



Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2024 – 2029



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 for 4 weeks in August/September 2023, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement was completed in March 2024 to enable 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

CONTENTS

1.0	Summary	1
1.1	Site Summary.....	1
1.2	Vision Statement	1
2.0	Site Description	2
2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Geology and Landscape	9
2.3	History and Archaeology	9
2.4	Habitats and Wildlife	10
2.4.1	Grassland	10
2.4.2	Woodland and Trees.....	11
2.4.2.1	Ash dieback....	11
2.4.2.1	Oak Processionary Moth.....	11
2.4.3	Ditches and Channels.....	11
2.4.4	Hedgerows and Scrub.....	12
2.4.5	Species....	12
2.5	Access, Facilities and Infrastructure.....	12
2.6	Community and Events	13
3.0	Analysis & Evaluation	14
3.1	A Welcoming Place	14
3.2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	14
3.3	Well Maintained and Clean	15
3.4	Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage.....	16
3.4.1	Biodiversity Net Gain	16
3.4.2	Grassland Management	16
3.4.3	Woodland Management.....	17
3.5	Community Involvement.....	18
3.6	Marketing and Communication.....	18
4.0	Aim & Objectives	19
5.0	Action Plans and Maps	21
5.1	Annual and Regular Actions.....	21
5.2	Year 1 Actions 2024-2025.....	24
5.3	Year 2 Actions 2025-2026.....	26

5.4	Year 3-5 Actions 2026-2029.....	28
6.0	Specifications	30
7.0	Appendices	32
7.1	Additional OPM Guidance	32
7.2	Species Records.....	34

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland

Thorley Wedge Site Address: Sainsbury Thorley Centre, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4EG, United Kingdom

Northern Parkland Site Address: Northern Parkland, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4NE, United Kingdom

Central Grid Reference: TL 47892 19986

Size: 17.71 hectares (9.39 hectares, Thorley Wedge) and (8.32 hectares, Northern Parkland)

Owner: East Herts District Council

1.2 Vision Statement

Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland is an important ribbon of greenspace which runs from Thorley Hill to St James' Way (A1184). This green corridor as a whole is very popular and valued by the local community for its amenity and wildlife value and as a peaceful place to travel through.

The vision over the next five years is to maintain the high value of the site, whilst also enhancing some features. This will ensure that visitors to the greenspace can use the facilities and find a peaceful wildlife-rich area. This vision will include enhancing the habitats available on site for a variety of wildlife, whilst also maintaining the look and feel of the space.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland are part of a green corridor which runs through Bishops Stortford from Thorley Hill to St James' Way (A1184), only broken by Friedberg Avenue, the Harvest Moon pub and The Barons Open Space. Thorley Wedge, Northern Parkland and The Barons Open Space are owned by East Herts, with the latter being leased to Bishops Stortford Community Football Club and therefore not included in this plan.

Thorley Wedge is a 9.39 hectare (23.88 acre) corridor of open space running from Friedburg Avenue to Thorley Hill, bisected by Villiers-Sur-Marne Ave. It is comprised of mostly amenity grassland with some areas of conservation grass. There are also scattered individual trees and areas of denser tree cover. A recently surfaced path runs along the southern side of the site which leads into Bishop's Stortford and past the Thorley Centre which has various shops including a supermarket, pub and doctor's surgery. There are two play areas on site, one near the Thorley Centre, the other at Lower Park Crescent. There are also football goals for informal kickabouts located close to Thornbera Road Allotments. Thornbera Road Allotments can be found bordering the south-eastern end of the site adjacent to the woodland that joins Thorley Hill.



Image 1: View of Thorley Wedge showing mown paths

Northern Parkland is an 8.32 hectare (20.24 acre) open space, located to the north of St. Michael's Mead. The large grassed open space is dotted with small pockets of young plantation woodland. The grass on this site is a mixture of close mown

amenity grass and longer conservation grass. There are two enclosed children's play areas, goals for informal kickabouts and pathways linking it to Bishop's Park open space. Surfaced paths run through the site from Oriole Way to Stockmen Field and from Stockmen Field to Great Hadham Road (B1004). An open ditch runs from the south-eastern corner of the site to in front of Stockmen Field. There is also a community orchard located on this space which was planted by Bishop's Stortford Community Orchards Group.



Image 2: Entrance to Northern Parkland opposite Oriole Way

Both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland are vital greenspaces for the local community for casual sport, dog walking and as a place to relax. This green corridor is regularly used by local runners and those travelling through on foot or by bicycle.

Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland
Greenspace Action Plan
2024-29
Location Plan

