

Sherwood Community Woodlands

Forest Plan

10 year plan

2018 – 2028



The mark of
responsible forestry

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



Contents

Sherwood Community Woodlands Forest Plan Management Review	3
Application for Forest Plan Approval	4
Introduction & UKWAS Compliance	5
1.0 Key Characteristics and Survey Data	7
1.1 Location	7
1.2 Geology and Soils.....	7
1.3 Aspect Landscape and Natural Character Area	7
1.31 Bevercotes	7
1.32 Ollerton East & West	8
1.33 Oxclose	8
1.34 Shirebrook.....	8
1.35 Silverhill	8
1.4 Landscape Character Assessment and Natural Character Area.....	9
1.5 Hydrology	10
1.6 Archaeology and Heritage.....	10
1.7 Designations, Habitats and Species	10
1.71 Designations	10
1.72 Species of Note	10
1.73 Invasive Species.....	10
1.74 Trees of Special Interest.....	10
1.75 Other Features	10
1.8 Social and Community Interest.....	11
1.9 Access and Tenure	12
2.0 Current Woodland Information.....	13
2.1 Current Species, Age Structure and Yield Class	13
2.11 Current Forest Structure.....	13
2.12 Current Land Use.....	13
2.13 Current Species (as of 2018).....	14
2.14 Current Production Forecast	14
2.15 Planting Area by Plant Year	14
3.0 Future Management	15
3.1 Felling & Thinning.....	15

3.2 Natural Regeneration & Restocking	15
3.3 Environmental	16
3.31 Retentions.....	16
3.32 Biodiversity	16
3.33 Invasive Species	16
3.34 Designations.....	16
3.4 Social.....	16
3.41 Social & Recreation.....	16
3.42 Pre-Consultation	17
3.5 Archaeology and Heritage	17
3.6 Landscape.....	17
3.7 Other Management	18
3.71 Roads and Civil Engineering.....	18
3.72 General Management.....	18
3.8 Future Structure and Land Use	19
4.0 Meeting and Monitoring Objectives.....	20
5.0 Economic forecast.....	21
6. Consultation	21
6.1 Consultees	22
6.2 Non-Statutory Consultees	22
6.3 Consultation Process	22
7. Maps.....	23
7.1 Location.....	23
7.2 Designations	24
7.3 Current Species	29
7.4 Recreation & Access	34
7.5 Concept Map	39
7.6 Silvicultural Systems	44
7.7 Felling Map	49
7.8 Future Species.....	54
7.9 Planned Roads.....	59
8. Relevant Forestry Commission & Government Policies	64

Sherwood Community Woodlands Forest Plan Management Review

This section is a brief review of management prior to the creation of this plan. This is the first Forest Design Plan (FDP) to cover the community woodland sites and sets out our ongoing plans for the management of these sites. It will build on knowledge gained from incorporating Boundary Wood and Calverton community woodlands, into the Blidworth Thieves & Harlow FDP in early 2017.

The new plan will run for 10 years with a mid-term review at the 5 year point. It will cover Bevercotes, Ollerton (East & West), Oxclose, Shirebrook & Silverhill community woodlands. All of these sites were originally colliery pit tips which have been remediated and planted with woodlands. The proposed plan will adhere to UKFS (UK Forest Standard) and UKWAS (UK Woodland Assurance Standard) guidance, as well as working toward delivering results in areas identified by SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) plans and local consultees.

Before the creation of this plan, management has been small scale and in keeping with the age of the woodlands. As all the sites are less than thirty years old, management has mainly consisted of actions to help establish the trees and improvement of the sites for visitors. This has included brashing (pruning) young conifer to improve access and visual appeal and removal of rabbit fences to permit access to the trees now they are well established and not under threat of browsing.

From an economic and forestry perspective, the plan signals the start of the first thinning's of all of these sites. The thinning of the young trees will improve their quality by giving remaining trees space to grow. It will also stop them blowing over, by encouraging the remaining trees to become stronger and establish stronger root systems. The removed trees will bring in income to improve infrastructure, such as roads, as well as contributing to the

management costs of the sites. For the Environment and People; the new plan is a chance to set out how we will manage the sites and to create opportunities to improve these sites for wildlife and people.

Terms of Reference for Sherwood Community Woodlands Forest Plan

FEE National Strategic Goal	District Themes	Objective
Economy	Timber production	Set a direction of travel for a structured programme of thinning to achieve the maximum sustainable cut whilst focussing on crop improvement, sustainability and stability
	Infrastructure	Select suitable species and appropriate silvicultural techniques to regenerate commercially productive but more structurally and species diverse and resilient forests. Highlight needs for infrastructure improvement over the 10 year plan.
Environment	SSSI	Ensure any management is sympathetic to neighbouring SSSI.
	Species and habitat	Identify key species and habitats and make appropriate provision for their requirements.
People	Landscape	Diversify species composition and structure, and plan sympathetically designed and appropriately scaled interventions to improve and maintain the visual integration of the pit tips into the wider landscape.
	Public Access	Recognise the location and scale of demand in making appropriate provision for public access, where there is open access woodland or public rights of way.
	Social Integration	Facilitate aims of Community teams to conduct management that furthers the integration of the pit tip sites into local communities.
	Tenure	Use the Tenure section of the plan to clearly highlight our tenure and its limits on these sites.

Application for Forest Plan Approval

1. Plan area identification

Forest District: Central England Forest District
 Beat: Sherwood North Beat
 Name: Sherwood Community Woodlands Forest Plan
 Nearest Town: Mansfield
 Total Plan Area: 510.4 hectares
 OS Grid Ref: SK 4706 6212 (Silverhill Statue)
 Local Planning Authority: Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire – Ashfield District, Bassetlaw District, Bolsover District, Mansfield District and Newark & Sherwood District.

2. Designations

SSSI on boundary of our land.

3. Date of commencement of plan

As soon as possible after the approval date.

4. Planned operations within 10 year period of the plan

Area (ha)	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total
Felling	10.17	5.13	15.3
Restocking	7.8	4.6	12.4
Underplanting	174.0		174.0
Thinning	359	236.6	595.6

Signed.....

Forest Management Director (FE)

Date
 18th May 2018

.....

Field Manager (FS)

18th May 2018

.....

Introduction & UKWAS Compliance

This plan sets out our management proposals for the next 50 years and facilitates approval for felling and thinning, both conventional and unconventional, for the next 10 years on the community woodlands.

This Forest Plan is guided and directed by a number of policies and strategies, the main points of which are summarised below in the FC England Planning Strategy. Delivering this plan will require the Forestry Commission to be responsive to shifts in our operating environment, and to be increasingly flexible in our approach in order to sustain this responsiveness over decades to come.

This is the first forest plan to cover the community woodlands, since they were afforested in the late 1990s and early 2000s as part of the restoration of colliery pit tips. All of these sites are either leased from Nottinghamshire County Council or leases should be agreed in the near future. It is our intention to manage these sites for timber production, whilst recognising their unique locations; mostly close to local communities.

All of these sites were once the spoil tips for the collieries attached to local communities. The collieries were a major employer and their closure had a massive effect of the local area. As such the sites have a unique link with the communities they serve. This link with the local population is managed by the team of community rangers.

Due to their height and size, the community woodlands are a dominant feature in the local landscape. Their height also increases their exposure to the wind and the plan is crucial in making sure these sites are managed and thinned so the trees remain wind firm.

UKWAS Compliance Table

	Forest Plan Area	Forest Plan Percentage	Forest District Area	Forest District Percentage
Total Area	510.4ha	100%	28,121ha	1.8%
Total Wooded Area	297.8ha	58.4%	23,820ha	1.3%
Natural Reserves – Plantation (1%)	0ha	0%	171ha	0%
Natural Reserves – Semi-Natural (5%)	0ha	0%	342ha	0%
Long-Term Retentions and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (>1%)	284.7ha	55.8%	14,609ha	2.0%
Area of conservation value (>15%) including designations, PAWS, AW, ASNW, NR, LTR and LISS	284.7	55.8%	15,122ha	1.9%

FC Management Objectives

Economic - produce sustainable timber yields, encourage and support new and existing business activity associated to the public forest estate and to make the economic potential of our forests and woodlands more resilient in the face of a changing climate. Growing and diversifying our income from a wide range of sustainable activity on the estate, including non-forestry activities.



Environmental - To increase where possible the environmental contribution made by the Estate to the range of ecosystem services delivered and to protect and enhance its overall biodiversity and heritage value at both the landscape and local level.



People - Enable everyone, everywhere to connect with the nations' trees and forests so that they understand their importance and act positively to safeguard forests for the future.

Forestry Commission England's Planning Strategy

National Forest Policy

The FC sets out its vision and aims for Forestry in England at a **national** level. This is outlined in the Strategic Plan for the Public Forest Estate in England.



Forest District Strategic Plan

The District Strategic plan sits between the national and local planning levels and supports the aims and objectives within the districts, according to the FE England National Policy and gives direction for the management of woodlands at a **District** level.



Forest Plans

Forest Plans are used by the FC to demonstrate sustainable forest management on the public estate in the long term and to define a 10 year programme of approved work. They explain how a **local** area of forest will be managed and why and is produced in consultation with internal and external stakeholders, and following UKWAS, PEFC and UK Forest Standards.



Operational Site Plans (Ops 1's)

Management plan for **specific operations** on site, undertaken in accordance with the above and by following national guidance as set out in the UK Forest Standard.

1.0 Key Characteristics and Survey Data

1.1 Location

- See Location map
- All of the woodlands lie within 14 miles of Mansfield.
- OS Grid References:

	Bevercotes	Ollerton West	Ollerton East	Oxclose	Shirebrook	Silverhill
Access Point	SK 6964 7345	SK 6620 6731	SK 6674 6740	SK 5343 6323	SK 5440 6696	SK 4700 6166
Centre of Wood	SK 7009 7382	SK 6640 6708	SK 6729 6761	SK 5288 6333	SK 5355 6664	SK 4706 6212
Area	115ha	23ha	60ha	59ha	139ha	114ha

The area covered by the Forest Plan amounts to 510.4 ha of which 297.8 ha is woodland. Of the planted area, 179.5ha is conifer and 118.3ha is broadleaved woodland (See Section 2.11). 212.6ha of the plan area is currently open space; this element will increase and decrease rotationally due to usual clearfelling, thinning and restocking operations and natural regeneration.

1.2 Geology and Soils

- Underlying the sites are the original colliery spoil tips, which contain the shale and other waste from mining and extracting coal.
- Above the spoil, the restoration was planned to provide half a metre of soil mixed with the substrate, topped with another half metre of soil and

sewage cake to provide a growing medium for the trees. In practice this has varied between sites and hasn't always been as deep as was intended. The trees planted on site are now starting to reach the size where tap toots will be reaching the substrate beneath the soil. As yet there have been no perceived effects of this on the growth or health of the trees, but this is being monitored by the beat team.

1.3 Aspect Landscape and Natural Character Area

- The plan consists of five distinct blocks of woodland. With the exception of Bevercotes, all the sites lie close to residential and built up areas. The sites all take the form of at least one small hill, planted with a mixture of conifer and broadleaves with a large amount of designed open space and normally hydrological features.

1.31 Bevercotes

- The highest points of Bevercotes are between 47m and 54m above sea level. The surrounding land is 20-30m above sea level.
- There are limited views from Bevercotes of the surrounding landscape; however there is scope to improve these through Forest Plan proposals. There are some key views within the site, which may need tree felling to maintain them during the plan period.
- The surrounding topography is quite rolling, so long distance views of Bevercotes are limited. However within 5 miles there are views of Bevercotes from almost all directions including Bothamsall, Bevercotes village, Markham Moor, the edges of Eat Markham, Askham, Gamston Wood, Gamston and possibly Retford. There are limited roadside views from the A1 and B6387, however these are mostly screened by established screening trees.

1.32 Ollerton East & West

- The top of Ollerton east is approximately 70m above sea level whilst the top of Ollerton west is approximately 80m. The surrounding land is 40-50m above sea level.
- Ollerton West is comprised of a single small hill. Although visible from a number of locations in the surrounding area, there are limited views within the site and from the site looking outwards. There is scope to improve viewpoints within the plan.
- Ollerton East has more diverse topography and has interesting internal views, such as around the ponds and along the road on the eastern edge. There are a number of key points on the site with views of the surrounding area which have been considered as part of the plan. Ollerton west is visible from within Ollerton town, as well as from most directions in the surrounding area.
- Places with views of the Ollerton sites include Ollerton town, Wellow, Kirton, Bevercotes Park/Walesby and Rufford.

1.33 Oxclose

- The top of Oxclose is approximately 160m above sea level. The surrounding land is between 110m and 140m.
- Oxclose is very prominent and visible across most of Mansfield, as well as from the area to the north of the town. It is also visible from Shirebrook and Silverhill.
- There are a number of interesting internal views such as around the ponds and the path to the ponds from the railway station. The site has a number of "view walls"; stone walls with holes in them which frame views from the site of the wider landscape. Maintenance of these views will be considered in the plan.

1.34 Shirebrook

- Shirebrook ranges between approximately 90m and 110m above sea level at its highest points. The surrounding land is 70-100m.
- Shirebrook is prominent in the landscape between Mansfield and Bolsover. It is visible from the A60, Mansfield Woodhouse, Spion Kop, Sookholme, Market Warsop, Church Warsop, Warsop Vale and from Shirebrook town.
- There are intrinsic internal views on the site such as the eastern corner where the ponds are, the area around the boundary between the northern and southern half of the site and on the main rides running through the top of the site. There is opportunity within the plan to improve views of the surrounding area from the site.

1.35 Silverhill

- The top of Silverhill is approximately 200m above sea level and is one of the highest points in Nottinghamshire. The surrounding land is approximately 130-200m above sea level.
- Silverhill is visible from all directions. Places with views include Teversal, Skegby, Stanton Hill, Norwood Lodge, Glapwell, Hardwick Hall, Astwith, Hardstoft, Tibshelf and limited views from Huthwaite. There is also a limited view from the M1 motorway.
- There are a number of important internal views such as around the ponds, the bird area in the north east corner, the site entrance/car park, the forest road on the west side of the site, the grass rides within the site. The views on the main walk up to the top of the hill, the alternative route to the top and the top of the site itself are also very important and to people who visit the site.
- Management of the top of Silverhill and the main walking routes will be considered in detail within the plan due to their significance to visitors.

1.4 Landscape Character Assessment and Natural Character Area

1.41 Landscape Character Area (LCA)

- Bevercotes and Ollerton lie within the Sherwood LCA, this mentions:

"Smaller-scale gains in woodland cover have been made from the planting of former industrial areas and coal tips."

"The coal industry has played a central role in the economic life of large parts of the region, where much of the area was traditionally dependent upon mining employment. This also included the larger town of Worksop (in Bassetlaw District) as well as the numerous mining villages. The redevelopment of redundant collieries for appropriate uses has been encouraged, with green after uses, including agriculture, forestry and recreation, being the preferred approach for certain rural collieries and spoil tips."

"The premature closure of pits has had major environmental consequences for reclamation, as existing programmes can no longer be achieved. The County Council, UK Coal and the Forestry Commission are working together to develop new proposals to restore such spoil heaps to a mixture of forestry, heathland and public open space."

- Shirebrook and Oxclose lie within the Limestone Farmland LCA. This is described as:

"West facing escarpment and gently rolling limestone dipslope. The landscape contains a series of incised alleys and gorges. Fertile soils support arable farmland set within a regular pattern of large hedged fields. Large and medium woodland and belts of trees are common. The landscape contains a nucleated pattern of small stone villages and large industrial age towns. In areas the influence of coal mining is evident as large mining settlements and restored pit heaps. There are long distance views from the scarp slope westwards over the neighbouring landscape character type."

- Silverhill is within the "Sutton and Teversal Plateau" LCA:

"Woodland plantation is prominent covering raised landform of mining spoil heap at former collieries of Silverhill and Pleasley"

"Remnant features of past mining are present in the landscape within the (area) and those adjoining. The domed woodland-covered landform of former colliery spoil mounds are prominent features in views and these comprise some of the highest points in the locality."

1.42 National Character Area (NCA)

- Bevercotes, Ollerton and Oxclose fall within the Sherwood NCA. Natural England mentions former colliery sites specifically:

"The coal industry has played a significant role in shaping the area and its decline has left behind a legacy of former colliery sites and spoil tips. Many of these have been reclaimed to agriculture, heathland, woodland, business, community and amenity uses and some mining relics are now landmark features."

"Restoration of sites affected by the industrial past will provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity and the landscape, whilst ensuring that the legacy of the industrial heritage remains legible within the landscape."

- Shirebrook and Silverhill are in the Southern Magnesian Limestone NCA:

"Localised industrial influences... ...with former mines and spoil heaps (many now restored)... ...Coal has been exploited in the area through a number of deep mines; however most mines are now closed with former coalfield settlements nearby."

"...restoration of mineral extraction sites... ...incorporating the creation of appropriate landscape features and wildlife habitats to reinforce the existing character of the area such as hedges, woodlands and appropriate semi-natural habitats both to enhance biodiversity and provide new access opportunities for local residents."

1.5 Hydrology

- Drainage is important on all these sites; not just for the usual reasons such as removing excess water, but also to prevent erosion of surface soils and to allow run off to be controlled; to prevent transfer of heavy metals and acidic substrates to the wider environment.
- All of the sites have a drainage network and a number of lagoons and settling ponds.
- Bevercotes has the River Meden running through it, whilst Shirebrook is close to Sookholme Brook, which is designated as a SSSI.
- The local area receives an average of 888mm of rainfall per year and it rains on average 135 days per year (according to long term Met Office statistics).

1.6 Archaeology and Heritage

- All of the sites history as collieries makes them a key part of the local areas industrial heritage.
- There are currently no defined heritage features within the plan area. This is due to the fact that the sites are reclaimed land which was extensively worked while the pits were open and the landscaped when the ground was prepared for tree planting.

1.7 Designations, Habitats and Species

1.71 Designations

- None of the sites are designated, however land bordering Shirebrook is designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This Sookholme Brook area is designated for “containing some of the finest remaining limestone and base-rich flush plant communities in Nottinghamshire and is of Regional importance”.

1.72 Species of Note

- Birds including Barn Owls, Jack Snipe, Reed Warbler & Turtle Doves.
- Smooth Newt & Great Crested Newt.
- There are a number of Badger setts.
- Grass Snakes.
- Various Orchids.
- Two recorded invertebrate species.
- Water Voles.

1.73 Invasive Species

- Rhododendron
- Himalayan Balsam
- Japanese Knotweed
- New Zealand Pigmy Weed

1.74 Trees of Special Interest

- A number of Walnut Trees.

1.75 Other Features

- A number of ponds.
- Streams/Rivers running through Shirebrook & Bevercotes.
- An abundance of open space.

1.8 Social and Community Interest

- All of the sites have a strong bond with their local communities due to their previous involvement with the collieries. Local people are generally pleased with the transformation the sites have made from piles of shale and waste to establish woodlands and valuable greenspace. However on all of the sites there are still issues with anti-social behaviour such as motorcycle riding and fly tipping / dumping.
- A key feature of the sites is the level of volunteer involvements. There are two active community rangers covering the sites and they lead a variety of volunteer groups to achieve management objectives. The work they have completed includes fence removal, brashing, scrub management, path building and repairs and a large amount of other valuable work. The work of the volunteers has meant objectives that have improved the site and trees such as fence removal and brashing; has been completed on a much larger scale than would have been possible without their help. In return these groups provide industry experience to volunteers and an opportunity to help improve their local communities.
- The Millennium hedge runs through Shirebrook, this was planted to celebrate the millennium and runs along the border between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.
- Shirebrook has an active fishing club, based within the wood. Other sites have ponds which are fished.
- The woods are very popular with members of the public. They are well used for walking and other forms of recreation.
- Horse riding is permitted within the wood by a permit scheme.
- On the top of Silverhill is the Miner statue. This commemorates the local mining history and the men who worked in the mines. It records the names

of all the local collieries and the years they were operational. The bronze statue depicts a miner checking for mine gas with his lamp. He looks out over the local landscape in the direction of Oxclose and the Clipstone colliery headstocks. Next to the statue is a plaque which shows all of the features visible from the top of Silverhill (see pictures below). These include Hardwick Hall, Crich Stand, Mansfield, Lincoln Cathedral, Pleasley Pit and Bolsover Castle. The trees surrounding the top of Silverhill are growing to a height where these views are starting to get obscured. The new plan will need to mitigate for this in the future site management. A lot of people who visit Silverhill come just to walk to the top for the views.



The plaque showing landmarks visible from the top of Silverhill.

- There are a network of tracks and smaller paths on all of the sites. Access is permitted across all of the sites subject to FC Bylaws.

- Ollerton East, Shirebrook and Silverhill all have car parks. Oxclose is next door to a station car park that can be used by visitors. Bevercotes currently has informal parking on the road next to the site.
- There are recreation facilities such as benches, picnic tables and interpretation on all of the sites.
- Other than Ollerton West, all of the sites have ponds which form an interesting feature for visitors.
- Oxclose has two “view walls”. These are a sandstone wall with holes built into it, which frame views of the surrounding area. One of these has become redundant due to surrounding buildings and hedges. The other is in a prominent position on the top of the site, but risks being obscured by trees in the near future.
- Specific recreation features are shown on the Recreation & Access maps (Section 7.4), however there are paths and access over the whole of each site and not all of these are shown on the maps.

1.9 Access and Tenure

- Bevercotes, Oxclose & Silverhill are managed by the Forestry Commission on a 999 year lease from Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).
- Ollerton East, Ollerton West and Shirebrook are still held by NCC, but we hope lease agreements will be concluded in the near future. All management proposed for Ollerton & Shirebrook in this plan is based on these leases being agreed and will not take place until a lease comes into effect.
- None of the woods have yet been designated as CROW (Open Access Land); however they are treated as such and access is permitted across all the sites, subject to Forestry Commission Bylaws.



