

Landscapes for Wild Pollinators

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GWCT

Landscapes for wild pollinators

- Three year, three way project partnership
 - Duchy of Lancaster
 - Natural England
 - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Aim
 - Conduct a biodiversity audit on land holdings owned by the Duchy of Lancaster
 - Develop an action plan focussing on preserving, improving and creating habitat for pollinators and other wildlife
 - Work with farmers to form Farmer Clusters, promote Countryside Stewardship and the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife package



The Duchy of Lancaster

- The Duchy of Lancaster is a unique portfolio of land, property and assets held in trust for the Sovereign which was founded in the 13th century
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the current Duke of Lancaster



DUCHY *of* LANCASTER



The Estate's perspective

- “As a responsible landowner, the Duchy is supportive of national ecological initiatives and is particularly interested in the benefit wild pollinators bring to our business
- For the past two years we have been working closely with our tenants, who are the custodians of the natural environment across our estates, and are now beginning to understand the range and nature of habitats which exist on Duchy land, track the emerging patterns and make moves to improve the overall offering.
- This activity, we believe, will help our positioning for emerging Agricultural Policy”



Rural Portfolio

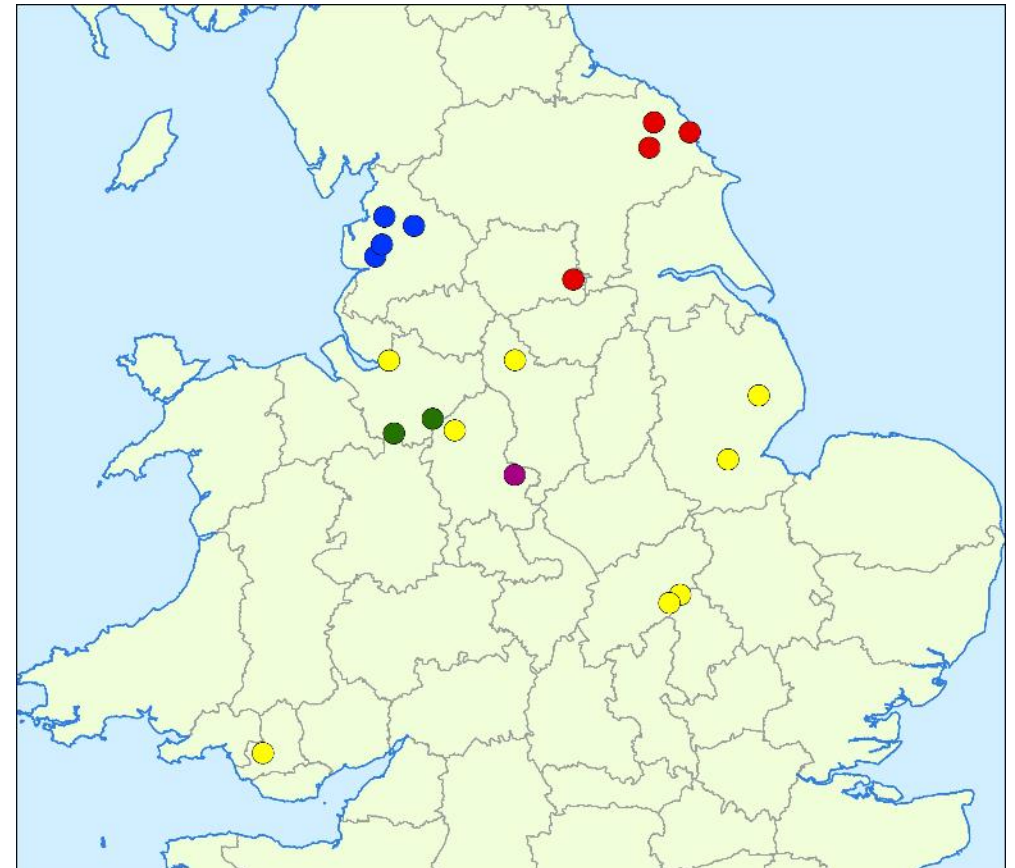
- Five Rural Surveys 11,819ha (29,205ac)

