Fishpond Wood & Beverley Meads

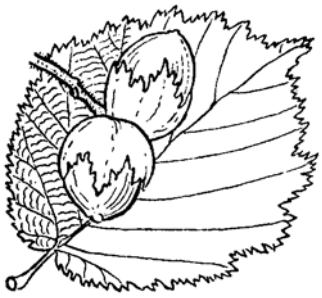
Local Nature Reserve

Merton

Management plan

2001-2010

January 2001



London Wildlife Trust

Harling House

47-51 Great Suffolk Street

London SE1 0BS

Telephone: 020 7261 0447

Facsimile: 020 7261 0538

e-mail: londonwt@cix.co.uk

This management plan provides a summary of the current status of the reserve, a record of management work carried out, along with the objectives for the site and an outline of future management work.

CONTENTS

Part 1: General Information

1.1 Name:	Fishpond Wood & Beverley Meads Local Nature Reserve
1.2 Location:	The reserve lies adjacent to the Southwest corner of Wimbledon Common in the London Borough of Merton.
1.3 Area:	Approx. 5 Ha (Fishpond = 1Ha and Beverley Meads = 4Ha)
1.4 Grid Reference:	TQ 218 709 (centre)
1.5 Access:	The main pedestrian access points are at the north and south ends of Fishpond Wood from Wimbledon Common, and from the Track leading up from the end of Barham Road
1.6 Maps: OS	1:50,000 – Sheet 176 1:25,000 – TQ 27/37
1.7 Tenure	Owned by London Borough of Merton. Management agreement with London Wildlife Trust.
1.8 Status:	Part of Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (M101 – Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath) Statutory Local Nature Reserve (designated in 1994)
1.9 Public Access:	Open at all times
1.10 Public Right of Way:	A public right of way runs across the centre of Beverley Meads, and past the southern tip of Fishpond Wood
1.11 Information:	Site file kept by London Wildlife Trust
1.12 Photographs:	Random photographs are held by various local members of the London Wildlife Trust
1.13 Services:	A power cable runs underground across Fishpond Wood as shown on compartment map

Part 2: Description

2.1. Fishpond Wood

This section of the LNR largely consists of the remains of two possibly medieval water features that may have been fishponds or could have been used for water storage associated with the medieval mill that stood nearby. The northern pond is now quite open but much of the rest of the site is oak dominated secondary woodland of which some specimens are approaching 200 years old, with silver birch, willows and some rowan. The understory consists mainly of hazel coppice with some holly, bramble and bracken and with a scattering of ferns, bluebells and foxgloves making the ground layer. Historically, the banks were breached in several places in the late 1950s to drain the ponds, which speeded up the usual processes of succession.

Restoration work was begun by the British Herpetological Society and the London Wildlife Trust in 1984-86, and has been continued since by London Wildlife Trust. In September 1989 the northern pond was desilted using a small bulldozer, clearing some 75% of the pond leaving the deepest section to the north. Although this was a little controversial at the time, subsequent colonisation of the area by species not previously noted suggests that the action has much improved the long-term ecological value. In 1992 the northernmost breaches in the bank was repaired with imported clay to reduce the leakage and an overflow pipe installed to drain excess water from the main pond to the southern area. The pond now retains water most years until late summer, and in wet summers, all year. Frogs, toads and newts are using the pond in good numbers, with the frog population estimated as being in the order of 1000, and dragonflies and damselflies of a number of species frequent the pond during summer. In 1989 a considerable quantity of heating oil polluted the reserve via the ditch from Warren Farm. The National Rivers Authority carried out a clean up, and although some evidence of oil is still occasionally apparent when management work is carried out on the ditch itself the long-term effect fortunately appears to have been minimal.

Approximately half of the area to the south of the dividing bank has had coppice management restored, with the hazel stools resprouting vigorously in the earlier cut areas, but more recent regeneration has been poor. This is likely to be due to grazing impact of the locally high rabbit population in recent dry summers, as well as possibly muncjac deer.

2.1.1 Physical

Topography: The reserve slopes gently down from south to north and from west to east. The pond system follows a line south to north, effectively forming a channel that widens out in places and is divided by a large bank towards the northern end. When the ponds were being dug, evidently the spoil was used to form a parallel bank to the immediate west. This is steep sided in places on the pond side, particularly in the north. The south-western corner is raised and appears to be the site of a rubbish dump containing at least one entire vehicle whose engine is visible along the path.

Geology : The reserve lies on the London clay near to the channel of the Beverley Brook which was deepened in the late 19th C., and now runs approximately 2 metre or so lower then the reserve. It lies below the boundary of London clay and the

Claygate beds to the east, that produces a series of springs feeding down into Beverley Brook via ditches, one of which supplies the north pond.

Soils: No detailed study of the soil has been carried out. However, the soil in Fishpond Wood has a comparatively larger amount of clay/humus in addition to the sand and gravel components than has the typically sandy/gravel soil of the surrounding area. This may reflect a relatively long-term presence of woodland compared to the immediately surrounding area.

Hydrology: Apart from precipitation and general run-off (enhanced by the site being near the bottom of a valley), several drainage ditches that enter the system from the east provide the main source of water. Only one of these appears to be significant for the reserve and is located towards the north and forms the main water flow into the pond. This ditch runs across the pony club fields from near to Warren Farm, and needs to be regularly cleared out in order to ensure that the pond retains a reasonable water supply.

Before management work started in Fishpond Wood the area to the north of the central dividing bank generally remained damp all year. South of the dividing bank, the processes of succession and breaching had led to the area becoming heavily silted and shaded. A large variation in water level occurred with wet winters flooding the area, but with the system drying out in the summer.

The desilting of the northern pond area resulted in the deepest section of the pond occurring at the northern extreme and this is now the last area to dry out. The overflow pipe in the central dividing bank is set to flow just before water would overtop the banks at the northern end of the pond. With the two northernmost breaches sealed with clay infill and much of the area desilted, the northern area is now flooded from autumn until August most years and all year in wet summers.

2.1.2 Vegetation

Compartment 1: Fishpond Wood North: this compartment comprises the northern half of Fishpond Wood, with its western half being a semi-permanent water body with an open canopy where branched bur-reed dominates quite a large area. Soft rush is frequent, with small amounts of a species of starwort, yellow flag and duckweed. The shallower areas towards the dividing bank dry out earliest and have been colonised by a variety of wetland and marsh plants including great willowherb, bittersweet, creeping buttercup, marsh bedstraw, gypsywort, stinging nettles and soft rush. Skullcap is locally frequent, as is bugle and cuckoo flower and lesser celandine, lesser spearwort and marsh thistle are occasional. Much of the cut or dead timber from management works still remains and regrowth of willow is strong. Dead timber has been colonised by a variety of mosses and liverworts. A fair amount of dead wood has fallen, and some trees are dead or dying because of waterlogging, particularly the mature oak that now lies in the pond itself.

The woodland in the eastern half is similar to that in Compartment 2, but has not been managed apart from that necessary for keeping the path open. There is a small alder buckthorn in the north east area next to the open pond together with a number of crack willows. The dividing bank itself has been colonised by holly, hazel, bramble, wild rose, bluebells, foxglove and pignut.

Compartment 2: Fishpond Wood South. The eastern half of this Compartment is mainly composed of well established oak dominated secondary woodland with hazel coppice understory. Other canopy trees include mature silver birch which becomes more frequent to the south, and the occasional mature cherry and rowan. The shrub layer is dominated by hazel, much of it coppiced, and many of the stools not yet re-cut are either mature or over-mature. Other species include holly (which dominates in some areas to the south), frequent silver birch (some of which are multi-stemmed), hawthorn, rowan, cherry, elder (towards the eastern boundary), willow (near the wetland) and wild rose. There is a good amount of dead wood, both standing and fallen, and this probably accounts for the wide range of fungi that can be found.

The ground layer is generally bramble dominated, with bluebells fairly abundant throughout. Ivy, bracken and cleavers are also abundant in places. Male fern, broad and narrow buckler-ferns, lesser celandine, greater stitchwort, foxglove, hedge woundwort, wild arum, wood avens and water figwort also occur. Nettles, cleavers and rosebay willowherb occur towards the eastern edge and in the disturbed areas. Honeysuckle is an occasional climber and sycamore and birch saplings are also present.

