Alderney Wildlife Trust

Reserves and Sites Management Strategy 2025-2030

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1. Executive Summary

The AWT has managed the Longis and Vau du Saou Nature Reserves for over 20 years, and the Alderney Community Woodland (ACW) for more than 15 years; as well as supporting the Alderney Society in the management of the Bonne Terre Valley, and the States of Alderney (SoA) in the maintenance of the island's network of public footpaths. The reserves and sites are managed through Memorandums of Understanding and agreements with the SoA and other private landowners.

The core aims within this 5-year strategic plan are to Champion, Study and Protect Alderney's wildlife ensuring that 30% of Alderney's land and sea is thriving for nature by 2030, and Alderney's residents and visitors have a connection with wildlife. This management strategy takes a whole island approach with objectives for all sites within one document which have been informed by the early stages of the Alderney State of Nature project's assessment of key species and habitats, and all have a clear justification.

The consultation process associated with these plans enables us to engage with stakeholders and site users to understand the needs in these areas and gain feedback for the development of this document. In spring 2024 a survey was carried out to gather information from stakeholders and the public on the usage of the sites. Feedback on subjects such as the provision and updating of signage, greater involvement of the community in events within the ACW, and more opportunities to develop skills in woodland management and traditional crafts has been included within this strategy.

Continued management actions include footpath maintenance, the Alderney Grazing Animals Project, Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control, and the management of Longis and Mannez Ponds. New objectives include trialling the removal of Three-cornered Leek, development of an INNS policy for Alderney, management of Gorse on Mannez Garenne for Dartford Warblers, and an ambitious target of planting 25,000 trees by 2030 as well as improving the condition of woodland on Alderney as a whole.

At the end of each year the strategy will be reviewed with the production of an annual action plan to set out the actions for the year ahead, and to review actions from the previous year. Following the 5-year period, the strategy will be reviewed, with the production of a strategy for the next 5 years.

2. Introduction

The Reserves and Sites Management Strategy 2025-2030 represents a coordinated effort towards three overarching aims: to Champion, Study and Protect four ecologically significant nature reserves and sites on Alderney:

- Longis Nature Reserve
- Alderney Community Woodland
- Vau du Saou Nature Reserve
- Bonne Terre Valley

Collectively these sites encompass 107 hectares of diverse landscape and are home to a rich array of biodiversity and cultural heritage, representing some of the most valuable habitats on Alderney.

Longis Nature Reserve, the largest reserve and home to our Alderney Grazing Animals Project conservation grazing herd, contains 13 distinct habitats and serves as a refuge for over 100 species of national importance, including the nationally rare Glanville Fritillary and Alderney Sea Lavender.

Alderney Community Woodland, focused on local community and wildlife, aims to double Alderney's native broadleaf tree cover whilst supporting local biodiversity through sustainable management practices.

Bonne Terre, as the largest valley on the island, plays a crucial role in conserving a diverse wooded valley ecosystem. Containing a small freshwater stream which feeds into a reservoir, the land in the lower valley is owned by the Alderney Society and is of historic importance due to its watermill.

Vau du Saou Nature Reserve, characterised by its coastal woodland, spring bluebell blooms, and diverse migratory bird life, is the island's only coastal woodland valley. At its heart sits the Wildlife Bunker, filled with information about the wildlife and history of this stretch of coast, located just off the island's main coastal path.

By outlining the management actions required for the period 2025-2030, this strategy sets out integrated approaches to habitat restoration, species conservation, and visitor access and engagement. These actions will ensure these natural spaces continue to thrive throughout this period and beyond.

This strategy aligns with The Wildlife Trusts' 2030 strategy goals, including their meaningful action goal, in which they aim to "create a ripple effect of people and communities led by The Wildlife Trusts, to achieve 1 in 4 people taking action for nature and climate." (The Wildlife Trusts, 2022). By fostering community involvement and raising awareness, we aim to create a collective movement that inspires individuals and the community to take meaningful actions to drive nature's recovery and actively participate in the preservation and enhancement of Alderney's natural sites. The reserves and sites are managed as the foundational building blocks for nature's recovery, and as spaces for people to join us and create relationships with nature within the community.

Furthermore, this strategy embraces The Wildlife Trusts' 30 by 30 objective, which strives for at least 30% of land and seas to be actively managed for nature's recovery in every part of the UK by 2030 (The Wildlife Trusts, 2022). Our shared commitment to Putting Nature into Recovery (PNiR) sees us managing these reserves and sites, as well as potentially working with other key landowners, including the States of Alderney (SoA), and islanders, to ensure that at least 30% of our island's environment is actively thriving for nature by 2030.

Over half of this goal is met through existing conservation work in the four sites listed above, collectively making up 16% of the island's land area. This strategy ensures these sites continue to be managed sustainably for the key species and habitats they support, allowing us to promote and raise awareness of the successes of Alderney's nature recovery. The remainder of the 30% is hoped to be met through external landowners and managers taking action to conserve the natural environment, with this strategy containing dedicated objectives and actions that provide support and opportunity for this.

2.1 Locations, Habitats and Site Boundaries

The following outlines the location and habitats of the Reserves and Sites, for current updated data on each of the sites visit - https://www.alderneywildlife.org/nature-reserves.

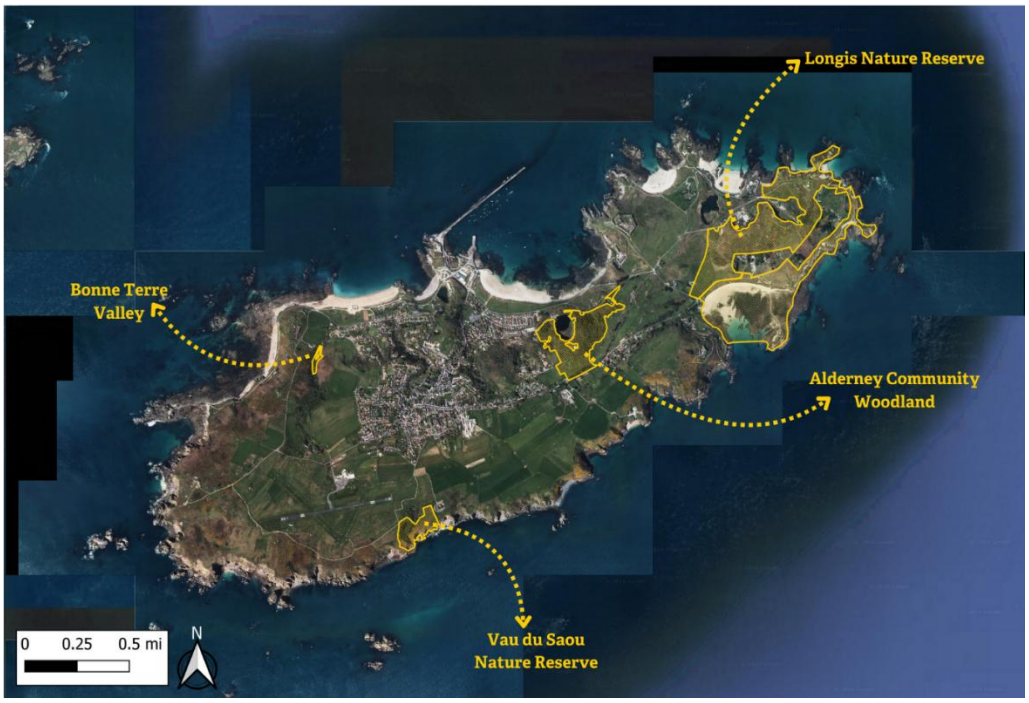

Figure 1. Map of all reserves and sites

Longis Nature Reserve

The Longis Reserve is located 2.5 km east of St. Anne, Alderney. It covers 82.2 ha stretching from Rue des Mielles to Fort Les Homeaux Florains and Fort Houmet Herbé. It includes Longis Common, Mannez Garenne, Mannez Quarry and the intertidal area from St. Esquere Bay to Longis Bay.

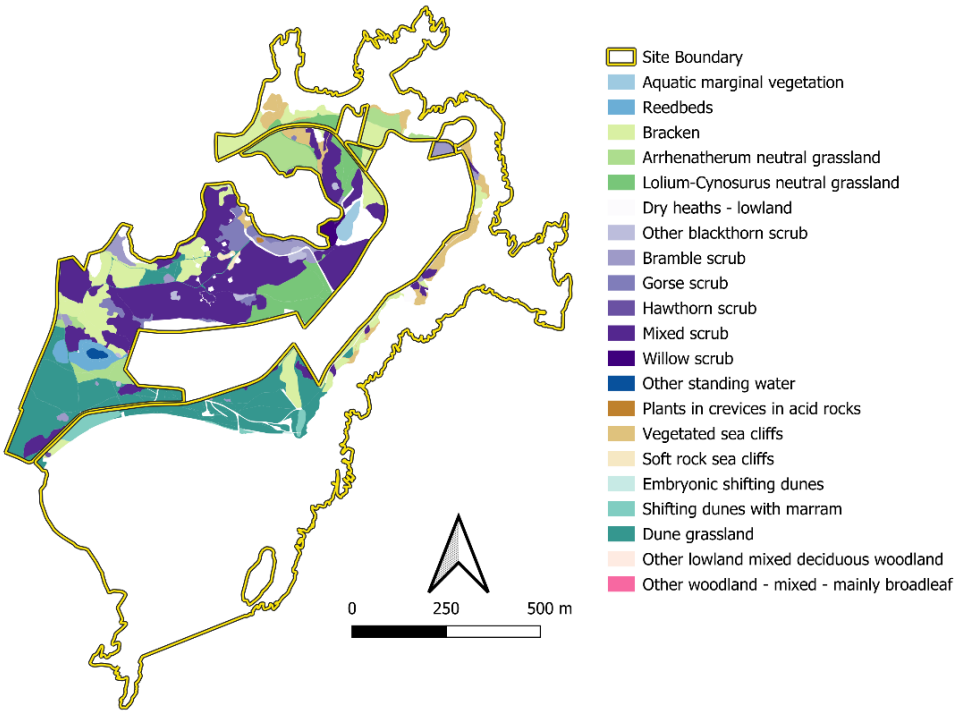

Figure 2. Longis Nature Reserve boundary and terrestrial habitat map, as of 2023.

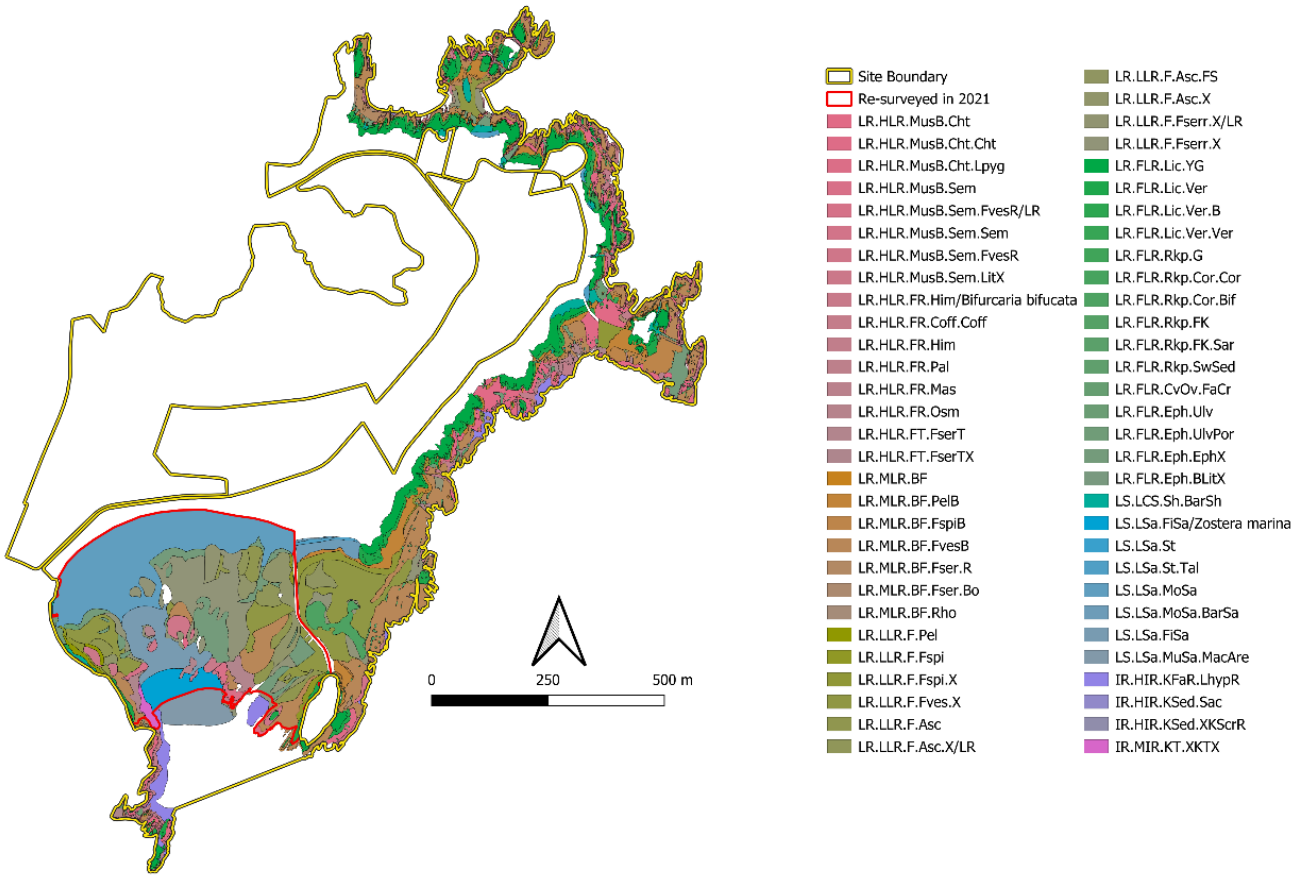

Figure 3. Longis Reserve boundary and marine habitat map. Longis Bay (red outline) was resurveyed in 2021, with all other data coming from 2017.