Northern Parkland
Grid Ref: TL 47161 20339
Nearest Postcode: CM23 4HW

Thorley Wedge
Grid Ref: TL 48254 19876
Nearest Postcode: CM23 3QB

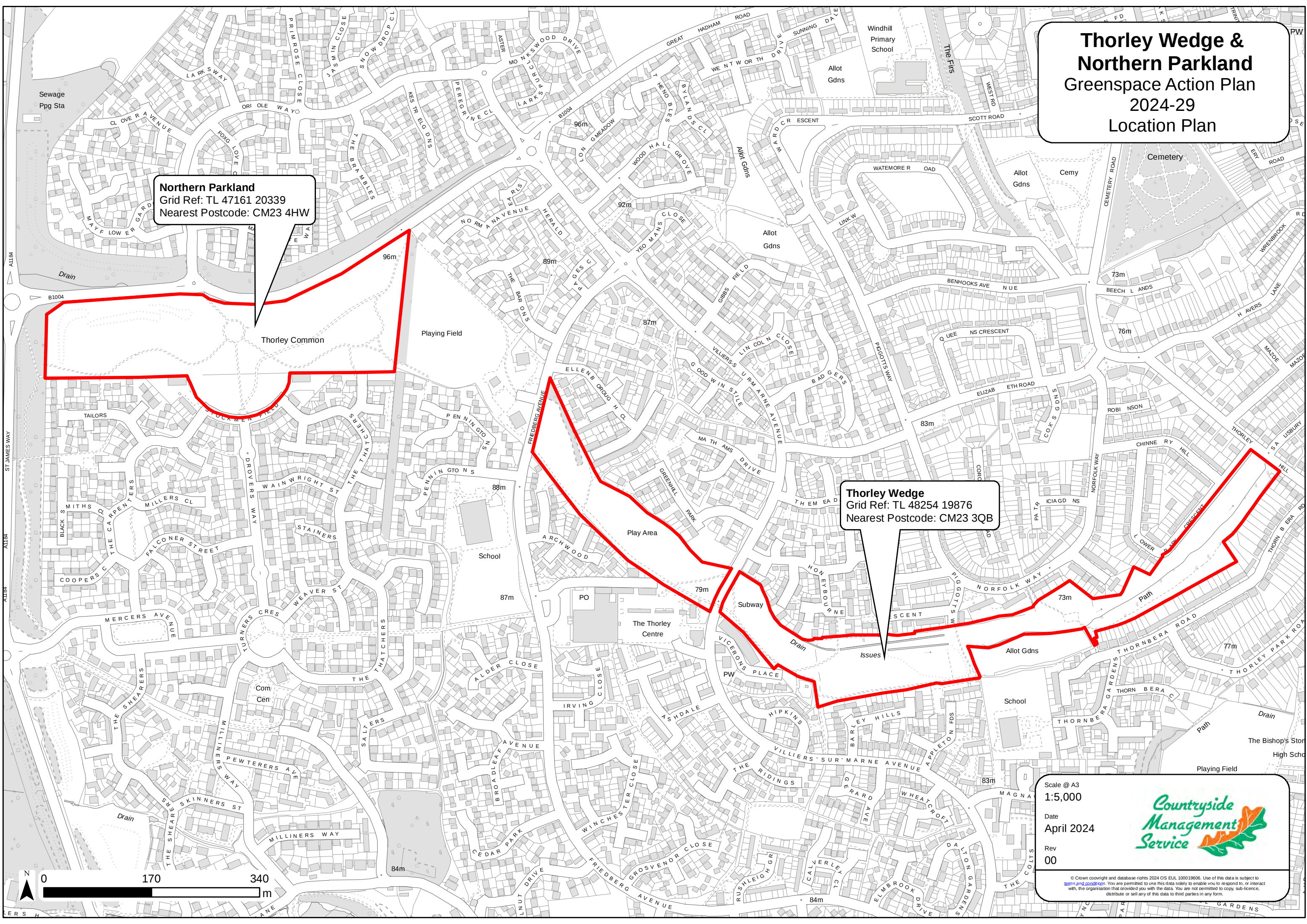
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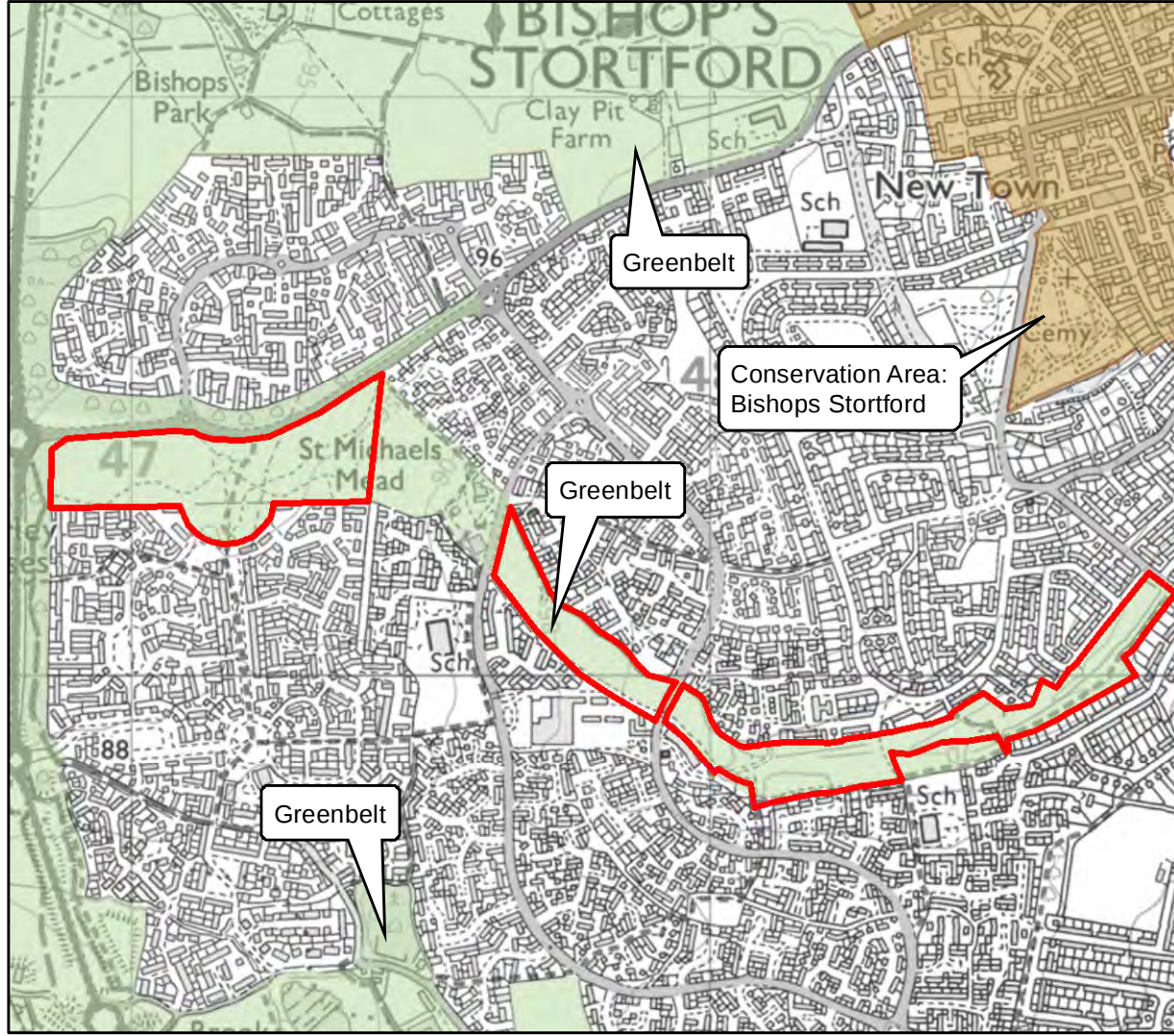
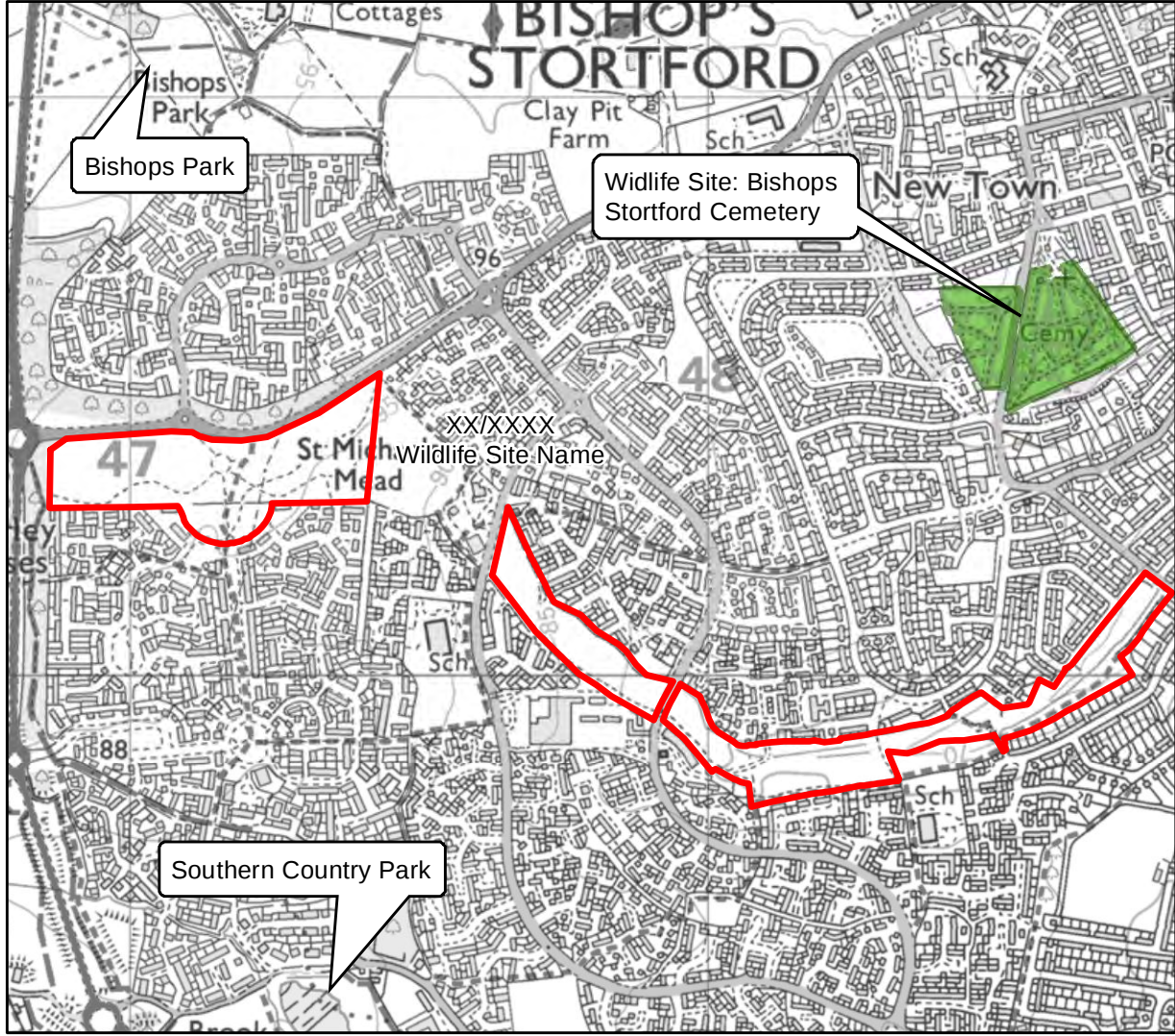
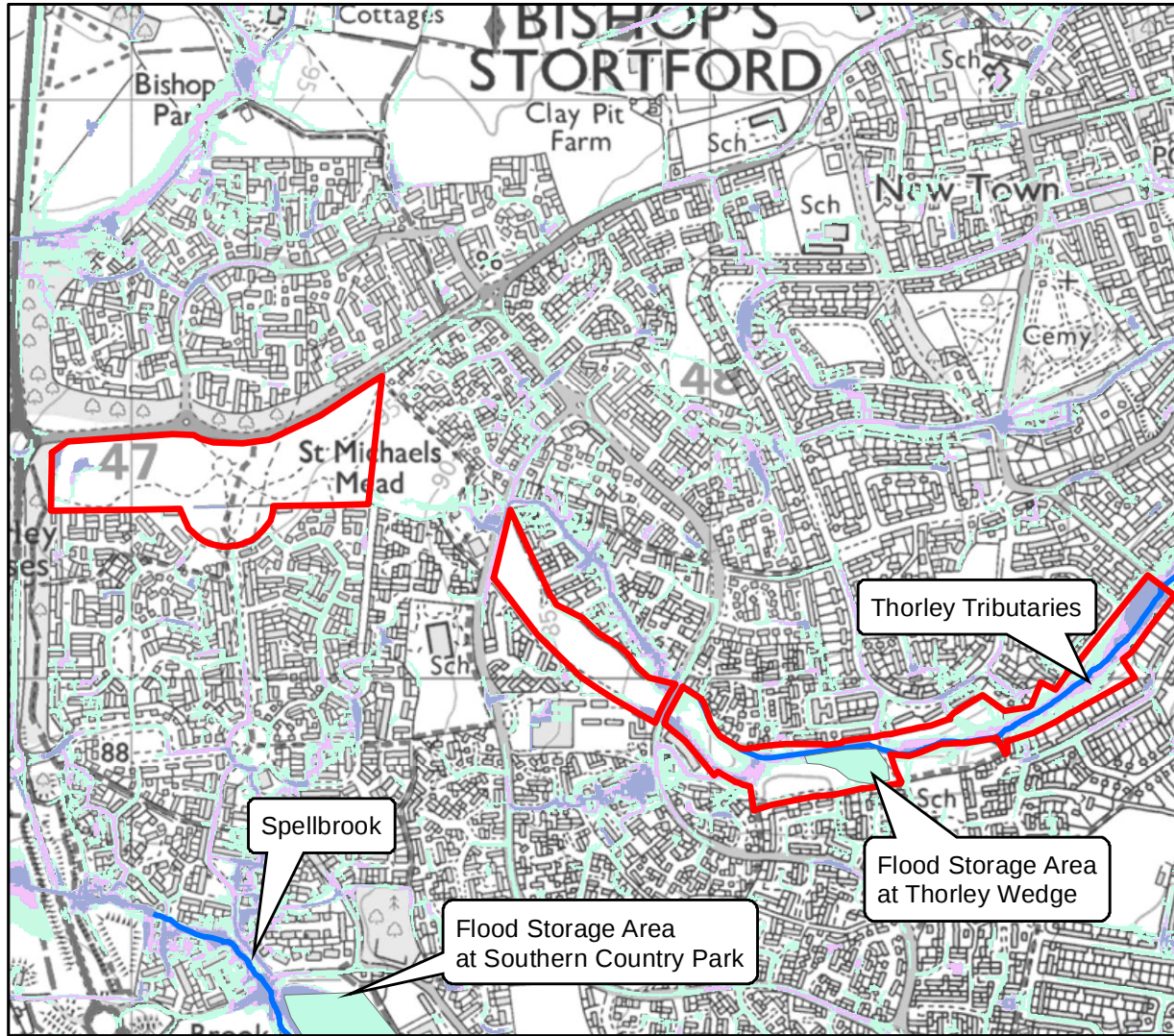
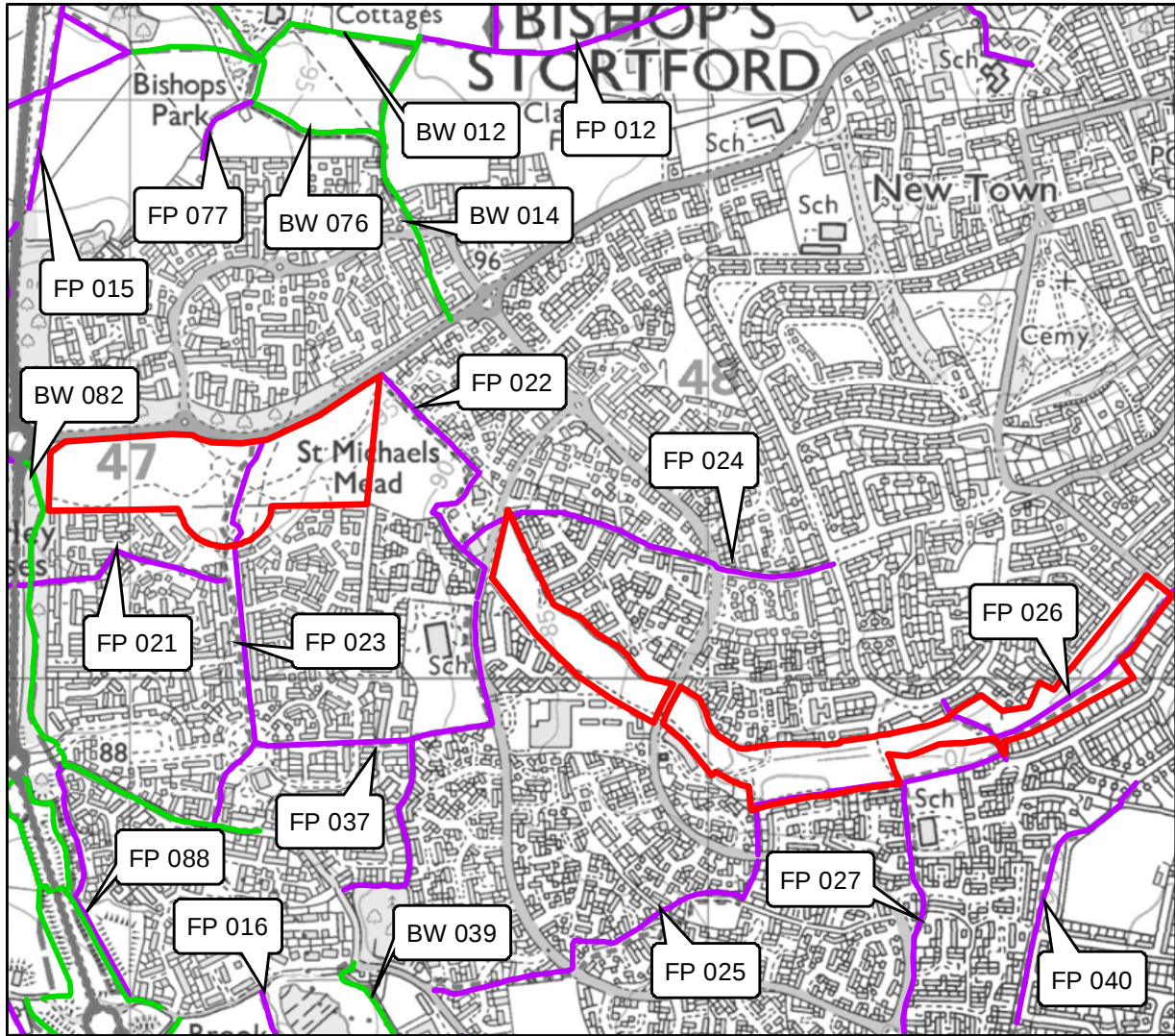
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Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan Constraints Plan

