

Burnham Beeches Management Plan

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**April 1999 - March 2005
Summary Plan**

FOREWORD

Management plans are essential tools for managers of open spaces and nature reserves. They help provide long term continuity in site management and are valuable documents for staff, who use them to plan and implement practical work on site. This particular plan does not just cover practical land management but also includes work to enhance the enjoyment of visitors to the Beeches and to encourage local involvement in the site. This is an increasingly important feature of such site plans. The plan necessarily contains many scientific and technical terms. Where possible these have been explained. However, further clarification of these and any other points in the plan can be obtained by contacting the Burnham Beeches Office.

There are four main parts to the plan, as follows:

1. **Description.** The descriptive elements at the beginning of the plan give a picture of the site and ensure that the important features are identified.
2. **Evaluation.** The evaluation follows the description. It is important to make sure that the site is managed for those communities and species for which it is most valuable. The evaluation is also important in weighing up different aspects of management, for example that for recreation, nature conservation and ancient monuments. These first stages are especially helpful in providing long term continuity of site management.
3. **Objectives.** From the description and the evaluation come the ideal management objectives. As the name suggests, these are the ideal, and cannot often be implemented without some modification due to constraints and conflicts. An important part of the plan is thus looking at each objective in turn and seeing if it has to be modified.
4. **Prescription or work programme.** The last parts of the plan are the most useful from an operational point of view. These set out the detailed projects that need to be done and give an indication of their relative importance. Then the work plans are produced which can be used by staff on a day to day basis. The management plans used by the staff at Burnham Beeches have more detailed descriptions of the individual projects. This makes the plans quite bulky so they have not been included here but copies are available from the office on request.

The Burnham Beeches management plan has been approved by The Corporation of London's Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee and thus has the commitment of the Corporation of London. It has also been approved by English Heritage (who are concerned with the management of Ancient Monuments) and English Nature. The latter approval is especially important. As the Government's advisers on nature conservation English Nature are charged with preventing any activities that might damage the site or that may adversely effect the integrity of the European importance of Burnham Beeches. By approving the plan English Nature are confirming their agreement that the work planned to be carried out over the next six years is appropriate to the high conservation status of Burnham Beeches.

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PREAMBLE

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of Burnham Beeches, as made clear in the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, is to provide an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Corporation will keep Burnham Beeches unenclosed and unbuilt on, save as allowed by statute in the interests of management and public enjoyment. The Corporation will protect all trees, underwood, shrubs, plants and flora, animal, bird and insect life.

The Corporation will preserve Burnham Beeches' 'natural aspect' as far as possible so that it appears to be a natural place.

Additionally, the Corporation will have regard for the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the sites' status as a National Nature Reserve (N.N.R), Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I) and candidate Special Area of Conservation (cS.A.C)

Burnham Beeches will therefore, be a public open space which seems to be natural and where a broad range of local, native, flora and fauna will be found.

Protecting and conserving Burnham Beeches are pre-requisites to providing the open space envisaged by the 1878 Act.

The Corporation will ensure that future generations are able to enjoy the unique qualities of Burnham Beeches.

OUR VISION

Burnham Beeches conserved and protected as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public now and in the future



THE CORPORATION OF LONDON

The Corporation of London is the local authority for the square mile of the City of London, the financial and commercial heart of Britain. It is committed to maintaining and enhancing the status of the Business City as one of the world's three leading financial centres through the policies it pursues and the high standards of services it provides. Its responsibilities extend far beyond the City boundaries and it provides a host of additional facilities for the benefit of the nation. These range from the Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey, to the famous Barbican Arts Centre and open spaces such as Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches.

Among the local authorities the Corporation of London is unique; not only is it the oldest in the country, combining its ancient traditions and ceremonial functions with the role of a modern and efficient authority, but it operates on a non-party political basis through its Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Court of Common Council. Since the 1870's the Corporation has had a policy of protecting open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. This idea was subsequently adapted by central and local government as the Green Belt policy.

The Corporation clearly identifies with the need for it to sustain the high standards of services it provides. It also recognises the need to balance its unique role in providing facilities which benefit the nation outside the square mile, with being a modern and efficient local authority.

The Corporation of London is governed by the Court of Common Council, which meets once every four weeks and is composed of 25 Aldermen and 125 Common Councilmen who are elected by the City's electoral wards. The majority of the Corporation's business is carried out by a number of Committees of elected Members. Corporation policy is set by these Committees. There are some thirty departments within the Corporation providing all its local authority services and additional facilities.

The obligations and responsibilities arising from Corporation policy influence how the site management plan is written and implemented.

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON (OPEN SPACES) ACT 1878

In the 1870's, the Corporation of London was concerned that free access to the open countryside was being threatened by landowners wanting to enclose common land and by encroaching urban development. It therefore embarked on an ambitious programme to protect countryside in and around London. As a result, two Acts of Parliament were passed in 1878: the Epping Forest Act and the Open Spaces Act, which enabled the Corporation to acquire and protect these threatened open spaces.

The Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 provides the necessary legislation to permit the Corporation of London to acquire commons, commonable lands and open spaces within a 25 mile radius from the boundary of the City of London. The act states that such lands are held in perpetuity in order to:-

keep them unenclosed and unbuilt, as open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, whilst preserving the natural aspect; and protecting timber and other trees, pollards, shrubs, underwood, heather, gorse, turf and herbage growing thereon.

The 1878 Open Spaces Act also prevents the Corporation of London from selling, or disposing of, or allowing the sale, or disposal of, any part of such lands. It empowers the Corporation of London to raise funds and borrow monies necessary to fulfil the various purposes of the Act. In particular to manage the open spaces, control commoners rights, appoint Keepers, grant licenses, create byelaws to protect the open spaces and provide various statutory powers to enforce them.

Under the Corporation, the responsibility for Burnham Beeches is vested in the Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee comprising twelve members of the Corporation and four Verderers. The policies and directives of the Committee are carried out by the Corporation's West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons, Ashted Common and Burnham Beeches Department. The entire net cost of management is borne by the Corporation with no contribution from the public purse.

As with the Open Spaces Act, the Management Plan addresses itself first and foremost to the task of preserving and managing Burnham Beeches, recognising that this primary objective is fundamental to the site's ability to fulfil its key public access role.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons, Ashted Common and Burnham Beeches is responsible for the protection and conservation of the Corporation of London's open spaces of Burnham Beeches, Ashted Common, Farthing Downs, Coulsdon Common, Kenley Common, Riddlesdown, Spring Park, and West Wickham Common. Each site will be managed in accordance with the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 and the individual management plans.

Departmental Vision

To excel and lead in sustainable open space management

Departmental Mission Statement

To support the Corporation's mission by delivering "best practice" in open space management, through integrating conservation and recreation.

Finally:

The Corporation recognises all staff as important individual members of the management team and is committed to a high quality professional service and continuous professional development.

DEPARTMENT CHARTER

The Department will:

- actively practice sustainable management of the open spaces
- maintain and improve access for visitors
- respond promptly, courteously and constructively to requests for information and help
- promote and encourage the involvement of the community in the open spaces
- provide opportunities to discuss management of the open spaces and actively seek feedback on performance
- provide information to improve the understanding of the open spaces through a programme of walks, talks, leaflets and newsletters
- display our address and telephone numbers prominently and ensure staff are easily identifiable as employees of the Corporation of London

As a neighbour you can help us by:

- respecting the Corporation of London's responsibilities, rights and ownership obligations
- observing the byelaws and other legislation that applies to the open space
- being considerate to other visitors and observing the relevant codes published by national recreational bodies
- protecting livestock and wildlife and guarding against all risk of fire
- keeping dogs under effective control
- taking your litter home
- applying for permits for organised events and activities
- taking an interest in the care of the open space and reporting any problems, misuse or concerns.

As a volunteer on the open space you can expect us to:

- explain the importance of your role
- provide the necessary support, information and training.
- Recognise and appreciate your involvement

You can help us by:

- complying with Health and Safety guidelines and safe working practices
- being courteous and helpful towards visitors
- bringing knowledge and expertise to the open space

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

Site: Burnham Beeches

Grid Ref: SU 9585

Locality: South Buckinghamshire - 7 km north of Slough, 40 km west of London.

Status: All cSAC, NNR and SSSI except Swilly Pond (omitted in error from boundary maps), a narrow stretch of land beside Egypt Lane (probably also an error).

Owned/managed by: The Corporation of London (Head of Department Mr. I. Turney, Head Keeper Mr. A. Barnard Tel: 01753 647 358)

Area: 220 hectares (540 acres)

OS Maps: 1:50 000 Sheet 175 (Landranger series 1988)
1:25 000 Sheet SU98

Date Notified: SSSI 1949 Act 1951
1981 Act September 1982
NNR 20 October 1993
cSAC June 1998

Purchased under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878.

Description: An extremely diverse block of acid woodland consisting primarily of beech and oak. Valued particularly for the old beech and oak pollards and the range of flora and fauna associated with old trees and decaying wood. In addition there are areas of beech, sessile oak and secondary, birch dominated, woodland; a more calcareous region dominated by hazel, some examples of neglected beech and oak coppice and partially restored and remnant heath and mire habitats. The aquatic habitats include three stream systems, three ponds, chalk swallow holes and small fragments of alder and willow woodland.

Objectives: To manage Burnham Beeches, by sustainable means, as a public open space and as a site of international importance.

Prescription: To manage the veteran trees, semi-natural ancient woodland, heath and mires in order to perpetuate them and their associated features for the future. To encourage public access and involvement and foster greater understanding of the site.

Plan prepared by: A. Barnard & H. Read.

Approved by: I. Turney.

Ratified by: The Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee.

Agreed by: English Nature.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DURATION OF THE PREVIOUS PLAN 1994-1999

- Continued successful cutting of the old pollards and creation of new ones (over 100 now cut).
- Clearance, fencing and grazing of the paddock areas - demonstration area of worked wood-pasture.
- Substantial clearance of 12C (creation of the Oval, and linking the Oval and bog).
- Extension of area 12G (heath) by several small patches of clearing.
- Clearance within 12I (between Middle Pond and Stag).
- Fencing and grazing the 35 hectares of 'heath'.
- Cutting of 7 coupes of hazel coppice.
- Substantial thinning and regular grazing (using temporary fences) of the area of new pollards close to Towerwood (4A).
- Development of a mowing programme for grassland areas and roadside banks.
- Development of a tree safety policy.
- Acquisition of the mobile information unit and displays.
- Production of 6 leaflets (2 with the Local Wildlife Trust) and new guide book.
- Development of a local volunteer team and work programme.
- Development of a calendar of events on the site (including 3 open days, several large scale guided walks and regular walks and talks).
- Designation of National Nature Reserve (NNR) status.
- Candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status.
- Significant survey work and data basing of organisms recorded from the site.
- Extensive regular monitoring information.
- Extensive data base concerning the potential effects of the gravel extraction.
- Provision of improved office facilities.

STAGE 1. DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Burnham Beeches is situated in South Buckinghamshire within the London Basin Natural Area. It is south of Beaconsfield, north of Slough and 40 km west of London. The Beeches is within the parish of Burnham with Burnham village 4 km to the south. The nearest village is Farnham Common, only a few metres from the end of Beeches Road on the east side of the site (also the major access point). There are five roads leading into the Beeches where access can be gained by car, two are on the east side, one on the north west and two on the southern boundary.

Summary description

The site is 220 hectares (540 acres) in size and lies between 48.5 and 81.4 meters above sea level. It is on clay, sands and gravels derived from the Reading beds and its soils are mainly acidic in nature. It is mostly wooded but in the past the southern area was more open and consisted largely of mire and heath. Secondary woodland has developed on most of the open areas (except East Burnham Common which is mown) but recent clearings of varying size have been made with the intention of restoring the former heath and mire. Three stream systems run through the site, one containing three ponds. The most notable feature of the site is the pollard beeches (and some oaks), which are of a great age. The site is managed as a public open space and also for conservation. It has been a valuable recreation amenity for local people and visitors for over 100 years and it is important to take this aspect into account when considering the management.

The main objectives of the management are to protect and conserve the semi-natural ancient woodland (including the veteran trees and associated flora and fauna) and to maintain it in favorable condition, whilst maintaining and enhancing, where possible, the wildlife value of the remaining habitats found on the site. The objectives are also to encourage the sustainable use of the site for recreation and enjoyment, encourage community involvement, foster greater understanding and encourage site based research. Throughout all these objectives the aim is for sustainable management, applying best value.

Land tenure

The site is owned by the Corporation of London who purchased or otherwise acquired it in several parts from 1880 onwards. It was bought under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, therefore the public have free access to all areas subject to the byelaws. There are also 7 houses that accommodate Corporation employees and their families. Additionally, there is an estate yard and associated buildings as well as a small office complex. All existing common rights are now held by the Corporation of London.

Head of Department: Mr I Turney, Unit 7 Whyteleafe Business Village, Whyteleafe Hill, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0AT.

Head Keeper: Mr A Barnard, Burnham Beeches Office, Hawthorn Lane, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3TE.

Management infrastructure.

The day to day running of the site is carried out by the Head Keeper (site manager). There are six Keepers who do the majority of the habitat work and enforce the byelaws. The Keepers also lead guided walks and are the first point of contact for the visiting public. There is a site ecologist, who also functions as the site information co-ordinator, and also an administration officer. All the above staff are full-time employees. Short term contracts are used to employ seasonal Keepers and assistant ecologists according to need. A valuable addition is the many site volunteers who currently provide the equivalent of around 500 additional days work per year. The buildings, roads and associated services are maintained by the Department of Technical Services based at the Guildhall, London.

Currently the site is well resourced and other assets available include patrol vehicles, tractors and tractor based machinery for a multitude of tasks.

Photographic coverage

A selection of photographs of Burnham Beeches are held in the office. This includes some historical black and white ones and aerial photographs. Pictures are regularly taken of events and as part of the monitoring systems for pollards and general habitat work.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Physical

Climate

Rainfall data and daily maximum and minimum temperatures are recorded every day on site.

The records are held in the Burnham Beeches Office. The nearest Meteorological Office is in Bracknell. Since 1998 weather forecast information has been received, past forecasts are kept in the Burnham Beeches Office.

Hydrology

The hydrology of the site is extremely complex. A detailed survey was carried out by the Institute of Hydrology to provide information for the public inquiry, held in 1991, on the application to extract gravel from a site in East Burnham. The report is held in the Burnham Beeches Office.

