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Forest design process
Right first time

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Forest design process

- Not a new process, embedded in UKFS
- Design process for good outcomes
- New forestry era requires upskilling

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WCPG Stage1: Survey

Landscape designations,

National Character Area Profile

Landscape Character Assessments,

UKFS forest and landscape guidance

Landscape and visual issues

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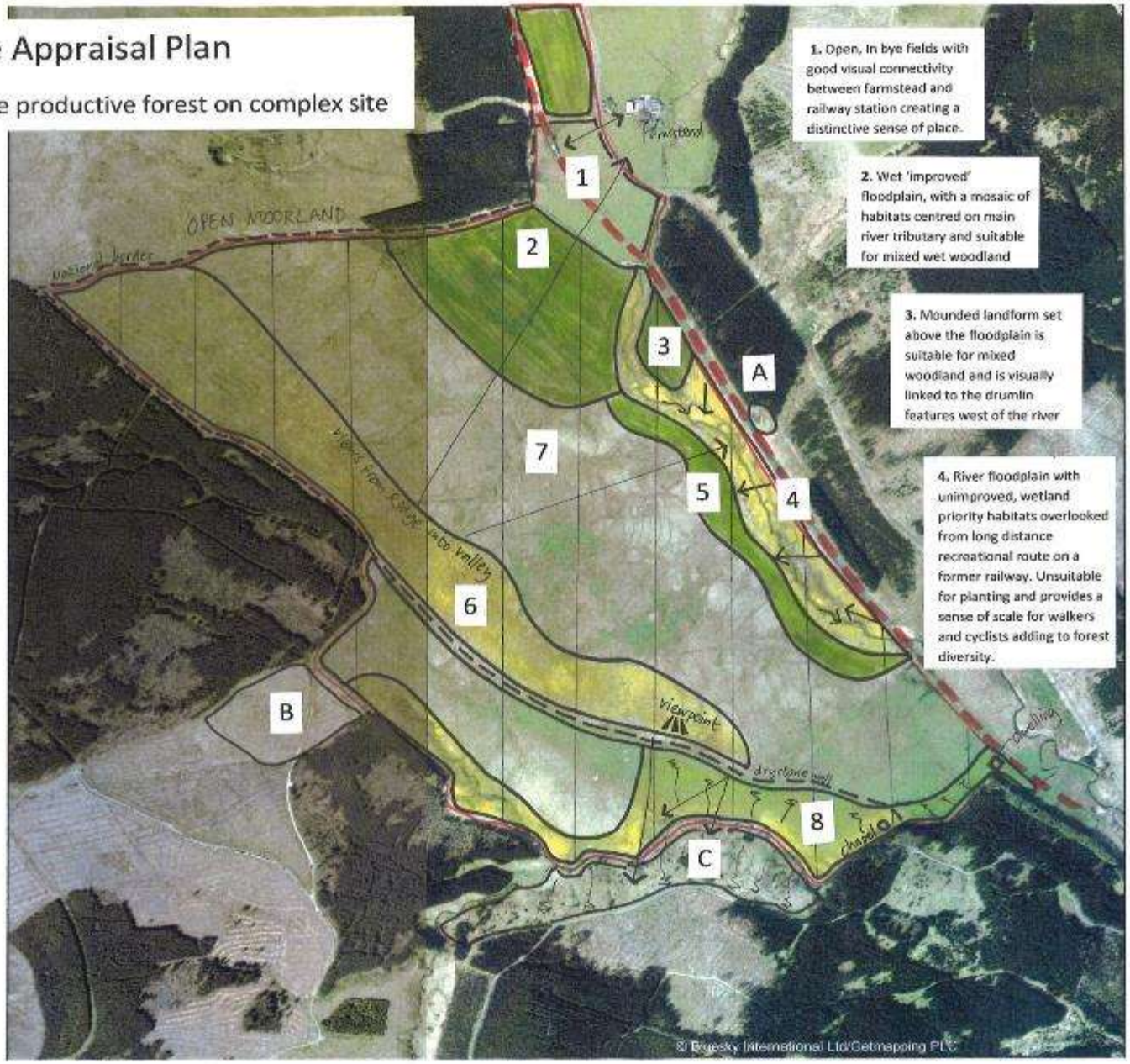
Stage 2: Analysis: Site Appraisal Plan

Analysis Site Appraisal Plan

Upland,large scale productive forest on complex site



1. Open, In bye fields with good visual connectivity between farmstead and railway station creating a distinctive sense of place.

2. Wet 'improved' floodplain, with a mosaic of habitats centred on main river tributary and suitable for mixed wet woodland

3. Mounded landform set above the floodplain is suitable for mixed woodland and is visually linked to the drumlin features west of the river

4. River floodplain with unimproved, wetland priority habitats overlooked from long distance recreational route on a former railway. Unsuitable for planting and provides a sense of scale for walkers and cyclists adding to forest diversity.

