



CASTLE PLUS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Annexes and Supporting Appendices

**Regulation 14
Pre-Submission Consultation
7 September to 26 October 2026**

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Annex 1 - Green Spaces and Nature

Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

The Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan includes four policies relating to Green Spaces and Nature: Local Green Spaces, Wildlife Corridors, the River Mimram and Biodiversity.

The Green Spaces and Nature Sub-group worked together to research these areas and gather the evidence needed to inform and support the development of the four policies. This Annex brings together the supporting evidence and more detailed work undertaken by the group.

2. Local Green Spaces

As part of the work supporting Policy CPGN1, the Steering Group considered a wide range of potential Local Green Spaces across the Neighbourhood Area. Sites were researched and assessed against the relevant criteria, including their proximity and importance to the local community and their particular local significance for qualities such as beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and wildlife.

This process enabled potential sites to be considered and, where appropriate, discounted before the final 17 Local Green Spaces were identified for designation. The group also produced a collection of individual descriptions for the 17 proposed Local Green Spaces, recording their character, use, community value and natural and historic features. These descriptions, together with photographs of the sites, are provided in:

Appendix 1: Local Green Space Descriptions.

3. Wildlife Corridors

The Green Spaces and Nature Sub-group identified a network of Wildlife Corridors across the Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan area to support Policy CPGN2.

Further information on the identified wildlife corridors, including a description of each corridor, its main habitats and associated important species, is provided in:

Appendix 2: Wildlife Corridors – Descriptions, Habitats and Important Species.

The corridors provide connections between important habitats and green spaces, including Local Wildlife Sites, woodland, rivers, grassland and other areas of ecological value. The Wildlife Corridor network and individual corridors

WC1–WC10 are identified on the Policies Map in Appendix A of the Neighbourhood Plan.

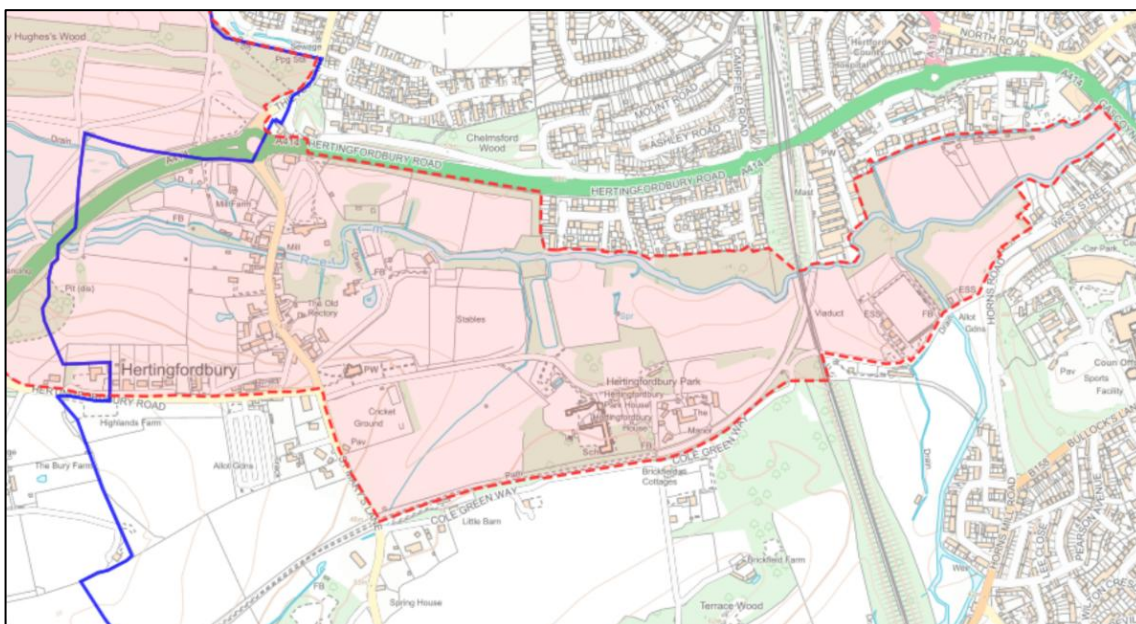
The identification of the corridors was informed by local knowledge, site work and ecological evidence, including data supplied by the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC). HERC identified 13 Local Wildlife Sites within the area, together with ancient woodland and other important habitats. These sites and habitats help to identify important areas for biodiversity and the connections between them.

Further information on the Local Wildlife Sites, habitats and species that informed this work is provided in:

Appendix 3: Habitats and Species.

4. River Mimram/Lea Corridor

The Rivers Mimram and Lea form an important wildlife and landscape corridor through the Castle Plus Neighbourhood Area. The corridor encompasses the rivers and their associated habitats, floodplains and landscape, and provides important connections for wildlife across and beyond the Plan area.



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As part of the evidence supporting **Policy CPGN3**, the Steering Group considered the wider **Mimram Valley Local Landscape Designation Project**, which is seeking Local Landscape Designation for the Mimram Valley across East Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield and North Hertfordshire.

Representatives of the project presented the proposal to the Steering Group in 2025, outlining its aims and the proposed corridor. The Steering Group supported the proposal and representatives subsequently attended a wider meeting involving parishes and communities along the Mimram Valley.

The Steering Group reviewed the proposed boundary within the CPNP area and considered it largely appropriate, with one amendment identified and submitted to the project group for consideration.

An outline case for Local Landscape Designation has subsequently been submitted to East Hertfordshire District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and North Hertfordshire District Council for consideration through their respective Local Plan processes. The proposal has received support from the relevant local authorities, including Hertford Town Council. In July 2026, North Hertfordshire District Council formally resolved to support the proposed designation and to engage with the project Steering Group to progress the proposal through its forthcoming Local Plan review.

5. Biodiversity

The Green Spaces and Nature Sub-group undertook research and site surveys to build a picture of the important habitats, wildlife sites and species within the Neighbourhood Area. This work was supported by ecological data obtained from the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC), which identified Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodland, priority habitats and records of notable and protected species.

More detailed surveys were also undertaken of selected sites and habitat networks, including Willowmead Nature Reserve, County Hall Woodland and its associated habitats, and Hertford Castle and adjoining green spaces. These provide further evidence of the biodiversity value of individual sites and the ecological connections between them.

Supporting biodiversity evidence is provided in the following appendices:

Appendix 4 – Biodiversity Supporting Evidence

Appendix 4A – Willowmead Reserve

Appendix 4B – County Hall Woodland

Appendix 4C – Associated Habitats

Appendix 4D – Hertford Castle

Further site-specific biodiversity evidence, including information on habitats, wildlife and ecological value, is also provided in:

Appendix 3: Habitats and Species.



Annex 2 - Twitchell Document
Non-Designated Heritage Assets
Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

Twitchells are historic pathways and alleyways, forming links between roads and cut-throughs between buildings, across cemeteries, over bridges, and up and down steep hills, offering everyone rapid and direct traffic-free routes across Hertford on foot.

Often narrow and atmospheric, running adjacent to green spaces and gardens overhung by trees, these footpaths mostly follow ancient local desire lines, hugging natural features of the landscape and guided by the topography of the town.

Twitchells are of great significance from both a heritage and movement perspective, as they are not only uniquely characteristic of Hertford but are also heavily used by residents of all ages, whether as safe routes to school or quiet and pleasant ways into and across town.

Twitchells complement the built footway system in providing permeability throughout the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the whole town. Many routes integrate with the underpass and pedestrian crossing infrastructure that is crucial for navigating the major road system surrounding the centre of Hertford and helping pedestrians navigate what can otherwise feel like a barrier around the town centre.

This annex provides a map of the main network of twitchells in Hertford. Each is numbered, located geographically and given a brief description, with some photographs.

Objectives

The goal of this annex is to establish the significance of twitchells for Hertford so that they can be recognised in the Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan, for their protection and ongoing maintenance to be reflected in policy.

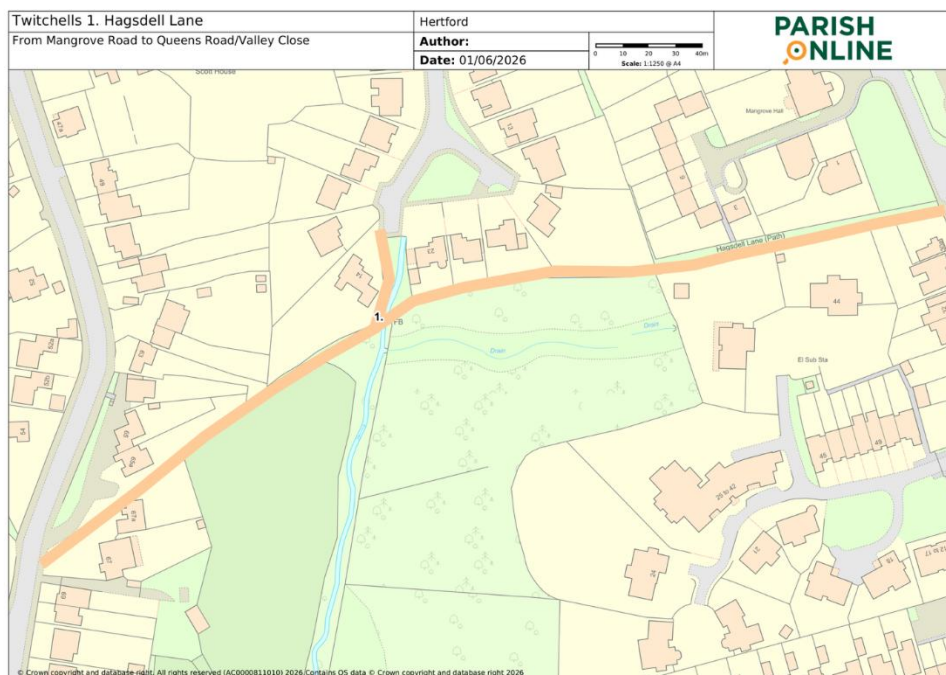
In addition, the compilation of this annex seeks to raise awareness of the potential for expansion of the twitchell network should opportunities arise in development to improve connectivity and permeability.

Finally, this annex provides an initial representation of the existing network, however an envisaged legacy project for the Neighbourhood Plan is the development of well-designed maps to promote both wayfinding and placeshaping for both residents and visitors. By highlighting twitchells as a historic and valuable resource, key to pedestrian permeability across our designated area and to the character of the local environment, we improve everyone's experience and appreciation of their surroundings.

Twitchells

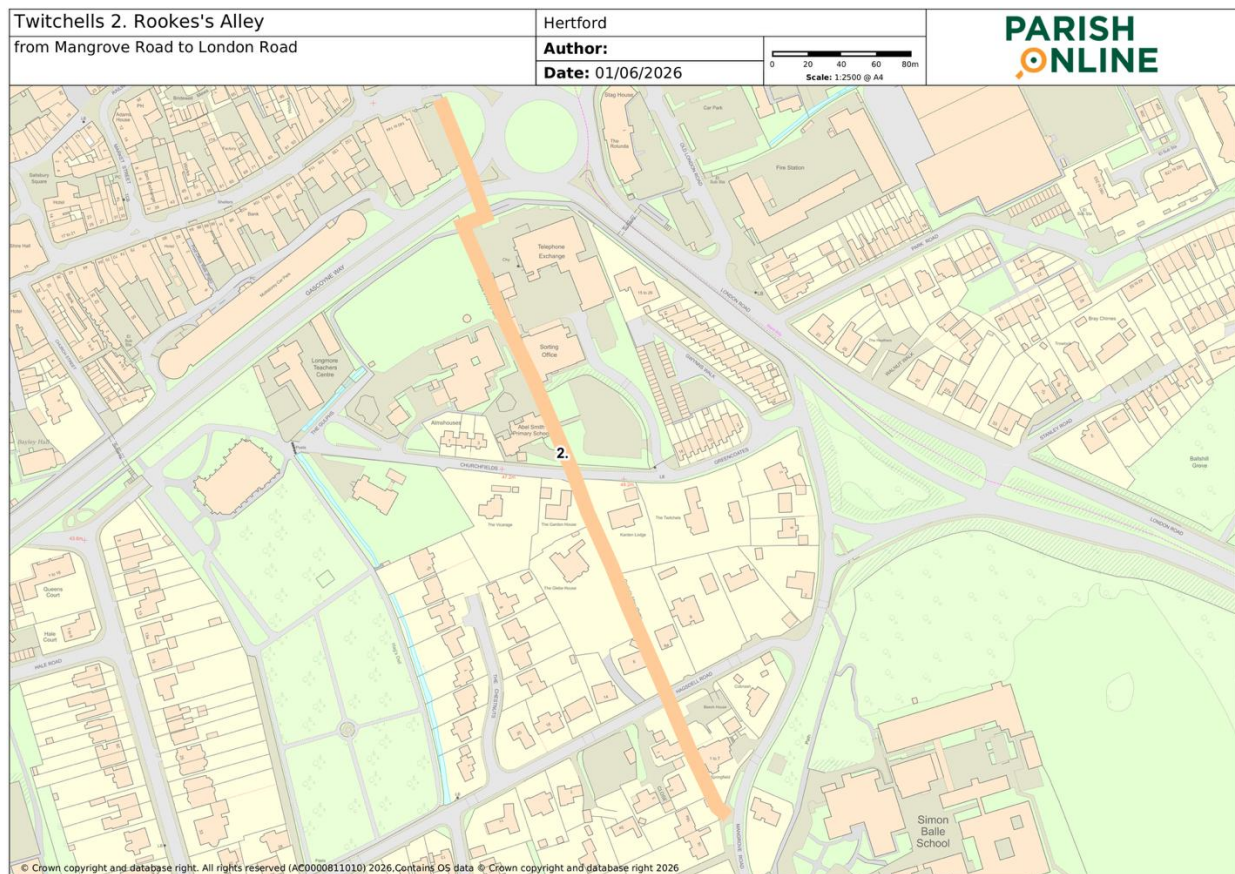
1. Hagsdell Lane - from Mangrove Road to Queens Road/Valley Close

Narrow, steep path, falling from Mangrove Road and rising again towards Queens Road with a side spur leading off towards Valley Close, connecting with pathways through the cemetery into town. Partially surfaced in asphalt, flanked by fenced gardens and tall trees on one side and by outlook over fields and a Hertford Green Finger on the other. The path crosses the Ashbourne runoff with a bridge. Heavily used by school children from nursery to sixth form walking to and from Simon Balle School and Morgans Primary School.



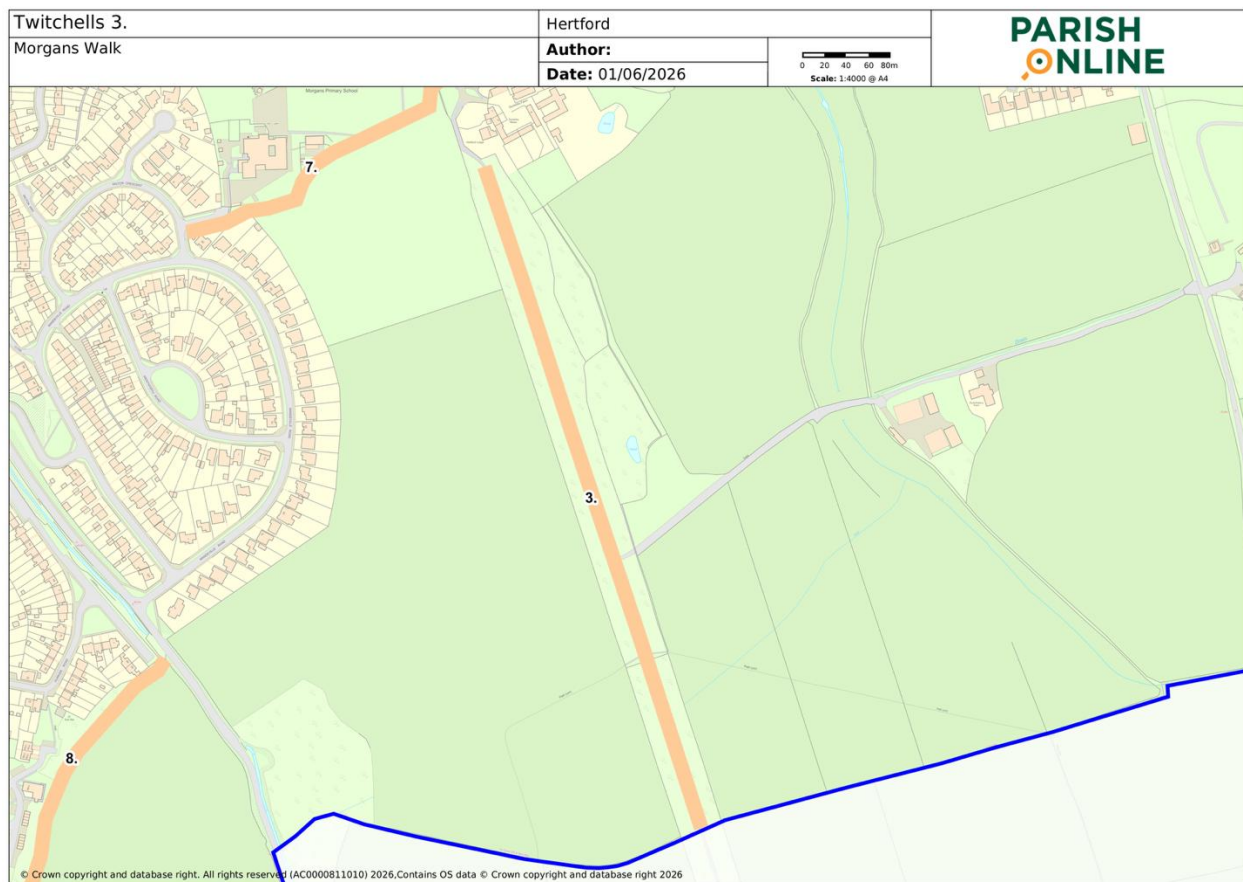
2. Rooke's Alley - from Mangrove Road to London Road

Wider path, slightly steep before levelling out in descent, it divides into various sections interrupted by roads with crossings, proceeding over Hagsdell, then Greencoats (which connects to All Saints Church and associated pathways), past Abel Smith School and on to the underpass that connects to the end of Fore Street. As well as a route for school children, a rapid way into town for residents on the south side of Hertford.



