



TWITTER

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Treswell Wood Ringing Group

Ringing: By permission of NWT

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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringer.

This issue marks the 25th anniversary of ringing in Treswell Wood. Our Jubilee visit on 14th December was, by chance, well attended and we managed the second longest length of netting ever, missing the record of 541m (Visit 346 on 17/4/79, 41 birds) by only 10m. For the record, details of the first visit (17th December 1972) and the 25th anniversary are:

Visit 1, 17/12/1972

John McMeeking, Ted Cowley

West ride/block A

Netting: 102m

Catching effort 306m-hours of netting

Visit 1336, 14/12/1997

John McMeeking, Chris du Feu, Neil Taylor, Richard du Feu, Phil May, José Tavares, Ulli Langemann

Main ride from Piccadilly Circus to main cross roads

Netting: 531m

Catching effort 2034m-hours of netting

Captures (excluding same day retraps), by age class

	Visit 1				Visit 1336			
	2	3	4	Total	2	3	4	Total
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Wren	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1
Dunnock	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	9
Robin	0	3	1	4	0	3	2	5
Blackbird	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	3
Goldcrest	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3
Long-tailed Tit	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Marsh Tit	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Willow Tit	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	2
Coal Tit	0	1	2	3	0	0	3	3
Blue Tit	0	1	0	1	0	7	9	16
Great Tit	0	2	0	2	0	3	12	15
Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Jay	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chaffinch	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Bullfinch	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2
Total	3	13	6	22	2	34	36	72

The last ten weeks have been quiet in the wood, with relatively few birds caught or in evidence. With the mild weather for most of the time, the feeders have not provided the abundance of birds that they sometimes do. Perhaps the star species is Goldcrest. Numbers which were high early in the autumn have remained so giving us a total of 68 individuals ringed, the 3rd highest annual total ever.

The ten-week summary table shows that this was the third worst "period 5" ever, with just one more bird than the previous year. With period 1 being the worst ever and periods 2 and 4 well below average, we finished with our second lowest annual total in the standard sites. Only period 3 gave us more than 100 birds in the seven standard visits. Only Goldcrests and small parties of Long-tailed Tits gave respectability to the totals - the scarcity of Blackbirds and Song Thrushes is alarming and the comparison between three Great Tits, 9 Blue Tits and 9 Treecreepers really bizarre!

The all-captures figures give a little more encouragement, thanks to the large number of captures and retraps of Great and Blue Tits at the car park feeders (probably more than half the total captures). Candidates for 'Bird of the year' include our first-ever Long-eared Owl and the two-year old Great Spotted Woodpecker which turned up wearing Peter Harrison's ring - just as another had done two years earlier. Several of us enjoyed the 1998 Ringing & Migration Conference at Swanwick on January 9/11, so that all ringing activity was abandoned for the weekend. Discussion there with BTO staff and others confirmed that CES counts of adults were generally poor. Juvenile productivity was somewhat better than in 1996 but most sites started from such low levels that the total productivity was still dangerously low. This agrees with our own 1997 CES data.

We were saddened to hear that Mike Boddy, the founder of CES, who lived in Retford and worked closely with Adrian Blackburn, has been forced by ill health to give up ringing. He did a yeoman job in creating this very important BTO scheme and we all owe him a deal for putting a real sense of purpose into standardised ringing - especially for the quiet days!

This issue of Twitter also marks another step forward. We have submitted our first batch of data on computer disk to the Ringing Unit in Thetford. Submission of data on computer media makes all our data useable by the national ringing scheme, rather than the niggardly proportion which was formerly used when only recovery and control data were computerised. We are pressing on with entry of archival biometric and other data. At present we have done all the nestbox data and worked backwards through the mist net field sheets as far as the mid-1980's.

Treswell Wood receives a long and favourable mention in the annual report of the Bird Ringing Scheme for 1995 (Ringing & Migration, November 1997). It also features in the current Ringers' Bulletin in the article on grants for developing Integrated Population Monitoring (IPM) sites. We are held up as an example of what can be done when general ringing, CES, CBC and nest records are carried out together on one site for a long period of time. *Such operations can provide high quality information on the population dynamics of local bird communities .. combining ringing data with information on changing population sizes and breeding success.* The BTO is launching a limited IPM Site programme, (with 5 grants of £1000 each) although at this stage there will be no funding of a research post to direct the operation. Perhaps IPM sites may blossom like CES has done. It, too, started from small beginnings without BTO-funded manpower.

