



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Craigiels 2025 to 2035

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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1. Details

Management Plan Details

Management Plan Name:	Craigielands		
Business Reference Number:	TBC	Main Location Code:	TBC
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NT 075 014	Nearest town or locality:	Beattock
Local Authority:	Dumfries and Galloway		
Management Plan area (hectares):	35.06 [excludes 0.16 OL]		

Owner's Details

If owned by a business, the details must be for that business. Please note: We do not accept applications 'care of'.

Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:	CCW	Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	

Agent's Details

You must submit a mandate with the application if it includes thinning. A template can be found on our [website](#)

Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	

Access Consent – Complete if applying for thinning

You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
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Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning

Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
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If YES please provide details:

Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
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If YES please provide details:

Declarations – Complete if applying for thinning

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of [Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice](#);
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.

[This application may only be signed by the owner of the land or the occupier of that land where they have written permission to do so. For land owned by a business it must be signed by someone with the authority to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business. If you are an agent signing this on behalf of the aforementioned you must append a copy of your mandate.]

Signed:

Print:

Date:

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:

Management Plan Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: forestry.gov.scot

2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

List of maps:
Map 1 - Location map (1:50k)
Map 2 - Current species composition
Map 3 - Hazards & Constraints
Map 4 - Management proposals
Map 5 - Thinning plan

2.2 History of management

Craigielsands Woodland would have previously formed part of the wider Craigielsands Estate. Much of the woodland has been continuously wooded since before the twentieth century, being clearly marked as mixed woodland on the Ordnance Survey map from 1900. The property contains exceptionally coniferous trees, which may be over 100 years old.

Parts of the property were first purchased as freehold by Forest & Land Scotland in 1952, followed by adjoining unplanted areas in subsequent transactions in 1957 and 1960. Following this acquisition, FLS planted afforested these additional areas, extending the woodland area to 32.2ha. The property was then continuously managed as part of the National Forest Estate until 2024.

Formerly, a significant proportion of the property was occupied by Japanese larch. In 2020, a statutory plant health notice was issued for these larch areas and large scale felling took place. In many areas, larch was in intimate mixture with other conifer and broadleaf species, and these were mostly retained. This has left a sparse overstorey in some areas, and bare ground in others, which was not replanted following felling. In some areas, natural regeneration is occurring and is beginning to capture the site. Other areas remain bare of trees and would benefit

from re-planting.

In 2021, an “intent to sell” notice was placed on the forest gate, and a community group formed in response, intending to purchase the property as a community asset under the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

2.3 Species and age

The current composition of Craigielands is diverse, containing a range of coniferous and broadleaved species, and a significant proportion of open ground. The age of the more mature crops in the woodland is uncertain, as recorded planting years on FLS’s sub-compartment database appear to only go back as far as the initial acquisition in 1952.

The youngest of the mature conifer areas are at least 62 years old and other areas are likely to be significantly older. Younger trees exist in the understory, and an area of white willow close to the southern gate was planted in 2003, however, the woodland would benefit from further establishment through planting and encouragement of natural regeneration.

Broadly speaking, the woodlands are one third conifer, one third broadleaves and one third open ground. Several pure stands exist of Norway spruce and sycamore, however, most compartments are diverse mixtures contain a range of species.

Conifer species present include Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Sitka spruce, western hemlock and western red cedar. Broadleaves include oak, willow, sycamore, birch and beech. Map 2 shows the distribution of these, approximate proportions are outlined in the table below.

Species	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Ash	0.05	0.13
Beech	0.71	2.02
Birch	0.22	0.63
Douglas fir	1.26	3.58
Grand fir	0.06	0.16
Mixed broadleaves	0.29	0.82
Norway spruce	8.77	25.01
Open ground	11.21	31.98
English oak	4.27	12.17
Western red cedar	0.05	0.13
Sitka spruce	1.27	3.61
Sycamore	5.39	15.36

Western hemlock	0.41	1.16
White willow	1.14	3.24

2.4 Constraints and designations

There are no SSSIs or SACs within or immediately adjacent to the property boundary, nor any other significant environmental designations. The ancient woodland inventory classifies much of the forest as semi-natural woodland which is "long-established (of plantation origin)".

Craigielslands contains significant archaeological interest. Canmore lists five features within the forest itself, and six more within adjacent properties which, historically, would have formed part of Craigielslands Estate.

