



WALSWORTH COMMON

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2019 - 2024

Produced by:



On behalf of:

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Action 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 July 2018, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 4. A second stage of engagement completed in January 2019 enabled stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document, published online as an appendix to this plan, summarises comments received and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved

CONTENTS

Overview	i
Greenspace Action Plans	i
Public Engagement	i
Version Control.....	i
Contents	ii
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 Geography and Landscape.....	6
2.3 History and Archaeology	6
2.4 Habitats and Wildlife	7
2.4.1 Grassland	7
2.4.2 Trees and Scrub	7
2.4.3 Wetlands.....	7
2.4.4 Wildlife	8
2.4.5 Non-Native Invasive Species	9
2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure.....	9
2.6 Community and Events	10
3.0 Aim & Objectives	11
4.0 Management Prescriptions	14
4.1 Habitats and Wildlife	14
4.1.1 Grassland	14
4.1.2 Trees and Scrub	14
4.1.3 Wetlands.....	14
4.1.4 Wildlife	15
4.2 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure.....	15
4.3 Community and Events	16
5.0 Action Plans and Maps	18
6.0 Specifications	26
6.1 Wildflower Meadow.....	26
6.2 Tree Planting	27
6.3 Tarmac Path	31

7.0	Appendices	32
7.1	Contacts	32
7.2	Local Wildlife Citation.....	32
7.3	Species List	33

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name:	Walsworth Common
Site Address:	Woolgrove Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0BX
Grid Reference:	TL 19509 30236
Size:	9.6 hectares (23.7 acres)
Designations:	Registered Common Land (CL050) Local Wildlife Site - River Purwell, Walsworth Common 11/027/1
Owner:	North Hertfordshire District Council

1.2 Vision Statement

The vision for Walsworth Common over the next five years is to improve the Common as an important recreational resource providing a high quality recreational facility so that it becomes Hitchin's premier outdoor venue, whilst supporting and enhancing local wildlife and habitats.

This document sets out the management, maintenance and development framework for Walsworth Common to work towards during 2019-24. It is recognised that the systems in place to manage Walsworth Common are already very well established and described in previous plans. As such the GAP seeks to identify subtle improvements and further refinement to the established systems.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

Walsworth Common is a 9.6ha (23.7 acre) site situated to the north-east of Hitchin on the River Purwell. The site is owned and managed by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC). Walsworth Common is registered Common Land consisting of a large area of amenity grassland, longer conservation cut grassland, scrub, mature trees, a pond and the River Purwell running along its northern and eastern boundaries.

Facilities on site include two football pitches, a basketball court, skateboard ramp and two children's play areas. Local people use the common for informal recreation including dog walking, exercise and as a walking/cycling route to school and work. With its large area of amenity grassland the common is an ideal area to hold large public events like fairs, festivals, circuses and concerts.

Walsworth Common makes up one of four NHDC sites in a chain of green spaces along the Purwell Valley. To the south is Purwell Meadows Local Nature Reserve; while to the north on the River Hiz are Cadwell Lane Playing Field and Burymead Springs. A walking route to include all four sites has been established.

Walsworth Common GAP 2014-19 has helped to guide the Council's management over the last five years. This plan included access improvements with the installation of a ramp and new steps from Common Rise on the southern boundary; a replacement vehicle bridge for larger haulage vehicles to access the common from the car park on Woolgrove Road for events; the creation of a wildlife pond; improvements to link other sites along the Purwell Valley and a range of volunteer activities including scrub management, installation of flow deflectors along the river and a new interpretation panel. Current maintenance operations at Walsworth Common include: grass cutting, management and maintenance of the path surface and signage, play area maintenance, small scale vegetation management, litter picking, fly tip removal and reactive tree works to address safety issues.

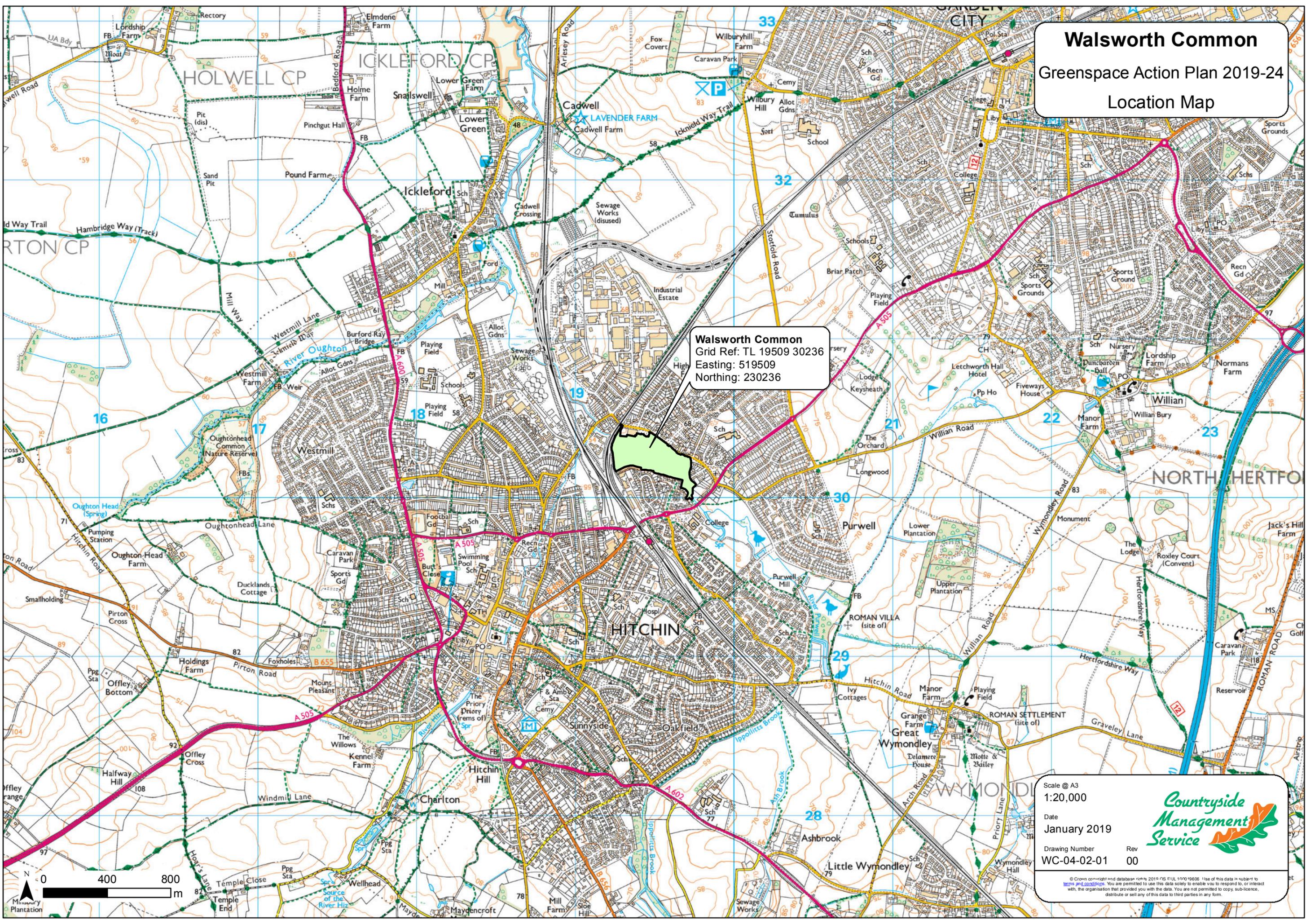
The new GAP will look to further develop the habitats and biodiversity of the site while retaining its recreational and wildlife value.

Walsworth Common

Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24

Location Map

Walsworth Common
Grid Ref: TL 19509 30236
Easting: 519509
Northing: 230236



Scale @ A3
1:20,000

Date
January 2019

Drawing Number
WC-04-02-01

Rev
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Walsworth Common

Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24

Site Description

Legend

- Bench
- Interpretation panel
- Litter bin
- Picnic bench
- ▲ Sign
- ▲ Welcome sign
- Individual Trees
- Amenity grass
- Basketball court
- Bridge
- Conservation grass
- Hard standing
- Marginal vegetation
- Permeable surface
- Play equipment
- Pond
- Ramp
- River
- Scrub
- Skate park
- Steps
- Surfaced path
- Woodland/scrub



Railway Line

Bowls Club

River Purwell

Play Equipment
Skate park

Car Park
Half is tarmacked the other half made of permeable material

Marginal Vegetation
Creating a buffer protecting the river

Amenity Grassland
Used for recreational activities including football

Play Equipment
With young children's play equipment, zip wire and climbing wall for older children

Play Equipment
Giant bench

Tarmac Path
Linking Meadowbank and Woolgrove Road, Right of Way with street lighting

