

LONDON CONSERVATION SERVICES LTD



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Management Plan  
for  
**Sir Joseph Hood**  
**Memorial Playing Fields**  
**2007 to 2012**

A report for  
London Borough of Moreton

December 2006

Report Written by  
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for

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## **London Conservation Services**

London Conservation Services (LCS) is the trading company of the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) which is the only charity working through the whole of Greater London to help London's Wildlife. LWT is part of a nation-wide network of Wildlife Trusts and Urban Wildlife Groups, which work to promote wildlife, and is widely regarded as one of the foremost urban nature conservation organisations in the UK. As well as managing over 50 nature reserves in London, the Trust campaigns to save and improve greenspace, gives advice to local communities and schools and works with Local Authorities and other organisations to make London a better place, not only for wildlife, but for people too.

LCS carries out work in most areas of nature conservation and wildlife management; such as practical management for nature conservation, advice on management of wildlife, ecological surveys, environmental education and landscape design incorporating ecological improvements and safeguards. It is able to call on the wide range of expertise of the LWT staff and many other professional ecologists and free-lance professionals in the London Area and beyond.

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## **1. Introduction**

This plan has been compiled by London Conservation Services (LCS) under contract to the London Borough of Merton. The site description was produced using the results of the survey carried out during the summer of 2006 as part of the Greater London Authority's Habitat Survey of Merton. The plan was then compiled by Alan Scott.

This plan covers the period of the next 5 years (2007 to 2012). The habitats and species present are described and the management require to preserve and enhance the wildlife value of the site is detailed.

## 2 Policy Statement

Merton 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) highlights ways in which the natural environment can be protected and enhanced. This document directs how Merton's physical environment will alter over the next decade and provides safeguards that the Council can impose to ensure that the Borough's wildlife is protected from injurious development schemes:

The UDP states

*4.7. The protection of sites, which have known nature conservation importance, is essential to meet the commitments of the Government made at the Biodiversity Convention at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Council is committed to preserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and these policies aim to do this by protecting the most important areas of natural habitat. The key to the conservation of wildlife is the protection of the habitat on which it depends.*

*4.8 The policies protect both statutory and non statutory sites in the Borough. The statutory sites include those of national importance (SSSIs) and of local importance (LNRs). The non statutory sites comprise Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, which are based on a hierarchy of sites (Metropolitan, Borough Grade 1 and Grade 2 and Local), as recommended by the former London Ecology Unit. These sites have been identified according to the criteria set out in 'Policy, Criteria and Procedures for Identifying Nature Conservation Sites in London' (former LEU March 2000).*

To further demonstrate its commitment to nature conservation the Council has already designated 14 Local Nature Reserves including Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland. This follows the policies in the UDP:

### ***POLICY NE.9: MANAGEMENT OF LAND***

***THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF FEATURES OF THE LANDSCAPE WHICH ARE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR WILD FLORA AND FAUNA. SUCH SITES WILL INCLUDE STEPPING STONE SITES AS IDENTIFIED IN POLICIES NE.5 AND NE.6, AND FEATURES OF LINEAR AND CONTINUOUS STRUCTURE AS IDENTIFIED IN POLICY NE.8.***

*4.20 The protection of important species and habitats is dependent on establishing and implementing appropriate management regimes. The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to encourage appropriate management of important sites. Important sites will include those which by virtue of their linear character, or their importance as stepping stones, are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.*

The production and implementation of this plan is an important part of meeting the requirements of this policy.

### **3. Description**

#### **3.1 General Information**

##### **3.1.1 Name**

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

##### **3.1.2 Location**

The reserve is situated in the London Borough of Merton, just to the south of Raynes Park and approximately 1KM east of New Malden. It is bounded to the west by the Beverley Brook and to the south by the Merton Kingston borough boundary

##### **3.1.3 Area**

??? Hectares (approx.)

##### **2.1.4 Grid Reference**

TQ 226 671

##### **2.1.5 Access**

The site is open to the public at all times from the adjacent playing Fields.

##### **2.1.6 Land Tenure**

The freehold is owned by the London Borough of Merton (LBH).

##### **2.1.7 Status**

The reserve has been designated as a Site of Borough Grade 1 Importance for Nature Conservation by the Greater London Authority and as Metropolitan Open Land. It was also been declared as a Local Nature Reserve in 1994.

##### **2.1.8 Public Rights of Way**

No public rights of way cross the site but it is open to the public at all times.

##### **2.1.9 Planning Authority:**

London Borough of Merton.

## **2.2 General description**

The reserve consists of an area of well established oak woodland probably planted in the 1860's, an area of native woodland planted in 1999 and some areas of grassland which have been managed as hay meadows since 2000. In addition the Beverly Brook runs down the western side of the woodland.

## **2.3 Biological Description**

### **2.3.1 Vegetation**

The site was surveyed on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006 by Denis Vickers of the London Wildlife Trust habitat Survey Team as part of the GLA Habitat Survey of the Borough of Merton. It was visited again by Alan Scott in December 2006

Habitats within each of the main component parts of the site are described in turn below. Scientific names are given at the first mention of a species – thereafter English names only are used.

#### **2.3.1.1 Woodland (Compartments 1, 2 and 4)**

Mature woodland planted in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century occurs on the western side of the reserve. The canopy is dominated by pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) which are fairly evenly spaced throughout the area. In the north of the compartment the understorey is more open with elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn, (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) all common. Further south it is denser with much hawthorn, elder and a lot of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

The ground flora dominated in many areas by ivy (*Hedera helix*), in others by bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Other common species include cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), hairy brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*).

There is a good amount of dead wood present throughout the area and some large dead standing trees, including one next to the footpath which will need to be made safe.

