



Northamptonshire
Leisure Services

Barnwell Country Park Management Plan



BARNWELL COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT

PLAN

Maps		Opposite Page No.
1.	Location of park	Two
2.	General map	Three
3.	Grass and Meadows Management	Four
4.	Tree Planting and Management	Five
5.	Areas selected for Habitat Management	Six
6.	Habitat Management	Seven
7.	Vehicular Access	Eight
8.	Fishing Facilities	Nine
9.	Interpretation/Information Facilities	Twelve
10.	Informal Recreation Developments	Thirteen
11.	Water Safety	Sixteen

BARNWELL COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT

PLAN

Contents	Page No.
1. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2
2. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	3
2.1 Primary Objectives	
2.2 Secondary Objectives	
3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	4 - 8
3.1 Grass/Meadows and Management	
3.2 Tree Planting and Management	
3.3 Habitat Management	
4. FACILITY MANAGEMENT	9 - 12
4.1 Opening & Closing/ Access on to the Site	
4.2 Fishing	
4.3 Interpretation/Information Services	
4.4 Informal Recreation Facilities	
5. VISITOR MANAGEMENT	13 - 16
5.1 Access within the site	
5.2 Interpretation/Information	
5.3 Byelaws	
5.4 Water Safety	
6. MONITORING	17

1. Introduction

Barnwell Country Park, near Oundle (see map 1) is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and managed by the Leisure & Libraries Department.

The site covers 37 acres bounded by a flood channel of the River Nene on the western side and the A605 Northampton to Peterborough road on the eastern side.

The area was originally flood plain meadow land from which in the late 1950's and 1960's, gravel was extracted this resulted in the formation of four lakes, one of which has almost completely dried out; the Lowlands (see map 2). Remnants of the Meadowland are found along the River Nene flood channel or 'Backwater'.

The land was acquired by the County Council and opened as a Picnic Park in 1971. Basic facilities including toilet block, wardens office and picnic tables were provided and some landscaping and tree planting took place. A full time warden and part time assistant are employed on site.

The site offers opportunities for picnicking, waterside walks, walking and studying wildlife (water fowl in particular) and coarse fishing on a day permit basis.

As well as catering for families and others seeking a day or afternoon out in the countryside the site also functions as a local park for Oundle and as a transit picnic site for traffic on the A.605.

In 1976 a detailed study of the management and development of the site was produced by Stuart Marsh and submitted as an MSc dissertation for the Recreational Land Management Studies Course at Reading University.

This was used in a submission to the Countryside Commission for the upgrading of the site. In 1978 it was given Country Park status.

This management plan, based on the more detailed 1976 study, is intended to guide the day to day management and longer term development of the Country Park.

The 1976 study and the Barnwell Country Park files in the Leisure and Libraries Department provide the background information; assessments of the sites resources, visitor characteristics and the various management options which were considered in the preparation of the policies and courses of action which have been adopted in this plan.

Contributors:-

Janet Cornish	MSc (Recreational Land Management Studies) Development Officer (Countryside) Northamptonshire County Council
Terence Edwards	Countryside Warden (Barnwell Country Park) Northamptonshire County Council
David Grundy	Area Countryside Warden (1971 - 77) Northamptonshire County Council
Stuart Marsh	MSc (Recreational Land Management Studies) Reading University (1975 - 76)
Frank Mawby	Area Countryside Warden (1977 - 78) Northamptonshire County Council
Thomas Pheasant	Countryside Warden (Barnwell Country Park)(1974 - 79) Northamptonshire County Council
John Skerritt	Area Countryside Warden Northamptonshire County Council
Alan Teulon	A.R.I.C.S. Countryside Officer Northamptonshire County Council
Jillian Walker	MSc (Recreational Land Management Studies) Development Officer (Countryside) (1975 - 78) Northamptonshire County Council

The assistance of the following is gratefully acknowledged.

Ioan Thomas	Oundle School, Northamptonshire Naturalists' Trust
David Moore	Fisheries Officer, Anglian Water Authority
Keith Gabriel	Former pupil - Oundle School

R.Wright, F.L.A.
County Leisure and Libraries Officer.

Published 1980.

2. Management Objectives

2.1 Primary objective

To develop and maintain the recreational carrying capacity of the area for a variety of informal recreational pursuits including picnicking, walking, informal games, fishing and the enjoyment of the rural surroundings and wildlife.

2.2 Secondary objectives

- 2.2.1. In the development and maintenance of the site's potential for a variety of informal recreational uses to minimise conflicts between the various user groups (picnickers, walkers, anglers, naturalists, etc.)
- 2.2.2. To secure and enhance the value of the park as a natural history resource by positive habitat management.
- 2.2.3. To exploit the natural history value of the park through the interpretation of the site to the general public and by encouraging the use of the park for study purposes by schools and specialist individuals and groups.
- 2.2.4. To minimise capital costs of any developments by maximising the re-use of on-site and other available materials and by direct supervision of development works.