Conservation Grassland
Species rich grassland, cut and collected once a year

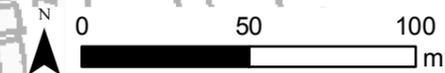
Ramp and Steps
Leading to Common Rise

Poplar Avenue
Two rows of poplar creating an avenue

Play Equipment
Basketball court

Wildlife Area
Scrubby wild corner with amenity mown paths

Wildlife Pond



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Walsworth Common

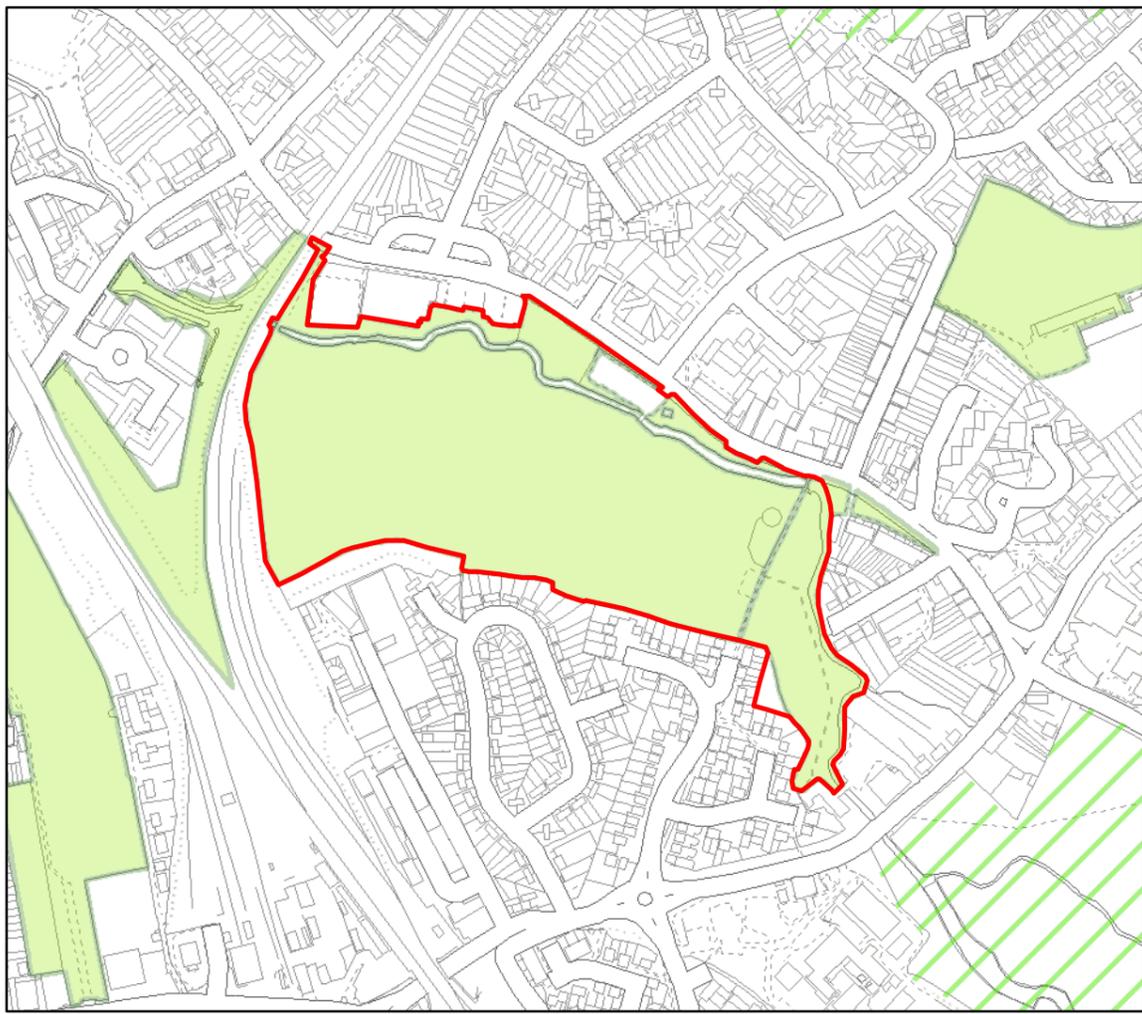
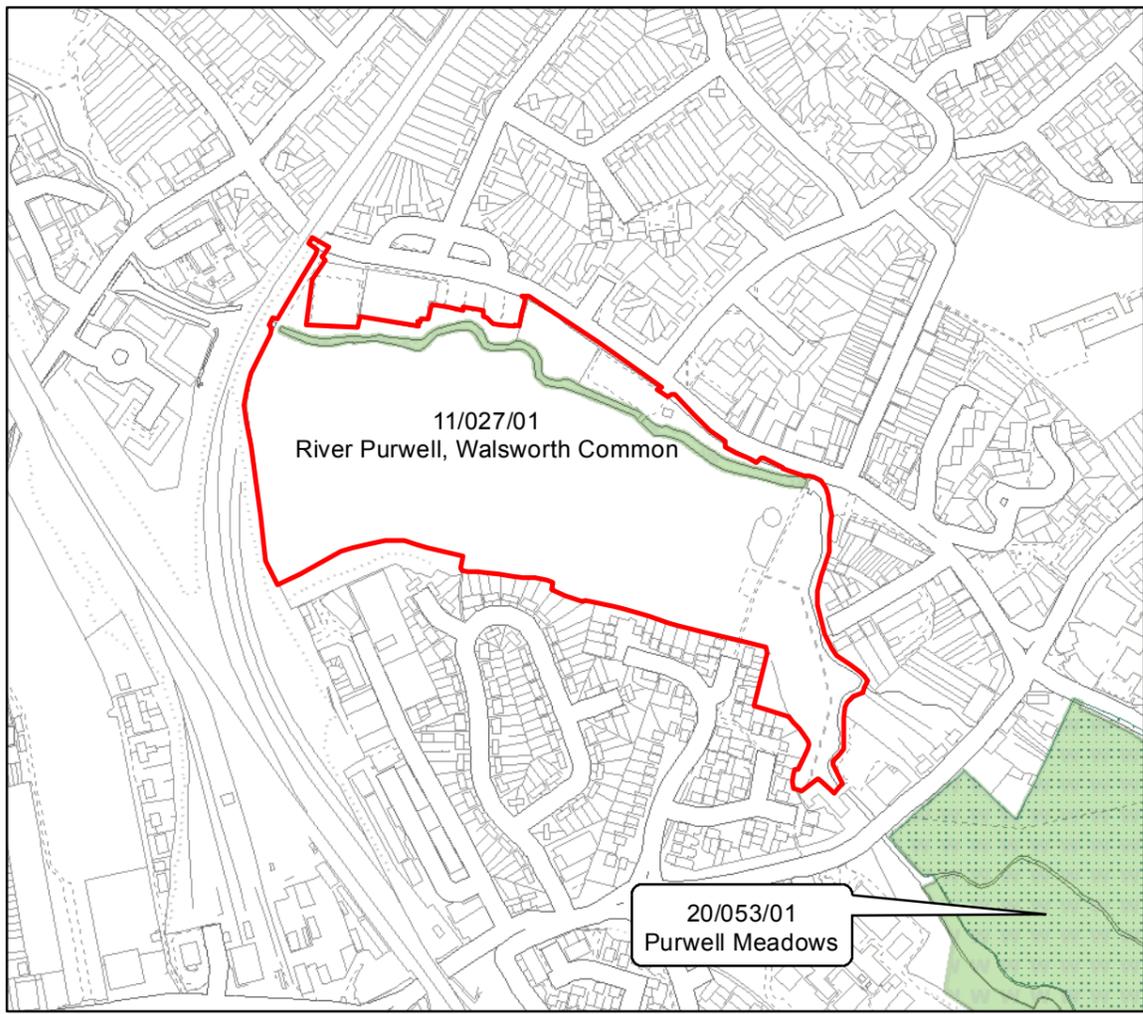
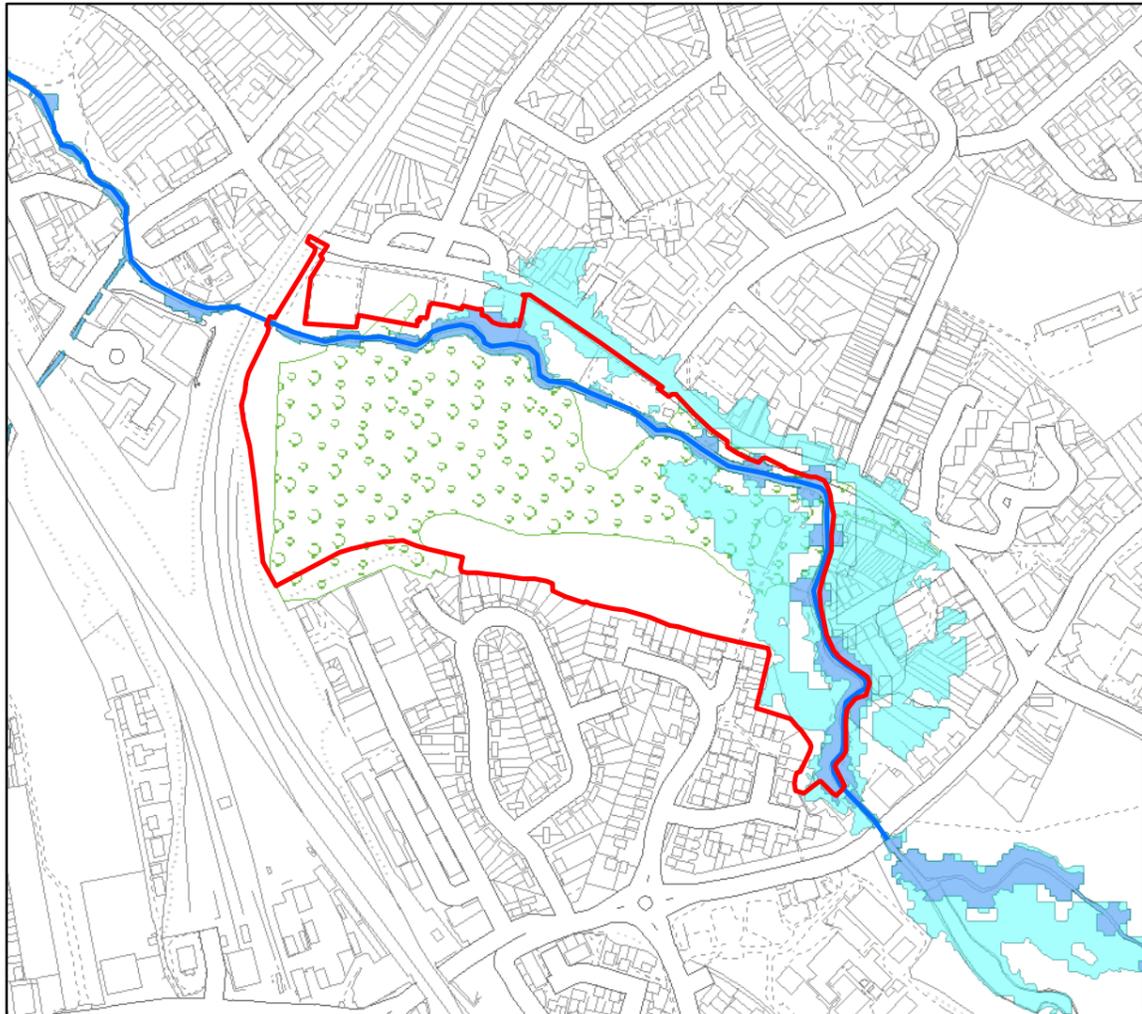
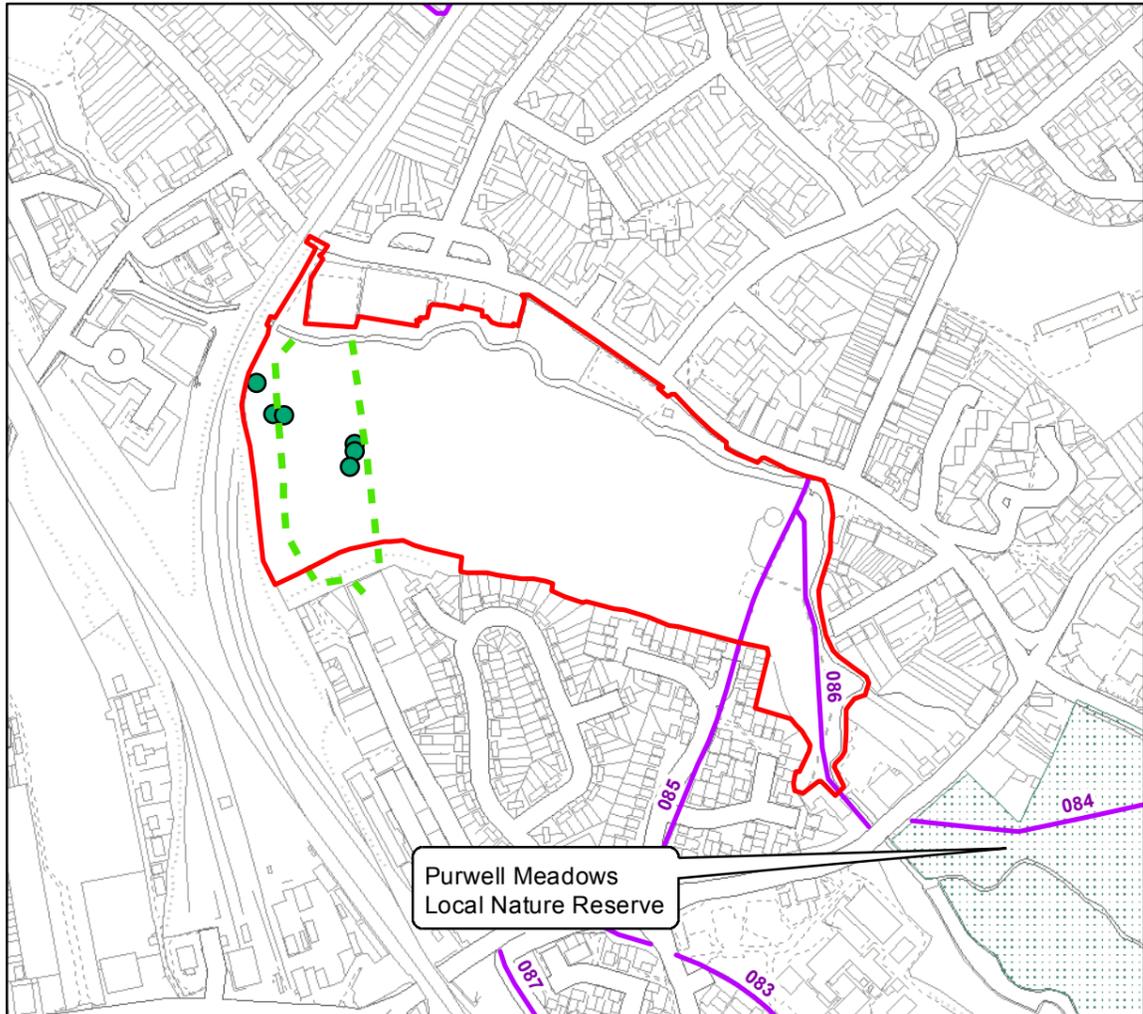
Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24

