Bricket Wood Common

Greenspace Action Plan 2017 - 2022

St Albans City & District Council

Countryside Management Service

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AMENDMENT DATE	SECTION UPDATED	DETAILS	OFFICER

CONTENTS

1. SITE SUMMARY

Site name	Bricket Wood Common
Site address	School Lane Bricket Wood Hertfordshire Nearest postcode AL2 3XS
Grid Reference	TL130010
Size	86 hectares (212 acres)
Owner	Munden Estate, Right Honourable Henry Holland-Hibbert
Manager	Delegated to St Albans City and District Council under 1899 Commons Act
Designations	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Registered Common Land Access Land Metropolitan Green Belt

Vision Statement

Bricket Wood Common is a valuable area of semi-natural habitat within a significantly built up part of Hertfordshire, rich in wildlife and offering visitors an opportunity to enjoy a landscape largely undisturbed by the world outside. The primary aims for management of the common are therefore to maintain and restore its natural habitats for the benefit of biodiversity, and to provide all visitors with a welcoming and accessible green space which retains a feeling of naturalness and seclusion.

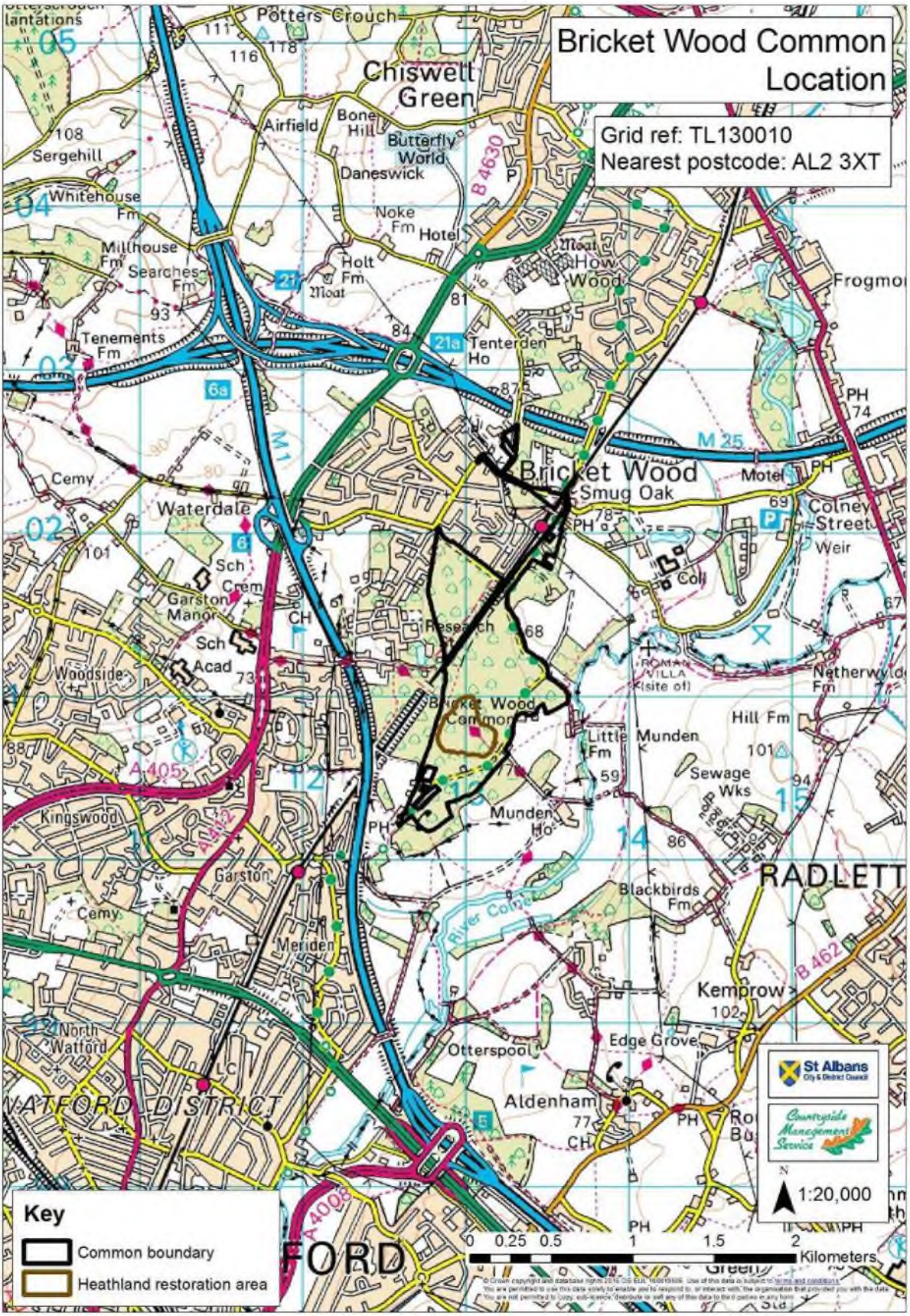
This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To enhance the experience of using the common for regular users and visitors.
- To ensure that visitors to Bricket Wood Common feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times.
- To ensure the standard of maintenance is upheld and relevant across the site.
- To ensure sustainability of all management operations on site.
- To conserve and enhance the key habitats of Bricket Wood Common SSSI and bring them into favourable condition.
- To develop and maintain an informed, involved and enthusiastic local community.
- To raise awareness of the common in general and its nature conservation value in particular.

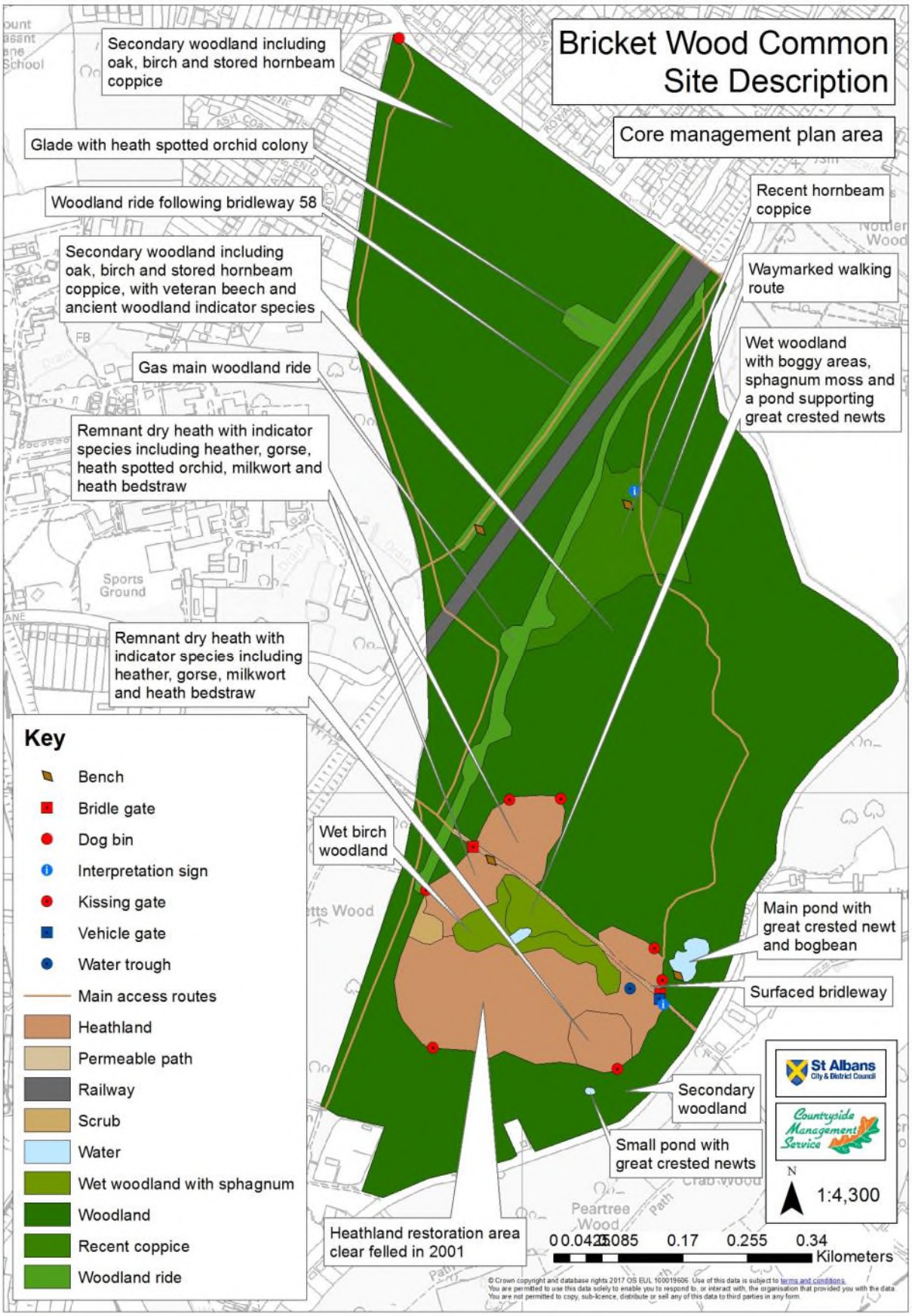
The Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for Bricket Wood Common sets out the management, maintenance and development framework for the site over five years.

The GAP is reviewed annually, so that any outstanding tasks can be rescheduled as necessary. The GAP is also frequently reviewed in conjunction with the Countryside Management Service (CMS) and any other relevant bodies.

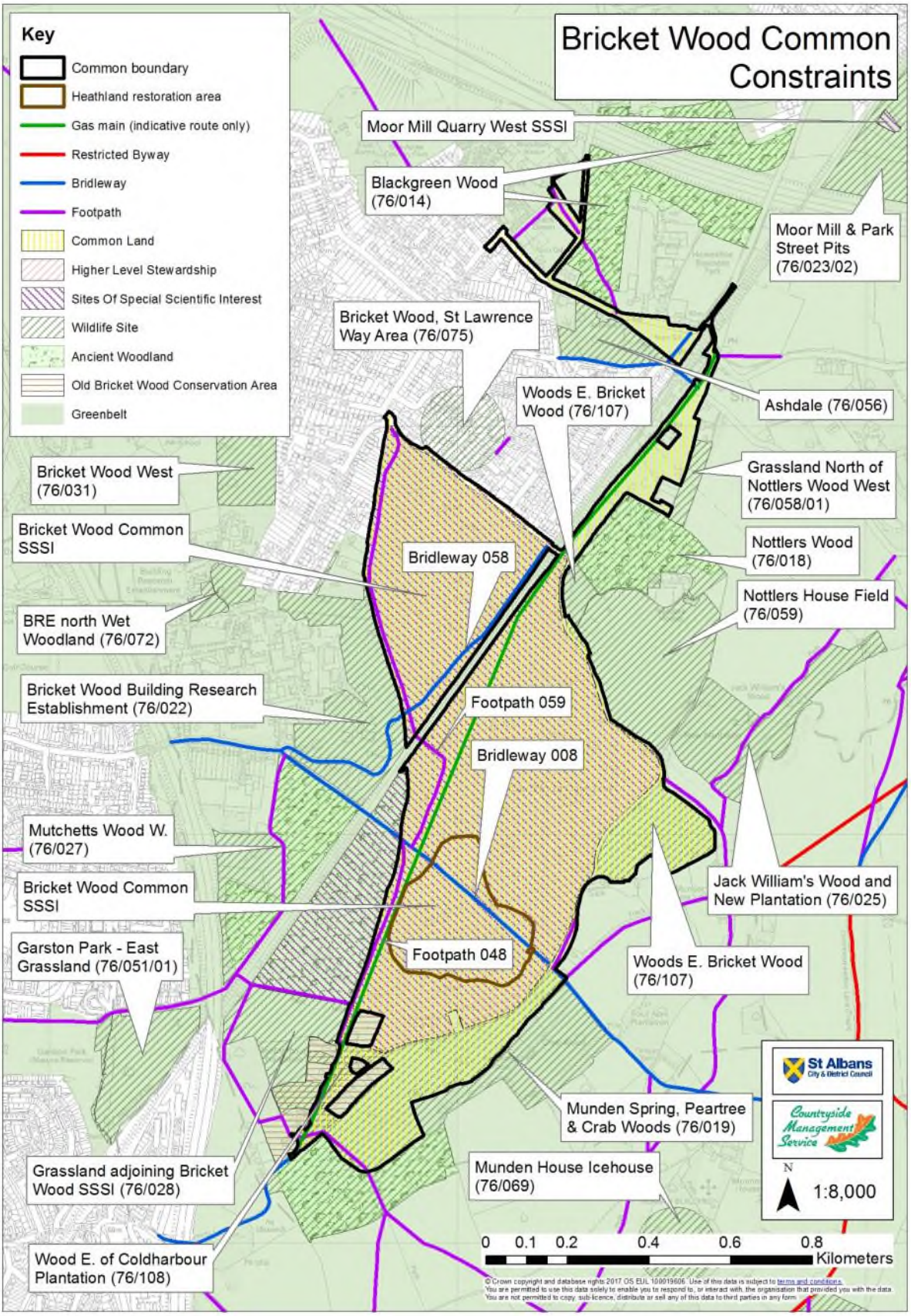
2. SITE DESCRIPTION
2.1 LOCATION



2.2 SITE DESCRIPTION



2.3 CONSTRAINTS



2.4 INTRODUCTION

Bricket Wood Common is located in St Stephens Parish in the District of St Albans in Hertfordshire. The total area of the common is 86 hectares (212 acres); its boundary is shown in the Location and Constraints maps above. This plan relates to the core area of the common, bounded by Mount Pleasant Lane to the north and School Lane to the east, which covers 63 hectares (156 acres) and is shown in the Site Description map above. The common is owned by the Munden Estate and managed by SADC through the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee, in partnership with CMS and the Munden Estate.

