

Kershope Forest Design Plan

Introduction

The Kershope Forest design plan covers 5,591 hectares of the western section of Kielder Forest that falls within Cumbria. The terrain varies from greatly gently rolling hill in the lower elevation of the southwest, with steeper valleys associated with the Black Lyne, Kershope Burn and their tributaries in the mid area, going finally to moorland plateau at the higher elevations of the Northeast section. The forest is not dominant in any major views; however the north western boundary associated with the Kershope burn is a dominant feature on the minor road running through the forest. The wind hazard class of the plan area is generally high (the majority being class 4 or 5), this combined with the lack of thinning of the lower windhazard class sites in the south limits opportunities to employ continuous cover forestry. There may be opportunities to alter the management of the crops in the southern section to continuous cover in the next rotation. The majority of crops are growing well (achieving yield class 12 or above). The crops are mainly second rotation crops with most of the remaining first rotation crops at or past the date of economic maturity. The following table lays out the main features driving the revision of the design plan, and their influence on the felling and restocking plans.

Feature	Description	Concept	Felling / restocking Plans
Review on continuous cover area	The crops adjacent to the Kershope Burn were allocated for management through constant cover silviculture. These crop are now past the thinning window and will now needs to be managed through clearfelling	Highlight area affected along the Kershope burn	Alter felling proposals to indicate interlocking patch clearfelling to be employed on the current rotation
The diseases Red band needle blight (<i>Dothistroma septosporum</i>), and <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	These diseases have caused a moratorium on planting Lodgepole pine (LP) and Japanese larch. This has required the spatial distribution of restocking species to be altered. Moving Sitka spruce (SS) to the more exposed sites which would have been planted with LP to free more sheltered sites on which to plant the other conifer species.		Redistribution of SS and other confer species on the restocking proposals
Ancient monuments	Following scheduled ancient monuments fall within the plan area The Currick Long Cairn(27759) Kershopehead Medieval Shieling (27762) Clints Medieval Occupation Site (27783)plus the Listed building of Davidson's Monument.	Manage in accordance with agreed management plan	Maintain as open space on the restocking plan.
Moorland boundary	The transitional from forest to the open moor is relatively hard, look to include a more transient habitat	Mitigate the harsh transition from open moor to high forest, though landscape impact of edge treatment needs to be sympathetic.	An element of restocking with open woodland on the moorland boundary was proposed in the last revision and this is maintained. The current age structure limits the ability to which this may be achieved within the next twenty five years.
Ancient semi natural (ASNW) and ancient replanted woodland (PAWs)	Areas of ancient semi natural and ancient replanted woodland within the plan area most have been restored to native species small area still to restore	Identify area on the design concept map	Maintain the area of ancient semi natural woodland as such and the restocking on the adjacent PAWS sites with native species.
Right of way	Footpaths and bridleways run through the area. Plus two permissive routes instigated through the now closed East Cumbria Countryside Project		All rights of way (as shown within this plan) will be left unplanted. At restocking, the width of the unplanted land along rights of way will be varied, but never less than 3m for footpaths and 4m for bridleways. Trees planted adjacent to public rights of way will be pruned as required to maintain free access.

Clearfelling and Restocking Plans

Copies of both the present and proposed clearfelling and restocking plans are included the main changes proposed being given below (it should be noted that the revised restocking proposal are based on a 25 years time scale).

Felling proposals	
1	Alteration of coupe boundary in to take account reclassifying previous CCF area to patch clearfelling
2	Minor rescheduling of felling coupes within the plan area
Restocking proposals	
1	Introduce area of open woodland and open space adjacent to moorland edge.
2	Alter spatial distribution of restocking species to take account not longer able to plant Lodgepole pine