5. Corridor of prominent 'drumlin' features at the base of the hillside providing transitional landform between the floodplain and hillside. The planting design could respond to these features

6. Extensive deep peat zone on a flat ridge running along the top of the site. The zone includes a mosaic of other wetland priority habitats and is not suitable for planting

7. Moorland with a mosaic of acid grassland, bracken, rush pasture and wet flushes within gullies. The sloping hillside is well drained with frequent watercourses, some of significant scale. The Zone is suitable for extensive planting. Careful design attention required focussing on scale, shape and diversity to reduce the visual impact of this high area of 'visibility'.

8. Attractive steeply sided river corridor, along the border, with a concentration of environmental features. These include a historic chapel, a sheep 'thanks' enclosure on river terrace, hay meadow priority habitat with important flora, mature, riverside broad leaf trees such as rowan and good views from higher ground of the valley.

A Potential to increase area of waterbodies within floodplain to assist with forest integration and to add natural diversity

B Newly planted broad leaf woodland on valley side could be mirrored within the site to integrate forest planting with the wider landscape

C Large scale, regenerating, mixed, birch woodland creating a prominent and attractive feature from the application site

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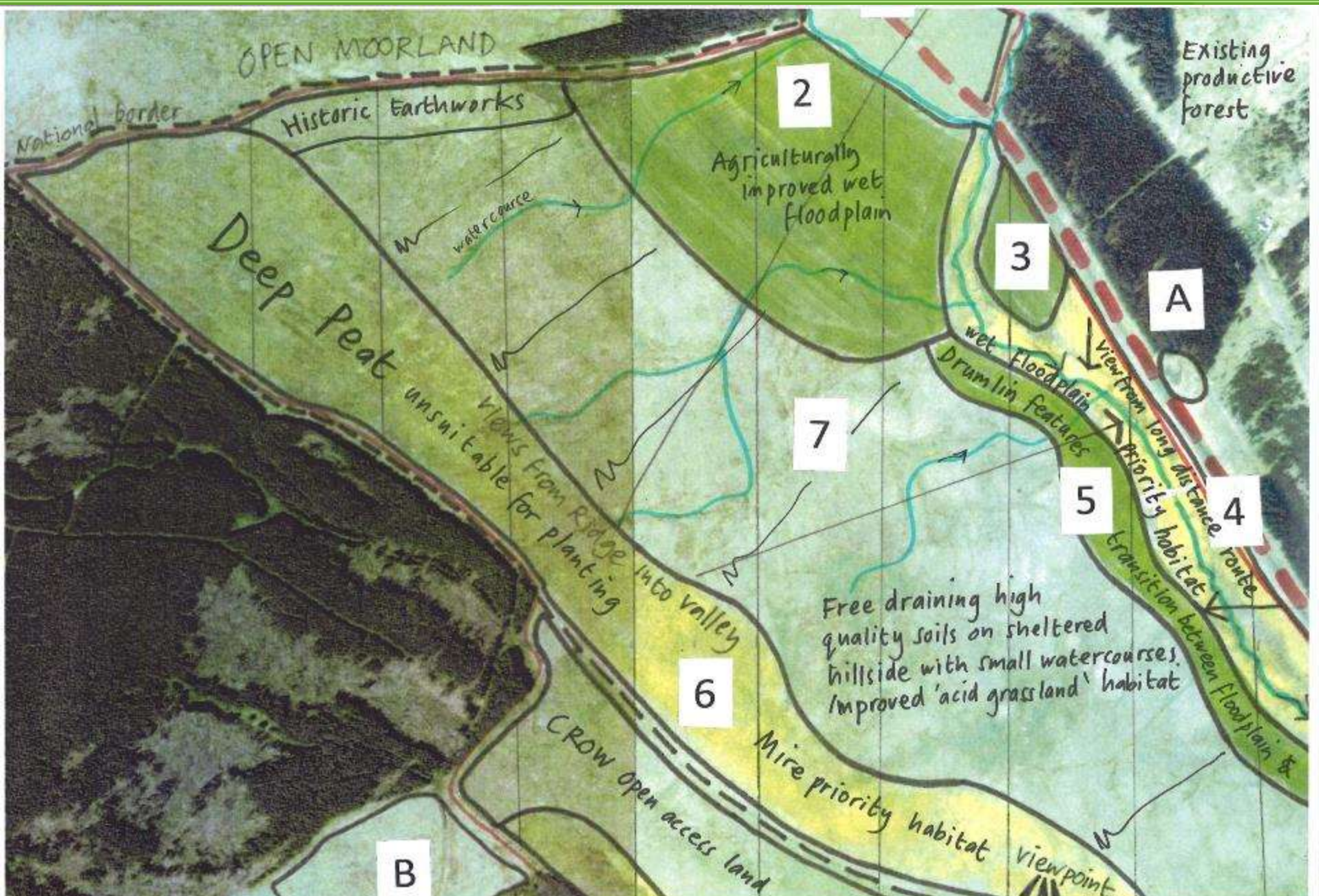
Analysis detail



