



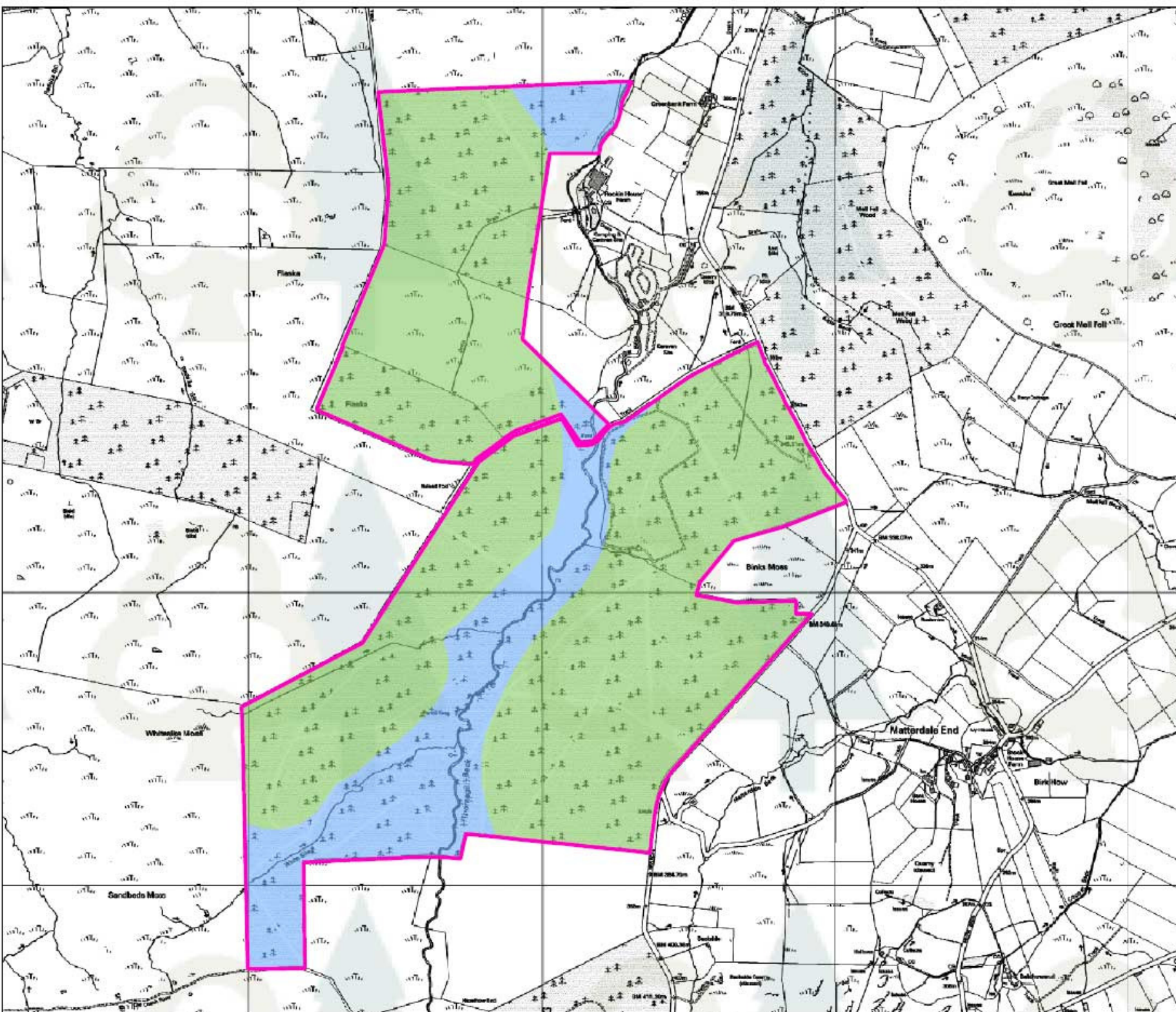
Forestry Commission
North West England

Matterdale
Forest Design Plan

Design Concept

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

Over the next two maps each zone is described in more detail along with proposed actions for the next plan period.



Date Summer 2010
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Matterdale Forest Design Plan Design Concept Beck Sides

This zone is characterised by the presence of Thornsgill Beck running north to south through the forest. This riparian habitat is a mosaic of open space with scattered broadleaves & some spruce regrowth.

