



The Ridgeway Local Park

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2022 – 2032

Produced by:



On behalf of:



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

Greenspace Actions Plans (GAPs) are map-based management plans which specify activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An engagement period for the draft version of this GAP was held for 6 weeks until 08/05/2022, to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document, published online as an appendix to this plan, summarises comments received, and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
1	February 2022	Initial Draft	KW	AT	RP

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1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: The Ridgeway Local Park

Site Address: The Ridgeway, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 2LE

Grid Reference: TL 3051 1341

Size: 0.4 Ha (1 acre)

Designations: Greenbelt

Owner: East Herts District Council

1.2 Vision Statement

The aim of this Greenspace Action Plan is to provide a structured framework outlining the ongoing maintenance and management of the park over the next 10 years, to ensure it continues to meet the requirements of the local community and visitors, whilst enhancing and protecting its natural features for biodiversity.

The previous GAP ran from 2015 to 2020 and this new plan will follow on and look to maintain the good work set out in the previous GAP. The management plan will for the main part concentrate on the maintenance of the park but include within some smaller scale projects and look to complete those few objectives not met in the previous 5 years.

This GAP will provide the management framework from 2022 – 2032 through detailed action plans and management maps. These aims will align with the newly developed [East Herts Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022-2027](#).

The GAP will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the appropriate bodies to monitor its progress, ensure it remains relevant and allow outstanding tasks to be rescheduled.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

The Ridgeway Local Park is an open and welcoming space on the outskirts of Hertford. With views across the nearby fields and woodland it provides a bridge from a more built-up environment to the countryside. Through the two previous Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs) significant improvements to the space have been achieved, enhancing the park for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

The park is a 0.4 Ha (1 acre) open space split across two levels, separated by a steep bank. The upper section is a more formal recreational area with a multi-use games pitch and play equipment for younger children. The lower 'Dell' area of the park contains equipment targeted towards older children as well as providing more natural surroundings.



Upper Formal area of the park

Until recently, the park had undergone little change during its history. It was developed from a more traditional open space created in the 1950s alongside the



The Park prior to the renovations in 2006


construction of nearby housing. During the 2009 – 2014 GAP the park was transformed from an underused and unwelcoming open space into a Green Flag Award winning local park and a focal point for the local community. Within the 2015 – 2020 GAP the park retained its Green Flag Award and continues to be managed to a standard that provides an excellent experience for users whilst protecting and enhancing the natural features of the park.

The Ridgeway Local Park

Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32

Location Map

Legend

 Ridgeway Boundary

The Ridgeway Local Park
Grid Ref: TL 3051 1341
Easting: 53051
Northing: 21341

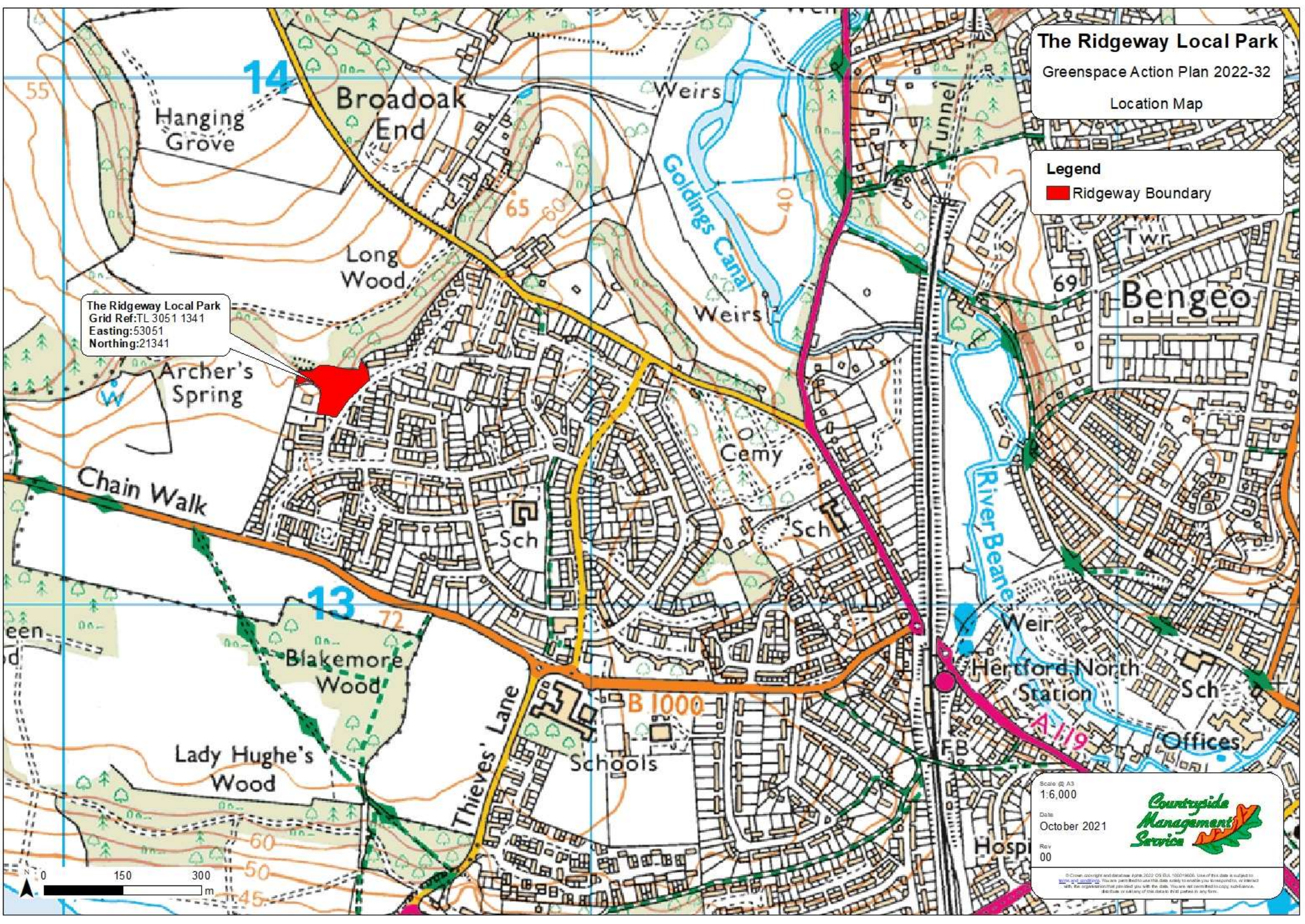
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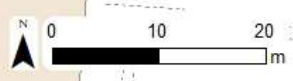
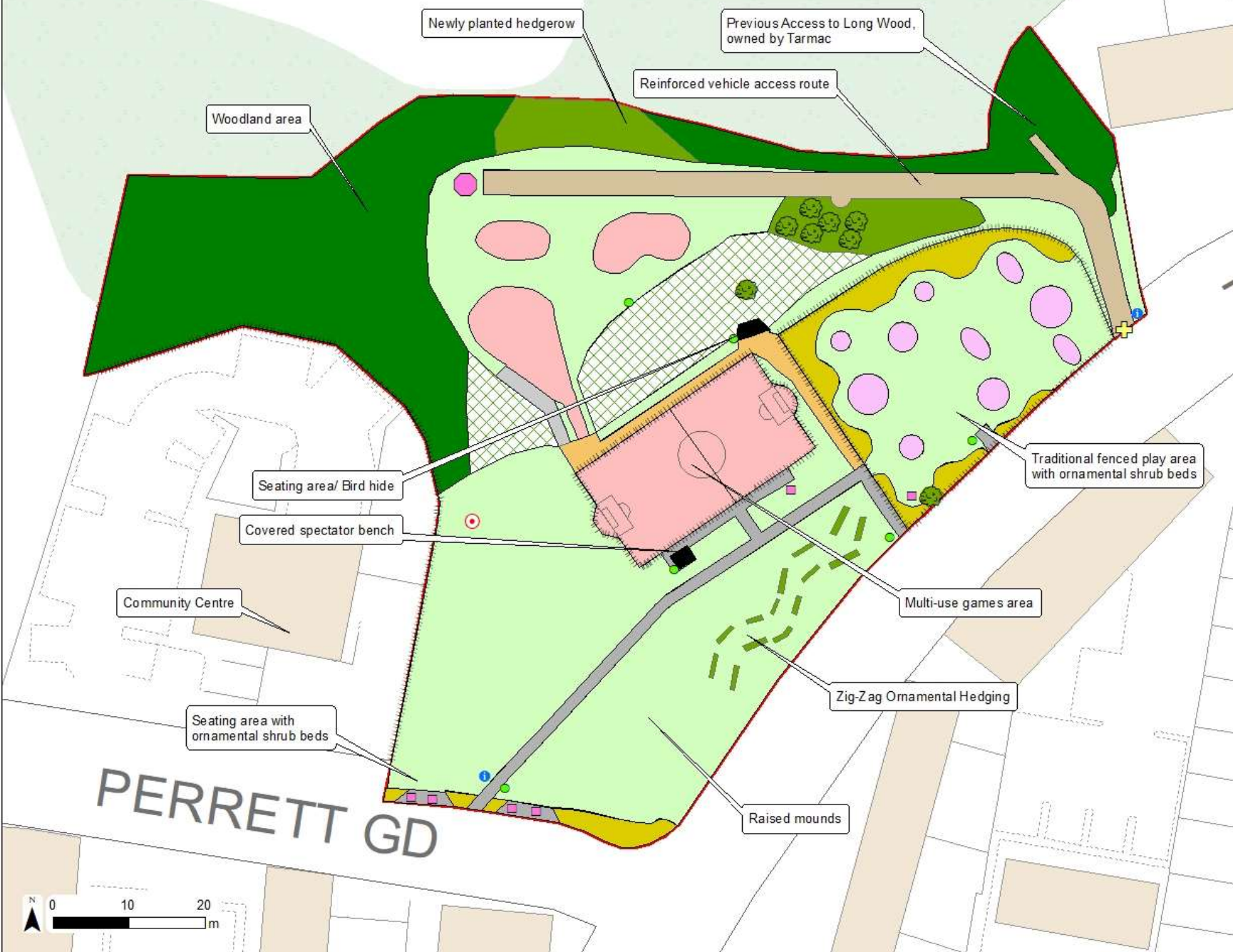
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The Ridgeway Local Park
 Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32
 Site Description

