



GREENWAY SPINNEY

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN

2026 – 2031



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; 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 an assessment of its condition and opportunities for improvement (Analysis and Evaluation). This is developed into Aims and Objectives for the site, a set of Action Plans which identify how these objectives will be achieved, and detailed specifications for the work to complete the actions.

Public Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is at the centre of effective management planning on any site. Initial engagement with the Friends of Greenway Spinney was held in early 2026, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement will be completed to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site.

Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Details	Author	Reviewed	Approved
V0	25.06.26	Draft for engagement	FD	AT	NS

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1.0 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

1.1 Vision Statement

Greenway Spinney is a well-managed, resilient, and welcoming local woodland that supports a rich diversity of wildlife while providing a safe, accessible, and enjoyable space for the community. Through sensitive, proactive management and strong partnership working, the site will continue to evolve as a valued green space that balances ecological enhancement with informal recreation.

1.2 Introduction

This Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) sets out the management priorities and proposed works for Greenway Spinney over the five-year period from 2026 to 2031. It builds on the progress made during the previous management cycle and provides a structured framework for maintaining and enhancing the site's environmental quality, usability, and overall value.

Greenway Spinney is a small but important local greenspace, offering a combination of woodland and glade, and informal recreational features. Its value lies not only in its ecological interest, but also in its contribution to community wellbeing, opportunity for quiet enjoyment, and connection to the wider green infrastructure network.

Management will be delivered through a coordinated approach involving the St Albans District Council (SADC), the Countryside Management Service (CMS), and the Friends of Greenway Spinney (FoG), with flexibility to respond to changing conditions. Overall, the plan aims to ensure Greenway Spinney remains a well-managed, accessible, and ecologically valuable space for the community.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Summary

Site Name:	Greenway Spinney
Site Address:	Greenway Spinney Greenway Harpenden AL5 1NQ
Grid Reference:	TL 151 135
Size:	0.5 hectares
Designations:	Ecosite
Owner:	St Albans District Council

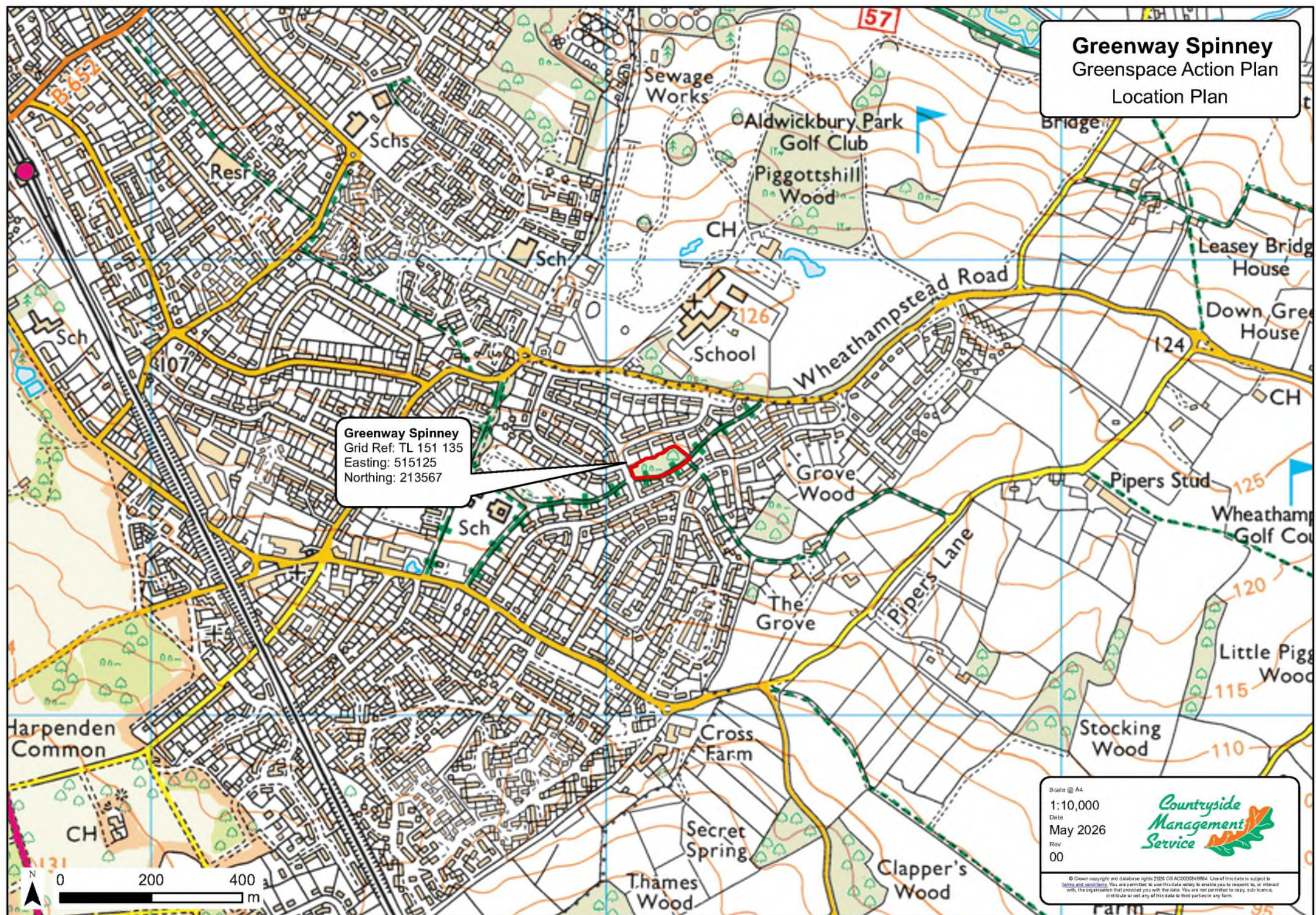
Greenway Spinney Greenspace Action Plan Location Plan

