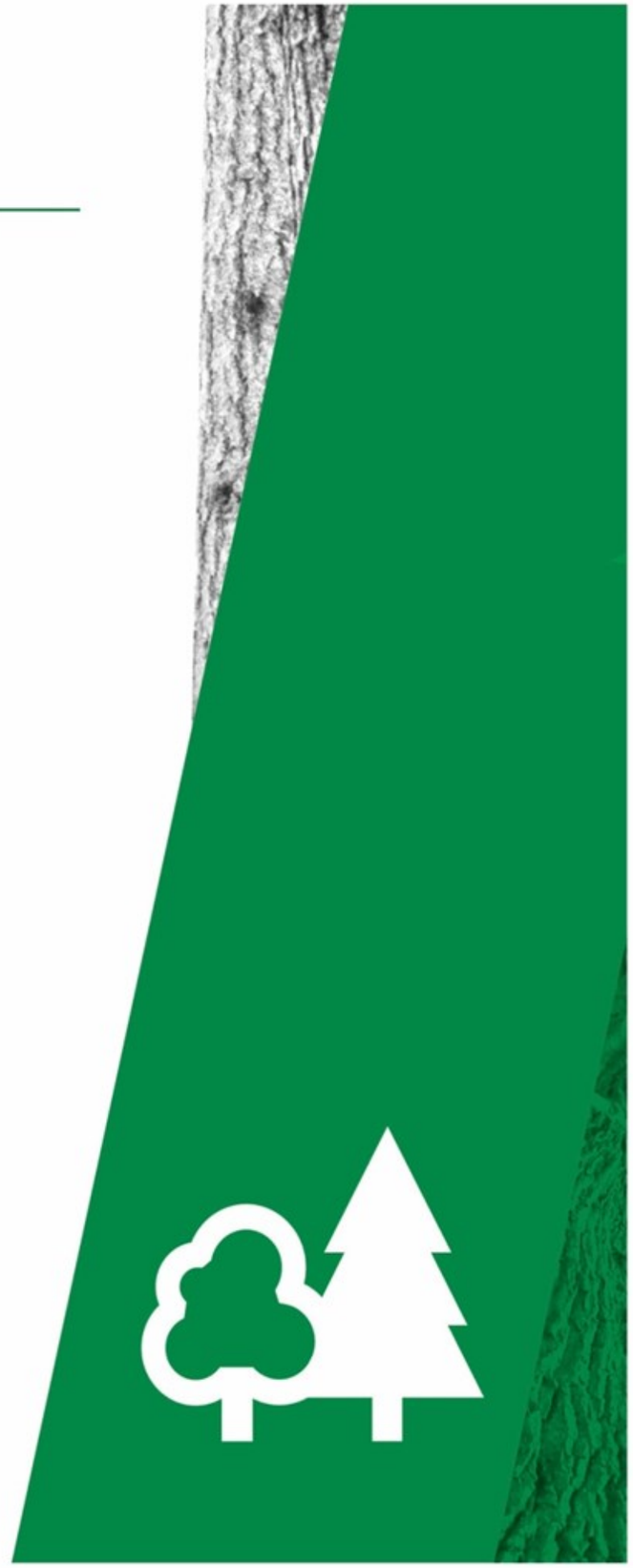
Forestry England

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan

2026 – 2036



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

FSC www.fsc.org FSC® C123214 The mark of responsible forestry

PEFC PEFC/16-40-1001 Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.co.uk

Contents

Pic.1: Crab apple Tree of Special Interest* (TSI) in Ropsley Rise

* Technical words are identified throughout the plan with an asterisk and their meaning described in the glossary *(see Appendix I, p.12-14).*

Pic.2: One of the rides in Ingoldsby

Summary

This Forest Plan (FP) summarises proposals by Forestry England for the management of the Ropsley Woodlands in Lincolnshire. The Ropsley Woodlands FP area totals 208.8ha and comprises the fragmented individual woods of Ropsley Rise (56ha), Boothby Great (67.2ha), Boothby Little (26.8ha) and Ingoldsby (58.8ha). They are situated inside South Kesteven District, up to 10km southwest of Grantham and within 5km of Ropsley village *(see Location, Tenure & Access Map p.14).* The tenure is a mix of freehold (122.6ha) and leasehold (86.2ha), with corresponding public access in Boothby Great Wood and most of Ingoldsby Wood.

The Ropsley Woodlands fall mostly inside the Kesteven Uplands National Character Area* (NCA) which is characterised by a gently rolling, mixed farming landscape. The scattered woodlands within this area are significant; including semi-natural, ancient and commercial forests. The elevation of the Ropsley Woodlands within the undulating landform ranges from 82m (in Ingoldsby) to high points of 118m (in Ropsley Rise and Boothby Great); the woodlands being prominent features in their immediate landscape and visible from respective local roads and footpaths *(see Survey Map, p.16).*

The soil type of the Ropsley Woodlands is predominantly pelo-stagnogley throughout. This soil is clayey and poorly draining, resulting in seasonal waterlogging in some areas. The woodlands themselves include areas of Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat, and comprise predominantly Ancient* and Semi-Natural* Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)*, with a small proportion of broadleaved secondary* woodland (*see Designations and Conservation Map, p.15).*

The primary management objectives for the Ropsley Woodlands FP are to:

- Support the delivery of the Forestry England Wild Ingoldsby Project, working in harmony with the Boothby Wildland Landscape Recovery Scheme to provide substantial gains for biodiversity.
- Continue the restoration of PAWS, maintain and improve the ecological value of priority habitats, and manage important open and woodland edge habitats to benefit flora and fauna.
- Sustainably grow commercial timber using species and systems resilient to the impacts of pests, diseases and climate change to maximise yields and prioritise timber quality.
- Conserve the heritage features and maintain informal public access in freehold areas.

Application for Forest Plan Approval

i Plan Area Identification:

Forest District:	Central Forest District	
Beat:	North Northants Beat	
Name:	Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan	
Nearest Town:	Grantham	
Grid References (access):	Ropsley Rise	SK 9664 3461
	Boothby Little	SK 9839 3145
	Boothby Great	SK 9582 3081
	Ingoldsby	SK 9889 3043
Local Planning Authority:	South Kesteven	

ii Designations and Considerations:

Kesteven Uplands NCA* (Profile 75, 195.4ha)
Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA* (Profile 47, 13.4ha)
ASNW* and PAWS*
Lincolnshire LNRS not yet published

iii Date of Commencement of Plan: On approval.

Ropsley Woodlands FP approved on ……...

Proposed clearfelling and restocking summary for 10 year FP period:

	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total
Clearfell	21.1ha	20.2ha	41.3ha
Restocking	0ha	41.3ha	41.3ha
Regeneration Felling (LISS)	Up to 4.8ha	Up to 31.1ha	Up to 35.9ha

The above figures refer to the gross area and exclude routine thinning operations. Restocking includes both planting and natural regeneration.

In addition to proposed clearfelling, 119.7ha gross area will be managed using Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems* (LISS). This will be done through the removal of small groups of trees, removing no more than 40% of the stems within any single management unit/compartment over the plan period. This operation will provide sufficient light to boost growth of the understorey and ground flora, allow adequate space for the development of crowns and stem form for quality timber and accelerate individual tree growth.

All of our forests and woodlands are sustainably managed, ensuring they will continue to benefit future generations. Our management meets best practice standards summarised in the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and is independently certified under UKWAS to Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards. (Licence codes FSC-C123214 and SA-PEFC-FM-006972).

.

1. What are Forest Plans?

Forest Plans are produced by us, Forestry England, for each local forest area to set out how we aim to manage the woodlands in our care over the next 30 or more years and to communicate this to a range of stakeholders. They

- provide a description of the woods as they are now
- outline the main points considered when deciding what is best for the woods
- describe how the forest will develop over time
- give specific information about approved tree felling, replanting and regeneration over the next ten years
- help ensure our plans are economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable, supporting certification of our forest management and timber products

All tree felling in the UK is regulated and a licence is required before trees can be felled. The scale of tree felling in Central England Forest District, which this plan forms part of, means that the Forest Plan is the best way to apply for this licence. Responsibility for checking that the plan meets all relevant standards and statutes lies with the Forestry Commission. If all criteria are met, full approval is given for management operations in the next ten years from the approval date and outline approval is granted for our medium-term vision (ten to fifty years). Plans are reviewed every ten years to renew our approval and check we are on track to deliver this vision.

A Forest Plan is a 'felling and restocking' plan written at landscape scale and does not set out the detailed management operations for each small piece of a wood, known as a coupe*. It is not possible to say in which year a particular operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it should happen. Forest Plans do not detail the management of recreation, ecological or heritage features. Planning for these elements is taken into account but follows a different management cycle and process. Operational Plans* written by the Beat Forester before each operation takes place. These outline the site-specific features that need to be considered when we undertake felling and restocking.

Terms of Reference *(p.11)* are agreed at the start of the forest planning process to set out our management objectives for the plan area, how these relate to Forestry England's District and National priorities, and how these will be monitored.

2. Review of Previous Forest Plans

Previously each of the four woods had an individual FP, collectively referred to as the North Kesteven Plans. The plans were approved in May 2006 and subsequently extended beyond the initial ten year period until May 2021. Given the alignment of objectives across the woodlands it is appropriate to combine their management under a single FP.

The former FPs were written against different criteria from those applied in Forestry England's plans today. Whilst they provide a valuable summary of the ecological and historical records, they are light on inventory data and detail regarding specific management objectives. This limits the reviewable elements of these plans.

- **Forest Operations:** A total of 15.5ha has been clearfelled within the Ropsley Woodlands FP area since 2006. This is in addition to regular thinning operations, LISS* interventions and windblow management during this period. Of the clearfelled area, 5.6ha has restocked by natural regeneration and 9.9ha is awaiting regeneration (having been felled during September 2025 under felling licence).

- **PAWS* Restoration:** The gradual reduction in conifers and reversion to broadleaf species has been ongoing since 2006. This has been achieved through felling operations and also restorative thinning. To date, 60% of PAWS have now been restored to over 80% native species cover. *Fig.1* below displays this progress since 2013.

