Ancient Woodland Management Plan (AWMP) – Principles

Dum Wood, Chidswell

Report Ref. ER-9043-03D

July 2026

Report Reference:	Ancient Woodland Management Plan (AWMP) - Principles Dum Wood, Chidswell
Report Reference:	ER-9043-03D
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Date:	09/07/2026

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice.

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Introduction

A planning application (ref 2020/60/92350/E) has been submitted for residential development (use class C3) of up to 181 dwellings, engineering and site works, demolition of existing property, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure (Proposed Development).

The section 106 agreement requires submission and approval of an Ancient Woodlands Management Plan relating to land referred to as the Ancient Woodlands (being Dum Wood, as shown edged red on The Location Plan (ref. 00-501 Rev B) and the Ancient Woodlands Buffer (being a proposed buffer between the Proposed Development and Dum Wood, as shown on the plan in the S106 agreement.

This document provides further detail on how those matters could be addressed in the plan.

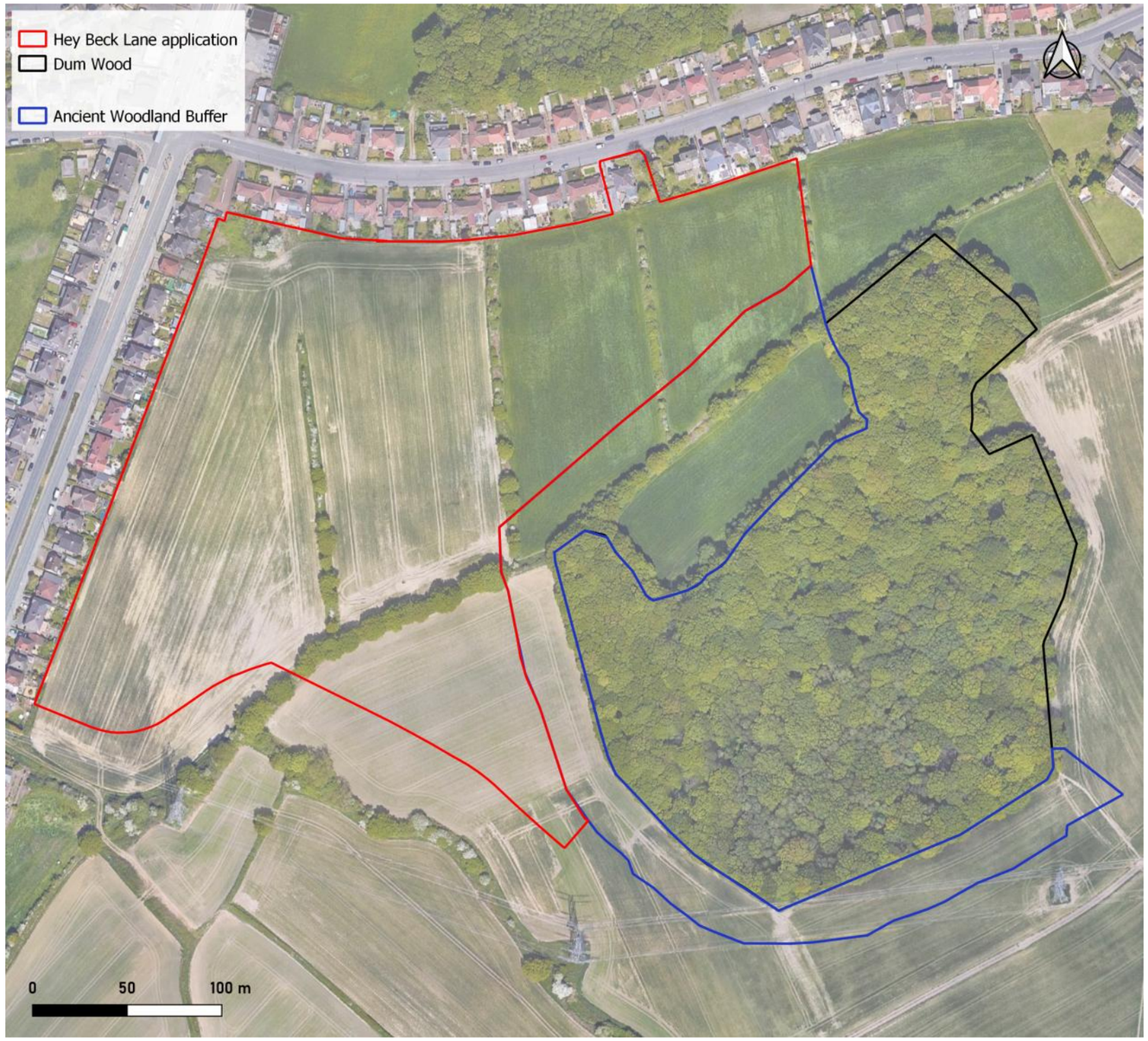
Dum Wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and mapped as an area of ancient replanted woodland or PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site). A detailed baseline assessment of this woodland is presented in Brooks Report Ref. ER-9043-01D (June 2026).

Aims

Compliance with the Ancient Woodlands Management Plan would ensure that the Proposed Development would not lead to unacceptable harm to, or deterioration of, the ancient replanted woodland or LWS.

Wording such as 'would' and 'could' has been intentionally used, rather can 'will' and 'must', so as to maintain flexibility so that comments from the LPA and relevant stakeholders can inform the final Ancient Woodland Management Plan.

Figure 1 Site Location Plan



Ancient Woodland Buffer Permissive Works

Prior to Occupation of Proposed Development

Brooks Ecological
An Origin Enterprises Company

Objective

To create a buffer of native semi-natural habitat between Dum Wood and the Proposed Development.

At present, land within this buffer is managed intensively for arable crops. The woodland edge is delineated by a dry stone wall, with the arable field extending right up to this woodland boundary.

The root protection area of woodland edge trees is at present therefore subject to regular disturbance and damage from ploughing, whilst the woodland edge will be subject to harm from the application of chemical fertilisers, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.

Releasing this land from agricultural management and replacing this with complementary semi-natural habitat will benefit the woodland.

Limitations

Nutrient levels within the proposed buffer strip will initially be high, resulting in a proliferation of competitive 'weeds' following planting. This flush of weeds would be managed to ensure any new planting succeeds.

Herbivores such as rabbit, deer and hare have all been recorded in and around Dum Wood. Measures will need to be put in place to protect new planting from these species.

