

MITCHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007-2012



**Mitcham
Common
Conservators**



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INTRODUCTION

For the past 30 years Mitcham Common has been managed in accordance with a management plan adopted by the Mitcham Common Conservators after consultation with a wide range of interest groups. The current management plan was adopted some 10 years ago and is therefore overdue for revision. In addition previous management plans excluded Mill Green, which up until the early 1990s was managed by the London Borough of Sutton on behalf of the Conservators. Thereafter the Conservators assumed responsibility for the management of the Green and adopted a management plan in 1995. This plan will be revised and incorporated into the new management plan for the Common.

Previous management plans have described the various habitats found on the Common and recommended prescriptions, based on ecological and land-use management principles, aimed at maintaining and enhancing them. Although it is generally accepted that the management of the Common has greatly improved as a result of the implementation of these prescriptions, in recent years local user groups have commented that the management plan does not provide enough background information as to how and why the prescriptions were derived.

Accordingly, this revision will set out a series of policies relating to most aspects of the management of the Common. Policies will be supported by a reasoned justification. The plan will be used to guide and direct site management and explain to as wide an audience as practical the management policies of the Conservators. In addition, an annual work programme will be produced which will detail how management prescriptions will implement specific habitat management policies.

The management plan draws heavily on previous biological surveys and ongoing monitoring of the Common's habitats and flora and fauna. It is also reliant on the expertise and knowledge of those responsible for managing the Common and research that has been undertaken into the management plans of other open spaces in the London area.

MITCHAM COMMON CONSERVATORS

The Mitcham Common Conservators are constituted as a statutory corporation by virtue of a Scheme confirmed by the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891. The Scheme provides for the Board of Conservators to be appointed by the local authorities within whose areas parts of the Common are situated and by the Lords of the various ancient Manors within which the Common is located. The Conservators are responsible for the management and regulation of Mitcham Common. As a result of the evolution of local government since 1891 and the devolution of the Manorships, the present representatives of the Board is as follows:

The London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton and Sutton – 4 representatives each (not necessarily members of the respective local authorities) and the City of London Corporation – 1 representative (by virtue of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1911. The City of London Corporation's historic connection with the Common relates to a contribution of £500 made to the Conservators in 1893 to enable them to purchase certain manorial rights. Thereafter it was agreed that they should appoint one representative to serve on the Board of Conservators.

The Conservators meet quarterly and employ a part time Clerk and part time independent accountant/auditor.

VISION STATEMENT OF THE CONSERVATORS

“To Preserve and Manage Mitcham Common for Current and Future Generations”

The Scheme referred to above requires the Conservators to preserve and manage the Common for the people of Mitcham. The Conservators may not transfer this responsibility to any other body. The Conservators will seek to achieve the Vision Statement by:

- Consulting with users of the Common and local residents
- Implementing the policies detailed in the management plan

1.0 SECTION ONE: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

1.01 Location and Ownership

Mitcham Common (Grid Reference TQ 290 690) is some 182 hectares (455 acres) in extent and is one of the most interesting and varied open spaces in south London. It lies almost wholly within the London Borough of Merton, but is bordered by the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton. A separate part of the Common called Mill Green, which is some 6 hectares (15 acres) in extent, lies wholly within the London Borough of Sutton. The freehold of the Common, except for two small plots of land on Mill Green which are owned by Sutton, is vested in the Conservators. Appendices 1 and 2 indicate the location and extent of the Common and Mill Green.

The Common is also part of the Wandle Valley Country Park, an area of some 485 hectares (1212 acres) that also includes Beddington Park and Beddington Farmlands.

1.02 The History of Mitcham Common and Mill Green

A full history of Mitcham Common, including the issues that lead to the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891, is given by Montague in his book published in 2001. The following extract from that book gives a very brief account of the history of the Common.

“Mitcham Common is a remarkable survival of 455 acres of the once extensive acid heathland separating Mitcham from Croydon and Beddington. Whilst local landowners enclosed land on its margins and the local vestry justified small enclosures of common ‘waste’ as being for the public benefit, in the early 19th century the parishioners successfully resisted major enclosure. Inevitably, with expanding urbanisation the threat increased, while the construction of railway lines and profitable gravel extraction turned the old Common into a treeless waste.

Mounting awareness in the 1880s that the Common might be lost to the public forever stimulated the growth of a movement dedicated to its preservation. Led by members of the local gentry who appreciated the attractions of this, open breezy spot’, the parishioners of Mitcham rallied once more in defence of their heritage and in 1891 the Board of Conservators was formed, with powers conferred by an Act of Parliament.

More than a century latter, Mitcham Common remains a much-loved open space, ecologically diverse and not without its secrets.” (Montague 2001).

The growth of the preservation movement owes much to one person, George Parker Bidder Q.C. Bidder did much to rouse public support and is credited with securing the preservation of Mitcham Common as a public open space. After the Act of Parliament that empowered the Conservators was passed, he became the first chairman of the Board of Conservators. He is commemorated by a granite monument erected on the centre of the Common near Croydon Road.

In the 17th century Mill Green was known as Cranmarsh, possibly a corruption of the Mitcham family named Cranmer. Ownership of the green was in dispute between the Manors of Mitcham and Wallington until well into the 19th century. Although originally within the ecclesiastical parish of Mitcham, it was brought within the civil parish of Wallington by local government boundary revisions during the late 19th century. At the time of the Ordnance Survey Map 1868, Mill Green or Beddington Corner as it was then known, was clearly indicated as part of Mitcham Common, but by 1895 it was shown as a separate entity. By the latter date the Green was administered by trustees and used as a recreation ground.

Appendix 1: Location of Mitcham Common

Appendix 2: Extent of Mitcham Common

2.0 SECTION TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

This section of the plan describes the physical and biological features of Mitcham Common together with its cultural interest.

2.01 Physical Features: Geology, Topography, Hydrology and Soils

The Common spans a high part of the old interglacial River Wandle terrace gravels, draining largely to the south-west towards the Wandle. The Wandle itself was responsible for the large expanse of gravels of Mitcham Common and the surrounding area. The thin soils overlying the gravels have been subjected to thousands of years of leaching by rainfall which has impoverished them. However, over the last 100 years or so much of the Common has been disturbed by gravel extraction, infilling and re-landscaping projects. Thus human influences have artificially raised parts of the Common and dramatically altered the soil profile from the original thin topsoil overlying gravel and London Clay soil profile which would have predominated up to the early 1900s.

2.02 Biological Features: Habitats

The Common supports a range of habitats including tracts of secondary woodland, scrub, ponds and other wetlands, neutral grassland and, most importantly, acid grassland and heathland. Appendices 5-11 provides a brief description of all the habitat types found on the Common and their respective locations.

Acid Grassland and Heathland

Acid grassland and heathland habitat types are given priority status because nationally they have become increasingly scarce and fragmented. Both lowland heathland and lowland acid grassland are national Biodiversity Action Plan habitats which means they are both top priority habitats for conservation and enhancement in Britain. They are found on well-drained infertile acidic soils such as those found over much of the Common. Good quality heathland and acid grassland supports an impressive array of animals and a range of interesting plants species. However the habitats are rare in London and have declined on the Common as a result of the unchecked spread of scrub and woodland since the late 1940s. Acid grassland habitats fall within the following National Vegetation Classifications: U1 (Sheep's Fescue-Common Bent Grass-Sheep's Sorrel grassland) and U4 (Sheep's Fescue-Common Bent-Heath Bedstraw grassland). The heathland is H2 (Heather-Dwarf Gorse heath).

Neutral Grassland

Many of the neutral grassland parcels found on the Common do not easily fit into a NVC category because they are the result of wildflower seed mixes being broadcast over hills that were created and landscaped in the 1980s. Nevertheless they now support a wide range of very colourful plants and are home to a variety of butterflies and other insects. Other grassland parcels are more 'natural' in appearance and fit NVC types MG1 (Oat Grass grassland), MG9 (Yorkshire Fog–Tufted Hair-Grass grassland), both of which are fairly common in the London area. Finally there are small areas of grassland that may loosely be described as wet meadows. During the winter months these areas are flooded and as a result have developed an interesting flora with many uncommon species of plant.

Woodland and Scrub

Most of the woodland and scrub on the Common is relatively recent in origin; although some of the boundary trees on the Gunsite are probably approaching 200 years old. These habitat types are much valued by local users and without doubt are of local nature conservation interest, however they are not regionally important and their spread must not be at the expense of heathland and acid grassland and in places their boundaries should be pushed back to facilitate the re-establishment of acid grassland. The woodland and scrub types found on the Common are W10 (English Oak-Bracken-Bramble woodland), W21 (Hawthorn-Ivy scrub) and W23 (Gorse-Bramble scrub).

Ponds and Wetlands

There are 11 ponds on the Common ranging from larger permanent waterbodies such as One and Seven Islands ponds, to smaller seasonal ponds that dry out in the summer months. In addition there are a number of open ditches on the golf course and one on Mill Green. Together they represent a diversity of open freshwater and wetland habitats and some of which, for example Seven Islands Pond and a number of the seasonal ponds and ditches on the golf course, probably hold regional significance.

Ruderal Habitats

Interspersed amongst all the habitat types listed above and adjacent to roadside boundaries and entrance points are a variety of different ruderal habitats. These persist because of regular disturbance. In the past these have tended to be overlooked or undervalued as scruffy and unkempt 'wasteland' whereas in fact they enhance the diversity of the Common by

providing ecological niches for plants and especially some invertebrate taxa to exploit.

2.03 Species

Plants

There has been a long history of botanical recording on the Common and although the site has undergone considerable changes during the past 150 years, it still supports a good range of locally uncommon plants. These include narrow buckler fern, adders tongue fern, ivy-leaved crowfoot, spindle, dyers greenweed, devil's-bit scabious, petty whin, spiny restharrow, water purslane, parsley water dropwort, saw-wort, bogbean, dwarf gorse, chamomile, common spotted orchid and southern marsh orchid. All of the above are London Notables (occurring in less than 12.5% of all tetrads (2 km squares) in London).

Invertebrates

Of particular note is the invertebrate fauna of the Common which has been surveyed by Morris and others (See Appendix 12 for references). Surveys have revealed several nationally scarce or notable species.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Common lizards and slow-worms are found in the heath and grassland, with the ponds and ditches supporting good populations of frogs, toads and smooth newts.

Mammals

The mammal fauna includes noctule and pipistrelle bats, hedgehog, weasel, common and pygmy shrew, water shrew, bank and field voles, house, wood and yellow-necked mice.

Birds

The Common supports a variety of breeding and wintering species. Probably the most significant bird communities are the breeding warblers associated with scrub (whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, garden warbler, blackcap, willow warbler and chiffchaff). The grassland covering the landscaped hills support several pairs of skylark. In addition, kestrel, linnet and reed bunting all breed on the Common.

2.04 Cultural Interest

Archaeology of the Common

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the Common. The Bidder Memorial is designated as a Listed Structure.

A full account of the known archaeological interest of the Common is given by Montague (2001).

In summary, there is some evidence to suggest Neolithic and Bronze Age farming activities on the Common. In addition, an Inclosure Commissioners' map of 1812 describes the ruins of an ancient hedge, bank and ditch, a possible late Bronze Age or early Iron Age enclosure surrounding a settlement, located at the south-eastern corner of the Common. This part of the Common has been subjected to considerable re-landscaping, consequently there is no longer any visible evidence of this feature.

Previous land use

During the Middle Ages the Common was used for grazing and the collection of timber and turf for fuel. The Industrial Revolution marked a decline in the use of common land for grazing but an increase in gravel extraction, road building and railway construction. It is during this period that many of the Common's ponds were dug and the site was divided by railways and road widening.

In 1891 one of the first acts of the newly-established Board of Conservators was to allow a golf club to construct a course over much of the Common. By 1924 the demand for golf had declined and the size of the course was reduced and contained within its present day location.

During World War 2 much of the Common (apart from the golf course) was ploughed for food production and anti-aircraft gun emplacements were constructed to the south of Mitcham Junction Station. These were finally removed in 1964.

In the 1950s domestic rubbish was tipped on a parcel of land to the west of Windmill Road. This was then capped with clay and sub-soil in the late 1960s. During this period a number of football pitches were laid out on the area of the Common to the east of Windmill Road and Beddington Lane.