Common Bird Census 1997 - from Margaret Price

I have completed the provisional species maps. As far as I can judge, Wrens and Blue Tits are up on 1996. In 1990 the BTO's estimate was 97 breeding pairs of Wrens, dropping to 50 in 1991 following a hard winter then rising gradually to 91 in 1995 and falling again to 67 in 1996. I attempted to count this year's territories but became lost in the maze of registrations. I do not think the map is as full as it was in 1995. Blue Tits continue to show a high profile in I and J, making good use of the dormouse boxes placed there.

The estimated 57 pairs of Robins in 1995 dropped to 42 in 1996, my estimate for 1997 is 46 pairs. This is an average figure over the last 10 years. There are relatively more registrations in the southern 2/3 of the wood than in the north.

There were 9 pairs of Song Thrushes in 1995, 3 in 1996. I estimate 6 or 7 pairs in 1997 which is a welcome increase. Willow Warblers were again concentrated in the southern half of F and G with a sprinkling along the northern edge of the wood. There were 15 pairs in 1995, 8 in 1996 and I estimate 15 or 16 in 1997 - not yet back to the 20's, 30's or 40's of the 1980's. There were 17 pairs of Chiffchaff in 1995, 10 in 1996 and an estimated 16 in 1997. The lowest ever recorded was 1 (in 1988) and the highest 18 (in 1994). Whitethroats last bred in 1990 when there were two pairs. They were present in 1991 and 1996 but not thought to have bred but in 1997 a pair bred in Crabtree Holt. Another welcome record!

A Turtle Dove was heard in 1997 near the northern edge, the first recorded by CBC workers since 1988. It was only heard once, on May 29th. Because it was not heard on subsequent visits in June it will not be regarded as having bred. Let's hope there will be an increase in 1998.

Feedback from BTO

As usual **David Glue (Nest Records)** has thanked us for his copy of Twitter and offers: *Congratulations on the 25 years of operations on the scheme which has made national, if not international, impact, showing very well what can be achieved by a local project - and whilst having fun. Best wishes to all involved.*

Dawn Balmer (CES) in her first comments on this year's data writes: *The adult catch at Treswell was down on recent years, Blackcap and Wren were down again after a run of good years. Juveniles fared slightly better this year. My impression from the data received so far is that early breeders did quite well but the heavy rain in June caused a few problems for later breeders. CES Ringers with reedbed sites are reporting a poor breeding season for Acrocephalus warblers. No doubt the true story will come out a little later on. Finally, a big thank you to all the*

members of Treswell Wood Ringing Group for making such a tremendous effort again this year. I hope you enjoyed the season, it is a lot of hard work at times, but I don't need to tell you the value of CES ringing! Your contribution to the scheme is greatly appreciated.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
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Wren	0Y5982	26/10/97	Q01
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This was one of a very late brood of two nestlings ringed on August 2nd in O03. Later broods are often less successful than earlier broods and the fledged juveniles may be unable to find territories nearby because all available space has already been claimed by adults or older juveniles. This one is the exception to prove the rule! Curiously we also trapped (on the same day and for the first time) a bird of the second-to-last brood of the year - 0Y5980, ringed 6/7/97 in P05.

Wren	5W9746	30/12/97	F07 Roosting
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Quite an aged bird - ringed as a juvenile on 20/11/94 and recaptured twice since then nearby in Nightingale Ride.

Dunnoek	J522255	14/12/97	K03
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Another of our disappearing birds, ringed as a 5 on 5/2/95 some distance away (for a Dunnoek) in N00 and not recaptured since then.

Robin	K463899	16/11/97	O06
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A case of post-juvenile non-dispersal. This bird was ringed as a 3J in post-juvenile moult in August about 50m from today's capture. By this late in the year, many of our Robins have settled into the area where they will breed.

Coal Tit	J639033	16/11/97	Q02 Feeders
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One of several birds appearing at the feeders after a long absence. This ageing bird is one of our 1994 nestlings, last captured nearly a year ago. It has been captured a few times near Windy Ride but never caught between February and October. A winter migrant to the wood? Where does it breed?