A small glade exists near the centre of the woodland (Sub-compartment 1a) which is presumably kept open by periodic cutting. According to the sign board near the entrance to the park this area supports broad-leaved willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*), lords-and-ladies (*Arum maculatum*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*). However of these only broad-leaved willowherb was recorded in 2006, probably due to the timing of the visits.

Just to the south of this is a second opening in the canopy (Sub-compartment 1b). Here the area is dominated by dense elder and bramble.

Recently planted woodland occurs in 2 areas; along the eastern boundary of the Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 2) and the Millennium Woodland (Compartment 4)

Compartment 2 is separated from the mature woodland to the west by a chainlink fence. It is estimated that the woodland is probably about 10 years old (i.e. slightly older than the Millennium Woodland - see below). It has a variety of species including ash, hawthorn and some extensive areas of hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora is sparse but bramble and ivy are both common.

The Millennium Woodland was planted as part of the Millennium celebrations to compliment the existing woodland area. Acorns of pedunculate oak were collected in 1998 from Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1) in 1998 and grown in pots to be planted out in 1999. Other species planted include hazel, guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), blackthorn, wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), hawthorn, holly, yew (*Taxus baccata*) and small leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*). The planting was very dense and thorny species were used around the periphery to discourage access and the creation of unofficial paths. The woodland is now very dense and almost totally impenetrable. The ground flora is very limited due to the dense canopy.

### **2.3.1.2 Grasslands**

This occurs in 3 areas; Compartments 3, 5 and 7.

Compartment 3 is an area of grassland kept open to provide a path between the Millennium Woodland (Compartment 4) and Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1). The sward is quite species poor and dominated by various grasses including red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Italian rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), creeping bent and false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Herbaceous species include bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and cut-leaved crane's-bill (*Geranium dissectum*).

Compartment 5 is an extensive area of grassland on the eastern side of the Millennium Woodland which is managed as a hay meadow by mowing annually and removing the arisngs in late summer. The sward is very similar in composition to Compartment 3. A damp hollow can be found in the south west corner on the boundary with Compartment 4. This was dry at the time of the visit in December 2006 but may hold water on occasions.

Compartment 7 is an area which has been managed since 2000 as a hay meadow by mowing annually and removing the arisngs in late summer. The sward is not dominated by any one grass species, but Italian ryegrass, cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), smaller cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), red fescue and creeping bent are all common. Other common species include ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), smooth hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), creeping cinquefoil, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*).

### **2.3.1.3 Tall Herb/Nettles beds and Bramble beds**

Tall herb vegetation and nettle beds can be found in Compartment 6 on the southern boundary of the reserve. These are interspersed with scrub (mostly hawthorn and elder) and bramble beds.

A further area of bramble beds is located in the northern section of Compartment 3.

### **2.3.1.4 Ditches**

A shallow ditch runs north south along the eastern boundary of the woodland. It appears to be fed by the Beverley Brook which connects to at the north of the site but at the time of the visit in December 2006 it was almost totally dry. Presumably it does take water when the river floods. A second ditch runs along the southern boundary connecting with the north south ditch and connecting to the river in the south west corner of the woodland. Again this was mostly dry at the time of the visit. The ditches are mostly devoid of aquatic vegetation and in places are very shaded by dense bramble etc.

### **2.3.1.5 River**

The Beverley Brook runs along the western boundary of the site. The banks are toe-boarded for most of the length and are therefore vertical. The channel has very little vegetation probably due to the dense shade cast by the trees and shrubs on the bank.

## **2.3.2 Fauna**

### **2.3.2.1 Invertebrates**

Very few records have been made available. Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) butterflies and ruddy darter (*Aeshna cyanea*) and ruddy darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*) dragonflies were recorded during the in August 2006 survey. Further surveys would be desirable.

### **2.3.2.2 Reptiles and Amphibians**

No records were made available. Surveys of these groups would be very useful to guide future management and to monitor the success.

### **2.3.2.3 Birds**

Appendix 2 gives a list of species which were recorded in the 1994 management plan. It is likely that most of these still use the reserve and the list may well be longer now due to the increased area and range of habitats present.

### **2.3.2.4 Mammals**

No records were made available. A survey of mammals, especially bats, would be very useful to guide future management and to monitor the success.

## **2.4 Geology Topography and Hydrology**

The underlying geology is London Clay with unclassified terrace material near the Beverley Brook. Topsoil above the clay is up to 5.0cm deep with a pH 5.0. The site is flat throughout with a drainage ditch, which flows into the Beverley Brook.

As a result of the area's geology and overall topography the wood and surrounding land are subject to impeded drainage that can result in periodic water logging. Presumably, the ditch surrounding three sides of the mature woods was dug to alleviate this problem.

In 1990, as part of the works undertaken to facilitate public access, the ditch was desilted and cleared of debris. From that date, including during the period of especially high rainfall in late summer/winter 1993, the wood remained largely free from seasonal standing water until 1994 (from 1994 Management Plan). The situation from then on is not known but the woodland was largely dry in December 2006 despite heavy recent rains.

## **2.5 History (from 1994 Management Plan)**

At the time of the reformation of the Church of England, West Barnes was predominately farmland belonging to the Priory of Merton. It consisted of approximately 600 acres of woods, arable and pasture land. After the dissolution of the monasteries the farm was granted to the Gresham family.

The Greshams were wealthy London merchants who owned a number of English estates; it is quite possible that they never even visited West Barnes. Nevertheless, they retained the estate for two generations, finally selling it in 1570 (this date has been questioned, there is some evidence to suggest that it was 1612) to John Carpenter, a local farmer.

For the next two hundred years or so, the West Barnes and Cannon Hill area, remained predominately agricultural and was farmed by a number of families, probably the most well known being the Raynes. However, by the mid-19th-century sizeable estates were owned by business men, who, whilst enjoying country life, were perhaps not so interested in farming. Consequently, land development began to change the shape of the landscape.

