

# Giggle Alley Forest Design Plan Spring 2010 Review Text and Graphs



## Contents

This process by which this plan has been developed is characterised by three main stages:

- 1) Understanding the forest
- 2) Developing a vision
- 3) Implementing the vision

The table below illustrates the way that the various maps, photos and text fit into the stages in the process and helps guide the reader through the plan.

Understanding The Forest	<p><b>Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Achievements during last plan period</li> </ul>
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Developing A Vision	<p><b>Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Appraisal</li> </ul>
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Implementing the Vision	<p><b>Text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of the Plan</li> <li>• Delivery of the North West England Forest District Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Delivery against National Policy " A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests"</li> <li>• Graphs</li> </ul>
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Gareth Browning  
Spring 2010

## Introduction

Giggle Alley lies on a small knoll adjacent to the village of Eskdale Green on the western edge of the Lake District National Park. The woodland extends to nine hectares and is owned freehold having been purchased from the Outward Bound Trust, the owners of the Gatehouse Estate in 1961. The previous owner was Baron Rae but it was his Grandfather James Hall Rae who established the Japanese Garden and the surrounding paths

## Survey

Giggle Alley is greatly valued by the local community and visitors alike who enjoy its diverse woodland character, secluded nature, and Japanese Garden all within a very small area. Its close proximity to the village of Eskdale Green encourages regular visits by local residents. In addition the gardens growing popularity sees visitors from a much wider catchment area including Gosforth and Seascale as well as visitors from outside Cumbria. The woodland is only a short walk from the Irton Road station of the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway which is a very popular tourist attraction.

Whilst access within the woodland is good the main access from Smithybrow Lane is poor and not well identified. The path to the Japanese Garden has in the past been poorly signed which has led to some visitors leaving the wood never having found the garden. This has improved with new signs and entrance steps and a new threshold sign is planned.

The Japanese Garden is the most significant feature of the woodland and plays an important role in the local heritage of Eskdale. The Japanese garden came into being in 1914 having been commissioned by Lord Rea and designed by Thomas Mawson, the periods foremost landscape architect.

The garden was built for the Rea Family who owned the Gate House estate of which Giggle Alley was a part. The garden developed over the next decade and was photographed in 1923 by Mary Fair who said it had been "called into being as by a magicians wand" "a quaint and beautiful garden". Unfortunately Lord Rea who commissioned the garden had died in 1918 and so never saw the garden at its best. By 1948 the lack of resources and the impact of the war years saw the garden decline. In 1949 the woodland was sold to the Outward Bound trust who

noted that “The garden must reluctantly be abandoned” and sold off many of the shrubs.

The Forestry Commission (FC) bought Giggle Alley in the 1960’s and whilst the garden was not considered important compared to planting conifers for timber at least it was opened to the public for the first time. Since 1999 the garden has been slowly restored and developed through a partnership with Chris Jones, a local volunteer and with the support of the Eskdale Parish Council. A small booklet in the Discover Eskdale series is available from the stores in Eskdale Green and details more of the history of the garden.

The woodland that surrounds the garden is home to a wide variety of tree species all benefiting from the freely draining brown earth soils and, with the exception of Stag Wood, a southerly aspect. Excluding Stag Wood the woodland has been regularly thinned and regeneration is occurring at encouraging levels. Access for harvesting is difficult but this has encouraged management to develop a little and often approach which has helped minimise disruption to the public. The January 2005 storm caused significant damage to 15% of the woodland. The clearance of the windblow was completed by Autumn 2005 leaving three new clearings. Much of the timber from the clearance was stacked in the wood is slowly being removed as firewood by the local community.

Stag Wood is a dense area of mature pine and larch which has been almost entirely unthinned and is choked by large areas of Rhododendron. In conservation terms Stag Wood is considered to be ancient replanted woodland and a commitment was given in the first plan to transform this area into native broadleaf woodland.

Giggle Alley is a small diverse woodland area with limited significant conservation features. It does include a number of large native trees especially oak and is home to native wildlife such as badgers and Red Squirrels. Roe Deer from Miterdale make occasional forays into the wood.

In terms of historical features Giggle Alley includes 15 features of archaeological interest ranging from a possible prehistoric ring cairn to medieval bloomeries and features associated with charcoal production. In addition there are a few remnant foundations of greenhouses and building platforms from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century period as part of the Gate House Estate.

## Achievements during last plan period.

During the last plan period the main achievements against this plan are listed below:

- The garden has been managed and improved with the addition of 3 new bridges.
- Access to the garden has been improved with new steps and the ramp being strimmed to keep it accessible.
- The glades created by the 2005 storm have been maintained and improved through grass strimming, raking and grass seeding and shrub planting.
- The garden and paths have been incorporated into a facility Inspection regime meaning that they are formally inspected and any problems repaired/made safe every 3 months.
- The middle wall and boundary wall have been repaired. A new gate has been constructed in the middle wall to facilitate ease of future harvesting whilst protecting the garden from grazing animals.
- The area of grass around the toilets and car park is regularly strimmed to keep grass and weed levels under control.
- New threshold signs have been purchased and will be erected during Spring 2010.
- Unfortunately the pressures of dealing with the other areas of timber windblown in the 2005 storm have not left enough time for more thinning to be organised although a thinning is planned for 2010/11.

## Review and Appraisal

Giggle Alley is a unique woodland in a special part of the Lake District. Its value lies in its quiet charm and links to the past history of formal garden design. It is highly valued by the local community and the Parish Council have been great to support both verbally and financially the restoration of the garden over the last few years. A new photo survey has been produced and is provided within the plan. The review and appraisal completed in 2006 still seems to be appropriate and accurate today and so is provided mostly unchanged below.

Giggle Alley fits in well within the surrounding landscape from all viewpoints. The scattering of trees outside the Forestry Commission's boundary and links to the Outward Bound owned woodland are all important in tying Giggle Alley into the landscape. For a designed landscape that started out as a Japanese Garden on an open knoll it has become naturalised into the local landscape character.

To ensure that this fit with the landscape continues it is important that the woodland is regularly thinned to release natural regeneration to renew the woodland whilst at the same time allowing specimen trees to develop. These are important in maintaining structure and character to the woodland and continuing its link with the landscape. Clear felling doesn't fit with this philosophy and so should not be used for managing Stag Wood.

Given the difficult access and lack of roadside space harvesting should be small scale but frequent with the timber produced offered locally. Restoring the native broadleaf character of Stag Wood is important but at the same time this should not detract from the value of Giggle Alley's non native species including the area of beech. This is highly valued locally and should be retained and allowed to regenerate as long as the species does not threaten to dominate the woodland.

Given the unthinned and dense rhododendron in Stag Wood recreational access is currently concentrated on only half of the woodland area. Access to the southern half of the wood has improved in the last 5 years with new steps and the ramp being maintained. In addition better signing is planned. The future of the unmanaged area behind the car park should be explored to release benefits to the local community.

Development of the glades created by the windblow is changing the woodland making it more open and providing new opportunities to extend the garden as well as provide community space.

The Japanese Garden has come along way in the last ten years from rescue through restoration which is still ongoing but now into possible expansion. The garden is both an important heritage feature and recreational resource for the community. The continued maintenance of the garden remains a priority and any expansion must continue to be weighed up against the resources available to maintain new areas. Key to the future of the garden is controlling the Gaultheria and Sasa grass as well as securing future labour and resources.

## Ongoing and Long Term Objectives

### Ongoing

- Manage Giggle Alley for the benefit of the local community as a place of recreation and as part of a wider project to deliver local employment, tourism and sustainable tourism.
- Continue to maintain the Japanese Garden and look for opportunities to sustainably expand this important feature.
- Manage the woodland through Continuous Cover (regular thinning) to encourage the woodland to regenerate naturally and develop large specimen trees for their amenity value.

### The Next 5 years

- In the Japanese Garden investigate options to restore water to the ponds, control Gaultheria and Sasa Grass and continue shrub planting.
- Complete a thinning of the woodland including creating gaps in Stag Wood and opening up views from Castle Rock east of the Japanese Garden.
- Start a process of rhododendron control in Stag Wood
- Continue to involve the local community and work with the Parish Council to maximise benefits to the local area.
- Improve signing and information provision around and about the Garden.



## Delivery Against Regional Policy

Giggle Alley lies within the Cumbria High fells management zone of the North West England Forest District Strategic Plan (NWEFDSP) (2005 to 2009). This plan is being reviewed during 2010. Within the general description for this zone the Strategic Plan makes the statements below which are relevant to this plan.

- Presumption to thin all areas of Wind Hazard Class (WHC) 3 and below (and more sheltered WHC 4). If necessary thin steep areas at zero surplus for both aesthetic and timber quality benefits.
- Main conifer species will be Sitka spruce, larch, Douglas fir and Scots pine which grow fast and yield high quality timber when planted on appropriate sites.
- At Forest Design Plan review consider further boundary improvements to forests in zone including land swap deals to improve most visually intrusive edges where appropriate.

Detailed below are the objectives of the Cumbria High fells zone (highlighted in blue), and how the implementation of the revised Parkgate and Irton, Sillathwate, Uldale and Dent FDP will deliver against the objectives.

### Forestry for rural development

Main conifer species will be Sitka spruce, Larch, Douglas fir and Scots pine which grow fast and yield high quality timber when planted on appropriate sites. Do not replant with Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar or Grand fir as there is poor demand from saw millers, and replace with other species. At FDP revision felling will target the early removal of Western Hemlock where this does not significantly compromise other objectives to minimise problem of vigorous natural regeneration. The only exception to the above will be the retention of feature trees around the main visitor facilities.

Presumption to thin all areas of (WHC) 3 and below (and more sheltered WHC 4). If necessary thin steep areas at zero surplus for both aesthetic and timber quality benefits.

Implemented through

Given the difficulties of access within and to and from the forest it is inappropriate for the focus of management at Giggle Alley to be timber production.

Management under Continuous Cover will see a range of species regenerating and thinning will be used to selectively open up a diverse range of species to maintain the character of the forest.

The continued development of woodfuel markets is one that timber from Giggle Alley can support and one which provides a local market for timber from this small woodland.

### Forestry for recreation, access and tourism

Main focus of formal recreation provision and future development will be at Whinlatter Forest Park which is now managed as a single entity with Dodd Wood.

Apply continuous cover management systems to stands of Douglas fir on lower elevation sites, particularly near recreational facilities. Preference to regenerate naturally with planting as last resort. Retain some big conifers indefinitely at Whinlatter.

Thin to improve visual amenity around main recreational facilities and at net cost if required.

In timber marketing and operations management aim to minimise disruption to recreational facilities, particularly forest walks at Whinlatter/Dodd. Market timber from Whinlatter as a long term contract to achieve greater control.

Implemented through

Thinning being managed in scale with the woodland to minimise disruption to recreational use eg closing the woodland during the day when harvesting is active but ensuring the woodland is safe and open on evenings and weekends.

Accepting mixed species regeneration will provide a diverse woodland which people enjoy.

Thinning will develop wind firm large specimen trees.

The continued restoration (and extension) of the Japanese Garden provides an important local tourist destination which adds to the tourist offer made by Eskdale.

### Forestry for environment and conservation

At each 5 yearly review consider further boundary improvements to forests in zone including land swap deals to improve most visually intrusive edges where appropriate.

Consider re-aligning top boundary fences to improve visual appearance of top margins e.g. Ennerdale, Dodd.

Manage and extend Upland Oak woods according to Habitat Action Plan. In these areas nature conservation will be the prime objective.