Readings of the ground water table are taken, on a weekly or fortnightly basis, for 36 bore holes on the southern part of the site as part of the monitoring network set up to record any effects of the gravel extraction. These were originally started by the Institute of Hydrology and have been continued since 1991.

Geology and Geomorphology

The site is geologically very complex. It is primarily acid gravels overlying chalk but there are also areas of clay, especially in the south west corner around the office area, where once there were a number of brick kilns. During survey work by the Institute of Hydrology note was made of the mixture of substrates which is largely due to glacial deposits. It is possible to find patches of almost pure clay or pure sand and in places along Burnham Walk the chalk is very close to the surface and can occasionally be seen in the swallow holes.

The site consists of two shallow valleys. One with the major stream, mire and pond system within it and one at least partly dry but slightly deeper and steeper sided. The highest point (81.4m) is at the corner of Park Lane and Morton Drive in a free draining area.

Soils and Substrate

The soils are very thin, gravelly, free draining and acidic (pH 2.8-7.0) in most places. The north west corner has especially thin, gravelly soil. Around the Nile and also along the stream, mire and pond system of the Withy, the build up of moss and wetland plants has resulted in a deeper peaty soil, which retains water well. The existence of rights of turbary suggests that at one time peat was more abundant. Now, most of the area has been rather disturbed and the sediments are mostly not deep enough to contemplate detailed pollen analysis. The boggy patch close to the Nile may be the best place to try.

Biological

Burnham Beeches has been relatively well surveyed recently, although some groups, for example the Hymenoptera, are still relatively poorly recorded. Full species lists are held in

the Burnham Beeches Office and are also stored on RECORDER (a computer package for storing species information data). Those species mentioned here have all been recorded since 1988 unless otherwise specified.

Flora

Most of the area is forested. *Fagus sylvatica* (beech) is the dominant tree but *Quercus robur* (pedunculate oak), *Quercus petraea* (sessile oak) and *Betula* spp. (birch) are also common. Regeneration is generally vigorous. In some areas *Ilex aquifolium* (holly) is abundant. Due to the acidic soils the field and ground layers are rather impoverished, dominated by *Leucobryum glaucum* (cushion moss), *Melampyrum pratense* (cow wheat) and *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair-grass). Wet flushes occur where typical wetland species including *Sphagnum* are abundant. In other areas dry acid heath occurs with *Calluna vulgaris* (heather) and *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair-grass). Patches of wetter heath are found with a range of sedges and rushes and *Erica tetralix* (cross leaved heath). Various other tree species are scattered across the site eg. *Sorbus aria* (white beam), *Sorbus aucuparia* (rowan), *Taxus baccata* (yew), *Salix caprea* (goat willow), and *Populus tremula* (aspen).

Lichens: 94 species

Mosses: 78 species

Vascular plants: Approx. 433 species

Fungi: 409 species of larger fungi including several considered to be rare or uncommon.

Fauna

Mammals: *Muntiacus reevesi* (Muntjac) and *Vulpes vulpes* (foxes) breed on the site. *Meles meles* (badgers) are only very occasionally seen on the area. Smaller mammals include *Sciurus carolinensis* (grey squirrel), *Clethrionomys glareolus* (bank vole), *Sorex* spp. (shrews), *Mustela erminea* (stoat), *Mustela nivalis* (weasel), *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (rabbit) in small numbers and possibly *Muscardinus avellanarius* (common dormice). Six bat species have been seen foraging within the Beeches, *Pipistrellus* sp. (pipistrelle), *Plecotus auritus* (brown long-eared), *Myotis daubentonii* (Daubenton's), *Nyctalus noctula* (noctule) and *Myotis mystacinus/brandtii* (whiskered or Brandt's). *Eptesicus serotinus* (serotine) roosts locally.

Birds: An undistinguished woodland bird population is augmented by breeding *Accipiter nisus* (sparrowhawk). There are high populations of *Strix aluco* (tawny owl), *Picus viridis*, *Dendrocopos major*, (green- and great spotted woodpeckers), *Garrulus glandarius* (jay), *Aegithalos caudatus* (long tailed tit), *Sitta europea* (nuthatch), etc. *D. minor* (lesser spotted woodpeckers) and *Muscicapa striata* (spotted fly catcher) are also present.

Reptiles and amphibians: There are breeding populations of *Vivipera berus* (adder), *Natrix natrix* (grass snake), *Lacerta vivipera* (common lizard) and *Anguis fragilis* (slow worm). *Triturus vulgaris* (smooth newts) are fairly common.

Invertebrates: The invertebrate fauna is very rich and includes many rare species. A full list is held in the Burnham Beeches Office and on RECORDER.

	Red Data Book*	Notable**	Biodiversity Action Plan# (Priority) (National)	Biodiversity Challenge Species### (Local)
Beetles	22	135	1	2
Flies	33	88	1	1
Spiders	3	2		
Pseudoscorpions	1			
Dragonflies		5		1
Butterflies/moths		4	1	2
Grasshoppers		2		1
Millipedes		2		
Hymenoptera		1	2	1
Centipedes		1		
Lacewings		1		
Birds			4	5
Mammals			2	2
Reptiles				2
Lichens	1			
Mosses	1		1	
Fungi	3 ¹			1
Flowering plants			1	7

¹ As highlighted by Dr. B. Spooner, a red data book for fungi has not yet been produced.

*Species listed in the Red Data Book for Great Britain as being endangered, vulnerable or rare.

**Species classified as being notable.

Species for which a biodiversity action plan is being or has been written and which are considered of national priority.

##Species considered worthy of having a local biodiversity action plan written for them by the Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust.

Communities

The acid beech woodland is the community for which Burnham Beeches is a candidate Special Area for Conservation. The veteran trees are an integral part of this habitat type in the Beeches.

Burnham Beeches contains 4 habitats that are considered priorities for the national Habitat Action Plans. These are: Lowland dry acid grassland; Lowland wood-pasture and parkland; wet woodland and Lowland beech and yew woodland.

The Beeches also contains three habitats for which local Biodiversity Action Plans are being written: woodland, heathland and the ponds and streams.

Dead wood

Much of the nature conservation interest in Burnham Beeches is for the saproxylic species (those requiring dead or decaying wood). For this reason the quantity of dead wood (both standing and lying) is a useful measure of habitat quality.

Cultural impact

Previous ownership

There has probably been woodland on much of the site since the retreat of the last ice age. The area is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) as being woodland sufficient to graze 600 swine and supply shares for the ploughs, but it is uncertain who the owner was at this time. In 1234 the Beeches were owned by William Allard, but there is little mention of the area until 1518 when the Eyre family owned the land. It was passed down through members of the Eyre family until 1812 when the entitlement was sold to Lord Grenville of Dropmore. When he died in 1834 his wife took over the estate but, as she spent most of her time in Cornwall, a steward administered it on her behalf.

On 24th June 1879 outlying parts of the estate were put up for sale at auction. As part of the lot was enclosed land, and the Open Spaces Act of 1878 did not allow purchase of enclosed land, the Corporation were unable to buy the entire area. It was agreed with Sir Henry Peek (the local MP) that he purchase the entire parcel and sell on to the Corporation the unenclosed portions. The Corporation took over 374 acres on 2nd July 1880. In October 1921 Fleet Wood was given to the Corporation by Viscount Burnham. Between 1924 and 1935 parts of the Towerwood land were bought and in 1990 the final purchase of Towerwood house completed the Beeches as it stands today.

Archaeological and past land use.

There are three Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Beeches:

Hartley Court moated site and enclosure (National Monument No: 27137) is a medieval moated farmstead in the north west corner of the Burnham Beeches measuring 200m north-east to south-west and 330m north-west to south-east. It was probably built between 1250 and 1350 and is described in the Schedule as being the best preserved medieval moated site in south Buckinghamshire and amongst the finest in the region. The ditches and banks are easy to see and the moat holds water at least during the winter

months. The outer ditch and bank system is crossed twice by McAuliffe Drive but is otherwise well preserved. The area is also referred to as Hardicanutes moat. The site was surveyed and the ditches probed during the dry summer of 1976, a copy of the resulting map is held in the Burnham Beeches Office together with the schedule details.

Seven Ways Plain univallate hillfort (National Monument No: 27136) is between Victoria Drive and Lord Mayors Drive, in the south west part of Burnham Beeches. Slight univallate hillforts are rare nationally with only 150 examples recorded. They are generally interpreted to have been stock enclosures, redistribution centres, places of refuge and permanent settlements. Seven Ways Plain consists of a series of earthworks, dating from between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (8th - 5th centuries B.C.). A wide ditch encircles the fort which measures approximately 140m north to south by 100m east to west. The north eastern part of the site has been modified in the past by quarrying for gravel or brick earth. The south eastern third has numerous undulations, mostly resulting from the construction and removal of War Department huts erected in the 1940's. A plan of the area has been drawn and a copy is held in the Burnham Beeches Office together with the schedule details.

East Burnham animal pound (National Monument No: 27139) is situated 600m to the south of Burnham Beeches proper, on the east side of Crown Lane, 40m to the south east of the Crown Inn. It is a rectangular red brick walled enclosure 8.5m by 5m and 1.5m high. The single narrow entrance has a modern wooden gate. The pound was probably constructed between 1788 and 1796 and was used for impounding unmarked cattle, sheep and swine found illegally grazing 'the commons and waste grounds in the manor' (of East Burnham or Allards). After a period of decline in use during the mid 19th century the pound was again used regularly by the Corporation of London (after they acquired Burnham Beeches in 1878) for animals grazed in the Beeches without being marked. The Corporation has repaired the pound several times, notably in 1993/4 when extensive restoration was carried out following a full structural survey and photogrammetric recording. About 250 animal pounds are known to survive in a fair condition throughout England. The East Burnham pound is well preserved and maintained and, although large sections of the east wall and most of the south wall have been replaced (using meticulously matched brickwork), it provides a clear picture of the monument as originally constructed. The pound is also a listed building, grade II. A copy of the Schedule document is held in the Burnham Beeches Office.

Boundary and wood banks: In many places within the Beeches old boundary banks can be seen, which indicate changes in ownership and/or land use at some point in the past. The oldest is probably 16th century and runs to the north side of Lord Mayors Drive, parallel with the road, until it reaches Halse Drive when it turns north east and runs up towards Egypt. Two areas on the north side of this are enclosed by banks, New Coppice (including Towerwood) and New Wood or Fleet Wood, part of which is now within the Portman-Burtley Estate. These two areas were excluded from the original purchase of Burnham Beeches by the Corporation of London in 1878, Fleet Wood being retained at that time by Sir Henry Peek. Subsequently they were variously bought or bequested. Care must be

taken not to confuse these banks with those ditches and banks created in the 1960's to stop cars from parking off the surfaced roads.

Past land use: The probable previous land use of different parts of Burnham Beeches has been determined by the position of the boundary banks and the varying tree shapes and growth habits. It is probable that the majority of the area was grazed up until the 1920's. The northern parts were wood-pasture, with grazing land underneath the trees, and the southern area was open heath and mire. Both were probably grazed with a mixture of cattle, sheep and pigs, with some horses and donkeys. In the wood-pasture areas the trees were managed as pollards, the branches being cut at times for the wood. New Coppice included coppice beech and was probably enclosed, at least at times. To the south of the coppice stools is beech high forest and to the west areas were cleared to build Towerwood House and for cultivation. Fleet Wood is predominantly sessile oak and parts may have been coppiced. Burnham Walk has hazel which may have been coppiced in the past. The history of this area is unknown although the line of grey poplars are obviously planted.

By the time that the Corporation bought Burnham Beeches the need for wood cut from the trees on the site had obviously declined as it seems (from ring counts) that the largest branches on the pollards date back to 1770-1800.

Military: During the Second World War the site was cordoned off and most of the Beeches became Vehicle Reserve Depot No. 2. Prior to the D-Day landings an estimated 10 000 vehicles were stored on the site. A camp was built on Seven Ways Plain where the men lived and the area must have been considerably disturbed. The men were evidently told not to damage the old trees but some earth movements were obviously made. The main common was very badly damaged by the vehicles and was reseeded afterwards. Some tree planting was evidently carried out subsequently e.g. around Towerwood. The army also cleared out the ponds and structured the outflows.

Present land use

The site is used extensively for recreation both informally and to a lesser extent formally. Examples of the latter include organised sponsored events and orienteering competitions. Apart from general public, many countryside management organisations and societies visit the site to study its management, both past and present. Schools visit Burnham Beeches and there is a steady use by other higher education establishments. The site is popular with the film and television industry and some income is generated from these sources. Otherwise, income generated through the site or its operations is limited, although timber is occasionally sold. Some timber is produced and milled for use on site as fencing materials or other countryside furniture. The use of management grants has, so far, been limited and has obvious potential in the coming years. Whilst animals are now being grazed on the site their role is primarily for conservation purposes and they have not been used for agricultural production.

Recent conservation work on the site, particularly in relation to the reinstatement of the wood-pasture has been recognised in the presentation of three awards. In 1992 the Seven Ways Plain area was designated a centre of excellence by the Forestry Authority. The

Beeches was also the national winner of the Ford Conservation Award in 1992. In 1999 Burnham Beeches was awarded a SSSI award by English Nature for the conservation grazing.

Conservation status

The site has NCR grade 2 status and has been a SSSI since 1951. National Nature Reserve status was granted in 1993. These designations reflect the national importance of Burnham Beeches for rare and threatened species, particularly those associated with the veteran trees. In 1998 Burnham Beeches became a candidate Special Area for Conservation, highlighting its European importance. This status was conferred because the Beeches is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for beech woodland on acid soils, a habitat which is threatened within a European context. This woodland type is rich in invertebrates and epiphytes and, as at Burnham Beeches, may contain some of the largest and most ancient trees in the UK. Indeed many of the invertebrates and epiphytes are dependent on the ancient trees for their survival. The SAC status confers a high degree of protection and prevents any operation or activity that may have a significant negative impact on the integrity of the site or compromises the European interest. This is true of site management projects as well as local development in the proximity of the site. English Nature regard the European interest in the Beeches to be currently in favourable status. The fundamental aim of the management plan is to maintain this condition.

Public Interest

Burnham Beeches is highly valued by visitors for the recreational opportunities it presents and perhaps to a lesser extent for its educational, research, archaeological and conservation interest. It is estimated that the site is presently visited by about 500,000 people a year, most of whom are dog walkers and family groups. In addition it is well used by school parties during the summer (especially the open grassland of East Burnham Common) and also by orienteering and cross country groups. Cycling is another common activity and horse riding and carriage driving take place too, these activities are closely governed by the byelaws. Being near to several film studios, and to London, the site is popular with the media. Frequent requests are received to use Burnham Beeches as a backdrop for film locations, television productions, commercials and magazine articles and these 'events' require careful management. Students from universities and research institutes are regular visitors.