3. Resource Management

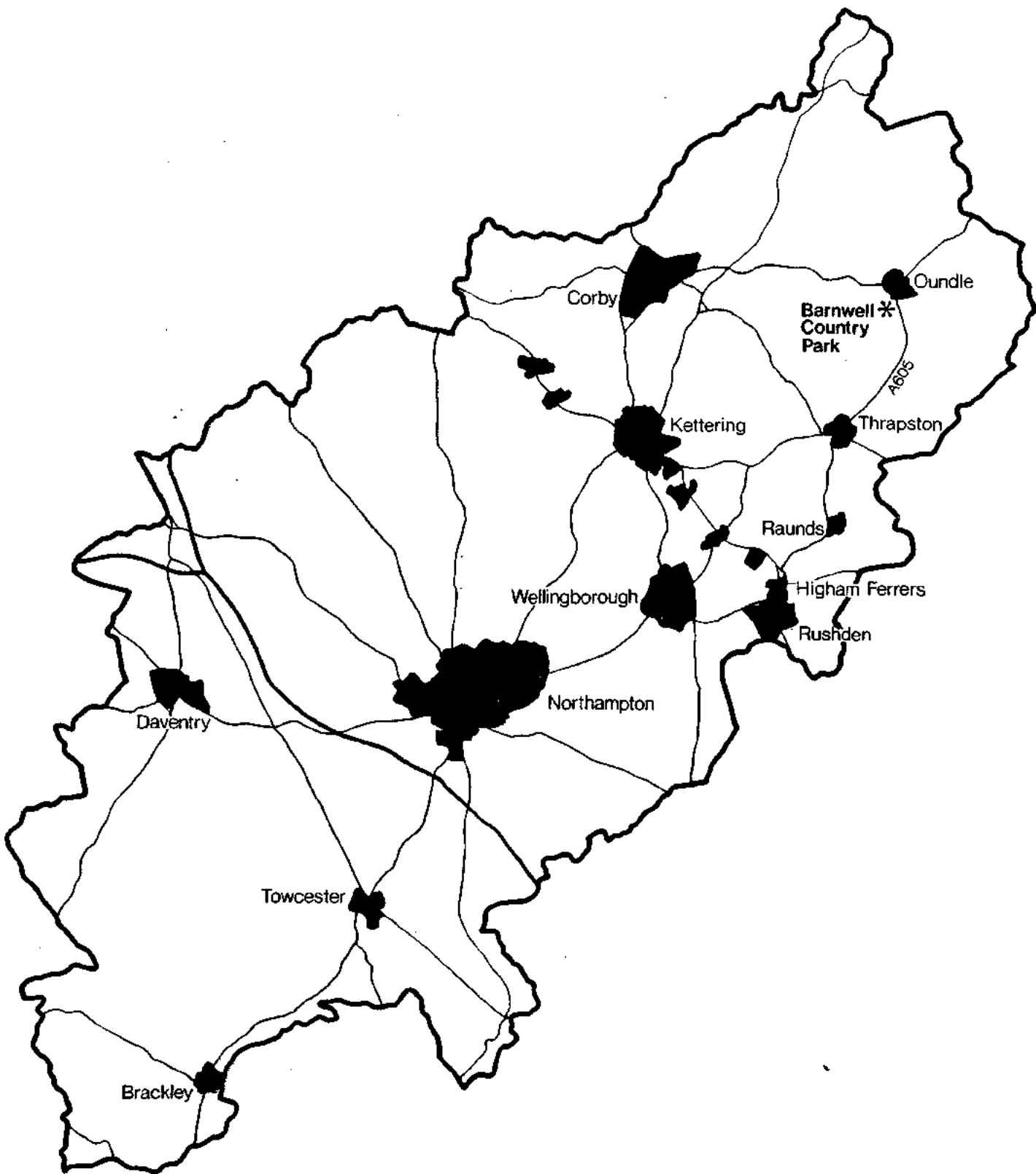
3.1 Grass/Meadows Management

Policy

- 3.1.1. Meadow areas are to be managed primarily by mowing. This should be aimed at producing a pleasant recreational environment for activities such as picnicking, walking, informal games etc.
- 3.1.2. In areas at present unattractive for recreation consideration should be given to increasing their capacity.
- 3.1.3. The effect of grass mowing and any other management on wildlife should be considered (e.g. protection of ground nesting birds, wild flowers etc.)
- 3.1.4. Chemical weed killers will not normally be used.

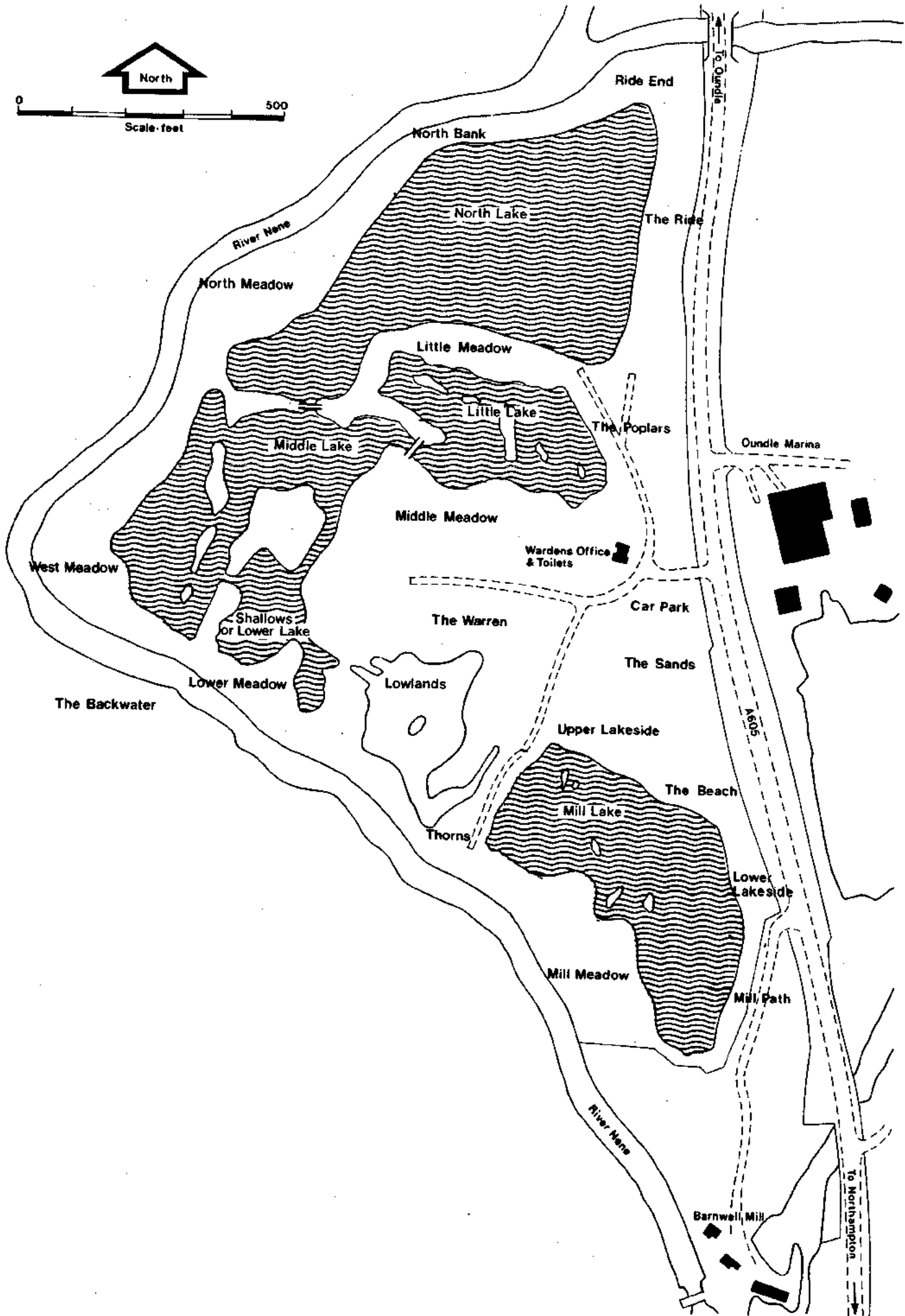
Action

- 3.1.5. The areas comprising Middle Meadow, Little Meadow and the Poplars should be cut regularly throughout the summer whenever it is considered that the grass is too long to be attractive for informal recreation activities, leaving a small band of coarse vegetation around the perimeter uncut to promote "edge effect".
- 3.1.6. Along the Backwater (Lower, West and North Meadows, and North Bank) and along Ride End and the Ride, an early cut should be made, but after that swathes only should be cut giving anglers access to the bank and for visitors to walk allowing the grasses and other vegetation to flower and seed. The 'routes' of these paths can be altered from year to year and should widen out at various points into picnic bays. At the end of July the long grass should be cut and removed. Further cuts should then be made before the winter if necessary.
- 3.1.7. An attempt should be made to improve the attractiveness of Mill Meadow for recreation by very frequent mowing of the nettles and other coarse vegetation and if necessary by the use of selective weed killers, in the Autumn, until the nettles have been controlled.
- 3.1.8. Upper Lakeside and Lower Lakeside should be mown to promote their use for picnicking. On Lower Lakeside a margin of coarse vegetation should be left on either side of the path. Mill Path should be kept as a narrow path for the more adventurous to follow.



