



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland at North Carlton, Lincolnshire

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

We are working on designs for a new woodland at North Carlton, Lincolnshire, approximately 3.5km north of Lincoln. We would like your comments 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 and hedges to provide green corridors for wildlife to move and thrive across the landscape.

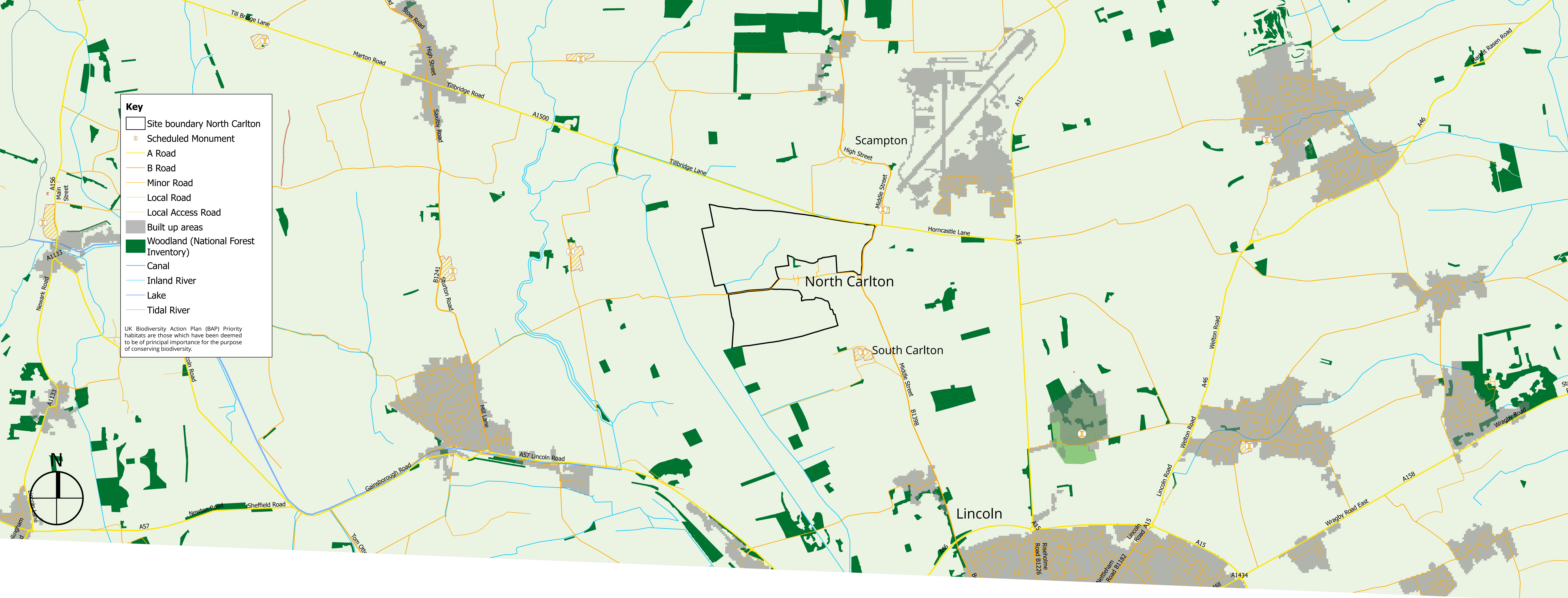
In time, each new woodland will provide sustainable timber, contributing to the rural economy. And they'll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and water management.