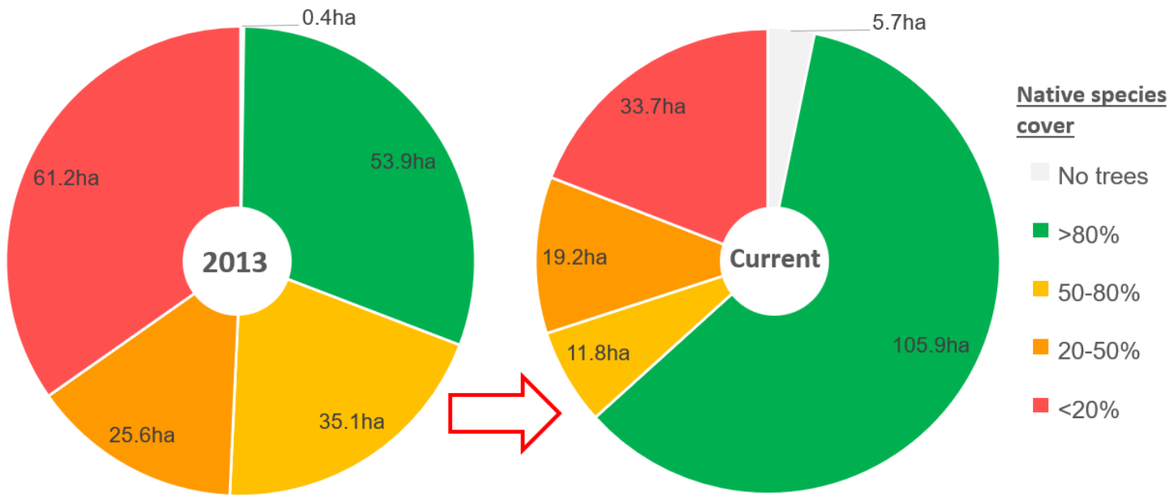


Fig.1: Ropsley Woodlands PAWS area classified by native species cover

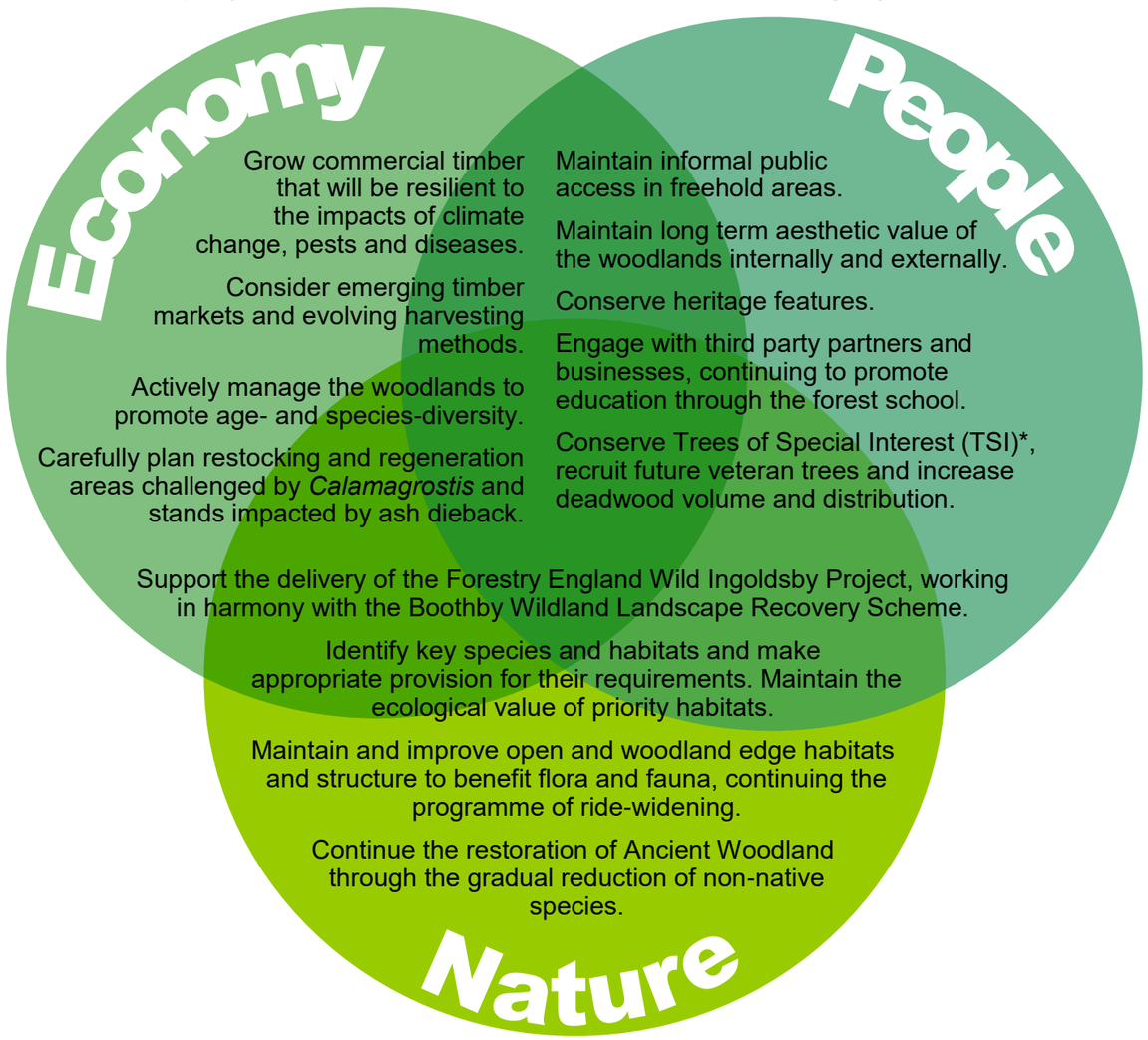
- **Reintroduction of traditional coppice management:** This stated objective (for Ropsley Rise and Boothby Great) has not been progressed since the 2006 FP due to practical and economic factors, nor will it be carried forward. However, incorporating larger coupes of short rotation mechanised coppice will deliver many of the ecological benefits of this habitat in a more commercially-viable way.

3. Management Objectives

Forestry England's mandate is to protect and expand England's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment. Our mission is to connect everyone with the nation's forests by creating and caring for our forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow.

- We're Forestry England — we live and breathe forests.
- We're using our scale and expertise to grow the nation's forests to make a positive difference to you and the environment.
- We're creating amazing places and experiences for you to enjoy, providing vital homes for wildlife and providing home-grown sustainable timber.
- We're able to share and care for amazing places and incredible wildlife because of the timber we produce.
- We sustainably manage forests to produce over a million tonnes of timber each year to support UK industry.

In the Ropsley Woodlands FP area we aim to achieve the following objectives:



3.1 Nature

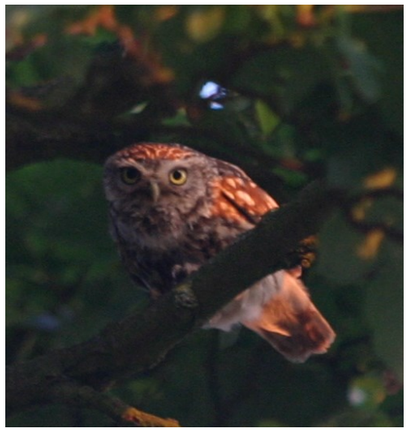
Ancient* and native woodlands support high levels of biodiversity and host many priority species. They also deliver important ecosystem services including water and soil regulation, carbon storage, and support for people's wellbeing and cultural values. 94% of the Ropsley Woodlands FP area is classified as Ancient Woodland, including both ASNW & PAWS (*see Designations and Conservation Map, p.15)*. Continuing to protect and gradually restore these woods to predominantly native tree species is a priority for this plan.

Forestry England has committed to establishing over 6,000 ha of Wild Core Areas within our forest landscapes. These areas will be places of innovation to rebuild biodiversity by identifying and restoring natural processes at a landscape scale. Part of the Ropsley Woodlands FP Area (specifically the woods of Ingoldsby and Boothby Little) has been identified as a site where our "Wild Ingoldsby" will be delivered. The intention is that the Wild Ingoldsby project will work in harmony with the neighbouring Boothby Wildland Landscape Recovery Scheme (managed by Nattergal), whilst also contributing to Forestry England's vision for Wild Core Areas. The overall goal being to aid the progression towards a dynamic and wilder landscape led by natural processes that will provide substantial gains for biodiversity. In the woodland context, Nattergal's planned woodland creation and natural colonisation areas of Red Hill Regeneration and Exton's Wood will expand the adjacent Ancient Woodlands habitats of Ingoldsby and Boothby Little respectively. (*See also Analysis and Concept Maps, p.18&19.)*

BOOTHBY WILDLAND NATTERGAL

There are 33 Trees of Special Interest* (TSI) currently recorded within the Ropsley Woodlands which are to be retained for generations to come. These include aspen, oak, field maple, ash, small-leaved lime, goat willow and crab apple. We will continue to record TSI and future TSI as they are identified, so they can be conserved and protected during management operations. These ancient, veteran, notable and future significant trees are highly important for biodiversity and an invaluable part of our natural heritage, providing unique ecological conditions and in some cases supporting entire ecosystems. Similarly, where appropriate, dead and dying trees may be retained to increase ecologically-valuable deadwood habitat.

Surveys in recent years have confirmed the Ropsley Woodlands host a number of important and protected species such as badger, great crested newt and slow worm. Breeding raptors include buzzard, tawny owl and little owl *(Pic.3)*.



Pic.3: Little owl *(Athene Noctua)*

Known lepidoptera species include purple emperor, silver-washed fritillary (as well as the rare valesina), brown argus and purple hairstreak. A priority for Forestry England is the management of open land and associated woodland edge habitat for the benefit of wildlife. Currently 27.9ha (13.4%) of the Ropsley Woodlands is a permanent open space component *(see Current Species Map, p.17)* and our continuing programme of ride widening will gradually expand this area. Creation of a further 41.3ha of transitional open space from clearfell operations is anticipated during the FP period.

There are records of many notable plant species within the Ropsley Woodlands such as common valerian, common spotted orchid, ragged robin, lesser spearwort, early purple orchid, hairy wood rush, herb paris, pale sedge, purple small reed, wood mellick, yellow pimpernel and wood horsetail. Notable for the wrong reason, wood small-reed *(Pic.4)* poses an additional complication during establishment by rapidly covering felled areas (plus those badly affected by ash dieback canopy loss) and out-competing regenerating and newly-planted tree saplings. The impacts include slower establishment due to competition for nutrients plus added cost from interventions such as inter-row mowing.

Pic.4: Wood small-reed *(Calamagrostis epigejos) in Ropsley Rise*

Forestry England will take suitable measures to manage deer and grey squirrel activity where it poses a risk to woodland objectives. The appetite of non-native grey squirrels for bark stripping increases the susceptibility of young broadleaved trees to secondary infections which often lead to tree death. Further adverse effects include stunted tree development and inhibited form, plus reduced carbon capture potential and yield. The significant deer browsing pressure in this region will impact natural regeneration and planted trees alike, so fencing of restock coupes will be a consideration to support establishment (particularly in Ingoldsby and Boothby Little). Expanding the ride infrastructure will help to improve pest management.