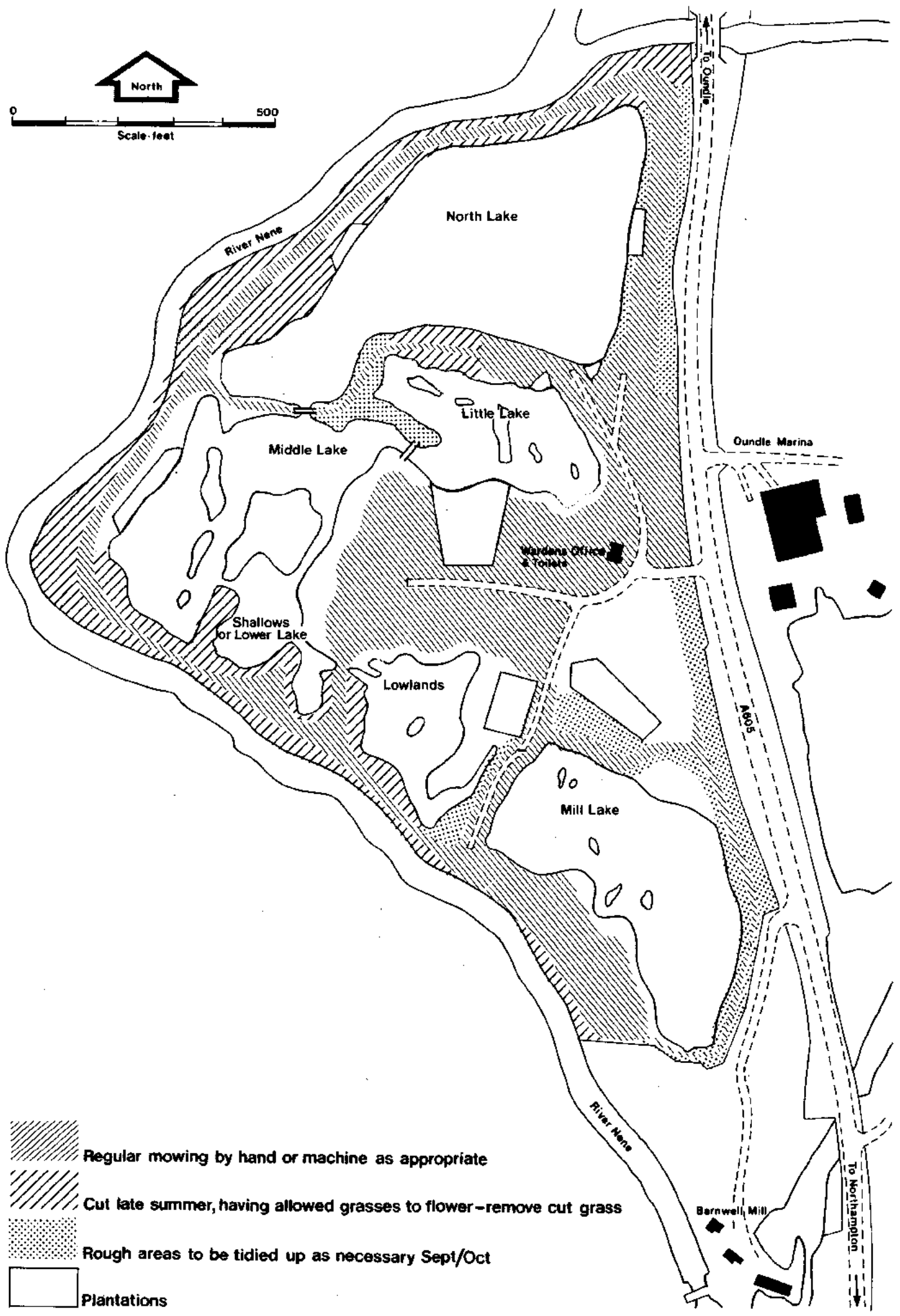
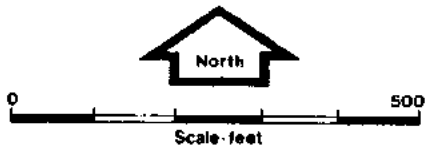
**Location of
Barnwell Country Park**





Map.1



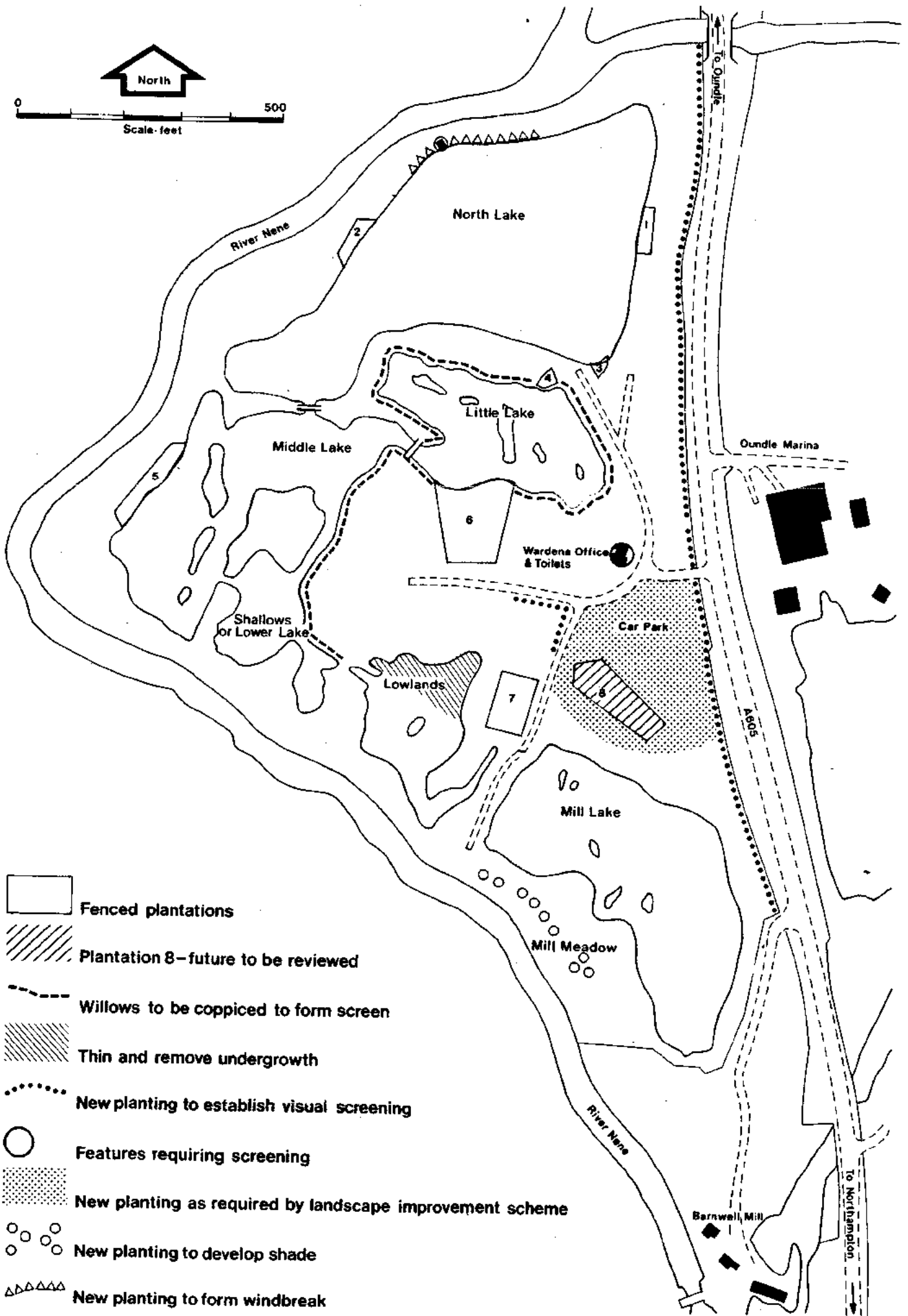
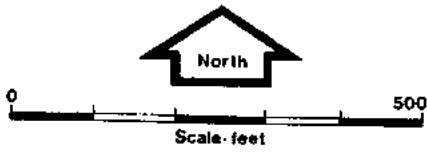
General Map of Park


