Cherry Wood
Management Plan

February 1998

Written by P Guest BSc AIEEM, on behalf of the

London Borough of Merton

Education, Leisure and Libraries Department

Updated from the management plans written by L.B.M. in 1989 and 1995

Part 1: Policy Statement

The Borough Council recognises the importance of wildlife and green spaces to people living in Merton and pursues policies to defend sites of interest from development, and manages its open spaces with Nature Conservation in mind.

The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) defines policies relating to ecology and nature Conservation and is available for inspection at Merton Civic Centre and most local libraries. To further demonstrate its commitment to nature conservation the Council has already designated four Local Nature Reserves and intends to declare more in future. It is proposed that Cherry Wood will be given LNR status, and the production of this management plan is an important part of this process. The handbook "Nature Conservation in Merton" will be published by the London Ecology Unit in 1998 and identifies this site as a Borough Grade 2 Site of Importance for nature conservation. This designation ensures that the site is protected by Policy EN.4 and the production of this management plan is in line with Policy EN.16 – Management of Green Spaces – Conservation Plans.

Part 2: Description and History

Name	Cherry Wood
Area	1.65 ha. (4 acres)
Grid Reference	TQ 243 680
Maps	BGS 1: 50,000 Sheet 270 South London OS 1: 50,000 series sheet 176 OS 1: 25,000 sheet TQ 26/36 O.S. 1: 1250 sheets TQ2468SW and TQ2467NW
Local Planning Authority	Merton Borough Council
District	London Borough of Merton
UDP Designation	Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade 2)
Contact	London Borough of Merton, The Education, Leisure and Libraries Department, The Civic Centre London Road, Morden Surrey Tel: 0181 545 3658
Photographic Records	Held in Environmental Services.
Status	Public Open Space
Public Access	Open
Public Right of Way	None
Services	Electricity substation present at western edge

2.1: Description

Cherry Wood is a small, mainly oak woodland lying in suburban Morden and within an area of housing developed in the 1930s with an additional small remnant of the wood now isolated within the grounds of Hillcross Middle School.

2.2: Access

The site is open access at all times from Shaldon Drive and Northernhay Walk. Boundaries are unfenced by the owners throughout, though private adjoining property fences form the north and west perimeters. The owners - the London Borough of Merton, Leisure Services - retain the right to fence parts of the site as necessary to protect and enhance the woodland.

2.3: History

The origin of the name Cherry Wood is uncertain because "Cherry" is frequently derived in place names from two different Anglo-Saxon words, one being a family name, the other signifying a church. Oliver Rackham has however found woods named apparently after a single notable tree of a different species to the main woodland composition! The northern boundary of the wood corresponds with the boundary of the old parishes of Merton and Morden, which may be medieval in origin, and which may be connected with the present day road name of Northernhay (North Hedge) Walk. Traces of a ditch exist along the northern and northwestern boundary of the wood, corresponding to the Parish boundary, and which local people who were present in the 1930's confirm was still then well defined and ran in the winter months.

The 1st edition 0.S. map (1865 but based on an earlier survey) clearly shows that the wood was in its present location in 1837 when it appears to be the only significant area of woodland in the immediate area. This raises the possibility that it was preserved or planted as a covert for game birds or foxes. The larger oaks in the wood have a dbh (diameter-breast-height) of up to 100cm but with most averaging 50cm this suggests ages of between 100 to 200 years. Thus the wood has been in existence from at least the end of the 18th Century. No indication of the age of the wood can be gleaned from the ground flora composition because the excessive trampling and dumping has largely eliminated any such evidence.

In 1910 a golf course was laid out in the area which may have first severed the "foot" from this "leg of mutton" shaped site, a process finalised by the construction of Monkleigh Rd during the housing development of the 1930s. This small separate fragment of the woodland still exists and is now used as the nature study area in the grounds of Hillcross Middle School.

A fire occurred in the wood during the hot summer of 1976 in the understory vegetation and which recovered fairly rapidly afterwards, and there appears to have been minimal damage during the 1987 autumn storm event.