Two such men were Charles Blake, the owner of Blue House Farm and Richard Garth Lord of the Manor of Morden. Both men were in the legal profession, Garth eventually becoming a judge. In 1864 they joined forces to seek to procure a Parliamentary bill for a railway line to run across their properties. Although this was initially rejected, eventually London and South Western Railways built Raynes Park Station, with the help of £4,000 from Garth. Thereafter suburban development began to gain pace.

As outlined above, Garth had Considerable local land interests, including the ownership of Hobbald(e)s Farm. Although, close to the line of the railway, Hobbalds remained agricultural land until modern times. The farm was leased to various farmers from the mid-1850's the tenant was one Walter Newman. During Newman's time Garth set aside land to the west of the farm as a plantation. This he planted with oak trees (probably standards), today it survives as Sir Joseph Hood Wood. The exact date of the planting is not entirely certain, but it seems likely from examination of rate books and tithe maps that it took place sometime in the 1860's.

Throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries private landowners afforested not only to produce income from the sale of timber, but also to provide cover for hunting activities. Given the fact that Garth had nearby dog kennels, it is reasonable to assume that he planted for the latter reason, with the possible added bonus of screening the railway.

In 1873 Garth sold the majority of his Morden property to Gilliat Hatfield, who in turn leased it to J J Bishop. By 1892 part of the estate had been sold to Battersea Corporation for use as a cemetery, the remainder was retained by the Bishops who had founded the famous 'Bishops' Move' removal firm.

Eventually, in 1931 the part of the estate now known as Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields, was acquired by a committee of the Urban District of Merton and Morden and Conveyed to the District Council. Their reason for doing so was to perpetuate the name of a local benefactor and ex-Mayor of Wimbledon, Sir Joseph Hood.

The Millennium Woodland was planted in 1999 as part of the celebrations to mark the new millennium.

## 4. Evaluation

The reserve has been designated as a Site of Grade 2 Borough Importance for Nature Conservation by the Greater London Authority. This means that the site is of borough-wide significance. Its ecological importance is assessed against a range of standard assessment criteria in table 1 below. These have been developed by the Greater London Authority and its predecessor the London Ecology Unit (GLA 2002).

**Table 1: Evaluation of features against GLA criteria**

Criterion	Remarks
Representation	The reserve contains a good example of well established oak woodland which had developed the characteristic of semi-natural woodland.
Habitat rarity	None of the habitats can be considered rare but mature oak woodland is not common,
Species rarity	No rare species known
Habitat richness	Although of plantation origin the mature oak woodland has acquired the character of a semi-natural woodland and has a varied composition and structure. The planted woodland and grassland habitats are of very recent origin and are not rich at present.
Species richness	The mature oak woodland is moderately species rich. The other habitats are species poor due to their recent origin.
Size	Although small the reserve constitutes a large enough area to be a viable conservation unit.
Important populations of species	None known
Ancient character	The oak woodland was planted in the mid 19 <sup>th</sup> Century The other habitats are of very recent origin
Recreatability	The oak woodland has developed over the past 140 years. It would take many years to develop to the same stage of maturity and it is doubtful that that they would achieve the complexity and diversity of the existing habitat.
Typical urban character	The planted woodland and areas of grassland are typical of areas managed for wildlife in urban areas in south London.
Cultural or historic character	The oak woodland is a feature which has survived from when this was a rural are,. The planted woodland was created to celebrate the new millennium in 1999.
Geographic position	The site is located on the bank of the Beverly Brook and so is linked a wider habitat network .The adjacent Morden Cemetery, sports grounds and rough grassland to the south all increase the are of potential wildlife habitat.
Access	There is free public access.
Use	The site is managed for nature conservation and informal recreation.
Potential	There is potential for enhancement through management of the woodland and grassland areas.
Aesthetic appeal	The site is an attractive area of wildlife habitat in an otherwise urban area.

## 5. References

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London Ecology Unit (1994) Habitat Survey for Greater London, London Ecology Unit, London.

Stace, C., (1997) New Flora of the British Isles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Wood Management Plan (1994) Author Unknown.

Wallace, J. (?) A Walk around West Barnes: An Illustrated Guide with Brief Historical Notes.

## **6. Ideal Management Objectives**

**To conserve the existing biodiversity of the reserve, and enhance it where appropriate.**

- To conserve the semi-natural woodland habitat.
- To manage the planted woodland to habitat to encourage its development into a mature woodland.
- To manage the grassland areas to encourage the development of a species rich sward.
- To monitor populations of the reserve's biodiversity to assess progress of conservation management.

**To maintain the reserve for the quiet enjoyment and understanding by people.**

- To maintain pedestrian access through the reserve in good order.
- To provide information on the ecological value of the reserve.
- To promote the reserve as an educational resource for people of all ages.

## **7. Policy**

### **7.1 General Principles on Ecological Issues**

#### **7.1.1 Survey and monitoring**

It is essential that all management work is recorded and monitored in order to be able to ensure that the work carried out is of benefit to the wildlife on the site and to visitors. Management tasks should be recorded and an annual report of work produced. It is therefore necessary to know what species and habitats are already on the site. The vegetation of the site has been surveyed recently but there is very little information on the fauna of the site. Ideally vegetation/habitat surveys and broad-based invertebrate surveys should be carried out every 5 years and regular bird monitoring should be carried out on an ongoing basis if suitable volunteers can be found. Reptile and amphibian and mammal surveys are also required. There are some groups where little, if any, information prevails – e.g. molluscs, annelids, micro-moths, etc. – and surveying of these should be undertaken as and when resources permit.

All surveying should conform to standardised techniques, from which accurate and relevant data can be drawn. Monitoring, likewise, should conform to standardised methodology. The London Ecology Unit/Greater London Authority bird monitoring transect and butterfly transects should also be considered.

