

The Liverpool Loop Line Route 62

2018 Woodland
Management Plan
- Draft



The Liverpool Loop Line - Background

Route Details

- From - to: Halewood to Aintree
- Distance: 13 miles.
- Type: Disused railway path, no hills and largely traffic free.
- Surface: Tarmac
- National Cycle Network: Route 62

Route Description

The Loop Line was abandoned in 1964 by British Rail and became quite derelict until 1986 when plans were drawn up for its conversion to a walking and cycling route. Construction began in 1988, and the final section to Aintree opened in 2000. The railway path provides a flat, well surfaced green corridor through the urban environment of east Liverpool, and forms part of the award-winning Trans-Pennine Trail. Even though you are so close to a city it feels like you're out in the countryside. The route takes the form of a woodland park which runs through rocky cuttings or high on embankments with wide views across the city. The trees are all broadleaved and have become established through a combination of planting and natural regeneration over the past 20 -40 years.

This route is perfect for young and inexperienced cyclists because it is easy, flat and almost entirely traffic free.

There are many bus routes running across and parallel to the path and service frequencies are available from Merseytravel.

There are local railway stations near to the route at Hunts Cross, Halewood, Broad Green, Rice Lane and Walton.

The Liverpool Loop Line – What You said.....

Back in March 2018 we asked what you felt need doing along the route.

Many people made suggestions about how we could improve our maintenance, including ways to address the impacts of litter, dog mess, and anti-social behaviour.

Personal safety on the route was mentioned by some of you, suggestions to add lighting, and to remove vegetation in areas where it would increase lines of visibility was proposed.

Some of you expressed a desire to get more involved with the route through projects and volunteering, and suggested ways of creating interest on the path, such as adding fruit trees, sculptures, or opening up views and vistas across the city.

The need to protect and consider existing wildlife along the route was a high priority for many of you. We aim get the best outcome for all the path's users, including the wildlife.

Your feelings about the removal of and trees were wide ranging, with some people asking for minimum intervention, only removing those trees which pose a threat to health and safety, and others asking for some thinning and opening up of the copses and woodland.

The Liverpool Loop Line – What we plan to do and why we want to do it

It should be noted that this plan focusses on tree management and opportunities to improve the trail through habitat management. The interventions described here are not intended to be drastic and the focus of our work is to maintain the route and ensure it can provide a safe, fun, and healthy environment for generations of users to come.

Much of our work on the trail seeks to maintain tree safety as well as undertaking works to ensure our neighbours along the route enjoy the trail too.

As a result, many parts of this plan just seek to maintain what is there. In other sections we have identified opportunities in response to your feedback, enhancing habitats, opening up occasional vistas across parts of the city, and undertaking thinning or crown raising works to make the path feel less closed in. We've also identified where thinning would improve the tree health and where we can clear around some of the older trees so they can be fully appreciated by route users and released from competition by younger more vigorous trees.

As you read on, you can see that the plan has been split into 25 small sections. There is a brief description as to the nature and proposed management of each section.

The Liverpool Loop Line – Plan Sections



Seeds Lane



Lydiate Lane





Description – This section of the path sees mature trees with dense scrub below. Litter from the cemetery which lies to the south blows on the the route getting caught in the vegetation.

Proposed management- The planting of a hedge on the southern boundary would prevent litter from blowing on to the trail.

Crown raising the trees would make this area feel more open. By providing greater visibility users of the route will feel safer.

There are opportunities for grassland management to increase wild flowers, and fruit tree planting would add interest to this area.





Description – This is a narrow section of ownership. Fencing has been erected to protect neighbouring properties.

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only





Description – This area has some grasslands containing wild flowers and a pond. It is very attractive and has good potential to be managed for biodiversity. There is some Japanese Knotweed present.

Proposed management- Remove vegetation and silt from the pond and control Japanese Knotweed.



