



Landscape Sketchbook#06 **House of the Wood**

Landscape Design and
Access statement

House of the wood- Barkham Road

260602

Phil Allen Design Ltd trading as
PAD landscapes





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Vision and brief



client brief

The client enjoys mowing the lawn and is looking for a calm, understated garden. They envisage a pared-back landscape of open grass areas and trees, where simplicity and structure take precedence over complex planting schemes.

They are drawn to bold, uplifting colours — yellow, red, and bright greens — to bring seasonal vibrancy and visual contrast. Key features include a dedicated barbecue area and a comfortable morning seating spot to catch the early sun.

The client values views across the wider landscape and regards hedges as a subtle yet defining element, providing a sense of enclosure and privacy. A small vegetable garden and compost area are also important, adding practical and sustainable elements to the overall design.



landscape analysis

contextual analysis

The surrounding landscape to the site is characterised by a gently undulating landform, with large agricultural fields bounded irregularly by hedgerows, that contain many hedgerow trees.

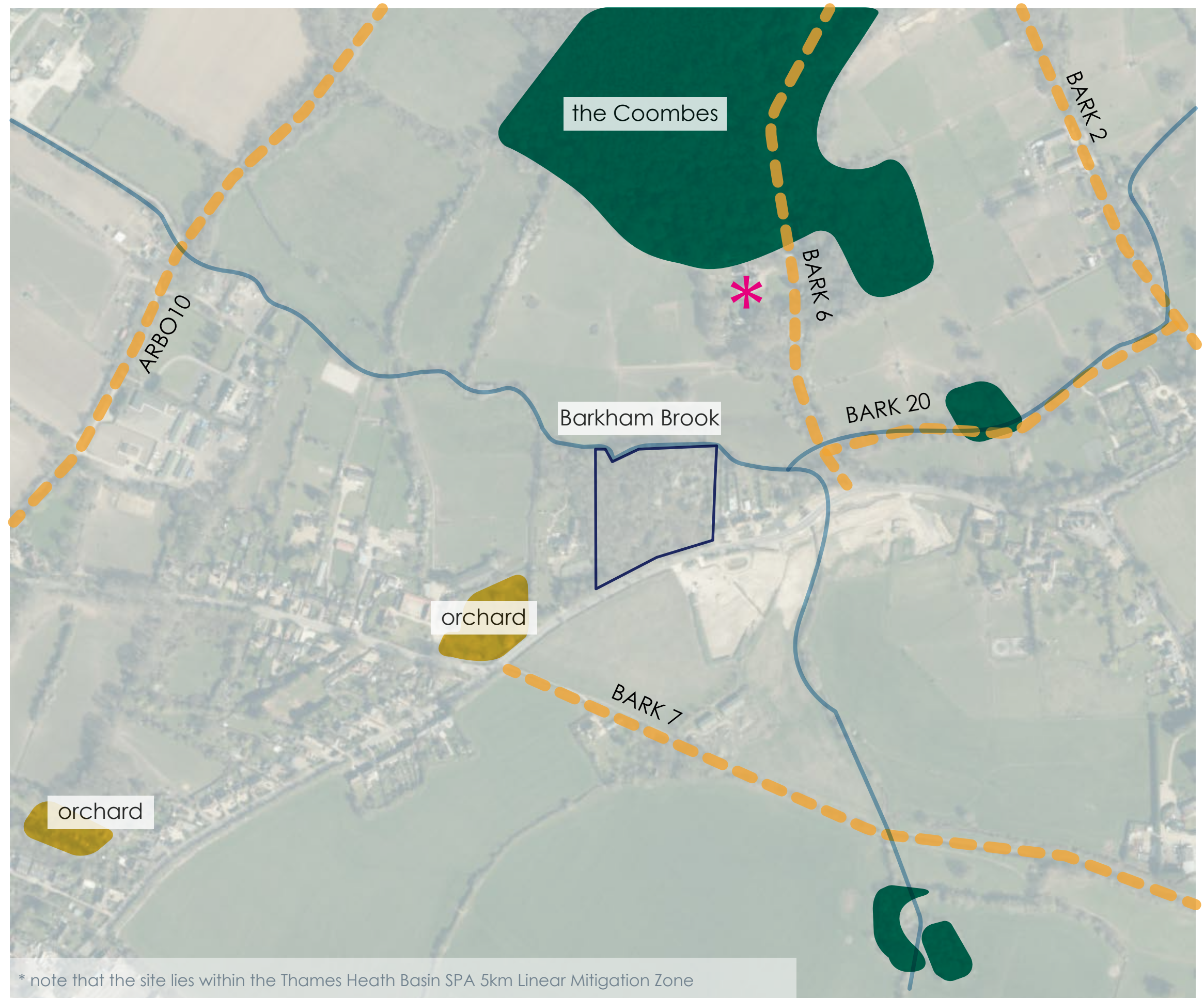
Combined with small pockets of woodland and glimpsed views of woods on higher ground, these trees give an overall rural and wooded feel.

Barkham Brook runs along the northern edge of the site, but isn't a dominant feature.

The block of ancient woodland to the north ('the Coombes') is an important feature in the landscape and can be seen from the site. There are several orchards nearby. Bearwood House and Gardens is 1km to the north (noted by * on the image right)

Several footpaths and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) run nearby, but none cross the site.