The landscape provides a more interesting & visually pleasing experience for visitors to the forest, both local & those staying at the Activity Centre & Caravan Park.

Aims

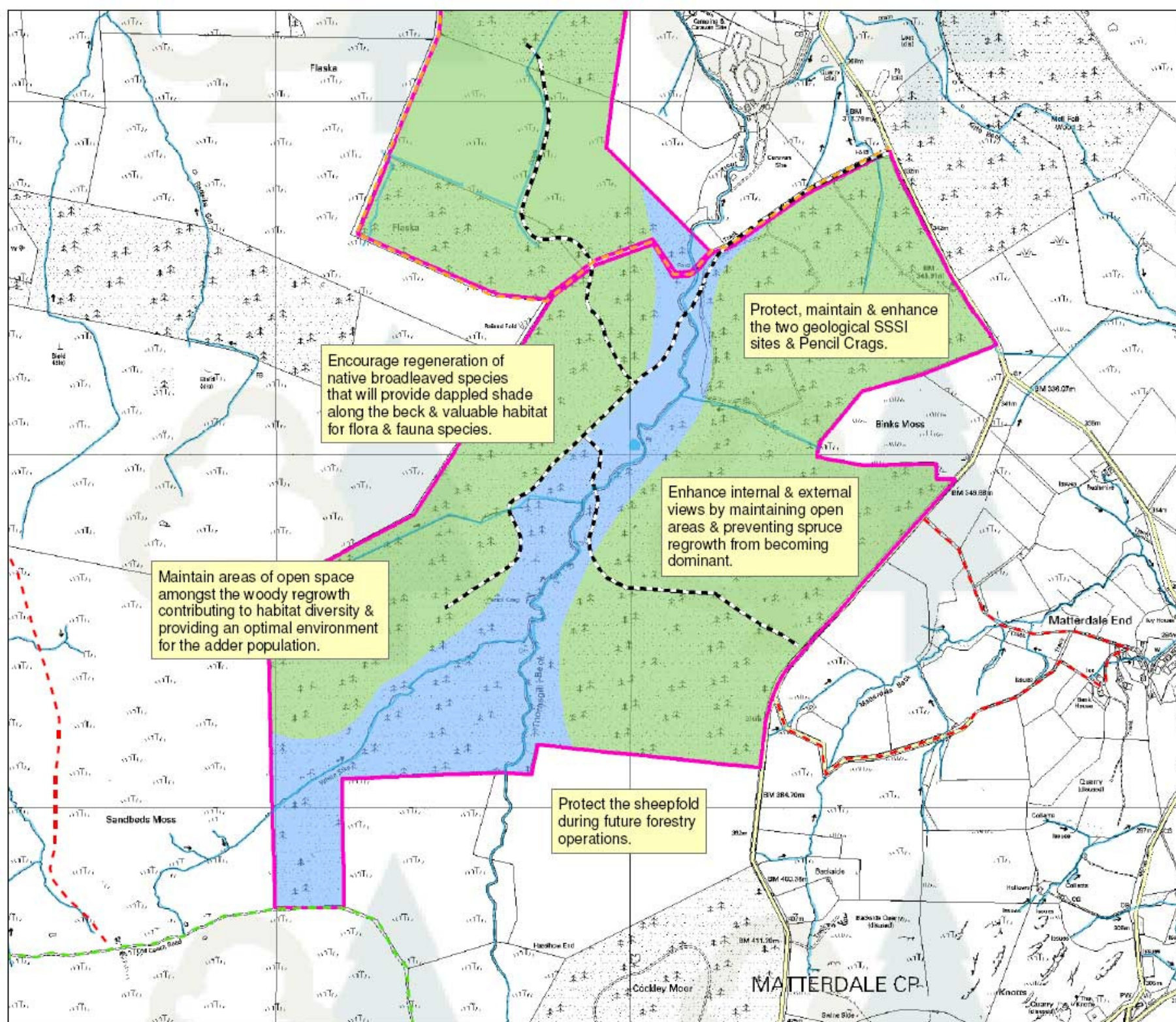
Maintain the mosaic of open space & scattered tree species to obtain maximum ecological benefit through a mixture of dappled shade & sun

Protect the interesting & important geological rocky outcrops along the beck sides.

