

Thieves & Blidworth Forest Plan 10 year review 2017 - 2027

Thieves & Blidworth Forest Plan

Introduction

This document is a brief review of the current Forest Design Plans, known as “Thieves and Harlow – Design Plan 44” and “Blidworth – Design Plan 45”.

These plans expired in 2012 and were rolled over until 2017. The new plan is an amalgamation of the two current plans and is due to be consulted upon in 2017. It will be known as “Thieves and Blidworth Forest Plan” and will again run for 10 years with a mid-term review at the 5 year point.

The purpose of this 10 year review is to answer the four questions set out below, in accordance with OGB 36 – Forest Design Planning.

1. Was the plan implemented properly?

- Approval for the forest plan was extended for 5 years when plan period expired. This was to take account of amalgamation of Forest Districts and restructuring of the Forestry Commission.
- Amendment process was also followed in order to fell 15 ha of conifer in the Thieves and Harlow area.
- Amendment process was followed in Blidworth to fell 2.9 ha of conifer and replant it with a smaller area (1.5 ha) of broadleaves.

2. Did the implementation of the plan meet the stated objectives?

Thieves and Harlow

Objective	Met?	Comment
Landscape	Ongoing	Coupe shapes as per the current plan have been followed and thought given to the internal landscapes during forest operations.
Silviculture	Yes	Timber production is shown to be sustainable as thinning is carried out to MTI and restocking after clearfelling is carried out within 2 years
Biodiversity and nature conservation	Ongoing	Areas of heathland have been created over the life of this plan and continue to be managed as open space on a rotational basis.
Public access and recreation	Yes	Car parks maintained, provision of concessions due to be re-tendered in the next year. Ongoing management to enable an appropriate and sustainable level of public access.

Blidworth

Objective	Met?	Comment
Landscape	Ongoing	Coupe shapes as per the current plan have been followed and thought given to the internal landscapes during forest operations.
Silviculture	Yes	Timber production is shown to be sustainable as thinning is carried out to MTI and restocking after clearfelling is carried out within 2 years
Biodiversity and nature conservation	Ongoing	Areas of heathland have been created over the life of this plan and continue to be managed as open space on a rotational basis.
Public access and recreation	Yes	Car parks maintained, provision of concessions due to be re-tendered in the next year. Ongoing management to enable an appropriate and sustainable level of public access.

3. Are the aims and objectives of the plan still appropriate?

- Some coupes have been slightly redesigned in order to take into account the above and also the proposed objectives. Coupe design will remain largely unchanged to continue to improve structure of skylines and boundaries.
- Thieves and Blidworth will continue to be managed productively in order to supply a sustainable timber resource.
- Areas of open space which are now regenerating with broadleaves will continue to be managed as rotational open space, ensuring a proportion of open ground is maintained.
- Public access and recreation is highly regarded in this area by local users. These areas will be maintained and improved where appropriate and silvicultural management will be tailored to suit the needs of the area.
- We have taken on additional land in the form of the Blidworth and Calverton pit tip restorations. These areas will be included in the new design plan.

4. Do proposals for the next 10 years meet the current objectives, standards and vision of the Forestry Commission?

- The proposed plan will continue to adhere to UKFS and UKWAS standards as well as working toward delivering results in areas identified by the forest plan.

5. Forest Plan Proposals.

- The proposed amalgamated review of Thieves and Harlow – Design Plan 44 and Blidworth – Design Plan 45, follows this document.

The Thieves & Blidworth Forest Plan Brief

This Forest Plan (FP) comprises two distinct blocks of woodland to the south of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. The Thieves and Harlow Wood blocks comprise of; Thieves wood, Cauldwell Wood, Stonehills Plantation, Coxmoor and Harlow Wood. The Blidworth block comprises of Boundary Wood, Haywood Oaks, Sansom Wood, Watchwood and Calverton. The woodlands are surrounded by major routes including the A60, A611, A614 and A617. The great majority of Thieves' and Harlow are leasehold woodlands with a small amount of freehold land in Harlow. All of Blidworth is freehold, with the exception of Boundary Wood which is leasehold.

The approved FP will provide an operational plan that will deliver sustainable forest management which has been developed to find the right balance of forest management based on the environmental, social and economic considerations associated with the forest and its surrounding landscape.

Economic Issues

The most significant challenge that is currently affecting the economic viability of the woodland is the presence of Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) in the Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra var. maritima*) crop. The pathogen *Dothistroma septosporum* is responsible for defoliating the pine which leads to a significant reduction and eventual cessation of the trees growth. The type of silvicultural system employed in an area may have to be determined by the fact that we might have to mitigate what is happening to a crop at a given point in time. These systems range from traditional thinning, felling and restock, minimum intervention areas and also the use of CCF systems.

Restocking in this area which is suited to production forestry will be appropriate to the long term vision for this woodland and will follow emerging guidance with regard climate change and plant health issues. Forestry in the

UK constantly faces challenges from various pests and diseases. Many of these are established, existing problems but we are continually identifying new threats from outside the UK as well as dealing with recently discovered plant health issues. Couple this with the fact that our climate is changing, it is necessary to increase the resilience of our forests over the coming decades. Continuing to diversify the species we use in the forest, the age classes of stands and the types of silvicultural systems we use, will all contribute to this approach and will all be reflected in the new FP.

Diversification of species means the woodland will be more resilient in the future to pests and diseases, the monitoring of which will be carried out by local beat staff during usual operations. This will allow for any developing issues to be identified in a timely fashion and allow for prompt action should it be required.

Environmental Issues

The plan area lies in the Sherwood Sandstone Natural Area and contains some naturally regenerating native woodland characteristic of the area; birch-oak woodland with acid grassland and *Calluna* heath. Small scale heathland restoration has taken place and this has since reverted to grassland or semi-natural woodland.

Both Thieves and Blidworth have several heritage features of value and contain notable trees of special interest. Black Poplar is present within the woods, which is rare within Nottinghamshire.

Social Issues

All areas covered by the Forest Plan are extensively used for all types of public recreation. Access is restricted in certain leasehold areas but informal recreation still takes place. The plan area is highly accessible with many major routes including the Robin Hood Way passing adjacent to and through the woodlands. There are a number of Forestry Commission car parks, two of these hosting concession stands.

There are ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour within all the listed woodlands. These range from illegal access by off road vehicles and motorbikes; to areas of the woodland becoming gathering areas for antisocial behaviour. Rocks, earth bunds, trenches and barriers have been installed to reduce this. The police and other agencies are also consulted on these issues. In these areas, the wood will be heavily thinned or groups of trees will be removed to help discourage this behaviour.

Consultation

Due to the high level of public access, number of local stakeholders and its prominence within the local landscape, interest in the new Forest Plan is likely to be high. Formal consultation will start at an early stage, and public consultation will be managed through a small number of drop-in sessions arranged locally with the beat team.

