
CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5 July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers, Northway, Rickmansworth.

Members of the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee:-

Councillors:

Steve Drury (Co-Chair)
Chris Lloyd (Co-Chair)
Jon Tankard (Co-Chair)
David Major
Abbas Merali
Ian Morris

Louise Price
Ciaran Reed
Anne Winter
Stephen King
Narinder Sian

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
27 June 2023

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public on agenda items at the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee meetings. Details of the procedure are provided below:

For those wishing to speak:

Members of the public are entitled to register and identify which item(s) they wish to speak on from the published agenda for the meeting. Those who wish to register to speak are asked to register on the night of the meeting from 7pm. Please note that contributions will be limited to one person speaking for and one against each item for not more than three minutes.

In the event of registering your interest to speak on an agenda item but not taking up that right because the item is deferred, you will be given the right to speak on that item at the next meeting of the Committee.

Those wishing to observe the meeting are requested to arrive from 7pm.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 any matters considered under Part I business only of the meeting may be filmed, recorded, photographed, broadcast or reported via social media by any person.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Legislation and the laws of libel and defamation.

Lead Member for Leisure with areas of responsibility being:

Leisure development and facilities
Open spaces
Play areas and play development
Arts development and facilities
Leisure grants
Leisure based health programmes

Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate with responsibility for:

Sustainability, climate change and energy efficiency
Woodlands
Tree Protection
Air pollution and noise pollution
Animal and pest control
Cemeteries and crematorium
Environmental Forum

Lead Member for Community Partnerships with areas of responsibility being:

Equalities
Crime and Disorder
Community Safety Partnerships
Domestic Abuse
Community Safety
Disease Control
Food Inspection
Health and Safety
Health and social care

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 5
- 10)

3. NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

5. TO RECEIVE A PETITION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 18

The Committee are asked to receive a which requests the installation of CCTV camera equipment at the entrance to our street on the A404 – as explained in the petition details below. The petition has been signed by 104 residents.

Chestnut Avenue, and the surrounding roads in Chorleywood, have experienced a significant number of burglaries and car thefts/attempted thefts in recent years, and particularly over the recent winter period. These criminal acts have been at all times of day, and in some cases involved the use of weapons. As residents, we have been severely impacted by these events and live in fear that at some point somebody will end up getting injured or killed, leaving aside the constant fear of returning home to find our homes invaded/burgled, and treasured possessions stolen.

Chestnut Avenue is located close to junction 18 of the M25, making this road a particular target as it offers criminals easy access and escape routes.

After extensive consultation with the Police, Councillors, Hertfordshire County Council and Chorleywood Parish Council, we are seeking support from Three Rivers District Council for the implementation of CCTV cameras by the entrance to Chestnut Avenue, both to act as a deterrent to further criminal activity and also to improve the chances of apprehending the culprits if further activity occurs. After enquiries with Hertfordshire County Council, we understand that in order for CCTV to be installed on public roads, a Statutory Body is required to fund and maintain the cameras.

Leisure

6. LEISURE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT - SPORTS AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT (SLM)

The Council's leisure facilities management contractor, Sports and Leisure Management (SLM), will provide their annual presentation to Members to reflect back on the previous 12 months work and to outline their work programme for the coming year.

7. BISHOPS WOOD (INCLUDING BATCHWORTH HEATH) AND CHORLEYWOOD HOUSE ESTATE 5 YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS (Pages 11 - 244)

Community Safety

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 245 - 262)

Annual Community Safety Report on action over the last year and future priorities.

Work Programme

9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 263 - 268)

To receive the committee's work programme.

10. OTHER BUSINESS agreed under item 3

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Committee wishes to consider the remaining item in private, it will be appropriate for a resolution to be passed in the following terms:-

"that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."

(Note: If other confidential business is approved under item 3, it will also be necessary to specify the class of exempt or confidential information in the additional items.)

12. OTHER BUSINESS - if approved under item 3 above

Livestreaming details

To watch the meeting remotely please use the livestream details below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Zjl1OGE5ZTltOGM0NS00OGVjLWE0N2ltZjkyN2Y3Yzk0YTg0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2258420664-1284-4d81-9225-35da8165ae7a%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%2258c99d6e-8c11-4f06-9519-c296e92897fc%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

*Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth on
Wednesday 15 March 2023 between 7.30pm and 9.01pm.*

Councillors present:

Chris Lloyd (Lead Member for Leisure)

Stephen King

David Major

Chris Mitchell

Debbie Morris

Roger Seabourne (Lead Member Community

Safety and Partnerships)

Phil Williams (Lead Member for
Environmental Services, Climate Change

and Sustainability)

Ciarán Reed

Jon Tankard

Rue Grewal

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Lisa Hudson

Officers present:

Ray Figg, Head of Community Services

Emma Sheridan, Interim Head of Community Partnerships

Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner

Charlotte Gomes, Landscapes and Leisure Development Manager

Jess Hodges, Community Biodiversity Officer

Alex Laurie, Principal Tree and Landscape Officer

Lorna Attwood, Committee Manager

Councillor Roger Seabourne in the Chair

LEC21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anne Winter.

LEC22/22 MINUTES

The minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting held on 23 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

LEC23/22 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

None received.

LEC24/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

LEC25/22 BUDGET MONITORING - PERIOD 10

This report covered this Committees financial position over the medium term (2022 – 2025) as at Period 10 (end of January)

The Period 10 comprehensive Budget Management report has already been presented to the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 March 2023 which sought approval to a change in the Council's 2022 - 2025 medium-term financial plan.

On capital – there was a variance of £797,240 which related to projects that were being rephased into the next financial year and included: South Oxhey playing fields, Watersmeet electrical, Scotsbridge waste recycling vehicles, energy performance certificates and replacement grounds maintenance vehicles.

On revenue – there was a favourable variance of £245,958 mainly due to salary realignment. On Kerbside recycling, an extra income had been received of £117,856 but there had been a recent change in market conditions and the Council were now paying to recycle.

In response to a Member question on staff vacancies and how the report had stated there was no service impact, they wondered how this could be. It was advised that in the main these were newly advertised posts therefore no impact to service.

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the vacancies since the report had been produced as follows:

Loaders – two vacancies and recent applications were being assessed

Street Cleaning Operative – Appointed

Waste and Recycling Administrator – this would be advertised in April to coincide with the end of the temporary staff contract

Grounds Maintenance Operative – Advertised

Grounds Maintenance Trainee Operative – Advertised

HGV drivers – No vacancies

Watersmeet Front of House Manager – Post offered subject to references

A Member questioned the budget fluctuating on Kerbside and the income received and wondered how it would be managed going forwards. The Head of Community Services explained that there were three main income lines around recycling/residual waste. The Alternative Financial Model (AFM) which was paid by Hertfordshire Council which would cease at the end of this financial year, recycling credits (income) from Hertfordshire County Council for reductions in landfill and lastly the dry recycling contract which most authorities within Hertfordshire had signed up to. Until around the end of the year the Council was receiving an income on this contract, however, the Council were now paying to dispose of the recycling. Even though the market for glass remained good, there had been a drop in prices for other commodities such as mixed papers, plastic bottles and steel cans. The market continued to fluctuate, although it was regularly being reviewed.

RESOLVED:

Noted the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) EXTENSION

The Interim Head of Community Partnerships presented the report on community based services, which were provided to vulnerable residents within the district under Service Level Agreements, for which the Council contributed funding.

The Committee was asked to approve the proposed extensions of the identified Service Level Agreements for a further 3 years together with the associated expenditure. The expenditure was accounted for within existing Community and Leisure budgets; to approve the continuation of support for the Community Support Service and Domestic Abuse Caseworker Service, the expenditure for which was accounted for within existing Community and Leisure budgets; and approve the proposed expenditure and extension of the existing Service Level Agreement with Citizens Advice Service Three Rivers (CASTR).

A Member asked why the Council were not proposing to increase funding going forwards. The Interim Head of Community Partnerships said that the sums had been agreed in the Council budget. The Member also asked about funding other external agencies. The Interim Head of Community Partnerships said that other agencies were funded.

On being put to the Committee the recommendations as detailed in the report were declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

The Committee is requested to agree to the extension of the existing SLAs for a further 3 years (2023-2026) and agree, subject to the terms of the SLAs and future years Council annual budget approval, associated expenditure for the services as outlined in this report to:

- Roundabout Transport at a cost to the Council of £6,000 per annum
- Services for Young People at a cost to the Council of £2,000 per annum.
- Homestart Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere at a cost to the Council of £4,800 per annum.
- Citizens Advice Service Three Rivers at a cost to the Council of £259,290 per annum.
- The Committee is requested to agree, subject to the terms of the SLAs and future years Council annual budget approval, to commit to the continuation of match funding contributions for a further 3 years (2023-2026) to provide:
- The Community Support Service at a cost to the Council of £8,700 per annum.
- The Domestic Abuse Caseworker Service at a cost to the Council of £5,000 per annum

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report presented details on revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Forum for comment and approval.

The Interim Head of Partnerships presented the report, and advised this was the first review of the Terms of Reference previously agreed in (in 2021). Some minor amendments were proposed to them including the addition of a Vice Chair and that all meetings be held virtually.

A Member asked if the Environmental Forum agenda could be published further in advance to give people time to consider any questions they wanted to ask. Another Member also suggested a deadline could be given as to when questions could be submitted. It was agreed that questions could be submitted 10 days in advance.

On being put to the Committee the Environmental Forum Terms of Reference were declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the proposed new Terms of Reference for the Environmental Forum.

LEC28/22 DRAFT CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy was adopted by committee March 10 2021 and by Full Council 25 May 2021. This was followed up by an Action Plan which was agreed at LEC 13 October 2021 and has been reviewed at LEC bi-annually since.

The purpose of this report was to present an update to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy with the draft strategy detailed at Appendix 1.

The report was introduced by the Interim Head of Community Partnerships. The Committee were asked for initial feedback and permission to consult with the public.

A Member asked about page 11 and the ward was incorrectly named as Moor Park and should be Moor Park and Eastbury. The Community Carbon calculator did not take everything into account and was not completely accurate. They wondered if the strategy should take into account the difference between the urban and rural areas of the district.

The Interim Head of Partnerships said the community carbon calculator was, as stated in the report, based on assumptions and estimates and would provide an indication only.

A Member asked if the Fire Service could be added as an organisation to contact on page 23. It was agreed that this could be added.

Councillor Phil Williams moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

That the Strategy be noted and agreed that it can be put to public consultation.

LEC29/22 THREE RIVERS NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

The purpose of this report was to summarise the content and implications of the Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy, and recommend that the final version of the Strategy was adopted by Three Rivers District Council.

The strategy was presented by the Community Biodiversity Officer. Amendments to the strategy had been made following the consultation.

A Member pointed out in the sustainability impact assessment on page 2, that there was an error in some of the figures. Officers agreed to check the figures.

A Member asked if grassland should merit a section on their own due to having its own value that woodland may not have. Also could Parish and Community Councils be added to the document. The Community Biodiversity Officer advised that grassland had been considered for its own section but it was not considered appropriate for the strategy.

A Member had proposed a series of questions in advance of the meeting and the Community Biodiversity Officer responded to these. With regards to the tree planting, we would be careful to ensure that grassland was not lost for the benefit of tree planting. The Biodiversity Opportunities Audit last year highlighted some good opportunities for tree planting, and these recommendations would be brought forwards. The Hydrological study related to the Aquadrome management to understand the water management on the site. As the site was on a flood plain; a study would assess the water movement to ensure that the impact of the flooding wasn't unnecessarily detrimental and how nature can be used to help with the flooding. Parish and Community Councils, (involvement of all local bodies would be encouraged and welcomed) would be included in the strategy as requested. The full written answer to the questions would be circulated to all Members following the meeting.

Officers were thanked by Members for their work on the report.

Councillor Chris Lloyd moved the recommendation to agree the strategy and this was seconded by Councillor Stephen King.

On being put to the Committee the Chair declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Agreed the draft strategy subject to the comments made.

LEC30/22 BIODIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES AUDIT, ALTERNATIVE GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AND TREE STRATEGY UPDATE

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the progress of the Biodiversity Opportunities Audit (BOA), the Alternative Grassland Management (AGM) initiative adopted in March 2022, and the Tree Strategy adopted in January 2022 and to make recommendations for future years. The report was presented by the Principal Tree and Landscape Officer.

The report gave an overview on the progress over the past twelve months. The report recommended several minor changes on the grass cutting programme. Many of the actions on the Tree Strategy had been delivered. Some actions had to be put on hold due to staff absence and other time sensitive work that had to be carried out.

A Member asked what was being done to encourage other agencies such as Thrive, Watford Community Housing etc. The Lead Member advised they would be happy to assist Officers with this work. The Principal Tree and Landscape Officer responded that outreach work could be done to speak with Parish Councils and churches etc.

A Member asked about the annual safety inspection on trees starting in December 2021 and wondered how much had been completed and asked for details on the system for reporting TRDC trees outside of office hours. With regard to protected trees, there were concerns that they had not been reviewed for a while and therefore no new trees had been identified that should also be included.

In response to the questions on tree safety, the Principal Tree and Landscape Officer said all urgent work had been done. Officers were now working on the higher priority work. For Out of Hours enquiries, this had been agreed but the process needed to be

updated. Members of the public would be directed to the Police or Highways in the first instance for reporting on a tree out of hours. On the Tree Protection Order review, this was a large piece of work and would take a lot of time to deliver. It was hoped this would be started this year; but it could take several years to complete due to having over 100 TPO's.

A Member asked about grass cutting in the Eastbury Recreation ground. This was an open area that was widely used for informal sports and picnics etc. In one place there was an amenity cut and some edge management which was supposed to be a wild area, then there was a meadow cut which took up 15% of the area which should all be amenity cut. The Member asked for clarification on this. The Principal Tree and Landscape officer clarified that edge management was woodland edge and cut once a year but cuttings were not removed. On the other side was a meadow cut which was where the grass was cut, collected and taken off site twice a year. The main part of the site was amenity cut which was a regular grass cutting regime. Officers were happy to talk to residents and Members regarding the types of cut as these could be modified if necessary.

A Member asked if hay meadow cutting could be split against conservation cutting. The Principal Tree and Landscape Officer advised that the conservation cut had been removed last year and replaced with hay meadow or woodland cut. The Member asked if interpretation boards could be placed to make members of the public aware. The Landscapes and Leisure Development Manager responded to say there were existing signs and information was also on the website. Interpretation could be considered on larger sites as and when the Management Plans are updated, however there is a need to be careful not to litter sites with additional signage.

The Head of Community Services advised that Officers were more than willing to work with members on the strategy. Minor changes could be accommodated, and they urged Members to agree the strategy and work together going forwards.

Councillor Phil Williams moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd.

On being put to the Committee the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

Agreed the Biodiversity Opportunities Audit (BOA), the Alternative Grassland Management (AGM), and the Tree Strategy.

LEC31/22 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee were asked to review and make any necessary changes to the Committee's work programme. There were no updates.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be agreed.

CHAIR

Three Rivers District Council

**Climate Change,
Leisure and
Community
Committee
Report – Bishops
Wood (including
Batchworth Heath)
and Chorleywood
House Estate
Management Plans:
2023-2028**

Date: 5 July 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 5 JULY 2023

PART I - DELEGATED

7. BISHOPS WOOD (INCLUDING BATCHWORTH HEATH) AND CHORLEYWOOD HOUSE ESTATE 5 YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS (ADC&C)

1 Summary

1.1 The existing management plans for Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate expired in 2023. Officers have worked with Countryside Management Service (CMS) to draft new management plans for both sites for 2023-2028.

1.2 The final version for Bishops Wood is attached as an appendix (Appendix A) and the draft version for Chorleywood House Estate is attached at Appendix B. The public consultation for Chorleywood House Estate closed on the 12 June and therefore the final version will be circulated by email to JLT prior to the Climate Change, Leisure and Sustainability meeting in July. As such, the section at points 2.8-2.10 are not completed.

2 Details

Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) Management Plan 2023-2028

2.1 The current management plan for Bishops Wood expired in 2023. Officers have worked in partnership with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) to develop a new management plan, which will be effective for a period of five years: 2023-2028.

Public Engagement

2.2 An initial engagement period took place between December 2022 and January 2023, to establish core aims and objectives for the site. Following this period of engagement the draft plan was developed and further public consultation on the draft plan took place in May 2023.

2.3 A total of 4 responses were received in response to the public consultation process. An associated engagement response document is published as an appendix in the Management Plan.

2.4 Below is a summary of comments received from the second stage engagement process on the Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) Management Plan, carried out in May 2023.

Theme of comments	Engagement response	Outcome
White Admiral Butterfly Section	Herts and Middlesex Butterfly Conservation group have requested a specific section in the plan regarding the White Admiral Butterfly and the sites continued support of this	Detail in plan amended

	species.	
Land adoption – White Hill Woods (part of London Loop)	3 comments were received regarding maintenance of land, which is outside of TRDC’s ownership, including White Hill Wood. This area is impassable most of the year (forms part of the London Loop) due to flooding.	TRDC to investigate further, including resource/budget implications. Added to action plan.
Litter bins	Request for litter bins to be emptied more frequently	TRDC to investigate this further and review the litter bins at the site – included as an action point.
Grass Cutting	The report recommends the grass is cut once a year – would prefer this to be cut twice a year.	Wording has been amended to make clearer that the grass Cutting at Batchworth Heath will be twice a year, once in July and a second cut later in the year. Grass adjacent to the verges will be cut as an amenity cut for safety purposes.

Key Action Points considered in the Management Plan

2.5 The Management Plan picks up a number of key points for the site over the next 5 years. These are subject to securing the necessary funding to deliver these and includes:

- Conserve and enhance the key habitats of Bishops’ Wood and Batchworth Heath including acid grassland areas and the Southern Wood Ant habitat.
- Access improvements. This is further detailed in section 3 and within the action plan, in particular investigating the viability of opening up the car park and improving visibility, along with improved signage and interpretation.
- Explore grant funding opportunities for a wood pasture restoration project including grazing.
- Investigate the land ownership at White Hill Wood and consider options on whether or not to adopt this land, highlighting the key resource and budget implications.

Chorleywood House Estate Management Plan 2023-2028

2.6 The current management plan for Chorleywood House Estate expired in 2023. Officers have worked in partnership with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) to develop a new management plan, which will be effective for a period of five years: 2023-2028.

Public Engagement

- 2.7 An initial engagement period took place between December 2022 and January 2023, to establish core aims and objectives for the site. Following this period of engagement the draft plan was developed and further public consultation on the draft plan took place between May and June 2023.
- 2.8 A total of 9 responses were received in response to the public consultation process. An associated engagement response document is published as an appendix in the Management Plan.
- 2.9 Below is a summary of comments received from the second stage engagement process on the Chorleywood House Estate Management Plan, carried out between May and June 2023.

Theme of comments	Engagement response	Outcome
Access	Comments welcomed the investigations into parking arrangements on the site.	Comments noted and will be considered as part of any investigations.
	Request for consideration into a safer crossing across Rickmansworth Road between CWHE and Chorleywood Common.	A pedestrian crossing has previously been installed at the traffic lights at the junction between Rickmansworth Road and Common Road.
	Request to remove old signage if new signage is introduced.	This will be carried out when new signage is installed.
	Consideration to be given to privacy and access for residents in and around the site.	To be investigated further and considered as part of any future work, budget permitting.
Facilities	Tennis courts in need of renovation More benches and bins requested	Comments noted and to be investigated further and considered as part of any future work, budget permitting.
Heritage Features	Support for improvements to the Pump House as a Heritage Feature	Comments noted, objective to develop plan for Pump House included within the plan, subject to securing additional funding.
Habitat Management	Differing views regarding introducing grazing to the orchard.	Further engagement suggested.
	Concerns around scrub	Scrub management will be

	management.	rotational, ensuring a variety of ages of scrub, including brambles, will be present along the route
	Differing views around introducing a green screen along Rickmansworth Road.	Consider low lying plant species and planting at intervals to allow visibility, whilst allowing some privacy.
	New area of wildflower grassland on the main lawn area supported.	Noted
	Reservations regarding the construction of a new pond.	Ambition for a new pond retained in plan, however, comments noted. Further investigations will look at feasibility before any works are undertaken
	River Chess “beach” area is very popular with visitors – would oppose attempts to limit access here.	Comments noted for any further discussions around projects to improve the River Chess for wildlife.
Volunteers	Particular praise for the work of the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate in their work on the site.	
	Concerns around feasibility of some works by volunteers, contractor use suggested	Comments noted. Intention for volunteers to undertake works as a preference, however, if required contractors will be brought in where required

Key Action Points considered in the Management Plan

2.10 The Management Plan picks up a number of key points for the site over the next 5 years and includes:

- Introducing a Meadow Cut and Lift in the main lawn area near the main car park.
- Investigate improvements to car parking provision on site.
- Develop a green screen along Rickmansworth Road (taking into consideration the feedback from the public consultation).
- Investigate further the introduction of grazing as part of the Chorleywood Community Orchard project.

- Protect and enhance the chalk stream habitat, working in partnership with other organisations and as part of the Smarter Water Catchment project.
- Protect and celebrate heritage features at the site and consider funding opportunities to support these projects, including the Pump House and additional interpretation.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The purpose of this report is to present the new Management Plans for Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate, following a period of public consultation and engagement with stakeholders and to recommend its adoption by the Council.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policies and budgets.

4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.

- CP02/EP16 - Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces – updating the management plans for both of these sites will include a number of measures to enhance biodiversity, make improvements and consider opportunities for additional funding. By introducing a number of schemes and projects and through showing investment in these spaces, residents are more likely to be satisfied with our parks and open spaces.
- LL34 - To Maintain Accreditation with Green Flag – Chorleywood House Estate is a Green Flag Award winning site and a pre-requisite of the award is to have an up to date management plan which clearly outlines the key objectives and actions over the next 5 years.
- LL35 - To ensure all our key open spaces have a current management plan in place – approval of these updated management plans will support achieving this performance indicator.
- LL39 - Number of new trees planted by TRDC Trees and Landscapes Officers – the management plans support and recommends future tree planting opportunities across the sites.
- CP50 – Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan – improving the biodiversity of the sites is within the action plan – failure to do this will have an impact on the action plan.

4.3 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

- The implementation of the Management Plans will support the Council with achieving the Corporate Framework Priority Themes, delivering against Key Performance Indicators and Service Performance Indicators for Community Services and Community Partnerships.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan includes an annual budget to maintain Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate. However, this is not sufficient to deliver the actions planned within the Management

Plan. The delivery of projects will be dependent on securing external funding which will need to be obtained in advance of projects proceeding.

- 5.2 Officers have already applied to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for £142,000, which will go towards supporting some of these projects, as well as other key parks and open spaces across the district.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 All proposed works and equipment will be tendered within the Council's constitution and procurement procedures, where required.
- 6.2 The preparation of this plan is being undertaken in order to support compliance with the Council's statutory obligations and its Corporate Framework and Priorities. The report provides details of the Council's consultation process and provides an update on that consultation and the plans development.
- 6.3 The Council has a duty to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity under S40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This does not mean that the duty must be given greater weight than other matters and the Management Plan recommendations that are being presented within this report satisfy the duty, which is for the Council to 'have regard' when it exercises its functions.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 An Impact Assessment has been completed for these Management Plans.
- 7.2 On the whole the new Management plans should have a positive impact on the accessibility of the site through enhancements to pathways and additional seating.
- 7.3 Funding will need to be sourced in order to make these improvements.

8 Staffing Implications

- 8.1 Delivering the Management Plan project and objectives as well as securing external funding in order to deliver these will be led by the Leisure and Landscapes department.
- 8.2 In particular, it will require the time of the Leisure Contracts and Landscapes Projects Officer, Principal Trees and Landscapes Officer and the Community Biodiversity Officer.
- 8.3 Officers will also be working collaboratively and will require support and input from Officers in other services, including Regulatory Services, Property Services, Environmental Protection, Community Partnerships, Finance and Legal.

9 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 New management prescriptions for Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate will enable a varied and diverse development of habitats, which will have a positive impact on the flora and fauna across the district. This includes, but is not limited to new proposals for grassland management, including a large area of Hay Meadow and additional conservation grazing.

- 9.2 A sustainability impact assessment has been completed, with the following outcome:

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.00
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.7

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None specific

11 Public Health implications

- 11.1 Accessible, well maintained parks and open spaces have never been more vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals. Being able to connect with wildlife has a positive impact on both the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals.
- 11.2 During (2021) a survey of people using Leavesden Country Park, over 80% said that being able to use the park was either very important or important to their health and wellbeing and 98% of people said using the park enhanced their quality of life.
- 11.3 Trees and greenery may boost lifespan, this has been studied for 8 years by Harvard researchers and published in April Environmental Health Perspectives.

<https://health.usnews.com/wellness/articles/2016-12-09/the-many-health-benefits-of-trees>

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

- 12.1 None specific

13 Communications and Website Implications

- 13.1 The website will be kept updated with any relevant changes to the site, following the adoption and ongoing delivery of the Management Plan.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

- 14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and

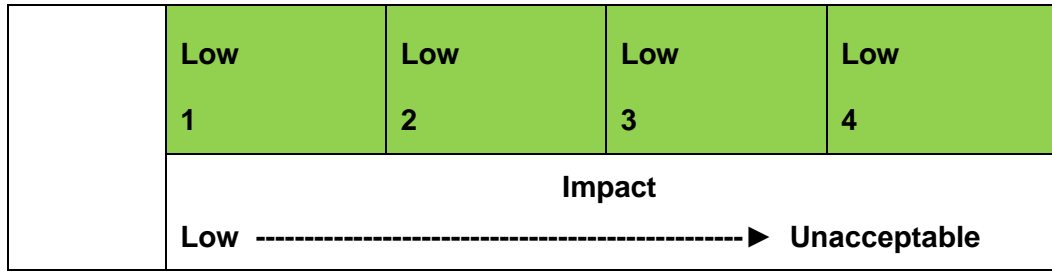
Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

- 14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the (insert name of plan) □ service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Any changes to the Countryside Stewardship agreement (CSA) and or not completing the works as set out in the CSA	Loss of grant funding Unable to complete a number of projects	Officers and CMS to work collaboratively to make sure that applications are submitted on time and works are undertaken in the correct time scales	Treat	4
Objectives of the Climate Change Strategy are not achieved	Corporate Framework implications Reputational damage and potential complaints	Members to agree the recommendations	Treat	4

- 14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely Remote Likelihood	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8



Impact Score	Likelihood Score
4 (Catastrophic)	4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
3 (Critical)	3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Significant)	2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Marginal)	1 (Remote (≤5%))

14.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

15 Recommendation

That the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee

15.1 Agrees to adopt the 2023 – 2028 Management Plans for Chorleywood House Estate and Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath).

Report prepared by:

Kelly Barnard, Leisure Contracts and Landscape Projects Officer

Charlotte Gomes, Landscapes and Leisure Development Manager

Data Quality

Data sources:

Public Consultation Data

Data checked by:

Michael Poole – Projects Officer – Countryside Management Service (CMS)

Kelly Barnard – Leisure Contracts and Landscape Projects Officer

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) 2023 – 2028 final
Management Plan
APPENDIX B: Chorleywood House Estate 2023-2028 draft Management Plan
APPENDIX C: Short Equality Impact Assessment
APPENDIX D: Climate Change and Sustainability Impact Assessment

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Three Rivers District Council

Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan

2023 – 2028



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Actions Plans (GAPs) are map-based management plans which specify activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site. The GAP is reviewed annually, in conjunction with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and other relevant bodies, so that any outstanding tasks can be rescheduled as necessary.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held in December 2022 and January 2023, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement in May 2023 enabled stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
Draft	03/05/23		RB	AT	KB
1	07/06/23		RB	AT	KB

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1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

- Site Name: Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath
- Site Address: Bishop's Wood
White Hill
Rickmansworth
Nearest postcode WD3 1PX
- Batchworth Heath
London Road
Rickmansworth
Nearest postcode WD3 1QB
- Grid Reference: Bishop's Wood – TQ069918
Batchworth Heath – TQ077924
- Size: Bishop's Wood – 38.5ha
Batchworth Heath – 3.8ha
Long Spring – 4ha
White Hill Wood – 3.9ha
- Designations: Registered Common Land – Batchworth Heath (CL019)
Conservation Area – Batchworth Heath
Woodland Tree Preservation Order (1957) – Bishop's Wood
Country Park – Bishop's Wood
Metropolitan Green Belt
Local Wildlife Site – Bishop's Wood (89/003), Batchworth Heath
Common (89/001), Long Spring (89/011), White Hill Wood (89/030)
Ancient Semi-natural Woodland – Bishop's Wood, Long Spring
- Owner: Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

1.2 Vision Statement

This plan will build on the successes of the last ten years of management, which have brought the woodland back into positive conservation management and dramatically improved visitor facilities. As a former Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Bishop's Wood was once a site of national conservation importance and it remains one of the most ecologically important woodlands in Hertfordshire. Our aspiration is to restore and link together the valuable surviving fragments of ancient woodland and heathland habitats, working towards a site which has regained its previous conservation value. Alongside this we will continue to focus on public access and engagement to increase the number of visitors and build links between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Bishop's Wood is a 38.5 hectare woodland between Rickmansworth and Northwood in the south-western corner of Hertfordshire. It is largely ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) and the majority of this is considered to be plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS). It is a Local Wildlife Site (89/003), became a Country Park in 1988 and lies within the Green Belt. There are no public rights of way across Bishop's Wood, but there is unrestricted public access. The [London Outer Orbital Path \(LOOP\)](#) (see also [Ramblers Inner London Area](#)) passes through both this site and Batchworth Heath.

Batchworth Heath is a 3.8 hectare green space 300m east of Bishop's Wood. It is Registered Common Land (CL019), part of the Batchworth Heath Conservation Area, within the Green Belt and incorporates the Batchworth Heath Local Wildlife Site (89/001).

The plan will include Long Spring, a 4.0 hectare ASNW and Local Wildlife Site (89/011) north-west of Bishop's Wood. All three sites are owned by TRDC and managed by TRDC in partnership with CMS. A further section of land between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath, a 3.9 hectare Local Wildlife Site (89/030) referred to as White Hill Wood, will also be considered; although this is not currently in the ownership of TRDC, it has proved impossible to identify the owner over a number of years.

Despite its location, Bishop's Wood lies within a rural wooded landscape, surrounded by agricultural land and other woodland and with no significant settlements in its immediate vicinity. Batchworth Heath has a more suburban feel, being dissected by the A404 between Rickmansworth and Northwood and several other minor roads, and located on the edge of Northwood.

Bishop's Wood comprises three contiguous woodlands: Park Wood to the north, Bishop's Wood to the west and Lockwell Wood to the east (Figure 3). It occupies the shallow valley of a stream flowing from east to west, which ends at a swallow hole within the woodland. The wood has a wide structural diversity, with both mature and more recent mixed plantation, much of which has been heavily thinned, and remnants of hornbeam and hazel coppice reflecting its historic character. Relic populations of heather on more acid soils reflect the likelihood that this area was once managed as wood pasture. There are several rides, which have been recently restored, and other open areas within the woodland created by thinning.

A car park at the southern end of the wood provides access to a network of mainly surfaced permissive paths and bridleways, including an easy access loop. Benches, interpretation boards and a picnic area can be found around the main walking routes. The LOOP provides the only pedestrian access to the site, from Harefield to the west and Moor Park to the east, via Batchworth Heath.

The main ecological interest of Batchworth Heath, an ancient common, is its unimproved acid grassland, which is complemented by neutral grassland, a pond with diverse marginal flora, scrub, and secondary woodland. Its recreational potential

is limited by the several roads which cross the common. Public access is unrestricted.

These sites are closely linked, with complementary habitats. A combined GAP provides a continuing opportunity to develop these links, to improve connectivity between the sites and to explore ways in which their management can be coordinated.

This GAP is written in the context of an ongoing woodland management plan for Bishop's Wood, approved by the Forestry Commission and covering the period from 2020-2030, and an ongoing Countryside Stewardship agreement for Bishop's Wood, covering the period from 2020-2024.

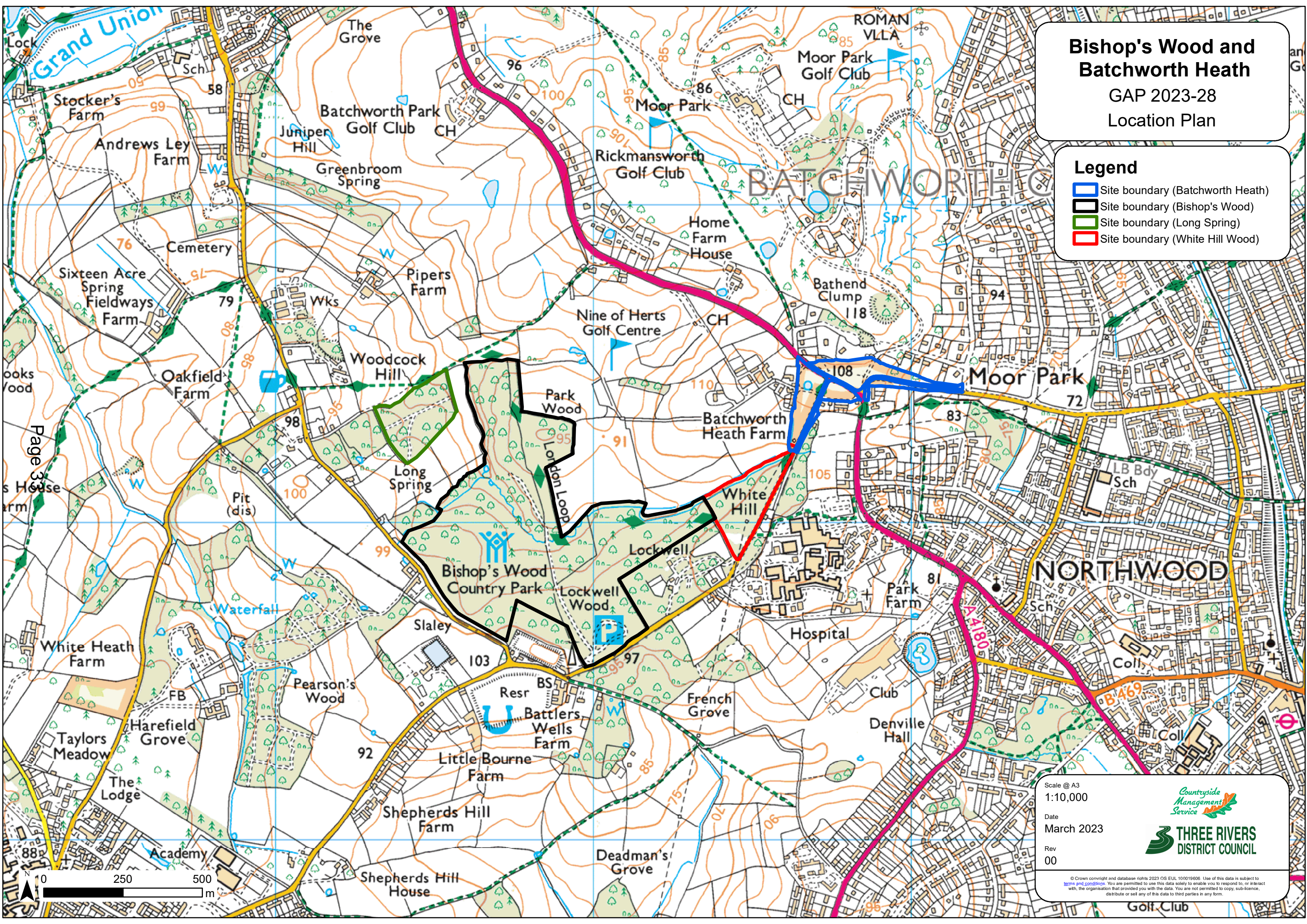
Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

GAP 2023-28

Location Plan

Legend

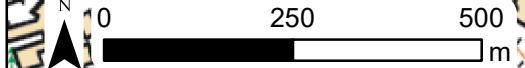
- ▭ Site boundary (Batchworth Heath)
- ▭ Site boundary (Bishop's Wood)
- ▭ Site boundary (Long Spring)
- ▭ Site boundary (White Hill Wood)