At Matterdale and Blengdale create permanent network of open space/broadleaves at restocking so that average coupe size can be reduced in next rotation.

Work in partnership with tenant farmers to improve conservation and landscape value of farmland and open fell. In general, reduce grazing pressure from sheep to improve heathland condition.

Through a partnership with the National Trust and United Utilities develop a long term vision for the whole Ennerdale Valley based on the principle of utilizing natural processes and reflect this in the Forest Design Plan, activities and operations on the FC landholding. This is a very long term, pilot scheme which has the working title "Wild Ennerdale". There will be considerable consultation with stakeholders.

Particularly high archaeological interest at Ennerdale to be protected.

#### Implemented Through

Giggle Alley already fits well into the landscape and the use of continuous cover techniques will ensure this continues to be the case.

The plans for Stag Wood will, over time, see the restoration of this area to native upland oak/birch woodland.

The historic features identified will be protected during forest operations.

## Delivery Against National Policy

The Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWFS) replaced the England Forestry Strategy as the core policy for forestry in England in 2008. The strategy has three themes Communities and Places, Land and Natural Environment and Working Woodlands.

Detailed below are the objectives of the ETWFS (highlighted in blue), grouped under its three themes and how the implementation of the this plan will deliver against the objectives.

### Communities and Places

- involving local people in planning, managing and using local woodlands and the trees in streets and green spaces, to help achieve more cohesive communities and to show how individuals can contribute to environmental sustainability;
- making it easier for people to use and enjoy woodlands particularly in ways that benefit their physical and mental health, learning and personal development;
- creating liveable neighbourhoods, towns and cities by using trees and woodlands as part of the green infrastructure which frames and connects urban and rural areas, improves the quality of a place, and regenerates brown field and derelict land;
- using trees and woodlands to help minimise the impacts of climate change in built-up area

### Implemented through

- The consultation process will include the Parish Council and a leaflet drop through neighbours houses.
- Improved information and signing will make it easier for visitors to find and enjoy the garden and woodland walks.
- Some of the timber from the thinning will be offered to local people for use as woodfuel.

## Land and Natural Environment

To create, expand and maintain a network of sustainably managed trees, woods and forests that are resilient to climate change and make a full contribution to:

- protecting and enhancing our woodland habitats and associated species and facilitating their resilience and adaptation to climate change;
- safeguarding, enhancing and celebrating the characteristic elements of rural and urban landscapes and their cultural and historic values;
- maximising the full range of ecosystem services provided by trees, woods and forests, including the protection of soil and water resources now and in the future, as needs change.

Implemented through

- Managing the woodland under Continuous Cover will ensure stable and sustainable habitats as well as providing soil protection, continued carbon sequestration and water filtering services.
- Stag Wood will slowly be converted to native woodland.
- Retaining the beech, maintaining and extending the Japanese Garden will ensure these locally distinctive features continue for future generations to enjoy.
- Use of natural regeneration should ensure appropriate species which should ensure healthy and robust woodland.

## Working Woodlands

The Government's objectives for this Strategy can only be delivered by a healthy woodland and forestry sector with viable businesses actively engaged in sustainable management and processing at national, regional, sub-regional and local level. This will require:

- the whole sector to have the expertise and capacity to ensure that sustainable management of woodlands delivers public benefits alongside business profitability. To achieve this, partnership programmes will involve the forestry, arboricultural, silvicultural, recreation, timber processing industries and related business sectors;
- innovation to develop new markets and modernise supply chains and infrastructure;
- Government resources targeted at the provision of public goods and at developing the capacity of the sector to adapt to future needs and diversify, creating a flexible industry run by well-trained people;

- substituting wood products for fossil fuels and other materials, as a contribution to UK targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Implemented through

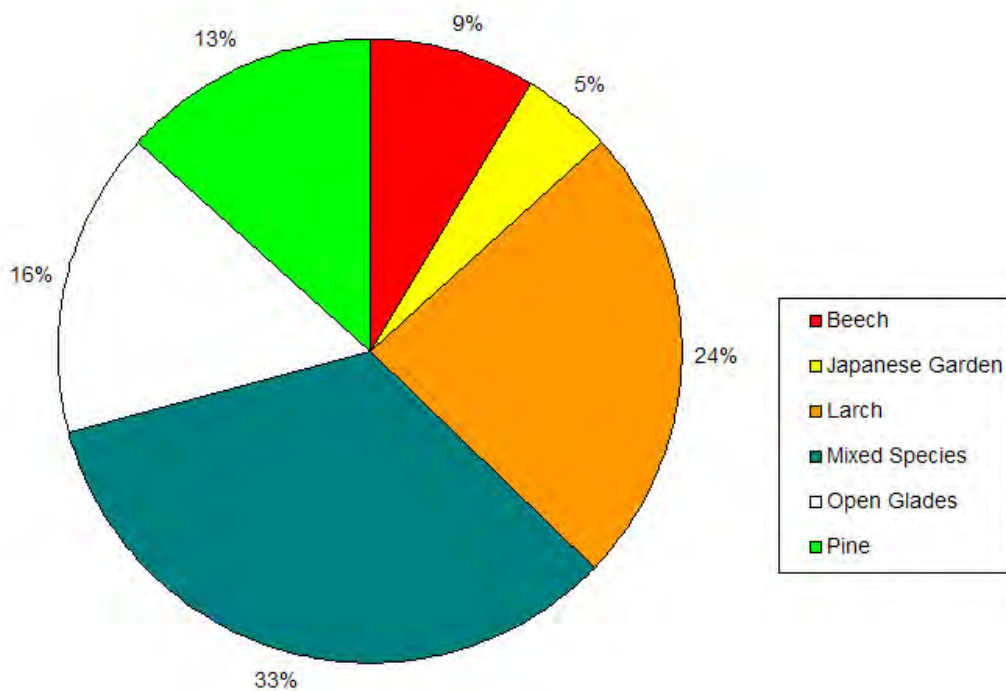
- Timber from thinning offered locally as woodfuel (no local mains gas)
- Local contracts used where possible to reduce carbon emission from travel to work.

## Graphs

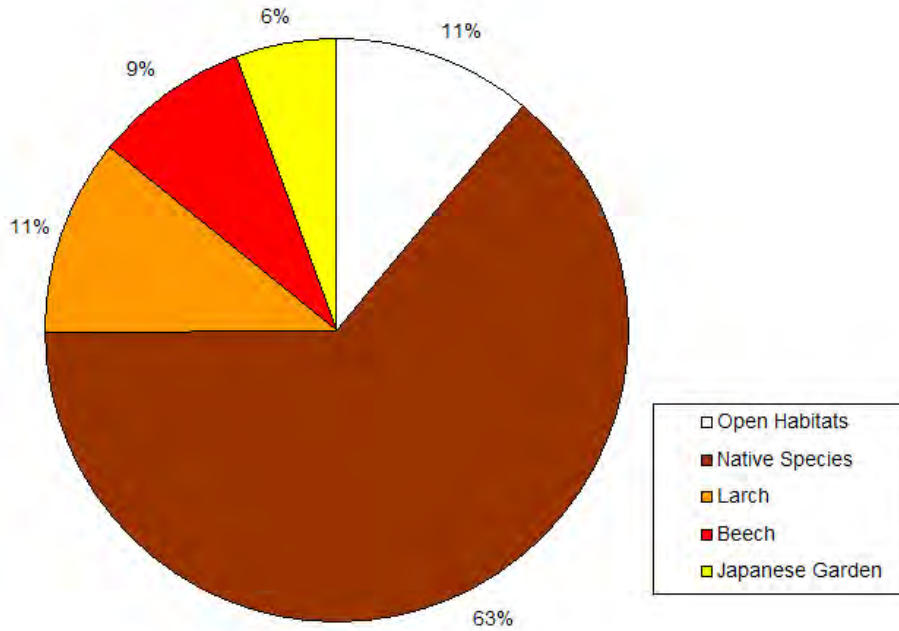
The following graphs illustrate the percentage split of current woodland species and land use, future woodland management and future woodland species.

These help to assess the plan against the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme guidelines and ensure that the plan is balanced and will deliver the objectives set out earlier.

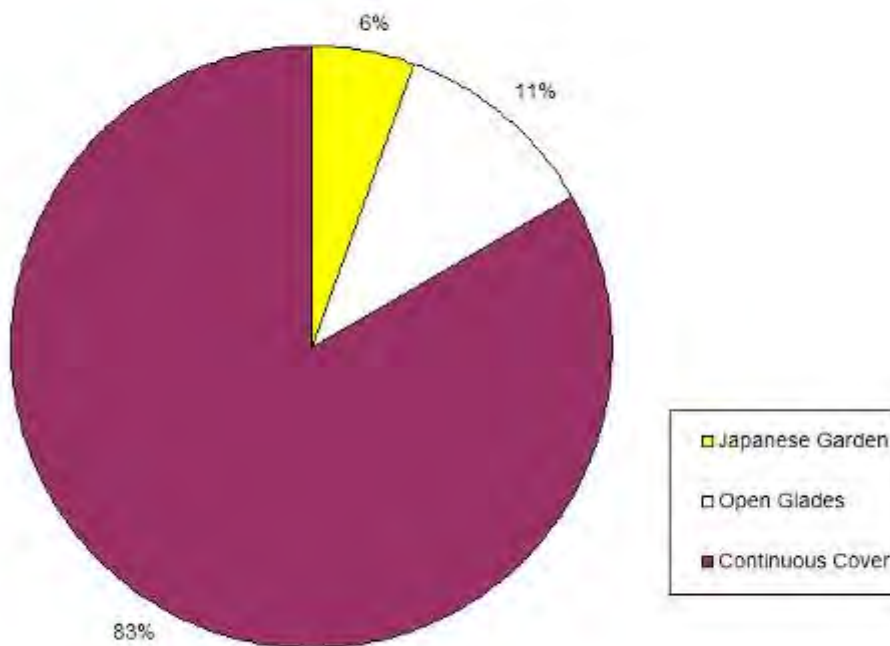
Area of Current Species as a Percentage of Total Area



**Future Woodland Species as a Percentage of Total Area**



**Future Woodland Management as Percentage of Total Area**





# Giggle Alley Forest Design Plan

## Spring 2010 Review – Photo Survey



## Photo Survey



Looking north from Hollowstones shows the dominance of larch across the woodland but even so the woodland links well to the surrounding landscape.



Looking east from the minor road just past St Begas primary school shows the impact of the 2005 gales on the density of woodland with the cleared gaps leaving a thinner skyline.



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**Giggle Alley**

Forest Design Plan

# Photo Survey



Looking south west from the minor road near The Mill leading to the forest shows the much denser woodland of Stagg Wood.



Looking north from Eskdale Green almost unchanged from the last review photo again shows how the woodland is very much part of the village.



North West England  
**Giggle Alley**  
Forest Design Plan

# Photo Survey



Giggle Alley is well known for its Japanese Garden



The mix of exotic species provides a fantastic array of seasonal colours.



With funding from Eskdale Parish Council three bridges were constructed and erected by a local joiner to restore routes across the water feature.



The glades created by the clearance of the 2005 wind blow have been seeded and are starting to become important features of the woodland.

# Photo Survey



The main entrance to the woodland has been improved with the construction of steps in the style of the original garden features.



Without the tireless help of Chris Jones the garden would not be the popular place that it is. Here Chris guides a group from the Friends of the Lake District around.