3. Morgans Walk

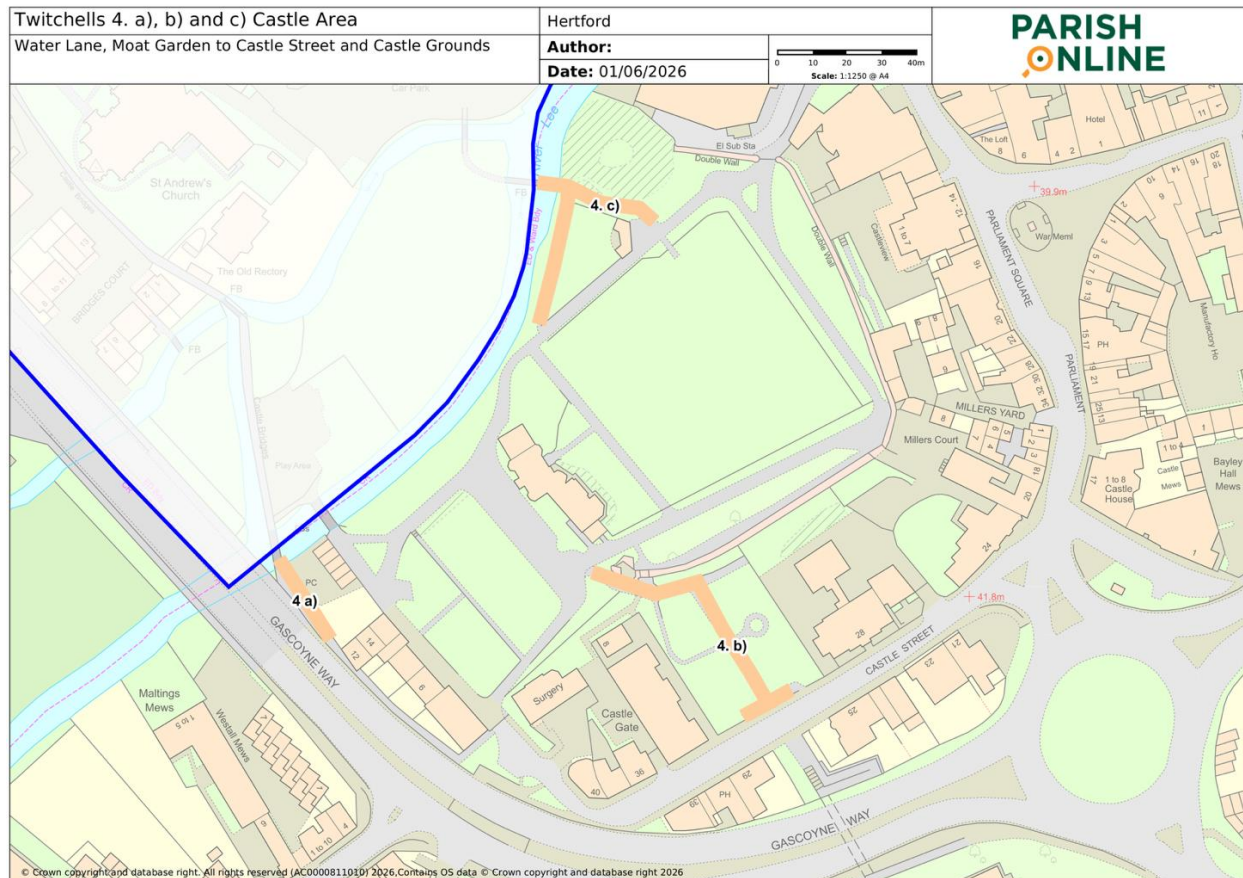
Historic tree lined avenue that runs from the corner of Morgans Road and Queens Road leading towards the Brickendonbury Estate. Popular stretch for strollers, runners and dog walkers with footpaths connecting through on one side towards the back of the Mandeville Estate and on the other with a footpath network towards the Hertford Camping and Caravan Club Site and to Mangrove Lane.



4 a), b) and c) Water Lane, Moat Garden to Castle Street and Castle Grounds

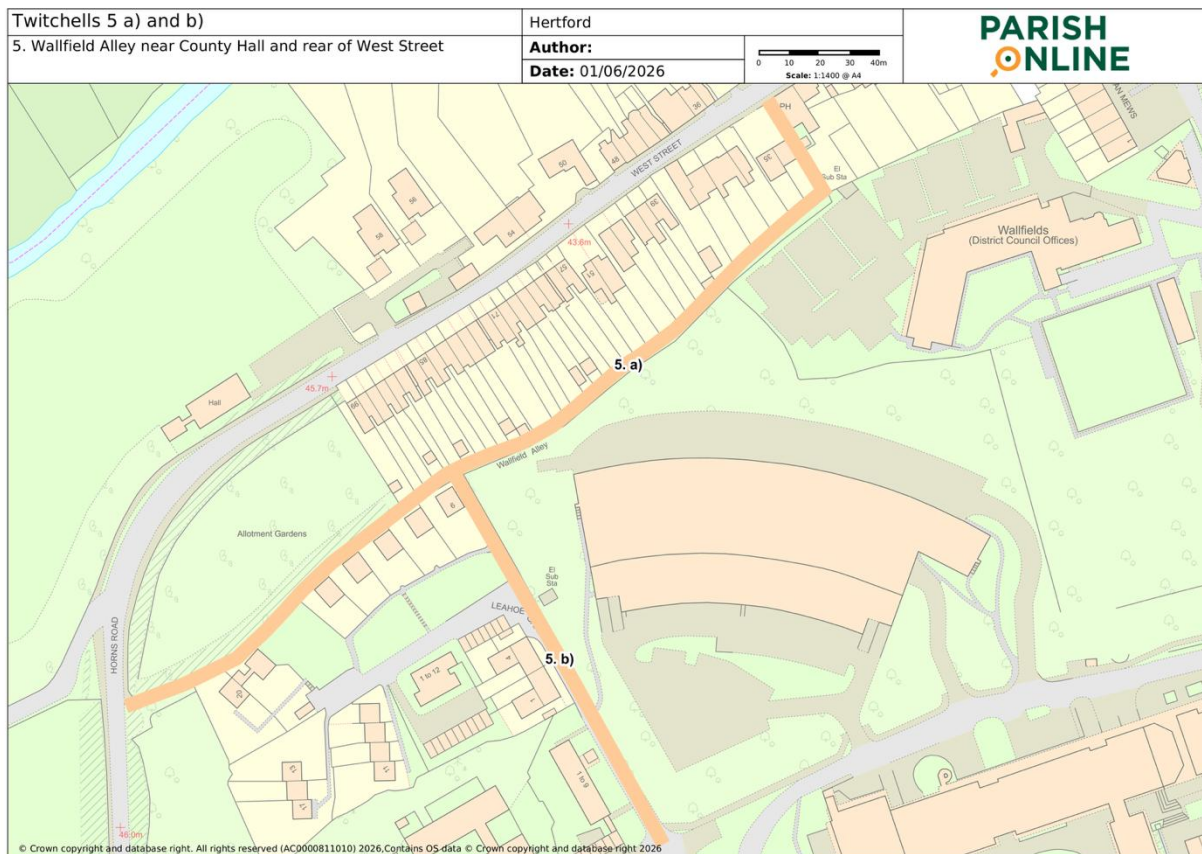
Past the Church and graveyard along an old brick wall with tombstones, across bridges around the Castle Grounds emerging at the end of Castle Street adjacent to the timed pedestrian crossing over Gascoyne Way. A direct and atmospheric footpath to reach the community amenities, shops and businesses including a doctor's surgery and bus routes along St Andrews Street, with onward connections towards Hertford North.

As well as linking to Castle Street, the Castle Grounds link up with footpaths and bridges to the St Andrews Street car park and across the weir to BEAM theatre and to Millbridge and The Wash.



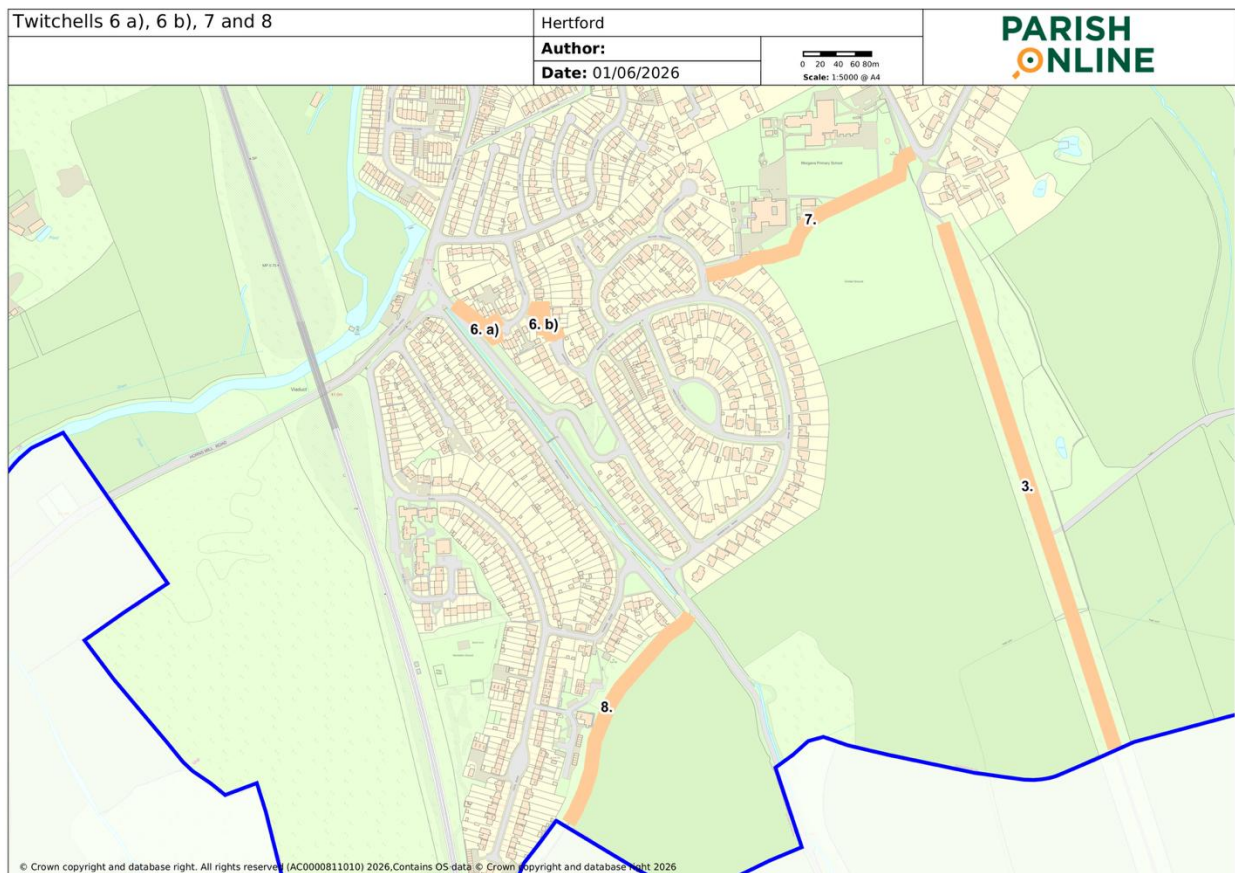
5. a) Wallfield Alley near County Hall and b) rear of West Street houses

Stepped pathway behind County Hall alongside the former Council offices past the amenity space of Leahoe House, leading to Wallfield Alley, a pathway running behind fenced gardens and leading out onto West Street in two directions near allotments and close to the crossing on Gascoyne Way that leads to the edge of the Castle Grounds.



6. Liberty Close to Brickendon Lane and Liberty Close to Mandeville Close

Providing pedestrian connectivity in the Hornsmill area between Mandeville, Pearson Avenue and Brickendon Lane.



7. Mandeville Road to Morgans Road and Queens Road

Connecting path from Wilton Crescent to Morgans Road and Queens Road improving accessibility to and from the Mandeville Estate.



8. Cecil Road Footpath

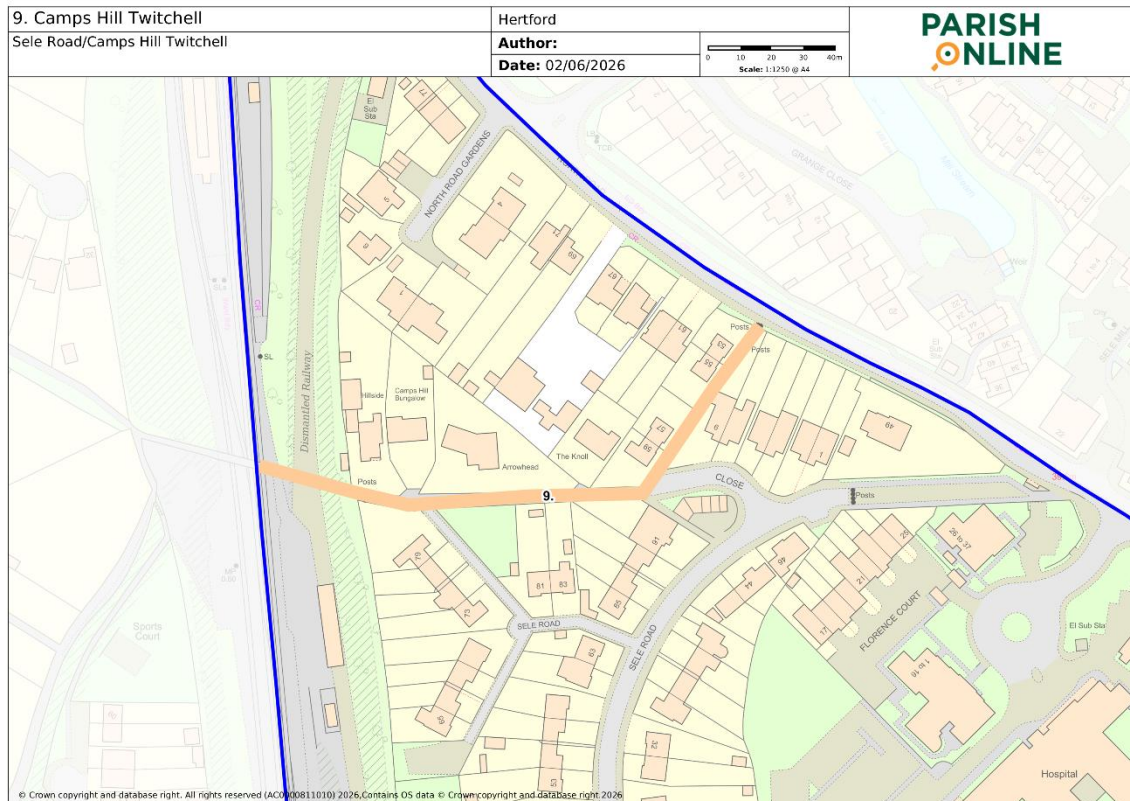
Pedestrian route from Brickendon Lane follows along the back of Cecil Road and onward connections towards the railway footbridge. Passing through a quiet residential setting, the path provides a convenient traffic-free shortcut for local residents.



NOTE: 6,7 and 8 Combined Map

9. Camps Hill Twitchell

Footpath running between North Road, via Royston Close, and Camps Hill, continuing towards the railway footbridge and wider footpath network beyond the Neighbourhood Plan area. Enclosed by mature hedges, trees and garden boundaries, the route provides a quiet, traffic-free connection for local residents between the town, railway station and more northern residential areas.



10. Pearson Avenue



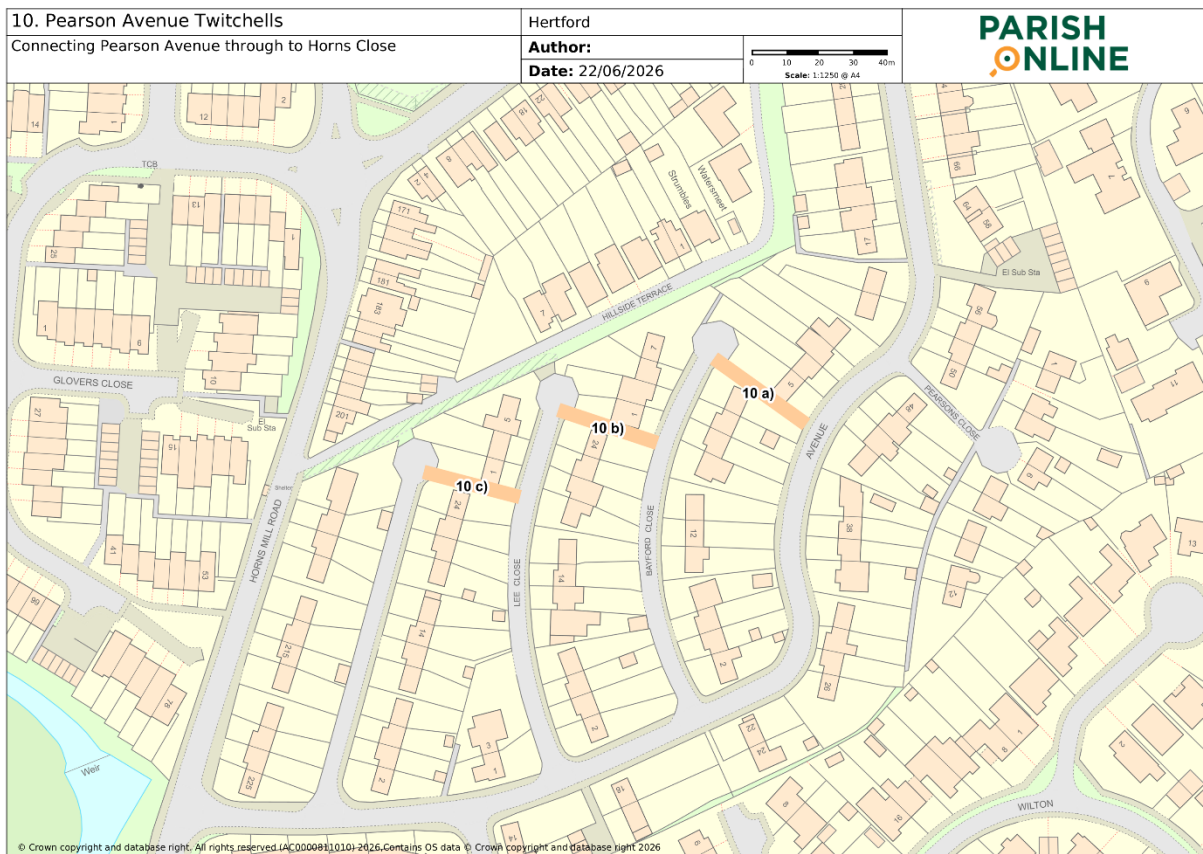
10 a)
Pearson Avenue to Bayford Close



10 b)
Bayford Close to Lee Close



10 c)
Lee Close to Horns Close





Annex 3 - Business & Economy Document

Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan

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- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Types of businesses linked to objectives**
- 4. Relevant policies from the 2018 District Plan**
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 From its beginnings, founded on the banks of the Lea by Edward the Elder in the 10th century, Hertford has been defined by its connecting routes – first rivers, then roads, then railways. With those connections came strategic importance – Hertford was first a military base, then, in the time of Edgar (957–75), very soon the administrative centre of the county. A thousand years later, its importance as a centre of local government is waning, with administrative reorganisations and the relocation of the County Council's offices to Stevenage. However, the town remains a hub for surrounding towns and villages and provides a wide range of services, most of which are in the Castle Plus area. Hertford was granted a Market Charter by Edward III in 1375 and still hosts a weekly market. The town centre is a Conservation Area, containing many listed buildings playing host to the shops and businesses, that give Hertford its unique and traditional character. More detail on the current range of businesses and services in section 3.
- 1.2 With climate change accelerating, resilience to environmental challenges such as surface water and river flooding is essential in the town centre and across the Castle Plus Area, criss-crossed as it is by many cuts and channels of rivers Lea and Mimram. More extreme temperatures and the environmental and financial costs of fossil fuels, mean that retro fitting with solar panels and higher levels of insulation, for example, will be supported. Hertford's much loved heritage buildings need to be sustainable for current and future uses without jeopardising the contribution they make to the town.
- 1.3 Castle Plus has an ageing demographic, which brings with it certain challenges. There are now several retirement complexes located close to and actually within the town centre itself. There are also many young families in Hertford, who also have accessibility needs for buggies and small children.
- 1.4 Many visitors come into the town to enjoy the new BEAM theatre and cinema complex and Hertford Town Council's wide-ranging programme of events, as well as the many other cultural and entertaining happenings in the town centre throughout the year.