3.2 Economy

Timber production will be managed on a sustainable basis, improving future revenues by focussing on quality hardwood and softwood sawlogs and by maximising yield. Emerging markets, including biomass managed on shorter growing rotations, may provide opportunities to harvest and restructure areas where timber production is not currently financially viable. During restock, Forestry England will continue to regenerate and introduce compatible and appropriate species and species mixes; improving resilience against future pests and diseases and helping woodland habitats adapt to the rapid climate change we are now seeing. This will enable us to continue to provide sustainable timber resources needed by society while maintaining other woodland ecosystem services.

76.8% of the wooded area is broadleaf *(Fig.2)*; mostly silver birch, ash and oaks. The coniferous components are primarily Corsican pine (13.9%), Scots pine (4.2%) and grand fir (2.2%). All of the current coniferous area in the Ropsley Woodlands are PAWS*, so the phased felling and thinning schedule will support a steady reduction in conifers as these coupes are restored to predominantly native broadleaved woodland.

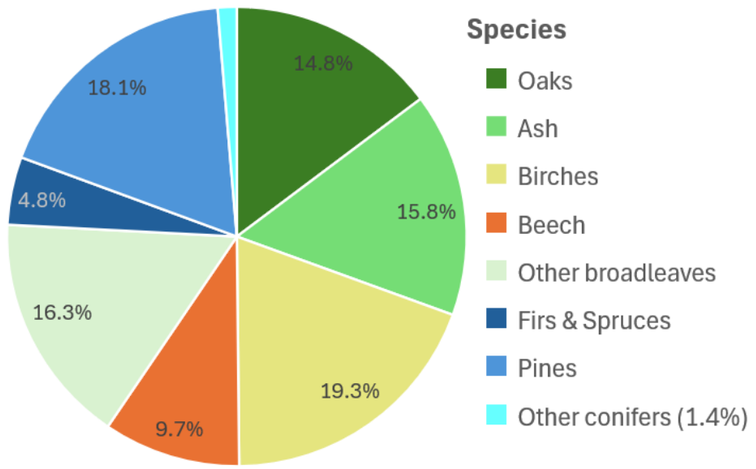


Fig.2: Current species composition of the Ropsley Woodlands

Fig.3 below shows the structural diversity of the Ropsley Woodlands. Currently there are peaks in the 50 years through 80 years age classes. In additional to continued timber production, the planned forestry interventions during the next 50+ years will increase the spread of younger broadleaves through planting and regeneration, helping diversify woodland structure. Areas proposed for management as Long Term Retention* will prioritise longevity, increasing the proportion of trees in the oldest age class.

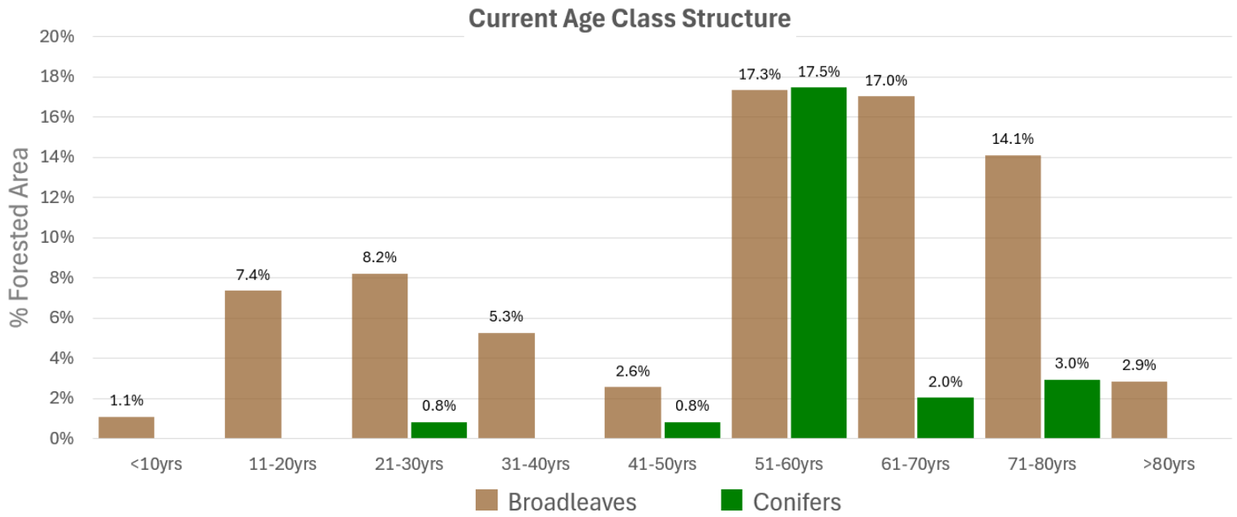


Fig.3: Current structural diversity in the Ropsley Woodlands

Table 1 displays a summary of the predicted average annual timber production (from all forest operations combined) alongside the average annual clearfell areas for the next five felling periods. The overall timber volumes are split approximately 57% from broadleaf and 43% from conifer, with the conifer element reducing consistently as PAWS* areas are restored to mostly native broadleaves. The higher-than-average clearfell area in the initial period reflects accelerated PAWS restoration as part of the Wild Ingoldsby project.

Table 1: Forecast timber volumes and clearfell areas

Forecast Period	Average annual timber volume (m^3)	Average annual clearfell area (ha)
2026	1967	12.6
2027-2031	1569	3.9
2032-2036	787	1.9
2037-2041	1152	2.6
2042-2046	1687	3.0

3.3 People

Access to the Ropsley Woodlands is mixed and dependant on tenure *(see Location, Tenure and Access Map, p.14)***.** The freehold woodlands of Boothby Great and (most of) Ingoldsby are open access to the public and dedicated under CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). These have a fairly small user base of mainly local dog walkers and naturalists who enjoy the woods using the forest roads and network of informal paths. There is no public access permitted into the leasehold woodlands of Boothby Little and (most of) Ropsley Rise beyond the public footpaths.

Although there are no Scheduled Monuments* within the FP area, the Round Hills earthwork (Historic England list entry 1005039) abuts Ingoldsby Wood directly to the north. There are various unscheduled heritage features within the Ropsley Woodlands including quarries, enclosures, ditches and woodbanks. All known features of historic and cultural significance are mapped to ensure forest operations in their vicinity are managed appropriately. Similarly any new findings will also be recorded.

Forestry England values and will continue to engage with groups who share our interest in conserving the ecological and cultural value of the Ropsley Woodlands through our permissions system. For example the forest school in Boothby Great Wood.

4. Harvesting Operations

A range of silvicultural systems* will be used in the Ropsley Woodlands *(see Fig.4 & Silvicultural Systems Map, p.20)*. These are designed to effectively manage the existing stands, to create ideal conditions to establish the next rotation of trees, and to further the biodiversity aims of the woodlands.

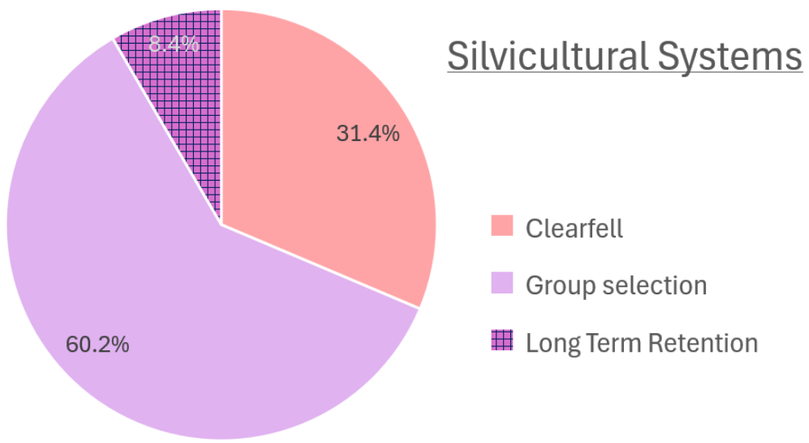


Fig.4: Silvicultural systems by forested area

31.4% of the total wooded area will remain managed under a clearfell* and restocking programme, providing economical timber and biomass production and transitional open space for wildlife. This clearfell proportion is expected to reduce over future rotations as completed PAWS* restoration will increase the opportunities for forest management using LISS* going forward.

A total of 41.3ha of clearfell is proposed during the 10 year FP approval period comprising 13 small coupes *(see Felling Phases Maps, p.21-24).* The area is split fairly equally between PAWS restoration in coniferous areas (21.1ha) and mostly shorter-rotation biomass production in broadleaved areas (20.2ha).

Management of over half the Ropsley Woodlands will involve LISS; mostly group felling systems such as group selection and small coupe felling. This entails creating small clearings of up to 2ha to restructure the crops and diversify their age and species composition, also improving the woodlands' resilience and adaptive capacity. The size and shape of the clearings will be designed around the light requirements of the trees to become established (considering aspect* and shade cast by adjacent stands), helping create optimum growing conditions for natural regeneration and planting. For the benefit of wildlife larger clearings will be elongated to maximise edge habitat. The use of LISS should also offer greater protection to soils and ground flora by maintaining canopy cover; thus reducing the likely impacts of extreme weather events and variation in microclimates throughout the day and between seasons.

16.7ha of woodland is proposed to be managed as Long Term Retention*. This management type prioritises conservation and environmental benefit over other objectives, defining areas in Boothby Great and Ropsley Rise where trees will be retained beyond their economic felling age.

In addition to the aforementioned felling programme, thinning assessments will be made every 5 years and thinning operations planned accordingly. Managing stand density and light availability through thinning is essential for each tree's crown and root system to develop fully, helping ensure the trees remain stable in the wind as they mature. Thinning operations are also an important source of timber and timber revenue.

As part of our Operational Planning* process, all forest operations are carefully considered beforehand and their delivery takes into account the particular ecological and heritage features plus any other site-specific conditions. Operations will be carried out in line with all relevant regulations and best practice guidance as summarised in UKFS* and UKWAS*.

Forestry operations may take place at any time of the year. This is necessary to strike a balance between the greatly increased risks of damage to flora and increased soil compaction associated with working during the wetter winter months and the need to minimise disturbance to designated habitats, species and breeding birds.

5. Intended Land Use

The species composition within the Ropsley Woodlands is currently split approximately 76% broadleaf to 24% conifer. The programme of PAWS* restoration through clearfell and targeted thinning and LISS operations will result in broadleaf-dominated woodland increasing to a targeted 100% of the forested area during the next rotation. (*See Fig.5 & Intended Land Use Map, p.25)*.

