



## **Rothbury North Beat**

### **Introduction**

The North Rothbury Beat is made up of 6 separate woodlands (listed below) totalling 541 hectares. As the woodland form logically fall together, a single design plan was drawn up allowing the management of each individual woodland to be set in the wider context of the area. Ownership of the woodlands with the exception of Trickley is freehold, though reservation of sporting and/or mineral rights are present.

| NAME          | Ownership Status | Area |
|---------------|------------------|------|
| Wooler Common | Freehold         | 81   |
| Trickley      | Leasehold        | 48   |
| Hepburn       | Freehold         | 100  |
| Haugherslaw   | Freehold         | 25   |
| Quarryhouse   | Freehold         | 126  |
| Ros Hill      | Freehold         | 161  |

### **Conservation**

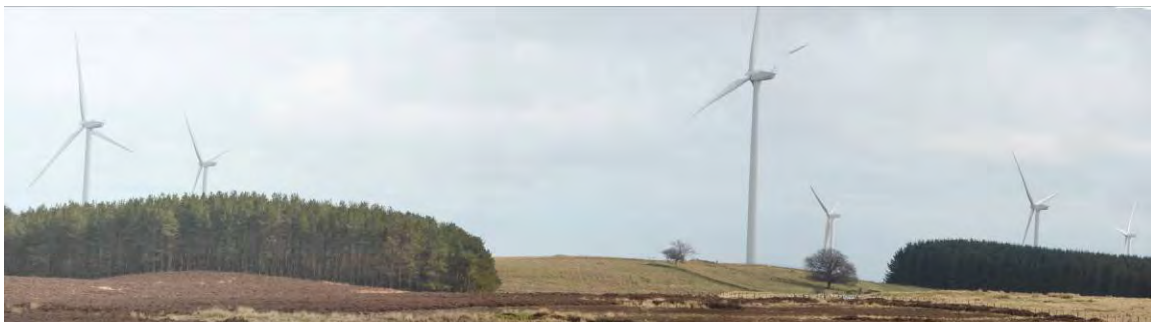
All the woodlands contain some features of archaeological interest. Scheduled ancient monument being present in Ros Hill, Trickley and Wooler Common, all of which are covered by individual management plans. The site at Wooler Common is located out side the woodland, and therefore has little impact on the wooded area. The condition and extent of some of the other areas of interest is not easily determined due to the tree cover, restocking proposal notable within Ross Hill therefore cannot be finalised until the tree cover has been removed and the area of interest exposed, and archaeological advise with be sought prior to restocking.

Since drafting the original plan the small SSSI of Quarryhouse Moor Ponds has been subsumed in a much larger and new designated SSS of Bewick and Beanley Moors, which now abuts or covers the open ground on the edges and in between Hepburn, Haugherslaw, Quarryhouse and Ros Hill. No other statutory conservation designations are present within the woodlands. Hepburn Wood is though listed as an ancient replanted woodland site in English Nature's register of ancient woodlands, and a conversion to native species woodland would be appropriate, slow conversion through selective thinning is therefore proposed. Sites holding the county SNCI designation are present on

the open ground within, and adjacent Wooler Common, and adjacent to Hepburn wood and Ross Hill. Chillingham is a grade II listed park and gardens

## **Landscape**

None of the woodland in themselves form a major features within the wider landscape, though they are locally significant. The woodlands fall within the Cheviot fringe and Northumberland Sandstone Hills character area as described by the Countryside Agency. The lower ground dominated by a mixed farmland combining pasture and meadows with arable, a strong pattern of hedgerows and coniferous woodland and shelterbelts for a rectilinear landscape. As you move to the higher ground moorland communities are dominated by heather and acid grassland, with many coniferous plantations. The woodland within this plan fall across this mix of landscapes. Ros Hill, Quarryhouse and Haughterslaw are first rotation conifer plantation surrounded by moorland on the level of the rolling plateau of the moor. How the skyline is now dominated by to newly constructed windfarms Windylaw and Middlemoor (see panorama below)



Hepburn, and Wooler Common lie on the escarpment slopes between the moorland and lower lying pasture, whilst Trickley lies within the mixed pasture arable landscape of the lower ground.

### **Economic**

The crops within Ros Hill, Quarryhouse and Haughterslaw first rotation conifer plantation which are at or nearing maturity. Due to instability of these sites there is little potential to manage under silvicultural systems other than clearfelling. However this does not negate their value for producing timber, Hepburn being a Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site (PAWs). Trickley and Wooler Common are also on more stable sites and therefore thinning is possible allowing for the production of larger diameter products. Where clearfelling is proposed this should as close to the economic felling age as practical, unless other objectives (landscape conservation etc) or crop inspection require otherwise.

### **Recreation.**

Both Wooler Common and Hepburn Wood have significant local recreational value with car parking facilities. Wooler Common has an friends group who are important to the development and maintenance of Wooler Common, and in reflection of the woodland importance to the local community it was designated as a woodland park in the summer of 2000. Recreation facilities within Wooler Common also include an easy access trail (with associated tree identification panels).

### **Felling Proposal**

The likelihood of windthrow limits the ability to retain crops on the higher elevation more exposed sites (Ross Hill, Quarry House and Haughterslaw), where economic rotation length is constrained by the probability of windthrow. This is supported by the recent windthrow that has occurred in Hepburn wood within crops on more stable sites. It is proposed at Hepburn to convert the wood to native broadleaved species through selective thinning.

The area proposed for clearfelling within the plan is:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| 2012 – 2016 | 23% |
| 2017 – 2021 | 20% |
| 2022 – 2026 | 17% |
| 2027 – 2031 | 3%  |

In addition 1 % of the area has been allocated to minimal intervention and 20% to constant cover.

## **Restocking**

The restocking proportions identified within the plan are:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Larch                         | 5%  |
| Broadleaf restocking          | 8%  |
| Conversion to native woodland | 14% |
| Sitka spruce                  | 27% |
| Other conifer                 | 33% |
| Mixed woodland                | 13% |

The intention is to covert the whole of the ancient semi-natural woodland of Hepburn wood 18% of the plan area back to native species. However the restocking map only indicates a proportion converted to mixed woodland, and some remaining conifer. The intention is to indicate that the conversion will take a long time period. On the steep areas where clearfelling and restocking will be required no felling is currently programmed and none proposed until after the next plan review. It is therefore shown as remaining other conifer.



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woodlands have  
been certified in  
accordance with the  
rules of the Forest  
Stewardship Council.