In 1974 Merton Council took over the day-to-day management of the Common in accordance with an agreed management plan. However there was relatively little nature conservation management until the early 1980s.

Between 1978-1984 that part of the Common to the east of Watneys Road and Beddington Lane was subjected to a re-landscaping scheme which changed the topography of the whole area by constructing hills from imported inert material and soil.

In the early 1990s the remaining football pitches were removed because this sporting activity was deemed no longer financially viable.

Present Land Use

Approximately 68 hectares (170 acres) of the Common is laid out as a golf course, licensed to the Mitcham Common Golf Club. The Conservators work very closely with the golf club and have regular meetings to discuss the management of the course. The course's tees and greens, and to a lesser degree the fairways, hold little biodiversity interest and for this reason are excluded from this management plan. The remainder of the course, which includes the roughs and 'out of play' areas, support considerable biodiversity including parcels of woodland, heathland, acid grassland and wetland areas.

In addition to the recreational resource provided by the golf course, there are other areas of the Common that are maintained as amenity areas for the enjoyment of both active and passive recreational pursuits. There are a number of public rights of way footpaths that cross the Common which the Conservators have a duty to keep clear of unnecessary obstructions. The local highway authority holds the definitive map of rights of way across the Common. In addition the 1891 Act allows walkers to have access to the whole site. Horse riders are restricted to routes provided over certain parts of the Common. Cyclists and motor vehicles are not permitted anywhere on the Common.

Public Interest

The local community is actively engaged in the Common through the Friends of Mitcham Common. The 'Friends' have a membership of some 300 local people and are consulted over several aspects of the Common's management. They also arrange regular walks over the Common, which are very popular with local people. Apart from the activities arranged by the 'Friends', regular visitors to the Common include dog walkers, school parties and people attending guided walks lead by natural history societies and ramblers groups. The London Wildlife Trust also hold regular winter volunteer workdays on the Common.

3.0 SECTION THREE: EVALUATION

3.01 Designation and Conservation Status

That part of the Common lying within Merton is designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). Mill Green is also designated as MOL and a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. It should be noted that the Mitcham Common Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation also includes several small parcels of land that are not owned, managed or regulated by the Conservators and are therefore excluded from this management plan. The Common is protected by policies in both Merton and Sutton Councils' Unitary Development Plans and their respective emerging Local Development Frameworks and in the Mayor's London Plan. The Common is also part of the Wandle Valley Country Park which is part of a much larger area of land that has been identified as a possible Regional Park –The Wandle Valley Regional Park- in the London Plan

3.02 Biological Features

Mitcham Common covers some 182 hectares (455 acres) and supports acid and neutral grassland, heathland, ponds and other wetland features, secondary woodland and scrub. Together these habitats are home to a wide diversity of plants and animals, many of which are uncommon or rare. The Common has been profoundly altered by man's influences and this has shaped the site as we see it today. Nevertheless, the grassland, heathland and wetland habitats found on the Common are rare in the London context as is much of the flora and fauna that they support. Moreover without appropriate management, these habitats will be lost. The following table presents a subjective assessment of the importance of respective habitats and taxa found on the Common

Habitat/Taxa	Importance
Acid Grassland	National
Heathland	Regional/National
Neutral Grassland (Meadows)	Local/Regional
Scrub	Local
Woodland	Local/Regional
Plants (many London Notables)	Regional
Insects	Regional
Reptiles and Amphibians	Regional
Birds	Local/Regional
Other Mammals	Local

3.03 Education Opportunities

Mitcham Common is used for educational purposes at a variety of levels. Local schools use the area to carry out structured and unstructured activities, A-Level students and individuals from universities have undertaken research projects and wildlife organisations have visited the site to undergo training. The Common is also used as the base for a Wildlife Watch Group which meets at the Mill House Ecology Centre every month. The Ecology Centre could offer far more opportunities for people of all ages to learn about and experience the Common. However this aspiration will only be achieved if sufficient staffing resources are made available.

3.04 Public Use

The Common is located in a very urban setting and much of it falls within a Ward recognised as being of high social and economic deprivation. There is no doubt that the Common is valued by local people for both its wildlife interest and passive recreation opportunities, nevertheless it is underused and the Conservators are keen to rectify this situation.

The Common is well served by public transport, including frequent bus, train and tram services.

4.0 SECTION FOUR: FUNCTIONS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.01 Main functions of the Management Plan

- To identify and describe the assets of the Common
- To identify the objectives of site management and state how they will be achieved
- To provide a mechanism for reviewing the plan
- To provide a means of communicating the management philosophy of the Conservators

4.02 Main objectives of the Management Plan

- To manage and preserve the Common as an open space for local people
- To conserve, protect and enhance the Common's important features, thereby sustaining its biodiversity.
- To prevent encroachment and resist any development which adversely affects the Common.
- To encourage public access and provide and manage facilities for informal recreation thereby ensuring sustainable use for the enjoyment of the Common by the public and the safety of all users of the Common
- To provide information and develop public understanding of the Conservators' management objectives

The policies and prescriptions set out in the management plan aim to achieve these functions and objectives. The targets listed in the next section are intended as measurable outcomes for the management plan objectives

The management plan will cover the next five years, after which it will be reviewed.

4.03 Targets

Biodiversity

Over the next five years, by applying the policies described in this management plan, it is intended to maintain and enhance the Common's wildlife habitats and to create a net increase of 1.5ha (3.75 acres) of heathland and a net increase 2ha (5 acres) of good quality acid grassland on the Common. In order to obtain a baseline measurement of the Common's acid grassland resource, in 2008 it will be audited and graded according to Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring guidelines for acid grassland. The Conservators will also seek to implement Key Project 2.

Preservation and Management

The Conservators will seek to ensure that there is no net loss of commonland over the lifetime of the management plan. The Conservators will seek to implement Key Projects 3-9, 11, 13-14 over the lifetime of the plan.

Encourage Public Usage and Understanding of the Conservators' management Objectives

The Conservators will undertake a User Survey, the data gathered from the survey will influence the mid-period review. The Conservators will regularly update the website and continue to produce information leaflets.

4.04 Implementation: Financial Resources

The management plan must have regard to the resources that are available to the Conservators. The Conservators have no fund-raising powers and are therefore reliant on annual contributions from the three local authorities, income generated from a modest investment portfolio, income from wayleaves and licences, and grants that they are able to attract through the Mitcham Common Environmental Trust. Realistically the latter can only fund specific types of capital management works. Therefore expenditure for the core maintenance work programme has to come from the local authorities. Any reduction in this funding will adversely impact on the work programme and therefore the ability of the Conservators to implement many of the policies detailed in the management plan.

4.05 Implementation: Staffing

The London Borough of Merton acts as agent for the Conservators and employ a Warden, Assistant Warden and a small team of Estate Workers

to undertake the day-to-day maintenance of the Common, in accordance with policies in the management plan.

Merton Council also provides technical advice to the Conservators.

For operational reasons the Common is divided into seven sub-sites (see Appendix 4), which are further divided into habitat parcels each with a unique code. Explanation of the codes and descriptions of the habitat parcels are given in Appendix 3.

4.06 Implementation: Format of the management plan

Sections five to eleven of the plan contain policies relating to the theme of each section. Sections seven and eight detail habitat and amenity land management policies that will be applied to specific sub-sites and habitat parcels. Where appropriate, the timing and frequency of a specific management task and the habitat parcel to which it will be applied is listed after the policy. More detailed information on the precise location of management operations will be provided in a quarterly work programme that will be made available to the public.

Section twelve lists key projects to be completed during the life-time of the management plan.

A brief description, including notes on previous management and work required to maintain and/or enhance each habitat parcel is given in Appendices 5-11. The plan is supported by a set of aerial photographs that indicate the extent of the Common, its sub-sites and habitat parcels.

5.0 SECTION FIVE: GENERAL POLICIES

Policy 1: Duties of the Conservators

The Common will be managed in accordance with the duties of the Conservators and the policies described hereafter. Individual policies may be reviewed in light of any changes in circumstances. The management plan will be reviewed every five years.

The Mitcham Common Conservators are constituted as a statutory corporation by virtue of a Scheme confirmed by the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Act 1891. The powers and duties of the Conservators are set out in detail in the statutory Scheme. In substance the Conservators are required and empowered to regulate and manage the Common and this may be summarized as follows:

- to make and enforce byelaws for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order upon the Common
- the management of woodland, grassland and ponds
- to ensure free access to the public on foot to every part of the Common
- to prevent encroachment
- to prevent trespass
- to prevent enclosure
- to set aside parts of the Common for the playing of games and to regulate the use of those parts
- to protect and improve the Common

Policy 2: Equal Opportunities

In undertaking their management of the Common the Conservators are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social inclusion, eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting good relations between employees and between communities of all backgrounds.

Policy 3: Health & Safety

In accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Conservators will take all practicable measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees at work.

The Conservators will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

That all places under its control, where their staff are required to work, are maintained in a condition that is safe and without risk to health.

That a safe and healthy working environment is provided, with adequate facilities and arrangements for employee's welfare at work

That no hazards arise from the use, handling, storage and transportation of articles and substances used in connection with work

That plant and systems of work are safe and without risk to health.

The Conservators will provide whatever information, instruction, training and supervision is necessary to enable employees and members of the public to avoid hazards.

Policy 4: Management Techniques

The Conservators are committed to best practice within available resources and will always seek to minimise the environmental impact of management operations.

Best practice will, for example, mean that work is undertaken according to weather conditions and seasonal factors. Appropriate experimental work and/or pilot studies will be undertaken to support best management practice where necessary.

Policy 5: Byelaws and Local Policing

The Conservators will work closely with the local police and with their help will enforce the Mitcham Common Byelaws. The byelaws will be kept under review and, if necessary, amendments will be sought to reflect any changes in circumstances. The Conservators will also take into consideration any relevant legislation that may directly or indirectly impact on the Common's byelaws and will liaise with the London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton and Sutton over such matters.

The Common and its users are protected by a set of byelaws. See Appendix 15.

The Conservators' staff are in regular contact with the local police and have monthly meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern. In 2005 the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act was introduced giving local

authorities the powers to make Dog Control Orders. The Conservators intend to work closely with the three boroughs to ensure that the Common is covered by such Orders.

Policy 6: Consultation

The Conservators will consult with local user groups, wildlife organisations, local authorities and other statutory authorities when developing the policies in the management plan.

Before the management plan is formally adopted by the Conservators, there will be a period of public consultation during which time local user groups, neighbouring local authorities, wildlife groups and relevant statutory organisations will be given the opportunities to comment on the plan. Periodically the Conservators will conduct surveys of the users of the Common and where financially and practicably possible will seek to implement initiatives arising from the survey.

Policy 7: Work Programme

The Conservators will draw up an annual work programme for the Common, which will be published as quarterly seasonal work schedules. When significant or sensitive works are being undertaken, notices will be erected in the vicinity of the work site.

The annual work programme will detail prescriptions for sub-sites and habitat parcels on the Common. Local user groups will be kept informed through articles in local newsletters, site notices and the Conservators' website.

6.0 SECTION SIX: NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY POLICIES

Policy 8: Biodiversity

The Conservators recognise the importance of maintaining and enhancing the Common's biodiversity and will continue to pursue this as the main objective in the management of the Common.

The Conservators support the aims and objectives of the London Biodiversity Partnership (LBP) and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) and will participate in the preparation and implementation of those Habitat and Species Action Plans that are relevant to the Common. The Conservators will reflect the aims and aspirations of the LBP and LBAPs in their management of the Common.

Policy 9: Volunteers

The Conservators recognise the contribution made by volunteers engaged in biological recording, practical conservation and maintenance tasks and every effort will be made to support them, subject to the availability of resources.

Members of nature conservation societies undertake biological recording on the Common and allow the Conservators access to their data. The Merton Group of the London Wildlife Trust hold regular conservation workdays on the Common. Members of the Friends of Mitcham Common and local other local people carry out litter-picking on the Common. Every effort will be made to foster and encourage this important resource.

Policy 10: Ecological Surveying and Monitoring

Habitats and species will be surveyed and monitored to provide information to both influence habitat management and record the diversity of the Common's wildlife, subject to the availability of resources. Resultant data will be stored on a biological database (RECORDER).