Ensure safety & useability of all well used paths & rights of way.

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Protect, maintain & enhance the two geological SSSI sites & Pencil Crag.

Encourage regeneration of native broadleaved species that will provide dappled shade along the beck & valuable habitat for flora & fauna species.

Enhance internal & external views by maintaining open areas & preventing spruce regrowth from becoming dominant.

Maintain areas of open space amongst the woody regrowth contributing to habitat diversity & providing an optimal environment for the adder population.

Protect the sheepfold during future forestry operations.



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Matterdale Forest Design Plan Design Concept Fell Sides

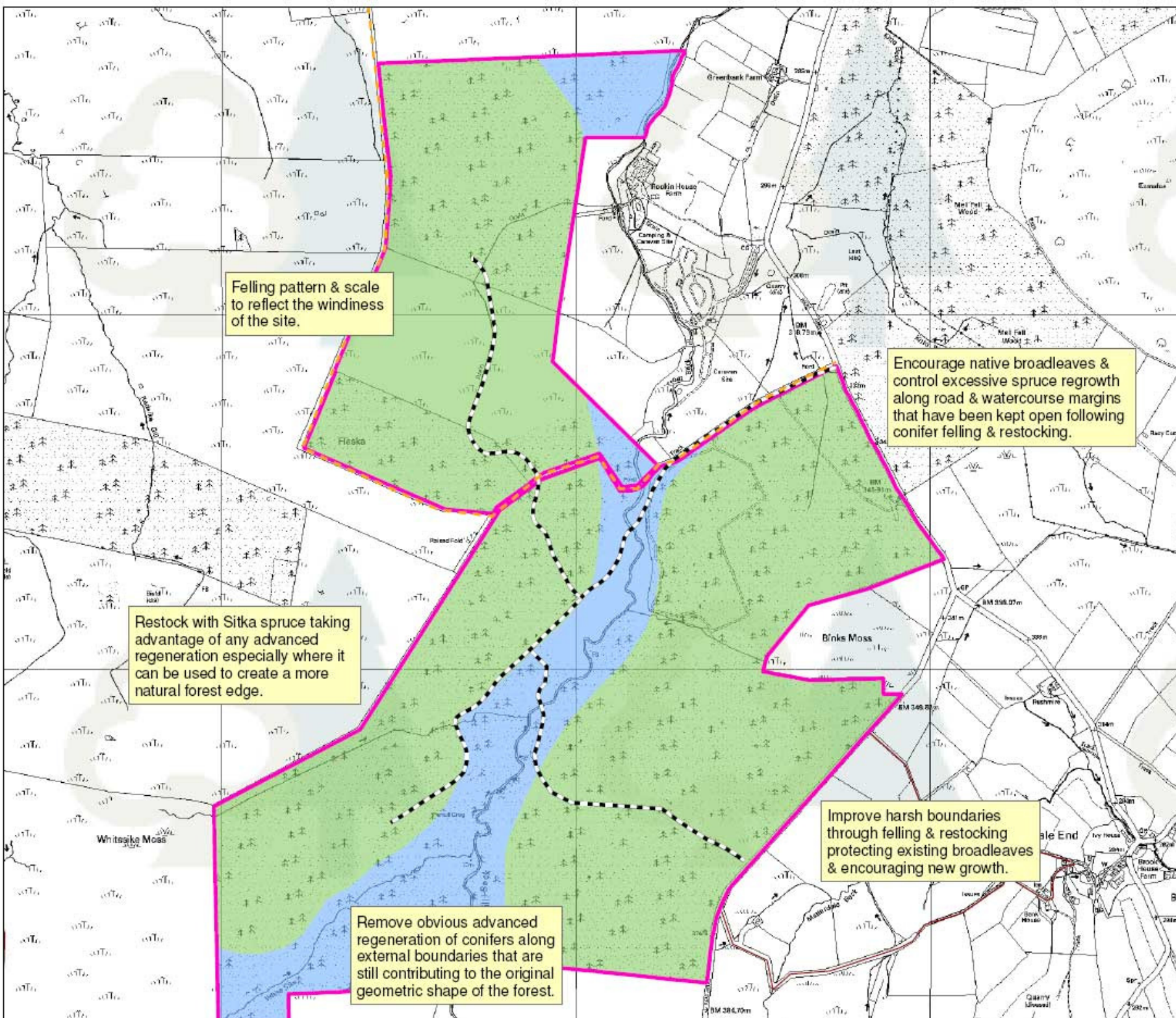
This zone is characterised by more exposed ground with poorer soils where trees are at a higher risk of wind damage. Management is aimed at clearfell & restock of Sitka spruce which is most suited to this site in terms of timber growth.