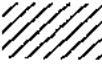
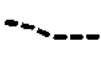

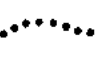


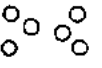
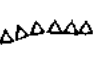
Map 2



-  Regular mowing by hand or machine as appropriate
-  Cut late summer, having allowed grasses to flower - remove cut grass
-  Rough areas to be tidied up as necessary Sept/Oct
-  Plantations

Grass and Meadows Management Map.3



-  Fenced plantations
-  Plantation 8—future to be reviewed
-  Willows to be coppiced to form screen
-  Thin and remove undergrowth
-  New planting to establish visual screening
-  Features requiring screening
-  New planting as required by landscape improvement scheme
-  New planting to develop shade
-  New planting to form windbreak

Tree planting and Management

Map.4

3.2. Tree planting and Management (see Map 4)

Policy

- 3.2.1. Further tree planting, outside existing plantations, should take place only where there is a need to improve the recreational environment or to solve a management problem (e.g. creating shade extending 'edges', screening).
- 3.2.2. The fenced plantation areas should be maintained, although the future of plantation 8 should be considered within the context of a landscape improvement plan for the car park and the Sands. (see Informal Recreation Facilities 4.4.10.)
- 3.2.3. When selecting species for planting the primary consideration should be their suitability for the site conditions and the secondary consideration, their attractiveness to wildlife.

Action

- 3.2.4. Plantation Areas
 - a) any dead standards should be removed and the areas maintained, with special attention to the rabbit problem. Consideration should be given to further planting where necessary.
 - b) consideration should be given to developing part of plantation 8 as a tree "nursery" in the landscape improvement plan.
- 3.2.5. The development of shade
 - a) appropriate trees should be established on Mill Meadow to improve the recreational environment by providing shade and promoting "edge effect".
 - b) the willows in the dry part of the Lowlands should be thinned and consideration should be given to the possibility of developing a small shady picnic site.
(See Habitat Management 3.3.5, Informal Recreation 4.4.3)
- 3.2.6. Visual screening and enhancement
 - a) as a priority, screen road south of main entrance by improving hedge and planting suitable trees behind
 - b) screen the area around the Wildlife Refuge
(See Habitat Management 3.3.4)
 - c) keep the section of the eastern boundary hedge north of the main gate cut short to develop into a physical barrier and improve screening, where necessary, by tree planting inside the hedge.
 - d) develop a screen around east end of Middle Meadow.
 - e) plant trees necessary to implement landscape improvement plan for car park area (see Informal Recreation Facilities 4.4.10)
 - f) treat Warden's office and toilet block and compound by planting to enhance visual quality
 - g) treat shelter on North Bank by planting to enhance visual quality

3.2.7. Planting methods - devise planting methods to overcome problems of poor moisture retention, particularly in areas where top soil is sparse, e.g. by soil replacement.

3.2.8. Shelter
Plant along the western edge of North Lake to act as a wind break to shelter North Lake.

3.3. Habitat Management (see maps 5 & 6)

Policy

3.3.1. In selected areas of the Park (see map 5) positive habitat management should be attempted to maintain and enhance the site's present diversity so that it's value for school parties, amateur naturalists and interpretation to the general public can be conserved and exploited.

3.3.2. Little Lake, Middle Lake and the Shallows should continue to be zoned as a wildlife "Refuge", with management aimed primarily at improving the habitat for wildlife.

3.3.3. In the other areas selected, (see maps) the habitats should be managed for both wildlife and recreation. These areas are the Bank of the Backwater, North Lake, Lowlands, Warren and Thorns, Mill Lake, Lower Lakeside and Mill Path.

Action (see map 6)

3.3.4. Wildlife Refuge Area Little Lake, Middle Lake and The Shallows

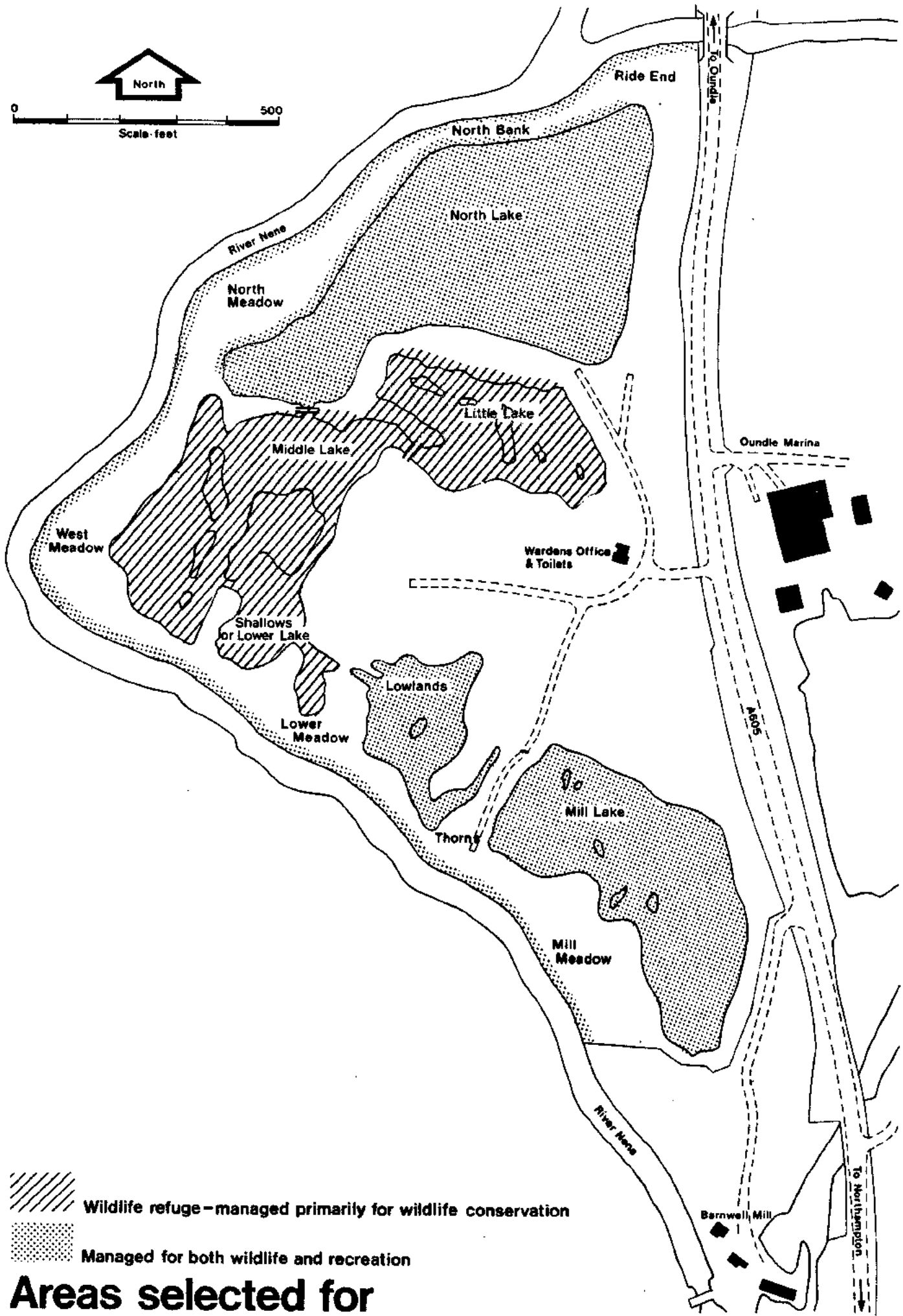
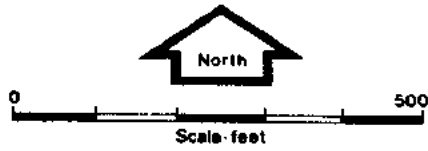
a) Complete and maintain fencing of perimeter of the whole area with stockproof wiring and larch posts (from Irchester Country Park) except for experimental openings on Middle Meadow to allow geese and other water fowl to come out and graze on the Meadow. Part of Little Meadow is to be included inside the Wildlife Refuge fence, providing a wider margin on north side of Little Lake. Encourage growth of dog rose, brambles, honey suckle and other shrubs along and over the fence.