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

















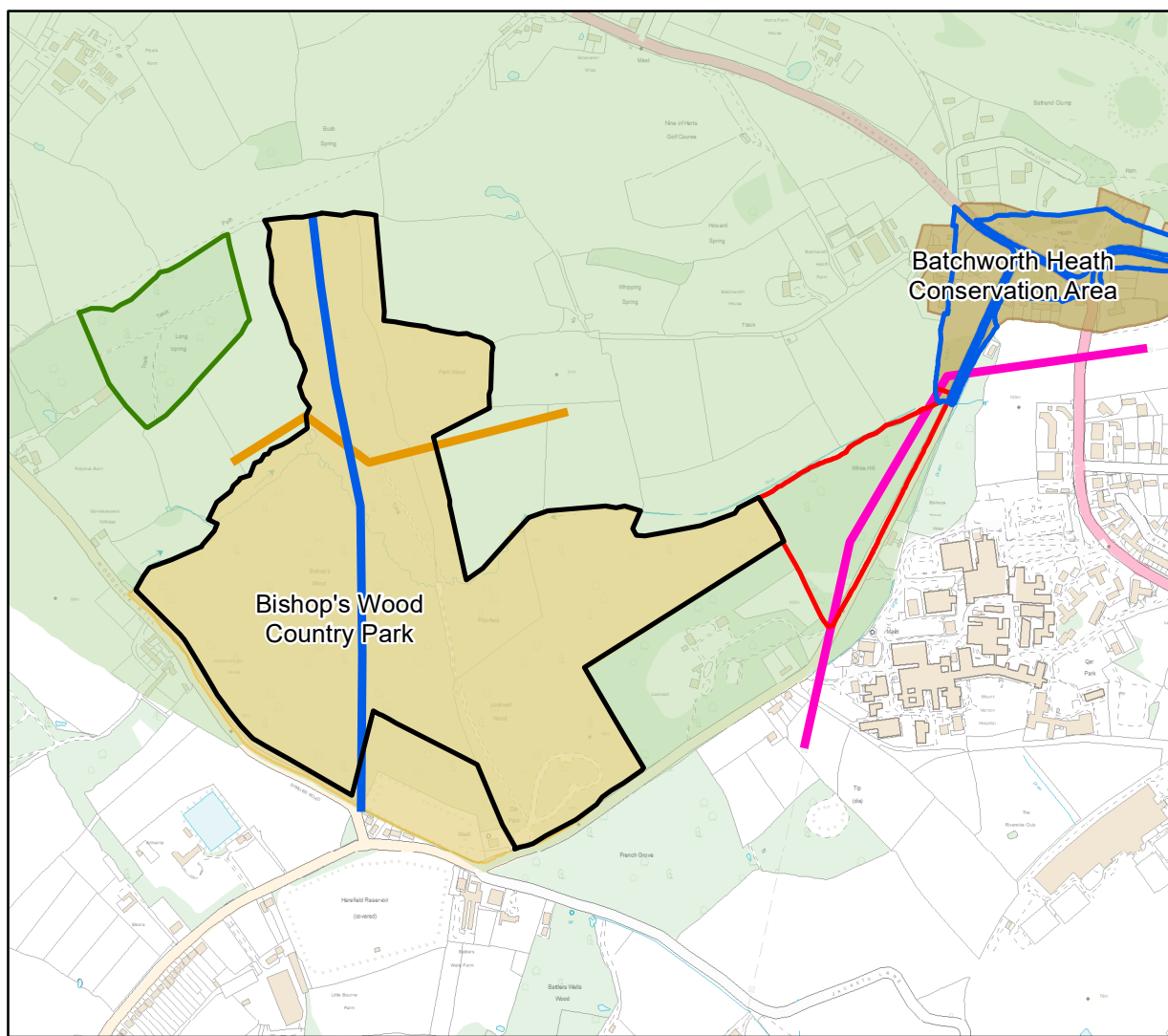
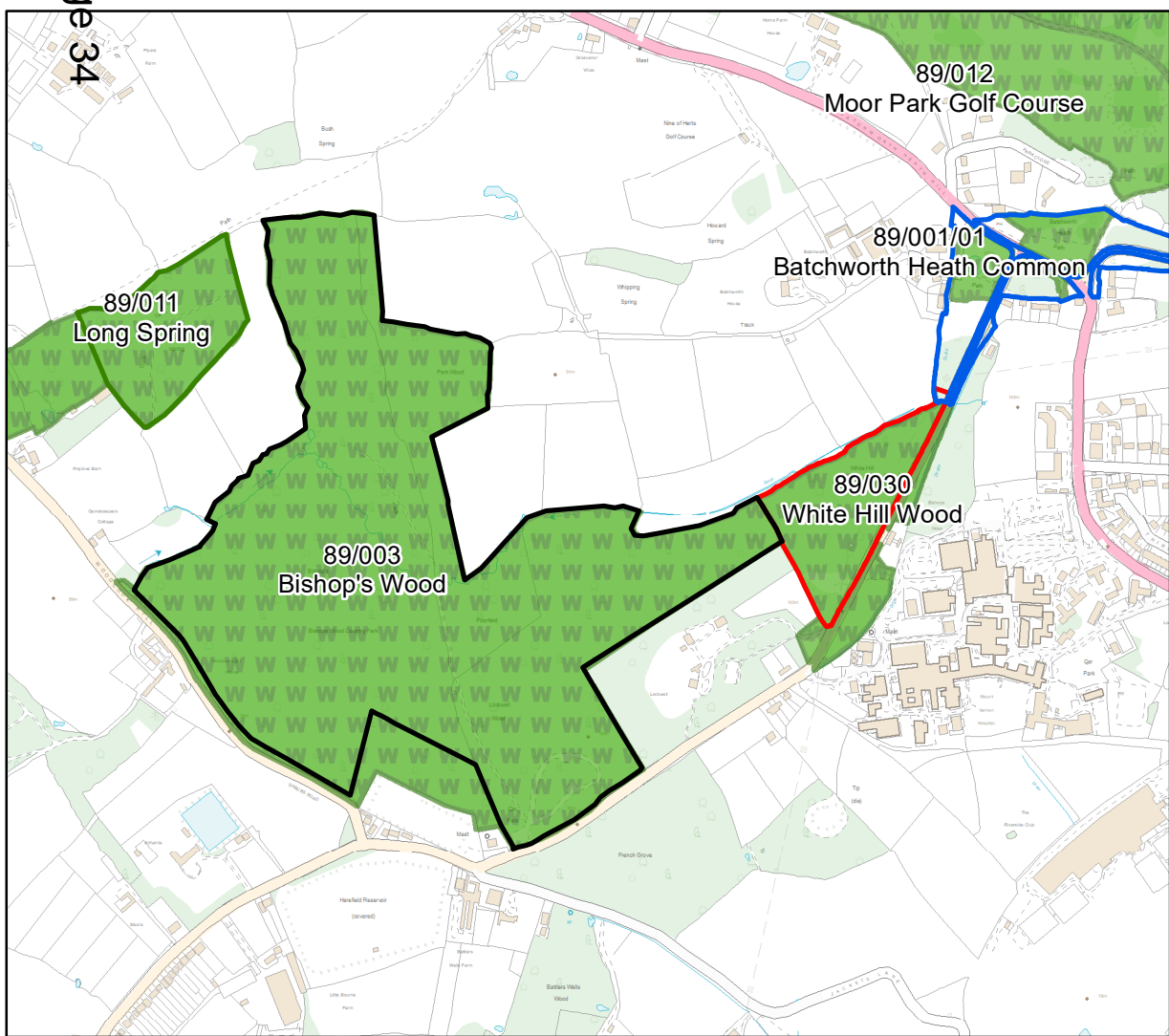
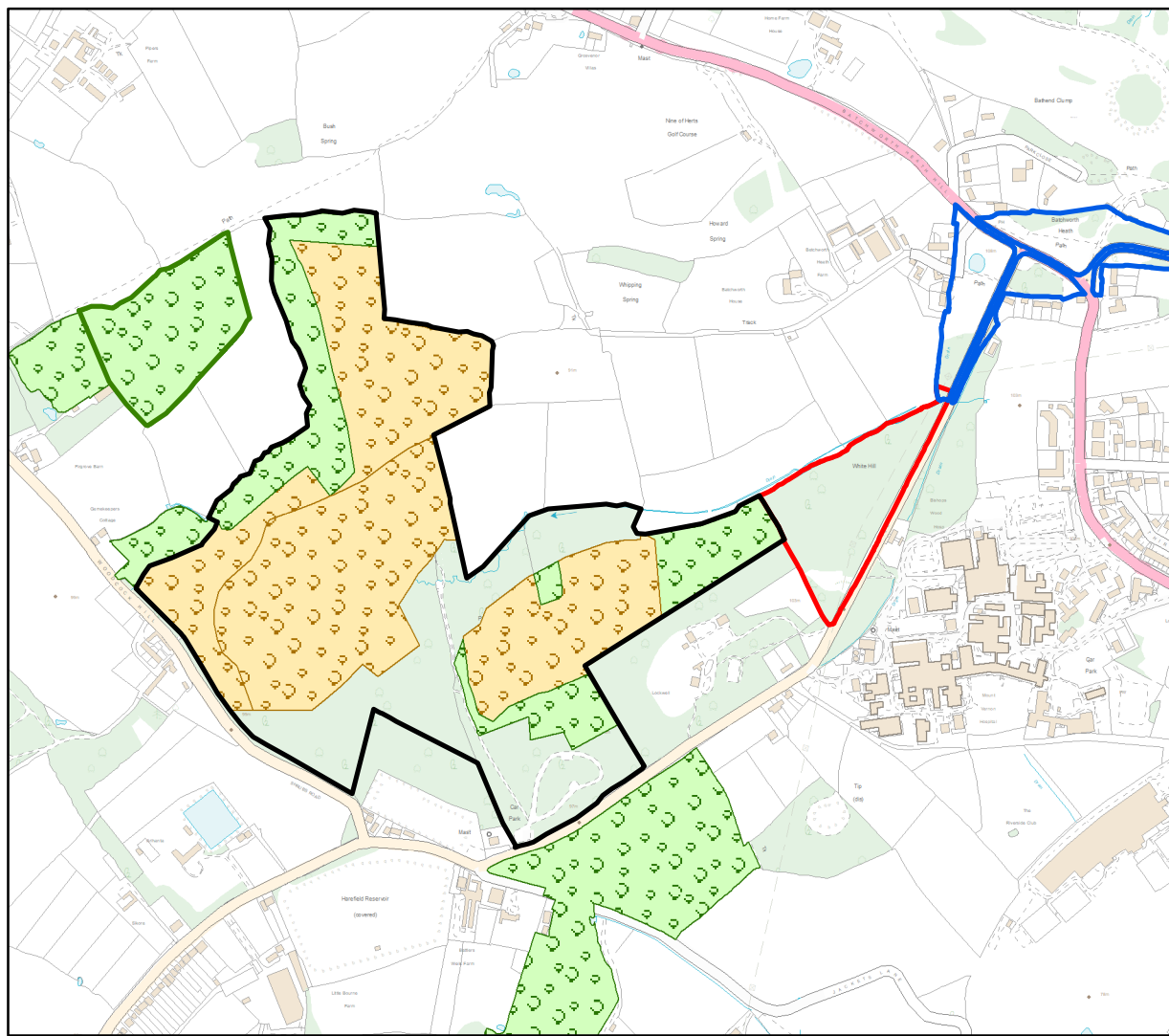
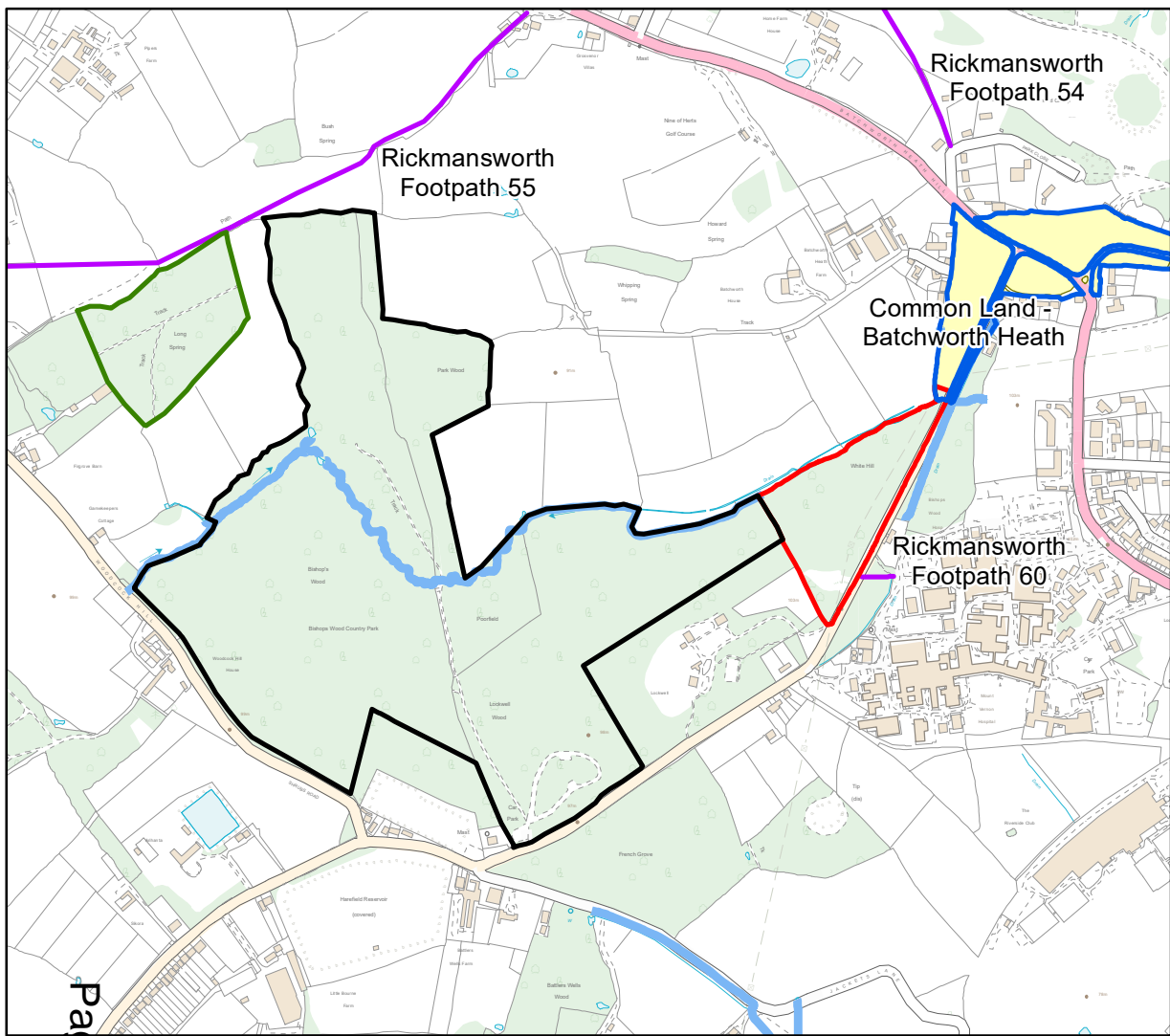
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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath GAP 2023 - 28 Constraints Plan

Legend

-  Site boundary (Batchworth Heath)
 -  Site boundary (Bishop's Wood)
 -  Site boundary (Long Spring)
 -  Site boundary (White Hill Wood)
 -  Footpath
 -  Ordinary watercourse
 -  Common Land
 -  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
 -  Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
 -  Wildlife Site
 -  Greenbelt - November 2016
 -  Country Parks
 -  Conservation Areas
- Services**
-  High pressure gas pipeline
 -  High voltage powerline
 -  Water pipeline

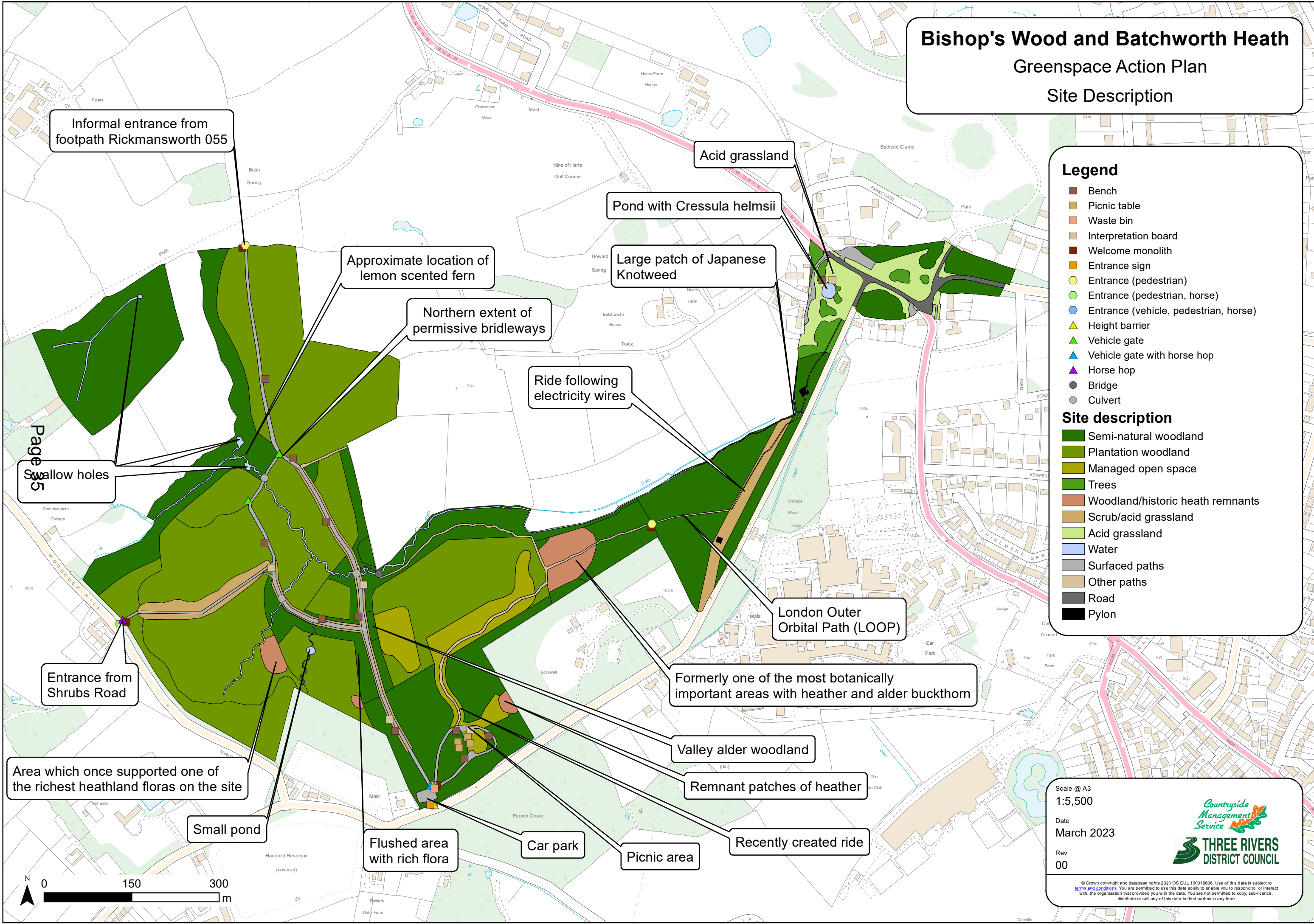


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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath Greenspace Action Plan Site Description



Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert

Site description

- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon

Informal entrance from footpath Rickmansworth 055

Acid grassland

Pond with *Cressula helmsii*

Large patch of Japanese Knotweed

Approximate location of lemon scented fern

Northern extent of permissive bridleways

Ride following electricity wires

Page 25

Swallow holes

Entrance from Shrubs Road

London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP)

Formerly one of the most botanically important areas with heather and alder buckthorn

Area which once supported one of the richest heathland floras on the site

Valley alder woodland

Remnant patches of heather

Small pond

Flushed area with rich flora

Car park

Picnic area

Recently created ride



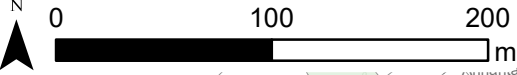
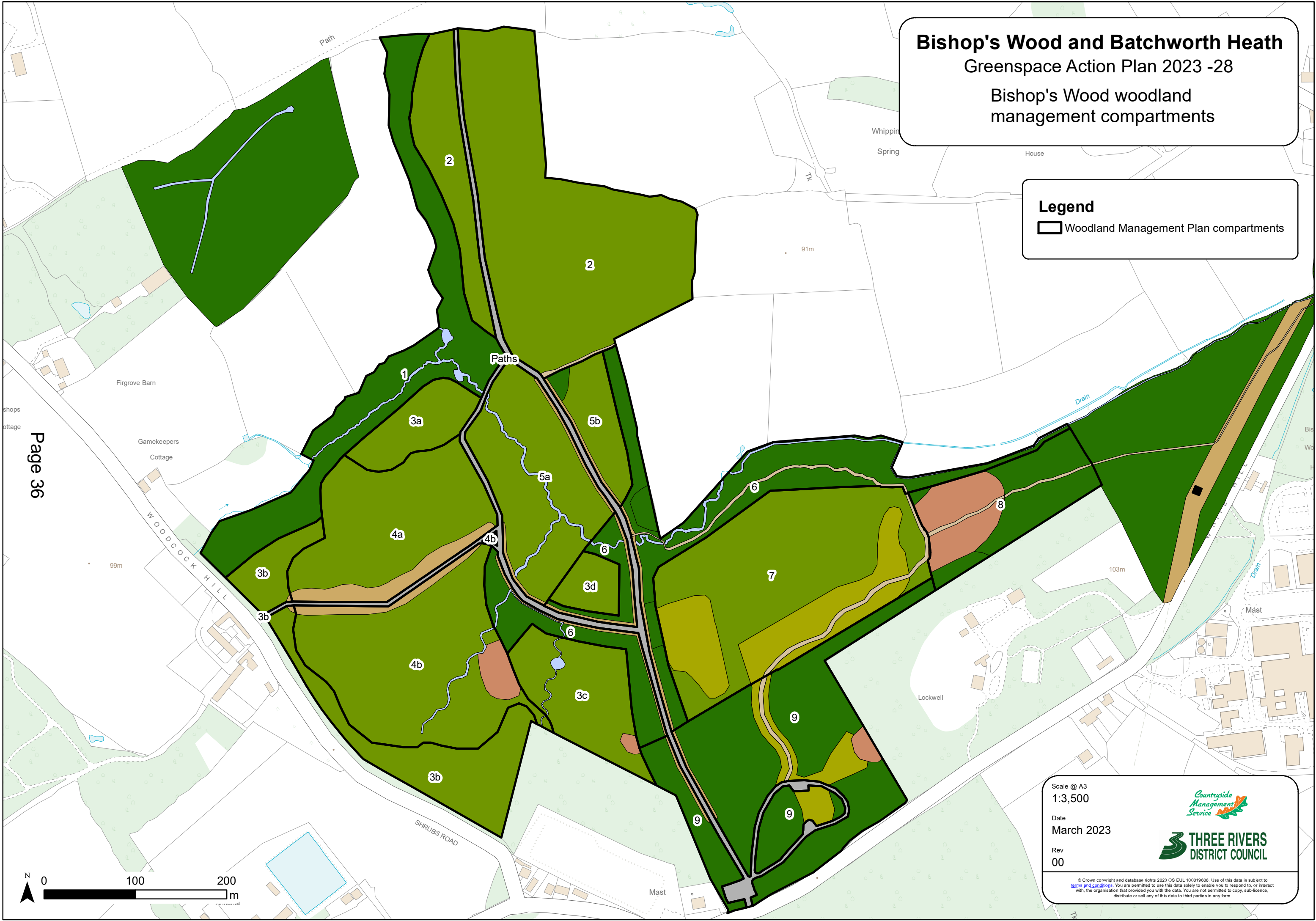
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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath
 Greenspace Action Plan 2023 -28
 Bishop's Wood woodland
 management compartments

Legend
 Woodland Management Plan compartments



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2.2 Geography and Landscape

2.2.1 Landscape

Bishop's Wood is located between Rickmansworth, Northwood and Harefield in south-west Hertfordshire, and directly borders the Greater London boundary to the south. Despite its suburban location, it lies within a rural wooded landscape, with no significant settlements in its immediate vicinity. The landscape is gently undulating with numerous woods and farms.

The wood occupies both sides of a shallow valley. It is prominent from the minor roads that run down its south western and south eastern edges, but otherwise quite concealed. It is surrounded largely by agricultural land and other woodland, with the only exceptions being a reservoir to the immediate south and a large house and garden to the south east.

Batchworth Heath has a more suburban feel, being dissected by the A404 between Rickmansworth and Northwood and several other minor roads, and located on the edge of Northwood.

Both sites lie within the [Moor Park Slopes Landscape Character Area](#), where sloping and undulating landforms tumble down to the River Colne. The traditional pattern of horse pasture enclosed by tall and well-treed hedgerows is retained. Woodlands such as Bishop's Wood on the higher ground mark the horizon and combine with hedges to create a lush appearance. The mix of soil types support locally diverse flora as can be found at Bishop's Wood. The 'green' at Batchworth Heath is also a distinctive feature.

Landscape priorities align closely with habitat priorities, being to support the continued management of Bishop's Wood in order to establish a rich ground flora, including areas of heath and the distinction between different management systems such as high forest, coppice, coppice with standards and wood pasture and to encourage the replanting of conifers with native species.

2.2.2 Geology and soils

The habitat diversity of Bishop's Wood stems from the range of geological deposits over which it lies, which have resulted in soils of varying drainage and acidity. The highest ground in the south and south-west is capped by glacial sands and gravels, forming freely draining acid clay/gravel soils. These deposits peter out northwards to expose an intermediate layer of London Clay, giving rise to heavy loam soils often mixed with flints and with impeded drainage. The mottled clays and pebbles of the Reading Beds come to the surface on the lowest ground in the extreme north-western edge of the wood.

2.2.3 Watercourses

Bishop's Wood contains several streams, some of which are classified as ordinary watercourses. These finish at two swallow holes in compartment 1, and do not flow out of the wood in normal circumstances. There are also numerous poorly drained and wet areas which support marshy indicator species, and the remains of a small pond in compartment 3c. There is a further swallow hole in Long Spring.

When flows in the watercourses exceed the capacity of the swallow holes, water flows overland down a normally-dry valley and can cause flooding along Harefield Road and Stockers Farm Road in Rickmansworth. A natural flood management project between 2018 and 2020 constructed a series of leaky woody dams along the watercourses, which aim to slow the flow through the wood and reduce the frequency of these flood events, although it is not possible to quantify the effect of these dams.



Figure 1 The same leaky woody dam during normal (left) and high (right) flow conditions.

2.2.4 Constraints

The designations which apply to Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath are listed in Section 1 and shown on the map in Section 2.3. In addition, there is a high pressure gas pipeline running west-east adjacent to the ride on the southern boundary of compartment 2, and a water main running north-south from the reservoir to the northern boundary of the wood. These are also both shown on the map in Section 2.3. Special precautions must be taken before crossing the gas pipeline with heavy forestry vehicles.

Steep slopes in places and frequently boggy terrain have the potential to impede forestry operations. Ground conditions also restrict the times of year when forestry operations can be carried out, to avoid damage to soil or archaeological features. It is important that any major forestry work is publicised in advance to secure public support, and well-signed on site for safety reasons.

2.3 History and Archaeology

The majority of Bishop's Wood is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland, which means it is likely there has been a wood in this location since Britain was afforested after the last ice age. The 1839 tithe map shows that the landscape has remained unchanged, apart from the construction of Lockwell, for at least 200 years. Whilst little is known of its early history, what remains of the broadleaved wood indicates that much was managed as coppice with standards. Long Spring is more typical of ancient semi-natural coppiced woodland, and may well reflect the former character of much of Bishop's Wood before the conifers were planted. There are also possible areas of wood pasture, where the soils are more acid and there are small relic heather populations.

Bishop's Wood is in fact four separate woods: Bishop's Wood, Lockwell Wood, Park Wood and Poorfield, which are likely to be historic management units, or areas of different ownership. The wood contains substantial woodland boundary banks, particularly in the south. For example, banks run north from the car park, along the boundary with White Hill Wood and along the southern roadside boundary. The last of these is particularly impressive, covered in moss with a deep ditch close to the road and a shallow ditch on the wood side. This is thought to represent the county boundary between Hertfordshire and Middlesex. The banks are noted in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record and may date to the medieval period. They are topped with hornbeam boundary stubbs in places, or other mature trees. On other boundaries of the wood there are ancient boundary trees, and some which reflect old hedgerows such as the beech pictured below.



Figure 2 Former beech hedgerow.

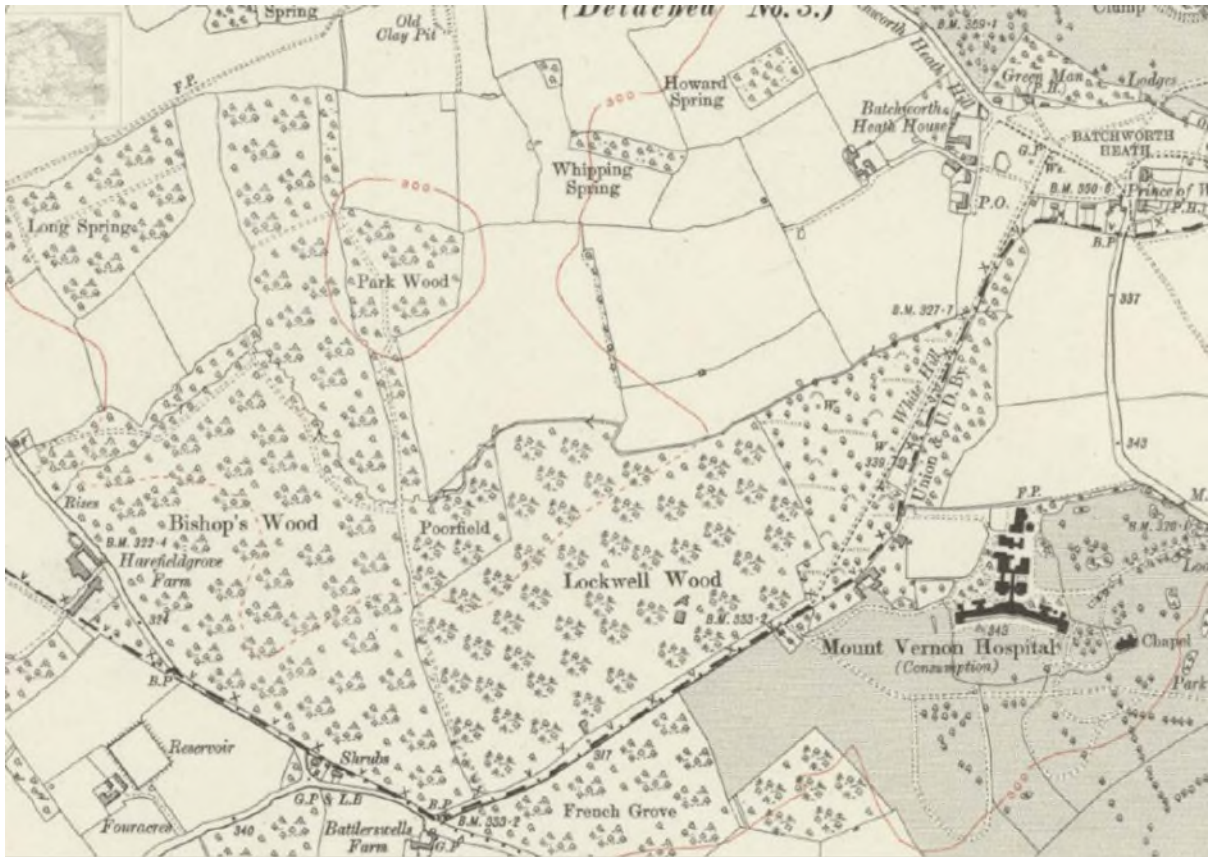


Figure 3 1920 OS Map showing Bishop's Wood's four separate woodlands; Bishop's Wood, Lockwell Wood, Park Wood and Poorfield.

Three other items are found in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record: Neolithic worked flints which were found in the 1970s in Lockwell Wood (at TQ06679177) and two Victorian coal duty markers on the boundary of the wood, only one of which remains. These marked the boundary of the area within which tax was due to the City of London on coal imports, and would have been installed in the 1860s.



Figure 4 London coal duty marker.

The primary historic interest of Batchworth Heath is the historic buildings which surround it, including five listed structures. These include a public house, Ye Olde Greene Manne, and another London coal duty marker. The entrance to Moor Park, a listed park and garden, is also located on the edge of the common. This comprises a pair of Portland stone and brick lodges on either side of an arched entrance, and was designed in the 1760s.

2.4 Management history

As noted above, it is thought that Bishop's Wood was historically managed as coppice with standards, with the likelihood of areas of wood pasture. However, its tree stock was devastated by the demands of two world wars. After the wood was purchased by Rickmansworth Urban District Council in 1960, their first plan of operations in 1962 aimed to bring the whole of the wood, bar small areas set aside for recreation, into full production. This involved extensive planting and coniferisation in accordance with forestry practice at the time.

After local government reorganisation in 1974 the wood's ownership passed to Three Rivers District Council, which continued the previous management regime by a programme of thinning and maintenance. In 1976 fire damaged several hectares of

young plantation, which were subsequently replanted between 1978 and 1980. Bishop's Wood had been notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1970 but was denotified in 1986 due to the reduction in floristic diversity which was a consequence of this coniferisation.

The site became a Country Park in 1988, with a car park, interpretation, picnic tables and seats installed. However, following the restocking in the late 1970s, little forestry work was done. Plantations were not thinned and in many cases hardwoods were shaded out by conifers, while scrub and birch became significant in other areas.

In 2010 and 2011 significant felling took place with many of the best conifers removed, especially from Lockwell and Park Wood. This left compartment 7 with little canopy cover, and it became dominated by bracken, bramble and dense birch regeneration. A project in 2019 aimed to bring this area back into active management by clearing abandoned timber and removing tree stumps. Scrapes were created to encourage regeneration of previous heathland vegetation such as heather and gorse, both of which have now been seen in the scrapes, and the area is maintained as a managed open space within the woodland.

As a result of this long history of management interventions, large sections of Bishop's Wood are now relatively young, with relic Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) and some coppice around its fringes.

A major project with joint funding from TRDC and the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme brought an investment of almost £250,000 to Bishop's Wood between 2014 and 2017. This greatly improved the overall condition of the woodland through sensitive forestry works such as thinning and ride widening. It also dramatically improved facilities for visitors, including resurfacing the main paths, installing new benches, picnic tables and interpretation boards and enhancing the car park.

A further investment in the site is ongoing, with a Countryside Stewardship agreement in place between 2020 and 2024. This includes a range of woodland management actions similar to those in the previous grant scheme, including thinning and ride management.

Batchworth Heath is Registered Common Land, and as such would historically have been grazed, keeping the heath open and resulting in the development of the acid grassland habitat for which it is locally important. The cessation of grazing has resulted in the development of scrub and secondary woodland around the fringes of the common, and these changes are shown in Figure 1 below. The extent of the grassland is now maintained by mowing.

2.5 Habitats and Wildlife

2.5.1 Habitats

Bishop's Wood is a large area of ancient acid woodland situated on a varied geology, which supports a very rich and diverse flora. The site has been extensively replanted with conifers and broadleaved species, but there are relic stands of ancient woodland consisting predominantly of hazel coppice with pedunculate oak/ash standards on the clay soils and pedunculate oak/beechn/silver birch high forest on the southern sands and gravels. Small stands of alder and coppiced hornbeam have also survived in places. The ground flora supports abundant ancient woodland indicator species. Acid grassland/heathland communities are also present, within the wider rides, with a varied flora. Heather is still present, primarily in compartment 9 but also with young regeneration in compartment 7. The presence of streams, swallowholes and a pond add to the habitat diversity.

The presence of a large number of plants more typically associated with open acidic grassland/heathland habitats is one of the most noticeable features of the site. The occurrence of commonly occurring species such as tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and heath speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) within Bishop's Wood suggests that a large part of the southern half of the site must formerly have been very open in character. It could perhaps have been more aptly described as heathland with scattered trees, rather than woodland proper, managed as a form of wood pasture. Evidence of this character is visible in the aerial photo from 1948 in Figure 1 below, which also shows the changes which have taken place in the intervening period.



Figure 5 Aerial photos of Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath from 1948 and 2015.

The PAWS areas (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites), which cover just over 50% of Bishop's Wood, comprise a variety of soft and hardwoods, including Douglas-fir, Corsican and Scots pines, Norway spruce, European and Japanese larches, cherry, beech, ash, oak and hornbeam. They can be divided into two

categories: older well-established blocks, and areas which were repeatedly replanted following fires and rabbit damage up to the late 1970s and lacked maintenance from the 1980s onwards. These have now largely lost their former tree, shrub and ground flora communities, although recent restoration works may help elements of these communities to recover. The habitats of Bishop's Wood are described in more detail in Sections 2.5.1.1 to 2.5.1.9 below.

Batchworth Heath is a small ancient common situated on glacial sands, gravel and London Clay. Its ecological interest principally relates to its unimproved acid grassland, patches of marshy grassland and pond; complemented by areas of neutral grassland, scrub and secondary woodland. It supports a range of acid grassland indicators, including tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and oval sedge (*Carex leporina*). Where the grassland is more neutral in character, common bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) can be found. The pond has a diverse marginal aquatic flora, including the Herts Rare species bladderwort (*Utricularia australis*), which was most recently recorded in 1992. However, it has become dominated by *Crassula helmsii*, an invasive non-native species. The pond was desilted in 2020, including removal of the *Crassula*, but eradication has not been attempted. The scrub and woodland reflect encroachment on the historic common which took place over a long period when it was neither grazed nor cut.



Figure 6 Batchworth Heath pond

Long Spring is an ancient semi-natural woodland, and it is likely that its character is similar to how much of Bishop's Wood would have been before the widespread planting of conifers. It is essentially neglected hazel coppice with oak standards, beside deep banks of a small stream leading to a swallow hole. It has a rich ground flora with 27 ancient woodland indicator species. White Hill Wood is similar to adjacent parts of Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath, as a damp scrubby woodland with heathy character. On Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire (1822) it was shown as part of Batchworth Heath.

Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath are also part of a larger network of important habitat, which is of particular importance given the relatively urban context of the area. Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath are linked by White Hill Wood. Moor Park Golf Course, another Local Wildlife Site, provides a further link northward to the river Colne wildlife corridor. Ruislip Woods, a 305ha SSSI and National Nature Reserve in the London Borough of Hillingdon, is only one mile to the south of Bishop's Wood and has a similar combination of ancient woodland, acid grassland and wetland vegetation types.

2.5.1.1 *Compartment 1*

This compartment forms a wide belt running along the wood's north-western boundary. It contains the most extensive stands of hazel and ash coppice with oak standards in the wood. In Park Wood the compartment lies on a west facing slope and is fairly open in nature with hazel coppice, birch with some oak standards and occasional beech. In Bishop's Wood the compartment runs alongside a fairly steep stream valley. Here there are good stands of very over-stood hazel coppice with some ash and field maple coppice.

Ground flora in the northern section of the compartment on the Reading beds is less rich with more bramble and bracken, but on the clay soils further south is dominated by bluebells in spring and several ancient woodland indicator species have been recorded. Of particular interest is the area containing swallow holes where Bishop's Wood and Park Wood meet. Here there are more mature oak standards together with large grey poplar. Lemon-scented fern, a key species for the site, grows along the stream running towards the swallow holes and requires shelter and shade.



Figure 7 Stream running towards swallow hole

2.5.1.2 *Compartment 2*

This compartment is separated by a north-south ride which has recently been widened. It sits at the top of a gently sloping hill which was planted in 1964/5 with a mix of Scots pine, Douglas-fir, beech and oak. It was heavily line-thinned in 2010/11, and some further thinning took place within the rows in 2015/16. The ground is dominated by bramble with occasional bracken. The boundaries of the compartment which follow the wood's edge are lined with ancient oak, ash and field maple, and where this ancient woodland character extends to a narrow band along the boundary

there are bluebells in the ground layer. The majority of the wild service trees in the wood are found along the eastern and southern edges of this compartment.



Figure 8 Line thinned section of compartment 2

2.5.1.3 *Compartments 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d*

These four blocks represent older mixed plantations planted in 1966 that have not been affected by fire or rabbits.

Compartment 3a lies south of compartment 1 on the north-west corner of Bishop's Wood and comprises a mature stand of Scots pine, Douglas-fir and both mature and younger oak. Ground flora is poor due to canopy closure.

Compartment 3b runs along Shrubs Road from the extreme western tip of the wood to the reservoir. The area north of the main ride seems less mature than 3a containing Scots pine, oak and birch. As 3b runs south along the road it is more mixed with birch, hazel and some mature oak but often less conifer. Nearer the reservoir there are rows of planted beech in very poor condition due to rabbit/squirrel damage. Boundary stubbs are also present against the road in this compartment.

Compartment 3c contains more scattered pine with beech, willow, poplar, hazel and birch and is generally in a fairly poor condition. In 1987 it contained a remnant area

of lowland heath with heather in a clearing, but this no longer seems to be present, and there is a small shaded pond. Again ground flora is poor. Compartment 3d is very like 3a with mature Scots pine, Douglas-fir and oak.



Figure 9 Mature Scots pine in compartment 3d

2.5.1.4 *Compartments 4a and 4b*

These two compartments that form the bulk of Bishop's Wood were repeatedly damaged by fire and were eventually restocked with larch, beech and oak between 1978 and 1980. Establishment has had varied success and where the new plantings have taken they have not been maintained, with differing results.

Compartment 4a has been partially thinned leaving well-spaced larch. There is little or no ground flora though occasionally honeysuckle is present. Compartment 4b consists of areas of dense young larch with oak or beech which is increasingly suppressed. Honeysuckle and bramble are present as is birch. Other areas where the planting has failed have dense birch, willow, larch and oak in an often impenetrable mix with honeysuckle and occasional bramble where it is light. A former area of lowland heath which once supported some of the finest heathland floras on the site beneath relic semi-mature pedunculate oaks in the south east corner of 4b is no longer distinguishable. Lesser skullcap once grew locally in any wet depressions or flushes in this compartment.

A ride running east-west from Shrubs Road separates the two compartments and once supported a range of acid grassland plants. It had become increasingly shaded by surrounding vegetation, before being widened in 2014/15. Species found along the ride since this work was completed include devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).



Figure 10 Previously thinned section of compartment 4a

2.5.1.5 *Compartments 5a and 5b*

These compartments follow the valley of the wood's main stream. They were replanted following fire damage in 1976 with larch and broadleaves, most noticeably oak. There is some good hazel and hawthorn in the understorey. Compartment 5a was very dense but has been recently thinned, and bramble is becoming more significant. Compartment 5b is more open and much more broadleaved in nature with the remains of hornbeam coppice and oak. A broad fringe of hawthorn and blackthorn forms the woodland edge. There is little ground flora due to shading, with the exception of along the ride that runs north-south separating 5a and 5b, which was widened in 2016/17.



Figure 11 Compartment 5a

2.5.1.6 *Compartment 6*

Compartment 6 comprises irregular fragments of semi-natural broadleaved woodland retained between plantations, with a heterogeneous mixture of stand types including oak/hazel/ash, alder, oak/hornbeam and birch/sallow. Coppiced alder and hazel with oak standards above compartment 7 is in rotation; recent coppicing demonstrates that without protection coppice stools will suffer from deer browsing. There is also a small block of hornbeam coppice north of the stream.

The ground layer is variable, but there is an interesting flora in places, especially in the wetter areas. A linear flushed area at TQ06899180 supports a particularly rich flora, but this is thought to have declined due to shading in recent years.



Figure 12 New alder coppice in compartment 6

2.5.1.7 *Compartment 7*

A plantation of Scots pine and Norway spruce established in 1970, with more recent planting including cherry and oak in the north-west and north-east corners. This was heavily felled in 2010/11 with many of the best conifers removed. This left a large proportion with little canopy cover, which became dominated by bracken and prolific birch regeneration. There is also occasional laurel and rhododendron. In 2019 this area was brought back into active management by clearing abandoned timber and removing tree stumps. Scrapes were created to encourage regeneration of previous heathland vegetation such as heather and gorse, both of which have now been seen in the scrapes, and the area is maintained as a managed open space within the woodland.



Figure 13 Managed open space in compartment 7

2.5.1.8 *Compartment 8*

This compartment, on acid soils, comprises replanted ash, sycamore and cherry from 1978, amid scattered older blocks of conifers (larch, Douglas-fir) planted in 1965 and semi-natural oak/birch woodland. It was once of great importance for significant areas of heather with alder buckthorn and green-ribbed sedge, but heather has not been recorded here since 2003. Bracken and bramble are now significant, with bluebell occasional, and only one small alder buckthorn was found in 2013. As with compartment 7 there is occasional laurel and rhododendron. The eastern end of the compartment is marked by a significant ditch and bank which retains some old boundary stubbs.



Figure 14 Young birch-dominated woodland in compartment 8.

2.5.1.9 *Compartment 9*

The most southerly compartment containing the car park and picnic area. Again on acid soils it is distinguished by large beech surrounded by, typically, young birch although willow, hornbeam and holly are present as are oak and the occasional yew. It feels very much like overgrown heath, still retaining an open feel. Bracken is the dominant ground layer, and heather survives in the east of the compartment and within the picnic area. An internal wood bank running north from the car park has hornbeam stubbs. Japanese knotweed has occurred in two locations, next to the car park and along the southern boundary on White Hill.



