



# Nomansland Common

## GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2023 – 2028

Produced by:



On behalf of:



## OVERVIEW

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### Greenspace Action Plans

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

### Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for 4 weeks in July and August 2022, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement completed during March 2023 will enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document, published online as an appendix to the final plan, will summarise comments received, and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

### Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved

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## 1.0 SUMMARY

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### 1.1 Site Summary

**Site Name:** Nomansland Common

**Site Address:** Ferrers Lane, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8EJ

**Grid Reference:** TL17120 12384 (centre of site)

**Size:** 54 Hectares (133 acres)

**Designations:** Common Land, County Wildlife Site (56/021)

**Owner:** Jointly owned by Althorp Estate and Wheathampstead Parish Council.

Managed by St Albans City and District Council

### 1.2 Vision Statement

Nomansland Common is a popular open space on the outskirts of St Albans between the villages of Sandridge and Wheathampstead. The site offers visitors tranquillity and relaxation, while also enabling the pursuit of leisure activities. The common is also a haven for wildlife and the heathland to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in Hertfordshire. The vision for Nomansland Common is to be able to continue to manage the site for both people and wildlife.

The Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for Nomansland 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 Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee including the Countryside Management Service (CMS).

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Introduction

Nomansland Common is situated within the Parishes of Wheathampstead and Sandridge, approximately 2 miles north of the City of St Albans, Hertfordshire. The common is approximately 53 hectares (131 acres) in size and is jointly owned by the Althorp Estate and Wheathampstead Parish Council. St Albans City & District Council currently manages the entire common according to a Scheme of Management drawn up in 1953. Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee has been set up to discuss management issues relating to the common, they meet four times a year.

The common is a popular recreational area for a range of activities including leisure and dog walking, horse riding, cycling, running, kite and model airplane flying. The common is also a haven for wildlife and the lowland heath to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in Hertfordshire.

The common continues to support a wealth of distinctive plants, including dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*) and heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), which have thrived on the site for hundreds of years due to the common's poor soils and long history of grazing. Rare insects that are associated with heathland can still be found at Nomansland, including grasshoppers, butterflies and bees. The lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heathland habitats found at Nomansland Common are priority habitats in the UK. The common is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for its ancient woodland, neutral and acid grasslands.

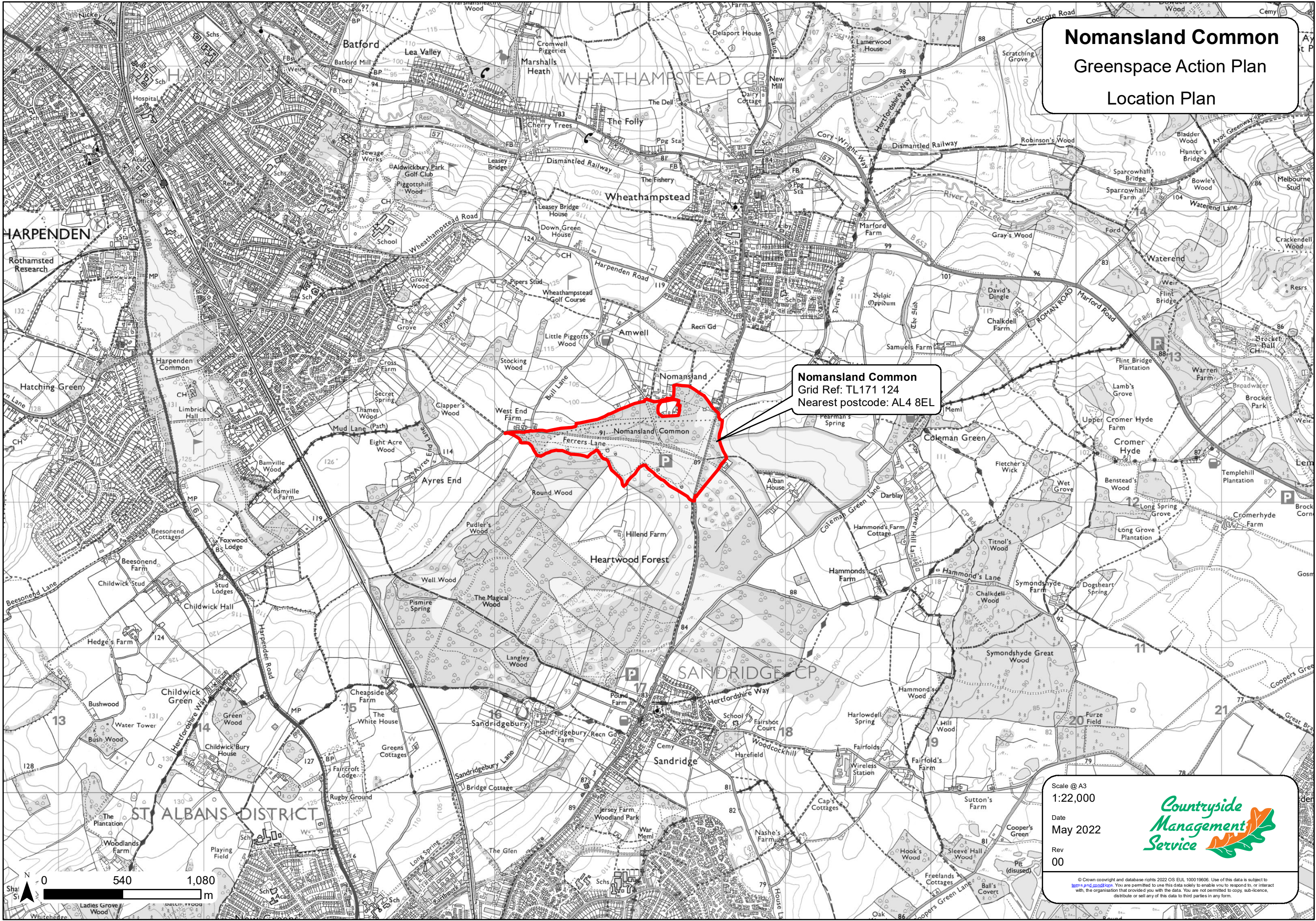
All public rights of way leading to Nomansland Common terminate at the boundary, with the exception of a short section of Bridleway 7 (Sandridge Parish) which stops at the junction with the B651 and Ferrers Lane. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 the common is registered as Open Access Land.



# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Location Plan



**Nomansland Common**  
Grid Ref: TL171 124  
Nearest postcode: AL4 8EL

Scale @ A3  
1:22,000  
Date  
May 2022  
Rev  
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# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Site Description

#### Legend

- Bench
- Dog bin
- Crossing - bollards
- Interpretation panel
- Notice board
- Entrance sign
- RoW sign
- Flying sign
- Byelaw board
- Flytip sign
- Heritage sign
- Waymarker post
- Bus stop
- Field gate
- Locked bollard
- Height barrier
- Barrier
- Circular walk
- Amenity grass
- Boardwalk
- Building
- Car park
- Ditch
- Enclosure
- Flying Strip
- Heath / Scrub
- Hedge
- Neutral grass
- Ride / Glade
- Scrub
- Track
- Woodland

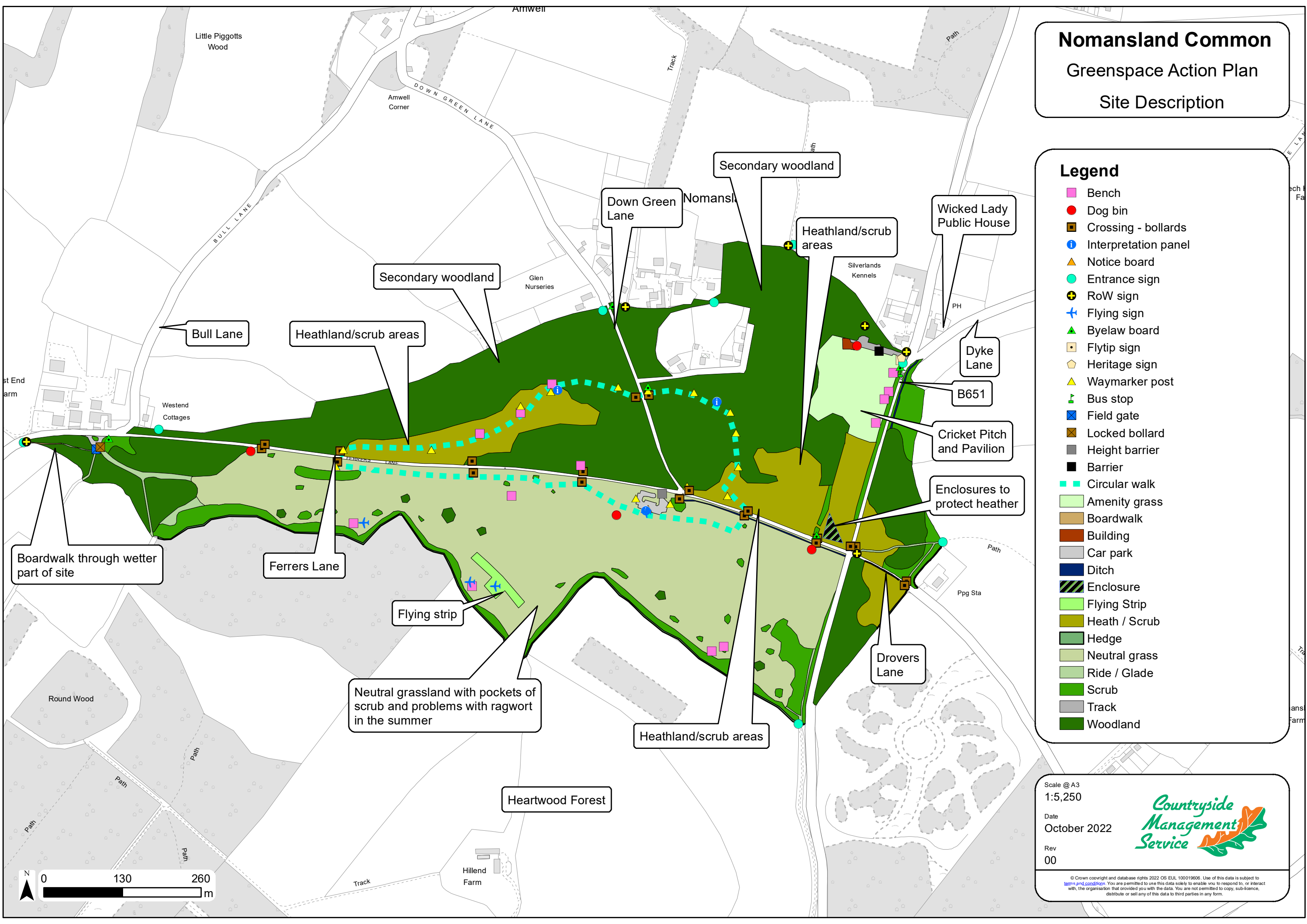
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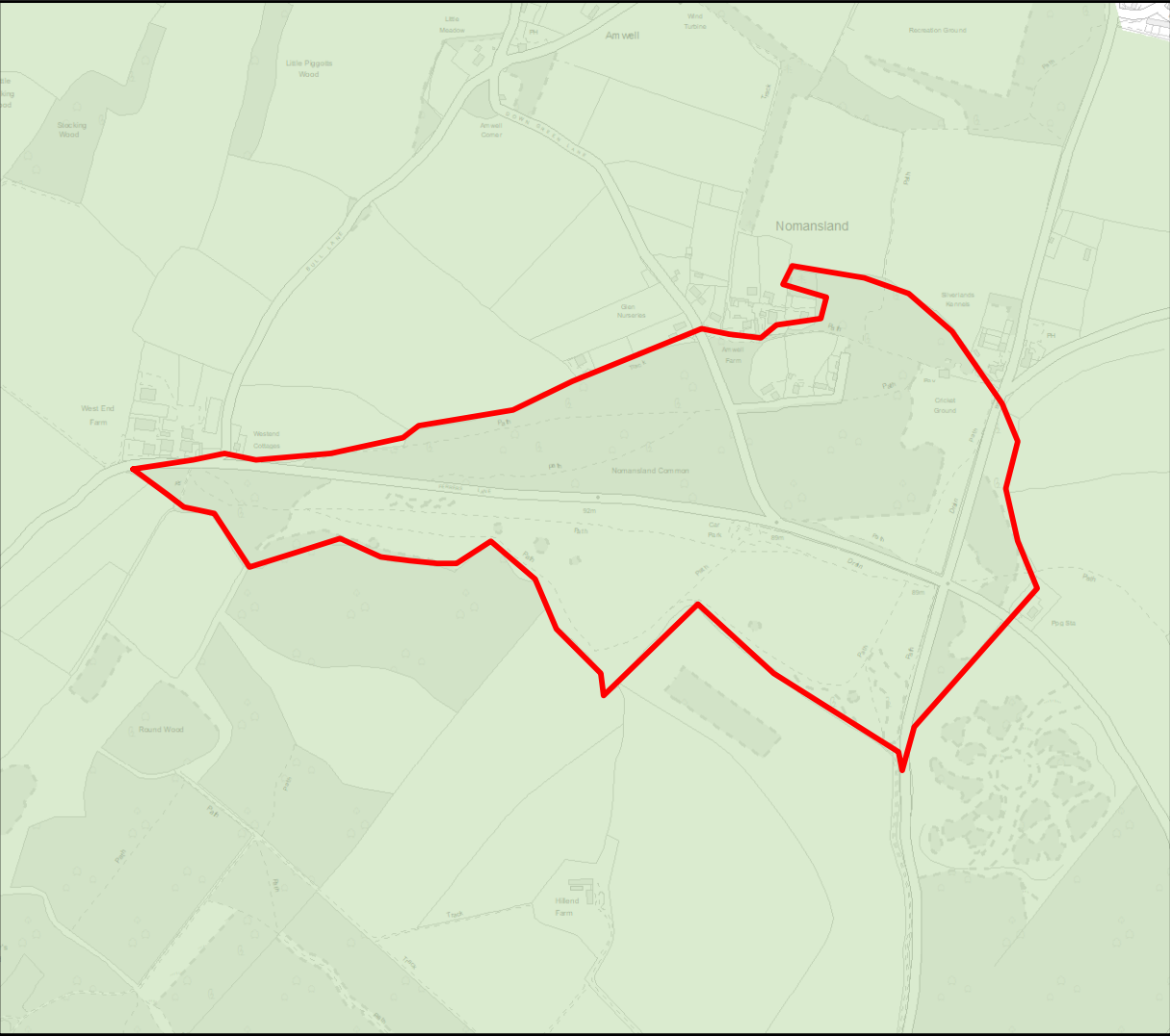
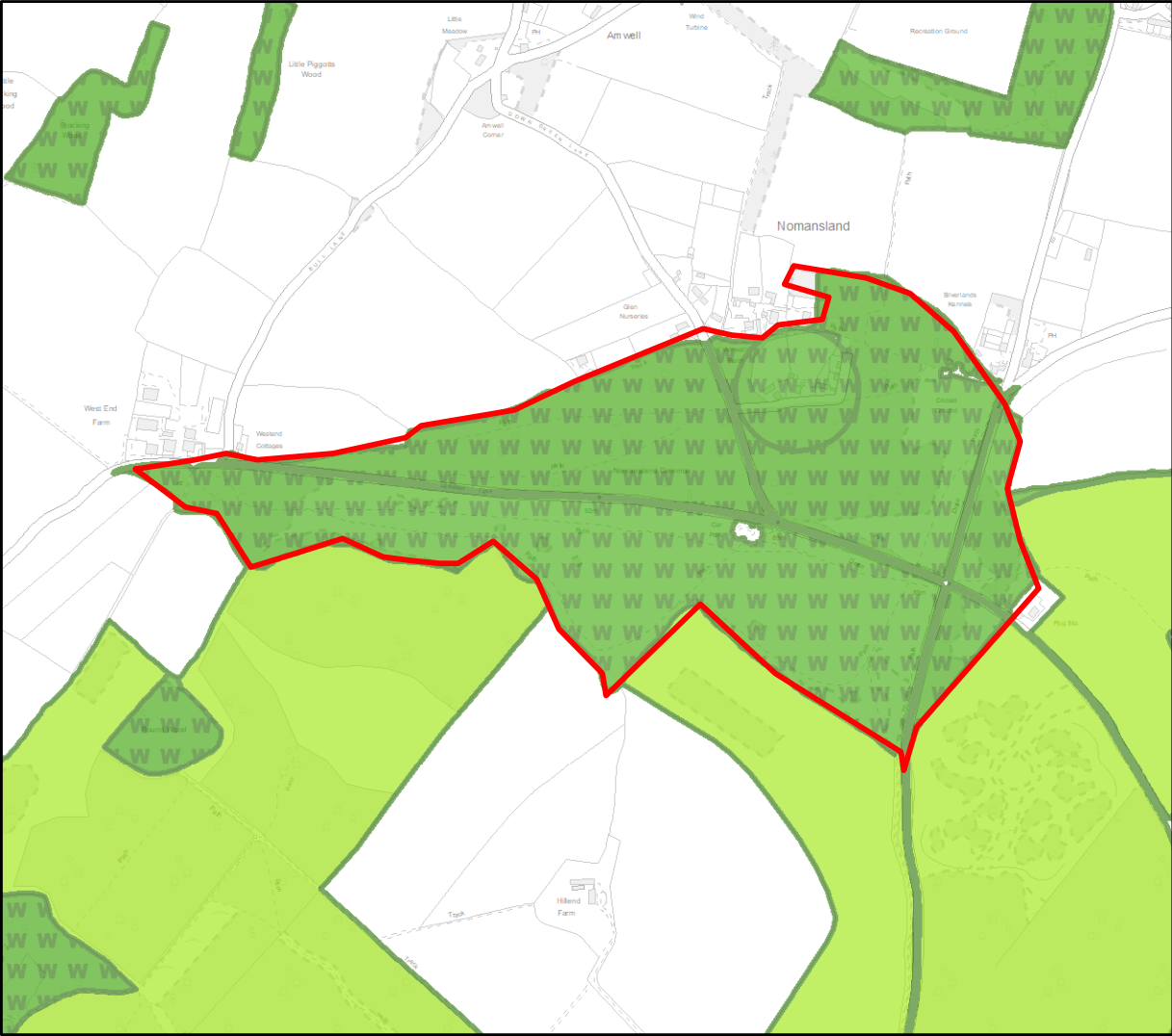
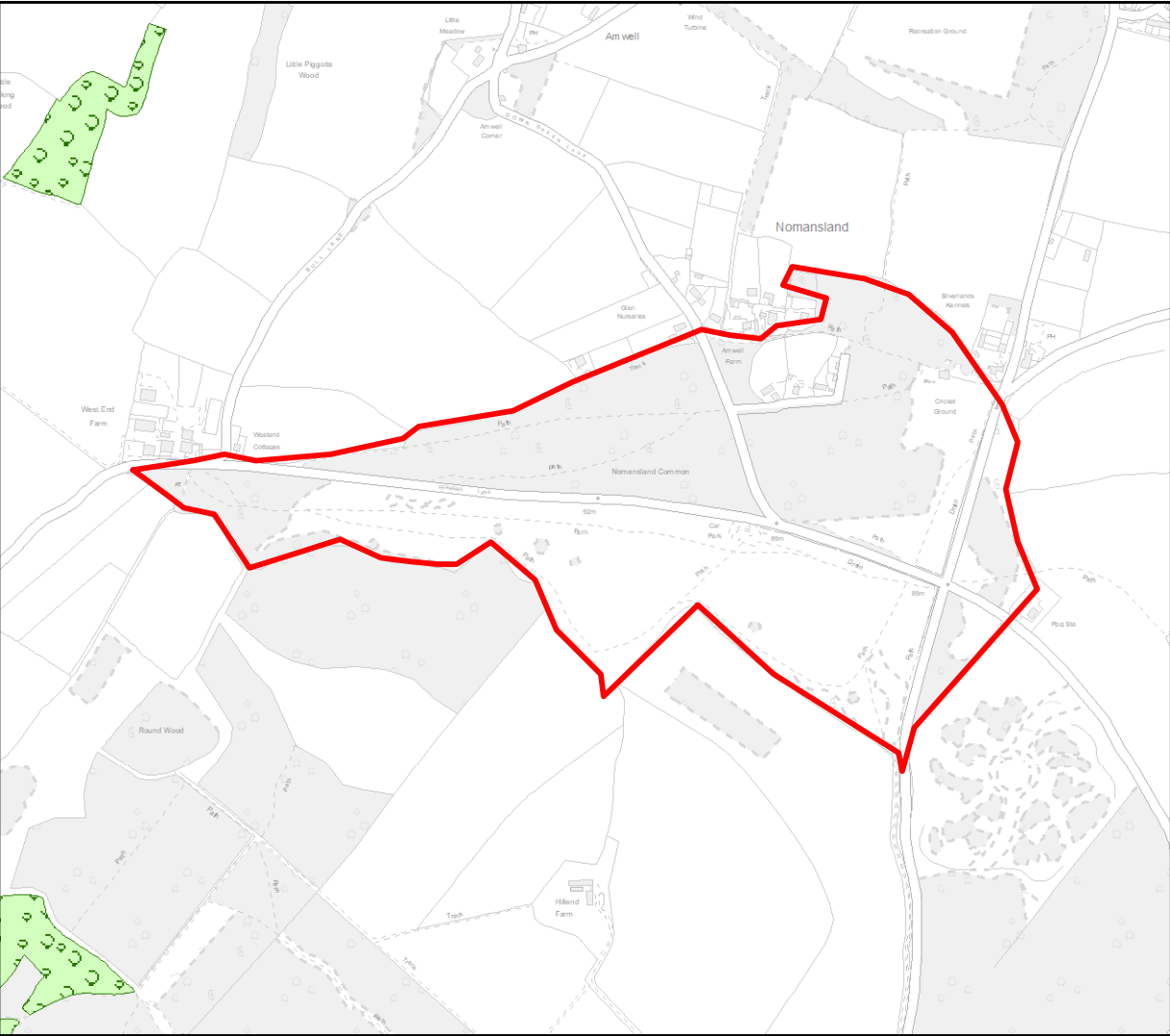
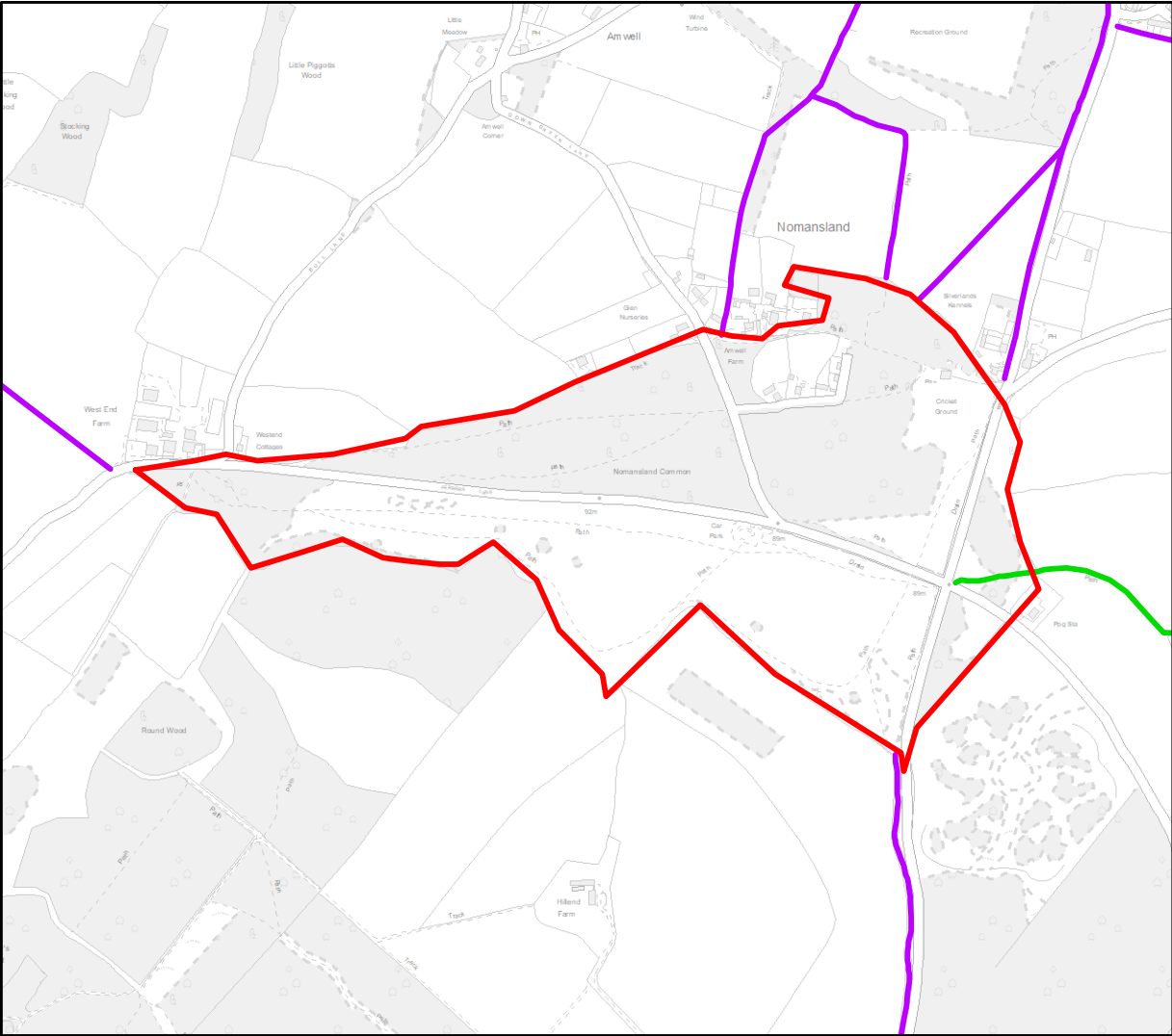
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# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan 2023-28

