



POND WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

2026-2036

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; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site. The plan is set out sequentially, first providing background information on the site (Site Description) and an assessment of its condition and opportunities for improvement (Analysis and Evaluation). This is developed into Aims and Objectives for the site, a set of Action Plans which identify how these objectives will be achieved, and detailed specifications for the work to complete the actions. All actions within the plan are aspirational, are not guaranteed to take place within the specified year and may be subject to external funding.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for 3 weeks in November 2025, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement was carried out in February 2026 to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An engagement summary included as an appendix to this plan details the engagement process and summarises the 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 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

1.1 Vision Statement

Pond Wood will be a welcoming and accessible woodland, where the local community can connect with and enjoy their local environment. It will be proactively managed, with a particular focus on ensuring its notable hornbeam pollards are brought back into active management and preserved into the future.

1.2 Introduction

Pond Wood is a small (1.5ha), isolated block of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) in South Oxhey, surrounded by residential areas. The site is fairly flat with a low valley containing a stream and a wet flush to the north.

The wood is designated as a Local Wildlife Site due to its ancient woodland status. It contains large remnant pedunculate oak standards with hornbeam coppice and notably hornbeam pollards. Some ash and sycamore are also present, together with hazel coppice, elder and hornbeam in the understorey.

The ground flora supports several woodland indicators, in particular bluebell, with previous records of other species including broad buckler-fern, enchanter's nightshade and three-nerved sandwort. Pendulous sedge and wood sedge occur in the wetter areas. Ground flora is generally suppressed by shading from the mature trees, including the hornbeam pollards.

The woodland is heavily used for recreation, including dog walking and children on bicycles, through a network of informal footpaths. A large pit has previously been used for fly-tipping.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Pond Wood

Site Address: Seacroft Gardens, South Oxhey, WD19 6AQ

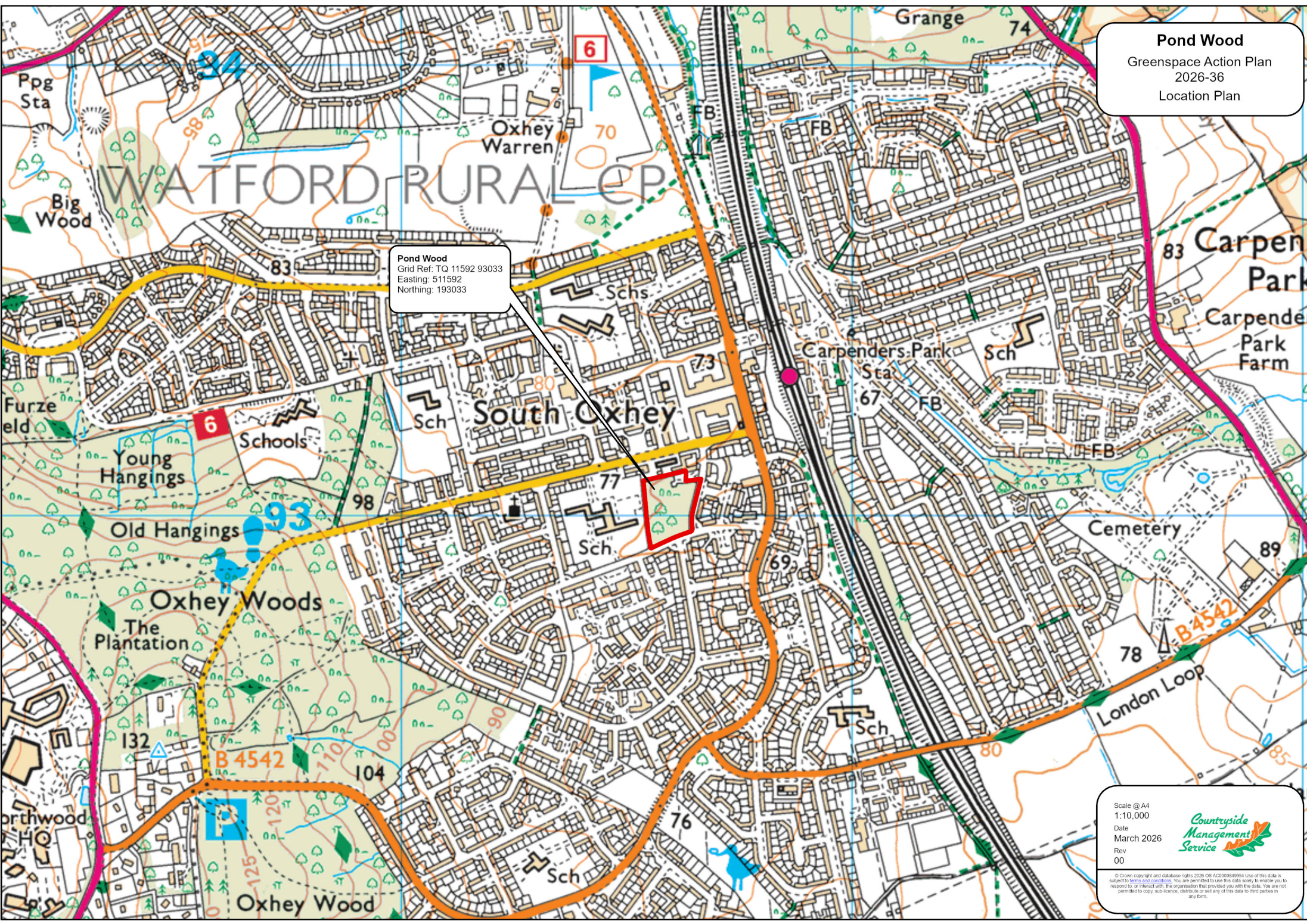
Grid Reference: TQ11592 93033

Size: 1.5ha

Designations: Local Wildlife Site (Pond Wood – 90/010)
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland


Owner: Three Rivers District Council

Pond Wood
Greenspace Action Plan
2026-36
Location Plan



Pond Wood
Grid Ref: TQ 11592 93033
Easting: 511592
Northing: 193033

Scale @ A4
1:10,000
Date
March 2026
Rev
00



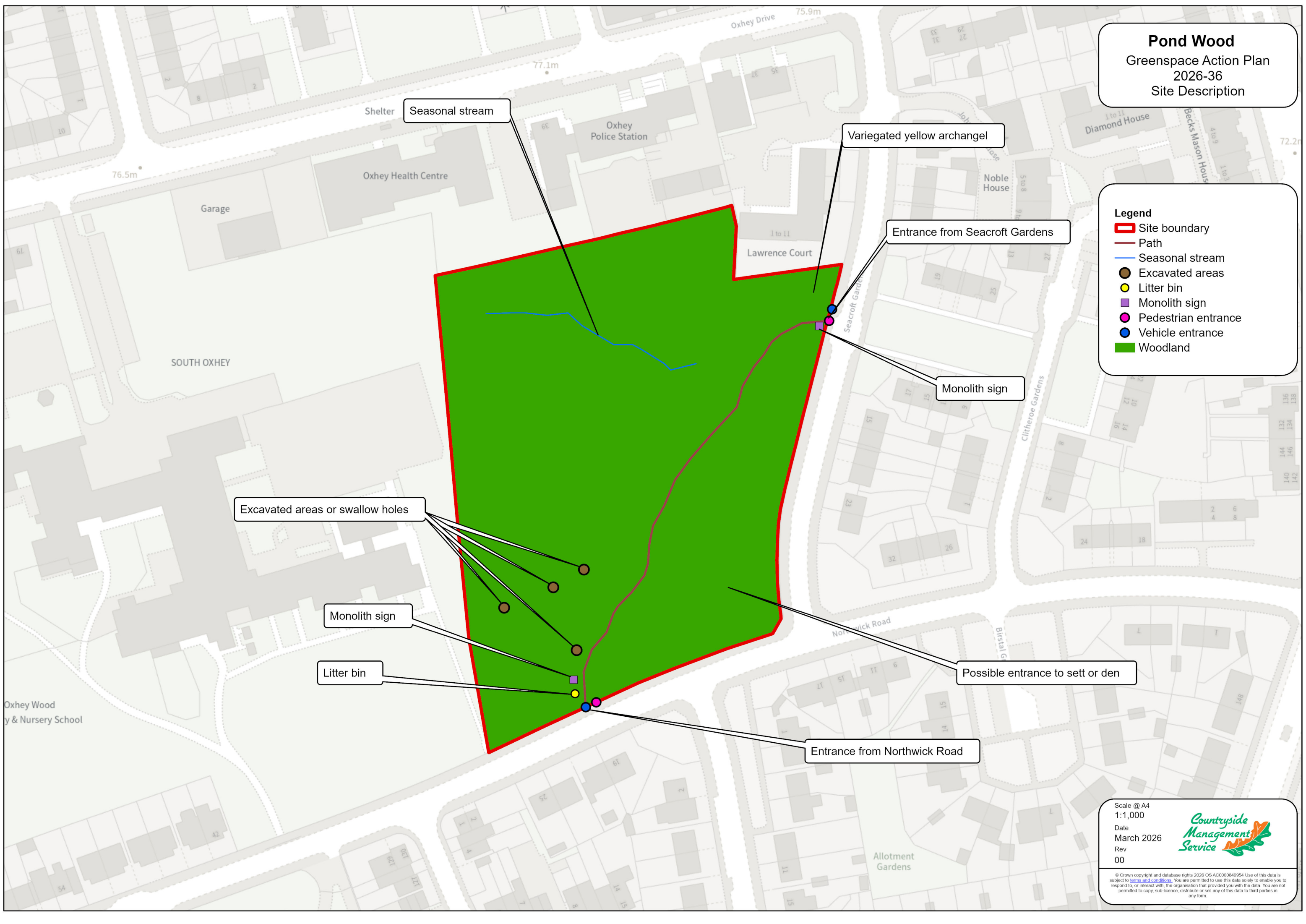
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Pond Wood

Greenspace Action Plan
2026-36
Site Description

Legend

- Site boundary
- Path
- Seasonal stream
- Excavated areas
- Litter bin
- Monolith sign
- Pedestrian entrance
- Vehicle entrance
- Woodland



Excavated areas or swallow holes

Monolith sign

Litter bin

Entrance from Northwick Road

Possible entrance to sett or den

Variagated yellow archangel

Entrance from Seacroft Gardens

Monolith sign

Seasonal stream

Scale @ A4
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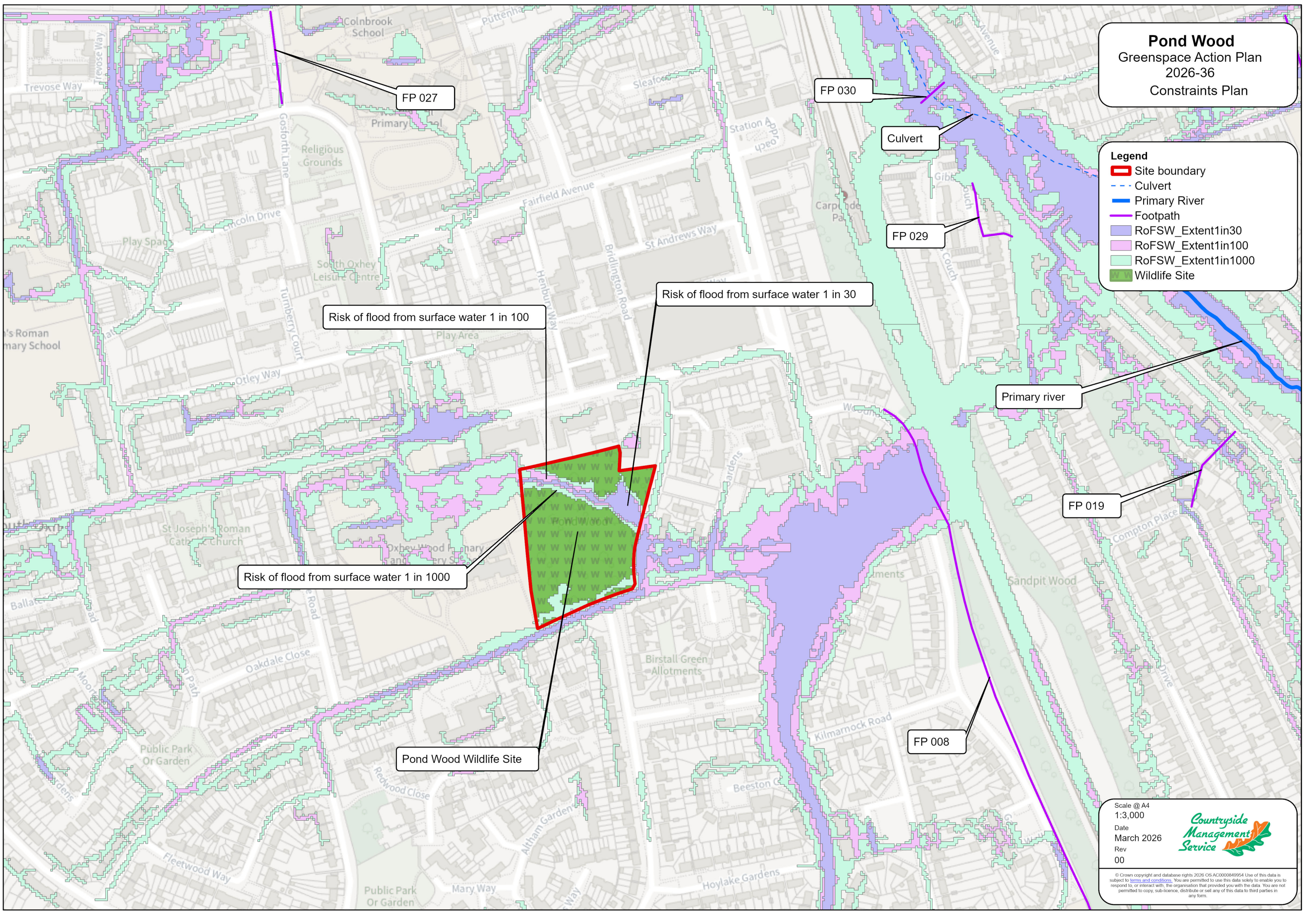