landscape
defined by
hedgerows
and pockets of
woodland

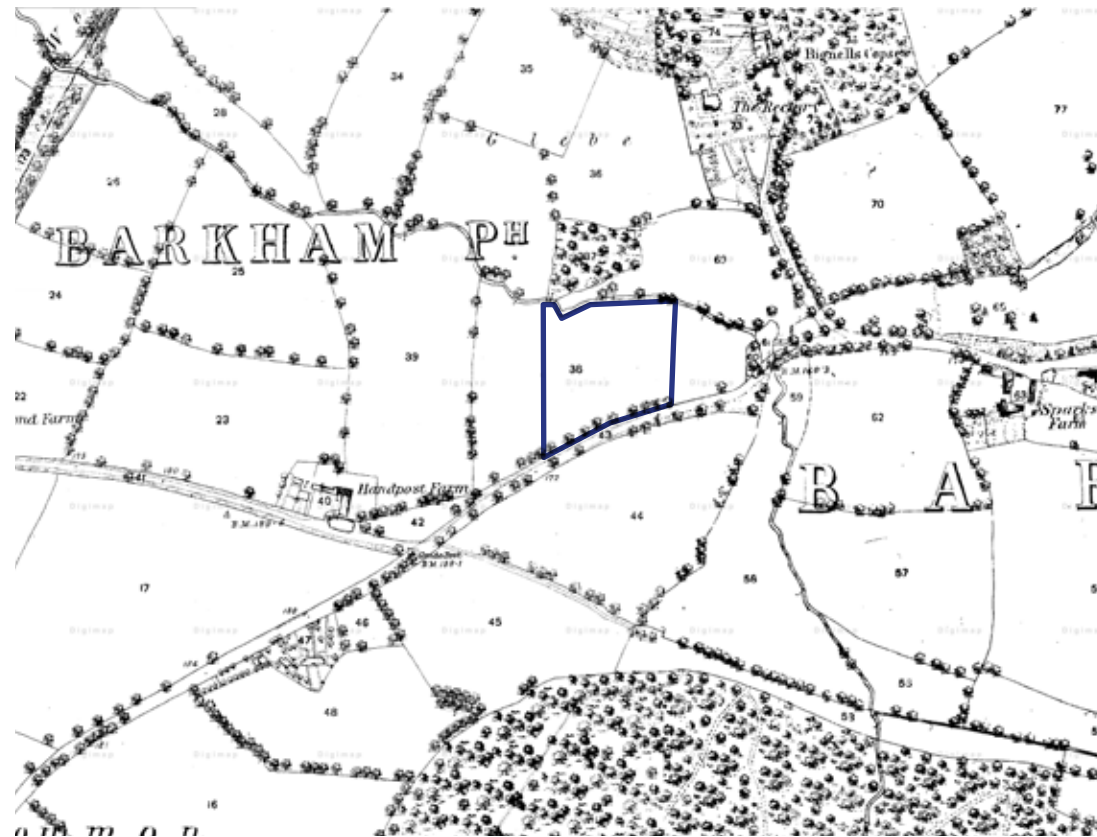


historic context analysis

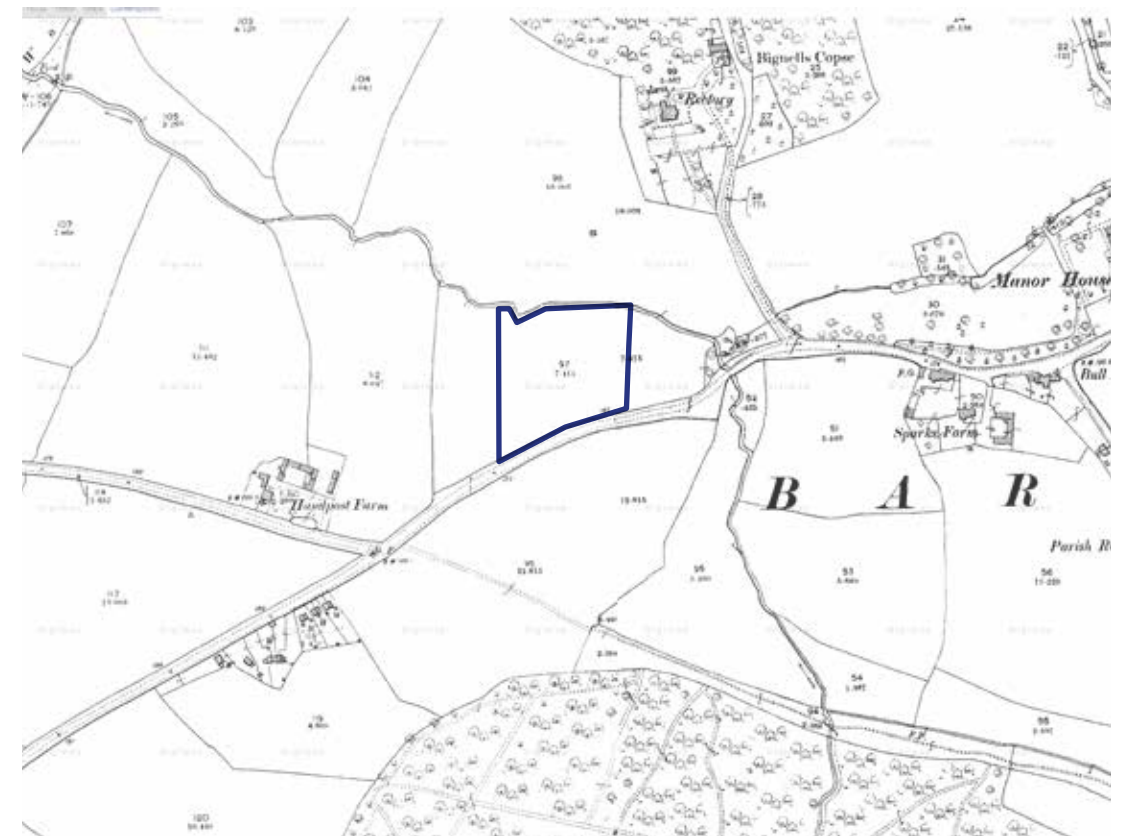
The surrounding context and field patterns has changed little over the last 140 years.

The site land use was noted as pasture, up to the late 19th century, then use changed to orchard until the middle of the 20th century.

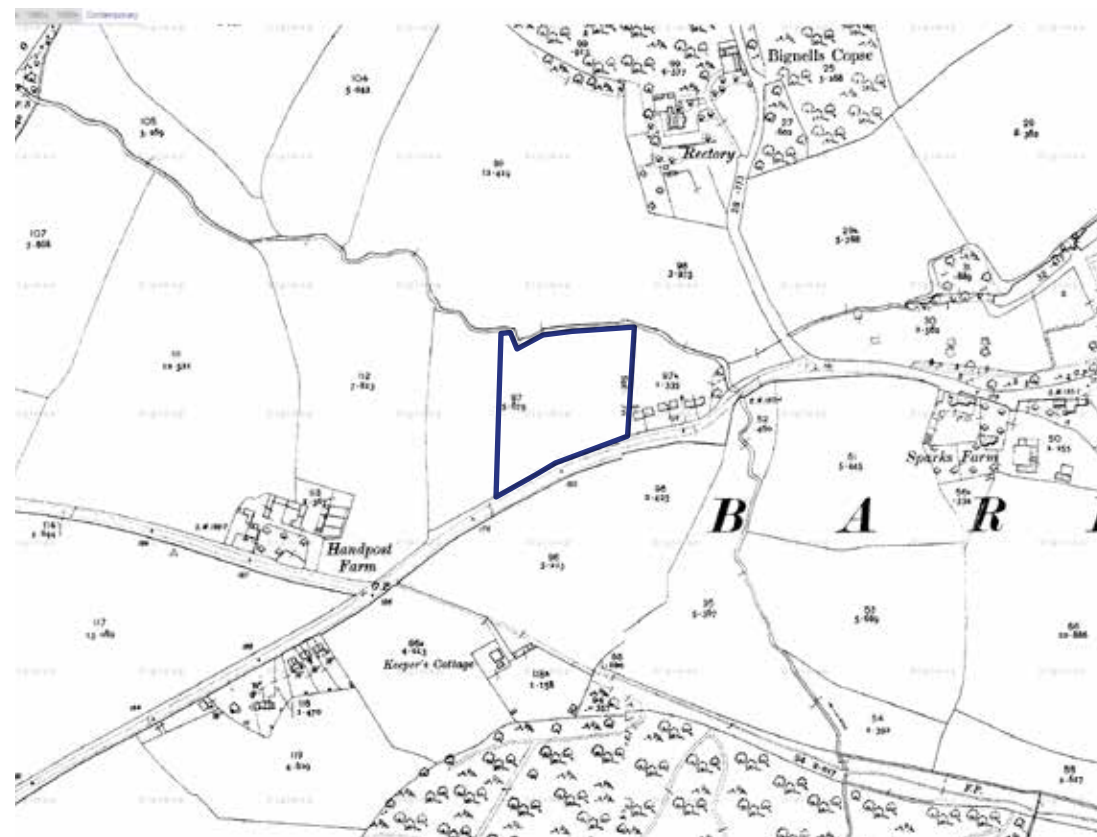
The site has never been continually wooded, doesn't form part of any adjacent woodland block, and is simply covered with self sown woodland.



