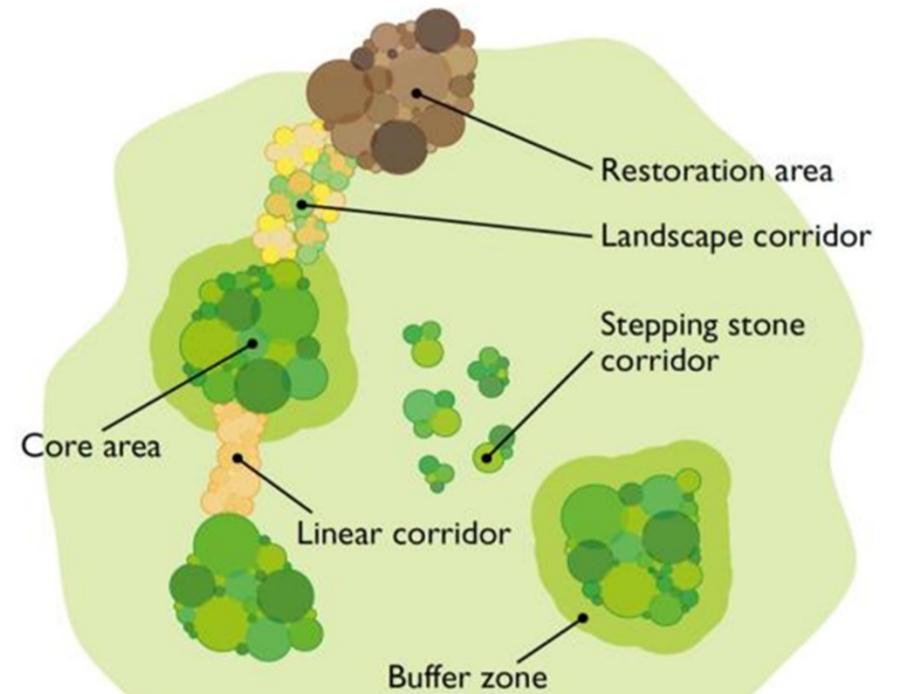
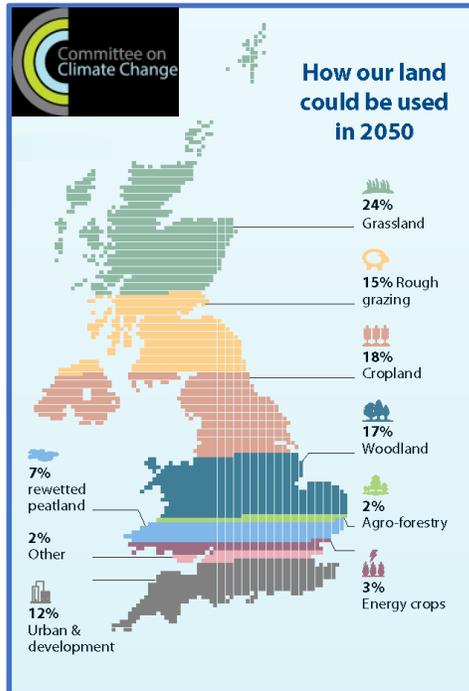


Tree Establishment for Climate and Nature - Where and How

Mike Kelly - Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership



- The Committee on Climate Change has stated that the UK by 2050 needs to plant an additional 1.5million hectares of trees – Whilst Europe has 37% tree cover, England only has 10%
- **Where?** – The Shropshire Hills AONB has higher than the national average tree cover, but we still need to do our bit – Much of this can be achieved through nature recovery networks to buffer, connect and restore what we already have – MORE, BIGGER, BETEER and JOINED
- Tree planting will need to be delivered in partnership with landowners – and we need to balance nature conservation with sustainable food production
- **How?** - a protected landscape - tree planting should follow good principles of siting and design to ensure we meet the needs of both
- From 2024 potential delivery via Environmental Land Management (ELM) – will be the cornerstone of new agricultural policy. It will reward land managers with public money for public good to provide a complementary or alternative income stream – less or 'un-productive' land has value



When selecting a site for planting trees its important to consider the woodland type you wish to create, restore or buffer.