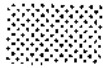
b) Create a visual screen around the area by selective rotational coppicing of the willows.

c) Manage field maples in plantation 5 and other vegetation on West Bank to provide intermittent views of the lake for visitors.

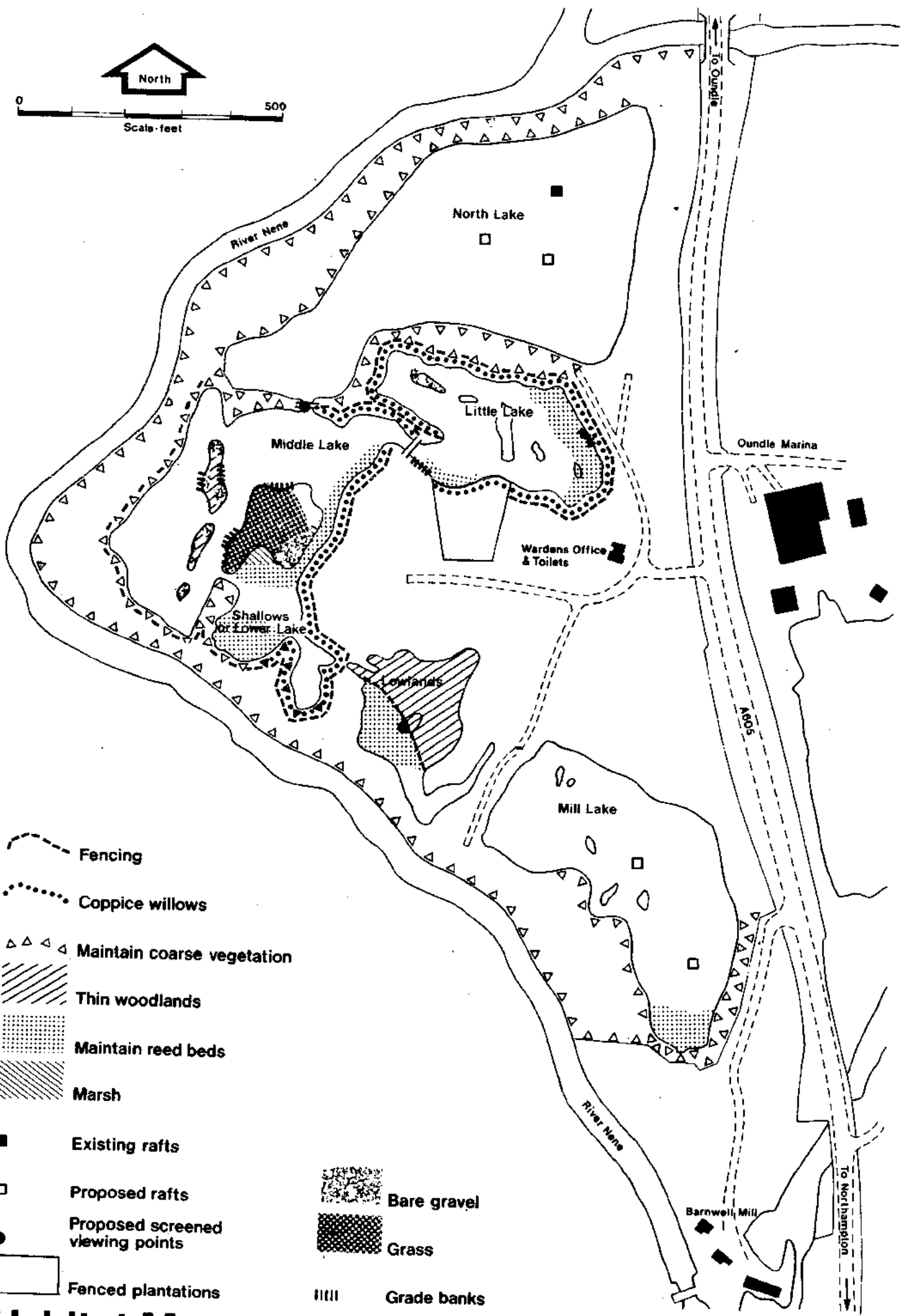
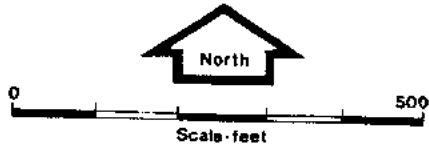
d) Improve the attractiveness of the islands for birds, clear where overgrown and create bare gravel loafing areas.














e) Encourage growth of food plants, that support insects and invertebrates, for the water fowl by transplanting and by grading banks to encourage more shallow water vegetation.



-  Wildlife refuge—managed primarily for wildlife conservation
-  Managed for both wildlife and recreation

Areas selected for Habitat Management



-  Fencing
-  Coppice willows
-  Maintain coarse vegetation
-  Thin woodlands
-  Maintain reed beds
-  Marsh
-  Existing rafts
-  Proposed rafts
-  Proposed screened viewing points
-  Fenced plantations
-  Bare gravel
-  Grass
-  Grade banks

Habitat Management

Map.6

3.3.4. Wildlife Refuge Area.....continued....

- f) Encourage water fowl by feeding especially during winter, introduction of tame birds etc, nest boxes and baskets.
- g) Monitor growth of reed beds in the Shallows, e.g. by driving in stakes, to determine whether rotational cutting is desirable to prevent drying out. Obtain advice on cutting if it should become necessary. Remove any willow saplings. Keep channels between Middle Lake and the Shallows open.
- h) At southern end of the Shallows consider the possibility of digging out and re-creating a shallow water area.
- i) Develop screened view points at suitable places to enable visitors to view the water fowl without disturbing them.

3.3.5. Dual use areas

a) North Lake

1. Manage as a fishery and open-water feeding ground for water fowl.
2. Install several other rafts to attract breeding and loafing birds, following success of the existing one.
3. Clear weeds and improve fishing swims to encourage anglers to use pegs in order to reduce disruption of wildlife, e.g. to leave reed beds on west bank undisturbed.
4. Establish a good relationship with anglers and explain problems of combining fishing with conservation.
5. On the shelving West Bank encourage growth of more emergent vegetation and plant trees to provide shelter.

b) Mill Lake

1. Manage as a fishery and open-water feeding ground for water fowl.
2. Accept growth of reed beds at southern end as an important habitat for birds and discourage anglers from disturbing area by keeping fishing pegs away from reed beds. The reeds growth should however, be monitored.
3. Increase attractiveness of island for birds by grading, if possible, and experiment with constructing nesting habitats on gravel ridges where water is shallow.