1876 OS map



1896 OS map



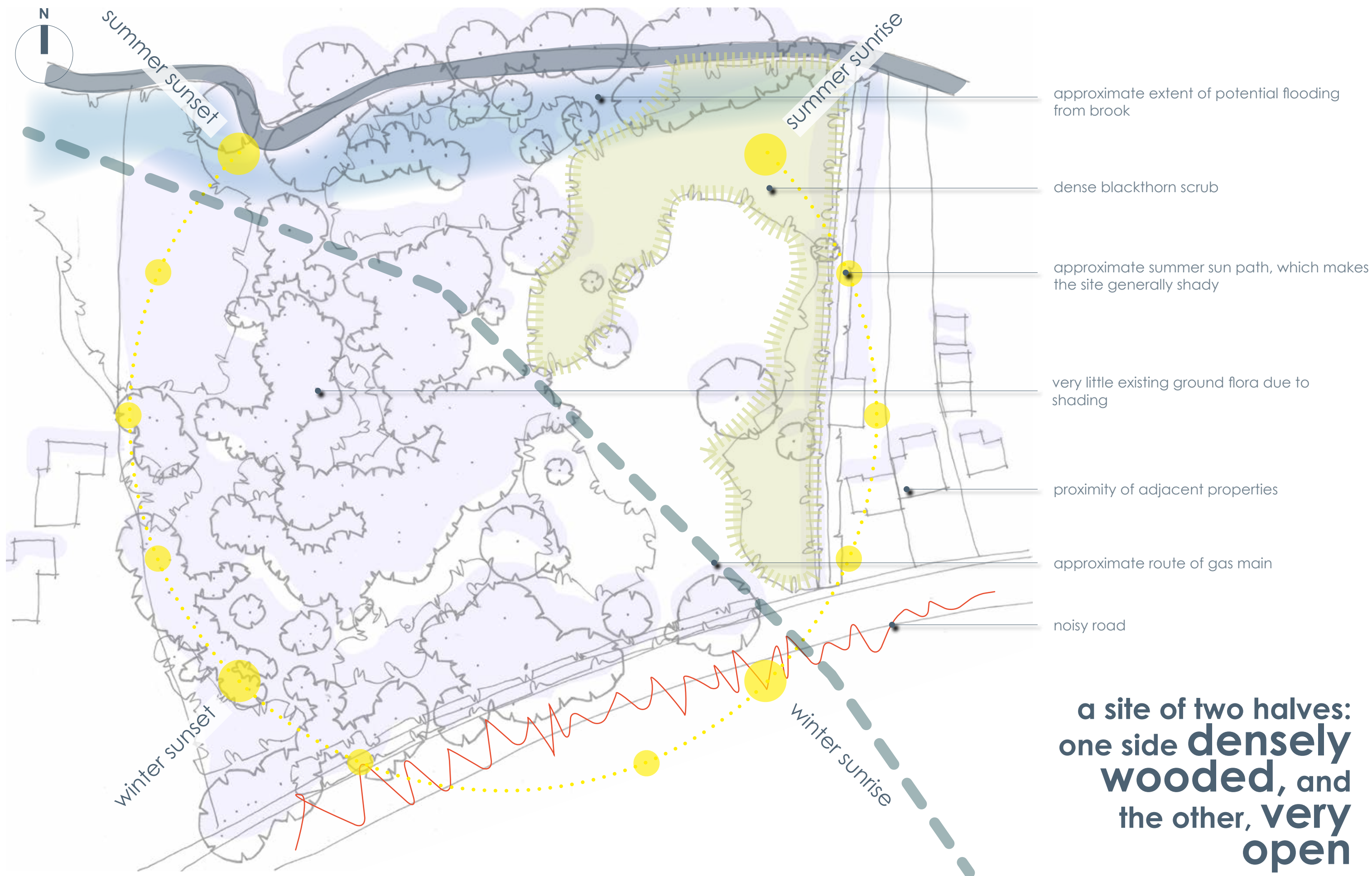
1958 OS map

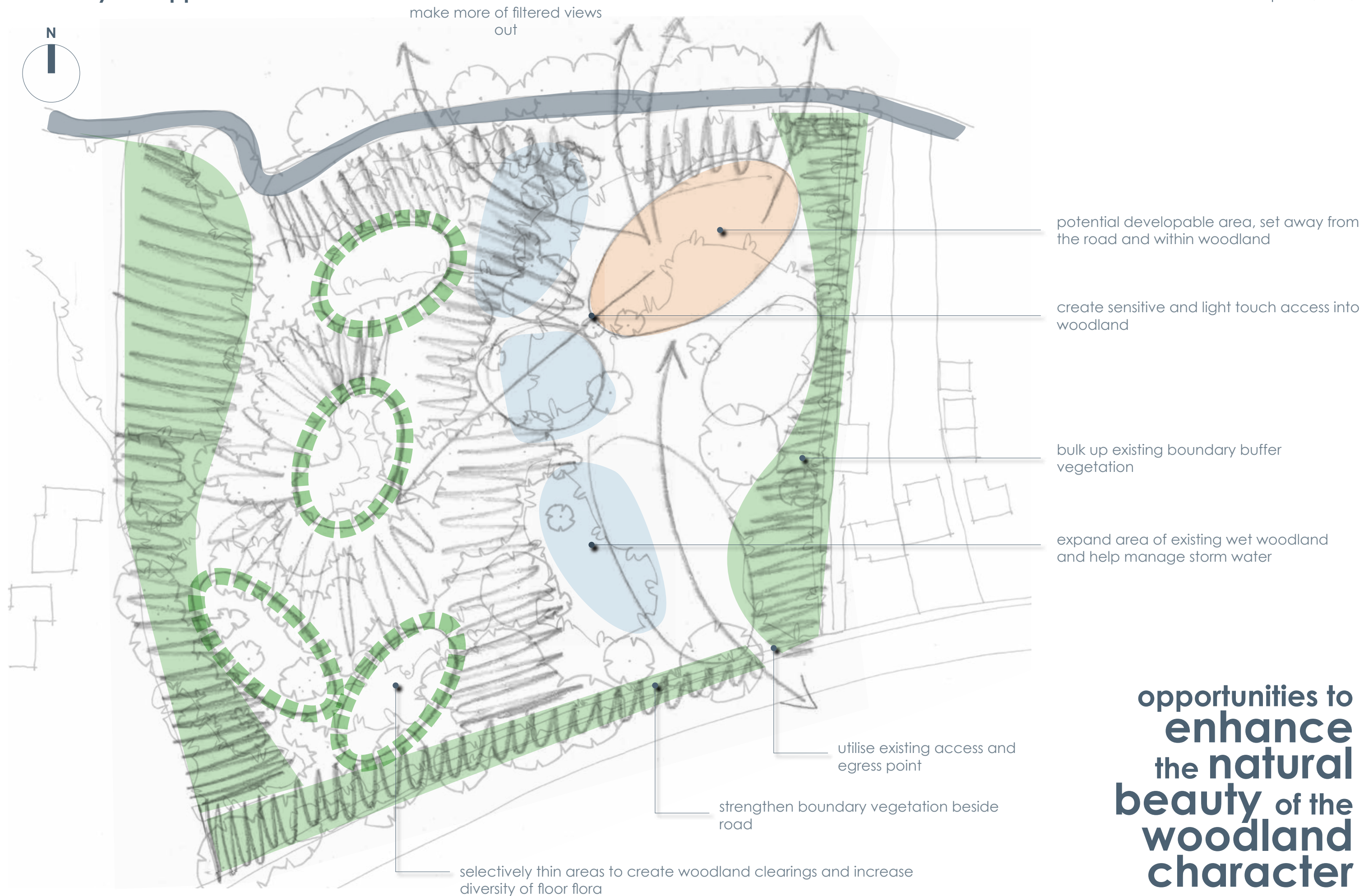


1961 OS map

a site **never**
continually
wooded and
only covered by
self-sown
woodland

Site analysis - constraints





opportunities to
enhance
the **natural**
beauty of the
woodland
character

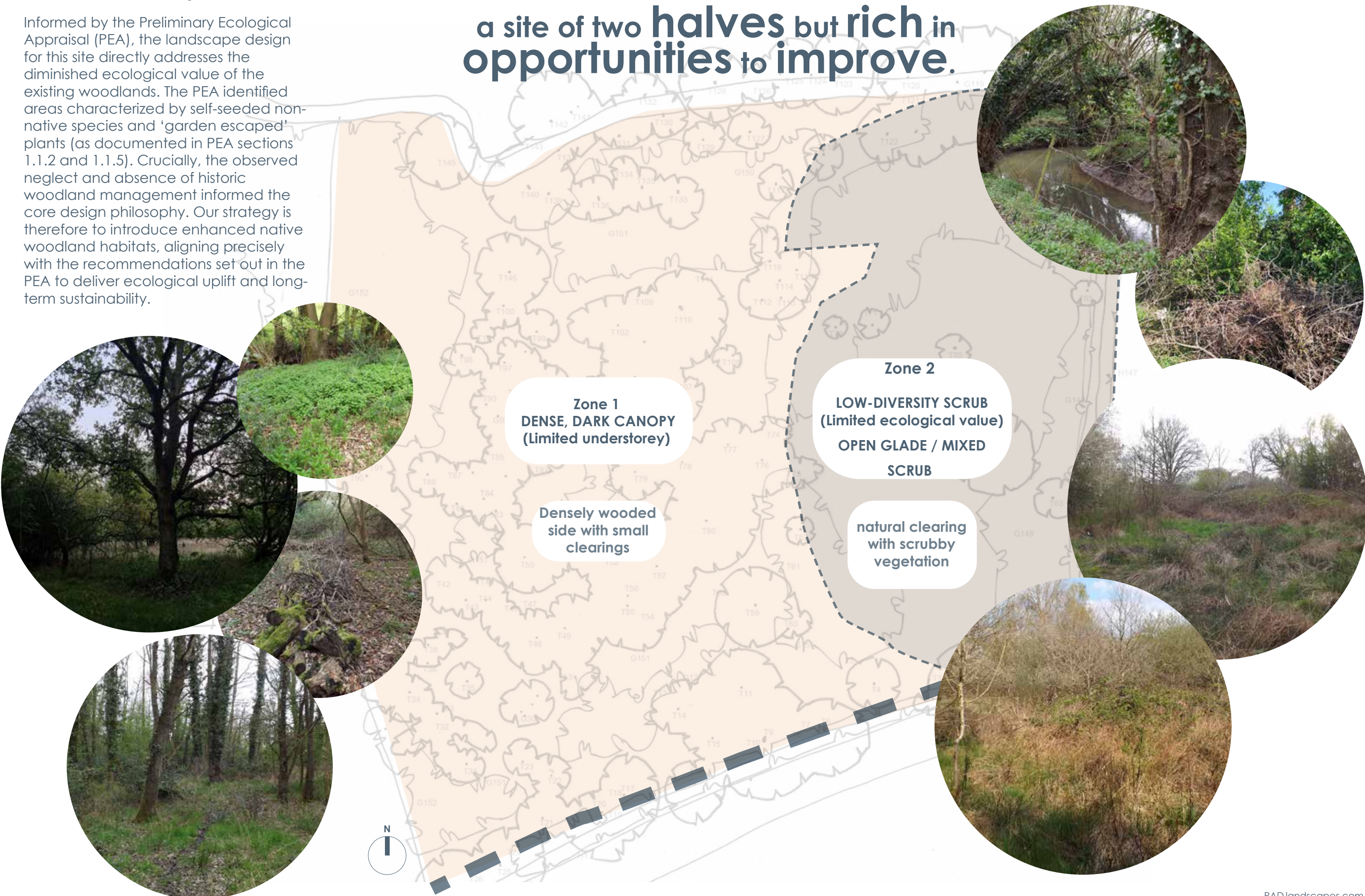


Woodland management

Woodland Analysis

Informed by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), the landscape design for this site directly addresses the diminished ecological value of the existing woodlands. The PEA identified areas characterized by self-seeded non-native species and ‘garden escaped’ plants (as documented in PEA sections 1.1.2 and 1.1.5). Crucially, the observed neglect and absence of historic woodland management informed the core design philosophy. Our strategy is therefore to introduce enhanced native woodland habitats, aligning precisely with the recommendations set out in the PEA to deliver ecological uplift and long-term sustainability.

a site of two halves but rich in opportunities to improve.





Step 1
Removal of Diseased and Non-Native Species

The existing woodland contains a significant number of ash trees affected by ash dieback, as well as several non-native species. These trees will be selectively removed to improve the overall health and resilience of the woodland.



Step 2
Formation of Glades and Increased Ground-Level Biodiversity

The removal process will create a series of open glades within the woodland. These glades will allow more light to reach the ground, encouraging a richer and more diverse ground flora to establish naturally.



Step 3
Introduction of Understorey and Native Species

New understorey planting, together with the introduction of appropriate native species, will strengthen the woodland structure. This approach will enhance ecological value, create layered habitats, and support greater biodiversity.



