



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

Restoring habitats in our upland landscapes

What's happening?

We'd like your views on our plans to bring more life and diversity back to our upland landscapes at Dodd Wood and Whinlatter in the Lake District.

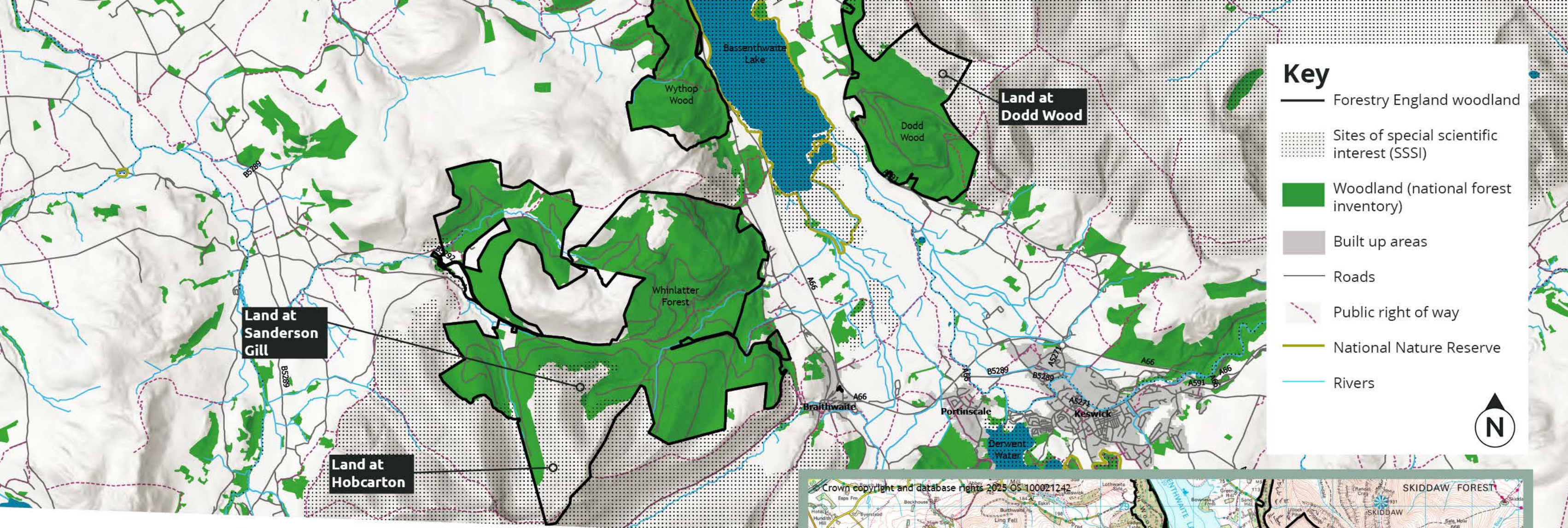
Here we are looking to create habitats that are more like the rich, biodiverse mountain areas you'd find in parts of Europe, and that used to exist here. Our woodlands help wildlife, improve plant diversity, tackle climate change, provide a source of sustainable timber and give people beautiful places to explore and enjoy.

Our plans are being supported by DEFRA's Nature for Climate Fund.

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to find out more:

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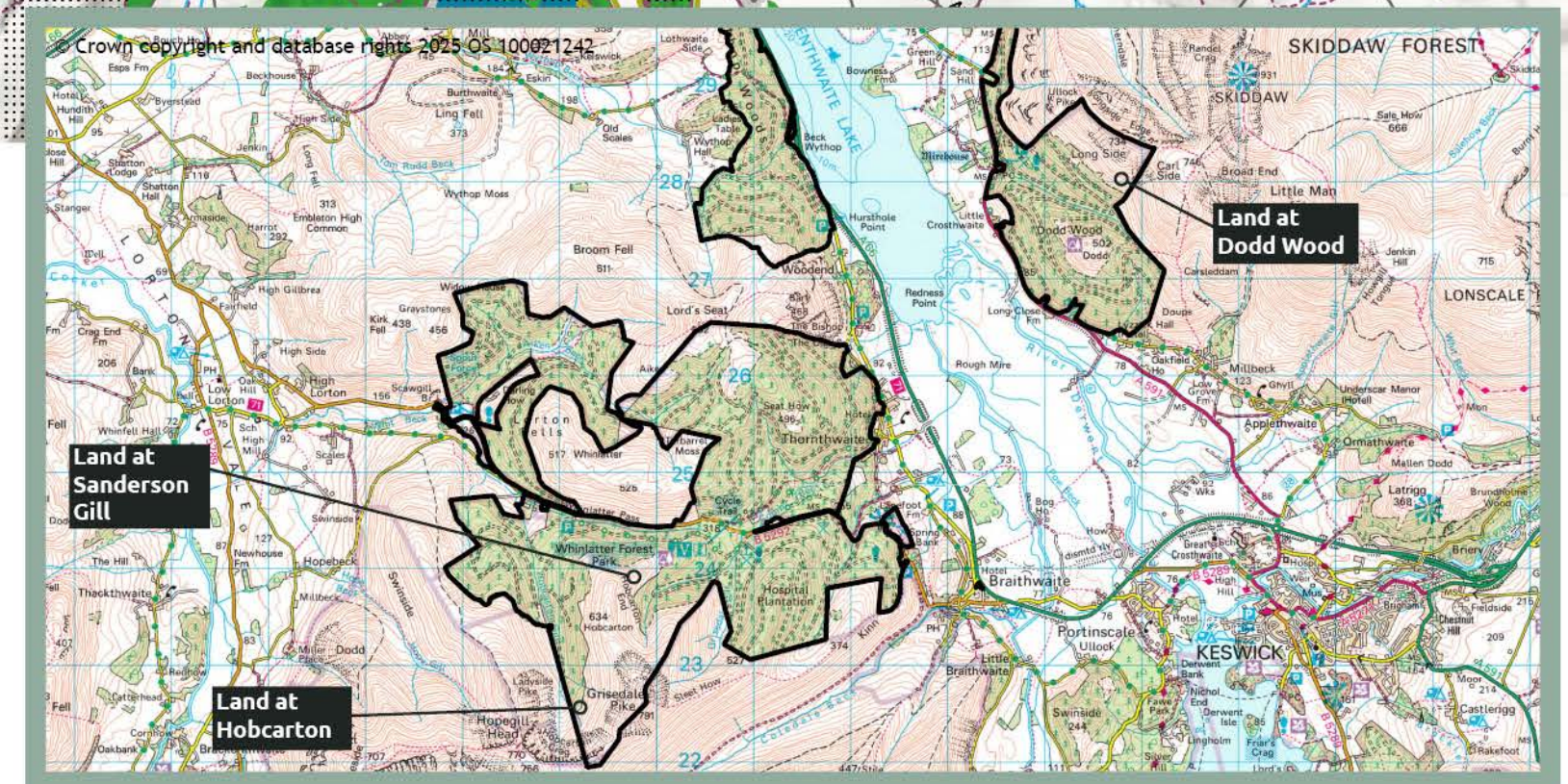




Why here?

The sites are in the Cumbria High Fells, a stunning part of the Lake District known for its dramatic peaks, valleys, and lakes. It's a landscape shaped by glaciers and centuries of hill farming. This area is incredibly rich in wildlife and rare habitats — such as alpine plants, ancient woodlands, and peat bogs. These ecosystems are not only beautiful but also vital for storing carbon and managing water.

Right now, high-altitude native woodland is a rare habitat in the Lake District, so there's a great opportunity to plant more trees and shrubs that will support wildlife and improve the landscape whilst also helping to restore balance and boost diversity.