Greenway Spinney
Grid Ref: TL 151 135
Easting: 515125
Northing: 213567

Scale @ A4
1:10,000
Date
May 2026
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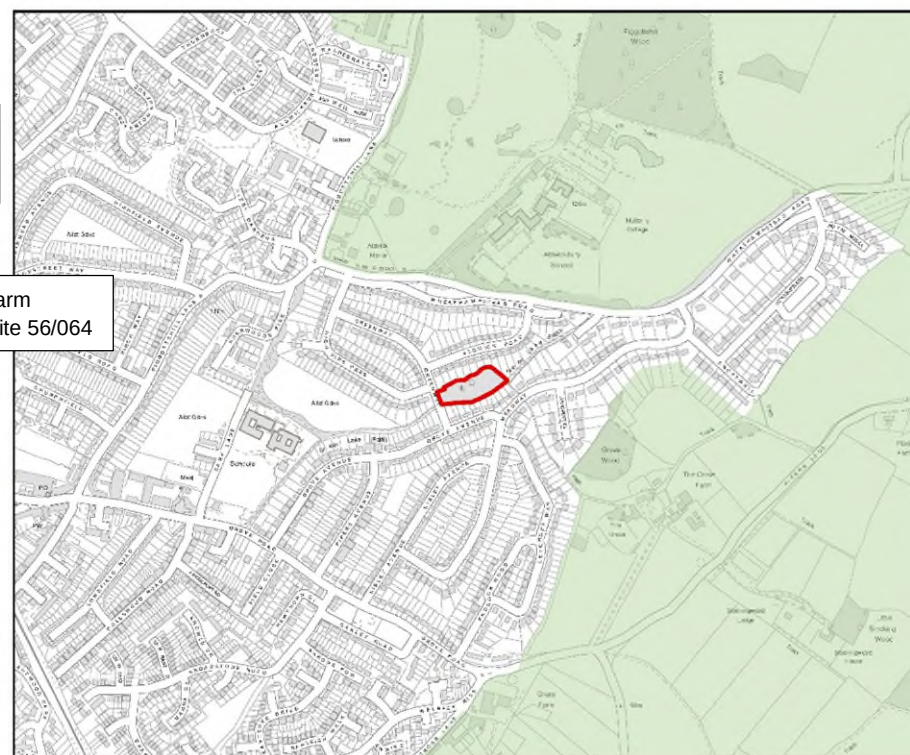
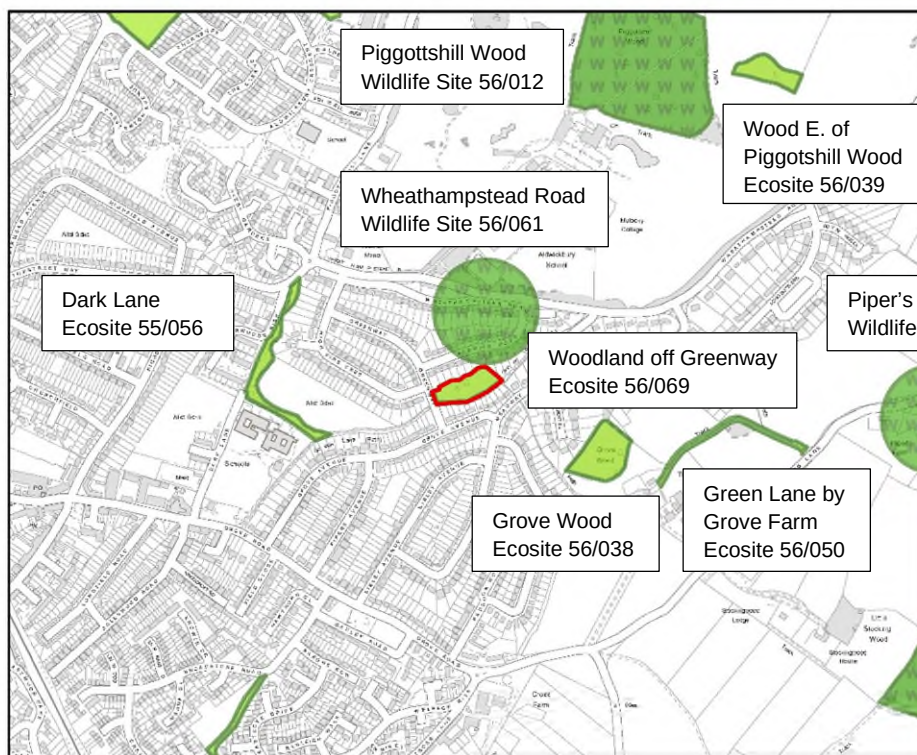
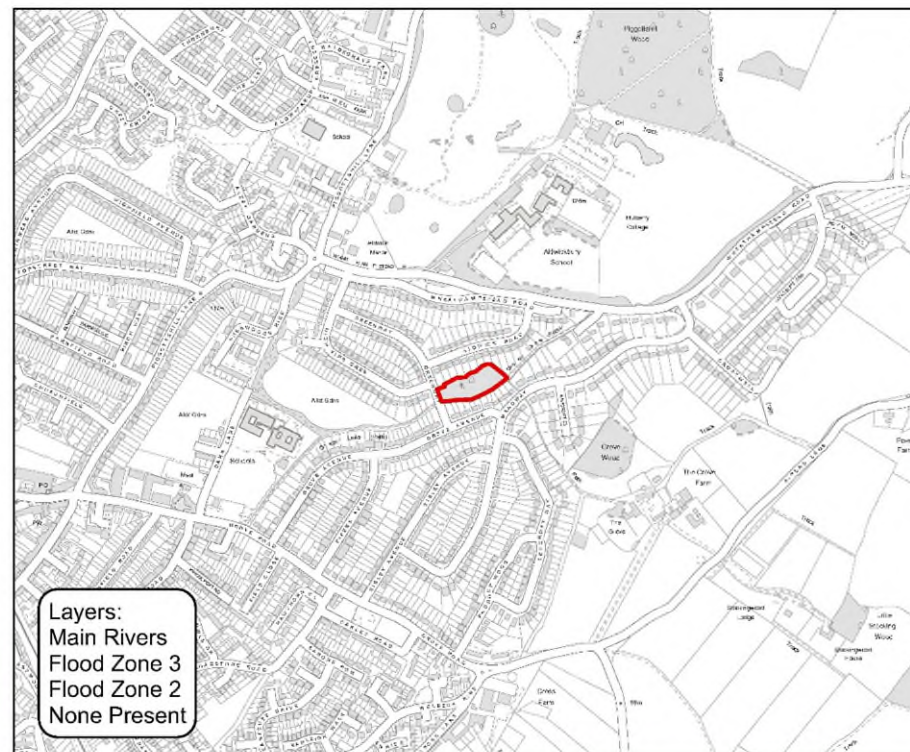
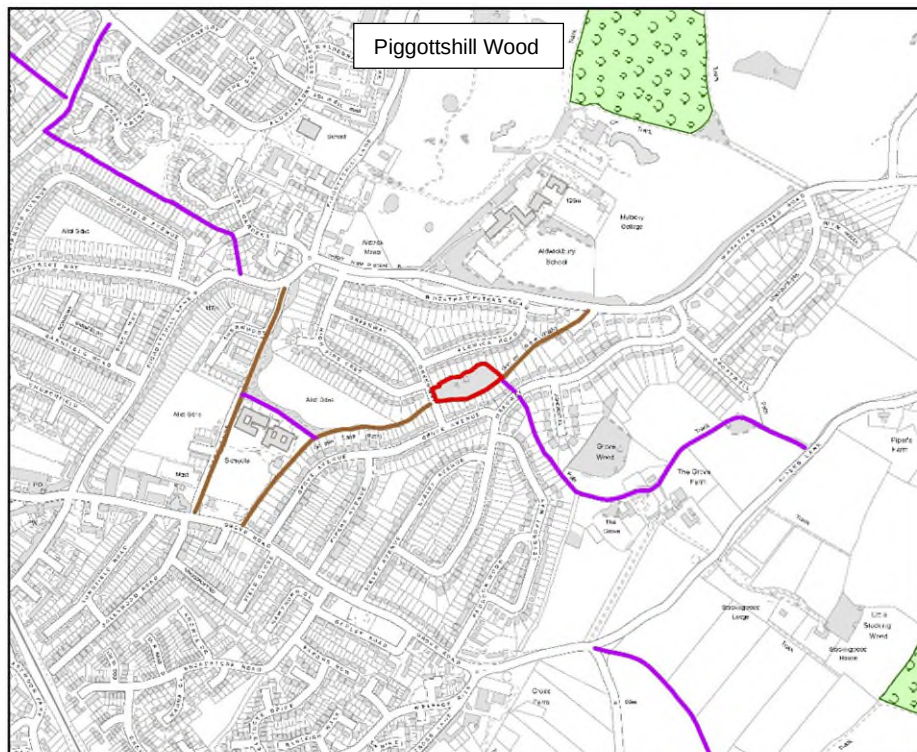


Greenway Spinney

Greenspace Action Plan Constraints Plan

Legend

-  Byway Open to All Traffic
-  Footpath
-  Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
-  Wildlife Site
-  Ecosite
-  Greenbelt - November 2016
-  Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Boundary



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2.2 Site Description

Greenway Spinney is a small, semi-natural greenspace situated within a residential area, providing a locally valued resource for both informal recreation and wildlife. The site is characterised primarily by mixed woodland, interspersed with a central glade that forms a focal point for visitors and community use.