Managing public safety within the garden has led to the felling of some trees including this large Cherry.



As an alternative to steps this path has been reinstated and is now maintained through strimming. Signage is needed at the steps entrance to inform people that this exists.

# Photo Survey



This view shows the woodland coming down to the main street of the village of Eskdale Green. Past thinning work to open up the roadside edge has been of benefit.



It is planned to provide more visitor information. Here a sign produced by Chris stands at the junction between the glades.



Giggle Alley is community woodland which local people enjoy sometimes adding their own mark, here an unknown person has erected bird boxes.



Managing the spread of rhododendron and other shrubs is a constant maintenance task to balance access with the character of winding secretive paths.

# Photo Survey



The beech woodland provides a contrast to other areas. A gap created during thinning in the early 2000's is regenerating with beech.



Clearing the timber felled in the 2005 storm continues to provide a source of local firewood.



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## Location Map

Giggle Alley lies entirely within the Lake District National Park around 6km from the coast at Ravenglass.

Giggle Alley lies within the parish of Eskdale and is very much a part of the character of the village of Eskdale Green.

The forest lies within the Lake District National Park Authorities "Quiet Western Fells" designation and Natural England's "Cumbria High Fells" character area.

### Key

 Giggle Alley

Date Spring 2010  
Scale 1:100,000  
Contact Gareth Browning  
017687 76816



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Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Photo Survey Viewpoints

This map indicates the locations of panorama photos used to understand how the plan area lies within the wider landscape.

This map should be read along with the photo survey images.

### Key

 Giggle Alley

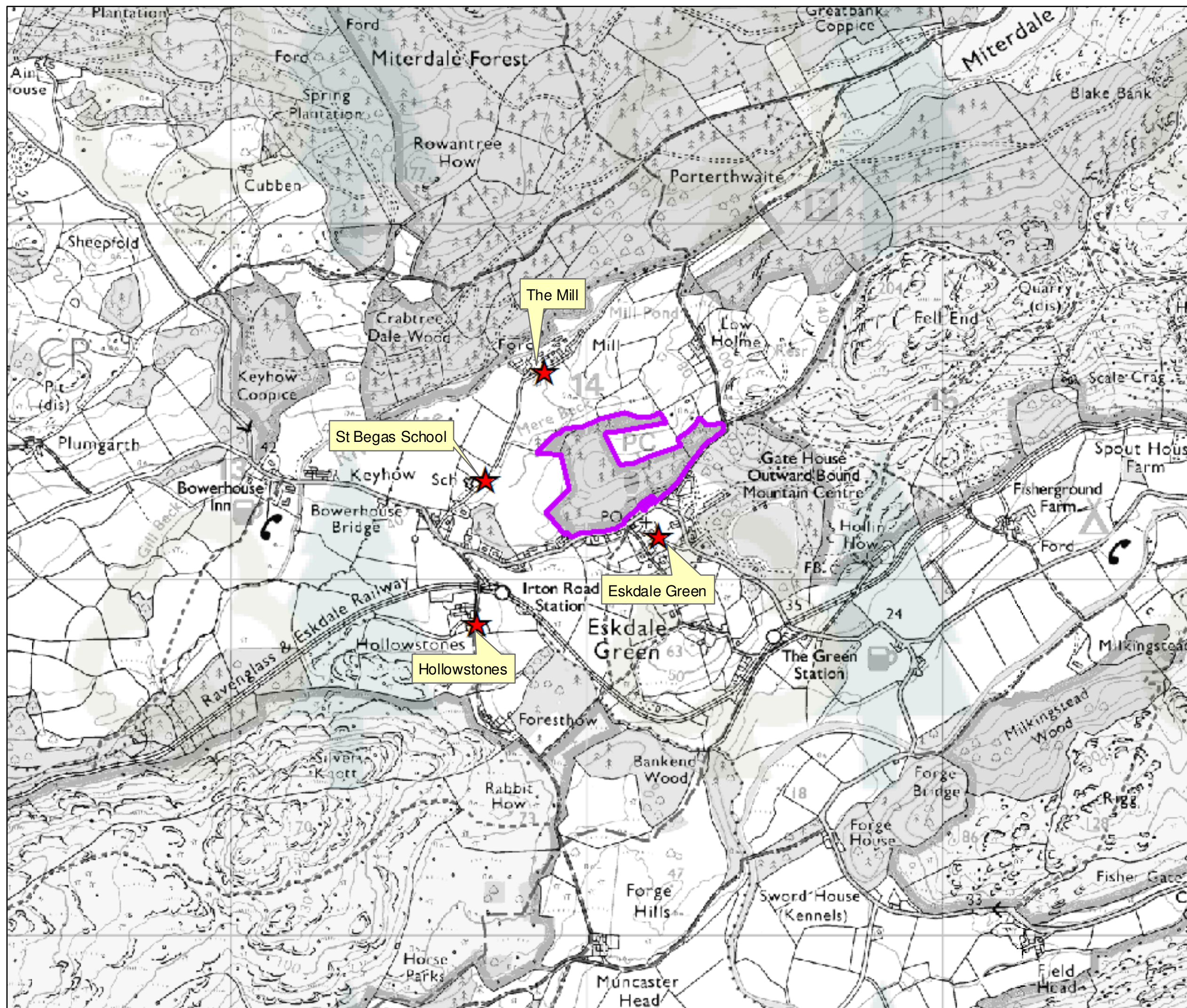
### Forest

 Giggle Alley

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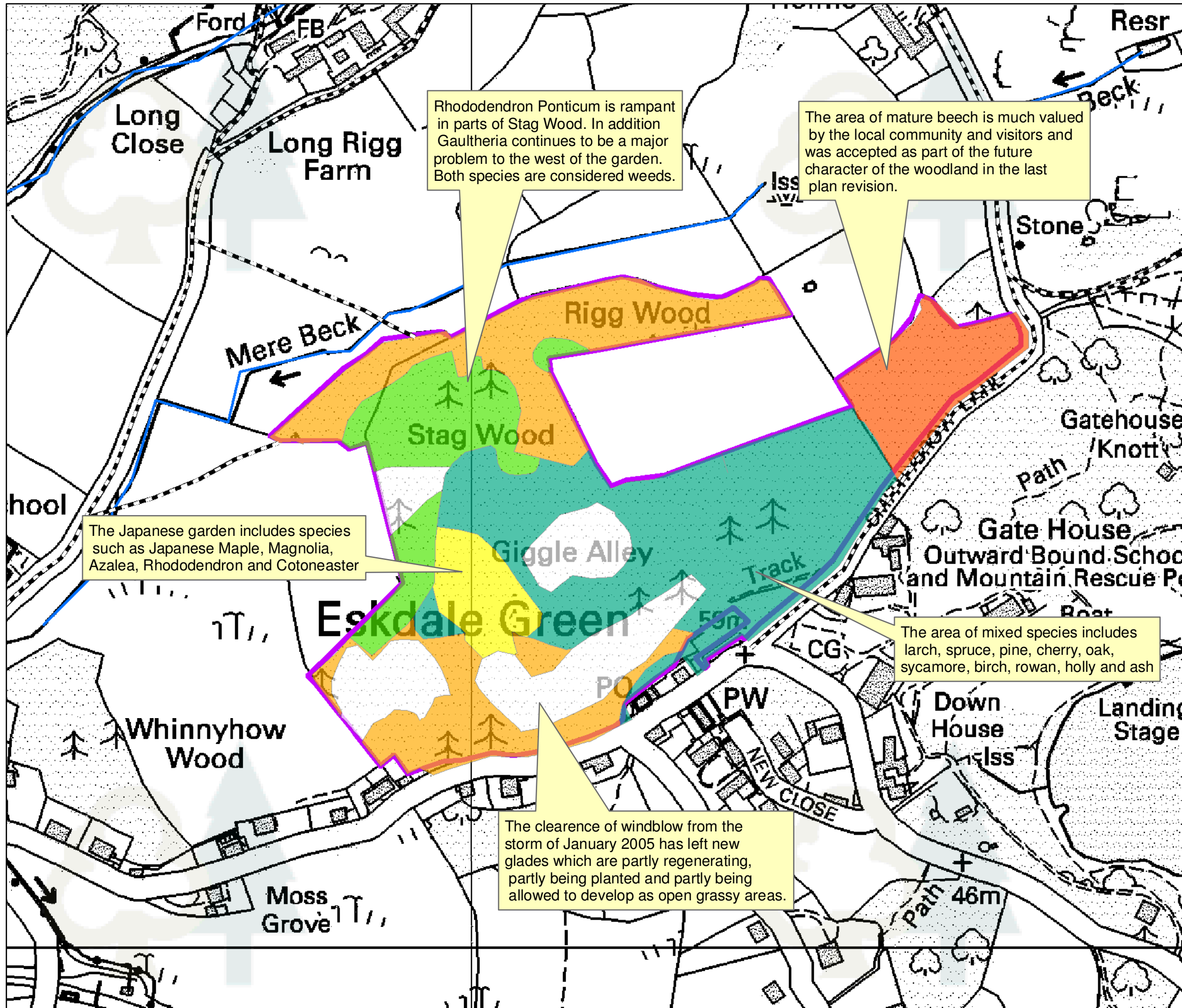
**Forestry Commission**  
 North West England  
 Giggle Alley  
 Forest Design Plan  
**Current Species**

The species distribution within Giggle Alley is very mixed and diverse. This map tries to illustrate the principal species and areas only.

**Key**

**Current Woodland Species**

-  Beech
-  Pine
-  Larch
-  Japanese Garden
-  Open Glades
-  Mixed Species
-  Giggle Alley



Rhododendron Ponticum is rampant in parts of Stag Wood. In addition Gaultheria continues to be a major problem to the west of the garden. Both species are considered weeds.

The area of mature beech is much valued by the local community and visitors and was accepted as part of the future character of the woodland in the last plan revision.

The Japanese garden includes species such as Japanese Maple, Magnolia, Azalea, Rhododendron and Cotoneaster

The area of mixed species includes larch, spruce, pine, cherry, oak, sycamore, birch, rowan, holly and ash

The clearance of windblow from the storm of January 2005 has left new glades which are partly regenerating, partly being planted and partly being allowed to develop as open grassy areas.