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Location map

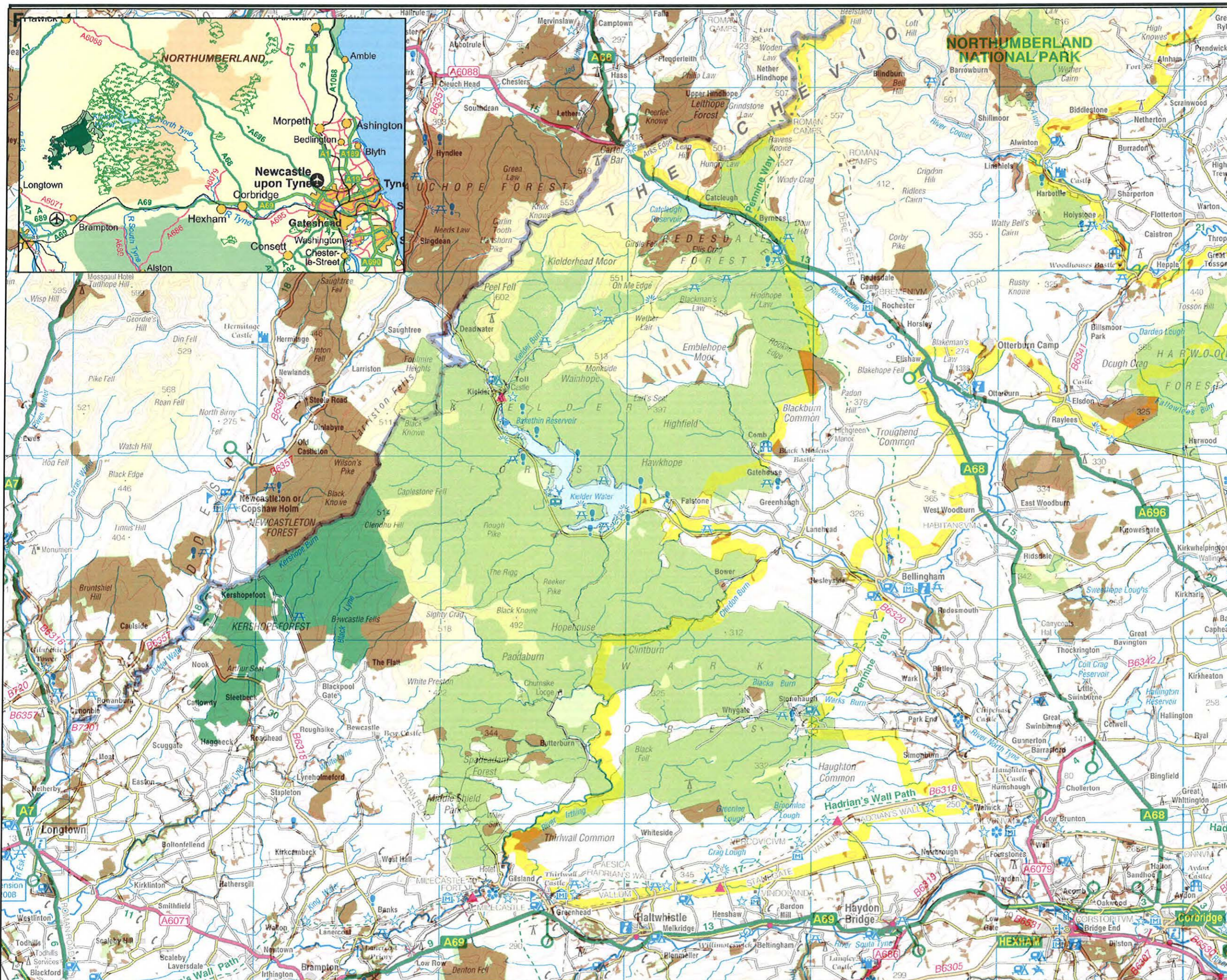
Legend

-  Plan area
-  Other FC land
-  Other woodland

Scale
Date

1:200,000
Jan 2011

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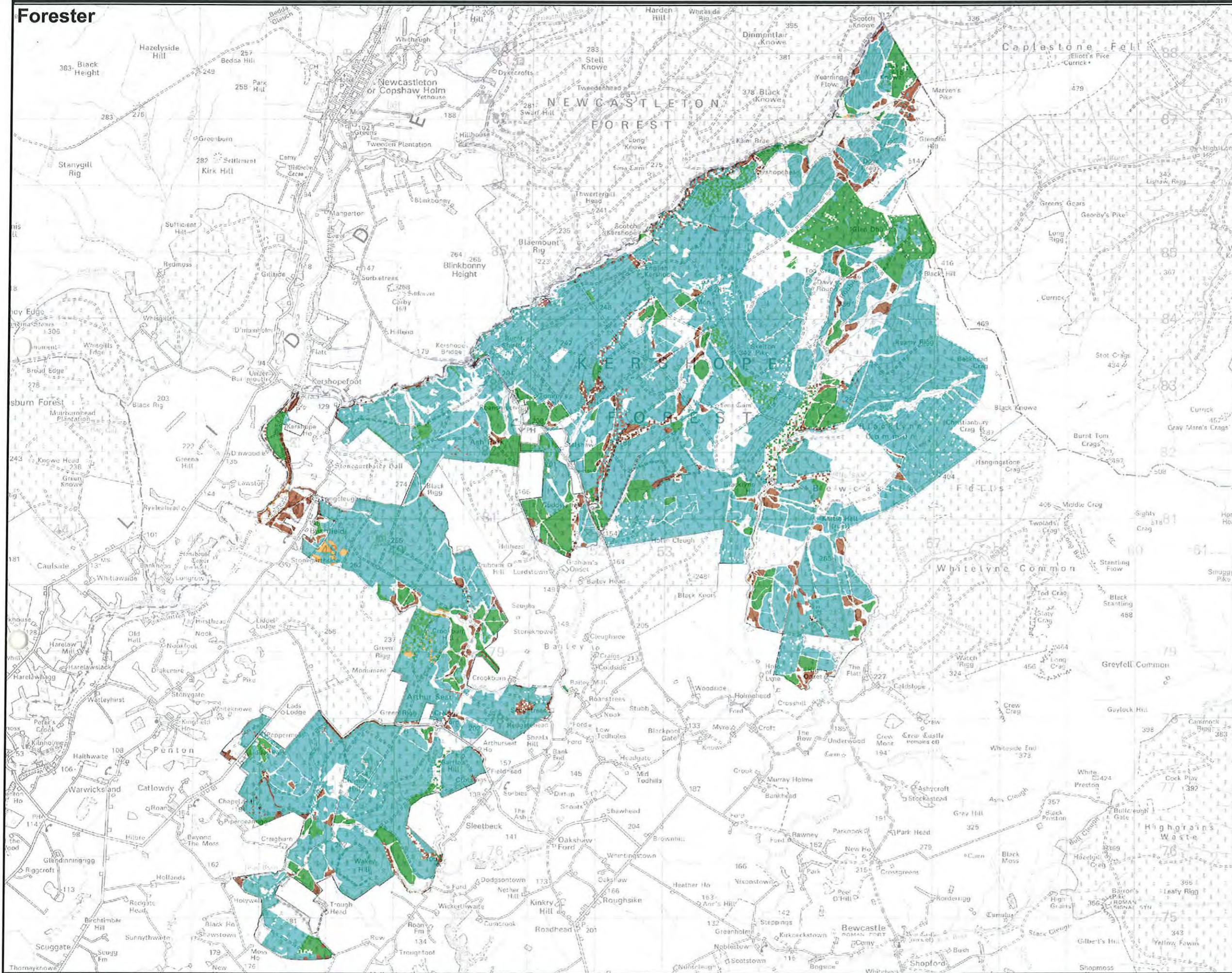
Current Species

