



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Cranford Country Park

Management Plan
2013 – 2017
Year Two



Green Spaces Team
London Borough of Hillingdon
Green Flag Winner Since 2002



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Countryside Park

1. Introduction to Cranford Countryside Park

Cranford Park lies on the flat expanse of the Thames floodplain of West London which is characterized by dense industrial and housing developments surrounding Heathrow Airport. It is representative of old remaining estates such as that of Osterley Park to the west and Hanworth park to the south which have survived the expansion of London during the 20th Century and would formally have been surrounded by open farmland.

To the west of the centre of the river Crane the Park is within the London Borough of Hillingdon and to the east it is within the London Borough of Hounslow.

This is the third 5 year management plan for Cranford Park. The previous plan ran from 2008 to 2012.

2. How to use this Plan

This plan provides the aims, objectives, background information, and plans for the management of Cranford Country Park.

Information relating to the site's key objectives can be found as follows:

Aim	Objective
Create and maintain a welcoming site	P41
Ensure the site is healthy, safe and secure	P42
Ensure the site is clean and well maintained	P44
Ensure sustainable management of resources	P44
Appropriate management of conservation and heritage features	P47
Encourage community involvement	P48
Ensure effective marketing of the facility	P50
Implement effective management strategies	P51

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4. Site Summary

	Details
Site Name	Cranford Countryside Park
Address (Main Entrance)	The Parkway Hounslow Middlesex
Postcode	TW5 9RZ
Grid Reference	North Site NGR TQ 104 786 South Site NGR TQ 101 778
Size of site	North Site 8ha South Site 45ha
Ownership	London Borough of Hillingdon
Name of Lead Officer	Alison Shipley
Lead Officer's contact details	Postal: Green Spaces Team Civic Centre 4W/08 High St, Uxbridge Middlesex, UB8 1UW Phone: 01895 250 647 Fax: 01895 250 646 Email: Ashipley@hillingdon.gov.uk
Date site acquired	1930s
PPG17 designation	Country Park
London Parks typology designation	Country Park
Access points	Main Entrance: The Parkway Other Entrances: Via kissing gates off Cranford Lane, Watersplash Lane Via St Dunstans subway from Roseville Road and via subway from Fuller Way
Access – Public Transport	Buses: 81, 105, 111, 222, H98, E6, H28, 195 Trains – Hayes & Harlington Station – approximately 1 km to the north west (Buses 195 & E6)

Key features	
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Key habitats	Wildflower Meadows Tussocky Grassland Wetland Ponds Secondary woodland
Historic features	Grade II listed structures including Stable Block; Ha-ha, Crinkle crinkle wall & cellars
Horticultural features	None
Sporting features	Bridle way; cycle path; model aircraft club
Other recreational / leisure facilities	Children's Playground
Resting points	6 x park benches
Other designations	Borough Grade II
Conservation Area	Yes
Tree preservation orders	No
Playground/s designations	Local Area of Play

Description:

Cranford Countryside Park is a relatively large green open space situated between Hayes and Heathrow, Middlesex.

It has a diverse number of habitats which are great for enjoying and studying wildlife. There is a small visitor centre and toilet facilities which are open to the public.

The park incorporates a variety of attractive features including:

- wildflower meadows
- woodlands
- a children's playground
- a footpath network
- ponds
- historical buildings

Cranford Countryside Park is a large green open space situated adjacent to junction 3 of the M4 motorway. The Park is divided into two parts by the motorway and both of these areas extend westwards of the A312 (The Parkway) to the north and south of the M4.

Cranford Countryside Park (northern site) = 8ha (22 acres) Cranford Countryside Park (southern site) = 45ha (122 acres)

Northern site

Watersplash Lane and the Crane Pub define the northern boundary of the Park. Land to the north of the Lane between the River Crane footbridge and The Parkway is not part of the Park, nor is the strip of wasteland that adjoins The Parkway. This land was transferred by Ministry of Transport to Transport for London in 2000, although the London Borough of Hounslow expressed an interest acquiring the land. The southern limit of the park runs along the bottom of the motorway embankment and excludes the fence line. The remaining boundaries are defined by the rear gardens of the properties in Roseville Road.

Southern site

The northern limit of this area lies at the bottom of the motorway embankment and excludes the fence line. The eastern boundary includes the fencing at the driveway entrance and the chain link fence running alongside the Parkway before Avenue Park is reached. The centre of the River Crane demarcates the remainder of the eastern boundary. At the southern end Frogs Ditch defines the boundary. To the west the chain link fence on the west side of Frogs ditch demarcates the limit of the Park.

Farmland and gravel pit workings lie beyond. Crane Meadows, a field on the western boundary was withdrawn from public use for gravel extraction. Discussions took place between the London Boroughs of Hounslow and Hillingdon, the Department of Transport/Highways Agency and the Valuation Office during the mid 1990s to include this land within the park as mitigation for land lost to the M4 motorway in the 1960s. There was unanimous agreement to incorporate this land into the park and a landscape improvement scheme was approved, there were ongoing discussions between the previous contractor and Hillingdon Council.

Overview



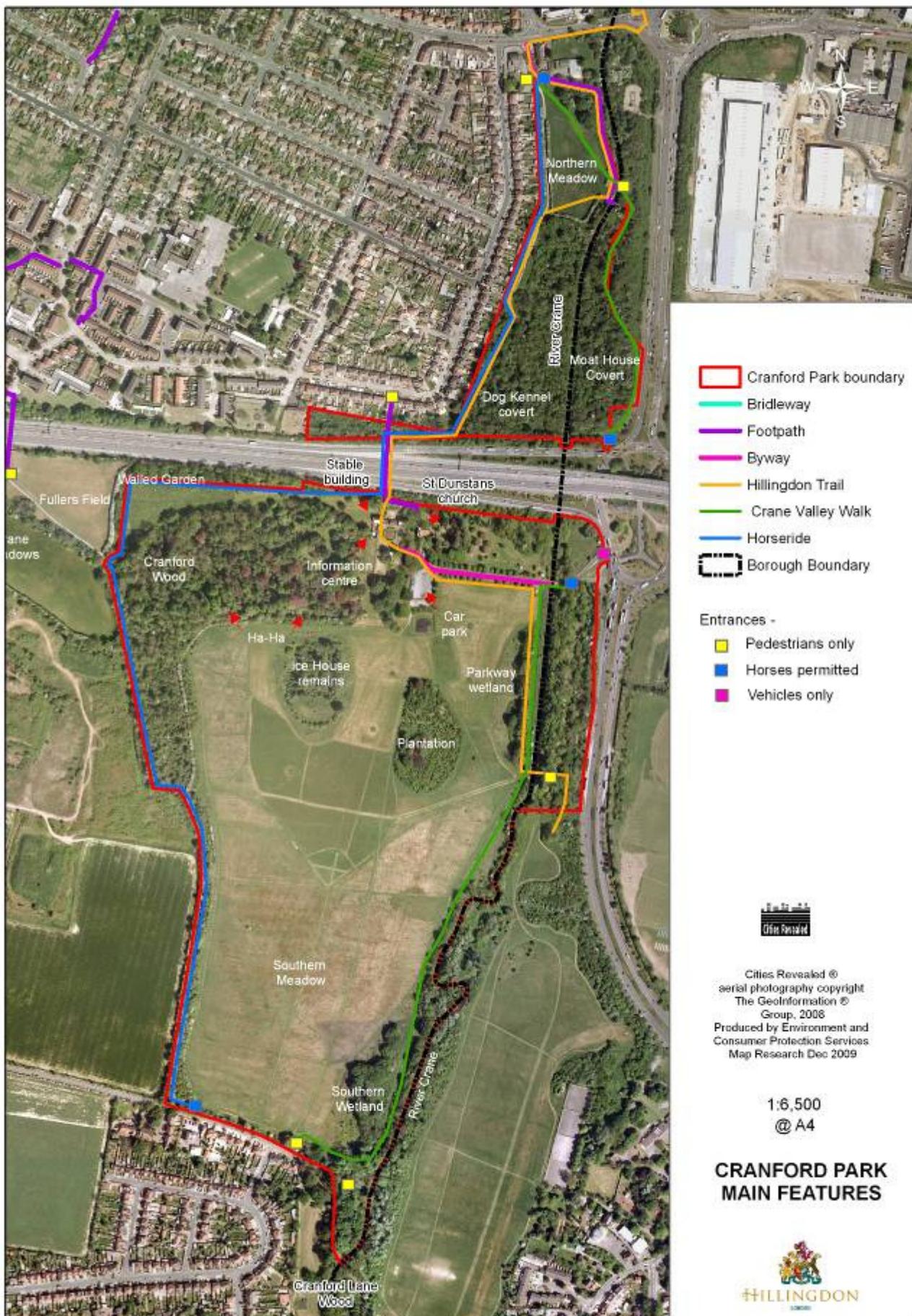
The parkland is situated within Hounslow and Hillingdon Green Belt land and is classified as a Grade II Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The section of the River Crane within the park however was recently promoted from a Grade 1 Site of Borough Importance to a site of Metropolitan Importance for nature conservation by the Mayor of London. The southern area of the Park falls within the Cranford Conservation Area.

The early 18th century stable block, Ha-Ha wall, walled garden wall, crinkle crinkle wall, ice house, and the cellars (remains of Cranford house) are all grade 2 listed historical structures as well as the cellars being on the English Heritage At-Risk list.



Cranford Country Park Management Plan

Map 1. Key Features of Cranford Countryside Park



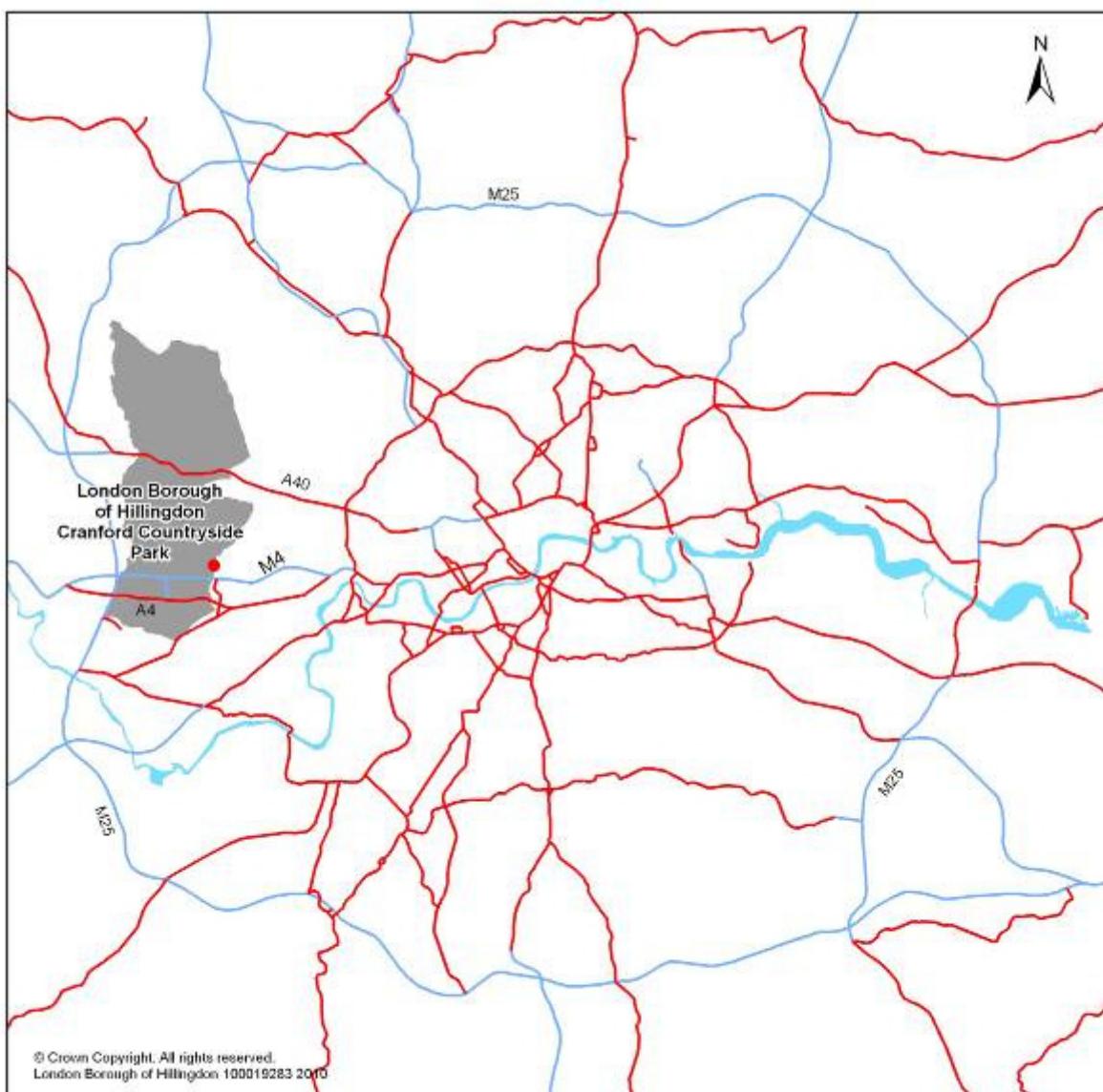
Location:

Cranford Countryside Park is located in the most westerly London borough, the London Borough of Hillingdon (see Appendix A for description), in the area of Heathrow villages (see Map 2, below).

By road, Cranford Countryside Park is:

- 16 miles from central London
- 4 miles from Heathrow airport
- 6 miles from A40
- 4 miles from M25
- $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from M4

Map 2. Location of Cranford Countryside Park



Access:

Cranford Countryside Park is situated between Hayes and Heathrow and is adjacent to junction 4 of the M4 motorway and the Hayes Bypass (A312).

The Country Park has 5 formal entrances for the public.

The single-track driveway leads westwards over the River Crane to the car park. A metal gate and a 2m height barrier are situated at the eastern side of the bridge. The gate is locked at night and the height barrier is kept locked at all times except when access is required. At the southern end of the Park authorised and emergency vehicle access is possible via two telescopic lockable bollards and a locked barrier off Cranford Lane.

Car Parking: - There is a small car park off of The Parkway, which is opened and closed daily.

Pedestrian access: Pedestrians and horse riders can gain access from St Dunstan's Subway or Cranford Lane. Further entry for pedestrians is possible from the 7.5m long footbridge over the River Crane leading to Avenue Park, the subway system at the M4 junction or by Fullers Subway that passes under the M4 outside of the Park to the west.

Buses: Services 81 (between Hounslow and Slough), 105 (between Heathrow Airport Central and Greenford Station), 111 (between Kingston and Heathrow Airport Central), 222 (between Hounslow and Uxbridge) and the H98 (between Hounslow and Hayes End) pass to the south of the Cranford Countryside Park along the Bath Road from which it is only a short walk through Berkeley Meadows. The E6 (between Tescos at Bulls Bridge and Greenford) stops close to the footpath that leads to St Dunstan's Subway. The H28 (between Bulls Bridge and Osterley) terminates close to the park at Tescos. Service 195 (between Ealing Hospital and Charville Lane) stops close to the northern end of the park.

Underground: The closest underground stations are Hounslow West on the Piccadilly Line (approximately 2.5 km to the south east) from where bus services 81, 222 and H98 can be found or Hatton Cross also on the Piccadilly Line (approximately 2.5 km to the south west).

Rail: The nearest railway station is Hayes and Harlington (approximately 1 km to the North West) that departs from Paddington in Central London. Bus services 195 and E6 can be found here.

Cranford Park also forms part of the London Loop and the Hillingdon Trail.

History:

Most of the surrounding area would have originally been woodland before clearance began. By the Bronze Age a landscape pattern emerged consisting of the remaining woodland along with heathland and farmland. When the Domesday Survey was taken William, son of Ansculf held the Manor of Cranford and in the reign of King Edward the Confessor it was held by Turstan, a Thane of the king. The Manor later became divided into two holdings called Cranford St John and Cranford Le Mote. They changed hands many times before coming into the ownership of Lady Elizabeth Berkeley who purchased both properties in 1618, and then became known as Cranford Park. The Manor House of Cranford Le Mote, which stood in a moated site adjoining Moat House Covert, was pulled down in 1780. At the end of the Second World War Cranford House was demolished due to its dilapidated condition along with the bothy adjoining the stables.

In 1965 the M4 motorway was opened, the construction of which caused the loss of over 5ha of the Park, including an extensive orchard and a dovecot. During the construction phase the ornamental lake was destroyed when the River Crane was re-routed through it.

Cranford countryside Park was historically part of the old manor of Cranforde, and the Berkeley family's summer seat of Cranford House was situated within the park. The site was renamed and opened to the public by Middlesex County Council in the 1950's.



The former Cranford Manor

Topography, hydrology, geology and soils

Topography

The overall topography of the site is fairly flat and constant throughout and is typical of the Thames Flood Plain area of West London. There is a slight incline in altitude towards the north of the Park of several metres.

Soils

The main constituent of the geology of the land on which the park stands is London Clay. This is stiff, bluish coloured clay which weathers to a dirty brownish colour. London Clay makes heavy, water retentive soils that are difficult to plough and become boggy very easily. In the Cranford area this is overlain by finer material called Taplow Terrace Gravels which are fine stones. These are the remains of ground down rock deposited by a huge river which once flowed across Middlesex around 10,000 years ago. This produces a lighter or more workable soil highly amenable to cultivation. Cranford is important geologically as it marks the northernmost exposure of the Taplow gravels. North of Cranford the topmost soil layer is a brick earth or Loess layer which lies on top of the gravels. This is wind blown dust. The layer was created when the climate was more Steppe like with dry summers and freezing winters. This dust produces fine-particle, well drained soils excellent for growing crops.

Hydrology and hydrography

Although there is no detailed hydrological information available for the site, the patterns and movements of ground water and water levels are important features to consider. The River Crane flows through the Park from north to south and therefore acts as a main drain for the Park. Frogs Ditch also runs along the western and southern perimeter of the Park before discharging into the River Crane. Between these two watercourses there appears to be numerous land drains. Dog Kennel Covert and Moat House Covert both have ditches that drain into the river.

The River Crane passes through the eastern boundary of the park and there are a number of man made ponds within the park. The wetland flora includes Pendulous Sedge, Branched Bur-reed and Reed Sweetgrass. Species present include Great Reedmace, Yellow Iris, Greater Pond Sedge, False Fox Sedge, Water Plantain, Water Pepper and Creeping Yellow Cress. Thriving populations of Common Newts are present and at least eleven species of dragonfly frequent the site. It is likely that the Water Voles on the neighbouring canalised section of the River Crane use this wetland as a winter refuge.

Ecology:

The parkland is situated within Hounslow and Hillingdon Green Belt land and is classified as a Grade II Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. The section of the River Crane within the park however, was recently promoted from a Grade I Site of Borough Importance, to a site of Metropolitan Importance for nature conservation by the Mayor of London. However the original Grade II rating was prior to the habitat improvements across the park and recent records of BAP species following moth survey work indicates that Cranford Park is undervalued as a wildlife resource and should be upgraded.

The southern area of the Park falls within the Cranford Conservation Area. The Park also received the Civic Trust's Green Flag award in 2002 and has maintained the award every year since then.

The habitats present in the Countryside Park are described fully in 'Compartment Descriptions', but can be seen in Map 4.

Generally there are six principle types of habitat at Cranford Countryside Park. These are:

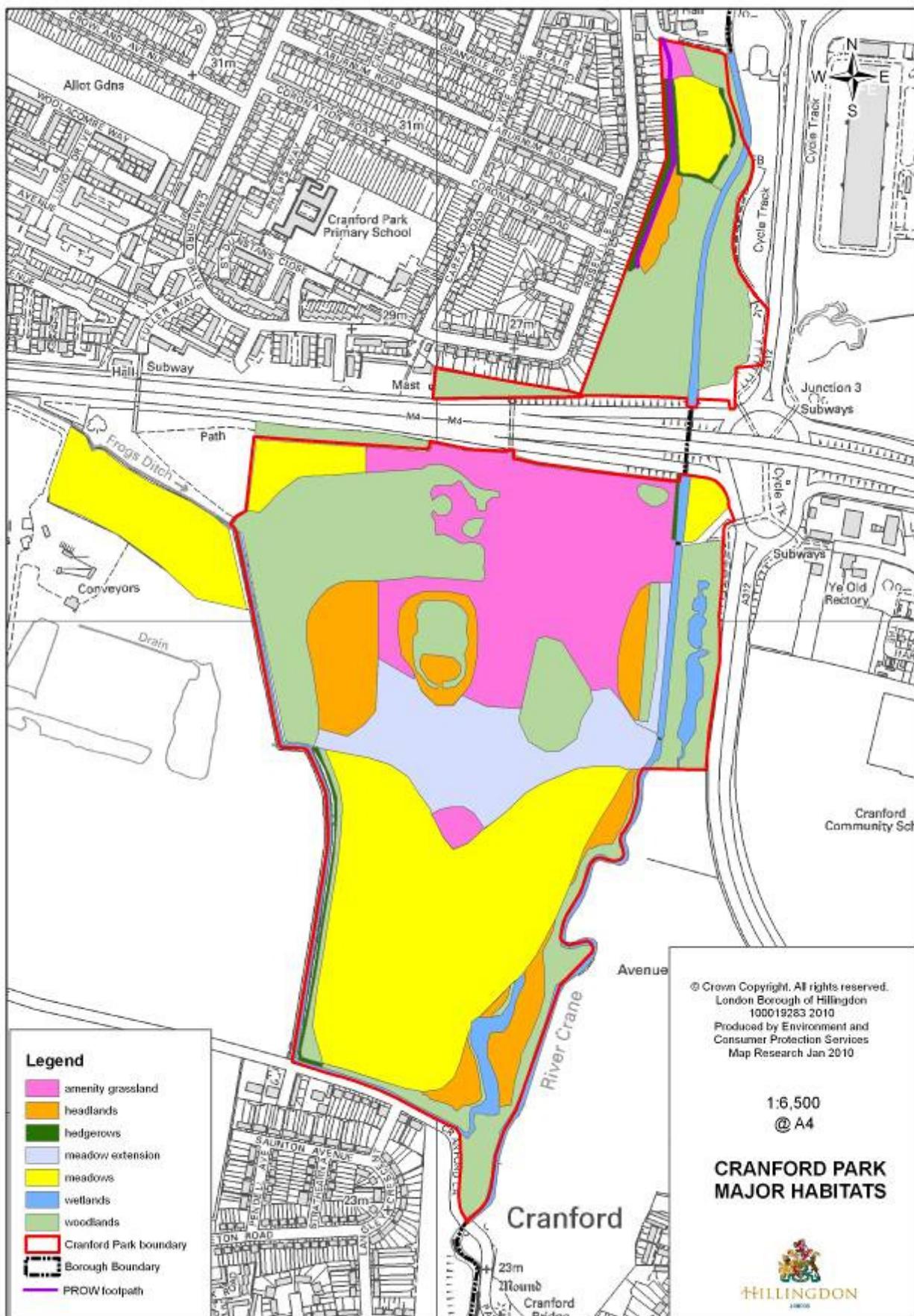
1. Amenity grassland
2. Wildflower/Hay Meadows
3. Woodlands and scrub
4. Hedgerows
5. Water
6. Wetlands



Green Veined White Butterfly @ Cranford Park

The habitats areas found at Cranford Countryside Park can be seen on Map 3.

