



The Dell
GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN
2024 – 2029



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

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

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period with Hunsdon Parish Council only was held in November, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement on a draft version of the plan is intended to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved

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1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: The Dell

Site Address: The Dell, Hunsdon, Ware SG12 8NH

Grid Reference: TL 41550 14021

Size: 0.8ha

Designations: None

Owner: East Hertfordshire District Council, leased to Hunsdon Parish Council

1.2 Vision Statement

The Dell is a small greenspace within the village of Hunsdon in East Hertfordshire. It is important for the local community and biodiversity. Our vision for the greenspace is to provide a peaceful and biodiverse place where people can visit for leisure, relaxation and to enjoy the natural surroundings.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

2.1 Introduction

The Dell is a small greenspace (0.8ha) within the village of Hunsdon in East Hertfordshire. It is owned by East Herts District Council and on a long lease to Hunsdon Parish Council.

Historic maps show that the site was used for gravel extraction. The site is now used for recreation but also has good wildlife value. There are two entrances to the site, one off Tanners Way and off High Street. Hunsdon Brook flows along the northern edge of the site. Hunsdon public footpath 6 passes through the site from High Street to Tanners Way.

The site is currently a mix of close mown grass and trees. There are denser areas of trees along the Hunsdon Brook and some denser areas of trees along the southern boundary. There are also individual hawthorn trees dotted around the site providing shade to site users.

2.2 Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted 2022)

Under the Neighbourhood Plan, the Dell was designated as Local Green Space. The Plan's Health and Wellbeing Policies provide for the enhancement of the village's recreational areas and specifically to: -

Develop the Dell as a tranquil, natural space to add to the diverse range of facilities for the parish. (Policy HWB2)

As part of the NP's consultation process the community identified several features that they would like to see included in proposals for improving the Dell:

- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Plant wildflowers
- Create tranquil recreational area
- Improve disabled access
- Provide informal seating/tables
- Open up view/access to brook
- Consider community gardening involvement
- Create an area for use by the scouts/cubs/beavers

These elements have therefore been incorporated in the Draft GAP.

Hunsdon

The Dell, Hunsdon

GAP 2024 - 2029

Location Plan

PO

The Dell
Grid Ref: TL 41545 14020
Easting: 541545
Northing: 214020

73



0 60 120
m

Scale @ A4
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Sept 2023
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The Dell

Greenspace Action Plan 2024-2029

Site Description

Legend

Greenspace features

- Bench
- Bin
- ✿ Individual tree
- × Pedestrian entrance
- ⊙ Vehicle entrance

Habitat Descriptions

- Woodland
- Conservation grass
- Amenity grass
- Hedgerow
- The Dell Site Boundary

Pedestrian Entrance
Entrance to the site from
Tanners Way for pedestrians

Hazel coppice stools
Hazel which has been
coppiced previously in the
woodland here

Hunsdon Brook
Beyond the boundary
of the site

Woodland
Mixed woodland alongside
the Hunsdon Brook (species
include: sycamore, hawthorn,
elder, hazel, field maple, and ash)

Youth Shelter
Existing youth shelter
near to the site entrance

Pedestrian Entrance
Entrance to the site off
High Street and also
the start of Footpath 6

Flytipped waste
Flytipped waste which to be
removed

Hedgerow
Hawthorn hedge trimmed
to a height of 4ft

Mature Hawthorns
Group of trees that are
currently mown underneath

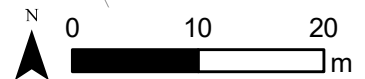
Vehicle gate
Entrance to the site off
High Street for vehicles

Bench and bin
Existing bench and bin

Mound
Species poor grass
growing on a mound

Flytipped waste
Flytipped waste which to be
removed

Woodland
Mixed woodland in the corner
of the site with little understory
(species include: blackthorn,
elder, field maple, and hazel
and sycamore)