Legend

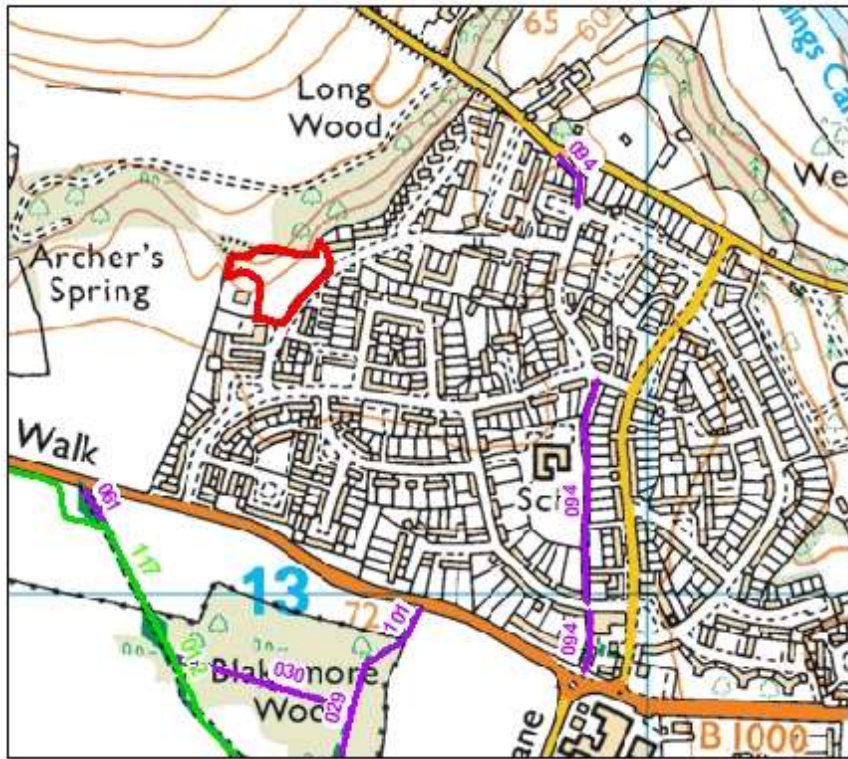
- Ridgeway Boundary
- Amenity Grass
- Hedgerow
- Tree Cover
- Scrub and nettle
- Bedding Plants
- Reinforced Grass
- Play Equipment
- Older Play Area
- Unbound Surface
- Building
- Sealed Surface
- Stairs
- Fencing
- Bench
- Bin
- Picnic Bench
- Information Board
- Tree
- Flag
- Vehicle Access



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 November 2021
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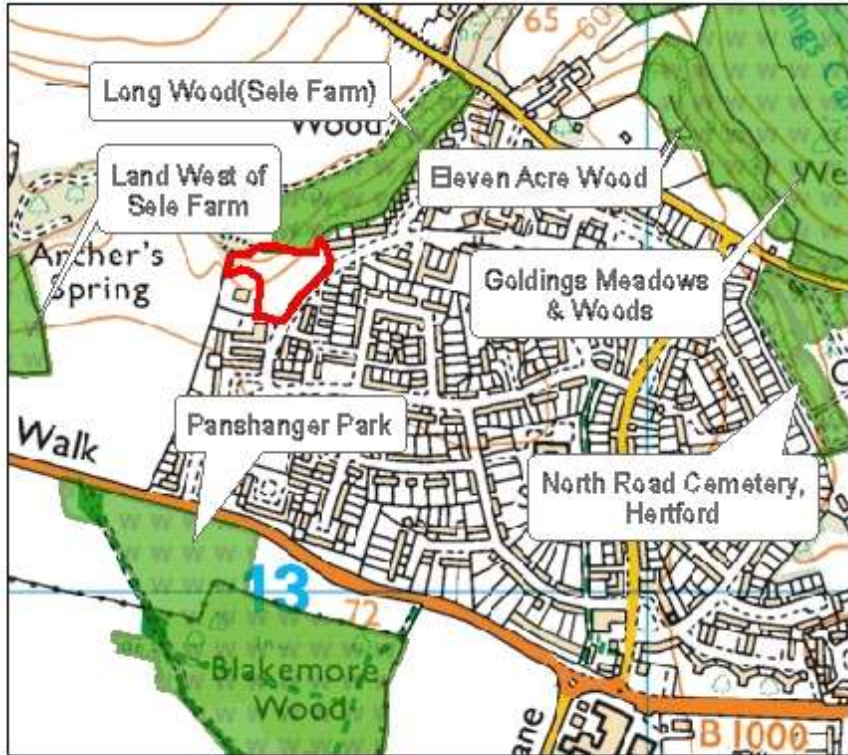
The Ridgeway Local Park
 Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32
 Constraints Plan