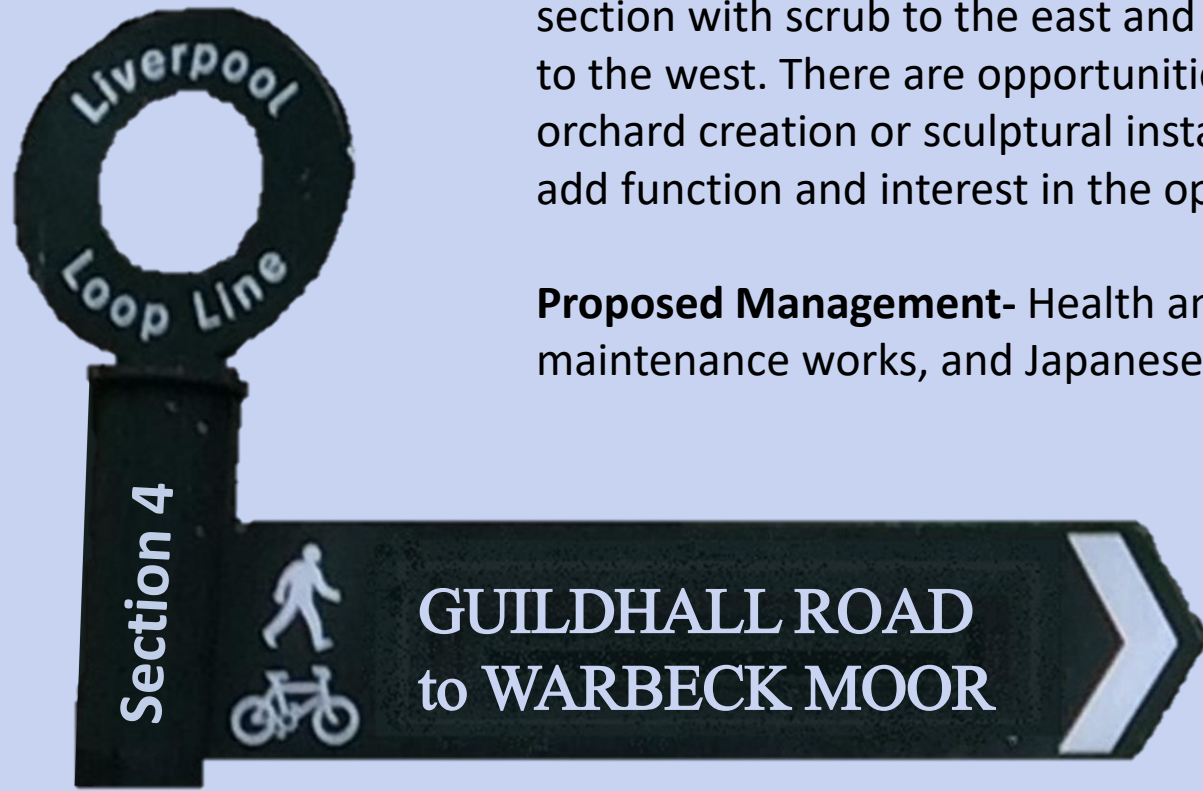
HELSEBY ROAD to
GUILDHALL ROAD





Description – This is a relatively open section with scrub to the east and bramble to the west. There are opportunities for orchard creation or sculptural installation to add function and interest in the open areas.

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works, and Japanese Knotweed control





Description – This is a narrow strip of land with most of the trees and woodland outside of our ownership

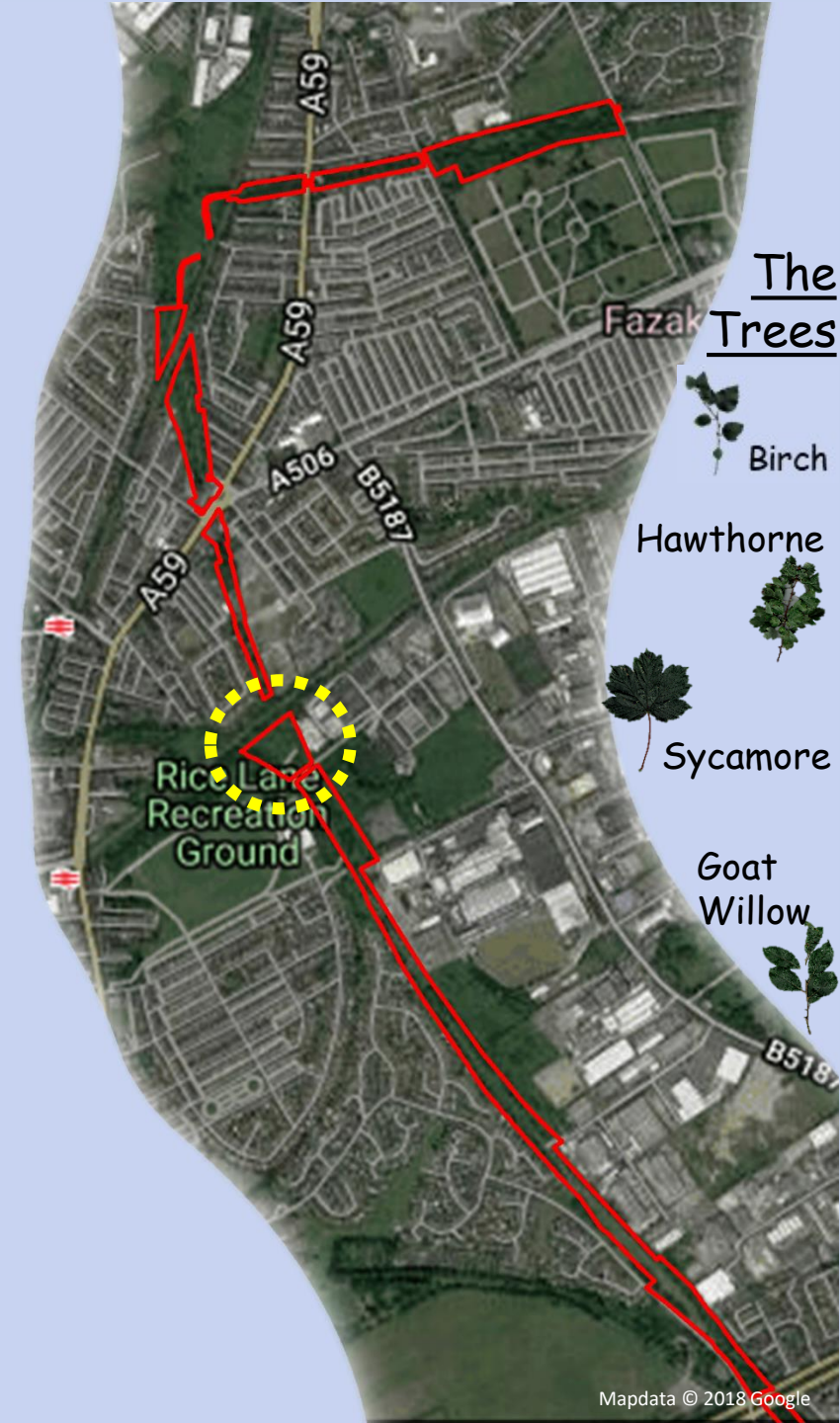
Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only