Step #1- Removal of Diseased and Non-Native Species

This page illustrates the removal and control of invasive or diseased vegetation where necessary to improve woodland condition. Primarily this shows the distribution of Ash trees affected by dieback. The mapping helps identify the extent of disease impact and informs subsequent management actions, including selective removal and habitat restoration.

Trees Identified with Ash Dieback:

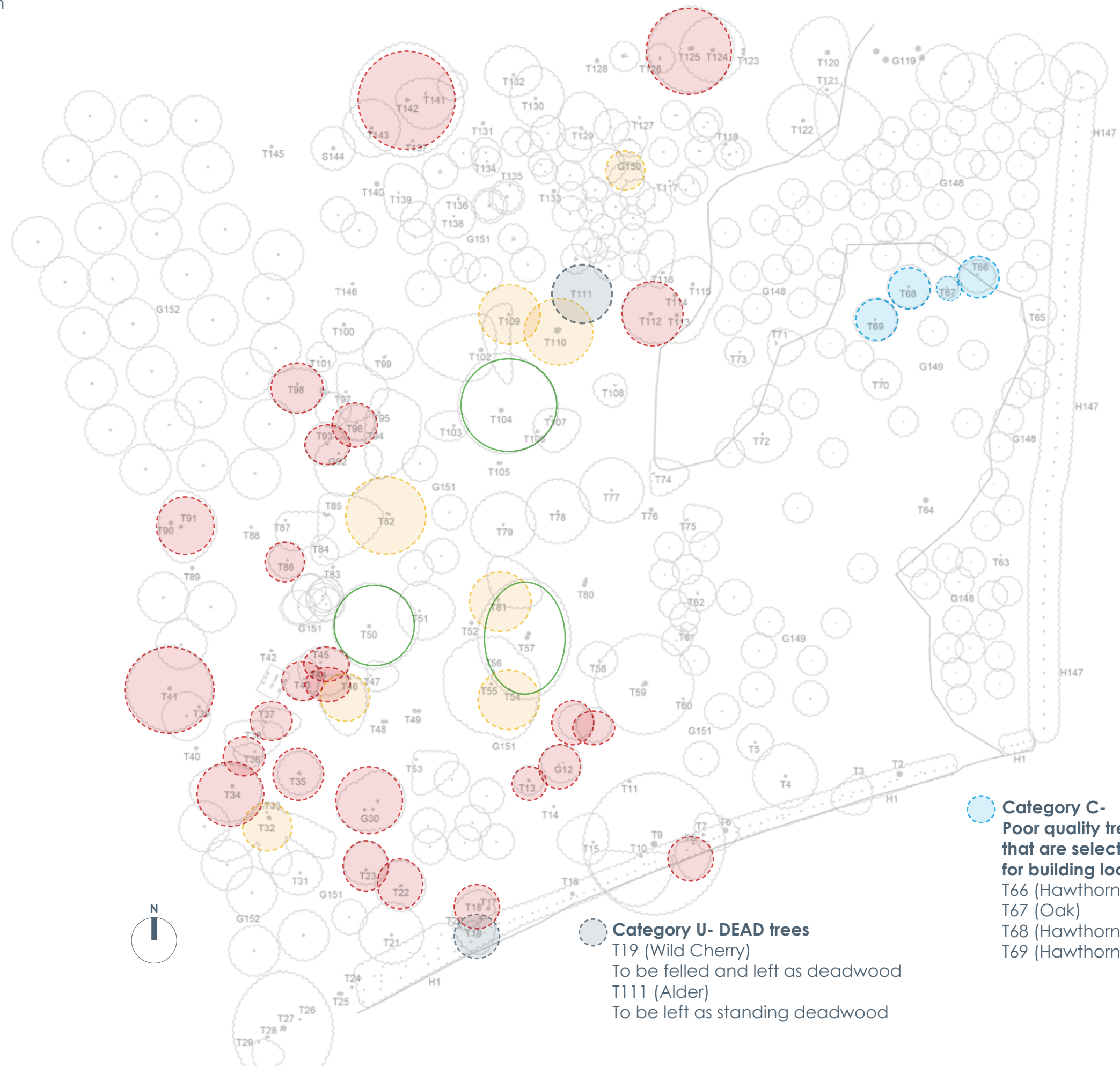
T8 (Ash)
 G12 (Ash x 3)
 T13 (Ash)
 T18 (Ash)
 T22 (Ash)
 T23 (Ash)
 T27 (Ash)
 G30 (Ash x 3)
 T34 (Ash)
 T35 (Ash)
 T36 (Ash)
 T37 (Ash)
 T41 (Ash)
 T44, T45 (Ash x 2)
 T47 (Ash)
 T86 (Ash)
 T91 (Ash)
 T93 (Ash)
 T96 (Ash)
 T98 (Ash)
 T116 (Ash)
 T125 (Ash)
 T142 (Ash)

Coppicing or Selective Removal

These are mostly collapsing, over-mature, or poorly formed Goat Willows and Alders.
 T32 (Goat willow)
 T46 (Goat willow)
 T54 (Goat willow)
 T81 (Goat willow)
 T109 (Goat willow)
 G150 (Alders etc)
 T82 (Oak)
 T110 (Oak)

Non native Turkey Oak

T50 (Turkey oak)
 T57 (Turkey oak)
 T104 (Turkey oak)



Category C- Poor quality trees within scrub that are selected for removal for building location

T66 (Hawthorn)
 T67 (Oak)
 T68 (Hawthorn)
 T69 (Hawthorn)

Category U- DEAD trees

T19 (Wild Cherry)
 To be felled and left as deadwood
 T111 (Alder)
 To be left as standing deadwood

'Enhancement of wildlife habitats through measures such as fallen and deadwood retention, habitat piles, and improved understory native planting to complement the mature canopy layer.' *John Wenman ecological consultancy letter of intent.*

'The oak dominated secondary woodland and mature woodland should be managed as areas of non-intervention woodland.' *John Wenman ecological consultancy letter of intent.*

