

# Battle Town Council's Green Infrastructure Report June 2023

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## 1. Introduction

Battle Town Council (BTC) is responsible for a number of green spaces within the Battle Civil Parish. It also has a Neighbourhood Plan that includes these green spaces. This document is a list of green spaces which references the Battle Neighbourhood Plan, together with maps and some photos from the Neighbourhood Green Infrastructure Study. The document also includes the BTC Management plans that are currently in place. All the green spaces are owned and/or managed by BTC. The purpose of this document is to create a baseline of Parish's green infrastructure with a view to building on this information, over time. The content can then be used to plan and carry out actions that will conserve and enhance biodiversity and carbon capture potential.

## 2. Index of green spaces together with maps, management plans and tree hazard survey results, where applicable

Below is a list of green spaces, referencing the Battle Neighbourhood Plan, together with maps and some photos from the Neighbourhood Green Infrastructure Study. Management plans that are currently in place can be found under the indicated page numbers. All green spaces are owned and/or managed by BTC.

Neighbourhood Plan code, Green Space.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (Tree cover) m <sup>2</sup> approx	Management Plan and Tree Hazard Survey	BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION	ACTION TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY
BA GS02 Watch Oak Allotments, Chain Lane	Allotments (26 plots)	6780 (450)	Page 6-8	No	
BA GS03 Virgins Croft Allotments, off Virgins Lane	Allotments (14 plots)	2640 (360)	Page 6-8	No	
BA GS15 Cherry Gardens Allotments, off Mount Street – via FP31a/track to Little Park Farm	Allotments (40 plots)	7,300 (810)	Page 6-8	No	
BA GS15 (cont) Cherry Gardens, adjacent to Cherry Gardens Allotments		600 (300)	Page 8	No	
BA GS07 Recreation Ground (includes Children’s Play equipment areas),	BTC operated central recreation area with ground staff workshop, play areas, tennis courts, limited car parking, football pitches and Pavilion. Long term	38,460 (4,630)	Page 9 - 11	No	

North Trade Road.	development plans and projects projected for further additional facilities				
BA GS10 Mansers Shaw Owner: BTC	Mansers Shaw provides a woodland/ghyll-side permissive walk with hard surfaces. Connected to Amenity Field.	60,800 (41,670)	Page 12 - 15	No	
BA GS10 (cont) Amenity Field Amenity Field Owner: ESCC, leased to BTC	Open grassland with wooded edging	Included In above	Page 16	No	Quotes currently being requested for an ecological survey
BA GS11 Guild Shaw, off Western Avenue	A very peaceful haven comprising copse trees and grass with extensive spring bulb flowers.	1960 (1620)	Page 17-19	No	
BA GS12 George Meadow and Upper Stumblets including cricket ground (includes field further south-west – not mapped), off Park Lane, west of the High Street	Fenced area used by an active Cricket Club, including nets out-of-season. This land is subject to long term agricultural lease for cattle grazing and includes the high footfall 1066 Country Walk connections to Bexhill and west to Pevensey. From Footpath Battle 84 there are views south-west across the cricket ground towards the South Downs Beachy Head ridge.		No	No	
BA GS13 The Abbey “Green” (English Heritage), High Street  Managed by BTC Owner: English Heritage	Hard surface area with tubs, troughs and semi-mature trees at the heart of Battle town, in front of Battle Abbey Gatehouse-site of the “Bull-ring” and annual bonfire. Provides for a significant number of off street events (e.g. markets, maypole	685 (16)	Page 20	No	

	dancing, etc.) annually and seating for residents and tourists.				
BA GS18 Recreation Ground, off Hastings Road, Telham	Small grass area with some hedging around edges, for sports activities and children's play area with equipment, local residents use. This site commands excellent uninterrupted views north-west towards the listed 1066 battlefield and west towards Catsfield, with distant views of the South Downs Beachy Head ridge.	3,290 (320)	Page 21-22	No	
BA GS 23 Cemetery, off Marley Lane	Cemetery actively used and recent developed by BTC includes important specimen trees and areas of exceptional wildflowers, including several species of orchids and nationally rare plants.	40,400 (12,550)	Page 22-27	Plant survey 2016	
BA GS 25 "TenSixtySix roundabout" with Battle Memorial sculpture, junction of A2100, London Road and North Trade Road Managed by BTC Owner: ESCC/Highways	Significant modern sculpture commemorating the 1066 Battle of Hastings with small wild grass/flowers under-mat.	25 (0)	Page 28	No	
BA GS 08 Teaching & Education Centre area	Open grass area between skate ramp and Teaching & Education Centre building (includes grass area with seat overlooking roadway & skateboard ramp)	1,940 (700)	No	No	

NB: Area measurements are approximate due to Google Earth maps date of 5/22, uncertainty of exact boundaries due to tree cover, and difficulty of estimating tree cover due to shadowing.

**NOTE ON HAZARD ASSESSMENT TREE SURVEY REPORT 2020:**

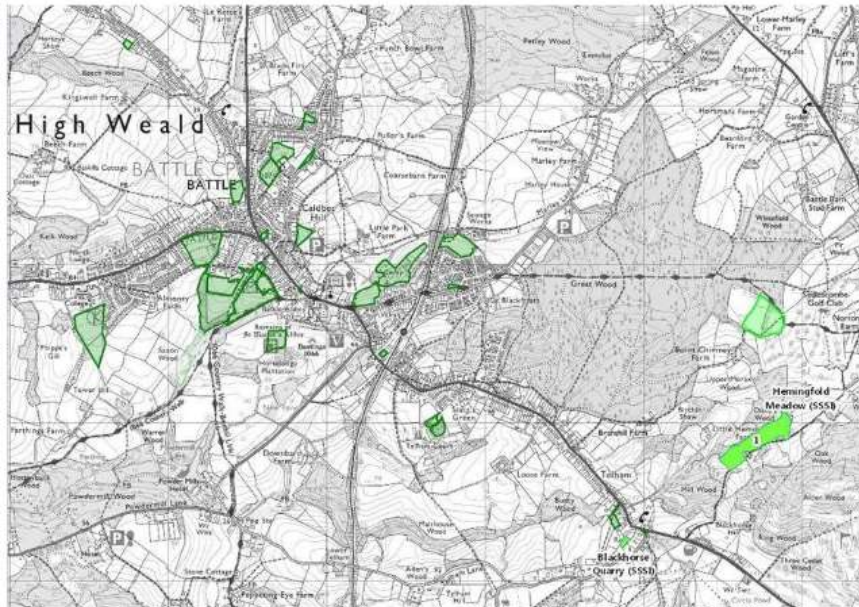
'Works Priority Green' indicates hazard should be reassessed at next tree survey in 24 months time (ie in 2022),

'Works Priority Amber' indicates recommended work should take place within six months

'Works Priority Red' indicates recommended work should take place within ninety days.

