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Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirinys
The Department of Environment, Food And Agriculture

Agriculture and Lands Directorate

Glen Helen Tree Safety Works

Presentation to Members of Tynwald

February 2023

Overview

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Glen Helen was created in the 1860's with extensive tree planting undertaken typical of the Victorian era.

The Vaaish plantation was established in 1935 and mainly consists of larch, Scots pine, lodgepole pine, and Corsican pine as a commercial crop with broadleaf edge planting.

The roadside trees are generally naturally occurring and typical of the island, consisting mainly of ash, sycamore, beech, with some sweet chestnut and elm.

Overview

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The trees within this area are very mature, increasingly unstable, prone to disease and susceptible to the effects of climate change.

Within the area, there are primarily 2 main tree pathogens and several secondary pathogens that are causing the rapid decline of various species of tree.

- Ash Dieback
- Phytophthora ramorum
- Secondary pathogens

Reasons for removal of trees

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Phytophthora ramorum

-Causes the complete death of the affected tree.

-Affects Larch most severely although can affect more than 150 species.

Ash Die Back

-Causes the death of leaves within the canopy resulting in a significant decline in physiological and structural condition.

-Results in an unstable crown structure as the branches die.

-Ash form the majority of the roadside trees through Glen Helen.

Secondary pathogens

Honey Fungus:

-Colonises weaken tree systems, mainly in the rooting area and can cause whole tree failure from the base

Shaggy scalycap:

-Commonly associated with ash and operates in a similar way to honey fungus

Dyers mazegill:

-Associated with the increased failure of dead larch stems in areas heavily affected by P. ramorum

Why the work is necessary

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The Isle of Man Government have a duty of care under the Occupiers liability Act 1964 to ensure all visitors to the premises are reasonably safe

Isle of Man Government
Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Recent UK prosecutions have highlighted the need for authorities to inspect their trees and take suitable action to reduce the risk they pose to members of the public.

Last week a BUPA nursing home in the UK was fined £400,000 + Costs after a tree failed and injured an 8 year old girl whilst out running. The HSE commented that BUPA failed to manage the risks the tree posed to the public.