Description – An area of mixed age woodland with a closed canopy

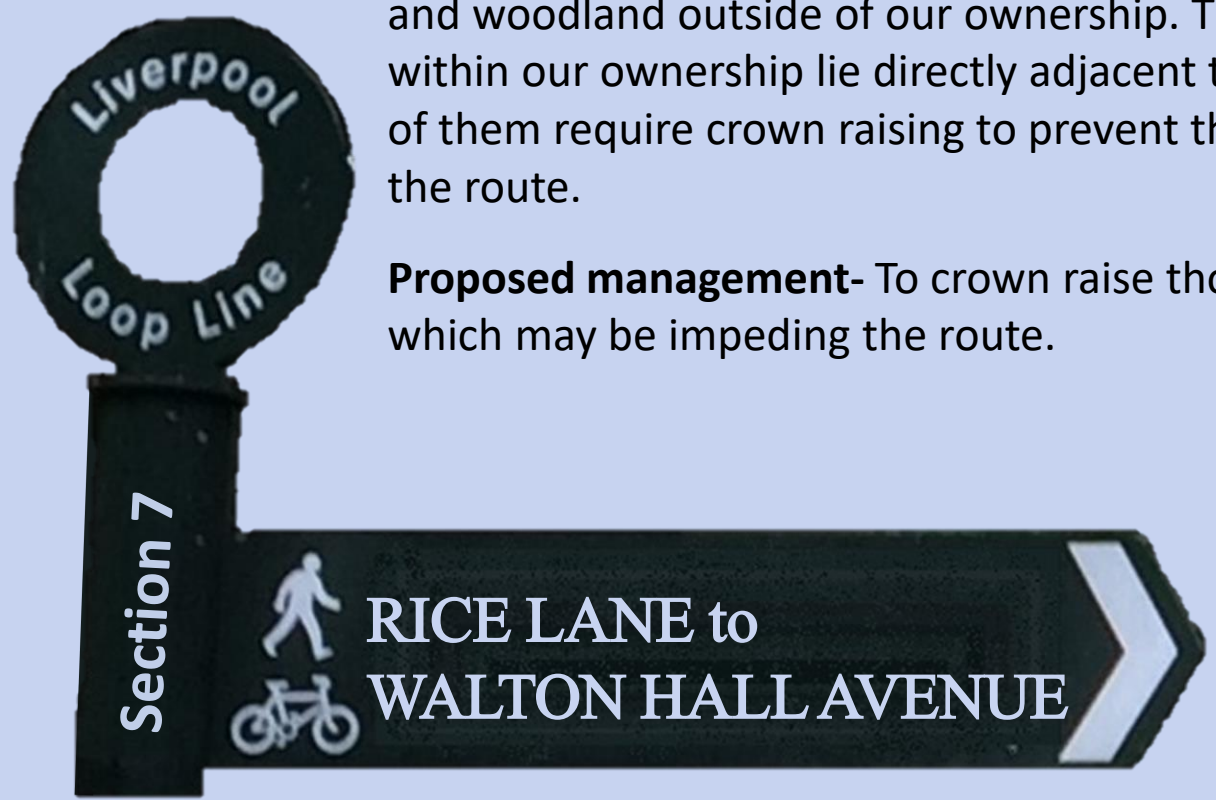
Proposed management- To thin some of the trees to improve visibility along the route and allow more light to the woodland floor.





Description – This is a narrow strip of land with most of the trees and woodland outside of our ownership. The trees that are within our ownership lie directly adjacent to the path and some of them require crown raising to prevent them from obstructing the route.

Proposed management- To crown raise those trees which may be impeding the route.





The Trees



Birch



Hazel



Goat Willow



Beech

Description – This is scrub woodland with some larger beech trees, the verges here have some wild flower interest

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only



**WALTON HALL AVENUE
to PHILBEACH ROAD**



The Trees



Sycamore



Elder



Ash



Hazel

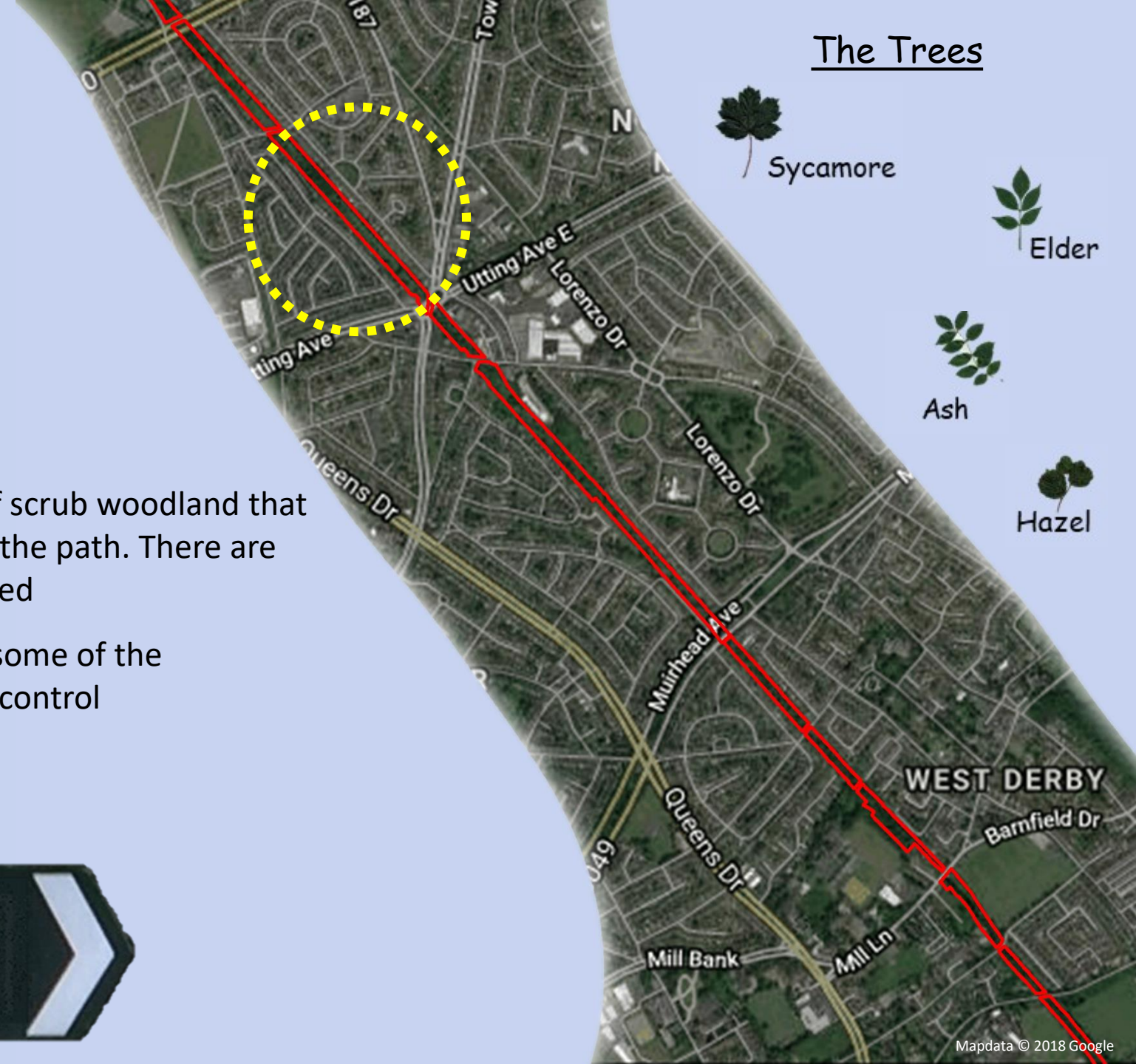
Description – This is an area of scrub woodland that is, in places encroaching on to the path. There are also areas of Japanese Knotweed

Proposed management- Thin some of the trees to open up the path and control Japanese Knotweed



Section 9

PHILBEACH ROAD to
TOWNSEND AVENUE





The Trees



Sycamore



Hawthorne



Goat Willow

Description – This is a short but attractive section of the path which is wooded but with an open feel, it is a good example of what we are aiming to achieve elsewhere along the route.

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only



Section 10



TOWNSEND AVENUE
to BROAD LANE





Description – This section marks the beginning of the sandstone cutting. Self seeded trees are obscuring some geological features and are encroaching on to the path. New trees could be planted in the west of the site. There is Japanese knotweed in this area.

