Green Infrastructure Statement

Site: 1 Laurel Cottages, Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, Llangollen, LL20 7NE

Development: Change of use of land to form access and parking for property

[redacted]

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) has been prepared in support of the above retrospective planning appeal in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, October 2023). It sets out how green infrastructure has been considered, protected, and enhanced as part of the development.

2. Site Context

The site forms part of a small parcel of secondary woodland adjoining a single-track country lane serving the rural community of Garth. The driveway occupies less than 5% of the designated woodland plot. The remaining woodland area remains untouched. There are no watercourses on or near the site. The land slopes naturally towards the lane.

3. Existing Vegetation and Works Undertaken

Approximately 5 metres of mixed hedgerow (laurel, sycamore and holly) were removed to create safe roadside access. The remaining 12 metres of hedgerow were retained in full, and root balls from removed trees were placed behind this hedgerow to encourage natural regeneration.

Within the footprint of the driveway, approximately five immature sycamore trees and one willow tree were removed by a reputable local tree surgeon. Some disturbance to topsoil and ground flora occurred only within the driveway boundary. No trees or vegetation were removed from the remaining woodland area.

4. Ecology

Two ecological site visits were undertaken at different times of year. Both confirmed that no protected fauna or flora were present on the plot and that the affected area represented low ecological value secondary woodland edge habitat.

5. Drainage and Surface Water

The driveway is constructed using a fully permeable hardcore surface, topped with non-slip ground protection matting. This approach was taken following advice from the local planning authority prior to works commencing. There is no engineered drainage infrastructure either on the site or on the surrounding highway network. Surface water disperses naturally due to the site's elevated position, and the development does not increase runoff or flood risk.

6. Green Infrastructure Enhancements

Significant planting and habitat enhancement has been undertaken since the works were completed, delivering a large biodiversity net gain.

Native hedgerow planting has been introduced across the full frontage of the woodland to the north of the driveway, and along all of the boundaries of the woodland and my adjoining rear woodland garden, which comprises of:

- 18 Dog Rose

- 18 Hawthorn

- 18 Hazel

- 18 Crab Apple

- 18 Dogwood

Additional tree planting has taken place, mainly within a clearing at the top of the woodland, but some have been spread around the woodland, garden and boundaries:

- 10 Silver Birch

- 10 Rowan

- 10 Wild Cherry

These plantings more than compensate for the limited tree removal required for the driveway.

Please see attached site maps for planting that has been undertake.

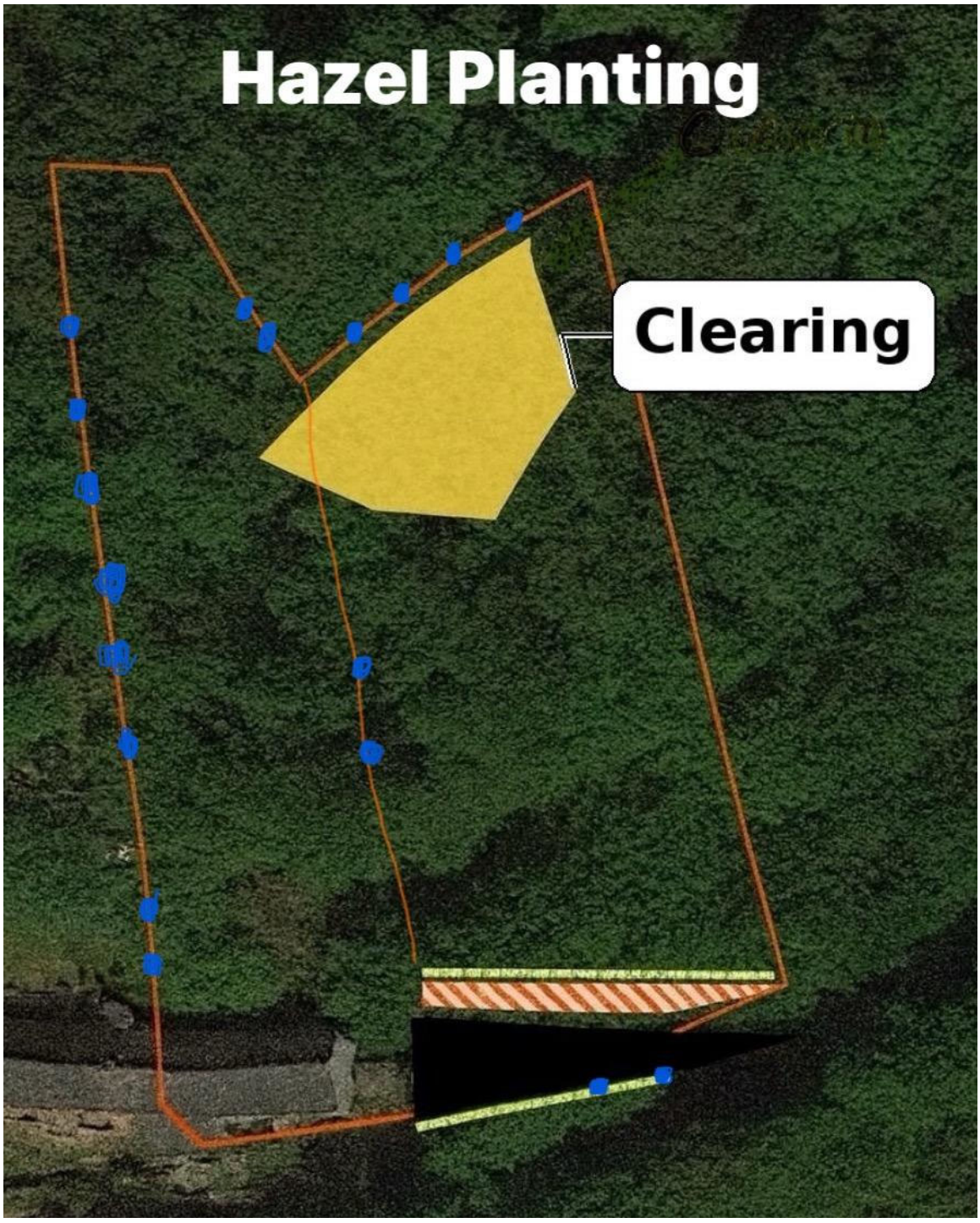
Further enhancements include the installation of a wildlife pond in my garden, adjacent to the woodland, and 2 years of natural regeneration of the driveway banking, which now supports wildflowers and mining bee habitat.