**Overview map of Battle and Telham sites and designated sites (inc. SSSI)**

(most green space sites, not just BTC sites, indicative locations — to analyse potential to create wildlife corridors)



## **2. Index of green spaces together with maps, management plans and tree hazard survey results, where applicable**

### **Allotments**

#### **BA GS02 Watch Oak Allotments, Chain Lane**

#### **BA GS03 Virgins Croft Allotments, off Virgins Lane**

#### **BA GS15 Cherry Gardens Allotments, off Mount Street**

### **Management Plan for BTC Allotments**

Boundaries: Hedges - cut back between November and February, then trim as required.

Trees: - trim if necessary between November and February.

Brambles: – remove or cut back monthly during the growing season.

Paths: Pathways - inspect annually between October and April and repair any paths deemed dangerous or which pose a potential hazard.

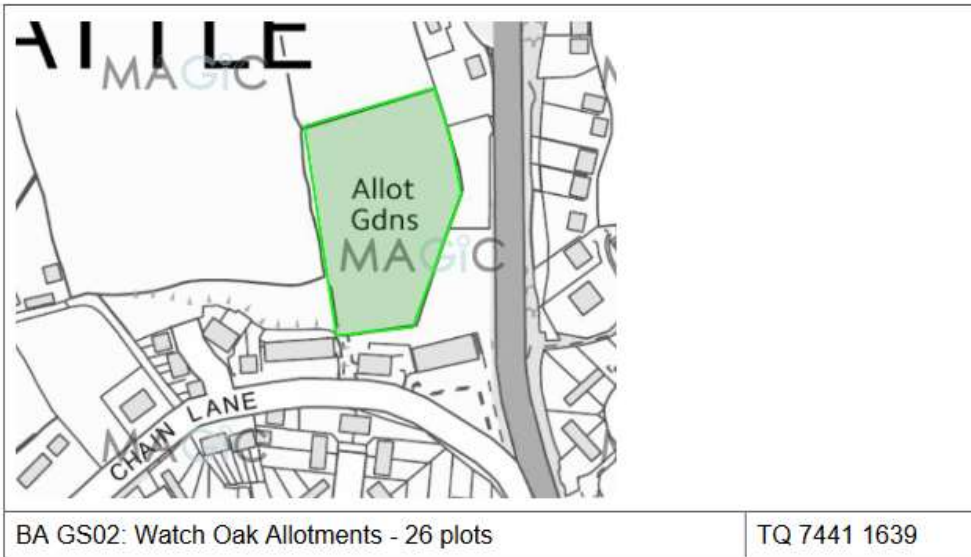
Boundary paths and main pathways from entrances - mow/strim fortnightly or monthly between April and September (depending on weather conditions) and at other times if directed by the Town Clerk or Deputy / Asst to Town Clerk.

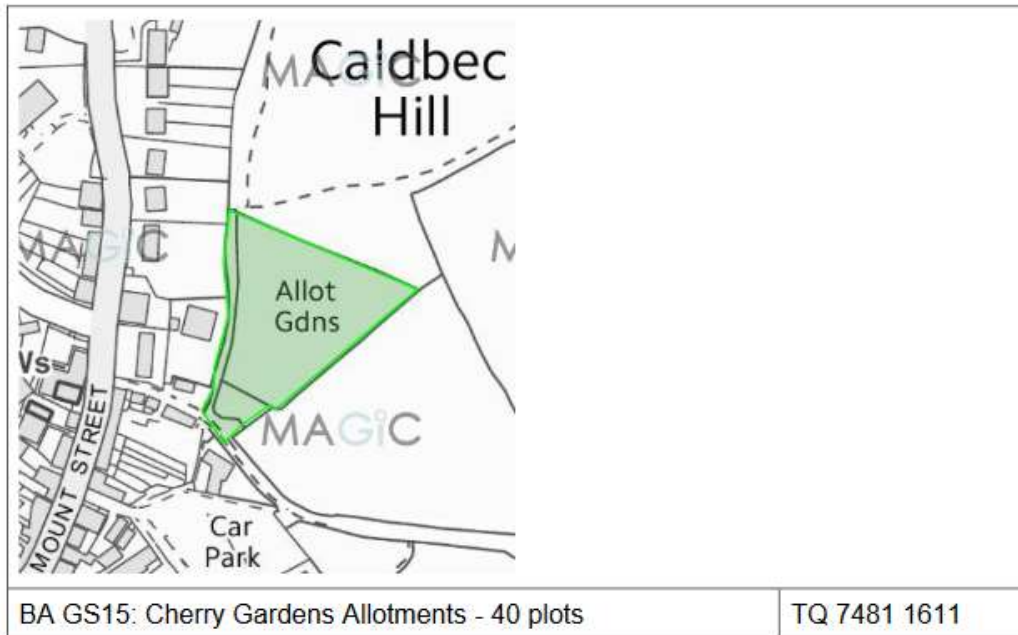
Untended areas: Un-let plots – strim and weed-kill when required

Grassed areas: – mow when required between March and September, except in May

### **Tree Preservation Orders**

None





### **BA GS15 (cont) Cherry Gardens Amenity Garden**

Grass – mow when required between March and September, including during May.