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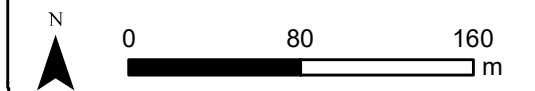
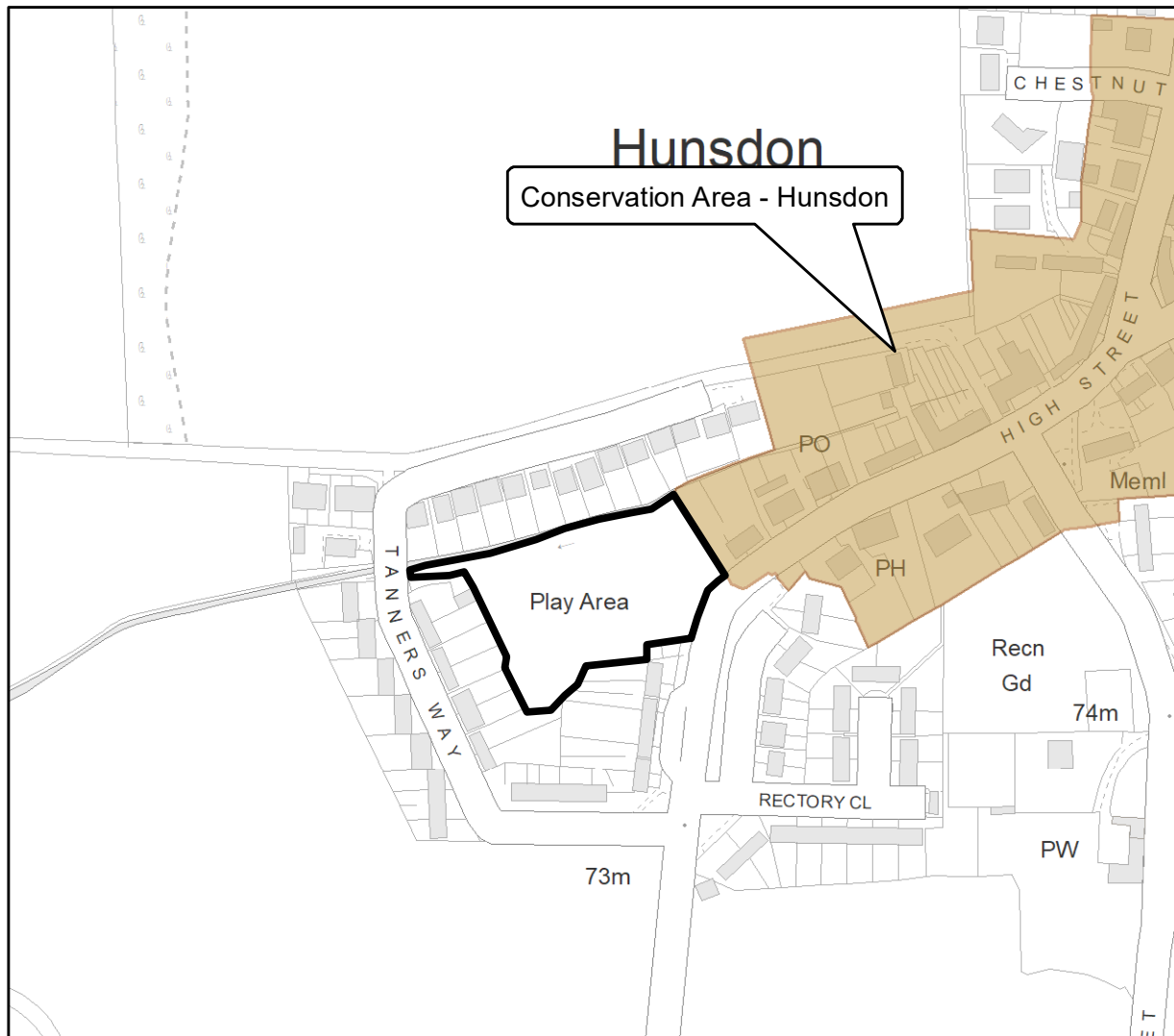
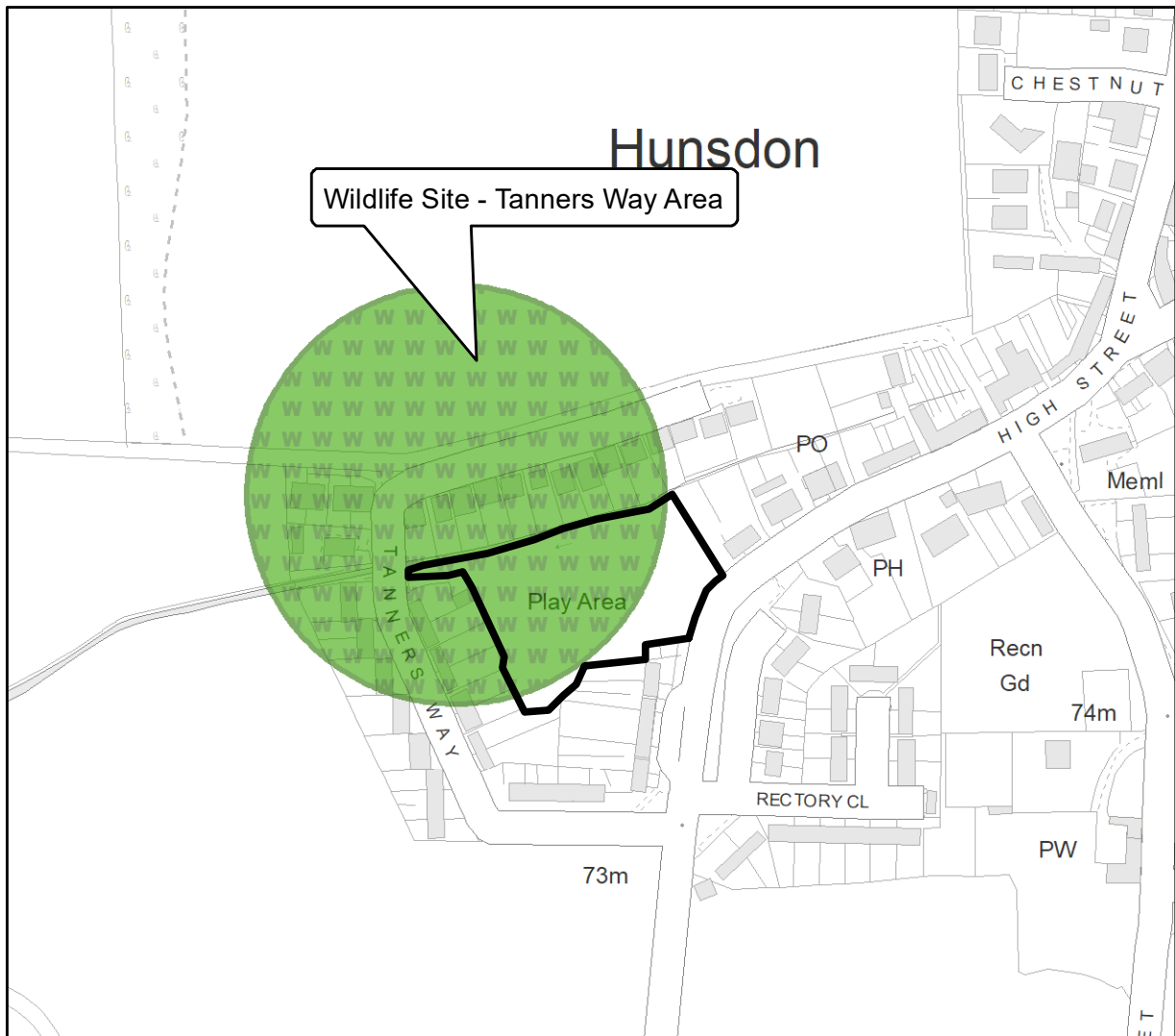
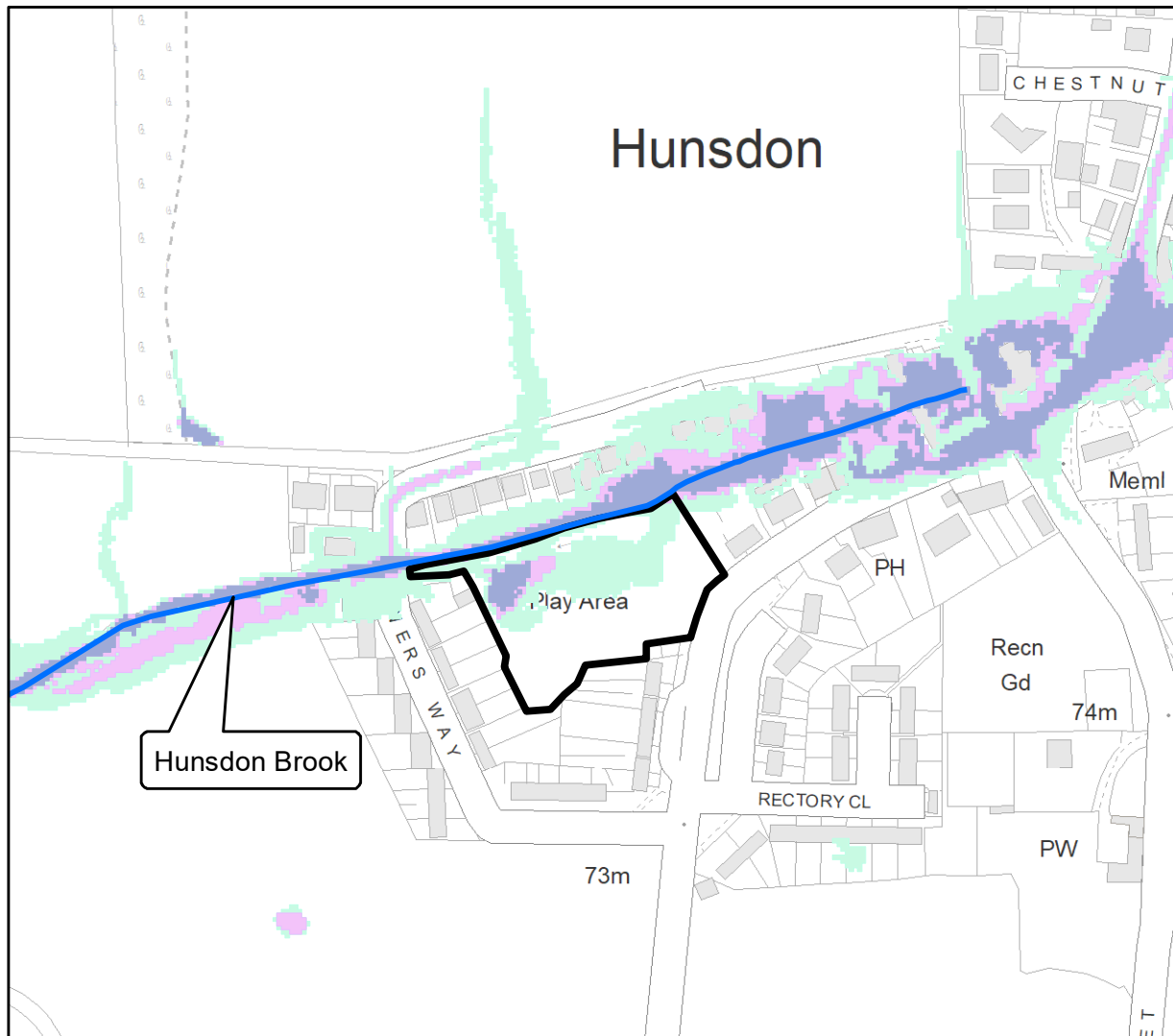
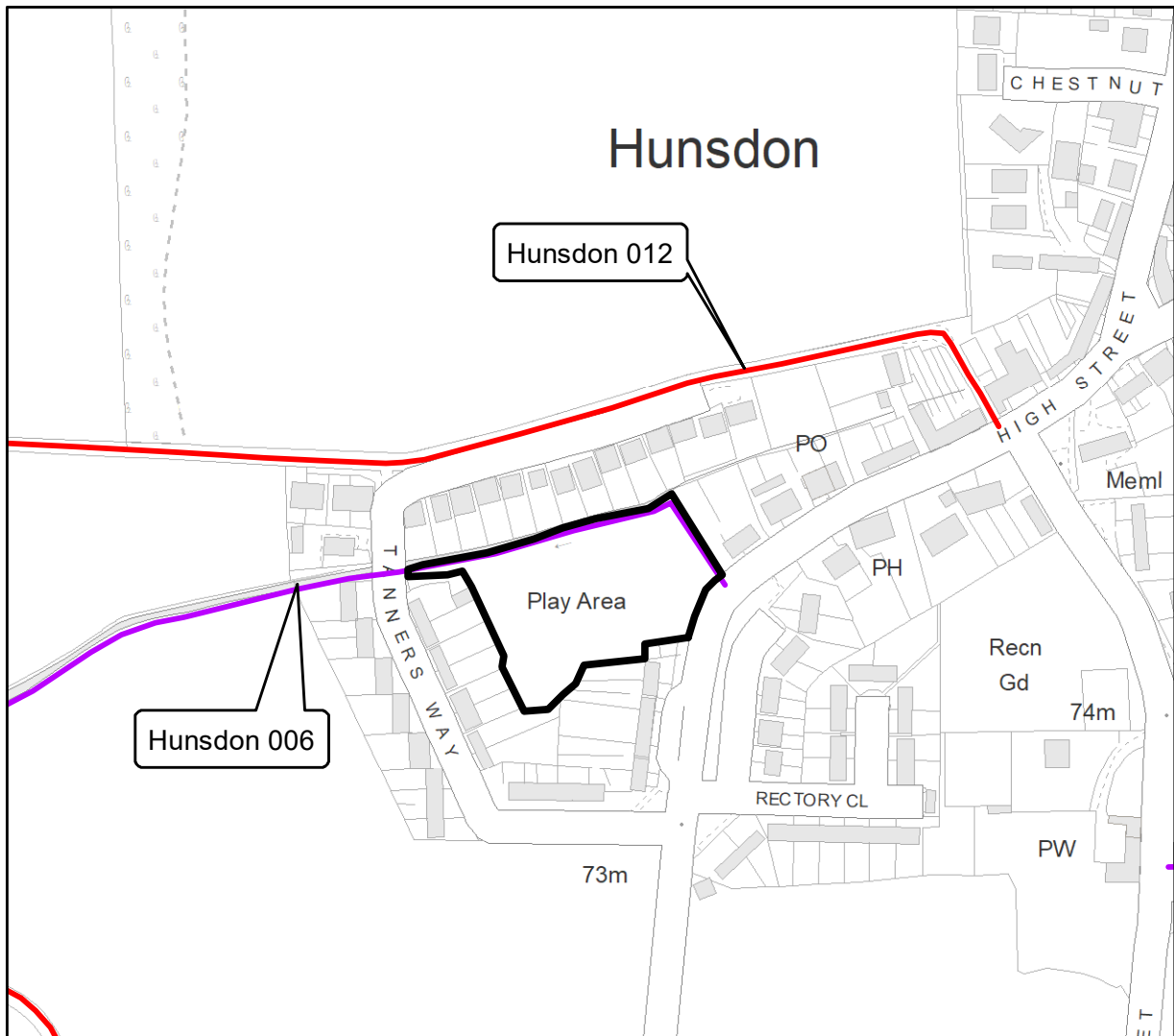