### Constraints Plan

#### Legend

- Site Boundary
- Bridleway
- Footpath

#### Environmental Designations

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)

#### Local Record Centre Sites

- Wildlife Site
- Ecosite
- Greenbelt



Scale @ A3  
1:12,000  
Date  
Nov 2022  
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00



## 2.2 Geography and Landscape

The site lies within [Nomansland Common Character Area 103](#) which describes Nomansland Common as having underlying bedrock geology of chalk. Although locally evident at the surface, the chalk is generally overlaid by sand and terrace gravels on the valley bottom or undifferentiated solid rock overlaid by clay-with-flints on the slopes to the north and south. The valley soils are light acidic soils, which influence the distinctive land cover, and typical argillic brown earths, which are well drained fine silts, locally very flinty with some shallow over flint gravel. On the slopes to north and south are small areas of stagnogleyic paleo-argillic brown earths, fine silty and loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. There are some areas of well drained clayey soils over chalk, variably flinty.

The topology shows a number of dry valleys converging in this small area and continuing towards the southeast. As a valley bottom it is relatively flat with gentle undulations. The northern slope is wooded and settled. The overgrown pits that exist on the common today are clay pits dating from the 18th century. Nomansland Common is bounded mainly by farmland though much of the surrounding land to the south and east of the site is gradually being converted to broad-leaved woodland as part of the Woodland Trust's Heartwood Forest project. The small hamlet of Nomansland is on the northern edge of the common. The common is divided by the B651 St Albans Road, Ferrers Lane, Down Green Lane and Drovers Lane.

Nomansland Common is subject to statutory and non-statutory designations. See Table 1 and the constraints map.

**Table 1** – Statutory and non-statutory designations

Scale	Designation	Detail
National	Common Land	Sandridge CL064 and Wheathampstead CL131
County	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Nomansland Common 56/021



### 2.3 History and Archaeology

Humans have been using Nomansland Common for thousands of years, flint axe heads found on the common have been dated to 4,000BC. Common land or wastes in a parish, were often uncultivated and of little agricultural value, but were owned by the local Lord. The commoners (villagers) relied on the common for their livelihoods and would have 'common rights' to graze livestock and gather firewood. Since at least the Middle Ages, commoners have used Nomansland to graze their livestock and within living memory three flocks of sheep have grazed on the common up until about the 1930s.

Nomansland Common lies across two parishes, Sandridge and Wheathampstead. During the 15<sup>th</sup> Century the abbeys of St Albans and Westminster both contested the common for their respective parish. The common acted as the 'no-mans-land' between the two warring parishes, with over twenty years of disputes. In 1429, the problem was resolved when it was agreed that both parishes should share the grazing rights and a boulder of Hertfordshire pudding stone was used to mark the parish boundary.

In 1461, during the War of the Roses, the Second Battle of St Albans was fought over part of the common; cannon balls and 25 skeletons dating back to this period were supposedly found on the common during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. During the 1700s Nomansland was a notorious place for highway robberies, so much so that a gibbet was erected on the common as a warning to would be thieves. The most notorious robber of the time was dubbed the Wicked Lady; she was unmasked after her death as Lady Ferrers of Markyate.

The common has long been used for sports and leisure. Cricket has been played on the common since 1826 and prize fights were also popular. In 1833 a fight between Simon Byrne champion of Ireland and James Burke lasted 99 rounds (about 3 hours). In many areas you can still see hollows where commoners dug clay for brick making and evidence of brick kilns have been found. During World War II German and Italian prisoners of war cleared scrub on the southern half of the common, so it could be ploughed for crops to help the war effort. In 1965 the common was registered under the Commons Registration Act.

Today the common is mainly used for informal recreation including dog walking and model aircraft flying, rather than grazing even though the rights on the common land still exist.

There are no scheduled ancient monuments at Nomansland Common, though there are a number of ditches, banks and hollows across the site and there have also been a number of archaeological finds, such as coins and flint tools, from a variety of historical periods.

## 2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

Please see Wildlife Site Report for Nomansland Common – June 2017 for more detail on each compartment (appendix 6.2).

### 2.4.1 Grassland

In the past, Nomansland Common was grazed by sheep which maintained the common's open character. In the last eighty years grazing has ceased and the amount of woodland has increased. Without mowing, rabbit grazing and tree removal, the grassland area of the common would be lost to woodland.



*Figure 1: Example of grassland habitat to the north of Ferrers Lane.*

Neutral grassland covers much of the southern half of the site comprising common grasses and herbs such as Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Bird's-Foot-Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Burnet-Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifrage*). On the road verges there tends to be more rank vegetation. The grasslands to the north of Ferrers Lane is more acidic with smaller pockets east of the B651 (see section 2.4.2 Heathland).

Each year in the late summer/early autumn the southern grassland is cut and collected to reduce soil fertility and enhance biodiversity and as part of the current Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement, due to be extended in 2023. Cutting at this time of year allows the flowers time to set seed and also removing the vegetation stops a thatch from building up which would smother any new growth. There is also common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) within the grassland, particularly north of Ferrers Lane. Common ragwort is classed as an injurious weed but is also a good plant for wildlife, it does need to be managed on the common. There is a small area of non-native and invasive Early Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) just east of the car park, this should be removed.

The landing strip used by the flying clubs in this area is regularly cut to maintain the sward suitable for the model aircrafts to use. The grassland of the cricket pitch is maintained suitable for play by Wheathampstead Cricket club.

#### 2.4.2 Heathland

The heathland to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in Hertfordshire supporting a wealth of rare plants and animals. There are remnant patches of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) with other characteristic acid grassland species such as sheeps sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*) with heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*) and the uncommon heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*). Three species of gorse have been recorded on Nomansland Common growing on the more acidic soils where they frequently form a mosaic with heather. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*) which is a locally scarce in Hertfordshire and Western gorse (*Ulex gallii*) recorded in 2007 which is a locally rare Hertfordshire species and the only site in Hertfordshire. The UK near threatened species petty whin (*Genista anglica*) has been recorded on the site in the past.



Figure 2: Lowland Heath habitat example.

Several areas of open heath are heavily grazed by rabbits, which are controlled and areas of heath are fenced temporarily so heathland plants can re-establish without being eaten or trampled on. The area to the south of Drovers Lane is frequented by people in the summer months wanting a quiet spot to barbecue, the disposable barbecues and other rubbish is sometimes left behind along with scorched areas on the grass.

#### 2.4.3 Woodland

The woodland areas mainly to the north of the site are dominated by oak (*Quercus robur*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*), other species making up the canopy include hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hazel

(*Corylus avellana*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There is a small area of slightly wetter woodland in the western corner adjacent to West End car park. Willows (*Salix*) are present here which is characteristic of the wetter conditions; a boardwalk runs through this area, so it is still passable in the winter when it is wet. More detail on the management of the woodland can be found in the Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plan (2014 – 2034) (available upon request).

Over time, in the absence of grazing a considerable proportion of the acidic grassland to the north has reverted to hawthorn scrub and now the secondary oak/birch woodland that is present today. Working to a Forestry Commission management plan some areas of the woodland have been thinned to increase structural and species diversity by allowing more light to reach the woodland floor. This woodland management work has been carried out with varying success; some areas require further thinning. In addition, the current Forestry Commission felling licence is in place until 2023. The current woodland management plan runs until 2034 and is being reviewed and will be updated to include changes that have taken place. Whilst the majority of the trees on the common are relatively young, a small number may be at least 100 years old, these are managed where possible as veteran trees (appendix 6.3), which includes leaving limbs where they fall (unless on a path) and maintaining deadwood where possible. These veteran trees will be mapped over the course of the next management plan by volunteers. Deadwood is an important habitat for a range of species from invertebrates, to nesting birds, hibernating bats, fungi and plants.

The woodland edges bordering the heathland are thinned to reduce the encroachment and succession to woodland; this is required to avoid the potential loss of important heathland species. The removal of selected trees also gives stronger specimens the chance to grow on to maturity.

Paths through the woodland are maintained to ensure that they remain accessible, in doing so this allows more light to reach the ground, helping the ground flora to grow. Glades along the path edges become sun traps and are a haven for wildlife such as butterflies and insects; they also help to prevent the paths becoming too muddy at pinch points.

#### **2.4.4 Hedgerows and Scrub**

There are several hedgerows that form the boundaries of Nomansland Common. The eastern and northern boundary hedgerows are essentially woodland edge habitat. The hedgerow which is on the southern boundary with Heartwood is a mixed species hedge comprised of Hawthorn, Hornbeam and Elm and would not be classed as woodland edge. The hedgerow is managed on rotation over a number of years by reducing its height and controlling the saplings growing out into the grassland. This work is done by contractors due to the size of the task and material should be removed from site, chipping has occurred in the past but returning the chippings to the cut area will only smother any new ground flora growth.

There are blocks of predominately hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, found mainly around the edges of the main grassland, these areas are important for birds and mammals. However, they should be managed to ensure that they do not expand into

the grassland. In many areas the low scrub has given way to oak-silver birch woodland.

