

Appendix 5

Achievements against SMART targets from 2003 - 2009

Smart target	Recommendations	Status	Further action
To maintain geological features and earthworks	1. Inspect all earthworks/woodbanks annually	Inspections are made on a regular basis	
	2. Stub trees on boundary banks approx. 300m per annum	Those earthbanks that have been included in coppicing have been stubbed. Also section adjacent to Ducks Hill Road	Continue
Maintain and enhance areas of grass/heathland	1. Annually graze Poor's Field to a level that arrests succession	Poors Field has been grazed every year and has successfully prevented any more scrub from spreading	Continue
	2. Carry out scrub clearance on Grub Ground.	An area of scrub has been cleared every year	Continue
	3. Carry out post clearance mowing during Oct/Nov until grassland develops	Poors Field, Grub Ground and Pylon Ride have been mown every year in Autumn	Continue
Maintain deciduous woodland	1. To carry out 1 4ha, per year, of inspection and treatment if necessary following above criteria for evaluation	Areas of sycamore, laurel and holly have been cleared	
Maintain coppice woodland	1. To carry out a survey of remaining coppice areas to establish the extent of coppicing to be done based on the above criteria of evaluation	The areas coppiced are shown on map....	Coppice what is achievable using staff, volunteers and contractors
	2. Carry out approximately 5.8ha of coppicing each year for five years	At least 1 ha of coppicing was carried out each year.	The target of 5.8ha is desirable, but may not always be achievable. The aim should be to do as much coppicing each year as time and staff allow.

	3. In order to inform the next phase of the plan, re-coppice in a year 1 or 2 an area of 1 ha of 20-year coppice. Recording and photographing before work is undertaken and recording yield		
	4. Treat an area totaling 1 ha for bramble and/or bracken in year 1 or 2. Recording and photographing before work is undertaken.	This practice has not been necessary or desirable	
Maintain and improve condition of streams and maintain current diversity of open water habitats	1. Carry out survey of all water courses and ponds mapping features in year 1	Pond survey was started in year 1 and completed in year 3	Thirty two ponds were located in the Reserve, many of which need some degree of management
	2. Collect species abundance in streams in year 2	Not carried out	This could be done in the next 5 years
	3. Assess need for hydro breaks in streams in year 1 and install in either year 2 of 3 in consultation with the Environment Agency	Not carried out Streams and ditches are left unmanaged in order to retain water during dry spells	Continue
Maintain Ruislip Local Nature Reserve as an area of wetland/woodland/open water	1. Carry out a survey mapping habitats to enable an ideal state map to be produced and worked towards in year 1		
	2. Ensure management plan is updated and in line with the conservation objectives of this plan		

	3. Monitor activities through close liaison with warden	The Woodland Officer and the Warden have made frequent visits to the LNR	
Maintain Tarleton's Lake as an area of woodland/swamp/open water	1. Carry out a survey mapping habitats to enable an ideal state map to be produced and worked towards in year 1.	Area has been surveyed but not mapped. Tareleton's Lake has received minimum management due to presence of the badgers. A small patch of Japanese knotweed has been cut every year, as has sycamore.	Continue to cut invasive species and prevent spreading. Maintain path from entrance to lake, but allow rest of path to overgrow to protect badgers.
	2. Ensure management plan is updated and in line with the conservation objectives of this plan		All updates will be added to next 5 year plan
	3. Monitor activities through close liaison with warden	Tareleton's Lake has been managed by Hillingdon Council since 2004	Continue
Conserve the current diversity of habitats	1. Carry out a survey mapping habitats to enable ideal state map to be produced and worked towards in year 1	The range and distribution of woodland communities were identified and mapped in the NVC 11 survey carried out in 2006. Pond survey was completed in 2007	

	2. Re-survey in year 5 or 6		
<i>Key species</i>	1. Survey and record bat activity on the site through a partner, project to begin in either Year 2 or 3	A small-scale survey was carried out in Bayhurst Wood in 2006. Due to the difficulty of surveying bats, a more comprehensive survey has not been completed.	More regular bat surveys should be carried out during the next 5 years. This action should be given a high priority.
	2. Carry out ride management works to encourage the regeneration of cow-wheat. Biennially flail ride in Park Wood. Carry out scrub clearance 0.5 ha per annum.	Work organized by Ched George has been carried out yearly to encourage the regeneration of cow wheat. The Pylon Ride and Grub Ground have been mown 4 out of 5 years. In addition, new areas have been opened up	Still more work could be carried out to further open up Grub Ground, which along with the Pylon Ride should be continued to be mown every year. However, small islands of scrub should be left more frequently to aid the spread of the heath fritillary butterfly. The scrub can be cut on a rotational basis so there is always enough left for the heath frits
	3. Carry out a herpetofauna survey in year 3 through a partner organization or as an individually funded project		
	4. Seek specialist advice for key invertebrates through a partner organization or as an individually funded project	Local specialists have provided a comprehensive Lepidoptera list surveyed in the Woods during the last 10 years.	More surveys should be carried out during the next 5 years, with particular attention given to surveying invertebrates under logs and leaf litter.
Research site species and impact of management activities	1. Prepare a list of surveys required for the site in year 3	Not carried out	
Encourage the learning of the natural environment and to take an interest in nature	1. Produce site specific material which links to the National Curriculum	Materials have been produced.	Continue to build on materials to widen the choice of activities that can be offered to schools.

