



# **POST WOOD AND PRESDALES RECREATION GROUND**

## **GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN**

2026 – 2031



## OVERVIEW

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### 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 February 2025, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement enables stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

### Version Control

| Version | Issue Date | Details                    | Author | Reviewed | Approved |
|---------|------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| v0      | 29.06.26   | Draft issue for engagement | FD     | GA       | AT       |
|         |            |                            |        |          |          |
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## 1.0 SUMMARY

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### 1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Post Wood and Presdales Recreation Ground

Site Address: Walnut Tree Walk  
Ware  
SG12 9PD

Grid Reference: TL 361161 (centralised)

Size: 19 hectares (Post Wood: 11.5ha; Presdales: 7.5ha)

Designations: Local Wildlife Site (60/021)  
Metropolitan Green Belt

Owner: East Herts District Council

### 1.2 Vision Statement

Post Wood and Presdales Recreation Ground are attractive and popular greenspaces, where high standards of management reflect the value of these sites to wildlife and the local community. Its status as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and Local Wildlife Site (LWS) result in the conservation of Post Wood's habitats being central to its future management.

High quality and durable footpaths provide year-round access around Post Wood's circular walking trails. Characterised with board walks, steps, and benches, these walking routes help to improve accessibility to the woodland, opening the benefits of being in nature up to a range of different users.

The ancient semi-natural woodland habitat of Post Wood will be managed using traditional and best practice techniques that promote regeneration, protect mature and veteran trees, and remove threats to woodland health. Further habitats associated with the woodland, including glades, rides, boundary hedgerows, and connected linear woodlands will be enhanced to increase their conservation value.

Presdales Recreation Ground, with a main focus on recreation, will continue to provide a vital space for a range of activities, such as football, exercise, and dog walking.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Introduction

Post Wood is an oak-hornbeam ancient woodland on the outskirts of Ware, Hertfordshire. It is adjoined by Presdales Recreation Ground, a popular open space surrounded by tree-lined boundaries. The sites are owned and managed by East Herts Council.

As an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), **Post Wood** has been in existence since before the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Tree species reminiscent of its ancient heritage are mature oak and hornbeam, with hazel, crab apple and rowan in the understorey; more recent species additions include sweet chestnut and sycamore. Many of the hornbeam trees were coppiced historically, prolonging their life and creating the gnarly forms that exist today.

The ground flora contains remnants of ancient woodland habitat, including butchers' broom, wood anemone and yellow archangel, whilst tracts of bluebells are a highlight each spring. Overall, however, the diversity of woodland plants is low for an ancient woodland, and regeneration of native shrubs and trees is poor.

**Presdales** provides a large area of open space which is used for a range of recreational activities, including football, exercise groups and dog walking. With recreation being its main function, there is not a requirement to alter management of the grassland, but to ensure it is maintained as valuable open space for the community. The boundaries of Presdales are marked with mature hedgerows and linear woodland, providing landscape connectivity for woodland habitats and creating attractive views across the field.

The only public Right of Way on the site is the tree-lined bridleway Walnut Tree Walk, which runs along the southern boundary of Presdales. A network of permissive footpaths throughout Post Wood provides good coverage of the woodland. A project was undertaken in early 2018 to resurface the footpath of the circular loop, aiming to facilitate access for less able visitors, reduce path deterioration during winter months, and reduce visitor footfall off the footpaths which is resulting in soil compaction.

Situated within the catchment of Ware, the woodland and recreation ground are popular sites for the local community. Owing to the value and scarcity of ancient woodlands, management of Post Wood for conservation is a high priority to ensure it is a protected and thriving habitat into the future.

# Post Wood Greenspace Action Plan Location Plan

**Post Wood**  
Grid Ref: TL361130  
Easting: 536150  
Northing: 213088

Scale @ A3  
1:25,000  
Date:  
Dec 2024  
Rev  
PW-GAP-001



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# Post Wood Greenspace Action Plan Constraints Plan

## Legend

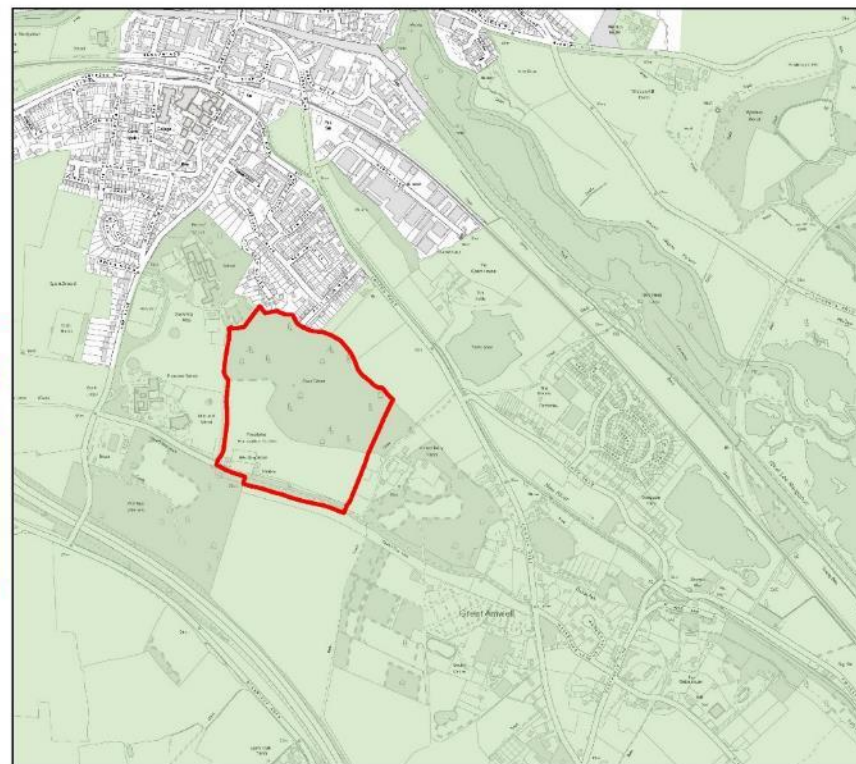
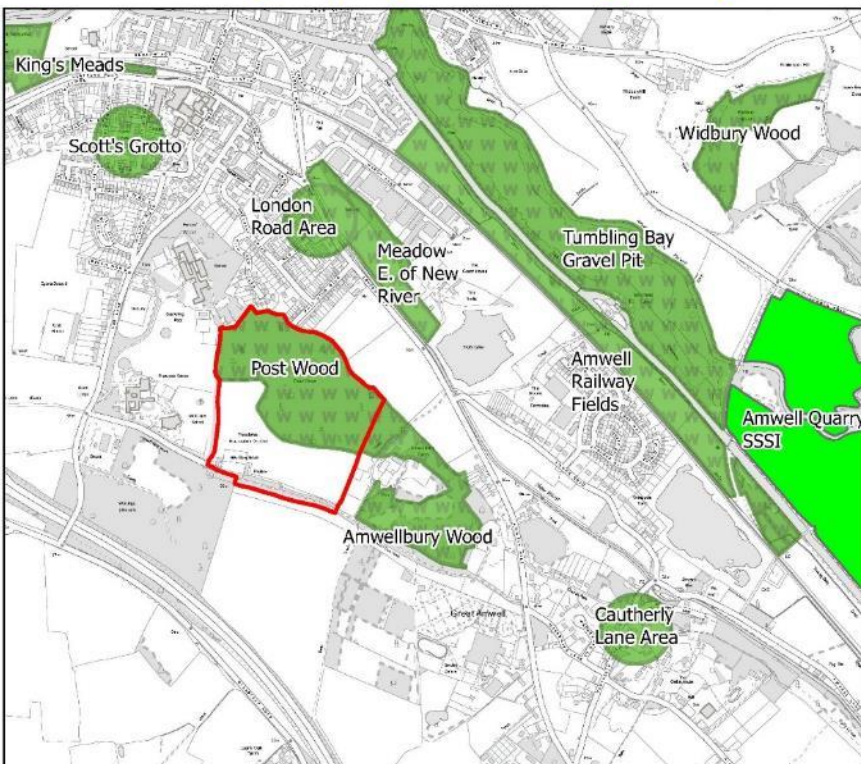
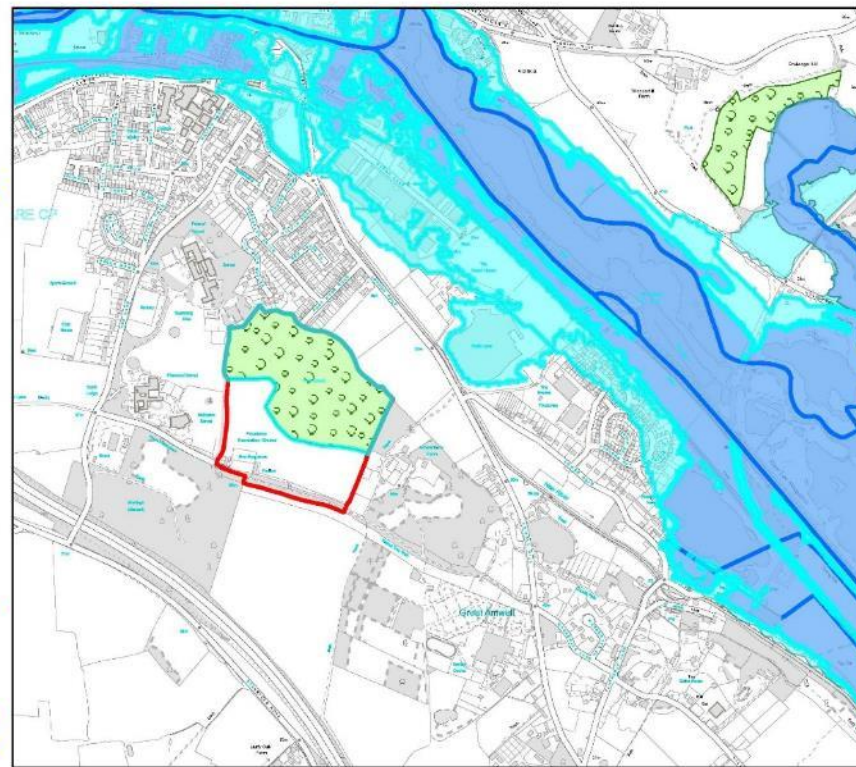
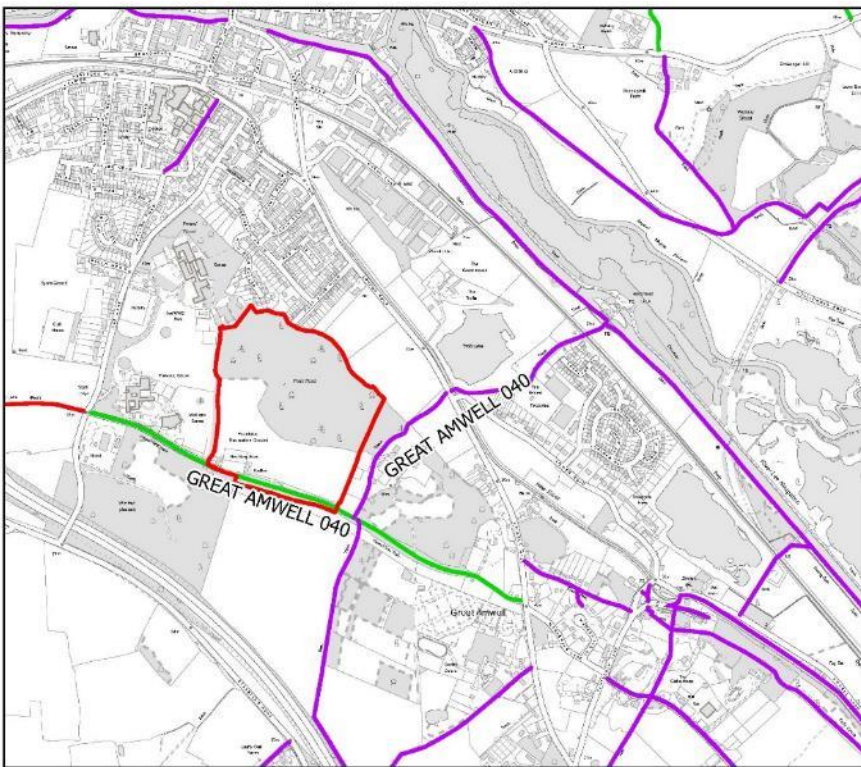
- Site Area
- Restricted Byway
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Main River
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- RAMSAR
- SPA
- SSSI
- Wildlife Site
- Greenbelt - November 2016