LR.HLR	High energy littoral rock
LR.MLR	Moderate energy littoral rock
LR.LLR	Low energy littoral rock
LR.FLR	Features of littoral rock
LS.LCS	Littoral coarse sediment
LS.LSa	Littoral sand
IR.HIR	High energy infralittoral rock
IR.MIR	Moderate energy infralittoral rock

Table 1. JNCC Marine Habitat Classification Level 3 key

For full details of each habitat type visit: https://mhc.jncc.gov.uk/

Alderney Community Woodland (ACW)

The ACW covers 17 ha and is situated near Les Rochers, 1 km east of St Anne, between Valongis, the Golf Course, Battery Quarry and Longis Road. It is in the centre of the island near to existing pockets of woodland cover and has been planted with a mix of native species including Oak and Ash, as well as 24 fruit trees in the Orchard. Within the ACW there are many historical features, including the Woodland Bunker, which is now used as an educational space, and the Observation Bunker.

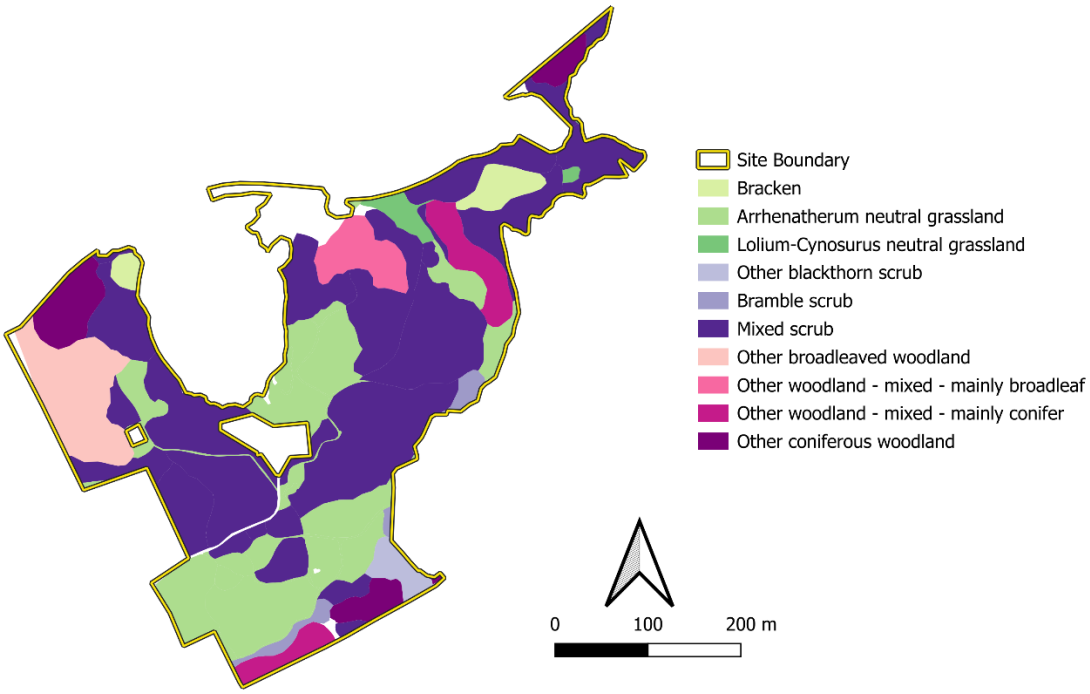

Figure 4. Alderney Community Woodland boundary and habitat map, as of 2023.

Bonne Terre

The Bonne Terre Valley is located less than a kilometre west of the centre of St Anne, Alderney. The area of the valley being managed is 0.76ha and is above the pumping station located in the lower reaches of the valley. The site is the largest valley on the island and slopes down from the south towards the sea in the north. The valley contains a small freshwater stream which feeds the reservoir behind the dam, located about halfway down the site, and also the watermill at the northern end of the valley. The pond covers an area of 0.03 ha and due to the build-up of water from the dam is also bordered to the south by a wetland area of 0.09 ha. The stream that feeds the dam passes through the wetland area on its eastern edge.

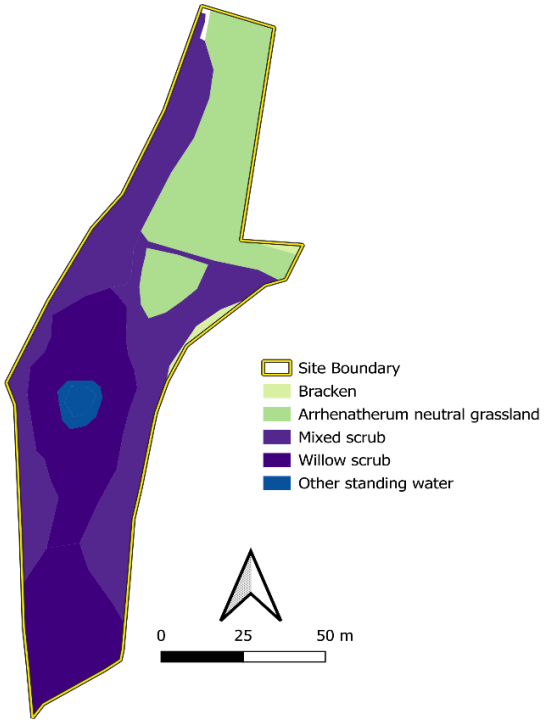

Figure 5. Bonne Terre site boundary and habitat map, as of 2023.

Vau du Saou

Vau du Saou covers 7 ha of wooded valley and clifftop scrub to the south-east of the airport, 1 km south of St Anne. There is a small stream that runs through the site, entering the sea at the southern end of the valley. The Wildlife Bunker is situated at the eastern end of the site, with views over to Coque Lihou and the Noires Putes.

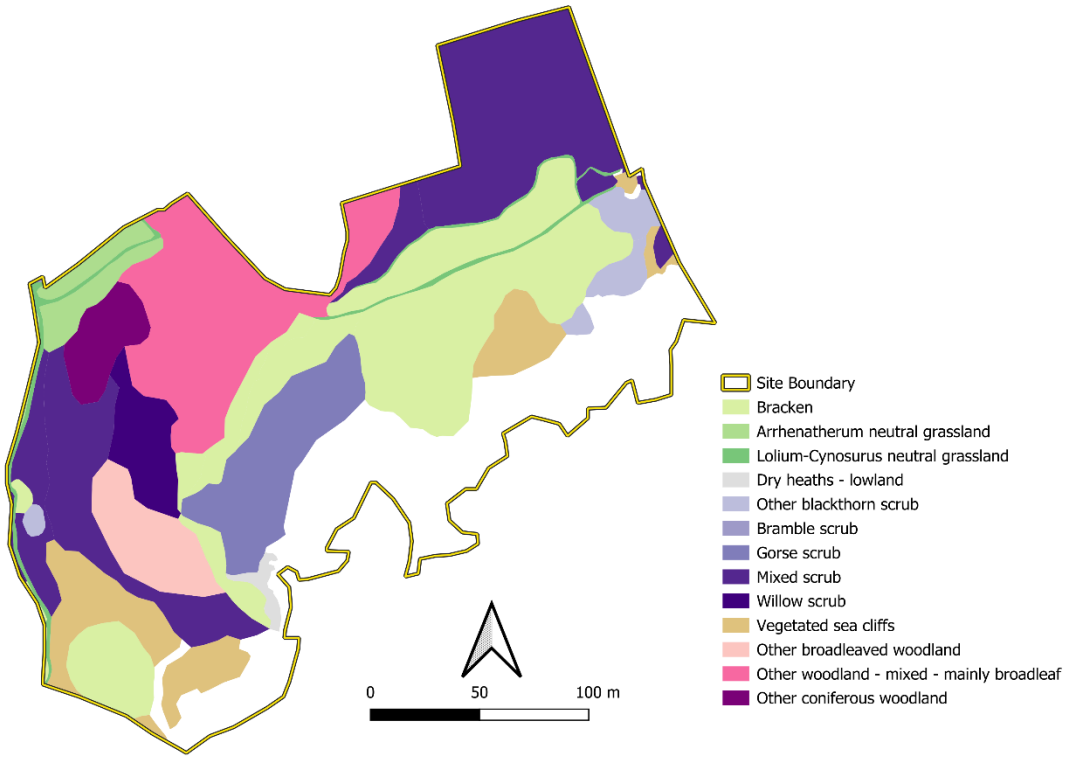

Figure 6. Vau du Saou Reserve boundary and habitat map, as of 2023.

3. Main factors influencing the composition and management of the reserves and sites

Natural succession

Bracken, Bramble and Blackthorn encroachment is the main threat for early successional habitats like grasslands and reedbeds. Grasslands are semi-natural habitats which exist in a state of arrested succession, dependent on grazing and trampling across the site, and so rapid Bramble and Bracken encroachment occurs when disturbance is ceased. The abandonment of farmland practices in the last century, especially after the impacts felt during WWII, has gradually led to a development of increasingly large areas of rank grassland, heavy Bramble and Bracken and colonisation by scrub in areas which were traditionally culturally established grasslands and heathlands. Within the Longis Reserve, the worst affected areas are the grasslands at Mannez Garenne, Targets and along the eastern coast. The open dune system and Longis reedbed are also threatened by Bramble encroachment. Similarly, rusty sallow encroaches on Mannez Pond, casting shade over the edges of the pond. In Bonne Terre, the wet meadow habitat has been slowly degraded over the last few years due to the encroachment of Willows around the edges. By contrast, in the Community Woodland, natural succession is aiding the creation of woodland as trees are found to grow better when protected by thick bramble, and the self-seeding of trees increases the woodland cover in this area.

Non-native species

Invasive, non-native plants are a major issue in Mannez Pond (New Zealand pigmyweed and parrot's-feather), along the eastern coast (sour fig) and within Longis reedbed (white poplar). Marine non-native algae are also present in Longis Bay (Japanese wireweed and *Asparagopsis armata*). Three-cornered leek dominates large areas in the ACW, Bonne Terre and Vau du Saou. Asian Hornets are present across the island and work is carried out in support of the States of Alderney's Works Department to trap queens and find and destroy nests.

Public use

The primary reason that 85% of survey respondents gave for visiting a reserve or site, was to enjoy the scenery and landscape of the area, highlighting the importance of maintaining and enhancing these areas for public access and enjoyment. The survey also showed that around 60% of respondents engaged with the reserves and sites for walking and exercise, indicating the importance of path maintenance to the majority of users.

Dogs walked off leash are regarded to be a factor of human disturbance, particularly to breeding birds, with 37% of survey respondents stating that walking their dog(s) was their primary reason for using the reserves and sites. Open, exposed areas and isolated habitats such as grasslands, beaches or ponds are likely to be the most affected. While trampling by walkers also has a positive impact on grasslands by keeping more competitive species under control, high-intensity trampling may also threaten small and isolated habitats like the ledge vegetation or saltmarsh community present. In our 2024 reserves and sites visitor survey, feedback was received that free roaming dogs have been seen chasing wildlife in Longis Reserve, and dogs have been recorded swimming at Longis and Mannez ponds.