Figure 15 Open, wood pasture-like character of compartment 9, with mature beech.

2.5.2 Protected species

Bishop's Wood undoubtedly provides habitat for foraging and roosting bats. While no bat survey work has been carried out, there are records of common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat from 2001 around Bishop's Wood. There are no plans to fell mature trees with holes or cracks which could be used by bats. If any such felling were required for health and safety reasons, bat surveys may be required.

A protected species scoping survey carried out in 2010 indicated that several areas within Bishop's Wood have habitat potential for dormice. However, the wood was surveyed for dormice in the early 1990s and none were found. Dormice have been recorded within six miles of the site. The same survey considered that Bishop's Wood had moderately high habitat potential for reptiles and amphibians, but there are no records of great crested newt from either Bishop's Wood or Batchworth Heath. Slow worms are present at Bishop's Wood.

There is at least one active badger sett within Bishop's Wood. No work should be undertaken around a badger sett without first contacting Natural England for advice.

There is the potential for nesting birds within any dense vegetation, and habitat work on such vegetation should therefore be restricted to outside the bird breeding

season, which is normally considered to run between 1st March and 31st August. Even outside these dates, care should be taken, as birds may nest earlier or later.

2.5.3 Other notable species

Floristically Bishop's Wood has long been known as one of the richest blocks of acid woodland in Hertfordshire. In the 1978 survey of ASNW in Hertfordshire it was ranked eleventh highest in terms of its value of nature conservation. However, some of its floristic diversity has been lost, particularly to shading and encroachment of scrub, in the decades since then. A long history of botanical surveying provides a means by which to measure past changes and the impacts of current and future habitat management.

A comprehensive ecological appraisal was written in 1987, which gave detailed descriptions of the nine compartments within the wood, together with notes on the uncommon species. A total of 215 vascular plant species were recorded at that time. Further surveys were conducted by the Herts Wildlife Sites Partnership in 2003 and 2013, recording 195 species on both occasions. In 2013, 45 ancient woodland indicator species were recorded, and 16 acid grassland indicator species were also recorded. The report from this most recent survey is included in Appendix 1. Notable flora can largely be divided into these two groups and are listed in Table 1. Not all have been recorded recently and some may have been lost. Bishop's Wood is also thought to contain one of the most interesting bryophyte floras of any acid woodland in Hertfordshire.

Most invertebrate groups are under-recorded, but the wood can be expected to be of entomological interest as a result of its diversity of habitats and vegetation types. Noteworthy butterflies include white admiral (*Limenitis camilla*), purple emperor (*Apatura iris*) and silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*). White admiral is identified as a species of principal importance in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) and its distribution in England has declined by 40% between 2010 and 2019.

Sympathetic management for these species will include ensuring that their food plants are considered in any woodland management work. For white admiral, honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) in partial shade is important, and some mature woodland blocks should therefore see no active management. For purple emperor and silver-washed fritillary, willow (*Salix caprea*) and common dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) respectively are required.

2.5.4 Southern wood ant

Bishop's Wood is the only site in Hertfordshire with a historic record of the southern wood ant (*Formica rufa*). The record is undated, but given authority by the recorder,

the 20th century hymenopterist G.M. Spooner. The nearest surviving colonies were at Stanmore and Burnham Beeches, 10km and 14km away respectively.

Given this status, as part of the previous Greenspace Action Plan the Hertfordshire ant recorder initiated a translocation project which aims to re-establish a southern wood ant population at Bishop's Wood. Nests were translocated in 2019 and 2021 from donor populations at Burnham Beeches, Slough, and Pear Wood, Stanmore. Nest boosting was also undertaken in 2021 and 2022, bringing additional pupal-rich nest material to strengthen the new nest sites. By the end of the summer in 2022, three nests all appeared to be faring well. Nest translocations are expected to continue in 2023 and beyond.



Figure 16 Wood ant nest translocation and established nest at Bishop's Wood.

2.5.5 Oak processionary moth

Three Rivers district is now within the Established zone for oak processionary moth (OPM). This means it is now the responsibility of landowners to manage OPM on their land, rather than the Forestry Commission. A risk-based approach to managing OPM is recommended for this zone.

Table 1: Notable flora of Bishop's Wood

Common name	Scientific name	Most recent record	Status/designations	Ancient woodland indicator	Acid grassland/heathland indicator
Velvet bent	<i>Agrostis canina</i>	1987			Y
Hard fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	2002		Y	
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	2017			Y
Green-ribbed sedge	<i>Carex binervis</i>	2013			Y
Common yellow sedge	<i>Carex denissa</i>	1987			Y
Star sedge	<i>Carex echinata</i>	2002	Herts Rare		
Common sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>	1987			Y
Pale sedge	<i>Carex pallescens</i>	2003		Y	
Thin-spiked wood sedge	<i>Carex strigosa</i>	2003		Y	
Narrow buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	2013		Y	
Violet helleborine	<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>	2017		Y	
Alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	2013	Herts Rare	Y	Y
Pale-headed hawkweed	<i>Hieracium vulgatum</i>	1964	Herts Rare		
Bulbous rush	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	2003			Y
Southern wood-rush	<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	2002		Y	
Yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	1987	Herts Rare		
Lemon-scented fern	<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>	2008	Herts Rare	Y	
Herb-Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	2003	Herts Vulnerable	Y	
Lesser skullcap	<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	1996	Herts Rare	Y	Y
Devil's bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	2013			Y

2.6 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

There are no public rights of way in Bishop's Wood or Long Spring. Public footpath Rickmansworth 055 passes close to the northern boundary of both sites but there are currently no legal links to it. The London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) provides a means of access to Bishop's Wood from Batchworth Heath through White Hill Wood. However, this section of the LOOP does not follow a public right of way.

As a result of the major access improvements carried out between 2014 and 2017, the infrastructure of Bishop's Wood is now in good condition. From the car park, which has recently been expanded and resurfaced, a network of permissive paths and permissive bridleways has been surfaced. These provide good access to the northern and western boundaries of the wood, around a central loop and onto a short easy access trail close to the car park. The permissive bridleways run from White Hill and Shrubs Road and around the central loop. Except for the path between the central loop and Shrubs Road, these tracks are suitable for forestry vehicles, allowing forestry work to take place with minimal damage to access routes. The paths and access points are shown below.



Figure 17 Detail from orientation board

There are also two unsurfaced permissive paths running to the east. These are waymarked in the same way as the main routes, and generally well defined, but can be very muddy for much of the year. Numerous desire lines are focused on the area immediately north and east of the car park.

Wooden seats are located along the paths, and there are picnic tables in the picnic area. Interpretation boards have been sited around the wood, and there is an orientation board at the entrance. A site leaflet has also been produced. There are wooden monoliths with TRDC logos marking the entrances, similar to those used at nearby sites such as Oxhey Woods.

There is a brown sign to Bishop's Wood Country Park at the entrance to the car park on White Hill, and a large wooden sign marking the entrance. The car park is accessed through a height barrier to prevent the entry of large vehicles. A further low barrier prevents vehicular access to the network of tracks while allowing easy access for horse riders.

As common land, Batchworth Heath has open public access throughout, with the LOOP passing through towards Bishop's Wood to the west and Moor Park to the east. There is an interpretation panel highlighting natural and historic features of the site and identifying it as owned and managed by TRDC, and a bench next to the pond.

2.7 Community and Events

The location of Bishop's Wood, away from any significant settlement, means it is likely to remain a quiet site suited to low key recreational use and visited most often by car. Its car park is also a potential base for exploration of the wider countryside. The only current community involvement in its management is through a CMS volunteer group, which works here several times each year.

Batchworth Heath is at the heart of a small community and there is therefore more community interest in its management. The interpretation panel promotes its proximity to Bishop's Wood and the potential to explore along the LOOP to the west, and simple waymarking for the LOOP and to and from Bishop's Wood through White Hill Wood.

2.8 Site Management

Bishop's Wood is owned and managed by TRDC in partnership with CMS. There is no ongoing vegetation management, but litter is collected from the bin in the car park and any fly tipping is removed. Regular tree safety surveys take place, and reactive tree works are carried out along the paths to address safety issues. Batchworth Heath has similar maintenance, along with a programme of grass cutting and removal of arisings. There is no ongoing management of any kind at Long Spring.

2.9 Policy Context

This plan is set in the context of several Council policies and strategies which relate directly to site management.

2.9.1 Corporate Framework

Each year, Three Rivers District Council updates its Strategic Plan. This is a document that brings together our high level, medium- to long-term objectives which, following consultation and analysis of data, the Council considers to be its priorities for the District.

It focuses on those areas where the Council has a lead role or can play a key part in delivering or influencing the outcomes. Its purpose is to guide the Council in its annual consultation, planning, resource allocation and performance management process. [Corporate Framework \(threerivers.gov.uk\)](https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/corporate-framework)

2.9.2 Tree Strategy

The [Three Rivers District Council Tree Strategy](#) identifies the actions to be taken over the next five years to protect and sustainably manage existing trees and woodlands. It also sets out the council's plans to increase the number of trees by planting new ones, while ensuring the right trees are planted in the right places and are properly maintained.

2.9.3 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy

The council's [Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy](#) sets out how the council can improve and lead by example in our own operations. It also sets out how we will work with and assist the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in our area to reduce their impact on the environment, improve sustainability and also adapt to and build resilience to a changing climate.

2.9.4 Local Plan

The current [Local Plan](#) for the district was published in 2014. Three Rivers District Council is preparing a [new Local Plan](#) that will set out a vision and policy framework for the future levels of growth within the district until 2038. These documents include policies which relate to nature conservation.

2.9.5 Nature Recovery Strategy

The Council have produced a Nature Recovery Strategy (currently at draft stage) to specifically address the Council's approach to protection of the natural world within the district. The strategy recognises the rich diversity of wildlife already present within the district, both within protected nature reserves as well as public open space, residential gardens, grass verges, and more.

At the heart of the strategy is a five-year Action Plan, which identifies and prioritises actions to be undertaken by the Council and others for the benefit of biodiversity. The full strategy will be published on the TRDC website shortly.

3.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

A. A welcoming place

To enhance the experience of using Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath for regular users and visitors.

- A1 Improve maintenance of surfaced and unsurfaced paths within Bishop's Wood and between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath.
- A2 Explore the possibility of establishing TRDC ownership of White Hill Wood in order to bring it into positive management.
- A3 Improve visibility of the Bishop's Wood car park from the road.

B. Healthy, safe and secure

To ensure that visitors to Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath feel safe and able to enjoy the sites at all times.

- B1 Continue to increase visitor numbers through improved facilities, better promotion, and a wider range of attractions, thereby reducing antisocial behaviour.
- B2 Respond proactively to any misuse of the site.
- B3 Carry out reactive tree works to address safety issues.

C. Clean and well maintained

To ensure the standard of maintenance is upheld and relevant.

- C1 Manage and maintain the grassland, paths, interpretation and infrastructure.
- C2 Remove graffiti and fly-tipping.
- C3 Carry out regular litter picking and small-scale vegetation management.
- C4 Maintain the surface of car parks in good condition.

D. Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of all management operations on site.

- D1 Ensure ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable.
- D2 Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital works.
- D3 Carry out management according to environmental best practice, avoiding the use of herbicides, and using sustainable woodland management practices.

- D4 Continue to finance agreed works with Countryside Stewardship funding, as set out in the agreement.
- D5 Market produce from forestry operations to increase the financial viability of woodland management.

E. Conservation and heritage

To conserve and enhance the key habitats of Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath.

- E1 Continue to restore historic and iconic habitats and species to Bishop's Wood.
- E2 Continue woodland management to improve the ecological status of Bishop's Wood in line with the long-term woodland management plan.
- E3 Protect, restore, and aim to link together remnant patches of heathland.
- E4 Control invasion of open areas by bracken.
- E5 Monitor and control invasive non-native species and eradicate where possible.
- E6 Enhance the acid grassland on Batchworth Heath and prevent encroachment of scrub.
- E7 Maintain and enhance ponds across Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath.

F. Community involvement

To develop and maintain an informed, involved and enthusiastic local community.

- F1 Encourage the local community to become involved in the management of the site in a structured and supported way and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the objectives of the GAP.

G. Marketing

To promote awareness and interest in Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath.

- G1 Make the Bishop's Wood leaflet easily accessible online.
- G2 Run occasional guided walks to showcase Bishop's Wood and its neighbouring sites.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

4.1 A Welcoming Place

Major improvements have been achieved to the welcome offered at Bishop's Wood in recent years. The site has excellent parking, a network of surfaced routes, waymarking, interpretation and furniture. The next step in this process, alongside improving promotion of the site, is to further develop links across the network of TRDC sites in the area and to improve visibility of the Bishop's Wood car park from the main road.

Some of the unsurfaced permissive paths marked on the orientation board at the entrance are currently unmaintained, including the route of the LOOP, which is also the route between Batchworth Heath and Bishop's Wood. Establishing a regular programme of vegetation management along these remaining paths would ensure these routes are kept open and well-defined through the year.

White Hill Wood is an unmanaged, unclaimed parcel of land, and the connection between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath would be strengthened if it were brought into positive management. This will require TRDC to explore the possibility of establishing their ownership of this land.

If TRDC ownership were established, improving access would be an important first step in this area, and would include improving drainage and surfacing of a section of path in particularly poor condition close to Batchworth Heath. While Batchworth Heath is generally open, a short defined path does run across the heath just south-west of the pond.



Figure 18 Poor quality path surface between Batchworth Heath and Bishop's Wood

Waymarking has been improved around Bishop's Wood in recent years, however the current provision should be reviewed and improved where needed to ensure that all routes are clearly marked, and the more minor paths can be easily followed. An interpretation board by the pond at Batchworth Heath helps to identify the site as TRDC land. The interpretation board identifies the site and its key features, as well as promoting the opportunities to explore further along the path to Bishop's Wood.

The car park at Bishop's Wood provides an excellent facility for visitors to the site, however it would benefit from improved visibility and signage from the main road. At present, the entrance is easily overlooked and obscured by surrounding dense vegetation. Opening up the entrance by coppicing and selectively felling a small number of trees would make the car park more visible from the road. This would also have the added benefit of improving security around the car park area, which currently suffers from frequent antisocial behaviour. Updated entrance signage should be installed to make the car park more noticeable and add to the site's identity. The car park will also benefit from regrading and surface dressing to maintain a good quality surface.

The picnic area suffers significantly from littering, despite the provision of waste bins, and antisocial activities. The area does not feel welcoming, and picnic benches should be removed and ideally relocated to another Three Rivers site. Management

of this area should focus on the existing heather and extending the footprint of the heathland restoration area.

4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Visitors to Bishop's Wood should feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times, and in all areas of the site. An increase in visitor numbers which is led by improved facilities, better promotion and a wider range of attractions should help deter anti-social activity. Visitors should be encouraged to report any illegal activity to the police.

Tree safety work is undertaken through a periodic tree safety survey, which recommends any necessary works. If issues with trees are encountered at other times by staff, or reported by the public, reactive tree works are carried out. Safety work is restricted to areas where there are relatively high levels of public use, and wherever possible trees are allowed to go through the natural cycle of decay.

Although the wood has a history of fires in its young conifer crops, the risk is dropping as it moves towards a broadleaved woodland. However, fire remains a risk during dry summers and with large areas of bracken. If a fire is discovered, the fire brigade should be called immediately, and it is important to ensure that they have an access key.

Batchworth Heath is a very public site, being crossed by several roads, and has no particular issues with misuse. The same approach to tree safety is taken.

4.3 Well Maintained and Clean

Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath should be maintained to a good standard, with the level of maintenance proportional to need and to level of use.

Furniture around Bishop's Wood, including seats and interpretation boards should be maintained as and when required. The site requires annual scheduled vegetation management along all paths and around benches, to maintain the width of the surfaced paths and to fulfil the terms of the Countryside Stewardship agreement as part of ride maintenance. Scheduled scrub management is required along the site's rides to maintain the valuable varied habitat structure comprised of bare ground, short and tall grasses, scrub and woodland edge.

Vegetation has encroached significantly on the surfaced paths since their construction during the last iteration of the GAP. The standard of maintenance must proactively be improved to ensure that the significant investment in this aspect of the site is not lost.



Figure 19 Example of vegetation encroachment on path through compartment 2, which was surfaced to a width suitable for forestry vehicles.

The condition of Bishop's Wood's leaky woody dams should be monitored, and maintenance adjusted as appropriate. Since their construction by CMS volunteers between 2018 and 2020, they appear to be having a positive effect on slowing the flow of the watercourse and as such, should be managed correctly.

Fly-tipping is a regular problem along the roadside, at Bishop's Wood car park and around Batchworth Heath. Any instances of fly-tipping should be collected promptly. The bins provided at the car parks at Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath should be emptied regularly to prevent waste accumulating around them. Litter is most noticeable around the car park and the picnic area at Bishop's Wood and extends along the roadside to Batchworth Heath.

Establishing a programme of regular litter picking on both sites would help keep the sites clean and give an appearance of good maintenance, as will any necessary small scale vegetation management.

4.4 Sustainability

TRDC has a strong commitment to the environment and environmental sustainability and recognises the impacts its operations have on the environment. This is reflected in Council policies, including:

- A presumption against the use of peat.
- Pesticides will not be used by the council unless there are no alternative means of control. Glyphosate will only be used for the control of Japanese knotweed. Bracken control is undertaken by rolling, which crushes the stems and progressively reduces its vitality, rather than chemical control.
- Only FSC timber is used across the district

Natural regeneration should be utilised for restocking wherever appropriate; it is low cost, dynamic, it adapts to local conditions, and reduces the risk of importing pests & diseases to the woodland. Replanting should be considered if natural regeneration does not achieve the required stocking levels, presenting an opportunity for some species diversification, with the aim of improving the resilience of the woodland against pressures from a changing climate and pests & diseases.

Bishop's Wood has a current Countryside Stewardship agreement which will provide funding to support woodland management until 2025. In 2025 a further application should be made to the new Countryside Stewardship Plus scheme to ensure ongoing funding. Separate external funding should be sought to ensure the viability of other capital works, for example grazing.

Some of the actions under consideration within this plan have the potential to increase ongoing maintenance costs, simply because it is more expensive to maintain open areas than it is to maintain woodland. The scale of actions proposed should be balanced with the future cost of maintenance to ensure that those costs remain financially sustainable, and that capital work which cannot be maintained in the long term is not undertaken. The produce from forestry operations should be marketed, to increase the viability of woodland management by subsidising the cost of work. It should be remembered that the primary purpose for woodland management is to benefit the woodland rather than to generate income.

4.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

4.5.1 Habitats

The priority for woodland management in Bishop's Wood is to continue the restoration of its diverse woodland habitats: wood pasture, lowland heath, glades, wet flushes, high forest, coppice, and conifer plantation. This restoration will continue across both PAWS and ASNW parts of the wood.

4.5.1.1 Wood Pasture

Compartment 9 is closest to retaining a wood pasture character under the mature beech trees and is the only area in which mature heather survived, prior to the restoration of compartment 7. This area is well-suited to a wood pasture restoration project, which would seek to re-establish a landscape with a more open character similar to that shown in the aerial photo from 1948 (Figure 1), where animals graze under widely spaced mature trees.

Completion of the new ride creation in 2023 has made a positive impact on the restoration of open space, whereby semi-mature birch and other trees were cleared within compartment 9 to create a linear ride, extending into the southern part of compartment 7. Management to open this area up further, leaving only mature trees, would be beneficial in restoring wood pasture habitat. Removal of stumps and the consequent ground disturbance would make future management more practical and encourage regeneration of heathland species. Annual mechanical bracken control is required across the wood pasture restoration area to prevent bracken encroachment.

Significant external funding would be required to initiate a grazing project, and it would also increase ongoing maintenance costs for Bishop's Wood. However, this has been a long-term objective for the site and should now be initiated. Funding opportunities should also be explored in more detail. An indicative grazing area is shown in the map below.



Figure 20 Indicative grazing area

4.5.1.2 Lowland Heath

Former areas of lowland heath are identified on the map in 2.1, in particular the western part of compartment 8 and the south-eastern corner of compartment 4b. While these were reported to be of considerable botanical interest in 1987, much of that interest has since been lost.

The creation of the new ride, undertaken in 2023, which links the wood pasture restoration in compartment 9 with compartments 7 and 8, will help to link former areas of lowland heath. The topsoil along the ride sides should now be scraped off in places to encourage the regeneration of healthy elements of the flora from the natural seed bank. This new ride should be added to a programme of ride maintenance as described below.

In recent years, soil scrapes have been successfully trialled within compartment 7, prompting the regeneration of heather and gorse among other species. Given their success, further suitable locations in target areas should be identified and soil scrapes created.



Figure 21 Heather regeneration in a soil scrape in compartment 7

Surviving patches of heather in compartment 9 were included in two linked glades established in 2017 by volunteers. This work has been continued through the creation of an additional glade centred around the picnic area, where more heather survives. The work was carried out at the same time as the ride creation works described above and should promote regeneration of heather from the seed bank. Including the picnic area in the area managed for heathland restoration will further improve the chances of heather regeneration. In the absence of a grazing project, the glades require long term maintenance by volunteers to prevent the establishment of bracken, bramble, trees or scrub, which will outcompete the heather if left unmanaged.

4.5.1.3 Glades and rides

Two locations in the wood would particularly benefit from the creation and subsequent maintenance of glades, as a result of their known botanical interest. These are in the southeast corner of compartment 4b and on the west side of the main ride in compartment 6 just south of the fork in the track. In both cases, semi-mature trees and scrub should be removed while any mature trees should be retained. The glades would require long term maintenance by volunteers to prevent the establishment of bracken, bramble, trees and scrub.

Ride widening has taken place along many of the main paths since 2014. The programme of ride maintenance must be continued. A classic woodland ride provides a graded edge from mature trees through scrub and tall herbs to short grassland. To achieve this, a two- or three-zone ride management regime is followed, depending on the width of the ride. On a three-zone regime the central zone is cut annually, the middle zone is cut every three years and the outer zone is to be cut every 15 years. On a two-zone regime the central zone is cut annually and the outer zone is cut every 15 years. Cutting is staggered around the woodland to provide a full range of stages of woodland succession. This frequency allows for the development of mature honeysuckle and willow, important for purple emperor and white admiral butterflies, and these species should continue to be favoured in any management work that takes place along the rides.



Figure 22 Looking east along ride from Woodcock Hill after recent ride maintenance

4.5.1.4 Streams and ponds

Light thinning was carried out along the main stream through compartment 5a in 2016/17 to let in some dappled light. Similar work could take place elsewhere on the site where appropriate, creating small scallops and glades along the streams to let in dappled light and favour the field layer of vegetation.

Full shade should be retained closer to the swallow holes to favour the rare lemon-scented fern.

Ponds are a valuable habitat to many species, including bats, amphibians, and dragonflies. The existing pond in compartment 4b should be restored by desilting and removing overshadowing vegetation. The opportunity to create more ponds along this and neighbouring watercourses should be explored further and external funding identified and secured.

4.5.1.5 Ancient semi-natural woodland

All existing veteran trees should be retained, as there are a limited number across the site. Standing and fallen dead wood should also be retained wherever possible to increase this valuable resource.

Some parts of the wood should continue to be left as non-intervention zones, which are left without interference and where access is not actively encouraged. This applies to two sections of ASNW; compartment 1 and Long Spring.

4.5.1.6 Coppice with standards

Compartment 6 has areas of hazel, alder and hornbeam coppice which are actively managed on rotation. There is also scattered hazel and hornbeam coppice in compartment 5b. The maximum coupe size should be 0.5ha and two coupes should be cut over the period of this plan. Coppice can be cut to waste by volunteers to increase the availability of dead wood habitat, or cut to product such as stakes and bean poles. Coppice coupes require protection with temporary deer fencing to protect stools from grazing and ensure that they regenerate. Where coppice stools are less dense, replanting should take place when coupes are cut. Consideration should also be given to planting new oak standards to recruit a new age class.

4.5.1.7 Plantations

The best remaining conifers, in compartments such as 3d, should be maintained as features which reflect the recent history of Bishop's Wood. All plantation areas which are not subject to more targeted management should be progressively thinned to leave the best stems, favouring broadleaves to develop mature mixed or broadleaved stands. Given the extent of thinning which has taken place in recent years, further large scale thinning is not a priority during the period covered by this plan.

However, some targeted thinning would be beneficial and can be delivered through the existing Countryside Stewardship agreement. The northern boundary of compartment 7 is particularly dense and would benefit from thinning, retaining the best broadleaved stems and removing elements of plantation such as larch and douglas-fir to move towards a semi-natural character. Targeted halo thinning to favour the most important trees within the compartment should be considered. This area of the woodland is often very wet, so trees should be felled in the winter and extracted the following summer. At least 10% of trees felled should be left as dead

wood. Woodland management works are likely to involve soil disturbance which may encourage the regeneration of some of Bishop's Wood's characteristic flora.

Similarly the central part of compartment 4b south of the main ride should be thinned, following the same principles described above.

To address the lack of standing dead wood in the woodland, some mature broadleaved trees in plantation areas, particularly non-native species, should be 'veteranised'. As a minimum this involves ring barking to kill the tree, and can also include damaging or cutting off larger branches. Such trees would then provide valuable habitat for species including bats, woodpeckers and invertebrates. This approach is most appropriate where access for extraction is difficult and the trees cannot be felled and extracted from the wood, but veteranisation of a small number of trees should be incorporated into all woodland management operations.

Glade creation is beneficial as a means to improve the structural diversity of the wood by establishing trees of a different age class and broadening the range of species in the plantations. Glades will be left to natural regeneration.

Non intervention zones should continue to be upheld in the plantations. This includes the southern parts of compartments 3b and 4b, and all of 3c, with the exception of priority habitat areas identified in 3c and 4b. Throughout the plantations, standing and fallen dead wood should be retained wherever possible and safe to do so.

4.5.1.8 Invasive non-native species

Laurel and rhododendron are both occasional through compartments 7 and 8, and rhododendron is also present in compartment 3c. It would be valuable to eradicate both from the woodland. Most bushes appear to be regrowing from stumps which have been cut in the past. The programme of eradication should be completed, with seedlings being hand pulled by volunteers who can also monitor the success of eradication.

Japanese Knotweed has previously been recorded in compartment 9 but appears to have been successfully eradicated. There is a larger area of Japanese Knotweed in White Hill Wood in the area not currently managed by TRDC, which should also be eradicated. Much of the western red cedar within the wood was felled in 2016/17, but some remains around the northern side of the central loop and should be removed. Red oak, another non-native species that featured strongly in plantations, has been targeted for removal in recent years, however some still remains and should be considered for removal or veteranisation during woodland management operations. Non-native grey poplars are present in compartment 1 close to the swallow holes. Ideally these should be felled and regeneration actively managed, but their location makes this very difficult.

4.5.1.9 Batchworth Heath

The grassland at Batchworth Heath has been managed since 1998 by cutting twice annually with arisings left on site. Site biodiversity could be enhanced further by adjusting the grass cutting regime. Areas of Batchworth Heath should be identified for meadow management, reducing the frequency of cutting to once annually and removing all arisings. Marginal areas along roadsides and at junctions should continue to be cut regularly to maintain visibility of highways. Reducing the frequency of cutting in meadow areas will afford less competitive wildflower species the best chance to establish. Wildflowers need nutrient poor soil to grow, and removal of arisings after cutting will help to prevent nutrients from re-entering the soil.

Encroachment of scrub and woodland, significant in the past, has largely halted in recent times, and the woodland should not be allowed to extend further into the grassland. Where there has been minor encroachment of brambles and small trees around the fringes, these should be cut back, and fallen or low-hanging trees removed to minimise any restrictions to grass cutting.

The primary threat to the health of the pond is the presence of the invasive non-native species, *Crassula helmsii*. It is very difficult and costly to eradicate the species, and any attempt would also have a serious negative impact on native species in the pond, so attempted eradication is not recommended. Annual control would be necessary to keep the population of *Crassula* in the pond low and brings with it a risk of spreading the plant to other sites, so is not an appropriate action.

4.5.2 Species

The southern wood ant (*Formica rufa*) translocation project initiated in the previous GAP is showing signs of success, with wood ants now occurring at two focal points within the woodland. The translocation takes place at two points in the year: early spring, when ants mass at the top of their nests, and mid-summer, when pupal-rich booster material can be collected. Translocation efforts will continue over the next five years, including boosting existing nests and establishing new nests.

4.6 Community Involvement

The absence of a nearby community means that Bishop's Wood is unlikely to see major community involvement in its management. CMS volunteer tasks will continue to take place here several times a year and will work towards achievement of the objectives of this GAP.

The wood ant translocation scheme has been and continues to be volunteer-led. If grazing were considered to be a viable proposition, it would be vital to build a team of enthusiastic local people to get involved in stock checking.

Batchworth Heath has an active residents' association, which takes an interest in the management of the common and is well placed to draw management issues to the attention of TRDC and CMS.

4.7 Marketing and Communication

A leaflet was produced for Bishop's Wood in 2016 and should be utilised in its digital format to promote the site. The leaflet should be reviewed within the timeframe of this GAP with the view to update it for use in digital format if needed.

Occasional guided walks could be organised as a tool to showcase the links between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath. Bishop's Wood is also suited to a range of special interest walks, which could focus on woodland management, the wood ant translocation projects, botany, fungi or archaeology among other things.

Sustainable Hertfordshire at HCC produce monthly e-newsletters, which include promotion of planned management activities and achievements across greenspaces, delivered by CMS. Opportunities to engage with the development of new management plans are promoted online and through site notices. Significant projects to improve the site and engage the community will be shared with local Councillors and celebrated as appropriate.

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec . Ref.	Status
0.1	Carry out small scale vegetation management along paths	A1	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.2	Undertake periodic tree safety surveys and carry out reactive works if required.	B3	Oct - Feb	TRDC	External contractor	Site budget			
0.3	Maintain infrastructure as required	C1	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	Site budget			
0.4	Remove any graffiti or fly tipping	C2	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.5	Carry out regular litter picking	C3	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.6	Empty bins at increased frequency	C3	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.7	Maintain vegetation along path edges and around furniture	A1	Sep	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.8	Undertake annual ride management: cut central zone.	E1	Sep	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.9	Undertake annual ride management: rotationally manage middle and outer zones.	E1	Oct-Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Volunteers			
0.10	Continue reintroduction of southern wood ant	E1	Ongoing	CMS	Volunteers	Volunteers			
0.11	Carry out mechanical bracken control and birch regeneration management in all accessible	E4	Ongoing	CMS	Volunteers	Volunteers			

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec . Ref.	Status
	open areas								
0.12	Maintain grassland at Batchworth Heath by cutting and removing arisings twice annually	E6	Jul	TRDC	TRDC GM	Site budget			
0.13	Engage CMS volunteer group to work on the site whenever possible	F1	Ongoing	TRDC	CMS	Officer time			

5.2 YEAR 1 2023 - 24

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Review the possibility of establishing TRDC ownership of White Hill Wood (further actions in this area subject to the outcome of this review)	A2	Ongoing	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
1.2	Open up car park entrance by coppicing and selectively felling a small number of trees	A3	Oct – Feb	CMS	External contractor		£2000		
1.3	Design and install car park entrance sign	A3	Oct – Feb	CMS	External contractor		£2000		
1.4	Review leaky woody dam structures and maintain if necessary	C1	April – Sept	CMS	CMS/ volunteers	Officer time			
1.5	Review condition and location of all waymarking posts, including London LOOP	C1	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.6	Update waymarking as necessary	C1	Ongoing	CMS	External contractor/ volunteers		£2000		
1.7	Explore grant funding opportunities for a wood pasture restoration project including grazing	D2	April - Sept	TRDC/CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.8	Seek funding for all other potentially eligible capital work	D2	April – Sept	TRDC/CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.9	Remove benches from picnic area	E1	Oct – Feb	TRDC	External contractor		£500		

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.10	Establish programme of vegetation management within former picnic area for heathland restoration	E1	April	CMS	Volunteers	Volunteers			
1.11	Plant hazel and oak within coppice coupe as required to fill gaps and recruit new standards (C6)	E2	Oct - Dec	CMS	Volunteers	Countryside Stewardship	£500		
1.12	Create soil scrapes in heathland glades and wood pasture restoration area to promote heathland regeneration (C7/9)	E3	Oct - Feb	TRDC/CMS	External contractor		£2000		
1.13	Continue eradication of rhododendron and laurel at Bishop's Wood (C3c/7/8)	E5	Oct - Feb	TRDC/ CMS	External contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£5000		
1.14	Investigate pond creation opportunities	E6	April – Sept	CMS	External contractor		£2000		
1.15	Initiate change in grassland cutting regime at Batchworth Heath, establishing areas for conservation meadow	E6	April – June	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			

5.3 YEAR 2 2024-25

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Establish programme of vegetation management on path from Batchworth Heath towards Bishop's Wood	A1	April	TRDC	TRDC	GM budget			
2.2	Investigate feasibility of restoring grazing to the site e.g. identifying fencing and water supply requirements, grazier availability, public support etc.	E1	April-July	CMS/TRDC	CMS	Officer time			
2.3	Create two permanent glades (C4b/6)	E1	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor	Countryside Stewardship	£10000		
2.4	Carry out targeted thinning (C2/4b)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor				
2.5	Fell remaining western red cedar (C3a)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor				
2.6	Halo thin around important pre-plantation trees and wild service trees (C2/5b)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor				
2.7	Create glades within plantations for natural regeneration (maximum size 0.2ha, maximum total 1ha) (C2/4a/5a)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor				
2.8	Protect 50% of glades left for natural regeneration with temporary deer fencing (C2/4a/5a)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Countryside Stewardship	£500		
2.9	Coppice coupe of up to 0.5ha	E2	Oct -	CMS	Volunteers	Countryside			

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
	(C6)		Feb			Stewardship			
2.10	Temporary deer fence around coppice coupe (C6)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Countryside Stewardship	£500		
2.11	Plant hazel and oak within coppice coupe as required to fill gaps and recruit new standards (C6)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Countryside Stewardship	£500		
2.12	Restore pond by desilting and de-shading	E6	Oct-Feb	CMS	External contractor		£2000		

5.4 YEAR 3 2025-26

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
3.1	Undertake botanical survey of proposed grazing compartment to establish pre-grazing baseline data.	E1	April – June	CMS	External contractor		£1500		
3.2	Subject to grazing feasibility, undertake further birch felling in compartment 9	E1	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor	External	£10000		
3.3	Install grazing infrastructure (subject to feasibility) within area identified through compartments 7, 8 and 9	E1	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor	External	£40000		
3.4	Recruit grazing stock checkers (subject to feasibility)	E1	Oct – Feb	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
3.5	Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments	E2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
3.6	Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as required	E2	Ongoing	CMS	Volunteers	Volunteers			
3.7	Apply for new Countryside Stewardship agreement 2026-30	D2	Jun	CMS	CMS	Officer time			

5.5 YEAR 4 2026-27

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
4.1	Initiate grazing (subject to feasibility) within wood pasture restoration area	E1	May – Oct	CMS	External contractor	External	£3000		
4.2	Review leaky woody dam structures and maintain if necessary	C1	April – Sept	CMS	CMS/volunteers	Officer time			
4.3	Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments	E2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
4.4	Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as required	E2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS/volunteers	Officer time			
4.5	Run 'meet the cows' event (subject to grazing feasibility)	G2	Aug	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
4.6	Regrade/top up surface material in Bishop's Wood car park	C4	Jul	CMS	External contractor		£5000		

5.5 YEAR 5 2027-28

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
5.1	Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments	E2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
5.2	Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as required	E2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS/ volunteers	Officer time			
5.3	Carry out targeted thinning (C7)	E2	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor	External	£10000		
5.4	Monitor regeneration of rhododendron and laurel and continue eradication if necessary	E5	Oct - Feb	CMS	External contractor	External	£2000		
5.5	Review leaflet for update	G1	Apr	CMS	CMS	Officer time			

Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Annual and regular actions

Task Responsibility

Blue square	TRDC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
Red square	CMS led	
Yellow square	TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
Orange square	CMS led	

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon

Maintain grassland at Batchworth Heath □

Mechanical bracken rolling and birch regeneration control ■

Undertake annual ride management ■ □

Empty litter bins at increased frequency □

Annual Management

- Continue reintroduction of southern wood ant ■
- Small scale vegetation management along paths □
- Regular tree safety inspections □
- Maintain infrastructure □
- Litter picking □
- Removal of graffiti and fly tipping □
- Engage CMS volunteers ■
- Maintain vegetation along path edges and around furniture □

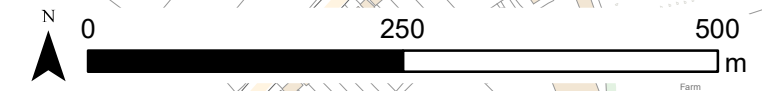
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Date
June 2023

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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Year 1 actions

Task Responsibility

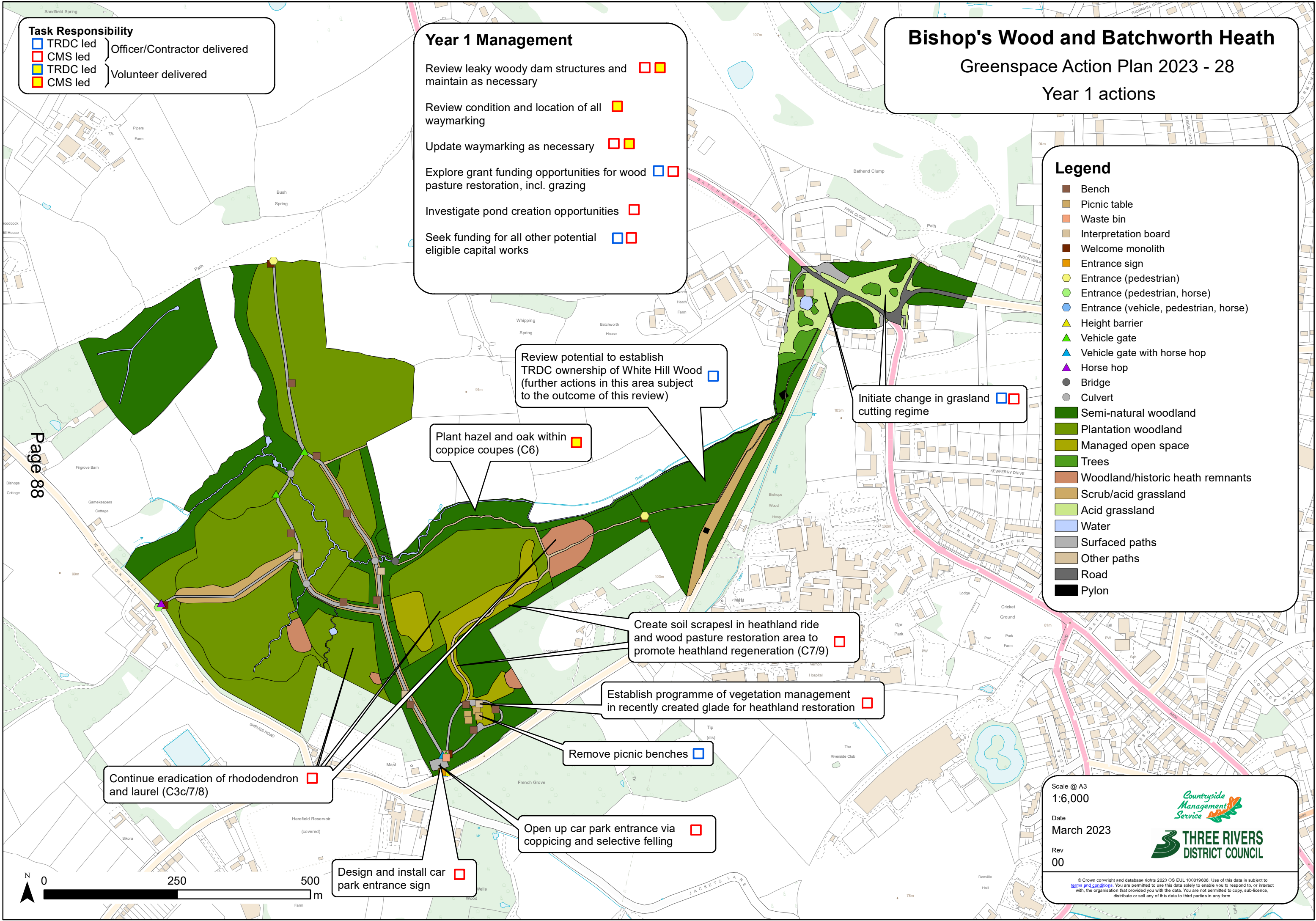
TRDC led	Officer/Contractor delivered
CMS led	
TRDC led	Volunteer delivered
CMS led	