The statue on the top of silverhill

2.0 Current Woodland Information

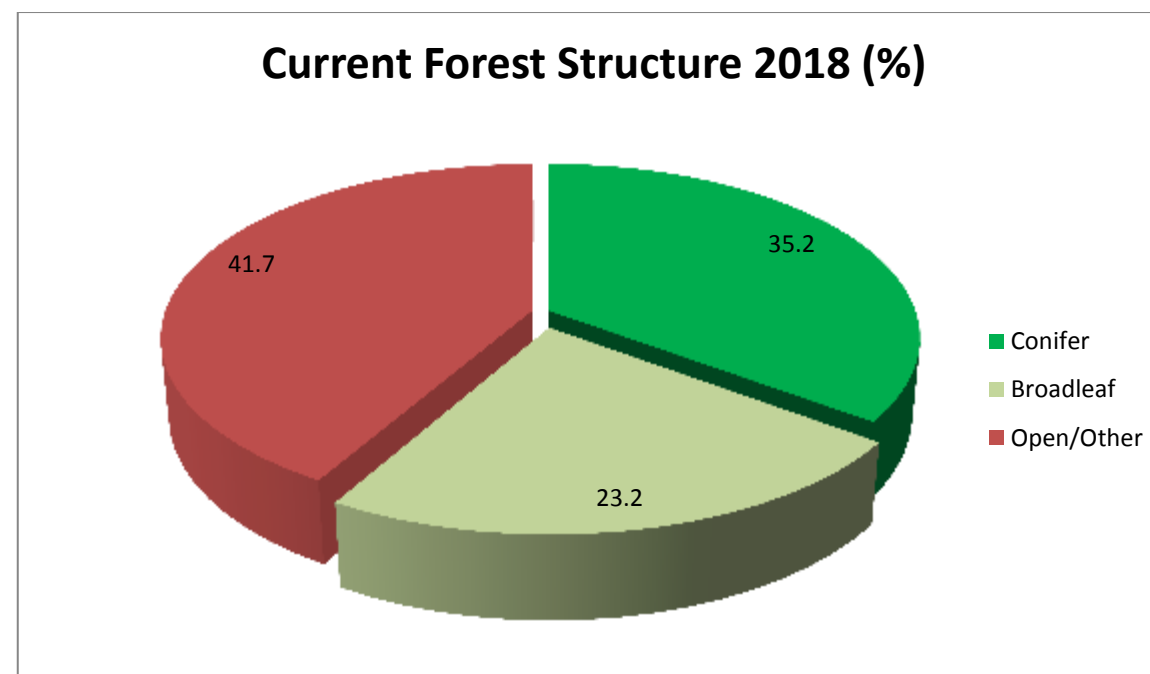
2.1 Current Species, Age Structure and Yield Class

The woodlands within the plan area are 23.2% broadleaf woodlands and 35.2% conifer. Approximately 58.4% of the area is planted with 41.7% being open space. In addition, the cycle of clearfelling and restocking provides rotational open space which will be restocked or naturally regenerate in due course.

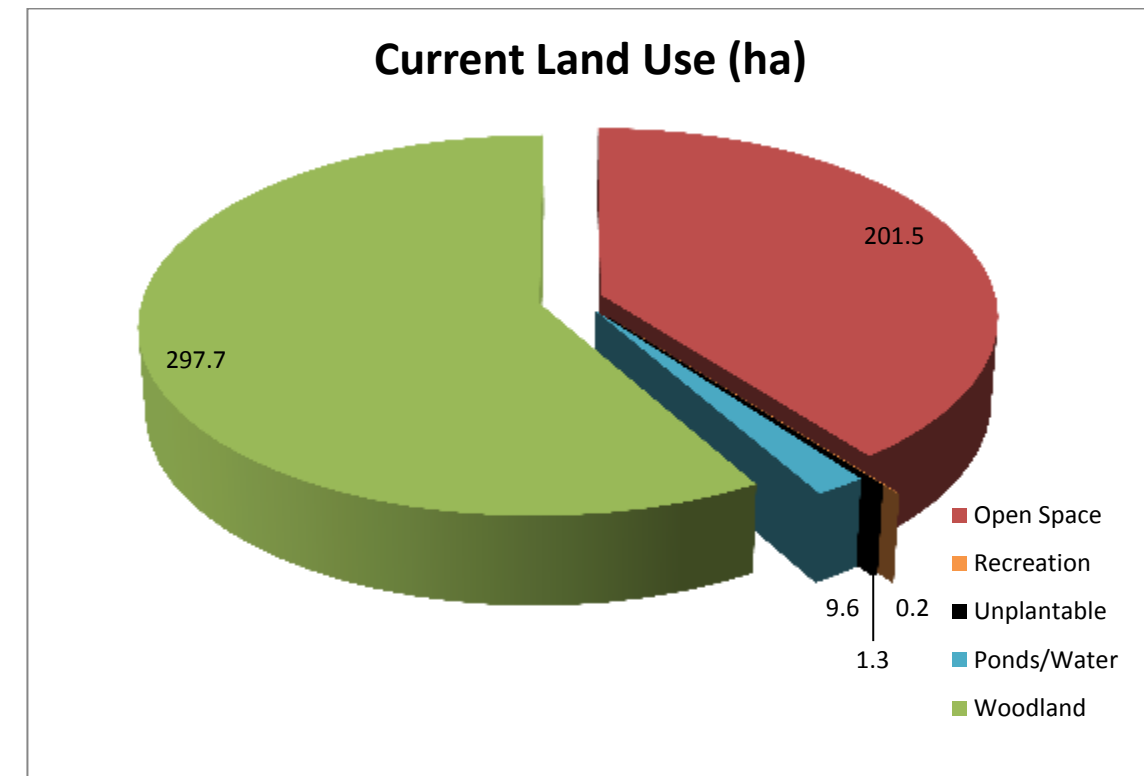
The woodland will be managed sustainably in line with UKWAS and UKFS guidance.

Section 2.11 shows the breakdown of current species by area and 2.12 shows current land use by area. Section 2.15 shows the current age structure of the trees in the plan area.

2.11 Current Forest Structure



2.12 Current Land Use



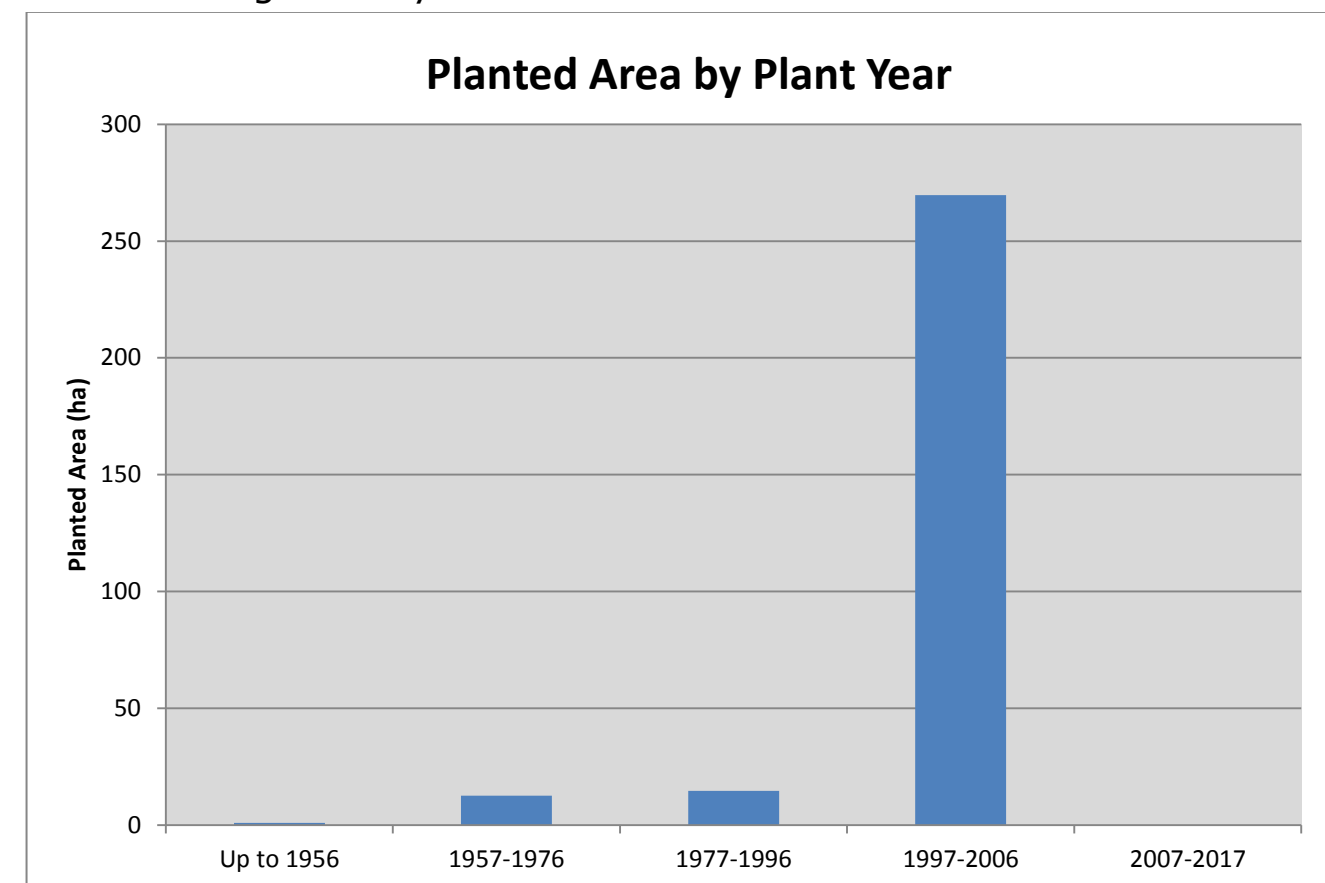
2.13 Current Species (as of 2018)

Species	Area (ha)	Percentage of Total Area
Conifer		
Corsican Pine	174.9	34.3%
Other Conifers	4.6	0.9%
Total Conifer	179.5 ha	35.2%
Broadleaf		
Ash	30.8	6.0%
Oak	18.6	3.6%
Alder	11.8	2.3%
Willows	10.9	2.1%
Aspen/Poplars	9.3	1.8%
Birch	8.6	1.7%
Field Maple	6.5	1.3%
Norway Maple	4.0	0.9%
Other Broadleaves	17.8	3.5%
Total Broadleaf	118.3 ha	23.2%
Other		
Open	201.5	39.5%
Other	11.1	2.2%
Total Other	212.6 ha	41.7%
Total Area	510.4ha	100 %

2.14 Current Production Forecast

As there has been no previous plan for these areas, there is not a current production forecast.

2.15 Planting Area by Plant Year



- The “Planted Area by Plant Year” graph above shows how much area was planted in which time period. The majority of the area was planted during the restoration of the sites in the late 1990s and early 2000s. However there are some older areas of shelterbelt, which were planted whilst the collieries were still active.
- The plan area contains no Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) or Plantation Ancient Woodland (PAWS).

3.0 Future Management

Of the 510.4 ha plan area:

3.1 Felling & Thinning

- We plan to thin and/or stripfell all of the sites over the next five years; one site per year (Ollerton East & West will be worked at the same time).
- The clear-fell and restock element of the Forest Plan will amount to 15.3 ha over the next 10 years. Restocking will be achieved by planting or regeneration with Broadleaves; other than a few smaller areas which will be allowed to become transitional open space.
- The majority of the clearfell and restock is on the top of Silverhill. This will form a transition to broadleaf trees. These will have a lower height than the surrounding Corsican pine and will allow the widespread views from the top of Silverhill to be maintained, without removing large areas of woodland. This is covered in more detail in Sections 3.2 & 3.6.
- Throughout the plan all compartments will be thinned on a five year rotation totalling 595.6ha. In some areas this will be a thinning biased towards achieving volume whilst in others it will be biased towards the crown, improving canopy structure. In some places thinning will be used to open up edges to allow the rest of the trees to become more wind firm. This will improve the quality of existing trees whilst opening up canopy gaps for succession of understory trees or for us to undertake underplanting with alternative conifers or improve stability.

3.2 Natural Regeneration & Restocking

- Natural regeneration may be used in some areas instead of restocking/planting. If suitable regeneration is not achieved by year five; beat up, supplementary planting or full restocking with appropriate species will be implemented as appropriate to ensure woodland cover is restored. As felling is happening in stages across the sites and the sites

are very similar, it will be possible to use the results of regeneration in previous felling coupes to influence whether supplementary planting or complete restocking is required from the outset in future nearby coupes.

- The clearfell areas on top of Silverhill will be converted to Broadleaf over the next 20 years. These will be managed as scrub or as productive birch areas. The productive areas further down the slope have less impact on the views at the top. These will be planted with Silver Birch and allowed to reach full height. The clearfells towards the top of the slope will be allowed to regenerate naturally or will be supplementary planted with birch, alder, hawthorn or other broadleaf species that can be managed at a low height. We envisage these areas being managed by volunteers or a contractor who specialises in birch respacing almost on a coppice rotation. This will keep the top heights of the trees low and maintain the views from the top of the slope.
- The proportion of Broadleaf will increase slightly from 23.2% in 2018 to 24.3% in 2068.
- Underplanting and species choice will follow establish practice within the Forest Plan area and methods used in other forests. For further information see the Forestry Commission Successful Underplanting Guidance listed in Section 8.

3.3 Environmental

3.31 Retentions

- 18ha of trees have been identified for Long Term Retention. Some of these areas are either uneconomic to manage due to steep slopes and poor quality, or are parts of the original pit screening and shelterbelts and are of a different age to the rest of the site. Other areas are edge trees it was deemed preferable to retain after the trees around them have been felled.
- Deadwood will be retained where appropriate, working towards the Forestry Commission's policy on retention and creation; which is set out in the Forestry Commission's Practice Guide – Managing deadwood in forests and woodlands. One way of achieving this would be leaving brash on site from felling, thinning and coppicing operations as well as retention of trees of special interest (TSIs), including veteran trees.

3.32 Biodiversity

- The Forestry Commission maintains records on biodiversity and these are consulted at the operational planning stage. Important species will be highlighted and protected as part of this. We also welcome records from organisations and groups that can help us improve our understanding of biodiversity within our woodlands.
- The Forestry Commission has its own rigorous policies and standards in addition to the United Kingdom Forest Standard (UKFS); to which management and operations within these woods will adhere.
- Open space on the South East edge of Bevercotes will be seeded to create wildflower meadows. There is already a rich variety of plant species on other sites but other less diverse areas will be considered for wildflower seeding.
- The plan area exceeds the UKFS 10% open space targets, by currently having 41.2% open space.

3.33 Invasive Species

- A number of invasive species are present of the sites and these are detailed in Section 1.73.
- The FC will continue to actively manage these through the work of the ecology team, community rangers and volunteers.

3.34 Designations

- Any management in the SSSI area at Shirebrook will be in line with the SSSI management plan and in consultation with Natural England.

3.4 Social

3.41 Social & Recreation

- The sites remain popular with walkers, dog walkers & horse riders; as well as the clubs and groups which run activities and events within the woods. We currently feel the level of recreation provision within the woods is appropriate for the level of demand, but we will continue to review this as part of our ongoing management.
- We appreciate the real benefits the Community Rangers and volunteers bring to the sites and are keen for this to continue.
- Anti-Social behaviour continues to be an issue on these sites. We will continue to work with partner organisations such as the police and councils to identify solutions and implement them, where it is practical to do so and they are likely to be successful. We encourage members of the public to report Anti-Social behaviour to the police (on their non-emergency number unless it's an emergency) as it helps the police understand the scale of the problems and allocate resources.
- We will continue to promote access where possible; as well as actively engaging and encouraging local groups and individuals where there is mutual benefit from their involvement in these woods.

3.42 Pre-Consultation

- Community Groups and Volunteers were consulted at an early stage in the plan process and got the chance to comment on draft felling maps. Some of their comments included the creation of viewpoints at Shirebrook & Ollerton and the thinning of trees around paths at Shirebrook and Silverhill. These ideas have been incorporated into the plans. It is hoped some of this work can be carried out by the volunteers themselves.

3.5 Archaeology and Heritage

- There are currently no known heritage features within the plan area. This is due to the fact that the sites were created on reclaimed ground.
- However the potential for heritage features will be considered at the operational planning stage. Specific protection or preservation strategies will be implemented if any features are identified, which may be adversely affected by operations.
- Heritage features and operations in their vicinity will be managed in line with Forestry Commission and UKFS policy. If there are any new finds of importance, the County Archaeologist will be informed.

3.6 Landscape

- All the sites are visible and sometimes dominant features in the local landscape. They have become typical of the local landscape character in their current form and future management will seek to enhance and preserve this status.
- From the surrounding landscape, views of the sites will remain mostly unchanged (with the exception of Silverhill, see below). Changes will be limited to very small scale creation of viewpoints and transition of species from Corsican Pine to Alternative Conifers. This will be achieved through continuous cover systems to prevent dramatic changes. Gradual

species changes will take place over time though thinning and under planting.

- Heavy thinning will be used through a single tree selection system to open up views or make trees surrounding paths less dense.
- Clearfell coupes within the woodland have been planned to avoid adjacent coupes being felled in similar felling periods. This should minimise internal landscape changes whilst allowing ongoing timber production.
- Small scale clearfells (mostly under 0.25ha) have been used to enhance or create views from the site of the surrounding landscape. These will be managed as scrub/edge habitat areas keeping tree cover low enough and sparse enough to keep the views open. A good example of this is the small clearfell on Oxclose which will maintain views from the view wall.
- On the top and side slopes of Silverhill, clearfells will be used to convert these areas from Corsican Pine to Silver Birch and scrub. Although this will create a short term change to external views of Silverhill, we expect the following broadleaf management to be relatively stable. This has been planned only on the sides where key views from the top of Silverhill exist. The broadleaves will have a lower height than the Corsican Pine, meaning the views from the top of Silverhill for visitors can be maintained without having to remove large areas of trees from the site. The choice of Silver Birch was made for Silverhill as much for the fact that it fits with the management objectives as well as its name and bark fitting intrinsically with the name of the site.

3.7 Other Management

3.71 Roads and Civil Engineering

- Roads on all six sites will require upgrades to roads and infrastructure to allow timber to be extracted from the sites. These could include resurfacing, upgrades of bridges and drainage, alterations to gates, construction of turning bays and reprofiling of roads to reduce/improve the steepness of any inclines or sharpness of any corners.
- Other upgrades may be needed to enable access for harvesting machinery and timber lorries.
- On Silverhill it is proposed to construct a number of forwarder tracks. These will be of rough stone and will provide access into the middle of the site for harvesting machines. These tracks will reduce ground damage and minimise impacts to the site.
- Bevercotes will have a new entrance constructed, this will follow existing tracks and tarmac through the old pit yard and onto the western edge of the site.
- The maps in section 7.9 show more detail on which roads/tracks we plan to upgrade in the next few years. After upgrades and harvesting, the tracks will still form part of the network of walking routes for visitors.

3.72 General Management

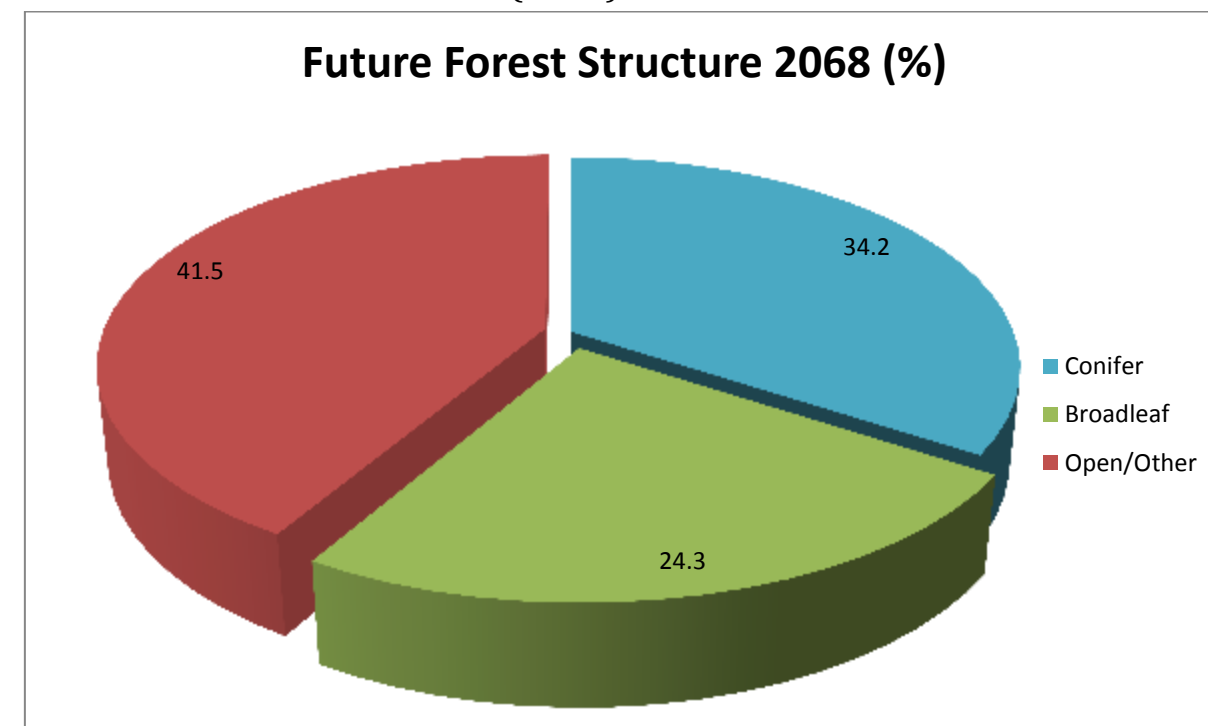
- Up to 174ha will be underplanted over the next ten years. This will be under thinned conifer crops and will be conifer, or a mixture of conifer and broadleaves. Additional areas for underplanting may be identified during the plan period.
- The amount of open ground within the Forest Plan will increase slightly from 39.5% (201.5ha) to 41.2% (210.4ha). The large proportion of open space is due to the amount of designed open space in the original site planning. The increase is a result of creating and changing landscape viewpoints. Most of it will be allowed to regenerate with scrub

and then be maintained as transitional open space/ edge habitat. At 41.2%, the amount of open space greatly exceeds the 10% UKFS (UK Forest Standard) target.

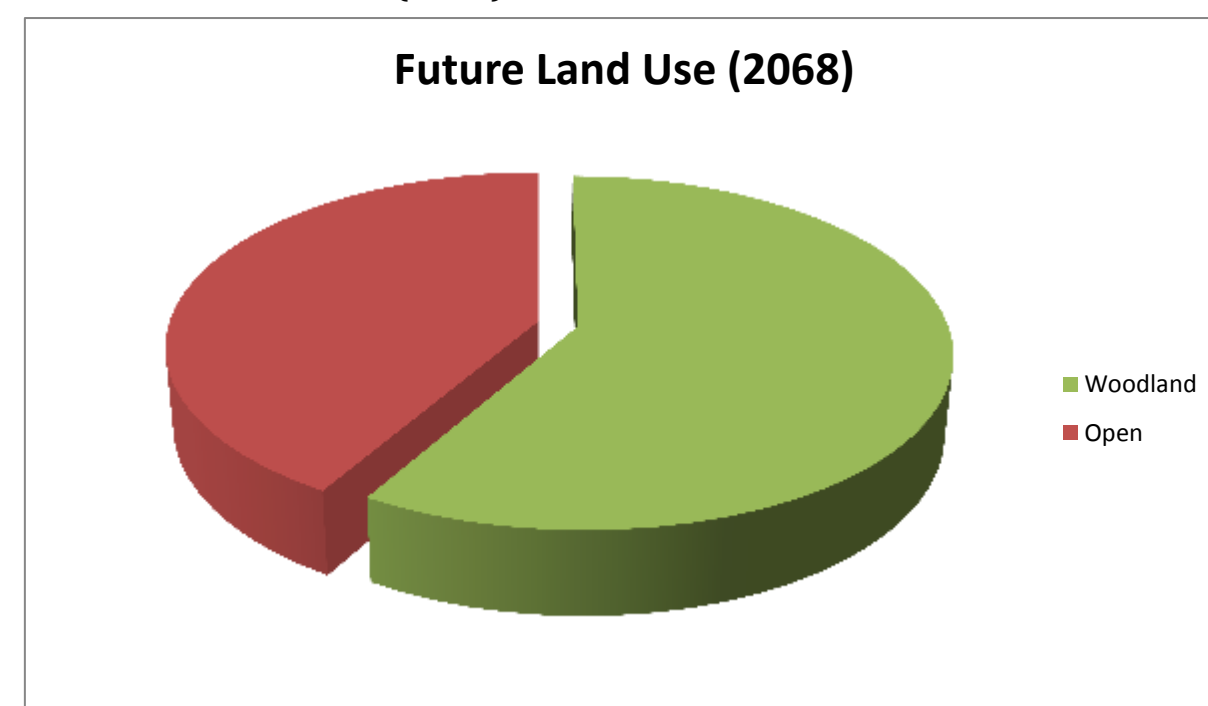
- The trees/vegetation around ponds will be cleared; if needed to maintain their condition.
- The woodlands will be managed using a variety of silvicultural systems to allow for the production of commercial conifer and broadleaved species. All forest operations will be carried out in accordance with current best practice and will be assessed at the Operational Planning stage. Operations comply with UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS), UK Forest Standard (UKFS) and Forest District Strategic Plan to ensure that the woodlands are managed sustainably.
- 3.81, 3.82 & 3.83 show a breakdown of future forest structure:

3.8 Future Structure and Land Use

3.81 - Future Forest Structure (2068)



3.82 - Future Land Use (2068)



3.83 – Future Species (as of 2068)

Species	Area (ha)	Percentage of Total Area
Conifer		
Overstory Corsican Pine will remain in the short term. This will be succeeded in underplanted areas with alternative conifers.		
Total Conifer	174.4	34.2%
Broadleaf		
The diverse broadleaf mix will continue. The clearfells on the top of Silverhill will be encouraged to regenerate or will be planted; with Silver Birch and species such as Field Maple, Hawthorn or other species that can be maintained at a low level.		
Total Broadleaf	124.2	24.3%
Total Open	210.4	41.2%
Other	1.4	0.3%
Total Area	510.4ha	100%

The aim is to achieve restocking by a mixture of planting and natural regeneration as appropriate; because of this proportions of species have been estimated. On a coupe by coupe basis, the decision may be taken to opt for planting rather than natural regeneration, if that offers the most effective means of achieving the plan objectives. This gives us the flexibility to counter threats such as pests and diseases; as viable regeneration may not lead to canopy cover in the future or be possible on these reclaimed sites.

Section 7.7 Future Species suggests species making up the majority of each coupe based on the species that are currently dominant in each coupe and management proposals such as diversification.

4.0 Meeting and Monitoring Objectives

FEE National Goal	District Theme	Objective	Proposal	Methods of Monitoring
Economy	Timber Production	Set a direction of travel for a structured programme of thinning to achieve the maximum sustainable cut whilst focussing on crop improvement, sustainability and stability	Structured thinning program to start in 2018, this will be supplemented by targeted underplanting to maintain sustainable forests.	Monitored through SCDB, Ops 1 Process and 5 year mid-term Forest Plan review.
Economy	Timber Production	Select suitable species and appropriate Silvicultural techniques to regenerate commercially productive but more structurally and species diverse and resilient forests.	The timing and scale of future felling operations have been designed to create a resilient woodland structure. Alternative species and restock methods have been planned to covert the sites to a structurally and species diverse and resilient forest.	Monitored through SCDB, Ops 1 Process and 5 year mid-term Forest Plan review.
Economy	Roads & Civil Engineering	Highlight needs for infrastructure improvement over the 10 year plan.	Upgrades and road construction across all sites. These have recorded in the plan text and mapped in Section 7.9	The Civil Engineering Team were involved in the scoping and planning of infrastructure for the plan. The will liaise with the beat team to ensure upgrades take place just in time for planned management.
Environment	SSSI	Ensure any management is sympathetic to neighbouring SSSI.	Any management close to the Sookholme SSSI will be in line with the SSSI Plan (if applicable) and in consultation with Natural England.	Monitored by Beat Team and Ecology Team through the operational planning process. Natural England will be invited to comment on Operational Plans that concern or are close to the SSSI.
Environment	Species & Habitat	Identify key species and habitats and make appropriate provision for their requirements.	Consider impacts on key species at operational planning stage. Use results of biological surveys to improve understanding and management.	Consultation with Environment and Heritage Team as part of the ops 1 process will help improve outcomes for biodiversity. New surveys will be reviewed and their results compared with existing data and used to improve management.
People	Landscape	Diversify species composition and structure, and plan sympathetically designed and appropriately scaled interventions to improve and maintain the visual integration of the pit tips into the wider landscape.	Structural changes are small scale and only where needed, the main changes being the restructuring at Silverhill to maintain the views from the miner statue.	Coupes will be planned at the operational stage by planning and beat teams to avoid unintended visual changes to the woodlands. Monitored through SCDB, Ops 1 Process and 5 year mid-term Forest Plan review.
People	Public Access	Recognise the location and scale of demand in making appropriate provision for public access, where there is open access woodland or public rights of way.	Current features will be maintained. New features to be added where appropriate.	Beat and RPA teams to monitor in line with operational objectives throughout the plan period.
People	Social Integration	Facilitate aims of Community teams to conduct management that furthers the integration of the pit tip sites into local communities.	Community groups were consulted (see Section 3.4) and some of their ideas have been included in the plan.	The work of the Community Rangers, Volunteer Groups and Beat Team
People	Tenure	Use the Tenure section of the plan to clearly highlight our tenure and its limits on these sites.	Section 1.9 details our tenure and its limits.	Tenure and access will be managed by the Estates Team and Beat Team.

5.0 Economic forecast

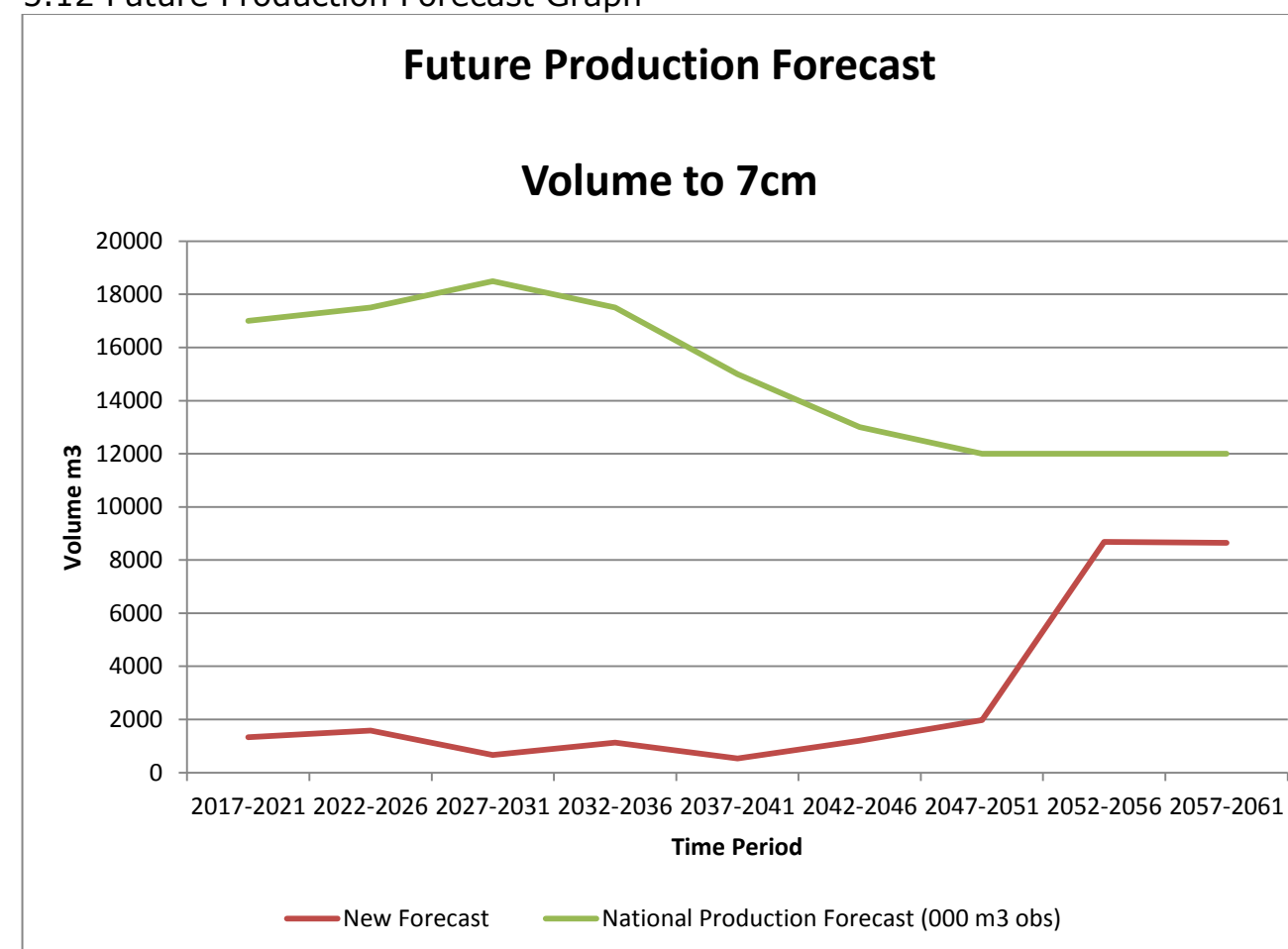
The woodland will continue to be managed sustainably as set out in previous and current objectives relating to Forest Standards. Section 5.11 shows the future production forecast which takes into account Silvicultural systems and felling years. The graph in section 5.12 compares the plans with forecast for timber production nationally.

5.11 – Future Production Forecast

	Forecast Period	All Species	All Conifers	All Broadleaves
Volume to 7cm	2017-2021	1326	979	348
	2022-2026	1586	1146	439
	2027-2031	662	517	145
	2032-2036	1129	833	296
	2037-2099	871	574	296

Note: values given are for m³ per year for each year of that period.

5.12 Future Production Forecast Graph



6. Consultation

6.1 Consultees

Derbyshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council

Natural England

Historic England

6.2 Non-Statutory Consultees

Ashfield District Council

Bassetlaw District Council

Bolsover District Council

Bothamsall Parish Council

D Pickard & Sons Ltd.

Mansfield District Council

Martin Robinson & Sons Timber Ltd.

Newark & Sherwood District Council

Ollerton & Boughton Town Council

Shirebrook Town Council

Tilhill Forestry

Warsop Parish Council

West Drayton Parish Council



6.3 Consultation Process

All of the Forestry Commission's woodlands are assessed against the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and as a result, Forestry Commission woodlands now carry the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) stamp of approval.

As part of our commitment to this we undertake a public consultation process. Consultation is the process we use so that local people and relevant organisations and interest groups can be made aware that:

- New or revised management planning documentation is being produced.
- The woodland is being evaluated for certification.

As part of the Forest Plan process, community groups and volunteers who are active in the woods were consulted on our plans and their feedback has been incorporated (See Section 3.4)

The consultation process will last for a minimum of 30 days. It will include us directly contacting Statutory Consultees and other groups, neighbours or organisations; that we are aware of and that may have an interest in our management of the woodland (Non-Statutory Consultees).

Other interested parties will be directed via on site signage to Ollerton, Shirebrook, Skegby & Stanton Hill and Warsop Libraries where copies of the plan will be held. Consultation of the plan will also take place on the Citizenspace website. In woods where there are a relatively high number of visitors; we may also run onsite events to enable us to meet anyone who is interested in our plans or management proposals. These will be advertised by onsite signage.

Once the consultation is complete we will reply to any responses we receive. We shall then submit the plan for approval.

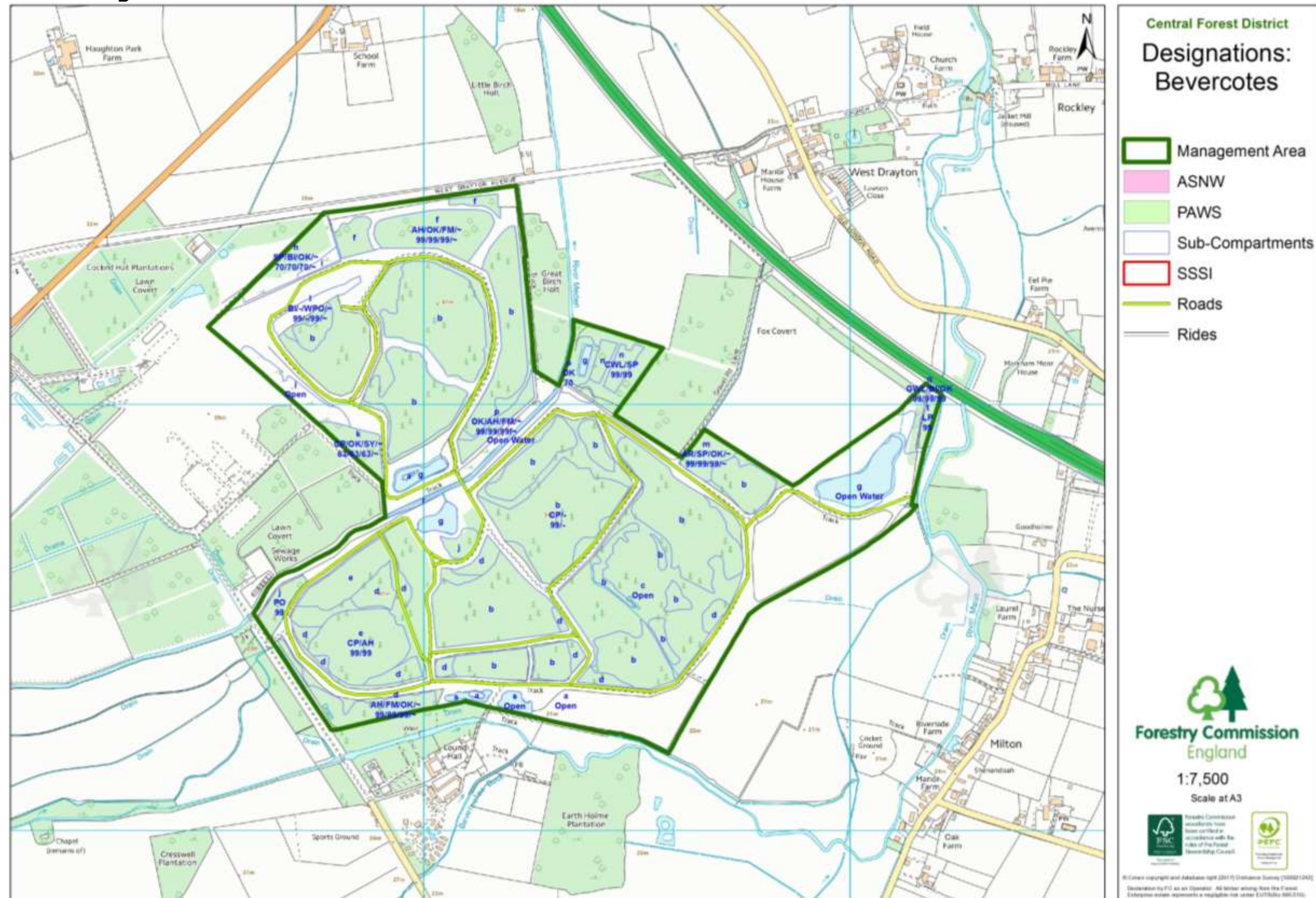
Further information on the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) can be found here: www.ukwas.org.uk