Within the woods, features of interest include a grotto, an icehouse, a boat house, two cairns and an underground second world war bunker. This bunker, which has been well known to locals for many years, was officially mapped in 2020 during felling operations. It is thought to have been an operational base for an Auxillary Unit (a secret branch of the Home Guard).

There is great biodiversity interest within the property. Biodiversity records indicate high levels of floristic diversity, as well as significant red squirrel populations. The forest is also used by birds of prey, including buzzards.

Ancient woodland characteristics are abundant throughout Craigielslands, despite its designation as being "of plantation origin". Bluebells, dog violet, wild garlic, lesser celandine, hard fern and male fern were all observed on site visits.

2.5 Public access

Historically, the woodland has always experienced a high level of public access, due to its proximity to the village of Beattock. The woodland is easily accessible on foot from the village, and a number of informal walking routes have become established over the years.

Following felling operations in 2020/21 and subsequently, Storm Arwen, many of these routes have become blocked or obstructed and public access has declined in recent years. An aspiration of ongoing management is that these paths will be restored and new paths created, to provide recreation opportunities to local residents.

2.6 Woodland Protection

Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

In 2020, the larch component of the woodland became infected with Phytophthora ramorum and was felled. Viable larch seeds may be present in the seed bank, and larch regen should be removed where practical, to reduce the risk of

Phytophthora spreading to other susceptible species or into neighbouring properties.

Other plant health issues will be monitored for on routine site visits. This will be informed by current guidance, and may include more deliberate monitoring for Phytophthora pluvialis, Ips typographus and Dendroctonus micans. Sightings of signs and symptoms will be reported to Forest Research via TreeAlert.

Rhododendron can be found throughout the woodland. Although it is not yet having a significant negative impact on ground flora, it should be removed before it becomes too widespread to be practically controlled. Volunteer labour, supported by grant assistance will be used to progressively eradicate rhododendron from the woodland.

Other invasive species will be monitored for on site visits and controlled accordingly, in line with best practice guidance.

Deer, Livestock and other mammals

Broadleaves will be planted in tree shelters where practical, to protect them from browsing pressure from deer and rabbits. Where palatable conifers are to be planted, deer fencing will be considered, but avoided wherever possible. Alternative approaches, such as the use of Trico Deer Repellant will also be explored.

Of the woodlands c.4.5km boundary, nearly 3km borders farmland used for livestock grazing. This boundary fence will be maintained in a stock-proof condition in co-operation with neighbours to prevent livestock incursion.

Planted conifers will be vulnerable to damage from rabbits and voles. Damage will be monitored and if damage is found to be at unacceptable levels, then action will be taken, such as rabbit fencing or the retrospective fitting of vole guards.

Grey Squirrels

Craigielsands is known to support a significant number of red squirrels, however there have been occasional sightings of grey squirrel in recent years. There is an aspiration to work alongside Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels to contribute to red squirrel conservation efforts. This could include trapping of grey squirrels which will support the recovery of reds, whilst also protecting hardwood trees from bark stripping.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

A number of minor watercourses cross the property, including the Kellobank Burn and several unnamed burns. These eventually discharge into the River Annan (Threewaterfoot to Annan) which is currently classified as being in Moderate condition.

The introduction of further broadleaves and the aspiration to practice low impact forest operations wherever possible will help protect soil and water quality during the plan period. Forest & Water Guidelines will be followed at all times.

Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

The height of many of the mature conifers at Craigielsands means that wind damage is a risk. During Storm Arwen in 2021, extensive damage was sustained in some areas. To mitigate the risk of further catastrophic windthrow, contiguous blocks of over-mature Norway spruce will be felled early in the plan period, and re-planted.

Ongoing management will comprise small scale harvesting and re-planting, so whilst the risk of wind damage remains, it will be confined to small scale pockets, rather than large-scale blocks. Similarly, this, along with the introduction of additional broadleaves, will mitigate the risk of catastrophic fire damage.

Due to the property's location, the risk of river flood damage is extremely low. The likelihood is considered as being less than 0.1% each year, and as such as not shown on SEPA's flood maps.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

The species and structural composition of Craigielsands is currently very diverse compared with many other properties in the locality, featuring a range of coniferous and broadleaved species. However, there is an aspiration to diversify this further and introduce additional species to improve the forest's resilience to climate change. The woodland will also benefit from re-structuring, to provide young coniferous habitat, which is currently absent from the property.

