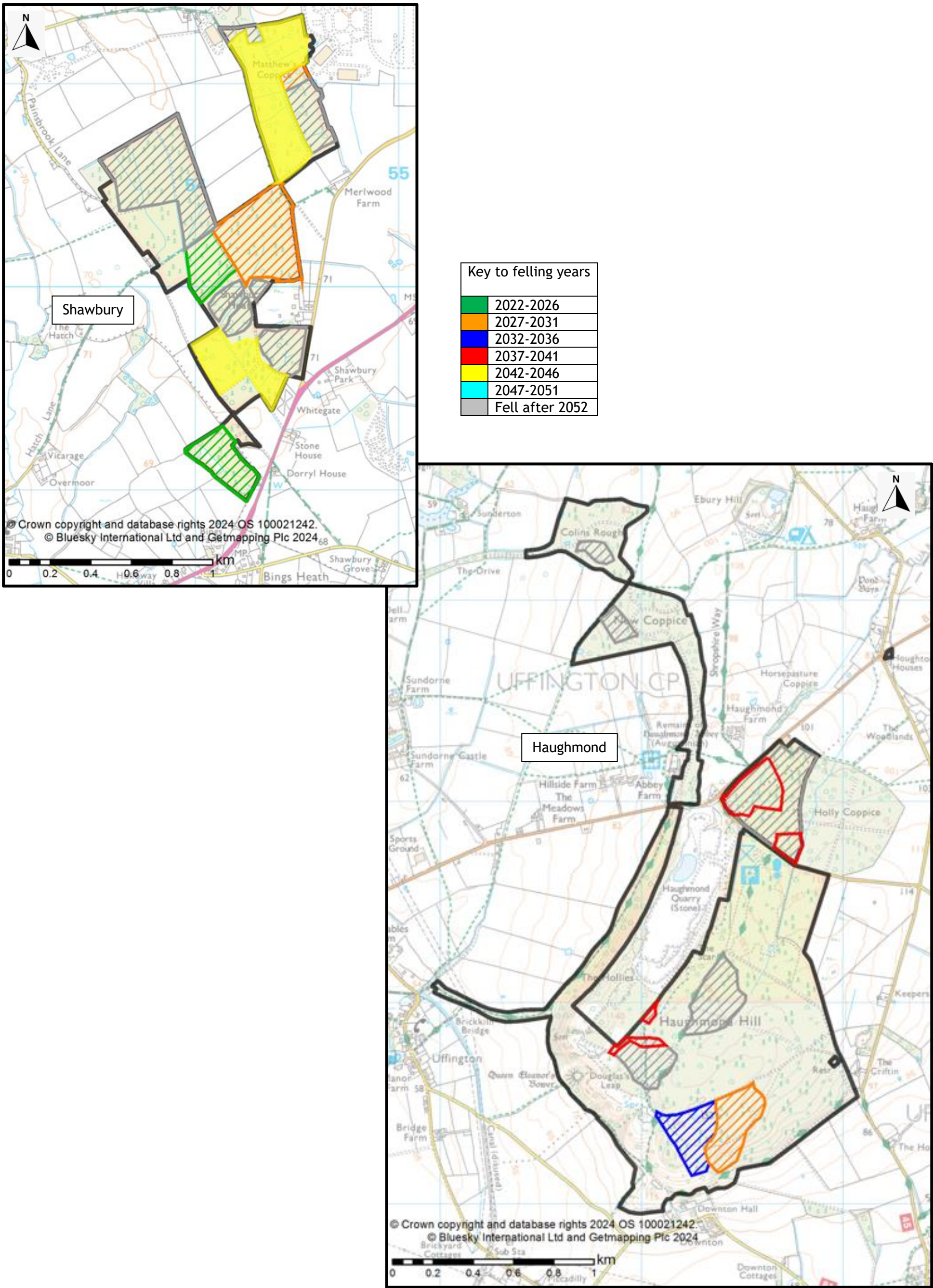
Clearfell: 1979 Scots pine and Corsican pine