Legend

Components

Species

-  Broadleaf
-  Sitka spruce
-  Other evergreen conifer
-  Larch

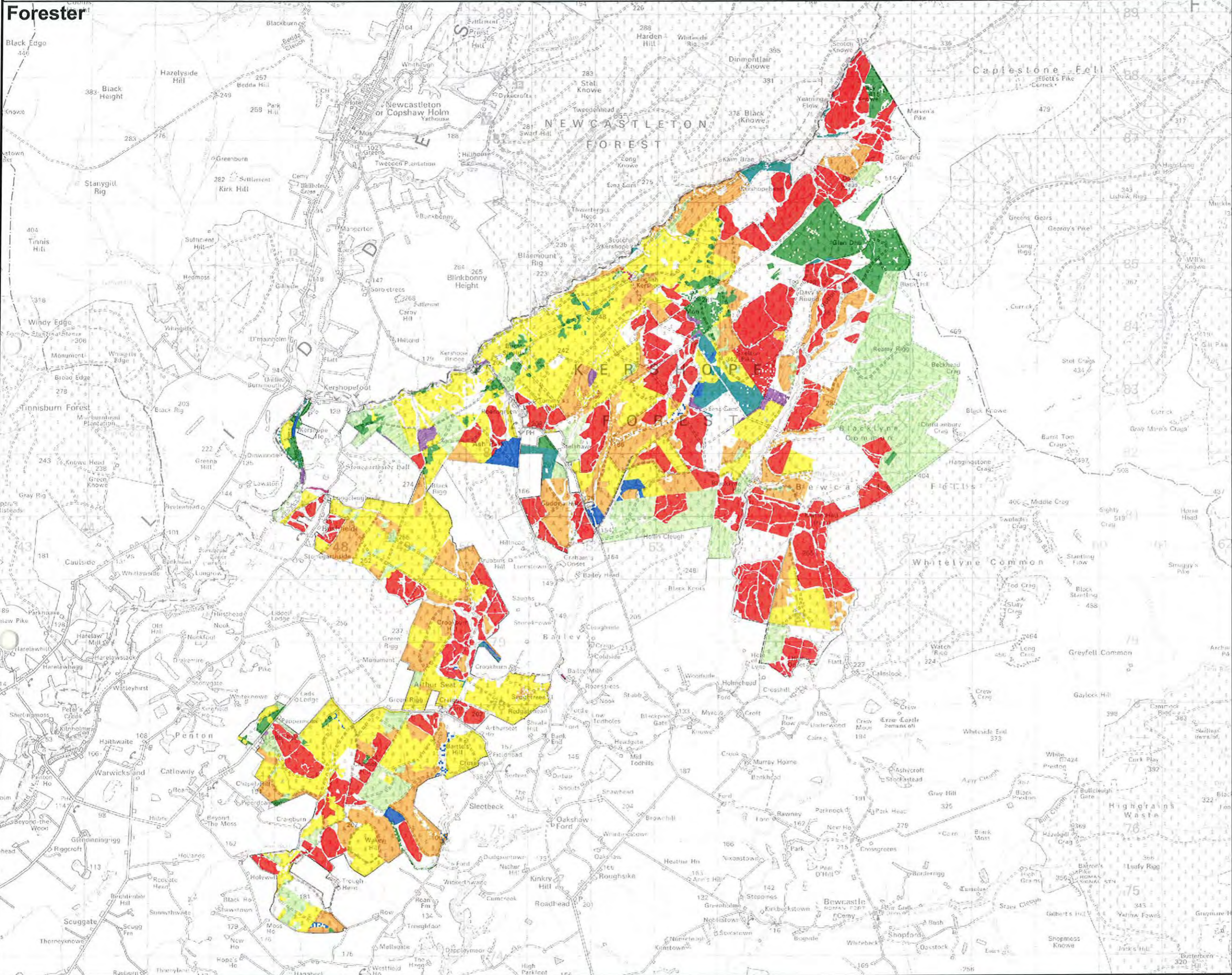


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Planting Year

