



UKFS Guidelines: Forests and Landscape

The forest design principles in the Guidelines are:

- Shape
- Landform
- Pattern of enclosure
- Scale, proportion
- Visual diversity
- Unity
- Spirit of place.



Shape

We have already seen how shape influences landscape character, through landform and patterns of vegetation, for example

We have discussed the relationship between shape and three dimensional form, especially landform

The shapes are often what you notice first when looking at a landscape, including when looking at forests and woodlands.



Forest design principles

Where do you find shapes in the forest?





Shape

Shape of the forest edges should relate to the dominant characteristics of the landscape character

These could be:

- Landform - rugged or smooth
- Field pattern - often geometric
- Natural vegetation pattern - irregular or geometric.

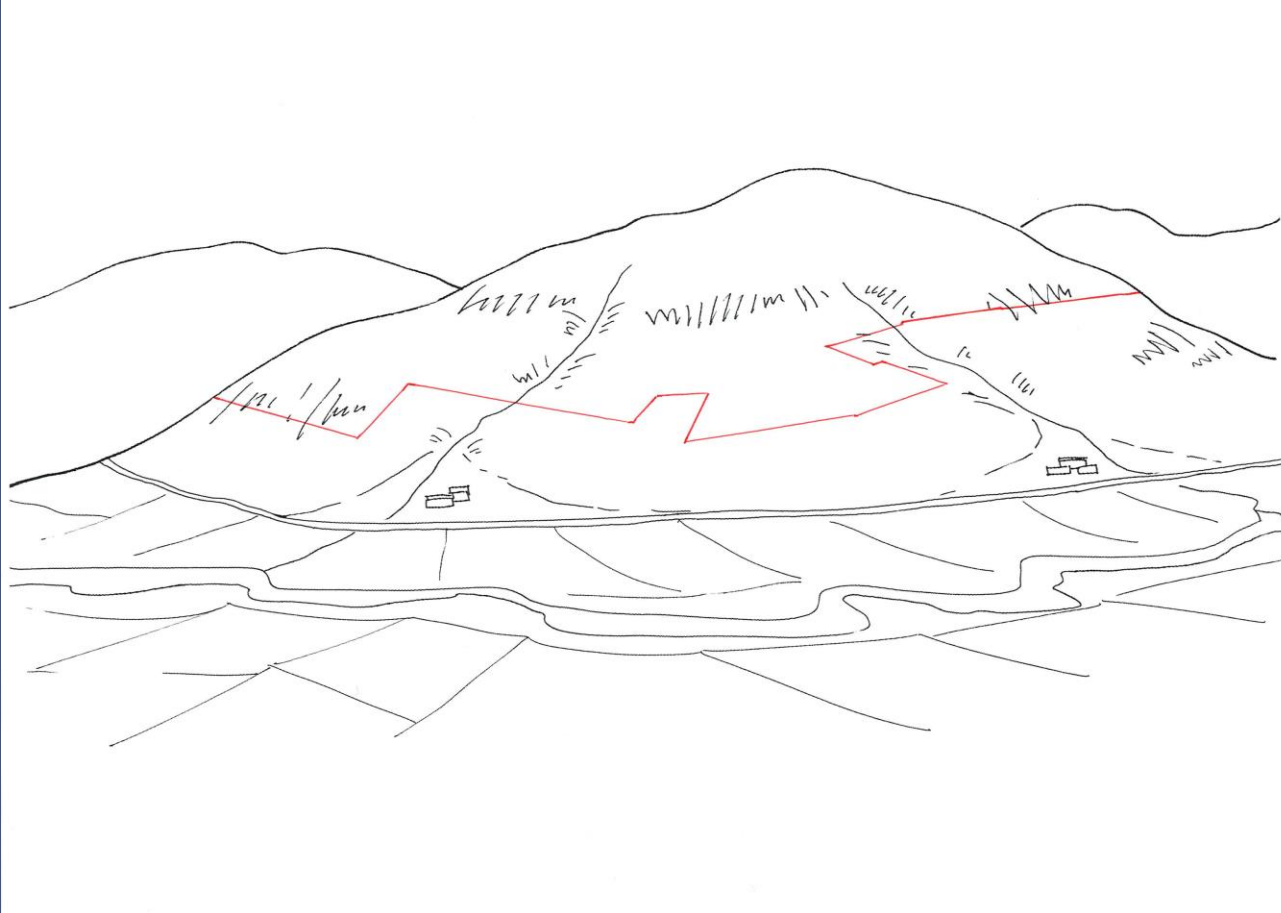


Shape



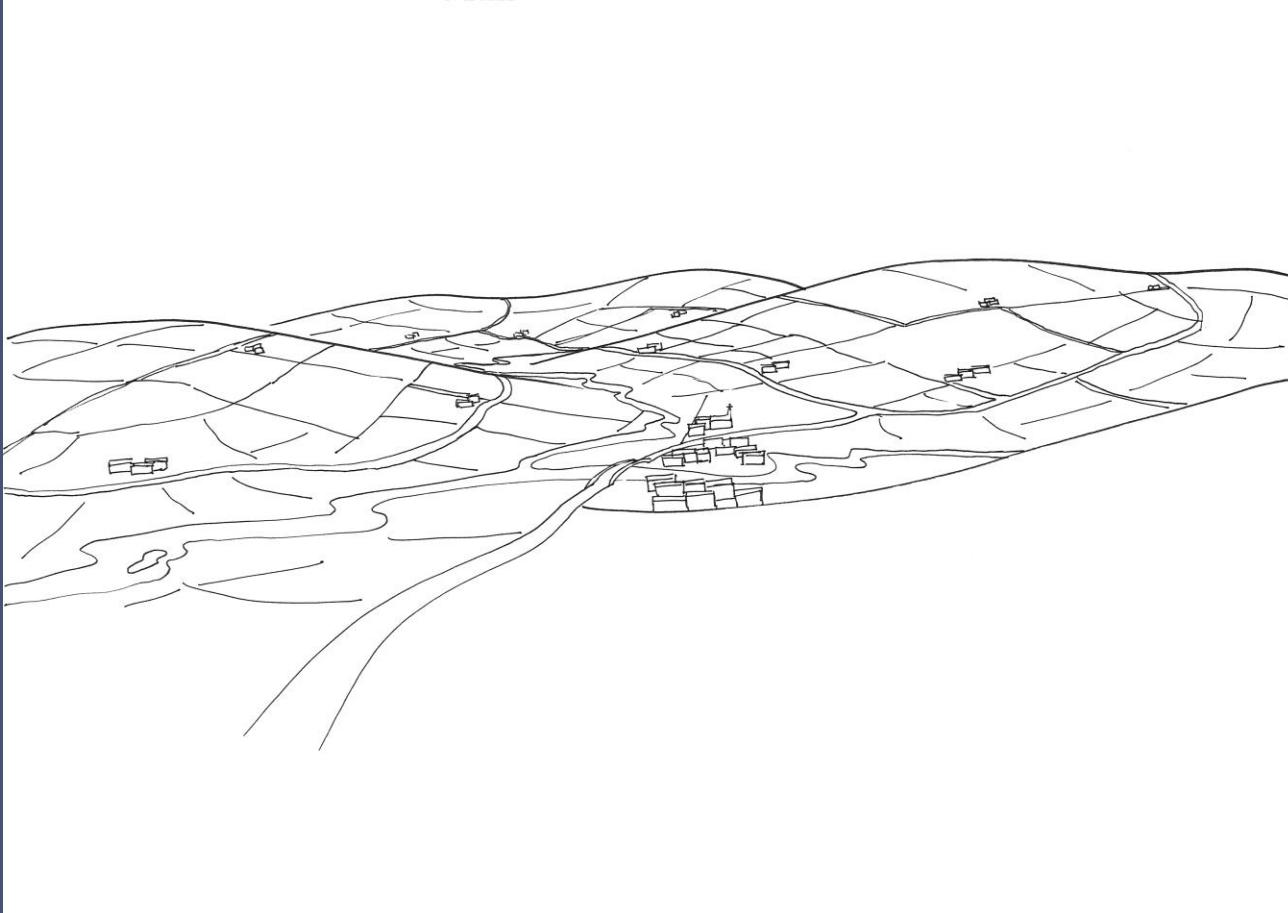


Shape



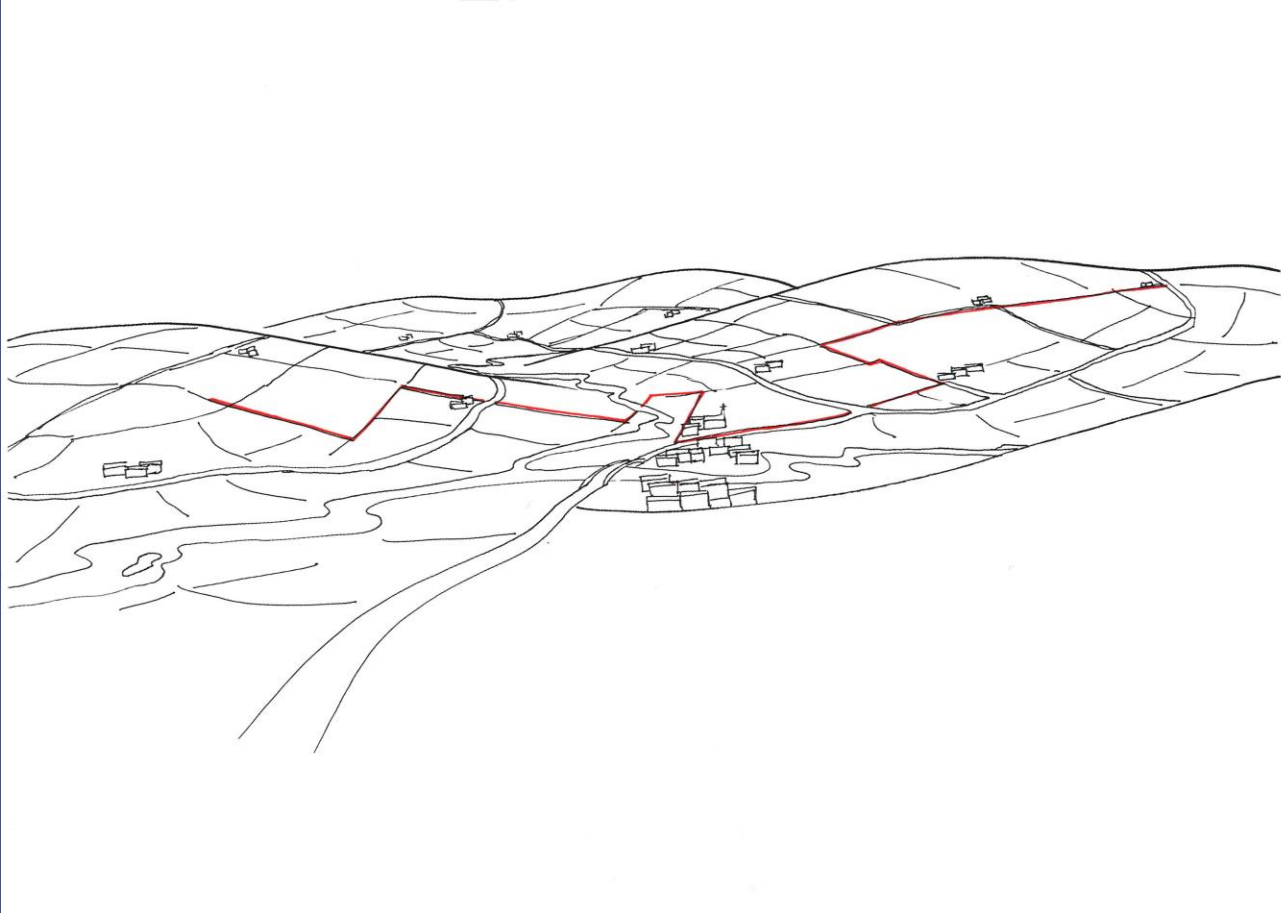


Shape





Shape



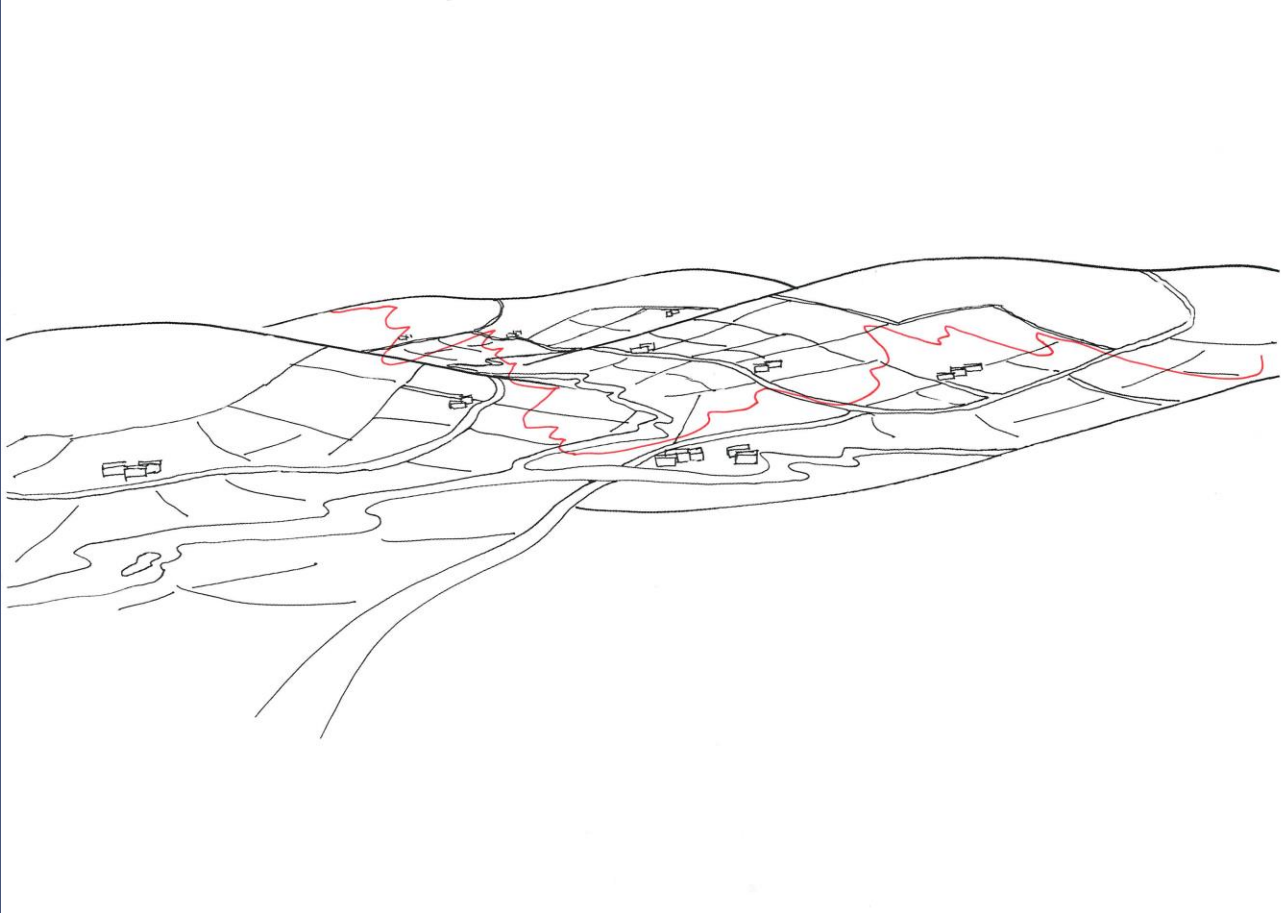


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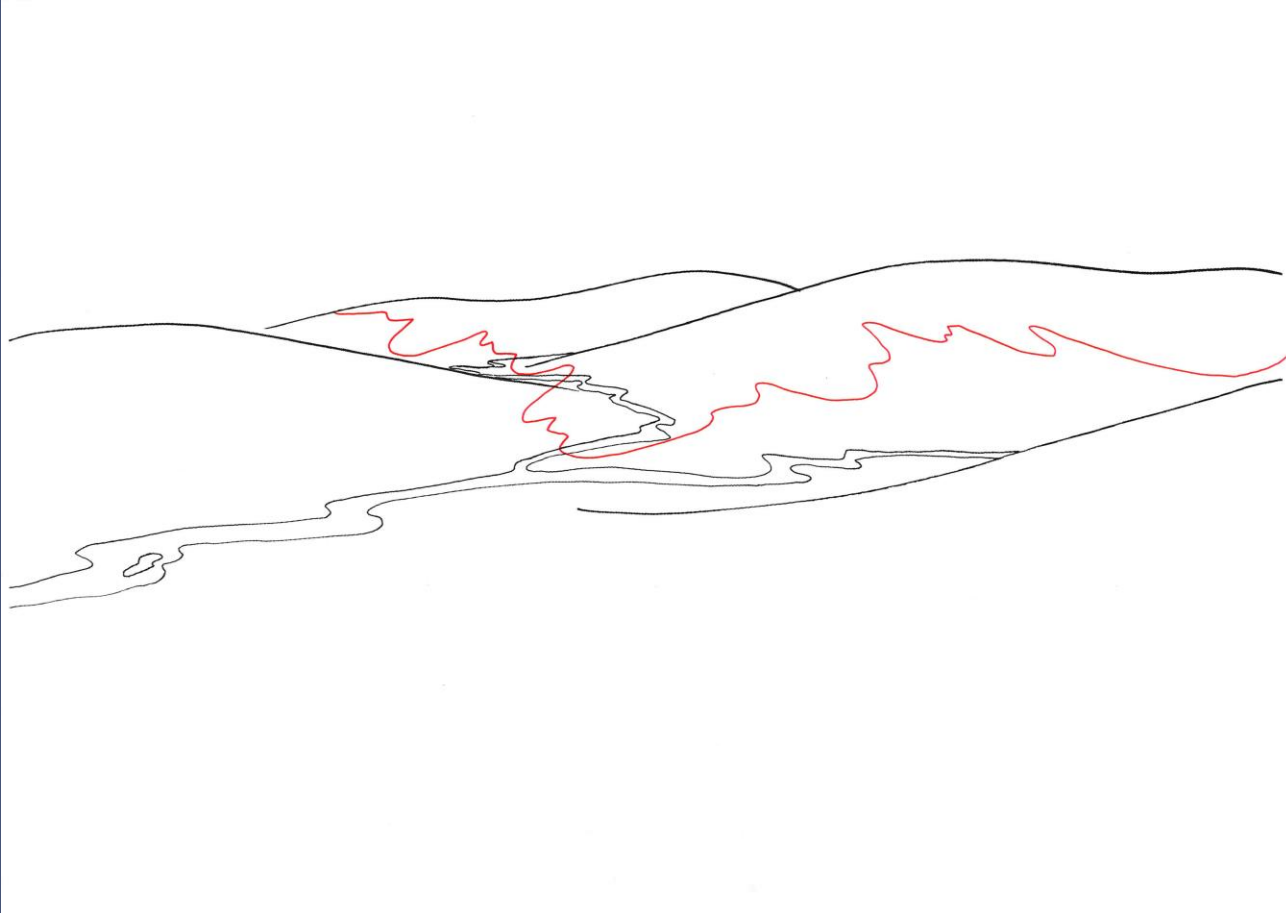


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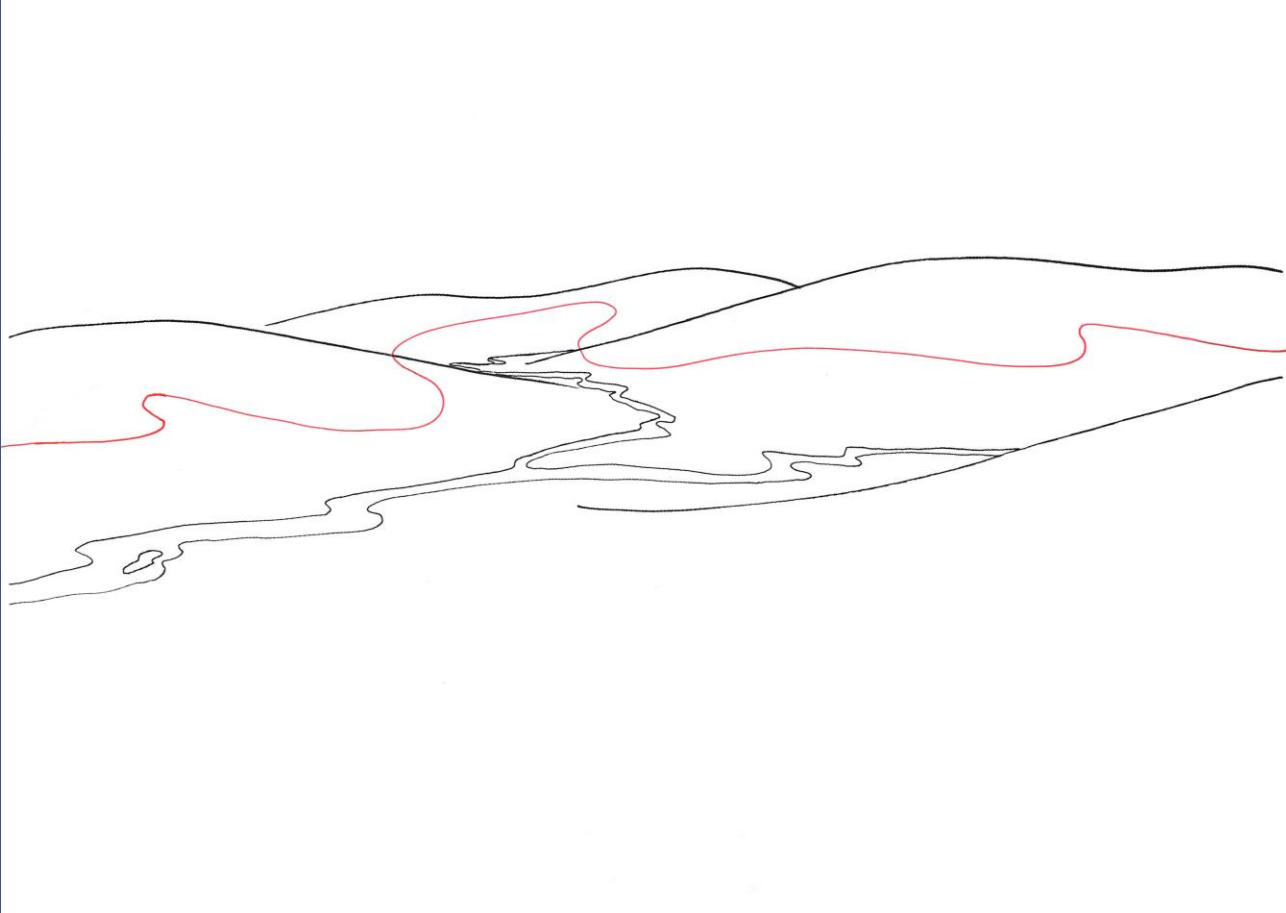