Specification

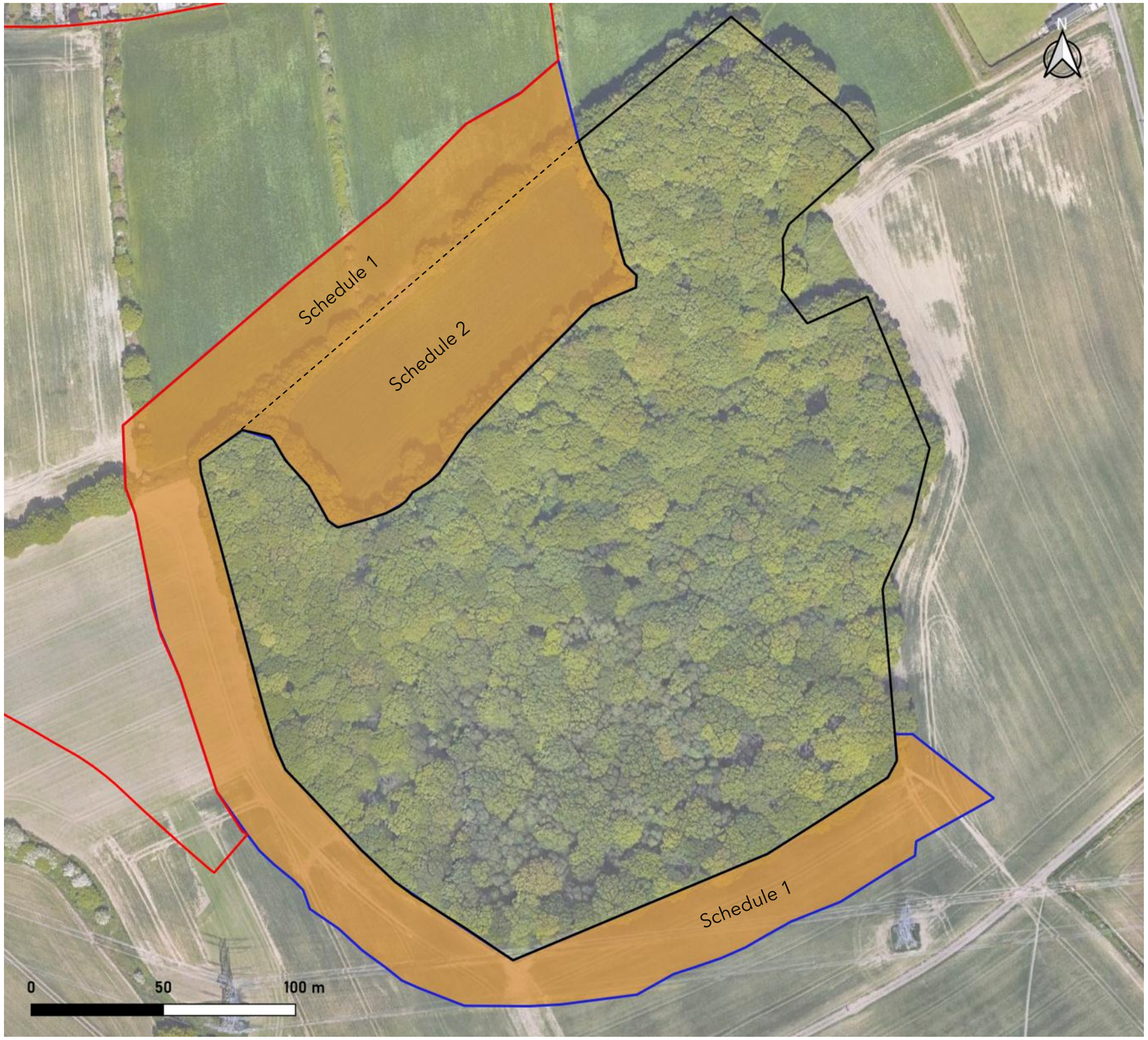
The following species could be planted within the buffer strip; these would be planted as whips, in naturalistic lines.

Schedule 1—Scrub planting		Schedule 2—Woodland planting	
Hawthorn	Blackthorn	Oak	Small leaved lime
Holly	Hazel	Silver birch	Hawthorn
Honeysuckle	Dogwood	Wild Cherry	Hazel
Crab apple	Roawan	Rowan	Holly

Long term management would seek to create 'Mixed Native Scrub' in Good condition and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland in Poor condition. This would involve periodic thinning of certain areas to create clearing and edge habitat, as well as ensure certain species do not become dominant.

The final AWMP would specify management and maintenance of the Ancient Woodland Buffer as per point (a) of the S106.

Figure 2 Ancient Woodland Buffer planting



Formalising & Managing Access

Prior to Occupation of Proposed Development

Dum Wood is located on privately owned land, with no official Public Rights of Way (PRoW) running through the woodland.

A single PRoW runs parallel to the woodlands northern edge, within arable land and continues northeast along adjacent field margins before cutting through a private garden. However, on the ground, this access through the garden is currently prevented by fencing erected by the homeowner.

There is however evidence of use of Dum Wood by local residents and the GPS tracked routes of apparent routes is shown in the 'Woodland Baseline Survey' report, and on the figure opposite. Routes have been labelled for ease of reference. See Woodland Baseline report for further information.

The Proposed Development at Hey Beck Lane could result in an increase in recreational use of Dum Wood, which could result in adverse impacts, such as the widening of existing routes, the creation of new routes and an increase in dog fouling. In order to prevent adverse effects arising, measures to manage access are proposed.

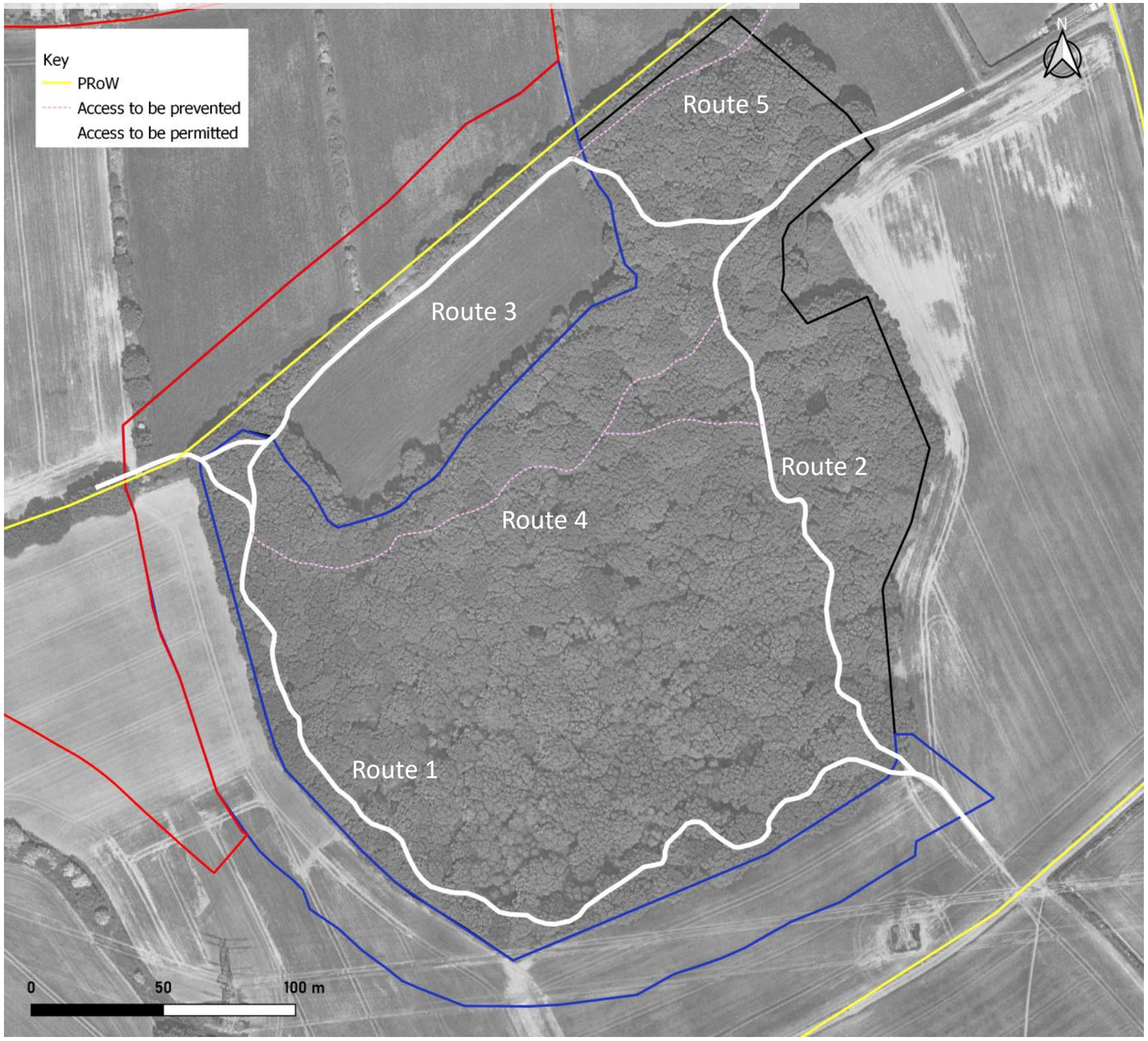
As the woodland is privately owned land with no PRoW, it would be possible to restrict access to the woodland entirely.

However, providing people with access to nature (in a responsible manner) is a core principle of all government nature bodies (Defra, Natural England) and nature conservation organisations (Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust). Prohibiting access to Dum Wood is therefore not proposed.

