

Woodland Cottage. Garden. Wood & Field. Westhorpe Ng25 0ne

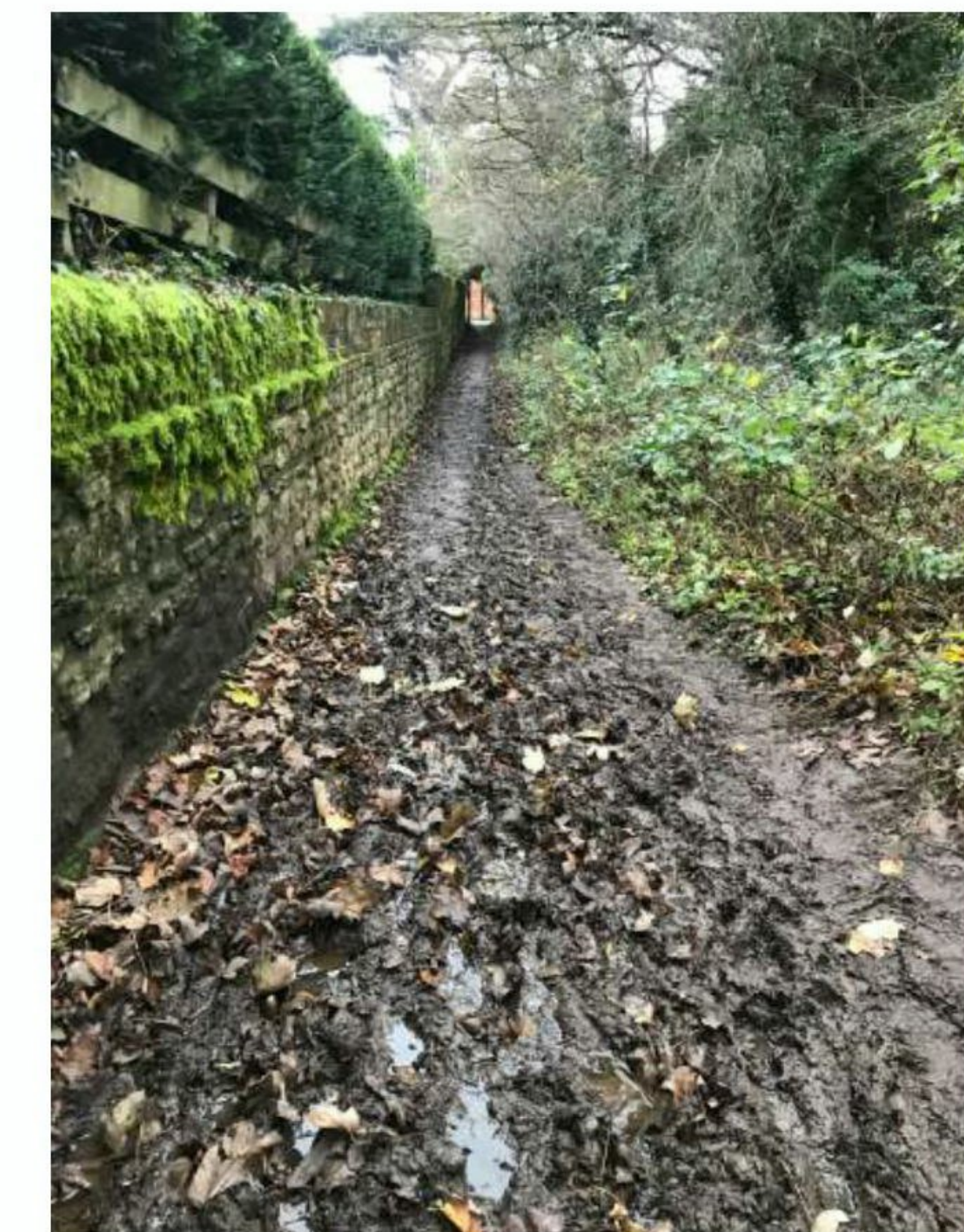
Proposed Tree Management & Planting Scheme.

