

Woodland Restoration Plan

Dob Syke,
Bleachcroft Lane

Harron Homes

ER-4066-09a

Report Reference:	Woodland Restoration Plan Dob Syke, Bleachcroft Way
Report Reference:	R-4066-09a
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Technical review:	Rob Weston BSc MSc MCIEEM Technical Director
Approved for issue:	Peter Brooks BSc (Hons), MA, MCIEEM, CEnv Managing Director
Date: Updated to new layout and time-scale	30.03.2022 03.01.2023

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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Background

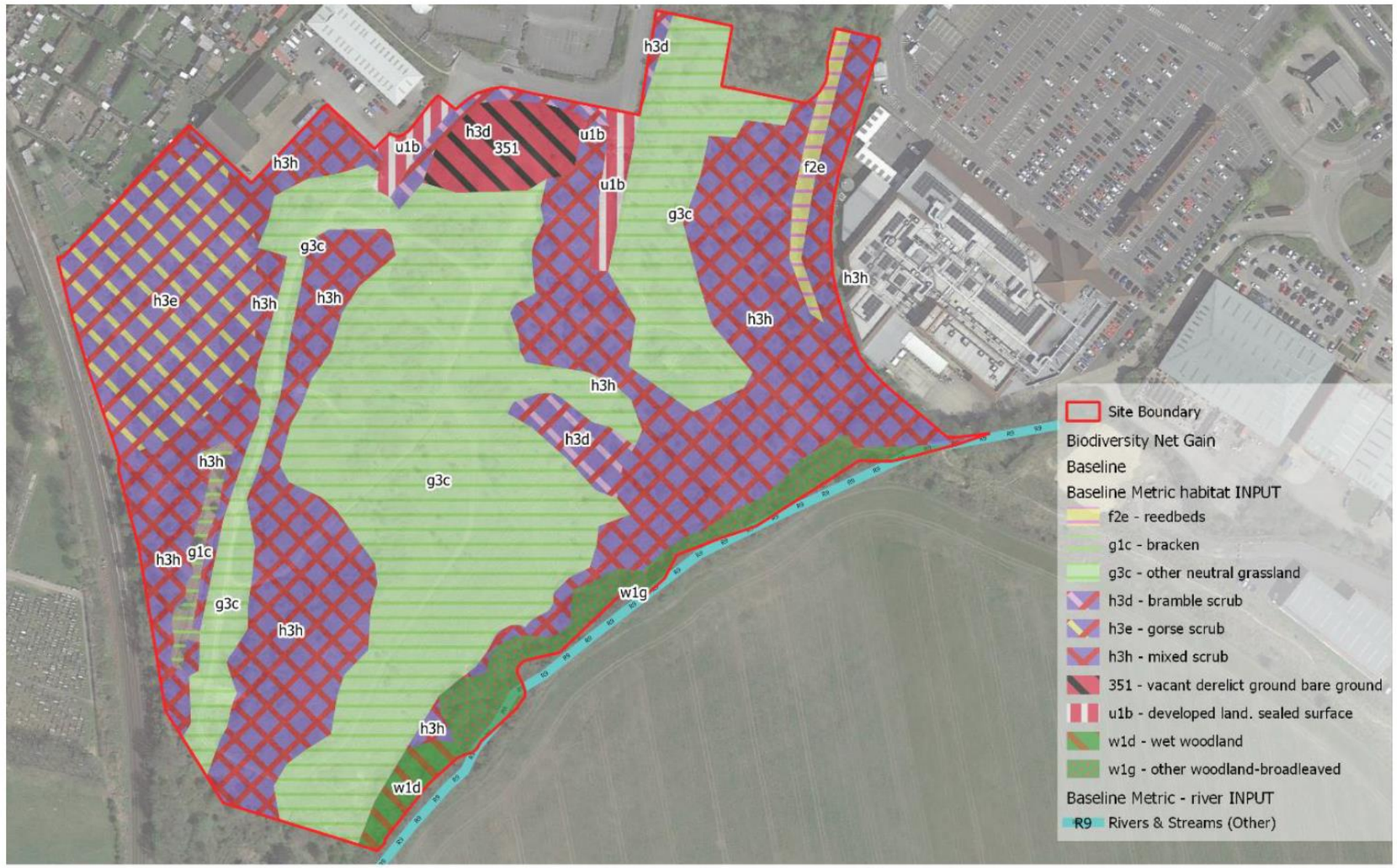
Brooks Ecological was asked to produce a Woodland Restoration Plan in response to the accidental clearance of an area of riparian woodland .

