



Forestry Commission
England

East of England

**LAVENHAM
FOREST DESIGN PLAN**

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES:

**Suffolk County Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Essex County Council
Babergh District Council
Braintree District Council
Colchester Borough Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Uttlesford District Council**

Total Plan Area: 875 Hectares

Date – January 2009

“Lavenham” Forest Design Plan 2008

Introduction

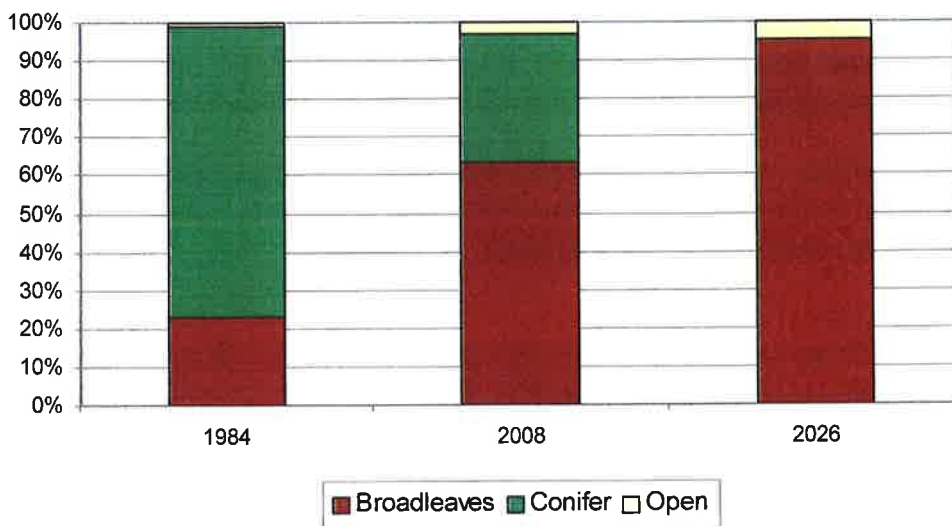
The area covered by this Forest Design Plan (FDP) is known as “Lavenham” and comes under the “Sandlings beat” managed from the F.C. outstation at Tangham (Rendlesham Forest). It covers three counties – Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex with six district councils involved – Babergh, Suffolk Coastal, South Cambridgeshire, Uttlesford, Braintree and Colchester borough.

The plan area covers an area of 875 hectares, which is made up of a mixture of freehold and leasehold land, the majority of which is ancient woodland. The policy for this group of woods is to gradually revert them back to broadleaved species – mostly site native but also including sycamore and sweet chestnut. This process has been ongoing since 1986 and is due for completion before 2021.

Restocking will be achieved by natural regeneration - for this to occur, two operations are required. Firstly, the removal of the planted conifer crop and secondly, the reduction of deer browsing pressure.

The woods (post conifer removal) will be managed to produce a sustainable supply of fuel, timber and other produce resulting in enhanced biodiversity and opportunities for informal recreation along with environmental education. The majority of this work will result from commercial sales of standing timber.

The chart below shows the percentage distribution of conifer, broadleaves and open space at intervals from 1984, which is prior to the commencement of the reversion process, through to 2026 .



Thinning

The thinnings in the area covered by this FDP are classed as “non-standard”, as a result, output from thinning operations is not dictated by yield tables and is not (in the case of conifers) sustainable – the intention being to remove the conifer species and revert to broadleaves.

Where possible all harvesting operations will be run as commercial contracts. European Protected Species (bats, dormice, great crested newts and otters) will be monitored and assessed before and after operations.

Thinning will favour broadleaved species in order to encourage a seed source for reversion to broadleaved woodland. These will primarily be site native but will also include, where appropriate, sweet chestnut and sycamore (these two species will not be encouraged in woods where they are not already present). Thinning choice will also favour a wide age range – representatives of the oldest and youngest cohorts being retained.

Local markets will be encouraged for sustainable production of broadleaved material.

Clear Felling

Conifer areas will be clearfelled after at least 1 (and usually 5) selective thinning to favour broadleaves. Felling coupes will be phased so as to promote a diverse age structure to resultant natural regeneration.

Alternative to Clearfell/Continuous cover and coppicing

Areas that have been reverted to broadleaf cover will be managed on an Alternative to clearfell (ATC) system. This will be a mosaic of continuous cover (CC) and coppicing resulting in a diverse structure to benefit biodiversity and sustainable timber production. Adjoining coppice coupes will not exceed 1 ha. in any one season.

Open ground

Both permanent open space (rides and glades) and temporary open space (coppice coupes) should produce a rich and diverse habitat structure.

Rides and glades will be mown on a biennial basis (the running surface will also be mown annually) with the option to graze with stock should this become viable. Forage harvesting trial will be carried out on floristically rich areas.

Natural reserves

These will cover at least 5% of the FDP area, they will be managed in a way that will minimise silvicultural operations. Sporting, pest control, monitoring, safety and minimal access works will be permitted.

Restocking

This will be achieved by natural regeneration of broadleaved tree and shrub species. If, after a period of ten years, there is insufficient evidence that this will result in at least 20% canopy cover within the next 5 years, it will be assumed to have failed and

replanting may be resorted to in order to achieve the required canopy (only stock of local origin will be used).

Deer browsing impact will be monitored and culling instigated until the required stocking is achieved.

Pest control

Squirrels are currently not controlled but it remains an option should new methods become available or the damage caused becomes unacceptable.

Rabbits are controlled for statutory reasons when required and may be controlled should their impact on natural regeneration become too heavy.

Deer will be culled to reduce their detrimental impact on natural regeneration and ground flora/fauna. Chinese water deer will (for the time being) not be culled (due to their global conservation interest).

Tree health will be monitored and recorded. Red band needle blight, though present, is not expected to be problematic as the conifers are to be removed from the entire FDP area.

Deadwood, especially standing, will be retained unless it is of significant economic value or is assessed as being hazardous (safety or forest hygiene reasons).

The Woods

Stanstead Great Wood (Babergh district – Suffolk).

56 ha. of ancient woodland site (AWS) formally SSSI (denotified in 1987), leasehold. PAWS restoration started here in the late 1980's and the conifer removal phase of this is due for completion by 2016.

14 ponds, a good ride system and varied soils make this a potentially very diverse wood, mostly National vegetation classification (NVC)– woodland type 8 (W8) with some W 10. Badgers present in SE corner, bats also present.

A good (but long) access road makes restoration economically viable.

Heavy deer browsing requires continued effort of control by shooting.

Lineage Wood (Babergh district – Suffolk).

104 ha. AWS and secondary plus species rich calcareous grassland (65 ha. SSSI). PAWS restoration started here in 1988 – conifer removal should be completed by 2011.

A small but first rate example of riparian woodland exists here along with good species rich grassland and re-asserting ASNW (W8).

A good site for grass snake, otter, bats, roman snail, badgers, glow worms, 7 species of orchid, oxlip, herb paris and small leaved lime.

Deer require heavy control here. Good roading allows economic removal of conifer. Lineage is leasehold.

Broaks Wood (Braintree district – Essex).

62 ha. Of freehold AWS and secondary with much re-asserting W8, W10 and a little W7. PAWS restoration started here in 1986, conifers will be removed by 2011 (a small area of coast redwood will be retained).

29 ponds, an extensive ride system plus varied soils and topography combine to make this an exceptionally diverse site.

A car park, picnic site, waymarked trails and wildlife hide encourage heavy use by the public which in turn keeps the deer browsing within acceptable limits.

Bats, great crested newts, grass snake, common lizard, badger, glow worm, wild service tree, small leaved lime and 4 species of orchid are present.

Good roading allows economic removal of conifers.

Chalkney Wood (Braintree district – Essex).

49 ha of freehold SSSI and Forest Nature Reserve (mostly W8, and W10 with some W7). Conifer removal planned to be completed by 2011 (started in late 1980's).

SSSI notification for natural distribution of small leaved lime and hornbeam plus the sites large assemblage (118 species) of bryophytes.

Car park and way marked trail get heavy use from the public, consequently deer browsing is at an acceptable level. Good roading allows economic removal of conifer.

Markshall Estate (Braintree district – Essex).

This area is subject to an underlease and as such all restocking falls to the lessor (Thomas Phillips Price Trust). The TPPT's intentions are to revert the AWS back to site native species and within the old deer park to go back to parkland and an arboretum. Final conifer removal due in 2021. A wartime legacy of good concrete roads facilitates easy removal of conifers.

Great crested newts, dormice and bats are present. The bat hibernation site here is of national and global significance. A woodland butterfly re- introduction project is likely to become regionally important.

Tiptree Woods (Colchester Borough – Essex).

Pods, Layer and Coneyfields woods amount to 102 ha. Of AWS (41ha.freehold and 61ha.leasehold). Restoration begun in 1987 and conifer removal stage due for completion in 2011.

A good range of ponds (12) support great crested and palmate newt. Dormice are also present along with bats and a small area of heather (rare in Essex). Significant earthworks of archaeological interest occur in Coneyfields wood – one bronze age tumulus (SAM) plus several other prehistoric structures of unknown date in the vicinity.

All three woods have good, short access roads making restoration viable.

Ditton Park Wood (South Cambridgeshire district).

74 ha. AWS (though actually ancient secondary, as it is a former medieval deer park). The last conifers were removed in 2005 (a small norway spruce research plot remains). Informal public access is tolerated by the lessor.

Heavy culling of the deer has resulted in good regeneration of broadleaves on this rather isolated, wet site (mostly W8 with a little W10). A good road to the centre of the wood allows economic removal of crops.

Borley Wood (South Cambridgeshire district).

58 ha. set on a prominent ridge, makes Borley of landscape significance – thinning and felling coupes have been designed to take this into account.

A suspected tumulus and recorded medieval settlement are present (also two WW1 ambulance chassis).

The rides are of floristic interest with good calcareous grassland species. Oxlip occurs in the AWS with cowslip and hybrids on the rides and former meadow area (to be reverted to grassland). Narrow leaved everlasting pea, belladonna and star of Bethlehem are all present.

Good roading make removal of the remaining Corsican pine a viable proposition though electric cables will reduce the value – this should be complete by 2017. Borley is leasehold.

Little Hales Wood (Uttlesford district – Essex).

A small, freehold wood (17 ha.) with excellent ground flora – crested cow wheat, betony, narrow leaved everlasting pea and common spotted orchid. The small meadow at the southern end is now free of crop and developing a good species rich flora. Mature oak to the north add to the diversity of this wood (mostly W8). The remaining conifer is of limited quality and access is poor. Economic restoration is possible here but will be a challenge (due for completion by 2017). Deer and game shooting are let.

Bendysh Woods (Uttlesford district – Essex).

A pair of large (92 ha.), freehold, W8 woods with very long extraction routes making economic restoration borderline (conifer removal due by 2012). The cat. 1 road is of good quality but limited in extent.

The main rides are floristically top rate with large populations of common spotted orchids. Five ponds (one on stream) give these woods great potential from a biodiversity prospective. Badgers are present along with bats. Both game and deer shooting are let.

Hempstead Wood (Uttlesford district – Essex).

Once considered the best oxlip site in Britain, this leasehold wood of 70 ha. has suffered from heavy deer browsing – currently being addressed. Red, fallow and muntjac present in large numbers (roe also present). A large area of natural reserve containing old coppice stools (considered too old to regenerate successfully) will act as a good seed source for the areas to be clear felled. Coppicing has been suspended until the deer impact comes down to an acceptable level (it is currently falling).

This is the wettest wood in this FDP (all W8) but it has a good road, so harvesting of the remaining conifer crop (by 2017) should be economic.

Rowney Wood (Uttlesford district – Essex).

A large (85 ha.) freehold wood with an unusual radial ride system. Most of the conifer was removed in the 1990's and the ground flora is responding well (deer control was started in 2007). The southern end of the wood is secondary and contains a stand of reasonable quality mature oak along with a medieval farm site.

The road is of good quality and should result in economic removal of the remaining conifer by 2017.

GLM 6 Appendix 3 Amendments to approved Forest Enterprise Plans

Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise should agree at annual meetings baseline tolerance thresholds for operations in each District beyond which exchange of letter/map or formal amendment is required. Local agreements appropriate to local circumstance are encouraged. However, in the absence of such locally agreed tolerances, amendment will be by formal revision of the plan.