Boundaries – maintain as above.

Borders – weed at least monthly during growing season, then cut back and clear in autumn.





## **BA GS07 NTR Recreation Ground**

### Management Plan

Boundaries: Hedges - cut back between November and February, then trim as required.

Poisonous plants – inspect hedgerows for poisonous plants throughout the growing season and remove them (e.g. Cuckoo-pint (arum maculatum)).

Brambles – remove or cut back monthly during the growing season.

Sensory gardens: Edges – to be kept tidy, once a month by Friends of the Rec volunteers

Weeds – to be removed, once a month by Friends of the Rec volunteers

Trees: Inspect regularly throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk.

Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February.

Grass: – strim/mow when required between April and September, except in May when only access path should be cut if required.

Adventure Play Area: Boundary by stream – clear brambles and nettles etc. in March, then strim monthly until October.

Cycle Skills Area: Grass - mow in early spring and remove arisings, then mow again in late summer

Grass: Mow when required between April and September, except in May when only the edges adjacent to paths should be mown.

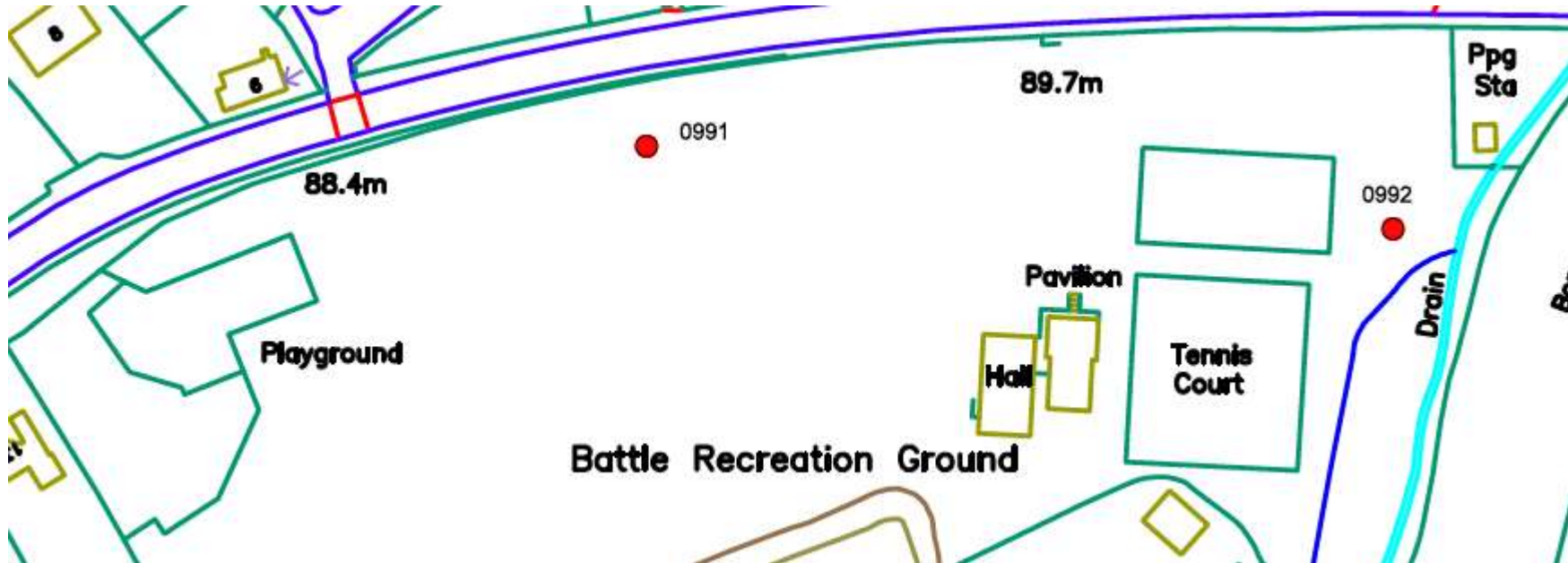
Banks - strim/mow banks in early spring and remove arisings, then strim/mow again in late summer, remove arisings and when appropriate, distribute any wildflower seed to banks with fewer flowers.

Tree Preservation Orders (green dots and shape)



Hazard Assessment Tree Survey report 2020

Tree Number	Species	Height	Age Class	Physical condition	Structural condition	Defect Notes	Action Required	Location notes	Frequency of Use	Works Priority	Date of Inspection
0992	Corsican pine, (Pinus nigra var. maritima)	20	Mature	Good	Good	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood from crown	Battle Recreation Ground	High	Amber	Spring 2020
0991	Horse chestnut, (Aesculus hippocastanum)	14	Mature	Fair	Fair	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood from crown	Battle Recreation Ground	Low	Green	Spring 2020



## **BA GS10 MANSERS SHAW**

Manser's Shaw is a small area of publicly owned Ancient Woodland, including hornbeam, field maple and oak trees, with fields beyond accessible via the footpath from Saxonwood Road.



NOTE: Map text: "Mansers Shaw" refers to "L" shape to left of text. The Amenity Field is the southern and eastern area

BA GS10: Mansers Shaw and Amenity Field (part within registered Battlefield site)

TQ 7420 1558



**Plates 10 and 11: Manser's**



**Shaw**

### BA GS10 Management Plan for Mansers Shaw

Pathways: Inspect annually between October and April and undertake routine maintenance.

Walk paths weekly and inspect for damage and signs of improper activity within the shaw.

Repair any pathways deemed dangerous or which pose a potential hazard.

Cut back any brambles etc. as necessary.

Trees:

Inspect throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk.

