

WOODLAND ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

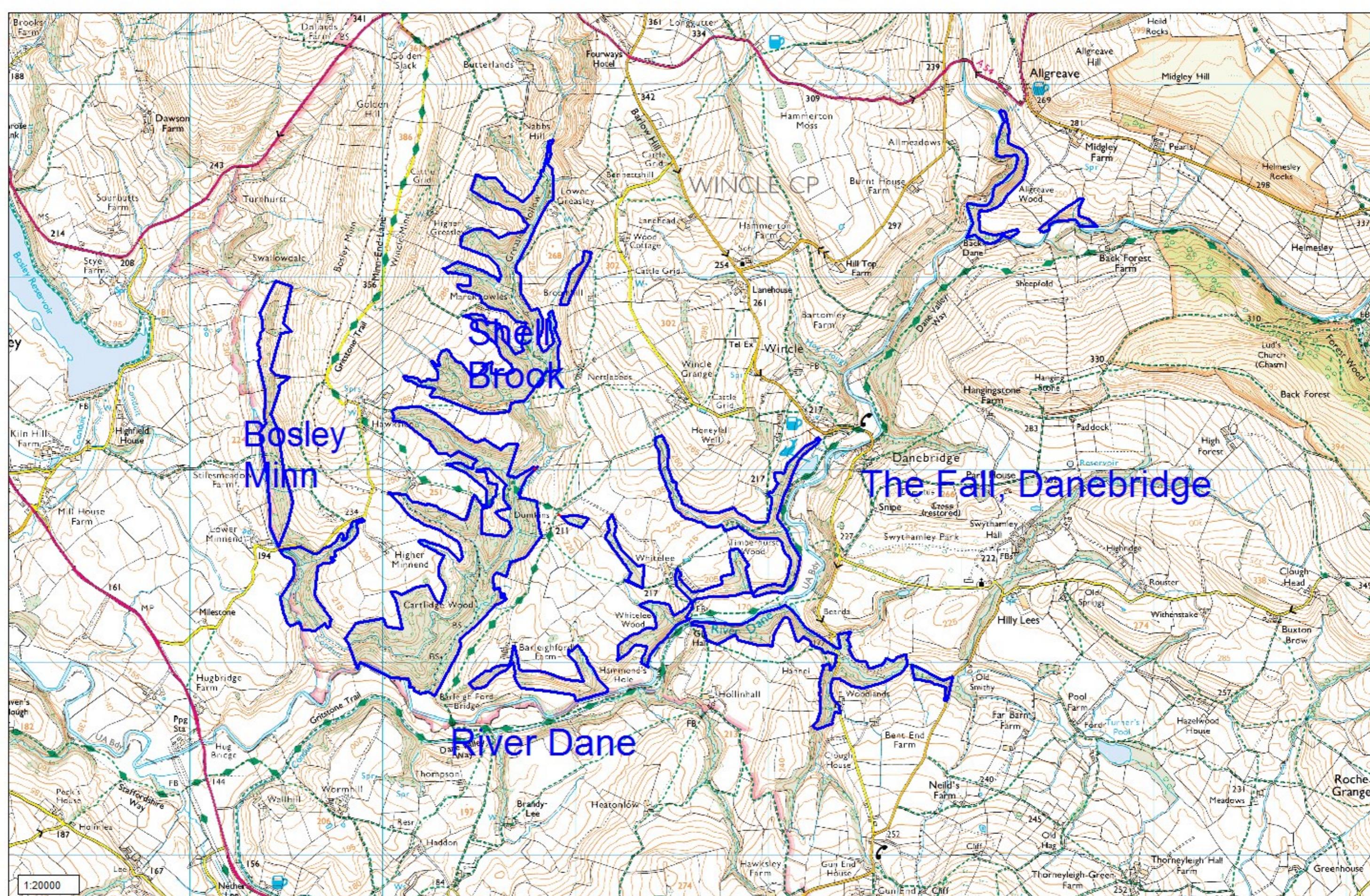
Many of the woodlands in the Dane Valley have not been managed for years. In order to enhance their value for wildlife and the landscape some sort of management is necessary.

The objective is to:

- Enhance the structure of the woodland by allowing the development of a rich ground flora and shrub layer
- Increase the habitat available for woodland birds, fungi, invertebrates and other wildlife
- Steer the development of the woodland towards a type native to this area.
- Encourage the development of a sustainable woodland resource with the potential to provide a source of firewood and contribute positively to the carbon economy.

In most locations the aim is not to exclude deer but to enhance the habitat available to them and so spread the pressure on the woodland.

A number of different actions have been implemented including thinning, exclusion of agricultural animals, bracken and rhododendron control. In selected small scale areas deer are also being excluded. These actions are being supported by grant aid from the Forestry Commission and Natural England.



Thinning

Over 100ha of woodland are being thinned to allow light to penetrate to the woodland floor and stimulate the development of a shrub layer and a diverse ground flora.

- Non-native trees are preferentially removed to encourage the development of a native woodland type;
- A proportion (sometimes all) of the felled timber is left to rot down slowly providing a habitat for invertebrates and fungi;
- Some trees are ring barked rather than felled to create standing dead and dying wood of value to nesting and feeding birds, invertebrates and fungi. In addition, and for the same reasons, tree stumps are felled at a variety of heights to provide standing dead wood.
- Brash is used to protect cut stems from browsing animals and encourage regeneration and the development of a shrub layer. Brash piles are also important for nesting birds.



Hung stems/tall stumps: good for wildlife

Thinning in Cartlidge Wood

Ring barked sycamore