3.3.5. Dual use areas....continued....

c) Bank of back water

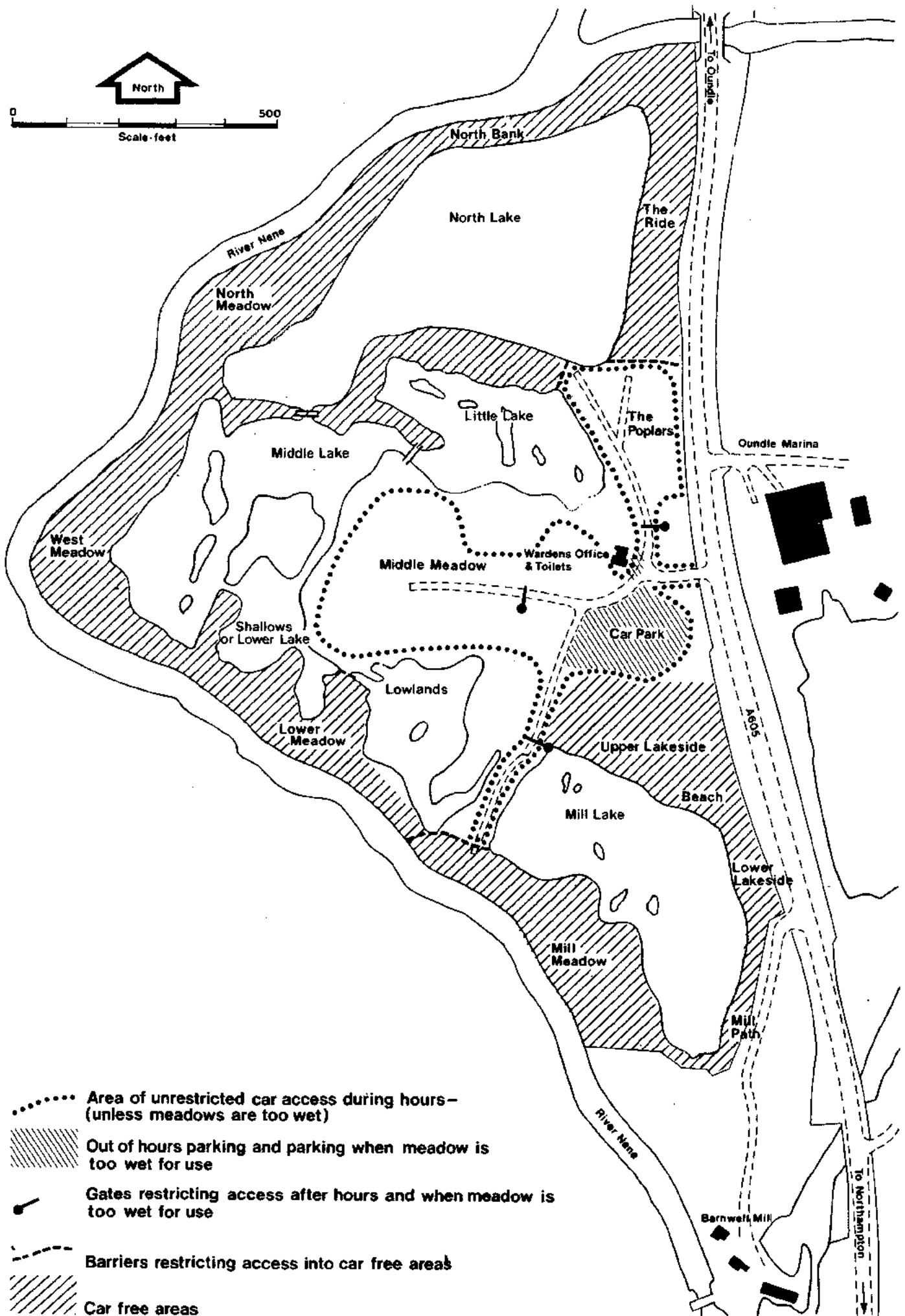
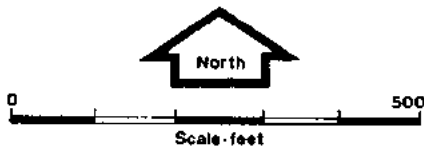
1. Maintain as coarse vegetation (see Grass/Meadows Management 3.1.6), shrubs may need to be removed periodically.
2. Accommodate walking, picnicking and angling activities (see Grass/Meadows Management 3.1.6).




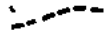
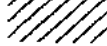
d) Lowlands

1. Fence and maintain reed beds and area of Purple Loosestrife to protect from dogs and children and manage to protect and enhance habitat. Monitor growth of reed beds. Remove willow saplings.
2. In drier north east section adjacent to Middle Meadow, commence a thinning programme of the willows and consider the development of a small shady picnic area, having established to what extent the area floods.

e) Lower Lakeside and Mill Path

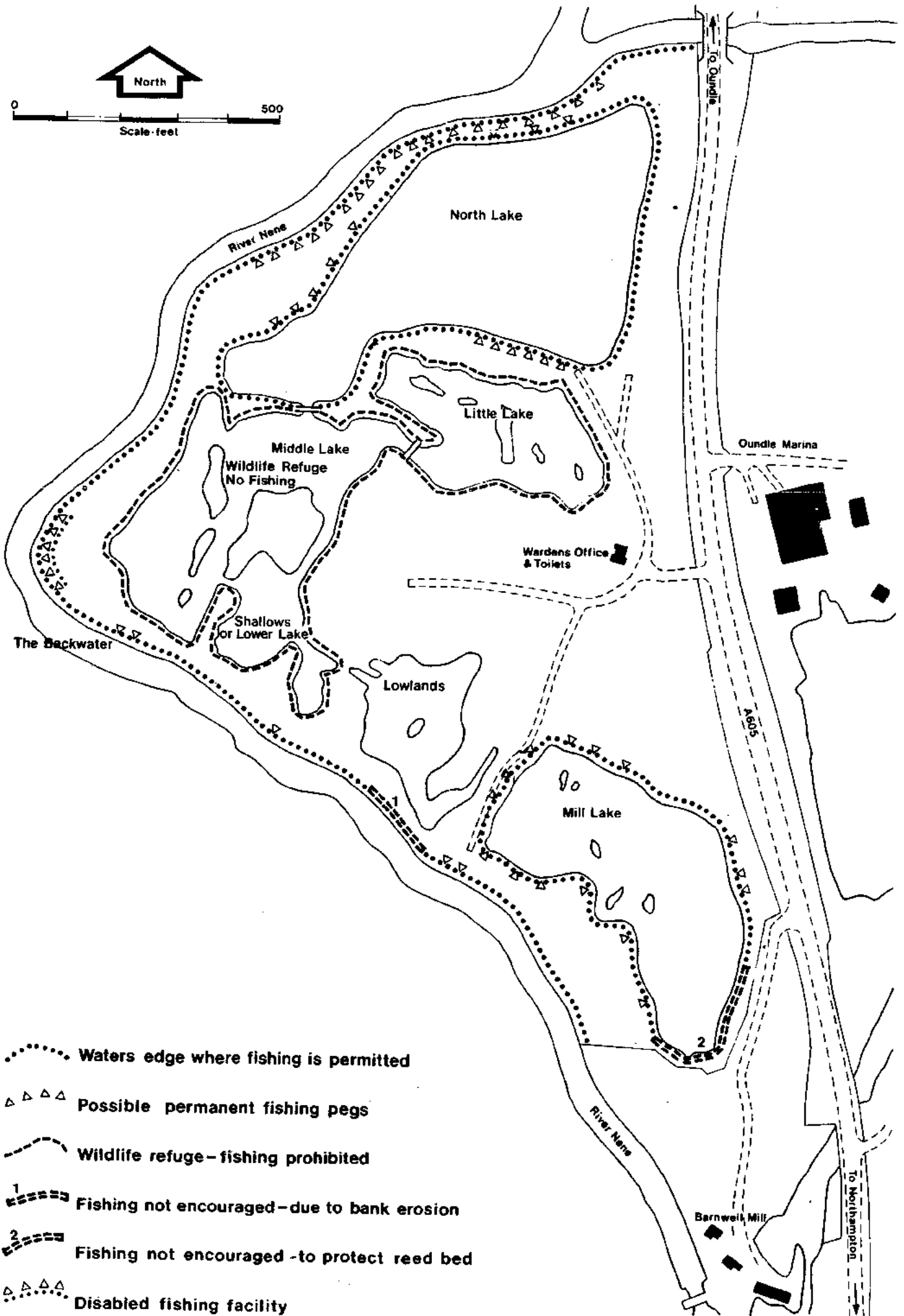
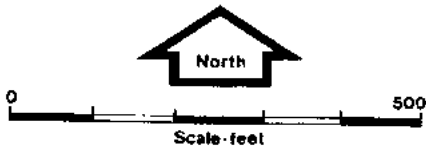
1. Using mowing regime (see Grass/Meadows Management 3.1.8) the use of Lakeside for picnicking and for walking to Barnwell Mill should be encouraged whilst discouraging large numbers from using Mill Path and disturbing the reed beds.
2. If a greater interchange of visitors between Barnwell Mill and the Park results from liaison with the managers of Barnwell Mill Restaurant (see Informal Recreation Facilities 4.4.11) consideration should be given to the need to change the position of the gate to minimise disruption of the reed beds.