Constraints

Legend

- Walsworth Common Boundary
- Public Rights of Way:**
 - Footpath
- Utilities:**
 - Gas Main
 - Inspection Chamber
- Flood Zone Categories:**
 - Main River
 - Flood Zone 3
 - Flood Zone 2
- Environmental Designations:**
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - Common Land
 - Wildlife Site
 - Ecosite

N



Scale @ A3
1:6,000

Date
January 2019

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WC-04-02-03

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Countryside Management Service

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2.2 Geography and Landscape

The River Purwell rises to the south east of Hitchin running broadly northward to join the River Hiz, beyond the District boundary. Walsworth Common is situated on the River Purwell in Hitchin on the flat valley bottom. The soils in this area are poor draining gleyed soils over alluvial drift. These deposits have since been extracted and the land used as a tip, re-filled and capped with a membrane. Trial pits dug as part of the preparations for creating the original football pitches revealed sandy loam topsoil.

The site is covered by [Landscape Character Area 217 \(River Oughton and Purwell Valleys\)](#), the key characteristics include meandering watercourse with associated ponds and water bodies, linear woodland belts following the watercourse along with randomly distributed self-seeded mature hawthorn. Dominant trees are poplar, willow, ash and hawthorn.

Walsworth Common consists of a levelled area of seeded grassland the majority of which is used for recreation, with the northern section left as longer conservation grassland. The River Purwell flows along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. Adjacent to the river along the northern boundary is Woolgrove Road. A number of mature trees including an avenue of poplars; aspens; pollarded willows; and areas of scrub are scattered across the open space. The mainline railway embankment runs along the western boundary and provides an additional scrubby habitat. The residential developments to the north and south are mostly screened by trees, so Walsworth Common retains some of its original river valley landscape features.

Two gas mains, one high pressure, cross the western part of the site and lead to a gas sub-station to the south of the site. The site overlies a 400mm diameter main foul sewer, with a 100mm foul sewer connecting to it, and a surface water sewer; there are five inspection chambers across the site which provides the utilities companies with access to them.

2.3 History and Archaeology

The historic agricultural landscape of the wider area is composed of a mixture of enclosed meadow pasture, prairie fields where abutting neighbouring Pirton Lowlands ([LCA 218](#)) with relict elements within 18th century and later enclosure, commons with an open margin to the north of Hitchin. On the periphery of Hitchin lies a mixture of 19th-20th century plantation, allotments, post-1950s enclosure, prairie fields with post-1950s boundary loss and commons with an open margin. On the southern edge of Ickleford lies an area of informal medieval parkland. Today there is no apparent field pattern due to the use of this area for pasture.

Walsworth Common is nestled in the north-east corner of Hitchin and is registered as Common Land (CL050). This means that some works on site will need consent from the Secretary of State before they can be undertaken.

Walsworth Common was first recorded by the Saxons as *Waltonesford* which means 'the ford at the farm of a stranger'. The Common was managed as a water meadow, part of Purwell field: one of the large open medieval fields in Hitchin and Great Wymondley parishes which survived until 1766. Court rolls from this period state that 'no-one should put horses onto Walsworth Common between May Day and Lammas as it was reserved for pasture for cows belonging to the poor'.

2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

There are a range of habitats and variety of wildlife that can be found on Walsworth Common.

2.4.1 Grassland

The main area of grassland is amenity cut and used for recreation. A 2.5 ha area of conservation grassland has been established at the northern end of the site, with its array of wild flowers including yarrow, ox-eye daisy, meadow saxifrage, white clover and common mouse-ear it attracts a wide range of invertebrates (appendix 7.2).

2.4.2 Trees and Scrub

There are a number of mature trees around the site including pollarded willows along the river, an avenue of hybrid black poplars and a line of mature aspens. Retaining appropriate tree species and continuing to undertake pollarding will continue to strengthen the river valley landscape character. Some new trees have been planted and staked along the top of the river bank, to replace existing stock.

There are several clumps of trees and scrub around the edge of the common providing important habitat for a range of species. The south eastern corner of the site provides a much more secluded habitat away from the hustle and bustle of the play area. Here the small clumps of dense and over-mature scrub provide shelter and food for small birds, mammals and invertebrates. Some species found across the site include hawthorn, blackthorn, white willow, weeping willow, hybrid crack-willow, osier, elder and hybrid black poplar.

2.4.3 Wetlands

The River Purwell is a chalk river and Local Wildlife Site (appendix 7.1). Chalk rivers are globally rare. Out of approximately two hundred in the world, 161 chalk rivers are located in England. Their pure alkaline waters which emanate from an aquifer in the chalk bedrock support a very specific community of flora and fauna. Chalk rivers have been designated a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitat which indicates the rarity and threatened nature of this resource.

The river channel has been artificially widened in some stretches. Just upstream, in Purwell Meadows, the Purwell is approximately a metre across but, by the time it has reached the stretch adjacent to Woolgrove Road, it has broadened to nine metres. Where the river channel has been over widened, the flow slows down, silt is deposited, and the essential elements of a vibrant chalk stream: riffles, bare gravels and pools which fish depend upon for spawning; are lost. There is a variety of in-channel and marginal wetland species which have been recorded on site including water-starwort, water-cress, water forget-me-not, meadowsweet, reed canary grass, reed sweet grass, great reedmace and branched bur-reed.

The installation of in-channel structures in the shape of large woody debris such as brush build-outs and flow deflectors have been installed by volunteers to recreate these natural conditions whilst strengthening the growth of marginal vegetation which provides shelter and food for insects, fish and mammals. Furthermore, if the river is narrower it can still maintain

sufficient depth for fish and mammals even at low flow rates. Such works will increase the capacity of the river to act as a corridor for wildlife. Downstream of Walsworth Common by Grove Road Bridge, a weir and culvert constitutes a considerable barrier to fish migration.