It covers an area rich in wildlife made up of predominantly secondary woodland and old hornbeam coppice, with a small core area of wet lowland heath and acid grassland, containing a boggy area, birch scrub and ponds. The heathland is of particular significance as this habitat has declined markedly in southern England and the site represents an important example in Hertfordshire.

The common has an amenity function for many mostly local people. It provides an important resource for small scale, informal recreation: walking and dog walking on the public footpaths and other tracks; horse riding and cycling on the public bridleways; and a number of people who visit to enjoy and study the natural environment. It was a Green Flag Award Winner in 2016.

The Munden Estate has developed a woodland management plan for the parts of the site which are wooded, with the approval of Natural England and the Forestry Commission. As a result the scope of this plan is somewhat reduced from the previous plan in that it will not consider woodland management. The woodland rides and the main path network remain within the scope of this plan.

SADC and the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee will work closely with the Munden Estate to ensure that the two plans are complementary. All woodland management on Bricket Wood Common will continue to be monitored by the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee, Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

2.5 GEOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE

In landscape terms, Bricket Wood Common is ‘unique within the county’. Its significance is founded upon its ‘strong sense of seclusion and separation’, the rare example of wet acidic heath, hydrological features like areas of poor drainage mixed with streams, ditches and ponds and the ‘eerie anthropomorphic forms’ of the stored hornbeam coppice compartment (Hertfordshire Landscape Character Assessment, 2001).

Adjoining the site boundary at the southwestern tip, the hamlet of Old Bricket Wood at the southern end of School Lane is a Conservation Area.

Table 1: Bricket Wood Common designations

Scale	Designation	Detail
National	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Bricket Wood Common was notified as an SSSI in 1953, particularly as a result of its lowland heath, which is rare in the county. This gives the site legal protection and means that Natural England must consent any 'operations likely to damage the special interest' and regularly assess the condition of the site.
National	Registered Common Land	The common is part of the Munden Estate and is owned by the Right Honourable Henry Holland-Hibbert. The management of the common was delegated to St Albans City and District Council under the 1899 Commons Act. There are no Registered Commoners.
National	Access Land	Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), the common is registered as Access Land which allows the public the right to walk freely there without having to stay on paths.
District/Borough	Metropolitan Green Belt	Bricket Wood Common falls within the Metropolitan Green Belt, protected through the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). This restricts the growth of development in strategic rural areas on the edge of conurbations.

Although as noted above the common itself has a strikingly secluded feel, the wider landscape is also influenced by the surrounding settlements, by the M1 and M25 motorways and by the railway line which runs through the common.

2.6 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

There are archaeological records of Belgic tribes, which travelled along the River Ver and camped beside it. Later the Romans built villas along the rivers and their roads crossed the common. In medieval times, because of the infertile soil, the common would have been the

manor's 'waste' land. Here, people grazed their animals, harvested bracken for bedding and heather for fuel and thatching, and cut wood for timber and fuel.

The Earl of Essex used the common for hunting and there is still a discernible ditch and bank dug in 1750 which delineates the boundary between his land and that of the Manor of Garston. Hunting continued here until 1976 and the area at the start of School Lane was named 'Tally-Ho Corner' because the master of the foxhounds kept the dogs nearby.

A lot of common land was taken into private ownership, or enclosed, in the 18th and 19th centuries, but registered commoners retained their rights to cut wood up to a certain size and to graze their animals.

Until the coming of the railway in 1858, drovers used the common's tracks and ponds as they walked their animals to Smithfield market in London. Sparks from the trains' steam engines caused periodic fires on the common. The fires and the activities of the commoners and drovers would have kept the common much more open in the past than it is now. After the decline in the smallholding lifestyle and the disappearance of registered and active commoners, trees invaded previously open areas. This change can be illustrated through a succession of maps. The St Stephen tithe map from 1838 shows that the common was entirely open. By 1946 the common had become largely wooded, with one significant open area remaining. Secondary woodland developed here in the period up to 2000, leaving two small areas of remnant heathland. This is illustrated by the two aerial photos.

Figure 1: 1838 tithe map; 1946 aerial photo; 2000 aerial photo.

2.7 HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

2.7.1. Habitats

Bricket Wood Common covers a variety of habitats including ancient woodland, secondary woodland, lowland wet heath/acid grassland, scrub, ponds, a small bog and a number of seasonal streams. The lowland heathland/acid grassland, which is a rare and declining habitat in Hertfordshire, is the highest priority habitat on the site. The key habitat and wildlife features of the site are described in the Natural England SSSI notification:

Bricket Wood Common is a large remnant of a formerly extensive lowland heath that developed on heavy, base deficient soils of the Boulder Clay. The drainage is poor and wet habitats are characteristic of the site with some drier heath developed on areas with gravel capping. Lowland heath has a limited distribution in south eastern England where it has declined markedly and the site represents an important example in the county.

Part of the site is ancient woodland of the Pedunculate Oak/Hornbeam type. Changes in management and a cessation of the incidence of burning has allowed succession to take place and much of the heath has developed scrub and woodland. Despite this the main elements of the heathland flora still exist and recent management is benefiting the valuable relict heathland vegetation.

The woodland canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak Quercus robur, Sessile Oak Quercus petraea and Silver Birch Betula pendula over a shrub layer of overgrown coppiced Hornbeam Carpinus betulus and Hazel Corylus avellana with a variety of other shrubs.The ground flora is dominated by Bramble Rubus spp. with other species including Bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta and Dog's Mercury Mercurialis perennis. The wood also has the largest colony of Violet Helleborine Epipactis purpurata in Hertfordshire. Small clearings have an acidic grassland flora with incipient Birch scrub and Bracken Pteridium aquilinum.

There is a rich bryophyte flora including species of Sphagnum characteristic of lowland heath which carpet the wettest parts of the recently overgrown heath and where several small ponds also occur.

The heathland species include Heather Calluna vulgaris, Purple Moor-grass Molinea caerulea, Heath Grass Danthonia decumbens rare 2003, Heath Milkwort Polygala serpyllifolia and Heath Spotted Orchid Dactylorhiza maculata, all species uncommon or rare in the county.

Additional habitats are provided by the rides.

Three units of the SSSI are within the common. Unit 1 is north of the railway line, and is considered to be in ‘unfavourable’ condition as a result of lack of woodland management. Unit 2 covers the woodland south of the railway line, and is in ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition due to the reintroduction of woodland management including coppicing and ride

management. Unit 3 includes the lowland heath and acid grassland. Natural England adjudged the condition of this unit to have progressed from 'unfavourable' to 'unfavourable recovering' from 4th September 2007 as a result of the production of the previous management plan and the implementation of scrub control.

The most recent condition assessment was carried out in 2010 prior to the reintroduction of grazing in this unit. The assessment can be viewed here: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000694&ReportTitle=Bricket Wood Common SSSI At that time, the variety and frequency of heathland and acid grassland indicator species was judged to be insufficient to meet the criteria for 'favourable' condition. Natural England has stated an aim to achieve favourable condition in Unit 3 by 2017. More widely, the government's objective is for 50% of SSSIs to be in favourable condition by 2020.

The SSSI extends beyond the site boundary into Mutchetts Wood, and beyond that Bricket Wood Common is part of a larger network of important habitat. This network is of particular importance given the relatively urban context of the area. It is adjacent or close to a number of Local Wildlife Sites and linked by woodland and hedgerows to the River Colne wildlife corridor. The Local Wildlife Sites have been selected for their woodland or grassland habitats, and therefore complement the habitats found on the common.

Table 2: County Wildlife Sites close to Bricket Wood Common

Site code	Site name	Habitat type
76/018	Nottlers Wood	Ancient woodland
76/019	Munden Spring, Peartree & Crab Wood	Ancient woodland
76/022	Bricket Wood Building Research Establishment	Recent woodland
76/025	Jack William's Wood & New Plantation	Recent woodland
76/027	Mutchetts Wood W.	Ancient woodland
76/028	Grassland adjoining Bricket Wood SSSI	Acid/neutral grassland
76/058	Grassland N. of Nottlers Wood	Neutral semi-improved grassland
76/059	Nottlers House Field	Neutral semi-improved grassland
76/107	Woods E. Bricket Wood	Ancient woodland
76/108	Wood E. of Coldharbour Plantation	Recent woodland

2.7.2. Wildlife

There is a long history of biological recording on Bricket Wood Common, and as a result much is known about the species found here. See Appendix 7.2 for a list of priority species recorded on the common.

Protected species recorded recently include several species of bat, grass snake, badger and great crested newt. The main pond supports all three native British species of newt, and eDNA testing carried out in 2016 showed that all three ponds on the site support great crested newts.

Several botanical surveys have been carried out on the site, and these provide a valuable means to measure progress, in particular in relation to the heathland restoration. Noteworthy among these are the Hertfordshire Flora Survey (1988), a 2003 survey of the SSSI carried out on behalf of SADC, and a 2012 extended Phase 1 survey of the heathland restoration area carried out in advance of the reintroduction of grazing.

These have identified a range of species rare in Hertfordshire, many of which are associated with the heathland: alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), bell heather (*Erica cinerea*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), heath milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), heath spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*), umbellate hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*), toothed hawkweed (*Hieracium calcaricola*), bitter-vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*) and bog pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*).

Figure 2: Alder buckthorn; white admiral.

The breeding birds of Bricket Wood Common have been studied through the Hertfordshire Bird Atlas. Changes recorded in woodland species of interest in the tetrad occupied by Bricket Wood Common are shown in the table below. Most of these are related to wider national trends not specific to the site itself.

Table 3: Birds of Bricket Wood Common. Key: A = Absent; Po = Possible breeding; Pr = Probable breeding; C = Confirmed breeding. Source: Hertfordshire Bird Atlas and a presentation by Alan Gardiner to the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee, 06/10/2015.

Species	**1967 -73**	**1988 -92**	**2008 -12**	**Notes**
Mandarin duck	A	A	C	Introduced species breeding in holes in trees, range expanding.
Sparrowhawk	A	C	C	Natural recolonisation a result of the ban in certain pesticides and reduced persecution.
Red kite	A	A	Po	Arrival a result of the Chilterns reintroduction begun in 1989.
Buzzard	A	A	C	Natural recolonisation a result of reduced persecution.
Woodcock	Po	A	A	Rapidly declining woodland species, vulnerable to recreational disturbance.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Po	Pr	Po	Scarce and declining woodland species, which survives on the common.

Ring-necked parakeet	A	A	Po	Introduced species breeding in holes in trees, range expanding, potential threat to native fauna.
Hobby	A	A	Po	Increasing population, could breed on the common if sufficiently undisturbed.
Marsh tit	Po	A	A	Declining woodland species, never abundant.
Willow tit	A	Pr	A	Rapidly declining woodland species now extinct in Hertfordshire.
Wood warbler	C	Pr	A	Formerly a scarce breeding summer visitor, now a scarce passage migrant.
Spotted flycatcher	Pr	C	A	Formerly widespread, now a scarce summer visitor.
Tree pipit	Pr	A	A	Formerly widespread, now an extremely scarce summer visitor.

A butterfly transect survey has been carried out on Bricket Wood Common since 1997, covering a route including woodland, the heathland restoration area and the gas main ride. It has revealed significant increases in the populations of many species, which can be related to the effects of recent management. Of 35 butterfly species currently found in Hertfordshire, 30 have been recorded recently on the common, with eight new species found since the heathland restoration started in 2001 and a doubling of total butterfly numbers in the same period. The new species include brown argus (*Aricia agestis*), small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and dark green fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*). These results may well be indicative of the effects of habitat management on other invertebrate groups.

Table 4: Summarised results of butterfly transect survey, 1997-2015. Source: Butterfly Conservation.

	1997-2001	2003-2015	Change
Number of butterfly species (average annual total)	19	24	+27%
Number of individual butterflies (average annual total)	859	1646	+92%

As a result in particular of the heathland restoration area being grazed too far into the summer, and the full width of the gas main ride being cut in both 2015 and 2016 (see 3.5.1 and 3.5.4), butterfly numbers were well down in 2016. A number of species dependent on grassland habitats were absent: Essex skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*), small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), small copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) and brown argus (*Aricia agestis*).

Key butterfly species for which sympathetic management is particularly important are brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), purple emperor (*Apatura iris*), silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*) and white admiral (*Limenitis camilla*). The food plants of these species are alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), sallow (*Salix caprea*), common dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) respectively.

Beyond these well-studied groups, Bricket Wood Common is perhaps the most important site in Hertfordshire for fungi, and fungal recording continues to be carried out regularly. It is also included on the Invertebrate Site Register as an important site for invertebrates.

2.8 ACCESS, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.8.1. Access

The northern boundary of the common is within 400m of Bricket Wood railway station and the southern boundary is within 1km of Garston railway station. Both stations are on the Abbey Flyer line between St Albans and Watford. There are no directional signs to the common from either station, although there is a brown sign to the common from the north end of School Lane. A regular bus service also operates between St Albans and Watford, stopping at Bricket Wood.

The common has links to the wider countryside, particularly through the Ver Valley. Promoted routes like the Hertfordshire Way, the Ver Valley Walks, the Abbey Line Trail and a St Stephen Parish Walk all link up with, or pass through, the common.

The infrastructure of roads and car parking around Bricket Wood Common is limited. School Lane is a narrow country lane and a dead end. There are five surfaced parking areas along School Lane, but the surfacing and fencing of these has deteriorated.

There are three vehicle entrances, which are hard surfaced and protected with lockable bollards. These are at the Bucknalls Lane Bridleway 58 entrance, the Mount Pleasant Lane Bridleway 58 entrance and the School Lane Bridleway 8 entrance. The School Lane entrance has been widened and surfaced to make it possible for cattle to be delivered by lorry.

Although parts of the boundary are protected by a ditch, the common is not enclosed and can be accessed from numerous points on its boundary. The common is registered as Access Land which allows the public the right to walk freely there without having to stay on paths. A number of public footpaths and bridleways cross the common and there are many other informal paths.