Map 3. Habitats of Cranford Countryside Park



The woodlands extends along the western boundary and along the north side of the park. To the east are the wetlands and the crane river. The southern end of the park is divided between meadows and amenity grasslands edged with hedges and headlands.

Woodland is one of the most important habitats within the Park. The ecological value of this habitat is particularly significant due to the age and size of many of the trees and because there are relatively few mature woodlands in the locality. Furthermore there are positive indications that primary woodland existed in the same areas as today before non-native trees were introduced. For example, a number of the invertebrate species that have been recorded in recent years from Cranford Wood are indicators of ancient woodland.



The meadow areas are also important due to their age, diversity of flora, overall size and again because there are few comparable sites within the local area, therefore over 2007-8 the meadow area has been extended (see map).

Several species of ground-nesting bird, including the Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), which is a nationally declining species, depend on the less disturbed areas to breed in. Many butterflies, moths and grasshoppers also depend on the different types of grassland here, as well as shrews, rabbits, mice and voles, the latter three of which provide food for predators such as Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

The wetlands (river, ditch, pond, wet margins and marsh), hedgerows, scrub, ruderal and roughland habitats are of value in the context of a heavily urbanised local area where opportunities for wildlife area at a premium. In national terms these habitats may not be significant, but in terms of size and diversity many reach their maximum local extent at Cranford Countryside Park.

The areas of amenity grassland are adjacent to the car park, around St Dunstan' Church, the walled garden and a small section at the access point by Watersplash lane. This habitat by definition obtains regular close mowing, which creates a uniform and species poor sward.

The predominant habitat throughout the site is grassland, with sections in the south, which show a more diverse rang of species associated with wildflower/hay meadows such as Meadow sweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

Woodland, hedgerows and scrub are very important habitats within the Country Park. They provide nesting and feeding sites for more than half of the regularly occurring bird species and are home to mammals such as Bank Voles (*Clethrionomys glareola*), Wood Mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and Fox. The most abundant tree species here is English Oak (*Quercus robur*) which supports many different kinds of insects which themselves are food for birds and bats such as Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*). The hedgerows

and waterways also perform an important function as linear habitats, which connect different parts of the site and allow birds, plants and insects to move easily around the Park. This means that as habitats are created or improved by management, new species will be able to colonise them quicker than would otherwise be the case.

Conservation work within the park has led to an increase in the amount and variety of wildlife that can be found and is expected to continue to improve. The supports a notable range of birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. For example, 24 species of butterflies 173 species of macro moth and 84 species of hoverfly have been recorded, indicating the richness of the invertebrate fauna. A significant proportion of these are associated with the dead wood habitat as are many of the fungi that can be found within the woodlands. A full list of the flora and fauna that has been recently recorded including numerous Nationally Scarce species that are of particular interest.

There are a number of species that are listed as protected animals within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and occur within the Park.

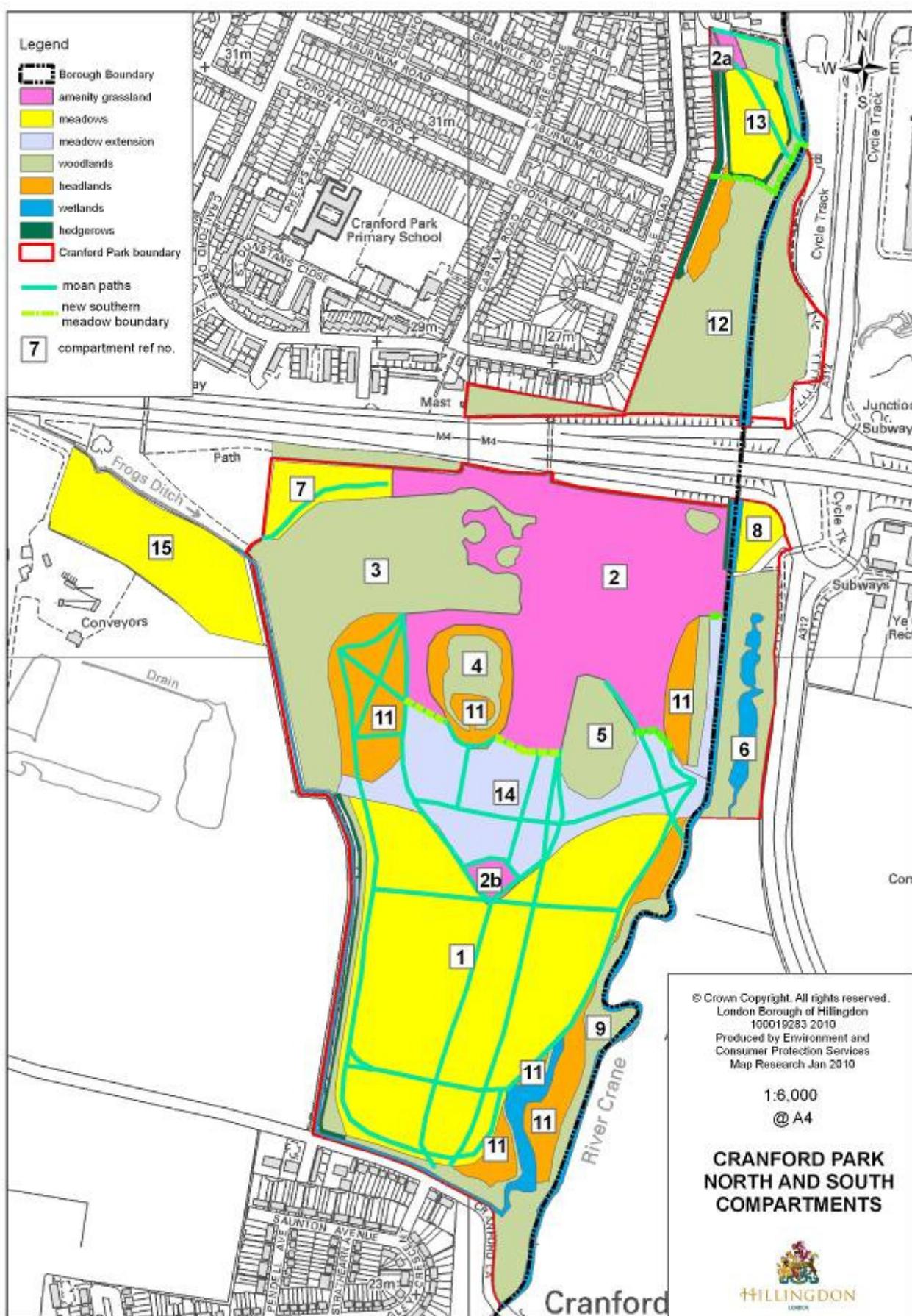
Over the last few years biological surveying has increased with a new moth trapping survey, and a bird survey both started in 2007. This has been complimented by some mammal trapping and a small amount work done with bat detectors. The survey effort is expected to increase still further with bat box inspections with a local bat expert.

For a full list of species found at Cranford Countryside Park please see Appendix E.



Cranford Woods in Spring

Map 4 Habitat Management Compartments



Compartments Descriptions

COMPARTMENT 1

CENTRAL AMENITY GRASSLAND

This short cut grassland lies within the main open area of the Park and is regularly mown throughout the growing season to provide for suitable informal leisure use. The central area near to the Southern Meadow boundary has been set aside for model planes to be flown from.

To the north there is a Sweet Chestnut tree close to the Ha-Ha. This has a 5.75m circumference and due to the significant size is mentioned in Richard Mabey's book 'Flora Britannica'. Many similar large parkland trees once stood throughout the whole of the compartment and the Southern Meadow (see 4.10). Plans to restore this landscape is underway and by the time this plan comes into operation the first of the trees should have been planted.

WOODED DRAIN

This is a tree and scrub lined ditch to the south of the Driveway Bridge that runs parallel with the canalised stretch of the River Crane. A path is mown between the river and the drain. The purpose that this ditch originally served is unclear but there are pipes at either end. Although it rarely holds water, except during the wettest winter conditions, these pipes suggest that water was carried within it in the past and therefore it must have formed part of some sort of drainage system.

This area is the proposed location for part of the new cycle route.

There are mature trees scattered along the drain such as Oak, Ash and Hornbeam amongst scrub that includes Hawthorn, Elder and suckering Elm.

Headland

A D-shaped headland extends out from the western side of the ditch. As with other headland areas, natural succession is encouraged in order to increase the diversity of the structure of vegetation in the Park. Numerous young Oak trees are growing in the area and Bramble thickets have established.

SOUTHERN MEADOW

In 1991 following recommendations contained within the 1989 management plan a substantial area of the open grassland within the Park was allowed to develop into a wildflower meadow by reducing the mowing frequency. This area was cultivated from 1941 to 1952 but it is probable that the reinstated grassland consisted of a substantial proportion of the original sward composition via the seed bank. Prior to World War 2 this area comprised of traditional pasture.

The meadow was harvested in the autumn of 2001 but was only carried out on a piecemeal basis from 1991. A number of paths are regularly mown through the area for walkers. These paths also act as firebreaks during the summer. The layout on its

northern boundary with the amenity grassland is designed to provide an area where model planes can be flown.

This area was extended further in 2007 and the grassland is cut and collected on a two year rotation.

Flora in the meadow includes Lady's Bedstraw, Sheep's Sorrel, Pignut, Yarrow, and Knapweed. Grasses include Yorkshire Fog and Timothy that are widespread amongst Meadow Foxtail, Perennial Rye and many others. Up to 20 butterfly species have been recorded including Small Copper and Small Heath. Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and Kestrels are some of the birds that are regularly seen or heard.

COMPARTMENT 2

HA-HA LAWNS

These mown lawns lie between the car park and Cranford Wood and are also bounded by the Ha-Ha. There are a number of Oak trees within the area, several of which are of a considerable size, especially those near the car park. These attract a host of fauna such as Nuthatches that are regularly seen or heard. There is also a Lime tree by the car park that is a considerable size and has many large bunches of Mistletoe growing from the branches within the canopy. Mistletoe can also be found in other Lime trees around the Ha-Ha Greens and within Cranford Wood and also on a Hawthorn tree at the southern end of the horse ride. Near to the southern edge of the Ha-Ha Lawn that overlooks the Central Amenity Grassland there is a large stone base on which a sundial once stood.



The Ha-ha

WALLED GARDEN

In combination with the north edge of Cranford Wood, this is an area that was a kitchen garden that served the Manor House with an orchard that extended across the majority of the area.

There are well-established trees scattered throughout the area including several Sycamores. The eastern expanse of the Walled Garden is being managed as short cut amenity grassland. Next to the wall within the north-eastern area Buddleia has been planted and there is also a cornfield flower and spring bulb bed. This belt is due for further improvement. This improves the visual appeal of the area and provides a rich feeding area for invertebrate life, especially butterflies due to the sheltered suntrap the walls create.

This short cut amenity grassland lies within the eastern half of the area and is regularly mown throughout the growing season to provide for suitable informal leisure use.

Land adjoining the Walled Garden

The horse ride runs behind the walls of the Walled Garden. There is a dilapidated building along the northern that was formerly used by the local scout group. Between the M4 and the northern walls there are a mix of tree species such as Oak, Sycamore, Damson, Hawthorn and Cherry. The branches of these trees that were touching the walls are cut back in order to prevent them from causing damage to the brickwork. To the west there is also a hedgerow that defines the horse ride before it enters Cranford Wood.

MEMORIAL FIELD

This area is regularly mown throughout the growing season to provide for suitable informal leisure use and is also used for the annual summer fair. Located towards the centre is the cesspit that is connected to the Park toilet at the Information Centre. Trees have been planted within the grassland including Lime, False Acacia and also a row of Cherry trees adjacent to the river. The area is also allocated for the public to plant trees for remembrance or commemoration reasons. Many already exist including a Sweet Chestnut, Japanese Cherry, Foxglove Tree, and a Golden Ash. There are also six Evergreen Oaks that are well established, planted on 18th March 1972 in memory of Arthur Skeffington, MP for Hayes and Harlington from 1953 to 1971 and who was also First President of the Aboricultural Association from 1964 to 1971.

CHURCH WOOD

This woodland consists of a mix of tree species such as suckering Elm, Ash, Willow, Black Poplar and Hawthorn. There are several holes in the ground and these may once have been an active Badger set. Due to its secluded position within the Park, this area is used for introducing dead wood that might otherwise be tampered with, set on fire or stolen.

Information Centre frontage

The area outside of the front of the Information Centre probably consisted of a formal garden shrubbery planted underneath mature trees during the time the Berkeley family owned the Park. It was cleared of the dominating Elm suckers early in 2000 and replanted with Field Maple and Rowan standards on the eastern and western sides along with Dogwood and Guelder Rose whips. The central portion of the area was planted and sown with wildflowers including Primrose, White Campion and Nettle-Leaved Bellflower. A selection of ferns were planted throughout including Lady Fern, Male Fern, Hard Shield Fern and Soft Shield Fern and also further Butchers Broom plants were introduced.

In March 2007, as a result of a school competition this area was restructured with a bee bank and a beetle wood castle, a new pond and new plantings put in, however the area now needs updating and a Chrysalis bid was submitted and monies secured for the installation of a new pond and wetland area harvesting water from the roof of the information centre and this is due to be completed in spring 2013.

COMPARTMENT 3

CRANFORD WOOD

Cranford Wood is an area of old woodland that is of great value in terms of landscape, recreation and ecology. There are a wide variety of native and exotic deciduous and coniferous trees that form a high canopy. The attractive quality of this woodland is readily apparent, especially in the spring or autumn months. During the spring there is an extensive carpet of Bluebells together with Red Campion plants. At this time the Copper Beech leaves are a translucent deep and vibrant red and the abundant Horse Chestnut flowers are also highly attractive. In the autumn the tree leaves produce a spectacular array of colours. The woodland can be seen for many miles around the Park as the canopy towers above the surroundings. It is always a very popular place for the public to walk and the numerous paths provide access to all parts, the main ones having been surfaced in the past. The surface of the main path that runs from east to west in the northern half of the woods has however deteriorated. This has led to the path becoming very wide during the wetter months as people avoid the saturated ground and consequently the Bluebells have disappeared where they have been heavily trampled.

The range of tree species in Cranford Wood include mature Hornbeam, Sycamore, Beech, Lime, Oak, Larch, Sweet Chestnut, Ash, Wellingtonia and Yew. Larch trees have been gradually thinned out in recent years to encourage better tree growth of the remaining more desirable native species and to extend and improve the ground flora. The understory of the woodland includes suckering Elm along with Cherry, Holly, Elder and Laurel. There was a significant amount of Rhododendron present but most of this was removed during the winter of 1997-8 and native ground vegetation has now colonised these areas. However, a few Rhododendron bushes remain near to the site of Cranford House and these will be retained and managed as part of the heritage of the site. The quantity of retained dead wood from native tree species has been increased in order to provide for the extensive range of organisms that are associated with this habitat. Some 20 nest boxes have been provided for hole nesting small birds. These boxes are protected with aluminium plating. Three bat roosting boxes and a hibernaculum has also been erected.

A large amount of work has been done to remove Cherry Laurel and Sycamore to create small clearings within the closed woodland canopy.

Along with trees naturally falling this has created a far more open woodland. The woodland ground flora is visibly improving a particular beneficiary being Foxgloves.

Cranford Wood glade

This central clearing was created during the winter of 1994-95 and was re-cut in early 1996 at which time Hazel was planted. The coppiced trees were all composed of Elm and these have produced considerable re-growth. During the initial stages of coppice re-growth this was a valuable sunlit area within the woodland attracting a range of invertebrates. This was especially apparent in spring and summer mornings when they sun themselves in order to reach active temperatures.

The dense cover that is produced in later years of the coppice cycle also provided nesting sites for many bird species, including Long-tailed Tits and Wrens. The vegetation composition however became increasingly dominated by Nettles that were detrimental to

the Bluebells but the returning canopy eventually produced too much shade for them to flourish.

Clearings are being naturally produced in Cranford Wood by the effect of Dutch Elm disease and from mature trees blown over during high winds.

Cranford Wood in the spring



Southern leg

This part of Cranford Wood also suffers from the problem of suckering Elm dieback. Most of the trees are elm suckers, including Wych Elm. In the springtime this area is one of the best locations for Bluebells but due to the death of the Elm trees, Bramble thickets have encroached as a result these areas have been thinned and glades created. A nightingale was heard here in the springtime of 2000. A non-surfaced path winds its way through the centre of this compartment that is relatively sunny in places and holds ground flora such as Foxgloves and so attracts an abundance of invertebrates.

Chestnut Avenue

East to west through Cranford Wood there is an avenue of mature large trees, mainly composed of Horse Chestnuts. Over the years there has been storm damage to the trees and several have had to be removed. Those that remain are host to a whole range of fauna including specialist invertebrates due to the niches that these trees provide such as sap runs and rot holes. For example, one Beech tree holds a colony of both *Brachyopa insensilis* and *B. scutellaris* hoverflies, the former being nationally scarce and the latter locally scarce.

COMPARTMENT 4

ICE HOUSE GROUNDS

Secondary woodland has developed across the whole site. Around the central plateau of the compartment there are mature Lime, Oak, Sycamore and Ash trees. Trees were often planted around the outside of icehouses in order to produce cooling shade during the summer months. This helped to slow the ice from melting within the ice chamber. Mature Elm trees were formerly situated within the grounds but these succumbed to Dutch Elm disease. Since the death of the Elm trees a dense stand of suckering Elms developed. These were starting to succumb to Dutch Elm disease so in order to prevent the degradation of the woodland habitat and to increase structural diversity, most were coppiced during early 1997. Only the Elm trees that were growing from the top edges of the moat were left, along with any Ash, Oak and Yew trees found within the area. Hazel was also planted within the moat but not on the central plateau as it was thought that this was the most historically important area that may need cleared if the Ice House were to be investigated at some future date. Piles of cordwood from the coppicing works were also left in order to increase habitat value.

Flora of particular interest in the area includes Bluebells and a patch of Woodruff that is located within the eastern part of the moat. The coppice regrowth from the Elms has been very vigorous and now attracts a range of bird species that favour this type of habitat, including Whitethroats and Blackcaps. Furthermore the dense cover provides a refuge for easily disturbed wildlife.

A marginal headland has been left all around the whole site in order to encourage an ecotone and to provide an over-wintering site for invertebrates. To the south the headland has been extended in order to provide a composting location for depositing organic matter such as leaves and harvested meadow material. A fringe of trees has been planted to screen this pile and includes White Willow, Hornbeam, Alder, Holly and Field Maple.

COMPARTMENT 5

THE PLANTATION

This site is comprised of two areas of mature tree plantations that are surrounded by further extensive tree planting carried out in early 1999. The perimeter has been fenced off from the time of the tree planting and two field gates installed in order to provide a route through the area. Signs have been fixed next to these gates that request dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead. This was done in order to limit wildlife disturbance.

The Green Corridors Partnership funded this planting which was carried out with the help of Cranford Community College, with the aim of increasing the amount of screening of the views to Heathrow Airport and to the M4. The tree species that were used in the planting included Ash, Oak, Black Walnut, Horse Chestnut and Hornbeam along with Field Maple and Dog Rose to the outside edge.

Northern mature plantation

The northernmost mature plantation was dominated by suckering elms that were coppiced at the same time as the Ice House grounds in 1997. The area was also subsequently planted with Hazel. The Elm regrowth has also been very vigorous and attracts a similar

range of wildlife. There is a large Copper Beech to the perimeter of the area along with well established Limes, Oaks, False Acacia and Japanese Maple and there are patches of Bluebells underneath.

Southern mature plantation

The southernmost mature plantation has a variety of mature trees including Ash, Oak, Wellingtonia and Copper Beech. The ground vegetation is sparse but there are a few patches of Bluebells.

COMPARTMENT 6

PARKWAY WETLAND

This area has been developed as a wetland site for nature conservation. It originally consisted of a series of hollows and channels that flooded during the winter. These were heavily overshadowed by trees and scrub. Work to enhance this area was carried out from 1996 to 2001 and now comprises of a complex of ponds and marshland that are linked by ditches. The main area of marsh is some 1000sqm and also contains two small pools. The trees that overshadowed the area have been managed in a variety of ways, including pollarding and coppicing, in order to increase light levels.

The wetland flora includes Pendulous Sedge, Branched Bur-reed and Reed Sweet-grass. The remnants of marshland flora that remain are now rapidly spreading into the bare areas. Species present include Great Reedmace, Yellow Iris, Greater Pond Sedge, False Fox Sedge, Water Plantain, Water Pepper and Creeping Yellow Cress. Thriving populations of Common Newts are present and at least eleven species of dragonfly frequent the site. It is likely that the Water Voles on the neighbouring canalised section of the River Crane use this wetland as a winter refuge.

The wetland is surrounded by woodland that further enhances the conservation value of area. The woodland is composed of a wide range of tree species including areas of suckering Elms (especially to the north) amongst Ash, Hornbeam, Willow, Alder, Sycamore, Horse Chestnut, Beech and Oak, many of which are also mature.

COMPARTMENT 7

WALLED GARDEN ORCHARD

This former orchard area is being managed as a wildflower meadow in which there are several medium sized Ash and Sycamore trees. A path is mown around the perimeter of the meadow and Damson trees are scattered around the west margin that could be relics of the former orchard. An underground high-pressure gas pipeline runs diagonally through the area.

This meadow has been fenced off so that grazing animals can be used to manage the sward. A field gates are installed at the eastern end together with styles both at the eastern and western end.

This area will be used for grazing cattle so that they graze down the rough grassland and when grazing is not possible the area will be cut and cleared.

COMPARTMENT 8

DRIVEWAY MEADOW

This whole meadow was experimentally sown with Cricklade mix in the spring of 1996 as it had been completely disturbed during the electricity cable laying works. Flora that has consequently established includes Red Clover, Oxeye Daisy and Black Knapweed that attract a range of invertebrates, however in recent years thistles and docks have spread through the area.

The meadow is harvested once a year normally towards the end of June and then regularly mown thereafter. It is also grazed.

COMPARTMENT 9

SOUTHERN WETLAND

The majority of this wetland is comprised of a ditch flanked by marshy ground some 275m long that terminates at Frogs Ditch by Cranford Lane. It also includes a short wetland spur about halfway along its length that is fed by a land drain. Two small pools and a scallop were excavated during the late spring of 1997 along the middle part of the ditch along with a small pond within the main marshy area that adjoins the ditch, at this point. Spoil from previous ditch hand de-silting works forms a continuous low mound alongside the ditch in this middle section also. Water is present all year and originates from the surrounding meadow via land drains, natural seepage and also from a high ground water table due to the close proximity of the River Crane.

In the winter of 2007 this ditch was widened into a pond and it a sluice/dam was installed at its southern end.

Waterside plant regeneration has been excellent and winter works in 2008 to remove saplings and bramble to diversify the western edge.