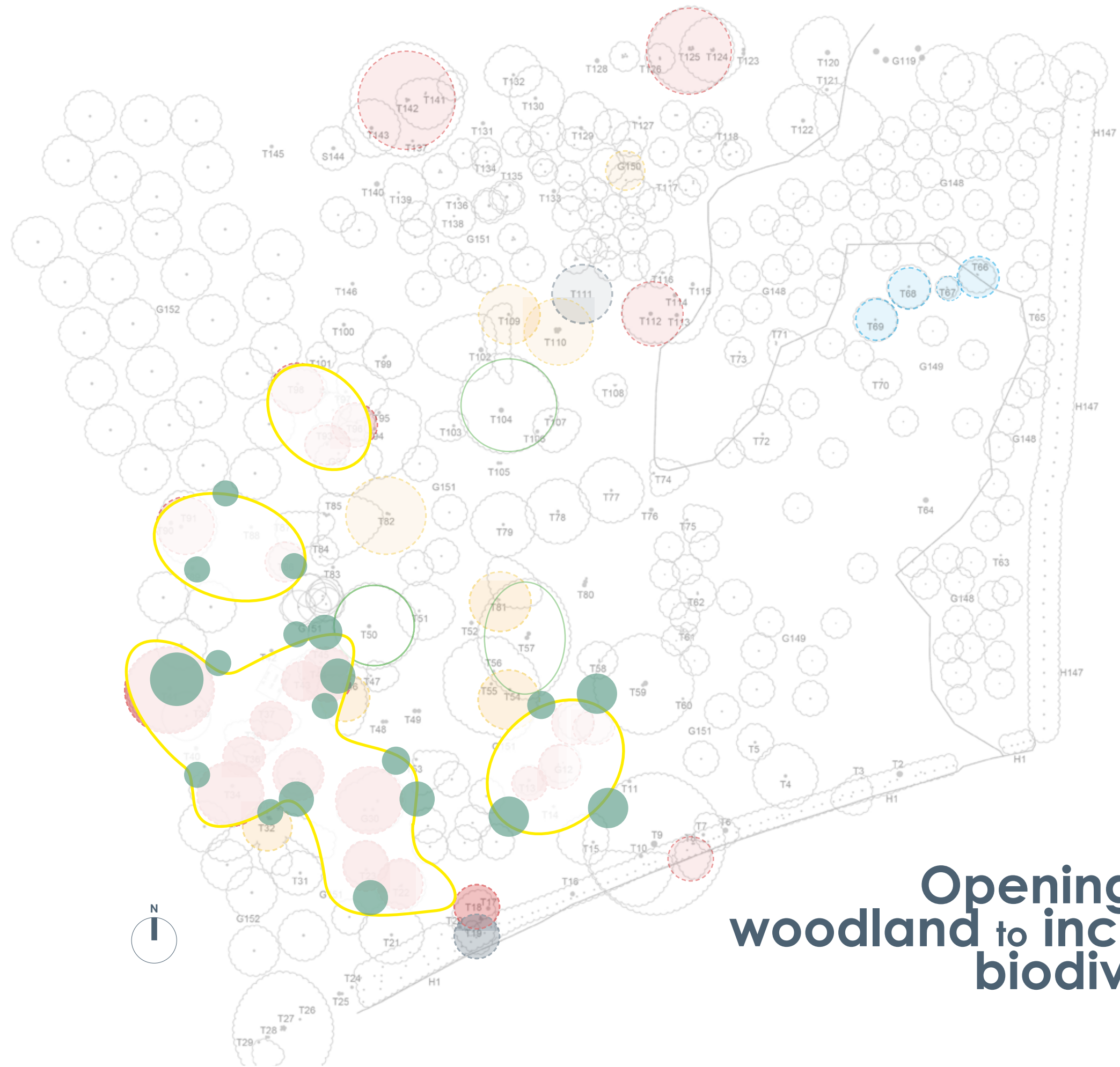


Step #3-Introduction of Understorey and Native Species

This page illustrates the introduction of understorey and native species to strengthen the woodland structure. These plantings create layered habitats, support wildlife, and contribute to a more resilient and biodiverse woodland ecosystem.

This supports the woodland management and enhancements detailed by John Wenman Ecological consultancy in their letter of intent.

'Supplementary planting using appropriate native tree, shrub, and ground flora species to strengthen biodiversity and woodland structure.'



Opening up the
woodland to increase
biodiversity

Woodland management - coppicing

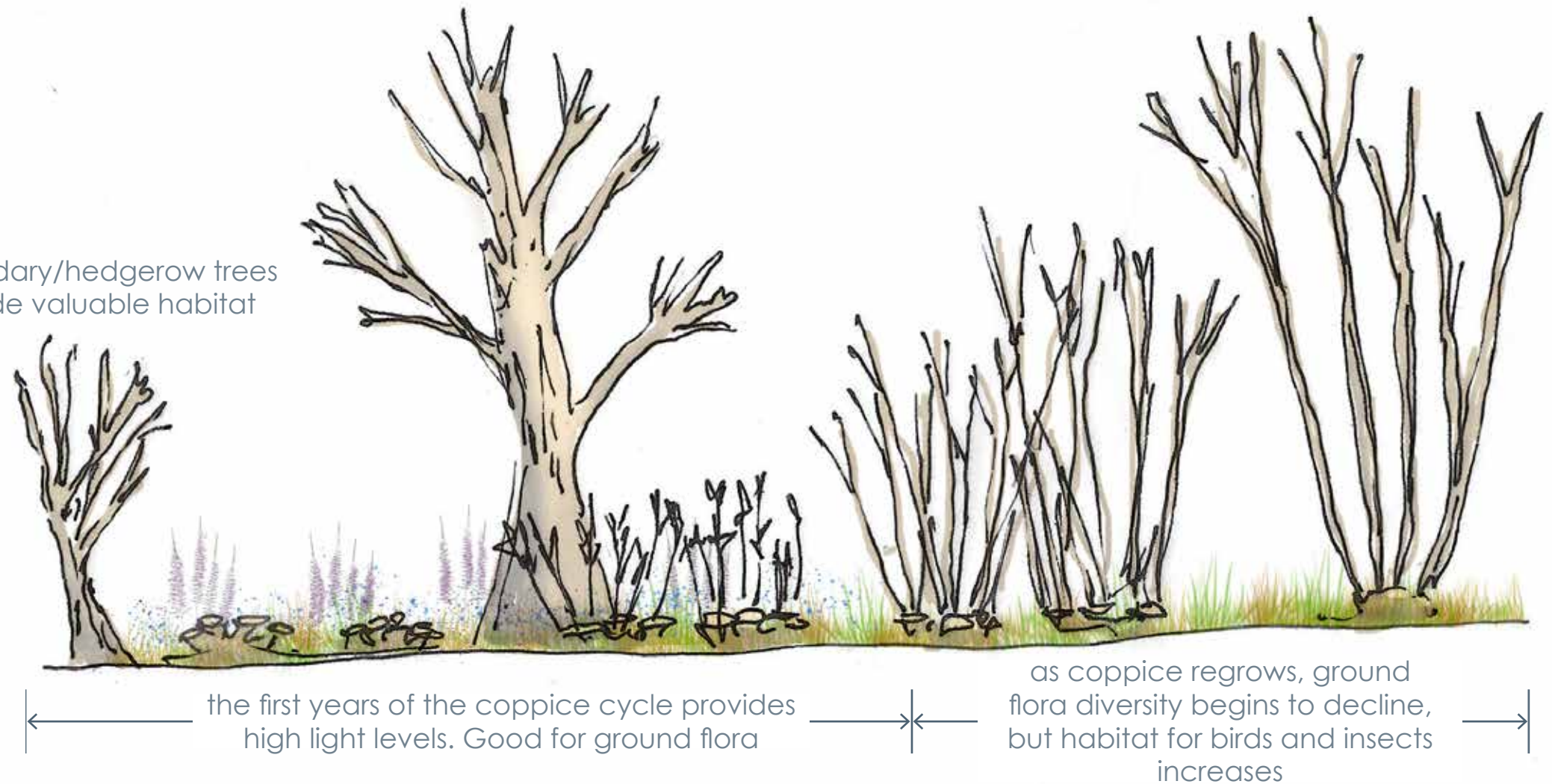
The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) from Wenman Ecological Consultancy (WEC) notes that the existing habitat should be suitable for a wide range of fauna. However it needs a lot of work to bring back from it's current disrepair.

Coppicing is a key component of good woodland management. It enables light to come down to the woodland floor, which in turn, allows ground cover flowering plants and grasses to grow.

These floor dwelling plants provide a greater abundance of food for insects and other animals such as birds and bats. Typical plants that benefit from coppicing includes flowers such as wood anemone, dog violet, st john's wort and bluebells.