In late 1989 after a period which saw spasmodic maintenance, clearance and planting works, a simple management plan for the wood was prepared which until mid-1992 was followed with all works carried out by Merton Council's direct labour force or appointed contractors. This included much initial planting works and as time passed, an increasing amount of rubbish clearance, fencing and similar maintenance works. Unfortunately some of these works

involved the clearance of much of the thickest bramble to plant whips, which then did not survive, and generated a considerable degree of local concern.

The “Friends of Cherry Wood”

In mid 1992, following much interest from local residents and members and following the damaging incidents outlined above, a “Friends of Cherry Wood” group was set up. This group first met in September 1992 and has continued its highly successful existence to date. Not only are there organisational meetings, but also regular workdays and social events. Many “Friends” also carry out additional unscheduled works on pathway and plantation maintenance, litter clearance, etc. Reporting of problems is, due to the friends group, now almost instantaneous. Records are also improved and include photographic histories, held by several friends, and information on the wider historical context.

The interest shown by large numbers of local residents has further had the effect of highlighting other problems, opportunities and issues not addressed in earlier management plans. Information on the history of F.O.C.W. is held in Leisure Services Open Space files and by the group's current Chair, Mr Nicholas Hart.

2.4: Geology & Topography

The wood lies at the head of a broad valley in the London clay hills that runs northwards to join Morden Brook. There are no major topographical features besides a very slight slope generally from almost due west to east. The soils appear to be of weathered clay that is severely compacted just below the surface, allowing water to collect and occasionally flood certain areas of the wood. The disuse and partial infilling of the ditch along the northern edge, appears to be responsible for some of this periodic flooding of areas including pathways in the northern half of the site. This may also explain some stagheadedness (dieback) in the crowns of woodland oak. The flooding of paths was a major cause of erosion as users found alternative routes but the situation is now much improved after path improvement works by the friends.

2.5: Local Significance

The involvement of local people through the Friends group is an indication of the value placed on sites such as Cherry Wood by local people. The general local opinion of the wood can be gleaned from the aims of the Friends of Cherry Wood when it speaks of promoting the survival of Cherry Wood as self-supporting natural oak woodland.

2.6: Recreation

The predominant recreational activity in the wood appears to be the exercising of dogs which has led to a problem with excessive amounts of dog waste. For both human and woodland ecology heath reasons dog owners should be encouraged to collect and remove their dogs faeces for which purpose the council has provided dog waste bins. Children play in the wood, and have constructed camps particularly in the thicket which have occasionally caused some damage.

2.7: Educational Opportunities

The separated section of the wood in the grounds of Hillcross Middle School is used by the school as an educational resource. As children at the school are among those who play in the woodland visits to the wood have been arranged to increase the childrens understanding of the value of the wood, and so reduce their potentially adverse impact.

2.8: Litter and Garden Refuse

Before the advent of the FOCW group, dumping of garden waste and other damage to the woodland fringe particularly was a significant problem. Campaigns by the friends, coupled where necessary by letters from Council officials have largely eliminated this problem.

Part 3: The Habitats, Flora and Fauna

3.1: Open Oak Woodland

Almost half the site is covered by mature English oak *Quercus robur*, with some scattered mature ash, *Fraxinus excelsior* and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. The shrub layer, where it persists around the periphery of the wood, consists of mainly elder, *Sambucus nigra*, and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, with occasional hazel *Corylus avellana*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and garden privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg*. dominates the ground layer with creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, and some gorse *Ulex europaeus* but is almost non-existent over much of the area. A large area at the centre of the wood supports only a minimal cover of grass in summer due to the high level of trampling.

Fortunately not all of the ground has been so badly damaged and away from the main paths many interesting plants persist in moderate numbers. Of note are wood melick *Melica uniflora*, ramsons *Allium ursinum* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, all of which can be ancient woodland indicators. However most of the bluebells are of the planted garden variety *H. hispanica*, or hybrids of the two, and there is also the possibility that the ramsons are a garden escape. In any case, three ancient woodland indicator plants alone are far too low a number to have any significance. Other plants include garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*, lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, and much ivy *Hedera helix*. The garden daffodils *Narcissus pseudonarcissus sp*., snowdrops *Galanthus nivalis*, and spiked star of Bethlehem *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, are almost certainly the result of deliberate introductions.