The woodland can be seen fringing Dob Syke in an extract of our EcIA mapping shown opposite.

In surveys informing the Barnsley Local Plan carried out in 2013 the woodland had been assigned as Wet Woodland throughout,. However our surveys refined this position and mapped the area as shown opposite–a position agreed with Barnsley's Conservation Officer Trevor Mayne in a Site Meeting on 4th October 2021.

This area is referred to in the document as the Woodland Restoration Area (WRA).

Figure 4.1 The Site's habitats



Background

The Woodland Restoration Plan aligns with the proposed landscape master plan shown opposite 498-PL-001-U-Bleachcroft Site Layout.

The Woodland Restoration Area (WRA) is clearly defined (yellow hatch) in this plan.

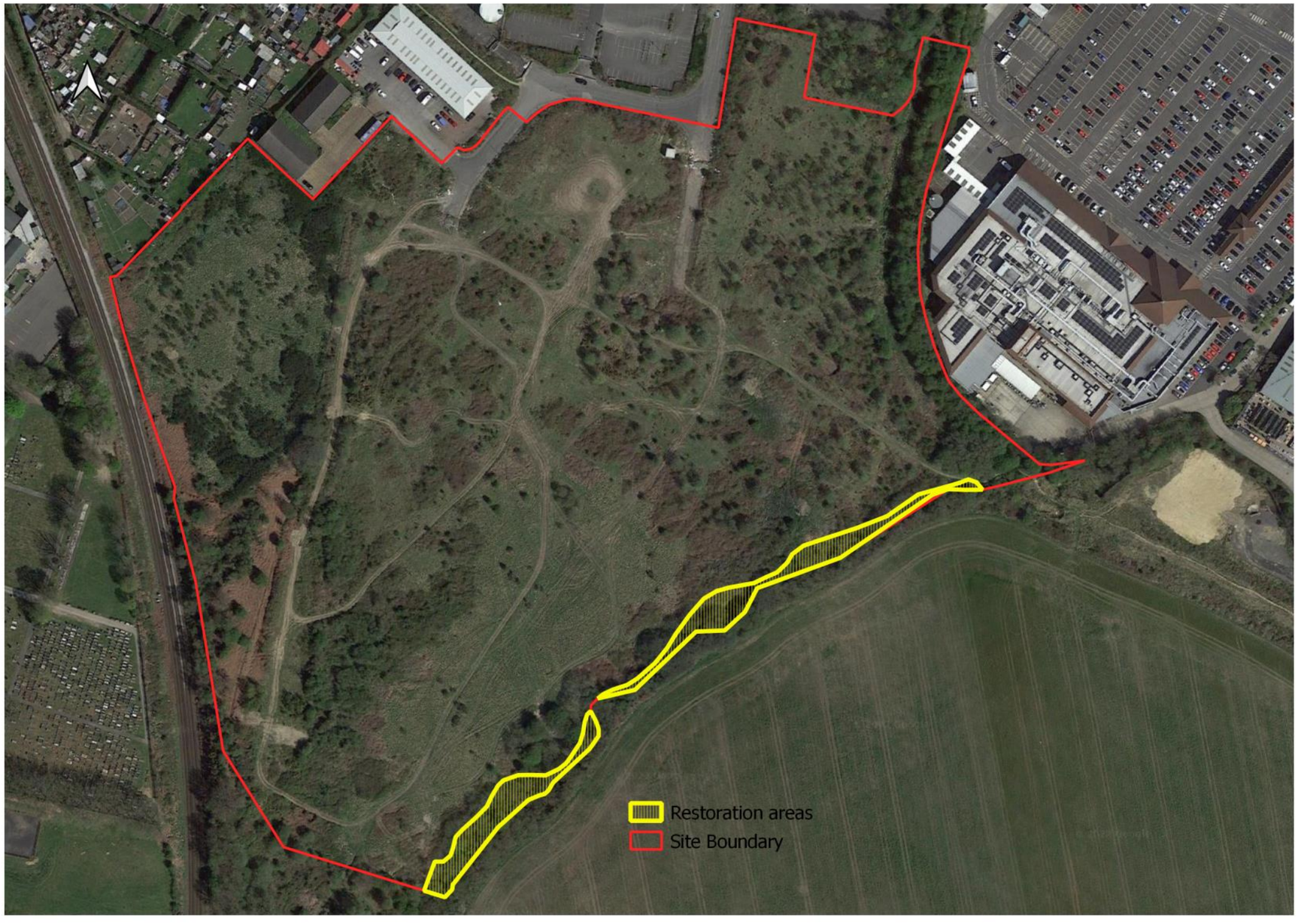
Central to the success of this plan is the use of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). An ECoW must be a suitability qualified and experienced professional ecologist with membership of CIEEM.