Access is proposed to be formalised and managed so as to ensure users do not trample and compact the woodland ground flora. The following measures are proposed;

- A single circular route would be retained around the woodland, with these footpaths upgraded with a cellular confinement system to minimise soil compaction.
- Measures are proposed to prevent and discourage access along the routes shown by the dotted lines on figure opposite. This would ensure a large central block of woodland remains free of human disturbance.
- No new paths will be created within Dum Wood or the Ancient Woodland Buffer.
- Signage and dog waste bins would be installed at the three main entrances to the woodland.

Figure 3 PRoW and information routes



Formalising & Managing Access (continued)

Prior to Occupation of Proposed Development

Path Upgrade

A cellular confinement system could be installed on top of existing footpaths and filled with a suitable substrate, i.e. woodchip. To the extent practicable, this could be sourced from vegetation clearance works within the application boundary.

The path could be edged with logs or wooden boarding. It is envisioned these paths would be circa 1m wide. Again, to the extent practicable, these materials could be sourced from within the application site, or from management works within Dum Wood.

Woodchip and edging would be monitored and replaced as and when required as part of the woodlands ongoing management.

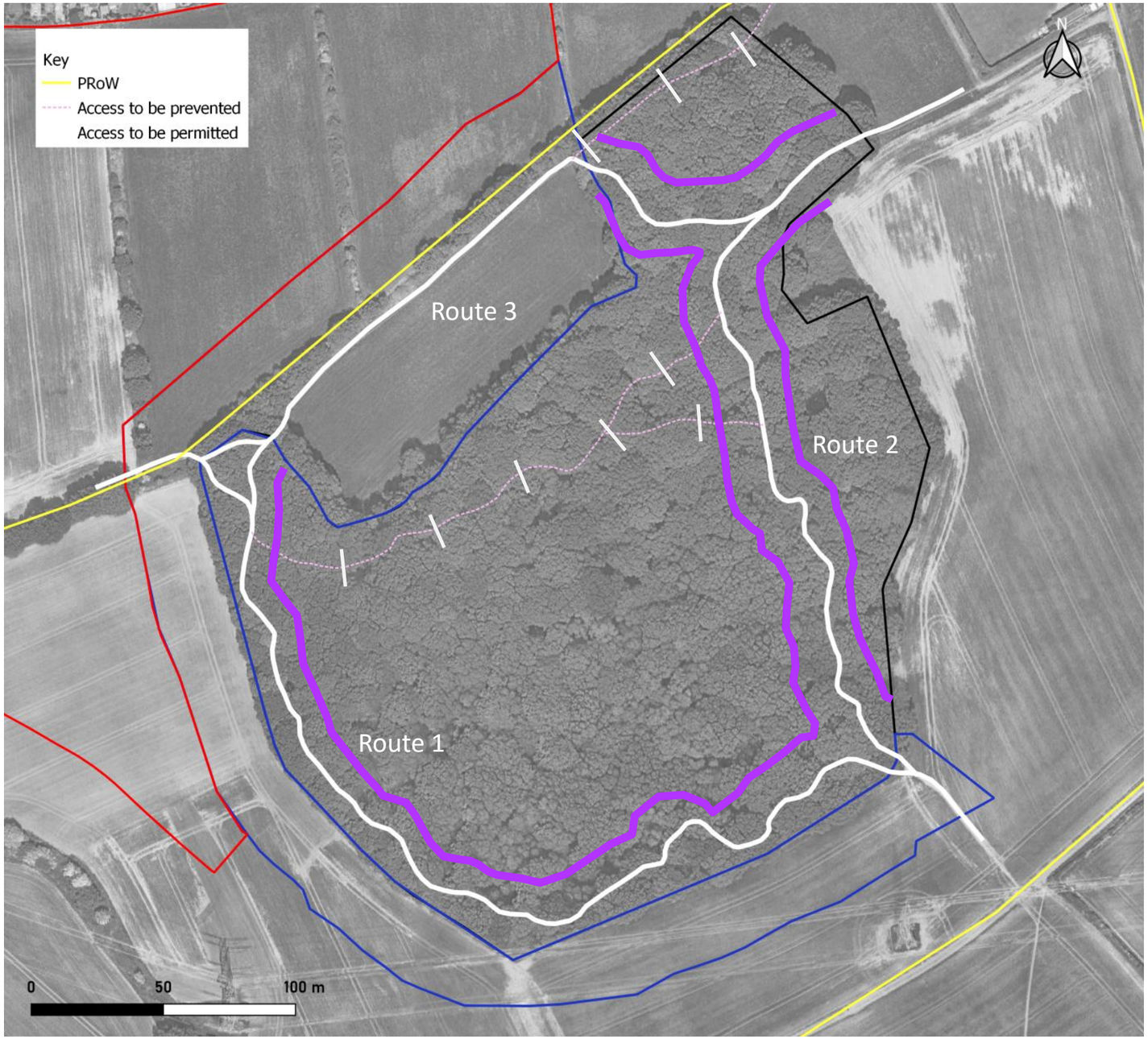
Discouraging / restricting access to certain areas

The following measures could be implemented in combination to discourage access to certain areas of the woodland (purple line):

- A dead hedge or small informal woven fence would be installed within 0.5m of the footpath on one or both sides.
- a c. 5m strip of retained bramble, holly and bracken would be left unmanaged on one or both sides of the footpath.

A series of large log and brash piles (white lines) could be installed along the routes shown by the dotted lines to prevent and discourage access.

Figure 4 Measures to manage access



Formalising & Managing Access (continued)

Prior to Occupation of Proposed Development

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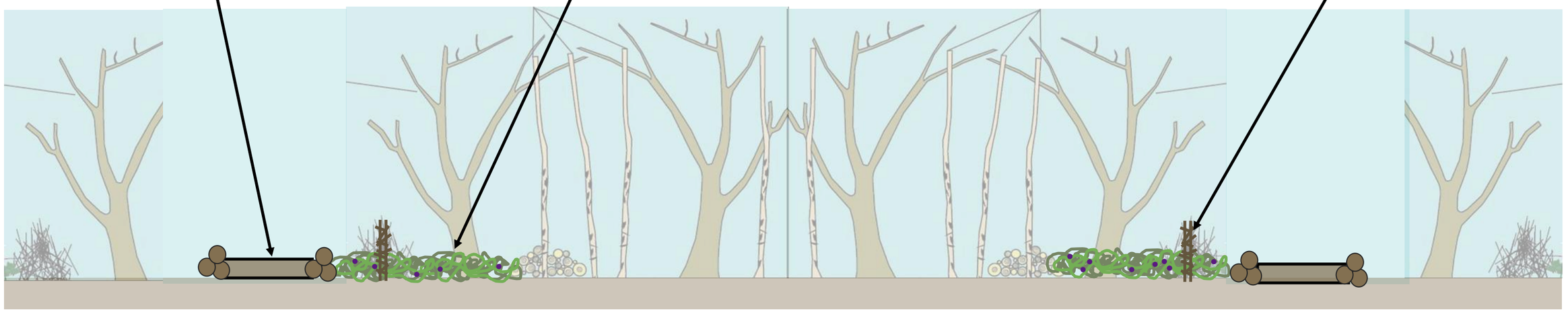
Upgraded footpaths

