

HARTHAM COMMON GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN (GAP) 2018 – 2023



June 2018 v0



OVERVIEW

i. Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs)

Greenspace Actions Plans, or 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.

ii. Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for Hartham Common in March 2018, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 4. A second stage of engagement completed in May 2018 enabled stakeholders and users/local residents/wider public 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.

iii. Version Control

Amendment Date	Version No	Section Updated	Details

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1.0 SITE SUMMARY

Site name:	Hartham Common
Area:	19.71 ha (48.7 acres)
Grid ref:	TL 327 132
Address:	Hartham Lane, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1QR
Designations:	Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust Registered Common Land (part) Kings Meads CL004 (no commoner's rights attached) Local Wildlife Site (part) R. Beane and R. Lea Confluence Conservation Area (part) Hertford Green Belt
Ownership:	East Herts Council
Leases:	Herts Canoe Club Hertford Tennis Club Everyone Active (Leisure Centre) Sele Farm Bowls Club

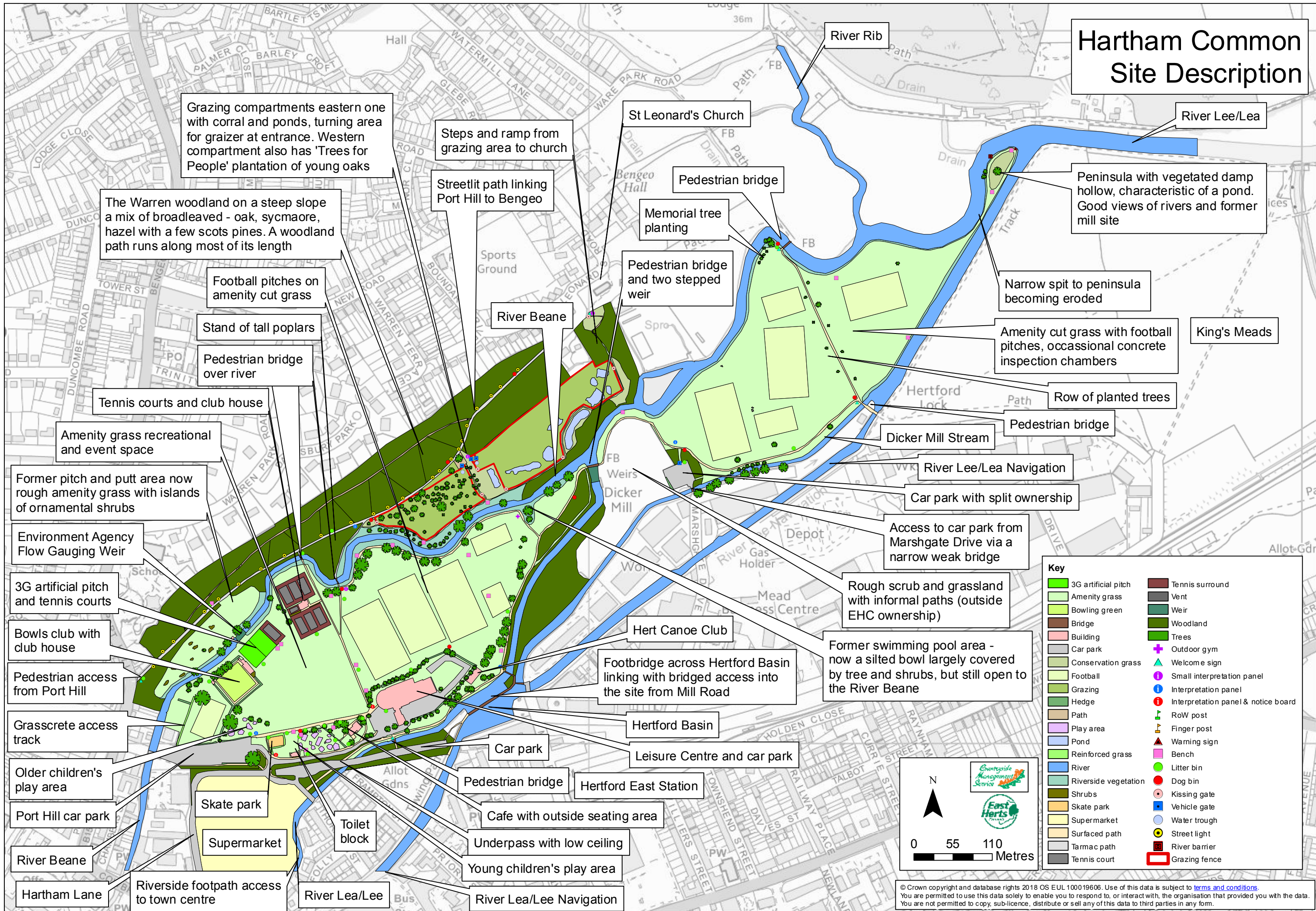
VISION STATEMENT

Hartham Common is a welcoming, diverse, beautiful and tranquil open space for the use and enjoyment of all residents and visitors to Hertford. As the town's premier park, Hartham Common is a haven for exploration and discovery. Its rivers and habitats and the opportunities for leisure and recreation that they offer, will continue to be sensitively managed to ensure that visitors understand the delicate balance that exists between protecting and enjoying our natural environment. The park's fascinating cultural and natural heritage will stand alongside its excellent visitor facilities and community events, ensuring that learning and play are both equally promoted. Accessibility across Hartham Common and connections to Hertford and the surrounding countryside will continue to be maintained and promoted.

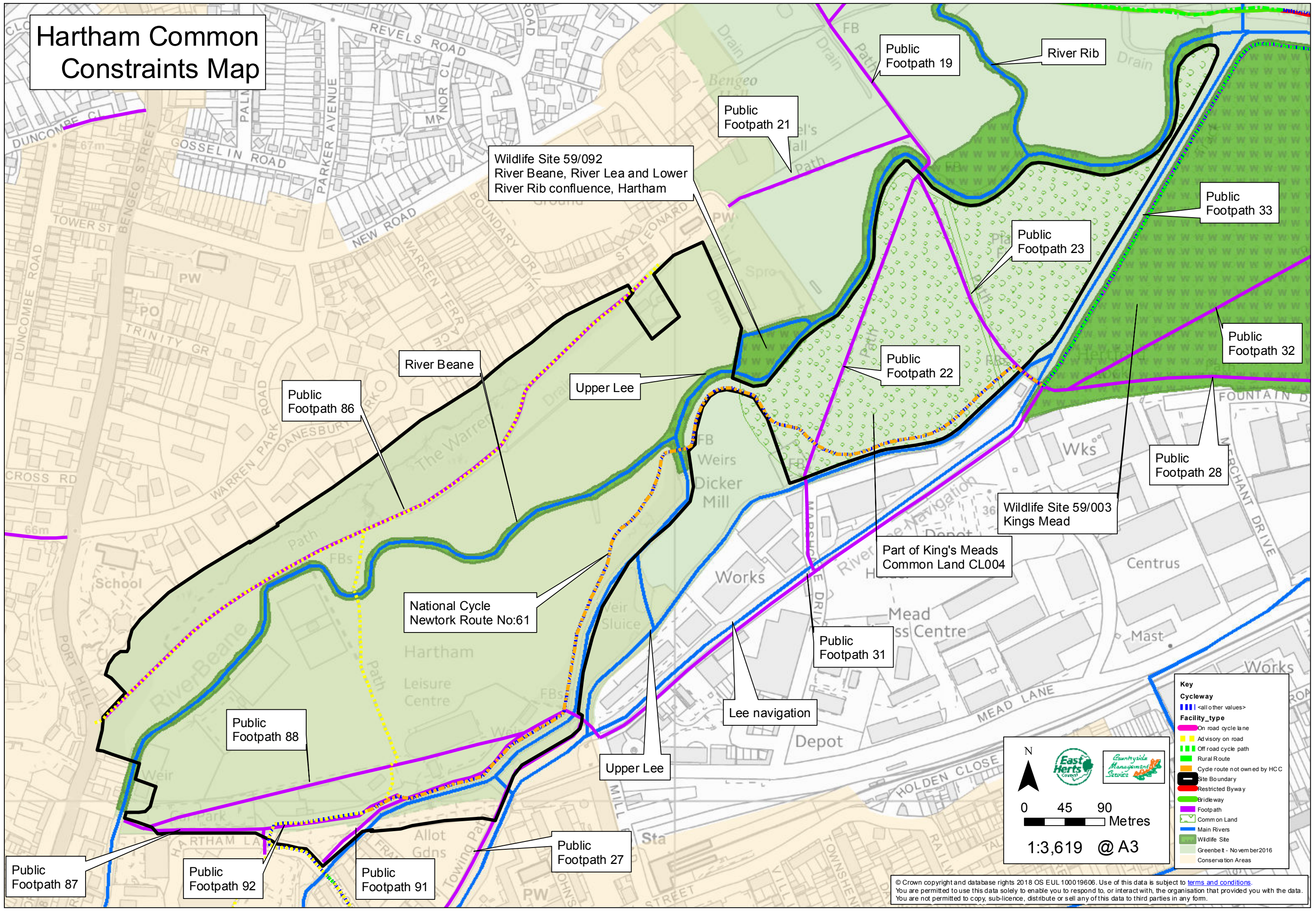
The vision over the next five years is to maintain and enhance Hartham Common, keeping up the same high standards that visitors have come to expect whilst supporting and benefiting local wildlife and habitats.

This document sets out the management, maintenance and development framework for Hartham Common to work towards during 2018-23. It is recognised that the systems in place to manage Hartham 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.