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The Dell
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2024-2029
 Constraints Plan

Legend

-  The Dell Site Boundary
-  Main River
-  Surface Water Flood Risk 1in30
-  Surface Water Flood Risk 1in100
-  Surface Water Flooding Risk 1in1000
-  Restricted Byway
-  Footpath
- Site Type**
-  Wildlife Site
-  Conservation Areas



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2.3 Site Designations

A Local Wildlife Site is located close by at Tanners Way and is an important area for its buildings and environment for protected species. The Hunsdon Conservation Area is to the east of the site so this shouldn't impact on any tree works.

2.4 Geography and Landscape Character

The Dell is a small greenspace surrounded by residential properties and roads. It is an important linking feature in providing a route into the village for a wide variety of wildlife from the surrounding countryside. It is positioned in the southwest of the village alongside the Hunsdon Brook which is classified as main river. It has this designation because it is a locally important watercourse and as such is regulated by the Environment Agency.



Image 1: A photo showing the open character of The Dell

2.5 History and Archaeology

Historic maps show that the site was used for gravel extraction. The site is now a greenspace, used by the local community and home to a wide variety of wildlife.

2.6 Habitats and Wildlife

There is a mixture of habitats on site to provide food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife species. The primary habitats are grassland, woodland, scrub and the watercourse.

2.6.1 Grassland

The grassland onsite is currently managed through regular mowing (every 2 weeks) between March and November. This management is historic amenity management

to allow the site to be used for casual sport. However, most of the site is not used for casual sport as the Recreation Ground off Acorn Street is a large greenspace which has better facilities for this purpose.