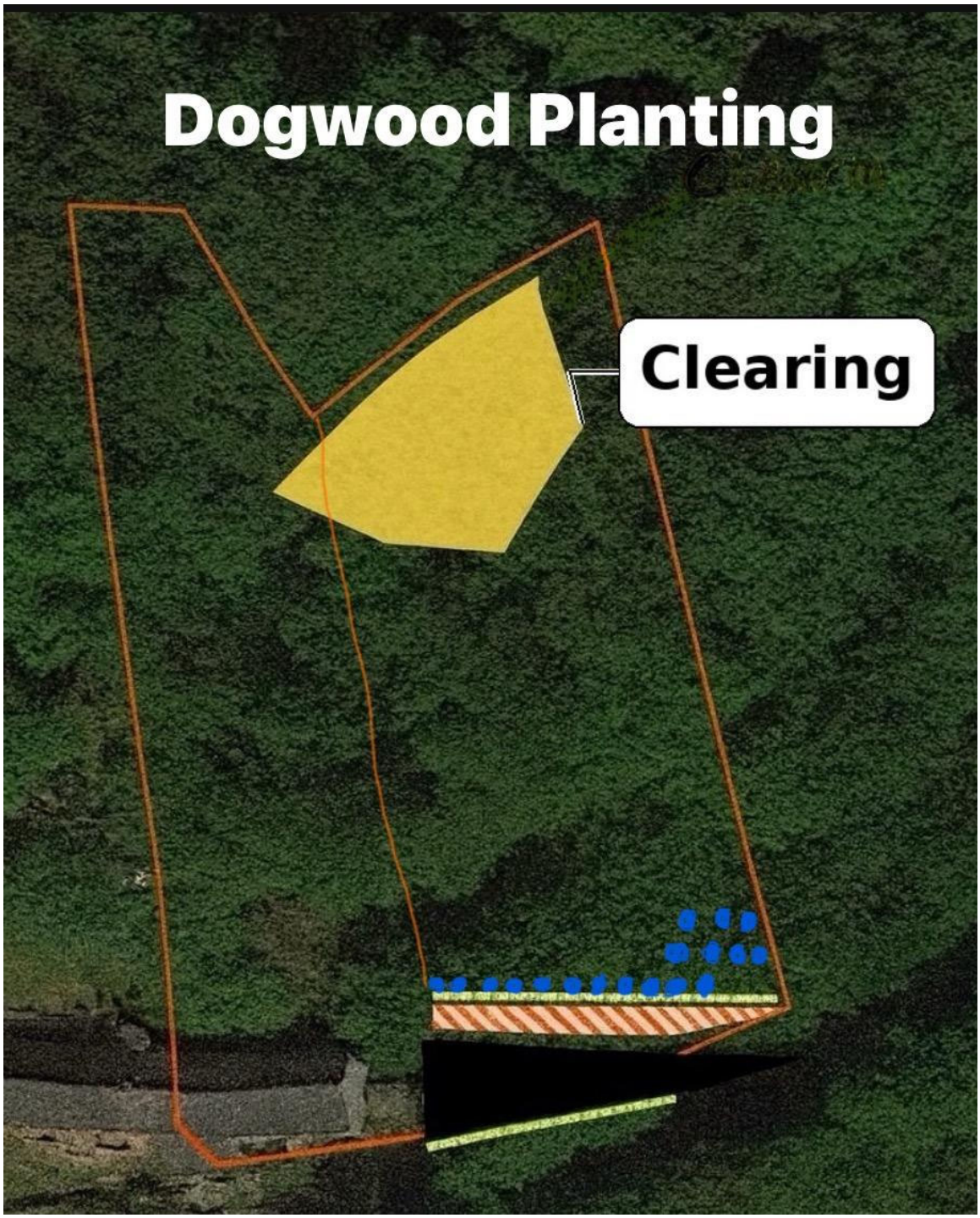
7. Assessment Against Green Infrastructure Principles