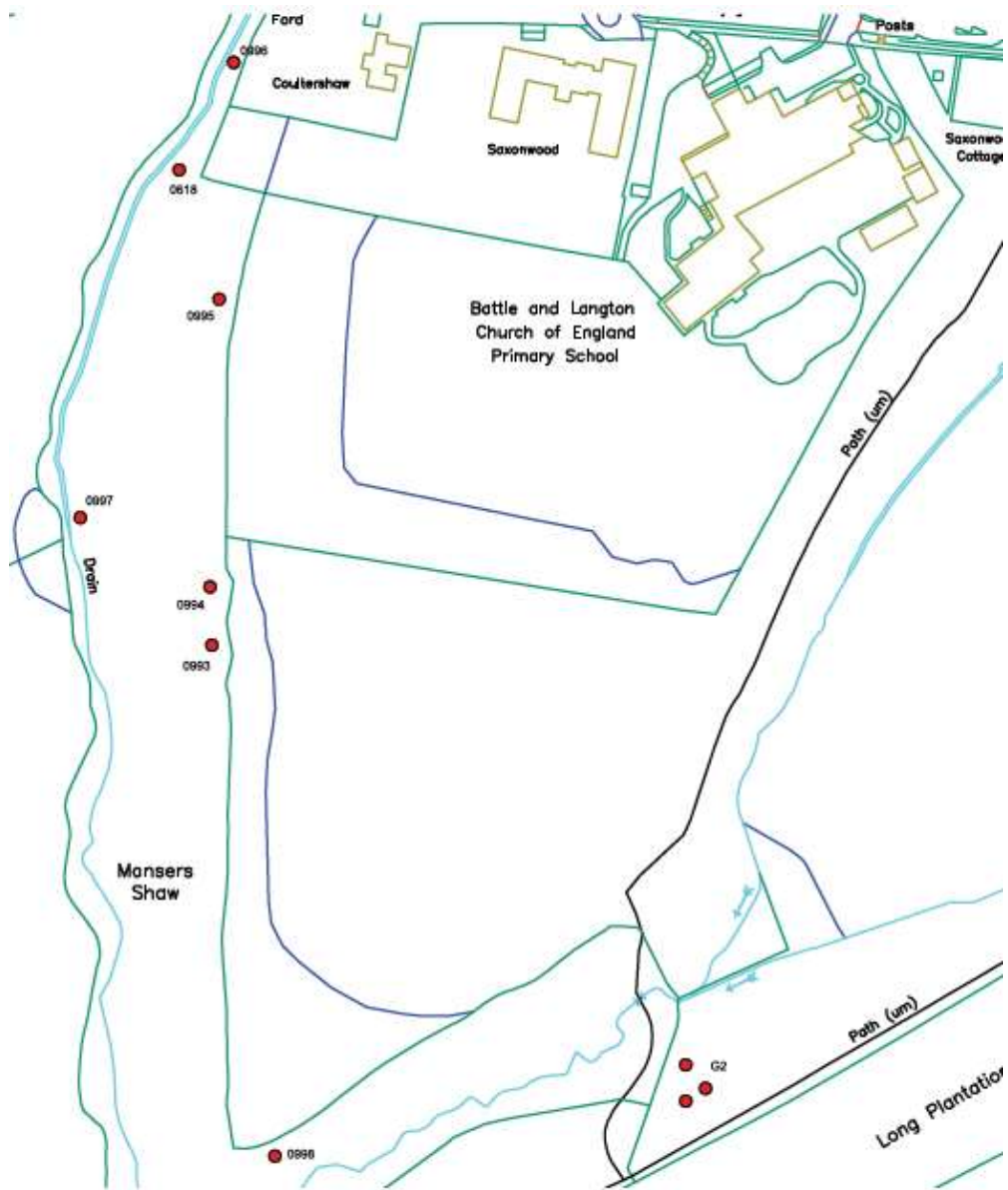
Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February. Undertake coppicing between October and February.

Check for swings monthly and remove as necessary.

Tree Preservation Orders None

Hazard Assessment Tree Survey report 2020

Tree Number	Species	Height	Age Class	Physical condition	Structural condition	Defect Notes	Action Required	Location notes	Frequency of Use	Works Priority	Date of Inspection
Group G2	Ash, ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	24 average	Mature	Fair	Fair	Group adjacent to footpath with deadwood in crowns	Remove deadwood from crowns	Southern end of Mansers Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0998	Beech, ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> )	26	Mature	Fair	Poor	Structurally failed with one main stem remaining	Fell to ground level	Mansers Shaw	Low	Green	Spring 2020
0997	Ash, ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	22	Mature	Poor	Poor	Basal decay	Fell to ground level	Mansers Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0618	English oak, ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	24	Mature	Fair	Fair	Deadwood in crown over footpath	Remove deadwood from crown	Mansers Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0996	Hornbeam, ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> )	18	Mature	Fair	Poor	Basal decay	Fell to ground level	Mansers Shaw	Low	Green	Spring 2020
0995	Hornbeam, ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> )	17	Mature	Fair	Poor	Stem decay	Fell to ground level	Mansers Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0994	Sycamore, ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	20	Mature	Poor	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell to ground level	Mansers Shaw	Low	Red	Spring 2020
0993	English oak, ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	22	Mature	Good	Good	Deadwood in crown over footpath	Remove deadwood from crown	Mansers Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020



## BA GS10 (cont) Management Plan for the Amenity Field

Trees: Inspect regularly throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk or Deputy / Asst to Town Clerk.

Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February.

Boundary: Hedges - cut back as required between November and February.

Brambles – remove or cut back as required during the growing season.

Grass: Mow footpath (public ROW) as required between April and September and at other times if directed by the Town Clerk.

Mow in spring and remove arisings

Mow the field in mid September and remove arisings\*. A second cut in October or November may be undertaken.

Mow a different informal, meandering path(s) across the field each September and maintain it as if grazed.