Image 2: The existing mowing regime at The Dell

Therefore, altering the mowing regime to allow some areas of grass to grow long will allow flowering plants to flower and provide food for pollinating insects. These areas could be further enhanced by the addition of wildflower seed, as currently the species mix is quite limited.



Image 3: A photo showing cultivation of an area of amenity grass

This would involve light cultivation of the area as shown by the above photo and then scattering the wildflower seed and firming this in with a roller. These areas should then be maintained by an annual cut and collection in early autumn. The detail on this is set out in specification 4 below.



Image 4: An example photo of a wildflower meadow

The areas should be chosen so that they allow space for picnicking. Also, paths could be mown through to allow visitors to walk through them. The amenity grass could be enhanced by some bulb planting, particularly underneath some of the areas with dense tree cover. The possible areas for bulb planting are shown on the actions maps. Crocus or native daffodils can provide an early nectar source for a wide range of pollinating insects.

2.6.2 Woodland and scrub

The woodland on site is small in area and distributed around the outside of the site. Most of the woodland is located on the southern boundary.



Image 5: A photo of the woodland at the Dell

Another area of woodland is located along the northern boundary along the Hunsdon Brook. There is an area of scrub centrally on the site, primarily hawthorn.



Image 6: A photo of two hawthorn trees at The Dell

The woodland on site is to be thinned over the next five years. Relaxing the mowing regime alongside the existing woodland compartments would allow the sharp transition in habitat between amenity grass and the woodland to be softened.

Compartment 1:

There are several hazel coppice stools within this area of woodland which should be coppiced during year 2 of this agreement in order to allow more light to the woodland floor and the bank of the Hunsdon Brook. The material from these coppice stools can be used to create deer baskets around each stool to protect the regrowth from being eaten by deer.

Compartment 2:

This section of woodland on the south side of the greenspace is dominated by trees that are up to 20m tall and the structural diversity is less than the woodland close to the Hunsdon Brook. The species that dominate this section of woodland are sycamore, ash and elder. Some targeted thinning through tree safety works would be of benefit to allow more light and encourage a greater number of tree species. Some additional underplanting of this area with whips would increase the species and structural diversity. The area of woodland could be extended by planting whips beyond the existing boundary of the current woodland as shown on the actions map. The species mix to be planted could include oak, hazel, hawthorn, field maple, and cherry.

2.6.2.1 Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is a fungal disease affecting the common ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and other *Fraxinus* species. It is caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus*

fraxineus which is native to eastern Asia. The disease was first identified in England in 2012, although research has shown that it is likely to have been present since at least 2005. It is present on site and being managed through monitoring of ash trees and dealt with on a risk-based approach, removing trees that pose a danger but retaining healthy ash trees identified in a tree safety survey.

2.6.2.2 Oak Processionary Moth

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

2.6.3 The Hunsdon Brook

The Hunsdon Brook is a small stream that flows through the village of Hunsdon in Hertfordshire, England. It is a tributary of The River Stort forming part of a wildlife corridor which is mentioned in the local neighbourhood plan and is stated as needing to be protected or enhanced. The brook has a rich history and ecology, as it has been used for irrigation, milling, fishing and recreation for centuries. The brook is a valuable habitat for a wide range of wildlife including birds, small mammal, and insects. Downstream of The Dell the brook passes by several historic landmarks, such as Hunsdon House, a former royal residence of Henry VIII and Hunsdon Brook Fishponds. The Hunsdon Brook is a valuable natural and cultural asset for the village and the surrounding area.

2.6.4 Species

The site has a range of habitats which are of importance to a wide variety of species rather than one specific species. A range of common bird species can be found on site including, blue tit, wren, blackbird, robin, and great tit. Any local people with an interest in the natural world should be encouraged to get involved in surveying the species present on site, to increase our knowledge of the site.

2.6.5 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

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

Current management regime	Area (ha)	UKHab current habitat type	Current habitat condition	Potential habitat type	Potential habitat condition	Potential biodiversity net gain (biodiversity units)
Amenity grassland*	0.058	g4 Modified grassland	Poor	g4 Modified grassland	Moderate	0.20
Scrub	0.046	h3h Hawthorn scrub	Moderate	h3h Hawthorn scrub	Moderate	0.00
Woodland	0.332	W1g other woodland broadleaved	Moderate	W1g other woodland broadleaved	Moderate	0.00

**Change from amenity mowing to an annual cut and collection and add wildflower seed*

2.7 Access

There are access points to the site from High Street and Tanners Way and all of these need some work to improve them.

2.7.1 Pedestrian Entrance off Tanners Way

The entrance off Tanners Way is a pedestrian entrance with a pedestrian gate across it and a wooden fence along it. Both the gate and fencing is becoming old and worn out and is need of replacement over the next five years.

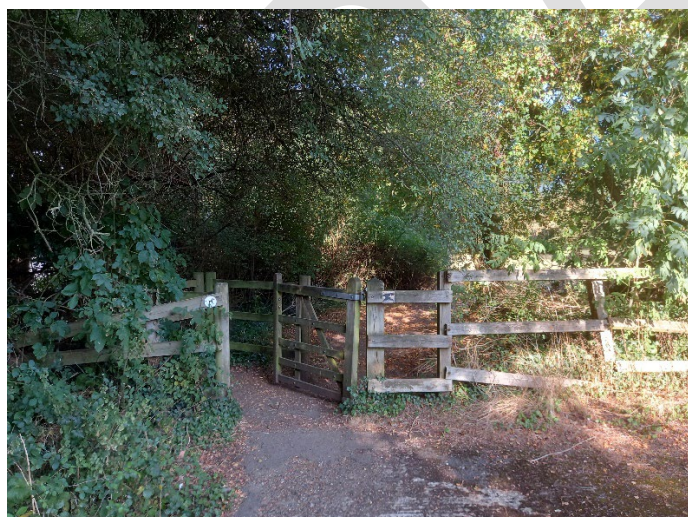


Image 7: A photo of the entrance to The Dell from Tanners Way

2.7.2 Pedestrian Entrance off High Street

The pedestrian entrance off High Street is the start of Footpath 006 and there is a drop down from the tarmac edge onto a slope which does become slippery in the winter. Formalisation of this entrance with some steps would make this a safer access point.



Image 8: A photo of the pedestrian entrance to The Dell from High Street

2.7.3 Vehicle entrance off High Street

The current vehicle entrance to the site for maintenance could be improved with a shared access gate installed (vehicle/pedestrian access) and a pedestrian all user access ramp installed. The image below shows the current vehicle only access gate and informal pedestrian access to the left.



Image 9: A photo of the entrance to The Dell from the High Street (Homesteads)

2.8 Maintenance and Health and Safety

The current maintenance regime involves regular mowing of amenity grass and trimming of hedges and shrubs. Future mowing will involve changing the mowing regime to increase the biodiversity of the grassland and relaxed mowing around woodland edges. The current tree safety maintenance regime involves a tree safety survey being carried out every three years. Any required tree safety works are

carried out following this survey. Health and safety inspections of the structures on site is carried out annually.