#### 2.4.5 Wildlife

The common supports a wide range of wildlife, including uncommon invertebrates such as, mottled grasshoppers (*Myrmeleo tectix maculatus*), solitary bees/ wasps, beetles and spiders. Nomansland Common has been identified as one of the top butterfly sites in Hertfordshire. Two locally rare ant species have been recorded, *Myrmica schencki* found on 1 of only 2 sites in Hertfordshire and which is also nationally scarce and *Myrmica lobicornis* found on only 1 of 7 sites across Hertfordshire. In recent years 28 species of butterfly have been recorded across the site in the southern grassland species such as common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*), small (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) and Essex skippers (*Thymelicus lineola*) can be seen. The acid grass/heathland areas are particularly beneficial to small copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) and small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*). While in the woodlands speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*) can be seen flitting around the dappled woodland glades and there has been the occasional report of purple emperor (*Apatura iris*) and white admiral (*Limenitis camilla*). A large variety of moths have also been recorded over the years, including cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) caterpillar which feeds on ragwort (appendix 6.1).

Common lizards (*Zootoca vivipara*) have also been recorded on site, as have slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*). Slow worms have also been relocated to the site from a site proposed for development; the ecologist doing this work considered the carrying capacity of the site before carrying out the translocation. Also, reptile refugia mats have been used to monitor reptiles on the site with some success. The variety of habitats support several bird species; green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) is a common sight examining the ant hills for a tasty morsel and red kite (*Milvus milvus*) can often be seen swooping low across the grasslands. Other species include skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*), treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Small mammals such as wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) have been recorded on site along with larger mammals including grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), muntjac deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*) and several species of bat. Also, there is a probability that badgers (*Meles meles*) would also use the site. There is also a large rabbit population on the common which has caused problems for the cricket club in the past and limits the growth heathland species, but they do also help to maintain the open character of the common.

There is no open or standing water on the common. There are, however, small drainage ditches by the side of the roads which hold water for some of the year.



## **2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure**

### **2.5.1 Entrances**

The common is not enclosed and can be accessed from numerous points along its boundary by foot, cycle and horse. The main access points are:

- Ferrers Lane car park
- Wheathampstead Cricket Club car park
- West End Farm car park
- Bridleway 7 and public footpath 32 (Sandridge) and public footpaths 27, 48a, 49, 82 (Wheathampstead)
- Road crossing points are provided in a number of locations
- The common can also be accessed from the neighbouring Heartwood Forest at its southwest and southeast corners
- There is a squeeze stile off Drovers Lane, east of the B651, leading into a small southern section of the common.
- There is a bus stop on the B1651 almost opposite the Wicked Lady pub, providing good access to the site via public transport.

There are lockable bollards along Ferrers Lane and at other locations around the site providing maintenance vehicle access to different parts of the common. There is a lockable bollard in West End car park allowing vehicle access into the common and a field gate to enable access into the neighbouring arable field. The southern boundary of the common is rabbit fenced and there are remnants of old road safety barriers on the junction of Ferrers Lane and Down Green Lane.

### **2.5.2 Car Parks**

There are three car parks which serve the common:

- The main car park is situated in the centre of the common off Ferrers Lane almost opposite Down Green Lane and has a fixed height barrier
- A smaller car park is at the western side of the common opposite West End farm off Ferrers Lane.
- Another small car park serves the north-eastern corner of the common and Wheathampstead Cricket Club pavilion off the B651, part of the car park nearest the pavilion can be closed off with a locked gate, to deter anti-social behaviour.

### **2.5.3 Paths and Access**

There are several informal paths that cross the site, including through the woodland. Some of the paths through the woodland are woodland rides, whilst others have developed over time. A new all-user path has been installed to connect the path to the south from Heartwood with the route going towards Wheathampstead. This route can now be used all year by cyclists and walkers alike. In addition, a section of path had some surfacing added near to The Wicked Lady pub.





*Figure 3: Newly laid all-user path.*

There is a short section of boardwalk at the southwest corner of the site near to West End car park. The boardwalk runs through an area of wet woodland and vegetation and leads to footpath 14 (Wheathampstead). This is in poor condition and will need some refurbishment over the course of this GAP.

#### **2.5.4 Signage and Interpretation**

Small welcome posts are installed at several of the main entrance points around the site, with 'Welcome to Nomansland Common' and SADC logo on the front so that people know who to contact about the site. There are some access points which do not have welcome signage. There is a larger entrance sign at the main car park on Ferrers Lane and by the Cricket pavilion car park, along with a heritage society panel by the roadside opposite the pub, this panel is not maintained by NCJMC.

Three fingerposts have been installed along the new all-user path to inform users of the direction of Sandridge and Wheathampstead and distances to both places. There are three interpretation panels located around the common, one in the car park and two at points along the circular walking route. All structures have been replaced and are due to have new panels added. There also are a series of way marker posts that mark the circular walking route, which starts and ends at the Ferrers Lane car park.

Way marker posts with faded signs denote the boundary of the model flying area in the grassland on the southern part of the site. Way marker posts also mark the start of several rights of way. The only map of the designated flying area is located on the hill close to the flying area.

### 2.5.5 Site Infrastructure

#### 1) Bins

There are four dog bins situated at strategic points across the common; they are emptied by the grounds maintenance contractors every two weeks or when three quarters full. There are no litter bins on site in an effort to encourage people to take their litter home with them.

The site is litter picked at least twice a week by the John O'Conner (JOC) Countryside Ranger, the car parks and nearby vicinity are the worst places. Occasional fly tipping occurs, and this is also dealt with by JOC.

#### 2) Benches

There are 7 benches located around the common they are mainly rustic looking with no backs. Around the cricket area, there are currently 5 benches, these are more formal with backs, and some are memorial benches. As benches come to the end of their usable life they will be replaced with rustic oak benches with backs.



*Figure 4: Example of an existing bench at Nomanslands Common.*

#### 3) Buildings

The only building on the common is the pavilion on its northeast corner which is owned, managed and used by Wheathampstead Cricket Club; its entrance and small car park is off the B651.

#### 4) Cricket Area

The cricket area is maintained by the cricket club, the grass is cut regularly through the cricket season (May to September). The area is quite undulating away from the main pitch and with the light soils it is prone to rabbit digging which can lead to trip hazards. It is recommended that any holes are filled with a suitable medium such as surrey loam; JOC has a supply of this.

#### 5) Flying Zone

On the southern side of the common an area of short mown grass is provided as a landing strip for model aircraft. Nomansland Flyers and individuals use the site, all flyers must fly their aircraft in accordance with the bylaws, and SADC has introduced a code of practice for flying. See appendix 6.5.

## **2.6 Community and Events**

### **2.6.1 Leases and Agreements**

St Albans City & District Council has overall responsibility for management of the common, according to the Scheme of Management drawn up in 1953 (appendix 6.4). The common is leased from the Althorp Estate and managed under an agreement with Wheathampstead Parish Council.

A Natural England Higher Level Scheme (HLS) Agreement (AG00404905) is in place for the southern grassland running from 2013 until 2023, this includes maintenance of successional areas and scrub (HC15) and the maintenance of species-rich, semi-natural grassland (HK6) by the removal of an annual hay cut during August/September time in the absence of a more traditional method of management such as grazing. This HLS agreement will be extended for a further 5 years to cover 2023 to 2028. If required, this agreement can be cancelled, and the site could then go into a new agreement as a whole. A Forestry Commission Management Plan covers the woodland areas for 20 years from 2014 to 2034, with a felling licence in place until 2023. The woodland management plan and licence stipulates what and how much can be removed from the site at a given time. This management plan is under review at time of writing.

### **2.6.2 Management Committee**

Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee oversees the annual management of the common but day to day management is co-ordinated by Community Services at the Council, with maintenance works carried out by JOC Ground Maintenance contractors. Patrolling and site inspections are carried out by JOC's Countryside Ranger on a regular basis.

Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee has representatives from SADC, Sandridge Parish Council, Wheathampstead Parish Council and Countryside Management Service (CMS). Additional representatives include Wheathampstead Cricket Club, JOC's Countryside Ranger, British Horse Society and Nomansland Flyers. Meetings are administered by Wheathampstead Parish Council and the agendas and minutes can be found on the Parish Council website [Nomansland Common – Wheathampstead Parish Council \(wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk\)](http://www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk). The management committee meets four times per year to discuss management issues on the common. CMS advises on management issues relating to nature conservation and community involvement, implements management and sources funding and produces five-year Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs) for the Common by engaging with the relevant partners and stakeholders.

### **2.6.3 Other Engagement**

#### *1) Nomansland Common Leaflet*

The Council has developed a leaflet which is available from SADC Offices, Wheathampstead and Sandridge Parish Councils Offices and St Albans Visitor Information Centre. It can also be viewed and downloaded from the Nomansland

Common page on the Council's website. The leaflet will be updated over the course of this plan and a digital only version will be produced.

### *2) Council Website*

The Council provides a dedicated webpage for Nomansland Common [Commons and Green Spaces | St Albans City and District Council](#).

### *3) Special Events*

A special event is a term used by the Council to describe one-off additional usage of the common, in addition to regular use. All event applications go to the Council's safety advisory group for approval. Any fitness groups/boot camps wanting to use Nomansland Common for their activities would also have to apply to the Council for a licence.

### 3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

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The Nomansland Common GAP 2023-2028 will be a simple, easy to read plan for use by officers of St Albans City and District Council, members of Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee, members of the public and will act as a guide to the work of volunteers. The plan will be largely map based, with sequential, annual management maps to show the actions planned for each year. The resulting change will be represented on the map for the following year. The document will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

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

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

#### **Aim**

**The aim of Nomansland Common GAP is to improve the quality of habitats on site and to provide a safe, enjoyable place for people to visit.**

#### **Objectives**

- 1. A Welcoming Place – to provide a welcoming setting for visitors.**
  - A1 To improve access and update signage where needed around the common.
  - A2 To improve the visitor experience and enhance opportunities for informing and educating.
  - A3 Maintain car parks, footpaths and boardwalks to create a welcoming environment.
- 2. Healthy, Safe and Secure – to ensure that visitors to the common feel safe when visiting.**
  - B1 Carparks and designated footpaths to be well maintained and safe to use.
  - B2 Tree safety and Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveying carried out as necessary to maintain the safety of the site.
  - B3 Security of the site monitored and maintained to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.
- 3. Clean and Well Maintained – to ensure that the site is tidy and regular maintenance is carried out.**
  - C1 Undertake proactive vegetation management around the site to benefit people and wildlife.
  - C2 Maintenance of infrastructure on the site to keep it in good condition.

- C3 Control invasive species using appropriate methods.
- 4. Sustainability – ensure all on site activities are as sustainable as possible.**
- D1 Secure external funding to ensure the viability of capital works.
- D2 Ensure ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable.
- D3 Ensure that management operations fit with SADC Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy aims.
- 5. Conservation and Heritage – enhance habitats on site, along with overall biodiversity.**
- E1 Protect and enhance the biodiversity and habitats (grassland, heathland and woodland) that can be found at Nomansland Common.
- E2 Conserve and enhance the on-site historical and landscape features.
- E3 Employ contractors to carry out additional vegetation management work to meet the requirements of the GAP.
- 6. Community Involvement – communicate and involve the local community with the site and activities taking place there.**
- F1 Develop options for improved linkages beyond the site and investigate the suitability of Nomansland Common for an off-road cycle track.
- F2 Support volunteer activity on the site and to ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the GAP
- 7. Marketing – Raise awareness of the site and what it has to offer.**
- G1 Promote awareness and interest in Nomansland Common.
- G2 Promote volunteering activities on Nomansland Common locally and through social media.
- G3 Update site marketing when required.



## 4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

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### 4.1 A Welcoming Place

#### 1) Entrances

All main entrances into the common, need to be maintained and kept clear of encroaching vegetation to make them feel inviting. All rights of way from the common will be checked on rotation to make sure that they are free from obstructions.

The entrance into the woodland opposite the car park on Ferrers Lane is to be opened up, sightlines cleared, and surfacing added to make this a safer place to cross and access the woodland to the north of Ferrers Lane. Several permissions/consents will need to be obtained before work is to take place including but not limited to: Secretary of State Permission, Planning Permission, Ordinary Watercourse Consent and Natural England might also need to be informed of the work.

#### 2) Car Parking

The surface of all car parks will be monitored and topped up when required. The car park by the pavilion is in a reasonable state. The access track needs to have the vegetation regularly cut back to stop it from growing into the car park and blocking the sight lines.

The West End car park is prone to flooding, in part because water runs down Ferrers Lane from a westward direction and into the car park. HCC Highways should be contacted to get the drainage channels at the side of the road dug out, divert runoff away from the car park. In addition, further surfacing should be added to West End car park, to top it up where it has been washed out.



*Figure 5: Photo of newly laid car park at West End.*

### *3) Access, Gates and Fencing*

It is proposed that the pedestrian access route between the southwest Heartwood entrance and West End car park has an unsealed surface added, if funding becomes available. This will create an all-weather route and help to stop encroachment into the woodland beyond.

Path surfacing will be using a permeable surface of crushed virgin aggregate which will drain well while providing a level surface suitable for use in all weathers.

Pedestrian access into the woodland to the north of Ferrers Lane, directly opposite Ferrers Lane car park will be improved as stated above in the entrances section. Further scrub clearance will be carried out at to open up views across the common from the new all-user path connecting Sandridge and Wheathampstead. Several permissions/consents will need to be obtained before work is to take place including but not limited to: Secretary of State Permission, Planning Permission, Ordinary Watercourse Consent and Natural England might also need to be informed of the work.

New bollards will be installed in the new all-user path and close to Heartwood to prevent vehicular access and at the entrance to Heartwood along bridleway 7. Before works are carried out a notice of exempt works must be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

### *4) Signage and Interpretation*

A new metal lockable notice board in Ferrers Lane car park will protect the posters from the elements and make it more accessible. Keeping the notice board up to date will improve visitor's first impressions, making the common feel more inviting and welcoming. All new panels should be regularly cleaned and maintained to create a welcoming feel to the site.

Bylaws to be displayed as temporary signage by SADC at appropriate locations around the site. The waymarker posts and discs marking the circular walking route need to be replaced. New signage is required to mark the designated boundary of the model flying area, along with a map showing the extent of the area and code of conduct.

Signage at both ends of the rights of way needs to be checked and flags and posts can be updated/replaced as required. When replacing flags 'Nomansland Common' to be included as a destination.

## 4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure



*Figure 6: New interpretation structures being installed*

Site risk assessments are carried out to evaluate the potential risks across the common to all users. They are reviewed and updated every year and monitored through the regular client/contractor site inspections. In addition, the grounds maintenance contractor produces risk assessments for their staff and equipment, which are also monitored through the contract inspection procedures.

### *Tree Surveys*

The grounds maintenance contractor is responsible for carrying out a tree survey every 3 years. This information is fed back to the Council's Trees and Woodland Team for analysis and action through MyTrees software. One ongoing action is to remove deadwood from trees overhanging the paths. Where possible deadwood should be allowed to remain especially on the large oaks as it provides valuable habitat, when a limb falls it should be left in situ – benches should not be installed beneath the large oaks and any that are should be removed/re-sited (appendix 6.3).

## 4.3 Clean & Well Maintained

Wheathampstead Cricket club are responsible for all ongoing maintenance and repairs to the cricket club pavilion.

### *Furniture*

New bench locations need to be discussed with Nomansland Common Management Committee and agreed before any installation takes place. Benches must be in keeping with those already installed around the common. Benches need to be checked regularly, with any damage being repaired as soon as possible or the bench removed (if the damage is substantial) until a replacement is available.

Several of the benches will be replaced over the course of this management plan. In addition, two new benches are proposed to be installed south of the model flying area (see Year 2 Action plan map). Volunteers could be involved in the installation. As bins reach the end of their life, they are to be replaced with like for like.





#### **Boardwalk**

The boardwalk will need to be replaced over the course of this management plan. It is suggested that recycled plastic rails and stobs (stakes) are used to extend the life of the new boardwalk. Vegetation needs to be cut back from around the boardwalk to reduce the accumulation of leaf litter.

*Figure 7: Photo of existing board walk in poor repair.*

### **4.4 Sustainability**

Working closely with other organisations (such as Forestry Commission and Hertfordshire County Council) in relation to biosecurity will provide up to date information on plant and tree health issues across the county and further afield, this will enable the council to be prepared if an outbreak occurs. Oak Processionary Moth has been identified on site and its management is discussed in 4.5.3. Climate change is an imminent threat; its effects are already being felt. Providing interlinking and transitional habitats ensures that species have the ability to move and mix (genetically) if required. Further enhancements to the site will be investigated to make it more resilient to climate change.

### **4.5 Conservation**

See map in appendix 6.2 for compartment boundaries.

#### **4.5.1 Grassland**

The areas of grassland need to continue to be managed through annual mowing in August or early September. The neutral grassland on the southern side of Ferrers Lane must be cut and collected annually in accordance with the Natural England's Higher Level Scheme prescriptions. Vegetation is to be cut ideally late August early September to allow time for the plants to set seed. Ragwort in the grassland on the north side of Ferrers Lane and should be managed through volunteers pulling plants up before they begin to set seed, which will limit its dominance within the grassland. Ragwort is also classed as an injurious weed and as such it should be managed to prevent it spreading to agricultural land.