Managing the river margins by rotational cutting has started to create a more diverse marginal habitat, stopping more dominant species from taking hold such as nettles. Providing viewpoints overlooking the river without allowing direct access into the channel by changing the cutting regime allows people to view the river without damaging this precious habitat.

An old ford still exists by the eastern footbridge; it is now no longer used to access the site. In this area and despite notices urging visitors to refrain from feeding ducks, the pastime still continues. The ducks are having a local, detrimental effect by over-grazing emergent vegetation and by adding to the silt burden of the river.

The wildlife pond in the southern corner of the site was desilted and had over hanging trees removed during the last plan period. This opened up the pond to wildlife and reduced the dominance of some plant species.

A Water Environment Grant (WEG) has been secured for a project to enhance sites along the Purwell valley at Purwell Meadows and Walsworth Common. Proposals for works at Walsworth Common include carrying out tree/scrub works to remove vegetation overhanging the channel, letting more light into parts of the channel improving the habitat for fish; and working with volunteers to install additional flow deflectors to increase the flow, clean the gravels and provide greater habitat diversity for wildlife.

2.4.4 Wildlife

The diverse habitats found at Walsworth Common provide food, shelter and protection to a wide range of wildlife. The River Purwell has supported populations of fish including bullhead, three and nine-spined stickleback, perch, minnow and roach. Records from 1880 tell how the River Purwell was a draw to anglers with a 10lb trout reported to have been caught under the Walsworth Railway Bridge. Due to the weir structure bisecting the river further downstream at Grove Road means that there is currently no realistic way that other fish species can migrate upstream to the common.

The abundance of wetland features provide habitat and feeding for a variety of wildlife from fish, to birds such as little egret, heron, kingfisher, mallard and moorhen. There is an isolated population of water voles about 1700m upstream. There has been an old record of water voles on site but no confirmed records from surveys undertaken between 2010 and 2018, there were feeding signs recorded which were thought may have been caused by water voles. The 2017 annual survey found lots of feeding signs and small latrines made by field voles not water voles. Otters have been known to use the River Purwell on occasions, as spraints have been found in various places upstream from the Walsworth Common bridge.

Dragonflies and damselflies will hawk for insects along the river margins and grassland, with banded demoiselle being regularly sighted in the summer months. Butterflies also frequent the habitats found of site with records of meadow brown, comma, common blue, green-veined white, brimstone, peacock, orange-tip, small tortoiseshell and speckled wood.

The scrubby habitats are ideal for birds and small mammals, common birds will frequent the site such as blue and great tits, chaffinch and gold finch. In the summer months swifts, swallows and house martins can be seen overhead and swooping down for insects. Buzzard and red kite have been seen passing by at various times throughout the year.

2.4.5 Non-Native Invasive Species

On the railway embankment an area of Japanese Knotweed a non-native invasive species has become established. Railtrack's contractors have commenced treatment, as there is a possibility of it spreading on to the Common, close monitoring of this area is advisable. Another non-native invasive species, Himalayan Balsam, has been recorded along the river but is controlled by hand pulling by volunteers.

There has been one record of signal crayfish (appendix 7.2) from several years ago, which may have been a one off. There have been no records in recent years; they are downstream at Cadwell Lane Playing Field but there is the weir at Grove Lane for them to overcome to gain access to Walsworth Common.

2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

There are a total of six formal pedestrian entrances into Walsworth Common. Three from the northern side of the site off Woolgrove Road; two via footbridges over the river from the western and eastern ends of the site and one via the vehicle bridge from the car park. There are three entrances on the southern side of the site one from Common Rise which has a set of steps and a ramp, one from Meadowbank and one from the A505 Cambridge Road beside the Mill Stream Pub. The path between Meadowbank entrance and the eastern exit onto Woolgrove Road has a tarmac surface and is lit at night. There are two public footpaths across the site one along the tarmac path and one from the A505 entrance to the eastern entrance.

All of the entrances require regular maintenance to keep the paths and sightlines open. There are small wooden entrance signs, welcoming you to Walsworth Common and an orientation panel in the car park. At the eastern entrance opposite the pedestrian crossing there is an assortment of various signs making the entrance look cluttered.

A new vehicle bridge was installed during the last plan period to gain access to the common across the river from the car park on Woolgrove Road. This will now allow access for larger vehicles onto the common to be able to hold events such as the circus. There is a lockable red and white vehicle barrier stopping unauthorised access onto the site, when the barrier is closed there is pedestrian access around it. The car park has been re-surfaced and extended with tarmac. The ramp down onto the lower surface has caused problems with access.

There is a gate at the western end of the car park which allows access into the small grassed area beyond, between the car park and the bowls club. At the eastern end of the car park there was an old pavilion which was used as changing rooms. The pavilion has since been removed as was in a state of disrepair and was no longer used.

A range of recreational facilities can be found on site. At the eastern end by the tarmac path are two play areas one for young children with swings, slide, climbing frame and one for

older children with a zip wire, climbing wall and a basketball court. Nearer to the main car park entrance are skateboard ramps. The main area of amenity grassland is marked out with two full sized football pitches; although the area is large in its current state the ground is too undulating to accommodate any further pitches.

Across the site are 10 benches in a range of styles (including an oversized one as a play feature), and 2 picnic tables within the play area these should be rationalised and allow for a more rustic style of bench to be used out in the grassland areas and different style around the play areas, to provide consistency across the site. There are 16 litter bins across the site, all of which are used for both litter and dog waste.

2.6 Community and Events

Recreation both formal and informal is a key function of Walsworth Common. Since 1974 the annual Walsworth Festival has been held on site in May, with the new access there are more opportunities for a wider range of events and activities to be held.

Regular football matches are held on site and it is hoped that in the future Walsworth Common will become a hub for football across the district. A regular boot camp runs on the site as well.

3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

To promote Walsworth Common as Hitchin's premier recreational hub, that boasts a wide range of natural habitats, providing a unique and enjoyable place to visit for a variety of user groups.

Objectives

A. To provide an area of open space that is welcoming, safe and well maintained for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

- A1 Improve access to, from and around Walsworth Common; linking to local greenspaces, businesses and schools, residential areas, public transport, shops and local amenities.
- A2 Install appropriate signage and interpretative material promoting the site.
- A3 Promote accessibility through Walsworth Common and along the Purwell Valley.
- A4 Improve the condition of the car park, ensuring it is welcoming and resilient.
- A5 Undertake proactive response to the misuse of the site.
- A6 Carry out regular risk assessments of the facilities, natural features and general environment found at Walsworth Common.
- A7 Carry out programmed tree works to address safety issues.

B. To create inviting entrances into Walsworth Common.

- B1 Maintain all site entrances to form welcoming, visible and attractive gateways to Walsworth Common, in proportion to their location.
- B2 Maintain and develop on-site information panels interpreting Walsworth Common's history, wildlife and management for visitors and leaflet.

C. To maintain and enhance the quality and value of Walsworth Common's natural habitats and strengthen support from visitors to protect and conserve them.

- C1 Maintain and improve the diversity and wildlife value of habitats on site to protect specialist species and biodiversity.
- C2 Maintain areas of conservation cut grassland without impacting on recreational activities.
- C3 Continue river margin management on rotation to provide views of the river.

- C4 Manage scrub habitat across the site preventing further encroachment of scrub into the grassland areas.
- C5 Manage the pond with rotational vegetation clearance and removal of overhanging vegetation.
- C6 Continue to monitor, record and learn about the wildlife of Walsworth Common.
- C7 Continue with active management of the river and river bank habitat – including; rotational bankside vegetation management and provision of viewing areas, tree management, sustaining wildlife corridors, provision of buffer zones next to the river, in-channel flow deflectors, removal of INNS and reporting pollution incidents.
- C8 Monitor mature trees around the common and undertake restocking to provide the next generation of trees (including maintenance of newly planted trees).
- C9 Pollard on rotation the avenue of poplars and some of the willows along the river bank.
- C10 Remove Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) across the site including Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed (liaise with Network Rail).

D. To encourage the health, fitness and well-being of all users through a range of high quality recreational opportunities, events and activities.

- D1 Ensure existing recreational and sports facilities are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- D2 Develop and explore the potential for offering new and improved the recreational facilities and opportunities at Walsworth Common.
- D3 Develop the play facilities to provide an exciting, challenging and unique experience for all age groups.
- D4 Promote and support the use of Walsworth Common for Hertfordshire Health Walks.
- D5 Promote the natural environment found at Walsworth Common to visitors.

E. To promote community involvement at Walsworth Common.

- E1 Support volunteer activity on the Common and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the GAP.
- E2 Encourage community and volunteer involvement with practical conservation tasks, ecological surveys and events.
- E3 Continue to offer all visitors and local residents a variety of events and activities at Walsworth Common.

- E4 Maintain regular contact with key stakeholders and community groups and consult on decision making where appropriate.
- E5 Annually review action plans taking into account anything that the community has brought to light during the last year.

F. To ensure all furniture and facilities on Walsworth Common are in safe and serviceable condition and, where appropriate, of uniform design.

- F1 Monitor the grounds maintenance regimes (including litter collection) to ensure they comply with the contracted standard.
- F2 Establish and introduce a standard, uniform design of furniture.
- F3 Ensure that all fixtures and fittings are maintained in a safe, serviceable and tidy condition.
- F4 Remove clutter, poorly sited furniture, and redundant fixtures.
- F5 Encourage the upkeep of all facilities in a safe and serviceable condition, and that they are used to their full potential.

H. To review ongoing costs to ensure that they are sustainable and secure external funding for capital works.

- H1 Review the costs of ongoing maintenance proposed in the GAP are financially sustainable and achievable with the resources available.
- H2 Seek external funding from grant bodies and development funds, to deliver proposed activities beyond annual maintenance.
- H3 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
- H4 Identify approaches which will deliver multiple benefits, such as combining habitat and tree risk management.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

All projects and improvements carried out on Walsworth Common will take into account the landscape character of the area along with any designations and restrictions imposed on the site, while continuing to enhance the site for people while protecting and conserving its wildlife.