2.9 Facilities and Infrastructure

The benches on site are to be replaced when necessary with suitable appropriate benches such as the one in the photo below. An accessible picnic bench is to be installed to allow visitors to picnic on site. The suitability of the siting of the youth shelter on site is to be considered with possible relocation to the recreation ground. Also, installation of an interpretation panel would help to inform and engage site visitors, such as the one in the photo below.



Image 10: A photo of an example bench



Image 11: A photo of an example interpretation panel

2.10 Community and Communication

The site provides an important space for the local community to relax and get close to nature. The variety of habitats on site should be celebrated and interpretation will help to explain the value of the site. Engagement with the local community will be carried out through the production of this management plan, with an opportunity to feed into the objective setting process. Furthermore, future involvement from the local community, possibly through events or practical volunteer sessions on site would be of great value. Communication about such events through local groups and the village notice board would help to involve as many of the local population as possible.

DRAFT

3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The Dell GAP 2024 - 29 will be a simple, easy to read plan for use by Hunsdon Parish Council and members of the public and will act as a guide to the work of volunteers. The plan will be largely map based, with sequential, annual management maps to show the actions planned for each year. The resulting change will be represented on the map for the following year. The document will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

The plan will be costed, and potential funding sources identified. Once the final GAP is agreed, external funding will be sought to enable the plan to be delivered.

The aim and objectives of the GAP will be as follows:

Aims

To improve links with the local community by providing a tranquil place to visit and enjoy whilst also improving the value of the habitats on site for a variety of wildlife.

Objectives

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

A1 Install new interpretation panel and entrance signage on site to welcome people in.

A2 Improve the access off High Street (B180) to allow passage of wheelchairs and pushchairs via a new access ramp.

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

B1 Routine safety inspections carried out with identified actions implemented.

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

C. Clean and Well Maintained – to ensure that suitable maintenance is carried out.

C1 Ensure that grounds maintenance is carried out as specified.

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

C3 Inspect benches annually and replace as they become unsafe.

C4 Install new picnic benches on site where appropriate.

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

D1 Management operations to be as sustainable as possible.

D2 Ensure that materials for the site are sustainably sourced.

E. Biodiversity landscape and heritage – enhance the habitats on site.

E1 Change the grass mowing regime to allow some areas of the site to grow longer and sow wildflower seed where appropriate.

E2 Carry out some woodland maintenance through coppicing of hazel and hawthorn to increase structural diversity.

E3 Underplant and expand woodland areas where appropriate.

E4 Create a small community orchard to provide food for local people and wildlife.

E5 Plant bulbs underneath shaded areas to provide to provide early season nectar source for pollinators.

F. Community Involvement – communicate with and involve the local community in developing this action plan.

F1 Engage with the local community and stakeholders when developing plans for the site.

F2 Provide opportunities for local people to get involved with management of the site.

F3 Provide features that allow site users to engage with the site e.g., interpretation panels and a community orchard.

G. Marketing and Communication – raise awareness of the site and what it has to offer.

G1 Promote interest and awareness in The Dell.

G2 Encourage people to visit and learn about the site through local promotion.

4.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

4.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Cut round signs, furniture and entrances	C1	Apr - Oct	HPC	GMO	Internal	No additional cost		
0.2	Remove rubbish and empty bins as required	C2	When required	HPC	GMO	Internal	No additional cost		
0.3	Monitor and maintain site infrastructure as required	C2 C3 C4	When required	HPC	GMO	Internal	As required		
0.4	Regular mowing of amenity grass areas and grass paths	C1	Apr - Oct	HPC	GMO	Internal	Included with GM costs		
0.5	Cut annual cut and collection areas	E1	Sept - Oct	HPC	GMO	External	£200		
0.6	Hedgerow maintenance	E2	Oct - Feb	HPC	GMO	Internal	No additional cost		
0.7	Ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable	D1	Ongoing	HPC	HPC	N/A	N/A		
0.8	Promote the site and opportunities for the local community to be involved	F1 F2 G1G2	Ongoing	HPC	HPC	Internal	N/A		
0.9	Review Action Plans		Annually	HPC	HPC/CMS	Internal	N/A		
1.0									

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service, HPC – Hunsdon Parish Council, Vols – Volunteer, Con – Contractor, GMO – Grounds Maintenance Operatives and Vols – Volunteers

The Dell
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2024-2029
 Annual Actions

Task Responsibility

□ Parish led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ Parish led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Unmapped Actions

- Ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable. □
- Promote the site and opportunities for the local community to be involved. □
- Review Action Plans annually. □

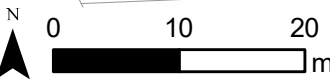
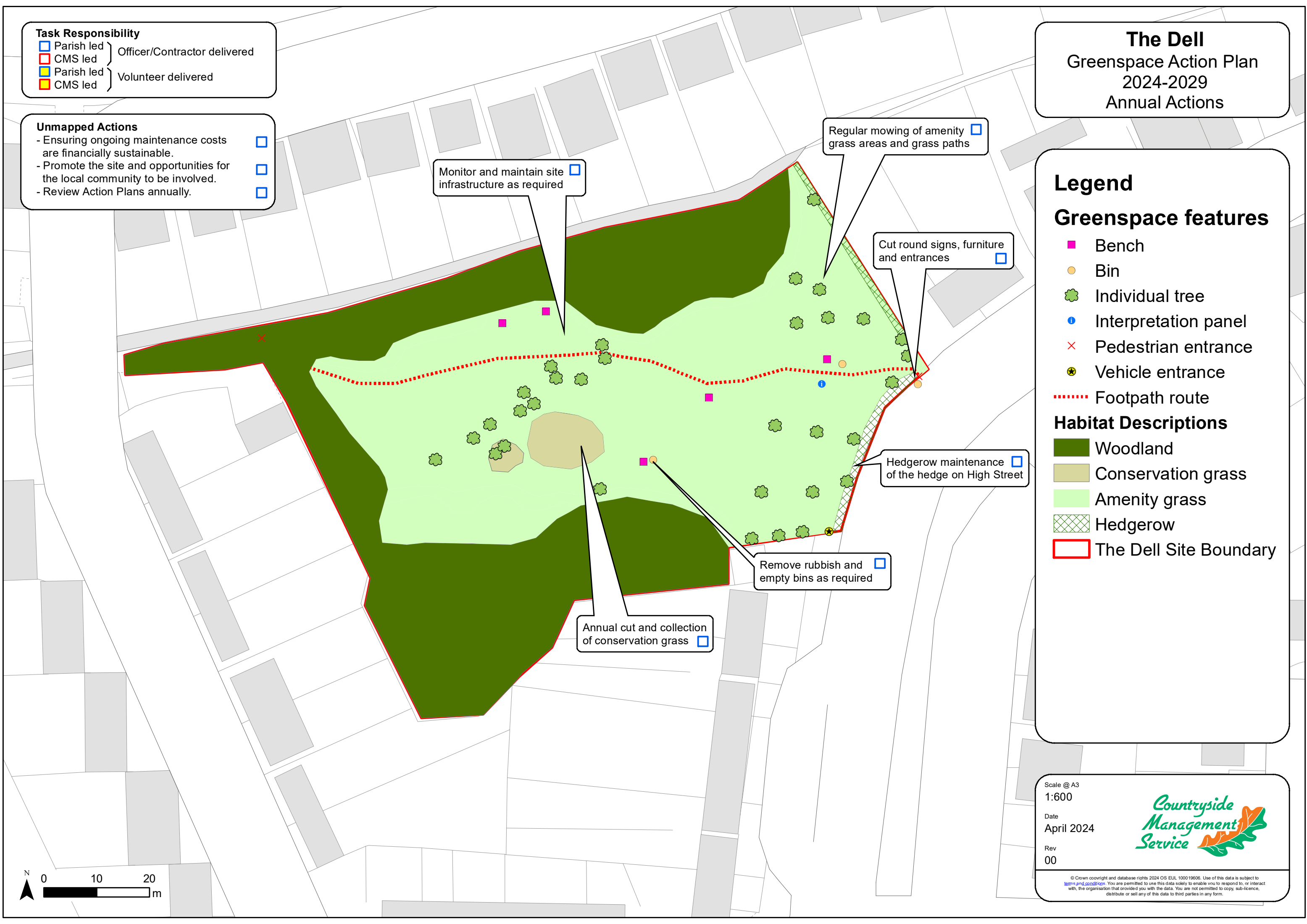
Legend

