

WOODHOUSE MOOR MANAGEMENT PLAN 2004

5.8 Allotments

Woodhouse Moor has two large allotments in the southwest corner of the Park (Map 4.7). The more northerly allotment covers an area of 11,448m² and comprises 47 plots (Photo 50). In contrast the southerly allotment is much larger and within its 11,746.5m² area there are 45 plots. The arrangement and size of plots is shown in Appendices 41 and 42.

Both allotments are surrounded by a green plastic coated wire mesh (50mm mesh) fence held by concrete posts. The fence is in a reasonable state of repair with few sagging sections. Along much of the fence line the security element is reinforced by a privet hedge planted just inside the fence. Throughout, the privet hedge has grown through and above the fence. In regard to the southerly allotment the privet hedge is missing along the southeast sections and can be attributed mainly to the effects of tree shading. In these areas rank weeds and brambles contribute to the security element of the fence line. With the northern allotment, gaps in the privet hedge are few and have either been filled deliberately with Hawthorn whips (north side) or naturally regenerated elderberry (southwest corner). Along the southern edge a gap in the fence has been filled with 72m of 170cm high, green coated metal paling security fencing with privet whips planted on the inside

The southern allotment has four entrances:-

- Directly opposite the tennis courts. Double wooden gate system topped with barbed wire, approximately 146cm high and 3m wide. Each gate consists of 11 vertical slats. Slat dimensions vary due to remedial works.
- At the west corner of the allotment. Double wooden gate system, approximately 150cm high and 3.3m wide. Each gate consists of 11 vertical slats. Slat dimensions vary due to remedial works.
- Two entrances facing Moorland Road. Double wooden gate systems, approximately 150cm high. Westerly gate system is 3.5m wide whereas the easterly gate system is 3.3m wide. Each gate consists of 11 vertical slats. Slat dimensions vary due to remedial works.

The northern allotment has two entrances:-

- At the east end facing into the centre of the Park. Double wooden gate system topped with barbed wire, approximately 150cm high and 3.6m wide. Each gate consists of 11 vertical slats. Slat dimensions vary due to remedial works.
- At the west corner of the allotment facing Hyde Park Road. Double wooden gate system, approximately 150cm high and 3.3m wide. Each gate consists of 11 vertical slats. Slat dimensions vary due to remedial works.

All of the double gates are kept chained and padlocked with each plot holder having a key for access purposes.

In spite of a waiting list for allotments there is concern over the management of individual plots by allotment holders. In a number of cases weed control is lax or only a part of a plot may be used. Other issues revolve round the disposal of green waste, residential refuse dumping and the discarding of equipment and materials brought in to facilitate crop production. It is also noted that a few peripheral allotments can not be utilized due to shading from overhanging mature trees. Theft of produce appears to be an endemic problem that has not deterred the use of the plots. Rules governing the use of the allotments are mentioned in Appendix 43.

To maintain full accessibility, four raised allotments (Photo. 51) were created for people with physical difficulties in the northern allotment at its western end on Plot 46. All four allotments are 6.2m long and 1.4m wide with two each at 79cm and 53 cm above ground level. Cement block were used to construct the walls and a stained wooden strip attached to the top edge of the walls. Good access was assured by laying a tarmac surface round the raised allotments, which covers an area 9.1m by 18.8m. A short tarmac path is included to link this specialized allotment area with the gated entrance nearby and the tarmac pedestrian way beyond.