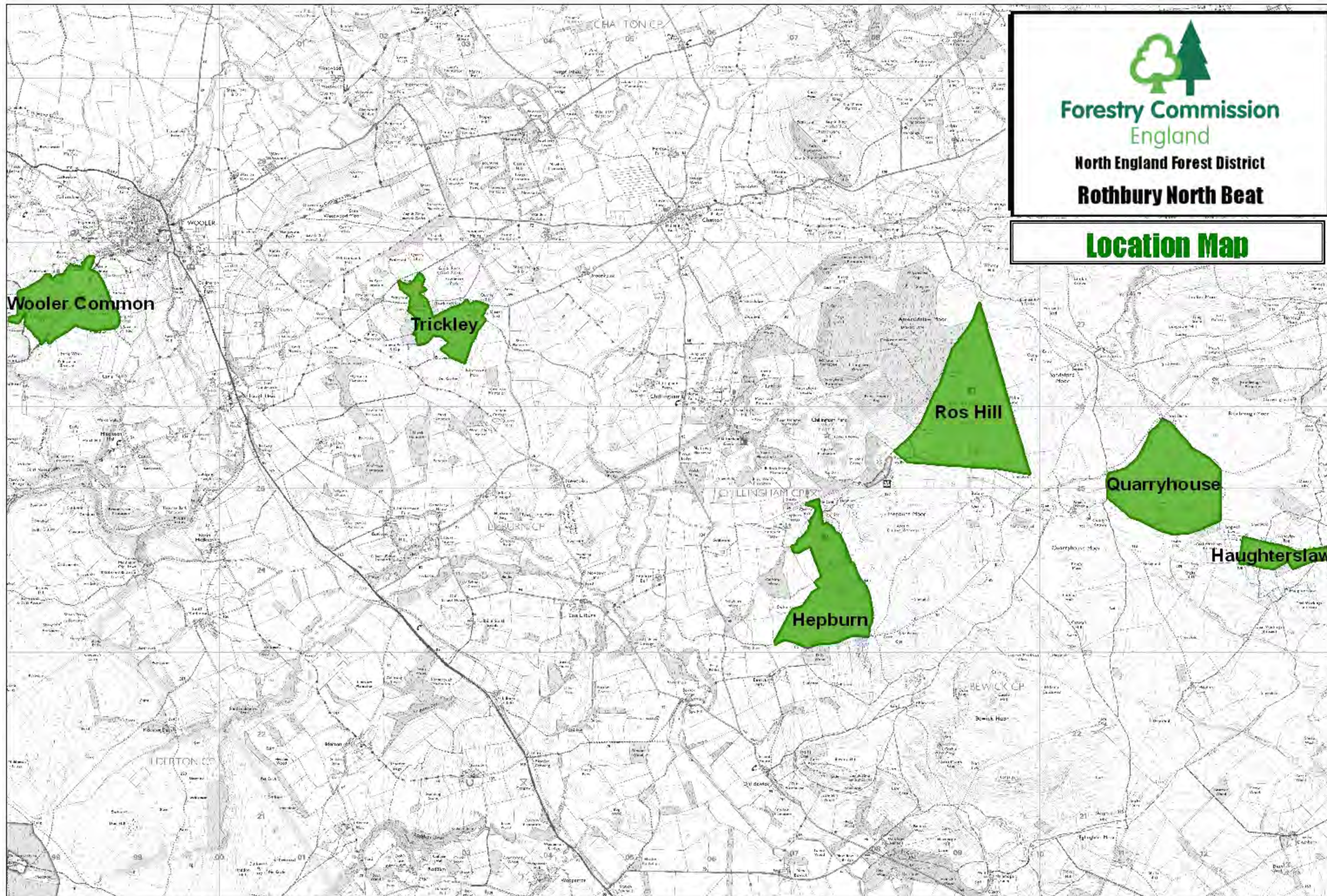


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## Location Map



Scale  
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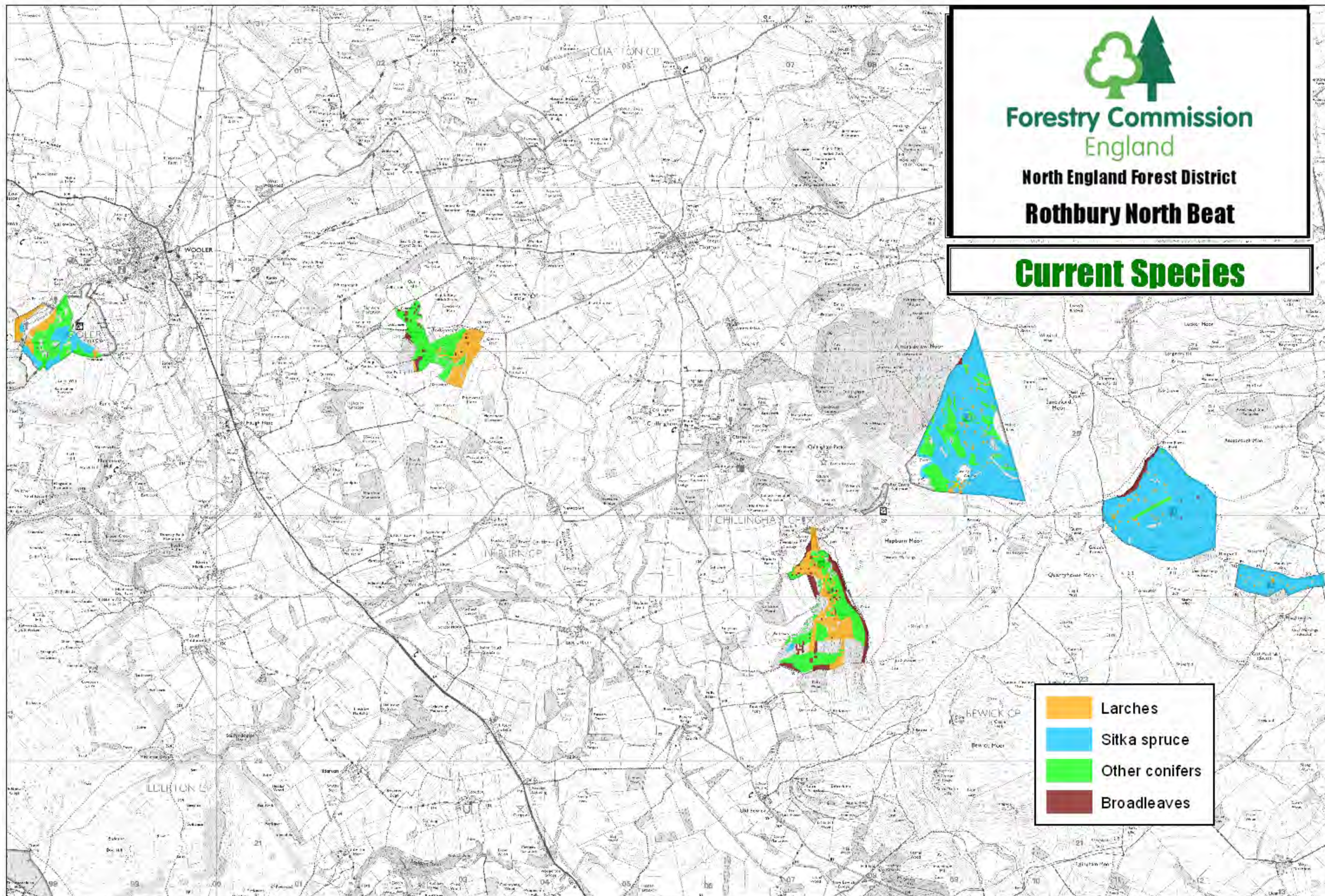


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## Current Species



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**Planting Year**

**PLYR**



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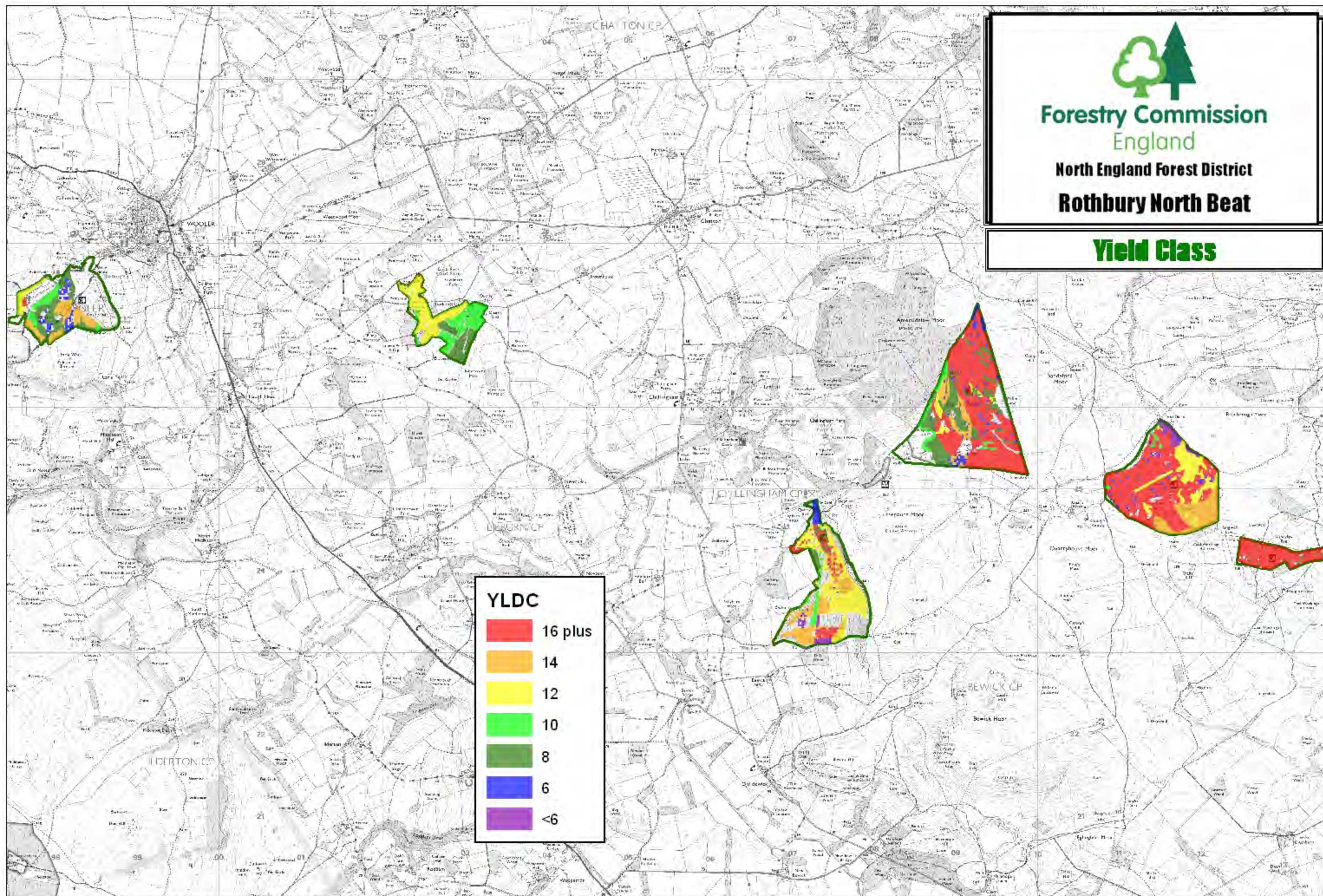