The western section of this Compartment comprises periodically (mainly winter to spring) inundated wet woodland. This area is heavily shaded and silted so pond and wetland vegetation is sparse. There is a small bed of bladder sedge and yellow flag, with creeping buttercup, soft rush and bedstraw being occasional in patches. Bramble has colonised some areas, and may need to be kept under control. When the section immediately to the south of the dividing bank was opened up in the early 1990's it became dominated by creeping buttercup, soft rush, bittersweet and great willowherb, with some yellow flag and marsh bedstraw. The goat willows and several specimens of eared willow (possibly hybrids) that had been cut back have now re-grown and have again shaded out almost all other vegetation.

Fauna: The northern pond has a large number of frogs spawning each year with 350 to 450 clumps generally recorded annually, and a fair quantity of toad spawn is usually found. Smooth newts have also been found in the in the pond, but in relatively small numbers, and a wide variety of water insects occur. The pond attracts a good range of dragonflies and damselflies, including emperor, southern hawker and broad-bodied chaser, and common blue and large red damselflies.

Mammals recorded include wood mouse, bank vole, short-tailed vole, common shrew, pygmy shrew and weasel as well as the larger fox, rabbit and grey squirrel. A few individual pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* – 45kHz sonotype) have been recorded feeding over the pond.

Fishpond Wood attracts a wide variety of birds, including lesser and greater spotted and green woodpeckers, tree-creeper, redwing (winter), mallard, moorhen (breeding), and the occasional mandarin which have bred nearby.

2.1.3 Natural Trends

The old pond system in Compartment 2 is heavily silted up and water is only temporarily present, mainly in winter and early spring, and the area is heavily shaded. This was also true of the pond in Compartment 1, but this has now been

desilted and opened up by cutting back of encroaching trees, mainly willows. Nevertheless, succession is still in evidence as typified by the flourishing willow regrowth that has since occurred. Unless cutting and clearing of the vegetation is regularly undertaken this pond will once again silt up losing its present wildlife value.

Where exposed to waterlogging, several mature trees, particularly oaks, are showing signs of decay, indeed some are now standing dead. This dieback is most noticeable in the oak standing in the centre of the northern pond, and suggests that it is a long time since this area was so wet. Much of the silver birch is over-mature, with several standing dead trees present, a number of which have fallen.

In the understory, the hazel coppice not yet brought into management is either mature or approaching maturity. If left un-coppiced it will become top heavy, split and rot. Where present, holly is quite thick and some clearance of this, especially along the bank is needed. Small sycamore saplings are present and need to be monitored in case they pose an invasive threat.

2.1.4 Cultural

Land Use: The history of Fishpond Wood is somewhat confused. The claim that the ponds may have been the medieval fishpond of the monks of the nearby Merton Abbey is pure speculation. Indeed there is no evidence of any use as fishponds within historical memory.

There was apparently a fulling mill at nearby Mill Corner, which is believed to have burnt down in Elizabethan times (circa 1520), and it is possible that these water features could have been part of the systems associated with this. The pollen analysis (see Appendix 2) indicates that the area was at one time mainly open grassland, possibly water meadows, but these may have fallen into disuse some time after the mill burnt down.

The area was subsequently described as “waste” in the Wimbledon manorial rolls of 1763 which implies an area used as a Common. Most big houses at this time had their own private ponds in which they kept fish, particularly carp. Such ponds were usually (but not always) marked on the maps of the time, but those of Fishpond Wood are not. What is clear is that the “ponds” are at least partly artificial, as suggested by the obvious banks of spoil. The ponds are traceable on maps made at the turn of the 19th Century, at which time the whole area, was part of the Wimbledon Park estate.

Some of the stools of hazel coppice are fairly wide in diameter indicating that this management practise may have been in practise here for a long time. Some of the hazel may have originally been planted, but in any case the coppice system must have been well established before harvesting ceased at least 50 years ago when Warren Farm ceased use as an active farm.

Public Interest: There is relatively little public pressure on the area since the rest of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park are very close. In addition housing density is low in the surrounding area. Walkers and dog walkers do use the area on a fairly regular basis, however, mainly using the footpath that follows the boundary to Beverley Meads.

2.2 Beverley Meads

Beverley Meads is a series of four small fields that were part of Warren Farm and last used for agricultural purposes before the 1939-45 war. Aerial photographs taken in 1946 show the fields as still open, with hedges containing mature trees, and lines of old oaks are still evident on site. The cessation of grazing has resulted in a considerable invasion by trees, particularly birch and oak and now approximately half of the area is covered by young secondary woodland.

The two northern fields of Beverley Meads are leased to a Pony Club but the London Wildlife Trust manages the southern two under agreement with the L. B. Merton as part of the Local Nature Reserve. Work on the site has principally consisted of grassland management and arresting the succession to scrub and woodland by the removal of small areas of woodland to encourage the recovery of acid grassland.

2.2.1 Physical

Topography, Geology & Soils: The site slopes down from east to west and to a lesser degree from north to south. The tees and greens form localised high and low spots. With the exception of a damp hollow in the woodland adjacent to Fishpond Wood, the site is free draining. It lies on London Clay but the tipping and creation of the pitch and putt course have obviously disturbed the upper horizon of the soil profile.

The original soils of Beverley Meads appear to be relatively sandy and can be found in those places where acid grassland remains. In other areas the soil is richer, almost certainly from when the mini golf course was built using topsoil imported to build the greens and tees, resulting in coarse grassland.

2.2.2 Vegetation

Compartment 3: North Field Woodland: The tree canopy in the north of this compartment is fairly open with oak and birch co-dominant. Other vegetation includes small amounts of hawthorn, bramble, cleavers with grasses carpeting the floor. The south-east woodland area is similar, although with more of a shrub layer consisting of hawthorn, in many cases ringed by young oaks, goat willow and blackthorn. The ground layer contains clumps of tall herbs, grasses and spreading patches of climbing corydalis.

Compartment 4: North Field Grassland: Coarse grass and rank vegetation are in evidence in this parcel but by far the most dominant vegetation type is acid grassland. Fescues and bents (not from a seed mix) together with patches of heath bedstraw, field wood-rush, sheep's sorrel and mouse-ear hawkweed. Ant hills (possible formed by *Lasius flavus,* a species associated with bent / fescue grassland) can also be found. Areas of woodland edge have been cut back and the soil scraped down to the mineral layer in a successful bid to regenerate acid grassland.

Compartment 5: South Field Woodland: North of the ditch lies woodland which is dominated by mature or semi-mature English oak interspersed with younger oak and clumps of over-mature birch covered in birch polypore. The shrub layer includes: hawthorn, elder, goat willow, some very dense blackthorn thickets with occasional mountain ash, yew, holly and hazel (both young and mature). Towards the west there is a stand of suckering cherry. Where the canopy is more open the ground is carpeted in greater stitchwort, bluebells, wood avens, pignut, wood sage,

germander speedwell, ivy, bracken and bramble and grasses including hairy brome. Where disturbance has occurred, rank vegetation - nettles, cleavers, hogweed and rosebay willowherb thrive. Avenues of mature oaks that may have once demarcated a boundary, mark the northern and southern edges of Compartment 5. Many of the older oaks are stagheaded and some are now dead, providing abundant deadwood for invertebrates and fungi to utilise. A band of tall herbs with scattered foxgloves and hawthorn and oak seedlings forms the woodland edge.

The shrub layer in the northern edge is of hawthorn, ash, birch, hazel, holly, elder and blackthorn. Ground flora includes bramble, tall herbs, greater stitchwort, wood avens, wood dock, grasses, a clump of the shade loving enchanter's-nightshade and a small patch of wood speedwell and pink oxalis (possibly a garden escape). The blackthorn in particular is invading the neighbouring grassland, and needs to be controlled. The woodland on the western edge consists of young fairly spindly oaks with a little shrub layer consisting of hawthorn with clumps of birch and elder. Grasses (chiefly false brome), ivy and bramble form the ground layer.