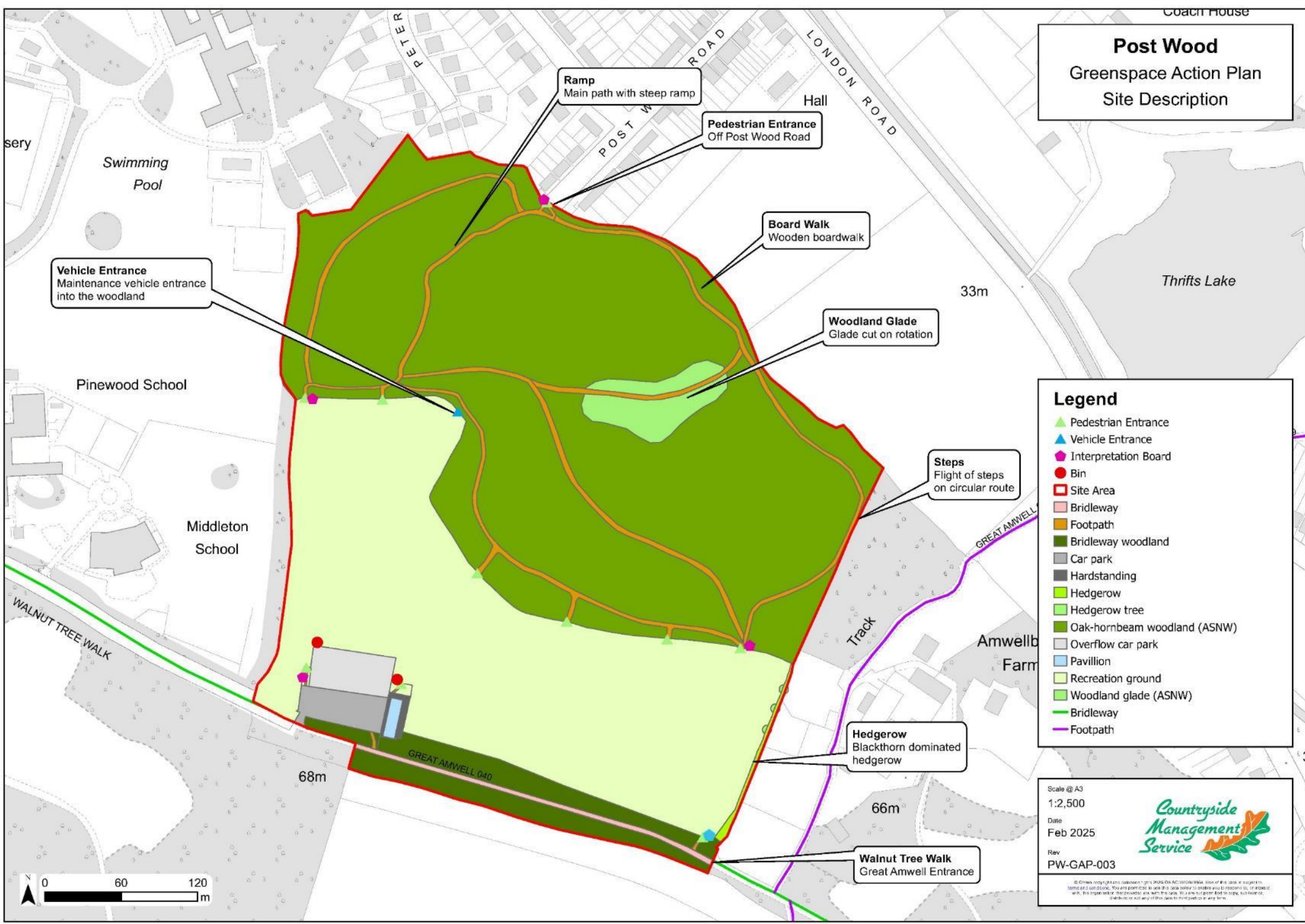
Scale @ A3  
1:15,000  
Date  
Feb 2025  
Rev  
PW-GAP-002



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**Post Wood**  
Greenspace Action Plan  
Site Description



### Legend

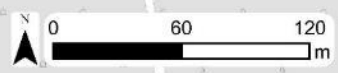
-  Pedestrian Entrance
-  Vehicle Entrance
-  Interpretation Board
-  Bin
-  Site Area
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway woodland
-  Car park
-  Hardstanding
-  Hedgerow
-  Hedgerow tree
-  Oak-hornbeam woodland (ASNW)
-  Overflow car park
-  Pavillion
-  Recreation ground
-  Woodland glade (ASNW)
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath

Scale @ A3

1:2,500

Date  
Feb 2025Rev  
PW-GAP-003

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## **2.2 Site Designations**

The woodland is situated within the Metropolitan Green Belt and is classified as an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Post Wood is also designated as Local Wildlife Site (60/021).

## **2.3 Landscape Character**

The site is at the western extent of the east of England claylands, a geological landscape of chalky boulder clays interspersed with gravel deposits in meandering river valleys. Post Wood sits on a reasonably steep slope of the River Lea valley, an area characterised by undulating ground with scattered lowland meadows and mixed farming. Ancient woodlands are a notable feature in the local landscape and a conservation priority for the region. Whilst local towns are relatively small, the transport network is a dominant feature, and urban development and population growth provides increasing pressure on both infrastructure and wildlife habitats.

A significant proportion of open grassland and heathland habitats in the area have been lost or influenced by urban development and intensive farming during the last century; Presdales is an example of the fate of much of the urban-fringe grasslands in the area, having been adopted as a recreational greenspace.

## **2.4 History and Archaeology**

Following the end of the last glacial period, the majority of Britain became covered with vast tracts of broadleaved woodland, akin to a wild-wood. In south-east Britain, whilst some localised clearance was likely to have been undertaken by early civilisations, it has been during more recent centuries that the forested landscape has been drastically altered in favour of farmland and timber production. Post Wood, along with other isolated ancient woodlands in the landscape, is a remnant of the former forests which stretched across much of the country.

Early records from the late medieval era of landownership in the area around Post Wood describe the local parishes as a mosaic of grazed and arable farmland amongst 'a 500 acre woodland'. Thereafter, into the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries, estates and manor houses were appearing in the landscape which would have maintained local woodland as hunting parkland.

Through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, continued industrialisation and population growth resulted in much of Britain's remaining woodlands being turned over to agriculture and/ or commercial production; these supplied industries including ship-building, iron and steel production, and railroads. Species including oak, hornbeam, elm and hazel were favoured to provide the highest quality materials, with other native species such as lime and birch removed from many woodlands; the respective favouring and removal of these species is reflected in the composition of Post Wood seen today.

## **2.5 Habitats and Wildlife**

### **2.5.1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)**

Climate, soils and historical management have influenced the species make-up of most UK woodlands, including ASNW. Post Wood is predominantly an oak-hornbeam woodland with the canopy mainly comprised of mature hornbeam and oak standards. Sweet chestnut, ash, Norway maple, wild cherry and sycamore are occasionally distributed in small patches, where they have been planted or set seed.

