Appendix 3

Identification of operational objectives, and selection of management options and outline prescriptions

Operational Objective	Management option	Outline prescription
1. To maintain geological features and earthworks	A1 – Non - intervention	1. Gather geological information for the site 2. Monitor vulnerable areas 3. Carry out management works to prevent damage occurring
2. To maintain and enhance areas of grass/heathland	A3 – Active management	4. Carry out NVC level 2 survey 5. Record current mosaic of habitats. 6. Carry out scrub clearance at a rate that will reverse succession 7. Carry out post clearance mowing to allow grass-heathland to develop. 8. Graze (Poor's Field) to a density that arrests succession 9. Survey and monitor effect of management 10. Record areas treated
3. Maintenance of deciduous woodland	A2 – Limited intervention	11. Carry out inspection to assess whether thinning/removal of invasive species is required to achieve LTMP objectives (Appendix 5) 12. The inspection and habitat types to be recorded. (NVC Level 2) 13. Carry out limited thinning works as necessary 14. Carry out ride maintenance for invertebrate interest and creation of permanent open space 15. Record areas treated and treatment received 16. Control non native/invasive species 17. Monitor effect of

		management
4. Maintenance of coppiced woodland	A3 - Active management	18. Survey coppiced compartments that have received no treatment in the last cycle. (Particularly Bayhurst Wood) 19. Prepare a schedule of coupes based upon agreed criteria, (extraction and potential damage) 20. Record proposals and circulate 21. Carry out treatments 22. Monitor effect of works
5. To maintain and improve condition of streams and maintain current diversity of open water habitats	A3 – Active management	23. Survey site for water courses and ponds, mapping features 24. Assess need for dredging/clearing areas of open water. 25. Collect species abundance in canalised and natural stream and monitor vegetation, invertebrate and herptile populations. 26. Natural streams should not be re-profiled 27. Streams that have been re profiled/canalised should have hydrobreaks to reduce speed and attrition of the streams flow 28. Temporary ponds should remain untouched
6. Maintain Ruislip Local Nature Reserve as an area of wetland/woodland/open water. Managed under agreement with Friends of Ruislip Local Nature Reserve	A3 – Active management	29. Carry out NVC level 2 survey 30. Gather historical records of management works undertaken 31. Maintain existing areas of open water 32. Maintain existing areas of swamp 33. Maintain existing areas of woodland cover 34. Monitor effects of

		management received
7. Maintain Tarleton's Lake as an area of woodland/open water/swamp.	A3 – Active management	35. Carry out NVC level 2 survey 36. Improve source and water retention 37. Manage woodland to promote native tree mix 38. Manage sand pit by scrub control 39. Management of badger area through non - intervention 40. Monitor effects of management works
8. Conserve the current diversity of habitats including a) Hornbeam coppice b)oak-birch woodland c)oak-hornbeam woodland d)beech woodland e)open bracken areas f)alder and aspen areas g)grass-heathland h)scrub I)fallen and standing dead and rotting timber j)open water k) marsh l)streams and ponds m)rides and glades n)boundaries and banks o)any micro habitats uncovered in any survey p)habitat features of importance to protected species	A3 – Active management	41. NVC level 2 survey carried out 42. Re-survey and monitor areas on a five year basis
9. Key species	B1 – Non intervention	43. Encourage the natural regeneration of Melampyrum pratense 44. Survey and record bat activity in the site 45. Ensure Meles meles remain as undisturbed as possible 46. Survey herpto fauna 47. Seek specialist advice on key invertebrates

10. Research site species and impact of management activities	C3 – Controlled facilities	48. Investigate and list groups/individuals responsible for research projects. Obtain data from groups/individuals where possible 49. Set up list of surveys required for site 50. Enable surveys to be carried out through interested groups/individuals 51. Ensure centrally held records are maintained and updated annually
11. Encourage the learning of the natural environment and to take an interest in nature conservation. Contribute to healthier borough	D2 – Low key publicity	52. Gather historical data of site users 53. Identify target groups 54. Enable site specific information to be produced that links to the national curriculum 55. Publicise site and manage bookings/visitors 56. Record numbers and subjects covered
12. Promotion of site as an example of good woodland practice	D4 – Special promotion	57. Compare current standard of management with Comparable sites. 58. Identify areas of improvement 59. Carry out improvements 60. Publicise methods and results
13. Maintain full public access to facility for all. Contribute to a healthier borough	E4 – Open	61. Carry out footpath/bridleway survey 62. Identify problem areas and assess severity 63. Carry out necessary works 64. Monitor results 65. Provide way marking 66. Carry out maintenance to path vegetation to ensure access