Legend

Components

PLYR

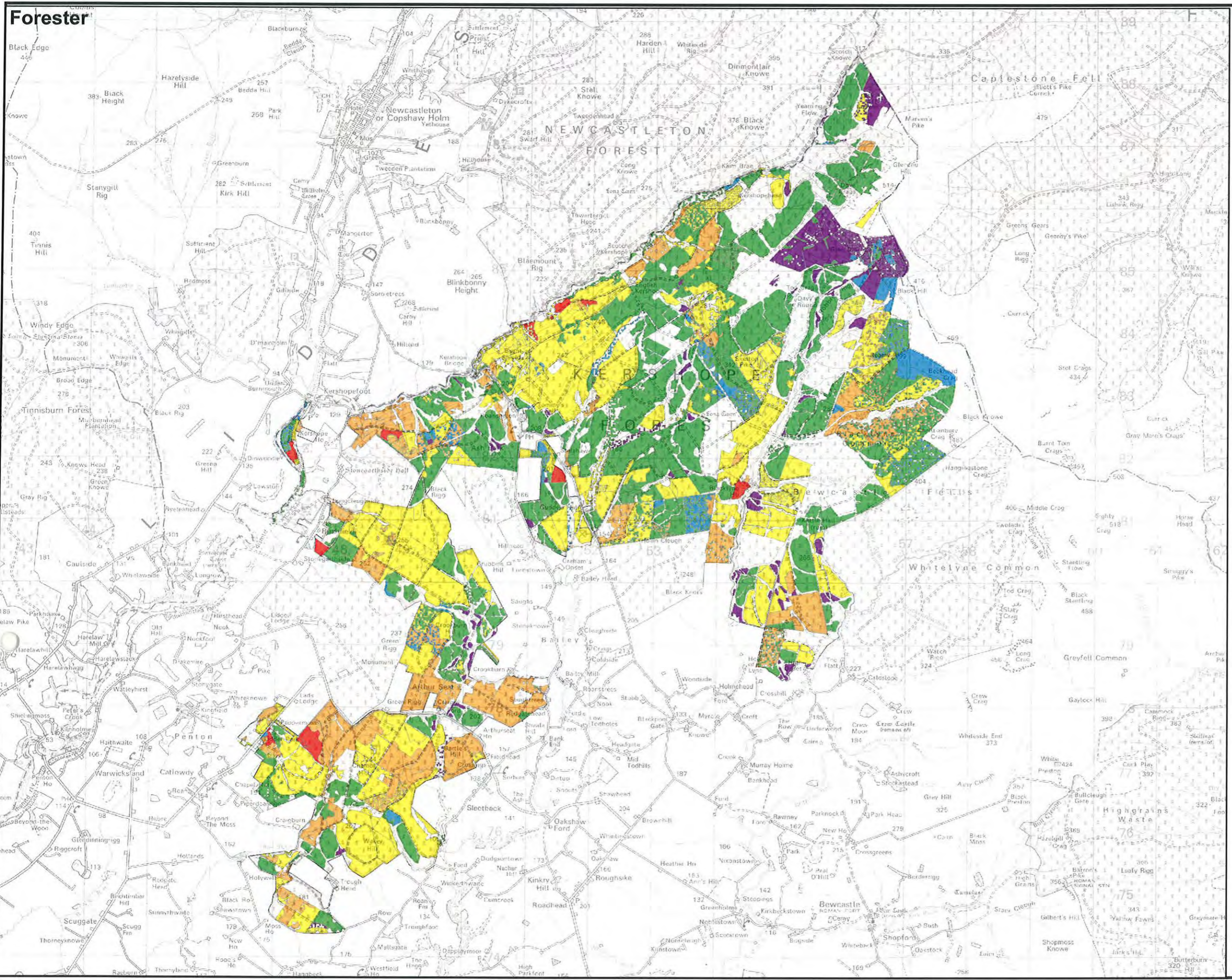
- Pre1930
- 1930 - 39
- 1940 - 49
- 1950- 59
- 1960 - 69
- 1970 - 79
- 1980 - 89
- 1990 - 99
- Post 1999