Trees in the sub-canopy include smaller specimens of the canopy species plus rowan, elm and birch, although these have infrequent distribution.

The understorey is generally sparse owing to the densely shaded hornbeam canopy, which limits the light that is required to trigger and sustain sapling growth. Human footfall and squirrel foraging is also likely to be having an impact on growth and the provision of seeds respectively. Sycamore has become locally abundant in patches of the woodland, whereas native hazel, crab apple, hawthorn, and elder are less frequent. Holly has become abundant within some areas of the woodland, and is overpowering other species, this must be controlled so as to avoid it overtaking the woodland. Non-native cherry laurel has encroached into the woodland and should be removed as a priority. Snowberry has also been noted in one area of the woodland and is subject to efforts for eradication.

Under the dense canopy, large areas of bluebells emerge each spring. Further ASNW indicator species in Post Wood include wood anemone, honeysuckle, common box, enchanter's nightshade, wood sage, common figwort, wood sorrel and butchers broom. Yellow archangel and dog's mercury are also present although infrequent. In small openings in the canopy where light reaches the floor, bramble, bracken and nettles become locally dominant; whilst beneficial for some fauna, this coarse vegetation can limit tree and wildflower regeneration.

### **2.5.2 Mammal Browsing and Tree Health**

Damage to trees through bark stripping and browsing of seeds, notably of oak and hornbeam, is being caused by the abundant population of grey squirrels in the woodland. No evidence of browsing by deer has been recorded to date, although muntjac are occasionally seen in Post Wood, and their impact on sapling growth cannot be ruled out.

As an enclosed and sheltered woodland, tree health issues have not been recorded to date, although there are initial signs of dieback in ash trees at the western end of the woodland. With its proximity to the established zone for oak processionary moth (OPM), the chances of OPM reaching the area are high, and monitoring for tree health issues should be a priority for the woodland in order to protect tree stock and site visitors.

### **2.5.3 Glade**

The sheltered glade on the northern side of the woodland offers valuable opportunities for open habitat plants and invertebrates. The ground here becomes dominated each year by strong annual growth of bracken, bramble, willowherb, nettles and red campion. Himalayan balsam is an issue in the glade, spreading from the top of the glade, and is a priority for control.

The glade habitat could be enhanced to provide opportunities for a wider diversity of open ground plants, in-turn providing habitat for a broader food web. A key focus should be on removing Himalayan balsam and reducing dominance of tall annual vegetation. Small-scale brash scrapes could be undertaken to trial exposing the underlying seedbed, aiming to trigger germination of plants within the soil.

### **2.5.4 Connecting hedgerows and linear woodland**

The linear woodland along Walnut Tree Walk bridleway contains tall lime and oak trees, with a patchy understorey of ash, elder, elm, birch and shrub species. A redundant chain link fence was removed in 2018 to open up the route and facilitate future woodland management.

The mix of species is highly valuable to invertebrates, and in particular the presence of elm owing to its scarcity in the landscape. To enhance the habitat and views from the bridleway across Presdales, and to allow ground flora to develop, a scalloped woodland edge and short gaps will be maintained in the vegetation. Appropriate planting of fruit-rich species and replacement lime would enhance the habitat.

The hedgerow along the eastern boundary of Presdales is predominantly blackthorn with three mature hedgerow trees. This forms a dense shrubby screen for the neighbouring property. The hedgerow could be enhanced by addition of different native shrub species in any gaps, and hedgelaying to improve its role as a hedgerow. Protecting the mature trees and planting of further standards, particularly oak, lime and field maple, would also enhance future habitat and landscape value of this boundary. The western boundary of linear woodland is outside of the ownership of East Herts Council.

### **2.5.5 Amenity grassland**

Presdales is a large recreational open space, and its upkeep as amenity grassland will be maintained for public access. Pitches are mown regularly year-round, it is important that pitches are 'set-aside' in rotation each year, to allow grass to recover.

To improve safety, capping of holes when football goals have been removed should be carried out.

## 2.6 Species

A brief overview of species records for Post Wood exists as follows. Whilst providing an overview of the biodiversity on site, the lack of targeted recording means the species record is incomplete, notably for taxa such as moths:

| Taxonomic group | Species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Butterflies     | Peacock, brimstone, large white, green-veined white, orange-tip, holly blue, purple hairstreak, comma, red admiral, meadow brown, speckled wood, gatekeeper.<br><br>Nearby relevant records: White-letter hairstreak, white admiral, purple emperor, silver-washed fritillary                                                                                    |
| Birds           | Woodland/ parkland specialists: Nuthatch, treecreeper, great-spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, jay, goldcrest, brambling, bullfinch, mistle thrush<br><br>Generalist species: Blue tit, great tit, coal tit, long-tailed tit, wren, dunnock, robin, blackbird, song thrush, collared dove, feral pigeon<br><br>Birds of prey: Red kite, buzzard, sparrowhawk |
| Mammals         | Bats: Soprano pipistrelle, noctule, serotine, brown long-eared, barbastelle<br><br>Ground: European badger, red fox, hedgehog, rabbit<br><br>Non-native species: Grey squirrel, muntjac deer (pers. Comms.)                                                                                                                                                      |
| Ground flora:   | Bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, wood avens, wild clematis, dog's mercury, red currant, common box, honeysuckle, wood sage, wood anemone, butcher's broom, common figwort, wood sorrel                                                                                                                                                                          |

## 2.7 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

There is a good network of footpaths around the site, offering a choice of walks, served by three access points: Post Wood Road, and the ends of Walnut Tree Walk bridleway. Part of the footpath network was resurfaced in 2018 to improve the durability of the most commonly used paths; these improvements also aim to provide circular trails which are accessible throughout the year, reducing the need to walk off-path to bypass muddy sections which is impacting soil conditions.

There is an area of boardwalk in a section of wetter woodland to the north of the site which is in good condition and is monitored regularly for any signs of disrepair.

The information and waymarking on-site was replaced during the previous GAP and are still in good condition. These provide a range of routes around the site as well as information about the history of the site and the flora and fauna.

The car park receives moderate and almost constant use throughout the week, and is heavily used at peak times for football and dog walking, particularly at weekends. The surface of the main car park is in considerable need of repair and improvement.

Litter bins and benches are numerous around the site, particularly in the playing field, and are in good condition.

## **2.8 Community and Events**

The site is popular throughout the week for exercise and dog walking; the latter is the most commonly observed activity on site, and a community has been established amongst dog walkers who use the site.

The car park and recreation ground are busiest when football matches are on, typically at weekends, when the full extent of the overflow car park is required.

Wider community groups use Post Wood including Great Amwell Scout Group, local fitness groups, walking associations and naturalists. All identified stakeholders are invited to engage in the production of this plan to assess and incorporate their requirements into future management; further unidentified stakeholders are hoped to be picked up as part of the engagement process.

Despite being well-used and valued by the local community, few organised events take place at the site.

## **2.9 Site Management**

The site is maintained by East Herts Council (EHC). General maintenance tasks are carried out by the EHC grounds maintenance contract, and this is managed by EHC. The Countryside Management Service (CMS) work in partnership with EHC to help manage the site. CMS produce the Greenspace Action Plan for the site, as well as procuring and contract managing any works to be completed on site. The CMS volunteers also help with some of the maintenance on site, in particular scrub removal and invasive non-native species (INNS) work.

## 3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

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### 3.1 A Welcoming Place

#### 3.1.1 Access



*Figure 1 Footpath surface*

The footpath network contains a range of surfaced and informal paths. The main paths were resurfaced in 2018 and continue to be maintained to ensure the provision of an even, free-draining surface. Secondary paths, including through the glade and around the western loop, will continue as unsurfaced tracks; should the condition of these deteriorate, spot repairs and longer-term solutions should be considered.



*Figure 2 Waymarking post*

Two circular walking loops around the woodland are promoted on the interpretation boards. Visitors should be encouraged to stick to the formal and informal footpaths to

reduce any additional impact on the ground flora, in particular the bluebells which come up each spring.



*Figure 3 Fence around the boundary between Post Wood and Presdales*

Fencing and gates around the boundary between Post Wood and the Presdales recreation ground are kept in good repair for visitor access and to maintain the barrier against rabbits entering the recreation ground. Four kissing gates joining Post Wood to Presdales were upgraded in 2018 to improve access for visitors, these are in good condition and their condition will continue to be monitored.



*Figure 4 Gate into the wood*

Vegetation maintenance should be completed to ensure encroaching vegetation stays away from the path network, and any reports of blockages over the routes should be dealt with appropriately.

### **3.1.2 Signage and Interpretation**

New signage and interpretation were installed in 2018. These highlight the formal walking routes around the site, as well as giving details on species that may be found within the woodland. These remain in good condition. Continued monitoring of the condition of these will be carried out, and reactive works will be completed in response to any graffiti or other decay in condition.



*Figure 5 Example of the signage on site*

### **3.1.3 Boundary Hedgerows and Fences**

Site boundaries, such as the derelict barbed wire fence along the northern boundary, offer opportunities to be enhanced to improve views, function, and long-term maintenance. Discussions with the neighbouring landowners will be undertaken to agree implementation of the removal and replacement of this fence.



*Figure 6 Barbed wire fence along the northern boundary*

The boundary hedgerows are in decent condition; however, this should be monitored to ensure it remains this way, with the potential for gapping up in the future if required.

### **3.1.4 Car Parking**

Presdales car park is recognised as an area of high usage and is in poor condition. This falls outside the remit of this GAP, however, will be identified to the site owners for attention.



*Figure 7 Car park surface*

## **3.2 Clean and Well Maintained**

### **3.2.1 Maintained Site Furniture**

There are a number of benches around the site in strategic locations. These are all currently in good condition and do not require attention, however, will continue to be monitored for any signs of disrepair.