**the woodland
should be
managed
to enhance
the structural
diversity within
the woodland**

boundary/hedgerow trees provide valuable habitat



a the life cycle of a typical coppice



the filtered light coming through the canopy



coppicing can be fun!



the diversity of floor flora increases with coppicing



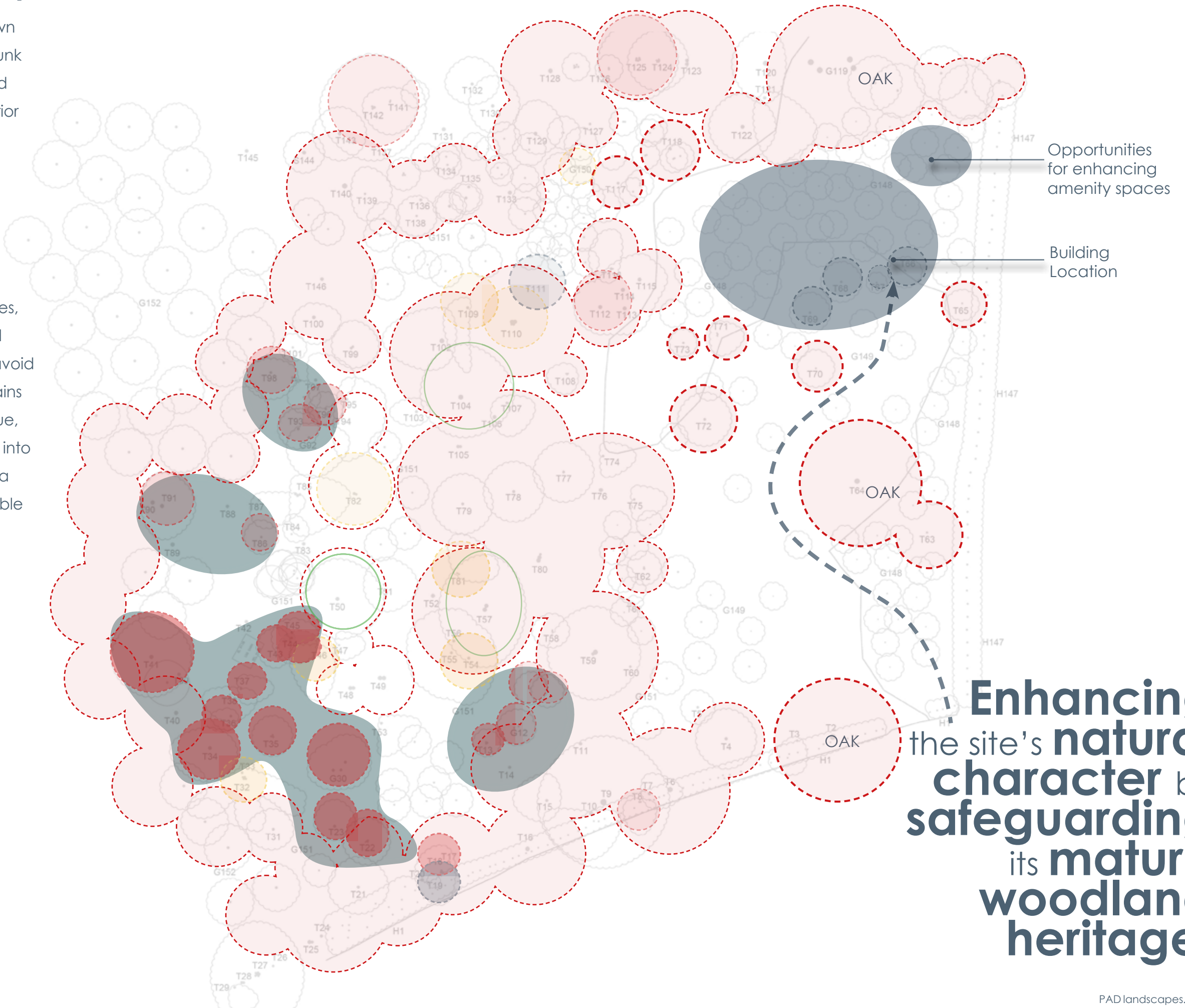
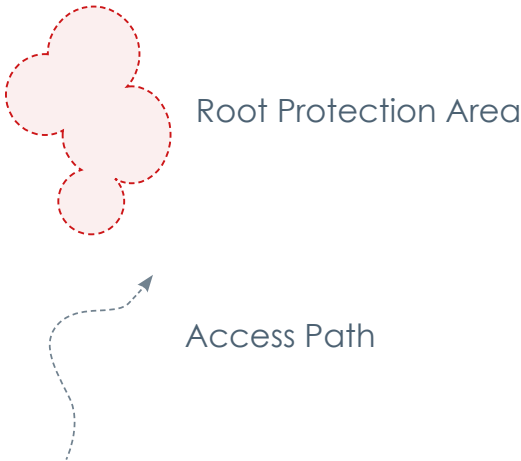
landscape proposals

Root Protection Area (RPA)

The Root Protection Areas (RPAs) shown are indicative, based on estimated trunk diameters. Final RPAs will be confirmed following a full Arboricultural Survey prior to planning submission.

The proposed building layout and surrounding amenity spaces have been carefully arranged to respect these RPAs. The landscape design prioritises the protection of existing trees, ensuring that planting, pathways, and recreational areas are positioned to avoid encroachment. This approach maintains tree health, enhances ecological value, and integrates the natural landscape into the overall site layout, demonstrating a commitment to sensitive and sustainable design.

Legend



Site Zoning and Tree strategy

This page illustrates the zoning strategy for the site, defining two distinctive landscape characters that shape the overall experience.

The woodland zone introduces a naturalistic setting with native tree species, an understory of shade-tolerant plants, and bark mulch paths weaving through glades to encourage informal exploration and a sense of immersion in nature.

In contrast, the meadow zone offers a more open character, defined by wildflower meadows and mown grass paths that guide movement through the landscape. The main circulation route is expressed with a self-binding gravel path, creating a subtle but legible hierarchy of routes and surfaces. Together, these zones balance biodiversity, accessibility, and visual richness — enhancing the ecological and experiential value of the site.



Woodland Zone

Apex species

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 Alder | 4 Horn beam |
| 2 Oak | 5 Lime - Historically important tree known to the area |
| 3 Field maple | 6 Pine |

Lower canopy species

- | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|
| 1 Dogwood | 5 Birch | 9 Willow |
| 2 Sorbus | 6 Alder | |
| 3 Hawthorn | 7 Hazel | |
| 4 Holly | 8 Yew | |

These species are listed to define the site's characteristics, based on the Barkham VDS

Landscape Character 1 Woodland Zone

Landscape Character 2 Meadow Zone



Meadow Zone Fruit tree

- 1 Pin oak
- 2 Tulip
- 3 Pear
- 4 Apple

Understory Planting

- 1 Primroses
- 2 Bluebell

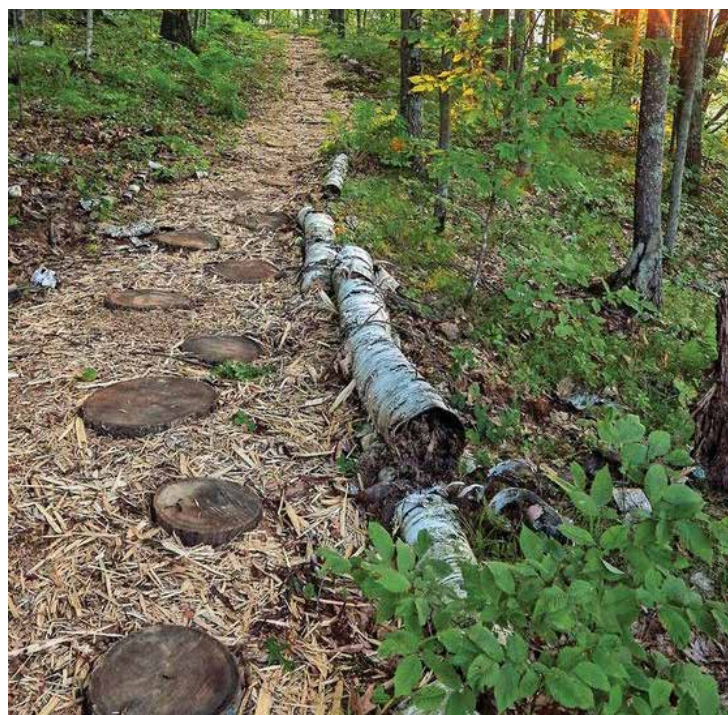
Primroses and Bluebells are common in shady areas throughout the parish.