1. Plan area identification

2. Designations

3. Date of commencement of plan

4. Planned operations within 10 year period of the plan

*Restocking refers to that area that may be under planted if conditions are suitable, as well as that area which has recently been clearfelled.

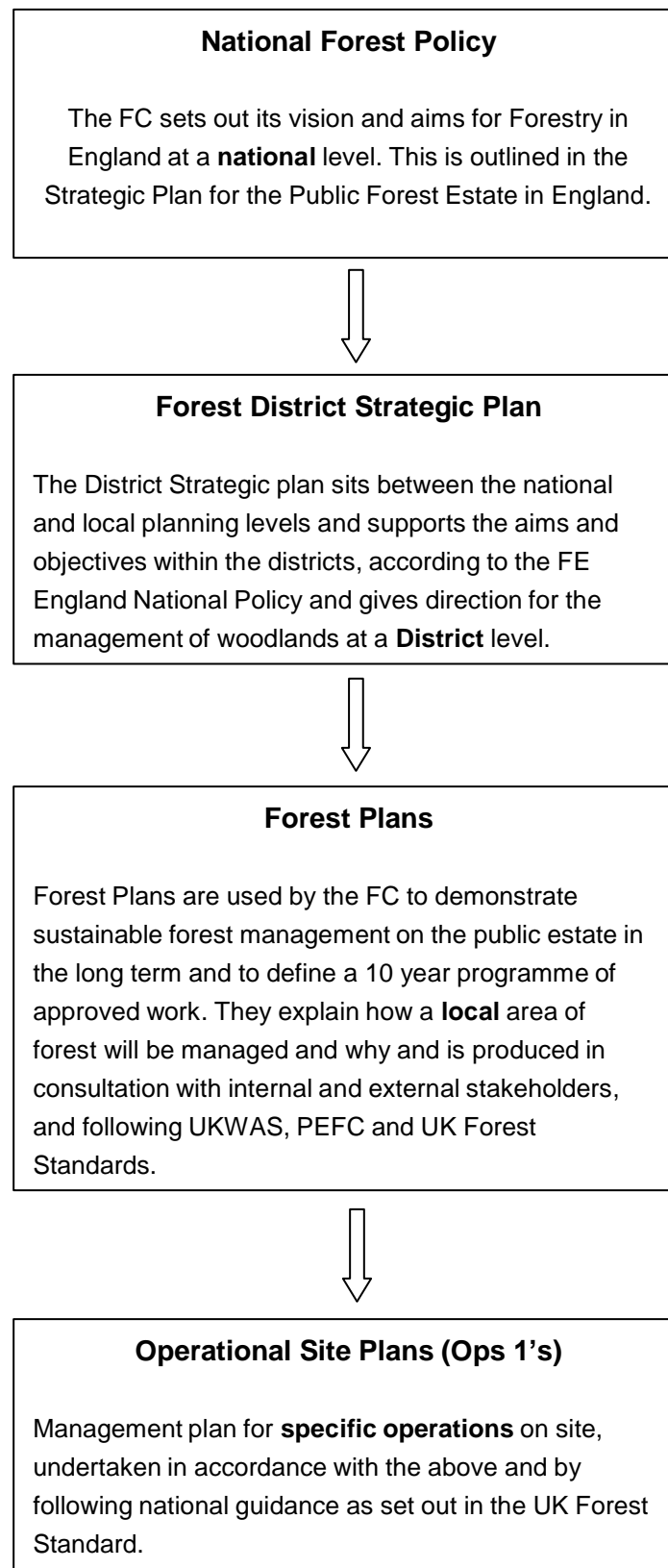
8 | Thieves & Blidworth FP | Central Forest District | 17/03/2017

Introduction

This Forest Plan revises, replaces and merges two current Forest Design Plans (Thieves and Harlow – FDP 44 and Blidworth – FDP 45), which were approved in 2002, into one document. It outlines the felling and restocking areas for the two areas of forest, situated around the town of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. The design plan area covers 1230 ha and consists of a variety of broadleaved and conifer (mainly pine) species. The plan details management operations, and provides approval for felling and thinning, both conventional and unconventional, for the next 10 years with outline proposals for the next 50 years.

The new plan will also include our proposals for managing Boundary Wood and Calverton. These two sites are restored pit tips and are coming into the Forest Design Plan for the first time.

Fig 1. Forestry Commission England's Planning Strategy



1. Key Characteristics and Survey Data

1.1 Location

- ✓ See Location Map
- ✓ The Thieves' and Blidworth FP comprises of several blocks of woodland, concentrated to the south of the town of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. Thieves' (incorporating Cauldwell, Stonehills, Coxmoor and Nomanshill) and Harlow Woods are between the areas of Kirkby-in-Ashfield to the west and Rainworth to the east. Blidworth Wood is directly south of Blidworth village and incorporates Boundary Wood, Calverton, Haywood Oaks, Sansom Wood and Watchwood Plantation.
- ✓ OS Grid References:

Thieves' Wood	SK 5437 5697
Harlow Wood	SK 5577 5703
Blidworth Wood	SK 5901 5347
- ✓ The area covered by the plan amounts to 1230 ha of which 5497 ha are leasehold and the remaining 733 ha are freehold.
- ✓ Thieves Wood has permitted access. Harlow, Coxmoor, Cauldwell & Stonehills have informal access. Boundary Wood is not dedicated as Open Access, but is treated as open permissive access. Access is restricted in leasehold woods. See Map – Access and Recreation.
- ✓ The lease on 4ha of Cauldwell will be terminated by the landowner in 2017. This area is to be passed over to the neighbouring crematorium to facilitate their expansion.
- ✓ There are rights of way running through all parts of the FP area. Sections of the Robin Hood Way, an 85 mile route taking walkers from Nottingham Castle to Edwinstowe Church, passes through both the Thieves and Blidworth blocks.

1.2 Geology and Soils

- The area covered by the Thieves and Blidworth FP lies within Zone 3 of the Forest Districts Strategic Plan. This area is designated as Sherwood and is characterised as acid sandstone lying between a limestone bed to the west and mudstones of the Trent Valley to the east. This results in a light, free-draining, nutrient poor pebble soil.
- The Boundary and Calverton community woodlands are brownfield sites. They have a crust of manmade soil on top of colliery waste underneath. This is of an acidic nature and can contain heavy metals.
- Local soils data is being continually updated by means of assessing areas recently felled in order to decide on the most suitable species for restocking.