Blue Tit	K287561	19/10/97	J00
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This 1995 nestling now has 16 captures to its credit. Most of them have been at the feeders, but today's was in the new extraction ride in Block E/F. It was at the feeders two weeks earlier. Perhaps it normally stays in this part of the wood, making forays to the feeder for fast food meals?

Blue Tit	K463103	31/12/97	Q02 Feeders
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On the face of things, this bird has a very boring history - 8 captures over 3 winters, always at the feeders. However, for the third winter running it is first captured at the feeders in the last ten days of December. Its latest capture has been at the end of March. A winter migrant (presumably not far-distant) to the wood - just like Coal Tit J639033?

Blue Tit	K463932	30/12/97	N05 Roosting
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Ringed as a juvenile in 1996, this bird is a regular at the feeders but also quite keen on roosting in Box 90. This is its third capture there over the past two winters.

Blue Tit	K720091	31/12/97	Q02 Feeders
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One of our 1996 nestbox birds which has remained uncaptured until today. Where has it been?

Blue Tit	J639119	19/10/97	Q02 Feeders
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A nestling of 1994, ringed near Treswell End, captured once as a juvenile in Howard's Ride and now a regular at (or roosting near) the feeders. We have only captured it in the months October to February. Is it another winter visitor or does it breed in a remote corner of the wood where we do not set nets?

Blue Tit	K463671	19/10/97	L02
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Ringed just under a year ago, until today this Blue Tit has only been captured at the feeders. Today it was in the new extraction ride in E. Is this its usual haunt where we have only rarely set nets before?

Blue Tit	K720075	23/11/97	F05
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This bird demonstrates how mobile tits may be within the wood outside of the breeding season. A week ago it was captured at the feeders.

Great Tit	H229329	19/10/97	Q02 Feeder
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Currently this is our oldest Great Tit, ringed 26/4/92 as a 5m. It has a short recapture history - this is only its 8th capture but it does seem to make a point of being captured at least once every year. It has also been seen by José and Ulli a number of times in the K00/L00/M99 area in each of the past three breeding seasons.

Robin Colour Ringing

We have received permission from the Ringing Unit to embark on another colour ringing project. The aim is to mark adult Robins in order to increase the effective retrap rate with sight records and see if we can contribute to the BTO RAS project. Robins seem to be a good target species - they have long legs and often perch near to us at our ringing stations - but too far away to read the BTO ring number! We hope that some CBC recorders (and anyone else interested) will be able to observe and record colour marked Robins. We have produced recording forms specifically for sightings of these Robins - ask John or Chris if you want any. Colour rings and instructions are in the ring box.

DMAP - distribution mapping package

This program is widely used for producing the distribution dot maps we are familiar with. It accepts data from other programs and recently we have made B-RING communicate with DMAP. Eventually we should be able to produce maps of occurrence and movement within the wood based on our own idiosyncratic 63m grid system. For a start, we can produce maps of where our controls and recoveries travel to or from. The map alongside shows the 'vast' number of Robins which have moved more than a few metres to or from the wood (and been controlled/recovered). One of the requirements of being able to colour ring Robins was that we should not interfere with other Robin colour ringing operations. The nearest two are in Cambridgeshire and North Yorkshire. Our map shows we should be fairly safe. We have only four records outside the wood within 10km of it and two other long distant records. The east coast bird was ringed as a 4 in early spring and found later in the same spring in the wood. The south coast bird was a ringed as a 3J and eaten by a cat in Worthing some time later. 25 years with no adult-ringed Robins moving far away from the wood seems to make our project unlikely to interfere with others!

This held a vast bit-mapped image of the DMAP map which can be reproduced again for free.

Converted from BMP file type to Acorn sprite file using changeFSI.

All controls/recoveries to/from Treswell Wood 1972 - 1997 (except birds found within 1km of the wood).

Twenty-five year summary - 31/12/97

It seems to be as good a time as any to produce a table of all records for the 25 years together with comments on the figures. The table is below but a commentary (on the first 20 years) will be produced separately by Neil in time for the 25th Anniversary dinner. It is intended that this will form the basis of a submission for publication in Ringing & Migration.