Legend

- Thorley Wedge Boundary
- Northern Parkland Boundary
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Main River
- Flood Storage Area
- Surface Water Flood Risk (1 in 10)
- Surface Water Flood Risk (1 in 100)
- Surface Water Flood Risk (1 in 1000)
- Site Type
 - Wildlife Site
 - Conservation Areas
 - Greenbelt - November2016

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Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland
Greenspace Action Plan
2024-29
TW East Site Description

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Grass path
- Surfaced path
- Amenity grass
- Conservation grass
- Ditch
- Play area
- Scrub
- Woodland
- Bylaw board
- Interpretation panel
- Bench
- Bridge
- Dog bin
- Litter bin
- Pedestrian acces
- Vehicle gate
- Individual tree

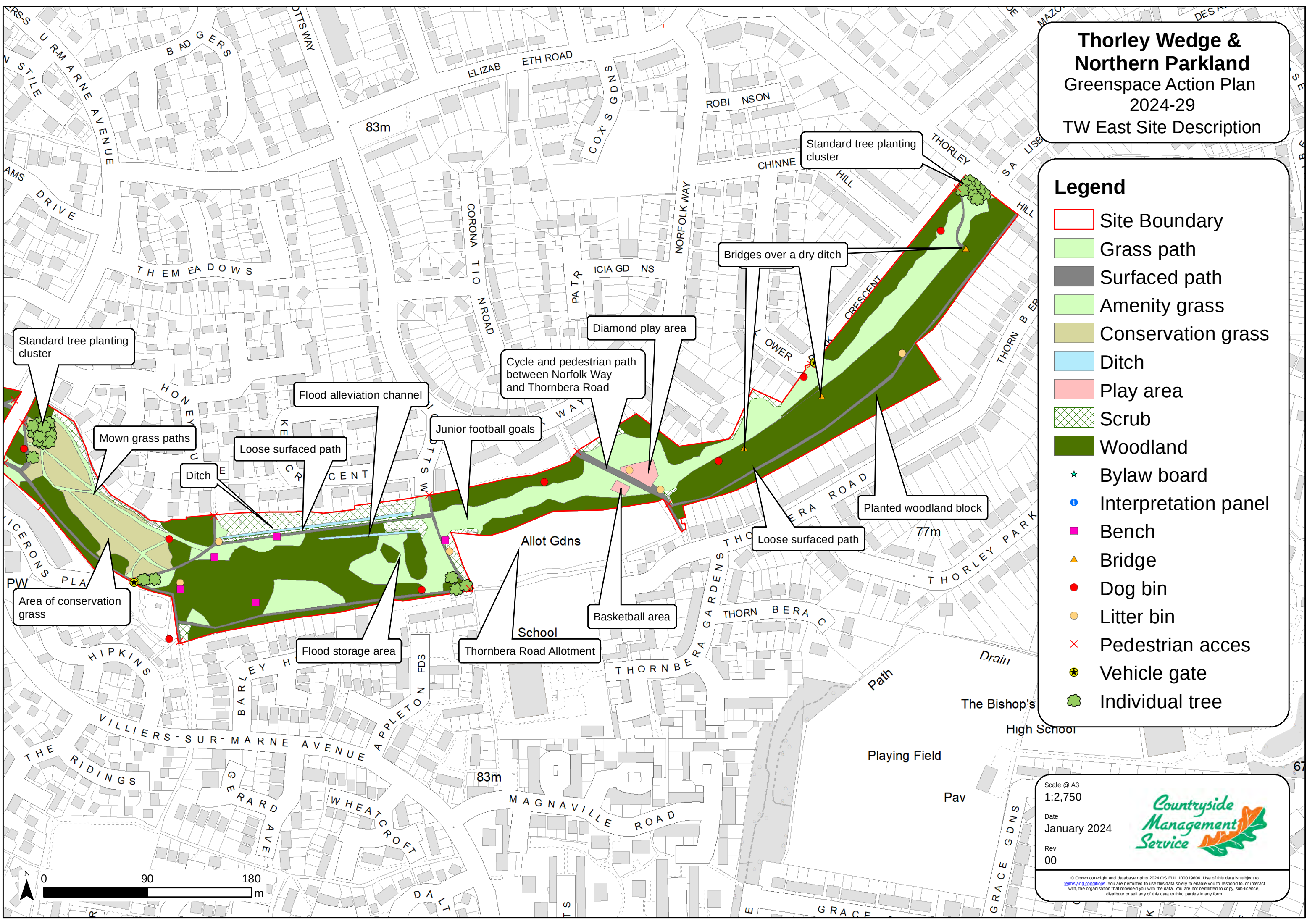
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Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland
Greenspace Action Plan
2024-29
TW West Site Description

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Grass path
- Surfaced path
- Amenity grass
- Conservation grass
- Ditch
- Play area
- Scrub
- Woodland
- Bylaw board
- Interpretation panel
- Bench
- Bridge
- Dog bin
- Litter bin
- Pedestrian acces
- Vehicle gate
- Individual tree