4.1 Habitats and Wildlife

4.1.1 Grassland

Funding of £103k has been secured from Sport England and S106 developer contributions to develop Walsworth Common as the centre for sport and recreation in Hitchin. The money is for the creation of up to 6 football pitches across the site and re-furbishing existing pitches.

A majority of the grassland at Walsworth Common will be reprofiled to make the surface suitable for playing sports. Some of the large area of conservation cut grassland will be lost to accommodate the additional pitches, but new areas will be created around the new pitches without having an impact on them (specification 6.1). The creation of the new conservation areas will be done at the same time as the pitch improvements so that everything grows up at the same rate. The creation of the new pitches may have to be constructed in a phased approach to still allow the public access and enjoyment of the rest of the site.

Before any works start it would be worth making sure that any services (gas main, sewage pipes) are marked on site, to avoid any damage from heavy vehicles and risk of pollution. Permission from the Secretary of State is required before any works can be undertaken.

4.1.2 Trees and Scrub

By managing the existing woodland and scrub areas will help to maintain the diversity across the site. Stopping the scrub from encroaching into the grassland can be undertaken by volunteers. Planting appropriate replacement species along the river bank (willows and aspen) and the avenue (tbc) to replace mature trees when they reach the end of their life will continue to provide a diverse age structure across the site (specification 6.2).

On rotation the mature poplars along the avenue should be pollarded to promote their growth and longevity. Poplars near to gaps suitable for planting new trees should be pollarded first to allow more light to reach the new plants. Mature willows along the river bank will also be pollarded on rotation to allow more light to the river bank and channel.

4.1.3 Wetlands

The pond in the south west corner will require regular clearance of vegetation, especially typha by pulling and digging and some of the sedge along with the removal of over shading trees and scrub to retain areas of open water. This can be undertaken every few years by volunteers with the removed vegetation being stacked on the banks for about a week to allow for invertebrates to return to the pond, then moved to an area to compost down.

The rotational river margin management (map 04) should be continued to provide a more diverse habitat and stop successional species from taking over. Providing viewing point along the river channel will make people feel closer to the river. Managing the banks on rotation will continue to provide suitable habitat for water voles if they ever return to the site.

There will be removal of some shading bankside trees and volunteers will be involved with installing two additional flow deflectors/brush buildouts in the river to enhance the flow this will be funded by the Water Environment Grant (WEG) is successful or by other means.

Continued management of the existing flow deflectors and brush buildouts will be required to remove any vegetation and rubbish from blocking the centre of the channel. Additional habitats can be created in the channel by investigating installing coarser material (such as hard calcified chalk) in the ford area (near to Woolgrove Road) to increase the river's flow in this area. Just to the east of the ford there is a large house which backs onto the river and has metal piling along the bank face, by installing a brush build-out (mattress) in front of the piling will allow silt to collect narrowing the channel and forming a natural vegetative edge which overtime will shield the piling.

The feeding of the ducks needs to be monitored and if required new signage installed to educate people, advising them to feed the ducks on the ford (out of the water) or on the grass, to avoid increasing the nutrient levels of the river. Liaising with the local shop to stock grain for feeding the ducks and display posters should be trialled.

4.1.4 Wildlife

By improving the habitats mentioned above will help to provide habitat and requirement suitable for a range of species. Further surveys of the newly created and existing conservation cut grassland areas should continue. There has been recent interest from local volunteers to carry out annual water vole surveys which also pick up non-native invasive species and interest in setting up Walsworth Common as a Riverfly monitoring site.

4.2 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

All entrances into Walsworth Common need to be maintained to provide welcoming gateways into the site, by keeping the vegetation and sightlines cut back and removing undue clutter. The eastern pedestrian entrance onto the site from Woolgrove Road near to the ford is cluttered with signage which is no longer required, damaged or dated. The signage in this area needs to be rationalised, removed and only replaced where required; a new orientation panel with notice board should be installed at this location so people can navigate themselves around the site. The vegetation as you enter the site by the river could be cut back to give you a view of the whole site rather than just the children's play area.

The western pedestrian entrance from Woolgrove Road is overgrown with scrub and overhanging vegetation, this would benefit from being cleared back to allow light into the path which will help to dry it out in winter. A 1m margin where possible should be cleared back each side of the path and 3m high. The access to the road has restricted sightlines which need to be cut back for a few metres either side of the entrance, liaising with Highways may be required. There is the potential to create a safe path along the road verge back towards the bowling club and Walsworth Common car park, only a few trees would need to be removed and the route may not need to be surfaced. On the opposite side of the road to where the path comes out there are 6 metal railings which block your path when

trying to cross the road at this location meaning you have to walk further up the road to cross. Options to improve the area will need to be discussed with Highways to find the best solution.

The western end of the car park has been resurfaced with tarmac to bring it up to the level of the rest of the car park. Parking bays have been marked out with areas in front of gates hatched to signify no parking. The hedge at the entrance should be reduced in height for a short distance from the entrance to improve the sightlines. The faded sign on the lamp column should be replaced with a new site sign. A lockable height barrier has been installed at the car park entrance to stop unauthorised vehicles. Bike racks will also be installed, for which the location is to be decided.

A new 30m tarmac path (specification 6.3) should be created from the path at the side of the vehicle bridge across the grass, in front of where the old pavilion was to the road. This will improve safety of visitors by stopping people from walking out of the car park entrance to cross the road. Installing drop kerbs on both sides of the road will make the path more accessible to all. Highways will need to be consulted.

There is currently no lighting along Woolgrove Road as this is a wildlife area. For safety reasons, it is recommended to use the tarmacked Rights of Way footpath linking Meadowbank and Woolgrove Road as it is lit up with street lighting.

Play areas will be maintained and equipment upgraded when required. The creation of natural play areas could be considered in areas of the common nearest to the existing play area, to allow children to choose and experience a wide range of play opportunities.

There is a mix of different types of benches across the site, giving the site a cluttered feel. By repositioning some of the benches and only having a couple of different types such as a more natural looking rustic heavy oak bench away from the play area and matching benches around the play area would go a good way to improving the appearance of the site.

New signage from Woolgrove Road and a welcome sign by the entrance to the car park should be installed. Additional signage orienting people to the site should be installed locally – locations for discussion include from Meadowbank, Cambridge Road pedestrian crossing, Cambridge Road/Woolgrove Road crossroads and Woolgrove Road/Grove Road crossroads.

4.3 Community and Events

With the improved vehicular access the aspiration for Walsworth Common is that it will become Hitchin's premier outdoor event venue, hosting fairs, circuses and festivals. The improvements to the sports pitches will also draw in many more people not only to take part in the various activities but also to spectate, and providing a community hub for the site will benefit the local community.

Regular boot camps are held at Walsworth Common; the Council could consider charging such outfits a small fee to use the site which can then go back into the maintenance budget for the site.

Local people can join in with the practical CMS volunteer tasks on the site such as installing flow deflectors and signage. There are becoming more opportunities for people to get

involved with surveying and monitoring species on site including plants, water voles, Riverfly and water quality (water sampling kits can be obtained from FreshWater Watch <https://freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/content/freshwater-watch-how-guide>). There are still plans in place to set up a 'Friends of the Purwell Valley' as suggested in the Burymead Springs GAP, the plan for this group is to monitor the sites along the river Purwell and Hiz including Walsworth Common, Purwell Meadows, Cadwell Lane Playing Field and Burymead Springs. There could also be the opportunity to get involved as a river warden as part of the wider Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership Project www.ubocp.org.uk.

A dedicated site leaflet should be created for Walsworth Common to promote not only the recreational activities available but also the wildlife interest. A river walk leaflet could also be created linking the 4 sites along the Purwell Valley – Purwell Meadows, Walsworth Common, Cadwell Lane Playing Field and Burymead Springs.

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Cut around signs, furniture and entrances.	A1, B1	Apr-Oct	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.2	Amenity cut football pitch grassland.	D1	Sep-May	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.3	Cut and maintain conservation grassland.	C1, C2	Aug/Sep	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.4	Cut the river banks and views on rotation.	C1, C3	Twice a year on rotation	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.5	Health and safety inspections, risk assessments and undertaking of works.	A6, D1, F1, F3, F5	When required	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
0.6	Play area and skate park inspections and undertaking of works.	D1	Daily (JOC) Weekly (NHDC)	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.7	Tree risk management inspections and undertaking of works.	A7	Every 3 years	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Tree Budget	Staff time		
0.8	Empty litter bins (daily).	F1	All year	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.9	Remove rubbish and fly tip.	F1	When required	NHDC	JOC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		