There are small patches of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) at the east and west ends of the grassland. Bracken is a large and fast-growing fern which can become dominant in an area, outcompeting smaller plant species. This area need to be monitored and managed through rolling when required. To the east of the car park is

a patch of early goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), this needs to be removed as it is a non-native invasive species probably a garden escape.

#### 4.5.2 Heathland

The areas of heathland mainly to the north of the site are ecologically important and given that this is one of the few surviving areas of true heathland in the county and it needs to be managed to maintain and enhance its value. Temporary exclosures have been erected to fence off small areas of heather from rabbit grazing; this has been successful. Further temporary exclosures will be constructed over the period of this management plan. The fencing from current temporary exclosures could be reused for the new areas if it is in good condition when removed. The areas inside the current temporary exclosures are developing well with a mix of heather, grasses and heathland species; there are also some small silver birch saplings and bramble starting to take hold. These need to be removed along with the trees along the edge of the woodland to create more structure to the woodland, maintain the transition zone and enhance the open heathland habitat. Other small trees and bramble starting to shade out the heather in this area should also be removed. Some of the areas of common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) will need to be removed to prevent them becoming dominant. Areas of dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*) need to be identified prior to doing any light pruning on the common gorse and left untouched.



Figure 8: Photo showing heather spreading into the grassland.

Old (10-15 years or older) woody heather should be cut and cleared when in seed (mid-October to end-November), on a rotational basis. Nearby grassland should be scuffed up to provide pockets of bare earth suitable for heather seeds to colonise. The cut material should be scattered on the grassland and left for a few weeks for the seeds to drop, material can then be collected up and stacked at the edge of the woodland off the grass/heathland area.

### 4.5.3 Woodland

The areas of woodland on site need to be managed in accordance with the Woodland Management Plan. The Woodland Management Plan is a Forestry Commission approved document which will be updated at the beginning of 2023. This will allow for the whole site to be put into a Countryside Stewardship agreement. Woodland management needs to continue to improve the structural and species diversity of the habitat. Original pioneer species and mature oaks are to be kept, while other species can be removed to make way for more oak regeneration. Species such as willow, particularly goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) should be retained as they are particularly good for some butterfly species. The contractor carrying out woodland work will sort timber into larger logs to be sold and smaller material for building dead hedges.

Creating rides and glades along the east to west path will create favourable conditions for grasses and lower ground species to thrive increasing the biodiversity and habitat diversity throughout the woodland. This ride widening and creation will also be carried out to improve connection between two main areas of heathland. Creating scallops on the northern side of the path and widening of these routes through overhanging tree removal, will allow lower growing species to develop. The main rides once established are to be cut annually while the scalloped areas (or glades) should be cut on a three-year rotation based on a 2-zone ride management system. Material should be removed from site or stacked as habitat piles in a sacrificial area away from the ride/glades. Where possible away from paths standing dead wood should be maintained, as it provides a vital habitat to a range of species. Paths need to be kept free from encroaching vegetation and the views from the interpretation panels need to be maintained.

The transitional habitats between the woodland and grassland/heathland need to be maintained; this can be done by stopping the trees from encroaching further into the heathland and acid grassland. This graduated woodland edge will be maintained by thinning and coppicing of trees to prevent the creep of the woodland into grassland and heathland areas.

#### *Monitor tree health and respond to significant pests and diseases*

Oak Processionary Moth has been recorded at Nomansland Common in 2022 and the infected trees were treated specifically. During 2023 we will look to develop a risk-based approach to management of OPM. Oak processionary moth (OPM) is a non-native species whose caterpillars produce microscopic hairs containing a toxin which causes irritation on contact with skin. OPM hairs can be spread on the wind and so irritation can occur without direct contact with caterpillars, for example dispersing hairs can become trapped in clothing. Dogs and other domestic animals are also known to be affected by OPM. The greatest risk for dogs is presented by the communal silken nests which are constructed by OPM caterpillars on host trees. The nests trap toxic hairs and can fall to the ground where dogs may encounter them. OPM outbreaks have been recorded in Hertfordshire and control measures have been applied to these outbreaks to slow spread of the pest, although eradication is unlikely. OPM caterpillars can be confused with native hairy caterpillars which are not a health concern. Guidance is available from [Oak processionary moth \(Thaumetopoea processionea\) – Forest Research](#).



#### 4.5.4 Scrub

Scrub areas should be maintained around the site as they provide valuable wildlife habitat. They do however require management to stop them from encroaching into the grassland and heathland. The blocks of scrub in the grassland can be cut on rotation, leaving the larger trees; the material can be stacked at the edge of the scrub area for JOC to collect, chip and remove from site. This is so that the woody material does not increase the fertility of the soil on site.

The area of scrub in the southeast corner as you enter from Heartwood Forest should continue to be removed to open up the views across the common. Newly created glades in the southwest corner of the site need to be managed by the removal of scrub and brambles to maintain the open glade habitats favoured by invertebrates. Opening up the edges of the glade will allow more light and air to reach the path helping it to dry out quicker when wet.

Clearing the glades may be a task suitable for volunteers; material can be cut by hand then raked up and stacked at the back of the glade. Removing the cut vegetation will allow the grassland species a chance to thrive.

Areas of scrub on the edge of the woodland east of the B651 and to the north of Drovers Lane are to be managed in accordance with the updated Woodland Management Plan.



*Figure 9: Southern boundary hedge.*

#### 4.5.5 Hedgerows

In the previous GAP blackthorn scrub encroachment was removed, leaving only the existing southern boundary hedge line. This work will be built on by further management, some of which will be carried out by contractors while other work will be carried out by volunteers. Several sections of hazel will be coppiced to create opportunity for further gapping up. There is one section along the southern boundary where blackthorn scrub should be removed to prevent its encroachment into the grassland. Ideally woody material should be chipped and removed from site. This work might require a felling licence to be obtained, this should be confirmed with the Forestry Commission. The hedgerow along the east boundary with Heartwood Forest to the north of Drovers Lane is to be laid where possible. This is also to be included in the updated woodland management plan.

#### 4.5.6 Wildlife

Continuing the management practices mentioned above will protect the habitats for the species that use the site. Further work will be carried out to create several hibernacula (a feature created using deadwood to provide refuge for reptiles and small mammals) through the use of retained deadwood in specified locations to the north of Ferrers Lane, specifically where slow worms were introduced. Reptile refugia mats can act as a simple monitoring and educational tool and are placed on site for monitoring purposes. Details of what is found under the refugia should be recorded and to Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC). Other species should continue to be recorded with records being sent in.

#### 4.5.7 Water

Drainage ditches require regular checks to remove any blockages which may cause flooding to nearby roads. Drainage ditches are also important routes for wildlife to move around the site and as such should not be cleared completely of vegetation.

### 4.6 Community Involvement

#### 4.6.1 Ranger

John O'Conner employs a Ranger who patrols Nomansland Common for 9 hours a week. When on the common they act as the first point of contact for the local community about any issues that they may have. They check the site for issues and carry out litter picks of the car parks and common. The ranger also monitors the main access routes and cuts back where needed or informs CMS volunteers. The Ranger may also note the presence of important species on site.



*Figure 10: Volunteers removing redundant fencing.*

#### 4.6.2 Volunteers

CMS practical conservation volunteers regularly visit the site to undertake management works. Recent works have included installation of signage, hedge planting, tree removal from the heathland and footpath maintenance. The work that volunteers do is and will continue to be vital for the maintenance of the site in the future.

#### **4.6.3 Wheathampstead Cricket Club**

Wheathampstead Cricket Club use the cricket pitch which is part of Nomansland Common and provides an important facility for local people. Cricket is played on Saturday and Sunday throughout the season and the club always welcomes spectators.

#### **4.6.4 Nomansland Flyers**

Nomansland Flyers is a group of model aircraft flyers who use the site, while there are also several individual users. The bylaws permit the use of electric aircraft at Nomansland, this can include drones.

#### **4.6.5 Local Community Users**

Hertfordshire Orienteering Club regularly uses Nomansland Common for events. Wheathampstead Parish Council and Sandridge Parish Council run events throughout the summer months for local primary schools. Activities include bug hunts, exploring and nature walks. These events will engage more children with the natural environment and local wildlife. These types of events were limited in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monthly Park and Ride events are held at nearby West End Farm where horse riders can park their vehicles for a fee, then take their horses out to explore the common and local area.

The possibility of creating a natural off-road cycle trail on the common will begin to be investigated, consulting all local stakeholders and common users.

The wide range and nature of activities that are undertaken across the common could at times become conflicting; users must respect the rights of all other users, as they go about their activities, so that Nomansland Common can be enjoyed by all.

### **4.7 Marketing**

Nomansland Common has its own management plan, leaflet and webpage which are updated regularly. Wheathampstead and Sandridge Parish Councils also include relevant articles about the common and the management plan in their local newsletters and on their websites. The site leaflet will need to be updated over the course of this GAP with the addition of the new all user path to the common.

Further information about the site is available on the ParksHerts website ([Nomansland Common, outdoor recreation - ParksHerts](#))

It provides a way for people to discover and enjoy sites they know and those that they haven't yet discovered, whilst also supporting people to make outdoor exercise part of their everyday lives.

Nomansland Common is well known locally and used by a variety of users for leisure and recreation.



## 5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

The action plans are divided into 'ongoing management' and 'opportunities, subject to funding' sections. 'Ongoing management' items will generally be funded and delivered through existing Council revenue budgets. 'Opportunities, subject to funding' items have no funds currently allocated to them, so delivery would require following the Council's capital bid process or securing external funding. All costs are estimates and full costs will need to be identified for each item prior to the submission of a capital bid or external funding application.

**Abbreviations:** SADC – St Albans City & District Council; CMS – Countryside Management Service; JOC – John O'Connors; GM – Grounds Maintenance; Vols – Volunteers; RoW – Rights of Way; NCJMC – Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee; SPC – Sandridge Parish Council; WPC – Wheathampstead Parish Council; Con – Contractor; Ran – John O'Connors Ranger; CS – Countryside Stewardship

### 5.1 Annual items

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Health and Safety inspections and undertaking of works.	B3, C2	When required	SADC	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.2	Empty waste bins minimum of once a week or when requested.	A3	All year	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.3	Litter pick and check for problems	A3, B1	Twice a week	SADC	Ran	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.4	Undertake a tree safety survey every 3 years and carry out appropriate work following this.	B2	Every 3 years (Sept-Oct)	SADC	Con	Tree Budget	Staff time, Con		
0.5	Management of vegetation through the Grounds Maintenance Contract.	C1, C3	All year	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.6	Continue with current grassland cutting regime.	C1	Annually in Aug or Sept	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.7	Continue with the removal and control of invasive species such as ragwort and goldenrod.	C3	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	JOC/CMS/Vols	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.8	Monitor heather regrowth.	C1, E1, F2	Ongoing	CMS	Ran/CMS/Vols/SADC	N/A	Vol time		

0.9	Remove encroaching scrub and bramble from the heathland and manage woody heather.	C1, E1, E3	Aug-Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time		
0.10	Maintain glades and rides by annual cutting.	C1, E1	Sept-Feb	CMS/SADC	CMS/Vols/Con	SADC Budget	Vol time, Con		
0.11	Maintain drainage ditches and ensure that they are free from blockages.	C1, C2	Twice a year	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.12	Monitor Refugia mats and relocate if required.	F2	Mar-Oct	WPC/Vols	Vols	N/A	Vol time		
0.13	Monitor and record species across the site.	E1, F2	All year	CMS	All	N/A	N/A		
0.14	Maintain notice boards and review content regularly.	C2	Monthly	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS/Ran/Vols	SADC Budget	Staff time		
0.15	Remove all graffiti in accordance with SADC graffiti policy.	B1, B3	When required	SADC	Vols/JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.16	Remove fly tipping and litter pick.	A3, B1	When required	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.17	Secure external funding to ensure that capital works are viable.	D1, D2	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	N/A	N/A		
0.18	Undertake FC and NE grant requirements.	E1, E2, E3	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	CMS/Vols/Con/JOC	N/A	Staff time		
0.19	Regular maintenance of the flying strip.	C1	When required	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	Contract rates		
0.20	Maintenance of site furniture (signs, benches, finger posts, bins etc).	A1, A3, C2	Ongoing	SADC	JOC/Vols	SADC Budget	Contract rates		

## 5.2 Year 1 Action Plan (2023-2024)

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Replace the boardwalk near West End carpark once funding is available.	A3, B1, D1	April - Sept	CMS/SADC	Vols/Con	SADC Budget	£25,000		
1.2	Obtain permissions (including but not limited to: Secretary of State Permission, Planning Permission, Ordinary Watercourse Consent and Natural England might also need to be informed of the work) to carry out improvements to entrance opposite Ferrers Lane car park.	A3, B1	April - May	CMS	CMS	N/A	N/A		
1.3	Update site leaflet.	G3, A2	June - Sept	CMS	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	External	£500-£600		
1.4	Coppice hazel in the southern boundary hedgerow.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols/Con	External	N/A		
1.5	Install bollards in the new all-user path near the Heartwood entrance and one on Bridleway 7 where it enters the common. Notice of exemption from secretary of state permission to be completed prior to work taking place.	A3, B3, C2	Feb - May	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
1.6	Investigate the possibility of creating a natural off-road cycle track. Decide if it is feasible/suitable by the end of 2023.	A2, A3	By the end of 2023.	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A		
1.7	Maintain rides by mowing based on the zoned rides map.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS/SADC	JOC	CS Fund	N/A		
1.8	Ensure the common is combined under one SBI to apply for countryside stewardship.	E1, D1, D2	April	CMS	CMS/SADC	SADC Budget	N/A		



1.9	Apply for Countryside Stewardship for Nomansland Common.	E1, D1, D2, D3	April - June	CMS	CMS/SADC	SADC Budget	N/A		
1.10	Install benches at the top of the hill, to the south of the model flying area.	A1, A2, C2	March - June	SADC	Con	SADC Budget	N/A		
1.11	Install new notice board next to interpretation panel in the car park	A1, A2, C2, G1	March - May	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
1.12	Golden rod chemical control with herbicide.	C3	April - May	SADC	JOC	GM Budget	N/A		
1.13	Review Year 1 Action Plan		March	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	CMS	N/A	N/A		

### 5.3 Year 2 Action Plan (2024-2025)

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.3	Improvements to entrance to the woodland opposite Ferrers Lane carpark.	A3, B1	July - Aug	CMS/SADC	CMS	SADC Budget	N/A		
2.2	Scrub clearance close to the new all-user path close to the entrance from Heartwood Forest.	A1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	External	N/A		
2.3	Coppice/lay hedgerow along east boundary with Heartwood.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
2.4	Complete coppicing of southern boundary hedge.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
2.5	Woodland management thinning, glade creation and underplanting	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	CS Funded	N/A		
2.6	Install/move exclosure fences to newly designated areas	E1, F2	As required	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	If new £150.00		
2.7	Obtain permissions (including but not limited to: Secretary of State Permission, Planning Permission and Natural England might also need to be informed of the work) to	A1, B1	March - June	CMS	CMS	N/A	N/A		

	install a new path close to West End carpark.								
2.8	Maintain rides by mowing based on the zoned rides map.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS/SADC	JOC	CS Fund	N/A		
2.9	Review Year 2 Action Plan		March	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	CMS	N/A	N/A		

#### 5.4 Year 3 Action Plan (2025-2026)

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
3.1	Woodland management thinning, glade creation and underplating	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	CS funded	N/A		
3.2	Install new path at West End car park.	A1, B1	June - Sept	CMS/SADC	Con	Subject to funding	Estimated £11,000		
3.3	Coppice area of gorse next to heather area.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	SADC Budget/ CS fund	N/A		
3.4	Remove silver birch growing in amongst the heather.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	SADC Budget	N/A		
3.5	Cut area of very woody heather to regenerate.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
3.6	Maintain rides by mowing based on the zoned rides map.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS/SADC	JOC	CS Fund	N/A		
3.7	Review Year 3 Action Plan		March	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	CMS	N/A	N/A		

**5.5 Year 4 Action Plan (2026-2027)**

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
4.1	Woodland management thinning, glade creation and underplating	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	CS funded	N/A		
4.2	Remove silver birch growing in amongst the heather.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	SADC Budget	N/A		
4.3	Cut area of very woody heather to regenerate.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	N/A		
4.4	Maintain rides by mowing based on the zoned rides map.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS/SADC	JOC	CS Fund	N/A		
4.5	Review Year 4 Action Plan		March	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	CMS	N/A	N/A		

**5.6 Year 5 Action Plan (2027-2028)**

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

Ref. no.	Action	Obj. Ref.	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
5.1	Woodland management thinning, glade creation and underplating	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	CS funded	N/A		
5.2	Remove silver birch growing in amongst the heather.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS	Con	SADC Budget	N/A		
5.3	Install/move exclosure fences to newly designated areas.	E1, F2	As required	CMS	CMS/Vols	SADC funded	If new £150.00		
5.4	Maintain rides by mowing based on the zoned rides map.	C1, E1, E3	Oct - Feb	CMS/SADC	JOC	CS Fund	N/A		
5.5	Review Year 5 Action Plan		March	SADC/CMS/NCJMC	CMS	N/A	N/A		