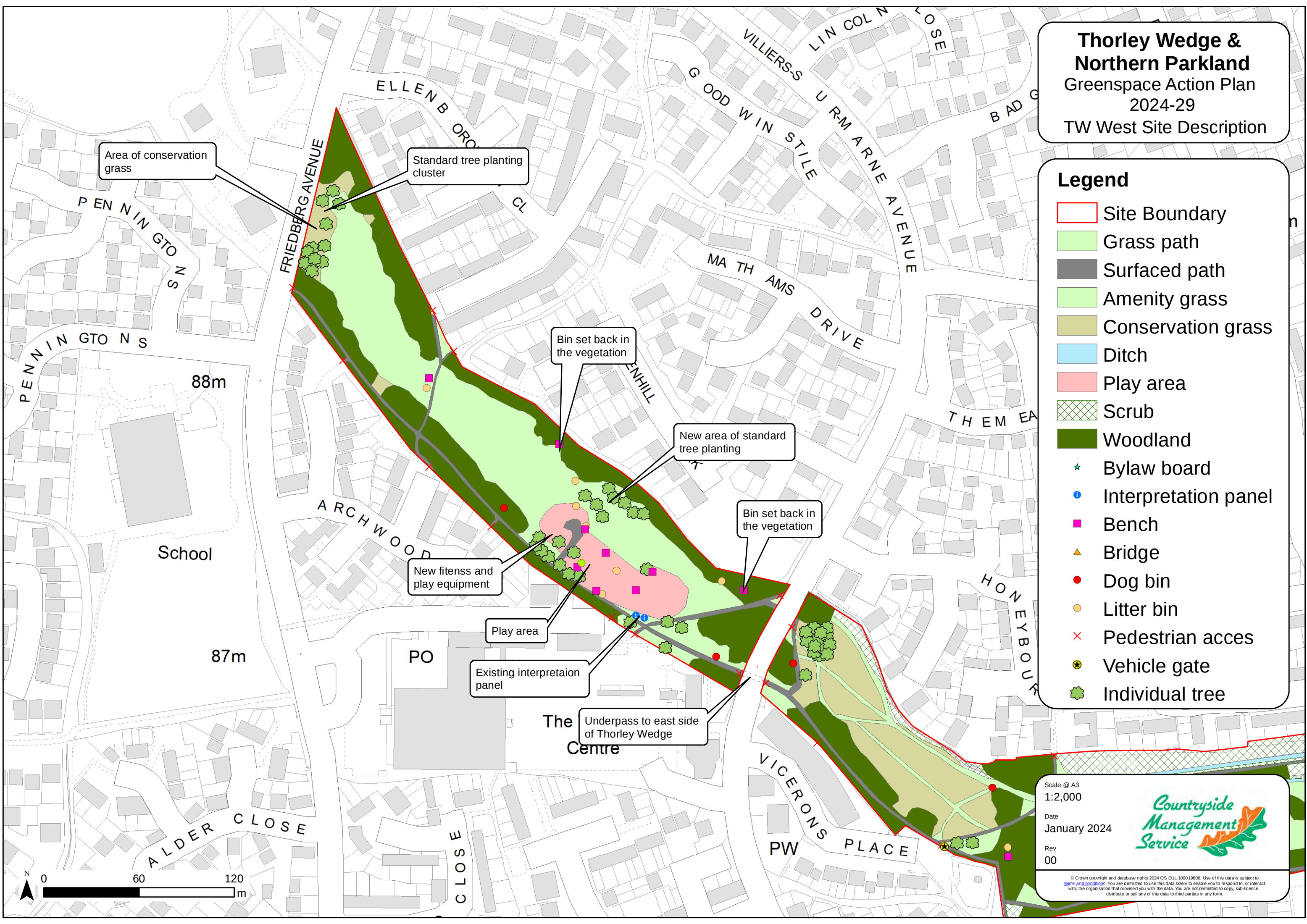
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Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan 2024-29 NP Site Description

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Surfaced path
- Amenity grass
- Conservation grass
- Ditch
- Orchard
- Play area
- Woodland
- ★ Bylaw board
- Interpretation panel
- Bench
- Dog bin
- Litter bin
- × Pedestrian acces
- ✱ Vehicle gate
- ✱ Individual tree



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Date
April 2024

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2.2 Geography and Landscape

The total area of both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland is 17.71ha and is part of an important green corridor of land through the southern half of Bishops Stortford. At the western end of Northern Parkland is St James' Way (A1184) and beyond that farmland. At the eastern end is Thorley Hill and some residential housing beyond that, then the River Stort, and further east is arable farmland. The soil type is mostly lime-rich, loamy and clay soils with impeded drainage but as it is a human influenced landscape, not all soils will display these characteristics. The greenspace is gently undulating with elevation varying between 60m above sea level close to Thorley Hill and 100m above sea level close to St James' Way.



Image 3: Cycle and pedestrian path from Norfolk Way to Thornberra Road

Areas of both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland have been planted with groups of trees and individual trees are dotted around the open areas. The greenspace is characterised by being a well-used space for leisure and a natural relaxing space to be in. The ditch which runs along the length of Thorley Wedge links the site together and is classed as main river. The site can be walked from Thorley Hill to St James' Way in just over an hour and there are surfaced paths which cross both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland.

2.3 History and Archaeology

Thorley Wedge greenspace was created as part of the Thorley Park development. The aim was to provide a green corridor that would link the new housing estates with the existing town and countryside. The space was designed to preserve some of the natural features of the land, such as the mixed woodland and the old oaks, hazel, field maple, ash and blackthorn scrub.

Northern Parkland is a historic area in Bishops Stortford. It was once thought to be part of the Bishop of London's Estate and deer park. It is on the south-eastern edge of the town close to Great Hadham Road.

2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

Despite the urban setting of the greenspace it is rich in wildlife and a vital corridor for a whole range of different species. The combination of different habitats including woodland, grass, ponds/ditches and scrub provides opportunities for a wide variety of different species.

2.4.1 Grassland

The grassland largely falls into two different categories, either amenity grassland which is regularly mown or conservation grassland which is mown annually and collected. Some areas of the amenity grassland at Thorley Wedge were chosen as being suitable spaces for conservation grass because they are not used for casual sport but are used for dog walking. Areas which are managed as conservation grassland are characterised by having mown paths through them. These areas which are currently being managed as conservation grassland at Thorley Wedge are species poor.

At Northern Parkland the majority of the grassland is being managed by cutting as amenity grass. This amenity grass has some species diversity within, species such as oxeye daisy, meadow buttercup, black knapweed and red clover can be found. By contrast the conservation grassland which can be found on the mound at Northern Parkland is species poor and dominated by vigorous grasses and nettles.



Image 4: Grassland at Northern Parkland, conservation cut in the background

2.4.2 Woodland and trees

The entire length of the greenspace has areas of woodland and individual trees located along it. The majority of the woodland was planted since the 1970s and is a mix of ash, field maple, hazel, cherry, lime, hawthorn and oak. Some thinning has been carried out within this woodland over the last 5-10 years to create a more varied structure throughout most woodland compartments. The trees on site have been and are likely to be impacted by further tree pests and diseases over the coming years. Some details about current tree pests and diseases are set out below.

2.4.2.1 Ash dieback

Ash dieback is fungal disease affecting the common ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and other *Fraxinus* species. It is caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which is native to eastern Asia. The disease was first identified in England in 2012, although research has shown that it is likely to have been present since at least 2005. It is present on site and being managed through monitoring of Ash trees and dealt with on a risk-based approach, removing trees that pose a danger but retaining healthy ash trees.

2.4.2.2 Oak Processionary Moth

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) is a pest of oak trees in the *Quercus* genus and can be a hazard to human and animal health. OPM has not been found on the site but is within the county so ongoing monitoring will be required. The site lies outside of the Established Area and within the Buffer Zone for management of OPM. This means that if OPM is identified it should be reported to the Forestry Commission and there is an annual programme of control, and in most cases support for treatment of OPM is available from FC. Within the established zone it is the landowner's responsibility to manage OPM on their land. More information about OPM can be found in Appendix A.



Image 5: Woodland compartment at Northern Parkland

2.4.3 Drainage and Channels

Various ditches and channels can be found on site some retaining water whilst others are seasonally wet. There is a flood storage area shown on the constraints map, close to the Piggotts Way entrance to the site. There is also a culvert and ditch which is maintained by Thames Water.

2.4.4 Hedgerows and Scrub

Several boundaries around the site are lined with scrub that form hedge boundaries. The species within these hedge boundaries include hawthorn, bramble, elder, hazel and blackthorn. The boundary scrub/hedge is managed by cutting back as required from within the greenspace.

2.4.5 Species

There is an important site for a wide variety of species and has importance as a green corridor which allows species to move in and out of the town. There have been records of several species of butterfly including comma, gatekeeper, holly blue, orange-tip and speckled wood. The diversity of the grassland on site is vital for these species along with bees and other pollinating insects. More detail about species records can be found in Appendix B. The woodland and scrub parcels are also important for a range of bird and bat species.

2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

Facilities across the greenspace include play areas at Villiers-Sur-Marne Ave, Thornbera Road in Thorley Wedge and in Northern Parkland, where there are two enclosed play areas. All play areas are suitable for young children. Recently installed at the Villiers-Sur-Marne Avenue play area near Sainsburys there is an area for young teenagers with fitness equipment, ninja trail style apparatus, informal seating and a chatter bench. At both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland there are football goals suitable for casual sport and basketball hoops. A trail of a white line marked running route around Thorley Wedge has proved popular with runners.

Thorley Wedge can be accessed on foot from entrances off Thorley Hill, Lower Park Crescent, Thornbera Road, Norfolk Way, Magnaville Road, Barley Hills, Piggotts Way, Honeybourne, Vicerons Place, Thorley Neighbourhood Centre car park, Larchwood, Ellenborough Close, Friedberg Avenue and several entrances off Villiers-Sur-Marne Avenue. There are pedestrian entrances to Northern Parkland off Penningtons, Thresher Close, Stockmen Field, Tailors and Great Hadham Road (B1004). Also, various public footpaths cross both sites including FP23, FP25, FP26, FP27 and FP28.

At the majority of entrances at both Thorley Wedge and Northern parkland there are marker posts as in the photo below.



Image 6: Entrance post at Northern Parkland

2.6 Community and Events

Currently the site is well used by the local community including the play areas, workout facilities, marked running route and football goals. Northern Parkland is home to a community orchard which is managed by volunteers. The orchard is the result of over a year of work by the BSCOG, an offshoot of the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group. East Herts Council provided a grant to cover the costs of the trees, information boards, equipment and training. Beneath the trees are wildflowers which provide a nectar source for a range of insects. The orchard provides food for the local community and value for wildlife. Both Thorley Wedge and Northern parkland are vital greenspaces for the local community.

3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

3.1 A Welcoming Place

Interpretation panels and entrance signage will be improved across Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland over the course of this GAP. Currently most entrances have a post demarcating the entrance to the site and a board showing the bylaws and shown by image 6 below. Key entrances will have an interpretation panel/notice board developed to welcome site users and inform them about the facilities.



Image 6: Existing entrance signage (entrance post and bylaws)



Image 7: Example interpretation panel form Hartham Common

3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The site is well used by the local community and those traveling through the site from further away. The condition of existing surfaced footpaths on site will be assessed to determine where repairs are needed, which includes both tarmac and

loose surfaced routes. The bridges which cross the ditch close to Thornbera Road will be assessed for their condition and repair works/ replacement carried out as necessary. As mentioned above the site is well used by cyclists, runners and those walking through the park. The provision for cyclists will be assessed in conjunction with surrounding areas to improve the access through the site for those travelling by bicycle or on foot.



Image 8: The pedestrian/cycle route Norfolk Way to Thornbera Rd

The play areas on site are inspected on an annual basis or as required and repairs or maintenance carried out as required. The culvert and ditch close to the entrance from Piggotts Way are maintained by Thames Water. Recent high levels of rainfall mean water in the ditch flooded out into the flood storage area. Subsequently debris that had gathered in the culvert entrance and ditch was cleared out by Thames Water to allow the water to flow freely through. Anti-social behaviour is taken seriously across the site and East Herts Council regularly engage with the police to help to tackle concerns which will continue going forwards. If members of the public do have concerns then these should be reported to the police.