Tolerances Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries (1)	Timing of regeneration	Timing of Restocking	Changes to species	Other	Windthrow clearance (2)	Changes to road lines , tracks or paths (other CE activity)(3)
FC normally required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe - whichever is less.		Up to 3 seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers; broadleaves		Up to 0.5ha	EIA implications?
Approval exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2ha or 10% of coupe - whichever is less	After 10 years				0.5ha to 2ha - if mainly windblown trees > 2ha to 5ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	2ha or 10% of coupe		Over 3 seasons after felling	Change from specified native species		> 5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity



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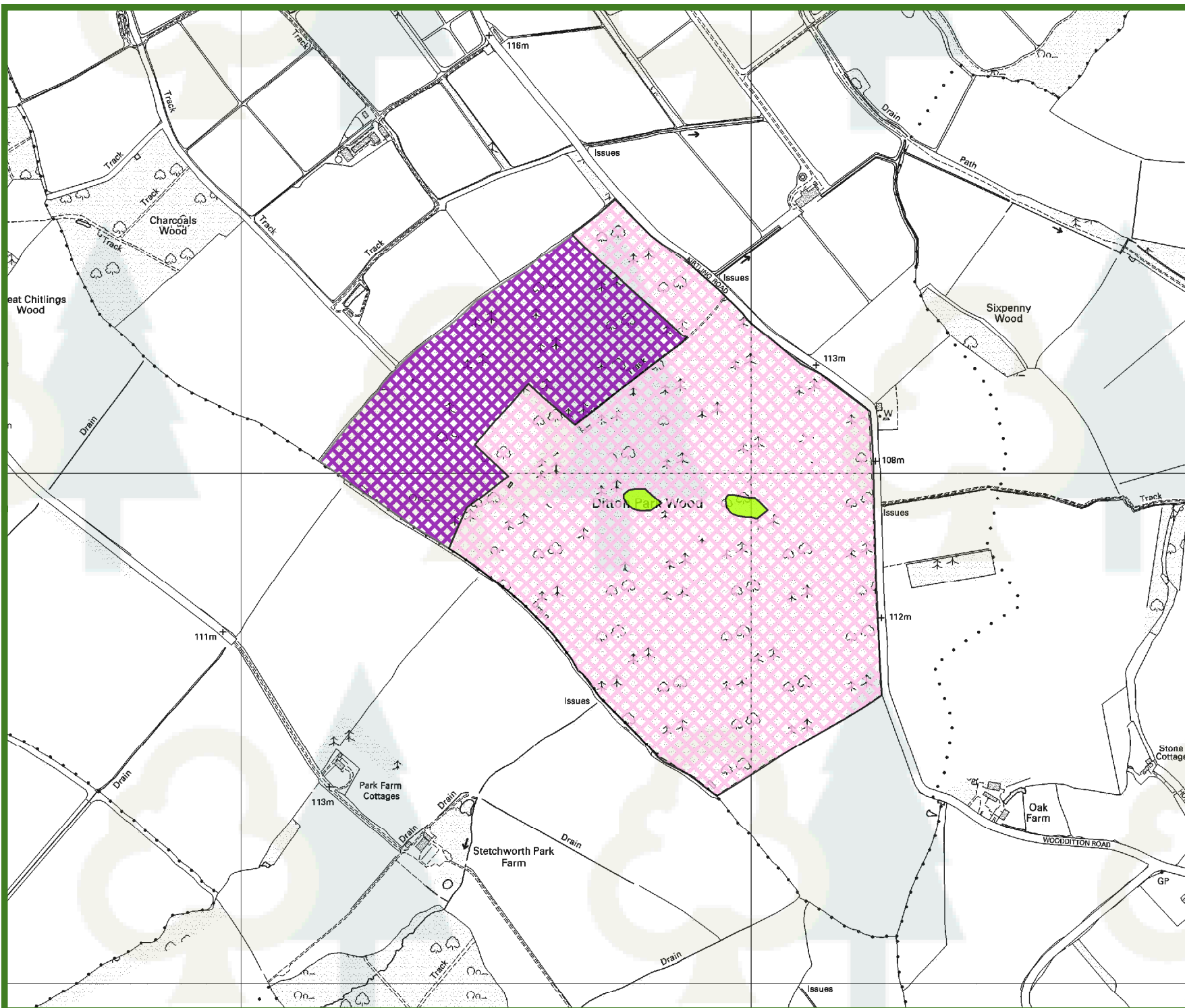
East Anglia Forest District
Future Management
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Date: 7 January 2009

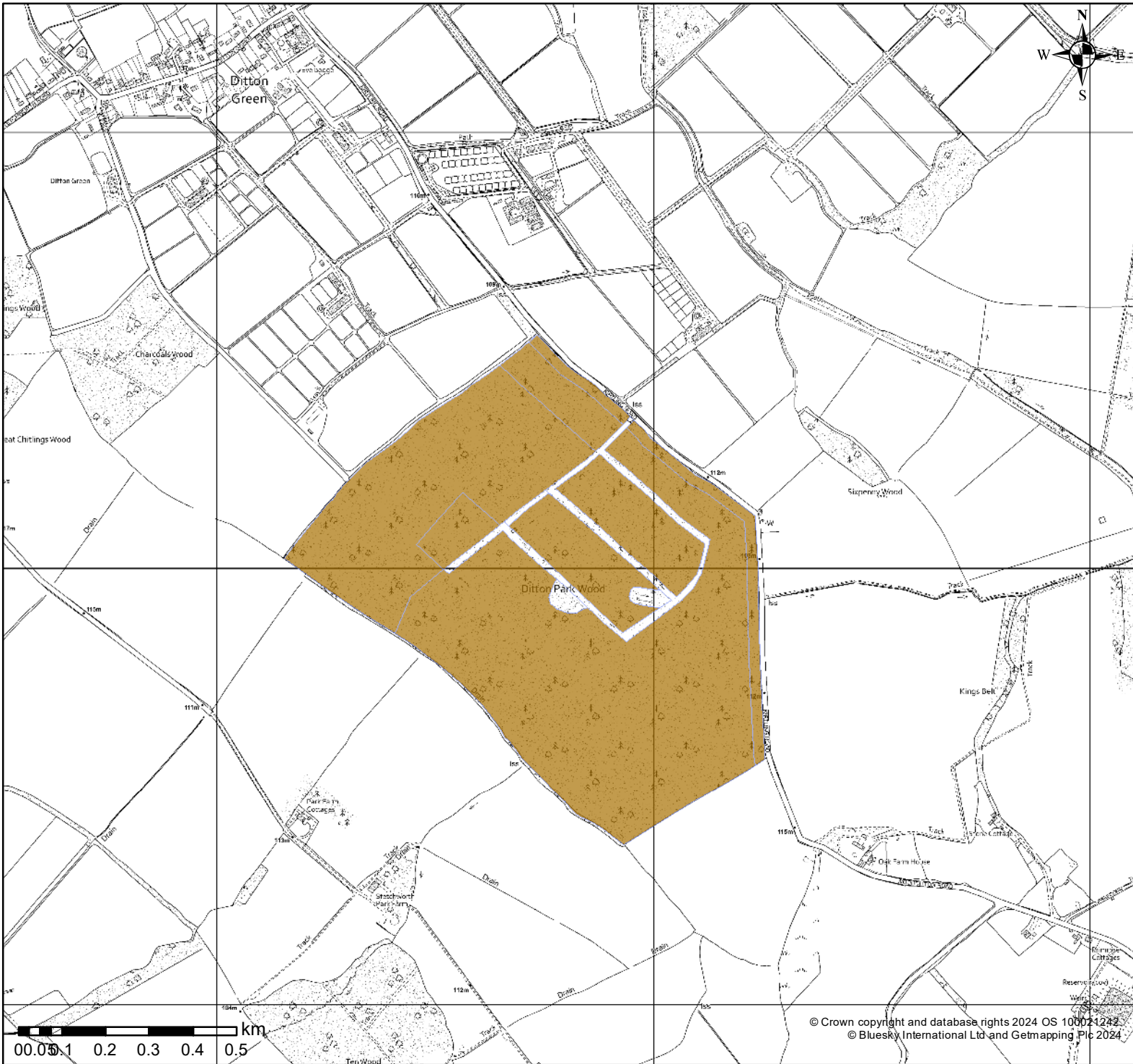
Legend

-  Clearfell 2007-2011
-  Clearfell 2012-2016
-  Clearfell 2017-2021
-  Clearfell 2022-2026
-  Continuous Cover & Coppicing
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Natural Reserve
-  Open/Other



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Title: Ditton restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:12,500

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

-  Predominantly Open
-  Beeches
-  Larches
-  Oaks
-  Other Broadleaves
-  Other Conifers
-  Pines
-  Spruces



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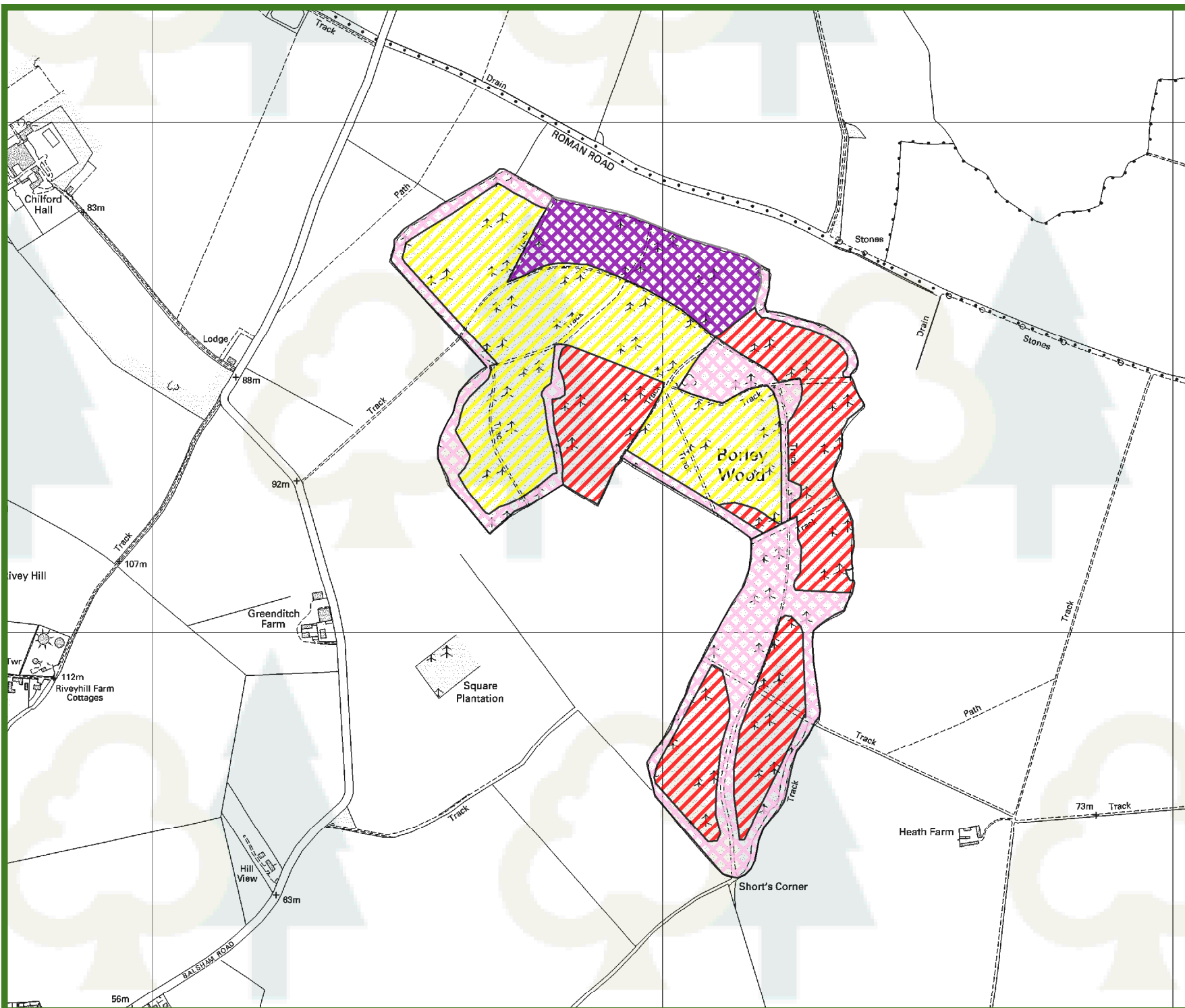
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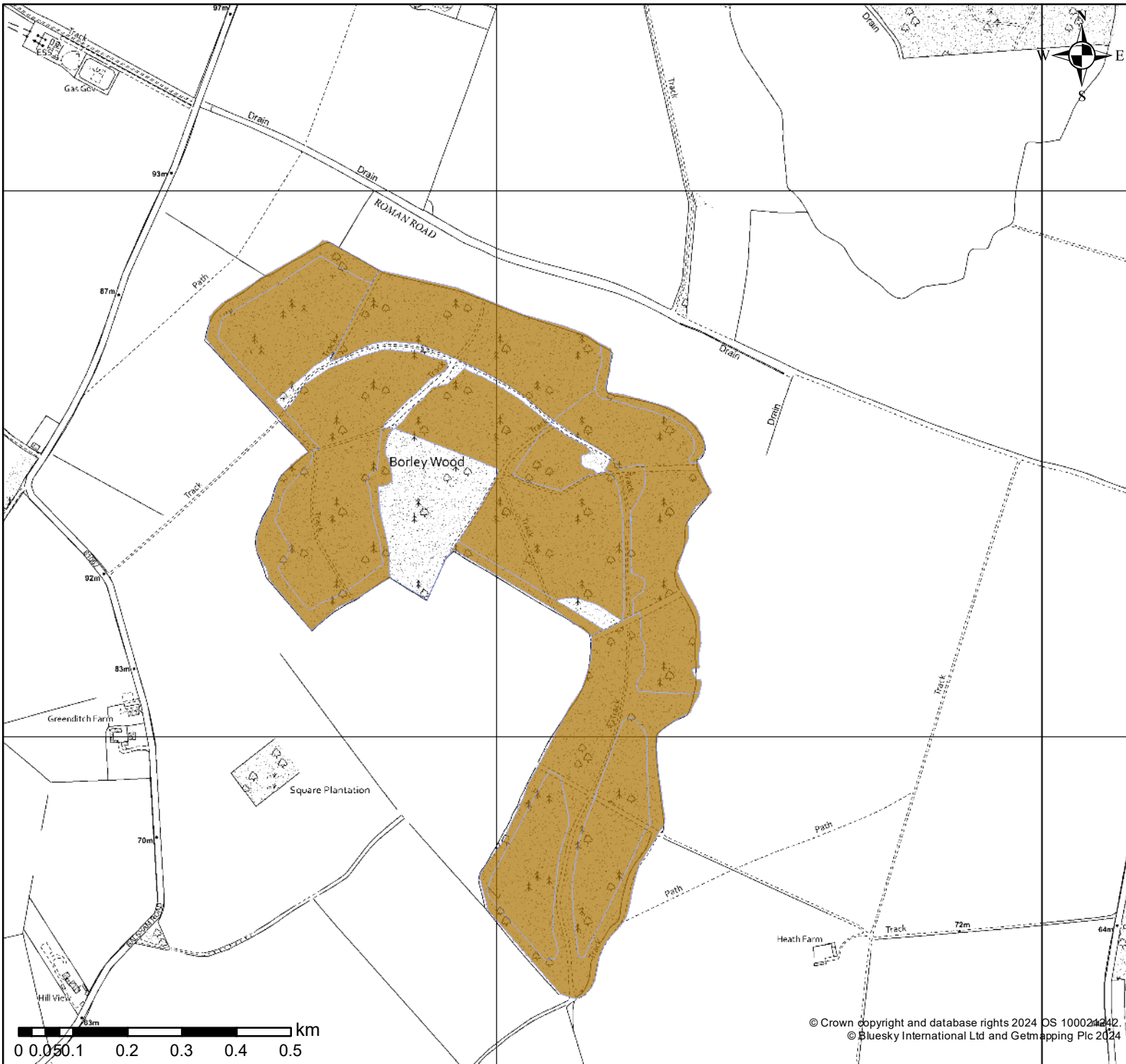
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Title: Borley restock map