Defining the WRA

The area subject to this plan is hatched in yellow

This runs up to the centre line of Dob Syke.



WRA Assessment March 2022

The site was visited by Peter Brooks on 28.03.22. Peter has over twenty years experience of restoration ecology including, grassland, upland, riparian and woodland habitats.

The site was found to be cleared of woodland for the most part right up to the channel of Dob Syke. The clearance appears to have been carried out by a mulching machine on flatter areas with some hand sawn evidence in places.

Despite extensive loss of woody material, for the most part root plates remain in place and soil damage is restricted to localised surface scarring and minor compaction from machines.

There is significant evidence of recovery of the original field layer flora with dog's mercury, locally conspicuous and scattered lords and ladies.

It is however noteworthy that competitive weed species and invasive non-native weed himalayan balsam are present and these will thrive at the expense of the woodland flora following the soil disruption and the sudden availability of high light levels.

Without intervention species poor, competitive scrub will overtake native flora and the value of the woodland will be significantly denuded.

Key measures required to restore the woodland are:

- Protection from further damage
- Sensitive treatment of weed problem

Measures to enhance long term value of woodland are:

- Localised over-deepening of depressions to make wetter areas
- Diversifying the tree and shrub species though planting









WRA Assessment 2023

Due to the time elapsed since the original conception of this plan an early stage review of the Site conditions will be required.

This will be carried out early in 2023 with a Site Inspection Report produced detailing any additional actions required to achieve baseline conditions for entry into this plan in 2023.

Action and certificate 0.0 Ground reshaping 2023

There is with the removal of vegetation an opportunity to create more depressions which will fill with water and in due course create a larger area of wet woodland.

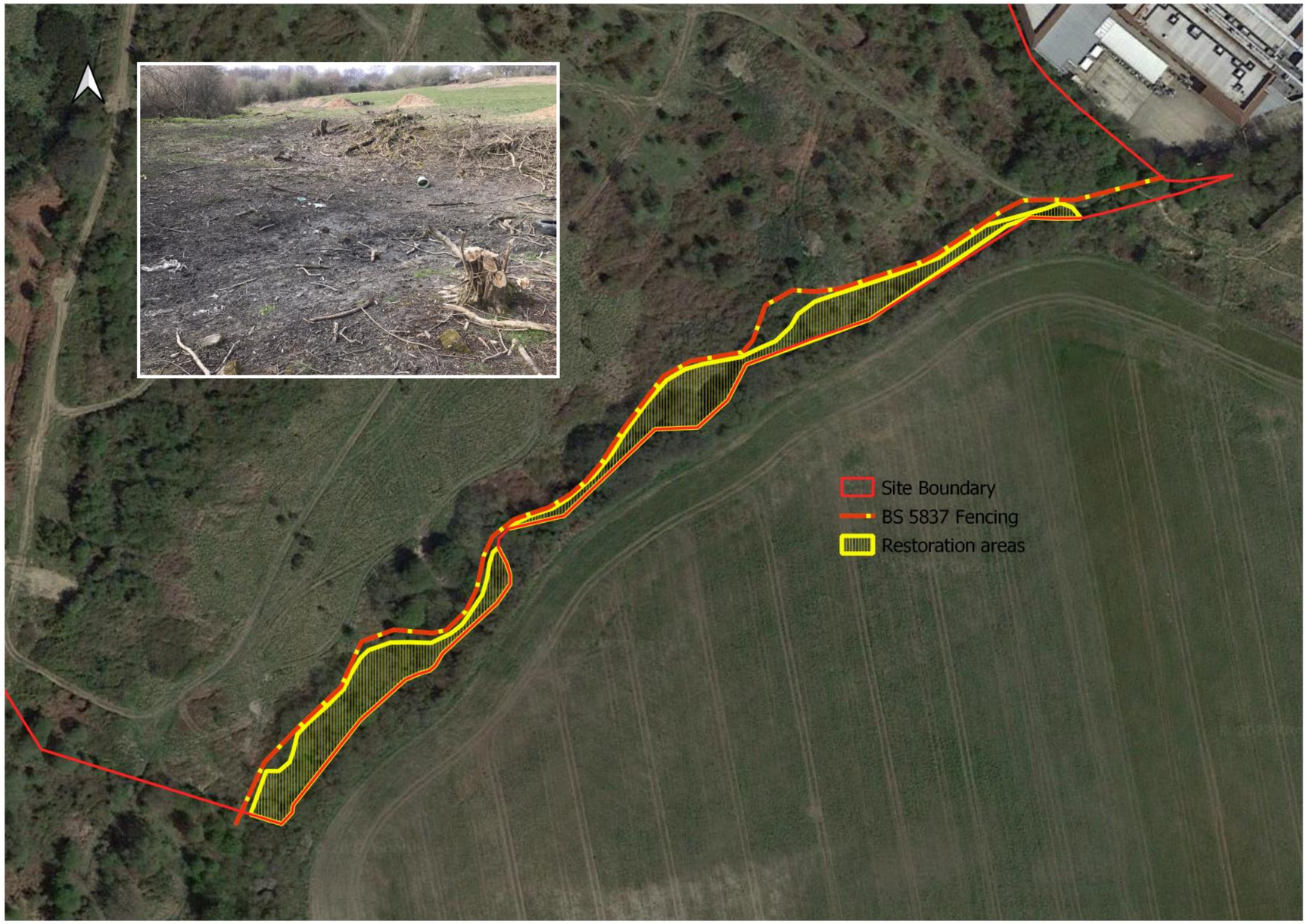
Under ECoW instruction pocket depressions will be created where the opportunity is available as read by ground conditions targeting existing low lying areas that will naturally fill with water. These will be to a maximum depth of 0.5m and formed with shallow sloping sides.