The oak trees have a variety of bole sizes suggesting a variety of ages from perhaps around 100 years to 200 years. Many, particularly the smaller specimens, show some crown dieback, indication a degree of stress. A number of factors may be causing this including competition from the larger trees, the delayed effects of recent droughts, or changes in the soil due to waterlogging and / or soil compaction due to heavy public use of the wood. It is this dead and dying wood that is of greatest value to wildlife and being a natural part of any woodland ecosystem should not be a cause for serious concern. Deadwood, both standing and fallen, should not be removed unless it presents a real hazard to walkers. Many of the ash trees appear to have been topped at some time and have some large cavities of value to larger nesting birds such as the stock dove.

Individual tree survey data is being collected and entered on a tree management database (STEMS) linked to a computer mapping system (DATA-MAP). This will allow individual identification of trees for any purpose, be it tree pruning or bat roost location. On such a crowded and otherwise featureless site, however, accurate plotting is a lengthy process, as yet incomplete. Trees may be tagged for ease of recording and plotting.

There is no oak regeneration in the area but this is not unique to Cherry Wood as oak seldom regenerates beneath it's own canopy. Attempts at planting oak whips within the woodland have not surprisingly been almost complete failures. A single large tree in the north-west corner of the wood fell during a storm in early 1987, severely damaging another tree in the process. The newly open area so created has been isolated using a dead hedge of fallen branches to see what regeneration this event may trigger. Such windblow incidents are part of the natural processes in any natural woodland creating glades in which regeneration can take

place. In early 1998 there were several ash saplings present with a single birch *Betula pubescens*, and an increasing amount of gorse and hawthorn. Much of the fallen tree trunk has become covered by bramble, with a lot of honeysuckle also present.

Persons unknown have planted a couple of exotic conifers near to the new glade, which are possibly of the garden "laylandii" variety. These ought to be removed, as they will be of little value to the wood, but an explanation should be given in the friends newsletter to avoid upsetting otherwise well meaning individuals. No planting should take place in the wood unless in accordance with this management plan and with the agreement of Merton Council.

3.2: The Thicket

Trees in this area are mainly English oak with a few Turkey oak, ash, and hawthorn. There is extensive regeneration of ash and some young oak, with areas dominated by elm suckering scrub. The larger trees do not exhibit the same level of dieback noted in the open woodland. Ground flora is similar to other areas of the wood but this area has the most prolific numbers of common woodland fungi such as shaggy parasol *Lepiota rhacodes*, amythyst deceiver *Laccaria amethystea,* and common funnel cap *Clitocybe infundibuliformis*, growing in autumn.

Children use this area for numerous camps during summer months and there are sometimes tree houses constructed, sometimes at height. Problems include an extensive network of paths causing damage by trampling and occasional dumping from vehicles continues at the roadside margins.

3.3: Elm Scrub

This are is dominated by suckering growth from the root systems of an unknown number of elms, lost presumably during the major Dutch elm disease outbreak of the 1970s. As the disease remains in the plant it reoccurs as soon as the stems reach a certain size and many stems are presently dead or nearly so. The ground cover is a mixture of bramble thicket with occasional hawthorns and wild rose, and a number of mature ash and oak trees are also present.

The local mature ash trees have produced good ash regeneration and it may be expected that these will come to dominate the area in the long term. This natural process should be allowed to continue to replace the present ash trees, which are quite mature. There is no need to cut the dead elm except as a resource for defining designated paths in the woodland and to prevent them from falling across and blocking pathways. In the short term the elm scrub is likely to reach a balance with a variety of stages, from young saplings to dying small trees present. This will provide excellent bird habitat and should need little or no attention.