Hartham Common Site Description



Hartham Common Constraints Map



Key

Cycleway
[Blue line] <all other values>

Facility_type
[Pink line] On road cycle lane
[Yellow line] Advisory on road
[Green line] Off road cycle path
[Orange line] Rural Route
[Dashed orange line] Cycle route not owned by HCC
[Black line] Site Boundary
[Red line] Restricted Byway
[Green line] Bridleway
[Purple line] Footpath
[Green line] Comm on Land
[Blue line] Main Rivers
[Green line] Wildlife Site
[Green line] Greenbelt - Novem ber2016
[Orange line] Conservation Areas

N

0 45 90 Metres

1:3,619 @ A3

East Herts Council

Countrywide Management Services

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

Hartham Common is a popular open space with over 1000 years of recorded history. It is approximately 19.71 ha (48.7 acres) in size and located within a five minute walk from Hertford Town Centre. The park has important access and ecological links with neighbouring green spaces, particularly through its river corridors.

Users of Hartham Common can benefit from the range of facilities provided at the site including a leisure centre and swimming pool, public toilet, two well equipped play areas, a skate park, football pitches, bowling green, tennis court, trim trail, ample vehicle parking, and extensive riverside and woodland walks. In the summer months refreshments are provided from a kiosk operated by the leisure centre and a variety of events take place through the summer.

2013 saw Hartham Common dedicated as a Queen Elizabeth II Field in celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. These were created to protect two thousand and twelve outdoor recreational spaces for communities to enjoy now and for generations to come as a permanent living legacy of the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The dedication helps to reaffirm the importance Hartham Common to the local community and the commitment of the Council to developing and maintaining the parks high standard.

This Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) will continue where the previous plan left off and look to the future and the next five years of management to develop and enhance Hartham Common for people and wildlife. For more background information of the park please see [Hartham Common Management Plan 2013-18](#).

4.0 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS GAP 2013-18

The first Hartham Common GAP 2013-18 has helped to guide the Council's management of this complex site with its many interacting and conflicting elements over the last five years. The plan included improvements to access onto and across the common with a new surfaced path along the edge of the River Beane and welcoming entrance signage. Interpretation panels have been installed across the site at main entrances with a map for users to orientate themselves and more information about the features of the site. A smaller feature interpretation panel has been installed near to the river informing people about this important habitat.

Larger scale tree works have been undertaken along the banks of the River Lea to reduce shading of the channel. The grazing compartment below 'The Warren' woodland has been extended and includes a perimeter path around the outside of the compartment for people who don't want to walk through the area when the cattle are on site. The Friends of Hartham Common (FoHC) has developed over the last five years with new members joining. Tasks have included sign installation, tree planting, coppicing bankside vegetation, the removal of typha from the ponds in the grazing meadow and control of Himalayan Balsam along the river banks.

Ongoing maintenance operations at Hartham Common include: grass cutting, management and maintenance of the path surface and signage, small scale vegetation management, litter picking, fly tip removal and programmed tree works to address safety issues.

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

5.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

A A WELCOMING PLACE

To provide a safe and welcoming experience for local residents and visitors of Hartham Common.

- A1 Maintain all site entrances to form welcoming, visible and attractive gateways to Hartham Common, in proportion to their location.
- A2 Maintain a suitable network of accessible paths and transport routes throughout the site with easy links to other pathways nearby.
- A3 Ensure people walking or travelling in Hertford or the surrounding area are aware of the presence of Hartham Common.
- A4 Develop and promote the 'Hartham Common and Beyond' Project to get people exploring Hartham Common, neighbouring open spaces and the surrounding countryside.
- A5 Re-design the main entrance to Hartham Common improving its appearance and functionality while providing an inviting and accessible gateway into the site which is more representative of the high quality experiences that Hartham Common offers.
- A6 Improve and promote the accessibility of the park's unique habitats (river, woodland, grassland) to visitors while continuing to protect them.

B HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

To ensure that visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of Hartham Common.

- B1 Carryout regular risk assessments of the facilities, natural features and general environment found at Hartham Common.
- B2 Carry out programmed tree works to address safety issues.
- B3 Provide a proactive response to any misuse of the site.
- B4 Continue close liaison between EHC, CMS, FoHC, sports clubs, stakeholders, the local community and local landowners.
- B5 Ensure that visitors to Hartham Common are able to feel as safe and secure as possible in all areas of the site.

C CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

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

- C1 Monitor the grounds maintenance regimes (including litter collection) to ensure they comply with the contracted standard.
- C2 Establish and introduce a standard, uniform design of furniture.

- C3 Ensure that all fixtures and fittings are maintained in a safe, serviceable and tidy condition.
- C4 Remove clutter, poorly sited furniture, and redundant fixtures.
- C5 Encourage the upkeep of all buildings in a safe and serviceable condition, and used to their full potential.

D SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure ongoing costs are sustainable and secure external funding for capital works.

- D1 Ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable.
- D2 Securing external funding to ensure the viability of capital works.

E CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

To maintain and enhance the quality and value of Hartham Common's natural habitats, while enhancing the biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage and landscape features for all to enjoy. Provide opportunities for learning and education to help to protect and conserve Hartham Common.

- E1 Maintain and improve the diversity and wildlife value of habitats on site to protect specialist species and biodiversity.
- E2 Identify and develop the ways in which Hartham Common connects with other key wildlife sites in the local area including King's Meads and the Lee Navigation and its habitats.
- E3 Continue the annual grassland management regime across the park. If new vehicle-suitable bridge is installed over the River Lee to Marshgate Drive car park, the edges around the football pitches could be managed as cut and lift.
- E4 Manage the wetter areas of grassland by continuing with grazing practices.
- E5 Continue to manage the ponds in the grazing compartment by regular removal of encroaching Typha and willow saplings.
- E6 Actively manage 'The Warren' woodland by felling, thinning, coppicing, pollarding and planting, to open up glades and improves the views across Hartham Common.
- E7 Manage scrub habitat across the site preventing further encroachment of scrub into the grassland areas.
- E8 Continue with active management of the river and river bank habitat – including; reprofiling bank edges to help prevent erosion and the creation of new wetland habitats and ponds, provision of viewing areas and controlled access, bank side vegetation management, tree management, sustaining wildlife corridors, provision of buffer zones next to the river, in-channel flow deflectors, reporting pollution incidents, restricting unauthorised access and promoting responsible fishing.
- E9 Explore, develop and implement proposals for a new leisure space on the old pitch and putt site.

- E10 Identify, establish and maintain important views and vistas throughout the site to enhance the landscape visitor experience of Hartham Common.
- E11 Maintain and develop the on-site panels interpreting Hartham Common's history, wildlife and management for visitors.
- E12 Continue to monitor, record and learn about the wildlife of Hartham Common.
- E13 Enhance the landscape quality of Hartham Common and the way in which it benefits visitor experience.

F HEALTH AND RECREATION

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

- F1 Ensure existing recreational and sports facilities are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- F2 Develop the play facilities to provide an exciting, challenging and unique experience for all age groups that befits a destination park.
- F3 Explore the potential for offering new and improved recreational opportunities.
- F4 Promote and support the use of Hartham Common for Hertfordshire Health Walks and as a start location for walking routes into the wider countryside and waterways network.
- F5 Develop ways in which Hartham Common can contribute to health, fitness and well-being.
- F6 Promote the natural environment found at Hartham Common as a visitor attraction.

G COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To involve and utilise key partners and the local community in decision making and support of Hartham Common.

- G1 Continue to support, promote and develop a dedicated Friends Group for Hartham Common.
- G2 Encourage community and volunteer involvement with practical conservation tasks, ecological surveys and events.
- G3 Continue to offer all visitors and local residents a variety of events and activities at Hartham Common.
- G4 Maintain regular contact with key stakeholders and community groups and consult on decision making where appropriate.
- G5 Carry out regular information sharing exercises to let people know what is happening on the site, and to provide an opportunity for feedback.

H MARKETING AND PROMOTION

To raise the profile of Hartham Common and to develop new and innovative ways of promoting the whole site to existing users and new audiences.

- H1 Continue to develop and promote a range of events and activities with partners, key stakeholders and the community; raising awareness and interest in the common.
- H2 Promote awareness and interest in Hartham Common through regularly published stories and news items across a variety of media – websites, ParksHerts, newsletters, posters, publications.
- H3 All publicity materials for the site will be branded and made available in a number of locations and a variety of formats.

I STRATEGIC POSITION

To maximise Hartham Common's potential to contribute to wider strategic networks.

- I1 Ensure Hartham Common is taken into consideration with any plans for the rivers and surrounding landscape.
- I2 Identify Hartham Common's ability to contribute to Green Infrastructure in context with development projects in Hertford and the surrounding area.

J MONITORING AND REVIEW

To learn from experience and monitor effectiveness in order to refine work programmes to make the best use of scarce resources.

- J1 Monitor impact of overall management and uses of Hartham Common.
- J2 Update the progress of the action plans each year on the website.

6.0 FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

The action plans below have been established to achieve the vision for Hartham Common and the aims and objectives as set out in section 5.0. The plans take the format of annual work sheets, addressing activities that fall outside of the general contracted maintenance operations. They cover the period from April 2018 to March 2023. Actions have been divided into 'annual' operations that will take place every year along with 'development' actions that focus on raising the profile of the site and 'one off' tasks specific to that year.

Each action is listed in column 3 of the tables; column 1 contains a reference number for ease of use, while column 2 contains the objective ref from section 5.0 of the main document, so that the action can be cross-referenced with the motive. Column 4 indicates the time of year that the activity will take place and column 5 the organisation/s responsible for delivery (see abbreviations below). Where an estimated cost and funding source is known or relevant, these are included in columns 6 and 7. Column 8 contains a reference to further detailed information about each task, contained in Appendices.