In 1984 a Manpower Service Commission funded project, administered by the Merton Community Programme Agency, undertook an ecological survey of Mitcham Common (see reference listed in Appendix 12). The resultant report described the Common's habitats and much of the flora and fauna that they support. Since that time further studies, surveys and monitoring projects have been undertaken by volunteers and staff

The current monitoring projects are:

- Three butterfly transects
- Glow-worm transect
- Orchid monitoring
- Wildfowl monitoring on the Common's larger ponds
- Invasive plant surveys and monitoring
- Casual plant, bird and other mammals, and invertebrate recording
- Habitat monitoring

7.0 SECTION SEVEN: HABITAT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

7.01 Trees, Woodland and Scrub

Policy 11: Tree Management

All roadside and boundary trees, and trees growing adjacent to main footpaths will have annual safety inspections. If deemed necessary, bat surveys will be undertaken prior to any remedial arboricultural works being carried out. A database of tree location and management history will be established and maintained.

The Common has over 9 km (5.5 miles) of roadside boundaries and much of this is wooded with a range of tree species including a large number of poplar trees of varying age-classes. Over the lifetime of this management plan many of these will require pollarding or re-pollarding. Elsewhere on the Common trees growing adjacent to buildings and footpaths must be maintained in a safe condition so as not to present a hazard to members of the public or their property.

Policy 12: Existing Woodland Cover

The Conservators will aim to retain the majority of existing woodland cover in most woodland parcels on the Common. However in specific parcels, woodland cover will be reduced to expand grassland habitats.

The Conservators appreciate the value that users of the Common place on trees and woodland. However in the last 50 or so years the Common's woodland cover has increased considerably and in places this has been at the expense of acid grassland, a habitat that is recognised as being of national importance (see Policy 25). The Conservators will continue to reclaim areas that once supported acid grassland and over the lifetime of this management plan will push back woodland boundaries in the following areas:

Southern edge of S1: by up to 10 metres

Eastern edge of S9 (in consultation with Mitcham Golf Club): by up to 5 metres

Eastern edge of S7 (in consultation with Mitcham Golf Club): by up to 5 metres

In addition, where individual or small groups of mature trees are present in predominately grassland parcels, it may be necessary to remove them to prevent degradation of the grassland. This prescription will be applied to the following parcels: R1, R2, R3, R5, R7, R8, R9-R10, (in consultation

with Mitcham Golf Club), S2, S4, S5, S7-S9, (in consultation with Mitcham Golf Club), S10.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond Mill House	S1 (southern edge) R8	Winter 2007, 2009
Golf Course	S7 (eastern edge)	Winter 2008, 2010
Golf Course	S9 (eastern edge)	Winter 2008, 2010
Seven Islands Pond Gunsite Golf Course Mill House	R1-R3 S10 R9,R10, S7-S9 R5	Winter 2008
Seven Islands Pond One Island Pond Bidder's Pond Mill House	S2 S5 R7 S4	Winter 2009, 2011

Policy 13: Woodland Management

Woodland in the parcels referred to in the first part of Policy 12 will be managed to maximise nature conservation value by applying Policies 14-19.

Policy 14: Woodland Clearings

Existing woodland clearings will be maintained as open areas within woodland parcels.

Individual woodland parcels on the Common are relatively small and young with few clearings. However where clearings do exist they provide opportunities for invertebrates, birds and plants to exploit. Clearings will be kept open by cutting on rotation.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	S1	Winter 2007, 2010
Seven Islands Pond	S2	Winter 2008, 2011
Golf Course	S8	Winter 2008, 2011
Golf Course	S9	Winter 2008, 2010
Mill Green	S12	Autumn 2008, 2011

Policy 15: Woodland Edge

Wherever possible the margins of woodlands will be managed so as to provide a transition from trees through scrub to tall herbs by cutting scallops in the woodland edge.

Woodland edges can provide a rich habitat for invertebrate assemblages and some bird species if managed in such a way so as to provide a gradual transition from high trees through a scrub zone to tall herbs and grassland. Scallops will be cut in selected woodland margins and maintained by coppicing and occasional mowing.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	S1(northern edge)	Autumn 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
Seven Islands Pond	S2 (northern edge)	Winter 2008, 2011
Gunsite	S10 (eastern edge)	Winter 2007, 2010
Golf Course	S7 (eastern edge)	Winter 2008, 2011
Golf Course	S9 (eastern edge)	Winter 2008, 2010
Golf Course	S11(northern tip)	Winter 2007,2011
Mill Green	S12	Winter 2007, 2009
Mill House	S4 (northern and southern edge)	Autumn 2007, 2009, 2011

Policy 16: Wet Woodland

The only remaining area of wet woodland on the Common will be maintained by the selected removal of oak and sycamore trees and some localised pollarding or coppicing of willow.

Wet woodland is an uncommon habitat that survives in just one location (S2) on the Common. The willow scrub that used to predominate in this area is being invaded by oak and sycamore. The phased removal of these species should help to halt and reverse the decline of this habitat type.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	S2	Winter 2007, 2009, 2011

Policy 17: Deadwood

Deadwood will be left in situ as long as it does not present a threat to public safety. Wherever practicable cordwood from arboricultural works will be stacked into habitat piles.

Both standing and fallen deadwood are recognised as an important ecological resource in that they provide habitat for a range of flora and fauna. Wherever possible it will be left in situ. In addition, habitat piles from arboricultural operations will be created in both shady and sunny locations.

Policy 18: Bat and bird boxes

Bat and bird boxes will be attached to trees where deemed beneficial.

Bat and bird boxes provide potential nesting opportunities for hole nesting birds and roosting sites for bats. Where suitable natural tree holes are in short supply, boxes may be erected.

Policy 19: Undesirable Tree Species

The number and extent of undesirable tree species will be monitored and their spread in woodlands controlled.

Some species of tree readily establish themselves and rapidly colonise, and this can be detrimental to local flora and fauna. Sycamore and Turkey oak are two such trees and are both found on the Common. Although sycamore supports a high insect biomass, the species diversity is very restricted. Furthermore its leaf litter can suppress ground flora. Turkey oak is not only a rapid coloniser and supports few insect species, but also cross-fertilises with English oak giving rise to Turkey oak hybrids.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	S1, S2	Winter 2007
Golf Course	S11	Winter 2008
Mill House	R8 (excluding the trees adjacent to Windmill Road)	Winter 2008

Policy 20: Tree Planting

There will be a presumption against tree planting unless deemed necessary for additional screening purposes or for specific habitat or species enhancement.

Over the past 20 years or so thousands of trees have been planted on the Common to screen roads and unsightly buildings. During the early years of this period, planting was predominately larger trees (standards), but more recently mixtures of young mainly indigenous trees (whips) have been planted in blocks. This programme has proved successful in achieving its primary aim and over the lifetime of this management plan very little further tree planting will be carried out. There may however, be circumstances where the introduction of small numbers of a particular species of tree to enhance a habitat may be deemed desirable. For example in 2005 wych elm whips were planted in parcels of elm scrub to help compensate for the loss of elm trees to Dutch elm disease. And in 2006 the Common was part of a pilot project to trial a new hybrid elm that is resistant to Dutch elm disease. The growth of these trees will be monitor on the Common (and other sites in the UK) to determine whether this hybrid should be recommended as suitable planting stock for the UK.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Mill House	R8 (Boundary with industrial estate)	Winter 2007
Bidder's Pond	U5 (Boundary with industrial estate)	Winter 2008

Policy 21: Recent Tree Plantations

Selective thinning and coppicing of trees and shrubs will be undertaken to diversify the structure of plantations.

The narrative for Policy 20 describes recent tree planting. The blocks of young trees are now well established but are even-aged and lack structural diversity. To remedy this, over the lifetime of this management plan they will undergo thinning or be rotationally coppiced, thereby enhancing habitat quality by creating a denser understorey.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	N1	Winter 2007, 2009,2011
Seven Islands Pond	N2 (Southern edge)	Winter 2007
One Island Pond	Arthur's Pond (edge)	Winter 2008
Mill Green	S12	Winter 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011
Mill House	N9 (Eastern edge)	Winter 2008, 2011

Policy 22: Scrub Management

Scrub is recognised as being an important habitat type on the Common and will be conserved and maintained where its presence does not threaten acid grassland or heathland habitats or prevent the restoration of these habitat types. (see also Policy 25 & 29).

Scrub is defined as a mixture of shrubs and small trees. Scrub on the Common can be separated into two distinct types: single-species or mixed stands comprised of hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, elm and bramble; or gorse scrub. Gorse scrub can be further separated into those areas where it is an important component of heathland parcels and those where it exists as dense or widely dispersed patches. In many locations scrub has an important screening and security function and is also home to a range of insects and birds. However, it can rapidly invade grassland or heathland and if left unmanaged will turn into dense stands with limited insect value. Where scrub is to be preserved on the Common, management techniques such as rotational coppicing, and pollarding of established hawthorn, will be used to maintain and enhance the structural diversity of the stands.

Policy 23: Chemical Control

Chemical means of controlling invasive species will only be used in essential circumstances. The handling, storage and usage of chemicals will be undertaken in full compliance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations and Pesticide Act.

The Conservators recognise the importance of avoiding chemicals whenever possible. However in certain circumstance such as the control of invasive species or preventing unwanted re-growth from tree stumps, chemical methods are the only effective means of control.

7.02 Grassland and Heathland

Policy 24: Management of Flower-Rich Neutral Grassland.

Flower-rich grassland on the Common will continue to be cut for hay in late summer. Scattered scrub will be allowed to develop in selected locations on the grassland.

With the exception of Mill Hill (N3) all of the landscaped hills on the Common were seeded with a wildflower mix and have been cut for hay over the past ten or so years. This has enhanced floristic diversity and prevented uncontrolled succession to scrub. Where practicable some areas are cut on rotation to create structural diversity and provide overwintering sites for insects. The vegetation on Mill Hill is far more rank

in appearance with a relatively low floristic diversity comprised of tall fast-growing grasses and ruderal species. Hay cutting on this hill prevents scrub development and maintains an open grassland habitat and in the long-term will hopefully reduce the dominance of rank grassland. In addition to the hills, there are several flat grassland areas on the Common that are cut for hay, including a large part of Mill Green. Apart from the ecological benefits of hay cutting, if large areas of grassland were left uncut it would create an unacceptable fire hazard.

All of the areas referred to above are cut for hay using tractor-mounted agricultural machinery. There are however, small flower-rich areas where cutting and the removal of arisings will be carried out using pedestrian machinery.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond One Island Pond	N3 (alternative strips) N6 (alternative strips)	Annually in August/September
Seven Islands Pond Bidder's Pond Mill Green Mill House	U9 N4, N5 R15 N9 R8	Annually in August/September
Bidder's Pond	R6	Selected areas annually in August/September
Mill Green One Island Pond	R12 U5	Selected areas biennially in Autumn
Seven Islands Pond	T1, T2	Selected areas biennially in Autumn
Golf Course Bidder's Pond	T4 T3	Autumn 2008, 2010

Policy 25: Acid Grassland and Scrub Management
Maintain existing parcels of acid grassland and control scrub development (see also Policy 22)

Lowland acid grassland has declined nationally and is now recognised as a priority habitat by the LBP. Scattered stands of scrub with varied structure are a valuable part of an acid grassland habitat in that they provide local shelter and a food resource for invertebrates and birds. However if left uncontrolled they will form extensive, even-aged stands of limited ecological value that reduces the area of acid grassland. A mosaic of acid grassland and scattered scrub will be the target prescription for acid grassland parcels on the Common. Habitat parcels R1, R2, R3, R5,

R7, R12, N2 and U5 all require varying amounts of scrub control to create and maintain an acid grassland/scrub mosaic.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	R1	Winter 2009
Seven Islands Pond	N2, R2	Winter 2007,2009
Seven Islands Pond	R3	Winter 2007
Gunsite	R12	Winter 2007
One Island Pond	U5	Winter 2008
Bidder's Pond	R7	Winter 2008
Mill House	R5	Winter 2008

Policy 26: Acid Grassland Vegetation Structure

Where practicable, acid grassland parcels will be mown on rotation with the aim of maintaining a varied grassland structure and preventing the dominance of coarse grasses.

