The existing site

The site is farmland of improved and permanent pasture. The general landform is undulating with several small stream valleys cutting through the area. The aspect is mostly to the east with very long views to the River Severn valley.

Trees and woodlands are a feature of the wider landscape, associated with stream corridors, as hedgerow trees, or in small copses of broadleaf and conifer mixes. Hedges are extensive throughout the area, well maintained and with occasional mature trees.

The topography of the site and its immediate surroundings means that there are no high vantage points in close proximity. The presence of hedges, trees and woodland blocks result in the existing farmed landscape already appearing to be well wooded.

Photos: 1. View from the public footpath towards broadleaf woodland. 2. View from within the site towards the east at powerline junction. 3. View north from within the site along well-trodden path. 4. Stream and woodland within the site showing heavily grazed understorey. 5. View towards east showing conifer and broadleaf planting at the field boundary.

Tree species we could plant

English oak with hornbeam, silver birch and rowan

Hornbeam with oak, silver birch and rowan

Scots pine with English oak, silver birch and hazel

Pacific silver fir with Norway spruce and coast redwood

Shrubs including guelder rose, rowan, spindle, elder, alder buckthorn, hazel

Small leaved lime with English oak, sycamore, wych elm and tulip tree

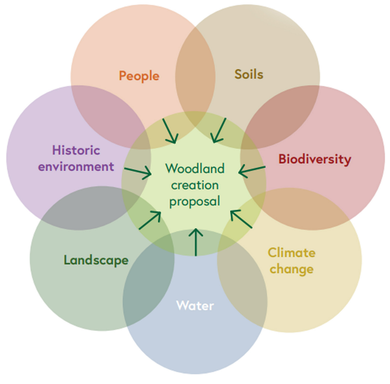
Common alder with white willow and aspen

Sitka spruce with Norway spruce, English oak and sycamore

Draft design

How we design new woodland

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
- Landscape and Visual Appraisal
- Local Environment Records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological Site Classification
- Climate matching tools
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland

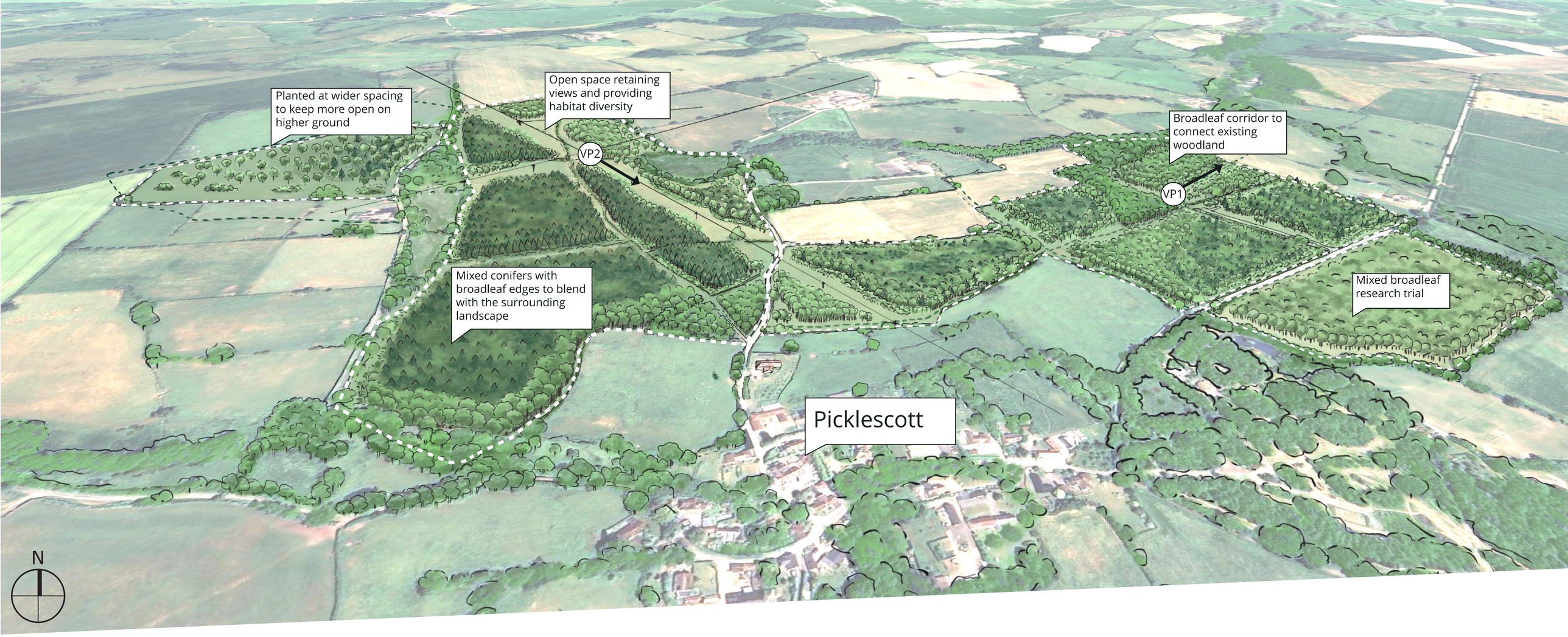
Create a mixed resilient woodland: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of FSC and PEFC certified sustainable timber**.**

Improve woodland connectivity and enhance existing woodland: link adjacent woodlands at a landscape scale to improve habitat connectivity. Maintain hedges and create open space within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.

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

Sequester atmospheric carbon: support Government net zero emissions strategies by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios and creating new carbon sinks or strorage.

Include research trials: to better understand how trees produce timber and capture carbon in a changing climate



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Plant a mixture of conifer, mixed and broadleaf woodland sensitively placed within the landscape to provide both timber security and biodiversity.
- We have created open corridors by providing buffers around hedgerows and powerlines. Along these open spaces we will be planting shrubs at the edges of the woodland to create areas for wildlife to thrive.
- Plant wet woodland species such as alder, willow and aspen in areas that are more waterlogged to create a mosaic of diverse habitats.
- Create grass paths to add to the network of public rights of way for walkers.
- Retain key views from properties adjacent to the site by leaving areas of open space at boundaries or planting shrubby species in lower densities.
- Include a research trial for mixed broadleaves to improve our understanding of how these species will grow and capture carbon in a changing climate.

How it looks now from the footpath at viewpoint 1

How it looks now looking from viewpoint 2

How it could look in 5 years

How it could look in 20 years

How it could look in 20 years

Forestry England

High point of site, left more open and planted at wider spacing to fit better with surrounding landscape

Wet woodland species planted such as alder, willow and aspen

Very wet area left for natural regeneration

Wide rides with shrub planting and broadleaf edges to provide diverse habitats

Priority habitat: Deciduous woodland

Broadleaf planting connecting existing woodland from north to south

Planting kept back from footpaths and neighbouring properties

Priority habitat: Traditional orchard

Research plot: mixed broadleaf species

Priority habitat: Deciduous woodland

Key

- Site boundary
- Rivers and streams
- Existing hedgerow
- Overhead powerlines
- Exsisting drainage ditch
- Footpath (public right of way)
- Pedestrian access
- Proposed operational access
- Proposed forest track
- Proposed grass paths

Proposed woodland

- Low density mixed woodland
- Mixed woodland
- Conifer
- Broadleaf
- Low density broadleaf planting
- Shrub planting
- Forest research plot

Priority Habitats

- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Traditional orchard
- Listed Buildings

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