ABBREVIATIONS

CMS	Countryside Management Service
CRT	Canal and River Trust (formerly British Waterways)
EA	Environment Agency
EHC	East Herts Council
EvAc	Everyone Active
FC	Football clubs (various)
FoG(HC)	Friends of Group (Hartham Common)
HA	Highways Authority (Hertfordshire County Council - HCC)
HCclub	Herts Canoe Club
HMWT	Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
HTC	Hertford Town Centre
JOC	John O'Connors (EHC Grounds Maintenance Contractor)
RoW	Rights of Way (HCC)
SUS	Sustrans
Vols	Volunteers
YS	Youth Services (HCC)

At the end of each annual period, the action plan will be updated to show the progress of the activities for that year, with completed actions and important notes to be marked in columns 9 and 10.

All dates in the action plan are subject to change, depending on resources and funding.

6.1 ANNUAL ITEMS

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete)	Notes
ANNUAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS									
0.1	C1 E3	Deliver Grounds Maintenance Contract.	All year	JOC	Contract rates	GM Budget	n/a		
0.2	J2	Annual review and update of action plan.	Apr	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.3	A2	Carry out annual audit review of pathways.	Apr	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.4	B1 B2	Tree safety audit.	Ongoing	EHC	Contract rates	GM budget	n/a		
0.5	B1 B2 C3 C5	Quarterly risk assessment and hazard review.	Ongoing	EHC	Internal resource	GM budget	n/a		
0.6	B1 B2 C3 C5	Arrange for work identified in quarterly risk assessment and hazard review to be completed.	Ongoing	EHC	Contract rates	GM budget	n/a		
0.7	C2-4	Audit all site furniture and fittings, to include benches, bins, bollards etc. Map all items and produce a report suggesting changes (i.e. replacements/relocations/ refurbishments).	Nov-Dec	EHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
0.8	C2-4	Undertake repairs/replacements/ installation of site furniture in accordance with previous year's audit.	All year	EHC	Internal resource	GM budget	n/a		
0.09	F1	Play area safety audit by RPII Inspector.	Jul	EHC	Contract rates	GM budget	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete)	Notes
0.10	B4	Consult with leisure service provider to resolve the problem of littering associated with football matches	Jul-Aug	EHC/FC/ JOC	Internal resource	GM Budget	n/a		
0.11	A1	Maintain all entrances across the site free from encroaching vegetation and obstructions.	Ongoing	EHC/JOC/ CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Internal resource	GM Budget	n/a		
0.12	E4	Regular monitoring of grazing to ensure compliance with grazing agreement, and maintenance and security of infrastructure.	Jun-Sep	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.13	E5 G1 G2	Volunteer event to pull <i>typha</i> from the ponds within the grazing marsh; pulling to take place before the <i>typha</i> has set seed in summer. Removal of any willow saplings at the same time.	Jun-Jul	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	9.5		
0.14	E5 G1 G2	Carry out Himalayan balsam pulling along the river banks; run as a community event/taster session for Friends.	Aug	CMS/Vols/ HCClub	Set contribution	n/a	9.4		
0.15	G1 G2	FoG meeting - identify interested people, discuss work programme and promotion of group and identify training opportunities.	X 2 per year	CMS/FoHC/ EHC	Set contribution	CMS	n/a		
0.16	E1 G2	Maintain newly planted trees.	All year	FoHC	n/a	n/a	9.6		
0.17	D1 D2	Secure external funding to ensure viability of capital works.	Ongoing	EHC/CMS	n/a	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete)	Notes
ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS									
0.18	G1 G3 H1-2	Events and publicity to recruit members to Friends Group	All year	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
0.19	G4-5 H3	Information sharing to take place via regular website updates (EHC, CMS, ParksHerts) and news articles.	All year	EHC/CMS	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.20	H2-3	Maintain and update Hartham Common webpage with links to new management plan, details of upcoming works and improvements, events and information on how to become a Friend.	All year	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.21	F5 H1	Promote site to fitness instructors, boot camp etc.	All year	EHC/EvAc	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.22	F4 F6 G3 H1-2	Promote a range of free volunteer led Hertfordshire Health Walks on Hartham Common, incorporating circular routes where possible.	All year	CMS/EHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
0.23	G5 H1-2 F6	Promote the opportunities that the park offers as a location for events and activities in and around Hertford.	All year	EHC/EvAc	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
0.24	I1-2	Maximise Hartham Common's potential to contribute to wider strategic networks.	Ongoing	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

6.2 YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2018-19

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 1)	Notes
1.1	E1-2 E12	Discuss annual surveying of otter and water vole with HMWT.	Jul	EHC/CMS/ HMWT	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.2	A2	Consult with Herts Rights of Way regarding the condition and long term maintenance of FP 86 between Port Hill and St Leonard's Church; agree a maintenance plan and seek funding for improvements.	Nov-Dec	EHC/RoW	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.3	A2 B4	Confirm ownership of bridges and organise safety checks and any repairs required (bridge by tennis courts and Marshgate Drive).	Aug	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.4	A1 A2	Liaise with the owners of Marshgate Drive bridge (River Lee) and the car park re improvement works required to the bridge (weight restriction for maintenance vehicles) and car park resurfacing.	Aug	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.5	A1 E7 E10	Carry out works sensitively to improve the views and access from/to Marshgate Drive car park into the park.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.6	B4	Confirm ownership of area of land by Marshgate Drive car park and if it can be utilised.	Aug	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.7	B3	Review non-refundable deposits related to staging of large events (i.e. funfair) to account for additional litter costs / commission additional litter picking when required.	Dec	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.8	A6 E8 E10	Rotate or install some of the benches near the eastern football pitches to face the river.	Apr-Jun	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 1)	Notes
1.9	E7 G2	Coppice shrub vegetation around the Mill Road site entrance to ensure good visibility into and out of site.	Jan-Mar	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.10	E7 G2	Coppice and thin established shrub vegetation around the footbridge by the weir.	Jan-Mar	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.11	E7 G2	Maintain by coppicing and thinning vegetation in identified areas to establish viewpoints along the rivers and between different parts of the site.	Jan-Mar	CMS/Vols/ FoHC/EHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.12	A3-4 E11 G1-2	Deliver 'Hartham and Beyond Project' posts, discs, interpretation panel, leaflet – installation by volunteers.	Apr-Mar	EHC/CMS/ Vols/FoHC	TBC	External funding	8.1		
1.13	E11	Replace damaged interpretation panel by bridge from Mill End once bridge repairs have been made.	Apr-Jun	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.14	A5 F3	Develop/design the concept for the re-design of main site entrance to create a more welcoming entrance including upgrade/redesign of play area and toilet facilities. Secure additional funding.	Jul-Mar	EHC/CMS	Internal resource	External funding	8.2		
1.15	F1-3	Develop/design plans to refurbish the leisure centre including consultation.	Jul-Mar	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.16	A3	Consult with the Highway Authority and negotiate the installation of brown tourist signs on the road networks around Hartham Common.	May-Jun	CMS/HA	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.17	A2 G1-2	Repair steps and revetments along The Warren woodland path.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC/ Contractor	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.18	A2 G1-2	Clear grass from steps towards St Leonard's Church.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 1)	Notes
1.19	A2 G1-2	Create grips along ramp towards St Leonard's Church, improve drainage and resurface under kissing gate.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.20	A2 E7 G1-2	Cut back vegetation/coppice first row of trees to allow light into the steps and ramp towards St Leonard's Church to improve path drainage.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.21	A6 E1 E8 E11 F6	Establish the brief for 'Hartham Common Rivers Project' and seek external funding and consents. Projects to include the following: - improvement to bank profiles for wildlife and stability; - revetment of the spit and establish pond area; - creation of formal paddling points on the River Beane with improved access to the water's edge; - tree works to reduce shading of river and new planting; - rewetting of the former swimming pool, to included vegetation clearance and dredging of silt - interpretation and viewing platform.	Jul-Mar	CMS/EHC/ EA	TBC	External funding	8.3		
1.22	E3	Establish conservation cut margins beside all watercourses, acting as a buffer.	Ongoing	EHC/JOC	Contract rates	GM budget	n/a		
1.23	B3 E8	Review solutions to restrict unauthorised boat access up the River Beane from the Lee Navigation.	Apr-Jun	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.24	B3 E8	Investigate current fishing activities and look to implement charging for fishing across the site.	Apr-Jun	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 1)	Notes
1.25	E6 E12	Mark out tree works and undertaken bat survey before the winter works.	Jul	CMS/ Contractor	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
1.26	E6 E12	Apply for a felling licence and conservation area consent for the Warren tree work.	Apr-Jul	CMS/EHC	n/a	n/a	n/a		
1.27	E6 E12	Selectively fell compartments A and C of the Warren Woodland to open up views from the Warren out towards the wider Common and Hertford, focusing on clearing sycamore; identify trees for retention; replant with appropriate native tree mix. Including round lamp columns.	Oct-Feb	EHC/CMS/ JOC/ Contractor	Internal resource	Tree work budget/ External funding	8.4		
1.28	E9	Explore, develop and implement proposals for a new leisure space on the old pitch and putt site.	Apr-Jul	EHC/CMS	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
1.29	J1-J2	Review Year 1 Action Plan.	Mar 19	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Hartham Common

Year 1 2018-19

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Deliver Grounds Maintenance contract
- Annual review and update of action plan
- Annual audit of pathways
- Tree safety audit
- Risk Assessment and hazard review and undertaking of works
- Audit all site furniture and fittings
- carry out any repairs
- Play area safety audit
- Consult with leisure centre re litter at football matches
- Maintain all entrances
- Monitor grazing
- Typha and Himalayan balsam removal
- FoG meeting and training requirements
- Maintain newly planted trees
- Secure external funding for capital works

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

- Promote FoG
- Information sharing and updates on websites
- Promote site to fitness groups
- Promote Hertfordshire Health Walks
- Promote Hartham Common as a venue
- Contribute to strategic networks

Mark up trees and carry out bat survey

Apply for felling licence and conservation area consent

Selectively fell compartments A and C to improve diversity and views, including around lamp columns and replant

Cut back vegetation either side of steps and ramp. Clear grass from steps, create grips along ramp, improve drainage and resurface under kissing gate