Dead hedges / fencing

Bramble scrub retained for 5m on at least one side of path

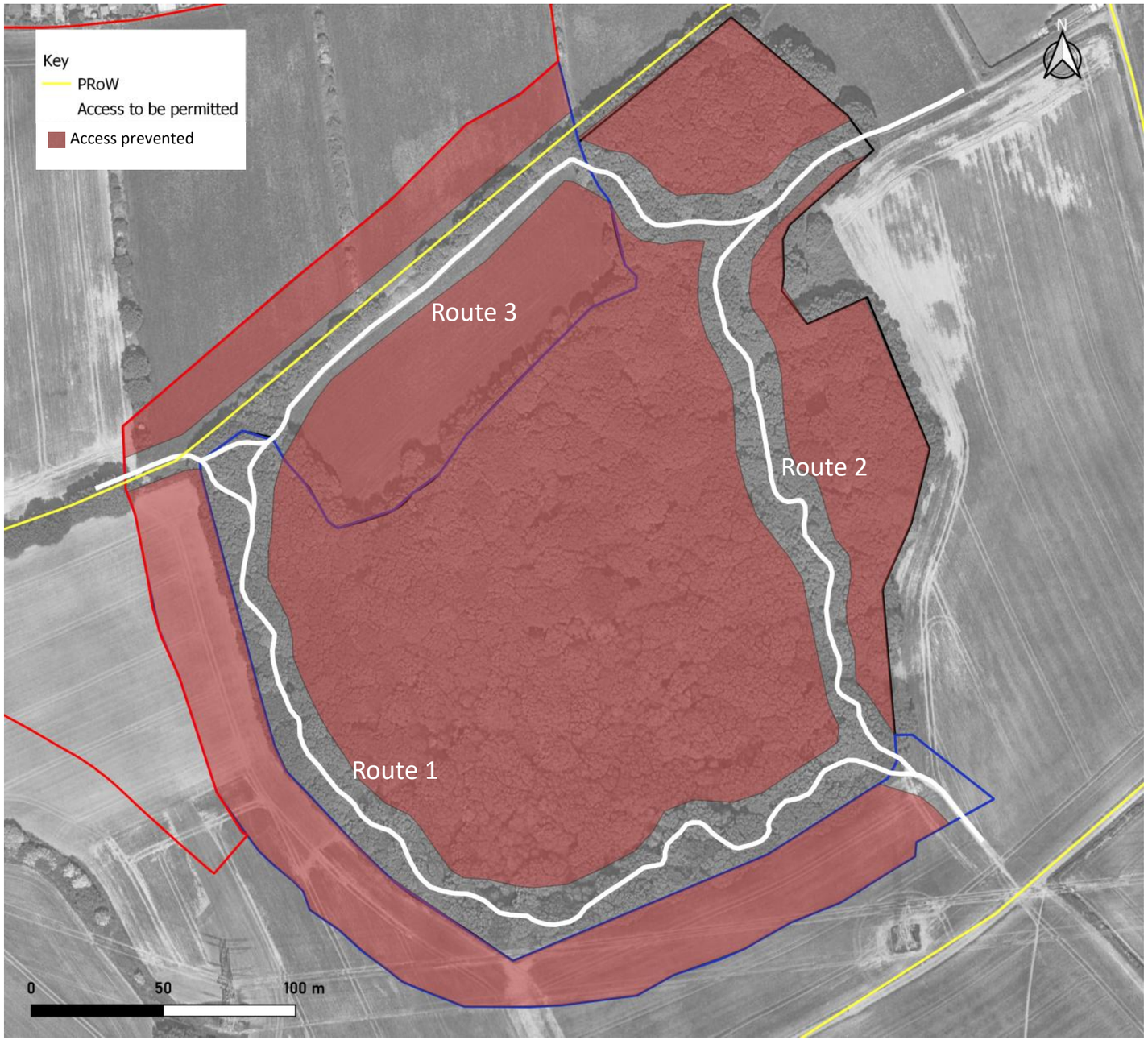


Areas where Public Access will not be permitted

Part (b) of the S106

For the avoidance of doubt, and to address part (b) of the S106 agreement, the figure opposite illustrates the areas within the Ancient Woodland and Ancient Woodland Buffer where public access will not be permitted.

Figure 5 Access



Woodland Management

Management and Maintenance of Ancient Woodland—Part (b) S106

A baseline condition assessment of Dum Wood, using the Defra condition assessment sheet, was completed in April 2026. The results are represented in the Woodland Baseline Survey report and summarized below for ease of reference.

The final plan will contain details for the proposed ownership and management of the Ancient Woodland and Ancient Woodland Buffer. This may for example be via a management company, with specialist input and advice from a company with experience of ecology-led woodland management.

Ongoing management will seek to uplift the woodlands condition from Moderate to Good, by maintaining those criteria already in Moderate or Good condition and targeting an improvement in criteria I, J and K (see table below).

Guidance outlined in the Woodland Trust's 'Practical Guidance Module 5–Ancient Woodland Restoration Phase three: maximizing ecological integrity' [Ancient woodland restoration phase three: maximising ecological integrity] will be used to help guide management works proposed in the final plan.

Criteria I - Ground Flora

Although Dum Wood is designated as an LWS for its percentage ground cover of native bluebell, and is an area of ancient replanted woodland, the ground layer is relatively species-poor, with bluebell and bramble being the predominant ground cover species.

The woodland is currently lacking the typical assemblage of ancient woodland ground flora species and the woodlands floral diversity in this respect could be significantly enhanced through a combination of plug planting, seeding and scrub management.

Criteria J

Canopy and understory layers are both relatively homogonous in age and structure. Targeted planting could increase diversity and structure in both of these woodland layers.

Criteria K

As the woodland is ancient replanted (meaning the canopy and understory has historically been felled), it lacks ancient trees and contains only two veteran trees.

More veteran trees could be created artificially through targeted 'veteranisation' techniques by experienced contractors.

		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Current	Targeted	Notes (such as justification)
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	Moderate	No	Only two age classes; Young (0-20) and Intermediate (21-150).
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	Moderate	No	Some evidence of deer grazing through paucity of regeneration.
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *or cherry laurel not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.*	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	Good	No	n/a
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	Good	No	More than 5 native species, but oak dominant throughout.
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	Good	No	Oak dominant
F	**Open space within woodland**	Woodland less than 10ha has automatically given Good score.			Good	No	Woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	Moderate	No	Little regeneration. Likely over grazing by deer.
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	Good	No	n/a
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	Moderate	-Good (+1)	Bluebell, creeping soft grass, bramble and bracken dominant ground layer. Relatively sparse and species poor. Few ancient woodland indicators. TARGET UPLIFT – Woodland management could see planting / seeding of more diverse ground flora.
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	Moderate	Good (+1)	Canopy and understorey both uniform. TARGET UPLIFT – Woodland management could see planting / development of more complex structure.
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	Moderate	Good (+1)	Oak trees uniform age class. Mature but not ancient/ veteran. TARGET UPLIFT – Woodland management could promote the development of veteran trees.
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Good	No	n/a
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	Moderate	No	Nutrient enrichment to northeast and northwest.
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	Moderate (32)	Good (36)	

Enhancing Ground layer

Establishment

Objectives

To increase the floral diversity of the woodland ground layer and promote the development of a locally appropriate ancient woodland ground layer.

To manage bramble and holly scrub, so as to open up the ground layer.

Ancient woodland vascular plants vary between regions and local geologies. It is therefore important that careful consideration is given to which woodland plants are locally appropriate for Dum Wood. To inform this, the following information steps were undertaken;

A walkover survey of the ground flora present in other local ancient semi-natural and ancient replanted woodlands was undertaken in 2026. This is presented in the Woodland Baseline survey report.

A desk-based assessment of regionally and locally applicable ancient woodland indicators was also completed.

Together, this information has been used to set out a list of locally appropriate vascular plants for Dum Wood.

Enhancement & Management works

The following could be implemented.

Scrub management

A lack of management within Dum Wood has allowed bramble scrub to spread unchecked throughout the ground layer. This, together with locally abundant stands of holly is suppressing the ground layer. Management activities would seek to significantly reduce the cover of bramble within the central block of woodland, and selectively thin dense stands of holly. A c.5m strip of bramble would be retained along the edges of the footpaths (to help manage access).