Beyond just species, the Wild Ingoldsby project will facilitate a more natural change to the woods of Ingoldsby and Boothby Little; encouraging an increased open and varied canopy structure which is more akin to woodland pasture in some areas. More information and detail will be available as the project progresses. This FP fully supports the intentions of the Wild Ingoldsby project, aiming to obtain some of the likely permissions required to aid the progression towards a dynamic and wilder landscape led by natural processes.

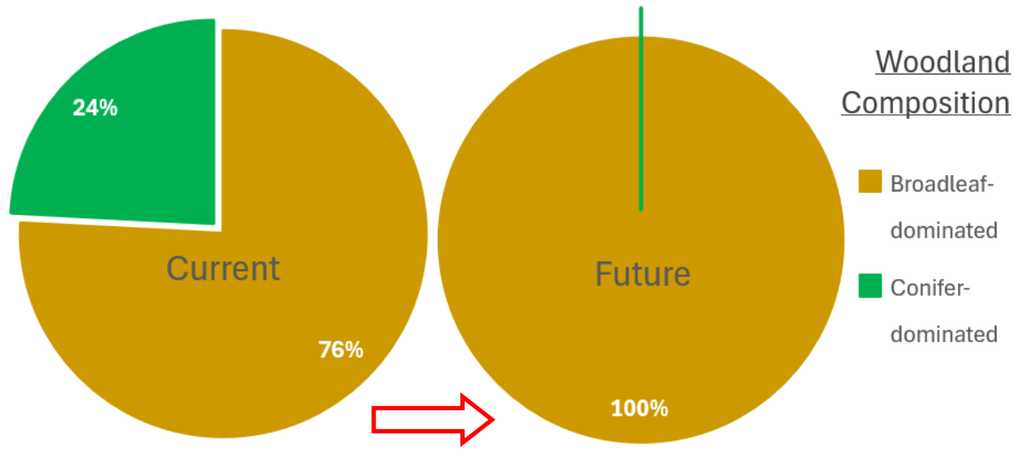


Fig.5: Woodland composition change over the next rotation

To increase forest-scale resilience to current and future pests, diseases and climatic changes we aim to increase species diversity during restock where appropriate. This forms part of our portfolio approach to restock, which also includes accepting natural regeneration and sourcing planting stock of local provenance and/or from 2 to 5 degrees south where possible.

6. Terms of Reference

Forestry England purpose:	To secure and grow the economic, social and natural capital value of the nation's forests.
Ropsley Forest Plan Vision:	To restore the entire area to native broadleaf-dominated woodland, with the management of Boothby Little and Ingoldsby Woods focused on resilient forestry which is better for nature and to be led by the forthcoming Wild Ingoldsby Project

Growing the Future Strategic Goal	District Strategy	Forest Plan Objective	Monitoring
For the Climate	• Tailor forest management to the unique character and conditions of each woodland, ensuring expert, evidence-based stewardship that meets national standards and supports a sustainable forestry sector, including providing sustainably produced timber and forest products. • Diversify woodlands by introducing a wider range of suitable conifer and broadleaf species, trialling new species where appropriate, and adopting flexible silvicultural systems. • Increase species and age diversity in new and restocked areas to strengthen resilience to climate change, pests and diseases, helping forests adapt to future environmental pressures. • Maintain healthy, productive forests that store carbon effectively, contributing to long-term climate action.	• Continue to grow commercial timber using a variety of species that will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases to maximise yields. • Ensure stands are more structurally diverse, actively managing the woodland to promote age- and species-diversity. • Use a variety of silvicultural systems based around the light requirements of the trees to be established. Carefully plan restocking and regeneration areas challenged by *Calamagrostis* and stands impacted by ash dieback. • Consider emerging timber markets and evolving harvesting methods.	• Forestry operations and restocking will be recorded in the Forestry England sub-compartment database and monitored at 5 year mid-term review and 10 year renewal. • Monitor as part of the 10 year forest plan renewal. • Monitor establishment and intervene where necessary. • No monitoring required.
For Wildlife	• Use environmentally sensitive harvesting methods, following current Forestry England guidance, to minimise impacts on soils, ground vegetation and fragile ecosystems. • Continue targeted programmes to manage deer and other browsing pressures, enabling vulnerable flora, fauna and natural regeneration to thrive. • Enhance ecological conditions by creating more varied habitats, including increased deadwood to support specialist species. • Restore and reconnect priority habitats to help reverse biodiversity decline and strengthen woodland resilience. • Work collaboratively with local communities, conservation bodies and other partners to protect and enhance biodiversity, cultural heritage and the unique character of each forest. • Build strong partnerships to maximise collective impact and ensure forests continue to support healthy, resilient ecosystems for the future.	• Support the delivery of the Forestry England Wild Ingoldsby Project, working in harmony with the Boothby Wildland Landscape Recovery Scheme to provide substantial gains for biodiversity. • Continue restoration of Ancient Woodland through the gradual reduction of non-native species and replacement with appropriate species better suited to the impacts of climate change, pests and diseases. • Identify key species and habitats, including European Protected Species associated with Forestry England's land, and make appropriate provision for their requirements. Maintain the ecological value of priority habitats. • Maintain and improve open and woodland edge habitats and structure to benefit flora and fauna, continuing the programme of ride-widening throughout the woodlands. • Identify existing Trees of Special Interest and manage appropriately to retain these, recruit future veteran trees and increase the volume and distribution of deadwood.	• To be monitored as part of the Wild Ingoldsby Project. • Ancient Woodland restoration monitored as part of the 10 year forest plan renewal. • Monitored as part of the operational planning process. • As above. • Existing and future TSI to be recorded on the conservation database and reviewed as part of operational planning process.
For People	• Ensure woodlands remain welcoming and accessible, providing inclusive spaces for people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature. • Improve accessibility and maintain high standards of visitor safety to support physical, mental and social wellbeing. • Offer a varied recreational experience, from peaceful, nature-rich areas to more adventurous activities, allowing visitors to choose what best suits their needs. • Expand opportunities for outdoor learning, community involvement and citizen-science activities, creating meaningful experiences for schools, families and individuals. • Support external environmental educators and partner organisations to broaden learning opportunities across the public forest estate and deepen understanding of forests, sustainable land management and climate-nature challenges. • Strengthen partnerships with local communities, businesses, public bodies and stakeholders to co-create recreational and educational opportunities that enrich the estate and support wider social and economic wellbeing. • Maintain strong collaborative relationships to ensure forests remain vibrant, valued places that bring people and nature together while delivering lasting regional benefits.	• Maintain informal public access on foot in all freehold areas. • Design, phase and scale harvesting and thinning operations sympathetically to maintain aesthetic value within the woodlands and integrate forest boundaries within the wider landscape where possible. • Conserve heritage features within the FP area in line with Forestry England's Historic Environment guidance. Ensure operations do not adversely impact the adjacent Scheduled Ancient Monument. • Engage with third party partners and businesses where compatible with wider Forest Plan objectives, including continuing to promote education within the woodlands through permission for the leased forest school.	• No monitoring required. • Species composition, age structure and coupe design reviewed at 5 year mid-term review and as part of the 10 year forest plan renewal. • Monitored as part of the operational planning process. • Monitor via Forestry England's lease & permit systems.

Appendix I

Glossary

Acute Oak Decline
Acute oak decline is a complex syndrome in which several damaging agents interact and cause a serious decline in tree condition, and can kill oak trees within four to six years of the onset of symptoms. The agents can be abiotic or biotic; the latter often include insects and fungi which are not capable of invading healthy trees but which can be very destructive to stressed oaks. Symptoms include characteristic weeping cankers/ lesions in the bark.

Ancient Woodland
Areas of semi-natural native woodland that have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600. They are particularly rich in biodiversity and this is often notable in their characteristic ground flora.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)
Ash dieback (also known as Chalara ash dieback) is a highly destructive fungus killing native ash trees across the UK. Young and coppiced trees will die quickly once infected, more mature ash may survive for a number of years once infected. Causes the timber to lose strength, become brittle and trees to start dropping limbs.

Aspect
The direction a slope faces. This can have a strong influence on the microclimate, ground vegetation, soils and hydrology.

Canopy
The mass of foliage and branches formed collectively by the crowns of trees. The shade it casts has a strong influence on the plants, trees and shrubs beneath it.

Carr Woodland
A wet woodland area, usually dominated by willow, birch and alder species.

Chronic Oak Decline
Chronic oak decline is a complex disorder of oak trees which several damaging agents interact either simultaneously or sequentially to bring about a serious, long term decline in tree health and condition. It differs from acute oak decline (above), which causes a much faster, and usually fatal, decline in tree health.

Clearfelling
Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland, it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). A scatter or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.

Climax Species
Tree species that will eventually dominate the forest canopy, maximising their exposure to sunlight and out-competing other species.

Coppice
Coppicing is silvicultural system based on regeneration by regrowth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and regrowth. Coppice can also refer to an area of woodland in which the trees or shrubs are periodically cut back to ground level to stimulate growth and provide wood products. 'Coppice with standards' refers to coppice with a scatter of trees grown on a long rotation to produce larger-sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools.

Coupes
Areas of forest that have been or will be managed together.

Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)
DNB is a fungal disease affecting mainly pine species. The fungus affects the needles of the infected tree, which are eventually shed. This can continue year on year and gradually weaken the tree, significantly reducing timber yields. It can also eventually lead to mortality.

Ecological Site Classification (ESC)
ESC is an online tool developed by Forest Research to help a forester choose tree species that are suited to a specific site. It models how well each species is likely to grow using information on climate and soil properties. It can also be used to forecast how climate change may impact suitability.

Ecosystem
An ecosystem is an interconnected network formed of all the living things in a given area (plants, animals and organisms) and their interactions with each other and their non-living environments (eg: weather, earth, sun, soil & climate).

Ecosystem Services
Ecosystem services are the goods and services that people depend on that arise from ecosystems. They are usually categorised into Provisioning (eg: timber, water, food production), Regulating (eg: regulation of climate and diseases), Cultural (eg: recreational opportunities, aesthetic value) and Supporting services that underpin these (eg: crop pollination).

Forest Plan (FP)
A FP is primarily a landscape-scale felling and restocking plan. It provides a holistic, long-term approach to planning and forest design, detailing felling operations over a 10 year period for the purposes of licencing felling and outlining proposals over the next 50 years. FPs are reviewed every 5 years and redrawn and approved every 10 years.

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)
An internationally recognised body promoting sustainable forest management to the forest industry and consumers.

Forestry England
Forestry England is the executive agency of the Forestry Commission that is responsible for managing the Nation's Forests in England.