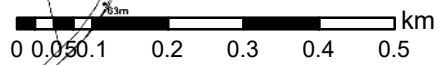
Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:10,000

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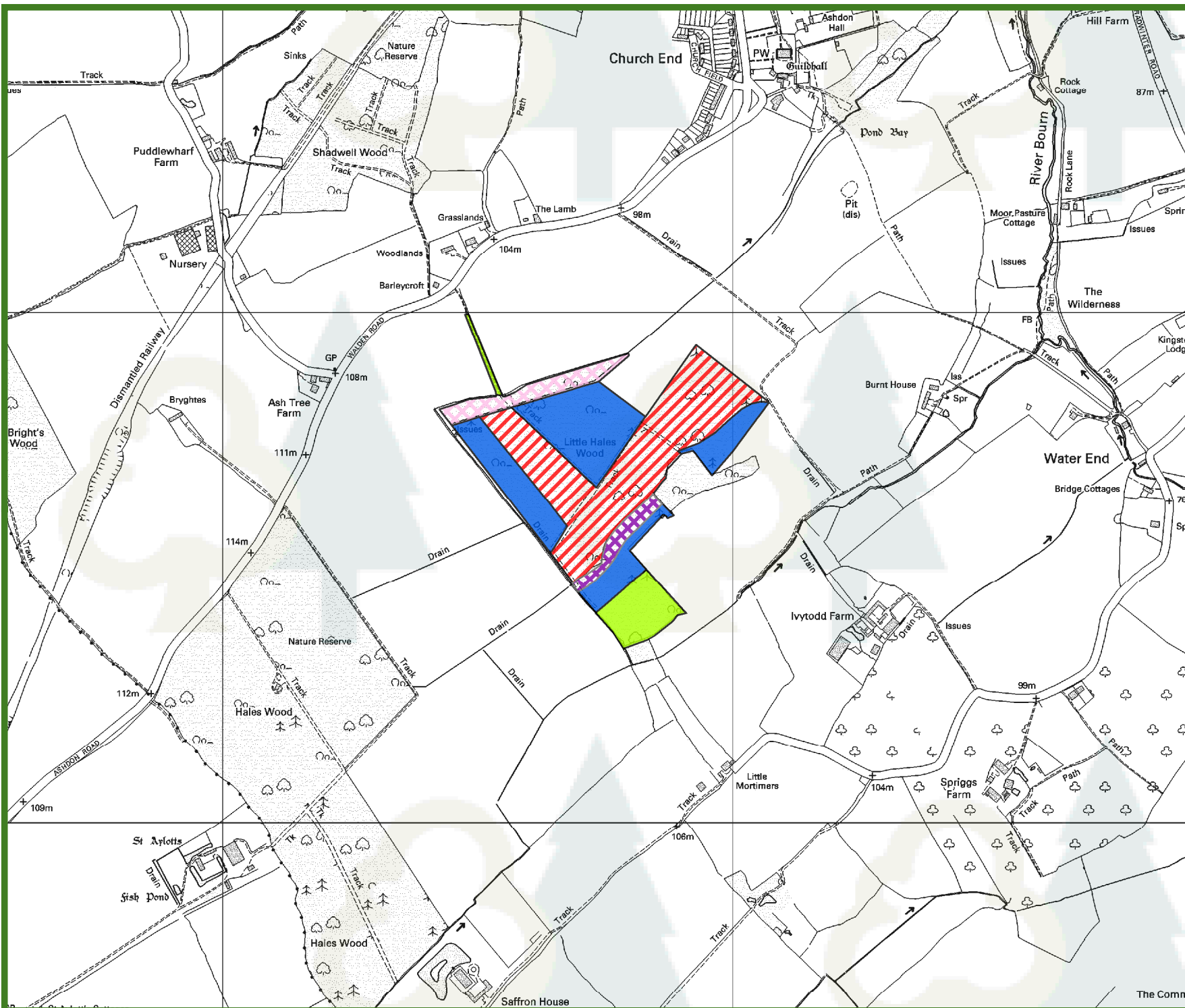
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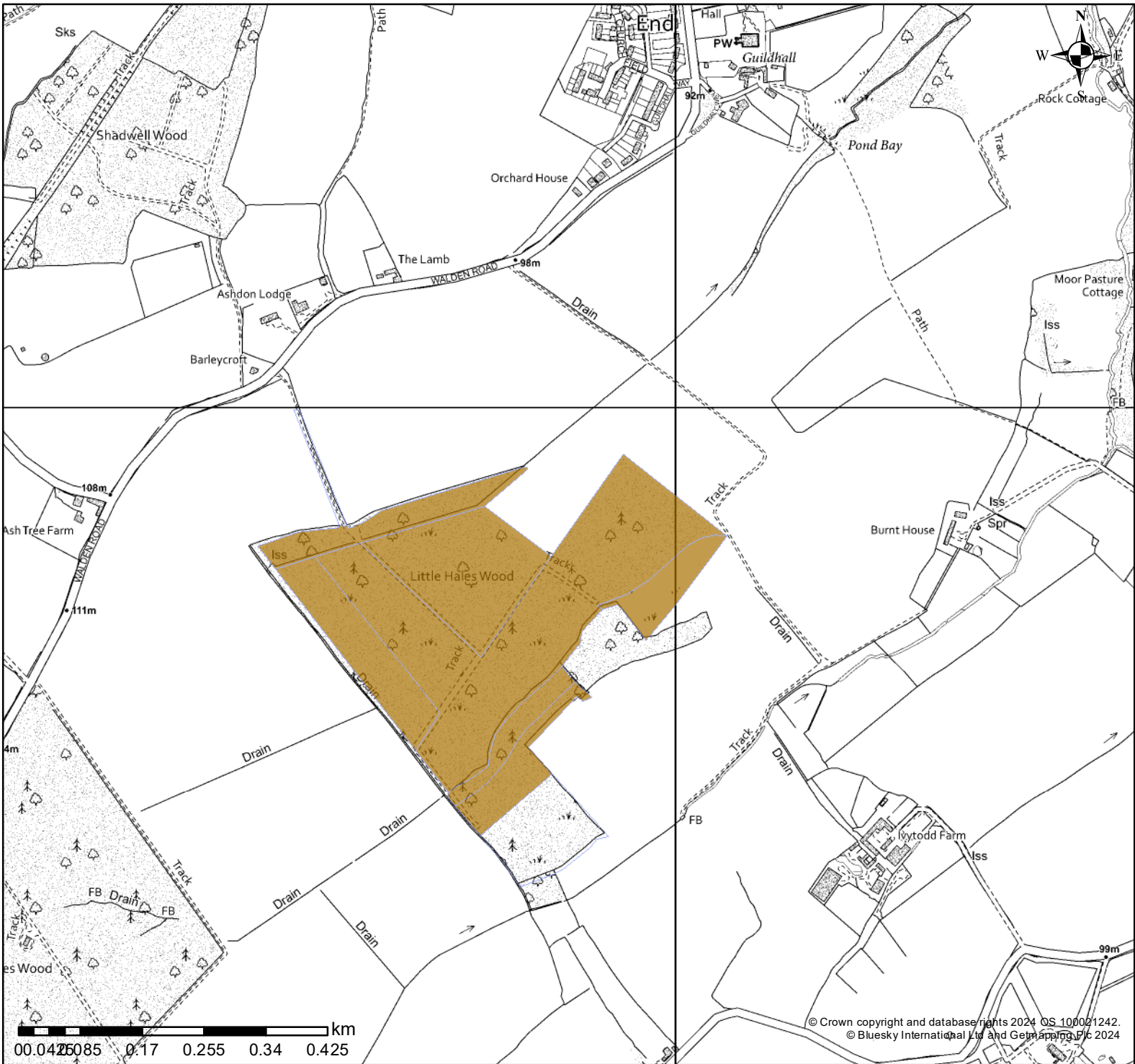
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Title: Little Hales restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:7,500

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

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- Beeches
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- Oaks
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- Pines
- Spruces