Consult with Rights of Way re long term maintenance FP 86

Rotate/install some of the benches to face the river

Repair steps and revetments

Explore, develop and implement proposals for a new leisure space

Install brown tourist signs

Develop concept for the re-design of the main site entrance

Develop/design plans to refurbish the Leisure Centre

Replace damaged interpretation panel once bridge repairs are complete

Coppice/thin vegetation around Mill Road entrance

Maintain views of river

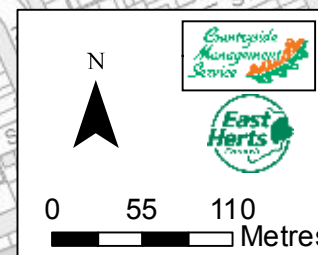
Improve views from Marshgate Drive car park

Coppice/thin vegetation around bridge by weir

- Key
- EHC
 - CMS
 - Volunteers
 - Friends of Hartham Common
 - John O'Connors
 - Hertford Canoe Club
 - Football Clubs
 - Rights of Way
 - Environment Agency
 - Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 - Highways Authority
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Hertford Town Centre
 - Sustrans
 - Youth Services (HCC)
 - Everyone Active

ONE-OFF ITEMS

- Discuss water vole and otter surveying
- Confirm ownership and organise safety checks and repairs of all bridges
- Liaise with Marshgate Drive bridge and car park owners to be able to undertake improvements
- Confirm ownership and use of land by Marshgate Drive car park
- Review non-refundable deposits for events
- Deliver 'Hartham and Beyond Project'
- Establish brief for 'Hartham Common Rivers Project'
- Establish conservation cut margins beside all watercourses
- Restrict unauthorised boat access up the River Beane
- Investigate current fishing activities and look to implement charging for fishing across the site
- Review Year 1 Action Plan



6.3 YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN 2019-20

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 2)	Notes
2.1	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	Implement works identified under the 'Hartham Common Rivers Project' once funding is secured and consents granted.	All year	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1a	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Carry out improvements to bank profiles for wildlife and stability.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC/ EA	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1b	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Undertake revetment of the spit and establish pond area.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1c	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Create formal paddling points on the River Beane with improved access to the water's edge.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1d	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Carry out tree works to reduce shading of river and new planting.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1e	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Undertake rewetting of the former swimming pool, to include vegetation clearance and dredging of silt.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC/ EA	TBC	External funding	8.3		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 2)	Notes
2.1f	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Develop and install new interpretation and viewing platform.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC/ Vols/FoHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.1g	A6 E1 E8 F6 E11	'Hartham Common Rivers Project' Liaise with local landowners to reduce cattle poaching and carry out tree removal.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	8.3		
2.2	B4	Develop and implement a plan for the area of land by Marshgate Drive car park once ownership and usage is confirmed. Possible link to 2.1.	Apr-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	n/a		
2.3	A3	Consult with Canal and River Trust about including Hartham Common on fingerposts and other signage.	May-Jun	EHC/CRT	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
2.4	A3	Ensure Hartham Common is included on any appropriate signage in Hertford Town Centre/Sustrans route maps/Cole Green Way.	May-Jun	EHC/HTC/ SUS	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
2.5	A1	Audit all access points, including transition between car parks and open space.	Jul-Sep	EHC/CMS	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
2.6	A2	Construct a new surfaced footpath around the back of the Leisure Centre.	Jul-Mar	CMS/EHC	TBC	External funding	n/a		
2.7	G3	Investigate the potential for a barbeque area	Apr-Jun	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 2)	Notes
2.8	F3 F5	Explore potential developments that may arise from the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy 2017 related to the improvement to sports pitches and provision of ancillary facilities; consider the need for prioritising and funding any such improvements.	Jul	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
2.9	A5 F3	Develop/deliver the re-design of main site entrance to create a more welcoming entrance including upgrade/redesign of play area and toilet facilities.	Jul-Mar	EHC/CMS	Internal resource	External funding	8.2		
2.10	F1-3	Develop/deliver plans to refurbish the Leisure Centre including consultation.	Jul-Mar	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
2.11	E6 E12	Mark out tree works and undertaken bat survey before the winter works.	Jul	CMS/ Contractor	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
2.12	E6 E12	Selectively fell compartments B and D of the Warren Woodland to open up views from the Warren out towards the wider Common and Hertford. Focus on clearing sycamore; identify trees for retention; replant with appropriate native tree mix.	Oct-Feb	EHC/JOC/ Contractor?	TBC	Tree work budget/ External funding	8.4		
2.13	E7 G2	Coppice/thin shrubs and small trees between the Warren footpath and former pitch and putt area.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
2.14	E9	Implement the plans for a new leisure space on Hartham Common on the old pitch and putt site.	Oct-Feb	EHC/CMS/ Vols/ FoHC/ Contractor	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yr 2)	Notes
2.15	E7 G2	Light coppice/thin of trees in top section of the woodland either side of path (steps/ramp) to St Leonards Church to allow in more light and improve drainage.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
2.16	E13	Develop a tree planting programme across the park.	Oct-Nov	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	9.6		
2.17	E7 G2	Woodland edge management of area to east of grazing area, remove aspen and other self-sets closest to the path, then coppice front edge on rotation every five years to stop encroachment into the grassland.	Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC/ Contractor	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
2.18	B5	Audit of current and future lighting provision in the park.	Dec-Jan	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
2.19	J1-2	Review Year 2 Action Plan.	Mar 20	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Hartham Common Year 2 2019-20

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Deliver Grounds Maintenance contract
- Annual review and update of action plan
- Annual audit of pathways
- Tree safety audit
- Risk Assessment and hazard review and undertaking of works
- Audit all site furniture and fittings
- carry out any repairs
- Play area safety audit
- Consult with leisure centre re litter at football matches
- Maintain all entrances
- Monitor grazing
- Typha and Himalayan balsam removal
- FoG meeting and training requirements
- Maintain newly planted trees
- Secure external funding for capital works

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

- Promote FoG
- Information sharing and updates on websites
- Promote site to fitness groups
- Promote Hertfordshire Health Walks
- Promote Hartham Common as a venue
- Contribute to strategic networks

- Mark up trees and carry out bat survey
- Apply for felling licence and conservation area consent
- Selectively fell compartments B and D to improve diversity and views and replant

- Light coppice/thin woodland either side of path

- Improving bank profiles for wildlife and stability

- Tree works to reduce shading

- Liaise with adjacent landowners re cattle poaching and willow removal

- Establishment of pond area and revetment of spit

- Tree planting along bank

- Woodland edge management of aspen and other self-set trees, coppice front edge on rotation

- Create formal paddling points

- Coppice/thin scrub and small trees between footpath and old pitch and putt

- Implement plans for new leisure space

- Create formal paddling points

- Create river viewing platform

- Undertake rewetting of the former swimming pool including removal of shading trees and silt

- Hartham Common Rivers Project Develop and install interpretation panels

- Construct a new surfaced footpath around the back of the Leisure Centre

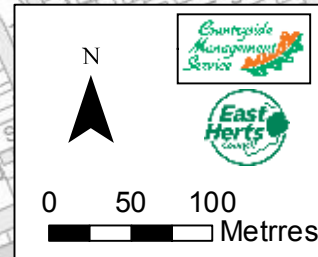
- Develop/deliver the re-design of the main site entrance

- Develop/deliver plans to refurbish the Leisure Centre

- Key
- EHC
 - CMS
 - Volunteers
 - Friends of Hartham Common
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 - Hertford Canoe Club
 - Football Clubs
 - Rights of Way
 - Environment Agency
 - Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 - Highways Authority
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Hertford Town Centre
 - Sustrans
 - Youth Services (HCC)
 - Everyone Active

ONE-OFF ITEMS

- Develop and implement a plan for the land by Marshgate Drive car park once ownership and usage is confirmed
- Consult with Canal and River Trust about signage
- Ensure Hartham Common is included in all local signage
- Audit all access points
- Investigate the potential for a barbeque area
- Explore potential for improving sports pitches
- Develop a tree planting programme
- Audit current and future lighting requirements
- Review Year 2 Action Plan



6.4 YEARS 3-5 ACTION PLAN 2020-23

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yrs 3-5)	Notes
3.1	A2 G3	Improve event access.	Year 3 Apr-Sep	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.2	E2 F5	Look at feasibility of installing temporary infra red counting devices to be combined with on site questionnaire work to establish visitor numbers and purpose for visit.	Year 3 Jun-Aug	EHC/FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.3	A2 A6 E6	Look at feasibility and costs to stop/control erosion on the slopes of The Warren woodland (particularly in the middle); including the provision of seating.	Year 3 Jul-Sep	EHC/CMS	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.4	E7 G2	Coppice and thin shrubs and small trees along the wooded path edge between the Leisure Centre and the weir.	Year 3 Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
3.5	H1	Review provision of catering on site.	Year 3 Feb-Mar	EHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.6	E7 G2	Coppice shrub vegetation around the Mill Road site entrance to ensure good visibility into and out of site.	Year 4 Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
3.7	E7 G2	Coppice and thin established shrub vegetation around the footbridge by the weir.	Year 4 Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
3.8	E7 G2	Light coppice/thin of trees in top section of the woodland either side of path (steps/ramp) to St Leonards Church to allow in more light and improve drainage.	Year 5 Oct-Feb	CMS/Vols/ FoHC	Set contribution	n/a	n/a		
3.9	J1-2	Put together new 5-Year Greenspace Action Plan for 2023--28	Year 5 Apr-Sep	CMS/EHC/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.10	J1-2	Review Year 3 Action Plan.	Year 3 Mar 21	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Ref no	Obj ref	Action	When	Responsible	Estd Cost £	Funding	Project/ Appendix ref	Status (complete end yrs 3-5)	Notes
3.11	J1-2	Review Year 4 Action Plan.	Year 4 Mar 22	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		
3.12	J1-2	Review Year 5 Action Plan.	Year 5 Mar 23	EHC/CMS/ FoHC	Internal resource	n/a	n/a		