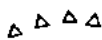






-  Area of unrestricted car access during hours—
(unless meadows are too wet)
-  Out of hours parking and parking when meadow is
too wet for use
-  Gates restricting access after hours and when meadow is
too wet for use
-  Barriers restricting access into car free areas
-  Car free areas

Vehicular access

Map.7



-  Waters edge where fishing is permitted
-  Possible permanent fishing pegs
-  Wildlife refuge - fishing prohibited
-  Fishing not encouraged - due to bank erosion
-  Fishing not encouraged - to protect reed bed
-  Disabled fishing facility

Fishing facilities

Map.8

4. Facility Management

4.1 Opening and Closing/Access onto site (see Map 7)

Policy

- 4.1.1. On site parking, toilets, warden's office and information facilities should be available as many hours a week as is possible given staffing levels; existing hours at least should be maintained.
- 4.1.2. After hours parking should be continued to be made available in the formal car parking area just inside Park entrance.
- 4.1.3. Pedestrian access should be maintained after hours and the gate on southern boundary should be kept unlocked.

4.2 Fishing

Policy

- 4.2.1. To provide a fishing facility that is open to all including the disabled.
- 4.2.2. To maintain control over the activities of anglers by requiring the purchase of a permit for a days fishing.
- 4.2.3. To permit coarse fishing during the season to anyone (in normal circumstances) who holds a valid Anglian Water Authority Rod Licence.
- 4.2.4. To permit fishing on North Lake, Mill Lake and the backwater of the River Nene, but not in the Wildlife Refuge area.
- 4.2.5. To continue to operate a close season from 15th March to 15th June inclusive to protect nesting birds.
- 4.2.6. To retain the right to regulate use to protect the resource.

Action

- 4.2.7. The following procedure should be followed:-

Hours

- a) Fishing will be permitted only during hours of daylight.

Charges

- b) A charge will be made on a day permit basis, a reduced rate will apply to juveniles (under 15 years) and senior citizens.
- c) The warden must exercise discretion concerning age categories and be prepared to give the benefit of any doubt to anglers.

4.2.7. continued.....

Sale of Permits

- d) Fishing permits will be sold by the warden or assistant wardens either from the office or when on patrol.
- e) Permits will be sold in number sequence.
- f) Permits will be for sale during normal opening hours of Park.
- g) Anglers entering the Park before 9.30 a.m. will be expected to purchase a permit when visited by the warden, i.e. on a "fish now, pay later", basis.
- h) Anglers fishing after 6.00 p.m. will be required to purchase a permit before that time.

Records

- i) A daily record of sales and cash collected will be kept distinguishing between adults, juveniles and senior citizen tickets.
- j) The date of sale will be entered on to the ticket and ticket stubs.

Cash

- k) Cash should be deposited at the bank once a week or fortnight by the Warden - deposited on a separate deposit slip, headed Barnwell Country Park sale of fishing permits.

Management

- l) Permit holders must conform to the rules printed on day fishing permits.
- m) The warden may use his/her discretion concerning subsequent issue of permits to an offender.
- n) Permits should not be transferred from one person to another.
- o) Overnight fishing will not be permitted.

4.2.8. The following procedure should be followed for disabled anglers.

- a) Disabled groups are asked to make reservations in writing giving four weeks notice, individuals can be accommodated without prior booking. In periods of wet weather groups are asked to contact the warden to check that water levels are suitable.

- 4.2.8. continued.....
- b) No charge will be made for disabled anglers, but they must have an Anglian Water Authority Rod Licence.
- 4.2.9. Ways of monitoring the fish population should be devised (see Monitoring 6.4) and a restocking programme embarked upon if required.
- 4.2.10. Anglers will be encouraged to fish from pegged fishing stations. Between 50 and 60 pegs will be provided, their use should be monitored and positions changed, when and if necessary, to minimise damage to the bank and to make best use of the resource.
- 4.2.11. The level of use of the facility and it's effect on the resource should be continually monitored to assess the necessity of introducing further elements of control to conserve the resource (see Monitoring 6.4.)
- 4.3. Interpretation and Information Services (see Map 9)

Policy

- 4.3.1. Information about the Park and relevant publications will be available from the warden's office.
- 4.3.2. School groups and other groups and organisations will be encouraged to use the Park.
- 4.3.3. Interpretation and information services offered to both the general public, school and other specialist groups will be improved to enable all visitors to the Park to gain a greater appreciation of the Park and it's management.

Action

- 4.3.4. The warden's office should be manned as many hours a week as is possible given staffing levels, it should always be open on Sunday afternoons and other times when the Park is busy.
- 4.3.5. An information point giving basic information about the Park should be developed to function particularly when the warden's office is closed.
- 4.3.6. On site interpretive points providing basic information and explanation of the site and it's attributes for the general public, should be developed; topics should include:-
- a) the history of the site - gravel extraction and reclamation.
 - b) the Park's habitats - and their varying characteristics.
 - c) wildlife and other features of interest in the Park.
 - d) recreation activities including fishing.
 - e) the management of the Park for recreation and wildlife.
 - f) features of interest in the landscape around the Park.

- 4.3.7. The use of the Park for outdoor study by schools and other groups should be encouraged by the provision of a range of material to aid the teacher, this might include work cards relating to the onsite interpretive points.
- 4.3.8. A variety of more detailed material on the site and it's wildlife should be available for those with a more specialist interest. These groups in turn should be encouraged to make available the results of any study or project they carry out.