1.3 Aspect and Natural Character Area

- The plan area comprises a discontinuous aggregation of woodlands which are separated by fields and open agricultural land. Parts of the plan area occupy ridges that rise to 100m Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL). Boundary Wood rises to 125m AMSL.
- The Natural Character Area is described by Natural England as extending North from Nottingham, principally coinciding with an outcrop of sandstone forming gently rolling hills. It was historically wooded and remains so. Large estate parklands, heathlands and a strong mining heritage also characterise the area.
- Principal views of the area are from the A611, A614, A617 and A60 as well as from bisecting minor roads.

1.4 Hydrology

- Other than the system of forest drains, the only notable hydrological feature is Papplewick Pond. This serves as a drainage lagoon to alleviate the flooding on the adjacent public highway.
- Boundary wood contains a number of ponds whilst Calverton contains ponds, lagoons and reservoirs including dams. These are mostly associated with site drainage.
- Cauldwell brook runs along the boundary of Stonehills and Cauldwell; it is a key habitat for white clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

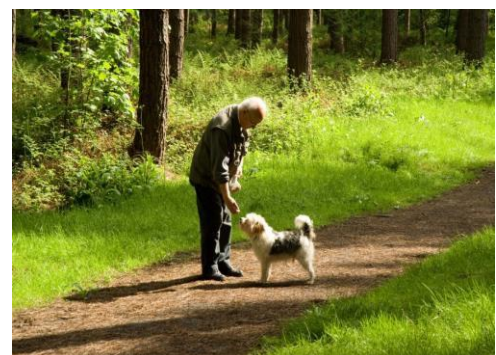
2. FC Management Objectives

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.

Social - 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.



3. Forest Plan Objectives

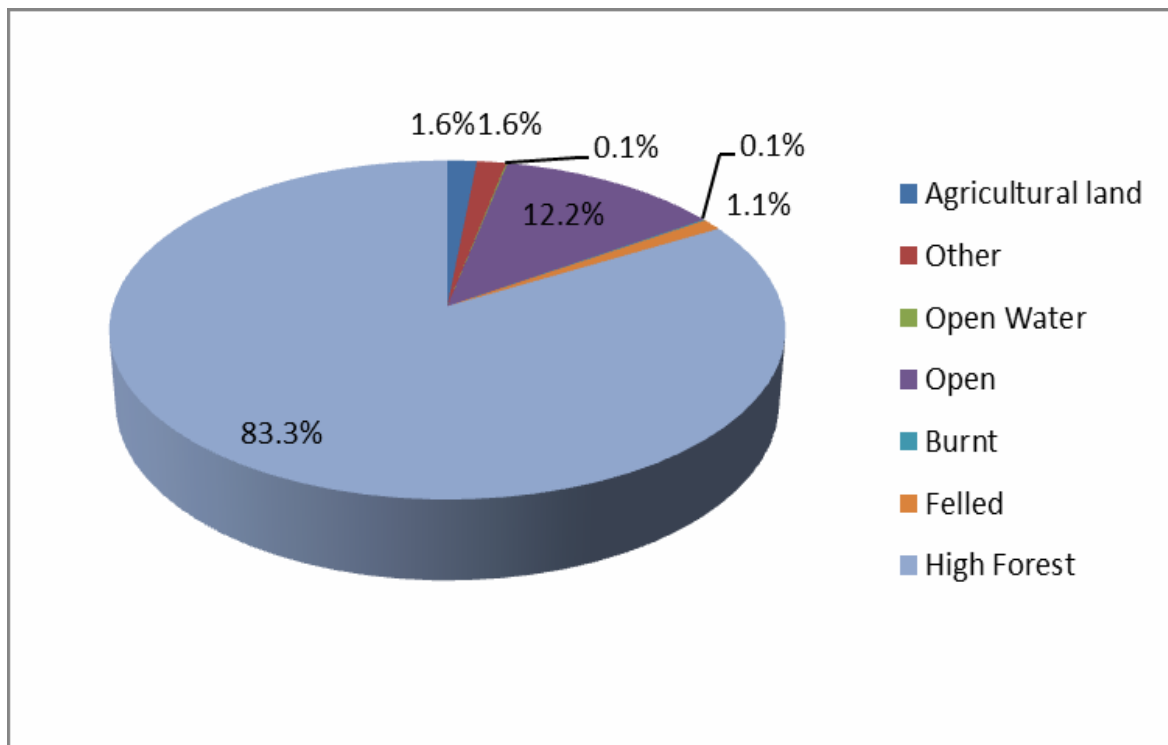
3.1 Woodland

The woodlands will be managed using a variety of silvicultural systems to allow for the production of commercial conifer and broadleaved species. These systems will take the form of thinning and clearfelling, use of shelterwood and selection systems as well as designating areas for retention where appropriate. Any operations carried out will be in line with current best practice and will be assessed at the operational planning level. The woodland will be managed following national and local Forestry Commission policy and in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).

3.11 Current Species, Age Structure and Yield Class

- The woodlands within the plan area are predominantly secondary coniferous. 83% of the area is planted with 12% being open space. In addition, the cycle of clearfelling and restocking provides rotational open space. Currently, 1% of the area is classed as felled, bringing the current total to 13%. Of the plan area, 65% is coniferous and 18% is broadleaved. See Fig. 2 Current Forest Structure
- Approximately 49% of the forest plan area is Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *Maritima*) and 12% Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and 8% is made up of other pines. Due to the presence of DNB in the Corsican pine crop, yield classes are adversely affected, with little or no increment being made. Due to this fact, there will be a number of silvicultural practices employed to combat the spread of the disease. These may include premature felling of heavily diseased crop, non-standard thinning methods and re spacing.

Fig. 2 Current Forest Structure 2017



Other includes Residential, Archaeological, Recreation and Unplatable sites.

- Planting in the Blidworth area commenced in 1923 with the majority completed by 1950. The areas of Thieves and Harlow were started soon after in 1928 and continued steadily until 1958. Second rotation planting and restructuring is well under way, much of this was precipitated by the windblow which occurred in the area in the mid 1970's. Table 2 shows the breakdown of current species by area and Figure 3 shows the Age Class of the woodland by area. Boundary Wood and Calverton have mostly been planted in the last 10-20 years.