In the winter Teal and occasionally Snipe visit this area and in the spring it is popular with spawning Common Frogs. Ground vegetation includes Horsetail, Fool's Watercress, Remote Sedge, Water Forget-me-not, Yellow Iris, Gypsy-wort and Reed Sweet-grass. Numerous trees are situated along and around the wetland margin especially mature Oak and Alder. Purple Hairstreak butterflies can be seen flying around the Oak trees during mid-summer. Some of the fringing scrub and trees have been selectively coppiced or lifted (mainly along the western margin) to increase light levels in order to improve the wetland habitat conditions.

COMPARTMENT 10

WESTERN MARGIN

Between the Southern Meadow and the land adjoining the Park to the west there is a strip of land with five linear features. From west to east these are Frogs Ditch, a line of trees and scrub, the horse ride, a hedgerow and a tree plantation. These are detailed in the following sub-compartments.

Boundary trees and scrub

The strip of trees that adjoin the ditch at the western-most edge of the Park are dominated by suckering Elms. There are however, numerous Oaks and other well established trees present along with scrub such as Blackthorn and Hawthorn. Ivy grows vigorously in this area and tends to cling to the trees, especially dead Elms. Many of these Elms periodically fall across the horse ride and have to be cleared. Tree and scrub growth encroaching the horse ride is flailed every year.

Western hedgerow

The hedgerow that defines the eastern edge of the horse ride is mainly composed of Hawthorn. It is flailed every year simultaneously with the trees and scrub along the western edge in order to keep the ride open to a sufficient width.

Western plantation

The trees that were planted next to the hedgerow in the 1980s are now well established and were lightly thinned early in 2001. A wide range of species were used including Oak, Ash, Cherry, Field Maple, Silver Birch and Hazel. Dog Rose was also judiciously planted along the eastern edge.

FROGS DITCH

Frogs Ditch carries drainage water, some of which originates from the M4 motorway. The ditch runs along the western and southern edge of the Park and was de-silted in the late 1990's due to contamination by run off from the M4. It is heavily shaded by trees along most of its length and consequently there is little in the way of aquatic or marginal flora. Water sometimes overflows from the ditch and floods into the Park and occasionally across Cranford Lane to the south.



Frogs Ditch

COMPARTMENT 11

CRANFORD WOOD HEADLAND

Adjacent to the south-eastern corner of Cranford Wood there is a large headland area that has been left to compliment the wildlife habitat of Cranford Wood. A hawthorn hedgerow runs alongside the edge of the woodland. This was planted in order to delineate the horse ride, however the route was subsequently changed to follow the route of Frogs Ditch through Cranford Wood and so be less obtrusive.

Headland plantation

A strip of headland that was planted with trees in early 1999 near to the southern leg of Cranford Wood. This was carried out in conjunction with the Green Corridors work at the Plantation. The species that were planted included White Willow, Alder, Hornbeam, Cherry, Sweet Chestnut and Ash with Field Maple, Holly, Hazel and Blackthorn to the eastern edge.

Herbaceous patch

Within the headland area is a tall herbaceous patch that was the former site used for dumping harvested meadow material. Much of the flora is composed of Nettles amongst Marsh Thistle and Dock

COMPARTMENT 12

LAND SOUTH OF ROSEVILLE ROAD

A thin strip of the Park adjoins the horse ride eastwards from the northern end of St. Dunstan's Subway to Dog Kennel Covert. The area has Ash and Sycamore trees but was recently dominated by Suckering Elms, the majority of which have died. These were felled early in 2000 and removed but with the stumps left to some three feet high in order to provide dead wood habitat. The area was subsequently planted with a mix of Willow, Alder and Field Maple whips to recreate a visual screen. Young Sycamore and Ash trees have also appeared.

DOG KENNEL COVERT

This woodland owes its name to the fact that it was once an area where the Berkeley family had their dog kennels located. The dogs that were kept here were presumably hounds used for hunting. There is no remaining evidence of this use. There is also no readily apparent evidence of the previous course of the River Crane that meandered through this woodland before the straightening and canalisation works were carried out. There are several ditches through the woodland supporting plants such as Gipsy-wort and Meadowsweet but due to the heavy shade the ground flora is generally rather sparse.

The woodland is dominated by suckering Elms, which are now in the process of dying, amongst a thin scattering of other young and mature tree species and scrub. These include Oak, Ash, Willow, Blackthorn and Elder. Due to this woodland structure and composition it was decided in early 1998 to coppice approximately one seventh of this woodland (an area of about one acre) at the northern end of the woodland whilst leaving any suitable larger trees as standards. This area was then planted with a mix of 50% Hazel and 50% Hornbeam (to be coppiced on the next cycle) and Field Maple whips. In the long term it was planned for the whole of Dog Kennel Covert to receive similar treatment in order to increase the value of the area for nature conservation by improving the species composition and the woodland structure. In 1998 most of the trees were also coppiced along the eastern edge of the Hillingdon Trail path through the woodland in order to provide a sunlit ride and an ecotone. The increase in available light has also encouraged Honeysuckle to spread along the western side of the path that climbs through the trees. Ongoing woodland works have taken place.

Dog Kennel Covert has had major work done by the creation of a new nature trail by selective tree felling. The trail brings visitors to the west bank of the Crane and offers An attractive riverside walk. New bins, fencing and signs all homemade from Cranford waste timber have been installed and interpretation boards are planned.

The trail runs parallel to the river and clearance of riverside trees on the western bank has allowed light to the water and the bankside. Already there is been an explosion in ground flora, particularly Cow Parsley.

Animals such as Muntjac, and bats have been seen using the path. The clearance has also resulted with better views of Kingfisher. This clearance is part of a longer term plan to extend the tree clearance long the river. However it is important to do this carefully and to retain shady areas and riverside trees for weaker flying invertebrates.

Headland

This is a thin strip of headland adjacent to the northwestern area of Dog Kennel Covert and has been left to compliment the wildlife habitat of the woodland.

NORTHERN HEDGEROWS

There are several hedgerows within the northern area of the Park to the west of the River Crane, one of which runs north to south close to the rear of the properties in Roseville Road. This was originally planted to delineate a route for the horse ride but now serves to screen the Park from the houses behind. It is kept flailed to the desired height annually during the late winter. The hedge is almost totally comprised of Hawthorn and a path is regularly mown between it and the rear gardens.

Another hedgerow enclosed three sides of the Northern Meadow and delineates the horse ride. This is also flailed annually and almost totally comprised of Hawthorn.

This hedge during the winter of 2008 was removed along its eastern and southern edges. This is to blend the grassland into the woodland edge and to enhance the spread of water from the river diversion being planned. This will enable the northern meadow to wet up. There are some gaps that have been planted up with other species such as Field Maple, Hazel and Hornbeam. These enclosing hedgerows have mown paths on the outside and inside with two metre wide margins next to the hedges left uncut. These margins are left in order to encourage a hedge base flora to develop, to provide an over-wintering invertebrate habitat in a similar way to headland areas and they serve as a firebreak to the adjoining meadow

MOAT HOUSE COVERT

The horse ride, the River Crane and the M4 define the boundary of this woodland. The name is derived from the fact that it once fell within grounds of Cranford le Mote, a secondary Manor that formed a component of Cranford Park along with Cranford St. John under the ownership of the Berkeley family. The Manor House stood within a moated area but the building was pulled down in 1780. Some remnants of the moat still exist within the woodland but the actual site where the Manor House once stood now lies beneath the A312.

This is another woodland area within the Park that is dominated by suckering diseased Elm. There are however a number of mature trees present throughout the area, especially Ash and Oak. Many of the large Ash trees appear to be under stress as most have extensive areas of dead wood in their upper portion. There is also a reasonable amount of dead wood represented on the woodland floor although vandals periodically set this on fire. Bluebells are quite numerous throughout and Red Campion is also present but there are also patches of impenetrable bramble.

When the scheme to coppice Dog Kennel Covert began it was also decided that Moat House Covert should be managed as a non-intervention area. This was so that a screen of the A312 would always remain, especially for the houses that overlook the Park in Roseville Road.

COMPARTMENT 13

WATERSPLASH WOOD

Watersplash Lane borders the northern and eastern side of this small area of woodland. The central clearing is used as an area for depositing harvested material from the adjacent Northern Meadow. Within the area there are dense stands of Elm suckers, many of which are dying, amongst a few Ash and Hawthorn trees. Within the southern half of the woodland there are several mature Oak trees that support Purple Hairstreak butterflies.

NORTHERN GRASSLAND

The northern meadow was traditionally used for recreation grassland and kept short. However over recent years mowing has been reduced to once a year and arisings are in general removed.

This has resulted in a richer flora with Devils Bit Scabious, Lesser Knapweed and Cuckoo Flower appearing. These indicate a damp meadow habitat and the plan is to enhance this further by wetting it up.

Seed has been collected from the Scabious for sowing in the southern meadow and there will be further enhancement of the meadow.

COMPARTMENT 14

RIVER CRANE

The River Crane runs to the eastern side of the Park and forms the boundary between the London Boroughs of Hillingdon and Hounslow. North of the Park the river changes its name to the Yeading Brook and is fed by an overflow from the Grand Union Canal.

Natural section

In the Park the natural section of the River Crane includes only the western riverbank from Cranford Lane in the south up stream to the northern end of Avenue Park. Large Ash and Oak trees are found at intervals with pockets of Field Maple, Hawthorn, Elder, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and suckering White Poplars that form understorey thickets. Along some stretches of the riverbank the tree cover forms a wide strip, whereas in others it considerably narrows and there are only a few small areas that are not tree lined. This unaltered part of the river has all of the usual riverine features such as pools, riffles and meanders but the heavy shading and steep banks allows little aquatic or marginal plant growth.

Canalised section

The remainder of the river is canalised from just south of the footbridge that leads to Avenue Park, to the northernmost end of Cranford Countryside Park. This length of the river was straightened and widened at the time the M4 motorway was constructed with the result that there are few areas that have emergent or marginal vegetation. Before the 'improvement' works there was an ornamental lake running north and south of the Driveway Bridge. This was constructed between 1720 and 1754 and was fed by the river. This stretch of the river has toe boarding entirely along both banks and has rotted away in places, especially to the south of the motorway. Following consultation with the Environment Agency it was decided to remove the toe boarding to allow the river to reform

a more natural bank. This work was carried out at the beginning of 2008. The river has now formed a new bank and the water flow now show more eddies and riffles. Hopefully this will improve the habitat for Water Voles, although tree clearance may be necessary to allow increased grasses and herbaceous growth on the river bank.

There is a discharge pipe at the southern end of the motorway tunnel and another pipe from Western International Market to the north of the M4 both of which are periodically sources of pollution within the river. In spite of this, the length of river running south of the motorway supports a thriving population of Water Voles, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species owing to its sudden and severe natural population decline.

COMPARTMENT 15

CRANE MEADOWS

This was once a field that was part of the Park but is now fenced off with chain link fencing. In 1985 permission was granted for Henry Streeter to extract gravel from this field. After the gravel had been extracted the pit was landfilled and reinstated as agricultural grade grassland. The intention as far back as 1990 was for the part of the field to be planted with trees and then the area returned as a component of the Park following their establishment. It is planned to improve the access to this site from Cranford Park and this will be managed as Hay Meadow



Crane Meadows

Historic Features

STABLE BUILDING

This is an early 18th century Grade 2 listed building formerly used as the stables for Cranford House. It was restored in the late 1980's and comprises of a central pediment with a clock and bell tower and adjoining stables to the west and east with rooms above that were once the living quarters for the stable hands. The well-known clockmaker L. Bradley made the Turret Clock in 1721 and it is rumoured to have come from Hampton Court Palace. It was repaired in 1962 but is currently in need of restoration. The bell has been moved to Berkeley Castle. There was also a weather vane that adorned the clock but this disappeared many years ago.

Inside the stables there are the original stalls, troughs, hayracks and tiling on the walls. In the West Stable there is also a birthing stall. On the ceilings there are square holes that are air vents used to heat the living quarters above. The floors of the stables are made up of thin yellow bricks set in a herringbone pattern along with shallow drains.

The Stable Building is on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk due to their concern over the long-term use. Presently the East stable is used for general storage and the west stables for public viewing and education. The London Borough of Hillingdon granted permission for St. Dunstan's sunday school to use the eastern first floor however due to fire safety regulations this has now ceased. Brown Long-eared Bats use the roof space in this area of the building as a maternity roost. The western first floor is not utilised at present but this is also used by Brown Long-eared Bats for roosting. The Bat roosts have been registered with English Nature who must be contacted over any possible disturbance to the roosting areas.

The central portion of the building contains a workshop and areas for the storage of machinery, equipment and tools.

Cranford Stable Block



COURTYARD

Central to this area is a large circular bed of thick, trimmed shrubs composed mainly of Laurel. The outside is trimmed periodically throughout the summer and the inside towards the end of the summer after the bird nesting season. Surrounding this area the Courtyard, the archways under the Stable Building as well as the exit to the driveway are all cobbled. The tall, stone-coped 18th century red brick wall to the eastern side of the Courtyard is Grade 2 listed.

CELLAR

This is an extensive stone and brick Grade 2 listed feature that was once part of Cranford Manor House. It consists of Roman-style rounded brick vaults resting on square stone pillars. The floor is constructed of Dutch end tiles that are a little over an inch wide. The cellars are probably much older than the former house as it was rebuilt and extended in the 1720s and again in the 1790s.

The Cellar is on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk due to their concern over the long-term use and its deteriorating condition. The entrance to the Cellar is via a large padlocked metal trap door under which is a short metal ladder fixed to the inside. At the bottom of the ladder there are steps leading down into the cellar proper. There is no lighting inside and there is much rubble especially to the eastern edge. There are old rusty metal hooks and brackets attached to the ceiling that make the area hazardous. Above ground a palisade metal fence surrounds the Cellar in order to prevent damage occurring to the roof. The grass on top is regularly mown throughout the growing season. During late 1998 a survey was conducted to establish if there was any evidence of bats using the cellars but nothing was found, probably due to the lack of available entry points.

A typical view of The Cellar



HA-HA

This 17th/18th century Grade 2 listed landscape feature is 575m in length and consists of revetment-type brick walls with a ditch on one side that runs in various sections. These include one in Cranford Woods, another traversing the eastern fringe of the woodland and others running to the south, east and west of the mown Greens. The later includes a small bridge across the ditch.

A Ha-Ha is a unique form of fencing or enclosure that was popular in the 18th century. The Ha-Ha or Haw-Haw is a duplication of the word 'Haw', derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Hage' meaning a hedge or enclosure. The purpose of the Ha-Ha in Cranford Park was to prevent livestock from straying into the woodland and the formal garden area surrounding the Manor House whilst not obscuring views across the Park.

Along the west-facing wall there is a bricked-up tunnel entrance that is rumoured to lead to the Cellar, St Dunstan's Church and even the Bath Road! Along the south-facing wall that runs parallel to the Chestnut Avenue there is a flight of steps that lead out of the woodland. A path runs alongside the top of the walls that adjoin the Ha-Ha Greens. A section of this path to the northwest tends to be waterlogged during the winter and spring months.



There is some botanical interest for the flora growing from the brickwork including Pellitory-On-The-Wall along the east-facing wall and for ferns along the west face such as Hart's Tongue. There are also specimen trees situated along the top of the Ha-Ha ditch including several Copper Beeches, however two of these blew down in Feb 2013 and features will be made of the stumps and also bench made from the trunk as they are important historical feature and may have been used to mark an tunnel entrance.

In recent years extensive restoration work to the Ha-Ha has been carried out including scrub clearance from the ditches and the removal of Ivy growing on the walls.

ICE HOUSE

The Berkeley family built the Ice House sometime after 1720 in order to keep fruit and other perishable goods fresh. No visible structure remains apart from a moat surrounding the central area on three sides. The moat is marked as being a water feature on an Ordnance Survey map dated 1911 and it is likely that frozen water was taken from here for use inside the Ice House. The moat does not hold water today but this may be due to the deterioration of the puddled clay lining.

Within the north eastern part of the moat is the mouth of an upward-facing pipe flush with the ground. This may have been an outflow for melted ice from the Ice House chamber because an underwater outflow was a common design feature of

icehouses. A large rectangular, thick concrete slab lies adjacent to the south side of the path that runs through the site. This may possibly be a capped-off entrance to an underground chamber.

BRICK CHAMBER

This underground structure is located in Cranford Wood, close to the middle of the west-facing Ha-Ha wall. It was partially illegally dug out by antique bottle hunters during early 1998 and was subsequently filled in again by the rangers. It is a round, sunken building with an arch on the eastern side at the bottom. The internal diameter of the structure is about 6 feet with a square space 2 feet wide to one side. The purpose of this attachment is unknown but would be the right size for something like a door or entrance. The walls are 18–24 inches wide and too thick to be simply structural and so could have been for insulating ice. The structure may therefore have been an Ice Well.

DRIVEWAY BRIDGE

This late 18th century Grade 2 listed 34m single-track bridge spans the River Crane and is an integral part of The Driveway access route into the Park for vehicles. It consists of a segmented arch with a plain keystone. The piers on either side have semi-circular rusticated plinths that were originally designed to carry decorative urns. The panelled walls supporting the sloped approaches to the bridge curve out in quadrants of an oval. The original red brickwork construction has been rendered over to protect the brickwork from deteriorating. There is a 6 tonne axle weight limit restriction to protect the bridge from structural damage by heavy vehicles.

WALLED GARDEN WALLS

These long walls of red brick are partly of 17th century appearance with steep-sloped coping whilst other parts look more like 18th century with buttress piers. The total length of the walls is some 530m and they vary between approximately 8-11' in height. The wall adjoining the stable building has a 7m section that was taken down due to its dangerous condition and this needs to be rebuilt.

A marginal uncut strip has been left adjoining the walls and the annual butterfly monitoring route follows this edge. Along the inside of the base of the walls there are numerous Ash, Hawthorn and Sycamore trees that have established. Most sections of the walls are thickly covered in Ivy that is slowly damaging the brickwork however this provides a late pollen and nectar source for invertebrates and also provides nesting sites for birds.

CRINKLE CRANKLE WALL

This is a Grade 2 listed serpentine wall of 17th century or early 18th century appearance that once formed part of a formal garden area to the front of Cranford House (the east facing side).

EARTH MOUND

This large mound is situated near to where Frogs Ditch leaves the southern end of Cranford Wood. Sir Montagu Sharpe, who was a president of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, identified a Bonotini or Roman survey mound within Cranford Park and it is possible that this is the same feature. A drawing of the mound he refers to can be found in his book written in 1919 'Middlesex: In British, Roman and Saxon Times'.

The mound is oval in shape measuring some 11m east to west and 8m north to south and is approximately 1.5m high. To the top of the mound there is a Yew tree and the remaining surface is mostly covered in Elm suckers and Bramble.

ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

The Church of England has sole responsibility for this Grade 1 listed property. The church and churchyard do however form a significant feature in the Park.

St Dunstan's Church was probably of Saxon origin. A resident priest is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) at Cranford with a glebe of 30 acres for his support. The church was re-built in the 15th century and the chancel and lower part of the tower remain from this period. A fire destroyed the nave and bell chamber of the tower in 1710, which were re-built in brick soon afterwards.

The church has some fine stain glass windows and also contains the Aston and Elizabeth Berkeley memorials. William Burford of Aldgate cast one of the church bells in about 1380 and this is therefore probably the oldest ringing bell in the Diocese of London. A plaque in memorial to the famous actor-comedian Tony Hancock can be found at the eastern end of the wall that surrounds the churchyard. His ashes were buried here after his death and cremation in 1968.

The Berkeley family are buried in the churchyard and there is also the family crest of Mary Berkeley the wife of the 5th Earl of Berkeley also by the church. Note some graves have skull and crossbones.



St Dunstan's Church

Additional Feature Description

INFORMATION CENTRE

This was originally the toilet building (built in 1956) that was closed for many years due to persistent vandalism and abuse. In 2000 funding was provided jointly by the London Borough of Hounslow and The Green Corridor Partnership, supported by Community Initiative Partnerships to convert the building into an Information Centre with a display area, toilet and office. Visitors now have access to information on the Park such as the wildlife, history and forthcoming events and activities (including those outside of the Park). The Centre also serves as the base for the staff and volunteers with all modern facilities. The building is protected by window and door shutters and also a monitored alarm system.



To the front there are two hard-surfaced paths leading to the building with bordering native woodland wildflower, tree and shrub areas.

WILDLIFE GARDEN

This enclosed area was connected to the former Manor House and may have been originally used for washing laundry. It adjoins the southern side of the west stable wing and is surrounded by Grade 2 listed walls, about 3.5m high, with several boarded up entrances. Early in 2002 the Green Corridor Partnership provided funding to help convert this area into an educational wildlife garden with a greenhouse that is suitable for disabled users.

In 2007 the garden was revamped and then in winter 2008, a new garden project was started to create a more urban type demonstration garden. This has involved a huge amount of work involving the restoration of the greenhouse, the discovery and enhancement of the well. A new pergola was constructed for the vine and the formation of a new vegetable patch.



In 2012 the council was approached by the Hillingdon Hospital's cancer unit to use the area as part of the rehabilitation programme for prostate cancer patients and several organised events have taken place.

STABLE YARD

The rear of the yard contains a fenced-off conservation area that has an artificially lined pond constructed during early 1997. The remainder of the yard is used for the storage of machinery and materials. Telephone and electricity cables run under the area and a mains water supply that leads to a water tap at the eastern side of the area. Security lighting and a dummy CCTV camera also overlook the yard. The early 18th century boundary walls are Grade 2 listed.

The yard is messy but has seen significant developments with 4 new bee hives and a new allotment site which local schools use. Cranford Community College started the scheme which has been taken over by Cedars Special School.

STORAGE OUTBUILDING

Located near to the Cellar trap door this outbuilding is used by the Church for storage of their grass cutting equipment. There is a mains electricity socket located inside.

CAR PARK

The main car park area is some 1000sq.m in size with an extension to the rear some 500sq.m. These are partially separated by a hawthorn hedge. The main area has a tarmac surface that has recently been re-laid whereas the extension is roughly surfaced with hoggin. The southern and eastern boundary of the extension is defined by a bund that has been planted with a variety of trees including Whitebeam, Cherry, Ash and Rowan. The main area has a hawthorn hedge to the eastern and western limits. To the front (north) there is a display board for long-term notices and information such as the car park closing times, events programme and byelaws. A cycle rack has also been installed at this point. The southern end has a second display board and the south western edge has an interpretation board.

The car park is closed at 9.00pm during the summer or at dusk, whichever is the earlier.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

The Park Officers maintain the playground, which is inspected on a weekly basis. The surface is rubber chippings. The playground has however been designed in natural materials, as far as possible, in order to better fit into the natural landscape of the Park.

The playground is situated next to the car park extension and is separated from it by an adjoining tree covered bund. A chain link fence runs along the northern boundary and wooden fencing runs around the remaining perimeter. This is to prevent dogs from entering as they are prohibited within the area.

THE DRIVEWAY



The Driveway runs from the roundabout at Junction 3 of the M4 motorway to the Car Park and Courtyard. The total length of The Driveway is some 370m. It has a tarmac surface and speed humps along its length. From the river bridge westwards post and rail fencing separates The Driveway from the adjoining parkland. Adjacent to The Driveway side of this fencing there are Daffodil bulbs and on the parkland side there is an avenue of Lime trees.