A total of 670m of Bridleways 8 and 58 were improved by the installation of hard surfacing and bridges through the last management plan. Bridleway 8 provides an easy route across the site from School Lane to Bucknalls Lane at any time of year. This route is suitable for buggies or mobility vehicles, as is most of Bridleway 58, but parts of this route have deteriorated. Other than some short stretches of boardwalk, all other path surfaces are natural and can be muddy, especially during the winter.

2.8.2. Site furniture

At least six rustic benches have been installed by volunteers using timber from oak trees felled and milled on the common. There are no other benches on the site.

2.8.3. Interpretation and signage

Two interpretation boards with information about the ecology of heathland and the process of hornbeam coppicing were installed in April 2011. A notice board carries information about forthcoming events and ongoing management works.

An interpretation leaflet with a suggested walking route was designed and printed in 2010. The leaflet is a way of marketing the common to a wider audience and informing them of its wildlife interest and nature conservation value. Although it remains broadly relevant, it is dated by the lack of any mention of grazing. Waymarks and small footbridges have been installed to help people find their way around the suggested walking route. There are also oak posts with metal welcome signs at six entrances.

Figure 3: Walking route shown on leaflet

2.9 COMMUNITY, MANAGEMENT AND EVENTS

2.9.1. Management Structure

St Albans City & District Council has overall management responsibility for the common through the current Scheme of Management which was drawn up in 1953. Day to day management is co-ordinated by the Principal Green Spaces Officer with maintenance works

currently carried out by John O'Conner, the grounds maintenance contractors. A part-time Countryside Ranger works on both Bricket Wood Common and Nomansland Common.

The Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader prepares Annual Work Programmes drawn from the GAP for consideration by the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee. The Management Committee includes local District and Parish Councillors and a member of the Bricket Wood Residents' Association and the meetings are open to the public. The Committee meets four times a year to oversee the management of the common. One of these meetings is a site inspection to review the previous year's works and to discuss proposed works for the next year.

The Countryside Management Service advises on management, especially where it relates to nature conservation and community involvement, and it produces management plans for the common in consultation with the relevant partners and stakeholders.

The SSSI status of the common requires Natural England to oversee plans, give consents for works and assess the condition of the key habitats.

The Munden Estate has developed and will be implementing a woodland management plan for the parts of the site which are wooded, with the approval of Natural England and the Forestry Commission. As a result the scope of this plan is somewhat reduced from the previous plan in that it will not consider woodland management. The woodland rides and the main path network remain within the scope of this plan.

SADC and the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee will work closely with the Munden Estate to ensure that the two plans are complementary, and that woodland management carried out on the common fits with the objectives of this plan. All woodland management on Bricket Wood Common will continue to be monitored by the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee, Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

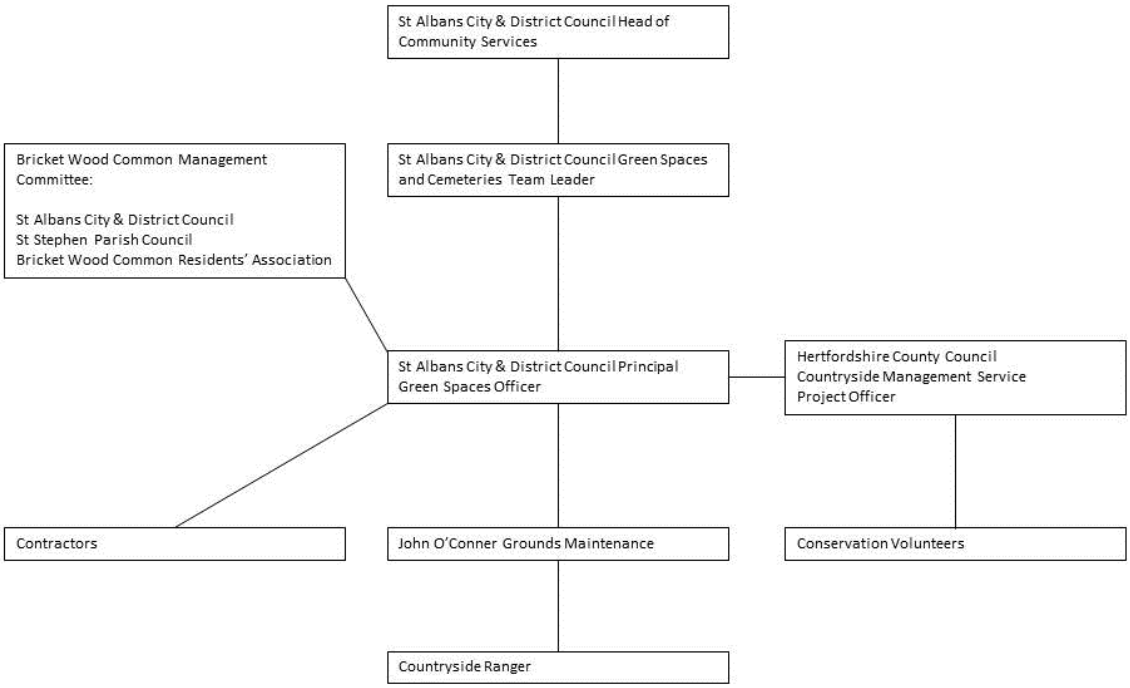


Figure 4: Bricket Wood Common management structure

The grounds maintenance of the site is included within St Albans City and District Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract. All staff employed by the contractor will be required to wear clearly identifiable clothing, and will be approachable if the public have any concerns. The member of staff may not have the answer, but will be able to direct people to where they can obtain the necessary information. See Appendix 7.1 for a map showing the grounds maintenance carried out on the common. Maintenance of paths, boardwalks and signage which goes beyond the standard grounds maintenance regime, for example resurfacing paths or replacing boardwalks, is addressed through the five-yearly review of the GAP, and therefore covered in 3.1 below.

2.9.2. Agreements

A Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement is in place for the site with Natural England, running from 2011-2021. This agreement is held by the Community Services Department, St Albans City and District Council.

An English Woodland Grant Scheme agreement administered by the Forestry Commission ended in 2015. As noted above, the management of the woodland on the common is now being carried out by the Munden Estate under a Forestry Commission approved management plan.

2.9.3. Community and Stakeholder Involvement

While it has overall management responsibility for the common, St Albans City and District Council attempts to involve the community and stakeholders in the management of the site in a number of ways.

The meetings of the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee are attended by local District Councillors, Parish Councillors, the landowner, a representative from the Bricket Wood Residents' Association and an Officer from the District Council's Community Services Department. The meetings are open to members of the public. Everyone who attends is involved in decision making and is able to feed back to their various groups about future works and events.

Community volunteer tasks took place regularly through the previous plan and have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the site's habitats and infrastructure. Waymarking, footbridge, bench and boardwalk construction, pond maintenance, tree thinning and heathland restoration are some of the tasks which a number of different volunteer groups have been involved with. There is no Friends Group, although one volunteer continues to work on heathland restoration, supported occasionally by pupils from St Albans School. Volunteers check the cattle on a daily basis when they are on site. Members of Butterfly Conservation organise an annual walk on the common in July, and carry out a regular butterfly transect survey. All work undertaken by volunteers on the site is based on a programme of work agreed between SADC and CMS, which in turn is directed by the GAP.

3. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

3.1 A WELCOMING PLACE

Bricket Wood Common has considerable value for small scale, informal recreation, such as walking, dog walking, horse riding, cycling and enjoying the natural environment. Generally speaking, a balance needs to be struck between giving people information and facilities on one hand, and maintaining the wild and natural experience that is a feature of the common on the other.

During the period of the previous plan, a great deal was done to improve interpretation, waymarking, infrastructure and major footpaths. This achieved substantial improvements in the common's facilities and access both into it and through it. As a result, the common currently offers a generally positive experience for visitors. This plan therefore focuses on consolidating earlier gains and making further improvements where required.

Existing interpretation should be maintained in good condition. It was produced in 2011 and remains appropriate to the management of the site and fit for purpose. The coppicing interpretation board is now in a location of less recent coppice and should be relocated to the most recent coppice area. This will make it more visible, and make the view from the board reflect better the image on the board. There is potential to promote other features of the common, such as pond and woodland wildlife, and aspects of its positive management, through additional interpretation.

Signage at the entrances currently encompasses small map-based information boards and low wooden posts with etched steel welcome signs. This is intentionally low key, but makes it difficult to recognise that you have reached the site if you are unfamiliar with the area. As a recent investment, these boards should be retained, but installing a larger wooden sign at the entrance to School Lane would make the presence of the common more obvious without affecting the natural experience within the common.

There are at least six benches on the common; these were built by volunteers from materials produced on site. These existing benches need repairing or replacing, as several are not in good condition. In addition, further benches should be installed along main routes, to make it easier to enjoy the common. These should be constructed from English oak and located to minimise their visual impact.



Figure 5: Example of a wooden bench installed on a similar site; Bridleway 8 running across the grazing compartment.

There are no major issues with existing waymarking, which helps visitors follow the recommended route around the common. The waymarking discs should be checked and replaced where necessary; this may require the production of new discs to the original design. Other site infrastructure, including entrances, gates and fencing, appears to be in good condition, but should also be monitored. Concrete steps for mounting and dismounting horses were installed at the same time as the fence around the grazing area. These are unattractive and as it would be a poor use of resources to replace them, should be clad with wood to fit better with their surroundings.

The main footpaths on the common are Bridleway 8 and Bridleway 58. These not only provide access to the site but are also key routes across the site. Bridleway 8 is currently in excellent condition and provides a year-round and all weather route through the site, which is suitable for pedestrians, buggies and mobility vehicles. Bridleway 58 was previously surfaced to a similar standard but has deteriorated and will require resurfacing. This surfacing should allow the passage of buggies and mobility vehicles from School Lane to Mount Pleasant Lane via Bridleways 8 and 58. Any hard surfacing materials need to be of a neutral PH so that the local soil chemistry and ground water are not contaminated by leaching materials. These two routes should provide the means for less mobile users to fully appreciate the variety of landscapes the common has to offer. Bridleway 58 is thought to be particularly wet due to drainage from the railway into an unmaintained ditch, and this may affect the improvements which can be achieved on this route.

Other significant routes include Footpaths 48 and 59, the gas main ride and the part of the waymarked route which runs through the wood. Footpath 48 was widened by the forestry work which took place in Mutchetts Wood in the winter of 2015/16, and this has made it more open and lighter, which should keep it drier in the future. The work did leave deep ruts in places, but these were repaired. In contrast, Footpath 59 is heavily shaded and very muddy, even in mid-summer, and a wide path has developed as people avoid the worst of the mud. This would benefit from being similarly opened up when woodland management work takes place in the northern part of the common. In the course of woodland management work, it is important that felled timber does not block public footpaths or advertised routes, and that ruts created along such routes by heavy machinery are repaired.

There are sections of narrow boardwalk along Footpath 59 which remain in acceptable condition.

The gas main ride can become very wet, but ride management in 2015 has made the path more open. This should help it dry out, particularly if the ride continues to be maintained as specified in this plan. The waymarked route through the wood can also become muddy, but it would not be appropriate to the character of the site to surface additional routes through the common. There are several narrow boardwalks and bridges along the paths on the common, and these are in acceptable condition.

Access to the main pond is by a narrow, muddy path along the edge of the grazing compartment. Widening this path by cutting back vegetation would both make the pond more accessible and make its presence more obvious, encouraging more people to enjoy it.

The common has no dedicated car park, but laybys on School Lane provide some parking for visitors. Improving parking arrangements for the common would significantly improve the visitor experience. Surfacing of the parking bays has deteriorated and in places the posts marking their edges are no longer upright. The laybys should be re-surfaced and if possible expanded, and the posts reset where required. Overhanging branches should also be removed to make the bays feel lighter and more welcoming.

3.2 HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

Visitors to Bricket Wood Common should feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times, and in all areas of the site. There are occasional instances of anti-social behaviour, such as motorcycling, vandalism and setting fires, and littering is an ongoing issue. The presence of a Countryside Ranger, employed for nine hours a week through the Grounds Maintenance Contract, is vital to minimise the number of such instances. Emergency contact details and location information should be provided in the noticeboard.

The significant increase in woodland management described in 3.5.3 will produce a substantial quantity of brash of no commercial value. This will be spread across the woodland floor to decompose naturally, as it is produced in too great a quantity to manage in any other way. There is a risk of this material being used to start fires, but the risk of fire spreading though the broadleaved woodland is low.

Tree safety work is undertaken following the SADC Tree Strategy and through the Grounds Maintenance Contract, with advice from SADC Trees and Woodlands Department. The Grounds Maintenance Contract includes a three-yearly tree safety survey. Parks and Green Spaces Officers and the Countryside Ranger also report any tree issues encountered during regular site patrols. Where risks are identified, reactive tree works are carried out. Safety work is restricted to areas where there are relatively high rates of public use, i.e. on footpaths and roads. Elsewhere in the woodland area, trees are allowed to go through the natural cycle of decay as the risk posed is very low.

There is an ongoing project to update byelaws across St Albans. Once the byelaws for the common have been updated, the byelaw signs at the entrances should be replaced.

Individuals walking large numbers of dogs at the same time are a concern for other users of the common, as it is difficult to control or to pick up the waste of all these dogs. A means should be found to manage this issue by minimising or preventing the use of the common by such dog walkers.

3.3 CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

Bricket Wood Common should be maintained to a good standard, with the level of maintenance proportional to the scale of the issues faced.

Fly-tipping is unsightly and could also be a health and safety risk through contaminated and dangerous rubbish. It is also a biosecurity risk due to the possibility of introduction of non-native species or diseases. Where fly-tipping takes place, access points should be made secure and regularly maintained. Reports of fly-tipping by the public should be encouraged and dealt with quickly. This could also help alleviate potential problems.

Litter picking and small scale vegetation management is carried out regularly by the Countryside Ranger, who will also report fly-tipping.

