



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

Proposed new woodlands near Dunholme and Langworth in Lincolnshire

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

We are planning new woodlands at Mickleholme near Dunholme and at Newball near Langworth, in Lincolnshire. We would like your comments 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.

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 water management.

Forestry England is creating these woodlands using the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Nature for Climate Fund.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk

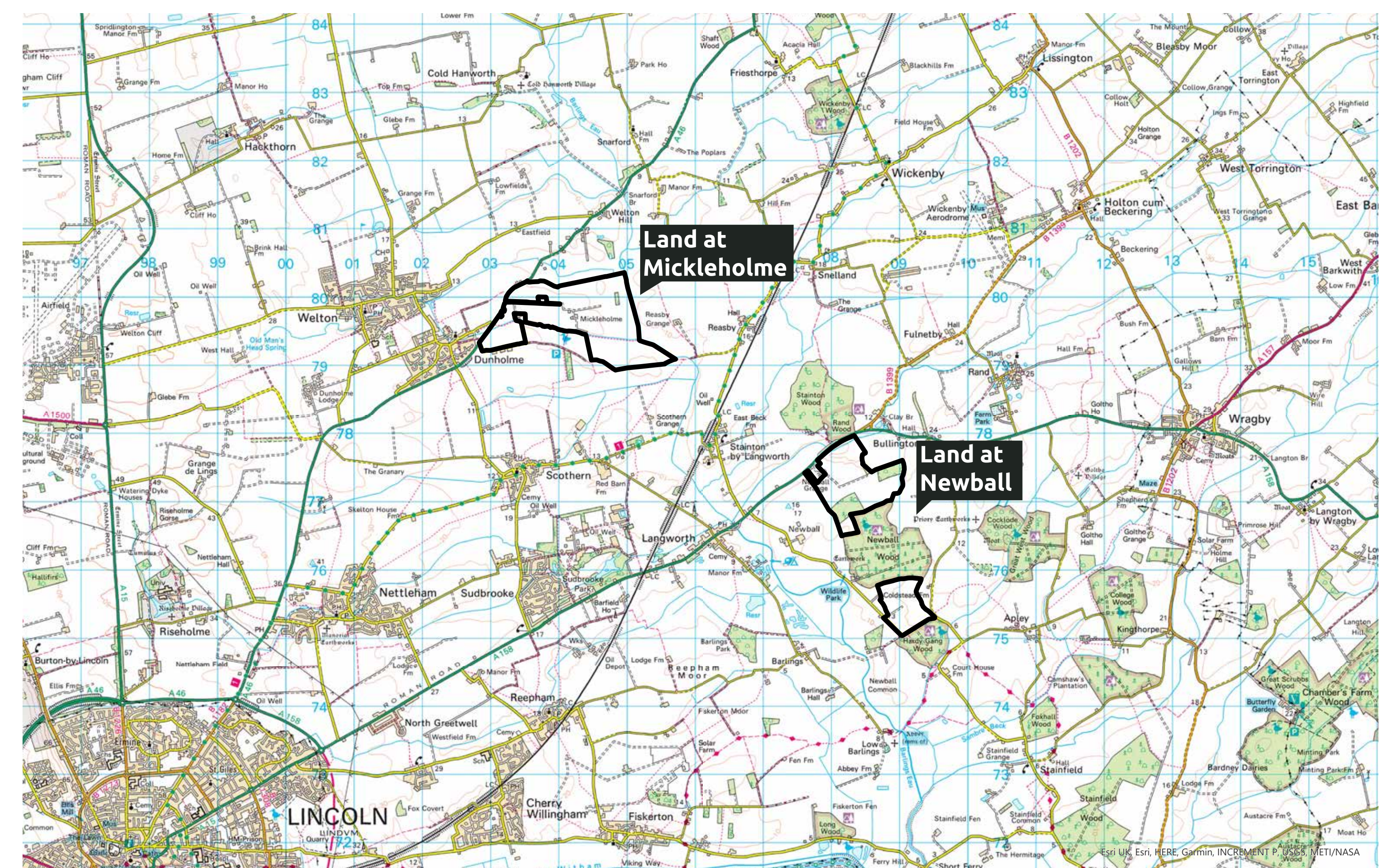




Site locations & context

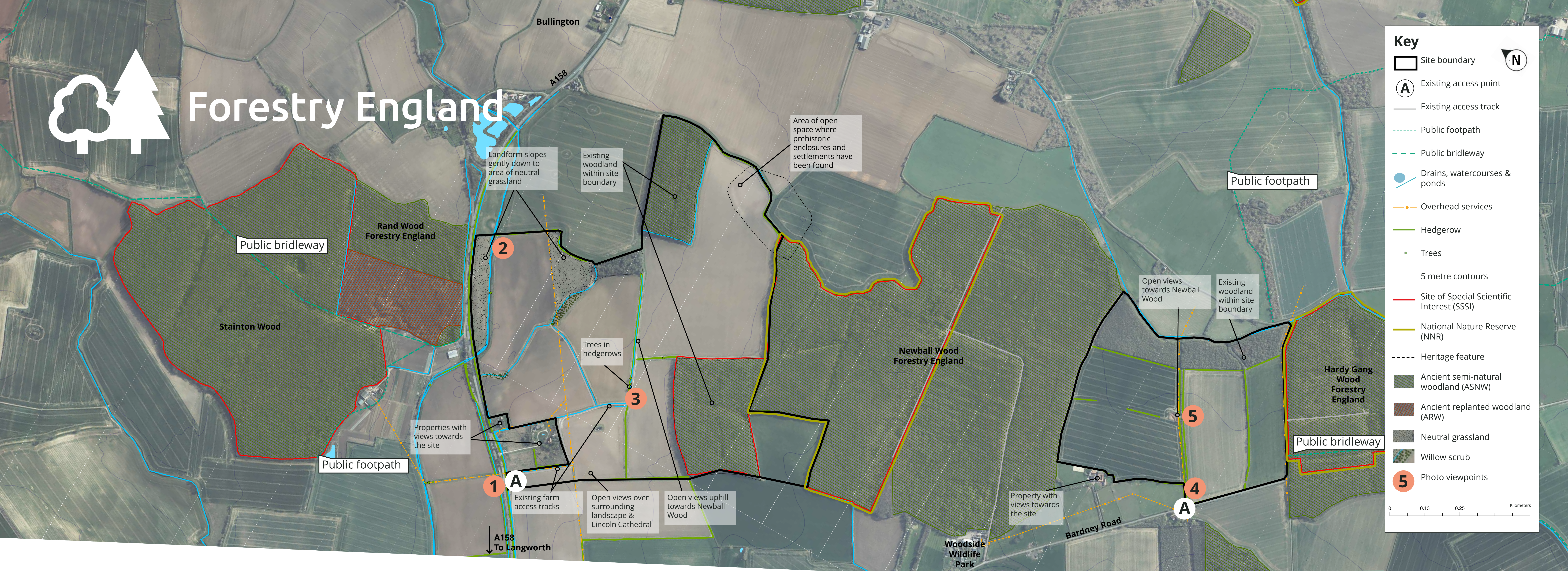
The proposed new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball are in Lincolnshire close to the villages of Dunholme and Langworth. The area falls within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 44 Central Lincolnshire Vale. The land at Newball provides an opportunity to connect two existing woodlands managed by Forestry England.

The area is a predominantly broad, low-lying, very gently undulating vale. Woodland cover is variable with little on the central and northern clay soils, and much more on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels; 8% of the NCA area is woodland. Land is used mostly as arable farmland with pasture on the heavier clays and around villages. In general, there is a regular pattern of medium to large-sized arable fields with hawthorn-dominant hedgerows enclosing most fields and with few hedgerow trees. The landscape is rich in medieval sites with remnant ridge and furrow, deserted medieval villages. (Natural England, 2013)





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The existing site: Newball

The site at Newball is mostly former arable farmland with large fields, some hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are several woodland blocks that stand out in the landscape. Nearby are Newball Wood and Hardy Gang Wood, designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Some of the adjacent sites are covered by Site of Special Scientific Interest status (Central Lincolnshire Limewoods SSSI) and are also part of the 'Bardney Limewoods' National Nature Reserve. This is a group of 9 Lime woodlands that have been high forest or managed as coppice since the 11th Century. The area is notable as having the greatest concentration of woodland dominated by small leaved lime in Britain.

1: Wide view south over site from A158 field access point. 2: View south and west over watercourse and toward Newball Wood in the distance. 3: Wide view east and south into field with ASNW woodland visible beyond. 4: View east and south toward deciduous woodland on site and Hardy Gang Wood. 5: View north through break in woodland and hedgerow towards Newball Wood.