#### **7.1.2 Species recording**

Ideally biological data recorded on site should be made available to Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL). Records of unusual sightings, especially birds and invertebrates, should also be relayed quickly to the appropriate London Natural History Society recorders and publicity of these considered if appropriate.

#### **7.1.3 Prevention of local extinction**

To prevent accidental local extinction, particularly of invertebrate species, and to encourage natural recolonisation, practical management tasks will where possible, be limited in size of area and duration and carried out on rotation so only part of a particular habitat is disturbed each year.

#### **7.1.4 Dead Wood**

There is now a considerable body of knowledge regarding the value of standing and fallen dead and dying timber. It is an essential habitat for many species, especially invertebrates, bats, birds, bryophytes and fungi. Standing dead wood is also important for woodpeckers and other birds for feeding and nesting and there is evidence of woodpecker activity on some of the dead trees on the site. Removal of dead wood and 'tidying-up' leads to relatively sterile conditions and takes away an essential part of the woodland ecology. The aim is to provide as much dead wood as feasible - lying, standing, and hanging - without compromising other management aims.

Hollow trees are of particularly high value and often more stable than other trees. Normal arboricultural practice is to remove dead or hollow trees for safety reasons. However in a nature reserve they should be retained wherever possible. If safety work is required they should be cut as far above the ground as possible to leave the hollow trunk standing. Dead wood should not be tidied away or cut from trees unless clearly dangerous. Cut timber should be left lying on the ground preferably in partial shade, and normally simply where it has fallen.

Ivy climbing up trees should not be cleared unless there is a real danger of the weight causing the tree to fall. Ivy provides a valuable habitat for invertebrates, a late winter food source for many birds and roosting opportunities for bats and owls.

However, standing dead wood can be a safety hazard and this must always take precedence in areas of high public use. Consequently any trees which are in a demonstrably unsafe condition must be made safe especially where they are near boundaries or footpaths.

Regular arboricultural inspections should be carried out to ensure that trees do not present a hazard to members of the public. Any dead or dying trees that pose a safety hazard by being situated close to a path or any other well-used area should be felled, preferably at head height (or above) to retain some standing dead wood. The cut timber should be left on site, and allowed to accumulate randomly across the site and ideally maintained in contact with damp soil in a variety of shaded and open areas. Brushings (small cut material) can be used to form dead hedges or woodpiles in strategic locations, which may also help to deter access to certain areas.

Information should be provided for visitors about the role of dead wood in the reserve and that they should be aware of the potential hazard that it may pose to those who stray off the designated paths.

#### **7.1.5 Species management**

Any species that spread rapidly and are detrimental to the wildlife value of the site in general should be controlled or removed.

#### **7.1.6 Introductions, translocations and planting**

Any planting should only be of native species, preferably of local provenance.

There should be a presumption against the introduction of animals into the site. If any introductions are considered in order to meet management objectives, reference should be made to policies of relevant organisations, e.g. the London Wildlife Trust's Translocation Policy.

#### **7.1.7 Fires**

There should be a general presumption against burning any material on the reserve.

### **7.2. General Principles on Amenity Issues**

### **7.2.1 Paths**

A clearly defined and well maintained path is the best way of reducing trampling of sensitive vegetation and will ensure that people can enjoy their visit and not have an adverse effect. Ideally paths should be upgraded to provide wheelchair access where possible.

### **7.2.2 General Safety**

All boundaries, bridges, footpaths and other visitor facilities need to be inspected regularly and any necessary remedial action taken immediately (see sections on footpaths and boundaries). Regular inspections must also be carried out of all trees near boundaries and footpaths, to ensure they are in a safe condition, i.e. not about to fall over or shed dead branches onto an area frequently used by the public. Appropriate action should be taken but in recognition that standing dead wood is an essential feature of the woodland ecosystem (see section on Dead Wood).

### **7.2.3 Access**

The reserve is presently open access at all times. LBM therefore has a responsibility to ensure that all footpaths and other visitor facilities are in a safe condition at all times.

### **7.2.4 Litter**

Litter makes a site look untidy and uncared for and can spoil the enjoyment of visitors. Some litter can also be unsafe, or lethal to small mammals and some invertebrates. Litter should therefore be cleared on a regular basis.

### **7.1.5 Dogs**

Visitors to the reserve should be encouraged to keep their dogs on a leash to minimise disturbance to wildlife. Fouling by dogs presents a problem and visitors should be requested not to allow their animals to defecate within the site and to clear up after them if they do. Dog bins should be installed on site and enforced with bye-laws (see 4.1.7).

### **7.1.6 Bye-laws**

Declaration as a statutory Local Nature Reserve allows the formulation of bye-laws to cover the Wildlife Area. It is unclear if bye laws have been produced for this site. These could be used to address issues such as access conditions, preservation of wildlife, litter, motorcycling, use of firearms and control of dogs, amongst others.

### **7.1.7 Interpretation**

It is important to provide visitors to the site with information about the wildlife that occurs there and the management that is being carried out to conserve it. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, for example through information leaflets, guided walks, articles in the local press etc.

The provision of information boards is a simple and direct way of informing people about the site. They can make people feel more welcome and positive about their visit and, by

providing information about what is to be seen, can increase the level of enjoyment. Boards should be kept clean and in good repair.

### **7.3. General Principles on Management Practise**

#### **7.3.1. Health and Safety and Risk Assessment**

It is essential that all activities take place in a healthy and safe environment. Management of the site poses a number of potential risks, which any one working there must be aware of. The site must have an updated risk assessment to highlight any particular dangers, which must be reviewed annually.

Tasks should normally be carried out by more than one person at any one time, especially if tools are being used.