Landscape

Burnham Beeches is part of a large block of woodland approximately twice the size of that in Corporation of London ownership. The north and west approaches give the impression of a heavily wooded landscape interspersed with a few agricultural fields. To the south and east are residential properties, 'horsiculture' and the light industrial area of Slough. When approaching Burnham Beeches from the south the land rises from the Thames flood plain and the woodland is just visible from one or two places between the buildings. The major entrance point to the site, from Beeches Road, Farnham Common, in the east presents a more open aspect dominated by the main common.

Once within Burnham Beeches the surrounding, houses and buildings to the south and east are not easily visible adding greatly to the sense of rural isolation. At night however, there is a strong orange 'glow' from the south.

Ecological relationships and implications for management.

The most important component of Burnham Beeches is the acid beech woodland with its old pollard trees and associated rare and threatened species. The management of the pollards, and the grazing is what has shaped the Beeches. The subsequent neglect of this system is the resulting situation.

The acidic nature of the soils on the site has a great influence on the habitats and communities and this results in the low diversity of field and ground layer flora. The water table levels within the Beeches are important for determining the communities present. For example, in the southern part of the site the clearing of secondary woodland produces wet mire where the water table is high, and dry acid heath where the water table is lower. Lack of grazing quickly causes the loss of both of these habitats through the growth of secondary woodland. The management implication is that much of Burnham Beeches needs to be actively managed. Lack of management will result in the loss, or degradation, of several of the major habitat types; wood-pasture; heath and valley mire.

The acid beechwood communities require limited management except for those areas where the veteran trees occur. As these trees are an integral part of the system it is important to manage the trees as the first priority. Lack of management will lead to a significant decrease in the conservation value of the site and lack of continuity of dead and decaying wood into the future.

The nature of Burnham Beeches as a public open space means that the site receives a high number of visitors. It is necessary, as far as possible, to ensure that the Beeches is a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for visitors in addition to managing the area for nature conservation. Whilst usually any conflict between the management for nature conservation and that for recreation can be avoided, there are some occasions where the recreational needs have to be considered as a high priority.

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Leaflets available from Burnham Beeches Office:

The Green Woodpecker Trail

Map of Burnham Beeches

Wood-pasture at Burnham Beeches

The Movie Map (with South Bucks District Council)

Heathland and Valley Bog at Burnham Beeches
Cycling in Burnham Beeches

STAGE 2. EVALUATION

EVALUATION OF FEATURES

Criteria for evaluation

Size: Burnham Beeches covers 220 hectares and is part of a large block of predominantly lowland deciduous woodland covering approximately 500 hectares. The area of ancient semi-natural, lowland, acidic beech woodland is of international importance and the number of ancient pollard beeches is very significant, certainly one of the largest in Britain. In the south of the site, the former mire area was one of the largest in southern England and in conjunction with the heath formed an open area of approximately 100 hectares.

Diversity: The site has an exceedingly diverse array of habitats, ranging from acid ponds, mire and dry heath to chalk swallow holes. The woodland management has, in the past, included pollarding and wood-pasture, coppicing, high forest management and minimum intervention.

Naturalness: Burnham Beeches has been profoundly altered by man's influences and this is the reason for its present character and value. The high degree of management should be maintained over much of the site. Ancient practices of pollarding and coppicing have created the present ancient trees providing a very special habitat. Many years of lack of grazing has been detrimental to the mire and heath areas in allowing them to grow over and dry out. The absence of active management has also been a problem in the wood pasture since grazing ceased and the trees were no longer cut for the wood.

Rarity: Burnham Beeches is a rare site. To have such a wide range of habitats on a comparatively small site is unusual but the presence of the ancient pollards and their associated wildlife makes the site especially important. The acidic beech woodland itself is considered rare in international terms. Burnham Beeches has a high number of rare species both of animals and plants and a large number of Red Data Book species have been recorded recently.

Fragility: Whilst the remnants of the various habitats and the presence of so many important species, implies a certain robustness, elements of the system are quite fragile. The mire and wetland areas are very susceptible to changes in the water levels. The heathland is vulnerable to the growth of secondary woodland.

The wood-pasture in terms of a habitat type may appear quite robust, with trees living in excess of 400 years, but lack of a younger generation of pollards makes the system increasingly fragile unless steps are taken to ensure its continuity. The veteran trees themselves are at risk of being lost due to the increasing weight of the branches on decaying stems. The substantial reduction in the number of these trees between 1931 (1795) and 1991 (540) illustrates this.

Typicalness: Burnham Beeches is unique. The wide range of habitats on the site and the presence of considerable numbers of very old beech pollards is unrivalled in Britain.

Ecological position: The site is 12 km from Windsor forest which also has ancient trees and an important associated fauna. The Beeches are 4 km from Stoke Common and 6 km from Black Park both of which have extensive acid heath areas (overgrown with secondary woodland, now being cleared and grazed), the former also has remnants of wetlands. Littleworth Common (2 km to the north) is also overgrown mixed heath and woodland and has a clay pond. Adjoining woodlands to the north and north west are of similar character to the established beech/oak woodlands in the north of the site but may not have any history of wood-pasture and lack pollards.

Potential value: Despite being a valuable site at the present there is still potential for improvement, notably by restoring the formerly extensive heath and mire areas. Already the habitat value of these areas is increasing following clearing and reintroduction of grazing. The loss or reduction in these habitats elsewhere locally adds greatly to their potential importance in the Beeches. The slow work of repollarding the old trees and starting new pollards, coupled with clearing the surrounding secondary woodland and reintroducing grazing will increase the value of the site for both conservation and historical purposes. This important restoration work will take considerable time to achieve.

Intrinsic appeal: Beech woodlands have particular public appeal in the autumn and Burnham Beeches is no exception. Visitor numbers at this time are always high as people come simply to admire the woods.

Public use: Public access to Burnham Beeches for passive recreation is available at all times, subject to the byelaws as given on the notice boards. Very large numbers of visitors use the site for dog walking or just as a pleasant place to stroll. A large proportion of visitors can be therefore considered both local and regular, but visitors from further afield are by no means uncommon. Horse riding and cycling is limited to the tarmac roads. Off road cycling has been a real problem in the recent past causing erosion and conflict with other users. This activity also contravenes the site's byelaws. The private roads are currently open to vehicular traffic between 8 am and dusk and may occasionally be closed due to safety works or adverse weather. The Beeches is also used for organised recreational activities such as orienteering, cross country runs and sponsored walks.

Access may be restricted in certain areas for short periods of time e.g. after *Rhododendron* foliage spraying, but not on a more permanent basis unless there are substantial health and safety concerns.

It is desirable to pursue a 'honey pot' policy, encouraging visitor activity, as far as is reasonably possible, to that area best suited to withstand the impact i.e. East Burnham Common and Victory Cross. These areas provide the major facilities for visitors including substantial car parking, a small cafe, open space, and the easy access path network. In conservation terms these are also the least valuable parts of the site.

Education and Information: Burnham Beeches is used for educational purposes at a variety of levels. Many schools use the open areas for picnics during the summer and some carry out more structured activities. Every year many visits are also made by groups of individuals from Universities, Institutes and countryside organisations to look at conservation projects and in particular, to examine the pollards.

Throughout the year, various groups and societies, for example, WI, Burnham Society and the Farnham's Society are given guided walks around the Beeches illustrating their particular interest or merely giving general information about the site. A series of guided walks are provided for the general public through the Spring, Summer and Autumn months. Illustrated talks and lectures are frequently provided by staff to a wide variety of audiences ranging from local groups to international conferences.

A growing series of site based information leaflets exists as well as a general guide book. A mobile information unit has been introduced to improve the provision of information to visitors, a member of staff or volunteer is present in the unit to help visitors. This unit is also taken to other venues such as County shows and events at other Corporation of London properties.

Research and study: Burnham Beeches is an ideal site for carrying out research projects. The majority of work is done by, or under the supervision of, the site ecologist. General monitoring of habitat work and specific groups of organisms is carried out each year.

With the gravel extraction taking place close to the southern border of the site an additional set of monitoring projects have been set up to prevent, as far as possible, detrimental damage to Burnham Beeches. Ground water levels, quantity of dust, lichen growth and traffic numbers are all recorded regularly.

Community involvement: The local community is actively encouraged to become involved with the management of the site. One of the ways by which this is currently being achieved is through the volunteer work programme. Public opinion on specific management issues has been actively sought for many years and there is considerable scope for increasing this. Best Value should prove to be a catalyst in this respect as there is a particular emphasis on community involvement and consultation.

SPECIFIED LIMITS

Acid beech woodland: The acid beech woodland should not decrease in area except where it would result in other conservation gains (e.g. helping the veteran trees to survive).

Pollards and veteran trees: The number of living veteran pollards should be kept as high as possible. Numbers of young pollards should aim to be at least as high as that of the veterans. Young pollards (and veterans where appropriate) should be maintained on a regular cycle of cutting. The success rate of the cutting should aim to keep more than 75% alive, five years after the work is done. The light levels around the pollards should aim to be enough to enable the trees to survive but not so much that the trees are over exposed to sun light.

Heathland and mire communities: The area of heathland and mire should remain stable, or increase. The typical species for these communities should not reduce in range and should continue to exist in viable populations.

Grazing: The grazing pressure of the domestic animals (or deer) within the woodland should not be too great to prevent regeneration of beech and other tree species native to the site. Regeneration does not need to occur every year (especially for beech) but should take place at least every 5-10 years. Grazing pressure on the heathland and mire areas should be adequate to maintain the habitats but not so great that they deteriorate in quality.

Amount of dead wood: The quantity of dead wood (both standing and fallen) should aim to be in the 'high' category when surveyed using the Kirby method. It should not fall below 'medium'.

Introduced species and others not native to the site: Introduced species that have a negative impact on the areas of conservation importance should not be allowed to increase on the site. Those that are most likely to have a large impact are rhododendron, grey squirrels and Scots pine. Rhododendron should be confined to a few roadsides (as it is very popular with the visitors). The area with Scots pine should not increase. Grey squirrel and muntjac may need to be controlled if they cause damage to the trees. Sycamore, Norway maple, Turkey oak and Japanese knotweed also occur in small quantities and all should be removed. Sweet chestnut should not be encouraged, though it can be tolerated at its current level. The larch plantation should be removed over a period of time and natural regeneration of native species encouraged. Bracken may need to be controlled in open areas.

Hydrology: No significant changes in the hydrological regime should be allowed except to reverse past 'improvements' in the drainage.

Pollution: No significant point pollution (i.e. from a single source) should be allowed (>0.25 hectare or 0.5% of the site, whichever is smallest) nor should pollution of a significant component of the site occur, e.g. a water body.

Public use: Limits on large scale organised activities should be retained and further defined as required. Such activities should not be destructive or take place in sensitive areas (e.g. the Scheduled Ancient Monuments or on pollarded trees). Filming should be kept under strict control, especially that where large crews are involved or where the set includes veteran trees. Vehicles, mountain bikes and horse riders should, as at present, be confined to the tarmac roads.

Encroachment: No encroachment or dumping will be tolerated.

Archaeological features: No damage should be tolerated to any of the three Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Any caused to the pound by accidental means should be repaired as soon as possible using appropriate materials and methods.

FACTORS INFLUENCING MANAGEMENT

Site trends

Natural trends: Apart from the mowed area much of the site, particularly south of Lord Mayors Drive, has been invaded by pioneer tree species dominated by birch and pine. This growth of secondary woodland and the thick understorey of holly is a direct result of the lack of grazing for many years. Younger trees are also growing around the old pollards, overtopping them, causing shading and competing with them for water and nutrients. If left unmanaged the secondary woodland would quickly re-establish in these areas again. Rhododendron has increased rapidly in the northern parts of the site, having been introduced around 1900.

Heavy winds, especially in winter months have caused some losses amongst the trees. The result adds to the timber on the ground and opens up the canopy in places. Dry summers in the early 1990's caused early leaf fall and death of some trees. The population of grey squirrels fluctuates and at times they can seriously damage beech trees.

Man induced trends: Trampling by visitors is a continuous process on the site, causing general erosion damage. Cars occasionally driving into the woods may cause compaction and puddling. This can usually be prevented but cars dumped and set light to around the perimeter of the site are a constant problem. Off road cycling can cause substantial erosion and nuisance in certain areas, however the recent introduction of an off road cycling policy has improved the situation. Fouling by dogs, particularly in the open grassy areas, is a problem. Despite the provision of 'dog bins' the situation has not greatly altered and needs to be addressed again in the future. Dogs out of control are a source of concern for the livestock. Fire is a threat, especially during hot dry summers. An extensive fire in the 1920's burnt much of East Burnham Common, which was predominantly heather prior to this. Subsequently the area was re-seeded (probably with grass and broom) and an underground water pipeline also installed across the common, to provide water for fighting potential future fires.

External factors

The external factor most likely to have the biggest impact on the Beeches is the gravel site operated by Summerlease Ltd. at East Burnham. Permission has been granted to extract sand and gravel, and subsequently refill with waste, a 50Ha site. Potential problems associated with the workings are dust pollution, changes in water table levels and increased traffic and noise. These aspects are being monitored in Burnham Beeches at the present and details are held in the Burnham Beeches Office. One of the conditions applied to the granting of permission for extraction is that the operators should establish a hydrological monitoring regime. Should the monitoring detect changes that are likely to have an adverse effect on Burnham Beeches the operators must take remedial action.

Pollution is always a potential problem and the site is at risk of both aerial pollution and contamination of the ground and surface water. The air quality, in general is not good and

the close proximity of light industrial areas, including power stations, is cause for concern. Increasing vehicle traffic causes increases in NO_x levels. Ground water pollution could have a significant effect on the stream, pond and mire system.

Encroachment around the boundary has occurred in the past, fortunately not in sensitive areas, and the Corporation has always been able to rectify the situation.

The boundary of Burnham Beeches is becoming increasingly urbanised. Infilling with houses increases the number of cars, and hence NO_x levels. The general pressure on the site becomes greater as trampling etc increases. Over time the secluded feel of the Beeches will become harder to achieve as the roads become busier and busier.

Obligations

The successful management and safeguarding of the site will depend upon compliance with the following list of both legal and non-legal obligations.