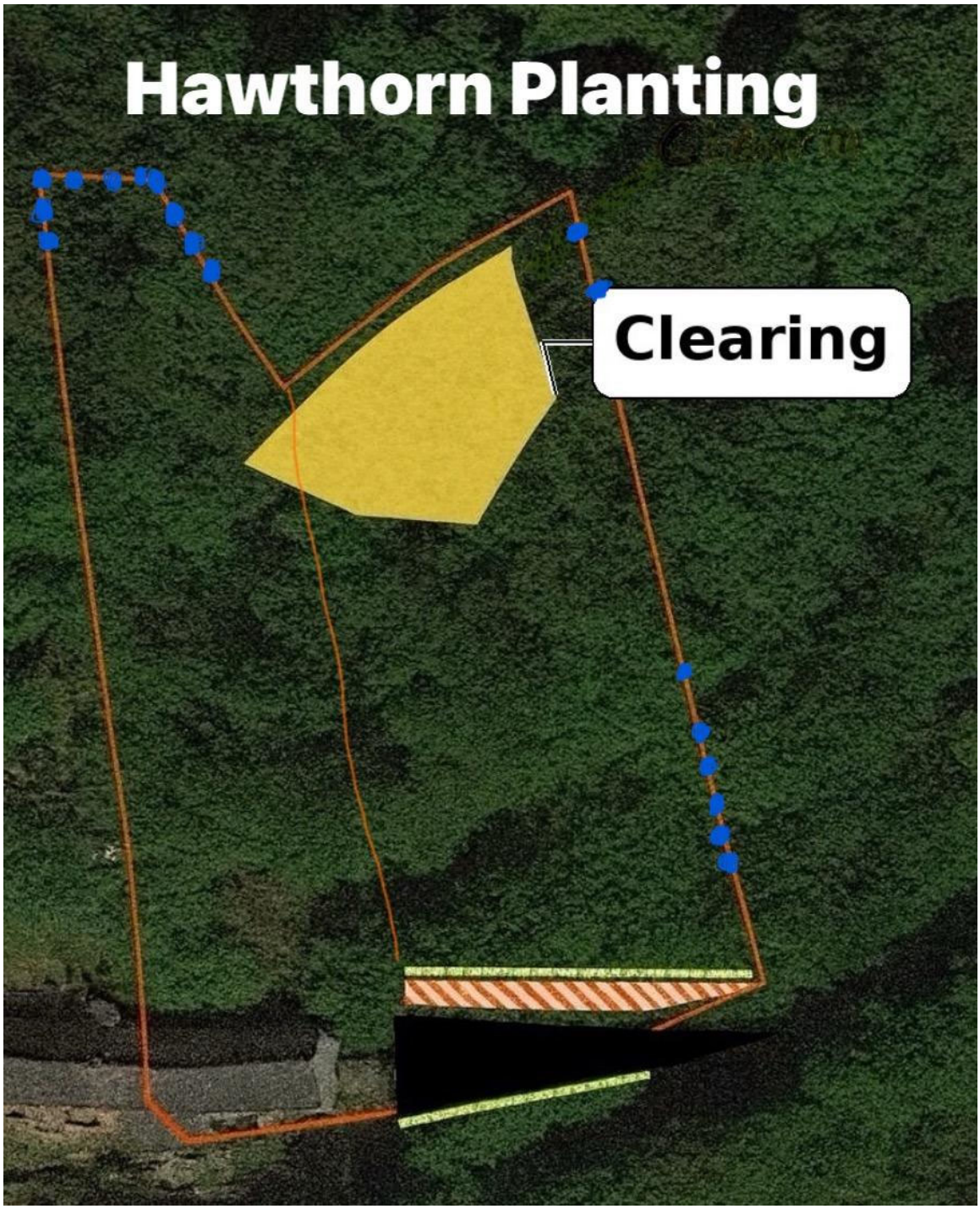
The development avoids impacts on the core woodland, retains permeability and preserves ecological connectivity. All impacts have been mitigated and overcompensated through planting and habitat creation for all types of wildlife. The proposal results in a net enhancement of green infrastructure value.