The woodland is composed of a mix of mature and semi-mature trees, with an understorey of shrubs and naturally regenerating species. This creates a layered structure that supports a range of habitats for birds, invertebrates, and small mammals. Deadwood features, both standing and fallen, are present throughout the site and contribute significantly to its ecological value. In places, dense understorey vegetation, including holly and bramble, provides important cover for wildlife, although management is required to maintain structural diversity and prevent localised dominance.

At the heart of the site lies an open glade, designed as a multifunctional space that combines ecological interest with community use. This area includes a surfaced path and a central circular feature enclosed by a native species-rich hedge, with informal log seating used by local schools for outdoor education. The glade provides a contrast to the surrounding tree cover, creating a valuable open habitat that supports pollinators and other species associated with grassland and edge environments.

Areas of the smaller glade were enhanced through the planting of native whips during the winter of 25/26 as part of a community-led initiative. These young specimens will, over time, contribute to increased structural diversity, strengthening habitat connectivity and reinforcing the natural character of the site. Their establishment will be supported by ongoing management to ensure successful growth and integration within the wider landscape.

Around the perimeter of the larger glade, trees are managed on an ad-hoc coppice cycle. This approach promotes a varied age structure and encourages vigorous regrowth, helping maintain a diverse woodland edge. The resulting mosaic of open and regrowing areas enhances habitat conditions for a range of species, while preserving the balance between openness and enclosure within the glade.

The transition between woodland and glade forms an important edge habitat, increasing biodiversity through variation in light, structure, and vegetation. Linear hedgerows, particularly along site boundaries, further contribute to habitat connectivity and provide foraging and nesting opportunities for a range of species, while also helping define the structure and enclosure of the site.

Greenway Spinney is accessible via a network of informal and surfaced paths, which allow visitors to move through the woodland and around the glade. The site is supported by a range of infrastructure, including benches, signage, a noticeboard, and a dog waste bin, all of which facilitate safe and comfortable use. The path network

plays an important role in guiding visitor movement, helping to protect more sensitive areas while maintaining accessibility.

Overall, the combination of woodland, glade, hedgerows, and managed access routes creates a diverse and well-used greenspace. Greenway Spinney functions as both a wildlife refuge and a community asset, offering opportunities for quiet enjoyment, informal recreation, and engagement with the natural environment.

3.0 ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

3.1 A Welcoming Place

Greenway Spinney is a welcoming and inclusive greenspace for local residents, with clearly defined entrances and a layout that is intuitive to navigate. Entrance signage is present, legible, and in good condition, helping visitors identify the site and understand its function as a local greenspace.



Figure 1 Entrance signage

The presence of a well-maintained noticeboard, actively used by the Friends of Greenway Spinney (FoGS) contributes positively to the sense of place by providing community information and reinforcing local stewardship.



Figure 2 Noticeboard

The central glade, including The Circle and its informal log seating, act as a key focal point encouraging dwell time and informal recreation. This area is also used by local schools as part of their outdoor education programme. The balance between open

and wooded areas creates a visually attractive landscape, offering both a sense of enclosure and openness, which enhances visitor experience.

While the site performs well in this respect, maintaining a welcoming standard will require continued attention to the condition and presentation of entrances, signage, and furniture. As vegetation growth is rapid within woodland settings, ensuring that access points and key features remain visible and unobstructed will be important in sustaining this.

3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Greenway Spinney is generally a safe and well-used site, benefiting from natural surveillance and regular use by the local community. The established path network provides clear routes through the woodland and glade, helping to guide movement and reduce conflict with more sensitive habitat areas.

Tree safety is managed in line with best practice through scheduled inspections and reactive works, reducing the risk posed by defective trees or branches. Site furniture is also in good condition, and there is no immediate safety concern associated with its use.



Figure 3 Bench within the site

However, vegetation monitoring has identified increasing encroachment of bramble along key paths and desire lines. If left unmanaged, this has potential to restrict access, reduce visibility and create trip or snag hazards, particularly during periods of peak growth.



Figure 4 Bramble and holly encroachment

In addition, localised path wear and surface degradation present a potential risk to accessibility, particularly during wet conditions when surfaces may become uneven or slippery.



Figure 5 Surfaced path

Ongoing proactive management, including vegetation control and targeted path maintenance, will be essential to ensure that the site remains safe, accessible, and fit for year-round use.

3.3 Well Maintained and Clean

The overall standard of maintenance at Greenway Spinney is good, with the site presenting as clean, cared for, and valued. Regular litter picking, supported by volunteers, contributes significantly to maintaining a positive appearance and reducing environmental impacts. The dog waste bin is in good working order and serviced regularly, supporting responsible use of the site.



Figure 6 Dog waste bin

Site furniture, including benches and signage, remains structurally sound and fit for purpose. The path network also generally performs well, providing a continuous and accessible route through the site.

Despite this, some localised issues have been identified. Sections of the path network are showing early signs of wear, particularly in areas subject to higher footfall or seasonal waterlogging. Edge erosion and minor surface breakdown, if not addressed, may lead to more extensive degradation and increased maintenance and costs over time.

A structured programme of inspection and targeted intervention will be necessary to maintain standards and prevent a gradual decline in condition. Timely maintenance will ensure that the site continues to meet expectations for cleanliness and upkeep.