3. Vision and Objectives

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

The long-term vision for Craigielsands Woodland is to manage it for the benefit of the community of Beattock. This means opening up the woodland for public access, firstly, by re-opening existing paths, and secondly, by creating additional waymarked paths, which incorporate inclusive design principles.

In addition, there is an aspiration to improve the habitat provision within the woodland and enhance its biodiversity. This will include managing the forest for red squirrels, developing butterfly glades and encouraging the spread of woodland flowers.

Thirdly, an objective is to provide educational opportunities. This will include forest walks for school-age children, wildlife walks for the general public, and courses delivered by local partners (such as schools, colleges and training providers).

Fourthly, an objective is to protect the significant archaeological interest which

exists within the woodland. These features tell a vivid story of the history of the local area, and woodland management efforts will ensure these are preserved and awareness of them is raised within the local community.

Finally, through the introduction of additional species, and the sensitive management of operations, the resilience of the woodland should be improved. There is a strong aspiration to shape an 'exemplary' woodland, which showcases best practice and the potential of alternative species and low-impact management.

3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Improve recreational access to the woodland.
2	Enhance habitat provision within the woodland.
3	Provide educational opportunities for local people.
4	Preserve historic environment features.
5	Diversify the woodland and enhance its resilience.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Please provide details on the stakeholder engagement you have undertaken, this must include contact with adjacent properties and potentially affected neighbours depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland (e.g. thinning) and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Kirkpatrick- Juxta Community Council	Nov 2022	Nov 2022	Supportive in principle of community ownership and the objectives for ownership.	
Beattock Nursery	June 2024	June 2024	Strongly supportive of community ownership.	
Moffat and District Red Squirrel Group	June 2024	June 2024	Strongly supportive of community ownership, eager to carry out conservation work	

			alongside the CCW team.	
D&G Roads department	June 2024	N/A	None received.	
D&G Archaeologist	June 2024	N/A	None received.	

5. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

5.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Archaeology	Archaeological features must be protected during operations and given an appropriate open ground buffer at time of re-planting.	There is an opportunity to enhance the heritage value of the woodland through sensitive management and enhanced awareness of historic features.
Red squirrels	Red squirrels are present in the woodland and operations should be planned to minimise impact on the resident population.	Participation in conservation activities in co-operation with Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels may boost local numbers.
Public access	Public safety will need to be carefully managed during forest operations.	The encouragement of public access is a key aspiration of the woodland management, and income from timber sales will help fund path creation and path improvement.
Wind risk	Previous crops were badly affected by wind damage from catastrophic events.	In the short term, harvest existing windblow and over-mature crops which are at risk of damage. In the long-term, future diversity in species and

		age class distribution will minimise the risk of large-scale wind damage and mitigate its impact.
Ground flora	The woodland contains diverse ground flora, including ancient woodland indicators, which will be vulnerable to ground damage from forest operations.	Low impact interventions will be made wherever possible to minimise impact on ground flora. Ongoing management will promote the spread of botanically significant plants through interventions like Rhododendron removal.
Landscape	The forest is visible from the A74(M) motorway and parts of the Moffat Hills.	Managing the forest for species and structural diversity will create a visually interesting woodland which fits into the surrounding landscape.
Archaeology	Archaeological features must be protected during operations and given an appropriate open ground buffer at time of re-planting.	There is an opportunity to enhance the heritage value of the woodland through sensitive management and enhanced awareness of historic features.

5.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

The management strategy for Craigielands will be to harvest windthrown crops, and over-mature crops which are vulnerable to wind damage early in the plan period. This relatively small-scale harvesting activity (several hectares) will prevent further economic damage, whilst also providing revenue to fund other activities, including path improvement and creation, conservation efforts and educational provision.

In the future, smaller scale harvesting and thinning will continue to diversify the species and age class distribution of the woodland, whilst providing modest income.

6. Management Proposals

6.1 Silvicultural Practice

Outline silvicultural practice and management prescriptions. Include any past management practice that is relevant and the strategies to address the issues identified in section 5.

There is a long-term aspiration to manage the woodland using low-impact silvicultural systems and avoid large-scale felling coupes. However, in the nearer term, areas of windthrow and over-mature conifer will be felled on a clearfell and restock basis. In addition, areas of SPHN felling which were not re-stocked, and have not naturally regenerated, will be enrichment planted in the early years of the plan period.