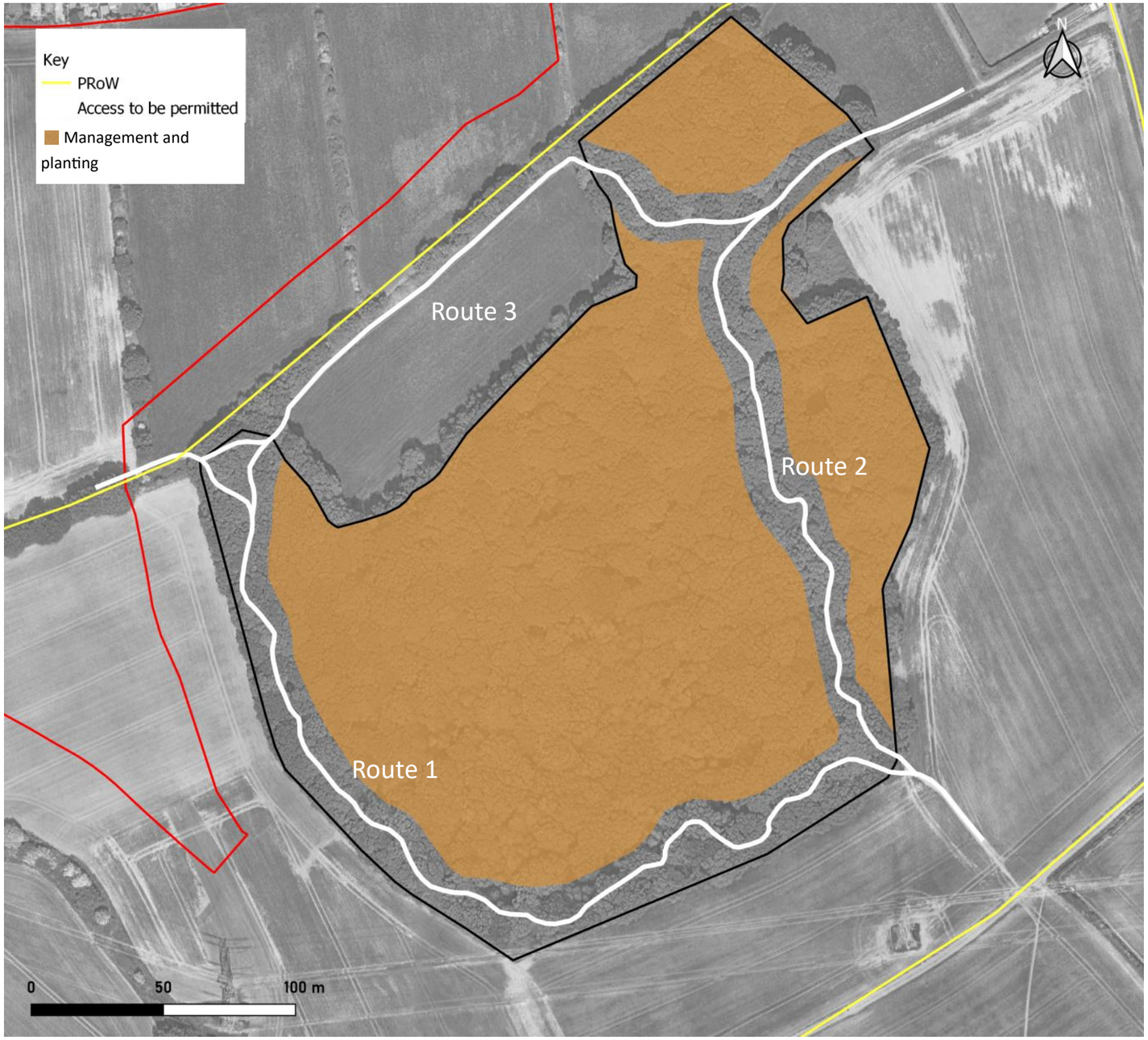
Plug planting

Once scrub clearance works have been completed, c.50-100 plugs of each of the following species would be planted across the woodland floor. This would be targeted in the areas of lower bluebell cover.

Ramsons	Dog's Mercury	Wood Anemone	Wood speedwell
Yellow Archangel	Red Campion	Greater Stitchwort	Sweet Woodruff
Wood Sorrel	Early Dog Violet	Pignut	Broad buckler fern
Wood Horsetail	Hard fern	Pendulous sedge	Remote Sedge
Wood sedge	Wood Millet	Wood Melick	Great Woodrush

Any bluebell bulbs lifted as part of the path works would be immediately replanted in areas where bluebell is absent.

Figure 6 Habitat enhancement areas



Enhancing the Canopy & Understorey

Establishment

Objectives

To increase the diversity of the woodland understorey and promote the development of a locally appropriate ancient woodland canopy and understorey (NVC type W10).

To bring existing bramble and holly scrub into better management.

As set out in the Woodland Baseline Survey report (Brooks ref ER-9043-01), Dum Wood is currently dominated by a limited number of canopy and understory species, a direct result of the woodlands historic felling.

Canopy: a single species of oak makes up c.90% of the canopy trees, with silver birch, sycamore and holly making up the other 10%.

Understory: holly is the most abundant understory species, with rowan, hawthorn, field rose, elder and raspberry also noted.

Whip planting

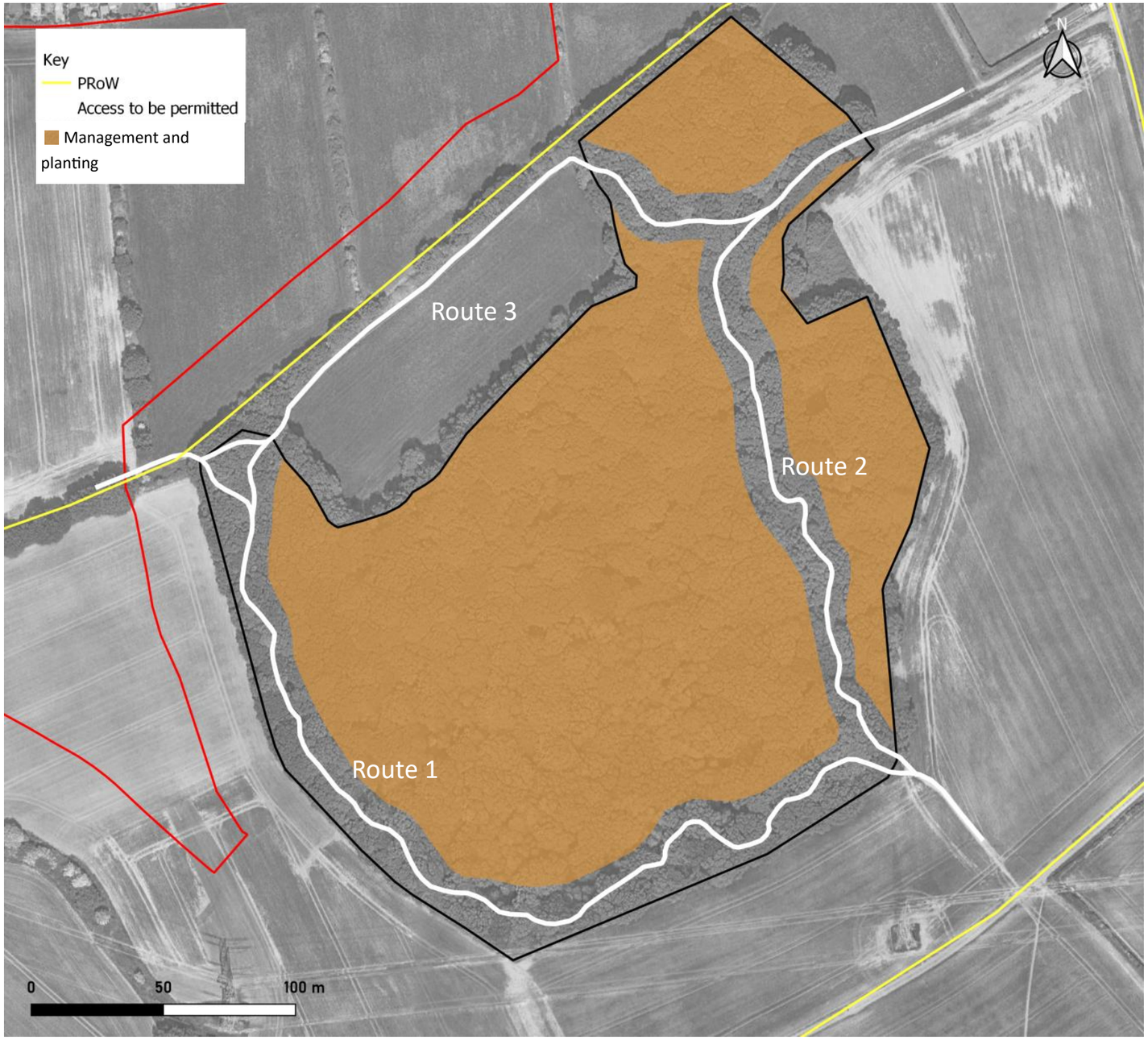
In tandem with scrub clearance and woodland ground flora plug planting outlined on the previous page, a programme of whip planting would take place.