Due to the presence of Himalayan balsam soil will be scraped from these areas will be stockpiled in the Redline area and either subject to weed treatment by the existing on site weed treatment contractor or taken off site for disposal at a licenced facility.

It is anticipated that these works require a small excavator and dumper for one day plus 1 day ECoW supervision.

Carried out as soon as permitted in 2023.

Once is completed to ECoW satisfaction certificate 0.0 with photographic record is submitted to BMBC.



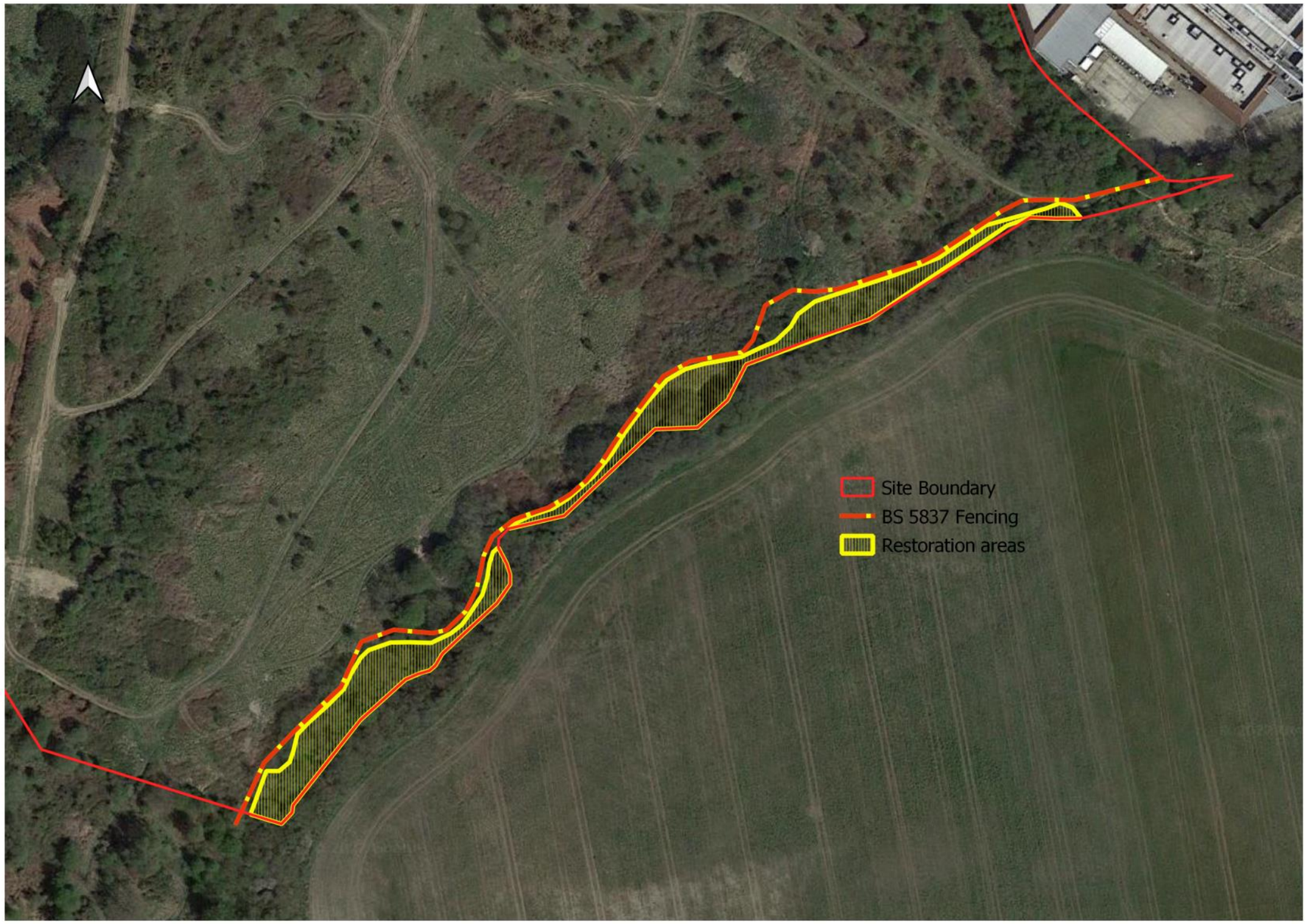
Action 1.0 WRA protection 2023

Prior to any redline Site preparation or archaeological works commencing (other than action 0.0 as preceding page) full BS5837 Fencing will be installed.

Corrective actions needed following inspection will be communicated through ECoW commentary. Once all work is is completed to ECoW satisfaction certificate 1.0 submitted to BMBC.

It will be a requirement that this certificate be obtained before any other machinery is taken on to site.

This fence will stay in place for the duration of the construction phase of the development site and be removed only after all threat of accidental construction damage has passed.





Action 2.0-2.2 Weed control 2023-2025

Starting in growing season 2023 the whole restoration area will be subject to weed control comprising a combination of ECow directed strimming and hand pulling.