Legal obligations:

Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act, 1878

The site was purchased under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act, 1878. This Act imposes various obligations on the Corporation. See Policy Statement.

Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974

There is a general duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees. There is also a general duty to conduct undertakings in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that other persons are not exposed to risks to their health or safety. All operations carried out on the site must be undertaken by trained personnel using methods and equipment approved by the Health and Safety Executive, and in compliance with both national and local safety procedures. There is a requirement for regular safety inspections.

Disability Discrimination Act, 1998

There is an obligation not to discriminate on the grounds of disability.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

There is an obligation to ensure that the three Ancient Monuments are protected and that any operations carried out do not damage them in any way.

Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

As a notified SSSI and NNR there is an obligation to comply with the list of potentially damaging operations. See Appendix 3.

Occupiers Liability act, 1984

As occupiers of the land, the Corporation of London has an obligation to ensure that every reasonable care is taken as regards the safety of persons whom they may reasonably expect

to come onto their land. At Burnham Beeches particular emphasis is placed on the Tree Safety Policy (Appendix 5).

Environmental Protection Act, 1990

There is an obligation to keep the land free of litter and refuse.

Legal (non obligatory)

Wayleaves and rental agreements with neighbours, and the owner of the two refreshment kiosks, are presently held on an annual basis.

Public rights of way

There are no definitive rights of way on the site. However the Corporation of London has allowed a concessionary 'path through' the area which forms part of the 'Beeches Way'. There are no constraints of access on foot to the site subject to other statutory provisions and byelaws.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994

These regulations 1994, under which Burnham Beeches is designated a candidate SAC, restricts the granting of planning permission by the Local Authority to those proposals which would not adversely affect the integrity of a cSAC, or SAC unless there are no alternative solutions and it is for imperative reasons of overriding public interest. It also requires that SACs are protected from 'any deterioration or disturbance which would adversely affect their integrity, and take any steps to conserve that interest'.

Legal constraints

There are no constraints concerning access on foot to the site subject to other statutory provisions and the byelaws. Horse riding and cycling is restricted to the tarmac roads.

Management constraints

The funding for the site is from the Corporation's private resources and is budgeted for two years in advance with Committee approval. Past experience has shown the Committee to be extremely supportive of all projects within the Beeches. The effects of Best Value upon the finance available to manage Burnham Beeches will only become clear in the next few years. However, the current and foreseeable level of funding is considered sufficient to meet the financial implications of this plan. The proposed applications for external grants will also assist in this respect.

The specialist knowledge of the staff and volunteers at Burnham Beeches is a valuable asset and of particular use with projects such as the pollard restoration programme. During the period of the last plan there was an increase in the use of contractors to carry out tasks such as litter collection and the cleaning of buildings. More recently contractors have also been employed to assist in conservation projects. It is anticipated that the use of contractors will increase during the period of this plan, where needs are identified.

Burnham Beeches is part of a considerably larger ecological unit. Whilst it is currently managed largely in isolation, it may be preferable to co-ordinate parts of this management by closer liaison with owners of adjacent land.

STAGE 3 OBJECTIVES

IDEAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives are not viewed as being in any order of priority and they are all inextricably linked. They are numbered solely for ease of reference in the plan.

The ideal management objectives are:-

1 To protect and conserve the physical, biological and cultural integrity of Burnham Beeches as an unique public open space.

2 To encourage the sustainable** use of the site for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

3 To encourage sustainable** open space management.

4 To encourage greater understanding of the site, its importance and management.

5 To encourage community involvement in all aspects of the site.

6 To conserve the ancient monuments and other historical features of the site in a favourable condition*.

7 To meet all legal and other obligations.

8 To protect and prolong the life of all the veteran trees, pollards and associated wildlife and to ensure new generations of trees are promoted to provide successors of equivalent value.

9 To maintain the ancient semi-natural woodland in a favourable condition*.

10 To restore and thereafter maintain the heaths and bogs in a favourable condition*.

11 To maintain the wildlife value of the remaining areas of the site in a favourable condition*

12 To enable the natural processes to continue.

13 To safeguard all notable species.

14 To promote scientific monitoring and research to benefit all aspects of site management.

***The definition of favourable condition**

Habitats

A natural habitat or community will be taken as favourable when:

- the area/s that it covers within the site are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the condition of its typical species is favourable.

The important factors are that the habitat is stable or increasing in area, that it is sustainable and that the condition of the typical species is also favourable.

*** The definition of favourable condition**

Species

A species will be taken to be in favourable condition when:

- it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats
- the natural range of the species, within a site, is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis

In short, the population must be viable in the long-term, the range must not be contracting and sufficient habitat exists to support the species in the long-term

**** The definition of sustainable**

- Sustainable activities are activities which meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations

RATIONALE AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Ideal objective 1

To protect and conserve the physical, biological and cultural identity of Burnham Beeches as an unique public open space.

This is the most fundamental objective, combining as it does the requirements of the Corporation of London Open Spaces Act 1878, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), from which stem the EC Habitats Directive, the UK Habitats Regulations 1994 and the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation. Preservation and conservation are the most fundamental goals for the management plan and they are achieved by ensuring that the boundaries of Burnham Beeches remain intact and open to the public and that the physical extent of the site, and the habitats contained therein, are not reduced in any way.

The importance of the remaining, undeveloped green open spaces on the immediate boundary of the site must not be underestimated. Over the last few decades housing development has reduced these areas of land to a significant degree. The effects on the site of this type of infill development are generally negative in that it has a detrimental effect upon the ‘aspect’ of the site and, to an unknown degree, the wildlife contained within it. A policy of actively purchasing any such undeveloped areas as ‘buffer land’ is essential to meet the basic aims of the Corporation of London Open Spaces Act 1878.

The continuing physical presence of Burnham Beeches *per se* ensures that the public can enjoy it and wildlife is able to inhabit it. For example, little is known about the ecology of the majority of the rare and endangered species found on the site. The only effective way to ensure their survival under these circumstances is to ensure the continuing presence of their habitat.

The provision of open space

The provision of the open space is the central purpose of the Corporation of London Open Spaces Act 1878. It is to be achieved by protecting the varied vegetation of the site and conserving (preserving), as far as possible, what was deemed as the ‘natural aspect’ and what might now be more accurately termed as its semi-natural inheritance.

The history of Burnham Beeches as a wood-pasture common used extensively by people for many centuries is fundamental to the successful combination of public access and conservation of the natural (or semi-natural) habitats. Its legacy is to ensure that the types of conservation management work required generally facilitate public access for recreation, just as in the past the management of the wood-pasture facilitated access for sustenance.

The very presence of Burnham Beeches allows the public access, unless specifically restricted, to all parts of the site by a variety of means, the most fundamental of which is access on foot.

Biodiversity

The central purpose of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in regard to the notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs - Section 28) is to maintain the biodiversity of the sites concerned.

A definition of biodiversity

The term 'biodiversity', was first coined in 1985 for a conference held in Washington DC. The publications from this conference were widely-read and the term became regularly used.

Biodiversity in this earliest sense meant the total variability of life on earth. It refers to the quality, range and extent of **differences** amongst ecosystems, species and genes. Since then it has been used in a looser sense which simply means **all life itself**. In other words, at a particular location (such as Burnham Beeches) an inventory of all the organisms that exist in that place would represent the biodiversity of that site. There is a duality of usage therefore, but this has the strength of uniting different disciplines. The common goal has been understanding, conserving and using wisely the biological resource (United Nations Environmental Programme 1995).

In this plan the dual use is deliberately maintained. In managing Burnham Beeches we are not only interested in conserving a certain number (an inventory) of different species; we are also interested to conserve the genetic differences within species and the differences and gradations between habitats. We are interested in the relative abundance (rarity, commonness) of individual animal and plant species that characterise the ecosystem of the site, not just the number of species that can be added to a list.

These last two points are important because we are not attempting to maximise the list of species in the Beeches, indeed such an aim could have a detrimental effect. Many habitats have developed to accommodate the acidic and otherwise infertile soils found on the site. Heathland, in particular, has a limited range of specialist animals and plants adapted to its environment, but it is the preservation of those specialisms, those genetic differences they represent, that is the conservation priority.

The great importance of Burnham Beeches for biodiversity lies in its mosaic nature, i.e. the intimate mixture of and intricate transitions between different habitats. It is important to maintain the whole and not only consider how to maintain the component parts.

The importance of maintaining an inventory of biodiversity

To protect the sites' biodiversity requires an understanding of the ecological history of Burnham Beeches as well as a knowledge of the range of organisms that have inhabited or still do inhabit it. Knowledge of the range of organisms requires a complete inventory of all past and present flora and fauna and each of their different requirements. Whilst we do not have this information in its entirety we do hold a wealth of information gleaned from a wide variety of sources. The mechanisms to maintain and increase this information are detailed elsewhere in this plan.

The importance of Burnham Beeches

Burnham Beeches has an important role to play in maintaining biodiversity on a national and international scale. The proposed European status is applied because the Beeches contains beech woodland on acid soils of a type that is considered threatened in a European context. An integral part of this woodland is the veteran trees and their associated wildlife, many of which are Red Data Book species and/or biodiversity action plan species. Other habitats and species found on the site are of importance or concern nationally, regionally or locally and are classified as such according to various systems. Burnham Beeches provides an important reserve for these habitats and species and the future security of the site is essential for ensuring that these important habitats and species are protected for the future.

The fundamental nature of this objective demands that the operational objective should be the same as the ideal objective

Operational objective 1 is therefore:

To protect and conserve the physical, biological and cultural integrity of Burnham Beeches as an unique public open space.

These issues are addressed in the following rationales for Objectives 2-14

Ideal objective 2.

To ensure the sustainable use of the site for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

This objective is about enabling the public to have as much freedom within the law in their use of Burnham Beeches for recreation and enjoyment as is compatible with the conservation of the site, its European status, and its protection as an open space available to all. It involves, on the one hand, facilitating public recreation and enjoyment and, on the other hand, managing recreational activities so as to prevent lasting or irretrievable damage to the site, and to minimise conflicts between recreational uses.

The essential open space service

The open space service provided by Burnham Beeches is essentially the woodland and associated habitats and its natural aspect conserved and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation of London Act 1878. By and large the site requires little interference to enable it to fulfil its open space purpose, although by its very nature some parts of the site are less accessible than others. For example, parts of the woodland understorey are dominated by holly and these can form dense thickets in places. Any management plan for the site should ensure that Burnham Beeches does not lose its essential character and distinctiveness or suffer damage to its special scientific interest or its natural aspect. Where, however, main access routes or general access have become significantly obstructed, for example, by fallen trees or overgrowing brambles, work may need to be carried out to re-open them, especially where there are no nearby alternatives.

Given the nature of Burnham Beeches and the duty to preserve its natural aspect, there are bound to be constraints on the extent to which it can be used by visitors with disabilities, such as impaired mobility or vision. That said, it has been possible to create a network of easy access paths centred around Lord Mayors Drive and Victory Cross and possibilities for further developing opportunities for disabled people to enjoy Burnham Beeches should be explored. This will be done in liaison with the Corporation's Access Officer and other relevant bodies.

At one time it was common practice for wet areas to be drained in the interests of public access. This practice is no longer considered appropriate since it alters the structure of the site and mitigates against its conservation. Some local drainage, however, may be desirable in association with the provision and maintenance of major paths and in other specific instances subject, where necessary, to the agreement of English Nature.

Visitor numbers to the site are estimated to be between 500,000 and 750,000 per annum. As part of this objective it will be critical to obtain accurate data concerning visitor numbers, density and activities upon which future management decisions can be based.

Generally, it is felt that the public use of the site does not cause unacceptable damage to the ecological, archaeological and geomorphological interest of the site. There have, however, been

exceptions and these are specifically referred to below under particular recreational pursuits. However, it is appropriate to state here that there are features in the woodland sensitive to visitor pressure, such as a scarce plant species, where attempts may be made to guide users away from the area by the use of some natural device such as brushwood or logs or by not providing or removing a footbridge or car park nearby. For animal species any measures may only need to be temporary. It is essential that any management carried out for recreational purposes does not compromise the European interest of the site.

Ancillary services and facilities

Facilities provided for use of the public include car parks, refreshment kiosks, paths, toilets, stream crossings, information points and so on. It is important that these should continue to be designed and sited so that they do not offend against the “natural aspect”. The cumulative effect on the site also requires monitoring. For this, and for reasons of health and safety, regular inspections of services and facilities need to be carried out.

Transport and Internal roads

Public enjoyment of Burnham Beeches is affected by a number of factors, not least is the amount of vehicular traffic passing through the site. Noise, fumes, dirt, visual intrusion and the sheer difficulty of crossing roads combine to spoil visitor pleasure. The problem requires tackling in a variety of ways, including encouraging visitors to use public transport where this is a realistic option and opposing new developments in the area that would generate additional traffic. The opportunity should also be taken to encourage the Highway Authority to adopt a strategic co-ordinated approach to the problem of traffic on the immediate boundaries of the site, and to consider traffic calming schemes. Provision should be made to encourage cycling as a means of transport when visiting the site.

There are approximately three miles of internal, private roads allowing vehicular access to the site. These roads were created at the time of purchase by the Corporation of London i.e. around 1880. Over the decades since the second world war these roads have been engineered to form major a tarmacadam surface two vehicles in width. Use of these routes as short cuts during the late 1980's required the installation of speed humps and other traffic calming measures. Use of the roads is still relatively high and their existence does not fit comfortably with the sites designation as a National Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation. The results of an experiment in the winter of 1998 demonstrated that there would be considerable support from visitors for the permanent closure of the internal roads to the north of Victory Cross. Apart from ensuring a ‘car free zone’ for the peace and quiet of our visitors it is likely that such a policy would have additional benefits to wildlife, reduce noise and air pollution, litter and erosion within the wood and assist in the management of petty crime. This issue will be the subject of an in-depth study during 1999.