More detail on Hertford as a tourist destination is under paragraph 3.7

- 1.5 While the range of shops and stores has diminished as a result of online shopping habits and the growth of larger shopping malls in neighbouring towns, Hertford town centre remains a thriving and busy hub for independent trade and for meeting up with friends in its many cafes, pubs and restaurants. Many town centre businesses have a mix of online and in person customers, meaning that they draw in visitors from a wide area, who wish to visit the physical shop. More detail in para 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7
- 1.6 Hertford's night-time economy is thriving, with its range of pubs, clubs and restaurant attracting visitors from local towns and villages. Recently, there have been more town centre residential developments, for example, the new Lea Wharf development. This has led to conflicts between town centre residents and late opening pubs and clubs. More detail in para 3.8 and 3.4.
- 1.7 One trend which has affected many of Hertfordshire's smaller towns is the loss of employment space, which is then replaced by residential development. With the rise of home working following the pandemic, office space has been less in demand than it was

in the past. The most recent employment study of Hertford was published in 2016 (the Hertford and Ware Employment Study produced by Wessex Economics), which recommended that EHDC develop a strategy to stem the ongoing loss of employment space in the town. The informal feedback reflected the desire of residents for local jobs in a range of sectors, not just hospitality and the aspiration to protect a mix of uses. See also 1.8, 1.9 and 1.11.

It is recommended that a new employment study is undertaken to support the development of the new East Herts District Plan, which is currently being developed.

- 1.8 Hertford's biggest employer, the County Council, has now relocated its administrative centre to Stevenage. Although the jobs themselves have not been lost, HCC's employment centre is no longer in Castle Plus Area. There are, however, a good number of public service organisations, including schools, Hertford Hospital and the Fire Service.
- 1.9 The majority of Castle Plus businesses are small or medium sized enterprises. With the ongoing loss of employment space, it is important that there are spaces for start-ups, and to allow successful business to expand. Opportunities for green businesses are growing and there needs to be a variety of spaces available for creativity and innovation.
- 1.10 While the town centre has the highest number of businesses, the neighbourhoods of Hornsmill, Ware Road and North Road are also home to neighbourhood shops, which are a lifeline for local residents. As more homes are built in the Castle Plus area, local shops and businesses become even more important for their communities, supporting those less able to travel and reducing the need for car journeys.
- 1.11 The Castle Plus Area contains four sites which are designated Employment Sites in the District Plan: Mimram Road, Wareham's Lane, Caxton Hill and Pegs Lane. These are key for providing space for light industry, including manufacturing, construction and car repair and other businesses which require more space such as recording studios and gyms. Pegs Lane has been an administrative centre for many years.
- 1.12 South and West Hertford and Hertingfordbury include large amounts of farmland, used for arable and livestock farming.
- 1.13 Businesses thrive on connectivity. Castle Plus includes two rail stations, a bus station, a number of cycle racks and two public car parks as well as a number of small retail car parks. Collections and deliveries are enabled by a network of postboxes, lockers, post offices and delivery/despatch shops, as well as domestic and commercial letterboxes. There are broadband and Wi-Fi networks across the town.
- 1.14 The Hertford Urban Design Strategy 2015 set out a detailed plan for a coherent and public realm. By and large this heritage led approach is supported, though connectivity, environmental resilience and accessibility should be key focuses for a future plan.

2. Objectives

2.1 The following objectives are not formal objectives of the Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan. Rather, they represent a series of themes, priorities and recommendations identified through the preparation of this Business and Economy Annex, drawing on research, policy review, site observations and community feedback.

Objective 1: Maintain the character of the Conservation Area town centre and the public realm including a pedestrianised space for markets and other events.

Objective 2: Encourage business premises and surrounding environment to incorporate environmental resilience and sustainability.

Objective 3: Encourage business premises and the public realm to be accessible to all.

Objective 4: Development in the town should support and promote the vision of Hertford as a centre for tourism, in line with the Town Council's Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2025.

Objective 5: Support the ongoing viability and vitality of Hertford Town Centre.

Objective 6: Maintain a vibrant night-time and daytime economy in the Town Centre, while addressing the demand for more housing.

Objective 7: Support the development of employment in the town including opportunities for those who wish to work from home or flexibly.

Objective 8: With regard to County Hall itself, noting that this area is a designated employment site in the 2018 East Herts District Plan, support mixed use development, to retain the site for partial employment use.

Objective 9: Encourage creativity and innovation and support small businesses and start-ups, especially those which are environmentally friendly and sustainable, through the development of an Enterprise Hub and by maintaining suitable start up and move on workspaces.

Objective 10: Protect neighbourhood shops and businesses and make sure that new developments either contain or are close to suitable local premises.

Objective 11: Protect the four employment sites designated under Policy HERT6 of the 2018 East Herts District Plan.

Objective 12: Protect space for arable and livestock farming as food security is a priority.

Objective 13: Ensure that infrastructure supports local businesses

3. Types of businesses linked to objectives

3.1 Public services

Historically, Hertford has hosted many local government workers, with Hertfordshire County Council, East Herts District Council and Hertford Town Centre all having their offices based in the Castle Plus Area. The Registry Office is based on the County Hall site alongside the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies centre: they will both need a new home once County Hall is sold. Hertford Library is based just off Maidenhead Street, right in the town centre. The Emergency Services all have a base here, with the Police Station on Pegs Lane and the Fire Station and Ambulance Station on London Road. The Magistrate's Court is located in Shire Hall in the town centre. The NHS has a local hospital on North Road, a Clinic in Bull Plain and there are GP surgeries at Castlegate and Lea Wharf. There are two primary schools, Abel Smith and Morgan's, one secondary school, Richard Hale, one All Through school, Simon Balle, Ben Herd's Football Academy and an alternative provision centre Rivers ESC. (There is also one private school, Hertford Prep, in Hertingfordbury Village). The Job Centre is based on Fore Street. We strongly support the continuation of a local government hub in Hertford, once the new unitaries are established. East Herts District Plan 2018's Policy HERT6 Employment in Hertford designated Pegs Lane as an Employment Area primarily for B1 use – we would support a mixed-use development on this site.

3.2 Services for business

Hertford's town centre and outlying streets provide a range of services for businesses – there are accountants, lawyers, estate agents, serviced offices at Old Wallfields, IT and phone repair services, and marketing and recruitment agencies. The development of digital infrastructure paired with the legacy of the pandemic mean that more people are working from home and need local services to support them too. What Hertford lacks, as highlighted in the informal feedback, is an Enterprise Hub to support start-ups and new and growing businesses. Business units for start-ups and move-on premises in areas such as Pegs Lane and Wallfields as well as Caxton Hill would be supported. An Enterprise Hub on the Wallfields or County Hall site would work well, and such an application would be supported.

3.3 Services for residents of Hertford and District

There is a wide range of private conventional and alternative medical and health services including dentists, pharmacies, physiotherapists, hearing specialists and osteopaths. Health and beauty needs are well provided for with a good number of hairdressers, barbers, nail bars and tattoo parlours. Dog owners too are catered for with specialist dog shops and grooming parlours. Dog walking and stabling for horses can be found in Hertingfordbury Village and by Hertingfordbury Park. The Royal Mail Delivery Office is located on Churchfields, just adjacent to the London Road A414. Appropriate business space for this wide range of services must be protected.

3.4 Care and education services

There are a number of private nurseries and preschools catering for working parents, including one based just next to Hertford East Station. There are also a couple of childcare agencies. For the elderly and disabled who need extra care at home, there are a number of private care agencies operating from town centre premises. For those not able to manage at home, there is one nursing home on Pegs Lane, as well as a number of retirement developments. This is a growth area for Hertford with several recent

conversions of former office blocks to nursing homes and supported living facilities. New retirement developments should be designed to harmonise with the economic demands of the town centre, with high levels of sound insulation.

3.5 Leisure

Access to sport and fitness facilities are clearly important for residents of all ages, and require specialist provision, often with open land, including Hertford Cricket Club and Hertford Town Football Club. While most of these are community organisations, rather than businesses, some also have associated businesses on their sites. There are also a number of private gyms and fitness centres in the Castle Plus area. Change of use for sport and fitness businesses and organisations will be resisted.

3.6 Retail

Hertford's retail offer has waned in recent years with the loss of its department store and some of the larger chains. There are two larger supermarkets, and one smaller one, in the Castle Plus Area, all located close to the A414, easily accessible by bike or on foot, or by rail, and with their own parking. Hertford's estate of town centre commercial premises are generally smaller and often full of historic character, making them more suitable for smaller independent shops, rather than larger chains – this historic feel is much valued by residents and businesses. While Hertford's vacancy rate is lower than that of many other market towns and below the average for East Hertfordshire, it is a concern to residents, who would like to see more pop-up shops and innovative uses of empty premises.

Madford Retail Park is Hertford's only retail park and home to some larger stores, including a building supplies outlet. With the rise of digital banking, retail banking has also declined, leaving one town centre bank, Nationwide, as well as the Fore Street Post Office. Community Alliance's Learning and Skills Centre on Fore Street also hosts banking services for one high street bank. Hertford's weekly retail market and monthly Farmers' market bring residents and visitors into the town on Saturdays. The Town Council holds regular events in the Castle Grounds and the town centre, throughout the year, often with a range of stalls, to promote the town and its businesses to residents and visitors. Foxholes Farm, on the outskirts of the area, hosts a range of businesses including its own farm shop, selling local produce. There are a number of charity shops raising funds for their dedicated charities. Supporting the ongoing viability and vitality of the retail sector is a key objective.

The quality of traditional shopfronts makes an important contribution to the character of Hertford Town Centre and its Conservation Area, supporting the town's attractiveness for residents, visitors and businesses. Future alterations should have regard to the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy

3.7 Tourism, Entertainment and the Creative Industries

As some of the traditional public service employers depart, Hertford's historic charm gives it great potential for tourism. There are only two smaller hotels as well as the Camping and Caravan Club site on Mangrove Lane, so an application for another hotel would be supported. Hertford's newly refurbished theatre and cinema complex, BEAM, brings in visitors from across the county and beyond. The Corn Exchange puts on a lively programme of bands and indoor fairs and markets. The local churches host a range of concerts, including folk, classical and rock. Hertford Museum offers historical and art

exhibitions as well a programme of events. Fostering creative talent, there is a recording studio on Mimram Road and an independent music school on Railway Street. Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society has its own studio theatre at Bentley House on Pegs Lane. Bull Plain is home to the artists' collective's Brotherhood Studio. Hertford's County Hall and other locations in the Castle Plus Area are frequently used for filming. The Town Council funds a Town and Tourist Information Centre on The Wash, which showcases the work of local makers as well as sharing information on events in the town. Hertford has a much loved museum but does not have a dedicated art gallery or large exhibition space, nor a purpose built concert hall. Residents have been suggesting that County Hall could provide this. The Town Council has created a Sustainable Tourism Strategy to support the development of this important sector. Hertford's many hospitality businesses cater for the full range of visitors. Supporting Hertford as a tourist destination is a key objective, to enhance the vitality of the town centre.

3.8 The Night-Time Economy and residential development

Hertford's brewing heritage is visible in the Maltings now converted into residential housing in West Street and Railway Place. Today, the town centre has a wide range of pubs, nightclubs, cocktail bars and restaurants, drawing in many visitors, especially at the weekend. It's fair to say that while many residents and visitors delight in the night-time economy, there can be conflicts with daytime businesses and town centre residents, particularly around noise and litter, as evidenced by informal feedback. Equally, town centre residential properties need to be designed in order to respect their town centre location. It is recommended that business premises be sound insulated to a high level with dedicated bin stores so that commercial bins are not left out on the street. Residential conversions and developments should be sound insulated to a high level, include dedicated bin stores so that domestic bins are not left out on town centre streets, be designed to take into consideration the pedestrianised nature of the centre, with its many Traffic Regulation Orders and include bike storage. Encouraging high-quality sustainable development while reducing conflict between the night-time economy and town centre residents is a key priority.

3.9 Gascoyne Way and Ware Road industrial estates

The A414, Gascoyne Way, driven through the town in the 1970s, divides the town, carrying a many thousands of vehicles heading for destinations beyond Hertford. A number of small business parks and industrial estates have sprung up on its west side, to take advantage of its connective potential: Mimram Road and Wareham's Lane host a number of manufacturing, construction and motor vehicle businesses requiring larger spaces. A furniture showroom is located at the junction with West Street. Caxton Hill off the Ware Road has recently been redeveloped with a new industrial site. A priority is to protect these larger business sites, noting that they are protected under Policy HERT6 of the 2018 East Herts District Plan.

3.10 Neighbourhood shops, services and hospitality

While the majority of businesses are in the town centre or on the Gascoyne Way periphery, local neighbourhood shops, pubs and restaurants are essential to the communities they serve. These neighbourhood businesses serve a different role from the town centre, providing day-to-day services, reducing the need to travel and acting as important community hubs for local residents.

The 16th century White Horse Inn, is a beautiful country pub in Hertingfordbury village, frequented by locals and visitors alike. Hornsmill is served by two very well used local shops, including a post office, as well as the top-rated Ginger Bar restaurant. Bengoe South depends on the Mind the Gap station shop, which serves commuters and residents alike. The Great Eastern Tavern is Kingsmead West's much loved local station pub, and Friths Domestic Appliance repair shop on Talbot Street is an integral part of the community. Mead Lane 's new hairdresser and established café support local residents, local employees and commuters. As more developments come forward, local shops and cafes/pubs, within walking distance, which can be a hub for communities become even more important. A priority is to protect neighbourhood shops and businesses and make sure that new developments either contain or are close to suitable local facilities.

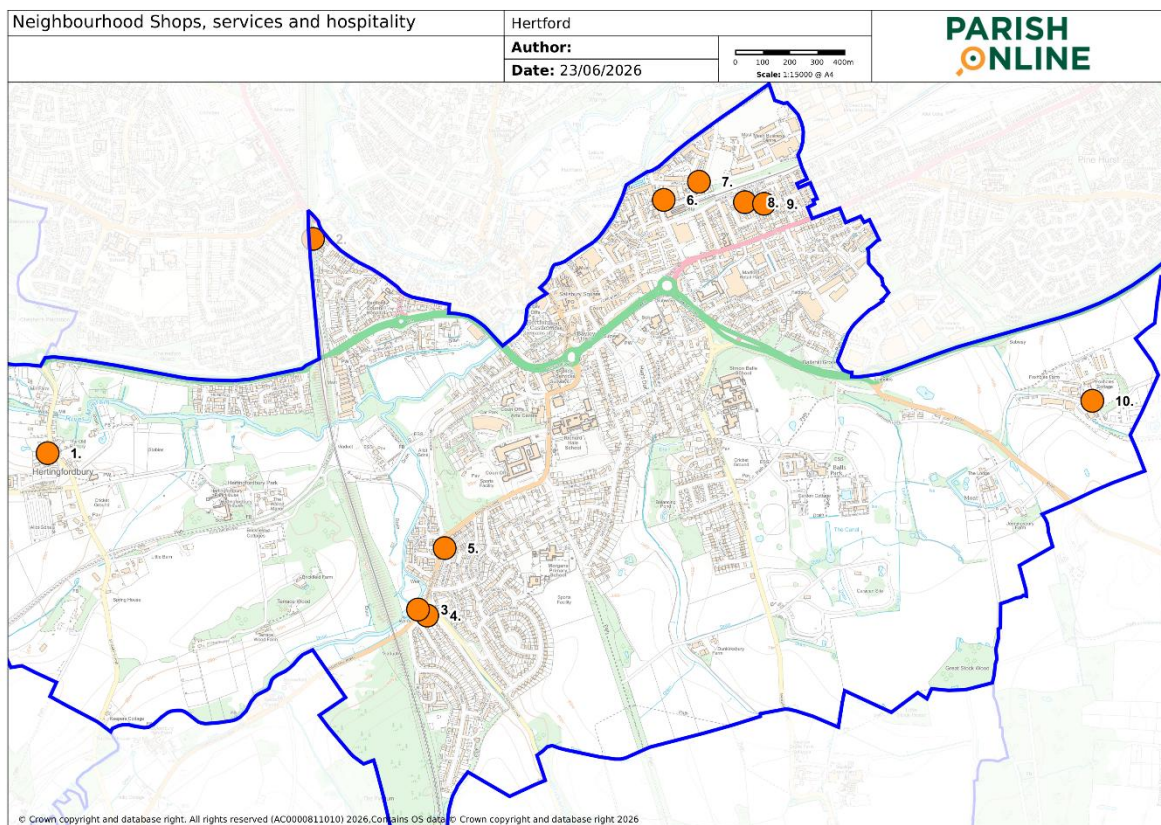


Figure 1: Neighbourhood Shops, services and hospitality within the Castle Plus Area.