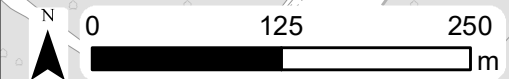
# Nomansland Common

## Annual Items

### Year 1 to 5 (2023-2028)

- #### Legend
- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Grass path    | Bench                |
| Surfaced path | Dog bin              |
| Circular walk | Crossing - bollards  |
| Amenity grass | Interpretation panel |
| Boardwalk     | Notice board         |
| Building      | Entrance sign        |
| Car park      | RoW sign             |
| Ditch         | Flying sign          |
| Enclosure     | Byelaw board         |
| Flying Strip  | Flytip sign          |
| Heath / Scrub | Heritage sign        |
| Hedge         | Waymarker post       |
| Neutral grass | Bus stop             |
| Ride / Glade  | Field gate           |
| Scrub         | Locked bollard       |
| Track         | Height barrier       |
| Woodland      | Barrier              |

- #### Key
- SADC
  - CMS
  - Volunteers
  - John O'Conner (JOC)
  - Ranger (Ran)
  - Contractor (Con)
  - Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee
  - Sandridge Parish Council
  - Wheathampstead Parish Council
- Ongoing management
- Opportunities, subject to funding



Scale @ A3  
1:5,000

Date  
January 2023

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**Countryside Management Service**

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# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 1 (2023-2024)

#### Legend

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Grass path    | Bench                |
| Surfaced path | Dog bin              |
| Circular walk | Crossing - bollards  |
| Amenity grass | Interpretation panel |
| Boardwalk     | Notice board         |
| Building      | Entrance sign        |
| Car park      | RoW sign             |
| Ditch         | Flying sign          |
| Enclosure     | Byelaw board         |
| Flying Strip  | Flytip sign          |
| Heath / Scrub | Heritage sign        |
| Hedge         | Waymarker post       |
| Neutral grass | Bus stop             |
| Ride / Glade  | Field gate           |
| Scrub         | Locked bollard       |
| Track         | Height barrier       |
| Woodland      | Barrier              |

#### Key

- SADC
- CMS
- Volunteers
- John O'Conner (JOC)
- Ranger (Ran)
- Contractor (Con)
- Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee
- Sandridge Parish Council
- Wheathampstead Parish Council

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

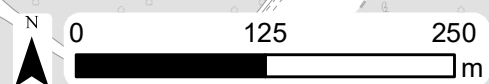
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# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 2 (2024-2025)

#### Legend

- |  |               |  |                      |
|--|---------------|--|----------------------|
|  | Circular walk |  | Bench                |
|  | Grass path    |  | Dog bin              |
|  | Surfaced path |  | Crossing - bollards  |
|  | Amenity grass |  | Interpretation panel |
|  | Boardwalk     |  | Notice board         |
|  | Building      |  | Entrance sign        |
|  | Car park      |  | RoW sign             |
|  | Ditch         |  | Flying sign          |
|  | Enclosure     |  | Byelaw board         |
|  | Flying Strip  |  | Flytip sign          |
|  | Heath / Scrub |  | Heritage sign        |
|  | Hedge         |  | Waymarker post       |
|  | Neutral grass |  | Bus stop             |
|  | Ride / Glade  |  | Field gate           |
|  | Scrub         |  | Locked bollard       |
|  | Track         |  | Height barrier       |
|  | Woodland      |  | Barrier              |

#### Key

- SADC
- CMS
- Volunteers
- John O'Conner (JOC)
- Ranger (Ran)
- Contractor (Con)
- Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee
- Sandridge Parish Council
- Wheathampstead Parish Council

Ongoing management

Opportunities, subject to funding

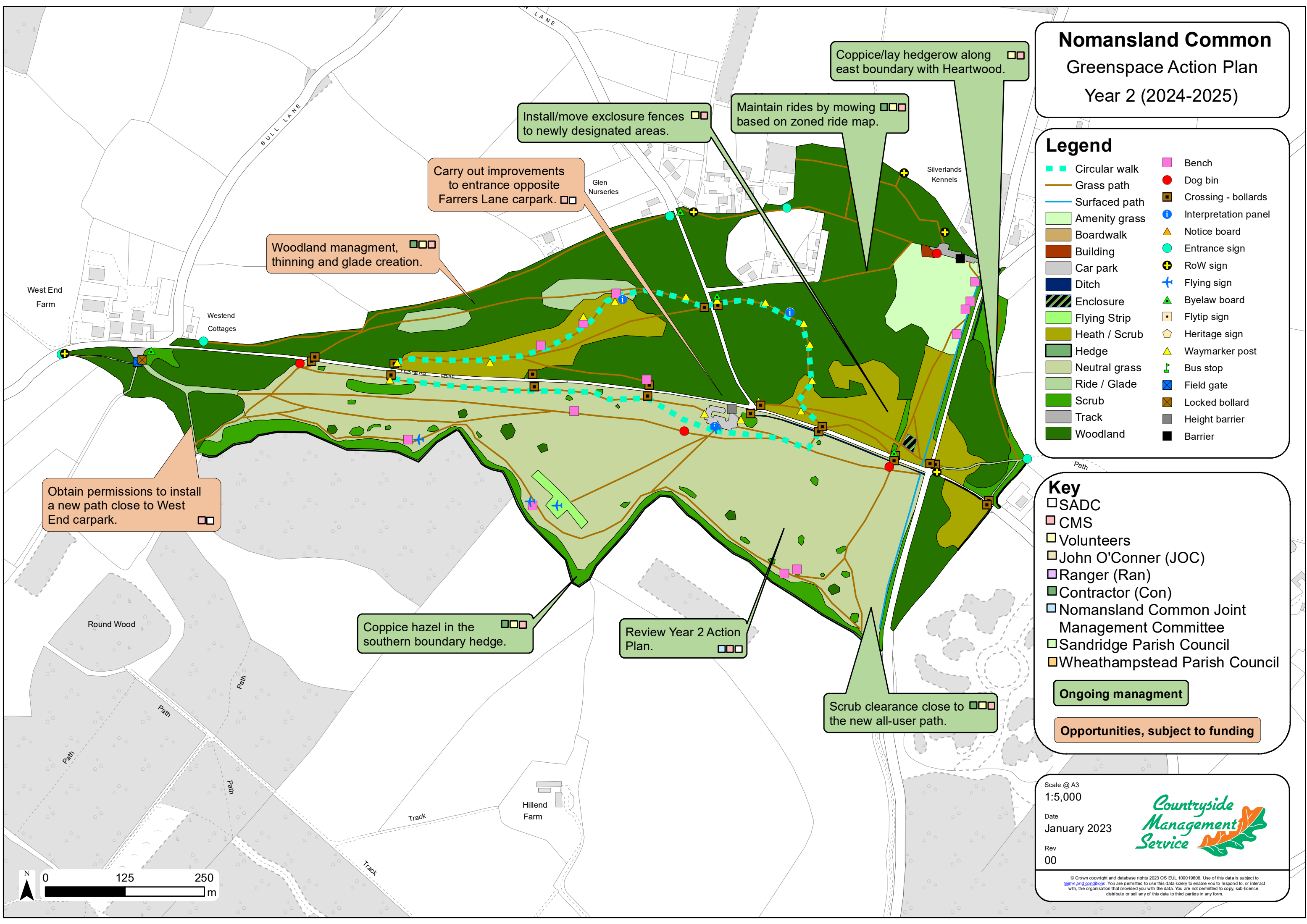
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# Nomansland Common

## Greenspace Action Plan

### Year 3-5 (2025-2028)

#### Legend

- |  |               |  |                      |
|--|---------------|--|----------------------|
|  | Circular walk |  | Bench                |
|  | Grass path    |  | Dog bin              |
|  | Surfaced path |  | Crossing - bollards  |
|  | Amenity grass |  | Interpretation panel |
|  | Boardwalk     |  | Notice board         |
|  | Building      |  | Entrance sign        |
|  | Car park      |  | RoW sign             |
|  | Ditch         |  | Flying sign          |
|  | Enclosure     |  | Byelaw board         |
|  | Flying Strip  |  | Flytip sign          |
|  | Heath / Scrub |  | Heritage sign        |
|  | Hedge         |  | Waymarker post       |
|  | Neutral grass |  | Bus stop             |
|  | Ride / Glade  |  | Field gate           |
|  | Scrub         |  | Locked bollard       |
|  | Track         |  | Height barrier       |
|  | Woodland      |  | Barrier              |

#### Key

- SADC
- CMS
- Volunteers
- John O'Conner (JOC)
- Ranger (Ran)
- Contractor (Con)
- Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee
- Sandridge Parish Council
- Wheathampstead Parish Council

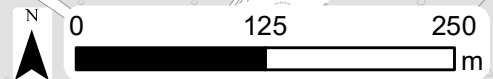
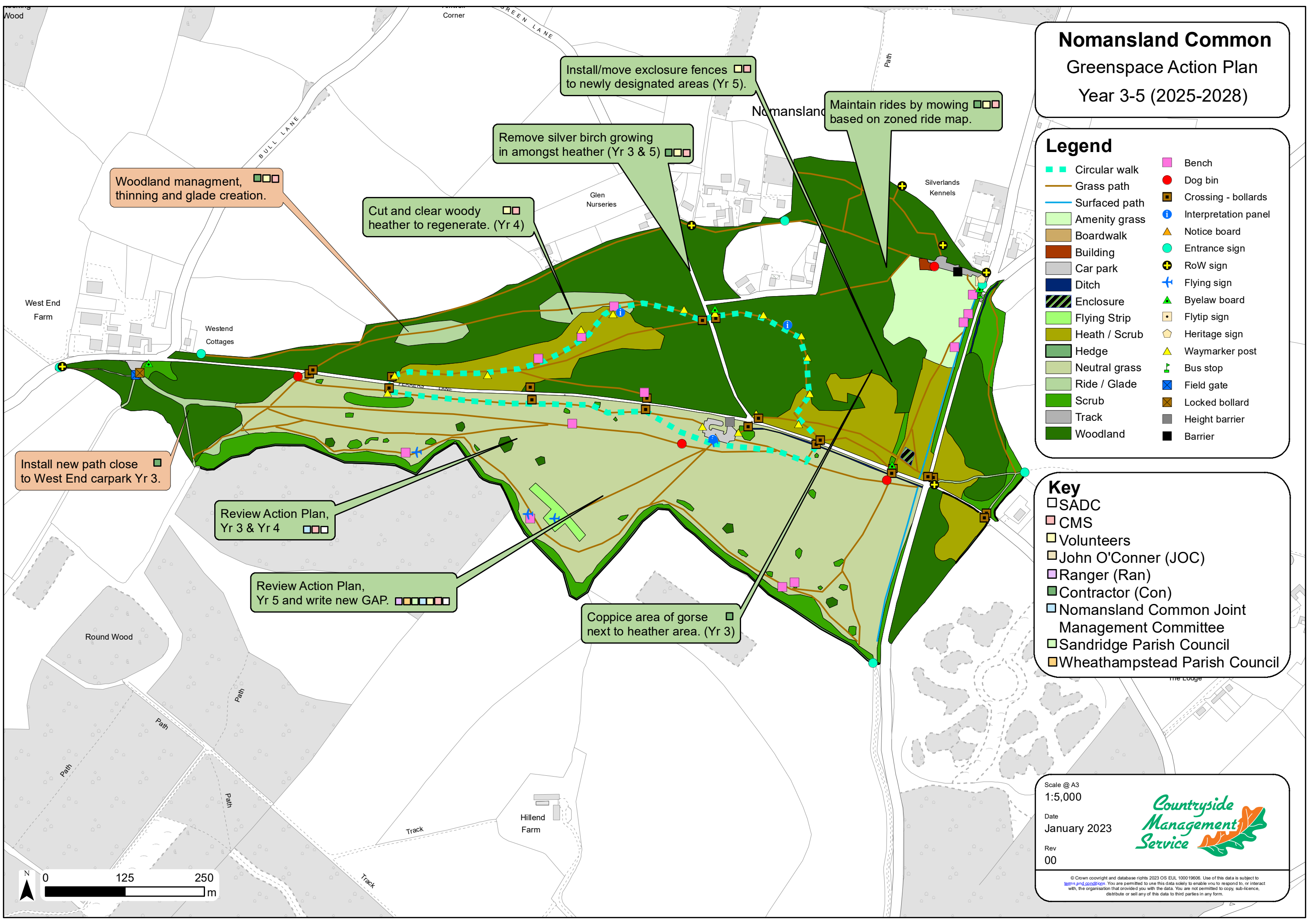
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## 6.0 APPENDICES

### 6.1 Herts Environmental Record search 2023 (UK Legal, NERC, BAP2007 & IUCN)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon Group	Earliest Record	Latest Record
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Birds	2018	2018
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Birds	2016	2017
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Birds	2003	2016
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Reptiles	2018	2019
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Reptiles	2005	2020
Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Terrestrial Mammals (excl. Bats)	2018	2018
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Birds	1988	2017
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Birds	2015	2015
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Birds	2015	2015
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	1996	2020
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	1985	1985
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	1938	1938
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2015	2015
White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2009	2009
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2004	2004
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	2014	2014
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	1996	2016
Thatch-moss	<i>Leptodontium gemmascens</i>	Lower Plants - Mosses	1996	1996
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Terrestrial Mammals (excl. Bats)	1985	1985
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Birds	2016	2017
Chalk Hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2013	2013
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Birds	2016	2017
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Birds	2016	2016
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Birds	2017	2017
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Birds	2018	2018
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	2017

Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	1996
Petty Whin	<i>Genista anglica</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	1988
Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	1988
Common Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1989	2005
Upright Chickweed	<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1840	1988
Hoary Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1912	1912
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	2017
Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Higher Plants - Flowering Plants	1988	2017
Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>	Invertebrates - Butterflies	2015	2019
Mottled Groundling	<i>Neofriseria singula</i>	Invertebrates - Moths	1980	2005

DRAFT

## 6.2 Wildlife Site Survey Report for Nomansland Common (56/021) – June 2017

This report is in no way intended as a criticism of the current land practices. It is recognised that the current condition of the site is entirely down to the way it has been managed in the past. The management advice offered in this report is designed to enhance the floral quality and diversity, and its benefits to wildlife. It is understood that the adoption of this management advice is entirely at the discretion of the landowner. The Wildlife Sites Officer based at HMWT would welcome the opportunity to visit the site and discuss the proposals in this report in greater detail with the landowner.

<b>LWS Site Ref:</b>	56/021	<b>Site size (ha):</b>	51.2
<b>Local Authority:</b>	St Albans	<b>Central Grid Ref:</b>	TL170124

<b>Date1 of survey:</b>	8/6/2017	<b>Weather:</b>	Overcast	<b>Duration on site:</b>	6 hrs
<b>Surveyors:</b>	South Grassland: CL, GP, JW, MH      Woodland: JE, ME, SM, AB				
<b>Spp list by:</b>	JW, ME	<b>Form by:</b>	GP, AB	<b>Map by:</b>	MH

<b>Date2 of survey:</b>	15/6/2017	<b>Weather:</b>	Hot and sunny	<b>Duration on site:</b>	5 hrs
<b>Surveyors:</b>	GP, MH, JW, AB, AH, SM, RG, JWill, JE, ME				
<b>Spp list by:</b>	JW, AB, ME	<b>Form by:</b>	GP	<b>Map by:</b>	MH

<b>Geology:</b>	<b>Bedrock:</b>	No info
	<b>Superficial Deposits:</b>	RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS (UNDIFFERENTIATED) - SAND AND GRAVEL Throughout the middle E-W

<b>Original criteria:</b>	H.2.2b; H.2.2c	<b>Habitat:</b>	Heathland, Grassland: acid, unimproved, Grassland: neutral, semi-improved, Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Scrub
<b>Criteria met:</b>	H.1.2.1 (AWI 18); H.2.2b (neutral 19); H.2.2c (acid 17); H.2.2e (mixed 35).		
<b>Recommended changes to boundary</b>	None.		