- Yorkshire 3,176ha
- Lancashire 3,378ha
- Cheshire 1,241ha
- Staffordshire 2,303ha
- Southern 1,723ha

- Woodland 2,500ha

- Foreshore 36,000ha

River Mersey to Barrow-in-Furness



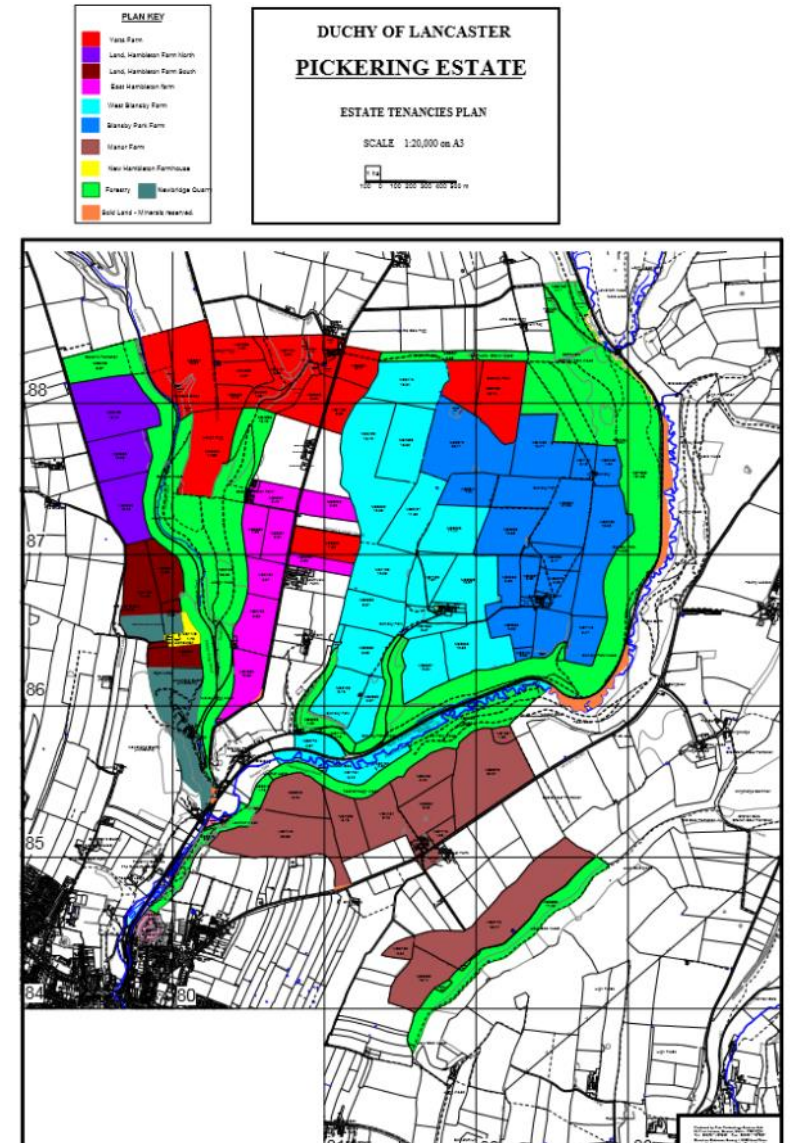
Yorkshire Survey

- 3,176 ha (7,848 ac) of agricultural land plus woodland
- Four estates
 - Pontefract 133 ha (329 ac)
 - Pickering 690 ha (1,706 ac)
 - Cloughton 921 ha (2,276 ac)
 - Goathland 1,312 ha (3,242 ac)