Year 1 Management

- Review leaky woody dam structures and maintain as necessary □ □
- Review condition and location of all waymarking □
- Update waymarking as necessary □ □
- Explore grant funding opportunities for wood pasture restoration, incl. grazing □ □
- Investigate pond creation opportunities □
- Seek funding for all other potential eligible capital works □ □

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon



Review potential to establish TRDC ownership of White Hill Wood (further actions in this area subject to the outcome of this review) □

Plant hazel and oak within coppice coupes (C6) □

Initiate change in grasland cutting regime □ □

Create soil scrapes in heathland ride and wood pasture restoration area to promote heathland regeneration (C7/9) □

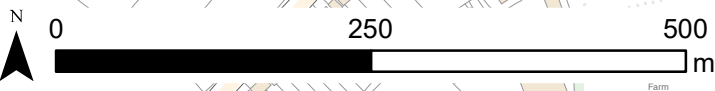
Establish programme of vegetation management in recently created glade for heathland restoration □

Remove picnic benches □

Continue eradication of rhododendron and laurel (C3c/7/8) □

Open up car park entrance via coppicing and selective felling □

Design and install car park entrance sign □



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THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Year 2 actions

Task Responsibility

TRDC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
CMS led	
TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
CMS led	

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon



Year 2 Management

- Protect 50% of glades left for natural regeneration with temporary deer fencing (C2/4a/5a)
- Investigate feasibility of restoring grazing to Bishop's Wood

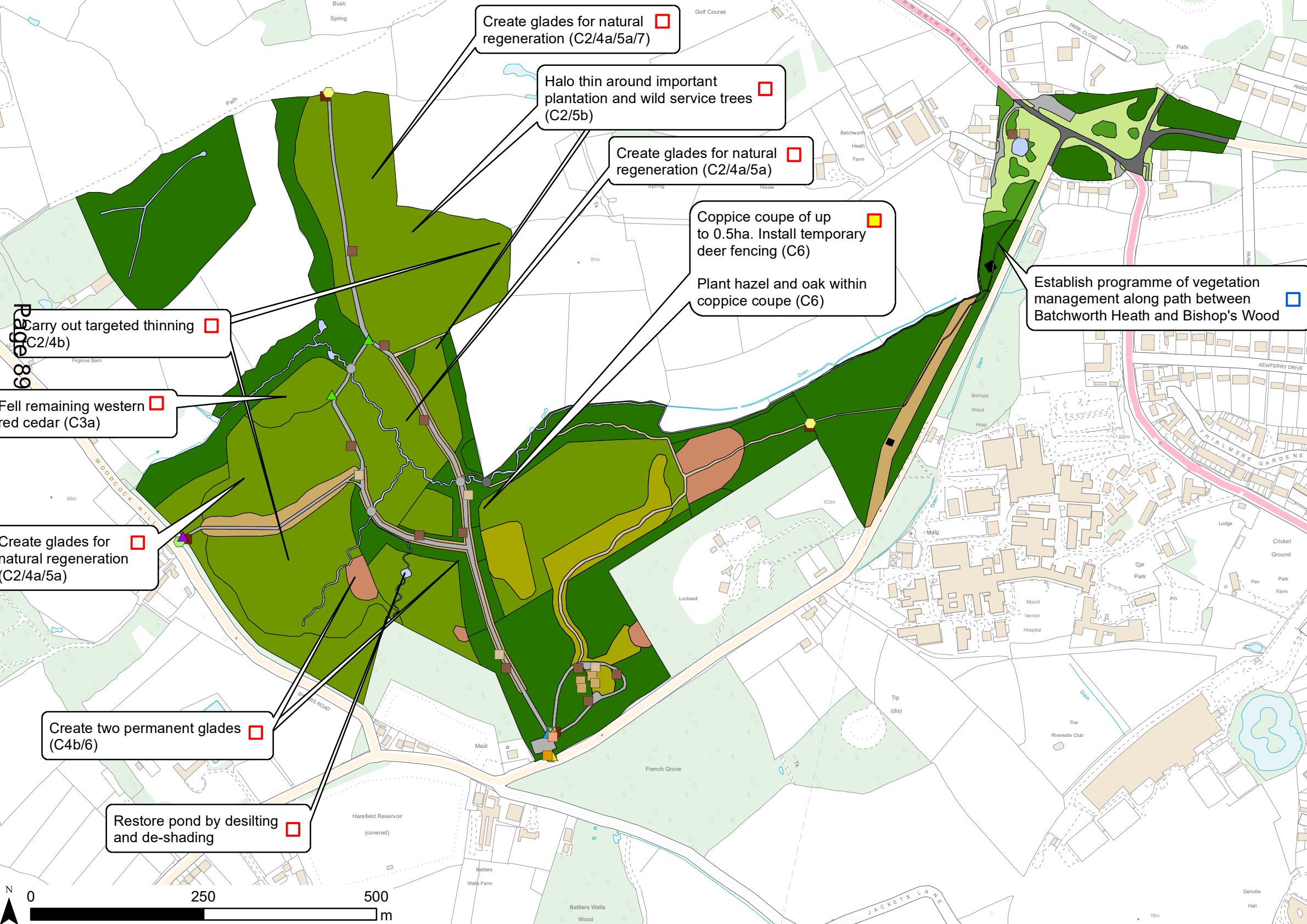
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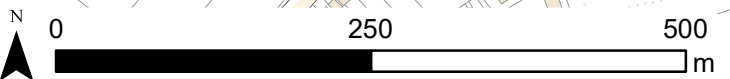
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Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Year 3 actions

Task Responsibility

Blue square	TRDC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
Red square	CMS led	
Yellow square	TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
Orange square	CMS led	

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon



Year 3 Management

- Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments
- Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as needed
- Apply for new Countryside Stewardship agreement 2026 - 30

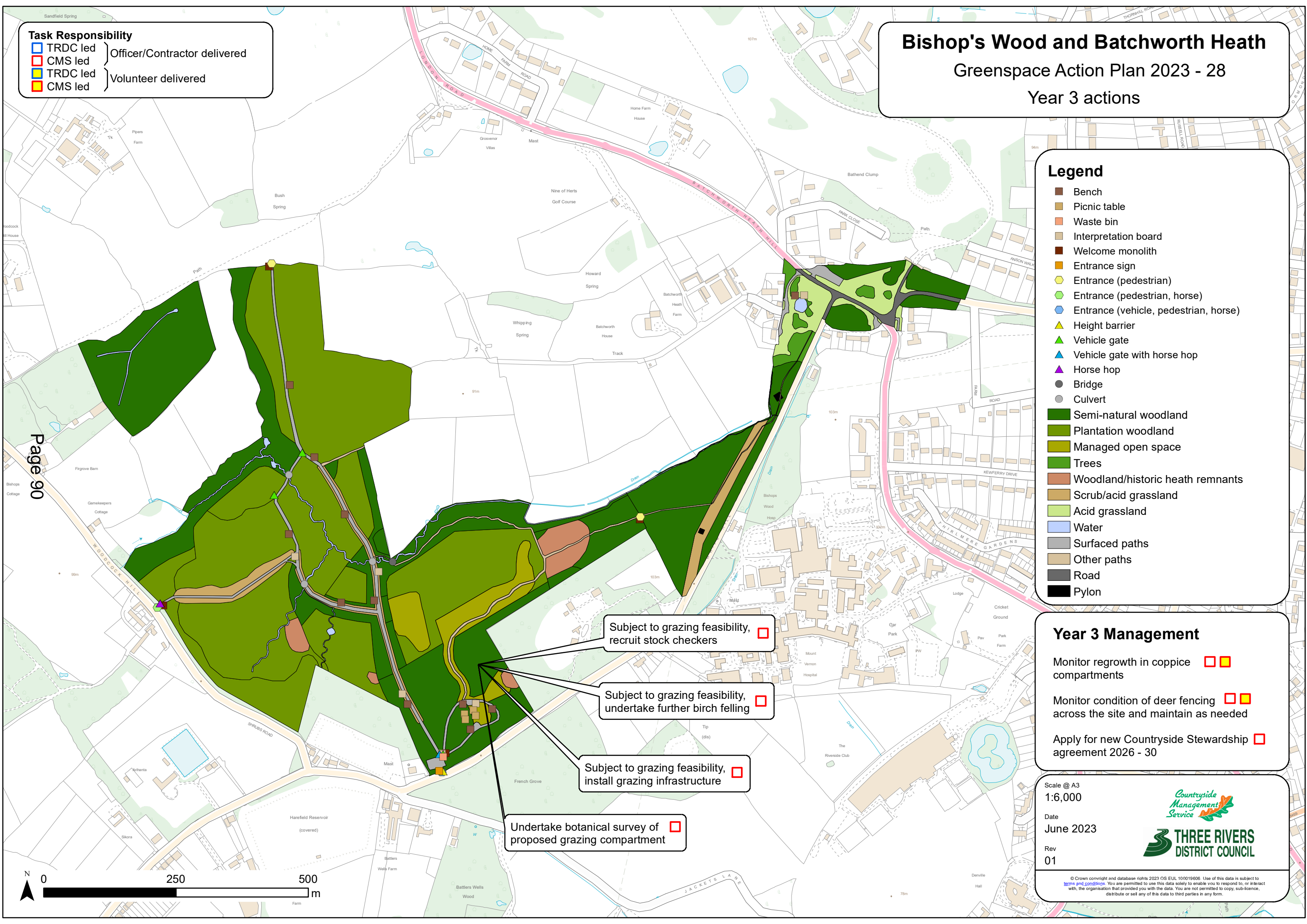
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Rev
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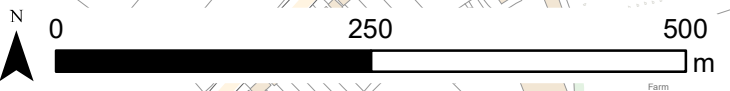


Subject to grazing feasibility, recruit stock checkers

Subject to grazing feasibility, undertake further birch felling

Subject to grazing feasibility, install grazing infrastructure

Undertake botanical survey of proposed grazing compartment



Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Year 4 actions

Task Responsibility

Blue square	TRDC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
Red square	CMS led	
Yellow square	TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
Orange square	CMS led	

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- Height barrier
- Vehicle gate
- Vehicle gate with horse hop
- Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon



Year 4 Management

- Review leaky woody dam structures and maintain if necessary □ □
- Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments □ □
- Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as needed □ □

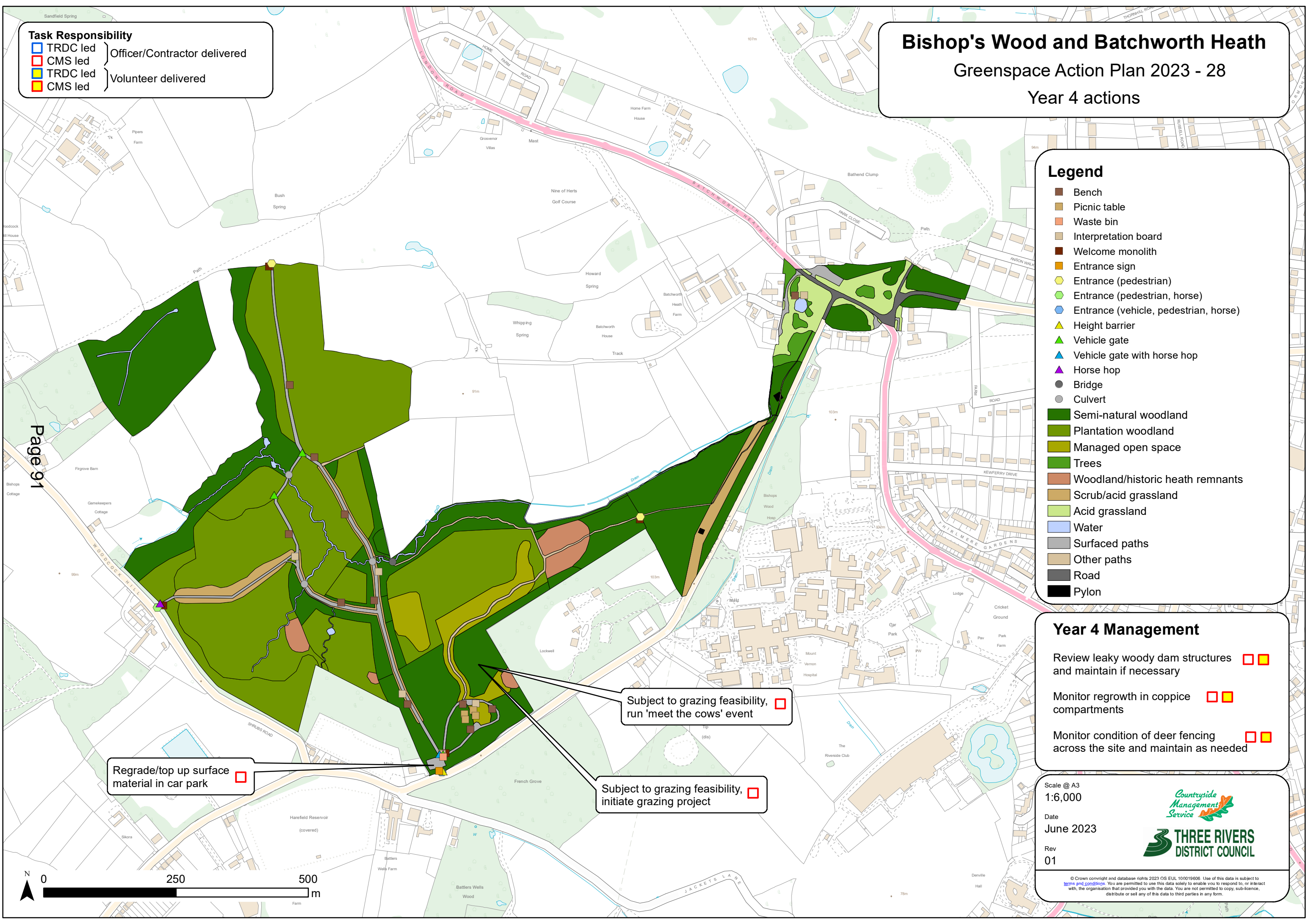
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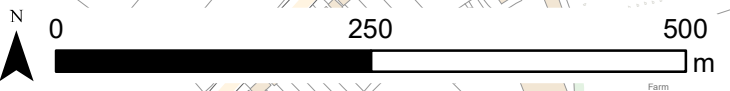
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Regrade/top up surface material in car park □

Subject to grazing feasibility, run 'meet the cows' event □

Subject to grazing feasibility, initiate grazing project □



Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath

Greenspace Action Plan 2023 - 28

Year 5 actions

Task Responsibility

Blue square	TRDC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
Red square	CMS led	
Yellow square	TRDC led	} Volunteer delivered
Orange square	CMS led	

Year 5 Management

- Monitor regrowth in coppice compartments □ □
- Monitor condition of deer fencing across the site and maintain as needed □ □
- Monitor regeneration of rhododendron and laurel and continue eradication if necessary □
- Review leaflet for update □

Legend

- Bench
- Picnic table
- Waste bin
- Interpretation board
- Welcome monolith
- Entrance sign
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian, horse)
- Entrance (vehicle, pedestrian, horse)
- ▲ Height barrier
- ▲ Vehicle gate
- ▲ Vehicle gate with horse hop
- ▲ Horse hop
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Semi-natural woodland
- Plantation woodland
- Managed open space
- Trees
- Woodland/historic heath remnants
- Scrub/acid grassland
- Acid grassland
- Water
- Surfaced paths
- Other paths
- Road
- Pylon

Carry out targeted thinning (C7) □

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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

1. Widen path between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath/path maintenance
 - a. Establish a wider path between Bishop's Wood and Batchworth Heath, indicated on the action plan map (700m), by clearing all vegetation according to a minimum standard.
 - b. Establish an additional path linking this new path with the footpath from Mount Vernon Hospital (100m), by clearing all vegetation according to a minimum standard.
 - c. The path should have a minimum of 4m height and 1m on either side of the path free from encroaching vegetation.
 - d. The path itself, while unsurfaced, should be 1.5m wide, allowing a total clear width of 3.5m.
 - e. This path and all other marked paths around Bishop's Wood, both surfaced and unsurfaced, should be maintained to this minimum standard.
 - f. All timber and brash generated to be removed from the route of the path. Timber to be extracted or stacked as dead wood habitat, brash to be spread thinly on the woodland floor.

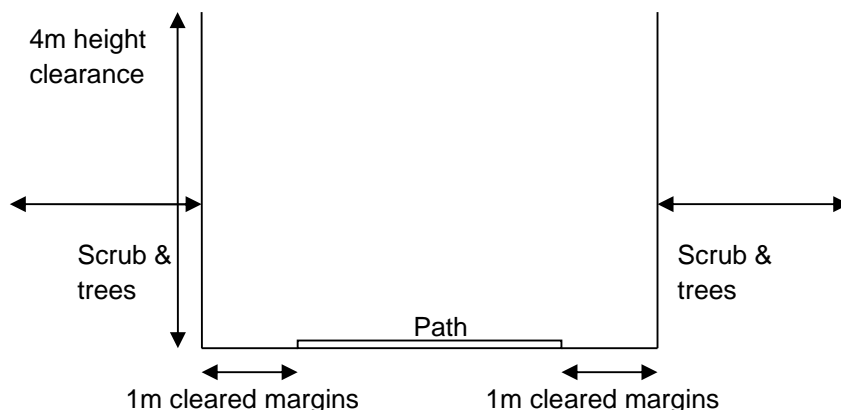


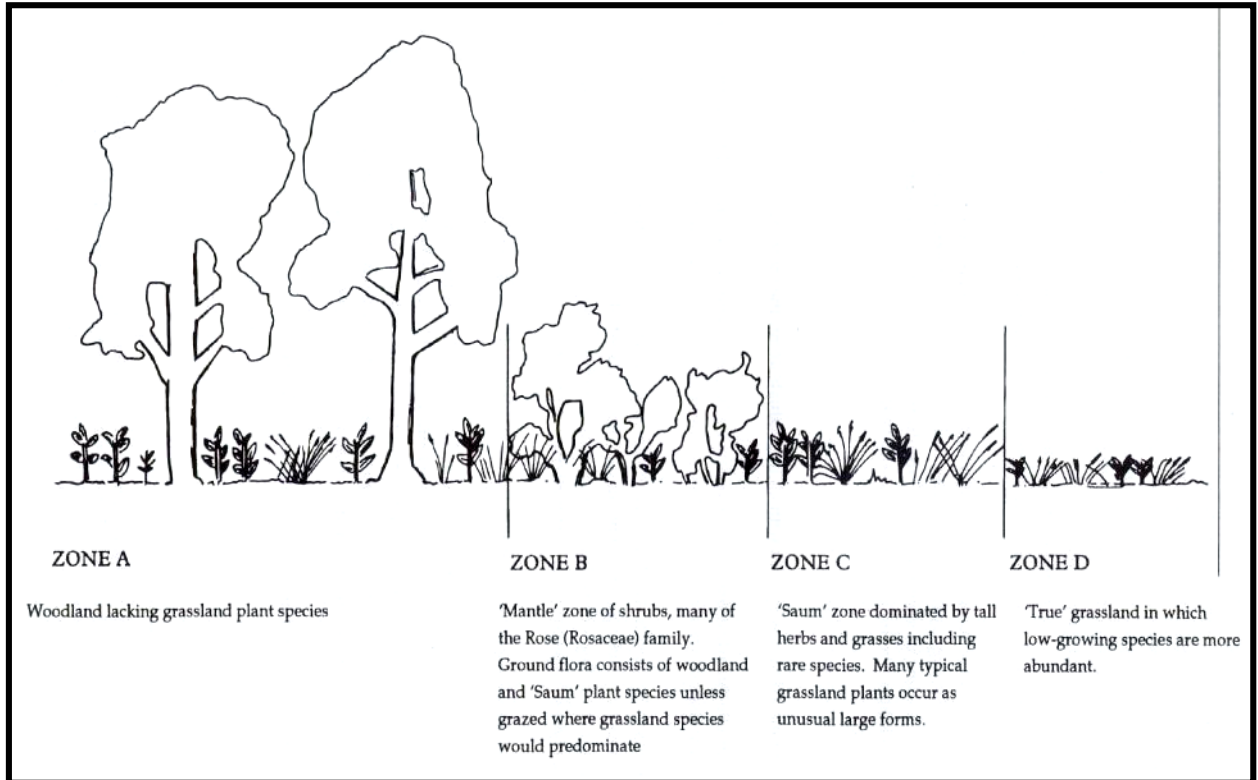
Diagram: Minimum width along the route.

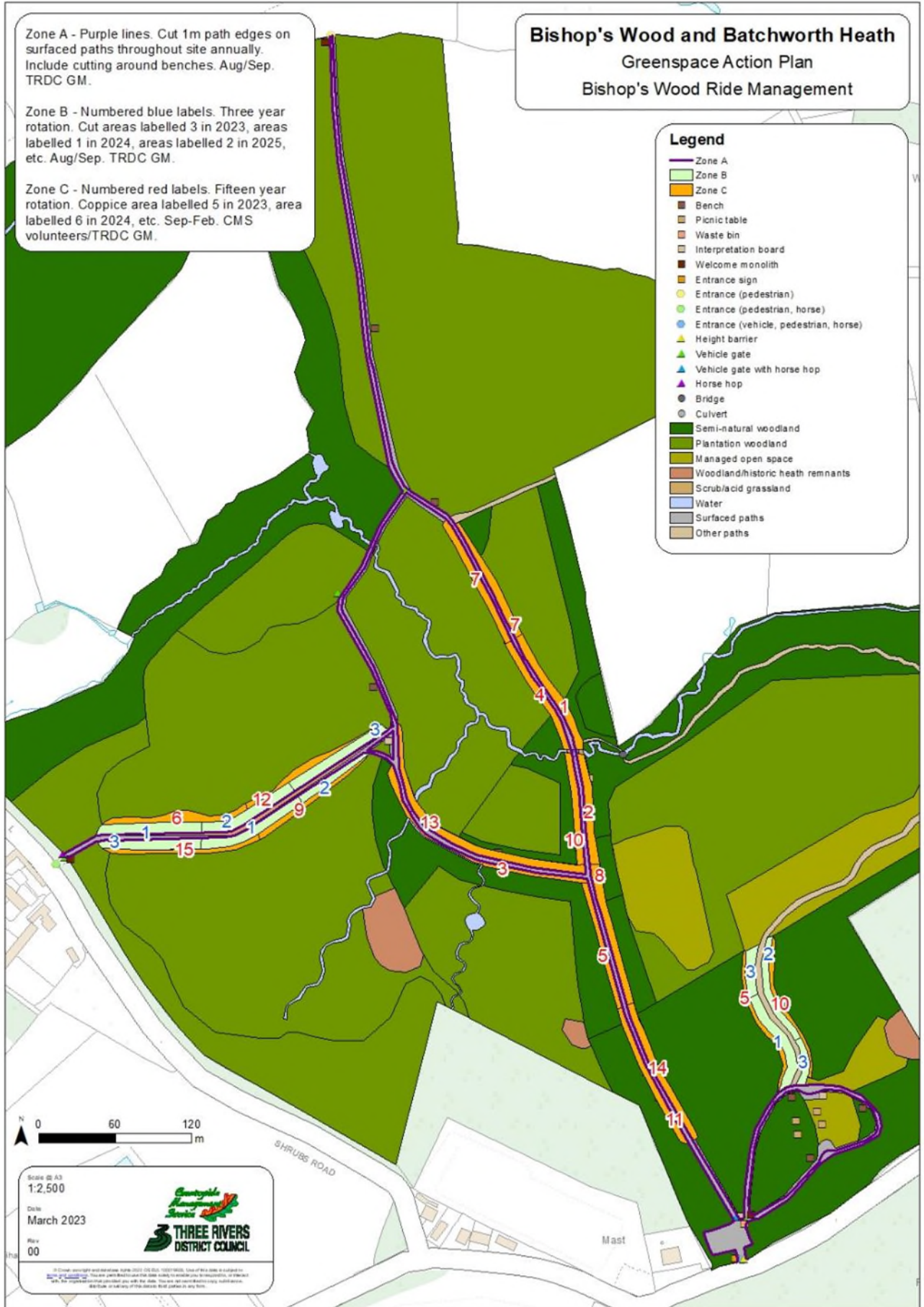
2. Wood pasture restoration
 - a. The proposed wood pasture restoration area covers a 3.2ha section of compartments 7 and 9, and is indicated on the action plan map.
 - b. This item is subject to grant funding and further feasibility assessment.
 - c. Clear fell all young trees within the defined area unless specifically identified, retaining all mature trees unless specifically identified (primarily beech to be retained in compartment 9 and Scots pine in compartment 7).
 - d. Chip all lop & top and brash directly into transport and remove from site.

- e. Extract all timber & chip along route shown on accompanying map. Roundwood to be stacked in designated timber stacking area along main ride. Stack it safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
 - f. Mulch the same area.
 - i. Mulch all stumps and ground layer to a minimum depth of 50mm, so that there is no regrowth from stumps or roots.
 - ii. Mulching is to be carried out around existing mature conifers, mainly Scots pine. To avoid causing damage to these trees, no mulching is to be done within a 3m radius of any mature tree or tree group.
 - iii. Where wet flushes occur, mulching is not required – to be identified & agreed on the ground with the supervising officer prior to commencement.
 - iv. Area to be rolled after mulching to leave flat with no obstacles for future management such as ruts or stumps.
 - g. Install stock-proof fencing, livestock handling area, water supply and trough, gates and squeezes.
 - h. Engage a grazier and establish a grazing agreement.
 - i. Implement summer and autumn grazing by cattle.
3. Removal of topsoil from glades and rides
- a. Establish 20 scrapes along the new heathland ride, comprising 10 where the litter (50mm) layer is removed, 10 where the litter and topsoil (150mm) layers are removed.
 - b. These plots to be 5m square, on both sides of the ride, and to be distributed along the full length of the ride.
 - c. Soil removed to be spread thinly on the woodland floor adjacent to the ride.
 - d. Three additional scrapes to be created in the heathland glades.
 - e. Establishment of heathland and acid grassland specific species to be monitored annually for five years following plot creation, and results to inform future management.
4. Glade creation and maintenance
- a. Create three permanent glades in compartments 4b and 6, each to be no more than 0.2ha.
 - b. Remove semi-mature trees and scrub while retaining any mature trees which are more than around 60 years old.
 - c. Take care to minimise ground disturbance within the glades.
 - d. All timber and brash generated to be removed from the glade. Timber to be extracted or stacked as dead wood habitat, brash to be spread thinly on the woodland floor.

- e. These glades and existing glades in compartment 9 to be maintained by volunteers by clearing regenerating bracken, bramble, scrub and small trees once every five years.
5. Glade creation for natural regeneration
- a. Cut 1ha of small glades within compartments 2, 4a, 5a and 7, each to be no more than 0.2ha.
 - b. In 50% of glades, install temporary deer fencing for four years to protect natural regeneration.
 - c. Leave 50% of glades unfenced.
 - d. All timber and brash generated to be removed from the glade. Timber to be extracted or stacked as dead wood habitat, brash to be spread thinly on the woodland floor.
 - e. Compare natural regeneration in fenced and unfenced glades after four years to assess the impact of temporary deer fencing.
6. Coppicing
- a. In compartments 5b and 6, coppice trees within areas which are currently in active coppice up to a maximum coupe size of 0.5ha.
 - b. No more than two coupes of this size should be cut between 2023 and 2028.
 - c. Coppice trees close to ground level, with a cut sloping away from the centre of the tree.
 - d. Coupes may be cut to waste by volunteers to increase dead wood habitat or cut to product by a coppice worker.
 - e. Restock the coupes if required, in areas where the hazel stool density is less than 1500 per ha/greater than 3 metre spacing between stools. This will be achieved by planting hazel whips to achieve a stool density of 1500-2000 per ha/2-3m spacing between stools. Plants to be 30-50cm bare rooted whips from native seed zone 405.
 - f. Protect coupes with temporary plastic deer fencing for four years after cutting.
7. Ride management
- a. The aim of ride management is to produce the graded edge and mixture of lateral habitats shown in the diagram below.
 - b. The 2m wide central zone (zone D in the diagram) is cut annually in June.
 - c. The 3m wide middle zones (zone C) are cut on alternate sides every 3 years in September.
 - d. The outer zones (zone B), which are up to 15m wide, are divided into 15 sections. One section is cut each year in September, in order that all of the outer zones are cut every 15 years.
 - e. This ride management regime should be established on the recently-created heathland ride through compartments 7,8 and 9, and on the ride between compartments 4a and 4b.

- f. On the narrower rides in compartments 5a/5b, 6 and 9 (points C to D, D to E and D to F), a three-zone maintenance regime will not be possible and instead a two-zone regime should be established, incorporating prescriptions for zones B and D only.





8. Thinning

- a. Carry out targeted thinning to the middle part of compartment 4b and the northern side of compartment 7 to move towards a semi-natural character. Areas indicated on the action plan map.
- b. Fell non-native plantation trees (Scots pine, larch, Douglas-fir and red oak), removing no more than 30% of tree cover in any area.
- c. Cut commercially unviable brash to 1-2m lengths and scatter across the woodland floor, clear of any footpaths or rides.
- d. Timber to be retained by the contractor – its expected value should be accounted for in the tender submission.
- e. Forward timber from the felling compartment to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Stack it safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- f. If extraction is not possible this should be agreed with the supervising officer during the tender process. Timber should be stacked neatly and safely on the woodland floor to provide dead wood habitat.

9. Halo thinning important trees

- a. Carry out selective felling to achieve up to 7m of open canopy adjacent to trees which are identified as valuable, including ancient boundary stubs and larger wild service trees.
- b. Care should be taken not to damage these important trees during the work.
- c. Where there are sufficient quantities and extraction is viable, timber should be forwarded to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Stack it safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- d. If extraction is not possible, timber should be stacked neatly and safely on the woodland floor to provide dead wood habitat.
- e. Cut commercially unviable brash to 1-2m lengths and scatter across the woodland floor, clear of any footpaths or rides.

10. Bracken control in compartments 7 and 9

- a. Roll bracken in the areas of managed open space in compartments 7 and 9, using a bracken roller.
- b. Extend bracken rolling to other open areas as considered necessary, including any rides and glades which are free from stumps or other obstructions.
- c. Carry out bracken rolling annually in late June.

11. Eradication of Japanese knotweed

- a. Eradicate Japanese knotweed from its known locations in White Hill Wood.
- b. Selectively apply herbicide containing Glyphosate between August and the first frost, as foliar spray.

- c. Monitor regrowth in years 2 and 3 and carry out similar chemical treatment of any regrowth.
12. Eradication of rhododendron and laurel
- a. Rhododendron and laurel control has previously taken place in compartments 3c, 7 and 8, and there is now occasional small regrowth from previously cut stumps, which should be cleared.
 - b. Where regrowth from stumps is occurring, a tracked or wheeled 360 degree excavator with a root rake or similar should be used to carry out the work. All plants should have all roots grubbed up, and areas of disturbed ground should be left level with any hollows filled.
 - c. Disposal of the cleared rhododendron and laurel may be either by chipping all material directly into a trailer, removing and disposing of the chipping off site, or burning all cut material on site, removing and disposing of the resulting ash from the fire sites.
13. Prevent scrub encroachment into grassland at Batchworth Heath
- a. Remove fallen and lower branches from trees within the mown grassland area, to maintain access for mowing.
 - b. Clear brambles and small trees from the fringes of the woodland adjacent to the grassland.
 - c. Stack arisings in agreed locations on the woodland edge.
 - d. Re-establish mowing in these cleared areas.
14. De-shade pond at Bishop's Wood
- a. Fell selected and specifically marked trees around the pond in compartment 3c to reduce shade on the pond.
 - b. This work should be carried out in conjunction with glade creation nearby in compartment 4b.
 - c. Timber to be extracted or stacked as dead wood habitat, brash to be spread thinly on the woodland floor.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Wildlife Site Survey Report for Bishop's Wood

Wildlife Site Survey Report for: Bishop's Wood (nr Mount Vernon Hospital)

Site Ref:	89/003	Site size (ha):	40.7
District:	Three Rivers	Central Grid Ref:	TQ067918
Surveyors:	Ruth Graham, Jean Williamson, Andrew Harris, Carol Lodge, Carol Smith, Janet Lowndes, Brenda Harold, Judith Cox, Margaret Harris		
Spp list by:	J Williamson, J Lowndes, B Harold, C Smith, A Harris, J Evans	Form by:	BH, CL, JC, JL
		Map by:	AH, JW, CS
Date of survey:	30/05/13 27/6/13 18/07/13	Weather:	Visit 1: Overcast, chilly Visit 2: Sunny, hot Visit 3: overcast, warm
		Duration on site:	8 hrs 6 ½ hrs

Geology:	Bedrock:	London clay formation – clay, silt and sand
	Superficial Deposits:	No info available - urban

Original criteria:	H.1.1.1 Woodland on the AWI	Habitat:	Birch-Quercus robur woodland, Fagus sylvatica woodland, Broadleaved, semi-natural, coppice with standards, Woodland: plantation, Grassland: acid, Scrub, Open water: pond, Open water: streams.
Criteria met:	H.1 (AWI's 45); H.2.2.b (neutral 10); H.2.2.c (acid 16); H.2.2.d (wet 9); H.2.2.e (mixed 32)		
Recommended changes to boundary	none.		
Original Site Description:	<p>A large area of ancient acid woodland situated on a varied geology, which supports a very rich and diverse flora. The site has been extensively replanted with conifers and broadleaved species, but there are relic stands of ancient woodland consisting predominantly of Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) standards on the clay soils and Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)/Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) high forest on the southern sands and gravels. Small stands of Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and coppiced Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) persist locally. The ground flora supports abundant ancient woodland indicator species with many notable species recorded including Violet Helleborine (<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>), Herb Paris (<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>), Narrow Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>), Pale Sedge (<i>Carex pallescens</i>), Thin-spiked Wood Sedge (<i>C. strigosa</i>) and Lemon-scented Fern (<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>). Acid grassland/heathland communities are present, particularly within the glades, with a varied heathland type flora recorded including Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>); which suggests that historically part of the wood may once been open and heathy in character. The presence of streams, swallowholes and a pond add to the habitat diversity. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site with restorable elements of its previous semi-natural character including some semi-natural canopy and ancient features; species.</p>		

<p>Overall General Site Description:</p>	<p>A large area of ancient acid woodland situated on a varied geology, which supports a very rich and diverse flora. The site has been extensively replanted with conifers and broadleaved species, but there are relic stands of ancient woodland consisting predominantly of Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) standards on the clay soils and Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)/Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)/Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) high forest on the southern sands and gravels. Small stands of Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and coppiced Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) persist locally. The ground flora supports abundant ancient woodland indicator species with 45 ancient woodland indicators recorded including Wood Spurge (<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>), Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), Slender St John's Wort (<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>), Yellow Pimpernel (<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>), Wild Service Tree (<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>), Soft Shield Fern (<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>), Narrow Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>), Lady Fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>), and Scaly Male Fern (<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> agg.). Acid grassland/heathland communities are present, within the wider rides, with a varied heathland type flora. Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) is still present but only in Compartment 9. The presence of streams, swallowholes and a pond add to the habitat diversity.</p> <p>Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient Woodland Inventory site with restorable elements of its previous semi-natural character including some semi-natural canopy and ancient features; species.</p>
<p>Supplementary information</p> <p>Bishops Wood has been well known to botanists for many years. It used to be a SSSI but was de-designated following clear-felling of large parts of the wood and replanting with conifers, although scattered fragments of the former vegetation remained. In a 1978 Survey of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland in Hertfordshire, Bishops Wood was ranked the eleventh highest in the county in terms of its value for nature conservation and second behind Oxhey Woods within Three Rivers District. A very comprehensive Ecological Appraisal of Bishops Wood was written by Ian Marshall of Herts County Council's Countryside Group in 1987. This gave detailed descriptions of the 9 compartments within the wood together with notes on the uncommon species. A total of 215 plant species were recorded at that time. A survey conducted by the Herts Wildlife Sites Partnership in 2003 recorded 195 vascular plant species and followed similar Compartment boundaries</p> <p>Recorded in 2003 but not in 2013: Violet Helleborine (<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>), Herb Paris (<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>), Pale Sedge (<i>Carex pallescens</i>), Thin-spiked Wood Sedge (<i>C. strigosa</i>) and Lemon-scented Fern (<i>Oreopteris limbosperma</i>).</p>	
<p>Compartment 1: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ066922</p> <p><i>Surveyed 29/5/13</i></p>	<p>This is a strip of woodland along the west/north-west boundary of the site. The west-facing boundary has some large Ash and veteran coppiced Field Maple. There is a mixture of broadleaf trees throughout, of a variety of ages including saplings and semi-mature with occasional conifers. At the northern end there is an old Hazel coppice and an open glade covered in a dense patch of Bluebell with Bracken, and a badger sett that was noted as being active in 2003.</p> <p>There is a large swallow hole near the southern end of compartment 2, with bare ground and a nearby stream, all enclosed by a tall canopy. This section's ground flora is mainly <i>Dryopteris</i> spp, bracken, sedges and bramble.</p>
<p>Compartment 2: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ067922</p> <p><i>Surveyed 29/5/13</i></p>	<p>Park Wood is a mixed woodland with Beech, Pedunculate Oak and some Scot's Pine, also Hazel, Ash and Field Maple mainly on the boundary and as saplings in the understorey. The northern boundary contains a very large veteran layered Beech. The field layer is best towards the north and includes some AWIs such as Bluebell, Dog's Mercury, Bugle, Yellow</p>

	<p>Archangel, Wood Spurge and Wood Sedge. Towards the south it is mainly bramble but, very rarely, remnant acid grassland species remain: Sheep's Sorrel, Slender St John's-wort, Wood Sage and Heath Speedwell were recorded.</p> <p>The lower part of the steep west facing slope, continuing into compartment 1, has a rich diversity of herbs with several AWIs including Bluebell, Primrose, Dog's Mercury, Enchanter's Nightshade and Wood Speedwell.</p> <p>The 1987 report stated that the ride through compartment 2 used to contain much floral interest, but the path is now heavily shaded and edged by Pendulous Sedge with a few other herbs.</p> <p>One of the three specimens of Wild Service-tree, <i>Sorbus torminalis</i>, recorded on the site is at the southern boundary of this compartment, near the path but crowded by surrounding trees.</p>
<p>Compartment 3: 6-fig central Grid Ref: see individual areas 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d</p> <p><i>Surveyed 18/7/13</i></p>	<p>3a: (TQ066920) This is an area of mixed broadleaf trees with mature, young and saplings of many species present including Pedunculate Oak, Ash, and some Wild Cherry, Scot's Pine and Birch. There is a bank of old Hazel coppice. The field layer is mainly bramble although the ferns <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>, <i>D.affinis</i>, <i>D.dilatata</i> and <i>D.carthusiana</i> were all recorded as well as Bluebell, various grass species and a clearing with many large Foxgloves attracting butterflies.</p> <p>3b: (TQ065917) A narrow strip following the remnants of fence-line. Most of the fence has fallen and there are just posts left meaning that the ditched tree lined area up against the road has become part of the wildlife site – see map.</p> <p>Some large boundary coppiced Hornbeam remains. This area is very varied in plant species and density depending on the amount of light entering. Heavily shaded areas have a ground cover of mainly leaf litter, a carpet of <i>Vinca minor</i> in one patch, bramble, Ash saplings and Bluebell. A dappled shaded spot at the NW corner has Wood Dock, Red Campion, and Garlic Mustard. The sunlit glades near the track include regenerating tree stumps, sapling and mature Pedunculate Oak, Heath Speedwell, Wood Spurge and Enchanter's Nightshade. Other sunlit areas have species such as Rough Meadow-grass, Figwort, Violet spp, Red Currant, Wood Sage, and some Common Spotted-orchid. There has been some rubbish dumping with a satchel, tyres, and a large oil drum, amongst other objects seen.</p> <p>3c: (TQ068917) The tree canopy is dense and very varied with young Beech and Pedunculate Oak trees, dead standing Birch, mature Aspen, Douglas Fir and young Ash, with one large mature coppiced Ash tree. These generate a dense shade with ground cover including Enchanter's Nightshade, Violets, <i>Dryopteris</i> spp. and many tree seedlings. There is also a large amount of bare ground and dead fallen and cut branches and logs – mainly Silver Birch. A much damper shaded area running adjacent to the fence-line has a dense stand of Pendulous Sedge and a large boundary Oak.</p> <p>3d: (TQ068919) This is a plantation of Corsican Pine with some Douglas Fir, Oak and Beech. There is little apart from bramble, Bracken and Honeysuckle under the dense canopy.</p>