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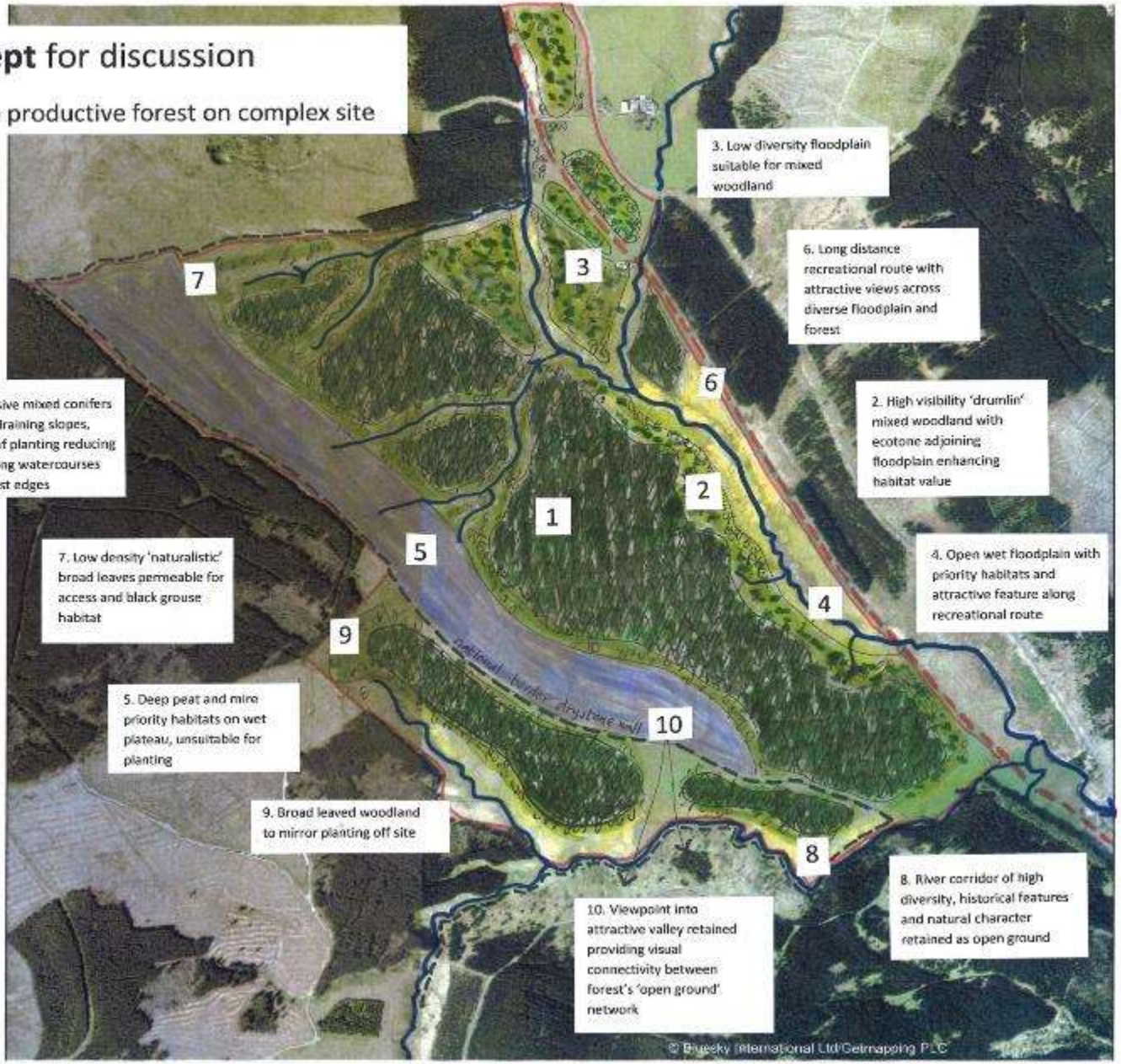
Design Concept Plan