<b>Original Site Description:</b>	<p>Large area of open land within a shallow dry valley on acid gravel soils with chalky and clay exposures. The mixed geology combined with a long history of grazing and gravel extraction has produced a variety of habitats such as heathland, grassland, scrub and secondary woodland. In the northern half of the common there are remnant patches of Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) with other characteristic acid grassland species such as Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and Velvet Bent (<i>Agrostis canina</i>) with Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>), Harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>), Early Hair-grass (<i>Aira praecox</i>) and the uncommon Heath-grass (<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>). Neutral grassland covers much of the southern half of the site comprising common grasses and herbs such as Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>), Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Wild Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>) and Burnet-saxifrage (<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>). The remainder of the common has developed a mixture of scrub and woodland habitats. Scrub is dominated by Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>). Both Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) and the Herts Rare species Dwarf Gorse (<i>Ulex minor</i>) grow on the more acid soils where they frequently form a mosaic with Heather. The areas of woodland are dominated by Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) with Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) and the occasional Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>), Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>) and Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>). The UK Near Threatened species Petty Whin (<i>Genista anglica</i>) has been recorded on the site in the past. The site has several disused gravel pits. Common Lizards have previously been recorded and the site is also good for invertebrates. Wildlife Site criteria: Grassland indicators; heathland indicators; species.</p>
<b>Overall General Site Description:</b>	<p>Large area of open land within a shallow dry valley on acid gravel soils with chalky and clay exposures. The mixed geology combined with a long history of grazing and gravel extraction has produced a variety of habitats including heathland, grassland, scrub and secondary woodland.</p> <p>The neutral grassland (~18.8ha) which covers the vast majority of the southern section of the site contains numerous indicators for NVC MG5 including: Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>), Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) and Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>). The most frequent and consistent grass in this compartment is the fine-leaved Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), along with Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) and to a lesser extent Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>).</p> <p>The acid grassland areas (NVC U1) on site are substantially sized areas found north of Ferrers Lane and in smaller pockets east of the B651. These areas are very heavily grazed by rabbits. The Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) is in its highest concentration in the far western section of the acid grassland north of Ferrers Lane and outside of the rabbit fencing. Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), Sheep's Fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>), Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.), Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>), with Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>), Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.), Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>) and <i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i> are consistent throughout the acid grassland areas.</p>



	<p>The largest secondary woodland (NVC W10) located north of Ferrers Lane is homogenous throughout with a relatively closed canopy of: early mature to mature Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) with the occasional mature Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) and rarely Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>). The mid-layer is sparse, with Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) being the most consistent species, along with Common Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) and the occasional Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>). An almost entirely sparse ground layer, which, where present, is dominated by Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.).</p> <p>The small and narrow area of secondary woodland located just east of the B651 has undergone recent clearance and some thinning resulting in large brash piles left throughout the woodland and a difficult to define NVC community. The canopy layer remains relatively closed, homogenous and dominated by early-mature Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), with some semi-mature to mature Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>) and mature boundary Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>). A sparse mid-layer with the occasional early-mature Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), mature coppiced Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) along the western boundary. The ground layer has been swamped by the brash piles. Young shooting Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) and small, scattered patches of Hybrid Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.), Male-fern (<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>) and Broad Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>) exist.</p>
<p><b>Compartment 1:</b></p> <p>Neutral Grassland</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL168123</p> <p><a href="#">Map link</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> A large area of neutral grassland (~18.8ha) which covers the vast majority of the southern section of the site, south of Ferrers Lane. The perimeter of the site has sporadic areas of scrubland and some drainage ditches, notably along the boundaries. A well-used car park is situated on the northern boundary of this grassland area, roughly 300m west of the B651. Previous surveying work carried out for the 2012-2017 Nomansland Common Management Plan classified this area as NVC MG1e. Cutting and clearing in recent years has moved the majority of the community to NVC MG5.</p> <p>On the day of the survey the sward was fairly low-growing (see photos 3 and 4), especially in the most trampled path areas, maximum growth reached roughly 30cm. This is indicative of low nutrient levels in the soil, which will benefit floral diversity and the development of MG5. Indicators of MG5 such as Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>), Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) and Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>) were all well represented. The negative indicators, such as False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), appeared to have declined since the previous survey. Grass: forb ratio ranging from 40 – 70% forb across the site.</p> <p>The most frequent and consistent grasses in this compartment are the fine-leaved Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), along with Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) and to a lesser extent Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>). There are areas in the compartment where each species is more abundant, so Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) is locally dominant in waves across the compartment, but in some places all four species are co-dominant. Crested Dog's-tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>), Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Perennial Rye-</p>

grass (*Lolium perenne*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) were noted in less significance, as well a patch of Squirrel-tail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*) concentrated just south of the car park.

Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and the Black Knapweed hybrids (*Centaurea nigra* agg.) are the most frequent herbs and generally the most abundant forb species. Commonly and consistently found species to a lesser extent include: Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense* var. *pratense*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) (found in extensive patches, especially in the west), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Smooth Hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*) and Lesser Trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*). A few individuals of Ox-eye Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) were also noted.

In the more acidic areas of the compartment, located on the north-west boundary (see map), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) were noted in their highest concentrations, alongside Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). This area therefore shows affinities to NVC U4.

The grassland verges surrounding and within the car park is where the highest concentration of garden escapees and rank species can be found, suggesting a more nutrient rich area, with affinities to NVC MG1. Here, Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), cultivated Poppy sp. (*Papaver* sp.), Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) and Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) were noted. Here also were garden escapee Hedgerow Cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*) and Early Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) which was found east of the car park (see map) and was found to be covering a considerable area on 15/07/2017.

The scrubland areas located on the compartment's boundaries, often within drainage ditches (see image 5), broadly consist of Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Field Rose (*Rosa arvensis*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and the occasional Common Hemp Nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) and Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). This area therefore shows affinities to NVC MG1.

The areas of planted woodland found on the southern boundary and in the scattered woodland areas within the grassland, broadly consist of Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea'), with a barren and lightless understorey below. Two significant patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) were noted in the far east and west ends of the site (see map).

	<p><b>Current Management:</b></p> <p>Cut for hay annually in the early autumn (September). Hand pulling of Ragwort.</p> <p><b>Management prescription:</b></p> <p>Remove the non-native and invasive Early Goldenrod from the area east of the car park, before it spreads to a more sizable area. Best methods of control can be found here: <a href="http://godoak.com/info/weeds/canadiangoldenrod.pdf">http://godoak.com/info/weeds/canadiangoldenrod.pdf</a></p> <p>The annual cut and lift in September has helped to reduce the nutrient levels on site, by moving the community from MG1e to MG5. However, by carrying out a simulated traditional hay meadow management plan, it will maintain and increase the speed of this transition and continue to reduce the nutrient levels in the soil. This involves a cut and clear in mid to late July and a second cut and clear in October. It is best practice to miss out the July cut one year in four but to continue with the October cut. This can be done annually by quartering the site to leave ¼ uncut in July each year to preserve a nectar resource on some of the site.</p>
<p><b>Compartment 2:</b></p> <p>Acid Grassland</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL164124</p> <p><a href="#">Map link</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Substantially sized scattered areas of acid grassland (see map) found north of Ferrers Lane and in smaller pockets east of the B651. In all locations, the acid grasslands are bordered by woodland and so the edges of this compartment are often scrubby and in some areas, encroachment of woodland species has occurred. Previous surveying work carried out for the 2012-2017 Nomansland Common Management Plan classified this area as NVC H1 and U1e however, U1 was determined for the whole of this compartment during this survey.</p> <p>The area with the highest concentration of Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) on site, is located in the far western section of the acid grassland north of Ferrers Lane. The Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) here is predominately found on the northern edge, at the top of the gentle slope and is regenerating best outside of the rabbit fencing. Alongside the Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>), significant amounts of Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.), Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>), Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>), Sheep's Fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>) and Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) seedlings were noted. Dwarf Gorse (<i>Ulex minor</i>) (approx. TL16671247), Heath Speedwell (<i>Veronica officinalis</i>), Pill Sedge (<i>Carex pilulifera</i>) and Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) were found consistently but to a lesser extent than those above.</p> <p>Away from the small Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) areas, the sward is species poor, often very low growing and heavily grazed by rabbits. These areas are dominated by Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), Sheep's Fescue (<i>Festuca ovina</i>), with Heath</p>



	<p>Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>), Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.), Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>) and <i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>. To a lesser extent, but still consistent, Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), Common Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>), Early Hair-grass (<i>Aira praecox</i>), Hedge Bedstraw (<i>Galium album</i>), Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>), Crested Hair-grass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>) [Note the Crested Hair-grass seems limited to a hollow possibly where there is more of a calcareous influence], Field Wood-rush (<i>Luzula campestris</i>), Lesser Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>), Dwarf Gorse (<i>Ulex minor</i>) (approx. TL16671247), Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) and Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>) exist.</p> <p>The scrubland margins of this compartment act as a buffer zone between the acid grassland and the neighbouring woodland, and so these areas show affinities to the acid grassland (NVC U1), as well as the woodland (NVC W10). Here, Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) seedlings, Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and thickets of Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>) dominate, alongside Rosebay Willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>), Common Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), young Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and Lesser Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>). As well as, the occasional Bluebell sp. (<i>Hyacinthoides</i> sp.), Wood Speedwell (<i>Veronica montana</i>), False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>), Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.) and tiny pockets of Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) were noted.</p> <p>This compartment also includes an area of amenity grassland used as a cricket pitch, located in the north-east of the site. When surveyed the pitch was cut extremely short ready for the next match which made flora ID difficult. However, it was noted that the pitch was dominated by Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.), Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) and Annual Meadow-grass (<i>Poa annua</i>), with Mouse-ear Hawkweed (<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>) and Tormantil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>).</p> <p>The small pockets of acid grassland east of the B651 still resemble NVC U1, but differ slightly from those in the west. Here, Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>) is more prominent to the north of Drovers Lane, with small patches of Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Heath Speedwell (<i>Veronica officinalis</i>) and Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>). One isolated large clump of Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) was also noted here. The acid grassland south of Drovers Lane was very hummocky and noted as a popular site for disposable BBQs (see pictures). Here, Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Festuca ovina</i>) and Field Wood-rush (<i>Luzula campestris</i>) were more prominent than across the rest of the compartment. No Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>) was found south of Drovers Lane. Both pockets of acid grassland contained a significant number of ant hills.</p> <p><b>Current Management:</b></p> <p>In the far western section of acid grassland north of Ferrers Lane, rabbit fencing is in place to enable clumps of Heather to develop. Ferreting is being used to control rabbit numbers.</p>
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	<p><b>Management prescription:</b></p> <p>It was noted that where the two sections of rabbit fencing are in place, the Heather is not regenerating as well as outside of these areas. This is most likely due to the fenced areas scrubbing over with Bramble, extensive Gorse and Silver Birch seedlings. Removing much of these scrubland species (particularly the Bramble) would greatly benefit the Heather.</p> <p>Take the fences out as these are no longer protecting the Heather but encouraging these areas to scrub over.</p> <p>Where patches of Heather reach their woody old-age phase at 10-15 years then cut and clear these when in seed in mid-Oct to end-Nov, on a rotational basis. Make sure to spread the cuttings on prepared areas nearby with some exposed soil. See <a href="https://www.floralocale.org/Harvesting+and+using+heather+seed">https://www.floralocale.org/Harvesting+and+using+heather+seed</a></p> <p>A number of disposable BBQ scorch marks were noted in the acid grassland located just south of Drovers Lane (see images). Putting up signs around this area, especially during the height of the summer, which advise visitors on the most discrete methods of using disposable BBQs which will not damage the acid grassland, could be beneficial.</p>
<p><b>Compartment 3:</b></p> <p>Woodland west of B651</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL168125</p> <p><a href="#">Map link</a></p>	<p><b>Description: NVC W10</b></p> <p>A large area of secondary woodland, which covers the vast majority of the northern section of the site, north of Ferrers Lane and a small area in the far west of the site, south of Ferrers Lane. Previous surveying work carried out for the 2012-2017 Nomansland Common Management Plan classified this area as NVC W21/W10 however, W10 with areas of W23 scrubland was determined during this survey.</p> <p><b>Canopy:</b></p> <p>The canopy layer remains relatively closed and homogenous throughout and is dominated by early mature to mature Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) at roughly 85% cover. The occasional mature Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) and rarely Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>) were also noted.</p> <p><b>Mid-layer:</b></p> <p>Although sparse in large areas, the mid-layer in patches (especially within large pits) is dominated by Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>), Common Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), with the occasional Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>). The woodland shows strong levels of regeneration, notably for Sycamore (<i>Acer</i></p>

*pseudoplatanus*), where seedlings have formed dense patches and to a lesser extent Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) as well as, a few Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) seedlings scattered in the more open areas of the woodland. Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) were rarely noted.

**Ground Layer:**

An almost entirely sparse ground layer, which where present is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), which lines the majority of paths through the woodland in extensive patches. Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) were also noted and to a lesser extent Bluebell sp. (*Hyacinthoides* sp.), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). The scattered shallow pits throughout the site have a deep leaf litter cover. Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) was noted along the northern wood-edge close to the houses.

**Current Management:**

Minimal evidence of recent management.

**Management prescription:**

Dead wood is a valuable wildlife resource and so where possible and not a safety issue, continue to leave standing dead wood (to stand), and fallen dead wood where it lies.

**Rides:**

Creating a more open woodland canopy, will establish more favourable light conditions for grasses and forbs, which creates greater biodiversity and habitat diversity.

In order to maximise the potential here, new rides should run east to west to introduce as much sunlight to the open space as possible. It is best practice to cut back the taller (not old or veteran) trees on the north-facing edge and consider ring-barking the odd standing tree to provide more standing dead wood. Then also cut scallops into the south-facing edge, avoiding valuable older mature trees or shrubs as relevant. This will increase the open ground area receiving light, which will encourage the seed bank to regenerate. Here, native shrubs, bramble, wild rose etc. flourish providing food for insects, plus valuable shelter from predators and wind. To avoid creating a wind tunnel in a wood, the rides should be sinuous not straight, have regular pinch points, regular scallops, not be widened right up to the edge of a wood leaving a narrow 20 metre section to the edge.



Rides should be cut and cleared annually to prevent them from becoming scrubby again. Cuttings can be placed on a sacrificial area of land which already has high nutrient levels (on the woodland edges and at the base of a slope to avoid nutrient runoff), in order to avoid large areas of the ride becoming rank and nutrient rich. However, only cut the scallops on a rotational basis. See diagrams below as a loose guide.

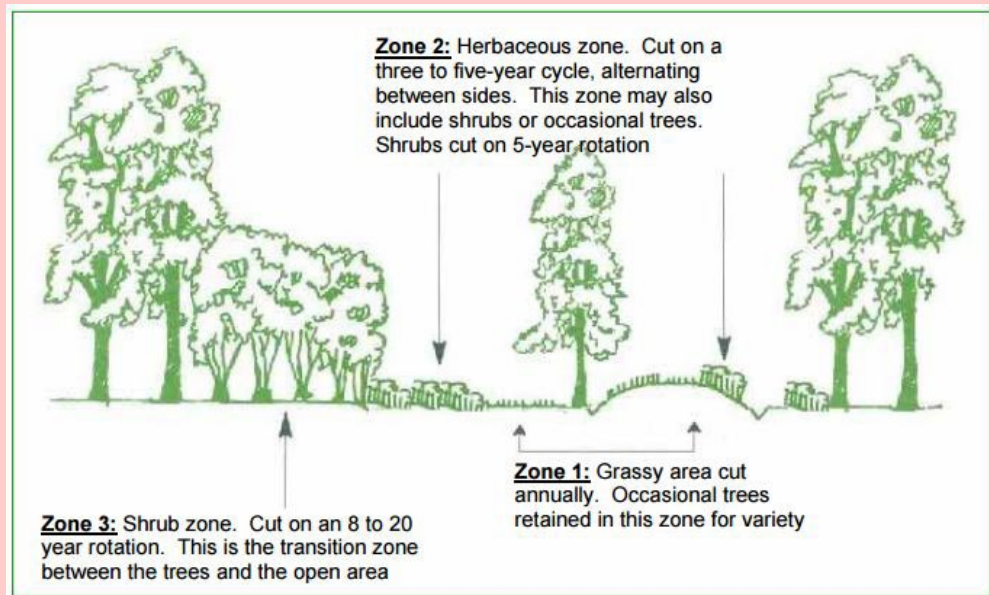


Diagram 1: Zones of habitat in a ride. (Image taken from, Forestry Commission, Managing woodland open space for wildlife, December 2005)

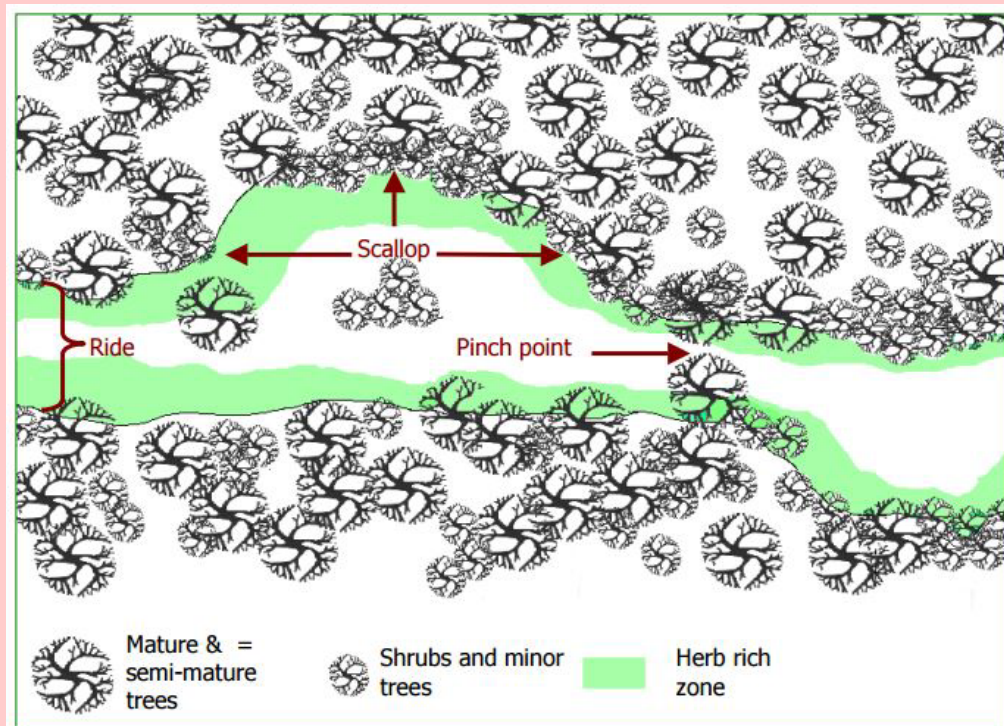


Diagram 2: How to create variety along rides. (Image taken from, Forestry Commission, Managing woodland open space for wildlife, December 2005)