Forests and Water Guidelines
One of seven sets of guidelines that support the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS and guidelines outline the context for forestry in the UK; set out the UK Government's approach to sustainable forest management; define standards and requirements; and provide a basis for regulation and monitoring, including national and international reporting.

Group Selection
A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups. Group selection involves felling groups of trees (generally <0.25 ha per group)

Historic Environment
The physical remains of every period of human development starting from 450,000 years ago and including earthworks, buried remains, structures and buildings.

Ips typographus (larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle)
Although the beetle prefers stressed or weakened trees, under the right environmental conditions its numbers can increase enough to result in attacks on healthy trees. If left uncontrolled, the beetle could cause significant damage to the United Kingdom's spruce-based forestry and timber industries.

Landscape Character
England is renowned for its rich, diverse and beautiful landscapes which have their own distinct local characters. These have been shaped over many thousands of years by natural influences such as soil and landform and by generations of human activity.

Long Term Retention
Individual, stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond their normal economic age or size.

Glossary (continued…)

Low Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS)
Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems. LISS are generally compatible with windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.

Minimum intervention
Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally accepted are fencing, control of non-native plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work.

National Character Area (NCA)
Broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)
NNRs were established to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide ‘outdoor laboratories’ for research. Most NNRs offer opportunities to the public to experience wildlife first hand and learn more about nature conservation.

Native
Native tree species colonised Britain without human assistance at the end of the last ice age, before the English Channel cut Britain off from mainland Europe.

Natural Regeneration
The growth of new trees from seed found in the soil or cast from adjacent trees. Regeneration only occurs where suitable seed sources and conditions are present.

Natural Reserve
Natural Reserves are areas which are predominantly wooded, usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wild-life interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value.

Naturalised
Naturalised trees have colonised Britain since the land divide with mainland Europe and are growing and reproducing successfully within their natural climatic range without human intervention.

Near Native / Honorary Native Species
In a changing climate many tree species native to continental Europe will spread north. These species are classified as ‘honorary/near-native’: a species previously considered to be non-native, but whose climate envelope will expand over England as a result of climate change.

Nest Planting
Trees planted in small groups which are distributed across the restock site with remaining unplanted areas left to naturally regenerate. A useful way to introduce new species or provenances to a site.

Notifiable Disease
Some tree pests and diseases are notifiable, which means that, in England, they must be reported to the Forestry Commission or Animal & Plant Health Agency. Notifiable tree pests and diseases are typically those with the potential to cause greatest damage to our trees, woods and forests.

Open Grown Trees
Trees that have been given space to develop a large crown and natural shape. In comparison trees planted closely in a plantation managed for timber or biomass tend to have a more uniform shape.

Open Space
Areas within a forest without trees, such as glades, stream sides, grass or heathland, water bodies, rocky areas, roads and rides.

Operational Plans
Detailed site plans prepared in advance of all major forest operations providing guidance to Forestry England staff and contractors. They identify site constraints, opportunities and areas requiring special treatment or protection.

Phytophthora ramorum
P.ramorum is a very destructive pathogen affecting over 150 plant species, particularly larch trees. Some broadleaved plants (such as sweet chestnut and rhododendron) can also host *P.ramorum*.

Phytophthora pluvialis
P.pluvialis was first recorded in the UK in 2021 and affects a range of species including Douglas fir and western hemlock.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)
Ancient Woodland areas where semi-natural woodland has been cleared and replaced by plantation, often including non-native species. PAWS sites can include both broadleaved and conifer woods and often retain remnant ancient woodland features like species-rich ground flora or undisturbed soils. Also known as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

Pollarding
A form of pruning where the upper branches of a tree are removed, promoting a dense head of foliage and branches. Cutting is usually around 2.4 metres above ground – the height that wild animals or domesticated stock could reach. Traditionally, trees were pollarded for fodder or for wood. Fodder pollards are generally pruned every two to six years, wood pollards at longer intervals, usually of eight to 15 years, to produce upright poles for eg: fence rails and posts.

Production Forecast
The projected volume of biomass that the forest will produce each year. Calculations are based on species, age, net area and yield class.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)
Access routes open to the public through legal designation. These include footpaths, by-ways and bridleways.

Respacing
Thinning of dense natural regeneration at a young age (generally when trees are 2-5m tall) to produce a more consistent crop, focus available resources on the remaining trees and promote good development.

Restocking
The establishment of trees where felling has taken place. Restocking may be achieved through natural regeneration, but it is more usually associated with replanting.

Ride
Forestry term for unsurfaced roads, paths and tracks within a woodland which provide access for management and other activities.

Scheduled Monument
A scheduled monument is a site that is legally protected because of its historical importance.

Secondary Woodland
Woodland that has been established on land formerly used for another purpose (eg: as pasture, arable fields, quarries, etc.). Unlike ancient woodland it has not been continuously wooded in the past.

Glossary (continued…)

Seed Trees
Trees with good shape and growth rates chosen to produce seed for restocking. Seed trees need to be of an age and size where they produce fertile seeds in large quantities.

Selective Felling (Regeneration Felling)
Where individual trees of varying sizes are selected and removed from a stand. The whole stand is worked and the aim is to maintain full stocking of all tree sizes and ages, from seedlings to mature trees, in any one area.

Semi-natural woodland
Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland.

Shade tolerant species
Trees that have adapted to lower light levels and will regenerate and establish freely under the shade of the surrounding tree canopy, as opposed to light demanding species which require full sun/high light levels to establish and grow.

Shelterwood
The shelterwood system involves the felling of a proportion of the mature trees within an area whilst leaving some trees as a seed source and shelter for natural regeneration. The seed trees are subsequently removed. Note that the term 'seed tree system' is often used to describe 'shelterwoods' with densities of <50 retained mature trees per hectare.

The spatial arrangement of the retained trees can be uniform, in groups, or in strips, so giving rise to the name of different shelterwood systems. The removal of the seed trees can involve several felling operations.

Silvicultural Systems
Silviculture is the process of tending, harvesting and regenerating a forest. Different patterns of felling and regeneration form distinct 'silvicultural systems'. Different systems may be suitable for different management objectives (eg: conservation in an ancient woodland vs timber production in a conifer plantation).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
A SSSI is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that is of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiographical features that may lie in its boundaries.

Small Coupe Felling
A small-scale clearfelling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically up to 2 ha in extent, with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
SACs are protected areas in the UK designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales. These areas form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving Annex I and Annex II habitats and species.

Special Protection Area (SPA)
SPAs are protected areas selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or specific regularly occurring migratory species. They form an internationally important network of high-quality conservation sites that make a significant contribution to conserving important habitats and species.

Strategic Plan
Forestry England's stated priorities which are to be delivered across an extensive landscape, such as a District or nation-wide, which then informs the vision and objectives of a Forest Plan at a more local scale.

Strip Felling
Strip felling involves removal of some trees in rows, leaving strips of mature trees in place rather than clearfelling a crop in one operation. This creates space between remaining trees suitable for planting new trees (especially species that require sheltered growing conditions) and maintains woodland cover while new trees are established. The width of strips may vary and multiple strips are removed from one stand at a time.

Sub-compartments
Areas of forest that form a homogeneous crop in terms of age, species composition and condition. They may be split across several locations and their boundaries may change as the forest develops after felling and restocking.

The Nation's forests
The woodlands managed by Forestry England. These include both freehold and leasehold land. (Previously referred to as the Public Forest Estate.)

Thinning
The removal of a proportion of trees in a forest after canopy closure, usually to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.

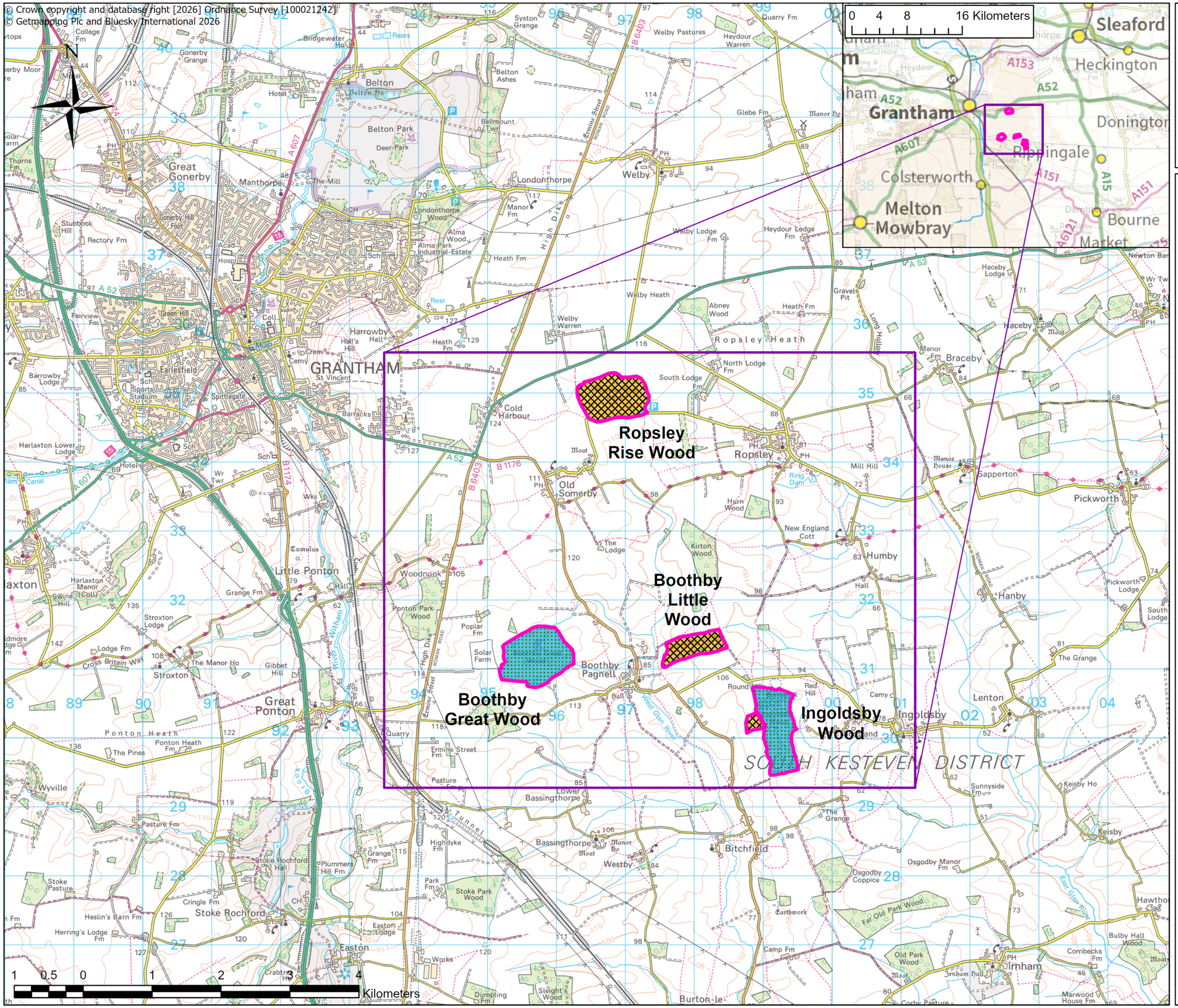
Trees of Special Interest (TSI)
Trees that are of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, or trees that are in the ancient stage of their life, or trees that are old relative to others of the same species. Also referred to as Veteran or Ancient trees.