All work tasks will require a risk assessment identifying hazards, level of risk and appropriate measures taken to avoid or reasonably reduce risk. Reference should be made to the relevant L B Merton safety policies and current risk assessments. If there is any activity within the site by any persons that is threatening to others or clearly criminal, the police should be called immediately. It is advisable not to intervene.

#### **7.3.2. Herbicides**

There should be a presumption against the use herbicides. By their very nature all herbicides are damaging to the environment to a greater or lesser extent, and can be a danger to the public. Consequently their use should be restricted to only necessary tasks and only if other management methods are inappropriate or have failed. It may sometimes be necessary to treat the stumps of species scheduled for removal from the site where these have grown too large and where it would be a waste of resources to keep on cutting the plants back every year.

Similarly herbicides may be the only way to combat some invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed. If chemicals are used, the appropriate L B Merton policies and risk assessments must be followed.

## **8. Management**

### **8.1 Habitat Management Proposals**

#### **8.1.1 Woodland**

Two main woodland areas can be found on the site; Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1) and the Millennium Woodland (Compartment 4).

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1) is an area of mature woodland planted in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The canopy is dominated by pedunculate oak which are fairly evenly spaced throughout the area with an understorey of elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, and field maple and holly. The ground flora dominated by ivy and bramble. There is a good amount of dead wood present throughout the area and some large dead standing trees.

It is recommended that the woodland should be mainly managed by non –intervention to allow it to continue to develop as high forest. The main management will consist of any work necessary for the safety of visitors and neighbouring property. The site should be inspected annually by a suitable qualified arboriculturalist and any dangerous trees should be made safe as soon as possible. At least one dead tree is present beside the path and should be made safe as a matter of priority. When this is done due regard should be made to the policy on dead wood (see above). Where possible dead timber should be left standing. Consequently trees should be made safe by removing limbs etc. if possible rather than felling the entire tree. All arisings should be retained on site as dead wood habitat.

However some coppicing is recommended along the river bank to increase the light reaching the watercourse and hopefully allow the development of aquatic and bankside vegetation.

Compartment 2 is a relatively recently planted extension to Compartment 1. Here coppicing is recommended. Maximum ecological diversity can be promoted by creating a graded edge, with a more gradual transition from woodland through scrub to open grassland. Such edge habitats support rich invertebrate communities (Kirby 1992) and are favoured foraging and nesting habitats for many bird species. Management should therefore consist of selectively coppicing back shrubs along the boundary of the woodland with the grassland in Compartments 3. Several small blocks should be cut each year on rotation so that the entire boundary is coppiced every few years.

The Millennium Woodland (Compartment 4) is of very recent origin, having been planted in 1999. The oaks in the area come from acorns collected from Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1) in 1998 and grown in pots to be planted out in 1999. Other species planted include hazel, guelder rose, dog rose, blackthorn, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan, hawthorn, holly, yew and small leaved lime. The planting was very dense and thorny species were used around the periphery to discourage access and the creation of unofficial paths.

The woodland is now very dense and almost totally impenetrable. The ground flora is very limited due to the dense canopy. It is therefore recommended that the area be thinned

over the 5 years of this plan. The woodland should be split into 5 blocks (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e). One of these should be thinned each year in the winter. The thinning should concentrate on removing trees and shrubs competing with potential canopy trees such as oak, ash and cherry. The dense thorny barrier around the perimeter should be retained to discourage access in the future.

### **8.1.2 Glades**

Glades are an important part of any woodland as they provide habitats and foraging areas for many invertebrates and birds and support a range of plant species. One glade already exists in the woodland (Sub-compartment 1a). A second opening in the canopy (Sub-compartment 1b) should be developed as a glade by clearing the dense elder and bramble which had developed. In order to keep the glades open a cutting regime should be instigated. 1a and 1b should be cut in the autumn on alternate years, 1a one year and 1b the next. The arising should be stacked in the adjacent woodland.

### **8.1.2 Grassland**

Grassland areas exist in Compartments 3, 5 and 7. These are not particularly species rich having developed from amenity grassland through a sympathetic mowing regime. The management since 2000 has consisted of leaving the areas uncut until late summer when they are mown and the hay removed to keep the fertility of the soil low. In high fertility soils the sward tends to be taken over by fast growing species such as nettles and amenity grasses. In lower fertility soils everything grows slowly and therefore more species thrive leading to a more diverse sward.

Not all the areas should have the same mowing regime. This will maximise the diversity of the site. Compartment 7 should continue to be managed by cutting annually in late summer and removing the arisings. However Compartment 5 should be split into 2 areas (5a and 5b) and one of these cut each year in the late summer. This will leave 50% of the area as long vegetation for over-wintering invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, whilst still allowing the development of a diverse sward. Similarly compartment 3 should be managed by only cutting 50% of the area each year

The arisings from Compartments 3 and 5 should be plied in the adjacent woodland as habitat piles.

### **8.1.7 Ditches**

Two ditches run through Compartment 1 which are quite overgrown. They should be managed by clearing out the vegetation and cutting back any overhanging branches each year in the winter. No more than about 1/3 of the length of the ditch should be cleared in any year.

### **8.1.4 Tall Herb and Nettle beds**

This habitat occurs in compartment 6 and is important for many invertebrates (especially the nettles for butterflies). If left unmanaged it would quickly be taken over by brambles and scrub. To prevent this a cutting regime should be implemented. There are 2 main areas of nettles in Compartment 6 which are separated by a dense bramble bed. One of

these should be cut and the arisings plied in the nearby scrub each year in the autumn. This will prevent the brambles encroaching but still leave areas tall as habitat over winter.

### **8.1.5 Bramble beds**

These mostly occur in Compartment 6 and in the northern section of Compartment 3. Bramble is a very important food source for many animals (foxes, small mammals, birds and invertebrates) and should be retained. However they will tend to spread into adjacent grassland areas if left uncut. Also as they grow older bramble beds tend to be taken over by scrub. To prevent this happening, the brambles in Compartment 2 should be cut back each year in the autumn. Only approximately 25% of the area of bramble should be cut each year. The brambles in Compartment 6 will be prevented from spreading by the cutting of the nettle/tall herb areas (see above).