RIVER LEVEL MONITORING STATION

The Environment Agency maintains a small building next to the River Crane that contains equipment to measure river water levels. It is located near the River Crane footbridge leading to Avenue Park on the eastern riverbank.

SCOUT HUT

Adjoining the north side of the Walled Garden there is a small, dilapidated building that was originally provided for local scouts. Only the walls are intact today and due to its condition and location it has no current use but is a gathering point for local youths. It is very untidy.

Recreational Facilities:

Cranford Countryside Park consists of Meadows, Woodlands, historical features, picnic areas and playground facilities. Onsite facilities include a small visitor centre with toilet facilities. There is also an office facility where the Ranger service are based.

Cranford Countryside Park has a network of paths throughout the site including a formal Nature Trail. There are also more formal walks including the Hillingdon Trail and the London Loop. There is also a bridleway and dual use cycle path which links with park with Avenue Park.

The open grasslands and more formal parts allow a place of peace to rest and enjoy the wildlife close to the heart of the busy Hayes town centre and Heathrow Airport.

The playgrounds provide safe play environments for children of varying ages.

Dog bins are present at the formal entrances.

Present Use:

Cranford Countryside Park has an appeal to visitors from the surrounding urban neighbourhood stemming from its ancient origins. Whilst the suburbs of London have grown up around it the park still retains the landscape and historic interest of a by-gone era. The informal landscape of bluebell woods, wildflower meadows and tree lined rivers combine with the historic remains of the Manor House and St Dunstans Medieval Church to give a feeling of peace and tranquillity in between Heathrow and the M4 motorway.

Facilities such as the Play Area, Wildflower Garden and Information centre are well used by site visitors especially by families and corporate groups. An allotment area within the yard, was used by local schools along with a planned vegetable plot in the works yard, a re-vitalisation of the wildlife garden, a new nature trail, greater use of the stable block and a wider program of educational aspects within the park have also contributed to a higher rate of use of the park by local communities.

The establishment of a regular volunteer group has also contributed to a higher level of works taking place on site along with Park officers and also corporate volunteer groups.

A wide variety of events throughout the year from fun events such as Halloween 70 children and adults attended and a play on the life of Mary Cole who lived at the manor during the early 19th century, performed in the courtyard.



Sharp corporate volunteers

Management Arrangements:

The country park is managed by the London Borough of Hillingdon's Green Spaces Team (see Appendix A for Green Spaces Structure).

The Friends group was re-launched in October 2012 and now meets quarterly.

The Country Park falls under the guidance of the following Habitat Action Plans (within the Hillingdon Biodiversity Action Plan). These give management targets for maintaining and enhancing the borough's biological sustainability:

- Meadows and Pastures
- Parks and Amenity Grasslands
- Standing Water
- Woodlands
- Rivers

The lead contact for the site is the Countryside and Conservation Officer (South) who directs the day-to-day ecological works, which are carried out by the Ranger and various specialist contractors. Specialist contractors, organised through LBH Waste Division, carry out the dog bin collections regularly.

The playground is inspected weekly by Parks officer and by quarterly by a specialist contractor and maintained accordingly under the direction of a Green Spaces Officer.

5. Vision for Cranford Countryside Park

Our vision for Cranford Countryside Park is

“Cranford Countryside Park will celebrate and promote its historical and cultural significance on both a local and national level and will also reflect its importance for nature conservation by encouraging appreciation of the natural environment”.

- To preserve, monitor and enhance nature conservation interests and in doing so maintain the landscape character of the Park.
- To encourage and provide informal recreational and educational activities that reflects the rich wildlife, cultural and historical value of the Park and to promote these values to the local community and beyond
- To monitor, enhance and protect the historical features of the park
- To insure an excellent code of practice and high level of customer service is delivered to all users of the park.



We seek to continue to protect, conserve and enhance the living landscapes, which form Cranford Countryside Park, whilst creating an exciting and appealing site for all and ensure that the site is easily accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.

A number of key projects are planned to continue the programme of continual site improvements. For more details see section 7a. 5 -Year Plan and 7b. Individual Project Outlines.

6. Site Aims and Objectives

6.1 Main Aims

1. Create and maintain a welcoming site
2. Ensure the site is healthy, safe and secure
3. Ensure the site is clean and well maintained
4. Ensure sustainable management of resources
5. Appropriate management of conservation and heritage features
6. Encourage community involvement
7. Ensure effective marketing of the facility
8. Implement effective management strategies

6.2 How these aims are being met and future objectives

6.2.1 *Create and maintain a welcoming site*

There are 5 entrances to this park, with the main entrance situated off of The Parkway. All entrances have sign boards welcoming you to Cranford Countryside Park. There is also an additional sign in the car park.

These signs do not meet the Hillingdon Council's branding policy, as were installed a before such branding guideline were in place. However we are currently working on an interpretation project, which will include map and information boards being located at key points to the park and is prioritised (see CCP-1) as they are essential in creating a welcoming and well-maintained feel to the park.

The configuration of the site allows for visitors to be able to walk the full length of this park and there is also a public footpath and the Hillingdon Trail which cross the park.

In order to be welcoming, the park must cater for a wide range of peoples' needs whilst protecting and enhancing the wildlife. There is a network of pathways throughout the park, with a hard gravel surfaced paths in the Northern section and the dual use cycle path which links the site with Avenue Park as well as numerous grass mown pathways in the South, which compliment the natural surroundings.

The combination of amenity grassland and wildflower meadows, provide a beautiful setting with areas to cater for all, with designated areas for picnics or other activities. The abundance of trees, shrubs and wildflower meadows create a diverse habitat and are home to many different species of wildlife. The cycle path, bridleways and play area are a great attraction and the park furniture fulfils an essential role in making Cranford Countryside Park welcoming.



Mown pathways crossing Cranford Park

Objectives

1. Secure and standardise all access points, where applicable.
2. Maintain all boundary walls and fences as necessary.
3. Maintain footpaths as necessary.
4. Install and maintain new interpretive signage.
5. Maintenance and provision of site furniture where appropriate.

6.2.2 Ensure the site is healthy, safe and secure

Healthy

The park provides the opportunity for passive and active recreation, for example cycling and horse riding. People may also use the site as part of a walking or jogging route and the playground area also provides children with activity.

The promotion of health and exercise on the park is now very evident with the provision of an orienteering course which has been well used by such groups as scouts, schools, sea cadets and orienteering clubs throughout the year. The British Airways Athletics Club has also continued their regular use of the park.

Play areas are inspected weekly by trained Park Officers. In addition, specialist playground contractors inspect quarterly, and the Council's insurers carry out an annual, independent repairs. If the equipment is found to be in an unsafe, condition it will be decommissioned with immediate effect.

Safe and Secure

Generally the site is not heavily vandalised and anti social behaviour does not regularly affect the park, although this is largely due to onsite staff, which includes weekend and evening working. Any issues reported in the park are dealt with by our Enforcement Team and also Parks Officers or on-call Parks Officers. If a pattern of anti-social behavior is noted, good relationships have been established with the local Police and Safer Neighborhood Officers who can be called upon to assist.

A CCTV camera covers the car park and there has been an increase in night time patrols by the local police. Parks Officers has add a further element of security to the park undertaking regular patrols throughout the year.

The LBH park byelaws (a copy of which can be obtained from LBH Green Spaces) apply to Cranford Countryside Park and are enforced by the Parks Officers when necessary.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the LBH is responsible for ensuring, so far as practical, the health and safety of employees, contractors and visitors whilst conducting all involved activities. As such, it is important to LBH and all staff and contractors are aware of their respective obligations. Details can be found from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or on LBH web pages (www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=6837). This includes a link to the guidelines for reporting incidents and RIDDOR, the HSE incident reporting scheme. Risk assessment policy states the procedures necessary to comply with the Act.

Parks Officers Team

The park rarely suffers from severe vandalism but low-level anti-social behaviour occurs from time to time. This generally includes graffiti, litter and broken glass caused by smashed bottles.

The council's Park Officers fall under the umbrella of the council's Green Spaces Team, which manages the park. The Park Officers provide a park-keeping facility and enhance the security of the park and its visitors. The Team carries out daily checks so that any defects, such as graffiti, are dealt with quickly. In many cases the Park Officers will deal with urgent problems (such as broken glass) there and then.

The Park Officers' role includes:

- Undertaking regular visits to the park and reporting as necessary
- Basic maintenance of park equipment and facilities
- Non-specialist horticultural work and litter picking
- Regular inspection of playgrounds
- Identifying acts of vandalism and submitting reports.
- Investigating and gathering information on accidents etc.
- Responding quickly and effectively to public complaints.
- Carrying out practical conservation works and tree works

Objectives

1. Undertake a regular cleaning regime to remove litter, and respond quickly to fly tipping.
2. Continue to implement Health and Safety policies.
3. When appropriate, ensure that people using the park are aware of the relevant bylaws.
4. Continue to encourage residents to value the park.
5. Ensure residents feel more engaged by informing them of upcoming events on site notice boards.
6. Maintain firebreaks

More serious anti-social behaviour is very rare at Cranford Park, but may need to be addressed by other agencies such as the police or the council's Enforcement Team.

The Enforcement Team is responsible for dealing with a range of issues including noise, dog fouling, motor bikes, horse riding and fly tipping. Although this team is not on the premises on a regular basis, they are able to respond quickly to any reports that require their attention.

Police Community Support Officers regularly attend Friends and Resident Association meetings and are kept up to date with any local issues of concern. On occasion, drug-related debris has been found at Cranford Park and the PCSOs have been very helpful in dealing with those responsible for it.

6.2.3 Ensure the site is clean and well maintained

Cranford Countryside Park is maintained by the Borough's Grounds Maintenance Team and all works are carried out inline with the detailed specification which provides clear definition of the standards and quantity of work required, a summary of which can be found in appendix B. The Countryside and Conservation officer as well as Park Officers also contribute by reporting any areas of maintenance needed and carrying out maintenance or other tasks not covered by the grounds maintenance contractor this includes arranging maintenance tasks required through use of volunteer work parties and Community Service workers. The site is regularly inspected, and any graffiti reported to the Green Spaces Team graffiti service (which operates five days a week). Broken glass, litter and other issues are also dealt with during these daily inspections.

The Country Park has a number of litter bins, sited around the site, which assist visitors in maintaining the area in a clean condition. The litter bins are emptied weekly by the contractor in line with the specification. Litter collection is also carried out prior to mowing. In this way, littering around the park is kept to a minimum. Dog fouling bins are provided on site and are emptied weekly. This is monitored by staff and reported if extra emptying is required.

The guidelines on allowing dogs within parks and open spaces are covered within the byelaws. Both the Countryside & Conservation Officer and Parks Officers Team advise dog owners of their responsibility when visiting the park.

Although the present arrangements mean that Cranford Countryside Park is kept clean, tidy and presentable, further improvements can be made. The improvements will be centred on areas, which often do not look as well maintained as the rest of the park. For example, maintaining the park entrance from Watersplash Lane which can often be subject to fly-tipping.

Objectives

1. Strive to improve current maintenance arrangements.
2. Enhance maintenance regimes where practical.
3. Encourage the continued involvement of the 'Friends of Cranford Countryside Park'.
4. Carry through a programme of improvements.

6.2.4 Ensure sustainable management of resources

The London Borough of Hillingdon recognise and are aware of the need to minimise adverse impact on the environment, and agree with the principles of waste minimisation as defined in Local Agenda 21. LBH, therefore, actively pursues ways of delivering sustainable development and ensuring environmental sustainability is a vital part of this. The Council has signed up to the peat charter, and discourages the use of peat-based products in its horticultural work. Maintenance agreements discourage the use of pesticides and herbicides on the site, a stance that has environmental and financial benefits. In specific reference to Cranford Countryside Park, maintenance agreements discourage the use of pesticides and herbicides on the site, a stance that has environmental and financial benefits. Therefore, other methods of pest control are utilised, and, where possible, non-herbicidal weed control is carried out. Where it is absolutely necessary, the contractor will use non-residual

herbicide applications (e.g. glyphosate), to reduce environmental impact. Also, where they are used, herbicides are applied as spot treatment rather than blanket sprayed, and all operatives are trained and certified for that particular operation.

All green waste created by the grounds maintenance contractor is recycled off-site. This ensures waste minimisation. Tree trimmings are also recycled by the borough's term tree maintenance contractor. All new plantings are being devised to limit the need for watering and our contractor is looking at ways to minimise the use of carbon fuels.

It is most important that we are seen to 'practice what we preach' and maintain high standards of sustainable management that demonstrate our awareness of environmental, conservation and resource issues. We therefore seek to actively research and promote new initiatives in the field of sustainable resource management. 'A Green Flag Park must have a management plan or strategy in place which reflects the aspirations of agenda 21 and clearly and adequately addresses all the above criteria' (ISPAL, formerly LAM).

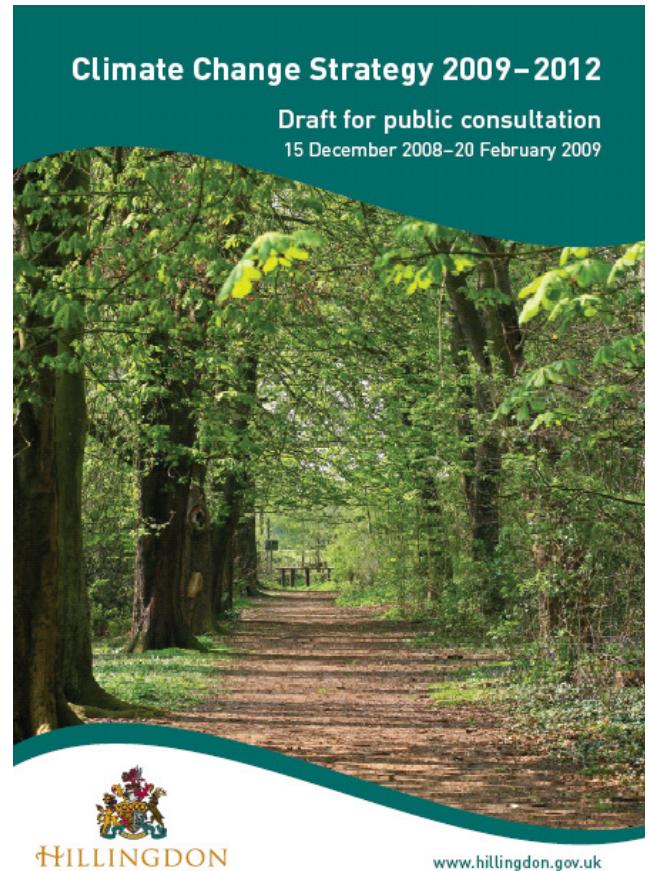
The London Borough of Hillingdon has recently (Dec 2008) released a draft Climate Strategy for consultation. This can be found at:

http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/pdf/j/j/Climate_change_consultation_complete.pdf

This has been formally adopted (April 2009). These policies will be embedded in site management processes.

The LBH Green Spaces team is responsible for Cranford Countryside Park's management and is committed to continue improving the site over the next five years. It is managed according to Green Spaces standards as summarized in the Site Summary. The staff structure as already described outlines how this works and how management is kept effective. The Ranger is responsible for the day-to-day management, and the contractor carries out most maintenance works. All are under the charge of the Countryside and Conservation Officer and the Area Manager.

Effective management of the park will be through staff engagement and involvement. Site staff will be involved in the planning process as they are an integral component of the site and important for its smooth running. Each year a Performance and Development Appraisal is completed for each staff member, which helps them to achieve set objectives for learning and this also applies to staff employed through contractors.



The Green Flag assessment process itself will also ensure further enhancement as it is a means for review of the management and will be used to encourage new thinking and to guide dynamic and adaptable management.

The following management operations outline the effective management plan in place for Cranford Countryside Park and, through them, we will carry through the effective management of the site. Other works are ongoing and improvements are continual as described throughout but the projects outlined are the major planned works essential to the upkeep of the site.

Sustainability is a key theme that runs through many of the management processes throughout the park. In 2008 there was a significant increase in the re-use of on-site materials. Fallen or felled dead wood was either stacked within the woodland to provide a habitat resource or been re-cycled to provide new bins, benches and fencing. The walled wildlife garden has been completely revamped to illustrate the potential for sustainability and wildlife gardening.

New compost heaps have been constructed from waste materials and waste plant materials and pond dredgings added to them. Office and kitchen waste is now being recycled. Hay cut from the southern meadow is being used as feed. Invasive species removal is now part of an on going program of cleaning up the river the crane that runs through the park.



Objectives

1. Continue to minimize the application of pesticides and where possible encourage the use of physical /cultural forms of weed control.
2. Where possible encourage the use of physical / cultural forms of weed control.
3. Continue to recycle and re-use hay cuttings.
4. Carry out regular reviews of all management operations and projects.
5. Learn from past vandalism to minimize repairs and associated material use.
6. Ensure robust designs are used for new furniture.
7. Identify potential sources of appropriate funding.
8. Continue to promote waste minimization.
9. Plan long-term management for all features of the park.
10. Ensure efficient use of resources.
11. Develop and promote resource conservation and sustainable development.

6.2.5 Appropriate management of conservation and heritage features

'Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features, buildings and structural features' (ISPAL, formerly ILAM).

The Country Park is home to many species of flora and fauna that are rightly appreciated by the site users. The last five-year management plan was very good in creating continuous and appropriate management. This has enabled wildlife to flourish and improve. The management of the grasslands includes rotational cutting, annual cutting which will improve diversity also leaving areas permanently uncut for invertebrates and over wintering Skylark cover.

The site is designated a Site of Nature Conservation Borough Grade II.



Cinnabar caterpillars on Ragwort at Cranford Countryside Park

The importance of green spaces for conservation of wildlife is understood, and they naturally provide habitats that are not available in urban surroundings (i.e. where concrete predominates).

Therefore, Cranford Countryside Park, through its very nature of being

a green space, is home to flora and fauna as detailed earlier. Ongoing survey works will be carried out to ensure that management techniques in place are effective.

Practical management has taken the form of re-establishing a native coppice under storey within the woodland by removing invasive species and replanting with native trees and shrubs.

The meadowland has been increased to protect endangered species specific to this habitat type. The North side project in conjunction with the Environment Agency has continued. Following the toe boarding removal from the river bank, riverside tree clearance has started and will be ongoing through several years the purpose to increase light levels into the river and the riverside vegetation and increase biological diversity. In conjunction a new nature trail has been installed thorough Dog



Kennel Covert including the River. Off site the Park now features in the area covered by The River Crane Partnership a group of organisations including 5 London Boroughs, the Environment Agency, London Wildlife Trust and businesses such as BAA who wish to increase the environmental and ecological state of the River Crane catchments.

Objectives

1. Maintain the pond, woodlands, grasslands, hedgerows and scrub area for nature conservation.
2. Monitor and adjust management accordingly.
3. Control invasive species esp. Japanese Knotweed.
4. Consider further meadow diversification.
5. Conserve existing field structures.
6. Consider further hedgerow gapping up.
7. Continue with ongoing surveys of flora & fauna.
8. Improve biodiversity of all habitats.

A full breakdown of the management prescription of the different areas of the park can be found in section 7.

6.2.6 Encourage community involvement

'Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many of the park user groups as possible' (ISPAL, formerly ILAM).

Cranford Countryside Park has an active Friends group but has not a formal Management Advisory Group (MAG). The constitution of the 'Friends' can be found in appendix H. The MAG objective is to help steer the progression of the site. This level of community involvement and commitment to the site's management is an indispensable asset to its future success.

The MAG's role will include providing new ideas to LBH, reviewing progress, assisting in fundraising and providing reports, as well as investing much needed enthusiasm and interest in the site.

Overall, their role is described as:

"To advise the council in the development and management of Cranford Countryside Park and the preservation and development of its ecological and social quality to ensure continued use by the public for leisure and recreational pursuits".

There 'Friends of' group meets every six weeks and this regularity is essential in order for the community to be more directly involved. Their role in influencing management will continue so that they stay involved in the decision-making process (as they have already been to date) through minuted meetings attended by a park representative.

The site is popular with local residents as shown by the site user survey (see section 4); people come to the park for many reasons and most were either satisfied or very satisfied with it.

Cranford Park has a wide base of regular users and supporters including dog walkers, families, runners and joggers, the model aircraft club, members of St Dunstan's Church, local residents, our "Friends Of" group and regular conservation volunteers. The Education and Events officers are keen to develop strong links with local schools developing long-term projects such as an allotment set up by Cranford community college and carried on by Cedar school. In 2008 there was significant increase in the use of Cranford Park by schools. This was due to better marketing and flexibility in the use of external facilities for coach parking. Other activities that took place in Cranford Park included an open air play, St. Dunstans' fair, corporate groups helping with conservation tasks, a large Halloween event, various walks and talks, weddings as well as filming for the discovery channel. The target is to further increase use of the park by creating exciting projects to inspire schools and community groups.

Model aircraft

The byelaws permit the flying of glider and electric powered model aircraft. Hayes and District Model Aircraft Club use the Park to fly such aeroplanes. The policy states that the public must request to join the club in order for the proper control and conduct of this type of activity. The club uses the Park on a weekly basis, normally on Sunday afternoons and during Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the summer. They fly their planes from the middle of the main field at the point where the close mown grass meets the Southern Meadow. They require access to regularly mow small runway strips at this area.



British Airways Athletics Club

This club uses the Park on a regular basis for casual and organised running. Their events include cross-country championships and orienteering and Wednesday evenings are used for training sessions.

Objectives

1. Continue promoting Friends of Cranford Countryside Park.
2. Continue holding annual Country Fair/Community Festival.
3. Look for further ways to increase dedicated community support for Cranford Countryside Park.
4. Continue to work with Cranford Countryside Park MAG.
5. Improve joint working with local voluntary groups.
6. Further promotion of the site and its importance to schools, youth and community groups.

6.2.7 Ensure effective marketing of the facility

Cranford Countryside Park is featured on both the council's website and includes information on site facilities, activities, site directions, the nature of the park and its history.

The management plan is available online on the council's website, making it more accessible to all. The LBH also has a map featuring all of its sites on the green spaces web page.

In order to ensure that the local community and the general park users are aware of what is going on in the park, it is essential that a supply of information is available throughout the year. This information will be presented in a variety of different ways and will seek to encourage understanding and awareness of Cranford Countryside Park itself and the wider remit of the Council.

The sign boards at each entrance further enhance the marketing of the site, and the Rangers are provided with a uniform identifying them as staff, making them available for the public to approach and query about any aspect of the park.

Objectives

1. Preparation of interpretive materials for the park.
2. Promote the park through press releases and continue links with local radio station
3. Attend local community events e.g. Youth Forum

New interpretation boards installed promoting the historical features.



6.2.8 Implement effective management strategies

The site has been owned by the London Borough of Hillingdon since 1930s. However, until relatively recently in 2009, the upkeep and management of the site was managed through an agreement between London Borough of Hillingdon and London Borough of Hounslow, where Hounslow managed the site on the behalf with a financial contribution from London Borough of Hillingdon.