Hartham Common

Year 3-5 2020-23

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Deliver Grounds Maintenance contract ☐
- Annual review and update of action plan ☐
- Annual audit of pathways ☐
- Tree safety audit ☐
- Risk Assessment and hazard review and undertaking of works ☐
- Audit all site furniture and fittings ☐
- carry out any repairs ☐
- Play area safety audit ☐
- Consult with leisure centre re litter at football matches ☐
- Maintain all entrances ☐
- Monitor grazing ☐
- Typha and Himalayan balsam removal ☐
- FoG meeting and training requirements ☐
- Maintain newly planted trees ☐
- Secure external funding for capital works ☐

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

- Promote FoG ☐
- Information sharing and updates on websites ☐
- Promote site to fitness groups ☐
- Promote Hertfordshire Health Walks ☐
- Promote Hartham Common as a venue ☐
- Contribute to strategic networks ☐

Look at feasibility and costs to stop/control erosion at The Warren, including provision of seating
Year 3

Light coppice/thin of trees in top section of woodland either side of path (steps/ramp), to allow in more light and improve drainage
Year 5

Improve event access
Year 3

Coppice/thin vegetation around bridge by weir
Year 4

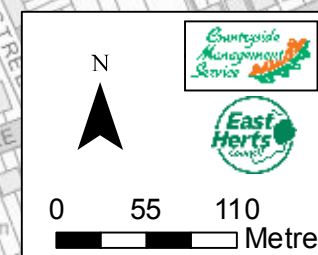
Coppice/thin vegetation along the wooded path edge between the Leisure Centre and the weir
Year 3

Coppice/thin vegetation around Mill Road entrance
Year 4

- Key**
- ☐ EHC
 - ☐ CMS
 - ☐ Volunteers
 - ☐ Friends of Hartham Common
 - ☐ John O'Connors
 - ☐ Hertford Canoe Club
 - ☐ Football Clubs
 - ☐ Rights of Way
 - ☐ Environment Agency
 - ☐ Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 - ☐ Highways Authority
 - ☐ Canal and River Trust
 - ☐ Hertford Town Centre
 - ☐ Sustrans
 - ☐ Youth Services (HCC)
 - ☐ Everyone Active

ONE-OFF ITEMS

- Look at feasibility of counting devices and questionnaires
Year 3 ☐
- Review catering provisions
Year 3 ☐
- Review Year 3 Action Plan
Year 3 ☐
- Review Year 4 Action Plan
Year 4 ☐
- Review Year 5 Action Plan and put together new 5 year GAP 2023-28
Year 5 ☐



7.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

7.1 MONITORING THE ACTION PLANS

The Hartham Common GAP is intended to cover a period of five years, from April 2018 to March 2023. As actions are carried out, they will be assessed and any issues recorded. An annual review will consider all of the issues recorded throughout the year, feedback received from the public, and any changes to policy, legislation and finance. Key stakeholders including the Friends of Group will be invited to walk the park with managers to discuss progress and note any new actions that might be considered for the next year. New actions agreed will be added to the Action Plan.

The GAP and annual action plans will be made available to view and download from the Council's website; park users will be able to monitor the plans and their progress.

7.2 MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Success of the action plans will be evaluated in the following ways:

- The completion of tasks on time and within the resources allocated
- Feedback from stakeholders and Friends Group at annual meetings
- Feedback from park users
- Measurement of park usage (from year 3).

7.3 GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN (GAP) FIVE YEAR REVIEW

At the end of the Plan's five year term, the management of Hartham Common will require a more comprehensive review in light of the success and progress of the plan. The review and preparation of new action plans, is an important and constructive part of the management process. It will be subject to stakeholder and community engagement before the next five year Greenspace Action Plan is formally adopted by the Council, implementation will then commence.

8.0 PROJECT OUTLINES

8.1 'HARTHAM COMMON AND BEYOND' PROJECT

Following improvements to the accessibility across the park itself during the last plan, the aspiration to provide linking routes from Hartham Common to other public green spaces in and around Hertford came about. 'Hartham Common and Beyond' was developed to deliver non-motorised transport links in and around Hertford, maximising the functionality of the town's green infrastructure. It takes the form of a series of seven circular walking routes centred on Hartham Common, connecting all the major public green spaces around the town. It connects communities to green spaces, promotes exercise and wellbeing, offers transport alternatives that are non-polluting and encourages people to explore their local environment. The project followed a similar specification to the adopted 'Parks and Beyond' project in Bishop's Stortford which centred on Southern Country Park.

During the last plan period routes were identified, surveyed and mapped. A new permeable surfaced footpath adjacent to the River Beane at Hartham Common was constructed linking to the existing path network. This can be used for short walks such as Hertfordshire Healthwalks 'first steps' (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks), providing a level circular walking route accessible to all users. When combined with the wider project, these routes will provide residents with a wide range of walking options and levels of activity from a gentle stroll to day-long excursions through the countryside surrounding the town.

Through this plan 'Hartham Common and Beyond' project will continue to be implemented. Utilising the existing Rights of Way network, the circular routes form an outer-orbital path route, joined into the centre of Hertford by seven "linking" routes. Improvements on the ground will involve waymarking and fingerposts to indicate the routes added to existing rights of way signage where appropriate. On top of this will be a variety of infrastructure and accessibility upgrades, for example the replacement of stiles with gates, and vegetation management to open up routes and make them more welcoming. Where possible, these improvements will be carried out by volunteers, engaging the local community in their environment.

To promote the project, a suite of seven branded leaflets will be produced, one for each circular route, these will be available in paper format and as pdf to download from the website. An interpretive map panel will be installed at Hartham Common showing the full route network, with the possibility of additional map panels at route intersections on the outer edges of the network. Additional, online promotion will be possible through project partners such as the ParksHerts website (www.parksherts.co.uk) and Hertfordshire Health Walks.

HARTHAM COMMON & BEYOND

Full Route Map



Ridgeway Circuit

Waterford Circuit

River Lea Circuit

Hartham Common

Ware & Hertford Heath Circuit

Balls Wood Circuit

Letty Green Circuit

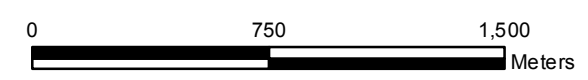
Bayford Circuit

HC&B Routes

- Linking
- Orbital

SITE

- Hartham Common
- Greenspace



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8.2 CREATION OF A WELCOMING ENTRANCE TO HARTHAM COMMON

A project brief has been drawn up to appoint a contractor to design a new welcoming entrance for Hartham Common. The area being considered for improvement is off Hartham Lane between the car parks (opposite the supermarket) and includes the play areas, skate park, toilet block and pavilion now a café (outlined red in the map below and known as the design area through the rest of this document). At around the same time the leisure centre is going to be undergoing a refurbishment, it is hoped that the community engagement process can include both areas.



Project Aims and Objectives

- A space that provides a welcoming and focussed entrance to the park
- An iconic and inspiring space for play.

A Welcoming and Focussed Entrance to the Park

Hartham Common at present has no clearly identifiable entrance. However, the design area is where many people enter the park, with road access, car parks, and the most direct footpaths to the town centre.

The area is dominated by a fenced off and out-dated children's play area and unattractive toilet block which is no longer in use. A teenage play area and a leisure centre are located at either end of the design area. Collectively, these components do not work together to create a space with a clear purpose or identity. A major component of the project will be to transform this area into an impressive entrance to Hartham Common, an entrance that is fitting for a major park in the heart of a historic town and that raises the park's profile. It will become a space that welcomes people to the park and provides a point from which they can explore it further.

Fundamental to the reinvigoration of this space has been the redevelopment of the pavilion into a café. The internal renovation work to the building was carried out externally to this project. However, the surrounding area, including seating, will form part of this design project. The café should be incorporated into the surrounding space and act as a focal point that draws together the play areas, leisure centre, the broader area of the park and the town. There are new outside toilets provided at the café.

A wide path currently runs between the main car park and the leisure centre. This provides a psychological barrier between the design area and the wider park. The design should address the visual impact of this path.

An Iconic and Inspiring Space for Play

The existing play area is largely out-dated and detracts from the space but it is popular and very well used. The design area will be primarily for children's play, focussed upon ages 2-10. The space shall be innovative, inspiring and stimulating and shall encourage the educational development of children.

The play space should be a part of the appeal of the entrance. The hard barrier between what is the entrance and what is designated for children's play will be softened. It will offer somewhere for young children to play, whilst also encouraging others to move through and into the park.

Safety will need to be considered and built into the design. This will include some form of barrier along the roadside that provides enclosure. It is important that any barrier is attractive and creatively incorporated within the design, restricting access whilst not sending the message that people are not welcome.

Ideally the play area will be constructed in a way that allows for some play items to be added at a later date when further funds allow.

8.3 HARTHAM COMMON RIVERS PROJECT

In 2012, the Beane and Mimram Rivers Partnership was established (part of the River Lea Catchment Partnership (www.riverleacatchment.org.uk/), to work towards improving the rivers Beane and Mimram for people and wildlife. The partnership combines a wide range of organisations, from local community groups and charities to councils and government agencies. Early in 2013, the Beane/Mimram Catchment Management Plan (www.riverleacatchment.org.uk/index.php/river-beane-cmp/river-beane-projects) was published, identifying different planned and aspirational improvement projects along both stretches of river.

It was identified to the partnership early on that Hartham Common is in an exceptional location at the confluence of the Rivers Beane and Mimram, and would be a fantastic base from which to explore the wider riverine network due to its transport links, parking and facilities.

The previous Hartham Common Management Plan proposed a number of projects which met with the aims of the partnership and looked to improve the river corridors on Hartham Common, in particular the River Beane. One project undertaken in 2017-18 was the creation of a riverside path alongside the River Beane, which improved the connectivity across the site and provided views of the river.