Greenspace features

- Bench
- Bin
- 🌳 Individual tree
- ⓘ Interpretation panel
- ✕ Pedestrian entrance
- 🚗 Vehicle entrance
- ⋯ Footpath route

Habitat Descriptions

- Woodland
- Conservation grass
- Amenity grass
- ▨ Hedgerow
- The Dell Site Boundary



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Date
 April 2024

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4.2 YEAR 1 ACTIONS 2024-25

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec . Ref.	Status
1.1	Investigate which contractor might be able to carry out cut and collection of grassland	E1	April 24	HPC/CMS	HPC	N/A	N/A		
1.2	Tree risk management inspections and associated work	B1	Every 3 years	HPC	Con	Internal	No additional cost		
1.3	Temporary basic information on posters, with interpretation panels to be installed in the future	A2	April 24 – March 25	HPC/CMS	HPC	N/A	N/A		
1.4	Wildflower meadow sowing	E1 E6	Oct 24 – Nov 24	HPC/CMS	Con	External	£300		
1.5	Hedge planting	E3	Dec 24 – Jan 25	HPC	Vols	External	£100 (cost of trees)		
1.6	Picnic bench installation	C4	April 24 – March 25	HPC	HPC/Con	External	£250 (cost of bench)		
1.7	Access improvement works off High Street	A2	April 24 – March 25	HPC	Con	External	£4,000		
1.8	Wildlife surveying day organised by a local wildlife enthusiast		June/July 2024	HPC	Vol	N/A	N/A		
1.9									

The Dell
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2024-2029
 Year 1 Actions

Task Responsibility

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

Unmapped Actions

- Investigate which contractor might be able to carry out cut and collection of grassland.
- Tree risk management inspections and works.
- Organise wildlife surveying day.

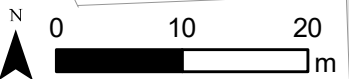
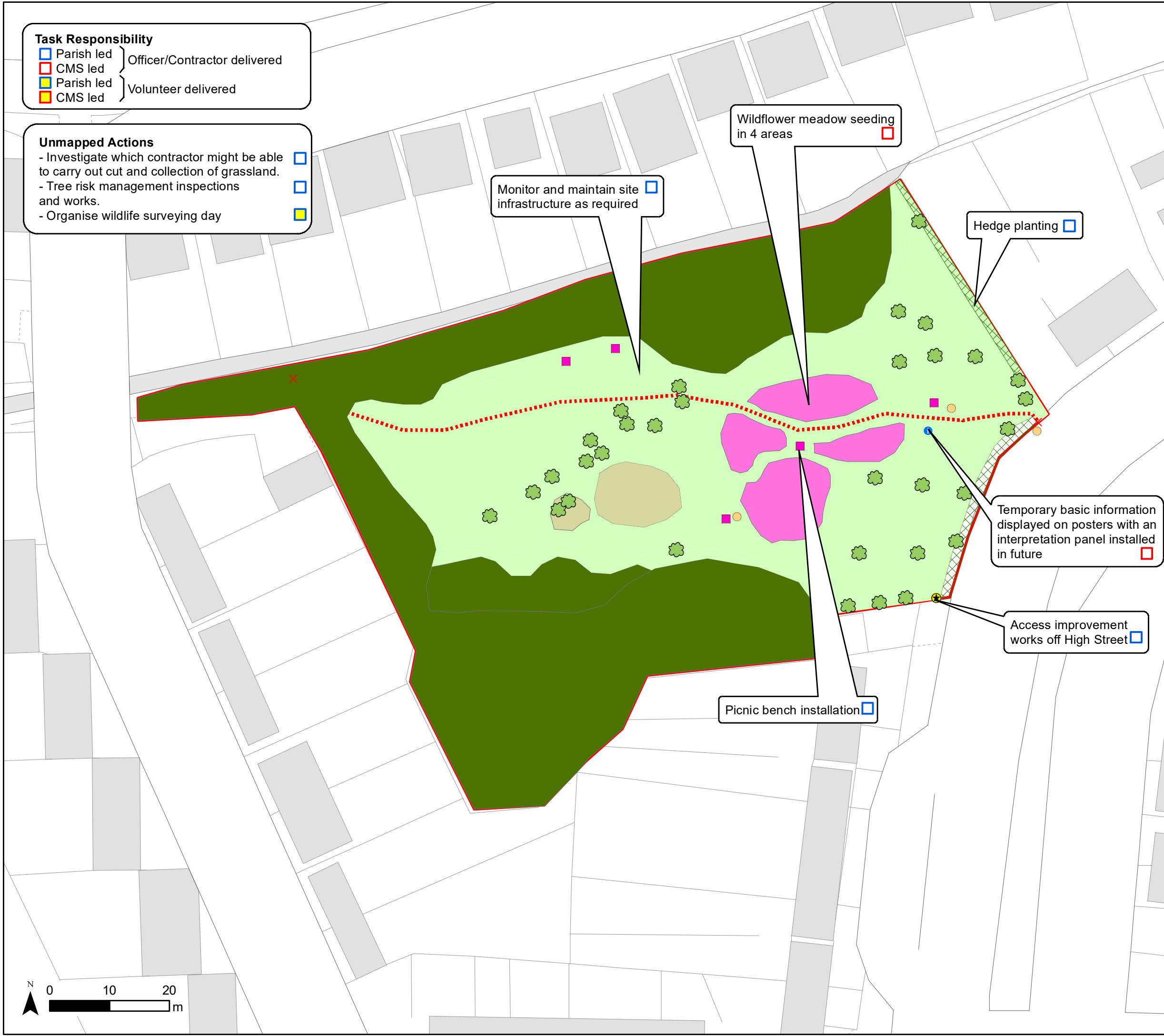
Legend

