



Hertford Cemetery

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2022 - 2027

Produced by:



On behalf of:



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Greenspace Action Plans

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

1.2 Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for 3 weeks in August and September 2021, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement is to be completed in October and November 2021 to enable stakeholders 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.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
V1	06/09/21	First draft	EA		
V2	18/10/21	Final draft	EA		

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3. SUMMARY

3.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Hertford Cemetery

Site Address: Hertford Cemetery, North Road, Hertford, SG14 2HZ

Grid Reference: TL31296 13285

Size: 5 hectares

Designations: Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Owner: Hertford Town Council

3.2 Vision Statement

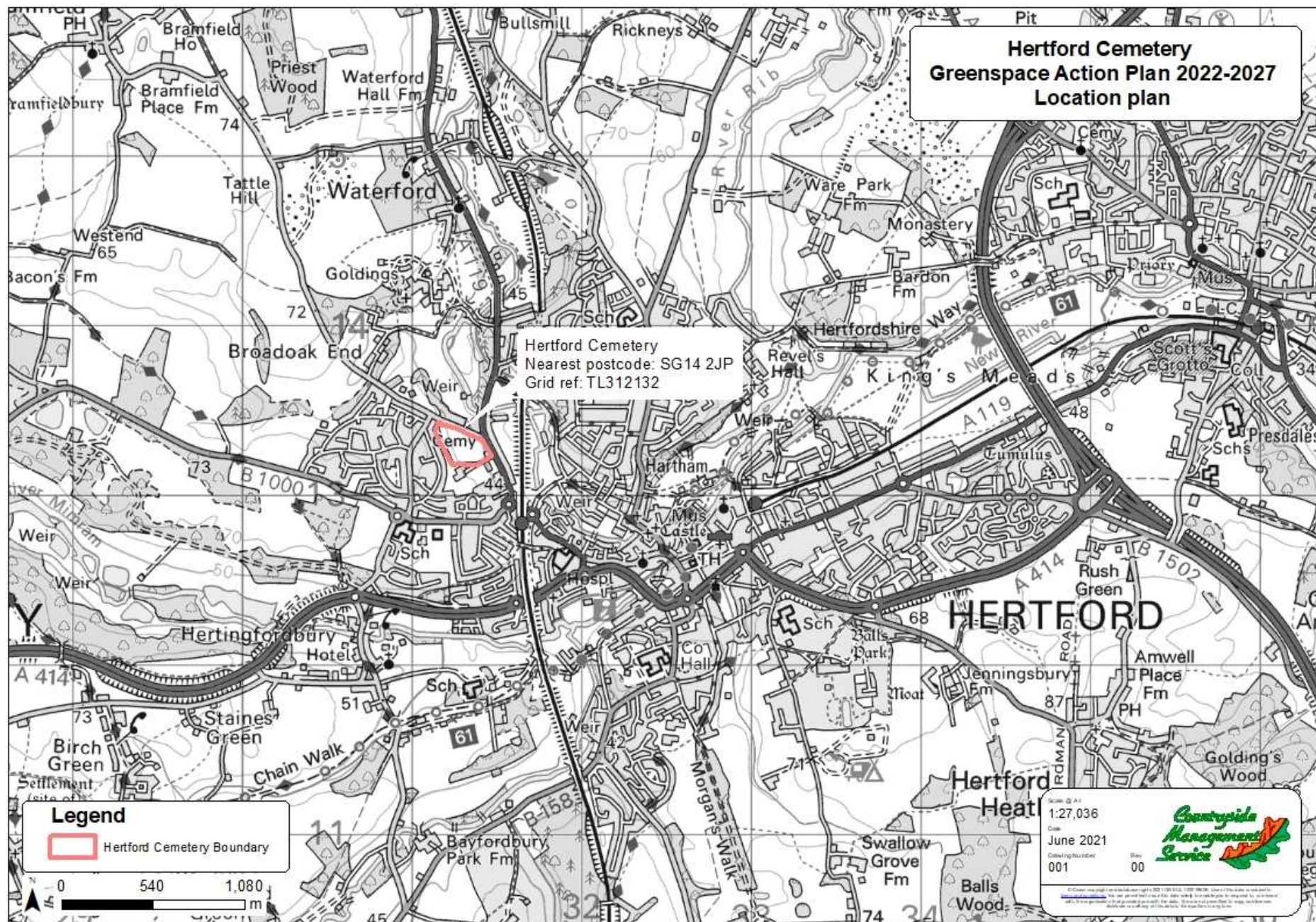
Hertford Cemetery is an historic and important place of rest close to the centre of Hertford. The site has had a management plan in the past and there is a programme of management in place. Developing a longer-term management strategy will help to achieve set aims. Our vision for this greenspace is to provide a peaceful place of rest that is a haven for wildlife and a pleasure to visit. Management of the site will allow a diversity of spaces for wildlife whilst also continuing a feeling of being cared for.

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 Introduction

Hertford Cemetery is owned and managed by Hertford Town Council. It is located to the north of Hertford, west of North Road and southwest of Bramfield Road. The cemetery includes burial land from St Andrews Parish Church which was joined to the newly designated burial land in 1945. The cemetery covers approximately 5 hectares and supports a wide range of wildlife and provides a peaceful environment.

The overall appearance of the cemetery is one of beautifully kept lawns and wildflower meadows in amongst mature trees. The site is being managed in a sympathetic way for wildlife and there are three broad management regimes. The majority of the cemetery is maintained through regular mowing, some open areas with fewer headstones are rich in wildflowers and cut and collected annually and an area designated for future burials is dominated by grasses and cut annually. The current management for wildlife is based on previous advice from the Countryside Management Service. There is a desire to formalise the management of areas defined as conservation cut and lift, close-cut grass (amenity) or annual cut grass to improve the aesthetic value of the site and to update interpretation. This Greenspace Action Plan will provide a structured and targeted approach to future management for the period 2022-2027.



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Hertford Cemetery Greenspace Action Plan 2022-2027 Final Draft

4.2 Geography and Landscape

Hertford Cemetery is an important greenspace within the local landscape and can help to connect land to the north with green spaces in the town centre. The west, northwest and some of the areas to the south of the cemetery are designated as a Local Wildlife Site because of the presence of semi-improved neutral grassland with a mix of grasses and herbs. Specifically, the designation is based on the fact that there are greater than 7 neutral grassland indicator species. There are several sites which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites near to this site including Goldings Meadow, Beane Marsh and Long Wood.

4.3 History and Archaeology



At the turn of the last century, burial space within the various churchyards in Hertford was becoming full and at that time the Council looked towards the provision of a cemetery to serve the whole community. The Council faced some opposition, from those churches in the Town which still had burial land available and particularly from the Vestry of St Andrew's Parish Church who had already provided additional burial land sufficient for

another fifty years for its parishioners at a site in North Road and was therefore not prepared to contribute an additional tax levy towards the cost of a corporation cemetery. The Council, however continued in its quest and eventually a new cemetery adjacent to the St Andrew's burial ground in North Road was formally opened by the Mayor of Hertford and consecrated by the Bishop of St Albans in 1907.

In 1945 the Corporation Cemetery and that of St Andrew's amalgamated when the Council assumed control of the maintenance of the St Andrew's section. Interesting memorials at the site include one of the so called 'Jewson's skeletons'. These are the remains of 300 medieval men, women and children which were discovered following the development of Jewson's Yard in Hertford in 1990. The skeletons were excavated by the Archaeological Trust and reinterred in the North Road Cemetery.

4.4 Habitats and Wildlife

Traditional cemeteries have historically been geographical islands where some wildlife can dwell, but this is often limited because of the horticultural basis of maintenance.

Hertford Cemetery is an important greenspace within Hertford with its priority being a place of rest. However, it also provides habitat for birds, bats, small mammals and reptiles, and other wildlife. It is being managed in a sympathetic way for wildlife and the diversity of habitats has been maintained. The cemetery is designated as a LWS because of the presence of greater than 7 grassland indicator species.



4.4.1 Grassland

Cemeteries traditionally have a strict mowing regime, and all grass is traditionally mown on a regular basis which does limit the opportunities for wildlife. The grassland in Hertford Cemetery is not managed in a traditional way but by three main mowing regimes which are outlined below:



1. Close mown amenity grass – Cut every 1-2 weeks during the growing season and arisings left.
2. Conservation cut and lift grass – Cut once a year in the Autumn, with arisings removed to reduce fertility.
3. Annual cut grass – Cut once a year to stop scrub and trees from establishing with arisings not removed.

The majority of the site is close mown amenity grass which is distributed around the site where there are the newest burial areas and between headstones. Conservation cut and lift grass is located in suitable areas around the site where there are large enough spaces between the headstones or the edges of burial areas. These areas of grass have a good diversity of different species of wildflower including Black knapweed, Bird's-foot-trefoil and Yarrow. Ideally all areas that are not close mown should be put on a conservation cut and lift regime and arisings removed but the availability of maintenance staff to do this is limited.

4.4.2 Trees and scrub



The trees at Hertford Cemetery are an important part of the character of the site. There are a range of different trees species including oak, rowan, maple, pine, holly, yew, hawthorn, cherry, beech, dogwood, cypress and sycamore. Trees are surveyed every 3 years and managed to assess their safety and removed or pruned and replaced if necessary. The trees on site provide habitat for birds and help to

connect routes around the site for wildlife. Many of the pathways and avenues around the site are lined with trees to add to the overall atmosphere. In addition, along the western boundary the path is lined with large beech trees which shade the understory and limit the growth of shrub species apart from holly. Also, along this boundary close to the fence is a hornbeam hedge which has grown to 5-10m tall.

4.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

The site is accessed by motorised vehicles via an entrance from Bramfield Road and there is pedestrian access off North Road. There are no toilets located on site, but over the course of the next 5 years an assessment of the feasibility of toilets on site will be carried out. There is a notice board located close to the main entrance to the site off Bramfield Road where information about the site can be found. There is a network of surfaced pedestrian footways throughout the site.

Benches are normally donated on behalf of someone who has died but we do get benches donated for other reasons such as in appreciation of the beauty and special nature of the cemetery. Benches made of rainforest timbers such as Teak are not permitted. The cost of the benches is the responsibility of the donor, who is required to fix benches to a standard agreed with the Town Council. Application is by way of letter, which is then considered by the Community Service Committee.

4.6 Community and Events

Hertford Cemetery is a place of peace and rest within Hertford and provides space for wildlife. It is open to the public from 8am until sunset on weekdays and weekend hours are generally 9am to 7pm. Vehicle gates are open from 8am to 4.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 3.15pm on Fridays. Hertford Town Council offer a range of services at the cemetery including cemetery management, liaison with funeral directors and administration of deeds and records.

5. AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are based upon Green Flag assessment criteria and the Town Council endeavours to manage its land to these standards, which are set out below.

5.1 Aim

To provide a welcoming and tranquil setting, attractive and rich in wildlife, where people can come to be with their loved ones or simply relax in peaceful surroundings.

5.2 Objectives

A. A welcoming place

To provide a tranquil and welcoming setting for visitors to Hertford Cemetery.

A1 Appropriate management of the grass, trees, and shrubs on site so that the appearance of the site is one of a maintained and welcoming space.

A2 Maintain a network of paths around the site.

A3 Provide informative signage at the entrances (including wildlife, historical and environmental information).

B. Healthy, safe and secure

To ensure that visitors feel safe and secure in the cemetery.

B1 Footpaths must be well maintained and safe to use.

B2 Headstones and monuments must be safe and monitored to ensure that they continue to be safe.

B3 Ensure that grounds maintenance staff are trained in the use of all machinery and have suitable PPE.

C. Clean and well maintained

To ensure that the cemetery is clean, tidy and well maintained.

C1 Ensure that an effective grounds maintenance regime is in place to uphold the maintenance standards of the site.

C2 Ensure that cemetery infrastructure is kept in good condition.

D. Sustainability

To ensure that the management of the site is as sustainable as possible.

D1 Funding obtained where required for capital works.

D2 Management operations within the cemetery are to be carried out sustainably.

D3 Management operations to have limited impact on the surrounding environment.

E. Conservation and Heritage

To ensure that the habitats present on site are maintained to enhance the biodiversity of the site whilst maintaining the overall character of the site.

E1 Maintain current hedgerows and trees to provide space for wildlife ensuring public safety.

E2 Manage grassland to increase the benefit to biodiversity whilst ensuring that the site remains a feeling of being well maintained.

E3 Manage amenity grassland to horticultural standard where required.

F. Community Involvement

Enable bereaved families and volunteers to get involved in the development of the site.

F1 Provide opportunities for CMS practical volunteers to be involved with the management of the site.

F2 Provide opportunities for local community and bereaved families to get involved with the site.

G. Marketing

Raise awareness of the site and what it has to offer.

G1 Install new interpretation to inform visitors about the management, history and wildlife present.

G2 Promote the site via the Hertford Town Council website.

6. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

6.1 A Welcoming Place



At the entrance to the site off Bramfield Road there is a notice board. There are opportunities to use this notice board to inform people about wildlife within the cemetery (shown in the photo to the left). Also, installation of information panels at each of the entrances could inform cemetery visitors about the management of the site and wildlife that might be seen. Also, of importance which could be added to new information panels is the

history of the site. Entrances should be kept clear and well maintained with some of the shrubs removed/cut back at the vehicle entrance off Bramfield Road which would make the main entrance more welcoming. In addition to this the view in from Bramfield road adds to the welcoming nature of the site, so current hedgerows should be maintained at a height of no more than 1m and new hedgerows planted along this boundary should have the same maintenance regime.

6.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

There is a feeling of being safe within the cemetery because of the open walkways and restricted access through gates. Tree safety and headstone safety assessments should continue to be carried out to maintain health and safety standards. Trees identified in the tree safety survey as being dangerous should be scheduled for work. All walkways should be assessed for trip hazards and where required sections should be replaced. The



site is also an important greenspace within Hertford for people to exercise by walking around this peaceful environment. This has been of particular importance over the course of the COVID pandemic where we were advised to stay local. Gate locking and unlocking procedures should be continued as they keep the site safe and secure at night.

6.3 Clean and Well Maintained

The space is clean and well maintained with some specified grass areas of the cemetery left to grow long. There is a need with future maintenance regimes (particularly in these areas of longer grass) to reassure people that maintenance is being carried out through mowing the edges of paths and controlling weed trees. Areas of the cemetery are specified as being conservation cut and lift, annual cut and amenity grass. Trees, shrubs and hedgerows alongside walkways should be maintained to allow easy passage. Litter collection and bin emptying ensures that the site remains clean and is good for wildlife. Also providing information about the maintenance regime and reasons for this maintenance will be important.

6.4 Sustainability

The cemetery is managed sustainably through only cutting grass where needed and only using weed killer on paths where needed. A change to all electric equipment when this becomes feasible would reduce emissions. Also ensuring that all headstone cleaning is done with eco-friendly methods will limit this impact on the environment. In addition, providing space for a range of wildlife by leaving some grass to grow long, planting trees and leaving deadwood can improve the sustainability of the cemetery. In addition, if appropriate, some of the timber from felled or fallen trees might be sold to bring in some revenue to the cemetery and help to enhance the sustainability of work to be carried out.

6.5 Conservation and Heritage



This space has lots of opportunities for wildlife because of the mixture of different habitats so these should be maintained and improved where possible. The site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site because of the grassland and species present within this, so the maintenance of these areas needs to consider this. Expanding the conservation cut and lift areas would be beneficial for pollinators. The site is an important site historically which should not be overlooked or

damaged. Information about the history of the site on an interpretation panel would also be beneficial for visitors.

6.5.1 Managing Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Oak Processionary Moth is a species of moth with caterpillars that nest in oak trees. The caterpillars eat the leaves of oak trees but also pose a threat to humans, the hairs or nest of the caterpillars can cause serious rashes and irritation. They haven't been found on the site but have been found at several sites within Hertfordshire. If found, their location must be reported to the landowner and information sent to the Forestry Commission (FC). Further details can be found in item two of the appendix.

6.6 Community Involvement and Marketing

The site is open to the public and volunteers are involved in opening and closing the gates. There is a chance to identify other opportunities for members of the public to get involved possibly as volunteers carrying out some basic maintenance tasks. Providing information about these volunteering opportunities could be done through the Hertford Town Council website and through information in notice boards. Also, installation of new interpretation panels would help to promote the site (an example is shown to the right). The site will continue to be a peaceful and an important place of rest for the local community so this atmosphere should be maintained through careful and thoughtful management.



7. ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

7.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Cut round signs, furniture and entrances	C1, E3	Apr-Oct	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.1, 8.1.3	
0.2	Cut along sides of paths	A2, B1	Apr-Oct	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.1	
0.3	Remove rubbish where needed	C1	When required	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.3.1	
0.4	Monitor and maintain site infrastructure as required	B2, C2	When required	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.3.1	
0.5	Cut amenity grass at least every 2 weeks to a length of 5-6cm.	A1, C1	March - Dec	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.1	
0.6	Cut and clear wildflower meadow area	E2	Sept-Nov	HTC	GMO/Con	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.1	
0.7	Hedgerow maintenance	E1, F1	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO/Vols	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.3	
0.8	Cut annual cut areas	E2, E3	Sept - Oct	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.1	
0.9	Annual service of electric gates at the entrance	A3, C2	Annually	HTC	Con	CSB	No additional cost	8.3.1	
1.0	Headstone topple testing area 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. (5 year cycle of testing).	B2, C2	Annually	HTC	GMO	CBS	No additional cost	8.3.1	
1.1	Ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable	D1	Ongoing	HTC	HTC	CSB	N/A	N/A	
1.2	Promote the site and volunteering.	F1, F2,	Ongoing	HTC	HTC	CSB	N/A	N/A	
1.2	Review Action Plans		Annually	HTC	HTC	CSB	N/A	N/A	

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service, HTC – Hertford Town Council, Vols – Volunteer, Con – Contractor, GMO – Grounds Maintenance Operatives, CSB – Community Services Budget, AMB – Annual Maintenance Budget.

7.2 YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2022/2023

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Investigate the feasibility of getting a contractor to carry out the cut and collect of specified grassland areas.	A3, E2	Ongoing	HTC	HTC	CSB	£300 (of carrying out cutting)	8.1.1	
0.2	Tree risk management inspections	A1	Every 3 years.	HTC	Con	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.2	
0.3	Monuments topple testing and contact owners if required or lay down where appropriate.	B2	Every 5 years.	HTC	HTC/Con	CSB	No additional cost	8.3	
0.4	Design and install interpretation/information panels, with potential locations shown on the map.	A3, G1, C2	By March 2023	HTC/CMS	CMS/GMO	AMB	£1000	8.2	
0.5	Repaint railings and gates.	A3, C2	April-Oct	HTC	Con	AMB	£600	8.3.1	
0.6	Weed tree removal and stump treatment	C1, E2, E3, D3	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.2	
0.7	Gap up hedgerow along North Road with native bare root hedgerow species.	E1	Oct-Feb	HTC/CMS	HTC	AMB	£200	8.1.3	
0.8	Cut back lower branches on the roundabout and plant with bulbs.	E1, B1, A1	Oct-Jan	HTC	GMO	AMB	£50	8.1.2	
0.9	Coppice 1 st section of Hornbeam (8m section) and plant gaps. (Possibility of selling timber). A felling licence may need to be obtained.	A1, E1, D3, D1	Oct-Mar	HTC/CMS	Con	AMB	£350	8.1.2	
1.0	Addition of wildflower seed to cut and collect area to the left-hand side of the entrance to enhance species diversity.	E2, F1	Oct-Nov	HTC	HTC	AMB	£150	8.1.1	

7.3 YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN 2023/2024

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Plant bulbs in area shown on the plan	E2	Nov-Dec	HTC	GMO	AMB	£100	8.3.2	
0.3	Coppice 2 nd section of Hornbeam (8m section) and plant gaps. (Possibility of selling timber). A felling licence may need to be obtained.	A1, E1, D1, D3	Oct-Mar	HTC/CMS	Con	AMB	£350	8.1.2	
0.4	Plant hedgerow along southern boundary with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.	D3	Oct-Feb	HTC	HTC	AMB	£300	8.1.3	
0.5	Continue planting of Hawthorn avenue standards.	D2, E1	Oct-Mar	HTC	HTC	AMB	£200	8.1.2	
0.6	Weed tree removal and stump treatment.	C1, E2, E3, D3	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.2	
0.7	Include annual cut areas in the southeast corner in the cut and lift regime (if possible, cut March & Sept).	E2	March & Sept	HTC	HTC/Con	CSB	N/A	8.1.1	
0.8	Enlarge conservation cut and lift wildflower meadow area in south east corner of the site.	E2	March-Aug	HTC/CMS	HTC/Con	CSB	N/A	8.1.1	

7.4 YEAR 3 ACTION PLAN 2024/2025

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Reduce scrub area by cutting to ground level as shown on the plan.	E1, A1	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO /Vols	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.4	
0.2	Coppice 3 rd section of Hornbeam (8m section) and plant gaps. (Possibility of selling timber). A felling licence may need to be obtained.	A1, E1, D1, D3	Oct-Mar	HTC/ CMS	Con	AMB	£350	8.1.2	
0.3	Replace Box bushes along Bramfield Road with Privet to form a hedge.	A1, F1, E1	Oct-Jan	HTC	HTC	AMB	£50	8.1.3	
0.4	Continue planting of Hawthorn avenue standards	D2, E1	Oct-Mar	HTC	HTC	AMB	£200	8.1.2	
0.5	Review effectiveness of targeting cutting	A1, E2	Jun-Jul	HTC/ CMS	HTC	CSB	N/A	8.1.1	
0.6	Include annual cut area in the northwest corner in the cut and lift regime (if possible, cut March & Sept)	E2	March & Sept	HTC	HTC/Con	CSB	N/A	8.1.1	

7.5 YEAR 4 ACTION PLAN 2025/2026

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec Ref.	Status
0.1	Coppice 4 th section of Hornbeam (8m section) and plant gaps. (Possibility of selling timber). A felling licence may need to be obtained.	A1, E1, D1, D3	Oct-Mar	HTC/CMS	Con	AMB	£350	8.1.2	
0.2	Reduce scrub area but cutting to ground level as shown on the plan.	E1, A1	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO /Vols	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.4	
0.3	Hedgerow planting aftercare.	F1 F2 E1	Jan-Apr 2026	HTC	HTC/Vols	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.3	
0.4	Weed tree removal and stump treatment	C1 E2 E3 D3	Oct-Feb	HTC	GMO	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.2	

7.6 YEAR 5 ACTION PLAN 2026/2027

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec Ref.	Status
0.1	Coppice 5 th section of Hornbeam (8m section) and plant gaps. (Possibility of selling timber). A felling licence may need to be obtained.	A1, E1, D1, D3	Oct-Mar	HTC/CMS	Con	AMB	£350	8.1.2	
0.2	Open up entrance by cutting back shrubs close to the notice board.	A1 B1	Oct-Mar	HTC	GMO /Vols	CSB	No additional cost	8.1.4	
0.2	Investigate project to develop memorial area in St Andrews area.	C2	By March 2027	HTC	HTC	AMB	TBC	N/A	
0.3	Review Year 5 Action Plan and consult & write new GAP.		Apr 2027	CMS/HTC	CMS	N/A	TBC	N/A	















8. SPECIFICATIONS

8.1 Vegetation Management

8.1.1 Grassland

Grass along paved footpath edges should be cut back to a minimum of 50cm from the path edge. In addition to this vegetation around entrances should be regularly cut to stop it from encroaching.

The cut and lift areas identified should be cut annually and arisings collected and removed after 2-3 days to allow wildflower seed to drop. If a suitable contractor can be found and if this is feasible the larger areas could be cut by a machine. This should be carried out after wildflower seeds have dropped in August. If deemed necessary, an additional cut with arisings removed can be carried out in late March.

The annual cut areas should be cut once a year in August.

The amenity grassland should be cut on a regular basis to a height of approximately 5-6cm throughout the growing season.

Addition of wildflowers

Wildflowers can be added to an area of grassland for the purpose of enhancing the floral diversity of this grassland. On a small scale this can be done through creating patches of bare ground through scarifying with a rake and then sowing wildflower seed and firming in. This should either be carried out in Autumn (October) or early spring (March/early April). On a larger scale machinery can be used for scarification and sowing but this should only be carried out where floral diversity is very low.

8.1.2 Woodland

Tree safety

The safety of users is of primary importance the HTC and formal tree surveys are carried out every three years, with works identified and carried out based on their urgency. Each inspection captures location of trees, inspects their condition, and recommendations for work.

Coppicing

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management where certain tree species are cut to the ground and allowed to regrow in a multi-stem form. Coppicing at various stages of growth provides a great variety of habitats for wildlife. Hornbeam coppices quite readily and this should be carried out on a cycle of about 15 – 20 years. Deer and rabbit protection may be required after cutting. Each year an 8m section of the hornbeam hedgerow will be coppiced.

Timings

Tree works should be undertaken outside of nesting season between November and February, unless a tree safety issue override this.

Timber arisings

Timber from coppicing is to be removed from site and sold where possible or chipped and removed from site. Other timber can be left where appropriate to provide habitat for beetles and other wildlife in the form of deadwood.

Weed trees

Weed trees are trees that are not wanted in a specific place, this may be down to species or location. In this incidence it is because there is a desire to keep the grassland areas of the site free of new trees. This is done by cutting these weed species down and treating the stumps with Eco -plugs.

8.1.3 Hedges and shrubs

The Privet hedge along Bramfield Road should be cut regularly to maintain views into the cemetery. This hedgerow is to be gapped up with Privet and Box bushes removed a replaced with privet.

The hedge to be planted along the boundary with St Joseph's Catholic School is to be planted with a mixture of native species including Hazel, Hawthorn, Dogwood and Field Maple. The hedgerow along the western boundary is to be gapped up with native species including Hazel, Hawthorn, Dogwood and Field Maple.

8.1.4 Scrub

Scrub is dense vegetation that is dominated by woody plants and typically forms as an intermediate vegetation between grassland and woodland. It is important for a range of wildlife, particularly birds. The scrub on site should be managed to ensure that it does not become dominant and spread from the boundaries of existing areas. This control can be carried out by cutting between October and February (not during bird-nesting season).

8.2 Signage and interpretation

New interpretation will be developed over the course of the next management plan to inform visitors about history, wildlife and management. Ideally one A2 lectern could be placed near to a readily used entrance or a place where people congregate. In addition, smaller information panels could be placed at other entrances.

8.3 Maintenance

8.3.1 Man-made structures

Surfaced pedestrian routes, monuments, and entrances will be maintained to create a welcoming and safe environment for visitors.

1. Monuments and headstones will be topple-tested every 5 years and repaired or made safe. Owners of headstones will be written to if they need repairing and where this is not possible, they will be made safe by laying down.
2. Surfaced pedestrian routes will be inspected regularly and repairs carried out when required. Where moss begins to build-up this will be removed by brushing or raking and if required a contractor will be used to carry out specialist treatment.
3. Benches are normally donated on behalf of someone who has died but we do get benches donated for other reasons such as in appreciation of the beauty and special nature of the cemetery. Benches made of rainforest timbers such as Teak are not permitted. The cost of the benches is the responsibility of the donor, who is required to fix benches to a standard agreed with the Town Council. Application is by way of letter, which is then considered by the Community Service Committee.
4. Bins are located at entrances and emptied as required. Replacement of bins, as they come to the end of their lifespan, should be done with covered bins to reduce the potential of litter blowing out.

8.3.2 Horticulture

Planting and replacement of shrubs will take place where needed and funding for new planting will be identified. Bulb planting will provide aesthetical value and value for pollinating insects in the early part of the spring. Snowdrops and some Crocus can be of real benefit to wildlife.

9. APPENDICES

1. Local Wildlife Site Survey Report



Site Citation

The Hertfordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership is led by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre

Working partners:

 Countryside Management

Site Name: Hertford Cemetery

Site Code: 59/059

Grid Ref: TL313133

Status: Wildlife Site

Habitat: Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

Site Interest: Large cemetery supporting species diverse old neutral grassland with a good mix of herbs and grasses. Scarce species have been recorded in the grassland.

Semi-improved grasslands are grasslands only slightly modified by fertilisers, herbicides, high grazing pressure or by drainage. Consequently species diversity is lower than the corresponding "unimproved" grassland types with characteristic species occurring at lower densities and partially replaced by more competitive species. Such grasslands are still of conservation value and display a flora of an acidic, neutral or calcareous nature.

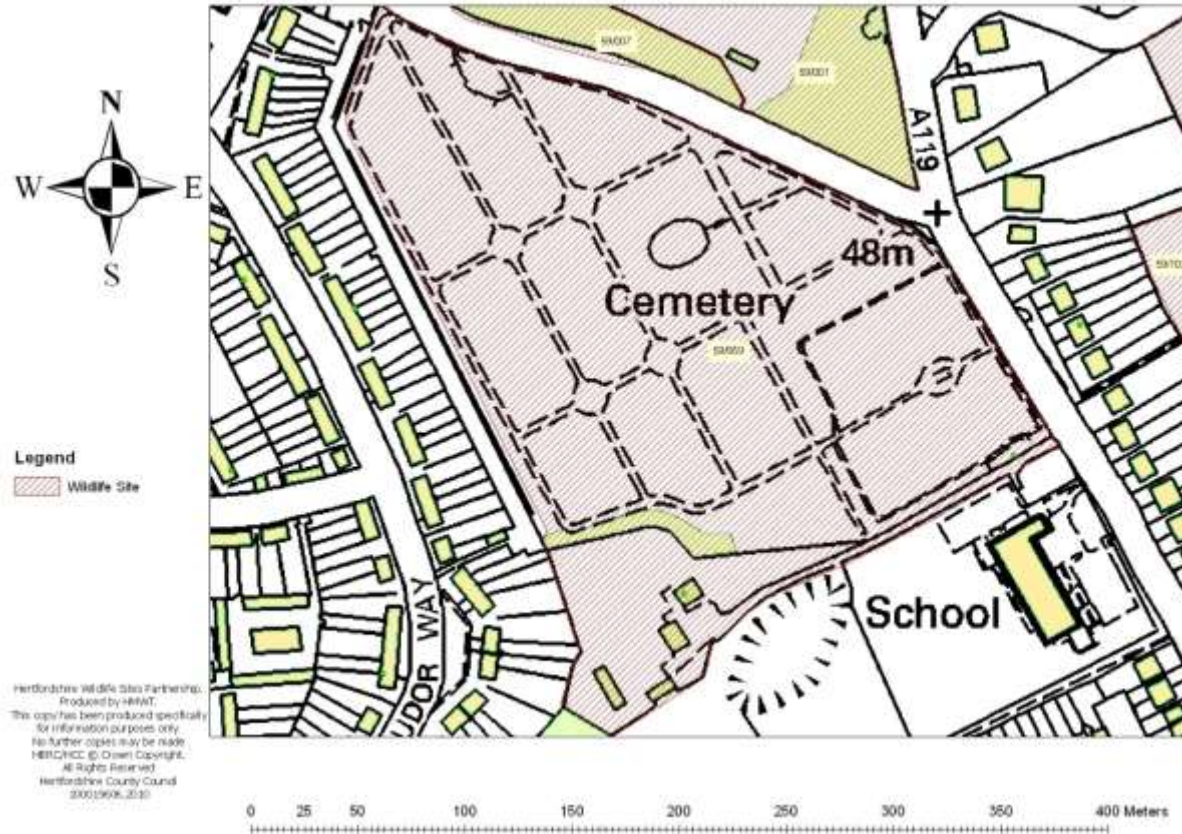
Neutral grassland

Neutral grasslands occur throughout the UK on soils in the pH range of 5-6.5. They often occur on damper soils which are harder to cultivate, and are the typical hay meadows of lowland England. Typical species present include Birds Foot Trefoil, Black Knapweed, Red Clover, Meadow Buttercup, Lady's Bedstraw and Cowslip. The most ecologically valuable neutral grasslands are those with a species-rich sward and a varied structure. Features such

as anthills or ridge and furrow may provide added interest. Ridge and furrow, developed as a result of past cultivation, may also be linked to important archaeological features. The ecological value of these meadows and pastures is often enhanced if they are found as part of a varied landscape consisting of hedgerows, streams and woodlands. It is estimated that there was about 75,000ha of grassland in the county in 1934 - most of which would have been unimproved neutral grassland. Now there is only 947ha of unimproved neutral grassland remaining.

Management Guidelines:

Managing grassland in a traditional way will help to maintain and even improve the species diversity. Traditional management would have either involved grazing in early spring before shutting up the meadow for hay until late June/early July, and finally, grazing the new growth in autumn. Or where hay was not a traditional crop, year-round low intensity grazing was practised. DEFRA's Environmental Stewardship Scheme can provide payments for continuing or restoring this traditional type of management. Use of pesticides and fertilisers should generally be avoided on this type of habitat as they will cause many of the more vulnerable species to be lost. Similarly, ploughing and reseedling will destroy the wildlife interest of permanent grassland.



2. Managing Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

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

1. The exact location will be recorded and photographs of observable caterpillars, nests and webbing will be obtained and sent to the Forestry Commission (FC) for official identification.
2. Notices will be posted at prominent access points and close to the location of the sighting to alert people accessing the site to the possible presence of OPM.
3. Relevant partners will be informed to ensure that activities are conducted safely or cancelled where necessary.
4. The specific location of the sighting will be assessed with consideration to the typical use of the site. If OPM is identified within close proximity to areas assessed as posing a high risk of public contact, then additional precautions such as additional signage or temporary fencing will be taken to reduce the risk of public contact with OPM caterpillars and nests.

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

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

The OPM infestation will be assessed using the following criteria:

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

Following assessment, if spraying in the current season or nest removal is appropriate then a suitably qualified and experienced arborist will be instructed to take appropriate action as soon as possible (typically within five working days).

Arborists will be required to conduct insecticide spraying, nest removals and waste disposal in line with FC guidance as set out in chapter 6 and chapter 7 of the OPM Manual.

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

Whether insecticide spraying is conducted by the FC or by an appointed arborist the contractors will be required to operate in accordance with FC guidance (outlined above). Once insecticide spraying has occurred, a suitably qualified and experienced arborist can be instructed to carry out nest removal. This will be conducted only when nests are near high-risk areas. Following two seasons of spraying the FC will be consulted to confirm whether OPM has been successfully eradicated from the site. If OPM is still present the FC will be consulted on appropriate future action.