Scale
Date

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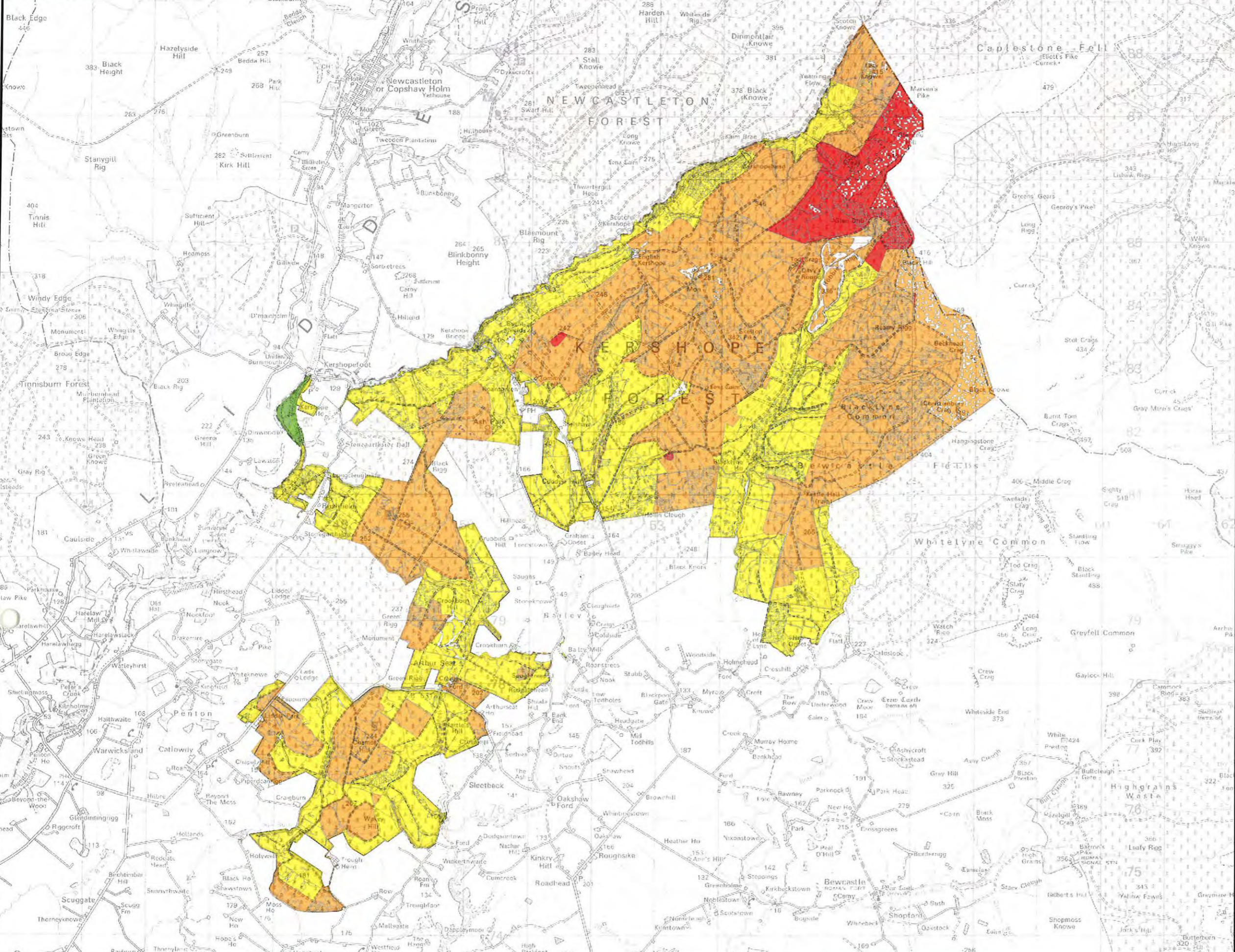
Yield Class

Legend	
Components	
YLDC	
	22 plus
	18 to 20
	14 to 16
	10 to 12
	6 to 8
	2 to 4
	0