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## Yield Class



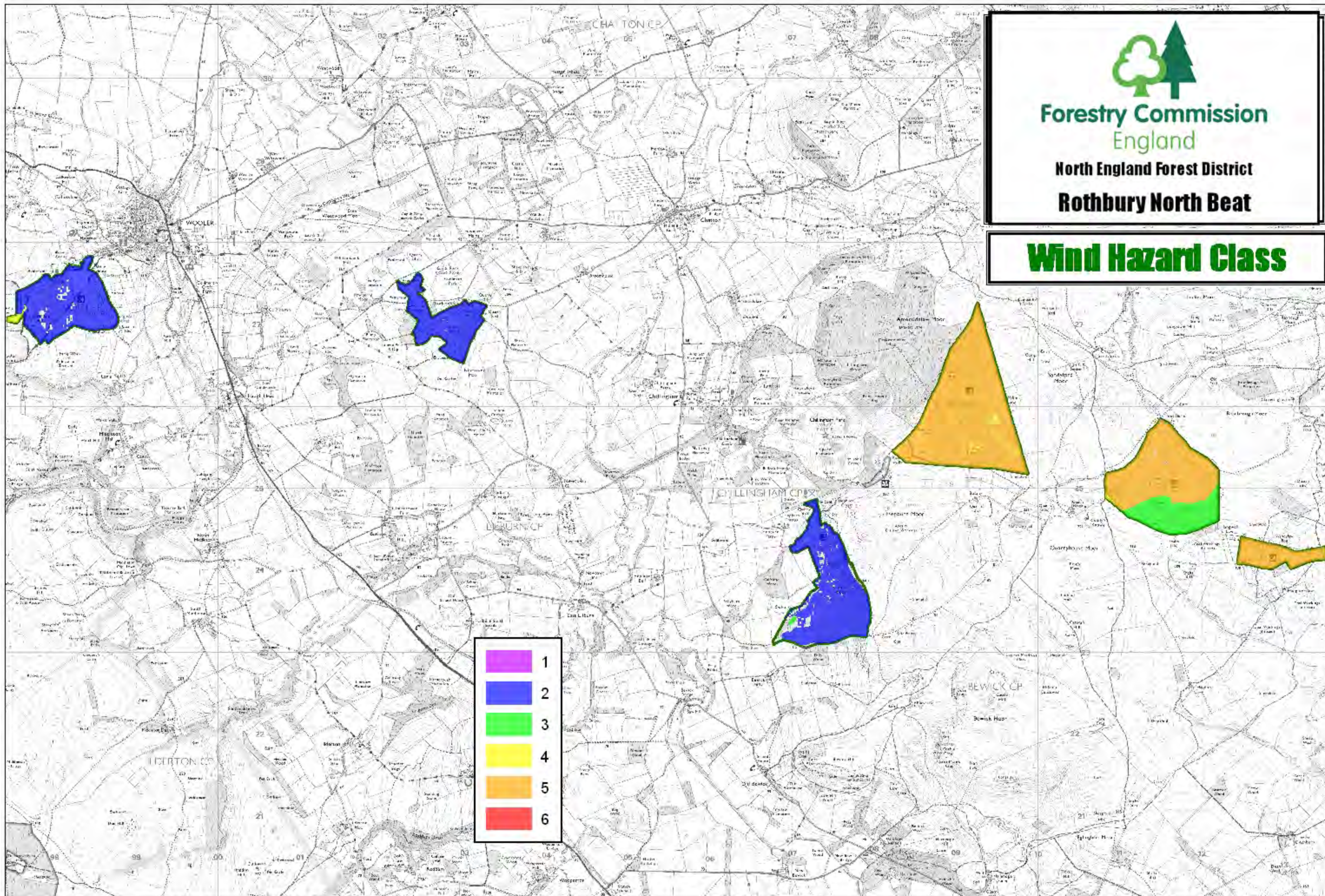
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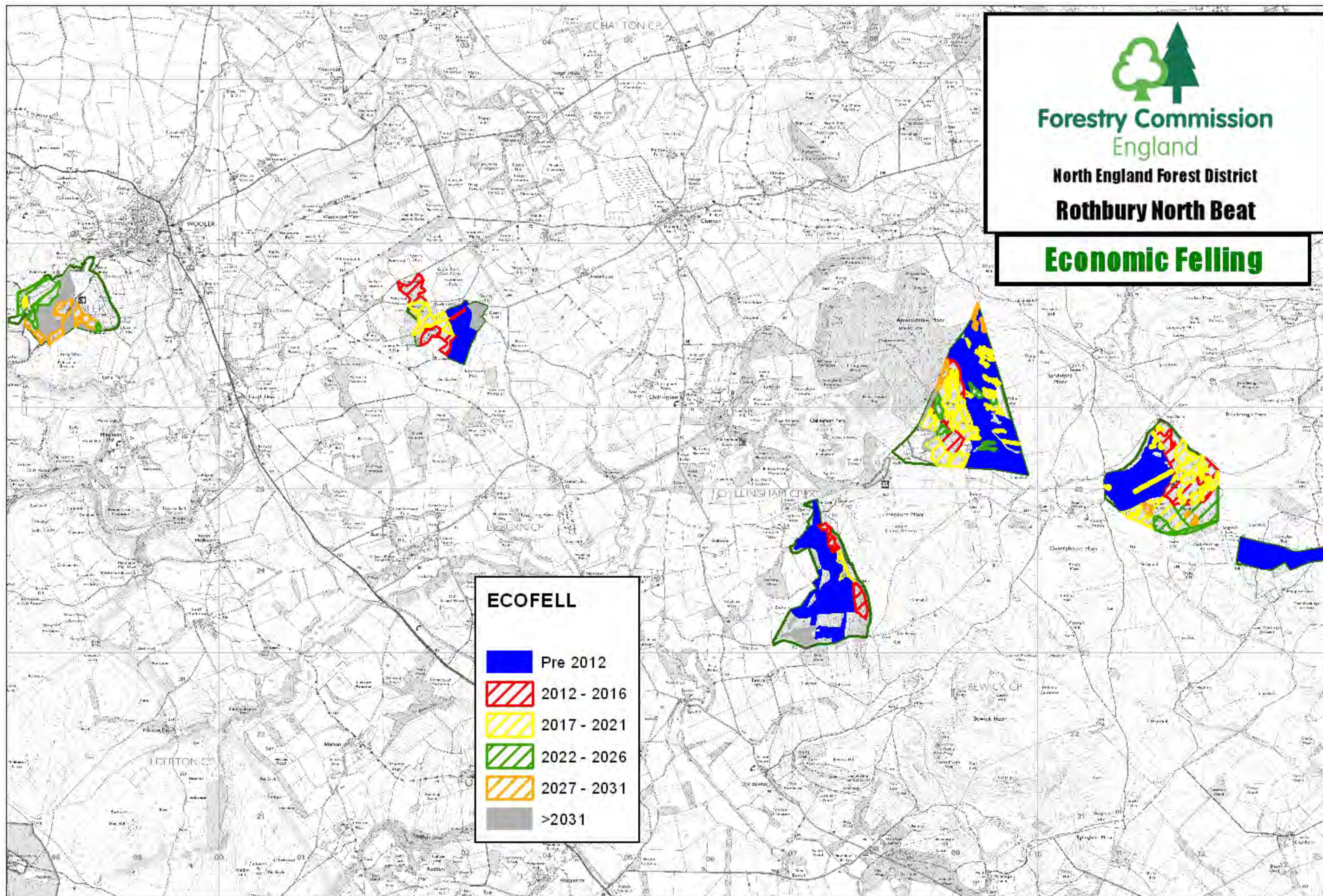
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## Wind Hazard Class