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)
Outlines the Government's criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.
UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)
A voluntary scheme for the independent assessment of sustainable forest management in the UK. The Scheme has been developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests.

Understorey Woodland Species
Minor tree species that live under top canopy trees or are 'pioneer' species that arrive in clearings before climax species become established. Once the overstorey is established understorey species are more common on woodland edges and clearings where light levels are higher.

Wood Pasture
Areas of historical, cultural and ecological interest, where grazing may be/have been used in combination with a proportion of open tree canopy cover.

Yield Class
Yield class is a measure of the growth rate of a tree crop on a given site. It describes the maximum average volume increase that a particular crop can achieve on 1 ha of land each year. For example, a crop capable of a maximum annual growth of 14 m3 per hectare has a yield class of 14. Yield Class varies depending on factors including the species, how it is managed and local site conditions.



Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Location, Tenure & Access Map

Date: January 2026

Main map scale @ A3: 1:50,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area

Forestry England Tenure

- Freehold
- Leasehold

Public Access

- Permitted under CROW*
- No public access

Nearly 94% of the FP Area is Ancient Woodland*; either ASNW* or PAWS*. The remaining 6% area is secondary broadleaf woodland. Generally the broadleaf areas correspond with Deciduous woodland Priority Habitat.

The Boothby Wildland area is a large nature recovery project on a formerly intensive arable site. Owned and managed by Nattergal, the aim is to drive ecosystem recovery through natural processes, including natural colonization, free-roaming herbivores and natural hydrology.

The Round Hills Earthwork lies adjacent to Ingoldsby Wood, directly to the North. The primary classification of this Scheduled Monument is uncertain; it is generally accepted to be an Iron Age hillfort/camp or a medieval enclosure.

0.5 0.25 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Designations and Conservation Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:22,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Scheduled Monuments
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Ancient Woodland

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- Ancient Replanted Woodland (PAWS)

Boothby Wildland

- Extent
- Woodland Creation Areas

Priority Habitats

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Traditional orchard
- No main habitat but additional habitats present

The primary external views of the woodlands are from local roads, public footpaths and nearby residences.

There are 33 TSI currently recorded within the Ropsley Woodlands. Species include aspen, oak, field maple, ash, small-leaved lime, goat willow and crab apple.

Within the woods there are a number of known heritage features which are considered during the planning and execution of forest operations.

0.25 0.13 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

N

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Survey Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- TSI
- Heritage Features
- Ponds
- Principal Watercourses
- Visually Sensitive Boundaries

Utilities

- Overhead Powerlines
- Underground Powerlines

Access

- Public Rights of Way
- Forest Roads
- Rides

Current tree diseases and challenges:

- Oaks on seasonally wet soils are struggling here and elsewhere in Central District with poor health and reduced yield.
- Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB)* is present and negatively impacting Corsican pine and to a lesser extent Scots pine.
- Chalara ash dieback* is widespread in the local area and exhibiting high levels of infection. Ash represents a 15.8% component within the Ropsley Woodlands.

There are currently 23 different tree species in the Ropsley Woodlands (17 types of broadleaf and 6 conifer).

To improve forest resilience and adaptive capacity we will look to increase the proportion of minor species on suitable sites during the Forest Plan period and beyond.

The recently-felled coniferous area in Boothby Great Wood (formerly Forest Research trial plots) is planned for through natural regeneration (most likely birch and willow) and supplementary planting if needed.

0.25 0.13 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 Kilometers

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Current Species Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Current Species

- Oaks
- Ash
- Birches
- Beech
- Other broadleaves
- Firs & spruces
- Pines
- Other conifers
- Open/other
- Felled

The coloured squares represent the proportion of each species in mixed stands rather than the trees' precise location on the ground.

Water
There are a number of ponds and minor watercourses within the Ropsley Woodlands; their riparian zones also being important habitats and corridors for wildlife.

Ongoing PAWS* Restoration
The concentrated yellow mapped areas across the woodlands represent where there is still work to do to restore these stands to appropriate, predominantly native species.

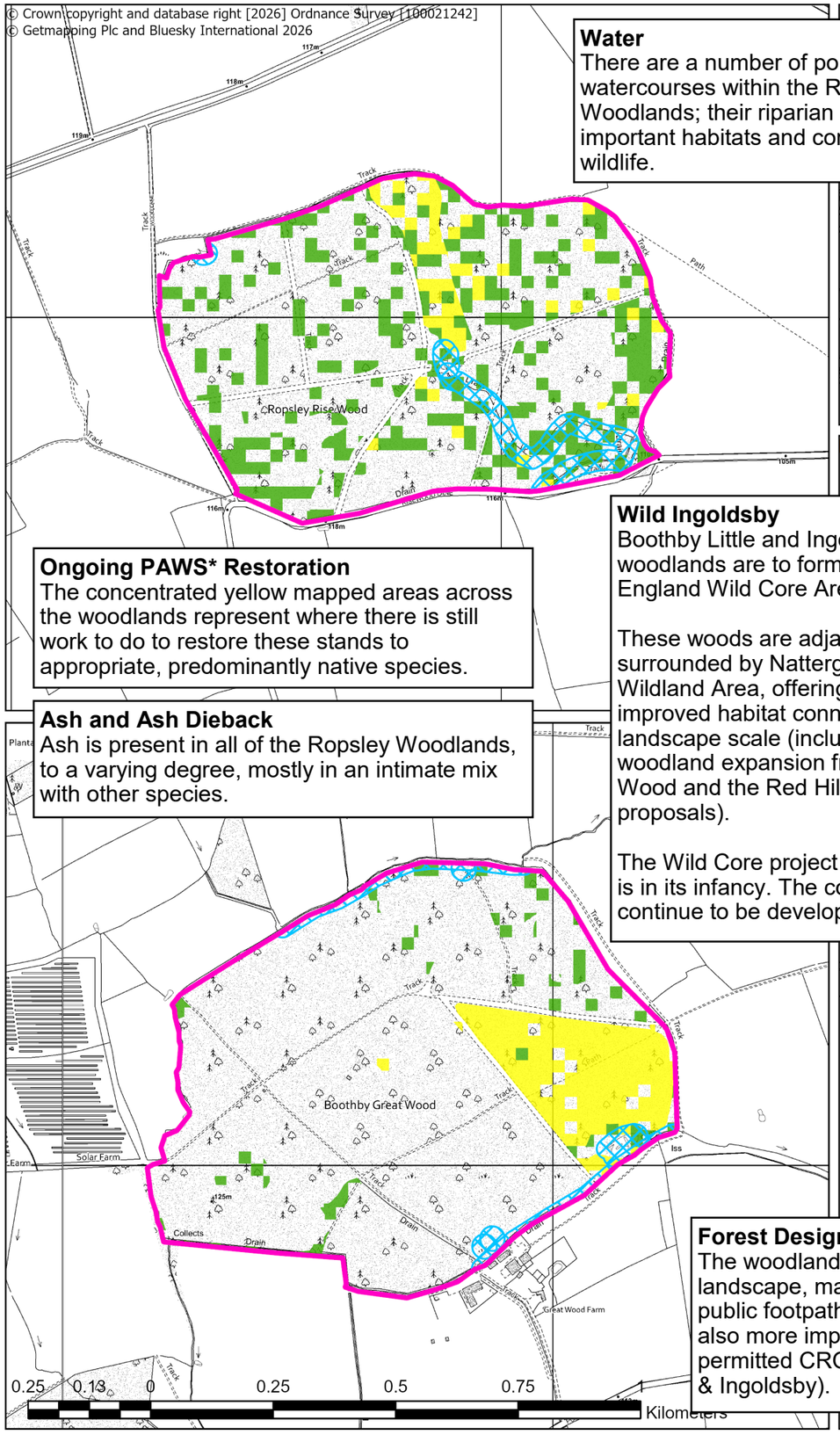
Ash and Ash Dieback
Ash is present in all of the Ropsley Woodlands, to a varying degree, mostly in an intimate mix with other species.

Wild Ingoldsby
Boothby Little and Ingoldsby woodlands are to form a Forestry England Wild Core Area.

These woods are adjacent to / surrounded by Nattergal's Boothby Wildland Area, offering benefits of improved habitat connectivity at a landscape scale (including native woodland expansion from Exton's Wood and the Red Hill Regeneration proposals).

The Wild Core project and partnership is in its infancy. The concept will continue to be developed in 2026.

Forest Design
The woodlands are visible within the local landscape, mainly from nearby roads and public footpaths. Internal coupe design is also more important in the woodlands with permitted CROW access (Boothby Great & Ingoldsby).



Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Analysis Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forestry England Wild Core Area: Wild Ingoldsby
- Boothby Wildland Woodland Planned Creation Areas
- Riparian Areas
- Ash
- Unrestored PAWS

Forest Design
Where windfirm, external broadleaf edges will be retained during operations and enhanced during restock to provide consistent views of the woodlands locally and in the wider landscape.

Where possible, individuals and small groups of windfirm trees will be retained in clearfell areas as bird perches and for future standing deadwood recruitment. In addition to utilising windfirm edges, the shape and scale of coupes have been influenced by the immediate wooded landscape to manage their visual impact both internally and externally.

Ash and Ash Dieback
Proactive removal of ash trees in the vicinity of roads and the most popular paths will help mitigate the health and safety risk from falling dead trees and branches.

Ash located away from roads and in areas with lower footfall will offer opportunities to retain individual trees displaying tolerance and potential resistance to ash dieback, and to accept higher levels of standing deadwood for ecological benefit.

The majority of the ash in the Ropsley Woodlands occurs in mixed stands with other species. This means for the most part we can managed these areas by targeting ash during thinning without losing forest cover (the only exception being part of the northernmost clearfell coupe in Ingoldsby Wood).