Legend

- ▭ Ridgeway Boundary
- ▬ Bridleway
- ▬ Footpath
- ▬ Main River
- ▭ Flood Zone 3
- ▭ Flood Zone 2
- ▭ Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- ▭ Wildlife Site
- ▭ Ecosite
- ▭ Greenbelt - November 2016

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 Date
 November 2021
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2.2 Geography and Landscape

The 0.4ha site is on the north western outskirts of Hertford, within the Sele residential area of Hertford. The site is split into two distinct sections with one part sat atop the narrow hill that gives the park its name and the remainder at the bottom of a steep embankment. To its south and east the site is bordered by residential housing and the Sele Community Centre, constructed in 2006. The land to the north slopes further downwards into an arable valley and onto rolling hills. Broadleaved woodlands border the site in both the west and north east including the Long Wood ancient semi-natural woodland, an even aged hornbeam dominant woodland.

2.2.1 Upper Formal Area

The upper section of the park is where many improvements were carried out during the 2009 – 2014 GAP and is now a well-equipped and pleasant small open space. It contains the multi-use games area as a defined area for sport. This is designed in a way where the encompassing protective fencing still allows this space to feel open and part of the surroundings. Adjacent there is a shallowly sloped amenity area which sits alongside the community centre. Around this area are gently contoured mounds, seating, ornamental style hedging and shrub beds.

The younger children play space is ringed by bright and colourful fencing, providing a safe environment for children and a well-maintained selection of play equipment. An attractive planting scheme around the inner fence line makes the space feel inviting and pleasant while also providing excellent foraging and shelter for invertebrates, with plants such as lavender providing nectar for many pollinators.



Play area in upper portion of the park

A hard surfaced path crosses the amenity space linking the amenity area to the play equipment and MUGA while an unsurfaced path goes on between the play area and MUGA to the sheltered seating/bird hide. This path leads to a slide and steps going down into the lower 'Dell' area. On the opposite side of the play area a reinforced section of grass suitable for vehicles provides step free access into this lower area.

2.2.2 The Lower 'Dell'

The lower part of the site sits at the bottom of a steep bank, sloping to the north. This bank is covered in dense nettle and other long grasses creating a boundary of natural habitat between the two contrasting areas. At the bottom of the stepped access and slide is more challenging play equipment targeted towards older children, including informal seating. A large piece of oak previously used for climbing has been left in situ as valuable wildlife habitat.



Lower Dell and play equipment

The northern end of the site is enclosed by wooden fencing installed by the adjacent landowner and partly hidden by hedgerow. Here there are the remaining elms retained from work to open the space to the surrounding countryside. The planted hedge which has been protected by rabbit proof fencing has seen some limited success but many of the trees have been overtaken by other vegetation. Less noticeable in the summer when the whole northern boundary is thick with growth large gaps appear in the winter when the bramble and wild chervil die back.

A surfaced path with a gentle gradient enters this area from the eastern side where the park shares its boundary with Long Wood. Here there are more mature sections of the previous hedge and several of the remaining elms. These act as a woodland edge habitat with good a growth of flower and fruit producing species with high ecological value.

2.3 History and Archaeology

Historically the land where the park is established has been arable fields, as seen in the current adjoining landscape. With the residential development of the surrounding estates from the 1950s and through to the 70s there was a need for a traditional open space to accompany them. This included the community centres existence from the parks inception, although initially this was in the form of a donated scouts hut. In 2006 with funding from Riversmead Housing Association and East Herts District Council the centre was upgraded to the attractive events space it is today.

Whilst the Lower Dell region was cleared of scrub and turned into an attractive play area only recently, the formal play area at the top of the park has been in existence in some form or other for several decades. Previously it was enclosed by a tall unsightly chain-link as was traditionally found during the era. This was until the ambitious project undertaken in the initial GAP to transform the site to a more welcoming space.

2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

2.4.1 Grassland

The site grassland is semi-improved neutral grassland, and all areas aside from the steep bank are currently managed as an amenity cut for use as recreation. Despite the intensive cutting regime there is some species diversity including self-heal, red campion, and yarrow.

2.4.2 Woodland

The upper part of the site has little in the way of tree cover, although there is one area to the rear of the play park which contains a number of mature trees retained during the works to install the reinforced grass path. This provides a natural barrier between the play area and reinforced grass access route and acts as a valuable woodland edge habitat in conjunction with the nearby Long Wood.

In the lower dell there is significantly more tree cover, with some mature elm along the northern boundary line and a mixed broadleaf woodland to the west containing mature oak, hazel and hornbeam and a small area of planted saplings. There is abundant growth of nettle and bramble throughout with little other plant diversity.

This area of woodland is of a similar size to the open part of the lower dell but extends beyond the site boundary and onto neighbouring land. It is further linked to Long Wood in the east by dense vegetation and planted hedgerow, acting as a vital wildlife corridor along the site's northern boundary.

2.4.3 Scrub

The bank that splits the site into the two sections is steep and fertile, covered by an abundance of nettle and false-oat grass. The growth of scrub continues into the eastern woods adjacent to the dell play area providing numerous nesting and foraging opportunities for smaller woodland birds and a variety of invertebrates.

2.4.4 Shrub Beds

There are formal ornamental shrub beds both within the children's play area and alongside the seating area adjacent to the community centre. These provide an attractive surrounding to these areas with a good variety of flowering and woody species, providing habitat and nectar sources for insects. This brightens the space by utilising colourful plants such as lavender and gorse.



Bright colourful planting within the park

Planted at the front of the park there is a sectional zig-zag line of hedgerow, comprised of spindle and cotoneaster. This has been enclosed within a weldmesh to provide protection against potential damage and local wildlife whilst growing. The hedge provides a small amount of shelter for small birds and are also effective barriers to prevent balls going onto the road from the MUGA. Unfortunately, several of these sections are in poor health, with disease affecting the spindle. The result of this is a loss of a high proportion of its leaves and looking bare and unattractive. These should be removed and replaced to limit further spread to the remaining healthy specimens.



Zig-Zag hedges showing signs of disease

2.5 Access, Facilities, and Infrastructure

2.5.1 Paths

All paths are well maintained and in good condition. A tarmac path runs through the centre of the site and links the seating area by the community centre with the MUGA and play area. This is further extended as an unsealed pathway alongside the MUGA to the sheltered seating area/ bird hide and onto the steps into the lower Dell.

A reinforced grass path runs alongside the eastern edge of the site and down a gentle slope into the Lower Dell. This provides an accessible route for all users into this part of the site as well as vehicle access via a lockable gate.

2.5.2 Site Entrances

The upper part of the site is open to the surroundings and can be accessed directly from the roadside.

Access into the dell is via a set of steps on the western side. Additional user access suitable for wheelchairs and vehicles is via a reinforced grass path beginning in the south east corner of the park adjacent to the play area.

There is another unofficial access point from Long Wood into the park in the north eastern corner. This was previously a well-used route between the park and the woodland but has recently been blocked off by the landowner to prevent antisocial behaviour within the woods.

