

Nomansland Common

Greenspace Action Plan

2018 - 2023



April 2018 v0



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OVERVIEW

i. Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs)

Greenspace Actions Plans, or 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.

ii. Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for Nomansland Common in July 2017, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 4. A second stage of engagement completed in March 2018 enabled stakeholders and users/local residents/wider public to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document, published online as an appendix to this plan, summarises comments received and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

iii. Version Control

Amendment Date	Version No	Section Updated	Details

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1.0 SITE SUMMARY

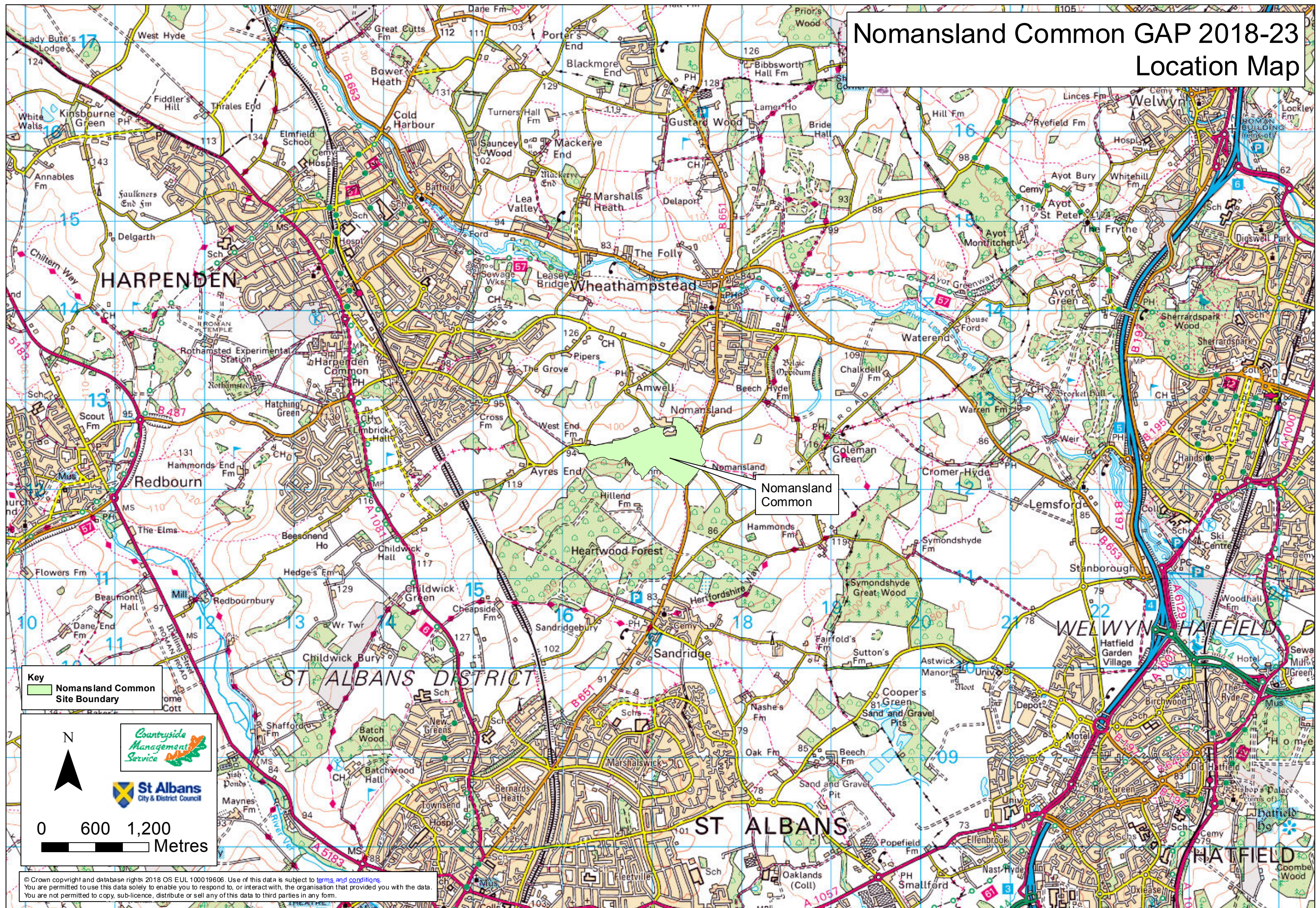
Name	Nomansland Common
Address	Ferrers Lane, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8EJ
Grid ref	TL17120 12384 (centre of site)
Size	54 Hectares (133 acres)
Owner	Jointly owned by Althorp Estate and Wheathampstead Parish Council
Management	Managed by St Albans City & District Council via a Scheme of Management
Designations	Common Land, County Wildlife Site (56/021)
Other documents	SADC GAP Framework Document

VISION STATEMENT

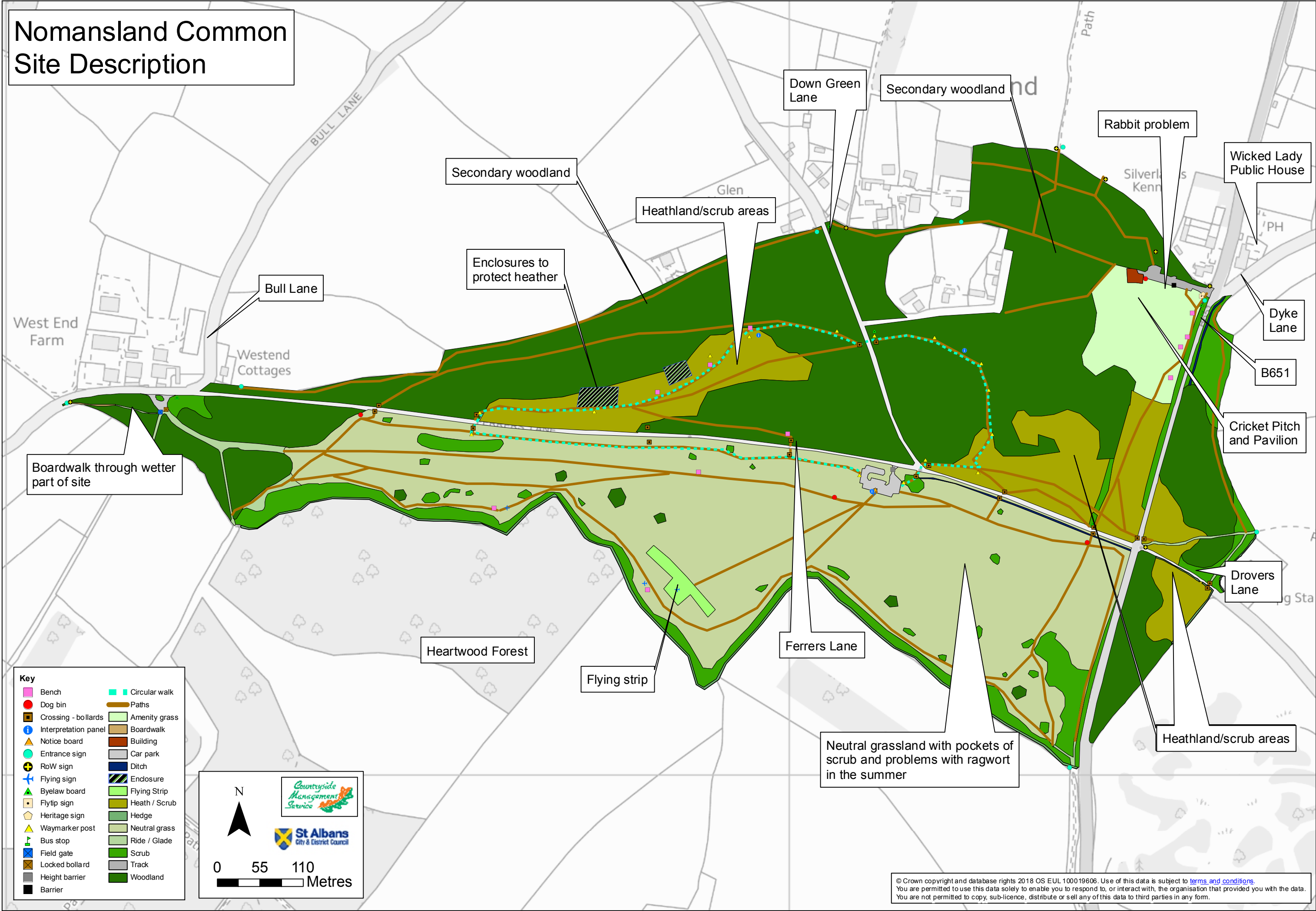
Nomansland Common is a popular open space on the outskirts of St Albans. The site offers visitors tranquillity and relaxation, while also enabling the pursuit of leisure activities. The common is also a haven for wildlife and the heathland to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in south Hertfordshire. 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).

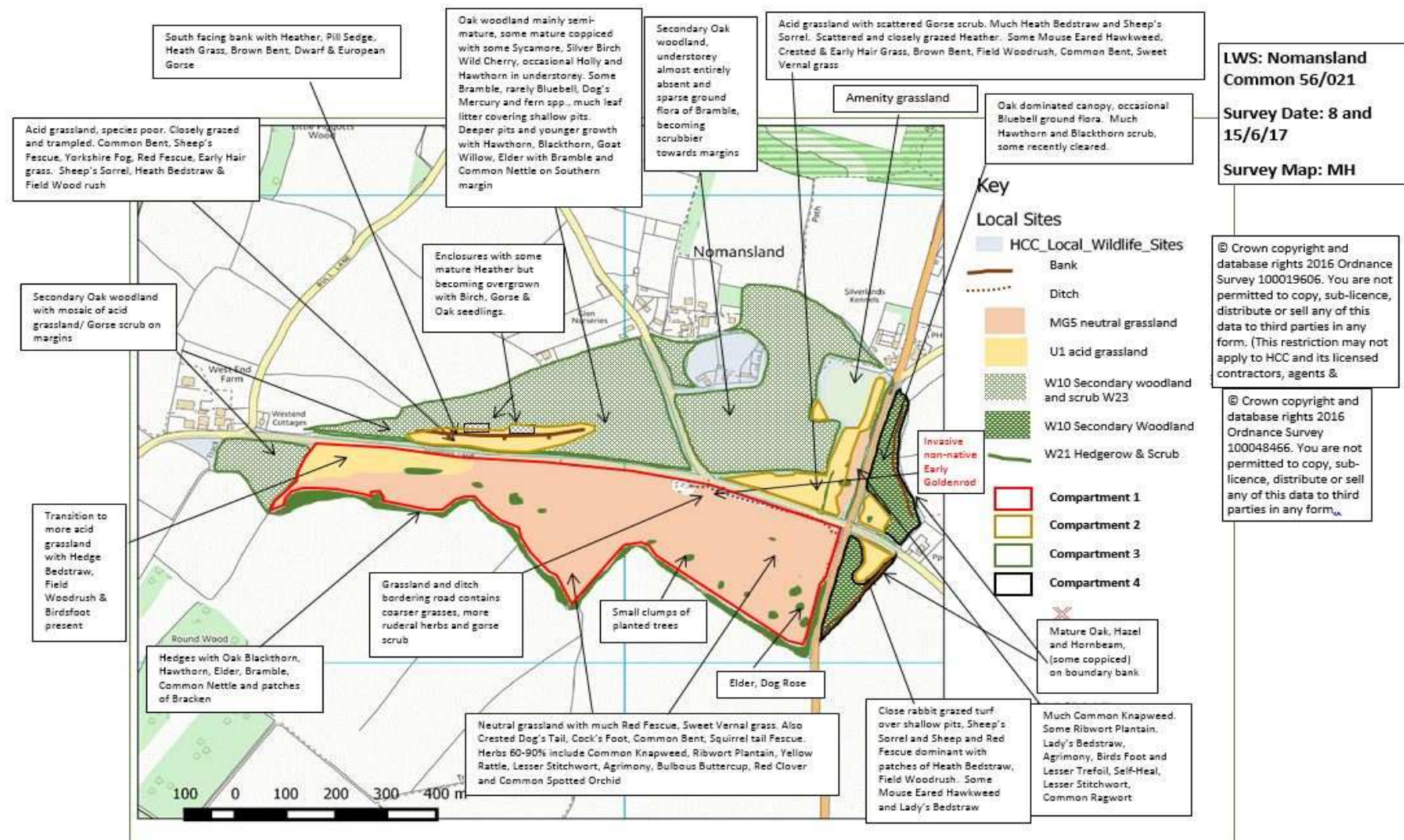
Nomansland Common GAP 2018-23 Location Map