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

Scan the QR code to find out more:

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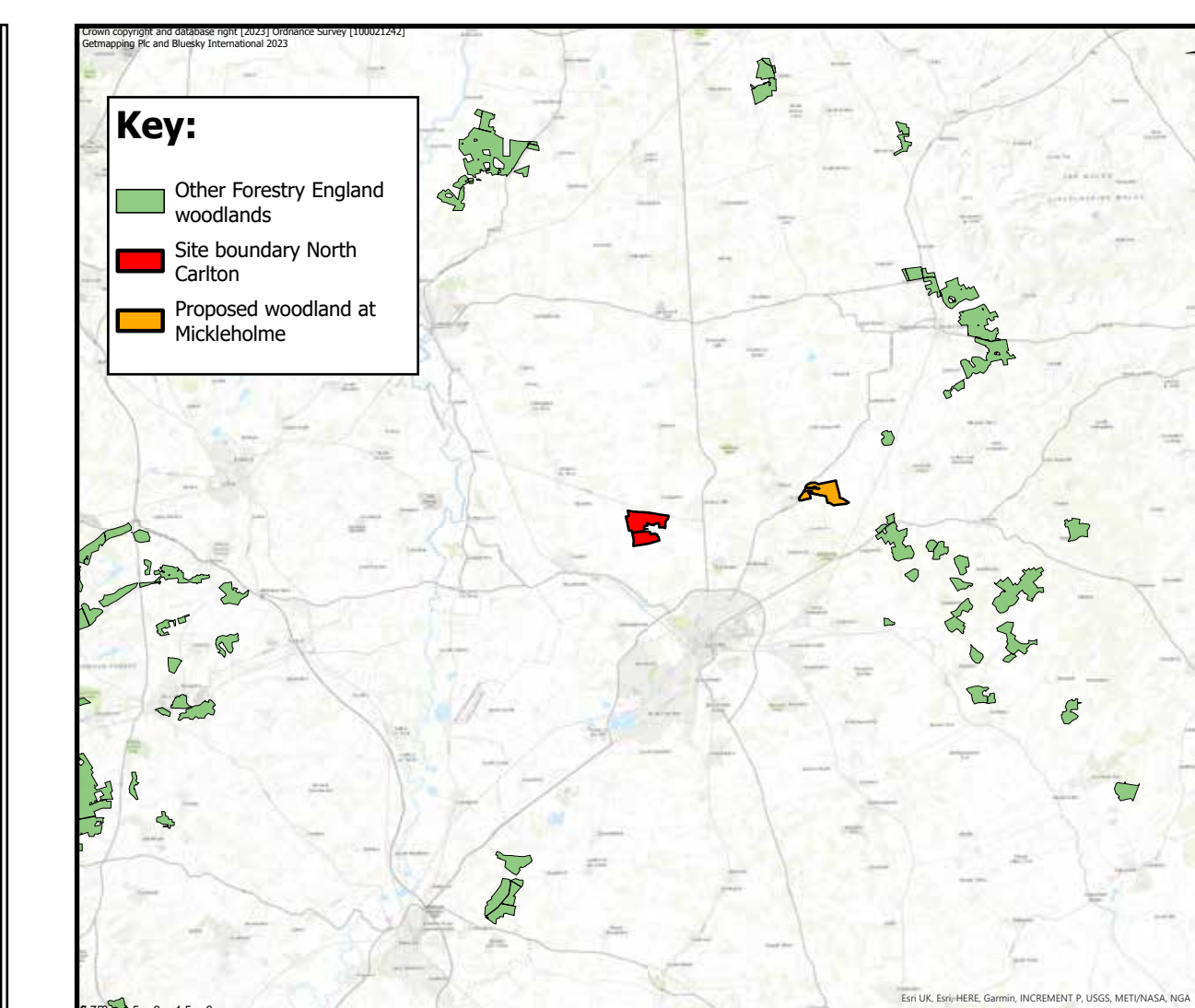
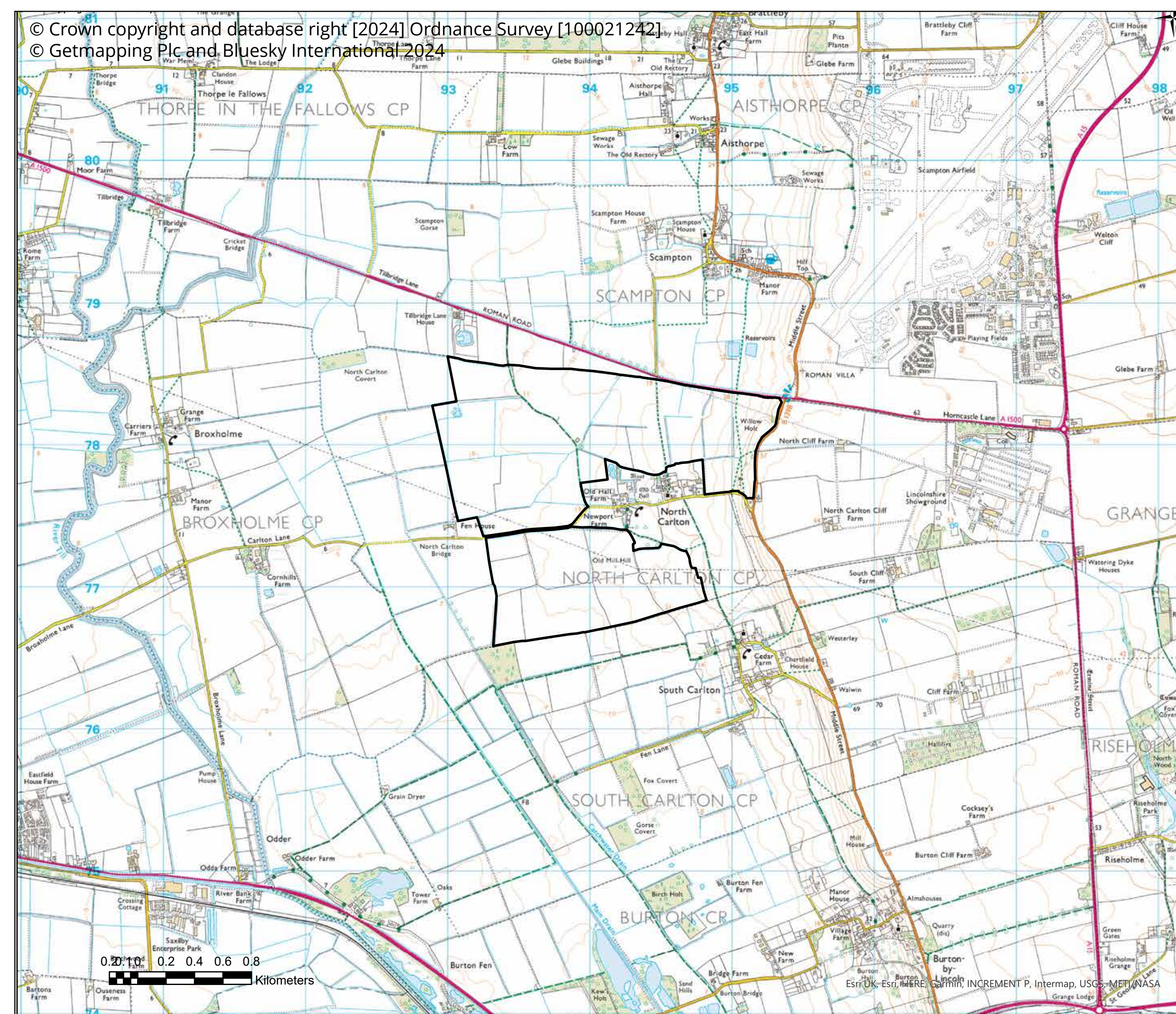


