



GLOUCESTER PARK

PROGRAMME OF WORKS

2025



CONTENTS

Contents.....	ii
1.0 Summary.....	1
1.1 Site Summary	1
1.2 Programme of works	1
1.3 Public Engagement	1
2.0 Site Description	2
3.0 Site Evaluation.....	5
3.1 Northern compartment	5
3.1.1 Removal of debris.....	5
3.1.2 Tree management	5
3.1.3 Bulb planting.....	6
3.1.4 Grassland management	6
3.1.5 Bench installation	6
3.2 Southern compartment.....	7
3.2.1 Orchard creation.....	7
3.3 Hedgerows.....	7
3.4 Funding.....	7
4.0 Action Plans and Maps	8

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Gloucester Park

Site Address: Hill End Lane, St Albans

Grid Reference: TL172065

Size: 0.45 ha

Owner: St Albans City and District Council

1.2 Programme of works

The Countryside Management Service on behalf of St Albans City and District Council are producing a programme of works to enhance the site following scrub removal works. This is a map-based plan which specifies activities that should take place on a site over a stated period of time; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site.

1.3 Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An engagement period will be held from 2nd – 22nd June 2025, to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Gloucester Park, a small public green space in St Albans, is owned and managed by St Albans City and District Council (SADC). It was previously owned and managed by Colney Heath Parish Council, and partly used as allotment land which has now been decommissioned. Currently there are two compartments to the site, with a public footpath running through it connecting Hill End Lane with Drakes Drive. The site is used primarily by dog walkers and as a cut through for walkers.

The southern section is managed as amenity grassland through the grounds maintenance contract. Two benches are located in this area. The northern section has recently been cleared of dense scrub, with a few scattered trees remaining. These works have uncovered various debris across the section dating back to its allotment use, as well as disused water points. Neighbouring perimeter fencing has fallen into disrepair. There is also a bench in this section.

Gloucester Park
Programme of works 2025
Location Plan

Legend

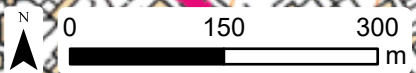
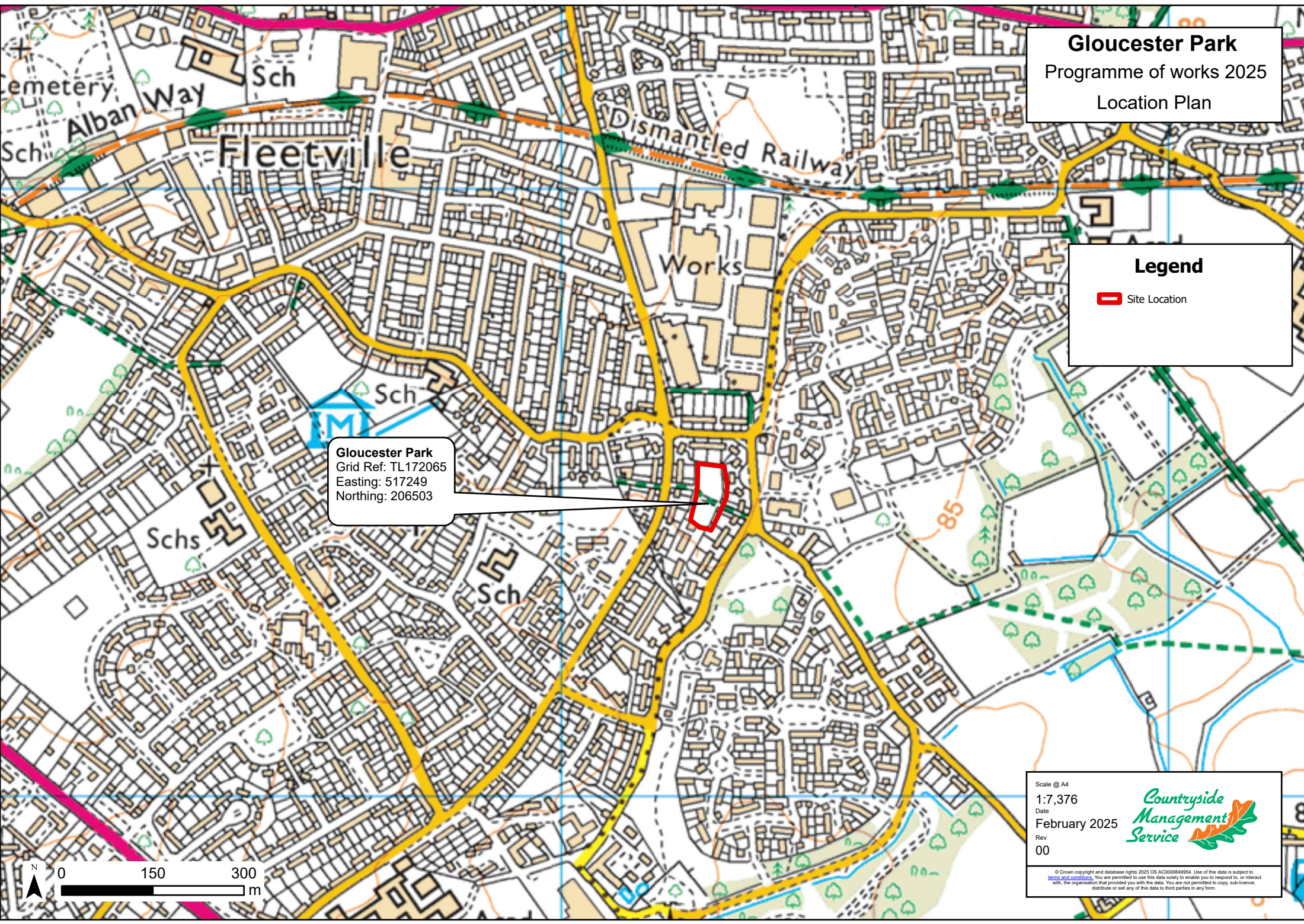
 Site Location