3.4 Environmental Management

Management of Greenway Spinney reflects a largely sustainable and conservation-led approach. The retention of deadwood, use of natural regeneration, and reliance on volunteer-led maintenance contribute to a land management design that supports both ecological value and resource efficiency.

Current practices successfully balance access and biodiversity; however, monitoring indicates that certain areas of the site are becoming structurally simplified. In particular, the woodland understorey shows increasing dominance of holly in places, while bramble is expanding along edges and paths. Without intervention, these trends may reduce habitat diversity and negatively affect ground flora.

In addition, the absence of a consistent and structured coppice regime in recent years has limited the variation in woodland structure, leading to more uniform canopy conditions and reduced light penetration in some areas.



Figure 7 Tree identified for coppicing

Reintroducing traditional management techniques, such as rotational coppicing and hedge laying along the Right of Way, will strengthen ecological resilience, enhance structural diversity, and ensure the site continues to deliver multiple environmental benefits.

3.4.1 Climate change and sustainability

Greenway Spinney contributes positively to climate resilience through its woodland structure. The predominance of semi-natural habitats increases the site's ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Management practices already demonstrate a sustainable approach, including the retention of arisings on site, minimal reliance on external inputs, and use of natural materials. There is further opportunity to strengthen sustainability through the selection of permeable, locally appropriate materials in path works, and by continuing to minimise waste and footfall impacts.

Long-term resilience can be further enhanced by maintaining a diverse age structure within the woodland, ensuring that habitats can adapt to pressures such as pests, disease, and climate variability.

3.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Greenway Spinney supports a diverse mosaic of habitats, including woodland, glade, hedgerow, and transitional edge habitats. This variety contributes significantly to the site's ecological value and supports a range of species.

Positive management actions have already been implemented, including the creation and retention of deadwood habitats and the installation of bird and bat boxes, which enhance opportunities for roosting, nesting, and foraging. The glade provides an important open habitat that contrasts with the surrounding woodland, supporting pollinators and increasing overall diversity.



Figure 8 Deadwood in the glade

However, several management pressures have been identified. Encroachment of bramble and localised dominance of holly in the woodland understorey are reducing structural diversity in places. Similarly, the absence of recent structured coppicing has resulted in reduced variation in woodland age structure and light availability.

The glade remains a key feature but requires ongoing management to prevent succession to scrub. The hedge surrounding The Circle is in good condition but will require rotational cutting to maintain its density and ecological function.



Figure 9 The Circle

Recent planting of native whips within the glade represents a positive enhancement, contributing to long-term structural diversity and habitat connectivity. It is important that these specimens are managed appropriately to ensure success.

3.5.1 Tree planting opportunities

Given the established nature of the woodland and the limited size of the site, large-scale tree planting opportunities are limited and may not be appropriate. However, targeted planting, such as the recent whip planting within the glade, provides a valuable mechanism for enhancing habitat diversity and reinforcing existing features.

No tree planting is outlined in this plan, and any future opportunities should focus on small-scale sensitive planting that complements the existing landscape, supports species diversity, and avoids overshading key habitats, such as the glade.

3.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement is a significant strength of Greenway Spinney. The Friends of Greenway Spinney play a central role in the ongoing management of the site, undertaking practical conservation tasks, monitoring conditions, and contributing to decision-making processes.

This strong volunteer presence enhances the capacity for site management while fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship within the local community. Activities such as habitat management, litter picking, and engagement through the noticeboard demonstrate an active and committed user group.

Maintaining and supporting this involvement will be critical to the long-term success of the site. Opportunities exist to further strengthen participation through continued promotion of volunteering and collaboration with the Countryside Management Service volunteer group.

3.7 Marketing and Communication

Communication at Greenway Spinney is currently supported through on-site signage and an actively used noticeboard, which provides updates on site activities and promotes community engagement. This serves as an effective, low-key method of communication to the scale and character of the site.

4.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

Aim

To maintain and enhance Greenway Spinney as a high-quality, accessible, and biodiverse greenspace through proactive woodland, glade, and infrastructure management, supported by strong community involvement.

Objectives

A. A Welcoming Place

- A1 Maintain clear, visible, and well-presented entrances, signage, and noticeboards
- A2 Ensure the glade and The Circle remain attractive, usable, and inviting focal points
- A3 Maintain site furniture in good condition to support visitor comfort and use

B. Healthy, Safe, and Secure

- B1 Maintain safe and accessible paths across the site, free from obstructions
- B2 Manage vegetation encroachment, particularly bramble, along paths and desire lines
- B3 Ensure trees and woodland areas are managed to minimise risk to visitors

C. Well Maintained and Clean

- C1 Maintain a clean site through regular litter and dog waste management
- C2 Ensure all infrastructure, including benches, bins, and signage, remains safe and functional
- C3 Address localised path wear and surface degradation

D. Environmental Management

- D1 Retain and utilise natural materials arising from site management
- D2 Ensure materials used in path and infrastructure works are durable and appropriate to the setting
- D3 Support resilient woodland and glade conditions through ongoing management

E. Biodiversity, Landscape, and Heritage

- E1 Reinststate and maintain rotational coppicing within the woodland
- E2 Control holly dominance within the woodland understorey
- E3 Manage hedgerows through cutting and traditional hedge laying
- E4 Manage the glade to prevent scrub and bramble encroachment
- E5 Retain and enhance deadwood habitat across the site
- E6 Maintain bat and bird boxes
- E7 Support the establishment of recently planted whips in the glade