*Figure 8 Benches on site*

There is also a board walk along the northern boundary and a set of steps along the eastern boundary. These are both also in good condition but will continue to be monitored to ensure their continued safe and effective use.



*Figure 9 Boardwalk*



*Figure 10 Wooden steps*

### **3.2.2 Site Misuse**

There are minimal reports of site misuse, however the byelaws of the site are prominently displayed to help ensure it stays this way. There is the occasional report of dog waste not being picked up, however this seems limited. Engagement with the locals and site users will continue to be undertaken to address any misuse of the site.

### **3.3 Sustainability**

#### ***3.3.1 Sustainable Operations***

To ensure management on site is sustainable, all works will be specified to maximise affordability and durability. Proposed works will be achieved within the available site management budget or funded by external means if required.

### **3.4 Conservation and Heritage**

#### ***3.4.1 Sustainable Woodland Management***

The management set out for this site is in line with the UK Forestry Standard for sustainable woodland management. This will involve creating a more un-even aged structure and, to this end, continuous cover forestry (CCF) will be initiated within those stands with adequate advanced natural regeneration or the potential for this.

This will stabilise the woodland against high winds, reduce fuel-loading, increase vertical structure, and enhance biodiversity. CCF will also help to create trees of better form, as well as diversifying the age-class structure and species diversity, providing longer term sustainability and resilience against the effects of climate change and newly emerging plant health issues.

The management of the woodland will aim to protect and enhance mature tree stock, encourage regeneration of native trees and shrubs, and provide better growing conditions for ground flora. The following traditional best practice approaches will be applied:

- Localised thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees to gradually increase light and space, to promote ground flora growth, and maintain vitality of mature trees.
- Continuation of a coppice cycle for the hazel present within the woodland.
- Selective thinning of mixed species woodland at the western end of the wood, to remove non-native species and tree health risks: restocking will be with native species if required.
- Control Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) as a priority. Notably cherry laurel, snowberry and Himalayan balsam are present on site; where other INNS are recorded, these should be removed.
- Increase chances for regeneration of trees, notably oak, hornbeam, crab apple, rowan and hazel, through removal of limiting factors: lack of light, ground disturbance, and browsing / bark stripping / seed removal by introduced mammals (grey squirrel and muntjac deer) are all likely to be limiting new growth.

- Increase deadwood coverage in the woodland including standing, in-tree and fallen deadwood, in all locations. Where trees are selected for felling and thinning (above), take opportunities for deadwood features and veteranisation.

### ***3.4.2 Invasive Non-Native Species***

There are currently some areas of cherry laurel within the woodland which, if left unmanaged, are at risk of out-competing more desirable species. These will be managed through a programme of eradication via cutting and chemical stump treatment where necessary. The success of these treatments will be monitored, and follow-up treatments will be carried out where required.

There is Himalayan balsam present within the glade, the management of this is detailed in Section 3.4.3 Glade Management.

### ***3.4.3 Holly Management***

In some areas of the woodland, holly has become dominant and requires control. Although holly is a native species, it can overgrow and dominate the woodland. Controlling holly is essential because its dense growth can cast heavy shade, preventing other plants from thriving. In particular, Post Wood is popular for its bluebells each spring which require a dappled sunlight in order to thrive. By managing the holly on a rotation, it results in a balanced ecosystem within the woodland.



*Figure 11 Overgrown holly tree*

#### **3.4.4 Glade Management**

The glade is maintained through routine cutting each year. This is to be continued on a rotation to keep this vital habitat within the woodland. In early March, the entire glades should be cut, with a second cut in October of just half of the glade (which is alternated yearly). An extra cut may be required in May if dominant plants outcompete wildflowers and grasses, arisings are unable to be collected due to the nature of the site.

The management of the glade will aim to reduce the dominance of tall herbaceous plants and thatch layer through cutting and removing vegetation. Bushey edges should be allowed to grow and are cut on a 5-year rotation, allowing ferns and tall herbaceous plants to persist around the perimeter of the glade.



*Figure 12 Glade*

Trail scrapes of the brash layer and topsoil (c. 15cm deep) should be completed to leave a fine tilth to expose the native historic seed base. If successful, this should be replicated in further areas of the glade.

Within the glade the control of Himalayan balsam is a priority, this should be completed through hand-pulling plants before seeding stage each year.

#### **3.4.5 Deadwood Habitats**

Deadwood habitats are important for biodiversity so will be maintained through the management of the site. Standing deadwood will be retained where safety permits and fallen deadwood where access is maintained. All brash will be retained on site. There is a desired target of 5-10% of the average stand volume to be standing and fallen deadwood accumulation.



*Figure 13 Deadwood within the woodland*

#### **3.4.6 Presdales Recreation Ground**

Presdales Recreation Ground is used for a range of recreational activities, including football, exercise groups, and dog walking. As recreation is its main function it is important to ensure that the site continues to serve this purpose. To combine recreation with conservation, wildflower meadows should be created around the edges of the recreation ground where they do they encroach on the sports fields. Access to the gates that facilitate entry to the woods should be mown in to all continued use of the woodland from the recreation ground.

#### **3.4.7 Heritage and Marketing**

The provision of information on site was overhauled during the last GAP with new map-based panels and a noticeboard installed at the entrances from Presdales car park and Post Wood Road, as well as three information panels within the woodland. These are in good condition and will continue to be monitored to ensure any signs of disrepair are dealt with.

The site will continue to be marketed through presence on the EHC website, where the management plan and site map are available to view.

### **3.5 Community Involvement**

#### **3.5.1 Local Engagement**

A period of public engagement accompanies the production of this management plan, enabling the local community and stakeholders to inform the management of the site.

All user groups with an interest in the site are aimed to be included as part of this process, and for their requirements to be considered during the planning process.

CMS conservation volunteers deliver tasks on site, and opportunities to engage with this group will be promoted to encourage local residents to become actively involved in site management. Volunteering is a tried and tested way of increasing interest and care for a site, whilst providing participants with the benefits of healthy activity, socialisation, and environmental projects.

Naturalist groups will be encouraged and supported to undertake wildlife surveys to improve species records on site. In addition to providing greater insight and enjoyment of the site, knowing the species biodiversity also informs site management actions.

A core aim of greater community involvement at Post Wood and Presdales is to improve the tidiness and safety of the site. Where small-scale littering, fly-tipping and anti-social activities occur, notably at the main entrances, setting a standard of cleanliness and respectful use will aim to reduce misuse.

## 4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

---

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

### **Aims**

To protect and enhance the ancient woodland habitat, and to maintain the sites as safe and enjoyable places.

### **Objectives**

#### **A. A Welcoming Place**

- A1** Continue to monitor the condition of the path surface, completing spot repairs where necessary, as well as ensuring encroaching vegetation is managed along the main paths.
- A2** Promote the use of the footpath network and responsible dog ownership, to reduce woodland damage and improve user experience.
- A3** Improve landscape features and visual amenity through enhancing boundary hedgerows and fences.

#### **B. Clean and Well Maintained**

- B1** Continue to monitor the condition of site furniture, including benches, gates, boardwalks, steps, and signage, completing spot repairs where necessary.
- B2** Promote responsible and respectful use of the site and proactively respond to any misuse of the site.

#### **C. Sustainability**

- C1** Ensure the costs of ongoing maintenance proposed in the GAP are financially sustainable and achievable with the resources available.
- C2** Seek external funding from grant bodies and development funds, to deliver proposed activities beyond annual maintenance.
- C3** Ensure all management is carried out according to environmental best practice, including on herbicide use, plant biosecurity to minimise tree disease, and sustainable woodland management practices.
- C4** Identify approaches which will deliver multiple benefits, such as combining habitat and tree risk management.

## **D. Conservation and Heritage**

- D1** Undertake a sensitive and structured programme of woodland management to increase regeneration of trees and ground flora.
- D2** Recognise the value of mature and veteran trees and provide optimum conditions for their longevity.
- D3** Work to increase chances for regeneration of trees within the woodland.
- D4** Remove Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) of plants, notably cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, and snowberry.
- D5** Maximise value of woodland glades and edges and connected linear habitats.
- D6** Continue monitoring of species, herbivore impacts, and tree health; apply appropriate best practice in consultation with experts in these fields.
- D7** Continue management of holly in areas where it is causing over shading due to excessive growth.
- D8** Introduction and continuation of a regular coppice cycle for the hazel within the woodland.
- D9** Implementation of small-scale scrapes within the glade.
- D10** Creation of wildflower edge habitats around Presdales Recreation Ground where it will not impact upon the football pitches.
- D11** Continue to preserve historic features.
- D12** Continue to inform site users and the wider community about the site's heritage.

## **E. Community Involvement**

- E1** Encourage local community and volunteer involvement in the stewardship of the site and ensure all operate towards the objectives of the GAP.
- E2** Publicise and facilitate the involvement of a range of local groups, including the forest schools and the local school adjacent to the site.
- E3** Explore the potential for the development of a Friends of Post Wood & Presdales Group.