A ditch runs along the southern boundary and discharges into the Beverley Brook having originated on the golf course. As it crosses the Meads it starts off fairly shallow, gradually deepening and widening as it flows towards the river. Coppiced or pollarded semi-mature crack willows, some of which have split and fallen, line the eastern end. Marginal vegetation includes small amount of wetland species — yellow flag, reedmace, meadowsweet, lesser celandine, water forget-me-not and a wide strip of bramble and tall herbs (nettles, cow parsley and cleavers) of particular importance for butterflies. Further west the willows give way to oak woodland and bramble makes up the understorey on the northern bank. Water quality appears to be good, but the whole length of the ditch is heavily shaded hence no significant aquatic flora is present.

Compartment 6: South Field Grassland: The principle components of this area are Yorkshire fog with timothy, cock's-foot, ryegrass, meadow fescue and rough meadow-grass present in varying amounts. Apart from these coarse grasses, patches of rank vegetation - creeping and spear thistle, cow parsley, hogweed, dock and common ragwort are frequently found.

The areas that were modified to form tees and greens are floristically quite rich. Although Yorkshire fog does occur, its presence is far less dominating than in the other grasslands. Fine grasses including red fescue and bents (probably in the seed mixture) and a variety of herbs: common, bush and tufted vetch, cut-leaved cranesbill, creeping and meadow buttercup, germander speedwell, ribwort plantain, yarrow, common sorrel, zigzag clover, knapweed, musk mallow and common cats ear. In the north-east corner is a spreading stand of bracken with climbing corydalis advancing up its stems.

Fauna: The most notable fauna on Beverley Meads are the butterflies with a wide variety being present. Notable species include large, Essex and small skippers, small coppers, common blues, commas, meadow browns and small heaths. A colony of ringlets have become established on Beverley Meads in the woodland & scrub area immediately adjacent to Fishpond Wood. Although this is not part of the reserve, it is important that this area be managed appropriately so that this recent addition to the area is retained.

2.2.3. Natural Trends:

Without management this area would tend to become progressively covered by young woodland, leading to the loss of grassland. This is partly countered by the high level of rabbit grazing that takes place wherever the grass is already fairly low, especially the areas of acid grassland.

2.2.3 Cultural

Land Use: There are anecdotal reports that up until the late 1960's, horses occasionally grazed Beverley Meads. During this time there was also tipping of (inert) waste in the north-west corner of the site (Berry, pers comm). In the early 1970's a nine hole pitch and putt course was laid out. Although the fairways were simply mown out of the existing grassland vegetation, the formation of the greens and tees necessitated the importation of soil and seed. Maintenance involved the weekly mowing and boxing of cuttings for the greens and tees. The fairways were flailed twice a year. In 1981, due to lack of use, the course was abandoned. Aerial photographs taken in 1988 still show the position of some of the greens and tees and even today it is possible to locate a number of these on the ground. From 1981 to 1992, apart from litter clearance and some rather inappropriate tree planting, little management work occurred.

Public Interest: There is relatively little public pressure on the area since the rest of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park are very close. In addition local housing density is very low. However, in recent years there has been an increased use by professional dog walkers who bring large packs of dogs onto the reserve. These can be intimidating for other potential users, and it is hoped to extend the Wimbledon Common policy of allowing only up to four dogs with each person. If this by-law can be implemented it will be important to ensure that it is adequately enforced, and co-operation with the Conservators may be valuable here. In September 2000, Merton was declared a designated area under the Dogs Act 199x, which requires dog owners to clear up any faeces left by dogs in their charge. Again, it is hoped that this can be used to deter inappropriate use of the area by dog walkers.

The Merton Group of the London Wildlife Trust organises occasional public walks on the area in summer, particularly for the butterflies that are significant here.

Part 3: Evaluation and Objectives

3.1 Reasons for Establishment

In 1985 the British Herpatological Society in conjunction with London Wildlife Trust undertook a programme of management works on Fishpond Wood at the request of the London Borough of Merton, who wished to see the ponds reinstated. The management of the site is carried out by the London Wildlife Trust and is implemented by volunteers from the Merton group with some occasional work carried out by the London Borough of Merton.

Fishpond Wood is ecologically rich with a high wildlife value and the two main habitats of wetland and oak/hazel coppice woodland are unusual for the area, with the only similar woodland being over the A3 at Coombe Hill Wood. However, the coppice that has not yet been re-cut is overmature, and the ponds have been subjected to the natural processes of silting up and shading by the woodland.

Beverley Meads comprises a valuable mix of ancient (hedgerow) trees, scrub, young woodland and acid and course grasslands, and was added to the London Wildlife Trust interest in 1993. The grassland areas are being continually invaded by trees and would be lost if this is not controlled.

Continued sympathetic management is therefore important in order to prevent the habitats from becoming derelict and losing much of their wildlife value.

3.2 Site Evaluation

3.2.1. Fishpond Wood

Both the pond/wetland and the oak/hazel coppice woodland are uncommon habitats for the surrounding area, certainly within the Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park area. This is especially so as the water has been found to have a pH that tends to neutral, whereas other ponds in the area are usually more acidic.

The plant and animal species richness within these habitats is reasonably high and additional surveying will certainly add to the species recorded. Additional plant species started to recolonise the area after the desilting in the northern area and coppicing in the south.

Although the woodland appears to be secondary, some form of wooded area has probably been established for over 200 years as suggested by the age of some of the mature oaks present. This is supported by the pollen analysis of the silt taken before the northern pond area was desilted, which suggests that the woodland developed after the mill burnt down circa 1520. The ponds are marked on maps since the beginning of the 19th Century and are very likely to have existed prior to this. It is thus important to preserve and enhance both main habitats from an ecological and historical point of view.

3.2.2. Beverley Meads

A range of habitat types from open grassland through scrub to young semi-natural broadleaved woodland is represented in Beverley Meads. The scrub, even and mixed aged woodland support a wide assemblage of birds including, green woodpecker, blue, great, and long-tailed tit, blackcap and bullfinch.

There are several remnants of acid grassland, which merits conservation being specifically mentioned in the London and Merton Local Biodiversity Action Plan's. Furthermore, the other grassland areas, although much altered by previous land management and now more typical of disturbed/neutral grassland, are in places herb-rich and of importance for butterflies and other invertebrates.

This mosaic of habitats and in particular the various interfaces not only provides a suitable environment for flowering plants and fungi to flourish, but also feeding, roosting, sheltering and nesting opportunities for small mammals, birds and invertebrates.

Both sites were jointly designated as a Local Nature reserve by Merton Council in 1994.

3.3 Site Potential

Although ecologically already quite rich, continued sympathetic management is required in order to maintain the main habitats present to prevent them becoming derelict and losing their wildlife value. Work will include management of the ponds, continuing the reinstatement of the coppice cycle, cutting the meadows and controlling tree and scrub invasion.

The reserve is interesting from both an ecological and historical aspect and where possible people should be encouraged to become involved in studying and helping with site management and to become aware of the overall importance of nature conservation. Since the surrounding area is already well utilised by people for education and amenity purposes, particularly the "honeypot" areas, the need and the scope for the reserve to have a high education/amenity profile is quite low. However, as outlined in the objectives, such resources should be made available to people if required.

3.4 Objectives

3.4.1. Ecological

To maintain and enhance the reserves value for wildlife with special regard to the protection and restoration of the wetland, coppice woodland and acid grassland habitats present.

3.4.2. Education/Amenity

To ensure that the reserve is available to people for education and amenity purposes and to encourage people to become involved in the study and management of the site, thereby becoming more aware of the importance of nature conservation. These objectives should be carried out in sympathy with the ecological objectives.

Part 4: Principles and Policy

4.1 General Guidelines

4.1.1 Adjacent Land

Close liaison should be maintained with the adjacent landowners. This is the Wimbledon Common Conservators to the north and west, the Royal Wimbledon Golf Course to the east on the other side of the trackway, and the rugby club to the south.

4.1.2 Footpaths

Fishpond Wood: the current footpath that runs adjacent to Beverley Meads should be maintained as the primary path. This path is liable to becoming extremely muddy, especially through the southern section (Compartment 2), and it is planned to put a boardwalk through this area, as a clearly defined and well maintained path is the best way of reducing trampling of sensitive vegetation. Several sleeper bridges are currently in place and should be removed and used elsewhere when the boardwalk is installed. The board walk should be extended to cross the compartment to the bank to replace the current sleeper bridge. A subsidiary path has been created across the dividing bank and along the north western bank to allow people to view the northern pond. This can become severely overgrown and is in need of regular cutting back in autumn.