3.4: The Margins

The western and northern margins have suffered from a great deal of abuse in the past with the dumping of garden rubbish, including earth, and trampling from numerous small paths. The area has oak, ash and a broad range of understory tree and shrub species. Recent planting in the shade has not been a complete success but has increased woodland edge variety with some hawthorn, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and wild rose, *Rosa canina* appearing to thrive so

far. The ground flora includes much bramble and some garden escapes, presumably because of the past dumping of garden waste. The recovery of the bramble in this area, much of which was so controversially cleared in the early 1990's has been extremely slow. Given the fairly well shaded nature of the area, this is perhaps not too surprising but recovery is taking place and providing it is not cleared again should ultimately achieve much of its former dominance.

Most householders at the western and northern margins have rear garden gate access to the woods via small paths to the rear perimeter path. Since the inception of F.O.C.W. dumping of garden refuse and damage to the woodland edge has decreased vastly. There remains however, the associated problem of many breaks and gaps in the valuable woodland edge.

The margin to the Shaldon grass area is largely open but planting particularly at the western end has assisted the development of woodland edge habitats. The grass area is currently all heavily mown and could be improved if at least a 2m strip alongside the wood was left to grow, and cut once a year in late summer.

3.4: Vertebrates

The most significant factor in Cherry Wood is the surprising bird life it supports with some 25 species being present during the breeding season. All three woodpecker species can be seen and heard in springtime, sometimes at the same time, and the nest holes they excavate provide opportunities for blue tits, great tits and starlings. Blackbirds, song thrushes, mistle thrushes, robins, greenfinch, chaffinch, chiffchaff and dunnock nest in the trees or scrub. The noteworthy species also include spotted flycatcher and in recent years two or three pairs of stock dove which nest in the wood itself, and tawny owls and sparrowhawks which are at least frequent visitors and may also nest.

Mammals certainly include grey squirrels, foxes that usually have an earth in the north-western corner and pipistrelle and noctule bats which may have tree roosts in the wood. A number of bird and bat boxes have been erected in the wood, and have been much used by blue and great tits as the holes are smaller than can be used by the starlings – their great rivals for nest sites.

Two owl boxes were also installed, but these seem to have been only used by pairs of the many grey squirrels. In providing increased nesting opportunities for these animals these may be inadvertently increasing the pressure on nesting passerine birds from egg and nestling robbing by the squirrels. It is recommended that they be removed because of this.

Part 4: Evaluation and Prescriptions

4.1: Overall Management Objectives

1. To provide people with an accessible place to enjoy nature.
2. To maintain and enhance the existing ecological value of the site through the protection and enhancement of the habitats.
3. To guide access to protect sensitive areas, particularly by maintaining certain footpaths and fencing or blocking off areas.
4. To protect the wood from degradation caused, particularly at its margins, by tipping, and unauthorised use and abuse.
5. To continue to co-operate with the Friends of Cherry Wood to maintain and enhance the site, and to provide information to improve local awareness of conservation and wildlife on the site.
6. To monitor the effectiveness of the management in maintaining and enhancing the wildlife interest of the site
7. To provide opportunities for educational use by local schools.
8. To monitor and if necessary to control the spread or invasion of undesirable species, such as many of the garden escapes, sycamore and horse-chestnut.

4.2: General Management Policies

Dead Wood – dead and dying wood is of critical importance to invertebrate conservation and must not be "tidied up".
All dead wood should be left to rot in situ except where it is causing, or has the potential to cause, a public safety problem. Where this occurs, the following will apply:
Dead wood should be cut up into the largest practical pieces and left to rot away from public footpaths. The richest fauna tends to be supported by material in partial shade and in contact with moist soil.
Bramble & Scrub – Bramble and other scrubby vegetation forms a dense and valuable habitat for breeding birds, small mammals and invertebrates and so must be protected. In general bramble should not be cleared except from paths, but encouraged to spread, especially into the heavily trampled centre of the wood.

4.3: General Ecological Trends

The damage done to the ground layer especially in the centre of the wood is significant and it is unlikely, given the present high usage that this situation will be much improved on. The best option is to concentrate on improvements to those areas still with vegetation by minimising the number of paths through them and other appropriate management.