2.5.3 Fencing

There is a line of fencing belonging to the adjacent landowner which borders the site in the north beyond the planted hedgerow and extends into the woodland on either side of the dell. Within the woodland west of the dell and extending into the upper formal area is a high weldmesh fence which surrounds the community centre and runs alongside its boundary with the park.

The play area is ringed by a short, robust and weatherproof fence intended to provide a safe space for those using the park with the entrance to this area facing away from the road.

The weldmesh fencing around the MUGA has been well designed in a way to be effective at preventing the loss of balls from the pitch while managing to keep the space feeling open and inviting.

2.5.4 Furniture

A total of 6 benches constructed from recycled plastic are placed throughout the park. There is additional sheltered seating at the front of the MUGA and a stainless-steel picnic table in the lower Dell area. There is informal seating around the play equipment for older children. This has been constructed from ledges in the Dell with semi-circular wooden posts supporting the surrounding ground and a woodchip flooring.

There is a covered wooden seating area/ bird hide between the MUGA and play area which overlooks the dell. This has some graffiti and disrepair but appears well used as a seating area.

There are 6 covered litter bins for rubbish and dog waste throughout the site. These are placed at the tarmac path entrances to the site, next to the MUGA, within the play area and in the lower dell area.

2.5.5 Signage and Interpretation



Current site signage

There are two interpretation boards at either end of the park which are dated and faded to where they are at points illegible as shown to the right. These were implemented in the 2009 – 2014 GAP and were to be updated in the most recent version of the management plan. These should be updated to be more engaging and remain in keeping

with the style seen in other local parks.

2.5.6 Multi-use Games Area

This is a semi enclosed sports area for use by the community with markings for either football or basketball. Enclosed on three sides by a tall painted weldmesh fence with a shorter more open front facing. Access is either via a gate on the front face or behind either goal.

2.5.7 Play area

The park has a bright and well-equipped play area with a variety of equipment able to cater for a range of younger ages including different swing sets, slides and small climbing frames. This area is highlighted by the bright attractive ornamental planting along the boundary safety fence.

2.5.8 The Dell Older Play Area

Open natural space bordered by trees and planted hedgerow. There are several features in this area suitable for older children with a larger slide down the bank into the dell, hanging rope swings, logs designed for climbing and a multilevel climbing frame. There is a single picnic table in this area and further informal seating has been created within the bank around the equipment.

2.6 Community and Events

The park is a popular and well used space for a range of leisure activities. These include walking, bird spotting, informal kickabouts, children's play, dog walking and community barbecues.

Use of the space, by both young and old, provides opportunities to engage in valuable social interactions and foster a sense of belonging and ownership. The park in the past hosted several more formal events including community days and organised football games on the MUGA.

Unfortunately, due to changes in funding and staffing these types of events have been unable to take place for some time. To foster local pride and increase community involvement in the park the opportunities to work closely with local people should be reviewed throughout the ongoing management plan.



CMS and volunteers planting hedgerow in the park - 2017

3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

3.1 Aim

To maintain The Ridgeway Local Park as an attractive and well-equipped open space for use by the local community, able to balance recreation with the natural environment, providing a safe and enjoyable place for all users.

3.2 Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place

- A1 Update, design and install replacement interpretation boards for the site
- A2 Reinstate the mown path from the sheltered seating/ bird hide alongside the children's play area to the reinforced grass access route.
- A3 Carry out minor vegetation works to retain open and safe access

B. Healthy, Safe & Secure

- B1 Monitor and carry out reactive works to address safety issues
- B2 Respond proactively to any reports of misuse of the site

C. Clean and Well Maintained

- C1 Monitor grounds maintenance contract to ensure continued implementation to a high standard.
- C2 Ensure paths, structures and park equipment throughout the park are maintained to a good condition and appearance.
- C3 Maintain a regular amenity cut and an annual conservation cut of the grass as appropriate
- C4 Maintain Green Flag Award Status
- C5 Carry out regular litter picking, emptying of bins and pruning of shrub beds

D. Sustainability

D1 Ensure ongoing maintenance documents are financially sustainable

D2 Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital works

E. Conservation and Heritage

E1 Carry out further woodland management in the eastern area of the site to build on gains achieved during previous GAP

E2 Replanting and managing of diseased zigzag hedging within meshweld structures

E3 Replanting of hedgerow along the eastern fence line and new planting alongside the dell woodland edge

E4 Enhance parts of the amenity grassland for biodiversity improvements through the creation of areas of wildflowers and species diverse conservation grassland

E5 Specimen planting of native attractive trees to create separation from the roadside and support wildlife.

E6 Utilise any opportunities to reuse generated by-products from the site

F. Community Involvement

F1 Encouraging community involvement in the management of the Ridgeway Local Park and ensuring that all involved operate toward achievement of the GAP.

G. Marketing

G1 Promoting the use of the park and equipment for use by the local community onsite and through the EHDC website.

G2 Creation of interpretation boards highlighting the features of the site and linking it to the surrounding landscape.

G3 Promote new GAP on EHDC website and engage stakeholders in the new plan.

4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

4.1 A Welcoming Place

The park is open and inviting on first approach and this carries into the lower dell which previously had a more secluded feel. However, the signage to provide information on the park is outdated and faded. Therefore, it should be a priority to update the interpretation panels and showcase the good work that has gone into the park's transformation, its resulting green flag award and links to the surrounding countryside.

The routes throughout the park are open and easily accessed for the majority. However, where there was previously space to walk around the outside of the children's play area the growth of the adjacent scrub has partially blocked this off. As a result, an informal path through the trees and down the steep bank has arisen. Reinstating the mown path by cutting back the outermost branches from here would encourage users to utilise this route, avoid cutting through the trees and reduce the risk of damage to them.

4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Reactive tree work should be carried out whenever any tree safety issues are identified on the site, and any misuse of the site addressed in a proactive manner. This is alongside yearly safety inspections of both the park and the equipment within.

There is some minor damage to the semi-circular wooden supports around the play equipment in the dell which should be monitored and replaced if these continue to deteriorate.

Oak processionary moth (OPM) was introduced into England in 2005. It has since become established in London before spreading into surrounding counties including the south of East Hertfordshire. While the moth is harmless, caterpillars pose a risk to public health through microscopic hairs which cover its body. Contact with hairs typically causes skin rashes, although symptoms can include eye irritation, sore throats and in extreme cases breathing difficulties and allergic reactions. OPM has not been identified at the Ridgeway Park, but in 2021 several cases were found in the Hertford area.

If a potential OPM sighting is identified on site, either through the course of regular inspections or maintenance activities the sighting will be assessed with consideration to the typical use of the site. If confirmed different methods of appropriate control dependant on the site will then then be considered.

4.3 Clean and Well Maintained

The current ground maintenance contract should be monitored to ensure that the park is maintained as specified and continues to meet high standards. This covers well-maintained pathways through the site, regular bin emptying and litter picking, appropriately timed cutting of the grassland and any minor works to the shrubs and trees within the site.

There has been some damage and graffiti to the bird hide seating area. This should be repainted, and any repairs carried out. Any future works will be identified through ongoing monitoring of the condition of the structure for signs of weathering and abuse.

4.4 Sustainability

As there are no significant changes being proposed which would affect the ongoing regular management, maintenance costs should remain stable for the plan. Additionally, the small scale of non-maintenance works outlined in the plan are suited to volunteer work parties or community planting events ensuring the management is carried out in a cost-effective manner.

