

## Producing a suite of maps in myForest

This is a guide to producing a set of maps to accompany a Forestry Commission Woodland Management plan in myForest. At the end of this document you will find some examples of maps produced in myForest.

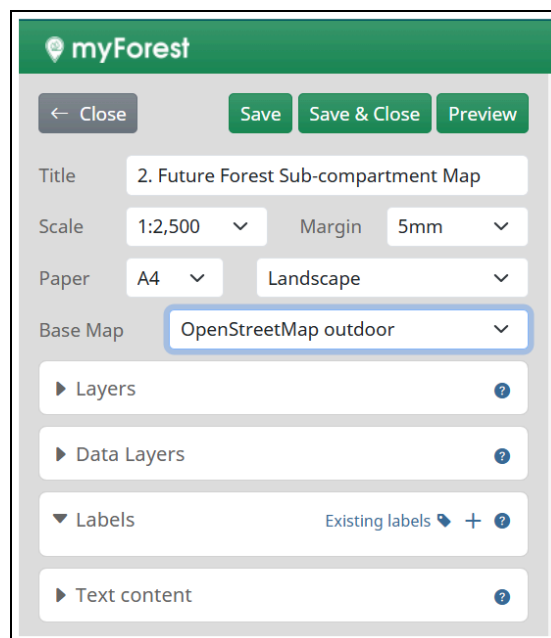
For clarity, each map is typically drawn at the same scale, showing the same area, and often (although not always) the same base map.

Depending on the information being portrayed, each map will use layers to show different mapping components selected from your Compartment, Sub-compartment and Feature mapping, and often different data layers to show the woodland in a wider landscape context.

There are several criteria to take into account when producing consistent maps. *myForest* handles many of these automatically so you don't have to worry about them - including the placement of your map frame, legend, title, scale bar and north arrow, among others.

Other aspects are user-defined, to allow flexibility. These can be set in the *myForest* Output Map Editor when you are creating and editing your map. Your choice will depend on factors such as the size of the woodland and any mapping standards, as well as personal preferences. For consistency over a series of maps, make sure the following are set to the same parameters:

- Titles
- Format - this covers Scale, Page Size, Margins and Orientation
- Choice of Base map



The screenshot displays the myForest Output Map Editor interface. At the top, there is a green header with the myForest logo. Below the header, there are four buttons: a back arrow labeled 'Close', and three green buttons labeled 'Save', 'Save & Close', and 'Preview'. The main configuration area includes several fields and dropdown menus: 'Title' is set to '2. Future Forest Sub-compartment Map'; 'Scale' is set to '1:2,500' and 'Margin' is set to '5mm'; 'Paper' is set to 'A4' and 'Orientation' is set to 'Landscape'; 'Base Map' is set to 'OpenStreetMap outdoor'. Below these settings are four expandable sections: 'Layers', 'Data Layers', 'Labels' (which shows 'Existing labels' and a plus sign), and 'Text content'. Each section has a right-pointing arrow and a question mark icon.

Labels (custom or auto-generated from your data) and notes in the form of a text box can also be added to convey additional information. Again, your choice will be determined by a variety of factors. For a detailed guide to using labels in myForest, see

Once you have fixed these settings, the key aspect to producing a visually coherent suite of maps is the **Extents**. This refers to the rectangular “box” that fits within the map frame.