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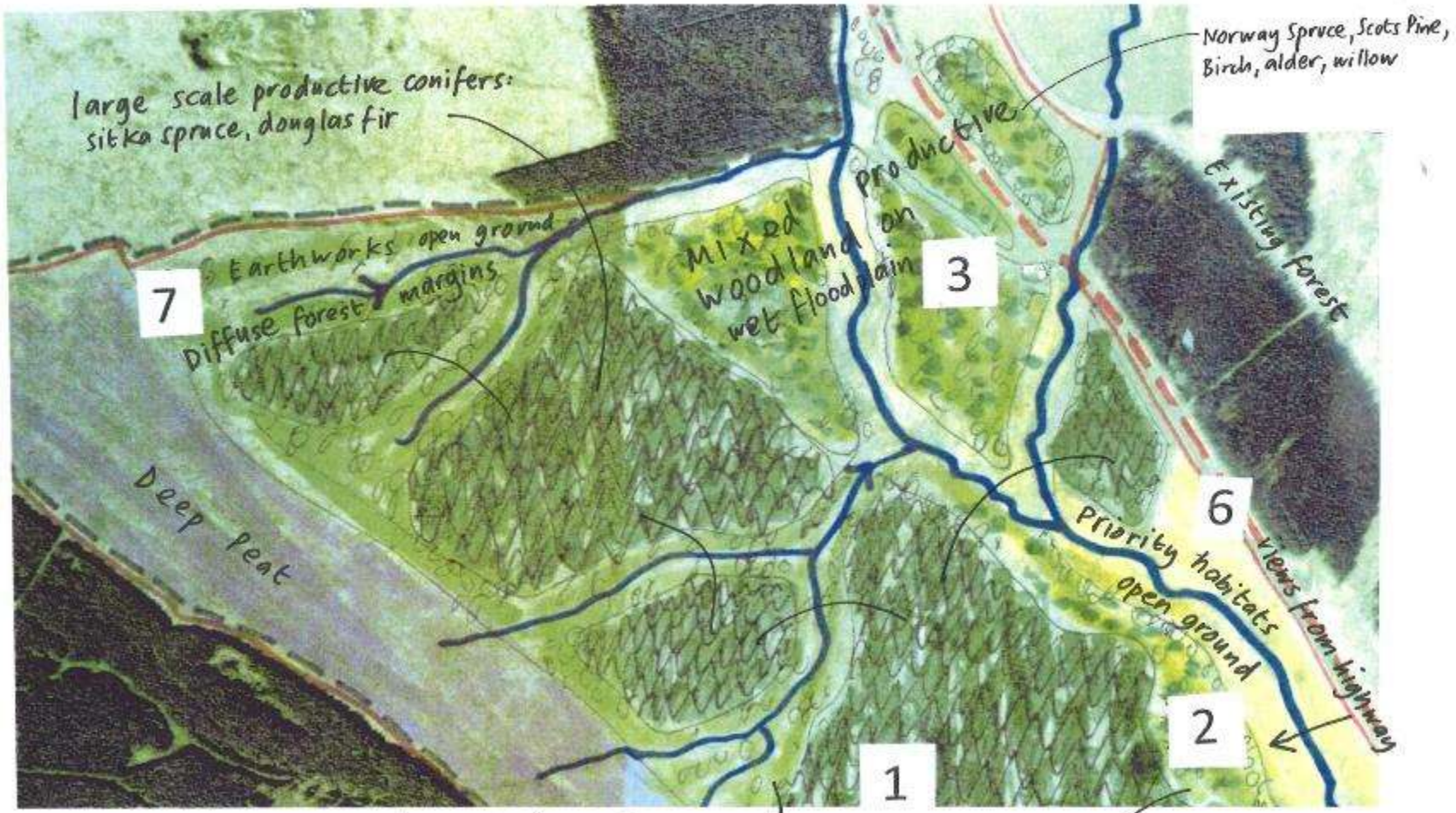
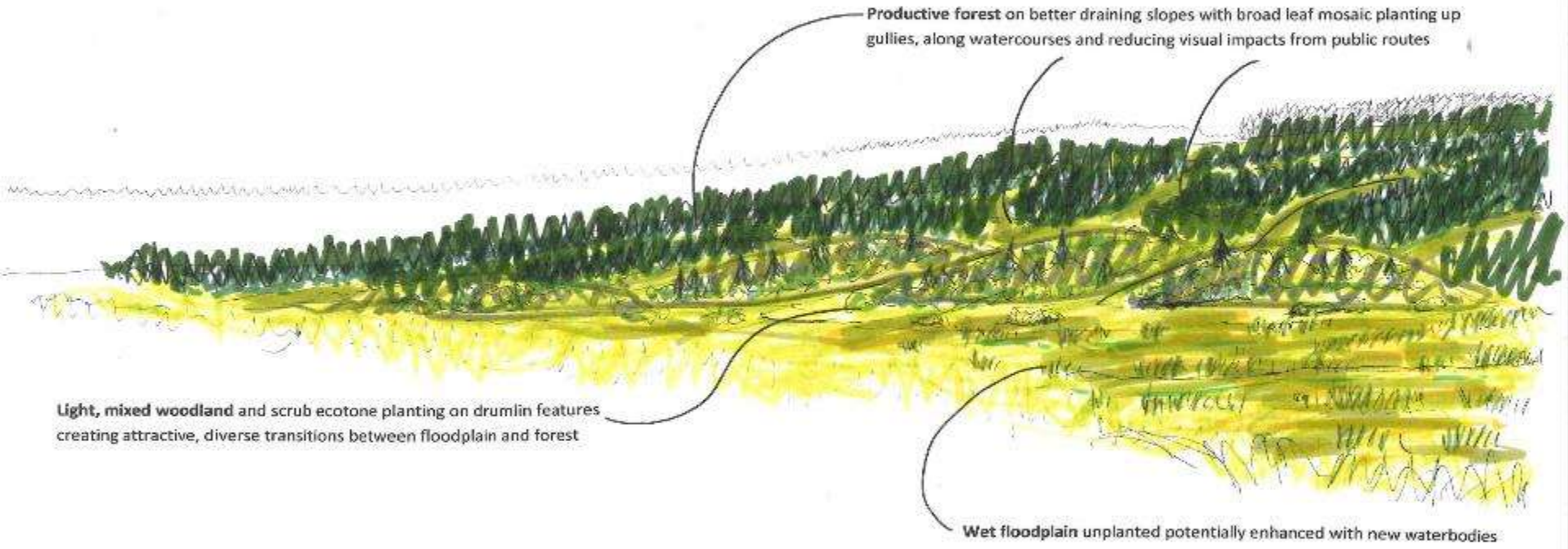
Design concept detail