Wild Ingoldsby
Our vision for Wild Ingoldsby is aspirational and long term; natural processes, including a more natural hydrological system, will define the way the landscape looks and functions. The woodland and its associated ecology will be resilient and evolve successfully with the changing climate.

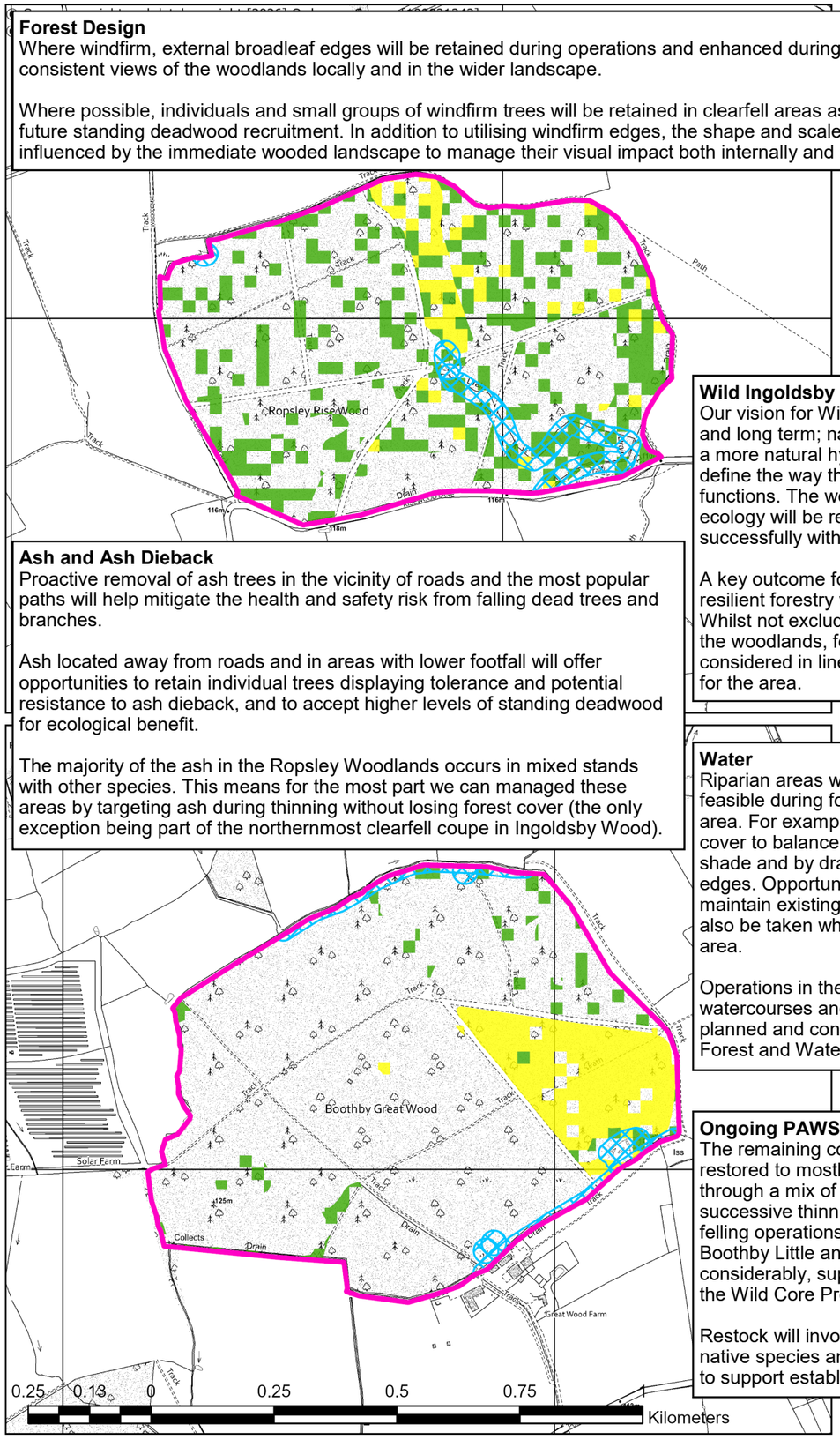
A key outcome for our Wild Core Areas is resilient forestry which is better for nature. Whilst not excluding timber production from the woodlands, forestry operations will be considered in line with achieving this vision for the area.

Water
Riparian areas will be improved where feasible during forest operations in the area. For example by reducing canopy cover to balance light and broken shade and by drawing back conifer edges. Opportunities to restore/ maintain existing forest drainage will also be taken when working in the area.

Operations in the vicinity of watercourses and ponds will be planned and conducted following Forest and Water Guidelines*.

Ongoing PAWS* Restoration
The remaining coniferous PAWS areas will be gradually restored to mostly native broadleaf-dominated woodlands through a mix of silvicultural techniques including successive thinning, LISS interventions and scheduled felling operations. (The PAWS restoration process in Boothby Little and Ingoldsby will be accelerated considerably, supported by the additional resources from the Wild Core Programme.)

Restock will involve both natural regeneration of mostly native species and planting, using fencing as appropriate to support establishment.



Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Concept Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forestry England Wild Core Area: Wild Ingoldsby
- Boothby Wildland Woodland Planned Creation Areas
- Riparian Areas
- Ash
- Unrestored PAWS

Long Term Retention*
A total of 16.6ha will be managed as Long Term Retention. These stands will be retained beyond their normal economic age/size for the benefit of wildlife.

LISS*
Nearly 56% of the FP area will be managed using LISS; predominantly group selection and small coupe felling systems (up to 2ha coupe size). This will promote establishment by creating the optimum growing conditions for young trees; developing a more diverse woodland structure comprising trees of varying age and species within the same stand. The timings of LISS operations will be aligned to the thinning cycle in the respective woodland.

Clearfell*
The clearfell coupes across the Ropsley Woodlands primarily involve PAWS* restoration in Ancient Woodland* and shorter-rotation firewood/biomass production in suitable stands of younger, naturally-regenerated broadleaves (predominantly birch and willow).

0.25 0.13 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 Kilometers

N

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Silvicultural Systems Map

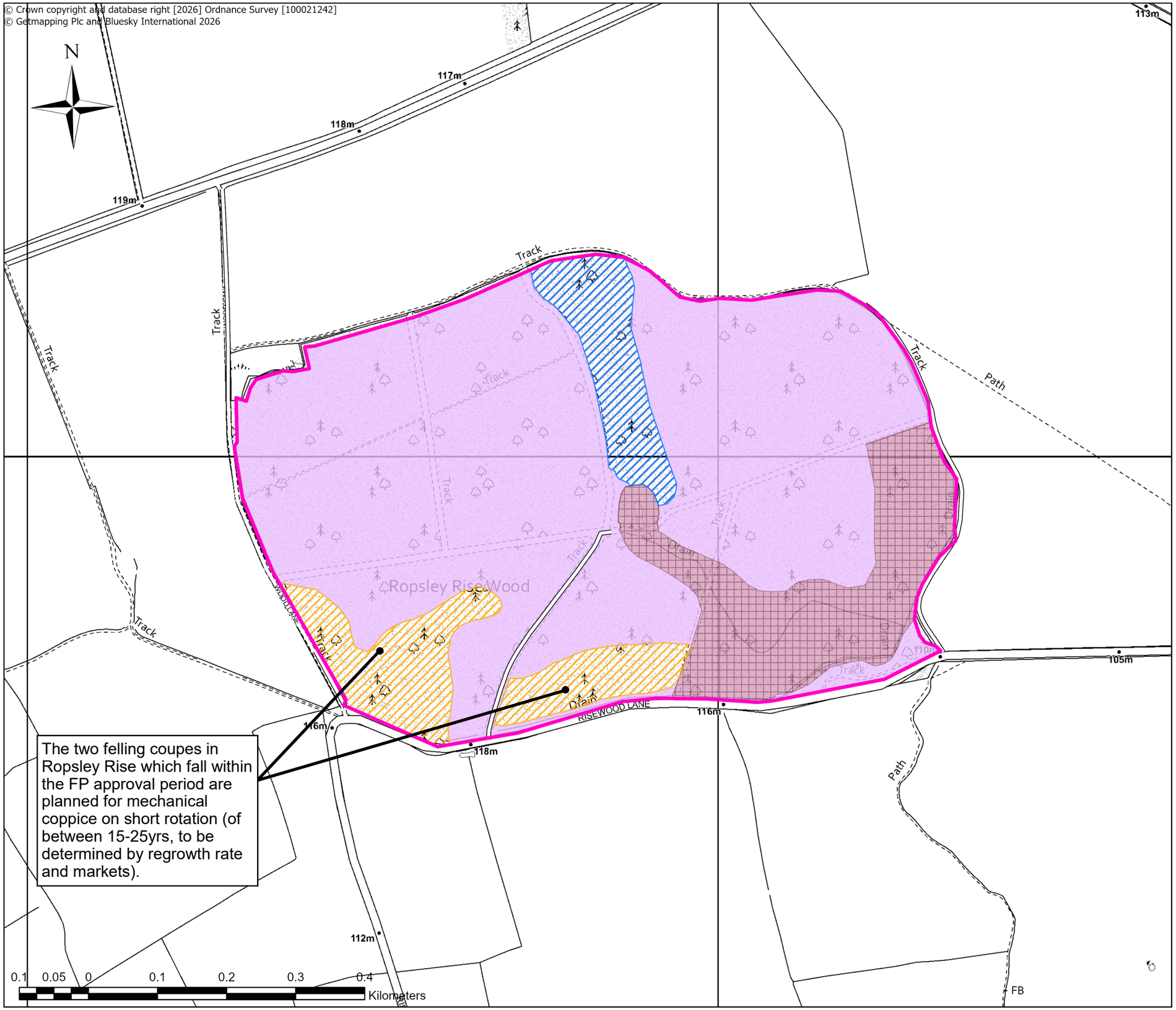
Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Management Type

- Clearfell
- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems & Open
- Long Term Retention



The two felling coupes in Ropsley Rise which fall within the FP approval period are planned for mechanical coppice on short rotation (of between 15-25yrs, to be determined by regrowth rate and markets).