The high quality acid grassland parcels on the Common (excluding the golf course) will be cut once every three years, with adjacent stands being cut on alternative years so as to provide a variation in vegetation structure. Anthills are an important component of acid grassland habitat and must be avoided during mowing operations. The narrative for Policy 27 alludes to the problem of coarse grasses in acid grassland, where these are present mowing frequency may be increased so as to reduce their vigour. Most of the roughs on the golf course support quality acid grassland that has been maintained by a varied mowing regime, depending on the location of the individual rough. In most stands the rough is mown once or twice a year depending on factors such as width of fairway and proximity to tee. The mowing regimes for these roughs are determined by the Mitcham Golf Club in liaison with the Conservators and as far as is practicable aim to maintain a varied grassland structure without adversely impacting on the standards of play.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	R1	Late Summer 2009*
Seven Islands Pond	R2	Late Summer 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011*
Seven Islands Pond	R3	Late Summer 2008, 2011*
Golf Course	R7	Late Summer 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011*
Golf Course	R9-R13 (golf course)	Strips adjacent to fairways cut annually in Spring/early Summer.

		Remainder of each parcel will be cut on 3 year rotation.
Mill House	R5	Late Summer 2007, 2011*

*This should be view as a general guide. Annual surveys of individual parcels may reveal that the grassland requires a greater or lesser frequency of cutting

Policy 27: Restoration of Acid Grassland

In selected areas of de-graded acid grassland habitat, small-scale soil scrapes will be created to promote acid grassland re-colonisation. The success or otherwise of this policy will be carefully monitored.

On the Common, acid grassland has developed where there are thin, nutrient-poor acidic soils. Over a period of time, a lack of mowing or grazing coupled with dog fouling and atmospheric nitrogen deposition leads to a build-up of nutrients. This in turn results in a change in the habitat from one of fine-leaved grasses, typical of acid grassland, to one dominated by coarse grasses and rank vegetation. This is showing signs of occurring on several acid grassland parcels. More frequent mowing may reverse the change, however in some circumstances the best solution is to remove the enriched top layer of soil to encourage acid grassland re-colonisation. After removing the topsoil it may be necessary to seed the resultant scrape with green hay taken from another acid grassland parcel on the Common.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	R3 (several areas)	Winter 2007 and 2008

Policy 28: Heathland Conservation and Creation

The existing areas of heathland will be conserved and opportunities will be sought to extend the total area of heathland on the Common.

Lowland heathland has declined nationally and is now recognised as a priority habitat by the LBP. Most of the Common's heathland parcels are located on the golf course and over the years these have been enhanced and extended by appropriate management techniques such as heather cutting, scrub clearance and (re)seeding areas with heather. The smaller

heathland parcels elsewhere on the Common have been similarly managed. Further opportunities to extend the area of heathland on the Common must involve consultation with Mitcham Golf Club and must not be at the expense of good quality acid grassland habitat. In late 2006, as part of the London Heathland Recovery Strategy, a funding bid was submitted to a Landfill Tax Credit scheme. If successful funds will be available to extend the H1 heathland parcel into R8.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Golf Course	H3	Autumn 2007
Golf Course	H4	Autumn 2008
Golf Course	H5	Autumn 2007, 2009
Mill House	H1 extend into R8?	Autumn 2007
Mill House	H1 further extension into R8?	Autumn 2010

Policy 29: Heathland Management

Heathland will be managed in a way so as to maintain a range of plant species and a varied vegetation structure from bare ground to stands of mature heather and some scrub (see also Policy 22).

Although the heathland parcels on the Common are relatively small in size, in the London context they represent an important ecological resource which merits conserving and enhancing. Without appropriate management heathland will turn to scrub and woodland. A variety of management techniques are available to manage heathland, but the aim should be to maintain the heather so that both the pioneer/building phase and mature phase are present. Small stands of scrub are a valuable component of heathland, but common gorse should not be allowed to dominate heathland stands or become even-aged. To prevent the latter it will be managed by long-cycle rotational coppicing. Dwarf gorse on the other hand, is a London rarity and a frequent component of the shrub canopy in the Common's heathland parcels. Therefore, when undertaking scrub control dwarf gorse should not be removed.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Golf Course	H3, H4, H5	Autumn 2007,2008 2010
Mill House	H1	Autumn 2007, 2008, 2010

Policy 30: Burning

Burning will not be used as a management technique on either grassland or heathland sites. Firebreaks will be cut in areas that are especially prone to arson.

In the past small-scale controlled burns have been used to restore and maintain grassland sites and dwarf shrub communities. This practise has been discontinued because of fears that it would encourage arson. Although firebreaks will not prevent arson, they can reduce the area burnt in any one incident and assist the fire service in controlling fires.

Policy 31: Bare Ground

Where practicable existing bare ground will be maintained and the opportunity to create new areas will be sought so that a continuum of bare and re-vegetating ground is maintained in grassland and heathland parcels.

Areas of bare ground within a mosaic of grassland and heathland are very valuable for a range of plants and animals. These include burrowing and foraging insects, some lower and high plants, and animals that need to bask. On the Common there are some especially valuable patches on the golf course. These have been created by the movement of golfers from one tee to the next. Elsewhere ephemeral bare ground has been created by acid grassland and heathland restoration, and more permanent areas are to be found on many of the gravelly footpaths and the draw-down zone around Seven Islands Pond. Policy 27 and 28 will provide this habitat type on the parcels referred to under those policies. It would also be desirable to provide patches of bare ground in R12.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Gunsite	R12	Autumn 2007

Policy 32: Invasive Species in Grassland.

The spread of invasive species in grassland will be monitored and controlled.

Over the lifetime of earlier management plans considerable effort went into the eradication of the pernicious weed Japanese Knotweed. This plant

now only survives in a few small clumps on the Common and the programme to eradicate it will continue. Other plants that require some element of control on the Common are Michaelmas Daisy and Common Ragwort. Both of these plants have invertebrate interest and will not therefore be eradicated from the Common. However, the former will be controlled where it has invaded important grassland parcels. The latter will be removed by pulling or chemical means from R8 where its presence is threatening future hay cuts.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond Gunsite Golf Course Mill Green One Island Pond Bidder's Pond Mill House	All grassland parcels	Check annually for michaelmas daisy and control if necessary
Mill House	R8 (ragwort)	Summer Annually

7.03 Ponds and Wetlands

Policy 33: Existing Ponds

The existing ponds on the Common will be retained and maintained.

There are 11 ponds on the Common ranging from larger permanent waterbodies such as One and Seven Islands ponds, to smaller seasonal ponds that dry out in the summer months. The larger ponds are appreciated and valued by local people, however the ecological importance of seasonal ponds is often undervalued. Such ponds provide habitat opportunities for plants and animals, especially invertebrates and amphibians, that would be unable to survive the competition or predation present in permanent waterbodies.

Policy 34: Pond De-silting

Larger ponds will be de-silted as and when necessary.

The depth of silt in the larger of the Common's ponds is regularly monitored. Silt is an important component of a waterbody's ecosystem. However, excessive amounts reduce the available open water habitat and in time would lead to the pond turning into a marsh and ultimately a terrestrial habitat. In addition, Seven Islands Pond has a large and rapidly spreading stand of bogbean which will need to be reduced in size during the lifetime of this management plan. Before any future de-silting work, the

pond in question will be surveyed and a method statement detailing the most appropriate and least damaging way in which to undertake the work will be produced. It should be noted that de-silting operations invariably release nutrients into the water that were previously 'locked-up' in the silt. When this happens algal blooms often occur and these will be controlled by placing straw in the waterbody.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	Seven Islands Pond	Late Summer/Autumn 2008
One Island Pond	One Island Pond	Late Summer/Autumn 2010

Policy 35: Marginal Vegetation around the Common's Larger Ponds.

The spread of willow scrub will be encouraged around the margins of One Island Pond. The spread of the common reed stand on the edge of Bidder's Pond will be encouraged.

Mature Crack Willow trees were once a valuable wildlife and landscape feature around One Island Pond, but vandalism (arson) and a failure to pollard the trees has meant that only one remains and this is now little more than a tall stump. To compensate for this loss, willow has been planted around the edge of the pond and there are signs of some regeneration from the last mature willow to fall. Vandalism, in the form of cutting of wood for campfires, continues to be a problem, but nevertheless willow scrub is developing and by enforcing the relevant byelaw it should be possible to maintain and enhance these stands. The small and slowly spreading stand of Common Reed on the western bank of Bidder's Pond, will be maintained and encouraged to spread by transplanting rhizomes from the stand to other suitable sites around the western margin of the pond.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
One Island Pond	One Island Pond (willow planting)	Autumn 2007, 2009
Bidder's Pond	Bidder's Pond (reed)	Spring 2007, Spring 2008?

Policy 36: Island Vegetation

The development of willow scrub on the islands of Seven Islands Pond will be controlled to prevent it becoming dominant over all the islands.

Willow scrub on many of the islands of Seven Islands Pond is spreading at an alarming rate and reducing the available habitat for waterfowl. This will be controlled by a combination of coppicing and stump treatment.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	Seven Islands Pond	Late Summer/Autumn 2007 and 2009

Policy 37: Angling

Angling will be permitted in Seven Islands Pond and One Island Pond, but if angling pressure has a detrimental impact on the ponds' ecology and/or amenity value fish stocks will be reduced. In all of the Common's other ponds fish stocks will not be allowed to develop.

In the past angling pressure on the Common's two largest waterbodies harmed wildlife and the visual appearance of these two valued features. Discarded tackle, littering, over-fishing, bait digging, tree damage, overnight camping and other anti-social behaviour occurred on an almost daily basis during the spring and summer months. In the late 1980s the Conservators held discussions with representatives from the local and regional fishing fraternity with the aim of regulating the angling on the Common. These discussions failed to come up with a solution and so the decision was taken to periodically de-stock the ponds. Although there are still damaging incidents, in general this policy has worked well and there has been a marked improvement in the situation since it was first implemented.

Policy 38: New Ponds

The Conservators will create new ponds where appropriate.

In the past two decades several new ponds have been created and these have added to the diversity of wildlife habitats on the Common. However when implementing this policy the Conservators will be mindful of Policy 39.

Policy 39: Seasonal Ponds and other Wetlands

Wetland areas will be maintained and conserved.

The Common holds a number of seasonally inundated areas that support an interesting flora, including London and Surrey rarities. Scrub must not be allowed to invade these sites and the temptation to excavate them to create permanent waterbodies must be avoided. In some of the seasonal ponds it will be necessary to remove excessive aquatic vegetation and control algal blooms.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	T1	Autumn/Winter 2009
Seven Islands Pond	T2	Autumn/Winter 2008
Seven Islands Pond	T9	Autumn/Winter 2010
Golf Course	T4	Autumn/Winter 2008, 2011
Golf Course	T5	Autumn/Winter 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
Golf Course	T7	Autumn/Winter 2009, 2011
Golf Course	T8	Autumn/Winter 2010
Bidder's Pond	T3	Autumn/Winter 2009, 2011

Policy 40: Ditches on Mitcham Golf Club and Mill Green

Mitcham Golf Club will be encouraged to maintain and conserve the network of ditches on the golf course and, where practicable, open up those that are currently piped. The ditch on Mill Green will be managed so as to provide areas of open water interspersed with clumps of aquatic vegetation.

The golf course now has significant lengths of open ditches that were once enclosed in pipes. These ditches have water running through them for much of the year and support an impressive array of plants, breeding amphibians and invertebrates. However, they also have an important drainage function on the course and must not be allowed to silt-up or become choked with aquatic vegetation. With carefully phased maintenance they can retain both their drainage function and nature conservation interest.

Mill Green ditch is choked with aquatic vegetation and heavily shaded by bankside vegetation. Small-scale reduction in aquatic vegetation and selective thinning of bankside trees would greatly enhance its biodiversity value.

Policy 41: Drainage Ditch Maintenance

Clearance of excessive emergent aquatic vegetation, the cutting of ditch sides and banks, and the removal of silt and leaf litter will be undertaken over short ditch lengths on rotation.