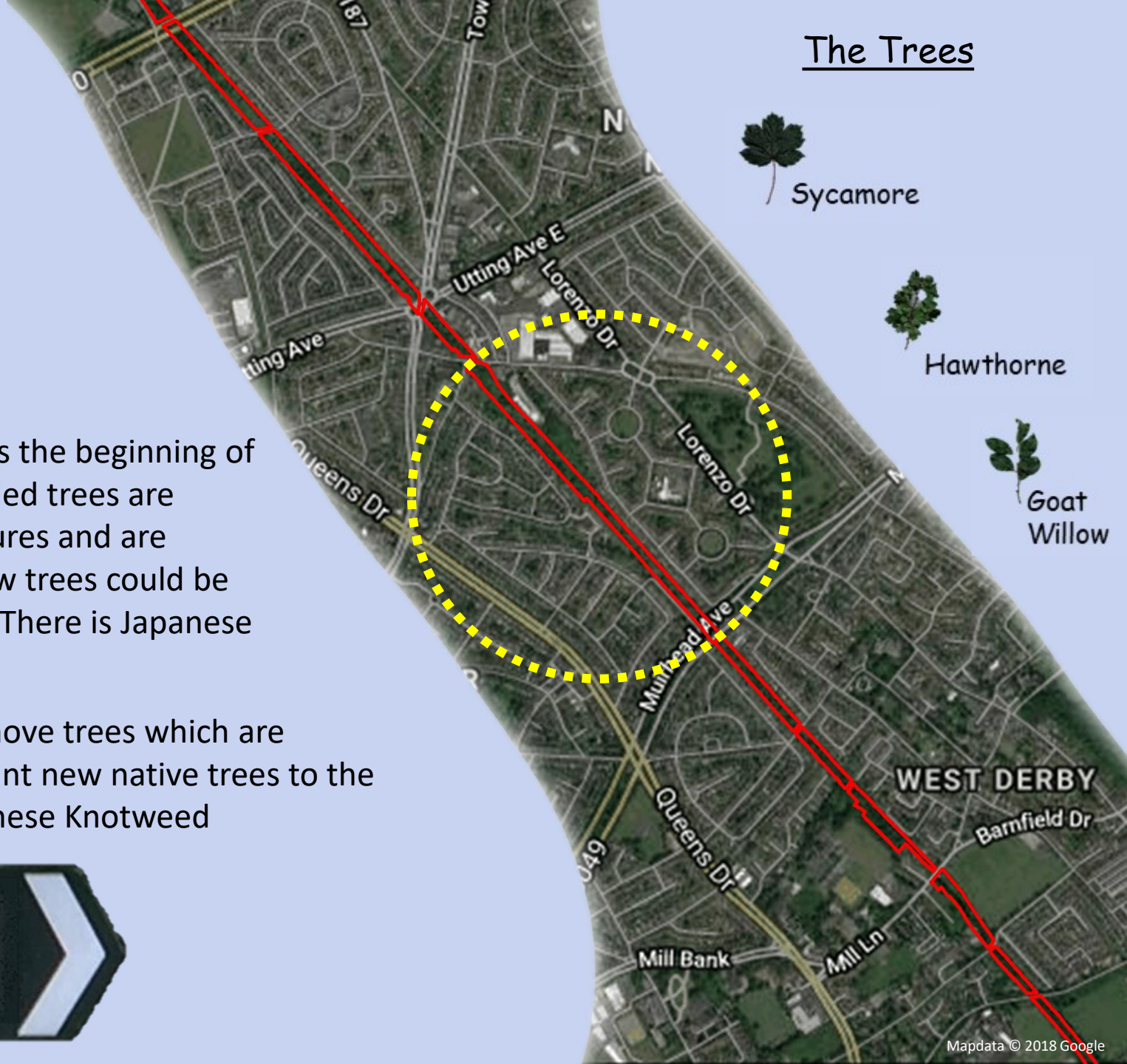
Proposed management- To remove trees which are obscuring the cutting and to plant new native trees to the west of the route. Control Japanese Knotweed



Section 11



BROAD LANE to
MUIRHEAD AVENUE



The Trees



Sycamore



Hawthorne



Goat Willow



Description - This section sits in the sandstone cutting. Scattered self seeded trees are obscuring geological features and encroaching on to the path.