Glen Helen

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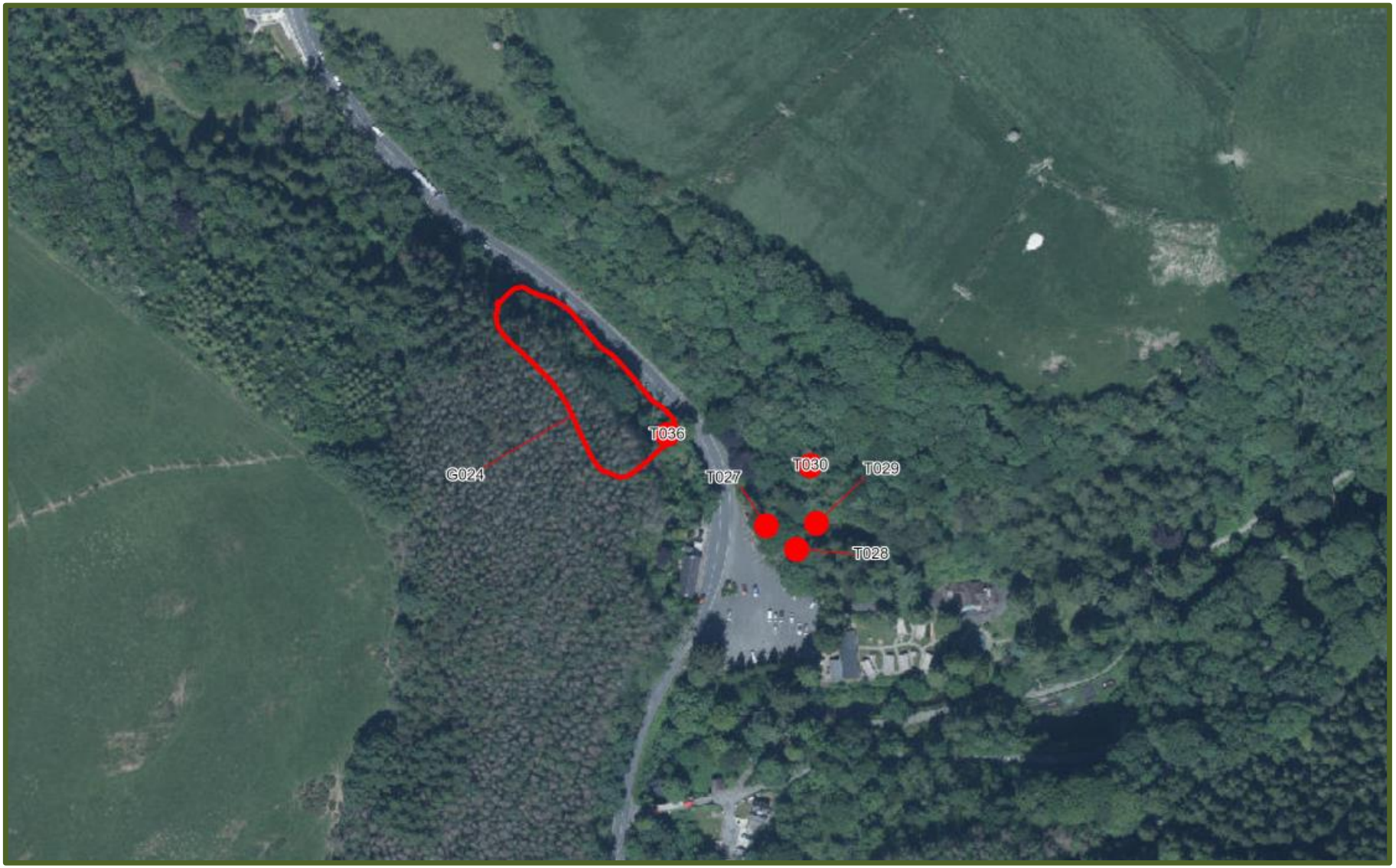