In the future, clear fells will be avoided wherever possible, and only small-scale patch clearfells (<1ha) or selection systems will be practiced. It is recognised that force majeure such as large-scale windthrow or disease outbreak may necessitate more extensive felling, but this risk will be mitigated by cultivating structural and species diversity.

Low thinning will be carried out throughout fully stocked hardwood areas to encourage the development of future hardwood timber stands and promote floristic diversity. In addition, selective thinning will be carried out in other areas to help develop natural regeneration.

As outlined, pre-existing and planned areas of felling will be restocked through planting. In pre-existing areas, mechanical site preparation will not be practical, so trees will be planted into a mechanically or chemically screefed planting position. Broadleaves will be protected with stakes and tubes, and Trico Deer Repellent will be applied to planted conifers. Trees will be weeded as required to ensure they capture the site.

In planned felling areas, mechanical site preparation will be employed to clear harvesting residues and/or provide a weed free planting position for the future crop. This is likely to comprise brash raking in freely draining areas, and spoil ditch mounting, if appropriate, in more waterlogged areas. Species will also be matched to the ground conditions to promote their successful establishment and resilience.

In other areas, natural regeneration will be encouraged. In addition to selective felling of overstorey trees, other interventions may be carried out to promote regeneration. This may include removal of competitive vegetation (such as rhododendron and gorse).

6.1 Thinning Prescription

If you are applying for thinning, you must provide a map as per Appendix 2 of the Forest Plan Applicant's Guidance. The map must show all areas proposed for thinning. Provide any further details required here in reference to your map(s).

Early in the plan period, semi-mature stands of sycamore and mixed conifer stands will be low-thinned to provide a supply of firewood for local enterprises, whilst encouraging the development of ground flora, and promoting future timber trees.

Table 1 – Thinning

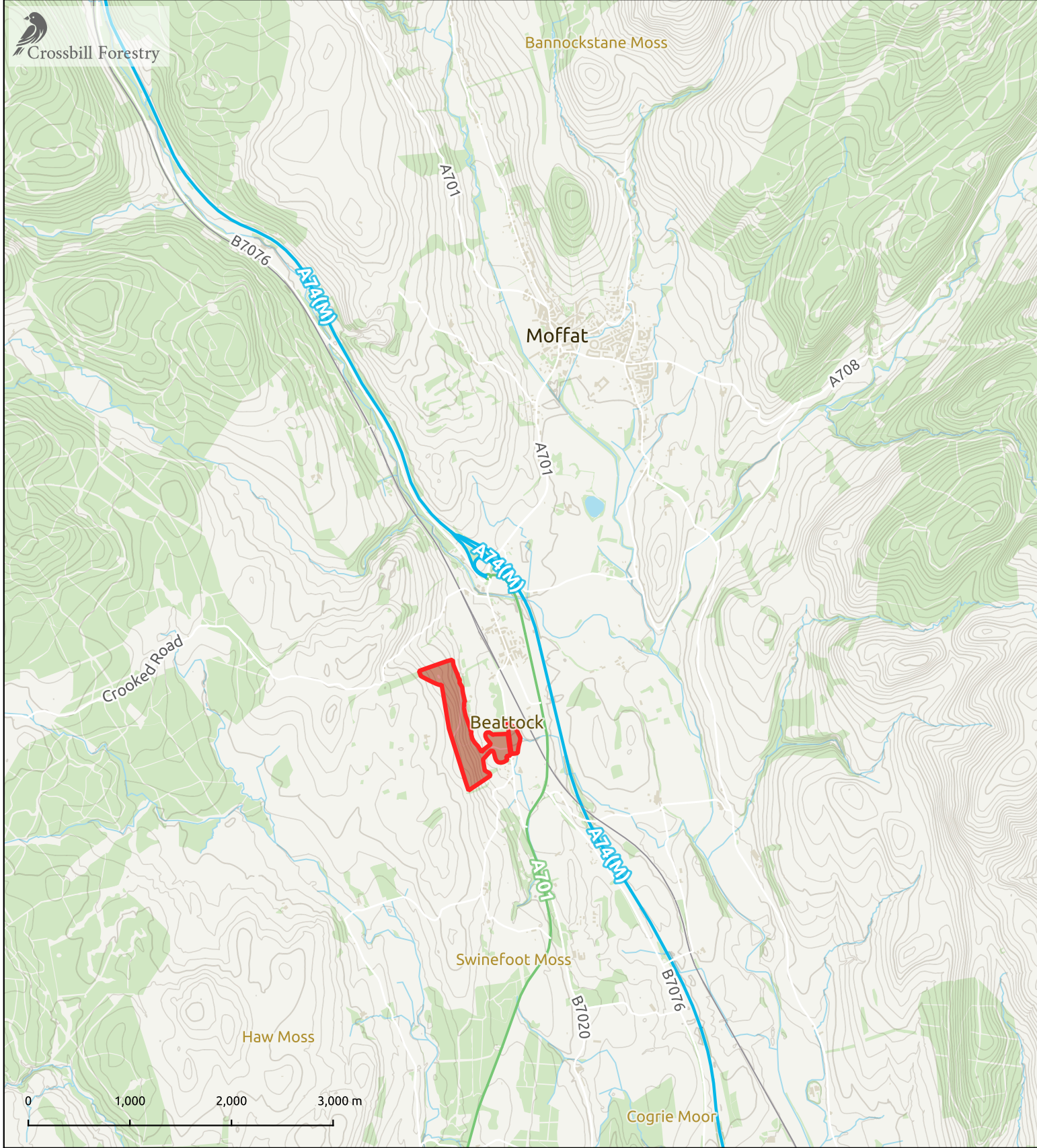
This table shows the total management plan area as well as the thinning compartments proposed for management. The felling site/compartiment in this table must be shown as the same on the thinning map(s). Please select method of displaying thinning regime:

Pre/Post stocking density






Pre/Post basal area

Volume to be removed

Total Plan Area:		35.06	hectares							
Thinning Compartment	Area (ha)	%	Species to be felled (one per row)	Age (Years)	Marking of Trees	No of Trees	Volume (m ³)	Thinning Density (per ha)		
								Pre	Post	Total
1b1	1.61	40	NS	63			80			
		40	SYC	63			64			
		20	WH	63			32			
1b2	0.55	80	NS	60			55			
		10	WH	60			6			
		10	GF	60			7			
1b4	0.21	100	NS	63			26			
1b5	0.19	100	NS	63			24			
1b6	0.16	40	NS	63			8			
		40	SYC	63			6			
		10	WH	63			2			
1k4	0.20	100	SYC	54			18			
1k5	0.14	100	SYC	54			14			
2d	0.43	100	DF	94			9			
2d1	0.40	100	DF	94			8			
2d2	0.34	100	DF	94			7			
2k4	0.81	100	SYC	63			50			
2k7	0.07	100	SYC	54			7			
3k2	0.43	100	SYC	63			43			
Total Area	5.51						Total Volume m³	465	Total to be removed:	

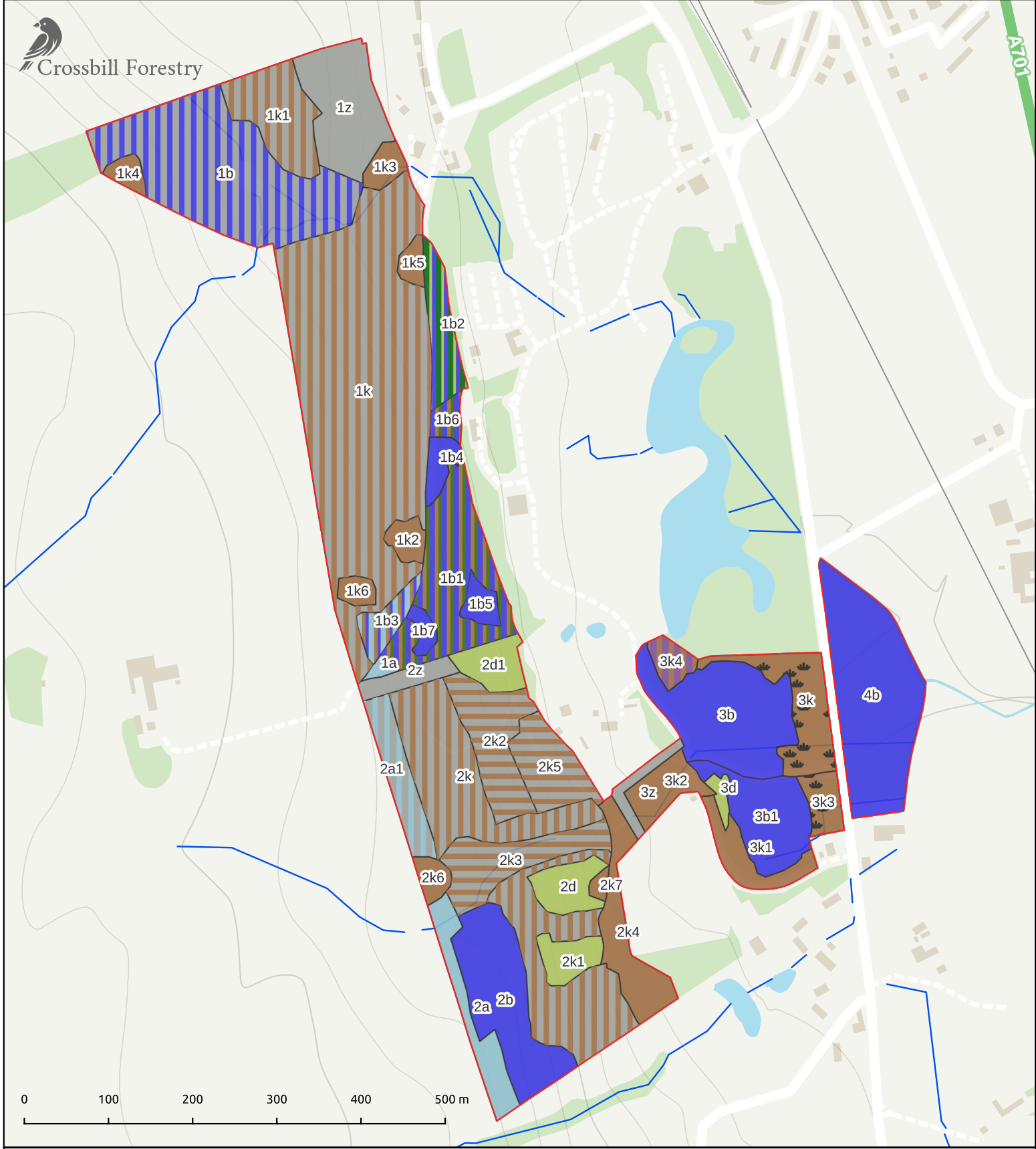


Map 1 - Location map

-  Plan boundary
-  Woodland
-  Motorway
-  Railway
-  Watercourse



Scale @ A4
1:50,000

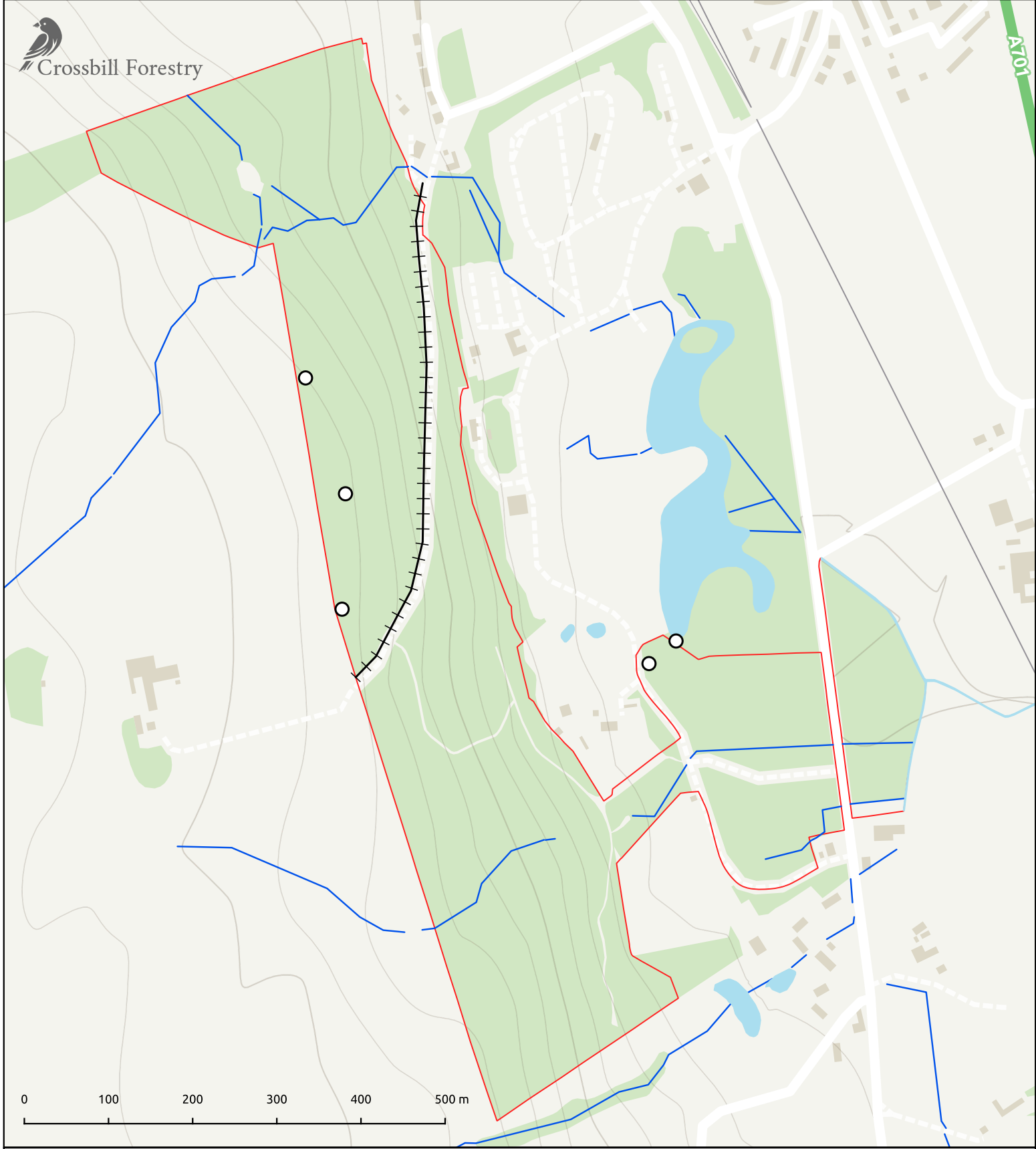