Nomansland Common Site Description

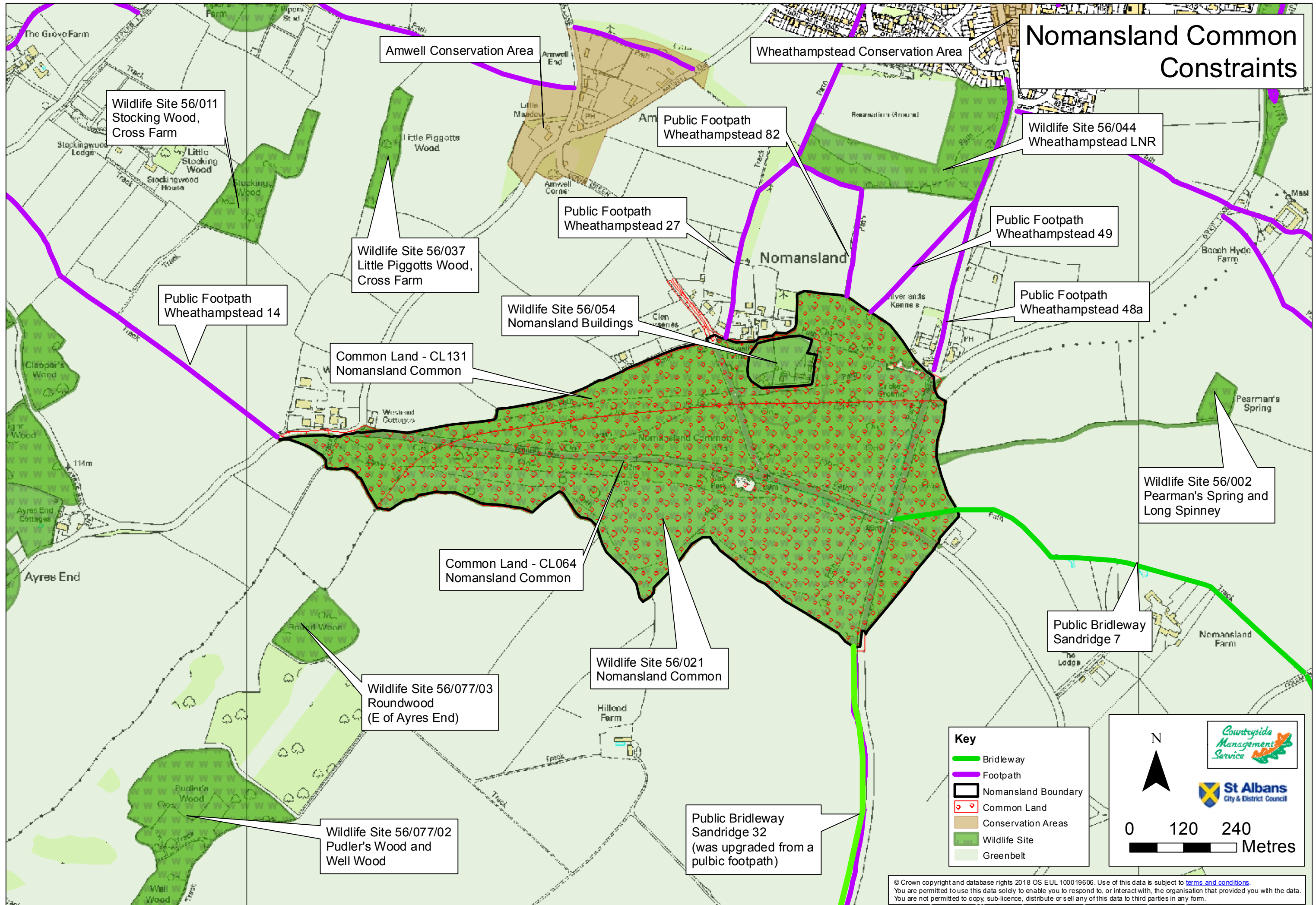


Detailed Site Description and Compartments from the Wildlife Site Survey Report (appendix 6.2)



M Harris 18.6.2017

Nomansland Common Constraints



Key

- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Nomansland Boundary
- Common Land
- Conservation Areas
- Wildlife Site
- Greenbelt

Countrywide Management Service

St Albans City & District Council

N

0 120 240 Metres

2.4 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 heathland to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in south 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 and Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). 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 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 the common is registered as Open Access Land.

2.5 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 south east. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandridge CL064 and• Wheathampstead CL131
County	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Nomansland Common 56/021

2.6 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 15th 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 19th Century.

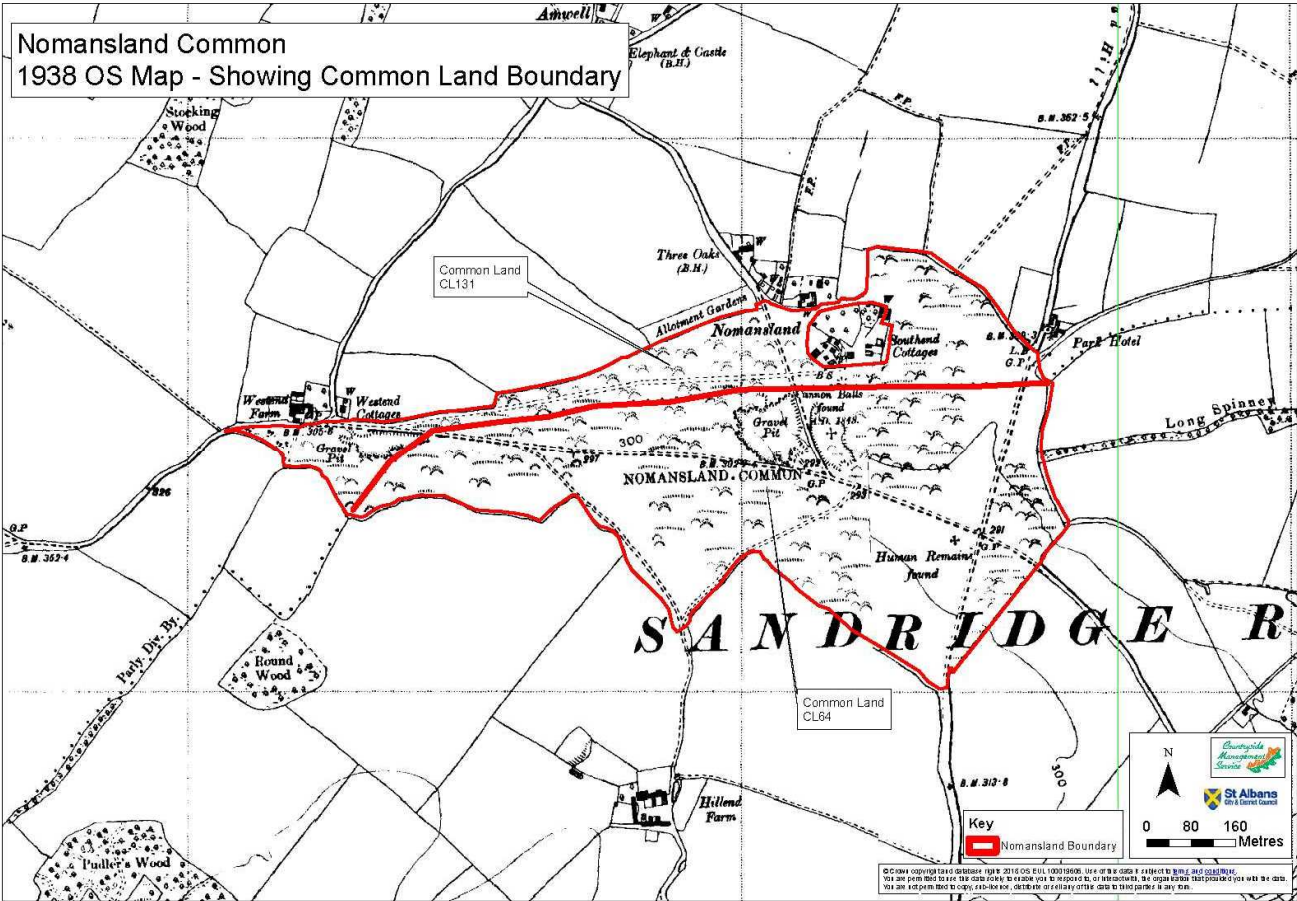
During the 1700's Nomansland was a notorious place for highway robberies, so much so that a gibbet was erected on the common as a warning to would be thieves. The most notorious robber of the time was dubbed the Wicked Lady; she was unmasked after her death as Lady Ferrers of Markyate.

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.



2.7 HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

See map page 7 for compartment boundaries and Wildlife Site Survey Report for Nomansland Common – June 2017 for more detail on each compartment (appendix 6.2).

2.7.1 Grassland (Compartment 1 – see map page 7)

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 become lost to woodland.

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 tend to be more acidic with smaller pockets east of the B651 (see section 2.7.2 Heathland).

Each year in the autumn the southern grassland is cut for hay as part of an Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement (see 2.9), this allows the flowers time to set seed and removing the vegetation stops a thatch from building up which would smother any new growth. There is also a large Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) problem in this area which is dealt with by annual cutting by machine and pulling the areas that can't be reached. Any bales with ragwort in cannot be used for hay as it is poisonous for grazing animals particularly horses, so the material will have to be used as biofuel. There is a small area of non-native and invasive Early Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) just east of the car park, this should be controlled.

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. There are issues with Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) digging up the pitch and outfield creating holes and trip hazards which can be dangerous when playing. The rabbits on site are being managed by regular ferreting and shooting by trained contractors to help to reduce the population and hopefully relieve the problem.

2.7.2 Heathland (Compartment 2 – see map page 7)

The heathland to the north of Ferrers Lane is some of the best in south 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 Sheep's 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 Herts species and Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*) recorded in 2007 which is locally Rare Herts Species and the only site in Hertfordshire. The UK Near Threatened species Petty Whim (*Genista anglica*) has been recorded on the site in the past.

The transition zone between the heathland areas and the woodland edge needs to be managed to stop the woodland from encroaching and heathland species being lost. Bramble has colonised around the edges of the heathland glades, in places this is starting to shade out the heather and needs to be managed.

The remaining 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 barbeque, the disposable barbecues and other rubbish is usually left behind along with scorched areas on the grass.

2.7.3 Woodland (Compartments 3 and 4 – see map page 7)

(www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/woodlandmanagement)

The woodland areas mainly to the north of the site are predominately Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) woodland, 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.

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 areas of the woodland are being thinned on rotation making room for species to grow to maturity, allowing more light to reach the woodland floor. The Forestry Commission felling licence is in place until 2023. 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. 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 heath 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 selective trees also gives stronger specimens the chance to grow on to maturity.

Paths around the woodland are maintained to make sure they are 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.

2.7.4 Scrub

There are blocks of predominately hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, found mainly around the edges of the main grassland these areas important for birds and mammals. In many areas the low scrub has given way to oak-silver birch woodland.

2.7.5 Hedgerow

The only hedgerows on Nomansland common are along the perimeter of the southern grassland where there is a Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Elm (*Ulmus sp.*) mixed hedge. 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, 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.

2.7.6 Wildlife

The common supports a wide range of uncommon invertebrates, including 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 Herts and which is also Nationally scarce and *Myrmica lobicornis* found on only 1 of 7 sites across Herts. 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 finds ragwort to be a tasty meal (appendix 6.4 and 6.5).

Common Lizards (*Zootoca vivipara*) have also been recorded on the site in the past. The varied habitats support a variety of bird species; Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) is a common site 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*), Rabbit, Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Muntjac Deer (*Muntiacus reevesi*) and several species of bat. There is probability that Badgers (*Meles meles*) would also use the site.

Forty reptile refugia mats have been placed around the site to monitor reptile populations. Mats are usually 50cm by 50cm square sections of roofing felt or old carpet. They should be located in warm sunny spots between the woodland edge and grassland/heathland. A small laminated card should be placed under each one to tell people that they are for monitoring purposes and should not be moved. A map of the locations should be provided to the committee members and grounds maintenance contractor.

There is a large rabbit population on the common which are causing problems for the cricketers by constantly digging up the cricket pitch. Rabbits are being controlled (see 2.7.1).

2.7.7 Water

There is no open or standing water on the common. There are small drainage ditches by the side of the roads. The ditch by the junction with the of B651 St Albans Road, and Dyke Lane (next to The Wicked Lady public house) had to be recently cleared out by Hertfordshire Highways as the road flooded after heavy rain making it impassable, this will hopefully alleviate the problem from occurring in the future.

2.8 ACCESS, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Entrances

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

The main 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 south west and south east 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.

Car Parking

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.

Access, Gates and Fencing

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.

Buildings

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

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 noticeboard in the Ferrers Lane car park which looks cluttered, with out of date faded information and is difficult to open. There is a larger car park 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 road side opposite the pub, this panel is not maintained by NCJMC.

There are three interpretation panels located around the common, one in the car park and two at points along the circular walking route. The one in the car park and in the woodland have lost their panels and all are looking quite dated. There are a series of waymarker posts that mark the circular walking route, which starts and ends at the Ferrers Lane car park.

Waymarker posts with faded signs denote the boundary of the model flying area in the grassland on the southern part of the site. The only map of the designated flying area is located in the notice board in the car park, covered with other posters and away from the actual flying zone. SADC code of conduct map has been installed temporarily of the interpretation panel frame and up at the top of the flying area. A replacement map is due to be installed near the flying area.

Nomansland Common byelaws are located at locations around the site. There is a complete set in Ferrers Lane car park, then single ones by the entrance track to the cricket pavilion and by the road crossing near to junction with Ferrers Lane and B651. All of them are faded or incomplete.

Several rights of way start from the boundary with Nomansland Common; they are marked with waymarker and finger posts.

Dog Waste Bins and Litter Picking

There are four dog bins situated at strategic points across the common; they are emptied by the grounds maintenance contractors on a twice weekly basis 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 John O'Conner (JOC) Ranger, the car parks and nearby vicinity are the worse places. Occasional fly tipping occurs and this is also dealt with by JOC.

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. A lot of the benches are coming to the end of their useable life.

Boardwalk

There is a short section of boardwalk at the south west corner of the site to near to West End car park. The boardwalk runs through an area wet woodland and vegetation and leads to footpath 14 (Wheathampstead). A second area of boardwalk is proposed in the woodland near to The Wicked Lady public house.

Cricket Area

The cricket area is maintained by the cricket club, the grass is cut regularly through the cricket season (May to September). There is a bowling practice net by the pavilion. 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.

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 to the bylaws, and SADC has introduced a code of practice for flying. See signage above.

2.9 COMMUNITY, MANAGEMENT AND EVENTS

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 6.6). 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 October/November time in the absence of a more traditional method of management such as grazing.

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.

Special Events

A special event is a term used by the Council to describe one-off additional usage of the common that is in addition to regular use. It can include a wide range of events, from carnivals to sponsored walks. 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.