Projects which did not get completed during the last plan will be included in this GAP (2018-23) with additional projects being added. Most projects are going to be undertaken along the River Beane; they meet with the aims of the partnership and will work alongside other schemes in the area such as the Hertford Weirs Project led by Environment Agency and CMS which looks to improve fish and eel passage and river habitat throughout Hertford (www.riverleacatchment.org.uk/index.php/river-beane-cmp/river-beane-projects/643-enhancing-fish-passage).

The Hartham Common Rivers Project brief will be drawn up in year 1 (2018-19) of this GAP. The brief will determine in more detail what works are going to be taking place, set out how these will be achieved, at what cost, when and what consents are required. The potential for external funding for the project will be explored, with the hope to start implementing some of the projects by year 2 (2019-20) of the GAP.

Below is a brief outline of each project, further investigation and modelling will be required for some of the projects. Environment Agency Flood Risk Activity Permits will be required for all works in the river and within 8m of the bank tops.

HARTHAM COMMON RIVER PROJECT - INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Riverside Access

a) Create formal paddling points on the River Beane with improved access to the water's edge

Hartham Common is a superb location for allowing visitors close access to river environments, giving them the opportunity to interact and learn about wildlife and habitats, or simply to enjoy the tranquillity of a riverside walk.

One of the charms of the river networks on Hartham Common is that they offer a mix of character and accessibility. Some are of a more 'urban' character, their route and associated structures determined by the industries that once relied on them; other sections, the river Beane in particular, maintain the character of a semi-natural river corridor.

Management of the park needs to strike a balance between providing sufficient access to allow visitors equal opportunities for accessing the riverside environments while retaining the

character and informality that contribute to the experience. This may be best achieved by compromise; providing improved, surfaced access in certain locations while leaving others as informal grass routes; opening up vegetation to enable views and access into the river at a few choice locations while allowing other sections to remain wilder and more natural.

Parts of the River Beane are already heavily used by visitors and dogs as paddling points, which has caused the steep river banks to erode. Managing this issue through the provision of suitable formal access point/s may help to reduce damage to these important wildlife habitats and the effects that it is having on the river. Providing additional access to/across the river in the form of stepping stones may also help to alleviate the problem.

Riverside Habitats

b) Carry out tree works to reduce shading of river and new planting

Hartham Common is in an excellent position to be contributing to the improvements of the riverside habitats in the interest of encouraging target species, such as otter and water vole, and other important species such as kingfisher and bat species. Work has already been carried out on adjacent sites to create otter holts and to improve banks for water voles; these improvements should be continued on Hartham Common where possible.

In some locations along the river corridor, it will be desirable to reduce vegetation cover in order to open up views and access to the general public, and to let in more light to help encourage marginal and in-channel vegetation. Any activities of this nature should take into account the retention of low, overhanging branches for kingfishers (perching spots for feeding), and the need for bat surveys if affecting larger trees. Some large willows were pollarded along the river as part of the previous plan. There are areas where further vegetation management is needed; in some cases this will require liaising with adjacent land owners as the trees are coming over the river from their land.

The eastern end of the park has very few trees along the River Lee Navigation bank. This area could be enhanced by the planting of 3-4 willow branches along the river bank top. The branches would come from trees on site and would be spaced out along the riverbank. The trees would be suitably protected and maintained. Once established they would provide additional habitat and some shade along this bank edge.

c) Carry out improvements to bank profiles for wildlife and stability

Parts of the River Beane towards the eastern end of Hartham Common have steep banks, which have become eroded over time by uncontrolled access and the undercutting of the river. In places the channel is overwide, deep, sluggish, with limited to no marginal or in-channel vegetation. By reprofiling the bank edges this can be resolved it will create additional wildlife habitat and attractive river margins. Creating gently sloping banks and marginal shelves by pushing in sections of the bank will make the bank edges safer and improve stability. The marginal shelves can be left to colonise naturally or planted up using native wetland plants.

The banks around the football pitches at the eastern end of the site have been built up in the past probably from previous river dredging works this has created embankments which cut the river off from its floodplain in these locations; this will provide most of the material for creating the marginal shelves. The marginal shelves will also help to narrow the channel which will speed up the flow of water; this will remove any silt in the middle of the channel exposing areas of clean gravels providing an additional habitat. The grass on the banks will be scraped off, retained and replaced once the banks have been reprofiled which will help to stabilise them as they establish. Due to the presence of Himalayan Balsam on the site the banks may need to be cleared of balsam before reprofiling so as not to spread the seeds. Soil samples will also need to be taken to check that any material to be pushed into the channel is not contaminated.

Once reprofiled the addition of an annually mown margin along the bank tops will protect the edges further, this could be rolled out along all river banks providing an extra habitat which will be great for invertebrates and small mammals.

d) Undertake revetment of the spit and establish pond area

At the far eastern end of Hartham Common at the confluence of the Rivers Beane and Lea is the spit. The strip of land leading to the end of the spit has become increasingly narrow; with the continuation of erosion it could get cut off from the main land. Methods to protect the spit need to be investigated further but could include the revetment or the creation of a marginal shelf on the northern side (River Beane) at the narrowest point of the spit as described above.

The end of the spit becomes wider and has a large depression in it; its creation is unknown but may be linked to some of the dredging activities along the rivers. This would be the perfect location to create a seasonal pond; the material from this if clean could then be used to create the marginal shelf and help to protect the spit from further erosion as mentioned above.

e) Undertake rewetting of the former swimming pool, to include vegetation clearance and dredging of silt

At the heart of the site is the location of the former swimming pool, still visible today but now no longer recognisable as to its former use. Over the years the area has silted up and become shaded by vegetation. Rather than leaving it as a muddy, shady hollow proposals are to rewet the area creating an attractive feature to this once forgotten pool. By removing some of the overhanging vegetation and clearing the silt will let the water return to the former swimming pool. The additional light and water will make conditions suitable for marginal vegetation colonise. If clean the silt could be used to create marginal shelves in the river, if not then it will need to either be removed from site or reprofiled around the edges of the wetland area and may need to be held back using coir rolls or faggots.

f) Liaise with local landowners to reduce cattle poaching and carry out tree removal

At the eastern end of the site on the northern banks of the River Beane are some issues which could start to affect the watercourse, these are on land not owned by East Herts Council. There are areas of river which are heavily shaded by trees leaning over from the opposite bank, these areas should be opened up to allow light to reach the channel helping marginal and in-channel vegetation to grow (see b).

Cattle on the northern banks have access to the river; this is not controlled and has created quite a large area of poaching along the river bank. To overcome this and allow the river banks a chance to recover; parts of the site could be fenced to stop access to the river and a cattle drinking area could be created which will help to protect the river banks from further poaching.

In both instances the local landowners need to be contacted and the issues explained along with the importance that the changes will have on the river.

Interpretation

g) Develop and install new interpretation

New small interpretation panels will be installed around the site at key locations explaining more about the history and wildlife of the site. Any new panels will match the style of the existing panels. Panels will cover the former swimming pool area, the importance of the landscape along the river valley and other important habitats and features. The Friends of Hartham Common and CMS Volunteers will be involved in installing the new panels.

8.4 THE WARREN - WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

The Warren is an important landscape feature of Hartham Common, consisting of a vast steep wooded bank of mixed native species with predominantly sycamore. During the next 5 years management work to The Warren will be carried out, this will focus on selective felling of trees in the interest of reducing the dominance of sycamore, allowing natural regeneration and some restocking with desirable native tree species. These works will not only help to improve the woodland structure but also provide welcome views across the site. Opening up the canopy in wedges will create sunny, south facing glades in the woodland which will encourage growth of a diverse ground layer and understorey while providing shelter and food for butterflies and other insects. By opening up views across the site and by clearing vegetation blocking the lamp columns the management will also benefit the usability of the path that runs through The Warren.

Woodland management works will be undertaken over the first two years of the GAP, carrying out work on two wedges each year - areas A and C in Year 1 2018-19 and areas B and D in Year 2 2019-20. This is the most cost effective way to undertake the works rather than doing one wedge a year as overall the amount of trees to be thinned is low.

Following the initial tree removal works, there will ongoing management required to each cleared section, which will include maintenance of the newly planted trees and restocking of any losses. This will be included in the contractor's specification as the banks are too steep for volunteers to work on safely.

Friends of Hartham Common and CMS volunteers will be involved in vegetation management work along the path edges to continue to open up the views of the river and rest of the site. Works will also include repairs to the woodland path through The Warren and the installation of benches.

WOODLAND RESTOCKING

Species

Species to be planted:

- 40% English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- 30% Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- 30% Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

The plants should be wherever possible 2 year bare rooted stock. Care must be taken to ensure orders are placed in good time to enable early planting and minimise plant stress through drought. Where stock is to be stored for more than 24 hours between receipt and planting it should be carefully healed in and protected from grazing animals.

Stocking Density

Plants should be planted at 2m centres (2,500 stems per hectare) in a random distribution across the felled areas, which will maximize each plant's access to light, water and nutrients and to make aftercare as efficient as possible.

Site Preparation

To aid establishment, the site should be prepared prior to planting. Hand clear 1m planting positions for each tree; use a spade to scrape back the leaf litter creating a bare planting area, roots of brambles and nettles may require digging out.

See Also Appendix 9.6 Tree Planting.