Restock:

65% mixed pines (planted)
25% birch and other broadleaves (natural regeneration)
10% other broadleaves (trials of emerging species)



Haighmond and Shawbury - longer term felling plans 2024-2054 (Figure 10)



Future habitats and species

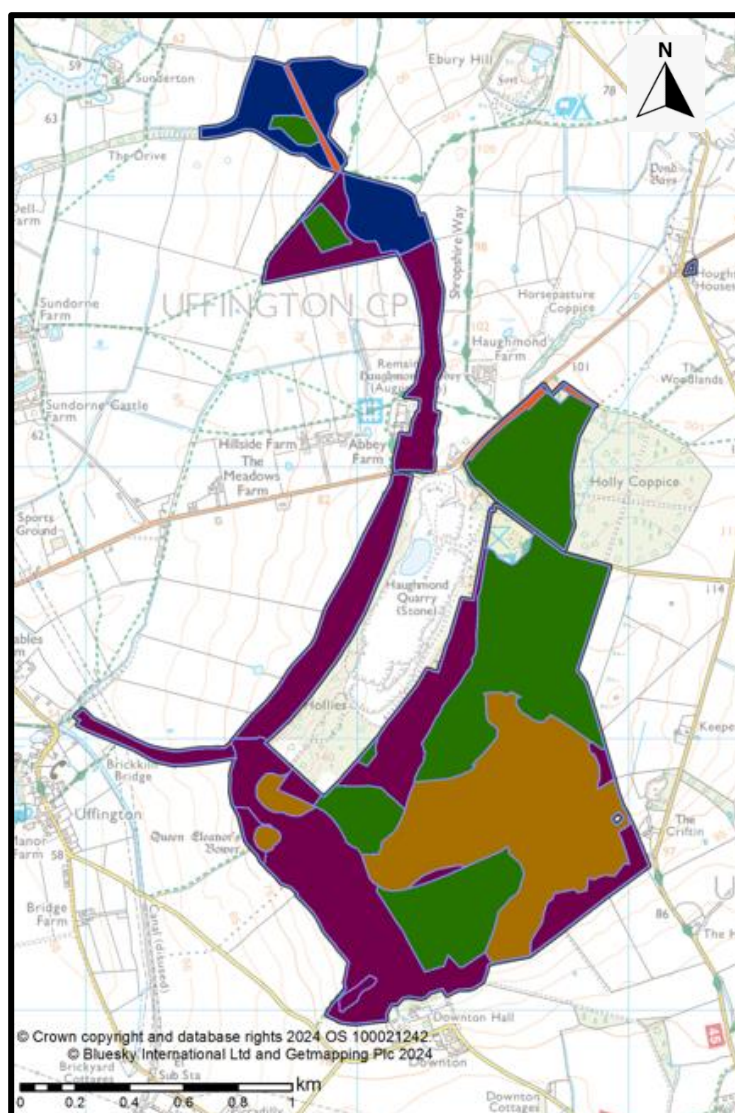
Over the coming decades, Shawbury will remain a predominantly coniferous woodland, with an increasing diversity of pines and other species planted in mixtures to increase resilience to future pests and diseases.

Haughmond will still have areas of mixed pines and other conifers, but the central highest areas of the site will gradually become dominated by broadleaf natural regeneration, which we hope will improve the soil fertility. The western and southern parts of the site will remain as oak and mixed broadleaf woodland.

Figure 11 below gives a broad overview of the future species. Note that the maps do not represent a specific date because crops will all reach maturity and be replaced at different times. Note also that the map doesn't show the diversity of species that we anticipate being present in Haughmond and Shawbury in the future - areas shown as pine for example will contain a mixture of pines and other conifers, as well as a broadleaf component. All stands will have a proportion (usually 10-20%) of their area left unplanted - these gaps will provide temporary open space and structural diversity as they gradually fill with shrubs and trees over many years.