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- **The Existing Site**: The combined area consisting of the curtilage of Woodland Cottage, the small area of field and the wooded area amounts to approximately 1 acre in total. The site is on the south side of Westhorpe. The site is within a conservation area and the woodland has a blanket Tree Preservation Order on it.
- **The wood** mainly consists self-set Sycamore with the occasional Ash, Wild Pear and Hawthorn. In competition for light, the trees within the ‘woodland’ have an etiolated form with a high, closed canopy and no understory other than ground elder, ivy and a few

nettles. Several of the trees have codominant stems. Along the road frontage there are two mature yews together with a line of hawthorns which, many years ago, was probably a boundary hedge. There is a public footpath running north/south down the length of the western boundary. This belongs to NSDC but is not maintained and is muddy, overgrown and the bridge over the drain is broken.





Woodland Cottage is low lying and has a history of flooding. The water flows off the adjacent field and regularly floods the garage. The house was flooded significantly when the stream broke its banks in July 2013. The majority of the house was built in 1992 with a very small part having been retained as part of the original dwelling.

The garden to Woodland Cottage comprises of a lawn area with two ornamental Cherry trees as noted on the tree survey. Existing shrub borders are overgrown. The area to the south of the cottage is a gravel courtyard with a very old Bramley Apple with a hollow trunk. The planting beds in this area are overgrown.

The boundaries of the site consist of a Leylandii hedge running north south down the east side of the woodland and to the side of the gravel drive. A public footpath runs down the western side of the woodland.

A neglected mixed native species hedgerow runs east to west on the southern edge of the garden delineating the edge of the field. The northern boundary of the site along the Westhorpe edge is neglected native hedging with many gaps.

The drain/stream runs west to east between the woodland and the garden along the southern edge of the wood. This flows with water for most of the year.

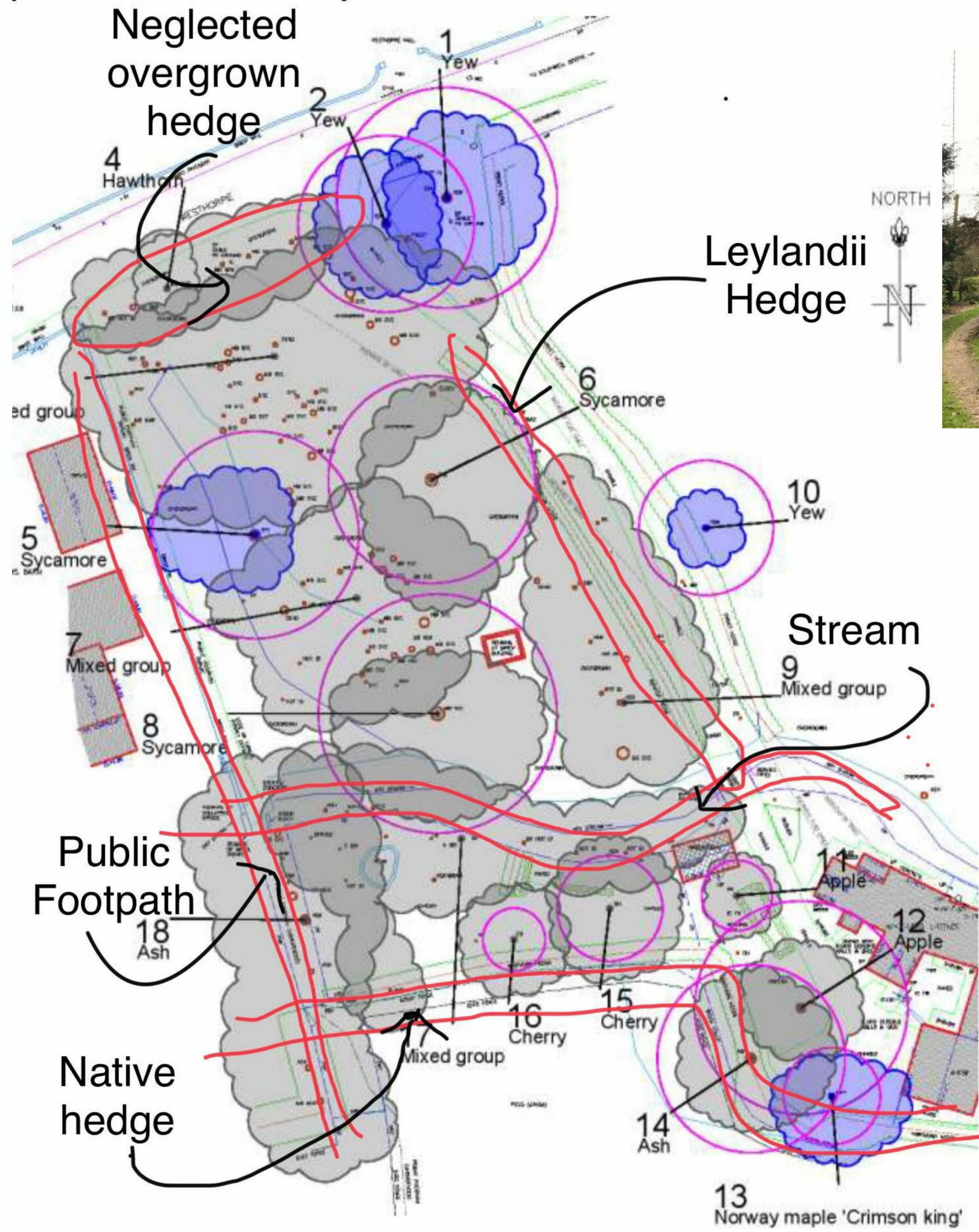
- **Historically**: Old maps suggest that this small area of land is secondary woodland that has naturally colonised the site in recent decades. The site was an orchard in the Victorian era as there is evidence of dead apple trees. The area was cleared and shown as a field on maps from 1940s/50s. It has since been invaded by mainly sycamore to form secondary woodland. The stands of trees appear to have been coppiced 30 or so years ago according to an arborist survey undertaken by AT2 Tree Surveys.