Landform 'fit' and forest edge

Design Concept

View from public route showing planting design responding to landform facilitating good integration



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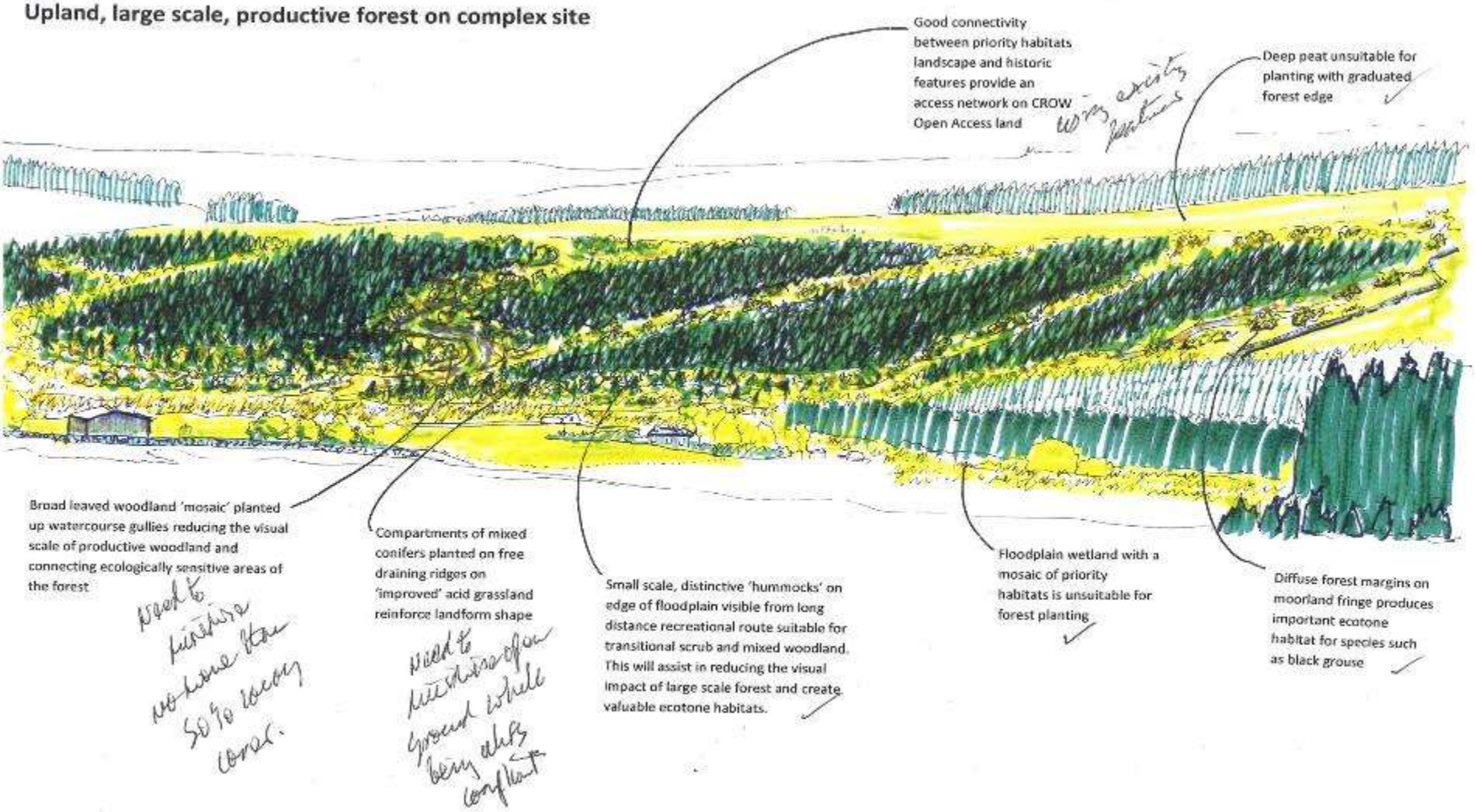
3D visualisation & comments