Car Parking areas

Currently there are many all year round car parking areas. Some are all weather surfaces but the majority are natural surfaces and prone to erosion and ponding. The level of more formal car

parking areas is sufficient to provide for around three hundred cars. The informal parking areas are commonly 'advantageous' sites created by users. These *ad hoc* parking areas can perhaps accommodate another 100 parked vehicles. The car free zone experiment of Autumn 1998 indicated that at peak times the formal car parking areas, although near capacity, generally had spaces for vehicles on demand. This would indicate that, within the period of this plan, there is some scope to rationalise the number of informal car parking areas according to location and improve the quality of those remaining. Such management will require careful thought and close monitoring. It should be the aim of this plan to ensure that formal car parking spaces exist sufficient to meet demand at the current period of highest activity. Any future policy should rely upon monitoring for fine adjustment and should assume against any increase in parking capacity

Refreshment Facilities

Existing refreshment facilities in the Beeches are generally low-key in nature. There are two refreshment huts, the Dell (at the junction of Lord Mayors Drive and Hawthorn Lane) and the Glade (on the main common near Victory Cross). In addition, ice-cream vans are licensed on a daily basis to trade at some of the car parks. It is considered that the current provision of refreshments is generally adequate but that the site and its visitors would benefit from improved facilities in the coming years.

Toilet Facilities

Public toilets, provided and maintained by the Corporation of London, are located at the south western end of Lord Mayors Drive. Toilet facilities at or near the main common are absent but desirable and this issue should be addressed in the coming years

Informal Recreational Activities

Informal open air recreation at Burnham Beeches takes many forms. Currently these include walking and dog walking, horseriding and carriage driving, cycling, off road cycling (mountain biking), jogging, running and orienteering, nature study, photography and painting and assorted informal games. This is not an exhaustive list. To a greater or lesser degree, each of these recreational pursuits requires some degree of management if it is to be sustainable. In terms of management, the significant pursuits are car use, dog walking, cycling (off road cycling), orienteering and other large scale organised events.

It is desirable for the better management of the site, to continue to encourage the 'honey pot' policy concentrating visitor activity as far as is reasonably possible, to that area best suited to withstand the impact i.e. East Burnham Common and Victory Cross. These areas provide the major facilities for visitors including substantial car parking provision, a small cafe, open space and the easy access path network. In conservation terms this area is also the least sensitive.

Off Road Cycling

Cycling has gained enormous popularity since the advent of the 'mountain bike'. It undoubtedly gives much pleasure to a large number of people, however this activity does cause conflict in both in recreation and conservation terms.

Off-road cycling is largely concentrated on an informal network of routes. Where the routes chosen by cyclists coincide with popular pedestrian routes there has been some conflict. Some parts of the Beeches are particularly attractive to off road cycling, especially by the more adventurous, because of the terrain at these locations cycling has caused significant damage.

These issues plus concerns re health and safety led to the formulation of the sites 'Off Road Cycling Policy' in 1998 (Appendix 4). Briefly this comprises of a package of measures designed to minimise the use of the site for this purpose whilst ensuring that cyclists are encouraged to use the network of surface roads within the site. This policy has been largely successful. Monitoring indicates that there has been a significant reduction in the number of off road cyclists within the woods. This situation requires continual monitoring.

Orienteering and other large scale events

Because of its topography and broad range of vegetation, the site is a popular venue for orienteering and a number of clubs use it regularly. This sport (and other events such as sponsored walks and cross country running events) has, however, the potential to cause damage to vegetation and disturbance to wildlife as well as conflict with other users. It is possible to minimise these adverse effects by drawing up guidelines and limits for using the site and discussing with clubs and event organisers their specific proposals before granting licences and this option has been used more frequently in recent years. The demand for such events appears to be increasing and limits need to be set particularly in terms of seasonal use and restrictions due to weather conditions. No-go areas may also be necessary to protect some of the more delicate habitats within the woods. This aspect will be clarified during the period of this plan.

Dog Walking

A high proportion of visits to the site are associated with this activity and without doubt make up the majority of site users during weekdays.

Although most of our visiting dog owners are generally responsible certain problems exist that conflict with other management objectives. The uncontrolled nature of a small but significant minority of dogs pose a risk of harm to both wildlife and grazing animals. The amount of dog excrement in popular recreation areas degrades enjoyment of the site by other users and has the potential for risks to the health and safety of our visitors.

The management of these and other associated problems began during the period of the last plan and it is evident that there is some way to go before a reasonable solution is determined. The investigation and formulation of such a solution and its acceptance by the 'users' concerned will be a significant step during the current plan.

Collecting

Metal detecting, fungi collecting and wildflower picking are all potential problems, they are prohibited acts under the byelaws and, in the case of certain wildflowers, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Changing patterns of use and new pursuits

This rationale deals with current recreational activities at Burnham Beeches. Recreational pursuits are, however, constantly evolving and there are surges in the popularity or fashionability of certain outdoor sports and recreational activities. Mountain-biking is currently, perhaps, the foremost of these. The plan needs to be constantly updated to take account of such changes, and new activities that may come on the scene need to be monitored to assess their impacts.

Operational objective 2 remains the same as the ideal objective:

To encourage the sustainable use of the site for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

Ideal objective 3.

To practice sustainable open space management.

Sustainable open space management is an issue given consideration throughout a wide range of current operational activities and has the potential to touch every aspect of the management of the site.

The principle of sustainability is not always simple to optimise and to achieve this objective it will be necessary to review operational activities on a regular basis. Such a process is also a requirement of the Government's initiative on achieving Best Value and as such the two are mutually compatible.

The principle of sustainable open space management also requires the ability to measure and record its effectiveness. In this respect our current documentation procedures are occasionally good but often absent or poor. This situation requires considerable improvement. Again it is anticipated that Best Value will help to drive these improvements.

Although much of this objective will be attained at a section level, it is also desirable to have a wider, departmental strategy. This strategy should perhaps take the form of an Environmental Management and Audit System (E.M.A.S.) and it is this that will promote and guide the process at section level.

The principle of sustainable management should also examine the level and source of funding. Such an examination should ensure that funding is maintained at a level sufficient to support the proposed site management in this and future plans. Potentially there are many far reaching options in this respect however, for the duration of this plan efforts will be concentrated on maximising income from 'appropriate and sympathetic' countryside management grants.

Sustainability will be an integral element of all activities and we should strive for constant improvement wherever there is an identifiable need. This principle should thread through all other objectives and apart from income generation from grants, will not generate its own list of operational projects.

Operational objective 3 therefore remains the same:

To practice sustainable open space management.

Ideal objective 4.

To encourage greater understanding of the site, its importance and management.

The provision of visitor information at Burnham Beeches has grown significantly throughout the period of the last plan. Traditional forms of this 'service' such as keeper patrols and corporate signage have formed an important basis upon which there is now a recognised need to build. The more recent provision of a programme of guided walks and talks, mobile information unit and site based leaflets have been a significant step towards providing a co-ordinated information service for our visitors.

Education also plays an important role in this equation when considered in terms of use of the site by schools, colleges and universities. At present this use (and involvement by staff) is relatively *ad hoc*. The current policy of concentrating existing resources on the higher education i.e. college/university age groups, should continue. This is particularly germane whilst other local organisations continue to provide excellent facilities for the younger age groups. However, improvements in the information available for younger students is still desirable and the production of a 'self help' teachers pack will be a useful step in this respect

It is also important to ensure that the provision of an information service assists the Corporation of London to increase visitor awareness and appreciation of the site. Activities permitted and encouraged must not have a detrimental effect on the European interest of the site. For this reason it is proposed to draw up an information strategy within the period of this plan.

The current information service provides many facilities and their descriptions are detailed below.

Mobile information Unit

Purchased in the Autumn of 1997 the information unit is an important asset in terms of information distribution and community involvement. The unit is used on site when required and also taken to events away from the Beeches. It is manned by information volunteers and staff and is managed by a site Keeper. The unit contains information in text and photographic form and the displays can be easily updated. The site Ecologist/Information Officer manages the production of these displays.

The unit is designed to be a welcoming environment within which visitors can pick up site leaflets, converse with the information assistants, view site videos and, importantly, make comments concerning the management of the site. As the 'information focal point' the unit will continue to play an important role throughout the period of this plan.

Site based leaflets

The number of site based information leaflets has grown from two to five (plus three jointly with other organisations) over the last two years. The original two leaflets continue to play a valuable role in explaining much of the important habitat management work carried out on the site. More recent

leaflets have switched the emphasis towards self guided trails, a site map, specific management issues such as off road cycling as well as the provision of two 'traditional' species identification leaflets. An important element of the current plan is to identify other topics to be covered by leaflets. Having found a workable formula it would be sensible to maintain our basic format wherever possible. However, we should not feel it necessary to stick slavishly to a set style should circumstances dictate.

Walks and Talks

Guided walks and talks have been carried out by the site staff for several years. This programme of events fulfils an important 'educative' function. Talks have been conducted on request and such is their number that no alteration to this policy is currently required. The guided walks programme has on occasion been successful but frequently attendance has been disappointing in terms of numbers or 'repeat attendees'. It is proposed to examine ways to improve this element of our service over the coming years

Annual and other events

The holding of an organised event each summer has become something of a tradition. Three open day type events have been held and latterly a themed guided walk. Such events are of great value in terms of engendering visitor awareness and satisfaction and will continue throughout the period of this plan. The exception to this will be 1999 where efforts will be concentrated on other elements of the information service. Other events will also be organised on an opportunistic basis as and when required.

Site signs

The 'Corporate' information signs at the main entrances to the site were introduced several years ago and were a significant step forward in providing basic information to our visitors. Today these signs require a general update and maintenance schedule and it is proposed that this will be dealt with early in this plan. Other improvements will include the provision of a new design of static information panel to impart detailed and 'attractively packaged' information concerning the management and natural and cultural history of the site. It is likely that these would be situated inside the wooden shelters located around the site and that each information panel would relate to issues relevant to that particular location.

A recent innovation has been the production of new 'semi-permanent' signs that give information directly at source e.g. at the site of a particular project or problem. Such signs exist for several topics including pollard management, the seasonal presence of grazing animals and heathland management. These signs should continue to be erected shortly before the commencement of a project and remain on site until shortly after the finish of the project.

Contribution to Biodiversity Action Plans.

An important element in all the habitat and species action plans is increasing public and professional awareness of the value and vulnerability of these plants, animals and habitats. At Burnham Beeches

there are opportunities to help meet these objectives through the regular programme of walks and talks, displays in the information unit and occasional events. In addition, the policy of communicating with the professional conservation and scientific community and college groups provides opportunities to elaborate on these issues. The use of 'flag-ship' species (those that the public can relate to and can act as representatives for species with less appeal) such as stag beetle can help communicate issues such as invertebrate decay communities.

The future

This plan recognises the important role that visitor information will play in the future of the management of the site. The information policy should aim to encourage greater understanding of the site, its management and the features that make it special whilst engendering an increased sense of responsibility for its well being.

It is also important to ensure that future decisions reflect the principle of sustainability and as such the ideal objective is modified thus:

To encourage greater understanding of the site, its importance and management, where this does not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal objective 5.

To encourage community involvement in all aspects of the site.

This objective is new to the management plan process at Burnham Beeches. It is driven by the Corporation's desire to involve (in its widest sense) the local community with the management of the open spaces. The objective also forms part of the Best Value requirement for Local Authorities to consult widely with their 'customers'. Although these two factors are not precisely the same they are by no means mutually exclusive.

In its simplest form, this ideal objective will include:

- The involvement of the community to assist with the management of the site
- Improved public consultation processes in terms of exchange, learning and recording.
- Improved information services

The objective should provide benefits to the Corporation of London, Burnham Beeches and customers. It is thought that benefits will include improved public relations, recreation management, provision of services and communication as well as greater opportunities for learning and participation. All of these benefits help assist in meeting the ideals set out in the departmental Mission Statement.

However, there are certain limits to be drawn. For example, it is important to ensure that community involvement in the physical management of the site is not to the detriment of the long-term efficiency of site management or to the impairment of the site in any other way. When considering the consultation processes, it is essential to keep in mind the degree of expertise that is required to ensure that the necessary balance between conservation management and the opportunities for recreation is achieved. There may therefore be occasions when it will not be appropriate to consult the lay-person.

Operational objective 5 is therefore changed:

To encourage community involvement where this does not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal objective 6.

To conserve the ancient monuments and other historical features of the site in a favourable condition.

The three scheduled ancient monuments are important features of the site. The pound, situated away from the Beeches, has been damaged several times by vandalism and car accidents. There are no conflicting management aims associated with the pound. Hartley Court Moat and Seven Ways Plain are vulnerable to a different type of damage, that of erosion from visitors and of trees falling and pulling apart the banks. In addition Seven Ways Plain has a fence going across it. Both of these ancient monuments have veteran pollarded trees situated within them and because of the conservation value of these trees it is not possible to manage for the monuments alone. There are extensive lengths of wood banks within the Beeches, some of which have old beech coppice on top. Again, the management of veteran trees close to or on the banks needs to be considered. In practice there is little conflict between the scheduled ancient monuments and the veteran trees. Both will benefit from the reduction of the pollards to try to stop the trees falling over. The monuments may also benefit from the creation, and continued management, of pollards from younger trees. This maintains the ideal of continued woodland cover and perpetuation of veteran trees without damaging the banks and ditches. Tree species other than beech and oak may need to be deterred, this includes rhododendron. The European interest of the site will not be compromised by the proposed management of the ancient monuments, it is more likely to be enhanced.

Operational objective needs to be slightly modified:

To conserve the ancient monuments and other historical features of the site in a favourable condition where this does not compromise other management objectives

Ideal objective 7

To meet all legal and other obligations.

Previous reference has been made in this rationale to the Burnham Beeches Byelaws 1881 and Additional Byelaws 1950, 1961 and 1967. The Byelaws have been made pursuant to the Corporation of London Act 1878. The purpose of the Byelaws is to safeguard the fabric of the site and prevent one person spoiling another's enjoyment. In some instances the current Byelaws have been in existence for over a century. It is desirable, therefore, that a general review should be undertaken and it is proposed that consideration should be given to this during the period of this plan.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) regulations 1994, under which Burnham Beeches is a candidate SAC, requires that SACs are protected from 'any deterioration or disturbance which would adversely affect their integrity, and take any steps to conserve that interest'. The management of the site must not therefore include any activities that contravene these regulations. This includes development in the local area, activities taking place on the site itself and the day to day management of the site.

In a woodland such as Burnham Beeches, which is to have a natural aspect and which contains very substantial areas of semi-natural woodland, there will inevitably be a significant number of dead and dying trees. Where these do not present a threat to public safety, they will generally be left to collapse naturally. Making trees safe, including those that are dead and dying, will, however, be undertaken where they are close to roads, paths and other access routes, in the vicinity of car parks, against neighbouring properties and in other popular areas.

In all aspects including those above the fundamental nature of this key objective demands that the operational objective should be the same as the ideal objective:

To meet all legal and other obligations.

Ideal Objective 8.