4.5 Conservation and Heritage

The woodland area to the west of the dell has had a significant proportion of the planted trees fail. This largely a result of crowding and smothering from other vegetation when they were in their infancy. There are, however, some successful trees remaining which will be able to utilise the space. To help facilitate this some minor vegetation management is required to prevent them from being further impacted by bramble and other strangling species.

Similarly, the previously planted hedgerow on the northern boundary of the park has had little growth and is crowded out by other vegetation. Cutting back some of this vegetation to allow the remaining planted trees space to flourish is advised.

Some minor planting may be required to bolster the hedge and replace those that failed. This will require light ongoing maintenance for the first 3 years of the GAP, until being included in the management of the other hedgerows on the site with an incremental cut.

Currently the grassland amenity cut goes up to the edge of the woodland and is an abrupt change with no gradation between the two. Creating a more layered natural woodland edge by planting native shrubs, managed similarly to the hedgerows will provide a boost to wildlife. Alongside this planting, carrying out minor alterations to the play space, encouraging users away from the woodland planting and into the main play area, will further serve to protect the young trees.

Previously the eastern boundary of the park had a hedgerow between Long wood and The Ridgeway road. This hedgerow can be reinstated, further increasing the number of wildlife friendly native plants on the top level of the park without imposing on the space. This should be managed with, in rotation with other hedgerows in the park to promote dense and bushy growth. This allows good growth while ensuring its height will not impact on views into or out of the park.

The bank between the two levels of the park has an abundance of grasses, nettle, and wild chervil. Despite limited diversity there are still significant biological benefits to areas of longer rank grassland. These can provide food sources throughout the summer months for a host of species as well as shelter in winter. Nettle especially is vital in the life cycle of species such as the peacock butterfly. While ladybird survive on the abundance of aphids present on the plant. These wildlife benefits should therefore be considered when undertaking management of this area. By extending this area by several metres over the top of the bank the sharp contrast between the two levels is reduced while providing additional grassland habitat. Management would involve a rough cut by hand of one half each year and discarding the arisings. This process aims to retain some habitat over winter while allowing for potential improvements in species diversity.

Further colourful wildlife friendly resources able to enhance the aesthetics of the park can be added to the upper dell. This can be achieved by creating small sections of



*Example of wildflower seeding,
Butts Close, Hitchin*

wildflowers, complimenting the current planting. There are areas of under-utilised amenity grass, one adjacent to the reinforced grass path and the two earthen mounds either side of the path which would be suitable locations.

The park can be further enhanced for wildlife by carrying out light tree planting along the roadside and pathway while also enhancing what is currently an underutilised space. Species selection would consider height and canopy density to not impact views into the park alongside attractive colours, wildlife benefits, and blossoms or fruits when mature.

4.6 Community Involvement

A period of public engagement accompanies the production of this management plan, enabling the local community and stakeholders to play a role in informing management of the site. All user groups with interests in the site aim to be included in this process, and for their requirements to be considered as part of the planning process.

Currently there is little community involvement at the site, although previously it played host to community days with the nearby Sele Community Centre. As part of the new GAP many of the works will be suitable to be carried out by volunteer work parties organised by CMS. This allows the opportunity for the local community to get involved in these tasks, helping foster a renewed sense of pride and involvement in the space.

All community involvement is to be directed towards delivering the aims outlined in this GAP.

4.7 Marketing



There is currently little in the way of advertising for The Ridgeway Park on site with outdated boards. Designing and updating these will provide visitors information about the site and link it to the surrounding landscape. New

welcome boards are able to help update visitors on future works on site and plans to develop the space further.

This will be built from a robust, damage resistant material with individual specific artwork design but consistent with the corporate branding achieved in other parts of the district such as the one shown for Post Wood (*Pictured in image*).

The development of the park provides an ideal opportunity to include the community in the promotion and improvements to the park as part of the production of the GAP. Further involvement in its implementation through engaging volunteering opportunities can enhance the park's sense of identity and importance to the community.

While the park itself is small it is able to act as a gateway to an abundance of walking opportunities and Hertfordshire Health Walks a free, led, local, health-focused walk, meets nearby and goes via the park to nearby Panshanger Park. These walks have grown significantly in popularity since their inception and now have over 40,000 attendees annually. Further details of the scheme and current walks programmes can be found at - [Hertfordshire Health Walks | Hertfordshire County Council](#).

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
0.01	Open Spaces Inspection	C1/C2/B1	Quarterly	EHC	EHC	Internal Resource	n/a		
0.02	Annual Audit Review of Pathways	C1/B1	April	EHC	EHC	Internal Resource	n/a		
0.03	Conservation cut and lift of long grass	C3	Mar/Apr or Jul/Sept	EHC	JoC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.04	Apply for Green Flag Award	C4	Yearly	EHC	EHC	Internal Resource	n/a		
0.05	Assessment to control an invasive non-native species - actionable	B1	May	EHC/CMS	Contractor/CMS	Internal Resource	n/a		
0.06	Annual play area audit safety inspection by RPII I Inspector	B1	May/June	EHC	EHC	Play Area Budget	Contract Rates		
0.07	Identify any play area works required from annual RPII I report	B1	Jul to Oct	EHC	EHC	Play Area Budget	Contract Rates		
0.09	Prune hedges	A3/C1/C5	Nov – Feb	EHC	JoC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.10	Review any tree or shrub planting requirements	C1	Oct to March	EHC/CMS	EHC/CMS	Internal Resource	n/a		
0.11	Carry out tree risk assessments	B1	Dec	EHC	Contractor	Tree Risk Budget	Contract Rates		
0.12	Annual risk assessment and hazard review - Parks & Open Spaces	B1/C2	Jan	EHC	EHC	Internal Resource	Contract Rates		
0.13	Work identified in annual risk assessment and hazard review to be completed	C2	Jan/Feb	EHC	EHC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.14	Amenity mowing / strimming	C3	Monthly	EHC	JoC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.15	Minor tree and shrub bed maintenance	A3/C5	As required	EHC	JoC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.16	Play areas / Leisure area inspection and maintenance	B1/C2	Ongoing	EHC	Contractor	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.17	Inspect & maintain the footpath infrastructure	B1	Ongoing	EHC	Contractor	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.18	Cut path edges	C2/C3	Ongoing	EHC	JoC	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.19	Routine inspections & monitoring of litter picking requirements	C5	Monthly	EHC	GM	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.20	Empty dog bins	C5	Weekly	EHC	GM	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
0.21	Review previous years action plan		Yearly	CMS	CMS	-	-		

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service, GM – Grounds Maintenance, EH – East Herts District Council, GM – Grounds Maintenance, JoC – John O’Connor Grounds Maintenance Contractors

5.2 Year 1 Action Plan 2022-23

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Woodland/hedgerow planting aftercare and monitoring. Protect viable saplings and remove detrimental crushing vegetation.	E1	Spring then Nov	CMS	CMS	GM Budget	Contract Rates		
1.2	Planting of native shrub along woodland edge to prevent antisocial access into woodland	E3	Nov	CMS	CMS	GM Budget	£200		
1.3	Bulb plant/ wildflower seeding of mounds and alongside reinforced grass path. Cut as amenity for the first summer.	E3	Nov	CMS/ EHC	CMS/ Contractor		£500		
1.4	Replant diseased zigzag hedging	E2	Autumn/ Winter	EHC	Contractor		£150		
1.5	Undertake vegetation management to reinstate mown path around rear of play area	A2	Autumn	EHC	Maintenance Contractor		-		
1.6	Update, design and install interpretation boards	A1/G2	Spring	CMS/ EHC	CMS		£3000		
1.7	Repaint sheltered Seating/ Bird hide	C1	Spring	EHC	Contractor		£200		
1.8	Reinstate hedgerow along eastern boundary	E1	Nov	CMS	CMS		£150		
1.9	Allow for longer grass to extend along top of bank and carry out 50% cut.	E3	Nov	EHC	Maintenance Contractor		-		
2.0	Planting of specimen trees adjacent to road	E1	Autumn/ Winter	CMS/ EHC	CMS/ Contractor		£800		