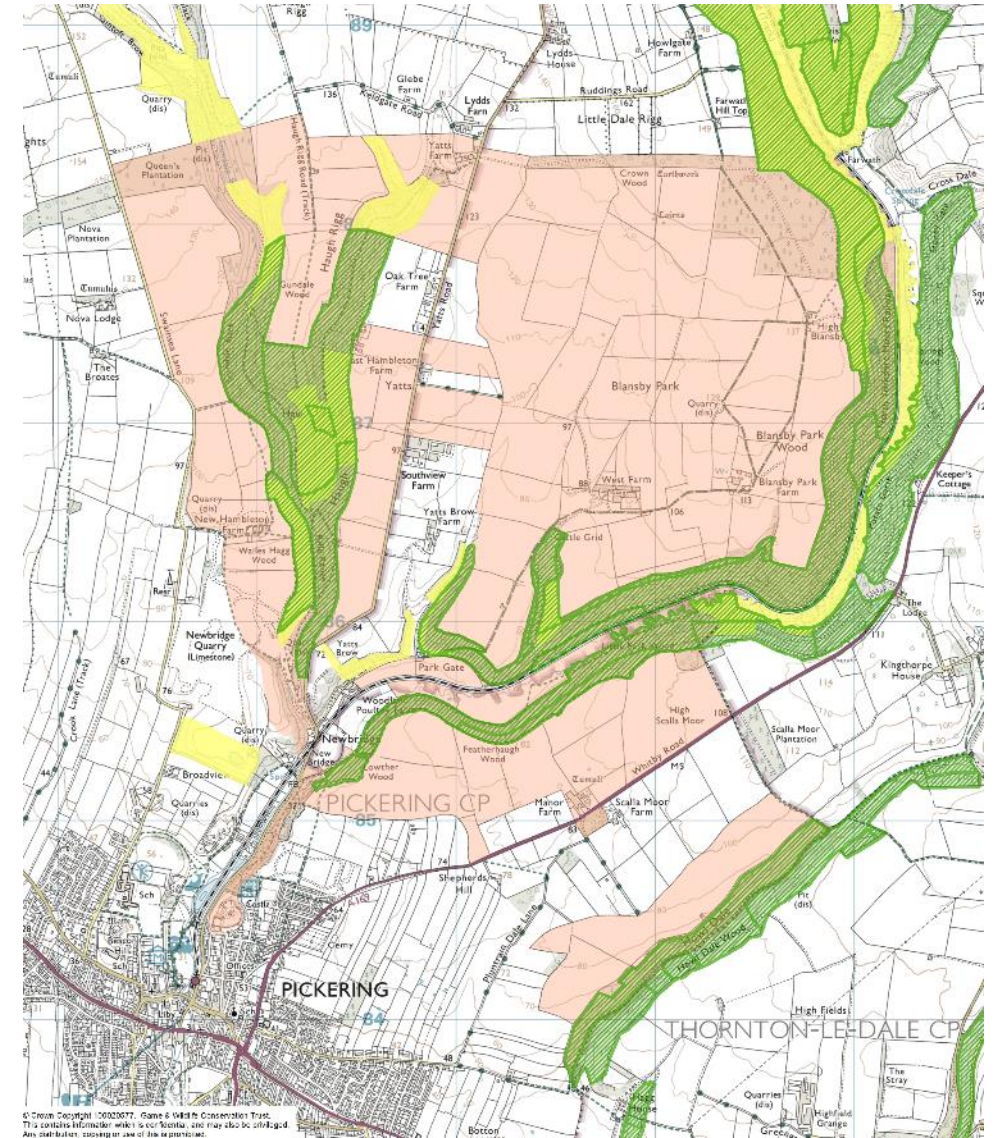
Pickering Estate

- 690 ha of agricultural land
- Seven tenancies
- Five tenants
- Two sporting tenants
- Approx. 300ha managed woodland