To protect and prolong the life of all the veteran trees, pollards and associated wildlife and to ensure new generations of trees are promoted to provide successors of equivalent value.

The veteran trees are, without doubt, the most important aspect of the site with regard to conservation value. They are an integral part of the acid beech woodland for which the Beeches is of European importance (as a candidate SAC). The invertebrates and epiphytes associated with the ancient trees, dead and dying wood, and this type of woodland in general are specified as being of particular importance in the text relating to the reason for the selection of Burnham Beeches as a cSAC. For this reason the maintenance of the ancient tree habitats in favourable condition is a central theme of the plan.

The decline in numbers of the old trees in Burnham Beeches is rapid. From nearly 2000 in the 1930s there are less than 540 today. The chief reason for the death of these trees is the size and weight of the branches, uncut for over 150 years, growing from hollow and unstable boles. In most cases the trees either fall apart or fall over completely, in both cases death is almost certain. Aside from the aesthetic value of the trees, they provide habitats for a large number of specialist plants and animals, many of which are classified as rare or vulnerable in Britain. These include biodiversity action plan priority species such as *Zygodon forsteri* and stag beetle and several hole nesting/roosting birds and bats that are species of concern. In addition there are over 46 flies and over 19 beetles associated with this habitat that are classified as Red Data Book Species

The loss of the old trees would not be so critical if there was another generation of close behind, but the next oldest trees are maiden beeches that lack the diversity of features desired by these saproxylic species. It is essential to create new pollards and/or the conditions desired by these species. Making artificial rot holes and cutting pollards from larger sized trees will help but it will still be many years before the new generation of pollards develop the features seen on the older ones. In the meantime it is important to keep as many of the old trees alive for as long as possible. Work in recent years has demonstrated that restoration cutting of these trees significantly extends their life beyond that of uncut trees and thus this is a realistic and essential approach to take. There are some trees for which cutting will not be possible due to the shape of the tree but these are in the minority. In future years increased experience both in the Beeches and on other sites, may enable these trees to be actively managed again but for the moment they will be monitored carefully but no work will be carried out on them.

It is intended that, within the first year of the plan, a review will be carried out of the pollards and a plan drawn up to enable a more systematic approach to working on them. The plan will detail the areas of the site where work will be carried out in the next six years. This will aid the implementation of this management plan and also management of the trees in future years.

All the old pollards will be inspected in detail and restoration work done if possible. Different parts of the Beeches will be worked on each year so that the restored trees occur throughout the site and are not concentrated in one area. All new pollards will need to be cut on a rotation too, otherwise if left too long they will be far more difficult to cut again in the future. A plan for the areas of new pollards cut each year will also be drawn up within the first year of this management plan. The ultimate aim is for as many veteran trees as possible, and an equivalent or increased number of young pollards, to be managed in a regular rotation. Until all trees possible receive their first restoration cut, 40 veterans each year is a realistic number to aim for. This does not necessarily mean that every tree will be cut but any work will be done that is appropriate to that tree in order to increase its chance of survival. After the first cut, a continuous rolling programme needs to be set up so that young and old trees are cut at regular intervals of between 15 and 20 years.

The open access of the Beeches to visitors has attendant obligations in terms of safety. Although the veteran trees are highlighted within the tree safety policy as being of prime importance there are occasions when surgery is necessary to make them safe outside of the regular pollarding work.

In addition to cutting the old trees, many benefit from the clearance of secondary woodland from around them. As long as the clearing is not too sudden, the removal of Rhododendron and holly from around the trees can increase the available water and reduce competition for light in trees with small crowns. Restoration pollarding work also reduces the height of the crown so the removal of secondary woodland in these situations is essential.

The veteran pollards inside the top paddock were cleared round quite extensively. Whilst this gives a good impression of what the wood-pasture was like, favours a heathland type of ground flora and is of benefit to some insects and lichens it is not intended to continue this scale of clearing throughout all the former wood-pasture areas of the Beeches. Many of the saproxylic species prefer dappled shade to open sunlight and the old trees themselves flourish better when less exposed.

It is anticipated that work in future years will produce a dynamic mosaic of cleared areas. The amount of clearance should ideally be somewhere between that achieved on Mendelssohn's slope in 1998/99 and at Egypt in 1997/98. Clearings should be made around the old trees to allow access for the restoration pollarding. These clearings should be big enough so the trees obtain sufficient light after cutting but not so large that desiccation of the trees results. After work on the trees is finished the patches can be left (i.e. not managed) as long as the pollards get sufficient light. Some clearance work will have to be done again the next time the trees need cutting but this should be only 15 or so years later so that the growth of the surrounding vegetation will not be too mature.

Grazing is planned to continue within the Seven Ways Plain area and plans may be made to extend it to other former wood-pasture areas within the life of this plan (see grazing report in the Burnham Beeches office).

This objective contributes to those of the Lowland wood-pasture and parkland habitat action plan (HAP), one of which is to protect and maintain the current extent and distribution of this habitat in a

favourable ecological condition. Another objective is to reduce the generation gap between veteran trees and this is being actively carried out at Burnham Beeches. The re-establishment of grazing (another aim of the HAP) was achieved during the last plan but plans for extending this may take place during the present plan.

The operational objective is hence modified slightly to:

To protect and prolong the life of the veteran trees, pollards and associated wildlife, where ever possible, whilst striving to ensure that new generations of trees are promoted to provide successors of equivalent value.

Ideal Objective 9.

To maintain the ancient semi-natural woodland in a favourable condition.

The ancient semi-natural woodland is extremely varied within the site and consists of acid beech woodland, acid oak woodland, oak woodland with a hazel dominated understorey and wet woodland with alder, willow or downy birch. The acid beech woodland is of European importance and its maintenance in a favourable condition is an essential part of the site management.

Some areas of acid beech woodland include within them veteran pollarded trees. Due to the special management requirements of these trees, the management of them is covered by a separate objective. Other areas of woodland resemble beech high forest. Beech coppice, oak coppice and oak high forest are also represented on the site.

Along Burnham Walk, where the soil is more calcareous, hazel dominates as an understorey. This may have been coppiced in the past and some has been cut in recent years.

The distribution of the wet woodland types is dominated by water levels and these patches tend to occur along streambanks, close to the ponds or in wet flushes. Several occur close to roadsides and, being small in area, may be threatened by pollution as run off from the roads and are vulnerable to changes in road width etc.

Some of the species occurring in the woodland are of importance and are listed as Red Data Book or biodiversity action plan species, examples of the latter are *Boletus satanas* a fungus found in association with beech trees and *Lipsothrix nervosa*, a crane fly of wet woodland. Appropriate management of the woodland areas contributes to both local and national biodiversity action plans.

Lowland Beech woodland has a national plan (HAP) with targets including maintaining the current extent and distribution of this woodland type and achieving favourable condition in all areas with statutory designations. That found in Burnham Beeches is currently considered to be in favourable condition and will contribute towards the aim of the HAP.

Wet woodland is also a habitat type of national importance and has a habitat action plan. Targets include maintaining the current area and achieving favourable conditions in all sites with statutory designations. The continued appropriate management of these areas in the Beeches thus contributes to the national plan.

Open public access means that, within the woodland areas, some management has to be carried out for safety reasons. Roadside trees must be inspected regularly and well used paths kept free of fallen trees. The aim is for a woodland that is as natural as possible, but some modifications are necessary. Some management is also necessary in the vicinity of the veteran pollards and in the restored wood-pasture area, see objective 8 for more details.

The operational object becomes modified as follows:

To maintain the ancient semi-natural woodland in a favourable condition where this does not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal objective 10.

To restore and thereafter maintain the heaths and bogs in a favourable condition.

This objective includes the heath and mire and all associated habitats within the area currently fenced. The open areas in the southern part of Burnham Beeches were formerly more extensive than they are today. Considerable restoration work has been carried out in recent years and encouraging results have been achieved in both wet and dry areas. The success of the clearing indicates that more restoration is worthwhile, though probably not to the extent of clearing the entire area. The ultimate aim is for a mosaic of wet and dry heath, mire, acid grassland and scrub with secondary woodland forming a border to, and some places in between, the more open areas. The secondary woodland is seen as being variable in composition, much birch dominated at present but some with pine, this may develop to being beech or oak dominated woodland in the future depending on its location. The whole area will need to be grazed to maintain its essential character and composition. The grazing should create a patchiness of sward height, some areas of close cropped 'lawn' and other places with taller clumps of rushes and grasses.

The heathland and mires are important within the county of Buckinghamshire and on a regional basis too. The restoration work planned in the course of this plan will help contribute to the national habitat action plan for heathland, which sets the target of 6000 hectares to be re-established by 2005. Burnham Beeches is one of the few sites in Buckinghamshire with heathland and will thus contribute to the local biodiversity action plan as well.

Some of the species found within the heath and mire are Red Data Book or Biodiversity Action Plan species. For example juniper is a priority species and the action plan for this species specifies maintaining the present range and population size. The work on juniper in the Beeches will contribute to this plan.

Valuable though the heathland communities are, the ancient woodland systems on the site, including the veteran trees, are important on a national and international scale. Thus any expansion of the heathland and associated systems should not jeopardise other habitats of importance within the site. As with all the Beeches, considerations of public access need to be taken into account too.

Thus the ideal objective needs to be modified slightly as follows:

To restore and thereafter maintain the heaths and bogs in a favourable condition where this does not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal Objective 11.

To maintain the wildlife value of the remaining areas of the site in a favourable condition.

The remaining areas of the site include East Burnham Common, various patches of secondary woodland, either Scots pine or birch dominated, and some planted woodland. Most have a relatively low conservation value but management can be done to enhance their interest for wildlife. The pond and stream systems are of interest locally and are a habitat type for which a local Biodiversity Action Plan is being drawn up. In addition there are Red Data Book species found in the aquatic habitats. The ponds are also valuable for bats, birds, reptiles and amphibians, many of which are biodiversity action plan species of concern.

Some areas of the secondary woodland will be cleared to restore heath and mire habitats and to enhance the survival of the veteran trees where appropriate. In other areas no special management is required. In yet others, such as the ponds, the planned management maintains a high quality habitat.

Safety issues must be taken into account, especially along roadsides, car parks, well used paths etc. East Burnham Common is largely managed for visitors but it is also possible to benefit the wildlife of this area by appropriate methods.

The operational objective is thus modified as:

To maintain the wildlife value of the remaining areas of the site in a favourable condition, where this does not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal Objective 12.

To enable the natural processes to continue.

Burnham Beeches could be managed as a minimum intervention site where natural woodland development was left to take its course. However, such a management decision would inevitably lead to a deterioration in the conservation value of the site and the loss of species that have a vulnerable and threatened status in Britain or Europe. In particular the heathland and mire areas decline in value as the secondary woodland becomes established. The old pollarded trees are also threatened by lack of management because of their large and heavy crowns. Keeping these trees alive and creating the next generation of pollards is a high priority which involves tree surgery and the clearance of some of the younger trees surrounding them.

Public access, and particularly the safety implications of a site that is open to the public, does require some active management. Hazards such as dangerous trees and road corners with poor visibility need to be dealt with. In addition, a few places such as East Burnham Common, are managed with public recreation in mind.

Where ever possible the natural processes are left to continue. This includes the retention of dead wood on the ground, in the canopy of trees and as standing dead wood. The provision of dead wood is an essential component in maintaining the acid beech woodland in favourable condition. It also provides suitable conditions for many of the Red Data Book species and some of the Biodiversity Action Plan species found on the site. The natural regeneration of species native to the site is generally quite good and is to be encouraged.

The operational objective is therefore modified as follows:

To enable the natural processes to continue where they do not compromise other management objectives.

Ideal objective 13.

To safeguard all notable species.

Burnham Beeches is of European importance for the acid beech woodland and the species associated with this habitat. These associated species are largely invertebrates and bryophytes and many are associated with the veteran trees and wood decay. Most will be encouraged by the practical work being done on the trees themselves and the stimulation of suitable conditions for wood decay in future years. Very many of the Red Data Book and notable species are invertebrates, especially flies and beetles, and the exact conditions required by some of these species are unknown. Some Red Data Book and notable species are also found in association with the heathland and mire habitats.

Many Biodiversity Action Plan species are found within Burnham Beeches. A large number of these are birds (some of which have not been recorded in recent years). The management work proposed should make the conditions more suitable for some of these species, such as nightjar, nightingale and woodlark. Heathland management will also favour adder and juniper; pond and wetland work will contribute towards the amphibians and reptiles and the presence of decaying wood will help to create suitable places for stag beetle and other saproxylic species. Burnham Beeches is an important site for the moss *Zygodon forsteri* and this is reflected in projects to monitor this species and manage to encourage its presence. The fungus *Boletus satanus* has been recorded twice in the Beeches; future fungal surveys can be encouraged to look for it.

The management aim is to restore and maintain the habitats found in Burnham Beeches in a condition that is favourable to those species that are found on the site. The needs of rare species will be taken into account as far as their requirements are known.

The operational objective is thus modified as follows:

To safeguard all notable species wherever possible.

Ideal Objective 14.

Promote scientific monitoring and research to benefit all aspects of site management.

Monitoring and research is essential in providing background information for conservation work and the provision of recreation/education facilities. It is of benefit to the site in ensuring that ongoing work is achieving its desired aims and remains targetted. In addition, information from Burnham Beeches can make a valuable contribution to National and International scientific projects and places the Corporation in good repute.

The majority of monitoring and research is targeted towards active habitat work or particular species of interest. In accordance with the European status of the site, regular work is planned to continue on the veteran trees, including their responses to restoration pollarding, and the woodland as a whole. Species targeted for regular work include the Red Data Book lichen, *Pyrenula nitida*, and the Biodiversity Action Plan species, *Zygodon forsteri*, juniper and adder. Regular monitoring of bats, birds and vegetation also contributes to the knowledge of Biodiversity Action Plan, and other species.

Research and monitoring can contribute an extra educational dimension for visitors. However, it is necessary not to cause damage to the Beeches and its wildlife, to destroy the sense of 'naturalness' nor to adversely affect visitor experience by scientific work being carried out.

The operational objective is modified slightly as follows:

To promote scientific monitoring and research to benefit all aspects of site management where it does not compromise the other management objectives.