Dog waste poses a potential health hazard for users. One dog bin is provided and emptied through the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Providing additional dog bins at entrances managed by SADC would help manage this issue, but it would not be in-keeping with the character of the site to locate bins within it.

Bridleways, footpaths and the waymarked route are kept clear and open through the prescription in the Grounds Maintenance Contract for 'rural footpaths', and by the Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way service.

The grazing enclosure fence is checked before cattle are moved onto the site and while cattle are on the site. It is currently in good condition, but may require some maintenance during this plan period. It should be kept clear of vegetation such as bramble to ensure it can be inspected and maintained as required.

3.4 SUSTAINABILITY

All management operations on the common should be as sustainable as possible, both in terms of their environmental impact and their financing. Environmental impact is a particularly high priority on the site due to its SSSI status, and all management should be carried out according to environmental best practice. The overarching St Albans Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan 2015-2020 details SADC policies which are followed to ensure that the common is managed in a sustainable way.

Herbicides have been used on the site in the past, to control bracken in the glade and scrub regeneration in the heathland restoration area. This use has now ceased. Bracken is controlled by rolling in the glade and to some degree in the grazing compartment, which crushes the stems and progressively reduces its vitality. It has also been hand-pulled in parts of the grazing compartment. Scrub regeneration is reduced by grazing and further controlled as required by mechanical means.

The reintroduction of grazing in 2012 was a further boost to the sustainability of management. Grazing is by longhorn cattle, a rare breed, and produces beef. Finally, any new furniture installed on the site should use FSC English oak.

An issue has been identified with individuals foraging for large numbers of mushrooms on the common. Permission is required from Natural England to remove anything growing on a SSSI, but this is very unlikely to be enforced. Large scale, unsustainable foraging should be controlled, and the review of the byelaws noted in 3.2 provides an opportunity to address this issue.

It is equally important that the management of the common is financially sustainable in the long-term. The cost of grazing is currently supported by a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement which will come to an end in 2021. This agreement also contributes to the cost of pond management and bracken control. Further agri-environment funding should be sought when this agreement ends, to secure long-term support for this positive conservation management.

Capital works where planned should be supported as far as possible by external funding, and should have no impact on ongoing maintenance costs. These costs need to remain financially sustainable.

3.5 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

As described in 2.7, Bricket Wood Common is an SSSI and therefore its habitats are of national importance. Its key habitats should be conserved and opportunities sought to enhance them, with a view to bringing the SSSI into favourable condition. In the heathland and acid grassland compartment, this will depend on seeing an increase in the variety and frequency of heathland and acid grassland indicator species as a result of grazing; in the woodland compartments, restoring active and appropriate management is the priority.

The past management of each habitat on the common is assessed below, with recommendations for future actions.

3.5.1 Heathland and acid grassland

Historical maps show the common was a mixture of heathland, acid grassland, scrub and woodland. Tree and scrub cover increased for reasons described in 2.6, and shading by the closed canopy prevented the regeneration of heathland and acid grassland species. A number of plants characteristic of wet lowland heath have been lost since 1950, including common lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), petty whin (*Genista anglica*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and eyebright (*Euphrasia officinalis* agg.). Other indicator species, mentioned in 2.7, have survived where areas of remnant heath have been kept open.

Figure 6: Part of the heathland and acid grassland area; cattle in the grazing compartment.

A project to restore the heathland and acid grassland started in 2001, when around 4.4ha of secondary woodland was clear felled. The extent of felling was based on the area of open habitat shown in the 1946 aerial photograph. Until 2012, tree regeneration was controlled by an annual weed wipe with Glyphosate in June. Invasive bracken was controlled with Asulox at the same time.

In 2012 extensive cattle grazing was restored to the common in order to help create the right conditions for a return of its distinctive flora by suppressing the growth of young scrub and creating a varied sward structure. Spring and autumn grazing has taken place annually since. The cost is supported by HLS funding, and the new 8.4ha fenced area was funded partially by HLS and partially by the SITA Trust. The fence remains in good condition and defines the heathland restoration area, where management to enhance the heathland, acid grassland, bog and scrub communities is the priority.

Natural England recommends a stocking rate of between 0.125 and 0.5 units/ha/year, with a higher rate for more productive sites and during the restoration phase. The previous management plan specified twelve cattle for six weeks from May and as many weeks as forage remains available from September. Taking the latter to be around eight weeks, this is a stocking rate equivalent to 0.38 units/ha/year. The planned stocking rate was reached for the first time in 2016, due largely to a lack of availability of animals in previous years, and some mechanical clearance of birch saplings and bramble has continued to take place in recent years.

Table 5: Stocking rates since the reintroduction of grazing.

Grazing period	Start date	No. of weeks	Maximum no. of cattle	Annualised stocking rate (units/ha/year)
Autumn 2012	29/08/2012	6.3	4	0.06
Spring 2013	10/05/2013	6.7	8	
Autumn 2013	05/09/2013	8	8	0.27
Spring 2014	13/05/2014	6.3	10	
Autumn 2014	29/07/2014	10.1	6	0.28
Spring 2015	05/05/2015	7.1	8	
Autumn 2015	07/10/2015	10	6	0.26

Spring 2016	12/05/2016	10.6	12	
Autumn 2016	06/10/2016	6.6	8	0.36

Concerns have been raised that the impact of grazing in 2016 was too high, both in terms of the stocking rate and in particular the timing – cattle were on site too long into the summer, with a detrimental impact observed on wild flower and butterfly numbers. The important moss and swamp habitat is vulnerable to trampling and disturbance by cattle, and protecting this habitat also requires that the overall stocking rate is not too high. Stocking rates and timings are to some extent dependent on the grazier, but it is vital that the grazier meets the needs of the site.

At the beginning of this plan period, the annualised stocking rate should be around 0.3 units/ha/year. This should be achieved using 12 cattle for six weeks in the spring, and eight cattle for eight weeks in the autumn. Importantly, spring grazing should not continue beyond the end of May. This will help keep scrub seedlings in check and reduce the effect on flowers and invertebrates of summer grazing.

The management of scrub within the heathland restoration area is described in 3.5.2. Bracken encroachment should be controlled mechanically, both by rolling and where possible by volunteers.

The restoration of grazing can be expected to have a positive effect on botanical diversity, providing the heathland species which survive on the common with the opportunity to colonise more of the grazing compartment. Optimising the stocking rate and timing should help this progress further. Improvements in the condition of the heathland restoration area can be expected to benefit the small heath butterfly, which bred successfully on the common in 2013 but has not yet established a permanent presence. It is important that progress is assessed through a formal botanical survey, which will also help inform future management and judge what more might need to be done to achieve favourable condition for this unit of the SSSI.

Around 2ha of the grazing compartment remains covered by secondary birch woodland, around mature oaks which appear to have grown in a more open setting. South of Bridleway 8, the woodland is very wet, and there is an area of sphagnum bog and a shallow pond. The heathland restoration area should be expanded by felling and extracting birches from this area, while retaining mature oaks. These trees were originally left to shade the sphagnum bog (see Bricket Wood Common Management Plan 2007-17; Review 2011) and thereby prevent it from drying out, but the benefit of this approach is unclear and indeed the trees may well in fact dry the bog by taking up water from it.

Because this area is so wet, felling here would be a logistical challenge. It could only be considered at the driest time of the year outside the bird nesting season, ideally during August or September. It would also need to be carefully planned to avoid damaging the valuable and sensitive habitats, and coordinated with other woodland management taking place on the site. If carried out by the Munden Estate as part of their wider woodland management work, CMS should maintain an oversight of the work in order to ensure that its ecological objectives are met.

3.5.2 Scrub

Scattered scrub is an important aspect of the site's ecology, providing dense cover for nesting birds and important feeding habitat for the larvae of many invertebrates. The common supports a number of rare and nationally important invertebrates, which are all associated with this scrub, as well as with the bog habitat described in 3.5.1. Alder buckthorn, aspen, birch, gorse and sallow scrub are all valuable. The main concentrations of scrub are on the edges of the secondary woodland, in previously coppiced compartments and along ride edges, and some remains in the heathland restoration area. The area of scrub habitat within the woodland should increase significantly as a result of the planned woodland management.

Areas of scrub within the grazing enclosure (on the edge of the secondary woodland and scattered scrub in the open area) will be subject to browsing pressure from cattle which aims to prevent the encroachment of scrub across the enclosure. However, the effect of cattle browsing on important scrub communities should continue to be monitored to ensure that they survive, as part of a valuable habitat mosaic within the open area. As noted in 2.7.2, key butterfly species brimstone and purple emperor depend on scrub species, alder buckthorn and sallow respectively. Their requirements should be taken into account in respect of scrub management, and healthy populations of alder buckthorn and sallow maintained.

The aim of the grazing described in 3.5.1 is not to eliminate scrub from the enclosure, rather to maintain a habitat mosaic which includes a small element of scrub. Browsing pressure will help to control scrub encroachment and maintain existing scrub. Development of scrub within the enclosure should be assessed annually in the autumn, and controlled by flailing if required. Small (0.1ha) pockets of scrub should be left and allowed to reach maturity in order to maintain the valuable habitat mosaic described above.

Priority species including heather, gorse and alder buckthorn should be excluded from mechanical scrub clearance, and scrub control in heather areas should only be carried out manually by volunteers. Any mechanical scrub control should take place in September or October, to avoid both the bird nesting season and the wettest time of year, when damage to the soil can occur.

Scrub management along the rides is described in 3.5.4 and scrub management around the ponds is described in 3.5.5.

3.5.3 Secondary woodland and hornbeam coppice

The responsibility for management of this habitat has passed to the landowner, and there are no actions directly associated with woodland management in this plan. However the Management Committee, along with Natural England, retain oversight of all habitat management work taking place on the common, including woodland management.

Both the Management Committee and Natural England should monitor the woodland management work closely to ensure that it has a positive impact on the habitats and priority species found on the common. It would be particularly advantageous if the Management

Committee could consider annual plans for woodland management in advance, and therefore have the opportunity to seek guidance where required from SADC, CMS and Natural England officers. It is very important that all habitat management is coordinated through the Management Committee, and that all involved in management of the site work together towards the achievement of favourable status for the whole of the SSSI.

The aim of the Munden Estate's Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan is to restore active management to the woodland to improve its structure for the future, developing an uneven-aged, multi-species structure with more light reaching through the canopy, under a continuous cover forestry system. The main tool used in the secondary woodland will be thinning, to encourage natural regeneration which will diversify the age and species structure of the woodland. Traditional management techniques and stand structures, such as coppicing, will be maintained, and biological diversity throughout the woods should benefit. This work should be supported as it contributes directly to the objectives of this plan: active management is important to improve the condition of the woodland element of the SSSI.

The majority of the priority bird species associated with the common are woodland birds, including lesser spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatcher. Although the declines of these species reflect wider national trends, active woodland management which in the long-term results in an uneven-aged structure should be broadly positive for woodland birds. The bats found on the common will also benefit from this work, and from the maintenance of rides and glades: many bat species use mature broad-leaved woodland, woodland edge, rides and clearings.

Butterflies should also generally benefit from the proposed work through increased light levels. However, the requirements of the white admiral, the resident butterfly with the highest conservation status, should be noted. This species requires thinning on a long rotation to retain shaded honeysuckle, its larval food plant. In order to protect the white admiral population, the woodland on the common should be thinned on a long rotational cycle of at least 20 years, particularly in sensitive areas close to rides and clearings.

To support the population of purple emperors, sallows and the tallest oaks should be retained, as the larval food plant and for potential territories respectively. The majority of sallow on the common is semi-mature, and as it matures, active management will be required. This could include pollarding mature sallows to encourage regrowth and maintain the trees in the long term.

Another significant species found in the woodland is violet helleborine (*Epipactis purpurata*), which is mentioned in the SSSI designation. This is shade-loving, and thinning should be avoided where it is known to occur, in particular along the embankment either side of the bridge carrying Footpath 59 across the railway. Bluebells are also a key feature of the woodland in the common, and woodland management should be sensitive to this and other plants of the woodland floor, by minimising ground disturbance and spreading brash as thinly as possible.

The coppice area, where volunteers and in particular students from Capel Manor College have done a considerable amount of work in the past, will also now be managed by the

Munden Estate. In the areas where coppicing has not yet taken place, and as the over-stood coppice ages, management becomes increasingly necessary to prevent trees splitting or falling. Where previous work coppiced entire trees, the intention under the new woodland management plan is to leave one stem on each tree to help the trees survive, reducing the shock of a dramatic change in light level. This work, in a popular area of the wood, will have a high visual impact but is required as the current structure of the coppice is unsustainable. It will take place in blocks of no more than 1ha, with the long term aim of restoring traditional coppice management to this part of the woodland.

The main role of SADC and the Management Committee will be to help publicise the work when it takes place on the common, and to ensure that it takes place in a way that is sensitive to the nature conservation importance and high profile nature of the site.

3.5.4 Rides and glades

There are two main rides: one was created by the installation of a gas main and runs east of the railway line, and the other follows Bridleway 58 and connects to a 0.5ha glade with a community of heath spotted-orchids. The rides – in particular the gas main ride – support communities of flowers, sedges, rushes and scrub, and are a favoured habitat for butterflies like silver-washed fritillary and white admiral, while maintaining a healthy population of sallow along the rides benefits purple emperor.

A classic woodland ride provides a graded edge from mature trees through scrub and tall herbs to short grassland. To achieve this, a three-zone ride management regime has previously been recommended: a central path is cut annually; the middle zone is cut on an alternate, biannual cycle; and the outer zone is cut every 5 years. However, this frequency of cutting does not allow for the development of mature sallow or honeysuckle, important for purple emperor and white admiral. The frequency of cutting should therefore be relaxed: the central zone should continue to be cut annually; the middle zone should be cut every three years; and the outer zone should be cut every 20-25 years. By staggering the cutting of sections of the middle and outer zones, this regime would provide a full range of stages of woodland succession at all times.