The Ridgeway Local Park

Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32

Year 1 Action Plan (22/23)

Task Responsibility

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

Legend

	Ridgeway Boundary		Vehicle Access
	Amenity Grass		Flag
	Tree Cover		Information Board
	Hedgerow		Tree
	Scrub and nettle		Fencing
	Bedding Plants		
	Wildflowers		
	Play Equipment		
	Unbound Surface		
	Sealed Surface		
	Stairs		
	Building		
	Reinforced Grass		
	Older Play Area		
	Sports Pitch		
	Bench		
	Bin		
	Picnic Bench		

Annual Management

Amenity cut of grassland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut 50% of scrub bank in October	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut path edges and around equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prune ornamental hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play safety audit and undertaking actions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree risk and park safety inspections and reactive works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Empty bins, litter pick, remove rubbish	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 year rotational cut of hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review GAP progress	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for Green Flag Award	<input type="checkbox"/>

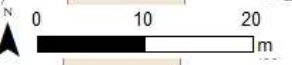
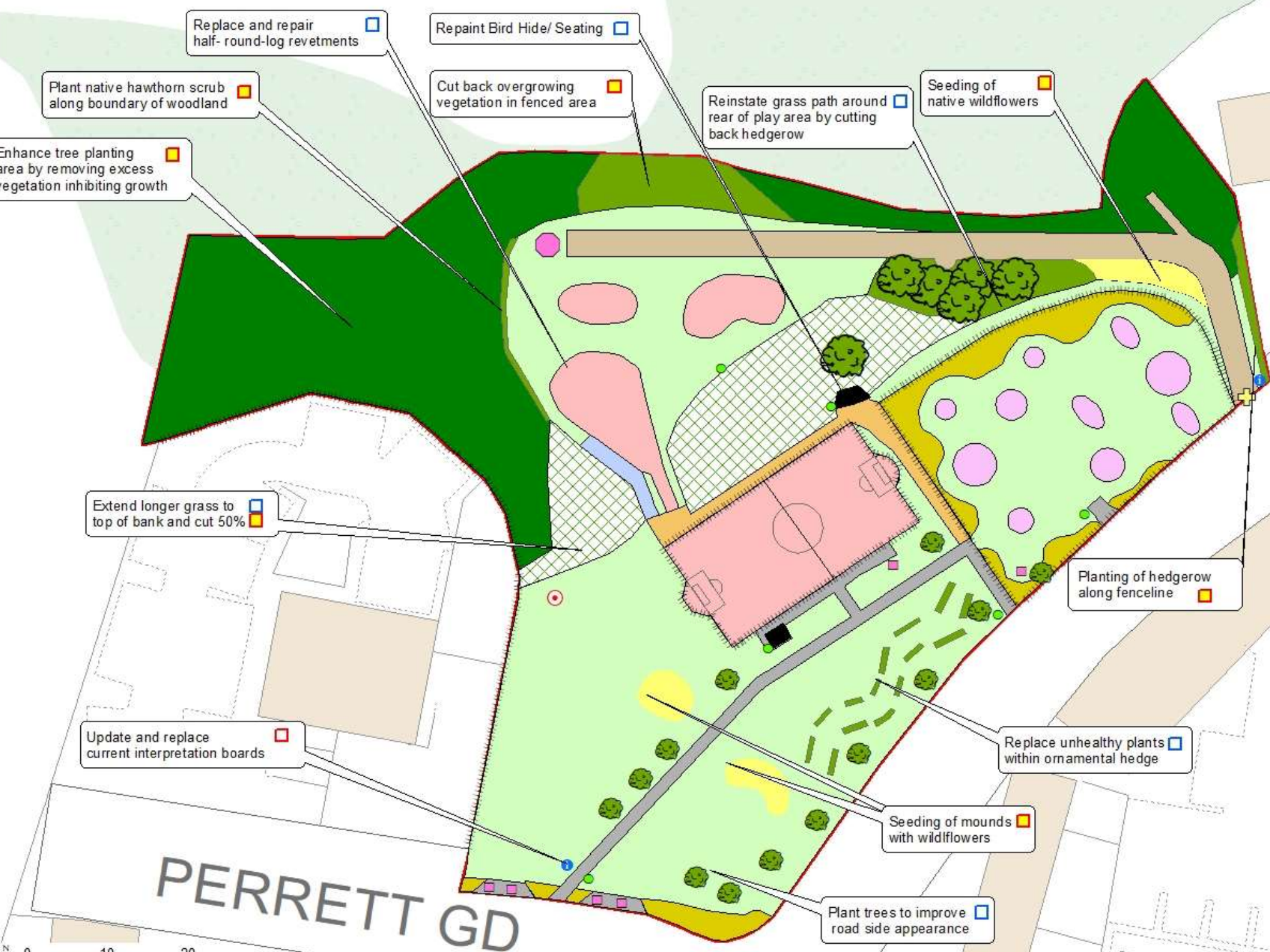
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5.3 Year 2 Action Plan 2023-24

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Monitor saplings and hedgerows, remove any detrimental vegetation which may inhibit growth.	E1/E6	Nov	CMS	CMS	GM Budget	-		
2.2	Carry out cut on other 50% of scrub bank	C3/E4	Nov	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	-		
2.3	Move wildflower areas to bi-annual cut, ensuring to remove arisings. To be carried out in early spring and late autumn.	C3/E4	Mar then Sep/Oct	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	-		
2.4	Replace any failed plantings of specimen trees.	E5	Autumn/Winter	EHC	Contractor	GM Budget	-		