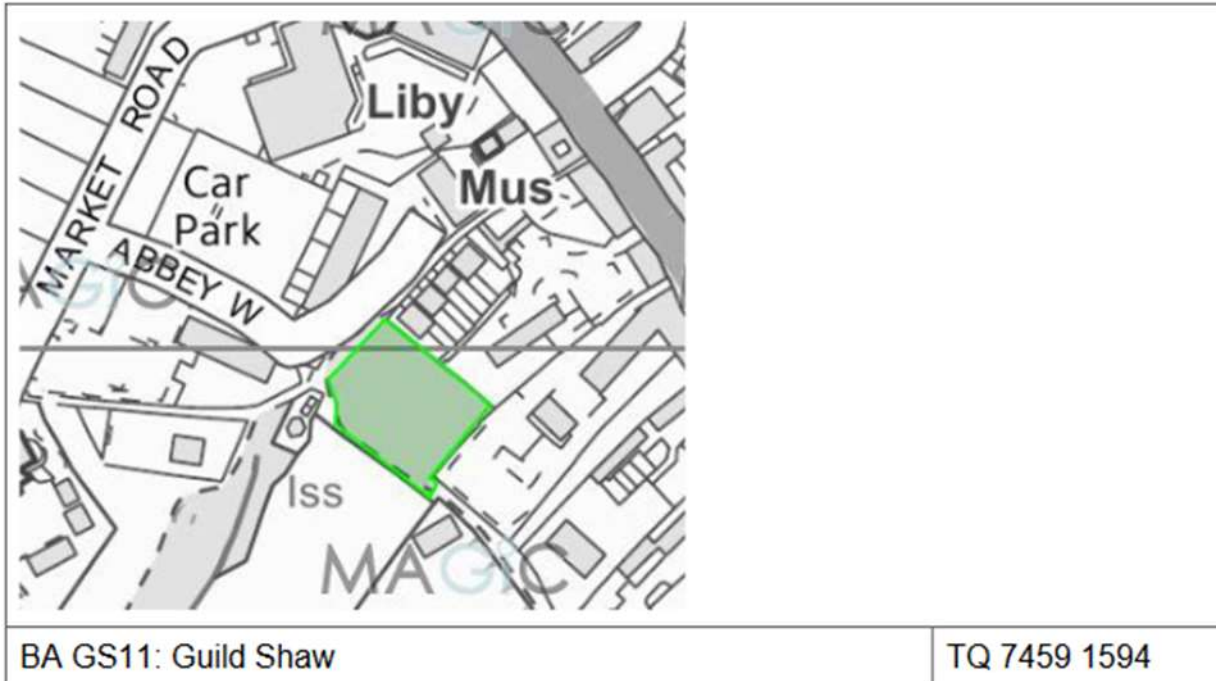
\* deposit arisings in different areas each year (may be deposited on brambles along entrance or field edge to contain their growth)

Entrance path

Mow a different scalloped edge along length of path each year to provide diverse habitats.



## BA GS11 Guild Shaw



## BA GS11 Management Plan for Guild Shaw

Trees: Inspect regularly throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk.

Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February.

Boundary: Hedges - cut back between November and February, then trim as required.

Brambles – remove or cut back monthly during the growing season.

Poisonous plants – inspect hedgerows for poisonous plants throughout the growing season and remove them (e.g. Cuckoo-pint (arum maculatum)).

Grass: Mow when required between April and September, except in May when only access paths should be mown.

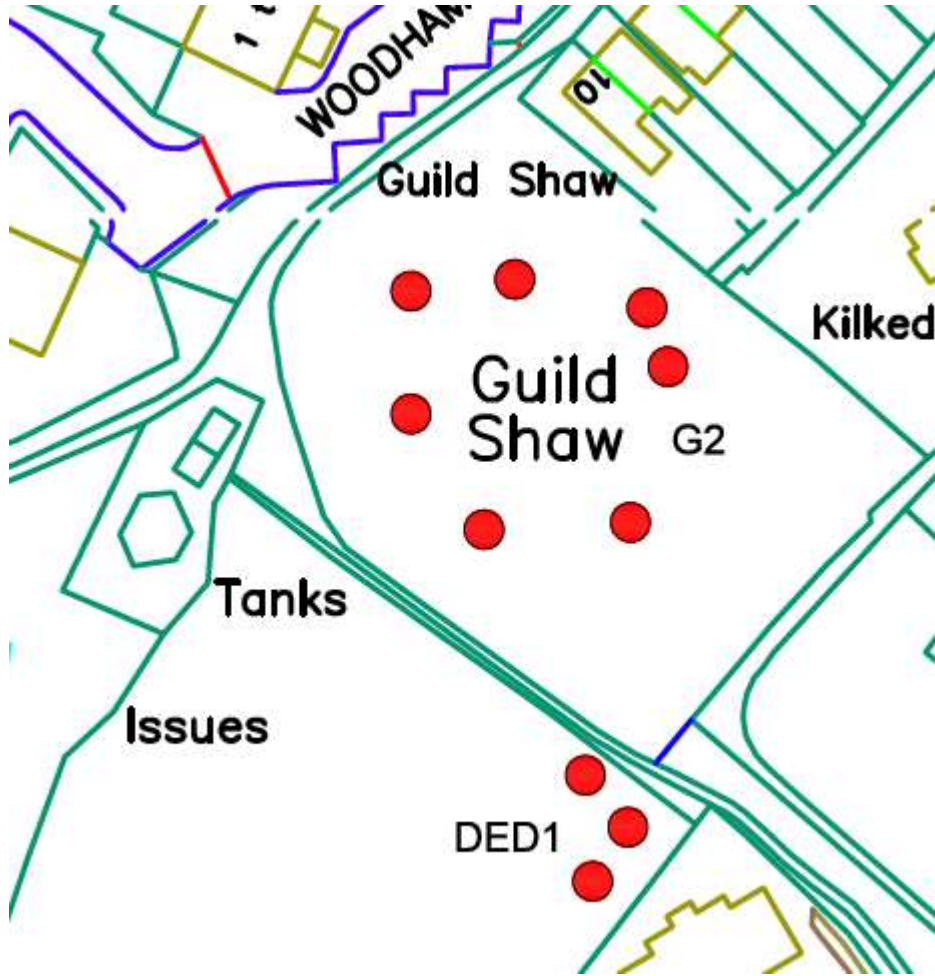
Tree Preservation Orders

None – Most trees, but not all, protected within Battle Conservation Area – red line indicates Conservation Area boundary, RHS within, LHS outside.