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Pond Wood
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2026-36
 Constraints Plan

Legend

- ▬ Site boundary
- - - Culvert
- ▬ Primary River
- ▬ Footpath
- ▭ RoFSW_Extent1in30
- ▭ RoFSW_Extent1in100
- ▭ RoFSW_Extent1in1000
- ▭ Wildlife Site



Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 100

Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 30

Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 1000

Pond Wood Wildlife Site

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2.2 Site Designations

The site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (Pond Wood – 90/010) and is also considered to be Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

The Local Wildlife Site description is as follows:

Ancient semi-natural Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*)/Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice-with-standards woodland with an area of Pedunculate Oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) standards in the northern half. Large Pedunculate Oak standards are frequent throughout the wood with old Hornbeam coppice and pollards. The shrub layer contains Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice. The ground flora supports several woodland indicators, mainly Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) plus species such as Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) have been recorded in wet ground adjacent to an internal ditch. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is present on the south-east side. Several old shallow pits in the south-west corner add to the habitat diversity. Wildlife Site criteria: Ancient woodland with a semi-natural canopy and field evidence suggesting an ancient origin; shown on Bryant's map (1822); woodland indicators.

2.3 Geology and Hydrology

The area's geology consists of Tertiary clay, which is overlain by slowly permeable soils that are seasonally waterlogged.

There is a seasonal watercourse at the northern end of the wood. This is on a surface water flow route and associated with surface water flood risk in the local area.

2.4 Landscape Character

Pond Wood is a small surviving fragment of ancient semi-natural woodland within the urban landscape of South Oxhey. Beyond the housing lie larger areas of woodland,

in particular Oxhey Woods, 500m to the west, but also within South Oxhey Playing Fields, 1km to the north-west.

2.5 History and Archaeology

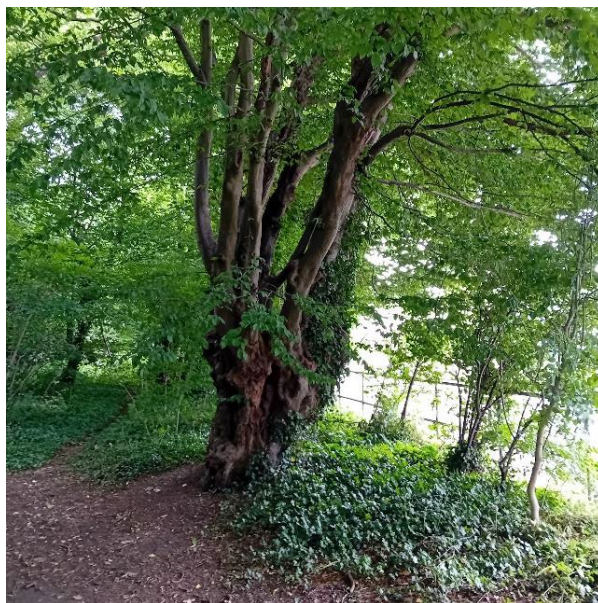
Pond Wood is within the former grounds of Oxhey Place, a 17th Century mansion which was demolished in 1799, and its Victorian successor. The land was acquired by compulsory purchase for the development of the South Oxhey estate after the Second World War.

Attached to the north-west corner of Pond Wood, within the area now occupied by Oxhey Wood Primary and Nursery School, there are records of a post-medieval rectangular ditched enclosure, once water filled. This could have been a fishpond and/or a reservoir for Oxhey Place and is the reason for the woodland's name.

2.6 Habitats and Wildlife

2.6.1 Habitats

The woodland contains mostly large mature oaks and hornbeam pollards as well as ash, sycamore, hazel and elder, and is heavily shaded. The hornbeams were previously managed by pollarding, to provide a sustainable source of firewood, building materials and fodder for animals. However, this operation has not been carried out for a long time in most of them. They are called “lapsed pollards”.



Hornbeam pollard

The seasonal stream vegetation includes pendulous sedge and wood sedge and there are records of broad buckler-fern, enchanter's nightshade, three-nerved sandwort and bluebell.



Seasonal stream

Standing and fallen deadwood are valuable habitats for wildlife. They allow fungi to grow and provide habitat for the larvae of saproxylic beetles and therefore food for birds such as woodpeckers. Crevices or rot holes are also great for roosting bats. There are a few examples of large standing deadwood and limited fallen deadwood within the wood.



Deadwood

There are non-native Cherry Laurel and Variegated Yellow Archangel in the woodland.



Cherry Laurel



Variegated Yellow Archangel

2.6.2 Species

In the southwest corner of the woodlands there are several holes in the ground. They might be the entrance of badger setts or fox dens.



Possible entrance to sett or den

2.7 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

The site has access from the east at Seacroft Gardens and from the south at Northwick Road. Both have dated entrance structures, and the entrance at Seacroft Gardens is too narrow to be fully accessible. There is also an informal entrance on the northern boundary between the Manor View Practice and South Oxhey Police Station. Timber monoliths have recently been installed at the two main entrances, and there is a bin at the Northcroft Road entrance.



Entrance from Northcroft Road



Entrance from Seacroft Gardens

The internal path is unsurfaced and therefore becomes muddy in some places during the winter months.



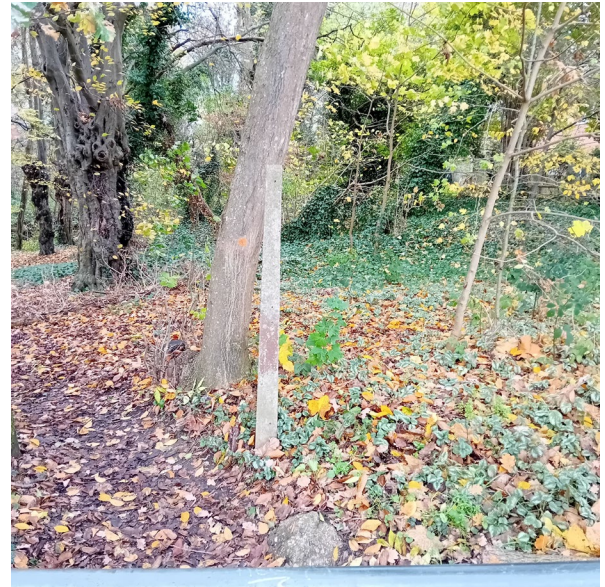
Path through the woodland

The metal fence by the large mature oak tree in Seacroft Gardens is touching the stem of the tree.