Aims

Scale of felling coupes to reflect the windiness of the site & the underlying land form.

Take advantage of advanced regeneration of spruce & native broadleaves to create a more natural forest edge.

Ensure safety & useability of all well used paths & rights of way.



Felling pattern & scale to reflect the windiness of the site.

Encourage native broadleaves & control excessive spruce regrowth along road & watercourse margins that have been kept open following conifer felling & restocking.

Restock with Sitka spruce taking advantage of any advanced regeneration especially where it can be used to create a more natural forest edge.

Remove obvious advanced regeneration of conifers along external boundaries that are still contributing to the original geometric shape of the forest.

Improve harsh boundaries through felling & restocking protecting existing broadleaves & encouraging new growth.

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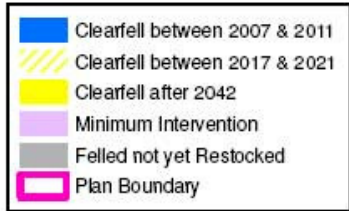


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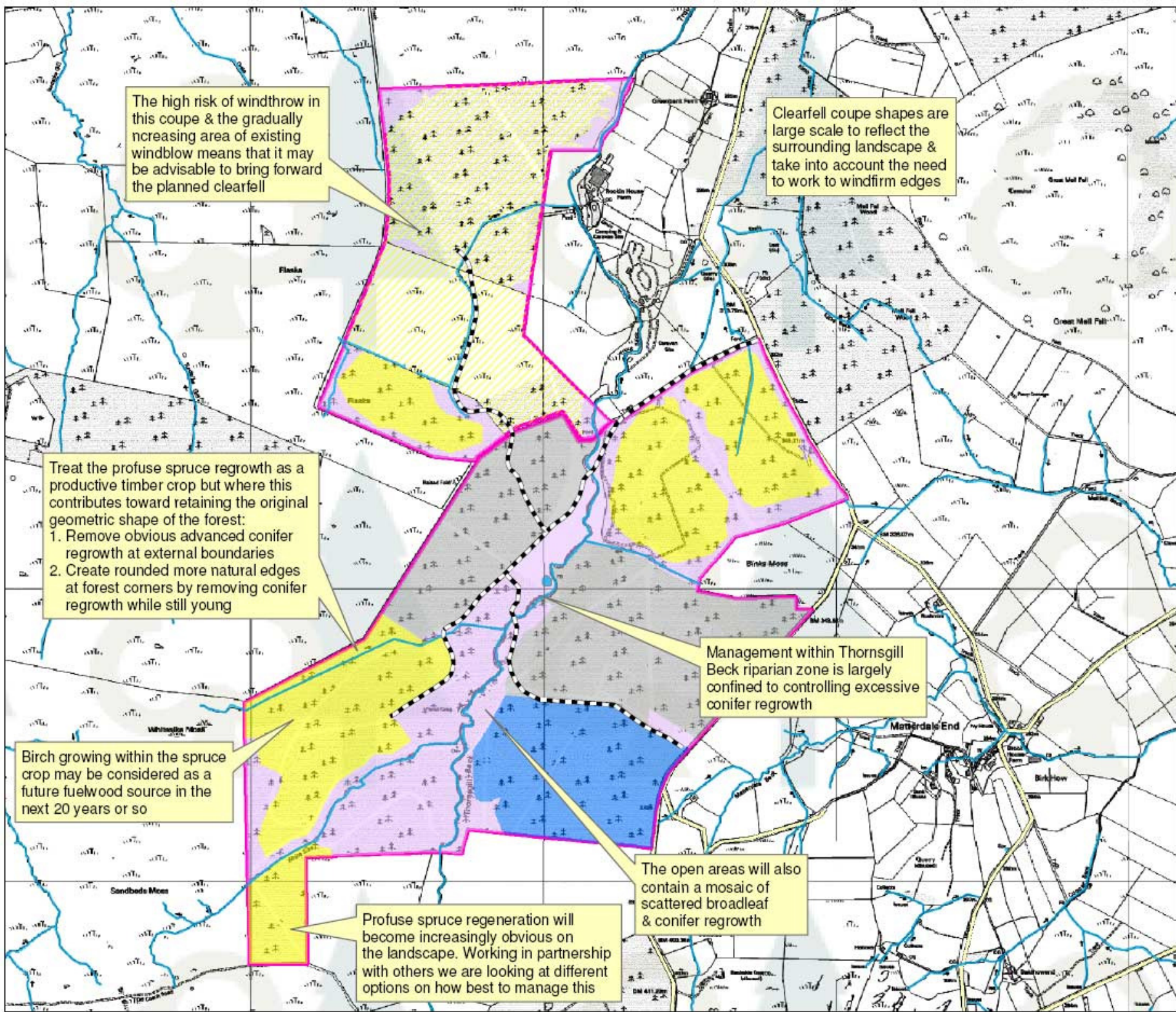
Future Woodland Management