Approximately 30 whips of each species listed below could be planted evenly across the woodland in autumn, within rabbit/deer protection guards.

Understorey	Canopy
Hazel	Silver birch
Crab apple	Downy birch
Guelder rose	Small leaved lime
Spindle	Hornbeam
Dogwood	Sweet chestnut
Wild service tree	
Honeysuckle	

Whilst Ash and Wych elm are both typical canopy trees within W10 woodlands, both are currently subject to restriction on planting due to ongoing pathogen risk (Ash dieback disease and Dutch Elms disease). As such, neither species has been recommended.

Figure 7 Habitat enhancement areas



Veteran Tree Creation

Ancient Woodland Permissive Works—Part (c) S106

Brooks Ecological
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Veteranisation

Dum Wood is a block of ancient replanted woodland, or PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site). This means that at some point in the woodlands history (most likely during the First or Second World War) the woodland was felled, resulting in the wholesale loss of the canopy and understory layer. As a result, all ancient and veteran trees were lost, and replaced with humongous aged trees (predominantly oak). There are now no ancient trees within Dum Wood, and very few (only two recorded on mapping) that could be considered veteran.

Veteran trees are typically specimens that are not yet old enough to be ancient, but have naturally developed some of the features are that are found on ancient trees, such as holes, cavities , crevices, decay, fungal fruiting bodies or dead wood (Woodland Trust website).

Veteran trees generally take a long time to develop naturally, and many of the natural Ecosystem Engineer species (such as Beavers and Wild Boar), which would historically have created habitat niches and variety in the structure of trees are currently missing. These natural processes such as bark tearing, rubbing, coppicing, browsing, boring and branch breaking, along with weather induced processes such as rotting and storm damage, are all essential to sustain a healthy and varied set of woodland habitat niches. Added to this, the fall in numbers of species such as Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, means that certain types of woodpecker holes and species specific habitat niches are no longer part of the fabric of a structurally diverse woodland environment.

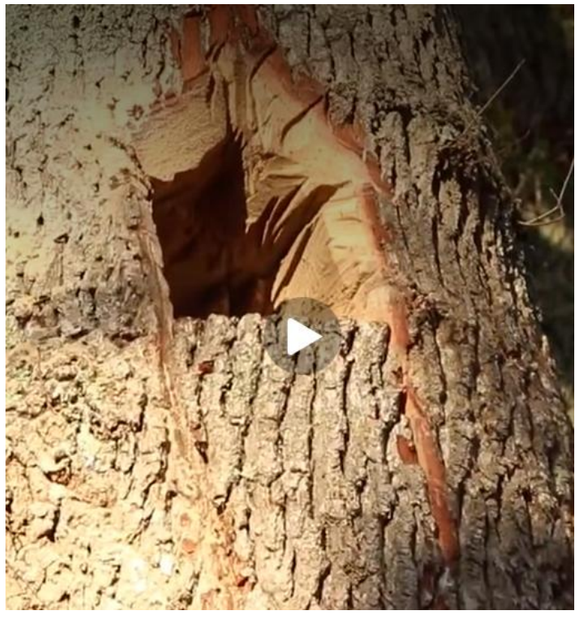
Trees can be adapted to encourage natural decay, to create refuges for birds, animals and insects, and to emulate ageing and the natural actions of wildlife. Organisation such as the Wildlife Trust have developed methods of using tools and human action to mimic some of these lost natural processes, to re-create some of the missing habitat niches in woodlands–termed 'Veteranisation'. This is also outlined in the Woodland Trust's 'Practical Guidance Module 5–Ancient Woodland Restoration Phase three: maximizing ecological integrity' document.

Tree veteranisation is the deliberate damaging or wounding of 'younger' trees to accelerate the development of microhabitats typical of large, old trees (veterans). Given the lack of veteran trees within Dum Wood currently, ongoing management could seek to create a number of new veteran trees through this process.

This would follow the methodology set out by the Wildlife Trust, and could include a range of techniques such as :-

- Creating woodpecker-like holes, or holes similar to other wood boring insects
- Creating hollows and cavities embedded in the tree trunk or branches which provide nesting and roosting spaces for birds / bats / bees etc.
- Intentionally tearing, cutting or breaking branches to imitate storm damage
- Damaging the bark / trunk to simulate animal damage, such as horse and bison browsing
- Simulating beaver coppicing
- Inoculation with fungi to stimulate natural decay processes
- Damaging the bark and cambium of the trunk
- Adding natural nesting habitat such as natural log bee hives
- Ring barking whole trees or branches

Examples of veteranisation taken from Sussex Wildlife Trust instructional videos.



Creating Deadwood

Ancient Woodland Permissive Works—Part (c) S106

Dum Wood already supports a reasonable amount of fallen deadwood, but further deadwood features could be created to significantly enhance the woodlands value to local wildlife.

A range of deadwood features could be created to ensure the woodland condition criteria is met (see below extract). This could run in tandem with the veteranisation process.

> 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities

The following information is taken from the Woodland Trust website and could form the broad basis of deadwood creation on site.

'Dead and decaying wood also provides a nutrient-rich habitat for fungi, a nursery for beetle larvae and a larder for insectivorous birds and other animals.

Deadwood comes in many forms, all of which has its part to play in woodland ecosystems.'

Fallen deadwood

Naturally fallen branches, bark and toppled trunks, as well as felled wood, hold a reservoir of nutrients which are gradually released into the woodland floor as they decompose.

This can be created by removing large limbs and leaving them to rot down in situ. This could be done selectively on suitable trees.

Standing deadwood

The rarest kind of deadwood is that of dead trees which still stand. Dead trees can be vulnerable to high winds and the tendency for human caretakers to 'keep things tidy', but those allowed to remain in place offer incredibly valuable habitat for wildlife that can live nowhere else.

These could be created through selective ring barking of suitable trees, away from public access.

Decaying stumps and roots

A considerable amount of wood is found beneath the ground in the large, woody roots that anchor trees in soil.

Created in tandem with the above.

Rotting heartwood

A natural part of the lifecycle of veteran and ancient trees is the hollowing of their trunks, caused as older heartwood begins to decay at their centre. Depending on the species, a tree can live for hundreds of years while actively decaying in parts, with living wood continuing to support the tree towards the outside of its trunk.

This could form part of the veteranisation process.

Faunal boxes

Ancient Woodland Permissive Works—Part (c) S106

Specification

A range of bird and bat boxes could be installed on suitable trees within the woodland, the exact number and specification of which would be contained in the final plan.

The woodland currently has limited opportunity for hole nesting birds and roosting bats. Boxes could immediately provide these opportunities and thus allow species that are currently absent from the woodland somewhere to nest.

Bat Boxes

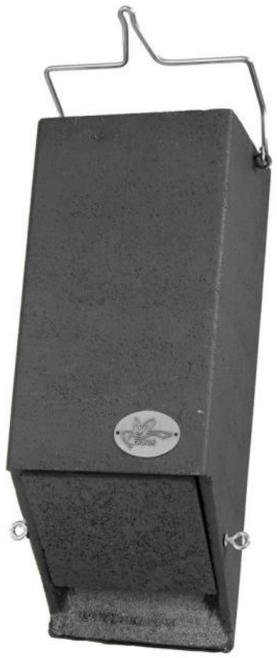
A mix of two or three different bat boxes could be selected for Dum Wood, which would offer slightly different roosting opportunities. A total of 20-30 bat boxes could be installed across the woodland in suitable locations.