Fig. 3 Age Class by Area

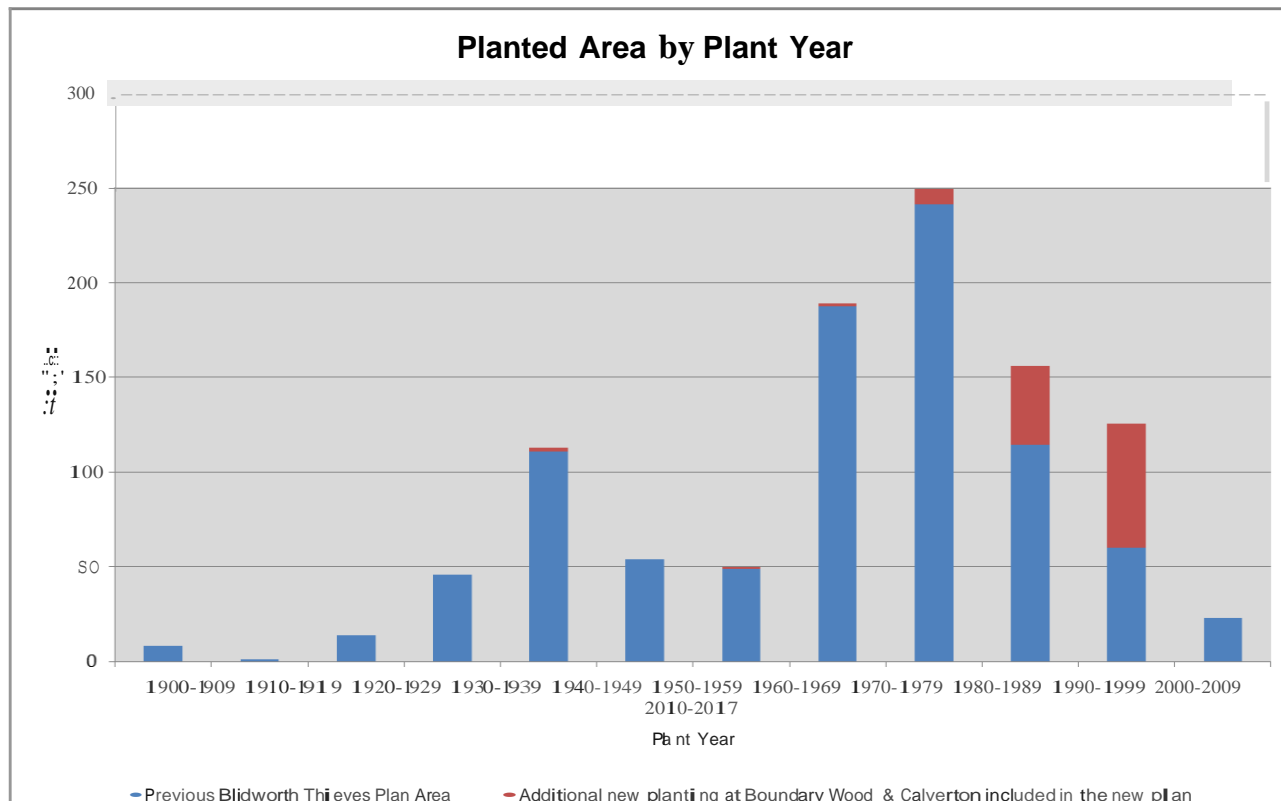


Table 2 – Current Species (as of 2017)

Species	Area (ha)	Percentage of Area
Conifer		
Corsican Pine	606.6	49.3
Scots Pine	152.3	12.3
Larch	16.1	1.3
Fir	11.9	1.0
Norway Spruce	6.0	0.5
Other Conifer	9.9	0.8
Total	802.5	65.2
Broadleaf		
Birch	76.6	6.2
Oak	47.6	3.9
Beech	22.1	1.8
Sycamore	19.0	1.5
Sweet Chestnut	4.9	0.4
Willow	4.7	0.4
Other Broadleaf	46.6	3.8
Total	221.6	18.0
Other		
Open	148.1	12.1
Other	57.8	4.6
Total Other	205.9	16.7
Total Area	1230	100

Table 3 – Current Production Forecast

The woodland has been managed sustainably in the past and this will continue. Table 3 shows the current production forecast from the previous plan.

	Forecast Period	All Species	All Conifers	All Broadleaves
Volume To 7cm	2017-2021	10203	9255	948
	2022-2026	9892	9258	634
	2027-2031	6501	5844	657
	2032-2036	9962	9209	754
	2037-2099	7905	6905	999

3.2 Environmental

3.21 Retentions

- The area at Coxmoor has been heavily thinned in order to discourage anti-social behaviour and as such it is not envisaged to become productive again for some time. The area between the Cauldwell and Stonehills blocks is effectively 'land locked' between the bypass and a dead end road which has since been closed to traffic. This area has been designated as a natural reserve and as such no operations will take place other than those necessary for safety, in order to encourage formation of a new, natural, woodland.
- All of the woodlands covered by the FP are currently being formally managed.
- Veteran trees will continue to be managed to best practice and national guidance as discussed earlier in this document.
- Deadwood will be retained where appropriate and in accordance with the Forestry Commission's policy on retention and creation, which is set out in the UK Forestry Standard – Forests and Biodiversity.

3.22 Biodiversity

- The Haywood Oaks area of the plan contains a number of veteran trees. These areas will be worked in accordance with the statement of policy for England's ancient & native woodland, "Keepers of Time", as well as adhering to the Forestry Commission's own internal best practice guidance "trees of special interest and forest operations" and UKFS – Forests and historic environment.
- False Acacia will be favoured for removal when it is present in areas to be thinned.
- Nightjar have been recorded at Thieves, Harlow & Blidworth.

3.3 Social

- The FP area consists of 497 ha of leasehold land and the remaining 733 ha are freehold. Access is restricted in leasehold woods. The level of public usage is high with many different groups using the area for a variety of activities
- The Blidworth block of woodlands (with the exception of Boundary Wood) is owned by the Forestry Commission. There are rights of way including parts of the long distance walking route the Robin Hood Way. There are two concession stands in separate car parks within the plan area, one in Thieves' Wood car park and one in Blidworth at Longdale Lane. There are many different groups using the area for a variety of different types of recreation, from horse riding to dog walking.
- There are a number of anti-social issues surrounding the plan area which have been addressed in the past by the Forestry Commission working in partnership with the local Police. These issues continue and part of the plan is to redesign planted areas around car parks in certain areas in order to try and address this situation. This will be managed through a process of thinning and changing the shapes of coupes in order to discourage this.

3.4 Archaeology and Heritage

- Thieves and Blidworth both have significant cultural importance as they were once part of Royal Forests. Blidworth and Haywood Oaks were part of the Royal Forest of Sherwood, and these areas still contain the echoes of these historic origins in its ancient oak trees and its relict heathland. Thieves wood was part of the Royal Forest of Lindhurst, and straddled the main route North from Nottingham which was known as the King's Way. It was by this road that timber was transported to build Nottingham Castle. It is thought that the fate of unfortunate travellers using the road gave the wood its name.

As well as containing important biological heritage features, the area also contains a number of archaeological features and monuments.