F. Community Involvement

- F1 Support the ongoing involvement of the Friends of Greenway Spinney
- F2 Maintain and encourage volunteer activity on site
- F3 Promote community use and engagement with the site

G. Management and Communication

- G1 Deliver planned woodland, glade, and infrastructure management works
- G2 Monitor the site condition and respond to emerging issues
- G3 Communicate site management and activities through the noticeboard
- G4 Improve awareness of biodiversity and management practices on site

5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

1.1 Annual and Regular Actions

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service, GM – Grounds Maintenance, SADC – St Albans City and District Council, JoC – John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance Contractors, Vols – Volunteers, FoGS – Friends of Greenway Spinney

Ref	Action	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Spec	Review
0.1	Tree safety survey	As per schedule	SADC	SADC	SADC Budget		
0.2	Reactive tree safety works	Ongoing	SADC	SADC	SADC Budget		
0.3	Maintenance of deadwood resource on site	Ongoing	CMS	FoGS	Vols	1	
0.4	Litter picking	Regular	CMS	FoGS	Vols		
0.5	Dog bin emptying	Regular	SADC	JoC	GM Budget		
0.7	Maintenance of site furniture	Regular	CMS	FoGS	Vols		
0.8	Cut and lift glade	Aug/Sept	CMS	FoGS	Vols	9	
0.9	Maintenance of hedges	Winter	CMS	FoGS	Vols	2	
0.10	Management of coarse vegetation	May-Aug	CMS	FoGS	Vols	3	
0.12	Maintenance of bird and bat boxes	Ongoing	CMS	FoGS	Vols	4	
0.13	Cut back bramble encroaching on paths	Apr - Sep	CMS	FoGS	Vols	3	

- Task Responsibility**
- District led } Officer/ Contractor delivered
 - CMS led } CMS delivered
 - District led } Volunteer delivered
 - CMS led } CMS delivered

Greenway Spinney Greenspace Action Plan Annual Actions

Legend

- Boundary
- Coppice
- Glade
- Woodland
- Bench
- Bramble Area
- Dog Bin
- Entrance Sign
- Log Pile
- Noticeboard
- Pedestrian Access
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Hedge
- Path
- Public Footpath
- Woven Hurdle Barrier

Annual Management

General Management

- Tree Safety Survey
- Litter Picking
- Dog Bin Emptying
- Site Furniture Maintenance
- Bird and Bat Box Maintenance

Habitat Management

- Deadwood Maintenance
- Cut and Lift of Glade
- Reactive Tree Works
- Maintenance of Hedges
- Management of Coarse Vegetation

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1.2 Years 1 to 5 Action Plan 2026 – 2031

Ref no.	Action	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Spec. Ref.
1.1	Restart rotational coppicing in priority woodland areas	Sep - Feb	CMS	FoGS	Vols	6
1.2	Selective holly thinning to reduce dominance	Sep - Feb	CMS	FoGS	Vols	7
1.3	Rotational hedge management in The Circle	Sep - Feb	CMS	FoGS	Vols	2
1.4	Hedge laying along Green Lane	Sep - Feb	CMS	FoGS	Vols	5
1.5	Resurfacing of surfaced path through the glade	Y1	SADC	Contractor	External	8
2.1	Continue rotational coppicing, one zone per year.	Y2 – Y5	CMS	FoGS	GM Budget	6
2.2	Continue holly management	Y2 – Y5	CMS	FoGS	GM Budget	7
2.3	Maintain hedge structure through periodic cutting and laying	Y2 – Y5	CMS	FoGS	GM Budget	5
2.4	Ongoing bramble control in woodland and glade.	Y2 – Y5	SADC	JoC	GM Budget	3

Abbreviations: CMS – Countryside Management Service, GM – Grounds Maintenance, SADC – St Albans City and District Council, JoC – John O'Connor Grounds Maintenance Contractors, Vols – Volunteers / Friends of Greenway Spinney

Task Responsibility

□ District led	} Officer/ Contractor delivered
□ CMS led	
□ District led	} Volunteer delivered
□ CMS led	

Year 1 Years 2 - 5

Greenway Spinney Greenspace Action Plan Years 1 - 5 Actions

Legend

- Boundary
- Coppice
- Glade
- Woodland
- Bench
- Bramble Area
- Dog Bin
- ☆ Entrance Sign
- Log Pile
- ▲ Noticeboard
- Pedestrian Access
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Hedge
- Path
- Public Footpath
- Woven Hurdle Barrier
- Coppice Cycle**
- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 4
- Zone 5

- Annual Management**
- General Management**
- Tree Safety Survey □
 - Litter Picking □
 - Dog Bin Emptying □
 - Site Furniture Maintenance □
 - Bird and Bat Box Maintenance □
- Habitat Management**
- Deadwood Maintenance □
 - Cut and Lift of Glade □
 - Reactive Tree Works □
 - Maintenance of Hedges □
 - Management of Coarse Vegetation □

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6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

6.1 Deadwood

Why	• Standing and fallen deadwood is a critical structural component of woodland ecosystems, supporting a wide range of invertebrates, fungi, birds, and mammals.
What	• All timber arising from management works should be retained on site where safe to do so. • Habitat piles should be created in areas of dappled shade, and woodchip use should be confined to paths only to avoid nutrient enrichment and suppression of ground flora.