3.3 Well Maintained and Clean

There are benches located around the greenspace within play areas and some along path edges. However, one of the comments at the consultation was the need for benches to be installed along the main paths.



Image 9: Existing bench located near the entrance from Honeybourne

Image 9 shows an existing bench and an example of installation alongside a path. New possible bench locations are highlighted on the action plan maps. Benches installed should be consistent with existing designs used on the site. Bin positioning and provision should be reviewed and where required, firm standing surface should be created.

3.4 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

3.4.1 Biodiversity Net Gain

A formal habitat condition assessment has not been undertaken as part of the development of this Greenspace Action Plan. However indicative current and potential habitat types and conditions within Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland are provided below. The site is limited in terms of the changes that can be made to the current management other than changes to grass cutting regimes and the seeding of some areas with wildflowers.

Current management regime	Area (ha)	UKHab current habitat type	Current habitat condition	Potential habitat type	Potential habitat condition	Potential biodiversity net gain (biodiversity units)
Amenity grassland	0.85	g4 Modified grassland	Poor	g4 Modified grassland	Moderate	2.89
Amenity grassland*	1.53	g3c Other neutral grassland	Poor	g3c Other neutral grassland	Moderate	10.41
Conservation cut grassland	0.6	g4 Modified grassland	Poor	g3c Other neutral grassland	Poor	2.36
Scrub	0.2	h3h Mixed scrub	Good	h3h Mixed scrub	Good	None
Woodland	6.1	W1g other woodland broadleaved	Moderate	W1g other woodland broadleaved	Moderate	None
<i>*Change from amenity mowing to an annual cut and collection</i>						

3.4.2 Grassland management

The diversity of the grassland varies with the species richness of the grassland at Northern Parkland being generally greater than that in Thorley Wedge.

Suggested management changes include the following:

1. Changes to the grass cutting regime at Northern Parkland

This would involve changing the cutting regime from regular mowing to an annual cut and clearance of areas shown on the action plan maps. This would allow for the

wildflowers present to set seed and this should enhance the number of species in future years. These changes will also help to provide a very good nectar source for a wide variety of insects. In addition, there is an area of amenity grass close to Stockmen Field which could be improved for wildlife by changing the cutting regime from amenity grass to enhanced amenity, set out in the specification at the end of this document. This would mean raising the cutting height of mowing and increasing the time between each time that it is mown. This again would allow for greater species diversity of flowering plants and provide a nectar source for insects. If the species diversity is still limited wildflower seed could be added to these areas in future years

2. Wildflower seeding at Thorley Wedge

Within Thorley Wedge most of the grassland is managed with an amenity cut whilst other small areas are managed at conservation grass. The areas of conservation grass could be enhanced by the addition of wildflower seed. The current conservation cut areas and amenity grassland will be assessed to determine their possible suitability for wildflower seeding. Mown paths will be cut through these areas to allow them to be walked through easily. Possible new areas for adding wildflower seed in Thorley Wedge have been proposed and are marked on the action plan maps.

3.4.3 Woodland Management

Historically the woodland at both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland has been managed through thinning and underplanting. This has improved the structural and species diversity of the woodland. However, some further thinning of the woodland, particularly the woodland in Thorley Wedge would be of benefit to the habitat value of the parcels of woodland. Image 10 below shows an area of woodland at Thorley Wedge that needs some thinning and underplanting to enhance the diversity of the woodland. The focus for thinning within the areas dominated by ash would be those trees which are becoming dangerous due to ash dieback.



Image 10: Woodland at Thorley Wedge lacking understory

The woodland compartments in Northern Parkland have good structural diversity with evidence of previously coppiced hazel stools. It would be beneficial to re-coppice some of this hazel over the course of this Greenspace Action Plan.



Image 11: Woodland at Northern Parkland with hazel coppice stools

3.5 Community Involvement

The engagement process on this plan signals the beginning of further community involvement with the site over the course of this Greenspace Action Plan. This will involve setting up a Friends Group to help to lead promotion of the site and take forward actions in consultation with East Herts District Council. They would provide a connection with the wider community and help to improve communication about the site. Also, as part of this community involvement there will be some opportunity for volunteers to carry out some practical tasks on site.

3.6 Marketing and Communication

Pieces of important work and activity on site will be highlighted through the CMS newsletter and on the EHC and HCC websites. When installed, interpretation panels and notice boards will help to inform the general public about what is happening across the site including any upcoming events. Communication around dropping litter the potential penalties should be distributed. In addition the running route which is currently marked out by white lines is going to be demarcated by running route distance markers. This will mean that the painted route will not have to be marked out on a regular basis and will be more user friendly. EHC will also continue to work closely with Bishop Stortford Town Council on a range of issues to achieve the best outcomes.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

To maintain the greenspace as a place for local people to visit and enjoy whilst also improving the value of the habitats on site for a variety of wildlife.

Objectives

A. A welcoming place – to provide a welcoming place for visitors.

A1 Install updated interpretation and at both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland.

A2 Ensure that access into and around the sites is clear and maintained as appropriate.

B. Healthy Safe and Secure – to ensure that visitors within the park feel safe

B1 Routine safety inspections carried out with identified actions implemented.

B2 Proactive response to antisocial use of the site and engagement with the police to tackle concerns.

B3 Play equipment to be routinely inspected to ensure that it remains safe to use.

C. Clean and Well Maintained – to ensure that the site is tidy and that regular maintenance is carried out.

C1 Ensure that grounds maintenance is carried out as specified.

C2 Ensure that bins are located at key locations around the site and emptied regularly.

C3 Install new benches where needed across both sites.

D. Sustainability – ensure all activities on site are as sustainable as possible.

D1 Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital projects.

D2 Management Operations to meet East Herts Council Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

D3 Ensure that materials for the site are sustainably sourced.

E. Biodiversity landscape and Heritage – Maintain and enhance the habitats on site.

E1 Protect and enhance the biodiversity and habitats that can be found on site.

E2 Enhance existing grassland habitat diversity on site through changing mowing regime or addition of wildflower seed, where appropriate.

E3 Carry out woodland thinning and under planting to enhance woodland species diversity and structure.

F. Community Involvement – Communicate and involve the local community with the site and the activities taking place.

F1 To develop community linkages beyond the site.

F2 Develop a Friends Group to cover both Thorley Wedge and Northern Parkland.

F3 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 and Communication – Raise awareness of the site and what it has to offer.

G1 Promote interest and awareness in Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland.

G2 Develop wider links with other green spaces in Western Bishop's Stortford, including, Southern Country Park and Bishop's Park.

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Abbreviations: EHC – East Herts Council; CMS – Countryside Management Service; Vols – Volunteers; GGMS - Glendale Grounds Maintenance Services; Con – Contractor; EA – Environment Agency; CRoW – Countryside and Rights of Way; RPII Inspector – Register of Play Inspectors International Inspector; BSCOG – Bishop's Stortford Community Orchard Group.

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.01	Carry out audit of all pathways	A2	Annually	EHC	Con	GM Budget			
0.02	Carry out mowing of amenity grass areas	C1	Every 2 weeks during growing season	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
0.03	Carry out annual cut and collection of conservation grass	C1 E2	Annually	EHC	Con	GM Budget		3	
0.04	Play areas to be inspected by RPII Inspector	B3	Annually	EHC	Con	GM Budget			
0.05	Clear ditches and culverts as required	C1	As required	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
0.06	Maintain all entrances by cutting back vegetation as required	C1	As required	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
0.07	Tree Safety audit	B1	Annually	EHC	Con	GM Budget			
0.08	Carry out work identified in the tree safety audit	B1	As required	EHC	Con	GM Budget			
0.09	Annual risk assessment and hazard review and action accordingly	B1	Annually	EHC	EHC	Internal			
0.10	Empty general waste bins	C1 C2	Weekly	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
0.11	Empty dog waste bins	C1 C2	Weekly	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.12	Cut path edges	C1	As required	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
0.13	Maintain benches and entrance signage	A2 C1	As required	EHC	Con	GM Budget			
0.14	Survey and maintain bridges as required	B1	As required	EHC	Con	Internal			
0.15	Pruning and maintenance of orchard trees to be carried out	E1	Annually	BSCOG	Vols	Volunteer			