7. Maps

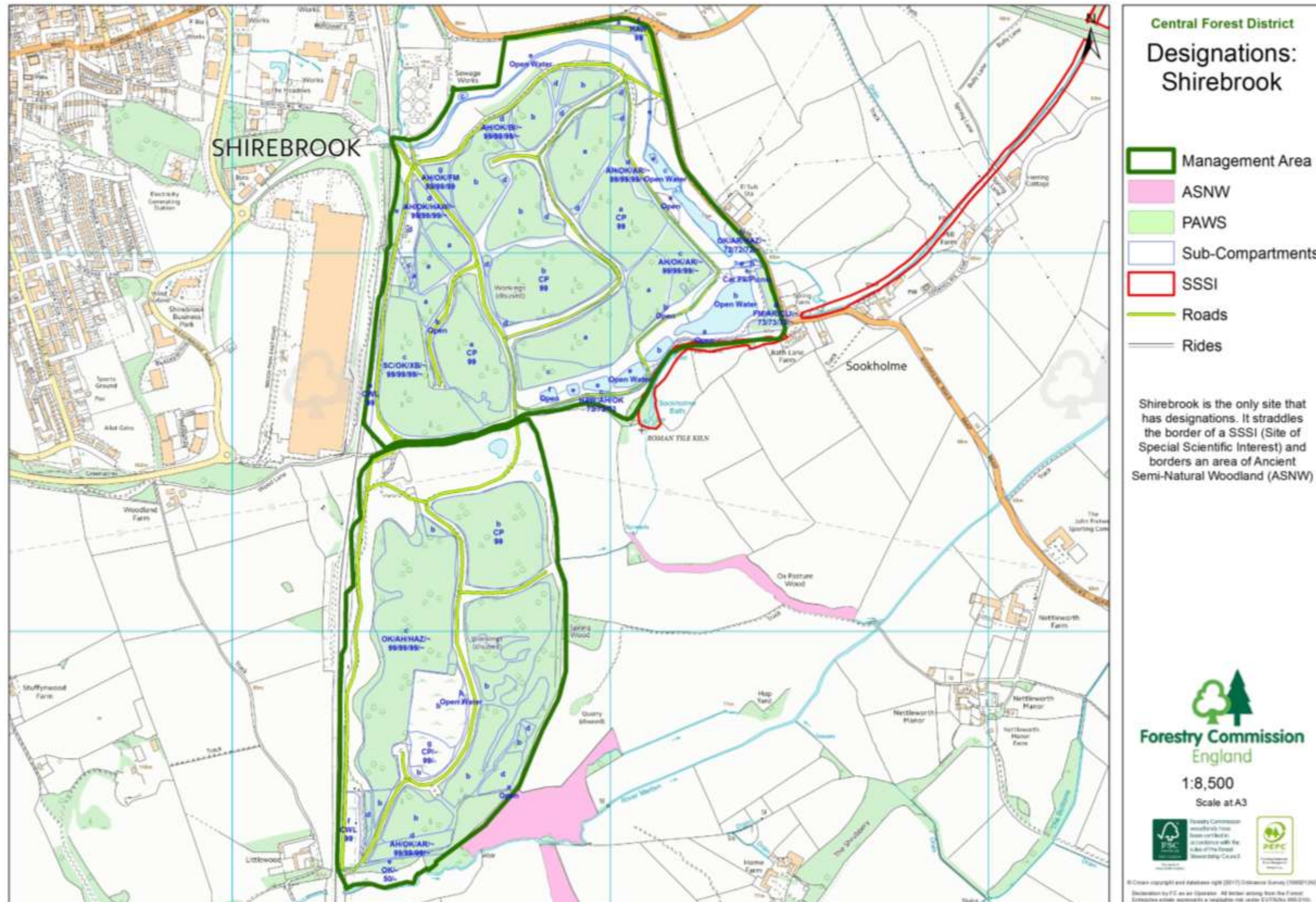
7.1 Location

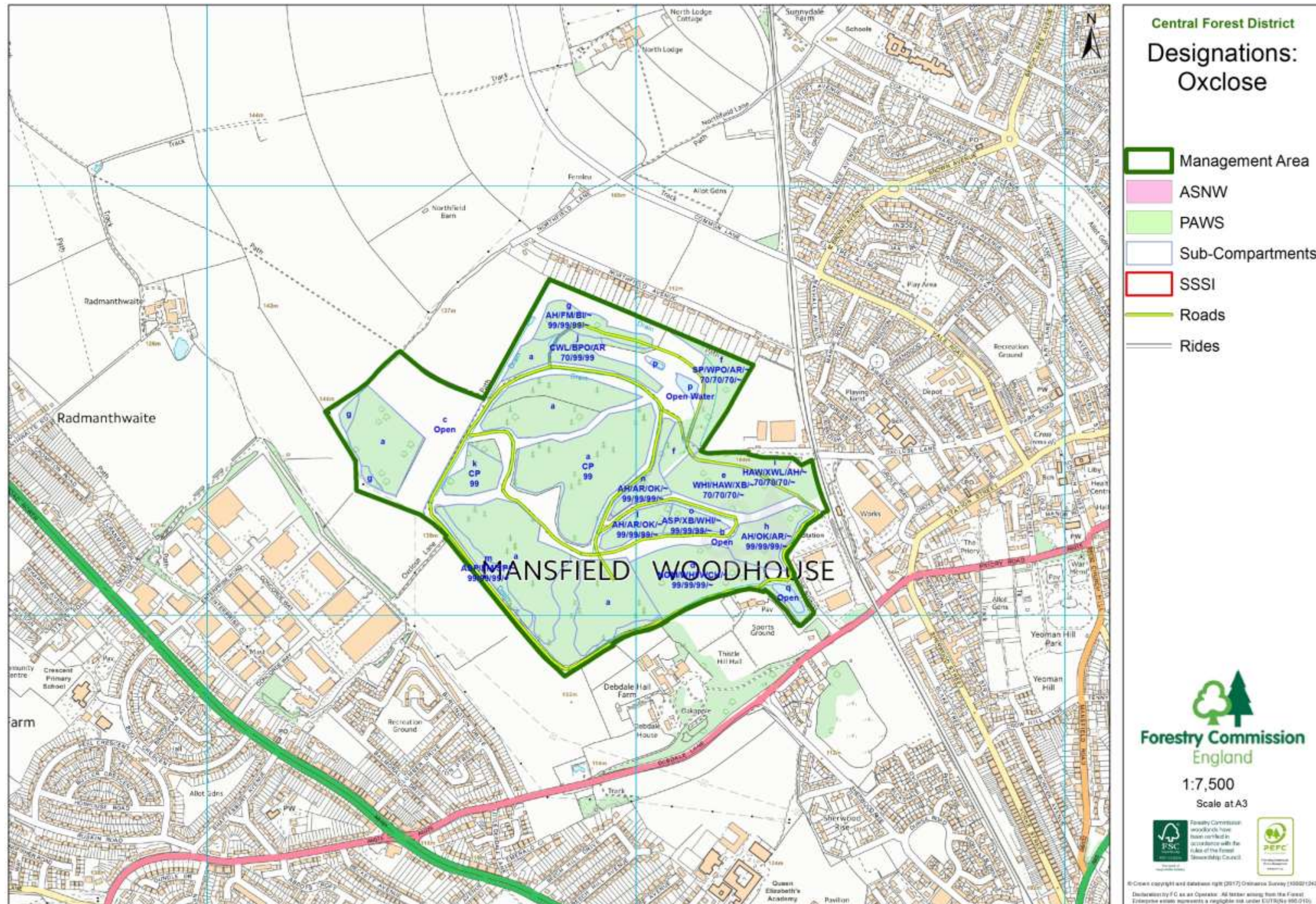


7.2 Designations



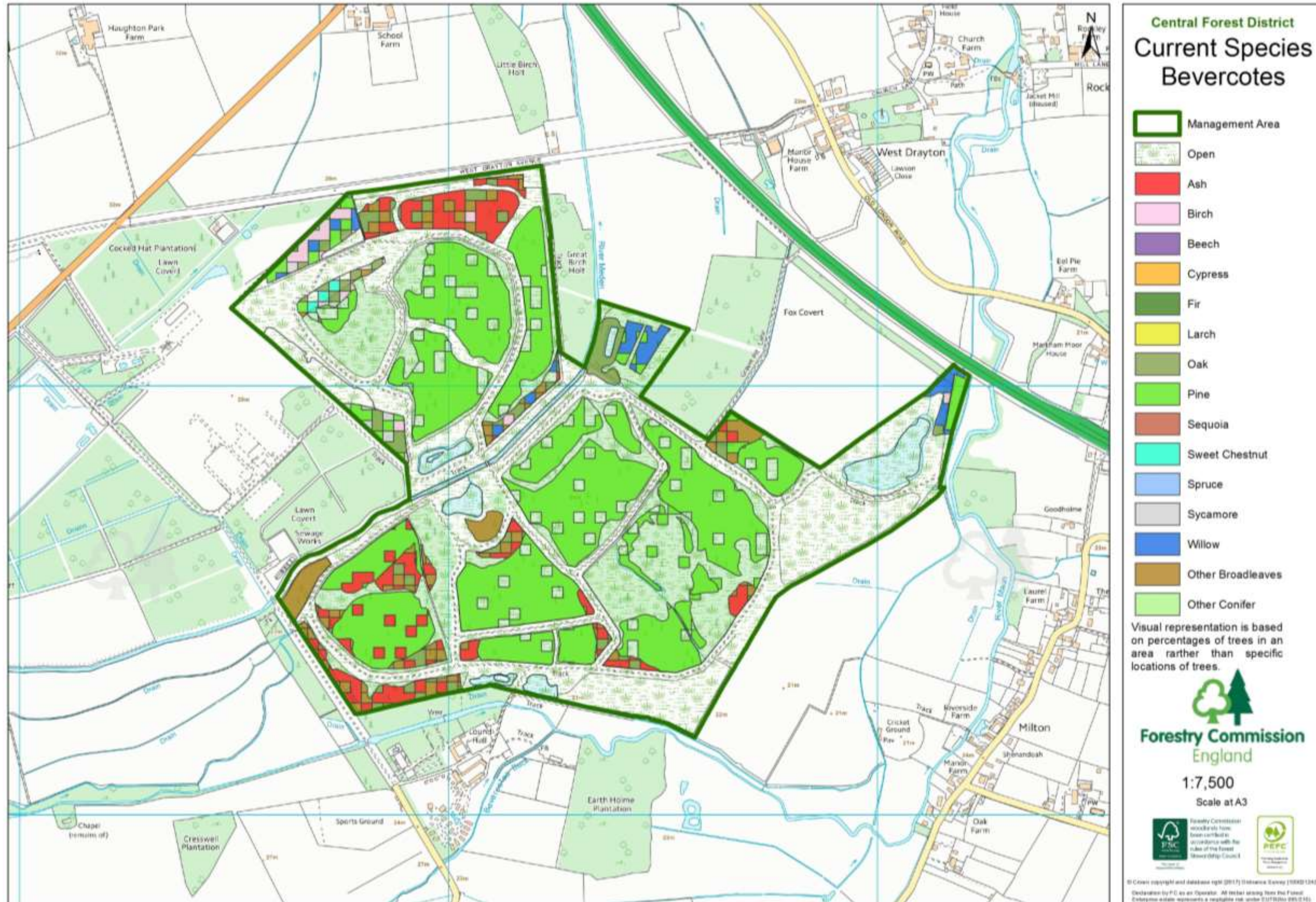


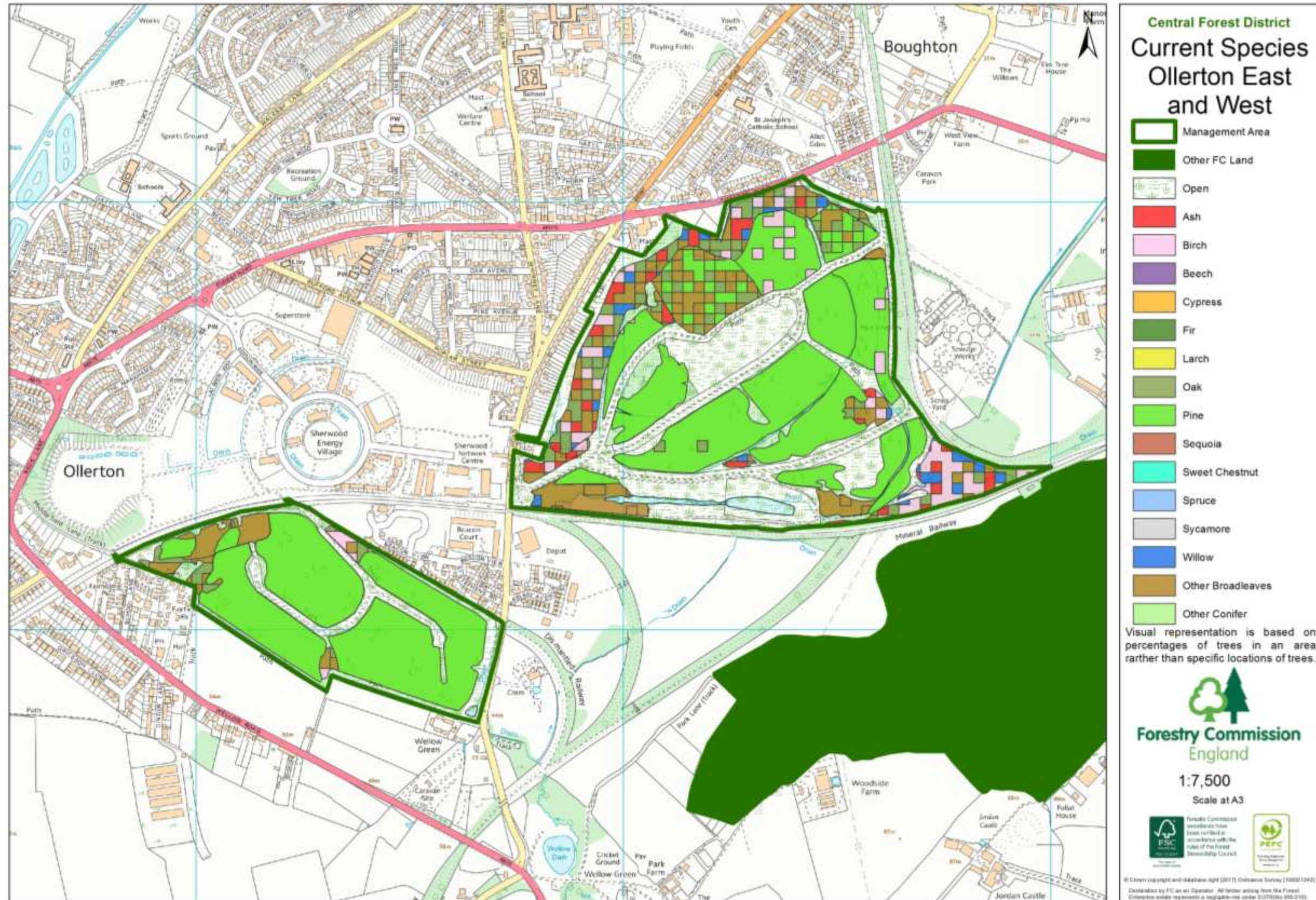


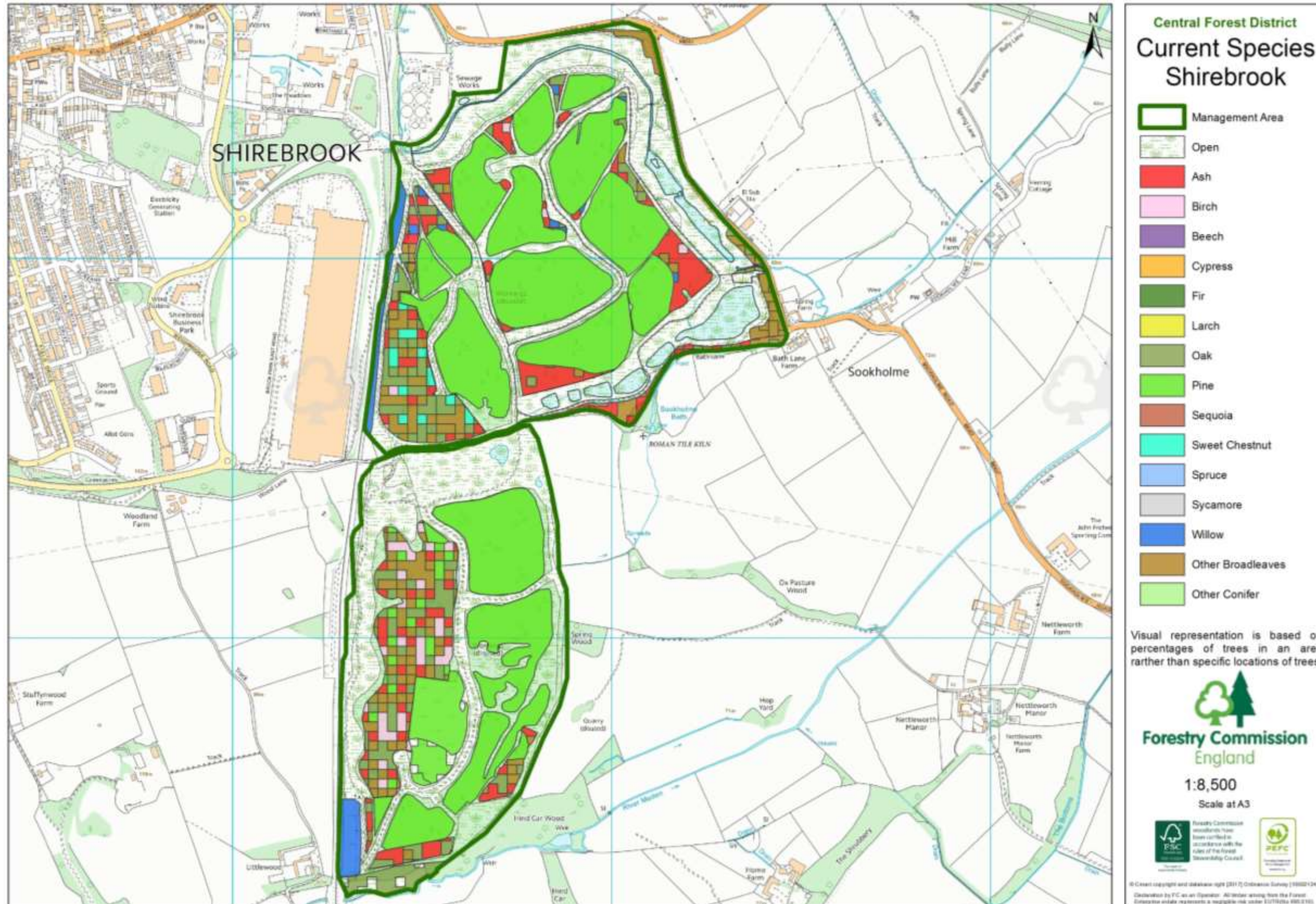


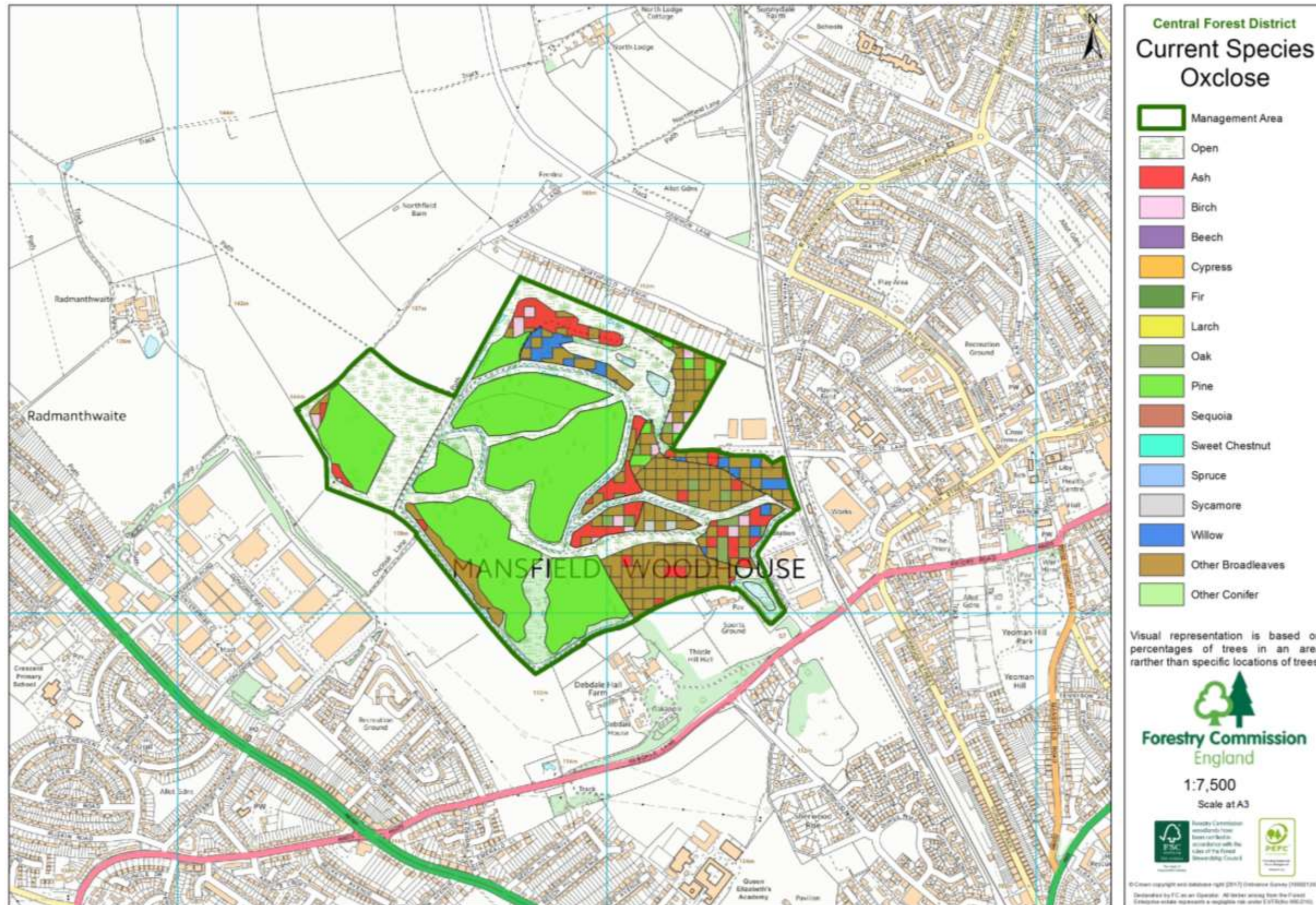


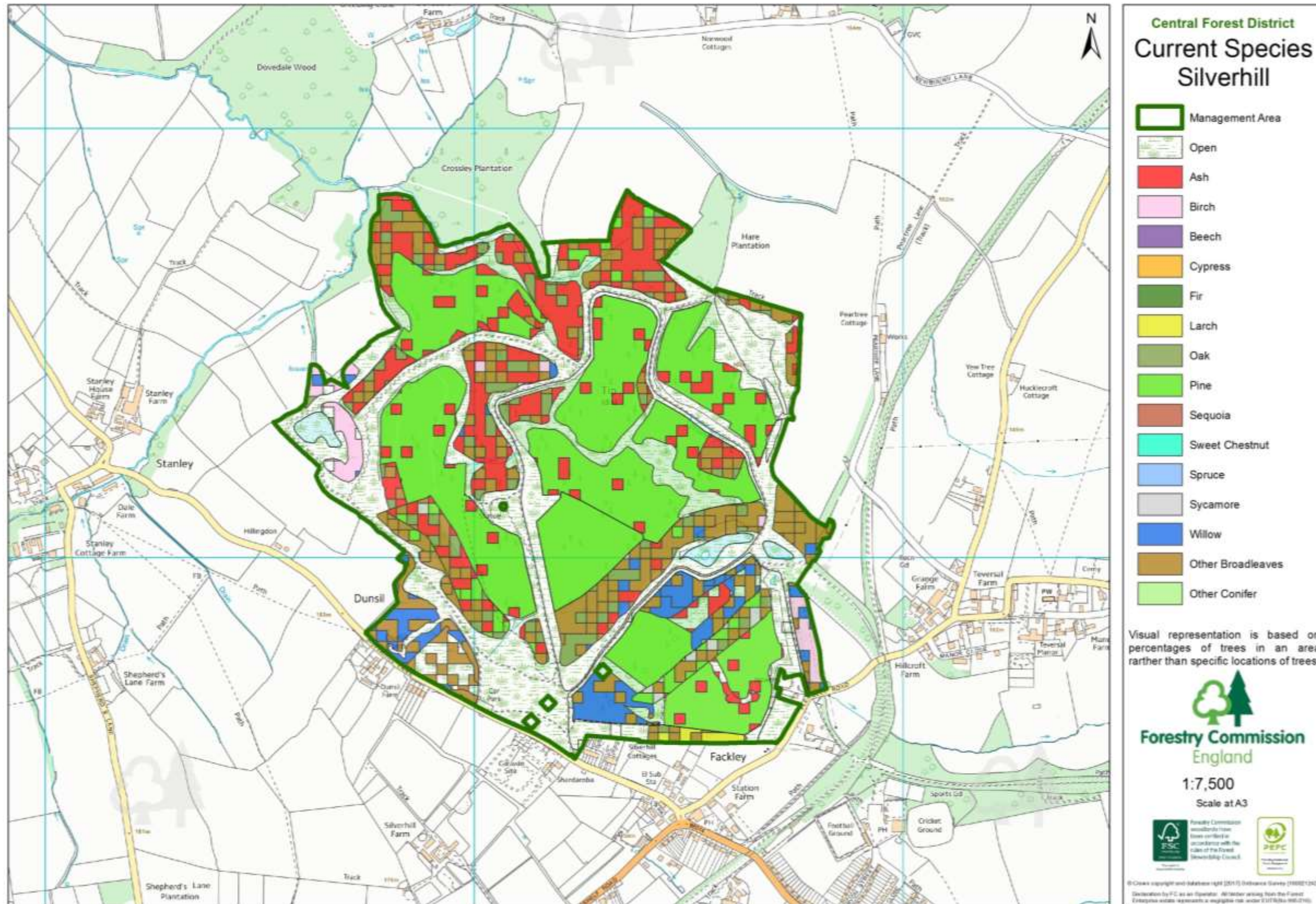
7.3 Current Species



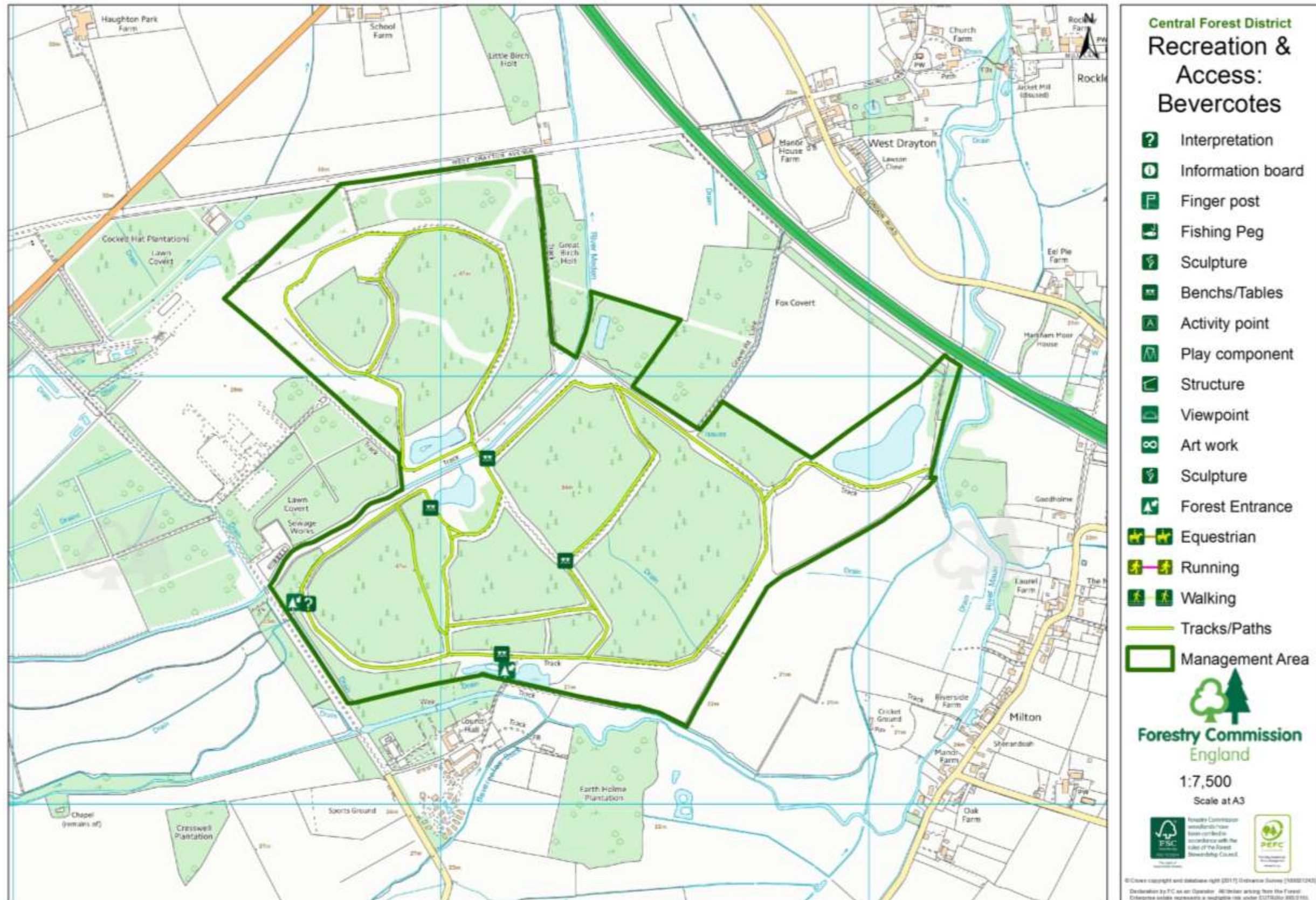


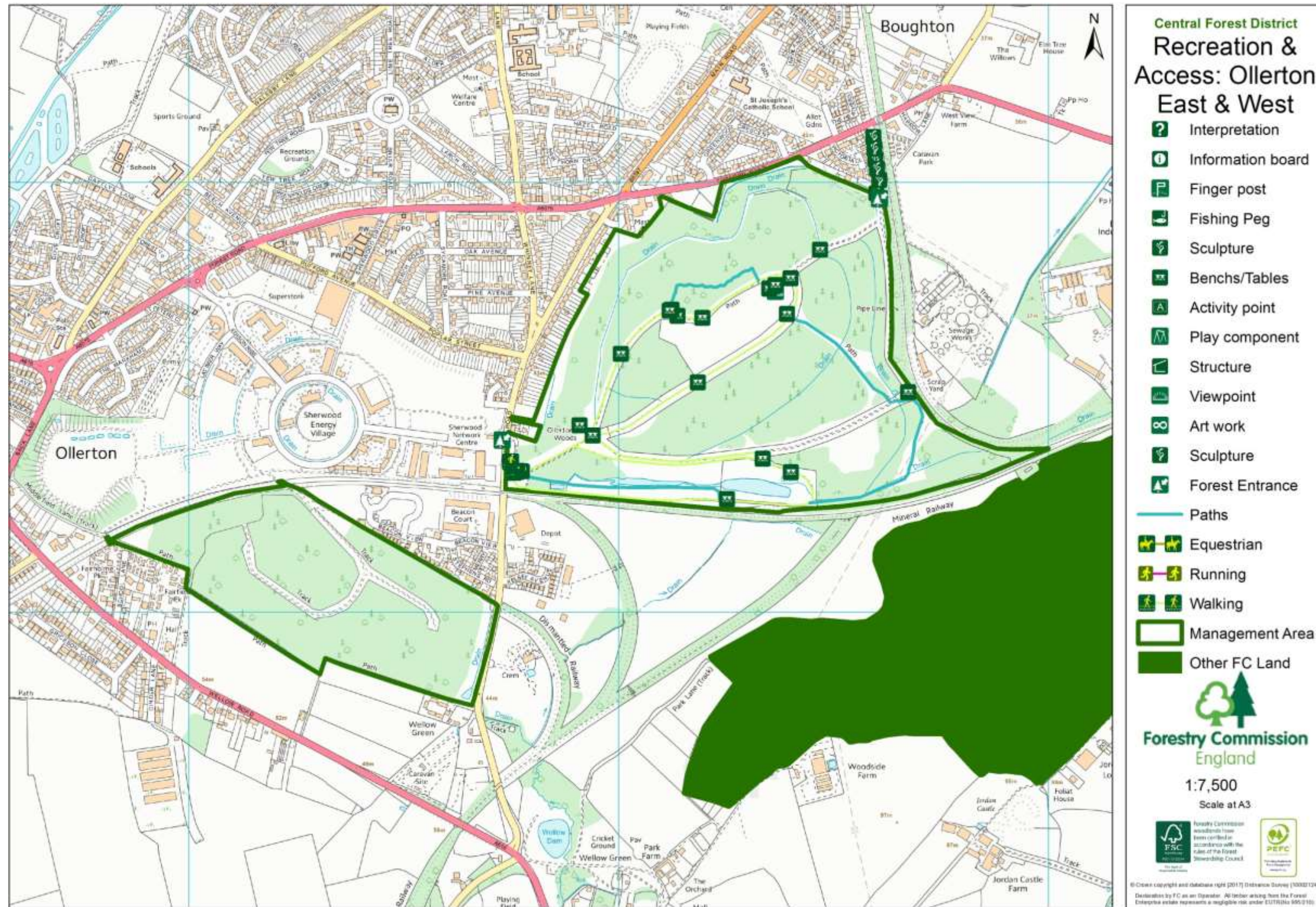


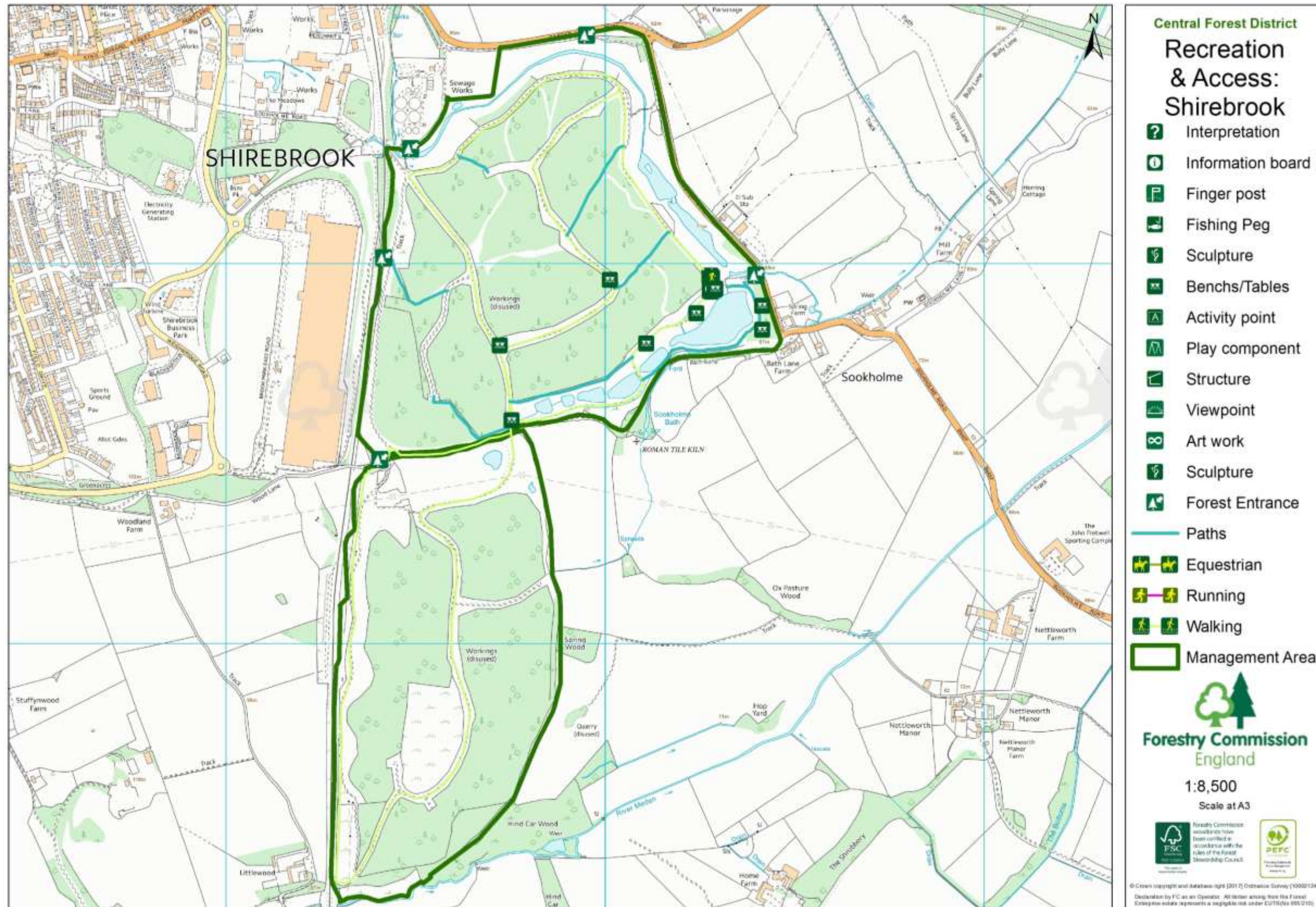


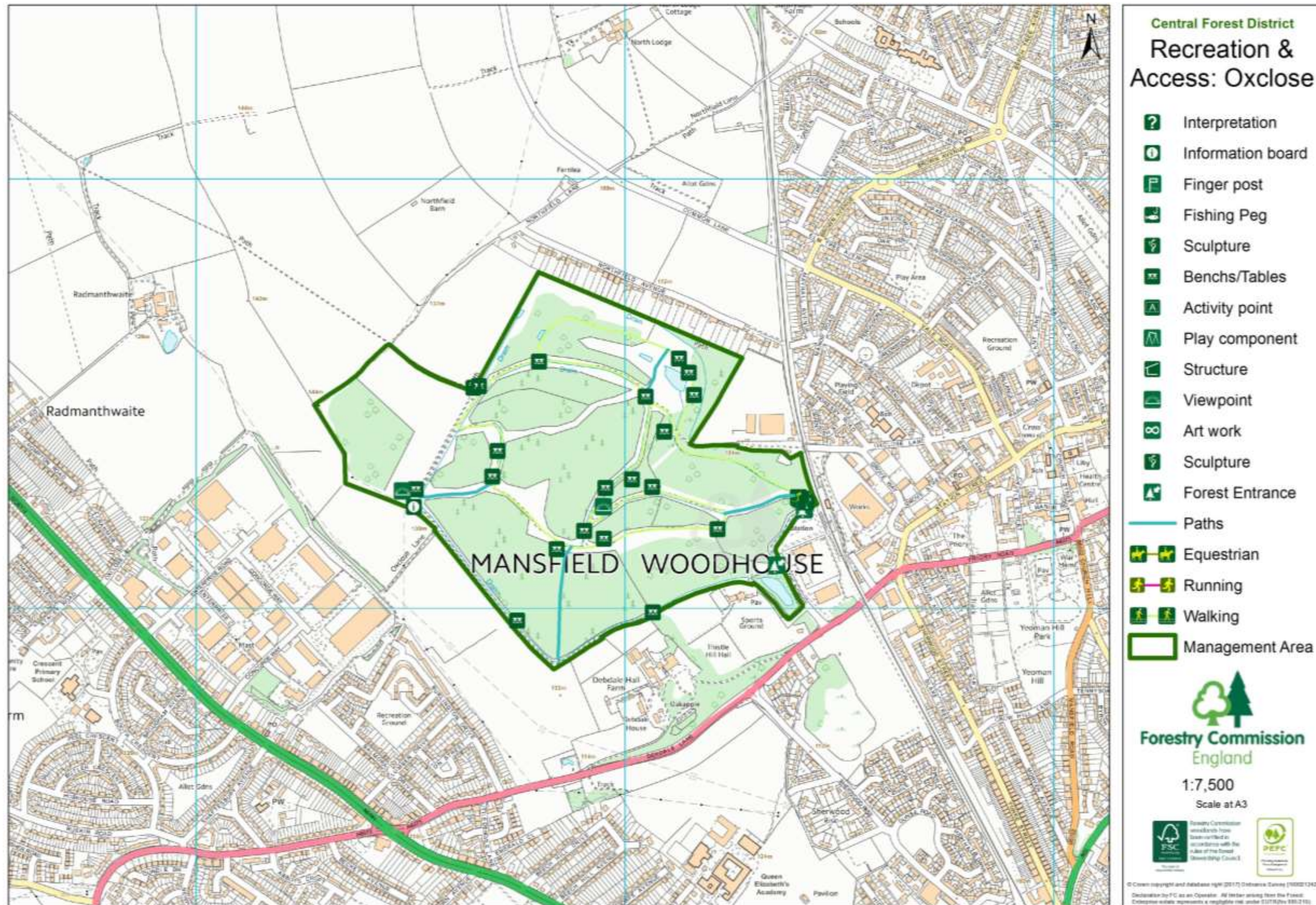


7.4 Recreation & Access



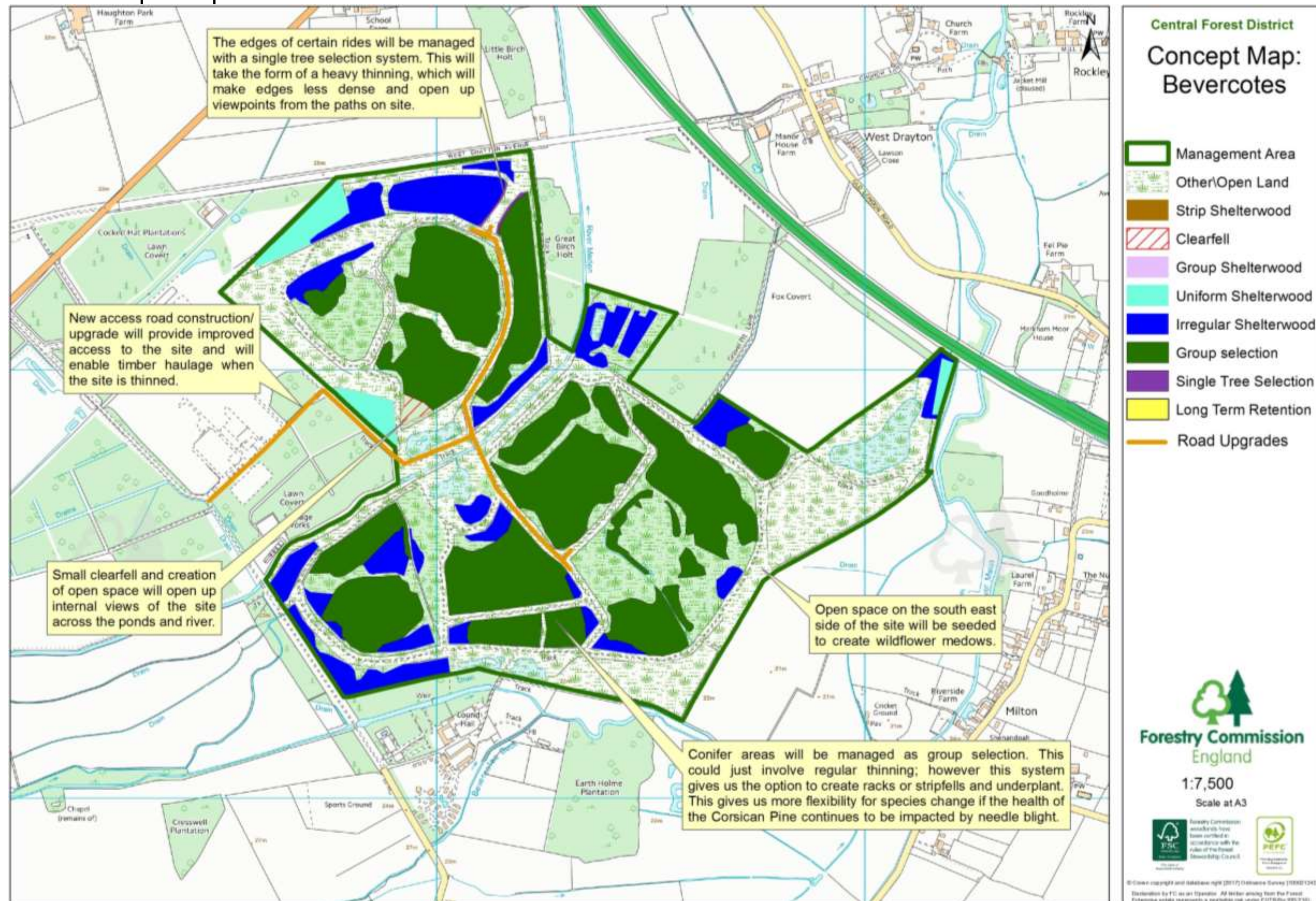


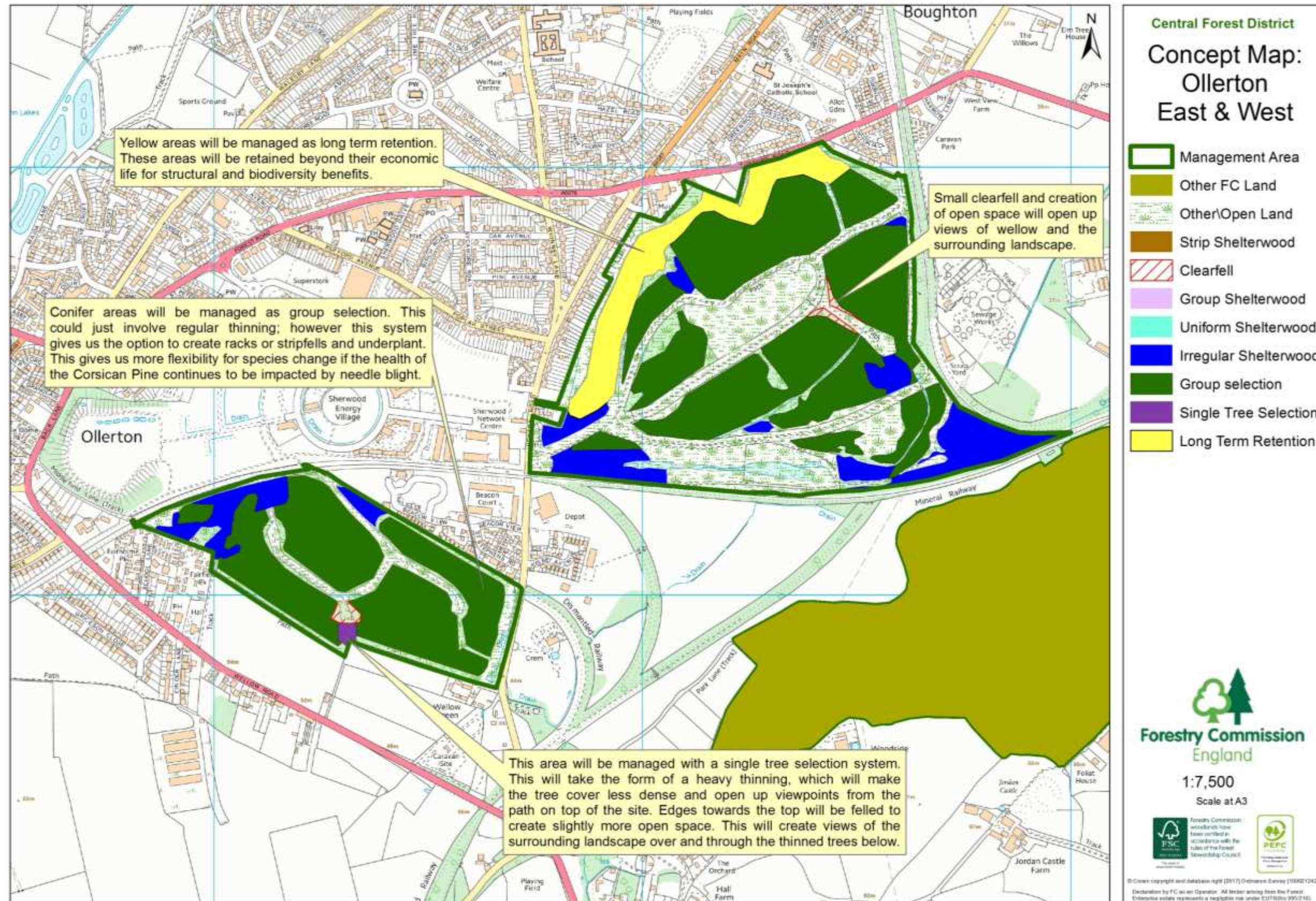


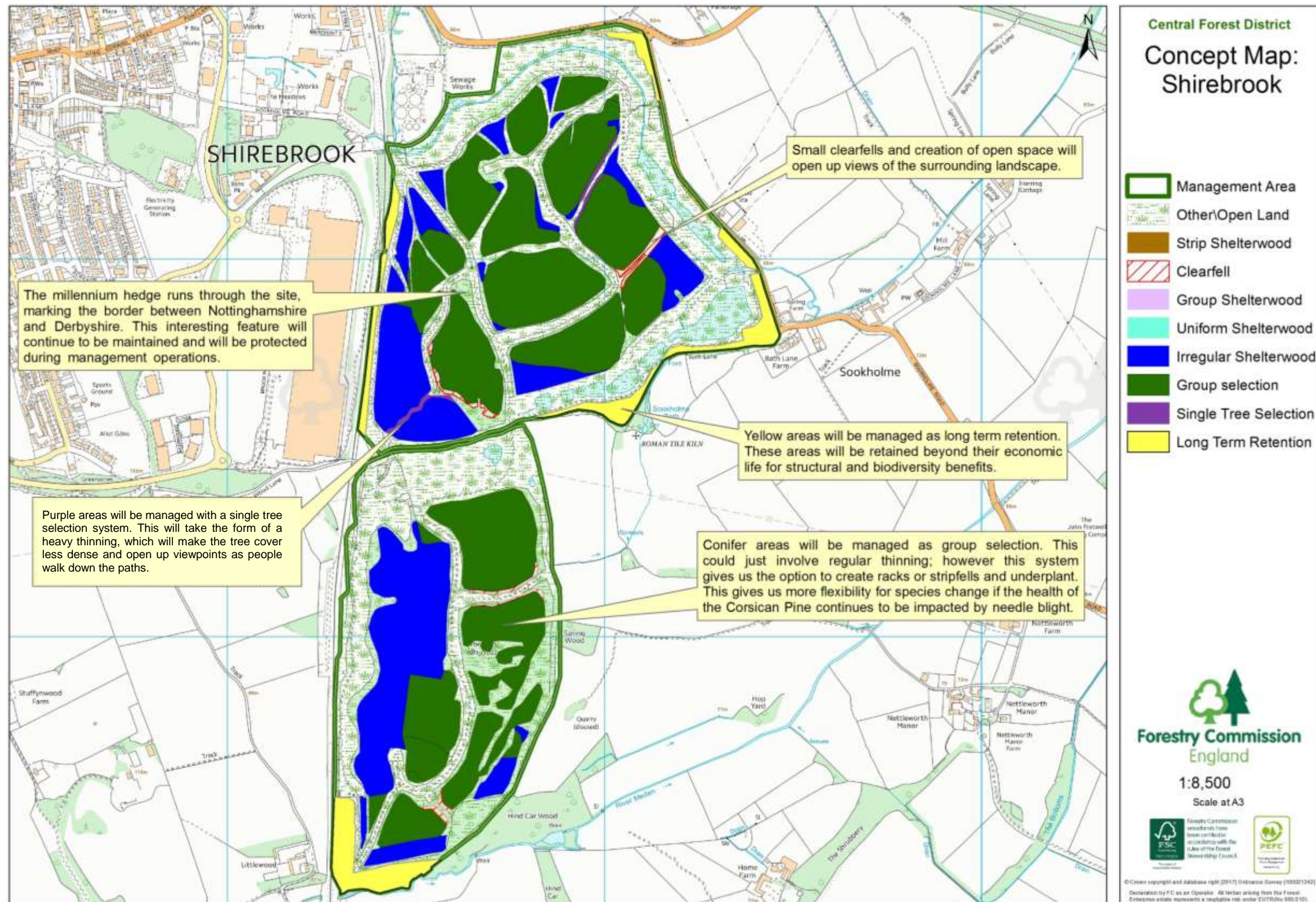




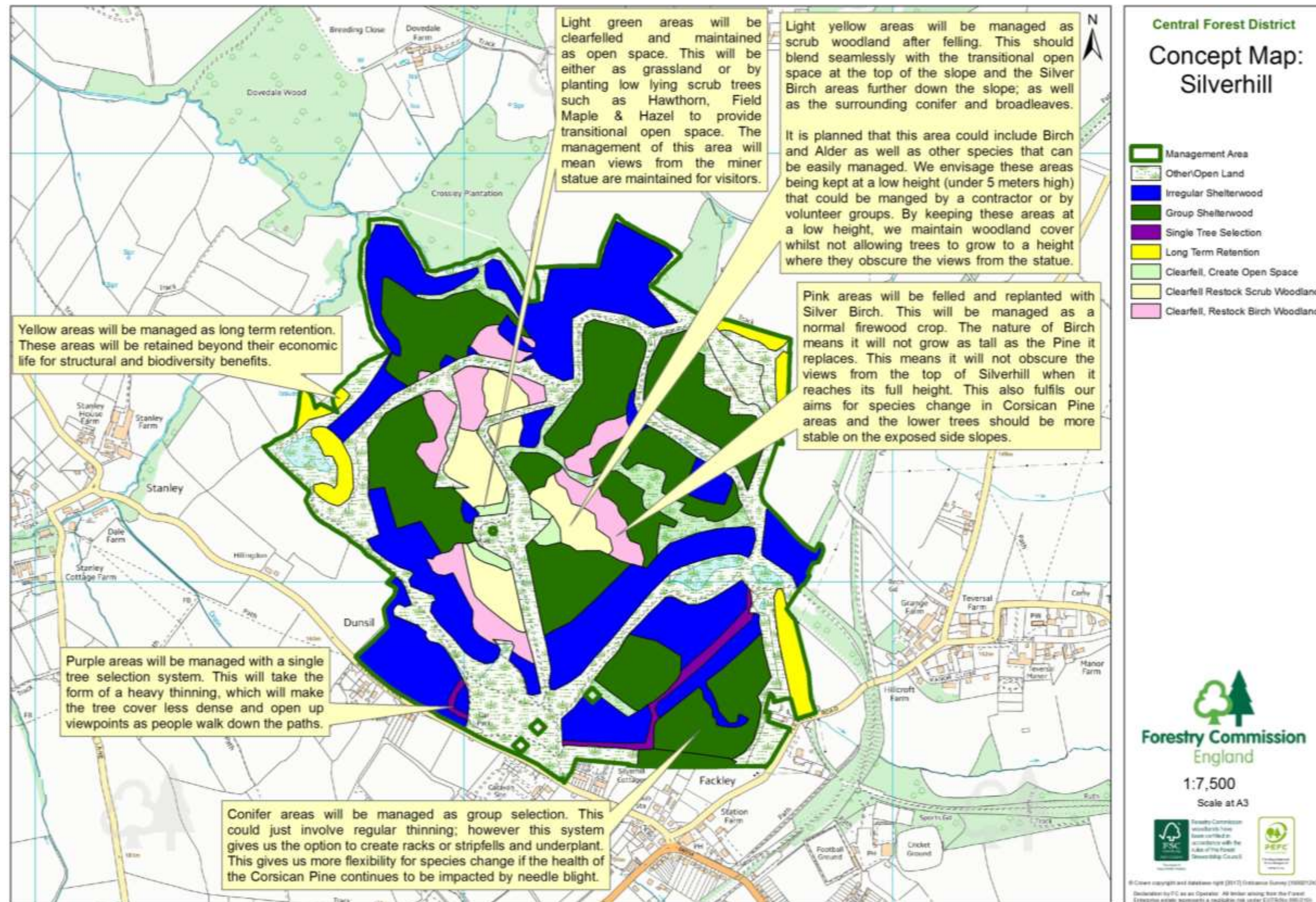
7.5 Concept Map



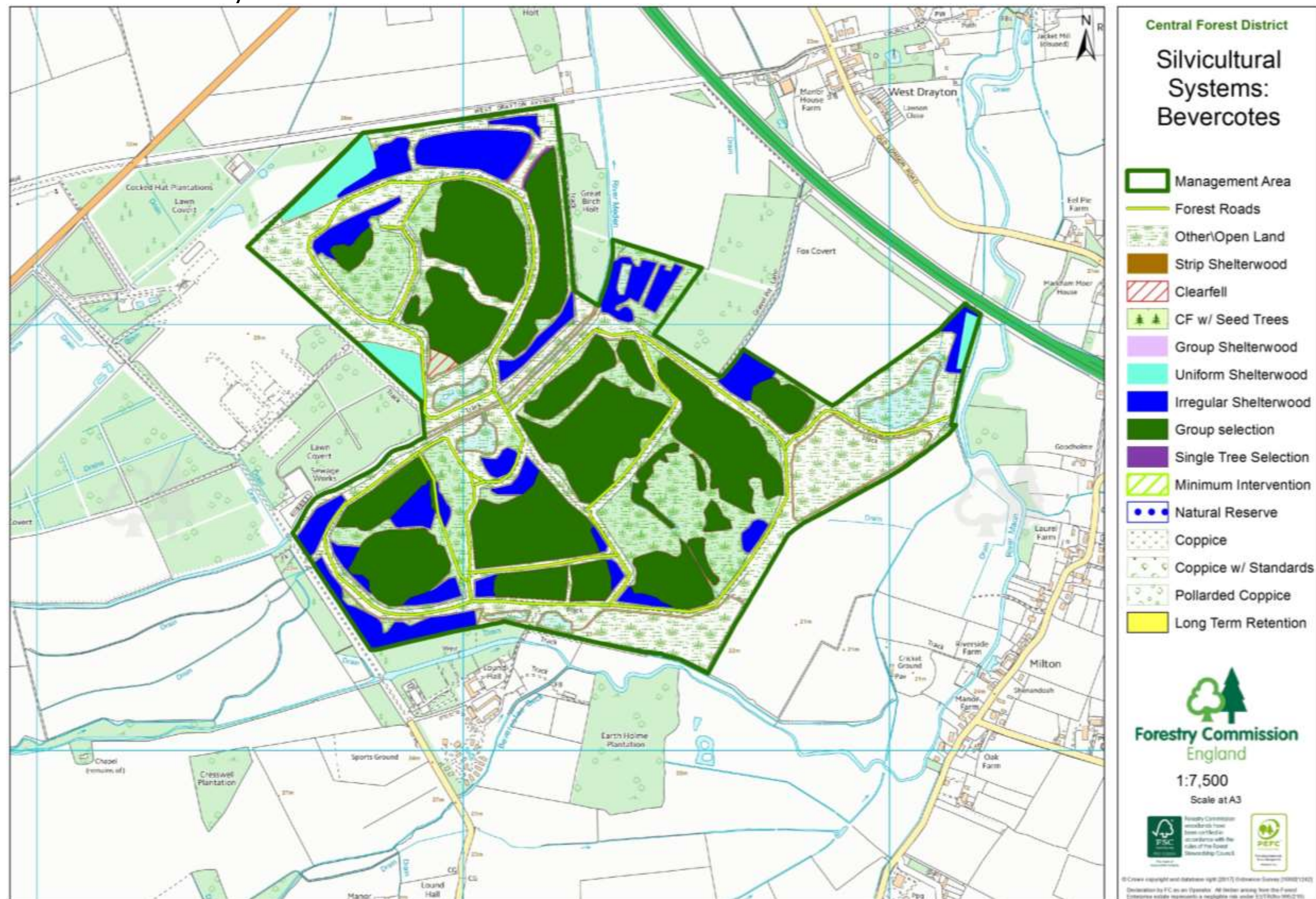


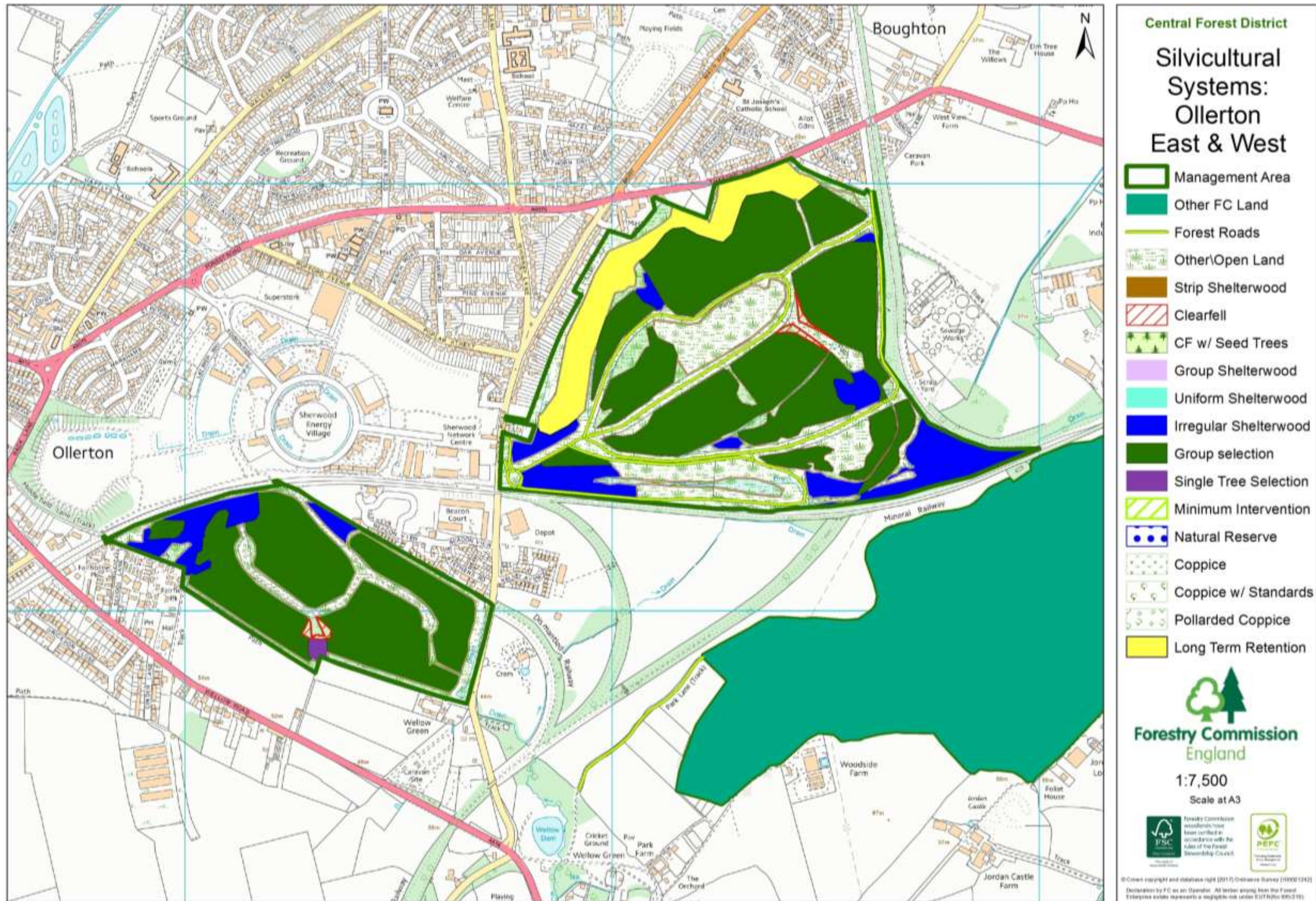


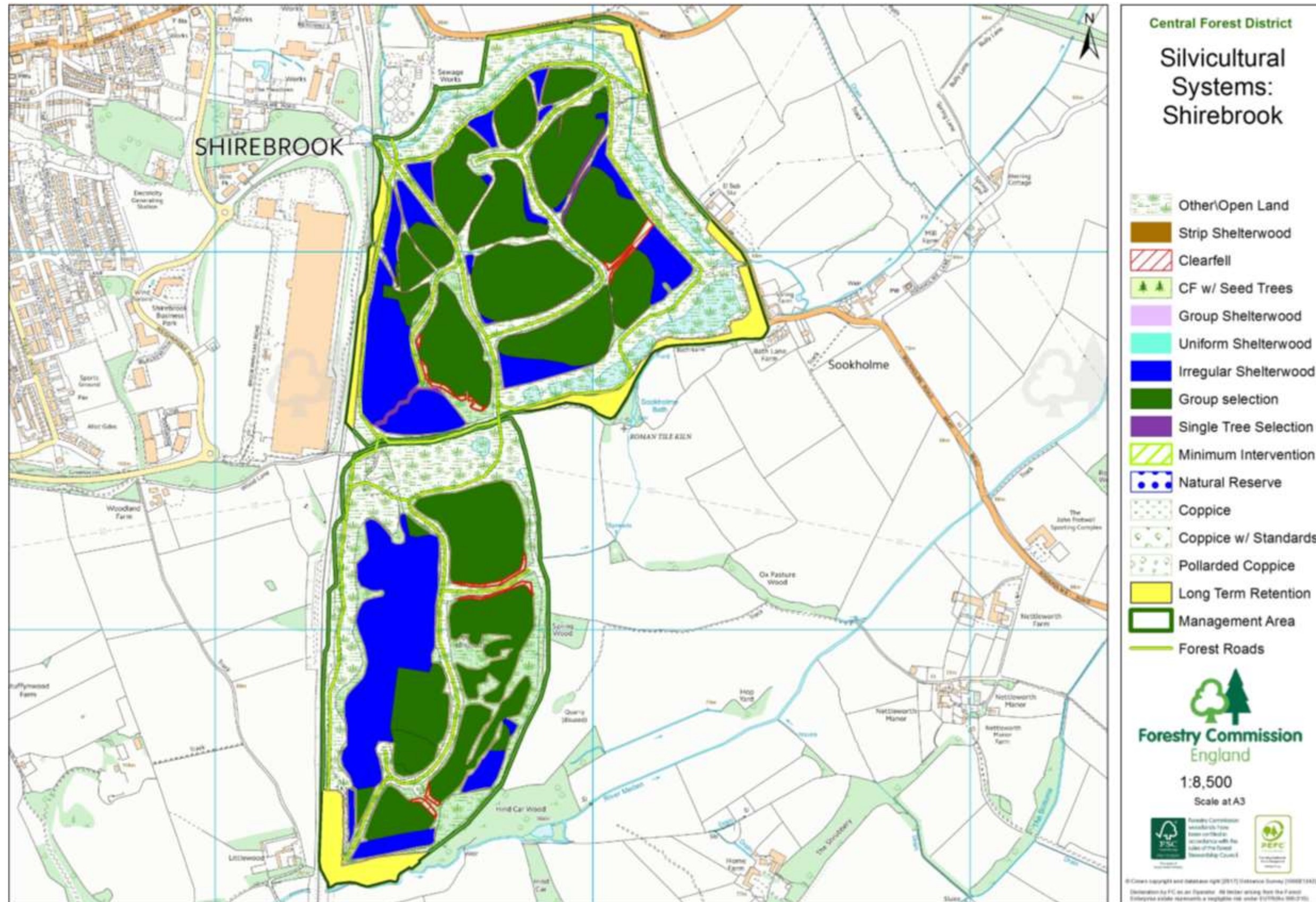


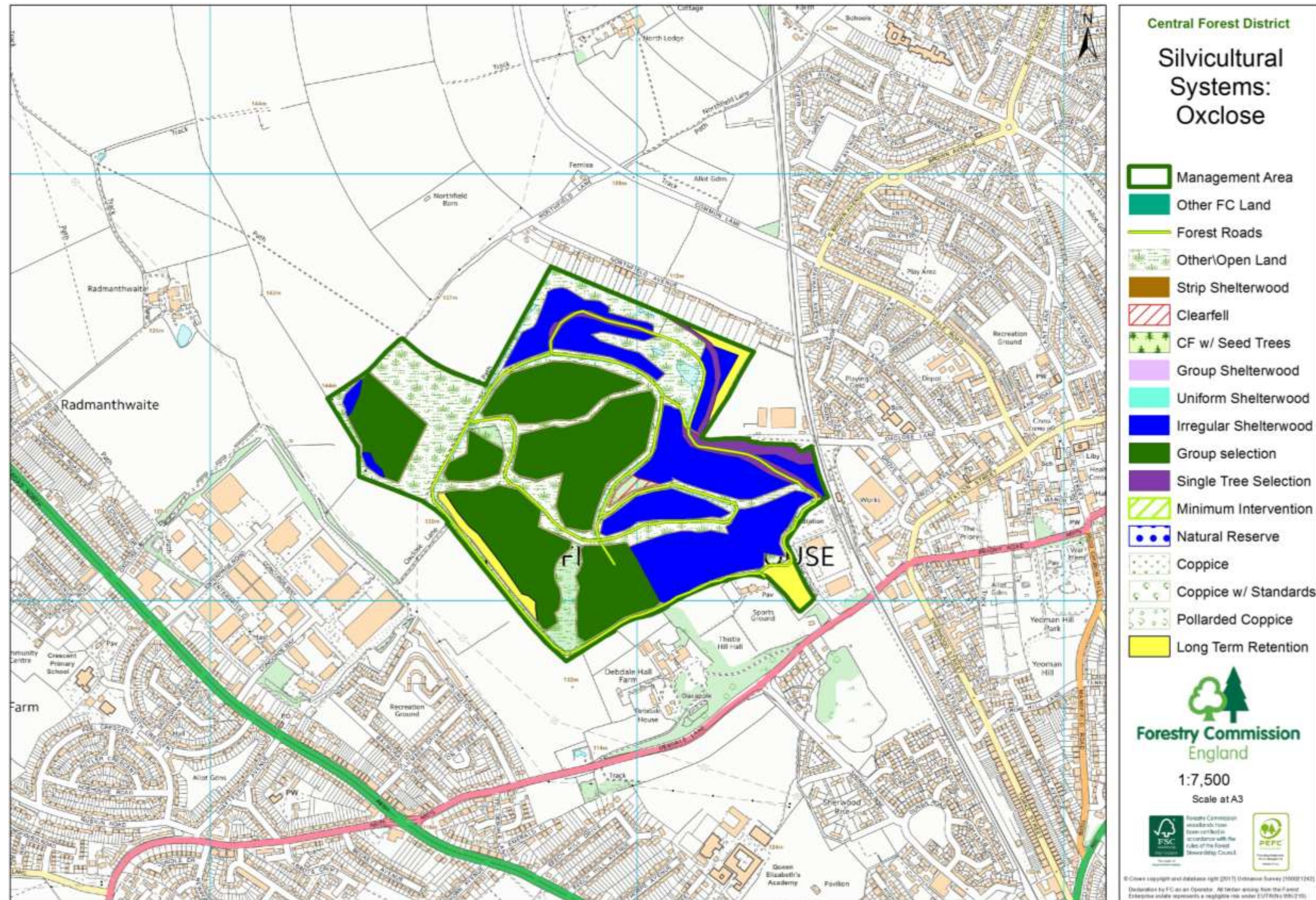


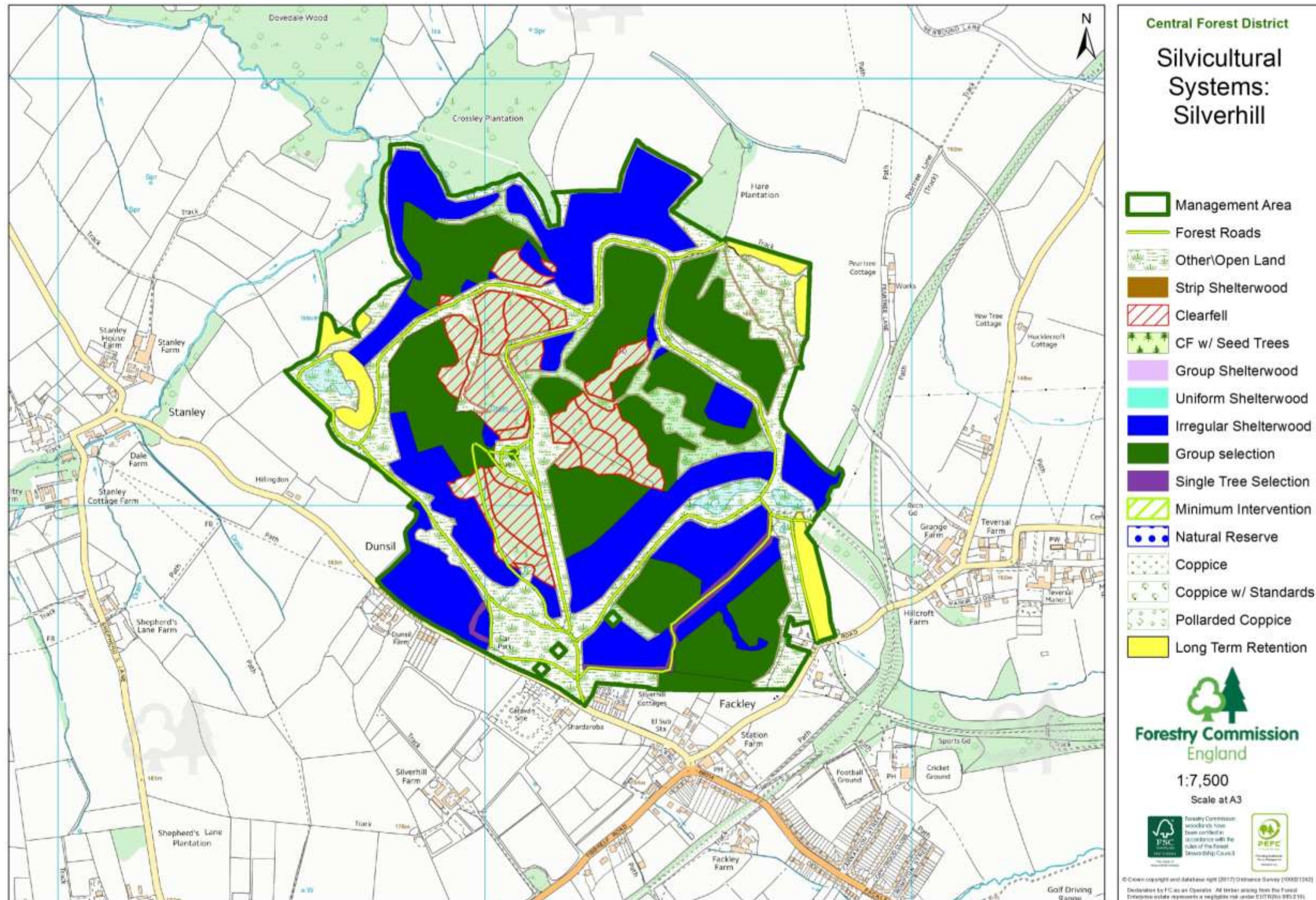
7.6 Silvicultural Systems



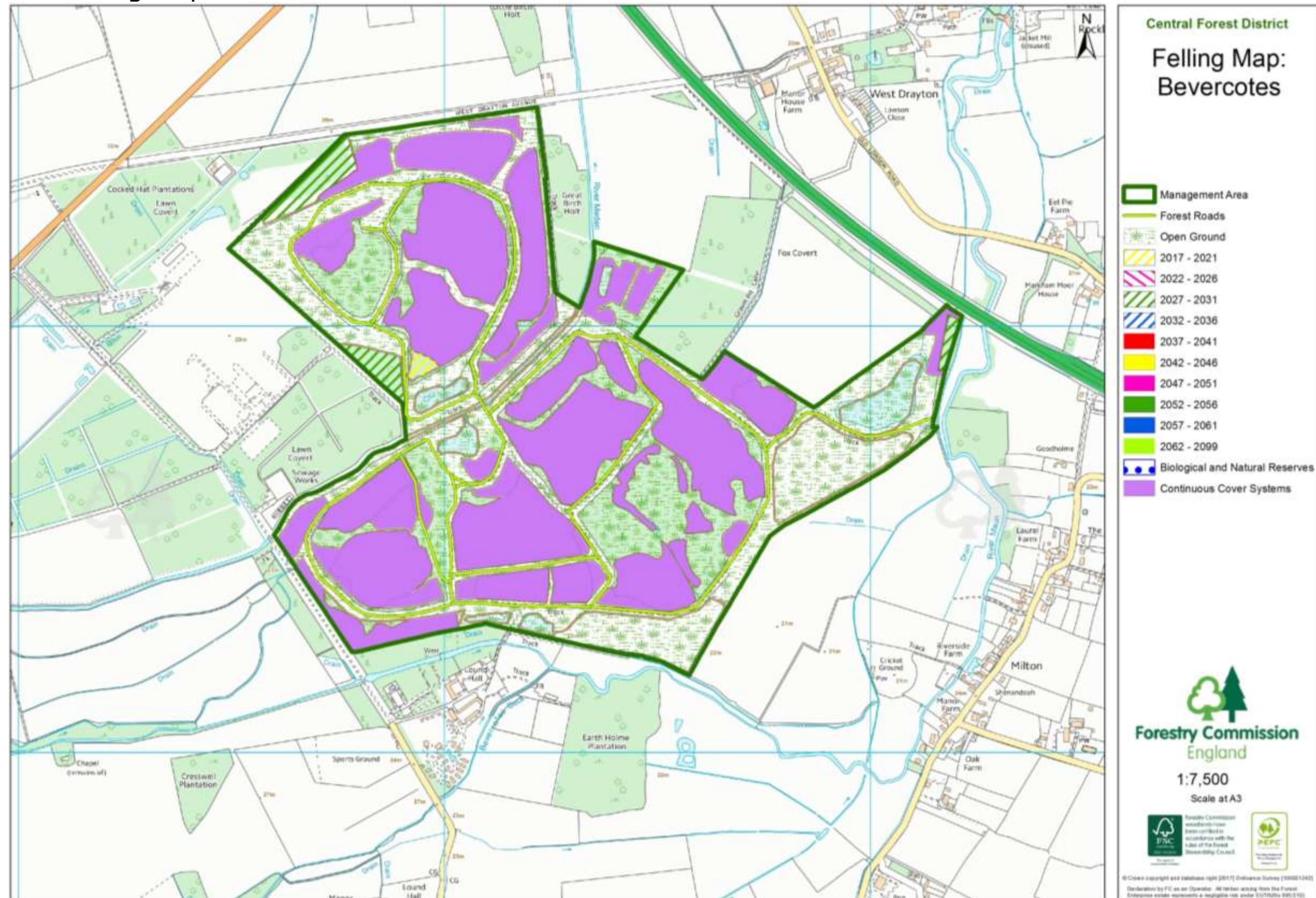


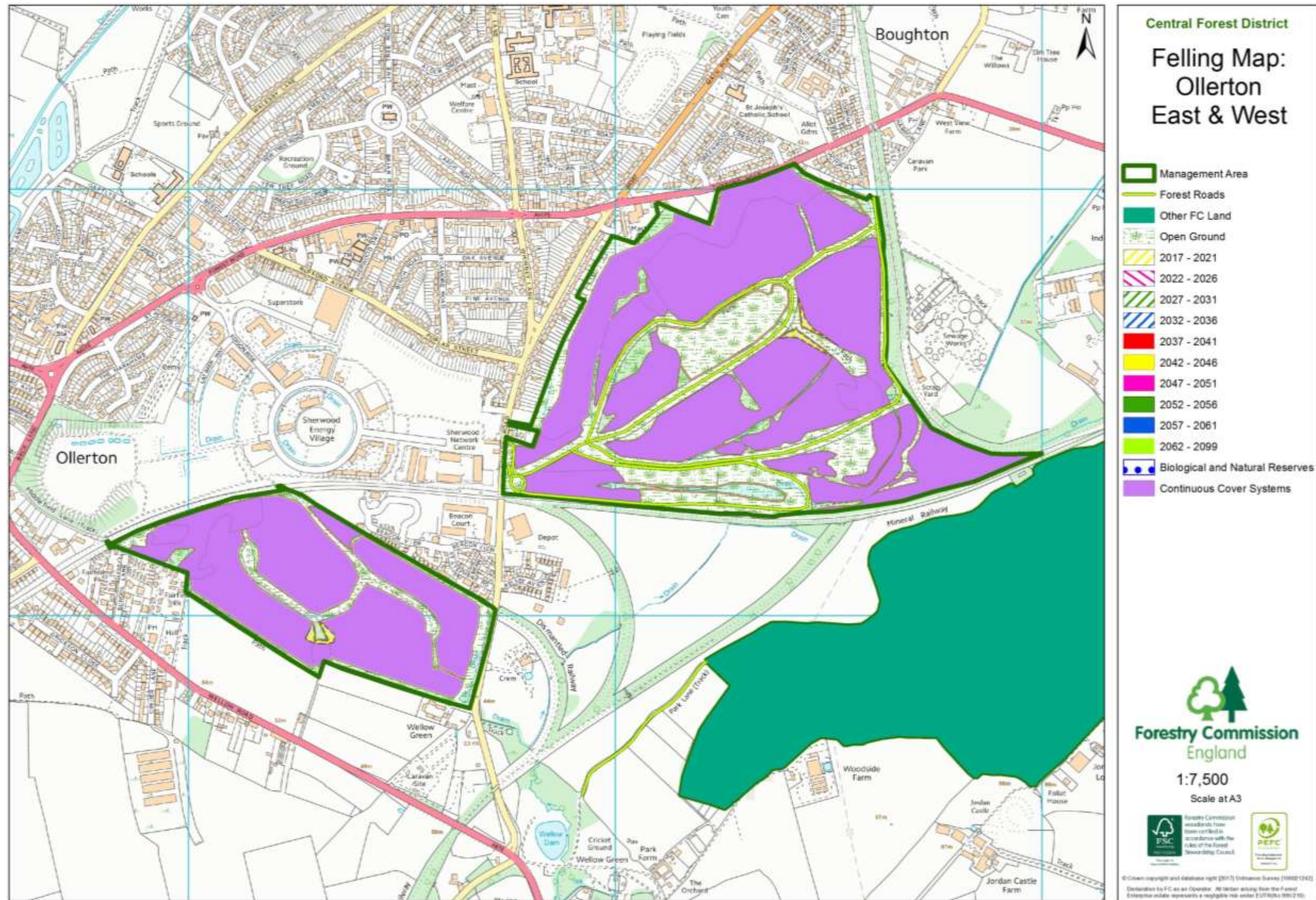


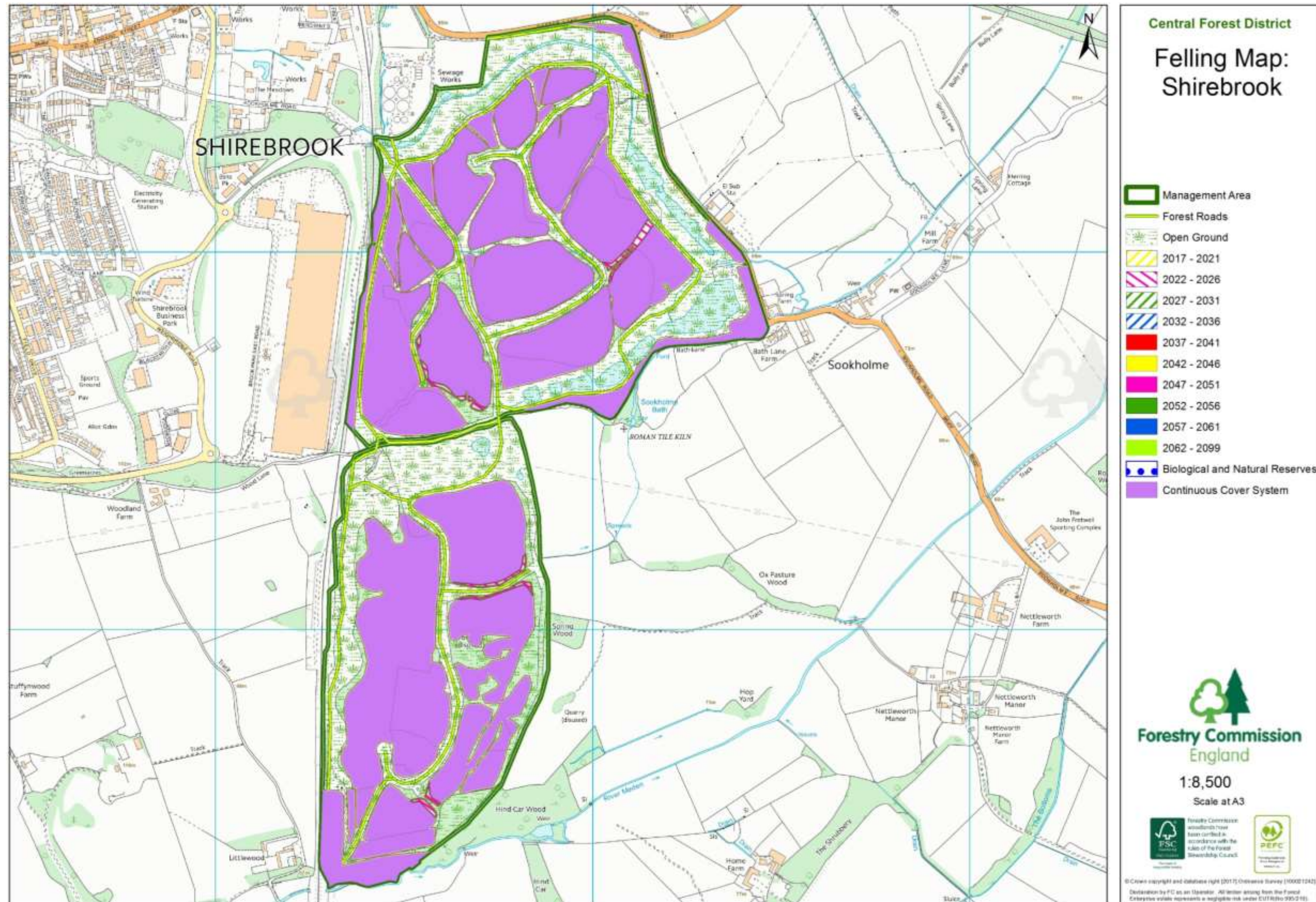