Ride management is scheduled through the Grounds Maintenance Contract, but it has not been achieved consistently in the past. It is made more challenging by the wet ground conditions along the rides, and needs to be prioritised to take place in early autumn. The central and middle zones were cut in autumn 2015 to re-set the vegetation and provide an opportunity to revert to ideal management, but the same zones were cut once again in August 2016, deviating from the schedule. It is important that ride management is carried out correctly in the future. Effort should be focused on improving management of the gas main ride; if this can be achieved, the secondary ride north of the railway would benefit from similar management in the future.

The original width of the gas main ride was insufficient, and as a result the oaks either side now almost touch in the middle. As a result the ride is much too shady. The ride should be widened as part of the ongoing woodland management work by the Munden Estate, when forestry contractors work in this area of the common, by removing selected mature ride-side trees. This work is constrained by the presence of the gas main, which cannot be crossed by

forestry vehicles. The ride must therefore be approached from either side, and plans for woodland management in this area are at an early stage. CMS should maintain an oversight of any work taking place along the ride in order to ensure that its ecological objectives are met.


Figure 7: Gas main ride; heath spotted orchids in the glade.

Two new scallops were created along the western edge of the ride during the previous plan to increase the length of the woodland edge and the area of this graded habitat. When the ride is widened, additional scallops could be created. It would also be beneficial to create a larger clearing where the gas main ride meets Bridleway 8, encouraging the development of more open habitat and bramble banks here.

The glade at the northern end of the common supports a large colony of heath spotted-orchids. This should continue to be cut annually in March through the Grounds Maintenance Contract and rolled in the summer with a bracken roller to reduce the vitality of the bracken. The effect of this management regime can be seen in the difference in height of the bracken within and around the glade.

3.5.5 Ponds

The ponds on the common provide another important habitat. The main pond supports all three species of newt native to the UK, and the Nationally Scarce beetles found on the common since 2000 are all water beetles. Grass snake also occurs on the common. All three ponds should be maintained in good condition for these priority species, and surrounding terrestrial habitat should also be managed sensitively.

Work was carried out on the main pond in February 2015 to desilt part of the pond and fell several sallows on its banks. Some sallows were left in order to support the population of purple emperors on the common. As those which were felled start to re-grow, further tree work around the pond will be required, but not within the period of this plan. The desilting operation was successful – an amphibian survey in May 2015 found the majority of individuals in the restoration area.

The main pond is subject to considerable disturbance by dogs in its southern half, making this part much less suitable for wildlife. Given the conservation value of the pond, this

disturbance is highly undesirable. Initially, this issue should be addressed by simple signage asking people to prevent their dogs from jumping in the pond, alongside informal consultation of dog walkers by the Countryside Ranger to assess what would be the most effective long-term solution. This might be fencing of the pond, creation of an additional pond nearby or more permanent interpretation demonstrating the importance of the pond.

Figure 8: The main pond in February 2015 before and after restoration.

The two smaller ponds both also support great crested newts, and no management is proposed to these ponds in the period of this plan.

3.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The local community has been involved and engaged with the management of Bricket Wood Common as far as possible, particularly in relation to significant changes in management. Extensive consultation was undertaken in advance of the reintroduction of grazing, and the grazing cattle now appear to be broadly welcomed. This engagement should continue in order to maximise the involvement of the local community in the common, particularly as the composition of the community will change over time.

Although there is not currently a Friends Group, volunteers are currently involved in two main tasks: small scale control of scrub and bracken within the grazing compartment, and daily stock checking when the cattle are on the common. Students from St Albans School, volunteers from Butterfly Conservation and CMS volunteers have also contributed to habitat management during the previous plan and will be involved in implementing this plan.

It may be possible to build a volunteer group to support the Countryside Ranger in carrying out practical habitat management. This group would report to the Bricket Wood Common Management Committee through the Countryside Ranger according to the management structure described in 2.9.1. This would increase the capacity of volunteers to positively influence the management of the common, and strengthen their ability to become more widely involved.

Another important role for volunteers is to contribute to a monitoring programme, providing evidence on the effects of habitat management. The flora and fauna of the common has been studied for many years with records dating back to 1839. The Local Records Centre holds a large dataset on the common, which adds value to any future monitoring which can

take place. A Butterfly Conservation volunteer already carries out a butterfly transect survey and is building a long-term dataset on changes in butterfly populations. Broadening voluntary monitoring to other taxa would be of great benefit.

An expansion in volunteering activity could be achieved by organising events to spread awareness of the site and the opportunities that exist to get involved. Opportunities can also be promoted on-site, through the local Residents' Association newsletter and through CMS. The existence of this new GAP should help, as the local community should be engaged through the consultation process and the document sets out clearly the work to be undertaken in the coming years. Beyond their direct benefit, volunteer conservation tasks can enable the local community to gain a greater understanding of the common and become more involved in the site's future development, building a sense of ownership.

A planned housing development on the BRE site adjacent to the common includes a commitment to improve green infrastructure links around the development and to produce and implement a woodland management plan for the site. It would be valuable for SADC and CMS to work with BRE and the developer to coordinate these actions, for the benefit of both habitats and public access in the wider area around the common.

3.7 MARKETING

Bricket Wood Common is a site of great local value, both for nature conservation and recreation. Raising awareness of this value and encouraging more people to visit would help support long term positive management of the common, by ensuring that it continues to be valued by the local community. Any promotion should be sensitive to the nature conservation value of the site and the primary aim that the common retains its feeling of naturalness and seclusion.

The existing site leaflet was produced in 2010 and has become a little outdated, as it does not mention grazing or show the grazing compartment. It remains a valuable promotional tool, showing the suggested walking route, but the information provided on the management of the common and the techniques being used to enhance its nature conservation value could be updated. It should be used effectively by ensuring it is placed in appropriate locations, such as public libraries in St Albans and Watford.

The common can also be advertised through theSADC website and the CMS website, whose content should be enhanced, through social media and, for specific management or events, in the local press. Promotion through a wide range of channels would help reach less likely user groups such as ethnic minorities.

The common is difficult to reach by car, with limited parking facilities. In contrast, its rail connections to St Albans and Watford on the Abbey Flyer line are excellent. With Bricket Wood station 400m from the north end of the common, and Garston station 1km from its southern end, there is an opportunity to improve promotion of the common at both stations, using the leaflet. In addition, signposts to the common should be installed at both stations, showing the walking time.

The Countryside Ranger and organisations such as Butterfly Conservation and the Countryside Management Service hold guided walks on the common. These and any similar events should be advertised widely through the local press and social media to encourage new visitors to come to the common. The existing site noticeboard is another promotional tool for events. Developing a wider variety of events would help appeal to different sections of the community, but this could only be achieved with the support of volunteers. Alongside such activities, the additional interpretation noted in 3.1 would help the general public appreciate more fully what they have on their doorstep.

The consequences of any increase in visitor numbers should be monitored to ensure that the effects, for example increased litter or disturbance, are managed effectively.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 A WELCOMING PLACE

To enhance the experience of using the common for regular users and visitors.

1A Maintain existing interpretation, waymarking and infrastructure.
1B Replace existing and install additional benches along main walking routes.
1C Move coppicing interpretation board to most recent area of coppice, to make it more visible and relevant.
1D Maintain rights of way and resurface/widen where necessary to ensure that key routes across the common are easy to use throughout the year.
1E Improve the existing parking areas along School Lane.
1F Install wooden cladding on concrete horse mounting steps.
1G Design and install new interpretation to promote the biodiversity and positive management of the common.
1H Install a large wooden entrance sign at the School Lane entrance.

4.2 HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

To ensure that visitors to Bricket Wood Common feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times.

2A Ensure that visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of the site.
2B Carry out a three-yearly tree safety survey.
2C Carry out reactive tree works to address safety issues.
2D Provide emergency contact and location information in the on-site noticeboard.
2E Update the byelaws applicable to the common and replace byelaw signs at main entrances.
2F Minimise or prevent the use of the common by individuals walking a large number of dogs.

4.3 CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

To ensure the standard of maintenance is upheld and relevant across the site.

3A Manage and maintain the paths and signage.
3B Remove graffiti and fly-tipping.
3C Carry out regular litter picking and small scale vegetation management.
3D Install new dog bins at entrances to the common.
3E Inspect and maintain the grazing compartment fence.

4.4 SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure sustainability of all management operations on site.

4A Seek to secure long-term support for positive conservation management through agri-environment funding when the existing HLS agreement comes to an end.
4B Ensure ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable.
4C Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital works.

4D Carry out management according to environmental best practice, avoiding any use of herbicides, and using sustainable management practices.

4.5 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

To conserve and enhance the key habitats of Bricket Wood Common SSSI and bring them into favourable condition.

5A Maintain appropriate grazing in spring and autumn within the heathland restoration area to control scrub encroachment.
5B Carefully monitor the effect of grazing on vegetation structure and ground conditions.
5C Mechanically control scrub and bracken encroachment into areas of heathland and grassland where necessary.
5D Expand the heathland restoration area by felling secondary birch south of bridleway 8, within the grazing compartment.
5E Improve the structure of the rides by following a three zone ride management regime, incorporating annual and three-yearly cutting and twenty-five-yearly coppicing.
5F Widen the gas main ride and create additional scallops and clearings along its length.
5G Maintain pond habitats in good condition for newts, in particular great crested newt, and invertebrates.
5H Install simple signage to discourage use of the main pond by dogs, and investigate long-term solutions to pond disturbance.
5J Maintain the woodland glade by annual cutting and bracken rolling.
5K Carry out a botanical survey to assess the progress of the heathland restoration and inform future management.
5L Support the Munden Estate in implementing the approved woodland management plan, in a manner that improves the condition of this element of the SSSI.

4.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To develop and maintain an informed, involved and enthusiastic local community.

6A Organise events to spread awareness and increase community involvement.
6B Enable volunteers to support practical habitat management on the common through investigating the possibility of a ranger-led volunteer group
6C Encourage a broad volunteer-led monitoring programme to help assess the effects of habitat management.
6D Work in partnership with BRE on green infrastructure and habitat improvements associated with development on the BRE site.

4.7 MARKETING

To raise awareness of the common in general and its nature conservation value in particular.

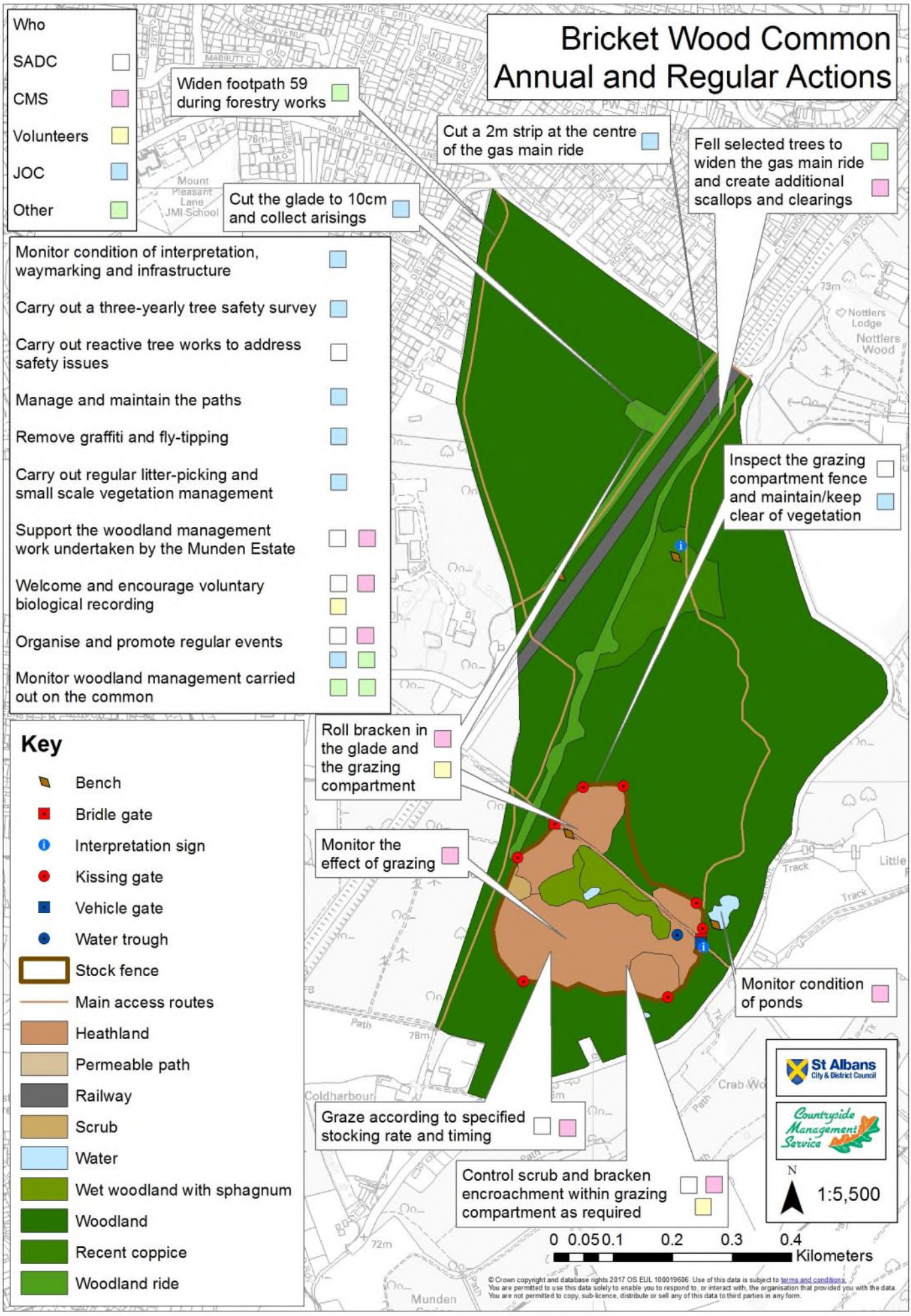
7A Use the existing site leaflet to promote the common locally.
7B Update the site leaflet to reflect current management when stocks are exhausted
7C Install brown signs to the common at both Bricket Wood and Garston stations.
7D Provide a range of events to appeal to different sections of the community, and advertise events widely to encourage new visitors to the common.
7E Publicise the site through the SADC and CMS websites.

5. ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Monitor condition of interpretation, waymarking and infrastructure	1A	Ongoing	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Carry out a three-yearly tree safety survey	2B	As scheduled	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Carry out reactive tree works to address safety issues	2C	Ongoing	SADC	SADC GM budget			
Manage and maintain the paths	3A	Ongoing	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Remove graffiti and fly-tipping	3B	Ongoing	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Carry out regular litter picking and small scale vegetation management	3C	Ongoing	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Graze according to specified stocking rate and timing	5A	Apr/Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC GM budget			
Monitor the effect of grazing and adjust stocking rate and timing if necessary	5B	Jun/Nov	CMS	Officer time			
Control scrub and bracken encroachment within grazing compartment as required	5C	Sep/Oct	CMS/SADC/ volunteers	SADC site budget/ volunteers			
Ride management: cut a 2m strip at the centre of the gas main ride	5E	Jun	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Cut the glade to 10cm and collect arisings	5J	Mar	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Roll bracken in the glade and the grazing compartment	5C/5J	Jul	CMS/volunteers	Officer time/ volunteers			
Fell selected trees to widen the gas main ride and create additional scallops and clearings	5F	Coordinated with forestry	Munden Estate/ CMS	External			
Monitor condition of ponds and clear vegetation if necessary	5G	Jan	CMS	Officer time			

Support the woodland management work undertaken by the Munden Estate	5L	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	Officer time			
Welcome and encourage voluntary biological recording	6C	Ongoing	SADC/CMS/ volunteers	Officer time			
Organise and promote regular events	6A/7D	Ongoing	SADC/CMS/JOC/ Butterfly Conservation	Officer time/ volunteers			
Inspect the grazing compartment fence and maintain/keep clear of vegetation	3E	Apr/Aug	SADC/JOC	SADC GM budget			
Widen footpath 59 during forestry works in the vicinity	1D	Coordinated with forestry	Munden Estate	External			
Monitor woodland management carried out on the common	5L	Ongoing	Management Committee/Natural England	Officer time			


Bricket Wood Common
Annual and Regular Actions
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Widen footpath 59 during forestry works
Cut a 2m strip at the centre of the gas main ride
Fell selected trees to widen the gas main ride and create additional scallops and clearings
Cut the glade to 10cm and collect arisings
Monitor condition of interpretation, waymarking and infrastructure
Carry out a three-yearly tree safety survey
Carry out reactive tree works to address safety issues
Manage and maintain the paths
Remove graffiti and fly-tipping
Carry out regular litter-picking and small scale vegetation management
Support the woodland management work undertaken by the Munden Estate
Welcome and encourage voluntary biological recording
Organise and promote regular events
Monitor woodland management carried out on the common
Inspect the grazing compartment fence and maintain/keep clear of vegetation
Roll bracken in the glade and the grazing compartment
Monitor the effect of grazing
Monitor condition of ponds
Graze according to specified stocking rate and timing
Control scrub and bracken encroachment within grazing compartment as required
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:5,500
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Kilometers
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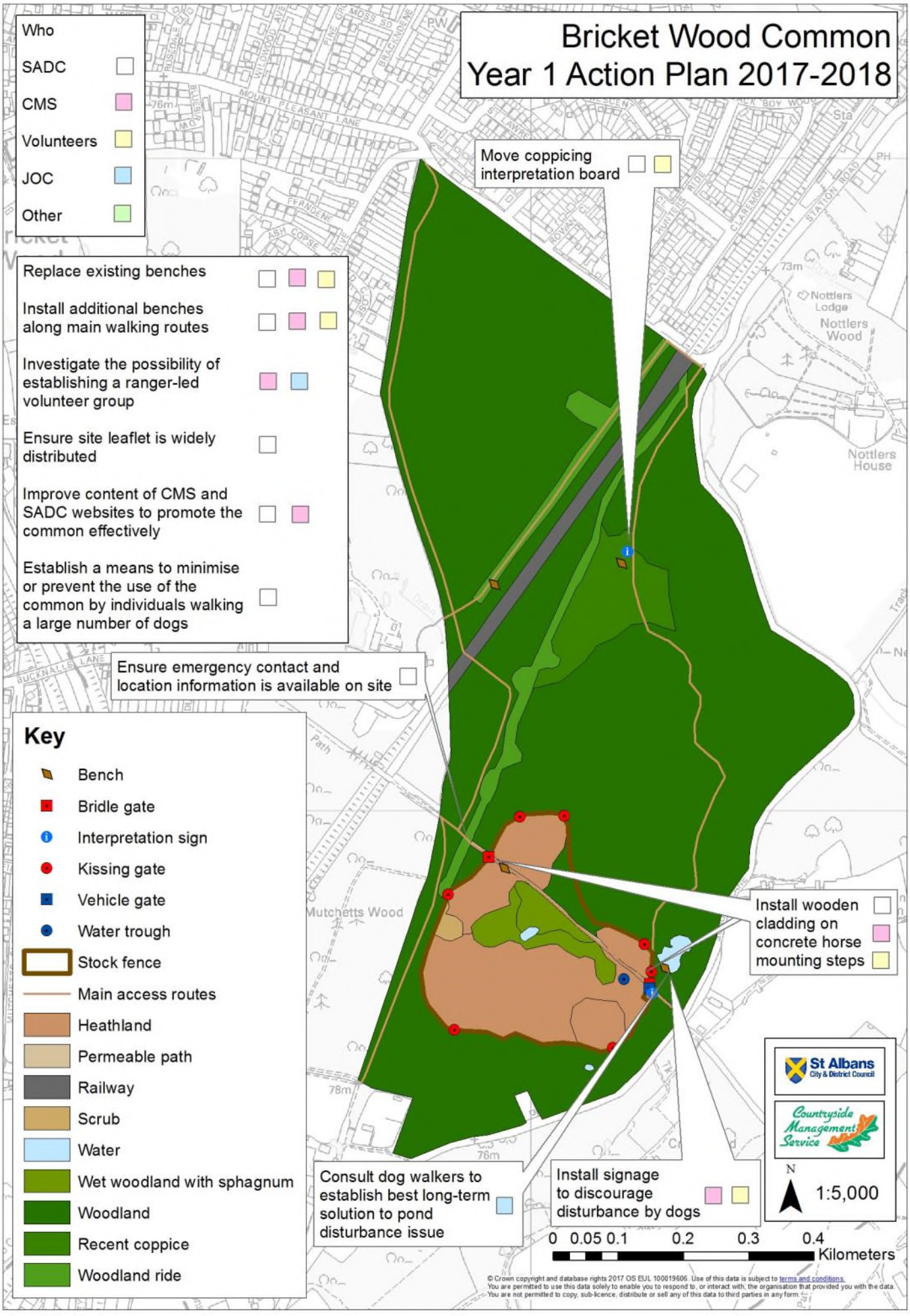
YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2018

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Ensure emergency contact and location information is available on site	2D	Apr	SADC	Officer time			
Replace existing benches	1B	Sep	SADC/CMS/ volunteers	SADC site budget/ volunteers			
Install new benches along main walking routes	1B	Sep	SADC/CMS/ volunteers	SADC site budget/ volunteers			
Move coppicing interpretation board	1C	Sep	SADC/ volunteers	SADC site budget/ volunteers			
Install signage next to the main pond to discourage disturbance by dogs	5H	Sep	CMS/ volunteers	Officer time/ volunteers			
Consult dog walkers to establish best long-term solution to pond disturbance issue	5H	Sep	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Investigate the possibility of establishing a ranger-led volunteer group	6B	Oct	CMS/JOC	SADC GM budget			
Ensure site leaflet is widely distributed	7A	Jun	SADC	Officer time			
Improve content of SADC and CMS websites to promote the common effectively	7E	Jun	CMS/SADC	Officer time			
Establish a means to minimise or prevent the use of the common by individuals walking a large number of dogs	2F	Mar	SADC	Officer time			
Install wooden cladding on concrete horse mounting steps	1F	Sep	SADC/CMS/ volunteers	SADC site budget/ volunteers			


Bricket Wood Common
Year 1 Action Plan 2017-2018
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Replace existing benches
Install additional benches along main walking routes
Investigate the possibility of establishing a ranger-led volunteer group
Ensure site leaflet is widely distributed
Improve content of CMS and SADC websites to promote the common effectively
Establish a means to minimise or prevent the use of the common by individuals walking a large number of dogs
Move coppicing interpretation board
Ensure emergency contact and location information is available on site
Install wooden cladding on concrete horse mounting steps
Consult dog walkers to establish best long-term solution to pond disturbance issue
Install signage to discourage disturbance by dogs
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Nottlers Lodge
Nottlers Wood
Nottlers House
Mutchetts Wood
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:5,000
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Kilometers
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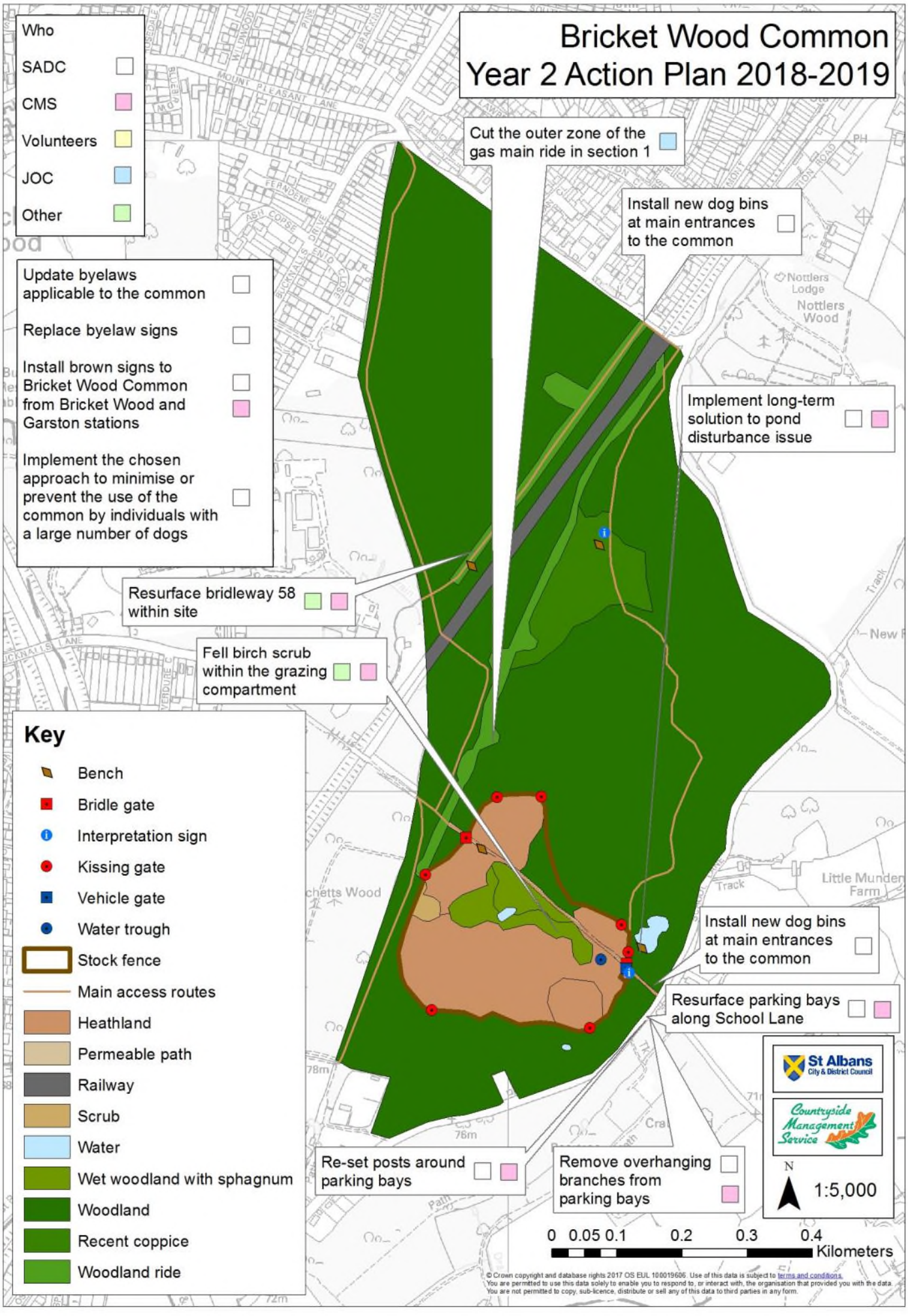
YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN 2018 – 2019

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Update byelaws applicable to the common	2E	Sep	SADC	Officer time			
Replace byelaw signs	2E	Mar	SADC	SADC			
Resurface bridleway 58 within site	1D	Aug	HCC RoW/CMS	External			
Resurface parking bays along School Lane	1E	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Re-set posts around parking bays	1E	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Remove overhanging branches from parking bays	1E	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Ride management: cut the outer zone of the gas main ride in section 1 (see map in specifications)	5E	Sep	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Fell birch scrub within the grazing compartment	5D	Sep	Munden Estate/ CMS	External			
Install brown signs to the common from Bricket Wood and Garston stations	7C	Mar	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Implement long-term solution to pond disturbance issue	5H	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Implement the chosen approach to minimise or prevent the use of the common by individuals with a large number of dogs	2F	Mar	SADC	Officer time			
Install new dog bins at main entrances to the common	3D	Mar	SADC	SADC GM budget			