Task Responsibility

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

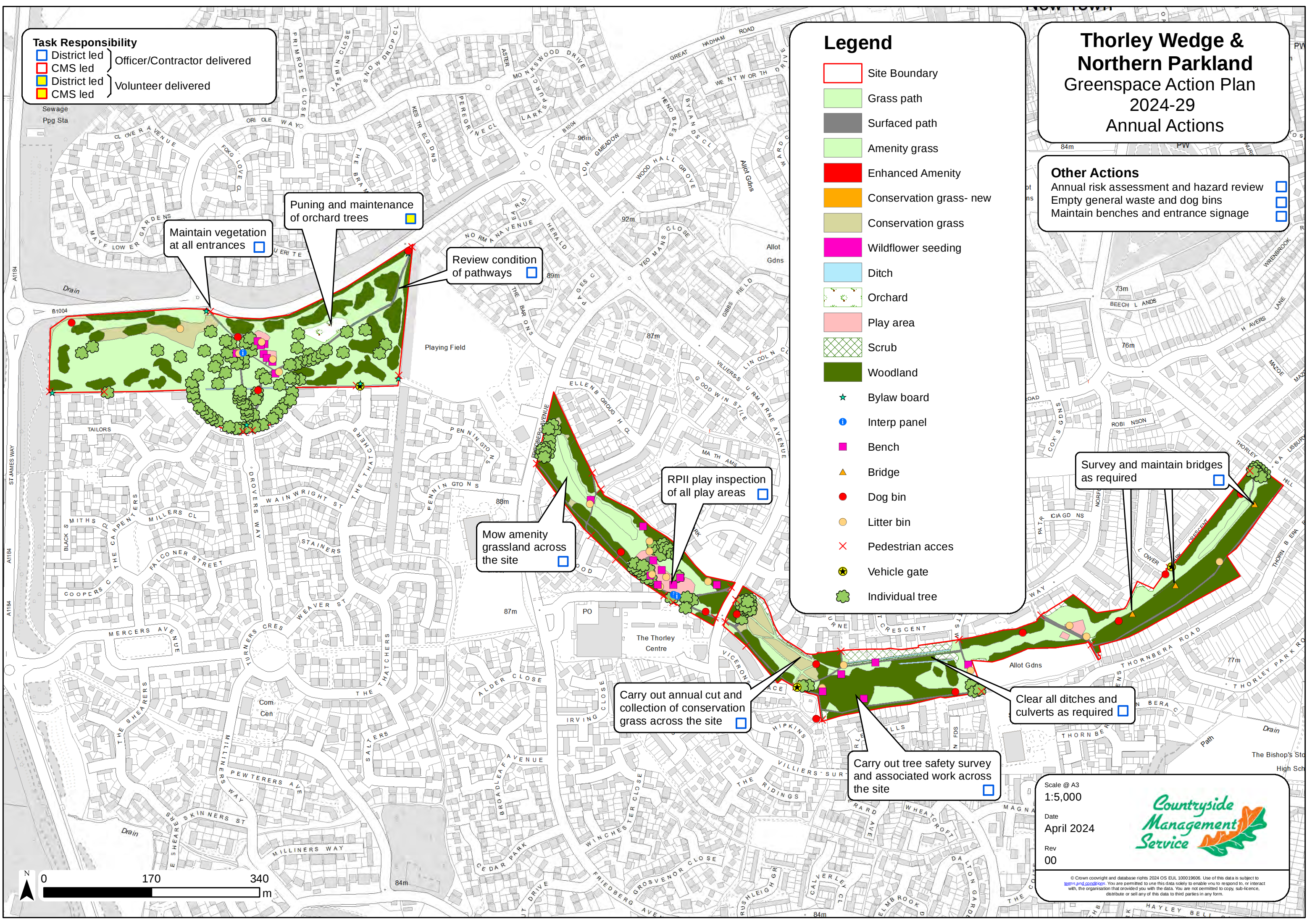
Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan 2024-29 Annual Actions

Other Actions

- Annual risk assessment and hazard review ☐
- Empty general waste and dog bins ☐
- Maintain benches and entrance signage ☐

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Grass path
- Surfaced path
- Amenity grass
- Enhanced Amenity
- Conservation grass- new
- Conservation grass
- Wildflower seeding
- Ditch
- Orchard
- Play area
- Scrub
- Woodland
- Bylaw board
- Interp panel
- Bench
- Bridge
- Dog bin
- Litter bin
- Pedestrian acces
- Vehicle gate
- Individual tree



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April 2024

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5.2 YEAR 1 ACTIONS 2024-25

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.01	Obtain a felling licence for felling works at Thorley Wedge.	E3	June	CMS	CMS	Internal			
1.02	Design new interpretation (including notice boards) and entrance signage.	D1 A1 G1	July	CMS	Con	External		7	
1.03	Sow wildflower seed in areas as required.	D1 E2	Oct	CMS	Con	External		4	
1.04	Installation of new benches as required.	C3	As required	EHC	Con	Internal			
1.05	Carry out standard tree planting.	E1	Nov - Jan	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget		1&2	
1.06	Review bin provision and positioning.	C2	July	EHC	EHC	GM Budget			
1.07	Begin the process of setting up a Friends Group for the site.	F2 F3	July	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			
1.08	Replace three bridge structures near Thornberra Road by Summer 2024.	B1	Ongoing	EHC	Con	Internal			
1.09	Review cycling access through the park	A2	Ongoing	EHC	EHC	-			
1.10	Carry out enhanced amenity mowing of new areas at Northern Parkland.	E2	Monthly	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget		5	
1.11	Review Year 1 actions.		March 2025	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			

Task Responsibility

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

Legend

- Red outline: Site Boundary
- Light green: Grass path
- Dark grey: Surfaced path
- Light green: Amenity grass
- Red: Enhanced Amenity
- Orange: Conservation grass- new
- Yellow: Conservation grass
- Magenta: Wildflower seeding
- Light blue: Ditch
- Green tree icon: Orchard
- Pink: Play area
- Green cross-hatch: Scrub
- Dark green: Woodland
- Blue star: Bylaw board
- Blue circle: Interpretation panel
- Pink square: Bench
- Orange triangle: Bridge
- Red circle: Dog bin
- Yellow circle: Litter bin
- Red X: Pedestrian acces
- Yellow star: Vehicle gate
- Green tree icon: Individual tree

Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan 2024-29 Year 1 Actions

Other Actions

Carry out standard tree planting

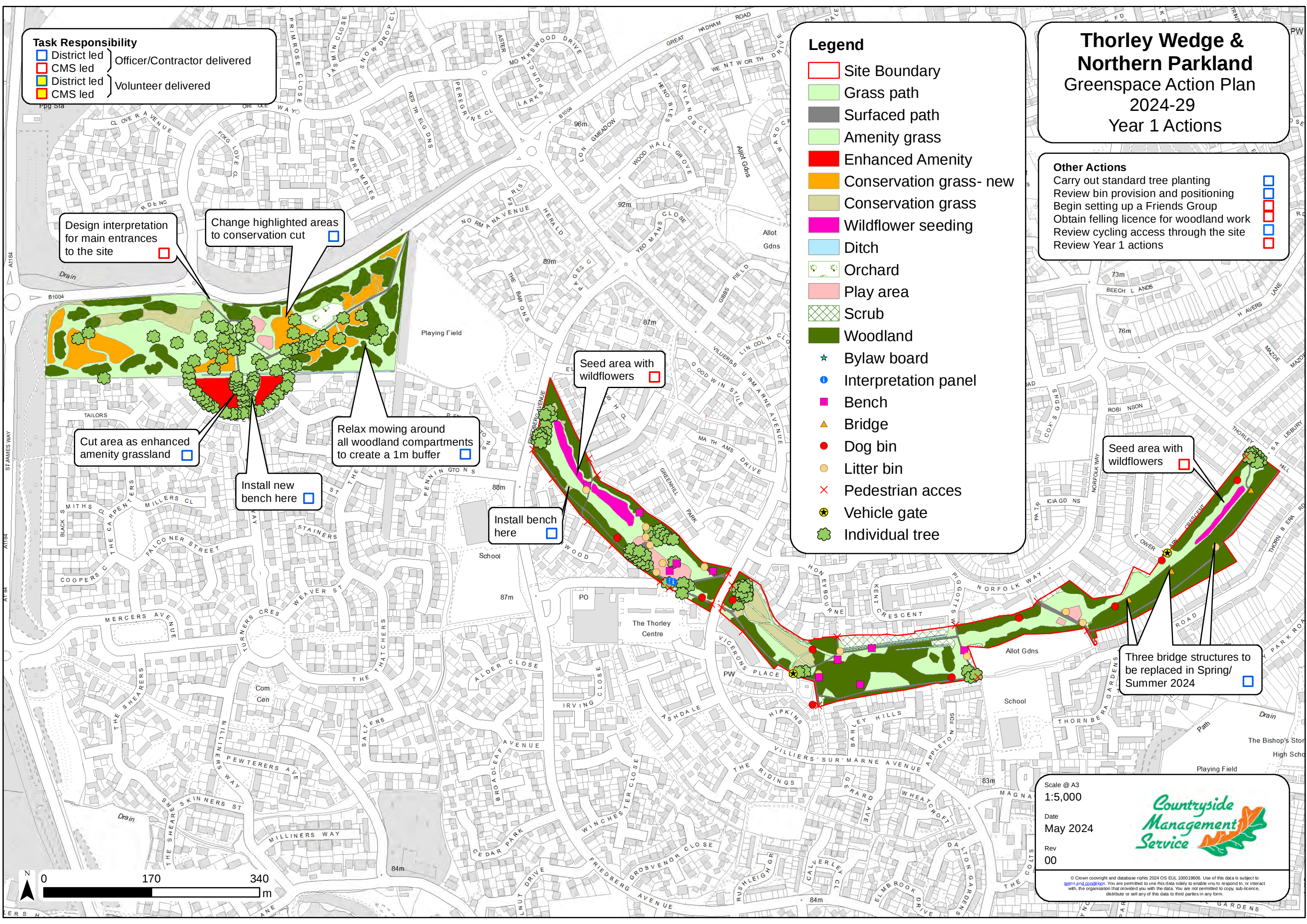
Review bin provision and positioning

Begin setting up a Friends Group

Obtain felling licence for woodland work

Review cycling access through the site

Review Year 1 actions



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5.3 YEAR 2 ACTIONS 2025-26

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.01	Installation of interpretation (including notice boards) and signage	A1 G1	Sept	CMS	Vols	Volunteer		7	
2.02	Carry out thinning works at Thorley Wedge according to the felling licence.	E3	Nov - Feb	CMS	Con	External		6	
2.03	Coppicing of hazel in woodland compartments in Northern Parkland.	E1 E3	Nov - Feb	CMS/ Friends	Vols/ Friends	Volunteer		6	
2.04	Installation of new benches as required.	C3	Ongoing	EHC	Con	Internal			
2.05	Replacement of bins as required.	C2	Ongoing	EHC	Con	Internal			
2.06	Manage wildflower seeded areas according to specification mowing regularly in the first year of management.	E1 E2	Monthly	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget		4	
2.07	Carry put standard tree planting and maintenance	E1 D2	Nov - Jan	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget		2	
2.08	Continue work to set up and support the Friends Group	F1 F2 F3	Ongoing	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			
2.09	Carry out maintenance of the hedge boundary including coppicing and gapping up	E1 D2	Nov - Jan	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget			
2.10	Review Year 2 actions.		March 2026	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			