STAGE 4 - PRESCRIPTION

WORK ROGRAMME - SIX YEAR PLAN

The six year plan lists **all PROJECTS planned to take place during the 6 year period of the management plan.** The year that each project is active are indicated. Year 1 is 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000, year 2, 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001 etc.. The priorities are given as 1 = essential, 2 = important and 3 = desirable in each year. An X indicates that the project is not active in a particular year. ? Anywhere in the table denotes that the details are not yet confirmed

The projects are listed by **project code**, each individual project having a unique code for ease of identification. The first letter of the project code denotes the broad category of the project, whilst the combination of the first and second letters defines more specific categories of projects as follows:

A Administration: Servicing and support activities

- AA Acquisition/Declaration
- AF Financial planning and recording
- AI Inspection, routine inspection and audits
- AL Maintain holding, legal
- AP Planning, plan preparation and revision
- AR Reports and general correspondence
- AS Site and species safeguard, law enforcement and associated administrative work
- AT Training and management

M Management: Projects relating to the practical implementation of management decisions

- MA Manage habitat, artificial
- ME Manage estate, fabric
- MC Manage archaeological feature
- MG Manage estate, grazing
- MH Manage habitat
- MI Wardening: Information and Education
- ML Wardening: Liaison with owners, neighbours etc.
- MM Manage estate, machinery
- MP Wardening: Patrol
- MS Manage species

R Records: Projects relating to the collection and collation of information

- RA Record fauna
- RB Record, biology general
- RF Record vegetation (flora)
- RH Record, human impact
- RP Record, physical environment
- RV Record, archive - general photos, maps etc.

6 YEAR PLAN 1999-2005

Project Code	Project Title	Qualifying phrase	Years Active and Priority					
			Priority					
			1	2	3	4	5	6
			99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
LAND INFORMATION			0	1	2	3	4	5
AA10/01	acquire land	buffer land	2	2	2	2	2	2
AA30/01	declare site	correct statutory boundary	X	X	X	X	2	X
AA50/01	update information, estate terrier	define boundaries	X	1	2	X	X	X
FINANCE GENERAL								
AF00/01	finance, general	budget forecast	1	1	1	1	1	1
AF00/02	finance, general	budget control	1	1	1	1	1	1
AF00/03	finance, general	wages	1	1	1	1	1	1
AF00/04	finance, general	banking	1	1	1	1	1	1
AF00/05	finance, general	standing orders	1	1	1	1	1	1
AF00/06	finance, general, resources	for information	2	2	2	2	2	2
AF00/07	finance, general, resources	for community involvement	2	2	2	2	2	2
AF00/08	finance, general, resources	for consultation	2	2	2	2	2	2
AF00/09	finance, general, resources	to improve procedures	2	2	2	2	2	2
AF00/10	finance, general, resources	for volunteer programme	2	2	2	2	2	2
AF00/11	finance, general,resources	for research, community involvement	3	3	3	3	3	3
GRANT APPLICATIONS								
AF01/01	grant applications	Woodland grant scheme	X	X	X	X	2	X
AF01/02	grant applications	Stewardship - heathland	X	X	2	X	X	X
AF01/03	grant applications	Stewardship - wood-pasture	X	2	X	X	X	X
AF01/04	grant applications	other grants	X	X	X	X	X	2
IMPLEMENT INSPECTION								
AI00/01	implement inspection, site integrity	boundary inspections	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI10/01	implement inspection, equipment	machinery inventory	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI10/02	implement inspection, equipment	small tools inventory	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI10/03	implement inspection, equipment	electrical goods inventory	2	2	2	2	2	2

AI10/05	implement inspection, equipment	book inventory	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI30/01	implement inspection, site safety	office buildings and yard	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/02	implement inspection, site safety	tree safety policy	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/03	implement inspection, site safety	fire extinguishers	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/04	implement inspection, site safety	fire alarm tests	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/05	implement inspection, site safety	risk assessments	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/06	implement inspection, site safety	manual handling	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI30/07	implement inspection, site safety	COSSH	1	1	1	1	1	1
AI40/01	implement inspection, other	check other structures	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI40/02	implement inspection, other	annual inspection of paths	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI40/03	implement inspection, other	benches	2	2	2	2	2	2
AI40/04	implement inspection, other	old pollards	1	X	1	X	1	X

MAINTAIN HOLDING

AL00/01	legal, renewing agreements	renew grazing licences	1	1	1	1	1	1
AL00/02	legal, agreements	set up new agreements	2	2	2	2	2	2
AL20/01	legal, receiving payments	way leaves	1	1	1	1	1	1

PREPARE WORK PROGRAMME

AP10/01	prepare work programme	pollard rotation	1	X	X	X	X	1
AP10/02	prepare work programme	new pollard rotation	1	X	X	X	X	1
AP10/03	prepare work programme	review coppice rotation	X	2	X	X	X	2
AP10/05	Revise/prepare work programme	review mowing programme	2	2	2	2	2	2

REVIEW/PREPARE PLAN

AP20/01	review/prepare plan	plan review	1	1	1	1	1	1
AP20/02	review/prepare plan	paths to be maintained	1	X	X	X	X	X
AP20/03	review/prepare plan	restoration pollarding	1	X	1	X	1	X
AP20/04	review/prepare plan	rhododendron control	1	X	X	X	X	X
AP20/05	review/prepare plan	vehicles & environment	X	1	X	X	X	X
AP20/06	review/prepare plan	visitors cars and the site	1	1	2	2	2	2
AP20/07	review/prepare plan	disabled facilities	X	X	1	2	X	X
AP20/08	review/prepare plan	dog policy	1	1	2	2	2	2
AP20/09	review/prepare plan	events	X	1	X	X	X	X
AP20/10	review/prepare plan	filming	1	X	X	X	X	X
AP20/11	review/prepare plan	paths within heathland	X	1	2	2	2	2
AP20/12	review/prepare plan	other activities	2	2	2	2	2	2
AP20/13	review/prepare plan	information services	X	1	X	X	X	X
AP20/14	review/prepare plan	consultation	1	1	2	2	2	2
AP20/15	review/prepare plan	patrolling	X	X	2	X	X	X
AP20/16	review/prepare plan	grazing	X	X	X	X	1	X
AP20/17	review/prepare plan	grey squirrels	X	X	X	X	2	X

AP20/18	review/prepare plan	deer	X	X	X	X	3	X
AP20/19	review/prepare plan	dead wood	X	1	X	X	X	X
AP20/20	review/prepare plan	off road machinery	X	2	X	X	X	X
AP20/21	review/prepare plan	fires on site	X	2	X	X	X	X
AP20/22	review/prepare plan	fungi collecting	X	X	1	X	X	X
AP20/23	review/prepare plan	adders	X	X	X	2	X	X
AP20/24	review/prepare plan	wood ants	X	2	2	X	X	X
AP20/25	review/prepare plan	additional toilets	X	X	X	X	2	2
AP30/01	prepare plan, fire protection	fire plan - office	1	X	X	X	X	X
AP30/02	prepare plan, fire protection	fir plan - site	X	X	X	1	X	X
AP40/01	prepare plan, emergency procedure	emergency plans	X	X	X	X	X	2
AP60/01	prepare plan, annual work programme		1	1	1	1	1	1
AP80/01	convene meeting, Committee	Committee visits	1	1	1	1	1	1
PREPARE REPORT								
AR00/01	prepare report, project reporting		X	2	2	2	2	2
AR01/01	prepare report, project review	new projects	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR10/01	prepare report, incident	accident report forms	1	1	1	1	1	1
AR10/02	prepare report, incident	first aid kits	1	1	1	1	1	1
AR20/01	prepare report, annual progress	CoL annual report	3	3	3	3	3	3
AR20/02	prepare reports, annual progress	staff performance appraisals	1	1	1	1	1	1
AR20/03	prepare reports, annual progress	annual work programme	1	1	1	1	1	1
AR20/04	prepare reports, annual progress	volunteers	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR20/05	prepare reports, annual progress	off road cyclists	2	2	2	2	2	2
PREPARE CORRESPONDENCE								
AR30/01	prepare correspondence, general	recording system for leaflets	2	X	2	X	2	X
AR30/02	prepare correspondence, general	improve filing system	2	X	2	X	2	X
AR30/03	prepare correspondence, general	written correspondence	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR30/04	prepare correspondence, general	CoL complaints system	2	2	2	2	2	2
RECORD ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS								
AR40/01	record administrative details	staff dates	3	3	3	3	3	3
AR40/02	record administrative details	natural events	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR40/03	record administrative details	events	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR40/04	record administrative details	numbers of letters & calls	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR40/05	record administrative details	responses to issues	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR40/06	record administrative details	responses to walks/talks	2	2	2	2	2	2

AR40/07	record administrative details	responses of students	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR40/08	record administrative details	response time for complaints	2	2	2	2	2	2
AR60/01	prepare report, other	Committee reports	1	1	1	1	1	1

PROTECT SITE/SPECIES

AS00/01	protect site, by enforcing laws	dogs on leads	1	1	1	1	1	1
AS00/02	protect site, by enforcing laws	enforce byelaws	1	1	1	1	1	1
AS00/03	protect site, by enforcing laws	review byelaws	X	X	X	1	X	X
AS30/01	protect site, by preparing evidence		1	1	1	1	1	1
AS40/01	protect site by prosecution		1	1	1	1	1	1
AS50/01	protect species by prosecution		1	1	1	1	1	1

TRAIN STAFF

AT00/01	train staff, site planning system	BB management plan	2	2	X	X	X	X
AT00/02	train staff, site planning system	CMS training	2	2	X	X	X	X
AT20/01	train staff, use of machinery		1	1	1	1	1	1
AT30/01	train staff, other	miscellaneous courses	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT30/02	train staff, other	SSSI/NNR/SAC legislation	X	X	2	X	X	X
AT30/03	train staff, other	train volunteers	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT30/04	train staff, other	community involvement	X	2	2	X	X	X
AT30/05	train staff, other	visit other relevant sites	3	3	3	3	3	3
AT30/06	train staff, other	tree safety	1	1	1	1	1	1
AT30/07	train staff, other	veteran tree management	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT30/08	train staff other	other habitat management	3	3	3	3	3	3

LIAISE/SUPERVISE

AT40/01	liaise/supervise staff	CoL staff	1	1	1	1	1	1
AT40/02	liaise/supervise	contractors	1	1	1	1	1	1
AT40/03	liaise/supervise staff	uniforms	1	1	1	1	1	1
AT50/01	liaise/supervise voluntary wardens	develop a scheme	2	2	X	X	X	X
AT60/01	liaise/supervise volunteers	supervise voluntary groups	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT60/02	liaise/supervise volunteers	provide uniform	3	3	3	3	3	3
AT60/03	liaise/supervise volunteers	increase volunteer involvement	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT60/04	liaise/supervise volunteers	increase conservation tasks	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT60/05	liaise/supervise volunteers	ensure information volunteers	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT60/06	liaise/supervise volunteers	find new volunteers	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT60/07	liaise supervise volunteers	liaise volunteer associations	2	2	2	2	2	2

MANAGE BOUNDARY STRUCTURES

ME01/01	boundary structures	barriers on internal roads	3	3	3	3	3	3
ME01/02	boundary structures	gateways to paths	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME01/03	boundary structures	banks along roadsides	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME01/05	boundary structures	profiles of old banks	X	X	X	X	2	2
ME01/06	boundary structures	clear ditches	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME01/07	boundary structures	fences and gates	2	2	2	2	2	2

MANAGE ESTATE, OTHER STRUCTURES

ME02/01	other structures	provide seats	X	2	2	3	3	3
ME02/02	other structures	maintain seats	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME02/03	other structures	water pipe and hydrants	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME02/04	other structures	Hartley Court Moat	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME02/05	other structures	pound	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME02/06	other structures	Bridges	1	1	1	1	1	1

REMOVE RUBBISH

ME04/01	remove rubbish	provide litter bins	2	2	2	1	2	2
ME04/02	remove rubbish	empty litter bins	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME04/03	remove rubbish	pick up litter, contractors	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME04/04	remove rubbish	dangerous objects	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME04/05	remove rubbish	empty dog bins	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME04/06	remove rubbish	keepers rota	2	2	2	2	2	2

BUILDINGS

ME10/01	buildings general	around Dell cafe	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME10/02	buildings general	around Glade cafe	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME12/01	buildings, maintain/improve	public toilets	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME12/02	buildings, maintain/improve	office and workshops	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME12/02	buildings, maintain/improve	disabled toilets	1	1	1	1	1	1

COMPLY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

ME20/01	comply legal obligations	employers liability insurance	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME20/02	comply legal obligations	fire arms certificate	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME20/03	comply legal obligations	alcohol and drugs	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME20/04	comply legal obligations	water bodies	X	X	1	2	2	2
ME20/05	comply legal obligations	quarry	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME22/01	trim trees	lopping trees	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME30/01	control erosion	of banks by people	X	X	X	2	X	X
ME31/01	control dumping of rubbish	fly tipping etc.	1	1	1	1	1	1

PROVIDE/MAINTAIN ROADS/PATHS

ME40/02	maintain roads	internal roads & car parks	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME40/03	maintain roads	sweep leaves	3	3	3	3	3	3
ME40/04	provide path	easy access path	X	X	X	2	X	X
ME40/05	maintain path	maintain easy access path	1	1	1	1	1	1
ME40/06	maintain path/road	verges by mowing	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME40/07	maintain roads	kerbing	3	3	3	3	3	3

ME40/08	maintain roads	disabled parking spaces	2	2	2	2	2	2
ME40/09	maintain roads	car free zone	X	1	1	2	2	2
ME40/10	maintain paths	across the oval	2	2	X	X	X	X

MANAGE EARTHWORK

MC09/01	manage earthwork	Seven Ways Plain, fence	X	X	2	X	X	X
MC04/01	manage earthwork	Seven Ways Plain, trees	X	X	X	2	X	X
MC09/02	manage earthwork	Seven Ways Plain	1	1	1	1	1	1

HUSBAND GRAZING STOCK

MG00/01	husband grazing stock	cattle	1	1	1	1	1	1
MG10/01	husband grazing stock	sheep	1	1	1	1	1	1
MG20/01	husband grazing stock	ponies	1	1	1	1	1	1
MG30/01	husband grazing stock	pigs	1	1	1	1	1	1
MG30/02	husband grazing stock	first aid kit	1	1	1	1	1	1
MG30/03	husband grazing stock	acquire stock	X	2	X	2	X	2