<p>Compartment 4: 6-fig central Grid Ref: see individual areas 4a, 4b</p> <p><i>Surveyed 18/7/13</i></p>	<p>4a: (TQ066920) Mixed woodland with young and mature Ash, Silver Birch, Larch spp, Beech, Cherry and young Oak. Oak, Ash and Cherry are regenerating vigorously. Dead wood is not very plentiful and consists mainly of stumps and branches. There is a large clearing with only a few pines left standing. The field layer is quite heathy, with Bracken and Honeysuckle, Wood Sage, Foxglove, Bluebell, Heath Wood-rush (<i>Luzula multiflora</i>), Brown Bent (<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>), Wavy Hair-grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>) and Wood Meadow-grass (<i>Poa nemoralis</i>).</p> <p>4b: (TQ066918) This area is similar to section A, but has a less dense canopy. The tree species include Silver Birch, Beech, Larch, Cherry and young Oak with Hawthorn, Elder, Holly and Honeysuckle in the understorey. Part of this area has been cleared but the remaining stumps are regenerating. The field layer contains much Bracken, Foxglove, Wall Lettuce, <i>Mycelis muralis</i>, Wavy hair-grass and Brown bent. A clearing to one side of the area had large numbers of tall Foxgloves, Bracken, Soft Rush, Pendulous Sedge, Bird's-foot-trefoil and Wood Meadow-grass, with many visiting butterflies. There was a small patch of much denser mixed broad-leaf and pine plantation.</p> <p>A wide, damp ride separates compartments 4a and 4b, which was recorded in 1987 and 2003 as having a rich acidic grassland flora. The ride has narrowed somewhat as branches, mainly of Birch, overhang further. It still supports a good flora however. Bugle, Common Centaury, Marsh Thistle, Marsh Bedstraw, Slender St John's-wort, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Heath Wood-rush, Yellow Pimpernel, Creeping-Jenny, Corn Mint, Tormentil, Bog Stitchwort, Lesser Stitchwort, Devil's-bit Scabious, and Wood Sage are all still present, along with various grasses, rushes, and Oval and Pendulous Sedge. Trailing St John's-wort, <i>Hypericum humifusum</i>, was present in 2003 but could no longer be found and the number of Devil's-bit Scabious plants was much reduced. This used to be relatively common on the site, recorded from several compartments, but the present survey only recorded it from this one location.</p> <p>Towards the western end the track becomes very wet and churned up by horses and the ride is narrower and heavily shaded by the canopy. The wet mud is colonised by Water-pepper, Water Starwort and Toad Rush.</p>
<p>Compartment 5 (a & b) 6 fig central Grid Ref: TQ067920</p> <p><i>Surveyed 29/5/13</i></p>	<p>This is a damp, densely wooded area with a Larch plantation in 5a, relic coppiced Hornbeam in 5b, and some mature Oak. Downy Birch is dominant in the wetter areas with Alder. There is a field layer of bramble and various saplings.</p> <p>In 2003 a good flora was present beside the rides, but the path between 5a and 5b is now very heavily shaded with the canopy from either side meeting in some places to form a tunnel. The majority of species recorded beside the paths in 2003 are still present, mostly to the west of 5a. These include Wood Spurge, Yellow Pimpernel, Brooklime, Common Dog Violet, Bugle, Angelica, Marsh Thistle, Wood Sage and Common Spotted-orchid. At the northern end, where compartments 5 and 2 meet, there is a more open area which still contains Glaucous Sedge (its only observed location on the site) and Heath Wood-rush.</p>
<p>Compartment 6: 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ069919</p> <p><i>Surveyed 27/6/13</i></p>	<p>This consists of strips of woodland along the site boundary and either side of the main ride, with a heterogeneous mixture of broadleaf trees. Marshall (1987) noted a flushed area at TQ 06899180 that contained a very rich flora. In 2003 this was still very impressive with Sphagnum moss, Narrow Buckler Fern, Lady Fern, Bulbous Rush, Remote and Pendulous Sedge, Wood</p>

	<p>Sorrel, Creeping Jenny, Ragged Robin, Lesser spearwort, Bog Stitchwort, Marsh Bedstraw and a wonderful population of Common Spotted-orchids with about 300 flower spikes. This area is now heavily shaded. Most of the above species were re-found, including both ferns, but Bulbous Rush, Ragged Robin and Sphagnum were not found and the number of orchids was very much reduced.</p> <p>Compartment 6 includes a stream that runs along the site boundary north of compartment 7. Coppiced Hazel and Midland Hawthorn are present along the boundary. A number of AWIs grew on the stream banks in 2003, when Soft Shield-fern, <i>Polystichum setiferum</i>, was present at the western end. The stream banks are now heavily shaded and largely devoid of vegetation and the Soft Shield-fern was not re-found. The largest of the 3 Wild Service-trees on site is in this area (see map). Its trunk is leaning, but it appears healthy and is not too severely shaded by the surrounding trees.</p>
<p>Compartment 7 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ070919</p> <p><i>Surveyed 27/6/13</i></p>	<p>This compartment is largely an old conifer plantation with some mature Beech, Ash and Oak. The remaining conifers, mainly Scot's Pine and Larch, are now widely spaced and cast little shadow so that much of this compartment is quite open. A tall, dense layer of bracken and bramble with prolific Birch regeneration has developed. The path that runs along the south-west edge is only about 1m wide over much of its length. Where there is space alongside the path, a heathy flora is present with Wood Sage, Heath speedwell, Foxglove, Common Bent-grass, Wavy Hair-grass, Yorkshire Fog and sedges. Green-ribbed Sedge, <i>Carex binervis</i>, has spread along the path from its former location in compartment 8, and Pill Sedge, <i>C.pilulifera</i>, Oval Sedge, <i>C.leporina</i>, and Pendulous Sedge are all present.</p>
<p>Compartment 8 6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ072919</p> <p><i>Surveyed 27/6/13</i></p>	<p>This is an area of mixed, mainly broadleaf, woodland. Where the canopy is broken, especially in the southern part, there is a tall dense cover of bramble and bracken, suppressing any other field layer. A single Alder Buckthorn, <i>Frangula alnus</i>, bush is located near the southern boundary, rising above the surrounding brambles. This is the last remaining trace of what was formerly one of the most important botanical areas in the whole site. Marshall (1987) recorded sizeable stands of Heather and a large population of Green-ribbed Sedge, along with Tormentil, Wavy Hair-grass, Heath Bedstraw, Pill Sedge, rushes and the Alder Buckthorn. In 2003 the Green-ribbed Sedge was still flourishing in one wet patch beside the path but bracken had colonised most of the surrounding area apart from a 5m² plot that had been surface-scraped by the Countryside Management Service a couple of years previously. A large number of Heather plants had appeared and there was a single Gorse shoot which was striking since Gorse was not recorded anywhere else on the site. Green-ribbed Sedge had invaded the plot extensively and there was also Wavy Hair-grass, Birch, Bramble, Sallow, Common Bent-grass, Creeping Soft-grass and Tormentil. Subsequent to the 2003 survey Star Sedge, <i>Carex echinata</i>, was confirmed in the wet patch beside the Green-ribbed Sedge. This area is no longer discernible as the path has been widened and churned up by horses. However, the Green-ribbed Sedge has migrated south-west, along the path and into compartment 7 and is now more abundant than in 2003.</p> <p>Towards the north-east, where the site joins White Hill, the canopy is very dense and there is virtually no field layer apart from bracken and bramble. There is some invasive Rhododendron beside the path. Note that although not found during this survey, A Harris reports finding <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> in Comp 6 in 2011.</p>
<p>Compartment 9</p>	<p>The soil here is glacial sand and gravels, in contrast to the heavier clay on</p>

<p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TQ070917</p> <p><i>Surveyed 27/6/13</i></p>	<p>most of the site. Fine mature Beech trees are well spaced throughout the woodland, with some mature Oak and Hornbeam. Younger trees, mainly Oak and Birch, have filled the spaces between the Beech but there is still a significant heathy field layer beside the paths that traverse this area. Heather is still present in this compartment (probably its last remaining location in the wood) and it seems to be more abundant than it was in 2003. There is also Wavy Hair-grass, Heath Bedstraw, Heath Speedwell, Wood Sage, Heath Wood-rush and Creeping Soft-grass.</p> <p>This compartment includes a narrow strip on the south-west side of the main ride. A Wild Service-tree, previously unrecorded, was found here (see map).</p>
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<p>Fauna:</p>	<p>Birds:</p>	<p>Blackbird, wren, Great tit, chaffinch, magpie, buzzard, chiffchaff, jackdaw, blue tit, pigeon, robin</p>
	<p>Mammals:</p>	<p>Deer</p>
	<p>Invertebrates:</p>	<p>Snails (x3 sp.), slug, lacewing, beetle, spiders (x4 sp.) cardinal bee, bumblebee, grasshopper, speckled wood butterfly. Large white butterfly, marbled white butterfly, white admiral butterfly, harvestman, dragonfly</p>
<p>Invasive species:</p>	<p>Laurel, Vinca minor, Rhododendron, Cotoneaster, Buddleia</p>	
<p>Current Management:</p>	<p>CMS currently manage the site and are in the process of updating the management plan. Copy of existing plan available.</p>	
<p>Recommended Management:</p>		
<p>General</p>	<p>This site is important for its field layer which used to be open and heathy, rather than the trees. The rarer species listed in the original description (Herb-Paris, Violet Helleborine, Lemon-scented Fern) were not found in 1987 and have not been seen since, but many other species of county-level importance were present then. Most of these still remain although they have declined in abundance due to increasing shade and bracken/bracken encroachment. Green-ribbed Sedge is a notable exception as it seems to have extended its range. Heather now seems to be confined to one compartment although it appears to be more abundant there than in 2003 – so compartment 9 should be managed to protect and encourage the heather survival here.</p> <p>Although widening the paths and rides throughout the site could be very beneficial to the flora and might prevent the loss of some species – they are also likely to be trampled by walkers and horses, therefore minimising the benefits. Consider undertaking scallops, thinning or glade creation instead. Please consult the Wildlife Sites Programme Manager when planning this so that botanical experts with knowledge of the site may comment. Thinning the trees and removing the dense understorey would also be beneficial, especially in or adjacent to the areas where numbers of important wetland or heath species still remain (eg compartments 4a and 4b, and the ride between them, and part of compartment 6 with now-rare Common Spotted Orchid). However, complete removal of the canopy would be counter-productive since it would lead to rapid tree regeneration and the growth of bracken and bramble, smothering the vulnerable small species, as shown by compartment 7's current dominance of Bracken/Bramble and Birch.</p> <p>The conflict of interests between walkers and horse riders needs to be addressed. At present (and in 2003) horse riding was evident on virtually every path throughout the site. Wherever the paths are wet, and especially where they cross streams, they are severely churned up and become</p>	

	<p>completely impassable to walkers in wetter weather. The widening of the paths that generally happens at these points also damages the flora. The site map on the display panels only shows a bridleway from the Woodcock Hill entrance to the car park in White Hill and another from the White Hill car park to the southern entrance to Park Wood (compartment 2) where there is a gate with a notice saying that horse riding is not permitted. This is completely disregarded, as it was in 2003. It is, in fact, unrealistic to provide a dead-end bridleway like this, especially as the path through Park Wood leads to the grassland to the north which is much used by horse riders.</p> <p>Invasive alien species are not a serious issue on this site although there is some Rhododendron that should be removed and also a single patch of Japanese Knotweed in the White Hill car park.</p> <p>The wooden bridge in compartment 6 (TQ069919) is in urgent need of repair.</p>
<p>Surrounding landuse (briefly describe):</p>	<p>A covered reservoir in the south-west corner. Woodland, gardens and a few buildings on the opposite side of the lanes to the south-east and south-west. Grassland, improved/semi-improved, to the north and west, horse or cattle grazed, part of a golf course, horse paddocks. Horse riding is a very popular activity. To the north-east the site continues into the woodland of White Hill, which links it to Batchworth Heath, both Wildlife Sites.</p>



29/05/2013

BISHOP'S WOOD

LEGEND

- 89/003 Boundary
- Compartment boundary
- Track/ride/path
- Mixed plantation

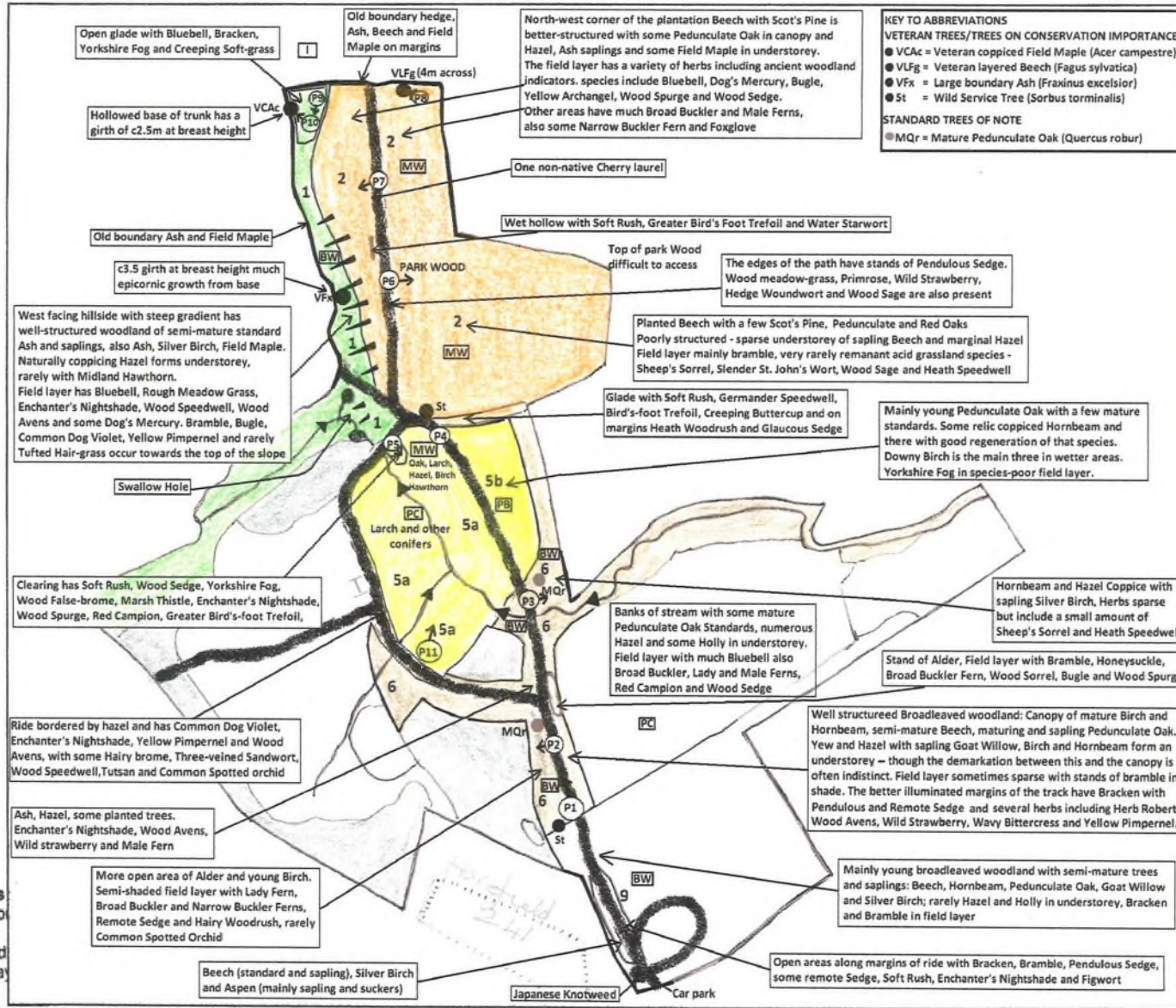


Seat 2, no view →

Surveyor Name: Map by Andrew Harris

Survey Date: 1st visit: 30/05/2013

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Bishops Wood.

WS. 89/003



29/05/2013

Compartment Boundary

Comps. 3 and 4



standard oak + ash,
copp. hazel. Some Scots pine,
cherry, birch. Little
understorey ground -
bramble, ferns (male,
narrow + broad buckler,
scaly male), bluebell,
bugle, wood sorrel, Ench.
nightshade, honeysuckle.

standard oak + ash,
y. oak, copp. hazel,
bramble, bugle, wood
avens, herb robert,
Ench. nightshade,
bluebell, wood dock,
ferns.

PC - Douglas fir,
copp. pine, cypress,
edges, stand. oak,
birch, beech, aspen,
ground - bramble,
bracken, br. buckler

standard - ash,
beech, aspen, oak,
Scots pine, hawthorn,
copp. hazel, holly,
low bare ground,
bracken, bluebell,
broad buckler +
common spotted orchid.

pasivinkle, bramble,
honeysuckle

damp - pendulous
Sedge.

young ash, s. birch, beech, goat willow, larch x
in parts - dense saplings of oak, hawthorn,
cherry, ground-wood sage, foxglove, bluebell,
honeysuckle, bracken, br. buckler, heath wood
rushes, brown bent, wavy hair grass,
wood meadow grass.

felled area, conifers remain

shaded,
damp ride, 1/3 to 1/2 narrow, rest wider +
more open. Much greater birds foot trefoil,
tormentil, heath bedstraw, bog stitchwort,
corn mint, soft rush, some self heal,
centaury, St. John's wort, willow herbs,
figwort, creeping + common bent,
yks. fog, rough meadow grass, little
heath wood rush, yellow pimpernel, marsh
thistle, gypsywort, wood spurge, Ench.
nightshade, bugle, bush vetch.

standard larches,
cherry, young oak,
silver-birch, beech,
w. hawthorn, alder,
holly, honeysuckle,
ferns, wavy hair
grass, bramble,
bracken, parts
with dense saplings.

KEY: - == rides
MQR mature oak
⊖ invasive laurel
⊖ felled broadleaf trees
⊖ road edge with bank,
ditch, old layered
hamboneau.

map NW,
Surveyor Name: J.C. M.H. A.H.
Survey Date: 18. 7. 2013



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Bishops Wood Ref:89/003 Map for compartments 6,7,8 and 9

Date 27/6/2013 Surveyors: Carol Smith, Brenda Harold, Janet Lowndes, Jean Williamson

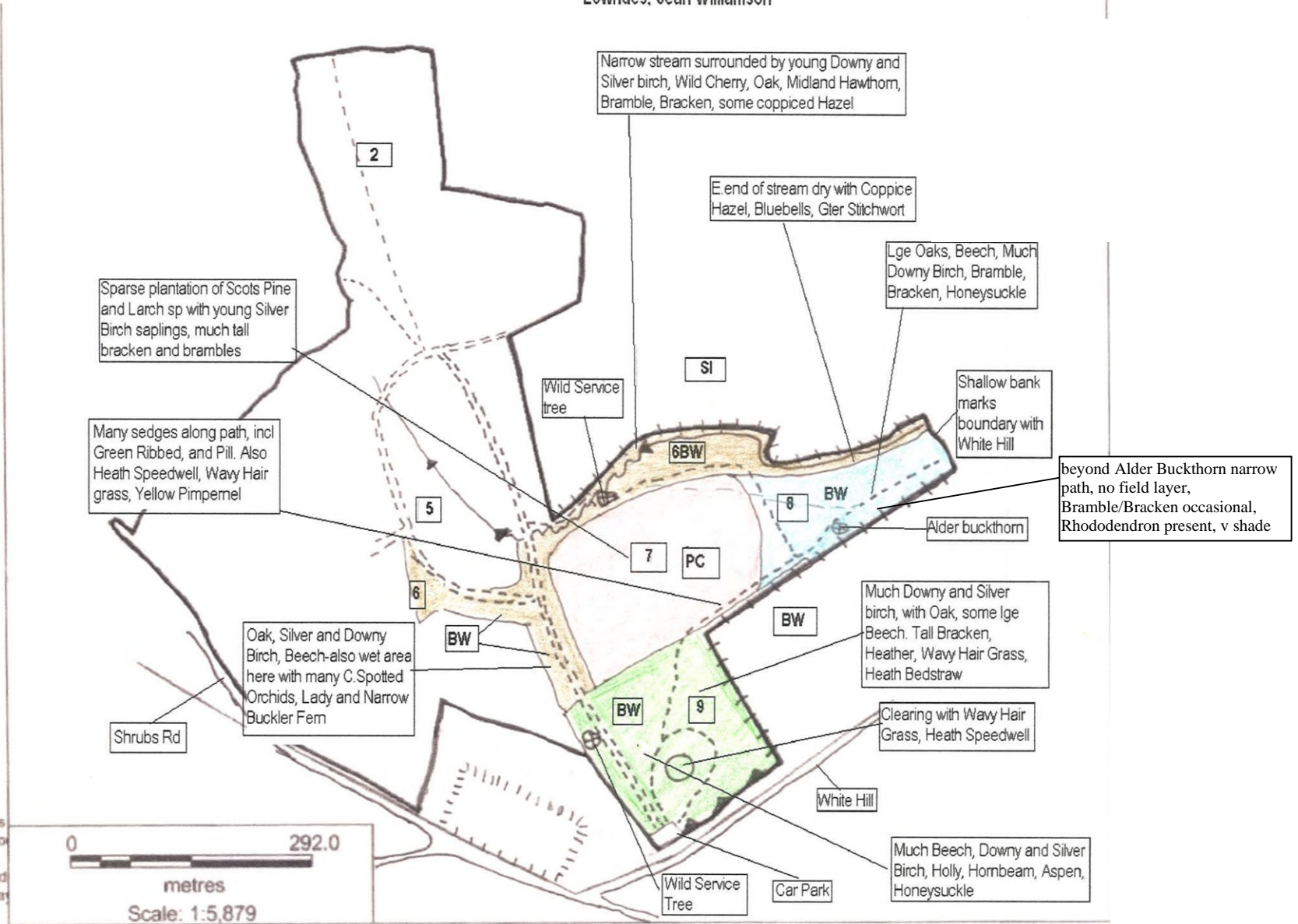


21/05/2013

District Boundary

Selected Wildlife Site


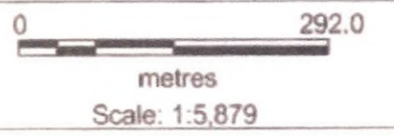


















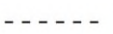
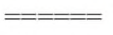

























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Surveyor Name: Carol Smith
 Survey Date: 27/6/13

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		WS boundary (NB use a red line to denote anywhere boundary changes should be made)	
W O O D L A N D & S C R U B		Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	 Coppiced broadleaved woodland
		Plantation broadleaved woodland	 Relict coppiced broadleaved woodland
		Plantation coniferous woodland	
		Mixed woodland	
		Dense-continuous scrub	
		Scattered scrub (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Mixed Parkland/scattered trees (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Broadleaved recently felled woodland	
	Coniferous recently felled woodland		
	Mixed recently felled woodland		
G R A S S L A N D		Unimproved acid grassland	 Path  Track/lane/road  Hedgerow  Ditch  Bank  Feature (annotate)  Stream  Fence
		Semi-improved acid grassland	
		Unimproved calcareous grassland	
		Semi-improved calcareous grassland	
		Unimproved neutral grassland	
		Semi-improved neutral grassland	
		Improved grassland	
		Marsh/marshy grassland	
	Species-poor semi-improved grassland		
Tall herb and fen		Continuous bracken	
		Scattered bracken (NB: notate grassland type beneath)	
		Tall ruderal vegetation	
		Non-ruderal vegetation (fen, e.g. reed/sweetgrass dominant stands)	
WATER		Standing water	
		Running water	
C U L T I V A T E D		Arable land	
		Amenity grassland	 Urban
		Ephemeral/short (e.g. herbal pioneer communities/weedy species)	
		Perennial introduced shrub (eg snowberry, rhododendron, laurel, cotoneaster, bamboo etc)	

89/003 Bishop's Wood. Survey Dates: A (29.5.13), B (27.6.13), C (18.7.13) JW, JL, BH, CS													
Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ("-")	Comp1 (A)	Comp2 (A)	Comp3 (C)	Comp 4 (C)	Comp 4 Ride (C)	Comp5 (A)	Comp6 (B)	Comp7 (B)	Comp8 (B)	Comp9 (B)	
			DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Maple, Field	*	R	R	+			R		+			
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Maple, Norway*								+		+		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore			+	+					+	+	+	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Chestnut, Horse*				+							+	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Bent, Common	a/n				R	R			R		R	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Bent, Creeping						R	R				R	
<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>	Bent, Brown~	a				R							
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	*/n	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Mustard, Garlic			R	R			R	R		R	+	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder, Common							R	R				
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	f/w	R					R	R				
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Grass, Sweet Vernal	n							+		+		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Parsley, Cow	- c/n/w			+		+	R	+				
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Burdock, Lesser							R	R			R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Oat-grass, False	- a/c/n/w						R	R				
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies											R	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Fern, Lady	*	+						R				
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	- a/c										R	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch, Silver		O		O	R			R	O	R	F	
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Birch, Downy				R	R			O	O	O	F	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Brome, False				R		+		R			R	
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Brome, Hairy	*		R				R					
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush*											+	
<i>Callitriche sp.</i>	Water-starwort, sp.						R			R		+	
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Water-starwort, Com'n			R									
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	a										R	

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Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Bindweed, Hedge			+								
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Bitter-cress, Wavy	*	+				R	R	R		R	R
<i>Carex binervis</i>	Sedge, Green-ribbed~	a								R	R	
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Sedge, Glaucous	c/n/w						R				
<i>Carex leporina</i>	Sedge, Oval	a					+			R		R
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	Sedge, False Fox								+			
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Sedge, Pendulous	*	O	O	R		R	R	R	R	R	R
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Sedge, Pill	a		+						R		+
<i>Carex remota</i>	Sedge, Remote	*	R		R				R			R
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Sedge, Wood	*	R	R	R		R		R		R	R
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	*		R	R				+		+	R
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Chestnut, Sweet			R					R		+	+
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Centaury, Common	n					+					
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-ear, Common	- a										+
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Cypress, Lawson's								+			
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Willowherb, Rosebay	- a/c	R	R		R			R	R	R	R
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	*	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Thistle, Creeping	- a/c/n/w	R						R			+
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Thistle, Marsh	f/w					R	R				
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Thistle, Spear	- a/c/n/w			+	+						+
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood				R							
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	*	O	R	R	R			O			R
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster sp.*											+
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Hawthorn, Midland	*		+					R			
<i>Crataegus laevigata x monogyna</i>	Hawthorn, hybrid							+				
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		R	R	R	R			+	R		R

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Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/wff) & neg inds (-)	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Hawk's-beard, Beaked											+
<i>Crocsmia sp.</i>	Crocsmia sp *								R			
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Dog's-tail, Crested	n										R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	- a/c/n/w						R	R			R
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Orchid, Common Spotted	c			R			+	R			
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Hair-grass, Tufted	- n/w	R					R	+			
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Hair-grass, Wavy	a				R				R		R
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	*		R	R	R			R	R		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel, Wild			+				R	R			+
<i>Dryopteris affinis agg.</i>	Fern, Scaly Male, agg.~	*	+		+							
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Fern, Narrow Buckler~	*		+	R	+		R	+			
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Fern, Broad Buckler	*	R	R	R	R			R		R	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Fern, Male		O	O	R	R			R	R		+
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Willowherb, Great			R				R	R	+		R
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Willowherb, Broad-leaved		R	R			R		R			R
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Willowherb, Hoary									R		R
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Willowherb, Sq-stemmed						R					R
<i>Epilobium sp.</i>	Willowherb, unknown sp.								R			
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Spurge, Wood	*		R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech			O		R			R	+		F
<i>Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'</i>	Beech, Copper*							+				
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Fescue, Red (family)								R			R
<i>Ficaria verna subsp. verna</i>	Celandine, Lesser (subsp. verna)		R	R					R			
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Strawberry, Wild			R				R	R			R
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Buckthorn, Alder (natural, TQ07249194)	*									+	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		F	R	O	R			+	+		R

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Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	- c/n	R		R	+		R	R	R		R
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff, Sweet	*						R				
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Bedstraw, Marsh	f				R			R			
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Bedstraw, Heath	a										R
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cranesbill, Cut-leaved							R				
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		R	R	R		R	R	R	R		R
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		R	R	R			R	R			R
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy		R		R		+					
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		R		R	+						R
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		R	R				R	R			R
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	- a/c/n/w	+	R	R	R	O	R	R	R	R	R
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Soft-grass, Creeping	a	R				R					R
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop		+									
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	*	O	R	R		R		R	R		R
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan (probably natural)	*						+				
<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	St John's-wort, Hairy			+	+							
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	St John's-wort, Slender	*		+		R	+	+				
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	St John's-wort, Sq-stalked	w					R					
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear, Common											+
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	*		R	R	R			+	R		R
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Rush, Sharp Flowered~					R						R
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Rush, Toad						R				+	
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Rush, Compact~						+			+		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Rush, Soft			R			R	R	R	R	R	R
<i>Lamium galeobdolon ssp montanum</i>	Archangel, Yellow	*		R								
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort				+		+	R	R			+

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Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Larix decidua</i>	Larch, European*				+	O			R	R	R	
<i>Larix decidua x kaempferi</i> = <i>L. x marschlinsii</i>	Larch, hybrid*									R		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye-grass, Perennial	- a/c/n/w										+
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle		O	O	R	R	R		R	R	R	R
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Greater	f/w		+			R					R
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Wood-rush, Heath	a				+	+	R				
<i>Luzula multiflora ssp congesta</i>	Wood-rush, Heath ssp congesta	a						+				+
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Wood-rush, Hairy	*		R	R				R	+		R
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort						R					
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Pimpernel, Yellow	*		R	R	R	R	R	R	+		R
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny (probably natural)	w				+			+			
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Apple, Crab	*						+				
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Medick, Black											+
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Mint, Corn						R					
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	*		R								
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Millet, Wood	*							+			
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Sandwort, Three-veined	*	R			+		R				
<i>Mycelis muralis,</i>	Lettuce, Wall					+						
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Forget-me-not, Field			+								R
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forget-me-not, Wood, cultivated*							+				+
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	*	R		R	R		R	R		R	
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water-pepper						R				R	R
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Catstail, Smaller						+					+
<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce, Norway*			+	+					R		
<i>Pinus nigra subsp. laricio</i>	Pine, Corsican*				O							
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Pine, Scots			O	R					O		

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			DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain, Ribwort											+	
<i>Poa annua</i>	Meadow-grass, Annual							R	R	R		R	
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Meadow-grass, Wood	*		R	R	+		R	R		R	R	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow-grass, Rough	- w		R	R		O		R	R		R	
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Fern, Soft Shield~	*			+								
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	*			O	R			+			+	
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	a		+		R	R						
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Cinquefoil, Creeping			R			R	R	R			R	
<i>Potentilla hybrid</i>	Cinquefoil, hybrid							+					
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	c/n			+								
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	*	R	R									
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal			R	+		R	R				R	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry, Wild	*	R	R	R	R			+		+		
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Laurel, Cherry*		+	+									
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		R		R							+	
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir				R					+			
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken				R	R			R	F	F	F	
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Fleabane, Common	w										+	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak, Pedunculate		O	O	F	O			R	R		R	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Oak, Red*			R							+		
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow	n			R			+					
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Spearwort, Lesser								R				
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Buttercup, Creeping	- w	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		R	
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron*								R	R	R	+	
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Currant, Red				+			R	R				
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry		R									+	

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Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Rose, Field	*			+			R				R
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Rose, Dog, agg.				+			R				
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble		R	F	F				R	F	A	R
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry				+			R	R	R	R	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sorrel, Sheep's	a		R								
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Dock, Broad-leaved	- c/n/w		R								
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Dock, Wood		R	R	R		R	R	R			R
<i>Sagina apetala</i>	Pearlwort, Annual						+					
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Pearlwort, Procumbent									+		
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Willow, Goat			R	R	R			R	R		R
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		R	R	R				R	+	R	+
<i>Schedonorus giganteus</i>	Fescue, Giant	*					+					
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Figwort	*		R	R		R	R	R	R		R
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort, Common	- a/c/n		+			R		R			R
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Campion, Red		R		R			R	R		R	R
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet							R				
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan / Mountain Ash			+				R	+	+	+	
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild Service-tree (probably natural)	*		+					+			+
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Woundwort, Hedge			R	R		+	R	+			R
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Stitchwort, Bog	w					O		+			
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Stitchwort, Lesser	a/n					R					
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Stitchwort, Greater								R			
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Scabious, Devil's-bit	c/n/w				R						
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Bryony, Black				+							
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion family		R				+	R				+
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew										+	+

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Scientific Name	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds (*-)	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R	DAFO R
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	*/a		R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Cedar, Western Red*								+			
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Clover, White	- a/c/n/w					R					R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle, Stinging	- a/c/n/w	R	R	R		R		R	R		R
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Speedwell, Brooklime						+	R				
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Speedwell, Wood	*	R	R	R		R		+			
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Speedwell, Heath	a		+	+	+				R		R
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Speedwell, Com'n Field											+
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Speedwell, Thyme-leaved			R	+			R				R
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose (probably natural)	*										+
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Vetch, Bush						R					
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle, Lesser*				R							
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Violet, Early Dog	*			R							
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Violet, Common Dog	*	R	R	R	R	R	R	+		+	
*=planted/introduced/escape			per compartment totals:									
			49	75	77	44	56	65	65	65	65	104

Total species (all comp.s)		total indicators					
	195			76			
Comp1 (A)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	18	1	1	0	1	1	3
Comp2 (A)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	28	1	5	0	1	1	7
Comp3 (C)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	28	3	2	2	0	0	6
Comp 4 Ride (C)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	14	4	7	0	4	2	13
Comp5 (A)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	20	3	3	2	3	2	9
Comp6 (B)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	28	2	1	1	3	2	7
Comp7 (B)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	10	1	7	0	0	0	7
Comp8 (B)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	12	1	2	0	0	0	3
Comp9 (B)	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	20	3	10	0	2	1	14
All Compartments:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	45	10	16	4	9	4	32
Thresholds:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Calc	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w
	min size (ha)	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	min indicators	10	8	5	8	5	12
Criteria met	Met	Met	Met		Met		Met

DAFOR Scale:

D	Dominant	>75% cover
A	Abundant	51-75% cover
F	Frequent	26-50% cover
O	Occasional	11-25% cover
R	Rare	<11% cover, >=5 individual plants
+	Very Rare	<5 individual plants

Photos:



P1 – Compartment 6: Vegetation on the edge of the track



P2 – Compartment 6: Wet area (area of Common Spotted Orchids) with Pendulous and Remote Sedges and Ferns



P3 – Oak, Hornbeam Woodland with Hazel coppice



Track/ride becoming overshadowed in Compartment 5



P5 Glade at northern end of Compartment 5 has a variety of herbs and ferns



P6 - Beech/Scot's Pine plantation of Compartment 2 with a rather species-poor field layer mainly of Bramble



P7: The better woodland structure of the north-western corner of Compartment 2 with ancient woodland indicators and ferns.



P8 - Compartment 1: Veteran layered Beech in hedgebank at northern end



P9 – Compartment 1: Glade at northern end



P10 – Compartment 1 Veteran Field Maple on boundary at north-western corner



P11 Compartment 5 mixed plantation



Three Rivers District Council

Chorleywood House Estate

Greenspace Action Plan

2023-2028



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Actions Plans (GAPs) are map-based management plans which specify activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held during November 2022, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement will be completed in early 2023 enabling stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document, published online as an appendix to this plan, will summarise comments received, and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved

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1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Chorleywood House Estate (CWHE)

Site Address: Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, WD3 5SL

Grid Reference: TQ 034 970

Size: 64.6 ha

Owner: Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

Designations:

Level	Designation	Detail
Statutory	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (Local Nature Reserves (England) Local Nature Reserves (England) Natural England Open Data Geoportal (arcgis.com))	The site was designated as an LNR in 2007. Local Nature Reserves are special places for wildlife, geological features, education, scientific research and/or enjoyment by local communities. As such LNRs recognise the importance of a site for both people and wildlife. In declaring the site as an LNR, TRDC accepted responsibility to ensure that the special interest of the site is maintained.
Statutory	Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Located within the boundary of the Chilterns AONB, which has the primary purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Natural beauty includes wildlife,

		physiographic features and cultural heritage.
Statutory	Metropolitan Green Belt	The site falls within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, which restricts the growth of development in strategic rural areas on the edge of conurbations.
Non-Statutory	Local Wildlife Site: 82/013 Chorleywood House Estate 82/023 River Chess (part)	These two wildlife site designations together comprise 40 ha of the total area of Chorleywood House Estate LNR. The wildlife sites support important grassland, woodland and chalk stream habitat. Local Wildlife Sites are considered to be of “critical natural capital”.
Non-Statutory	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)	Woodland that has had continuous native tree and shrub cover since at least 1600AD and may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally. The woodland pockets surrounding the Scout Camp, Chorleywood Dell and Dell Mound are classified as ASNW. There are ASNW features present in other woodland areas on site, such as the Wood Walk.

1.2 Vision Statement

Chorleywood House Estate will be managed as a sustainable Local Nature Reserve, rich in history and wildlife, with beautiful views and numerous opportunities for

recreation and quiet enjoyment. Management activities will aim to maintain a site which:

- is rich in biodiversity
- is welcoming and accessible for recreation
- retains and enhances its historic landscape character
- provides opportunities for visitors to connect with and enjoy their local environment

1.3 Policy context

This plan is set in the context of several Council policies and strategies which relate directly to site management.

1.3.1 HCC Strategies

1.3.1.1 Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy

Hertfordshire County Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and have since committed to make Hertfordshire cleaner, greener and more sustainable.

HCC want to:

1. Lead in their own operations
2. Enable sustainability with their programmes, policies and decisions
3. Inspire businesses and residents to take action

The ambitions of the [Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy](#) include achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050, ensuring communities are ready for future climates and improve wildlife in our land and water by 20% by 2050.

1.3.2 TRDC Strategies

1.3.2.1 Corporate Framework

Each year, Three Rivers District Council updates its Strategic Plan. This is a document that brings together our high level, medium- to long-term objectives which,

following consultation and analysis of data, the Council considers to be its priorities for the District.

It focuses on those areas where the Council has a lead role or can play a key part in delivering or influencing the outcomes. Its purpose is to guide the Council in its annual consultation, planning, resource allocation and performance management process. [Corporate Framework \(threeivers.gov.uk\)](https://www.threerivers.gov.uk)

1.3.2.2 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy

The council's [Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy](#) sets out how the council can improve and lead by example in our own operations. It also sets out how we will work with and assist the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in our area to reduce their impact on the environment, improve sustainability and also adapt to and build resilience to a changing climate.

1.3.2.3 Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy

TRDC have produced a Nature Recovery Strategy (currently at draft stage) to specifically address the Council's approach to protection of the natural world within the District. The strategy recognises the rich diversity of wildlife already present within the District, both within protected nature reserves as well as public open space, residential gardens, grass verges, and more.

At the heart of the strategy is a five-year Action Plan, which identifies and prioritises actions to be undertaken by the Council, and others for the benefit of Biodiversity.

The full strategy will be published on the TRDC website shortly.

1.3.2.4 Pesticide Strategy

This strategy sets out how TRDC will reduce the unnecessary use of harmful chemicals. The full Pesticide Strategy can be viewed on the [Open Spaces Management Plans](#) section of TRDC's website.

1.3.2.5 Tree Strategy

The [Three Rivers District Council Tree Strategy](#) identifies the actions to be taken over the next five years to protect and sustainably manage existing trees and woodlands. It also sets out the council's plans to increase the number of trees by

planting new ones, while ensuring the right trees are planted in the right places and are properly maintained.

1.3.2.6 Local Plan

The current [Local Plan](#) for the district was published in 2014. Three Rivers District Council is preparing a [new Local Plan](#) that will set out a vision and policy framework for the future levels of growth within the district until 2038. These documents include policies which relate to nature conservation.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Chorleywood House Estate LNR is a significant, well used and valued green space in the parish of Chorleywood. The site is owned by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) and managed in partnership with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and a dedicated Friends Group (the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate – FoCWHE). The site was designated as an LNR in 2007 and has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag status annually since 2009. Management of ‘Chorleywood Dell’ located within the centre of the site was returned from Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to TRDC in 2010.

The LNR originally formed the grounds of the 200-year-old Chorleywood House, which remains a prominent feature on site. The LNR combines parkland with diverse and locally important wildlife habitats, including chalk and neutral grassland as well as ancient woodland and veteran trees. Much of the conservation grassland is grazed by cattle which maintain a diverse grassland sward, with the remainder managed by cut-and-lift operations.