Now, the LBH Green Spaces team is responsible for this and all other borough green spaces as outlined in the Site Summary (p11). The staff structure (in Appendix A) outlines how this works and how management is kept effective; the Community Liaison Officer is responsible for daily management, and the contractor carries out most maintenance works. All are under charge of the Countryside & Conservation Officer and ultimately the Area Manager. The management operations outlined in the following pages, including several improvement projects along with the regular maintenance regime, outline the effective management plan in place for Cranford Countryside Park and, through them, we will carry out the effective management of the site.

Furthermore the site's management is kept effective through staff engagement and involvement. The on-site staff is an integral component of the site and important for its smooth running and, each year a Performance and Development Appraisal is completed for each staff member, which helps them to achieve set objectives for learning and development.

Finally, the Green Flag assessment process will ensure further enhancement, as it is a means for review of the management and will be used to encourage new thinking and to guide dynamic and adaptable management, as well as attracting publicity and interest.

Objectives

1. Use sustainable management strategies and methods as described in section 6.2.4
2. Carry out regular reviews of all management operations and projects.
3. Identify potential sources of appropriate funding.

7. Management Actions and Maintenance Plan

7a) 5 Year Plan

The following is a quick reference to the planned timing of the management operations in the five-year period 2013 -2018. The exact timing of given project may be subject to availability of funding being secured. Consequently there is potential for some movement of projects from year to year.

Year	Project	
2013	CCP-4	Scrub removal
	CCP-6	Species Surveying and Monitoring
	CCP-8	Community Outreach
	CCP- 9	Restoration of River Crane
	CCP-11	Invasive species removal
	CCP-10	Site User Survey
	CCP-16	Tree Survey
	CCP-22	Notice Boards
	CCP-23	Installation of Litter bins
	CCP-24	Conservation Cut & Clear
	CCP-25	Annual Event
	CCP-26	Annual Facilities Review
	CCP-27	Creation of Outdoor Classroom
	CCP-28	Education Programme
2014	CCP-1	Information & interpretation Board
	CCP-2	Install interpretation boards within information centre
	CCP-3	Create wildlife learning resource
	CCP-4	Scrub removal
	CCP-5	Restoration of historical features
	CCP-6	Species Surveying and Monitoring
	CCP-8	Community Outreach
	CCP- 9	Restoration of River Crane
	CCP-10	Site User Survey
	CCP-11	Invasive species removal
	CCP-12	Erection of Bat & bird boxes
	CCP-14	Bench installation
	CCP- 15	Hedge Laying
	CCP-24	Conservation Cut & Clear
	CCP-25	Annual Event
	CCP-26	Annual Facilities Review
	CCP-28	Education Programme
2015	CCP-4	Scrub removal
	CCP-6	Species Surveying and Monitoring
	CCP-7	Rationalise Way marking & Furniture

Cranford Country Park Management Plan

	CCP-8	Community Outreach
	CCP- 9	Restoration of River Crane
	CCP-10	Site User Survey
	CCP-11	Invasive species removal
	CCP-12	Erection of Bat & bird boxes
	CCP-13	Create skylark Squares
	CCP-15	Grazing project – HLS
	CCP- 18	Promotional Leaflets
	CCP -19	Nature Trail
	CCP-24	Conservation Cut & Clear
	CCP-25	Annual Event
	CCP-26	Annual Facilities Review
	CCP-28	Education Programme
2016	CCP-4	Scrub removal
	CCP-5	Restoration of historical features
	CCP-6	Species Surveying and Monitoring
	CCP-7	Rationalise Way marking & Furniture
	CCP-8	Community Outreach
	CCP- 9	Restoration of River Crane
	CCP-10	Site User Survey
	CCP-11	Invasive species removal
	CCP-12	Erection of Bat & bird boxes
	CCP- 20	Children's Activity Trail
	CCP-21	Trim Trail
	CCP-24	Conservation Cut & Clear
	CCP-25	Annual Event
	CCP-26	Annual Facilities Review
	CCP-28	Education Programme
2017	CCP-4	Scrub removal
	CCP-5	Restoration of historical features
	CCP-6	Species Surveying and Monitoring
	CCP-7	Rationalise Way marking & Furniture
	CCP-8	Community Outreach
	CCP-10	Site User Survey
	CCP-11	Invasive species removal
	CCP-12	Erection of Bat & bird boxes
	CCP-24	Conservation Cut & Clear
	CCP-25	Annual Event
	CCP-26	Annual Facilities Review
	CCP-28	Education Programme

7b) Individual Project Outlines

The following pages contain a brief project outline for each of the projects listed in 7a. These provide not only descriptions of the projects, but also the rationale behind them, when the works are likely to be carried out, by whom, and how much they are likely to cost.

Project:	CCP-1 Information & Interpretation Boards
Summary:	Design and produce interpretation boards for points of interest.
Rationale:	Produce boards providing information about various points of interest within the park. Use vandal/graffiti-proof materials, position at wheelchair/child height. Use environmentally friendly materials where possible.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Staff Contractors
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project Update 2014	This will form part of the HLF Bid

Project:	CCP- 2 Install interpretation boards within information centre
Summary:	Design and produce interpretation boards for the information centre.
Rationale:	Produce interpretation boards providing information about history, and projects within the park. Use vandal/graffiti-proof materials, position at wheelchair/child height. Use environmentally friendly materials where possible.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Staff; Contractors
Budget Estimate:	Funding may be needed
Project Update 2014	This may be part of the HLF Bid

Project:	CCP-3 Create wildflower learning resource
Summary:	Wildflower Learning Resource. Create wildflower meadow patches on the grass opposite Cranford Countryside Park Visitor Centre
Rationale:	Creation for use for educational purposes & interpretation. Use EM4 mix as for Prescription 1.1 possibly using single species for visual impact and educational purposes. Illustrate the importance of the meadow habitat with the aid of an interpretation board. Keep surrounding grass short to enhance visual appearance. Inform contractors of change of management.
Constraints:	Sowing of seed will be dependent on time of year and weather conditions
Who will do it?	Contractors
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update 2014	A poppy meadow will be sown in the memorial garden to celebrate the World War I. Wildflowers will be sown around the pond.

Project:	CCP- 4 Remove trees, Blackthorn and Brambles from grasslands to restore fully to open meadowland.
Summary:	Removal of scrub from meadows
Rationale:	To maintain existing meadows the need to remove any scrub encroachment and tree suckers is required
Constraints:	
Who will do it?	Staff; Blue Sky; Volunteers
Budget Estimate:	Within existing Budget constraints
Project Update 2014	This is ongoing and scrub encroachment and suckers have been removed across the meadow areas.

Project:	CCP- 5 Restoration of historical features and HLF Bid
Summary:	Research funding for application to Heritage lottery Grant & liaise with English heritage.
Rationale:	Liaise with English Heritage regarding restoration of historical features including the cellars and Ha-ha. Creation of Parks for People HLF bid to include various projects including restoration of existing features, improvements to existing features such as info centre etc. Research possible funding options
Constraints:	Funding
Who will do it?	Staff; Volunteers
Budget Estimate:	Dependent on funding available up to £2million
Project Update 2014	LBH has agreed to fund the initial feasibility study necessary to make a HLF bid. A working party will be set up with members from the conservation and heritage team, Countryside and conservation officer and also select members of the Friends Group. Works will commence in 2014

Project:	CCP- 6 Species Surveying and Monitoring
Summary:	Update species surveys and create concise and extensive database
Rationale:	Cranford Countryside Park has been extensively surveyed over the past years, but methodology has not been comprehensive.
Constraints:	Time; Funding
Who will do it?	Staff; Volunteers; Specialist contractors
Budget Estimate:	Nil - £1,150
Project update	This is ongoing. Butterfly survey is existing and will continue annually.
Project update 2014	River Fly monitoring will start in 2014 in conjunction with Crane Valley Partnership and Thames 21 will lead on this.

Project:	CCP- 7 Rationalise Way marking & Furniture
Summary:	Review & replace existing way markers and fingerposts
Rationale:	Replace existing way markers.
Constraints:	All materials used should be hard wearing and long lasting
Who will do it?	Staff; Contractors
Budget Estimate:	£5,000
Project update	Some way markers were replaced in 2010, however due to financial restrictions imposed by the Council any further development has been postponed.
Project update 2014	This will form part of the overall HLF bid.

Project:	CCP- 8 COMMUNITY OUTREACH Volunteers & Scientific Research
Summary:	To improve community outreach.
Rationale:	<p>Establish volunteers to assist with habitat management, wildlife surveying, events, general park duties etc. Local contacts include Brunel University and Capel Manor. Possibilities also exist via the European Volunteer Scheme (EVS).</p> <p>Make links with Brunel University regarding possibilities for student project work.</p> <p>Continue to create links locally especially via local churches in the Hayes area, Hillingdon Association for Volunteer Services (HAVS) and London Borough of Hillingdon generally.</p>
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Staff; Vols; Friends
Budget Estimate:	Within existing budget constraints
Project update	<p>Currently we hold a monthly volunteer session set up and has been running since October 2010.</p> <p>A volunteer programme has been established with Hillingdon Hospital and Macmillan Trust for prostate cancer patients and family. This has been running since Feb 2012.</p>
Project update 2014	<p>Links with local business such as Glaxo Smith Kline and Sharp Electronics have been set up and a various corporate volunteer sessions occurred.</p> <p>Cranford Park Friends now assist with the maintaining of the Secret Garden and these meet monthly throughout March – October.</p> <p>Links with Thames 21 have been established and various river clearing sessions have taken place and also leading on the River Fly Monitoring programme in conjunction with the Crane Valley Partnership.</p> <p>In 2014 we will also be running a volunteer session for 15-17 year olds as part of the Challenge scheme</p>

Project:	CCP- 9 Restoration of River Crane
Summary:	Improvements/restoration of banks to improve condition of river
Rationale:	Pursue links with Environment Agency to develop improved stream profile, substrate and bank side vegetation. If successful this could improve the brook's water quality to a certain extent.
Constraints:	Environment Agency will need to be consulted
Who will do it?	Staff; contractors
Budget Estimate:	Funding to be confirmed.
Project update	<p>In Feb 2011 the following works were carried out in the Northern section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 upstream deflectors 4m in length using materials sourced on site • 12 metres of hazel faggots backfilled with brushwood and planted up with a mix of marginal vegetation. <p>Some restoration works are still required in Southern section including opening up sections along the bank by removing shrubs and trees, install gravels in some areas to narrow river bed.</p>
Project update 2014	Site visits have been made with Environment Agency and river restoration will be included within the HLF bid

Project:	CCP-10 Site User Survey
Summary:	A survey of as many site users as possible will be conducted using the Resident survey form.
Rationale:	As part of a larger survey at sites across the borough, the information collected will be used to guide future management decisions.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Green Spaces Area Officer; Friends of group Park Officers
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update 2014	This will form an essential criteria for the feasibility study for the HLF bid therefore volunteers will be sought to carry out a survey.

Project:	CCP-11 Invasive species removal	<i>Ongoing</i>
Summary:	Removal of invasive species	
Rationale:	Ongoing annual removal of Giant Hogweed; Himalayan Balsam; Japanese Knotweed; Cherry Laurel	
Constraints:	Nil	
Who will do it?	Blue sky; staff; contractors	
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources	
Project update	<p>Various sections of Himalaya Balsam were pulled out adjacent to the River Crane both in the North and south parts of Cranford.</p> <p>Giant Hogweed has been previously treated with Glyphosate where required along the river banks.</p> <p>This will continue and is an ongoing project.</p>	
Project update 2014	LBH will spray the entire length of the Crane Valley in 2014	

Project:	CCP-12 Erection of Bat & bird boxes
Summary:	Erect bird & bat boxes within woodlands etc to encourage & promote existing populations.
Rationale:	Put up bat boxes, bird boxes including owl boxes throughout park.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Volunteers; Blue sky; staff; contractors
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update	Review of existing ones to be carried out in 2013 and following this a programme will be instigated.
Project update 2014	This was not carried out in 2013 therefore due to be carried out this year

Project:	CCP- 13 Create Skylark squares (as per RSPB's SAFFIE research material).
Summary:	Create bare patches of soil to increase foraging areas for various Bird species.
Rationale:	The combination of providing traditional farmland habitat and Skylark squares will increase the availability of foraging area for Skylark during the breeding season and seed for over wintering flocks of Linnets (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>), Skylark, Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) and Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>). Squares of between 16 and 24 square metres are created either by treating existing vegetation with Glyphosate or turning the seed drill off during sowing. The bare patches provide safe foraging and breeding havens and have been proven to increase the number of Skylark broods during the breeding season. Placing two per hectare away from field edges and tramlines has yielded significant benefits.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Contractors
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update	Due to the hot dry summer in 2011 some areas of grassland were subject to fire damage leaving the soil exposed with minimal re-growth due to the very dry conditions
Project update 2104	No areas have been created due to natural grass fires, also now part of HLS therefore grazing will be introduced in areas which may influence bare areas of soil occurring naturally

Project:	CCP- 14 Bench installation
Summary:	To install a further 10 wooden benches around the site
Rationale:	Currently there are 6 benches around the site, however there are some areas of the site where there are none and it has been requested by various park user's esp. elderly users that more benches be installed.
Constraints:	None
Who will do it?	Contractors; Park Officers
Budget Estimate:	Up to £5,000
Project update	4 benches to be installed in March 2013, however further benches required. Where possible benches to be made from the wood of felled trees. Locations to be identified.
Project update 2014	5 benches were installed in 2014 from monies secured from the council's Chrysalis fund.

Project:	CCP- 15 Hedge Laying
Summary:	To lay hedges where possible
Rationale:	To promote ancient management techniques whilst prolonging the life of the hedges, improve the general appearance of the site and also providing additional viewing from outside which has aided local police monitor anti-social behaviour and also welcomed by local residents.
Constraints:	Some hedges will need to be left to get to suitable height before laying can. Some hedges have too many rows so may not be suitable.
Who will do it?	Specialist contractor; Staff
Budget Estimate:	£1,500 – £2000 From existing budgets
Project update	Identify which hedges are suitable for laying. Some management works may be required before laying can take place especially if hedges have not been managed for some time.
Project update 2014	Hedges have been identified but works will be dependent on funding

Project:	CCP- 16 Tree Survey
Summary:	Survey of all trees onsite
Rationale:	To identify and map all tree species onsite and record their condition
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Tree officer
Budget Estimate:	Nil
Project Update	To be carried out in 2013
Project update 2014	This is due to be carried out in 2014

Project:	CCP - 17 Grazing Project - HLS
Summary:	Investigate the possibility of Introduce grazing as a grassland management of tool
Rationale:	<p>Identify areas which could be grazed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for fencing • Costs for water • Establish links with local farmer <p>Grazing should be intensive during the initial years to reduce the nutrient value of the soil. Low stocking densities should be used to prevent over grazing. Stock could be moved between grazing areas to allow grass to re-grow during the grazing period.</p>
Constraints:	Additional funding may be required, possibly funded by Hillingdon Community Trust. Public consultation will be needed.
Who will do it?	Staff; contractors
Budget Estimate:	£20k
Project update	Currently in the process of completing a Higher Level Stewardship bid which will include monies for capital works such as fencing.
Project update 2014	The HLS agreement is now in place as of 2013 and management has been agreed with Natural England. This agreement is for 10 years. Please see Appendix D for maps

Project:	CCP- 18 Promotional Leaflets
Summary:	Production of a range of information leaflets
Rationale:	<p>A range of information leaflets will enhance the experience of site visitors, as well as attract new visitors.</p> <p>Topics could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the site • Nature trail • walks • Activity trail
Constraints:	Need to work with Council's Corporate Communications Team
Who will do it?	Friends of CP, Local History Society, Council Officers
Budget Estimate:	£3,000
Project update	Additional funding may be required
Project update 2014	This will be part of the HLF bid

Project:	CCP – 19 Nature Trail
Summary:	Create nature trail on site
Rationale:	To create a nature trail around the site promoting what flora and fauna can be found onsite in that particular area.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Countryside & conservation officer; specialist contractors
Budget Estimate:	£2000
Project update	Additional funding needed
Project update 2014	This will form part of the overall HLF bid

Project:	CCP – 20 Children’s Activity Trail
Summary:	Installation of children’s activity trail
Rationale:	To provide children with an alternative to playground facilities by use of sculptures. To encourage children to explore the country park by providing the trail over a larger area of the site.
Constraints:	Some public consultation may be required.
Who will do it?	Friends of CP, contractors; staff
Budget Estimate:	£10,000 – £20,000
Project update	Additional funding required
Project update 2014	This will be part of the HLF fund bid.

Project:	CCP – 21 Trim Trail
Summary:	Installation of adult Trim Trail
Rationale:	To provide a trim trail around the park to encourage and promote healthy activity within the park
Constraints:	Some public consultation may be required.
Who will do it?	Friends of CP, contractors; staff
Budget Estimate:	£10,000 – £20,000
Project update	Additional funding required
Project update 2014	This will be part of the HLF bid

Project:	CCP – 22 Notice Boards
Summary:	Installation of notice boards
Rationale:	To enable posters and information about the site and also display the Green Flag certificate. Initially one to be installed in Car park area followed by installation additional boards at the various entry points.
Constraints:	Additional funding needed
Who will do it?	contractors; staff
Budget Estimate:	£2,500
Project update	Additional funding will need to be secured before these can be installed.
Project update 2014	This will be part of the HLF bid

Project:	CCP – 23 Installation of litter bins
Summary:	Installation of bins at various locations around the park.
Rationale:	Currently there are 7 bins onsite and people are encouraged to take litter home with them. However, there are litter hotspots within the park which may benefit from having a bin installed.
Constraints:	Areas will need identifying. Additional funding to be secured
Who will do it?	contractors; staff
Budget Estimate:	Up to £10,000
Project update	Quotes have been received for bins but funding may be required.
Project update 2014	5 bins were installed in 2013. Additional bins will be installed in 2014.

Project:	CCP – 24 Conservation cut and clear
Summary:	Cutting of hay meadows and remove from site.
Rationale:	To enhance the biodiversity of the site by annual hay cut of the meadow areas and to prevent the area from scrubbing over allowing it to remain as open grassland.
Constraints:	Not to be cut before 15 th July
Who will do it?	Contractors
Budget Estimate:	£8000
Project update	This is carried out annually by contractors
Project update 2014	Higher Level Stewardship agreement was signed in Dec 2013 for 10 years and this will form part of the agreement. Further details and maps can be found in Appendix D for maps

Project:	CCP – 25 Annual Event
Summary:	Hosting of an annual event in conjunction with the Cranford Friends and Church possibly link in with Open House Weekend
Rationale:	Previous community events have been held by the Friends group and the St Dunstans Church. Reinstating these events will provide a focus for bringing the local community together to appreciate and promote Cranford Park.
Constraints:	Need to ensure a coordinated approach
Who will do it?	Council, Friends of CP, Resident's Associations, local groups; St Dunstan's Church
Budget Estimate:	Will vary on type of event.
Project update	Currently we have a small event as part of Open House Weekend.
Project update 2014	In 2012 and 2013 Green spaces held a Halloween event and In 2013 the Friends of Cranford Park held their first History day and this is likely to be repeated in 2014 but on a slightly bigger scale

Project:	CCP – 26 Annual Facilities Review
Summary:	In conjunction with site users, a full review of all site facilities will be undertaken.
Rationale:	To ensure standards are maintained, site user's needs are met, and continual improvements are achieved.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Countryside & conservation officer; Community Groups; Friends
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update	Regular meetings with Friends of Cranford Park allow for opportunity to discuss future projects and facilities required
Project update 2014	Regular attendance to Friends meetings. Wish list was drawn up in Conjunction with Friends Feb 2013 some of which will form part of the HLF bid.

Project:	CCP – 27 Creation of Outdoor Classroom
Summary:	Create an outdoor classroom area within the woodlands
Rationale:	To promote and improve the facilities available to school groups by creating an outdoor classroom with logs for seats/benches. To promote sustainability by using wood cut from felled trees.
Constraints:	Nil
Who will do it?	Countryside &conservation Officer; Park Officers Friends of CP
Budget Estimate:	Within existing resources
Project update	Area to be selected carefully as it may encourage anti-social behaviour.
Project update 2014	The project was completed in Autumn 2013 by using wood/logs from a Purple Beech which fell during the high winds in early 2013. This will be used from Spring 2014

Project:	CCP – 28 Education Programme
Summary:	To create an educational programme for local schools to encourage use of the park.
Rationale:	To encourage local schools to bring students to the park as part of the national curriculum learning. To link in with other local heritage projects such as Thames 21 and LWT Crane Valley Project educational activities.
Constraints:	Funding required
Who will do it?	Countryside & conservation Officer; Park Officers; Friends of CP
Budget Estimate:	Funding required
Project update	Discussions have been taking place with LWT
Project update 2014	A joint application between LBH, LWT and Friends of Cranford Park was submitted to Hillingdon Community Trust in 2013 however this was unsuccessful. However, this will be reviewed and hopefully re-submitted.

7c) Regular Maintenance Plan

In addition to the regular maintenance of the site, as outlined in the Site Grounds Maintenance programme (see Appendix C), the following actions shall be undertaken on an ongoing basis:

- Undertake regular cleaning regime to remove litter
- Continue to implement Health and Safety Policies
- Ensure that park users are aware of relevant byelaws
- Continue to encourage users to value Cranford Countryside Park
- Enhance maintenance regimes where practical
- Encourage the involvement of the Friends of and Resident's Association.
- Continue to promote waste minimisation on sites
- Continue to minimise the application of herbicides
- Where possible encourage the use of cultural forms of weed control
- Continue to recycle and re-use organic matter generated on site.
- Develop and promote resource conservation and sustainable development
- Conserve existing hedgerows and boundaries
- Carry out regular reviews of all management operations and projects
- Identify new sources of funding and secure.

Higher Level Stewardship Agreement –

Higher level stewardship agreement is now in place as of Dec 2013 and certain areas of the park is included in this for management as wildflower meadows to be cut and cleared annually and some areas will also be fenced and grazed with cattle.

Please see Appendix D on page 84 for map showing areas and management regime.