The concrete post by the entrance at Seacroft Garden is redundant.



Fence close to oak tree



Concrete Post

2.8 Community and Events

There are no organised community events or regular volunteering on the site. Local Countryside Management Service practical conservation volunteers are available to work on the site and installed the entrance monoliths.

2.9 Site Management and Sustainability

2.9.1 Site Management

Pond Wood does not currently have a site-specific management plan. It is included in a ten-year Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan encompassing twelve small woodlands owned by Three Rivers District Council, covering the period from 2020-30. This plan only contains generic management recommendations for Pond Wood.

Recent management has been mainly reactive, including tree risk surveying and tree works. Wooden monoliths were installed at both entrances to the site by volunteers from Countryside Management Service (CMS) in November 2024.

TRDC maintenance involves cutting back vegetation on pathways when needed, and a weekly litter pick and bin emptying. There is an ongoing problem with frequent littering and fly tipping on the site.

Management of Pond Wood is guided by all relevant TRDC policies and strategies. See Appendix 7.2 for more information.

All actions within the plan are aspirational, are not guaranteed to take place within the specified year and may be subject to external funding.

2.9.2 Health and Safety

Tree risk surveys are undertaken in accordance with the TRDC Tree Strategy, and inspections are recorded in a computerised database (Ezytreev). Works identified are then prioritised and completed, as necessary.

Risk assessments are completed by TRDC, grounds maintenance teams, CRoW staff and contractors to ensure all works and activities carried out on site are completed in a safe manner and training delivered where appropriate.

TRDC staff will undertake regular site inspections and will investigate and respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site.

3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

3.1 A Welcoming Place

The two entrances are not very welcoming and could be enhanced in a number of ways. Clearing vegetation around the entrances and carrying out woodland thinning close to the entrances would make these entrances more open and lighter, and therefore more inviting, the vehicle gates should be replaced or removed.

The metal fences close to the oak tree by Seacroft Gardens should be cut to protect the tree from damage in the near future.

There are no interpretation boards on site. It would be beneficial to add an interpretation board to explain the hornbeam pollard restoration work, other site features and aspects of the history of the site.

3.2 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

3.2.1 Woodland

There has been no recent active management of the woodland, which has resulted in a woodland dominated by large mature trees, particularly hornbeam pollards and oaks, and heavily shaded. By bringing the woodland into management through pollarding and thinning, its diversity can be increased in a variety of ways. Increased light levels will promote regeneration and increase the range of age classes of trees and shrubs, while also benefiting ground flora and invertebrates. Thinning will also benefit the mature trees which are retained, reducing competition and maximising their longevity. Hornbeam pollard restoration will extend the life of these locally important trees while also maintaining a wide range of microhabitats.

Hornbeam pollard restoration areas have been divided into a 10-year rotation, starting with hornbeams close to the boundaries and the path, followed by the remaining areas as per the hornbeam pollard restoration map on page 21.

In addition, the woodland edge is mature with no transitional habitats. Creating some scallops on the southern edge by Northfield Road and to the west by the school, by removing and coppicing some trees such as elder, holly and hazel, would create ecotones, increasing the biodiversity of the site as per the scallops map on page 22.

Dead wood is also a valuable woodland habitat and should be maintained or increased where possible. Where there is no safety issue, dead trees should either be retained, maintained as monoliths and/or fenced with appropriate warning signs,

with continuing regular inspection in accordance with the tree strategy. Some felled material should also be left staked in habitat piles close to where it was felled, retaining large volume material to minimise the risk of it being removed from the woodland.

3.2.2 Removal of invasive non-native species

Several non-native plant species occur at Pond Wood. Sustained efforts to weaken plants and suppress regeneration through manual techniques (such as cutting or pulling) will be effective in controlling spread and eventually eradicating these species. This includes cherry laurel and cultivated yellow archangel.

Cultivated yellow archangel can propagate from seed and vegetatively from stem and root fragments. Methods of control must therefore ensure that plant material is not dispersed across the site or to new locations outside the site. Plants are shallow rooted and can therefore be uprooted by hand when soil is moist. All plant material must be lifted from the control area and disposed as household waste off-site or composted on-site at a single location which will not be disturbed. Avoid strimming or mowing as this could cause viable stem fragments to be spread across a wider area of the site causing the species to spread.

Laurel, a woody shrub, can be controlled by uprooting, or for larger plants by stem injection with a suitable herbicide. Treatment areas will need to be revisited to monitor and control stump regrowth and pull seedlings. Laurel arisings should be removed from site.

The site is within the established zone for oak processionary moth (OPM), and OPM may be present on site. OPM is an invasive non-native species whose nests and caterpillars are a hazard to human and animal health, and which can also weaken oak trees, leaving them vulnerable to other threats. In the established zone, OPM control is the responsibility of the landowner and follow a risk-based approach.

3.2.3 Seasonal stream

A 2024 feasibility study commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to investigate the potential for using a combination of SuDS and Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures to reduce the risk of overland flooding in Eastbury and South Oxhey identifies an opportunity for a series of three leaky woody dams on the seasonal stream within Pond Wood. This would slow the flow in heavy rain events and have a minor benefit in reducing flooding, in combination with other leaky woody dams already constructed in Oxhey Woods.

3.3 Community Involvement and Communication

Three Rivers District Council should promote opportunities for the local community to become involved in the management of the site, in particular through the Countryside Management Service practical conservation volunteer groups.

Successful works on site, in particular ongoing restoration of the hornbeam pollards, should be celebrated through promotional activity including TRDC social media.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

4.1 Aim

Pond Wood's valuable ancient woodland habitat will be protected and enhanced, with a focus on ensuring its notable hornbeam pollards are brought back into active management and preserved into the future. It will be welcoming and accessible for the local community, providing opportunities for visitors to connect with and enjoy their local environment.

4.2 Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place - To provide a welcoming green space for the enjoyment of regular users and visitors

A1 Improve public access into and around the woodland, ensuring pathways and entrances are kept clear and open and maintaining clear sight lines.

A2 Provide information on the importance of the wood and the hornbeam pollard restoration through site interpretation.