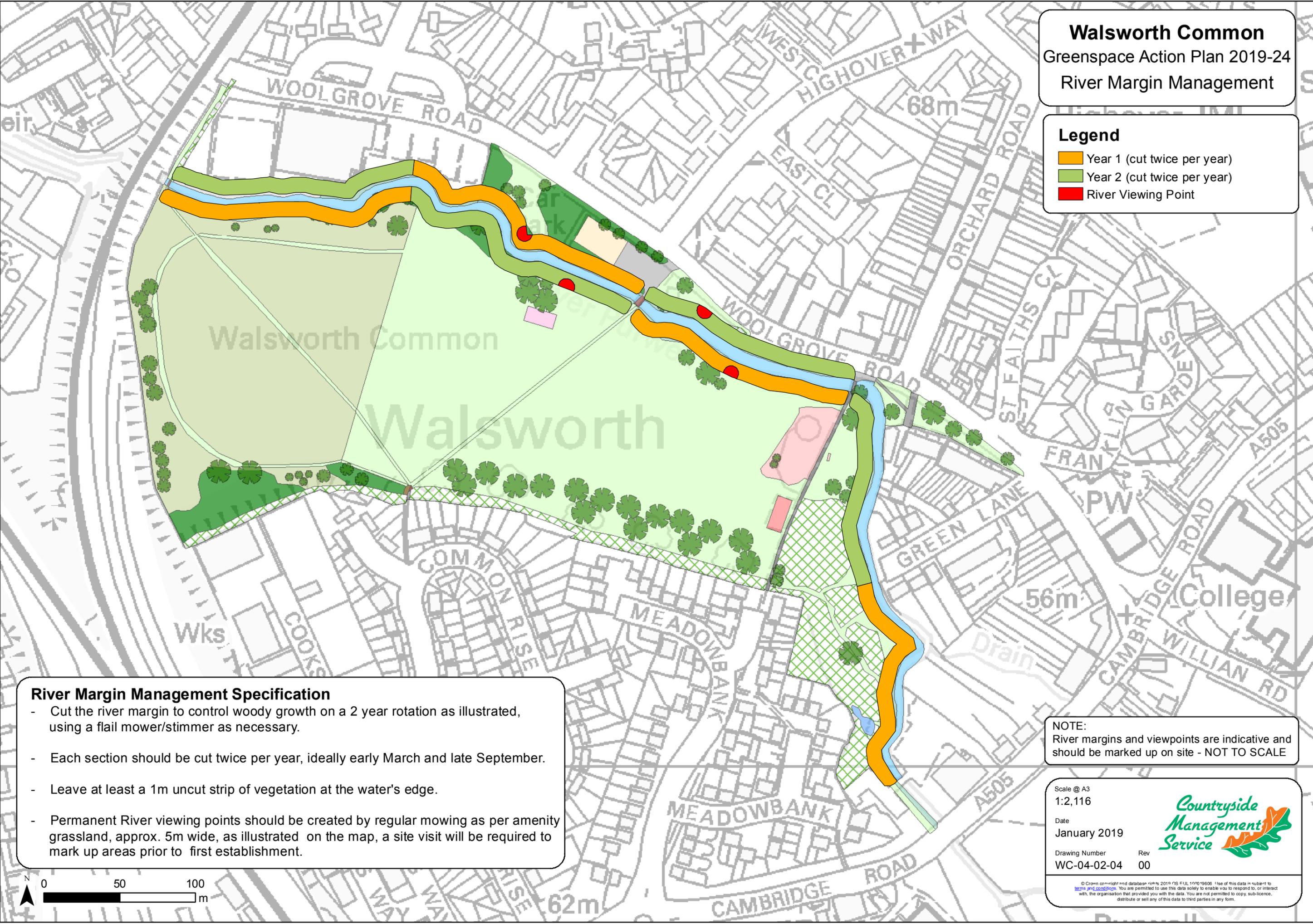
Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.10	Clean signs.	B1	When required	CMS	Vols	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.11	Invasive species control – Himalayan Balsam (HB), Japanese Knotweed (JK).	C10	Jun-Sep	NHDC NR	Vols - HB, NR - JK	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.12	Replacement benches across the site should be wooden around grassland area and matching around the play area.	F2, F4	When required	NHDC CMS	NHDC Vols	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
0.13	Promote volunteer and community events (including practical tasks and surveying).	D2-D5, E1-E4	All year	NHDC CMS	CMS	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
0.14	Investigate options for a Friends of Purwell Valley Group.	E1-2	Ongoing	NHDC CMS	NHDC CMS	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
0.15	Review ongoing maintenance costs to ensure they are financially sustainable.	H1	Ongoing	NHDC	n/a	n/a	Staff time		
0.16	Secure external funding to ensure viability of capital works.	H2, H3, H4	Ongoing	NHDC CMS	NHDC CMS	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
0.17	Review and update annual action plans.	E5	Yearly	NHDC CMS	ALL	NHDC Budget	Staff time		

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service; GM – Grounds Maintenance; NHDC – North Herts District Council; Vols – Volunteers; JOC – John O’Conner; NR – Network Rail; S106 – Section 106 development funds; WEG – Water Environment Grant (EA/DEFRA Fund)

Walsworth Common
 Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24
 River Margin Management

Legend

- Year 1 (cut twice per year)
- Year 2 (cut twice per year)
- River Viewing Point



River Margin Management Specification

- Cut the river margin to control woody growth on a 2 year rotation as illustrated, using a flail mower/stimmer as necessary.
- Each section should be cut twice per year, ideally early March and late September.
- Leave at least a 1m uncut strip of vegetation at the water's edge.
- Permanent River viewing points should be created by regular mowing as per amenity grassland, approx. 5m wide, as illustrated on the map, a site visit will be required to mark up areas prior to first establishment.

NOTE:
 River margins and viewpoints are indicative and should be marked up on site - NOT TO SCALE

Scale @ A3
 1:2,116

Date
 January 2019

Drawing Number Rev
 WC-04-02-04 00



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5.2 YEAR 1 2019-20

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Regrade site to accommodate new sports pitches.	D2	TBC	NHDC	NHDC	Sport England and S106	£103k		
1.2	Establish new conservation grassland around the new pitches, including reseeded.	C2	TBC	NHDC	NHDC CMS	NHDC Budget	TBC	6.1	
1.3	Create a 30m surfaced path from the vehicle bridge to Woolgrove Road (side of old pavilion); install drop kerbs on both sides of the road (liaise with Highways).	A1	Summer	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Budget	TBC	6.3	
1.4	Cut back sight lines around main car park entrance.	A1	Oct-Dec	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
1.5	Install new sign to post on road; design and install large welcome sign by entrance to car park.	A2	Summer	NHDC	CMS	NHDC Budget	TBC		
1.6	Remove redundant posts on river bank by vehicle bridge and relocate one of the litter bins.	F4	Oct-Dec	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
1.7	Improve the eastern pedestrian entrance to Woolgrove Road (by ford) by rationalising/ reducing/ relocating signs, benches, bins.	F4	Summer	NHDC	NHDC CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	TBC		
1.8	Monitor duck feeding and install educational signage if required.	C6	Ongoing	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.9	Cut back the western access from the site onto Woolgrove Road, improve sightlines and	A1	Oct-Dec	NHDC	NHDC CMS	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		

	signage (remove old sign).				Vols				
1.10	Liaise with Highways about the removal of railings opposite the western access from Woolgrove Road and install drop kerbs or alternative solution.	A1	Jul	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Budget	TBC		
1.11	Implement 'Purwell Valley Enhancement Project'.	A3, C7	TBC	NHDC	CMS Vols	WEG-TBC, or external funding	TBC		
1.11a	'Purwell Valley Enhancement Project' – undertake tree works along the river.	A3, C7	Oct-Dec	NHDC	CMS	WEG-TBC, or external funding	TBC		
1.11b	'Purwell Valley Enhancement Project' – install flow deflectors/brash buildouts in the River Purwell.	A3, C7, E2	Sep-Dec	NHDC	CMS Vols	WEG-TBC, or external funding	TBC		
1.12	Investigate and undertake the installation of coarse gravels into the ford and a brash build-out by the piling along the bank edge.	A3, C7, E2	Sep-Dec	NHDC	CMS Vols	External funding	TBC		
1.13	Pollard willow by river near ford.	A1, C9	Oct-Dec	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
1.14	Plant replacement trees in gaps along the poplar avenue (tbc) and river bank (willow or aspen).	C8	Yr 2 Oct-Feb	NHDC	CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	Staff time	6.2	
Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.15	Volunteers clear typha and over hanging vegetation from the pond.	C5	Oct-Dec	NHDC	CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	Staff time		

Walsworth Common

Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24

Year 1 2019-20

Task Responsibility

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

Annual Management

Cut around signs, furniture and entrances	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity cut football pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut and maintain conservation areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut river banks and views on rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Safety inspections and undertaking of works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play area and skate parks inspection and undertaking of works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree risk management inspections and undertaking of works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Empty litter bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove rubbish and flytip	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean signs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species control	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bench replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote volunteer and community events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigate options for Friends Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review ongoing maintenance costs to ensure they are financially sustainable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure external funding for capital works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review and update annual action plans	<input type="checkbox"/>

One Off Items

Implement Purwell Valley Enhancement Project	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

Cut back western entrance, improve sightlines, remove old sign
 Liaise with Highways re the removal of barriers and installation of drop kerbs or alternative solution

Purwell Valley Enhancement Project
 Install flow deflector
 Undertake tree works

Resurface and regrade western end of car park, mark out bays, install height barrier

Cut back sightlines
 Install new flag to post on road

Create surfaced path from bridge to road
 Liaise with Highways re drop kerb on opposite side of road
 Install welcome sign

Remove redundant post by bridge
 Relocate 1 litter bin

Improve entrance by reducing and rationalising signage, benches and bins
 Monitor duck feeding - educational signs
 Pollard willow by ford

Investigate installing coarse gravels in the ford

Investigate installing a brush build-out by the piling along the bank edge

Regrade site to accommodate new football pitches

Plant replacement trees in gaps along the poplar avenue (poplar) and river bank (willow or aspen)

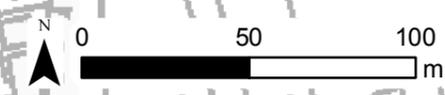
Purwell Valley Enhancement Project
 Install flow deflector

Establish new conservation grassland around new pitches (reseeding)

Volunteers to clear typha and over hanging vegetation from the pond

Legend

- Individual Trees
- Amenity grass
- Basketball court
- Bridge
- Conservation grass
- Hard standing
- Marginal vegetation
- Permeable surface
- Play equipment
- Pond
- Ramp
- River
- Scrub
- Skate park
- Steps
- Surfaced path
- Woodland/scrub