Design Concept 3D Visualisation

Upland, large scale, productive forest on complex site



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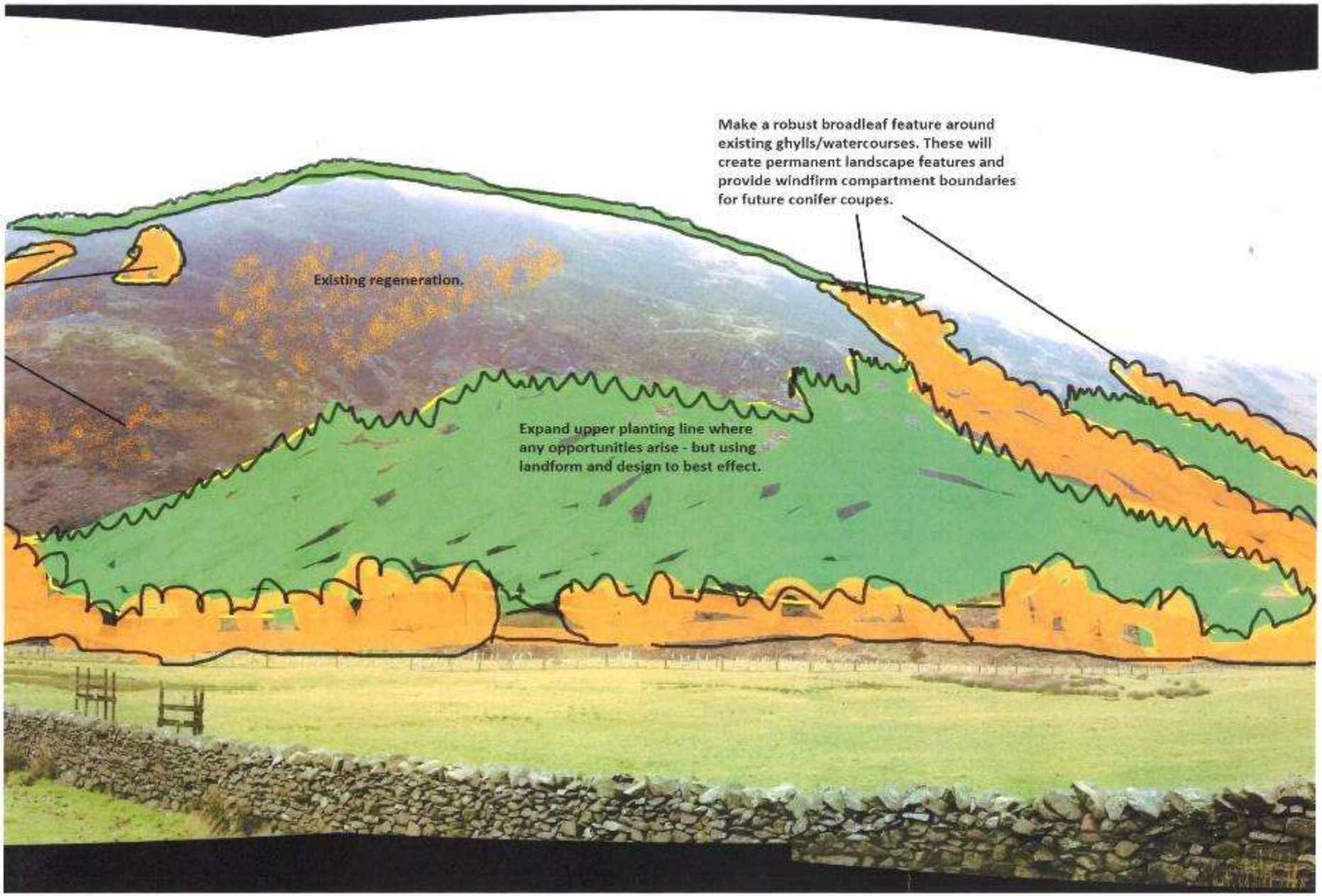
3D conceptual visualisation