## 5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

### 5.1 Annual Actions

Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: Grounds Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.

|     | Action                                                                                    | Obj. Ref | When       | Lead | Delivery | Est. Cost        | Spec Ref. |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| 0.1 | Empty litter bins and ensure area around is clean and free of waste.                      | -        | Regular    | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.2 | Annual inspection and spot repairs to footpaths, steps, and entrance points.              | B1       | Annually   | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.3 | Ensure footpath cross drains and French drains are clear of debris and functional         | A1       | Annually   | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.4 | Ensure footpaths have clear access from branches and fallen trees                         | A1       | Year Round | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.5 | Inspect condition of interpretation panels, fencing and gates, and carry out spot repairs | B1       | Annually   | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.6 | Place caps over holes when goal posts removed during summer                               | -        | Summer     | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | -         |
| 0.7 | Cut entire glade leaving 10m wide scrub edge to glade.                                    | D5       | March      | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | 5         |
| 0.8 | Cut half of glade (alternating yearly).                                                   | D5       | October    | EHDC | EHDC GM  | Maintenance Cost | 5         |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                  |    |                            |            |            |                  |   |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|---|
| 0.9  | Additional cut of glade if necessary.                                                                                                                                            | D5 | Mid-Summer                 | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Cost | 5 |
| 0.10 | Ensure Post Wood Road entrance is tidy and free of vegetation year-round.                                                                                                        | A1 | Regular                    | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Cost | - |
| 0.11 | Cut grass verges regularly during summer months of Walnut Tree Walk to maintain 4m wide and high access for bridleway. Trim undergrowth and standing/falling trees if necessary. | A1 | Every 2 months April - Nov | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Cost | - |
| 0.12 | Vegetation clearance – entrance points and benches                                                                                                                               | A1 | Regular                    | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Cost | - |
| 0.13 | Tree safety audit and remedial work                                                                                                                                              | -  | Ongoing                    | EHDC       | EHDC       | Tree Risk Budget | - |
| 0.14 | Annual review of GAP action plan                                                                                                                                                 | -  | March                      | CMS / EHDC | CMS / EHDC | -                | - |

## Year 1 Actions

*Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: Grounds Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.*

|     | Action                                                                  | Obj. Ref | When       | Lead | Delivery   | Est. Cost    | Spec Ref. |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1.1 | Carry out scrape within the glade.                                      | D9       | Feb        | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 3         |
| 1.2 | Cherry laurel removal in north of ASNW.                                 | D4       | Autumn     | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 2         |
| 1.3 | Treatment of cherry laurel stumps to prevent regrowth.                  | D4       | Autumn     | CMS  | Contractor | £500         | 2         |
| 1.4 | Snowberry removal.                                                      | D4       | Autumn     | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 2         |
| 1.5 | Removal of barbed wire fences along northern boundary.                  | A3       | Any        | CMS  | Contractor | £1,000       | 6         |
| 1.6 | Investigate replacement for barbed wire fence in northern area of site. | A3       | Any        | CMS  | Contractor | £5,000       | 6         |
| 1.7 | Coppicing of hazel coupe number 1.                                      | D8       | Autumn     | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 7         |
| 1.8 | Protect coppiced hazel to secure regrowth.                              | D8       | Autumn     | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 7         |
| 1.9 | Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam in the glade.                          | D4       | May - June | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time | 2         |

|      |                                                                         |     |                   |     |            |              |    |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------------|--------------|----|
| 1.10 | Holly management where it is overshadowing other species within area 1. | D7  | Autumn            | CMS | Vols       | Officer Time | 8  |
| 1.11 | Thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees within area 1.        | D1  | Autumn/<br>Winter | CMS | Contractor | £2,500       | 10 |
| 1.12 | Seeding of 100% wildflower mix along edge habitats.                     | D10 | Autumn            | CMS | Contractor | £5,000       | 9  |
| 1.13 | Investigate opportunity to set up a Friends Of group.                   | E3  | Any               | CMS | Officer    | Officer Time | -  |

**Task Responsibility**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                         |
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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

**Sitewide Actions**

1.4 Removal of snowberry

1.9 Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam

1.13 Investigate opportunity to set up Friends Group

# Post Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

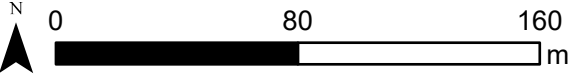
### Year 1 Action Plan

**Legend**

- Site Area
- ▲ Pedestrian Entrance
- ▲ Vehicle Entrance
- ◆ Interpretation Board
- Bin
- Scrapes
- Cherry Laurel Removal
- Hazel Coppice
- Holly Management
- Wildflower Seeding
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Bridleway woodland
- Car park
- Hardstanding
- Hedgerow
- Hedgerow tree
- Oak-hornbeam woodland (ASNW)
- Overflow car park
- Pavillion
- Recreation ground
- Woodland glade (ASNW)
- Bridleway
- Footpath

**Annual Management**

- General Maintenance**
- Empty litter bins
  - Annual inspection of site furniture
  - Clear around entrances and benches
- Footpaths**
- Clear vegetation around footpaths
  - Check for fallen debris blocking paths
- Habitat Work**
- Cut glade on rotation
  - Tree safety audit and remedial work
- Other**
- Annual review of GAP



1.12 Seeding of 100% wildflower mix along edge habitats.

1.7 Coppicing of hazel

1.8 Protect coppiced hazel

1.2 & 1.3 Removal and treatment of cherry laurel

1.5 Removal of barbed wire fence along northern boundary

1.6 Investigate replacement for northern boundary

1.1 Carry out 10m x 10m scrape within glade

1.10 Holly management where it is overshadowing other species

1.11 Thinning of poor specimen trees

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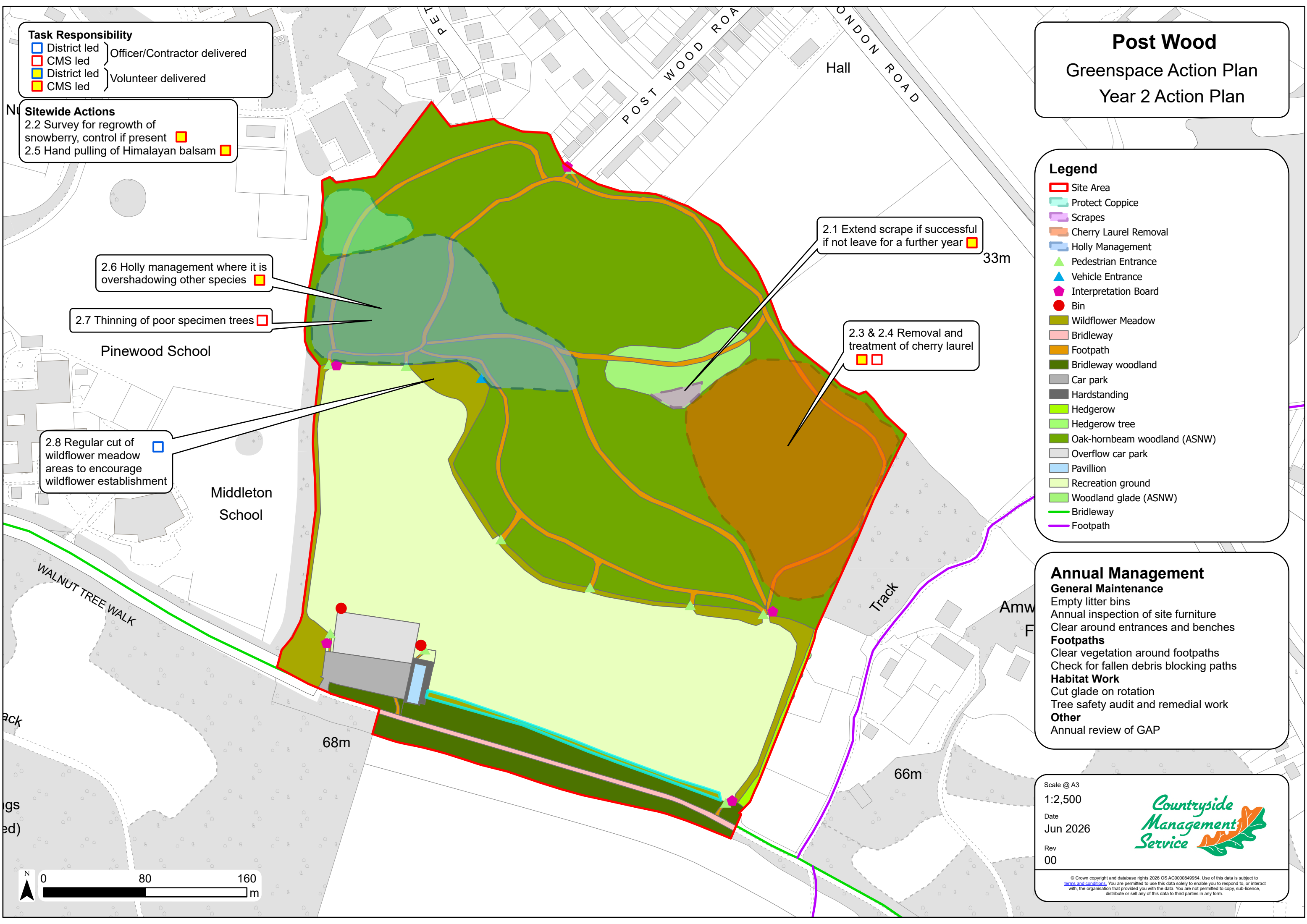


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## 5.2 Year 2 Actions

Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: Grounds Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.

|     | Action                                                                                    | Obj. Ref | When           | Lead | Delivery   | Est. Cost        | Spec Ref. |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 2.1 | Survey soil scrape trial in glade. Extend if successful; leave for a further year if not. | D9       | June           | CMS  | CMS / Vols | Officer Time     | 3         |
| 2.2 | Survey control areas and wider woodland for snowberry regrowth. Control if present.       | D4       | Autumn         | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time     | 2         |
| 2.3 | Cherry laurel removal in east of ASNW.                                                    | D4       | Autumn         | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time     | 2         |
| 2.4 | Treatment of cherry laurel stumps to prevent regrowth.                                    | D4       | Autumn         | CMS  | Contractor | £500             | 2         |
| 2.5 | Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam in the glade.                                            | D4       | May - June     | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time     | 2         |
| 2.6 | Holly management where it is overshadowing other species within area 2.                   | D7       | Autumn         | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time     | 8         |
| 2.7 | Thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees within area 2.                          | D1       | Autumn/ Winter | CMS  | Contractor | £2,500           | 10        |
| 2.8 | Maintenance of wildflower edge habitats as part of amenity cut.                           | D10      | Weekly         | EHDC | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Cost | 9         |