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Felling Map
Ropsley Rise

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:5,000

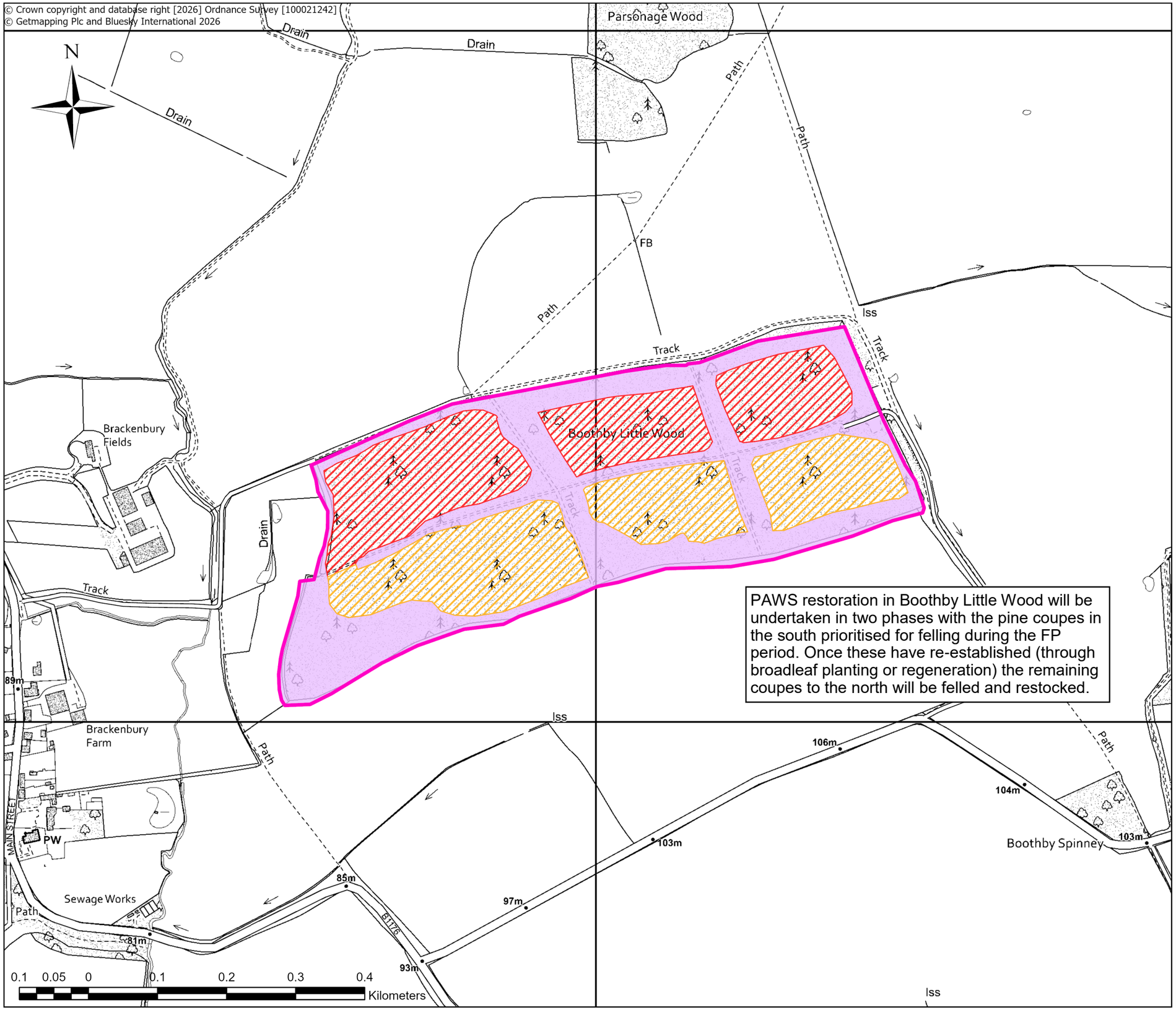
- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-61
- Fell beyond 2061

- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems & Open
- Long Term Retention

All timber arising from the Forestry England estate represents a negligible risk under the Timber and Timber Products Placing on the Market Regulations (UKTR) and UK FLEGT Regulations.



PAWS restoration in Boothby Little Wood will be undertaken in two phases with the pine coupes in the south prioritised for felling during the FP period. Once these have re-established (through broadleaf planting or regeneration) the remaining coupes to the north will be felled and restocked.

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Felling Map
Boothby Little

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:5,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-61
- Fell beyond 2061

- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems & Open
- Long Term Retention

These mechanical coppice coupes are scheduled on a 15yr rotation, with two coupes felled in each 5yr period.

The adjacent sequencing of felling phases is intentional, designed to create a succession of habitats from open ground to dense thicket. This will provide many of the wildlife benefits as would traditional coppice management, but worked at a commercially viable scale supporting ongoing management.

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Felling Map
Boothby Great

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:5,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-61
- Fell beyond 2061

- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems & Open
- Long Term Retention

The northernmost felling coupe in Ingoldsby is a mix of conifer and diseased ash. The two subcompartments will be felled together as a single coupe.

These two smaller coupes sit within a larger Corsican pine subcompartment. Felling these areas and thinning the remaining matrix will progress our PAWS restoration aims in this area while still maintaining some woodland cover.

The southern felling coupe is mostly mature grand fir. The stand has become unstable and already contains some windblown trees.

Boothby Spinney
Red Hill
Round Hills
Earthwork
Path
Track
Ingoldsby Wood
Moat
Moat Farm
Woodleigh Cottages
SCOTLAND LANE
FB
102m
103m
101m
85m
80m
0.1 0.05 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Kilometers

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2025

Felling Map Ingoldsby

Date: January 2026

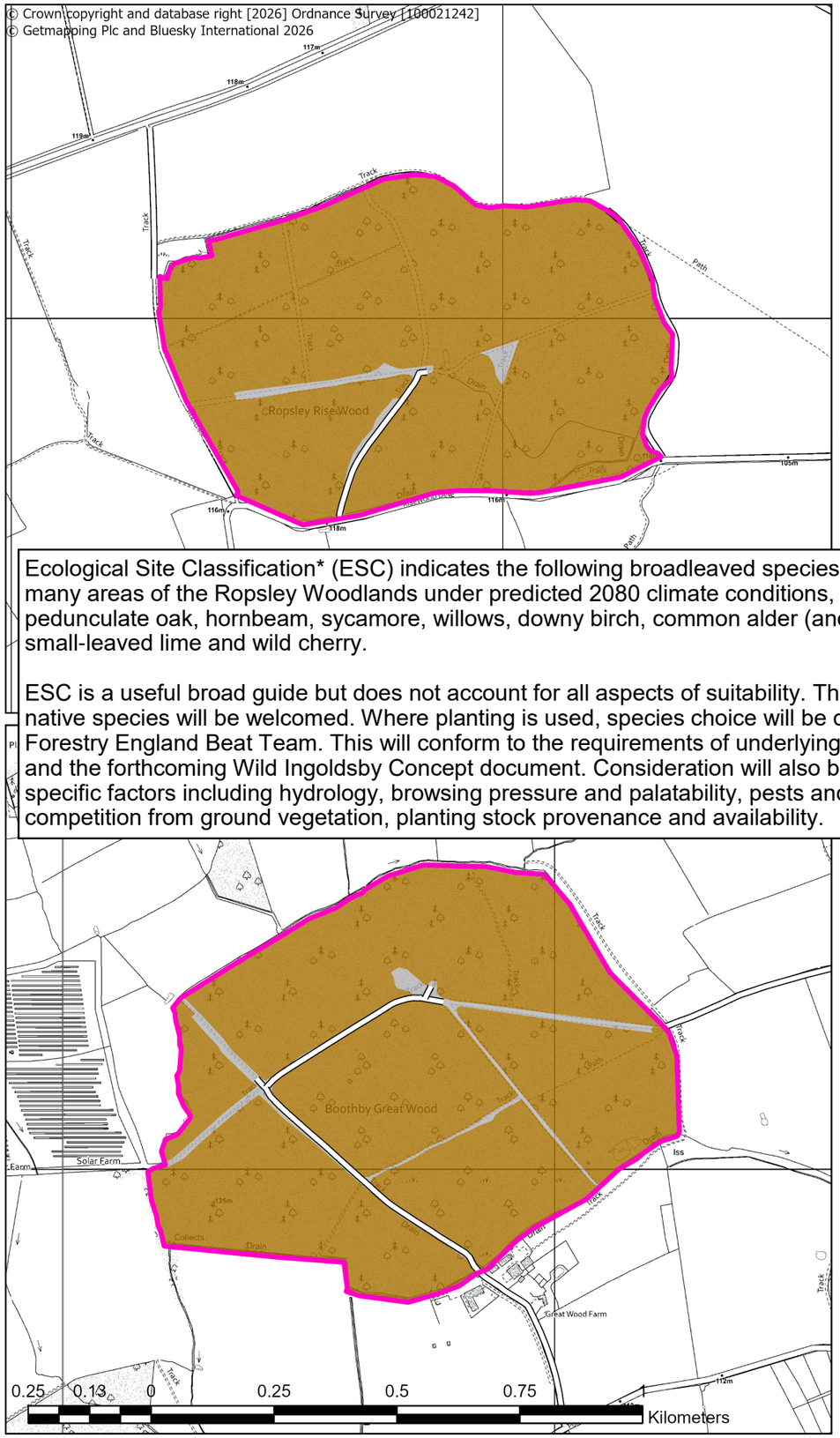
Map scale @ A3: 1:5,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Clearfell Phase

- Fell 2022-2026
- Fell 2027-2031
- Fell 2032-2036
- Fell 2037-2041
- Fell 2042-2046
- Fell 2047-2051
- Fell 2052-2056
- Fell 2057-61
- Fell beyond 2061

- Low Impact Silvicultural Systems & Open
- Long Term Retention



Ecological Site Classification* (ESC) indicates the following broadleaved species to be suitable in many areas of the Ropsley Woodlands under predicted 2080 climate conditions, including aspen, pedunculate oak, hornbeam, sycamore, willows, downy birch, common alder (and red/grey alder), small-leaved lime and wild cherry.

ESC is a useful broad guide but does not account for all aspects of suitability. The regeneration of native species will be welcomed. Where planting is used, species choice will be determined by the Forestry England Beat Team. This will conform to the requirements of underlying land designations and the forthcoming Wild Ingoldsby Concept document. Consideration will also be given to site-specific factors including hydrology, browsing pressure and palatability, pests and diseases, competition from ground vegetation, planting stock provenance and availability.

Ropsley Woodlands Forest Plan 2026

Intended Land Use Map

Date: January 2026

Map scale @ A3: 1:10,000

- Ropsley Woodlands FP Area
- Forest Roads

Intended Land Use

- Broadleaf-dominated Woodland
- *Broadleaf-dominated Woodland habitat (Wild Core Area)
- Open

* The woods of Ingoldsby and Boothby Little form Forestry England's Wild Core Area "Wild Ingoldsby". These woodlands will be encouraged to develop into a more open, natural wooded habitat. Canopy cover will be less uniform; ranging from between 20% canopy (open structure) to 100% canopy (traditional closed-canopy woodland).