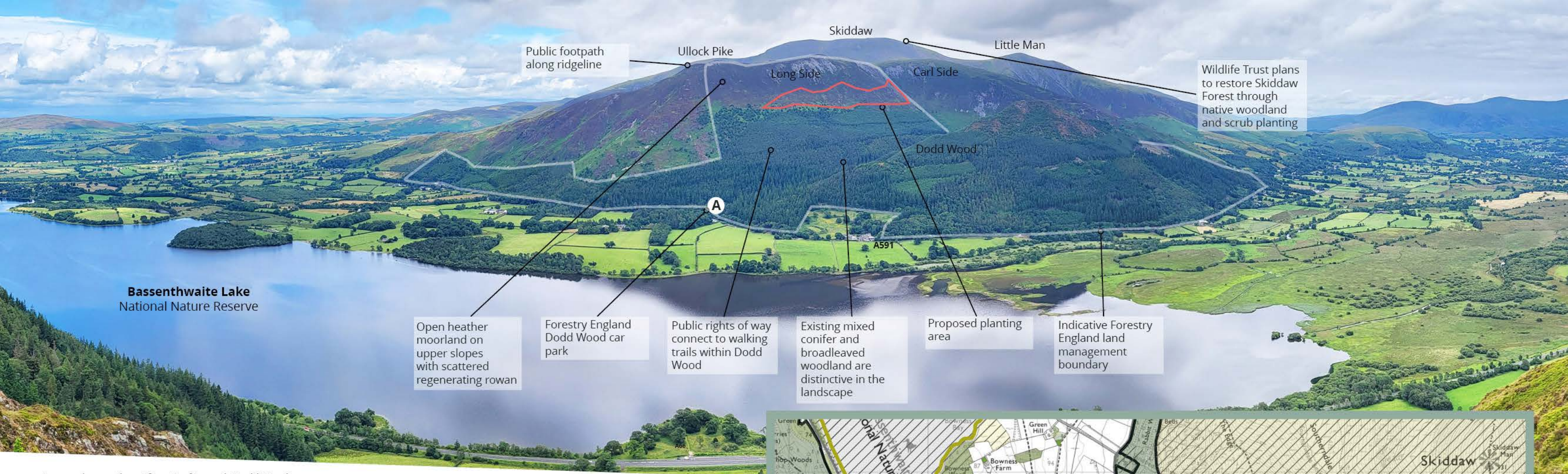


Image: view northeast from Barf towards Dodd Wood

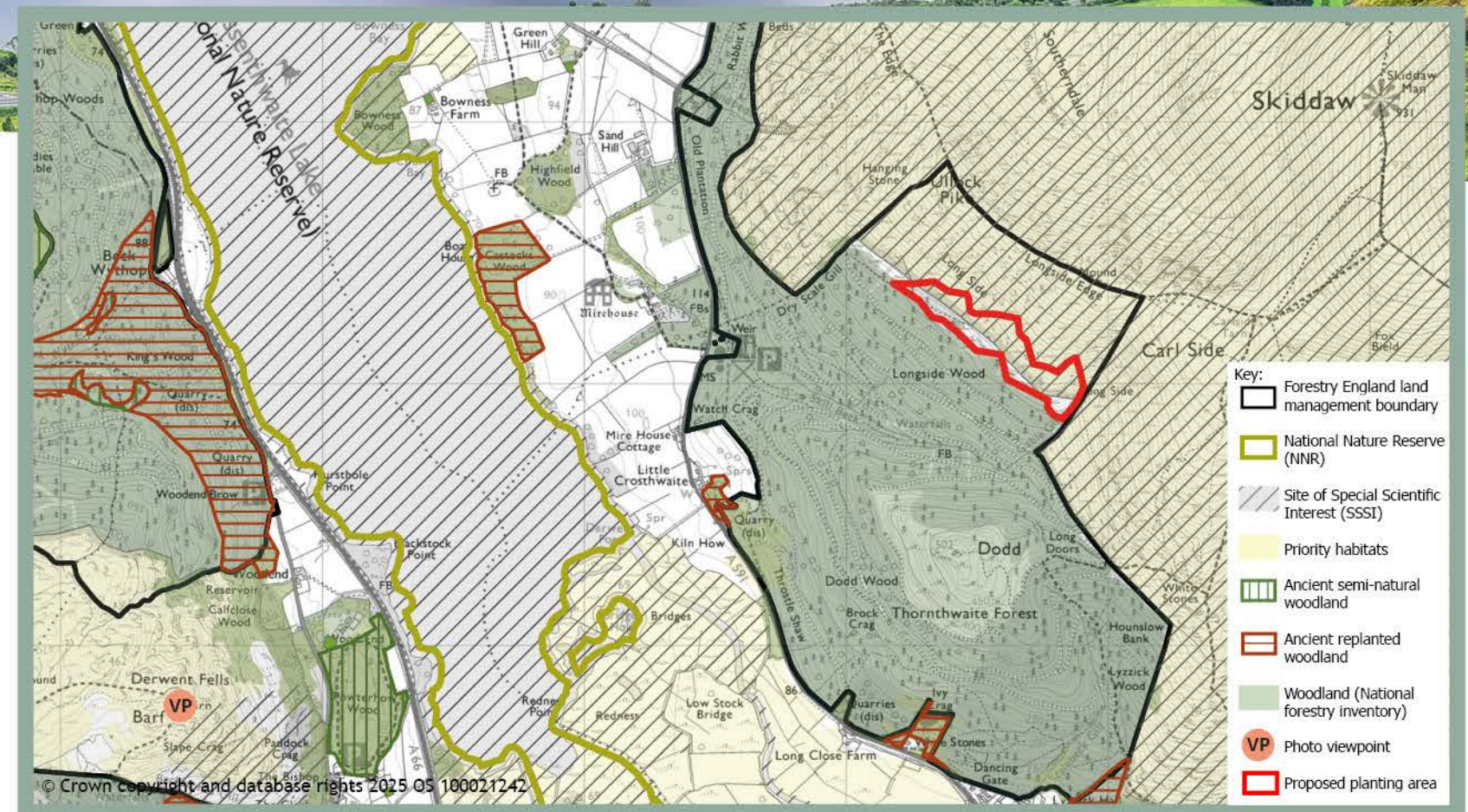
Dodd Wood today

Dodd Wood sits near Bassenthwaite Lake, within the Lake District National Park. The lower slopes already have a mix of trees, but the upper slopes are open moorland, grazed by sheep. This area is part of a protected site (SSSI) and is home to rare habitats like blanket bog and juniper scrub.