1. White Horse Inn, Hertingfordbury Village
2. Mind the Gap convenience store, Hertford North Station
3. Ginger Bar and Restaurant, Hornsmill
4. Mac's General Store, Hornsmill
5. Grape & Grain Convenience Store
6. Johnson Blythe Hairdressers
7. Mead Lane Café
8. Great Eastern Tavern public house
9. Friths Domestic Appliance repair shop
10. Foxholes Farm Shop

Neighbourhood shops, services and hospitality



3.11 Farming

The Castle Plus area is bounded on the west and south by Green Belt land, much of which is farmland. Foxholes Farm specialises in beef cattle and other livestock, while Swallow Grove is an arable farm, farming some of the fields close to Morgan's Walk. Bayfordbury Farm lies between St Mary's Lane and the Lower Hatfield Road. Food security is a priority and it is recommended that space for arable and livestock farming are protected.

3.12 Infrastructure to support businesses

- i) London Road car park should be protected as it is the sole Car Park capable of accommodating commercial vehicles including coaches.
 - ii) Delivery points, such as postboxes and lockers should be included in new developments.
 - iii) Letterboxes should be placed at waist height or above to facilitate deliveries.
- New developments should include infrastructure to support the increase in online shopping and local deliveries.

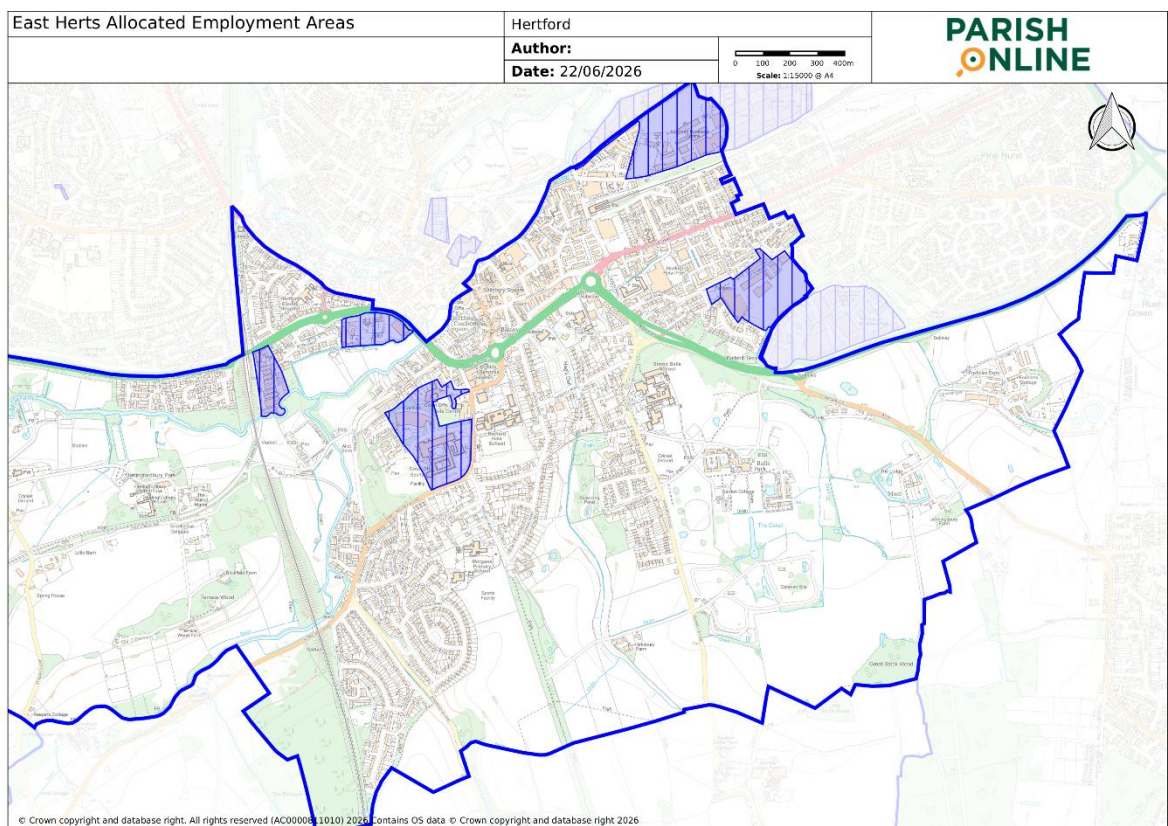


Figure 2: Employment area map within the Castle Plus Area.

4. Relevant sections from the East Herts District Plan 2018

- 4.1 The following extracts are reproduced from the East Herts District Plan 2018 as they provide relevant strategic planning context for the Business and Economy Annex. The numbering shown (e.g. 16.3.1, 7.3.4 and HERT6) relates to the original paragraph and policy references within the District Plan and has been retained for ease of reference

(Ref: District Plan)

- 16.3.1 In order to secure the vitality and viability of the district's retail centres, it is important for planning policy to seek to retain a high proportion of units for retail uses, but to also acknowledge the changing role town centres have in providing social and cultural experiences, both now and in the future. A mixture of uses in the right locations can encourage activity throughout the day and into the evening, providing for social as well as retail needs, thus enhancing the role of town centres. Therefore, where planning permission is required, the Council will seek to retain a high proportion of shop uses in the town centre.
- 16.3.3 In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Council will apply a sequential test to applications for main town centre uses. The main town centre uses, as defined in the NPPF, should be located in the town centre, then in edge of centre locations, and only if suitable sites are not available,

should out of centre locations be considered. When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre. The Council and the applicant will demonstrate flexibility on issues such as format and scale

16.5.1 Whilst acknowledging permitted development opportunities, it is not appropriate to take a relaxed approach to development within East Herts' town centres, nor is it appropriate to prevent changes of use from A1 (Shop) uses to other uses, as to do so could prevent diversity and stifle investment, resulting in vacant uses. However, it is appropriate to seek to maintain a high proportion of A1 (Shop) uses in order to ensure the vitality and viability of the town centres, so that they are able to perform their function as retail and leisure destinations, and to distinguish between the primary and secondary frontages. For the purpose of this policy and for the application of the Prior Approval process, an adequate provision of A1 and A2 is defined as at least 50% of units in a single frontage being in A1 and A2 uses. A single frontage is normally described as an unbroken row of shops, usually within two side roads and is shown on the Policies Map. Policy RTC3 Primary Shopping Frontages In order to protect the vitality and viability of the Primary Shopping Areas, within the Primary Shopping Frontages in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware, as defined on the Policies Map, proposals for Use Class A1 will be supported in principle as the preferred use, while Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 will be supported in principle provided they have an active frontage and there remains an adequate provision of A1 and A2 uses which support its role as a Primary Shopping Frontage.

16.7 Markets and Specialist Events 16.7.1 Markets, Farmers Markets and specialist events are an important feature of town centres, promoting the identity of the town, while increasing visitor numbers which creates additional trade for other town centre premises on market day. Specialist markets also draw in visitors from further afield and are key selling opportunities for local farms, smallholders and the crafting community. 16.7.2 The Council's Economic Development Vision for East Herts seeks to maintain and enhance markets and specialist events in town centres, and the Council will work with partners to deliver such events. Development proposals that enhance the town centre environment to support market and specialist events will be encouraged.

7.3 Employment in Hertford 7.3.1 The county town of Hertford retains its traditional brewing role, albeit on a reduced basis from that of bygone times. The town has evolved its employment base over time to reflect changing needs and currently contains a broad spectrum of employment from industrial to prestige office accommodation with varying sized enterprises in its employment areas. 7.3.2 Hertford's location in relation to accessing the major road network means that it is an attractive place for businesses to locate; however, the A414 has a propensity towards congestion, especially at peak times, which can affect ease of access to some areas and will require mitigation in line with the provisions of Hertfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 4. It is currently proposed that this will include provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 in combination with Sustainable Travel Town initiatives. 7.3.3 Hertford benefits from having the District's largest local authority employer, Hertfordshire County Council, located in the town. Other public and

private sector employment premises also lie in close proximity to County Hall.

- 7.3.4 In order to continue to provide opportunities for businesses to serve the town and nearby settlements in the surrounding area, the strategy will be to protect and enhance the existing employment areas in Hertford and to supplement this by the formal designation of the Pegs Lane area which has long been in employment use.

Policy HERT6 Employment in Hertford I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas: (a) Caxton Hill; (b) Foxholes Business Park; (c) Hartham Lane; Chapter 7 . Hertford (d) Mead Lane - East of Marshgate Drive (including the provisions of Policy HERT2 Mead Lane Area); (e) Mimram Road; (f) Warehams Lane; (g) Windsor Industrial Estate, Ware Road. II. In addition, in accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following location is designated as an Employment Area reserved primarily for B1 use: (a) Pegs Lane.

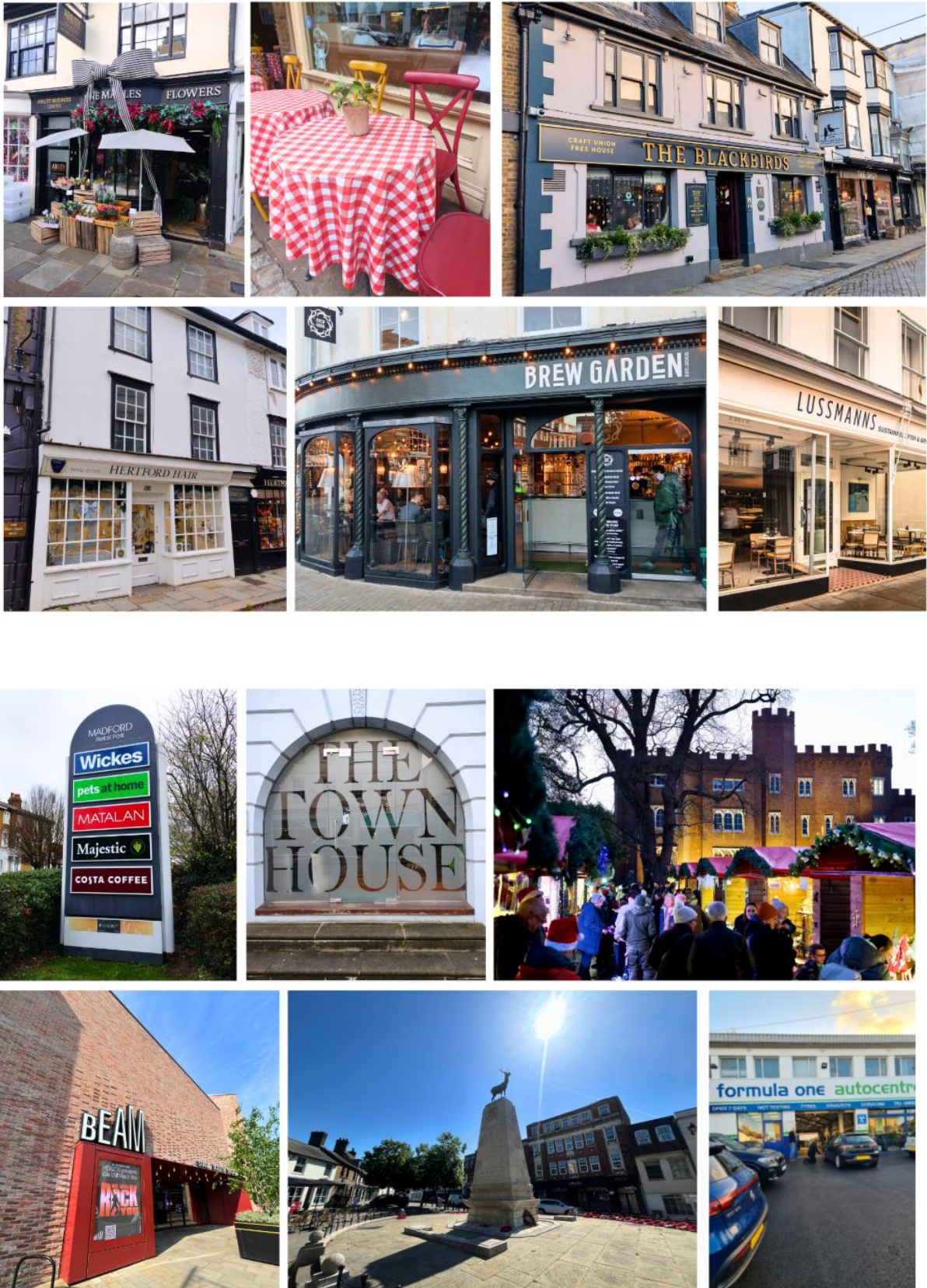
- 7.4 **Retail in Hertford** 7.4.1 Classed as a Secondary Town Centre, Hertford provides a wide range of comparison and convenience shopping in addition to other service needs. This offer serves both its own residents and those of surrounding settlements. Hertford's markets, food and drink facilities and successful night-time economy also draw patronage from wider locations. 7.4.2 However, its historic development pattern, while providing a unique character which acts as an attractor, also limits the potential of the town to expand its retail function in its central core. 7.4.3 Within some of its residential areas, Hertford also benefits from local parades and individual shops, which provide valuable resources for local people and passing trade, in addition to the retail offer in the town centre.

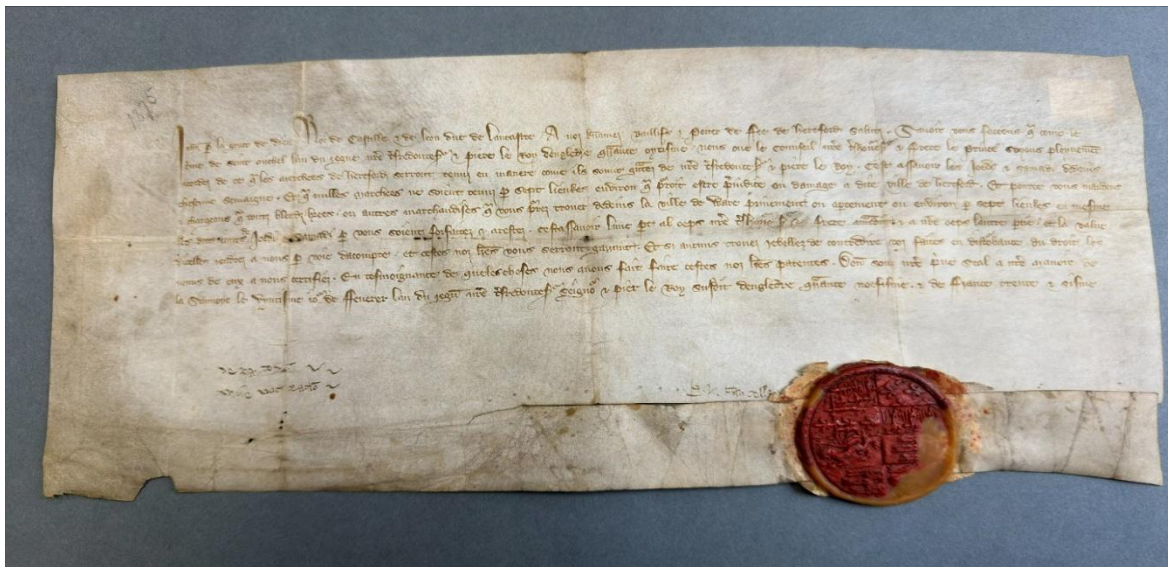
Policy HERT7 Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy Development proposals in Hertford Town Centre will be expected to take account of, and positively contribute to, proposals contained within the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy, as appropriate.

5. References

- East Hertfordshire District Council Call for Sites [Call for Sites | East Herts District Council](#)
East Hertfordshire District Plan 2018 [The East Herts District Plan 2018 | East Herts District Council](#)
- EHDC's 2016 Employment study [Hertford and Ware Employment Study joined.pdf](#)
Hertford town centre vacancy rate [Vacancy rate below average despite closures | Local News | about HERTFORD](#)
- Hertford Town Council's Tourism Strategy Research [Hertford Town Council Sustainable Tourism Strategy Secondary Research Report](#)
Hertford Urban Design Strategy 2015 [Hertford Urban Design Strategy \(HUDS\) | East Herts District Council](#)
- Herts Insight reports on Hertfordshire economy, work and education [Economy, work and education | Herts Insight](#)

6. Photos





Hertford Market Charter (1375). Courtesy of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS); image supplied by Paul Williams.