7d) Management of compartments – as shown in Map 5

COMPARTMENT	AREA	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT	No of cuts per year
1	Central Amenity Grassland	Maintain for recreational use	April - Sept cut fortnightly, reduce if grass growth slows	16
	Wooded Drain	Retain existing tree and scrub structure & composition	Non intervention	0
	Headland	Encourage ecological succession	Non intervention	0
	Southern Meadow	To increase diversity & distribution of grassland plants by 2018	annually Cut one third of the meadow during late summer and remove arisings	1
			Annually control Ragwort, docks & Thistles	N/A
			Establish an annual monitoring programme for the hay meadow to determine the management progress	N/A
			Cut 1 hectare close to the southern entrance to Cranford Park on a 2 weekly basis to create recreational grassland.	16
2	Ha Ha Lawns	Retain existing feature	Non intervention	N/A
	Walled Garden Lawns	Maintain for recreational use	April - Sept cut fortnightly, reduce if grass growth slows	16
	Memorial Field	Maintain for recreational use	April - Sept cut fortnightly, reduce if grass growth slows	16
	Church Wood	Retain existing tree and scrub structure & composition	Non intervention	N/A
		improve for bat conservation	erect bat boxes	
	Information Centre Frontage	Maintain and improve the area for native wildflowers, ferns, shrubs & trees	Every year cut & remove any Elm and Acacia suckers and control Nettles and thistles and other invasive plants	

COMPARTMENT	AREA	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT	No of cuts per year
3	Cranford Wood	Improve the existing woodland structure and composition by reverting back to original coppiced woodland	Every winter carry out selective thinning of invasive and non-native species, removing Laurel, and Sycamore under 30cm DBH and planting Oak, Hornbeam, Beech, Field Maple, Lime and Hazel Whips	
		improve for bat conservation	following on from Survey, erect bat boxes where advantageous	
	Southern Leg of Cranford Wood	Retain the existing tree and scrub structure	Non intervention	
	Chestnut Avenue	Maintain and improve as landscape feature	Every autumn clear all scrub growth underneath the trees alongside Ha-Ha	
4	Ice House & Grounds	Maintain and enhance for Nature conservation	Re-coppice in 4 coupes on a twelve year cycle	
			erect bat boxes	
		Promote proper tree growth and form	Annually selectively thin planted trees	
5	The Plantation	Promote proper tree growth and form	Bi-annually selective thin of the planted trees	
	Northern Mature plantation	Promote proper tree growth and form	Bi-annually selective thin of the planted trees	
	Southern Mature plantation			
6	Parkway Wetland	Maximise unshaded surface water	Every year remove scrub around the pond banks	
			Each 3rd year re-pollard willows	
		Maximise open water	Every 3rd year remove encroaching marginal vegetation	
		improve for bat conservation	following on from Survey, erect bat boxes where advantageous	

COMPARTMENT	AREA	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT	No of cuts per year
7	Walled Garden Orchard	By the end of 2018 increase the diversity and distribution of grassland plant species	Graze meadow and monitor livestock welfare	
			Monitor sward condition in response to grazing and amend livestock numbers or the grazing period as necessary	
			Annually control Ragwort, docks & Thistles	
8	Driveway Meadow	By the end of 2018 increase the diversity and distribution of grassland plant species	Annually cut meadow during early summer and remove the arisings	1
			Annually control Ragwort, docks & Thistles	
			Establish an annual monitoring programme for the hay meadow to determine the management progress	
9	Southern Wetland	Enhance for nature conservation	Annually lift all trees, selectively thin trees and coppice from South to north in 5 sections	
			Every 5 years de-silt, creating small pools and scallops where possible	
		improve for bat conservation	erect bat boxes	
10	Western Margin - Boundary trees & scrub	Maintain the width of the adjoining horse ride	Flail eastern edge annually in Winter	
	Western Hedgerow	Maintain the width of the adjoining horse ride	Fail Western edge annually in Winter	
	Western Plantation	Promote proper tree growth and form whilst maintaining for boundary screening & nature conservation	Undertake a comprehensive thin of plantations in 2011	
	Frogs Ditch	ensure the proper flow of drainage water	Annually inspect and remove all blockages and litter	
11	Cranford Wood Headland	Encourage ecological succession	Non intervention	
	Headland Plantation	Promote proper Tree Growth	Undertake a thinning of plantation in 2011	
	Herbaceous Patch	Retain as a refugia for invertebrates, birds and small mammals	Non intervention	

COMPARTMENT	AREA	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT	No of cuts per year
12	Land south of Roseville Road	Retain the existing tree and scrub structure	Non intervention	
	Dog Kennel covert	Enhance for nature conservation	during clear back remaining woodland adjacent to river Crane	
			install stream deflectors to change river course in conjunction with Environment Agency guidance	
			Undertake bat surveys	
	Headland	Retain strip as a refugia for invertebrates, birds and small mammals.	Non intervention	
	Northern hedgerows	Maintain the width of adjoining paths	Flail hedgerows annually during winter period	
13	Watersplash Wood	Retain the existing tree and scrub structure	Non intervention	
	Northern Grassland	to diversify the meadow and to increase the amount of water in the meadow	Mow meadow and remove arisings in November	
14	River Crane	Maintain an unimpeded water flow	Inspect every 3 months. Liaise with the Environment Agency over removing any blockages. Liaise with the River Crane Forum.	
	River Crane - Natural Section	Enhance for nature conservation	annually eradicate Giant Hogweed	
	River Crane - Canalised section	Enhance for nature conservation	annually eradicate Giant Hogweed Consult with Environment Agency over enhancing the area for water voles. Liaise with River Crane Forum	
15	Crane Meadows	Enhance for nature conservation	cut annually as a late summer hay cut and remove arisings	1

7e) Management of Historical Features

HISTORICAL FEATURE	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT
STABLE BUILDING	Maximise the use of the Stable Building.	Ascertain with English Heritage the future use of the Stable Building.
COURTYARD	Maintain the courtyard seating area. Conserve the cobbled surface as a historic feature.	Every May and September trim the hedge and mow the grass as needed throughout the year. Every May and July treat the cobblestones with an appropriate herbicide to prevent weed growth.
CELLAR	Maximise the use of the cellar and ascertain how much it has deteriorated and conserve as a historic feature. Preserve the roof	Ascertain with English Heritage possibility of converting the entrance to allow bats to gain access for roosting and hibernating. With the loss of the contract work is awaiting the stabilisation of the lines of management and liaison between the various parties. Ascertain what long term use can be made of the cellars by ascertaining the level that the structure has deteriorated and seeking restoration funding. With the loss of the contract work is awaiting the stabilisation of the lines of management and liaison between the various parties. Every year remove tree saplings and plants that could cause damage.
HA-HA	Preserve the ditch and walls as a historic feature.	Annually cut the ivy re-growth Every year control vegetation along the top of the walls and within the ditch. Every April to September strim the south and east facing ditches near the car park on a two-week cycle or less if grass growth slows due to drought conditions. Ascertain the level that the structure has deteriorated and seek the relevant restoration funding. With the loss of the contract work is awaiting the stabilisation of the lines of management and liaison between the various parties
ICE HOUSE	Preserve as a historic feature.	Remove self set trees from moat area around Ice House
BRICK CHAMBER	Historical investigation and preservation as a historic feature	Through further documentation research and Archaeology ascertain the use of the structure, record and conserve.

HISTORICAL FEATURE	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT
Driveway Bridge	Preserve as a historic feature	Every April to September strim the edges on a two-week cycle or less if weed growth slows due to drought conditions. Ascertain the level that the structure has deteriorated and seek the relevant restoration funding
Walled Garden walls	Preserve as a historic feature	Annually cut vegetation growing along the base of the walls Ascertain the level that the structure has deteriorated and seek the relevant restoration funding
Crinkle Crankle Wall	Preserve as a historic feature	Bi-annually cut the stems of ivy re-growth at the base Ascertain the level that the structure has deteriorated and seek relevant restoration funding.
Earth Mound	Historical investigation and preservation as a historic feature	Through further documentation research and Archaeology ascertain the use of the structure, record and conserve.
St Dunstan's Church	Work closely with church and parish council to promote the church and hence the park	Through close contact with the rector and church warden. Have copies of keys to show public around as required.

7f) Management of other features

FEATURE	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	MANAGEMENT
Information Centre	Maintain the area for educational purposes.	Seek and develop use by relevant local groups Install vegetable garden Install wildflower area
Stable Yard	Maintain in good condition and to a high standard	Cut privet hedge out of bird breeding season Regularly keep area free of weeds as necessary by treating with glyphosate cut back yard pond vegetation on an annual basis during the winter
Car Park	Maintain in good condition and to a high standard	Litter pick daily cut all surrounding hedges out of bird nesting season Maintain the extra parking area by filling in potholes Remove the leaves from car park area during the early winter
Children's playground	Maintain in good condition and to a high standard	Litter pick daily Undertake weekly safety inspections and fill out inspection sheet Replace safety surface Seek funding for replacement of present play equipment
Driveway	Maintain in good condition and to a high standard	Litter pick weekly Every April to sept cut the grass verges and strim around the fencing on a two week cycle or less if grass growth slows due to drought conditions Cut suckers from around the base of the Lime trees
Scout Hut	Secure as a sage environment	Seek funding for repair or demolition

Appendices

Appendix A

Introduction to the London Borough of Hillingdon

Description

Hillingdon is situated on the western edge of Greater London and is the second largest London borough, covering a total area of about 42 square miles. The Borough is just 14 miles from central London and bounded by the counties of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Surrey and the London Boroughs of Hounslow, Ealing and Harrow.

Hillingdon is home to Heathrow, the world's busiest airport that caters for more than 60 million passengers a year.

The Borough has eight leisure centres and 2 pools, 17 libraries, two theatres and over 170 green spaces including Ruislip Woods Natural Nature Reserve and Lido.

History

The London Borough of Hillingdon was one of the 32 London Boroughs created by the London Government Act 1963. It was formed by the amalgamation of the Borough of Uxbridge and the Urban Districts of Hayes and Harlington, Ruislip/Northwood and Yiewsley and West Drayton.

The new borough came into existence on April 1, 1965 when the new council started work.

As well as taking on the work of the four previous district authorities the council became responsible for local services such as education, libraries and the children's services. These had previously been run by the Middlesex County Council, which ceased to exist on April 1 1965.

Hillingdon's purpose-built Civic Centre opened its doors to the public in 1977. The council specified the use of traditional materials such as bricks and tiles while the sloping roofs were designed by the architects to reflect the style found in many of the borough's homes.

Workforce

The council employs approximately 6,500 people, including schools' staff.

People

Hillingdon has a population of 243,006 (2000 estimate). There is a growing proportion of young people, particularly of school age children.

Around 15.7% of the borough's residents are from ethnic minority groups (mainly Indian, Pakistani, other Asian and Black Caribbean).

There is an active voluntary sector, and a wide variety of community groups, tenants' and residents' associations.

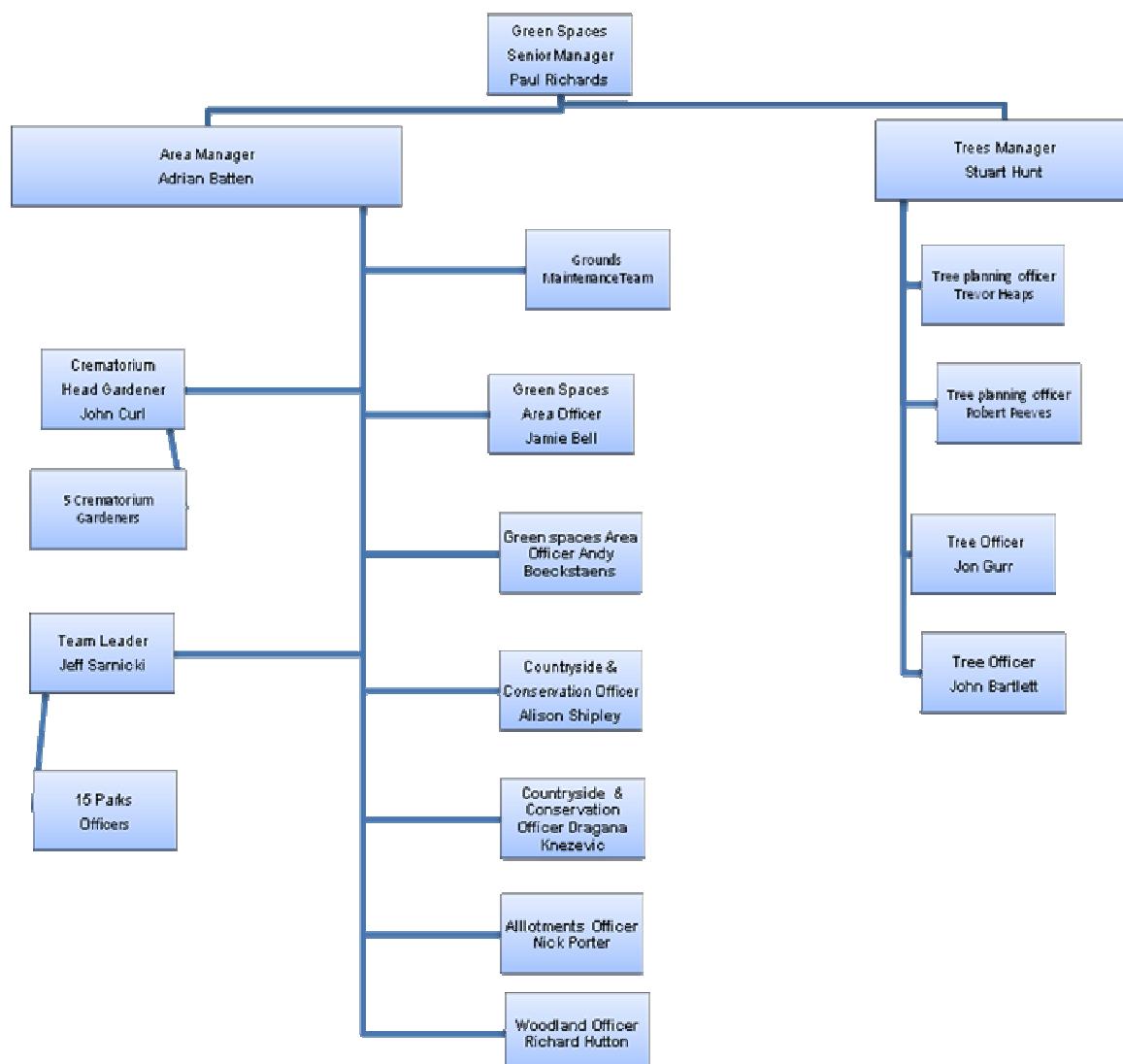
Leisure

Hillingdon is rich in wildlife and wildlife habitat including waterways, lakes, meadows and nature reserves. Ruislip Woods have been designated London's first National Nature Reserve, while nearby Ruislip Lido boasts 40 acres of water. The borough also offers a host of sporting activities, including six sports centers, many with newly refurbished gyms and four exceptional 18-hole golf courses, including a championship standard course at Stockley Park. The arts and entertainment thrive, with The Beck professional theatre in Hayes, the Compass Theatre, Ickenham, and various other venues. There is major new shopping centre, The Chimes in Uxbridge.

The Environmental and Consumer Protection Group

The Environmental and Consumer Protection Group of the London Borough of Hillingdon has the responsibility for the Environmental Development and sustainability of Hillingdon's Green Spaces. Amongst the other responsibilities it provides events and promotes outdoor activities in the Borough's Parks and Other Green Spaces. The Green Spaces Team (see Fig 1.) oversees the management and development of all public green spaces within the London Borough of Hillingdon, which also includes parks, allotments, playing fields, woodlands and other green spaces.

Figure 1. Green Spaces Team Structure



Appendix B Summary of annual frequencies

Key	
	Period for operation
1	Number of times to perform operation

Operation	Annual Frequency	Monthly Frequency *											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Litter pick of formal areas inc grassland (prior to cutting)	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
Amenity grass cutting inc. back up	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
Litter pick of path edges, grass paths (prior to cutting)	11			1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1		
Path edge cutting (inc woodland)	11			1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1		
Car pack grass cutting	11			1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1		
Mowing grass pathways	4			1	2	1	2	1	1	1			
Woodland coppicing	1												
Hedgerow management inc. laying	1												
Weed removal of paths and soft surfaces	1												
Litter Pick of wildlife areas	6	1		1		1		1		1		1	
Dog bin emptying	52	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5
Graffiti check and removal	52	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5
Safety check of playground	17	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Graffiti removal	As reqd	Within 48hrs of reporting											
Rubbish bin emptying	52	Weekly											
Litter picking and collection	52	Weekly											
Visual inspection	52	Weekly											
Clearance of all fence lines	As reqd	Depends according to site variations											

* Note – exact timing may vary according to local conditions

Frequencies are for guidance only and are subject to change seasonally and according to site.

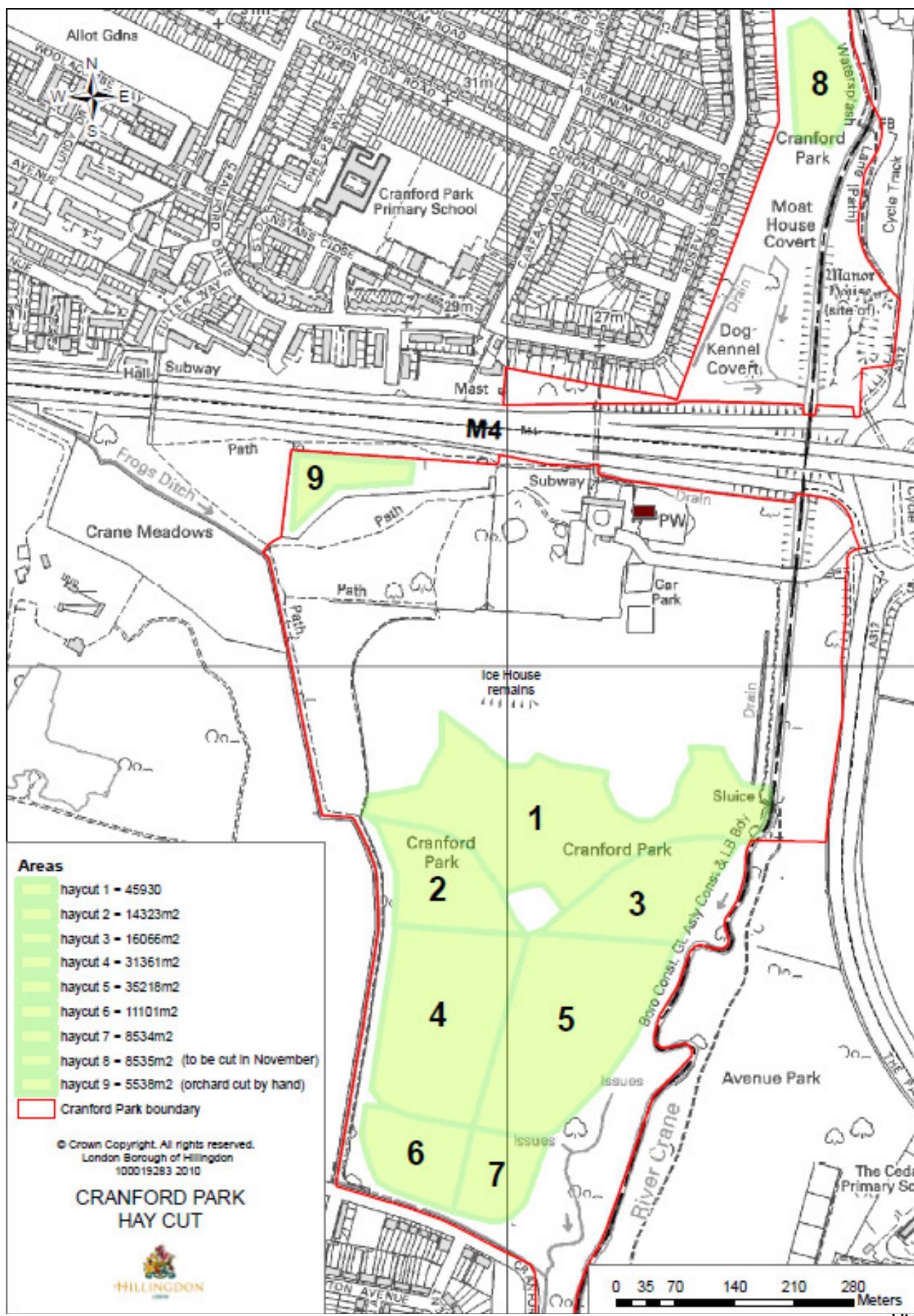
Appendix C

Annual Works Programme

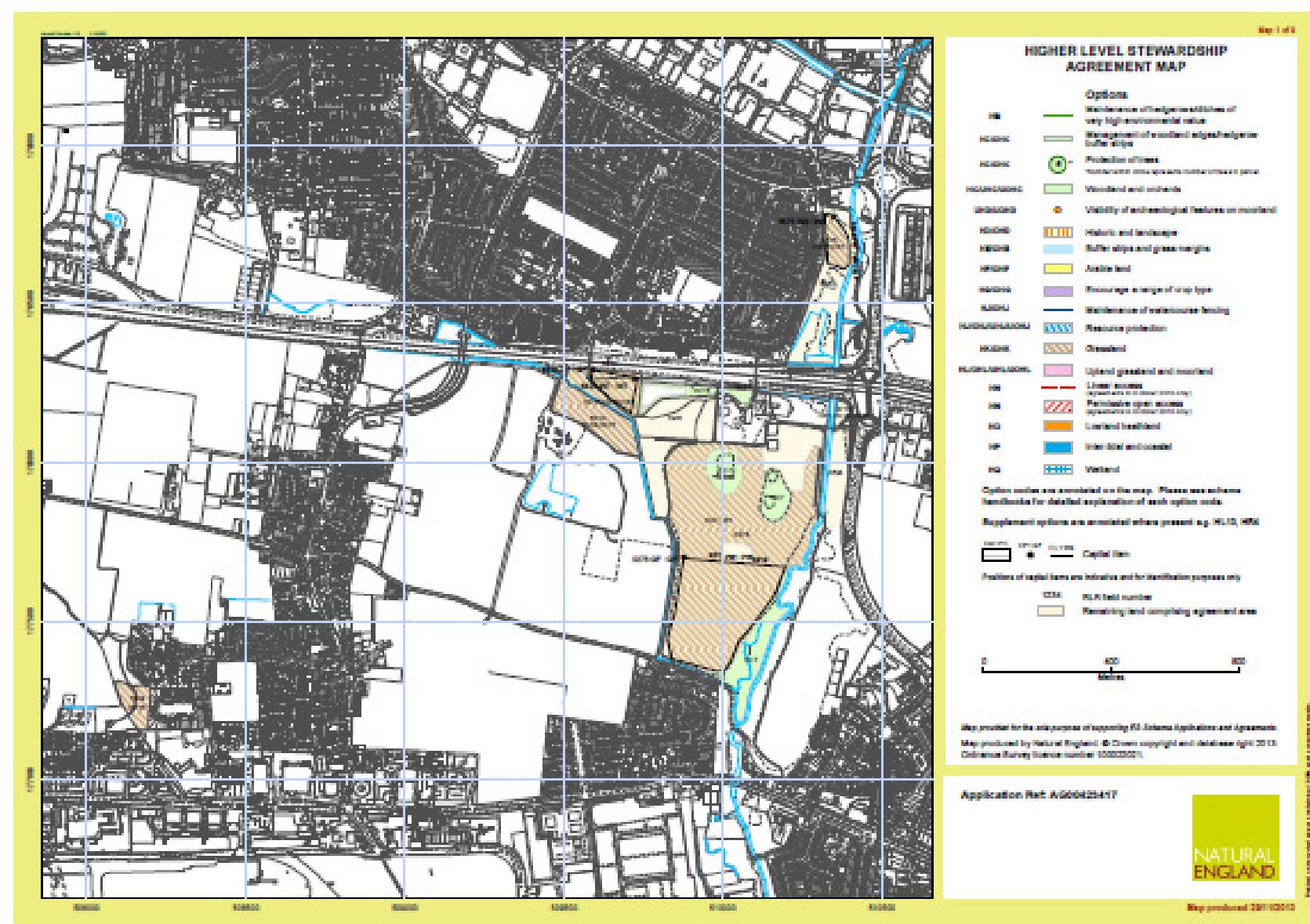
This programme remains similar each year, and is valid for the duration covered by the plan. The Friends meeting dates change each year but are held on the 4th Thurs of every 3rd Month.