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 Correspondence: Dr David A. Asch, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cambridge, Addenbrookes Hospital, 100 Brookings Drive, Cambridge CB2 2RY, UK.  
 Email: d.a.asch@cam.ac.uk

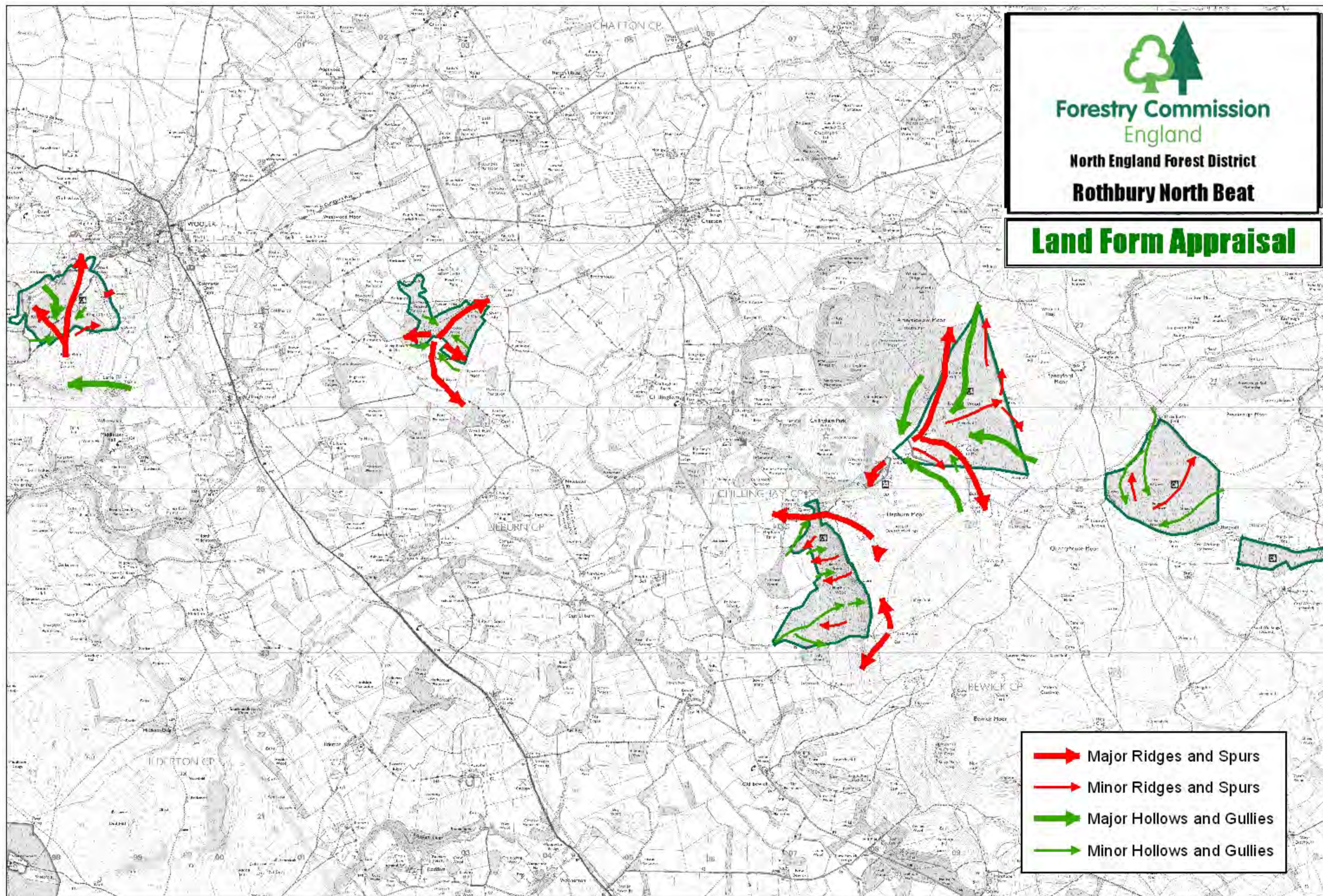


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## Land Form Appraisal



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

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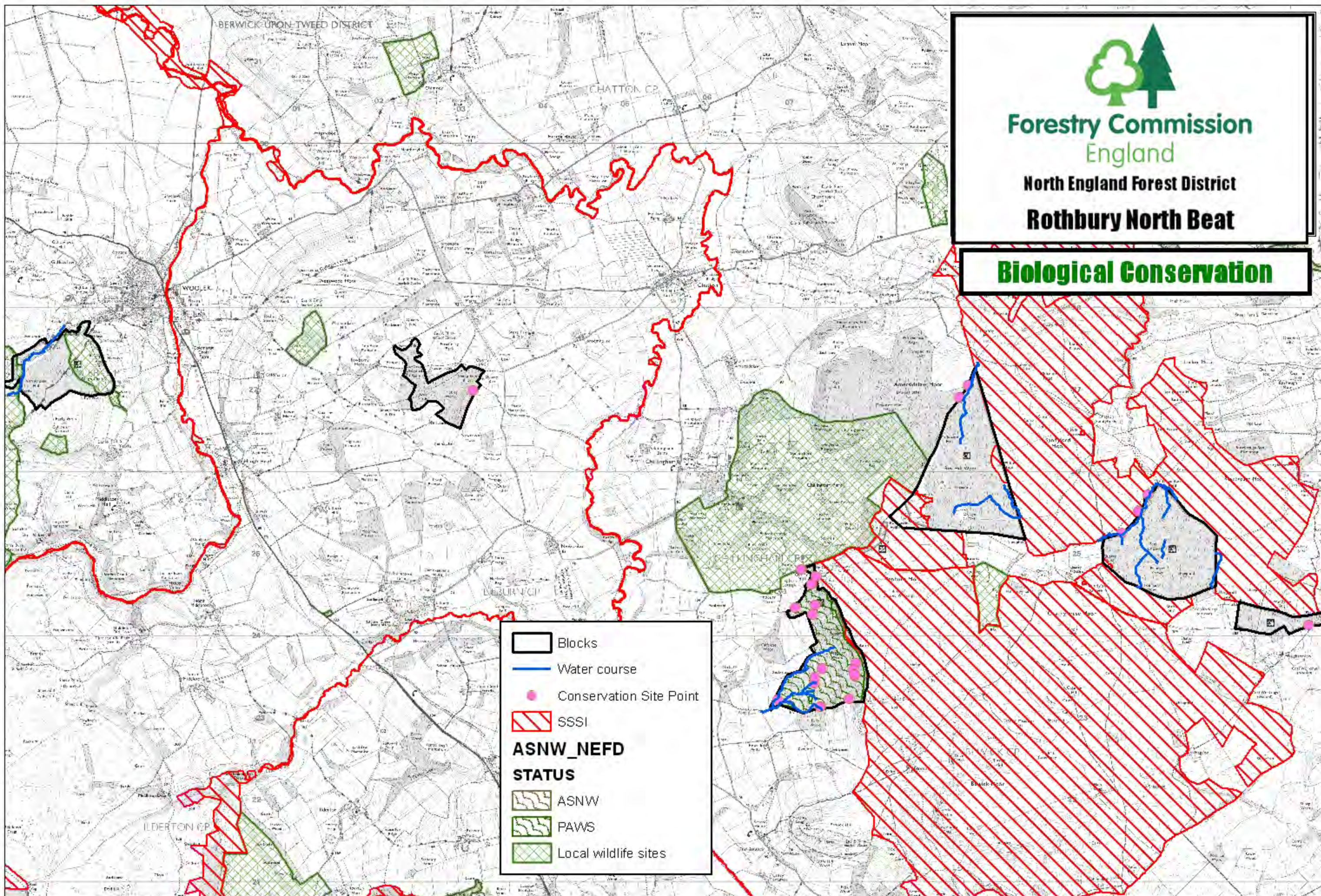