Bricket Wood Common
Year 2 Action Plan 2018-2019
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Cut the outer zone of the gas main ride in section 1
Install new dog bins at main entrances to the common
Update byelaws applicable to the common
Replace byelaw signs
Install brown signs to Bricket Wood Common from Bricket Wood and Garston stations
Implement the chosen approach to minimise or prevent the use of the common by individuals with a large number of dogs
Implement long-term solution to pond disturbance issue
Resurface bridleway 58 within site
Fell birch scrub within the grazing compartment
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Install new dog bins at main entrances to the common
Resurface parking bays along School Lane
Re-set posts around parking bays
Remove overhanging branches from parking bays
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:5,000
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Kilometers
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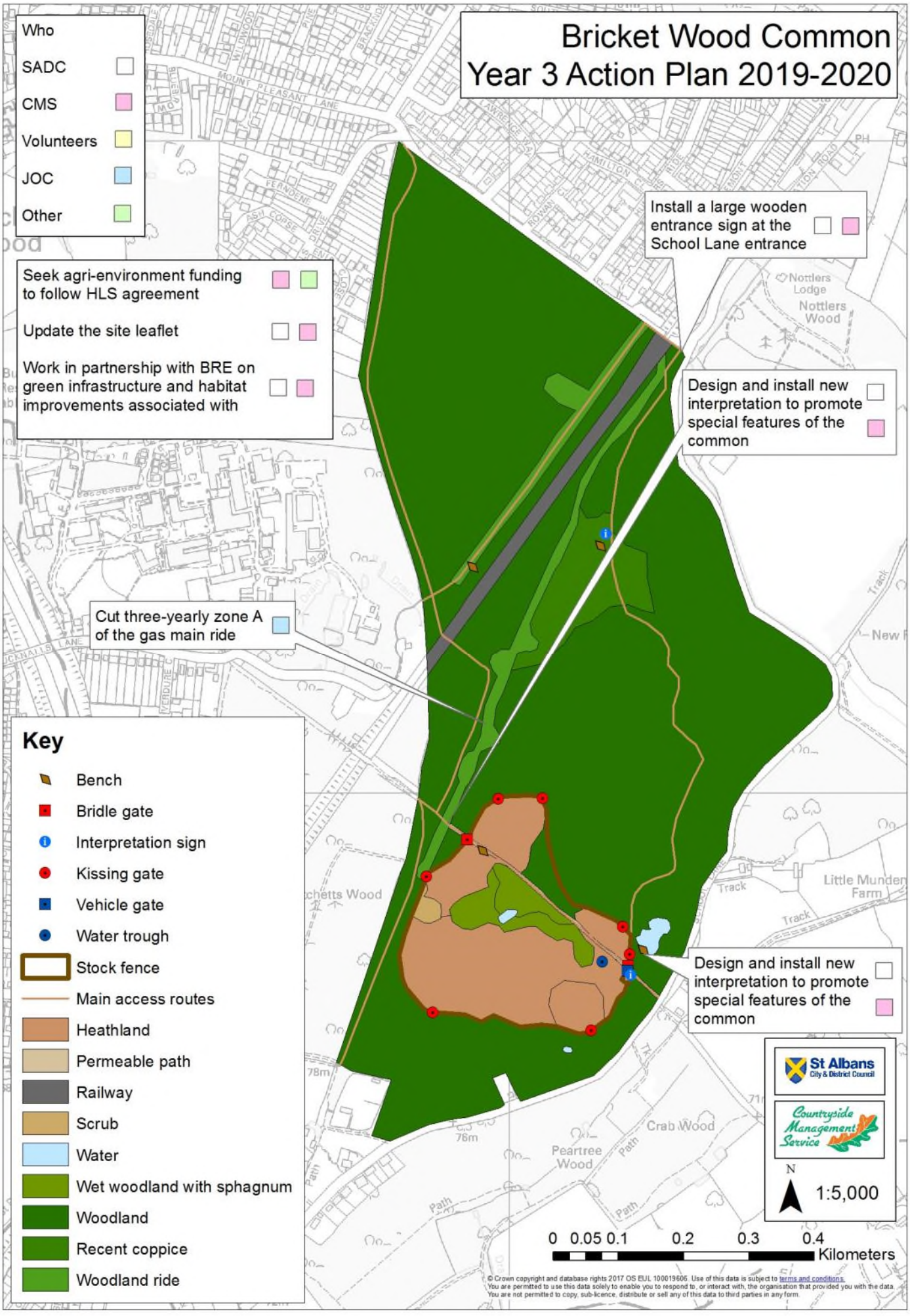
YEAR 3 ACTION PLAN 2019 – 2020

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Seek agri-environment funding to follow HLS agreement	4A	Jan	CMS/Munden Estate	Officer time/external			
Ride management: cut three-yearly zone A of the gas main ride (see map in specifications)	5E	Sep	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Update the site leaflet	7B	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Design and install new interpretation to promote special features of the common	1G	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Install a large wooden entrance sign at the School Lane entrance	1H	Sep	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			
Work in partnership with BRE on green infrastructure and habitat improvements associated with development	6D	Apr	CMS/SADC	Officer time			


Bricket Wood Common
Year 3 Action Plan 2019-2020
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Seek agri-environment funding to follow HLS agreement
Update the site leaflet
Work in partnership with BRE on green infrastructure and habitat improvements associated with
Install a large wooden entrance sign at the School Lane entrance
Design and install new interpretation to promote special features of the common
Cut three-yearly zone A of the gas main ride
Design and install new interpretation to promote special features of the common
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Nottlers Lodge
Nottlers Wood
Little Munden Farm
Crab Wood
Peartree Wood
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:5,000
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
Kilometers
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YEAR 4 ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2021

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Ride management: cut three-yearly zone B of the gas main ride (see map in specifications)	5E	Sep	JOC	SADC GM budget			
Carry out a botanical survey of the grazing compartment	5K	Jun	CMS/SADC	SADC site budget			


Bricket Wood Common
Year 4 Action Plan 2020-2021
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Cut three-yearly zone B of the gas main ride
Carry out a botanical survey of the grazing compartment
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:4,300
0 0.04 0.085 0.17 0.255 0.34
Kilometers
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YEAR 5 ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2022

Action	Obj. Ref	When	Responsibility	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref	Status
Draft new Greenspace Action Plan		Jan	CMS/SADC	Officer time			


Bricket Wood Common
Year 5 Action Plan 2021-2022
Who
SADC
CMS
Volunteers
JOC
Other
Draft new Greenspace Action Plan
Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Stock fence
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Sports Ground
Nottlers Lodge
Nottlers Wood
Crab Wood
Track
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:4,300
0 0.0425 0.085 0.17 0.255 0.34
Kilometers
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6. SPECIFICATIONS

1D: Resurfacing bridleway 58

a) Resurface as necessary along the section of bridleway 58 between the junction with Mount Pleasant Lane and the intersection with footpath 59.
b) Surfacing will have a total length of approximately 530 metres.
c) The safe, usable width of the finished surfaced area should be 2 metres. The exact route to be resurfaced should be agreed with the supervising officer and will follow the existing path.
d) Cut back all overhanging vegetation from the line of the path and dispose of arisings off site. No cut branches are to be left alongside the newly surfaced path.
e) Supply, spread, grade and thoroughly compact to a dense, tight, even surface, a layer of well graded virgin granite 6 mm to dust as a new wearing course. Finished, compacted depth to be not less than 45 mm. Edges to be lost in adjoining ground and base course to be completely covered. Material must be completely free from deleterious materials.
f) Path to have a final camber or cross-fall (as appropriate to slope) of 2%.
g) Where necessary at the time of the works, consider also excavating and laying a sub-base or base course.
h) Install cut off drains where necessary to prevent wash of material down-slope.
i) Excavate a trench approximately 2.5m long and 500mm wide, across the line of the path, below the level of the path base.
j) Install a permeable plastic land drain, approximately 200mm diameter.
k) Cover with granite rail track ballast, 50mm to 32mm.
l) Each end of the pipe to drain into a soakaway either side of the path, approximately 750x750x750mm, filled with pH neutral reject stone.

1G: Designing and installing new interpretation

a) Design and produce two A2 interpretation boards which provide information for visitors on biodiversity and positive management of the common, and provide PDF version of the same.
b) Design to be based around a hand drawn image, and to follow the style used in existing interpretation on the common.
c) Provide two proof stages of full colour design in hard copy and PDF format.
d) Supply two oak lectern frames, twin leg, incorporating a GRP panel.
e) Deliver to CMS for installation by volunteers.

1H: Designing and installing a large wooden entrance sign

a) Design and produce a large oak welcome sign, to be located at the entrance to School Lane.
b) Provide two proof stages of full colour design in hard copy and PDF format.
c) Install on site.

5A: Conservation grazing of the heathland restoration area

a) Graze with 12 cattle for six weeks, removing the animals by the end of May. Graze again with eight cattle from September, for eight weeks or as long as forage is available.
b) Use longhorns or similar traditional breeds with a good temperament, timid, and used to people, dogs and horses.
c) Ensure that grazing is monitored closely, in respect of the effects on vegetation and ground conditions and the animals' condition, and that cattle are taken off the site if necessary.

5C: Scrub management within the heathland restoration area

a) Scrub development within the heathland restoration area (4.2ha, labelled 4 and 5 on the map below) should be assessed annually in September, and controlled by flailing if required.
b) Small (0.1ha) pockets of scrub in this area should be allowed to reach maturity.
c) Scrub control in areas of remnant dry heath labelled 1, 2 and 3 on the map below is only to be carried out manually by volunteers.
d) Priority species including heather, gorse and alder buckthorn should be excluded from mechanical scrub clearance in all areas.
e) Mechanical scrub control to take place in September or October, to avoid both the bird nesting season and the wettest time of year, when damage to the soil can occur.

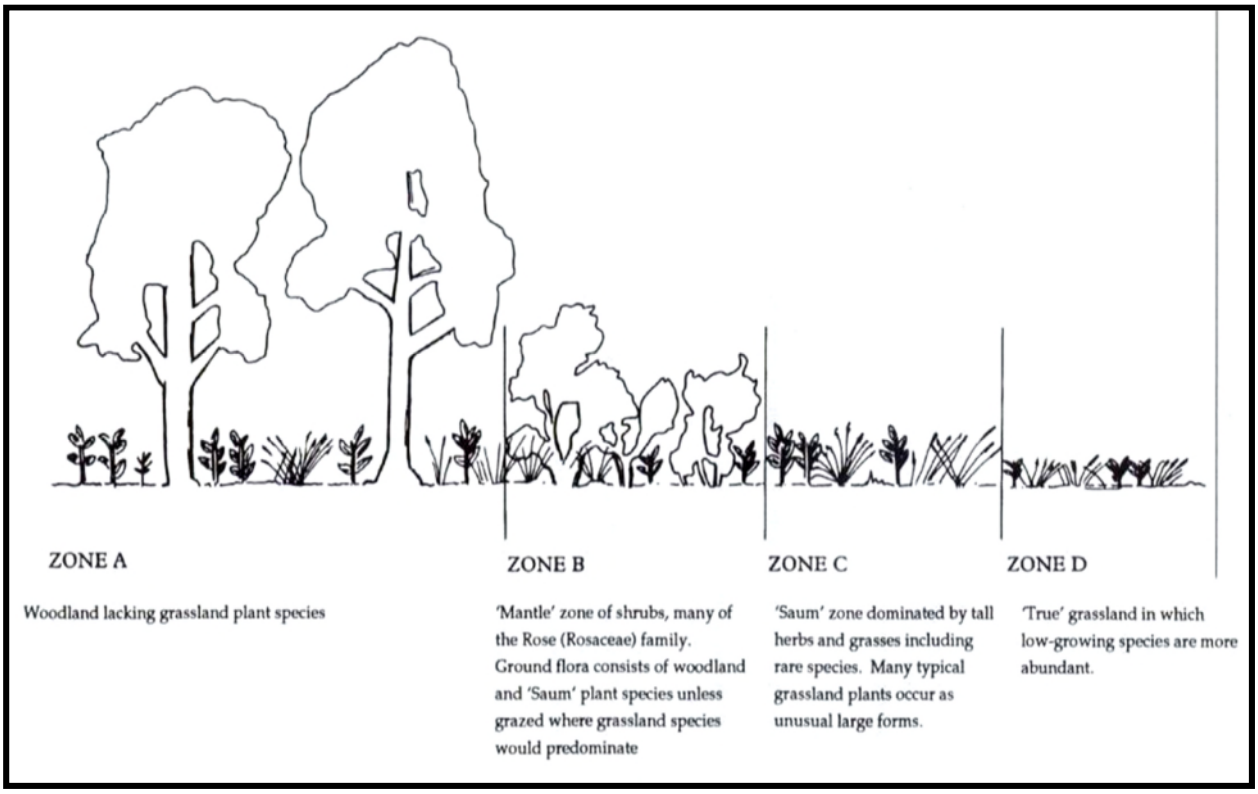

Key
Bench
Bridle gate
Interpretation sign
Kissing gate
Vehicle gate
Water trough
Main access routes
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Bricket Wood Common
Scrub management
1
2
3
4
5
s Wood
St Albans
City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:1,800
0 0.0175 0.035 0.07 0.105 0.14
Kilometers

5C/5J: Bracken control

a) Roll bracken both within the entirety of the glade and where it occurs within the grazing compartment, using a bracken roller.
b) Carry out bracken rolling in late June.