Annex 4 – Projects List

Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan

Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan Project List



Green Spaces & Nature x 12

Living & Movement x 7

Business & Economy x 4

Community Facilities & Projects x 1

Priority Key:

HIGH PRIORITY

MEDIUM PRIORITY

LOW PRIORITY

Project Timescales: Short term: **1 to 3 years**

Medium term: **4 to 7 years**

Long term: **8 years and beyond**

● = Included in map

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P1 Willowmead Reserve ●	OBJECTIVE: Establish and maintain Willowmead Reserve as a protected ecological, educational and community resource. ACTIONS: Confirm ownership, legal boundaries and long-term management arrangements for Willowmead Reserve. Establish appropriate insurance, access arrangements and operational procedures for volunteers, visitors, contractors and other authorised users. Install and maintain ecological and educational infrastructure, including nest boxes, signage, pathways and raised walkways where appropriate. Publish guide and trail notes for educational use. Establish management team and maintenance plan. Carry out observational fieldwork. Install educational signage and nesting boxes. Run school lectures on Woodland and the Chalk Stream. Arrange school visits to the reserve. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term	Potentially applicable	Need to work with HMWT/ EHDC/HTC. Possibly BNG units – maybe through a BNG company. Grant funding, community fundraising, donations and environmental improvement funding.	HIGH

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P2 Green Spaces and Corridors Species Listing	OBJECTIVE: Protect green spaces and corridors. ACTIONS: Carry out bi-seasonal species surveys. Publish a programme for improvement and maintenance.	Short Term		Work with HMWT/HTC/HERC and other local nature groups	HIGH
P3 Nature Trail (s)	OBJECTIVE: Provide greater access to nature within the Castle Plus area. ACTIONS: Publish mapped nature trail(s). Produce simple guide notes for the trails. Explain local green corridors, green fingers, protected habitats and wildlife sites through trail information and interpretation materials.	Short Term		Work with HTC/HMWT and other community and nature groups	MEDIUM
P4 Hertingfordbury Roundabout 	OBJECTIVE: Improve the environmental quality and visual appearance of the Hertingfordbury roundabout as a gateway to Hertford. ACTIONS: Introduce wildlife-friendly tree, shrub and flower planting. Install a “Welcome to Hertford” sign for eastbound traffic. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		Work with HCC and HTC – possibly sponsorship from local businesses and organisations such as Groundwork East and Mudlarks	LOW
P5 Willowmead Roundabout 	OBJECTIVE: Improve the appearance and biodiversity value of the roundabout. ACTIONS: Tidy the roundabout and remove redundant signage Plant a single silver birch tree.	Short Term		Work with HCC and HTC – possibly sponsorship from local businesses and organisations such as Groundwork East and Mudlarks	LOW

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
	Introduce low plants and flowers to enhance planting and biodiversity. Continuous maintenance.				
P6 Roundabout biodiversity and planting improvements Cross Lane Roundabout Castle Street Roundabout Fore Street Roundabout A414 / Fore Street corner	OBJECTIVE: Improve appearance and biodiversity value. ACTIONS: Maintain existing planting where appropriate. Introduce wildlife-friendly shrubs, grasses and flowering plants. Replace redundant signage where necessary. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		Work with HTC and consider possible sponsorship from local businesses and organisations such as Groundwork East and Mudlarks HTC have requested wildlife-friendly planting from HCC and EHDC	LOW
P7 Wentworth Road Green Space 	OBJECTIVE: Protect greenspaces, enhance outdoor spaces ACTIONS: Encourage active engagement with the environment, particularly by younger people. Replace dead trees. Increase areas of natural grassland. Install community seating. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		HCC greenspace. Work with HCC on the green space and trees and HTC on the benches.	LOW
P8 Morgans Road grass verge and trees 	OBJECTIVE: Protect the grass verge and trees on Morgans Road while improving pedestrian safety and encouraging walking and cycling to local schools and facilities. ACTIONS: Install bollards or other natural barriers to prevent vehicles parking on the grass verge. Protect and maintain existing trees and verge habitat. Encourage users of Richard Hale Sports Field and Morgans School to walk or cycle where possible and park responsibly. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		Work with HCC on the verge and bollards. Work with HCC/EHDC/HTC/schools on active travel	LOW

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P9 County Hall Cricket Pitch and Woodland Area 	OBJECTIVE: Retain and enhance the County Hall cricket pitch and Woodland Area as a valued outdoor space for recreation and nature. ACTIONS: Increase appropriate community use of the field for sports and leisure. Protect mature trees bordering the grass through Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate. Explore opportunities for community groups and organisations to use the space. Support recognition of the site as an Asset of Community Value.	Medium Term	Potentially applicable from Playing Pitches Contribution Woodland funding from Parks & Gardens and Amenity Green Spaces Contribution	NOTE: County Hall – Cricket Pitch and woodland is listed as an Asset of Community Value - ACv 11/25. Work with developers of the site.	LOW
P10 Rivers Mimram and Lea 	OBJECTIVE: Improve the environmental condition of the Rivers Mimram and Lea where it enters the Castle Grounds. ACTIONS: Remove debris and waste from the section of river entering the Castle Grounds from the A414 near St Andrew's Church. Work with relevant authorities and community groups to support ongoing maintenance. Continuous maintenance.	Medium Term	Potentially.	Work with HTC and the Environment Agency and River Mimram Catchment Partnership as well as community groups River improvements included in the Castle Green Space Renewal Project funded by the lottery. Include rebuilding of the riverbank.	MEDIUM
P11 The Spinney Woodland 	OBJECTIVE: Protect and preserve The Spinney woodland as an important natural habitat within a built-up area of Hertford. ACTIONS: Explore options for formal protection of the woodland between The Spinney house and the industrial estate. Maintain the area as a space where nature can thrive within the surrounding residential and business community. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term	Potentially applicable.	Work with HTC/EHDC/HCC to establish ownership. Potential S106/BNG funding. Close to Hertford Telephone Exchange site Funding from Parks & Gardens and Amenity Greenspace Contribution and/or Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace Contribution	LOW

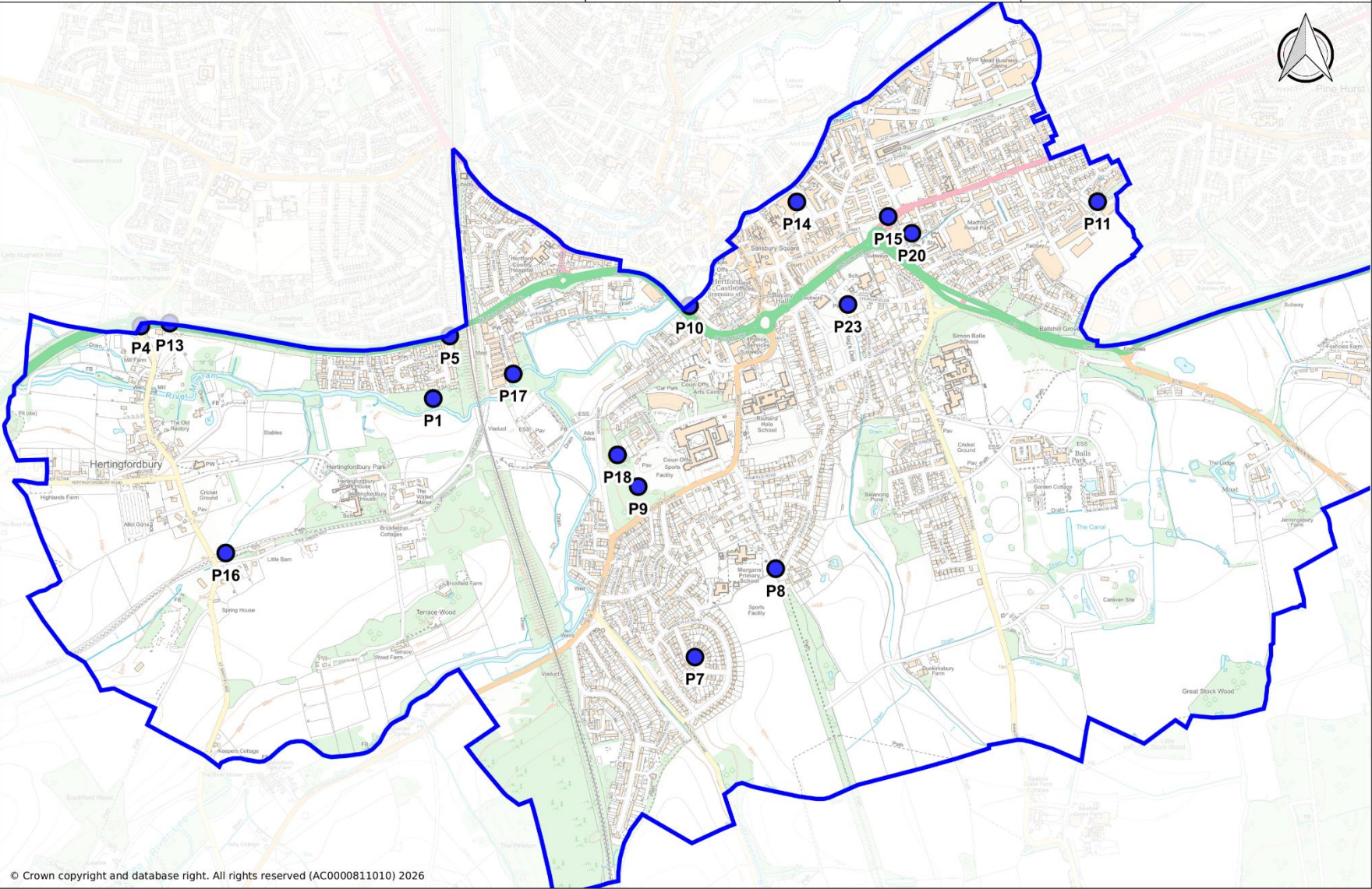
PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P12 Mandeville Road ‘S’ Bend 	OBJECTIVE: Improve safety and habitat quality at the Mandeville Road “S” bend while encouraging community use of the green space. ACTIONS: Protect and maintain existing trees and planting. Install measures to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement. Explore installation of steps or informal paths through the grass to improve access. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		Maintained by EHDC, probably owned HCC. Work with both to improve planting. Work with HCC on pavement and pathways	LOW
P13 A414 pedestrian crossing with traffic lights near Thieves Lane roundabout. 	OBJECTIVE: To link Hertingfordbury and Hertford visibly and sustainably for pedestrians/cyclists. ACTIONS: Investigate installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing near the Thieves Lane roundabout. Improve safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists along the A414. Continuous maintenance.	Long Term		Potential project to improve safety at Thieves Lane roundabout in LCWIP – for example by Dutch style roundabout. If prioritised in LCWIP, HCC will be actively seeking funding.	HIGH
P14 Waiting room/cafe kiosk or other shared facility at Hertford bus station 	OBJECTIVE: Encourage greater use of the bus station and promote public transport. ACTIONS: Options being explored	Medium Term		Work with private owners/HCC/EHDC. Maybe funding available through active travel grants.	HIGH
P15 Short cycle route alongside pavement outside Christ’s Hospital. 	OBJECTIVE: Improve cycling connectivity between Fore Street and the Tesco / Mill Road / Ware Road area. (while avoiding Stag House roundabout). ACTIONS: Create a short cycle link alongside the pavement outside Christ’s Hospital (50 meters). Enable cyclists to avoid the Stag House roundabout.	Medium Term		Work with cycling groups and HCC Highways.	HIGH

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P16 Footway (or, if feasible, shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists) between St Mary's Church in Hertingfordbury and Cole Green Way 	OBJECTIVE: Provide a safe off-road connection between Hertingfordbury and the Cole Green Way to improve connectivity and encourage greater use of the route. ACTIONS: Explore creation of a pedestrian footway or shared-use path between St Mary's Church and the Cole Green Way. Provide a safer alternative to pedestrians currently walking along a very busy road. Improve access for walkers and cyclists to the Cole Green Way.	Medium Term	Potentially applicable	Work with private owners, EHDC and HCC. If Terrace Wood comes forward could be S106 available.	HIGH
P17 Bridleway / shared route between Cole Green Way viaduct and Mimram Road 	OBJECTIVE: Improve access to the Cole Green Way for residents of Hertford. ACTIONS: Create a shared route for pedestrians and cyclists between the Cole Green Way viaduct and Mimram Road. Use existing paths or former railway alignment where possible. Continuous maintenance	Medium Term	Potentially applicable	Work with private owners, Environment Agency/ EHDC and HCC	MEDIUM
P18 Bridleway/shared-use route for pedestrians and cyclists between Leahoe House and Horns Road 	OBJECTIVE: Provide a step-free route for pedestrians, mobility vehicles and cyclists between the Leahoe House area and the Cole Green Way, avoiding the busy B158. The existing footpath between Leahoe House and the Cole Green Way includes a steep flight of steps and is not accessible to many users. ACTIONS: Identify and assess a suitable route between Leahoe House and Horns Road. Work with relevant authorities and landowners to explore delivery of the route. Investigate feasibility, design and funding options for a shared-use path. Continuous maintenance.	Medium Term	Yes. Potential for improvements to be included as a bespoke contribution obligation.	Developments at Leahoe House and County Hall. Work with HCC/EHDC and private developers – identify in masterplanning process. This may be funded with HCC Sustainable Transport Contribution	HIGH

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
P19 Improve Gateway entrances and wayfinding signage to and within Hertford Town Centre	OBJECTIVE: Ensure the continued viability and vitality of Hertford town centre. ACTIONS: Improve wayfinding and connectivity across the town centre. Enhance gateway features at key arrival points, including a decorative arch and welcome signage at Gascoyne Way Car Park. Coordinate directional signage from Gascoyne Way Car Park, London Road Car Park, the Railway Station and Bus Station into the town centre. Improve routes to key destinations including the Library, Museum, Town & Tourist Information Centre (TTIC), Lea Wharf, Leisure Centre, BEAM and public toilets. Upgrade town and parking signage at principal approaches to Hertford, including the A414, Ware Road, Lower Hatfield Road and Bengoe Street. Continuous maintenance.	Short Term		NB In HTC Sustainable Tourism Strategy VMS in progress. Work with HCC/HTC/Civic Society to improve Wayfinding	MEDIUM
P20 London Road Car Park (coach/commercial parking) 	OBJECTIVE: Retain London Road car park as the town's main parking facility for coaches and commercial vehicles. ACTIONS: Protect the car park from redevelopment that would result in the loss of parking. Maintain suitable access and turning space for larger vehicles.	Short Term		EHDC asset. Work with EHDC and HTC to protect.	HIGH
P21 Town Centre Benches	OBJECTIVE: Encourage people to spend more time in the town centre and increase footfall. ACTIONS: Provide a network of benches.	Short Term		HTC Benches Scheme HTC have requested HCC for four benches. HCC confirmed possible community shelter in Hertingfordbury.	MEDIUM

PROJECT	OBJECTIVE / ACTION	TIMESCALE	S 106	FUNDING	PRIORITY
	Identify suitable locations for additional benches in the town centre. Install new seating where appropriate. Coordinate with existing public realm projects. Continuous maintenance.			Work with HTC/HCC/local businesses Priority	
P22 Safe Electric Bike Storage	OBJECTIVE: Encourage greater use of e-bikes and reduce reliance on cars. ACTIONS: Identify suitable locations for secure electric bike storage in the town centre. Install secure bike storage facilities. Work with relevant authorities and partners to support delivery.	Short Term	Potentially applicable S106 funding from HCC Sustainable Transport Contribution	May be grants available. Work with HCC/EHDC/HTC and possibly private owners NOTE: Check on St Andrews Street plan and Lea Wharf?	MEDIUM
P23 St John's Hall (All Saints Church Hall) 	OBJECTIVE: Revitalise St John's Hall as an important community facility to create a more accessible and inviting community space. ACTIONS: Refurbish interior spaces including kitchen and toilet facilities. Improve heating and replace worn furniture. Undertake external and structural improvements to the building.	Short/Medium Term Interior refurbishment within 2 years. Exterior and structural improvements within 4 years.	Potentially applicable Village Hall & Community Centre Contribution	Work with All Saints Church/ HTC and community groups. May be grants available from EHDC and other sources. Potential future development of the former Telephone Exchange site.	MEDIUM

Note from EHDC: All roundabouts verge & footpath improvements would come under HCC Highways – there may be potential for S106 funding, but most Highways Contributions go on infrastructure (road junctions & crossings)





Appendix 1: Local Green Space Descriptions

LGS1 County Hall Playing Field

Situated within the historic grounds of County Hall on Bullocks Lane, this Local Green Space comprises an attractive area of amenity grassland bordered by mature woodland to the south and west and impressive parkland trees to the north. It enjoys significant views towards the Grade II listed County Hall and forms an important part of the historic parkland setting. Informal pathways connect the field with the adjoining County Hall Woodland, while areas of wildflowers around the margins enhance both its visual appeal and biodiversity.



Although located close to the town centre, the playing field has a peaceful and secluded character. Surrounded by mature trees and woodland, it provides a quiet setting for informal recreation, walking and enjoyment of nature. An evocative sculpture carved from a tree trunk marks the entrance to the woodland and provides a distinctive landmark for visitors entering the space.

The playing field has served the local community since the late 1930s and was previously used for community events as well as organised and informal recreation. More recently, following the relocation of Hertfordshire County Council, public access has become less certain. Reduced maintenance and the temporary use of the grounds by film production companies have occasionally restricted access for local residents, highlighting the importance of protecting the site for future public enjoyment.

The open grassland, wildflower margins and surrounding mature trees provide valuable habitat for insects, birds and bats while contributing to the wider green infrastructure network within the Castle Plus area. Together with the adjoining woodland, the playing field forms an important green setting for one of Hertford's most significant historic civic buildings and is demonstrably special for its recreational, landscape and biodiversity value.

LGS2 County Hall Woodland

County Hall Woodland forms the western and southern boundary of the historic County Hall grounds and provides an attractive natural setting for the adjoining civic buildings. The historic woodland within the old garden Estate includes impressive Giant Redwoods planted during the Victorian era (seen as a botanical status symbol at the time). Old Scotts Pine trees are also present. The mature woodland includes Sycamore, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Field Maple, Elm, Hazel, Holly and Yew creating a diverse woodland that contributes significantly to the character of this part of Hertford.



The woodland supports a rich ground flora, including ancient woodland indicator species, while standing and fallen deadwood provide valuable habitat for fungi, invertebrates, reptiles, birds and mammals, including protected species. Towards the northern end of the woodland, a fenced area has naturally developed into tall herbs and scrub, further increasing the diversity of habitats found within the site.

A quiet footpath winds through the woodland, offering good views and a tranquil setting for walking and informal recreation. Despite being within easy walking distance of Hertford town centre, the woodland provides a peaceful retreat where residents and visitors can experience nature throughout the changing seasons.

County Hall Woodland forms an integral part of the wider green infrastructure network within the Castle Plus area. Its mature trees, diverse habitats, tranquillity and contribution to the historic setting of County Hall make it demonstrably special for its landscape, biodiversity and community value.

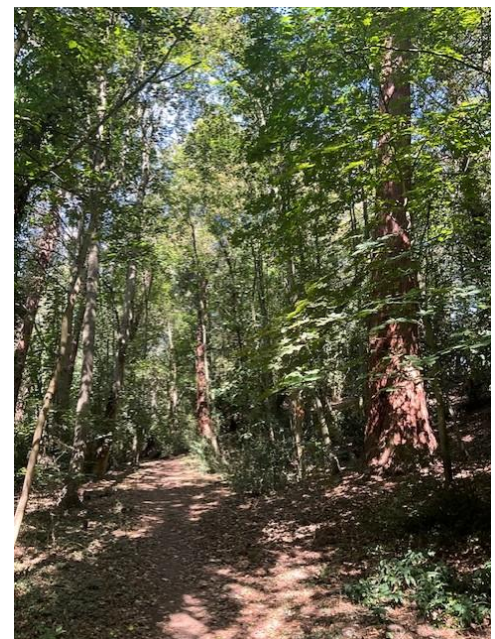
LGS3 Woodland and Meadow opposite West Street Playing Fields

This secluded Local Green Space occupies a steep slope between Horns Mill and the Wallfield Alley footpath, providing an attractive transition between the surrounding residential area and the River Lea floodplain. Surrounded by mature trees, it forms a peaceful natural landscape that contributes positively to the character of this part of Hertford.