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**Biological Conservation**



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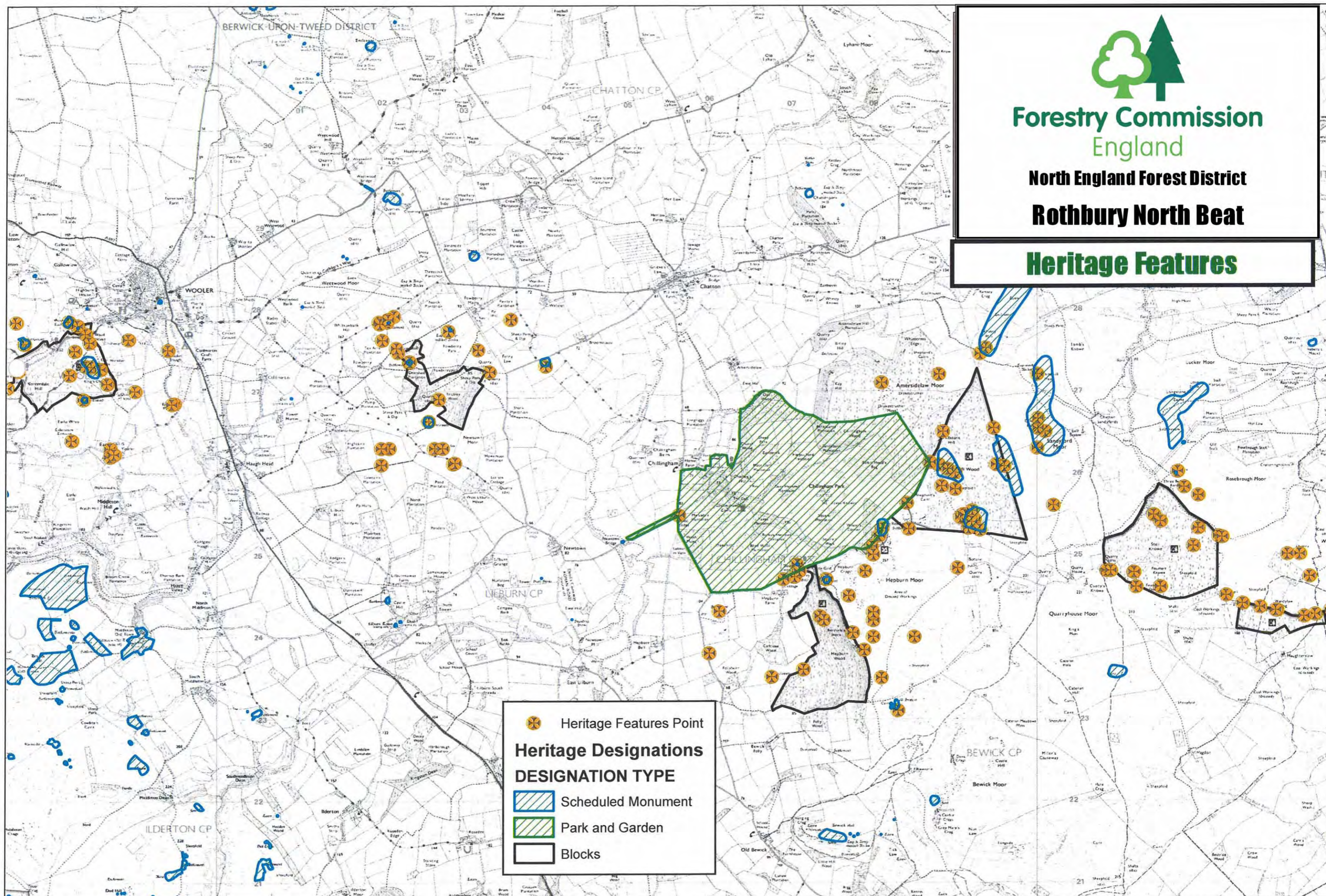