- There is a Polish Airmen's memorial on the edge of Watchwood Plantation. There is an active committee who maintain and regularly access this monument in order to engage in acts of Remembrance and monument maintenance.
- There is a Tumulus in Thieves Wood. This is a historic earth work/mound that was cleared of trees to preserve it in the last 20 years.
- Also in Thieves, there is a memorial for an Egyptian Nightjar shot in the wood in 1883. At the time, it was only the second sighting of an Egyptian Nightjar in Europe and the rarity of this bird was not appreciated until after it had been shot. Further information about this can be found on the website listed in section 8.
- Known features are managed in line with the UKFS – Forests and historic environment.
- Any future finds or identifications will be managed in line with the UKFS and, where appropriate, the county archaeologist will be informed.

4. Restocking and Future Management

- Of the 1230 ha plan area;
- The 727 ha clearfell and restock element amounts to 59% of the total area. 115ha of this will be in the next ten years. Restocking will be with a range of site appropriate conifer and broadleaved species.
- Those areas designated as Continuous Cover Forestry systems total 297 ha, or 24%. These areas will be managed as Uniform Shelterwood. This method allows regular thinning of an area whilst still maintaining canopy cover, suppressing weed growth and promoting development of the understorey. This overstorey will be removed when the understorey is deemed as established to a suitable level to continue canopy cover.
- At least 10% of the area will be maintained as Open Ground, and will consist of permanent and rotational areas. This could increase if areas such as the exposed spoil at Calverton continues to be reclaimed by nature and can be reclassified as Open Space, rather than Unplantable ground. Another 3ha of open space will be created at Boundary Wood and Calverton by felling to create open space, improve access and enhance viewpoints. Overall we project 12% open space by 2067.
- During the course of usual works, decisions will be made at an operational level as to how to enhance the internal landscape by diversification of the woodland edge and by retaining or removing individual or groups of trees.

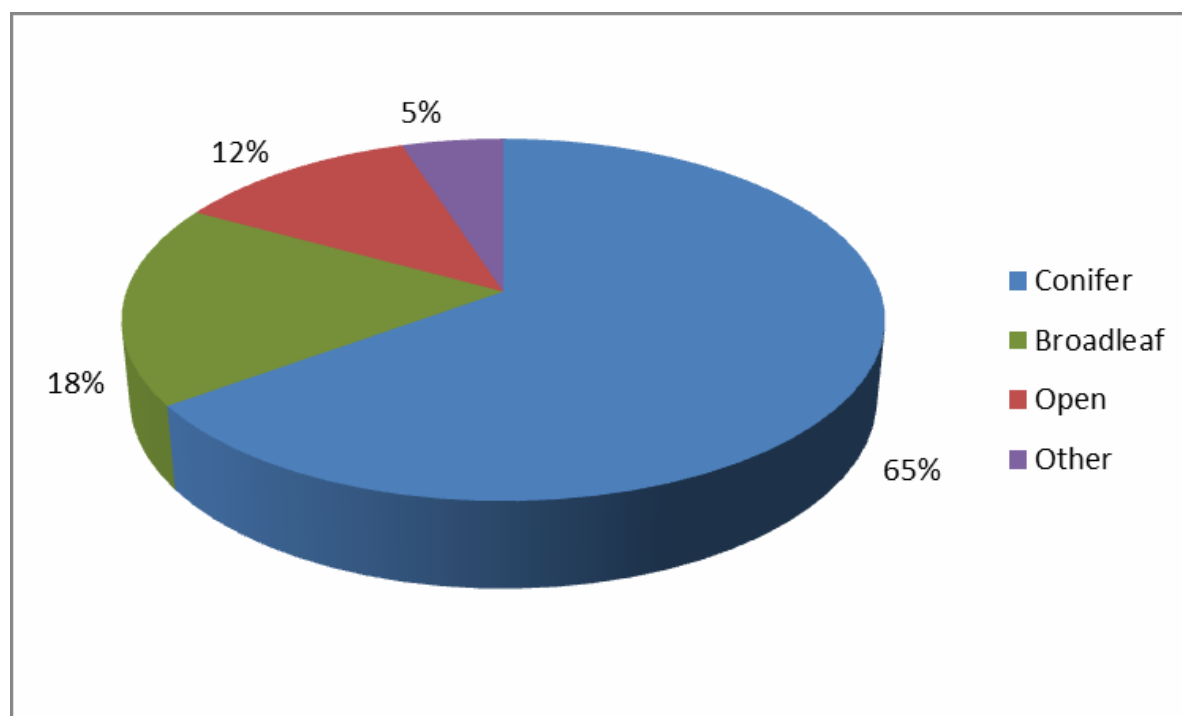
- Boundary wood and Calverton will be thinned during the next 10 years. This is needed to reduce the risk of windblow on the relatively unstable manmade soils on these sites. These works will give us the opportunity to improve and create view points and new paths. This will also enable the removal of dothistroma infected pine. This can then be supplemented with underplanting if appropriate. This strategy should maintain these sites visual appearance without risk of windblown trees disturbing the soil and exposing the mining/mineral waste beneath. Further information can be found in Section 9.
- As well as the normal upgrading and maintenance of Forest Roads; new roads may need to be constructed at Boundary Wood and Calverton to allow extraction of timber.
- Throughout the plan period there will be a programme of ride widening to manage access and drainage.

Table 4 and figure 4 show a breakdown of future forest structure.

Table 3 – Future Species (as of 2067)

Species	Area (ha)	Percentage of Total Area
Conifer	802	65%
Broadleaf	220	18%
Open/Other	208	17% (including rotational open space and other land use. Total Open 12%)
Total Area	1230	100%

Figure 4 - Future Forest Structure (2067)



5. Meeting and Monitoring Objectives

Objective	Description	Proposals	Methods of Monitoring
Woodland	The woodland will be managed to produce high quality commercial conifer and broadleaved timber using a variety of silvicultural systems which will be chosen to meet the other management objectives.	The timing, scale and shape of future felling operations will be designed to create a diverse woodland structure.	Monitored through SCDB, part of our mapping and information system.
Woodland	<i>Dothistroma</i> Needle Blight (DNB) is now present throughout the whole of England, affecting the Corsican and Lodgepole pine stands.	Young stands in the plan area are badly and in some cases, severely infected. Heavy thinning where appropriate and in the most severe cases, premature felling will be used.	Monitored by Beat team and at FP review.
Woodland (Boundary & Calverton)	The restored pit tips are now approaching first thinning age and are susceptible to DNB.	Thinning will reduce risk of windblow and remove infected trees. This can be supplemented with underplanting to ensure continuous cover.	Monitored by Beat team and at FP review.