Map 2 - Current species composition





- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Plan boundary |  Open ground (OG) |  NS/SYC/WH |
|  Sitka spruce (SS) |  Sycamore (SY) |  NS/WH/GF |
|  Norway spruce (NS) |  White willow (WWL) |  OG/NS/SS |
|  Douglas fir (DF) |  OG/MB |  SY/AH/RC |
|  Broadleaves (MB) |  NS/BI/SS | |



Scale @ A4
1:6,000



Map 3 - Hazards and constraints

-  Plan boundary
-  Archaeological feature
-  Overhead telephone line
-  Watercourse



Scale @ A4
1:6,000

Timber haulage
Access to the forest is via the U305A, a consultation route for timber haulage.

Archaeology
Craigielands contains significant archaeological interest including: two cairns, a victorian ice house and a WW2 underground bunker. These features will be carefully protected during forest operations.

Enrichment planting (BL) in areas where natural regen has failed to capture the site post SPHN sanitation larch felling.

Low thin in heavily stocked mixed conifer/sycamore blocks.

Low thin in heavily stocked P1970 sycamore.

Clearfell NS blocks (1.32ha windblow, 1.34ha standing) early in plan period.

Restock with productive secondary conifer species, in nursing mixture with broadleaves.

Retain 0.87ha mature, windfirm NS to provide continuity of red squirrel habitat.

Selectively thin Douglas fir to encourage natural regeneration.

Enrichment planting (Con) in areas where natural regen has failed to capture the site post SPHN sanitation larch felling.

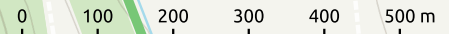
Recreation

A key objective is to enhance recreational access. This will be achieved through the re-opening of existing, blocked paths, and through the creation of new, inclusively designed routes.

Biodiversity

The woodland contains rich floristic diversity which will be protected and enhanced wherever possible through ongoing management.

Other biodiversity objectives include participation in red squirrel conservation and the removal of rhododendron.