Whenever practicably possible, in any one year only part of a ditch run should be cleared of vegetation and/or silt. By clearing short, non-adjacent sections, plants and animals can re-colonise from the un-cleared sections.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Golf Course	R9 (centre of fairway)	Winter 2007
Golf Course	R10 (eastern edge of fairway), T5	Annually
Mill Green	T11	Winter 2007-2009

Policy 42: Invasive Species in Ponds and Wetlands

The spread of invasive species in ponds and ditches will be monitored and controlled.

The invasion of natural wetland habitats by non-native species has become increasingly recognised as being a serious threat to the continued existence of many habitats. Non-native plants when released into the wild often pose a threat to native flora by successfully out-competing them. One such plant is Australian Swamp Stonecrop. During the past 5 years this plant has spread to many of the ponds on the Common. A control programme has been implemented but due to its vigorous growth and ability to exist in three distinct growth forms, it is very difficult to control. Nevertheless progress has been made and the monitoring and control programme will continue. Another plant that can become a problem in aquatic habitats is Himalayan balsam. This has been recorded and subsequently eliminated from One Island Pond, but a much larger stand of this plant exists on the bank of Mill Green ditch and this will be controlled by pulling.

In the 1990s a craze for Red-eared terrapins arose out of the 'Ninja Turtle' fashion. These grow rapidly and in many cases were subsequently released into local ponds. They have been recorded in all three of the Common's larger ponds. Although they are thought not to breed in the UK, they have a very long lifespan and are voracious predators of fish and waterfowl. They are difficult to catch, but have been caught in ponds on the Common whilst undertaking fish de-stocking. When caught they are either re-housed at a 'rescue centre' or humanely dispatched

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond Golf Course One Island Pond Bidder's Pond	Inspect all ponds for stonecrop and treat as required	Spring/Summer annually
Mill Green	T11 (Himalayan balsam)	Spring/Summer annually
Seven Islands Pond Golf Course One Island Pond Bidder's Pond	Inspect all ponds for the presence of terrapins	Spring/Summer annually

8.0 SECTION EIGHT: RECREATION AND AMENITY LAND-USE POLICIES

Policy 43: Recreational and Amenity Grassland Areas

The current areas of recreational or amenity grassland will continue to be frequently mown. However there will be no increase in the area of intensively mown grassland on the Common.

There are a number of areas on the Common that are mown for recreational and amenity reasons. These include a large part of Mill Green, the area surrounding the Bidder Memorial, several linear areas in the vicinity of Commonsides East, Carshalton Road and Windmill Road, the Fairsite, the environs of Mill House Ecology Centre and several miles of mown footpaths.

Sub-Site	Habitat Parcel	Timing of work
Seven Islands Pond	Bidder Memorial	May, July, September
Seven Islands Pond	Footpaths, U1, U2	May, July, September
Gunsite Mill Green	N8 R14	Bimonthly Spring/Summer
Mill House	Mill House Ecology Centre	Monthly Spring/Summer
Mill House	Watneys Road, U11	Monthly Spring/Summer

Policy 44: Roadside Vegetation

The Conservators will continue to cut all herbaceous roadside vegetation at least three times during each growing season. Any overhanging woody vegetation will also be cut back as required.

Vegetation emanating from the Common and growing over highways and adjacent pedestrian footpaths represents a hazard to pedestrians and motorists alike. Moreover it gives the impression that the Common is unmanaged. Accordingly all herbaceous roadside vegetation will be cut back during the growing season and any overhanging branches pruned-back. However it should be noted that the local highway authority, not the Conservators, is responsible for maintaining highway sightlines and keeping public footpaths free from detritus which if allowed to accumulate would reduce the available width of the walking surface. The Conservators will liaise with the relevant authority over such matters and encourage them to take remedial action where necessary.

Policy 45: Fly-Tipping

Fly-tips will be removed from the environs of the Common as soon as is practicably possible, subject to the availability of resources. In addition the Conservators will work with the local authorities to prosecute any person caught fly-tipping.

Mitcham Common has a number of roads running across it, this inevitably means that fly-tipping is an issue. In recent years the incidents of fly-tipping have been somewhat reduced by a combination of enforcement action by the local authorities and road closures. Nevertheless incidents of fly-tipping still occur and the Conservators will clear these as a matter of urgency, subject to the availability of funding.

Policy 46: Litter Control

Users will be encouraged to minimise the litter problem on the Common by using the litter-bins or taking their litter away with them. Litter collection will continue to operate, but the frequency of this operation will be subject to the availability of resources.

Litter-bins have been placed at strategic locations around the Common and these will continue to be emptied on a regular cycle. However in future there will be a presumption against installing bins near residential areas because some residents regard them as a suitable receptacle for their domestic waste.

The Common is sub-divided by a number of roads that create some 9 km (5.5 miles) of roadside verges, which suffer from a high volume of discarded litter. Currently Merton Council Waste Services staff undertake regular litter-picking of roadside verges and an annual clearance of litter and accumulated detritus in roadside ditches. The remainder of the Common is litter-picked by staff based on the Common. These tasks are labour intensive and will only continue at the existing frequency if funding and staffing levels remain the same.

Policy 47: Made Footpaths

The existing network of hoggin footpaths on the Common will be maintained. Any remaining tarmac paths will be removed or resurfaced, subject to the availability of resources. Any future made footpaths will be surfaced with hoggin (or similar material). The Conservators may from time to time permit local authorities to upgrade existing made footpaths on the Common for the purpose of pedestrian usage. In such cases the footpaths will be surfaced with

hoggin (or similar material) and the Conservators may require the local authority to fund future maintenance.

Made footpaths if constructed from inappropriate materials such as tarmac would detract from the natural appearance of the Common. Hoggin is a clay and gravel/stone substrate that mimics the underlying geology of the Common and is therefore an appropriate hard-wearing material to use. Occasionally local authorities may request permission to surface well-used commuter pedestrian footpaths that run of the edge of the Common. If the Conservators agree to such a request, for the reasons discussed above, hoggin will be specified as the final surface treatment of the footpath.

Policy 48: Unmade Footpaths

The existing network of unmade footpaths will be mown and maintained in a safe condition underfoot. However if the route of a desire-line footpath causes conflict with ecological issues then the mowing will cease and the footpath allowed to close. In extreme cases temporary fencing may be used.

The development of unmade footpath is inevitable on the Common and most routes cause no conflicts. Occasionally however, footpaths develop through sensitive areas that support, for example, uncommon plants. In such cases the path must be closed by temporarily blocking the route until vegetation recovers and the footpath disappears.

Policy 49: Made Tracks To Roadside Properties

The Conservators are not obliged to maintain existing made tracks in a condition suitable for vehicular movements. The Conservators may however, allow local residents or the Local Highway Authority to maintain and/or upgrade the tracks

In many cases the existing made tracks, that provide vehicular access across the Common to properties, were established before the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891. The Conservators are not required to maintain these tracks and anybody wishing to do so must first obtain the consent of the Conservators. Nevertheless, over the years the Conservators and persons unknown have filled in potholes and undertaken minor repairs to the surface. In 2003 the Conservators in partnership with Merton Council and Transport for London allowed resurfacing works to the track leading to Aspen Gardens.

The existing tracks are to be found at the following locations:

Arney's Lane
Aspen Gardens
Commonside East
Mitcham Garden Village
Tamworth Villas
Windmill Industrial Estate

Policy 50: Boundary Security

The Conservators will continue to install a range of physical measures to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to the Common.

Unauthorised vehicular incursions onto the Common were once a frequent occurrence. To prevent this nuisance the roadside boundaries of the Common are now protected by, ditches, bunds or bollards, and all access points for authorised vehicles are secured with metal barriers. The Conservators will continue to review boundary security and use the most appropriate means to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to the Common.

Policy 51: Roadside Signs

Local highway authorities will be encouraged to use existing street furniture when installing future highway signage. The Conservators will not be responsible for the maintenance of highway signage or sightlines.

The Conservators have no direct control over the positioning of signage and certain other street furniture required by local highway authorities under the Road Traffic Act. However, they will liaise with the relevant authority over the positioning of such signage. Furthermore, although the Conservators are not responsible for the maintenance of roadside signage or highway sightlines, they will encourage the relevant authority to undertake all necessary maintenance.

9.0 SECTION NINE: EVENTS, FILMING AND LICENCES

Policy 52: Fairs and Events

The Conservators will set aside and maintain two fairground sites on the Common for the purpose of fairs and other family-orientated entertainment. Both sites can have a maximum of two events per annum.

There is a long established tradition of fairs on Mitcham Common and the provision of a site near the north-eastern boundary of the Common ('The Fairsite') and on the amenity grassland on Mill Green will continue. Trees will not be allowed to develop on the operational area of The Fairsite and from time to time it may necessary to re-surface the area with crushed tarmac, stone or wood chippings.

Policy 53: Filming on the Common

The Conservators will permit licenced filming on the Common provided that any such activity does not damage or disturb wildlife interest or cause a public nuisance.

Filming can provide a useful source of income. However before granting a licence to film the Conservators will take all reasonable steps to ensure people's enjoyment of the Common would not be disrupted or wildlife harmed by any filming activities.

Policy 54: Wayleaves

The Conservators will consider all wayleaves on an individual basis and not grant them if their route would result in permanent damage to a sensitive wildlife habitat.

There are number of extant wayleaves on the Common relating to services provided by statutory undertakers such as gas, water and electricity. In many cases these were granted a great many years ago. When maintenance and or replacement works are needed the Conservators will seek to ensure that the work does not harm sensitive wildlife habitats. In the case of new wayleave applications, the Conservators will seek to ensure that these avoid sensitive habitats.

Policy 55: Licenced Advertising

The Conservators may permit licensed advertising at certain points around the margins of the Common.

From time to time the Conservators may permit licensed advertising boards where this does not conflict with the natural appearance of the Common.

10.0 SECTION TEN: PLANNING CASEWORK

Policy 56: Land Exchange and Acquisition

When negotiating with Local Authorities over land exchange or acquisition, the Conservators will require that any such land transactions do not result in a net increase in the annual maintenance costs for the Common. In circumstances where an increase is predicted, the Conservators will require a commuted sum to offset the increase. The Conservators will negotiate with Merton Council over the transfer back to the Common of the land over which Watneys Road current runs.

The Conservators may only transfer the ownership of commonland if the land in question is required for highway purposes and in such cases an equivalent area of land must be provided in exchange. In such circumstances the Conservators will be mindful of the cost of maintaining the exchange land and may require a budget to be part of the transfer. The same principle will be applied if local authorities seek to transfer the ownership of land parcels that are adjoining, but not part of, the Common. In 2006 Watneys Road was permanently closed to vehicular traffic. This road separates the Mill House and Bidder's Pond sub-sites. The Conservators have expressed a desire to (re-) unite these two areas.

Policy 57: Planning Applications and Planning Briefs

Planning applications and planning briefs which relate to the margins of the Common will continue to be monitored and, where deemed necessary, the Conservators will submit representations of objection or support.

Policy 58: Local Development Frameworks and other Strategic Policy Documents

The Conservators will continue to monitor and respond to strategic policy documents that may impact on the Common.

It is essential that the Conservators continue to monitor and respond to planning applications and strategic policy documents that may have a direct or indirect impact on the Common and its environs. To this end the Conservators will continue to maintain close liaison with the relevant planning authorities.

11.0 SECTION ELEVEN: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION POLICIES

Policy 59: Mitcham Common Website

The Conservators will continue to maintain a website for the purpose of promoting Mitcham Common

The Mitcham Common website has been operational for a little over a year and provides a valuable means of communicating information about the Common.

Policy 60: Environmental Education and Information

The Conservators will actively seek funding to develop the Mill House Ecology Centre as a building from which to promote the role of the Common as an environmental educational and information resource. The Conservators will continue to support the 'wildlife walks' organised by the Friends of Mitcham Common.

The Common is a very valuable resource for environmental education purposes, however it is currently under-utilised. In 1998 the Conservators were able to secure funding through the Single Regeneration Budget for Pollards Hill to equip the Ecology Centre and employ an environmental education officer for three years. This funding initiative led to the development of an environmental education programme that benefited several hundred local school children and their families. Although the Conservators currently do not have the funding to employ an Environmental Education Officer, the Ecology Centre is nevertheless still used as a base for a Wildlife Watch Group and occasional school visits. In addition its facilities are frequently used by the Friends of Mitcham Common, local wildlife groups and to host events staged by the Conservators. The Conservators will continue to support the excellent monthly 'wildlife walks' organised and led by the Friends of Mitcham Common.