14. Encourage community involvement in the site	D4 – Special promotion	67. Liaise with advisory group on a regular basis 68. Set up and maintain database of interested parties within the community 69. Organise work days/community events to encourage and enhance interest in the site 70. Seek to broaden range of user groups actively involved in the woods
15. Ensure user groups and the wider public are aware and appreciate the sensitivity of the site	D4 – Special promotion	71. Provide and maintain interpretation boards at all major entrances 72. Produce and distribute a range of leaflets 73. Undertake visitor survey on a five yearly basis 74. Carry out guided walks 75. Carry out a talks programme 76. Publish articles in local press 77. Modify existing interpretation centre to make better use of visible area 78. Investigate possibility of relocating interpretation centre through partnerships/grant aid
16. Ensure level of site safety appropriate to full access public woodland	E4 – Open	79. Carry out annual safety inspection of all statutory footpaths/bridleways, entrances, car parks 80. Carry out necessary safety works. E.g.: tree surgery *NNR Plan Stage 2* 17. Maintain estate fabric in a manner befitting a National Nature Reserve and the sites importance as a key

		amenity feature in the London Borough of Hillingdon E4 – Open 81. Inspect car parks and major entrances weekly to ensure they are litter free 82. Carry out litter clearance as necessary 83. Maintain fences and gates to a useable standard 84. Ensure toilet facility is in an appropriate state 85. Oversee use of BBQ facility and ensure sites are maintained litter free. 86. Record all site assets and carry out a condition survey 87. Carry out any works highlighted from the survey
17. Maintain estate fabric in a manner befitting a National Nature Reserve and the sites importance as a key amenity feature in the London Borough of Hillingdon	E4 - Open	81. Inspect car parks and major entrances weekly to ensure they are litter free 82. Carry out litter clearance as necessary 83. Maintain fences and gates to a useable standard 84. Record all site assets and carry out a condition survey 85. Carry out works highlighted from the survey

Appendix 4

Achievement against 1982 Long Term Management Plan recommendations

Recommendation	Status	Further Action
1. Carefully planned visitor surveys are carried out in the summer at intervals of five years (p. 17),	Not yet undertaken. Green Stat surveys are carried out at key Green Spaces to advise on customer views. These surveys are undertaken by in house staff twice yearly April and October.	Targeted visitor survey to be undertaken and visitor numbers assessed.
2. Organisers of recreational events are instructed to use only temporary signs and markers not attached to trees and remove them after the events have taken place (p. 17).	All recreational events are now undertaken in this way and very positive relationships have been set up with key clubs and users.	Continue with the close liaisons and continue to follow recommendations.
3. Any applications to use the woods or common for activities or organised events other than those noted are judged initially by their actual or possible impact on the characteristic habitats and other users of the woods (p. 17).	Organised events are all judged by the possible impact on the reserve.	Continue
4. The Education Committee of the London Borough of Hillingdon explore the possibility of establishing a field and interpretation centre to take f ull advantage of the educational potential of the woodlands and adjacent area (P· 21).	Ruislip Woodland Centre opened in 1997.	The centre is located in the grounds of the Lido and not the woods so therefore has limitations. Work has been done to improve the facilities of the centre and further work is needed.

5. Whenever management work is being carried out in the woodlands notices explaining precisely what is being done and the reason why should be	Temporary notices are displayed at all key work sites explaining the operation and informing of contact points.	Continue this with updated signage where applicable.

displayed at the place of work (p. 21),		
6. The procedure to be followed in the treatment of coppice is ..... (for full recommendation see p. 29),	Recommendation 1 – During the early years of coppicing the maps were followed strictly. Environmental factors and additional knowledge gained has enabled a more flexible approach to be taken. Larger areas have been selected and in some years variations from the expected year of works. Recommendation 2 – All coppicing is carried out in accordance with recommendation 2 Recommendation 3 – This recommendation was followed in the early years, but proved to hamper re-growth and be prone to wind throw. The management committee reviewed the practice and it was considered to be over sensitive and wavers are now not left. Some group selection was then undertaken and again this resulted in some wind throw and is being moved away from. Recommendation 4 – This practice has not been carried out and has proved unnecessary. Recommendation 5 – The few areas which have been returned to all wavers have been removed. Recommendation 6 – Initially timber produced from the coppicing was used for a variety of commercial opportunities. Oak was sold and cordwood sent to a wood pulp paper factory. The extraction of the timber and cordwood continued to cause local people to be concerned over the damage to haul routes and the practice became uneconomical due to more recycled paper being used in the production of paper. The only mill being in Wales.	Continue to follow the broad recommendations taking into account the learning gained. Specific points of note – Coppice areas can be larger or smaller than original prescription Wavers should not be left. Lay hedges and stub trees adjacent to compartments as a single operation. Continue to look for timber uses whilst considering the value of the cordwood as a deadwood resource.
7. The procedure to be followed in the treatment of standard trees is	Recommendation 1 – All standard trees which require any work are dealt with at the time of coppicing. Recommendation 2 – Density of	Continue with the broad aims of the recommendations and the learning gained :