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Giggle Alley  
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# Recreation and Access

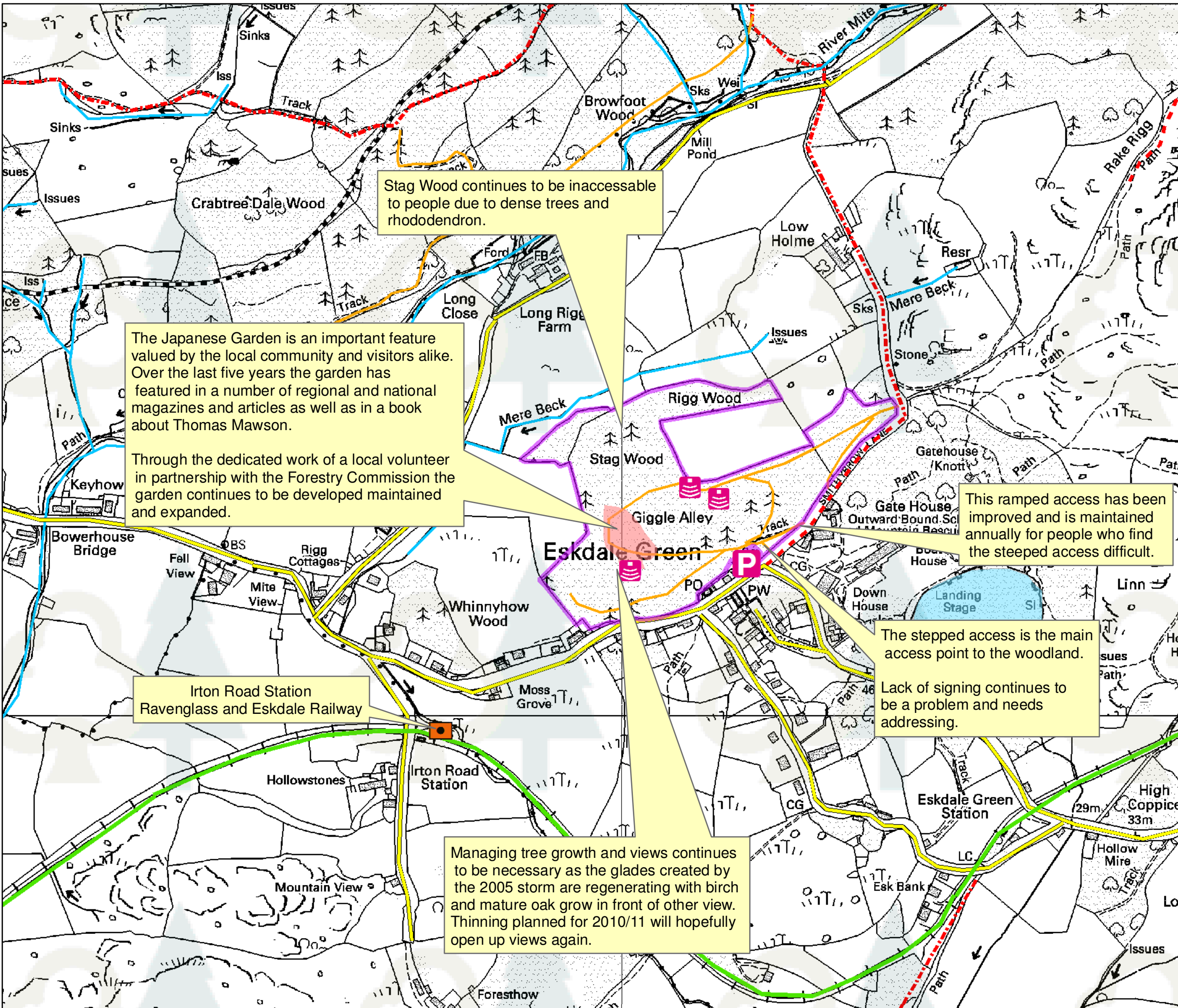
## Key

-  Giggle Alley
-  Japanese Garden
-  Narrow Gauge Railway Station
-  Railway Line
-  Car Park & Toilets
-  View Point
-  Public Roads
-  Permissive paths
-  Forest Trail
-  Church Way
-  Public Bridleway
-  Public Footpath
-  Forest Roads

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 Scale 1:5,000  
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Stag Wood continues to be inaccessible to people due to dense trees and rhododendron.

The Japanese Garden is an important feature valued by the local community and visitors alike. Over the last five years the garden has featured in a number of regional and national magazines and articles as well as in a book about Thomas Mawson.

Through the dedicated work of a local volunteer in partnership with the Forestry Commission the garden continues to be developed maintained and expanded.

This ramped access has been improved and is maintained annually for people who find the steeped access difficult.

The stepped access is the main access point to the woodland.

Lack of signing continues to be a problem and needs addressing.

Irton Road Station  
Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway

Managing tree growth and views continues to be necessary as the glades created by the 2005 storm are regenerating with birch and mature oak grow in front of other view. Thinning planned for 2010/11 will hopefully open up views again.



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# Giggle Alley Forest Design Plan

## Community

This map illustrates the distribution of the local community and wider access routes to and from Giggle Alley.

The Parish of Eskdale has a small population which is focused in and around the village of Eskdale Green. This is an attractive village with a shop, primary school, pub, and village hall.

### Key

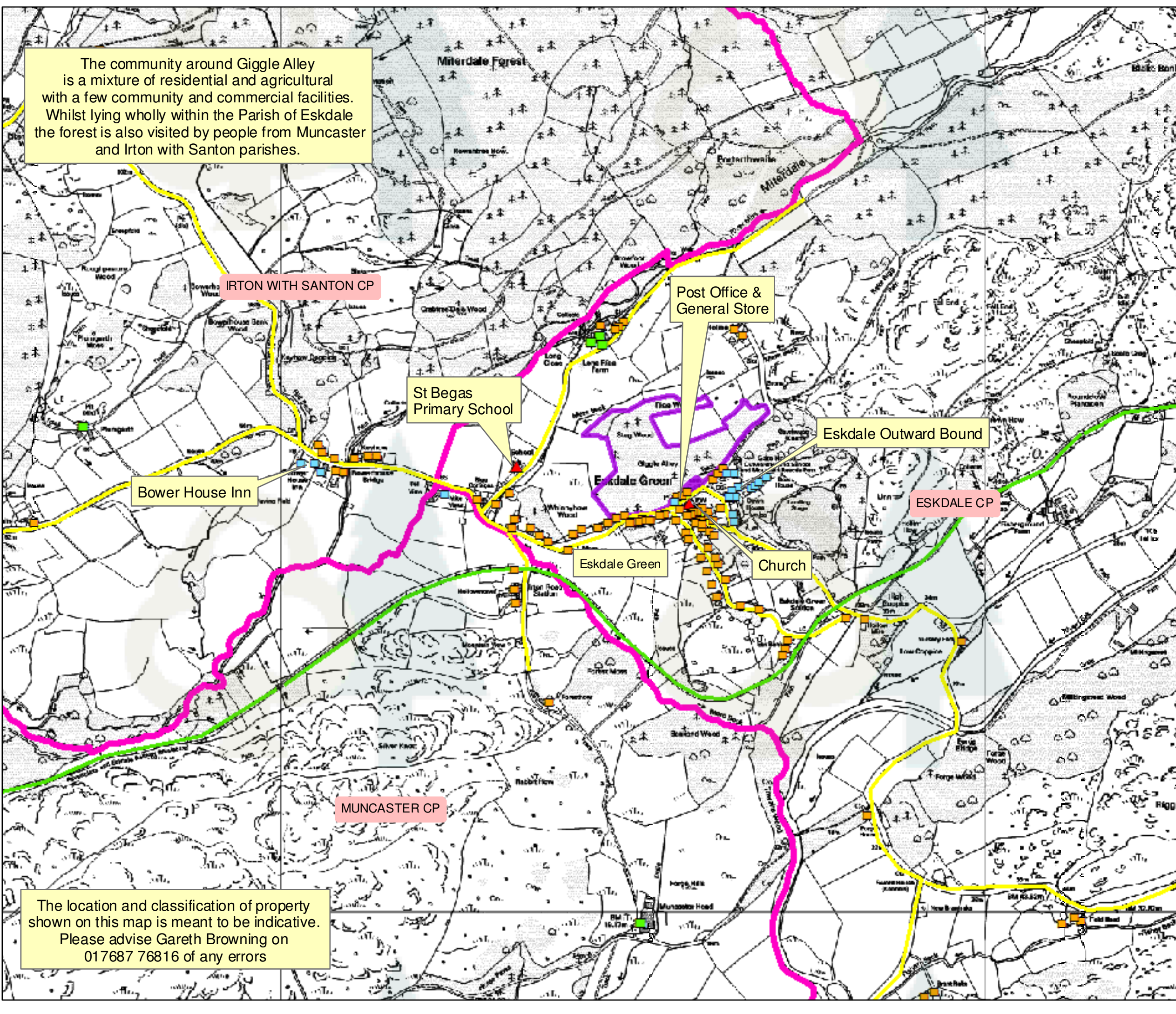
-  Giggle Alley
-  Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
-  Public Roads
-  Parish Council Boundaries
- Community**
-  Agricultural
-  Commercial
-  Community
-  Residential

Date Spring 2010  
 Scale 1:10,000  
 Contact Gareth Browning  
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The community around Giggle Alley is a mixture of residential and agricultural with a few community and commercial facilities. Whilst lying wholly within the Parish of Eskdale the forest is also visited by people from Muncaster and Irton with Santon parishes.