Hazard Assessment Tree Survey report 2020

Tree Number	Species	Height	Age Class	Physical condition	Structural condition	Defect Notes	Action Required	Location notes	Frequency of Use	Works Priority	Date of Inspection
Group G1	Ash, (Fraxinus excelsior)	20 average	Mature	Fair	Fair	Group affected by Ash Dieback. Numerous trees with deadwood in crowns	Remove deadwood from crowns	Guild Shaw	Low	Amber	Spring 2020



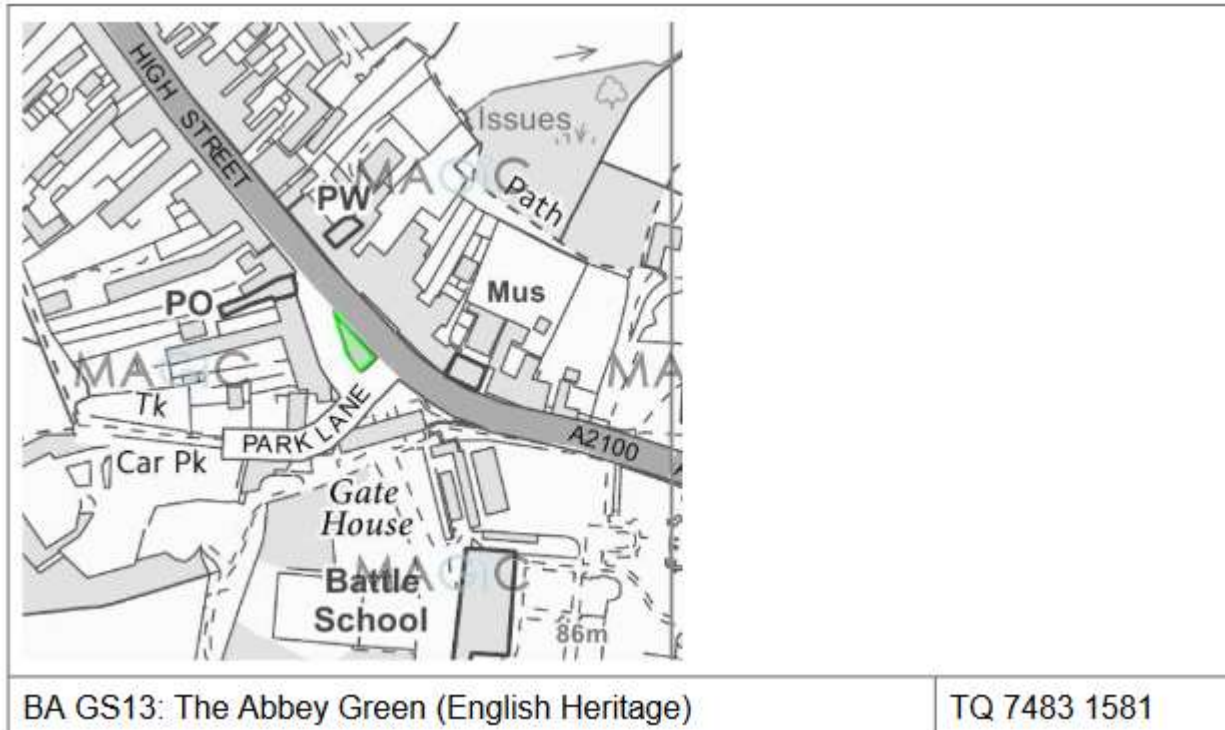
## **BA GS13 Abbey Green area**

Planters –water weekly/twice weekly as weather dictates during spring and summer and remove weeds.

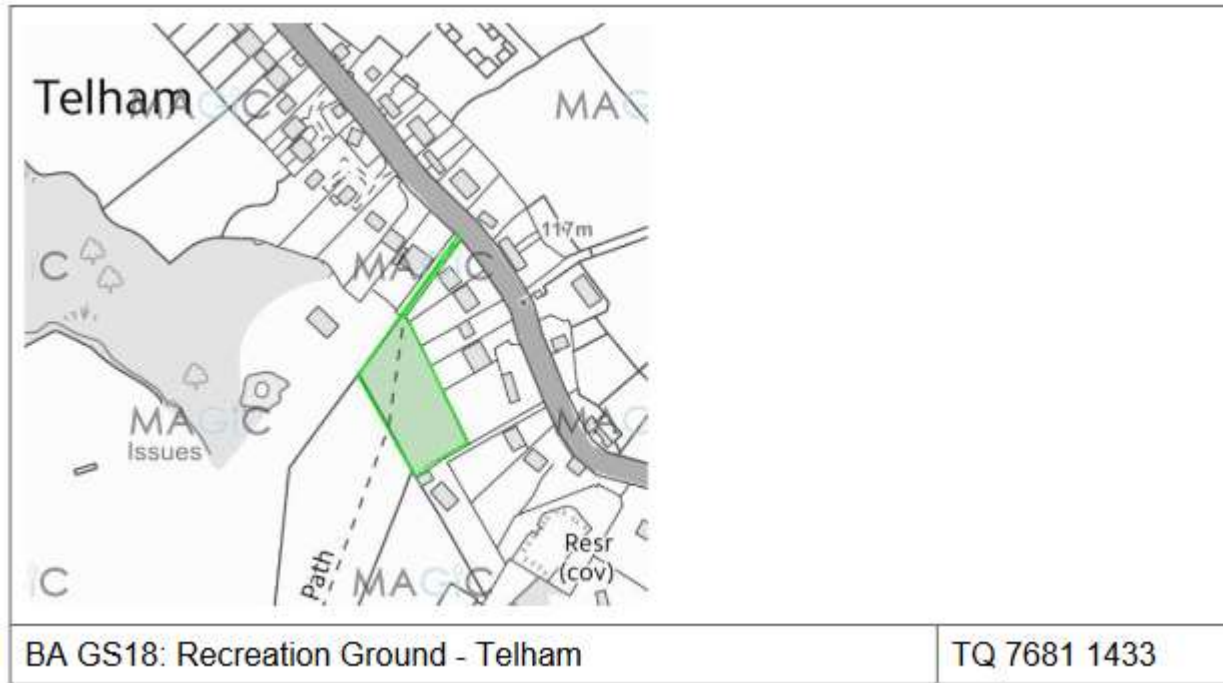
Trees – trim and shape if necessary between October and February

### Tree Preservation Orders

None – trees protected by Battle Conservation Area



## BA GS18 Telham Recreation Ground



## BA GS18 Management Plan

Boundaries: Hedges - cut back between November and February, then trim as required.