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**Heritage Features**



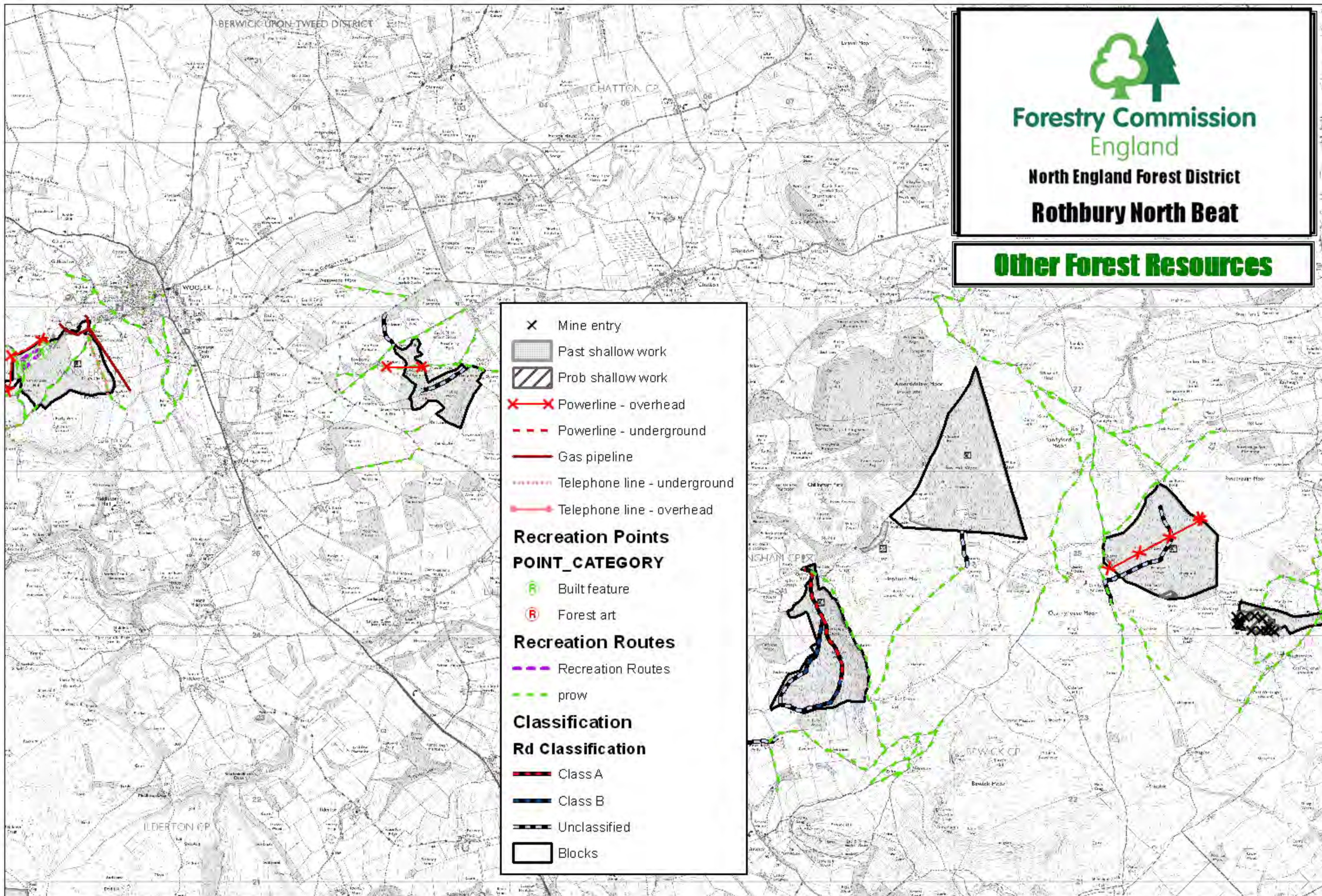


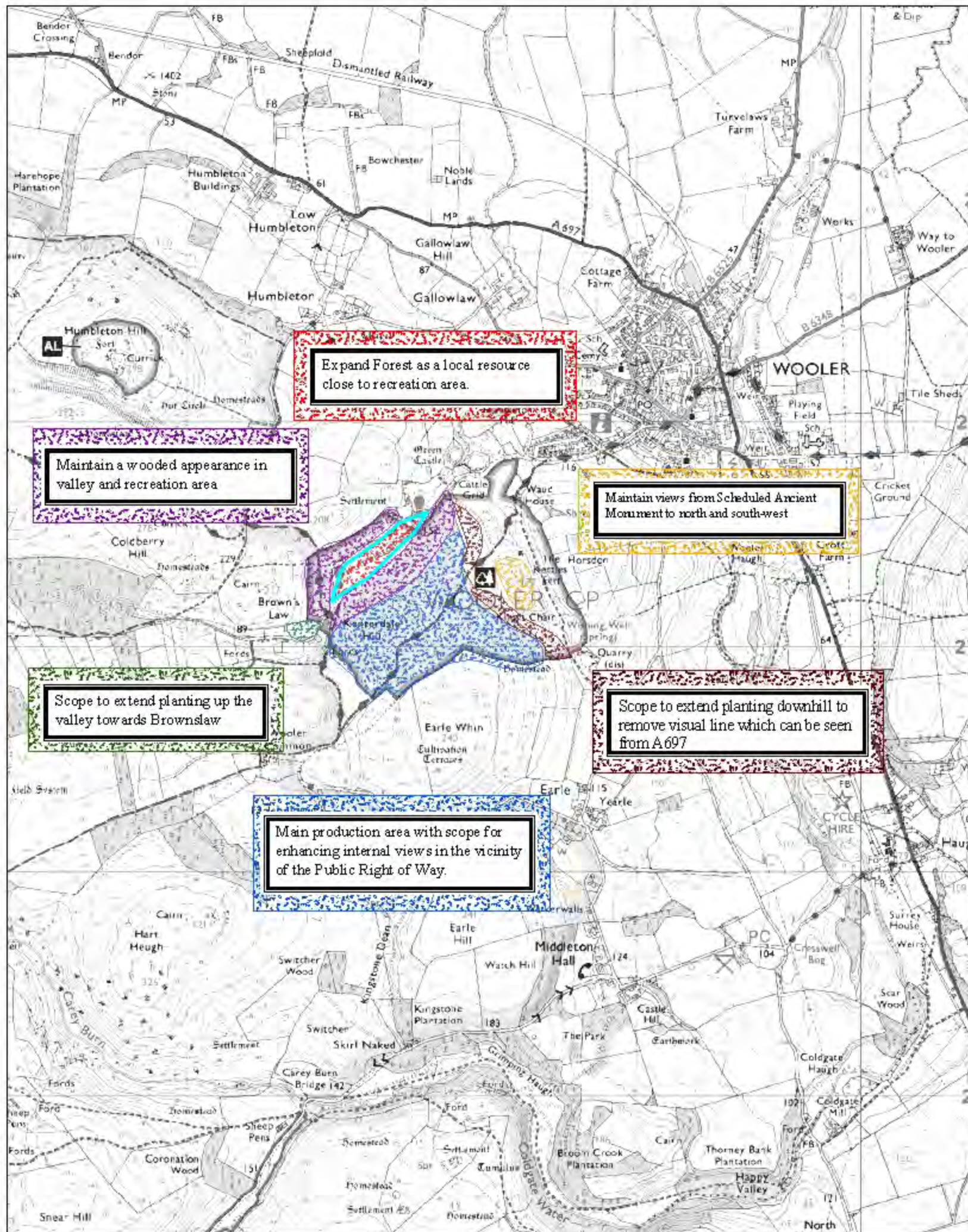
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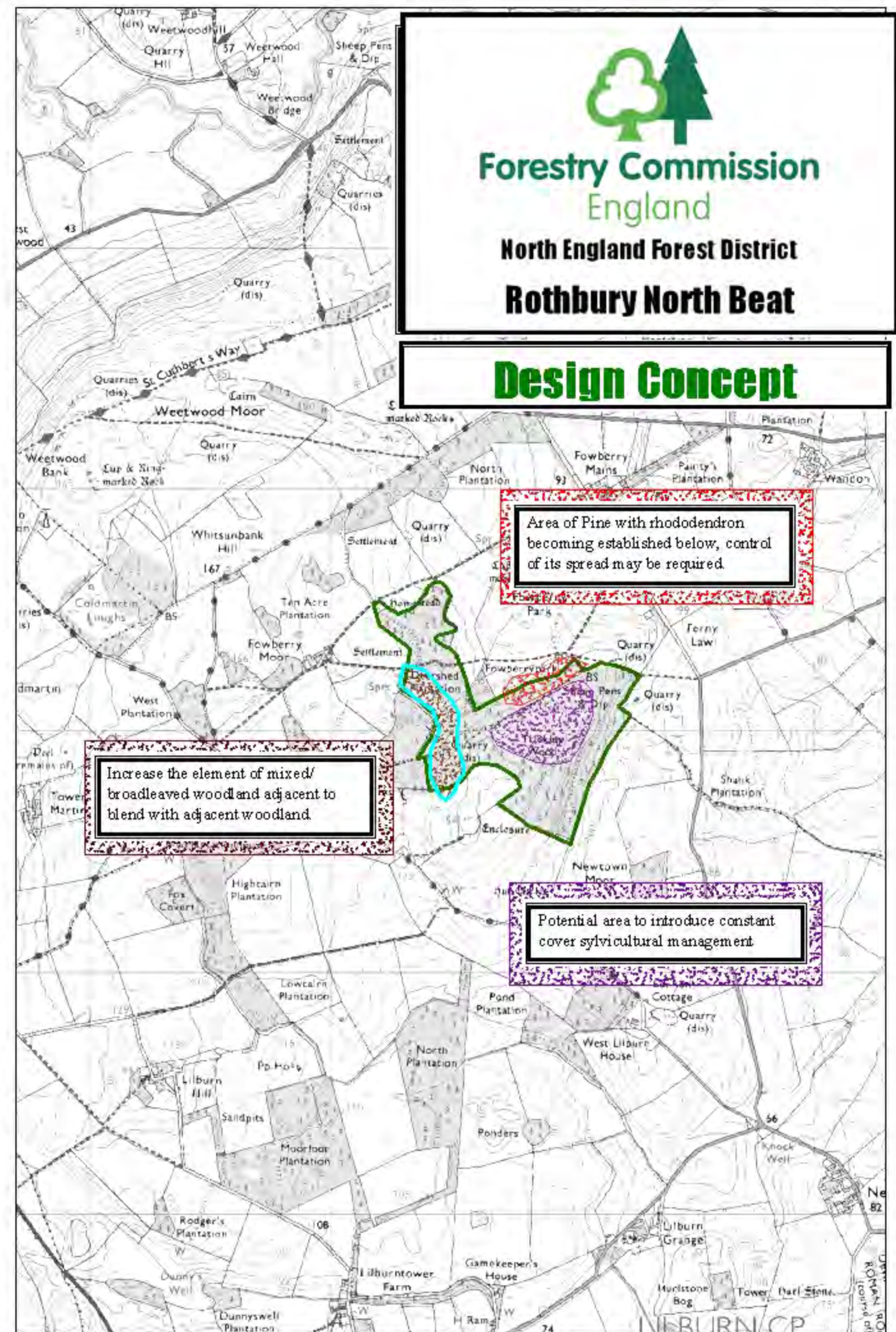
## Other Forest Resources





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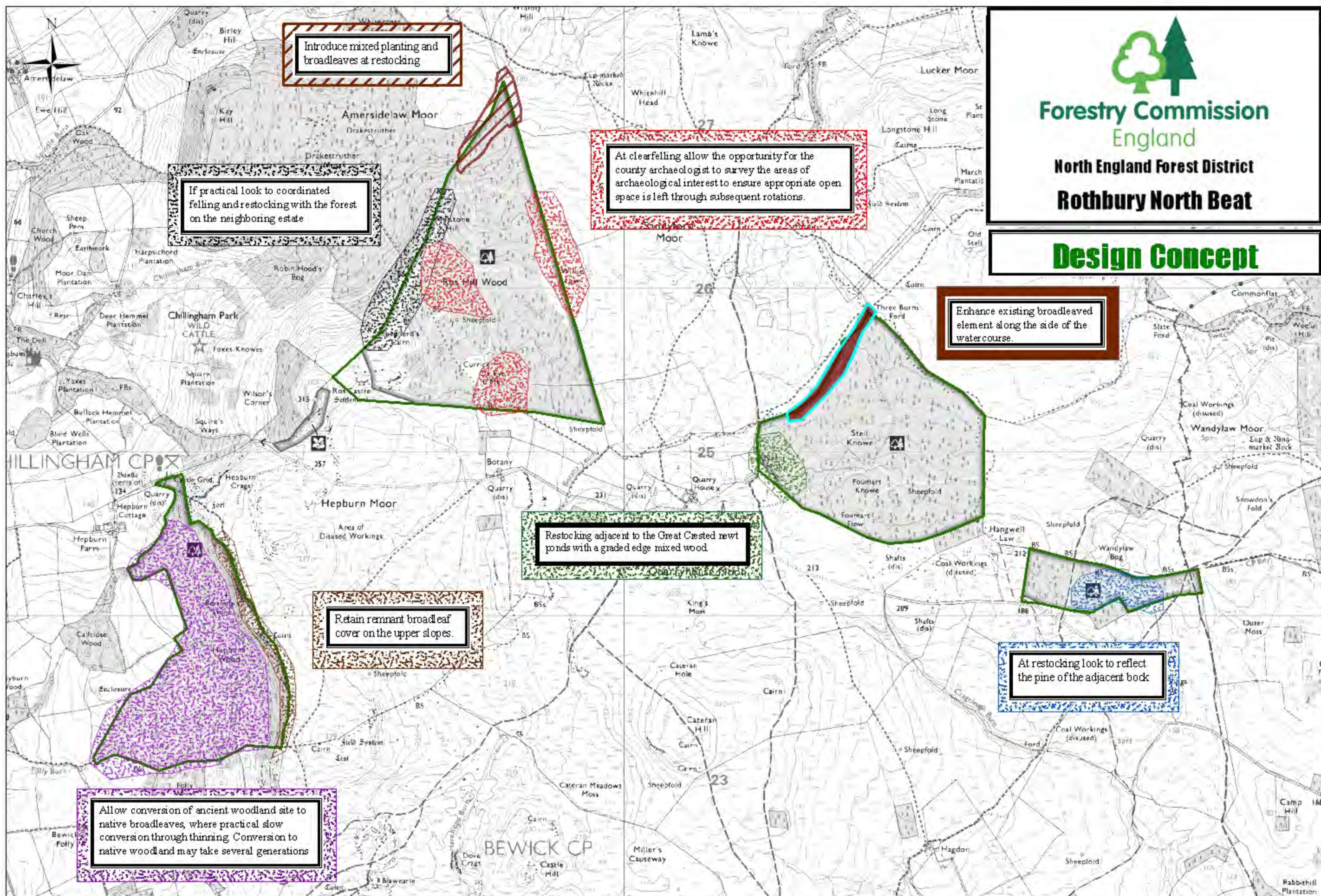
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## Design Concept