The woodland shows no signs of having been managed for coppice in the past, and is certainly now too small for this. Given the extensive damage to the ground layer it is best managed as a high woodland with areas of bramble scrub to provide the nesting opportunities required by many of the woodland birds found in the site.

4.4: Open Oak Woodland

Concern about the lack of oak regeneration is premature as at even 200 years of age, the oldest oaks are really only middle-aged and many could still be surviving in 100 years time or more. Given this longevity only very occasional regeneration is required for the woodland to persist. One of the oaks defensive adaptations is to have occasional mast years producing a large acorn

crop which overwhelms the seed eaters enabling some to survive given suitable conditions. Such conditions can be created by windblow events such as occurred in early 1997 and it remains to be seen if any acorns will germinate in this new clearing. An oak fell during this event, which was one of the larger trees in the wood with a side branch well up the tree having at least 90 annual rings.

This clearing presents an ideal opportunity for planting out of oak whips grown by members of the friends group from acorns collected in the wood. Approximately 10 could be scattered around the clearing area to see if they will succeed, and should be watered regularly especially during their first season. The whips should be examined first to ensure that they are of native trees, and not Turkey oaks. A second tree was left in a damaged and unbalanced condition when the larger tree fell, and this tree now appears to have died. This tree should have the remaining limb cut off for essentially safety reasons, and the main trunk left as standing dead wood which is highly valuable for invertebrate conservation.

The footpath network needs to continue to be maintained to the major desire lines already well delineated by use of two methods. Firstly by regular maintenance of the principle paths so that they remain usable even in wet conditions by regular application of woodchip mulch when necessary. The second approach is to block any alternative paths that occur using dead hedging (cut brushwood), resorting to chestnut paling fencing in extreme cases. Public information to explain the benefits to the wood of these actions is an essential element. Map 2 shows a layout of paths as found in early 1998, and that give reasonable access while maintaining some useful areas of habitat. It is recommended that these paths be adopted and all others in existence or formed later be blocked by dead hedging.

The wood has quite a good quantity of dead wood both standing and fallen, and it is important to retain as much of this as possible. Although no surveys have been carried out, it is likely that there are valuable populations of many invertebrates on a site such as this with old trees and much dead wood (Kirby 1992). The threat posed by standing dead wood is often overstated, and it is recommended that only the absolute minimum of tree surgery is carried out where clearly necessary, and that limb reduction is much preferable to removal. Fallen dead wood should only be moved where it blocks paths or to be used as dead-hedge protection for stressed areas, and should not be tidied up into piles.

The areas where important ground flora exists such as the ramsons, should be kept reasonably clear of substantial dead wood and bramble should not be allowed to invade too closely. Other than that, it is most important to prevent trampling of these areas so emphasis should be placed on maintaining protective dead hedging and good paths near these sensitive locations.

4.5: The Thicket

As with the main woodland area, the proliferation of paths in this area is a problem and could be reduced by the maintenance of dead-hedge barriers with widespread local information explaining the purpose of this action. It is suggested that one path through the thicket lengthways and one across it in its centre should be the maximum aimed at. This would hopefully create larger areas suitable for birds such as blackbirds and robins to successfully breed in.

There are a few large Turkey oaks *Quercus cerris,* in this area which is an introduced species from eastern Europe and which has brought with it a gall wasp whose breeding strategy

alternates between *Q. cerris* and *Q. robur*. Although this results in a high number of *Q. robur* acorns being parasitised each year general opinion is that this is unlikely to be a long term problem as *Q. robur* copes with this pressure in eastern Europe. It is not proposed that the Turkey oaks be removed but that the effect of this introduction be included in public information leaflets both to explain the frequently observable distorted acorn's and to demonstrate the unintentional problems that can be caused by the introduction of non-native species.