Shape





Shape





Shape

In upland landscapes:

- Landform dominates
- The broad shapes of the hills, ridges and gullies will be influential
- Landform shape can be boldly rounded or rugged
- Vegetation pattern is generally irregular
- Shapes are generally organic and naturalistic.



Shape





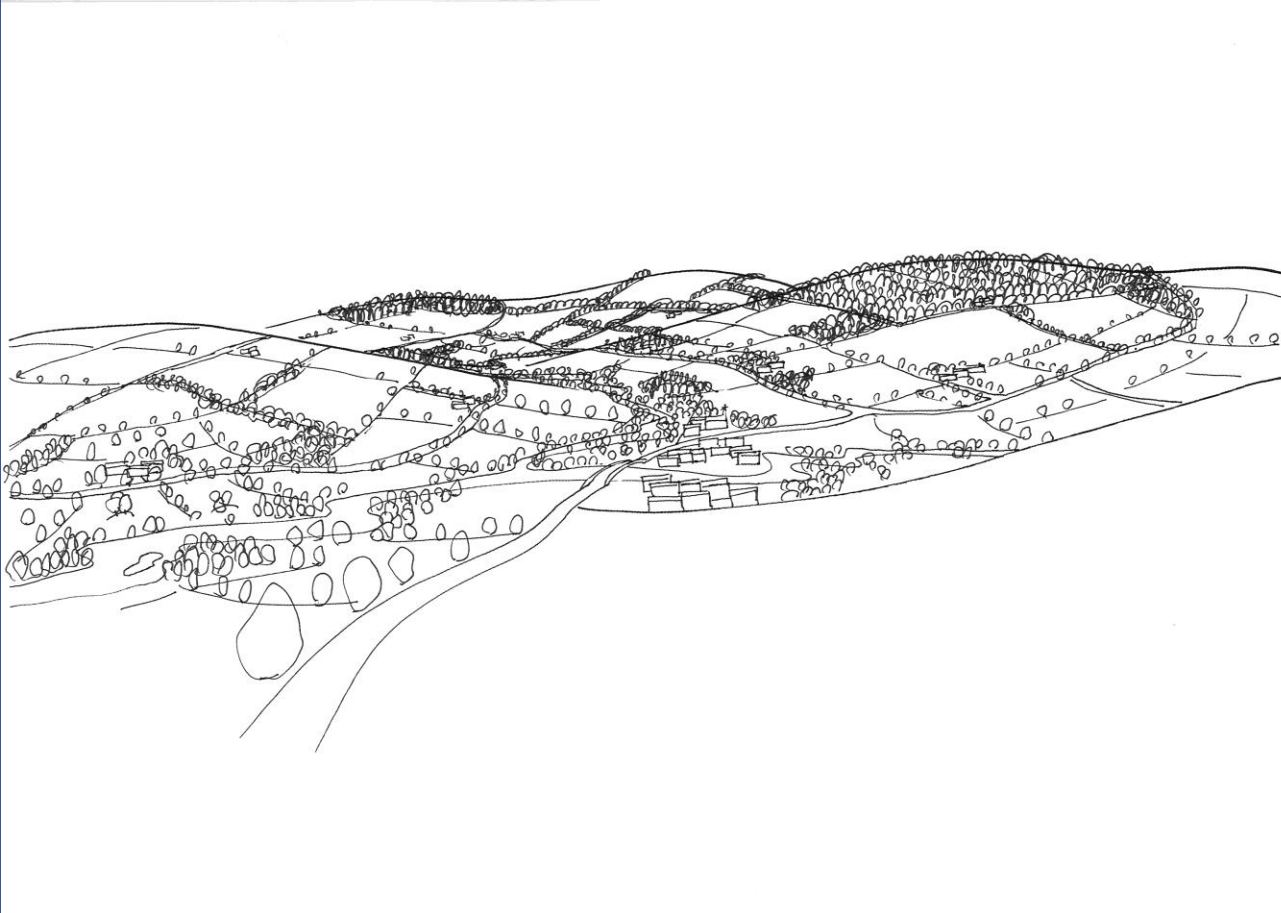
Shape

In lowland landscapes:

- Enclosure and field vegetation pattern may dominate - especially where relief is low and topography subdued
- Landform is often smooth, but can be irregular, with more complex tiers and rocky outcrops
- Vegetation pattern is frequently geometric and regular
- Shapes can be regular and ordered.



Shape





Shape

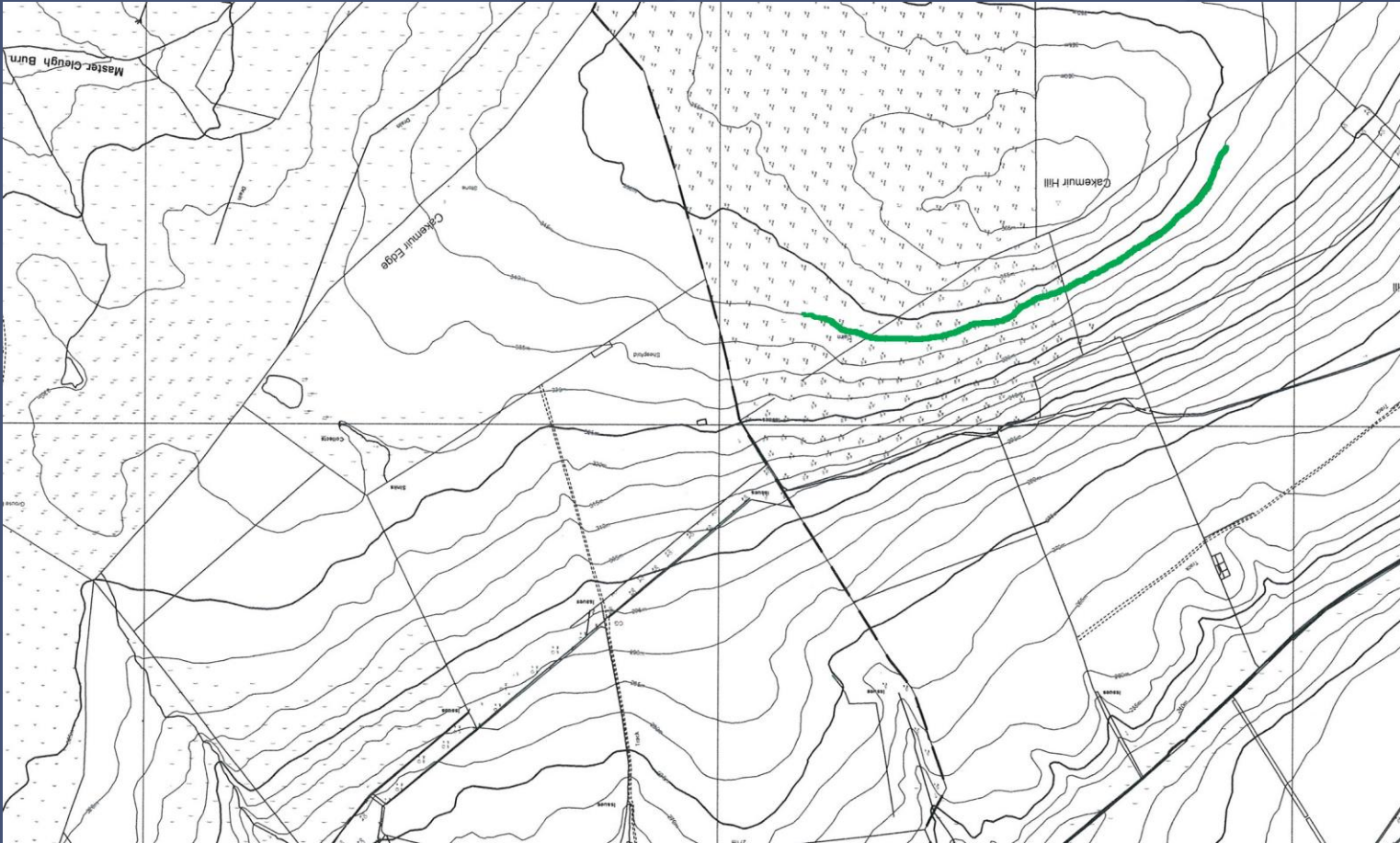
When designing forests, we frequently work between plans and perspectives