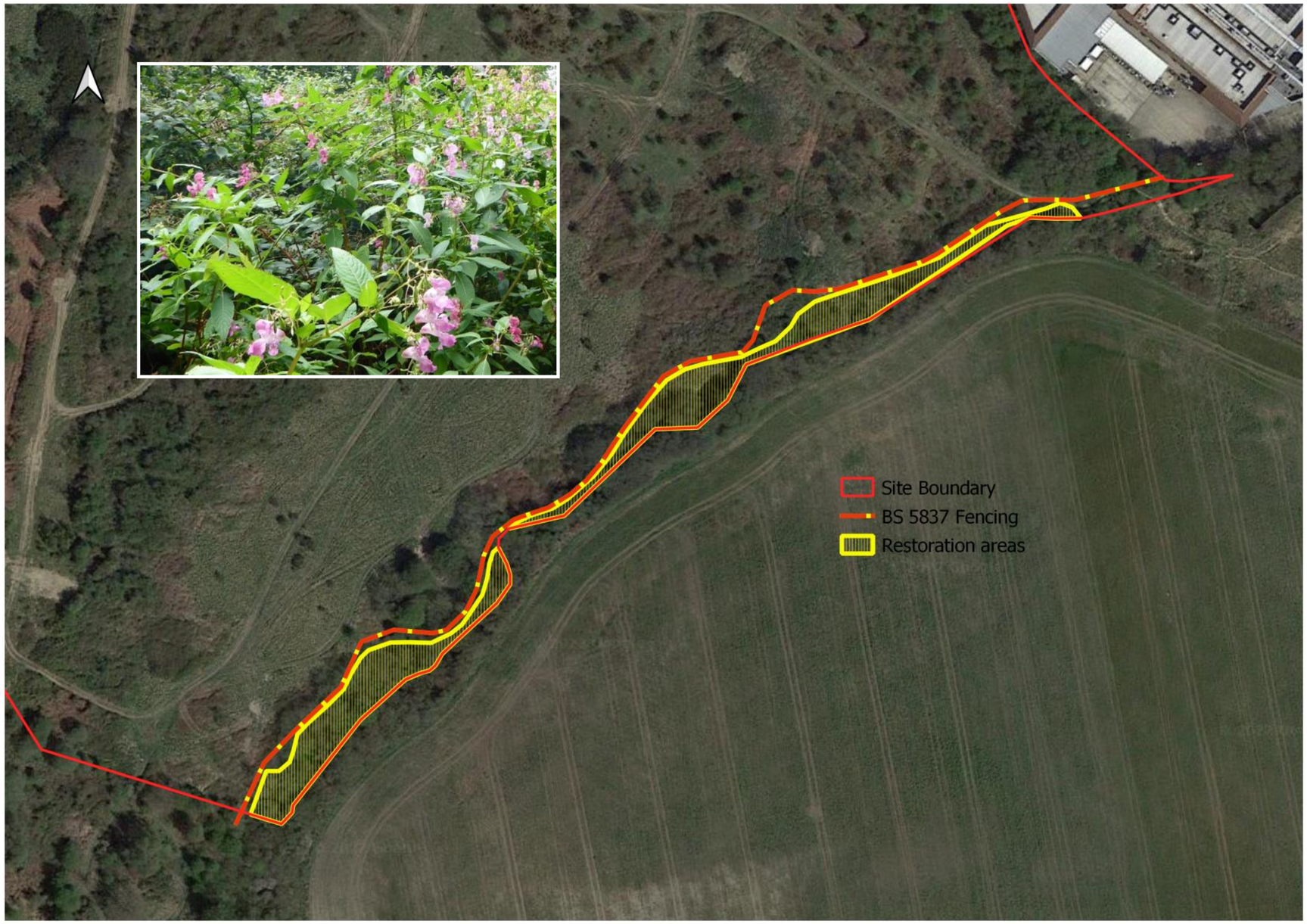
Targeted strimming will also be directed by the ECoW over extensive areas of undesirable but native competitive weed species.

Herbicide use will **not be permitted** in the Restoration areas as this will kill off the target woodland flora. This will be let as a special contract separate from any pre-existing weed control contract. Any weed treatment inside the redline but outside of the yellow hatch will continue by non specialist contractor without ECoW supervision.

Once 2023 treatment cycle is completed to ECoW satisfaction certificate 2.0 submitted to BMBC.

Treatment as part of this restoration plan will continue through season 2023-2024. Certificates 2.1 and 2.2 produced respectively.

Ongoing in perpetuity management will be set out in the developments Biodiversity Management Plan