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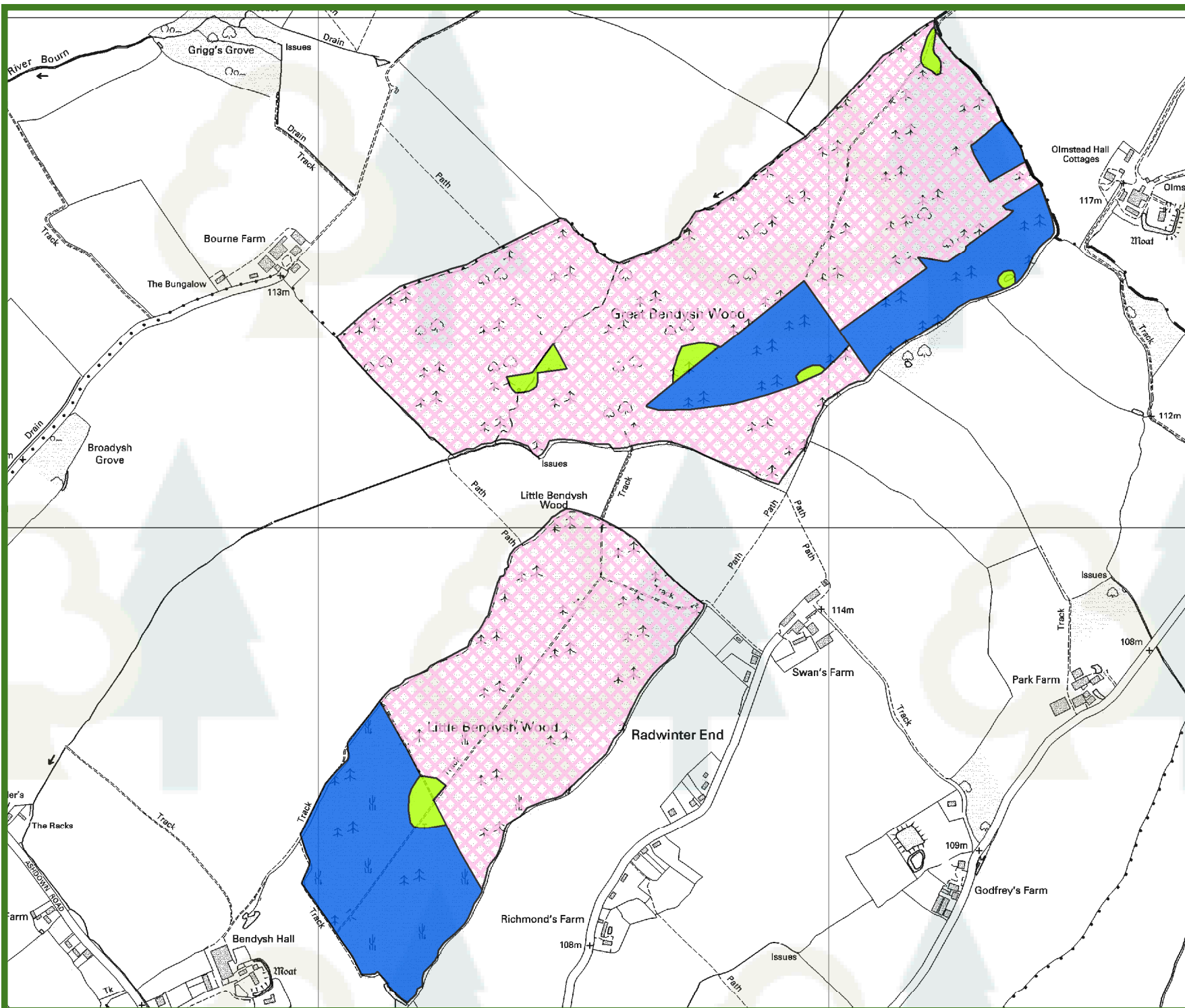
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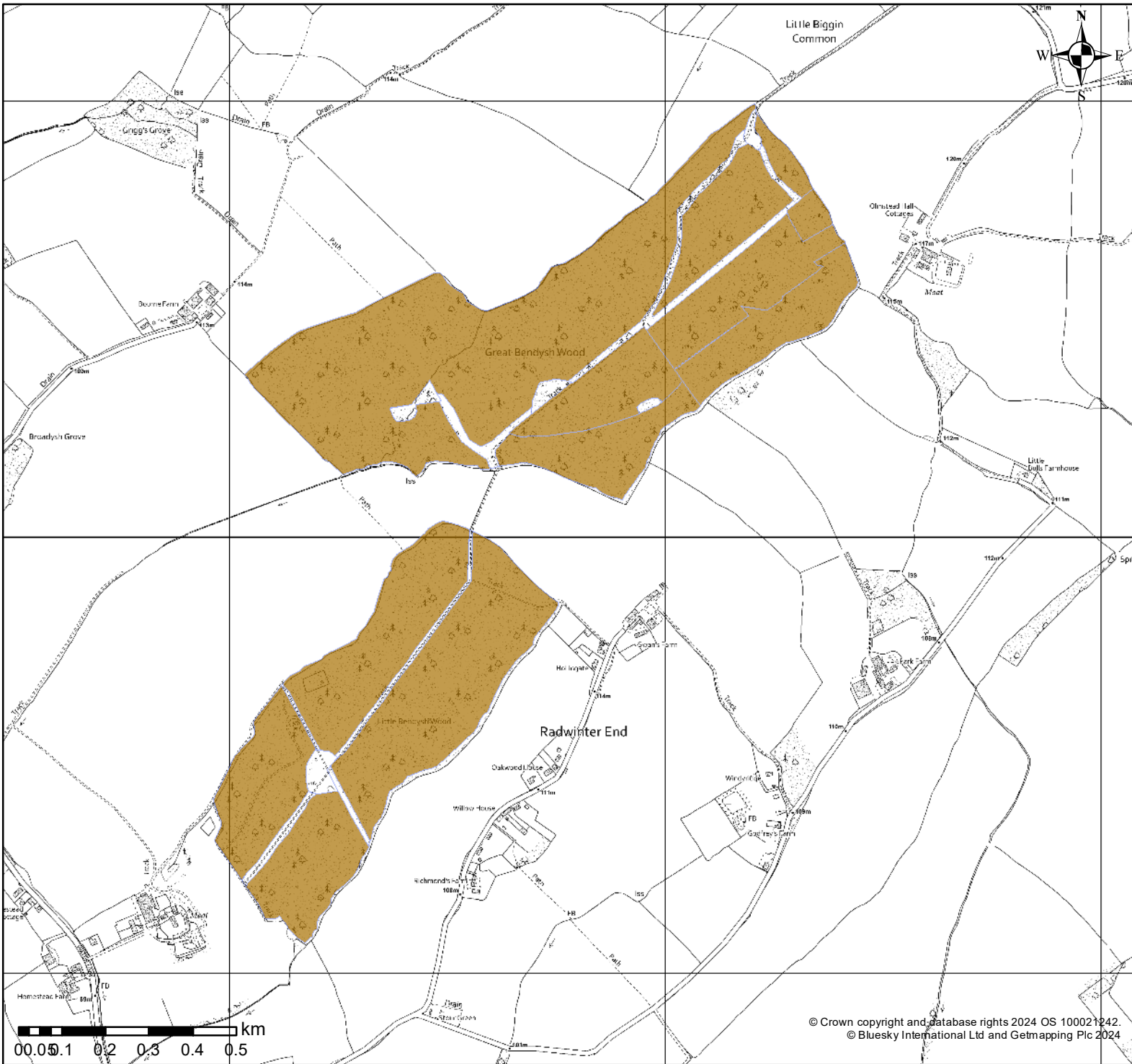
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-  Open/Other



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Title: **Bendysh restock map**

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:12,500

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

-  Predominantly Open
-  Beeches
-  Larches
-  Oaks
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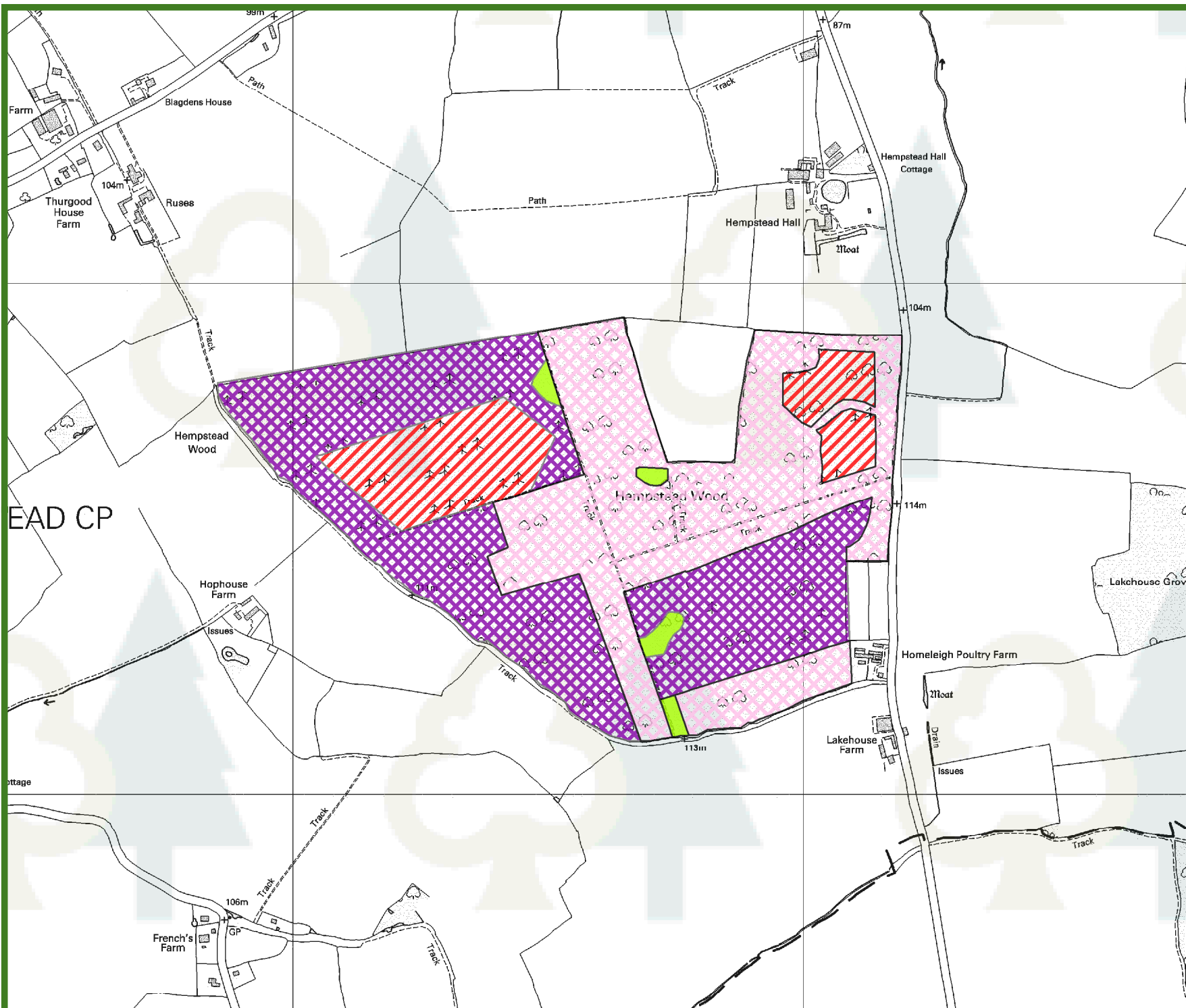
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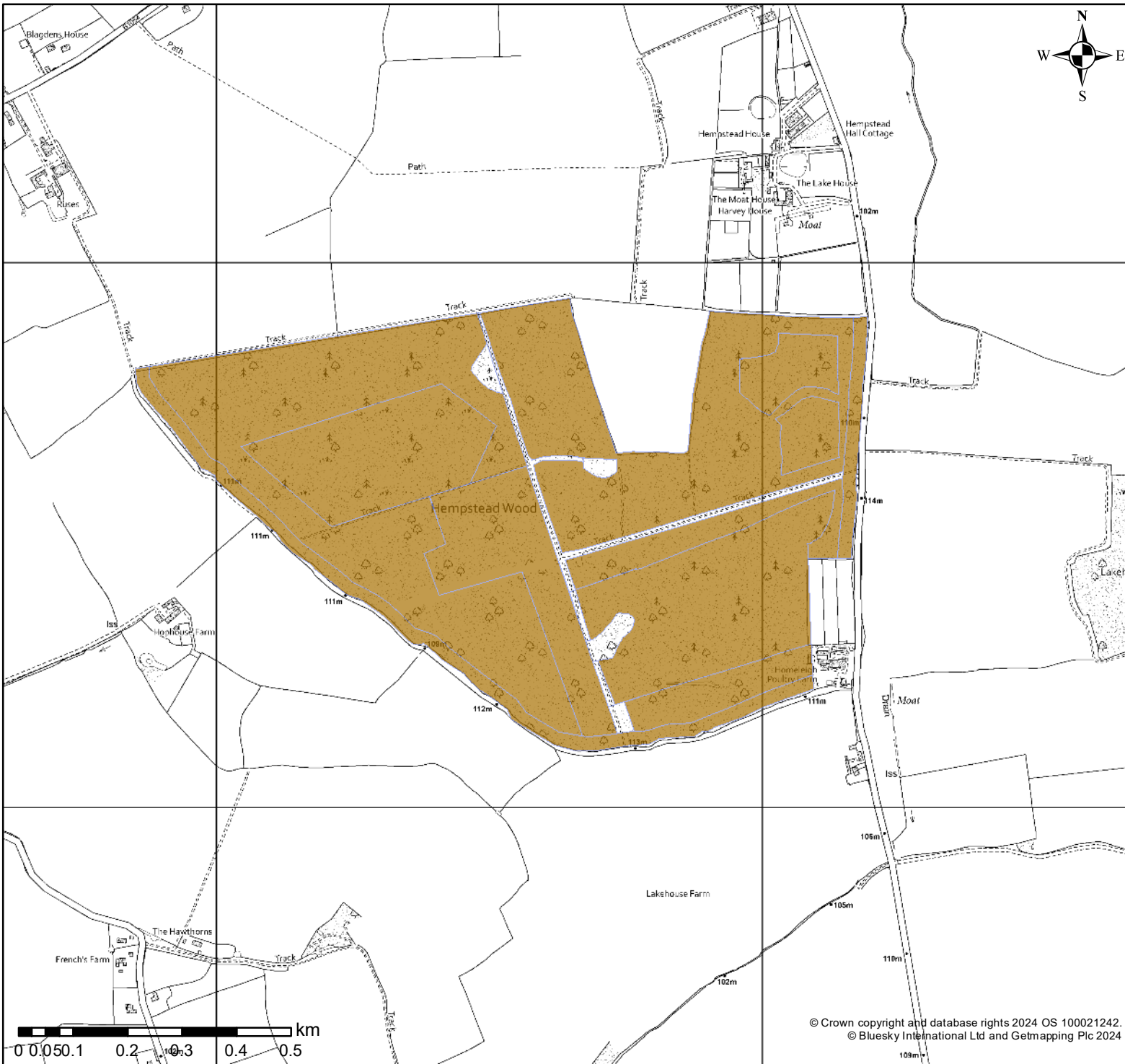
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Title: Hempstead restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:10,000