Site location & context

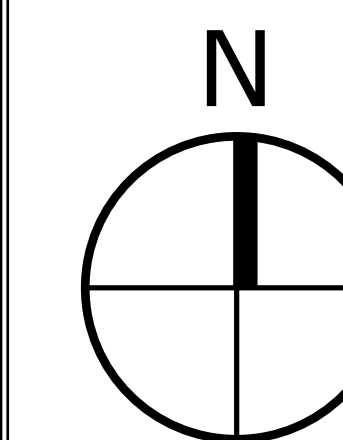
The proposed new woodland is next to the village of North Carlton and about 300m north of South Carlton, within the Lower Lincolnshire plain and just west of the Lincoln Cliff escarpment.

The site for the new woodland lies within Natural England's National Character Areas '45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands' and '48 Trent and Belvoir Vales'. These areas have low levels of woodland cover (6.7% and 5.6% respectively).

Agriculture is the main land use in the area. While most pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, some areas are still grazed. The landscape features a pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedges and a network of rivers, dykes and ditches. There are small blocks of mixed woodland and areas of trees and shrubs planted for wind protection. To the east, the land is elevated with the distinctive limestone cliff running north-south, offering extensive views to the west. Villages with historic character, such as North Carlton and South Carlton, lie at the foot of the escarpment along with historic halls and parkland landscapes.



Proximity to other Forestry England woodlands





The existing site

The 290ha site is mostly former arable farmland with medium to large fields. There are many ditches along the field boundaries, a stream, and hedgerows of varying quality. In the northwest corner of the site there is a small copse of woodland around a pond and areas of grassland and scrub at the edges of the fields and to the east, leading up to Lincoln Cliff. From here there are extensive views across the site from two public rights of way on the cliff.

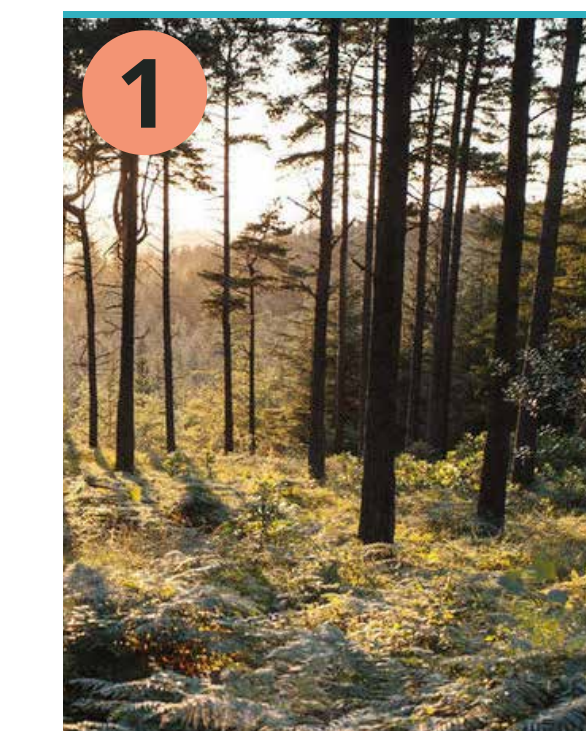
The landscape around North Carlton changes from the broad open fields to the west and south to a more intimate setting with hedge-lined lanes. The area around North Carlton village has strong historic character including Scheduled Monuments, such as South Carlton shrunken village, Roman roads and listed buildings including St. Luke's church and North Carlton Hall. Approaching the cliff, the landscape becomes richer in diversity, and offers a more varied visitor experience.



Photos: 1. View west from footpath near Lincoln Cliff. 2. View south from footpath towards North Carlton. 3. View within the northern part of the site. 4. View west from track in the east of the site. 5. View north along bridleway within the site.