It is vital to recognise the value that the reserves and sites provide to all residents' quality of life, through targeted management of areas we are identifying ways of reducing the incidental impact of human disturbance on areas of the reserve.

Climate change

Climate change is one of the major threats to biodiversity worldwide, causing changes to average and extreme weather, and driving species range shifts, which can increase the arrival of new species. This may promote the spread of non-native species such as the Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) which has been listed

as being a potential economic and health risk in Guernsey (States of Guernsey, 2023), or other species that affect Alderney's terrestrial and marine environments, for instance the Furrowed Crab (*Xantho hydrophilus)*.

Ocean acidification

Ocean acidification is considered as one of the main human-caused pressures on marine ecosystems and might therefore have long-term effects on Longis Reserve marine habitats and species. There is an increasing concern about the potential impacts of pH reduction and its subsequent alteration of calcification processes on marine life (IGBP, IOC, SCOR, 2013).

Resources

The AWT has extremely limited staff and funding resources for management: only 11 AWT staff members (many of whom are voluntary staff) currently work on a full-time basis to deliver on all AWT projects, including 2 full time and 2 part time working on the reserves and sites. Under this scenario, it is essential to review current effort, set priorities and allocate resources accordingly when managing AWT reserves and sites.

In addition, the AWT is able to draw on a group of Conservation Volunteers who undertake 4-5 hours of conservation effort across two sessions per week. This group averaged between 2 and 3 volunteers during any one session in 2024, and delivered 973 hours of additional conservation effort, which is vital to the success and completion of conservation projects.

Land ownerships

Longis Nature Reserve was designated a reserve by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the States of Alderney (70 ha), the AWT, and verbal agreements with other private landowners (20 ha) to prevent habitat loss due to abandonment of traditional land management. Fort Houmet Herbé's causeway and the island it lies on are privately owned although fall within the reserve boundary. Other private landowners may also choose to develop their land in the future, which may have a direct impact on the management of parts of the Reserve.

Alderney Community Woodland is owned by the States of Alderney, with two leases: The Alderney Golf Club and telecoms company Arqiva. General works and maintenance are managed under prior agreement from the States of Alderney and tenants with major works needing separate arrangement.

The land in Bonne Terre on which the AWT lends its support is owned by the Alderney Society due to its historic importance and the watermill at its northern end. It is bounded to the west by a SoA owned footpath and is managed in partnership between the Alderney Society and the Alderney Wildlife Trust. There is also an Alderney Water Board building at the northern edge of the site. The dam, though built to supply the historic watermill, was used as a settling pond for Alderney's Water Board in 2006 and directly supplies the aforementioned building. However, due to contamination of PFOS (a harmful 'forever chemical') within the Bonne Terre stream making the water unsuitable for human consumption, this use is currently under review. The interests of The Alderney Society and Alderney Water Board will therefore have to be taken into account when carrying out any management work within this site.

The Vau du Saou Nature Reserve was designated under a Memorandum of Understanding between the AWT, the States of Alderney and two private landowners in 2004.

4. Key actions to achieve this 2025-2030 strategy:

Key Actions	Measures of Success	Target date
Review the actions completed within the last year and incorporate ongoing or outstanding actions from this strategy into the following year's annual action plan	Complete Annual Action Plans by 31st January of each year to provide sufficient forward planning for the year ahead.	**31st Jan annually**
To utilise the Alderney State of Nature project's assessment of key habitats to inform the Reserves and Sites action planning.	Integration of Alderney State of Nature habitat condition assessments into Action Plans Review of progress in improving the status of key habitats	**Jan 2026, and annually thereafter as assessments become available** **Oct 2029**
Reduction of pressures to habitats and species, including from Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) (see Sour Fig obj. 3.2 and Three-cornered Leek obj. 3.3)	Update sour fig assessment of island wide extent from 2021 and produce 5-year review of status Total area of sour fig has not increased or decreased in priority areas since 2021 A visible reduction in the area of three-cornered leek in trial area	**2026** **2026** **2027**
To increase Alderney's woodland area by 50%, by planting at least 25,000 native trees over the next 5 years (see obj. 3.6)	Tree cover on Alderney increases by 50% by 2030	**2030**
Focus our work to ensure 30% of Alderney is thriving for nature within our reserves and sites Work to inspire and support members of our community, and landowners, to engage with Putting Nature into Recovery through engagement activities (presentations, social media, events, etc.)	Carry out condition assessments of key habitats across the island. Engagement with landowners and the public to meet our 30% goal	**2025/2030** **2030**

5. Management Aims and Objectives

The main aims of this strategy are:

Aim 1: Champion - To raise awareness of and connection to the ecological value and sustainable management of these sites through community engagement, education, and by enabling access to these sites

Aim 2: Study - To monitor the status and trends of the key habitats, species and features within the sites, as well as the interconnection between people and these places, to inform how we champion and protect them.

Aim 3: Protect - To conserve and, where appropriate, restore habitats and species of high ecological and community value, taking into account important historical sites and the island's culture and heritage.

We have divided these aims into 27 objectives and have detailed their justification, actions, and the measures of success in the following pages.

5.1. Aim 1: Champion - To raise awareness of and connection to the ecological value and sustainable management of these sites through community engagement, education, and by enabling access to these sites.

Objective 1.1: To maintain the current level of access in the footpath networks

Justification: All sites outlined in this strategy serve as public open spaces for the local community and visitors. Maintaining an open footpath network is essential to ensure these spaces remain accessible year-round, facilitating the full enjoyment of the sites as part of the existing Island footpath network. Provision of continued public access to these areas fosters a stronger connection between people and Alderney's nature, thereby promoting a will to protect it.

Actions:

- Maintain the footpath network, in line with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the SoA (see Fig 7.)

Figure 7. footpaths managed under the Service Level Agreement

- To monitor footpaths as often as resources allow for obstructions (i.e. fallen trees), and promptly address any issues identified within one week of detection.
- Regularly monitor the infrastructure on footpaths to ensure public access during the whole year, i.e steps, bridges, handrails. (e.g. checking infrastructure when working on site)
- Ensure cut materials, including gorse and bramble are removed from paths after cutting to reduce impact on walkers, including their dogs.
- Plan cutting times to ensure greatest benefit for invertebrates and flowering species, and least disturbance for breeding birds, reptiles and mammals in each annual action plan.
- Plan the removal of some minor paths by ceasing management if it will reduce disturbance to key species and habitats, providing there is other access available.
- Assess the level of community usage and create a priority list of methods for encouraging visitors to explore the sites.

- Remove Brown-tailed Moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*) nests from footpaths, only where they are having an impact on the public.
- Conduct a repeat of the reserves questionnaire in early 2030 and assess change in response between the two questionnaires.

Measure of success: 1) Increased positive responses about footpath maintenance in repeat of the public and stakeholder survey 2) Footpaths maintained in line with the SLA.

Objective 1.2: To maintain, enhance and increase signage about boundaries, features and management of reserves and sites, where deemed beneficial.

Justification: Signage is a simple and effective method of communication with the users of the sites and can help to raise awareness of and connection to their ecological value and sustainable management. Signage can also provide information on natural and cultural history and how to sustainably use the sites. In 2024, 76% of survey respondents stated that there are enough educational materials within the sites, although, a handful of comments stated that that signs "look tired" or "need updating"

Actions:

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of existing signage for condition, readability and information quality, including whether the information is up-to-date and easy to understand, in 2025 and review annually thereafter.
- Review and update signage within the Wildlife Bunker, Mannez and Longis bird hides and the ACW Orchard in 2025.
- To re-focus access to the ACW's southwestern edge, which is currently primarily through the Les Rochers track, to the access pathway from Longis Road by the Impot turn off. This will be done in liaison with the SoA and landowners of adjacent property and will require planning permission for signage. Access will still be available for works vehicles working on the site and to enable those with mobility issues who wish to visit this area of the ACW.
- Include intent to replace or update signs within yearly action plans
- Advisory signs (e.g. fallen trees, cattle moving) should be used as and when necessary and taken down when the operation has finished to ensure they are effective.
- Regularly evaluate the impact of signage on visitor experience and adjust signage approach as needed based on feedback and observations.

Measure of success: (1) Signage within the Wildlife Bunker, Mannez and Longis bird hides and the Orchard updated for 2026. (2) Signage included as a section of all reviews and action plans during the time-period of this strategy

Objective 1.3: To maintain and if possible, enhance Mannez and Longis bird hide facilities.

Justification: Bird hides are one of the most important recreational elements of Longis Nature Reserve, allowing members of the community and visitors to view resident and migratory birds that pass through the reserve. They allow wildlife to be viewed without being unnecessarily disturbed. They are also a central place for our signage, providing visitors with information about the wildlife and sustainable use of the reserve.

Actions:

- Maintain a maintenance schedule to ensure regular cleaning, repair, and upkeep of bird hide structures and amenities.
- Sweep and ensure good internal condition weekly

- Update signage in 2025. Once updated ensure educational wildlife and species information in the hides is relevant, up to date, and in good condition by reviewing annually (see obj.1.2)
- Maintenance work that will have impacts on associated wildlife should be considered and scheduled for periods of minimal disturbance where possible
- Install visitor footfall counters at the doors of both facilities.
- Promote the bird hides within promotional materials, and in outreach methods, such as social media.

Measure of success: 1) Increase bird hide usage by at least 15% between 2025-2030. 2) Maintain a visitor satisfaction rating of at least "good" or "very good" for bird hide facilities, as monitored through the reserve's questionnaire (see obj. 1.5).

Objective 1.4: To involve the community in regular events and activities, particularly in the ACW.

Justification: Involving the community in regular events and activities increases connection to the environment and awareness of it. By sharing knowledge of wildlife, we are making scientific information more accessible to the community and providing indirect benefits of time outside in nature such as improved mental and physical wellbeing. In the 2024 survey, the ACW was the site that people would most like to see events happening in, therefore this is an area we should focus more events on in the next 5 years.

Actions:

- Develop the ACW as a sustainably managed learning environment by:
    - utilising the Woodland Bunker as a base for more events
    - creating a sustainable site usage plan for the ACW to ensure access pressures do not impact negatively on the site's sustainability.
- Ensure events and activities offer a range of educational opportunities tailored to different ages, interests and needs.
- Develop opportunities for learning and development within the woodland, including vocational skills such as ecology, woodland management, and practical training on tools and equipment.
- Publicise events and activities in all sites online, in print and on the radio to promote upcoming events within the reserves to a diverse audience, encouraging participation. Where appropriate, directly target people and/or organisations as this can increase rates of engagement.
- Liaise with AWT's Alderney Community Action for Nature (ACAN) team to establish partnerships with the local school, community groups, businesses, and members of the community to co-host events within the reserves and sites, broadening outreach efforts.
    - Refer to events calendar at the end of each year to sufficiently plan for events taking place within the reserves and sites the following year.
- Implement targeted outreach campaigns focused on specific demographics or those identified as having low awareness or engagement levels.

Measure of success: 1) At least three community events using the woodland bunker per annum. 2) An overall increase in events in the ACW by 2030, measured against 2024 usage. 3) Completion of the sustainable site usage plan, with each annual action plan thereafter incorporating its guidance when planning events.

Objective 1.5: Monitor how the success of outreach and community engagement leads to action for nature.

Justification: The Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) have a movement-wide goal of 1 in 4 people taking action for nature and climate by 2030. As part of the RSWT we have the opportunity to empower people to take action for nature within their communities (RSWT, 2022). Tailoring our approach to outreach with the aim of improving our engagement with the community should increase the likelihood of active participation. Our 2024 survey found

wildlife, flora, and foraging walks the most engaging activities and these are likely to be key methods of improving people's connection with nature. The community organising ripple effect can also be utilised in a way that inspires onward action.

Actions:

- Repeat surveys on 3-year intervals during summer (peak season) in order to continually refine and improve event programming (see Appendix 1).
- Define what 'taking action for nature' means, both for the AWT and independent individuals and groups
- Plan events that encourage and lead people to 'take action for nature'
- Develop targeted evaluation of events to assess how likely event attendees are to 'take action for nature'
- Identify social and physical barriers that stop members of the community from attending events and taking action independently.
- Improve the accessibility of taking independent action for nature.