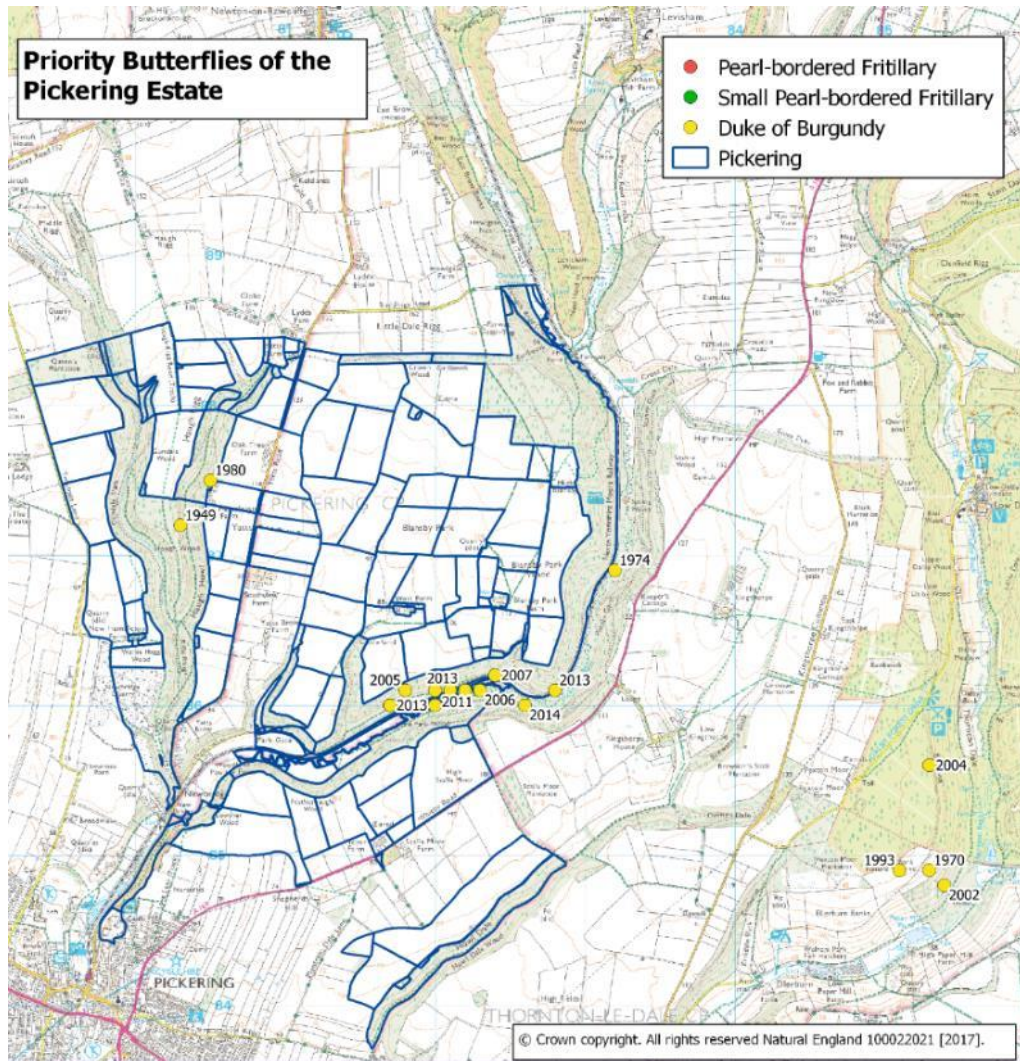


Desk based research

- Designated habitats
 - SSSI
 - Ancient Woodland
- Natural England Stewardship Scheme options