Greenspace features

- Bench
- Bin
- Individual tree
- Interpretation panel
- Pedestrian entrance
- Vehicle entrance
- Footpath route

Habitat Descriptions

- Wildflower meadow
- Woodland
- Conservation grass
- Amenity grass
- Hedgerow
- The Dell Site Boundary



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4.3 YEAR 2 ACTIONS 2025-26

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Installation of new fencing and pedestrian gate towards Tanners Way	A2	April 25 – March 26	HPC	Con	External	£400		
2.2	Planting of fruit trees	E4	Dec 25 – Jan 26	HPC	Con	External	£500		
2.3	Aftercare of hedge planted in 2024/25	E3	April 25 – March 26	HPC	Vols/Con	Volunteers	N/A		
2.4	Coppicing of hazel stools along the Hunsdon Brook	E2	Nov 25- Feb 26	HPC/CMS	Vols/Con	External	£300		
2.5	Underplanting of the woodland and expanding woodland area with planting.	E3	Dec 25 – Jan 26	HPC	Vols	External	£200		
2.6	Relax mowing around woodland to change to conservation grass.	E1 E6	Aug-Sept	HPC	Con	Internal	N/A		
2.7	Design and install interpretation panel and entrance signage	A2	April 25 – March 26	HPC/CMS	Con	External	£3,000		

The Dell
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2024-2029
 Year 2 Actions

Task Responsibility

□ Parish led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ Parish led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Legend

Greenspace features

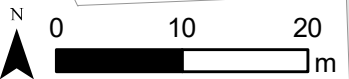
- Bench
- Bin
- 🌳 Individual fruit tree
- 🌳 Individual tree
- 📄 Interpretation panel
- ✕ Pedestrian entrance
- 🚗 Vehicle entrance
- ⋯ Footpath route

Habitat Descriptions

- Woodland
- Conservation grass
- Amenity grass
- ▨ Hedgerow
- ▭ The Dell Site Boundary



- Relax mowing around woodland as shown by the conservation grass □
- Coppice hazel stools along the Hunsdon Brook □
- Installation of new fencing and pedestrian gate □
- Plant fruit trees □
- Expand existing woodland with planting a mixture of hazel, hawthorn, oak and field maple □
- Underplant existing woodland with hazel, and hawthorn □
- Aftercare of newly planted hedge □
- Design and install interpretation panel and entrance signage □



Scale @ A3
 1:600
 Date
 May 2024
 Rev
 00



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4.4 YEAR 3-5 Actions 2026-29

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
3.1	Underplanting with bulbs of all areas shown on the map	E5	Oct 26	HPC	Vols	External	£150 (bulbs)		
3.2	Aftercare of hedge planted in 2024/25	E2	April 26 – March 27	HPC	Vols/Con	Volunteers	N/A		
3.3	Aftercare of fruit trees years 3, 4 and 5	E4	April 26 – March 27	HPC	Vols/Con	Volunteers	N/A		
3.4	Completion of coppicing/woodland work in year 3	E2	Nov 26- Feb 27	HPC/CMS	Vols/Con	External	£300		
3.5	Replacement of benches as required in year 3	C3 C4	April 26 – March 27	HPC	HPC/Con	External	£400		
3.6	Aftercare of woodland planting in years 3 and 4	E3	April 25 – March 26	HPC	Vols/Con	Volunteers	N/A		
3.7	Manage wildflower meadow with an annual cut and collection from year 3 onwards	E1 E6	Aug-Sept	HPC	Con	Internal	N/A		
3.8	Additional seed added to wildflower meadow if needed year 4	E1 E6	Oct 28	HPC	Vols	External	£50		
3.10	Review year 5 actions and write new GAP		March 29	CMS	CMS	N/A	N/A		

The Dell
 Greenspace Action Plan
 2024-2029
 Year 3-5 Actions

Task Responsibility

□ Parish led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ Parish led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Unmapped Actions
 - Review year 5 actions and write new Greenspace Action Plan