MANAGE HABITAT WOODLAND

MH00/01	by coppicing	hazel	X	X	3	3	3	3
MH11/01	by planting	Lord Mayors trees	1	1	1	1	1	1
MH02/05	by thinning	larch	X	X	X	X	3	3
MH02/06	by thinning	occasional trees	3	3	3	3	3	3
MH02/07	by thinning	beech by Juniper Cottages	X	2	X	X	X	X
MH03/03	by assisting natural regeneration	beech and oak	3	3	3	3	3	3
MH03/04	by assisting natural regeneration	Sir Henry Peeks Common	X	3	3	X	X	X
MH04/01	by path management	Victoria Drive	X	X	X	X	2	X
MH04/02	by glade management		X	X	3	3	3	3
MH07/01	by scrub control	round pollards	1	1	1	1	1	1
MH07/03	by scrub control	scrub management	X	X	X	3	3	3
MH07/04	by scrub control	regeneration in paddocks	X	2	2	2	2	2
MH08/01	managing dead wood		1	1	1	1	1	1
MH08/02	managing dead wood	large habitat piles	3	3	3	3	3	3
MH09/01	other	restoration pollarding	1	1	1	1	1	1
MH09/02	other	create new pollards	1	1	1	1	1	1
MH09/03	other	grazing wood-pasture	1	1	1	1	1	1

MANAGE HABITAT, GRASSLAND

MH12/01	by mowing	mowing programme	2	2	2	2	2	2
MH14/02	by scrub control	Stag car park area	2	2	X	X	X	X
MH22/01	bracken by mowing/rolling		2	2	2	2	2	2

MANAGE HABITAT, LOWLAND HEATH

MH30/01	by grazing		1	1	1	1	1	1
MH31/01	by scrub control	clear secondary woodland	X	X	X	1	1	X
MH31/02	by scrub control	link heath and bog	1	1	X	X	X	X
MH39/01	other	heather management	X	2	X	2	X	2

MANAGE HABITAT, MIRE

MH41/01	by controlled grazing		1	1	1	1	1	1
MH49/01	by other	create shallow pools	2	2	2	X	X	X
MH42/01	by tree control	secondary woodland	X	X	1	X	X	1
MH42/02	by tree control	prevent regeneration	2	2	2	2	2	2

MANAGE HABITAT, OPEN WATER

MH64/01	by clearing/dredging	Upper pond	X	X	X	X	3	X
MH64/02	by clearing/dredging	Middle pond	X	3	X	3	X	3
MH64/04	by clearing dredging	Withy	X	3	X	3	X	X
MH69/01	by other	barrier, Upper pond	X	X	X	3	3	2
MH69/02	by other	barrier, Middle pond	X	X	X	X	3	3
MH69/03	by other	maintain culverts	3	3	3	3	3	3
MH69/04	by other	control invasive aquatics	X	X	X	2	2	X
MH80/01	Manage habitat, rock, excavate	gravel for banks and paths	3	3	3	3	3	3

INFORM PUBLIC

MI00/02	inform public off site	give talks	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI00/03	inform public off site	scientific meetings	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI00/04	inform public off site	information unit to events	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI00/05	inform public off site	web site	3	3	3	3	3	3
MI10/01	inform visitors, general	semi permanent signs	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI10/03	inform visitors, general	maintain entrance boards	X	1	3	3	3	3
MI10/04	inform visitors, general	rationalise entrance boards	1	X	X	X	X	X
MI10/05	inform visitors, general	gate closing time boards	1	X	X	X	X	X
MI10/06	inform visitors, general	provide other signs	3	3	3	3	3	3
MI10/07	inform visitors, general	maintain other signs	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI10/08	inform visitors, general	maintain poster boards	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI10/09	inform visitors, general	maintain information unit	1	1	1	1	1	1
MI10/10	inform visitors, general	provide site information	3	3	3	3	3	3
MI10/11	inform visitors, general	provide other information	3	3	3	3	3	3
MI10/12	inform visitors, general	telephone information service	X	2	2	2	2	2
MI10/13	inform visitors, general	contact details	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI10/14	inform visitors, general	warning signs	1	1	1	1	1	1
MI10/15	inform visitors, general	information unit	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI20/02	inform visitors, educational	information for school projects	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI20/04	inform visitors, educational	higher education projects	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI20/05	inform visitors, educational	general groups	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI20/06	inform visitors, educational	self guided trails	2	X	2	X	X	X
MI20/07	inform visitors, educational	provide teachers pack	X	X	1	X	X	X
MI30/01	inform visitors, specialist		2	2	2	2	2	2

INTERPRETATIONAL MATERIAL

MI50/01	provide interpretational material	guide book	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI50/02	provide interpretational material	scientific books	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI50/03	provide interpretational material	existing leaflets	2	2	2	2	2	2

MI50/04	provide interpretational material	new leaflets/guides	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI50/05	provide interpretational material	annual newsletter	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI50/06	provide interpretational material	news bulletin sheets	2	2	2	2	2	2
MI50/07	provide interpretational material	information panels	X	1	X	X	X	X

LIAISE

ML30/01	neighbours	general	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML30/02	neighbours	Portman Burtley	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML40/01	national authorities	English Nature	1	1	1	1	1	1
ML40/02	national authorities	Natural History Museum etc.	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML40/03	national authorities	English Heritage	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML40/04	national authorities	Environment Agency	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML40/05	national authorities	Forestry Authority	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML40/06	local authorities	Highways Authority	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML40/07	local authorities	BNCF	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML40/08	local authorities	planning applications	1	1	1	1	1	1
ML50/02	specialist biological groups		2	2	2	2	2	2
ML50/03	local community	general groups/societies	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML50/05	local community	licence events	1	1	1	1	1	1
ML60/01	emergency services	police	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML60/02	emergency services	fire brigade	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML70/01	media	inform visitors in local papers	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML70/02	media	licence filming	3	3	3	3	3	3
ML70/03	media	advertise events	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML80/01	others	events	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML80/02	others	disabled groups	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML80/03	others	advertise events	2	2	2	2	2	2
ML80/04	others	specialists in veteran trees	1	1	1	1	1	1

MANAGE MACHINERY

MM00/01	acquire vehicles	tractors etc.	2	2	2	2	2	2
MM00/02	service vehicles		1	1	1	1	1	1
MM01/01	acquire machinery	for habitat management	2	2	2	2	2	2
MM10/02	service machinery		1	1	1	1	1	1
MM20/01	acquire tools	tools and safety equipment	2	2	2	2	2	2
MM20/02	maintain tools		1	1	1	1	1	1

MM20/03	acquire tools	scientific equipment	2	2	2	2	2	2
MM20/04	acquire tools	computer equipment	2	2	2	2	2	2

PATROL

MP00/01	protect site/species	Patrol	1	1	1	1	1	1
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MANAGE SPECIES

MS00/01	tree/shrub	Juniper	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/02	tree/shrub	Turkey oak/Norway maple	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/03	tree/shrub	sweet chestnut	3	3	3	3	3	3
MS00/04	tree/shrub	sycamore	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/05	tree/shrub	Rhododendron	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/07	tree/shrub	<i>Sorbus x thuringaiaca</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2

MS00/08	tree/shrub	wild service	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/09	tree/shrub	grey poplars	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/10	tree/shrub	Lord Mayors trees	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS00/11	tree	grafting on pollards	X	1	1	2	2	2
MS00/12	tree	wood mulch around pollards	3	3	3	3	3	3
MS00/13	tree	create decay	3	3	3	3	3	3
MS00/14	tree	other notable species	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS10/01	vascular plant	Japanese knotweed	1	1	1	1	1	1
MS10/02	vascular plant	other aliens	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS20/01	lower plants	<i>Zygodon forsteri</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1

MANAGE SPECIES

MS30/01	mammal	grey squirrel	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS30/03	mammal	bat hibernaculum	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS30/05	mammal	captive dormice	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS40/01	bird	hawk and owl boxes	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS50/01	herptile	adders	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS50/02	herptile	terrapians	X	X	1	X	X	X
MS80/02	other insects	wasps/hornets	2	2	2	2	2	2
MS80/03	other insects	wood ants	2	2	2	2	2	2

COLLECT DATA

RA02/01	mammals, survey	casual records	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA03/01	mammals, monitor	dormice	X	X	X	3	3	X
RA03/02	mammals, monitor	bat transects	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA05/01	mammals, research project	bats	X	X	X	2	X	X
RA12/01	birds, survey	casual records	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA12/02	birds, survey	point counts	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA13/01	birds, monitor	hawk and owl boxes	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA22/01	herptiles, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA24/01	herptiles, count/estimate	adder numbers	X	X	2	X	2	X

COLLECT DATA

RA42/01	Lepidoptera, survey	casual records	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA44/01	Lepidoptera, count/estimate	butterfly transects	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA44/02	Lepidoptera, count/estimate	moth trapping	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA52/01	Odonata, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA54/01	Odonata, count/estimate	regular counts	X	X	3	3	X	X
RA62/01	Orthoptera, survey	casual records	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA72/01	other insects, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA72/02	other insects, survey	tree ants	3	3	3	3	3	3
RA75/01	other insects, research project	wood ants	1	2	3	3	2	2
RA80/01	other invertebrates, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA83/01	general invertebrates, monitor	wood-pasture by pitfall traps	2	2	2	2	2	2
RA83/02	other invertebrates, monitor	<i>Spermodea lamellata</i>	X	X	X	3	X	X
RA83/03	invertebrates, monitor	heathland/mire	X	2	2	2	2	2
RA85/01	invertebrates, research project	responses to pollarding	X	2	2	X	X	X
RA85/02	invertebrates, research project	responses to mire grazing	3	3	3	3	3	3

COLLECT DATA

RB06/01	biological, list species	RECORDER	2	2	2	2	2	2
RB06/02	biological, list species	send records	2	2	2	2	2	2

RB10/01	palaentological	pollen analysis	3	3	3	3	3	3
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COLLECT DATA

RF03/01	vegetation, monitor	wood-pasture	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/02	vegetation, monitor	heathland	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/03	vegetation, monitor	wet heath	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/04	vegetation, monitor	oak/hazel	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF03/06	vegetation, monitor	mires	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/07	vegetation, monitor	new wood-pasture	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/08	vegetation, monitor	effect of grazing	X	1	1	1	1	1
RF03/09	vegetation, monitor	heather management	X	2	X	2	X	2

COLLECT DATA

RF10/01	trees	pollard recording sheets	1	1	1	1	1	1
FR11/01	trees, natural events		2	2	2	2	2	2
RF12/01	trees, survey	casual records	3	3	3	3	3	3
RF12/03	trees, survey	Lord Mayors trees	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF12/04	trees, survey	pollards	X	1	1	X	X	X
RF13/01	trees, monitor	dead wood	X	X	X	X	1	X
RF13/03	trees, monitor	review pollard monitoring	1	X	X	X	X	X
RF14/01	trees, measure	responses of old pollards	X	1	1	1	1	1
RF14/02	trees, measure	responses of young pollards	X	2	2	2	2	2
RF15/01	trees, research project	genetics of old trees	X	X	X	X	X	3

COLLECT DATA

RF22/01	other vascular plants, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF23/01	other vascular plants, monitor	bracken control	X	2	X	2	X	2
RF32/01	bryophytes, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF33/01	bryophytes, monitor	<i>Zygodon forsteri</i>	X	X	1	X	1	X
RF35/01	bryophytes, research project	responses to pollarding	X	X	X	X	2	2
RF42/01	algae, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF52/01	lichens, survey	casual records	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF53/01	lichens, monitor	effects of dust pollution	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF53/02	lichens, monitor	<i>Pyrenula nitida</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1
RF55/01	lichens, research project	responses to pollarding	X	X	X	X	X	2
RF62/01	fungi, survey	casual records	2	2	2	2	2	2
RF65/01	fungi, research project	responses to pollarding	X	X	X	X	X	2

COLLECT DATA

RH00/01	human impact, general	incident reports	1	1	1	1	1	1
RH00/02	human impact, general	global climate change	3	3	3	3	3	3
RH02/01	humal impact, monitor	traffic	1	1	1	1	1	1
RH07/01	human impact, pollution	dust levels	1	1	1	1	1	1
RH07/02	human impact, pollution	water quality	X	X	2	X	X	X
RH07/03	human impact, pollution	aerial pollution	X	X	X	3	3	3
RH10/01	land use history		3	3	3	3	3	3
RH11/01	past conservation management		3	3	3	3	3	3
RH11/02	past conservation management	Committee reports	3	3	3	3	3	3

RH21/01	archaeological		3	3	3	3	3	3
RH22/01	archaeological, survey	undisturbed sediments	3	3	3	3	3	3
RH22/02	archaeological, survey	whole site survey	X	X	X	2	2	X

COLLECT DATA

RH30/01	public use, research	user groups	X	1	X	X	X	X
RH30/02	public use, research	user needs	X	1	X	X	X	X
RH30/03	public use, research	effectiveness of information	2	2	2	X	X	X
RH30/04	public use, research	other	X	X	2	2	2	2
RH30/05	public use, research	community involvement	1	2	X	X	X	X
RH33/01	public use, recreation	visitor opinion surveys	X	X	2	X	X	X
RH33/02	public use, recreation	visitor numbers	1	X	X	X	X	X
RH33/03	public use, recreation	numbers of leaflets	2	2	2	2	2	2
RH33/04	public use, recreation	visitor comments	2	2	2	2	2	2
RH33/05	public use, recreation	other	3	3	3	3	3	3
RH33/06	public use, recreation	off road cyclist numbers	2	2	2	2	2	2
RH34/01	public use, count visitors		X	2	2	2	2	2

RH34/02	public use, count visitors	to information unit	2	2	2	2	2	2
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COLLECT DATA

RP04/01	climatological	rainfall	1	1	1	1	1	1
RP04/02	climatological	temperature	1	1	1	1	1	1
RP13/01	hydrological	water levels in mire	X	X	1	2	2	2
RP14/01	hydrological	Boreholes	1	1	1	1	1	1

LIST/COLLECT

RV00/01	references		3	3	3	3	3	3
RV10/01	photographs, general	views and events	2	2	2	2	2	2
RV10/02	photographs, general	fixed point	1	1	1	1	1	1
RV10/03	photographs, general	pollards	1	1	1	1	1	1
RV10/04	photographs, general	repeat old	X	X	X	3	3	X
RV20/01	photographs, aerial	acquire	X	2	X	X	X	X
RV20/02	photographs, aerial	commission	X	2	X	X	X	X
RV30/01	maps	collect	3	3	3	3	3	3
RV50/01	records, archival	species	3	3	3	3	3	3
RV51/01	press cuttings		2	2	2	2	2	2