Measure of success: 1) Creation of a document that defines action for nature. 2) At least 25% of event attendees intending to 'take action for nature'. 3) Creation of a document that identifies barriers to taking action. 4) Mitigation of at least 2 barriers to taking action

Objective 1.6: Conduct a review of the Conservation Volunteers' structure and use feedback to improve volunteer experience.

Justification: Since the beginning of the AWT, the trust has been supported by a team of Conservation Volunteers, who are vital in keeping the reserves and sites managed for wildlife and accessible for the community. In 2024 this group averaged around 2-3 individuals during any one session and delivered 973 hours of additional conservation effort per annum. Volunteering also provides members of the community an opportunity to engage with nature, meet like-minded people, and gain physical health benefits. Through feedback from the 2023 volunteers' co-production session, it has become clear that improvement is needed in the organisation of the group, particularly around the promotion of sessions, a clear plan for the future of volunteering with the AWT, and a need to recruit more volunteers to continue this work.

Actions:

- Creation of a Volunteer Strategy by the end of 2025 that details the following:
    - What we wish to achieve through volunteering
    - Onboarding and induction processes
    - Planning of sessions
    - Volunteer support mechanisms
    - Development of skills
    - Health and Safety (risk assessments etc.)
    - Complaints procedure
    - Recruitment methods
- Creation of a Volunteer Handbook, that is given to every current and new volunteer
- Work with the AWT's Alderney Community Action for Nature (ACAN) team to advertise and promote sessions to residents and visitors, through the Wildlife Centre, radio stations and social media.
- Utilisation of an online volunteer management system, to promote volunteer sessions, store data securely and easily record volunteer hours.
- Run two thank you events per year
- Run one recruitment event per year

Measure of success: Volunteer Strategy completed and implemented by the end of 2025, an increase in the average number of volunteers by 50% by 2030

Objective 1.7: Improve public perception and awareness of Alderney Grazing Animals project.

Justification: From the 2024 survey results, the overall perception of the cattle grazing was positive, with 85% of respondents stating that they like the grazing cattle at Longis, and only 9% stating they dislike the cattle. However, even some respondents who liked the cattle stated that they disliked the lack of information about the practice and that their experience with the cattle would be improved with more information regarding the locations, schedule and benefits of the practice.

Actions:

- Plan ahead and provide the public one week of prior notice of cattle moves. Communicate via social media, including the Residents Group on Facebook, and put up temporary signage at the new site so walkers have more time to adjust their routes.
- Use National Vegetation Classification survey outcomes to produce educational resources showcasing the local flora benefiting from the Alderney Grazing Animals Project
- Update signage to be more detailed about the benefits of conservation grazing, and where the cattle graze, as well as establishing best practice for being around the livestock, safety guidance and animal welfare information.
- Engage with local media outlets (i.e. radio, magazine and the Journal) to share success stories, case studies, and testimonials highlighting the positive impacts of cattle grazing on Longis' grassland habitats and floral diversity

Measure of success: using the repeat reserves and sites questionnaire (see obj. 1.5) establish that there has been a reduction in the number (21.88%) of respondents that voiced "lack of information about the practices" as a reason for disliking the cattle.

Objective 1.8: Maintain and improve existing memorial features and create provisioning for future memorial features.

Justification: Several memorial features are present in the sites, particularly in the ACW, and management ensures that memorial features fulfil their commemorative purpose, engage the local community, enhance visitor experiences, and contribute positively to the overall management and cultural significance of the sites. Creating memorial features is an important way to engage with the local community and creates a sense of ownership. Benches also provide a point of reflection and enjoyment for members of the public using the site.

Actions:

- Maintain memorial features in good order by regularly clearing in and around the sites and using protective wood stains every few months as needed.
- Increase the awareness of these features with sensitively placed signage where appropriate.
- Identify potential locations and themes for new memorial features through community input, historical research, and site assessments. Community-driven suggestions ensure relevance and cultural significance.
- Provide assistance with the creation and maintenance of memorial features using the skills of staff and conservation volunteers
- Wherever possible create features such as benches out of resources from within the reserves and sites, e.g. benches made from felled pine trees.

- Set up visual inspections of existing memorial features to assess their condition, including cleanliness, structural integrity, and aesthetic appeal. A well-maintained appearance reflects effective management.

Measure of success: 1) Inspections and maintenance completed on a regular basis 2) Establish a list of potential memorial sites.

Objective 1.9: Maintain and improve historic features.

Justification: The reserves and sites contain a number of historic features including: the Observation, Woodland, and Wildlife Bunkers; quarry gantry, and quarries including Mannez and the ACW's Sand Pit. The presence of these features is a significant reason for visiting the sites and effort should be made to improve the access to, and the impact of these sites.

Actions:

- Regularly clean out bunkers of vegetation and litter.
- Cut scrub around the quarry gantry in ACW
- Maintain, and update where necessary signage and information points associated with historic and natural features within bunkers (see obj. 1.2)
- Keep entryways to key bunker sites clear.
- Collaborate with the wider AWT team to annually update the displays within the wildlife bunker. Existing promotional and educational resources created for other AWT projects may be used to save time and resources, whilst still keeping the bunker displays up to date.

Measure of success: 1) Continued regular maintenance of historic features 2) signage updated when necessary 3) At least one new poster or display updated within the wildlife bunker each year.

Objective 1.10: To involve the island's community in the ACW by promoting traditional woodland skills, whilst at the same time, increasing the socio-economic value of the woodland as a source of sustainable material for the future.

Justification: One of the ACW's founding aims was to provide a focal point for the island's residents and visitors, offering a new perspective on Alderney's cultural and natural environment. In achieving this aim, we need to focus on the natural assets provided by the site and their sustainable use by the Island's wider community for the benefit of current and future generations.

Actions:

- Develop an economic usage plan for the ACW which should include:
  - Productive harvesting of timber (see obj. 3.9) and fruit from the Orchard
  - Usage of the site for community activities i.e. Forest Schools, St. Anne's School activities
  - Skills development e.g. green wood working, hurdle building, woodland management training, drystone walling

Measures of success: 1) increased community usage of the site from the 2024 baseline 2) increased revenue received from sale of woodland produce (income to be used to cover ACW costs) 3) Economic usage plan completed by 2030.

5.2. Aim 2: Study - To monitor the status and trends of the key habitats, species and features within the sites, as well as the interconnection between people and these places, to inform how we champion and protect them.

Objective 2.1: Monitor the trends and status of key species and habitats within the reserves and sites as part of the AWT's Evidence Base.

Justification: Gathering data in reserves and sites that are under our direct management provides a clear pathway to implement conservation action for the benefit of species and habitats of conservation concern. Since the creation of Longis nature reserve in 2002, the AWT has collected data as part of its Evidence Base, and is now in the process of refining the data it collects to focus on habitats and species based on their conservation importance, cultural and economic value through the Alderney State of Nature project. The Alderney State of Nature project will then formally analyse these data to assess whether these key habitats and species are at a favourable status or whether they are approaching limits of acceptable change. Continuing terrestrial and marine ecological monitoring work within the reserves alongside the State of Nature project is fundamental to assessing when conservation action may be needed and represents a core component of work within the reserves and sites.

Actions:

- Gather data on the status and trends of key habitats and species through ecological surveys outlined in the AWT's Evidence Base, including terrestrial surveys and the Living Seas Programme, with annual refinement based on the outputs of the Alderney State of Nature project. This includes assessments of species' populations, habitat quality and extent, and threats.
- Engage with SoA and other landowners over the status and trends of key habitats where updates have been requested or where new actions require landowner permissions.
- Continue submitting data to the Alderney Biodiversity Centre and any external monitoring programmes.
- As part of annual action planning, incorporate conservation actions to benefit species and/or habitats that are not at a favourable status (the effectiveness of these actions will be monitored via the ecological survey work completed as part of the Evidence Base).

Measure of success: 1) Data is collected and submitted in a timely manner following each annual action plan. 2) Conservation actions that are targeted to improve the status of key habitats and species as they approach limits of acceptable change are planned and implemented within each annual action plan. 3) The effectiveness of the conservation actions are measured throughout their implementation by incorporating continued or new survey work into the Evidence Base each year (as appropriate).

Objective 2.2: To promote scientific research of ecological features within these reserves and sites.

Justification: Research conducted by visiting students and academics can enhance our understanding of the sites' ecology while conserving staff and volunteer time and resources. However, such endeavours should only proceed if there is an evident mutual benefit, for instance where the research contributes ecological and/or environmental data to the Evidence Base, and the visiting researcher receives training and/or support in return.

Actions:

- Develop a portfolio of potential MSc and undergraduate projects for students and support their implementation annually.

- Publish results of current and ongoing scientific works completed within the sites on the reports page of the Alderney Wildlife Trust website.
- Ensure that the data from any research undertaken is available via the Alderney Biodiversity Centre, or alternative open-access forum, within a reasonable period following data collection.

Measure of success: At least one project per annum advertised to interested universities that includes research within AWT's reserves and sites.

5.3. Aim 3: Protect - To conserve and, where appropriate, restore habitats and species of high ecological and community value, taking into account important historical sites and the island's culture and heritage.

Objective 3.1: To maintain the current size and species richness of dune and coastal grasslands present at the Longis Reserve.

Justification: Longis' dune grassland is the largest area of this habitat type found on Alderney and supports a high diversity of species. Additionally, a number of UK scarce or rare plants, including Small-flowered Catchfly, Small Hare's-ear and Small Restharrow can be found within the Longis Reserve coastal grassland areas.

Grasslands are successional habitats which require some level of disturbance to persist (Yuan et al, 2016). In the absence of disturbance, vegetation would change over time and rank grass, scrub and trees would eventually dominate. To achieve the conservation of habitat size and species richness, the continuation of the rotational grazing regime of the Alderney Grazing Animals Project, and removal of rank grasses, bracken and bramble with mechanical cutting is required.

Actions:

- Graze dune and coastal grasslands in accordance with specific requirements in each area (see Fig. 8).

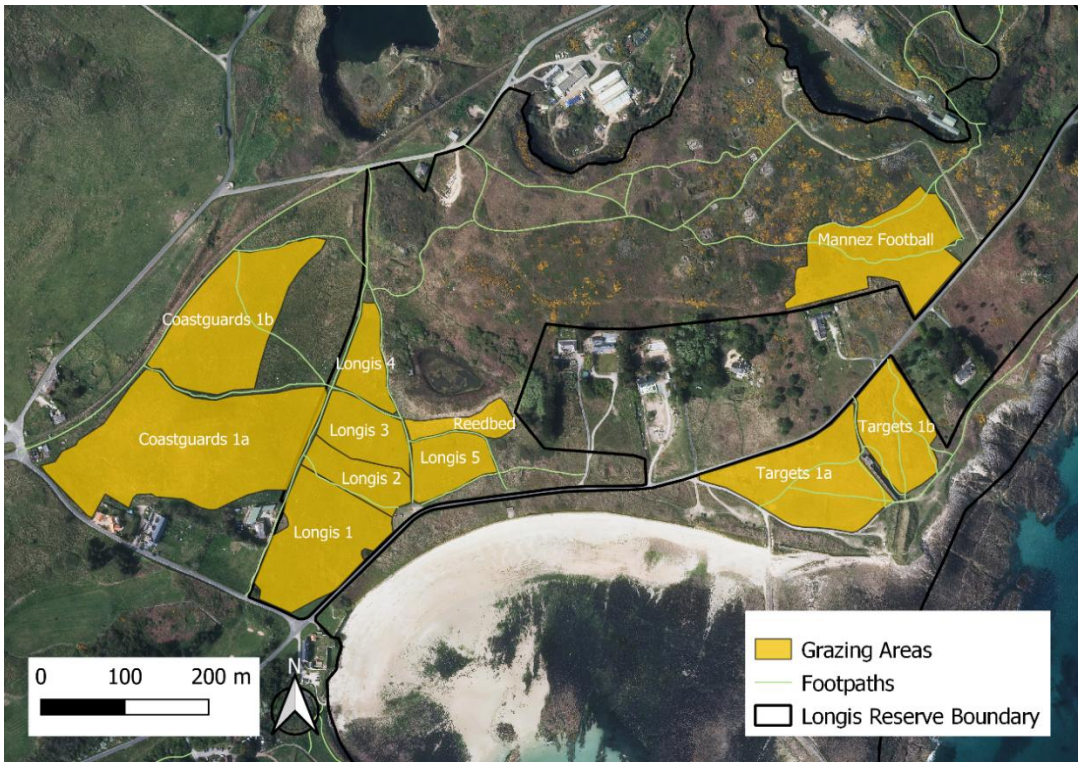

Figure 8. Grazing areas

- Graze cows in a rotational method, taking into consideration sites which become waterlogged, areas sensitive for breeding birds (e.g. reedbed), and public access requirements.
- Annually review grazing sites and plan grazing schedule at the beginning of the year for the subsequent action plan – to be completed by the end of January annually.
- Maintain variation of flowering species by ensuring plots are not continuously grazed in the same months each year.
- Ensure public access is maintained across the grazing plots by providing stiles and clear signage
- Continue National Vegetation Classification surveys every 5 years, with the next surveys taking place in 2027 (April-June) as part of the Evidence Base (see obj. 2.1)
- Use National Vegetation Classification survey results to review the conservation value of the plots and the effectiveness of the grazing regime.