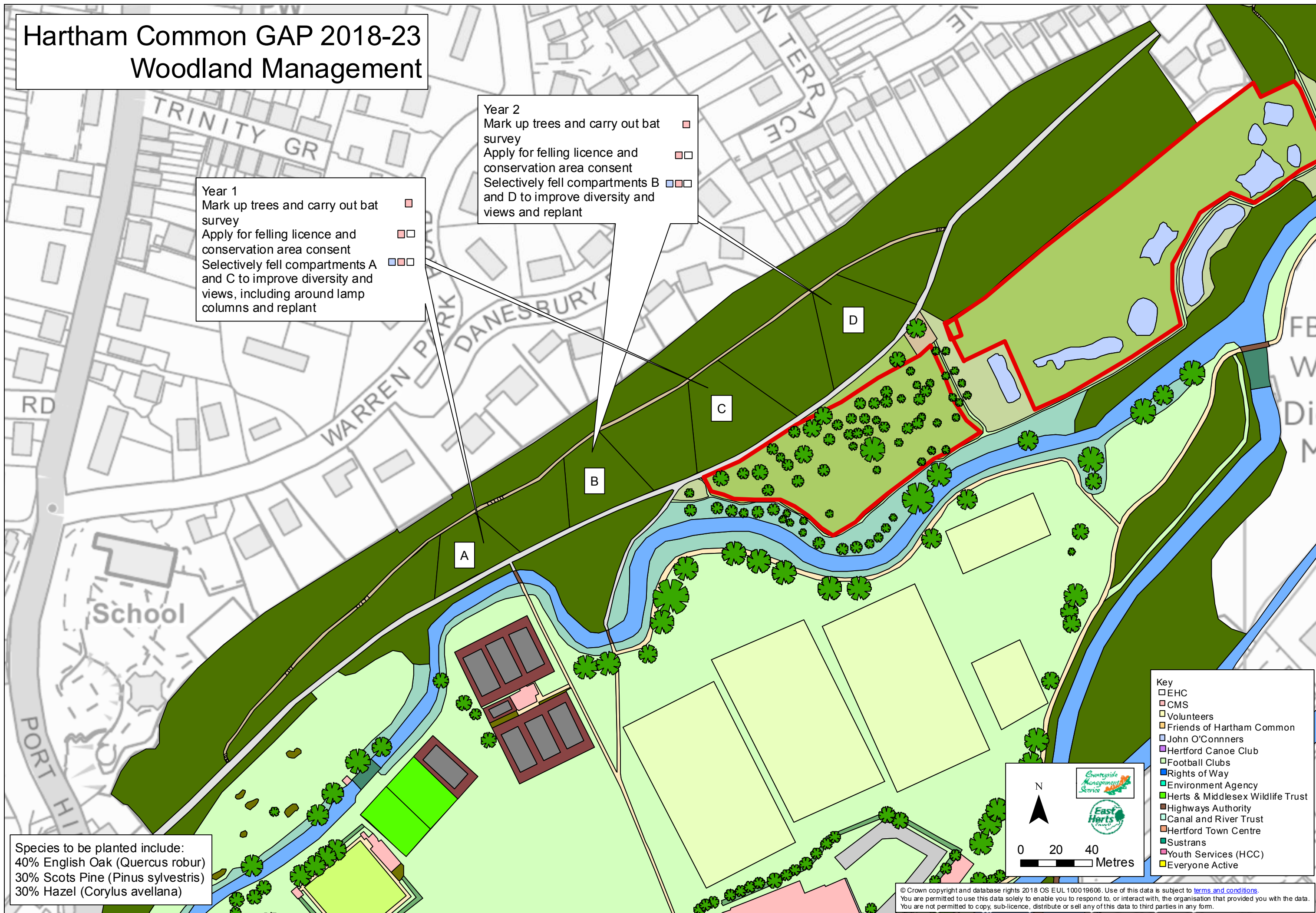
Hartham Common GAP 2018-23

Woodland Management

Year 1
Mark up trees and carry out bat survey
Apply for felling licence and conservation area consent
Selectively fell compartments A and C to improve diversity and views, including around lamp columns and replant

Year 2
Mark up trees and carry out bat survey
Apply for felling licence and conservation area consent
Selectively fell compartments B and D to improve diversity and views and replant

Species to be planted include:
40% English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
30% Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
30% Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)



- Key
- EHC
 - CMS
 - Volunteers
 - Friends of Hartham Common
 - John O'Connors
 - Hertford Canoe Club
 - Football Clubs
 - Rights of Way
 - Environment Agency
 - Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
 - Highways Authority
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Hertford Town Centre
 - Sustrans
 - Youth Services (HCC)
 - Everyone Active

9.0 APPENDICES

9.1 CONTACTS

Address	Contact/Position	Telephone/Email
East Herts Council Wallfields, Pegs Lane Hertford, Herts, SG13 8EQ	For general enquiries – including Out of Hours Service	East Herts Council Operations Tel: 01279 655261 Email: enquiries@eastherts.gov.uk Website: www.eastherts.gov.uk
Countryside Management Service (CMS) CMS Office (Car Park H), Environment Department, County Hall, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 8DN	For general enquiries	Tel: 01992 588433 Email: northeast.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk Website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms
Hertfordshire County Council County Hall, Pegs Lane Hertford, Herts, SG13 8DN	For general enquiries	Tel: 0300 1234040 Contact: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/About-the-council/Contact-us/Contact-a-service.aspx Website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk
Hertford Town Council The Castle, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1HR	For general enquiries	Tel: 01992 552885 Fax: 01992 505876 Contact: www.hertford.gov.uk/contact/ Web site: www.hertford.gov.uk
Environment Agency 15 Bessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL7 1HU	For general enquiries	Tel: 03708 506 506 - general enquiry line Tel: 0800 80 70 60 to report an incident Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Police Neighbourhood Team Hertford Police Station, Hale Road, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8ED	Neighbourhood Team	Tel: 101 - Non-emergency number for help, advice and information. Always dial 999 in an emergency Website: www.herts.police.uk
Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Hertford Fire Station, Old London Road, Hertford, Herts, SG13 7LD	Fire Station Manager	Tel: 01992 507507 (Station) Tel: 0300 123 4046 (Fire Safety Advice) Always dial 999 in an emergency Visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/fire-and-rescue/fire-station-locations/hertford-fire-station.aspx Email: hertford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk

9.2 LINKS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Canal and River Trust

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Countryside Management Service (CMS)

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms

Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Fields in Trust

www.fieldsintrust.org/Hartham-Common

Hartham Leisure Centre

www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hartham-leisure-centre/

Hertford Civic Society

www.hertfordcivicsociety.org.uk

Hertford Lawn Tennis Club

www.hltdc.org.uk

Hertford Town Council

www.hertford.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Herts Canoe Club

www.hertscanoecub.co.uk

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Sele Farm Bowls Club

www.hertsba.com/HB14%20Clubs/3%20Clubs/Sele%20Farm.htm

Sustrans

www.sustrans.org.uk

9.3 LINKS TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

Hartham Common Plan 2013-18

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/24318/Hartham-Common-Management-Plan-2013---2018/PDF/Hartham_Common_Management_Plan_2013_-_2018.pdf

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2007 – 2012

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/7159/Parks--Open-Spaces-Strategy-2007---2012/PDF/Parks_Open_Spaces_Strategy_2007_-_2012.pdf

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013 – 2018

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/24315/Parks--Open-Spaces-Strategy-2013---2018/PDF/Parks_and_Open_Spaces_Strategy_2013_-_For_web.pdf

Grazing Animals in our Parks

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/17447/Grazing-Animals-in-our-Parks/PDF/EHC_Grazing_Animals_in_our_Parks_-_July_2010.pdf

East Herts Local Plan Second Review (April 2007)

www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/34936/Current-Adopted-Local-Plan-2007

East Herts District Plan to 2031

www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan

East Herts Green Infrastructure Plan 2011

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/30365/Green-Infrastructure-Plan/PDF/Green_infrastructure_plan_joined.pdf

Hertford's Green Fingers – Hertford Civic Society

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/32170/Hertford-Civic-Society/PDF/1047937_Hertford_Civic_Society.pdf

Playing Pitch Strategy 2010

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/31113/Playing-Pitch-Strategy-and-Outdoor-Sports-Audit--Strategy-Report/PDF/CFA.001_Playing_Pitch_Strategy_and_Outdoor_Sports_Audit-Final_Strategy.pdf

“Everyone Matters” – A Sustainable Community Strategy for East Herts 2009-2024

www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35657/Sustainable-Community-Strategy-2009-2024

East Herts Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-18

www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35655/Health--Wellbeing-Strategy-2013-18

“A 50-year vision for the wildlife and natural habitats of Hertfordshire – A Local Biodiversity Plan”

www.hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity_vision/

East Herts Air Quality Action Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20

www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/31438/Air-Quality-Action-Plan-201718-201920/PDF/East_Herts_Air_Quality_Action_Plan_2017-18_-_2019-20_3_final.pdf

9.4 MANAGEMENT OF HIMALAYAN BALSAM

The river corridors on Hartham Common, in particular along the River Beane, are affected by the spread of Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), an invasive non-native species which rapidly colonises river banks. The plant forms tall, dense stands which suppress the growth of grasses and native plants, leaving the banks bare of vegetation over winter and more susceptible to erosion.



Over time, Himalayan Balsam can be eradicated if regularly controlled. In a setting such as Hartham Common, the most appropriate method for management is to manually pull the shallow-rooted plants and to remove from site; this activity can be carried out as a practical volunteer task.