St Begas Primary School

Post Office & General Store

Eskdale Outward Bound

Bower House Inn

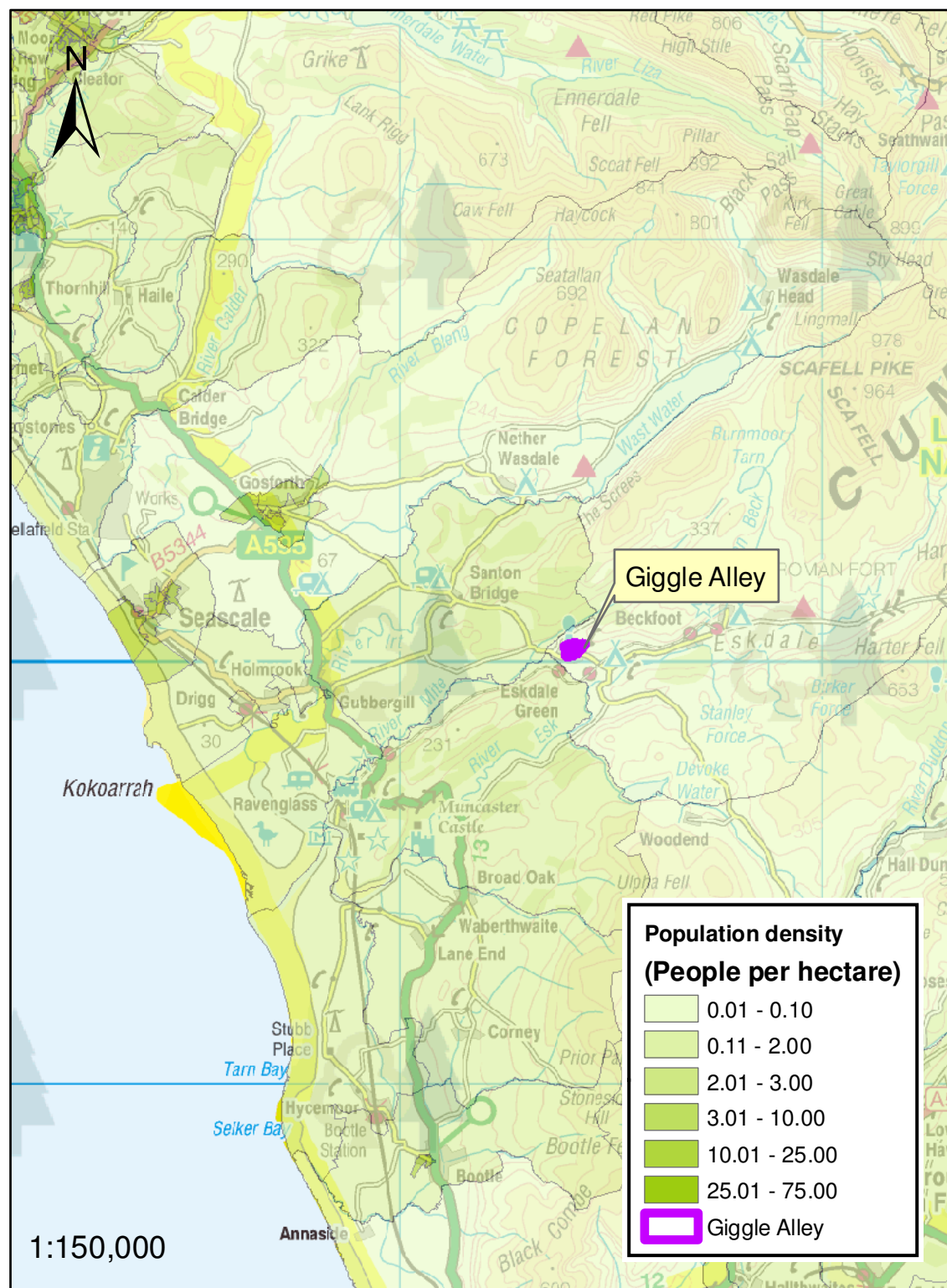
Eskdale Green

Church

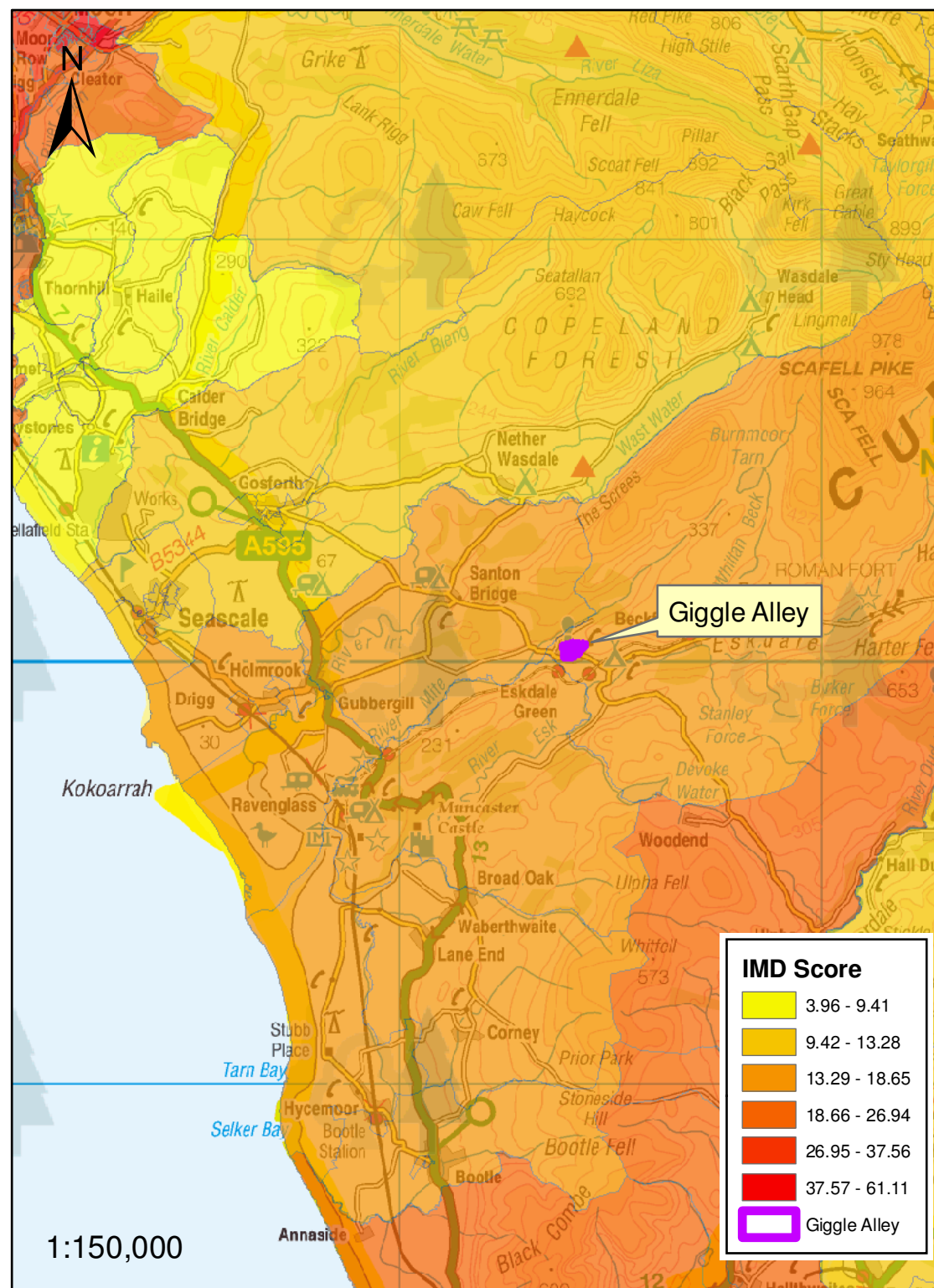
ESKDALE CP

MUNCASTER CP

The location and classification of property shown on this map is meant to be indicative. Please advise Gareth Browning on 017687 76816 of any errors



This map shows the population density by parish and ward. illustrates that Giggie Alley lies in an area of very low population density, the Lake District High Fells.



This map shows the level of deprivation as measured by the Office of the Deputy prime Minister. The score is a summary of 7 aspects:- Income, Employment, Health, Education, Skills, Training, Barriers to Housing, Services, Living Environment and Crime. For more information visit [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk).

This illustrates that Giggie Alley lies in an area of average deprivation.



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Forest Design Plan

## Social and Economic Context

The two maps presented on this page try and give a flavour of the social and economic characteristics of the area around the plan by presenting views from the UK Governments Indicators of Multiple Deprivation data set compiled from the most recent population census.

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Giggle Alley provides a home for wildlife such as a small range of birds, badgers, Red squirrel and occasional deer. The location of badger setts is known but not made public to protect the animals from unwanted disturbance.

Grey Squirrels are present in the local area and area.

Deer are occasional visitors to the woodland but unlikely to be permanent residents.

Rhododendron and Gaultheria both pose a threat to native ground flora and any plans to transform Stag Wood to native woodland.

Charcoal burners platform

Long Rigg Farm

Pitstead

Mere Beck

Stag Wood

Pitstead

Rigg Wood

Giggle Alley

Eskdale Green

Quarry

Native tree species such as birch and rowan are regenerating into the glade created by the clearance of the 2005 storm windblown trees.

Issues

Holme

Sks

Mere Beck

Resr

Stone

Possible prehistoric ring cairn

Medieval bloomery including slag and waste

Possible old greenhouse location

Outward Bound School and Mountain Rescue Post

Twentieth Century small building platform

Boat House

Landing Stage

Down House

PO

PW

NEW CLOSE

Path 46m



Forestry Commission  
North West England  
Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Water, Heritage and Nature Conservation

### Key

- Giggle Alley
- Historic Site
- Watercourses
- Extent of Garden Features
- Lakes and tarns

Date Spring 2010  
Scale 1:2,500  
Contact Gareth Browning  
017687 76816



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This map presents a sample of sites taken from a survey jointly funded by the Lake District National Park Authority and the forestry Commission published in 2000. The survey was carried out by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit and recorded 184 sites within the Miterdale Valley including Giggle Alley

Giggle Alley has a surprising number of features for a small woodland. Some of these features are associated with past woodland industries such as charcoal burning. One or two are much older possibly even prehistoric cairn circles. There are also a number of small quarries which are thought to be linked to the winning of stone for the Japanese Garden. Lastly the remains of glasshouses, garden terracing and paths associated with the Japanese Garden bring the historic record into the 20th Century.



Forestry Commission

North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

# Roads and Harvesting

Harvesting timber from Giggle Alley poses a number of problems.  
Areas for timber stacking and access for timber lorries to pick up timber are severely lacking. Equally there are no obvious opportunities to improve this situation. Recent thinning has been carried out manually using tractor trailer forwarder for extraction and this seems to be the best way forward - low level, frequent but small interventions.

FC has right of access across fields to Giggle Alley, but fields are often wet and would become significantly rutted if used for major timber extraction work.

Private Road  
No FC Right  
Of Access

FC has right of access up the lane  
from Eskdale Green to this point only

The lane is not suitable  
for timber lorries to use

In wood extraction is difficult because  
of terrain, walls and avoid paths and  
garden features

Overhead Telephone and Power cables  
restrict felling operations along the  
boundary with the public road through  
Eskdale Green.

### Key

- Giggle Alley
- Overhead Power Line
- telephone line oh
- Lorry Turning Point
- water supply
- Watercourses
- Cat 1 Core Lorry Roads
- Cat 2 Temporary heavy usage
- Cat 3 Light usage
- Miterdale Forest
- Public Roads

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North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Landform

### Key

-  Giggle Alley
-  Contour Lines
-  concavities
-  convexities

This plan illustrates the underlying landform of Giggle Alley and shows that the woodland lies on either side the western end of a ridge that forms the southern side of the Miterdale. At its highest Giggle Alley rises to just under 100m asl.

Research shows that we look at mountainous landscapes in a certain way. Our vision is naturally drawn to follow the concavities up onto the ridges and then our eyes follow the convexities back down again.

Forest design works best when felling and restocking boundaries do not cross these "lines of force" at right angles. The forest should flow up and down these lines to encourage, as against block, our eyes from following these landscape features.

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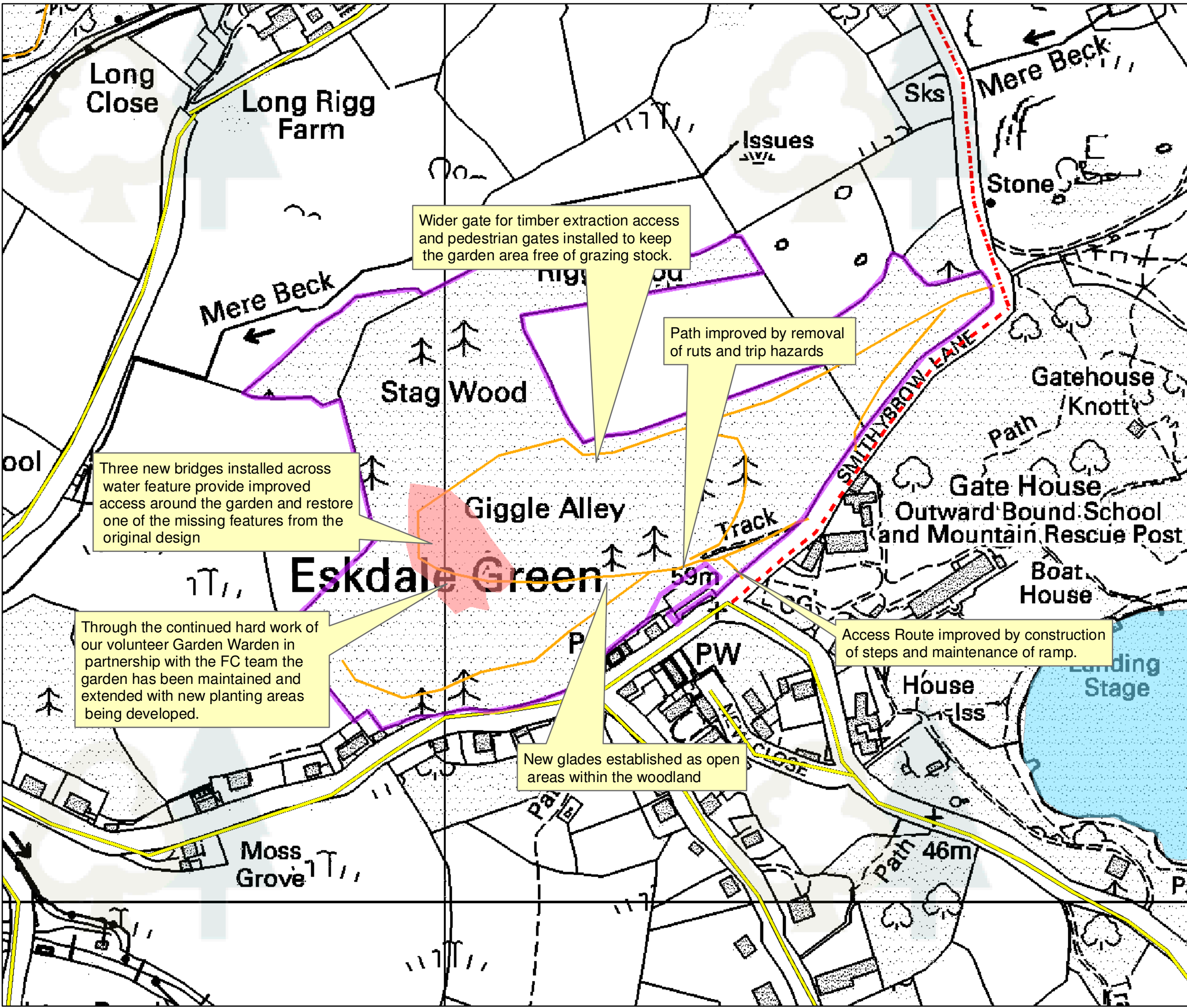
Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

### Achievements

This map tries to illustrate the main achievements over the last 5 years compared to the previous plan objectives.