Gloucester Park
Grid Ref: TL172065
Easting: 517249
Northing: 206503

Scale @ A4
1:7,376
Date
February 2025
Rev
00



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Gloucester Park

Programme of works 2025 Site Description

Legend

- Footpath
- Amenity Grass
- Surfaced path
- UK Power network compound
- Scrub
- Cleared scrub
- Bench
- Water point
- Bin
- Trees

Debris and rubbish throughout the compartment

Small oaks

Overhanging vegetation from gardens including conifer trees



0 10 20
m

Scale @ A4

1:602

Date

February 2025

Rev

00



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3.0 SITE EVALUATION

3.1 Northern section

3.1.1 Removal of debris

To carry out any works on this area of the site, debris will need to be removed. This will require a contractor to remove larger bits of rubble and slabs partly buried across the section, as well as general rubbish and weed matting from its previous use as an allotment.



Debris within compartment

3.1.2 Tree management

3.1.2.1 Tree removal

Several trees remain after the recent scrub removal works, some of which will need to be felled. Three small oak trees close to the path should be removed as over time they will pose a risk to the pathway structure. Another, next to the UK Power Network compound, should also be removed. These are identified in the maps in section 4 of this plan.



Oaks to be removed next to path

3.1.2.2 Tree planting

Area planting of whips will be carried out to create a copse towards the northern end of the site, away from the boundaries. Planting will complement the trees already present, with focus on producing colour across the seasons and to support wildlife populations. Species such as hawthorn, hazel, guelder rose, wild pear, dog wood, wayfaring tree, crab apple and rowan should be considered. Over time this will create a small, wooded and scrub area that can easily be managed in the long term.

3.1.3 Bulb planting

Bulb planting should be carried out close to the path with species such as daffodils, snow drops and crocus to add colour during the spring and provide an early source of nectar for pollinators.

3.1.4 Grassland management

In the short term following the scrub removal, the northern section should be managed as enhanced amenity grassland in line with the grounds maintenance contract. This has a higher cutting height to allow low-growing plants to flower.

When the debris is removed from the section, an enhanced amenity grassland seed mix should be sown to maximise the biodiversity of the area as it recovers. Cutting should not take place in this area from January until the spring bulbs have flowered.

3.1.5 Bench installation

A second bench should be installed in the northern section, as shown in the maps in section 4.

3.2 Southern section

This area should be managed as enhanced amenity grassland, allowing for some low-growing flowering plants, with regular cutting in line with the grounds maintenance contract.

3.2.1 Orchard creation

A small orchard will be created in the southeast corner of the section using local varieties of fruit trees.

3.3 Hedgerows

Native hedgerow should be planted around the whole of the perimeter of the site with species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, spindle, wayfaring tree and wild service tree. Currently there is bare fencing which looks unappealing with no value for wildlife. There are also sections of neighbouring fencing which has fallen into disrepair, planting a hedgerow will act as a better barrier not only to support wildlife but also to help with security for neighbouring properties and make the site look more aesthetically pleasing.



Damaged fencing, hedgerow to be planted around the perimeter of the site

3.4 Funding

External funding is required to help support the restoration of the site and will be sought from potential small grant funders.

4.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

Ref no.	Action	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Seek small grants funding	Spring/Summer	CRoW	Officer	SADC	Officer time		
0.2	Remove debris from northern section	September	CRoW	Contractor	External	£1500		
0.3	Sow northern section with enhanced amenity seed mix	September	CRoW	Contractor	External	£1000		
0.3	Tree removal	September	SADC	Contractor	SADC	£400		
0.4	Bulb Planting	October	CRoW	CMS Volunteers	External	£250		
0.5	Hedgerow approx. 240 meters & copse planting	Nov-Feb	CRoW	CMS Volunteers	External	£2000		
0.6	Orchard planting	Nov-Feb	CRoW	CMS Volunteers	External	£400		
0.7	Sourcing and installation of bench	October	CRoW	Officer time/ CMS Volunteers	External	£250		
0.8	Manage all grass areas with enhanced amenity cut. No cut in the northern section from Jan until spring bulbs have flowered.	In line with grounds maintenance	NHC	Contractor	Grounds maintenance budget	GM contract		

Task Responsibility

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

Gloucester Park

Programme of works 2025 Action Plan

Legend

- Footpath
- Amenity grass
- Surfaced path
- UK Power network compound
- Scrub
- Spring bulb planting
- Hedgerows
- Copse creation
- Bench
- Water point
- Bin
- Install Bench
- Trees
- Tree planting
- Trees for removal

Remove debris from
compartment

Seed compartment with
enhanced amenity seed
mix

Plant hedgerow around
perimeter of site

Remove trees

Tree planting to create
small copse

Install new bench

Plant spring bulbs

Plant local variety
fruit trees



0 10 20
m

Scale @ A4

1:602

Date
February 2025

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