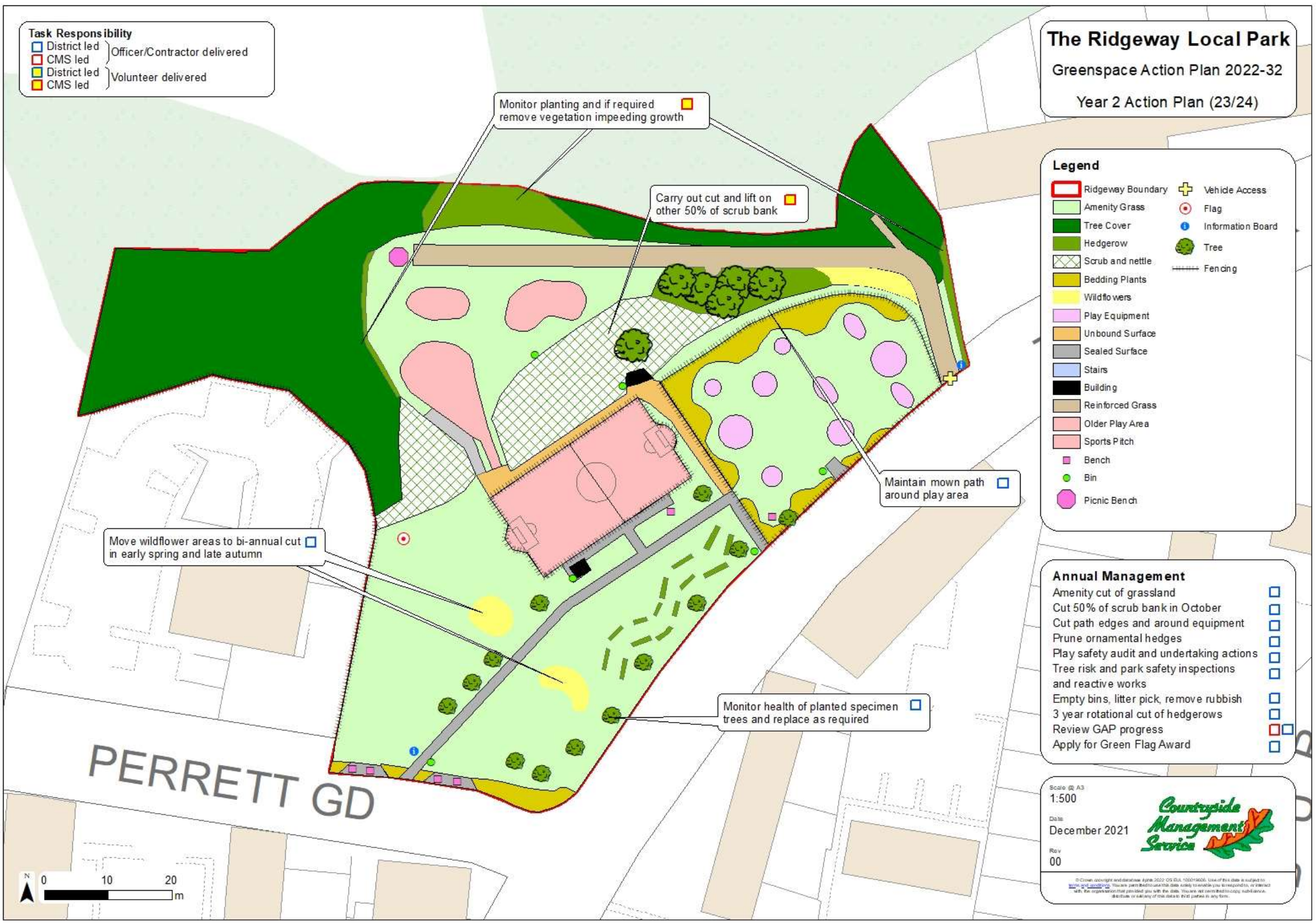
The Ridgeway Local Park

Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32

Year 2 Action Plan (23/24)

Task Responsibility

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



Monitor planting and if required remove vegetation impeding growth

Carry out cut and lift on other 50% of scrub bank

Maintain mown path around play area

Move wildflower areas to bi-annual cut in early spring and late autumn

Monitor health of planted specimen trees and replace as required

Legend

 Ridgeway Boundary	+ Vehicle Access
 Amenity Grass	● Flag
 Tree Cover	i Information Board
 Hedgerow	● Tree
 Scrub and nettle	 Fencing
 Bedding Plants	
 Wildflowers	
 Play Equipment	
 Unbound Surface	
 Sealed Surface	
 Stairs	
 Building	
 Reinforced Grass	
 Older Play Area	
 Sports Pitch	
 Bench	
● Bin	
 Picnic Bench	

Annual Management

Amenity cut of grassland	
Cut 50% of scrub bank in October	
Cut path edges and around equipment	
Prune ornamental hedges	
Play safety audit and undertaking actions	
Tree risk and park safety inspections and reactive works	
Empty bins, litter pick, remove rubbish	
3 year rotational cut of hedgerows	
Review GAP progress	
Apply for Green Flag Award	

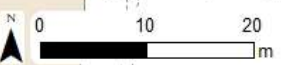
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5.4 Year 3-5 Action Plan 2024-2027

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Monitor and review health of planted hedgerows and woodland area	E1	Year 5	CMS/ EHC	CMS	Internal Resource	-		
2.2	Cut first 1/3 of hedgerows (2024)	A3/C1	Nov/Dec	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.3	Cut Second 1/3 of hedgerows (2025)	A3/C1	Nov/Dec	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.4	Cut Third 1/3 of hedgerows (2026)	A3/C1	Nov/Dec	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.5	Biannual cut of wildflower areas	C3/E4	Mar and Sep/Oct	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.6	Rotational cut of scrub bank	C3/E4	Sep/Oct	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.7	Remove stakes from well-developed specimen trees	E5	Year 3	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	-		

The Ridgeway Local Park

Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32

Year 3-5 Action Plan (24-27)

Task Responsibility

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

Cut hedgerow to promote dense bushy growth (yr3-2024)

Cut hedgerow to promote dense bushy growth (yr5-2026)

Cut hedgerow to promote dense bushy growth (yr4-2025)

Review the condition of woodland planted area (2026)

50% cut and lift of scrub bank

Biannual cut of wildflowers

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Ridgeway Boundary | | Vehicle Access |
| | Amenity Grass | | Flag |
| | Tree Cover | | Information Board |
| | Hedgerow | | Tree |
| | Scrub and nettle | | Fencing |
| | Bedding Plants | | |
| | Wildflowers | | |
| | Play Equipment | | |
| | Unbound Surface | | |
| | Sealed Surface | | |
| | Stairs | | |
| | Building | | |
| | Reinforced Grass | | |
| | Older Play Area | | |
| | Sports Pitch | | |
| | Bench | | |
| | Bin | | |
| | Picnic Bench | | |

Annual Management

- | | |
|--|---|
| Amenity cut of grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cut 50% of scrub bank in October | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cut path edges and around equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prune ornamental hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Play safety audit and undertaking actions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tree risk and park safety inspections and reactive works | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Empty bins, litter pick, remove rubbish | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 year rotational cut of hedgerows | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Review GAP progress | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Apply for Green Flag Award | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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5.5 Year 6-10 Action Plan 2027-2032

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Biannual cut of wildflower areas	C3/E4	Mar and Sep/Oct	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.2	Rotational cut of scrub banks	C3/E4	Sep/Oct	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.3	Rotational cut of 1/3 hedgerows to promote dense growth	A3/C1	Oct/Nov	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM Budget	Contractor Rates		
2.4	Monitor health of planted trees. Remove remaining guards if appropriate (2027)	E1/E5	Ongoing	CMS/EHC	CMS	Internal Resource	-		
2.5	Remove weldmesh guard from around ornamental hedges (2027)	E2	Spring	EHC	Maintenance Contractor	GM budget	Contractor Rates		
2.6	Draft new action plan		Year 10	CMS/EHC	CMS	Internal Resouce	-		

Task Responsibility

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

The Ridgeway Local Park
 Greenspace Action Plan 2022-32
 Year 6-10 Action Plan (27-32)

Legend

Ridgeway Boundary	Vehicle Access
Amenity Grass	Flag
Tree Cover	Information Board
Hedgerow	Tree
Scrub and nettle	Fencing
Bedding Plants	
Wildflowers	
Play Equipment	
Unbound Surface	
Sealed Surface	
Stairs	
Building	
Reinforced Grass	
Older Play Area	
Sports Pitch	
Bench	
Bin	
Picnic Bench	