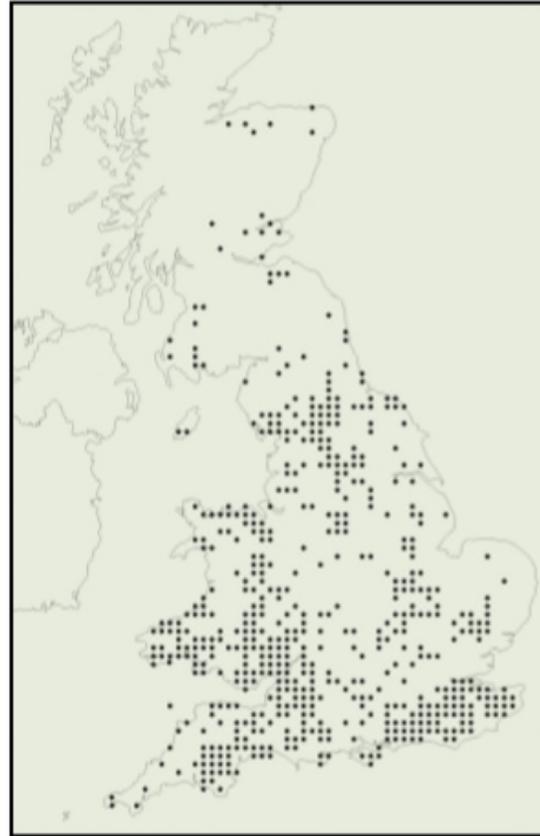
This is especially important in the Shropshire Hills with its diverse topology and geology.

Five broad woodland types (with examples):

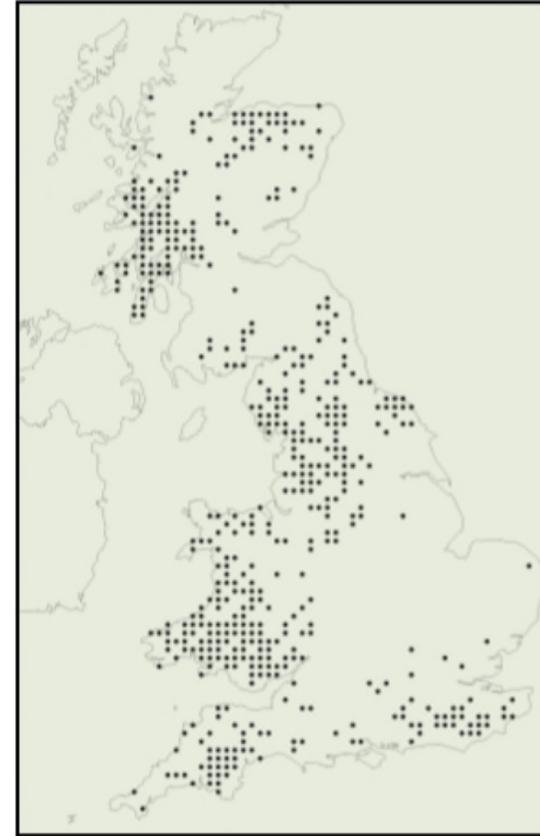
- Acidic dry woodland
Upland oakwood (W17)
- Neutral dry woodland
Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Wood (W10)
- Base-rich dry woodland
Upland mixed ashwoods (W9)
- Acidic wet woodland.
Upland birchwoods (W4a, W4b)
- Neutral to base-rich wet woodland.
Alder-Ash woodland (W7)

May be further categorised by National Vegetation Classification (NVC) - 18 main woodland types which are divided further to give a total of 73 sub-communities