Legend

-  New native understory planting
-  New Parkland Tree Planting around house



enhancing
the natural
breaks in the
woodland



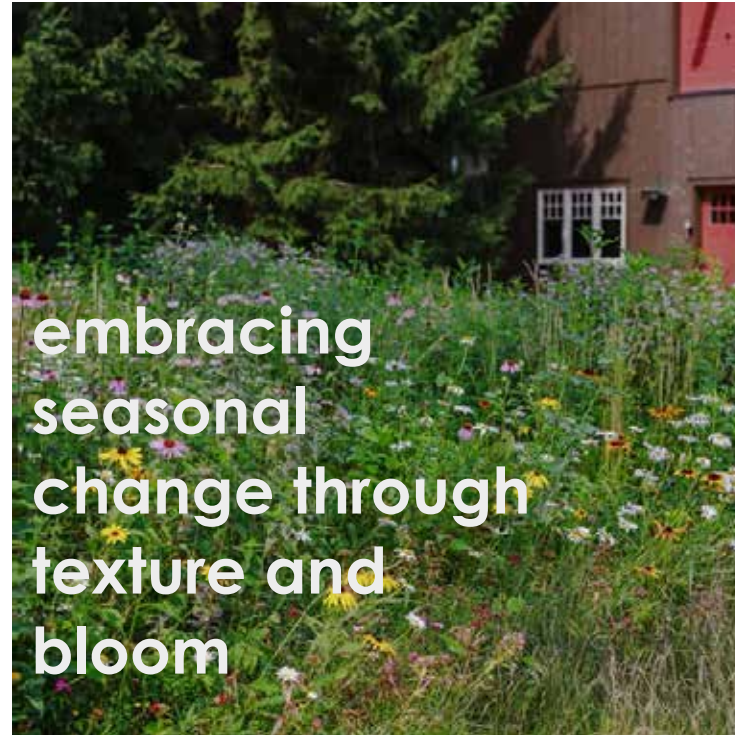
Focusing on
woodland understory
planting to provide
texture, color, and
ecological support
for native wildlife



increased
areas of wet
woodland to
help manage
stormwater



embracing
seasonal
change through
texture and
bloom



creating soft
transitions between
meadow and
woodland

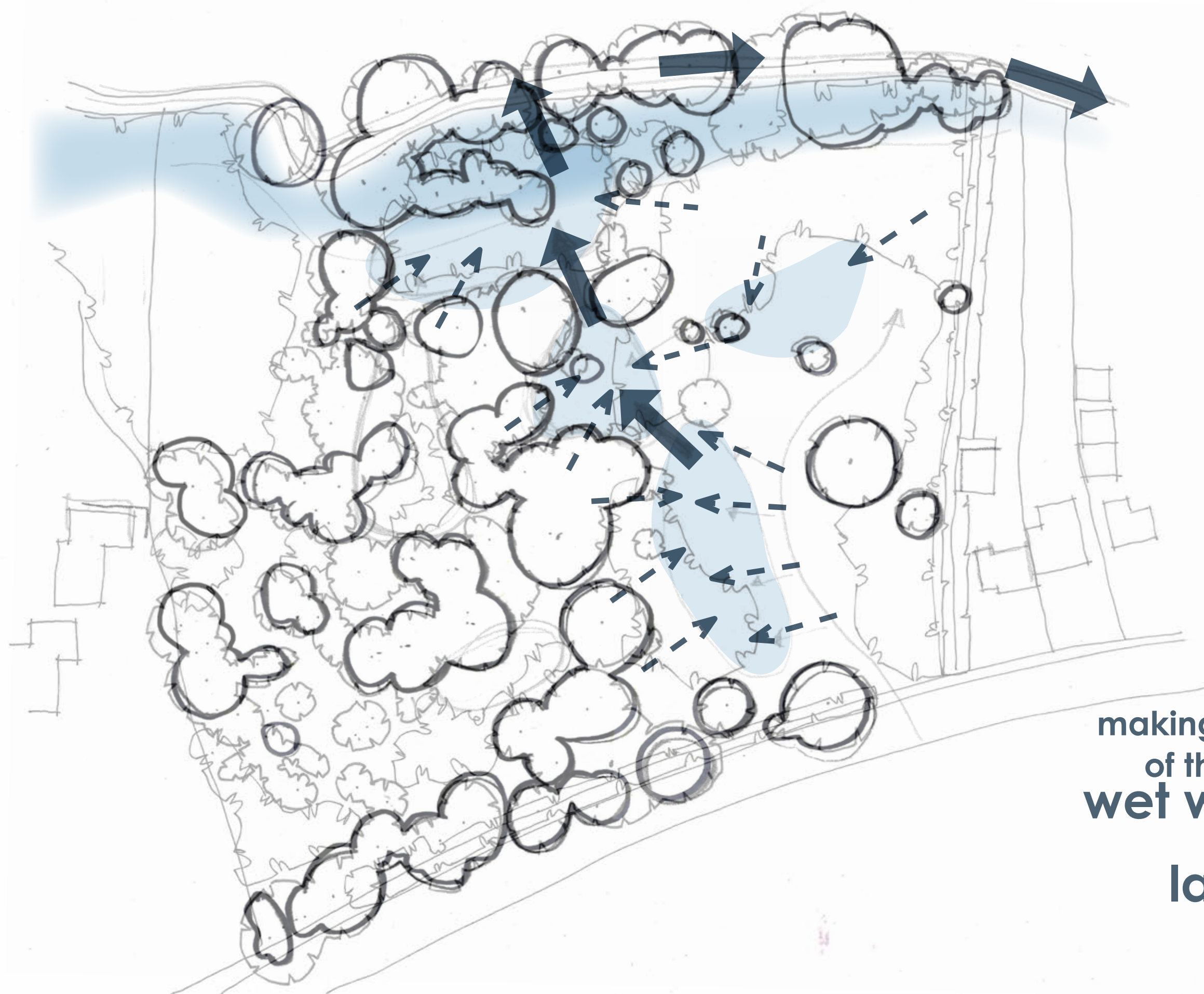


mown paths
guiding
gentle
exploration



supporting
pollinators
through
diverse
planting





making **best use**
of the **existing**
wet woodland
to create a
landscape
sponge

Promote **biodiversity** and **climate resilience** - zoning for **native** and **non-native tree species**

Introduce a wide variety of understorey canopy tree species - to layer the woodland canopy

Create natural woodland glades for the creation of understorey woodland plants

Woodland planting

Meadow planting

Conserve native hedgerows.

Provide informal garden amenity for immediate areas around the house

Introduce meadow planting and parkland trees for ecology and climate resilience

Legend

-  Campos area
-  Productive Kitchen Garden
-  Reflective Pond with Water Lilies
-  Building (shown indicatively)
-  Amenity space around building
-  New native understorey planting
-  New Parkland Tree Planting around house



existing boundary
buffer planting
reinforced with
additional native
planting

new clearings and
glades within existing
woodland increasing
biodiversity

Compost area

Morning Garden

Arrival Garden

Decking for afternoon
seating

Vegetable Garden

Natural Pond with lilies

Main parking and ancillary area
encircled by existing trees and
additional boundary buffer

Wildflower meadow

Proposed trees surrounding the
building reinforce the essence of
the 'House of Wood'

Existing boundary buffer
planting reinforced with
additional native planting

Existing access point and
proposed main route into site

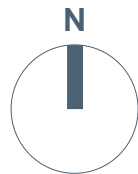
Reinforce existing hedge with additional
native planting



Landscape presented at DRP 2

Legend

- 1 Compost area
- 2 Productive Kitchen Garden-relocated since DRP 2 in response to feedback
- 3 Morning Garden / East-Facing Seating Area
- 4 Arrival Courtyard Garden, planting removed from garage elevation since DR2 to allow for entrance
- 5 Reflective Pond with Water Lilies
- 6 South-Facing Deck with Pond Outlook
- 7 Decking and sunken garden
- 8 Woodland Transition Pathway
- 9 Wildflower Meadow
- 10 New Parkland Tree Planting around house
- 11 Mown Grass Path