6.2 Hedge Maintenance

Why	• Hedges provide an important structural feature within the landscape, acting as a boundary and offering shelter, nesting sites, and foraging opportunities for birds, small mammals, and invertebrates. • Regular maintenance ensures hedges remain healthy, dense, and ecologically valuable, while preventing them from becoming leggy or gappy.
What	• Cut hedges on a two- or three- year cycle to encourage vigorous growth and maintain a dense structure. • Aim to maintain a hedge approximately 2m high and 1.5m wide, ensuring it remains visually consistent. • Carry out cutting in late winter to avoid the bird nesting season and retain autumn berries for wildlife. • Avoid cutting during prolonged wet conditions to prevent soil compaction and damage to adjacent ground flora. • Stack arisings in designated habitat piles.

6.3 Coarse Vegetation Management

Why	• Coarse vegetation, such as bramble and rank grasses, can quickly dominate open areas, reduce structural diversity and limit the growth of herbaceous plants. • Managing coarse vegetation maintains access along paths and prevents succession to scrub or woodland in areas intended for glade or grassland habitat. • Controlled management supports a mosaic of habitats, benefiting invertebrates and small mammals.
What	• Cut back brambles and rank vegetation along paths and within glades to maintain access and prevent encroachment. • Retain some patches of bramble in non-intrusive areas to provide cover and foraging habitats for wildlife.

	• Carry out cutting on a rotational basis to avoid creating large uniform areas and to maintain structural diversity. • Time cutting for late summer or early autumn to allow flowering and fruiting, while avoiding the bird nesting season. • Stack arisings in designated habitat piles to prevent nutrient enrichment of the soil. • Avoid cutting during prolonged wet conditions to prevent soil compaction and damage to ground flora.
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6.4 Bird and Bat Boxes

What	• Check exterior condition of bird and bat boxes from the ground in autumn. Missing or damaged boxes should be replaced. • Check interior of bird boxes in autumn, clear nesting debris and disinfect with boiling water. Allow box to dry and replace, a handful of hay can be added which may provide a warm roosting site for birds in the winter. • Internal bat box checks, or movement of bat boxes, must only be carried out in the presence of a licensed bat worker.
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6.5 Hedge Laying

Why	• Hedge laying to be completed on a 10-year cycle rotationally across the hedges along Green Lane in the traditional 'South of England' management style.
What	• Hedge laying to follow the South of England style. • Stems (pleachers) to be partially cut at ground level, laid over at an angle of 30-40° from horizontal to form a tight straight hedge line. The hedge is to be double brushed with pleachers crossing over the top of each other when laid. The stub remaining on the stool after the stem has been laid will be trimmed off. • Stems to be retained in position by vertical stakes down the centre of the hedge and top binding. Stakes will be from cut material and not sawn timber, with a top diameter of 30-40mm and a length of 1520-160mm. These will be placed at a minimum of every 600mm, knocked in to a depth of 380 – 460mm dependent on the length of the stake and trimmed to the finished height of the hedge between 1220-1370mm with a sloping cut. • Top binding to be hazel, ash, or other suitable springy material. • All hedge specimens to be checked for bat features beforehand.

6.6 Coppicing

Why	• Coppicing is a traditional woodland management technique that provides structural diversity and encourages natural regeneration. • It creates a varied age structure within the woodland, providing habitats for a wide range of species including invertebrates, birds, and small mammals.
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	Regular coppicing prevents woodlands from becoming overly shaded and dominated by mature stems, which can reduce ground flora diversity.
What	- Coppice native broadleaved species, cutting on an angle above the stub to allow water to run off. Stubs should be cut on good cambium above the previous cut. - Implement coppicing on a rotational basis, every 10-years. - Trees to be coppiced in groups to ensure there is enough light to support regrowth. - Stack arisings in habitat piles within dappled shade to benefit invertebrates and fungi. - Avoid coppicing during bird nesting season. - Monitor regrowth and protect young shoots from browsing if necessary.

6.7 Holly Management

Why	- Holly can become dominant in woodland understory, reducing structural diversity and shading out ground flora. - Selective management maintains a balanced woodland structure, supporting a wider range of plant and animal species. - Retaining some holly provides valuable evergreen cover for birds and mammals, as well as seasonal food sources.
What	- Identify where holly is becoming dominant and selectively thin to reduce competition with other species. - Retain scattered holly to provide winter cover and berries for wildlife. - Avoid complete clearance, aiming for a mosaic structure with mixed shrub species. - Carry out thinning during late autumn or winter to avoid disturbance during the bird nesting season. - Cut stems cleanly at the base. - Stack arisings in designated habitat piles.

6.8 Path Resurfacing and Maintenance

Why	- The path network is essential to providing safe, inclusive access through Greenway Spinney while directing visitor use away from more sensitive habitat areas. - Over time, surfaced paths are subject to wear from footfall, weathering, tree root movement, and seasonal waterlogging, which can lead to surface degradation and edge erosion. - Proactive resurfacing and maintenance reduce long-term repair costs, improves accessibility, and helps maintain a positive visitor experience that is appropriate to the character of the site.
What	- Inspect paths regularly to identify areas of surface wear, subsidence, pooling water, or edge breakdown. - Undertake targeted resurfacing where required, prioritising areas with reduced accessibility or increased safety risk. See specification below for resurfacing.