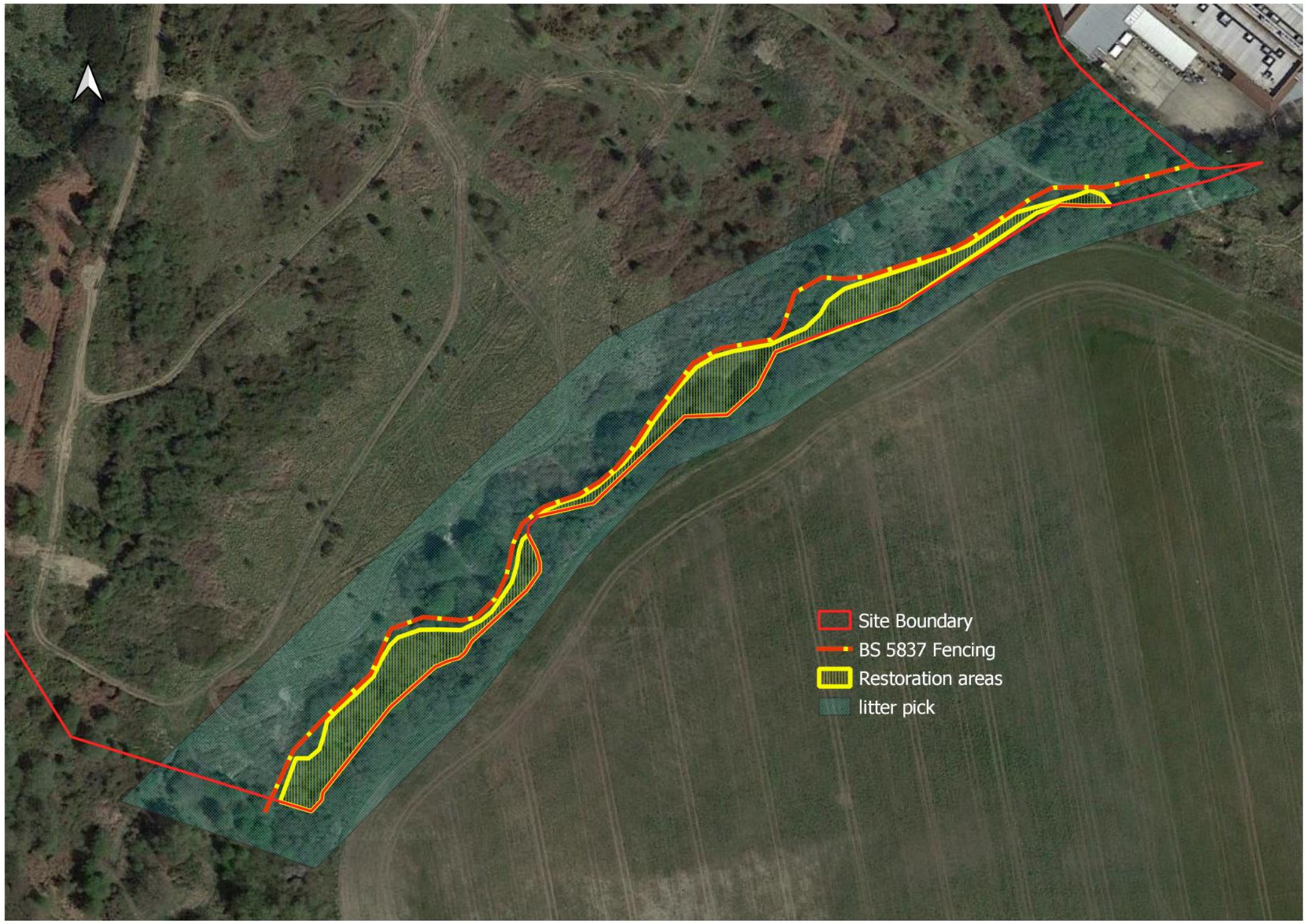
Action 3.0 Litter pick 2023

The whole WRA and land surrounding it in the blue hatch will be subject to a 'deep clean' with all litter and alien materials removed. Waste will be taken off site and disposed off correctly.

The litter pick will be carried out as soon as permitted in 2023.

Corrective actions needed following inspection will be communicated through ECoW commentary. Once all work is is completed to ECoW satisfaction certificate 3.0 submitted to BMBC.





Action 4.0 Planting 2023-24

A contract will be let to diversify the WRA by planting from

Alder (Alnus glutinosus), Alder buckthorn (Rhamnus catharticus), Aspen (Populus tremulens), Honeysuckle (Lonicera pericylmenum).

200 no. woodland field layer Plugs will be micro-sited by an ECoW from:

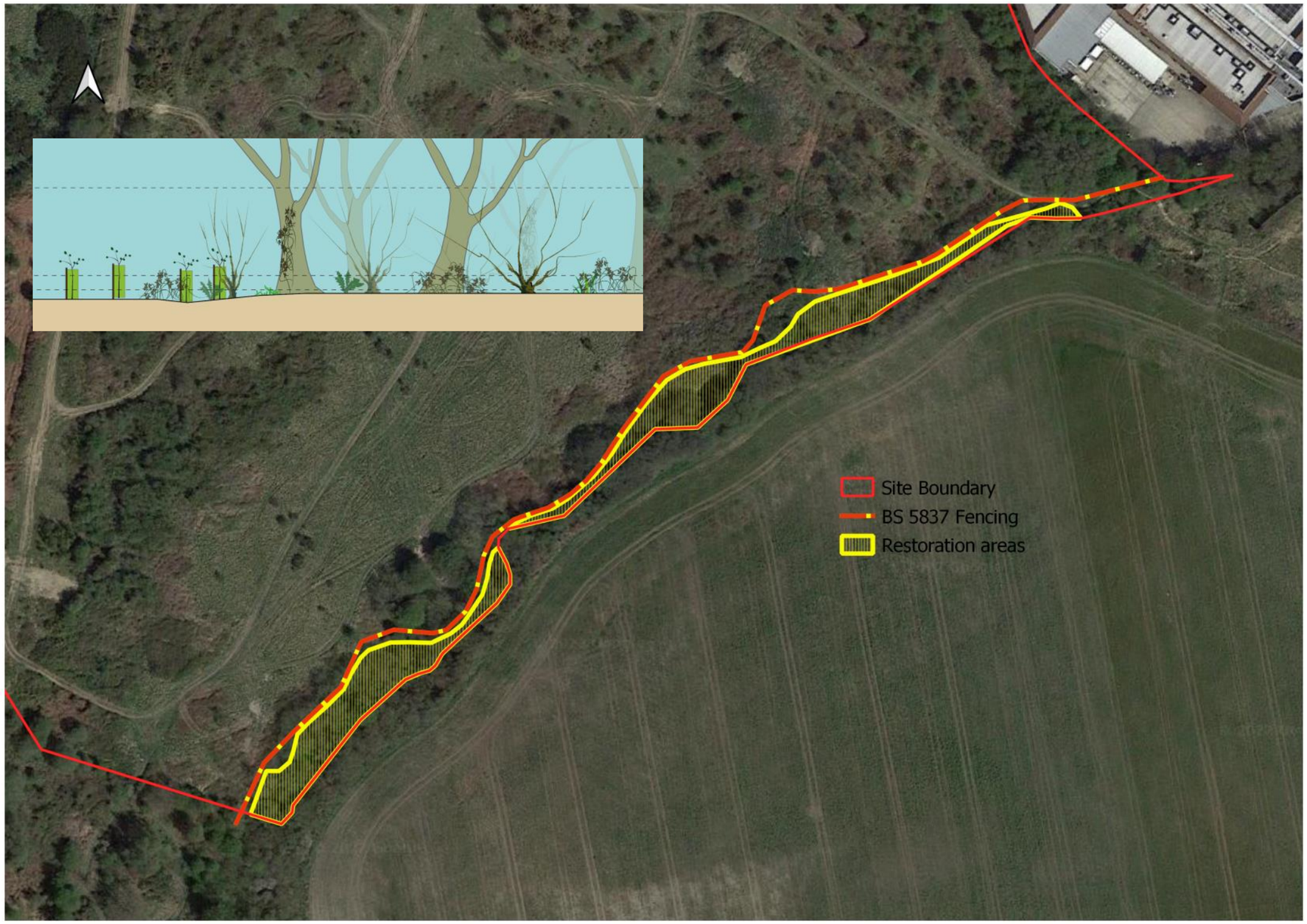
Primrose (Primula vulgaris), Marsh marigold (Caltha palustris), greater stichwort (Stellaria holosteum) and wood sedge (Carex sylvatica) or to ECoW specification.

Following planting to ECoW satisfaction certificate 4.0 submitted to BMBC.

The vegetation will be subject to 2 years establishment maintenance, directed and verified by the ECoW. The aims being to ensure 75% successful establishment of all planting through weed suppression and replacement of failed planting stations. The ECoW will make a call on which stations can be kept weed free using herbicide and which station this is not permitted based on ground flora.

Certificate 4.1 issued after successful establishment in 2024/25.

Ongoing in-perpetuity management will be set out in the developments Biodiversity Management Plan.



Ecological Clerk of Works Schedule

Action	2023 Jan	feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2024 Jan	feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Jan	feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pre-start update																																				
Submit SIR confirming update actions																																				
Action 0.0 Reshaping																																				
Certificate 0.0 submitted																																				
Action 1.0 Fencing																																				
Certificate 1.1 submitted																																				
Action 2.0 Weed treatment																																				
Certificate 2.0 submitted																																				
Action 2.1 Weed treatment																																				
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Action 2.2 Weed treatment																																				
Certificate 2.2 submitted																																				
Action 3.0 Litter pick																																				
Certificate 3.0 submitted																																				
Action 4.0 Planting																																				
Certificate 4.0 submitted																																				
Action 4.1 Planting Establishment																																				
Certificate 4.1 submitted																																				