Beverley Meads: being generally dryer, the path network on the Meads is less of a maintenance problem, except for the entrance area near the southern ditch where a number of sleepers have been laid through a particularly muddy area. This should be considered for replacement by a section boardwalk.

4.1.3 Litter

The litter situation should be monitored regularly and cleared up when necessary.

4.1.4 Chemicals

There is a presumption against the use of chemicals on site. However, the use some of herbicides (such as amcide or glyphosate) to control re-growth of invasive non-native species may be considered in line with Trust policy. Great care must be taken to minimise drift, which can affect non target species and possibly have an injurious effect upon small mammals and other wildlife.

Any chemicals must be used in accordance with LWT policy and in compliance with relevant Health and Safety and COSHH guidelines. Only trained operators will be allowed to carry out the work.

4.1.5 Burning

There will be a general presumption against the use of fire for disposing of material arising from management work on site.

4.1.6 Dead Wood & Trees

Dead timber and wood should be generally retained on site as these form important habitats, especially for invertebrates and fungi. Dead timber should consist of a mixture of dead and dying wood on standing trees, and standing and fallen dead trees. Fallen dead wood and timber should be permitted to accumulate randomly across the site and should be ideally maintained in contact with damp soil, and in a

variety of shaded and open areas. Material from coppicing can be arranged into dead hedges to deter people from sensitive areas if this is appropriate.

Regular arboricultural inspections should be carried out to ensure that trees do not present a hazard to members of the public.

4.1.7 Invasive species

Any species that spread rapidly and are detrimental to the wildlife value of the site in general should be controlled or removed. This may apply if sycamore becomes more established and to the Japanese knotweed patch in Beverley Meads (Compartment 3).

4.1.8 Introductions

No introductions of plant or animal species should be made to the reserve without prior consultation with and the approval of the London Wildlife Trust and Merton Council. Consideration may be given to the (re-)introduction of native species that are known to occur or have occurred naturally within the locality.

4.1.9 Wardening

Consideration should be given to recruiting local volunteers as honorary wardens of the reserve.

4.1.10 Interpretation

Signboards: an LWT interpretation board has been installed at the southern entrance to Beverley Meads, and name boards for both on the east and west of Beverley Meads and north and south of Fishpond Wood. These are still generally satisfactory, but will need replacement during the lifetime of this plan.

Leaflet: Merton Council has produced a general information leaflet about the history, natural history and management of the site. This includes a nature trail for which a series of numbered posts have been installed. Supplies are now limited and a new leaflet will be required in the early years of this plan.

4.1.11 Recording / Monitoring

- All work carried out must be recorded
- The effect of all management work should be monitored with respect to the management objectives.
- Further recording of all fauna and flora should be carried out when resources permit.

4.1.12 Review

This management plan should be reviewed in 2010.

4.1.13. Risk Assessment

The health and safety of all site users (volunteers and members of the public) is paramount and should be uppermost in the mind of all participants in practical management on the reserve. If school groups use the site, particular attention should be given to assessing potential hazards for children.

The process of risk assessment can assist in the reduction of hazards and other risks to health (as far as is reasonably practical). A risk assessment of the hazards or risks to health on the site should be undertaken and reviewed in accordance with LWT policy.

A Site Risk Assessment should be carried out at least annually, keeping a record of any problems and ensuring that remedial action is taken. Examples include checking that trees near paths are not in a dangerous condition, overhanging branches do not represent an unreasonable threat and that paths are freely accessible.

All volunteer leaders should be familiar with the Trust's generic Risk Assessments, particularly in relation to practical work. All workdays should have a Risk Assessment performed for them by the task leader; this will principally require referring to the generic Risk Assessment, taking account of specific weather conditions on the day.

4.1.14. Health and Safety

All those working on the reserve should be aware of the relevant aspects of the London Wildlife Trust health and safety guidelines. Key elements of this are that:

- all should be adequately trained and equipped to undertake any particular practical management activity (e.g. grass-mowing, scrub-bashing, tree-felling);
- only certificated or specifically trained staff, volunteers or contractors should operate specialist tools or machinery (e.g., chain-saws, reciprocal mowers, strimmers);
- no one should work alone on the site;
- a first-aider (and first-aid kit) should be available and all participants on practical work-days should be aware of the location of the nearest telephone in case of emergency

Where practical management results in the site, or part of the site, being left in a temporarily unsafe condition, notices should be posted to warn other site users of the potential hazard. Practical work should be planned so as to ensure, as far as possible, all management activities which might render an area unsafe are completed on the day of the task. However, where this proves impractical any unsafe features (pits, trenches, etc.) should be secured with adequate temporary fencing and highlighted by prominent notices.

Part 5: Management Prescriptions

5.1 Compartment 1: Fishpond Wood North

This compartment is sub-divided into two sub-compartments; 1a being the pond on the western side, and 1b the woodland in the east.

5.1.1. Management to date

Compartment 1a was desilted in 1989, leaving a new bank along the eastern side, and a small "island", and after the subsequent recolonisation the vegetation present is quite varied in composition and extent. The leak where the bank was breached in the north western corner was substantially reduced by being completely dug out and refilled with waterproof clay, which was specially imported for the job.

There is a more reliable inflow of water from the main ditch entering the reserve from the east, which has been cleared out bi-annually in autumn since 1991. This has clearly helped to retain water in the pond for longer than would have been likely during the summer months when the system has previously dried out. The pond now only fully dries out in very dry summers. A pipe was installed in the central dividing bank so that excess water from the pond drains into Compartment 2.

A further smaller scale desilting was carried out in September 1994 on the northern section of 1a only, and since then only small scale annual vegetation removal by hand tools has been necessary.

The woodland in Compartment 1b has had very little management work carried out, and is largely left as a low intervention area.

5.1.2. Objectives

- To maintain habitat diversity within the pond (Compartment 1a) by keeping emergent vegetation to between 30% and 50% of the total area.
- To ensure that trees and shrubs around and especially in the pond is managed to increase available light and reduce leaf litter input.
- To maintain a series of views and seclusion zones onto the pond from the bank by rotational coppicing of the willows and hazel.
- To maintain the feeder ditch to ensure a good water supply to the pond.

5.1.3. Management Prescription

Keep the path running across the dividing bank and along the west bank open and reasonably accessible. (high)

The willows and hazel on the bank should be coppiced on a four or five year rotation. This should result in a matrix of open views of the pond and of relative seclusion. (high)

Holly on the bank should be progressively cut back with the aim of its elimination on the pond side of the bank. (medium)

The willows in and adjacent to the pond in Compartment 1b should be coppiced on a four year rotation. (medium)

The main inflow ditch across Beverley Meads should be cleared at least every other year in order to increase water supply to the pond. (medium)

Remove excessive marsh/aquatic vegetation as necessary in autumn. (high)

Improve the accessibility of the main path by installation of a raised board-walk along particularly muddy sections of the path. (medium)

Monitor sycamore and remove saplings as necessary to prevent the spread of the species. (low)

5.2 Compartment 2: Fishpond Wood South

Most of this compartment consists of oak dominated secondary woodland with a hazel coppice understory and a reasonably diverse ground flora. Adjacent to the bank on the west is the remains of the old pond system, which now floods during winter and spring creating a locally unusual area of wet woodland.

5.2.1. Management to date

Approximately 50% of the hazel coppice has been cut with the remainder being mature or over-mature. For cutting purposes the hazel coppice is divided into sub-compartments (see Appendix 4) that have been rotationally cut, but the most recent have unfortunately not regrown well as a result of dry summers and rabbit (and possibly muncjac) browsing. Those areas that have been coppiced now have excellent displays of bluebells in springtime.

The north-west corner of this compartment retains water the longest (normally drying up in early summer) and had been opened up in the early 1990s resulting in the growth of wetland vegetation. Since then the willows, which include several specimens of eared willow (or hybrids) have shaded the area again such that no ground vegetation survives.

At several points the path network has been enhanced using sleepers to cross ditches or particular muddy patches, but there still remains substantial areas that are very muddy in wet winters.