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Windhazard Class

Legend

Components

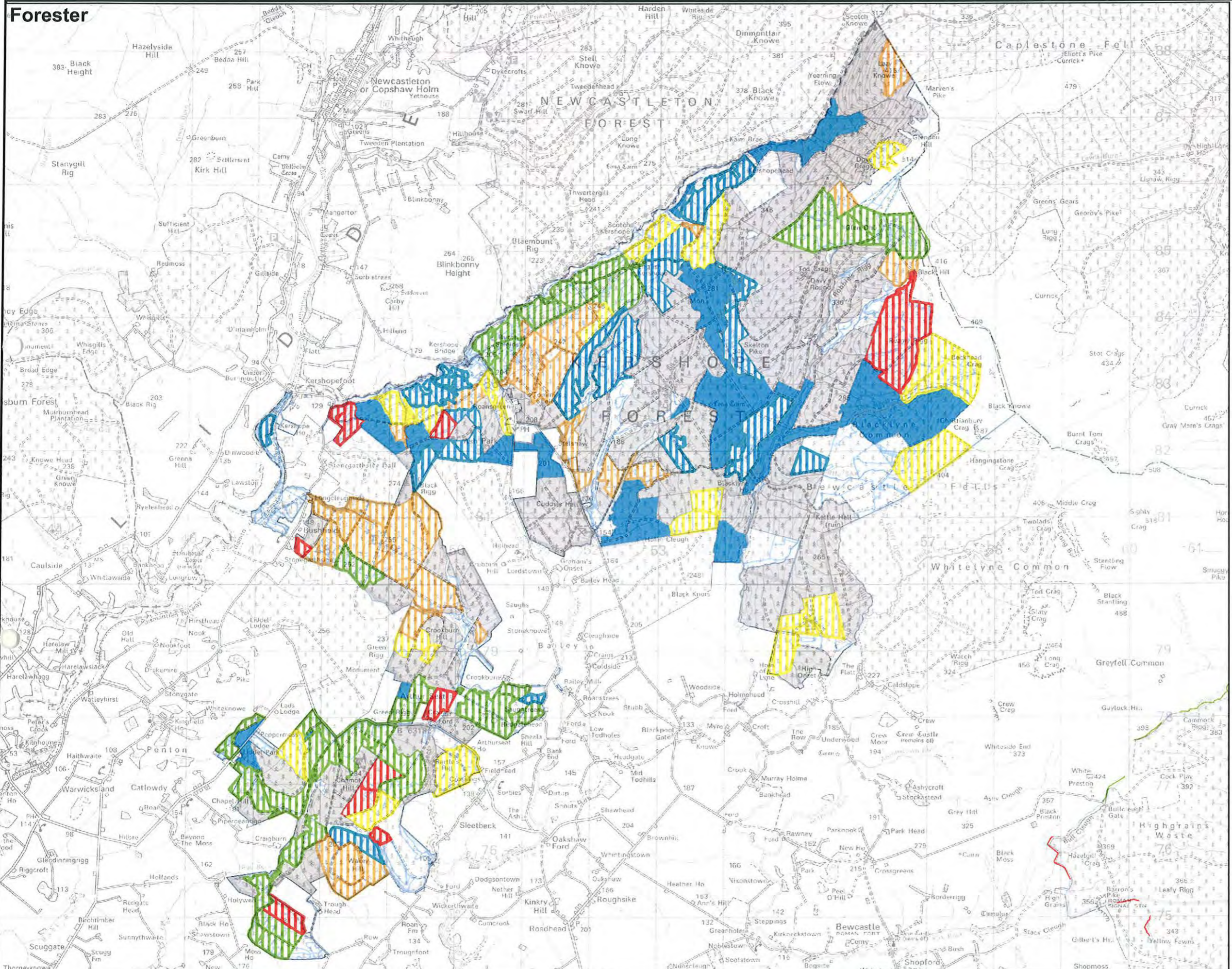
WHCL

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6

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



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Economic Felling

Legend

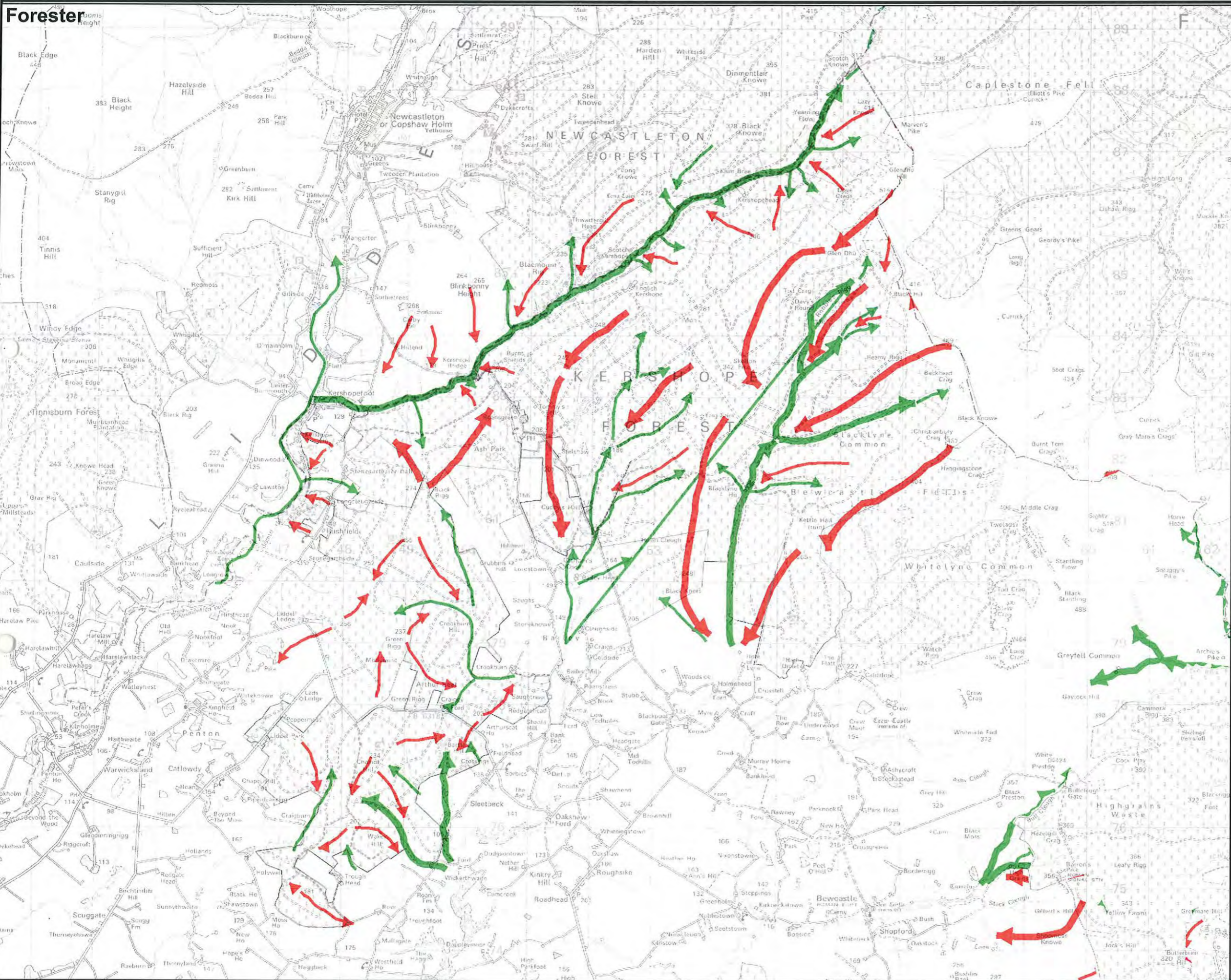
Coupes
OPTIMALYR

-  beyond economic
-  2012 - 2016
-  2017 - 2021
-  2022 - 2026
-  2027 - 2031
-  2032 - 2036
-  >2036
-  Continuous cover

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Landform

Legend

- Major Ridges and Spurs
- Minor Ridges and Spurs
- Major Hollows and Gullies
- Minor Hollows and Gullies

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Conservation

Legend

archaeology

- + Listed building
- + Scheduled monument
- + Unscheduled monument

water_courses

- Major watercourses
- Minor watercourses

- archaeology_line
- Conservation Site Point
- Conservation Site Line
- Conservation Site Polygon