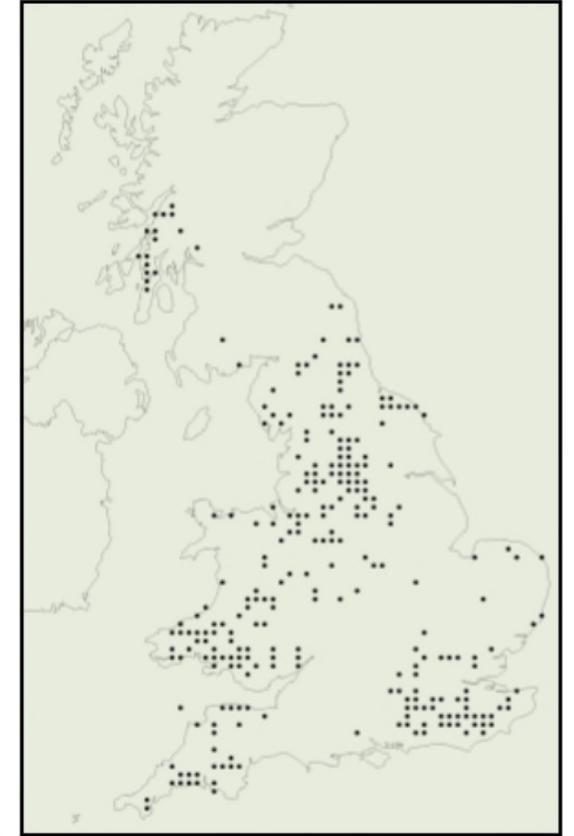
Woodland types



W8 Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland with dog's mercury



W7 Alder-ash woodland with yellow pimpernel



W16 Lowland oak-birch woodland with bilberry

Riparian Woodland

Upper Clun Stream

Linear Corridor or Landscape Corridor

We have over 1000km of watercourse in the Shropshire Hills AONB.

They are a continuous thread in the landscape, linking uplands and lowlands

Opportunity:

Strengthen these linear features by creating wider **buffers**, infilling meanders with new planting and connecting to upstream and downstream woodlands

Consider stock exclusion where grazing pressures are preventing natural regeneration





Dingle/batch/hollow Woodlands

Near to Gatten

Landscape Corridor

Snaking up valley sides, dingle woods are common features of the Shropshire Hills emphasising streams and incised slopes.

Dingle woods lead the eye from the valley floors to the uplands.

Opportunity:

Often fragmented or isolated

Connect dingle wood to valley floor woodland

Extending woodland or into the valley heads can help re-naturalise headwaters and help "slow the flow"

Ffridd/Scrub Woodland – Ditch Dingle

Core Area/Landscape Corridor

Transitional open woodland/scrub habitat forming the upland fringe

Often on steep slopes at the boundary between enclosed farmland and unenclosed uplands,

Opportunity:

Steep and difficult to manage/less productive land eg bracken dominated slopes

Natural regeneration possible where grazing pressure is reduced (but not removed)





Wet woods – Alder and Willow Carr Near Easthope

Stepping Stone

Wild, boggy and rare. Alder, willows and birch dominate, Wet woodlands are now some of our least common wooded habitats.

Characterised by large amounts of fallen deadwood and peaty soils they are important carbon stores

Opportunity:

On low gradient watercourses and ditches “slow the flow” schemes

Where water is encouraged to spread out consider planting trees and adding large woody debris

Parkland and Wood Pasture

Stepping Stone

Wood pasture and parkland is land that has been managed through grazing.

Some started as medieval hunting forests or wooded commons, and others are the designed landscapes such as Linley, Walcot or Millichope.

They are often home to ancient and veteran trees.