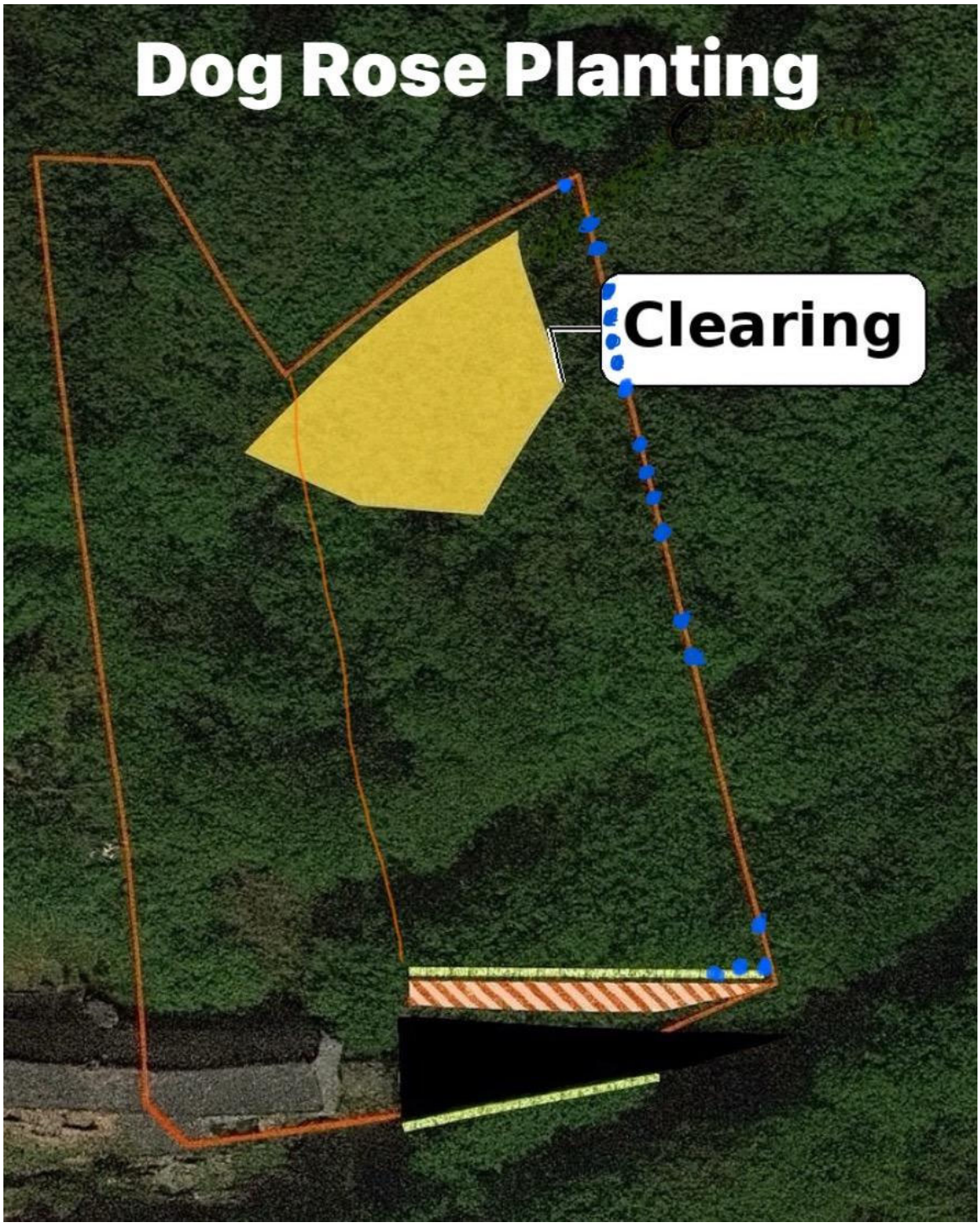
8. Conclusion

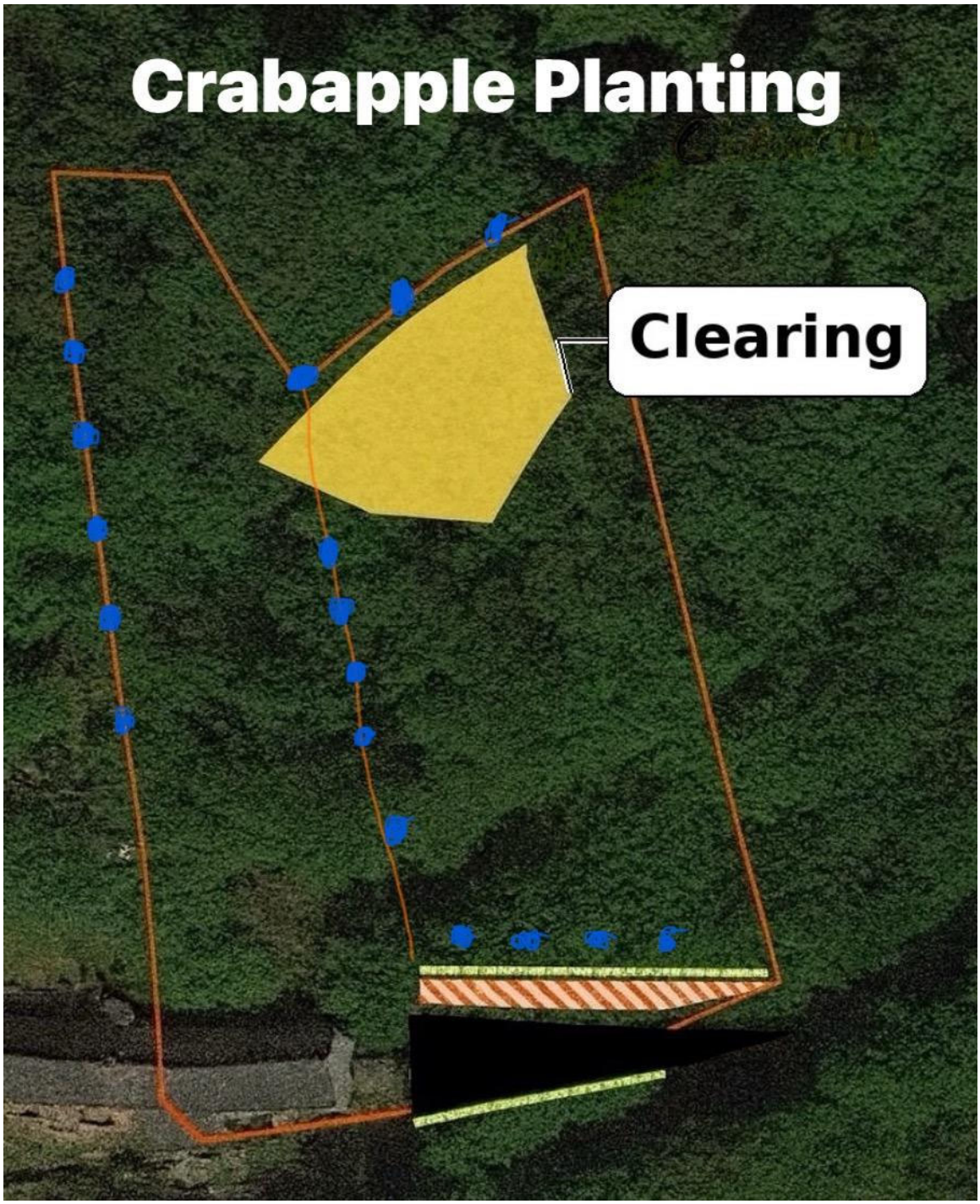
The driveway has had limited and localised ecological impact and has been supported by extensive mitigation and enhancement measures. The proposal complies with Planning Policy Wales requirements and demonstrates responsible stewardship of the land while enabling safe access to the dwelling.