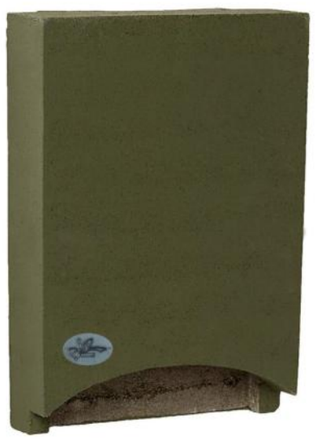
Bird Boxes

Likewise, a selection of hole nesting bird boxes could be installed, with hole sizes varying between 26mm, 32mm and 45mm to attract different species. Boxes of the same hole diameter would be positioned sufficiently far apart to avoid overlapping territories.

A total of 30 boxes could be installed, 10 of each entrance hole diameter ..

A barn owl box could also be located along the woodlands eastern edge, facing out into farmland.





Raising Public Awareness

Means by which information relating to Ancient Woodlands (and their protection) would be disseminated to residents of the Development—Part (d) S106

Interpretation boards

Natural habitats need to be understood by users if they are to appreciate them and become motivated to protect and enhance them for wildlife.

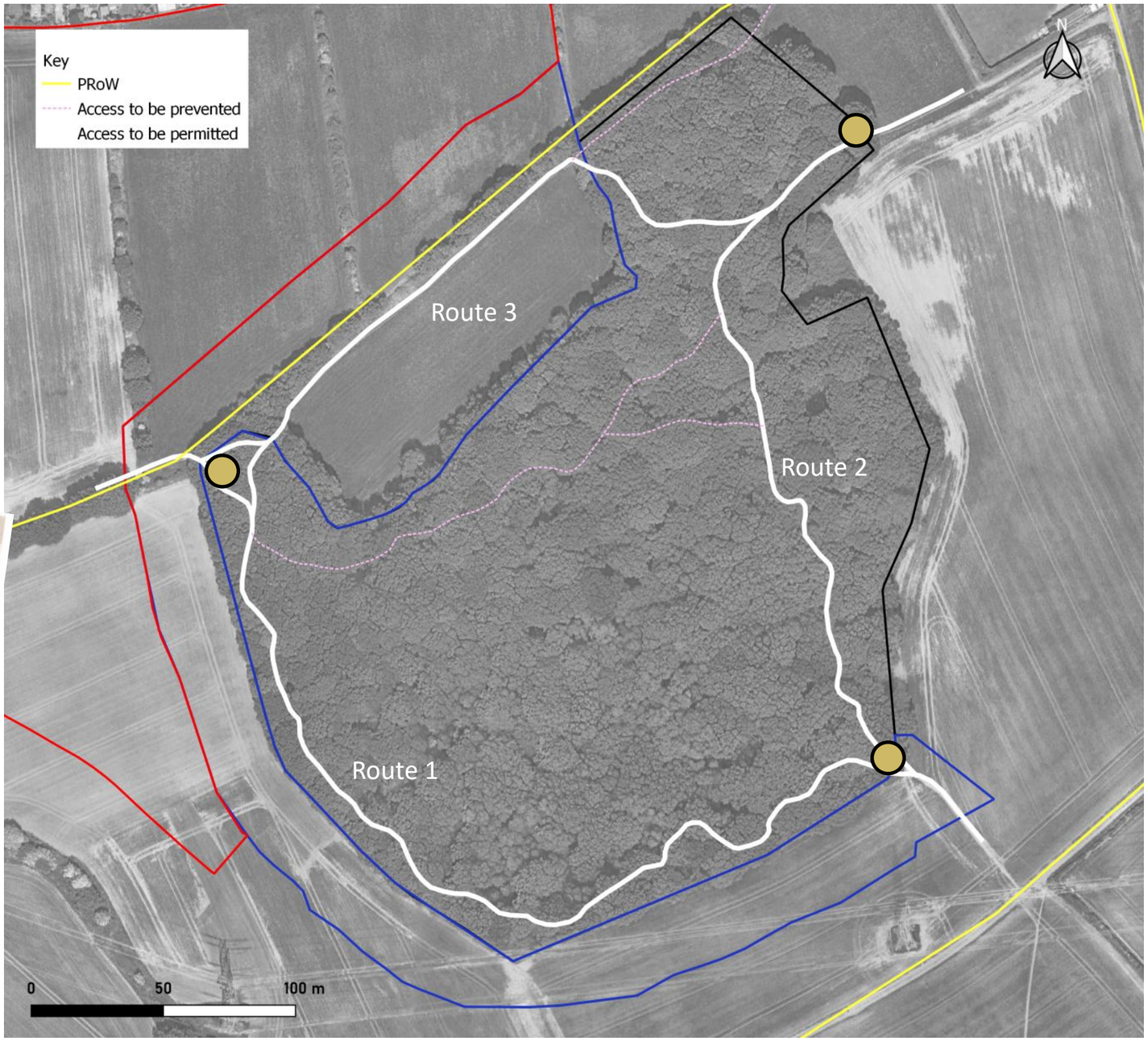
Custom designed information boards are proposed at the three entrance points into Dum Wood.

These boards would be designed using the Woodland Trust's 'Ancient Woodland Restoration Interpretation Toolkit' [woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/4254/ancient-woodland-restoration-interpretation-toolkit.pdf].

These would summarise the wildlife value of the woodland, and encourage members of the public to keep to the designated footpaths and use the space respectfully. They would include information on the damaging effects of leaving dog waste and trampling the ground flora.

A contact number of the Management Company would be provided on signage to report any issues.

Figure 8 Interpretation boards



Managing Dog Fouling

Through a lack of knowledge/understanding, many dog owners are not aware of the damaging effects that dog fouling can have on habitats such as ancient woodland ground flora.

Persistent dog fouling, which is not collected and removed, can lead to nutrient enrichment that promotes the growth of a few 'weed' species such as common nettle, cleavers and thistles, at the expense of a more diverse grassland community.

The following guidance, provided by the Forestry Commission would be used to help manage potential issues arising from increase dog walking within Dum Wood:

- Managing dog fouling in your woodland. Published 16/01/2025. [Managing dog fouling in your woodland - GOV.UK].
- Woodland management, infrastructure and signage: visitors with dogs. Published 16/01/2025. [Woodland management, infrastructure and signage: visitors with dogs - GOV.UK].

Signage

Signage could be installed at all access points and along paths. Example text is provided below:

- 'Never leave your dogs' poo anywhere in the woodland, even in a bag. It can cause illness in people, livestock and wildlife.'
- 'Any public waste bin will do for bagged dog poo.'
- 'When there are no bins, please use your bin at home. Deodorised bags and containers can make bags of dog poo easier to carry.'

Bins

Dog waste bins would be installed at all three entrances to the woodland.

