

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 full 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.

<p>5. Whenever management work is being carried out in the woodlands notices explaining precisely what is being done and the reason why should be</p>	<p>Temporary notices are displayed at all key work sites explaining the operation and informing of contact points.</p>	<p>Continue this with updated signage where applicable.</p>
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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),	<p>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.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 – All coppicing is carried out in accordance with recommendation 2</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 – This practice has not been carried out and has proved unnecessary.</p> <p>Recommendation 5 – The few areas which have been returned to all wavers have been removed.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Wavers should not be left.</p> <p>Lay hedges and stub trees adjacent to compartments as a single operation.</p> <p>Continue to look for timber uses whilst considering the value of the cordwood as a deadwood resource.</p>
7. The procedure to be followed in the treatment of standard trees is	<p>Recommendation 1 – All standard trees which require any work are dealt with at the time of coppicing.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 – Density of</p>	<p>Continue with the broad aims of the recommendations and the learning gained :</p>

<p>Recommendation see p. 31).</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Oaks should be left for the time being. Alternatives should first be sought on the grass/heathlands</p> <p>Continue</p> <p>Continue</p> <p>Continue</p> <p>Continue</p> <p>Continue to source oak from grass/heath areas to provide for boardwalks and bridges.</p>
<p>8. In uncoppiced areas the procedure to be followed is (for full Recommendation see p. 32),</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Change this regime to be less prescriptive and allow areas to be dealt with individually.</p> <p>Continue</p> <p>Continue</p>

	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.
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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
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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 15cm; 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 continue 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
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<p>the coppicing work is undertaken in the autumn and winter (p. 101)</p>	<p>in the Autumn and winter.</p>	
<p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Continue to review how the resulting timber from our operations is used and the relative merits of conversion sale or deadwood resource.</p> <p>Continue to use some of the coppiced hornbeam to produce charcoal</p>