Tree species we could plant



1 Scots pine
in mixes with
loblolly pine,
Macedonian pine
and larch



2 Holly



3 Western red cedar
in mixes
with Douglas
fir and coast
redwood



4 Larch in mixes
with birch



5 Alder in mixes
with aspen and
black poplar



6 Wild cherry tree
in mixes with
birch



7 Sweet chestnut
in mixes with red
oak, English oak,
wild service tree
and sycamore

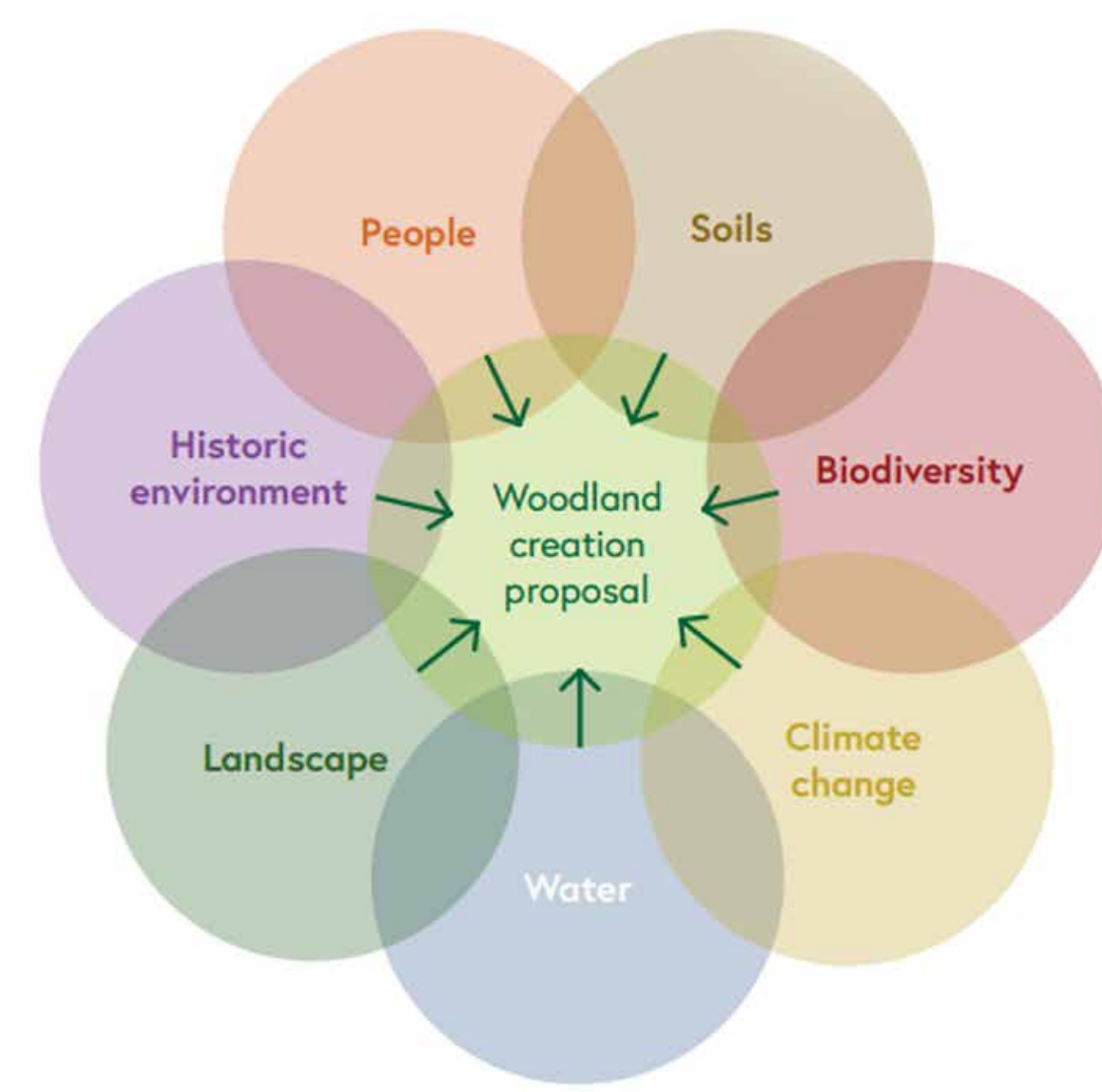


Shrubs including
Dogwood,
rowan, spindle,
hawthorn, alder
buckthorn

Draft design

How we design new woodland

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):