At its centre is a semi-natural meadow of tall grasses and wildflowers, dominated by a mature Oak tree. The surrounding woodland creates a diverse range of habitats that support local wildlife and provide an attractive landscape throughout the changing seasons.

The meadow and woodland provide an important ecological link between woodland to the south and the River Lea floodplain to the north, allowing wildlife to move through the wider landscape. This connectivity makes the site an important component of the local green infrastructure network.

Its secluded setting, natural beauty and contribution to biodiversity make this Local Green Space a valued part of the local landscape and demonstrably special to the community.



LGS4 West Street / Horns Road Allotments

West Street and Horns Road Allotments are an attractive and well-established community growing space located close to the River Lea and surrounded by mature trees. The allotments provide an important green space close to Hertford town centre where residents can grow fruit and vegetables, enjoy outdoor activity and experience nature throughout the changing seasons.

The varied plots create a diverse landscape of cultivated beds, fruit trees, ponds, hedgerows and informal planting. Together with the surrounding mature trees, these habitats support a wide range of wildlife, including protected species, while contributing positively to the character of the area. The allotments also provide important ecological connectivity between the surrounding woodland, the River Lea and its floodplain habitats, allowing wildlife to move through the wider landscape. This contributes to the local green infrastructure network and enhances biodiversity within the Castle Plus area.



As a long-established community resource, the allotments are valued for food growing, recreation and their rich natural environment. Their combination of community use, biodiversity and contribution to the local landscape makes them demonstrably special to the local community.

LGS5 Sele Road Allotments

The Sele Road Allotments are a well-established community growing space situated between the tree-lined railway embankment and the gardens of Sele Road. Despite their urban location, the allotments retain a peaceful character and form an important green space within this part of Hertford.



The allotments support a rich variety of habitats including cultivated plots, tall grasses and herbs, native shrubs, fruit trees and hedgerows. This diverse mix of habitats creates an attractive landscape throughout the seasons while providing valuable opportunities for wildlife to flourish.

The gradual transition from the allotments to the mature trees along the railway embankment creates a structurally diverse habitat that forms an important wildlife corridor through the area. This connectivity allows wildlife to move between habitats and is particularly valuable for reptiles and birds, including protected species, and many invertebrates.

The allotments continue to be valued by the local community for food growing and their attractive natural setting. Their combination of community value, biodiversity and contribution to the wider green infrastructure network makes them demonstrably special within the Castle Plus area.

LGS6 Lovely Grub Garden

Lovely Grub Garden is a well-established community organic garden situated alongside Sele Road and a public footpath. It provides an attractive green space where local residents and families can enjoy gardening, nature and the changing seasons, creating a welcoming environment within this part of Hertford.

The garden supports a rich variety of habitats including flowerbeds, grassed areas, shrubs, mature trees and productive growing spaces.

Tall ivy-covered trees, young Oak saplings and a substantial Privet hedge interspersed with Hawthorn, provide valuable shelter, nesting opportunities and an attractive green boundary to the site.

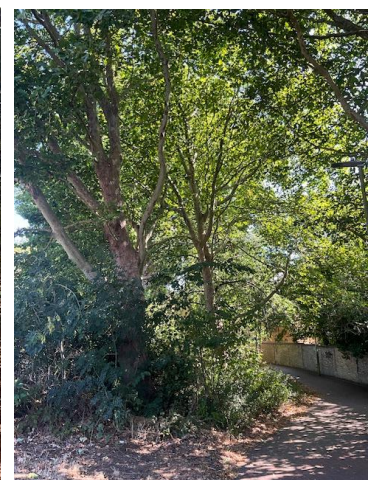


The varied planting supports an impressive diversity of wildlife. Numerous House Sparrows, a Priority Species, have been recorded within the garden, together with Slow Worms, also a Priority Species. The mix of trees, hedgerows and flowering plants provides food, shelter and breeding opportunities for a wide range of birds, insects and other wildlife.

Lovely Grub Garden is valued by the local community as a place where people of all ages can enjoy gardening, learn about nature and spend time outdoors together. Its combination of community value, biodiversity and attractive landscape character makes it demonstrably special within the Castle Plus area.

LGS7 Riversmeet / A414

Riversmeet is a well-used green space alongside the A414 that provides an attractive break from one of Hertford's busiest roads. A footpath curves gently away from the roadside, passing behind a group of mature trees that create a natural buffer between pedestrians and traffic. This simple separation gives the space a surprisingly peaceful character despite its busy surroundings.



The defining feature of the site is a magnificent mature London Plane tree, accompanied by several other mature trees that have become a well-known local landmark. For many residents, the Plane tree has become a symbol of nature and longevity, providing a reassuring sense of permanence within an area that has experienced considerable change over time.

The group of mature trees provides valuable habitat for invertebrates, birds and mammals while creating important ecological connectivity through surrounding gardens to the River Lea floodplain. Together they soften the visual impact of the A414, provide shade and make a significant contribution to the local landscape.

Riversmeet is valued for its mature trees, biodiversity and peaceful character. The separation created by the trees and footpath provides a welcome opportunity to experience nature alongside a busy road, making this Local Green Space demonstrably special to the local community.

LGS8 Hertford Castle Lawn

Hertford Castle Lawn forms the central open space within the historic grounds of Hertford Castle and provides one of the town's most recognisable and well-used public green spaces. Surrounded by mature trees, the historic castle walls and the River Lea, the lawn provides an attractive setting for everyday recreation as well as community events throughout the year.

The open grassed area is widely used by residents and visitors for relaxation, informal recreation, picnics and public gatherings. It also hosts a range of civic events and celebrations, reinforcing its importance as a focal point for community life within Hertford.



Beyond its recreational value, the lawn makes a significant contribution to the setting of the Grade I listed Hertford Castle Gatehouse and Hertford Castle as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Together with the surrounding mature trees, riverside landscape and historic structures, it creates an important green space at the heart of the town.

Its combination of historic significance, community use, landscape quality and contribution to the character of Hertford makes Hertford Castle Lawn demonstrably special to the local community.

LGS9 Hertford Castle Moat Garden

The Moat Garden is a peaceful public garden situated within the historic Castle Grounds, immediately south of Hertford Castle Lawn. Forming part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, it contains the remains of the former outer ditch (moat) together with the Grade II listed Ice House, creating a unique combination of heritage and green space within the heart of Hertford.



The garden comprises amenity grassland, ornamental planting, mature Cherry trees and other scattered trees, together with a flowerbed of sensory plants managed by the local charity Mudlarks. A number of benches are set amongst the mature trees, creating an attractive and sheltered space where people can sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings throughout the year.

Unlike the open Castle Lawn, the Moat Garden has a more intimate and enclosed character. The mature trees and historic walls create a tranquil environment that is widely used by residents, visitors and office workers seeking a quiet place to spend time, particularly during lunch breaks. The bordering mature trees also provide valuable habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife while complementing the wider green corridor created by the River Lea and Castle Grounds.

Its combination of historic interest, tranquillity, biodiversity and community value makes Hertford Castle Moat Garden demonstrably special within the Castle Plus area.

LGS10 Fore Street (East End)

Located at the eastern end of Fore Street, this attractive area of green space lies between the retail frontage and Gascoyne Way, creating an important landscaped setting at one of the principal approaches to Hertford town centre. It is particularly well used by pedestrians, including many school children who pass through the nearby subway as part of their daily journey to and from school.

A large mature London Plane dominates the site, accompanied by three Whitebeam and two ornamental Cherry trees (*Prunus yedoensis* and *Prunus sargentii*). Yew, Plum and Sycamore combine to form a dense belt of planting along the western and southern boundaries, creating an attractive green buffer that helps separate pedestrians from the busy surrounding road network.



The mature trees and varied planting provide valuable habitat for invertebrates, birds and other wildlife while softening the built environment and adding seasonal colour, shade and interest throughout the year. Together they create an attractive and welcoming landscape that is appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

This Local Green Space is a fine example of how Hertford successfully integrates mature trees, green infrastructure and the historic built environment. Its contribution to the townscape, biodiversity and everyday experience of people using this busy part of the town makes it demonstrably special to the local community.

LGS11 Morgans Road Grass Verge

This distinctive strip of green verge and mature trees forms an important landscape feature at the southern end of Morgans Road, adjoining the entrance to Morgans Primary School and the neighbouring playing fields. Together with the tree-lined avenue of Morgans Walk and the mature Lime trees along Queens Road, it contributes significantly to the character of this part of Hertford and creates an attractive green setting for the surrounding residential area.



The verge provides a natural meeting place for families before and after the school day, where children, parents and carers gather beneath the mature trees. The combination of open grass and established tree planting creates an attractive and welcoming environment within this busy part of the neighbourhood.

The mature trees and grassland provide valuable habitat for insects, birds and small mammals while extending the wildlife corridor between the Lime trees along Queens Road and the tree-lined Morgans Walk. This important connectivity contributes to the wider green infrastructure network and enhances biodiversity within the area.

Its combination of community value, mature trees and contribution to biodiversity makes Morgans Road Grass Verge demonstrably special to the local community.

Area: Approximately 0.1 hectares.

LGS12 Wentworth Road Green

Wentworth Road Green is an attractive oval of open grassland situated at the heart of the Mandeville Road housing estate. Scattered with mature deciduous trees, recently planted young trees and areas of seasonal wildflowers, it provides a peaceful green setting amongst the surrounding properties and contributes positively to the character of this residential neighbourhood.



Designated as a ball-free area, the green offers a tranquil environment where residents of all ages can walk, sit and enjoy the natural surroundings. Local residents planted spring bulbs in the area. Children regularly pass through the green on their journeys to and from school, providing opportunities to experience and interact with the natural environment.

The green contains around seven mature trees that rise above the surrounding properties, giving them a strong visual presence within the estate, while approximately ten juvenile trees are becoming established for future generations. Birds, insects and other wildlife benefit from the mature trees, grassland and wildflower areas, creating an important habitat that reflects the surrounding rural landscape of woods and fields.

Wentworth Road itself is lined with mature Pear and Cherry trees, reinforcing the leafy character of the neighbourhood. Together, the mature trees, open grassland and seasonal planting create a peaceful oasis within the Mandeville Road estate, making Wentworth Road Green demonstrably special to the local community.

Area: Approximately 0.14 hectares.

LGS13 'S' Bend Mandeville Road Green Space

These two broad grassy banks form an attractive entrance to the Mandeville Road housing estate. Scattered with mature trees, areas of wildflowers and spring bulbs planted by local residents, they create a distinctive landscape that reflects the surrounding rural character of woodland, hedgerows and open countryside.

The green spaces are regularly used by residents walking between homes, schools, Hertford town centre and the surrounding countryside. A bench positioned part-way up the slope provides an opportunity to rest while enjoying views towards the trees bordering Brickendon Brook. The mature trees and wooded areas create a peaceful natural setting despite the nearby roads.



The larger upper slope contains numerous mature native trees and hedgerows which, together with the grassland, provide valuable habitat for birds, bats, insects, mammals and Slow Worms. These habitats connect with the adjoining wildlife corridors along Brickendon Lane and Brickendon Brook, contributing to the wider green infrastructure network and reflecting the character of the surrounding rural landscape.

The combination of natural beauty, biodiversity, community use and local stewardship through the planting of spring bulbs makes this Local Green Space demonstrably special within the Castle Plus area.

Area: Approximately 0.19 hectares.

LGS14 Cecil Road Play Area and Woodland

Cecil Road Play Area and Woodland is an attractive open green space located on the western edge of the Hornsmill housing estate. Combining formal play facilities, open grassland, wildflower areas, mature trees and adjacent woodland, it provides an important natural and recreational space for the local community.

The site includes separate play areas for younger and older children, together with open grass suitable for informal games, seating and recently planted trees. Beyond these maintained areas, mature woodland, hedgerows, scrub and landscaped earth mounds create a varied natural environment where generations of local children have explored and played.



Known locally for many years as "The Pit", the area has long been a valued part of community life. The woodland and wildflower areas provide valuable habitat for insects, butterflies, birds, bats and mammals. Together with the adjoining railway corridor, farmland and extensive woodland beyond, they create an important wildlife corridor allowing species to move between the varied habitats of the Bayfordbury Estate and the wider countryside.

Its combination of recreation, biodiversity, landscape character and long-standing community value makes Cecil Road Play Area and Woodland demonstrably special to the local community.

Area: Approximately 1.06 hectares.

Reference: LGS14 & LGS15: Website that has recorded the memories of local residents and provides historical backdrop to community use of Cecil Road Play Area and Granny Walkers Woods

[A kid's life in Cecil Road Hertford in the 1950s | A kid's life in Cecil Road Hertford in the 1950s | Our Hertford and Ware](#)

LGS15 Granny Walkers Wood

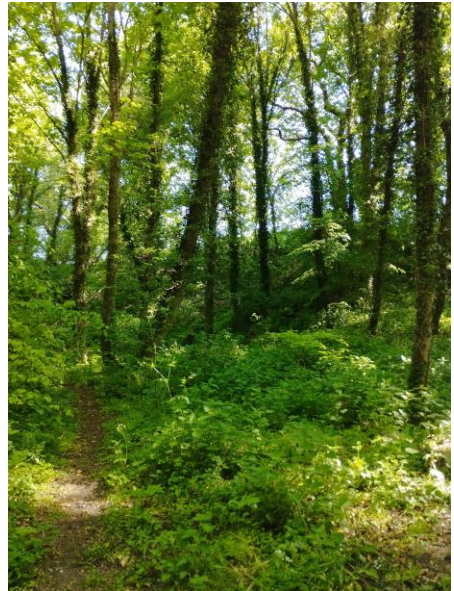
Granny Walkers Wood is one of the most cherished natural spaces within the Castle Plus area. This remnant of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland has been enjoyed by generations of local residents for walking, jogging, exploring and experiencing nature. Local memories stretch back to the 1950s, when children played amongst the woodland's distinctive landforms, including bomb craters thought to date from the Second World War.

A network of informal footpaths winds through the woodland, crossing the wooded bourne and passing beneath a mature canopy dominated by Sycamore, Ash with Hazel coppice. The ground flora includes ancient woodland indicator species such as Dog's Mercury and Bluebells, creating a rich and changing landscape throughout the seasons.

The woodland supports exceptional biodiversity, providing habitat for a wide range of invertebrates, birds, bats and mammals. Species recorded include Red Kite, Owl, Cuckoo, Woodpecker, Song Thrush and Badger. Together with Brickendon Brook, the woodland forms an important wildlife corridor identified within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and also plays an important role in slowing surface water entering the brook during periods of heavy rainfall.

Its outstanding landscape quality, biodiversity, tranquillity and long association with the local community make Granny Walkers Wood one of the most significant green spaces within the Castle Plus area.

Area: Approximately 1.14 hectares.



LGS16 Hertingfordbury Village Green

Situated at the heart of Hertingfordbury, the Village Green provides an attractive and tranquil focal point for the local community. Surrounded by historic buildings, mature trees and open countryside, it makes an important contribution to the character and identity of the village.

The green contains traditional flowerbeds, seating and the distinctive village post box, creating an inviting place where residents and visitors can pause and enjoy views across the adjoining fields. Its peaceful setting reflects the rural character that continues to define Hertingfordbury.



The mature trees, grass and planting provide habitat for insects and birds while contributing to the wider green network extending through the village and into the surrounding countryside.

Its attractive setting, contribution to village character and value as a quiet place for people to meet, rest and enjoy the surrounding landscape make Hertingfordbury Village Green demonstrably special to the local community.

LGS17 Hertingfordbury Road Allotments

Located on the edge of Hertingfordbury, these long-established community allotments occupy an attractive rural setting with open views towards the Cole Green Way and the surrounding countryside.

The cultivated plots, fruit trees, hedgerows and informal planting create a rich variety of habitats that support birds, insects and other wildlife while contributing positively to local biodiversity. The allotments form part of the wider network of green spaces connecting the village with the surrounding landscape.

The allotments continue to be valued for food growing, healthy outdoor activity and community involvement, while providing a tranquil setting in which residents can enjoy gardening and connect with the natural environment.

Their combination of community value, biodiversity, tranquillity and contribution to the rural landscape makes Hertingfordbury Road Allotments demonstrably special to the local community.