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

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- Larches
- Oaks
- Other Broadleaves
- Other Conifers
- Pines
- Spruces

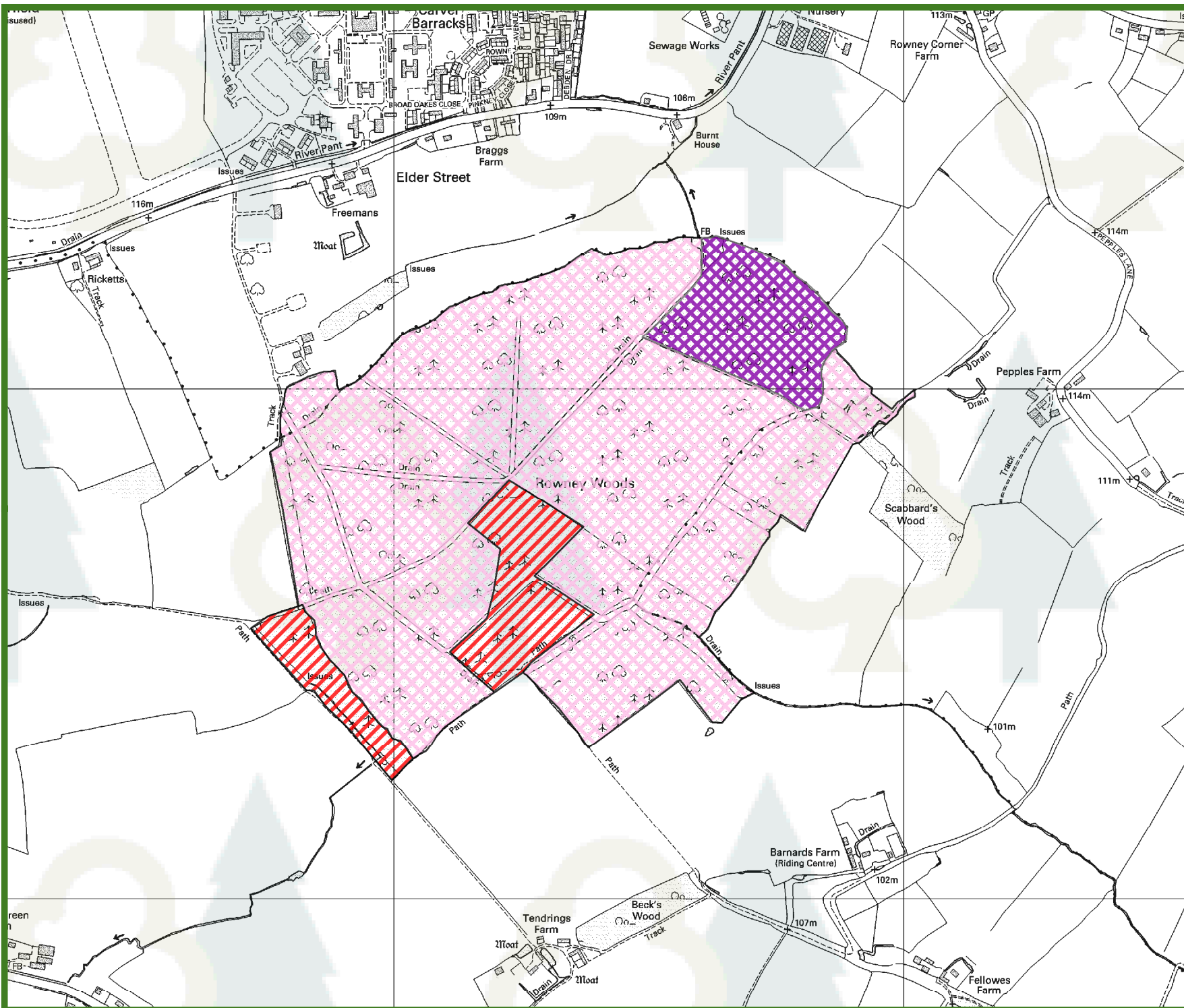
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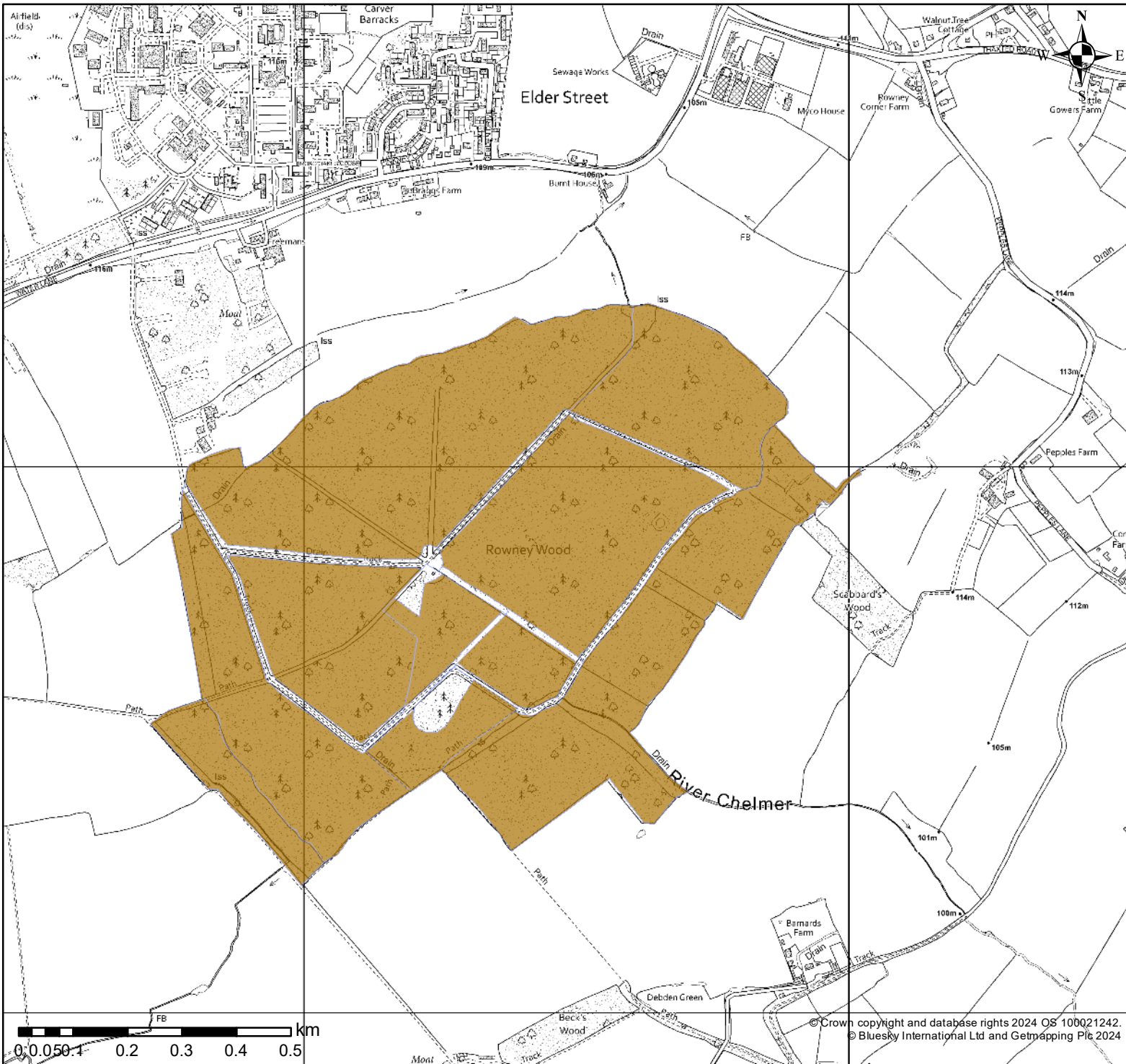
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-  Natural Reserve
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Title: Rowney restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:10,000

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

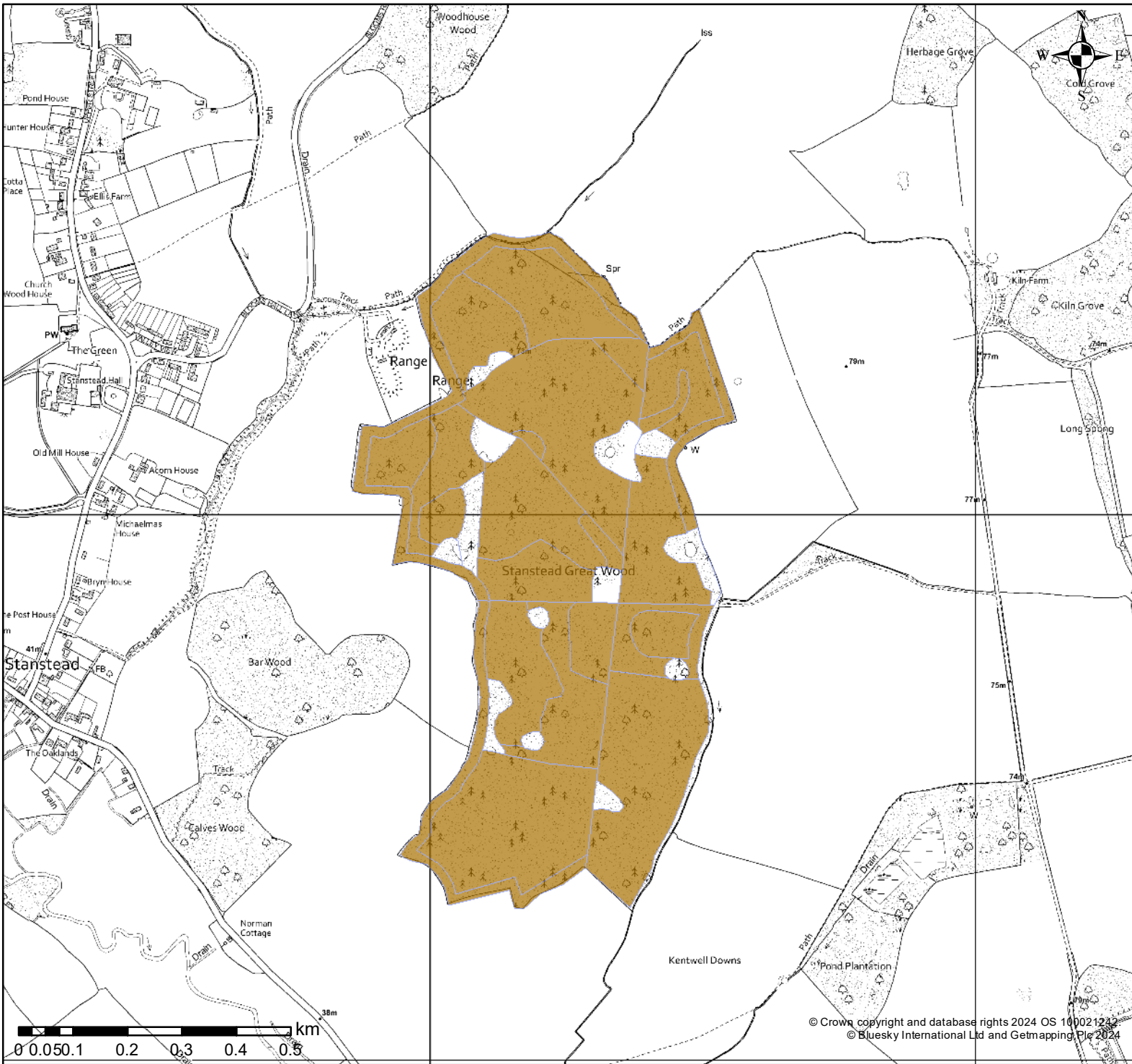
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Title: Stanstead restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:10,000