In 2001 the Conservators established the Mitcham Common Education Trust, a charity with the objective of promoting, encouraging and facilitating environmental education on Mitcham Common. Through this charity, it is hoped funding can be attracted to realise the full potential of the Common as an education resource.

Policy 61: Interpretation Boards and Leaflets

The Conservators will maintain the existing interpretation boards and relevant byelaw signs. In addition they will continue to produce information leaflets and other printed material to publicise the Common, subject to the availability of resources.

The Conservators appreciate the need for interpretative signage at suitable locations around the Common. However redundant signage, such as the exiting horse trail markers that were installed when horse riding was a regular occurrence on the Common, will be removed during the lifetime of this management plan. In recent years the Conservators have published a series of leaflets describing the history and biodiversity of the Common and co-funded a book on the history of the Common.

12.0 SECTION TWELVE: KEY PROJECTS

Key projects to be completed over the lifetime of the management plan. Those marked * will require a significant staffing resource, those marked ** will require a financial commitment which will need to be included in annual budgets.

Project Number	Project	Policy Number	Financial Year
1.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out User Survey Analyse data from user survey 	6	2007 2008
2.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of biological surveys on the Common Implement 5 year programme 	10	2007 2007-12
3.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing tree data for the Common's roadside and boundary trees Design management database Develop and implement survey and recording programme for roadside and boundary trees 	11	2007 2007 2008-12
4.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acid grassland restoration S1 	12	2007, 2009
5.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Mitcham Golf Club on proposed acid grassland restoration S7 and S9 Depending on outcome of consultation, undertake acid grassland restoration 	12	2007 2008-10
6.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heathland creation on parcel H1 if external funding becomes available Monitor heathland establishment If establishment successful, consider financial expenditure required to extend heathland creation over whole or larger part of R8 Explore funding opportunities for extending heathland 	28	2007 2008-9 2010 2011

7.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit grant application to desilt and enhance Seven Islands Pond • If application successful desilt and enhance pond 	34	2007 2008
8.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential funders and apply for funding to desilt and enhance One Island Pond • Desilt and enhance One Island Pond if external funding becomes available 	34	2009 2010
9.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a management brief that considers the potential for biodiversity enhancements to Mill Green • Depending on the recommendations in the management brief, consult local users/residents on enhancement proposals and consider financial implications 	8 6	2008 2009
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review website 	59	2008
11.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a fund raising strategy aimed at maximising the potential of the Common as an educational resource and identifying funding bodies that may be responsive to applications to provide financial assistance towards the current and future Key Projects identified in the management plan 	60 & Habitat Management Policies	2007-8
12.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce revised "Gunsite" leaflet (current leaflet out of stock) 	61	2007
13.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate eligibility of Common's habitats for Higher Level Stewardship • Depending on outcome, apply for HLS 	Habitat Management Policies	2007 2008

14.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate eligibility and suitability of the Common's woodland for entry into English Woodland Grant Scheme • Depending on outcome, apply for entry into English Woodland Grant Scheme 	Habitat Management Policies	2007 2008
15.*	Audit the Common's acid grassland resource and grade according to Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring guidelines for acid grassland		2008
16*	Mid-period review of management plan		2009

Mitcham Common Sub-Sites and Habitat Parcels

For operational reasons the Common is divided into 7 sub-sites. These are:

- Seven Islands Pond Sub-Site
- Gunsite Sub-Site
- Golf Course Sub-Site
- Mill Green Sub-Site
- One Island Pond Sub-Site
- Bidder's Pond Sub-Site
- Mill House Sub-Site

Each sub-site is further divided into a series of parcels with a unique code which reflects specific habitat types and its location. The vast majority of which are taken from the 1984 survey *The Ecology of Mitcham Common* (Morris 1984). The site codes generated have been used ever since as a means of identifying an area for the purpose of maintenance operations and recording biodiversity interest. There are however some changes and additions:

- Mill Green and some other small parcels adjacent to Commonsides East and Carshalton Road were not included in the 1984 survey

- Heathland parcels were not given a unique code in 1984

Habitat type and description

- H Heathland.
- N Tips including old domestic rubbish dumps (circa 1940s) and more recent (circa 1980s) soil/rubble tips. The more recent ones were seeded with a wildflower seed mix.
- R Grassland both acid and neutral, including golf course roughs/fairways and amenity grassland (code R4 is no longer used).
- S Woodland (code S3 was not used).
- T Area subject to standing water
- U Sites subjected to other influences or those which did not fit into the above categories (codes U6, U8 and U10 were not used).

Habitat parcels in each sub-site

Seven Islands Pond Sub-site

Seven Islands Pond

H2

N1, N2, N3

R1, R2, R3

S1, S2

T1, T2, T9

U1, U2, U9, U11

Golf Course Sub-Site

H3, H4, H5

R9, R10, R11, R13

S6, S7, S8, S9, S11, S14

T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T10

U7

One Island Pond Sub-Site

One Island Pond

N6

S5

U5

Mill House Sub-Site

Mill House Ecology Centre

H1,

N7, N9

R5, R8

S4

Gunsite Sub-Site

N8,

R12

S10, S13

Mill Green Sub-Site

Beddington Carrier

R14, R15

S12

T11

Bidder's Pond Sub-Site

Arthur's Pond

Bidder's Pond

N4, N5

R6, R7

T3

U3

Appendix 4 shows a recent aerial photograph of the whole of Mitcham Common with each of the seven sub-sites marked. Appendices 5-11 are aerial photographs of each of the sub-site with the location of habitat parcel indicated. These are followed by a table for each sub-site which provides a brief description of the habitats, notes on previous management and work required to maintain and/or enhance each habitat parcel.

Appendix 4: Sub-sites

Appendix 5: SIP

SEVEN ISLANDS POND SUB-SITE	
Name or habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
Seven Islands Pond TQ 2860 6820	Former Victorian gravel pit. Partially de-silted 1976,1993,1997, 1999. Breeding wildfowl, amphibians and aquatic insects. Large spreading stand of bogbean. <u>Work required: extensive desilting</u>
H2 TQ 2893 6830	Small patch of heathland that was extended in 2005 by clearing surrounding scrub followed by soil-scraping and seeding with heather. <u>Work required: non-interventional management</u>
N1 TQ 2830 6855	Former rubbish tip 1940s. Species poor neutral grassland with ruderal species. Tree (whip) planting in blocks at southern end and roadside verge. Poplar spp. planted on western side of parcel. Maintain as open grassland with blocks of scrub and trees. <u>Work required: largely non-interventional management</u>
N2 TQ 2830 6835	Former rubbish tip 1940s. Grassland and scrub. Acid grassland developing in some areas. Manage as mosaic of scattered scrub and grassland. <u>Work required: scrub management</u>
N3 TQ 2890 6805 Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme	Former domestic rubbish tip. Neutral/rank grassland and ruderal species on the top, similar plus scrub and tree planting (oak and hybrid poplars) on the verges. <u>Work required: Rotational hay cut allow scrub/woodland to develop on the verges.</u>
R1 TQ 2845 6815 Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme	Acid grassland, anthills, gorse (common and dwarf) and scrub with scattered oaks. This area has benefited from recent (late 1990s) scrub clearance. <u>Work required: acid grassland and scrub management.</u>

<p>R2 TQ 2835 6833</p> <p>Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme</p>	<p>The western side of this parcel has benefited from recent (2001) scrub clearance and subsequent scrapping-off of enriched soil. Acid grassland is now re-colonising. The rest of the parcels are a mixture of acid grassland associated with both damp and dry conditions interspersed with blocks of scrub. Some of the grassland is in a de-graded condition due to enrichment. <u>Work required acid grassland maintenance and creation and scrub management.</u></p>
<p>R3 TQ 2894 6826</p> <p>Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme</p>	<p>A mixture of wet and dry open acid grassland interspersed with ant hills and with oak scrub on the eastern boundary. Much of the dry grassland is degraded, a restoration scrape was created in 2006. <u>Work required: periodic grass cutting and scrapes on degraded areas.</u></p>
<p>S1 TQ 2870 6841</p>	<p>Secondary woodland with a range of tree and scrub species. <u>Work required: control invasive species, glade/scallop management, tree safety inspections and push back woodland boundary with R2.</u></p>
<p>S2 TQ 2855 6805</p>	<p>Wet woodland. Sallow scrub on shallow former gravel working. <u>Work required: prevent oak and sycamore becoming dominant.</u></p>
<p>T1 TQ 2856 6847</p>	<p>Wet grassland with standing water in winter. Uncommon plants. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development.</u></p>
<p>T2 TQ 2883 6832</p> <p>Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme</p>	<p>Predominately acid grassland associated with wet ground, interspersed with scrub. <u>Work required: prevent scrub encroachment.</u></p>
<p>T9 TQ 2864 6809</p>	<p>Seasonal pond deepened in late 1980s. Good amphibian breeding site. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and shading.</u></p>

<p>U1 TQ 2852 6855</p>	<p>Mown grassland strip bordering houses. Of limited wildlife interest. <u>Work required: grass mowing.</u></p>
<p>U2 TQ 2840 6810</p>	<p>Predominately scrub woodland running adjacent to Croydon Road. With patches of ruderal habitat, grassland and mature poplar trees. The Bidder Memorial is located in this parcel. The memorial will be maintained and sightlines to it kept clear. <u>Work required: tree safety inspection and largely non-interventional management of the wooded areas, grass mowing around memorial.</u></p>
<p>U9 TQ 2906 825</p>	<p>Neutral grassland with scrub and planted trees (whips) around the edges. <u>Work required: annual hay cut.</u></p>
<p>U11 TQ 2891 6840</p>	<p>Parcel of elm scrub with gang-mown grassland strip bordering houses. <u>Work required: Tree safety inspections and grass mowing</u></p>

Appendix 6: Gunsite

GUNSITE SUB-SITE	
Habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
R12 TQ 2838 6740	The northern area of this predominately grassland parcel was, until 1964, covered with buildings associated with war-time gun emplacements and still retains features of disturbed ground together with a mosaic of acid grassland and scrub. There is a large almost continuous stand of gorse scrub along the roadside site boundary. The southern portion has both wet and dry acid grassland habitats interspersed with scrub. Taken as a whole this parcel supports uncommon plants, invertebrates and reptiles. <u>Work required: maintain acid grassland and scrub mosaic.</u>
S10 TQ 2853 6730	Mature oak woodland which has developed in a shallow depression resulting from gravel extraction. The oaks on the southern boundary of this parcel (and extending in to U10) are the oldest on the Common and were probably planted as parish boundary markers. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
S13 TQ 2812 6695	Secondary woodland with a number of mature willow and poplar trees. <u>Work required: tree safety inspections.</u>
N8 TQ 2818 6742	Three separate parcels of grass of little wildlife interest. <u>Work required: grass mowing.</u>

Appendix 7: Golf Course

GOLF COURSE SUB-SITE	
Habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
H3 TQ 2849 6799	Heathland parcel that benefited from gorse scrub reduction in 2006. <u>Work required: scrape and seeding and further scrub management.</u>
H4 TQ 2884 6780	The largest heathland parcel on the Common that has been increased by gorse scrub reduction and seeding scrapes. <u>Work required: scrub management.</u>
H5 TQ 2906 6757	Heathland parcel that has been increased in size over the past decade by gorse scrub reduction and seeding scrapes. <u>Work required: further scrub management followed by scrape and seeding.</u>
R9 TQ 2904 6763	Fairways and acid grassland roughs. With a number of drainage ditches, some of which support an interesting array of plants. <u>Work required: management of roughs by occasional cutting. Ditch management. Some tree removal.</u>
R10 TQ 2865 6770	Similar to R9 with an important ditch system that runs along the edge of the woodland parcel and feeds into T7. This ditch supports an impressive array of aquatic plants. <u>Work required: management of roughs by occasional cutting. Ditch management. Some tree removal.</u>
R11 TQ 2833 6790	Good quality acid grassland roughs with occasional patches of heather and gorse, and inappropriate tree planting. <u>Work required: management of roughs by occasional cutting.</u>