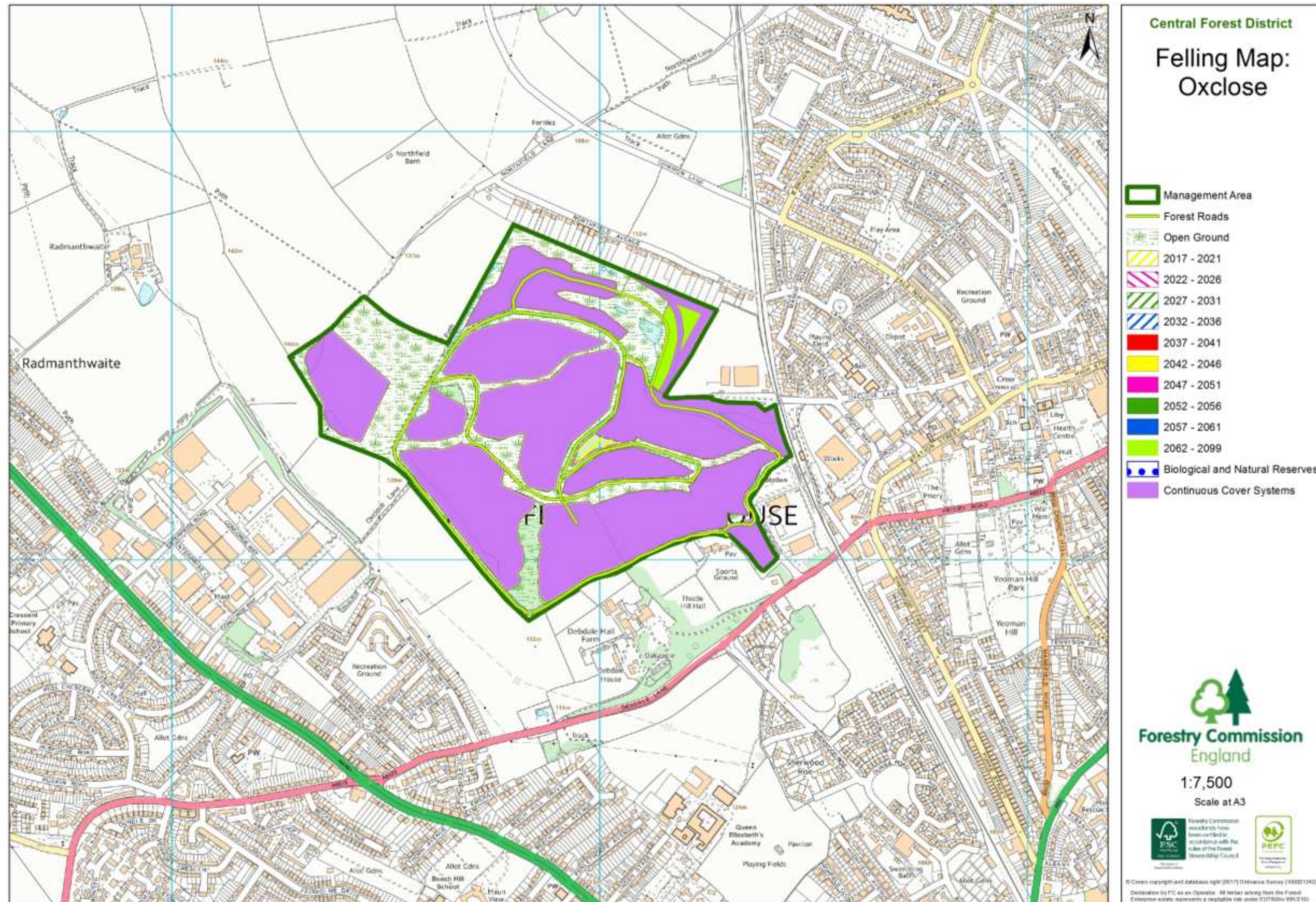


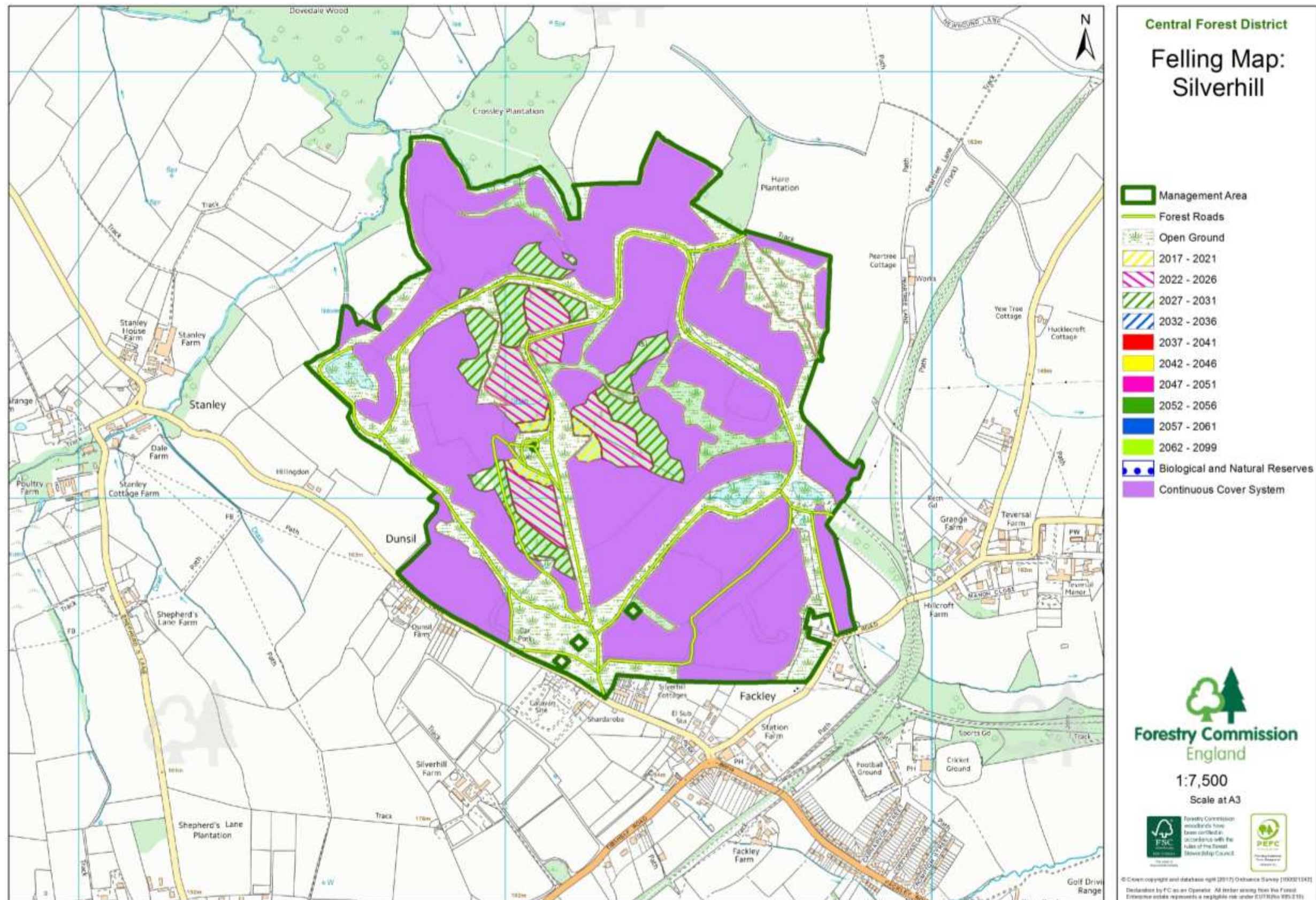
7.7 Felling Map



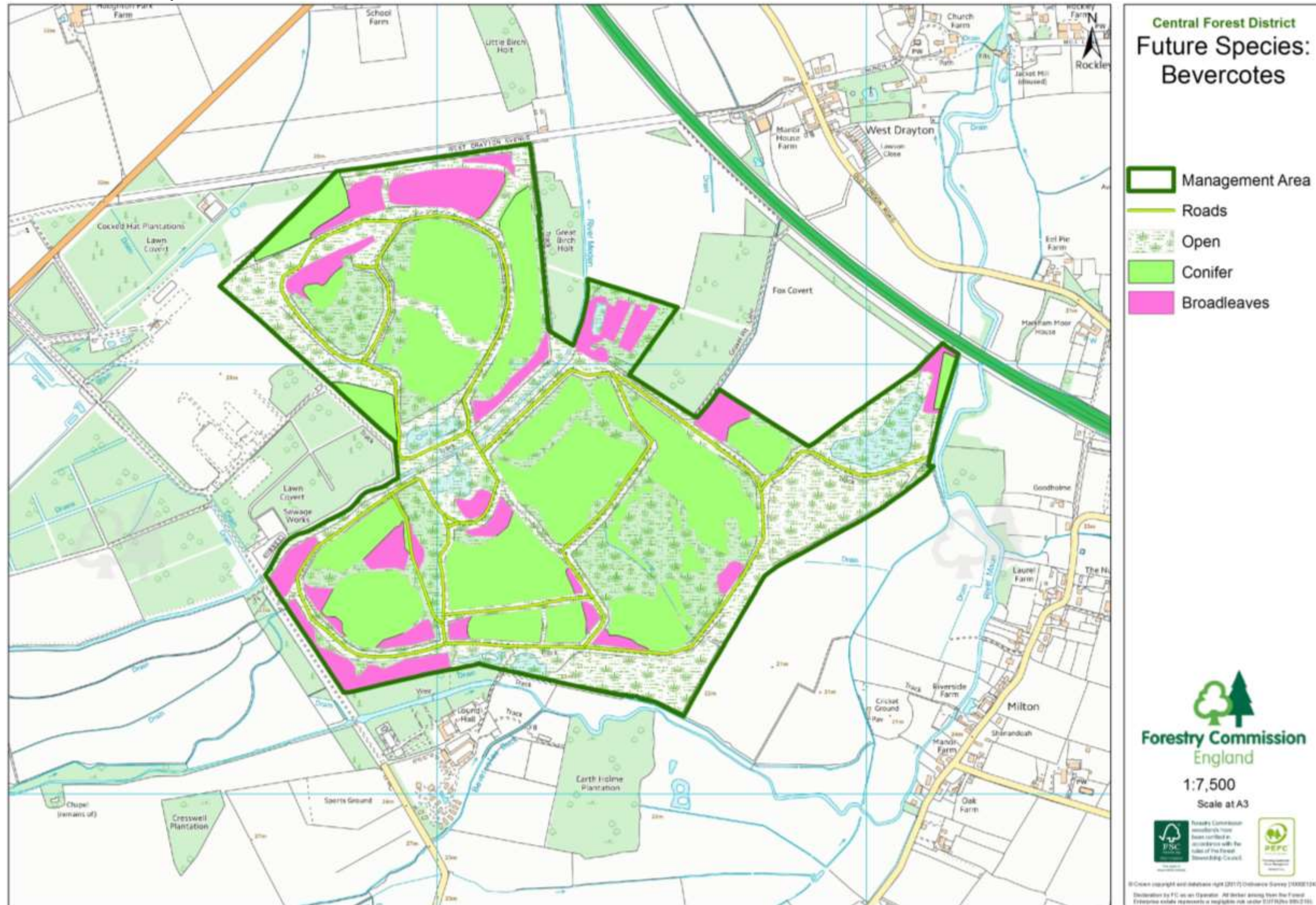


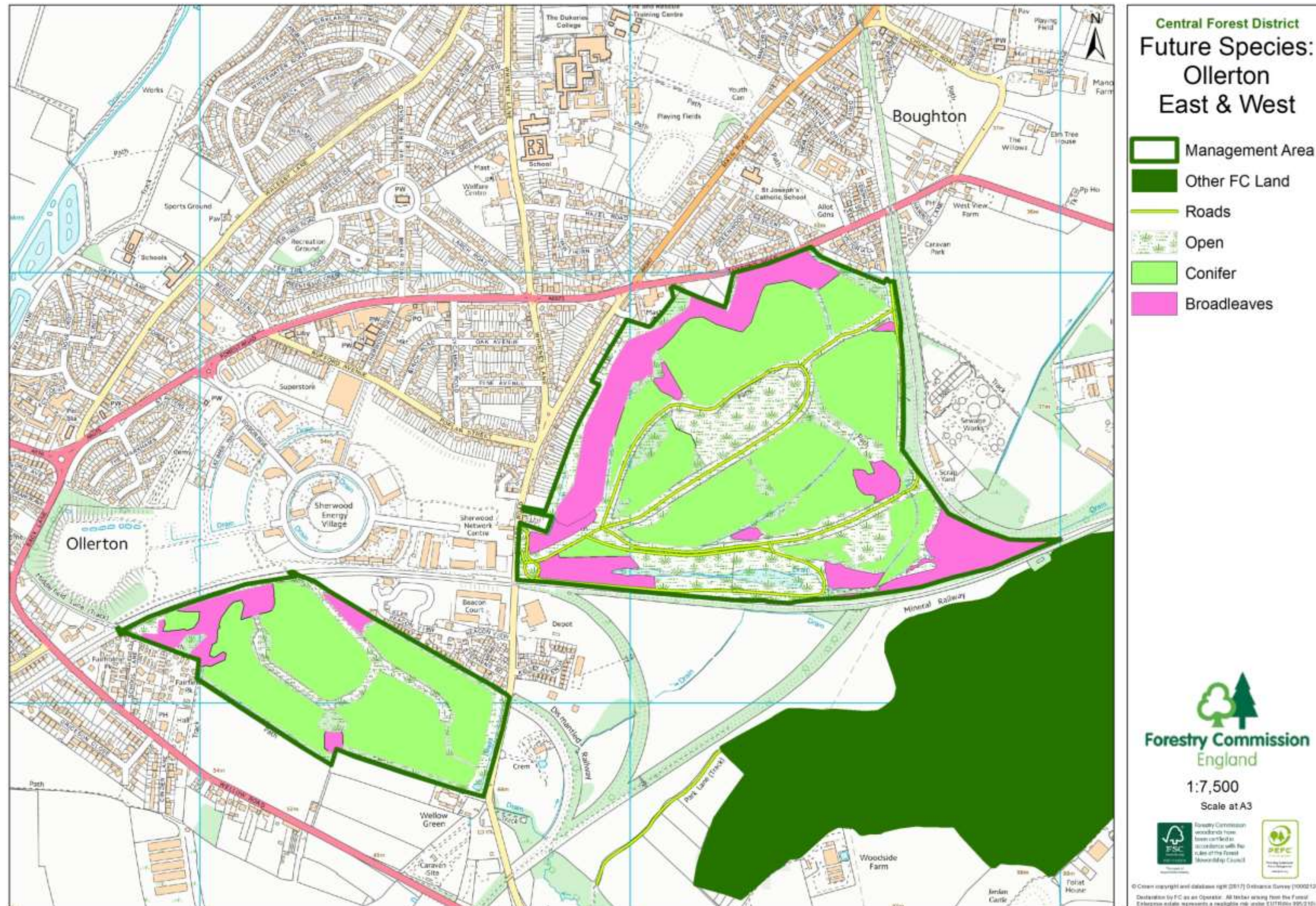




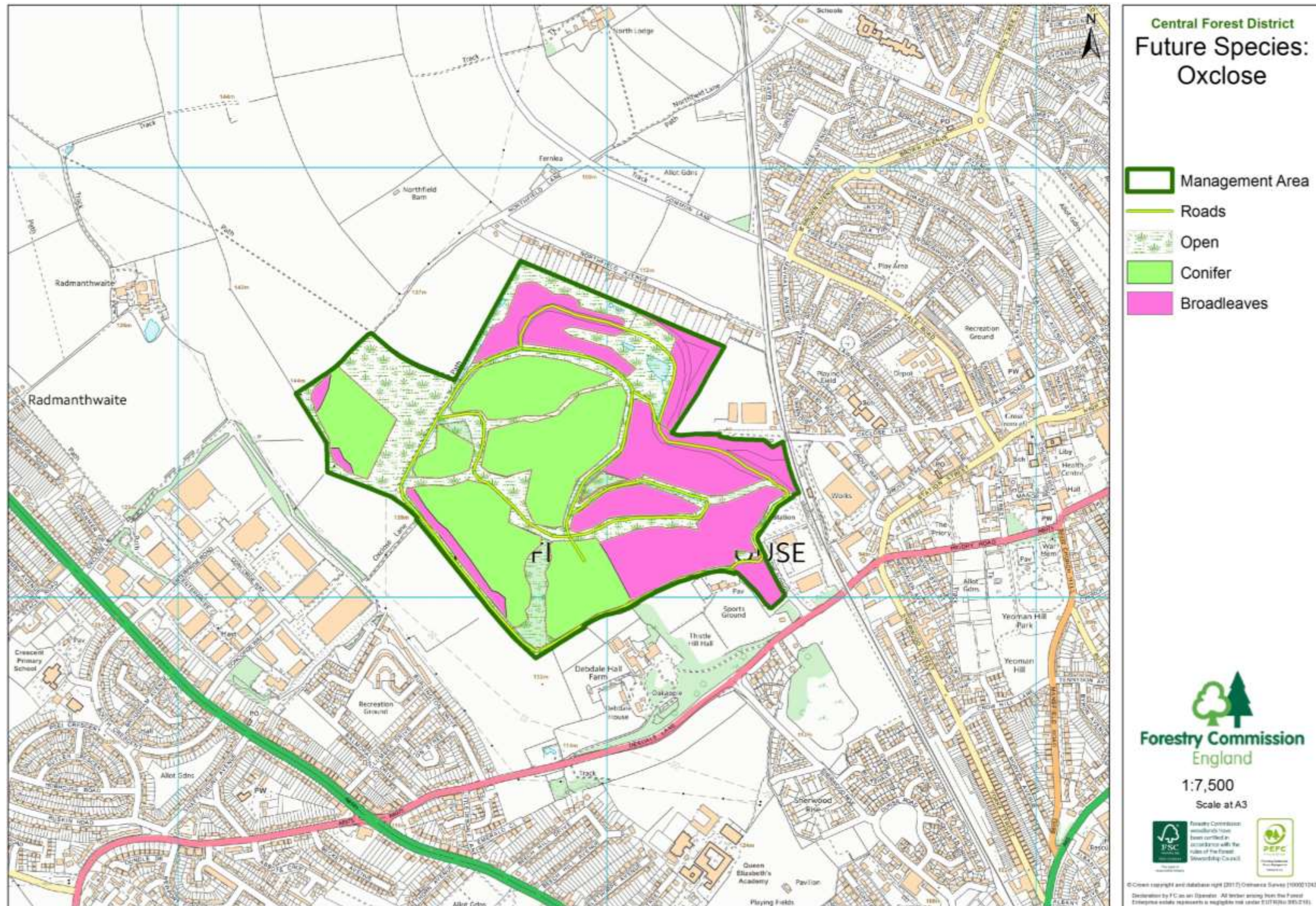


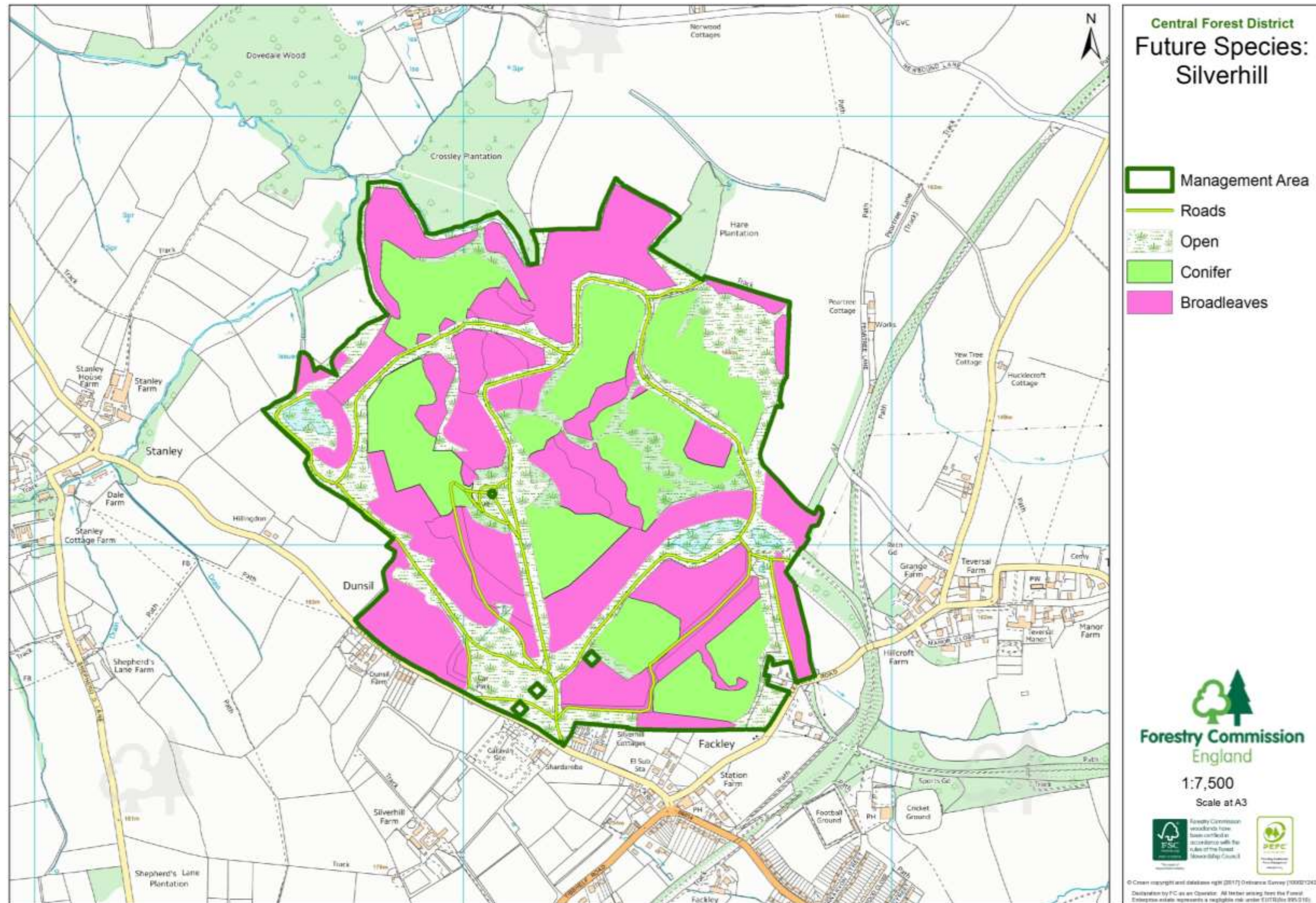
7.8 Future Species



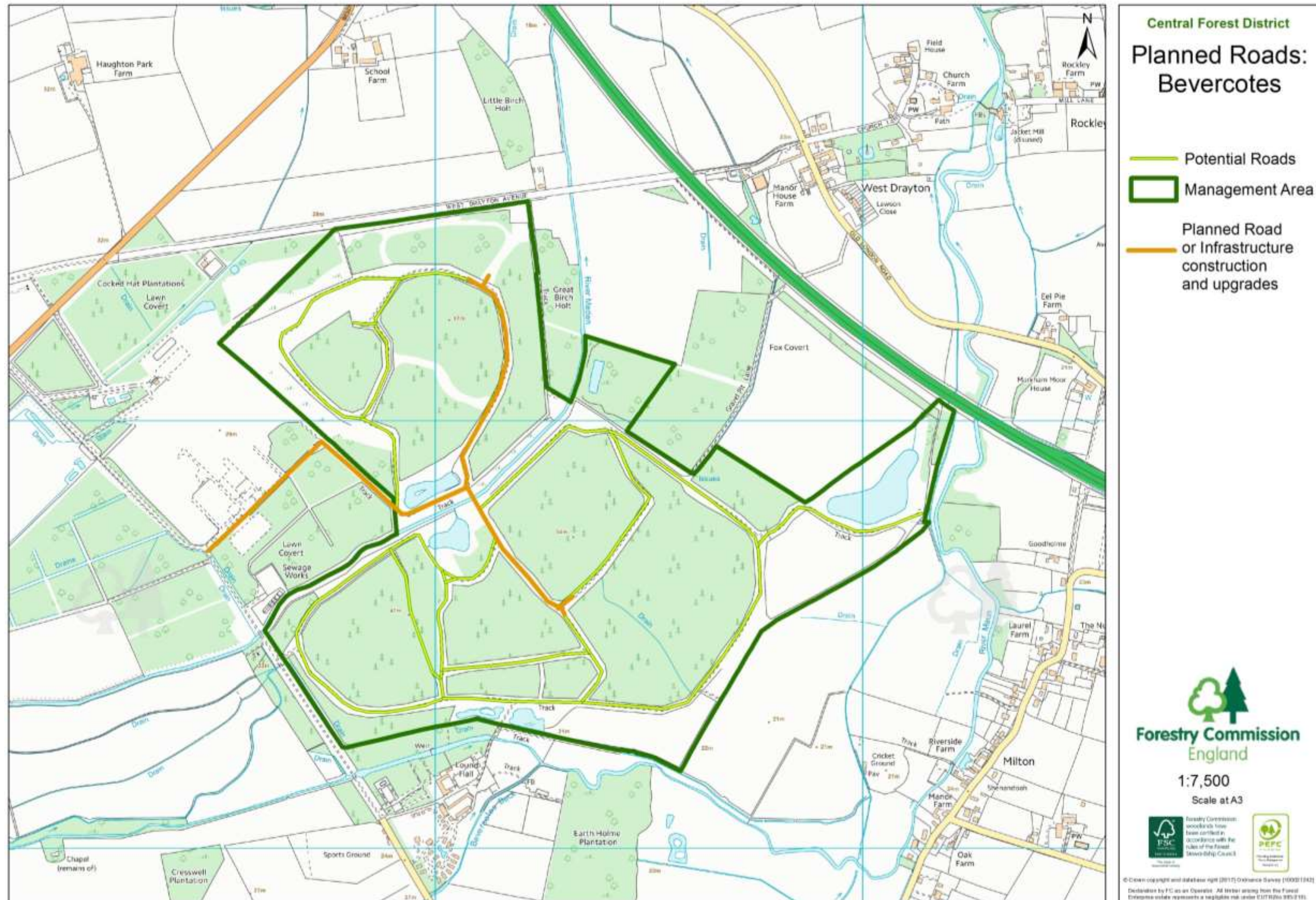


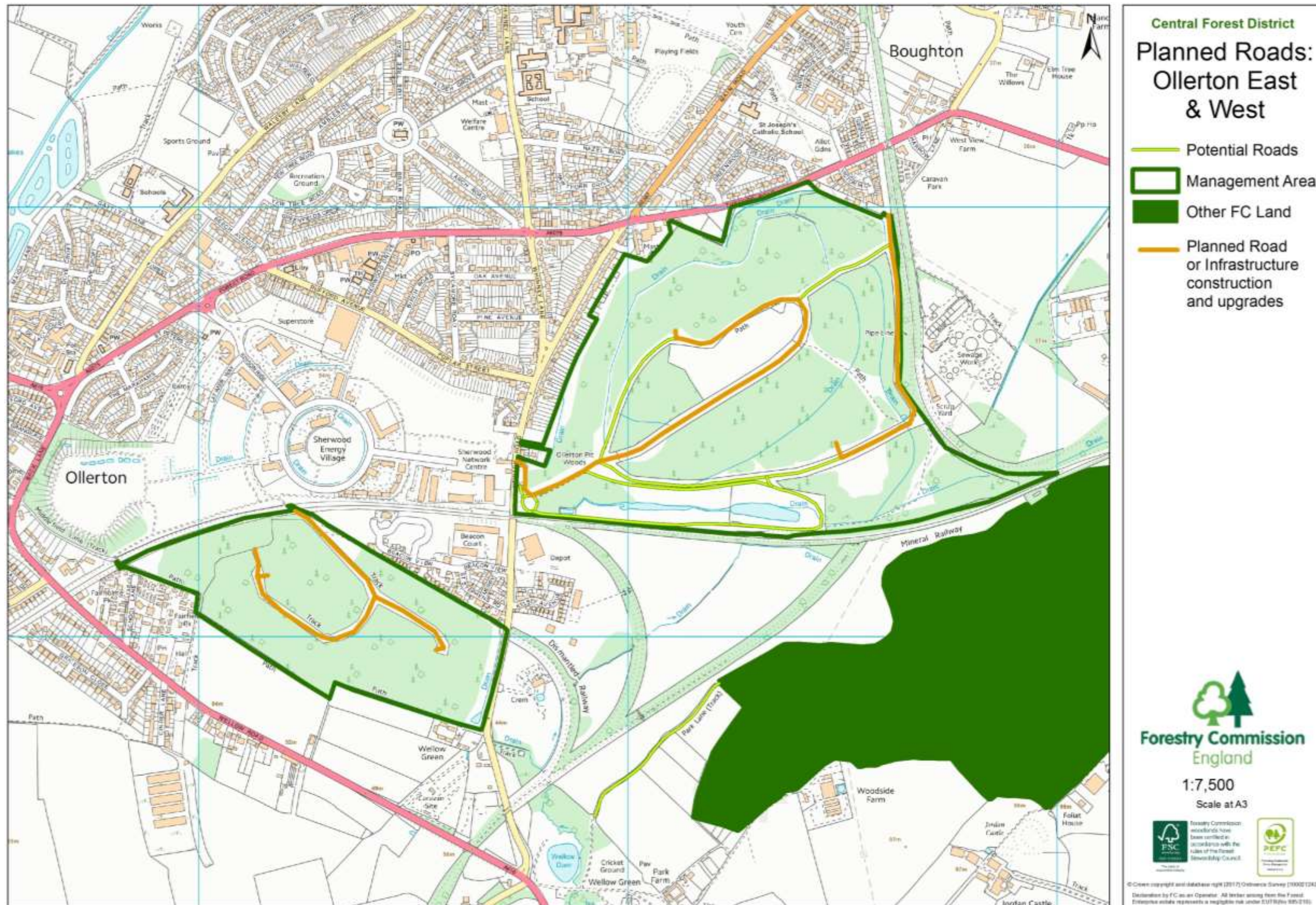






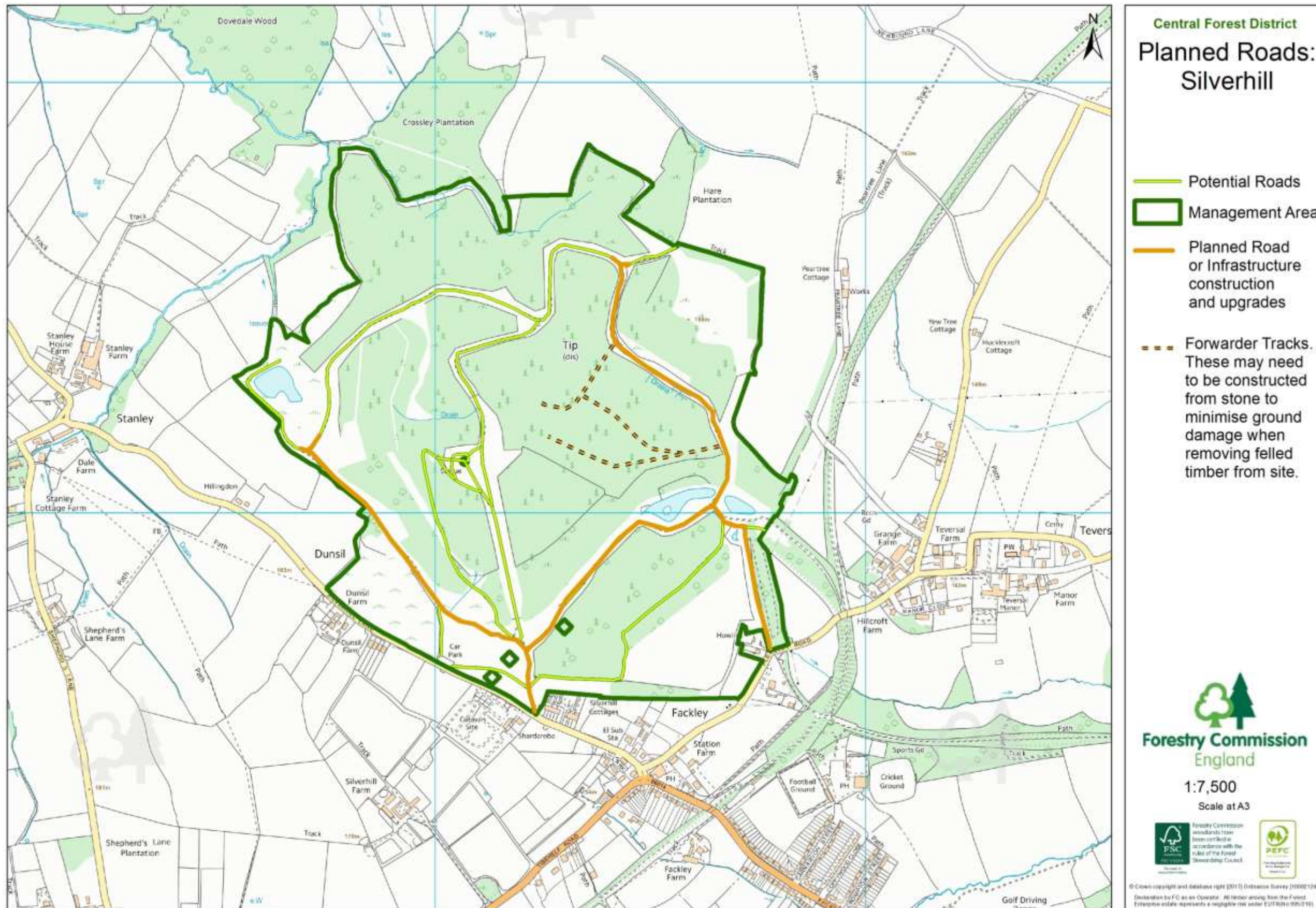
7.9 Planned Roads











8. Relevant Forestry Commission & Government Policies

- Ashfield District Council, 2015. "Ashfield Landscape Character Assessment" Available at: <http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/media/2286/e8-greater-nottingham-landscape-charater-assessment-ashfield-part-only.pdf>
- Mansfield District Council, 2010. "Mansfield Landscape Character Assessment" Available at: <http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/article/6141/Landscape-Character-Assessment>
- Natural England, 2014. "National Character Area profile: 49. Sherwood" Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1401066>