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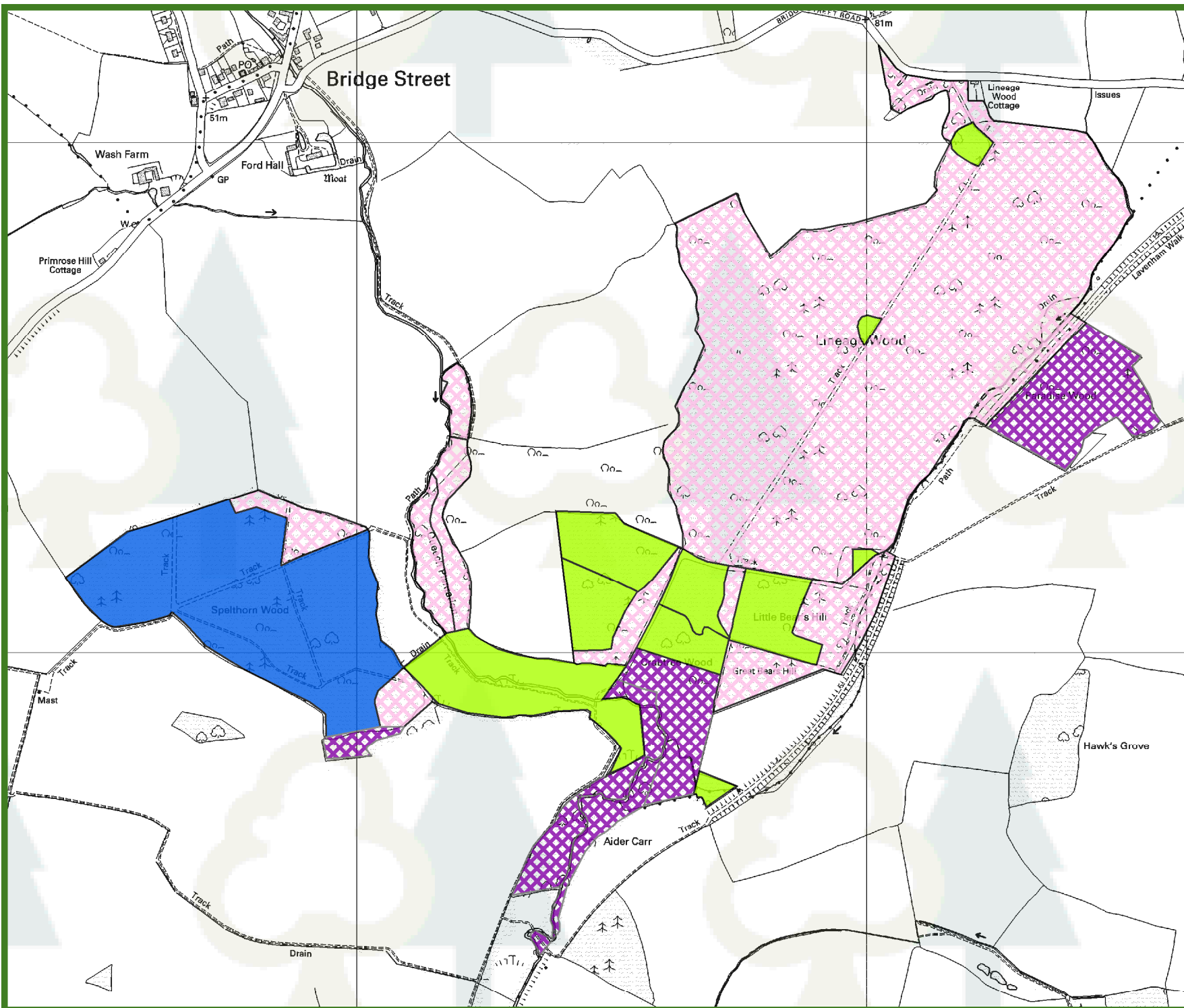
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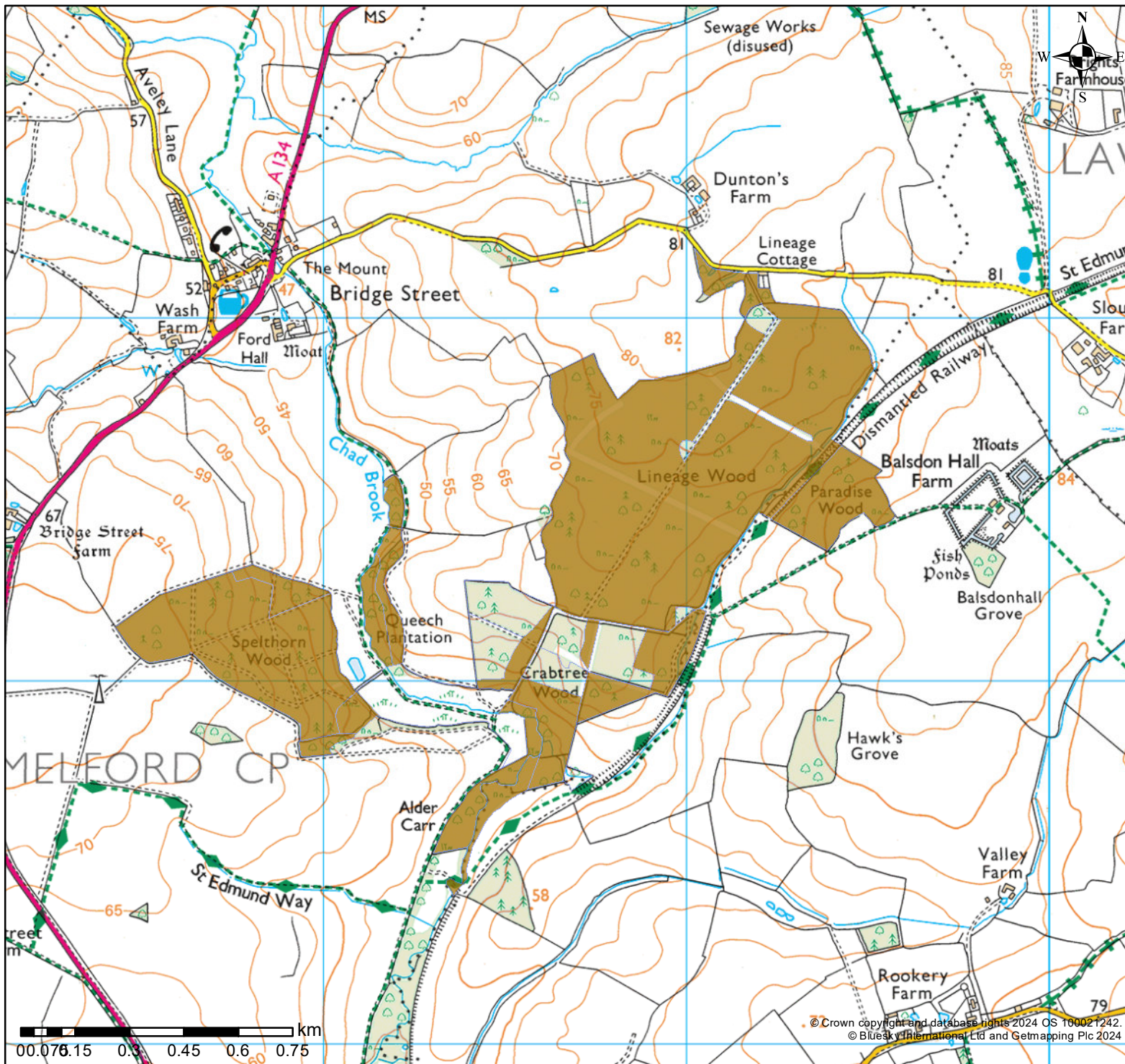
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Title: **Lineage restock map**

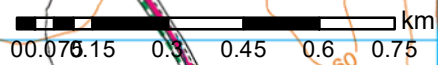
Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:15,000