This area is already quite dense and no additional planting is desirable here. Dead elm should not be removed unless it is to help construct dead hedges, as this will open up areas tempting further paths to be created. The edge with Northernhay Walk suffers from occasional rubbish dumping, and has been damaged in the past by cars and other vehicles mounting the kerb. Rubbish should be regularly removed, and if vehicle damage reoccurs, protective bollards should be considered. Edge vegetation may need to be trimmed on an occasional basis to prevent it overhanging the road.

4.6: Elm Scrub

The persistence of the Dutch elm disease means that it is most unlikely that large elms trees will return here. As ash is already present naturally, it is proposed that this species be allowed to take over this area in the long term. Accordingly selected ash stems already growing here should not be cut back, with perhaps a few hazels and hawthorns planted in between them to increase the diversity. There is no need to control the elm too vigorously and some should be allowed to grow and then die back naturally. Dead and dying elm stems can then be removed when needed for path maintenance work, or because the stem would block a path when it fell.

4.7: The Margins

Planting along the woodland margins has been quite successful with hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn and wild rose appearing to do quite well. These should be monitored for a few years before any further major plantings are undertaken to determine the long term prospects.

There is the possibility of only some small scale additional planting and establishment of new woodland edge habitats on the Shaldon Drive and Northernhay Walk areas, with minor encroachments on to areas presently under grass. Although a large proportion of the grass area along Shaldon Drive is expected to remain as a kick-about area and regularly mown during summer, an unmown strip of 1 to 2m width should be retained at the woodland edge for the benefit of invertebrates. The small areas of grass along Northernhay Walk are in poor condition, and would benefit from being deleted from the regular cutting regime and cut annually or bi-annually.

It is probably unrealistic to expect to be able to remove the access points from surrounding back gardens that has resulted in many small paths breaking up the edge habitats. This situation needs to be monitored and actions taken if such access results in damage being greater than a narrow pathway.

Part 5: Finance & Work Programme

5.1: Management Schedule

A range of operations has been and continues to be carried out, both by F.O.C.W. and Merton Leisure Services. These include pathway surfacing and edging, clearance of (some) small dead trees, dead hedging to limit access temporarily to some stressed areas, litter and dumping clearance and safety tree work. Planting within the wood has been generally unsuccessful while similar projects at the margins (see Map 2) have been more successful.

5.1.1: Regular Annual Work

1. Maintain central and perimeter paths. Periodic flooding has followed the perimeter path along the northern boundary at times, causing a widening of the track and damage to woodland flora. Mulch should be applied 2-3 times per year to a depth of 3-4cms as required, with the work concentrated in autumn and winter with easy water runoff in mind. In spring no operations should be carried out unless absolutely necessary, because of the presence of nesting birds. (Action FOCW with materials supplied by LBM)
2. Grass cutting to be reduced to an annual cut on the Northernhay Walk area, with the Shaldon Drive grassland to have a wide margin left uncut and cut and cleared every one or two years in late summer (Action FOCW).
3. Bird and bat boxes should be checked and cleaned out in autumn. (Action LBM with FOCW assistance as the boxes are high).
4. Annual Arboricultural safety checks and continued survey work to be carried out by Merton Arboricultural Section. Any ensuing tree works to be carried out by Merton Leisure Services. No heavy vehicles to be used within the woodland unless under exceptional circumstances. (Action LBM)
5. Litter and rubbish/dumping clearance. DSO (Merton Leisure) to remove heavy rubbish as swiftly as possible. F.O.C.W. to continue general litter clearance as possible. (Action LBM)
6. Monitoring of the path network, and blocking of additional paths with dead hedging. (Action FOCW)

5.1.2: Ad Hoc Tasks

1. Further historical research should be carried out, focussing on the original extent and impact of fragmentation. (Action FOCW)
2. Experimental planting of oak whips grown by local people from acorns gathered in the wood in the clearing created by the fallen tree. (Action FOCW)
3. Liaison channels to be kept open with all statutory undertakers and other parties with responsibilities or input to the woods, e.g., London Electricity, Fire Brigade, etc. (Action LBM)
4. Detailed Arboricultural inspection records to be maintained for sample trees. (Action LBM)
5. Occasional gentle clearance in autumn of the ramsons area to prevent it becoming covered by bramble. Care should be taken to avoid trampling the area. (Action FOCW)
6. Small areas of additional native shrub planting to take place in the perimeter area, especially around the Shaldon Drive grassy area. (Action FOCW)
7. Monitoring of spread of invasive and undesirable species, such as garden escapes, sycamore and horse chestnut. (Action FOCW and LBM)
8. Production of information leaflets and interpretation boards. (Action LBM and FOCW)