#### Key

-  Giggle Alley
-  Japanese Garden
-  Public Roads
-  Permissive paths
-  Public Bridleway
-  Public Footpath
-  Forest Roads



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North West England

Giggle Alley  
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### Review Issues

This map tries to identify the main issues that have emerged since the plan was last reviewed. These will need to be resolved for this plan to successfully deliver on its objectives.

**Key**

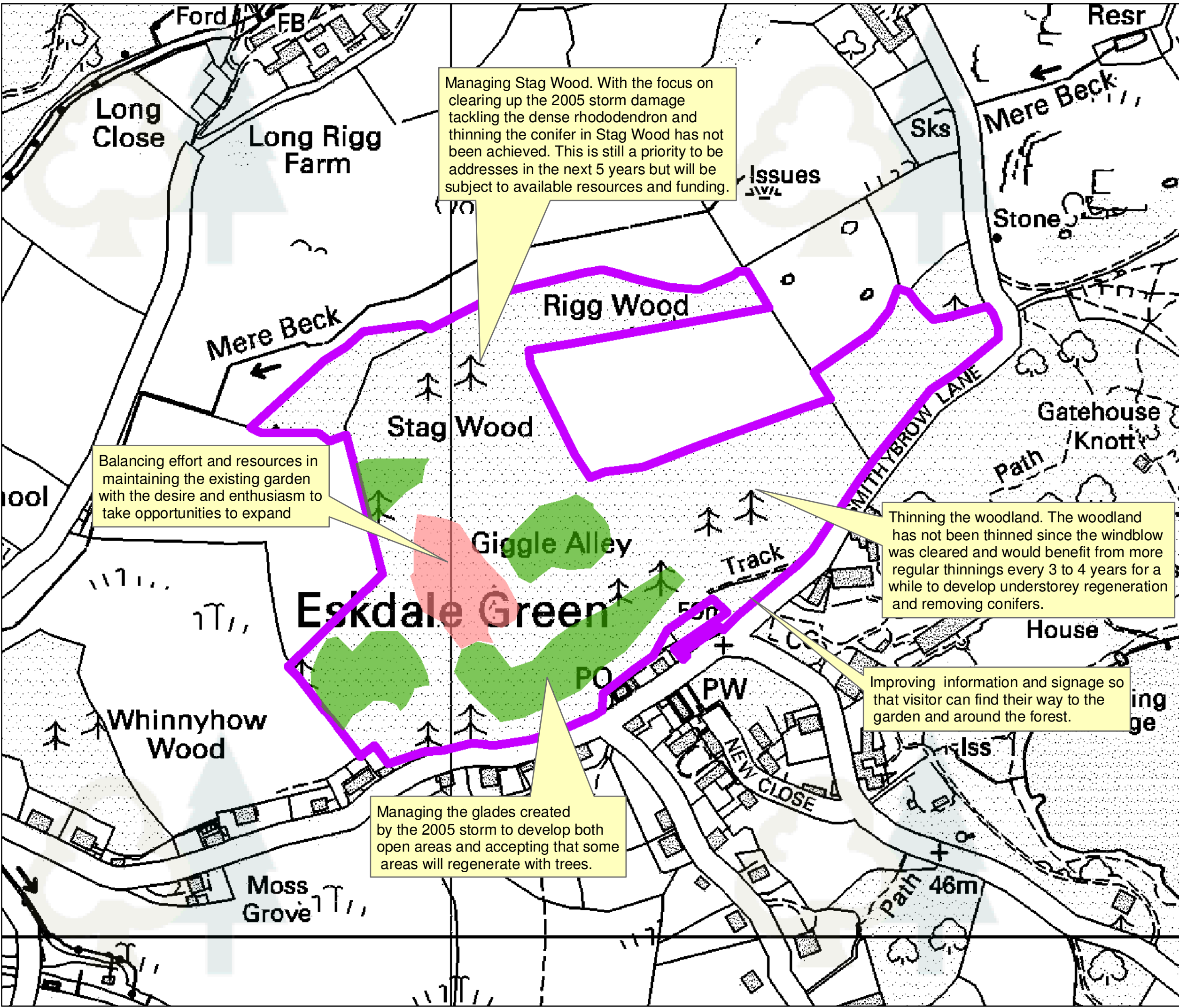
- Windblow Glades
- Giggle Alley

Date Spring 2009/10

Scale 1:2,500

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Thinning the woodland. The woodland has not been thinned since the windblow was cleared and would benefit from more regular thinnings every 3 to 4 years for a while to develop understorey regeneration and removing conifers.

Improving information and signage so that visitor can find their way to the garden and around the forest.



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North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Design Concept




This map draws together all the survey information illustrated in previous maps and tries to zone the plan area into similar character areas with similar attributes, aims and objectives.

The attributes and aims described here are then used to prescribe the actions over the next plan period which are described in the "Future Maps" which follow.

### Key

 Giggle Alley

### Design Concept Zones

-  Japanese Garden
-  Southern Slopes
-  Stag Wood

Attributes: Never used for recreation, difficult access due to dense planting and rhododendron. Mature pine and larch woodland, difficult harvesting access.

Aims: Slowly transform woodland to native broadleaf, eradicate rhododendron as funding permits.

Attributes: High public usage, valued by local community, important cultural heritage, high maintenance, still being restored, very mixed species including non native shrubs, azalea and rhododendron.

Aims: Continue to maintain and restore the garden, look at opportunities to expand into new glades whilst not overstressing maintenance, restore walk through shelter.

### Southern Slope

Attributes: High public access, closest to the village, most recreated, network of informal paths, only access points to and from wood, well thinned, mixed species, beech important, regeneration occurring. opportunities to expand garden into new glades

Aims: Maintain mixed well thinned woodland including beech. Reduce conifer through thinning and accepting broadleaf regeneration. Maintain paths and improve access points and signage. Take opportunities to expand the Japanese Garden creating discrete glades of planting conected by pathways.

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Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Future Woodland Management

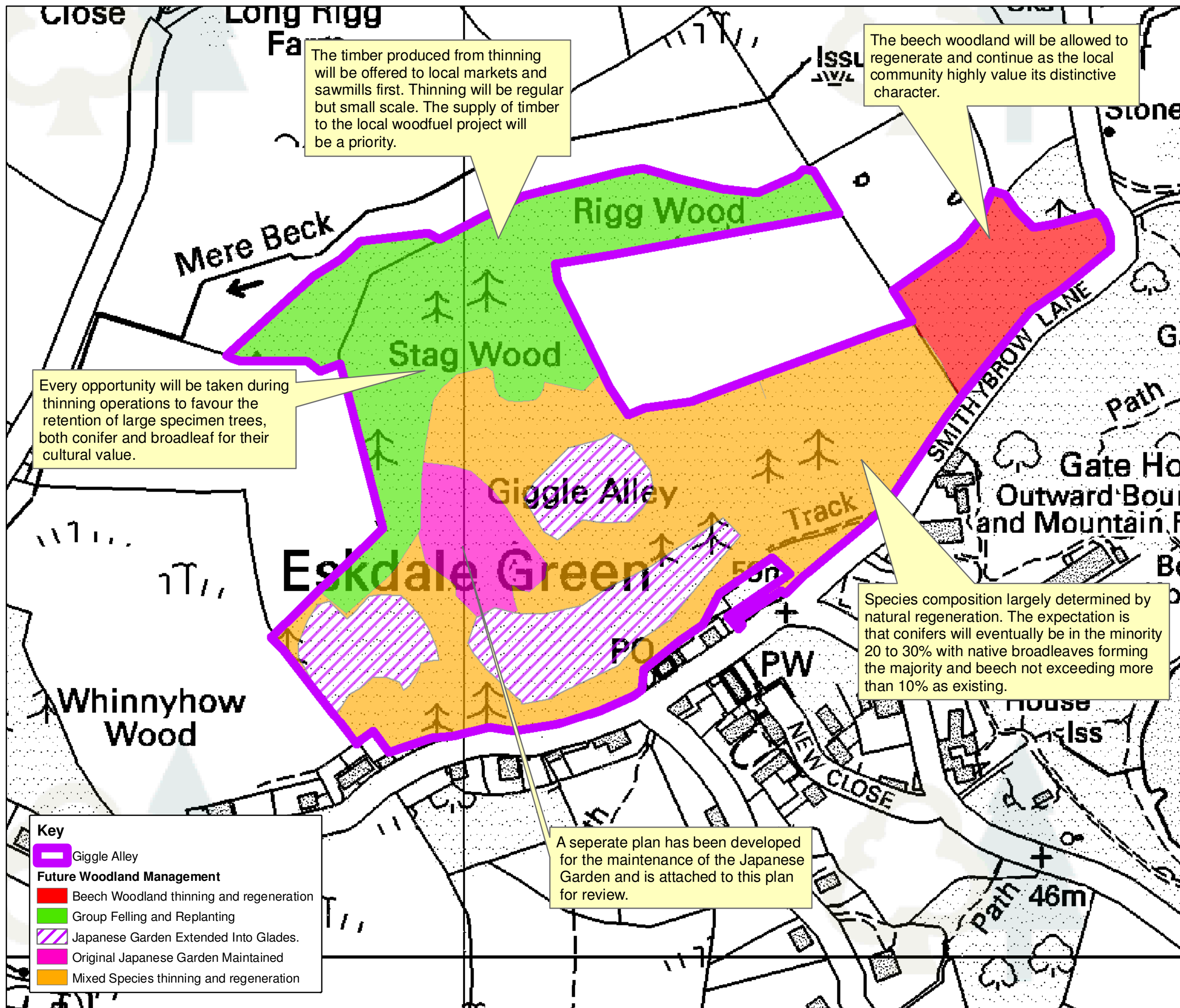
This map shows the proposals for managing the woodland over the next 30 years or so.

Stag Wood is to be transformed towards mixed species woodland through group felling with planting and natural regeneration. Group felling has been chosen as it is hoped it will allow control of Rhododendron to be achieved efficiently. A program of Rhododendron Control will target large flowering stems first.