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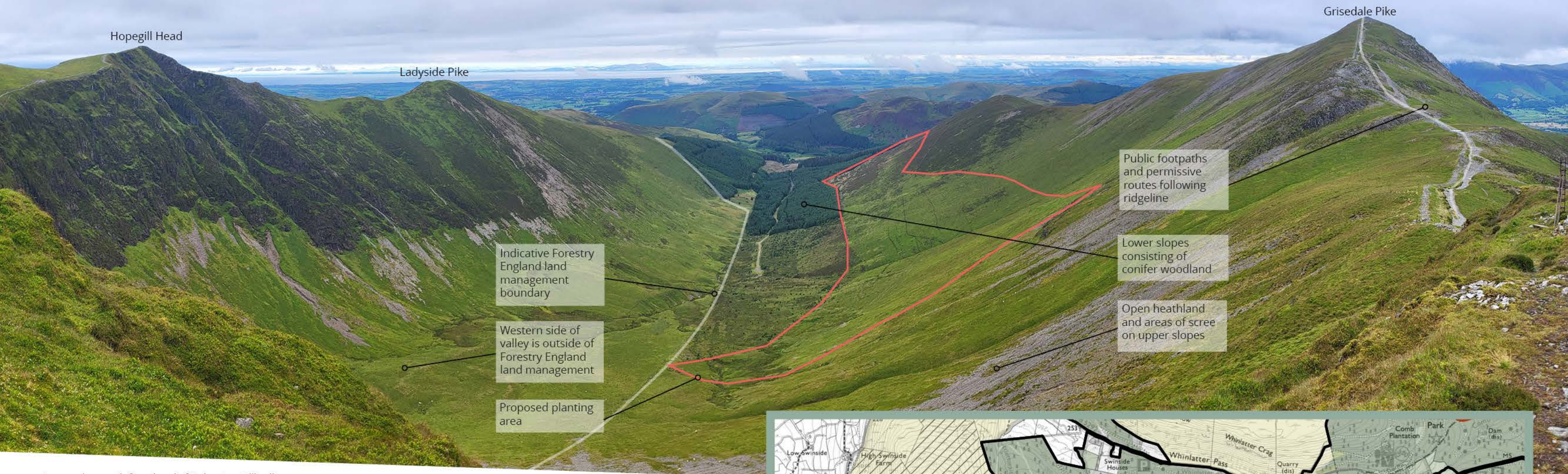


Image: view north from head of Hobcarton Gill valley

Hobcarton today

Hobcarton is just south of Whinlatter Pass and stretches up toward Grisedale Pike, within the Lake District National Park. The lower parts are covered in conifer forests planted decades ago, but the open land higher up is part of a protected site (SSSI).

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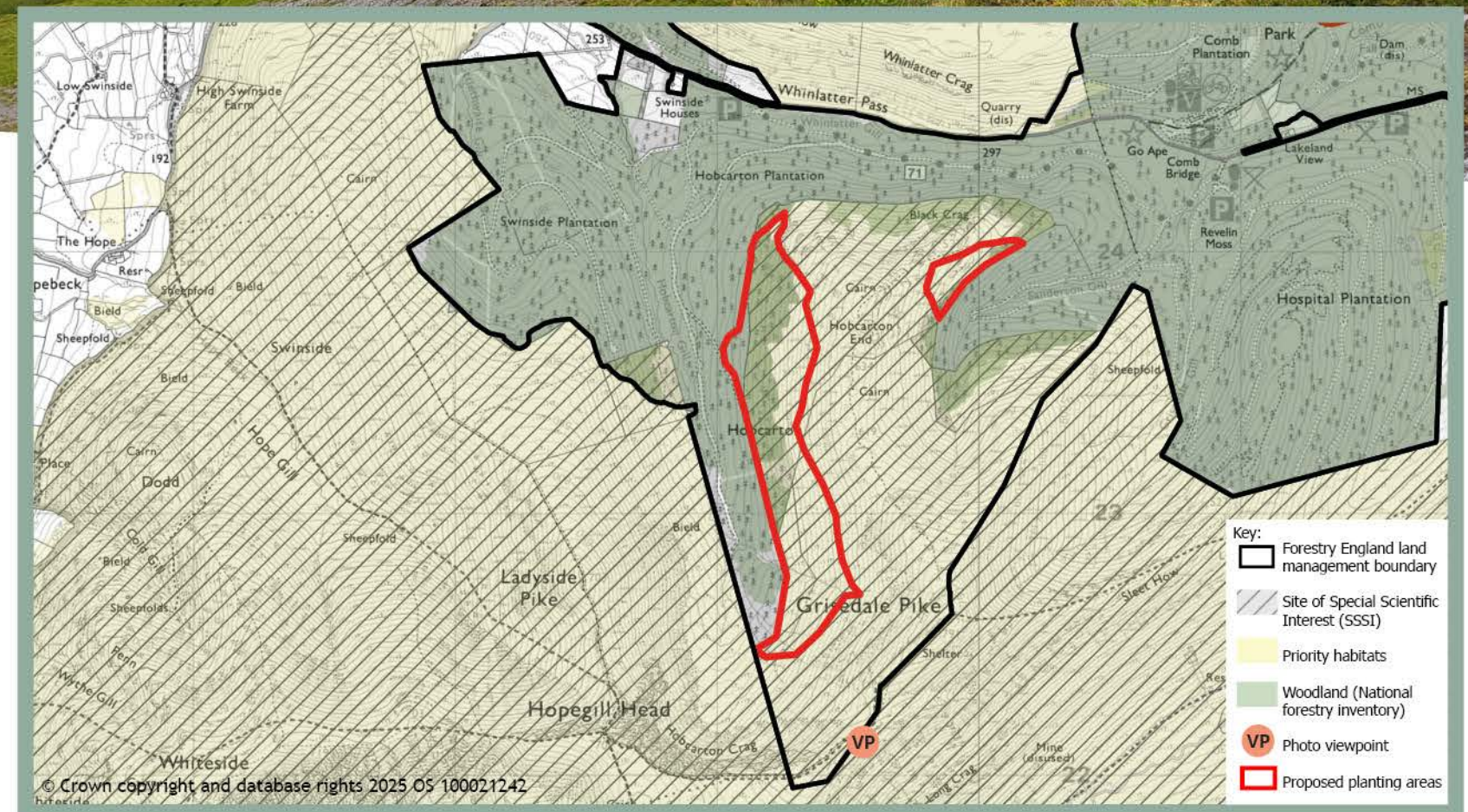