B. Healthy, Safe and Secure – To provide and maintain clear and safe public access onto and around Pond Wood

B1 Carry out tree risk surveys in line with TRDC [tree strategy](#) and reactive tree works to address safety issues

B2 Respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site

C. Well Maintained and Clean – To ensure that all aspects of Pond Wood are kept clean and well maintained

C1 Manage and maintain paths, access infrastructure and signage

C2 Undertake regular litter picking, and carry out small scale vegetation management along access routes

C3 Ensure a good standard of general site maintenance is upheld through grounds maintenance operations

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 Seek external funding to ensure the viability of capital works

D4 Ensure impacts of climate change are considered in management decisions

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

D6 Monitor results of delivery to evaluate the success of management activities

E. *Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage – To conserve and enhance the key habitats of Pond Wood*

E1 Undertake a sensitive and structured programme of restoration of veteran hornbeam pollards, in consultation with experts in this field

E2 Recognise the value of mature and veteran trees and provide optimum conditions for their longevity.

E3 Remove invasive species

E4 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

E5 Implement sustainable woodland management including thinning and scalloping to enhance value for biodiversity and people

E6 Explore opportunities for natural flood management within the woodland

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

F1 Support volunteer activity and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the Management and Maintenance Plan

G. Marketing and Communication – To promote awareness and interest in Pond Wood

G1 Promote the site and project delivery through TRDC and CMS websites and social media

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
Habitat Maintenance									
0.1	Undertake a sensitive and structured programme of restoration of veteran hornbeam pollards	E1	Annual, winter	TRDC	Contractor	TRDC Budget			
0.2	Up-root cultivated yellow archangel by hand, bag all arisings (roots and stem) and dispose as household waste	E3	May	CMS	Volunteers	Officer Time			
Site Maintenance									
0.3	Respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site	B2	Ongoing	TRDC	GM	TRDC Budget			
0.4	Manage and maintain paths, access infrastructure and signage	C1	Ongoing	TRDC	GM	TRDC Budget			
0.5	Undertake weekly litter picking, bin emptying and carry out small scale vegetation clearance when needed	C2	Ongoing	TRDC	GM	TRDC Budget			

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.6	Ensure a good standard of general site maintenance is upheld through grounds maintenance operations	C3	Ongoing	TRDC	GM	TRDC Budget			
0.7	Support volunteer activity, such as CMS volunteer conservation tasks, and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the Management and Maintenance Plan	F1	Ongoing	TRDC & CMS	CMS	Officer Time			
Health & Safety									
0.8	Carry out tree risk surveys in line with TRDC tree strategy and reactive tree works to address safety issues	B1	As per TRDC policy	TRDC	TRDC	TRDC Budget			

Task Responsibility

■ District led	} Officer/ Contractor delivered
■ CMS led	
■ District led	} Volunteer delivered
■ CMS led	

Pond Wood
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2026-36
 Annual & Regular Actions

Legend

- Site boundary
- Path
- Seasonal stream
- Woodland

Control variegated yellow archangel:
 - pull-up shallow roots by hand
 - all arisings bagged and disposed as household waste

Restoration of veteran hornbeam pollards

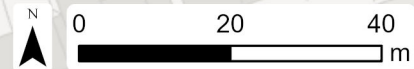
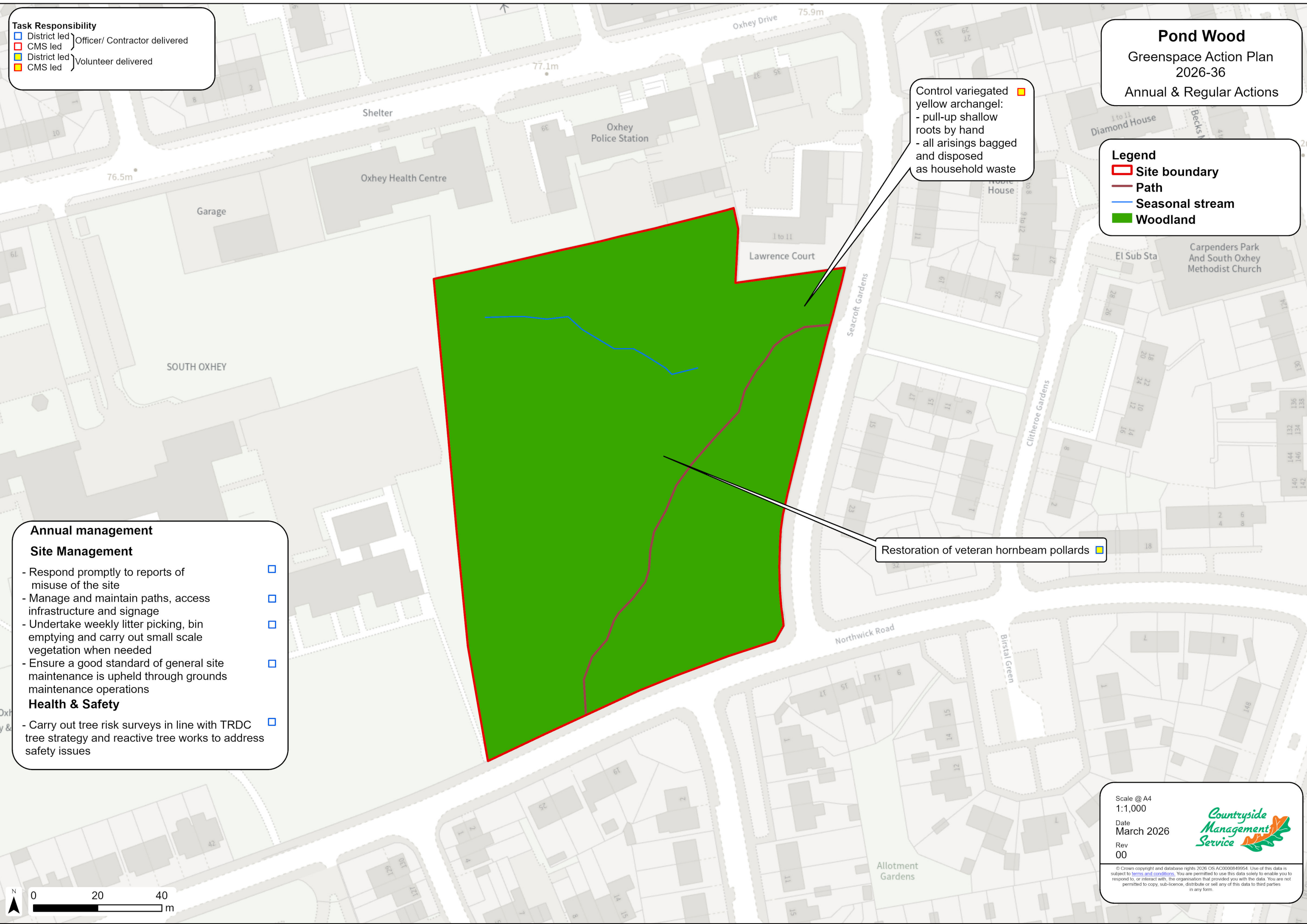
Annual management

Site Management


- Respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site
- Manage and maintain paths, access infrastructure and signage
- Undertake weekly litter picking, bin emptying and carry out small scale vegetation when needed
- Ensure a good standard of general site maintenance is upheld through grounds maintenance operations

Health & Safety

- Carry out tree risk surveys in line with TRDC tree strategy and reactive tree works to address safety issues



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5.2 Year 1 - 10 Actions 2026-36

All actions within this section are aspirational, are not guaranteed to take place within the specified year and may be subject to external funding.