- Remove rank grass growth from identified sites through mechanical cutting between October – March each year and ensure removal of cut material from site (see Fig. 9). Cut proposed additional areas if time and resources allow.

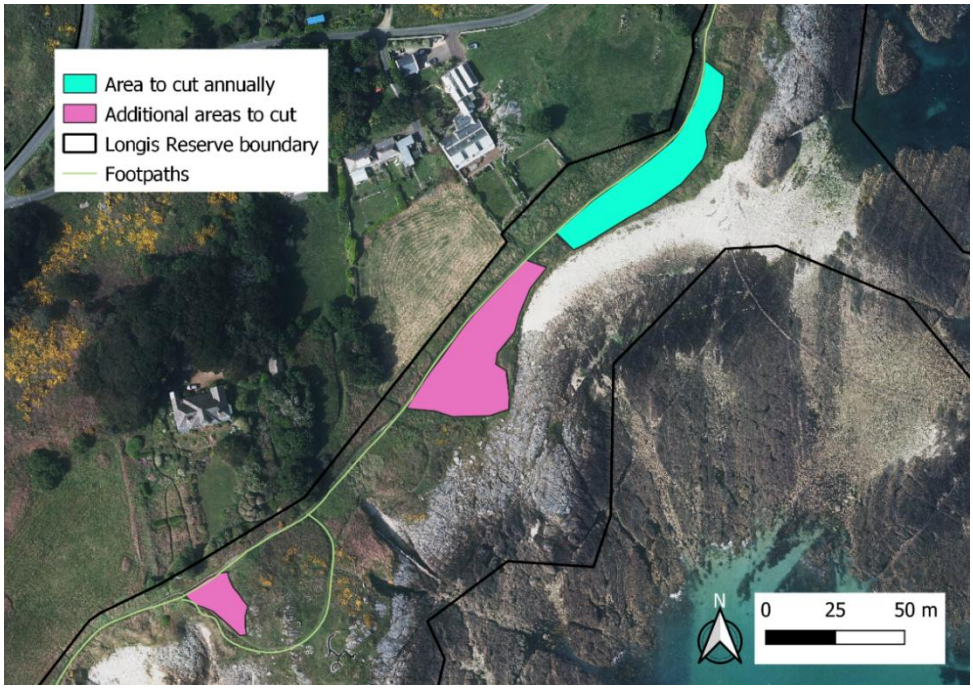

Figure 9. areas to be cut along the Houmet Herbé coast

- In compliance with Loi Relative aux Mauvaises Herbes, 1933 (amended) remove Ragwort (*Senecio jacobea)* in grazed areas through hand-pulling before they seed in June/July and ensure the material is disposed of at the impot before seeding can take place.
- Remove new Bracken and Bramble shoots through mechanical cutting. For Bracken the areas should be cleared in winter (January-February) prior to the bird breeding season. Monitoring of breeding bird presence should then be undertaken and regular bracken cutting undertaken throughout the growing season to the maximum level that resources allow. Where resources are limited, those areas being cut should be prioritised for sites where bracken spread will have the most negative impacts on habitats and species.

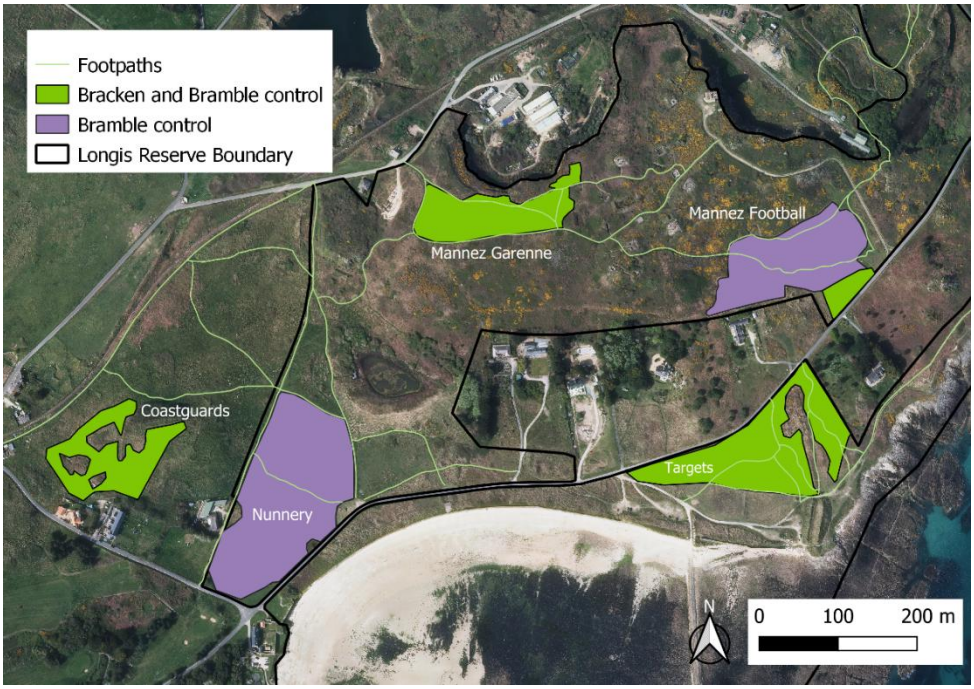

Figure 10. Bracken and Bramble control areas

- Any spreading bramble within the areas of Bracken should be cut at the same time, and additional Bramble control areas should be cut in September – October (see Fig. 10 – area boundaries are only indicative, and the site should be checked prior to cutting for hidden obstacles e.g. buried walls or bunkers).

- Remove Sour Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis)* and other *Carpobrotus* sp. along coast through hand pulling (see obj 3.2).
- Remove Ivy and *Lampranthus sp*. opportunistically where they are encroaching on areas of species-rich grassland, liaising with the ASoN team to reduce the chances of impacting sensitive species.

Measure of success: (1) No reduction in the area or species richness of the dune grassland at Longis (i.e. no net encroachment of bracken, bramble, ivy, sour fig and *Lampranthus sp.*).

Objective 3.2: Implement Sour Fig and other *Carpobrotus* spp. monitoring and removal programme.

Justification: Sour fig is an invasive South African succulent plant that spreads rapidly, forming dense impenetrable mats where little else can grow. The lack of frost during Alderney winters has enabled Carpobrotus spp. to spread rapidly along the island's coastal areas. The removal of Sour Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis, Carpobrotus acinaciformis* and *Carpobrotus glaucescens)* must continue in the coming years in order to prevent colonization in the species-rich coastal grasslands and competition with Marram Grass in sand dune systems around Alderney. When Sour Fig is removed, the native coastal plants often return (Smith, E. 2021).

Actions:

- Carry out island-wide mapping in 2026, and continue on a 5-year cycle thereafter.
- Following on from the island-wide map and findings from the 2025 dunes project, prioritise sites for removal over the lifetime of this strategy, before the end of 2026.
- Remove through hand pulling, utilising the Conservation Volunteers as well as running at least 2 larger sour fig pulling events annually. Avoid pulling in April – June in areas where there is high floral diversity (e.g. along the South Cliffs).

- Map the pulled area following each pulling event to enable monitoring of regrowth of *Carpobrotus* and habitat recovery in selected areas.
- During subsequent pulling events use quadrats to record the density of *Carpobrotus* and the presence of new plant species.

Measure of success: As a minimum the total area of *Carpobrotus spp*. has not increased within the priority areas during the lifetime of this strategy, and should resources allow, has decreased.

Objective 3.3: Trial management of three-cornered leek in areas where the plant has not dominated

Justification: Three -cornered Leek is an invasive species that can spread aggressively and outcompete native plant species for light, nutrients, and space, thus reducing biodiversity. Although Three-cornered Leek has already established dense colonies in some areas of the reserves and sites, there are still some places where control and management may be effective at reducing its spread into new areas. Leaves can easily be pulled by hand, but plants will regrow from their bulbs. Therefore, it is often necessary to use a shovel or fork to loosen the soil so that bulbs can be removed.

Actions:

- Trial effectiveness of control techniques of three-cornered leek in a 5x5m area in 2026.
    - Use ASoN outcomes of key species and habitats to decide which area will receive the greatest benefit from three-cornered leek control.
    - Hand pull the bulbs of new plants in March or April when plants have fully formed leaves. Combining autumn pulling with spring efforts may provide a comprehensive control strategy.
    - Map the total area covered by Three-cornered Leek just before pulling and map again 1 year after removal efforts.
    - Return to the pulling site after 3 weeks to check for regrowth.
    - Removal can take several years to become effective, so repeat visits to sites at least once yearly to improve chances of successful control.
    - Prevent the accidental spread of the bulbs to new areas when disposing of the pulled material by bagging up plants and taking them to green waste.
    - Begin to expand trial area or increase number of trial areas in 2029 if the initial trial is successful.
- Launch an outreach effort that encourages the public to remove and use Three-cornered Leek, promoting its viability as a foraged food.

Measure of success: Before-and-after photos of mapped trial area showing a visible reduction in Three-cornered Leek, and a reduction in the dominated area by 2029.

Objective 3.4: Maintain areas of dense scrub where it is not encroaching onto other important habitats, footpaths, or historic features.

Justification: Scrub is a common feature on Alderney, it is important for many species who use it for nesting, shelter, as a food source, and a link to move between other habitats such as grassland and woodland. A mix of ages and types of scrub will provide structural diversity and support the most variety of species. However, it must be ensured that scrub does not affect access to the sites, damage historical features, or encroach on sensitive habitats so management in these situations should favour clearance.

Actions:

- Identify areas of scrub (using the 2023 UKHAB survey map) which should be allowed to develop naturally in year one of this strategy.

- Identify areas where scrub provides low species diversity and may be assessed as providing suitable areas for new native woodland planting (see obj. 3.6) in year one of this strategy
- Not to attempt controls where the coverage of scrub is close to or above 100% cover

Measure of success: areas identified for natural development have maintained or increased in area

Objective 3.5: Manage new and emerging pressures on habitats and species

Justification: The reserves and sites are key components of the AWT's 30 by 30 goal (Business Plan 2024) and therefore should not be viewed as isolated from the wider impacts Alderney is facing now and in the future. This strategy is focused on the reduction of pressures to habitats and features from external threats both established and those yet to come.

Actions:

- Engage with the SoA with the development of an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) policy on Alderney, whilst monitoring for the presence of new/establishing invasive species including Asian Hornets. This effort should be done in collaboration with States Works and detailed within the AWT's Service Level Agreement with the States of Alderney.
- Adapt management practices to changing abiotic conditions (e.g. warmer temperatures) resulting from climate change as these occur as part of annual action planning efforts where appropriate.

Measure of success: Alderney INNS policy and climate change response planning policy in place by 2030

Objective 3.6: Enhance areas of native woodland

Justification: As of 2022, Alderney had less than 6% total woodland cover, an area significantly less than Guernsey, Sark and Jersey, and far below the European average of 44%. Alderney's existing woodland consists of mostly non-native species, which have less value for wildlife, and the most common remaining native tree species (elm and ash) are now under threat from human introduced diseases. Research conducted as part of the ASoN project in 2024 identified woodland as one of the most important and threatened habitats as perceived by residents, whilst a 2023 UK report saw nearly 90% of over 10,000 respondents identify woodland as having a positive impact on their wellbeing (Woodland Trust, 2022). Restoring Alderney's woodlands will help the island, as well as the wider Bailiwick, respond to the biodiversity and climate crises whilst connecting the community to nature and creating local and sustainable resources.