Management Committee

Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee over sees 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 is represented by 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 <http://www.wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk/Nomansland-Joint-Committee.aspx>. 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 improvement works, sources funding and produces five year Greenspace Action Plans (GAP) for the Common by engaging with the relevant partners and stakeholders.

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 should be reviewed when changes occur on the common and updated accordingly.

Council Website

The Council provides a dedicated webpage for the Nomansland Common <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/commons>.

3.0 ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

3.1 A WELCOMING PLACE

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. Reflective strips should be attached to the bollards at the road crossings, to make them more visible to vehicles and crossing should be resurfaced.

Car Parking

The main car park off Ferrers Lane is well used and has started to look a bit tired and is in need of being refreshed. There is the possibility of a new layout combined with replacement bollards; resurfacing and updated signage this will provide a much more welcoming first impression when you visit the site. The height barrier should be replaced with a lockable barrier rather than the current fixed one to improve access, it should be painted dark green with reflective stickers and have a height restriction sign. A vehicle access gate should be installed in the car park to allow authorised vehicular access to this part of the common.

The car park by the pavilion is in a reasonable state. Pot holes could be filled and new bollards installed to remark the boundary of the car park. The gate/barrier can be painted dark green and have reflective stickers added. 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.

An application is in with the Secretary of State to undertake improvement works to West End car park. If the application is granted works are due to start in late spring and will include resurfacing, the addition of a horse path and bollards to mark the edge of the car park to stop further encroachment onto the common.

Larger scale works on the common not covered by the scheme of management will require permission from the Secretary of State before being undertaken.

Access, Gates and Fencing

The lockable bollard in West End car park and field gate into the neighbouring arable field will be replaced as part of the car park improvement works.

A new access route is proposed to join what was public footpath (32 - Sandridge) which has just been upgraded to a bridleway from Heartwood Forest in the south east corner of the common by the B651 to the public footpaths by the cricket pavilion. The exact line of the proposed route is still to be discussed but it will cross Ferrers Lane at the crossing point a short distance away from the junction with the B651, as this is the safest location to cross the busy road as it has the best visibility. The route will then probably head back towards the road to avoid the cricket pitch and meet up with the footpaths. The path will be surfaced for a short section when it enters the site and where it crosses the roads to improve access. 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. Since the site is open access a decision will need to be made about the finished path construction and if it needs to be suitable for horse riders as well. Scrub is due to be removed in winter 2017-18 to increase the width of the path and open up views across the common, this will be done in readiness for the path installation.

Since the development of Heartwood Forest there has been an increase in usage of the common. All access points and rights of way will be surveyed and works will be undertaken where required to improve access, including cutting back vegetation, reinstating rights of way, removing cluttered furniture and signage (see below).

By creating a new access route from bridleway 7 (Sandridge) to Dyke Lane and the Wicked Lady pub encourages people to visit the common and avoids unnecessary crossing of the B651 which can be busy. Tree works to clear the route are to be undertaken during winter 2017-18 and a boardwalk or path will be installed at the Dyke Lane end.

Signage and Interpretation

Additional welcome signs should be installed at all informal entrances. Larger welcome signs should be considered at the car parks and the two entrances from Heartwood Forest.

Replacing the notice board in the Ferrers Lane car park with a wooden lockable notice board 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. A recycled plastic wood effect notice board could be used as the current wooden one is not weathering too well. An additional notice board will be located by the cricket club car park.

All interpretation panels will be replaced with new updated panels and the now rotten wooden lecterns will be replaced with metal ones, which will last longer. All panels need to be regularly cleaned to maintain their life and to make the site more welcoming. An additional interpretation panel with map of the site will be located at the cricket club car park. Updated panels could include more information on the historic element of common, local archaeologists would be consulted on appropriate content.

Byelaw boards around the site need to be replaced and some relocated to be near the path, as most are faded or have lost all the byelaws. They could be attached to the back of the notice boards making them easier for people to read. Or where there is no notice board they could be located on shorter posts so that you can read them, with the boards back to back to take up less room and look more discrete. New byelaws boards should be installed by the entrances from Heartwood Forest.

The waymarker posts and discs marking the circular walking route need to be replaced. The route should be changed slightly to take people past the interpretation panel in the car park and then cross them over the road further away from the junction with the car park, Ferrers Lane and Down Green Lane.

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 this would help to make people take more of an interest in this popular pastime

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' can be included as a destination.

3.2 HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

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 (appendix 6.3). Deadwood can be removed from trees overhanging paths.

3.3 CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

Pavilion – Maintenance and Repairs

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

Furniture

Permission needs to be sought from the management committee and locations agreed before any new benches are installed on the common. 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 are rotten and have been patched up; these will need to be replaced as soon as funding has been secured. Volunteers could be involved in the installation.

As dog refuse bins reach the end of their life they are to be replaced with like for like.

Boardwalk

The sections of boardwalk need to be checked regularly and any rotten timbers replaced and new weld mesh added to make sure it does not become slippery. Vegetation needs to be cut back from around the boardwalk to reduce the accumulation of leaf litter.

3.4 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 issue across the county and further afield, this will enable the council to be prepared if an outbreak occurs.

Climate change is an imminent threat; its effects are already being felt. By providing interlinking and transition habitats ensures that species have the ability to move and mix (genetically) if required.

3.5 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

See map page 7 for compartment boundaries.

3.5.1 Grassland (Compartment 1 – see map page 7)

The areas of grassland need to continue to be managed. 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. Due to the ongoing ragwort issue different approaches are being trialled to control the plant but not eradicate it, as ragwort provides a good nectar source for insects and food plant to Cinnabar moth caterpillars. Cutting the area in early August before the ragwort has time to drop seed can result in the plants trying to regrow and flower again; an alternative approach is to let the ragwort just go to seed and then cut and collect it before the seeds drop, this will hopefully stop the plants from trying to regrow the same year.

There are small patches of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) at the east and west ends of the grassland these need to be monitored and managed to stop them spreading, without eradicating the species altogether. 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.

Rabbit control needs to continue on the site especially on the more acid grassland on the northern side of the site to protect the cricket pitch/outfield and reduce the pressure on the heather regrowth. A large population of rabbits have been noticed in the scrub along the side of the B651 next to the cricket pitch. The scrub has been cut back as it is also encroaching onto the grassland, making it easier to monitor and control the rabbits in these areas.

3.5.2 Heathland (Compartment 2 – see map page 7)

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 valuable in central Hertfordshire it needs to be managed to maintain and enhance these areas. Enclosures have been created to fence off small areas of heather from rabbit grazing; this has been successful and can be rolled out across other parts of the site. The current enclosures 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 habitat interface allowing the heathland to extend. Other small trees and bramble starting to shade out the heather in this area should also be removed. Areas of common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) need to be monitored to see if they are affecting the growth of the heather, if there is cause for concern then light pruning may be required. Areas of dwarf gorse (*Ulex minor*) need to be identified prior to doing any light pruning on the common gorse and left untouched. The fencing should be removed from around these enclosures and reused on the next one (if it is in good condition) or removed from site and recycled.

Any new enclosures created near to the woodland should be extended slightly further into the woodland edge, to allow all the heather in this area a chance to grow. With the thinning of the woodland edge there will be more light reaching the floor improving conditions for plants to grow.

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

(<https://www.floralocale.org/Harvesting+and+using+heather+seed>).

A new enclosure should be trialled to protect the area of heather from trampling and rabbit grazing between the cricket pitch, Ferrers Lane and the B651.

The area to the south of Drovers Lane which is frequented by people in the summer needs to have temporary signs put up stopping barbequing.

3.5.3 Woodland (Compartments 3 and 4 – see map page 7)

The areas of woodland in the northern part of the site need to be thinned and coppicing on rotation to create a more diverse structure to the secondary woodland, while allowing more light to reach the ground floor. 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 Sallow, particularly Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) should be retained as they are particularly good for some butterfly species. Material that is cut can be sorted into different uses by the contractor, the larger logs may be suitable for sale, while remaining material can be separated to create stakes and brash which the volunteers can use to make deer baskets to protect the regeneration of coppice stools or leave as habitat piles.

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 through the woodland. Opening wider scallops on the southern side of the path and removing a few species on the northern side will form the ideal ride. The main rides once established are cut annually while the scalloped areas (or glades) should be cut on a three year rotation. 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 panel need to be open up once again and maintained.

The transitional habitats between the woodland and grassland/heathland need to be maintained and extended in terms of the heathland; this can be done by stopping the trees from encroaching further into the other habitats. Thinning and coppicing of the woodland edge will also reduce the shading effect on the grassland and heather seedlings.

3.5.4 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.

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 south west corner of the site need to be managed by the removal of scrub and brambles to maintain the open glade habitats favoured by invertebrates. By 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.

3.5.5 Hedgerows

The boundary hedgerow should continue to be managed on a five year rotation which will involve reducing its height and cutting/clearing the margin of saplings and blackthorn scrub which begin to slowly encroaching into the grassland. This can be done by fail or chainsaw; ideally material should be chipped and removed from site to allow the new grasses to grow up.

3.5.6 Wildlife

Continuing the management practices mentioned above will protect the habitats for the species that use the site.

Reptile refugia can act as a really simple monitoring and educational tool. Details of what is found under the refugia should be recorded and sent to Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC).

There is a request to start up regular moth recording on the site which is welcomed. Other species should continue to be recorded with records being sent in.

3.5.7 Water

Drainage ditches require regular checks to remove any blockages which may cause flooding to nearby roads.

3.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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. During the summer they organise ragwort pulls of areas that cannot be cut by machine.

Volunteers

CMS practical conservation volunteers regularly visit the site to undertake management works. Recent works have included coppicing works in the woodland, installation of signage, bench installation and temporary fencing to protect the heather. Volunteers will continue to be involved in the site in the future.

Wheathampstead Cricket Club

Wheathampstead Cricket Club is always open to new member's cricket matches can draw in large crowds of spectators who have good views as the action unfolds.

Nomansland Flyers

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

Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

Hertfordshire Orienteering Club regularly uses Nomansland Common for events.

Schools

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 their natural environment and local wildlife.

Users

The wide ranging nature of activities that are undertaken across the common could at times become conflicting; users must respect the rights of all other users of the common as they go about their activities, so everyone (including the wildlife) can enjoy Nomansland Common together.

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.

Marketing

Nomansland Common has its own management plan, leaflet and web page which are updated regularly. The Parish Councils also include relevant articles about the common and the management plan in their local newsletters and on their websites. With the addition of new routes during this plan period the leaflet will require updating to reflect the changes on the common.

Information will be available on the ParksHerts website (www.parksherst.co.uk) which is a mobile-first website application providing a single information point for over a hundred of Hertfordshire's parks and open spaces from recreation grounds through to woodlands and award winning flagship parks, irrespective of administrative ownership. 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. The management committee were approached by the local coordinator for Park Run and asked about the possibility of holding the run on the common. After discussions by the committee their request was rejected on the grounds that there is a limited amount of parking available at the common (there is no way of managing the amount of people that turn up to a Park Run), and the inevitable damage that vast numbers of people embarking on the common would cause to this valuable habitat.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

A A WELCOMING PLACE

To provide a safe and welcoming experience for visitors and users of Nomansland Common.

- A1 Improve all site entrances to form welcoming, appealing gateways to the common.
- A2 Make improvements to car park facilities across the common.
- A3 Provide a suitable network of accessible paths throughout the common.
- A4 Ensure that visitors are able to successfully navigate to, from, and around the common.
- A5 Remove, repair or replace broken or unnecessary structures across the common.

B HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

To ensure that visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of the Nomansland Common.

- B1 Carryout regular risk assessments of the common's facilities, natural features and general environment.
- B2 Continue close liaison between SADC, Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee (NCJMC), Local Wildlife Sites Partnership, the local community and local landowners.
- B3 Maintain a visual presence on the common (Ranger).

C CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

To ensure all fixtures, fittings and buildings on the common are in a safe and serviceable condition.

- C1 Monitor the grounds maintenance regimes to ensure they comply with the agreed high standard.
- C2 Ensure all fixtures, fittings and buildings are regularly maintained and used to their full potential.

D SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure ongoing costs are sustainable and secure external funding for capital works.

- D1 Ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable.
- D2 Securing external funding to ensure the viability of capital works.

E CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

To conserve the historic open landscape, habitats and biodiversity found on Nomansland Common.

- E1 Continue the annual grassland management regime, including the removal of invasive species and maintenance of the flying strip.
- E2 Manage areas of heather to include extending and protecting regenerating areas of heathland from grazing rabbits and human pressures.
- E3 Actively manage the woodland compartments – thinning, coppicing, opening up glades and rides.
- E4 Prevent further encroachment of scrub into the grassland and heathland areas.
- E5 Manage areas of scrub and hedgerow on rotation.
- E6 Maintain the habitats on site to protect the specialist species that are found on the common.
- E7 Maintain drainage ditches free from blockages.
- E8 Conserve and enhance the historic environment.
- E9 Continue to undertake the requirements of external grants to maintain habitats and features.
- E10 Monitor and record species across the site.

F COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Enable local people and regular visitors to take an active role in the conservation, decision making and development of Nomansland Common.

- F1 Organise and enable a range of events and activities on the common.
- F2 Provide opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the management and maintenance of the common.
- F3 Consult stakeholders, users and local people during the production of Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs).

G MARKETING

Maintain and develop a strong identity for the common that fosters a sense of ownership and pride to fully realise its value as an open space.

- G1 Continue to develop events and activities with partners, key stakeholders and the community; raising awareness and interest in the common.
- G2 Promote awareness and interest in the common through a variety of media – websites, ParksHerts, newsletters, posters, publications.
- G3 Develop and promote the revised leaflet and interpretation panels.

5.0 FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

All dates in the action plan are subject to change, depending on resources and funding.

5.1 ANNUAL ITEMS

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no:	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
0.1	Health and Safety inspections and undertaking of works.	B1	When required	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.2	Empty dog waste bins minimum once a week or when required.	C1	All year	SADC (JOC)	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.3	Litter pick and check for problems.	C1	Twice a week	SADC (JOC)	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.4	Undertake a tree safety survey every 3 years and undertake emergency tree work.	B1	Sep-Oct	SADC	Tree Budget	Staff time, Contractor	n/a	
0.5	Management of vegetation through the Grounds Maintenance Contract.	C1, E1	Ongoing	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.6	Continue with current grassland cutting regime.	C1, E1	End Aug/ Beg Sep	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.7	Continue with the removal and control of invasive species such as ragwort and goldenrod.	E1	Ongoing	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.8	Monitor heather regrowth and install additional enclosures if required.	E2, E6	Aug-Feb Yearly	SADC/CMS/ Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
0.9	Remove encroaching scrub and bramble from the heathland; manage older heather.	E2, E6	Oct-Feb Yearly	SADC/CMS/ Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time	n/a	

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no:	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
0.10	Maintain rides and glades by annual cutting.	E3	Sep-Feb Yearly	SADC/CMS/ Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time, Contractor tbc	n/a	
0.11	Maintain drainage ditches free from blockages.	E7	Twice a year	SADC	Grounds Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.12	Monitor refugia mats, relocate if required.	E10	Mar-Oct	WPC/Vols	n/a	Vol time	n/a	
0.13	Monitor and record species across the sites.	E10	Ongoing	ALL	n/a	n/a	n/a	
0.14	Maintain notice boards with a content review every month (once installed).	A1	Monthly	SADC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.15	Remove all graffiti in accordance with SADC graffiti policy.	B1	When required	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.16	Remove fly tip.	B1	When required	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.17	Secure external funding to ensure viability of capital works.	D1, D2	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	n/a	n/a	n/a	
0.18	Undertake FC and NE grant requirements.	E9	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	n/a	n/a	6.3	
0.19	Maintain the flying strip and signage in a suitable condition for use.	E1	Ongoing	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no:	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
0.20	Continue with rabbit control across the site.	E1	Ongoing	SADC	GM Budget	Contract rates	n/a	
0.21	Consult district archaeologist when undertaking any digging related works.	E8	When required	SADC/CMS	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.22	Replace benches when they come to end of their life.	A5	When required	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
0.23	Run volunteer/community events and walks at Nomansland Common.	B2, B3, F1-F3, G1, G2	Ongoing	SADC/CMS/ WPC/SPC/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.24	Contribute to Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee Meetings.	B2	Twice a year	WPC/ SPC/ SADC/ CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.25	Liaise with all other users.	F1-F3, G1, G2	Ongoing	SADC/ALL	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.26	Update Nomansland Common and ParksHerts webpages.	G2	When required	SADC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
0.27	Review and update annual action plans.		Mar Yearly	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	

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.

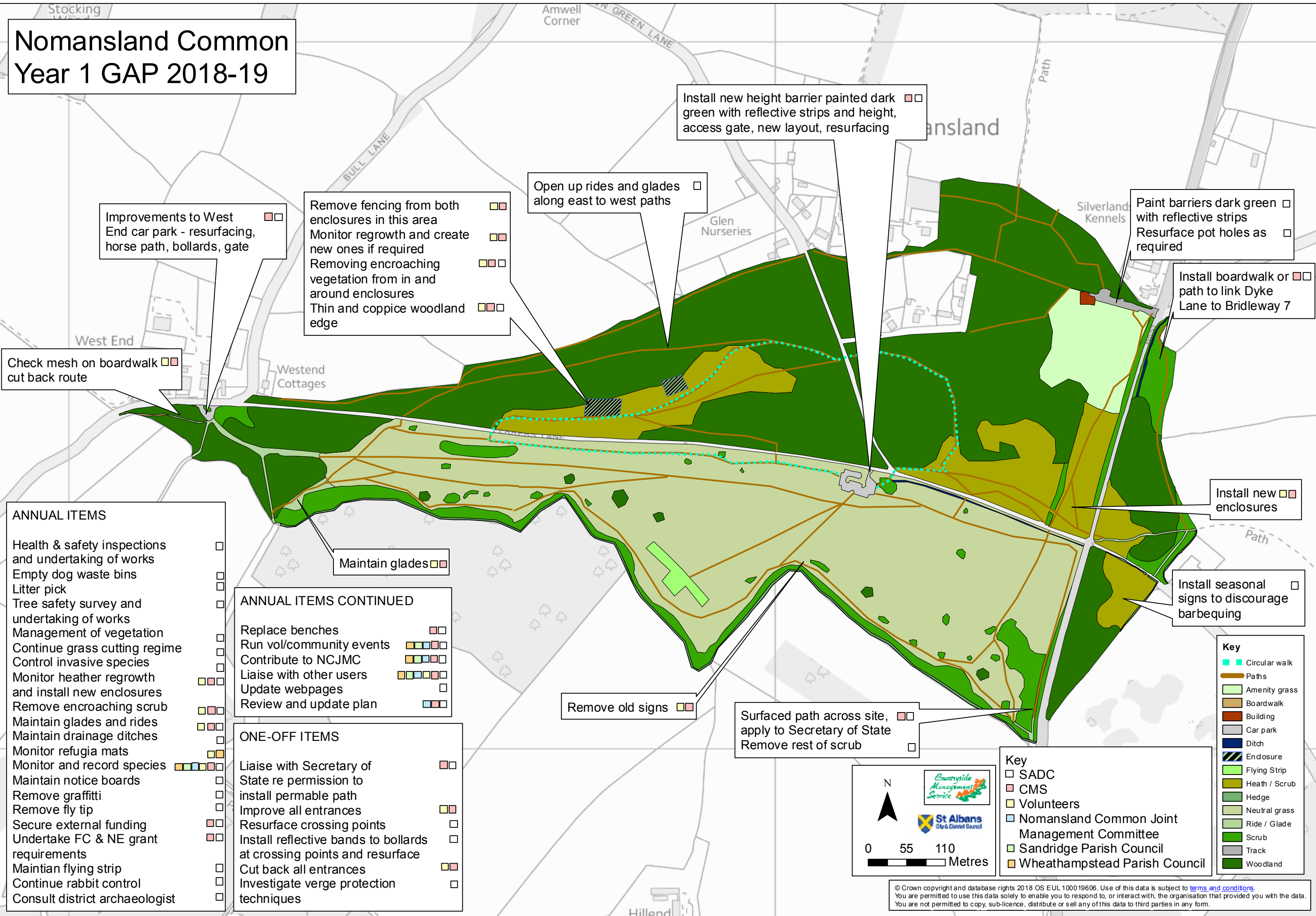
5.2 YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2018-19

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no:	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
1.1	Liaise with the local community and apply to the Secretary of State for permission to install a permeable surfaced path from the south east entrance from Heartwood Forest.	A1, A3, A4, B2, E8, F3, G1, G2	Apr-Sep	SADC/CMS	External	n/a	n/a	
1.2	Make sure all entrances are accessible.	A1, A3	Apr-Jun	CMS/ Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time	n/a	
1.3	Install boardwalk or path to create a linking route from Bridleway 7 to Dyke Lane.	A2	Apr-Jun	SADC/CMS	External	£5k	n/a	
1.4	Improvements to West End car park (surfacing, horse path, bollards, gate)	A2	Apr-Jun	SADC/CMS	SADC Budget, External	£40k	n/a	
1.5	Continue with improvements to the car parks (including new height barrier, access gate, layout, surfacing - Ferrers Lane).	A2	Apr-Jun	SADC/CMS	SADC Budget, External		n/a	
1.6	Paint barriers to the car parks dark green and install reflective strips (add height to height barrier – Ferrers Lane).	A2	Apr-Jun	SADC	SADC Budget, External		n/a	

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no:	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
1.7	Check boardwalks and replace mesh and timbers, if required, cut back vegetation.	A3, B1	Jul-Sep	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
1.8	Install reflective bands onto all wooden bollards at crossing points and resurface if required.	A3, A4	Apr-Jun	SADC	External	Staff time, Materials	n/a	
1.9	Install temporary signs to discourage barbequing in the grassland to the South of Drovers Lane.	B3, E8	Jul-Sep	SADC	SADC Budget	Staff time, Materials	n/a	
1.10	Thin and coppice the woodland edge around the heather areas to allow heathland to expand.	E2, E4	Oct-Feb	SADC/CMS/ Vols	SADC Budget/ External	Vol time, Contractor tbc	n/a	
1.11	Open up new rides and glades east to west in main woodland.	E3	Oct-Feb	SADC	External	Contractor tbc	6..3	
1.12	Maintain glades in the south west corner by rotational cutting and raking.	E3	Sep-Feb	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time	n/a	
1.13	Remove scrub from south east entrance from Heartwood Forest to open up views of common and ready for path works.	E5	Oct-Feb	SADC	SADC Budget/ External	Contractor tbc	n/a	
1.14	Investigate verge protection techniques	B1	Ongoing	SADC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
1.15	Review Year 1 Action Plan		Mar 19	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	

Nomansland Common

Year 1 GAP 2018-19



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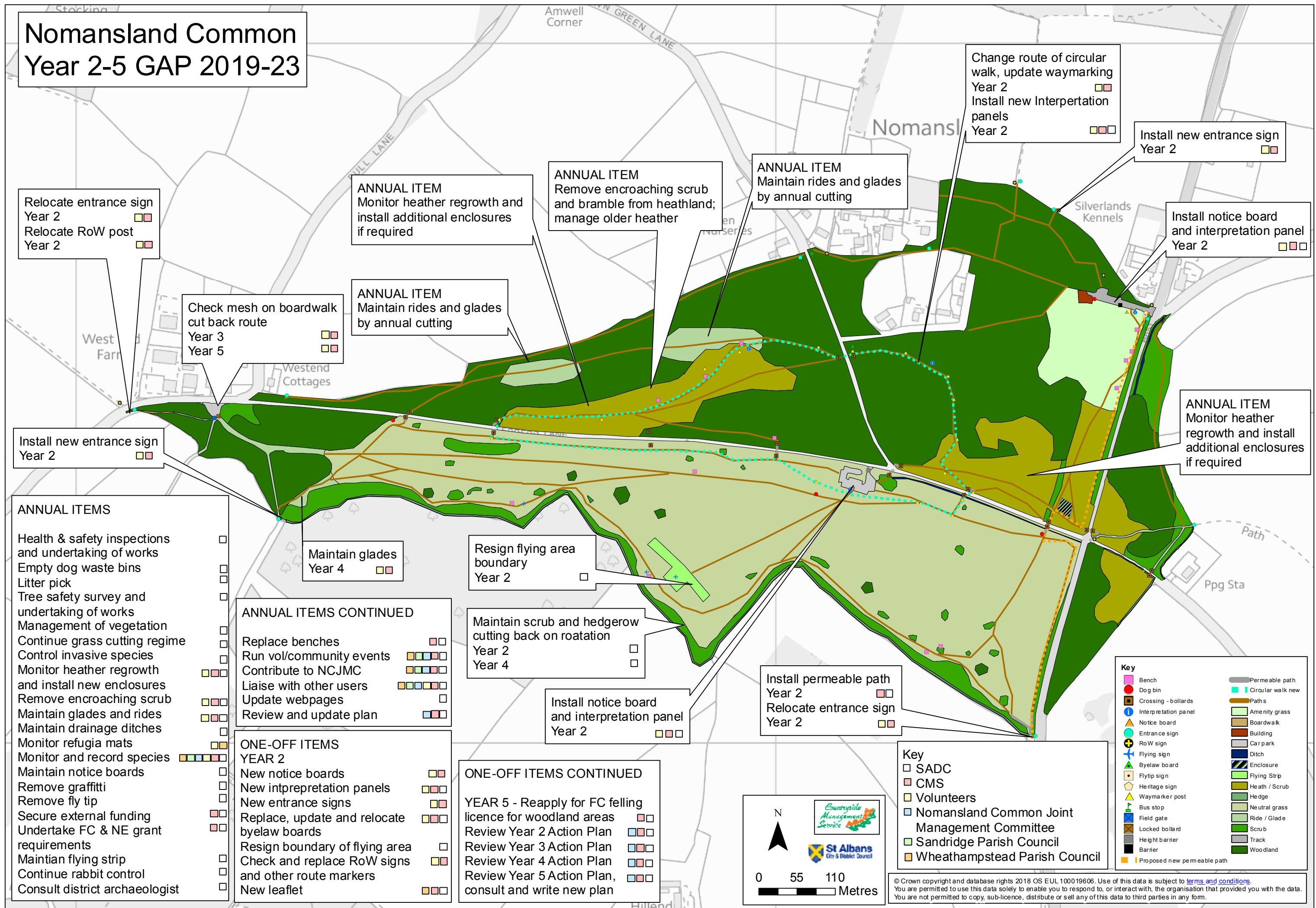
5.3 YEAR 2-5 ACTION PLAN 2019-23

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no.	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
2.1	Install a new permeable surfaced path from the south east entrance from Heartwood Forest (if permission granted).	A1, A3, A4, B2, E8, F3, G1, G2	Apr-Sep Year 2	SADC/CMS	External	£10k	n/a	
2.2	Install 2 new notice boards.	A1	Jul-Sep Year 2	CMS/ Vols	External	Vol time, £200-1K each	n/a	
2.3	Design and install 4 new interpretation panels.	A1, A4, G3	Jul-Sep Year 2	CMS/SADC/ Vols	External	Vol time, £1,500-2K each	n/a	
2.4	Install new entrance signs at entrances without signage.	A1, A4	Jul-Sep Year 2	CMS/ Vols	External	Vol time, £1,500-2K each	n/a	
2.5	Replace, update and relocate byelaws boards across the site with less intrusive signs.	A1, A5	Jul-Sep Year 2	SADC/CMS/ Vols	External	Vol time, £500 tbc	n/a	
2.6	Resign the boundary of the flying area and install updated maps.	A4	Apr Year 2	SADC	SADC Budget	Staff time, Materials	n/a	
2.7	Check and replace out of date Rights of Way signage and other route markers.	A1, A4	Jul-Sep Year 2	CMS/Vols	External	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
2.8	Update site leaflet (2,500)	G3	Jul-Sep Year 2	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	External	£200-250	n/a	

Ref no:	Action	Obj. no.	When	Responsibility	Funding Stream	Estimated Cost	Spec. ref:	Status (completed/ comments)
2.9	Change the route of the circular walk, install new waymarkers and discs.	A4	Jul-Sep Year 2	CMS/ Vols	External	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
2.10	Maintain glades in the south west corner by rotational cutting and raking.	E3	Sep-Feb Year 4	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time	n/a	
2.11	Maintain scrub and hedgerows, cut back on rotation to stop encroachment into the grassland and heathland.	E4, E5	Sep-Feb Years 2 and 4	SADC	SADC Budget	Contractor tbc	n/a	
2.12	Check boardwalks and replace mesh and timbers, if required, cut back vegetation.	A3, B1	Jul-Sep Years 3 and 5	CMS/Vols	SADC Budget	Vol time, Materials	n/a	
2.13	Reapply for FC Felling Licence for woodland areas.	E3, E9	Apr-Jul Year 5	SADC/CMS	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
2.14	Review Year 2 Action Plan		Mar 19	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
2.15	Review Year 3 Action Plan		Mar 20	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
2.16	Review Year 4 Action Plan		Mar 21	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	
2.17	Review Year 5 Action Plan, consult and write new plan		Mar 22	SADC/CMS/ NCJMC	SADC Budget	Staff time	n/a	

Nomansland Common

Year 2-5 GAP 2019-23



6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 CONTACTS

Organisation	Role	Contact	Phone/email
St Albans City & District Council	Owner	Nick Sherriff	01727 819584 nick.sherriff@stalbans.gov.uk
John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance Contractor and Park Ranger	Customer care	01727 844638 anne.josey@johnoconner.co.uk
Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee	Admin for Committee	Julia Warren	01582 832541 info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk
Wheathampstead Parish Council	Clerk	Julia Warren	01582 832541 info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk
Sandridge Parish Council	Clerk	Simon Thwaites	01727 831871 clerk@sandridge-pc.gov.uk

6.2 WILDLIFE SITE SURVEY REPORT FOR NOMANSLAND COMMON (56/021) – JUNE 2017

Wildlife Site Survey Report for: Nomansland Common

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.

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

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

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

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

Original criteria:	H.2.2b; H.2.2c	Habitat:	Heathland, Grassland: acid, unimproved, Grassland: neutral, semi-improved, Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural, Scrub
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Criteria met:	H.1.2.1 (AWI 18); H.2.2b (neutral 19); H.2.2c (acid 17); H.2.2e (mixed 35).
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Recommended changes to boundary	None.
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Original Site Description:	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.
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<p>Overall General Site Description:</p>	<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>Compartment 1: Neutral Grassland</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL168123</p> <p>Map link</p>	<p>Description: 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</p>

	<p>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-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) and False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>) were noted in less significance, as well a patch of Squirrel-tail Fescue (<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>) concentrated just south of the car park.</p> <p>Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>) and the Black Knapweed hybrids (<i>Centaurea nigra</i> 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 (<i>Galium verum</i>), Sheep's Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), Bird's-foot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>), Bulbous Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>), Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) (found in extensive patches, especially in the west), Lesser Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>), Smooth Hawk's-beard (<i>Crepis capillaris</i>) and Lesser Trefoil (<i>Trifolium dubium</i>). A few individuals of Ox-eye Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) were also noted.</p> <p>In the more acidic areas of the compartment, located on the north-west boundary (see map), Field Wood-rush (<i>Luzula campestris</i>), Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>) and Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>) were noted in their highest concentrations, alongside Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>) and Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>). This area therefore shows affinities to NVC U4.</p> <p>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 (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>), False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), Rosebay Willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>), cultivated Poppy sp. (<i>Papaver</i> sp.), Knotgrass (<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>), Shepherd's Purse (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>) and Broad-leaved Dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>) were noted. Here also were garden escapee Hedgerow Cranesbill (<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>) and Early Goldenrod (<i>Solidago gigantea</i>) which was found east of the car park (see map) and was found to be covering a considerable area on 15/07/2017.</p> <p>The scrubland areas located on the compartment's boundaries, often within drainage ditches (see image 5), broadly consist of Common Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), Stinging Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>), Field Rose (<i>Rosa arvensis</i>), False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>) and the occasional Common Hemp Nettle (<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>) and Common Toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>). This area therefore shows affinities to NVC MG1.</p> <p>The areas of planted woodland found on the southern boundary and in the scattered woodland areas within the grassland, broadly consist of Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Copper Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'), with a barren and lightless understorey below. Two significant patches of Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) were noted in the far east and west ends of the site (see map).</p> <p>Current Management:</p> <p>Cut for hay annually in the early autumn (September). Hand pulling of Ragwort.</p> <p>Management prescription:</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: http://goodoak.com/info/weeds/canadiangoldenrod.pdf</p>
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	<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>Compartment 2: Acid Grassland</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL164124</p> <p>Map link</p>	<p>Description: 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 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 Tormetil (<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>Current Management: 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> <p>Management prescription:</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 https://www.floralocale.org/Harvesting+and+using+heather+seed</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>Compartment 3: Woodland west of B651</p> <p>6-fig central Grid Ref: TL168125</p> <p>Map link</p>	<p>Description: NVC W10 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>Canopy: 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>Mid-layer: 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 pseudoplatanus</i>), where seedlings have formed dense patches and to a lesser extent Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) as well as, a few Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) seedlings scattered in the more open areas of the woodland. Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>) were rarely noted.</p> <p>Ground Layer:</p>

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.

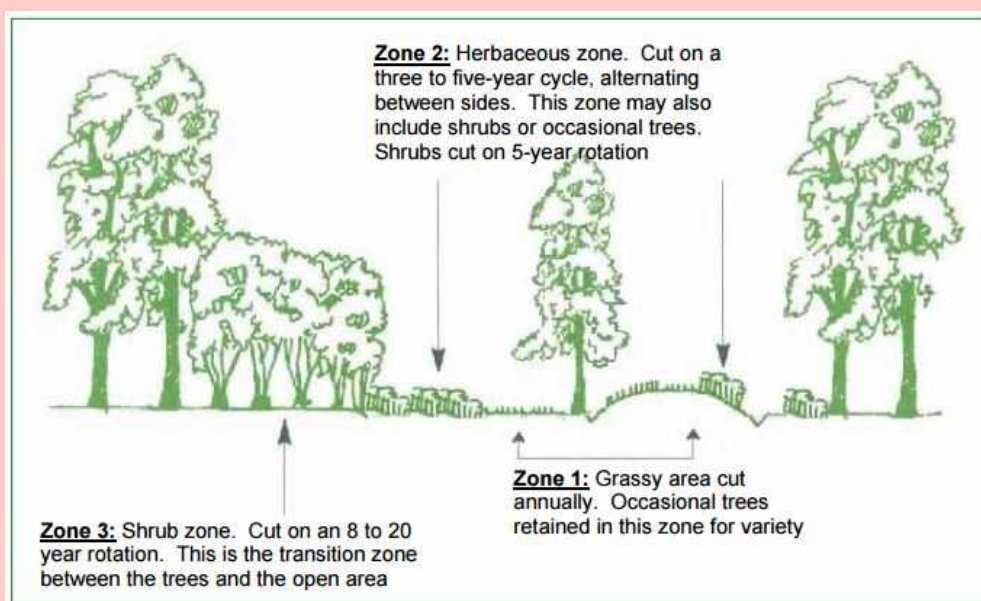


Diagram 1: Zones of habitat in a ride. (Image taken from, Forestry Commission,

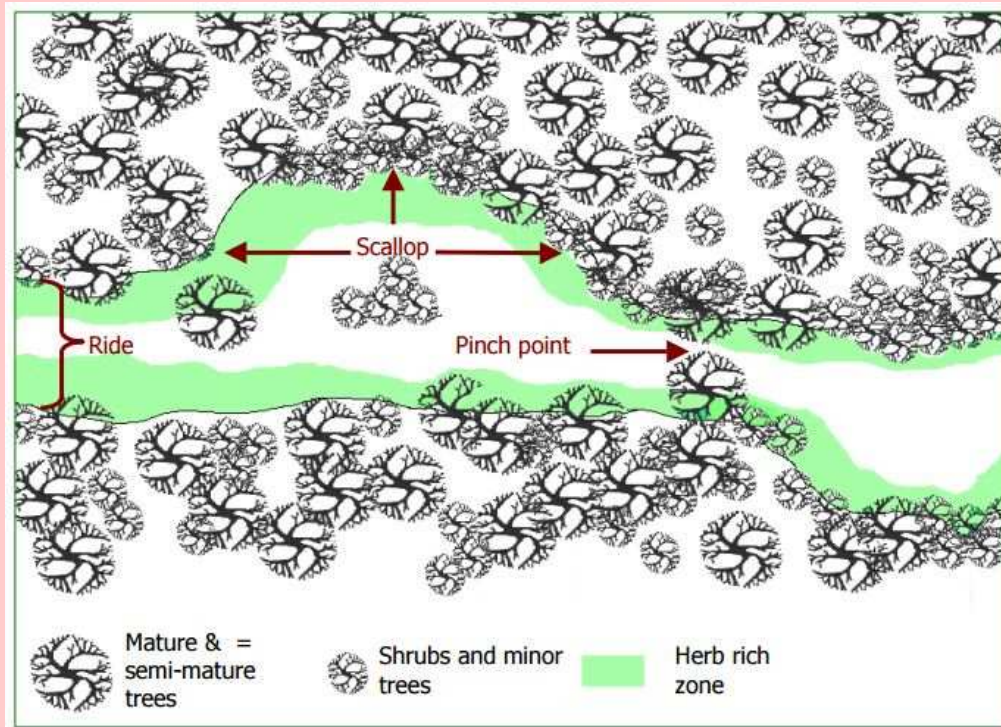


Diagram 2: How to create variety along rides. (Image taken from, Forestry Commission, Managing woodland open space for wildlife, December 2005)

Sky-lighting:

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.

Coppicing:

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.

For more information see:

[https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on011-ride-managt.pdf/\\$file/ewgs-on011-ride-managt.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ewgs-on011-ride-managt.pdf/$file/ewgs-on011-ride-managt.pdf)

Compartment 4: Woodland east of B651

6-fig central Grid
Ref: TL175123

[Map link](#)

Description:

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.

Canopy:

Although recent clearance and some thinning has occurred, the canopy layer remains relatively closed and homogenous. Early-mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) is the predominant tree throughout which makes up an estimated 85% of the canopy. Some semi-mature to mature Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) standards are scattered along the eastern boundary, with the occasional mature boundary Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). Rarely noted were Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and mature Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) standards. One mature Scots Pine (*Pinus*

	<p><i>sylvestris</i>) identified in the smaller section of woodland south of Drovers Lane.</p> <p>Mid-layer: 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 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>Ground Layer: 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 agg.</i>), 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>Current Management:</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>Management prescription:</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> <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>
Invasive species:	<p>See Map List: 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>
Surrounding landuse:	Predominately arable farmland.

Table 1: Woodland habitat condition for Compartment 3 only (this is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005)		
Attributes	Targets for positive condition	Detail
Structure and natural processes	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.)
Regeneration	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
Composition: trees and shrubs	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
Structure and natural processes	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.
Regeneration	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
Composition: trees and shrubs	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		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
			DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR	DAFOR
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Maple, Field	*		R	R-	R-
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		R		R+	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		R	R	R	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	c/n	R-	R		
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Bent, Common	a/n	R+	R+		
<i>Agrostis sp.</i>	Bent sp.				R+	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Bent, Creeping			R		
<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>	Bent, Brown~	a		R		
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Hair-grass, Early	a		R		
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Mustard, Garlic		R		R	R
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Brome, Barren		R			
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Grass, Sweet Vernal	n	O	R	R	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Parsley, Cow	- c/n/w	R		R	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Burdock, Lesser				R-	R-
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Oat-grass, False	- a/c/n/w	R	R	R	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort		R		R	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies				R	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Horehound, Black				R-	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	- a/c	R		R-	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch, Silver		R	R+	O-	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Brome, Soft	- n	R			
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	Bryony, White				R-	R-
<i>Callitriche sp.</i>	Water-starwort, sp.				R	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	a		R+	R	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse		R			
<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 agg.</i>	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-	

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

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>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	
<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~ ^{GR} (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		

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>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Speedwell, Germander	c/n	R	R	R	
<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	per compartment totals:		91	79	106	42
^=note whether planted	GR ₁ =8 fig grid ref required					
~=check specimen requirements						

Total species (all comp.s)		166	total indicators				
Neutral Grassland	AWI (H.1)	Neut (H.2.2b)	Acid (H.2.2c)	Wet (H.2.2d)	Fen (H.5.3)	c/a/n/w (H.2.2e)	
	2	19	9	0	0	25	
Acid Grassland	AWI	Neut	Acid	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w	
	5	12	14	1	1	26	
Woodland west of B651	AWI	Neut	Acid	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w	
	16	6	10	0	0	14	
Woodland east of B651	AWI	Neut	Acid	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w	
	9	0	0	0	0	0	
All Compartments:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w	
	18	19	17	1	1	35	
Thresholds:	AWI	Neut	Acid	Wet	Fen	c/a/n/w	
	min size (ha)	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	min indicators	10	8	5	5	5	12
Criteria met	Met	Met	Met			Met	

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.

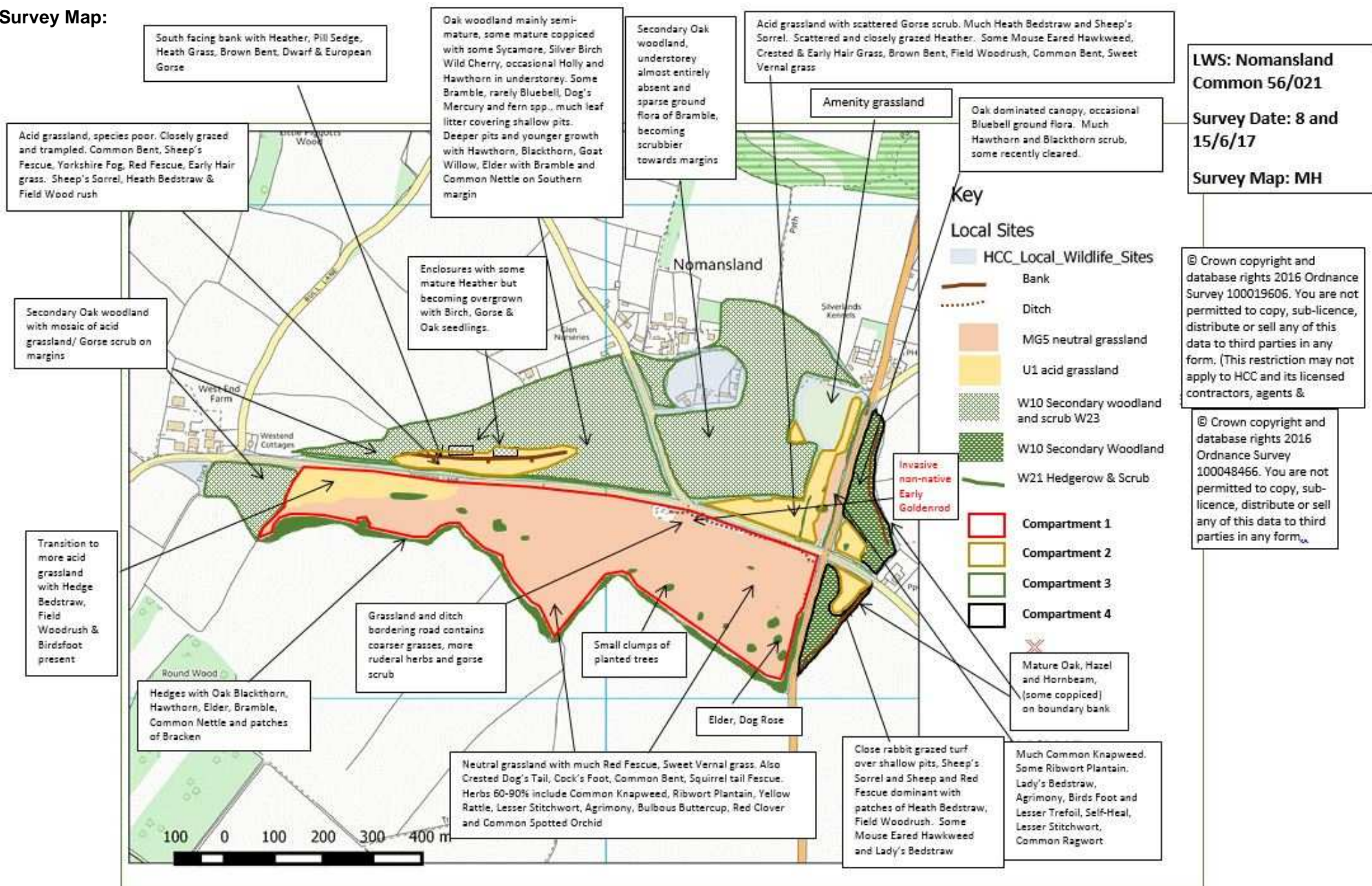
Bryophytes:

Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus

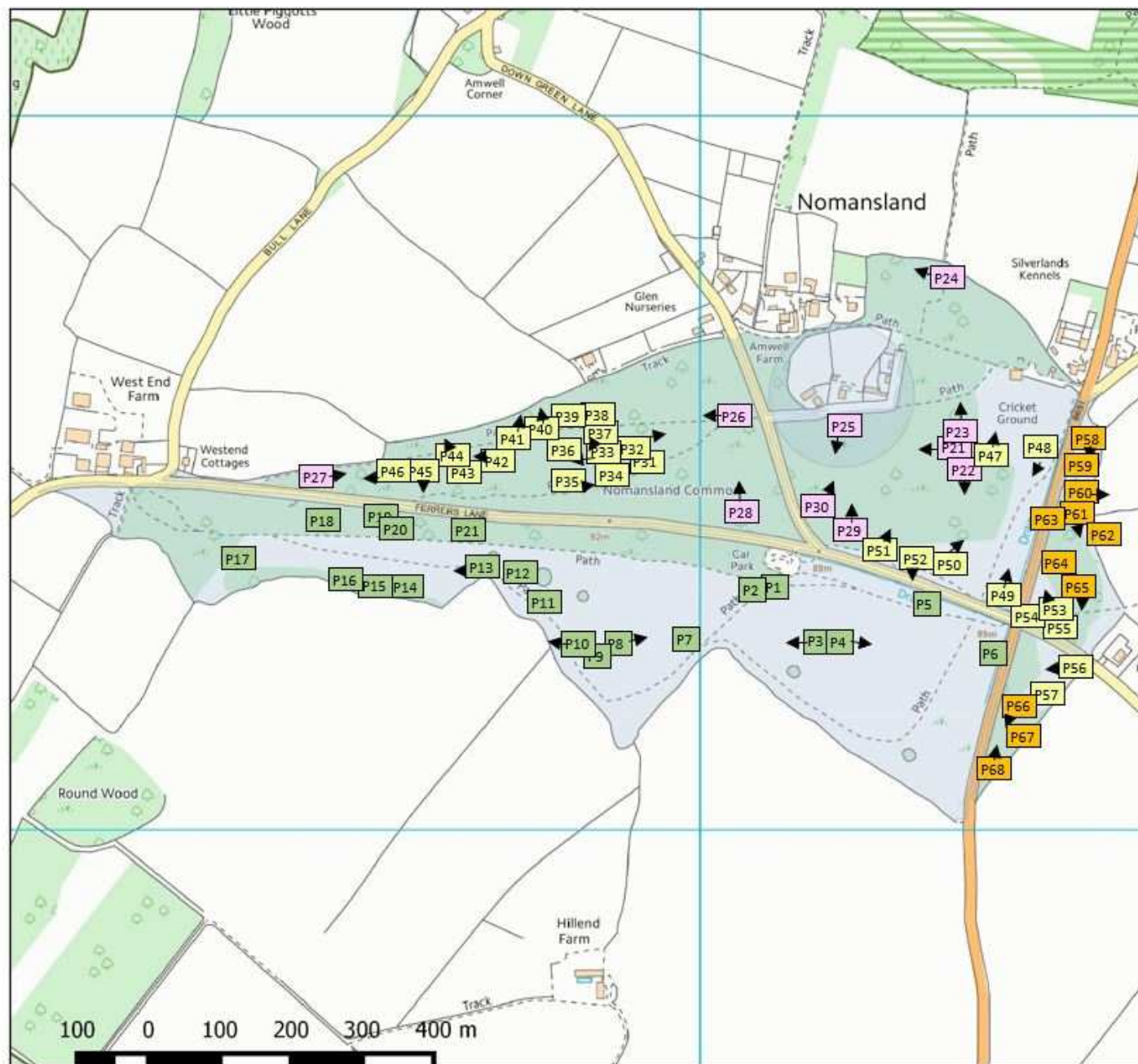
Faunal Species List:

Date of Records:		Recorder:	
Common Name	Qualifier (state if sighting, sound or sign)	no. observed (if relevant)	Date if >1 day
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

P 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.

- P Compartment 1
- P Compartment 2
- P Compartment 3
- P 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 Spotter 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 and acid grassland



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



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 67: Fire damage in woodland south of Drovers Lane



Photo 68: Brash piles 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 NOMANSLAND COMMON BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS RECORDS

Nomansland Common – Butterflies and Moths recorded at this site

Source – Herts Environmental Record Centre

Based on records for 2010 onwards the butterfly list is good.

Species with priority classifications in the Butterfly Conservation Eastern Region Action Plan are shown in bold

Species & Conservation Priority	Status at Nomansland	General Status in Herts
Orange-tip	Common	Widespread & common
Peacock	Common	Widespread & common
Comma	Common	Widespread & common
Large White	Common	Widespread & common
Small White	Common	Widespread & common
Green-veined White	Common	Widespread & common
Purple Hairstreak	Common around oaks	Widespread & common
Small Copper	Common	Localised, common
Common Blue	Common	Widespread & common
Gatekeeper	Common	Widespread & common
Meadow Brown	Common	Widespread & common
Small Skipper	Common	Widespread & declining
Ringlet	Common	Widespread & common
Speckled Wood	Common – woodland & woodland edge	Widespread & common
Small Heath	Common, declining	Widespread
Red Admiral	Common Migrant	
Essex Skipper	Declining	Widespread & declining
Marbled White	Common	Widespread & common
Large Skipper	Common – woodland edge	Widespread & common
Small Tortoiseshell	Variable	Widespread & common
Clouded Yellow	Migrant	Less common migrant
Brimstone	Common	Widespread
Dark Green Fritillary – Medium Priority	Probable vagrant	Rare but increasing
Painted Lady	Occasional Migrant	Variable migrant
Chalk hill Blue – Medium Priority	Vagrant	Common on chalk sites
Brown Argus	Probable resident, restricted	Widely distributed
Holly Blue	Resident	Widespread & common
Purple Emperor – Medium Priority	Rare	Local in woodland
White Admiral – Medium Priority	Rare	Local in woodland

On the moths database (up to date to 2016) has no records since 2008!

This is the current century list:

Abraxas grossulariata Magpie Moth	Hemistola chrysoprasaria Small Emerald
Abrostola tripartita Spectacle	Hemithea aestivaria Common Emerald
Acasis viretata Yellow-barred Brindle	Hepialus humuli Ghost Moth
Acentria ephemerella Water Veneer	Hepialus lupulinus Common Swift
Acleris cristana	Hepialus sylvina Orange Swift
Acleris forsskaeana	Herminia grisealis Small Fan-foot
Acleris rhombana Rhomboid Tortrix	Hoplodrina alsines Uncertain
Acleris variegana Garden Rose Tortrix	Hoplodrina ambigua Vine's Rustic
Acronicta aceris Sycamore	Hoplodrina blanda Rustic
Acronicta psi Grey Dagger	Horisme tersata Fern
Acronicta tridens Dark Dagger	Horisme vitalbata Small Waved Umber
Aethes rubigana	Hypena proboscidalis Snout
Agapeta hamana	Hypomecis punctinalis Pale Oak Beauty
Agapeta zoegana	Hypsopygia costalis Gold Triangle
Agriopis marginaria Dotted Border	Idaea aversata Riband Wave
Agriphila straminella	Idaea biselata Small Fan-footed Wave
Agriphila tristella	Idaea dimidiata Single-dotted Wave
Agrochola circellaris Brick	Idaea fuscovenosa Dwarf Cream Wave
Agrochola helvola Flounced Chestnut	Idaea rusticata Least Carpet
Agrochola litura Brown-spot Pinion	Idaea rusticata atrosignaria Least Carpet
Agrochola lota Red-line Quaker	Idaea trigeminata Treble Brown Spot
Agrochola lychnidis Beaded Chestnut	Lacanobia oleracea Bright-line Brown-eye
Agrochola macilenta Yellow-line Quaker	Lacanobia w-latinum Light Brocade
Agrotis clavis Heart and Club	Laothoe populi Poplar Hawk-moth
Agrotis exclamations Heart and Dart	Leucoma salicis White Satin
Agrotis ipsilon Dark Sword-grass	Ligdia adustata Scorched Carpet
Agrotis puta Shuttle-shaped Dart	Lomaspilis marginata Clouded Border
Agrotis segetum Turnip Moth	Lomographa bimaculata White-pinion Spotted
Alcis repandata Mottled Beauty	Lomographa temerata Clouded Silver
Allophytes oxyacanthae Green-brindled Crescent	Luperina testacea Flounced Rustic
Alsophila aescularia March Moth	Lyonetia clerkella Apple Leaf Miner
Amphipyra berbera Svensson's Copper Underwing	Malacosoma neustria Lackey
Amphipyra tragopoginis Mouse Moth	Mamestra brassicae Cabbage Moth
Anticlea badiata Shoulder Stripe	Melanchra persicariae Dot Moth
Anticlea derivata Streamer	Melanchra pisi Broom Moth
Apamea anceps Large Nutmeg	Melanthia procellata Pretty Chalk Carpet
Apamea lithoxyla Light Arches	Mesapamea didyma Lesser Common Rustic
Apamea monoglypha Dark Arches	Mesapamea secalis Common Rustic
Apamea remissa Dusky Brocade	Mesoligia furuncula Cloaked Minor
Apamea scolopacina Slender Brindle	Mesoligia literosa Rosy Minor
Apamea sordens Rustic Shoulder-knot	Metzneria metzneriella
Apamea unanimis Small Clouded Brindle	Mimas tiliae Lime Hawk-moth
Apeira syringaria Lilac Beauty	Monochroa palustrella
Aphelia paleana Timothy Tortrix	Monopis laevigella Skin Moth
Aphomia sociella Bee Moth	Myelois circumvoluta Thistle Ermine
Aporophyla nigra Black Rustic	Mythimna conigera Brown-line Bright Eye
Archips podana Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	Mythimna ferrago Clay
Argyrotaenia ljungiana	Mythimna impura Smoky Wainscot

Autographa gamma Silver Y	Mythimna pallens Common Wainscot
Axylia putris Flame	Noctua comes Lesser Yellow Underwing
Batia lunaris	Noctua fimbriata Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
Biston betularia Peppered Moth	Noctua interjecta caliginosa Least Yellow Underwing
Blastobasis adustella	Noctua janthe Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
Blastobasis lacticolella	Noctua pronuba Large Yellow Underwing
Blastodacna hellerella	Nola cucullatella Short-cloaked Moth
Cabera exanthemata Common Wave	Nomophila noctuella Rush Veneer
Cabera pusaria Common White Wave	Notodonta ziczac Pebble Prominent
Calliteara pudibunda Pale Tussock	Ochroleptura plecta Flame Shoulder
Campaea margaritata Light Emerald	Oligia fasciuncula Middle-barred Minor
Campptogramma bilineata Yellow Shell	Oligia latruncula Tawny Marbled Minor
Caradrina morpheus Mottled Rustic	Oligia strigilis Marbled Minor
Carcina quercana	Omphaloscelis lunosa Lunar Underwing
Catarhoe cucullata Royal Mantle	Operophtera brumata Winter Moth
Catarhoe rubidata Ruddy Carpet	Opisthograptis luteolata Brimstone Moth
Celypha lacunana	Orgyia antiqua Vapourer
Celypha striana	Orthosia cerasi Common Quaker
Cerastis rubricosa Red Chestnut	Orthosia cruda Small Quaker
Charanyca trigrammica Treble Lines	Orthosia gothica Hebrew Character
Chloroclysta truncata Common Marbled Carpet	Orthosia incerta Clouded Drab
Chrysoteuchia culmella Garden Grass-veneer	Orthosia munda Twin-spotted Quaker
Cidaria fulvata Barred Yellow	Ostrinia nubilalis European Corn Borer
Cilix glaucata Chinese Character	Ourapteryx sambucaria Swallow-tailed Moth
Cnephasia longana	Pandemis heparana Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix
Cnephasia pasiuana	Paradrina clavipalpis Pale Mottled Willow
Cochylimorpha straminea	Parapoynx stratiotata Ringed China-mark
Coleophora alcyonipennella	Parornix anglicella
Coleophora hemerobiella	Parornix finitimella
Coleophora lutipennella	Pasiphila chloerata Sloe Pug
Coleophora saxicolella	Pasiphila rectangulata Green Pug
Colocasia coryli Nut-tree Tussock	Pelurga comitata Dark Spinach
Colostygia pectinataria Green Carpet	Peribatodes rhomboidaria Willow Beauty
Conistra ligula Dark Chestnut	Peridroma saucia Pearly Underwing
Cosmia trapezina Dun-bar	Perizoma bifaciata Barred Rivulet
Cosmorhoe ocellata Purple Bar	Perizoma flavofasciata Sandy Carpet
Crambus lathoniellus	Pheosia tremula Swallow Prominent
Crambus pascuella	Philereme transversata Dark Umber
Crambus perlella	Philereme transversata britannica Dark Umber
Crocallis elinguaris Scalloped Oak	Philereme vetulata Brown Scallop
Cryphia domestica Marbled Beauty	Phlogophora meticulosa Angle Shades
Cucullia absinthii Wormwood	Phlyctaenia coronata
Cucullia umbratica Shark	Phragmatobia fuliginosa Ruby Tiger
Deilephila elpenor Elephant Hawk-moth	Phtheochroa rugosana
Diachrysis chrysis Burnished Brass	Phtheochroa sodalana
Diaphora mendica Muslin Moth	Phycita roborella
Diarsia mendica Ingrailed Clay	Phyllonorycter acerifoliella

Diarsia rubi Small Square-spot	Phyllonorycter corylifoliella
Dipleurina lacustrata	Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae
Discestra trifolii Nutmeg	Phyllonorycter spinicolella
Ditula angustiorana Red-barred Tortrix	Plemyria rubiginata Blue-bordered Carpet
Ectoedemia angulifasciella	Pleuroptya ruralis Mother of Pearl
Ectoedemia atricollis	Plutella xylostella Diamond-back Moth
Ectropis bistortata Engrailed	Polymixis flavicincta Large Ranunculus
Eilema complana Scarce Footman	Pseudargyrotoza conwagana
Eilema depressa Buff Footman	Pseudatemelia josephinae
Eilema griseola Dingy Footman	Pterostoma palpina Pale Prominent
Eilema lurideola Common Footman	Pyrrhia umbra Bordered Sallow
Emmelina monodactyla	Rheumaptera cervinalis Scarce Tissue
Emmetia marginea	Rivula sericealis Straw Dot
Endotricha flammealis	Rusina ferruginea Brown Rustic
Ephestia parasitella unicolorella	Scoparia ambigualis
Epiblema foenella	Scoparia pyralella
Epiblema trimaculana	Scoparia subfusca
Epinotia nisella	Scopula imitaria Small Blood-vein
Epirrhoe alternata Common Carpet	Scotopteryx chenopodiata Shaded Broad-bar
Epirrita dilutata November Moth	Selenia dentaria Early Thorn
Eremobia ochroleuca Dusky Sallow	Selenia tetralunaria Purple Thorn
Eucosma cana	Sitochroa verticalis
Eucosma fulvana	Sphinx ligustri Privet Hawk-moth
Eudonia mercurella	Spilonota ocellana Bud Moth
Eulithis pyraliata Barred Straw	Spilosoma lubricipeda White Ermine
Eupithecia abbreviata Brindled Pug	Spilosoma luteum Buff Ermine
Eupithecia absinthiata Wormwood Pug	Stenoptilia pterodactyla
Eupithecia assimilata Currant Pug	Stigmella anomalella Rose Leaf Miner
Eupithecia centaureata Lime-speck Pug	Stigmella aurella
Eupithecia dodoneata Oak-tree Pug	Stigmella cathartica
Eupithecia exigua Mottled Pug	Stigmella oxyacanthella
Eupithecia haworthiata Haworth's Pug	Stigmella perpygmaeella
Eupithecia intricata arceuthata Freyer's Pug	Stigmella plagicolella
Eupithecia inturbata Maple Pug	Thalpophila matura Straw Underwing
Eupithecia pimpinellata Pimpinell Pug	Timandra comae Blood-vein
Eupithecia subfusca Grey Pug	Tinea semifulvella
Eupithecia subumbrata Shaded Pug	Trachycera advenella
Eupithecia succenturiata Bordered Pug	Trachycera marmorea
Eupithecia tenuiata Slender Pug	Tyria jacobaeae Cinnabar
Eupithecia venosata Netted Pug	Udea olivalis
Eupithecia vulgata Common Pug	Udea prunalis
Euproctis similis Yellow-tail	Xanthia aurago Barred Sallow
Eupsilia transversa Satellite	Xanthorhoe fluctuata Garden Carpet
Eurrhynx hortulana Small Magpie	Xanthorhoe montanata Silver-ground Carpet
Euthrix potatoria Drinker	Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata Large Twin-spot Carpet
Euzophera pinguis	Xanthorhoe spadicearia Red Twin-spot Carpet
Evergestis forficatalis Garden Pebble	Xestia c-nigrum Setaceous Hebrew Character
Evergestis pallidata	Xestia rhomboidea Square-spotted Clay
Galleria mellonella Wax Moth	Xestia triangulum Double Square-spot

Grapholita janthinana	Xestia xanthographa Square-spot Rustic
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata Double-striped Pug	Yponomeuta padella Orchard Ermine
Habrosyne pyritoides Buff Arches	Ypsolopha scabrella
Hada plebeja Shears	Ypsolopha sequella
Hadena bicurris Lychnis	Zanclognatha tarsipennalis Fan-foot
Hadena confusa Marbled Coronet	Zeuzera pyrina Leopard Moth
Hadena perplexa perplexa Tawny Shears	Zygaena filipendulae Six-spot Burnet
Hadena rivularis Champion	
Hedya pruniana Plum Tortrix	
Helcystogramma rufescens	

6.5 NOMANSLAND COMMON BUTTERFLY TRANSECT ROUTE

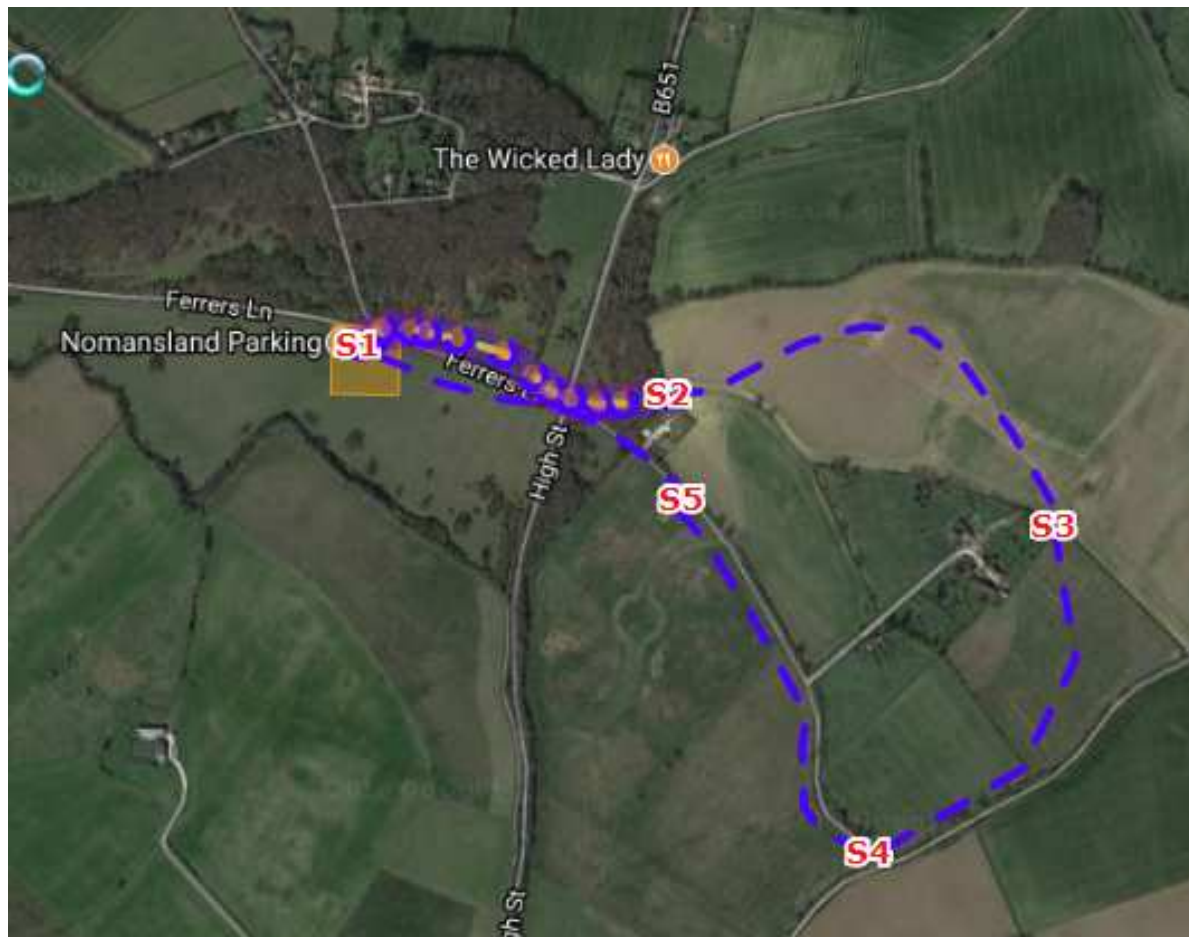
This is part of the Heartwood 2 route

Analysis of UKBMS Transect Data for Nomansland Common, Herts 2016 & 2017

Sections 1 and 5 (Nomansland Common)

Section 1 runs from the Ferrers Lane car park east along the northside of the lane to the eastern boundary of the site

Section 5 retraces the same route in the opposite direction along the southside of the lane



Species	No Recorded
Brimstone	8
Comma	3
Common Blue	26
Essex Skipper	3
Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown	107
Green-veined White	19
Holly Blue	5
Large Skipper	1
Large White	74
Marbled White	26
Meadow Brown	228
Orange Tip	14
Painted Lady	1
Peacock	6
Purple Hairstreak	1
Red Admiral	6
Ringlet	27
Small Copper	8
Small Heath	23
Small Skipper	2
Small Tortoiseshell	7
Small White	19
Speckled Wood	7
Total - 23 species	1,242
MEH	
28/03/2018	

6.6 SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Scheme relating to
NOMANSLAND COMMON
in the Parishes SANDRIDGE and WHEATHAMPSTEAD

Description
of Common
and Manage-
ment by
District
Council.

1. The piece of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as Nomansland Common, situate in the parishes of Sandridge and Wheathamstead in the County of Hertford and hereinafter referred to as "the Common" as the same is delineated in a plan sealed by, and deposited at the offices of the St. Albans Rural District Council of 43 Upper Lattimore Road, St. Albans, (hereinafter called "the Council") and thereon coloured green, being a "Common" within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1899, shall henceforth be regulated by this Scheme and the management thereof shall be vested in the Council.

Appointment
of Officers.

2. The powers of the Council generally as to appointing or employing officers and servants and paying them under the general Acts applicable to the Council shall apply to all such persons as in the judgment of the Council may be necessary and proper for the preservation of order on and the enforcement of byelaws with respect to the common and otherwise for the purposes of this Scheme, and the Council may make rules for regulating the duties and conduct of the several officers and servants so appointed and employed and may alter such rules as occasion may require.

Protection
and improve-
ment of
common.

3. The Council may execute any necessary works of drainage, raising, levelling or other works for the protection and improvement of the common and may, for the prevention of accidents, fence any quarry, pit, pond, stream or other like place on the common, and shall preserve the turf, shrubs, trees, plants and grass thereon, and for this purpose may, for short periods enclose by fences such portions as may require rest to revive the same, and may plant trees and shrubs for shelter or ornament, and may place seats upon and light the common, and otherwise improve the common as a place for exercise and recreation. Save as hereinafter provided, the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspects of the common or interfere with free access to any part thereof, and shall not erect upon the common any shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, convenience or other building without the consent of the person or persons entitled to the soil of the common and of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (in this Scheme referred to as "the Minister"). The Minister, in giving or withholding his consent, shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act, 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882, shall be acceded to or not.

Against encroachment. 4. The Council shall maintain the common free from all encroachments and shall not permit any trespass on or partial or other enclosure of any part thereof.

Public right of access and recreation. 5. The inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the common and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon subject to any bye-laws made by the Council under this scheme.

Preservation of objects of interest. 6. All objects of antiquity or antiquarian interest existing or to be found on the common are, so far as possible, to be preserved by the Council.

Maintenance and construction of paths and roads. 7. The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the common other than highways repairable by the inhabitants at large, and to set out, construct, and maintain or authorise the construction and maintenance of such new paths and roads on the common as appear to the Council to be necessary or expedient, and to take any proceedings necessary for the stopping or diversion of any highway over the common.

Games, etc. 8. The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the common as they may consider expedient, and may form grounds thereon for cricket, football, tennis, bowls and other similar games, and may allow such grounds to be temporarily enclosed with any open fence, so as to prevent cattle and horses from straying thereon; but such grounds shall not be so numerous or extensive as to affect prejudicially the enjoyment of the common as an open space or the lawful exercise of any right of common, and shall not be so near to any dwelling-house or road as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house or to persons using the road.

Parking Places. 9. The Council may, with the consent of the person or persons entitled to the soil of the common and of the Minister temporarily set apart and fence such portion or portions of the common as they may consider expedient for the parking of motor and other vehicles, and may make such charges for the use of such part as they may deem necessary and reasonable: provided that any area so set apart shall not be so near to any dwellinghouse as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the house. The Minister in giving or withholding his consent, shall have regard to the same considerations and shall, if necessary, hold the same enquiries as are directed by the Commons Act 1876, to be taken into consideration and held by the Minister before forming an opinion whether an application under the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1882 shall be acceded to or not.

Byelaws.

10. The Council may, for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order on the common, and subject to the provisions of section 10 of the Commons Act 1899, make, revoke, and alter bye-laws; such bye-laws may, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, be for any of the following purposes viz:—

- (a) For prohibiting the depositing of rubbish and the leaving of litter on the Common.
- (b) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from digging, cutting or taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the common, from placing or leaving on the common any road-sand, materials for repair of roads or wood and from cutting felling or injuring any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brush-wood or other plant growing on the common.
- (c) For regulating the place and mode of digging and taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay, or other substance and cutting, felling and taking trees or underwood on or from the common in exercise of any right of common or other right over the common.
- (d) For prohibiting the injury, defacement, or removal of any works or property maintained by the Council on the common.
- (e) For prohibiting or regulating the posting or painting of bills, placards, advertisements, or notices on trees or fences, erections or noticeboards on the common.
- (f) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from bird catching, setting traps or nets or laying snares for birds or other animals, taking birds' eggs or nests, and shooting or chasing game or other animals on the common.
- (g) For prohibiting the drawing, driving or placing upon the common or any part thereof without lawful authority of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, motor-cycle or other vehicle or any aircraft (except in the case of accident or other sufficient cause); or camping or the lighting of any fire thereon.

- (h) For regulating, in the case of a fair lawfully held, and in any other case for prohibiting or regulating the placing on the common of any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing.
- (i) For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the common.
- (j) For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the common, and assemblages of persons thereon.
- (k) For regulating the use of any portion of the common temporarily enclosed or set apart under this Scheme for any purpose.
- (l) For prohibiting or regulating the driving exercising or breaking in of horses without lawful authority on any part of the common.
- (m) For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from turning out or permitting to graze on the common any cattle, sheep or other animals.
- (n) For prohibiting or regulating bathing in any pond or stream on the common.
- (o) For prohibiting the hindrance or obstruction of an officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under this Scheme or under any bye-law made thereunder.
- (p) For authorising any officer of the Council, after due warning, to remove from the common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed, or any structure erected or placed thereon in contravention of this Scheme or of any byelaw made under this Scheme, or to remove from the common any person who within his view infringes any such bye-law or any provision of the Vagrancy Acts.

Publication
of byelaws
on common.

11. All byelaws made under this Scheme shall be published on notice boards placed on such parts of the common (not less than six) as to the Council may appear desirable.

Saving of
rights, etc.,
in the soil
and high-
ways.

12. Nothing in this Scheme or any byelaw made thereunder shall prejudice or affect any right of the person entitled as lord of the manor or otherwise to the soil of the common, or of any person claiming under him, which is lawfully exercisable in, over, under, or on the soil or surface of the common in connection with game, or with mines minerals, or other substrata or otherwise, or prejudice or affect any right of the commoners in or over the common or the lawful use of any highway or thoroughfare on the common, or affect any power or obligation to repair any such highway or thoroughfare.

Copies of
Scheme.

13. Printed copies of this Scheme shall at all times be sold at the office of the Council to all persons desiring to buy the same at a price of 6d. each.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE ST ALBANS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL was hereunto affixed
at a Meeting held on the 5th day of May, 1953, in the
presence of:—

A. G. JENKINS,
Presiding Chairman

ERIC N. WHEELER
Clerk to the Council



Approved by Order of the Minister
of Agriculture and Fisheries this
Twentieth day of July, 1953.

H. GARSIDE,
Authorised by the Minister.

6.7 NOMANSLAND COMMON WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014-2034

Protected and/or Notable Habitats and Species recorded at Nomansland Common

Protected and / or notable habitats recorded at Nomansland Common

(Adapted from the Herts BAP, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, April 1998)

Habitat	Extent Criteria					Quality criteria			
	UK priority	Local decline	Proportion in local area	Local rarity	Local threat	Fragmented / restoration	Important for key species	Viability	Local distinctiveness
Lowland acid grassland	Key	Declining		Rare	Direct	Fragmented (extendable)	Key species	Potentially viable	
Lowland heathland	Key	Declining		Rare	Direct and Indirect	Fragmented (extendable)		Potentially viable with acid grassland	

Key

Extent criteria,

UK BAP, Key habitat as identified in UK Steering Group Report,

Local decline, Local decline rate; rapid = 50 - 100% decline in habitat extent over the past 25 years, Declining = 24 - 49% decline in past 25 years; Stable = 24% decline or 24% increase over previous 25 years, Increase = 24 - 49% over previous 25 years, Rapidly Increasing = 50- 100% increase over previous 25 years.

Proportion in local area, Significant = Local habitat forms 10 -19% of total UK resource, Isolated = Local habitat is isolated from other areas of the same habitat.

Local Rarity, Rare = Habitat currently covers less than 0.6% of total BAP area, Scarce = Habitat currently covers 0.6 - 4% of total BAP area, Common = Habitat covers more than 4% of the total BAP area.

Local threat, Directly threatened = Habitat directly threatened by lack of or inappropriate management, indirectly threatened = Habitat indirectly threatened by generic factors (e.g. recreation and pollution)

Quality criteria,

Fragmented / restoration, Continuous (extendable) Habitat continuous with potential for increase in area; Continuous (fixed area) - Habitat continuous with no potential for increase in area; Fragmented (extendable) Habitat fragmented with potential for increase in area; Fragmented (fixed area) Habitat fragmented with no potential for increase in area.

Important for key species, Habitat important for local BAP priority species

Viability, Viable = Habitat above minimum viable size, potentially viable = Habitat currently below minimum viable size but with potential for increase, Non-viable = Habitat below minimum viable size with no potential for increase.

Local distinctiveness, Habitat which is particularly associated with the local area this may be a characteristic habitat or one of special historical or cultural importance.

Protected and / or notable species recorded at Nomansland Common

(Table based on the Herts BAP, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (April 1998), data provided by the County Recorders of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society)

Taxon	Vernacular	Red Data	National status	Legally protected	Herts BAP	Uk priority	Local decline	Local rarity	Local threat	Position in range	Local distinctiveness	Herts acid grassland Indicator Species
Plants												
<i>Galeopsis Speciosa</i>	Large Hemp-nettle	Vulnerable										
<i>Genista anglica</i>	Petty Whin	Near threatened			X		Decline	Scarce	Direct			X
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell			WCA 1981	X	Long list	Stable	Common			Flagship	
<i>Leptodontium gemmacens</i>	Thatch Moss	Vulnerable	Nationally rare		X	Middle list		Scarce		Localised		
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western Gorse							Rare (only site in Herts)				
<i>Ulex minor</i>	Dwarf Gorse							Scarce	Direct		Typical	
<i>Rubus hylocharis</i>	Bramble micro-species							Scarce				
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Early Hair-grass											X
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent											X
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather											X
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge											X
<i>Danthonia</i>	Heath-grass											X

Taxon	Vernacular	Red Data	National status	Legally protected	Herts BAP	Uk priority	Local decline	Local rarity	Local threat	Position in range	Local distinctiveness	Herts acid grassland Indicator Species
<i>decumbens</i>												
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved Sheep's fescue											X
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw											X
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw											X
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass											X
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush											X
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Bird's-foot / Common Birds foot											X
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil											X
<i>Potentilla x mixta</i> (P. <i>anglica</i> or <i>erecta</i> x <i>reptans</i>)	Hybrid Cinqfoil											X
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel											X
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony											X
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse / Furze											X
Invertebrates												
<i>Myrmeleo</i>	Mottled							Rare				

Taxon	Vernacular	Red Data	National status	Legally protected	Herts BAP	Uk priority	Local decline	Local rarity	Local threat	Position in range	Local distinctiveness	Herts acid grassland Indicator Species
<i>tettixmaculata</i>	grasshopper											
<i>Euheptaulacus villosus</i>	a dung beetle		Nationally scarce									
<i>Lissodema cursor</i>	a false weevil		Nationally scarce									
<i>Bembidion stephensi</i>	a ground beetle											
<i>Myrmica schencki</i>	a species of ant		Nationally scarce					Rare (1 of only 2 sites in Herts)				
<i>Myrmica lobicornis</i>	a species of ant							Rare (1 of only 7 sites in Herts)				
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath butterfly					Long list						
Reptiles / Amphibians												
<i>Lacert vivipara</i>	Common Lizard			WCA 1981								
Mammals												
<i>Myotis nattereri.</i>	Natterer's			WCA 1981	X							
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle			WCA 1981								
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-			WCA 1981								

Taxon	Vernacular	Red Data	National status	Legally protected	Herts BAP	Uk priority	Local decline	Local rarity	Local threat	Position in range	Local distinctiveness	Herts acid grassland Indicator Species
	Eared											
<i>Meles meles</i>	Badger			Badgers Act 1992 WCA 1981								
Birds												
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Alauda arvensis subsp. arvensis/scotica</i>	Skylark		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush		Red List		X	Priority species						
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer		Red List			Priority species						
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull		Amber List									
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo		Amber			Priority						

Taxon	Vernacular	Red Data	National status	Legally protected	Herts BAP	Uk priority	Local decline	Local rarity	Local threat	Position in range	Local distinctiveness	Herts acid grassland Indicator Species
			List			species						
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock		Amber List									
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare		Amber List									
<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Firecrest		Amber List									
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest		Amber List									
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker		Amber List									
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull		Amber List									
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush		Amber List									
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing		Amber List									
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove		Amber List									
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow		Amber List									
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler		Amber List									

Key

Red Data , A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.

National status, Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria. Red / Amber lists – Birds of Conservation Concern

Legally protected, WCA 1981 = Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Herts BAP, A species with an action plan within the Hertfordshire Biodiversity action Plan.

UK priority, This list, a result of the most comprehensive analysis ever undertaken in the UK, contains 1149 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). The habitats and species have been prioritised into a series of lists; Short, Middle, Long and Additional.

Local decline , Local decline rate; rapid = 50 - 100% of number/range over previous 25 years, Decline = 24 - 49%; Stable 24% decline or 24 % increase over previous 25 years, Increase = 24 - 49% increase in number/range over previous 25 years, Rapid Increase 50- 100% increase over previous 25 years.

Local rarity, Rare; occurs in 0.6% or fewer tetrads, Scarce occurs in 0.6-4% of tetrads, Common occurs in 4% + of tetrads, Extinct 0% tetrads.

Local threat, Direct - Species with specific habitats requirements which are directly threatened by lack of or inappropriate management, Indirect - Species threatened indirectly by human activities at the local level.

Position in range, Position in geographic range; Localised - local population forms 10-19% of the species uk population, Isolated - Local population is isolated from other populations and is likely to contribute to genetic diversity of the species, Outlying - Species is at the edge of its range in the BAP area.

Local distinctiveness, Flagship - High profile species used to illustrate wider environmental issues, Keystone - ecologically important species which can be used to indicate habitat quality, Typical - species not necessarily of conservation concern, but which are associated or characteristic of the locality.