Biodiversity	Open space	Much of the area has previously been designated as open space or heathland. The current levels will be maintained and those areas enhanced where possible.	Beat team to monitor regeneration on open ground and act accordingly.
Biodiversity	Trees of Special Interest	There are veteran trees present throughout the plan area, especially in Haywood Oaks. Much work has been done in the past to preserve and enhance these and this will continue, including identifying future veterans and Black Poplar.	Operations will be carried out when appropriate according to guidelines set out in the FC Operations Instruction 31 – Trees of Special Interest and Forest Operations.
Biodiversity	Ponds, Cauldwell Brook and seasonal wetlands	Existing hydrology including those areas which flood seasonally will be monitored and managed as per UKFS – Forests and Water guidelines.	Beat team will monitor during usual operations and act accordingly

Recreation	The whole plan area is popular and heavily used for recreation. Much of the area is freehold with good access.	We will continue to provide an appropriate and sustainable level of access.	The Recreation Team will monitor these areas through regular facility checks, acting accordingly to any issues identified.
Heritage	Tumulus and Trees of Special Interest	Ancient monument and veteran trees will be managed through the use of rotational open space.	Beat team will monitor during usual operations and act accordingly
Heritage	Polish Airmen's war memorial	Trees surrounding the memorial itself have been sympathetically planted. The area surrounding the memorial will be periodically cleared.	The Beat Team will monitor during usual site visits. Continue to liaise with local branch of Royal British Legion.
Forest Standards	The woodland will continue to be managed in a sustainable and productive way.	Guidelines set out be UKWAS, UKFS, and Forest District Strategic Plan will be adhered to	Mid-term monitoring of the FP, UKWAS and SGS audits and Beat staff.

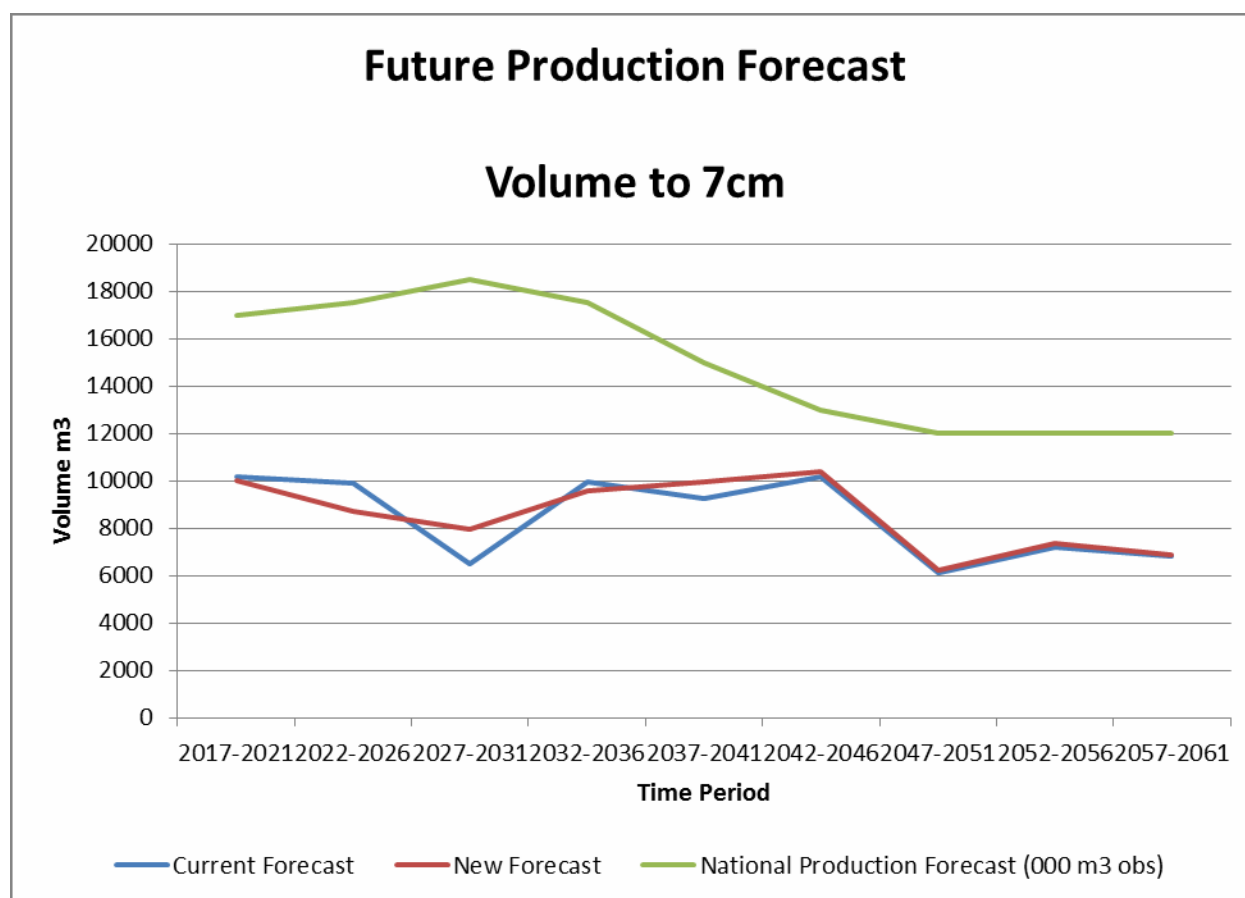
6. Economic forecast

The woodland will continue to be managed sustainably as set out in previous and current objectives relating to Forest Standards. Table 5 shows the future production forecast which takes into account changes in silvicultural systems and felling years.

Table 5 – Future production forecast

	Forecast Period	All Species	All Conifers	All Broadleaves
Volume to 7cm	2017-2021	10027	9135	892
	2022-2026	8701	8080	622
	2027-2031	7966	7252	714
	2032-2036	9580	8784	796
	2037-2099	8077	7034	1043

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



7. Consultation

7.1 Consultees

- ✓ **Ashfield District Council**
- ✓ **Blidworth Parish Council**
- ✓ **Calverton Parish Council**
- ✓ **Coal Authority**
- ✓ **Historic England**
- ✓ **Euroforest**
- ✓ **Gedling Borough Council**
- ✓ **Mansfield District Council**
- ✓ **Newark & Sherwood District Council**
- ✓ **Nottinghamshire County Council**
- ✓ **Martin Robinson & Sons Timber Ltd.**
- ✓ **Natural England**
- ✓ **On Site Concessions**
- ✓ **Portland College**
- ✓ **Rainworth Parish Council**
- ✓ **Ravenshead Parish Council**
- ✓ **Tilhill Forestry**

Other interested parties will be directed via on site signage to Calverton, Blidworth, Kirkby in Ashfield and Mansfield Libraries where copies of the plan will be held. The plan will also be available on the Citizenspace website. There will also be drop in sessions at Boundary Wood and Longdale Lane to allow people to view and discuss the plan with us as part of the consultation.

All of our forests and woodlands in this Forest District are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council®(FSC®) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). All Forestry England forests and woods are independently certified as sustainably managed, to continue to benefit future generations. The FSC is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. The PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management.