	New Birds				Other handlings --->								Grand Total
	Pulli	Juv	Adult	Total	Control	Rtrap	Sight	SDR	Rec	PDF	C/X		
Sparrowhawk	4	15	15	34	2	7	0	0	2	0	4	49	
Kestrel	0	1	4	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Red-legged Partridge	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Moorhen	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Woodcock	7	1	8	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	19	
Stock Dove	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Woodpigeon	8	4	46	58	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	62	
Collared Dove	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Turtle Dove	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Cuckoo	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	
Tawny Owl	15	1	10	26	0	6	0	0	1	6	1	40	
Long-eared Owl	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Green Woodpecker	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	5	24	35	2	51	0	6	0	0	0	94	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	6615	9695	14662	30972	186	21833	948	3867	250	406	349	58625	

(Table continued on following page)

	New Birds				Other handlings --->								Grand Total
	Pulli	Juv	Adult	Total	Control	Rtrap	Sight	SDR	Rec	PDF	C/X		
Skylark	3	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Swallow	28	16	43	87	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	90	
Tree Pipit	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Pied Wagtail	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Wren	346	1069	1092	2507	1	1093	0	323	11	1	8	3945	
Dunnock	4	894	1276	2174	3	2283	0	504	24	0	3	4991	
Robin	58	1652	853	2563	1	1834	0	593	16	3	10	5020	
Nightingale	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Redstart	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Blackbird	98	754	1294	2146	5	1462	0	235	38	2	17	4005	
Fieldfare	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
Song Thrush	196	234	760	1190	2	481	2	91	11	1	7	1785	
Redwing	0	24	69	93	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	94	
Mistle Thrush	0	1	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
Grasshopper Warbler	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Reed Warbler	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Lesser Whitethroat	0	4	26	30	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	32	
Whitethroat	0	6	35	41	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	50	
Garden Warbler	0	32	210	242	3	77	0	47	1	0	0	370	
Blackcap	10	441	917	1368	10	332	0	211	2	0	7	1930	
Chiffchaff	3	94	211	308	4	82	0	26	2	0	1	423	
Willow Warbler	0	107	426	533	5	104	0	57	0	0	7	706	
Goldcrest	0	388	656	1044	2	429	0	148	3	0	1	1628	
Spotted Flycatcher	31	31	67	129	0	6	0	2	0	1	0	138	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Long-tailed Tit	0	205	605	810	9	1209	0	133	5	0	19	2185	
Marsh Tit	102	47	32	181	0	426	0	41	1	0	0	649	
Willow Tit	14	214	168	396	0	815	0	132	2	0	1	1346	
Coal Tit	146	190	114	450	5	590	0	64	4	0	7	1120	
Blue Tit	3612	1255	1094	5961	56	5143	14	505	54	200	147	12080	
Great Tit	1372	531	713	2616	33	2843	932	395	21	169	36	7045	
Nuthatch	0	7	15	22	0	44	0	2	1	0	0	69	
Treecreeper	3	143	249	395	3	804	0	105	6	0	4	1317	
Great Grey Shrike	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Jay	0	18	40	58	1	23	0	1	3	0	3	89	
Magpie	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	
Rook	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Starling	8	26	33	67	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	70	
House Sparrow	20	3	567	590	0	57	0	17	4	0	1	669	
Tree Sparrow	490	65	596	1151	0	130	0	11	15	23	4	1334	
Chaffinch	22	205	676	903	7	397	0	43	6	0	11	1367	
Brambling	0	5	14	19	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	22	
Greenfinch	0	140	474	614	18	61	0	26	0	0	25	738	
Goldfinch	0	4	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	
Linnet	3	7	6	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	
Redpoll	0	134	118	252	1	94	0	31	0	0	5	383	
Bullfinch	0	693	599	1292	9	890	0	91	10	0	7	2299	
Yellowhammer	0	13	415	428	0	43	0	16	3	0	0	491	
Reed Bunting	0	8	34	42	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	51	
Total	6615	9695	14662	30972	186	21833	948	3867	250	406	349	58625	

(Key to column codes on following page)

Key to columns in 25 Year Summary and 1997 Year summary

New Birds:	Pulli	Nestlings.
	Juv	Juveniles - birds known to be in their first calendar year when ringed
	Adult	All other birds including birds of unknown age.
Other handlings:	Control	Birds caught in Treswell Wood but first ringed elsewhere.
	Rtrap	Recaptures of birds already with rings.
	Sight	Birds identified by colour rings or other individual marks.
	SDR	Same day retraps.
	Rec	Recoveries of birds within the wood.
	PDF	Nestlings ringed but died before fledging.
	C/X	Captures and recoveries elsewhere of Treswell Wood-ringed birds.