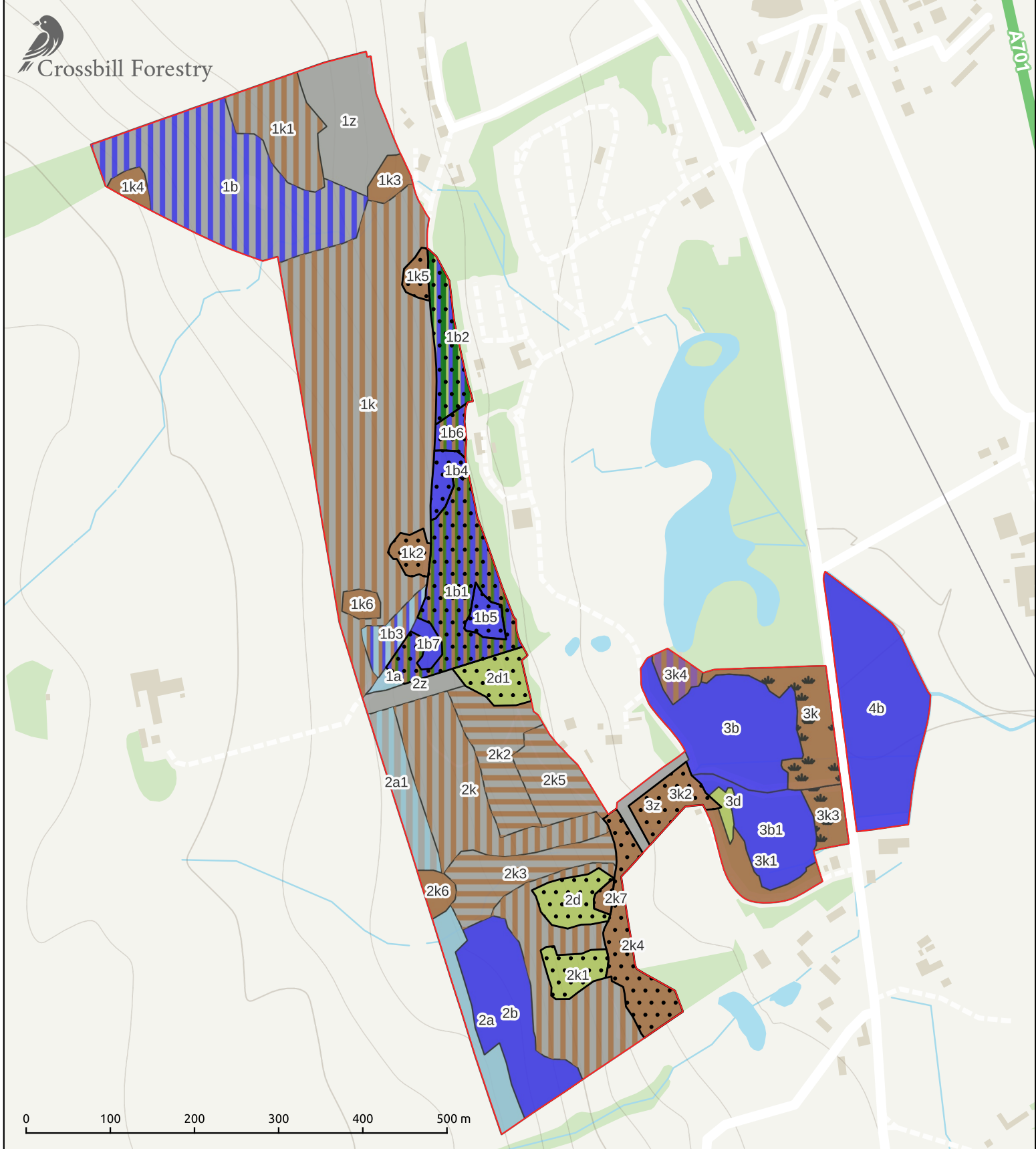


Map 4 - Management proposals
















- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sitka spruce (SS) | White willow (WWL) | SY/AH/RC |
| Norway spruce (NS) | OG/MB | Proposed thinning |
| Douglas fir (DF) | NS/BI/SS | Proposed clearfell |
| Broadleaves (MB) | NS/SYC/WH | Legal boundary |
| Open ground (OG) | NS/WH/GF | |
| Sycamore (SY) | OG/NS/SS | |



Scale @ A4
1:10,000



Map 5 - Thinning plan

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Sitka spruce (SS) |  Sycamore (SY) |  NS/WH/GF |
|  Norway spruce (NS) |  White willow (WWL) |  OG/NS/SS |
|  Douglas fir (DF) |  OG/MB |  SY/AH/RC |
|  Broadleaves (MB) |  NS/BI/SS |  Proposed thinning |
|  Open ground (OG) |  NS/SYC/WH |  Legal boundary |



Scale @ A4
1:10,000