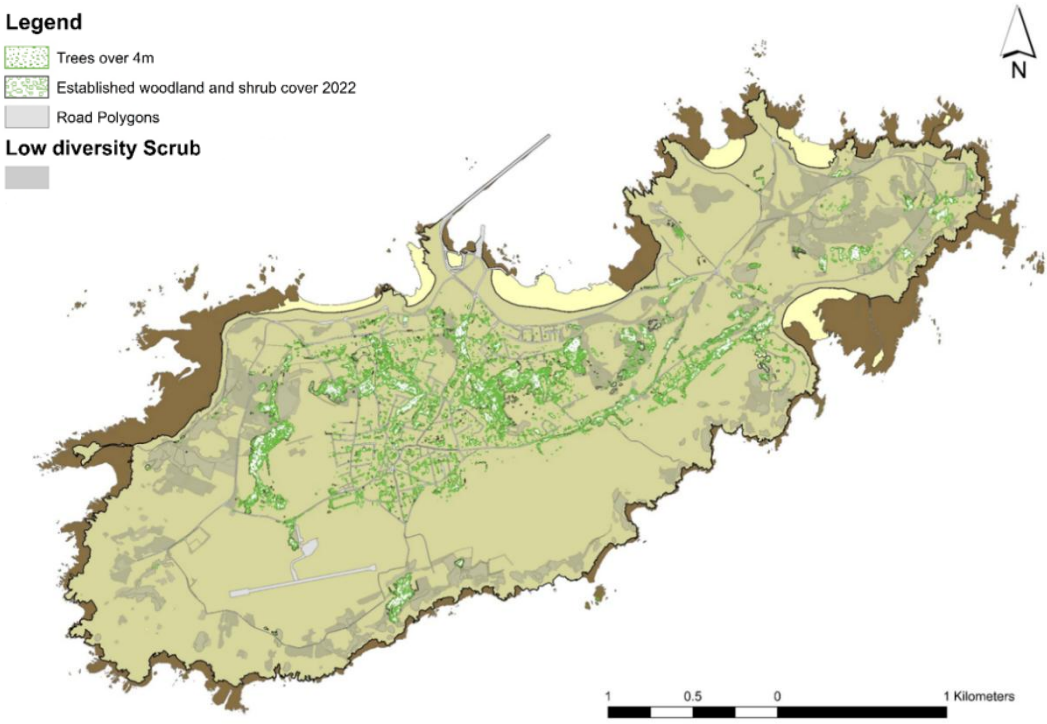

Figure 11. Map of woodland cover on Alderney in 2022

Actions:

- Complete a review of existing woodland in 2025 and establish priority areas for planting
- Establish a method for assessing the ecological condition of Alderney's woodland
- Develop partnerships to secure land, funding, support for planting, or advice to ensure continuity and sustainability
- Plant 25,000 native trees by 2030
- Trial the re-establishment of native woodland floor plants in the ACW.
- Leave some logs and stumps when trees are felled to increase the availability of deadwood habitat
- Integrate woodland growth into the AWT's Carbon Strategy 2026-2030
- Remap tree cover at the end of the strategy period to assess the increase in coverage and structure.

Measure of success: An area equivalent to 3% of Alderney is actively planted or allowed to naturally regenerate into woodland, amounting to a 50% increase in future woodland cover; at least 25,000 native trees planted by 2030

Objective 3.7: Continue aftercare and monitoring of planted trees

Justification: It is important to continually monitor and carry out aftercare of planted trees to ensure they have the best chance of success. Grass, brambles, bracken and clematis can quickly overwhelm young trees, causing them to have a slower rate of growing, or in a lot of cases die.

Actions:

- Review previous planting methods within the ACW
    - Record dates of all past and present tree planting to create a schedule for aftercare and guard removal.

    - Establish a clear method for tree planting, including where to plant to ensure trees have the best chance, with a focus on reducing the need for aftercare.
    - Begin to track tree survival rates by recording how many trees have survived 1 year after planting (starting winter 2025/2026).
- Remove guards from trees which have outgrown them. In areas where bramble and scrub has encroached planted trees, remove the guards outside of the breeding season (March - August) to minimise disturbance.
- Cut the grass in the Orchard when necessary to ensure the trees are not overwhelmed and that people can easily access them.

Measure of success: 1) Survival rate quantified, 2) an improvement in tree survival recorded by the end of this strategy period due to improved method

Objective 3.8: Restore the wet meadow area within Bonne Terre Valley

Justification: Wet meadows are a type of grassland habitat characterised by waterlogged soil, often seasonally flooded, and dominated by a diverse mix of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. They are important habitats for supporting rare, specialised species. This area of Bonne Terre previously supported the Southern Marsh Orchid which is now believed to be lost from Alderney. However, restoring the wet meadow may support the recovery of Ragged Robin and Lesser Spearwort, as well as maintaining the presence of Greater Tussock Sedge. Although the wet meadow is degraded, it is still at a recoverable state. Additionally, this is the only area containing a wet meadow habitat in Alderney making it a key habitat for restoration.

Actions:

- Establish regular communication with the Alderney Society, as site owners, to focus existing and future management to more effectively protect and enhance the wet meadow habitat within this area.
- Carry out clearance and re-establishment of wet meadow south of the dam (see Fig. 12) and thereafter conduct annual maintenance
    - Cut the grass once annually in late summer and remove cuttings depending on water levels (lower water levels won't supress the growth of coarser grasses so removing cuttings would be necessary if this is the case).
    - Cut back the Willows and Blackthorn around the perimeter of the meadow annually in winter to allow more light in and prevent encroachment of trees on the meadow
- Discuss with the Alderney Water Board the viability of damming or re-routing the stream to re-wet the meadow

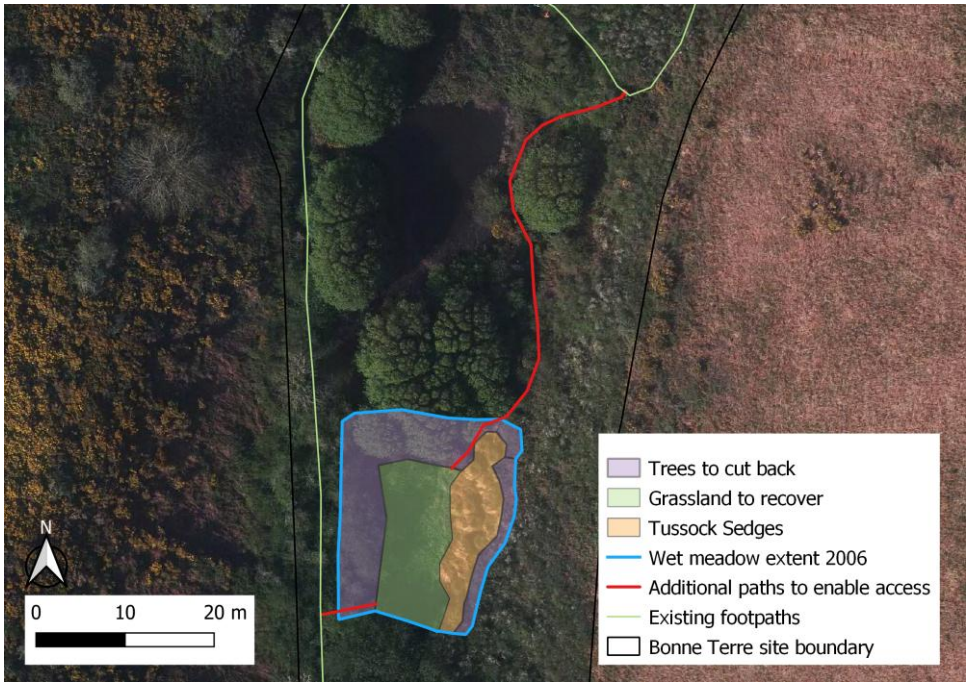

Figure 12. Map of the wet meadow area

Measure of success: 1) restore at least 50% of the habitat present in 2006 as recorded in photography from that time, 2) natural return of Ragged Robin to being present on the site.

Objective 3.9: Effectively manage the willow trees within Bonne Terre Valley and other sites as a useful resource for the AWT

Justification: Willow is a natural resource that can be harvested for a variety of uses including for traditional crafts, biomass for composting, and timber. It can be used to provide income for the AWT through the selling of timber/products or can be used as an educational tool to connect the community with methods of harvesting and weaving in a sustainable way.

Actions:

- Harvest willow every winter with the Conservation Volunteers (see Fig. 13), following best practice guidance (Blakesley, D and Buckley, P, 2010)
- Willow is cut in a way which encourages future growth of straight willow rods and where possible minimise competition, with the aim of creating a more useful resource.
- Use coppiced willow as a source of carbon for use in compost, to balance the nitrogen rich food waste, as part of the Alderney Waste to Food Project.
- Use coppiced willow as a resource for developing woodland skills in the ACW
- Refer to the Economic Usage Plan (see obj. 1.10) to assess the viability of using willow for greenwood crafts

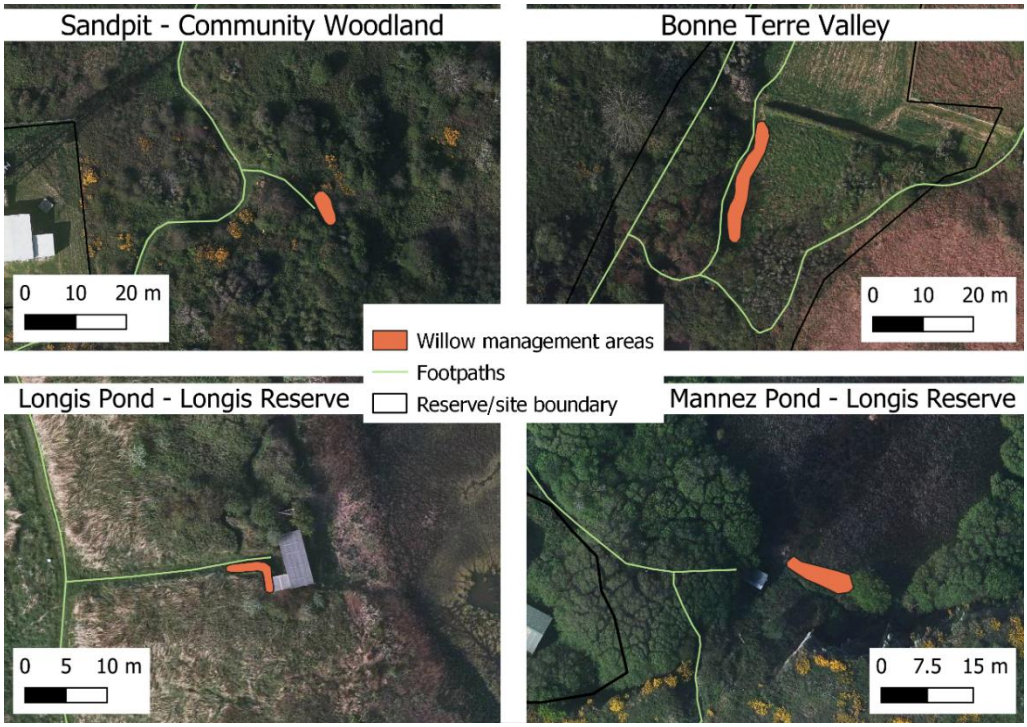

Figure 13. Willow coppicing and pollarding areas

Measure of success: Willow is harvested annually and is actively used within trust activities or sold.

Objective 3.10: To maintain the species richness of Longis Pond, and if possible, increase the size of the surrounding reedbed

Justification: Longis Pond has the only community of Common Reed on Alderney which provides a valuable habitat for breeding birds and invertebrates, as well as shelter for a wide range of species. The small size of the reedbed, coupled with the threat of encroachment from Bramble and Yellow Flag Iris and the non-native species White Poplar, make it a vulnerable habitat in need of constant care and attention.

Actions:

- Mechanically cut approximately 1/5th of the reedbed per year on a five-year, rotational basis, creating a varied age structure (see Fig. 14)
    - Plan the area of reedbed to cut each year in the annual action plan, in consultation with key stakeholders, including SoA and ABO. Areas to be cut cannot be predetermined in this strategy as bramble encroachment, breeding bird nesting sites, water levels, dominant problem species, regrowth rates, etc. can vary annually. Therefore, areas should be identified and mapped each year to account for these unpredictable variabilities.
    - When planning the cut, stagger the areas to ensure there is not a direct pathway to the pond that allows access by people and dogs.
    - Once cut, remove the cut material (leaving it will cause excessive soil enrichment and not leave space for new reeds to grow)
    - Cutting should take place in late autumn, after the bird breeding season.
    - Cutting times and areas to be confirmed within each action plan and shared with key stakeholders.
    - Seek agreement with ABO for areas of bramble to be retained, as independently recommended, using wooden posts to mark 2-3 areas of bramble to be retained and rotated every 1-3 years.