Data sharing

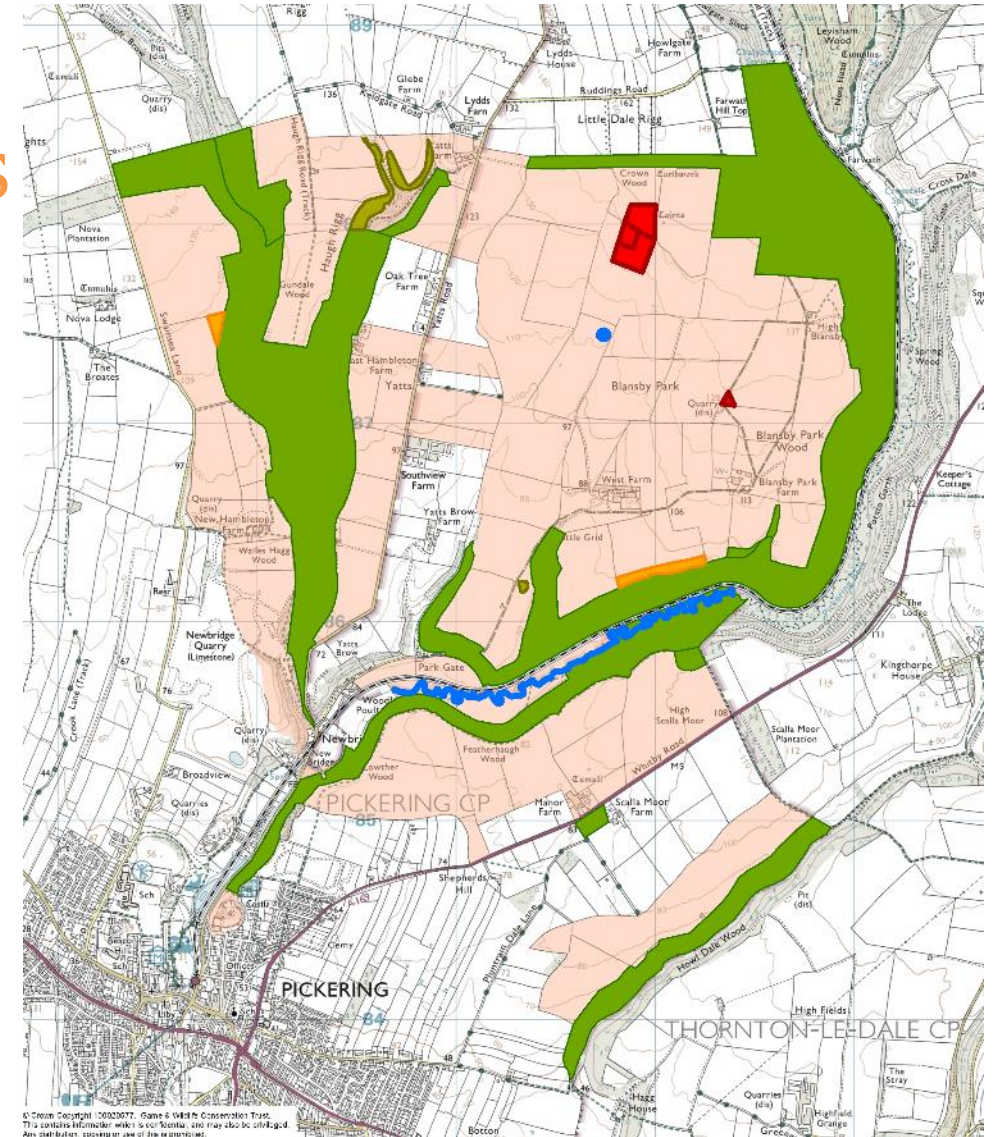


“Possibly the best site in Yorkshire”
Senior Regional Officer, Butterfly Conservation

- Duke of Burgundy
 - Undergone a serious decline Nationally
 - Reduced to 100 sites across the UK
- Pearl-bordered Fritillary
 - One of the most threatened butterfly species in the UK
- Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
 - Once widespread but now declining