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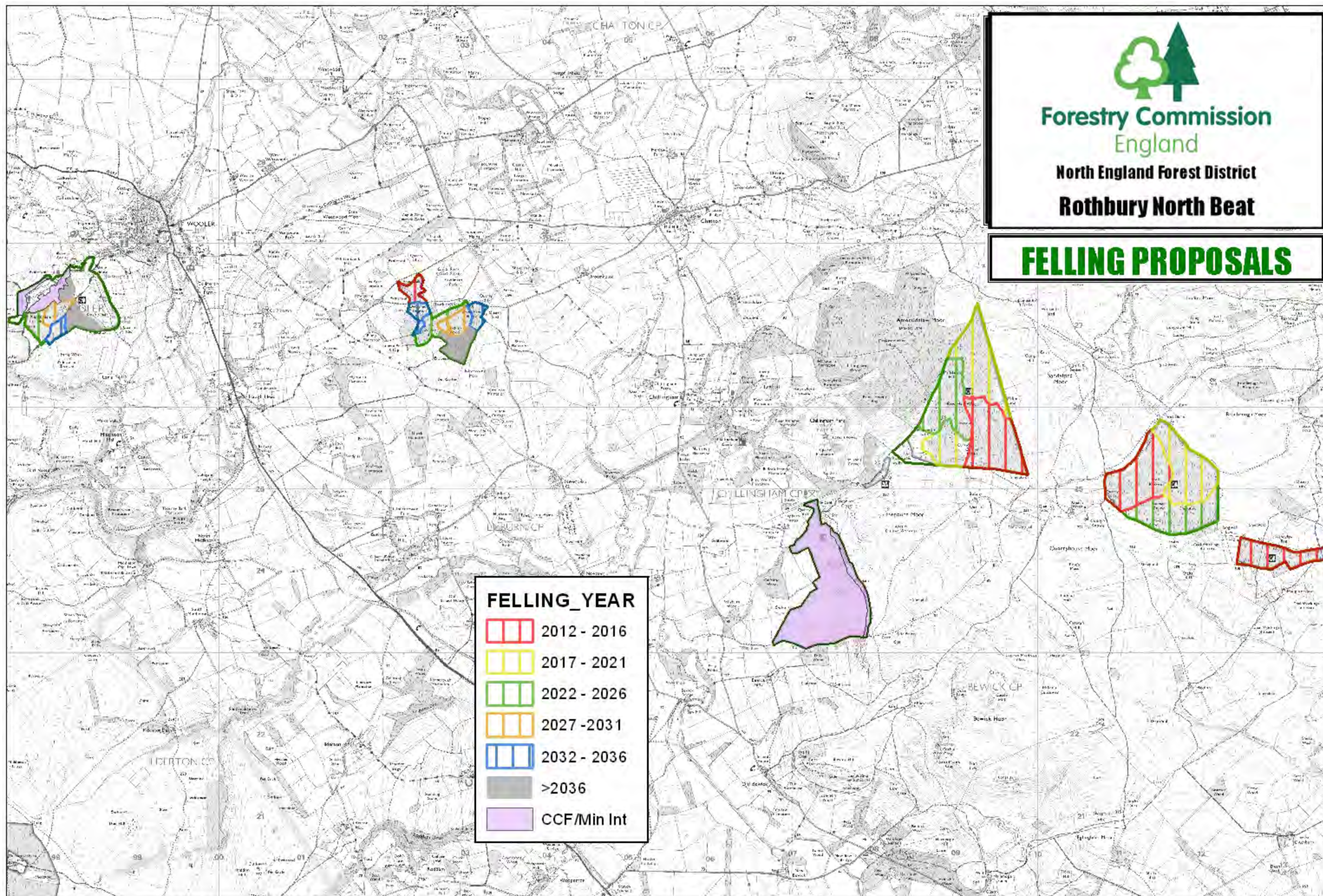