The existing site: Mickleholme

The site at Mickleholme is at the edge of Dunholme village, with Welton village a little to the north. The landscape is flat and expansive with Ashing Lane Nature Reserve, a place with different types of woods and meadows, directly south of the site. This reserve contrasts with the surrounding open arable farmland. Dunholme Beck flows west to east next to the public footpath

The site itself was mostly arable farmland, with large fields and some hedgerows. Field boundaries have deep ditches and grassy edges. There are long views across the proposed site, including from homes within and along the west and south boundaries. Several public rights of way go through the site, connecting to the nature reserve and the landscape beyond.

Photos: 1. View east from footpath along Dunholme Beck. 2. View northwest from Mickleholme Farm. 3. View east from public footpath near A46. 4. View of entrance to Ashing Lane Nature Reserve from within the site. 5. View northeast from sewage works track.

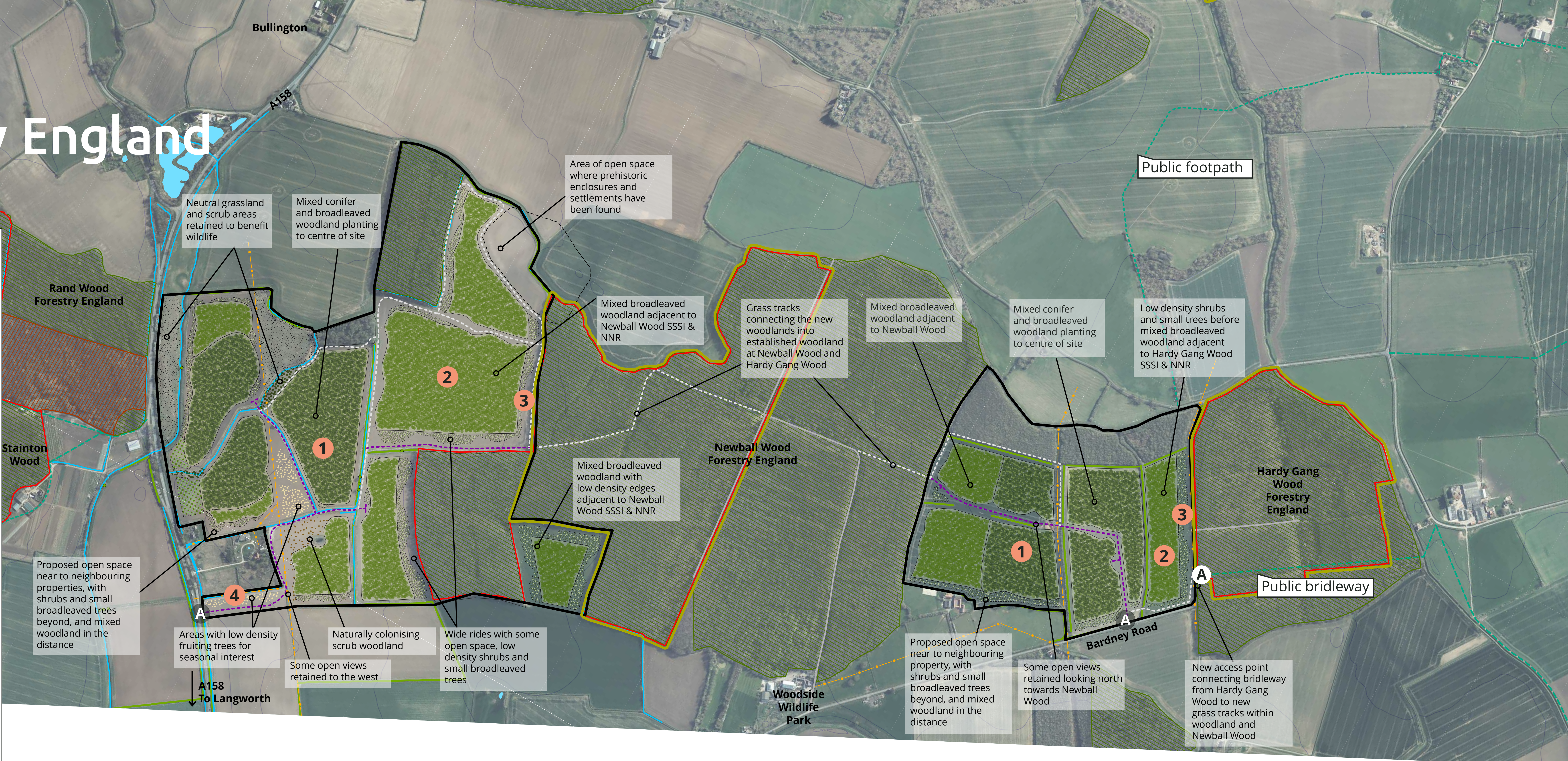




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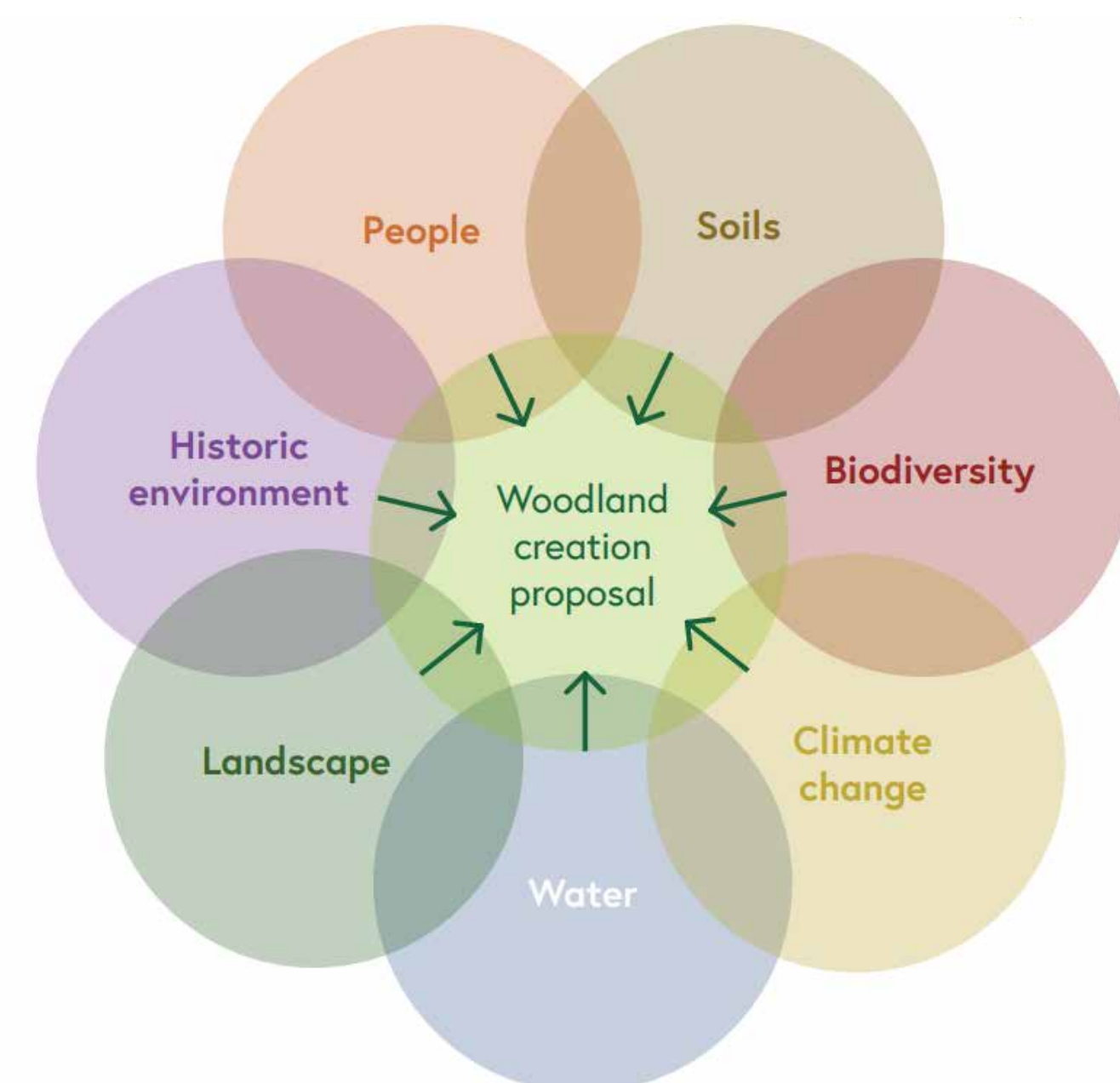
Key