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



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Matterdale Forest Design Plan Future Woodland Species

This map illustrates the proposals for the future woodland species.



If natural regeneration is not evident at the next 5 year review then planting with mixed species should be considered

Scattered broadleaved & spruce regeneration is to be accepted along woodland boundaries & margins although spruce will not be allowed to dominate

Open space will have scattered native broadleaved regeneration aiming for around 20 with smaller proportions of scattered spruce regrowth which will not be allowed to dominate

Birch regeneration growing throughout the spruce crop & around the edges results in a more natural appearance both internally & on a wider landscape perspective

Sitka spruce dominates the restocking programme because it is the main conifer species most suited to these poorer growing conditions providing an important economic timber resource.

Native broadleaves have been planted here but there is also lots of birch regeneration with smaller amounts of willow, rowan & spruce creating an attractive mixed woodland

The proportion of trees to open space in this area is dependent on the options chosen to manage the existing regeneration

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Future Access, Community Health & Well Being

This map illustrates how the plan aims to deliver actions toward Aim 4 of the 'England's Trees, Woods & Forests Strategy' to improve the quality of life of visitors & the local community.



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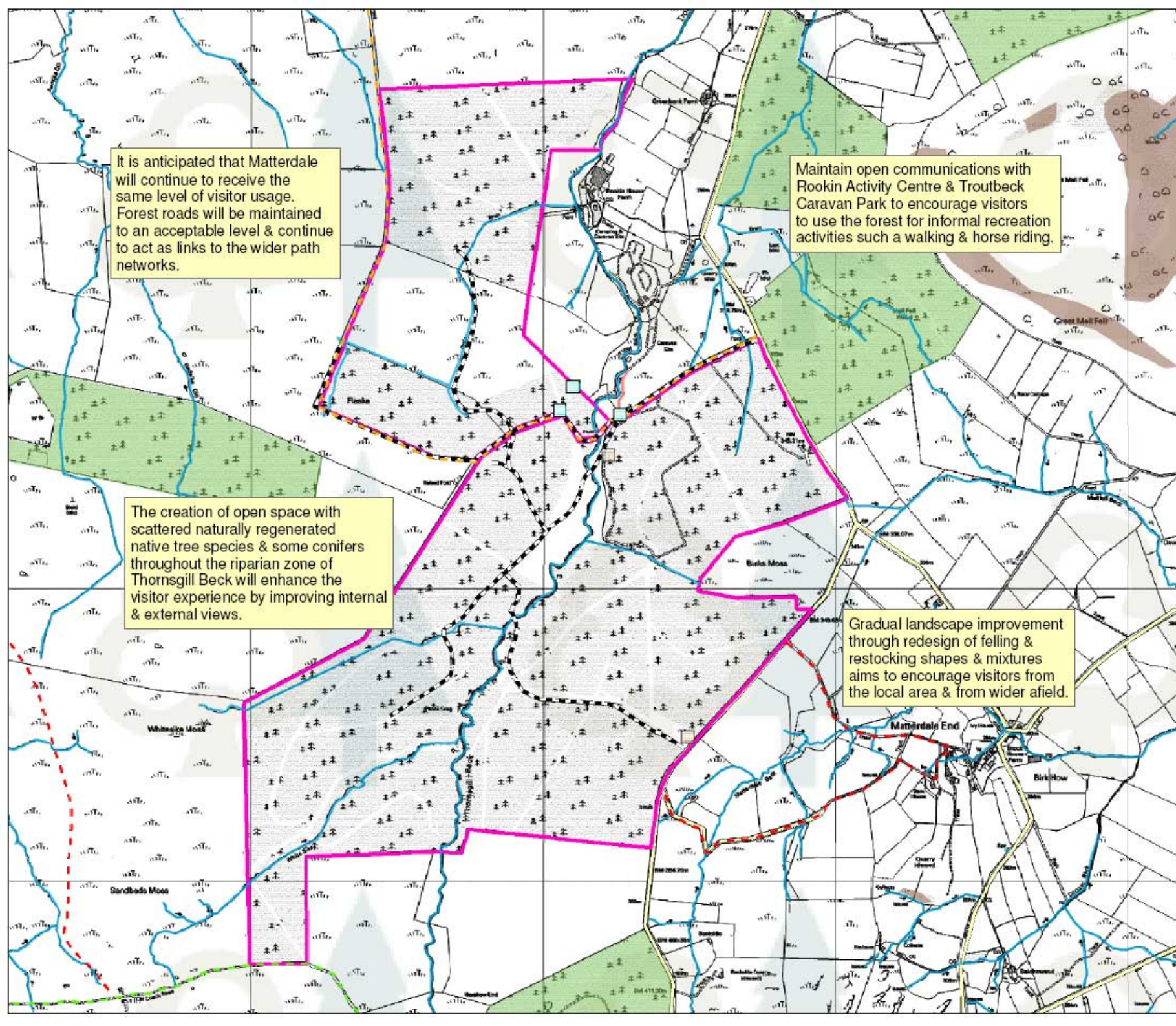
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It is anticipated that Matterdale will continue to receive the same level of visitor usage. Forest roads will be maintained to an acceptable level & continue to act as links to the wider path networks.

Maintain open communications with Rookin Activity Centre & Troutbeck Caravan Park to encourage visitors to use the forest for informal recreation activities such as walking & horse riding.