### **8.1.6 River and Riverbank**

The river is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and permission must be sought from them prior to any work in or adjacent to the river.

For much of its length through the reserve the river has toe-boards and very steep banks and supports very little aquatic or bankside vegetation. Ideally these could be removed and the banks made more "natural". Also baffles and riffles could be created in the stream. However this would be a major undertaking and would have to be done on consultation with the environment Agency.

In the short term the river could be improved by selectively coppicing trees and shrubs along the banks to increase the light reaching the watercourse. It is therefore recommended that each year some coppicing takes place along approximately 25% of the length of the river on a rotation (i.e. a different area each year).

### **8.1.7 Seasonal Pond**

A small damp hollow exists in the Compartment 5. It is recommended that this is extended by dredging to create a seasonal pond (one which only holds water in the winter and spring). Ephemeral ponds of this nature are important for some invertebrates which require periods of drying out to survive. The pond should be hand dredged periodically as required to ensure that it holds water in winter and spring.

## **8.2 Management by Compartments**

### **8.2.1 Compartment 1 (Sir Joseph hood Memorial Woodland)**

#### **Description**

Mature woodland planted in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century occurs on the western side of the reserve. The canopy is dominated by pedunculate oak which are fairly evenly spaced throughout the area. In the north of the compartment the understorey is more open with elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, ash and field maple all common. Further south it is denser with much hawthorn, elder and a lot of holly.

The ground flora dominated in many areas by ivy, in others by bramble. Other common species include cow parsley, wood avens, hairy brome, creeping bent, knotgrass, nettle and hedge woundwort.

There is a good amount of dead wood present throughout the area and some large dead standing trees, including one next to the footpath which will need to be made safe.

A small glade exists near the centre of the woodland (Sub-compartment 1a). Just to the south of this is a second opening in the canopy (Sub-compartment 1b). Here the area is dominated by dense elder and bramble.

A shallow ditch runs north south along the eastern boundary of the woodland. It appears to be fed by the Beverley Brook which connects to at the north of the site but at the time of the visit in December 2006 it was almost totally dry. Presumably it does take water when the river floods. A second ditch runs along the southern boundary connecting with the north south ditch and connecting to the river in the south west corner of the woodland. Again this was dry at the time of the visit. The ditches are mostly devoid of aquatic vegetation and in places are very shaded by dense bramble etc.

The Beverley Brook runs along the western boundary of the site. The banks are toe-boarded for most of the length and so the banks are vertical. The channel has very little vegetation probably due to the dense shade cast by the trees and shrubs on the bank.

A footpath runs through the compartment from north to south. Three railway sleeper bridges take it over the ditch. These are in poor condition.

The western boundary is the river and the eastern and southern boundaries are composed of chainlink fence. On the eastern boundary this is in good condition but the southern is damaged in places.

#### **Management**

It is recommended that the woodland should be mainly managed by non-intervention to allow it to continue to develop as high forest. The main management will consist of any work necessary for the safety of visitors and neighbouring property. The site should be inspected annually by a suitable qualified arboriculturalist and any dangerous trees should be made safe as soon as possible. At least one dead tree is present beside the path and should be made safe as a matter of priority. When this is done due regard should be made to the policy on dead wood (see above). Where possible dead timber should be left

standing. Consequently trees should be made safe by removing limbs etc. if possible rather than felling the entire tree. All arisings should be retained on site as dead wood habitat.

The glades are an important part of any woodland. In order to keep the glades open a cutting regime should be instigated. 1a and 1b should be cut in the autumn on alternate years, 1a one year and 1b the next. The arising should be stacked in the adjacent woodland.

The river is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and permission must be sought from them prior to any work in or adjacent to the river.

For much of its length through the reserve the river has toe-boards and very steep banks and supports very little aquatic or bankside vegetation. Ideally these could be removed and the banks made more "natural". Also baffles and riffles could be created in the stream. However this would be a major undertaking and would have to be done on consultation with the environment Agency

In the short term the river could be improved by selectively coppicing trees and shrubs along the banks to increase the light reaching the watercourse. Therefore it is recommended that each year some coppicing takes place along approximately 25% of the length of the river on a rotation (i.e. a different area each year)

The ditch should be managed by clearing out the vegetation and cutting back any overhanging branches each year in the winter. No more than about 1/3 of the length of the ditch should be cleared in any year.

Details of the path management are given below.

The southern boundary fence should be repaired.

## **8.2.2           Compartment 2**

### **Description**

Compartment 2 is an area of recently planted woodland separated from the mature woodland to the west by a chainlink fence. It is estimated that the woodland is probably about 10 years old (i.e. slightly older than the Millennium Woodland - see Compartment 4 below). It has a variety of species including ash, hawthorn and some extensive areas of hazel. The ground flora is sparse but bramble and ivy are both common.

### **Management**

Maximum ecological diversity can be promoted by creating a graded edge, with a more gradual transition from woodland through scrub to open grassland. Such edge habitats support rich invertebrate communities (Kirby 1992) and are favoured foraging and nesting habitats for many bird species. Management should therefore consist of selectively coppicing back shrubs along the boundary of the woodland with the grassland in Compartments 3. Several small blocks should be cut each year on rotation so that the entire boundary is coppiced every few years.

### **8.2.3           Compartment 3**

#### **Description**

Compartment 3 is an area of grassland kept open to provide a path between the Millennium Woodland (Compartment 4) and Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1). The sward is quite species poor and dominated by various grasses including red fescue, Italian rye-grass, creeping bent and false oat-grass. Herbaceous species include bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, creeping thistle, ribwort plantain, creeping cinquefoil and cut-leaved crane's-bill.