- Site boundary
- Public access point
- Public footpath
- Public bridleway
- Drains, watercourses & ponds
- Overhead services
- Hedgerow
- Trees
- 5 metre contours
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Heritage feature
- Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)
- Ancient replanted woodland (ARW)
- Neutral grassland
- Willow scrub
- Surfaced track
- Potential walking routes linking to tracks and public rights of way
- Broadleaved woodland
- Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland
- Wide spaced broadleaved trees
- Shrubs and small broadleaved trees planted at low density
- Fruiting trees
- Naturally colonising scrub woodland
- Operational access point
- Existing track
- Types of woodland we could plant



How the new woodland at Newball could look

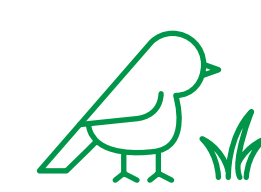
We are designing the new woodland to benefit people, wildlife and the wider landscape (natural capital approach). Our design meets the UK Forestry Standard, which takes into account the following elements (Forestry Commission, 2021):



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

- Preliminary ecological appraisal
- Historic environment records & geophysical survey
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Local environment records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland



Thriving habitats for wildlife: increase connectivity between the SSSI and other woodlands nearby, creating a mosaic of habitats to enhance biodiversity.



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



Benefits for the wider landscape: capture carbon, supporting net zero emissions targets.



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

Types of woodland we could plant



- 1 Scots pine** with corsican pine, norway maple, red oak, small leaved lime
- 2 Pedunculate oak** with sweet chestnut, small leaved lime
- 3 Low density rowan,** hawthorn, dogwood, spindle
- 4 Low density fruiting trees,** cherry, crab apple, pear, damson



Norway maple Hawthorn Red oak Small leaved lime
Sweet chestnut Crab apple Spindle Dogwood

Key

- Site boundary
- Public access point
- Public footpath
- Public bridleway
- Drains, watercourses & ponds
- Overhead services
- Water pipeline
- Hedgerow
- Trees
- 5 metre contours
- Willow scrub
- Deciduous woodland priority habitat
- Lowland meadow priority habitat
- Ashing Lane Nature Reserve
- Surfaced track
- Potential walking routes linking to tracks and public rights of way
- Broadleaved woodland
- Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland
- Conifer woodland
- Wide spaced broadleaved trees
- Native broadleaf woodland
- Shrubs and small broadleaved trees planted at low density
- Fruiting trees
- Riparian riverside woodland
- Wet woodland and broadleaf planting with open space
- Seasonal wetland
- Seed stand
- Operational access point