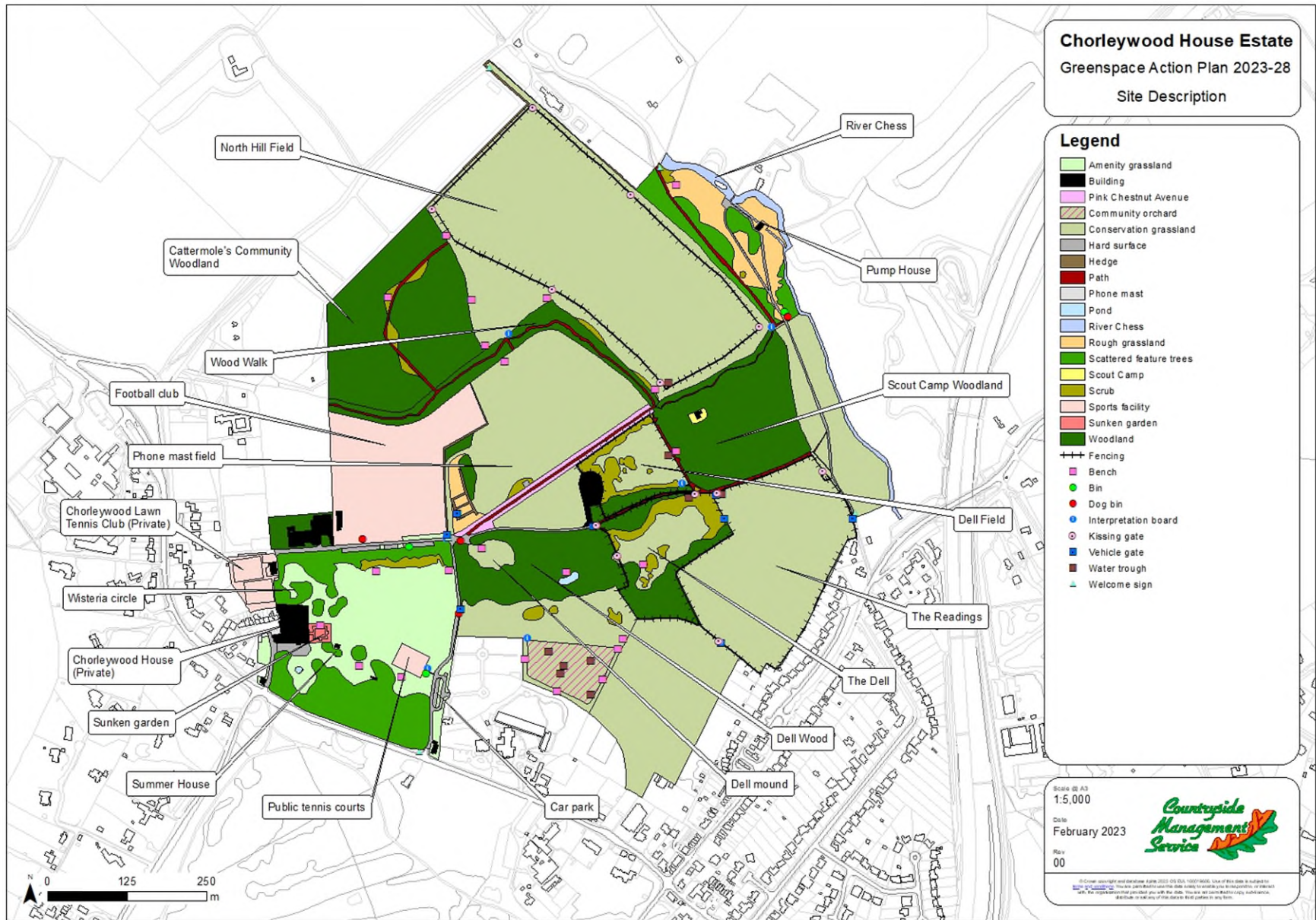
The house and surrounding grounds have been prominent in the community of Chorleywood since the late 19th century. Originally providing the grounds for harvest festivals and village fetes, the site continues to provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Throughout the grounds, features of the site’s rich cultural and natural heritage can be seen, such as the Lady Ela Russel Summer House, the wisteria circle and the wrought iron fencing which provide glimpses of the former Victorian estate.

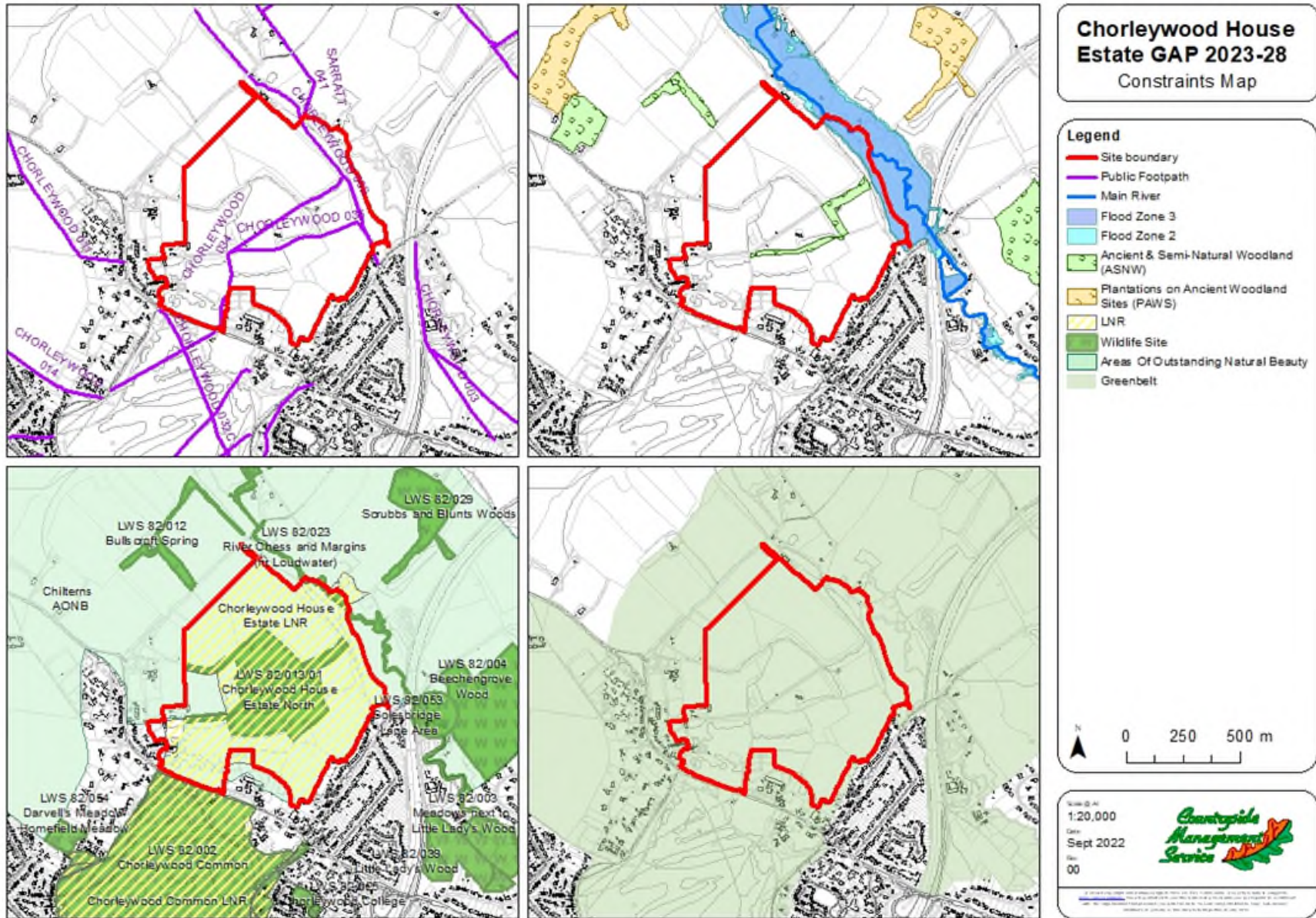
This Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) sets out the management, maintenance and development framework for the site over the next five years. It is recognised that the systems in place to manage the LNR are already very well established and described in previous plans. As such the GAP seeks to identify subtle improvements and further refinement to the established systems.

The structure of the plan has been based on the Green Flag criteria, to explore the range of issues that are important for a successful green space. The plan includes

map-based annual management programmes and a pragmatic and resource informed timetabled action plan, both located towards the end of the document. The action plan will be reviewed annually so that actions can be revised as necessary over the life of the plan.







2.2 Geography and Landscape

2.2.1 Landscape

Situated within the boundary of the Chilterns AONB and on the plateau above the Chess Valley, the site is rich in both natural and cultural heritage. The site falls within several Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) which have been developed by Hertfordshire County Council, Natural England and the Chilterns Conservation Board. The LCAs group together areas which are similar in their geography, land use and landscape character, with all three of the LCA strategies emphasising the importance of retaining the historic context of this area, whilst maximising recreation and environmental stewardship. The LCA descriptions and recommended management for Chorleywood House Estate LNR are summarised below.

LCA	Detail
Hertfordshire County Council's Landscape Strategy	Hertfordshire County Council's Landscape Strategy categorizes Chorleywood House Estate LNR within the Heronsgate Heights LCA. This LCA is characterized by a gently undulating and sinuous plateau, which is locally divided by narrow chalk ways and forms part of the Chilterns Dip Slope. Despite the M25 being a major feature of the skyline to the east, the LCA is relatively wooded, with areas of parkland, and pasture. The LCA has a planned feel with many traditional buildings and parklands. The most current status assessment of the LCA revealed it to have a strong strength of character which is currently in good condition. To safeguard and manage the current landscape quality, several recommendations have been made. These include re-instating and promoting traditional land management techniques, in conjunction with facilitating safe public access and existing recreational uses. Maintaining age diversity within parklands is encouraged through new plantings, which respect the sites historic context, form and character.

<p>Natural England's National Character Areas</p>	<p>Chorleywood House Estate is located within the Chilterns National Character Area (NCA). The countryside of the Chilterns NCA comprises a patchwork of arable land, grassland, and woodland with numerous commons and pockets of ancient woodland. The extensive hedgerow network provides potential connections between the scattered semi-natural habitat fragments, including chalk grassland and common land. Relict features of traditional management techniques are widespread and include coppice woodland, orchards, laid hedgerows, veteran/ancient trees and commons. The management of woodlands, hedgerows and parklands should focus on enhancing biodiversity, restoring the historic landscape and securing ecological resilience. The potential for recreation should also be maximised, with good access provision for communities to enjoy the countryside.</p>
<p>Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan</p>	<p>Produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board, the management plan identifies the landscape character of the Chorleywood area as River Valley Landscapes (The Chess Valley). The natural and built features of the countryside within the AONB are recognised as special and attractive. The management plan sets out several broad management aims. In reference to Chorleywood House Estate LNR, the management plan encourages sustainable land management practices to enhance and maintain biodiversity, natural beauty and heritage features in the long-term. Another key aim is to enhance public awareness and understanding of wildlife conservation, land management practices and heritage features. In particular, enjoyment of the countryside and involvement with conservation of habitats and heritage should be promoted.</p>

2.2.2 Geology and Hydrology

The underlying geology of the LNR and surrounding area is a combination of plateau and river terrace drift, forming part of the clay-with-flints area. The soils are characterised by a mix of fine and coarse loamy over clayey soils, with localised slight seasonal waterlogging.

The River Chess lies on the north-eastern boundary of the site, which the Environment Agency has currently classified as of moderate ecological quality (2019 assessment). Over time, the course of the River Chess has been utilised and modified by human activity. In particular, the frequent spring sources were modified in the 19th century to form the now derelict watercress beds. Within Chorleywood House Estate LNR, a flint-lined man-made drainage channel (the leat) runs through the site. This channel was redefined in 2002 as part of the restoration of a former inert waste tip at Dell Wood.

2.2.3 Visual amenity

Visual amenity is an important consideration at Chorleywood House Estate, both in terms of the historic parkland landscape of the site, along with its place in the wider Chilterns landscape and the views offered from the estate.

2.3 History and Archaeology

Chorleywood House Estate LNR has a rich history which has shaped and influenced the footprint of the site that we enjoy today. The dominant building is Chorleywood House, which was created following the acquisition of the Estate in 1892 by the 10th Duke of Bedford. The house was re-fashioned into a Victorian style to house a dowager aunt. The aunt died before the refurbishment of the building was completed, and the house was occupied by Lady Ela Russell, the sister of the 10th Duke of Bedford. Lady Ela lived in the house until her death in 1936. During her time Lady Ela developed the Estate to be self-sufficient and laid out formal gardens, parkland, and woodland across the grounds, whilst also building the Summer House adjacent to the main house.

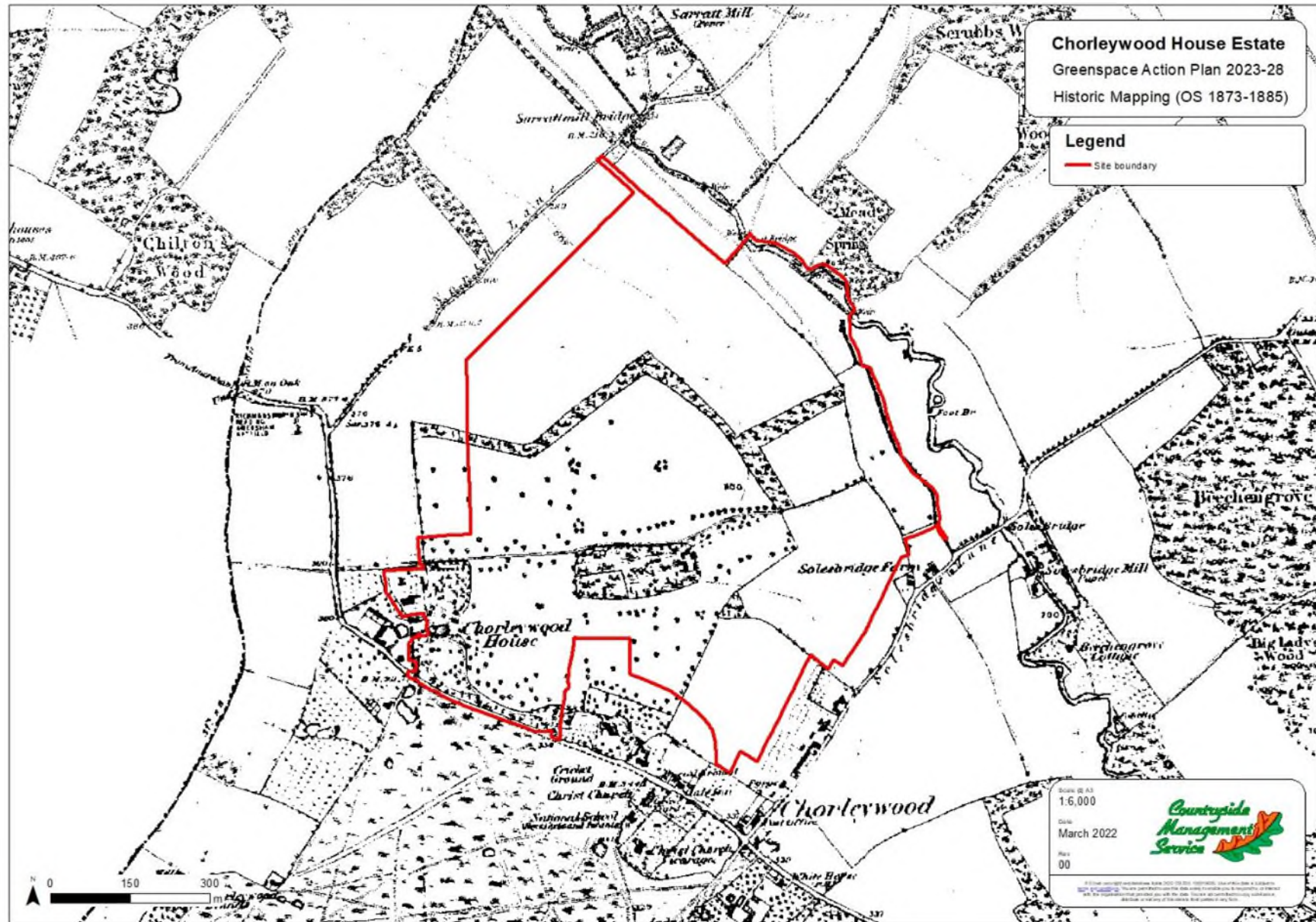
The house and grounds were purchased by Chorleywood Urban District Council (now Three Rivers District Council) in 1939 for use as their council offices and as a

public library. The Estate was used extensively during World War 2, with evacuees housed in the mansion, and prisoners of war housed within the Estate outbuildings. Furthermore, the Summer House was used by the Women's Voluntary Service. The house now consists of private residences, but the Estate grounds remain in the ownership of TRDC and form the Chorleywood House Estate LNR which is open for enjoyment by the public.

In addition to the house itself, several old timber buildings remain within the grounds, including the Summer House. Other historic buildings on site include the pump house, generator house, and several private residences.

Additionally, the site comprises numerous landscape features such as the wisteria circle, the leat, the Pink Chestnut Avenue, and the Wood Walk which reflect the history of the site. The Chorleywood Community Orchard, created in 2008, echoes the earlier use of the Estate for market gardening and crops. Fragments of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and the presence of veteran trees further contribute to the historic significance of Chorleywood House Estate LNR.

The OS map below from the late 19th Century reveals the historic presence of features such as the Wood Walk and Dell Wood, whilst also showing how little field boundaries have changed since this time.



2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

2.4.1 Grassland

2.4.1.1 *Amenity grassland*

Much of the area around Chorleywood House is managed as amenity grassland, including the main lawn. Bulb planting within this area adds to the interest and visual amenity.



Main lawn amenity grassland



Bulb planting on main lawn

2.4.1.2 *Rough grassland*

Areas of rough grassland and ruderal vegetation can be found around the edges of hay meadows, providing buffer habitat to surrounding scrub and woodland. There is also a larger area of rough grassland at the northern edge of the site around the pump house which is currently managed through an annual flail cut. The presence of patches of meadowsweet suggest the area retains some wetness for periods of the year.



Rough grassland around edge of hay field



Rough grassland around pump house

2.4.1.3 Conservation grassland

The Estate contains a network of semi-natural chalk and neutral grasslands, which support a variety of wildflowers, insects, small mammals and birds. The areas of grassland located within Chorleywood Dell and Dell Field contain priority chalk grassland habitats, their importance highlighted by the inclusion of these fields within the Local Wildlife Site designation. Dell Field also includes numerous anthills, an indicator of historic unimproved grassland.



Conservation grassland in The Dell



Anthills in Dell Field

Traditionally, the whole of the Estate would have been grazed, and grazing has gradually been re-introduced by the Council, originally prioritising those grassland areas which are most significant (i.e. those within the Local Wildlife Site). Grazing was re-introduced first to Chorleywood Dell and Dell Field under a Countryside

Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement, which was secured for the LNR from 2003 to 2013.

The area of grazing has since been expanded under successive GAPs, firstly to incorporate The Readings field and most recently to a large part of North Hill Field, made possible by a 10-year Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement with Natural England (2013 – 2023).



Cattle grazing The Readings

A number of the grassland compartments are included within the HLS agreement, including Chorleywood Dell, Dell Field, The Readings, and Mast Field (not grazed). The HLS has supported a change in stock from sheep to cattle, in response to previous problems with dogs. As such, grazing has not occurred continuously and more recently has been restricted by poor fencing conditions in Chorleywood Dell and Dell Field.



Fencing in The Dell damaged by a fallen tree



Broken fence in Dell Field

Grasslands managed by conservation grazing have long been recognised as having high nature conservation value, typically comprising a great variety of native plant species. Grazing enhances the diversity of wildflowers and results in a varied grassland structure of different heights, which in turn supports a vast array of insects providing a healthy food supply for many mammals and birds. This has been observed on site where the ecological quality of the grassland sward has continued to improve since the re-introduction of grazing. For example, re-instating grazing in The Readings field has resulted in an observed increase in species diversity and has largely been successful in controlling scrub cover. In particular, a reduction in the dominance of false oat grass, thistles and docks has been observed, coupled with an increase in herbaceous plants and grasses.

Other areas of grassland in the LNR are not as diverse but are still of value. These areas have been managed as meadows through a cut-and-lift operation at the end of the flowering season. This includes the area of grassland at the north-eastern part of the site nearest the River Chess, which shows remnants of flood meadow vegetation communities dominated by meadow foxtail grass.



One of the meadows following management by a cut-and-lift



Grassland with remnant flood meadow vegetation communities

2.4.2 Invasive grassland weeds

Certain weeds if left unchecked have the tendency to spread and become dominant in the landscape. Grazing alone is not always effective at keeping these weeds at

bay, especially those that are woody, spiky or unpalatable, properties which a high proportion of invasive weeds have. Where necessary, these weeds have been controlled by other means, with a general target from the HLS agreement of ensuring their coverage is less than 5% within each grassland compartment.

2.4.2.1 *Scrub and bramble*

Scrub is an important component of grassland habitats providing sheltered, sunny spots and nectar sources for invertebrates, such as butterflies and hoverflies, as well as important habitat for birds and small mammals. This is particularly true of the edges of grassland areas where scrub provides a graduated margin to surrounding woodland habitats. However, grasslands are dynamic habitats, and successional change can occur rapidly with areas quickly progressing to scrub and eventually woodland. Vegetation succession also leads, in the short term, to an increase in nutrient levels in the soil and a decline in species diversity.



Marginal scrub habitat



Scattered young scrub in The Readings

Management is therefore required to control the extent of scrub and bramble cover, in order to increase the area of grassland available for wildflowers, and the conservation value of this habitat. Where bramble and scrub has encroached, it has been generally been controlled by rotational cutting, predominately through volunteer activities. A network of discrete patches of scrub and bramble are retained for species diversity and for invertebrates, birds and small mammals, particularly in The

Dell, where scrub patches help create a mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitats.



Scrub patches within The Dell

2.4.2.2 Ragwort

Whilst an important constituent of the grass sward, providing habitat and food for a number of invertebrates, common ragwort is poisonous if consumed by cattle. Consumption is most likely to occur when ragwort is pulled and left in situ as it becomes more palatable after drying. The Weeds Act 1959 requires the Council to control certain “injurious weeds” including common ragwort, with levels within grasslands regularly monitored. Ragwort is periodically hand pulled and removed from the grazing compartments by CMS volunteers and disposed of appropriately by the grazier.

2.4.3 Hedgerows

A network of hedgerows is found within Chorleywood House Estate (CWHE), mainly bordering grassland compartments and connecting with the mosaic of woodland patches, both across the site and in the wider landscape. A number of these hedgerows have been restored, planted and layed (layered). Hedge laying is a traditional form of management used to create a dense, stock-proof barrier, which is also valuable to wildlife, such as a nesting habitat for birds. Many of these layed hedgerows are now well developed and require a longer-term maintenance schedule.



Previously layed hedgerow



Base of previously layed hedgerow

There are several young hedgerows around the site that could potentially be layed in the near future, particularly around the Readings field.



Potential hedge for laying

Remaining hedgerows on site are periodically trimmed as part of the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

2.4.4 Woodland

There are several woodland compartments across the Estate, some of which are included within the LWS designation. Furthermore, parts of these woodland compartments are classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, which means that there has been woodland present on the site for over 400 years. Secondary woodland is also present to the west of Chorleywood Dell and within Cattermole's Community Woodland. Wood Walk, Dell Mound Woodland, and the Scout Camp

Woodland are also included within the Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.

2.4.4.1 Cattermole's Community Woodland

Cattermole's Community Woodland was planted between 1992 and 1994 and was named after the head gardener of the former Estate. During the 2013 – 2018 GAP, a scalloped ride was established through the woodland creating areas of temporary open space and providing edge habitat to benefit butterflies and other insects. The woodland is in need of thinning, currently being characterised by a dense stand of narrow trees, which cast a shadow on the understorey and woodland floor below.



Dense straight lines of planting with limited understorey



Scallop along woodland ride

Along ride edges and woodland edge, coppiced hazel adds both an additional wildlife habitat and feature of interest.



Coppiced hazel

2.4.4.2 Wood Walk

The species-rich semi-natural Wood Walk forms part of the Local Wildlife Site.

Typically, this area supports a diverse mix of bluebell, primrose, wood melick and yellow archangel, while the rare coralroot bittercress, which has a limited distribution in Hertfordshire, has been historically recorded in this area. More recent recordings of this notable species have been made in the local area, but not within the grounds of the LNR.



Bluebells along the Wood Walk



Bluebells and yellow archangel

The Wood Walk has become dominated by a dense understorey of holly in places, which is casting a significant amount of shade to the detriment of ground flora. Whilst holly is a native species and a perfectly valid component of woodlands, it becomes an issue when it out-competes everything else. As a result, in places where holly is becoming dominant, there is little light reaching the woodland floor which is detrimental to the development of wildflowers, and natural tree regeneration. The absence of tree regeneration is a particular concern as the woodland comprises many mature trees which are now at the end of their lives. If re-stocking does not occur, there is a risk that the footprint of this historic feature will be lost over time.



Area of dense holly along the Wood Walk

2.4.4.3 Dell Mound Woodland, and Scout Camp Woodland

These two woodland pockets also form part of the Local Wildlife Site designation, reflecting their importance for local biodiversity. The western end of Dell Wood was previously restored, after suffering from large amounts of unauthorised tipping over a number of years. Since then, management has focused on maintaining levels of rhododendron, and controlling the cover of non-native laurel. With the exception of managing the cover of rhododendron and laurel, these areas have received minimal intervention in recent years. Pole-stage trees within these woods are dense in places and would benefit from being thinned.



Dense pole-stage trees in Dell Wood



Scout camp woodland

2.4.5 Parkland Trees

The LNR includes a number of landscaped elements which reflect the historic context of the Estate, particularly within the open amenity grassland area which

surrounds the house. Tree and shrub groups are scattered across this area leading the eye to certain vistas within the Estate. This a key feature of the site that requires conservation from both an historic landscape point of view and a biodiversity perspective due to the wildlife that this parkland habitat supports, for example, feeding bats. Over recent years the FoCWHE, have crown-lifted a number of these parkland trees to enhance views across the estate, whilst a number of new parkland trees have also been planted.



Parkland tree

Tree groups, mainly consisting of maples and conifers, were planted between the house and the tennis courts with the original intention that specimen/feature trees would be selected from these groups to continue into mature and veteran stages. This did not occur as planned, leaving tight groups of even-aged, ill-formed trees. Specimen conifers are also found at the northern end of the site, between the River Chess and North Hill Field,



Specimen trees near main house



Specimen conifers

2.4.5.1 *Pink Chestnut Avenue*

The Pink Chestnut Avenue is another historic feature of the Estate. The area is undergoing a long-term phased removal and replacement of the chestnut trees that have been severely affected by bleeding canker and pose a safety risk.



Pink Chestnut Avenue



Pink chestnut flowers

Trees along the avenue have also been susceptible to storm damage in recent years. The area is also currently overgrown, with the planted chestnut trees being encroached by bramble scrub.



Pink chestnut with top split out



Pink Chestnut Avenue showing both mature and younger replacement trees

2.4.5.2 *Rhododendron*

There are a number of established rhododendron shrubs within the woodland areas, particularly along Wood Walk. Although generally rhododendron is removed from

wildlife habitats due to its invasive nature and threats to native wildlife (as identified in the TRDC Woodland Management Plan), in the Estate context it is an attribute of the historic landscape. Management aims to maintain the current extents of rhododendron, whilst preventing further increases.



Rhododendron bush near main entrance



Rhododendron bush along the Wood Walk

2.4.6 Scrub

During previous management plans, an ecotone was created along the north-eastern corner of the amenity grassland in front of the house, and adjacent to the car park. An edge habitat transitioning from tall canopy trees down through to scrub, and amenity mown grassland was created. This woodland edge habitat is south facing and provides sunny sheltered spots for insects to feed on nectar-rich plants like bramble. Scallops were created, which are now cut on a rotational basis to provide a mosaic of growth stages. The regrowth of scrub provides sunny sheltered spots with good nectar sources for feeding insects e.g. butterflies and hoverflies.

In recent years, scrub has been cleared along the southern boundary adjacent to the Rickmansworth Road to open this area up and provide views into the site. Selected shrub groups e.g. historic rhododendrons were retained to provide an element of screening from the road, and amenity mown grassland established between the shrub groups.

2.4.7 Chalk stream

The River Chess is a chalk stream that flows from the Chilterns and along the north-eastern boundary of the site. Chalk streams are priority habitats and support a number of key species including brown trout, water crowfoot and water vole. The river is a significant feature of the LNR, with the 'beach' area by the footbridge providing a focal point for visitors, particularly in the summer when it is busy with picnicking families and children paddling and playing in the river. Due to this popularity, recreational use has impacted on bank erosion rates, and unsuccessful attempts have previously been made to stabilise the bank and re-establish vegetation.



River Chess



'Beach' area near footbridge

The mill stream diverges from the main river near the Pump House and would have originally driven the water wheel. In addition, a ditch runs along much of the northern edge of the site before joining the main river near the mill stream. This ditch has variable water levels and often runs dry along most of its length.



Ditch along northern edge of site

2.4.8 Ponds

A pond is found in Dell Wood, fed by the leat. Water levels are variable, and the pond can dry up completely during the summer. Although the sides are man-made and vegetation is limited, this can be a good location for dragonflies.



Pond in Dell Wood



Pond in Dell Wood when dried out

2.4.9 Orchard

The Chorleywood Community Orchard project was launched in 2008 by local residents with support from FoCWHE, CMS and TRDC. This project has resulted in the successful establishment of 140 fruit trees, several of which are local varieties. The orchard provides a link with the local community whilst also being an asset of the LNR, adding to the overall mosaic of varied wildlife habitats across the site.

Pruning is carried out at different times of the year for different species. Apples and pears are pruned whilst the tree is dormant (November – March), and plums and cherries are pruned whilst actively growing (May – July).

The grassland within the orchard is incorporated within cut-and lift-operations to help combat nutrient enrichment from annual fruit and leaf fall. The area is mown in late summer after the majority of wildflowers have set seed and the vegetation removed before nutrients can be returned to the ground.

During the period of the last plan, a water supply was installed in the orchard with a number of troughs aiding watering of the fruit trees in periods of drought. The Community Orchard group has a long-term aspiration to have grazing within the orchard.



Chorleywood Community Orchard



Orchard water supply

2.4.10 Important species

The rich mosaic of habitats associated with the LNR has the potential to support a wide range of species. The Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre ([Herts Environmental Records Centre | Biodiversity data for Hertfordshire \(hercinfo.org.uk\)](https://hercinfo.org.uk)), which is part of Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, holds survey information relating to the Local Nature Reserve. This information can be readily accessed and has been utilised to inform the current GAP.

2.4.10.1 Mammals

Deer (certainly muntjac and roe) and European rabbits are known to be present in the LNR, and observations have been made of gnawed bark and browsing on young tree regeneration. Grey squirrels are fairly abundant, and damage within the crowns of young trees has been observed in Cattermole's Community Woodland. There are also records of European mole and badger on site. Furthermore, water voles have previously been recorded on site along the River Chess.

Historically Chorleywood House Estate has been a significant site for bats. Past surveys revealed that Chorleywood House itself supported nursery roosts of brown long-eared bats. At the eastern end of Dell Wood, within the ruins of the old buildings, a structure is set into the northern bank, known as the icehouse. Historically this was a hibernation site for Natterer's bat, and during past management, a bat access point was created when a new door was fitted.

Records from the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre also reveal that common pipistrelle and noctule bats have been observed foraging across the LNR in the recent past. Bat species have also been recorded foraging across the surrounding landscape, and include Natterer's, brown long-eared, noctule, Daubenton's and soprano pipistrelle. Considering the mosaic of semi-natural habitats within the LNR, including woodland, grassland, and water features, the site can be considered highly suitable for supporting foraging and roosting bats.

2.4.10.2 Birds

Summer migrants include blackcap, chiffchaff, willow warbler, swallow, whitethroat, house martin and swift, whilst winter visitors include fieldfare and redwing. Birds of prey found on site include sparrowhawk, kestrel, buzzard and red kite whilst other notable species include coal tit, treecreeper kingfisher and bullfinch. Skylarks have previously been recorded nesting in North Hill Field.

2.4.10.3 Invertebrates

A number of informal butterfly surveys have previously been conducted across the LNR, although records for the site are generally thought to be under-recorded. Species of interest include silver washed fritillary and marbled white. Moth species recorded have included barred sallow, brindled green, and cinnabar moths. Most

notably the Maple-seed pigmy moth has been recorded onsite which is a rare species in Hertfordshire.

A total of seven different species of dragonfly have been recorded within the LNR, most notably in Chorleywood Dell, including emperor dragonflies.

Grassland habitats more generally will provide habitat for a wide range of invertebrates including pollinators, spiders, beetles, crickets and grasshoppers.

2.4.10.4 Reptiles and Amphibians

There are past records of great crested newt (GCN) associated with the ornamental pond, located adjacent to Chorleywood House. There are also unconfirmed reports of the presence of GCN in the pond located within Dell Wood. This species is protected by law, and as such surveys to establish their presence should be undertaken before any habitat management work is carried out that may impact on the species. If found, a protected species licence may be required for habitat management work conducted in the pond and adjacent area.

2.4.10.5 Flora

The site supports a number of protected and locally significant plant species, as well as ancient woodland indicators. In particular, Wood Walk comprises bluebell, snowdrop, wild daffodil, and wood anemone, all of which are ancient woodland indicators. Furthermore, there are historic records of 'rare plants in Hertfordshire' associated with the LNR, including coralroot bitter-cress and umbellate hawkweed.

The grassland areas within the LNR are considered to be of good quality and species rich. The grasslands comprise a number of calcareous and neutral grassland indicators, including sweet vernal grass, bird's-foot trefoil, agrimony, field woodrush, black knapweed, meadow buttercup, and cowslip. Following the re-introduction of grazing to The Readings field, the diversity of wildflowers has improved, and a number of calcareous species have been observed. In particular, common agrimony, wild basil, mouse-ear hawkweed, perforate St John's-wort, field scabious, grass vetchling, and ox-eye daisy. A localised distribution of pyramidal orchid has also been observed.

The meadow adjacent to the football pitches also comprises high species diversity, dominated by a high proportion of grasses including Yorkshire fog and red fescue. Bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, creeping buttercup and germander speedwell have also been observed.

2.4.10.6 Veteran Trees and Lichens

The Friends of Chorleywood House Estate Local Nature Reserve undertook a survey of veteran trees in 2002, as part of the Hertfordshire Veteran Tree Survey co-ordinated by the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC). A total of 26 veteran trees were noted, species which included cedar, oak, sweet chestnut, beech and walnut. A lichen survey from 2004 recorded 37 different species of lichen around Chorleywood House Estate.

2.4.10.7 Fungi

The mosaic of habitats at Chorleywood House Estate provides conditions for a wide variety of fungi. Deadwood is left in situ where possible to encourage fungi to thrive.



Fungi on deadwood



Mushroom within grassland

2.4.11 Invasive species

Oak processionary moth (OPM) was introduced into England in 2005 and has since become established in London, gradually spreading into surrounding counties including Three Rivers District. Though not currently observed at CWHE, monitoring of the site is undertaken. While the moth is harmless, caterpillars pose a risk to public health through microscopic hairs which cover its body. Contact with hairs

typically causes skin rashes, although symptoms can include eye irritation, sore throats and in extreme cases breathing difficulties and allergic reactions. Control of OPM follows guidance from the Forestry Commission and has included pesticide spraying.

2.4.12 Heritage features

The buildings situated across the Estate represent an important historic component and are in various states of repair. Works have previously been carried out to improve the internal and external fabric of some of these buildings. Buildings include:

- Summer House
- Grade II listed Pump House
- Generator House
- Well House



The Summer House



The Pump House

Other historic features found within the Estate include the formal pond, the wisteria circle, the leat and the sunken garden, which date from the time when Lady Ela owned the grounds. These features are largely maintained by the FoCWHE as part of their regular work programme. The Friends ensure that the leat is regularly cleared of debris, the wisteria circle is pruned and trained, and the sunken garden is maintained and enhanced throughout the year.



The wisteria circle



The leat

The Friends of Chorleywood House Estate have conducted extensive research into the history of the Estate and have gathered together several documents and photographs, which are displayed in the Summer House. This information is shared with visitors through talks and open days hosted by the FoCWHE. The Council aspires to expand upon the historical research already gathered and make it readily accessible to visitors whenever they visit the LNR.

2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

2.5.1 Access

Chorleywood House Estate is extremely popular and highly valued by the residents of Chorleywood, as well as visitors from further afield. The site is extremely well connected, being located approx. 0.5 miles from the M25, and approx. one mile from Chorleywood Tube station.

2.5.1.1 Car parks

Two public car parks are located within the LNR grounds, one adjacent to the main vehicular entrance from Rickmansworth Road (A404), and the other located further along Lady Ela Drive near the football pitch.



Car park near main entrance



Car parking near football pitch

The increasing popularity of the LNR for sports and recreation, particularly football and tennis, places high pressure on the parking facilities, particularly the car park located adjacent to the football field. The parking provision in this area (south of the access track) was improved during previous management plans, by re-aligning the bays and extending the area of surfacing. At present there is often insufficient space for parking, resulting in parking on the grass verges. Further work is required to extend the usable all-weather surface to improve parking provision within the current footprint.

2.5.1.2 Cycling infrastructure

Cycle hoops are located in the main car park to encourage visitors to cycle to the site.



Cycle hoops

2.5.1.3 Site entrances

The LNR is well signposted for visitors arriving by car or public transportation, with directional signage from the M25 to the main entrance off Rickmansworth Road.

There are a number of access points situated along the northern and eastern boundary, providing pedestrian access for the local community. These entrances link the site to the Chess Valley Walk between Chesham to the north and the neighbouring Rickmansworth to the south.

2.5.1.4 Entrance signage

As part of the recent interpretation refresh, a new welcome sign was installed at the main entrance off Rickmansworth Road. At minor site entrances, timber monolith signs inform visitors they are entering the site.



Main entrance welcome sign



Wooden welcome monolith

2.5.1.5 Interpretation

The recent interpretation refresh included the production of attractive bespoke interpretation panels to show visitors how they can explore the LNR and identify the wildlife and heritage features they may observe. The interpretation panel nearest the main entrance includes a noticeboard to communicate updates to site users. A new site leaflet has also been produced.



Interpretation panel and noticeboard



Wildlife interpretation panel

A number of leaflet holders are located around the site, topped up with site leaflets by the FoCWHE.



Leaflet holder

2.5.1.6 Behaviour signage

Small signage boards are found around the site to communicate expected behaviours, regulations, and contact information. These are currently in a variety of styles and would benefit from a common, standard sign being produced to consolidate information.



Existing behaviour signage



Existing behaviour signage



Existing behaviour signage

Further signage is located at the entrances to cattle grazing compartments.



Signage at entrances to grazing compartments

2.5.1.7 Benches

Wooden benches are found across the site in a variety of styles.



Example of bench



Example of bench

A single picnic bench is located near the Summer House.



Picnic bench

2.5.1.8 Bins

There are both general waste and dog waste bins positioned at strategic locations across the LNR.



General waste bin



General waste and dog waste bins

2.5.1.9 Grazing infrastructure

Stock fencing surrounds the fields grazed by cattle (North Hill Field, the Dell, Dell Field and the Readings), with water troughs located in each. In addition, corrals are located in North Hill Field and the Readings to aid cattle management.



Corral in the Readings

2.5.1.10 Parkland fencing

In places around the site, the original Victorian metal fencing is visible. The condition of this varies greatly, with some sections intact and secure while other sections are damaged and fallen.



Intact metal railings



Damaged, fallen metal railings

Post and rail fencing surrounds part of the football pitches. This is largely intact, although is starting to deteriorate in places.



Post and rail fencing

2.5.1.11 Bollards

Wooden bollards demarcate the parking areas near the football pitches, and line Lady Ela Drive.



Bollards along Lady Ela Drive



Bollards in car park

2.5.1.12 Kick rail fencing

Kick rail fencing lines the site boundary along Rickmansworth Road and splits the main car park area. The fence along the road is recent and in good condition, while the fencing in the car park requires repair in places.



Kick rail fence along Rickmansworth Road



Damaged kick rail fence in the main car park

2.5.1.13 Sculptures

Wooden sculptures are found surrounding the pond in Dell Wood, including a sculpture bench. Where maintenance of these has been possible (such as regular oiling), these are in good condition, although some of the higher up sculptures have deteriorated where the height has made maintenance more difficult, and a number have recently collapsed.



Sculpture next to ornamental pond

2.5.1.14 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and promoted routes

There are three Public Rights of Way which extend through the site, some of which are surfaced. Footpaths 34 and 35 extend either side of Dell Field, while Footpath 02 extends along the eastern boundary of the LNR adjacent to the River Chess and links the site to the Chess Valley Walk, connecting Chesham to the north with Rickmansworth to the south. A large section of Footpath 02 has recently been surfaced.

Public Rights of Way and footpaths are kept clear and open through a combined effort between Grounds Maintenance staff, the FoCWHE, and CMS volunteers.



RoW finger post



RoW waymark post

2.5.1.15 Path surfacing

Footpath 34 is largely surfaced, with the southern half running along Lady Ela Drive, and the northern half running along the Pink Chestnut Avenue. Most of Footpath 02 is surfaced, with the western half having been recently completed. The eastern half connecting to Solesbridge Lane has older surfacing and is currently in poor condition.