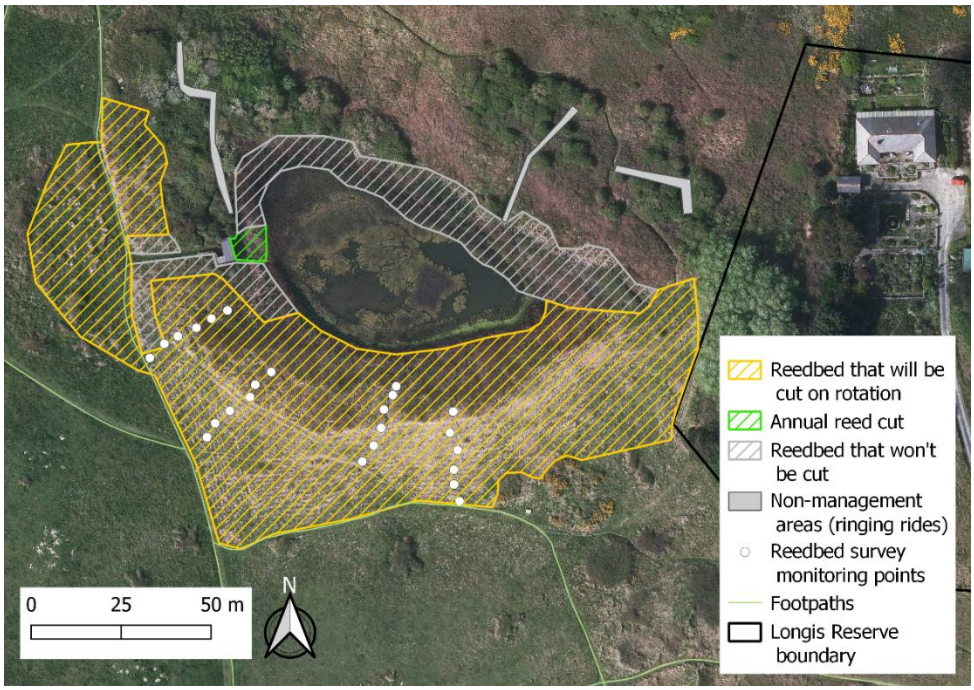

Figure 14. Reedbed area

- Liaise with SoA to agree a programme for controlling the spread of white poplar, a non-native tree species that is spreading through the site and impacting not only the reedbed but also water availability through uptake. Pending this agreement, continue to remove white polar in areas it is within or close to the reedbed area (see Fig. 14). Exact areas to be removed should be mapped within each action plan.
- Allow Elder and Bramble to develop naturally in areas where it is not encroaching on other important habitats (see obj. 3.4)
- Trial the removal of Yellow Flag Iris from a small portion of Longis Pond's reedbed (in front of Longis Hide). It is recommended that sections be removed in late winter by digging, as resources allow.
- Create a biosecurity plan in collaboration with SoA and ABO for keeping New Zealand Pigmyweed out of Longis Pond in 2026.
- Discourage public access using signage in sensitive areas like the open water and reedbeds of Mannez and Longis ponds, to avoid disturbance to breeding and wintering birds.

Measure of success: (1) Area of reedbed is maintained or increased. (2) no New Zealand Pigmyweed is detected in Longis Pond.

Objective 3.11: To maintain the current size and species richness of Mannez pond's open water and surrounding habitat

Justification: Mannez is one of the few shallow quarry ponds which remains wetted for the majority of the year, providing a rare wetland habitat with special importance for migratory birds and resident invertebrates and amphibians. The dominant plant in Mannez Pond is Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) which should be managed to maintain the open water for these species.

Actions:

- Prevent Rusty Sallow invading open water by removing new, emerging shoots in late autumn-winter

- Maintain and/or enhance species richness of existing woodland cover adjacent to the pond through active management and planting if necessary.
- Maintain a minimum area of open water (approximately 0.1 ha) by cutting Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) back in late July-August annually (site to be assessed for breeding birds prior to commencement of any works), then following up with a late autumn/winter cut if regrowth is prominent. This is a change of practice based on external recommendations from Environment Guernsey.
- Monitor Yellow Flag Iris at its current location (the southwest corner of the pond) and if there is spread, opportunistically remove.
- Annually replenish the willow screen alongside the footpath to screen the pond from disturbance (see obj. 3.9)

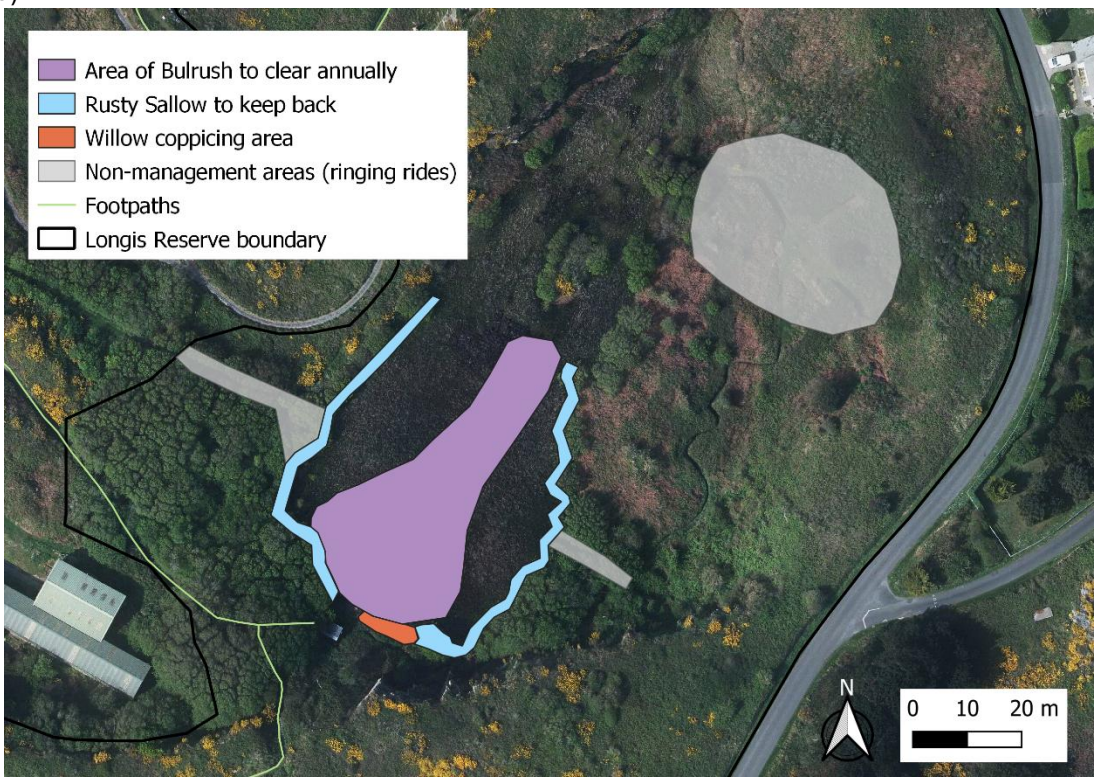

Figure 15. Mannez Pond

Measure of success: (1) No increase in area of yellow-flag iris. (2) At least 0.1 ha of open water is maintained each year (subject to water table fluctuations).

Objective 3.12: To maintain existing Mannez Garenne gorse scrub in a favourable status for breeding Dartford Warblers.

Justification: Dartford warblers are a species of conservation concern (UK rare breeding bird) and are likely to be one of the key species in the ASoN assessment of key habitats and species. They are an unusual part of Alderney's fauna and may support nature tourism on the island, contributing to the economy. Gorse starts losing its value for wildlife over time, when its compactness and regeneration capacity decreases (RSPB, 2015). Breeding Dartford Warblers select areas where gorse stands of 60-150 cm dominate the vegetation (Bibby & Tubbs, 1975), meaning a sufficient management process is needed to maintain gorse in a favourable condition for the birds. Historically the AWT has not had the resources necessary to actively manage gorse habitat for breeding birds and this strategy seeks to establish the actions that, should resources be secured, will facilitate appropriate management.

Actions:

- Map the areas of gorse within the reserves and sites that are candidates for management to support the existing Dartford Warbler populations.
- Establish methodology for management of this area with consideration of the following:
    - Maintain a mosaic of gorse age structure by cutting 1/10th of the area occupied by gorse on rotation each winter, only selecting the tallest and most open ("leggy") gorse bushes to remove (Caiden 2008).
    - Assess the height of gorse every year to decide where further management is needed. Survey gorse height in Sept-Oct (or survey for year ahead with expectation of it to grow 15-30cm).
    - Maintain some small areas of gorse < 20cm for the birds to hunt and feed by regular cutting.
    - Carry out works between October - February to avoid disturbing nesting birds.
    - Control the encroachment of trees and invasive species that can overshadow and outcompete gorse, such as non-native bay tree incursions on the Mannez Garenne
    - In areas where high quality gorse would be hard to establish, replacement with an alternative habitat could be considered, but this should not happen if there is potential to return the gorse to a favourable status

Measures of success: 1) Methodology established for gorse management 2) An increase in the number of Dartford Warbler territories in managed areas is recorded by 2030

Objective 3.13: Manage the remaining glade in the ACW to maintain openness.

Justification: Glades within woodlands offer several natural benefits by providing habitat diversity. The provision of distinct glade habitats may support a unique set of plant and animal species adapted to open, sunnier conditions. The glade area of the ACW lacks the natural grazing pressure to be sustained without active management.

Actions:

- Tractor cut the glade in late summer or early autumn, adjusting the frequency of mowing based on growth rates (see Fig. 16).

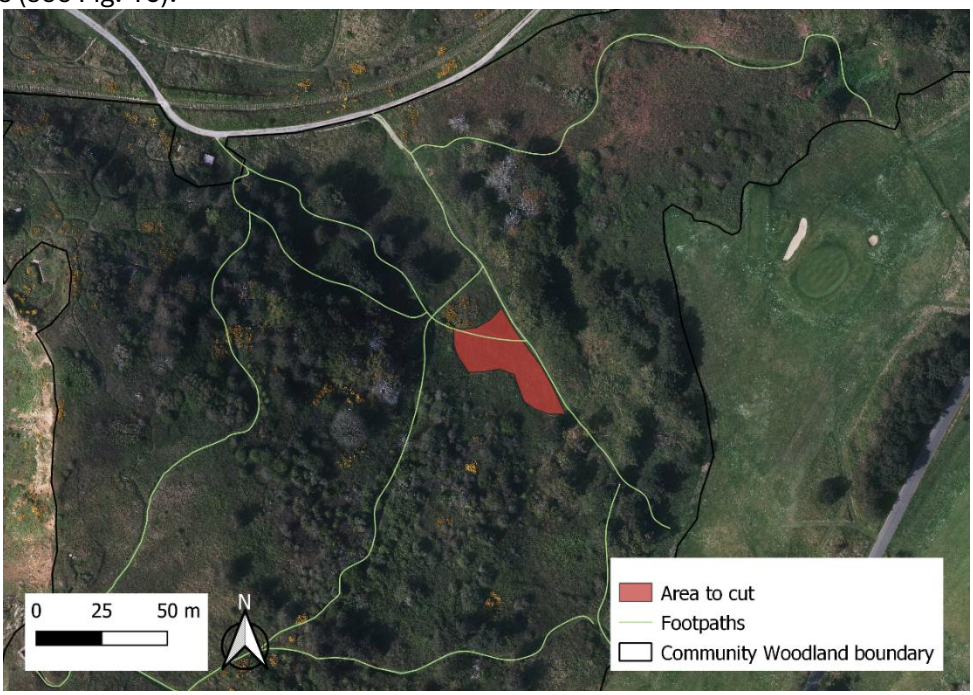

Figure 16. Glade area

Measures of success: Cuts are completed on time.

Objective 3.14: Support the health and welfare of Longis' marine environment.

Justification: Numerous marine mammal species sightings and strandings have been recorded across Alderney's marine area, including that forming part of the Longis reserve, hence there is a need to support the local BDMLR marine mammal medics and SoA with future strandings. By reducing beach waste this will reduce the potential causes of harm to marine mammals and other wildlife within the marine environment. Monitoring of environmental impacts (e.g. coastal erosion) and implementing marine habitat/species assessments will enable this objective (see obj. 2.1).