5.2.2. Objectives

- To continue the rotational hazel coppice management
- To encourage more wetland vegetation growth in the wetland areas
- To improve and maintain the main footpaths

5.2.3. Management Prescription

Cut a coppice sub-compartment at least bi-annually, aiming at a 12-16 year rotation, possibly trying a higher cut to reduce the impact of rabbit/muncjac browsing. Some layering of hazel, by bending over of existing poles, pegging them into the ground and allowing them to resprout, may also be necessary to replace losses. (medium)

Cut back the willows in the NW corner to promote wetland vegetation. (high)

Improve the accessibility of the main path by installing a raised board-walk, including the path that crosses the centre of the compartment. (High)

Monitor sycamore and remove saplings as necessary to prevent the spread of the species. (low)

5.3 Compartment 3: Beverley Meads North Woodland

5.3.1. Management to date

The woodland areas have needed little management apart from clearing back areas to encourage the regeneration of acid grassland. This occurred in winter 1992 and 1998(?).

5.3.2. Objectives

- To encourage the long term formation of mixed broadleaf woodland covering approximately 50% of the compartment.

5.3.3. Management Prescription

Monitor sycamore and remove saplings as necessary to prevent the spread of the species. (low)

Monitor and if necessary control the patch of Japanese knotweed. (low)

5.3 Compartment 4: Beverley Meads North Grassland

5.4.1. Management to date

Very little management has been needed due to the grazing activities of the high local rabbit population. Small areas of trees have been cut back and the soil scraped back to the mineral which has successfully regenerated acid grassland.

5.4.2. Objectives

- To protect and enhance the areas of acid grassland

5.4.3. Management Prescription

A further area of woodland is proposed for removal to consolidate the area of grassland (see Appendix 6). As with the previous area, the trees will be removed to ground level, and the stumps treated. The soil surrounding the stumps will be scraped back to the mineral layer to encourage the spread of acid grassland species. (medium)

Providing the rabbits continue at their present level, there would appear to be little need for active management of the grassland areas. This will need to be monitored and cutting introduced if necessary. (low)

5.5 Compartment 5: Beverley Meads South Woodland

5.5.1. Management to date

As with the north field, there has been no management of the woodland here apart from edge management to prevent encroachment into the grassland.

5.5.2. Objectives

- To encourage the long term formation of mixed broadleaf woodland covering approximately 40% of the field area.

- Encourage appropriate management of the crack willows that line the ditch.

5.5.3. Management Prescription

Where trees are shading out the areas of grassland they should be trimmed or removed as necessary to maintain a network of deep and wide scallops. (medium)

Monitor sycamore and remove saplings as necessary to prevent the spread of the species. (low)

5.6 Compartment 6: Beverley Meads South Grassland

5.6.1. Management to date

Much of the grassland in this field is fairly course and has been cut and raked off when possible in late summer or autumn, particularly the southern area. The northern boundary suffers from blackthorn invasion which needs to be regularly cut back, but the grass in this area is less course and does get some rabbit grazing pressure.

5.6.2. Objectives

- To improve the vegetation diversity by cutting and raking off, particularly in the southern section.
- To ensure that bramble, blackthorn and woodland does not invade, and to trim this back where necessary.

5.6.3. Management Prescription

In August or September the tall course vegetation in the southern section should be cut and raked off, and piled into compost heaps in secluded positions. If necessary, this should include management of the bramble to ensure that it does not invade the grassland, but substantial areas should always be retained as habitat. (high)

Along the northern edge the blackthorn invading the grassland should be cut back at least bi-annually in late summer or autumn. (medium)

Scrub and trees along the paths should be monitored and cut back to at least 1m away from the path where necessary. (medium)

Tree invasion by oaks particularly should be monitored and cut back in late summer or autumn as necessary. (medium)

The small area of grassland in the NW corner is becoming heavily overshaded, and a few trees, especially to the south should be removed or severely cut back to increase the open grassland area. (high)

5.7. Paths

The path at the entrance to the reserve becomes severely muddy in winter, and has been partly improved by installation of a number of sleepers. These should be replaced by a short length of boardwalk leading from the bridge over the stream to the grassland area. (high)

Part 6: Responsibilities

Management Committee

The regular business meetings of the London Wildlife Trust Merton Borough Group will undertake the function of management committee of Fishpond Wood and Beverley Meads Local Nature Reserve, with day to day decisions being made in consultation with Trust conservation staff and the London Borough of Merton. A regular report (preferably annual) should be prepared by the Local Group, detailing work done, the results of any monitoring and proposing works needed for the following year(s). This will be submitted to both LWT central office and to the relevant L. B. Merton officers for approval.

Wardening / Management work

The LWT Merton Borough Group will assume responsibility for the wardening and most routine management work on the reserve, except for large tree works. A record of all events (work days, Risk Assessments, surveys, open days, vandalism etc.) should be included in the reserve report.

Appendix 1: Species records

Flora

Name	Common Name	FPW	BM
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	O	F
Drypteris filix-mas	Male Fern	F	O
Drypteris carthusiana	Narrow Buckler-fern	R	
Drypteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern	F	
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup		O
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup		F
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	R	
Ranunculus sceleratus	Celery-leaved Buttercup	R	
Corydalis claviculata	Climbing Corydalis		O
Cardamine pratensis	Ladies Smock	R	
Alliaria petiolata	Jack-by-the-hedge		
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard		O
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St Johns-Wort		O
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin (1991 record only)	R	
Stellaria alsine	Bog Stitchwort	O	
Stellaria graminae	Lesser Stitchwort		
Stellaria holostia	Greater Stitchwort		F
Moehringia trinervia	Three-nerved Sandwort		
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Cranesbill		
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore		
Ilex aquifolium	Holly		
Frangula alnus	Alder Buckthorn	R	
Galega officinalis	Goat's Rue		
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch		
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Pea		
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover		
Lotus corniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil		
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble	A	A
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil		
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens		
Aphanes arvensis	Parsley Piert		
Rosa canina	Dog Rose		
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn		A
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry		
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn		A
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan		O
Malus domestica	Apple		R
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife	R	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	F	
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb		
Epilobium roseum	Small-flowered Willowherb		
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb	R	
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb		O
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanters Nightshade	A	
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood		
Hedra helix	Ivy	A	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley		
Conopodium majus	Pignut		
Apium nodiflorum	Fool's Watercress	O	
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica		
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed		
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge Parsley		
Polygonum hydropiper	Waterpepper	F	
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel		O
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock		
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock		
Rumex sanguineus var. viridis	Wood Dock		

Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle		F
Ulmus procera	English Elm		
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	F	F
Corylus avellana	Hazel	F	
Quercus robur	English Oak	F	F
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	O	
Salix cinerea	Sallow		
Salix aurita	Eared Willow	R	
Lysimachia vulgaris	Yellow Loosestrife		O
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	R	
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet	F	
Scrophularia auriculata	Water Figwort	O	
Scrophularia nodosa	Common Figwort		
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	F	
Veronica chamaedrys	Birdseye Speedwell		
Lycopus europaeus	Gipsywort	F	
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort		
Ballota nigra ssp foetida	Black Horehound		
Lamium album	White Deadnettle		
Galeopisis tetrahit	Common Hemp Nettle		
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy	A	
Scutellaria galericulata	Skullcap	F	
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood Sage	O	O
Ajuga reptans	Bugle	O	
Plantago major	Rat-tail Plantain		
Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw	O	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	A	
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw		R
Sambucus nigra	Elder	O	
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	O	
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort		F
Gnaphalium uliginosum	Marsh Cudweed	R	
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow		
Matricaria matricarioides	Pineapple Weed		
Arctium minus ssp. nemorosum	Lesser Burdock		
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle		
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	F	
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle		
Centaurea nigra agg.	Lesser Knapweed		F
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort		
Tragopogon pratensis agg.	Goatsbeard		
Sonchus asper	Spiny SowThistle		
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Common Water-plantain	O	
Hyacinthoides non-scriptus	Bluebell	A	O
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	F	
Juncus inflexus	Hard Rush	O	
Juncus bufonius	Toad Rush	O	
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	O	
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag	O	O
Crocosmia X crocosmiflora	Montbretia	R	
Sparganium erectum	Branched Bur-reed	F	
Typha latifolia	Common Reedmace	O	
Carex disticha	Brown Sedge	R	
Carex remota	Remote Sedge	R	
Carex rostrata	Bottle Sedge	O	
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	R	
Festuca gigantia	Giant Fescue		
Poa nemoralis	Wood Meadow Grass		
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow Grass		
Dactylis glomeratus	Cocksfoot		
Bromus ramosus	Hairy Brome		