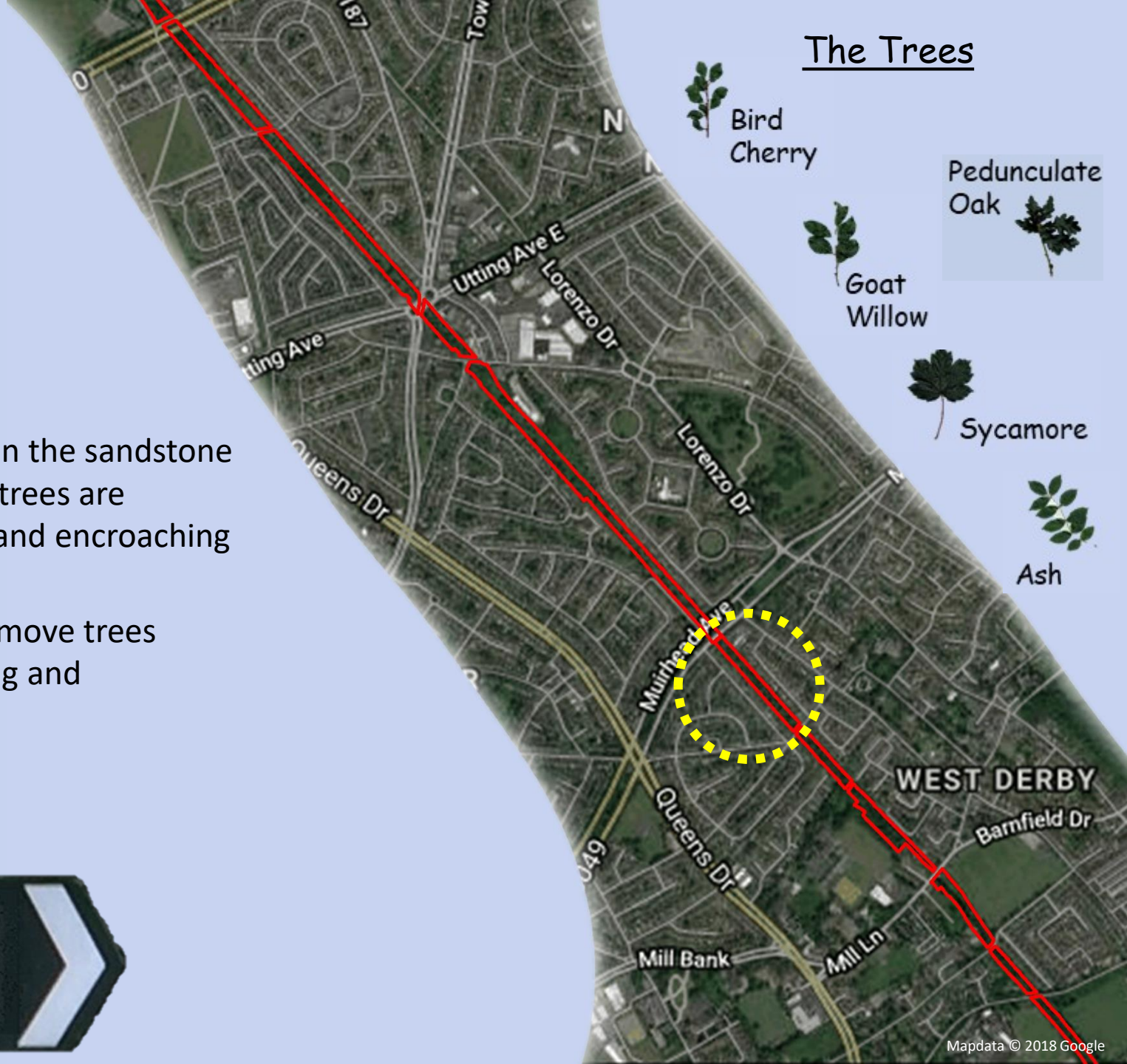
Proposed management- To remove trees which are obscuring the cutting and encroaching on to the path.



Section 12



MUIRHEAD AVENUE
to THREE BUT LANE



The Trees



Bird Cherry



Goat Willow



Sycamore



Ash



Pedunculate Oak



The Trees



Sycamore



Poplar

Description - This section sits in the sandstone cutting. Scattered self seeded trees are obscuring the geological features and encroaching on to the path.

Proposed management- To remove trees which are obscuring the cutting and encroaching on to the path.



Section 13



THREE BUT LANE
to CROSBY GREEN

The Trees



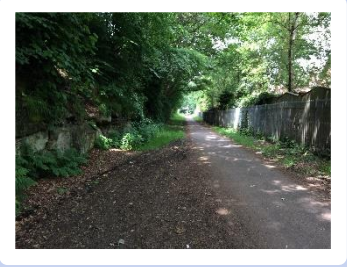
Sycamore



Goat Willow



Beech



Description – In this section the path is relatively open with trees on growing mainly on top of the cutting. Japanese Knotweed is present here.

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works and Japanese Knotweed control.



CROSBY GREEN to
SANDFORTH ROAD



The Trees



Description – An area of path within the cutting, the geology here is striking. A wall has been built on top of the bedrock to the west side of the path. Trees growing above and within this wall are compromising its structural integrity so they need to be removed to ensure the wall does not collapse.

Proposed management- Remove trees from the wall to the west side of the path



SANDFORTH ROAD
to NORTH DRIVE





Description – An area of path with in the cutting, the geology here is striking. A wall has been built on top of the bedrock on the east side of the path. Trees growing above and within this wall are compromising its structural integrity so they need to be removed to ensure the wall does not collapse.

Proposed management- Remove trees from the wall to the east side of the path



The Trees



Beech



Sycamore



Birch



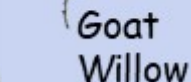
The Trees



Sycamore



Birch



Goat Willow



Ash



Description – This section marks the southern end of the sandstone cutting, opening up in to scrub and grassland. Thinning of some trees which are encroaching on to the path would be beneficial. Japanese Knotweed is growing here.

Proposed management- removal of specific trees which are encroaching on to the route and control of Japanese Knotweed.



ALDER ROAD to
EAST PRESCOT ROAD





The Trees



Sycamore



Goat Willow



Ash

Description – Here, the route becomes more open, some thinning and crown raising would improve visibility allow greater light levels to reach the woodland floor encouraging natural regeneration of new trees and better growth of woodland flowers. There is Laurel and Japanese Knotweed growing in this area.

Proposed management- To thin trees throughout the woodland and crown raise trees adjacent to the path. Control Japanese Knotweed and clear Laurel.



Section 18



**EAST PRESCOT ROAD
to THOMAS DRIVE**



The Trees



Sycamore



Goat Willow



Sessile Oak



Ash

Description – This is an area of younger native woodland which is establishing well. It is set back from the path providing an open feel.

Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only



Section 19



THOMAS DRIVE to
BROAD GREEN STATION





Description – This section of the path is more mature than the previous section and areas are beginning to encroach onto the path. Mature specimen trees could be freed from competition to ensure their longevity and enhance their appearance.

Proposed management- To remove trees which are encroaching onto the path and to open up more mature specimen trees.



**BROAD GREEN STATION
to LANFRANC WAY**

The Trees



Sycamore



Ash



Goat Willow



Sessile Oak



Poplar



The Trees



Sycamore



White Willow



Sessile Oak



Birch



Description – The trees here are set back from the path providing an open feel. Gaps in the woodland provide views into parkland and the countryside beyond.

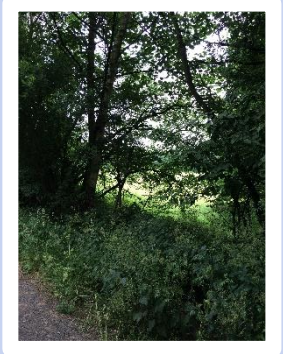
Proposed Management- Health and safety and maintenance works only



Section 21



LANFRANC WAY
to WELL LANE



Description - This section of the path feels relatively closed in, glimpses through the vegetation to the north-east, show open views across parkland would be realised if some of the trees were crown raised

Proposed management - Crown raise trees adjacent to the path to open up views to the north-east



The Trees





Description – This is a diverse and mature woodland. In some areas the trees are overcrowded and are encroaching on to the path. There is laurel growing among the trees which is supressing the growth of native plants. Mature specimen trees could be opened up to improve their health and appearance.

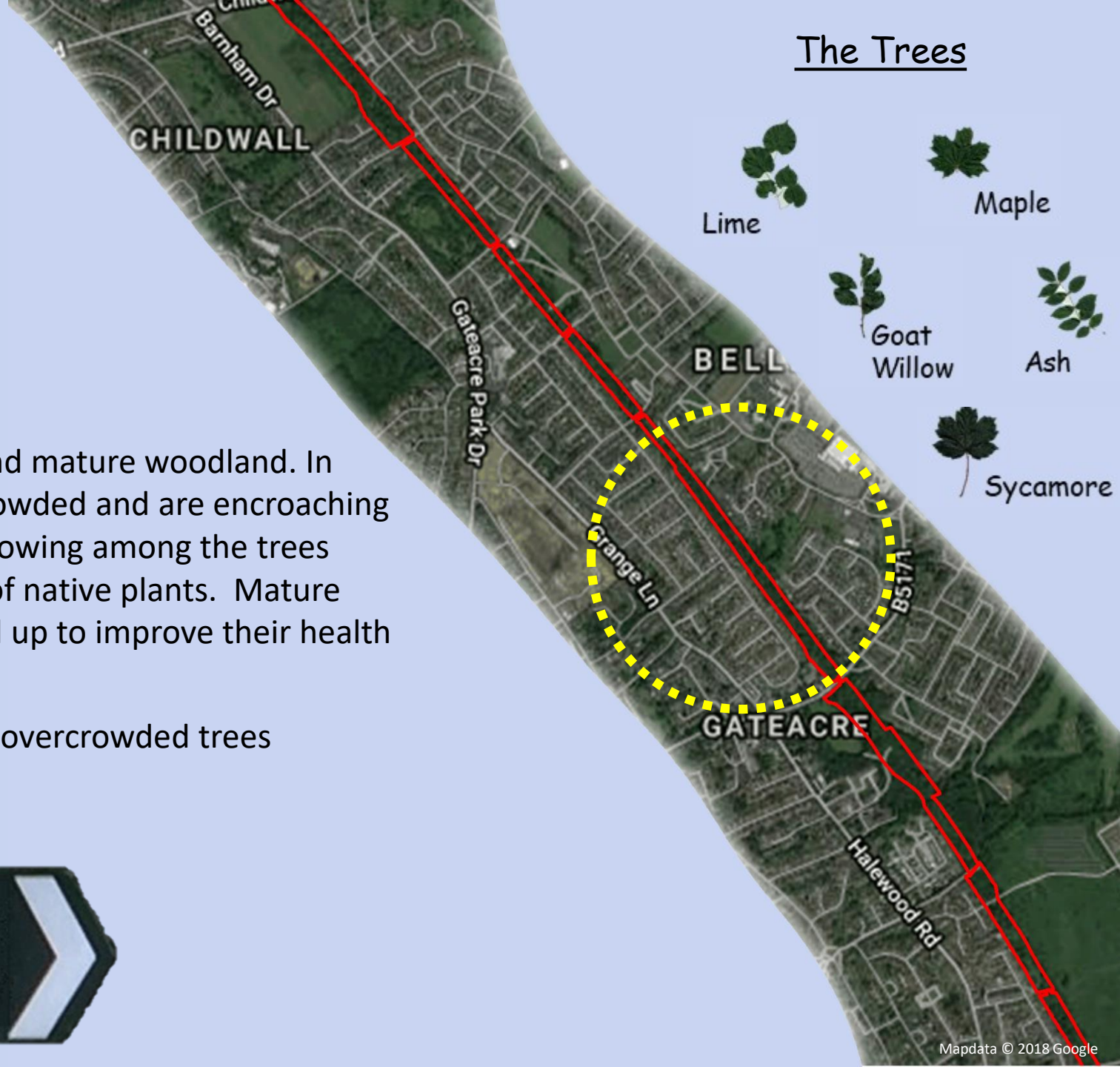
Proposed management- To thin overcrowded trees and remove Laurel.