We can pick up clues about the shape of the landform from contours on plans

These can be particularly useful when designing the shape of woodlands in upland landscapes.

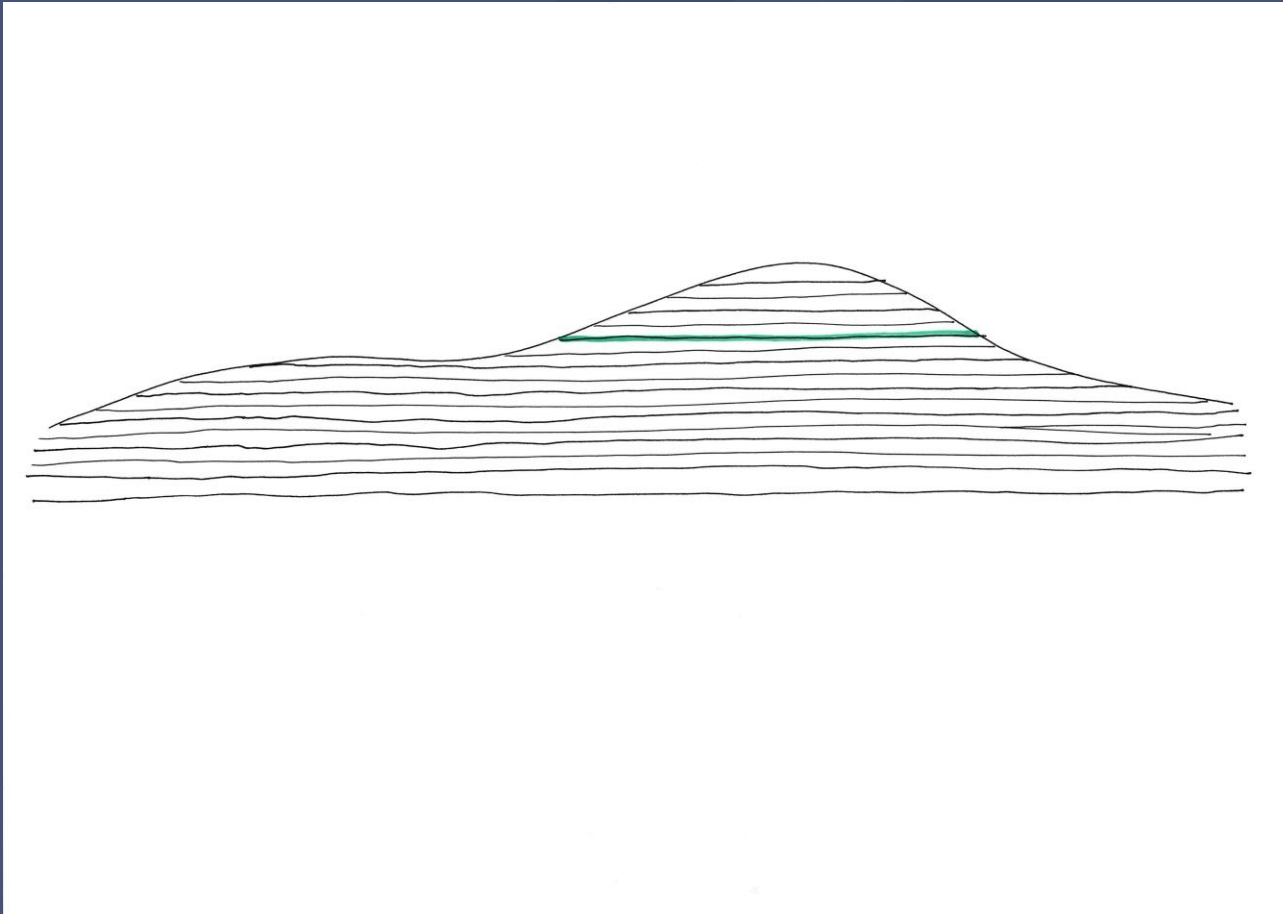


Shape - avoid edges which sit along a contour



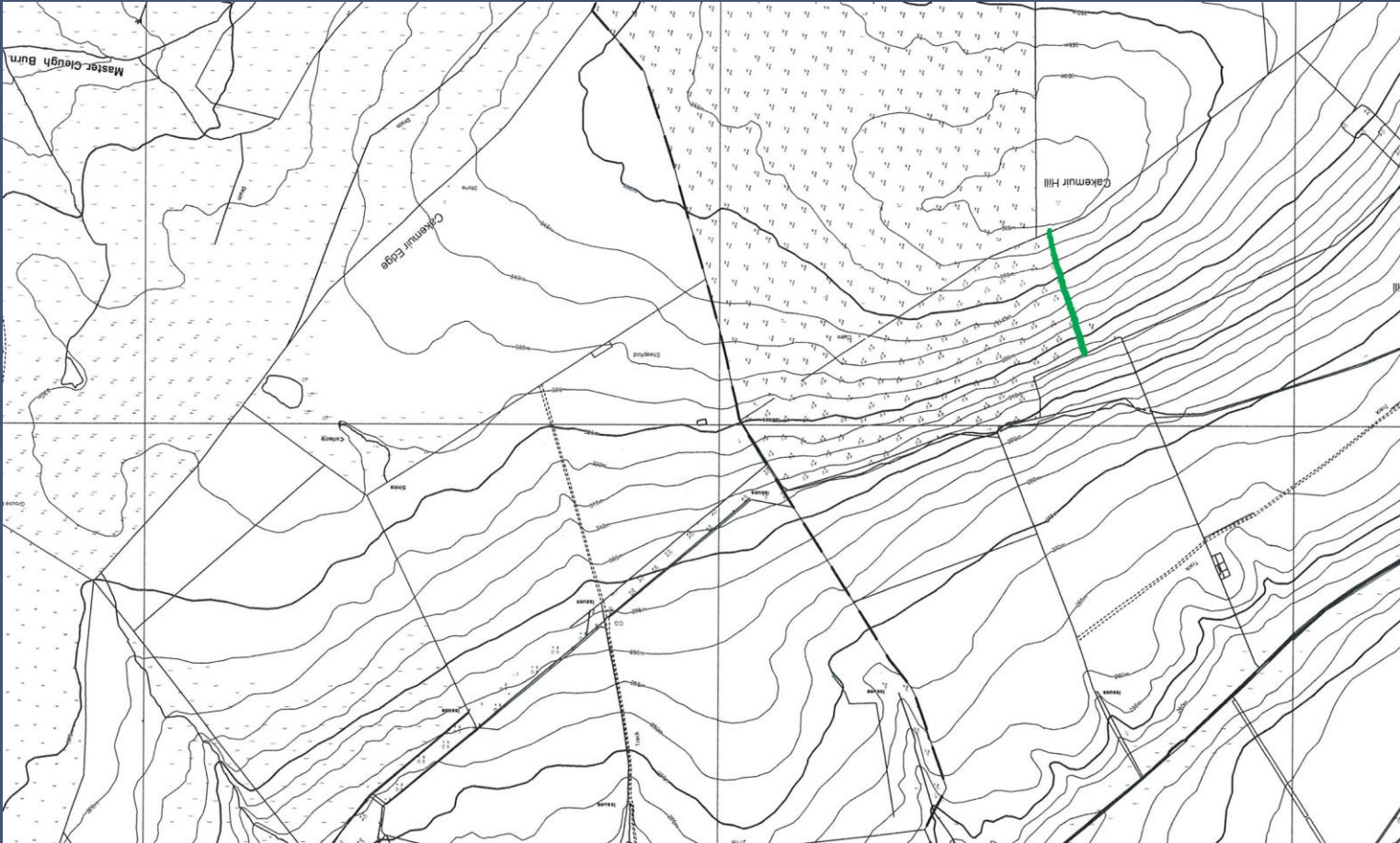


Shape - avoid edges which sit along a contour



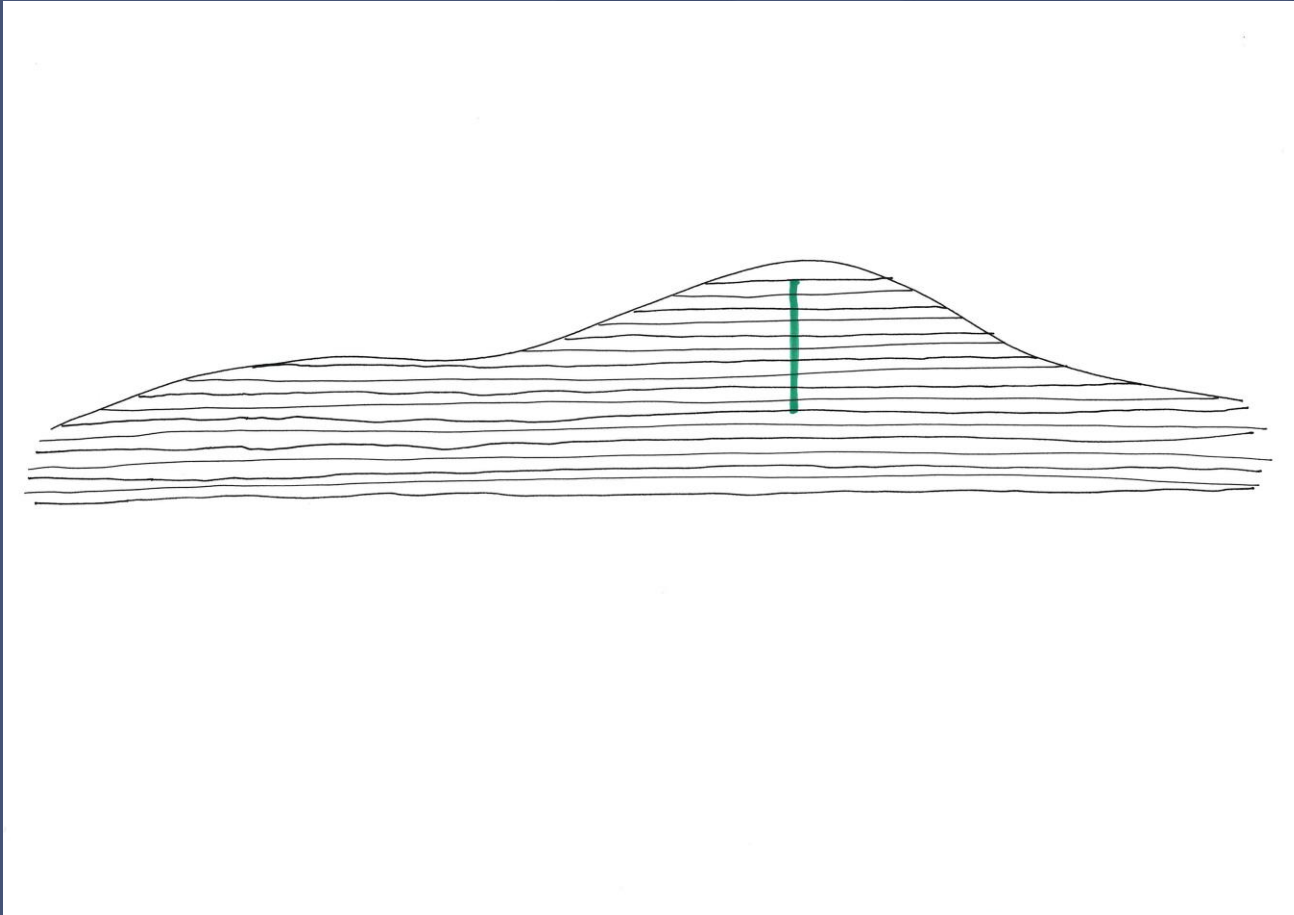