- SAC
- NNR
- SSSI
- border mires

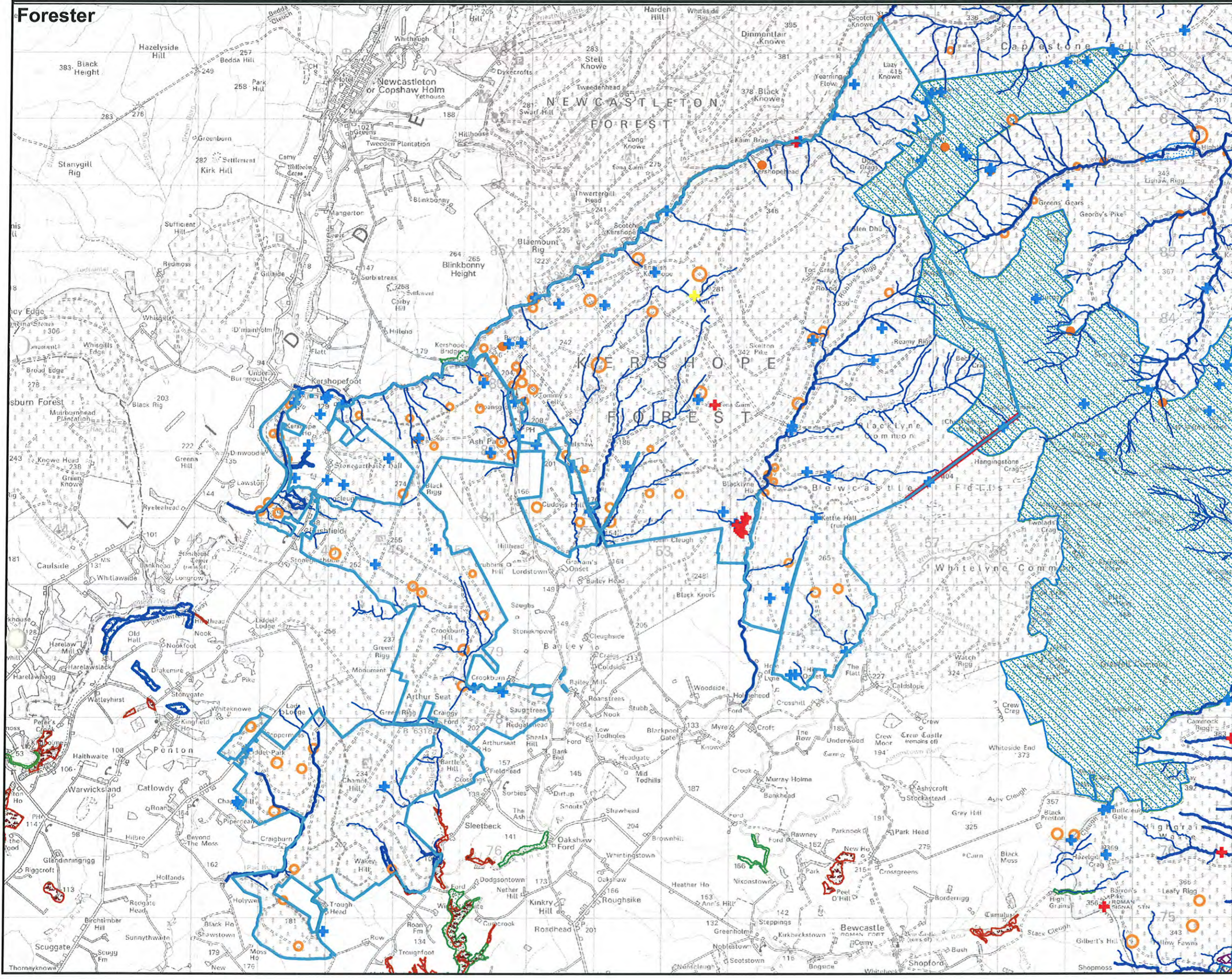
asnw

STATUS

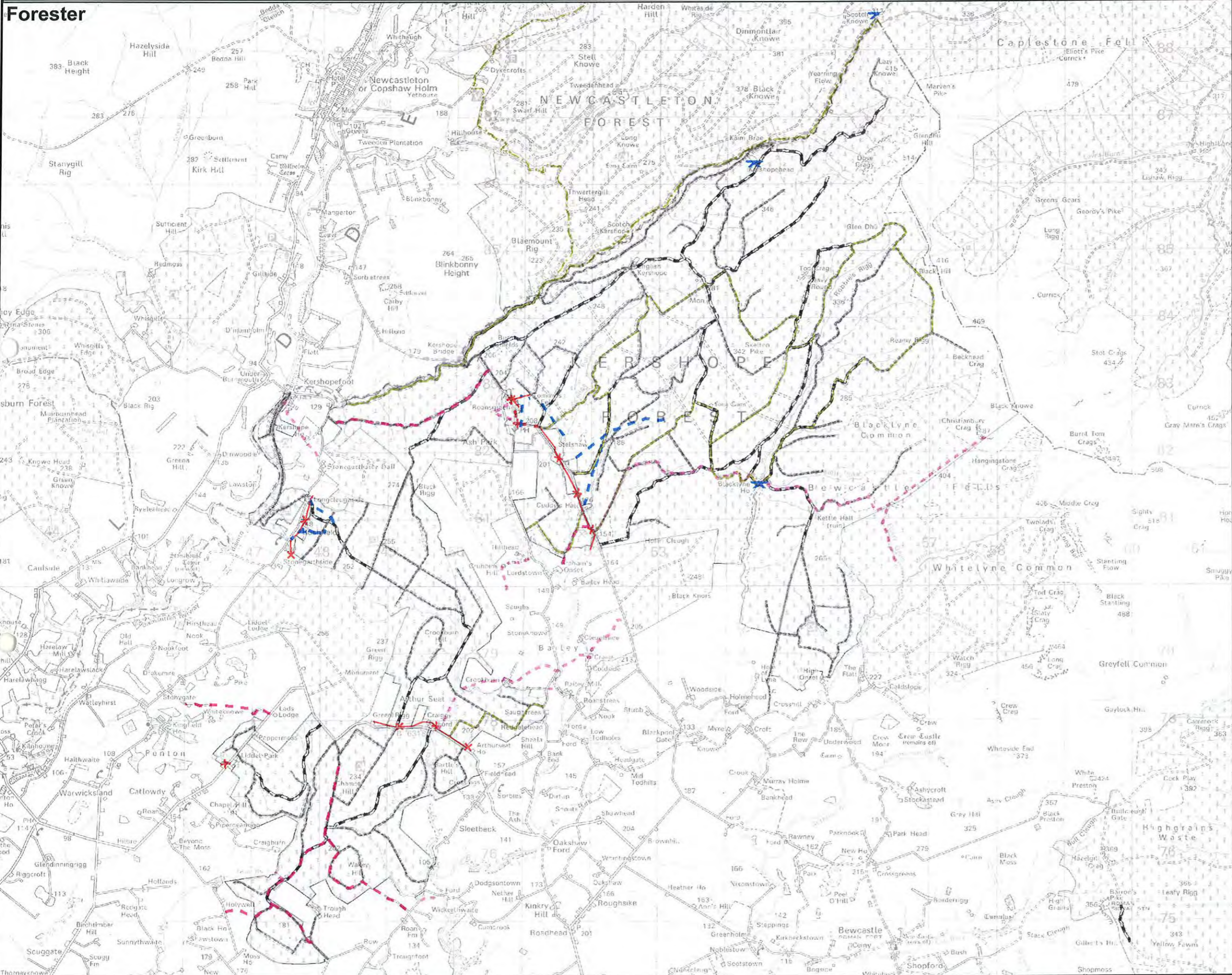
- ASNW
- PAWS

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Other Resources

Legend

- Recreation site
- FC trails
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- BOAT
- Restricted byway
- Water pipeline
- Powerline Overhead
- Powerline Underground
- Gas Pipeline
- Class A
- Other FC Roads

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