Actions:

- Support States of Alderney management activities.
- Initiate occasional beach clean events and monitoring, with SoA input where necessary (e.g. if a pollution event occurs)
- Support the implementation of new conservation actions, including advanced mooring systems, sewage system improvement, and the removal of pacific oysters (an INNS), subject to availability of funding.

Measure of success: Complete a minimum of two beach cleans per year on Longis Beach.

Objective 3.15: Create a small secondary reedbed within Platte Saline Pond

Justification: Currently Longis Pond has the only single reedbed community of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in Alderney. Common reed supports several species by providing roosting and nesting habitat, as well as being very effective at stabilising sediment and controlling pollutants (Ostendorp, Wolfgang 1993). As bodies of freshwater are few on Alderney, Platte Saline Pond is a prime location for the introduction of Common Reed.

Actions:

- Investigate with the SoA and other landowners the potential for transplantation of common reed from Longis Pond to the pond on Platte Saline Common fed by the Bonne Terre stream. Review mechanisms for removing INNS species such as Umbrella Grass which may impede the success of the project.
- Should the SoA wish to take this on, provide support in developing a plan for the management of the pond prior to work commencing, incorporating guidance in "How to Create & Manage Reedbeds" from the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT 2013), and establishing how the Common Reed will subsequently be managed.

Measure of success: Common reed successfully establishes and is managed according to the agreed plan

6. Timetable for delivery

Conservation Works Programme 2025-2030

Work Stream	Timing												Objective	Notes
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Footpaths	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	1.1	Cut footpaths on a regular basis depending on growth rates of vegetation. Carry out step repairs, revetment and drainage work during the winter months.
Amenity features	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	1.1 1.3 1.8 1.9	Stain hides and ACW wooden signs once a year (in winter), sweep and paint blackboards regularly. Repaint white footpath marker stones annually. Oil benches and cut around them when necessary. Cut around and clear out bunkers of vegetation and litter (avoiding breeding season).
AGAP	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	3.1	All within Longis Reserve. Areas should be rotated and shouldn't be grazed at the same time each year. Plot boundaries need to be cut before fencing is put up.
Grassland cutting	■	■								■	■	■	3.1	Houmet Herbé coast - cut and flail collect/rake area annually. Additional areas to be cut if resources allow
Ragwort						■	■						3.1	Remove from within grazing plots before plants go to seed.
Bracken cutting	■	■				■	■	■	■	■			3.1	Clear areas in late winter and then cut again as many times as feasible throughout the growing season (whilst monitoring continually for breeding birds).
Bramble cutting	■	■							■	■	■	■	3.1	Spreading bramble on Longis Common should be cut from September.
Ivy & *Lampranthus sp.*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	3.1	Remove opportunistically where encroaching on species-rich grassland
Sour Fig	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	■	■	3.2	Remove from priority areas, avoiding areas of high floral diversity in April - June.
Three-cornered Leek			■	■									3.3	Remove from trial area in March/April

Work Stream	Timing												Objective	Notes
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Tree planting	■	■									■	■	3.6	Should be undertaken in late winter. Areas need to be pre-cut before planting either with the tractor or pockets hand cut in bramble.
Aftercare of trees	■	■							■	■	■	■	3.7	Remove guards from trees that have outgrown them, avoiding the breeding season if the trees are growing in thick bramble.
Orchard	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	3.7	Cut the grass below the trees and surrounding paths when necessary to keep the trees accessible and prevent vegetation from encroaching on them.
Wet meadow	■	■						■	■	■	■	■	3.8	Cut grass once annually in late summer. Cut back trees around perimeter in winter
Willow management	■	■								■	■	■	3.9	Coppice/pollard willow annually in winter and replenish willow screens opportunistically
Reedbed cutting									■	■	■	■	3.10	Mechanically cut and rake/flail collect approx. 1/5th of the reedbed area
Yellow Flag Iris	■	■								■	■	■	3.10	Remove Flag Iris by digging from a trial area in front of Longis Hide
Rusty Sallow	■	■								■	■	■	3.11	Remove encroaching tree cover over the pond in late autumn-winter
Bulrush cutting								■	■	■	■		3.11	Cut Bulrush in late July-August (survey for breeding birds before commencing works) then follow up with a late autumn/winter cut if necessary
Gorse	■	■								■	■	■	3.12	Cut areas of Gorse on rotation and control invasive species that will outcompete gorse
Glade management									■	■			3.13	Tractor cut the glade, adjusting the frequency of mowing based on growth rates
Beach Cleans	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	3.14	Complete at least 2 on Longis Beach annually

7. Glossary of terms/definitions

Abiotic conditions – Non-living elements of the environment that influence organisms and ecosystems.

Alderney Bird Observatory (ABO) - Organisation focusing on bird science, education and/or conservation, involving station-based monitoring by bird ringing and census research.

Alderney Grazing Animals Project (AGAP) - Alderney Grazing Animals Project, utilising grazing to counteract scrub invasion in the Longis reserve and to maintain the diversity of the species rich grassland on Longis Common.

Alderney State of Nature (ASoN) project - Alderney State of Nature project aims to understand how key species and habitats on Alderney and within its territorial waters have changed over time.

Alderney Waste to Food project – Processing food waste to create compost to grow food locally, reducing waste and the need to import compost.

BDMLR marine mammal medics – British Divers Marine Life Rescue Marine Mammal Medics are trained individuals who support marine mammal rescue.

Biodiversity – the variety and number of species in an area

Biomass – The weight or total quantity of living organisms of one species or all species in a community

Biosecurity plan – A plan outlining actions to prevent, eliminate and minimise biosecurity risks, preventing the introduction or spread of harmful organisms intentionally or unintentionally into new environments or outside of their native range.

Climate change – Long term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates.

Dunes Project - Using aerial photography to map change over time, allowing us to establish the health of Alderney's dunes as well as assessing dune composition.

Ecological value – refers to the benefits provided by natural ecosystems

Environment Guernsey **-** Guernsey Environmental Services (trading as Environment Guernsey) is the wholly owned environmental consultancy and environmental management company of La Société Guernesiaise.

Established woodland - land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of normally at least 20% and which is dominated by species which will naturally grow to over 4m tall and have trunks normally more than 60mm in diameter at 1m above the ground.

Evidence Base (EB) – the AWT's effort to monitor the habitats and environment of Alderney through ongoing and short-term surveys. The EB is managed by the AWT's ecologists, who work with its conservation team to implement the surveys undertaken within its reserves and sites. All surveys within the EB should have clearly defined aims and a methodology which is compliant with best practice, or draws directly from a wider ecological monitoring programme.

Footpath maintenance - Includes cutting scrub to prevent its encroachment, removal of fallen branches for safety and keeping grass paths short. This is carried out using a tractor and topper, power scythe, strimmer, or by hand in less accessible sites.

General Services Committee (GSC) - Responsible for the provision and implementation of all government services provided and/or required by legislation, resolution or policy of the States within agreed budgets.

Habitat – natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) - Any non-native species that has the ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health or the way we live.

IUCN Red List - the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of threatened species is an inventory of the global conservation status and extinction risk of animal, fungi and plant species.

Limits of Acceptable Change - variation that is considered acceptable in a component or process of the ecological character of an environment beyond which there would be a reduction or loss in character.

Memorandum of Understanding – A type of agreement between two or more parties, expressing an intended common line of action

National vegetation classification survey – A system of classifying natural habitat types according to the vegetation that they contain.

Ocean acidification – A reduction in the pH of the ocean over an extended period of time, primarily caused by the absorption of CO_2

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) **–** Every Wildlife Trust is part of The Wildlife Trusts federation and a corporate member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, a registered charity founded in 1912 and one of the founding members of IUCN – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Taken together this federation of 47 charities is known as The Wildlife Trusts.

Species richness – the number of different species in an ecological community, landscape, or region.

States of Alderney (SoA) **-** The States of Alderney is the parliament/council and the legislature of Alderney, part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Much of the land managed by the AWT is owned by the SoA and managed through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) by the AWT.

Succession - The natural process of biological community change over time.

Sustainable management - using resources wisely, in a way that they can be used indefinitely.

8. Management Strategy Use and Review

This Management Strategy covers the five-year period from 2025 to 2030 and has been prepared by the AWT in discussion with the States of Alderney and the stakeholders with interest in the reserves and sites

A public consultation was run prior to the strategy's publication and best efforts made were to consider and integrate all relevant comments received from both stakeholders and the general public into the new strategy. In some instances, suggestions or comments were regarding factors not within our control to change or influence.

After the public consultation, the States of Alderney (through the GSC), and other private landowners with interests in the sites and reserves, will be given a final opportunity to feed into the final Reserves and Sites Management Strategy 2025-2030.

8.1. Annual review

The aims and objectives of the plan will be reviewed annually by AWT staff and specific annual action plans prepared for noting by the GSC. These action plans will describe:

- The aims and objectives to be met from the Reserves and Sites Management Strategy 2025-2030 as a whole
- The annual programme of works

- The methodologies in use
- The resources required

In the final year of the 5-year cycle the work of the previous 5 years as a whole will be reviewed and the results presented to the GSC, alongside outline proposals for the new five-year management strategy for the reserves and sites.

8.2. Resources

Whilst the AWT is committed to the management of these reserves and sites to meet the objectives of this 5-year strategy, it is still a charity with limited income and staffed largely by volunteers. The mechanisms for delivering this plan are diverse and historically include limited cost of materials support in some areas from the States of Alderney; however, much of the work is dependent on project-by-project fundraising, or the organisation's limited capital reserves. Therefore, AWT recognises the "Reserves and Sites Management Strategy 2025-2030" as an aspirational document, which it commits to deliver wherever resources allow.

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10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Stakeholder and Public engagement process

Process for the Spring 2024 initial survey engagement:

1. **Assess who is a stakeholder**, and compile contact details.
2. **Determine what we were hoping to achieve** and find out through stakeholder engagement. For example, for the public, these are things such as:
    - *What events are people interested in?*
    - *Do people feel that the reserves are accessible?*
    - *Are there enough educational materials in the reserves?*
    - *People's opinions and perceptions on conservation practices*
3. **A visitor survey** was created on SurveyMonkey to gauge visitor feedback and how the sites are used. This was available to complete over 4 weeks, either online, via a paper copy, or conducted face-to-face on-site. We originally were going to conduct a separate survey for each site but to gain a larger, more standardised data pool, it was more efficient to create one combined survey.
    - The combined survey was successful and gained 35 complete responses, with useful insights. (34x on SurveyMonkey, 1x paper copy. SurveyMonkey had an 82% completion rate which is higher than average)

- **Improvements:** To improve in the future, leaving copies in the bird hides and putting up posters around the town to raise awareness of the survey could help us reach more people
- **Biases:** The results may have been biased as most people who completed the survey found out about the survey through either our website or our social media, therefore these are people who are already interested in our work.
    - We shared the social media post on the resident's group and mentioned the survey on the radio to attempt to reach a wider audience and try and gain more varied insights.
- In-person surveys were less successful, due to several aspects:
    - **Weather dependent**: The weather over the survey window was rainy and windy most days, which are not good conditions for completing a 10-minute survey.
    - **Time dependent:** As usual, the role is very busy and it was difficult to find time windows to complete the survey in person, especially in short windows of good weather, and when it's hard to predict whether there will be many people
    - **Low numbers of site visitors:** Due to the time of year, in a 2-3 hour survey attempt, only five people walked past us when conducting the survey. Four of whom stopped to show interest in why we were there, but no one formally wished to complete the survey,
    - **Improvements:** In the future if we do conduct another public visitor survey, summer would be a more appropriate time to do so, as there will be more footfall on the reserves and more tourists on the island.

4. **For the remaining stakeholders** a more open-ended feedback form was created, in conjunction with a cover letter and link to a specially created web page on the website. This was predominantly distributed to stakeholders via email or printed and delivered through letterbox for reserve adjacent residents. We received 8 responses.
5. **Survey data was reviewed.** SurveyMonkey provides graphs and tables that display simple multiple-choice data. All comment data was compiled into a spreadsheet and categorised, then used to inform the writing of the strategy.

Appendix 2 – Comments received during strategy consultation process held 29/09/2025 – 03/11/2025

Comments received during the consultation process will be anonymised and published here.