Recommendation see p. 31).	maiden oaks is maintained as described with environmental factors influencing the felling of oak trees. Regeneration is an area of concern as oaks are only regenerating in certain areas of the woods. Recommendation 3 – The oldest trees in the compartments are left to succeed. Recommendation 4 – This practice was carried out in the early years of coppicing but has now been altered as an over cautious approach. Recommendation 5 – Regeneration in all compartments has been excellent. Standard hornbeam and other species are assessed on individual merit within the compartment Recommendation 6 – Sessile oak have been selected where present where they predominate. Recommendation 7 – Dead branches are only dealt with when they constitute a danger over a path. Recommendation 8 – Whilst trunks have not been used in building restoration, they have been sold to generate income and are now used to provide sustainable timber for the estate in the form of fencing and timber products.	Oaks should be left for the time being. Alternatives should first be sought on the grass/heathlands Continue Continue Continue Continue Continue to source oak from grass/heath areas to provide for boardwalks and bridges.
8. In uncoppiced areas the procedure to be followed is ..... (for full Recommendation see p. 32),	Recommendation 1 – Individual prescriptions have guided works in all compartments Recommendation 2 – The compartments have had periodic inspection and work implemented Recommendation 3 – N/A Recommendation 4 – Majority of work in the uncoppiced areas has revolved around opening rides and wildlife corridors as opposed to forest style thinning Recommendation 5 – The	Change this regime to be less prescriptive and allow areas to be dealt with individually. Continue Continue

	recommendations for standards are followed in these areas	
9. Planting is not carried out except under exceptional circumstances where natural regeneration is insufficient to achieve the long-term objective for a compartment (p. 33).	No planting has occurred on the site.	Continue with this recommendation
10. Any seedlings or saplings planted originate from the woods and do not represent new genetic types (p. 33),	A project to grow from seed/seedlings various tree species is being proposed to gap up hedges for the coming years.	Continue with this recommendation
11. The larch nurse-trees used in plantings is removed in 1995, fifteen years after planting regardless of the success of the tree being nursed (p. 33).	All larch nurse trees were removed in 2000 and seedlings being removed as they appear	Continue to remove larch seedlings as they appear
12. Birch is maintained in oak/bracken communities in selected compartments, but in other areas that it is severely thinned at each coppicing/inspectional visit to one third of the existing number of trees, old fallen birches and standing dead birches should be left up to a maximum of about 10 per acre in each case (p. 33).	Birch is severely thinned during coppice operations and dealt with	Continue to thin birch in coppiced areas, but dead standing are left unless a danger to the public, i.e. leaning over a statutory footpath or bridle path
13. Hollies are eradicated to the extent that they are never closer than about 23m (75 ft) to one another (p. 33).	Hollies have been dealt with to greater and lesser degrees over the period of the plans. On inspection there appears to be a growing problem with hollies seeding	Carry out removal of hollies in coppice and non coppice areas to ensure that they are no closer than recommended.

14. All sycamore is eradicated and if	Sycamore has been dealt with throughout the period of the plan	Continue to eradicate sycamore where it appears.

necessary regenerating shoots are treated with a chemical such as Krenite which is harmless to man, animals, non-woody plants, and inactivated in soil (p. 33).	and will continue to be dealt with by felling and poisoning using appropriate chemicals as laid down by current legislation and Natural England	
15. Yew trees are permitted but never closer than about 23m (75 ft) to one another (P. 34).	Yew has been dealt with as works have taken place i.e.: within coppice compartments and areas of thinning.	Carry out removal of yew in coppice and non coppice areas to ensure that they are no closer than recommended.
16. All trees and shrubs not native in this part of the British Isles and which occasionally arise as garden escapes should be eradicated except for the existing conifers in Mad Bess wood and Copse Wood (p. 34).	Garden escapees have been dealt with throughout the life of this plan to greater and lesser degrees.	Draw up a list using a traffic light system of species and the level acceptability
17. During management work wood and timber is not left haphazard for long periods of time (p. 34).	During the life of the long term management plans various methods of dealing with wood timber, lop and top have been used including chipping, burning and stacking. It has proved unacceptable to users of the site for lop and top to be left and this is now being burnt as the most cost effective. Cordwood is currently being stacked and uses for some of the timber being explored. All timber is stacked neatly until it can be converted into a useable resource.	Continue to explore uses for the timber product and ensure that the appearance of the woods remains 'recreational' and not as in a timber production wood. Most coppiced material should be left for dead wood resource
18. Lop and top cuttings and fallen branches (with leaves particularly) be cut and stacked away from major paths and tracks (p. 34).	Lop and top in coppice compartments is mostly burned. Coppiced hazel is mostly saved for fencing materials.	Continue
19. Fallen trees resting against others should be removed (p. 34).	Fallen trees resting against others are only removed where they constitute a danger.	Continue this practice