conservation. Contribute to a healthier borough			
	2. Identify possible partner organization/external funding	The Ruislip Woods Trust produced a Classroom in the Woods leaflet which was sent to many of the Borough's schools. This achieved a very good response.	Continue to seek funding for an education assistant.
	3. Arrange and guide 5 school visits in year 1	This target has been met	Continue to deliver education lessons to schools and to target schools south of the borough
	4. Increase visits by five per year during the life of the plan	This target was met and exceeded	Continue to reach as many schools as is possible, but no number should be set as in some years there may be less time than in others due to other projects.
Maintain full public access to facility for all. Contribute to a healthier borough	1. Carry out footpath/bridlepath survey year 1	Surveying the paths has been ongoing during lifetime of the plan	Should be a continuous process
	2. Carry out footway and bridleway improvements highlighted by survey. 200m of bridleway and 500m of footpath to improved annually	A total of 1474metres of bridlepath have been improved with hard surfacing. In addition, many areas along the bridlepaths have been opened up to allow in light to dry areas out	
	3. All footpaths to be maintained at 1 .5m wide	All statutory footpaths have been maintained by mowing and cutting back overhanging vegetation.	Continue

	4. All bridlepaths to be maintained at 3m wide	All bridlepaths have been maintained by mowing and cutting back overhanging vegetation	Continue
	5. Install bridleway fencing where required. 400m annually	Fencing has been installed in some sections of Bayhurst, Mad Bess and Copse Woods, where required	Continue to install where required
	6. Provide waymarking where paths leave the metalled road by year 5	Waymarkers have been replaced or installed where required	Continue
	7. Maintain waymarking on Hillingdon Trail		
	8. Promote and waymark one additional path in each year of this plan	Three Easy Access paths have been created	Leaflets need to be produced. It may be necessary for the Ruislip Woods Trust to produce.
Encourage community involvement in the site	1. Meet with RWMAG four times per year	This target has been met. In addition, the Woodland Officer has worked closely with members of RWMAG on regular basis	Continue
	2. Produce an Annual Report for each year of this plan	Updated works for the year have been produced every year. A review of the 5 year management plan was produced in 2008	A more detailed and concise report needs to be produced yearly
	3. Ensure an open day is held each year of this plan	Open Day has been held and improved every year.	Continue to find new acts for the Open Day
	4. Recruit a Community Woodland Officer	Woodland Officer was recruited in 2003	Continue to seek funding for Environmental Education Assistant

	5. Increase Ruislip Community Ranger Service in numbers and work days	The Voluntary Woodland Rangers have increased in number to a total of 12. In addition, a Saturday group was formed in 2004 and includes 12 volunteers	Continue to increase numbers of midweek and weekend group.
	6. Produce a multi language leaflet for BBQ users in year 2	BBQs were banned throughout the borough in 2006 due to the increase in people having bbqs in nature conservation areas and causing damage and leaving unacceptable quantities of rubbish	
Ensure user groups and the wider public are aware and appreciate the sensitivity of the site	1. Ensure 33 interpretation boards are maintained at major entrances	All maintained apart from St. Vincent's board which was constantly being vandalized.	It is now time to renew all boards and remove any mention of bbqs
	2. Undertake guided walks (12 per year)	This number has been met most years if walks by Ruislip Woods Trust and Ruislip Natural History Society are included	Continue to deliver as many walks for the public as possible. A minimum number is not needed as it is not always possible to meet such targets
	3. Modify existing interpretation centre to be more visible in year 1	Woodland Centre was modified in 2004 when 2 murals were painted and interactive displays added. The Centre has had more displays added year after year.	Re-open tea hut/information centre at Bayhurst.
	4. Undertake visitor survey in year 3	This was not undertaken	Visitor surveys should be undertaken every year of lifetime of the next plan

Ensure level of site safety appropriate to full public accessible public woodland	1. Carry out safety inspection of statutory footpaths, bridleways, entrances and car parks in each year of this plan	Safety inspections have been carried out on weekly basis	Continue
	2. Undertake highlighted works	Works are carried out as soon as they are highlighted if causing safety issue	Continue
Maintain estate fabric in a manner befitting a National Nature Reserve	1. Inspect major entrances and car parks weekly to ensure they are litter free and carry out litter clearance	Litter is has been picked on weekly basis. Car park night closures and banning of bbqs has led to significant decrease in litter	Continue
	2. Remove abandoned vehicles in line with the Council's policy	Problem has all but ceased since car park night closures were introduced	Continue
	3. In Bayhurst Wood clean toilets twice weekly	Toilets were removed in 2006	
	4. Ensure BBQ sites remain litter free and grass is maintained below 75mm	BBQs were banned in Borough in 2006	
	5. Carry out asset survey and review in year 1		