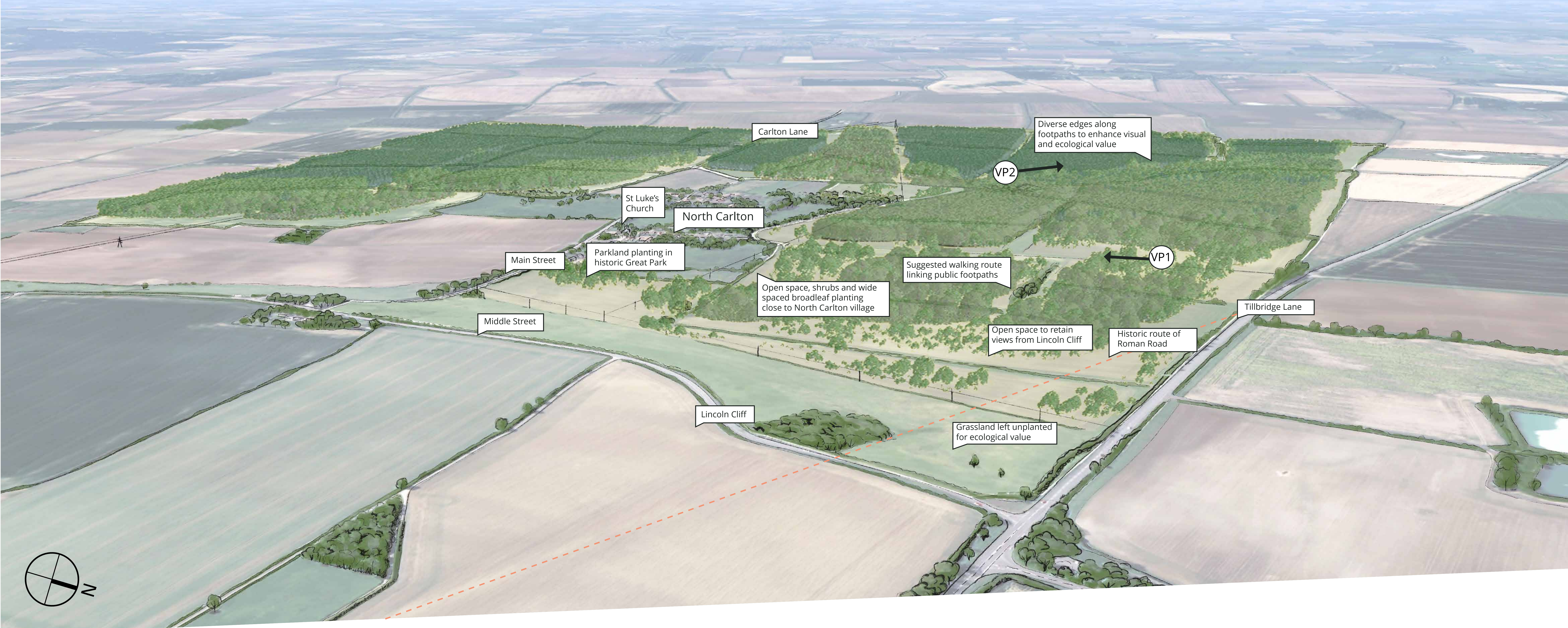


Detailed desktop surveys, site surveys and analysis will inform our design. This includes:

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

Objectives for the new woodland

- Create a mixed resilient woodland:** plant a mix of trees to create species and structural diversity and to produce a lasting supply of certified sustainable timber.
- Increase opportunities for enhancing biodiversity:** retain hedges, plant native shrubs and create open spaces within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.
- Protect and enhance historic environment features:** leave open areas where historic features are present, incorporate views and reflect historic Great Park in woodland design.
- Sequester atmospheric carbon:** help meet government net zero emissions goals by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climates and store carbon.
- Public access for health and wellbeing:** provide low-key recreation opportunities by improving access to the countryside for local residents and visitors.



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Add visual diversity in the landscape by planting a mix of conifer, broadleaf and conifer/broadleaf mixes as well as native trees and shrub mixes.
- Reflect the importance of the view from Lincoln Cliff in the woodland design by leaving open space and planting shrubs with low density broadleaf trees in the eastern part of the site.
- Keep the view towards St Luke's church along the footpath from the north of the site by leaving open space and clear sight lines.
- Leave open space where heritage features have been identified and include some widely spaced trees where the historic Great Park once was.
- Plant shrubs and broadleaf trees at lower densities close to North Carlton and in areas where properties overlook the site.
- Create open corridors by leaving buffers around hedgerows, streams, ditches, powerlines and pipelines. Along these open spaces plant shrubs in key locations at the edges of the woodland which also will benefit wildlife.