The remainder of the woodland will be managed through thinning to promote a diverse structure accepting natural regeneration with some planting where regeneration fails or is poor.

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The timber produced from thinning will be offered to local markets and sawmills first. Thinning will be regular but small scale. The supply of timber to the local woodfuel project will be a priority.

The beech woodland will be allowed to regenerate and continue as the local community highly value its distinctive character.

Every opportunity will be taken during thinning operations to favour the retention of large specimen trees, both conifer and broadleaf for their cultural value.

Species composition largely determined by natural regeneration. The expectation is that conifers will eventually be in the minority 20 to 30% with native broadleaves forming the majority and beech not exceeding more than 10% as existing.

A separate plan has been developed for the maintenance of the Japanese Garden and is attached to this plan for review.

**Key**

- Giggle Alley
- Future Woodland Management**
- Beech Woodland thinning and regeneration
- Group Felling and Replanting
- Japanese Garden Extended Into Glades.
- Original Japanese Garden Maintained
- Mixed Species thinning and regeneration





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North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan  
**Future Access,  
Community  
Health &  
Well Being**

This map illustrates how the plan will deliver actions towards Aim 4 of the England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy to improve the quality of life of visitors and local communities

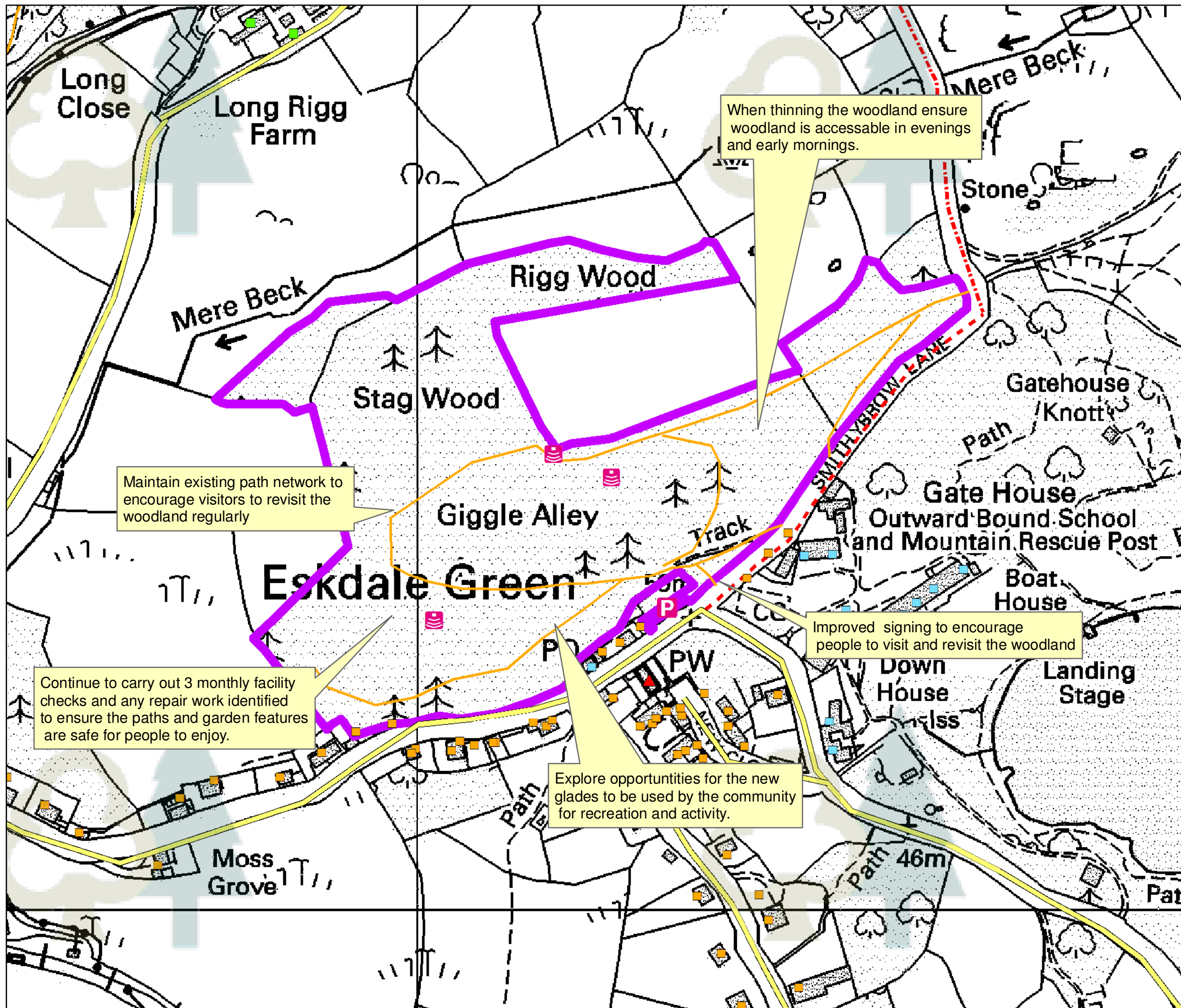
**Key**

- Car Park
- View Point
- Forest Roads
- Church Way
- Public Bridleway
- Public Footpath
- Giggle Alley

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North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

### Future Nature Conservation & Heritage

This map illustrates how the plan will deliver real benefits to the Natural Environment and in so doing significantly contribute towards the aims of the England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy.

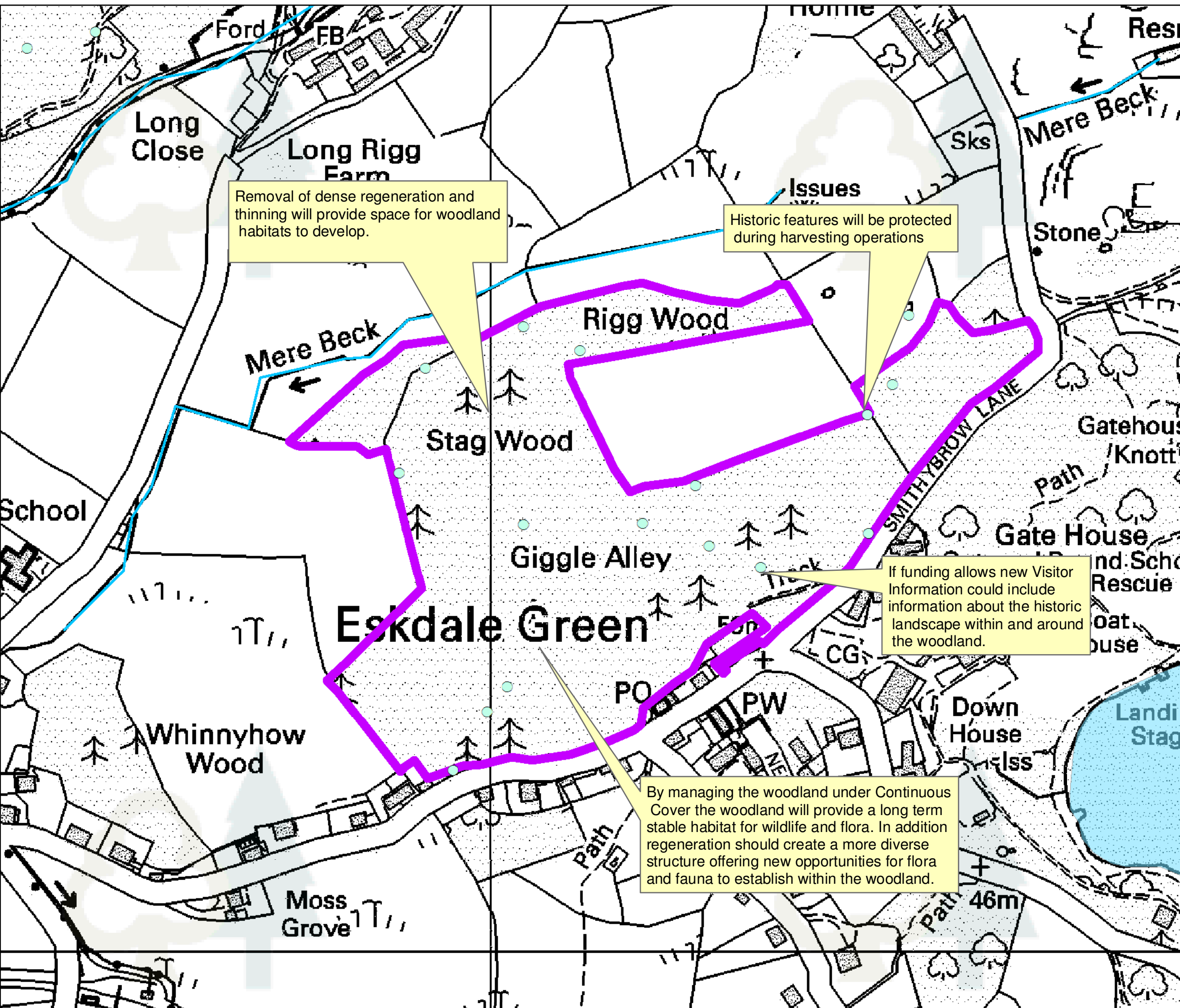
**Key**

-  Giggle Alley
-  Watercourses
-  Important for fish spawning
-  Lakes and tarns

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North West England

Giggle Alley  
Forest Design Plan

## Planning for Climate Change

This map attempts to illustrate how future management of the forest is taking into account understanding of how climate change may impact UK forests (See FC Bulletin 125).