Annotated photos explaining concept

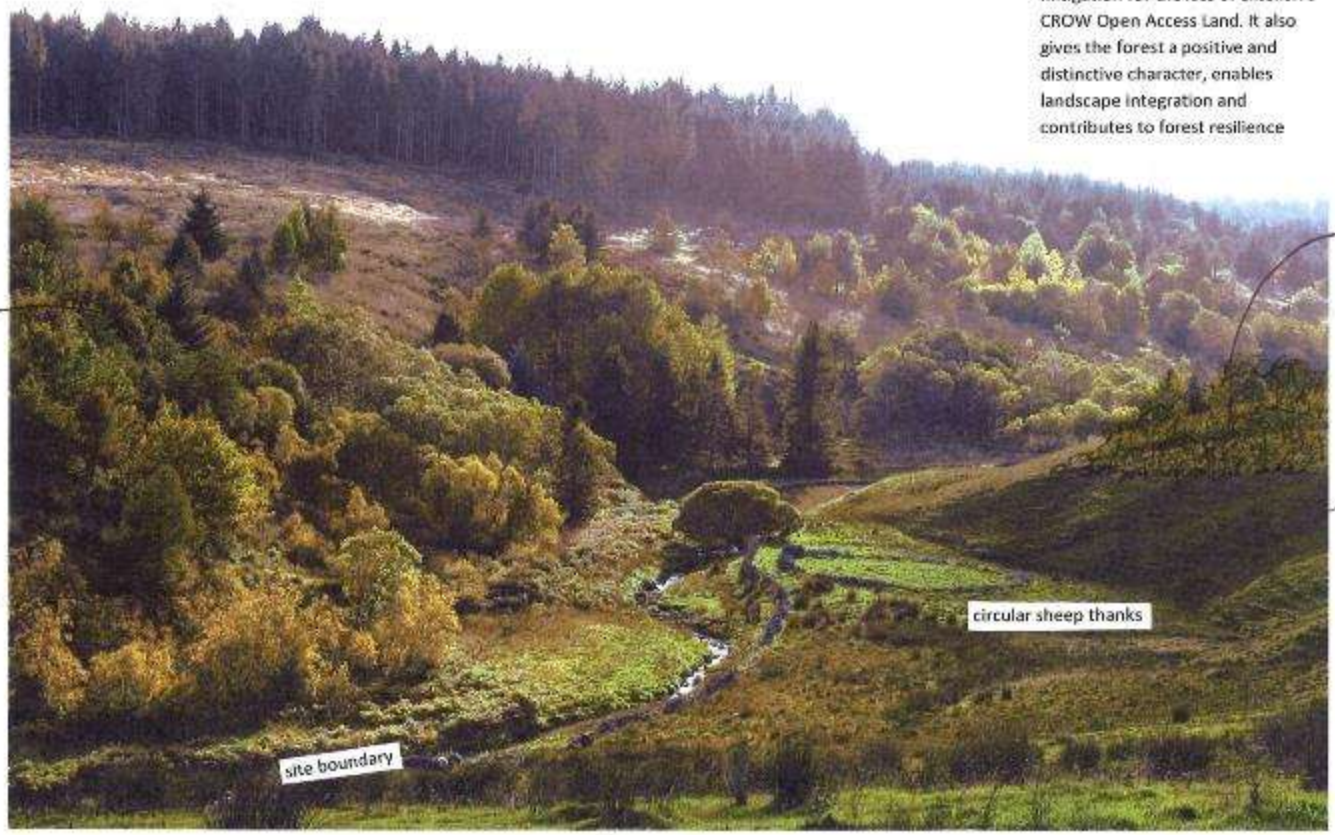
Design Concept View of river corridor from Open Access Land

Upland, large scale productive forest on complex site

- Attractive river valley and habitat mosaic is left unplanted within a linear 'open ground' corridor.
- This protects the best historic and landscape features within the forest design and forms part of an 'open space' network for access and biodiversity.
- This approach provides some mitigation for the loss of extensive CROW Open Access Land. It also gives the forest a positive and distinctive character, enables landscape integration and contributes to forest resilience

Areas of open ground and more permeable, lower density broadleaf planting ensure good connectivity throughout the forest and add to multi-functionality and overall forest resilience

Regenerating birch-dominated mixed woodland adjoining site forms an important view from the elevated ridge running across the application site



Low density, naturalistic broad leafed planting mimicking regenerating woodland outside the site can be established at the top of sloping valley side. This approach assists in the integration of the new scheme into the existing landscape

Broughton Slope

An attractive and diverse river corridor on the site boundary has important historic and environmental features to be left as open ground. This contributes to the mitigation for the significant loss of 'Open Access Land'.