Works to be Carried out	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tree/woodland management works	Green	Green									Green	Green
Tree planting	Light Green	Light Green									Light Green	Light Green
Hedge Laying	Dark Green	Dark Green									Dark Green	Dark Green
Litter collection - low frequency	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow								Yellow	Yellow
Litter collection - high frequency				Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
Green Flag preparation			Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green							
Firebreak mowing			Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red		
Spraying hard surfaces/car park/yard area				Light Blue								
Invasive species spraying				Cyan	Cyan	Cyan						
Hay cut								Orange	Orange			
Pond clearance										Blue	Blue	
Butterfly Survey				Dark Blue	Dark Blue							
Bird survey	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown
MAG meetings		27th			22nd			21st			20th	

Appendix D Hay Cut Regime



HLS Agreement Map



Appendix E: Species Lists

BIRDS

1. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
3. Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
4. Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
5. Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
6. Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
7. Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
8. Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
9. Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
10. Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
11. Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
12. Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
13. Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
14. Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
15. Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
16. Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
17. Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
18. Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
19. Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
20. Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
21. Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
22. Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
23. Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
24. Ring-Necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
25. Great spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
26. Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
27. Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
28. Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
29. Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
30. Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
31. Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
32. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
33. Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>
34. Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
35. Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
36. Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
37. Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
38. Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
39. Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
40. Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
41. Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
42. Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
43. Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
44. Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
45. Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>

46. Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
47. Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
48. Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
49. Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
50. Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
51. Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
52. Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
53. Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
54. Long-Tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
55. Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
56. Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
57. Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
58. Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
59. Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
60. Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
61. Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>
62. Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
63. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
64. Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
65. Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
66. Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
67. Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
68. Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
69. Siskin	<i>carduelis spinus</i>
70. Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
71. Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
72. Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
73. Lesser black back Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
74. Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
75. Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>

BUTTERFLIES

1. Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
2. Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
3. Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
4. Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
5. Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
6. Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
7. Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
8. Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
9. Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
10. Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
11. Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
12. Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
13. Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>
14. Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
15. Small/Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris/lineola</i>
16. Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
17. Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>

18. Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
19. Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
20. Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
21. Silver-Washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnис paphia</i>
22. White-Letter Hairstreak	<i>Strymonidia w-album</i>
23. Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias cerceus</i>

MOTH LIST

1. Angle shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>
2. Barred Sallow	<i>Xanthia aurago</i>
3. Barred straw	<i>Eulithis pyraliata</i>
4. Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>
5. Beautiful hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>
6. Bee Moth	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>
7. Bird cherry ermine	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>
8. Bird's wing	<i>Dypterygia scabriuscula</i>
9. Black Rustic	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>
10. Blair's Shoulder-knot	<i>Lithophane leautieri</i>
11. Blood – vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>
12. Brick	<i>Agrochola circellaris</i>
13. Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>
14. Brimstone	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
15. Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>
16. Brindled Green	<i>Dryobotodes eremita</i>
17. Brocken barred carpet	<i>Electrophaes corylata</i>
18. Brown line-bright eye	<i>Mythimna conigera</i>
19. Buff Arches	<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>
20. Buff ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>
21. Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>
22. Burnished brass	<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>
23. Cabbage Moth	<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>
24. Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrago</i>
25. Chestnut	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>
26. Chinese Character	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>
27. Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
28. Clay	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>
29. Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>
30. Clouded silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>
31. Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoе alternata alternata</i>
32. Common Emerald	<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>
33. Common footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>
34. Common marbled carpet	<i>Chlorocysta truncata</i>
35. Common Plume	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>
36. Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgate vulgata</i>
37. Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>
38. Common Swift	<i>Hepialus lupulinus</i>
39. Common wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>
40. Common white-wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>
41. Copper Underwing	<i>Amphipyra pyramidеа</i>

42.	Dark arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>
43.	Dark Chestnut	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>
44.	December Moth	<i>Poecilocampa populi</i>
45.	Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>
46.	Dotted Border	<i>Agriopsis marginaria</i>
47.	Double Lobed	<i>Apamea ophiogramma</i>
48.	Double Square-spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>
49.	Double-striped pug	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>
50.	Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>
51.	Early grey	<i>Xylocampa areola</i>
52.	Elephant hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>
53.	Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>
54.	Feathered Thorn	<i>Colotois pennaria</i>
55.	Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>
56.	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochroplura plecta</i>
57.	Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>
58.	Freyers pug	<i>Eupithecia intricata</i>
59.	Frosted Orange	<i>Gortyna flavago</i>
60.	Garden Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuate fluctuata</i>
61.	Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli humuli</i>
62.	Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>
63.	Green oak roller	<i>Tortix viridana</i>
64.	Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophyes oxyacantheae</i>
65.	Grey Pine Carpet	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>
66.	Grey Pug	<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>
67.	Heart and dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>
68.	Hebrew character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>
69.	Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>
70.	Knotgrass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>
71.	Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
72.	Large fruit-tree Tortix	<i>Achips podana</i>
73.	Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>
74.	Large yellow underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>
75.	Least black arches	<i>Nola confusalis</i>
76.	Least Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua interjecta</i>
77.	Lesser Broad Bordered Underwing	
78.	Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>
79.	Light Brocade	<i>Lacanobia w-latinum</i>
80.	Light emerald	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>
81.	Lime-speck pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>
82.	Lunar marbled brown	<i>Drymonia ruficornis</i>
83.	Lunar Underwing	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>
84.	Lychnis	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>
85.	Magpie	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>
86.	Maiden's blush	<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i>
87.	Mallow	<i>Larentia clavaria</i>
88.	Marbled minor	<i>Oligia strigilis</i>
89.	March Moth	<i>Alsophila aescularia</i>
90.	Middle-barred Minor	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>
91.	Mother of Pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>



92.	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>
93.	Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata repandata</i>
94.	Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>
95.	Muslim	<i>Diaphora mendica</i>
96.	Oak Hook-Tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>
97.	Oak tree pug	<i>Eupithecia dodoneata</i>
98.	Old lady	<i>Mormo maura</i>
99.	Orange Footman	<i>Eilema sororcula</i>
100.	Orange Swift	<i>Hepialus sylvina</i>
101.	Pale Brindled Beau	<i>Phigalia pilosaria</i>
102.	Pale mottled Willow	<i>Paradrina clavipalpis</i>
103.	Pale oak beauty	<i>Hypomecis punctinalis</i>
104.	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>
105.	Pale Tussock	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>
106.	Peppered moth	<i>Biston strataria</i>
107.	Poplar Grey	<i>Acronicta megacephala</i>
108.	Red-green carpet	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>
109.	Riband wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>
110.	Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>
111.	Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>
112.	Rufous Minor	<i>Oligia versicolor</i>
113.	Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>
114.	Sallow	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>
115.	Sandy carpet	<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>
116.	Satellite	<i>Eupsilia transversa</i>
117.	Satyr pug	<i>Eupithecia satyrata satyrata</i>
118.	Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elinguaria</i>
119.	Seraphim	<i>Lobophora halterata</i>
120.	Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
121.	Shark	<i>Cucullia umbratica</i>
122.	Shears	<i>Hada plebeja</i>
123.	Short cloaked moth	<i>Nola cucullatella</i>
124.	Shuttle-shaped dart	<i>Agrotis puta puta</i>
125.	Silver y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
126.	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata montanata</i>
127.	Single Dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>
128.	Small Blood-vein	<i>Scopula imitari</i>
129.	Small dusty wave	<i>Idaea seriata</i>
130.	Small Fan-foot	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>
131.	Small magpie	<i>Eurrhypara hortulata</i>
132.	Small Quaker	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>
133.	Small Square spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>
134.	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>
135.	Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>
136.	Snout 2 nd gen.	
137.	Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>
138.	Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>
139.	Straw dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>
140.	Straw Underwing	<i>Thalpoophila matura</i>
141.	Svensson's Copper Underwing	<i>Amphipyra berbera rungs</i>

142.	Swallow-tailed Moth	<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>
143.	Tawny marbled minor	<i>Oligia latruncula</i>
144.	Thistle Ermine	<i>Myelois cribella</i>
145.	Treble brown spot	<i>Idaea trigeminata</i>
146.	Turnip Moth	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>
147.	Twin-spotted Quaker	<i>Orthosia munda</i>
148.	Vapourer	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>
149.	Vine's Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>
150.	Waved Umber	<i>Menophra abruptaria</i>
151.	Wax moth	<i>Galleria mellonella</i>
152.	White ermine	<i>Spilosoma urticae</i>
153.	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>
154.	Winter Moth	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>
155.	Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata bilineata</i>
156.	Yellow-line Quaker	<i>Agrochola macilenta</i>

MAMMALS

Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
Field vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Muntjac deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>

BATS

Common Pipistrelle bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Daubenton bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>

INSECTS

Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
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HERPTOFAUNA

Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Smooth newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>

PLANTS

Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>
Devils'-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>

RARE SPECIES:

Species of particular interest that have been recorded since 1995 include many Nationally Scarce invertebrates. These are:

Odonata

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Orthoptera

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*
Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselli*

Coleoptera

Longhorn beetle *Phytoecia cylindrica*

Diptera

Hoverfly	<i>achyopa insensilis</i>
Hoverfly	<i>Cheilosia velutina</i>
Hoverfly	<i>Didea fasciata</i>
Hoverfly	<i>pistrophe nitidicollis</i>
Hoverfly	<i>Heringia heringi</i>
Hoverfly	<i>elangyna quadrimaculata</i>
Hoverfly	<i>elangyna trianguliferum (Melangyna triangulifera)</i>
Hoverfly	<i>eoascia interrupta</i>
Hoverfly	<i>ipizella virens</i>
Hoverfly	<i>olucella inanis</i>
Hoverfly	<i>lucella zonaria</i>
Pipunculid-fly	<i>Neprocerus slavicornis</i>
Snail-killer	<i>oremacera marginata</i>
Soldier-fly	<i>Odontomyia tigrina</i>
Soldier-fly	<i>olva marginata</i>
Soldier-fly	<i>Stratiomys potamida</i>

Hymenoptera

Solitary Bee *Lasioglossum malachurus*

There has only been one Red Data Book 3 species found since 1995 in the Park.
This is as follows:

Diptera

Hoverfly *Meligramma euchromum (Epistrophe euchroma)*

Biodiversity species:

The habitats and other species listed under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process that regularly occur or are established at Cranford Countryside Park and are known to be locally threatened/declining include:

Wet Woodland
Lowland hay meadow
Eutrophic standing waters

Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
Smooth Newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>

The London Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats that have been selected so far and occur within Cranford Countryside Park are:

Woodland

The London Biodiversity Action Plan priority species that have been selected so far and occur within Cranford Countryside Park are:

Water Vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>
Bats	<i>Vespertilionidae</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 – Protected animals:

Those species listed under Schedule 5 of the WCA that occur at Cranford Countryside Park and therefore classified as “Protected animals” include:

- Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris*
- Smooth Newt *T. vulgaris*
- Common Frog *R. temporaria*
- Common Toad *B. bufo*
- Grass Snake *N. natrix*
- Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*
- Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula*
- Pipistrelle Bat *P. pipistrellus*

Other interesting or unusual recent records:

Kingfishers are regular on the Crane. Recent notable trends have been the increase in scarce bird of prey sightings. Now Hobby and Buzzard are seen regularly and will be breeding shortly in the park or close to it.

Moth recording re-started again in 2008 and at least 7 BAP species were found with limited trapping effort. Two rare butterflies were recorded in the last two years; Silver-Washed Fritillary in 2006 and White-Letter Hairstreak in 2008.

Some limited work on the bats has been done and Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, Daubenton and Brown Long Eared bats are using the park. Brown Long-Eared Bats are using the West Tower as a feeding roost. One can stand under the western archway at dusk and be buzzed by Brown Long-Eared bats. Daubenton bats underwent a local decline and stopped using the Crane in 2007, however a few Daubentons were using the Crane again in 2008.

Other invertebrates get limited recording but there was a nice sighting of the hunting shelled slug *Testacella scutellaris* under a brick in the yard. This bright yellow-orange slug, hunt earthworms. Water Measurer was seen walking on bare mud beside the River Crane and Water Cricket on the ditch leading from the new pond. Also notable are Twany Mining Bee making there volcano entrance holes in the courtyard and adjacent grass with other species of mining bees. In late summer we get the large Volucella hoveflies and *V. inanis* and *V. zonaria* were recorded in 2008. Another new arrival has been the Wasp Spider. First seen in 2007 in the yard, it increased in 2008 and is now found in the meadow edges and the cellar field.

Historical wildlife records:

Grantley Berkeley, who was well know for being a naturalist wrote in his book *Life and Recollections* “To those dear woods...where in summer song-birds flocked from the more open and trodden fields to pour out their loving melody in security. Where the last quite notes of the murmuring Turtle Dove were taken up by the Nightingale, and from eve continued through the night.”

In the book *By the Clock of St. James's* by Percy Armytage he describes the area and its wildlife in the 1850's within the following extracts. "Cranford is most vividly recalled to me by summer perfumes; Hawthorn, Meadowsweet, pungent and lush, fringing the banks of the River Crane; and every country scent and sound – these, to me, are Cranford". He also writes "To this day, in an Ash tree hard by the Watersplash, I will wager that in season you may hear the Nightingale; and at sundown, gliding into the twilight, wild ducks come to sleep beside the ornamental water. Herons are frequent visitors and Kingfishers are still by no means rare."

In Gordon Maxwell's book *Highwayman's Heath* the Rector of Cranford, Rev. Dr. E.P. Lewis in 1926 is mentioned as having watched an Otter in the River Crane and the author recalls having seen "almost every conceivable form of wildlife in the immediate neighbourhood."

Appendix F: Site Marketing Analysis and Plan

Cranford Country Park is situated just off of Junction 3 of the M4 and the A312 runs passed it, thereby providing easy access to the M4 M25 and A40.

Cranford Country Park is a large local country park with special wildlife and sporting facilities, for the pursuit of enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The country park provides the opportunity for a range of physical activities from passive recreation to more active recreation such as cycling.

Marketing Methods to Help Enhance Appreciation and Appropriate use of the Site

- Regular liaison with interested parties re issues affecting Cranford Country Park.
- Use of welcoming informative interpretation boards at key points on the site to promote the special interests of the site to regular and occasional users.
- Develop contact with residents over the age of 65 to promote Cranford Country Park and ensure feedback can be obtained from potentially less mobile users.
- Promote Green Flag standards to users and neighbours to help raise the profile and understanding of Cranford Country Park.
- Encourage articles to be written and published about Cranford Country Park – Green Spaces web page, Hillingdon People, other publications, as opportunities arise.
- Ensure that the borough's Green Spaces leaflet is kept up to date and available to the public at libraries and on the Green Spaces web page.
- Encourage local schools to do projects relating to Cranford Country Park to aid understanding and appreciation and awareness locally.

An annual survey of users will continue to be carried out to compare the profile of users with that of ward residents and to learn more about users' interests and expectations of Cranford Country Park. This information will feed into discussions with the interested parties and the management plan reviewing process.

Appendix G: Council Plan: Commitment to Green Flag Awards

**LBH's commitment to achieving many Green Flag sites is reinforced in the
Council Plan 2007-2010**



A CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH WHERE THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED, TRANSPORT LINKS IMPROVED AND OUR HERITAGE PRESERVED



We are proud that Hillingdon is a clean, green borough, characteristics that our residents value highly, and our aim is to enhance and improve our environment and the services that contribute to the quality of our area.

We are proud of the fact that we have many beautiful and award-winning parks and open spaces – some of the best in London. This year we doubled the number of green flags awarded to our parks – these are given to the most excellent parks and open spaces – and next year our ambition is to secure further awards, becoming the London borough with the most 'Green Flag' parks.

Appendix H

Events and Marketing Materials

Green Spaces have produced an events leaflet advertising the events held at various sites around the borough including Cranford Park. The full leaflet can be viewed online at:

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media.jsp?mediaid=24873&filetype=pdf>

Green Spaces events
January to June
2014

HILLINGDON LONDON

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/greenspaces

change4life hillingdon

Healthy Walks

Healthy Walks are led walks, which means sharing motivation, safety in a group and a great social opportunity open to everyone. Walking is a great way to maintain your health and well being, as well as a great way of meeting people.

Minet Country Park

First Wednesday of every month, 10.30am
5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May and 4 June.
1.5 miles. Meet at Minet Lodge visitor centre. Led jointly by A Rocha Living Waterways and Hillingdon Council.

Yeading Meadows

Second Wednesday of every month, 11am
8 January, 12 February, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May and 11 June.
2 miles. Meet at Yeading Community House, Carleyon Road. Led jointly by Andy Willmore, LWT Crane Valley Community Projects Officer and Hillingdon Council.

Cranford Park

Third Thursday of every month, 11am
16 January, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May and 19 June.
2 miles. Meet at Cranford Information Centre. Led by Hillingdon Council's Countryside and Conservation Officer, Alison Shipley.

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Volunteer activities

We regularly hold practical volunteer sessions which are aimed at anyone wishing to help out, where we carry out various tasks such as, vegetation clearance, tree planting, pond clearance, litter picking and much, much more! These tasks will vary throughout the year depending on the season. No experience is required. Please wear old clothes and bring a packed lunch and a waterproof jacket. All tools and gloves are provided. Some wellington boots can be provided.

Cranford Park Volunteers

Second Thursday of every month, 10am to 1pm.
9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May and 12 June.

Meet at Cranford Park Information Centre.
Contact: ashipley@hillingdon.gov.uk



Cranford Park Secret Garden Volunteers

Second Sunday of each month (from March), 10am – 12 noon.
9 March, 13 April, 11 May and 8 June.
Come and help with light gardening or just visit this small walled garden, with its ancient well and vine, normally closed to the public. Tools and refreshments provided for volunteers. Situated adjacent to the Stable Block and St. Dunstan's Church. (Cranford Park Friends/Macmillan Cancer Support.)

Dates vary so please check main events pages.

For more info email: Bob.Barton.secretary@cranfordparkfriends.org

Minet Country Park Volunteers

Last Friday of every month, 10.30am to 2.30pm.
31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May and 27 June.

Meet at Minet Lodge Visitor Centre

Come and help with practical work.

Contact: ashipley@hillingdon.gov.uk



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Healthy Walk: Cranford Park

Thursday 15 May, 11am

Meet at Cranford Park Information Centre. 3 miles
Tea/coffee in the information centre to finish.

'Knights, Earls and Ghosts' History Tour: Cranford Park

Saturday 17 May, 11am

Join Hillingdon Council's Countryside and Conservation Officer Alison Shipley for a guided history walk around the park.

Meet at Cranford Park Information Centre.



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Cranford Park Events January – June 2014

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event
January	9th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	16th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
February	2nd	Sun	11am - 1pm	Tall Tales and Trash!
	13th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	20th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
	22 nd	Sat	11am	'Knights Earls and Ghosts' – History Tour
March	9 th	Sun	10am – 12noon	Secret Garden Volunteers
	13th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	20 th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
April	10th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	13 th	Sun	10am – 12noon	Secret Garden Volunteers
	17th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
	26 th	Sat	11am	Guided Walk - Bluebell walk
May	8th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	11 th	Sun	10am – 12noon	Secret Garden Volunteers
	15th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
June	8 th	Sun	10am – 12noon	Secret Garden Volunteers
	12th	Thurs	10am - 1pm	Practical Volunteer session
	19th	Thurs	11am	Healthy Walk
	28 th	Sat	11am	Guided Walk - Butterfly walk

Appendix I **Cranford Park Friends Constitution**

CONSTITUTION

Cranford Park Friends

The terms 'Cranford Park' and 'the Park' used throughout this document refer to the area known as Cranford Countryside Park (Northern and Southern Sites) and administered by the London Borough of Hillingdon and shall include the Northern Meadow, Crane Meadows, Fuller's Field and Dog Kennel Covert.

OBJECTS

- 1.1** To serve the best interests of the Park and Conservation Area by the protection, conservation, enhancement and development and/or the restoration of its natural, ecological, historical, recreational, social and other features.
- 1.2** To encourage and facilitate educational activities and community participation in the management and use of the Park, Conservation Area and above features and interest in its heritage.
- 1.3** To act as a representative body including liaison with London Borough of Hillingdon and other involved agencies in the management and development of the Park.

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

- 2.1** Endeavour to serve as a representative voice of the community.
- 2.2** Promote equal opportunities within the community.
- 2.3** Be non-party political.
- 2.4** Promote social, welfare, recreational and training activities for the benefit of members of the organisation and the community.
- 2.5** Represent the majority view of the members. However, it shall always be the aim to achieve consensus.
- 2.6** Build partnerships to promote the park, its conservation and restoration.
- 2.7** Provide regular information to all members.
- 2.8** Monitor the organisation of the Cranford Park Friends, its work, finances and membership.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.1** This Cranford Park Friends shall uphold equal opportunities and work for good relations among all members of the community, specifically prohibiting any conduct which discriminates or harasses on grounds of race, gender, age, sexuality, disability and religion.

MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1** Membership of the Cranford Park Friends shall be open to all persons and community organisations who express an interest in the park.
- 4.2** The Secretary shall keep a record of all members in the current year.
- 4.3** The Annual General Meeting shall determine any membership fee.

ENDING MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1** Membership shall end when a member resigns, or dies, or when a community organisation ceases to exist.
- 5.2** In the event of gross misconduct, membership may be suspended by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

5.3 A member whose membership has been suspended shall be entitled to have that suspension reviewed at the next General Meeting of the Cranford Park Friends.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

6.1 The Cranford Park Friends shall hold an Annual General Meeting at approximately 12 month intervals.

6.2 The AGM shall:-

- Receive an annual report from the Officers
- Present accounts to members;
- Elect the Officers;
- Consider any resolutions put forward by members;
- Vote on any amendments to the Constitution

6.3 All members shall be given 14 days written notice of the AGM and this must include an agenda, minutes of the last AGM, the names of those standing for the positions of Officers, and any resolutions, including any proposed changes to the Constitution.

6.4 Any further proposed changes to the Constitution or names for the positions of Officers must be notified and sent to the Secretary in writing at least 7 days before the AGM.

GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1 Each year the Cranford Park Friends shall hold at least four General Meetings (including the AGM), which shall be open to the general membership.

7.2 All members shall receive at least 14 days notice of the General Meetings.

7.3 The General Meetings shall be minuted.

7.4 The quorum for General Meetings shall be 4 members, at least 2 of whom should be members of the Committee.

7.5 The General Meeting may from time to time create any sub-committees, and/or working parties on a permanent or temporary basis. The members of any such sub-committee or working party shall be selected by the General Meeting from among its members. Any such sub-committees or working parties shall report to the General Meeting for decision making.

7.6 The General Meeting shall monitor the work, finances and membership of the Cranford Park Friends.

7.7 The Officers shall report to each General Meeting on the work done by any sub-committees/working parties since the last General Meeting.

7.8 The General Meeting may produce a Code of Conduct, which it may revise from time to time, to govern the conduct of meetings.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 A Special General Meeting may be called by the General Meeting, and must be called if requested by at least 6 members, at least 28 days before the date on which those members request the meeting to be held. The Secretary must send to each member, written notice of a Special General Meeting 14 days in advance of the meeting.

