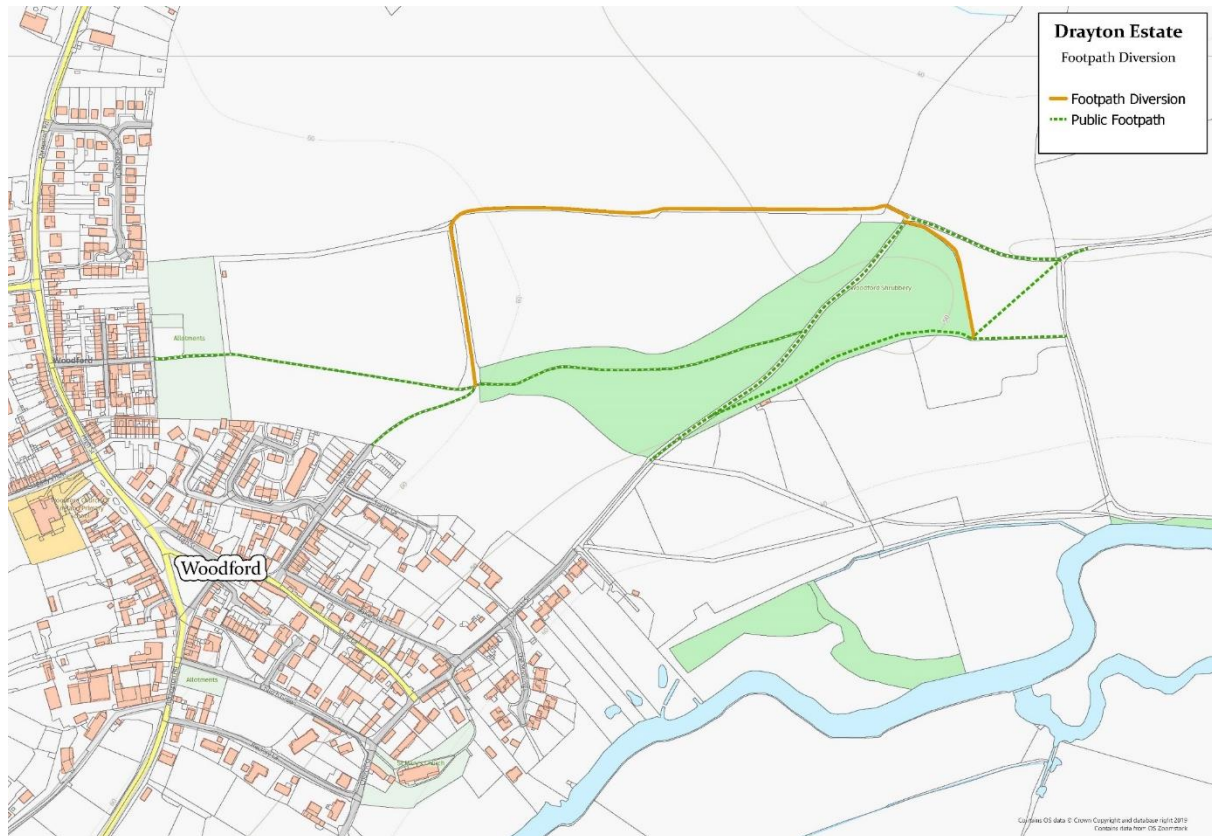


Ash Dieback Disease and Woodford Shrubbery on the Drayton Estate



The woodland now comprises mainly Sycamore, Ash and Elm planted around 1935.

Unfortunately, Ash Dieback Disease was confirmed by the Forestry Commission as affecting the woodland late in 2018. Infection causes ash trees to become weaker, more brittle, more unpredictable, and shed limbs. The implication for health and safety issues are thus very serious, especially considering the multiple footpaths throughout the woodland.

Following consultation with the Forestry Commission and local authorities, a felling licence has been issued to permit the partial felling and subsequent replanting of a proportion the woodland. The plan is to carry out selective felling and replanting of 1.5 hectares, and with a thinning of the remaining woodland to reduce to proportion of Ash and to allow other species to develop. The replanting mixture for areas selectively felled is scheduled to comprise Oak, Small Leaved Lime, Wild Service Tree, Hornbeam and Hazel. It is planned for the planting of 1500 new trees, with timber income being used to help pay for the replanting that will be required.

Felling works are expected to commence this summer. Forestry operations will of course be signed. Users of the public rights of way are requested to take care and follow any instruction. The public footpath will be open during the period of works; however, a temporary permissive route will be signed that will avoid the woodland entirely. Use of this footpath should be encouraged if possible.

Your cooperation through the period of the felling works would be greatly appreciated for everyone's safety and we will do our utmost to minimise any disruption.

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