R13 TQ 2865 6738	Predominately mown fairways with frequently mown roughs but with acid grassland on the northern perimeter and south-west side. <u>Work required: management of roughs by occasional cutting.</u>
S6 TQ 2923 6738	A thin belt of secondary woodland. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
S7 TQ 2885 6772	One of the oldest stands of secondary woodland on the Common with a number of relatively old oak trees and well-developed understorey. <u>Work required: non-interventional management of main woodland parcel, push back woodland boundary on eastern edge.</u>
S8 TQ 2852 6780	Secondary woodland similar to S7. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
S9 TQ2822 6794	Secondary woodland divided by a gas pipeline/path that mimics a woodland ride. Supports a range of insects and good bird habitat. <u>Work required maintain ride, push back woodland boundary on eastern edge.</u>
S11 TQ 2810 6800	Secondary woodland with a range of native trees and undesirable sycamore trees. Small grassland parcel on the northern tip. <u>Work required: non-interventional management of main woodland parcel, scrub management of grassland parcel.</u>
S14 TQ 2885 6731	Linear strip with boundary oaks 100+ years old, interspersed with other mature trees and grassland. The eastern end of this strip is not owned by the Conservators and therefore excluded from this management plan. Some tree (whip) planting. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
T4	Seasonal pond on the edge of a small

TQ 2878 6748	wooded parcel. Possible bomb crater from 1940s, enlarged and deepened in 1980s and some de-silting in 1993. Starfruit introduction in 1995 (no germination to date). Supports a range of plants and aquatic insect and amphibians. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and control invasive species.</u>
T5 TQ 2907 6748	Small pond dug in 1991 on the line of a drainage ditch running through a small parcel of mature secondary woodland. This pond tends to retain water for most of the year and supports breeding amphibians and aquatic invertebrate species. Can become choked with aquatic vegetation and algal blooms. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and control invasive species.</u>
T6 TQ 2898 6736	Steep-sided seasonal pond. Supports breeding amphibians. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and control invasive species.</u>
T7 TQ 2872 6781	Seasonal pond dug in 1992 fed by drainage ditches. Good aquatic flora and supports breeding amphibians. Australian Swamp Stonecrop has been recorded and chemically treated in this pond. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and control invasive species.</u>
T8 TQ 2872 6736	Three long-established small seasonal ponds. Support breeding amphibians. In 2006 it was agreed to enlarge two of the ponds. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
T10 TQ 2851 6772	Seasonal pond dug in 2004. Supports breeding amphibians. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>
U7 TQ 2816 6777	Parcel comprising a mixture of scrub and ruderal habitats. <u>Work required: non-interventional management.</u>

Appendix 8: Mill Green

MILL GREEN SUB-SITE	
Habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
R14 TQ 2818 6706 (3 parcels close together) TQ 2817 6694 TQ 2805 6690	Five separate parcels of grassland of little wildlife interest. Mature and semi-mature trees around the edge. The south-western parcel has three mature hybrid black poplars with invertebrate interest. <u>Work required: tree safety inspections, grass mowing.</u>
R15 TQ 2819 6702 Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme	Formerly gang-mown grassland. In 1994 the mowing regime was relaxed to benefit wildlife. Predominately neutral grassland with patches of acid grassland and a depression which is seasonally wet. The smaller of the two is less botanically interesting. <u>Work required: tree safety inspections, annual hay cut.</u>
S12 TQ 2812 6695	Planted in early-1990s with a range of native and ornamental trees interspersed with grassland. Has developed into good bird habitat. <u>Work required: maintain and enhance structural diversity of woodland.</u>
T11 TQ 2808 6701	Originally this was linked, via a series of smaller ditches and culverts, to the reach of the River Wandle. It is now fed from the surrounding catchment area and outfalls in to the Beddington Carrier (see below). Parts of the ditch were desilted and excess vegetation cleared in 1994. Now choked with aquatic vegetation. There is a range of riparian plants, including undesirables, interspersed with scrub and mature trees on the banks. The ditch has botanical and invertebrate interest. <u>Work required: desilting and vegetation clearance.</u>
The concrete channel running across Mill Green is known as the Beddington Carrier and takes treated effluent from Beddington Sewage Treatment Works to the River Wandle. The management of the Beddington Carrier and the footbridge that runs over it is not the responsibility of the Conservators and is therefore outside the scope of this management plan.	

Appendix 9: OIP

ONE ISLAND POND SUB-SITE	
Name or habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
One Island Pond TQ 2934 6745	Former Victorian gravel pit. Island with scrub and marginal plants. Planted scrub willow on the north and south banks. Drained in 1994 and partially de-silted, still has deep silt in places. Common waterfowl, amphibians and a range of dragonflies breed. Australian Swamp Stonecrop has been recorded in this pond. <u>Work required: desilting and control of invasive species.</u>
N6 TQ 2950 6745	Former inert waste tip 1980s. Seeded with neutral grassland and wildflower mix. Small stands of self-seeded scrub on north-facing verge and tree planting (hybrid poplars) on east and south-facing verges. Good array of wildlife flowers and butterflies. <u>Work required: rotational hay cut</u>
S5 TQ 2915 6762	Fragmented secondary woodland. <u>Work required: largely non-interventional management</u>
U5 TQ 2970 6735	A mixture of flower-rich neutral grassland with patches of acid grassland in the south-east with encroaching scrub. Tree (whip) planting on the north-eastern edge. <u>Work required: maintain woodland clearings and reduce scrub encroachment.</u>

Appendix 10: Bidder's Pond

BIDDER'S POND SUB-SITE	
Name or habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
Arthur's Pond TQ 2966 6795	Old concrete-sided seasonal pond fed from road run-off and drains from the surrounding Common. Little aquatic vegetation but valuable for amphibians. The sides are planted with thorn scrub. Australian Swamp Stonecrop has been recorded in this pond. <u>Work required: control invasive species.</u>
Bidder's Pond TQ 2975 6778	Dug in 1990, sandy shallow shores that shelve to a deep middle zone. Little aquatic vegetation but good amphibian and aquatic insect habitat. Small stand of planted common reed on the western bank interspersed with willow scrub. Bund to the south was created from the excavated material. Australian Swamp Stonecrop has been recorded in this pond. <u>Work required: control invasive species and encourage spread of reed.</u>
N4 TQ 2965 6765 Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme	Reinstated and landscaped in 1981. The composition of this hill is thought to be gravelly topsoil over rubble. Originally seeded with a wildflower mix. Spanish Broom planted on east-facing bank. Range of wildflowers and butterflies recorded on this site. <u>Work required: annual hay cut.</u>
N5 TQ 2990 6760 Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme	Similar history to N4. Poplar and willow trees planted as a block on the top of hill. Good range of plants recorded. <u>Work required: annual hay cut.</u>

<p>R6 TQ 2974 6781</p> <p>Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme</p>	<p>Predominately neutral grassland with areas of seasonally wet grassland supporting uncommon plants. Planted hybrid poplars, together with blackthorn and elm scrub with invertebrate interest, on the northern perimeter. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development and cut selected areas on rotation.</u></p>
<p>R7 TQ 2990 6770</p> <p>Much of this parcel is part of an Environmental Stewardship scheme</p>	<p>Dry acid grassland with gorse. Bordered by elm scrub on the northern perimeter and hawthorn and planted hybrid Poplar trees to the east. <u>Work required: prevent scrub development.</u></p>
<p>T3 TQ 2962 6778</p>	<p>Formerly a series of gravel workings that were in-filled in the 1960s. Now blocks of scrub interspersed with seasonally wet grassland supporting uncommon plants and invertebrate interest. <u>Work required prevent scrub development.</u></p>
<p>U3 TQ 2999 6776</p>	<p>An area of imported soil resulting from in-filling of gravel extraction. Now predominately seasonally wet grassland. <u>Work required: cut selected areas on rotation.</u></p>
<p>U4 TQ 2974 6752</p>	<p>Fairsite comprising hard standing and pockets of acid and neutral grassland with gorse and planted trees on the southern perimeter. <u>Work required: non-interventional management</u></p>
<p>The strip of land on the northern edge of this sub-site and the parcel adjacent to Wingate Crescent on the eastern boundary are not owned by the Conservators and therefore outside the scope of this management plan.</p>	

Appendix 11: Mill House

MILL HOUSE SUB-SITE	
Name or habitat code Grid reference	Description/Work Required
H1 TQ 2911 6809	Small parcel with heather, dwarf gorse and common gorse. Heather seedling trial plot was created in the meadow grassland to the west of H1 in 2002. Heather has established suggesting possible site for heathland restoration. <u>Work required: heathland creation.</u>
N7 TQ 2924 6778	Former tip reinstated to football pitches that then became surplus to requirements in the early 1990s. Rank grassland and ruderal species with scrub developing in places. In the early 1980s the roadside edge of this parcel was planted with poplar trees. <u>Work required: largely non-interventional apart from tree safety.</u>
N9 TQ 2925 6826	Neutral grassland with a hedge and mature poplar trees along the eastern boundary. <u>Work required: annual hay cut.</u>
R5 TQ 2940 6792	Acid grassland and scrub mosaic and occasional poplar tree in the central and southern portion of this parcel. On the northern side the scallop in S4 is predominately acid grassland associated with damp conditions. Interesting array of plants and reptile habitat. <u>Work required: maintain grassland scrub mosaics and prevent scrub encroachment in scallop.</u>
R8 TQ 2916 6804	Most of this area was once football pitches that were mown out of existing grassland rather than tip as with N7. Grassland still surprisingly good with a mixture of acid and neutral maintained by hay cut. The north-western corner of this parcel underwent extensive poplar tree planting in 1980s to screen industrial estate. This parcel also includes the wooded area to the north of the Ecology Centre. <u>Work required: tree safety inspections, annual</u>
Much of this parcel is part of an	

Environmental Stewardship scheme	<i><u>hay cut.</u></i>
S4 TQ 2955 6795	Secondary woodland with a scrub interface with adjoining grassland scallops. <i><u>Work required: largely non-interventional management on the woodland parcel.</u></i> <i><u>Occasional vegetation cutting and scrub management of the scallops.</u></i>

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Index of Latin Names

Apart from where NVC types are referred to, throughout the text common names have been used. All the species and taxa referred to in the main text are listed below with their latin names.

Adders Tongue Fern	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
Bedstraw, Heath	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
Bent, Common	<i>Agrostis capillaries</i>
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilium</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Broom, Spanish	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Bunting, Reed	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Daisy, Michaelmas	<i>Aster</i> species
Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista anglica</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Elm, English	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
Elm, Wych	<i>U. glabra</i>
Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
Fescue, Sheep's	<i>Festuca ovina</i>
Gorse, Common	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Gorse, Dwarf	<i>U. minor</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaccus europaeus</i>
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedra helix</i>
Ivy-Leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopis japonica</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Lizard, Common	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>
Mouse, House	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Mouse, Yellow-Necked	<i>Apodemus flavocollis</i>
Mouse, Wood	<i>A. sylvaticus</i>
Narrow Buckler Fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>
Newt, Smooth	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctule</i>

Oak, English	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Oak, Turkey	<i>Q. cerris</i>
Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Orchid, Common Spotted	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Orchid, Marsh	<i>D. praetermissa</i>
Parsley Water Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe lachenalis</i>
Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus</i> species
Poplar	<i>Populus</i> species
Ragwort, Common	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Sallow (Willow)	<i>Salix</i> species
Saw Wort	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>
Scabious, Devil's-bit	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Shrew, Common	<i>Sorex araneus</i>
Shrew, Pygmy	<i>S. minutus</i>
Shrew, Water	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilli</i>
Sorrel, Sheep's	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Spiny Restharrow	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>
Starfruit	<i>Damasonium alisma</i>
Stonecrop, Australian Swamp	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Toad, Common	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Tufted-Hair Grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Vole, Bank	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>
Vole, Field	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>
Warbler, Garden	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Warbler, Willow	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Water Purslane	<i>Peplis portula</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Whitethroat, Lesser	<i>S. curruca</i>
Willow, Crack	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus latatus</i>