□

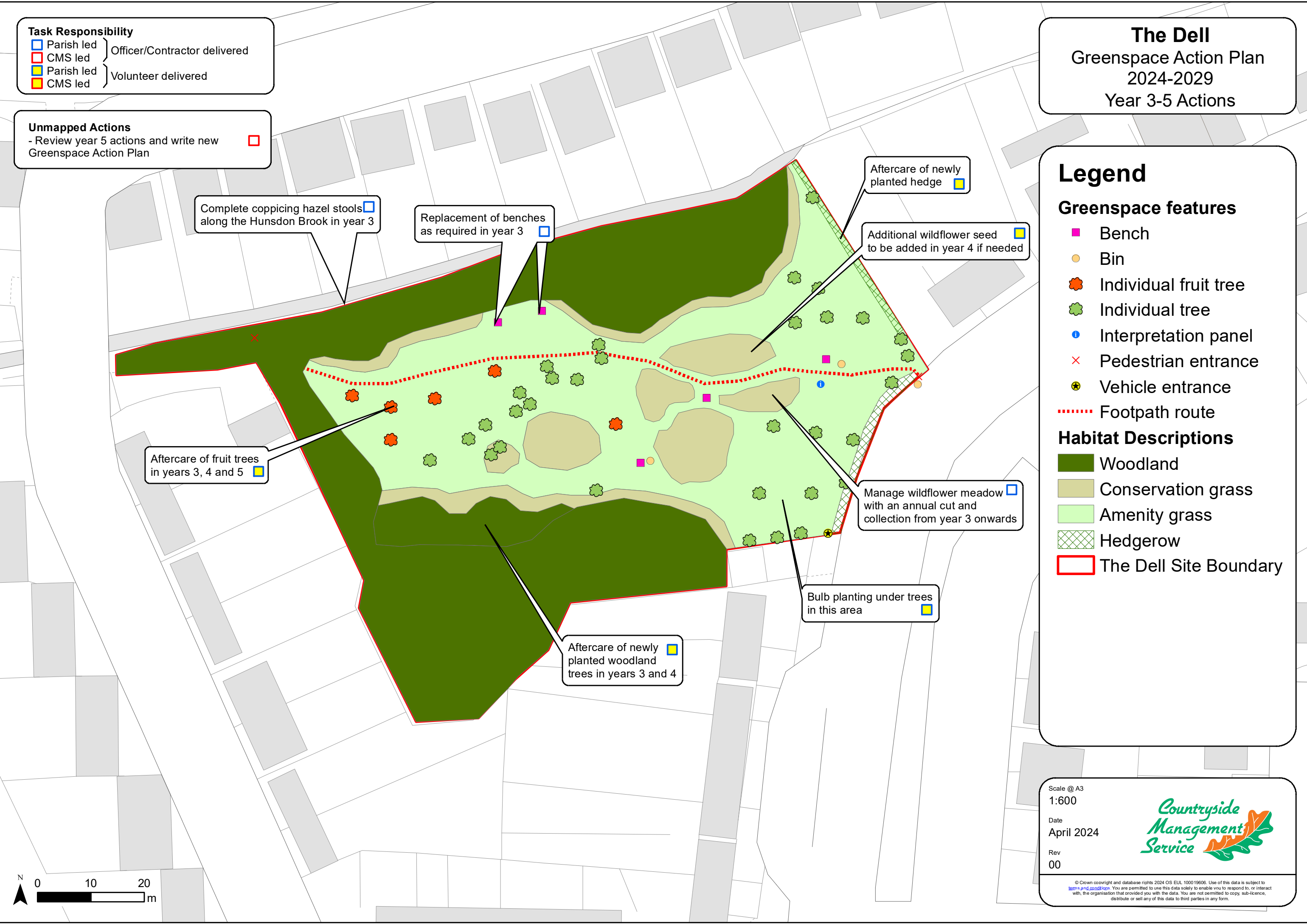
Legend

Greenspace features

- Bench
- Bin
- ✿ Individual fruit tree
- ✿ Individual tree
- Interpretation panel
- ✕ Pedestrian entrance
- ⊙ Vehicle entrance
- ⋯ Footpath route

Habitat Descriptions

- Woodland
- Conservation grass
- Amenity grass
- ▨ Hedgerow
- The Dell Site Boundary



Complete coppicing hazel stools along the Hunsdon Brook in year 3

□

Replacement of benches as required in year 3

□

Aftercare of newly planted hedge

□

Additional wildflower seed to be added in year 4 if needed

□

Aftercare of fruit trees in years 3, 4 and 5

□

Manage wildflower meadow with an annual cut and collection from year 3 onwards

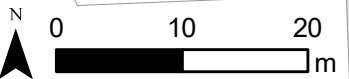
□

Bulb planting under trees in this area

□

Aftercare of newly planted woodland trees in years 3 and 4

□



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5.0 SPECIFICATIONS

1) Tree procurement

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

2) Tree Planting and aftercare

- Tree planting:
 1. Dig a hole larger than the tree's root ball, lifting out turf and putting to one side loosen soil in sides and bottom of hole to improve rooting
 2. Hold tree vertically in centre of hole, root collar at ground level. Replace good topsoil and additional composted material as appropriate, and shake tree gently to disperse soil around roots, preventing air pockets
 3. Firm the soil once roots are uncovered, backfill remaining soil and replace square of turf by first cutting in two, then placing upside down around tree.
 4. Apply layer of mulch (well composted wood chip or similar), 10cm deep, radius 50cm, ensuring mulch is not piled up around stem of tree.
- Tree aftercare:
 1. Tree aftercare will be of all planted standard trees and whips for at least the first 2 years after planting.
 2. For standard trees this aftercare will involve weeding around the base, topping up mulch and watering where necessary.
 3. Fruit trees this aftercare will involve what is described above plus appropriate fruit tree pruning to create a suitable goblet structure removing branches that are dead, diseased, dying or crossing one another.
 4. For whips planted either hedgerow or woodland aftercare should involve weeding around each tree, topping up bark mulch, and replacements where necessary.

3) Conservation Grassland

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

4) Wildflower seeding

- Wildflower seeding of amenity grassland areas to take place in October
 1. All areas mapped as on action plan maps
 2. The ground will be prepared for seeding through scarification (60% to 70% bare ground).
 3. Seed to be scattered on the bare ground. Seed mixes to be 100% wildflowers for example:

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

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

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

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

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

5) Woodland Management

- Thinning works:
 1. The woodland on site has a good mixture of species but benefit from greater diversity in structure.
 2. This could be achieved through tree safety works removing those trees that are dangerous or dying.
 3. Underplanting of some areas of woodland with whips, a mix of species (oak, hawthorn, hazel and field maple) would help to provide greater structural diversity (oak, hawthorn, hazel and field maple).
 4. Also expanding the area of woodland by appropriate planting of whips which a mix of species as above. Whips (400mm-600mm) should be UK grown native tree stock and will be planted at 2 metres spacing.
- Coppicing of Hazel in along the Hunsdon Brook:
 1. Coppice hazel species, cutting on an angle above the stub to allow water to run off. Stubs should be cut on good cambium above the previous cut.
 2. The brash then can be used to make deer baskets to protect each stub from the pressures of deer browsing.
 3. Hazel chosen for coppicing has been coppiced previously within each of the woodland compartments.
 4. Larger diameter timber extracted if possible is to be sold.

6) Hedgerow planting

- 400mm-600mm whips should be planted in secured 600mm tree tubes in two lines at 0.5m spacings, parallel and offset by 0.5m.
- The suggested species mix: 50% hawthorn, 10% hazel, 10% spindle, 10% blackthorn, 10% field maple, 10% common dogwood

7) Bulb planting

- As a general rule, September is the best time of year to plant bulbs
- Planting typically takes place on amenity grass areas. If this is not the case site preparation should be carried out, removing all heavy vegetation by mechanical means or hand tools. Planting should occur in short grass or bare earth
- The best bulb planting displays are highly situational, and this is reflected in the species mix. Examples of bulb mixes:
 1. *Native mix* – used around trees or a woodland context: 40% bluebells, 20% wood anemone, 20% lesser celandine, 20% snake’s-head fritillary
 2. *Amenity pollinator mix* – directly sown into areas of open amenity grassland to offer spring colour and a nectar source: 50% crocus, 30% primrose, 10% snowdrop, 10% grape hyacinth
- All bulb planting should be carried out in well-drained soil, in full or dappled sunlight
- To achieve a natural feel with a native mix, for example, the bulbs may be hand broadcast over the area to achieve “natural” spacing. Volunteers working in pair and equipped with digging spikes should then aim to plant each bulb in a hole three times as deep as the bulb diameter
- More formal settings may call for a grid pattern. Here biodegradable spray paint should be used in conjunction with a tape measure to achieve a grid with planting at 10cm depth at 10cm intervals
- Areas of bulb planting should be managed as enhanced amenity grass once the plants have died back. This usually occurs by mid-June.

8) Entrance improvements

- Entrance improvements to be carried out as necessary to create a more accessible site for those with limited mobility.
- This might include creating an access ramp and installation of a suitable gate.

9) Interpretation and signage

- New onsite interpretation to be developed.
 1. Production of an interpretation panel for the site to describe the facilities and habitats present to engage visitors to the site.
 2. Production of entrance signage for the entrance off Tanners Way and High Street, stating the site name.

DRAFT

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A

6.1 Additional OPM guidance

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

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

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

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

6.1.2 Section B: Initial OPM control measures

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

The OPM infestation will be assessed using the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

6.1.3 Section C: Subsequent OPM control measures

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

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