Image: view north from head of Sanderson Gill valley

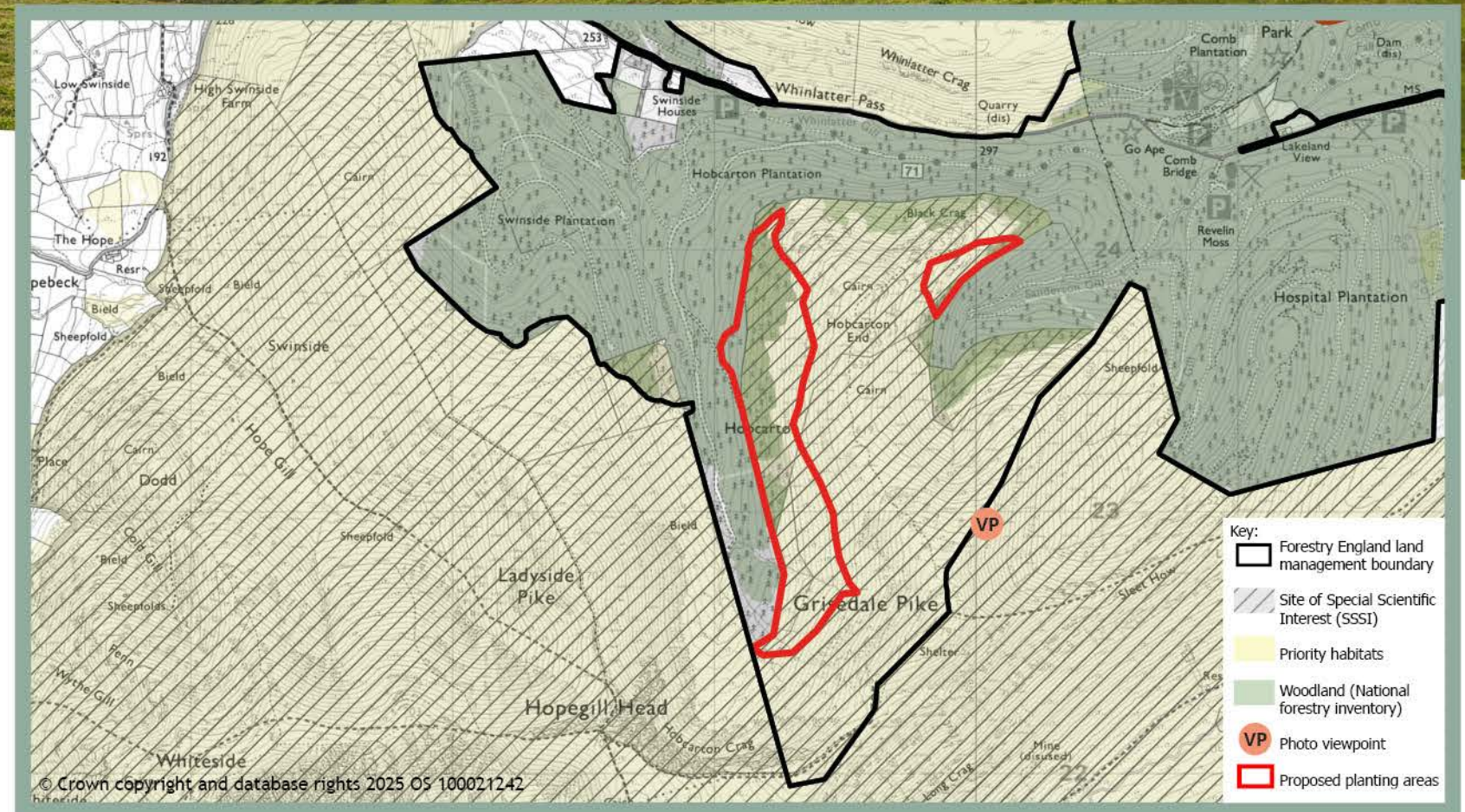
Sanderson Gill today

Sanderson Gill is on the eastern side of Hobcarton End, within the Lake District National Park. It's part of the same protected area as Hobcarton and has similar potential. The lower slopes already have a mix of trees, but the upper areas are open and ready for restoration.

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Image: view north over Hobcarton Gill

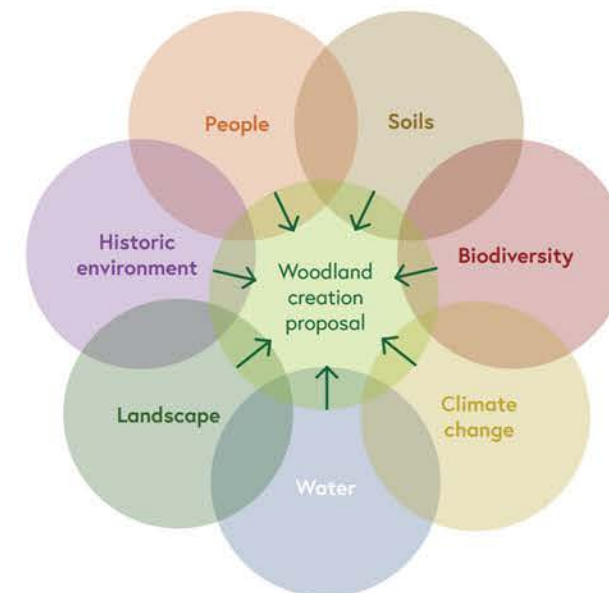
Steps towards planting

Before any planting happens, there's a lot of groundwork to do that will inform our designs.

We'll be carrying out detailed surveys and studies to make sure everything is done right. This includes:

- Checking local wildlife records and doing ecological assessments.
- Mapping peat and soils.
- Reviewing historical and cultural features.
- Looking at how the landscape might change visually.
- Making sure utilities and infrastructure are considered.

And of course, listening to feedback from the local community.



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Image: Ordesa y Monte Perdido, Spanish Pyrenees
Credit T. Dearnley

How the new woodlands could look in 25 years

Fast forward a few decades, and these new woodlands could be a thriving mix of trees and shrubs and a space that works for both nature and people.



Our designs focus on:
Helping wildlife flourish and boosting biodiversity.



Helping nature to recover across the wider area by connecting habitats and supporting nature recovery.