Shape - avoid edges at right angles to contours



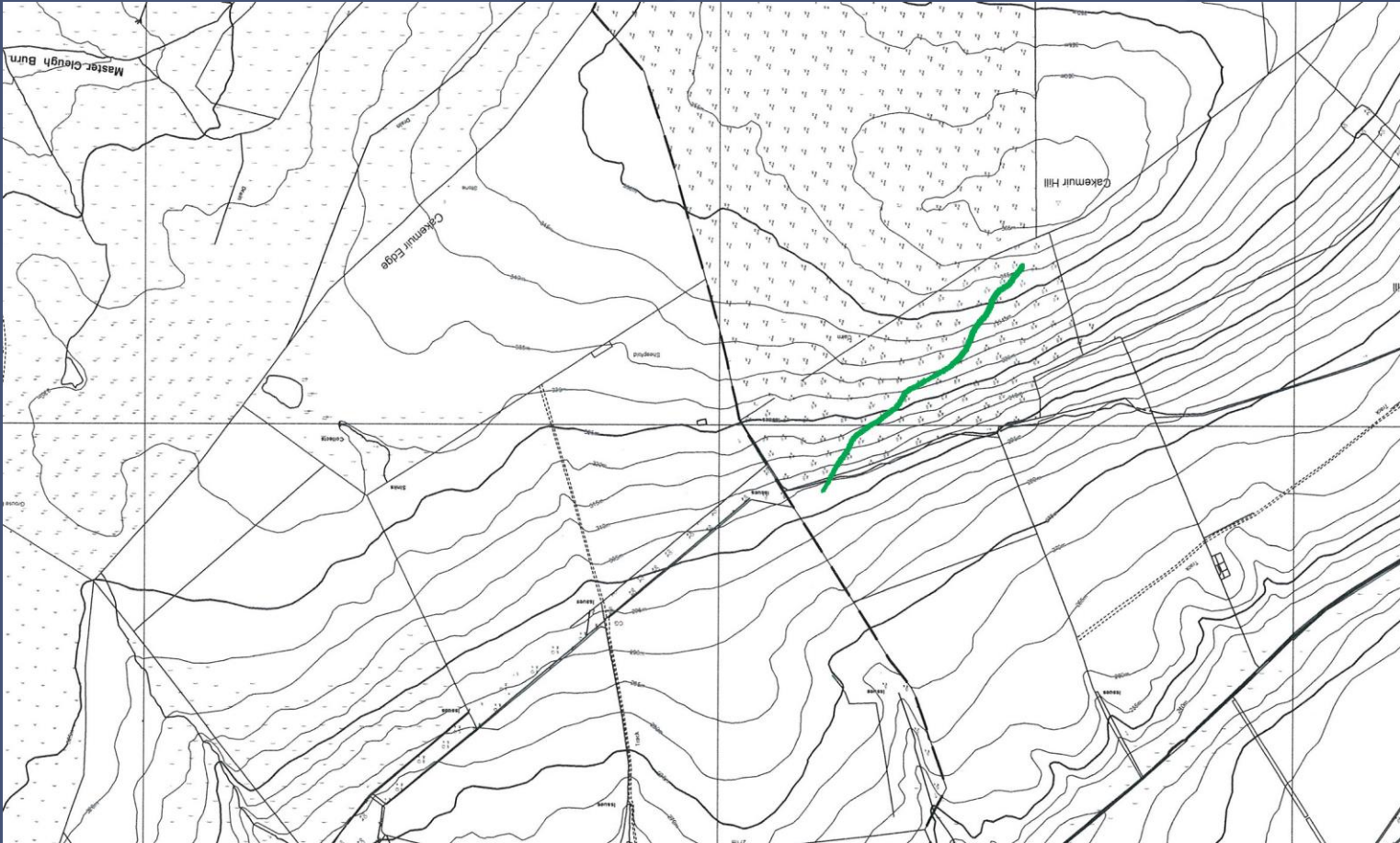


Shape - avoid edges at right angles to contours



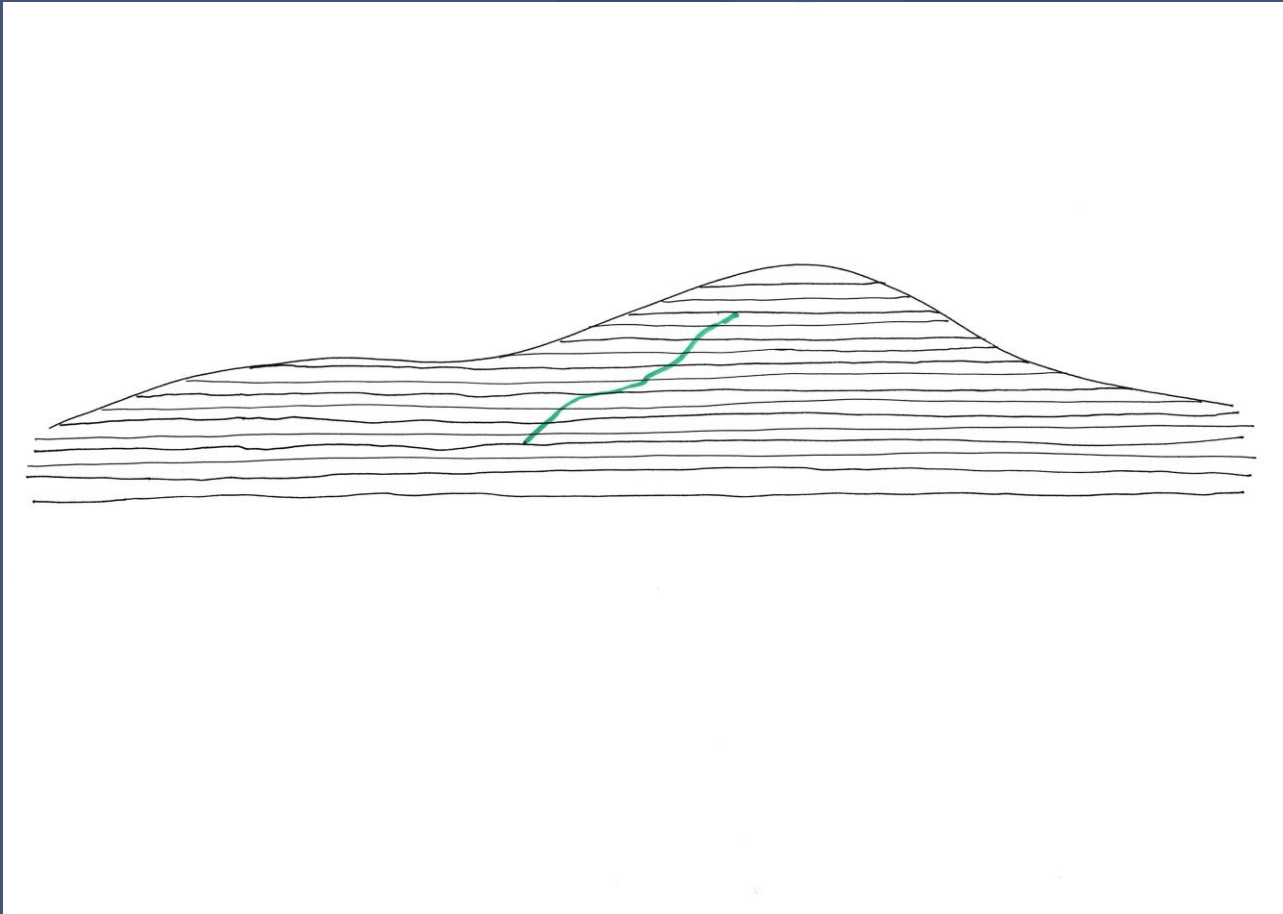


Shape - edges should cross contours diagonally



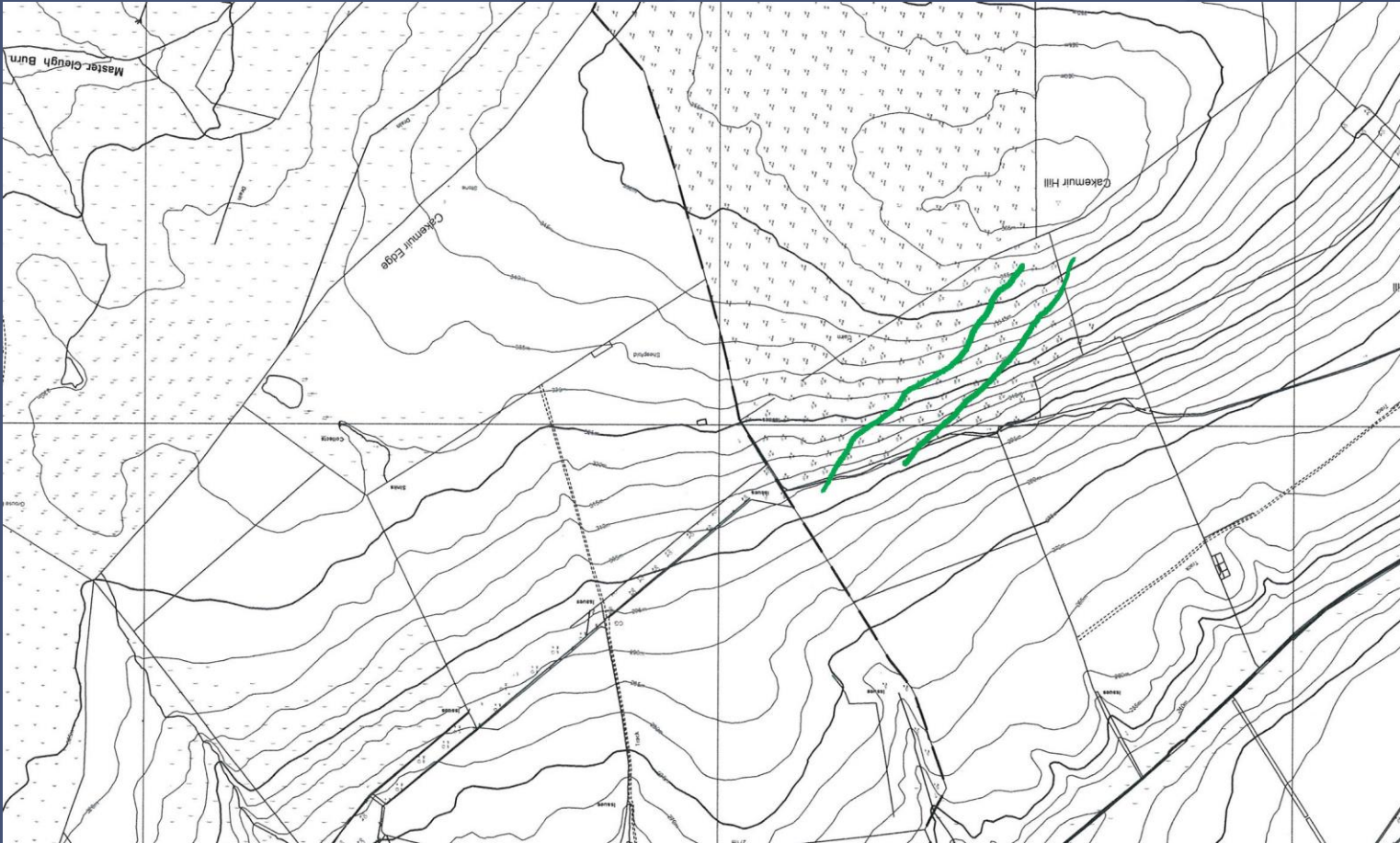


Shape - edges should cross contours diagonally



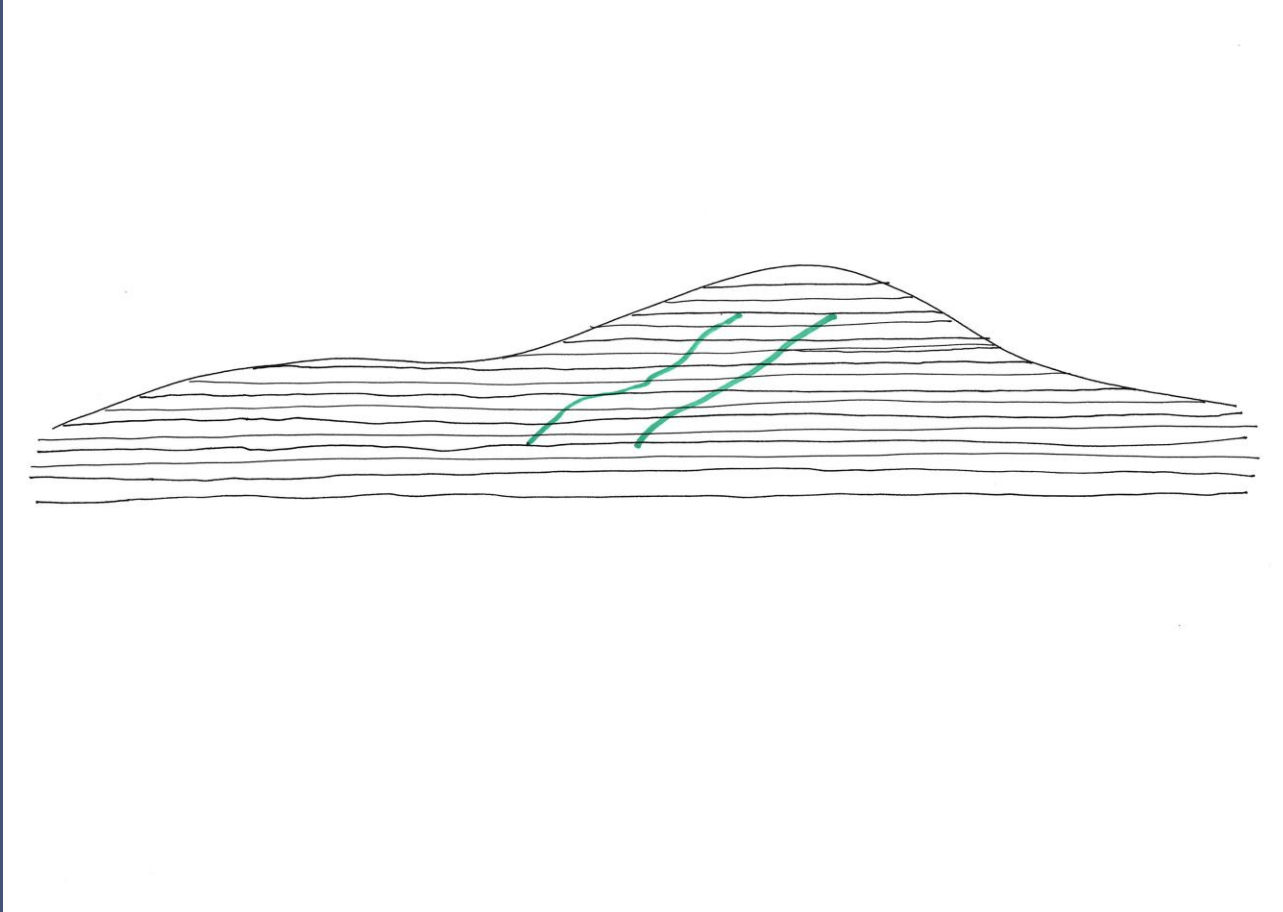


Shape - parallel lines





Shape - parallel lines





Shape - parallel lines





Shape - Fencelines

It is not just the shape of the outer edge of the forest you need to design

You also need to think about the shape of the fenceline, especially where it is likely that woodland will regenerate against the fence.



Shape - Fencelines





Shape - Fencelines





Shape - Fencelines





Using shape - Summary

Identify dominant shape characteristics - it will normally be landform or enclosure pattern

Where enclosure patterns dominate and landform is subdued or relief is low, geometric shapes may be best

Elsewhere, it is likely irregular shapes are going to work better - but they may be smooth and flowing

Think about the way all shapes relate to contours - what are the consequences in perspective?