The creation of open space with scattered naturally regenerated native tree species & some conifers throughout the riparian zone of Thornsgill Beck will enhance the visitor experience by improving internal & external views.

Gradual landscape improvement through redesign of felling & restocking shapes & mixtures from the local area & from wider afield.





Forestry Commission

North West England

Matterdale

Forest Design Plan

Future Nature, Conservation & Heritage

This map illustrates how the plan will deliver real benefits to the natural environment & in so doing significantly contribute to the aims of 'England's Trees, Woods & Forests Strategy'

Removal of productive conifers from the edge of the beck protects Pencil Crag & the SSSI geological rocky outcrops, & the sheepfold as there will be no further forestry operations in these areas. Management is restricted to removal of excessive conifer regrowth & health & safety issues.

Maintaining a mosaic of open space & scattered trees will improve & enhance Thornsgill Beck environment & its associated water quality. The increase in open space enables more floral species to colonise providing a more favourable habitat for insects species including butterflies.

Controlling conifer regrowth on the boundaries of the forest will benefit the areas of raised mire & blanket bog & by providing wildlife corridors into the forest. A graded forest edge provides a valuable wildlife habitat for certain species including some ground nesting birds.

The small FC nature reserve of heather & associated floral species with scattered conifer provides an important wildlife corridor into the forest

The resident adder population will benefit from maintaining the riparian zone as a mixture of open space & scattered tree cover.

- Sheepfold
- County Wildlife Site
- Pencil Crag
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Adder Release Area
- FC Nature Reserve
- Watercourse
- Riparian Zone
- Forest Boundary
- Neighbouring Woodland (Broadleaf)
- Neighbouring Woodland (Conifer)

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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 on UK forests (see FC Bulletin 125) & trying to reduce activities that may contribute to climate change

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