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## FELLING PROPOSALS

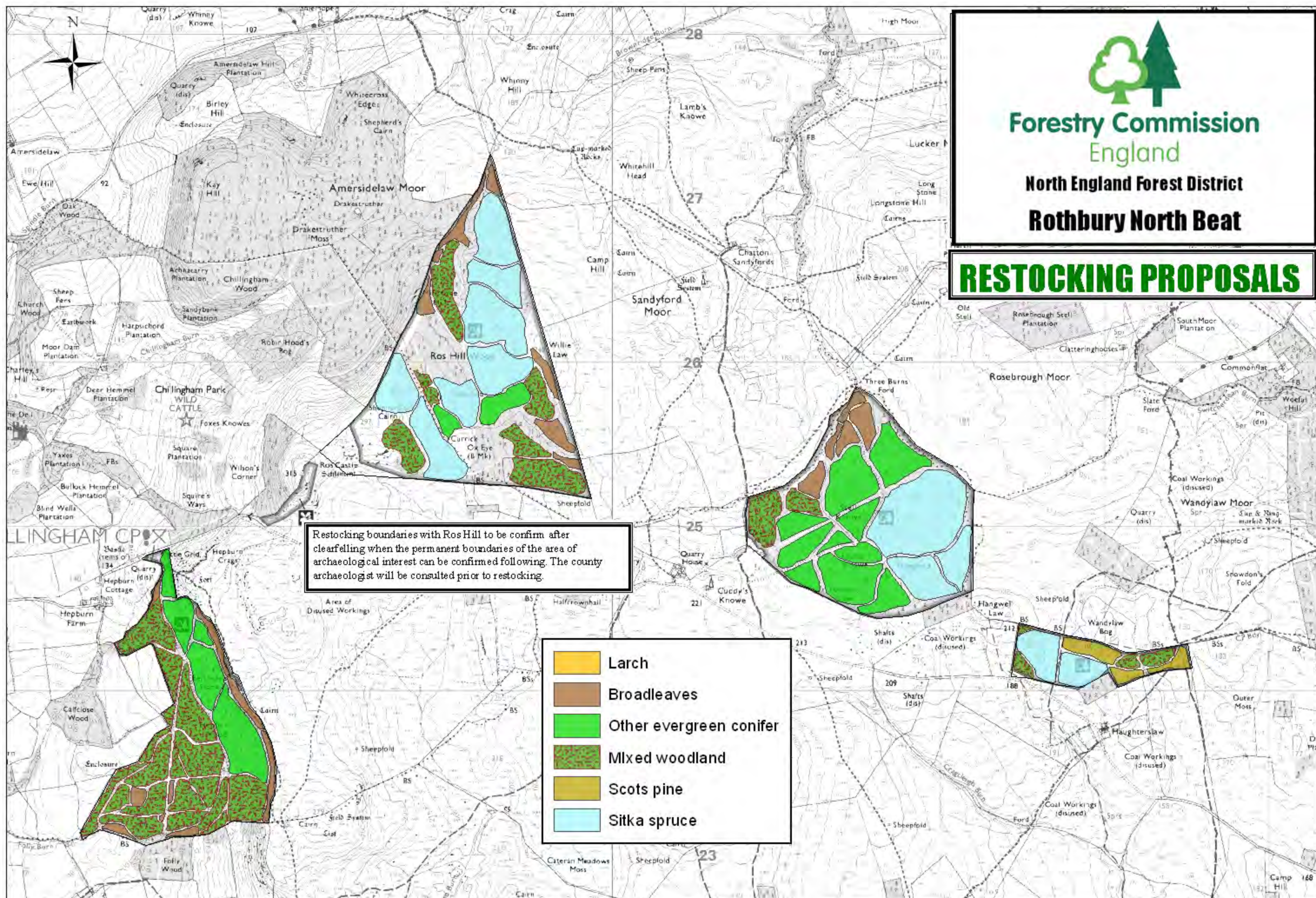


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## RESTOCKING PROPOSALS



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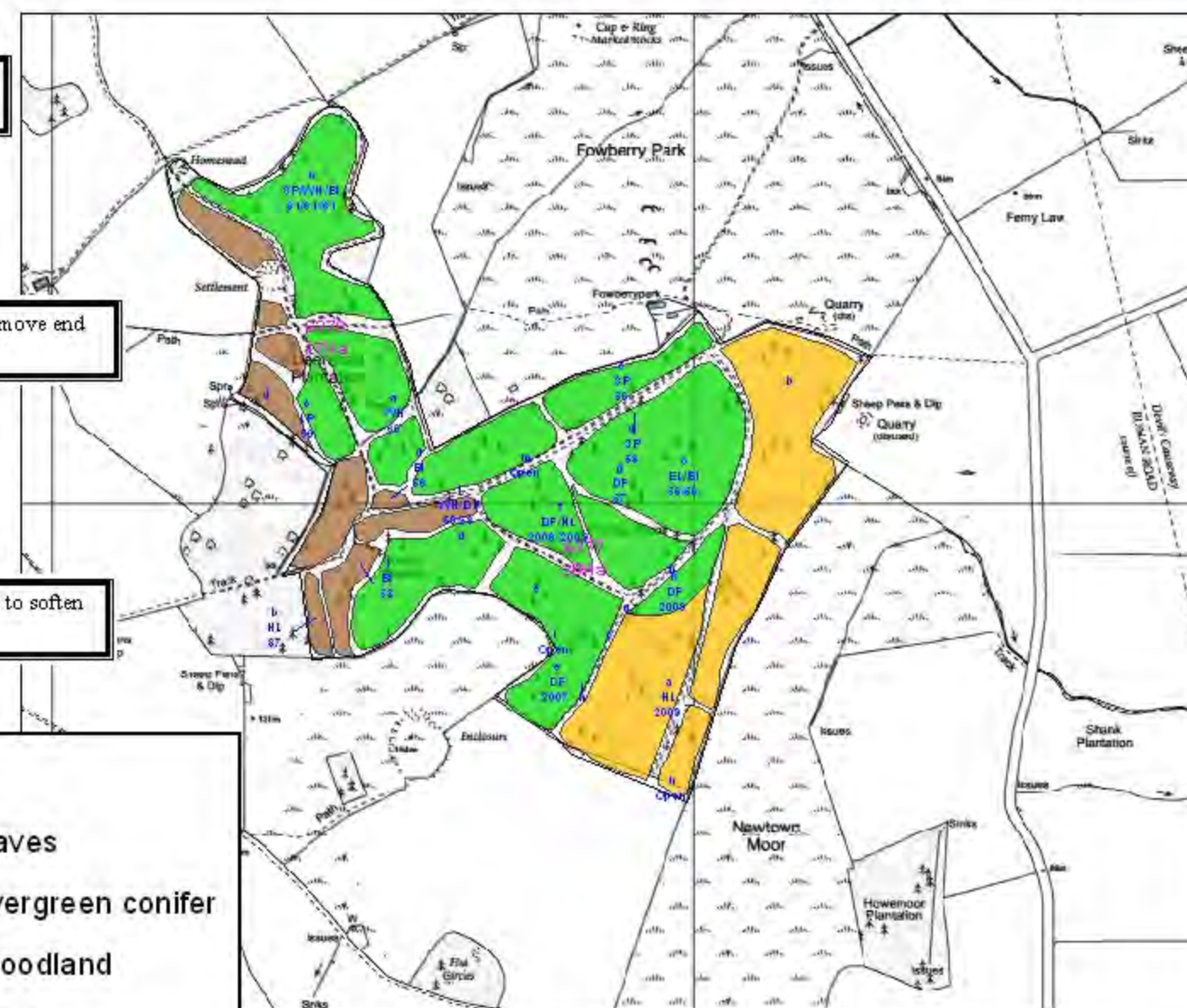
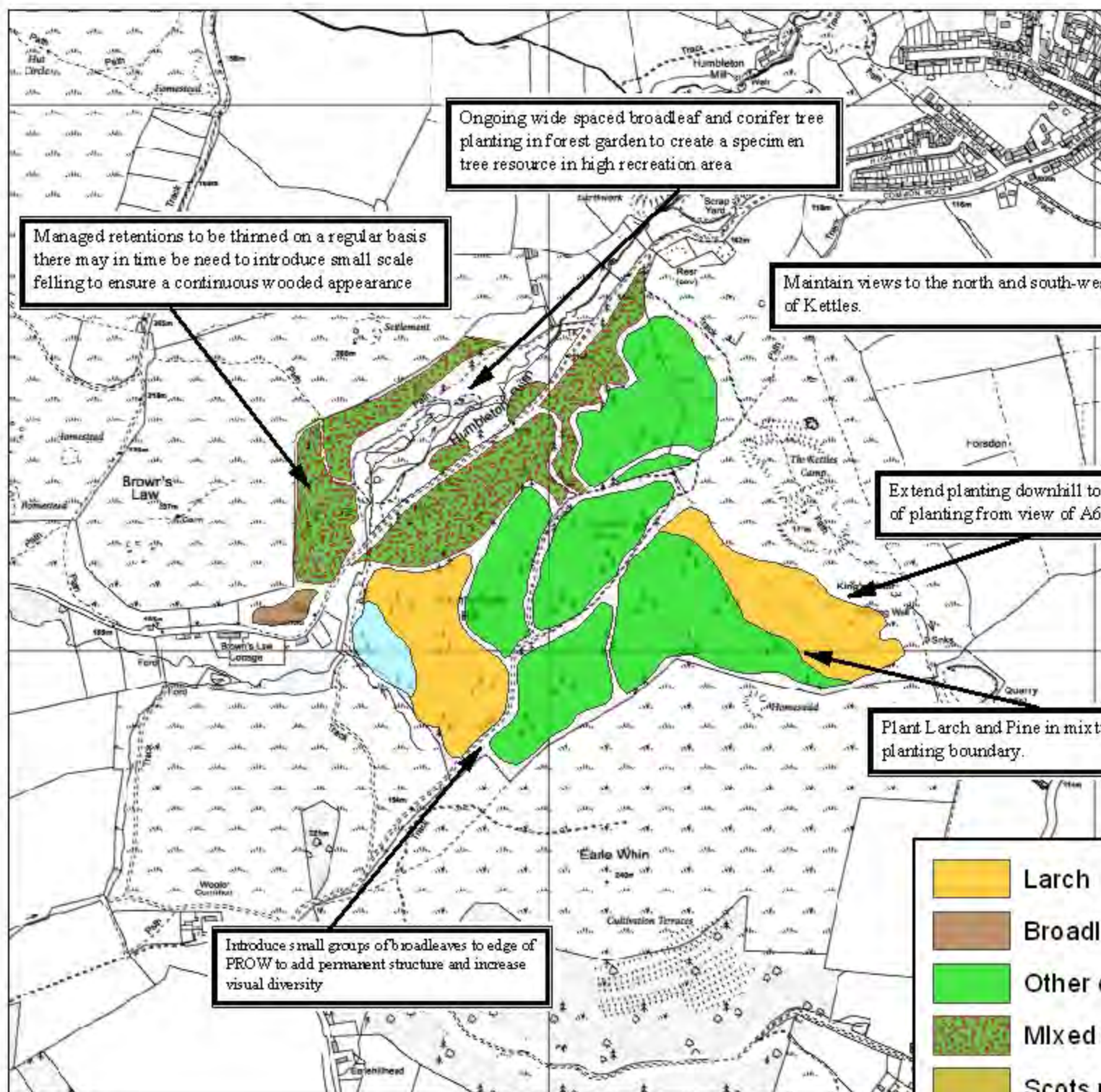


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# RESTOCKING PROPOSALS



- Larch
- Broadleaves
- Other evergreen conifer
- Mixed woodland
- Scots pine
- Sitka spruce
- Open mixed woodland