Method

- Strict biosecurity measures should be put in place to ensure that all clothing and PPE and equipment are clean before and after carrying out the work on site. This should follow the Check Clean Dry methodology (www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/).
- Firstly make sure that all volunteers involved can recognise the plant in various stages of growth.
- Arrange a search of the area along the river banks up and downstream to locate all infestations. Remember to include any ditches, other wet/damp areas, reedbeds as well as private gardens along the watercourse. Also check for areas where there could be the potential for nesting birds. Volunteers from the Friends of Hartham Common (FoHC) could be asked to do this prior to the task.
- Pulling Himalayan Balsam is suitable for volunteers who can clear reasonable sections in a day. Some areas are too steep to reach safely from the bank top; with the help of the Herts Canoe Club hard to reach plants may be accessed via the river.
- The appropriate risk assessment for working in/near water should be followed.
- Equipment needed:
 - Waders and wellies
 - Rubber gloves
 - Overalls to keep splashes off clothing (but on a hot day, volunteers may prefer not to wear them)
 - Hot weather gear - sun hats and other protection – if it's sunny (volunteers may be exposed for several hours)
 - Water, soap and towels to clean up before eating, drinking or finishing the task
 - Heavy duty bags to collect plants as you go
 - Heavy duty sheets for dragging larger quantities away from banks where this is possible. Pitch forks can be useful for transferring it onto the heaps.
- As seeds are liable to spread downstream, start pulling, at the infestation closest to the source of the watercourse and work downstream.
- The best time to do it is in early July when the plants are coming into flower as it makes it much easier to spot them. Those not in flower are more difficult to spot but the red on the stems helps distinguish them from other plants. Very young plants can be overlooked and the exercise should be repeated about two weeks later when they will be more visible.
- Plants usually pull out readily. Grasp the plant near the base and below any nodes with both hands and it usually comes up easily and complete. Avoid pulling above a node as

the stem can break there. Where the individual plant is large and/or in drier ground, the ground around the roots may need to be loosed with a fork.

- Plants have nodes which will root if in contact with the ground. Consequently, trampled plants and others where the stem touches the ground may have several sets of roots along the stem which may need pulling individually.
- If small roots are broken off below ground, regrowth is unlikely. However, a large piece may regrow (see note 1).
- Removing pulled plants from site may require a Waste Transfer Licence. Heap them up in a pile on site to rot down; burying the flower heads under other plants as you go and trying where possible stop the bottom plants from having contact with the ground (heap onto a pile of branches). Keep this heap well away from wetland areas to prevent any seeds present from germinating (which is possible if the plant is in seed or about to go to seed). As it looks unsightly, consider making the heap where it is hidden among bushes. The fleshy nature and high water content means that the plants will rot down quickly.
- Pulling for 2 or 3 years should clear a section as long as re-infestation does not occur. In practise, it may be difficult to reach all sections of the river. Liaise with private landowners (who have generally been very helpful).
- A wider landscape approach will be required to have any chance of eradicating Himalayan Balsam completely. Working with neighbouring landowners is essential especially those upstream, as this is where any new seeds will be coming from.

Note 1 – Although the plant is annual, some have been found with very large bases. They may just be vigorous plants but it is possible that they are second year plants where the root broke off when they were first pulled. For this reason try to get the base out (but don't worry about individual roots).

Note 2 – In large flat areas where plants are difficult to see among taller vegetation, cutting provides a short-term solution. It is not ideal to cut in July and checks for nesting birds will need to be undertaken. The plant will coppice and soon flower again but is easier to find and pull with other vegetation cut back.

9.5 GRAZING MEADOW POND MANAGEMENT

Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) commonly mistakenly called Bulrush (which is a separate species), is a perennial plant which grow in or near static or flowing water and on marshy ground. Once established in shallow water, they trap silt around the roots, impeding or diverting water flow, and allowing further spread of the plants into water previously too deep to sustain them. The ponds in the grazing meadow have typha growing in them which if not managed will slowly takes over, shading out other plants and reducing the amount of open water in the ponds.

Branches from the riverside willow trees (*Salix*) regularly snap off and root in and round the ponds on the grazing meadow. These need to be removed when they are small to stop trees from establishing.



Method

- Pulling of typha from the ponds in the grazing meadow can be carried out as a volunteer task. Firstly make sure that all volunteers involved can recognise the plant. Most of the plants will be located along the shorelines of the ponds.
- The plant will usually grow between 60-150cm (2-5 feet) tall. The leaves are flattened, a greyish-green in colour and grow in clumps from the base. The seed heads are brown, sausage/cigar shaped and located at the tip of the plant.
- Pulling should take place before the plant has set seed in the summer.
- The appropriate risk assessment for working in/near water should be followed.
- Gloves need to be worn and the plants should be carefully pulled from the base upwards, trying to remove as much root from the ground as possible. Some plants may be hard to remove with the added suction of the wetland and a fork should be used to help to levered them out.
- All arisings should be stacked in piles away from the ponds and out of the grazing area (areas of nettles on the banks are good), here they can rot down naturally.
- Willow can be dealt with in the same way by making sure the willow saplings are pulled or dug up from the ponds. Make sure that all small twigs are removed as they will quickly take root.
- It is best to stack them on the top of the typha pile so that they do not try and reroot.

9.6 TREE PLANTING

A tree planting programme is to be developed across the site. This will look at areas that are currently devoid of trees and would benefit from landscape enhancement, and locations where trees should be planted with the aim of eventually replacing older trees when they reach the end of their life.

Tree cover is very minimal in the eastern part of the site. This is not to be altered to any great degree as it supports the GAP aims to reduce shading in certain areas of the river. The park benefits from a good range of trees and woodland which will be sustained as part of ongoing tree management. However, as it is also of interest to retain aspects of the existing open character, particularly due to its links with neighbouring sites and expansive views across Kings Meads, there is scope for improving the landscape with the limited addition of some native trees. This is likely to be locations along footpaths where there are existing trees established. Where trees have been planted in relatively recent years near to the river, these are likely to be removed as part of the riverside habitat improvements.

No tree planting should be carried out along the banks of the River Beane. If existing trees die however, they may be replaced in the same location.

We will accommodate requests for memorial trees where possible and in accordance with the defined tree planting programme. Memorial memorabilia on or near tree however, is not permitted in the park. There is the opportunity to have memorials engraved or attached to benches where new benches will benefit park users but this can only be considered where the overall enjoyment of the park is not compromised. The Council does not consider it appropriate to develop parks in the same way as cemeteries but we will sensitively consider all applications. Where tree planting can be accommodated within the constraints of the planting programme, the Council will be happy to provide those who wish to fund one as a memorial with a detailed map to remember the species and location of the tree.

The former pitch and putt area and areas which are already established with trees could be considered for replanting. The former area may provide opportunity for leisure based activities and so will not be overplanted. It is envisaged that sensitive planting can retain sloping meadow areas interspersed with tree cover.

Species

Species are TBC depending on location and setting, but likely to be predominantly be

- English Oak (*Quercus robur*),
- And along the river banks Willow (*Salix*)

Planting Stock

Tree stock for native woodland planting must be UK grown from seed, of British provenance, and must conform to BS 3936 (where applicable). As far as possible, trees should be from the local UK Provenance Zone 402 and from an Elevation Zone below 300m. 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 exclusive 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 Hartham 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 grassland areas of Hartham 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.

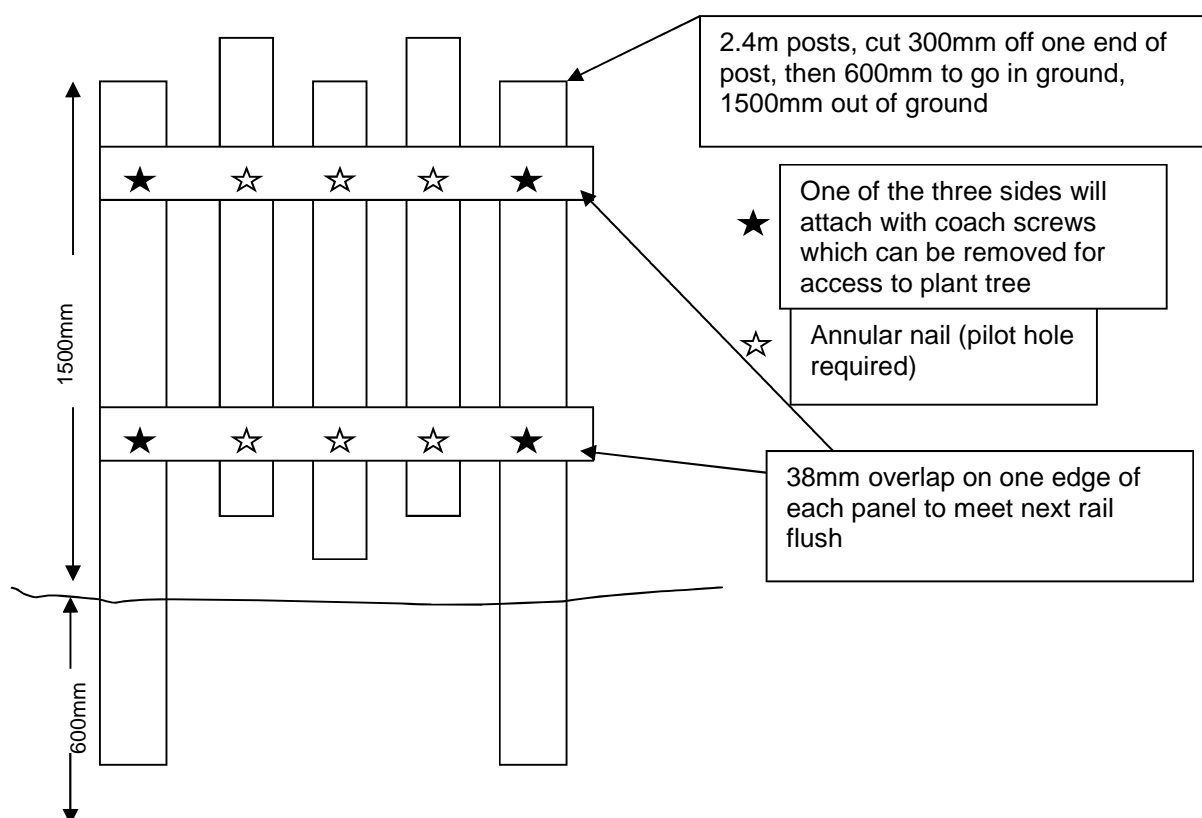


Parkland Tree Guard Timber and Construction

- 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 a 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. 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 are followed then losses should be minimal, however during extreme weather losses may be unavoidable and should be replaced the following year.