Task Responsibility

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

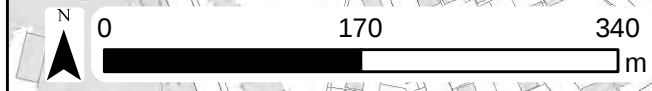
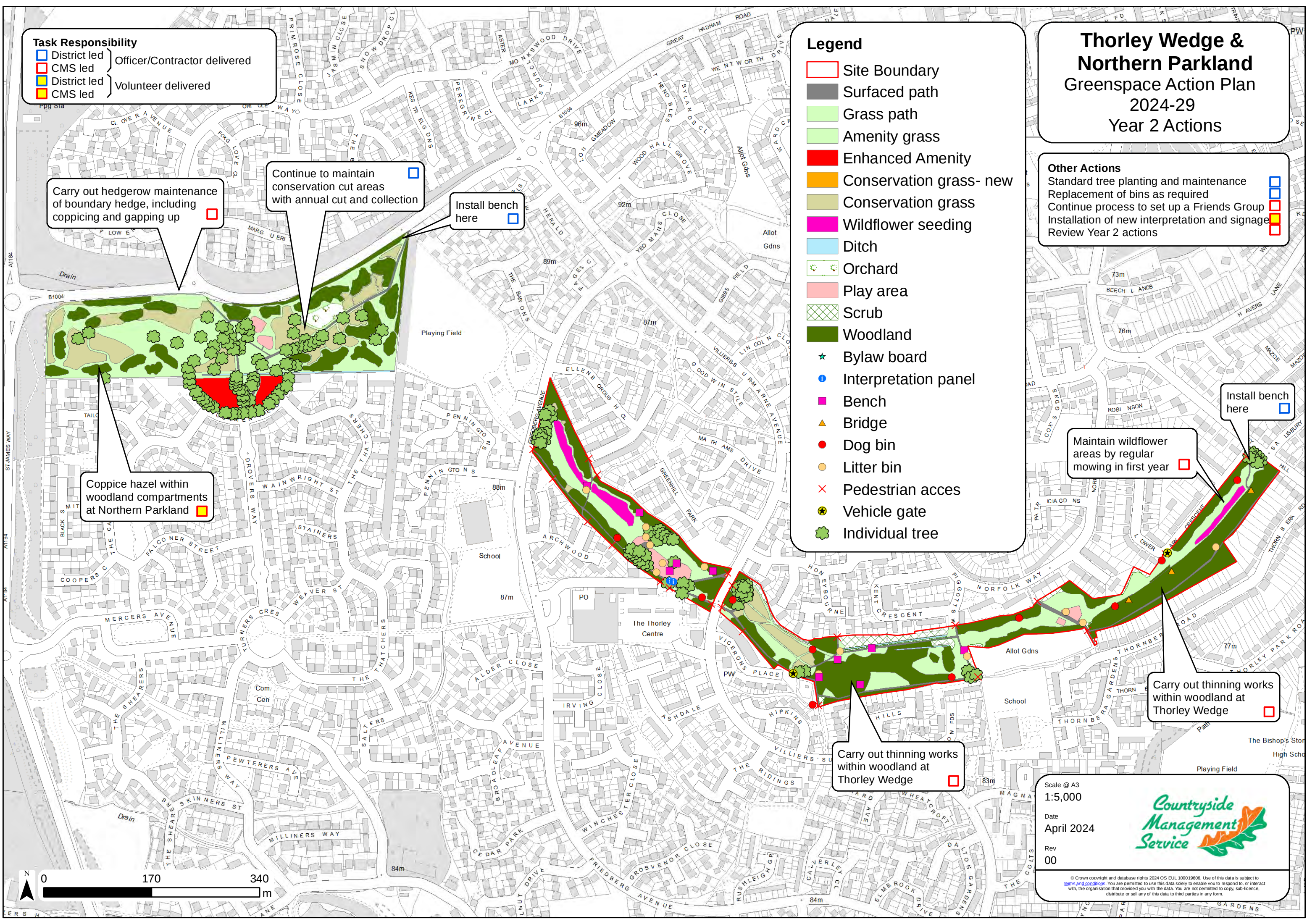
Legend

- Red outline: Site Boundary
- Grey line: Surfaced path
- Light green: Grass path
- Light green: Amenity grass
- Red: Enhanced Amenity
- Orange: Conservation grass- new
- Yellow: Conservation grass
- Pink: Wildflower seeding
- Blue line: Ditch
- Green tree icon: Orchard
- Pink: Play area
- Green cross-hatch: Scrub
- Dark green: Woodland
- Blue star: Bylaw board
- Blue circle: Interpretation panel
- Pink square: Bench
- Orange triangle: Bridge
- Red circle: Dog bin
- Yellow circle: Litter bin
- Red X: Pedestrian acces
- Yellow star: Vehicle gate
- Green tree icon: Individual tree

Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan 2024-29 Year 2 Actions

Other Actions

Blue square	Standard tree planting and maintenance
Red square	Replacement of bins as required
Yellow square	Continue process to set up a Friends Group
Orange square	Installation of new interpretation and signage
Red square	Review Year 2 actions



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5.4 YEAR 3-5 ACTIONS 2026-29

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
3.01	Coppicing of hazel in woodland compartments in Northern Parkland in year 3 if this GAP.	E3 F3 G1	Nov - Feb	CMS/ Friends	Vols/ Friends	Volunteer		6	
3.02	Coppicing of hazel in woodland compartments in Northern Parkland in year 4 if this GAP.	E3 F3 G1	Nov - Feb	CMS/ Friends	Vols/ Friends	Volunteer		6	
3.03	Maintain standard trees planted previously.	E1	Ongoing	EHC	GGMS	GM Budget		2	
3.04	Change mowing regime of areas seeded with wildflowers to an annual cut and collection in year 3 of this GAP	E2	Aug	EHC	Con	GM Budget		3	
3.05	Additional seed to be added to seeded wildflower areas if required in year 4 of this GAP	E2	Oct	CMS	Con	GM Budget		4	
3.06	Review Enhanced Amenity area in year 3 and add wildflower seed to the area if it is required using the spec set out below.	E2	Oct	CMS	Con	GM Budget		5	
3.07	Review Year 3 actions.		March 2027	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			
3.08	Review Year 4 actions.		March 2028	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			
3.09	Review Year 5 action and write new GAP.		March 2029	CMS	CMS/EHC	-			

Task Responsibility

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

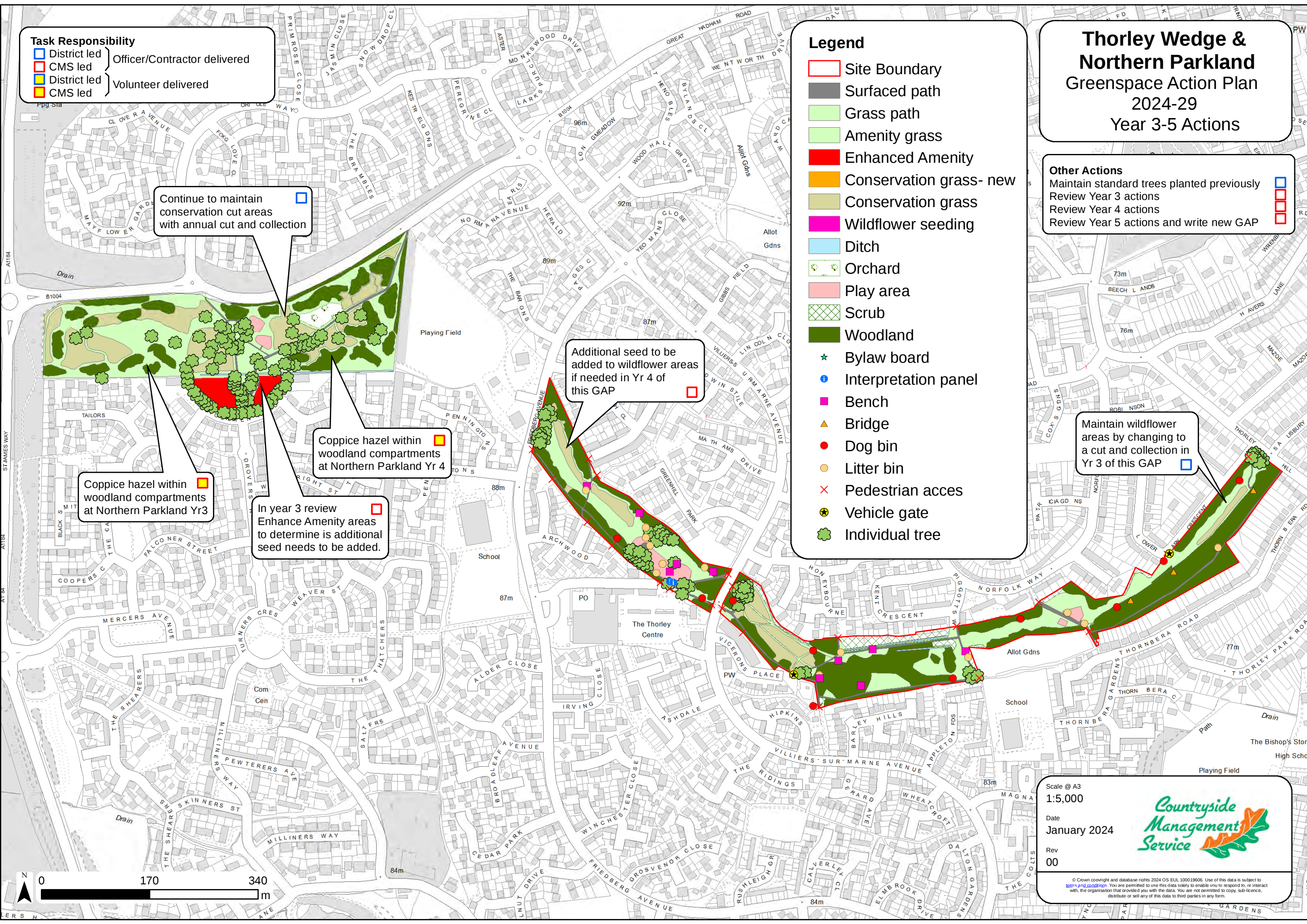
Thorley Wedge & Northern Parkland Greenspace Action Plan 2024-29 Year 3-5 Actions

Other Actions

Maintain standard trees planted previously	Blue square
Review Year 3 actions	Red square
Review Year 4 actions	Yellow square
Review Year 5 actions and write new GAP	Orange square

Legend

- Red outline: Site Boundary
- Grey: Surfaced path
- Light green: Grass path
- Light green: Amenity grass
- Red: Enhanced Amenity
- Orange: Conservation grass- new
- Yellow: Conservation grass
- Pink: Wildflower seeding
- Light blue: Ditch
- Green tree icon: Orchard
- Pink: Play area
- Green cross-hatch: Scrub
- Dark green: Woodland
- Star icon: Bylaw board
- Blue circle icon: Interpretation panel
- Pink square: Bench
- Yellow triangle: Bridge
- Red circle: Dog bin
- Orange circle: Litter bin
- Red X: Pedestrian acces
- Yellow star icon: Vehicle gate
- Green tree icon: Individual tree



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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

1) Tree procurement

- 'Tree stock for native woodland planting must be UK grown from seed, of British provenance, and must conform to BS 3936 (where applicable)
- As far as possible, trees should be from the local UK Provenance Zone 402 and from an Elevation Zone below 300m (Zones 405 & 406 are acceptable alternatives)
- As part of the procurement process, nurseries must be required to:
 1. Provide a current FC 'Certificate of Local Provenance';
 2. Provide documented confirmation of seed source;
 3. Provide assurance of UK propagation through accreditation under the Woodland Trust's 'UK Sourced and Grown Scheme' (UKSG) or equivalent demonstrable evidence;
 4. Demonstrate, as far as possible, that trees are pest and disease free.
 5. Permit inspection of growing area, and tree stock, prior to purchase;
- Following procurement, an audit trail of trees must be maintained by the purchaser, allowing planted trees to be traced back to the nursery source and tree batch'.