Opportunity:

Some community planting may be possible - eg Linley beeches





Hedges with in-field and Boundary trees

Field Corners

Corvedale

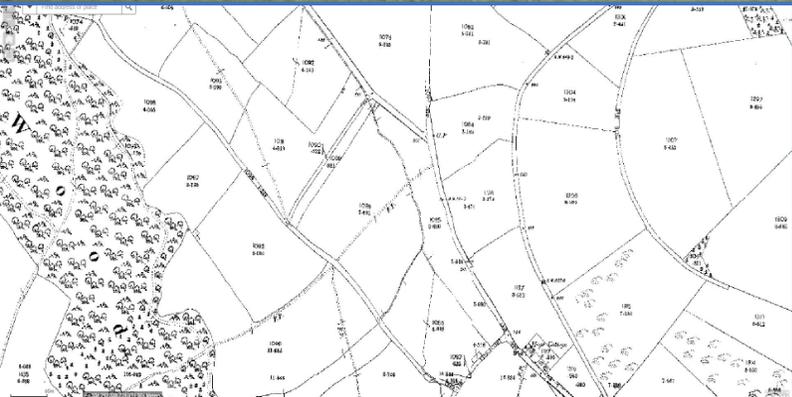
Linear Corridor

Hedges and field trees contribute to the wooded character of valley floors - Patterns relate to the historic enclosure of fields

Opportunity:

Analysis of historic maps show that many km have been lost from the landscape

And many km of hedgerow are relict – so lots of opportunities for gapping up or restoration.



Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and PAWS

Bucknell Wood

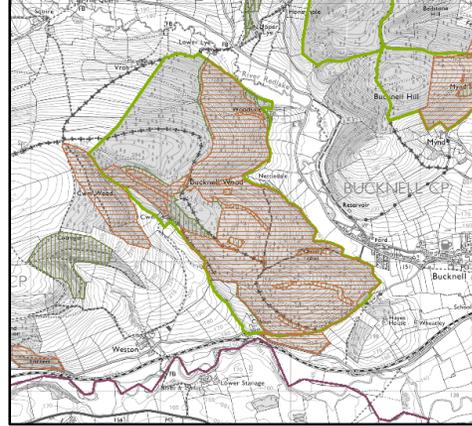
Core Area and Restoration Area

PAWS are sites that have a long history of woodland cover: they are ancient semi-natural woodlands on which the original, "natural" woodland was cleared, and replaced by a plantation of either native or exotic species

Opportunities:

Bucknell Wood = 131ha of Ancient Replanted Woodland

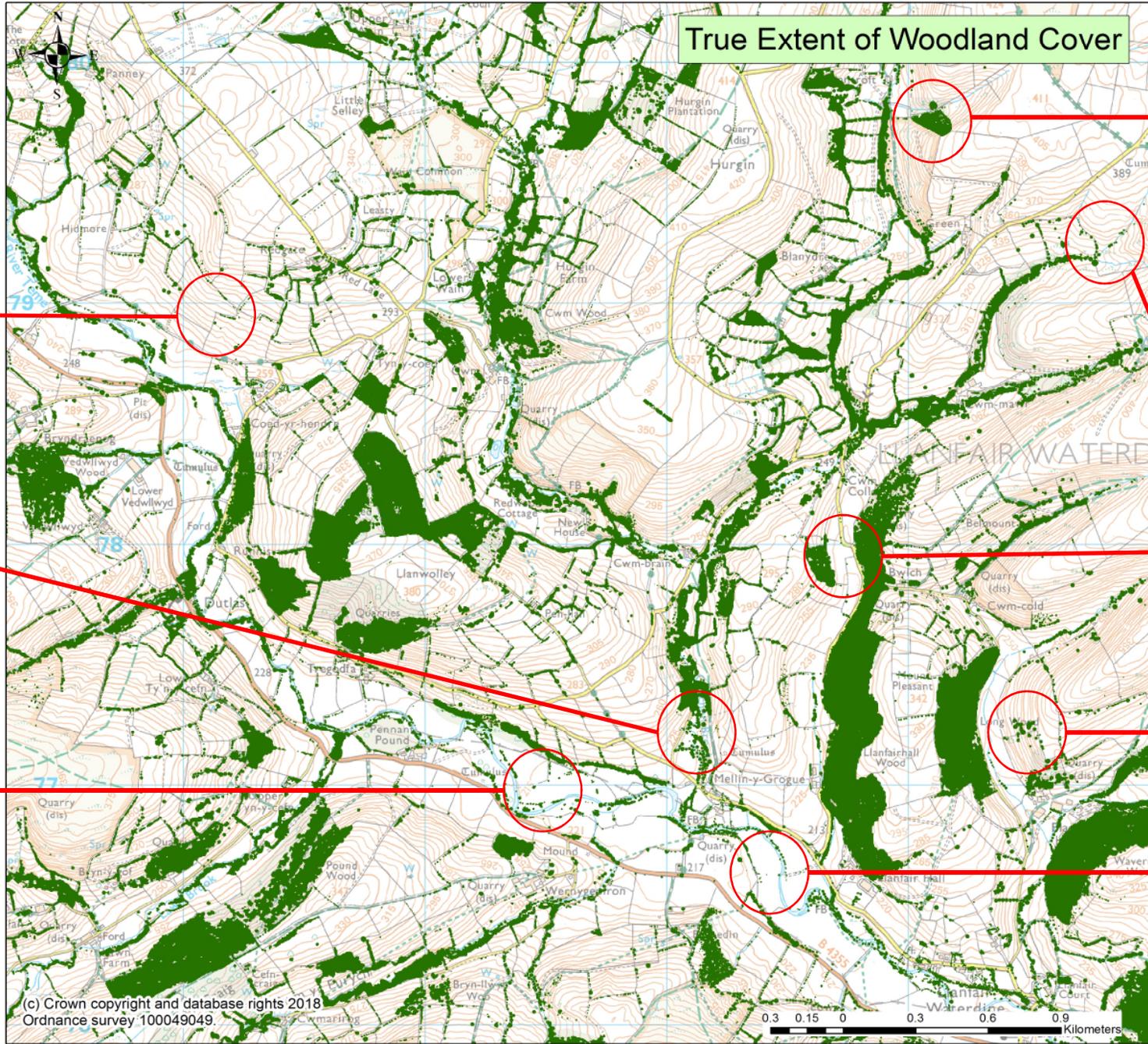
A substantial proportion of PAWS are either under restoration or likely to be restored over the next 20-30 years



Hedgerow restoration/creation

Connect dingle woodland

Riparian woodland creation



True Extent of Woodland Cover

Conifer – Opportunity to Restructure to broadleaves at felling

Extend dingle woodland to valley heads

Planting to connect woodlands

Ffridd creation

Floodplain Woodland Creation



Opportunities and Constraints

A: Introduce lower valley field and Hedgerow Trees

B: Riparian planting - connect and widen

C: Screen buildings

D: No planting – to retain cherished views

E: Restructure to broadleaves

F: Extend/create ffridd/scrub

G: No planting – Scheduled Monument

H: Extend dingle woodlands

I: Restore/create hedgerows

J: Remove or restructure incongruous conifer plantation

K: Retain smooth horizons

L: Avoid planting near overhead lines



Opportunities and Constraints

A: Introduce valley field and Hedgerow Trees

B: Riparian planting - connect and widen

C: Infill meander

D: Create Floodplain Woodland

E: PAWS Restructure to broadleaves at next fell

F: Extend/create ffridd/scrub

G: No planting – Scheduled Monument

H: Restore/create hedgerows

I: SSSI

J: Scheduled Monument

Funding

- Countryside Stewardship - Woodland Options <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-grant-countryside-stewardship> (Higher Tier only)
- Countryside Stewardship – Hedges and Boundaries Grant <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hedgerows-and-boundaries-grant-countryside-stewardship>
- Woodland Trust <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/>
 - MOREwoods
 - MOREhedges
 - Free Trees for Schools and Communities
- Severn Trent Water Community Fund <https://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/severn-trent-community-fund/>
- Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund>





Thank You