



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland near Harrogate in North Yorkshire

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

We are planning a new woodland at Haverah, near Harrogate in North Yorkshire. We would like your comments and feedback on our initial ideas. Your input will help shape our final designs.

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

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

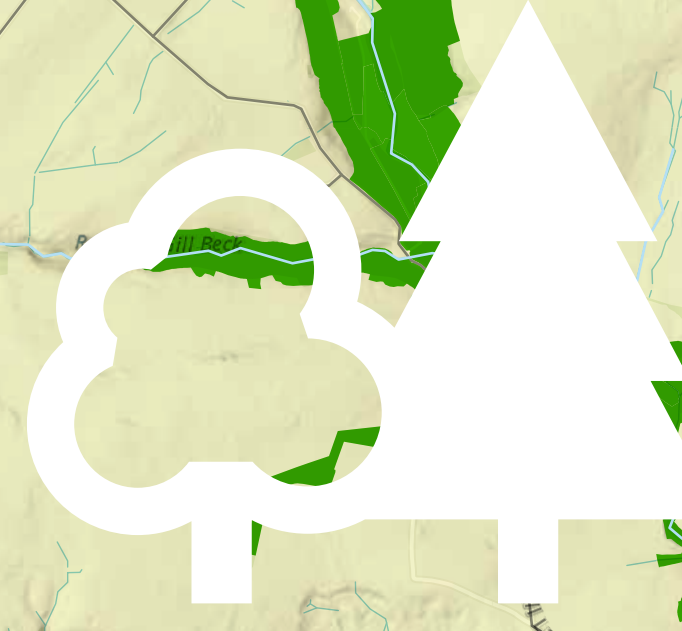
Our plans are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, supported by the Nature for Climate Fund. We aim to plant at least 2,000 hectares of new, high-quality, predominantly broadleaved woodlands across England.

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.

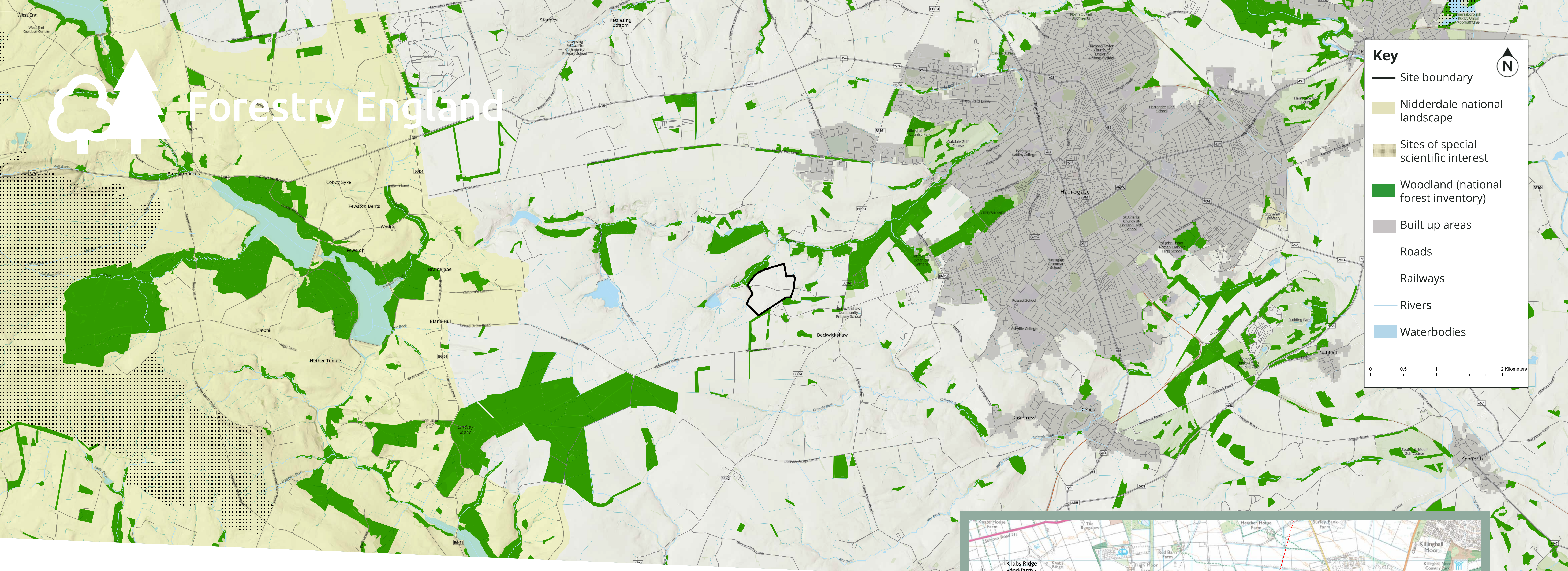
Scan the QR code to find out more:

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Site location & context

The proposed new woodland at Haverah is in North Yorkshire, close to Harrogate. It lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 22 known as the Pennine Dales Fringe.

The area is a transition between the Pennine Uplands in the west and fertile Vale of York in the east. It has a mostly tranquil, natural landscape in the west with rough grazing near the moorland edge, and mixed farming with crops on lighter soils in the east. The varied landscape is shaped by several significant river valleys running from west to east, including the Nidd. The area has a well-wooded character, with ancient broadleaved woodlands, conifer and mixed plantations, numerous small woods, and trees in hedgerows.

Hamlets, villages and small market towns stand out with a strong visual unity having been built in local Millstone grit and Yordale group stone. The area has a rich history, with many parklands, abbeys, and historic buildings that are popular with nearby city residents. (Natural England, 2013).





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Key

- Site boundary
- Trees
- Stone wall
- Gatepost
- Listed building
- Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)
- Ancient replanted woodland (ARW)
- Watercourse
- Pond
- Access point
- Underground services
- 5 metre contours
- Public footpath
- Photo viewpoints

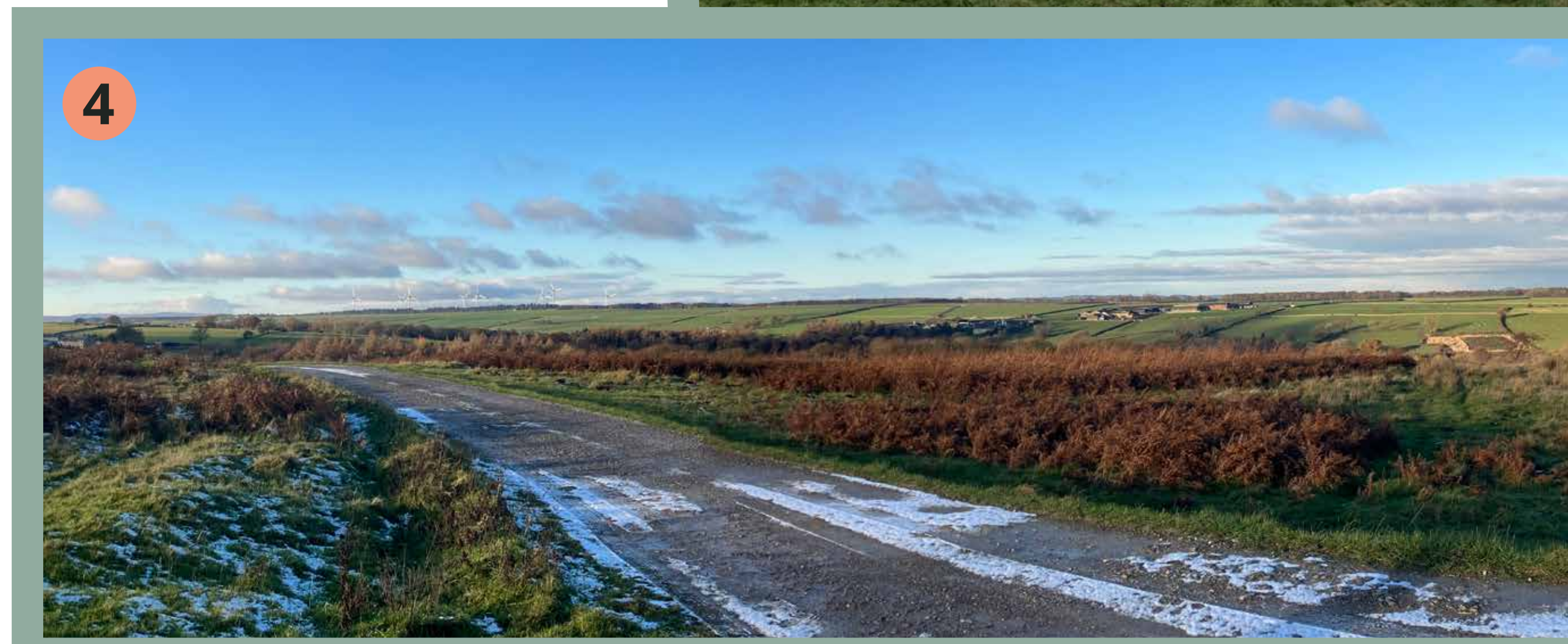
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The existing site

The site at Haverah is part of a transitional landscape between the enclosed broadleaved woodland valley of Oak Beck (tributary of the River Nidd) and the open moorland and mixed woodland on the Stainburn Moor plateau. The site slopes south to north and includes open pasture and rough grazing. It is bordered by ancient and replanted woodland to the north at Springhill Farm Wood, with conifer tree planting (shelterbelt to protect the area from wind and erosion) and properties at Moor Park in the south. A stream runs along the western boundary with naturally growing birch and oak trees. A public footpath runs through middle of the site from Beckwithshaw in the east to Beaver Dyke Reservoirs in the west.

1: Wide view north to east from area of bracken, overlooking ancient semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland, with stone wall to site boundary. 2: View southeast along stone boundary wall toward Moor Park properties and coniferous woodland (shelterbelt). 3: Looking east over pond and rough grassland. 4: Wide view west to north towards Nidderdale National Landscape and Knabs Ridge wind farm. 5: Looking east over old sheep pen, with Harrogate and the distant North York Moors National Park in the background.





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- Existing trees
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- Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)
- Ancient replanted woodland (ARW)
- Watercourse
- Pond
- Access point
- Underground services
- 5 metre contours
- Public footpath
- Types of woodland
- Broadleaved woodland planting with some Scots pine
- Evenly mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland planting
- Conifer woodland planting with some mixed broadleaves
- Groups of broadleaved trees planted at low density
- Shrubs and small broadleaved trees planted at low density
- Forestry vehicle turning area
- Grass path

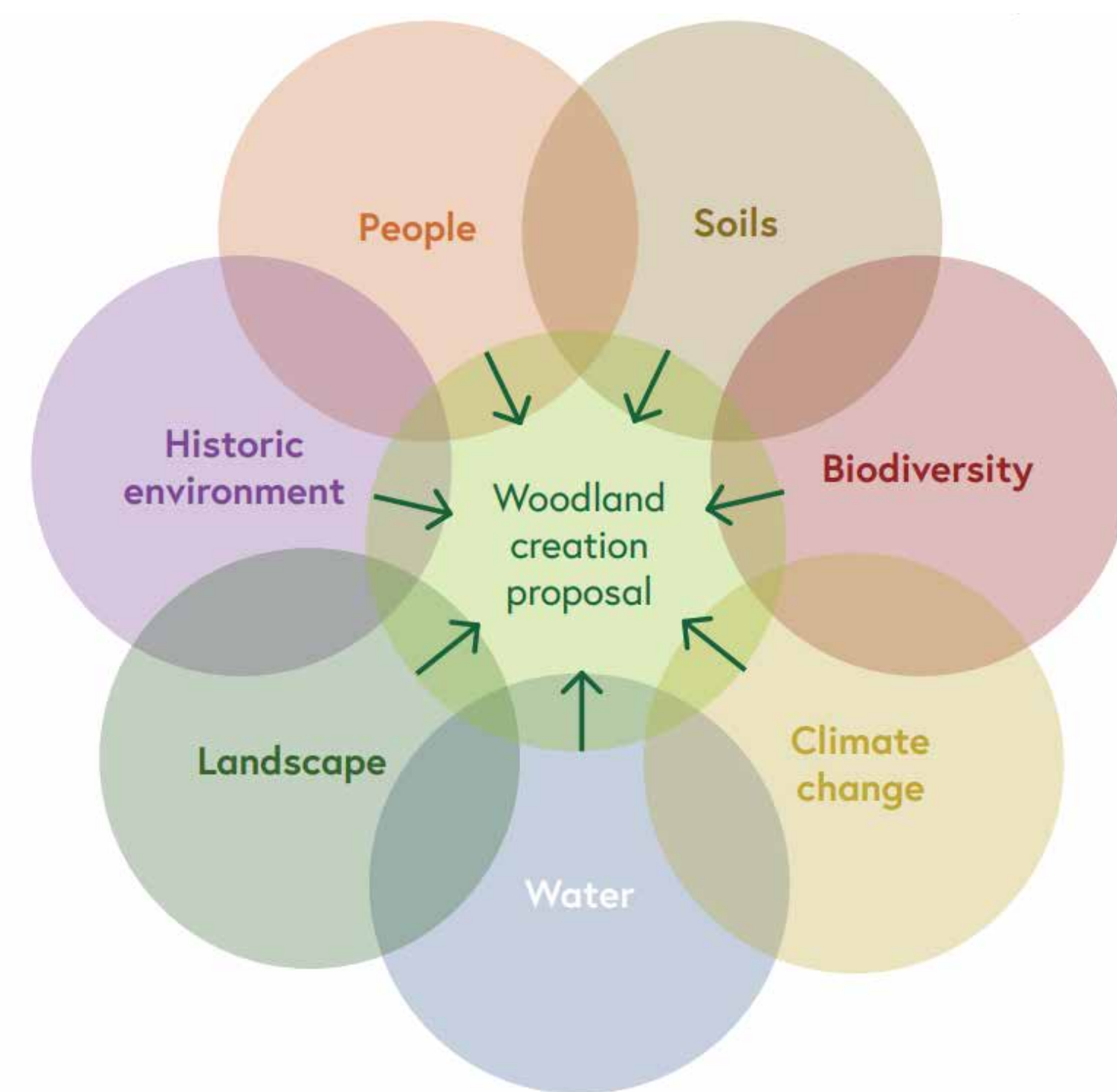
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How we design the new woodland

We are designing the new woodland to benefit people, wildlife, and the surrounding landscape (natural capital approach).

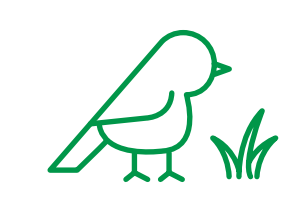
Detailed desktop, site surveys and analysis, as well as feedback from our local communities will guide our design and how the new woodland could look.



Objectives for the new woodland



Provide public access for health and wellbeing: create low-key public recreation opportunities with new areas for people to walk in the woodland.



Create thriving habitats for wildlife: expand ancient semi natural woodland habitat connecting to Springhill Farm wood and create riparian (riverside) woodland to improve biodiversity.



Deliver benefits to the wider landscape: capture carbon, improve the soil and air quality and help to reduce soil erosion, water pollution and flood risk downstream in Oak Beck, part of the River Nidd catchment.



Secure future forest resources and resilience: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of sustainable timber.

Types of woodland we could plant



1 Silver birch with rowan, hawthorn, wild cherry, crab apple, alder



2 Sessile oak with silver birch, scots pine, rowan, aspen



3 Norway Spruce with scots pine, sitka spruce, silver birch, oak, aspen



4 Scots pine with silver birch, oak, rowan, wild cherry

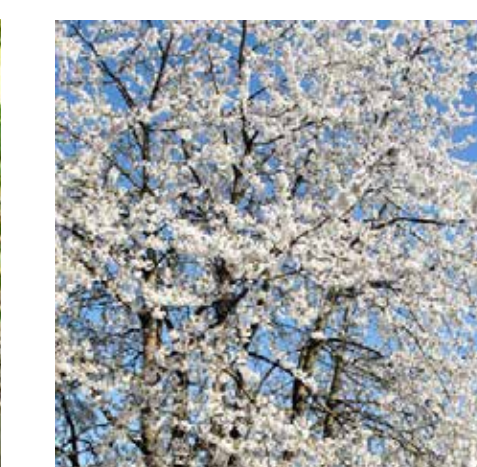
Additional shrub species



Dogwood



Hazel



Wild cherry



Hawthorn



Guelder rose



Crab apple



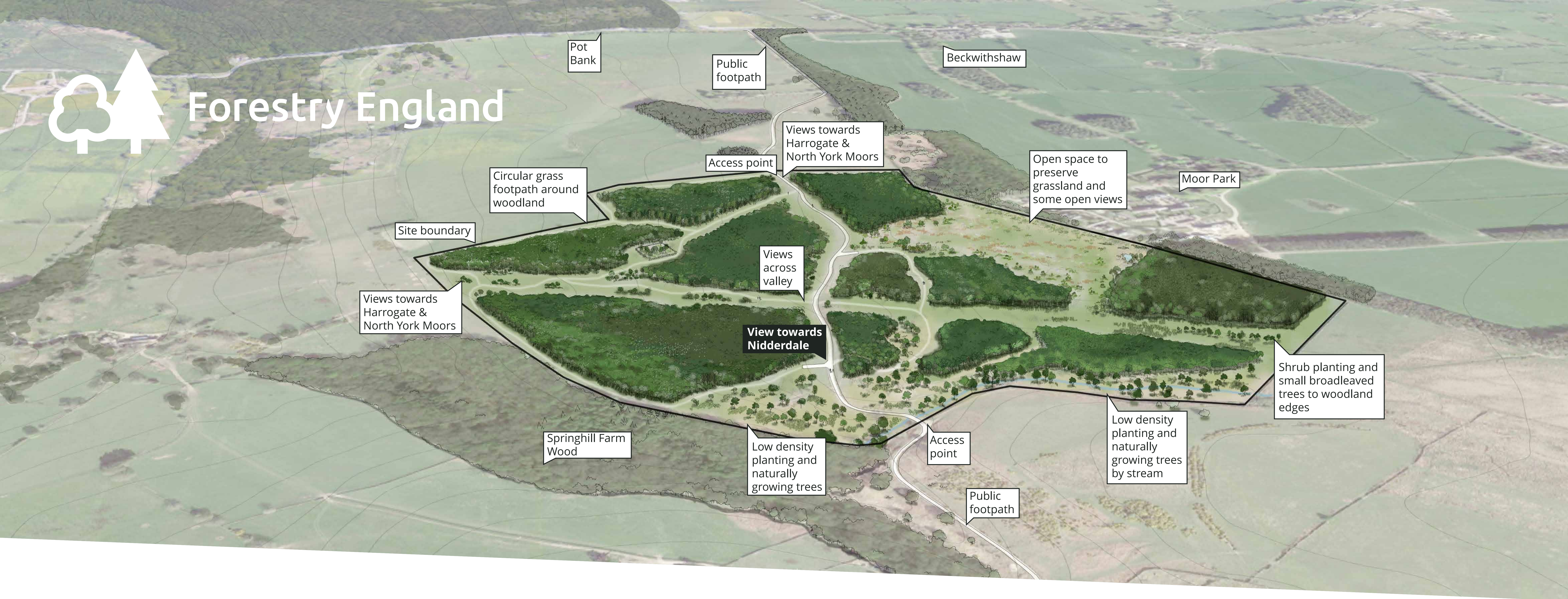
Spindle



Goat willow



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How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Keep open space near Moor Park, preserving grassland with many different species and some open views. In other areas, the open landscape will gradually change over time.
- Allow natural growth of plants and trees next to the stream and Springhill Farm Wood.
- Keep important open views of the North York Moors and Nidderdale National Landscape.
- Create a circular footpath of wide grass paths and connecting to the existing public footpath through the site.
- Plant a mix of conifer and broadleaved trees together with shrubs along the edges to increase variety and add colour and texture.