2) Tree Planting

- General:
 1. Dig a hole larger than the tree's root ball, lifting out turf and putting to one side. Loosen soil in sides and bottom of hole to improve rooting
 2. Hold tree vertically in centre of hole, root collar at ground level. Replace good topsoil and additional composted material as appropriate, and shake tree gently to disperse soil around roots, preventing air pockets
 3. Firm the soil once roots are uncovered, backfill remaining soil and replace square of turf by first cutting in two, then placing upside down around tree.
 4. Apply layer of mulch (well composted wood chip or similar), 10cm deep, radius 50cm, ensuring mulch is not piled up around stem of tree.

3) Conservation Grassland

- Annual cutting and collection of areas classed as conservation grassland:
 1. All areas mapped as on action plan maps and mowing plan.
 2. Cut and lift during August or July (if drought conditions are present).

4) Wildflower seeding

- Wildflower seeding of amenity grassland areas to take place in October
 1. All areas mapped as on action plan maps
 2. The ground will be prepared for seeding through scarification (60% to 70% bare ground).

3. Seed to be scattered on the bare ground. Seed mixes to be 100% wildflowers for example:

NF1 – General Purpose Mix Flowers Only (100% wildflowers)

[N1F General Purpose Mix Flowers Only | Naturescape Wildflower Farm](#)

EM2F – Standard General Purpose Wild Flowers (100% wildflowers)

[Standard General Purpose Wild Flowers EM2F - Emorsgate Seeds \(wildseed.co.uk\)](#)

4. The area is to then be rolled to firm seeds.
5. First year – Management to be regular mowing every 2 week to control annual weed growth.
6. Second year (onwards) – Include in cut & lift management

5) Enhanced Amenity

- Enhanced amenity can usually be achieved using the same machinery as general amenity cut.
 1. Raise the cutting height to a minimum of 50mm.
 2. Whilst also reducing the cutting frequency to once a month or once every 2 months.
 3. If adding seed, use the same ground preparation as for 'wildflower meadow creation', but use a seed mix of low-growing species, either a custom mix or an existing available mix e.g.:

Emorsgate Seeds EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture

[EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture | General purpose meadow mixtures | Meadow and Grassland Emorsgate Seeds – \(01553\) 829 028 \(wildseed.co.uk\)](#)

N14 – Flowering Lawn Mixture

[N14 Flowering Lawn Mixture | UK Delivery | Naturescape](#)

6) Woodland Management

- Thorley Wedge Thinning works:
 1. Remove majority of poorly formed/suppressed, breaking up uniformed grid structure.
 2. Sequence (years 1 – 5) has been based on intensity/timing of previous interventions and consideration of growth rates within stands.
 3. Majority of works to be carried out by a contractor, with some possible small scale volunteer works.
 4. Extract any decent logs, if possible, market to local merchants. Retain 30% of this as deadwood habitat.
 5. Smaller material to be chipped and used as required to top-up woodland or to chip pile to rot down to use as mulch.
 6. Brash – stack as habitat piles under woodland canopy where appropriate.

- Coppicing of Hazel in Northern Parkland:
 1. Coppice native broadleaved species, cutting on an angle above the stub to allow water to run off. Stubs should be cut on good cambium above the previous cut.
 2. The brash then can be used to make deer baskets to protect each stub from the pressures of deer browsing.
 3. Hazel chosen for coppicing has been coppiced previously within each of the woodland compartments.
 4. Larger diameter timber extracted if possible is to be sold.

7) Interpretation and signage

- New onsite interpretation to be developed along with new entrance signage.
 1. Produce new interpretation for the main entrances to the site to be based on existing East Herts signage designs from Hartham Common.
 2. To be map based interpretation.
 3. Two proof stages to be provided of full colour design, one being in hard copy prior to production.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A

7.1 Additional OPM guidance

7.1.1 Section A: Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) reported and/or confirmed

If a potential OPM sighting is identified on site, either through the course of regular inspections, maintenance activities or reported by a third party or member of the public, the following actions will be taken within the first 48 hours:

1. The exact location will be recorded and photographs of observable caterpillars, nests and webbing will be obtained and [sent to the Forestry Commission \(FC\)](#) for official identification.
2. [Notices](#) will be posted at prominent access points and close to the location of the sighting to alert people accessing the site to the possible presence of OPM.
3. Relevant partners will be informed to ensure that activities are conducted safely or cancelled where necessary.
4. The specific location of the sighting will be assessed with consideration to which OPM management zone the site is in (either the Buffer Zone or the Established Zone) and you can check here to find out [OPM2023_FinalZones.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) Within the buffer zone there is an annual programme of control, and in most cases support for treatment of OPM is available from FC. Within the established zone it is the landowners responsibility to manage OPM on their land.
5. If OPM is identified within close proximity to areas assessed as posing a high risk of public contact then additional precautions such as additional signage or temporary fencing will be taken to reduce the risk of public contact with OPM caterpillars and nests.

If OPM is confirmed on site by the FC – either a) following submission of photos from a suspected sighting to the FC or b) through the FC issuing a statutory plant health notice following OPM identification as part of the FC's monitoring programme – then appropriate control measures will be determined within five working days of the FC's confirmed identification.

7.1.2 Section B: Initial OPM control measures

While this document outlines the intended process for OPM control this may be adjusted in line with additional instructions included in the statutory plant health notice issued by the FC.

The OPM infestation will be assessed using the following criteria:

- If the infestation is found in areas where limited insecticide spraying is considered acceptable and is discovered in time to complete spraying before caterpillar development renders it resistant to the insecticide (late-May), then

spraying represents the best control to limit further advancement of the population.

- If the infestation is found in areas where limited insecticide spraying is considered acceptable but is discovered after caterpillar development renders it resistant to the insecticide (late-May), then spraying in the current season does not represent a viable control to limit further advancement of the population. In this case nest removal should be conducted if a) the infestation is discovered prior to moth emergence (late-July to mid-August), or b) if nests are in close proximity to high risk areas. Insecticide spraying should then be conducted within acceptable areas the following season.

Following assessment, if spraying in the current season or nest removal is appropriate then a suitably qualified and experienced arborist will be instructed to take appropriate action as soon as possible (typically within five working days). Arborists will be required to conduct insecticide spraying, nest removals and waste disposal in line with FC guidance as set out in [chapter 6](#) and [chapter 7](#) of the OPM Manual.

7.1.3 Section C: Subsequent OPM control measures

Based on current FC policy and practice, sites of OPM infestations within the 'control zone' (encompassing the entire county of Hertfordshire) are typically included in the FC's inspection and insecticide spraying programme for two seasons following the initial discovery. The FC informs landowners that are to be included in this programme by February of each year. The FC will be contacted (if no communication has been received) by late-February in the two seasons following the initial discovery to confirm whether the site is to be included in the programme. If the site is not included in the FC's programme then a suitably qualified and experienced arborist will be engaged to conduct insecticide spraying following caterpillar emergence.

Whether insecticide spraying is conducted by the FC or by an appointed arborist the contractors will be required to operate in accordance with FC guidance (outlined above).

Appendix B

7.2 Species record

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group	Earliest Record	Latest Record	Number of Records	European	UK Legal	NERC	BAP2007	IUCN	Scarce/Rare	Berne/Bonn	Birds/Dir	Local Status	WCA9	Status Designations
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Reptiles	1999	1999	1		x	x	x							WCA5/9.1k/l; Sect.41; UKBAP
Raglius alboacuminatus	<i>Raglius alboacuminatus</i>	Invertebrates - True Bugs (Hemiptera)	2020	2020	1						x					Nb
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2013	2013	1									x		Herts Wide Decl (B)
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Terrestrial Mammals (excl. Bats)	2015	2015	2										x	WCA9
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1											
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	2											
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1											
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1											

Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1										
Sweet-Grass	<i>Glyceria</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1										
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1985	1985	1										
Ischnus inquisitorius	<i>Ischnus inquisitorius</i>	Invertebrates - Ants, Bees, Sawflies and Wasps (Hymenoptera)	2020	2021	2										
10-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia decempunctata</i>	Invertebrates - Beetles (Coleoptera)	2018	2018	2										
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2011	2020	8										
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2019	12										
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2009	2011	2										
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines britannica</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2019	2019	1										
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2012	2020	2										
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2009	2011	2										
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus britanna</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2016	2016	1										

Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2013	4										
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni rhamni</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2016	2019	3										
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2011	4										
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2019	6										
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2020	15										
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2020	8										
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2008	2013	3										
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2013	2020	4										
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2009	2019	3										
Aceria hippophaena	<i>Aceria hippophaena</i>	Invertebrates - Ticks and Mites (Acari)	2016	2016	1										
Rhyparochromus vulgaris	<i>Rhyparochromus vulgaris</i>	Invertebrates - True Bugs (Hemiptera)	2019	2019	1										
Dark-edged Bee-fly	<i>Bombylius major</i>	Invertebrates - True Flies (Diptera)	2020	2020	1										