Brachypodium syvaticum	Slender False-Brome
Avena fatua	Wild Oat
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair Grass
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog
Agrostis canina	Brown Bent
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent
Agrostis gigantea	Common Bent-grass
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail
Milium effusum	Wood Millet

Designation is D (dominant) A (abundant) F (frequent) O (occasional) R (rare)
Where no abundance is given this has not been assessed

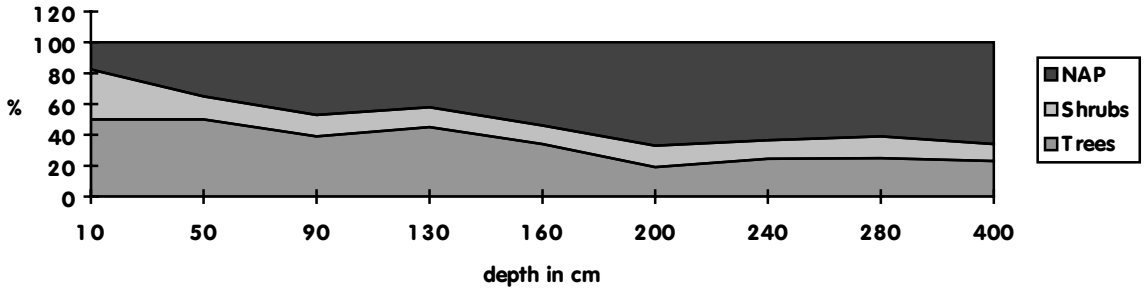
Fungi

Name	Common Name	Date first seen	Where
Amanita citrina var alba	False Death Cap	30.8.92	FPW
Amanita muscaria	Fly Agaric		BM
Amanita rubescens	The Blusher		BM
Armillaria mellea (both forms)	Honey Fungus	3.8.87	
Ascocoryne sarcoides		12/12/92	FPW
Clilophilus prunulus	The Miller		FPW
Cliticybe odora	Aniseed Toadstool		
Clitocybe flaccida	Tawny Funnel Cap		
Clitocybe gibba	Common Funnel Cap		
Clitocybe infundibuliformis	Common Funnel Cap	3.8.87	
Clitocybe nebularis	Clouded Agaric	2.11.91	
Clitocybe phyllophila		6.10.93	BM
Collybia butyracea	Butter Cap	2.11.91	
Collybia dryophila		12.9.93	BM
Collybia erythropus		5.10.91	
Collybia maculata	Spotted Tough Shank	28.10.84	
Collybia peronata	Wood Woolly-foot	6.10.93	BM
Coprinus atramentarus	Common Ink Cap	5.10.91	FPW
Daedaleopsis confragosa		15.9.93	FPW
Daedaleopsis confragosa (var tricolor)		15.12.93	FPW
Entoloma nidorosum		6.10.93	BM
Fistulina hepatica	Beef-steak Fungus	?.9.88	
Gymnopilus junonius		2.11.91	
Gyroporus castaneus		14.8.93	BM (under Oak)
Laccaria amethystea	Amethyst Deceiver	28.10.84	
Laccaria laccatta	The Deceiver	5.10.91	FPW/BM
Lactarius blennius	Slimy Milk Cap	19.9.92	BM
Lactarius pyrogalus		17.11.91	FPW
Lactarius subdulus		6.10.93	
Lactarius turpis	Ugly Milk Cap	5.10.91	BM
Leccinum scabrum	Brown Birch Boletus	26.10.91	BM
Lepiota cristata		25.9.93	FPW
Lepiota rhacodes	Shaggy Parasol	26.10.91	BM
Lepista nuda	Wood Blewit	26.10.91	BM
Leucocoprinus brebisonii		29.9.83	
Lycoperdon perlatum			BM
Lycoperdon pyriforme			
Marasmius oreades	Fairy Ring	25.9.93	BM

Mutinus caninus	Dog Stinkhorn	4.19.92	FPW
Mycena galericulata		6.10.93	
Mycena galopus		3.8.87	
Mycena galopus var candida		6.10.93	
Omphalina pyxidata		25.9.93	BM
Oudemansiella radicata	Rooting shank	12.9.93	FPW
Paxillus involutus	Brown Roll-rim	5.10.91	BM
Phallus impudicus	Stinkhorn	3.8.87	FPW
Pleurotus ostreatus	Oyster Fungus	15.12.93	FPW/BM
Pluteus cervinus		26.10.91	
Pluteus salicinus		4.8.94	FPW
Polyporus betulinus	Birch Polypore	28.10.84	
Psathyrella candolleana		20.6.93	FPW
Russula fragilis	Fragile Russula	28.10.84	FPW/BM
Russula krombholzii	Purple-black Russula	5.10.91	FPW
Russula nigricans	Blackening Russula	5.10.91	BM
Russula ochroleuca	Common Yellow Russula	2.11.91	BM
Russula versicolor		12.9.93	FPW
Scleroderma areolatum	Earthball	29.9.83	
Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball	29.9.83	
Stereum hirsutum		?.1.88	
Trametes versicolor	Many Zoned Polypore	29.9.83	
Tremella mesenterica	Yellow Brain Fungus	4.3.89	FPW
Xeroconius chrysenteron	Red-cracked Boletus	29.8.92	FPW/BM
Xylaria hypoxylon		?.11.88	
Xylaria longipes		5.10.91	
Xylaria polymorpha		5.10.91	

Nomenclature; Bon, M. 1987. The Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and North-western Europe. Hodder & Stoughton.

Appendix 2: Pollen Analysis from Fishpond Wood

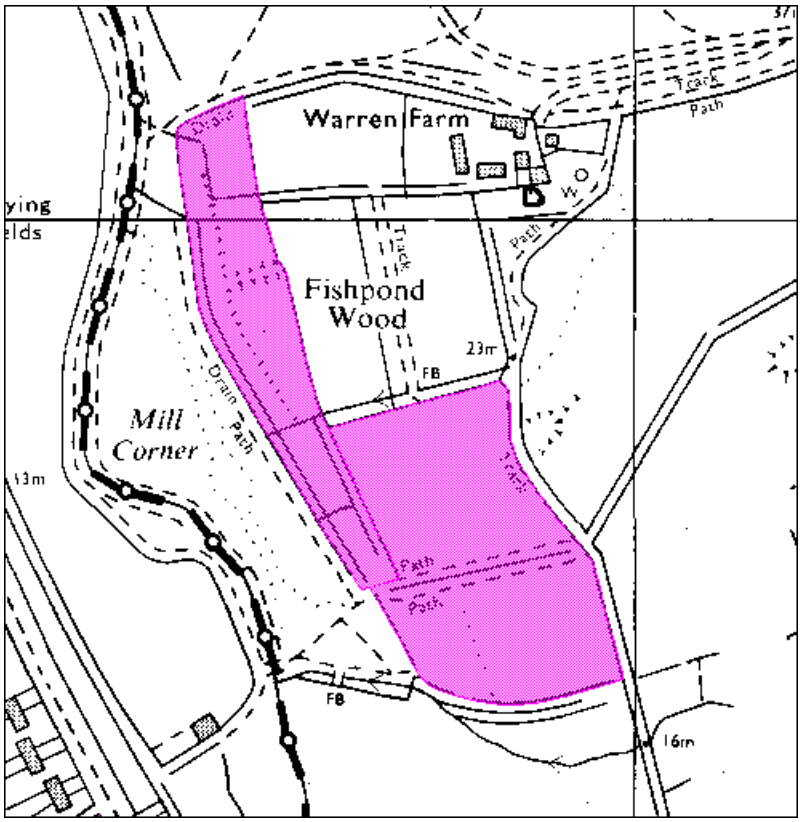


Notes:
NAP = Non Arboricultural Pollen
The horizontal axis represents mm of sample depth.
The vertical axis represents the percentage value compared to the total tree grains found on all charts except the final overall comparison.