	<p>Sky-lighting:</p> <p>Additionally, sky-lighting can be carried out in the wood, whereby openings are created in the canopy of mature trees to create small isolated and warm pockets of sun rich areas, where the seed bank can flourish.</p> <p>Coppicing:</p> <p>Consider re-coppicing in small pockets throughout the wood, starting in year one with two or three scallops cut into the wood on the south facing edges. This will ensure good light levels onto those newly coppiced stools. To protect the newly coppiced stools from deer grazing deer baskets can be created or by creating a low pollard instead of a coppice. This will allow the same light to the wood floor and create more certainty for its success.</p> <p>For more information see:</p> <p><a href="https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf/\$file/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf">https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf/\$file/ewgs-on011-ride-mangt.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Compartment 4:</b></p> <p>Woodland east of B651</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL175123</p> <p><a href="#">Map link</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>A small and narrow area of secondary woodland located just east of the B651, which is bisected by Drovers Lane running east to west. Large scale clearance of the mid-layer and thinning of the canopy seemed to have occurred within a year prior to the survey. An old woodland bank runs continuously along the eastern boundary. Previous surveying work carried out for the 2012-2017 Nomansland Common Management Plan classified this area as NVC W21b. However, due to the recent large scale clearance, an in-depth NVC assessment of the compartment was not possible, although this area has an overtopping canopy and so can be classified as a woodland most closely resembling W10.</p> <p><b>Canopy:</b></p> <p>Although recent clearance and some thinning has occurred, the canopy layer remains relatively closed and homogenous. Early-mature Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) is the predominant tree throughout which makes up an estimated 85% of the canopy. Some semi-mature to mature Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>) standards are scattered along the eastern boundary, with the occasional mature boundary Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>). Rarely noted were Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and mature Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) standards. One mature Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) identified in the smaller section of woodland south of Drovers Lane.</p> <p><b>Mid-layer:</b></p> <p>The volume of brash piles scattered across the site suggest that in the recent past this woodland had a dense mid-layer. However, on the day of the survey the mid layer was sparse in places. Some early-mature Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) remains after the clearance throughout the compartment. Mature coppiced Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i></p>

	<p><i>monogyna</i>) lines sections of the eastern boundary (see images below). Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) dominates the western boundary and creates a dense hedgerow on the road side. Scattered Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>) and Domestic Apple (<i>Malus pumila</i>) can be found throughout the woodland, especially in the area north of Drovers Lane.</p> <p><b>Ground Layer:</b></p> <p>The brash piles are currently swamping the ground layer, making light in some areas impenetrable. As a result, a predominately sparse ground layer exists, with Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) as the only constant throughout with sprouting new shoots from felled stools. Small and scattered patches of Hybrid Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.), Male-fern (<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>) and Broad Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>), alongside the occasional area of Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), Enchanter's Nightshade (<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>) and Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>).</p> <p>Either side of a main pathway in the woodland area north of Drovers Lane, where the canopy cover is minimal, has the greatest level of ground flora. Although the majority of the species recorded here are ruderal, including extensive patches of Rosebay Willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>), Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>), Stinging Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) and the occasional clump of Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) and White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), a few individuals of Heath Speedwell (<i>Veronica officinalis</i>) and Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) (presumably spreading from the neighbouring acid grassland). Dog's Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) was noted here in its greatest numbers.</p> <p><b>Current Management:</b></p> <p>Large scale clearance carried out possibly last autumn (from decay). Brash piles remain throughout, with the occasional log pile (see images below).</p> <p><b>Management prescription:</b></p> <p>If possible remove or at least relocate the brash piles to allow as much light to the ground layer as possible. The brash can be placed on a sacrificial area of land on the boundary, in order to avoid large areas of the woodland becoming rank and nutrient rich.</p> <p>Dead wood is a valuable wildlife resource and so where possible and not a safety issue, continue to leave large standing dead wood (to stand), and large fallen dead wood where it lies.</p>
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	<p>Additionally, sky-lighting can be carried out in the wood, whereby openings are created in the canopy of mature trees to create small pockets of sun rich areas, where the seed bank can flourish. This will benefit the centres of the two small woodlands most, where the canopy is predominately Pedunculate Oak.</p>
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<b>Invasive species:</b>	<p><b>See Map</b></p> <p><b>List:</b> Snowberry along the northern wood-edge of compartment 3, close to the houses, plus the garden invasives by carpark which include the Early Goldenrod.</p>
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<b>Surrounding landuse:</b>	<p>Predominately arable farmland.</p>
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<b>Table 1: Woodland habitat condition for Compartment 3 only</b> (this is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005)		
<b>Attributes</b>	<b>Targets for positive condition</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Structure and natural processes</b>	UNDERSTOREY (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (NB: Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> ) woods often have sparse shrub layer)	Very sparse. Dog's Mercury, Lords & Ladies, Mustard Garlic, Cow Parsley, Burdock.
	CANOPY COVER present over 30-90% of stand area (Coppiced stands have lower canopy cover)	Oak dominated the woodland, estimated at over 85% cover. Small number of Sycamore, Ash (1 sapling), Silver Birch and Crab Apple (and Wild Cherry beside cricket field).
	AGE CLASSES (seedlings, saplings, young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature+) – list the age classes present, spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees	Pedunculate Oak: mature dominating, early-mature and some saplings; Sycamore - many seedlings, some saplings, a few mature. Ash (1 sapling), Crab Apple a few mature; Silver Birch seedlings and saplings.
	OLD GROWTH FEATURES: Some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over maturity/death on site (e.g. min of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees/hectare)	Pedunculate Oak stands mainly mature/early mature dominant.
	FALLEN DEAD WOOD: A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing	Very little fallen deadwood evident in the large woodland west of the B651 (some collected for tree shelters etc.)
<b>Regeneration</b>	Are there signs of seedlings and saplings growth by natural regeneration? – describe age classes (seedlings, saplings, young) and density	Seedlings of Sycamore (dense patches) and Silver Birch a few less dense patches evident, a few Pedunculate Oak seedlings scattered in the open areas.
	No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting as opposed to natural regeneration?	N/A
	Are the new plantings all with natives?	N/A
<b>Composition: trees and shrubs</b>	At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site native or acceptably naturalised species	Pedunculate Oak canopy, Bramble understorey; very little Snowberry - confined to area near houses along the road-wood-edge boundary
	Death/destruction/damage of native woodland species through effects of deer/squirrels/Ash-die-back or other external unnatural factors (e.g fires/flytipping etc) not more than 10% of total area?	Some use of deadwood for shelters.

**Table 2: Woodland habitat condition for Compartment 4 only  
(this is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005)**

Attributes	Targets for positive condition	Detail
<b>Structure and natural processes</b>	UNDERSTOREY (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (NB: Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> ) woods often have sparse shrub layer)	Due to the recent clearance, the understorey was very bare throughout, with most understorey present either side of open paths.
	CANOPY COVER present over 30-90% of stand area (Coppiced stands have lower canopy cover)	Oak dominated the woodland, estimated at over 85% cover. Small number of Wild Cherry and Hornbeam standards and the occasional Crab Apple. One mature Scots Pine.
	AGE CLASSES (seedlings, saplings, young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature+) – list the age classes present, spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees	Pedunculate Oak: early-mature dominating; Hornbeam mature boundary standards, early-mature to mature Wild Cherry; occasional mature Field Maple; Crab Apple a few mature. Minimal signs of regeneration for the canopy.
	OLD GROWTH FEATURES: Some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over maturity/death on site (e.g. min of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees/hectare)	Some mature Hornbeam boundary standards.
	FALLEN DEAD WOOD: A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing	Brash remains from the recent clearance with the occasional log pile left. Rarely standing dead.
<b>Regeneration</b>	Are there signs of seedlings and saplings growth by natural regeneration? – describe age classes (seedlings, saplings, young) and density	Minimal signs of regeneration throughout (possibly due to clearance). Occasional young Pedunculate Oak.
	No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting as opposed to natural regeneration?	N/A
	Are the new plantings all with natives?	N/A
<b>Composition: trees and shrubs</b>	At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site native or acceptably naturalised species	Yes
	Death/destruction/damage of native woodland species through effects of deer/squirrels/Ash-die-back or other external unnatural factors (e.g fires/flytipping etc) not more than 10% of total area?	Fire damage at base of tree in woodland south of Drovers Lane (see images). Ground littered with semi-buried old glass bottles.

# Plant Species List:

Nomansland Common, 8&15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17	15/6/17	8/6/17	15/6/17
Scientific Name			Neutral Grassland	Acid Grassland	Woodland west of B651	Woodland east of B651
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
Acer campestre	Maple, Field	*		R	R-	R-
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore		R		R+	
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow		R	R	R	
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	c/n	R-	R		
Agrostis capillaris	Bent, Common	a/n	R+	R+		
Agrostis sp.	Bent sp.				R+	
Agrostis stolonifera	Bent, Creeping			R		
Agrostis vinealis	Bent, Brown~	a		R		
Aira praecox	Hair-grass, Early	a		R		
Alliaria petiolata	Mustard, Garlic		R		R	R
Anisantha sterilis	Brome, Barren		R			
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Grass, Sweet Vernal	n	O	R	R	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Parsley, Cow	- c/n/w	R		R	
Arctium minus	Burdock, Lesser				R-	R-
Arrhenatherum elatius	Oat-grass, False	- a/c/n/w	R	R	R	
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort		R		R	
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies				R	
Ballota nigra	Horehound, Black				R-	
Bellis perennis	Daisy	- a/c	R		R-	
Betula pendula	Birch, Silver		R	R+	O-	
Bromus hordeaceus	Brome, Soft	- n	R			
Bryonia dioica	Bryony, White				R-	R-
Callitriche sp.	Water-starwort, sp.				R	
Calluna vulgaris	Heather	a		R+	R	
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse		R			

Nomansland Common, 8&15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME		WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17 Neutral Grassland	15/6/17 Acid Grassland	8/6/17 Woodland west of B651	15/6/17 Woodland east of B651
Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Bitter-cress, Hairy			R-		
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Sedge, Pill	a		R	R	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	*			R-	R
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Chestnut, Sweet		R	R-	R-	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i> agg.	Knapweed, Black/Com'n/Chalk	c/n	F	R+	R	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-ear, Common	- a	R	R	R	
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Willowherb, Rosebay	- a/c	R	R	R+	R
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Celandine, Greater				R-	
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	*			R	R-
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Thistle, Creeping	- a/c/n/w	R	R-	R	R
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Thistle, Marsh	f/w		R-		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Thistle, Spear	- a/c/n/w	R-	R	R	R-
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Clematis				R-	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	*a/n	R-			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		R-			
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	*			R	R+
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		R	R+	O	R+
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Hawk's-beard, Smooth		R	R		R
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Dog's-tail, Crested	n	R			
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	- a/c/n/w	R+	R	R	
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Orchid, Common Spotted	c	R			
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Hair-grass, Tufted	- n/w			R-	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	*			R	
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Fern, Broad Buckler	*		R-	R	R
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Fern, Male				R	R
<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	Willowherb sp.					R



Nomansland Common, 8&15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME		WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17	15/6/17	8/6/17	15/6/17
Scientific Name	Common Name		Neutral Grassland	Acid Grassland	Woodland west of B651	Woodland east of B651
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Willowherb, Sq-stemmed				R	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech		R			
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	Beech, Copper*		R-			
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Fescue, Sheep's~	c/a		F	R	
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Fescue, Red (family)		F	R+	R	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash				R	R-
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Hemp-nettle, Common		R			
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	- c/n	R	R	R	R
<i>Galium album</i>	Bedstraw, Hedge			R		
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Bedstraw, Heath	a	R	O	R	
<i>Galium verum</i>	Bedstraw, Lady's	c/n	R	R		
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cranesbill, Cut-leaved		R			
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Cranesbill, Hedgerow*		R			
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert				R	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens				R	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy				R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy				R	R
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		R	R-	R	R-
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	- a/c/n/w	R	O-	R	R
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Barley, Meadow	n	R			
<i>Hyacinthoides</i> sp.	Bluebell sp.			R	R	
<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	Bluebell, hybrid					R
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's-wort, Perforate		R	R		
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear, Common		R+	R	R	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	*		R-	R	R
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Hair-grass, Crested	c		R		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Lettuce, Prickly				R	

Nomansland Common, 8&15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME	Common Name	WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17	15/6/17	8/6/17	15/6/17
Scientific Name			Neutral Grassland	Acid Grassland	Woodland west of B651	Woodland east of B651
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
Lamium album	Dead Nettle, White		R	R-		
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort				R-	
Leucanthemum vulgare	Daisy, Oxeye	c/n	R-			
Linaria vulgaris	Toadflax, Common		R	R		
Lolium perenne	Rye-grass, Perennial	- a/c/n/w	R	R	R	
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle			R	R+	R
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Com'n	c/n	R	R		
Luzula campestris	Wood-rush, Field	a/n	R	R	R	
Malus pumila	Apple, domestic*				R-	
Malus sylvestris	Apple, Crab	*			R-	R
Mercurialis perennis	Dog's Mercury	*			R	R
Moehringia trinervia	Sandwort, Three-nerved	*			R	
Myosotis arvensis	Forget-me-not, Field		R	R-	R	
Odontites vernus	Bartsia, Red			R		
Ornithopus perpusillus	Bird's-foot	a	R-			
Papaver sp	Poppy sp*		R			
Pilosella officinarum	Mouse-ear Hawkweed		R	R		
Pimpinella saxifraga	Saxifrage, Burnet	c	R	R		
Pinus sylvestris	Pine, Scots					R-
Plantago lanceolata	Plantain, Ribwort		F	R	R	R
Plantago major	Plantain, Greater	- a/c/n	R		R	
Poa annua	Meadow-grass, Annual			R	R	
Poa nemoralis	Meadow-grass, Wood	*		R	R	
Poa pratensis	Meadow-grass, Smooth		R			
Poa trivialis	Meadow-grass, Rough	- w			R	R
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass		R			
Polypodium interjectum	Polypody, Intermediate				R-	

Nomansland Common, 8&15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME		WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17	15/6/17	8/6/17	15/6/17
Scientific Name	Common Name		Neutral Grassland	Acid Grassland	Woodland west of B651	Woodland east of B651
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	*			R-	
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	a		R	R	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Cinquefoil, Creeping				R	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		R	R	R	R
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry, Wild	*			R	R
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		R	R	O-	O-
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken		R+		R	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak, Pedunculate		R	O-	O	A
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow	n	R	R-		
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Buttercup, Bulbous	c/n	R+			
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Buttercup, Creeping	- w	R	R	R	R
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Rattle, Yellow	c/n	R+			
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Rose, Field	*	R		R-	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Rose, Dog, agg.			R	R-	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble		R	R+	F	R
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry			R	R	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel, Common	n	R	R	R	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sorrel, Sheep's	a	R	O	R-	
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Dock, Curled	- c/n/w	R-	R-		
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Dock, Broad-leaved	- c/n/w	R		R	R-
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Dock, Wood				R	R-
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Pearlwort, Procumbent			R-		
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Willow, Goat		R-		R-	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		R	R	O-	O-
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Figwort	*			R	
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort, Common	- a/c/n	R+	R+	R	
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Campion, Red		R		R	

<b>Nomansland Common, 8&amp;15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) &amp; neg inds ('-')</b>	<b>8/6/17</b>  Neutral Grassland	<b>15/6/17</b>  Acid Grassland	<b>8/6/17</b>  Woodland west of B651	<b>15/6/17</b>  Woodland east of B651
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	Campion, White			R-		
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Campion, Bladder		R-			
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Mustard, Hedge		R			
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet		R		R	R-
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Goldenrod, Early*		R			
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Sow-thistle, Prickly		R-		R-	R-
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan / Mountain Ash				R	
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Spurrey, Sand			R		
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Woundwort, Hedge				R	
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Stitchwort, Lesser	a/n	R+	R	R	
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Stitchwort, Greater				R	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed				R	
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry*				R	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion family				R-	R-
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Parsley, Upright Hedge				R	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard		R			
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Trefoil, Hop		R			
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Trefoil, Lesser		R+	R		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>	Clover, Red (native)	c/n	R+	R-		
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Clover, White	- a/c/n/w	R	R		R
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	a	R	O-	R	
<i>Ulex minor</i>	Gorse, Dwarf~ <sup>GR</sup> (approx. TL16671247)	a		R		
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	Elm sp.				R	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle, Stinging	- a/c/n/w	R	R	R+	R
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Speedwell, Wall			R		
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Speedwell, Germander	c/n	R	R	R	



<b>Nomansland Common, 8&amp;15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME</b>			8/6/17	15/6/17	8/6/17	15/6/17
		WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	Neutral Grassland	Acid Grassland	Woodland west of B651	Woodland east of B651
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>		DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Speedwell, Wood	*		R-		
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Speedwell, Heath	a		R	R-	
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Speedwell, Thyme-leaved				R	
<i>Vicia sativa</i> agg.	Vetch, Common		R			
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Vetch, Bush				R	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Tare, Smooth		R	R		
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Violet, Common Dog	*			R	
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Fescue, Squirrel~	a/n	R			
*=planted/introduced/escape	<b>per compartment totals:</b>		<b>91</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>42</b>
^=note whether planted	GR¹=8 fig grid ref required					
~=check specimen requirements						
<b>Total species (all comp.s)</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>total indicators</b>			
<b>Neutral Grassland</b>	<b>AWI (H.1)</b>	<b>Neut (H.2.2b)</b>	<b>Acid (H.2.2c)</b>	<b>Wet (H.2.2d)</b>	<b>Fen (H.5.3)</b>	<b>c/a/n/w (H.2.2e)</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Acid Grassland</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Woodland west of B651</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Woodland east of B651</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All Compartments:</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Thresholds:</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	min size (ha)	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	min indicators	10	8	5	5	12

<b>Nomansland Common, 8&amp;15/6/2017, JW, AB, ME</b>	<b>Common Name</b>			WS inds (*a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds ('-')	8/6/17 Neutral Grassland	15/6/17 Acid Grassland	8/6/17 Woodland west of B651	15/6/17 Woodland east of B651
<b>Scientific Name</b>					DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<b>Criteria met</b>		<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>Met</b>			<b>Met</b>	

#### DAFOR Scale:

D	Dominant	>75% cover
A	Abundant	51-75% cover
F	Frequent	26-50% cover
O	Occasional (high)	11-25% cover
O-	Occasional (low)	5-10% cover
R+	Rare (high)	1-5% cover
R	Rare	>5 individual plants up to 1% cover
R-	Very Rare	≥5 (including 5) individual plants

Please note: the total cover for the compartment can exceed 100% because vegetation occurs in layers.