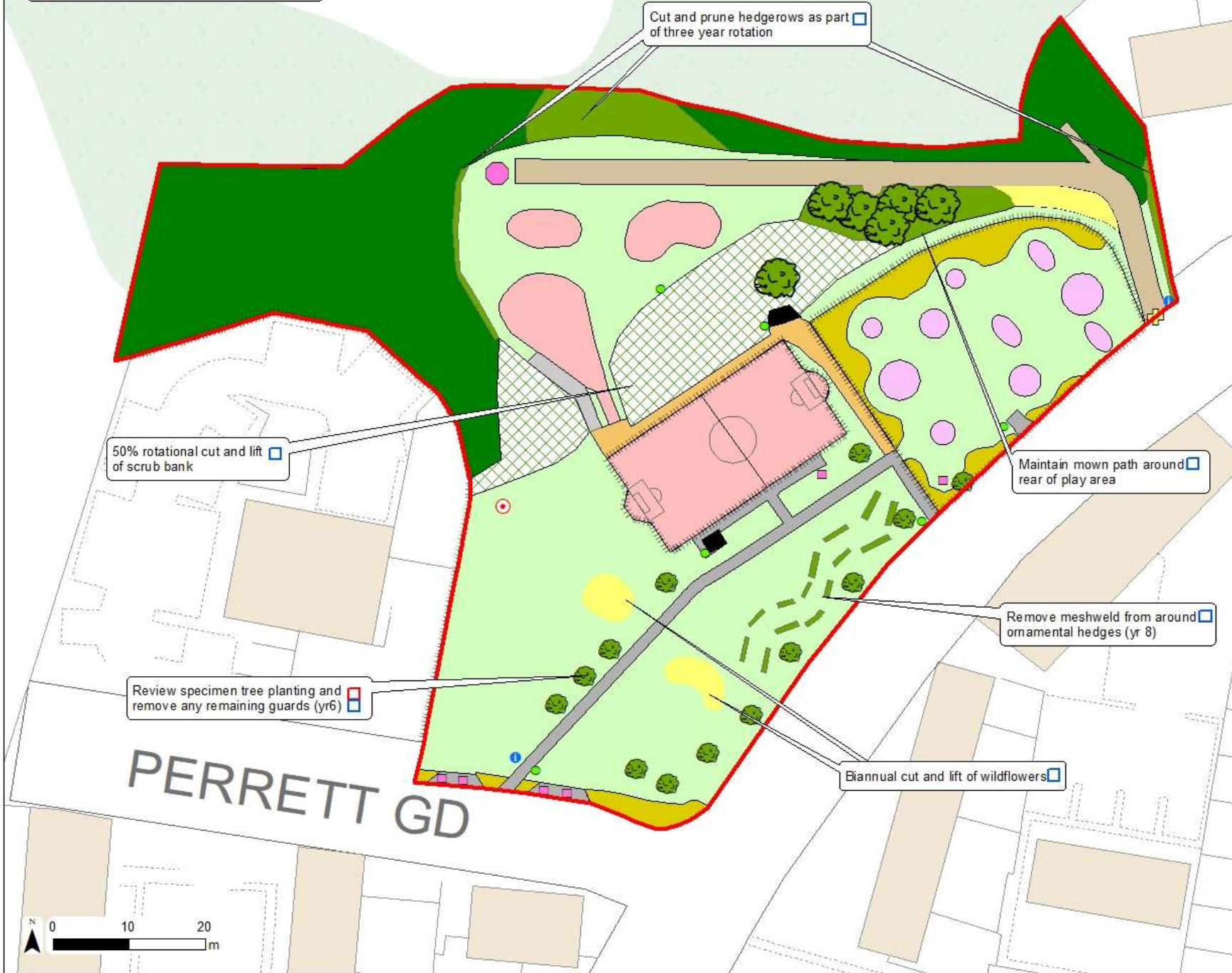
Annual Management

Amenity cut of grassland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut 50% of scrub bank in October	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Review GAP progress	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for Green Flag Award	<input type="checkbox"/>

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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

6.1 A1/G2: Design and installation of interpretation panels

- a) Design and produce an A2 interpretation board which provides orientation for visitors and information on the Ridgeway Local Park and provide PDF version of the same.
- b) Design to be based around a hand drawn site map or other image, accompanied by photographs and text, and to follow the EHDC house style.
- c) Provide two proof stages of full colour design in hard copy and PDF format.
- d) Supply an upright frame, twin leg, in materials which match the new site furniture and incorporating a GRP panel.
- e) Quantity: 2.
- f) Deliver to CMS for installation by volunteers.

6.2 E1: Manage previous planting in eastern part of site to benefit biodiversity

- a) Cut back the dense growth around remaining young trees while retaining this vegetation elsewhere
- b) Remove any cut material and place elsewhere within the woodland to remove excess nutrients from soil
- c) Remove tree guards from those which no longer require them to allow full growth
- d) Where a high proportion of saplings have failed plant 90–120cm native broadleaf saplings, protected from browsing or damage using 1.2m guards and stakes
- e) Apply mulch around base of all trees in a 1m diameter in early spring during the first 3 years to allow growth
- f) Check on growth of bramble and nettle in autumn when dying back and if found to be collapsing and smothering, remove from around young trees

6.3 E4: Hedgerow planting in the lower dell and along east fence

- a) Planting of a native mix where a 50% minimum should be hawthorn
- b) Slot planting in a double row with 5 plants per square meter
- c) Plants should be protected using spiral guards and bamboo canes, removed after 3 years.
- d) Apply a loose organic mulch at least 10cm thick for the first three years of growth
- e) Once planted prune each plant to around 15cms to promote the growth of lateral buds and produce dense bushy growth
- f) The hawthorn dense hedge alongside the woodland should be planted using a trench method to increase the density of the hedgerow without requiring a double row.

6.4 E4: Hedgerow management

- a) The timing of this work should be carried out outside of the nesting season between November and February.
- b) Other than the initial trim to promote growth from the base after planting the hedgerow should be allowed to mature over the initial 3 years. The three hedgerows should then be cut on rotation with a different section cut each year.
- c) Utilise an incremental cut which retains around 10cm of fresh growth at the top of the hedge each year. The cut should aim to remove more material from the top of the hedgerow than the base to create an A frame shape to the hedge. This retains the thick wide base of the hedgerow while maintaining the height of the hedge and promoting new growth from the fresh cut.

6.5 E3: Wildflower seeding of native perennials

- a) Species selection should include native or naturalised plants that support pollinators such as meadow buttercup, campion sp., oxeye daisy, bedstraw sp, and knapweed sp.

- b) This work should be undertaken while the grass is short, ideally in October.
- c) The work can be undertaken by volunteers.
- d) The top layer of grass and soil should be dug and raked so that 60-70 of the topsoil is showing. As the areas are small this can be done by hand tools.
- e) Across the prepared area, seed should be hand sown thinly at approximately 2g of seed per square metre.
- f) Damp sand should be mixed with the seed to act as a carrier and identify where seeds has been sown.
- g) Immediately after sowing the ground should be raked over and pressed down, to ensure the seed is fully in contact with the soil.
- h) In the year following sowing, bring the section into the amenity mowing regime. Restore it to the conservation cut regime two years after sowing.

6.6 E5: Specimen tree planting

- a) Species selection of a mixture of fast-growing light canopy trees and those with attractive blossom and fruits such as birch species, bird cherry and plum.
- b) Specimen trees should be of 2m in height of native providence.
- c) Once planted trees should be supported by 1.8m double stakes. These protect against damage during mowing and are more resilient to strong winds and damage.