5.1.3: Long Term Management

1. This plan should be reviewed in approximately five years (2003).

5.2: MONITORING

Records exist in some detail for all operations since 1989. Record sheets from the 1989 draft plan have, since approximately 1992 (F.O.C.W. inception) proven inappropriate to needs and have not been fully maintained, having been superseded by F.O.C.W. records.

1. Fixed point photographic records exist from 1993/4 on, and are held by the F.O.C.W. membership. This should be continued. (Action FOCW)
2. No new record sheets are provided for the operations listed. It is considered most appropriate to complete these in diary form, listing dates and extent of works, locations, failures or successes and current issues/concerns. Given the small site size there should be no major record search problems with this approach. (Action LBM)
3. Establish and maintain a monitoring system to record important wildlife factors such as the spread of ramsons etc. (Action FOCW / LBM)
4. The success of oak planting experiments and of tree / shrub planting around the perifery should be monitored and assessed. (Action FOCW)
5. Standard five-minute Bird counts to be carried out. Advice should be sought on the fixed point locations for these counts. (Action FOCW)

Bibliography

Yarham, I. Dawson, D. Boyle, M. Holliday, R. 1997**. Nature Conservation in Merton, Ecology Handbook 29 Final Draft**. London Ecology Unit.

Kirby, P. 1992. **Habitat Management for Invertebrates: a practical handbook**. RSPB.

	diameter
furthest oak along northernhay	100
others nearby	66
	80
	60
	63
	56
	46
	60
	32
	90
elm scrub oaks	60
	41
	70
	48
	83
elm scrub ash	60
	75
	67
	21
main area oaks	90
	65
	33
	30
	25
	30
	75
	43
	33
	40
	40
	70

northernhay	
Mean	65.3
Standard Error	6.377129
Median	61.5
Mode	60
Standard Deviation	20.16625
Sample Variance	406.6778
Kurtosis	-0.0554
Skewness	0.250619
Range	68
Minimum	32
Maximum	100
Sum	653
Count	10
Confidence Level(95.0%)	14.42608

elm scub ash	
Mean	55.75
Standard Error	11.98176
Median	63.5
Mode	#N/A
Standard Deviation	23.96351
Sample Variance	574.25
Kurtosis	2.793194
Skewness	-1.614648
Range	54
Minimum	21
Maximum	75
Sum	223
Count	4
Confidence Level(95.0%)	38.13133

elm scrub oaks	
Mean	60.4
Standard Error	7.527284
Median	60
Mode	#N/A
Standard Deviation	16.83152
Sample Variance	283.3
Kurtosis	-1.230372
Skewness	0.281354
Range	42
Minimum	41
Maximum	83
Sum	302
Count	5
Confidence Level(95.0%)	20.89913

main area oaks	
Mean	47.83333
Standard Error	6.182617
Median	40
Mode	33
Standard Deviation	21.41721
Sample Variance	458.697
Kurtosis	-0.578286
Skewness	0.889748
Range	65
Minimum	25
Maximum	90
Sum	574
Count	12
Confidence Level(95.0%)	13.60785

MERTON GIS

Cherry Wood: Map 1
Habitats

Open oak woodland

The thicket

Elm regeneration

Margins

Date: 16/08/95
updated January 1998

Scale: 1:1375

Map Ref: BQ2467NW

MERTON GIS

Cherry Wood Map 2

	Paths
	Whip planting
	Seasonal flooding
ESS	Electrical Sub-station
DB	Dog Waste Bin

Date: 16/08/95
Updated January 1998

Scale: 1:1350

Map Ref: BQ2467NW