- Pigsty ruins:



- Previously coppiced Sycamore:



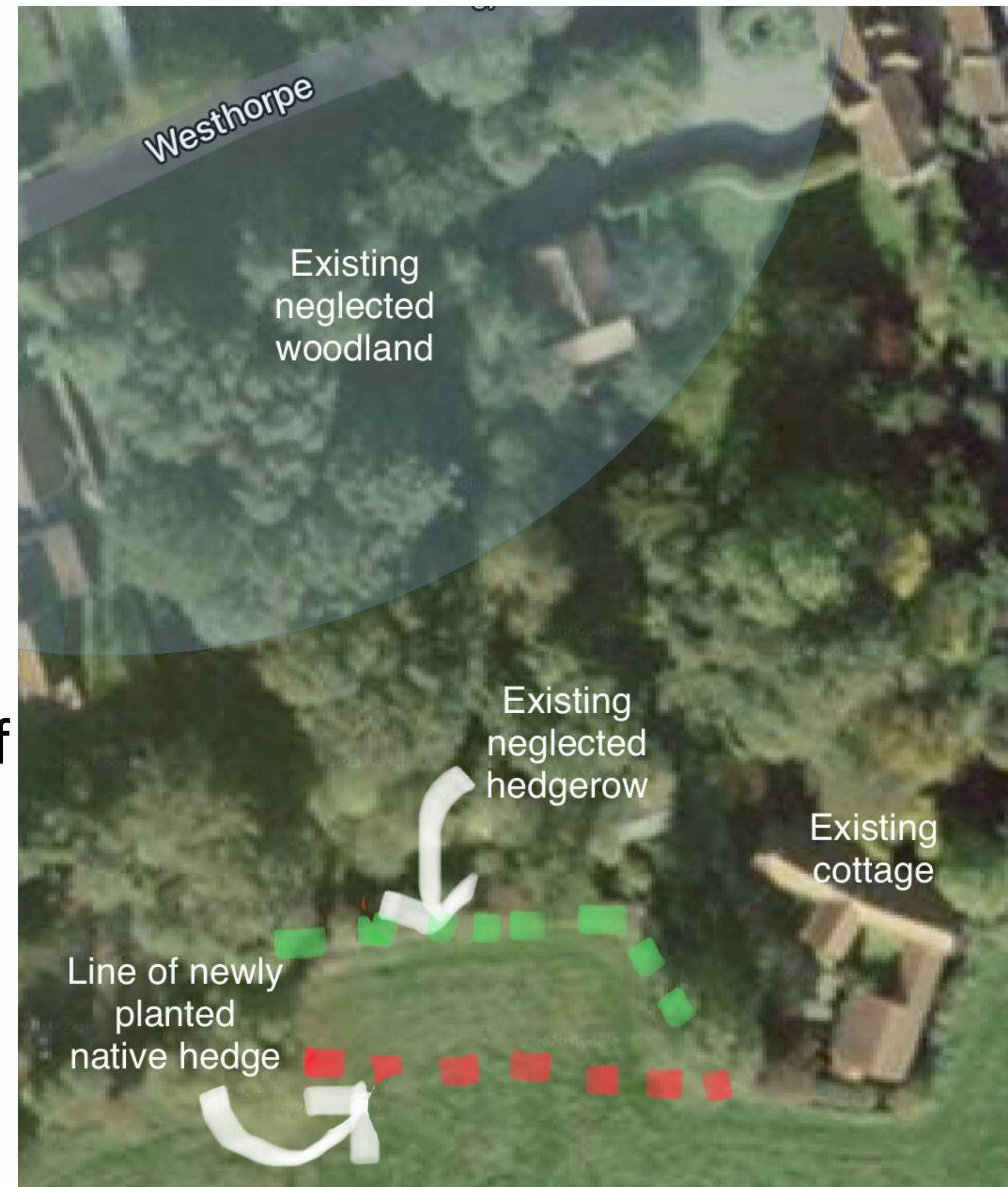


Tree & Vegetation Management Proposal

Woodland Area: The poor woodland structure is due to a lack of appropriate management over the last 30 years. This has led to a closed canopy of self set Sycamores at high level resulting in a dark site with little light penetrating. Consequently, there is no understory, or ground layer plants other than snowdrops, ivy, a few nettles and brambles along the boundaries. In order to retain existing habitat within the Sycamores (especially considering the likelihood of the lack of Ash trees due to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Ash Die Back Disease) we intend to retain as much Sycamore as possible but to manage them in such a way that it is possible to inter plant other native species. The diversity of wildlife would therefore be enhanced in the future.

- ***Spring 2021:*** To allow penetration of light we propose to carry out:
- Selective tree coppicing within the two previously coppiced stands of Sycamore (indicated as yellow groups on the survey) on a 4 year rotation.
- Selective crown lifting on the larger 4 multiple Sycamore trees within the wood. (Nos.5/6/8/unnumbered on the survey)
- To introduce pigs during the Spring until August 2021 to clear the Sycamore seed bank within the existing soil. Appropriate fencing will be erected.

- Planting of a new, species diverse hedgerow that is managed for wildlife will be planted along the new southern boundary and within a few years, provide a significantly better habitat than the existing hedge. The following shrubs will be planted and are characteristic of the area; Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Hazel, Field Maple, Dog Rose and Snowberry. The plants will be of local provenance and of 45-60cm in height. Planted at a density of eight plants per/m using a staggered double row with about 25cm between plants in the row and 20-30cm between rows. Growth alongside plants will be trimmed initially, to reduce competition. The plants will be protected by rabbit fencing.



- ***Autumn 2021***
- Spring 2022:

- Remove branches overhanging the footpath.

- Plant native species along the boundaries with Westhorpe and adjacent to the footpath: Field Maple, Hawthorn,

Holly, Wild Pear, Hazel.

- Introduce herbaceous layer: Nettle Leaved Bellflower, Wild Primrose, Wild Foxglove, Winter Aconite.



- **The stream/drainage channel** has the potential for re profiling to encourage a more diverse habitat.

- We would aim to profile the ditch to maximize its wildlife value. It would be at least 1m deep, with sides sloping at an angle of 30-45° We would create gently sloping margins and include a shelf with areas of water 30cm deep or less.



- ***Spring 2022***

- Planting of native feathered trees (identified on the planting scheme) within the woodland area where there has been light permitted through the clearing of branches in the previous Spring.



- Hedgerow removal: The existing hedgerow to the southern boundary between the garden and the field is species poor and is 'gappy' at the base reducing its value for wildlife, particularly nesting birds. To accommodate our building and new pond for the site the hedgerow would need to be removed. However, we will have already planted a replacement hedgerow along the newly established boundary. We also propose to remove the Leylandii hedge along the side of the wood along with the existing Ash trees marked blue on the plan adjacent to the footpath which are showing signs of Ash Die Back.
- We propose to remove the large Ash tree (no.14 on the survey) on the southern boundary along with the Apple tree. The Arboriculturists report suggests that these trees have codominant stems and cavities and have been graded as C2. The Ash is also showing signs of Ash Die Back disease. This would help the Purple Maple adjacent to the Ash thrive.
- The remainder of the proposed 'tree work' will be effected by the new build and therefore will be determined by the planning department. The trees affected are two ornamental Cherry trees and an Alder within the garden which will require felling in order to construct a large pond.

Proposed Tree Management & Planting Scheme

Plan is also attached as an A2 size plan for clarity.