5 Timber Decking



4 Bark Mulch Path

Crafting a Mosaic of Woodland Experiences



1 Vegetable garden



6 Natural Pond



7 Mown Grass Path



2 Morning Seating

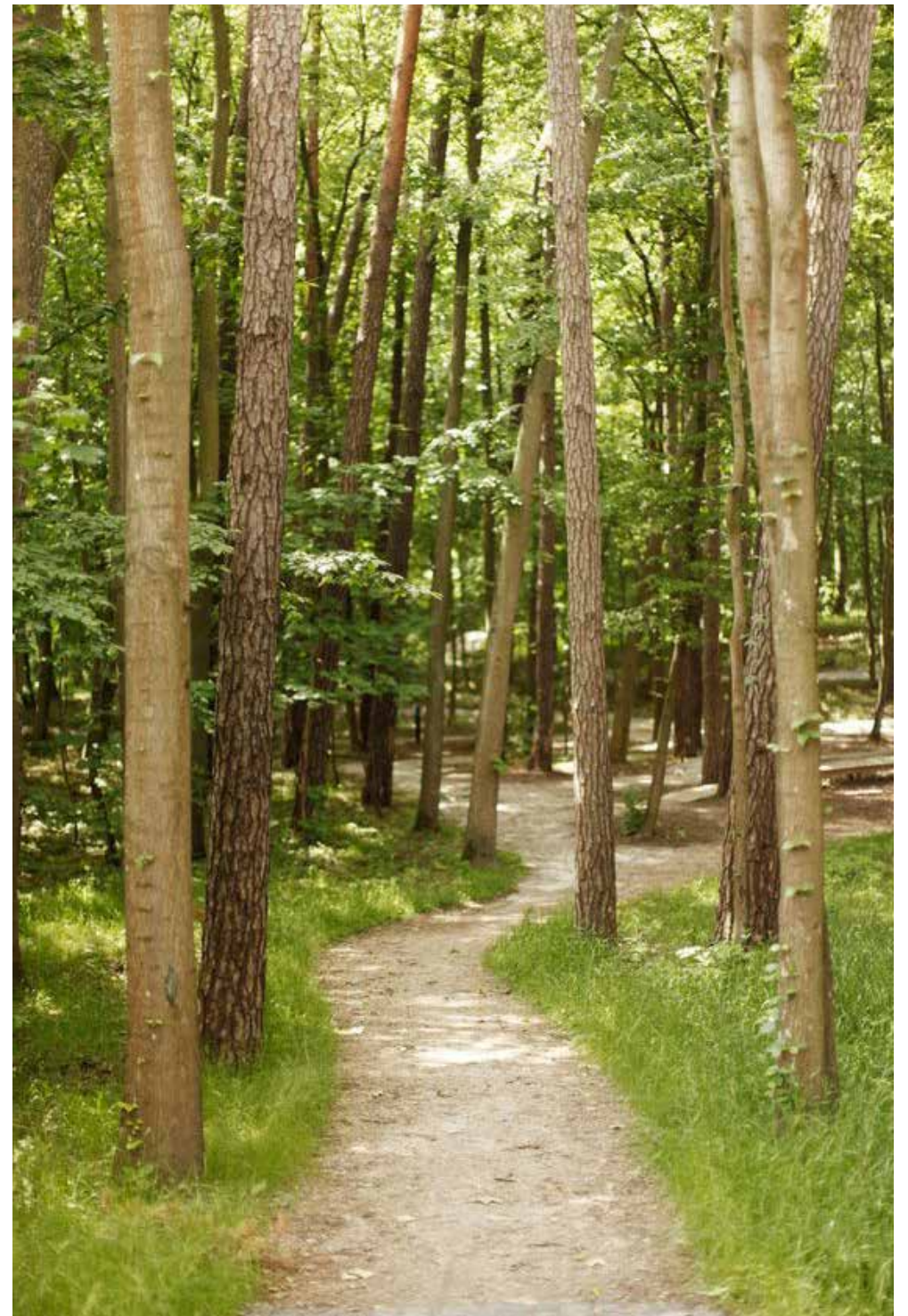
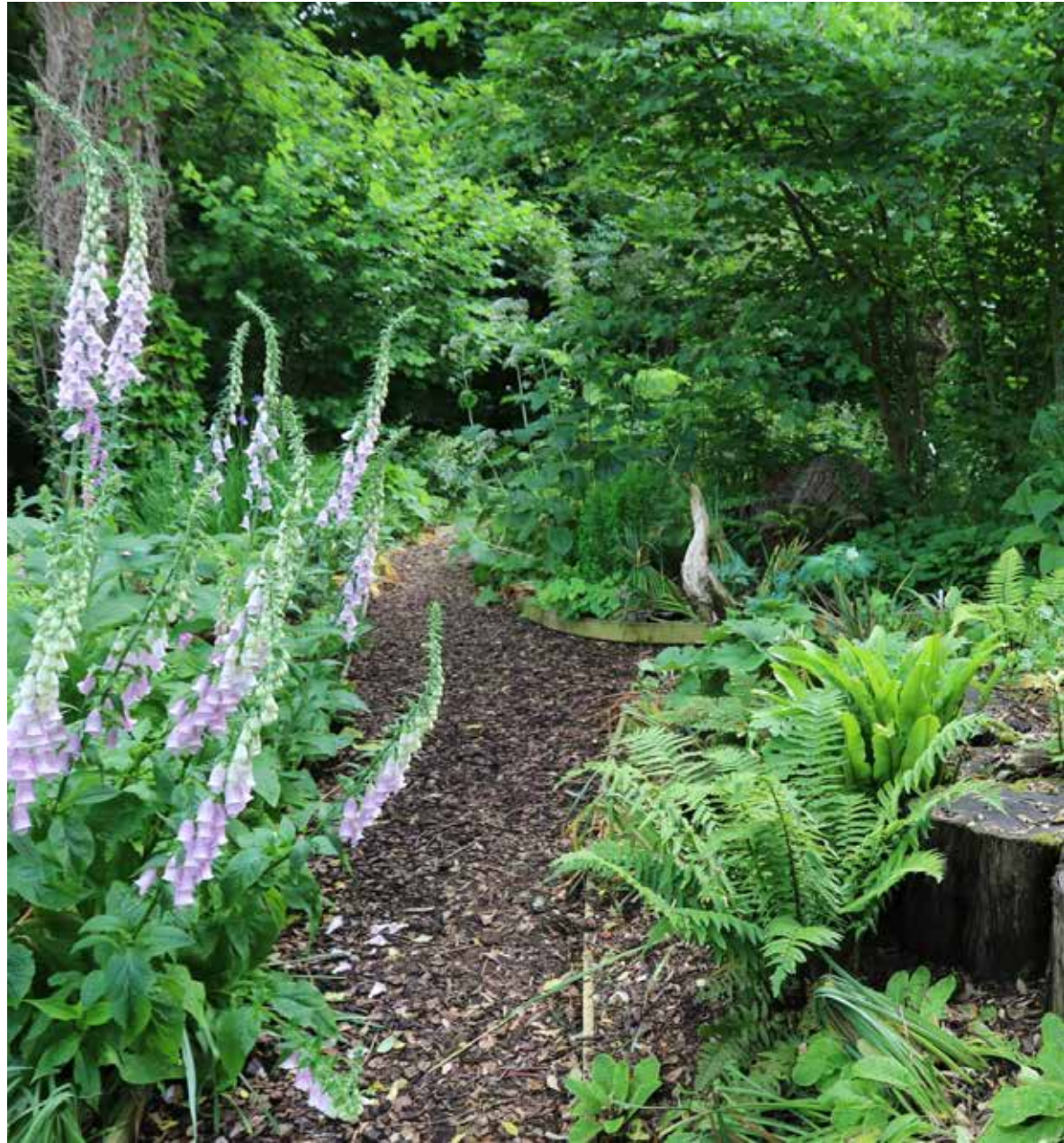


3 Arrival



Precedents

Precedent images - Bark mulch self-binding gravel paths



Wildflower with Mown paths

A vibrant, species-rich meadow filled with native wildflowers, including orchids. Mown paths guide Path through, encouraging exploration while supporting pollinators and enhancing biodiversity year-round.





The morning garden receives sunlight in the early hours, creating an inviting atmosphere for seating and enjoying breakfast or brunch.



Pond and Decking area



The pond and decking area provides a serene space to sit, enjoy the water, and connect with the surrounding planting and natural environment.





Conclusion

The project has undergone a comprehensive and in-depth landscape analysis to understand the nature and intrinsic character of the site.

The existing site is of low ecological value, with self-seeded species, including Ash and with minimal biodiversity.

The proposals have been developed in conjunction with the PEA and the Arboricultural Assessment to manage the existing woodland in a way that will enhance the site. The Barkham Village design statement has informed the emerging proposals, to ensure the defining characteristics of the site are enhanced.



In response to the previous Design Review Panel, the team has established the character of a house of the woods, resulting in a sensitive approach to the layout and characteristics of the design proposals.



The design introduces a wide variety of tree and understorey species to provide biodiversity and climate resilience.



The introduction of Sustainable Urban Drainage strategies has led to the creation of water bodies and new riparian habitats to enhance wildlife.



Managed Woodland

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