No dates were possible, but it is reasonable to assume that the deeper section shows the open wet grassland conditions when the mill was in operation. Following the mill being burnt down in approximately 1520, the area seems to have been abandoned (the "waste") and trees and shrubs slowly invaded.

All data from a final year research project carried out by Christian Smillie at Nene College, Northhampton in 1990, from data collected in Summer 1989 prior to the pond being desilted.

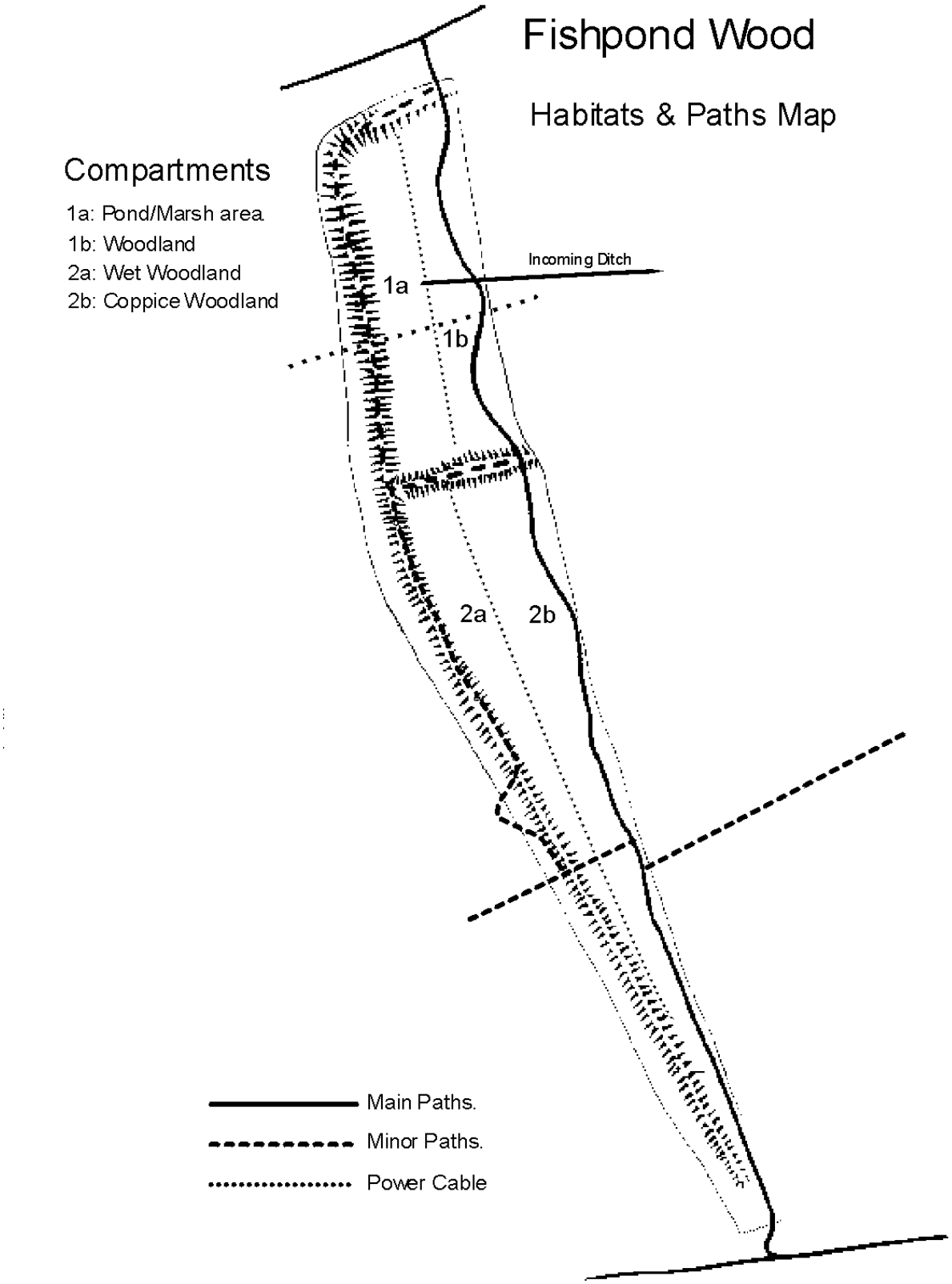
Appendix 3: Site Location Map



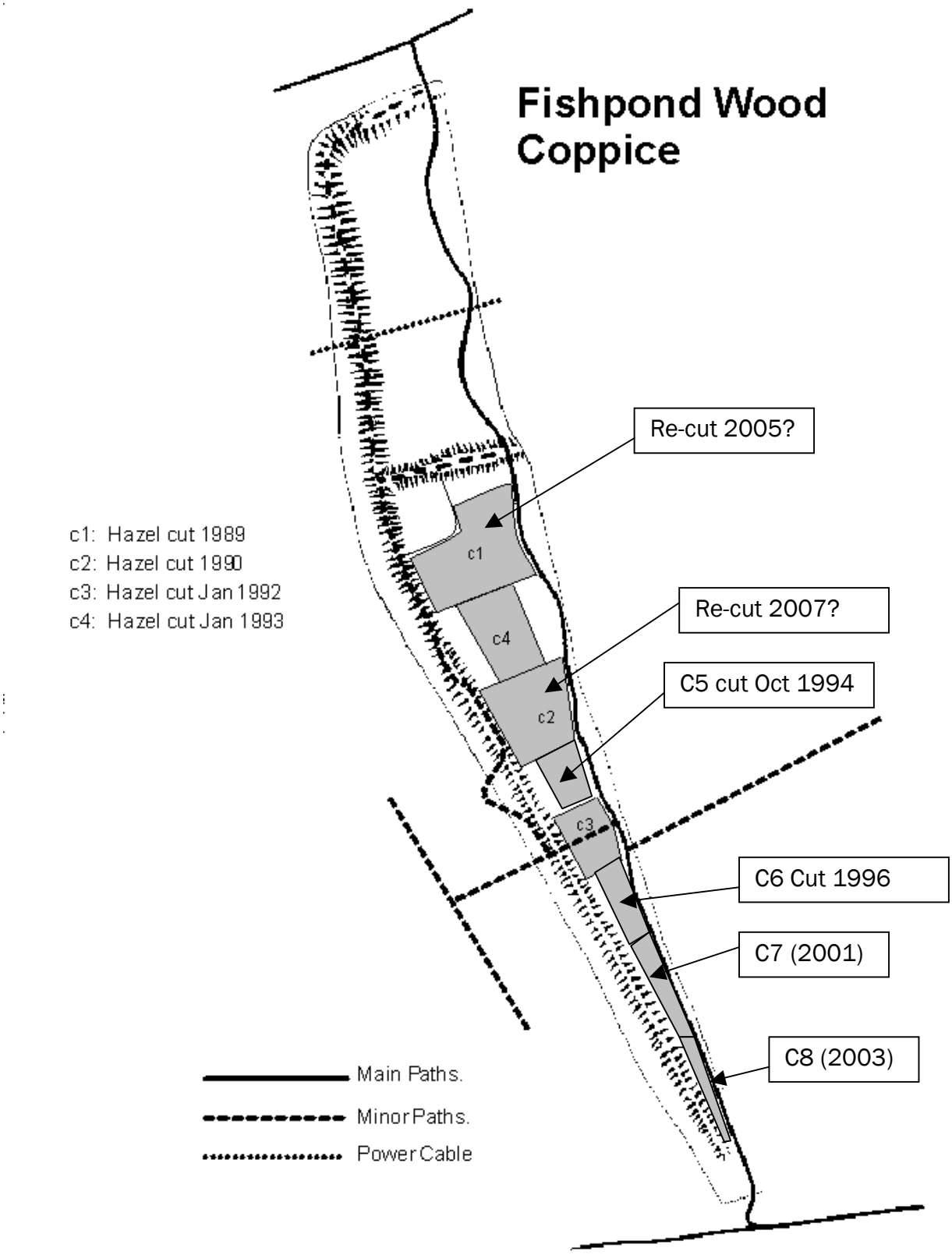
Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1: 10 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL51733A0001

Produced by the London Wildlife Trust's Biological Recording Project.