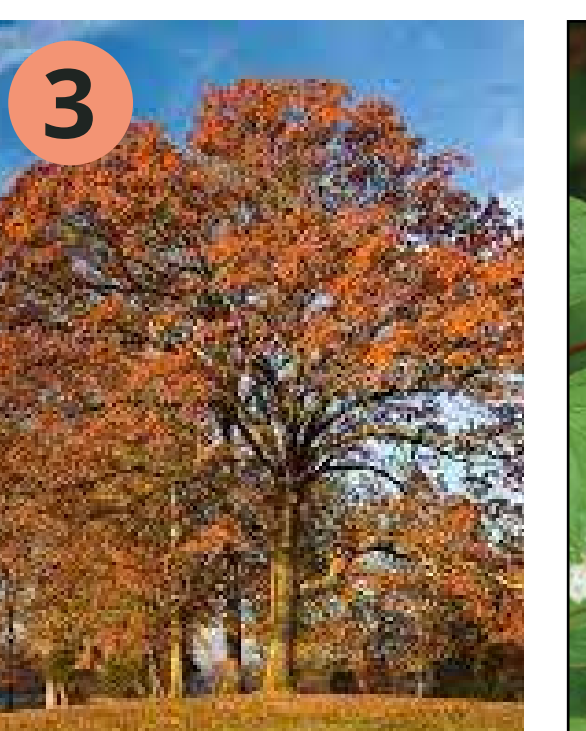
Tree species we could plant



1 Scots pine in mixes with Corsican pine, Macedonian pine and birch



2 Sweet chestnut in mixes with red oak and English oak and sycamore



3 Red oak in mixes with Scots pine and hornbeam



4 Shrubs including Dogwood, rowan, spindle, alder buckthorn, hazel



5 Alder in mixes with birch



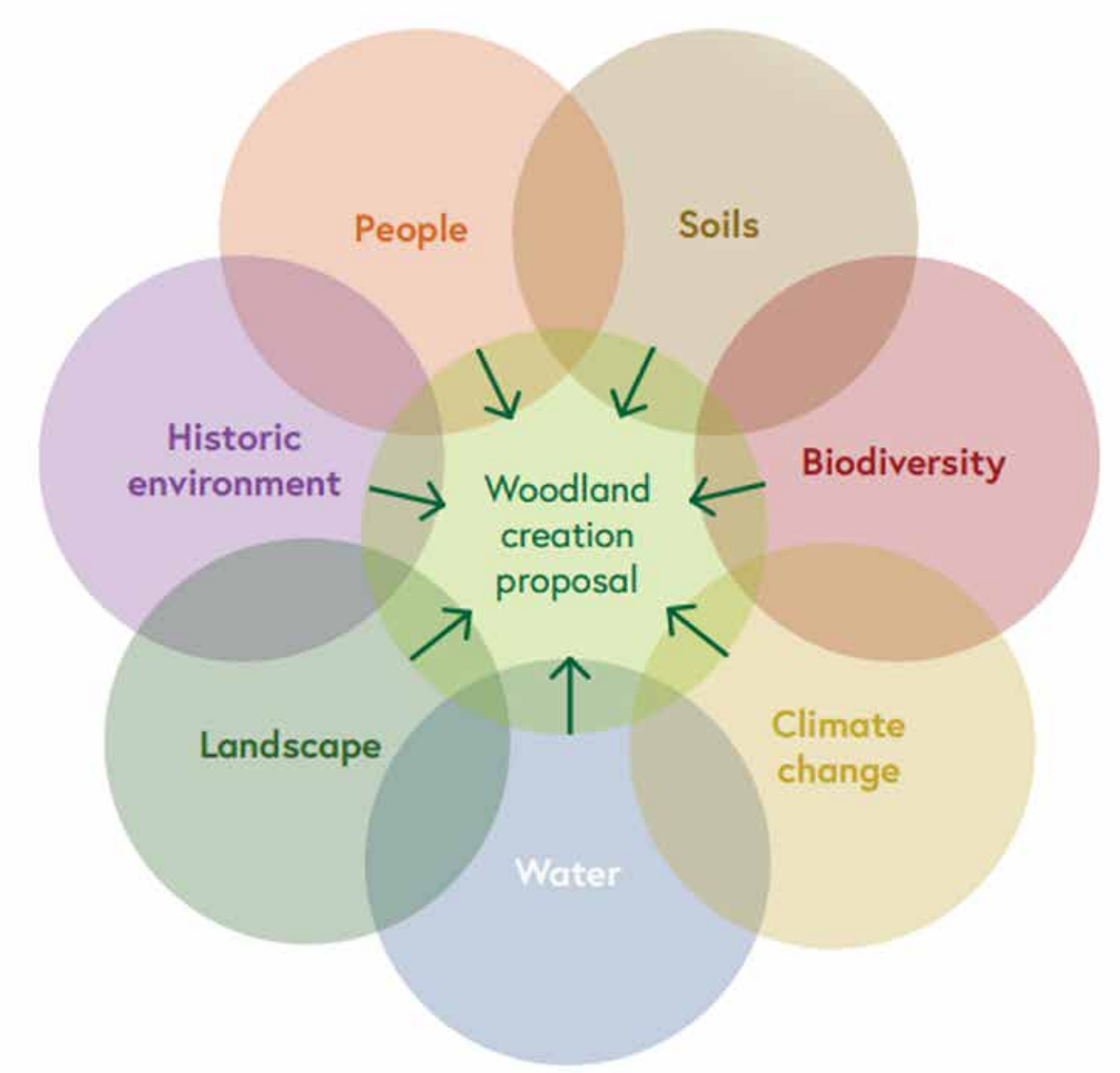
6 Aspen in mixes with alder and black poplar



7 Italian alder in mixes with red alder, aspen and downy birch.

How the new woodland at Mickleholme could look

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



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

- Preliminary ecological appraisal
- Historic environment records
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Local environment records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- 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 sustainable timber.
- Thriving habitats for wildlife:** increase connectivity by creating riparian woodland along Dunholme Beck and buffer and extend wildlife habitats to the east of Ashing Lane Nature Reserve.
- Incorporate new seed production areas:** help to secure a future seed supply of climate resilient species.
- Benefits for the wider landscape:** capture carbon, supporting net zero emissions targets.
- Public access for health and wellbeing:** provide low-key recreation opportunities by improving access to the countryside for local residents and visitors and retain the existing public connection to Ashing Lane Nature Reserve.