Surfacing of track along Footpath 02

2.5.1.16 Walking routes

Waymarked trails are important to encourage exploration of the mosaic of habitats across the LNR, particularly for new or inexperienced walkers. In particular, waymarks provide direction and reassurance for walkers when the route of the trail becomes unclear, such as when a path changes direction, or where one or more paths join. Three waymarked routes are provided around the LNR; the Park Walk (blue), Wood Walk (orange) and Valley Walk (red), which are displayed on interpretation panels and the site leaflet. However, there is a lack of directional signage around the site as many of the waymarks are rotten or been removed. As

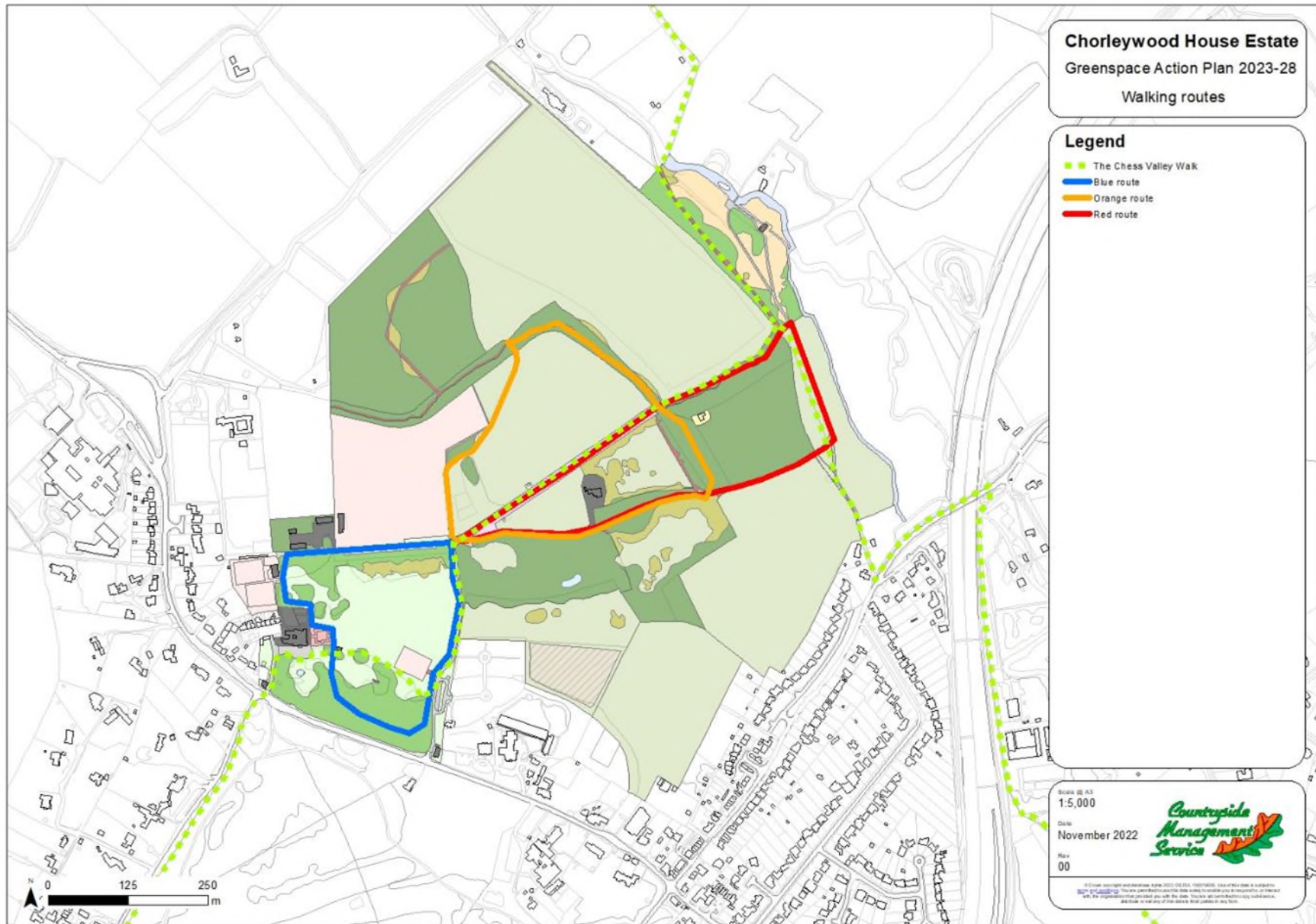
such the routes are unclear, and visitors may be unaware of the walking routes available.



Waymark post for walking routes



Waymark for Chess Valley Walk



2.5.1.17 Informal paths

In addition to the three walking routes, there is an informal network of paths allowing further exploration across the site, most of which are unsurfaced.

2.5.1.18 Steps

Steps are found along some of the steeper paths through Dell Wood. These are in moderate condition with some repairs likely needed in the near future to replace rotten timbers.



Steps in Dell Wood

2.5.1.19 Sports and recreation facilities

The LNR is an important recreational green space providing sports pitches, public (free) and private tennis courts, in addition to a range of opportunities for informal recreation.



Tennis courts



Football club

2.6 Community and Events

2.6.1 Volunteer activity

2.6.1.1 Friends of Chorleywood House Estate

The Friends of Chorleywood House Estate (FoCWHE) are a constituted Friends Group that delivers voluntary practical action within the site. As well as providing critical input into the decision-making processes and management planning, they are a regular presence onsite providing eyes and ears reporting to TRDC. This type of visible presence and activity helps to deter anti-social behaviour and improves the perception of safety. FoCWHE also contribute to the ongoing monitoring of the plan.

Community engagement and participation has continued to play a valuable role in the management and development of the LNR. The FoCWHE are valued ambassadors for the site and for almost twenty years they have implemented a regular programme of volunteer activities which has improved habitat quality and restored heritage value across the LNR. On top of the volunteer activity they deliver, the FoCWHE are able to respond to the public and provide immediate feedback to the Council from park users.

The FoCWHE represent local people who have an interest in the site. Volunteers range from members of the local community to residents of Chorleywood House. The Friends maintain close links with the Chorleywood Common Rangers, and with CMS working parties. The FoCWHE conduct working parties onsite twice a month, planning their activities for the LNR within the guidelines and overall priorities of the GAP Action Plan, and contributing greatly to the programme of volunteer works

The group has built up a very impressive record of the history of the Estate, and they display this in the Lady Ela Russell Summer House, opening the Summer House to the public on Bank Holidays and other days each year. They have developed and undertaken a number of projects including the restoration of the fire pond, the sunken garden and the pond in Dell Wood, all of which are key features of the LNR's historic landscape and gardens. The group has a website,

www.chorleywoodhouse.org.uk which provides information on the Estate and news about events, as well as featuring valuable insights into the history and ecology of the LNR. Their membership is open to anyone interested in taking an active part in

the work and aims of the group. They have an elected committee and hold a formal meeting open to all members at least twice a year.

CMS provide a “Friends of pack” which enables the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate to work to agreed guidelines. The pack includes completed and template risk assessments, training requirements, key contact details, insurance and work programming information; all reviewed as part of the biannual review meeting.

2.6.1.2 Chorleywood Community Orchard

The Chorleywood Community Orchard group provides a vital link with the local community and holds volunteer opportunities throughout the year on the first Saturday of each month. The Chorleywood Community Orchard group have their own website, www.chorleywoodorchard.org.uk which provides more information on the aims of the group and the tree varieties which can be found in the orchard.

2.6.1.3 CMS volunteer group

In addition to FoCWHE volunteer activities, management is supported through task days carried out by the CMS midweek volunteer group.

2.6.2 Community Engagement

There are several opportunities for the local community to be involved in the management of the LNR:

- Through joining the Friends Group and/or the Chorleywood Community Orchard and participating in their tasks.
- Additional organised volunteer events, provided through the CMS Midweek Volunteer programme.
- Participating in events such as guided wildlife and history walks.

The creation of a new Greenspace Action Plan re-enforces the partnership between the Council, CMS and the Friends Group (as well as any other interested parties), and provides an opportunity to discuss, programme and deliver a variety of projects that contribute towards the achievement of the overall aims and objectives for the LNR.

2.6.3 Promotion

Raising awareness of site values and encouraging more people to visit would help support the long-term management of the LNR by ensuring that it continues to be valued by the local community. Chorleywood House Estate is promoted through a range of channels, including:

- The [Three Rivers Leisure](#) website has a page dedicated to Chorleywood House Estate including a map, the management plan, related documents and details of the FoCWHE. Events.
- CMS and Three Rivers District Council social media. The estate appears as a “Landmark & historical place” on Facebook with links to www.chorleywoodhouse.org.uk This allows users to check-in or tag photos to the location.
- Updates to councillors relating to planned works.
- Council notice boards located around the district, which also provide wider information about news and activities within the district.
- Onsite noticeboard at main site entrance.
- Site leaflets.
- Signage, including off-site directional signage (brown signs), on-site entrance signage and interpretation.
- The websites of FoCWHE and Chorleywood Community Orchard
- Three Rivers Times, an in-house publication reaching 38,000 households.
- ParksHerts website, a mobile-first website application providing a single information point for over one hundred of Hertfordshire’s parks and open spaces, from recreation grounds through to woodlands and award-winning flagship parks, irrespective of administrative ownership. It provides a way for people to discover and enjoy these places, supporting people to make outdoor exercise part of their everyday lives.
- Chorleywood Magazine.
- Chorleywood Residents Association website.

2.6.4 Informal recreation

The LNR is regularly used by local people for informal exercise, such as walking, dog walking, bird watching and running, and serves as a local resource for activities that enhance health and well-being. There are also a variety of events and activities available at the LNR which promote healthy living through physical activity and healthy lifestyles. For example, the following activities have been/are on offer at the LNR:

- Nordic Walking
- Guided walks
- Volunteer days – fortnightly morning working parties organised by the Friends on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, and by the Community Orchard group on the 1st Saturday of each month
- Orienteering
- Tennis – free courts are available as well as a private club
- Chorleywood Common Youth Football Club
- Scouts
- Guided photography walks

2.6.5 Events

The FoCWHE enjoy celebrating the LNR and the work they have contributed to its management. The group run events and activities for park users including guided walks and history focused events. In particular, the FoCWHE support TRDC with biannual photography related walks on the Estate. They also hold stalls and information stands at the annual Chorleywood Village Day in order to promote the LNR and their Friends Group. In addition, the Chorleywood Community Orchard group hold an annual ‘Apple Day’ event for the public in autumn.

2.6.6 Site misuse

The TRDC grounds maintenance contract includes provisions for responding to vandalism and graffiti.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog control is in effect across the entirety of the Three Rivers District. For details, see <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/service/public-space-protection-order-pspo>. The dog control order places restrictions on dog fouling (fixed penalty scheme), and the number of dogs under charge by any one person.

2.7 Site Management

2.7.1 Management Structure

Three Rivers District Council as landowners are responsible for the implementation of the plan. Their role includes responsibility for:

- Management works carried out by their in-house team of Landscape Officers and Grounds Maintenance staff.
- Administration and budget management.
- Acting as signatory for grant applications and claims.
- Member involvement and reporting.
- Appropriate support for FoCWHE.

CMS advises on management, particularly where it relates to nature conservation and community involvement. They are responsible for:

- The production of Greenspace Action Plans for the woodland including engagement with partners and subsequent monitoring.
- Production of specifications, procurement, and contract monitoring for management works.
- Running volunteer task days through the mid-week volunteer group.
- Providing support to the FoCWHE through work programmes, training, tools, risk assessment and governance.
- Support with events and PR.

2.7.2 Agreements and Grant Funding

Management of the site has been supported by a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement which was due to expire in 2023. This has recently been extended to continue to support management for the period of this plan.

2.7.3 Environmental management and sustainability

The council has a strong commitment to the environment and environmental sustainability and recognises the impacts its operations have on the environment. Three Rivers District Council's dedication to protect the environment is reflected in council policies, strategies, commitments and partnerships. Some relevant initiatives include:

- Peat will not be used on any of our sites.
- Pesticides will not be used unless there are no alternative means of control.
- Only FSC timber is used across the district.
- All cleaning materials are phosphate free.

2.7.4 Health and Safety

The main contact number and web address for TRDC are listed on the site interpretation boards. The phone line includes an out-of-hours service, allowing members of the public to contact the council as required.

Tree safety surveys are carried out in all TRDC parks, woodlands and open spaces, including Chorleywood House Estate, with the resulting data entered into tree management software and essential remedial works undertaken to secure visitor safety. All dead wood, including standing dead wood, is left in situ where safe to do so for habitat and biodiversity benefits. Trees which have to be reduced or removed for safety reasons are stacked into habitat piles or chipped and removed from the site.

CMS supply task specific risk assessments which are read and understood by staff and volunteers before any work is undertaken. These risk assessments include requirements for training, PPE, equipment and the information required to be COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002) compliant.

Work site specific risk assessments are carried out before tasks are underway to assess local hazards and environmental conditions.

Visitors to Chorleywood House Estate should feel safe and able to enjoy all areas of the site at all times. The FoCWHE are present on site twice per month, and the Community Orchard at least once a month. This type of regular presence and activity helps to prevent anti-social behaviour and improves the perception of safety.

The LNR is regularly visited and inspected by the Council and CMS. Reports from the FoCWHE, user groups, and members of the public are also noted. Any vandalism is inspected as soon as possible after a report has been received, normally within 24 hours.

Previous work has focused on improving visibility and sense of security. Actions were taken to improve the woodland edge habitat bordering the car park (adjacent to the football field) which has not only improved the quality of this habitat for wildlife but has also opened up the car park making it safer and more welcoming for visitors. Regular management is required to keep this area open. Vegetation and trees which overhang and encroach the footpaths are regularly cut back to improve light levels and sense of security for visitors. There is a speed limit on site (15mph) to restrict vehicular movement to a sensible speed within the LNR.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) visit the LNR on a regular basis as part of their patrol routes. The Parish Council offices are located on the grounds of CWHE (just inside the main site entrance) which enables the public to make contact if necessary. TRDC has a good working relationship with the Parish Council and they are able to pass on requests from the public.

2.7.5 Leases

2.7.5.1 Scouts

The Scouts hold a lease over the Scout Camp and surrounding woodland.

3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aims

To maintain Chorleywood House Estate as a sustainable Local Nature Reserve, rich in biodiversity whilst retaining and enhancing the historic landscape character of the site. Chorleywood House Estate will be welcoming and accessible for recreation, whilst also providing opportunities for visitors to connect with and enjoy their local environment.

Objectives

A. A welcoming place – *To provide a welcoming green space for the enjoyment of the local community, finding a balance between biodiversity, heritage and public access*

A1 Improve public access to and connectivity between the diverse habitats associated with the Estate through improved waymarking of promoted walking routes

A2 Enhance an area of grassland near main car park and Chorleywood House through wildflower seeding to create a feature of interest

A3 Investigate improvements to car parking provision on site

A4 Develop a 'green screen' along the main Chorleywood Road

B. Healthy, safe and secure – *To provide and maintain clear and safe public access onto, and around Chorleywood House Estate*

B1 Carry out planned and reactive tree works to address safety issues

B2 Respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site, ensuring a proportionate response to anti-social behaviour

C. Well-maintained and clean – *To ensure that all aspects of Chorleywood House Estate are kept clean and well maintained*

C1 Manage and maintain paths, bridges, benches, access infrastructure and signage

C2 Remove fly-tipping, undertake regular litter picking, empty litter bins, and carry out small scale vegetation management along access routes

D. Environmental management – *To ensure all aspects of site management are undertaken with sustainability as a guiding principle*

D1 Ensure all site activities adhere to relevant TRDC policies and strategies, including all work undertaken by contractors

D2 Ensure ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable

D3 Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital works

D4 Ensure impacts of climate change are considered in management decisions, both in terms of the effect of climate change on wildlife habitats and of carbon emissions from management operations

D5 Carry out management according to environmental best practice, including a presumption against the use of herbicide

D6 Monitor and record improvements to habitats and wildlife, including evaluating success of grazing through undertaking rapid grassland assessments and commissioning extended Phase 1 survey for North Hill Field

E. Biodiversity, landscape and heritage – *To conserve and enhance the important wildlife, landscape and heritage features of Chorleywood House Estate*

E1 Carry out appropriate responsive management to conserve and enhance the mosaic of important wildlife habitats

E2 Maintain a diverse range of grassland habitats, maximising areas for wildflowers and pollinators through continued grazing and hay-cutting, whilst also maintaining areas for recreation and amenity

E3 Manage woodland habitats for their nature conservation value, maintaining a diverse structure and range of species present

E4 Manage veteran and feature trees to enhance both aesthetic and ecological value

- E5 Develop a long-term plan for the management of hedgerows, including those previously laid, to maximise their contribution to biodiversity and enhance parkland views
- E6 Develop a long-term plan for the sustainable management of Cattermole's Community Woodland in order to enhance value for biodiversity and for people, including undertaking a thinning operation during this plan period
- E7 Integrate the habitat management aims of the Chorleywood Community Orchard project within the wider context of the Estate to optimise the potential of the orchard for supporting wildlife, including investigating potential for grazing the orchard with sheep
- E8 Protect and enhance chalk stream habitat through both management of areas directly under TRDC control and engaging with wider catchment partners and projects, such as the Smarter Water Catchment project.
- E9 Enhance habitats within Chorleywood House Estate by creating a new pond on site
- E10 Control invasive species, whilst maintaining existing cover of rhododendron where this forms an historic feature
- E11 Protect and celebrate heritage features, and conserve the historic landscape character of the site and its relationship with the wider landscape, including further developing heritage interpretation on site

F. Community involvement – *To ensure engagement and involvement of local communities*

- F1 Work with and engage key stakeholders
- F2 Support volunteer activity at Chorleywood House Estate and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the GAP
- F3 Support the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate and Chorleywood Community Orchard volunteers, and encourage the local community to become further involved in site management in a structured and supported way

G. Marketing and communication – *To promote awareness and interest in Chorleywood House Estate*

G1 Widely promote volunteer and community events at Chorleywood House Estate, using both traditional and electronic media

G2 Utilise newly installed noticeboards to update site users of developments on site

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

A1 Improve public access and connectivity

Replacement waymark posts will be installed along the routes of the three advertised walking routes to ensure these are easy to follow for visitors to the site. In addition, new waymark discs will be installed at key viewpoints across the LNR, with QR codes directing visitors to online resources and audio links which reveal historic views or highlight significant points in the Estate's historical timeline. This will enable visitors to engage with the site's heritage in an interactive and stimulating manner.

Through Rights of Way and the Chess Valley Walk, the site is well connected to the surrounding countryside, in particular the adjacent Chorleywood Common. Many visitors may also visit the Common whilst visiting Chorleywood House Estate, with movement between the two sites likely only to increase with the opening of the new café at the nearby Cricket Pavilion. Moving between the two sites requires crossing the busy Rickmansworth Road, investigations will take place to look at options for facilitating safe crossing between the two sites.

There is currently no access to the site for horse riders, although the Briefing Document engagement revealed an appetite for this amongst the local population. Whilst TRDC have no current plans to provide horse access, this will be investigated in further detail during this plan.

A2 Grassland enhancement next to Chorleywood House

A new area of wildflower grassland will be created by seeding a section of the amenity grassland adjacent to Chorleywood House, both to increase wildflower habitat and create a focal point for visitors entering the site. Following establishment, this will be managed through a cut-and-lift regime.

A3 Car parking improvements

Parking options to increase capacity will be investigated with Three Rivers District Council Planning Department. Any improvements are likely to require the securing of external funding.

A4 'Green screen' along Rickmansworth Road

Works during the last plan to replace the fence and remove scrub along the boundary with Rickmansworth Road have opened up this area greatly. Whilst the views created into the site are welcomed, an element of further screening will help reduce traffic noise in the area whilst still maintaining the more open feel and connectivity to the wider area created. This will be achieved through coppicing shrub species such as holly along the site boundary and allowing a green screen of low, shrubby growth to develop.

B1 Tree safety

Tree risk surveys are undertaken in line with TRDC's Tree Strategy. A programme of planned and reactive tree risk management is carried out by specialist contractors and managed by TRDC Tree and Landscape Officers.

Management of oak processionary moth will follow the latest Forestry Commission guidance regarding control requirements, the current process is outlined in Appendix 7.1.

As and when trees are to be felled or coppiced on the grounds of public safety, gaps in the canopy will be created. Each new gap will be assessed individually to determine whether any restocking is required, whether to retain as open space, or whether natural regeneration will be sufficient to ensure a variety of age stands are present within the woodland belt and that the footprint of historic woodland features is maintained. All re-stocking will require effective protection from browsing, and tree aftercare to prevent competition from weeds.

B2 Site misuse

General site misuse will continue to be managed through the Grounds Maintenance contract.

C1 Site infrastructure maintenance

Footpaths and entrances will be kept clear of encroaching vegetation through volunteer activity and Grounds Maintenance operations.

A number of existing benches are in poor condition and require replacement. A programme of bench replacement will be undertaken as required, using the TRDC standard design.

Monitoring of further site infrastructure, for example interpretation boards and waymarkers, will be undertaken as part of regular site visits, and repairs/replacement arranged as necessary, either through volunteer task days or contractor delivery.

A thorough annual inspection of all grazing infrastructure will take place prior to the grazing season and repairs arranged as required before cattle arrive.

C2 Site cleanliness

The core maintenance items such as cleaning, grass cutting and emptying of bins are scheduled as part of the Council's in-house Grounds Maintenance Contract, which is checked and audited on a regular basis. Monitoring of the delivery of grounds maintenance activities will continue so that any required adjustments are implemented in an informed and responsible manner so that the impact on the site as a whole is a positive one.

In addition, removal of fly-tipping will continue through the Grounds Maintenance contract and litter picking will form part of volunteer activities.

The FoCWHE and the grazier help to keep an eye on the safe maintenance of the park. The FoCWHE contribute towards the cleanliness and maintenance of the Estate through their work party activities, which improves landscaping and maintains access to the various areas of the Estate.

D1 Adherence to relevant TRDC policies and strategies

Management at Chorleywood House Estate should be guided by all relevant TRDC policies and strategies, including the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Pesticide Strategy and Tree Strategy.

D2 Financially sustainable

Where specific projects are planned, it is important to be aware of the impact these will have on the general maintenance operations both visually and financially.

Through continued well-planned maintenance regimes and projects, we aim to

achieve this not just for the next five years but well into the future for Chorleywood House Estate.

D3 External funding

Funding of management is currently supported through the HLS scheme for the site, which has recently been extended by five years to cover the period of this plan.

Opportunities to enter the site into a Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Land Management scheme will be assessed, and an application made either during or at the end of the five year HLS extension, subject to the results of a botanical survey of North Hill Field.

D4 Impacts of climate change

Impacts of climate change will be considered in all management decisions and when planning for the future. Examples of where this may be implemented include when choosing tree species for planting or adjusting timing of grassland management due to changes in weather/seasonal patterns.

In addition, the impacts of management operations on climate will also be considered. Examples of this include evaluating methods used (e.g., necessity for using machinery). Environmental sustainability of contractors and reducing carbon emissions also forms part of evaluation criteria when tendering contracts for site management.

D5 Environmental best practice

All management operations within Chorleywood House Estate will aim to be as sustainable as possible, both financially and in terms of environmental impact. The Council has a strong commitment to the environment, and environmental sustainability and recognises the impacts its operations have on the environment. TRDC's dedication to protecting the environment is reflected in Council policies, strategies, commitments and partnerships. Some of these initiatives include:

- A presumption against the use of peat.
- Pesticides only used where there is no alternative; glyphosate only used on Japanese knotweed.

- Only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber is used across the district.
- All cleaning materials are phosphate free.
- TRDC was first certified with ISO 14001 in 2010. Although no longer certified, the Council strives to maintain the principles of the accreditation.

The management of woodland compartments will be in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). The Council is committed to safeguarding the natural environment by reducing damaging activities.

When choosing products to use on site, consideration will be given to using products that can be recycled at the end of their lives will be used. Where materials need to be removed, the Council will ensure these are disposed of in the correct manner, further supporting the sustainable management of the LNR.

Natural regeneration will be utilised for restocking wherever appropriate; it is low cost, dynamic, adaptable to local conditions, and reduces the risk of importing pests and diseases to the woodland. However, replanting will be considered if natural regeneration does not achieve the required stocking levels. This presents an opportunity for some species diversification, with the aim of improving the resilience of the woodland against pressures from changing climate, pests and diseases.

Working closely with organisations (such as the Forestry Commission and Hertfordshire County Council) in relation to biosecurity will provide up to date information on plant and tree health issues across the county and further afield.

D6 Monitoring

Wildflower surveys were conducted in North Hill Field prior to the introduction of grazing to establish a baseline of data. Further surveys will be undertaken to monitor vegetation changes from this change in management, including a repeat Extended Phase 1 survey and UKHab assessment in 2024. Survey results will also inform the entering of North Hill Field into a Countryside Stewardship application if appropriate.

To further monitor conservation grasslands across the site, a programme of Rapid Grassland Assessments will be introduced to allow continual monitoring. Results

from these surveys will inform any required adjustments to management operations, for example livestock density and timing of cut-and-lifts, to create desired ecological conditions.

We will seek to establish a programme of wildlife surveys in collaboration with wildlife organisations, with all records transferred to the HERC. A review of current survey data for the site will be undertaken to identify gaps and priorities for future surveys. Likely to be of particular interest would be a programme of bat activity surveys to establish if hibernation sites are still in use, to understand how the site is being used and determine which species are present. Also of interest would be repeats of previous surveys, e.g. veteran tree and lichen surveys, to monitor how these have changed.

In addition, volunteers will be encouraged to contribute to citizen science schemes, for example, establishing a butterfly transect across and chalk stream monitoring of the River Chess through the site.

A programme of fixed-point photography monitoring will also be initiated to monitor changes in habitat conditions and the success of management operations.

E1 Responsive management of important wildlife habitats

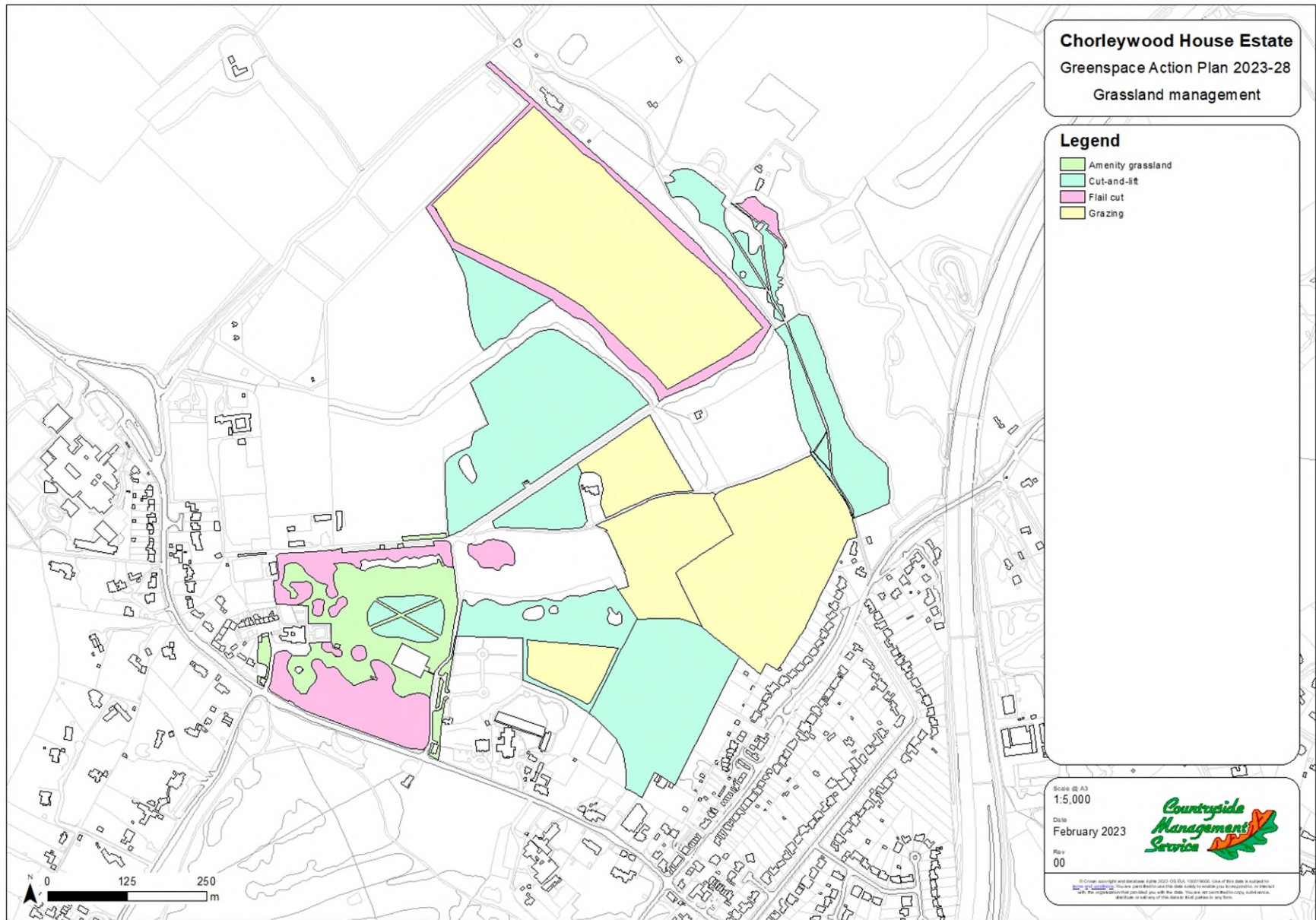
Some aspects of general management of the site will be reactive to specific circumstances that cannot be accurately programmed or predicted, such as increased visitor usage and weather conditions.

E2 Grassland management

Grazing will continue in North Hill Field, the Readings, the Dell and Dell Field, in line with the HLS agreement. Cattle will generally be present for 12 weeks, from late June to mid-September, though these timings may differ depending on growing conditions. Where possible, cattle will be rotated between fields to provide slight variations in management between years to benefit as wide a range of species as possible.

Grass cutting will follow the prescriptions set out in the Grounds Maintenance for the site, with cuts following three prescriptions. Amenity grass will continue to be cut in areas near Chorleywood House. For conservation grasslands not grazed, a cut-and-

lift regime will continue, with the area near the Pump House added to this regime to increase the conservation value of the grasslands here. Areas marked as rough grassland will be managed through an annual flail cut, these include Dell Mound to maintain this as open space and the perimeter around North Hill Field to prevent scrub encroaching across paths.



Boundary scrub will be maintained to provide a graduated margin between grassland and woodland habitats. Each autumn, a site visit between TRDC, CMS and the FoCWHE will be held to assess scrub and choose which areas are to be managed the forthcoming winter, with areas chosen to maintain a variety of ages and structure of scrub.

E3 Woodland management

Management will focus on developing sustainable woodlands, which are:

- rich in biodiversity
- offer opportunities for public recreation and enjoyment
- contribute to the sustainable network of broadleaved woodlands across the district.

This means that management will be proactive, over and above minimum safety requirements, and will aim to deliver:

- Creation of multi-age structure in the canopy and understorey.
- Creation and maintenance of permanent and temporary open space within woodlands.
- Increase in the diversity of woodland species (trees and ground flora).
- Encouragement of ground flora development and natural regeneration of self-set trees and shrubs which will form the canopy and understorey of the woodland in the future.
- Provision of dead wood habitats.

Specific actions to deliver these aims in established woodlands during the next five years are:

- Targeted removal of shrub species (predominantly holly), particularly along the Wood Walk where this is shading out woodland understorey and regeneration. Specimen holly trees will be retained; however, dense stands of smaller holly thickets will be actively managed. Three management actions will be identified for the smaller thickets and will consist of: (1) retention, (2)

coppicing, and (3) felling. This will ensure that a variety of growth stages of holly are retained, whilst controlling its cover.

- Thinning of dense pole-stage trees within Dell Wood.
- All mature or over-mature standing trees and all standing and fallen deadwood will be retained, unless it is a genuine safety hazard.

E4 Veteran and feature trees

The scattered individual trees throughout the formal parkland are historic features from the designed gardens associated with Chorleywood House, and as such will be retained and protected. The areas of scattered parkland trees either side of Chorleywood House will be enhanced by reducing vegetation management to an flail cut, and planting woodland flora to develop the area in to a 'woodland garden'. As the existing parkland trees mature and die, they will be left as standing dead wood (wherever possible), and replacement trees will be planted in suitable locations across the formal parkland. As these trees grow and mature, they will be managed to become specimen features, ensuring the longevity of specimen trees as a parkland feature for enjoyment by future generations.

Along the Pink Chestnut Avenue, regular clearance is required to provide younger trees with space to grow. The scrub habitat found along the avenue is a valuable wildlife habitat, particularly for butterflies, and so scrub management will be rotational to ensure an element of this scrub is retained whilst ensuring it does not develop in to mature scrub. In addition, grass cutting is required to maintain a grass sward along the side of the trackway to prevent scrub encroachment over the path. As required, additional tree planting will replace any failed tree planting of chestnut trees to maintain this historic feature into the future.

Within the crowded tree groups found near the tennis courts, specimen/ feature trees will be identified to be retained, and surrounding trees removed. Retained trees will be allowed to develop in to future veteran trees, where they will provide attractive landscape features and valuable habitat.

E5 Hedgerow management

The previously layed hedges on site will have reached a suitable size for re-laying during the period of this plan. Hedges will be re-layed in staggered stages across the five years of the plan to ensure a mix of ages and development is present across the site. Planted hedges adjacent to the Readings will also be layed. Remaining hedges will be managed for the benefit of wildlife, cut every three years, unless more frequent management is required for access.

E6 Cattermole's Community Woodland

Regular management in Cattermole's Community Woodland mainly involves ride management where a scalloped path has been successful in increasing the growth of diverse woodland flora and provides favourable conditions for birds and invertebrates (especially butterflies). The ride and scallops will be managed to maintain a dynamic habitat mix of grass, bramble and scrub at varying ages by cutting vegetation on rotation. This will include coppicing of previously coppiced hazel along the ride and woodland edges.

The woodland would benefit from thinning in order to enhance the age structure of the trees and allow an understorey to develop. Thinning will target the removal of unhealthy and crowded trees, particularly those with substantial squirrel damage. This approach will provide the remaining trees with more space, allowing the development of a broad crown. Thinning will also allow increased light levels to reach the woodland floor, encouraging natural tree regeneration and an understorey of small shrubs and trees, as well as diverse woodland flora. This regeneration will form the canopy and understorey of the woodland in the future.

As part of thinning works, a glade will be created, adding further structural diversity within the woodland and maximising the provision of edge habitat for wildlife with minimal loss of trees.

E7 Chorleywood Community Orchard project

Annual fruit trees within the Community Orchard will continue to be managed by the dedicated volunteer group who undertake annual pruning and tending.

In order to further promote the orchard to site users, a directional sign will be located along Lady Ela Drive, directing visitors to the orchard's location.

Sheep grazing has been an ambition for the orchard for some time to manage the grassland within the orchard in a traditional way, and will be introduced during this plan. There is already a water supply to the orchard, and so infrastructure needed will be to stock fence the orchard area, to include access gates for both vehicles and people. To protect livestock, this area would be a dog-free area while sheep are grazing.

E8 River Chess

Erosion of the bank at the 'beach' area will be monitored, and interventions made as necessary to minimise erosion if it becomes a problem. Any intervention should include the aim to make the bank safe and accessible for use by visitors.

Opportunities to work collaboratively with stakeholders at a wider catchment level, such as through the Chess Smarter Water Catchment, will be taken to contribute to improving the health of the river.

E9 Pond creation

A new pond will be created within the site, both to enhance wildlife habitats and add an additional point of interest. Further investigation will look to identify an ideal location, taking account of availability of water and links to other complimentary habitats.

E10 Invasive species control

The cover of rhododendron will be monitored in order to determine the risk of spreading and whether control may be required in future plan periods.

E11 Heritage features and historic landscape character

The proposed habitat management within this GAP will re-enforce the historic footprint of the Estate whilst enhancing public enjoyment and understanding of the site's rich natural heritage. Specific actions for this plan regarding heritage features are to:

- Work with the TRDC property team to establish plans for maintenance and improvement of historic buildings, particularly the Grade II listed Pump House.
- Conserve garden features and sow woodland wildflower seeds in areas near Chorleywood House to create areas of 'woodland garden'.
- Development of an interactive trail, using QR codes to link with online content.
- Running of guided walks and events with a focus on the history of the site.

F1 Stakeholder engagement

The production of this Chorleywood House estate Greenspace Action Plan 2023-28 follows a structured two stage engagement process to enable stakeholders the opportunity to feed into the production of the GAP. To ensure that the GAP serves the local community, stakeholders engaged in the consultation process include FoCWHE, the Parish Council, local Councillors, local residents, site users, Resident Associations and wildlife interest groups.

Throughout the life of the plan, promotional activities will keep stakeholders informed of management activities on site. In particular, TRDC will proactively engage with residents of the estate where they are affected by management activities.

Where possible, opportunities for collaborative working will be investigated, such as with Chorleywood Parish Council as owners of the adjacent Chorleywood Common.

F2 Volunteer activity

Regular task days from the CMS Wednesday volunteer group will continue to support management of the site. In addition, further opportunities for volunteering will be encouraged, particularly around wildlife surveying.

F3 Friends of Chorleywood House Estate

The Friends of Chorleywood House Estate will continue to be supported in delivering management activities. Regular meetings will be held between TRDC, CMS and representatives from the Friends to discuss and plan work programmes.

G1 Promote and celebrate

Online content should be kept under regular review to ensure information is up to date. Upcoming site activities and events should continue to be promoted using the promotional tools detailed in 2.6.4.

Completion of larger projects should be celebrated with events involving Cllrs. and the local community to further promote improvements to the site.

The council will look to extend the range of activities on offer through its Community Biodiversity Officer and its Community Parks and Sustainability Officer.

G2 Noticeboards

Noticeboards will be regularly updated to raise awareness and inform visitors of management at Chorleywood House Estate and any issues that arise.