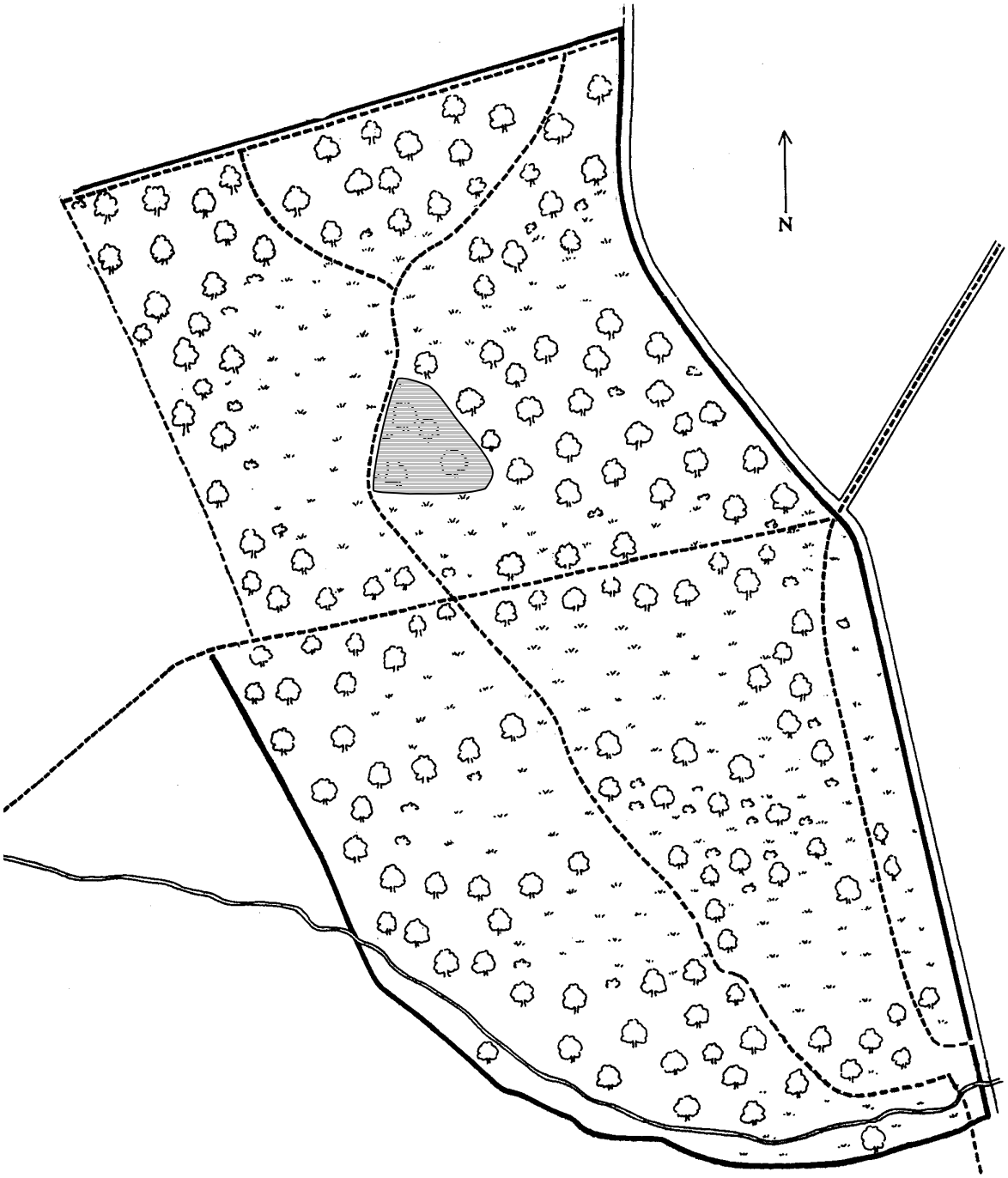
Appendix 4: Management Compartments (Fishpond Wood)



Appendix 5: Coppice sub-compartments (Fishpond Wood)



Appendix 6: Management Compartments (Beverley Meads)



Grey area indicates proposed acid grassland restoration area.

Appendix 7: Management Records

6-9 September 1988	BTCV work on Fishpond Dam and Sluice rebuilt with footpath constructed over. West bank of northern area coppiced.
Winter 88/89	WCC work on Fishpond Construction of bridge over ditch, and path improvement work.
19/20 January 1989	BTCV work on Fishpond Coppicing of area c1. Cutting and clearing of marsh area 1c. Path improvement work.
September 1989	LBM desilting of area 1a in Fishpond
Winter 89/90	MCV / Newts. Revetment of new banks and 'island' around area 1a. KCV. Coppicing of area c2.
26th Jan. / 9th Feb. 1992.	MCV / Newts: Bramble clearance from previously coppiced areas. Coppicing of area c3.
4th October 1992.	MCV / Newts: Coppicing of alternate sections of hazel/willow around bank of N Pond. Digging out and refilling with clay of dam at site of 'sluice' (N Pond). Installation of drainage pipe to S pond from N.
6th December 1992	MCV Removal of 1st pipe to S pond (item 3), and replacement with larger diameter pipe. Clay infilling of breach at top of S Pond.
31st January 1993	MCV Coppice of area c4, stacking of cuttings to form barrier to access over coppice area. Even more clay poured into top of N pond in (unsuccessful) attempt to stem leak... Tree safety work near paths on degenerate Hazel.
8th August 1993	MCV - 8 volunteers. 30hrs Old "sleeper" bridge over S Pond repaired. New "sleeper" bridges built over ditches and damp hollows. (6 in total) "Buried Car" at South end of reserve - steering column cut short, and engine buried under step built up to hide it. Ragwort pulling on Beverley Meads.
24th October 1993	MCV - 7 volunteers + 12 scouts/guides. 40 hrs Cleared Soft Rush and Branched Burr-reed from areas of pond. Dug out channel behind island area. Polish Scouts and Guides cleared bramble from coppiced area. Coppiced willows on "mound" - S end of Pond.
7th November 1993	MCV - 9 volunteers. 30hrs. Cleared out Typha and more Bur-reed. Put rest of clay into front of old sluice. Pinned some Hazel in S wood to increase plant numbers.

	Further coppicing of willow at South end of Pond.
23rd January 1994	Beverley Meads. MCV - 9 volunteers. 20hrs. Bramble Control on parcels 11 & 13. Clearing small oaks on parcel 11. Clearing small stand of birch on parcel 13. Clearing blackthorn re-invasion on parcel 11. Piling dumped conifer waste into bonfires on parcel 1.
20th February 1994	Beverley Meads MCV - 7 volunteers. 24hrs. Burning the conifer waste on parcel 1. Cut back scrub from path on parcel 11 and 13. Cut and burn Japanese Knotweed on parcel 9.
20th March 1994	Beverley Meads MCV - 8 volunteers. 30hrs.
1st October 95	Footpath improvements and other tasks (MCV)
11th February 96	Pond work (MCV)
14th April 96	Coppicing in Fishpond (MCV)
25th August 96	Haymaking on the meadows. (MCV)
10th November 96	Footpath clearance and clearing out the stream (MCV)
26th January 97	Coppicing willows (?) and work on the pond (MCV)
24th August 97	Haymaking on the meadows (MCV)
16th November 97	Clearing out the pond (MCV)
1st March 98	Removing scrub on BM (MCV)
13th September 98	Haymaking on the meadows. (MCV)
10th October 99	Clearing excess vegetation from main pond (MCV)
27th August 2000	Haymaking on southern BM meadow and blackthorn bashing (MCV)
24th September 2000	Repaired footpath over “old dam”, coppiced some hazel along bank, and removed vegetation from pond, especially behind the island. (MCV)
10th Dec 2000 & 21st Jan 2001	Cancelled due to heavy rain

Notes:
MCV = Merton Conservation Volunteers.
KCV = Kingston " "
WCC = Wimbledon Common Conservators.

London Wildlife Trust is a registered charity no. 283895
and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no. 1600379
Registered office: Harling House, 47-51 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BS