Poisonous plants – inspect hedgerows for poisonous plants throughout the growing season and remove them (e.g. Cuckoo-pint (arum maculatum)).

Brambles – remove or cut back monthly during the growing season.

Trees: Inspect regularly throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk.

Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February.

Grass: Mow footpath and play area fortnightly between April and September (depending on weather conditions) and at other times if directed by the Town Clerk.

Mow wildflower meadow area (all grass except play area and footpath) in early spring and remove arisings and again in July or August as weather permits and remove arisings. Mow creative access paths within meadow area.

Tree Preservation Orders

None

**BA GS23 Cemetery**



## BA GS23 Management Plan

Boundaries: Hedges - cut back between November and February, then trim as required.

Poisonous plants – inspect hedgerows for poisonous plants throughout the growing season and remove them (e.g. Cuckoo-pint (arum maculatum)).

Pathways: Gravel and tarmac paths – edge in May and October and at other times as directed by the Town Clerk. Apply weed-killer as required.

Grass paths – mow when required between April and September (depending on weather conditions) and at other times if directed by the Town Clerk.

Brambles – remove or cut back monthly during the growing season.

Trees and shrubs: Inspect trees regularly throughout the year and report damage/disease to Town Clerk.

Undertake non-urgent tree surgery between October and February.

Trim branches between October and February to ensure clear passage along driveway and paths.

Shrubs – trim as required throughout growing season.

### Gardens of Remembrance

Gravel: – weed as required during growing season. Apply weed-killer as required.

Graves

Grass: – mow/strim when required between April and September.

Plots – remove dead flowers and non-regulation objects whenever noticed

Sinking plots – top up with soil and compost as it becomes available.

Ivy, saplings and overgrown shrubs: – remove whenever time permits.

### Cremated Remains Area in Lower Cemetery

Grass: – mow/strim when required between April and September.

Mow/strim bank in July or August after flower seed has set.

### Chapel

Flowerbeds – plant seasonally as agreed with Town Clerk and weed fortnightly.

Wildflower areas: in Old Cemetery and Lower Cemetery

Mow in early March if weather permits

Mow again in July or August as weather permits, remove arisings if relocating some of the wildflower seed to top up the Natural Burial Area (when appropriate) or otherwise leave in place for seed to drop before removal.

Mow in September and whenever possible until spring to simulate grazing, remove arisings.  
Mow edges adjacent to driveways and paths between April and September, depending on weather conditions.  
Mow access paths as required.  
Saplings etc: – remove whenever time permits.  
Do not use herbicide in or near wildflower areas.

#### Natural Burial Area

Mow in early March if weather permits, remove arisings.  
Mow in July or August as weather permits, remove arisings.  
Mow again in September and whenever possible until spring to simulate grazing, remove arisings.  
Mow edges adjacent to driveways and paths fortnightly between April and September, depending on weather conditions.  
Mow access paths as required.  
Saplings etc: – remove whenever time permits.  
Do not use herbicide in or near wildflower areas.

#### Composting areas

Compost as much plant material as possible.  
Compost heaps – tidy and turn as necessary and remove compost as required, taking care not to disturb wildlife such as grass snakes.

#### Tree Trail

Check fortnightly to ensure that tree labels are in place and the trail is clear of brambles and trip hazards.