Scale @ A3
 1:2,116

Date
 January 2019

Drawing Number
 WC-04-02-05

Rev
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5.3 YEAR 2-5 2020-24

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Design and produce a new site specific and 'Purwell Valley' leaflet.	B2, A3	Yr 2 Aug	NHDC	CMS	NHDC Budget	TBC		
2.2	Design and install a new interpretation panel at the eastern entrance.	B2	Yr 2 Summer	NHDC	NHDC CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	TBC		
2.3	Maintain any new planting.	C8	Yrs 2-5 When required	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC GM Budget	GM Contract		
2.4	Pollard mature poplars along the avenue on rotation (trees by gaps for new planting first).	C9	Yrs 2-5 Oct-Feb	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Tree Budget	TBC		
2.5	Pollard mature willows along river bank on rotation.	C9	Yrs 2-5 Oct-Feb	NHDC	NHDC	NHDC Tree Budget	TBC		
2.6	Manage scrub across the site to prevent further encroachment into the grassland.	C4	Yrs 2 and 5	NHDC	CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
2.7	Plant replacement trees in gaps along poplar avenue (tbc) and river bank (willows or aspen).	C8	Yrs 3-5 Oct-Feb When required	NHDC	CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	Staff time	6.2	
2.8	Investigate the options for improving the slope of the ramp.	A1	Yr 3 Jun	NHDC	CMS	NHDC Budget	TBC		
2.9	Volunteers clear typha and over hanging vegetation from the pond.	C5	Yr 4 Oct-Dec	NHDC	CMS Vols	NHDC Budget	Staff time		
2.10	Monitor local planning developments as a source of funding for site development.	H2	Yr 5 When required	NHDC	NHDC	n/a	Staff time		
2.11	Write new 5 year GAP and engage with all interested parties	E5	Yr 5 Apr	NHDC	NHDC CMS	NHDC Budget	Staff time		

Walsworth Common

Greenspace Action Plan 2019-24
Year 2-5 2020-24

Task Responsibility	
□ District led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ District led	} Friends Group/Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Annual Management	
Cut around signs, furniture and entrances	□
Amenity cut football pitches	□
Cut and maintain conservation areas	□
Cut river banks and views on rotation	□
Health and Safety inspections and undertaking of works	□
Play area and skate parks inspection and undertaking of works	□
Tree risk management inspections and undertaking of works	□
Empty litter bins	□
Remove rubbish and flytip	□
Clean signs	□
Invasive species control	□
Bench replacement	□
Promote volunteer and community events	□
Investigate options for Friends Group	□
Review ongoing maintenance costs to ensure they are financially sustainable	□
Secure external funding for capital works	□
Review and update annual action plans	□

One Off Items	
Design and produce a new site specific leaflet and Purwell Valley leaflet	□ □
Year 2	
Maintain any new planting	□
Year 2	
Year 3	□
Year 4	□
Year 5	□
Monitor local planning developments as a source of funding	□
Year 5	
Write new 5 year GAP and engage with all interested parties	□ □
Year 5	

Scale @ A3
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Date
January 2019

Drawing Number
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Legend	
■	Individual Trees
	Football Pitches
●	Interpretation panel
▲	Welcome sign
■	Amenity grass
■	Basketball court
■	Bridge
■	Conservation grass
■	Hard standing
■	Marginal vegetation
■	Permeable surface
■	Play equipment
■	Pond
■	Ramp
■	River
■	Scrub
■	Skate park
■	Steps
■	Surfaced path
■	Woodland/scrub



The layout of the football pitches and conservation grassland is for illustrative purposes only and is subject to change

6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

6.1 Wildflower Meadow

- 1 For best establishment, wildflower seeding should be undertaken in the autumn, ideally October, while the grass is short and before the first frost.
- 2 The areas will need to have the vegetation cut and removed before starting to prepare the ground for seeding. This may not be required if it is done at the same time as the area is levelled to install the football pitches. The exact areas will be agreed in a site meeting with the supervising officer.
- 3 A suitable seedbed is to be prepared. Minimum preparation will involve scarification with a mechanical scarifier (i.e. a power harrow); leaving approximately 60-70% of the soil visible once scarification is complete to create a suitable habitat for sowing wildflower seeds. Do not rotavate paths – leave 2m wide.
- 4 Contractor to remove any stones, rubble, plastic and any other deleterious materials or protruding objects that have risen to the surface before seeding.
- 5 Area to be rolled prior to seeding.
- 6 Across the prepared area, native perennial wildflower mix seed should be surface sown thinly at approximately 4gms of seed per square metre (or as per manufacturer's instructions), by hand or mechanically. Damp sand can be mixed with the seed to act as a carrier and identify where seeds have been spread.
- 7 Seed to be a native perennial wildflower mix of native provenance seed, use Emorsgate Seeds EM2 – Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/3>. Damp sand can be mixed with the seed to act as a carrier and identify where seeds have been spread.
- 8 Immediately after sowing, the ground should be rolled using a heavy roller, to ensure the seed is fully in contact with the soil.

6.2 Tree Planting

Species

Species to be planted at Walsworth Common are to be:

- Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) along the poplar avenue tbc or an alternative species to be sought and
- Willow (*Salix*) or Aspen (*Populus tremula*) along the river banks.

Planting Stock

Tree stock for native 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. To plan for increased genetic diversity, and climate change resilience, a proportion of trees can be sourced from neighbouring southern and eastern UK Provenance Zones (405 and 406), below 300m elevation. Where it is not possible to exclusively source stock propagated from seed in the UK, imported trees and shrubs must be held at the nursery for one full growing season (monitored for signs of pest and disease) prior to planting out.

As part of the procurement process, nurseries must be required to:

- Provide a current Forestry Commission 'Certificate of Local Provenance';
- Provide documented confirmation of seed source;
- Provide assurance of UK propagation through accreditation under the Woodland Trust's 'UK Sourced and Grown Scheme' (UKSG) or equivalent demonstrable evidence;
- Demonstrate, as far as is possible, that trees are pest and disease free;
- 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.

Planting Out

Plant out as soon as possible after obtaining the plants. All roots should be protected while exposed to prevent drying out or frost damage. This includes during planting out when a slight breeze can soon dry the roots. Plant during the winter months, or ideally late autumn avoid heavy frosts, but while the soil is moist. If the ground is very soft or has been cultivated then slot planting may be an option otherwise pit planting is preferable (see below).

- Cut a square of turf 1.5 spade widths wide,
- Lift turf out and put to one side,
- Dig out a square sided hole to the depth of the spade blade,
- Loosen soil in sides and bottom of hole slightly to make it easier for roots to grow out and down,
- Hold tree vertically and in centre of hole, root collar level with ground surface level, replace good topsoil and additional appropriate composted material and shake tree gently to disperse soil around roots and prevent air pockets,

- Firm with foot/hand once roots are covered, backfill remaining soil and replace square of turf by first cutting in two, then placing upside down around tree,
- Protect tree using the appropriate guard for the location/tree (see protection below),
- Apply a layer of well rotten mulch (see weed control and aftercare below).

Protection

Wild animals such as rabbits, voles or deer can decimate newly planted trees so protection of new plants is essential. On Walsworth Common the guards need to be suitable to protect the developing trees in their setting in a public open space and in close proximity to sports pitches while complimenting the character of the site.

Standard trees should be staked using a 1.8m x 50mm stake with a suitable tree tie (approx. 37cm). Depending on size of tree planted a clear spiral guard (which expands with the growing plant) and can be used or for larger trees a 1.2m tree shelter (tubex) guard with stake should be installed.

Further protection should be added to trees planted across the Walsworth Common. This can be in the form of either a mesh guard supported by two stakes (left image) or a more parkland style tree guard (see details below), both of these can be made and installed by volunteers.

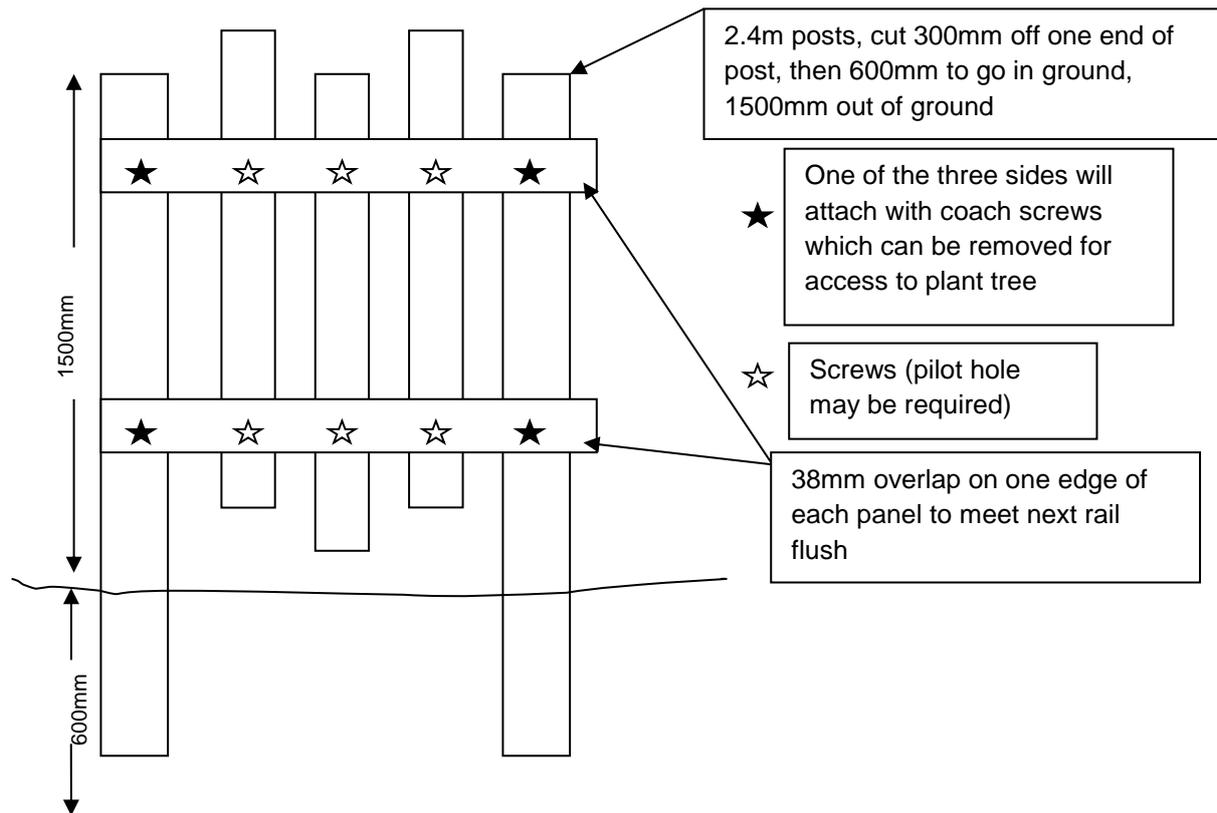
The internal guards (spiral and tree tubes) should be removed once the plants are well established after a period of approximately 5-7 years.