20. Rotting and	Fallen trees and rotting and	Contine

decaying wood should be left only where it does not block major paths and tracks, and in a way permitting unimpeded walking through the major parts of the area (p. 34).	decaying timber is left unless it is over a footpath where it will be moved to a more suitable position	
21. Attention is paid to litter deposited by the public, both during coppicing and thinning and at other times by staff particularly responsible for this aspect (p. 34).	Litter collections are undertaken by the in house staff on a weekly basis at key locations and periodically throughout the remaining areas	Continue with litter collections and monitor levels
22. Households backing onto the woodlands should be served with notices advising them not to deposit litter and garden debris in the woods (p. 34).	Notices have periodically been sent to the adjoining properties when issues have arisen	Continue
23. Boundary stubbed hornbeams are treated every 20 years. . (see p. 35 for full Recommendation) (p, 35).	These are re-stubbed when due for coppicing	
24. Bomb craters are retained as ponds after opening their margins and the removal of rubbish (p. 35).	All bomb craters have been retained as temporary ponds	Continue
25. Where practicable boundaries are maintained as layered hedges (p. 38).	Laying of hedges has continued where practicable and linked to adjacent works	Continue
26. The heathland on Poor's Field is maintained by mowing with a flail or similar mower at a height of l5cm; we suggest that half the total area is mowed each year (P. 82).	Mowing was undertaken on Poor's Field until grazing was re introduced in 1997. Areas which have been subsequently cleared are now mowed in the autumn to arrest the growth of the scrub and rough grasses.	Introduce strip grazing and contine to mow/forage harvest in autumn, leaving small areas of scrub and long grass on a rotational basis

27. The remaining stumps on Poor's Field are removed by chipping in 1982 (p 83)	Stumps on Poor's Field were removed.	Continue as stumps appear
28. Hawthorn hedges be maintained around Poor's Field (p. 83).	Some areas have been hedgelayed	Continue
29. The impact of adjacent areas on the woods is considered prior to any approval for development being given (p. 85).	Natural England is a statutory consultee for all developments adjacent to the National Nature Reserve and should be consulted.	This area has had limited success and more work with the council's planning department is required to ensure that there is consistency of approach through changing staff.
30. The Council endeavour to purchase the northern part of Copse Wood as a public open space (p. 88).	The privately owned portion of Ruislip Woods NNR has not been purchased	RWT are looking into the possibility of purchase
31. The remaining open area of Grub Ground be designated as a public open space by the Council (p. 91).	Grub ground whilst still within the Education portfolio is now included in the National Nature Reserve and managed as part of the wider site.	Explore transfer to ECP
32. Responsibility for the woodlands be vested in a single Council officer with executive powers (p. 99).	The management of the woods now falls entirely with Environment and Consumer Protection Group and current responsibility sits with Green Spaces.	Continue
33. A Woodlands Management Committee be established (p. 99).	RWMAG established and thriving. The group is formally constituted and council members form part of the group	Continue
34. Voluntary labour be encouraged to undertake scrub and footpath clearance, maintain the pylon ride in Park Wood and other work as approved by and under the supervision of the Woodlands Officer (p. 100).	Voluntary labour is used throughout our work within the site with a range of activities undertaken	Continue to grow the involvement of volunteers in all the tasks we carry out
35. The work schedule presented in Maps 3c, 4c and 5c is adhered to (p. 101)	As described above the schedules described in 3c, 4c and 5c have been modified but the overall aims and objectives adhered to.	Continue

36. The major part of	All coppicing work is undertaken	Continue with this practice

the coppicing work is undertaken in the autumn and winter (p. 101)	in the Autumn and winter.	
37. The Council derives the maximum income from the sale of wood necessarily removed in the course of the implementation of this plan and endeavours to ensure that sufficient, funds are available to maintain the coppicing and thinning cycles in the woods each year (p. 102).	The fluctuating value of timber and wood has been used to derive income in the past and consideration will be given to timber sale or conversion in the future. Current practice is to use all oak timber for estate works and hornbeam coppice material is left on site to increase the deadwood resource in coppice compartments. A survey undertaken proved that the deadwood in coppice compartments was very low. Hillingdon continue to provide funds to carry out the aims and objectives contained with the Long term management plan and together with the Ruislip Woods Trust search for additional resources to enhance our work. The work of volunteers will also continue to provide a huge resource which will continue to assist with the work undertaken.	Continue to review how the resulting timber from our operations is used and the relative merits of conversion sale or deadwood resource. Continue to use some of the coppiced hornbeam to produce charcoal