

# **BROAD ACRE WOOD**

## **GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN**

**2021 – 2026**

Produced by:



On behalf of:



## OVERVIEW

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### 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 Broad Acre Wood in January and February 2021, to establish core aims and objectives for the site; these are reflected in Section 3. A second stage of engagement is currently underway to enable stakeholders to comment on the proposed management actions for the site. An associated engagement response document will be published online as an appendix to the final version of this plan, to summarise 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

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### 1.1 Site Summary

**Site Name:** Broad Acre Wood

**Site Address:** Broad Acre  
Bricket Wood  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire

**Grid Reference:** TL 122024

**Size:** 1.3 hectares

**Designations:**

**Owner:** St Albans City and District Council

### 1.2 Vision Statement

Broad Acre Wood is a popular and valued community resource among local residents. This plan aims to conserve and enhance the semi-natural character of the site, in particular promoting healthy and diverse woodland habitat, and maintain the site as a safe and enjoyable place to visit for all members of the local community.

This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- To make Broad Acre Wood a safe and welcoming site for visitors.
- To conserve and enhance the natural environment of Broad Acre Wood.
- To provide opportunities for the local community to engage with Broad Acre Wood.
- To ensure all management and activities are environmentally and financially sustainable.
- To promote the site as a valuable community resource.

The Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for Broad Acre Wood sets out the management, maintenance and development framework for the site over five years. The GAP is reviewed annually in conjunction with any relevant bodies, so that any outstanding tasks can be rescheduled as necessary.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 Introduction

**Broad Acre Wood is a hornbeam woodland located in a residential area of Bricket Wood, St. Albans. The 1.3ha site is divided into two sections by Broad Acre Road, with the larger 0.8ha woodland to the north east of the road and the 0.5ha woodland to the south west. The woodland's immediate proximity to the surrounding residential area makes it a valued community resource, where it is particularly well used by dog walkers. The site is owned and managed by St. Albans City and District Council.**

Broad Acre Wood exists today as a fragment of what was once a large woodland network that covered much of Bricket Wood, evident on the 1883 OS map. The site is not designated or ancient in character, though some old coppice is evident. A significant proportion of the expanse of woodland in this area was lost due to post war urban development, leaving smaller parcels of woodland that now remain.

This plan will be the first Greenspace Action Plan for Broad Acre Wood and will outline a plan for management of the site over the next five years. The woodland has received occasional and light-touch management during recent years, mainly restricted to removal of fallen tree obstacles and small-scale repairs of infrastructure. Vegetation at the north western entrance is cut four times per year in most years, aiming to maintain a clear and welcoming entrance. The woodland is subject to dumping of garden waste. Collection of litter and dog waste operations are carried out through the grounds maintenance contract.



# Broad Acre Wood Greenspace Action Plan Location Plan

## Legend

Site area

Broad Acre Wood  
Grid Ref: TL122024  
Easting: 512252  
Northing: 202409

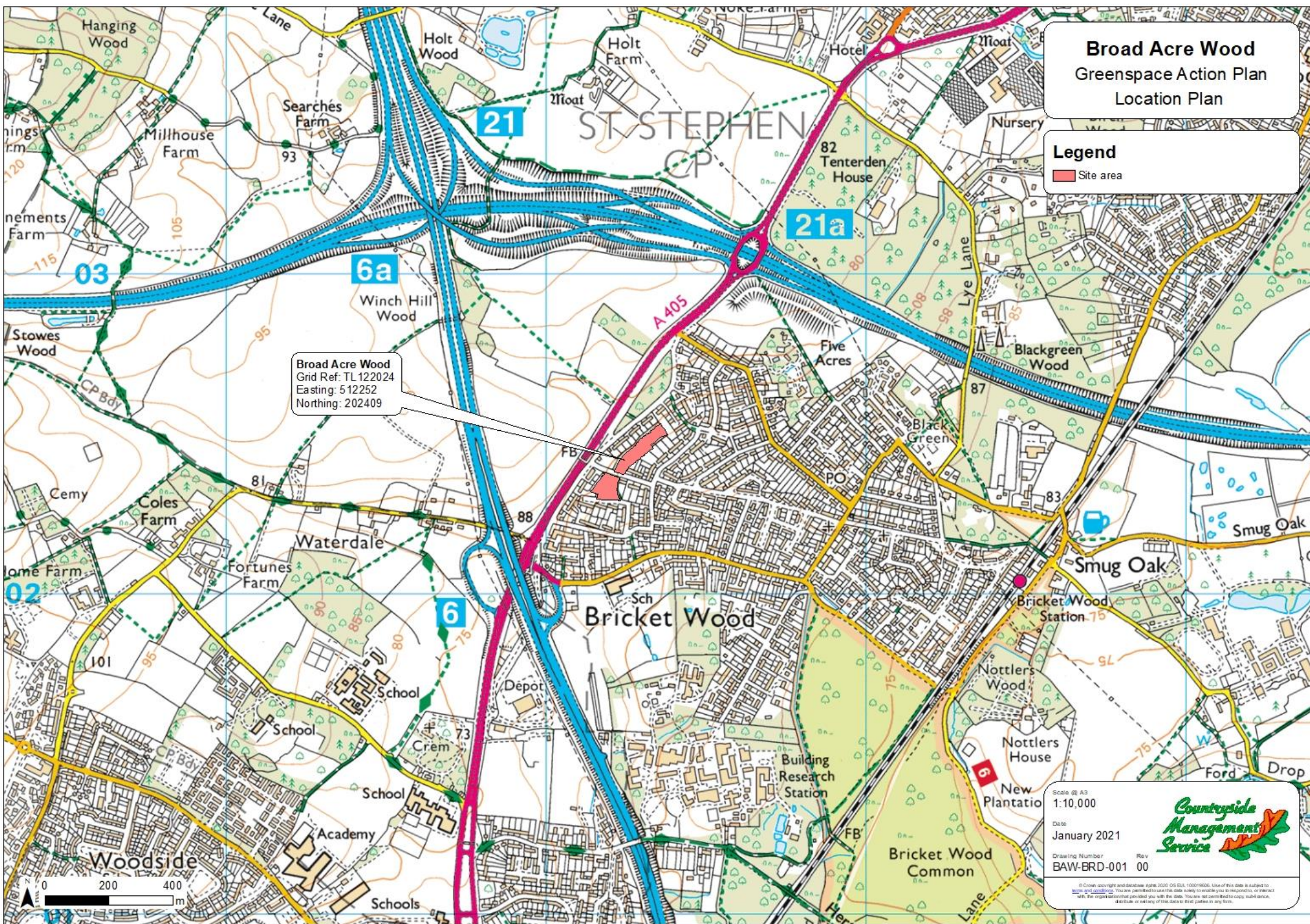
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Drawing Number  
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# Broad Acre Wood Greenspace Action Plan Site Description

## Legend

- Unsurfaced path
- Woodland
- Footpath

Informal path continues through woodland and along narrow gap between gardens to Short Lane (St Stephen Footpath 069)

Main entrance from Broad Acre

St Stephen Footpath 032  
(running alongside woodland)

North eastern compartment (0.8ha)

Roman tile kiln (Archaeological Site  
Subject to Recording Conditions)

South western compartment (0.5ha)

71m



Scale @ A3  
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# Broad Acre Wood Greenspace Action Plan Constraints

## Legend

- Footpath
- Risk of flooding from surface water extent (1 in 100)
- Greenbelt
- Broad Acre Wood site boundary

Roman tile kiln (Archaeological Site Subject to Recording Conditions)

71m

FB

ROMAN TILE KILN

BROAD ACRE

St Stephen Footpath 032

St Stephen Footpath 069

82m

68m

THE UPLANDS

MABBUTT

LARCH AVENUE

HORNBEAMS

ASHRIDGE DRIVE

AVENUE

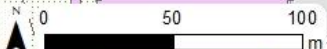
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## 2.2 Geography and Landscape

Broad Acre Wood is located in an area characterised by underlying chalk bedrock, with slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loam and clay soils. The site lies within the [Bricket Wood Landscape Character Area \(LCA\)](#), a landscape with a gently undulating plateau except at the eastern fringes, which adjoins minor tributary valleys next to the River Colne. This is an area of mixed land use and transitional character, including considerable woodland, unrestored mineral workings, educational, industrial, horticultural and arable land.

The traditional cohesion of the area has undergone significant change with the extent of built development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century together with mineral extraction. This includes the growth of settlements at Bricket Wood and How Wood and a marked severance by the M25. Ancient woodland and common land are a notable feature in the local landscape and are a conservation priority for the region. Much of the original field pattern has been affected by subsequent non-agricultural land use. Where they are still present, fields are now smaller in size and irregular in form.

The area surrounding Broad Acre Wood is predominantly residential, with commercial properties adjacent to some of the eastern boundary. The North Orbital Road runs parallel to the east of the site, with the M1 and M25 also in close proximity.

## 2.3 History and Archaeology

The St Albans District has a wealth of below ground heritage and archaeology, ranging from internationally significant sites to ones of more local interest. Within Broad Acre Wood, an area of the north eastern section falls within the boundary of an Archaeological Site Subject to Recording Conditions. This is due to the discovery of a Romano-British tile kiln dated circa A.D. 100-150.

In 1932, an excavation was led by Mr. Norman Davey after a quantity of tile and brick debris was found exposed in the former gravel pit (Figure 1). This revealed the remains of an up-draught kiln (Figure 2), which would have consisted of a lower combustion chamber (A) in which fuel was burned, and an upper oven (E) in which the tiles to be fired were placed. The oven floor (B) was supported by a series of cross walls arched over the main flue. The oven floor, built of clay and tile fragments had collapsed, but would have contained vent holes (D) whereby hot air, gases etc. would have been drawn upwards from the main flue, up the cross flues (C) and into the oven containing the tiles being fired. This structure would have been constructed below ground level.

Large quantities of tile in varying stages of firing were recovered from the kiln, which demonstrated that the kiln had primarily been used for firing roofing tiles, wall tiles and flue tiles. Fragments of two pottery vessels were also found buried in the debris.

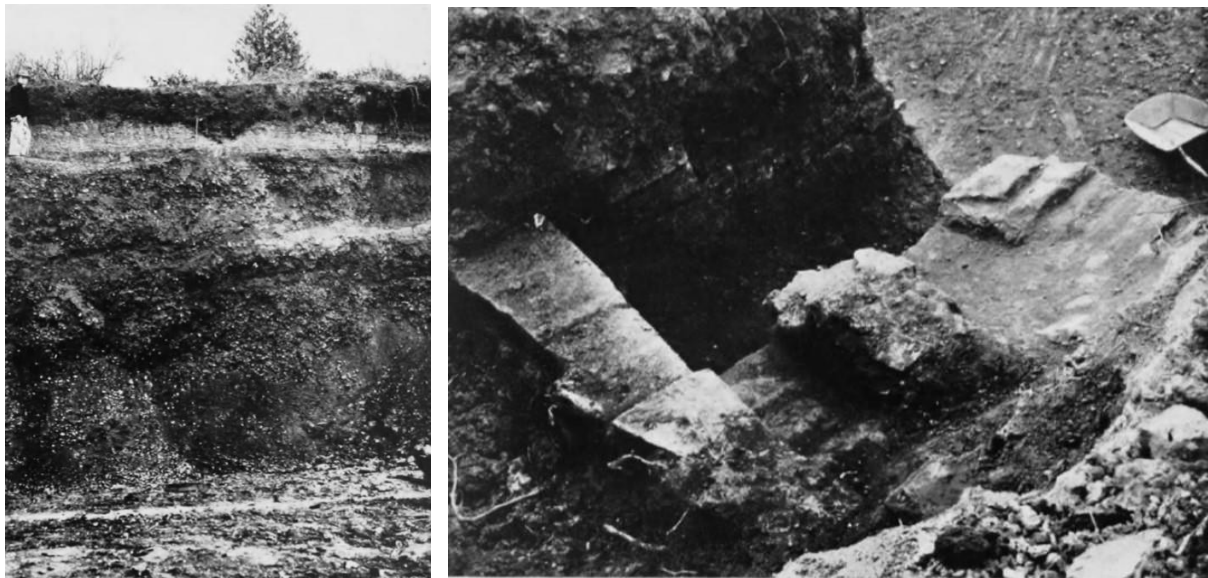


Figure 1. Site of excavation at the gravel pit (left) and excavation of the Roman tile kiln (right).

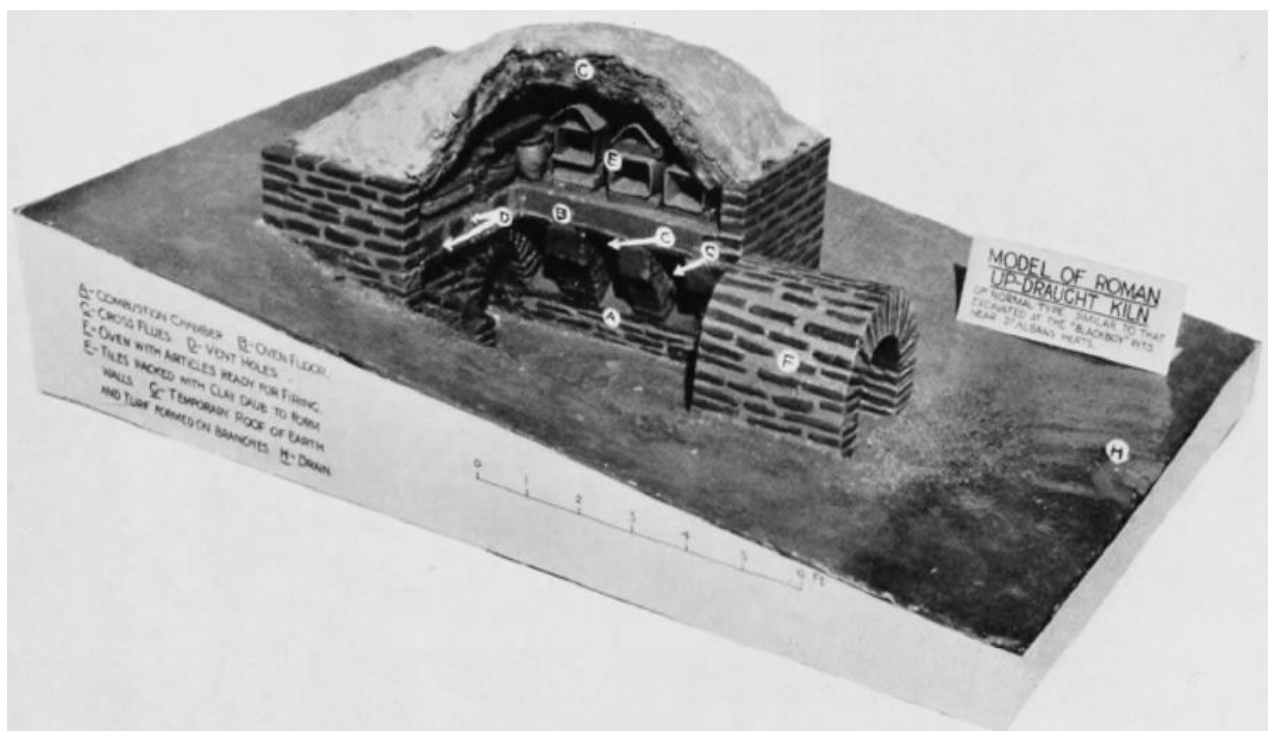


Figure 2. Cross section model of the Roman up-draught tile kiln excavated by Broad Acre Wood.

Other historical discoveries nearby include a Gold Solidus (Roman coin) of Emperor Honorius, dated circa A.D. 393-402 which was found in 1958, and Clactonian flint flakes which are among the earliest examples of man-made tools in Britain.



## 2.4 Habitats and Wildlife

### 2.4.1 Semi natural broadleaved woodland

Broad Acre Wood is a semi natural broadleaved woodland, dominated by hornbeam. The site is not ancient in character, although some old coppice is evident. There is little evidence of natural regeneration of tree species and the understorey is largely comprised of holly and hawthorn with some elder. Ground flora is poor although some wild flowers grow alongside the well-defined path in the north eastern section, including cow parsley, garlic mustard and some bluebells. A good amount of dead wood is present in the north eastern section, left in situ after previous woodland management works. The south western section has no well-defined paths and is quite overgrown with scrub, ground flora is particularly poor here and dominated by ivy and bramble.

Invasive non-native species grow in both sections of Broad Acre Wood, most notably garden escapees such as Three Cornered Leek and Cherry Laurel in the north eastern section and Snowberry in the south western section.



Figure 3. View of the north east (left) and south west (right) sections of Broad Acre Wood.

### 2.4.2 Species

A brief overview of species records for Broad Acre Wood exists as follows. Whilst providing an overview of plant biodiversity on site, the lack of targeted recording means that the species record significantly lacks data for taxa such as butterflies and moths, birds, mammals and invertebrates. This does not indicate absence of these species, the site is likely to support a range of wildlife.

Taxonomic group	Species
Trees and scrub	Hornbeam, Wild Cherry, Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Downy Birch, Holly, Elder, Hawthorn, Cherry Laurel, Snowberry
Ground flora	Bluebell, Cow Parsley, Ivy, Cleavers, Garlic Mustard, Three Cornered Leek, Bramble, Creeping Soft-Grass,

	Creeping Bent, Yorkshire Fog, Annual Meadow Grass
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## **2.5 Access, Facilities and Infrastructure**

There is a well-defined path located centrally through the north east section of Broad Acre Wood, this is served by two access points: the main entrance at Broad Acre and the narrow path at the northern boundary that runs between Brightview Close and Jenkins Avenue properties and through adjacent woodland, from St Stephen Footpath 069. There is no formal access to the south west section of Broad Acre Wood, St Stephen Footpath 032 runs alongside the eastern boundary and connects to Newlyn Close.

Site boundaries are marked with fencing in varying condition. Broad Acre Wood is surrounded by residential properties, with a number of private gardens and commercial properties backing onto the boundaries.

There are no benches or interpretation boards within the woodland. A dog bin is located at the entrance to the north east section of the site, waste is routinely collected by the local council.

## **2.6 Community and Events**

Broad Acre Wood is a popular local site for families, dog walkers and those wishing to enjoy nature. The immediate proximity of Broad Acre Wood to the surrounding residential area makes this site a highly valued asset to the community. Local residents are enthusiastic to engage with the Greenspace Action Plan and to see management undertaken at Broad Acre Wood.



### 3.0 AIM & OBJECTIVES

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The aim and objectives of the GAP are as follows:

#### **Aim**

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

#### **Objectives**

##### **A. To make Broad Acre Wood a safe and welcoming site for visitors:**

- A1 Maintain site entrances to form welcoming, appealing gateways to the site.
- A2 Improve appearance of boundaries that St. Albans City and District Council are responsible for by enhancing boundary fences and removing redundant infrastructure.
- A3 Undertake regular inspections and maintenance of trees, furniture and structures to ensure their condition is maintained.
- A4 Maintain the central pathway to a safe and accessible standard.

##### **B. To conserve and enhance the natural environment of Broad Acre Wood:**

- B1 Undertake a structured programme of management to diversify species and age structure of the woodland and increase rates of regeneration of tree saplings and ground flora, applying best practice and traditional techniques such as coppicing.
- B2 Recognise the value of mature and veteran trees and provide optimum conditions for longevity.
- B3 Remove Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) of plants, notably cherry laurel, three cornered leek and snowberry, and selectively reduce introduced tree species.
- B4 Maximise value of woodland glade and edge habitats.

##### **C. To provide opportunities for the local community to engage with Broad Acre Wood:**

- C1 Engage the local community at every stage of the GAP engagement process.

C2 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 the GAP objectives.

C3 Encourage use of the site by a wide range of local user groups.

C4 Promote responsible and respectful use of Broad Acre Wood, and proactively respond to misuse of the site and anti-social behaviour.

**D. To ensure all management and activities are environmentally and financially sustainable:**

D1 Ensure ongoing management costs are financially sustainable.

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.

D3 Identify and apply to external funding sources for capital works where available.

**E. To promote the site as a valuable community resource:**

E1 Promote the site as a valuable community resource to a wide audience through a variety of media platforms, including a web resource and social media.



## 4.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

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The management prescriptions described here form the basis of the actions proposed on the following action plan maps and tables (Section 5).

### 4.1 To make Broad Acre Wood a safe and welcoming site for visitors.

There are two pedestrian entrances to the north east section of Broad Acre Wood which provide access for local residents and other users to the site. The most visible site entrance is on Broad Acre although this lacks entrance signage. The entrance infrastructure is in poor condition and aesthetically is not in keeping with the surrounding environment. The chain link fencing will be removed and replaced with timber post and rail fencing more suitable to the site and an entrance sign will be designed and installed to make the site feel more welcoming to visitors. An interpretation panel highlighting the importance of this habitat and its history will be designed and installed at the main entrance to the north east section of Broad Acre Wood. Woodland paths and desire lines leading from the entrance at the northern end of the site are narrow in places and shaded by overhanging vegetation. Management of vegetation should be undertaken here to increase amounts of light reaching the woodland floor and to widen the track, improving both habitat and accessibility.



Figure 4. Dilapidated chain link fencing (left) and vegetation reducing width of path (right).

There are no formal entrances to the south west section of Broad Acre Wood. Chain link fencing of varying condition exists along much of the boundary, with the exception of the eastern perimeter where a number of redundant concrete fence posts exist. The concrete posts no longer serve any purpose and should be removed, which will improve the appearance of the woodland from St Stephen Footpath 032 and for residents of Newlyn Close. The chain link fencing to the northern perimeter of this section should also be removed.

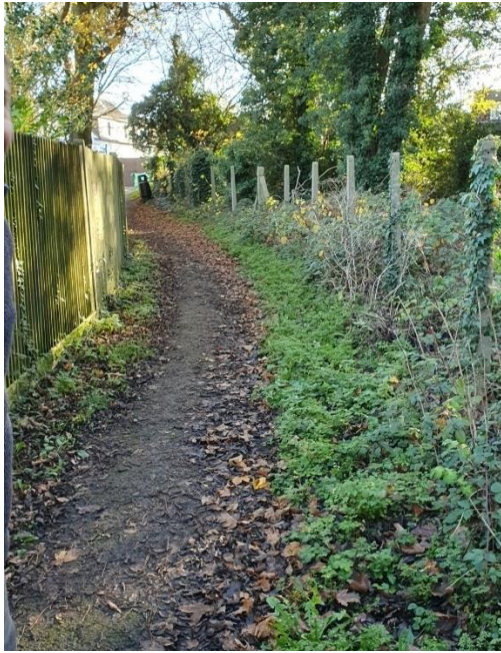


Figure 5. Concrete fence posts along boundary of south west section of Broad Acre Wood.

#### **4.2 To conserve and enhance the natural environment of Broad Acre Wood.**

The environmental value of Broad Acre Wood should be maintained and enhanced through a proactive programme of woodland and vegetation management. Healthy woodlands are characterised by a diverse age structure and assemblage of native species, which create a variety of different habitats for wildlife and improve woodland resilience to climate change and disease. Active management of the woodland will enhance this habitat, benefit biodiversity and improve value to wildlife.

Habitat management should focus on light thinning of poor specimen and/or low value trees. Management of the woodland will prioritise natural regeneration, however, to maintain habitat value tree planting can be considered in areas where evidence of regeneration is poor. Broad Acre Wood will benefit from respacing for its future maturity, both providing mature trees the space to grow into and allowing increased light and warmth to reach the ground floor. This will provide better conditions for natural regeneration of young trees and shrubs and development of ground flora species, creating a more structurally diverse habitat that much of the wildlife within our woodlands relies upon. Where trees are selected for thinning, opportunities to increase deadwood coverage in the woodland, including standing and fallen, should be considered. Coppicing scrub in places where it has become the dominant habitat type will contribute to the mosaic of habitats present by providing a diverse structure to the woodland. Additionally, coppicing will help to extend the life of scrub by mimicking the process of retrenchment, whereby trees and shrubs naturally shed limbs to increase their lifespan.

Where the concrete fence posts in the south west section of Broad Acre Wood are removed, a mix of native shrub species will be planted to create a diverse, graduated



woodland edge. Woodland edge habitats represent the interface from woodland habitats and have the potential to support a wide range of species, including pollinators, birds and small mammals.

Whilst presence of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) at Broad Acre Wood is not extensive, it should be managed on site as a priority. A small area of cherry laurel is currently present in the north east section of the woodland, which has grown to a relatively large size. As a fast growing evergreen species, cherry laurel casts dense shade throughout the year, preventing nearby growth of shrubs and ground flora.

A localised patch of three cornered leek also occurs in the north east section of the woodland. Also a non-native species, three cornered leek can become dominating if left uncontrolled. Bulbs should not be dug up as this could cause the plant to spread if not disposed of correctly as licensable waste. Cutting plants in early spring, at the point of flowering, will weaken plants over a number of years. Cut arisings should be left to dry on site. Three cornered leek is listed as a schedule 9 species in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 making it an offence to cause it to spread.



Figure 6. Three cornered leek in north east area of Broad Acre Wood.

Snowberry is another INNS of concern located in the south west section of Broad Acre Wood. It's ability for prolific growth means it is quick to spread in the right conditions and can out-compete native woodland plants for light and space.

Cherry laurel, three cornered leek and snowberry can all significantly reduce woodland biodiversity if left unmanaged, therefore they should be removed or suppressed to create space and improved conditions for growth of native species. Where other INNS are recorded, these should also be managed.

Woodland management should be considered in the context of tree pests and diseases, including Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). OPM is now present across southern Hertfordshire. The established population spreading from London is not yet known to have reached the vicinity of Broad Acre Wood, but it is likely to do so within the next five years. A protocol for managing its occurrence at Broad Acre Wood is contained in Appendix 1. The protocol is based on current guidelines from the Forestry Commission and may require updating if those guidelines change.

All works carried out at Broad Acre Wood will be carefully planned and carried out sensitively, taking into account the requirements of protected and priority species including bats, badgers and nesting birds.

#### **4.3 To provide opportunities for the local community to engage with Broad Acre Wood.**

A period of public engagement accompanies the production of this management plan, enabling the local community and stakeholders to inform management of the site. All user groups with an interest in the site are aimed to be included in this process, and for their requirements to be considered as part of the planning process.

CMS conservation volunteers will deliver tasks on site, and opportunities to engage with this group will be promoted to encourage local residents to become actively involved in site management. Volunteering is a tried and tested way of increasing interest and care for a site, whilst providing participants with the benefits of healthy activity, socialisation and environmental projects.

A core aim of greater community involvement at Broad Acre Wood is to improve the tidiness and safety of the site. Where small-scale littering, fly-tipping and anti-social activities occur, setting a standard of cleanliness and respectful use will aim to reduce misuse.

Management of this site will be promoted through [CMS's Facebook page](#) and [Walks & More programme](#).

#### **4.4 To ensure all management and activities are environmentally and financially sustainable**

To ensure management on site is sustainable, all works will be specified to maximise affordability and durability. Proposed works will be achieved within the available site maintenance budget, or funded through existing Section 106 funding.

Best practice management will be employed with regards to all habitat and vegetation works. This will include:

- Proactive tree management (reducing tree risk through incorporation into habitat management aims, rather than reactively responding to dangerous or fallen trees).
- Control of Invasive Non-Native Species through the least damaging options available.
- Presumption against the use of peat, herbicides and pesticides, except where there is net benefit to the environment.

Regular surveying will be carried out to monitor key threats to the resilience and sustainability of the woodland, and safety of its users.



## 5.0 ACTION PLANS AND MAPS

### 5.1 ANNUAL AND REGULAR ACTIONS

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
0.1	Empty litter bins and ensure area around is clear and safe	A1	Regularly/ when reported	SADC	Maintenance contractor	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.2	Empty dog waste bins and ensure area around is clear and safe	A1	Regularly/ when reported	SADC	Maintenance contractor	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.3	Ensure Broad Acre entrance is tidy and free of vegetation all year round	A1	Ongoing	SADC	Maintenance contractor	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.4	Inspect condition of fencing and carry out repairs as needed	A2	Ongoing	SADC	Maintenance contract	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.5	Undertake regular inspections of trees and carry out reactive tree works to address any safety concerns	A3	Ongoing	SADC	Maintenance contract	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.6	Ensure path has clear access from fallen trees or branches	A4	Ongoing	SADC	Maintenance contract	Site maintenance budget	-		
0.7	Monitor Invasive Non-Native Species on site	B3	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time	-		
0.8	Engage volunteers where appropriate in practical conservation projects	C2	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
0.9	Promote Broad Acre Wood online and using social media	E1	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time	-		

## 5.2 YEAR 1 2021-22

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
1.1	Design and install entrance sign at Broad Acre entrance	A1	Apr-Sept	CMS	CMS	S106	£500		
1.3	Design and install interpretation panel	A1	Apr-Sept	CMS	CMS	S106	£1500		
1.2	Undertake vegetation management to increase width of path from northern site entrance	A1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
1.3	Remove chain link fencing at Broad Acre entrance and install timber post and rail fencing	A2	Apr-Sept	CMS	Contractor	S106	£5,000		
1.4	Remove redundant concrete fence posts from SW section of the site	A2	Apr-Sept	CMS	Contractor	S106			
1.5	Remove chain link fencing from northern boundary, SW section of the site	A2	Apr-Sept	CMS	Contractor	S106			
1.6	Carry out glade creation and light thinning of woodland	B1	Oct-Feb	CMS	Contractor	S106	£10,000		
1.7	Coppice holly and other scrub species in sections, NE section of site	B1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
1.8	Plant trees in existing glades where there is little evidence of natural regeneration	B1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers/ SADC budget	£500		
1.9	Remove cherry laurel from northern end of site and treat stumps	B3	Oct-Feb	CMS	Contractor	S106	£1000		
1.10	Cut flowering stems of three cornered leek and leave arisings on site	B3	Jan-May	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
1.11	Remove snowberry from southern side of site	B3	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		



1.12	Plant mix of native shrub species to eastern boundary, SW section of the site	B4	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers/ SADC budget	£500		
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### 5.3 YEAR 2-5 2022-26

Ref no.	Action	Obj. Ref	When	Lead	Delivery	Funding	Est. Cost	Spec. Ref.	Status
2.1	Undertake vegetation management to maintain width of path from northern site entrance	A1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
2.2	Continue to coppice holly and other scrub species in sections, NE section of the site	B1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
2.3	Carry out aftercare of planted trees/shrubs	B1	Oct-Feb	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		
2.4	Monitor natural regeneration in areas previously thinned	B1	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time	-		
2.5	Monitor site for return of cherry laurel and snowberry, manage as appropriate	B3	Ongoing	CMS	CMS	Officer time	-		
2.6	Revisit three cornered leek location and cut seedlings, leave arisings on site	B3	Jan-May	CMS	CMS	Volunteers	-		



# Task Responsibility

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> SADC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
<span style="color: red;">■</span> CMS led	
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> SADC led	} Volunteer delivered
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> CMS led	

## Broad Acre Wood Greenspace Action Plan Year 1 actions

### Legend

<span style="color: brown;">■</span>	Unsurfaced path
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Woodland
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Footpath

Coppice holly and other scrub in sections ■

Remove cherry laurel ■

Plant trees in existing glades where no evidence of natural regeneration ■

Undertake vegetation management to widen path at northern end ■

Three cornered leek control:  
- cut flowering stems  
- leave arisings on site ■

Carry out glade creation and light thinning of woodland ■

Remove chain link fencing and install timber post and rail fencing ■

Design and install interpretation panel ■

Design and install entrance sign ■

Remove snowberry ■

Remove chain link fencing ■

Remove redundant concrete fence posts ■

Plant mix of native shrubs along boundary ■

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# Task Responsibility

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> SADC led	} Officer/Contractor delivered
<span style="color: red;">■</span> CMS led	
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> SADC led	} Volunteer delivered
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> CMS led	

## Broad Acre Wood Greenspace Action Plan Year 2-5 actions

### Legend

<span style="color: brown;">■</span>	Unsurfaced path
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Woodland
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Footpath

Monitor presence of cherry laurel ■

Further coppicing of holly  
and other scrub in sections ■

Aftercare of planted trees ■

Vegetation management to maintain  
width of path at northern end ■

Three cornered leek control:  
- cut flowering stems  
- leave arisings on site ■

Monitor natural regeneration  
in areas thinned ■

Monitor presence of snowberry ■

Aftercare of planted shrubs ■

71m

FB

OLD WATFORD ROAD

ROSE KILN

BROAD ACRE

JENKINS

NEWLYN



Scale @ A3  
1:1,000

Date:  
May 2021

Rev  
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## 6.0 SPECIFICATIONS

### 1. General prescriptions relevant to all woodland management operations

<i>Habitat Retention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All mature oak and hornbeam to be retained wherever practical.</li><li>▪ Regenerating native species to be retained wherever practical.</li><li>▪ Retain all standing and fallen dead wood where it is safe so to do, and take opportunities to increase dead wood provision.</li><li>▪ Encourage and leave to grow patches of bramble and scrub where they form valuable habitat and protect new tree growth.</li><li>▪ Avoid introduction of new species through planting or seed transfer.</li></ul>
<i>Visitor Safety</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Members of the public to be kept a safe distance from active tree works with signs and or banks men. Access routes may require temporary closure.</li><li>▪ Where site boundaries may be compromised by tree removal, stumps are to be left higher or timber to be rolled into position to prevent unauthorised access to/ from adjacent land.</li></ul>
<i>Timing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Unless otherwise stated, all habitat management work will be undertaken between 1st September and 28th February.</li><li>▪ All woodland management work will aim to be undertaken outside of wettest winter months to minimise damage to soils and tracks.</li></ul>

### 2. Thinning and halo-thinning

<i>Details</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Any thinning works will further the aim of reducing coverage of non-native species (e.g. sycamore) and encouraging natural growth/regeneration of native species.</li><li>▪ Arisings to be disposed of appropriately through small amounts of deadwood stacking or removal off-site.</li><li>▪ Opportunities for deadwood creation to be realised through thinning works.</li><li>▪ <b>Halo-thinning</b> around crowded 'feature' trees will provide improved environmental conditions. Halo to be no larger in radius than half-height of feature tree.</li></ul>
<i>Timing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Thinning requiring mechanised techniques and/ or vehicles to be undertaken in autumn, to avoid worst weather conditions.</li><li>▪ Lighter thins involving volunteers can be undertaken at any stage between September and February.</li></ul>



### 3. Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) management

<i>Details</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Survey coverage and prevalence of INNS across woodland on an annual basis.</li><li>▪ Control each species by appropriate means, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cherry laurel: Cut large plants to ground level. Grub out individual plant root balls.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Control during September to March to have lowest impact on surrounding habitat.</li><li>○ Follow-up control regeneration.</li></ul></li><li>▪ Three cornered leek: Cut stems at point of flowering. Leave arisings on site.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Control during January to May to prevent plants setting seed.</li><li>○ Follow-up control regeneration.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
<i>Timing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Species dependent.</li></ul>

### 4. Tree re-stocking

<i>Details</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Natural regeneration is the default and favoured method for new tree growth.</li><li>▪ If/ where regeneration or species diversity continues to remain poor following thinning, re-stocking can be considered with species appropriate to the woodland.</li><li>▪ Provenance of trees should be from within the woodland or local landscape (transplant) where possible, or local nursery if brought in.</li><li>▪ Favour diversifying the woodland with appropriate species where possible, including oak, beech, hawthorn, hazel.</li></ul>
<i>Timing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Winter</li></ul>

## 7.0 APPENDICES

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### 7.1 Guidance on Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) control.

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

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

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

#### Initial OPM control measures:

Insecticide spraying which targets OPM may not be considered appropriate on this site due to its ecological impact. A coordinated approach to OPM control will be agreed with FC on a case by case basis, involving Natural England if the site is a SSSI. This will be determined by the location and extent of the infestation, the timing of the discovery and the proximity of OPM to high risk areas (outlined above). While this document outlines the intended process, this must be agreed by FC on a case by case basis.

Should it be agreed that insecticide spraying is not appropriate, the OPM infestation will be assessed using the following criteria:

- If the infestation is small and is discovered prior to moth emergence (late-July to mid-August) then nest removal represents a viable control to limit further advancement of the population.
- If the infestation is already substantial or the infestation is discovered after moth emergence (late-July to mid-August) then nest removal does not represent a viable control to limit further advancement of the population. As such nest removal should be conducted only when nests are in close proximity to high risk areas.

If insecticide spraying is appropriate, the OPM infestation will be assessed using the following criteria:

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

Following assessment, if spraying in the current season or nest removal is appropriate then a suitably qualified and experienced arborist will be instructed to take appropriate action as soon as possible (typically within five working days). Arborists will be required to conduct insecticide spraying, nest removals and waste disposal in line with FC guidance as set out in [chapter 6](#) and [chapter 7](#) of the OPM Manual.

### **Subsequent OPM control measures**

If OPM is known to have been on site in the previous year then proactive inspections will be scheduled for the following spring after caterpillar emergence (late-March to mid-April depending on annual climatic variance). The range of the inspection area will depend upon the location of previous infestations and will utilise a common sense approach to determine what is feasible given the surrounding environment. For instance, on publicly accessible open land and along linear paths an inspection range of 100m from previously infested trees would be reasonable, however in dense woodland set back from typically accessible routes an inspection range of 50m may be more appropriate. New infestations will be reported to the FC and will be assessed to determine suitable controls measures using the principles outlined above.