Appendix 2: Wildlife Corridors – Descriptions, Habitats and Important Species

CPNP Wildlife Corridors

Ref no	Corridor Name	Corridor Description	Main Habitats	Associated Important Species
WC1	The River Lea south of Terrace Wood east to The Wash	From St Mary's Lane, the River Lea flows through a patch of Priority woodland with marshy grassland around Bayfordbury Park Farm. The corridor from the Lea extends northwards across grassland and ditches to the ancient woodland remnant of Terrace Wood (LGS32, AWI, WS, APIB). The woodland is predominantly oak/ hornbeam with elm, sycamore, ash, silver birch, cherry and hazel. Additional priority broadleaf woodland to the north (LGS31) connects to the Cole Green Way ((LGS27, APIB, WS) that leads to the Mimram viaduct. Below the viaduct is the Mimram meadow (LGS23 APIB, WS) that supports species diverse neutral grassland with marshy areas and scattered trees. Mature trees include: oak, hornbeam, ash, willow and alder. To the east of the meadow is an old hedgerow bordering the football ground. Eastwards from the football ground the River Lea flows between the West Street recreational field of semi-improved grassland (LGS21) and the Priority wetland floodplain (LGS20). Continuing east the tree lined River Lea flows beside the back gardens of West Street extending to the A414 bridge. Beneath the bridge the river flows through the Hertford Castle grounds (LGS8) to The Wash providing wildlife connectivity through the town to Hartham Common beyond.	River, Floodplain Stream, Trees	Insects Reptiles (slow-worm, grass snake) Birds -including Swift Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Badger Hedgehog Water Vole Otter (past records) Bats
WC1 a	The River Mimram tributary at the junction with the River Lea to the Wash	Swamp and trees are present around the river junction (APIB) with the tributary northwards bordered to the west by scrub and tall herbs near buildings along Mimram Road (LGS22). To the east the stream is bordered by the floodplain (LGS20) Priority wetland habitat. The cattle grazed pasture supports semi-improved grassland with wet areas and tall herbs. Under the A414 bridge, the tributary passes through the Hertford Castle grounds to the Wash.	River Stream Grassland Swamp Floodplain Trees	Insects, Reptiles (Grass Snake, Slow-worms) Birds- including Swift. Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Water Vole (past records) Otter (past records) Bats
WC1 b	Trees north to Sele Rd	Priority woodland habitat along the railway embankment bordering Mimram Road (LGS24) provides connectivity north to the tree-lined banks	Trees Allotment Gardens	Insects,

	and east to Riversmeet and A414	leading to the structurally diverse habitats within the Sele Road allotments (LGS5). To the south, the wooded area connects to the River Mimram. The trees adjacent to the Mimram tributary extending east alongside Riversmeet northwards provide connectivity to a group of old London Plane trees (LGS7) by the A414.		Reptiles (Grass Snake, Slow-worms) Birds- including Swifts. Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Water Vole (past records) Otter (past records) Bats
WC2	Cole Green Way Section between St Mary's Lane and River Mimram Viaduct.	Disused railway track (LGS27, APIB, WS) supporting secondary woodland/scrub either side of steep embankments. Trees include: oak, ash, sycamore, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple. Thin grassland strips border the central path with occasional open areas of species rich neutral grassland. Groups of trees of Priority woodland are present: between St Mary's Lane and the old Hertingfordbury station, north of St Josephs (LGS28) -providing connectivity to trees along the River Mimram corridor and to the east by the railway embankment. Beneath the Viaduct over the Cole Green Way extending north to the River Mimram is a triangular field of species-diverse neutral grassland (LGS23, WS, APIB) with wet areas by the river, scattered trees and an old hedgerow bordering the football ground.	Trees Woodland Grassland	Insects including Glow Worms Slow-worm Birds Polecat Badger Bats
WC3	River Mimram Section between Hertingfordbury Rd to the Mimram Viaduct.	The tree lined River Mimram, east of the road, flows from the Water Mill area through groups of trees (Priority woodland, LGS29) and fields of semi-improved grassland. To the east is the Hertingfordbury Pastures Wildlife Site south of The Ridings (LGS26 WS, APIB). The low-lying species diverse neutral grassland includes marshy/ fen habitats. South of the Wildlife Site is additional pasture of wet grassland (Priority Habitat) extending east to the Cole Green Way (WC2). The Willowmead Nature Reserve Wildlife Site (LGS25, WS, APIB) to the northeast of the pastures supports wet Alder/ Willow woodland with tall fen swamp on waterlogged peaty substrate. There is good marginal vegetation along the river. Eastwards to the Mimram Viaduct is Priority Woodland (LGS28) and the Viaduct Meadow Wildlife Site (LGS23).	River Swamp Wetland Grassland Trees Woodland	Insects Grass Snake Birds -including Swift Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Hedgehog Water Vole Otters nearby Bats
WC3 a	Mimram Tributary to	From the River Mimram (section west of Hertingfordbury Road LGS31) a tributary extends northwards under the A414 to Panshanger Park. The	River Stream Marsh	Grass Snake Birds -including

	Panshan ger	adjacent grassland, crossed by streams, is registered Priority wet grazing marsh . Panshanger Park is an extensive important nature reserve supporting a diverse range of habitats and species but most being outside the CPNP area.	Wetland Grassland Trees	Nightingale LNRS restoration corridor Water Vole (potential recolonisation) Otters nearby Bats
WC3 b	River Mimram to Panshan ger	The tree lined River Mimram extends west from Hertingfordbury Rd to the A414 and Panshanger Park. There are fields of semi-improved grassland and hedgerows to the south of the river.	River Stream Trees Grassland	Species as above
WC4	River Lea Section from Hornsmill Rd Weir to Mimram / Lea junction	The tree lined River Lea flowing south of Terrace Wood (WC1) flows through grassland to the wooded railway embankment and the Hornsmill Weir south of Tanners Crescent. the River continues northwards with floodplain grazed grassland (LGS33 Priors wetland) to the west. From the houses, the river flows between the floodplain and the Horns Road/ West Street Allotments (LGS4). The allotments are surrounded by trees providing connectivity to the opposite County Hall woodland (LGS2, LGS3). Passing under the Cole Green Way bridge, the river is bordered to the west by the football ground and east by hedgerows around the West Street field (LGS21); continuing north to the Lea/Mimram junction (APIB) and east to the A414 (WC1).	River Grassland Allotment Trees	Insects, Reptiles (Grass Snake, Slow-worms) Birds- including Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Water Vole Bats
WC4 a	Brickendon Lane North From Hornsmill Rd to Hertfords hire Way Mandeville Rd area east and Railway west Bayfordbury	The tree lined Brickendon Lane provides habitat connectivity southwards and connects to the Local Green Spaces within the Mandeville Road Estate (LGS12, LGS13). To the west of Brickendon Lane (north end) is a tree lined railway embankment bordered to the west by a field of semi-improved neutral grassland with scrub (LGS34) within the CPNP area. This connects southwards to the Pinetum and further woodlands and ponds in the Bayfordbury Estate parkland (outside CPNP). The trees along the railway embankment provide connectivity to the Cecil Road Play Area (LGS14) and the hedgerow connecting to the Hornsmill Community Centre (LGS35).	Grassland Scrub Trees Hedges	Insects Slow-worm Birds-including Swift Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Bats
WC4 b	Brickendon Lane East to Granny Wood	Granny Walkers Wood (LG15) is located within the CPNP at the north end of the Brickendon Bourne ancient woodland remnant that extends southwards along the lane. The stream borders the road.	Woodland Grassland Stream Hedgerow	Insects Birds Nightingale (LNRS restoration corridor) Bats

WC 4c	Brickendon Lane West Hertingfordbury Way	Along the Hertfordshire Way the footpath is bordering by deep mature hedgerows that border farmland; connecting to the Hornsmill Community Centre (LGS35) and bridge over the railway line to the extensive Bayfordbury Park Estate. A network of hedgerows southwards from the footpath cross the fields providing important corridors for wildlife.	Hedges Grassland Arable	Surrounding area generally supports a diversity of species.
WC5	County Hall Grounds west	Priority woodland situated between Hornsmill Rd and Bullocks Lane (LGS 2). The mixed woodland includes old parkland trees of Giant Redwood and Scotts pine with: sycamore, horse chestnut, lime, field maple, elm, hazel, holly, oak and yew. Towards the north is an area of scrub and tall herbs. The woodland is adjacent to County Hall Playing Field (LGS1) that has wild flowers around its margins and bordering mature trees.	Woodland Scrub Trees	Insects Reptiles (slow-worm, grass snake) Birds -including Swift Hedgehog Badgers Bats
WC5 a	County Hall to Wallfields	At the north end of County Hall opposite, West Street recreational field, is a tree lined alley path that includes a meadow (LGS3) surrounded by trees down a steep embankment. Mature trees (oak, beech, Norway maple) around the car park provide connectivity to Wallfields (LGS 36). Along Pegs Lane between County Hall and Wallfields is Priority woodland (APIB). The wooded hillside borders Wallfields Bowling grounds (LGS37).	Trees Woodland grassland	Insects Slow-worm Birds -including Swift Hedgehog Bats
WC6	Morgans School Field to All Saints Church	Around the Morgans School grounds is a Local Green Space (LGS11) that includes mature trees and playing field. The Corridor crosses Morgans Walk Wildlife Site (LGS41) and the trees extending northwards provide connectivity to lime trees along Queens Rd. To the east of Queens Rd are areas of Priority woodland, semi-improved grassland, stream and ponds with the Twitchell path at the north end (LGS39). The trees northwards are important for protected species (area of Valley Close Hagsdell Rd and All Saints). The All Saints Churchyard (LGS18/WS/APIB) supports semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered mature trees including dead trees of high biodiversity value. The Hagsdell ditch is to the east.	Grassland Trees Woodland Ditch Streams ponds	Insects Slow-worm Birds -including Swift Hedgehog Bats
WC6 a	Morgans Walk	Historic walkway extending southwards. Tree lined path supporting Priority woodland habitat (LGS41, WS, APIB) providing a wildlife corridor from the town to the wider countryside. Hedgerows extend across the fields and there are nearby ponds.	Woodland Trees Hedges Grassland	Insects Birds Hedgehog Bats
WC7	Twitchell to Simon	The footpath to Simon Balle School leads to areas of Priority Woodland around Simon Balle School	Woodland	

	Balle and around Balls Park (north end)	extending to Balls Park (LGS42, APIB). The school grounds include bordering semi-improved grassland, scattered trees, scrub and a pond. The A414 bisects the wood with Brookside /Ballshill Grove Priority woodland (LGS43) to the north. Within the wood is an open dell of grassland. At the B1197 turning there is a strip of Priority woodland within Foxholes Farm where there is also a pond in the field. Balls Park (LGS43) is an extensive historic park (Priority wood pasture habitat) with species diverse neutral grassland and scattered mature trees (APIB, WS). A footpath borders the woodland edge.	Trees Hedges Grassland ponds	Insects Amphibians GCN Reptiles Birds Hedgehog Bats
WC8	Jennings-bury Court Area	To the east and south of Balls Park are arable fields with mature trees and hedgerows. The fields are highlighted by the LNRS for potential to increase arable plant populations. Hedgerows connect Balls Park to Jenningsbury Court where there is a tree bordered old moat and ponds.	Hedges Grassland Arable Ponds	Insects GCN Birds Bats Rare Arable plant populations.
WC8 A	Balls Park south	The southern area of Balls Park consists of wood pasture (Priority Habitat) supporting grassland, scattered and bordering mature trees with Priority woodland surrounding the long 'canal' pond.	Woodland Trees Hedges Grassland Pond	Insects GCN Grass Snake Birds Bats
WC9	Jennings-bury Farm to Little Stock Wood	South of Jenningsbury Farm, is a track through the fields that connects to the ancient woodland remnant of Great Stock Wood (AWI, APIB, WS). The oak/ hornbeam woodland includes small ponds and is approximately 30m from the extensive Balls Wood Nature Reserve (a Hertford Heath woodland outside the Castle Plus area. CPNP).	Woodland Trees Hedges Grassland Arable Ponds	Insects Birds Bats
WC 10	Mead Lane To Kingsmead	The trees around the Mead Lane Estate and along the railway line at the northeast point of the CPNP provide connectivity from the edge of the town to the wider countryside. The trees provide connectivity to Hartham Common in the northwest and to the northeast, the floodplain of Kingsmead Wildlife Site extending to Ware (WC2 of Kingsmead Neighbourhood Plan).	Trees	Insects Birds Bats

Information for the Table included visits by CPNP Nature Subgroup, data from HERC, Defra MAGIC web site for Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

All native reptiles are protected and Priority species and were named. The general term Birds in the table refer to important species such as RSPB red/amber list or specially protected birds. The LNRS for this area also refers specifically to swifts and proposed areas for the restoration of nightingales. Other mammals specifically referred to included protected species such as Hedgehogs (also Priority and LNRS species), Badgers where specific not identified for welfare reasons), Polecat (protected species) and Bats (protected species). Bats were referred to as a general group but include some Priority species with some highlighted in the LNRS. were generally referred to but the species

Key to Abbreviations

AWI --Natural England Ancient Woodland Inventory

APIB- LNRS Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity

GCN- Great Crested Newt

LGS= Local Green Space

LNRS = Local Nature Recovery Plan,

WS = Local Wildlife Site,

Jenny Jones 16/08/2026

Ref No	Corridor Name	Corridor Description	Main Habitats	Associated Important Species
WC1b	Starting and rejoining WC1a through Riversmeet and along A414	- This Green Corridor runs along the South side of the A414 from the Hertingfordbury Roundabout in the West to the junction into Becketts. The verge is up to 5 metres or more in depth alongside the A414 and is covered in mature native trees and shrubs. It slopes down into adjoining fields adjacent to Hertingfordbury. - This corridor offers a safe corridor for wildlife passing along the River Mimram from Panshanger Park towards the Hertingfordbury Parklands.		Area important for Targeted Species Actions – restoration of Swift Population in LNRS
WC3b	Panshanger access A414 (southside) WC3 to WC3b	This Green Corridor runs alongside the River Mimram as it passes under the A414 and adjacent to some fields and housing West of Hertingfordbury Road.		Area Important for Targeted Species Actions for restoration of Nightingale population in LNRS.
WC4a	Brickendon Lane north along the eastern side of the railway line to WC4	This Green Corridor runs alongside an agricultural field to the South and the Hornsmill Housing estate to the North. Brambles predominate the North side near to Brickendon Road end but towards the railway line the Green Corridor opens up to a more to scrubland dotted with native trees and bushes. The Southern side the Green Corridor is separated from the field by a predominantly Hawthorn hedge for most of the corridor. This corridor allows a safe space for wildlife to move between the grass and heathlands both East and West of the railway line and supports East/West movement for wildlife towards Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Brook and over to the fields and woodland around Granny Walkers Wood and Morgans Walk. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/61eb4bdcdc4d0687aa1594105619f3/page/Actions		
WC4b	Brickendon Lane east side to Granny Walkers Wood	This consists of steep verge, sloping up 3-4 metres and perhaps 2-4 metres in depth from Brickendon Road to adjoining housing on Liberty Close and Mandeville Road housing estate, and continuing along Dunkirks Farm field boundary to Granny		Nightingales & Watervoles in particular.

		Walkers Wood. The verges contain brambles, apple trees, ash, sycamore, oak, field maple, rosehip and other native vegetation. The verges are full of birds, bats and insects and provide protection for mammals passing through eg foxes and deer. 1. It is important to give this area protection as a Green Corridor as its significance has not been highlighted/publicised and therefore it can lead to mistreatment by local community and councils who have overly cut back natural vegetation unnecessarily. 2.This Green Corridor on East side of Brickendon Lane is mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area for restoring the population of Nightingales, a Species with Targeted Actions, linking up with areas to North in Lower Hatfield Road and South into Granny Walkers Wood and beyond. “Actions • Create woodland-scrub mosaics for Nightingale breeding habitat. • Maximise the area of scrub at the vigorous thicket stage, typically involving rotational cutting on a 10–15-year cycle, preferably using reasonable sized blocks to create a coarse mosaic of larger patches instead of many small and widely dispersed patches of different ages. • Manage problematic species including invasive non-native species, pests and disease. • Protect thickets and woodland transitional / edge habitat from deer. • Scrub should be managed in line with best practice guidance: The Scrub Management Handbook – Natural England.” 3.This Green Corridor on East side of Brickendon Lane is mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area for restoring the population of Water Voles,		
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		a Species with Targeted Actions, as Brickendon Brook runs along this lane crossing from one side to the other. To the South Brickendon Brook flows from Granny Walkers Wood and to the North of the Corridor, the Brook flows into the River Lea. The verges provide the marginal vegetation. Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Highways have significantly removed vast amounts of vegetation in the last few years – perhaps due to lack of knowledge and of training around environmental issues, so giving this designation as a Green Corridor will help promote its significance within the community. “Priority. Restore European Water Vole populations. Actions • Coordinated mink eradication using the methodology set out by the Waterlife Recovery Trust eradication programme in Norfolk, to inform best practice. • Implement landscape-scale habitat restoration and creation. This includes restoring watercourses / marginal vegetation to their natural state and the creation of waterbodies with significant marginal vegetation.” 4. This Green Corridor is part of habitat of waterway that is an important feeder for the River Lea and in LNRS is denoted as area to: “Restore and renaturalise Hertfordshire’s rivers (incl. chalk streams, winterbournes and other headwaters)” and it would be critical to protect this area from development.” 5. An area near further entrance to Mandeville Road has been denoted a place to: Create new woodland and expand existing sites... in LNRS “Create new woodland and expand existing sites...” 6. This Green Corridor joins up with Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity as recorded in LNRS: to South joining into		
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		Granny Walkers Wood and to the North into the River Lea area. https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/herts-nature-recovery-partnership/local-nature-recovery-strategy.aspx		
WC4c	Brickendon Lane west side to WC4a	It is important to give this area protection as a Green Corridor as its significance has not been highlighted/publicised and therefore it can lead to mistreatment by local councils who have overly cut back natural vegetation unnecessarily. Brickendon Brook runs alongside Brickendon Road on the West side until it is channelled under the Lower Hatfield Road to join into the River Lea. Significant mature trees including Ash and apple trees as well as lower level vegetation line the Brook. Hertfordshire Highways cut down almost all the mature trees on the East Side of Brickendon Brook in 2020 and this had effect of increasing speeding traffic on Brickendon Lane as it made the straightness of the road very visible from the Lower Hatfield Road. Near to the Lower Hatfield Road, natural scrub and native trees were replaced by a grassed area which is now mowed. Trees have not been replaced by HCC. Removing of the trees increase noise pollution of traffic to local residents as well reducing the screening between the two housing estates of Mandeville Road and Hornsmill. 1.This Green Corridor on West side of Brickendon Lane is mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area for restoring the population of Nightingales, a Species with Targeted Actions, linking up with areas to North in Lower Hatfield Road and South into Granny Walkers Wood and beyond. “Actions • Create woodland-scrub mosaics for Nightingale breeding habitat. • Maximise the area of scrub at the vigorous thicket stage, typically involving rotational cutting on a 10–15-year cycle, preferably using reasonable sized blocks to create a coarse mosaic of larger patches instead of many small and widely		In particular Nightingales & Watervoles.

		dispersed patches of different ages. • Manage problematic species including invasive non-native species, pests and disease. • Protect thickets and woodland transitional / edge habitat from deer. • Scrub should be managed in line with best practice guidance: The Scrub Management Handbook – Natural England.” 2.This Green Corridor on West side of Brickendon Lane is mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an area for restoring the population of Water Voles, a Species with Targeted Actions, as Brickendon Brook runs along this lane crossing from one side to the other. To the South Brickendon Brook flows from Granny Walkers Wood and to the North of the Corridor, the Brook flows into the River Lea. The verges provide the marginal vegetation. Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Highways have significantly removed vast amounts of vegetation in the last few years – perhaps due to lack of knowledge and of training around environmental issues, so giving this designation as a Green Corridor will help promote its significance within the community. “Priority Restore European Water Vole populations. Actions • Coordinated mink eradication using the methodology set out by the Waterlife Recovery Trust eradication programme in Norfolk, to inform best practice. • Implement landscape-scale habitat restoration and creation. This includes restoring watercourses / marginal vegetation to their natural state and the creation of waterbodies		
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		with significant marginal vegetation.” 3.This area of Brickendon Lane has been denoted in LNRS as an area to: “Create and restore wet woodlands and riparian corridor woodlands to contribute to habitat connectivity and improve water temperature and quality and help control flooding, nutrient run-off and silt deposition.” At the North end of Brickendon Lane, and on the Southern end: “Create new woodland and expand existing sites...” alongside the Brook – presumably post Hertfordshire Highways complete removal of all the mature trees in 2020. 4.This Green Corridor is part of habitat of waterway that is important feed of River Lea and in LNRS is denoted as area for : “Restore and renaturalise Hertfordshire’s rivers (incl. chalk streams, winterbournes and other headwaters)” and it would be critical to protect this area from development. 5.This Green Corridor joins up with Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity as recorded in LNRS: running into Granny Walkers Wood to the South and into the River Lea area to the North. https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/herts-nature-recovery-partnership/local-nature-recovery-strategy.aspx		
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All information has been gathered from the LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) from personal observation as a resident and frequenter of the areas.