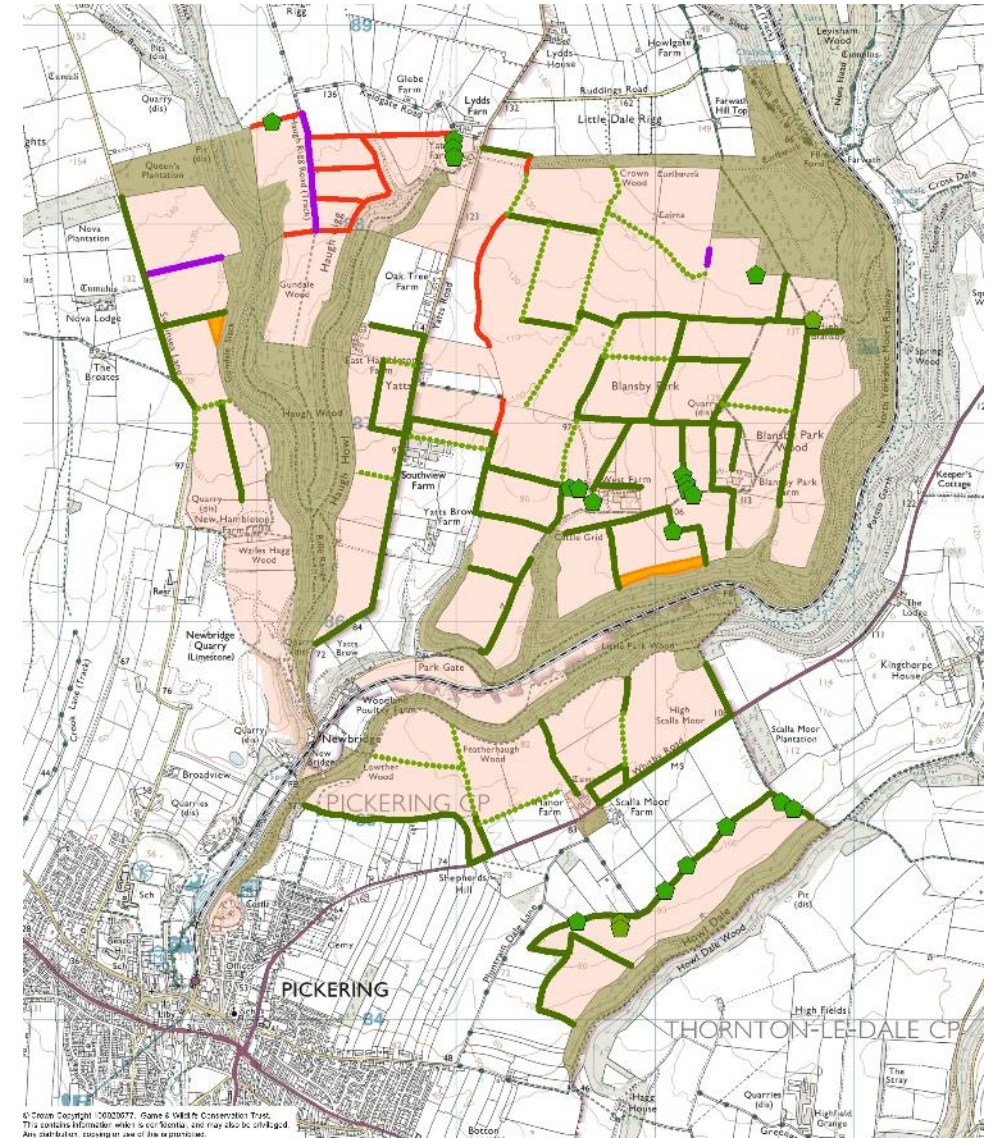
Field work, mapping semi-natural and flower rich habitats

- Field corners
- Pond
- Scrub
- Species rich grassland
- Watercourse
- Wild bird seed mix
- Woodland