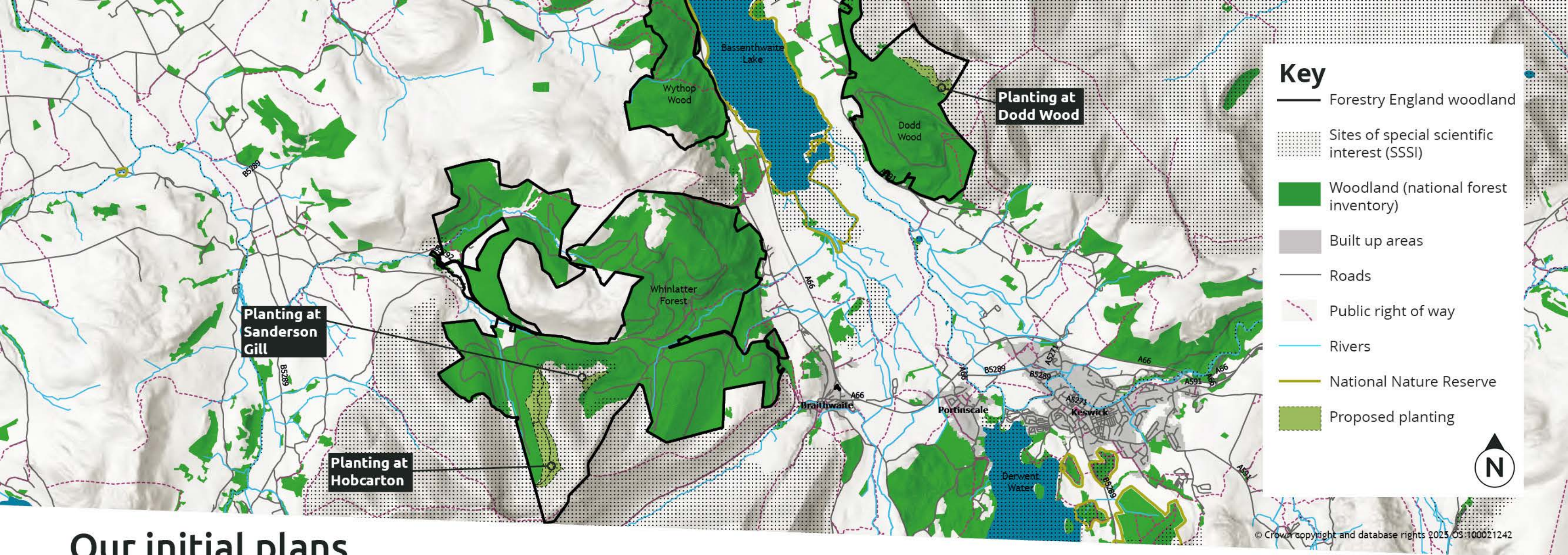


Creating a resilient woodland that can handle climate change and store carbon.

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Our initial plans

We are carefully designing areas to plant a mix of shrubs and trees at the three locations shown above. Over time this will create diverse woodland edge and scrub woodland habitats which will blend into the surrounding landscape.