- Natural England, 2013. "National Character Area profile: 30. Southern Magnesian Limestone" Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5733629942562816>
- Newark & Sherwood District Council, 2013. "Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment" Available at: <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/planningpolicy/pdfs/adoptedlca/1.%20Introduction%20etc%20-%20WEB%20VERSION.pdf>.
- Forestry Commission, 2014. Central England Forest District Strategic Plan 2014-2020.
- Forestry Commission, 2016. Silvicultural Guide: Successful Underplanting.

9. Appendix: A brief guide to Forestry in the Community Woodlands

Trees are planted, or grow naturally at a high density. Over time they grow bigger and start to compete for resources such as light, water, nutrients and space to grow. Eventually there are not enough resources to go round; to allow the biggest trees to continue growing some of the smallest trees need to be removed. In a natural woodland these trees would just die, however we can speed up the process by removing the smaller trees, we call this thinning. Normally only 30% of the trees are removed and by no means all of them.

By thinning the trees we get many benefits. The remaining trees can grow bigger, they become a more established habitat for wildlife, we can gain income from selling the removed trees to support our management of the wood and the trees become less likely to blow over in the wind. This last point is especially important; by removing some of the trees, the remaining ones become less reliant on each other for shelter from the wind and grow stronger root systems to support themselves.

This wind firmness is crucial in the Sherwood Community Woodlands. These sites are restored colliery tips; the soil that exists on them was manmade on top of the spoil and is no more than a metre deep. If we don't get these trees planted on them to grow as strong as possible we risk them blowing over, breaking up the soil and exposing the colliery waste beneath. By thinning these sites, we hope that short of some very high winds, to maintain the trees and stability of the soil.

To complete this work we will use two types of forestry machine, a harvester and a forwarder. The harvester will cut down the trees whilst the forwarder will gather up the logs and take them to a roadside where they can be picked up by a lorry and taken away. These will cause some disruption to normal use of the woods in the short term, but the long term benefits outlined above should outweigh this.

Whilst the machines are on site we may use them to fell trees and open up some small areas of the wood. This will improve access and create a few viewpoints from the top and sides so you can see the surrounding countryside. We also have the option to under plant in the spaces we create by thinning. This involves planting new trees underneath existing ones. These will eventually grow up and replace the existing ones when they come to the end of their life.

The Sherwood Community Woodlands continue to develop into well establish green spaces that benefit people and wildlife, as well as providing an economic source of income to maintain them. We appreciate there will be short term disruption, but we intend to minimise this as much as we can. However we hope this work in the short term will benefit both of these sites in the long term.

End of Document