8. Relevant Information

- Egyptian Nightjar Story: further information can be found at:
<http://www.blidworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk/54738.html>
(The Forestry Commission is not responsible for content on third parties websites).

9. Boundary Wood & Calverton: What are they and why do we need to thin them?

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 on Boundary Wood and Calverton. 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 site in the short term, but the long term benefits outlined above should outweigh this.

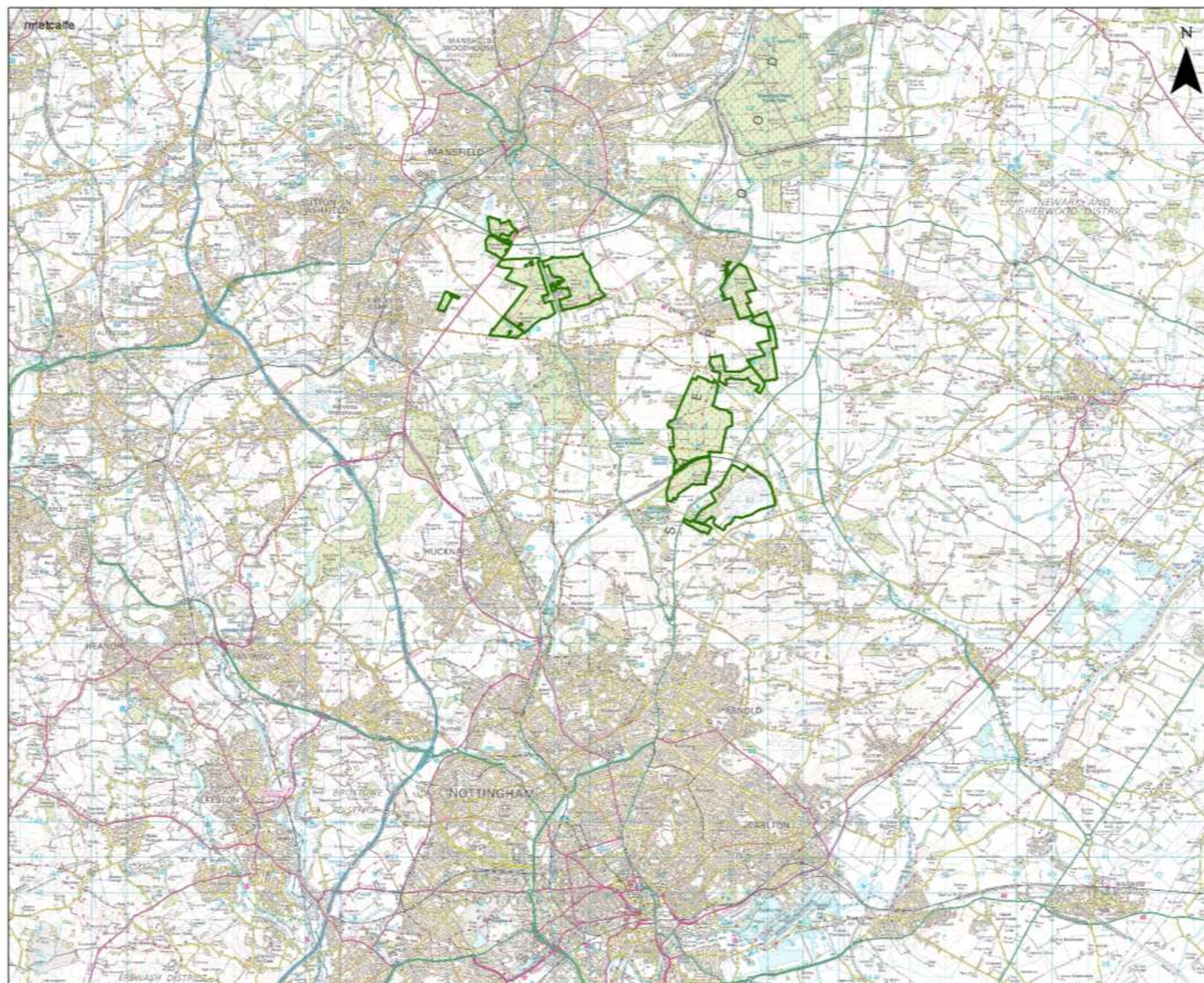
Whilst the machines are on site we may use them to fell trees and open up some small areas of the site. This will improve access and create a few viewpoints from the top and sides so you can see the surrounding countryside. We also have the option to under plant in the spaces we create by thinning. This 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.

Boundary Wood and Calverton 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.

Thieves & Blidworth

Forest Plan

2017 – 2067



Central England Forest District

Location Map

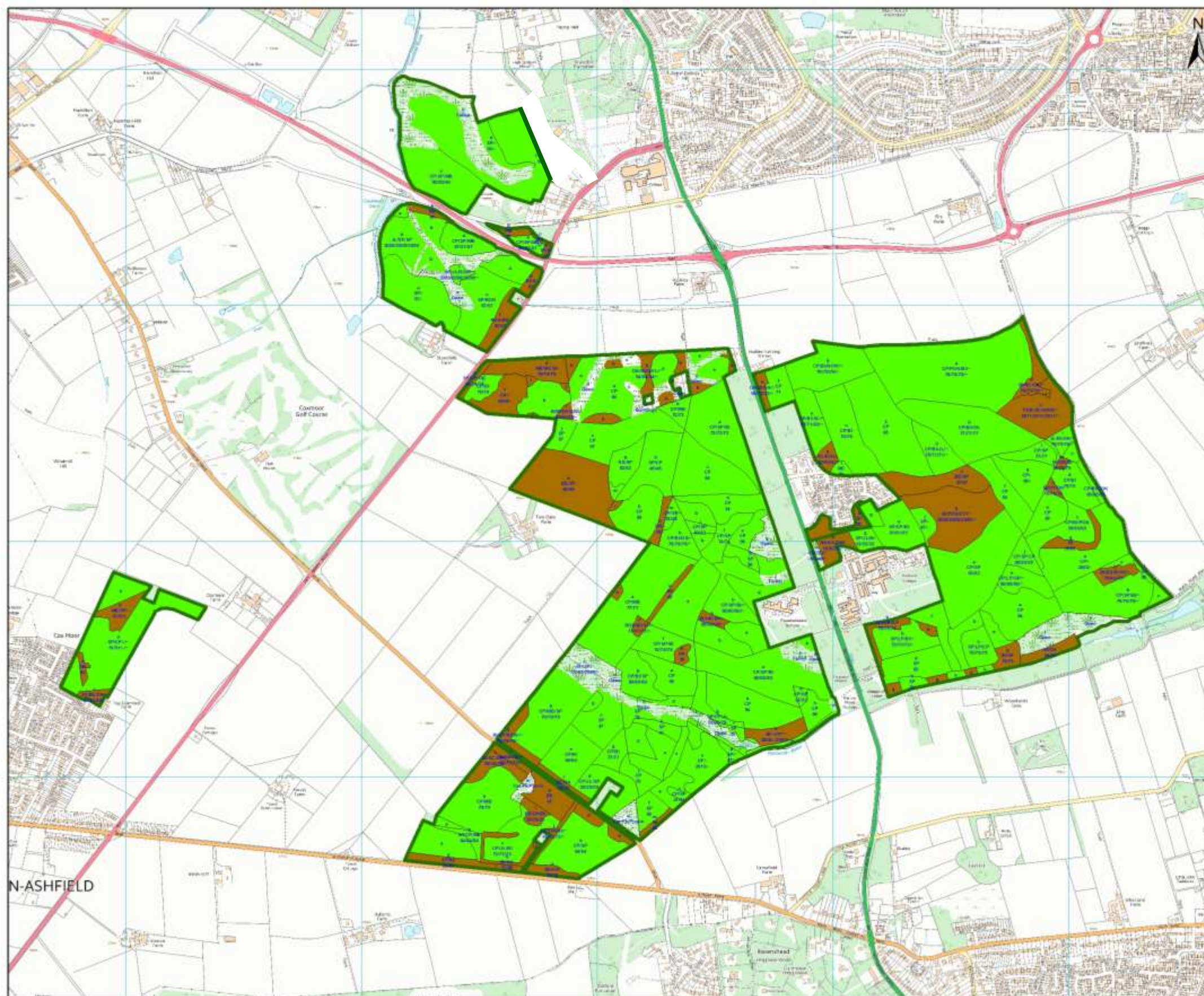
This Forest Plan (FP) comprises three distinct blocks of woodland to the south of Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. The Thieves' and Harlow Wood blocks comprise of; Thieves wood, Cauldwell Wood, Stonehills Plantation, Coxmoor and Harlow Wood. The Blidworth block comprises of Boundary Wood, Haywood Oaks, Sansom Wood, Calverton and Watchwood. The woodlands are surrounded by major routes including the A60, A611, A614 and A617.