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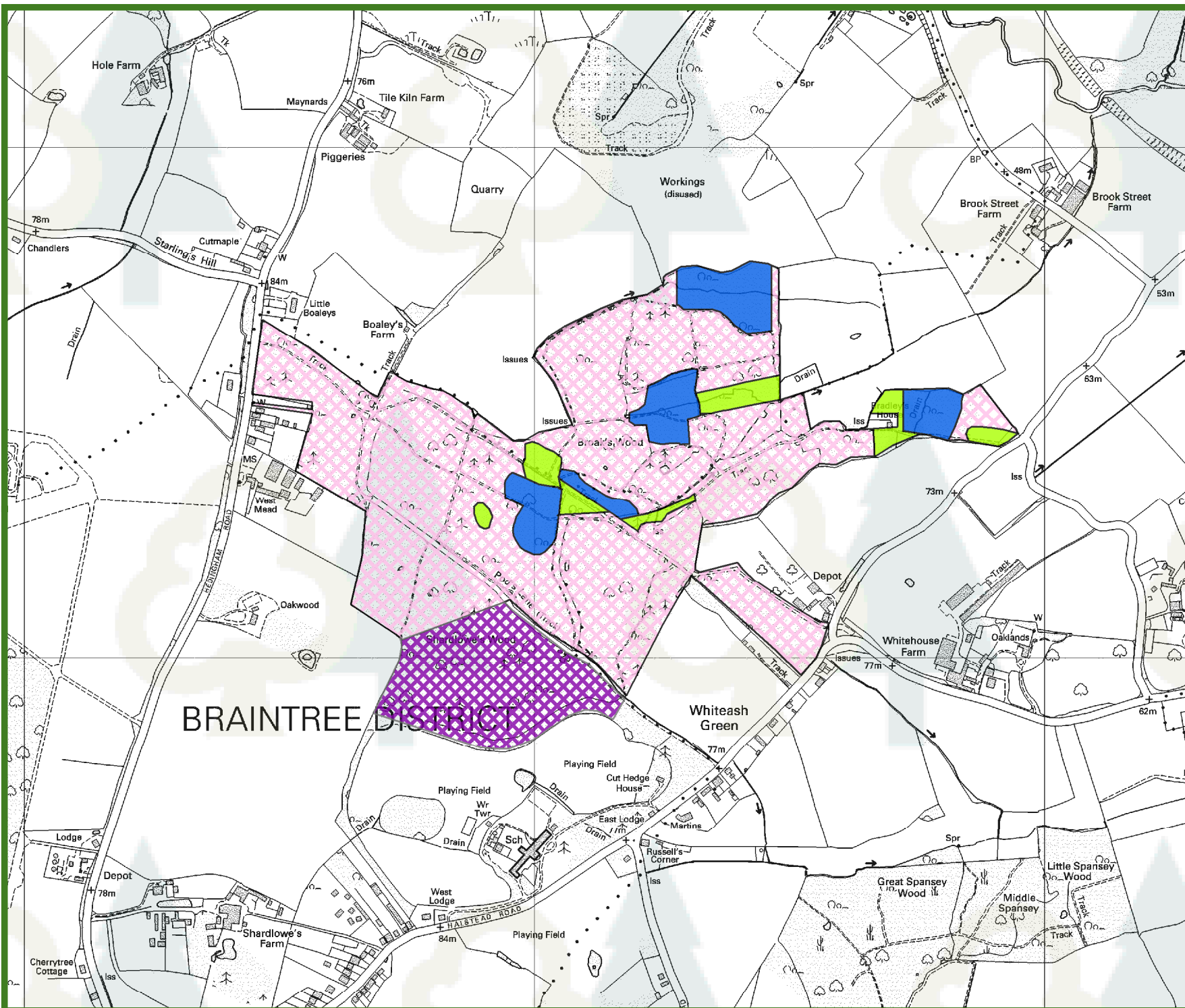
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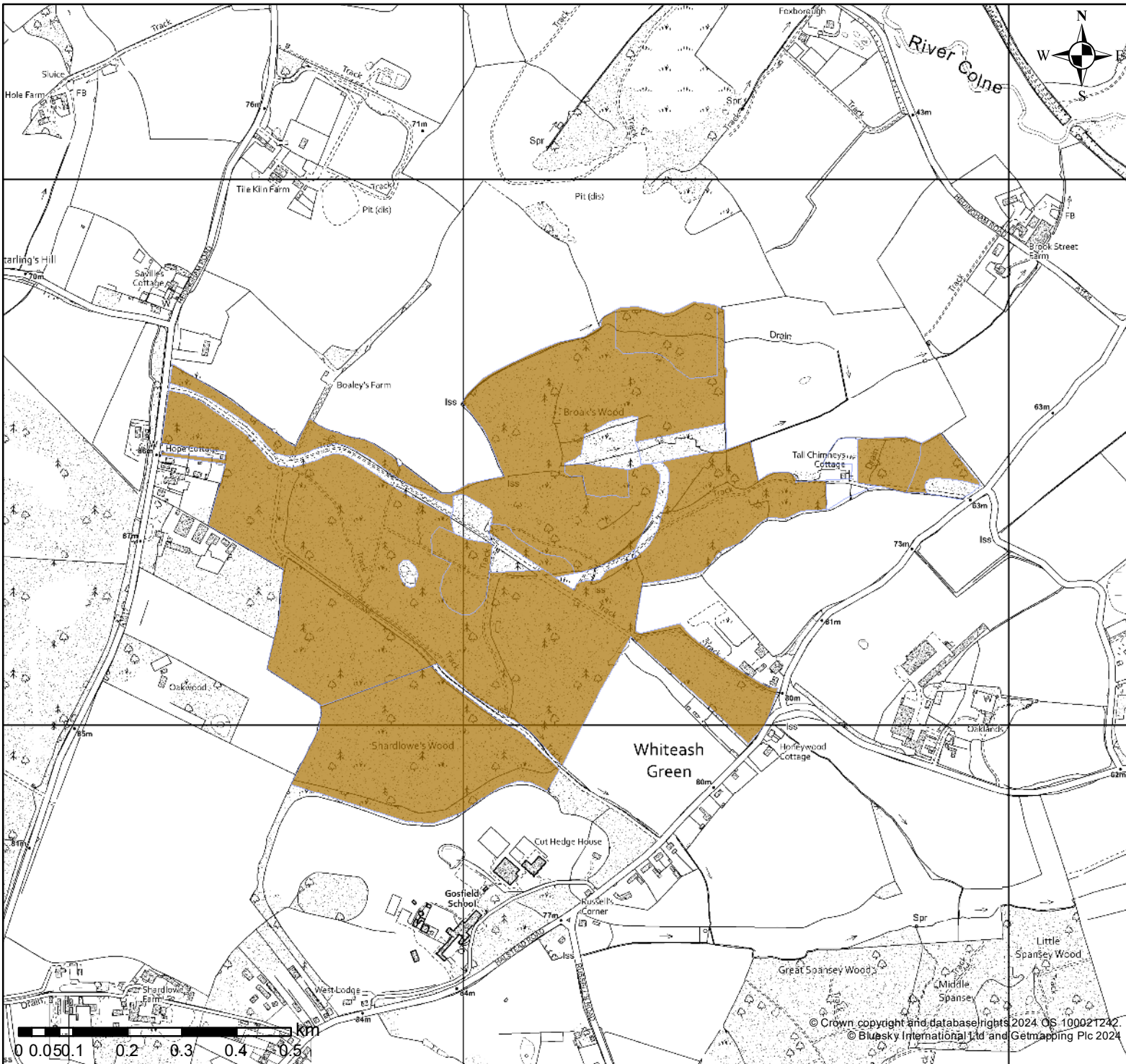
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Title: Broaks restock map

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:10,000

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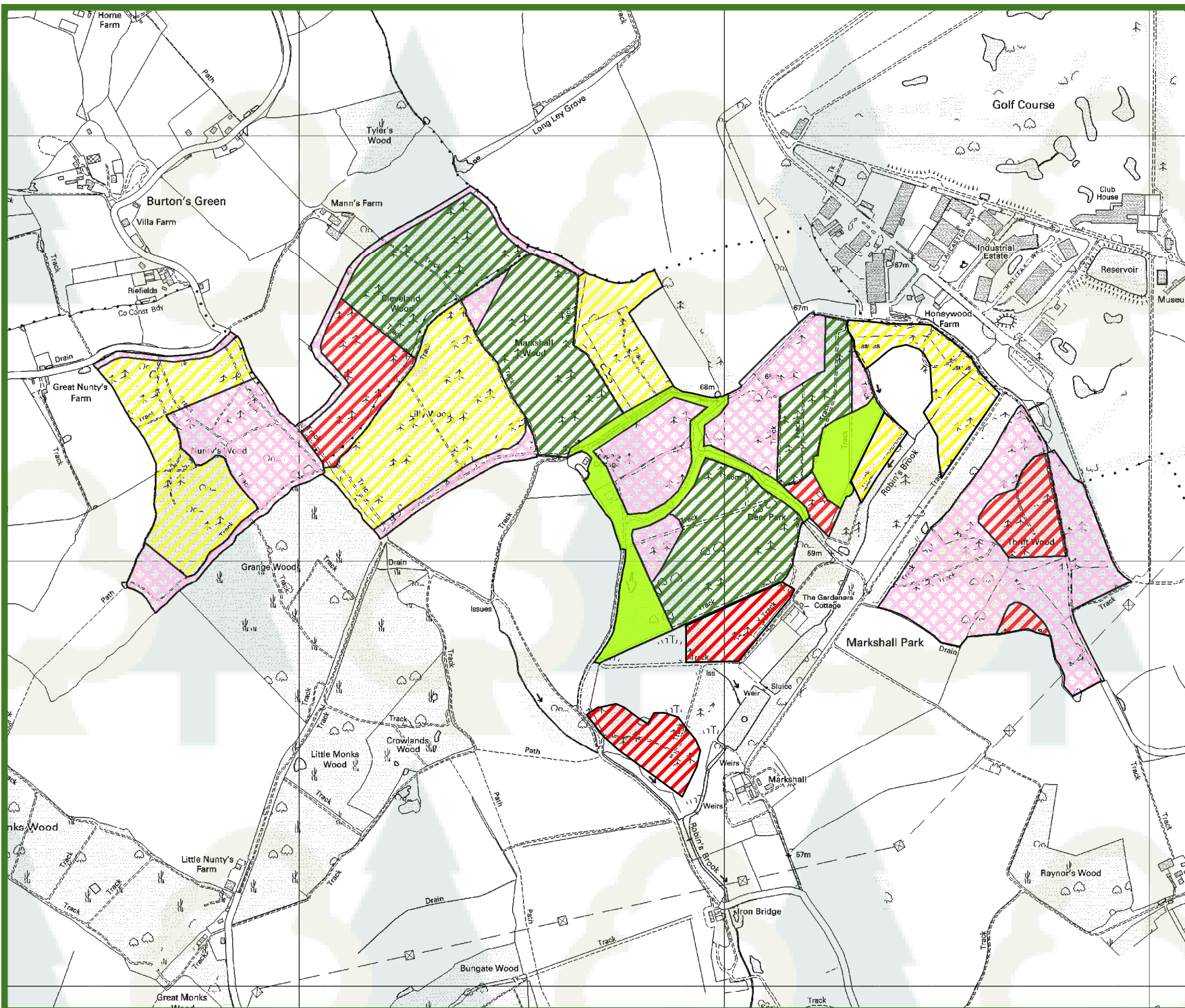
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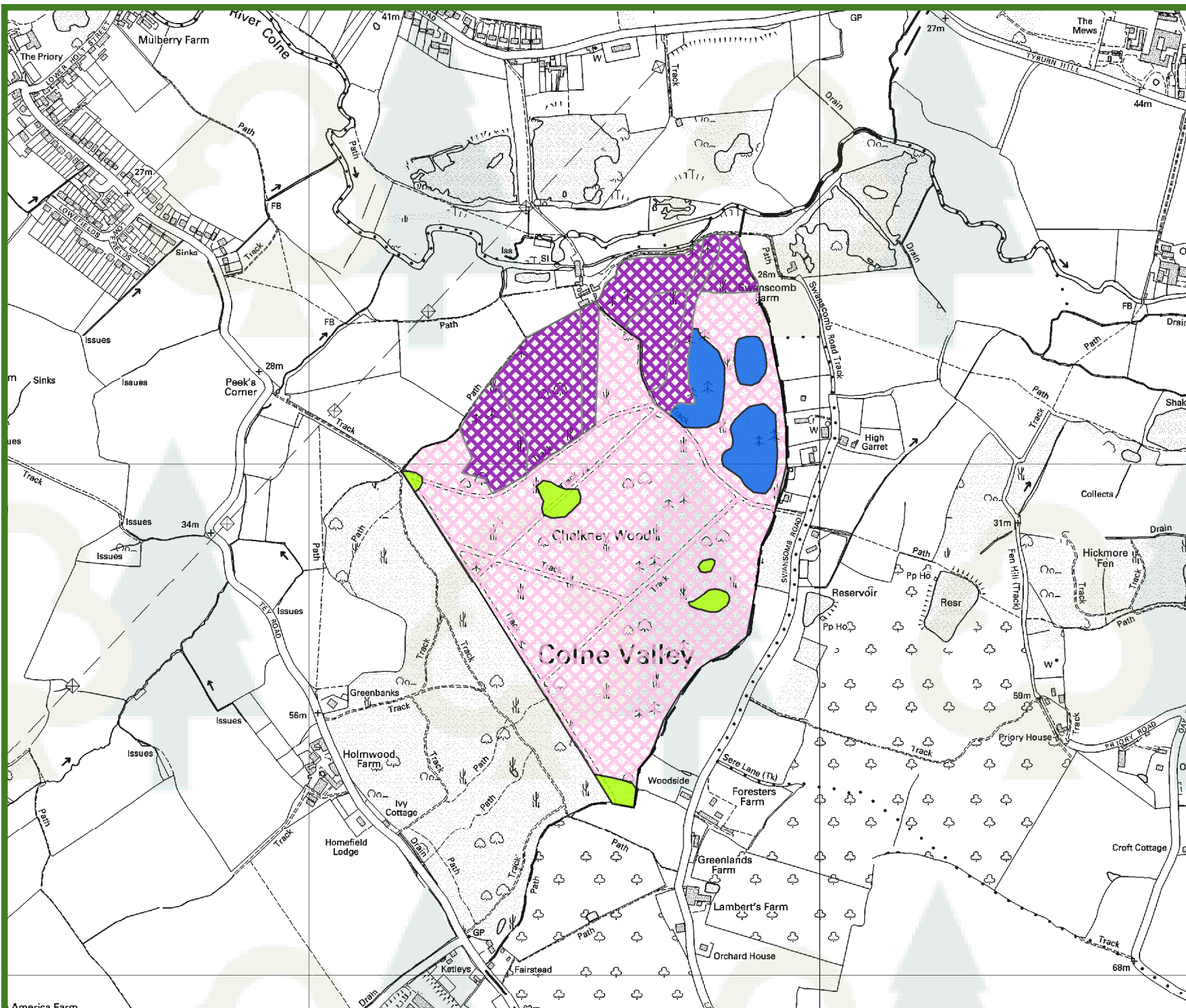