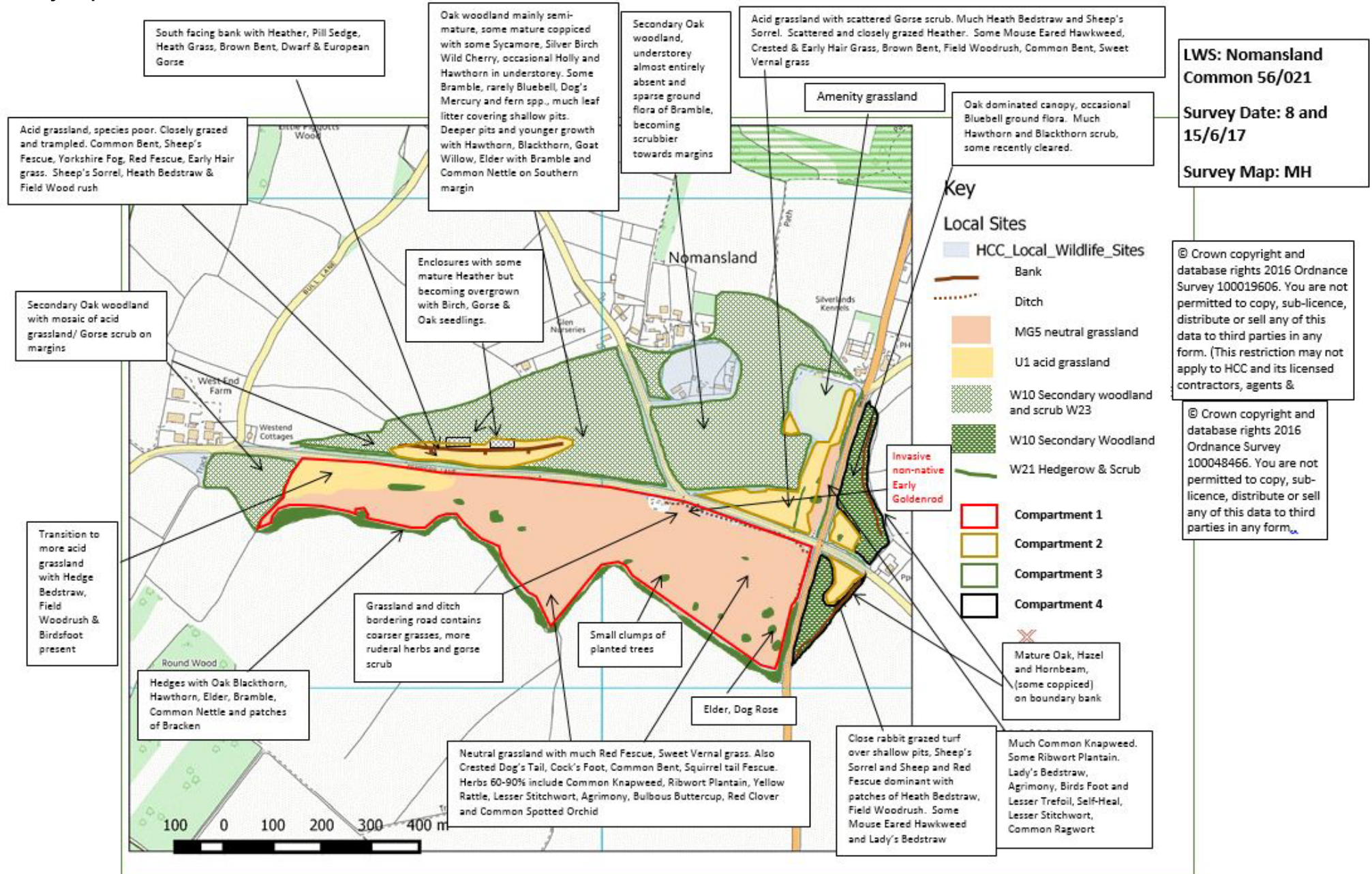
#### Bryophytes:

*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*

**Faunal Species List:**

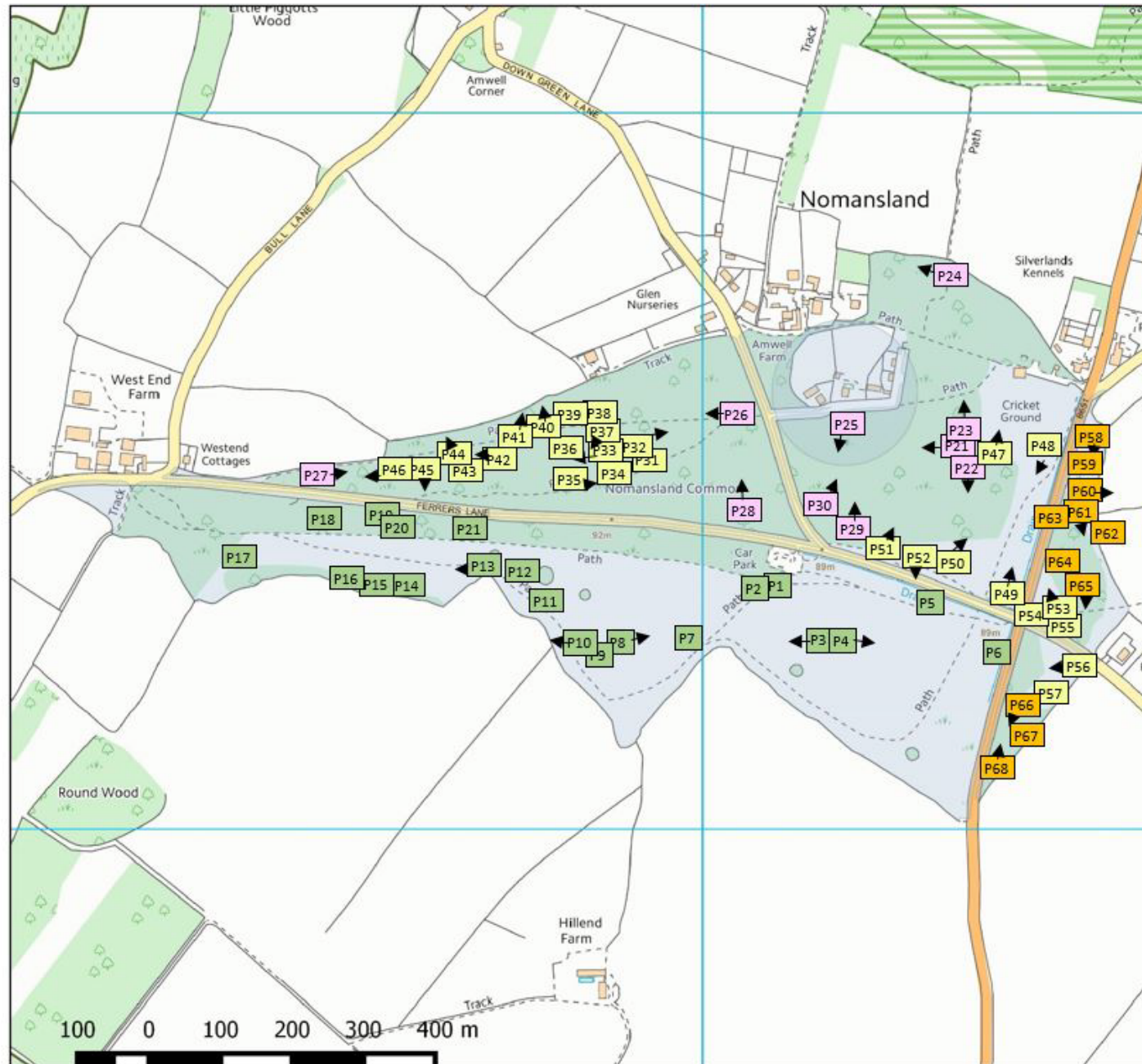
<b>Date of Records: Recorder:</b>			
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Qualifier (state if sighting, sound or sign)</b>	<b>no. observed (if relevant)</b>	<b>Date if &gt;1 day</b>
Blackbird	Sighting		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Magpie	Sighting		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Swift	Sighting		8/6/2017
House Martin	Sighting		8/6/2017
Crow	Sighting		8/6/2017
Kestrel	Sighting		8/6/2017
Buzzard	Sighting		8/6/2017
Red Kite	Sighting	At least three each visit	8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Wood Pigeon	Sighting		8/6/2017
Wren	Sound		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Chaffinch	Sound		8/6/2017
Chiffchaff	Sound		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Robin	Sound		8/6/2017
Skylark	Sound		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Song Thrush	Sighting		8/6/2017
Blackcap	Sound		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017
Green Woodpecker	Sound		15/6/2017
Small Heath	Sighting		15/6/2017
Marbled White	Sighting		15/6/2017
Meadow Brown	Sighting		15/6/2017
Burnet Moth	Sighting		15/6/2017
White Tailed Bumblebee	Sighting		15/6/2017
Ladybird nymph	Sighting		15/6/2017
Grey Squirrel	Sighting		15/6/2017
Fox (faeces)	Sign		8/6/2017
Rabbit (droppings)	Sign and sightings		8/6/2017, 15/6/2017

## Survey Map:





## Photopoints map:



## Key

### Local Sites

HCC\_Local\_Wildlife\_Sites

Photo point showing direction taken

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Note that the photo points have been placed in order of when they were taken on site and shaded according to which compartment they were taken in.

- Compartment 1
- Compartment 2
- Compartment 3
- Compartment 4

56/021 Nomansland Common Photo Points Map

Map by GP, Survey dates 8 15/06/2017





## Survey Photos:

Photo 1: Red Fescue, Ribwort Plantain, Yarrow, Squirrel Grass



Photo 2: Plantain and Sheep's Sorrel



Photo 3: Overview of site, short grass, facing east



Photo 4: Overview of site, short grass, facing west



Photo 5: Drainage ditch



Photo 6: Lady's Bedstraw and Sheep's Sorrel consistent in north-east corner







Photo 7: Common Spotted Orchid



Photo 8: Overview from central southern boundary



Photo 9:



Photo 10: Scrubby edge





Photo 11: More Ribwort Plantain and White Clover, less Red Fescue



Photo 12: Yellow Rattle with less fine grasses, more Cocksfoot



Photo 13: Extensive patch of Yellow Rattle



Photo 14: Common Bird's-foot Trefoil





Photo 15: Yellow Rattle, Ladies Bedstraw and rarely Common Spotted Orchid



Photo 16: Common Bird's-foot Trefoil and Yellow Rattle



Photo 17: Largest Common Spotted Orchid noted (~30cm tall)

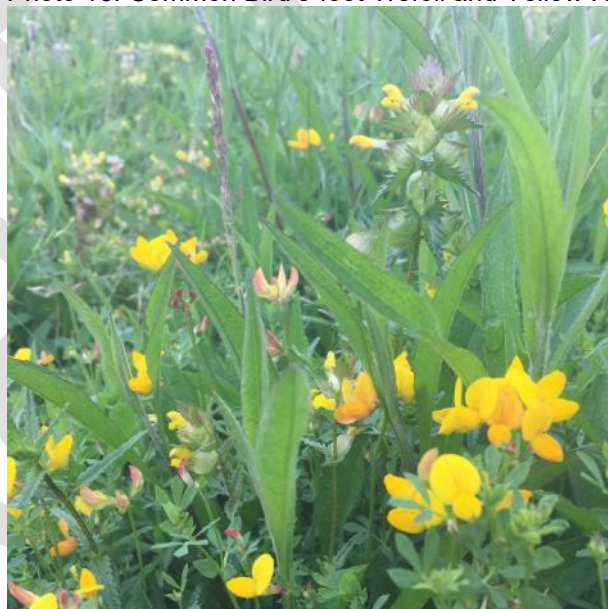


Photo 18: Looking across to ditch with Bramble and Toadflax, ant hill





Photo 19: Wood Rush and Lesser Stitchwort



Photo 20: Heath Bedstraw





Photo 21: Ribwort Plantain and Pignut



Photo 22: Mosaic of secondary Pedunculate Woodland



Photo 23: Old Gorse bushes with short heavily rabbit grazed turf and bryophytes mainly *Campylopus introflexus* between



and acid grassland

Photo 24:

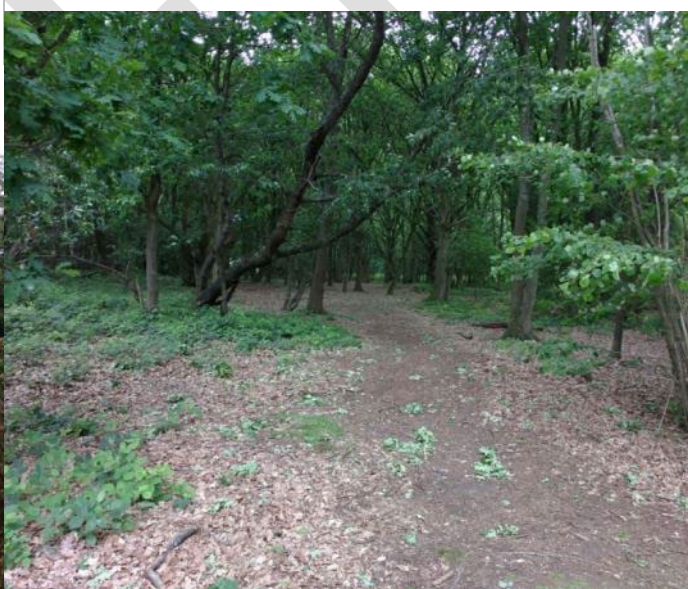


Photo 25:

Photo 26:





Photo 27: heavily used area



Photo 28:



Photo 29:



Photo 30:





Photo 31: Closely grazed Sheep's Sorrel and field Wood Rush



Photo 32: Overview of compartment, facing east



Photo 33: Overview of compartment, facing west



Photo 34: Heath Bedstraw with *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*



Photo 35: Rank edges to grassland – Bramble and Willowherb



Photo 36: Some small completely bare areas







Photo 37: Mosaic within the grassland – Heather on slope with acid grassland in valley



Photo 38: Most Heather rich area. Heather is regenerating well here.



Photo 39: Pill Sedge, Heather, Gorse and Heath Bedstraw



Photo 40: Rabbit fenced area – Bramble, Gorse, Honeysuckle, some Heather





Photo 41: Fenced area with extensive Silver Birch seedlings



Photo 42: Regenerating Heather



Photo 43: Regenerating Heather



Photo 44: Rabbit fenced area, minimal Heather here compared to outside of the fencing





Photo 45: Looking downslope from the eastern rabbit fenced area



Photo 46: End of the acid grassland compartment, dense Gorse and Silver Birch seedlings.



Photo 47: Edge of cricket pitch



Photo 48: Acid grassland with Sheep's Sorrel





Photo 49: Acid grassland transitional to neutral on right



Photo 50: Patches of grazed heather



Photo 51: Invading Birch scrub



Photo 52: Patch of crested hair grass





Photo 53: Numerous Ant Hills



Photo 54: Heath Bedstraw



Photo 55: One large clump of Heather, only Heather in this area



Photo 56: Very hummocky acid grassland south of Drovers Lane



Photo 57: Disposable BBQ damage throughout grassland south of Drovers Lane



Photo 58: Entrance of woodland east of B651, northern tip of woodland







Photo 59: Brash pile with scattered small Male and Broad Buckler Fern



Photo 60: Boundary Field Maple



Photo 61: Large cleared area



Photo 62: Mature coppiced Hazel boundary





Photo 63: Blackthorn dominates on the B651 roadside



Photo 64: Cleared brash piled up



Photo 65: Cleared brash piled up



Photo 66: Recent clearance in woodland south of Drovers Lane







Photo 68: Brash piles in woodland south of Drovers Lane



Photo 67: Fire damage in woodland south of Drovers Lane



### **6.3 Veteran Tree Guidelines**

There are several veteran Oak trees that can be found in the woodland at Nomansland Common, they need to be managed sensitively for their landscape value and biodiversity.

When limbs fall from veteran trees they should remain in situ, as the dead and rotting wood provides a valuable habitat for invertebrates. Where dead limbs are over paths these should be removed but left on the ground near to the tree.

Management operations should take care not to directly or indirectly cause damage to any of these trees. It is recommended that a root exclusion zone is maintained to a minimum of 1.5 times the crown width in order to ensure the trees are not subjected to any root compaction from vehicular movements or storage.

The removal of any epicormic growth from the veteran trees should be undertaken. Any benches directly below veteran trees should be relocated so that no unnecessary pruning work is carried out.



## 6.4 Scheme of Management

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## 6.5 Code of Practice for the Flying of Model Aircraft on Nomansland Common

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