Artist's impressions:



Public footpath at viewpoint 1
How it looks now



Public bridleway at viewpoint 2
How it looks now



How it could look in 5 years



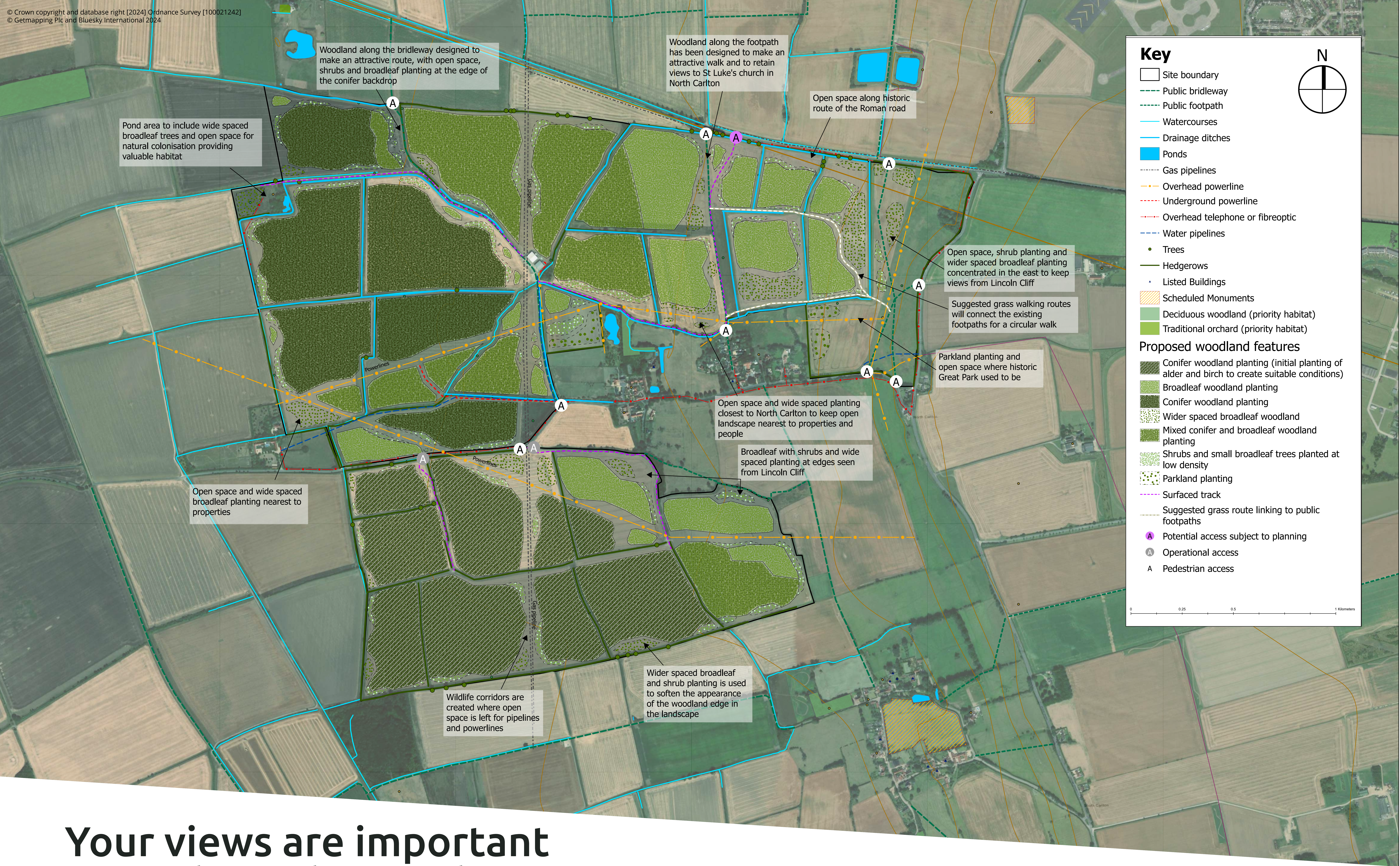
How it could look in 5 years



How it could look in 25 years



How it could look in 25 years



Key

- Site boundary
- Public bridleway
- Public footpath
- Watercourses
- Drainage ditches
- Ponds
- Gas pipelines
- Overhead powerline
- Underground powerline
- Overhead telephone or fibreoptic
- Water pipelines
- Trees
- Hedgerows
- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Deciduous woodland (priority habitat)
- Traditional orchard (priority habitat)