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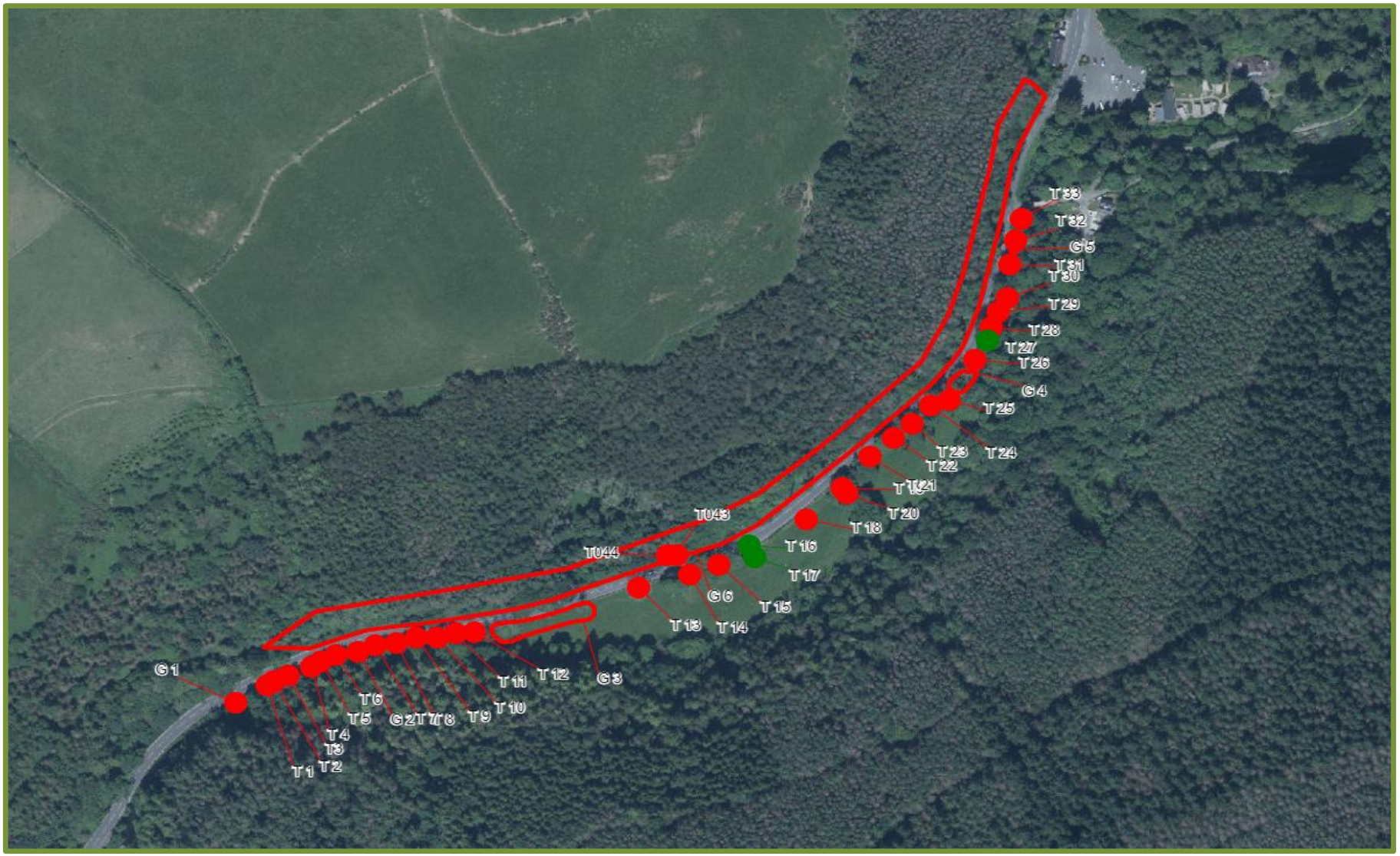

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Timescales

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The works are currently being procured, after an extensive call for information project

The works are estimated to take 10 weeks to complete

There will be 8 to 9 weeks of traffic management

We predict 1-2 weeks of road closures

Ecological Impact

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There is a requirement for the contractor to conduct an ecological assessment for bird nests and bat roosts on all trees prior to their removal.

A preliminary consultation with the Ecosystem policy team suggests the area is low risk for bat roost and bird nests.

If a roost or nest is identified, DEFA's Ecosystem policy team will be notified and a course of action agreed with them.

Business Impact

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A number of businesses have been identified and will face a moderate visitor reduction. The scheme has been altered to reduce the impact on these business and members of the public.

Glen Helen Camping and The Lodge Cafe at Glen Helen

THE LODGE AT Glen Helen

Glen Helen Glamping Ltd
NATURE WITHOUT THE ROUGH

It was identified that traffic management (traffic lights) would not detrimentally reduce the footfall to business. It is likely that a road closure for some sections will be required, but this will be held on week days, reducing further impact to business.

Advance notices of travel disruption will issued.

Public Impact

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Minor traffic disruptions expected during works

Extensive impact to the area's amenity value

Reduction in parking at Glen Helen / minimal business disruption

Ensure an acceptable level of risk to members of the public.

Financial Impact

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The proposed work is currently being tendered to members of the Arboricultural Select List.

Isle of Man Government
Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Due to the extensive spread of Ash Dieback and Phytophthora across the island, it is likely that landowners including other Government Departments, will have to manage similar situations in the near future.

Planting aims and objectives

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To provide a broad diverse species mix that will add to the visual amenity and ecological value

Increase species mix to reduce the impacts of climate change and introduction of potential foreign pathogens

Selection of species that are more resistance to ***Phytophthora ramorum*** and **honey fungus**

Using native trees species for the majority of the planting

Any questions?

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