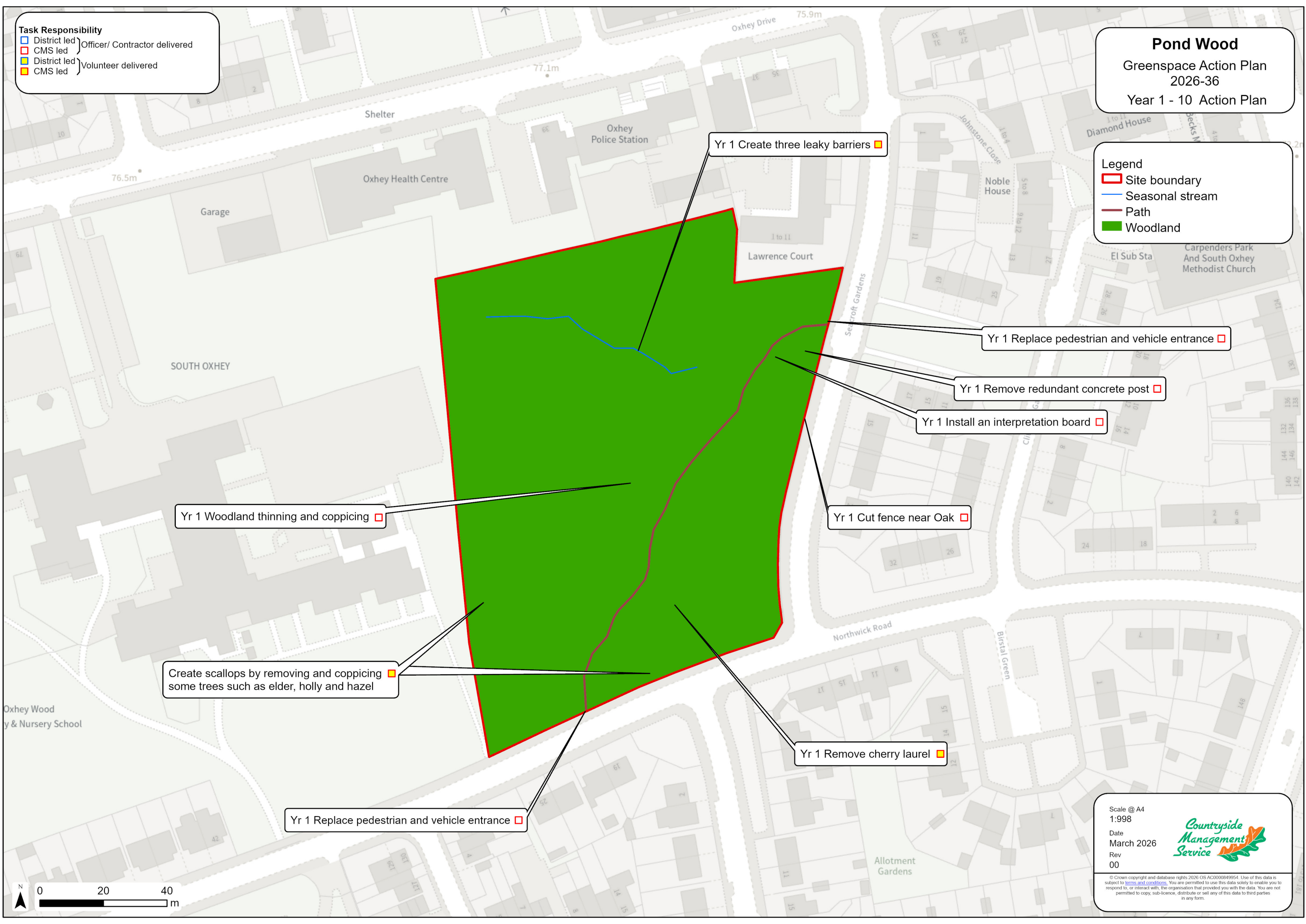
Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
Habitat Management									
0.1	Remove non-native invasive cherry laurel and treat stumps with stem injection with a suitable herbicide	E3	Year 1 Nov - Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Officer Time			
0.3	Woodland thinning and coppicing by removing selected oak, ash, hornbeam and hazel trees	E5	Year 1, Winter 2026/2027	CMS	Contractor	TRDC budget			
0.4	Create scallops on the southern edge by Northfield Road and to the west by the school, by removing and coppicing some trees such as elder, holly and hazel	E5	Year 1-5, Sep-Feb	CMS	Volunteers	Officer Time			
0.5	Create three leaky barriers for natural flood management within the woodland	E6	Year 1	CMS	CMS	Officer time			

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
Site Maintenance									
0.6	Protect and celebrate heritage features, and conserve the historic landscape character of the site and its relationship with the wider landscape, including developing heritage interpretation on site	E4	Year 1	CMS	Contractor	TRDC budget			
0.7	Cut fence in Seacroft Gardens near the oak tree	C1	Year 1	CMS	Contractor	TRDC budget			
0.8	Remove redundant concrete post	C1	Year 1	CMS	Contractor	TRDC budget			
0.9	Produce a story map with interpretation about the veteran trees	E4	Year 1	TRDC	TRDC	Officer Time			
1.0	Remove dilapidated vehicle gates and replace with new barriers	C1	Year 2	CMS	Contractor	TRDC budget			

- Task Responsibility**
- District led) Officer/ Contractor delivered
 - CMS led)
 - District led) Volunteer delivered
 - CMS led)

Pond Wood
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2026-36
 Year 1 - 10 Action Plan

- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - Seasonal stream
 - Path
 - Woodland



Yr 1 Create three leaky barriers ■

Yr 1 Replace pedestrian and vehicle entrance ■

Yr 1 Remove redundant concrete post ■

Yr 1 Install an interpretation board ■

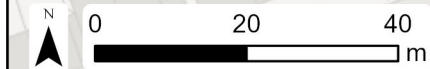
Yr 1 Cut fence near Oak ■

Yr 1 Woodland thinning and coppicing ■

Create scallops by removing and coppicing some trees such as elder, holly and hazel ■