Parkland Tree Guard Timber and Construction

- 38mm x 88mm 3.6m length treated rails
- Horizontals for the guards are 900mm – 8 per guard
- Verticals are 1200mm – 12 per guard
- Have to fit this out of the 3.6m lengths
- 100mm x 100mm sawn treated 2.1m posts
- Suggested fixings for panels Turbofast 8mm x 80mm stainless steel 36 per tree guard.





Weed Control and Aftercare

Weed problems are perhaps the most important operation when establishing new planting and is often over looked. The main way in which weeds harm new trees is by competing for water and nutrients from the soil. Certain weeds can also smother new plants depriving them of light. Weed competition not only reduces the survival rate of new planting, it also dramatically reduces their subsequent growth rate. This can mean the difference between a first year growth rate of 30-40cm and a first year growth rate of just 1-2cm. In extreme cases plants may even experience first year die back. This is more common where standard sized trees are planted.

To prevent weed competition an area 1 metre across should be cleared of vegetation around each plant. The guards of the new trees should be kept weed free by hand weeding them during growing season, including the removal of grasses growing up the inside of the guards.

A layer of well rotten mulch (wood chip), from a local source is to be spread around the base of the plants, 100-150mm deep (minimum radius of 500mm); avoid direct contact with the base of the tree (if using spiral guards or similar mulch outside the guard). This will help to retain moisture, suppress weed growth and stop the soil from becoming compacted.

The trees will require maintenance for the first three years or until the plants become established. During this time small scale pruning may be required along with supplementary watering during periods of dry weather.

Losses

If all the precautions listed above are followed then losses should be minimal, however during extreme weather, losses may be unavoidable and should be replaced the following year.

6.3 Tarmac Path

(Asphalt Concrete Surfacing - BS EN 13108)

- 1 Excavate the marked out path to a minimum depth of 150mm and at least 2 metres width, with all soft spots excavated back to firm ground with the purpose of achieving best surface drainage of the finished route. Excess excavated topsoil to be removed from site, some to remain to finish path edges.
- 2 The safe width of the surfaced area should be 2 metres. The path is approximately 30m in length; linking from the existing tarmac path by the bridge to the road.
- 3 Supply and install 15mm x 25mm linear wooden edging along both edges of the path. Edges to be pegged and nailed at 1m centres with 50mm x 50mm square pegs x 500mm long with pegs to finish level with the top of the edging. Edge boards and pegs to be pressure treated.
- 4 Supply and lay permeable non-woven geo-textile membrane, Terram 1500 or equivalent approved by Supervising Officer, to completely cover the formation level of the path, to aid drainage, provide support and prevent weed growth.
- 5 Standard bituminous construction should consist of 150mm granular sub-base, 60mm bituminous binder course, and 20mm of bituminous surfacing, machine-laid to ensure smoothness.
- 6 Path to have a final maximum 1:40 (2.5%) cross fall or minimum camber of 1:50 (2%) to allow surface water to drain either side.
- 7 Contractor is to ensure that any excavation is free of loose material and suitably backfilled using the footway specification detailed below.
- 8 The layered construction is to be installed as per said specification and tied-in to the existing footway using, saw-cut joints, overlapped key layers, and with a suitable bitumen sealant. All installed layers are to be suitably compacted. The existing footway width is to be maintained, with all joints sealed as necessary.
- 9 You should provide reference to Section 5, Chapter 9 of Roads in Herts – Highway Design Guide - <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/highways/highwaysinfo/hiservicesforbus/devmanagment/roadsinherts/>
- 10 Install a drop kerb where the path meets the road. Contractor to organise traffic control if required when working near the road.
- 11 Spread, consolidate, level and rake the top-soil which has been stored on site along the edge of the path to form a flush edge to the path. Any additional top-soil required will be approved by the Supervising Officer prior to use on site.

The area is to be seeded using a ryegrass based seed mix to be approved before application to a rate of 35 g/m². The path edge must be left in a condition that will be maintainable once the path works have been completed.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Contacts

Organisation	Role	Contact details	Phone/email/webpage
NHDC	Service Manager Greenspace	Andrew Mills	01462 474272 Andrew.Mills@north-herts.gov.uk
NHDC	Area Monitoring Officer	Thomas Ayres	01462 474518 Thomas.Ayres@north-herts.gov.uk
Intalink	Hertfordshire Travel Information	General enquiry	0300 123 4050 https://www.intalink.org.uk/

7.2 Local Wildlife Citation

Site Code:	11/027/01
Site Name:	River Purwell, Walsworth Common
Grid Reference:	TL194304
Area:	0.33ha
District:	North Herts
Wildlife Site Criteria:	Species: Mammals, Water Vole
Designation:	Wildlife Site
Habitat:	Open water - running water
Site Interest:	River Purwell and banks with some botanical interest and record of Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>). Wildlife Criteria: Species.

7.3 Species List

Herts Environmental Records Centre – Summary of records available for Walsworth Common (1840-2017) including the river and nearby that have been sent into the records centre over the years.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Bullhead	<i>Cottus gobio</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	terrestrial mammal
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	bird
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	bird
European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	terrestrial mammal
Fine-leaved Sandwort	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	flowering plant
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	bird
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	bird
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	bird
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	bird
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	bird
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	bird
Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	flowering plant
Signal Crayfish	<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	crustacean
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	flowering plant
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	terrestrial mammal
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	flowering plant
Reed Canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	flowering plant
Pigeon	<i>Columba</i>	bird
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	bird
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	bird
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	bird
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Three-spined Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Minnow	<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Nine-spined Stickleback	<i>Pungitius pungitius</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	bony fish (Actinopterygii)
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	flowering plant
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	flowering plant
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	flowering plant
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	flowering plant
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	flowering plant
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	flowering plant
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	flowering plant
Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	flowering plant
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	flowering plant
Horse-radish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	flowering plant
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	flowering plant
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	flowering plant
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	flowering plant
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	flowering plant
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	flowering plant
Water-Starwort	<i>Callitriche</i>	flowering plant
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	flowering plant
Wetted Thistle	<i>Carduus crispus</i>	flowering plant
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	flowering plant
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	flowering plant
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	flowering plant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	flowering plant
Cornus	<i>Cornus</i>	flowering plant
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	flowering plant
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	flowering plant
Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	flowering plant
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	flowering plant
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	flowering plant
Common Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	flowering plant
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	flowering plant
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	flowering plant
Reed Sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	flowering plant
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	flowering plant
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	flowering plant
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	flowering plant
Orange Balsam	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	flowering plant
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	flowering plant
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	flowering plant
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	flowering plant
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	flowering plant
Gypsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	flowering plant
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	flowering plant
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	flowering plant
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	flowering plant
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	flowering plant
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	flowering plant
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	flowering plant

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Hybrid Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> x <i>deltoides</i> = <i>P. x canadensis</i>	flowering plant
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	flowering plant
Water-cress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	flowering plant
Bramble	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	flowering plant
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	flowering plant
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	flowering plant
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	flowering plant
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix alba</i> x <i>babylonica</i> = <i>S. x sepulcralis</i>	flowering plant
Hybrid Crack-willow	<i>Salix euxina</i> x <i>alba</i> = <i>S. x fragilis</i>	flowering plant
Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	flowering plant
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	flowering plant
Autumn Hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>	flowering plant
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	flowering plant
Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	flowering plant
Branched Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	flowering plant
Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	flowering plant
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	flowering plant
Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i> x <i>asperum</i> = <i>S. x uplandicum</i>	flowering plant
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	flowering plant
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	flowering plant
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	flowering plant
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	horsetail
2-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Harmonia axyridis form spectabilis	Harmonia axyridis form spectabilis	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)
Common Red Soldier Beetle	Rhagonycha fulva	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)
Peacock	Aglais io	insect - butterfly
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	insect - butterfly
Orange-tip	Anthocharis cardamines britannica	insect - butterfly
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus britanna	insect - butterfly
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni rhamni	insect - butterfly
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	insect - butterfly
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina insularis	insect - butterfly
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	insect - butterfly
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria tircis	insect - butterfly
Large White	Pieris brassicae	insect - butterfly
Green-veined White	Pieris napi	insect - butterfly
Green-veined White	Pieris napi sabellicae	insect - butterfly
Small White	Pieris rapae	insect - butterfly
Comma	Polygona c-album	insect - butterfly
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus icarus	insect - butterfly
Hedge Brown	Pyronia tithonus	insect - butterfly
Hedge Brown	Pyronia tithonus britanniae	insect - butterfly
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	insect - butterfly
Banded Demoiselle	Calopteryx splendens	insect - dragonfly (Odonata)
Western Honey Bee	Apis mellifera	insect - hymenopteran
Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus (Bombus) terrestris	insect - hymenopteran
Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius	insect - hymenopteran

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group
Common Carder Bee	Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	insect - hymenopteran
Silver Y	Autographa gamma	insect - moth
Snout	Hypena proboscidalis	insect - moth
Marmalade Hoverfly	Episyrphus balteatus	insect - true fly (Diptera)
Myathropa florea	Myathropa florea	insect - true fly (Diptera)

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Dandelion D
 Daisy D
 Yarrow D
 Common Mallow F
 Slender Speedwell F
 Common Mouse-ear A
 Ox-eye Daisy R
 Spotted Medick A
 MEADOW SAXIFRAGE R
 Germander Speedwell O
 Field Madder R
 Dove's-foot Cranesbill F
 Rough Hawksbeard O
 Hoary Cress O
 White Clover F
 Field Bindweed D

DAFOR scale: **D** = Dominant; **A** = Abundant, **F** = Frequent, **O** = Occasional, **R** = Rare.