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How the new woodlands could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Plant coniferous and broadleaved trees together, with shrub species along some edges. This will add variety, colour and texture in the landscape.
- Create wildlife corridors by leaving open space next to hedgerows and adding some shrub planting at the edges of woodland for wildlife to thrive.
- Circular grass routes for woodland management and public access will connect to existing rights of way, which lead to surrounding woodland and villages.
- Include a mix of open space, native shrubs and trees at low density to keep some open views from nearby properties. This will also make the area look interesting throughout the year.

Artist's impressions:



Mickleholme public footpath view
how it looks now



Newball track view
how it looks now



How it could look
5 years after planting



How it could look
5 years after planting



How it could look
in 25 years



How it could look
in 25 years



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Key

- Site boundary
- Public access point
- Public footpath
- Public bridleway
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- Overhead services
- Hedgerow
- Trees
- 5 metre contours
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
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- Fruiting trees
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- Operational access point
- Existing track

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

New woodland at Newball

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



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Open space and wide spaced broadleaf and shrub planting used nearest to properties

Open space, fruiting trees and wide spaced broadleaf planting used nearest to properties on Market Rasen Road

Open space and wide spaced broadleaf and shrub planting to retain long distance views from property

Open space, shrubs and wide spaced broadleaf planting used nearest to properties on Ashing Lane

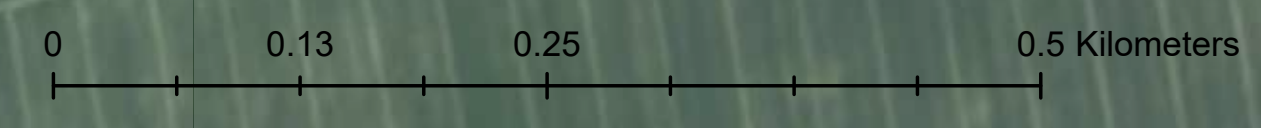
Seed stand trees in this area are planted at wider spacing. The seed collected helps to secure future supply of climate resilient trees

Wider spaced broadleaf and shrub planting is used to soften the appearance of the woodland edge in the landscape

Grass tracks connecting to the existing public footpath to create a loop walk

Riparian planting along Dunholme Beck improving the wildlife corridor

Open space, native broadleaf woodland, wet woodland and seasonal ponds create a diverse habitat adjacent to Ashing Lane Nature reserve



Key	
Site boundary	Surfaced track
Public access point	Potential walking routes linking to tracks and public rights of way
Public footpath	Broadleaved woodland
Public bridleway	Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland
Drains, watercourses & ponds	Conifer woodland
Overhead services	Wide spaced broadleaved trees
Water pipeline	Native broadleaf woodland
Hedgerow	Shrubs and small broadleaved trees planted at low density
Trees	Fruiting trees
5 metre contours	Riparian riverside woodland
Willow scrub	Wet woodland and broadleaf planting with open space
Deciduous woodland priority habitat	Seasonal wetland
Lowland meadow priority habitat	Seed stand
Ashing Lane Nature Reserve	Operational access point

New woodland at Mickleholme

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/mickleholme-newball-grange>
- If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by midnight on Sunday 6th April

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 2025/26)

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





Our response to frequently asked questions - new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball

The questions and answers below, are responses to some of the themes we are frequently asked about when creating new woodlands:

Public access

The new woodlands will be open to the public. Once the woodlands are established, we will dedicate them under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the sites.

At Mickleholme, an existing public footpath runs west to east across Dunholme Beck and through the site, connecting the new woodland to Dunholme. A bridleway also runs west to east from the village, entering the southeastern part of the site. At Newball, we propose to include a new entrance off Bardney Road to the southwest to connect the existing bridleway from Hardy Gang Wood to the new woodland.

These public footpaths will give access for walkers to enjoy the new woodlands. A network of new unsurfaced grass routes will allow access for woodland maintenance and for people to enjoy the new woodland, connecting to existing woodlands, nature reserves and the wider countryside. There are no plans to create new surfaced trails or provide specific infrastructure for horse-riding or cycling.

Our draft designs include open spaces perfect for peaceful picnics and quiet areas for people to enjoy wildlife and nature. The woodlands are being designed as quiet areas and we have no plans to include new amenity or recreational facilities.

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

Traffic and parking

The new woodlands have been designed for local people to enjoy; the woodlands can be accessed on foot, using the existing paths or the new routes we will create into the new woodlands and our proposals do not include car parking. We will consider signs to discourage inappropriate parking if necessary.

To manage the new woodlands, we need road access for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use the existing entrance off Market Rasen Road into the woodland at Mickleholme. At Newball, we will use the existing entrance and track off the A158 and are considering a second access off Bardney Road. We will add barriers close to these entrances to stop unauthorised access and antisocial behaviour.

Design, landscape and views

The new mixed woodland will enrich the landscape by boosting biodiversity and enhancing the natural environment. We have done surveys at each of the new woodland sites to tell us more about the plants, wildlife, archaeology and ecosystems. These surveys, along with landscape and visual appraisals have guided our draft designs.

For both woodlands, we will keep existing hedgerows to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connectivity beyond the woodland and to benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and birds.

By planting a range of trees and shrubs and creating open spaces with grass routes, the woodlands will connect to nearby woodlands, creating a tapestry of new natural quiet spaces for people to enjoy. Mickleholme will seamlessly link to Ashing Lane nature reserve. At Mickleholme we will also plant riparian (riverside) woodland along Dunholme Beck to create a habitat corridor along the watercourse and plant a seed stand to ensure a future supply of healthy tree seeds for our woodlands. Newball will connect to Newball Wood and Hardy Gang wood. The design for the new woodland will reflect the planting of these woods, helping to increase the habitat for the important butterflies already found here.

Our designs sensitively consider how close the new woodlands will be to our new neighbours. Where properties are close to our boundaries, we will include open space with wide-spaced shrub and broadleaved tree species to soften the views of the woodland edge and add colour and texture.

The trees we will plant

Our professional foresters carefully choose which trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the local soils, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species, and geographical features nearby. They also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to ensure our new woods are as healthy as possible. Creating diverse, resilient woods is important for timber, biodiversity and capturing carbon.

We propose to plant a range of species at the new woodlands. This would include mixtures of conifer and broadleaf trees at both sites. These might include Macedonian pine, Scots pine, Corsican pine, European larch, pedunculate oak, red oak, small leaved lime, rowan, and wild cherry. We will also plant a range of shrub species such as hawthorn, spindle, blackthorn and guelder rose

Establishing and managing the woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winger 25/26. Maintenance during the first five years is especially important to ensure the woodland's long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and our contractors.

Forestry England will develop a Forest Plan to make sure that future timber production is sustainable. As part of our ongoing management of the woodlands, we will begin to remove some trees after about 20-25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of UK grown timber and help the woodlands thrive for many years to come.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

The UK is home to six species of deer. As their natural predators (bears, lynx and wolves) are no longer present in the UK, our wildlife management team have to manage the deer populations. Without predators or management, deer populations become unnaturally large, and their browsing can damage or kill young trees and wildlife habitats, reducing the resilience of the new woodland to the effects of climate change and lowering the carbon captured from the atmosphere.

We will use deer fencing to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in smaller areas. Rabbit and deer fencing will protect young trees from browsing, while tree tubes will safeguard smaller, widely spaced areas. After the woodland has become established, deer fencing and tree tubes will be removed and recycled where possible. This usually happens after approximately 10 years.

Forestry England is part of the [Deer Initiative](#)¹, a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. Our highly skilled wildlife management team will 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 website².

Why are you planting agricultural land?

Lincolnshire is currently the least wooded county in the East Midlands. The new woodlands will capture carbon, restore and connect habitats, enhance biodiversity, supply sustainable, homegrown timber and be wonderful places for people to enjoy.

The sites have been individually and carefully assessed so they are suitable for woodland creation and sensitive to the local landscape. 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 Mickleholme and Newball is graded at 3. Forestry England's role is to manage and expand the nation's forests to ensure they are healthy and sustainable and benefit wildlife, people and the economy.

Timber is a crucial material for the UK's green economy helping a move away from higher-emission materials like steel, concrete, aluminium and bricks. It is renewable, sustainable, and has a lower carbon footprint, making it essential for environmentally friendly construction and manufacturing practices. Currently the UK imports over 80% of its [timber](#)³.

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

[forestryengland.uk](https://www.forestryengland.uk)



¹ <https://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/>
² <https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests>
³ [Forestry Facts and Figures 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-facts-and-figures-2023)