Yr 1 Remove cherry laurel ■

Yr 1 Replace pedestrian and vehicle entrance ■



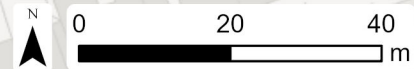
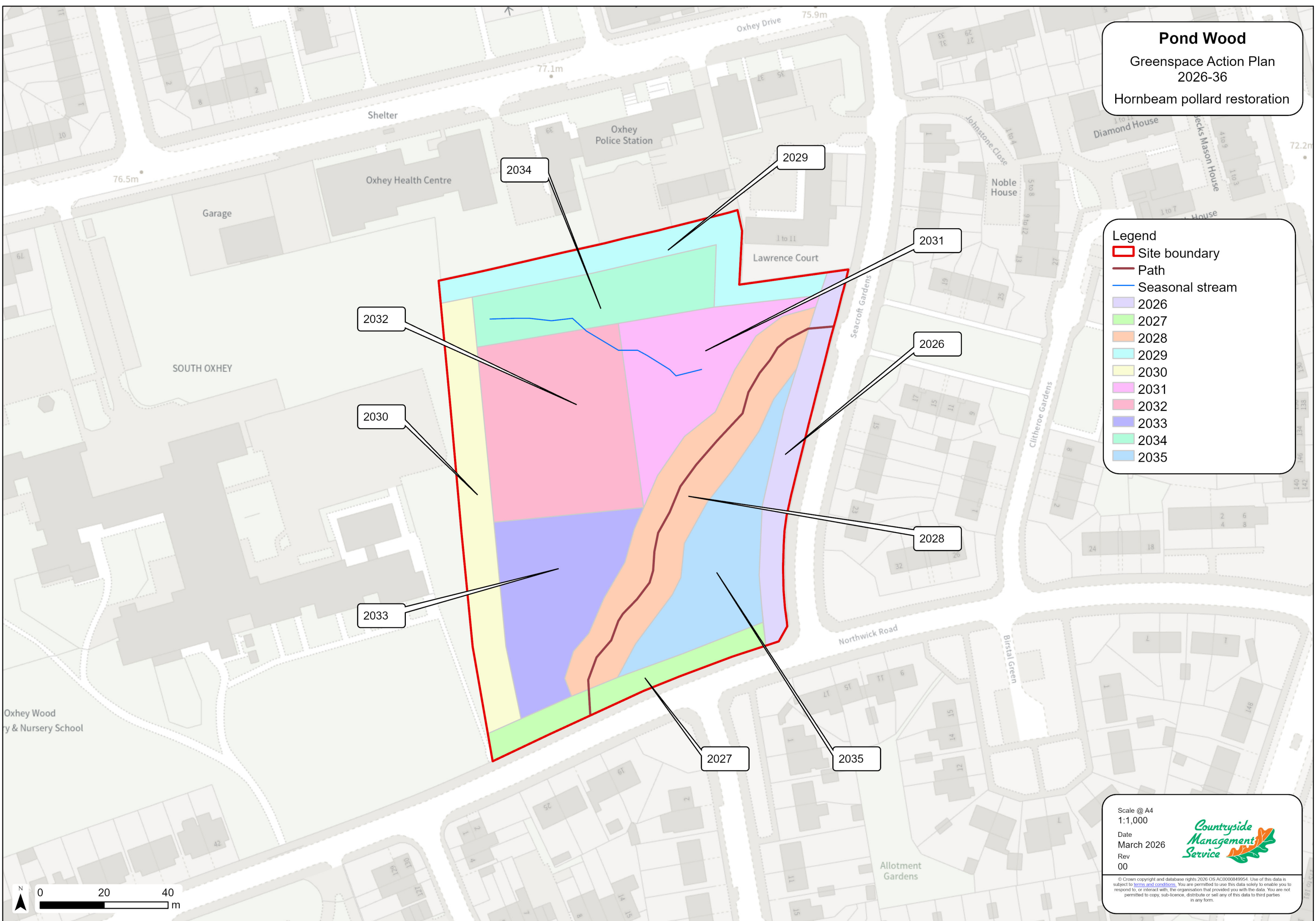
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Pond Wood
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2026-36
 Hornbeam pollard restoration

Legend

- Site boundary
- Path
- Seasonal stream
- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029
- 2030
- 2031
- 2032
- 2033
- 2034
- 2035



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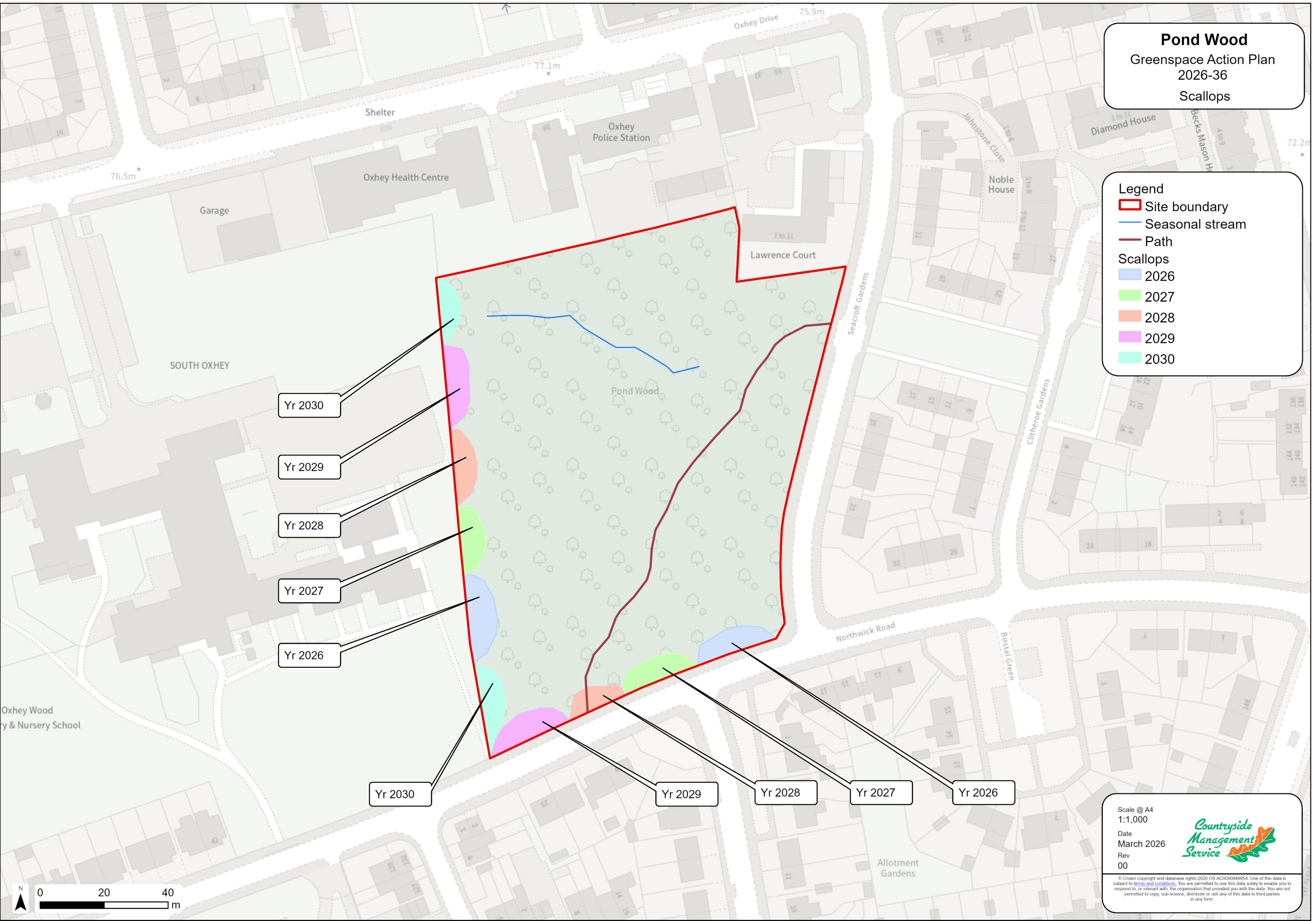
Pond Wood
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2026-36
 Scallops