Year Summary - All Records -1997

	Control	New Birds			Other handlings			Rec	PDF	Total
		Adult	Juv	Pulli	Rtrap	SDR	Sight			
Sparrowhawk	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Kestrel	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Woodpigeon	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	4
Tawny Owl	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	2
Long-eared Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	2	.	12	2	.	.	.	18
Wren	.	33	27	39	24	4	.	.	.	127
Dunnock	.	28	13	.	49	10	.	.	.	100
Robin	.	13	33	3	38	13	.	1	.	101
Blackbird	.	23	16	3	26	5	.	.	.	73
Song Thrush	.	10	.	.	4	1	.	.	.	15
Redwing	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Garden Warbler	.	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Blackcap	1	22	12	.	12	7	.	.	.	54
Chiffchaff	.	13	4	.	7	1	.	.	.	25
Willow Warbler	.	4	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	7
Goldcrest	.	4	65	.	25	11	.	.	.	105
Long-tailed Tit	.	30	4	.	29	4	.	.	.	67
Marsh Tit	.	2	7	11	63	4	.	.	.	87
Willow Tit	.	1	4	.	18	2	.	.	.	25
Coal Tit	1	1	8	26	53	1	.	1	.	91
Blue Tit	3	66	32	301	410	28	.	3	55	898
Great Tit	1	57	28	112	365	57	287	4	31	942
Nuthatch	.	1	1	.	18	1	.	.	.	21
Treecreeper	.	8	10	.	33	1	.	.	.	52
Jay	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chaffinch	1	33	13	4	52	7	.	.	.	110
Greenfinch	4	52	1	.	17	2	.	.	.	76
Bullfinch	.	9	5	.	14	4	.	.	.	32
Totals	12	420	291	502	1272	165	287	9	86	3044

10 Week Summary - October to December 1997**1997 Interval 5. Visits 1334 1333 1329 1330 1336 1332 1335**

	New		Birds	Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	3	.	1	1	.	2	7
Dunnock	.	.	4	2	.	.	6
Robin	.	.	2	2	.	2	6
Blackbird	1	.	1	1	.	.	3
Song Thrush	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Redwing	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
Goldcrest	1	.	17	1	.	7	26
Long-tailed Tit	2	.	.	12	.	.	14
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	2	.	3	5
Willow Tit	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Coal Tit	.	.	.	1	.	2	3
Blue Tit	1	.	2	3	.	3	9
Great Tit	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
Treecreeper	.	.	.	5	.	4	9
Chaffinch	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Totals	8	.	31	36	.	23	98

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1978	101	131	243	223	131	829
1979	97	115	180	91	123	606
1980	86	102	211	147	170	716
1981	102	110	288	188	177	865
1982	66	113	142	89	110	520
1983	82	140	143	185	128	678
1984	91	114	110	82	106	503
1985	103	88	135	118	88	532
1986	77	104	153	68	141	543
1987	95	112	196	209	124	736
1988	92	143	180	137	119	671
1989	124	137	282	145	103	791
1990	99	145	204	130	175	753
1991	65	57	99	74	127	422
1992	64	64	115	223	159	625
1993	81	70	112	158	126	547
1994	88	109	209	155	157	718
1995	91	124	240	253	104	812
1996	95	121	128	116	97	557
1997	59	99	126	98	98	480
Maximum	124	145	288	253	177	865
Minimum	59	57	99	68	88	422
Mean	88	110	175	144	128	645

and finally ..

Many thanks to all group members and others who have helped, supported and encouraged in any way - in the field, at the keyboard, making nestboxes, ... We look forward to the next exciting quarter century of Britain's first IPM site.