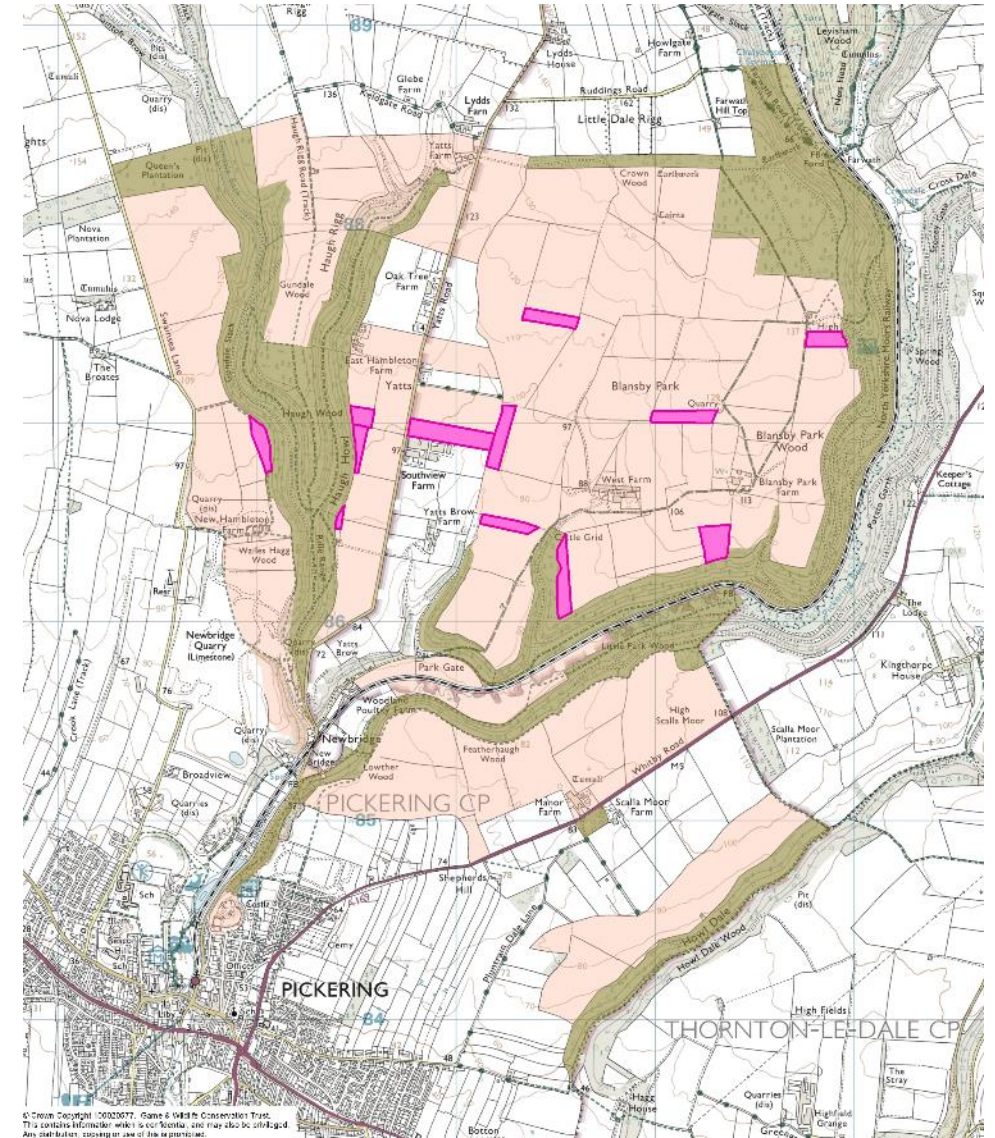
Boundary features

- Boundary trees
- Complete hedgerows
- Gappy hedgerows
- Field margins
- Historic cams
- Walls