Glossary of Technical Terms

Acid Grassland	Grassland of high ecological value that grows on acid soils. This type of grassland supports a range of uncommon plants and insects. This habitat type has declined in recent decades due to development pressures and inappropriate management.
Amenity Grassland	Grassland of low ecological value that is maintained by regular mowing to accommodate amenity usage rather than biodiversity
Arboriculture	The planting and care of woody plants, especially trees
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems
Biodiversity Action Plan	A plan that sets objectives and actions for the conservation of biodiversity with measurable targets, following the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
Byelaws	A rule made by a local authority or similar organisation
Coppice	Management practice involving cutting trees and shrubs down to ground level to encourage them to re-shoot; usually carried out on a regular cycle
Cordwood	A measurement of cut wood where the wood is over 10cm in diameter.
Deadwood	Wood either on the ground or still attached to the tree itself that is no longer living but still important for wildlife, especially fungi and invertebrates
Deciduous	Shedding or losing foliage at the end of the growing season
Ecology	The study of the inter-relationships among organisms and between organisms, and between them and all aspects, living and non-living, of their environment

Ecosystem	A relatively self-contained community of interacting organisms
Environmental Stewardship	A government funded agri-environment scheme open to farmers and other land owners
Fauna	All the animal life in a particular region
Flora	All the plant life in a particular region
Grassland	A habitat dominated by grass species (or a mixture of herbs and grasses), with an absence of woody species
Habitat	The local environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population or community
Habitat Creation	The creation of habitats of nature conservation interest
Habitat Restoration	The improvement of existing habitats
Heathland	A habitat dominated by dwarf shrub species
Hibernation	The torpid or resting state in which some animals pass the winter
Invertebrate	An animal, such as an insect that lacks a backbone
Local Development Framework	A portfolio of development documents including a core strategy and a series of action plans that are produced by each Local Authority
London Biodiversity Partnership	Established in 1996 in response to the UK Biodiversity Plan. It aims to protect and enhance the capital's habitats and species for current and future generations to benefit from and enjoy
London Clay	A geological formation found in SE England
London Plan	Spatial development strategy for London
Management	The control of vegetation for a specific purpose in order to control certain species or achieve certain structure
Marginal plant	A plant species that occurs on the edge of a habitat
Metropolitan Open Land	Areas of predominantly open land occurring within the built-up area which are significant to London as a whole and are protected against development
Monitoring	To keep track of systematically with a view to collecting information

National Vegetation Classification	A system classifying all natural and semi-natural vegetation communities specific to Britain (Rodwell, 1991 <i>et seq</i>)
Native	Originating, growing, or produced in a certain place or region
Nature Conservation	The protection, management and promotion for the benefit of wild species as well as the human communities that use and enjoy them
Niche	The functional position of an organism in its environment, comprising the habitat in which the organism lives, the period of time during which it occurs and is active there, and the resources it obtains there
Non-Interventional Management	Where little or no direct vegetation management is undertaken
Open Space	An area of land to which the public has unrestricted access
Overwintering	Live through the winter
Pollarding	A system of management in which the main stem of a tree is severed at or higher than 2 metres above ground level
Priority Habitat	London's priority habitats, identified by the London Biodiversity Partnership, cover areas defined particularly by their vegetation and areas defined by their use. There are 19 Priority Habitats and these aim to cover all of London's importance wildlife areas
Ruderal Species (Habitats)	A species that is adapted to growing/living in disturbed habitats
Rhizome	Persistent underground stem providing a means of vegetative propagation
Scallop	A clearing on the edge of woodland/scrub in the shape of a scallop
Scrub	A growth or tract of stunted (usually woody) vegetation
Secondary Woodland	Woodland that has grown up on land that has previously been cleared of trees
Shrub	A woody species that usually does not attain a mature height as great as a

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	tree A series of sites identified by the Greater London Council/London Ecology Unit chosen to represent the best wildlife habitats in London. Sites are classified into Metropolitan, Borough and Local Importance
Soil	The upper layer of earth in which plants grow, consisting of weathered rock and (usually) organic matter
Subsoil	Layer of soil beneath topsoil, with lower nutrient levels and organic matter content
Taxa (Taxon)	A group of organisms of any taxonomic rank (e.g. family or species)
Topsoil	Top layer of soil characterised by higher fertility and organic matter content than the subsoil beneath
Transect	A line used in ecological surveys to provide a means of measuring the distribution of organisms. Recordings are made at intervals along the line
Understorey	Trees/shrubs present in the lower canopy of a woodland
Unitary Development Plan	Statutory plans produced by boroughs that integrate strategic and local planning responsibilities through policies and proposals for the development and use of land in their area
Wayleave	Access to property granted by a landowner for payment
Wetland	A wide category containing various examples of habitats that are wet
Wet Woodland	Woodland occurring on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, usually birch and willows as the predominant tree species
Wildfowl	A collective term for all ducks, geese and swans
Woodland	A habitat dominated by trees or other woody species

Mitcham Common Byelaws

BYELAWS

made by the Mitcham Common Conservators under the Scheme confirmed by the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891, with respect to Mitcham Common.

Interpretation

1. In these byelaws:

"the Act" means the Metropolitan Commons (Mitcham) Supplemental Act 1891;

"the Common" means the pieces of land with the ponds and roads thereon, commonly known as Mitcham Common and Mill Green (formerly Beddington Corner), situate in the London Boroughs of Croydon, Merton and Sutton, being parts of "the Commons" referred to in the Scheme confirmed by the Act;

"the Conservators" means the Conservators for the time being appointed under the Scheme confirmed by the Act.

Trading

2. No person shall on the Common, without the consent of the Conservators, sell, or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity or article.

Camping

3. No person shall on the Common, without the consent of the Conservators, erect a tent or use any vehicle, including a caravan, or any other structure for the purpose of camping, except on any area which may be set apart and indicated by notice as a place where camping is permitted.

Erection of structures

4. No person shall on the Common, without the consent of the Conservators, erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure.

Protection of wildlife

5. (1) No person shall on the Common intentionally kill, injure, take or disturb any animal or fish, or engage in hunting, shooting or fishing, or the setting of traps or nets, or the laying of snares.
- (2) This byelaw shall not prohibit any fishing which may be authorised by the Conservators.

Cattle, etc.

6. No person shall, without the consent of the Conservators, bring or cause to be brought on to the Common any cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, or any beast of draught or burden.

Removal of substances

7. No person shall, without the consent of the Conservators, remove from or displace on the Common any stone, soil or turf, or the whole or any part of any plant or tree.

Fires

8. (1) No person shall on the Common intentionally light a fire, or place, throw or let fall a lighted match or any other thing so as to be likely to cause a fire.
- (2) This byelaw shall not apply to any event held with the consent of the Conservators.
- (3) This byelaw shall not prevent the lighting or use of a properly constructed camping stove or cooker in any area set aside for the purpose, in such a manner as not to cause danger of or damage by fire.

Protection of Ground

9. No person shall enter upon any part of the Common which may have been set apart by the Conservators for the purpose of preparation for the growth of any tree, shrub, plant, grass or turf, where a notice to keep out of such an area is placed in a conspicuous position on the Common.

Removal of structures

10. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, remove from or displace on the Common any barrier, railing, fence, post or seat, or any part of any structure or

ornament, or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the Common.

Vehicles

11. (1) No person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride or drive a cycle, motor cycle, motor vehicle or any other mechanically propelled vehicle on the Common, or bring or cause to be brought on to the Common a motor cycle, motor vehicle, trailer or any other mechanically propelled vehicle (other than a cycle), except on any part of the Common where there is a right of way for that class of vehicle.

(2) If the Conservators have set apart a space on the Common for use by vehicles of any class, this byelaw shall not prevent the riding or driving of those vehicles in the space so set apart, or on a route, indicated by signs placed in conspicuous positions, between it and the entrance to the Common.

(3) This byelaw shall not extend to invalid carriages.

(4) In this byelaw:

"cycle" means a bicycle, a tricycle, or a cycle having four or more wheels, not being in any case a motor cycle or motor vehicle;

"invalid carriage" means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms, the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres and which has been constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person, being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability and is used solely by such a person;

"motor cycle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms;

"motor vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, intended or adapted for use on roads;

"trailer" means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle, and includes a caravan.

Aircraft

12. No person shall, except in case of emergency or with the consent of the Conservators, take off from or land upon the Common in an aircraft, helicopter, hang-glider or hot-air balloon.

Horse-riding

13. Where any part of the Common has, by notices placed in conspicuous positions on the Common, been set apart by the Conservators as an area where horse-riding is permitted, no person shall, without the consent of the Conservators, ride a horse on any other part of the Common.

Games

14. (1) No person shall, on any portion of the Common which may have been set apart by the Conservators for any game, play or practise any game when the state of the ground or other cause makes it unfit for use, and a notice is placed in a conspicuous position prohibiting play on that portion of the Common.

(2) Where the Conservators have, by a notice placed in a conspicuous position on the Common, set apart a portion of the Common for the playing of such games as may be specified in the notice, no person shall:

- (a) Without the consent of the Conservators, play or practise on such a portion any game other than the game for which it has been set apart;
- (b) without the consent of the Conservators, play or practise any game so specified on any other part of the Common;
- or
- (c) play or practise any game so specified, except in accordance with any regulations made by the Conservators for the time being in force.

Annoyance and damage from games

15. (1) No person shall on the Common play any game:

- (a) so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person on the Common; or
- (b) which is likely to cause damage to any tree, shrub or plant on the Common.

(2) This byelaw shall not extend to any area set apart by the Conservators for the playing of any game specified in byelaw 14 (2).

Golf

16. (1) No person, other than a member of the Club or a person authorised by the Club, shall play or practise golf on the golf course.

(2) In this byelaw:

"the Club" means Mitcham Golf Club or their successors or assigns;

"the golf course" means any part of the Common which is for the time being set apart for use as a golf course.

Missiles

17. No person shall on the Common, to the danger or annoyance of any other person on the Common, throw or discharge any missile.

Model aircraft and boats

18. (1) No person shall on the Common, except in such places and subject to such conditions as the Conservators may prescribe:

- (a) release any power-driven model aircraft for flight or control the flight of such an aircraft;
- (b) cause any power-driven model aircraft to take off or land; or
- (c) operate or sail on any pond any boat other than a model yacht or toy boat.

(2) In this byelaw:

"model aircraft means an aircraft which either weighs not more than 5 kilograms without its fuel or is for the time being exempted (as a model aircraft) from the provisions of the Air Navigation Order;

"power driven" means driven by the combustion of petrol vapour or other combustible vapour or other combustible substances.

Noise

19. (1) No person on the Common shall, after being requested to desist by an officer of the Conservators, or by any person annoyed or disturbed, or by any person acting on his behalf:

- (a) by shouting or singing;
- (b) by playing on a musical instrument; or
- (c) by operating or permitting to be operated any radio, gramophone, amplifier, tape recorder or similar instrument;

cause or permit to be made any noise which 'is so loud or so continuous or repeated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to other persons on the Common.

(2) This byelaw shall not apply to any person holding or taking part in any entertainment or assembly held with the consent of the Conservators.

Obstruction

20. No person shall on the Common:

- (a) intentionally obstruct any officer of the Conservators in the proper execution of his duties;
- (b) intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Conservators; or
- (c) intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the Common, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons on the Common.

Savings

21. (1) An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Common by an officer of the Conservators, or any act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Conservators, shall not be an offence under these byelaws.

(2) Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of these byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect any public right of way through the Common, or the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the Common or any part thereof.

Removal of Persons

22. Any disorderly person may be removed from the Common by an officer of the Conservators or a constable.

Penalty

23. Any person offending against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 1 on the standard scale.

Revocation

24. The byelaws made by the Conservators on 30 December 1891 and confirmed by the Local Government Board on 18 February 1892 relating to the Common are hereby revoked.

GIVEN under our Corporate Seal this twenty first day of July One thousand nine hundred and ninety four.

SEALED with the Common Seal of the Conservators in the presence of:

W. E. R. HADDOW Chairman.

G. J. NORRIS Clerk to the Conservators.

The foregoing byelaws are hereby confirmed by the Secretary of State and shall come into operation on the twenty third day of January 1995.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State M. E. HEAD An Assistant Under-Secretary of State

20 December 1994 Home Office London SW1