**Task Responsibility**

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <div>District led</div> | } Officer/Contractor delivered |
| <div>CMS led</div>      |                                |
| <div>District led</div> | } Volunteer delivered          |
| <div>CMS led</div>      |                                |

**Sitewide Actions**

2.2 Survey for regrowth of snowberry, control if present

2.5 Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam

2.6 Holly management where it is overshadowing other species

2.7 Thinning of poor specimen trees

2.8 Regular cut of wildflower meadow areas to encourage wildflower establishment

2.1 Extend scrape if successful if not leave for a further year

2.3 & 2.4 Removal and treatment of cherry laurel

# Post Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 2 Action Plan

**Legend**

- Site Area
- Protect Coppice
- Scrapes
- Cherry Laurel Removal
- Holly Management
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Interpretation Board
- Bin
- Wildflower Meadow
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Bridleway woodland
- Car park
- Hardstanding
- Hedgerow
- Hedgerow tree
- Oak-hornbeam woodland (ASNW)
- Overflow car park
- Pavillion
- Recreation ground
- Woodland glade (ASNW)
- Bridleway
- Footpath

**Annual Management**

**General Maintenance**

- Empty litter bins
- Annual inspection of site furniture
- Clear around entrances and benches

**Footpaths**

- Clear vegetation around footpaths
- Check for fallen debris blocking paths

**Habitat Work**

- Cut glade on rotation
- Tree safety audit and remedial work

**Other**

- Annual review of GAP

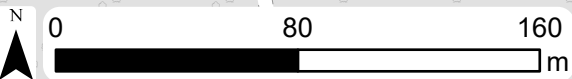
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**Countryside Management Service**

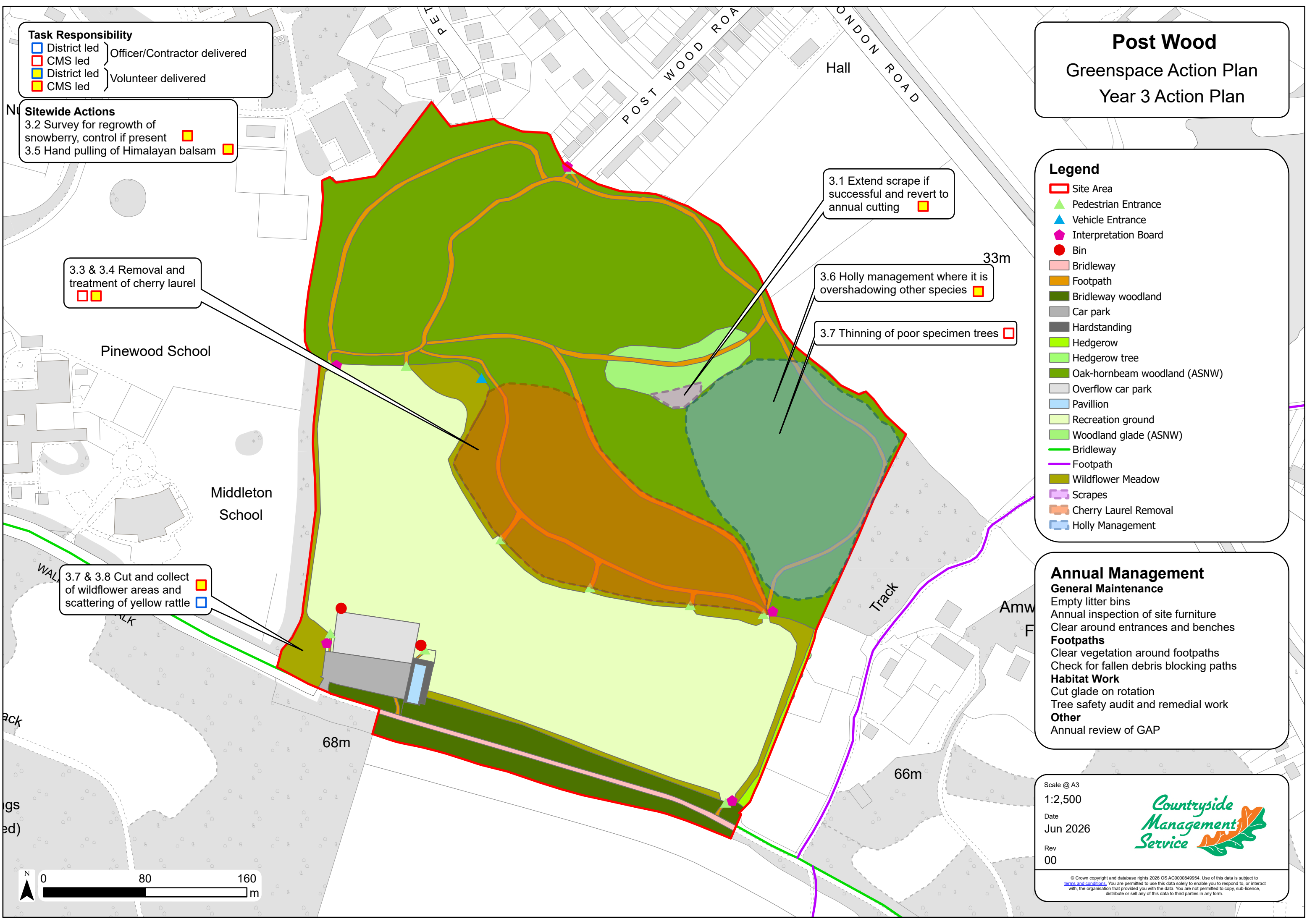
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### 5.3 Year 3 Actions

Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: Grounds Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.

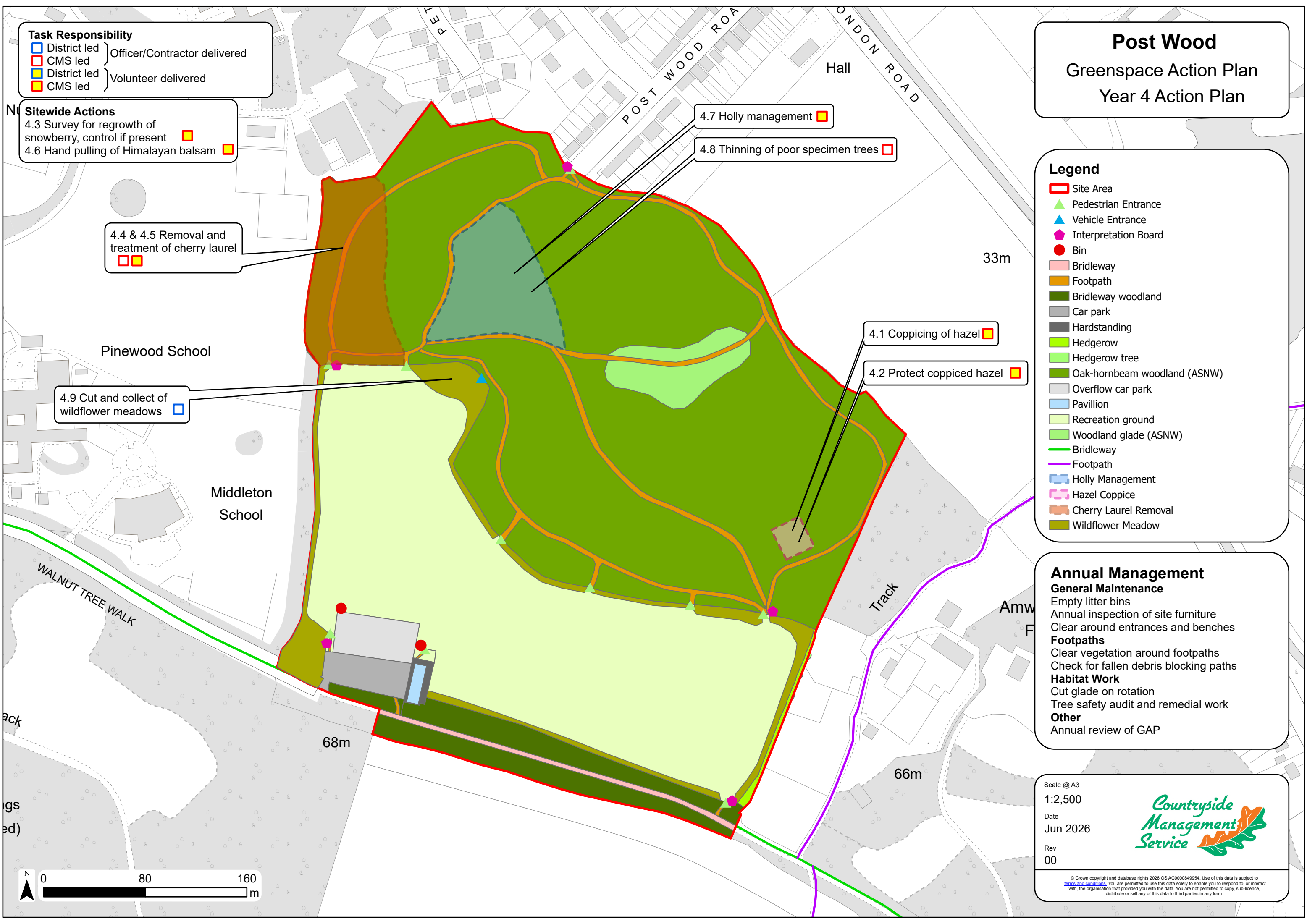
|     | Action                                                                                | Obj. Ref | When           | Lead       | Delivery   | Est. Cost          | Spec Ref. |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 3.1 | Assess soil scrape trial in glade. Extend if successful and revert to annual cutting. | D9       | June / Winter  | EHDC / CMS | EHDC GM    | Officer Time / GM  | 3         |
| 3.2 | Survey control areas and wider woodland for snowberry regrowth. Control if present.   | D4       | Autumn         | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 3.3 | Cherry laurel removal in south of ASNW.                                               | D4       | Autumn         | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 3.4 | Treatment of cherry laurel stumps to prevent regrowth.                                | D4       | Autumn         | CMS        | Contractor | £500               | 2         |
| 3.5 | Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam in the glade.                                        | D4       | May - June     | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 3.6 | Holly management within area 3.                                                       | D7       | Autumn         | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 8         |
| 3.7 | Thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees within area 3.                      | D1       | Autumn/ Winter | CMS        | Contractor | £2,500             | 10        |
| 3.8 | Cut and collect of wildflower edges.                                                  | D10      | August         | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Budget | 9         |
| 3.9 | Scattering of yellow rattle seed in wildflower edge habitats.                         | D10      | Sept/Oct       | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 9         |