Section 23



GRANGEMEADOW
ROAD to
BELLE VALE ROAD



The Trees





Description – This is an area of mature mixed broadleaved woodland. It is beginning to encroach on the path creating a closed in feel. Where trees pose a safety risk, ivy is preventing adequate tree inspection, so it will have to be removed in these cases. However, in general, Ivy will be retained for its biodiversity value.

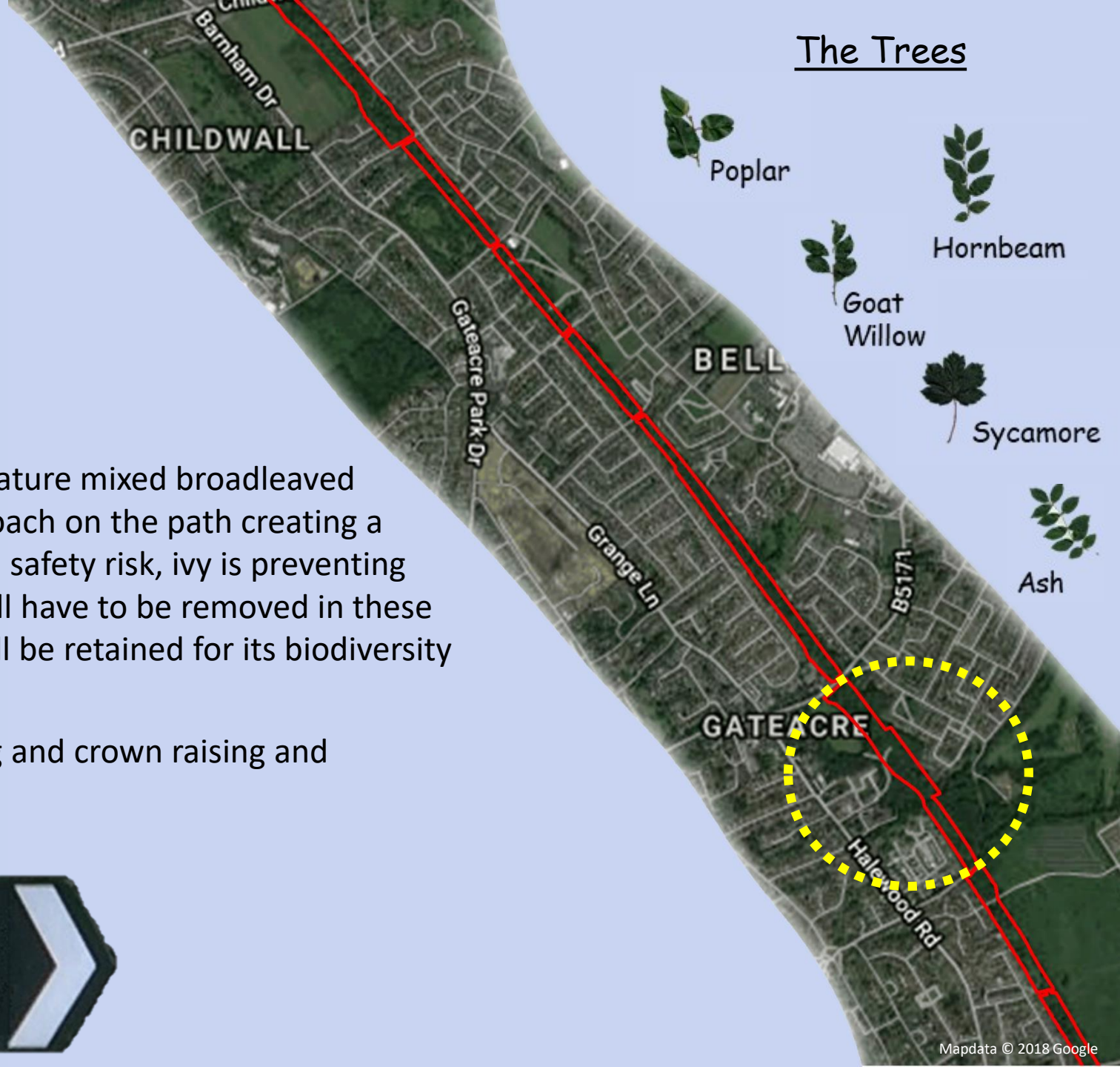
Proposed Management- Thinning and crown raising and some Ivy removal.



Section 24



BELLE VALE ROAD
to MERRIVALE ROAD



The Trees

- Poplar
- Hornbeam
- Goat Willow
- Sycamore
- Ash

The Trees



Goat Willow



Birch



Sycamore



Description – A mature established woodland with the potential to improve views to open countryside to the east.

Proposed Management- Health and safety work, maintenance works, and pruning to open up vistas.