Aspen



Birch



Hawthorn



Scots pine



Rowan

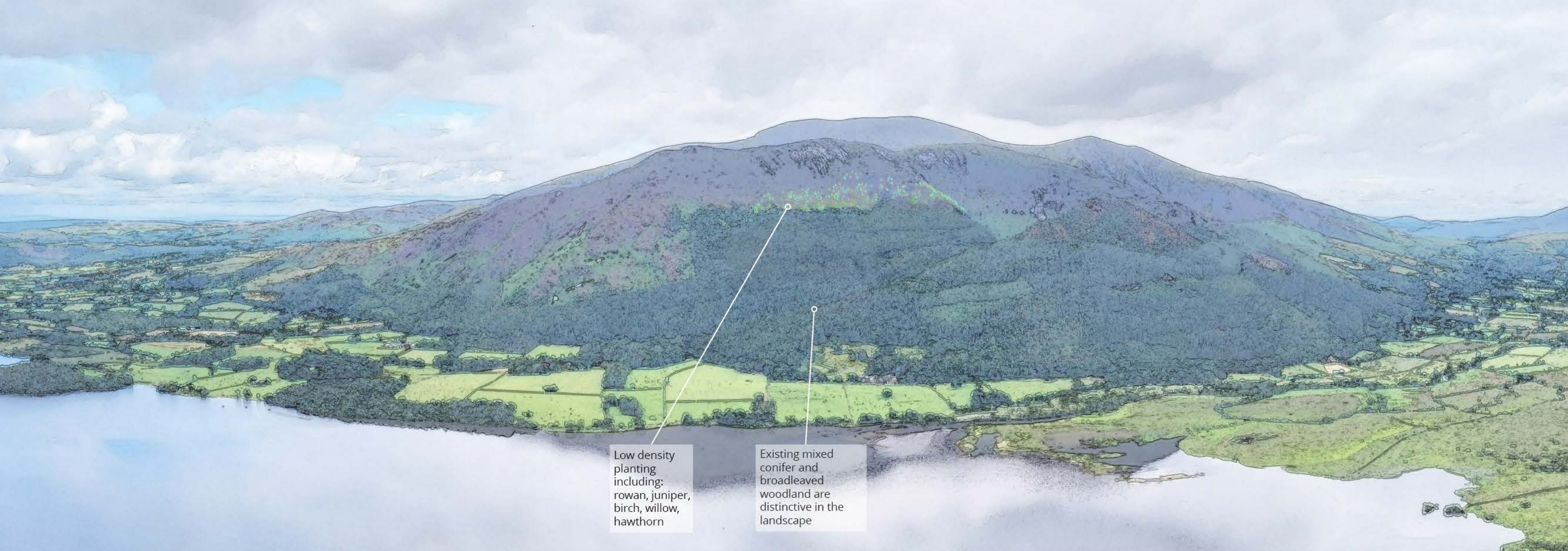


Juniper

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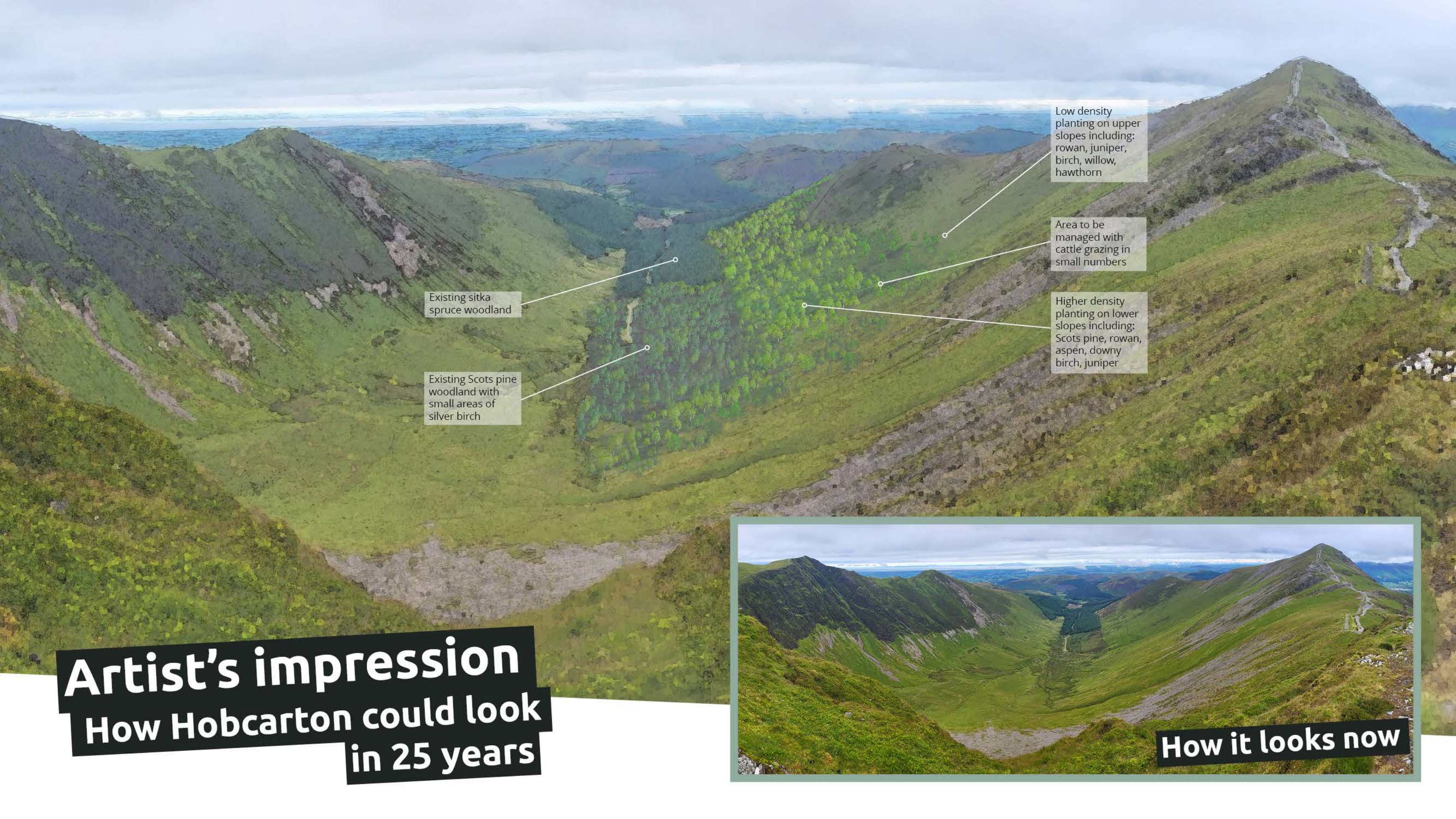
Low density
planting
including:
rowan, juniper,
birch, willow,
hawthorn

Existing mixed
conifer and
broadleaved
woodland are
distinctive in the
landscape

Artist's impression
How Dodd Wood could look
in 25 years



How it looks now



Low density
planting on upper
slopes including:
rowan, juniper,
birch, willow,
hawthorn

Area to be
managed with
cattle grazing in
small numbers

Higher density
planting on lower
slopes including:
Scots pine, rowan,
aspen, downy
birch, juniper

Existing sitka
spruce woodland

Existing Scots pine
woodland with
small areas of
silver birch

Artist's impression
How Hobcarton could look
in 25 years



How it looks now



Low density
planting on upper
slopes including:
rowan, juniper,
birch, willow,
hawthorn

Existing sitka
spruce woodland

Artist's impression
How Sanderson Gill could look
in 25 years



How it looks now



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:

- bit.ly/consultwh

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

All views should be received by 11.59pm on Sunday 6th July 2025

What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Planting (Winter 2025/26)

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