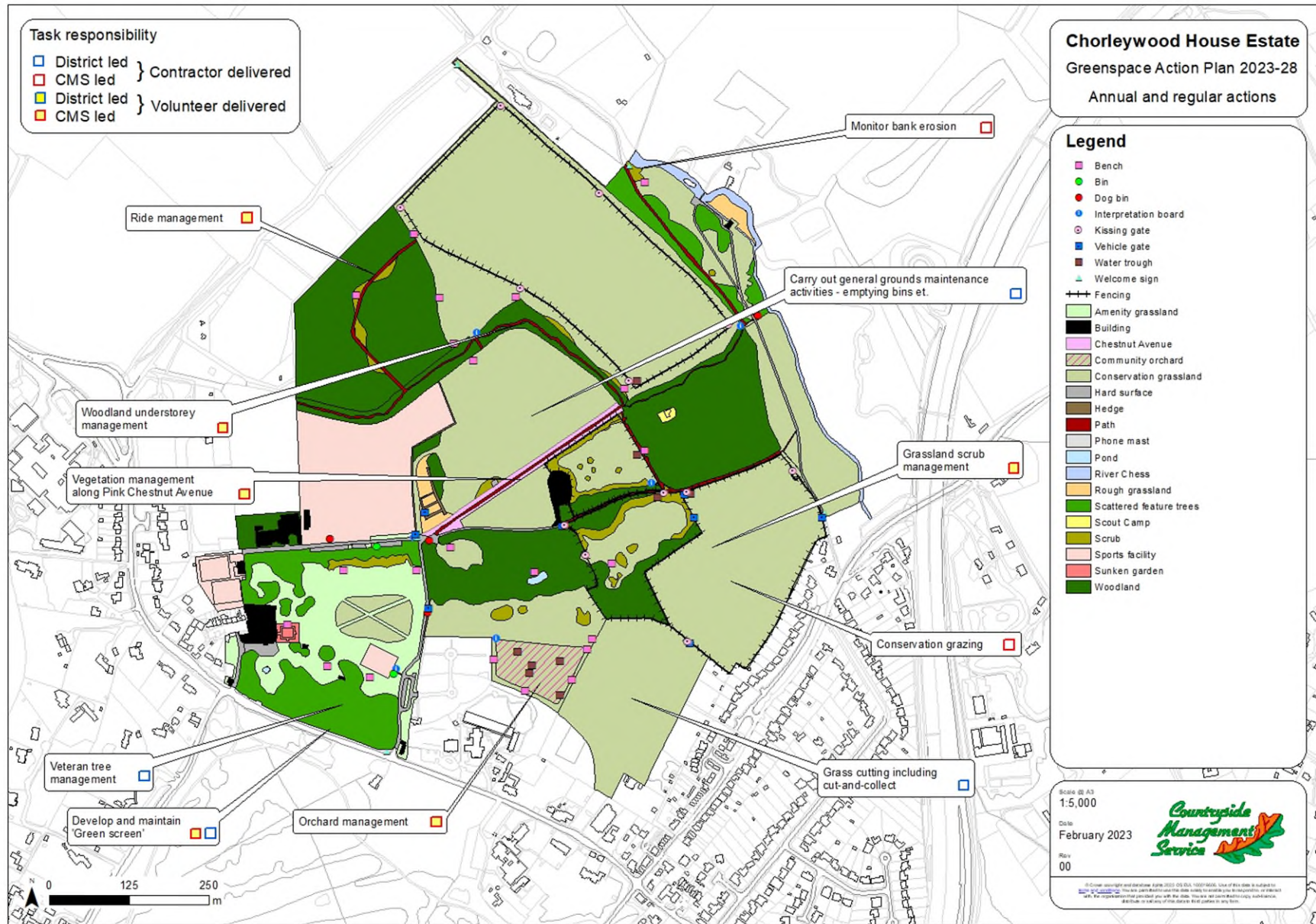
5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 Annual and regular actions

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Submit annual claim to Rural Payment Agency for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and complete scheme monitoring requirements.	D3	May	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
0.2	Tree survey and proportionate risk management	B1	Winter	TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.3	Carry out vegetation management along rides	E6	Sept to Feb	TRDC	Vols	General budget			
0.4	Annual flailing of the vegetation under scattered parkland trees, either side of main house.	E4		TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.5	Woodland understorey management	E3	Sept to Feb	CMS	Vols	Officer time			
0.6	Pink Chestnut Avenue vegetation management	E4	Sept to Feb	CMS	Vols	Officer time			
0.7	Veteran tree management	E4	Sept to Feb	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
0.8	Grassland scrub management	E2	Sept to Feb	CMS	Vols/ contractor	Officer time			

0.9	Grazing	E2	Jun to Sept	CMS	Contractor	General budget			
0.10	Grass cutting	C2/ E2	Mar to Oct	TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.11	Orchard tree pruning	E7	All year	Vols	Vols	Officer time			
0.12	Collaborate with catchment stakeholders for River Chess	E8	All year	CMS	TRDC/ CMS	Officer time			
0.13	Monitor bank erosion along River Chess	E8	All year	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
0.14	Monitor invasive species	E10	All year	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
0.15	Monitor and maintain site furniture, signs and interpretation	C1	All year	TRDC	Vols/ contractor	General budget			
0.16	Prompt removal of graffiti and fly-tipping	C2	All Year	TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.17	Prompt response to incidences of site misuse	B2	All Year	TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.18	Regular emptying of bins	C2	All Year	TRDC	GM contract	General budget			
0.19	Develop and maintain 'green screen' of low, shrubby growth along Rickmansworth Road	A4	All year	CMS	Vols/ GM contract	General budget			
0.20	Ensure site visitors are informed of management activities	G1/ G2	All Year	TRDC	TRDC/ CMS	Officer time			

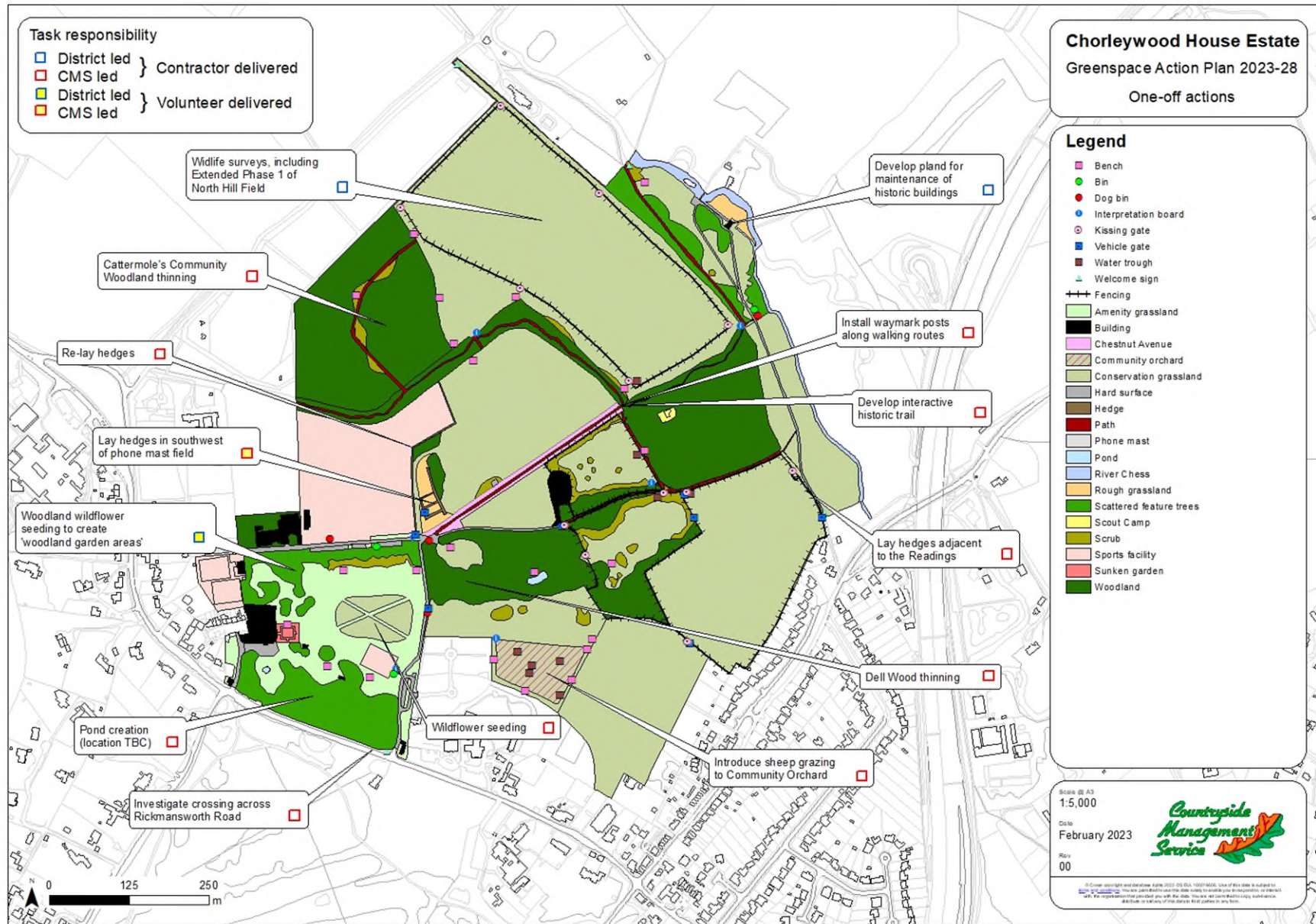
0.21	Fixed point photography monitoring	D6	Jan/Apr Jul/Oct	CMS	Vols/ CMS	Officer time			
0.22	Rapid Grassland Assessment monitoring	D6	Jun/Jul	CMS	Vols/ CMS	Officer time			
0.23	Develop and promote FoCWHE and Community Orchard volunteers	F3	All year	CMS	CMS/ TRDC	Officer time			
0.24	Proactive engagement with residents	F1	All year	TRDC	CMS/ TRDC	Officer time			
0.25	Deliver a programme of walks and events	G1	All Year	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
0.26	Promote volunteer and community events	G1	All year	TRDC	TRDC/ CMS	Officer time			



5.2 One-off actions

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Install replacement waymarks along marked trails	A1	2023	CMS	Vols	Officer time			
1.2	Investigate options for Rickmansworth Road crossing	A1	2023	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.3	Wildflower seeding near main entrance	A2	Sept/ Oct 2023	CMS	Contractor	TRDC		6.1	
1.4	Investigate options for additional car parking capacity	A3	2023	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
1.5	Review outcome of botanical surveys and consider application to new Countryside Stewardship scheme incorporating North Hill Field	D3	Summer 2025	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.6	Subject to decision in 2025, consider application to new Countryside Stewardship scheme at end of HLS extension	D3	Summer 2027	CMS	CMS	Officer time			
1.7	UKHab and Extended Phase One survey of North Hill Field	D6	Summer 2024	CMS	Contractor	TRDC			
1.8	Review of survey data and commissioning of wildlife surveys – likely to include bats, veteran trees, lichens	D6	2023/24	TRDC	Contractor	TRDC			

1.9	Dell Wood thinning	E3	Winter 2023/24	CMS	Contractor	TRDC		6.2	
1.10	Cattermole's Community Woodland thinning	E6	Winter 2023/24	CMS	Contractor	TRDC		6.3	
1.11	Lay previously layed hedges	E5	Winter 2025/26, 2027/28	CMS	Contractor	TRDC		6.4	
1.12	Lay hedges adjacent to the Readings and in the southwest corner of phone mast field	E5	Winter 2023/24	CMS	Vols	Officer time		6.4	
1.13	Develop plans for maintenance of historic buildings	E11	2023/24	TRDC	TRDC	Officer time			
1.14	Develop interactive historic trail	E11	2024/25	CMS	CMS/ TRDC	TRDC	£2k		
1.15	Introduce sheep grazing to the orchard, including installing grazing infrastructure	E2/ E7	2024/25	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£10k	6.5	
1.16	Creation of a new pond	E9	2024/25	CMS	Contractor	TRDC	£10k		
1.17	Conservation of old garden features and planting of woodland wildflowers either side of the main house to create 'woodland garden' areas	E11	2024/25	TRDC	Vols	TRDC			



6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

6.1 Wildflower meadow creation

Preparation

1. The existing long grass on all sites will have been cut by district grounds maintenance team and arisings taken from site prior to other preparations taking place.
2. The areas should be mechanically scarified so that between 60% and 70% of the topsoil is exposed over a given area.

Seeding

1. The seed mix must be native, not include agricultural varieties and be similar to the suggestions below (a mixture of grasses and wildflowers) and sown as specified by the supplier. **The contractor must provide evidence of where the seed mix will be purchased from in the quote also include this in their method statement.** Any changes must be confirmed by the Supervising Officer:
 - **EM2 - Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture** (85% grass, 15% wildflowers) [Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM2 - Emorsgate Seeds \(wildseed.co.uk\)](#)
 - **N1 – General purpose meadow mixture** (80% grass, 20% wildflowers) [N1 General Purpose Meadow Mixture | UK Delivery | Naturescape](#)
2. The areas should then be rolled with a grooved or notched roller without additional cultivation to cover or incorporate the seed.

Maintenance

1. **Year 1** – During the first year the area will need mowing every 2 weeks. Cutting height should be between 40mm and 50mm. Cutting height should be higher than the usual amenity cutting height to allow wildflower species that grow in the first year to establish. This will help to reduce the presence of weed species (nettles and thistles). Cutting regularly in the first year will stop

these species from establishing and producing seed. Arisings don't need to be collected in the first year.

2. **Year 2 onwards** – After the first year an annual cut and collect regime should be established. Yellow rattle seed may need to be added if this has been removed the previous year. Following cutting, arisings should be left for 2-3 days in situ for seeds to drop and then arisings should be collected removed.

6.2 Dell Wood thinning

- Carry out targeted thinning of pole-stage broadleaf trees in Dell Wood.
- Fell broadleaf species in marked area, removing no more than 30% of tree cover. Prioritise for removal stems showing poor form and areas of especially dense groups of trees.
- Cut commercially unviable brash to 1-2m lengths and scatter across the woodland floor, clear of any footpaths or rides.
- Where there are sufficient quantities and extraction is viable, timber should be forwarded to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Timber should be stacked safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- If extraction is not possible, timber should be stacked neatly and safely on the woodland floor to provide dead wood habitat.
- Forward timber from the felling compartment to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Timber should be stacked safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- Where timber is extracted, retain 10% felled timber on site as deadwood habitat.

6.3 Cattermole's Community Woodland thinning

- Fell/reduce pole-stage mixed broadleaves to increase structural variety and encourage understorey development. Thin to maximum 20% canopy removal within management area, targeting trees with poor form for felling. Thinning should be uneven to produce varying densities and a more natural structure to the woodland.

- Fell one 0.1ha group of trees to increase open space within the woodland through creation of a glade.
- Cut commercially unviable brush to 1-2m lengths and scatter across the woodland floor, clear of any footpaths or rides.
- Where there are sufficient quantities and extraction is viable, timber should be forwarded to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Timber should be stacked safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- If extraction is not possible, timber should be stacked neatly and safely on the woodland floor to provide dead wood habitat.
- Forward timber from the felling compartment to the agreed stacking area using the agreed route(s) as shown at initial site visit. Timber should be stacked safely and in a safe and suitable manner for extraction.
- Where timber is extracted, retain 10% felled timber on site as deadwood habitat.

6.4 Hedge laying

- Hedges should be laid in the 'East of England style'.
- Staking and binding to use hazel stakes and binders.
- Arisings to be chipped and removed from site.

6.5 Stock fencing

Post and wire fencing

- Straining and turning posts: Top diameter at least 175mm, length at least 2.1m. Spacing not to exceed 50m. Straining posts must be used at the end of all runs. Turning posts must be used for any change in direction or gradient over 15°. Box strainers may be used where appropriate in agreement with the supervising officer.
- Struts used with the above posts in line with the run of wire. They must be at least 75mm top diameter and 1.65m - in length. To be morticed into the post at an angle no greater than 40°. To be retained by a suitable thrust plate, hidden completely underground.

- Intermediate stakes are to be no less than 75mm top diameter, 1.65 in length and 3m spacing. To be knocked in.
- All timber fencing to be machine rounded, hazard class 4 pressure treated softwood.
- The stock net should be HT8/80/15 woven wire netting, galvanised meeting BS 4102, suitable for cattle. The bottom of the netting should be flush with the ground and no more than 50mm above the ground with changing gradients.
- Each wire of the netting is to be double stapled to the straining posts, ended in a neat and consistent fashion. The netting should be attached to intermediate stakes by not completely driven staples on the first, fourth and bottom wires. All staples to be galvanised 40mmx4mm barbed fencing staples.
- Two strands of galvanised mild steel barbed wire are to be run above the stock net, strained and stapled to every upright.
- A single strand of high tensile (HT) galvanised plain wire (3.15mm or more) is to be run along the outside of the fence, level with the top barbed strand. Also strained appropriately and stapled to allow tensioning.
- Final finished height no less than 1.05 meters.
- Fence to be strained appropriately to ensure no sagging along the length and a stock proof finish
- Where straining posts are adjacent to gate posts a 150mmx50mm baton should be used in place of barbed wire, with the stock netting hand strained between the two uprights:

Kissing gates

- Supply and install kissing gates to meet BS 5709:2006, Centrewire 'Oxford' medium mobility or equivalent. To be tamped using spoil or aggregate rather than concreted in.
- All fittings are to be galvanised and installed to ensure full opening and secure closing.
- The base of the installed kissing gate and 1 meter from the entrance/exit should be excavated to a depth of 75mm with 'Type 1 MOT' standard crushed primary granite, ragstone or limestone, to be compacted with camber. Deleterious material to be removed from site.

Field gate

- All timber elements to be pressure treated all metalwork to be galvanised steel.
- Posts to be hazard class 4 treated timber, square four-way weathered on top
- Hanging post to be 2.4 m x 175 x 175mm, set no less than 900mm in the ground, secured by well tamped replaced spoil.
- Slamming post to be 2.1m x 175mm x 175mm, set no less than 0.6m in the ground, secured by well tamped replaced spoil.
- Gates to be 3.6m five bar metal D-loop gates.
- “Self-locking auto field” latches so be installed to ensure proper opening and secure closing of the gate.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Engagement response

Below is a summary of comments received from the second stage engagement process on the Chorleywood House Estate Greenspace Action Plan 2023-28, carried out in summer 2023.

Theme of comments	Engagement response	Outcome
Access	Investigation to increase parking welcomed. Comments on inadequacy of parking provision, particularly on football club days. Also increase in use by visitors to new café.	Comments noted, objective to investigate increased parking included in plan.
	Safer crossing of Rickmansworth Road needed, particularly with increased foot traffic to Chorleywood Common and new café.	Comments noted, objective to investigate safer crossing included in plan.
	Comments around cars blocking access tracks, including for residents – Suggestions for increased signage and marking parking bays.	
	Comments around clarity of permissions for cycle access on site. Concerns particularly around limited space on some routes.	
	Signage improvements welcomed. Comments around need to remove redundant signage when replaced to limit confusion.	Old signage will be removed as part of any new signage installation.

	Comments around the poor state of some paths/tracks, clarity needed around responsibility for repair, particularly with regard to residential properties.	
	Privacy of residents needs to be acknowledged within plan – instances of parking/walking on privately owned areas.	
Facilities	Tennis courts in need of renovation.	
	Comments on benches including need for more regular maintenance and sensitivities around replacement of memorial benches.	
	More dog bins requested.	
Promotion	Request for improved online information to help people plan e.g. informing when large events are due to be held, such as football events.	
Funding	Could a resident sponsorship scheme be introduced to help fund specific projects – similar schemes in nearby areas noted.	
Heritage features	Support for improvements to the Pump House as a heritage feature.	Comments noted, objective to develop plan for Pump House included within plan.
Habitat management	Differing views around introduction of sheep grazing to the orchard.	

	Some welcome the proposal as an added feature, while some have concerns about limiting access to the orchard for visitors and compatibility with dogs on site.	
	Concerns around scrub management removing brambles along Pink Chestnut Avenue.	Scrub management will be rotational, ensuring a variety of ages of scrub, including brambles, will be present along the route.
	Welcome encouragement of further wildlife monitoring	No action required.
	Differing views around developing a green screen along Rickmansworth Road. Some support increased privacy, however, others welcome the increased sense of safety and views into the estate of a more open boundary.	
	Comment against spraying as part of management of OPM risk.	
	New area of wildflower grassland supported	No action required.
	Woodland management supported, particularly for Cattermole's Community Woodland and in the Wood Walk.	No action required.
	Reservations around feasibility of construction of new pond, particularly around availability of water.	Ambition for a new pond retained in plan, however, comments noted. Further investigations will look at feasibility before any works are undertaken

	Reservations around re-laying previously laid hedges and whether they are now too mature for effective laying.	
	Support for conservation cut of grassland area around Pump House.	No action required.
	River Chess – ‘beach’ area very popular with visitors, would oppose attempts to limit access here. Fallen branches require removal.	Comments noted for any further discussions around projects to improve the River Chess for wildlife.
Volunteers	Particular praise for the work of the Friends of Chorleywood House Estate in their work on the site	No action required.
	Concerns around feasibility of some works by volunteers, contractor use suggested	Comments noted. Intention for volunteers to undertake works as a preference, however, if required contractors will be brought in where required.



Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA) Template

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate 5 year Management Plans for 2023-2028	ID No ⁶	
Team/Service ⁷	Leisure and Landscapes / Community Services		
Focus of EIA ⁸	The focus of the Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the new 5 Year Management Plans for Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate. The implementation of the new Management Plans is the responsibility of Leisure and Landscapes in partnership with Environmental Protection and the Countryside Management Service. Both of these sites are open to the public at all times. The actions within the Management Plan considers opportunities to improve accessibility through the enhancement of pathways and improved seating, with back and arm rests.		
Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹			
On the whole the new Management plans should have a positive impact on the accessibility of the site through enhancements to pathways and additional seating. Funding will need to be sourced in order to make these improvements.			
Potential Issues		Mitigating Actions	

Not having the funding to support the delivery of the actions, which will have a positive impact on the accessibility of the site.	Funding has already been secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Officers will continue to review opportunities to secure further funding.
Actions Planned ¹⁰	
Continue to source additional funding to support the implementation of the action plans for both Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate.	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer: Charlotte Gomes

Date: 25.05.23

Equalities Lead Officer:

Date:

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
 - No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

-
- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
 - promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.

-
- Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
 - Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Ass

Score / Colour Code
Dark green (4)
Light green (3)
Yellow (2)
Red (1)
Grey (0)

Guidance for use

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to
Joanna.Hewitson@threerivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	
Question	
1	What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?
2	What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?
3	Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? <i>E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours</i>
4	Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? <i>(e.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC</i>
5	Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? <i>E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete</i>
6	Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? <i>E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,</i>
7	Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? <i>e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff</i>

8	Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?
	Average Score

Travel

Question

9 Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?

10 Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?

11 Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? *E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport*

12 Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?

13 Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? *Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times*

Average Score

Goods and Consumption

Question

14 Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?

15 Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? *E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership*

16 Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?

17 Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?

18	Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?
19	Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?
20	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.</i>
Average Score	

Ecology

Question

21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland,
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers
23	Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species</i>
24	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?
Average Score	

Adaptation

Question

25	Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?
26	Does anythe project , consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs</i>
28	Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?

Average Score

Engagement and Influence

Question

Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?
--

Average Score

Total Overall Average Score

30

Now assesment is compelete copy and paste box into your business (implications 6). Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenc application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy
--

Travel

Goods and Consumption

Ecology

Adaptation

Engagement and Influence

Total Overall Average Score

Assessment

Impact and Recommendation

Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed

Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed

Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed

Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits

Name of project/policy/procurement and date	
Brief description (1-2 sentences):	

Impact (select from list)	Score (-1 to 4)
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	2.00

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	2.50

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	3.00

Impact	Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	4

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

	3.5
Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
	3
	3.00

*case, committee report. (under environmental
 lers are expected to submit complete report with*

3.00
3.50
4.00
4.00
3.50
4
3.7

proceed as is with this aspect.

Further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.

Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.

Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.

Benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Bishops Wood (including Batchworth Heath) and Chorleywood House Estate 5 Year Management Plan

New management plans to cover both sites over the next 5 years.

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible.	3
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0

	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
		3.00

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Where any work is required on the sites, local companies will be used to reduce the impact of emissions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Both sites include opportunities for walking. This will be further enhanced by improvements to footpaths across the sites.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
		3.50

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Where there may be a need for tree felling, or the creation of habitats, dead wood will be left on site.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Interpretation around the sites will show the benefits of nature and biodiversity.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
		4.00

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
The management plans will look at the way in which the space is used and at CWHE there are recommendations to amend an amenity cut to a Hay Meadow cut and lift.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
There are a number of actions within the management plan which supports this.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
The management plans will look at how habitats are protected and how new ones can be developed/introduced.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Interpretation across the sites will explain these benefits	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
		4

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Mitigating the use of water by planting at the right time, planting the right species and use of hydration bags where necessary	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted, consider sustainable drainage solutions and any areas of long grass will include a fire break.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
The actions plans will consider the diversity of tree species planted, consider sustainable drainage solutions and any areas of long grass will include a fire break.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

		3.50
Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Potential for increased partnership working, environmental themed events and increased educational messaging via social media etc.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
		4
		3.7



gement Plan

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver imprc
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District H
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including ba
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreeme
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, tir management systems.

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involved
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the services

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end of life
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and collecting) single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and encourage low-carbon behaviours.

**Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:
(Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)**

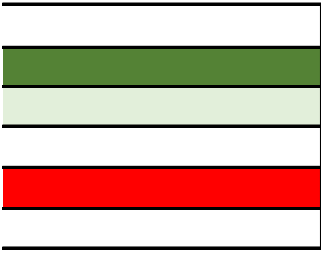
- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to enhance biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', insect passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. avoid land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
- Re-use grey water in new developments
- Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing,
- Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates adequate ventilation and shading
- Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
- Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and c
understanding of the climate emergency.



ovement in EPC ratings.
Heat Networks where appropriate.

recycled material and timber

built components, or use of

tery storage.
nts (PPA)

ers on lighting, or building

rounds.
t.
olving transport.
, training, incentives.
vice or deliveries

ownership.
ids.
end-of-life.
nd disposal of an item.
mposting) food waste; replacing
l enable them to adopt low-waste,

courage biodiversity.

s', ponds, hedgehog hides and
water pollution; water consumption;

watering garden, toilets
; future overheating risk, with

I Sustainable Drainage systems
poration.



community groups to promote

Three Rivers District Council

Committee Report

Date 5 July 2023

PART I – DELEGATED

**8. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT
(CED)**

1 Summary

- 1.1 In April 2009 the Government introduced the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 and brought into force sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 places a duty on all local authorities to establish a crime and disorder scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 It required every local authority to designate a committee to review and scrutinise the activities of Community Safety partnership and the activities of its partners. The committee may examine the activities of partners but only in so far as these relate to the partnership.
- 1.3 Three Rivers District Council already had in place a Leisure and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee which carried out this function by receiving the annual community safety priorities.
- 1.4 Since 2018 the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee has received updates on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.5 The Terms of Reference state that the committee will 'Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions (it is the Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of the Police and Justices Act 2006).'
- 1.6 Therefore, regular annual reports will continue to be taken to the new Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee along with the Community Safety priorities for the future year.
- 1.7 The Committee is able to invite members of the Responsible Authorities (Community Safety Board) to review certain projects or decisions.

2 Details

- 2.1 In March 2022 Three Rivers Community Safety Board agreed the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership to work towards during 2022-23.
- 2.2 This is done annually by reviewing local crime data for the previous year, considering local concerns and trends, police priorities set through community consultation, and taking into consideration the impact of a crime type on the local community.
- 2.3 The agreed priorities for 2022-23 were:
 - 2.3.1 Serious Violence and Exploitation**
 - 2.3.2 Domestic Abuse**
 - 2.3.3 Prevention**
 - 2.3.4 Motor Vehicle Crime**

2.3.5 Burglary and Fraud

2.3.6 Hate Crime & Counter Terrorism

2.4 Each priority had set objectives, against which actions were set and completed by the CSP.

2.5 The information below summarises some of the outcomes achieved by the CSP in relation to the objectives.

2.6 Priority 1: Serious Violence and Exploitation

- To provide support for young people involved in serious youth violence and exploitation
- To raise awareness
- To provide support through casework
- To tackle modern slavery

2.6.1 South West Herts Youth Action Panel has been coordinated and managed by Three Rivers District Council and the panel continues to receive referrals to understand concerns and explore opportunities for support for young people at risk of serious violence. Concerns and local patterns are discussed through this forum and the Anti Social Behaviour Action Group to disrupt crime & disorder.

2.6.2 The No More Service Youth provides one to one support for young people at risk of serious violence. The countywide project has been led by Three Rivers District Council since 2017. A project manager will be recruited to continue this project in 2023.

2.6.3 Promotional work to raise awareness has been completed in relation to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and cuckooing. The aim of this has been to educate residents on the signs to look out for that may indicate these incidents & to know where to report any concerns. Alongside this Training has taken place for professionals in the Community Safety Partnership on Cuckooing.

2.7 Priority 2: Domestic Abuse

- To offer support to victims of domestic abuse
- To raise awareness in the community of domestic abuse and the local support services available
- To develop the workforce across the partnership

2.7.1 Herts Mind Network provide support for standard-medium risk cases of domestic abuse. Blanket referrals were trialled by Herts Constabulary to increase referrals. This pilot was successful in increasing access to support.

2.7.2 Herts Mind Network did not meet the target number of residents supported. This is partially due to staff turnover and difficulty recruiting, as well as the needs of clients becoming more complex. Clients were supported for longer as this service can be flexible to respond to the needs of our residents in dealing with complex and multiple problems

2.7.3 The Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Group met to ensure repeat victims and perpetrators are offered support and concerns escalated to the Hertfordshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) if required, which will ensure a partnership approach to high risk cases.

2.7.4 Support services were promoted through 16 days of action, through J9 awareness sessions, and domestic abuse events held in venues across the district. J9 is a County led project that aims to have safe spaces within communities for victims of domestic abuse to have discreet access find out about support available to them. Some local examples are hairdressers, healthy hubs and vets.

2.8 Priority 3: Prevention

- To offer early help and support
- To raise awareness and engage with the community to reduce vulnerability of being involved within negative behaviours
- To offer support to young people to reduce vulnerability of being involved within negative behaviours
- To work in partnership with Local Strategic Partnership subgroups to identify emerging local issues and trends
- To manage anti-social behaviour and crime hot spots

2.8.1 The Community Support Service supported residents with a primary mental health need. This holistic service provides support, onward signposting and advocacy to residents whose mental health needs are negatively impacting on other aspects of their, or those around them, lives. Although the number supported was below target, this is due to increasing complexity of cases and pressure on NHS services. Clients have been presenting to the service with at least 6 complex needs which results in cases being open for longer.

2.8.2 Violence Against Women and Girls task group was set up and reviewed areas of concern, developed surveys to make it easier for residents to provide feedback & provided free self-defence sessions to 68 residents.

2.8.3 Youth Violence PCSOs held Peace Weeks and delivered assemblies in several schools. This work has led to referrals into the Youth Action Panels.

2.8.4 CCTV has been used reactively to disrupt crime and disorder in hot spot locations identified through the ASBAG.

2.8.5 ASB conference held for partners at Three Rivers House to encourage use of ASB tools and powers, consult on priorities and increase awareness of support services available to residents.

2.9 Priority 4: Motor Vehicle Crime

- Tackle and reduce catalytic converter thefts
- Tackle and prevent theft of motor vehicle
- Tackle and prevent theft from a motor vehicle
- Reduce vulnerability to becoming a victim of motor vehicle crime

2.9.1 Operations have been coordinated and delivered to tackle theft of and from motor vehicles. This has led to the seizure of vehicles and arrests in relation to other crimes.

2.9.2 Proactive vehicle checks have been carried out by Herts Constabulary & residents notified if their vehicles are vulnerable.

2.10 Priority 5: Burglary & Fraud

- Raise awareness and reduce vulnerability to burglary
- Raise awareness in the community on scams and fraud prevention
- Reduce vulnerability in the community to cyber crime

2.10.1 Proactive and reactive operations have been delivered to tackle burglary within Three Rivers.

2.10.2 Herts Constabulary has attended community events to increase awareness with residents.

2.10.3 Safe and Well visits conducted by the Fire Service include information and advice to reduce vulnerability to crime.

2.10.4 Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety (OPALS) event was held in January in South Oxhey to provide residents with information and advice.

2.11 Priority 6: Hate Crime and Counter Terrorism

- Workforce development to ensure all relevant staff are equipped to respond to concerns.
- Develop and maintain multi agency network
- Monitor threats
- Increasing community confidence in reporting
- Increased support and education on community cohesion and integration.
- Ensure community venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists
- To raise awareness and engage with the community around the issues of hate crime and extremism.

2.11.1 Training has been organised and delivered on the topics of Prevent and Hate Crime. This was made available to all CSP organisations.

2.11.2 CSP works closely with County Prevent team to understand local issues that may impact on residents. This information is shared with partners and appropriate and proportionate action taken.

2.11.3 Local events have been hosted in relation to Black History Month, Pride & Holocaust Memorial Day.

3 The Community Safety Priorities for Three Rivers Community Safety Board are:

- **Violence (No More Service Youth, South West Herts Youth Action Panel, school events, domestic abuse, Violence Against Women and Girl)**
- **Vulnerable people (Anti-Social Behaviour, complex needs), burglary, motor vehicle crime**
- **Fraud & scams (OPALS, trading standards)**
- **Hate crime & counter terrorism (craft and culture, community fairs, Counter terrorism local profiles, signs and symbols)**

4 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 To comply with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
- 4.2 To invite Members of the Committee to comment on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

5 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council’s agreed policy and budgets. The Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009 grants local authorities powers for scrutiny of crime and disorder.
- 5.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
 - 5.2.1 CP19 – number of people receiving support from the Community Support Service.
 - 5.2.2 CP21 – number of victims of domestic abuse supported by domestic abuse caseworker service.
 - 5.2.3 CP49 – Percentage of cases coming to ASBAG that have an action plan developed.
 - 5.2.4 CP51- Percentage of SWHYAP cases with action plans developed.
- 5.3 The impact of the recommendations is:

To meet the statutory requirement for Three Rivers District Council to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Financial, Legal, Staffing, Equal Opportunities, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

None specific.

- 5.4 For revenue expenditure, include the following relevant table(s):-

REVENUE IMPLICATION	Current Year 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Future Years per annum £
Revenue				

Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Income/savings	0	0	0	0
Net Commitment	0	0	0	0

For capital expenditure, include the following relevant table(s):-

CAPITAL IMPLICATION	Current Year 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Future Years per annum £
Capital Expenditure				
Revenue Consequences Expenditure Income/Savings				
Net Revenue Commitment				

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None Arising

7 Staffing Implications

8 None Arising

9 Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 EQIA is attached at Appendix A.

10 Community Safety Implications

The Annual Report shows the work of the Community Safety Partnership which works to reduce crime and disorder and increase feelings of safety.

11 Public Health implications

None Arising

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

None Arising

13 Communications and Website Implications

14 None Arising

15 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

15.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

15.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Community Partnerships service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
To fail to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership.	The CSP fails to achieve its plans.	Produce annual report for the committee to review and comment on.	Tolerate	4

15.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely	Low	High	Very High	Very High
	4	8	12	16
	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	3	6	9	12
Likelihood	Low	Low	Medium	High
	2	4	6	8
Remote	Low	Low	Low	Low
	1	2	3	4
		Impact		
		Low	Unacceptable	

Impact Score

- 4 (Catastrophic)
- 3 (Critical)
- 2 (Significant)
- 1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

- 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
- 3 (Likely (21-79%))
- 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
- 1 (Remote (≤5%))

15.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

16 Recommendation

16.1 That Members of the Committee consider and comment on the community safety annual report.

Report prepared by: Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager

Data Quality

Data sources:

Three Rivers Community Safety Action Plan report

Data checked by:

Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager

Data rating: Tick

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	x
3	High	

Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA)

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA)

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual report	ID No ⁶	
Team/Service ⁷	Community Partnerships		
Focus of EIA ⁸	<p>To ensure that the community safety action plan is inclusive, that the work carried out by the community safety partnership considers the wider community and accessibility.</p> <p>The community safety partnership is a collaborative working environment made up of internal and external service users from Community safety, Community Safety partnership and the Community Safety Board, a mixture of professionals and community organisations who work toward a joint goal.</p> <p>This includes: From the Community Safety Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Rivers District Council – Officer Three Rivers District Council – Councillor Hertfordshire Constabulary Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue County Community Safety Unit Office of the Police Crime Commissioner National Probation Service BeNCH CRC Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group 		

	<p>Watford Community Housing Thrive Homes</p> <p>From the Community Safety Co-ordinating group Three Rivers District Council – Officer Hertfordshire Constabulary – Inspector Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Neighbourhood Watch HCC - YC Hertfordshire CGL HCC – Trading Standards HCC – Road Safety Watford Community Housing Thrive Homes National Probation Service BeNCH CRC Herts Mind Network Citizens Advice Service</p> <p>The Actions are carried out by individuals, multiple partners or procured services as deemed appropriate and in accordance with best practice. The purpose being to utilise the shared skill set and resources available to deliver consistent and sustainable services for residents.</p>
<p>Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹</p>	
<p>The responsibilities within the proposed action plan for the community safety partnership are shared between the members and stakeholders within the community safety board. The actions have been devised to encourage, develop and deliver the best for the residents within Three Rivers and in some cases the wider community of Hertfordshire, in line with the priorities set by the community safety partnership (CSP). The CSP priorities were set in March by the Community Safety Board.</p> <p>The largest new project being undertaken will take place within schools. Due to the nature of this partnership project between Three Rivers, Hertsmere, Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts local authorities, consideration has been given to the impact on any child that takes part in the project including due consideration for any child with SEND or neurodiverse young people.</p>	

It is believed that the benefits for children taking part in the project out ways any impact that may prove problematic. Any child with SEND or neurodiverse young people are already supported within the school setting as part of their Educational Health care plan (EHCP) and will continue to be supported through the project.

The project is not compulsory enabling parents to withdraw consent for their child to attend should they consider there to be any imminent impact on their child from attendance.

Transportation will be considered to prevent any barriers to access.

Craft & Culture events will be delivered to tackle hate crime. New events will be developed and delivered to celebrate and increase awareness of diverse communities and cultures. These events will take place in area where the census or local knowledge demonstrates representation. The events will be provided for free and aims to encourage understanding and awareness of diverse customs, traditions and dates of significance.

Any event planned will be open and accessible to all, they are intended to celebrate the diverse communities within Three Rivers and communities will be encouraged to participate in all activities.

Potential Issues	Mitigating Actions
Adverse impact on any child, specifically any child with SEND or Neurodiversity.	To ensure that staff within the schools understand the nature of the project. For all children with SEND and/or neurodiversity to be additionally supported as part of their EHCP
Discrimination – Negative responses to cultural events that differ from the British ‘Norm’ such as Easter or Christmas may be questioned.	Ensure events are planned with clear reasons of why that event is being held, ensuring that all events are promoted and open to all and that all members are the community are represented and considered in the planning of said events

Actions Planned ¹⁰

Before the project takes place the schools will be fully informed of the nature of the project and potential questions that may asked by children after attendance.
Schools will be advised that any child with an EHCP should be supported throughout the project as they would be if they were in school lessons.

To address and consider any concerns raised from the school should they arise and make any responsible adjustments to ensure that the project is accessible to all.

Craft and culture events planned in advance for 23-24 by Community Partnerships team utilising local data and following agreement from the Community Safety Partnership.

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer:

Date:

Equalities Lead Officer:

Date:

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

-
- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
 - Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
 - Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
 - No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
 - Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
 - Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where

participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary

- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?

-
- How significant are its impacts?
 - Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
- Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,

-
- Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 5 JULY 2023

PART I - DELEGATED

9. WORK PROGRAMME

1. Summary

1.1 To agree the Committee's work programme.

2. Details

2.1 Attached, as an appendix to this report, is the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee work programme.

2.2 The work programme has been amended to include information to Members on the purpose of the item being considered, how the work will be completed, the responsible officer and the outcome expected.

3. Policy/Budget Implications

3.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

4. Financial, Legal, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Website and Risk Management Implications

4.1 None specific to this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Committee agrees the items included in the work programme.

Report prepared by Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

Background Papers

Leisure, Environment and Community Committee – 2022/23

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Work Programme

Data Quality

Data sources: Leisure, Environment and Community Committee minutes and previous work programmes

Data checked by: Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	
3	High	✓

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Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee
WORK PROGRAMME

No.	Item to be considered	Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
Leisure						
1.	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 4)	11 October 2023	Present financial position	Written Report from Policy and Resources	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken
2.	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 6)	10 January 2024	Present financial position	Written Report from Policy and Resources	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken.
3.	Draft Service Plan – Community Services 2024-27	10 January 2024	To consider the draft Service Plan	Written Report	Associate Director, Customer and Community	To note and comment on the Community Services draft Service Plan for 2024-27
4.	Leisure Management Contract Presentation	July 2024	Update on Leisure Management Contract		Everyone Active & Leisure Contracts and Landscape Projects Officer	To note the presentation
Environmental Services & Sustainability						

No.	Item to be considered	Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
1.	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 4)	11 October 2023	Present financial position	Written Report from Policy and Resources	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken
2.	Draft Service Plan – included in the Community Services service plan 2024-27	10 January 2024	To consider the draft Service Plan	Written Report	Associate Director Customer and Community	To note and comment on the draft Service Plan for 2024-27
Community Safety and Partnerships						
1.	Biannual Update of the Climate Emergency Sustainability Strategy	11 October 2023	To consider the update		Head of Community Partnerships	October and March updates agreed on 7/7/21 LEC 07/21
2	Citizen's Advice Service in Three Rivers Annual Report 2022/23 and presentation	11 October 2023	For information	Presentation	CASTR	To note action taken
3	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 4)	11 October 2023	Present financial position	Written Report from Policy and Resources	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken

No.	Item to be considered	Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
4	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 6)	10 January 2024	Present financial position	Written report from P&R Committee	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken.
5	Draft Service Plans – Community Partnerships 2024-27	10 January 2024	To consider the draft Service Plan	Written Report	Head of Community Partnerships	To note and comment on the draft Service Plan for 2024-27.
6	All Service Level Agreements Review (every three years)	March 2024	To consider the action taken	Written Report	Head of Community Partnerships	To consider the action taken
7	Budget Monitoring Report (Period 10)	March 2024	Present financial position	Written Report from Policy and Resources	Finance Business Partner	To note action taken
8.	Review of Environmental Terms of Reference	March 2025	To receive a report	Written report	Head of Community Partnerships/ Strategic Climate Change and Sustainability Officer/ Domestic Sustainability Officer	To consider the recommendations

No.	Item to be considered	Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
9	Anti-Social Behaviour To be reviewed August 2024	To be confirmed	To receive a report	Written report	Head of Community Partnerships	To receive any recommendations.
Regulatory Services (elements which fall within the LEC Committee)						
1.	Draft Service Plan – Regulatory Services	10 January 2024	To consider the draft Service Plan for the areas relevant to this Committee	Written Report	Head of Regulatory Services	To note and comment on the sections relevant to this Committee from the Regulatory Services draft Service Plan for 2024-27
Customer Experience						
1.	Watersmeet Presentation	To be provided outside of the LEC meeting as a stand alone presentation (October 2023)	Update on Watersmeet Performance	Presentation	Watersmeet General Manager and Head of Customer Experience	To note the presentation and report.