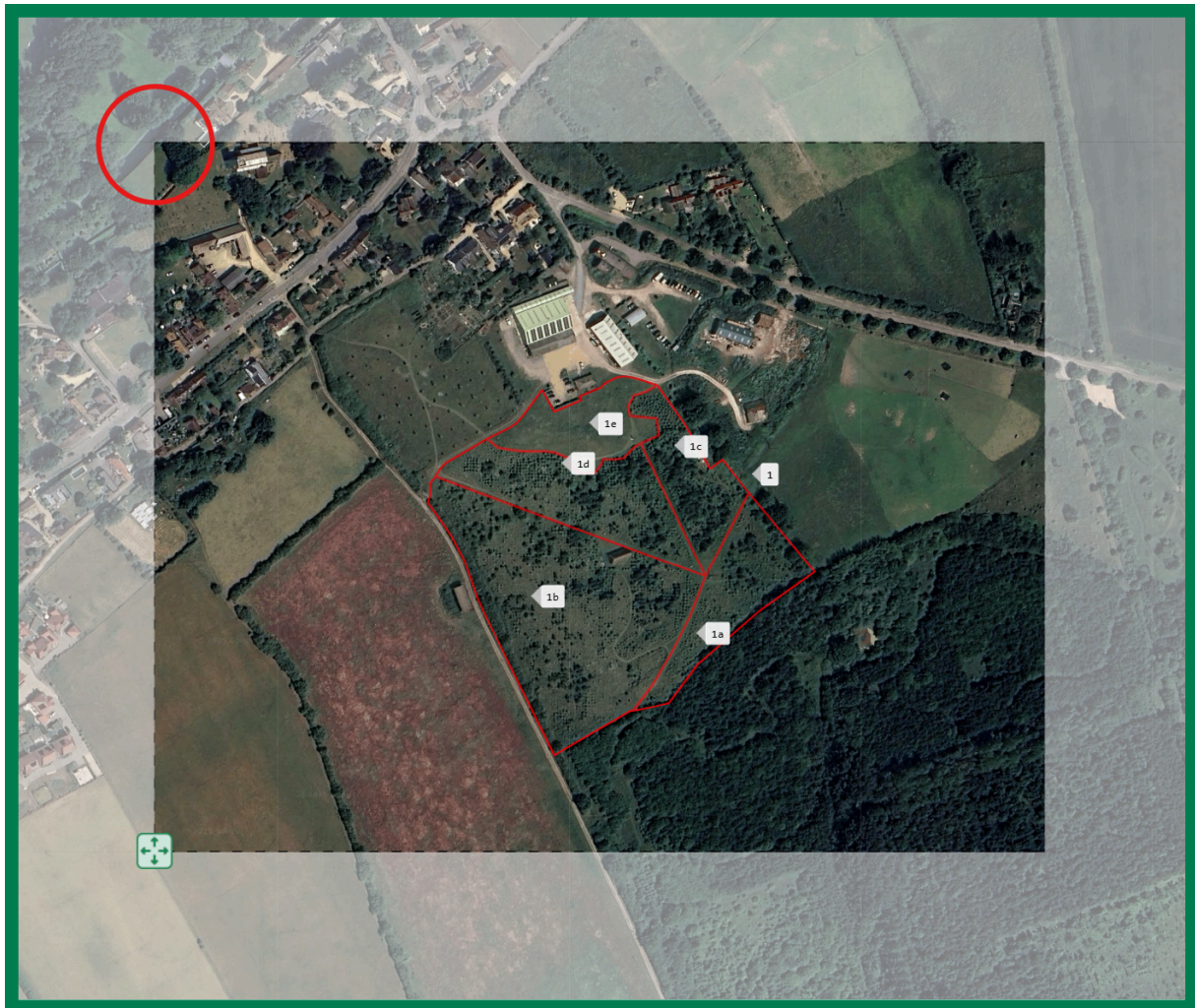
Follow these steps each time you add a new map to your property to ensure your maps are consistent:

Step 1. When creating a new map, use a consistent approach to naming. For example, you may wish to always include the name of the woodland and a map number in your title, such as “1. Future Forest Sub-compartment Map”, “2. Future Forest Constraints Map”, “3. Future Forest Harvesting Map”.

Step 2. Pick a scale, page size, margin, orientation (and base map if required), and use these settings for all your maps:



Step 3. Pick a fixed reference point on the base map, and use the handle in the bottom left corner of the map frame (the highlighted rectangle visible in the Output Map Editor) to move the frame with your mouse so that one of the corners lines up with the fixed point. If there are no reference points on your chosen base map, try switching to a different one (Google Satellite is often the best) to align your map frame, then switch back again before saving. In the example below, the top left corner has been aligned with a green feature on the river bank, highlighted by the red circle:



EXAMPLES:

