



South Oxhey Playing Fields

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2019 – 2024

Produced by:

On behalf of:



OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plans

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

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An initial engagement period was held for four weeks in September 2018, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 4.

A second stage of engagement in February 2019 will enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. Please be aware that we do not respond individually to comments received through the public engagements; instead, we will produce a summary of comments, noting any amendments made to the plan as a result. An engagement response document will be published as an appendix to the final plan, summarising comments received and any amendments made to the plan as a result.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved

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1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Site Summary

Site Name: South Oxhey Playing Fields

Site Address: Green Lane, Watford WD19 4LS

Grid Reference: TQ1062193744

Size: 49 hectares

Designations: Local Wildlife Site 90/005/01

Owner: Three Rivers District Council

1.2 Vision Statement

South Oxhey Playing Fields is a large area of green open space located in the post-war housing developments of South Oxhey. The site provides a range of formal and informal recreational opportunities including weekly parkrun UK events, tennis, football, and basketball facilities, children's play area, and extensive grassland with two waymarked trails.

South Oxhey Playing Fields has a rich social history which influences the character of the site today, including a period of golf course management and a longer history as parkland attached to the historic Oxhey Place Estate. Fragments of ancient hornbeam-oak woodland located on the fringes of the site are designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The position of the site offers views out to an open landscape which contrasts with the residential surroundings of South Oxhey Playing Fields.

The vision for the site, as set out in this five year Greenspace Action Plan, is to maintain and enhance its semi-natural character and recreational value, celebrate the heritage of South Oxhey Playing Fields, and support community participation in site management. This plan sets out a framework for this vision to be achieved through reintroducing traditional habitat management, designing and installing site interpretation, improving site facilities and infrastructure, and providing structured volunteering and consultation opportunities.

The structure of this plan has been based on Green Flag criteria, to explore the criteria that are important for a successful green space. The document includes annual maps and timetables which identify the location, responsibility, and timeframe of management actions. The progress of the plan will be reviewed annually, allowing for revision of actions and timeframes as required, in line with the objectives and long term vision of the plan.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

South Oxhey Playing Fields is an extensive area of Greenspace, located in South Oxhey, owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council. The site is composed of a semi-natural habitat matrix which includes ancient hornbeam-oak woodland and an extensive area of amenity managed grassland. A variety of recreational opportunities are available on site including six football pitches, children's play equipment and adult fitness equipment, and artificially surfaced tennis, football, and basketball courts.

The site can be accessed from a number of entrance points on Hampermill Lane, Hayling Road and from surround residential streets. Many householders have private access to the site. No Public Rights of Way cross the site, although Watford Rural 001, 002, and 027 lead into the site. Promoted walking trails which cross the site include the London Loop and South Oxhey Circular Walk, both of which are waymarked.

The site has a rich and varied history which has shaped the character of the site today. The tree avenue along Green Lane is a relic of the former parkland landscape of historic Oxhey Place Estate. In the early half of the 20th Century the site was managed as a golf course and grassland with scattered tree groups remains the most extensive habitat. A deep depression on the north boundary of the site, under woodland canopy, is a medieval chalk pit.

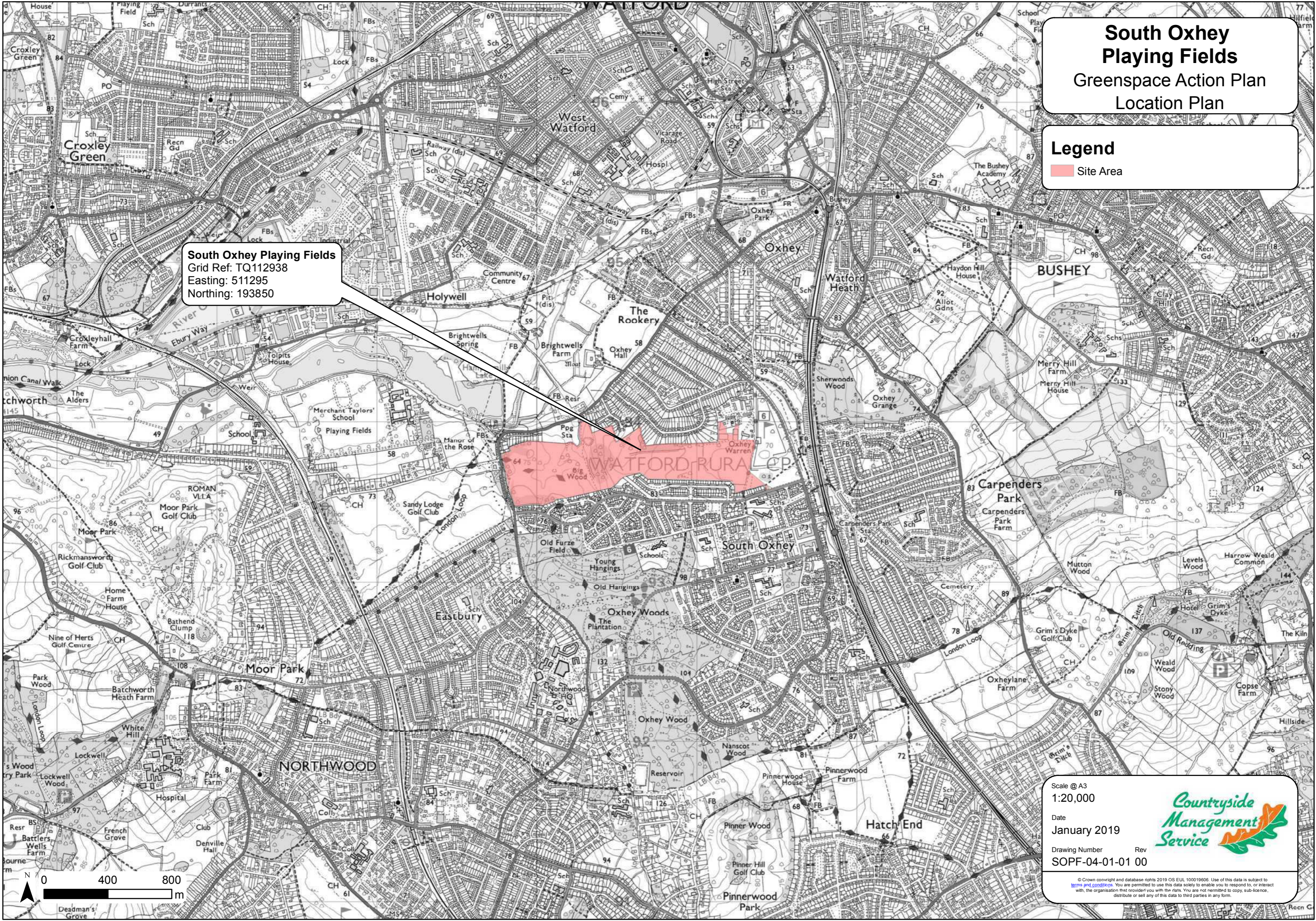
The parkland type landscape of South Oxhey Playing Fields creates an openness which contrasts with the seclusion of nearby Oxhey Wood Local Nature Reserve. Parts of the site offer views of the landscape which extends beyond the surrounding residential development, creating a rural feel to the site which is in contrast with its urban location.

South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Location Plan

Legend

Site Area

South Oxhey Playing Fields
Grid Ref: TQ112938
Easting: 511295
Northing: 193850



Scale @ A3
1:20,000

Date
January 2019

Drawing Number Rev
SOPF-04-01-01 00



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South Oxhey Playing Fields

Greenspace Action Plan

Site Description

Ox Pasture Spring (Local Wildlife Site 90/005/01)
Ancient woodland containing a good example of over-stood hornbeam coppice. Surrounded by secondary woodland. The ancient wood bank is topped by boundary hornbeam stubs.

Hampermill Wood (Local Wildlife Site 90/005/01)
Ancient woodland surrounded by secondary regeneration. Diverse species mix with a good structure. Paths from Hampermill Lane are over-shaded. Yellow ant nests can be seed in the marginal glade.

Hampermill Lane entrance W

Hampermill Lane entrance N

Green Lane entrance

Artificially surfaced football pitch and tennis courts

Basketball court and skate-park

- #### Legend
- Access Pedestrian
 - Access Vehicle
 - ▲ Panel
 - Bench
 - Old Bench
 - Picnic Bench
 - Lamp
 - Flood Light
 - Dog Bin
 - Litter Bin
 - Recycle Bin
 - ▲ London Loop Signpost
 - London Loop Waymark
 - South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
 - × Goal Structure
 - Storage Container
 - × Gas Line Marker
 - Scattered Trees
 - Surfaced Path
 - Seasonal Waterlogging
 - Line of Trees
 - Amenity Grassland
 - Rough Grassland
 - Woodland
 - Hornbeam Copse
 - Scrub
 - Leisure

Line of willow pollards in poor health

Grassland in the east of the site is recreational, with six football pitches. Prone to water-logging..

Grassland in the centre of the site supports the greatest diversity of wildflowers, including bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, and sweet vernal-grass.

Big Wood (Local Wildlife Site 90/005/01)
Ancient woodland surrounded by secondary regeneration. Non-native Norway maple and sycamore dominate in some areas, and invasive cherry laurel and rhododendron are present. A deep chalk pit is located in the west of the woodland. Paths to Hampermill Lane are over-shaded.

Grassland in the west is of the site is dominated by agricultural grasses, with few wildflowers.

Hampermill Spring (Local Wildlife Site 90/005/01)
Ancient woodland containing a good example of over-stood hornbeam coppice. Surrounded by secondary woodland regeneration

Embleton Road entrance

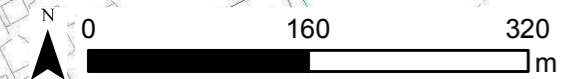
Fitness equipment

Childrens Play Area

Ashburnham Drive entrance

Access from Hayling Road

Outdoor fitness equipment



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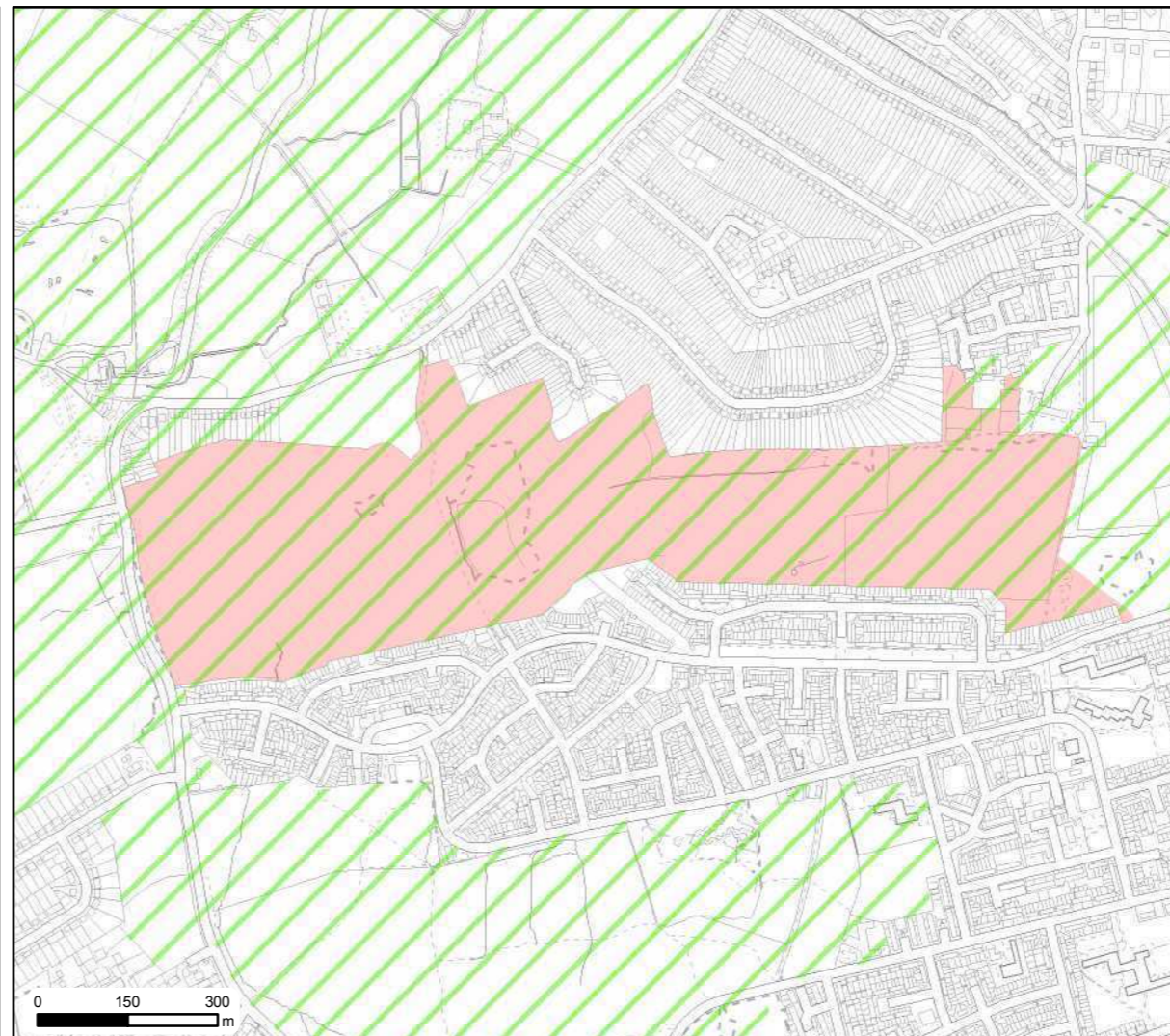
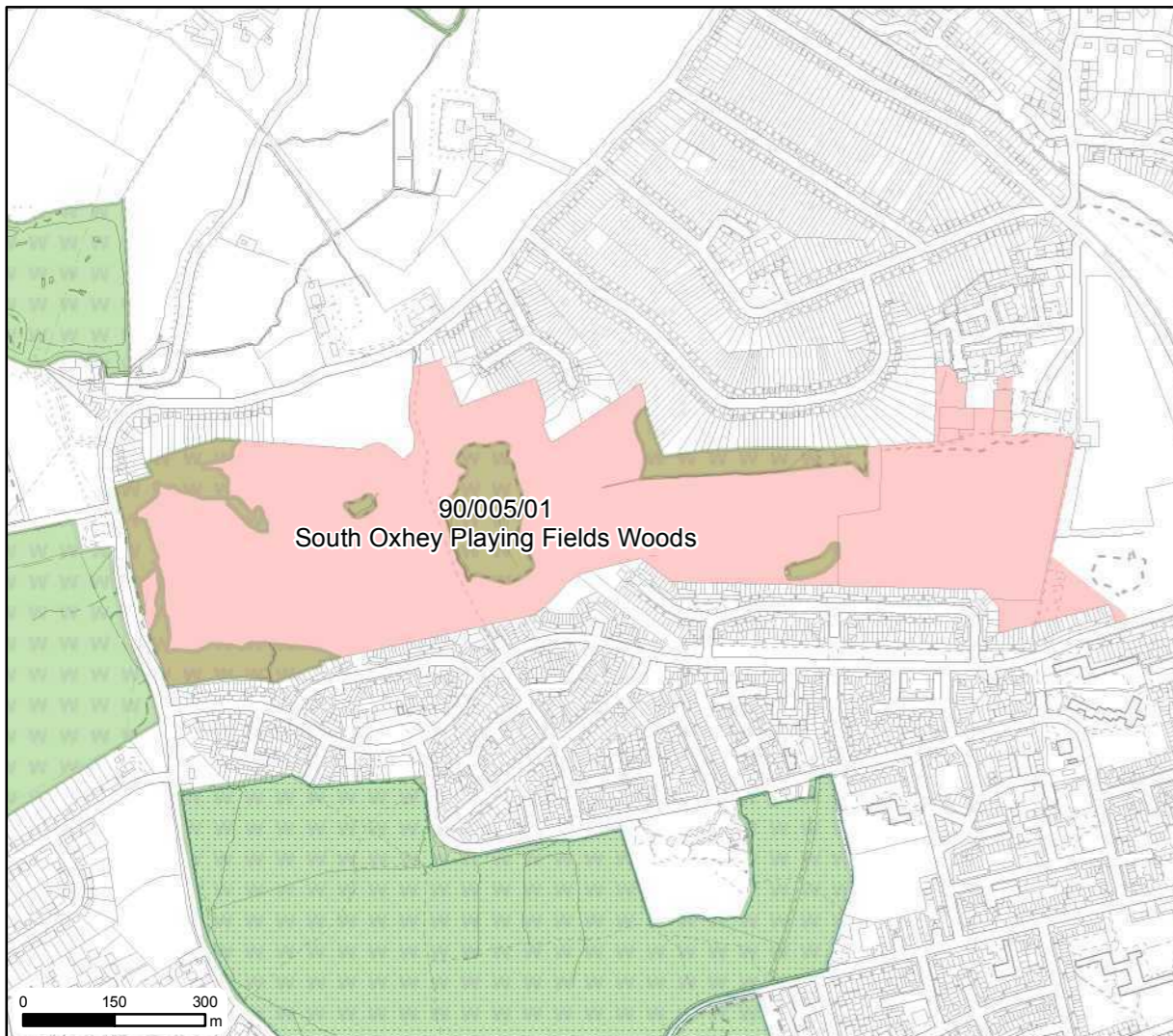
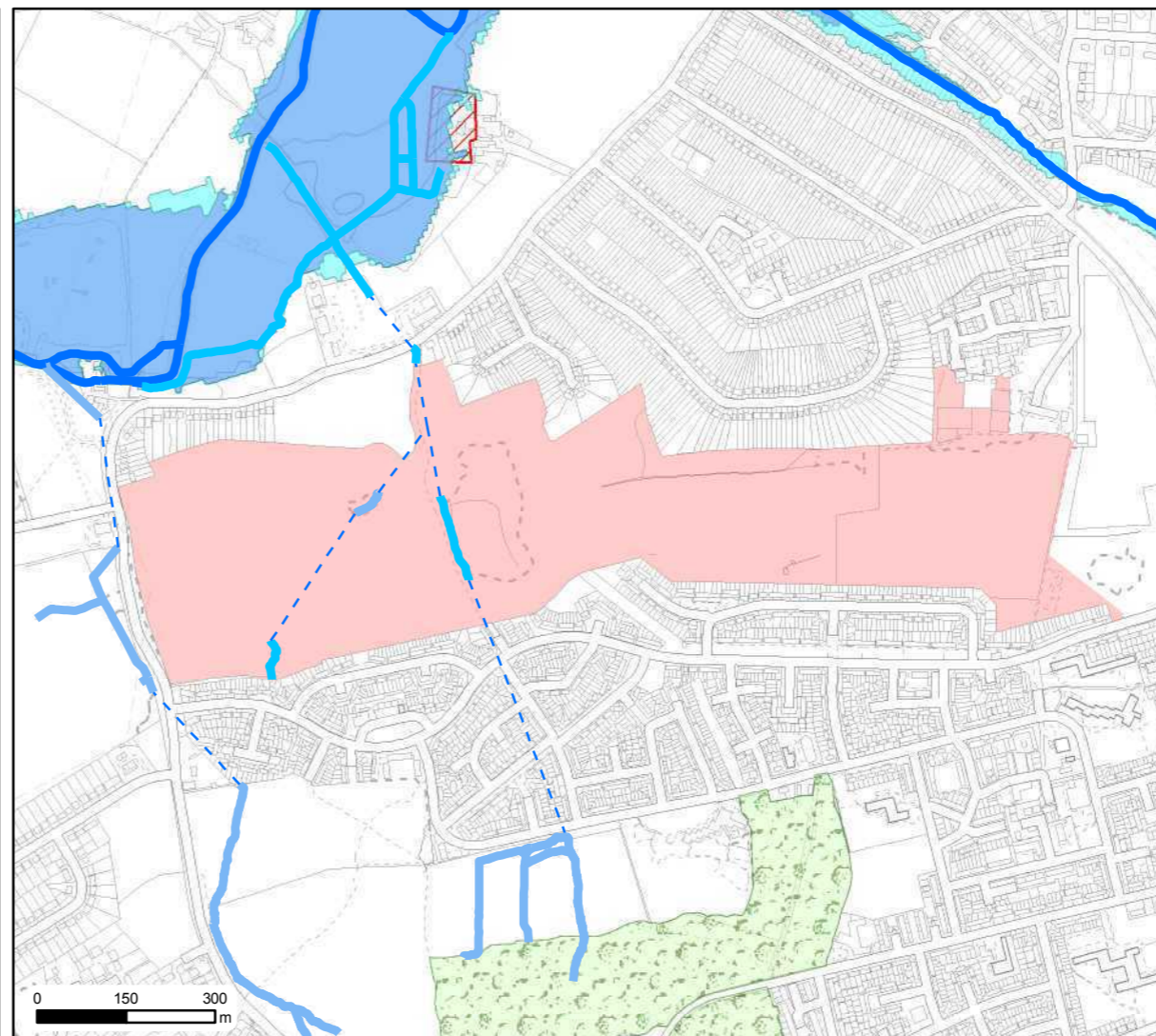
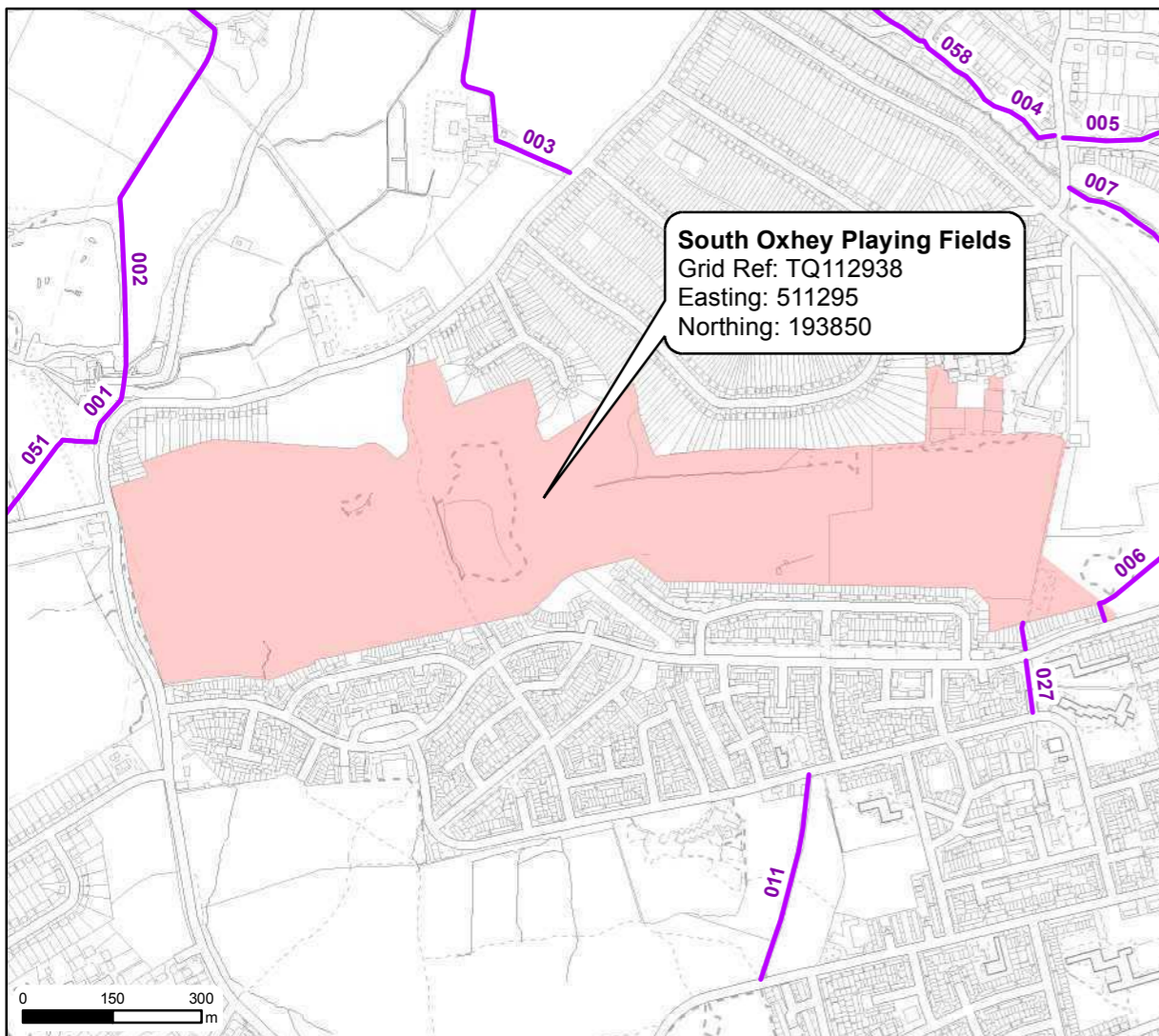
South Oxhey Playing Fields

Greenspace Action Plan

Constraints Plan

Legend

- Site Area
- Public Rights of Way:**
- Footpath
- River Type**
- Culvert
- Primary River
- Secondary River
- Tertiary River
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 2
- Heritage Protection:**
- Scheduled Monument
- Environmental Designations:**
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- Wildlife Site
- Local Nature Reserve
- Greenbelt



Scale @ A3
1:12,000

Date
January 2019

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2.2 Geography and Landscape

South Oxhey Playing Fields occupies a large area of Hertfordshire's Oxhey Golflands Landscape Character Area (LCA). This LCA is described as a quiet landscape, strongly influenced by current and former golf course management. Despite being located in an area of extensive residential settlement, parts of the LCA offer uninterrupted views of an undulating semi-natural landscape towards Oxhey Woods, Moor Park and the Colne Valley.

Land use in the Oxhey Golflands LCA is predominately recreational with grassland being the dominant habitat feature. A number of small streams run off the undulating slopes towards the river Colne, some of which are incorporated as ditch features in the current and former golf courses. Small woodlands and scattered copses contribute to the LCA's rural character.

Geology of the LCA is characterised by Tertiary clay overlaid by Windsor series of slowly permeable soils which experience seasonal waterlogging. In some areas, such as around Green Lane, a lighter loamy soil, less prone to water logging, overlays clay.

Guidelines for managing Oxhey Golflands, to retain and strengthen its unique Landscape Character, include: developing management plans which enhance the ecological value of grassland, woodland and scrub; encouraging local community groups to engage with management of woodlands; and, encouraging restoration of parkland landscape associated with the historic Oxhey Warren (also called Oxhey Lodge) and Oxhey Place Estate.

2.3 History and Archaeology

In the medieval period, the site of South Oxhey Playing Fields formed part of land named Oxonage or Oxon given to St Albans Abbey in the early 9th Century and later part of Oxhey Hall Manor (dating from 1066). In the post medieval period the site was part of the parkland landscape surrounding Oxhey Place Estate and Oxhey Warren. Remnants of this former parkland landscape include the tree avenue along Green Lane.

The 1872 Ordnance Survey map shows the 'Old Chalk Pit' located in open grassland. Now located under the canopy of secondary woodland, this deep and steeply sided pit is a remnant of surface chalk extraction. In 2006 a test shaft was discovered in the pit (15m deep) which was likely excavated to investigate the depth of the chalk.

Between 1912 and 1952 the site was managed as a golf course, prior to this the site was divided into irregular parcels of grassland and woodland which were most likely managed as grazing pasture and hornbeam coppice with oak standards. The conversion to a golf course is likely to have resulted in landscape modification, for example to reduce woodland cover and to create a distinct site profile (flat in the east and undulating in centre and west).

Several shallow depressions are located across the site may be the result of various influences including quarrying, golf bunkers, chalk solution hollows (e.g. sink holes), dry ponds and ditches (watercourses on site are culverted) and possibly World War II bombing.

In 1947 Oxhey Place Estate was compulsory purchased by the then London County Council for post war housing development, resulting in the extensive residential settlements which now surround the site. From 1952 the site has been managed for public access, providing varied formal and informal recreational opportunities for local residents. In 1974 the newly formed Three Rivers District Council took over management of the site.

2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

2.4.1 Grassland

Grassland in South Oxhey Playing Fields is the most continuous and extensive semi-natural habitat on site, occupying approximately 30 hectares. The majority of grassland is under a frequent cutting, amenity management, regime which maintains a short sward for recreation.

Due to the history of the site the grassland has escaped intensive agricultural management (ploughing and reseeded) and can be characterised as species poor semi-improved grassland. A recent extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (*B Tranter Ecology, 2017*) described three distinct areas of grassland on-site, varying in plant species composition and diversity.

The most diverse grassland is located in the centre of the site and supports native grasses and wildflowers typically associated with hay meadows, including sweet-vernal grass, fine leaved grasses, bird's foot-trefoil, common knapweed, autumn hawkbit and glaucous sedge.

Grassland occurring in the east of the site, on flat ground where football and rugby pitches are located, is relatively species poor and supports plant species which tolerate compacted soils including creeping buttercup and knotgrass. Parts of this grassland experience water logging in winter which can impact use of football pitches and affect parkrun UK routes etc.

Grassland in the west of the site is dominated by agricultural grasses (typical of grazing pasture), with few wildflowers, and includes perennial rye-grass, white clover, and sorrel.

There are historic records for less common wildflower species, such as harebell and devil's bit scabious, which are associated with species rich low intensity managed grassland. The last records for these species are from 2001. Grassland on South Oxhey Playing Fields has declined in botanical diversity over the last few years, likely due to frequent cutting and heavy recreational use.

Across the majority of the site grassland is maintained as a short sward up to the boundary of woodland and scrub, creating sharp habitat divisions. Where small areas of grassland are uncut, e.g. on the boundary of Hampermill Wood, the distinctive nests of meadow ants can be seen. Meadow ants are typically associated with grassland with a long history of grazing.

2.4.2 Woodland

Woodland and scrub occupies approximately 18 hectares of the site. Wooded habitat is fragmented and is a mix of ancient and secondary woodland. Woodland with ancient features, including stands of multi-stem hornbeam and wood banks, are collectively designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) named 'South Oxhey Playing Fields Woodland'.

Much of the LWS woodland on site would have been managed historically under the typical Hertfordshire system of hornbeam coppice with oak standards. Rotational coppice maintains structured woodland which supports regeneration of a diverse ground flora and shrub layer. More recently woodland management has been non-intervention, with the exception of tree safety management. The neglected hornbeam coppice stools have therefore developed into uniformly structured stands of mature multi-stem canopy trees. Secondary woodland areas tend to be more diverse, supporting native and non-native tree and shrub species.

The most significant areas of ancient hornbeam coppice can be found in Ox Pasture Spring, on the site's north boundary, and Hampermill Spring in the site's south west corner. An

ancient wood bank is located on the southern edge of Ox Pasture Spring topped by ancient multi-stem hornbeam, although much of this historic feature is obscured from view by successional scrub. Secondary woodland which has developed around Ox Pasture Spring supports ash, lime sp. and non-native sycamore. A thin understory layer includes hazel, midland hawthorn, and invasive rhododendron

The largest area of ancient LWS woodland on site is Big Wood which is located in the centre of South Oxhey Playing Fields and is therefore a significant landscape feature. Secondary woodland has developed around the LWS compartment, connecting Big Wood to woodland on the fringes of the site. This woodland is generally well structured with a dense shrub layer. Canopy species include oak, ash, hornbeam, birch, wild cherry and the non-native sycamore and Norway maple. Shrubs include holly, hazel, midland hawthorn and non-native cherry laurel. A distinct feature of this woodland is the steep sided chalk quarry in which secondary woodland of ash and oak canopy has developed, with areas of blackthorn and hawthorn scrub. Open habitat at the centre of the quarry is encroached by bramble, nettle and other tall herbs. Hampermill Wood is also a relatively diverse supporting oak, cherry, ash, holly, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple and elm.

Woodland on site is generally heavily shaded due to dense secondary regeneration and closed canopies of over-stood hornbeam. Ground flora is therefore generally sparse, although patches of wildflowers occur including a spring carpet of bluebells in Hampermill Spring and Ox Pasture Spring. Woodlands are widely accessible through informal unsurfaced paths.

Single and groups of trees are scattered across the site, creating a parkland type landscape.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) surveys are carried out annually by the Forestry Commission in the local area. In 2018 a large number of male moths were caught in pheromone traps on the margin of the site. This suggests that a breeding OPM population is likely to be in close proximity. OPM is a non-native species and their caterpillars produce microscopic hairs which can cause skin irritation and in rare cases a more severe allergy. The Forestry Commission will continue to monitor for OPM in and around the site, and will provide advice and support for controlling OPM if any breeding population is found.

Signs of badgers and small mammals have been observed in woodlands and there are also records of bat activity. Mature trees on-site, especially those with standing dead wood and cavities, provide roost potential. All UK bat species are European Protected Species.

There are a number of dry ponds and ditches in and on the boundary of woodlands in South Oxhey Playing Fields as watercourses running into the site have been buried in culverts. The lack of a permanent water supply limits the potential for the site to support a range of wildlife.

2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

The site can be accessed from a number of public entrances located around the boundary including pedestrian gates on Green Lane, Hampermill Lane, Bramshot Way, Ashburnham Drive, and Hayling Road. A number of properties located on the site boundary can access woodland from private entrances. Vehicle entrances gates are located on Oxhey Warren Green Lane and Ashburnham Drive. A free carpark associated with the neighbouring Pavilion Pub can be used by site visitors

Facilities for organised sports on site are provided by grass surfaced football pitches and artificially surfaced tennis, football, skate-park, and basketball courts. Facilities for informal recreation are provided by outdoor play equipment and exercise equipment. The extensive grassland provides opportunities for walking, running and exercising dogs.

There are two waymarked trails which cross the site, the 4km South Oxhey Circular Walk and a 6.1km section of the London Loop (Moor Park to Hatch End). Footpaths Watford Rural 001, 002 and 027 lead to site entrances although no Public Rights of Way crosses the site.

A number of benches have been installed as resting points in locations which provide views across the site and toward the wider landscape.

2.6 Community and Events

A parkrun UK event is held weekly at the site. This is a free event which is open to anyone who can walk or run the 5km course. In South Oxhey Playing Fields, the course follows a circular loop around the football and rugby pitches, and is almost entirely grass surfaced.

Past volunteer management tasks on site coordinated by the Countryside Management Service (CMS), include installing waymark posts by CMS volunteers in 2011, and litter picking by the National Probation Service in 2007.

3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

3.1 A Welcoming Place

There are a number of pedestrian entrances around the site which provide access for local residents and other park users to different areas of the site. However, a number of these entrances are not highly visible as they lack interpretative signage and in some cases entrance structures are encroached with vegetation. Woodland paths and desire lines leading in the site from Hampermill Lane are narrow and shaded by overhanging vegetation.



Hampermill Lane Entrance N

Hampermill Lane Entrance W

The most visible site entrance is on Ashburnham Drive which displays prominent signage for the London Loop trail. However, there is lack of interpretative signage for the site and the aesthetic of the entrance structures is not in keeping with the parkland heritage and rural landscape offered across much of the site.



Ashburnham Drive Entrance

Refurbishing site access points to create entrances in keeping with semi-natural parkland, rather than an amenity recreational space, will provide a more welcoming appearance to South Oxhey Playing Fields. In some cases this could simply be achieved by removing entrance structures. Where barriers to motorbike access is needed, current entrance structures could be replaced with structures more in keeping with other TRDC owned semi-

natural sites, such as nearby Oxhey Woods. In the long-term, physical barriers to motorcycle access could be provided by establishing naturalised features, such as a thorn hedge and / or wooden stock proof-fence, which complement the historic parkland character of the site.

Managing vegetation encroachment and over-shading at narrow entrances and along woodland paths on Hampermill Lane will increase the visibility of these access points. Installing name posts at site entrances, in keeping with other TRDC semi-natural open spaces such as Bishop's Wood and Oxhey Woods, will also increase access visibility.

Installing interpretation panels at prominent entrances, and at features of interest around the site, will allow visitors to get the most out of South Oxhey Playing Fields. For example, panels can include information on the site's history, habitat features, and can include an annotated map detailing walking routes and leisure facilities. Site leaflets to complement site interpretation can also be made available in digital and physical copies.

Two publicised walking routes cross the site, the London Loop and the South Oxhey Circular Walk. Waymark posts and signs for these routes are present on site, although do not appear to have been regularly maintained. Repair or replacement of waymark posts and signs, and control of vegetation encroachment (or relocation of posts), will increase visibility of these routes. This could provide a community task and there is potential for collaboration with volunteer groups associated with other sites crossed by these routes, e.g. Oxhey Woods.

Design and promotion of new short and long walking routes within the site, linking to a number of entrances, could encourage regular park users to explore a wider area, and will effectively introduce new visitors to the different features of the site.

Some areas of the site are prone to waterlogging in winter, in particular at the southern boundary along the route of parkrun. Improved drainage and / or surfacing in these areas could improve all weather access and provide an opportunity to restore seasonal ponds. Any surfacing would use natural materials and be in keeping with the semi-natural feel of the site.

3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Tree risk surveys are carried out in all TRDC parks, woodlands and open spaces. Data is recorded and essential remedial works are undertaken to secure visitor safety.

The first stage of consultation for the South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan identified concerns from local residents and the wider community of park users over site misuse, notably illegal motorbike access and fly-tipping.

Habitat management to control vegetation encroachment of land-form depressions (such as historic chalk pits and golf bunkers), and to open-up dense secondary woodland, will reduce concealment of fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviours. Varying the grassland management regime across the site, to include areas of tall sward managed on an annual or biannual cut and/or areas fenced for grazing management, will reduce the area of open short sward grassland attractive to motorbike users.

The Three Rivers District Council Small Woodland Management Plan (2012-2032) recommends improving barriers to vehicle access to discourage motorbike use and fly-tipping, and working closely with police where illegal antisocial behaviour persists.

3.3 Well Maintained and Clean

The TRDC grounds maintenance contract includes provisions for responding to vandalism and graffiti. Litter and dog waste bins are provided at the main entrances to the site, and are emptied by TRDC's in-house grounds maintenance team.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog control is in effect across the entirety of the Three Rivers District. For details, see:

<http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/service/public-space-protection-order-pspo>.

Public consultation has identified a concern from visitors that the litter and dog bin provision is currently insufficient for the site, in particular where benches have been recently installed.

The Three Rivers District Council Small Woodland Management Plan (2012-2032) identifies incidents of garden waste dumping in woods on residential boundaries and recommends leafleting households as an initial communication strategy to dissuade this behaviour.

There are a number of recently installed and well maintained recreational facilities on site, including adult exercise equipment and children's play area. The artificially surfaced tennis court and football pitch, basketball court and skate-park appear in need of renovation.



Artificially Surfaced Football Pitch



Basketball Court and Skate-Park

Removal of redundant structures (such as disused goal posts, fencing, and benches) will contribute to well-maintained appearance of the site.

3.4 Environmental Management

TRDC has a strong commitment to sustainability and recognises their responsibility to mitigate the impact of its operations on the environment.

TRDC's dedication to protect the environment is reflected in Council policies, strategies, commitments and partnerships.

Some of these initiatives include:

- A presumption against the use of peat
- A presumption against the use of pesticides (especially on designated sites)
- Only FSC timber is used across the district
- All cleaning materials are phosphate free

3.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

3.51 Grassland

Historic records indicate that species diversity of grassland on site has declined in recent decades, notably the loss of localised wildflowers such as harebell and devil's-bit scabious. The current amenity management regime applied across the site maintains a short sward suitable for recreation. However, this frequent cutting regime suppresses flowering and seed set for the majority of wildflower species and does not allow wildlife habitats to develop. Leaving arisings on site will also increase soil nutrient levels which favour competitive grasses.



Amenity grassland management across the majority of the site



Rough grassland on the margin of Hampermill Wood with raised ant hills

In the past grassland management is likely to have included extensive grazing, as part of the historic Oxhey Place Estate, and a variable cutting regime under golf course management. Under these less intensive management approaches grassland can support a range of wildlife habitats (e.g. areas of long/rough grassland are suitable for invertebrates, small mammals and reptiles) and a diversity of wildflower species (e.g. extended flowering period).

Grassland in South Oxhey Playing Fields is extensive and can accommodate a variety of land uses, including recreation and conservation. Managing select areas of grassland less intensively will increase the diversity of wildlife habitats on site, will provide an opportunity for wildflower diversity to improve, and will restore a more historic landscape. For example, small areas of rough grassland remaining on site (due to inaccessibility for mowers) support prominent hills of yellow meadow ants which are not seen elsewhere on site.

Conservation grassland management options could include wildflower meadow management, e.g. taking an annual grass cut in late summer and lifting arisings, which allows for a long flowering period and reduced nutrient input into soils. Paths can be mown through larger areas of longer grassland to maintain access for walkers. Increased flowering of existing species such as black knapweed and bird's-foot trefoil will provide an attractive visual feature which could be a focus for guided walks and interpretation etc. At the boundary of woodland and tree groups a rough grassland buffer can be maintained under a three year rotational cutting regime, providing valuable wildlife habitat and creating a soft / graduated transition between closed woodland and open grassland.

Low intensity grazing has been successfully restored to a number of TRDC owned and managed greenspaces and could be considered as a conservation grassland management option for areas of South Oxhey Playing Fields, dependent on public support and the availability of funding for installation of infrastructure such as fencing and water supply.

Where conservation grassland management is successfully established, interventions to enhance botanical diversity could be considered such as seeding less diverse areas of grassland with a native species wildflower mix, and plug planting more diverse areas of grassland to reintroduce lost wildflower species such as harebell and devil's-bit scabious.

3.52 Woodland and Trees

Woodland in South Oxhey Playing Fields provides the clearest visual link to the rich history of the site. Stands of mature multi-stem hornbeam with oak standards are a remnant of traditional coppice management and raised wood banks mark ancient land boundaries. Secondary woodland regeneration over the last few decades has increased the area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland on site, and created a more connected habitat. Current woodland management is limited to tree risk intervention. The cessation of woodland management has result in woodlands which are in general densely shaded, with relatively sparse ground flora (with the exception of bluebells in spring). Invasive non-native cherry laurel and rhododendron are scattered throughout woodland on site, and non-native Norway maple and sycamore dominate some areas of secondary woodland (e.g. around Big Wood).



Ancient wood bank of Ox Pasture Spring, historic hornbeam coupe of Hampermill Spring

The TRDC Small Woodlands Management Plan (2012-2032) describes a vision for woodlands in the District (particularly woodlands with ancient features) which are healthy, characterised by native species, structurally diverse to promote good regeneration, and managed to reflect historic practices (such as hornbeam coppicing). Challenges to achieving this vision are identified as presence on non-native species, garden waste dumping, lack of active management, heavy public use, dense holly supressing regeneration, and illegal motorbike use. Woodland management priorities across TRDC sites are therefore the eradication of non-native species, control of site misuse, and re-introduction of historic management practices which diversify woodland structure and promote regeneration of native species. Management to enhance the diversity of woodland habitats is beneficial for biodiversity and for the visitor experience, for example by increasing light access to woodland paths and increasing cover of woodland wildflowers such as bluebell.

Actions to enhance South Oxhey Playing Fields woodlands, which meet the objectives of the TRDC Small Woodlands Management Plan, could include:

- Eradication of invasive non-native plant species (cherry laurel and rhododendron);
- Managing woodlands to promote structural diversity, reinstating historic management where appropriate (e.g. trailing re-coppice of multi-stem hornbeam in historic coupes);
- Managing woodlands to promote natural regeneration (e.g. thin dense secondary woodland to increase light access, control holly and bramble cover where natural regeneration is suppressed, protect coppice stools from browsing and other damage);
- Managing woodlands to promote native species diversity by restocking with planted whips where natural regeneration of native species is unsuccessful (e.g. in areas of thinned woodland dominated by sycamore and Norway maple);
- Managing scrub encroachment to reveal historic features, such as wood banks;
- Retaining cut, fallen and standing deadwood as wildlife habitats, where safe to do so;
- Reducing misuse by motorbikes (e.g. encourage reporting and support enforcement);
- Reducing garden waste dumping by engaging local residents (e.g. information leaflets);

Scattered groups of trees and scrub across South Oxhey Playing Fields create a parkland type landscape which reflects the heritage of the site as part of former Oxhey Place Estate. The next generation of parkland trees can be established through the course of this GAP to conserve the historic landscape.

A formal line of willow trees on the boundary of the site, along Green Lane, appear to be in significant decline. To conserve this historic landscape feature, replanting is required to provide the next generation of trees. Consideration should be given to replacing the existing uniform planting with a more diverse mix of species, for the benefit of biodiversity and to increase resilience to future threats (such as climate change, pests and disease). For example, a thorn hedge with hornbeam and oak standards will provide a distinctive line of trees which reflect the parkland heritage of the site whilst also providing greater diversity. Decline of the existing line of willows could be managed sympathetically, for example retaining a proportion of the trees until new plantings become well established.

Any woodland management works in South Oxhey Playing Fields should be planned to avoid disturbance to protected species, including nesting birds, bats, and badgers.

Any management intervention should follow good practice biosecurity measures, such as: sourcing UK grown trees of known local provenance for replanting; and requiring machinery or tools brought onto site to be clean of soil and leaf litter.

The impact of notifiable tree pests and disease should be monitored and reported to the Forestry Commission (<https://treealert.forestry.gov.uk/>). Any action to control or manage the impact of tree pests and disease should be taken in consultation with the FC and informed by up-to-date guidance (www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6abl5v).

3.53 Culvert 'day-lighting'

Water is a scarce habitat on site, limiting the potential of the site to support diverse wildlife habitats. The historic names of ancient woodlands on sites, such as Ox Pasture Spring, Hampermill Spring and the now lost Long Spring (indicated on historic maps) suggest that water was at one time a characteristic feature of the site. Dry ponds and water channels are also visible on site, in particular in Big Wood and Hampermill Spring.

Culverted (buried) watercourses are present on site, indicated on the constraints map, and could potentially be fully or partially removed ('day-lighted') to restore ponds, damp and marginal grassland areas, or flowing springs. An investigation into feasibility and funding options for 'day-lighting' can be carried out in the timeframe of this Greenspace Action Plan. More information on the benefits of 'day-lighting' to restore lost watercourses, and successful projects, are available at www.ecrr.org and <http://daylighting.org.uk>.

3.6 Community Involvement

The local community should be kept informed of, and given an opportunity to engage with, management of the site.

The 2019 - 2024 South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) will follow a structured two stage consultation process to enable local residents and the wider community to feed into the development of achievable and supported objectives for site improvement:

- At stage one, a briefing document is made available for comment which outlines key aspirations for the site, consultation response to this document informs the development of the draft GAP;
- At stage two, the draft GAP is made available for comment, this document includes a time-tabled action plan and action plan maps which detail the delivery of objectives;
- Following stage two, the draft GAP will be amended as appropriate, published and adopted by the council. An engagement response document will be published as an appendix to the final plan.

To ensure the GAP benefits the local community, stakeholders consulted in the engagement process will include residents associations, park users, local Councillors, local historians and local records centres (biodiversity and heritage). Consultation opportunities will be promoted to park users with posters, guided walks, and digital media.

Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders will ensure that GAP objectives serve all site users, including individuals and groups using recreational facilities (e.g. football and rugby pitches, exercise and play equipment), walkers and runners, dog exercisers, and site neighbours such as the 14th Bushey and Oxhey Sea Scout Group and the Pavilion Pub.

On publication, the 2019-2024 Greenspace Action Plan for South Oxhey Playing Fields will provide a structure for participation of local community and wider volunteer groups in positive management of the site. Established Friends Groups based at other TRDC sites, such as Oxhey Woods Conservation Volunteers, can provide a model for development of a constituted Friends Group for South Oxhey Playing Fields. A Friends Group would be supported by TRDC and CMS to provide training for volunteers and to develop an annual volunteer work programme which contributes to the key GAP objectives.

CMS can provide further opportunities for the local community to engage with South Oxhey Playing Fields by leading guided walks which celebrate the varied history and habitats of the site and discuss future improvement and management plans.

3.7 Marketing and Communication

South Oxhey Playing Fields is listed on ParksHerts (www.parksherts.co.uk), a website providing a single information point for Hertfordshire's parks and open spaces.

Consultation documents and the final GAP will be available on the Three Rivers District Council District website (www.threeriversleisure.co.uk/the-great-outdoors).

Self-guided walking routes which include South Oxhey Playing Fields are available on the CMS website and on the View Ranger website (www.viewranger.com/en-gb/). Mapped routes include the South Oxhey Circular Walk and the London Loop stage 2 which are also waymarked on site. The weekly 5km South Oxhey parkrun UK is publicised in the parkrun UK website (www.parkrun.org.uk/southoxhey/).

A programme of guided walks to discuss site management, promote leisure facilities and walking routes and explore the history and biodiversity of the site will engage local community in celebrating the unique heritage of the site. Guided walks lead by CMS would be free and open to all and would be advertised on the Walks and More website link (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/walksandmore). Where possible these walks will be planned with local wildlife and history experts and with local community groups involved with nearby Greenspaces, such as Oxhey Woods Conservation Volunteers. Events organised in association with CMS will also be promoted and celebrated on the CMS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HertsCMS>).

On formation of a Friends of Group for South Oxhey Playing Fields, details and photos of tasks and events can be promoted on a Facebook page for the site.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

To conserve and enhance the semi-natural character of the site, promoting healthy and diverse woodland and grassland habitats, and maintaining the site as a safe and enjoyable place to for all members of the local community to visit.

Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place

Provide a safe and welcoming place for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

- A1 Install timber welcome posts displaying site name and symbol at public access points, in a style in keeping with other TRDC sites such as Oxhey Woods
- A2 Increase visibility of access points on Hampermill Lane by managing encroaching vegetation around entrances and reducing over-shading of woodland access paths
- A3 Refurbish entrances structures to install features sympathetic to historic parkland
- A4 Research, design, and install interpretation panels at strategic points across the site
- A5 Improve signage for existing waymarked routes crossing the site
- A6 Design and promote short and long walking routes through the site
- A7 Install drainage and / or surfacing to improve access of waterlogged areas in winter
- A8 Improve drainage at Green Lane entrance and repair erosion of tarmac path

B. Healthy, Safe and Secure

Ensure visitors to South Oxhey Playing Fields feel safe and able to enjoy the site at all times

- B1 Promote appropriate recreational use of the site to a diversity of user groups in the local community, and discourage site misuse or anti-social behaviour
- B2 Carry out reactive tree works to address safety issues (including reporting and appropriate management of pest and disease threats)

C. Well Maintained and Clean

Ensure the site is kept clean and that all aspects of the site are well maintained

- C1 Enforce Three Rivers District Council Public Space Protection Order
- C2 Remove graffiti and fly tipping
- C3 Engage with local residents to discourage dumping of garden waste

- C4 Maintain site infrastructure and furniture
- C5 Regularly empty bins and litter pick
- C6 Increase the availability of bins on site
- C7 Remove disused and redundant structures
- C8 Renovate sporting facilities
- C9 Amenity cut of grass football pitches and recreational areas (Children's Play Area)

D. Sustainability

Ensure management operations are as sustainable as possible

- D1 Ensure ongoing management costs are financially sustainable, including applying for external funding opportunities and developing local partnerships for specific projects
- D2 Carry out management according to environmental best practice by minimising the use of pesticides and herbicides, planning vegetation management operations to limit disturbance to wildlife, identifying opportunities to enhance biodiversity potential (i.e. retaining deadwood from tree safety operations) etc.

E. Conservation and Heritage

Ensure habitats are managed to conserve and enhance significant biodiversity and heritage features, reinstating traditional management approaches wherever possible

- E1 Thin dense tree stands, focusing on sycamore and Norway maple at path margins
- E2 Reinstatement of coppice management of hornbeam in ancient woodland
- E3 Restock thinned areas by natural regeneration or planting native species
- E4 Control invasive non-native species (cut and stump treat and spray regeneration)
- E5 Control scrub encroachment of historic landscape features, e.g. wood banks and chalk pits
- E6 Manage woodland margins to create a soft / graduated habitat transition
- E7 Select areas of grassland for conservation management to enhance botanical and invertebrate diversity
- E8 Conserve the historic landscape by planting the next generation of parkland trees
- E9 Uncover buried watercourse for the benefit of wildlife and to restore the historic landscape (e.g. 'culvert daylighting')

F. Community Involvement

Provide opportunities for the local community to engage with and participate in site management

F1 Create opportunities for the local community to be involved in the management of the site in a structured and supported way, and ensure all involved are given the opportunity to contribute towards achievement of GAP objectives and to review success of the GAP

F2 Support a wide community of park users including dog walkers, parkrun UK, adjacent land users (e.g. 14th Bushy and Oxhey Sea Scout Group), individuals and groups using football and rugby pitches, tennis and basketball courts etc.

G. Marketing

Promote awareness and interest in South Oxhey Playing Fields

G1 Engage the local community at every stage of GAP consultation process

G2 Lead periodic guided walks to discuss site management, promote site facilities and walking routes, and celebrate the heritage and conservation value of the site

G3 Promote the site as a valuable community resource to a wide audience through a variety of media platforms, including web resources and social media

G4 Apply for Green Flag status and promote award

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2019-20							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
A.1	-	Install timber welcome posts at site entrances displaying site name and logo, in the style of Oxhey Woods and Bishops Wood	-	TRDC	-	-	
A.2	-	Vegetation management and tree works to increase visibility of entrance points and access paths from Hampermill Lane.	Winter	Grounds Maintenance / Contract	-	-	
A.4	-	Install interpretation panels at strategic points to engage visitors of site heritage and management and to provide maps of site features, facilities, and walking routes.	-	Contract	-	-	
A.5	-	Repair waymark posts and signs for the London Loop and South Oxhey Circular Walk, installing additional posts where required.	Summer	CMS vols. / TRDC	-	-	
C.7	-	Remove redundant structures from site (e.g. fences, posts etc.)	-	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
D.1	-	Explore partnerships with local organisations, such as Thames Valley Orienteering and Watford Football Club Trust, for support in achieving specific projects.	-	CMS officer / TRDC	-	-	
D.1	-	Identify and apply for external funding and grant opportunities to support achievement of GAP objectives.	-	CMS officer / TRDC	-	-	
E.4	-	Across woodland areas, cut and stump treat invasive laurel and rhododendron with an approved herbicide. Remove arisings.	Winter	Contract	-	-	

YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN 2019-20							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
E.6	-	Maintain a buffer strip (minimum 2m wide) of uncut (rough) grassland on the boundary of woodland and around tree groups.	-	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	Manage select grassland area as 'cut and lift' hay meadow. Leave grassland uncut from March/April and take summer hay cut. Remove arisings from site. Mow sinuous access paths for walkers.	Summer Cut (mid-June to August)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
G.2	-	Lead a woodland guided walk to highlight the heritage and biodiversity value of ancient woodland, and to introduce plans to restore active coppice management	Spring	CMS officer / TRDC	-	-	
G.2	-	Lead a guided walk of trial conservation grassland areas and discuss future management options such as grazing, wildflower seeding, and plug planting.	Mid-Summer (June / July)	CMS officer	-	-	
F.1	-	Support the development of a Friends Group. Recruiting members, delivering a taster task, developing a constitution, loaning tools etc.	-	CMS officer / TRDC	-	-	

YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN 2020-21							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
A.3	-	Remove, renovate or replace access structures to create entrances sympathetic to the semi-natural character of the site. Modified or new access structures will be in keeping with other TRDC sites, such as Oxhey Woods and Bishops Wood.	-	TRDC	-	-	
A.6	-	Plan short and long walking routes across the site which incorporate all site entrances. Install markers and promote with guided walks.	-	CMS officer/ TRDC / Friends Group	-	-	
E.2	-	Reintroduce coppice / pollard management to select multi-stem hornbeam on ancient boundary banks.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.3	-	Across woodland areas spray regrowth from cut laurel and rhododendron with an approved herbicide.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.5	-	Control scrub encroachment onto historic wood boundary bank of Ox Pasture Spring.	Winter	CMS vols. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.6	-	'Cut and lift' one half of rough grassland buffer around woodland and tree groups. Remove arisings from site	Late-Summer (Aug / Sept)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	'Cut and lift' hay meadow conservation grassland, remove arisings from site. Mow sinuous access paths for walkers as required.	Summer Cut (mid-June to August)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.8	-	Plant next generation of parkland trees	Winter	CMS vol. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.9	-	Investigate feasibility and method for 'daylighting' culverts to restore historic water channels and ponds etc. on site.	-	CMS officer/ TRDC / External Consultant	-	-	

YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN 2020-21							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
G.2	-	Lead 2 x guided walks to promote new signposted walking routes, and to celebrate heritage of site.	Summer	CMS officer	-	-	

YEAR 3 ACTION PLAN 2021-22							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
A.7	-	Install drainage and / or surfacing to improve access to waterlogged areas in winter	Summer	Contract	-	-	
A.8	-	Improve drainage at Green Lane entrance and make repairs to tarmac path leading to sports facilities.	Summer	Contract	-	-	
C.6	-	Increase availability of litter and dog bins at strategic locations to reduce littering (e.. adjacent to benches)	-	TRDC	-	-	
E.1	-	Increase light access to paths and open replanting glades by thinning dense secondary woodland stands, focusing on sycamore and Norway maple. Replant glades with a mix of native of species.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.2	-	Monitor recovery of hornbeam coppice stools on ancient wood banks and control encroaching bramble or other vegetation cover	Summer	CMS vols. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.2	-	Re-introduce coppice management to small coupes in Hampermill Spring and Ox Pasture Spring (no more than 20% hornbeam).	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.4	-	Across woodland areas spray regrowth from cut laurel and rhododendron with an approved herbicide.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.5	-	Control scrub and vegetation encroachment around tree groups to restore a more formalised parkland appearance, and reveal heritage features such as site of old chalk workings and golf bunkers etc.	Winter	CMS vols. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.6	-	Cut and lift' one half of rough grassland buffer around woodland and tree groups. Remove arisings from site	Late-Summer (Aug / Sept)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	'Cut and lift' hay meadow conservation grassland, remove arisings from site. Mow sinuous access paths for walkers as required.	Summer Cut (mid-June to August)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	

YEAR 3 ACTION PLAN 2021-22							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
E.7	-	Monitor the cover and diversity of wildflowers in 'cut and lift' areas (e.g. photography in mid-summer)	Mid-Summer (June / July)	Friends Group	-	-	
E.7	-	Investigate feasibility of restoring grazing to the site, e.g. identifying fencing and water supply requirements, local grazier availability etc.	-	CMS officer / TRDC			
E.8		Maintain newly planted parkland trees	Summer	Friends Group	-	-	
E.9	-	'Daylight' culverts and manage new wetland areas, e.g. clear scrub from channels and introduce appropriate plant species	-	Contract	-	-	

YEAR 4 ACTION PLAN 2022-23							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
C.8	-	Renovate sports facilities	-	TRDC	-	-	
E.1	-	Maintain newly planted woodland trees	Summer	Contract	-	-	
E.2	-	Monitor recovery of hornbeam coppice stools and control any encroaching bramble or other vegetation cover	Summer	CMS vol. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.4	-	Across woodland areas spray regrowth from cut laurel and rhododendron with an approved herbicide.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.6	-	'Cut and lift' one half of rough grassland buffer around woodland and tree groups. Remove arisings from site	Late-Summer (Aug / Sept)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	'Cut and lift' conservation (meadow) grassland, remove arisings from site. Mow sinuous access paths for walkers as required.	Summer Cut (mid-June to August)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	Enhance 'cut and lift' grassland by seeding areas with low cover of wildflowers using a native wildflower seed mix.	Autumn	Contract /	-	-	
E.7	-	Enhance 'cut and lift' grassland by plug planting harebell and devil's-bit scabious in areas with a good cover of wildflowers.	Spring	CMS vols. / Friends Group	-	-	
E.7	-	Monitor establishment of plug plants (watering if required).	Spring to Summer (April to September)	Friends Group	-	-	
E.7	-	Install infrastructure and introduce grazing (dependent on feasibility) to grassland in west of site. Recruit stock checkers and run 'meet the cows events'. 'Cut and lift' if grazing is not feasible.	Spring to Summer (April to September)	Contract / Friends Group	-	-	

YEAR 4 ACTION PLAN 2022-23							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
E.8	-	Plant native species hedgerow with mixed standards along line of poorly recovered pollards on Green Lane	Winter	Contract	-	-	

YEAR 5 ACTION PLAN 2023-24							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
E.4	-	Across woodland areas spray regrowth from cut laurel and rhododendron with an approved herbicide.	Winter	Contract	-	-	
E.6	-	'Cut and lift' one half of rough grassland buffer around woodland and tree groups. Remove arisings from site	Late-Summer (Aug / Sept)	Contract	-	-	
E.7	-	'Cut and lift' conservation (meadow) grassland, remove arisings from site. Mow sinuous access paths for walkers as required.	Late-Summer (Aug / Sept)	Grounds Maintenance	-	-	
E.7	-	Continue grazing (dependent on feasibility) conservation grassland in west of site, or 'cut and lift' with mown paths.	Spring to Summer (April to September)	CMS / TRDC / Friends Group	-	-	
E.8	-	Maintain newly planted trees in woodland and along Green Lane (watering, replacing damaged trees)	Summer	Contract	-	-	
G.1	-	Assess success of GAP (2019-2024), consult on new five-year GAP (2024-2025)	-	Contract	-	-	

ONGOING MANAGEMENT							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
B2	-	Tree risk surveys	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
B2	-	Tree safety works	As required	TRDC	-	-	
B2	-	Report signs of notifiable tree pests and diseases to the Forestry Commission	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C1	-	Enforce Public Space Protection Order to dissuade antisocial and illegal behaviours such as motorbike use and garden waste dumping. Leaflet local householders to encourage reporting.	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C2	-	Repair vandalism and remove graffiti	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C4	-	Maintain site furniture	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C5	-	Litter and fly tip clearance	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C5	-	Litter and dog bin emptying	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
C9	-	Amenity grass cut for recreational areas	Ongoing	TRDC	-	-	
F1	-	Support formation of a Friends Group for South Oxhey Playing Fields. Recruiting volunteers, providing a 'taster task', agreeing a constitution etc.	2019/2020 and ongoing	CMS / TRDC	-	-	
F1	-	Deliver task leader and first aid training for volunteers on formation of a Friends Group	2019/2020	CMS	-	-	
F1	-	Develop an annual volunteer task programme which contributes to GAP objectives	2020/2021	CMS / Friends Group	-	-	

ONGOING MANAGEMENT							
Obj. Ref	Spec. Ref	Action	When	Responsibility	Est Cost	Funding	Status Review
F1	-	Friends Group health check site visit	1 x Annual	CMS / Friends Group	-	-	
G1	-	Consult local residents and wider community of park users on GAP development and review	Ongoing	CMS / TRDC / Friends Group	-	-	
G2	-	Lead guided walks and community events to celebrate the history of South Oxhey Playing Fields, discuss future plans and promote improvements	2 x guided walks annually	CMS / Friends Group	-	-	
G3	-	Publicise the site and special events on social media (e.g. CMS and Friend Group Facebook page, ParksHerts website) and site notices	Ongoing	CMS / TRDC / Friends Group	-	-	
G4	-	Apply for Green Flag Award Status	Mid-point of GAP delivery	TRDC	-	-	

South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Year One Action Plan

Task Responsibility

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District led | } Officer/ Contractor delivered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMS led | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District led | } Volunteer delivered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMS led | |

Legend

- Access Pedestrian
- Access Vehicle
- Interpretation Panel
- Timber Entrance Post
- Panel
- Bench
- Old Bench
- Picnic Bench
- London Loop Signpost
- London Loop Waymark
- South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
- Recycle Bin
- Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Lamp
- Flood Light
- Gas Line Marker
- Goal Structure
- Storage Container
- Scattered Trees
- Surfaced Path
- Seasonal Waterlogging
- Grass Path
- Line of Trees
- Amenity Grassland
- Rough Grassland
- Conservation Grassland
- Woodland
- Hornbeam Copse
- Scrub
- Leisure

Vegetation and tree management to widen entrance points and woodland access paths from Hampermill Lane

Install timber welcome posts

Repair waymark posts and signs for the London Loop

Cut and stump treat non-native invasive plant species (laurel and rhododendron) throughout woodland areas

Remove redundant and disused structures

Repair waymark posts and signs for the South Oxhey Circular Walk

Install interpretation panels at strategic entrance points and site locations.

Install timber welcome post

Meadow management of conservation grassland:
- cut in late summer and lift arisings
- mow sinuous paths for walkers

Install timber welcome post

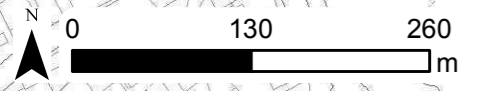
Install interpretation panels at strategic entrance points and site locations

Maintain a buffer strip of uncut rough grassland around woodland margins and tree groups

Install timber welcome post

Ongoing Management

- Healthy Safe and Secure**
- Carry out tree risk surveys and reactive works to maintain safety
- Well Maintained and Clean**
- Engage with local community to dissuade garden waste dumping
- Enforce Public Space Protection Order
- Empty bins, litter pick, remove fly tipping and graffiti
- Maintain site infrastructure
- Sustainability**
- Apply for external funding and develop local partnerships
- Community Involvement**
- Support the formation and running of a Friends Group
- Review GAP progress and identify future objectives
- Marketing**
- Lead 2 x 'Walks and More' guided walks or events
- Promote the site through a variety of media



Scale @ A3
1:5,500
Date
January 2019
Drawing Number Rev
SOPF-04-01-04 00



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South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Year Two Action Plan

Task Responsibility

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

Plan long and short walking routes across the site, incorporating all entrances. Install posts to signpost walks and promote with guided walks □

Assess feasibility of 'daylighting' culverts to restore watercourses and wetland habitats such as ponds □

Renovate access structures creating entrance features sympathetic to the semi-natural character of the site □

Spray regrowth from cut stumps of non-native invasive plant species (laurel and rhododendron) throughout woodland on-site □

Coppice select boundary trees on ancient wood bank □

Manage scrub encroachment to reveal historic wood bank □

Renovate access structures creating entrance features sympathetic to the semi-natural character of the site □

Plant the next generation of parkland trees □

Meadow management of conservation grassland:
- cut in late summer and lift arisings
- mow sinuous paths for walkers □

'Cut and lift' rough grassland buffer in west of site around woodland and tree groups □

Renovate access structures creating entrances features sympathetic to the semi-natural character of the site □

Legend

- Access Pedestrian
- Access Vehicle
- Interpretation Panel
- Timber Entrance Post
- ▲ Panel
- Bench
- Picnic Bench
- ▲ London Loop Signpost
- ▲ London Loop Waymark
- ▲ South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
- Recycle Bin
- Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Lamp
- Flood Light
- x Gas Line Marker
- x Goal Structure
- Scattered Trees
- Line of Trees
- - - Seasonal Waterlogging
- - - Grass Path
- - - Surfaced Path
- Amenity Grassland
- Rough Grassland
- Conservation Grassland
- Woodland
- Hornbeam Copse
- Scrub
- Leisure

Ongoing Management

- Healthy Safe and Secure**
- Carry out tree risk surveys and reactive works to maintain safety □
- Well Maintained and Clean**
- Engage with local community to dissuade garden waste dumping □
 - Enforce Public Space Protection Order □
 - Empty bins, litter pick, remove fly tipping and graffiti □
 - Maintain site infrastructure □
- Sustainability**
- Apply for external funding and develop local partnerships □ □
- Community Involvement**
- Support the formation and running of a Friends Group □ □ □
 - Review GAP progress and identify future objectives □ □ □
- Marketing**
- Lead 2 x 'Walks and More' guided walks or events □ □ □
 - Promote the site through a variety of media □ □ □

Scale @ A3
1:5,500

Date
January 2019

Drawing Number Rev
SOPF-04-01-05 00



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South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Year Three Action Plan

Task Responsibility

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

Install additional litter bins and dog bins at strategic locations □

Investigate feasibility of introducing grazing to grassland in west of site □

Spray regrowth from cut stumps of non-native invasive plant species (laurel and rhododendron) throughout woodland on-site □

Increase light access to paths and open replanting glades by thinning dense stands of sycamore and Norway maple. Restock glades with a mix of native species. □

Monitor recovery of hornbeam coppice stools on ancient wood bank and manage shading vegetation □

Improve drainage at Green Lane entrance and repair tarmac path □

Re-introduce coppice management to historic coupe (0.25 hectare of multi-stem hornbeam). □

'Cut and lift' rough grassland buffer in centre of site around woodland and tree groups □

Install drainage to restore ponds and improve access in waterlogged areas. Install natural path surface as required. □

Meadow management of conservation grassland:
 - cut in late summer and lift arisings □
 - mow sinuous paths for walkers □
 - monitor wildflower diversity □

Maintain newly planted parkland trees □

Daylight culverts and manage new wetland areas, e.g. clear scrub from channels and introduce appropriate plant species □ □ □

Re-introduce coppice management to historic coupe (0.25 hectare of multi-stem hornbeam). □

Legend

- Access Pedestrian
- Access Vehicle
- Interpretation Panel
- Timber Entrance Post
- ▲ Panel
- Bench
- Picnic Bench
- ▲ London Loop Signpost
- ⋈ London Loop Waymark
- ⋈ South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
- Recycle Bin
- Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Lamp
- Flood Light
- x Gas Line Marker
- x Goal Structure
- Scattered Trees
- Surfaced Path
- - - Improved Drainage
- - - Grass Path
- Line of Trees
- Amenity Grassland
- Rough Grassland
- Conservation Grassland
- Woodland
- Hornbeam Copse
- x Scrub
- Leisure

Ongoing Management

- Healthy Safe and Secure**
- Carry out tree risk surveys and reactive works to maintain safety □
- Well Maintained and Clean**
- Engage with local community to dissuade garden waste dumping □
 - Enforce Public Space Protection Order □
 - Empty bins, litter pick, remove fly tipping and graffiti □
 - Maintain site infrastructure □
- Sustainability**
- Apply for external funding and develop local partnerships □ □
- Community Involvement**
- Support the formation and running of a Friends Group □ □ □
 - Review GAP progress and identify future objectives □ □ □
- Marketing**
- Lead 2 x 'Walks and More' guided walks or events □ □
 - Promote the site through a variety of media □ □ □



Scale @ A3
1:5,500

Date
January 2019

Drawing Number Rev
SOPF-04-01-06 00



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South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Year Four Action Plan

Task Responsibility

<input type="checkbox"/> District led	} Officer/ Contractor delivered
<input type="checkbox"/> CMS led	
<input type="checkbox"/> District led	} Volunteer delivered
<input type="checkbox"/> CMS led	

Renovate sports facilities

Legend

- Access Pedestrian
- Access Vehicle
- Interpretation Panel
- Timber Entrance Post
- Panel
- Bench
- Picnic Bench
- London Loop Signpost
- London Loop Waymark
- South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
- Recycle Bin
- Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Lamp
- Flood Light
- Gas Line Marker
- Goal Structure
- Scattered Trees
- Surfaced Path
- Improved Drainage
- Stock Fence
- Grass Path
- Line of Trees
- Amenity Grassland
- Rough Grassland
- Conservation Grassland
- Hornbeam Copse
- Woodland
- Scrub
- Leisure

Spray regrowth from cut stumps of non-native invasive plant species (laurel and rhododendron) throughout woodland on-site

Maintain newly planted woodland trees

Dependent on feasibility, install infrastructure and graze grassland in west of site. Alternatively, manage as meadow by summer 'cut and lift'.

Monitor recovery of coppice stools in Ox Pasture Spring and manage encroaching bramble and other shading vegetation

Control scrub encroachment around tree groups to restore a more formal parkland appearance and reveal heritage features, e.g. test chalk pits, dry ponds and golf bunkers

Meadow management of conservation grassland:
 - cut in late summer and lift arisings
 - mow sinuous paths for walkers
 - wildflower seeding of meadow areas with low wildflower cover
 - plug planting (harebell & devil's-bit scabious) in meadow areas with good cover of wildflowers

'Cut and lift' rough grassland buffer in west of site around woodland and tree groups

Plant native species hedgerow with mixed standards along line of poorly recovered willow pollards

Monitor recovery of coppice stools in Hampermill Spring and manage encroaching bramble and other shading vegetation

Ongoing Management

Healthy Safe and Secure
 Carry out tree risk surveys and reactive works to maintain safety

Well Maintained and Clean
 Engage with local community to dissuade garden waste dumping
 Enforce Public Space Protection Order
 Empty bins, litter pick, remove fly tipping and graffiti
 Maintain site infrastructure

Sustainability
 Apply for external funding and develop local partnerships

Community Involvement
 Support the formation and running of a Friends Group
 Review GAP progress and identify future objectives

Marketing
 Lead 2 x 'Walks and More' guided walks or events
 Promote the site through a variety of media



Scale @ A3
 1:5,500
 Date
 January 2019
 Drawing Number
 SOPF-04-01-07 00



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South Oxhey Playing Fields Greenspace Action Plan Year Five Action Plan

Task Responsibility

<input type="checkbox"/> District led	} Officer/ Contractor delivered
<input type="checkbox"/> CMS led	
<input type="checkbox"/> District led	} Volunteer delivered
<input type="checkbox"/> CMS led	

Legend

- Access Pedestrian
- Access Vehicle
- Interpretation Panel
- Timber Entrance Post
- Panel
- Bench
- Picnic Bench
- London Loop Signpost
- London Loop Waymark
- South Oxhey Circular Walk Waymark
- Recycle Bin
- Litter Bin
- Dog Bin
- Lamp
- Flood Light
- Gas Line Marker
- Goal Structure
- Scattered Trees
- Surfaced Path
- Improved Drainage
- Stock Fence
- Grass Path
- Line of Trees
- Amenity Grassland
- Rough Grassland
- Conservation Grassland
- Woodland
- Hornbeam Copse
- Scrub
- Leisure

Dependent on feasibility, graze or 'cut and lift' conservation grassland management area in west of site.

Spray regrowth from cut stumps of non-native invasive plant species (laurel and rhododendron) throughout woodland on-site

Maintain newly planted hedgerow trees

'Cut and lift' rough grassland buffer in centre of site around woodland and tree groups

Meadow management of conservation grassland: - cut in late summer and lift arisings

Ongoing Management

Healthy Safe and Secure

- Carry out tree risk surveys and reactive works to maintain safety

Well Maintained and Clean

- Engage with local community to dissuade garden waste dumping
- Enforce Public Space Protection Order
- Empty bins, litter pick, remove fly tipping and graffiti
- Maintain site infrastructure

Sustainability

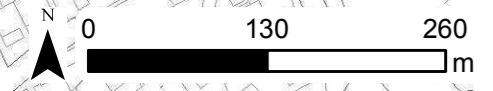
- Apply for external funding and develop local partnerships

Community Involvement

- Support the formation and running of a Friends Group
- Review GAP progress and identify future objectives

Marketing

- Lead 2 x 'Walks and More' guided walks or events
- Promote the site through a variety of media



Scale @ A3
1:5,500

Date
January 2019

Drawing Number Rev
SOPF-04-01-08 00

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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

7.0 APPENDICES