Figure 11 - Map to show future species in Haughmond (right) and Shawbury (above)



Explanation of some of the terms used in the Forest Plan:

- **Forest plans** define the long-term vision for our forests and set out how our management will move towards achieving this vision. They focus on the main features of each woodland, in particular the species and structural composition and biodiversity interests, and set out proposals for how we will manage them to increase resilience, productivity and value for wildlife and people in the future.
- **Natural capital value** - from the soils to the trees, and all the species which live in them, the whole forest ecosystem is a resource known as '**natural capital**'. Forestry England uses a natural capital approach to help understand the value to society of the various benefits that come from the nation's forests.
- We measure the area of our land in **hectares** - one hectare (ha) is equal to one hundred metres by one hundred metres, or the equivalent of about two and a half acres.
- **Ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW)** and **plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)** are described on [page 6](#).
- **Broadleaves** are trees with broad, flat leaves e.g. oak, hazel, birch. Most are deciduous (lose their leaves in winter). **Conifers** are trees with cones and needles e.g. Norway spruce, Douglas fir. Most are evergreen, but not all e.g. larch is a deciduous conifer.
- The forest is divided into **coupes** - groups of trees which will be managed in the same way. Management prescriptions (**forest operations**) include:
 - **Clearfelling** - where all the trees in an area are cut down - often because they have reached economic maturity (their highest possible economic value), but sometimes due to disease; clearfelling provides temporary open space and the opportunity to **restock** (replant) with a different species which may be more appropriate for the site and its management objectives.
 - **Coppicing** - a traditional woodland management technique where broadleaf trees are cut at the base allowing new stems to sprout; sometimes the whole coupe is coppiced; sometimes, larger trees (**standards**) are left alone and allowed to continue to grow. Areas of woodland that are not coppiced are usually referred to as **high forest**.
 - **LISS** - or **low impact silvicultural systems** - provide an alternative to clearfell, involving careful thinning of the existing crop and encouragement of natural regeneration / underplanting, to maintain continuous forest cover and conditions, and to develop the next generations of trees. These include **shelterwood** and **selection** systems which are explained on [page 17](#).
 - **Thinning** is where selected trees are removed, giving the remaining trees room to develop.

- **Rides** are tracks through the forest - **ridesides** are often mown or coppiced to make them light and welcoming for visitors, and to create open sunny spaces for flowering plants and insects.
- A **stand** is a group, or area, of trees that are more or less homogeneous (the same) in terms of species composition, density and age. Stands of trees may be planted deliberately (**plantation**) or arise from **natural regeneration**, where trees grow from seeds which arrived on the site through natural means, usually from the previous crop, or overstorey.
- The **understorey** is made up of the trees and shrubs that grow underneath the main crop (the **overstorey**), from seeds from above, or through deliberate **underplanting** (where new trees are planted under the main crop). The understorey provides habitats for wildlife, and will often become the next crop of trees, when the overstorey is felled. The tops of the trees (the crown or leaves) is sometimes referred to as the **canopy**.
- The forest is managed by a beat team, which includes the forester, ecologist, community ranger, works supervisor (who oversees the operational contracts) and tariffing team (who measure and mark which trees will be felled and which will be kept during forest operations).
- **Veteran trees** have characteristics, such as holes, hollow trunks and fungi, that are valuable for wildlife. Sometimes they may be **halo thinned**, which is when neighbouring competing trees are removed to give the veterans more space. Standing and fallen **deadwood** also provides excellent wildlife habitat and is often left behind after forest operations.
- The **NVC (National Vegetation Classification)** describes the plant communities and trees that would grow naturally on a site - we use it to guide species choice when deciding what to plant as it gives us an idea of which species will grow successfully.
- **FDT (Forest Development Types)** is a new system which will provide guidance as to how manage stands of mixed species in the forest.
- **Dynamic habitat** refers to areas of patchy natural regeneration and open space, where trees will be removed from time to time to create a mosaic of different ages and types of vegetation.

Consultation record

To be added after external consultation

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