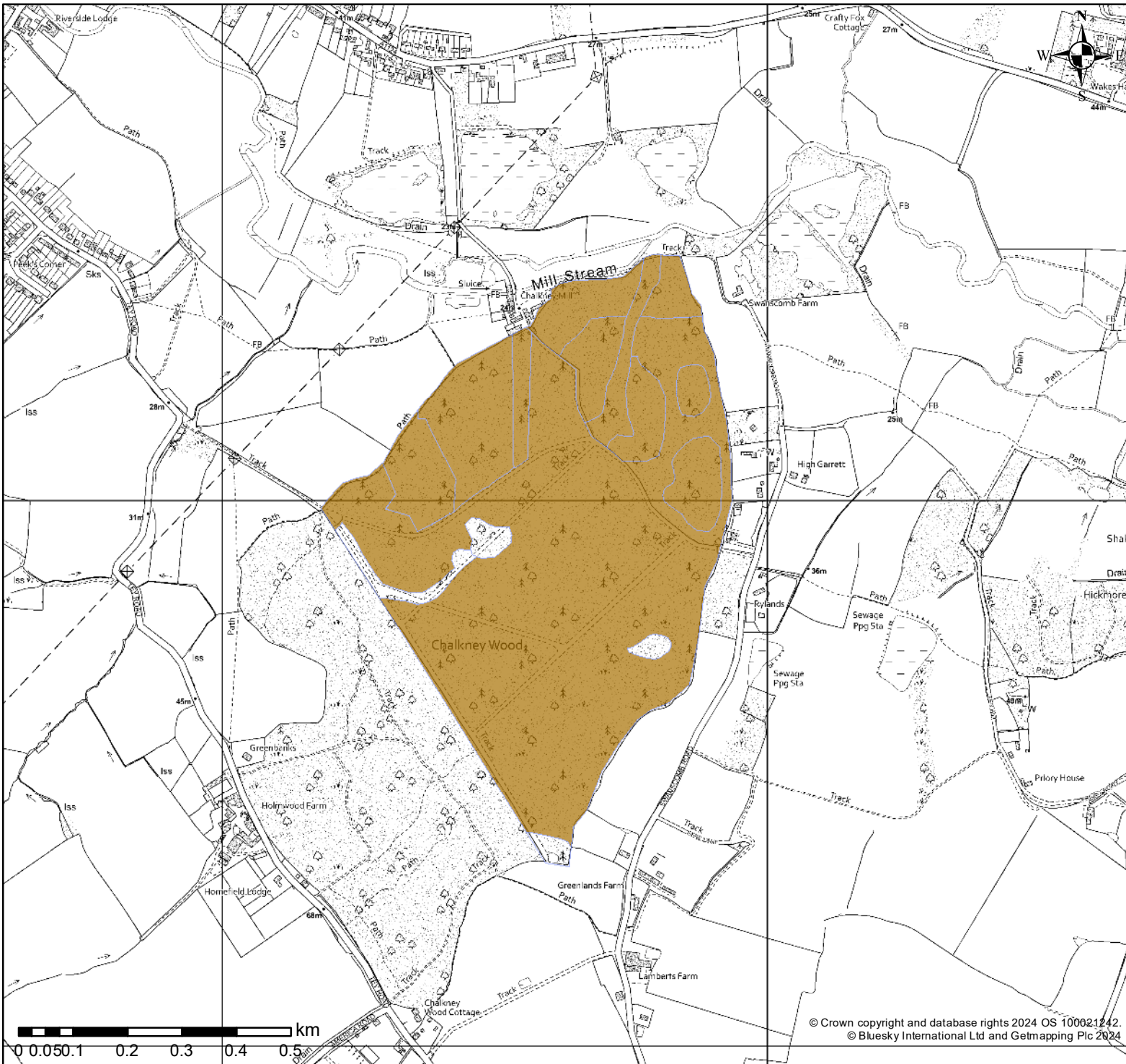
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Title: Chalkney restock map

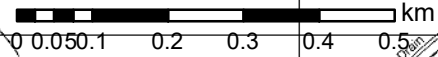
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England

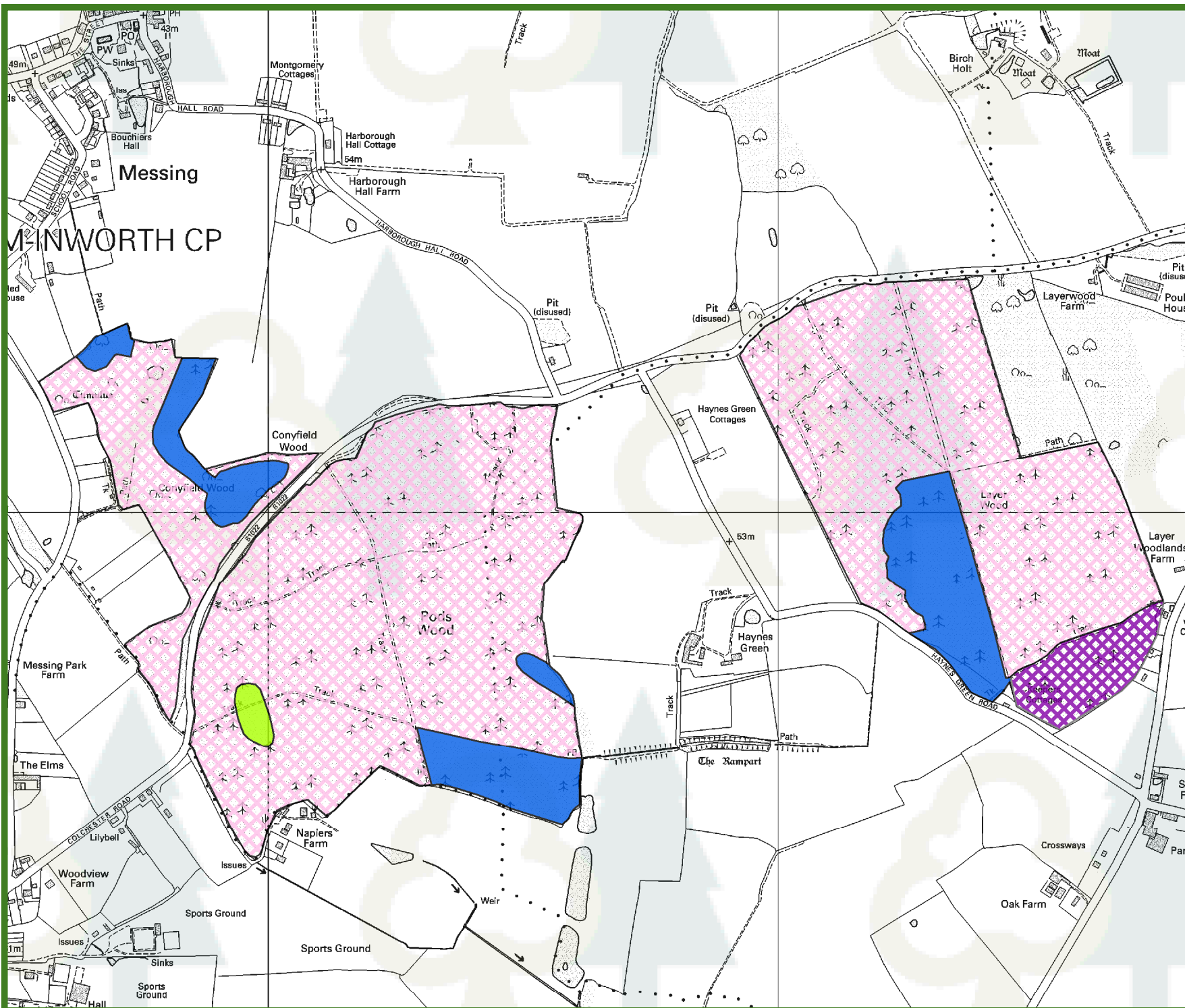
East Anglia Forest District
Future Management
Scale: 1:10,000
Date: 7 January 2009

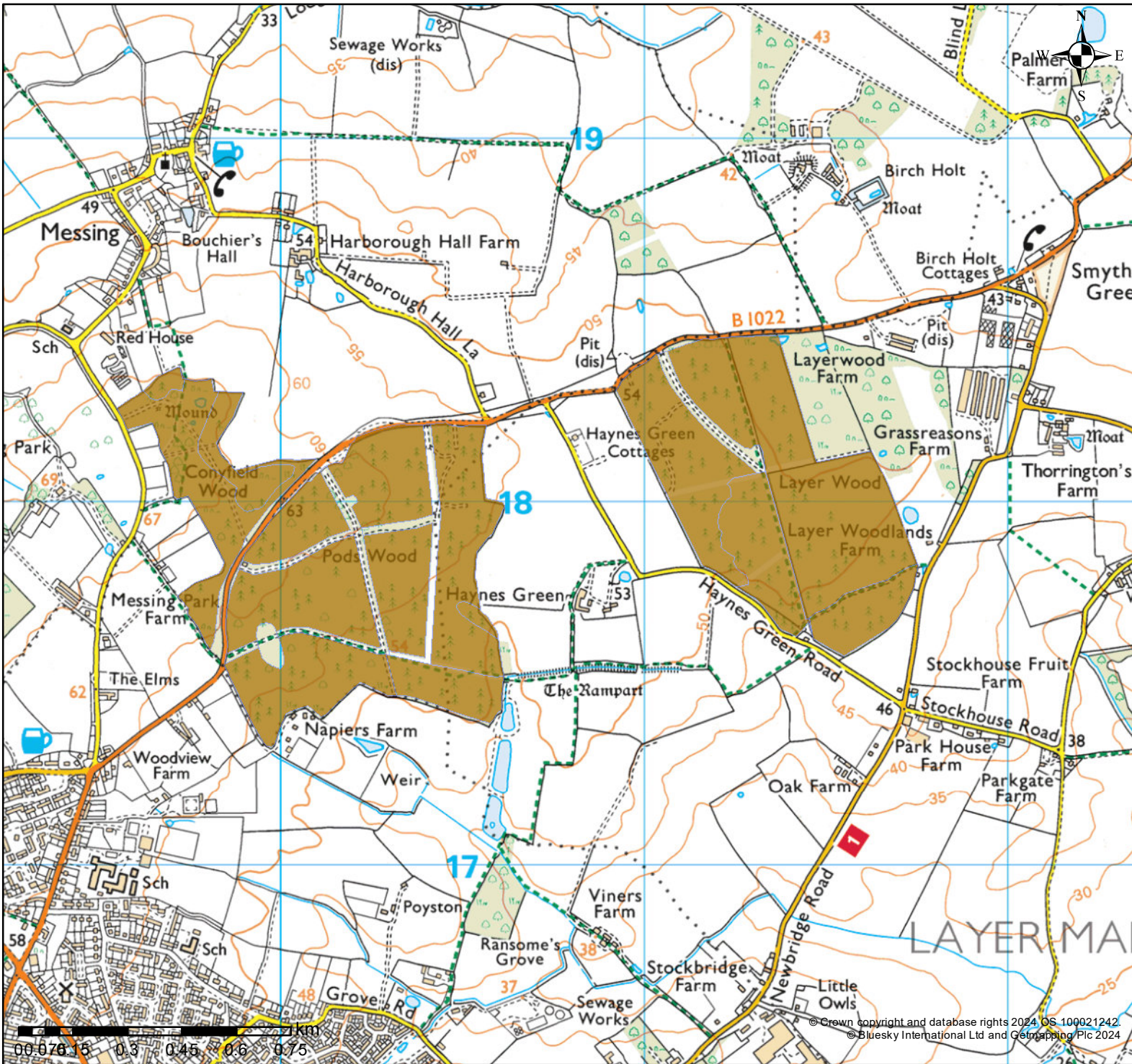
Legend

-  Clearfell 2007-2011
-  Clearfell 2012-2016
-  Clearfell 2017-2021
-  Clearfell 2022-2026
-  Continuous Cover & Coppicing
-  Minimum Intervention
-  Natural Reserve
-  Open/Other



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Forestry Commission, 100025498, 2007





Title: **Pods & Layer restock map**

Date: 4 October 2024

Author: Emma Rawlinson

Scale @ A4: 1:15,000

Restock Areas (Primary Species (Forest))

- Predominantly Open
- Beeches
- Larches
- Oaks
- Other Broadleaves
- Other Conifers
- Pines
- Spruces



The mark of responsible forestry

Forestry England forests and woodlands have been certified in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)



CSM 6 Appendix 1a FOREST ENTERPRISE - Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals in England

Forest Enterprise - Property

Forest District:	East of England
Woodland or property name:	Lavenham Woods
Nearest town, village or locality:	Halstead
OS Grid reference:	TL790312
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Braintree DC

Areas for approval

	Conifer	Broadleaf
Felling	193 ha	
New planting (complete appendix 4)		

1. I apply for Forest Design Plan approval*/~~amendment approval*~~ for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan CD.



2. ~~* I apply for an opinion under the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999 for afforestation*/deforestation*/roads*/quarries* as detailed in my application.~~

3. I confirm that the pre consultation, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included. Where it has not been possible to resolve specific issues associated with the plan to the satisfaction of consultees, this is highlighted in the Consultation Record.

4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.

5. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed 
Forest Management Director

Signed 
Regional Director 

Region East of England

Date 27 MAY 2009

Date of Approval 26th June 2009

Date approval ends 26th May 2019

*delete as appropriate