Proposed woodland features

- Conifer woodland planting (initial planting of alder and birch to create suitable conditions)
- Broadleaf woodland planting
- Conifer woodland planting
- Wider spaced broadleaf woodland
- Mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland planting
- Shrubs and small broadleaf trees planted at low density
- Parkland planting
- Surfaced track
- Suggested grass route linking to public footpaths
- Potential access subject to planning
- Operational access
- Pedestrian access

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers

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/northcarltonnw>
- 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 and additional surveys
- 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:

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A new woodland at North Carlton - our response to key themes from early engagement

We invited local people to share their initial views about our plans to create a new woodland at North Carlton. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Users of the new woodland and public access

The new woodland at North Carlton will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for local people to enjoy. Once the new woodland is established, we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

Pedestrians will be able to visit the new woodland via the network of existing public rights of way into the site. These, and a network of new unsurfaced grass routes will give access for woodland maintenance and for people to explore the new woodland. There are no plans to include new surfaced trails, cycling or horse-riding specific infrastructure.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, but we have no plans to fence around the whole woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forests and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Parking and traffic

The woodland will be open to the public and can be easily visited on foot on the existing public footpaths from North and South Carlton and the surrounding area. We have no plans to include visitor or other recreational facilities and therefore our proposal does not include public parking. We want to avoid a significant increase to car traffic on local roads.

To manage the woodland, we need road access for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use existing entrances on Carlton Lane and, subject to planning permission, an entrance on the northern boundary off Tillbridge Lane. At some of these entrances we plan to include new or upgraded tracks and barriers to discourage unauthorised access and antisocial behaviour. We won't use Church Lane for our woodland vehicles.

Design, landscape and views

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

Our designs carefully consider the view west from Lincoln cliff, particularly from the existing Public Rights of Way. The eastern edge of the woodland includes open space, wider spaced tree planting, shrubs and broadleaf trees to create an attractive and natural looking edge to the woodland. We have left open spaces where there are heritage features below ground, like the Roman road, as recommended by heritage experts. The design includes new grass routes and open spaces. Existing hedgerows will be kept creating diverse habitats for wildlife and connectivity beyond the woodland and to benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and birds.

We have carefully considered how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours and we will plant groups of shrubs at the edges of the woodland near neighbouring properties and close to North Carlton. Planting native broadleaf trees on

the edges and an area of wood pasture, will support a wide range of wildlife including varied species of birds, mammals, insects and fungi all of which thrive in the diverse environment created by these trees.

The woodland has been designed sensitively along existing footpaths and retains views to St Luke's church at North Carlton. New wide grass routes will provide access to maintain the new woodland and improve the landscape for visitors. Areas near powerlines and underground services, will also be kept as open spaces, opening up views. These areas will have a natural shape, often with groups of shrubs along their edges to blend in with the surroundings.

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to plan in detail the trees we will plant at 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 local 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, often planted together in mixtures, with groups of shrub species along edges to increase the variety and provide seasonal colour and texture. Species have been chosen to produce a future source of sustainable 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 North Carlton might include Scots, Macedonian and loblolly pine, black poplar, oak chestnut, silver and downy birch and common alder. Shrubs could include Alder buckthorn, spindle, dogwood and blackthorn, guelder rose, and rowan.

Establishing and managing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 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 woodland, we will begin to remove some trees after about 20-25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of timber and help the woodland to 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 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 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 wonderful places for people to enjoy.

The site has been individually and carefully assessed so it is 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 North Carlton 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.

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[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)