Castle Ward Important Sites, Habitats and Species

Summarised from HERC Data Search Results

Full details of the habitats in the document HERC Site Search Results.

- No sites of international or national important (such as SSSIs) within the Castle Ward boundary were found. The nearest SSSI is Hertford Heath located approx. 700 metres to the east.
- There are two ancient woodland inventory sites-
 - Great Stock Wood
 - Terrace Wood.
- Local Wildlife Sites are non-statutory sites that are designated, at a county level, as being of ecological significance. Although having no statutory protection, their importance is recognised in Local Plans and the National Planning and Policy Framework. Descriptions of the Wildlife Sites are given in the HERC Site Search results and summarised below.

13 wildlife sites have been identified within the Hertford Castle Ward:

These are summarised below

- Cole Green Way (HERC ref 58/006)- disused railway line supporting areas of species rich grassland, secondary woodland and scrub. (*Glow worms also known to be present*).
- Hertingfordbury Park Lower Pastures (HERC ref 59/004)- series of low lying neutral grassland adjacent to the River Mimram supporting fen and swamp indicators.
- Great Stock Wood (HERC ref 59/009) ancient semi-natural Oak/Hornbeam woodland with ponds.
- Meadow and River Lee by Leahoe Viaduct northwest (HERC ref 59/011)- important area of species diverse unimproved acid/neutral grassland by the River Mimram. Some large trees and an old hedgerow. The river is important for otter, water voles and grass snakes.
- Terrace Wood (HERC ref 59/013) Ancient semi-natural Oak/Hornbeam woodland with scattered ponds.
- Balls Park (HERC Ref 59/019)- Old parkland supporting species rich semi-improved neutral to acid grassland. Great crested newts and grass snakes present.
- Willowmead (HERC ref 59/037) Nature Reserve bordering the River Mimram supporting mature riparian wet alder woodland with willow carr and tall fen swamp habitat below. The site is good for fungi and mosses.

- St Mary's Churchyard, Hertingfordbury (HERC Ref 59/058) -moderately diverse semi-improved neutral grassland supporting a range of fine grasses and herbs. Meadow Saxifrage has been recorded. Numerous yew trees present.
- All Saint's Churchyard, Hertford (HERC Ref 59/063)-rough semi-improved neutral grassland with mature planted trees and bordering walls. Rue-leaved saxifrage- an uncommon Hertfordshire species has been recorded.
- Balls Park pond (59/107) Pond and environs important for protected species (*great crested newts*)
- Riversmeet Area (59/108) Building and environs important for protected species (*bats*)
- Valley Close Area (59/111) Building and environs important for protected species (*bats*)
- Mimram Road Ditch and Wasteground (59/117) Important for protected species- water voles, slow-worm and grass snake.

3 additional Wildlife Sites listed by HERC but are either just on or just outside border of the Castle Ward

- Panshanger Park (58/025/01- large parkland with veteran trees (216.45 hectares) very small fragment with River Mimram within the Castle Ward. River flows through the park with series of lakes. Swamp communities. Varieties of grassland. Areas of Oak/Hornbeam woodland. The site is of high importance for invertebrates, birds and mammals with protected species present.
 - Little Stocks Wood (HERC ref 59/042) Ancient semi-natural Oak/Hornbeam woodland.
 - Bayfordbury Rough Hills Grasslands (HERC 59/021)- just outside boundary? series of species diverse rough neutral grasslands with scrub that includes veteran oaks of over 300 years old.
- Other habitats include the HERC network map that shows habitats qualifying as Priority habitat under section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Within the Hertford Castle Ward these include S41 Priority broadleaf woodland and S41 wet grassland/swamp. Additional habitats (coloured in purple on the map) include habitat not qualifying as S41 habitat but high potential to do so. These area along with the Wildlife Sites can help to create the linking habitats that forms the green nature corridors through the Castle Ward.

Species Summary

Species details given in the HERC species spreadsheet with species of note summarised below

Vertebrates

- **Bats-10 species** present -all bats are protected. (records include Panshanger and additional verified species to be added HERC list). NERC species include: soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared (also Hertfordshire local nature recovery flagship species), noctule. Species of local interest- serotine. Other species include: common pipistrelle, Nathusius pipistrelle (rare), barbastelle (rare species and HNRS), Natterer's, Daubenton's (Local nature recovery water flagship species HNRS).
- **Other mammals – 18 species** recorded. NERC species include hedgehog (also Herts LNRS species), water vole (also HNRS species),, otter, polecat. species of local interest include: water shrew, weasel. Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- **Birds 110 species** (including Panshanger) – NERC species include: skylark, cuckoo, yellowhammer, reed bunting, grasshopper warbler, spotted flycatcher, house sparrow, lapwing. Birds of local interest-kingfisher, cettis warbler, peregrine, hobby, barn owl, swift, house martin, lesser spotted woodpecker, snipe, grey wagtail, yellow wagtail, shoveler, redstart, woodcock, starling, little egret, grey heron, water rail, teal, pochard, red crested pochard. Rivers HNRS include lapwing) Farmland Herts LNRS include yellowhammer. Woodland HNRS include song thrush. Urban LNRS house sparrow
- **Amphibians 4 species** NERC species include great crested newt (also Herts LNRS), common toad (also Herts LNRS),
- **Reptiles 3 species** NERC species include grass snake, slow-worm (also urban Herts LNRS), common lizards (also urban Herts LNRS).
- **Fish 24 species**- include European protected bullhead, NERC species European eel, brown trout (also Herts LNRS species), Fish of local interest -ruffe, nine-spined stickleback,

Invertebrates

- **Beetles 83 species** NERC species include greater stag beetle. Species of local interest are glow worm, water beetle *Clemnius decorates*, long-horn beetle *Stictoleptura scutellata*, water beetle *Laccobius colon*.
- **Butterflies 26 species** NERC species include-small heath, white admiral, white-letter hairstreak. species of local interest purple emperor, (also HNRS) essex skipper, small skipper.

- **Moths 457 species** (large number recorded at Panshanger) NERC species 35 species include grey dagger, knot grass, beaded chestnut, green-brindled crescent, mouse moth, large nutmeg, dusky brocade, deep brown dart, sprawler, centre-barred sallow, mottled rustic, latticed heath, sallow, small square-spot, figure of eight, September thorn, autumnal rustic, spinach, small emerald, ghost moth, rosy rustic, shoulder-striped wainscot, brindled beauty, lackey, dot moth, powdered quaker, large wainscot, shaded broad-bar, white ermine, buff ermine, feathered gothic, blood-vein, pale eggar, cinnabar, oak hook-tip, local interest moths toadflax brocade, plain golden y, dingy shell, clover stilt, willow-maze miner.
- **Dragonflies 17 species**
- **Grasshoppers/crickets 9 species** local interest stripe-winged grasshopper,
- **Bugs 25 species**
- **Bees, wasps and ants 18 species**
- **Flies 18 species**
- **Other invertebrates 11 species**

Higher and lower plants

- **Plants Higher plants 440 species** NERC species corn buttercup, species of local interest heather, harebell, corn mint, sainfoin, corn spurrey, orpine, greater bladderwort, wood horsetail. Common spotted orchid (woodland flagship species Herts LNRS)
- **Lichens 111 species** local species of interest *Bacidina delicata*, *Dermatocarpon miniatum*.
- **Liverworts and mosses 54 species** local species of interest fragile fork-moss, wall feather moss.

Summarised report by Jenny Jones 31/08/2025

Willowmead reserve issue 8 dated 10/05/25

Location: Grid Reference (Entrance)TL314122

A wet woodland bordering the river Mimram running East West from Railway to BECKETTS Housing Estate . This Chalk stream borders the Reserve and the Willowmead Housing Estate.

Size is about 1.5 hectares or 3.7 acres.

Bird species (Recent Sightings)

Song Thrush, Wren, Redwing (Winter) ...These species on ORANGE LIST “Birds of Conservation Concern 5 by British Trust Ornithology 2021.

Great Spotted Woodpecker,Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Chiffchaff ,Great Tit, Blue tit, Long tailed tit , Siskin (Winter), Goldcrest , Song Thrush, Magpie, Jay, Blackcap, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon.

Kingfisher(Mimram), Coot (Mimram), Moorhen, (Mimram) Mallard,(Mimram).

Mammals (Recent Sightings)

Muntjac deer, Grey Squirrel , Moles.

Bats

Insects (Recent Sightings)

Tortoiseshell , Speckled Wood Butterfly , Small Magpie Moth.

Scorpion Fly , Hover Fly, Water boatman , Whirly gig beetle,
Spiders

Amphibians and Fish (Recent Sightings)

Common Frog (breeding),

Fish

Stickleback

Pond Snail

Trees (Recent Record)

Alder, Crack Willow , White Willow , Hawthorn , Common Ash, Hazlenut.

Plants (Recent Sightings)

Pond Lily, Celandine , Forget-me-Not, Borage, Wild Geranium, Buttercup,
Nettle, Yellow Flag Iris, Lords and Ladies, Fern, Moss, Goose Grass, Dogs Mercury,
Dock , Bramble, White Currant, Bracket Fungus,
Fungus Scarlet Elf Cup, Creeping Charlie (Ground Ivy).

Plants Other

Meadowsweet, Lesser Pond Sedge, Common Reed,
Wild Angelica, Great Willow herb, Pendulous Sedge, Purple Loosestrife,
Himalayan Balsam,.
River edge - Reed sweet grass , Water Forget-me-not,Fools Water Cress.

Benefits

This **locally rare Wet Wood** area enhances the local community by providing :

1. The trees and plants to give a localised air filtration of local pollution mostly caused by vehicles on the A414 and aids in removing Nitrates and Phosphates.
 2. The woodland creates a natural Water filtration and cleansing of run off from nearby housing helping to protect the valuable and rare Chalk Stream of the River Mimram.
 3. The area plays a positive role in locking carbon, particularly a good number of mature trees that are to be found here.
 4. Natural Local flood management through the process of transpiration by Vegetation, Reed and Tree.
 5. A wild habitat for nesting animals, birds , other wildlife and insects.
 6. A local resource which may be accessed by the public helping them to explore and gain much needed relaxation away from the stress of day to day living.
7. The Reserve together with the River Mimram provides a vital link as a Green Corridor for key species of wildlife that utilise the area to move into and through to other Habitats beyond. The proximity of the Railway and its own Green corridor is a huge plus for local Green Conservation.
8. The Willowmead Estate at the Southern, Western and Eastern perimeters also benefit by the presence of the wood with the following wildlife observations in gardens.

Birds - Great Spotted Woodpecker, buzzard, red kite, Chiffchaff, Starling (nesting), sparrowhawk, Swift and variety of small passerines. Tawny Owl.

Mammals - Fox, Hedgehog, Muntjac Deer.

Amphibians / Reptiles - Common Frog , Grass snake (harmless), Slow Worm.

Insects - Devils Coach Horse, Chafers, Cardinal beetle, Shieldbug, Jersey Tiger Moth , Garden Tiger Moth , Ermine Moth, common blue Butterfly, Holly blue butterfly, Peacock butterfly, Orange tip Butterfly, Tortoiseshell butterfly, Brimstone butterfly, comma butterfly, Speckled Wood butterfly, Bees, etc.

Threats.

1. Over management . This wood will benefit from minimum disturbance and carefully controlled activities and limited woodland work.
2. Overuse by people using it as a playground, dog walking, dumping waste and vandalism.
3. Local cats hunting .

4. Development would destroy the beneficial effects described above and likely add to localised flooding to nearby homes plus potential destruction of a Chalk stream and associated species.

Hertford Castle (Ref J2), The Moat Garden(J3) and St Andrews Churchyard (J4)

Hertford Castle (ref J2)

Location OS Grid Ref TL324125

The Hertford Castle grounds are located in the centre of town at the north end of the Castle Ward. The River Lea that flows through the town to the Castle from Hartham Common (that has connections to the River Beane and Rib) forms part of the chalk river corridor that flows through the castle grounds and continues under the A414 Gascoyne Way bridge to the River Lea and Mimram floodplains.

The grounds are bordered: to the north by the BEAM theatre, B158 and buildings along St Andrew Street with St Andrew Churchyard (site ref J4) to the northwest. Bridges Court, the Castle Bridges footpath including stream is to the west with Gascoyne Way (A414) and the field floodplains beyond. To the east are buildings of Parliament Square and Millars Yard and to the south is The Moat Gardens (site ref J3) that is within the castle grounds) with Castle Street beyond.

Historical/ Ecological designations and significant species recorded

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (a significant Motte and Bailey castle) and includes a 12th Century stone curtain wall (Grade 11* listed) and surviving 15th Century Grade 11* listed Gatehouse that houses the Town Council.

The trees in the grounds are protected as part of the Hertford Conservation Area.

The River Lea is an important chalk river Priority Habitat included on the Natural England chalk rivers dataset. Significant protected species using the river include: otter (spraint recorded in 2010) and 3 species of bat including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and Daubenton's (commonly known as the water bat). The Daubenton's is a flagship species for water habitats in the proposed Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Plan. The endangered water vole had previously been recorded but is no longer present (although remaining at a distance of approximately 2km from Hertford Town). Hedgehogs (a Priority Species) have been recorded using the grounds and are also a flagship species for urban habitats in the proposed Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Site description from visits in 2025

The Hertford Castle grounds are a popular venue and a valuable community asset with: managed lawns of amenity grassland used to host events, formal gardens to enjoy and a children's play area.

The ecological features of most interest are: the river Lea, bordering back stream and mature trees. The trees along the river bank include: beech, hornbeam, willow, maple, poplar, yew, ash and elder. Riverside vegetation is limited but includes: pendulous sedge with willowherb, nettles and docks growing along the bank.

Popular with the children are the large numbers of waterfowl: mainly mallards (at least 50 regularly counted) but also: canada geese, mute swans, coots and breeding moorhens. The steep channelled back stream is quieter but is shaded and lacks aquatic vegetation. Trees along the north boundary by the stream include; sycamore, Norway maple, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, dogwood, elder and some planted oaks. By the play area, separated off by railings, is a group semi-mature beech trees that is used by foraging pipistrelle bats during the summer nights. Here the back stream flows under the bridge by Bridges Court towards the Mimram with part of the stream flowing southwards where it joins the river Lea. Under the Gascoyne Way bridge, pipistrelles and Daubentons can be observed feeding on insects and flying towards the west floodplains. The footpath stream supports marginal aquatic plants with water starwort within the stream.

The historic stone and brick walls around the castle support lichen, mosses and colonising flowers. The Castle Motte mound to the north also supports colonising vegetation with patches of wild flowers. Within the historic grounds are some scattered impressive tall mature trees; many of which are over 100 years old. These include Beech, London Plane, Sycamore, Holm Oak and Yew. To the south is a sunken garden near the curtain wall 14th century Postern Gate and Octagonal Tower.

The habitats within the Hertford Castle Open Space are of value to nature and the local community with the river, stream and mature trees forming an important part of the River Lea, wildlife corridor through the Hertford Castle Ward area.

Hertford Moat Garden (ref J3)

Location Ordnance Survey grid reference TL325124

The Moat Garden is bordered by the castle curtain wall to the north, castle street to the south and the castle street buildings to the east and west.

Historical designations

The site is part of the Hertford Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument and includes the remains of a broad outer ditch (moat) now partly filled and covered by buildings and gardens. This outer ditch once encircled the whole castle. The southern section of the historic curtain wall includes the 14th Century octagonal turret and postern gate. The site includes a Grade 11 listed 18th Century icehouse.

Site description from visits in 2025

The Moat Garden is connected to the Castle Grounds through the south curtain wall gate. From the gardens there are good views of the tall historic stone wall. The managed amenity lawns are of limited ecological interest but there are scattered trees including mature cherry trees and bordering trees, particularly along the north and east boundary, that are of higher biodiversity value. Along the south side of the curtain wall is a bed of sensory plants, cared for by the Mudlarks charity. The partially buried brick icehouse with a grilled entrance has previously been inspected for bats (bats frequently hibernate in icehouses) but no evidence was found. The mature boundary trees are highly likely to be used by bats but the absence of tall vegetation

around the icehouse is likely to deter bats from using it. The Moat Garden, being part of the Hertford Castle grounds should also be included within the Neighbourhood Local Plan.

St Andrews Churchyard (J4)

Location Ordnance Survey grid reference TL32341256

Site description and reasons for inclusion within the Neighbourhood plan.

Many people in Hertford associate the Grade II Listed St Andrews church and associated churchyard as being part of Hertford Castle. The churchyard trees are connected to those of the castle along the bridge and Castle Bridges footpath. The churchyard supports grassland with planted and native wild flowers cared for by the local community to create a diverse natural environment. There are several mature trees some of which are estimated to be over 100 years old. The diversity of plants is beneficial for a range of invertebrates. Common and soprano pipistrelle bats (protected species) forage over the churchyard and bat boxes have been erected to encourage bats to roost in the grounds.

Arial Imagery showing connecting green open spaces corridor