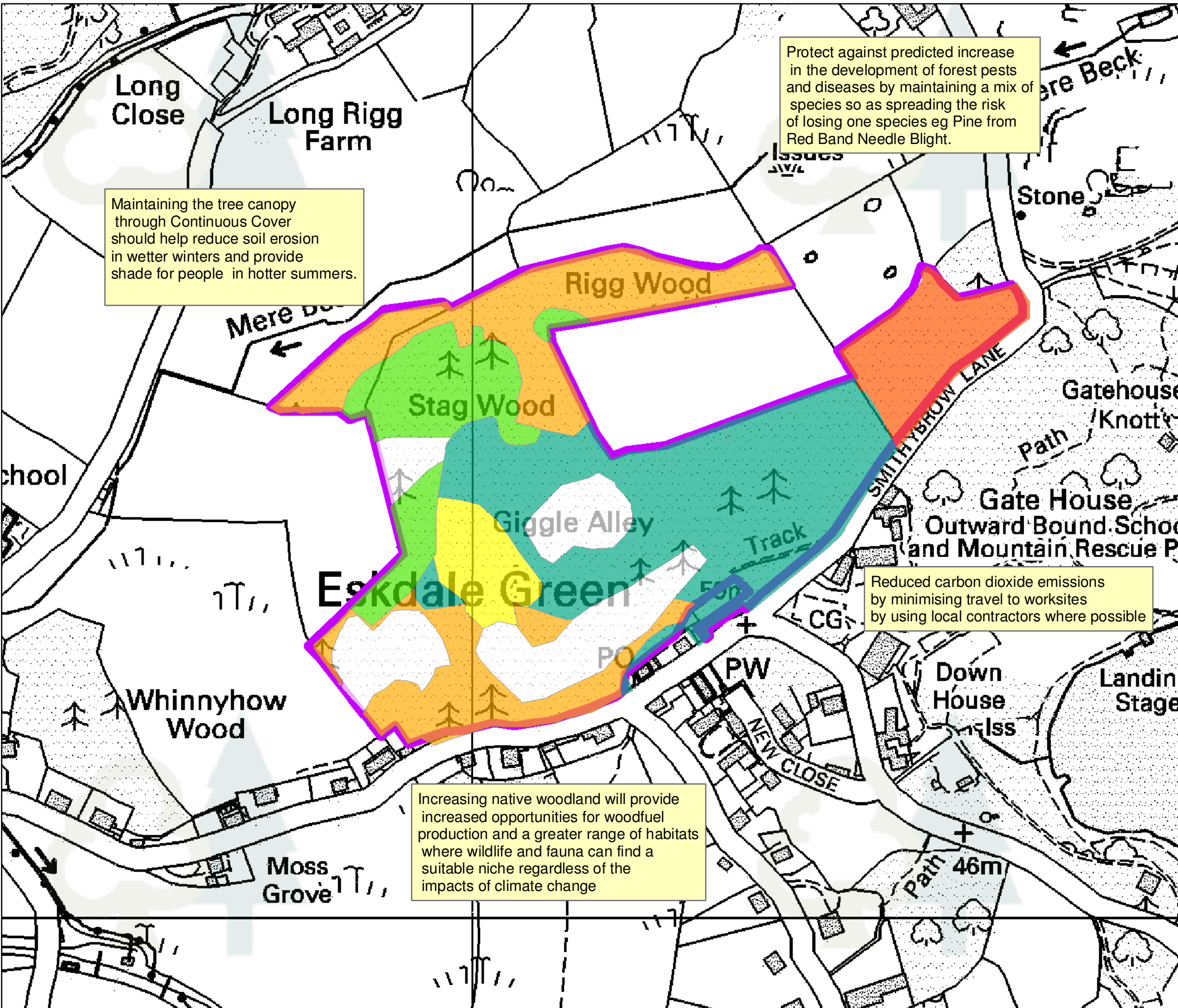
### Key

- Beech
- Pine
- Larch
- Japanese Garden
- Open Glades
- Mixed Species
- Giggle Alley

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Protect against predicted increase in the development of forest pests and diseases by maintaining a mix of species so as spreading the risk of losing one species eg Pine from Red Band Needle Blight.

Maintaining the tree canopy through Continuous Cover should help reduce soil erosion in wetter winters and provide shade for people in hotter summers.

Reduced carbon dioxide emissions by minimising travel to worksites by using local contractors where possible

Increasing native woodland will provide increased opportunities for woodfuel production and a greater range of habitats where wildlife and fauna can find a suitable niche regardless of the impacts of climate change

# Giggle Alley Forest Design Plan

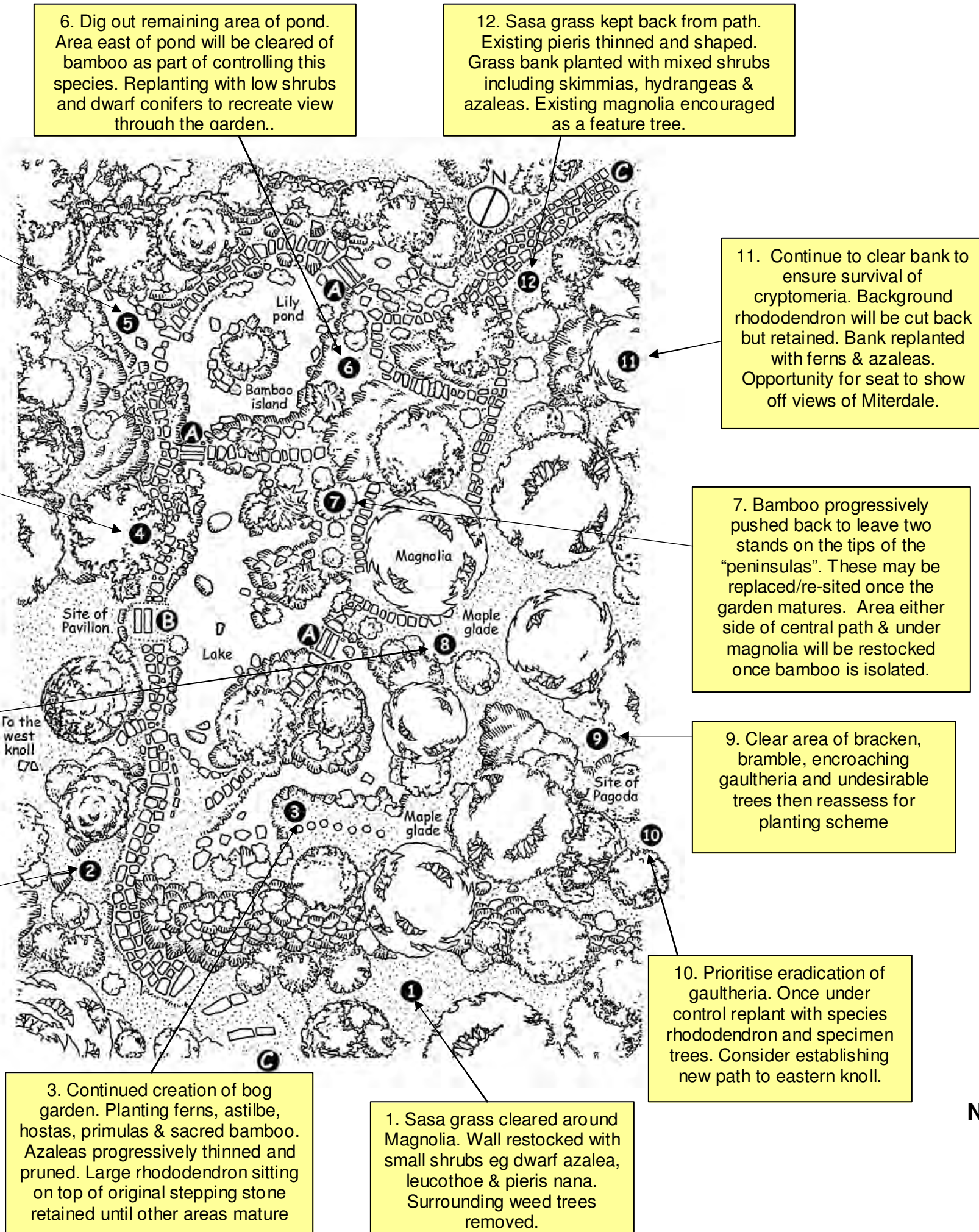
## Japanese Garden Plan First Review 2010



Produced by Gareth Browning (Beat Forester)  
and Chris Jones, (Volunteer Garden Warden)



# Maintaining The Japanese Garden



## Structures

The garden and peoples interpretation of it would benefit from the reintroduction of some of the original structures.

B - A covered seat where the original walk through pavilion was sited.

C -Traditional Japanese gateways at either end of the main path to act as garden entrances.

D - Simple benches to make the best of the views.

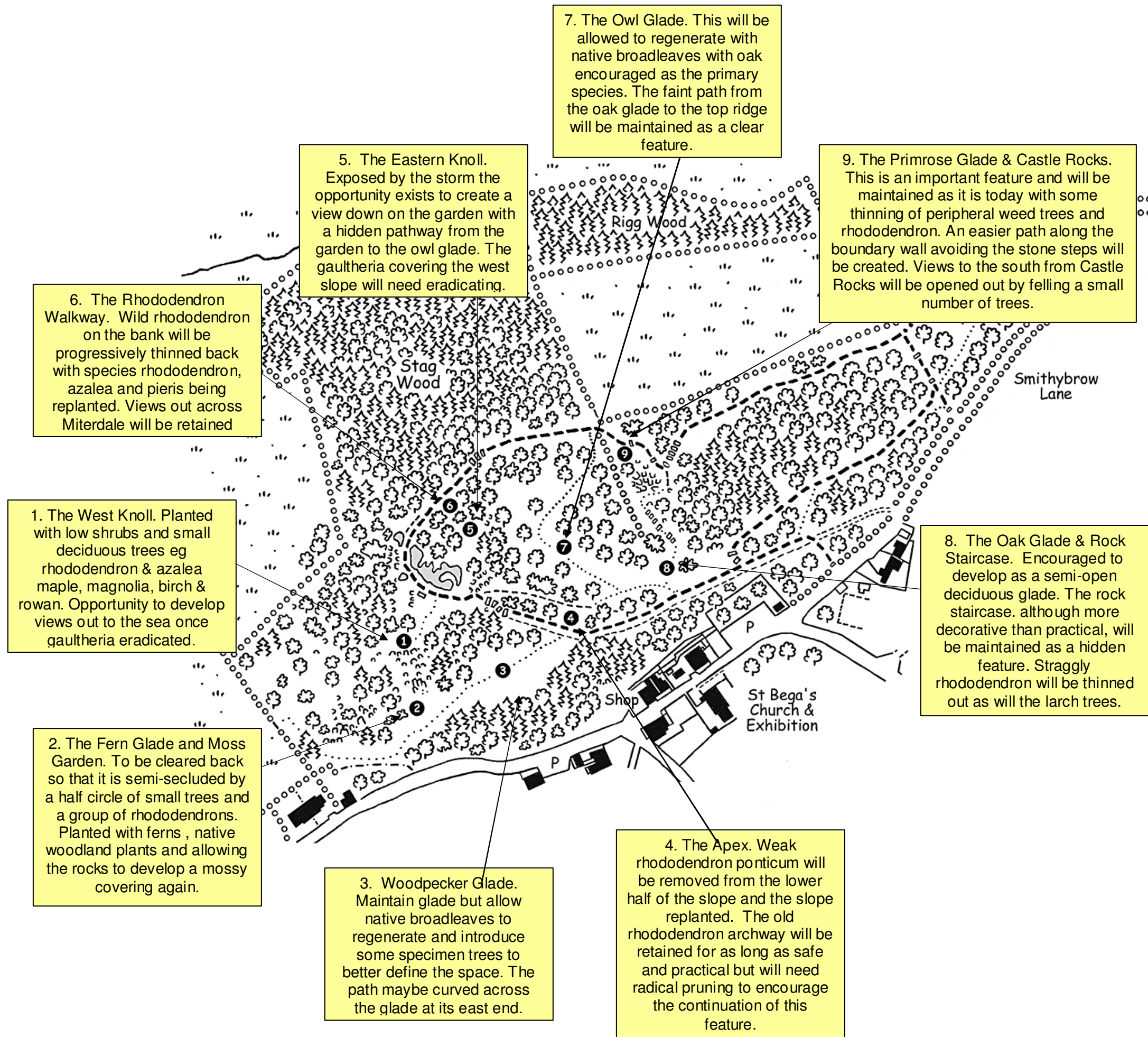
In addition temporary structures such as bamboo fencing will be used to protect and identify new areas of planting

The implementation of actions and proposals listed in this plan are ultimately subject to available funding, time and resources.



North West England Forest District  
**Giggle Alley**  
Forest Design Plan

# Extending The Japanese Garden



The areas highlighted are those with an adjacency to the Japanese Garden, or that have particular landscape characteristics. Most were affected by the storm in January 2005, and consequently represent new spaces for regeneration and planting.

These satellites are basically numbered in the order that they are likely to be cleared and replanted. Although many of them will retain an element of non-native species, the aim is to soften the boundaries between native and non-native, which was clearly the intent in the woodland's original design. The speed of replanting will largely be determined by the availability of new plants and cuttings



**Forestry Commission**  
England

North West England Forest District

## Giggle Alley

Forest Design Plan