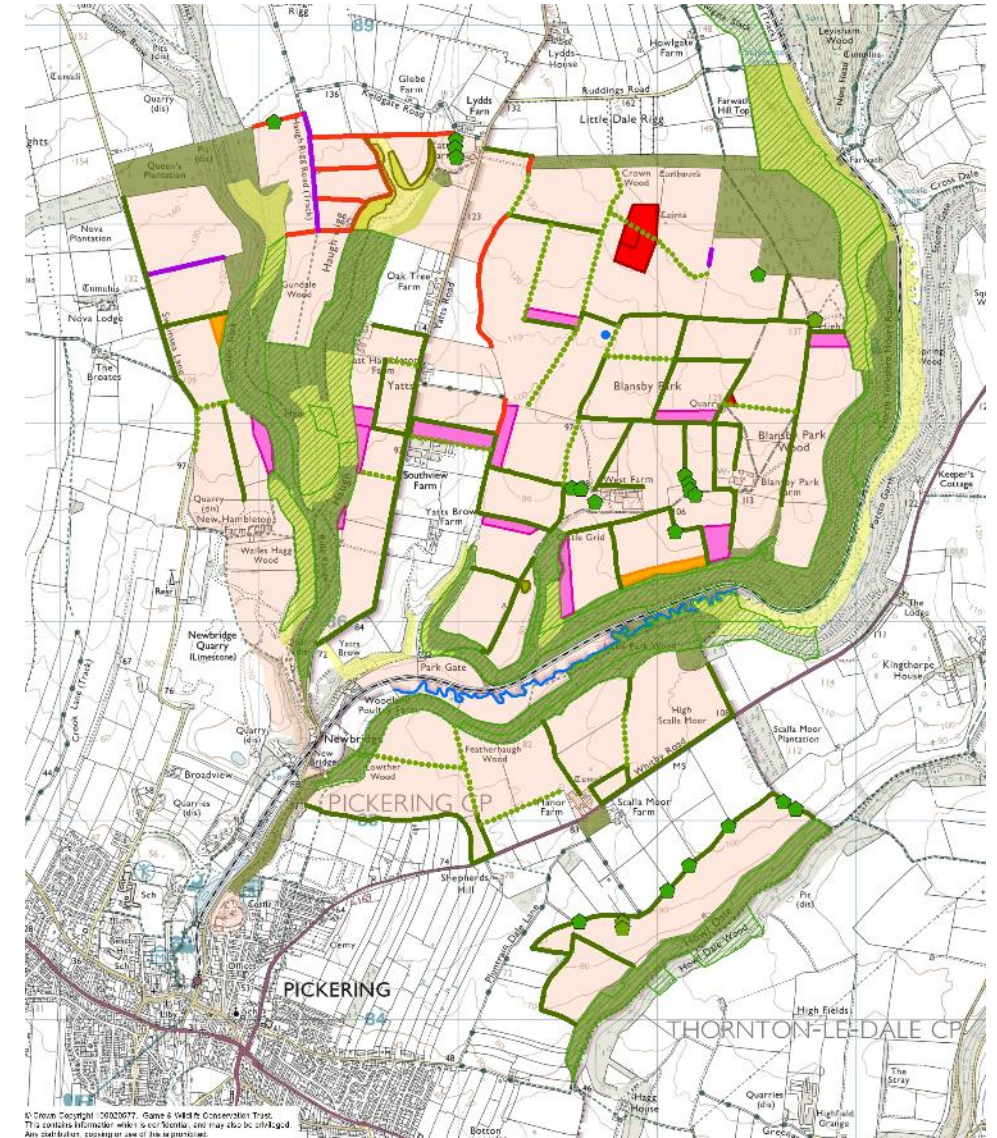
Sporting interest

- Maize pheasant cover



Estate summary map

- Overview of all habitats
- Displays connectivity
- Highlights gaps



Action plan

- Ensure all estates meet or exceed the baseline recommendation
- Identify existing habitats to preserve and enhance
- Identify areas to create new habitats including linkages between existing habitats
- Identify funding opportunities



Implementation of action plan

- Host farmer meetings, present results at Estate, Survey and National level
- Suggest habitat improvements - invite farmers to select
- Assist with Countryside Stewardship applications focussing on the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife package
- Arrange training workshop where appropriate
- Assist the formation of Farmer Clusters



The future

- A baseline survey to measure against in the future
- Increased awareness of local habitats and species
- Improved habitat management
- Neighbouring tenants working closely together
- Improved habitat connectivity
- Increased uptake of Countryside Stewardship



Challenges

- Geographical distribution of the Surveys and Estates
- Data sharing / data protection
- The weather



Thank you