## 5.4 Year 4 Actions

Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: Grounds Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.

|     | Action                                                                              | Obj. Ref | When              | Lead | Delivery   | Est. Cost          | Spec Ref. |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 4.1 | Coppicing of hazel coupe number 2.                                                  | D8       | Autumn            | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 7         |
| 4.2 | Protect coppiced hazel to secure regrowth.                                          | D8       | Autumn            | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 7         |
| 4.3 | Survey control areas and wider woodland for snowberry regrowth. Control if present. | D4       | Autumn            | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 4.4 | Cherry laurel removal in west of ASNW.                                              | D4       | Autumn            | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 4.5 | Treatment of cherry laurel stumps to prevent regrowth.                              | D4       | Autumn            | CMS  | Contractor | £500               | 2         |
| 4.6 | Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam in the glade.                                      | D4       | May - June        | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 4.7 | Holly management within area 4.                                                     | D7       | Autumn            | CMS  | Vols       | Officer Time       | 8         |
| 4.8 | Thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees within area 4.                    | D1       | Autumn/<br>Winter | CMS  | Contractor | £2,500             | 10        |
| 4.9 | Cut and collect of wildflower edge habitats.                                        | D10      | August            | EHDC | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Budget | 9         |



**Task Responsibility**

|                                                                                                                                                          |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> District led   | } Officer/Contractor delivered |
| <div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> CMS led         |                                |
| <div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> District led | } Volunteer delivered          |
| <div style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> CMS led      |                                |

**Sitewide Actions**

4.3 Survey for regrowth of snowberry, control if present

4.6 Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam

4.4 & 4.5 Removal and treatment of cherry laurel

4.7 Holly management

4.8 Thinning of poor specimen trees

4.1 Coppicing of hazel

4.2 Protect coppiced hazel

4.9 Cut and collect of wildflower meadows

# Post Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 4 Action Plan

**Legend**

- Site Area
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Vehicle Entrance
- Interpretation Board
- Bin
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Bridleway woodland
- Car park
- Hardstanding
- Hedgerow
- Hedgerow tree
- Oak-hornbeam woodland (ASNW)
- Overflow car park
- Pavillion
- Recreation ground
- Woodland glade (ASNW)
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Holly Management
- Hazel Coppice
- Cherry Laurel Removal
- Wildflower Meadow

**Annual Management**

**General Maintenance**

- Empty litter bins
- Annual inspection of site furniture
- Clear around entrances and benches

**Footpaths**

- Clear vegetation around footpaths
- Check for fallen debris blocking paths

**Habitat Work**

- Cut glade on rotation
- Tree safety audit and remedial work

**Other**

- Annual review of GAP

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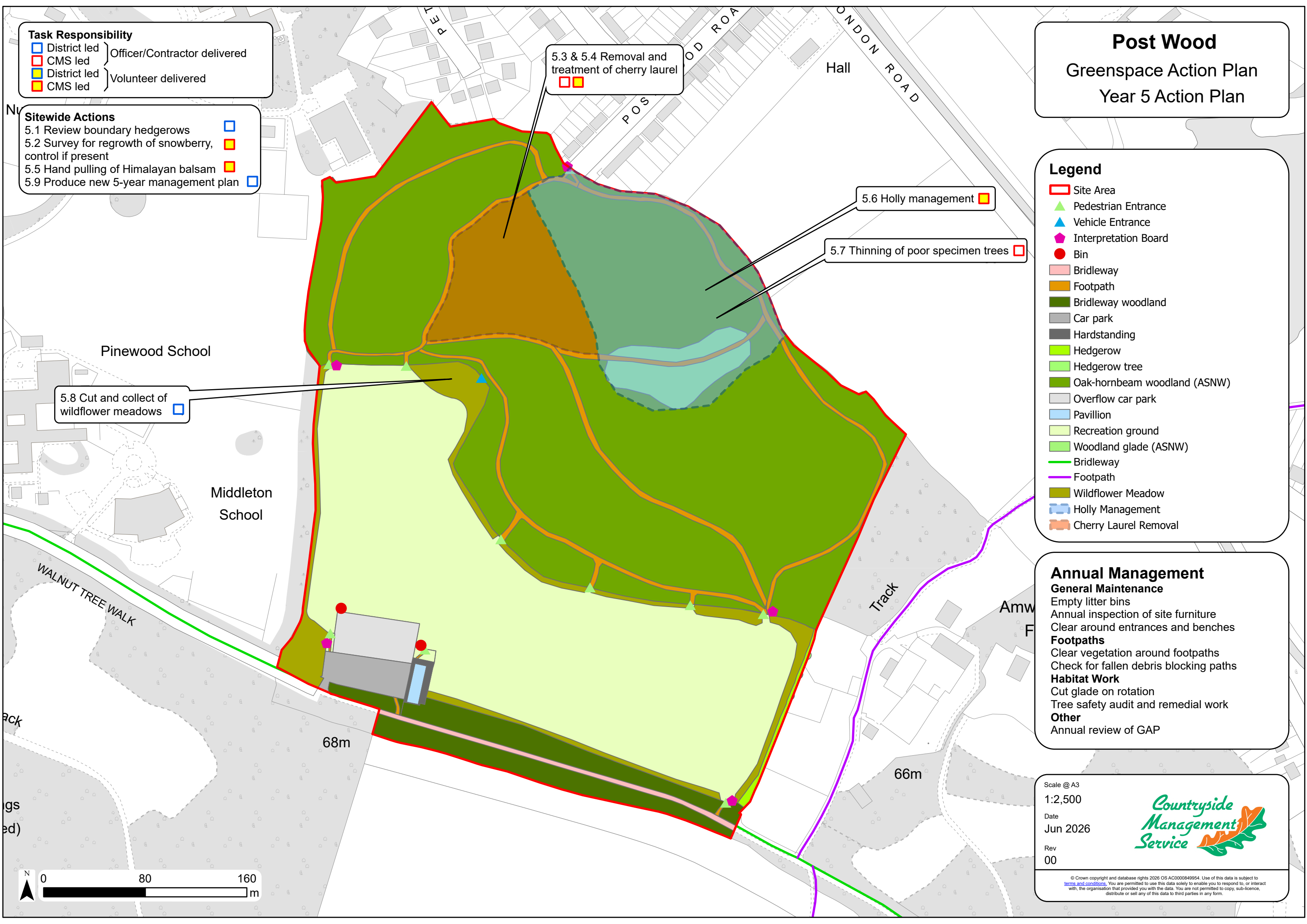


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## 5.5 Year 5 Actions

Abbreviations: EHDC: East Herts District Council, GM: General Maintenance, Vols: Volunteers, CMS: Countryside Management Service.

|     | Action                                                                                                       | Obj. Ref | When              | Lead       | Delivery   | Est. Cost          | Spec Ref. |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 5.1 | Review boundary hedgerows to ensure visual amenity and ecosystem value. Complete gapping up where necessary. | A3       | Any               | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 5.2 | Survey control areas and wider woodland for snowberry regrowth. Control if present.                          | D4       | Autumn            | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 5.3 | Cherry laurel removal in centre of ASNW.                                                                     | D4       | Autumn            | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 5.4 | Treatment of cherry laurel stumps to prevent regrowth.                                                       | D4       | Autumn            | CMS        | Contractor | £500               | 2         |
| 5.5 | Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam in the glade.                                                               | D4       | May - June        | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 2         |
| 5.6 | Holly management within area 5.                                                                              | D7       | Autumn            | CMS        | Vols       | Officer Time       | 8         |
| 5.7 | Thinning and halo-thinning of poor specimen trees within area 5.                                             | D1       | Autumn/<br>Winter | CMS        | Contractor | £2,500             | 10        |
| 5.8 | Cut and collect of wildflower edge habitats.                                                                 | D10      | August            | EHDC       | EHDC GM    | Maintenance Budget | 9         |
| 5.9 | Produce new five-year management plan 2031 - 2036                                                            | -        |                   | EHDC / CMS | -          | -                  | -         |



**Task Responsibility**

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District led | } Officer/Contractor delivered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMS led      |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District led | } Volunteer delivered          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMS led      |                                |

**Sitewide Actions**

|                                                          |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5.1 Review boundary hedgerows                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.2 Survey for regrowth of snowberry, control if present | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.5 Hand pulling of Himalayan balsam                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.9 Produce new 5-year management plan                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Post Wood

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 5 Action Plan

**Legend**

- ☐ Site Area
- ☐ Pedestrian Entrance
- ☐ Vehicle Entrance
- ☐ Interpretation Board
- ☐ Bin
- ☐ Bridleway
- ☐ Footpath
- ☐ Bridleway woodland
- ☐ Car park
- ☐ Hardstanding
- ☐ Hedgerow
- ☐ Hedgerow tree
- ☐ Oak-hornbeam woodland (ASNW)
- ☐ Overflow car park
- ☐ Pavillion
- ☐ Recreation ground
- ☐ Woodland glade (ASNW)
- ☐ Bridleway
- ☐ Footpath
- ☐ Wildflower Meadow
- ☐ Holly Management
- ☐ Cherry Laurel Removal