View towards Nidderdale
how it looks now



How it could look
after planting



How it could look
in 20 years





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Key

Site boundary	Broadleaved woodland planting with some Scots pine
Existing trees	Evenly mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland planting
Stone wall	Conifer woodland planting with some mixed broadleaves
Gatepost	Groups of broadleaved trees planted at low density
Listed building	Shrubs and small broadleaved trees planted at low density
Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)	Forestry vehicle turning area
Ancient replanted woodland (ARW)	Grass path
Watercourse	
Pond	
Access point	
Underground services	
5 metre contours	
Public footpath	

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Kilometers

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



How we have incorporated your early engagement comments into our designs

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

Public access

The new woodland at Haverah will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for people to enjoy. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate the woodland under the Countryside and Rights of Way act so people can walk freely.

Existing public rights of way from Beckwithshaw in the east to Beaver Dyke reservoirs in the west running through the middle of the site, as well as unsurfaced grass paths will give access for walkers to much of the new wood, and includes a short, circular grass ride route to the north of the site, away from Moor Park, providing views out across the valley towards the North York Moors. Our draft design includes open spaces and glades that would provide peaceful picnic spots for people to enjoy. We are not proposing to create surfaced trails for horse-riding or cycling.

Once the woodland is established, we'd be happy to discuss potential opportunities for educational activities with local organisations or schools. Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forest and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Traffic and parking

The new woodland has been designed for local people to enjoy the site and our proposals do not include public parking. We will consider signs in appropriate locations to discourage parking should this be necessary. Stainburn Forest nearby provides parking, walking and cycling trails for those who wish to visit a woodland by car.

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 entrance to the east of the site, off Pot Bank Road, to manage the site. It will be about 25 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.

Landscape and views

Our design sensitively considers how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours. Where possible, our design will frame and enhance existing views and we will seek to establish open spaces between the new woodland and key viewpoints. We have left open space and included shrub planting at the edges of the woodland closest to properties in Moor Park with small low-density broadleaf trees before the main woodland. Within the woodland, views will be framed to the north, across the valley. We will have more broadleaf and low growing shrubs at these locations to help keep an open view.

Wildlife and design

Our draft design includes open spaces and glades to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connect to existing open spaces outside the woodland.

We are doing ecology surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems at Haverah. A breeding bird survey will tell us more about the bird species on the site during their breeding season. The survey is ongoing and will be concluded in July. We are also doing an ecological appraisal of the site (PEA survey) to tell us more about the kind of plants and animals that live here. We'll use this information to make decisions about our final designs for the new woodland to protect and safeguard the habitat, birds, and wildlife already at Haverah and make the woodland a better place for nature.

Trees we could plant

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

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

Species at Haverah are likely to include Scots pine, Norway spruce and native broadleaves such as oak, rowan, alder, birches, hawthorn and cherry. A mix of native shrubs and naturalised conifers will complement the local landscape, provide seasonal colour for visitors and increase resilience.

Establishing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 24/25. In the early years after planting, and as the woodland becomes established, maintenance is important to ensure its long-term success. The Forestry England team and local contractors will manage the woodland. The woodland will eventually provide a supply of sustainable timber. We plan to grow and manage the woodland using lower-impact forestry techniques. This will maintain tree cover and biodiversity and allow for the gradual removal of individual trees or small groups of trees, leaving much of the canopy intact. We anticipate beginning to thin out the trees in approximately 25 years.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

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

Forestry England is part of the Deer Initiative, a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. We will use deer fencing within the site boundary to protect the new woodland. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers replace the role of Britain's missing predators by safely and humanely controlling deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our website. Deer fencing would be removed, and where possible recycled after the trees become established.

Why are you planting on agricultural land?

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

Our proposals for a new woodland at Haverah are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025 and provide a source of sustainable homegrown timber. Currently the UK imports over 80% of its timber and we are more reliant on imported timber than imported food (40% of food is imported). Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Haverah is graded 4 & 5. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.



Forestry England

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

Responding to this consultation

Please let us have your views by:

- Completing the online feedback form at:
<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/haverah-consult>
- Emailing us at
woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk
- All views should be received by 11.59pm on 28th July 2024

What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Planting (Winter 2024/25)

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

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