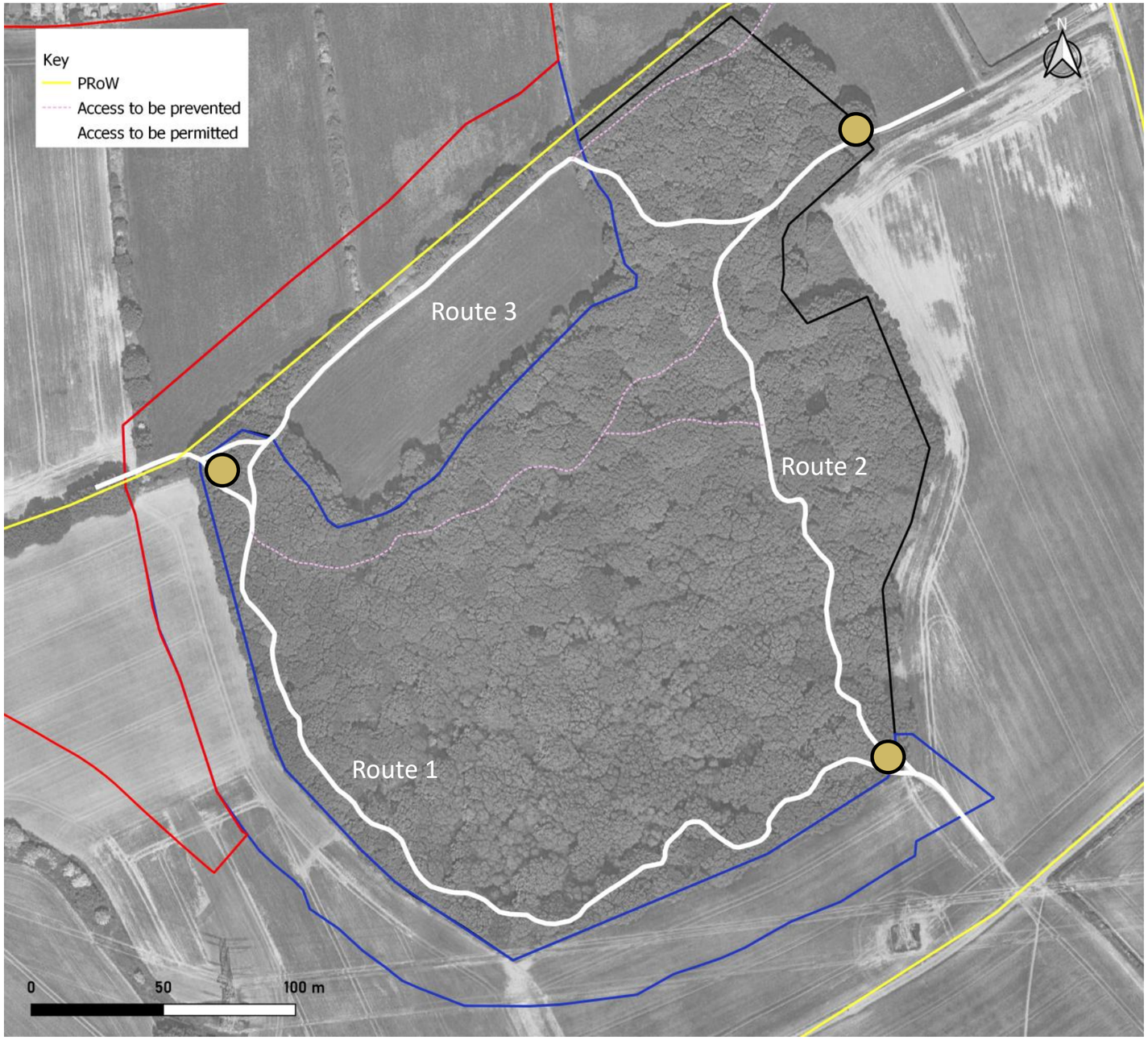
Dog waste disposal

Dog waste bins will be serviced regularly.

Free waste bags

If monitoring identifies that dog waste if becoming an issue, schemes such as providing free compostable dog waste bags could be explored. Signage could be installed asking dogs to be kept on leads whilst in the woodland.

Figure 9 Dog waste bins



Improving Ancient Woodland Connectivity

Green Infrastructure around and between Ancient Replanted Woodlands

Brooks Ecological
An Origin Enterprises Company

Objective

To strengthen connectivity between the two blocks of Ancient Replanted Woodland; Dum Wood and Dogloitch Wood.

Specification

The following document was submitted alongside the Leeds Road planning application:

- Enjoy Design's Parameter Plan–Green Infrastructure (Drawing No. 00-204 Re. H, 20/02/2020).

Within this, a minimum 20m green buffer has been proposed around each of the ancient replanted woodlands, between the woodland edge and Proposed Development boundaries.

In addition, a minimum 15m strip of green infrastructure is proposed between Dum Wood and Dogloitch Wood.

The Ancient Woodland Buffer and 15m Green Infrastructure strips would be planted with similar native scrub habitat, to better facilitate movement of fauna between the two woodland blocks.

At present, these two woodlands are poorly connected, with only agricultural field hedgerows providing limited connectivity.

Figure 10 Green Infrastructure

Creation of a '*Friends of*' group

The final plan could include a local 'Friends of ' group to facilitate local engagement with the ongoing maintenance and management of Dum Wood

The group could consist of current and future local resident who use, or would like to use Dum Wood for recreation.

This group could work in partnership with appointed management company to assist with practical projects that could be completed across the year and to help monitor activity within the woodland.

The activities of the 'Friends of' group could include;

- Organizing regular litter picks and monitoring tree planting,
- Liaison with an appointed contact for the management company with responsibility for managing and monitoring Dum Wood
- Talk to members of the public to raise aware of dog fouling or trampling of bluebells,
- Assisting with any follow up tree or plug planting,
- Organizing nature walks (plant ID, bird watching),
- Hosting community events, educational programs, or social gatherings
- Promoting the woodland through social media, newsletters, or local campaigns

Domestic cats

Small numbers of domestic cat have been recorded within Dum Wood during the period of remote camera monitoring (April to June 2026). These are likely to be associated with housing along Hey Beck Lane and Leeds Road.

Proposals are likely to lead to an increase in the local domestic cat population, which could result in an increased presence of cats within the woodland.

Potential impacts of increased numbers of domestic cat on Dum Wood

The main potential adverse impact of increased numbers of domestic cats entering Dum Wood, would be an increased risk of predation of small mammals (i.e. mice) and birds.

Dum Wood is designated as Local Wildlife Site (LWS) on the grounds of its bluebell cover. An increase in domestic cats would not impact on this feature.

The key feature of Dum Woods status as an ancient replanted woodland relates to its undisturbed soils and ancient woodland ground flora. An increase in domestic cats would not impact on these features.

Breeding bird surveys completed in March–June 2026 identified 25 species of bird within Dum Wood. Other than non-native Pheasant, no ground nesting bird species, which would be at high risk of predation, were recorded within Dum Wood.

An increase in the local domestic cat population would therefore not impact on the key features of the LWS or ancient replanted woodland categorization, and is not expected to a significant impact on existing bird assemblages.

Measures already proposed, i.e. the planting a dense thorny scrub within the ancient woodland buffer zone, would act to discourage cats from accessing the woodland, and provide shelter for small mammals and bird.

Delivering the Plan

(e) Arrangements for the monitoring of impacts of public access upon the Ancient Woodlands.

Ownership and management responsibilities

The final plan will set out details of the proposed ownership and responsibility for management of the Ancient Woodlands and Ancient Woodlands Buffer. As noted above, this could include a management company associated with the Proposed Development (funded through service charges) with advice and assistance from a specialist organization.

Any initial habitat creation and works relating to access etc would take place before occupation.

The approved management entity would then undertake the management of the areas in perpetuity.

Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) could be appointed to oversee the delivery of the works alongside the appointed specialist habitat management company.

The ECoW would be a qualified Ecologist and member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, or be otherwise approved by the LPA.

Monitoring

The final plan would contain details of the proposed monitoring regime.

During the first 5 year period, monthly monitoring by the appointed ECoW will be completed.

A contact number of the Management Company would be provided on signage to report and issues.

For each of the first five years of the Plan, a progress report would be sent to the LPA, within three months of each year being completed, by an appropriately qualified ecological consultant. The report would address the works and progress during the previous 12 months and actions for the next 12-month period.

Subsequently, the area subject to the plan would be monitored by the obtaining of a review by a third party at least once a year, at an appropriate time of year, and a mechanism included for the notification of any remedial actions to the management entity and the council, and the undertaking of those remedial actions by the management entity within an agreed period.

Any amendments to the management plan (including to address any impacts arising) would be agreed with the council. The council retains the power to inspect and require remedial works under the Section 106 Agreement.

Remedial Actions could include:

- Changes to access routes,
- Changes to dead hedges/ fencing to manage access.
- Installation of more signage or dog waste bins,
- Replanting any plugs of whips that haven't taken.

Timeline / Sequence of Events

Task	ECoW to direct	Prior to construction works commencing	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 +	Notes
Installation of Tree Protection Fencing and all other woodland protection measures along red line / blue line interface	Yes	Yes						Prior to any works construction works commencing within the Hey Beck Lane red line boundary.
Woodland buffer planting	Yes		Yes					Once fencing is installed
Footpath upgrade works	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Footpath removal works	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Bramble and Holly scrub clearance / thinning	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Ground layer plug planting	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Tree and shrub whip planting	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Veteran tree creation works	Yes			Yes				
Deadwood creation works	Yes			Yes				
Installation of bird and bat boxes	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Installation of information boards	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
Establish local *Friends of* group	Yes		Yes					In tandem with construction phase
ECoW Monitoring.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	