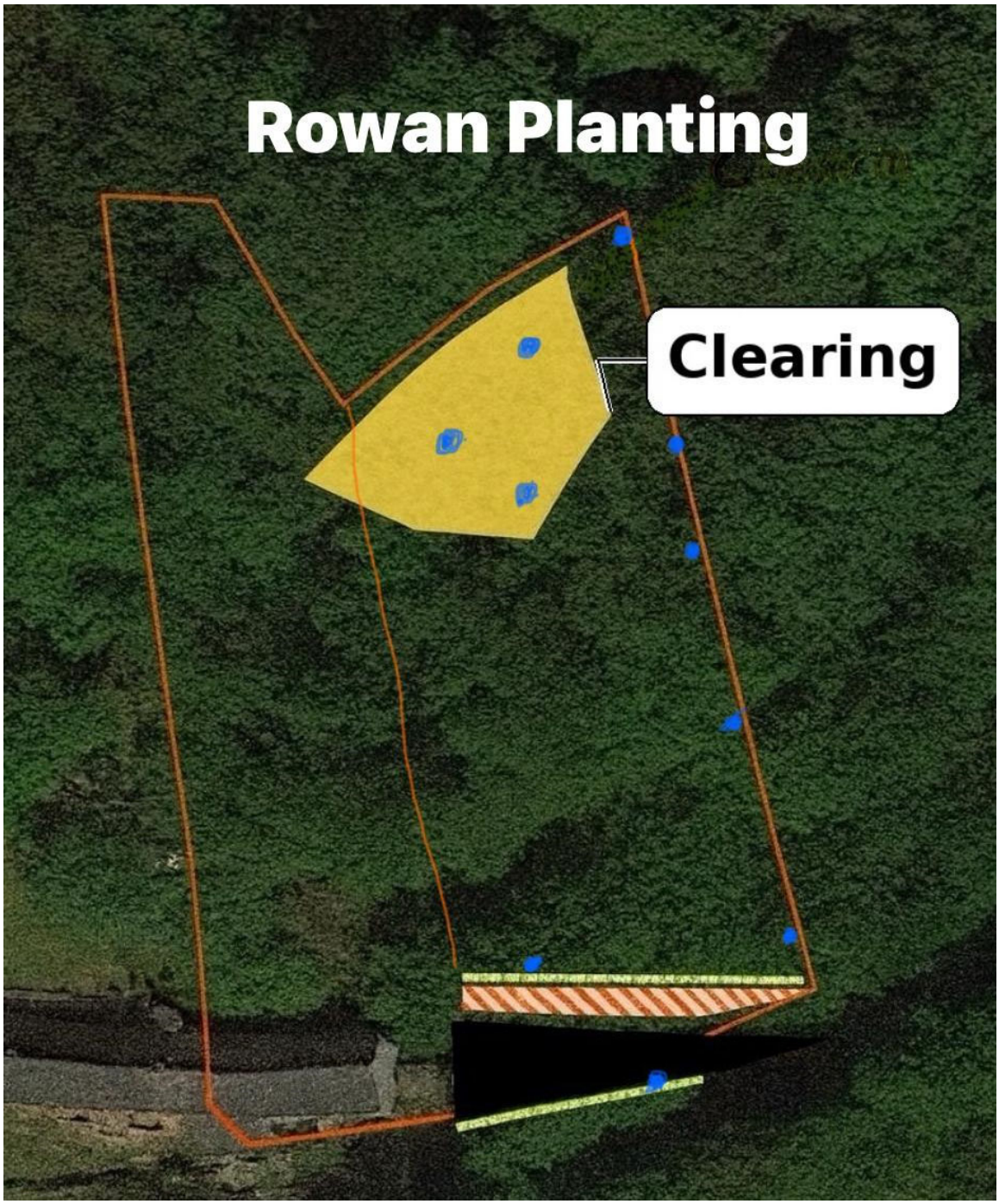

Hazel Planting
Clearing

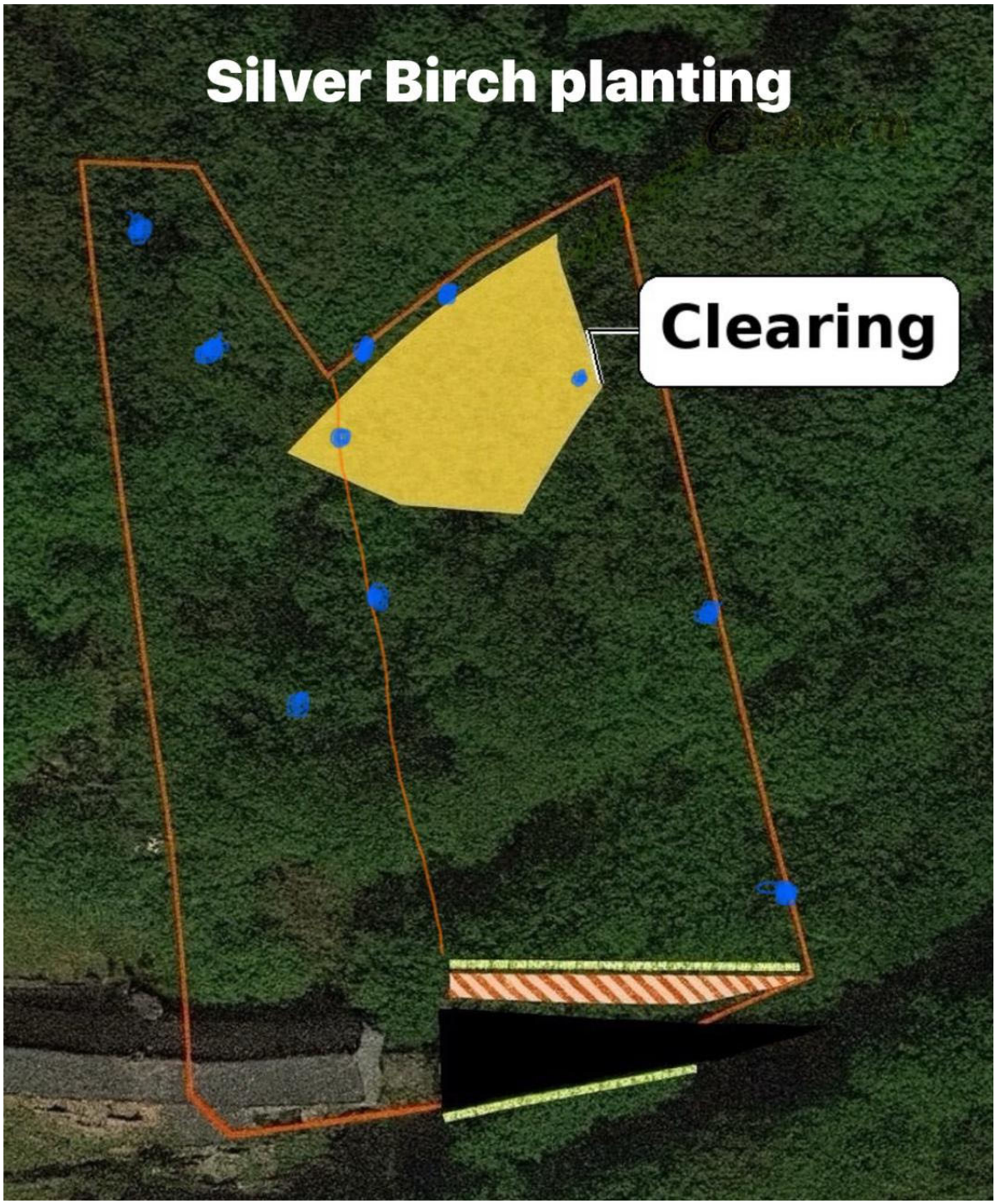

Dogwood Planting
Clearing