In the northern section of the compartment extensive bramble beds have developed on the boundary with the woodland.

#### **Management**

This compartment should be managed by mowing 50% of the area every year in the late summer/early autumn. This will allow the development of a more species rich sward and prevent encroachment of scrub/brambles whilst again maintaining cover for over-wintering invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians. The arisings should be raked off and piled in the adjacent woodland.

When the grassland is mown approximately 25% of the area of bramble beds should also be cut to regenerate them and prevent them spreading.

Details of the path management are given below.

### **8.2.4           Compartment 4 (Millennium Woodland)**

#### **Description**

The Millennium Woodland was planted as part of the Millennium celebrations to compliment the existing woodland area. Acorns of pedunculate oak were collected in 1998 from Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland (Compartment 1) in 1998 and grown in pots to be planted out in 1999. Other species planted include hazel, guelder rose, dog rose, blackthorn, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan, hawthorn, holly, yew and small leaved lime. The planting was very dense and thorny species were used around the periphery to discourage access and the creation of unofficial paths. The woodland is now very dense and almost totally impenetrable. The ground flora is very limited due to the dense canopy.

#### **Management**

It is recommended that the area be thinned over the 5 years of this plan. The woodland should be split into 5 blocks (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e). One of these should be thinned each year in the winter. The thinning should concentrate on removing trees and shrubs competing with potential canopy trees such as oak, ash and cherry. The dense thorny barrier around the perimeter should be retained to discourage access in the future.

## **8.2.5           Compartment 5**

### **Description**

This is an area of grassland to the east of the Millennium Woodland. The species composition of the sward is very similar to Compartment 3.

### **Management**

This compartment should be managed in the same way as Compartment 3 by mowing 50% of the area every year in the late summer/early autumn. The arisings should be raked off and piled in the adjacent woodland.

## **8.2.6           Compartment 6**

### **Description**

This is an area of tall herb vegetation and two large nettle beds on the southern boundary of the reserve. These are interspersed with scrub (mostly hawthorn and elder) and bramble beds.

### **Management**

One of the nettle beds should be cut and the arisings plied in the nearby scrub each year in the autumn. This will prevent the brambles encroaching but still leave areas tall as habitat over winter.

## **8.2.7           Compartment 7**

### **Description**

This is an area which has been managed since 2000 as a hay meadow by mowing annually and removing the arisings in late summer. The sward is not dominated by any one grass species, but Italian ryegrass, cock's-foot, smaller cat's-tail, Yorkshire fog, red fescue and creeping bent are all common. Other common species include ragwort, smooth hawk's-beard, creeping cinquefoil, white clover, common vetch and common mouse ear.

### **Management**

The regime of cutting and removing the hay in July should continue in this area.

## **8.3            General Management**

### **8.3.1           Footpaths and boundaries**

The footpaths through the reserve are unsurfaced but are mostly in reasonable condition. However as the site is mostly flat it would be reasonably easy to create wheelchair accessible paths round the reserve if funding became available. This could be achieved by surfacing the existing paths with hoggin or a similar self binding material. Map 3 shows a possible route for the wheelchair accessible path.

It is recommended that a second path is created in the mature woodland to run through the glades and to give access to the river bank in places.

The paths should be maintained by cutting the vegetation back to approximately 1m twice in the summer months (May and July) and again in the autumn (October). This will keep the paths open for visitors and encourage the development of a less shade tolerant flora along the path sides.

The 3 sleeper bridges over the ditch in Compartment 2 are in poor condition and must be repaired or replaced to ensure safety. The bridges should be inspected annually in future and any necessary repairs carried out immediately.

The boundaries structures where they occur are mostly in good condition except for the fence along the southern boundary of Compartment 2 which should be repaired as soon as possible.

### **8.3.2 Litter**

The site is very litter free at present except in the dense areas of Compartment 4 (the Millennium Woodland) where blown litter has become trapped. Any litter discovered during management work should be cleared from the site and regular litter patrols should be carried out.

### **8.3.3 Surveys and Monitoring**

Very few faunal records exist for the site, except invertebrates. It would be very desirable to carry out surveys of breeding birds, wintering birds, mammals and reptiles and amphibians.

All work on the reserve should be recorded and monitored. Species monitoring should be encouraged if suitable experienced volunteers can be found.

The vegetation should be re-surveyed in the summer of 2011 and the management plan reviewed in 2012.

### **8.3.4 Safety**

All boundaries, footpaths, bridges, gates and other visitor facilities need to be inspected annually and any necessary remedial action taken immediately. Inspections must also be carried out of all trees near boundaries and footpaths, to ensure they are in a safe condition, i.e. not about to fall over or shed dead branches onto an area frequently used by the public. Appropriate action should be taken but in recognition that standing dead wood is an essential feature of the woodland ecosystem (see section on Dead Wood).

## 8 Work Programme

### 8.1 Five year work programme

	Financial Year				
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>Compartment 1</b>					
Manage woodland by non-intervention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Make dead tree by path safe	✓				
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1b	1a	1b	1a	1b
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank in autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch in winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Compartment 2</b>					
Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge in winter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Compartment 3</b>					
Cut 50% of grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Compartment 4</b>					
Thin woodland to relieve canopy trees	4a	4b	4c	4d	4e

## Compartment 5

	5a	5b	5a	5b	5a
Cut 50% of grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer					
Enlarge seasonal pond	✓				
Dredge seasonal pond in late summer as necessary		✓	✓	✓	✓

## Compartment 6

Cut and rake off nettle beds in autumn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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## Compartment 7

Mow grassland and remove hay in July	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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## General Management

Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Repair or replace sleeper bridges	✓				
Repair southern boundary fence	✓				
Surface path to create wheelchair access				If funding available	
Collect litter as necessary				Throughout	
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work				Throughout	
Carry out reptile and amphibian survey	✓				✓

Carry out bird monitoring	✓	✓
Carry out mammal survey	✓	✓
Re-survey the vegetation and review management plan		✓

## 8.2 *Annual Work Programme Financial Year 2007/08*

<u>Management Task</u>	<u>Compartment</u>
<b>Quarter 1 April – June</b>	
Make dead tree by path safe	1
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	Throughout
Repair or replace sleeper bridges	1
Repair southern boundary fence	1
Surface path to create wheelchair access if funding available	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out reptile and amphibian survey	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out mammal survey	Throughout
<b>Quarter 2 July – September</b>	
Cut grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	3 (50%), 5a
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	3
Enlarge seasonal pond	5
Mow grassland and remove hay in late summer	7
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarters 3 &amp; 4 October – March</b>	
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1b
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank	1
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch	1

Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge	2
Thin woodland to relive canopy trees	4a
Cut and rake off nettle beds	6
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work	Throughout

### 8.3 *Annual Work Programme Financial Year 2008/09*

<u>Management Task</u>	<u>Compartment</u>
<b>Quarter 1 April – June</b>	
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarter 2 July – September</b>	
Cut grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	3 (50%), 5b
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	3
Dredge seasonal pond in late summer	5
Mow grassland and remove hay in late summer	7
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarters 3 &amp; 4 October – March</b>	
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1a
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank	1
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch annually	1
Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge	2
Thin woodland to relive canopy trees	4b
Cut and rake off nettle beds	6
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work	Throughout

#### 8.4 *Annual Work Programme Financial Year 2009/10*

<u>Management Task</u>	<u>Compartment</u>
<b>Quarter 1 April – June</b>	
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarter 2 July – September</b>	
Cut grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	3 (50%), 5a
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	3
Dredge seasonal pond in late summer	5
Mow grassland and remove hay in late summer	7
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarters 3 &amp; 4 October – March</b>	
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1b
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank	1
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch annually	1
Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge	2
Thin woodland to relive canopy trees	4c
Cut and rake off nettle beds	6
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work	Throughout

## 8.5 Annual Work Programme Financial Year 2010/11

<u>Management Task</u>	<u>Compartment</u>
<b>Quarter 1 April – June</b>	
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarter 2 July – September</b>	
Cut grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	3 (50%), 5b
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	3
Dredge seasonal pond	5
Mow grassland and remove hay in late summer	7
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarters 3 &amp; 4 October – March</b>	
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1a
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank	1
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch annually	1
Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge	2
Thin woodland to relive canopy trees	4d
Cut and rake off nettle beds	6
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work	Throughout

## 8.6 Annual Work Programme Financial Year 2011/12

<u>Management Task</u>	<u>Compartment</u>
<b>Quarter 1 April – June</b>	
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in May	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarter 2 July – September</b>	
Cut grassland and stack arisings in woodland in late summer	3 (50%), 5a
Cut 25% of bramble beds in late summer	3
Dredge seasonal pond	5
Mow grassland and remove hay in late summer	7
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in July	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
<b>Quarters 3 &amp; 4 October – March</b>	
Cut glade and stack arisngs in adjacent woodland	1b
Selectively coppice overhanging trees along 25% of riverbank	1
Clear vegetation from 1/3 of length of ditch annually	1
Selectively coppice bays along woodland edge	2
Thin woodland to relive canopy trees	4e
Cut and rake off nettle beds	6
Cut back vegetation to 1m along footpaths in October	Throughout
Collect litter as necessary	Throughout
Carry out bird monitoring	Throughout
Carry out safety and arboricultural inspection of reserve annually and implement any necessary safety/tree work	Throughout

Re-survey the vegetation and review management plan

## 9 Appendices

### Appendix 1: List of Plant Species Recorded from Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields (from GLA Habitat Survey 2006)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Woodland	Millennium Woodland and Meadow	Meadow (Comp. 7)
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O	F	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	R		
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	F	F	F
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Grey Alder		R	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	O		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	F		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-Grass	O	F	O
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	R	O	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	R	O	
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy-brome	F		
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R		
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-Ear			O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O	F	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle		O	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed		O	O
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	O	O	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	A	A	
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-Beard			O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-Foot	F	F	F
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	O	F	O
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	O	F	
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-Leaved Willowherb	O	R	
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue		O	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue		F	F
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	F	O	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O	O	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill		O	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	F		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	D		
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O		
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-Fog		A	F
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley		F	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	A		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce		O	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-Grass		O	F
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-Foot-Trefoil		O	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick		O	
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-Tail			F
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	O	F	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O	O	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	O		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	F		
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil		F	O

<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		O	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	F		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	D	A	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		R	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	O	F	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	A	F	
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	R		
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock	R	R	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	R		
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Osier	R		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O		
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort	R		
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	R	O	O
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-Thistle	R		
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan		R	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	F		
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion			F
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	O		
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	Lime	R	R	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		O	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover		F	F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	F	O	
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	O	O	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch		O	O
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	R		O

DAFOR Scale: D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare,

**Appendix 2: List of Bird Species Recorded from Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields (from 1994 Management Plan)**

Blackbird  
Blackcap  
Blue Tit  
Bullfinch  
Carrion Crow  
Chaffinch  
Chiffchaff  
Dunnock  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Great Tit  
Jackdaw  
Jay  
Long-tailed tit  
Magpie  
Mistle Thrush  
Nuthatch  
Robin  
Song Thrush  
Starling  
Stock Dove  
Tree Creeper  
Wood Pigeon  
Wren

## 9 Maps

### *Map 1: Compartments*

## **Map 2: Habitats**

### ***Map 3: Management***