Legend

- Site boundary
- Seasonal stream
- Path

Scallops

- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029
- 2030



Yr 2030

Yr 2029

Yr 2028

Yr 2027

Yr 2026

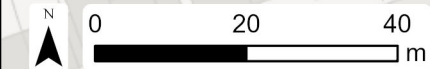
Yr 2030

Yr 2029

Yr 2028

Yr 2027

Yr 2026



Scale @ A4
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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

Control non-native invasive plants with minimal reliance on herbicide

Variegated Yellow Archangel

A patch of cultivated yellow archangel is established in the woodland in the west of the site. This garden escape spreads by shallow rooted runners and creeping stems which root at the nodes. Small areas can be controlled manually by up-rooting in the spring when the soil is still damp. All arisings (roots and stems) should be bagged up and taken off site for disposal as household waste. As the site is public access composting risks spreading viable plant material to new locations. Cultivated yellow archangel is listed as a schedule 9 species in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 making it an offence to cause to spread. The plant produces viable seeds and therefore it may be necessary to up-root seedlings for successive years. Persistent seedbanks can be suppressed by a thick layer (3-4 inches) of sheet mulch or bark chip. The native form of yellow archangel, also found in woodland, lacks the variegated leaf pattern.



Variegated Yellow Archangel

Cherry Laurel

Laurel is an invasive non-native species which can invade native woodland. As an evergreen shrub the plant is densely shading and can suppress native woodland ground flora. Laurel can be mechanically uprooted where practical. For mature shrubs, manual control is unlikely to be practical. It is recommended that large shrubs are controlled by stem injection. Treatment areas should be revisited to pull seedlings and control regrowth.



Cherry laurel

Hornbeam Pollard restoration

The hornbeams will be pollarded in rotation over the 10-year Greenspace Action Plan, prioritising areas near the boundary and areas close to the footpath.

It is important that an initial assessment of the trees should be carried out before deciding the amount of pruning to be carried out.

As a general rule pollards should be taken above the original bolling point to reduce the amount of leaf area reduced at once.

This operation could be carried out in rotation by reducing the crown of the tree in stages based on regrowth and vitality of the trees.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Engagement Summary

7.1.1 Introduction

An initial engagement period was held for 3 weeks in September 2025, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement was carried out in February 2026 to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

7.1.2 Engagement feedback

Stakeholders' comments focus on preserving the woods by managing the woodland edges, coppicing, allowing the understory flora to grow by thinning and pollarding some of the trees, and installing a crushed granite path to improve accessibility. The habitat-related comments have been incorporated in the plan. While path surfacing is not supported, vegetation works around the entrances and wider woodland management should make the path more open and lighter. There is also a comment about reviewing the external lighting around the woods, but this is outside the scope of this plan.

7.2 Policy Context

7.2.1 Three Rivers District Council Strategies

7.2.1.1 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)

7.2.1.2 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy

Three Rivers declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2030 for their own emissions and by 2045 for the District.

The [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 they will work with and assist the residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in the area to reduce their impact on the environment, improve sustainability and also adapt to and build resilience to a changing climate.

7.2.1.3 Nature Recovery Strategy 2023-28

The [Three Rivers Nature Recovery Strategy](#) specifically addresses the Council's approach to protection of the natural world within the District. At the heart of the strategy is a 5-year Action Plan, which identifies and prioritises actions to be undertaken for the benefit of Biodiversity.

The strategy also 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.

7.2.1.4 Pesticide Strategy

This strategy sets out how TRDC will reduce the unnecessary use of harmful chemicals.

7.2.1.5 Tree Strategy

The [Tree Strategy](#) sets out TRDC's approach to a whole range of tree issues and identifies a number of specific and deliverable actions for TRDC to achieve over the five-year period of 2022-2027. These actions are intended to address many of the aims of TRDC's Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy and serve as a 'road map' towards the sustainability goals of TRDC.

7.2.1.6 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 2041. These documents include policies which relate to nature conservation.

7.2.2 Hertfordshire County Council Strategies

7.2.2.1 Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy (2022, revised March 2023)

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.

7.2.2.2 *Tree and Woodland Strategy (2022-30)*

The Tree and Woodland Strategy sets out ambitions for Hertfordshire's treescapes until 2030:

- Supporting the establishment of at least 1.8 million new trees across Hertfordshire, including at least 1.2 million trees, one for every resident of Hertfordshire, and at least 100km of hedgerows, equating to 600,000 hedgerow trees.
- Promoting and supporting the development of woodland management plans to help ensure woodlands provide a range of benefits to their owners, wildlife and local communities, while remaining resilient to pressures on tree health.
- Facilitating and enabling residents and businesses to support tree and woodland establishment and enhancement initiatives in Hertfordshire.

7.3 Byelaws

The Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces dated 05-10-2020 apply to Pond Wood: [Byelaws | Three Rivers District Council](#)

8.0 GLOSSARY

- Pollarding: Pruning technique involving the removal of the upper branches and central leader of the tree.
- Bolling point: Previous pollard points in the tree.
- Coppice: Traditional woodland management technique used in certain species where the tree is repeatedly cut down to ground level to encourage new shoots to grow from the stump.
- Scallops: Removal of vegetation within a semi-circular or D-shaped area to increase biodiversity to the woodland,
- Ecotone: Transitional area between two plant communities.
- Monolith tree: Standing decaying tree reduced to its main stem.
- Leaky dam: Natural flood management structure built with natural woody materials such as logs and branches.