Carefully designed and sited 'open' planting fringing this corridor will extend and buffer the semi-natural character and provide a rich forest ecotone. Such an approach will deliver multi-beneficial objectives, forest resilience and enhance visual quality and integration

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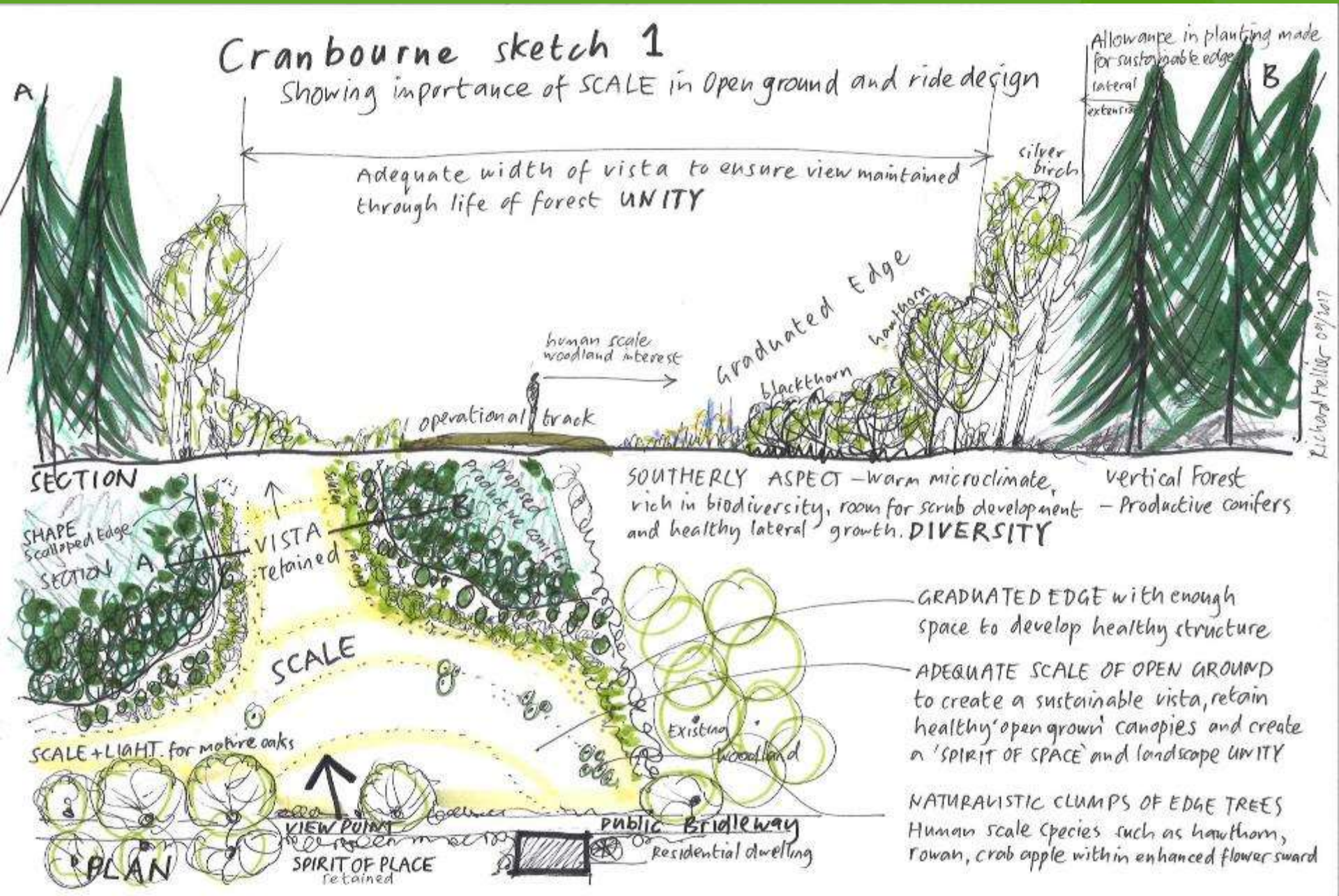
sketches communicating ideas



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Forest design process

Draft Woodland Creation Design Plan
Combines all elements of the design

Purpose: Right first time,
Managing costs and delivering quality

WCPG Website:
Specimen drawings and guidance

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