VOTING

9.1 Each member, whether person or organisation, shall have one vote on any resolution put before an AGM, General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

9.2 All voting that takes place at an AGM, General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be counted and recorded in the minutes.

9.3 If there is a tie, the Chair will have an extra casting vote.

MINUTES

10.1 All formal meetings such as General Meetings, Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings must be minuted and the minutes formally approved by the next General Meeting.

- 10.2** All minutes shall be available for inspection by members of the Cranford Park Friends.

OFFICERS OF CRANFORD PARK FRIENDS

- 11.1** The Cranford Park Friends shall have a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 11.2** The Chairperson shall ordinarily chair the General Meetings.
- 11.3** The Officers shall report to each General Meeting of their work.

CO-OPTees

- 12.1** The General Meeting may co-opt members in order to fill vacancies that occur during the year.
- 12.2** The General Meeting may co-opt non-members in order to ensure appropriate representation of all people in the community, or to support the Cranford Park Friends in carrying out its purposes and principles.

FINANCE

- 13.1** The Treasurer shall keep records of the income and expenditure of the Cranford Park Friends and shall be prepared to report the balance to each General Meeting.
- 13.2** The Treasurer may open a bank or building society account in the name of the Cranford Park Friends. In this event the Officers shall appoint three authorised signatories for any cheques and cheques shall be signed by at least two of the authorised signatories. The signatories should be from different households, not related to one another and include at least one Officer.
- 13.3** The accounts of the Cranford Park Friends shall be kept up to date and annual accounts for each year shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- 13.4** The accounts shall be available for inspection within 28 days by any current member who makes a request to see them. The request for inspection must be made in writing to the Treasurer.
- 13.5** The Treasurer is authorised to reimburse, from petty cash, properly incurred expenses to representatives of the Cranford Park Friends undertaking work to further the objectives of the Cranford Park Friends, providing that each payment is supported by a receipt, ticket or voucher. Each such payment of petty cash shall be signed by the receiver. The Treasurer shall be prepared to provide a list of petty cash payments to the next General Meeting following a request to do so.

INFORMATION

- 14.1** The Officers shall provide information to all members on matters that concern the Cranford Park Friends.
- 14.2** Every member of the Cranford Park Friends shall be offered a copy of the Constitution. Members shall be informed of any changes to the Constitution on an annual basis, in the minutes.
- 14.3** Minutes of all General Meetings shall be available for inspection by all members from the Secretary.

DISSOLUTION OF CRANFORD PARK FRIENDS

- 15.1** The Cranford Park Friends can only be dissolved by a Special General Meeting called specifically to consider a motion to dissolve it.
- 15.2** All members shall be given 21 days written notice of such a meeting which shall contain the wording of the resolution.
- 15.3** The Cranford Park Friends shall only be dissolved if at least two thirds of the members present at the Special General Meeting vote in favour of a motion to dissolve.
- 15.4** The Special General Meeting shall decide on the disposal of assets, funds and equipment which should be used locally and for similar purposes.

Cranford Country Park Management Plan

ADOPTED

This Constitution, adopted as a working constitution by the Cranford Park Friends on November 22, 2012, was formally ratified at the meeting of February 28, 2013.

Robert L. Barton, Secretary to Cranford Park Friends

Cranford Park Friends

Appendix J: **History**

The following is an account of the history of Cranford Countryside Park as written by Barry Raymond, a local historian who in recent years has done much research into the Park and the Cranford area in general.

A historical account of Cranford Park

Despite being situated between the busy M4 Motorway and the A312 Parkway, as well as being very near to one of the busiest airports in the world, Cranford Park remains one of the yet unspoilt and tranquil Parks in the area. Many of its modern day visitors may be unaware of the vast amount of historic interest the Park has to offer.

Several hundred years ago, c.1045, Cranford was the southern-most village in the Elthorne Hundred which stretched from Hanwell in the west to Harefield in the north. Cranford was then part of a vast heathland and the settlement at that time was headed by a chieftan named Turstan who was a 'Thane' of Edward the Confessor.

Twenty years after the Norman Conquest, in 1066, William gave the Manor of Cranforde (so named after the ford which crossed the River Crane), to William Fitz Ansculf. Over the next 150 years or so Cranford changed hands several times until around 1220 when the estate was divided into two parts. One part was known as Cranford St John (the later site of the Berkeley mansion) while the other, just north-east of St Dunstan's church, was called Cranford le Mote. The Abbot of Thame owned Cranford le Mote. By 1240 Cranford St John was owned by the Knights Templar.

By 1308 land belonging to the Knights Templar had been confiscated by Edward II and a few years later was granted to Edward's brother-in-law Ralph de Monthermer who was himself a knight and took part in the battles of Sterling and Falkirk against William Wallace. Some eight years later Cranford St John changed hands again, passing to one Robert de Swalchyre which he held until 1333 when it then became the property of the Bishop of Lichfield.

In 1363 Cranford St John was given to the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem and two years later in 1365 Edward III granted Thame Abbey 'Free Warren in it's demesne lands here and elsewhere'. At the time of the dissolution in 1540, Henry VIII confiscated both manors and three years later they were presented to Andrew, Lord Windsor, whose sister Margaret was the Prioress of Syon. Both estates remained in the Windsor family until 1594 when they were sold to Thomas Crompton of Hounslow.

In 1604 Sir Roger Aston who was an officer to the court of James I purchased the estate. Some years later, in 1618 and after the death of Sir Roger, Lady Elizabeth Berkeley, widow of Sir Thomas Berkeley, purchased the Manor of Cranford and the estate was to remain in the possession of this family until 1918. The Berkeleys gave

their name to numerous locations all over the world, notably Berkeley Square in London, Berkeley Hundred in Virginia and Berkeley University in California.

Among the many notable figures to reside at Cranford was one time Rector Dr Thomas Fuller. He was a writer and a friend of Samuel Pepys, who lived for some time in the perhaps lesser known Cranford le Mote manor house, a moated house which was demolished in 1780 and of which little is known. Perhaps the most well documented building was the former Berkeley manor house and its long succession of family members. By 1722 this impressive house had been dramatically altered by Vice Admiral James, Earl of Berkeley and was again extended in 1792.

During the early 1800's there was much controversy regarding Mary Cole, Countess of Berkeley and her sons as to who was the rightful heir to the estate. Following their deaths the estate passed through other members of the Berkeley family until just prior to the First World War when the wheels were set in motion to 'sell-off' the Cranford estate. Over the next few years the house began to fall into disrepair until 1932 when the Park and house were sold to Hayes & Harlington Urban District Council three years later it was resold to the Middlesex County Council, who then leased it back to the Urban District Council.

By the late 1930's many of the outbuildings of the house had been demolished and there had also been the threat of the whole area being swallowed up by the proposed extension to Heston Airport (which never took place). During World War II the Park saw varied military activity taking place and also over 75 acres of the Park being set under cultivation towards the War effort and by 1943 the 'Lodge' at the former entrance to the Park was demolished. At the end of the War in 1945 the house itself was demolished but the cellars that hold so many stories regarding the Berkeley family were spared, as was the Stable Block.

On the 1st May 1949 the Park was opened to the public and designated a public open space. It was jointly administered by Hayes & Harlington Urban District Council and Heston and Isleworth Borough Council (when these two Councils became part of Hillingdon and Hounslow respectively in 1965 the responsibility for the joint committee passed to them). There were still 73.5 acres still under cultivation by J.A.Heywood, the cultivation order being relinquished in 1952. During the next few years saw yet more changes including the diverting of the River Crane, the completion of the Parkway and of course in 1965 the opening of the M4 Motorway, at which time a substantial orchard was lost. Nevertheless Cranford Park in more recent years has not lost its appeal for visitors, including in 1986 the abandonment of plans to redevelop the stable block. Instead they were restored in 1991, this same year proposals were put forward for the Cranford Conservation Area. In 2001 the conversion of the toilet block into an Information Centre was completed, providing excellent facilities for historians, field study and nature lovers alike.

Since then the park has had significant landscape, conservation changes with an increase in public use.

Appendix K

Historical Maps

Figure 3: Robertsons London to Bath series 1792

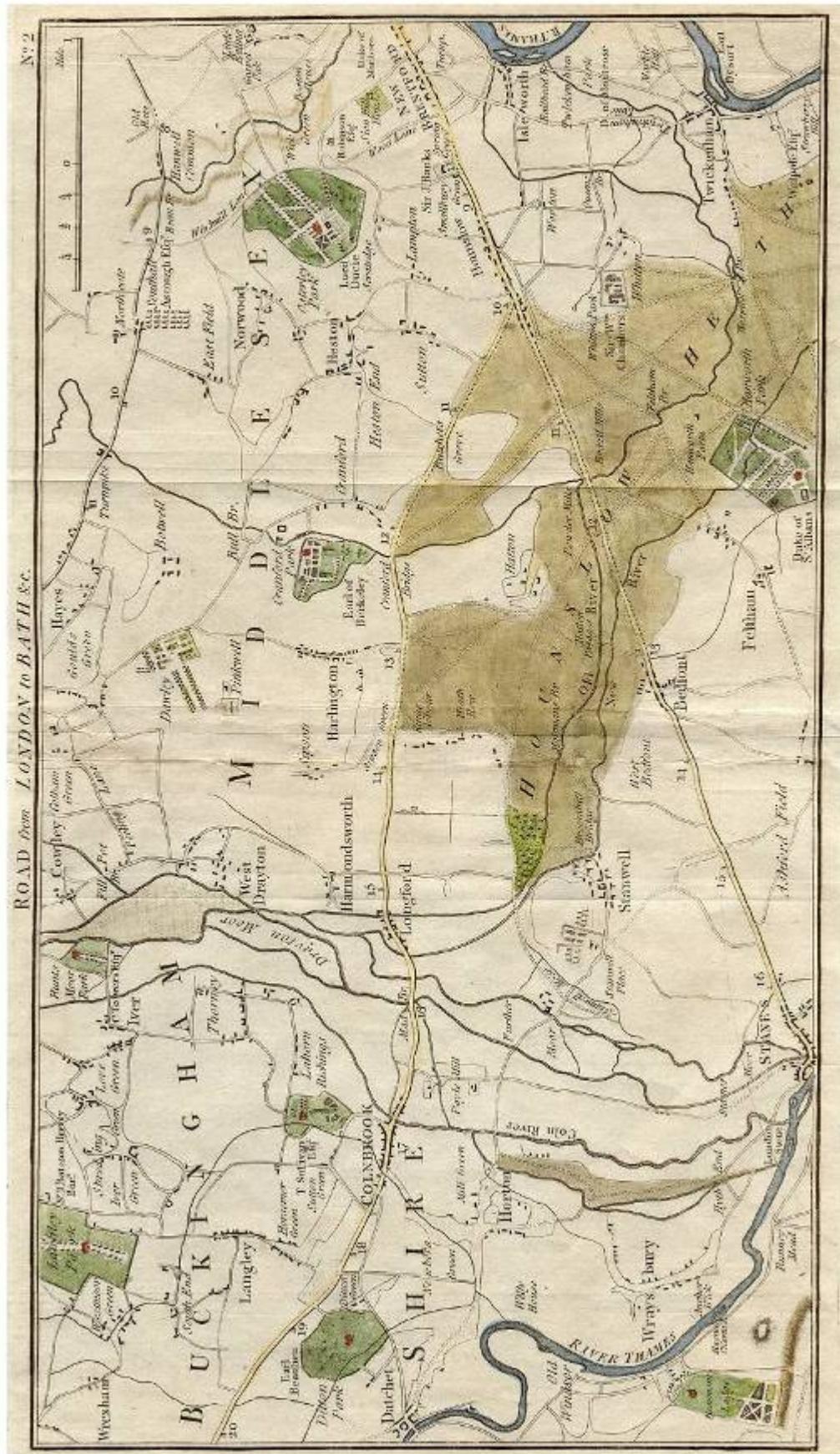


Figure 15: OS County Series 1865

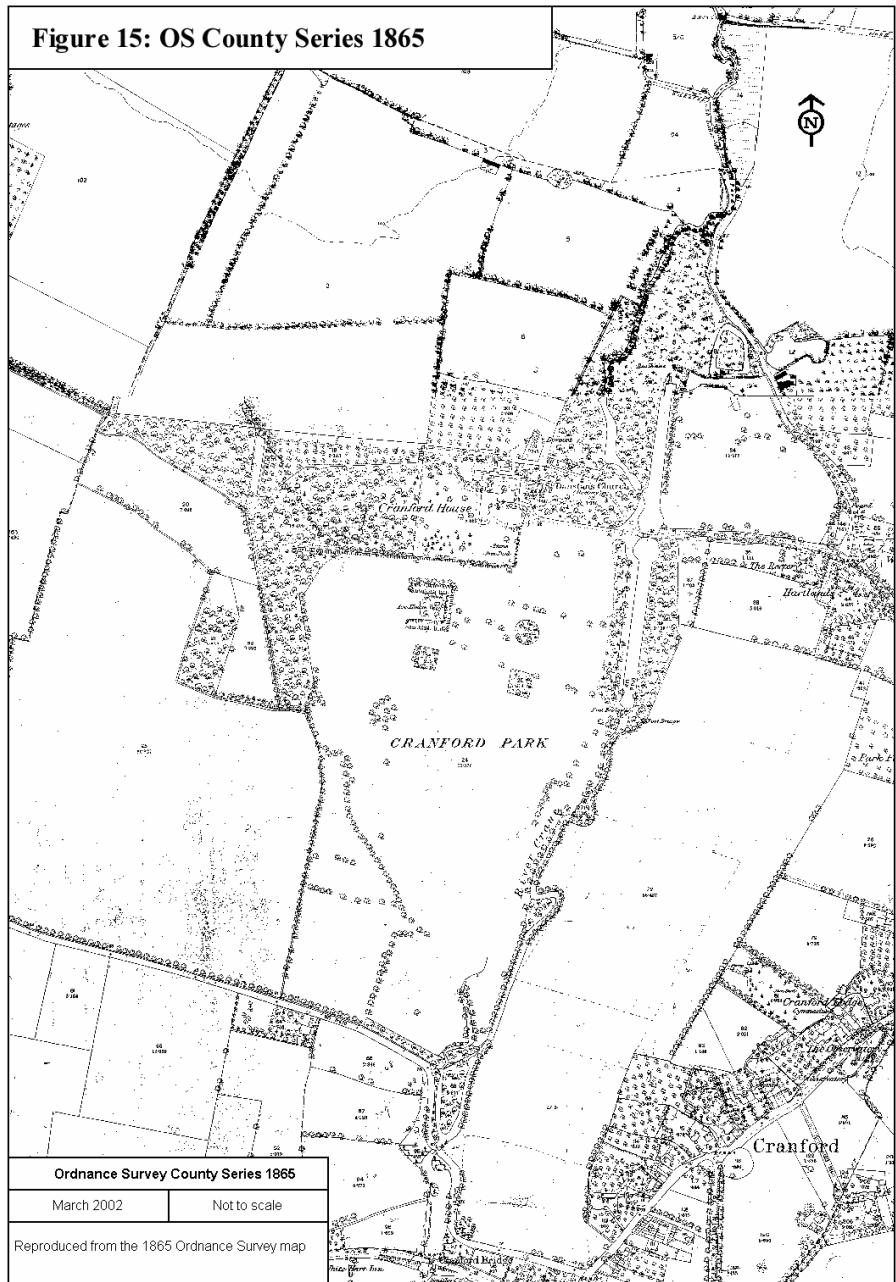


Figure 16: OS County Series 1894

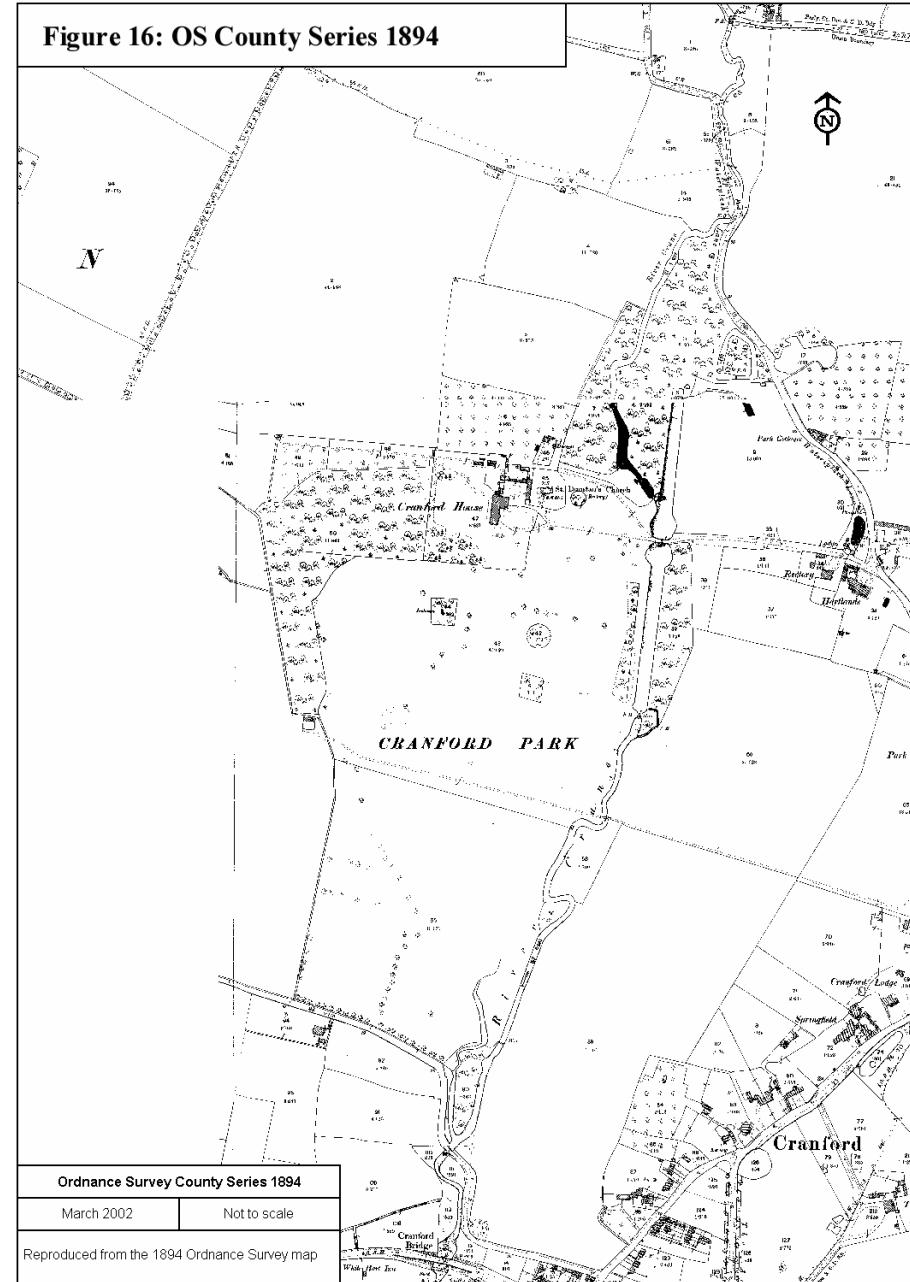


Figure 17: OS County Series 1913

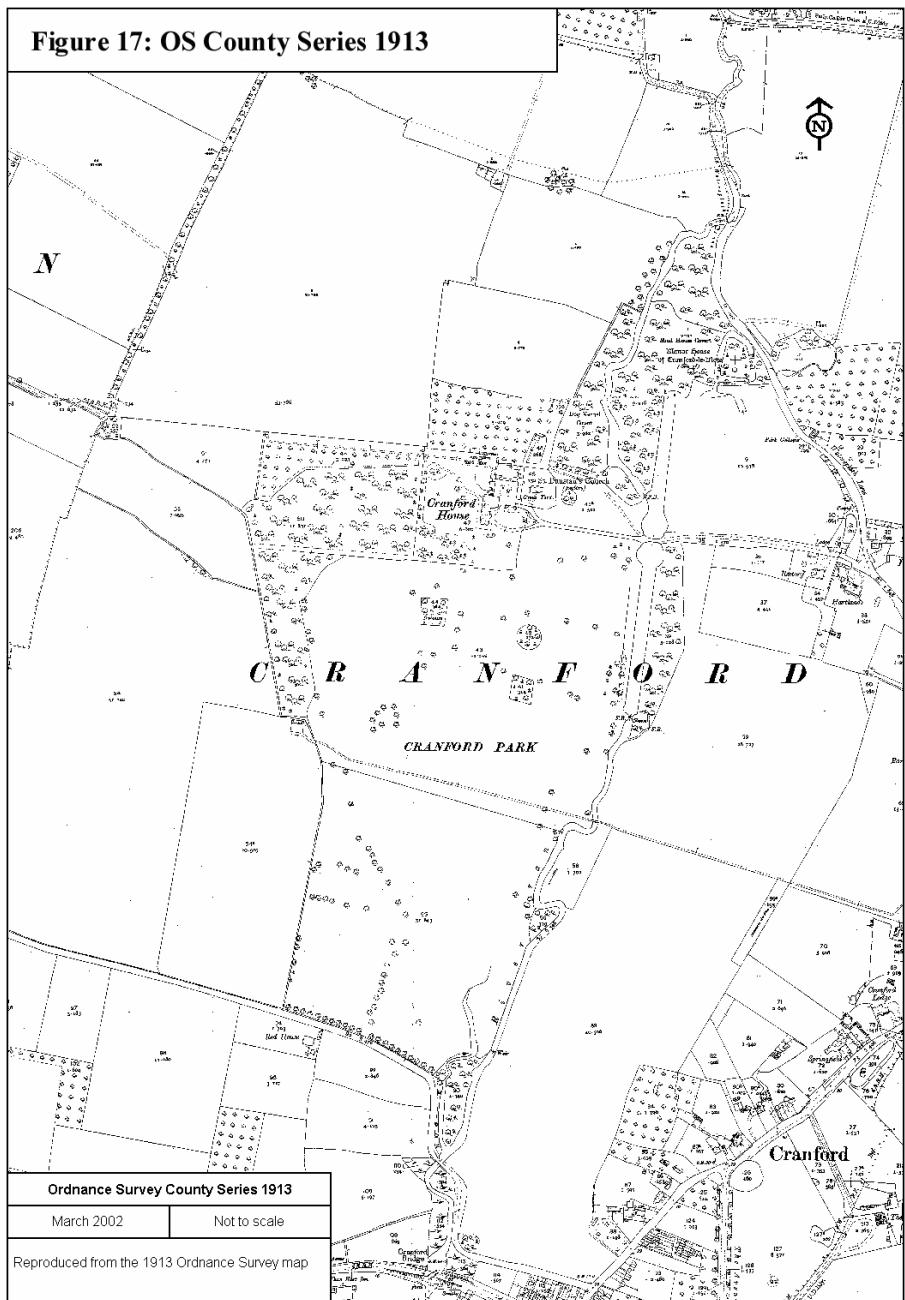


Figure 18: OS County Series 1934