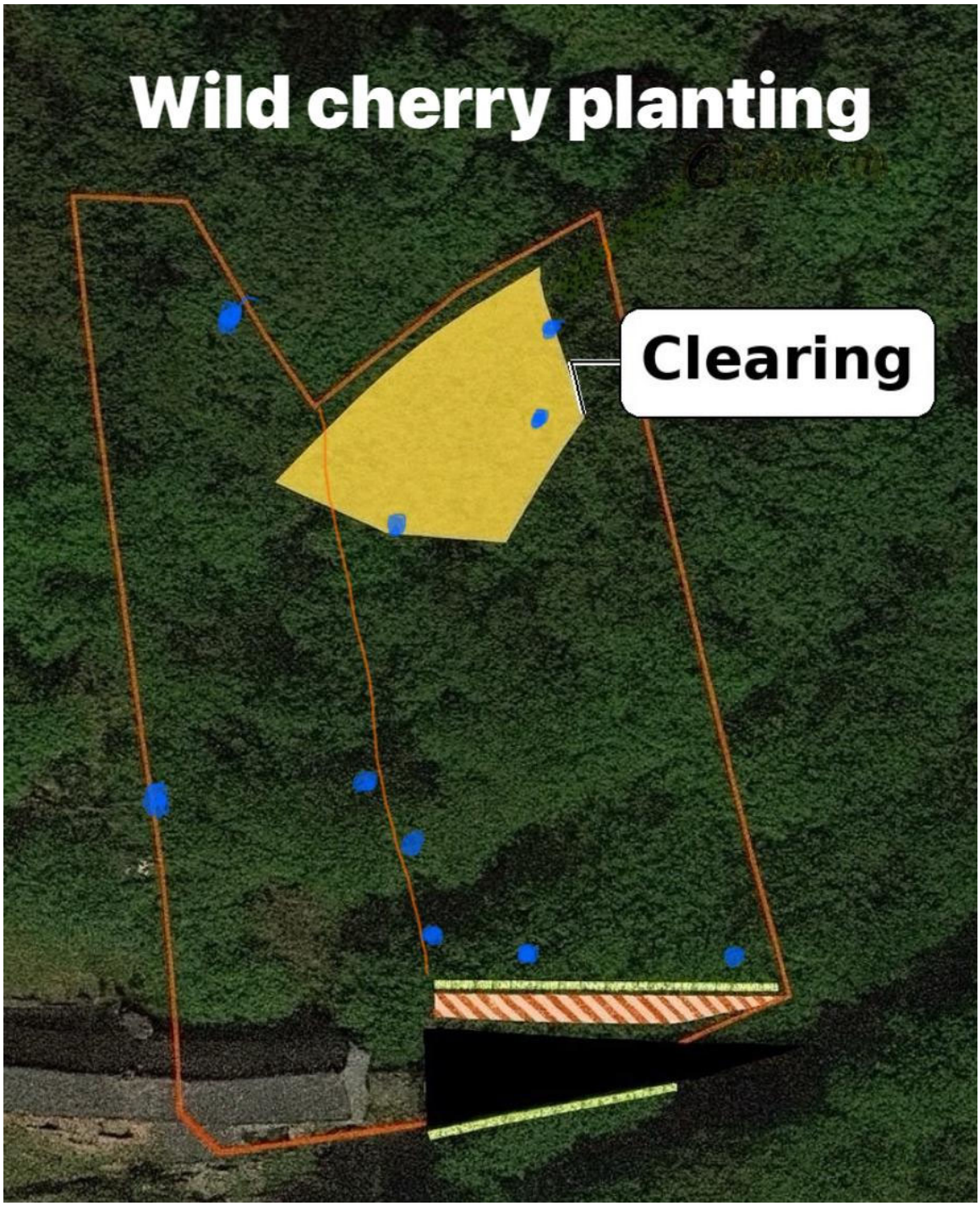

Hawthorn Planting
Clearing

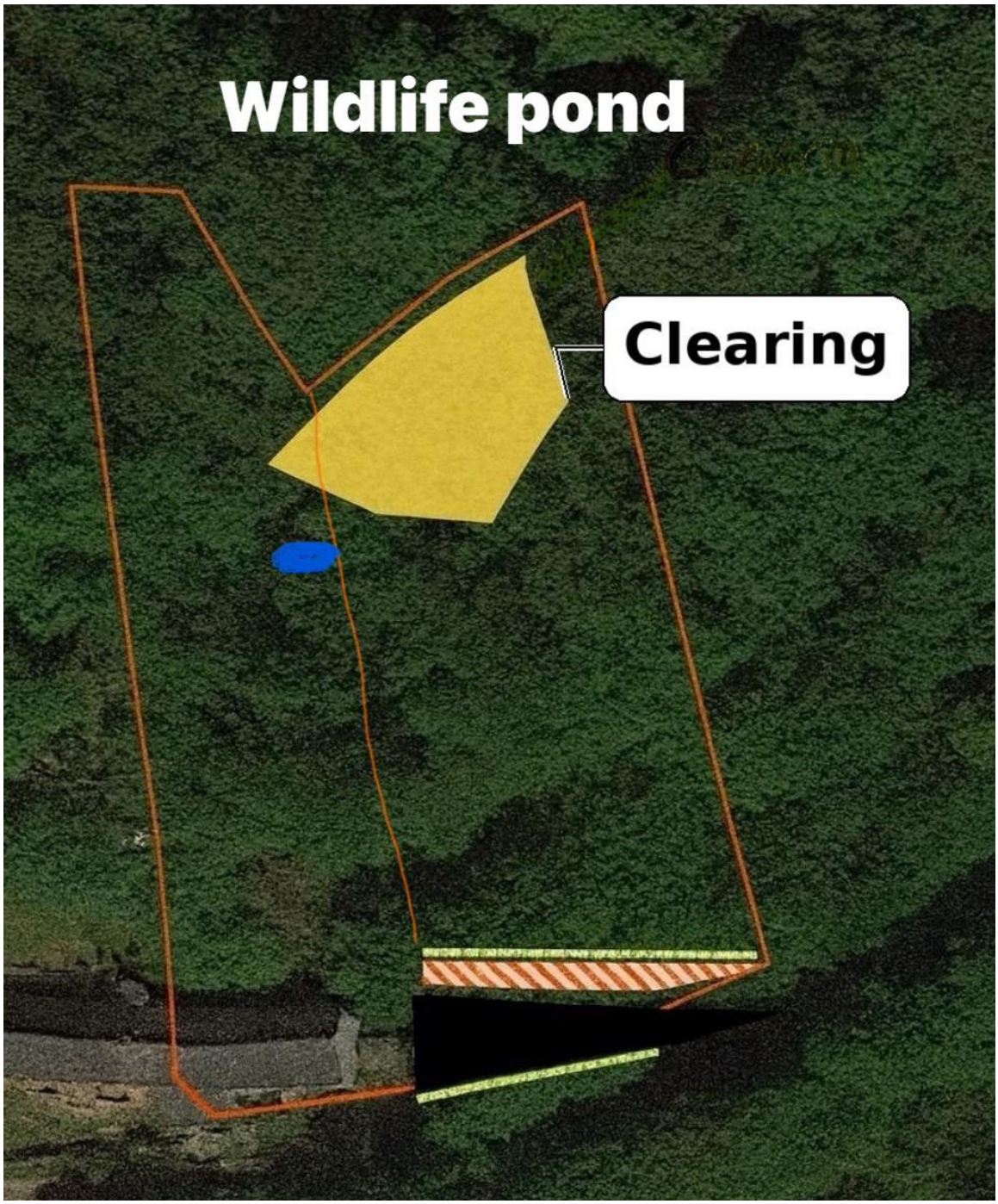

Dog Rose Planting
Clearing


Crabapple Planting
Clearing


Rowan Planting
Clearing


Silver Birch planting
Clearing


Wild cherry planting
Clearing


Wildlife pond
Clearing