**Annual Management**

**General Maintenance**

- Empty litter bins
- Annual inspection of site furniture
- Clear around entrances and benches

**Footpaths**

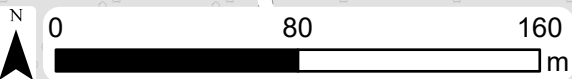
- Clear vegetation around footpaths
- Check for fallen debris blocking paths

**Habitat Work**

- Cut glade on rotation
- Tree safety audit and remedial work

**Other**

- Annual review of GAP



Scale @ A3  
1:2,500

Date  
Jun 2026

Rev  
00

**Countryside Management Service**

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## 6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

| 1. General prescriptions relevant to all woodland management operations. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Habitat Retention</i>                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All mature oak and hornbeam to be retained wherever practical.</li> <li>• Regenerating native species to be retained wherever practical.</li> <li>• Retain all standing and fallen dead wood where it is safe so to do, and take opportunities to increase dead wood provision.</li> <li>• Care should be taken to protect ancient woodbanks and soils from mechanical damage.</li> <li>• Encourage and leave to grow patches of bramble and scrub where they form valuable habitat and protect new tree growth.</li> <li>• Avoid introduction of new species through planting or seed transfer.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Visitor Safety</i>                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the public to be kept a safe distance from active tree works with signs and or banks men. Access routes may require temporary closure.</li> <li>• Where site boundaries may be compromised by tree removal, stumps are to be left higher or timber to be rolled into position to prevent unauthorised access to/ from adjacent land.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Timing</i>                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless otherwise stated, all habitat management work will be undertaken between 1st September and 28th February.</li> <li>• All woodland management work will aim to be undertaken outside of wettest winter months to minimise damage to soils and tracks.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2. Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) management                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Details</i>                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey coverage and prevalence of INNS across woodland on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Control each species by appropriate means, including:</li> <li>• Cherry laurel: Cut large plants to ground level. Grub out individual plant root balls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Control during September to March to have lowest impact on surrounding habitat.</li> <li>○ Follow-up control regeneration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Himalayan balsam: Pull plants at mid-growth stage (late May-June) before flowering and seeding. Pile arisings to rot.</li> </ul>                                   |

### 3. Glade soil scrapes

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Details</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrape leaf litter and top soil to 10-15cm deep over an area of 10m x 10m</li> <li>Bring in to cutting regime in year following scrape.</li> </ul> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

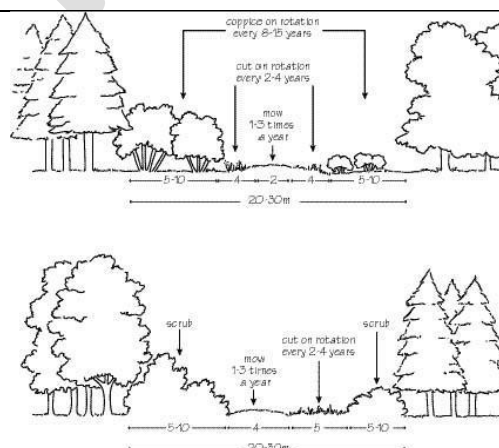
### 4. Tree Protection

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Details</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect individual naturally growing saplings in locations where they can be retained to maturity and will grow well.</li> <li>Use suitable protection to exclude deer (i.e. plastic tubes or wire mesh).</li> <li>Target appropriate tree species including oak, hornbeam, beech, crab apple, lime</li> </ul> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### 5. Glade Management

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Zone 1</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The edges of the glade will be cut once a year in September by 0.5-1m to maintain a clear path for visitors.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>Zone 2</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next zone, 2-4m from the edge, will be cut on a 4-year rotation to maintain vegetation in a manageable state while providing valuable scrub habitat</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Zone 3</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In early March, cut the entire of Zone 3.</li> <li>In October, cut half of glade (alternate area each year)</li> <li>An extra cut may be required in early summer (May) if dominant plants (nettles, bracken, willowherb) are outcompeting wildflowers and grasses.</li> <li>Himalayan balsam to be hand-pulled in May each year</li> </ul> |

#### Style / Design



## 6. Barbed Wire Removal and Replacement

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Removal</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of broken-down barbed wire fence along the boundary.</li> <li>• Disposal of fencing off-site in permitted location.</li> </ul>                                                     |
| <i>Reinstallation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace fencing with new barbed wire fence.</li> <li>• Supply and install barbed wire fence along the boundary.</li> <li>• Finish fence to match height of prior post and rail.</li> </ul> |

## 7. Coppicing

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Method</i>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppice hazel 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.</li> <li>• Area to be protected by deer fencing for at least 3 years following coppicing and until regrowth and regeneration is sufficiently high to withstand deer damage.</li> <li>• Coupes of around 25mx25m to be cut on a 7-year cycle.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>Who?</i>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS to procure, contractor to deliver.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>Arisings</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timber should be cut to marketable length (min. 3 metres) and stacked.</li> <li>• Leave equivalent of 3 trees (&gt;200mm diameter) per hectare in the form of log piles.</li> <li>• Smaller material can be used to dead hedge the boundaries of the coupe, or cut into small lengths and scattered under existing trees, not on newly opened areas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Future Management</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of coppiced hazel to secure regrowth, completed by volunteers in Spring.</li> <li>• Around 5-years after the initial coppice, review regeneration of stools and natural regeneration between stools.</li> <li>• Where dense regeneration has occurred, trial thinning to 1m x 1m spacing between retained trees, leaving 3m x 3m spacing around viable stools. Retain hornbeam wherever possible and leave non-hornbeam species where this is the only option to fill a gap. Retain clusters of oak saplings as future standards.</li> <li>• Leave areas within the same coupe unthinned to compare outcomes.</li> <li>• Maintain deer fencing to protect ongoing regeneration.</li> </ul> |

|  |                                                                                                                                               |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If stools fail to regenerate or natural regeneration is insufficient, undertake restocking.</li> </ul> |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| 8. Holly Management |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Purpose</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce risk of holly overtaking other species within the woodland. Larger specimens are to be coppiced.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Method</i>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coppice all holly within the coupe that looks to be impacting the growth and spread of other species.</li> <li>The holly should be coppiced at no more than 12 inches high, where feasible to, to encourage regrowth at understory level.</li> <li>The coppicing operation will require high quality, clean coppice cuts to provide maximum survival and regrowth, as well as protection of the soils, standard trees, and any other features of the site during the operations.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Who?</i>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMS to lead, vols to deliver.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| 9. Wildflower Seeding |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>What</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grass should be cut short and arisings taken from site prior to other preparations taking place.</li> <li>The areas should be mechanically scarified so that between 60% and 70% of the topsoil is exposed over a given area.</li> <li>The seed mix must be native, not include agricultural varieties, and be similar to the suggestions below (a wildflower only mix) and to be sown as specified by the supplier:<br/><br/> NF1 – General Purpose Mix Flowers Only (100% Wildflowers) <a href="#">N1F General Purpose Mix Flowers Only   Naturescape Wildflower Farm</a><br/> EM2F – Standard General Purpose Wildflowers (100% Wildflowers) <a href="#">EM2F Standard General Purpose Wild Flowers - Emorsgate Seeds</a> </li> <li>The area should be rolled with a groover or notched roller without additional cultivation to cover or incorporate the seed.</li> <li>Where rolling is not feasible, the seed can be trodden in.</li> </ul> |
| <i>When</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work should be completed in September or October, and should be completed by the end of October at the latest.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Year 1</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the first year the area will need mowing or cutting <b>around once a week</b>.</li> <li>Cutting height should be between <b>40mm and 60mm</b>.</li> <li>Cutting height should be higher than the typical amenity mow height, if possible, to allow wildflower species that grow in the first year to establish.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Arisings don't need to be collected in the first year.</li> </ul>                                                             |
| <i>Ongoing</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the first year an <b>annual cut and collect regime</b> should be established.</li> <li>The areas should be cut in August and arisings left for 2-3 days for seeds to drop then arisings should be collected and removed.</li> <li>If there are suitable sacrificial areas on site, arisings can be heaped up away from the meadow area to provide habitat for reptiles and small mammals.</li> <li>Scattering of yellow rattle seed in September or October of year 2 will be beneficial, as this plant will naturally reduce the vigour of grasses and is an annual, so will not become established under the year 1 cutting regime.</li> </ul> |
| <i>As Required</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to monitor the species which are establishing within the meadow area.</li> <li>Some dominant species (such as common hogweed) can be controlled through pulling up individual plants or cutting seed heads off.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## 10. Thinning and Halo-Thinning

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Details</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any thinning works will further the aim of reducing coverage of non-native species (e.g. sycamore) and encouraging natural growth/ regeneration of native species.</li> <li>Thinning to be gradual and small-scale to maintain stable habitat conditions.</li> <li>Arisings to be disposed of appropriately through small amounts of deadwood stacking, removal off-site, or burning if possible (note ASNW requirements)</li> <li>Opportunities for deadwood creation to be realised through thinning works.</li> </ul> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Halo-thinning</b> around crowded 'feature' trees will provide improve environmental conditions. Halo to be no larger in radius than half-height of the feature tree.</li> </ul>                                                              |
| <i>Timing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinning requiring mechanised techniques and/or vehicles to be undertaken in autumn, to avoid worst weather conditions.</li> <li>• Lighter thins involving volunteers can be undertaken at any stage between September and February.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Who?</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS to lead, contractor to deliver.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |