



CAMP OPEN SPACE

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2026 – 2031

OVERVIEW

Greenspace Action Plan

This plan specifies activities that should take place on a site over a stated period; these activities will help to deliver the agreed aspirations which the site managers and stakeholders have identified for that site. The plan is set out sequentially, first providing background information on the site (Site Description) and further actions with detailed specifications which will help to deliver the agreed aspirations to complete the actions (Management prescriptions). This is developed into Aims and Objectives for the site and a set of Action Plans which identify how these objectives will be achieved.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. An engagement period will take place in April 2026, to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An engagement summary will be included as an appendix to this plan to detail the engagement process and summarise the 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 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

1.1 Vision Statement

Camp Open Space will be a welcoming and accessible open space, where the local community can connect with and enjoy their local environment.

1.2 Introduction

Camp Open Space is a 0.8-hectare public open space located in Cunningham Ward, St Albans.

Camp Primary and Nursery School share a boundary with the eastern side of the park, and Little Starts Pre-school Nursery, Cunningham Hill Infant & Junior School are within less than 200m of Camp Open Space.

The site is also adjacent to two allotments.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Summary

Site Name: Camp Open Space

Site Address: AL1 5JS

Grid Reference: TL 166 066

Size: 0.8 ha

Owner: St Albans City & District Council

ST ALBANS

Camp Open Space

Greenspace Action Plan

2026 - 2036

Location Plan

Camp Open Space
Grid Ref: TL 166 066
Easting: 516647
Northing: 206633

Scale @ A3
1:10,000

Date
February 2026

Rev
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Countryside
Management
Service

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Camp Open Space

Greenspace Action Plan
2026 - 2036

Site Description

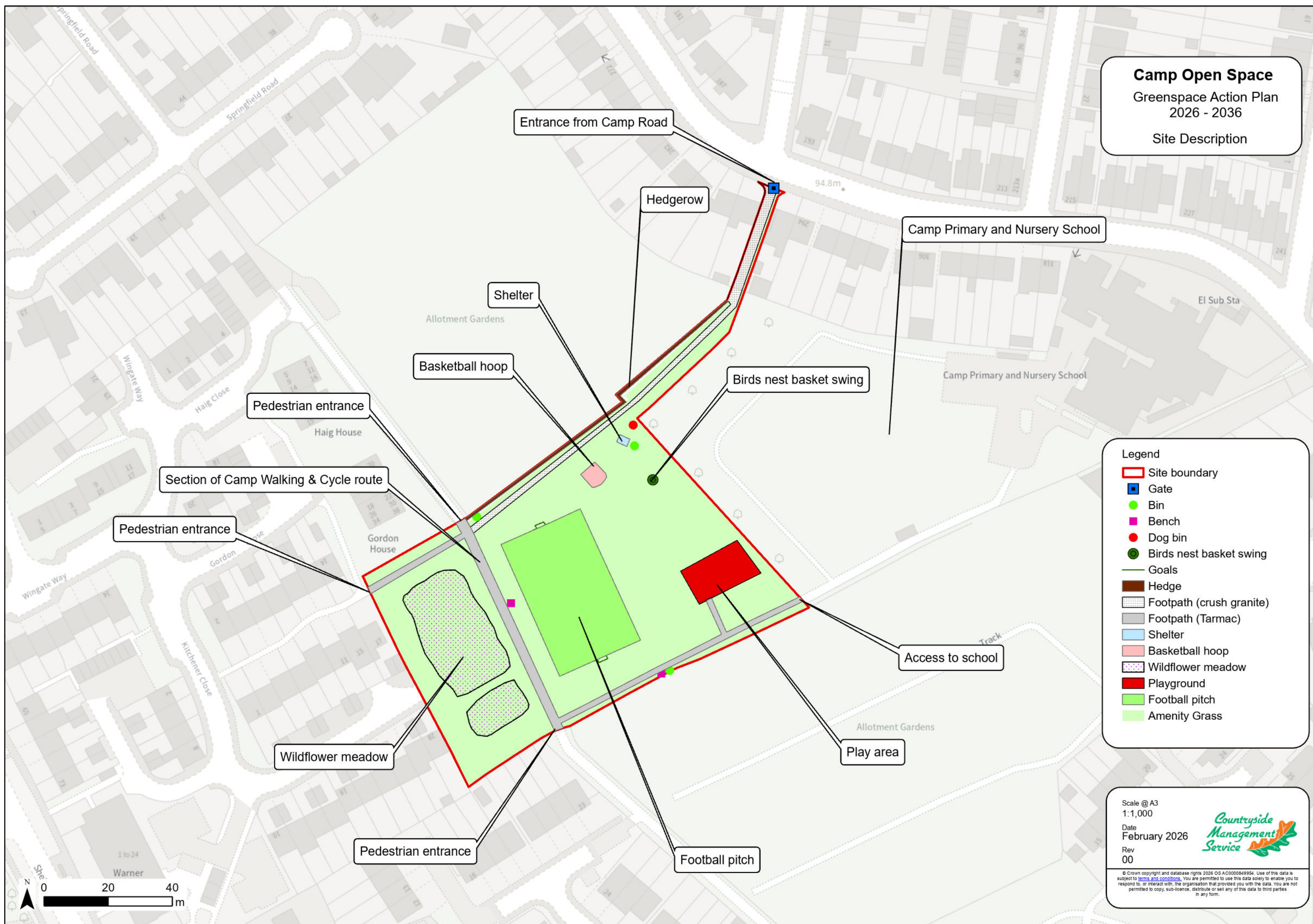
Legend

- Site boundary
- Gate
- Bin
- Bench
- Dog bin
- Birds nest basket swing
- Goals
- Hedge
- Footpath (crush granite)
- Footpath (Tarmac)
- Shelter
- Basketball hoop
- Wildflower meadow
- Playground
- Football pitch
- Amenity Grass

Scale @ A3
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Date
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Camp Open Space

Greenspace Action Plan
2026 - 2036

Constraints Plan

Legend

- Conservation Area
- Wildlife Site
- RoFSW_Extent1in1000
- RoFSW_Extent1in100
- RoFSW_Extent1in30
- Footpath

St. Albans Cemetery

FP 064

Alban Way

FP 065

FP 067

FP 066

Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 30

Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 100

Cunningham Hill Playing Field

Allotments off Wingate Lane

Risk of flood from surface water 1 in 1000

Cunningham Avenue Conservation Area

Allotments off Burnside

FP 067

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2.2 Site Designations

The site has no formal designations.

2.3 Habitats and Wildlife

The majority of Camp Open Space consists of amenity grass, which has low habitat and biodiversity value. On the western side is a wildflower meadow sown in 2023 and on the northern side a recently planted 150m mixed native hedgerow planted with approximately 750 whips.

Hedgerows provide shelter and feeding habitat for a variety of species such as birds, reptiles and small mammal species, create an ecological corridor, protect the soil and store carbon.

The southern boundary of the park has a mature hedge with some large trees.



Amenity grass



Recently Planted Hedgerow

The wildflower meadow located on the western side of the site was seeded in 2023 with a wildflower mix.



Wildflower meadow

2.4 Site History

The area where the site is located has a rich history. As this blog (St Albans' Own East End) describes it, the slopes of Cunningham Farm, in the hands of the Earls of Verulam, were in use for military training for the Militia since its formation in 1759, and later by the Yeomanry. The most recent tented encampment in this area was in 1915.

2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure

Camp Open Space has access through four different locations. The eastern access is by Camp Road through a double black metal gate. The park can also be accessed by Camp Walking & Cycle route from the north and south of the site and from between properties from Kitchener Close.



Access from Camp Rd

The path from Camp Road entrance to the Camp Walking & Cycle route has recently been resurfaced with crushed granite aggregate.

The pedestrian entrance from the front gardens of Kitchener Close is through a metal barrier/chicane to prevent entrance by motorised vehicle.



Access from Kitchener Close



New surfaced path

The path near the southern boundary has two sections where the roots from the nearby trees have lifted the tarmac.



Footpath

The Camp Walking & Cycle route passes through the site from Springfield Road to Hill End & Highfield. This is the only area with lamp columns in the park.



Cycle route

There are three benches distributed around the site including one within the playground. There are also two bins including dog bins.

The playground is located in the southeast of the park and is surrounded by a metal fence with two entrances located at opposite sides. One of the entrances has vehicular access. There is another piece of playground equipment outside the playground area, although the basket is missing.



Playground



Incomplete bird's nest basket swing

It is unclear what the metal shelter/gazebo is used for, although it looks like some bonfires have been lit near the structure



Shelter

There is an unmarked football pitch with two metal goals at each end in the middle of the site and a basketball hoop with a small tarmac area by the northern footpath.



Football pitch

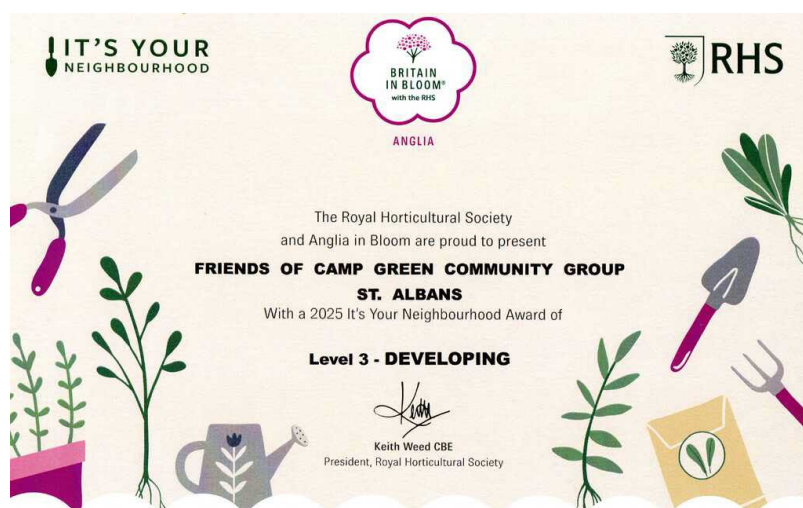


Basketball hoop

2.6 Community and Events

The Friends of Camp Green organise regular litter picking events, community picnics and planted the new hedgerow. They have recently received a certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Anglia in Bloom.

The Friends are also working with SADC officers to improve the playground area.



RHS Britain in Boom Award

2.7 Site Management and Sustainability

2.7.1 Site Management

Camp Open Space does not currently have a site-specific management plan. Its management is guided by all relevant SADC policies and strategies.

All actions within the plan are aspirational, are not guaranteed to take place within the specified year and may be subject to external funding.

2.7.2 Health and Safety

SADC staff undertake regular site inspections and will investigate and respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site.

3.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

3.1 Woodland edge succession

An unmown linear strip at the eastern boundary between the school and Camp Open space can be left uncut for natural regeneration to colonise the woodland edge.

Adaptive management is necessary to maintain the proper graduation from soft herbs, scrub then woodland. The Friends of Camp Green could carry out this management, cutting the soft vegetation as appropriate. Coppicing of scrub may be necessary on a long rotation to ensure the margin does not become high forest. Generally, the natural species mix and terminal height of scrubby species mean intensive management is unnecessary.

3.2 Spring wildflowers

Spring bulbs will be planted around the borders of the wildflower meadows, at the linear strip at the eastern boundary to define the woodland edge, at the edge of the conservation cut areas and the edge of the paths surrounding the main area of the park.

As a general rule, September is the best time of year to plant bulbs. Planting should occur in short grass or bare earth with an amenity pollinator mix directly sown into the defined areas to offer spring colour and nectar source for pollinators. This mix should ideally include 50% crocus, 30% primrose, 10% snowdrop and 10% grape hyacinth.

Planting should be carried out in well-drained soil, in full dappled sunlight in a hole three times as deep as the bulb diameter. Once the bulbs have died back by mid-June, the area may be managed as the remaining amenity grass areas.

3.3 Specimen tree planting

Trees (2m-3m tall) can be planted along the paths, and on the western boundary where there are no nearby houses. Planting should be carried out from October to February when the trees are dormant.

3.4 Install a bug hotel

A bug hotel could be installed by the metal gazebo in the eastern boundary. It can be built with untreated wooden pallets, old bricks, logs, twigs, pieces of bark, leaves, etc. A bug hotel within the wildflower meadow will allow invertebrates to shelter from predators and breed.

3.5 Install a bench, signs and interpretation/information boards

The site doesn't have any signs or interpretation boards. Two entrance signs with the name of the site will be installed at the entrances from Kitchener Close and Camp Road. An interpretation board will also be installed at the path junction on the northern side of the site, featuring the Camp history and a lockable information board with events programme from the Friends', SADC and other local organisations.

The path from Camp Road is not lit. Passive infrared (PIR) lights can be installed at the allotments' boundary in this section. The lights have sensors that detect motion by measuring changes in heat emitted by people and animals.

The site has only three benches, including one within the playground. Another bench should be installed by the side of the walking and cycle route that runs North to South through the site. "Legend on a Bench" is a UK-based charity that installs suicide prevention benches in public spaces to provide 24/7 mental health support and a beacon of hope for those in crisis.

3.6 Repair path cracks

The tarmac by the southern boundary is cracked, possibly due to tree roots activity by the nearby trees and damaged patches should be repaired.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the Management and Maintenance Plan are as follows:

A. A Welcoming Place: To enhance the experience of visitors to Camp Open Space.

A1 Maintain public access into the site, ensuring pathways and entrances are kept clear and open.

A2 Remove graffiti and fly-tipping

A3 Maintain litter bins and carry out regular litter picking

A4 Install passive infrared lights along the allotment's railings

A5 Install 'Legend on a Bench' bench

B. Conservation and Biodiversity: To protect and enhance habitats and species

B1 Maintain the wildflower meadow with an annual cut and collect and add new areas to be managed in this way

B2 Maintain the newly planted hedge by replacing dead whips, keeping it free of weeds, and extend the hedge all the way to the end of the fence.

B3 Plant some standard trees around the site.

B4 Plant spring bulbs around the boundaries of the wildflower meadows

B5 Enhance the woodland edge along the eastern boundary

B6 Add a bug hotel

C. Marketing and Communication: To promote awareness and interest in Camp Open Space

C1 Promote the site and project delivery through SADC and CMS websites and social media

C2 Install entrance signs and historic site interpretation boards to celebrate the Camp history of the area.

C3 Install a lockable notice board to share activities information of the Friends of Camp Open Space and other local organisations

D. Volunteer and Community Involvement: To involve key stakeholders and the local community in decision making and the active management of Camp Open Space

D1 Support volunteer activity and ensure all involved operate towards achievement of the Greenspace Action Plan.

D2 Design a logo & brand identity for the Friends of Camp Green.

E. Environmental Management: To ensure all aspects of site management are undertaken with sustainability as a guiding principle

E1 Ensure all site activities adhere to relevant SADC policies and strategies, including all work undertaken by contractors

E2 Manage and maintain site infrastructure ensuring ongoing maintenance costs are financially sustainable

E3 Seek external funding to ensure the viability of capital works

E4 Ensure impacts of climate change are considered in management decisions

E5 Monitor results of delivery to evaluate the success of management activities

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

5.1 Annual and Regular Actions

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Status
Habitat Maintenance							
0.1	Wildflower meadow maintenance (cut and collect)	B1	Jul - Aug	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	
0.2	Establish additional areas to be managed as cut and collect	B4	Jul - Aug	SADC/CMS	GM	SADC Budget	
0.3	Maintain hedge	B2	Sep - Feb	CMS	CMS/FoCG	Volunteers' time	
Site Maintenance							
0.4	Continue the established grounds maintenance programme	A1	Ongoing	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	
0.5	Maintain infrastructure as required	E2	Ongoing	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	
0.6	Empty litter bins	A3	Ongoing	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	

0.7	Empty dog bins	A3	Ongoing	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	
0.8	Seek external funding to ensure viability of capital works	E3	Ongoing	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	Officer's time	
0.9	Promote volunteer and community events	D1	All year	SADC/CMS	CMS	Officer's time	
0.10	Review and update annual action plans	E5	Annual	SADC/CMS	All	Officer's time	
0.11	Tree survey and proportionate risk management	C3	Winter	SADC	GM	SADC Budget	

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service; GM – Grounds Maintenance; SADC – St Albans District Council; FoCG – Friends of Camp Green

- Task Responsibility**
- District led
 - CMS led
 - District led
 - CMS led
 - Friends of Camp Green
- Officer/ Contractor delivered
- Volunteer delivered

Camp Open Space Greenspace Action Plan 2026 - 2036 Annual & Regular Actions

Annual management Site Management

- Respond promptly to reports of misuse of the site ☐
- Manage and maintain paths and access infrastructure ☐
- Undertake weekly litter picking, bin emptying and carry out small scale vegetation when needed ☐
- Ensure a good standard of general site maintenance is upheld through grounds maintenance operations ☐

Maintain hedge ■ ■

Conservation cut and collect ☐

Wildflower meadow cut and collect ☐

- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - Standard tree
 - - - Spring wildflowers
 - Footpath (crush granite)
 - Footpath (Tarmac)
 - Conservation cut
 - Woodland edge succession
 - Amenity Grass
 - Playground
 - Football pitch
 - Wildflower meadow
 - Basketball hoop
 - Hedge
 - Shelter

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5.2 Year 1-5 Actions 2026-31

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Status
Habitat Maintenance							
1.1	Replace dead whips and extend hedge	B2	Year 1	CMS	CMS/FoCG	SADC Budget	
1.2	Plant standard trees	B3	Year 1	SADC	SADC	SADC Budget	
1.3	Plant spring bulbs	B5	Year 1	CMS	CMS/FoCG	Volunteers' time	
1.4	Add a bug hotel	B6	Year 1	CMS	CMS/FoCG	Volunteers' time	
1.5	Cease management of an area on the eastern boundary to allow establishment of scrub	B5	Year 1	SADC/CMS	GM	NA	
1.6	Remove guards	B2	Year 3	CMS	CMS/FoCG	Volunteers' time	
Site Maintenance							
1.7	Repair footpath	A1	Year 1	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	SADC Budget	
1.8	Design a logo & brand identity for the group.	D2	Year 1	FoCG	FoCG	Volunteers time	

1.9	Install passive infrared lights along the allotment's railings	A4	Year 1	SADC/FoCG	FoCG	External funding	
1.10	Install 'Legend on a Bench' bench	A5	Year 1	SADC/FoCG	FoCG	External funding	
1.11	Install notice board	C3	Year 2	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	External funding	
1.12	Install entrance signs	C2	Year 2	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	External funding	
1.13	Install interpretation board	C2	Year 2	SADC/CMS	SADC/CMS	External funding	
1.14	Improve the playground area	E3	Year 2	SADC/FoCG	SADC/FoCG	External funding	

- Task Responsibility**
- District led } Officer/ Contractor delivered
 - CMS led } Volunteer delivered
 - District led } Volunteer delivered
 - CMS led } Volunteer delivered
 - Friends of Camp Green

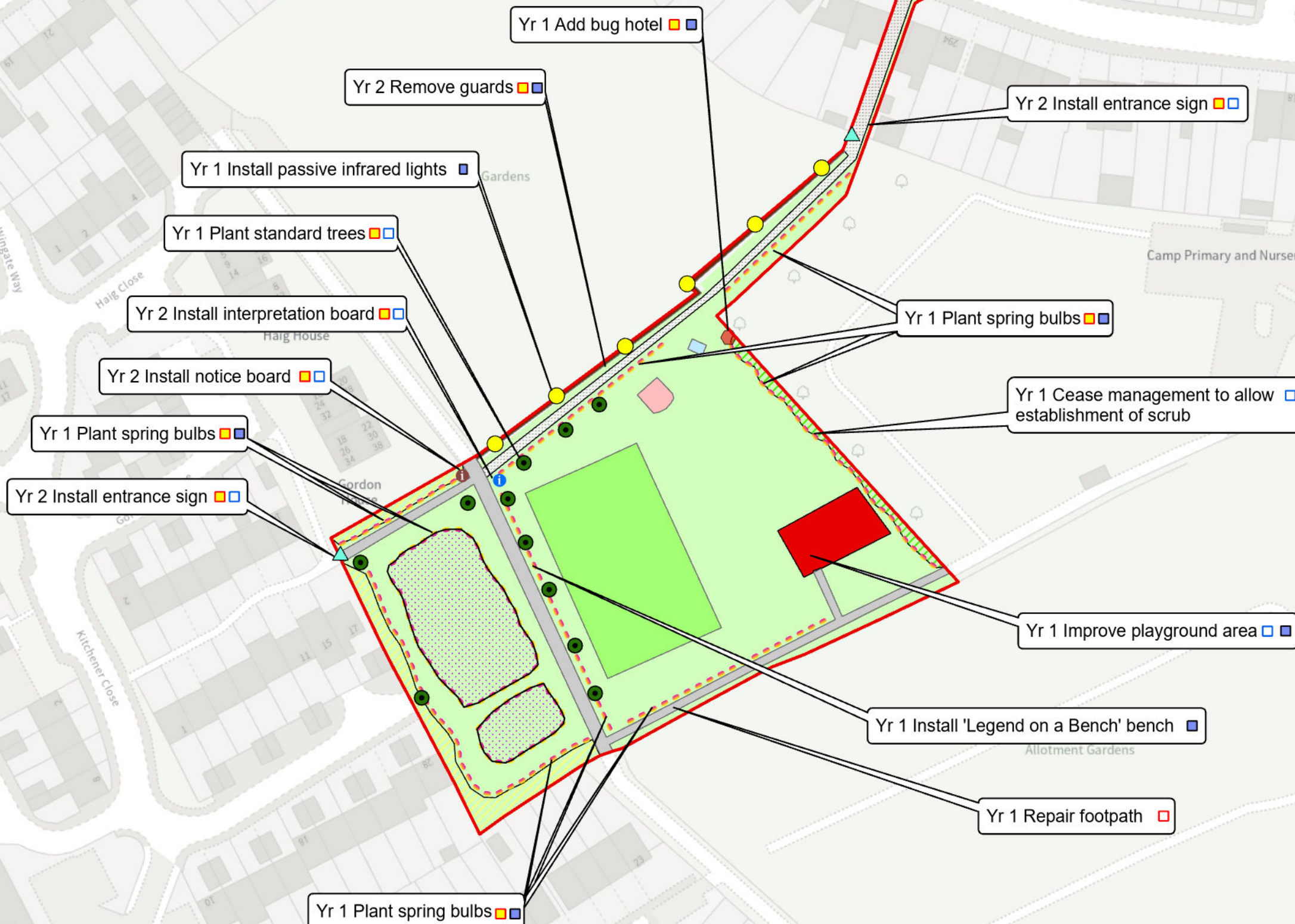
Camp Open Space

Greenspace Action Plan 2026 - 2036

Year 1-5 Actions

Legend

- Site boundary
- Notice Board
- Interpretation board
- Bug hotel
- Standard tree
- Entrance sign
- Passive infrared light
- Spring wildflowers
- Footpath (crush granite)
- Conservation cut
- Woodland edge succession
- Amenity Grass
- Playground
- Football pitch
- Wildflower meadow
- Basketball hoop
- Footpath (Tarmac)
- Hedge
- Shelter



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