- Retain the existing informal, rural character of paths; resurfacing materials should be visually sympathetic to the woodland setting.
- Use permeable, self-binding or similar path materials where appropriate to improve drainage and reduce surface water runoff.
- Ensure resurfaced paths are compacted to provide a firm, even walking surface suitable for year-round use.
- Maintain path widths proportionate to usage, avoiding unnecessary widening that could impact adjacent habitats.
- Repair eroded edges using natural materials where possible to stabilise the path and prevent further degradation.
- Avoid the use of materials that could introduce excessive nutrients into surrounding soils.
- Time resurfacing works to minimise disturbance to wildlife and site users, avoiding prolonged wet periods where ground damage may occur.
- Dispose of or reuse arisings responsibly; any surplus material should not be spread within vegetated areas.

Resurfacing Specification:

- Resurfacing works described below to be carried out in areas where the previous surfacing has wasted away, in particular along the glade, as shown in the attached map.
- Agree exact footprint of track with Supervising Officer.
- Undertake removal of verge vegetation where required to achieve desired width, aiming for 3m where possible, considering local topography and features such as mature trees and their roots.
- Scrape off all loose surface material and accumulated organic matter from existing track to usable, sound base. Excavate any hollows also to a sound base. Roll to ensure an even, firm base.
- Supply and lay a base course of crushed concrete 50mm to dust and a surface layer of granite 10mm to dust. Path to have a final camber of 1:20/
- Finished compacted depth to be an average of 60mm, varying from not less than 20mm at the edges to not less than 100mm at the centre of the path to achieve the required camber.
- Edges to be lost in adjoining ground and to be at least as high as adjoining ground. Base course and/or existing surface to be completely covered. Material must be completely free from deleterious materials. The start of the new surfaced section should be edged flush up to the existing surfaces.
- Use any spoil to build up the shoulders of the path, backfill any hollows adjacent to the path, and level ground layer. Excess spoil should be legally removed from the site; it is not to be spread along the verges.

6.9 Cut and Lift of Glade

Zone 1	The edges of the glade will be cut once a year in September by 0.5-1m to maintain a clear path for visitors.
Zone 2	The next zone, 2-4m from the edge, will be cut on a 4-year rotation to maintain vegetation in a manageable state while providing valuable scrub habitat
Zone 3	- In early March, cut the entire of Zone 3. - In October, cut half of glade (alternate area each year) - An extra cut may be required in early summer (May) if dominant plants (nettles, bracken, willowherb) are outcompeting wildflowers and grasses.
Style / Design	

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Engagement Summary

7.1.1 Introduction

7.1.2 Engagement Feedback

7.1.3 Stakeholder List

Friends of Greenway Spinney

St Albans District Council

Hertfordshire County Council and St Albans District Council Councillors

Relevant HCC officers including CMS Communities Team, Rights of Way, Ecology, and Archaeology

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Herts and Middlesex Butterfly Conservation

Greenway Spinney users and local residents

7.2 Strategic and Policy Context

7.2.1 St Albans City and District Council Strategies

7.2.1.1 Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy 2024 – 2027

St Albans City and District Council have committed to addressing the climate and ecological emergencies through reducing emissions, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainable resource use across the District.

The Council aims to:

1. Achieve net zero carbon emissions from Council operations by 2030 and support district-wide net zero by 2030
2. Embed sustainability, climate resilience, and biodiversity into all policies, decision-making, and service delivery
3. Work with partners, communities, and businesses to drive behavioural change and environmental improvement

Key themes within the [Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy \(2024 - 2027\)](#) include energy and buildings, transport, waste and circular economy, natural environment and biodiversity, and water management.

The Strategy places particular emphasis on managing land to increase biodiversity, improve resilience to climate change, enhance carbon sequestration, and deliver multi-functional green infrastructure.

7.2.2 Hertfordshire County Council Strategies

7.2.2.1 Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy

Hertfordshire County Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and have since committed to make Hertfordshire cleaner, greener and more sustainable.

HCC want to:

1. Lead in their own operations
2. Enable sustainability with their programmes, policies and decisions
3. Inspire businesses and residents to take action

The ambitions of the [Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy](#) include achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050, ensuring communities are ready for future climates and improve wildlife in our land and water by 20% by 2050.

7.2.2.2 Tree and Woodland Strategy (2022-30)

The Tree and Woodland Strategy sets out ambitions for Hertfordshire's treescapes until 2030:

- Supporting the establishment of at least 1.8 million new trees across Hertfordshire, including at least 1.2 million trees, one for every resident of Hertfordshire, and at least 100km of hedgerows, equating to 600,000 hedgerow trees.
- Promoting and supporting the development of woodland management plans to help ensure woodlands provide a range of benefits to their owners, wildlife and local communities, while remaining resilient to pressures on tree health.
- Facilitating and enabling residents and businesses to support tree and woodland establishment and enhancement initiatives in Hertfordshire.