5E: Ride management

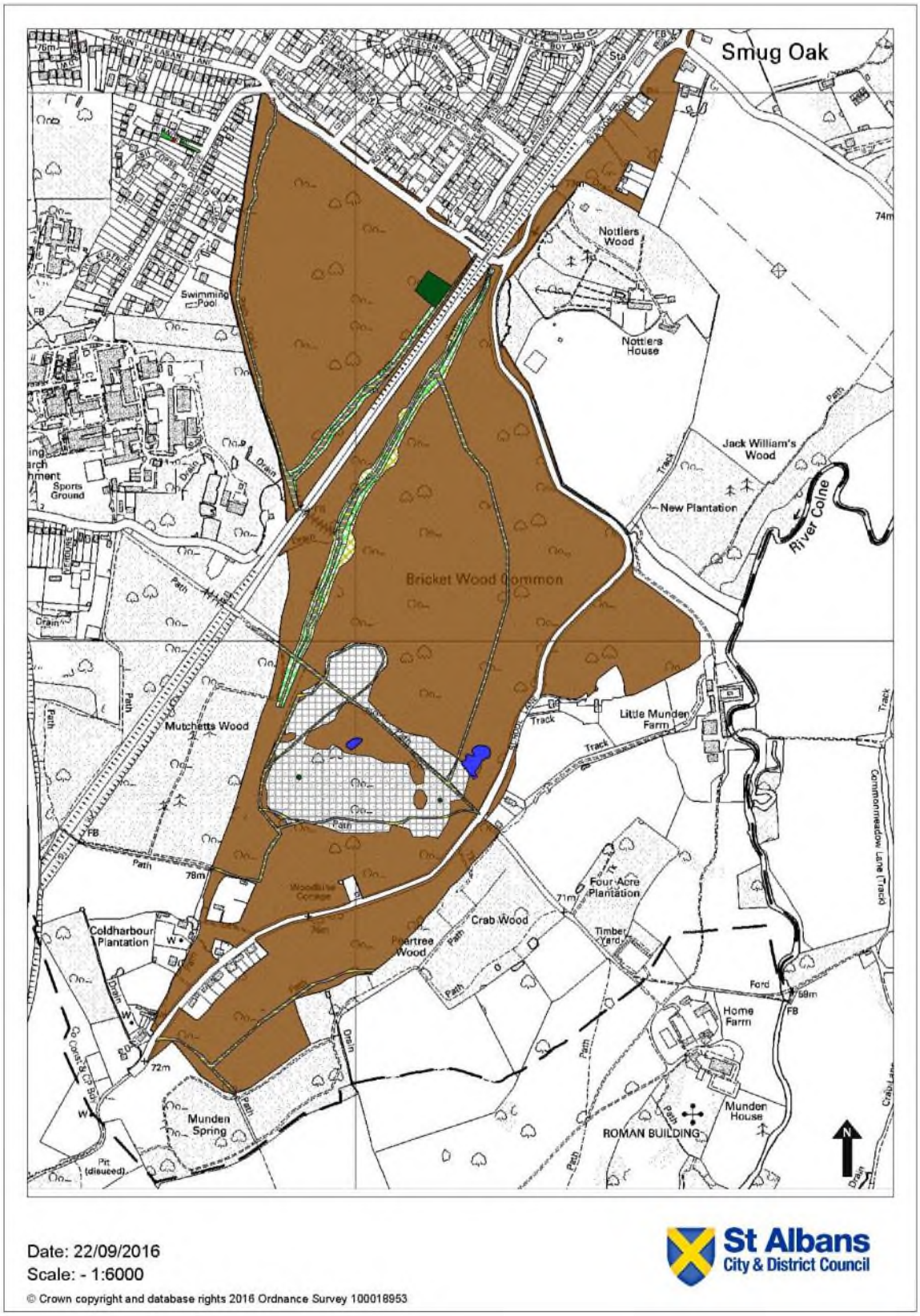
a) The aim of ride management is to produce the graded edge and mixture of lateral habitats shown in the diagram below.
b) The 2m wide central zone (zone D in the diagram) is cut annually in June.
c) The 3m wide middle zones (zone C) are cut on alternate sides every 3 years in September.
d) The outer zones (zone B), which are up to 15m wide, are divided into six sections. One section is cut every 4 years in September, in order that all of the outer zones are cut every 24 years.
e) Zones are shown on the map below.
f) With all cuts the arisings are removed from the site.
g) The ride follows the line of a gas main, which is only around 1m below the surface. No heavy vehicles should be used along the ride.




Key
Woodland ride zone 1
Woodland ride zone 2A
Woodland ride zone 2B
Woodland ride zone 3
Heathland
Permeable path
Railway
Scrub
Water
Wet woodland with sphagnum
Woodland
Recent coppice
Woodland ride
Bricket Wood Common
Gas main ride management
Ride management notes
Zone 1
Cut annually.
Zone 2
Cut once every three years, in rotation.
Zone 2A to be cut in 2019
Zone 2B to be cut in 2020
Zone 3
Cut once every 24 years, in rotation.
One section to be cut every four years.
Section 1 to be cut in 2018
1
2
3
4
5
6
St Albans City & District Council
Countryside Management Service
N
1:2,200
0 0.02 0.04 0.08 0.12 0.16
Kilometers

7. APPENDICES

7.1 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT MAP



7.2 PROTECTED/PRIORITY SPECIES RECORDED ON BRICKET WOOD COMMON

Common Name	Scientific Name	Most recent record	Status/designations
Mammals			
Brown Long-eared Bat	*Plecotus auritus*	After 2000	HSD4, Sect.41, Bern2, CMS_A2
Common Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	After 2000	HSD4, CMS_A2
Eurasian Badger	*Meles meles*	After 2000	PBA
European Water Vole	*Arvicola amphibius*	1980-1999	WCA5, Sect.41
Harvest Mouse	*Micromys minutus*	1980-1999	Sect.41
Natterer's Bat	*Myotis nattereri*	1980-1999	HSD4, Bern2, CMS_A2
Noctule Bat	*Nyctalus noctula*	1980-1999	HSD4, Sect.41, Bern2, CMS_A2
West European Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	After 2000	Sect.41
Reptiles and amphibians			
Common Toad	*Bufo bufo*	1980-99	WCA5 (Section 9 (5)), Sect.41
Grass Snake	*Natrix natrix*	After 2000	WCA5 (Section 9 (1, part; 5), Sect.41
Great Crested Newt	*Triturus cristatus*	After 2000	HSD2, HSD4, Sect.41, Bern2
Birds			
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	After 2000	BAmb
Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	After 2000	CMS_A2
Coal Tit	*Periparus ater*	After 2000	Bern2
Common Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	After 2000	WCA1, Bern2
Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*	After 2000	BAmb, BD1, CMS_A2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*	After 2000	Bern2
Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	After 2000	CMS_A2
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	After 2000	BAmb, Bern2
Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	After 2000	WCA1, Bern2, CMS_A2
Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	After 2000	WCA1, BAmb, BD1, Bern2
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed, CMS_A2
Lesser Redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos minor*	After 2000	BRed, Bern2
Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	After 2000	BAmb
Little Owl	*Athene noctua*	After 2000	Bern2
Mandarin Duck	*Aix galericulata*	After 2000	CMS_A2
Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	After 2000	BAmb, Bern2
Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	After 2000	BAmb
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	After 2000	CMS_A2
Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	After 2000	CMS_A2
Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea*	After 2000	Bern2
Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	After 2000	Bern2
Red Kite	*Milvus milvus*	After 2000	WCA1, BAmb, BD1, CMS_A2, WCA9

Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	After 2000	WCA1, BRed
Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	After 2000	Bern2
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	After 2000	BRed
Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed, Bern2, CMS_A2
Stock Dove	*Columba oenas*	After 2000	BAmb
Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*	After 2000	Bern2
Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	After 2000	BAmb, Bern2
Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris*	After 2000	Bern2
Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*	After 2000	BAmb, CMS_A2
Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed
Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*	After 2000	BAmb, Bern2
Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	After 2000	BAmb
Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	After 2000	BAmb
Wood Warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed
Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	After 2000	BRed, Bern2
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	After 2000	Sect.41, BRed, Bern2
Insects - butterflies			
Brown Hairstreak	*Thecla betulae*	1980-1999	Sect.41, RLGB.VU
Chalk Hill Blue	*Polyommatus (Lysandra) coridon*	1950-1979	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Dingy Skipper	*Erynnis tages*	Before 1950	Sect.41, RLGB.VU
Grizzled Skipper	*Pyrgus malvae*	Before 1950	Sect.41, RLGB.VU
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	*Boloria euphrosyne*	1950-1979	Sect.41, RLGB.EN
Purple Emperor	*Apatura iris*	After 2000	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*	After 2000	Sect.41, RLGB.Lr(NT)
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	*Boloria selene*	Before 1950	Sect.41, RLGB.Lr(NT)
Wall	*Lasiommata megera*	1980-1999	Sect.41, RLGB.Lr(NT)
White Admiral	*Limenitis camilla*	After 2000	Sect.41, RLGB.VU
White-letter Hairstreak	*Satyrium w-album*	After 2000	Sect.41, RLGB.EN
Insects - moths			
Buff Ermine	*Spilosoma luteum*	After 2000	Sect.41
Centre-barred Sallow	*Atethmia centrago*	After 2000	Sect.41
Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaeae*	After 2000	Sect.41
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	*Xanthorhoe ferrugata*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts Threat 3 (M)
Double Dart	*Graphiphora augur*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts End 3 (M)
Dusky-lemon Sallow	*Xanthia gilvago*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts End 3 (M)
Flounced Chestnut	*Agrochola helvola*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts End 3 (M)
Green-brindled Crescent	*Allophyes oxyacanthae*	Before 1950	Sect.41
Lackey	*Malacosoma neustria*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts Threat 3 (M)
Latticed Heath	*Chiasmia clathrata*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts Threat 3 (M)
Minor Shoulder-knot	*Brachylomia viminalis*	Before 1950	Sect.41

Mouse Moth	*Amphipyra tragopoginis*	Before 1950	Sect.41
Oak Lutestring	*Cymatophorima diluta subsp. hartwiegi*	Before 1950	Sect.41
Powdered Quaker	*Orthosia gracilis*	Before 1950	Sect.41
Sallow	*Xanthia icteritia*	Before 1950	Sect.41
Shaded Broad-bar	*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*	After 2000	Sect.41, Herts Threat 3 (M)
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*	After 2000	Sect.41
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*	After 2000	Sect.41
Sprawler	*Asteroscopus sphinx*	After 2000	Sect.41
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*	After 2000	Sect.41
White-spotted Pinion	*Cosmia diffinis*	Before 1950	Sect.41, Herts Extinct (M)
Insects – beetles			
	Agabus labiatus	Before 1950	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Helochares punctatus	After 2000	NS
	Hydrochus angustatus	After 2000	NS
	Hydroporus neglectus	After 2000	NS
	Hygrotus decoratus	Before 1950	NS
	Limnebius papposus	Before 1950	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Peltodytes caesus	After 2000	NS
Flowering plants			
Alder Buckthorn	*Frangula alnus*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Bell Heather	*Erica cinerea*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Bitter-vetch	*Lathyrus linifolius*	After 2000	Herts RareQ
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	After 2000	WCA8 (Section 13 (2) only)
Bog Pondweed	*Potamogeton polygonifolius*	1980-1999	Herts Rare
Bramble sp.	*Rubus leyanus*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Cross-leaved heath	*Erica tetralix*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Heath Dog-violet	*Viola canina*	1980-1999	RLGB.Lr(NT)
Heath Milkwort	*Polygala serpyllifolia*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Heath spotted-orchid	*Dactylorhiza maculata*	After 2000	Herts Rare
Indian Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*	1980-1999	WCA9
Japanese Knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*	1980-1999	WCA9
Lesser Marshwort	*Apium inundatum*	1980-1999	Herts Rare
Toothed Hawkweed	*Hieracium calcaricola*	1980-1999	Herts Rare
Umbellate Hawkweed	*Hieracium umbellatum*	1980-1999	Herts Rare

Status descriptions	
HSD2	EU Habitats Directive 1992, Annex II: endangered species which require the designation of Special Areas of Conservation to protect their habitat.
HSD4	EU Habitats Directive 1992, Annex IV: species in need of strict protection.
BD1	EU Birds Directive 2009, Annex 1: species which require the designation of Special Protection Areas to protect their habitat.

Bern2	Bern Convention, Appendix 2: protection from deliberate capture, killing, damage to breeding or resting sites, disturbance during breeding or hibernation where it would affect the conservation of the species, and trade.
CMS_A2	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Appendix 2: migratory species with an unfavourable conservation status.
WCA1	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982, Schedule 1: in addition to the protection of all wild birds and their nests, it is illegal to disturb these species at their nest.
WCA5	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982, Schedule 5: animals which are protected from intentional killing, injuring or taking (Section 9 (1)), possession or control (Section 9 (2)), interference with any place used for shelter or protection (Section 9 (4a)), disturbance in such a place (Section 9 (4b)), sale or advertising for sale (Section 9 (5)).
WCA8	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982,Schedule 8: it is an offence to pick, uproot (Section 13 (1)) or trade in (Section 13 (2)) these species.
WCA9	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982, Schedule 9: animals or plants not ordinarily native to the UK which may not be released or allowed to escape into the wild.
PBA	Protection of Badgers Act 1992: it is illegal to kill, injure or take badgers, or to interfere with a badger sett.
Sect.41	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Section 41: a list of living organisms and types of habitat which are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
BRed	UK bird population status: red list.
BAmb	UK bird population status: amber list.
RLGB.EN	Great Britain Red List – Endangered: very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
RLGB.VU	Great Britain Red List – Vulnerable: high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
RLGB.Lr(NT)	Great Britain Red List – Lower risk (near threatened): species which occur in 15 or fewer 10km squares.
NS	Nationally Scarce: occurring in 16-100 10km squares.
Herts Extinct (M)	Moths: considered to be extinct in Hertfordshire in 2006.*The Moths of Hertfordshire, 2008.*
Herts End 3 (M)	Moths: Herts endangered. *The Moths of Hertfordshire, 2008.*
Herts Threat 3 (M)	Moths: Herts threatened; not scarce but having undergone a significant decline in Hertfordshire. *The Moths of Hertfordshire, 2008.*
Herts Rare	Plants: Herts rare; five or fewer current localities.*Flora of Hertfordshire, 2010.*
Herts RareQ	Plants: Herts rare, queried; five or fewer current localities.*Flora of Hertfordshire, 2010.*

Notes: information held by the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre for Bricket Wood Common (April 2016); includes species recorded within the 1km squares TL1200, TL1201, TL1300 and TL1301.