#### Tree Preservation Orders

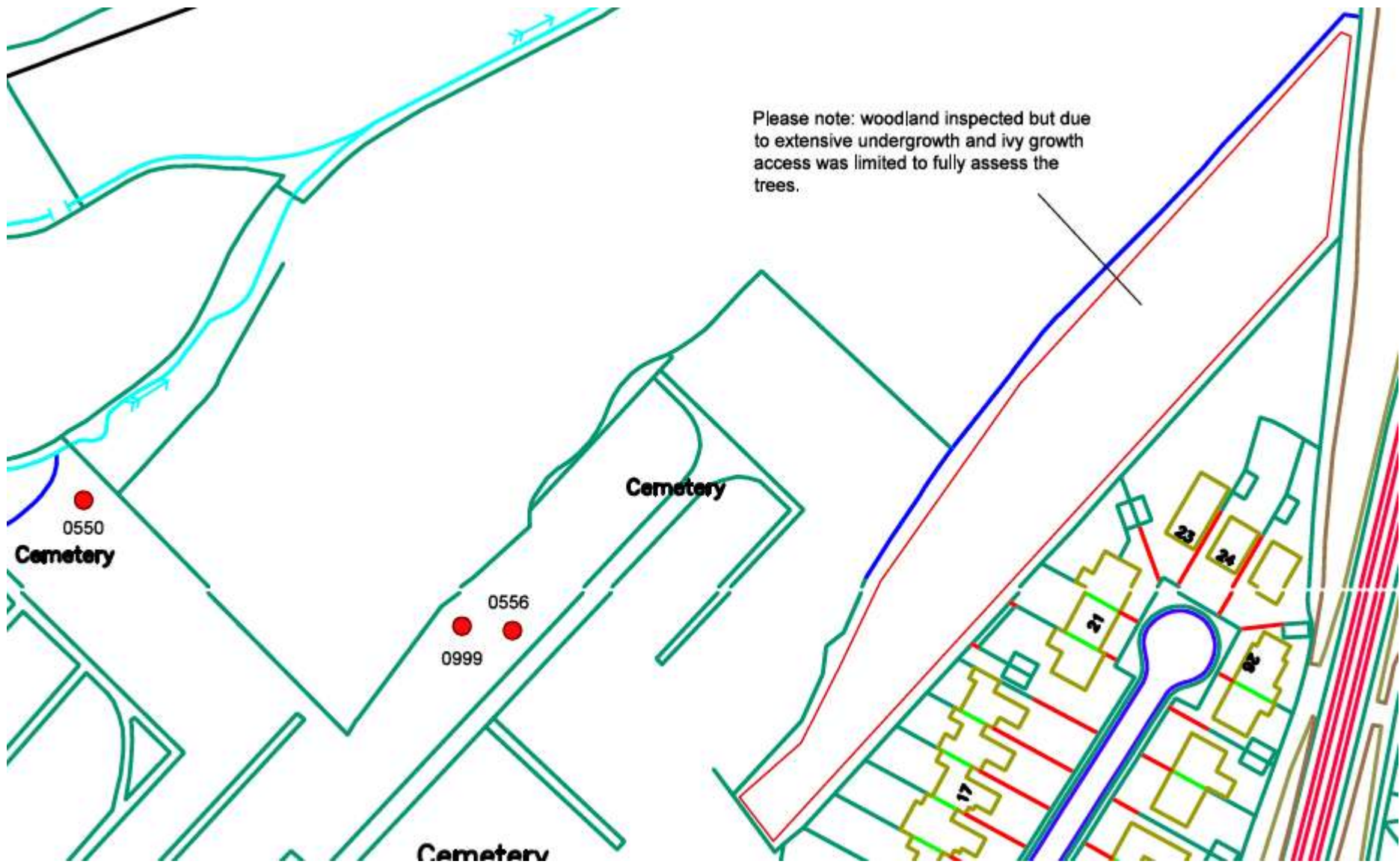
None



## Hazard Assessment Tree Survey report 2020

Tree Number	Species	Height	Age Class	Physical condition	Structural condition	Defect Notes	Action Required	Location notes	Frequency of Use	Works Priority	Date of Inspection
0563	Sweet chestnut, (Castanea sativa)	20	Mature	Fair	Fair	Crown displaying limited new growth	Reinspect in 6 months	Battle Cemetery	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
1000	Sweet chestnut, (Castanea sativa)	18	Mature	Poor	Poor	Tree in terminal decline	Remove crown and upper stem to 3 metres above ground level to provide monolith	Battle Cemetery	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0552	Sycamore, (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16	Mature	Poor	Poor	Crown dieback and basal decay	Fell to ground level	Battle Cemetery	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0556	English oak, (Quercus robur)	18	Mature	Good	Fair	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood from crown	Battle Cemetery	Low	Green	Spring 2020
0999	Sycamore, (Acer pseudoplatanus)	12	Semi mature	Good	Poor	Ganoderma fruiting fungal bodies indicating internal decay	Fell to ground level	Battle Cemetery	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0551	English oak, (Quercus robur)	24	Mature	Good	Fair	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood from crown	Battle Cemetery	Low	Amber	Spring 2020
0550	Common lime, (Tilia x europaea)	26	Mature	Fair	Fair	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood from crown	Battle Cemetery	Low	Green	Spring 2020





## **BA GS 25 1066 Roundabout and oak tree area by Fire Station**

### **BA GS 25 Management Plan**

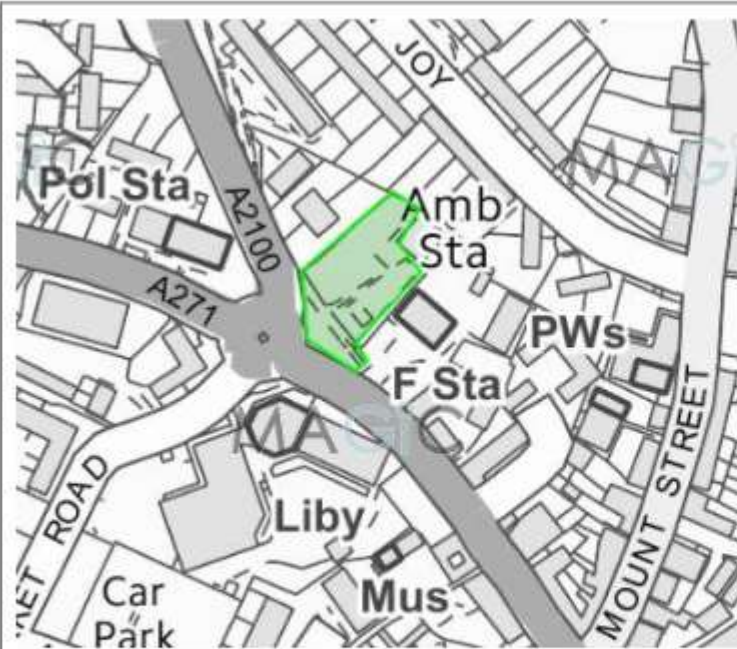
Tree:- trim if required between October and February.

Roundabout: - mow 'wildflower meadow' in spring and remove arisings and again in late summer and remove arisings.

#### **Tree Preservation Orders**

None

**BA GS08 Teaching and Education Centre open area** (no management plan at present)



NOTE: This site includes the grass area between the footway and roadway that has a commemorative seat around an oak tree and the location of 'skateboard ramp'.

BA GS08: Teaching & Education Centre

TQ 7460 1614

Tree Preservation Orders

None

### **3. Conclusion**

This document provides a base-line for BTC's estate as of July 2023. It shows that there is potential for significant improvement in the level of biodiversity the green spaces support. The Council now wishes to seek guidance and support to enhance and develop its estate's biodiversity and carbon capture and storage potential.

Cllr Sue Burton BTC

Chair and on behalf of the Climate and Ecology Sub Committee

10.07.23