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Central Forest District

Current Species – Thieves

The woodlands within the plan area are predominantly secondary coniferous. 83% of the area is planted with 12% being open space.

Of the plan area, 65% is coniferous and 18% is broadleaved.

Of the coniferous element, 49% is Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *Maritima*) and 12% Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The remaining 8% is made up of larches, firs, spruce and other pines.

-  Management Area
-  Open
-  Conifer
-  Broadleaves



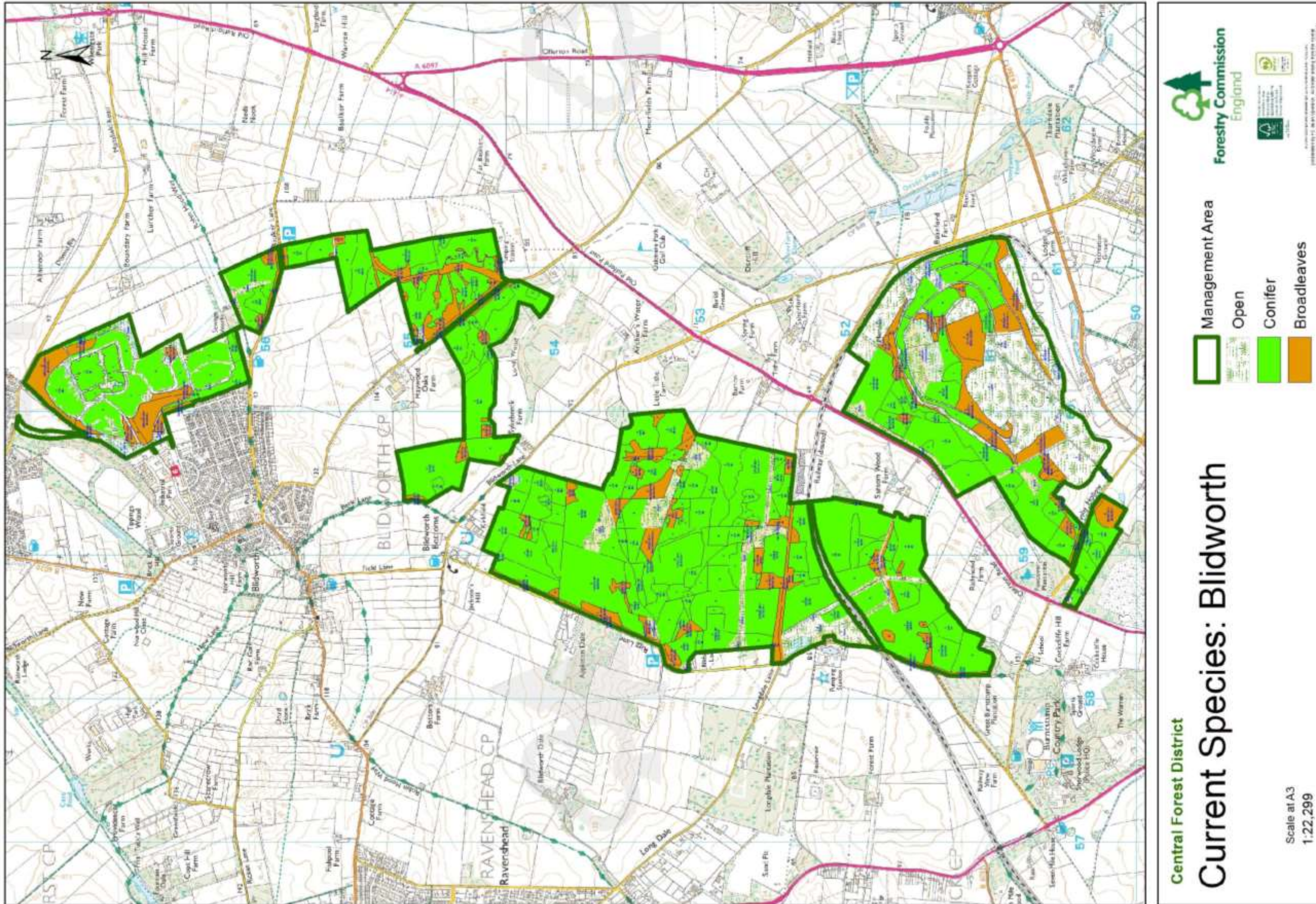
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Scale at A3



Forestry Commission
woodlands have
been verified as
conforming with the
rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council



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Declaration by FC as an Operator: All timber arising from the Forest
Enterprise estate represents a negligible risk under EU TR (No. 996/2010)





The FP area consists of 501 ha of leasehold land and the remaining 577 ha are freehold.

The level of public usage is high with many different groups using the area for a variety of activities.

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