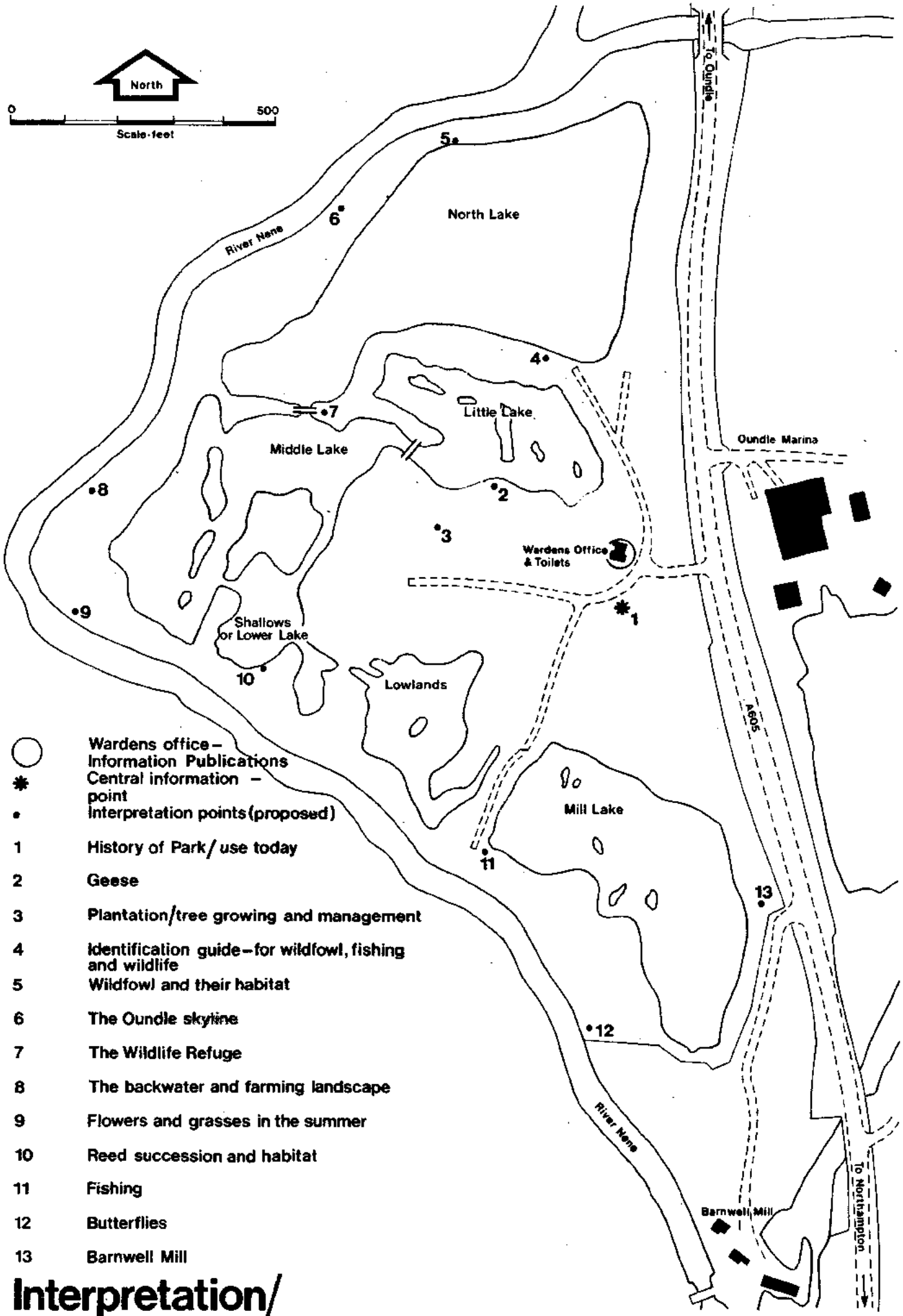
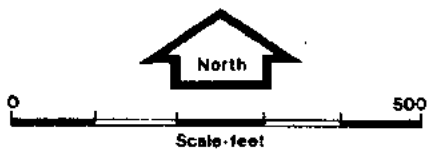
4.4. Informal Recreation Facilities (see Map 10)

Policy

- 4.4.1. To maintain and improve the attractiveness of the site and it's capacity for informal pursuits such as picnicking, walking, sitting and enjoying the rural surroundings, informal games and watching wildlife.

Action

- 4.4.2. Enhance existing picnic areas by creating more edges, by mowing and shrub planting.
- 4.4.3. Consider the development of east side of the Lowlands of a small shady picnic area (see Tree Planting & Management 3.2.5. and Habitat Management 3.3.5)
- 4.4.5. Improve the attractiveness of Mill Meadow for recreation (see Tree planting and Management 3.2.5.)
- 4.4.6. Consider the need for additional seats/picnic tables, choosing locations which are shaded and sheltered.
- 4.4.7. Consider the location and development of a dog-free children's play area.
- 4.4.8. Consider the need and feasibility of providing barbecue facilities.
- 4.4.9. Revue periodically the need and feasibility of providing transit caravanning and/or camping facilities.
- 4.4.10. Seek advice on and implement a comprehensive landscape improvement of the car park area, the Sands and Plantation 8 (see Tree Planting and Management 3.2.2. & 3.2.4.)
- 4.4.11. Liaise with the Managers of Barnwell Mill Restaurant to establish whether there is scope for exchanging promotional material and encouraging a greater interchange of visitors between the two properties.



- Warden's office - Information Publications
- * Central information - point
- Interpretation points (proposed)
- 1 History of Park / use today
- 2 Geese
- 3 Plantation / tree growing and management
- 4 Identification guide - for wildfowl, fishing and wildlife
- 5 Wildfowl and their habitat
- 6 The Oundle skyline
- 7 The Wildlife Refuge
- 8 The backwater and farming landscape
- 9 Flowers and grasses in the summer
- 10 Reed succession and habitat
- 11 Fishing
- 12 Butterflies
- 13 Barnwell Mill

Interpretation/ Information Services

Map.9

5. Visitor Management

5.1. Access within the site (see Map 7)

5.1.1. Control of vehicles

Policy

5.1.1.1. To provide, whenever possible, opportunities for people to either use their car as a focus for their activities or to park and get away from their cars. During wet weather, however, the meadows must be closed to cars to prevent damage to the grass.

Action

5.1.1.2. When re-designing the formal car park, the number of cars which need to be accommodated when the meadows are closed, should be taken into account.

5.1.1.3. Maintain present car free areas, monitor car movement and parking habits to assess need for changes.

5.1.2. Control of pedestrians

Policy

5.1.2.1. Maintain general impression of freedom to wander; in areas where control is required. e.g. water's edge, beach, wildlife refuge; discourage access by careful and discreet design of barriers and by positive encouragement to seek access where it is safe.

Action

5.1.2.2. Accept desire for access to water's edge by visitors, encourage access to water's edge at selected places where it is safe, e.g. on the bridges.

5.1.2.3. Adapt the Beach so that present unsightly fencing can be taken down. Isolate the beach by digging a ditch around its perimeter, to produce a physical barrier without distracting from it's present form and the view across Mill Lake. Adapt the contours of the sandy island, thus created, to encourage it's use as a loafing area by birds.

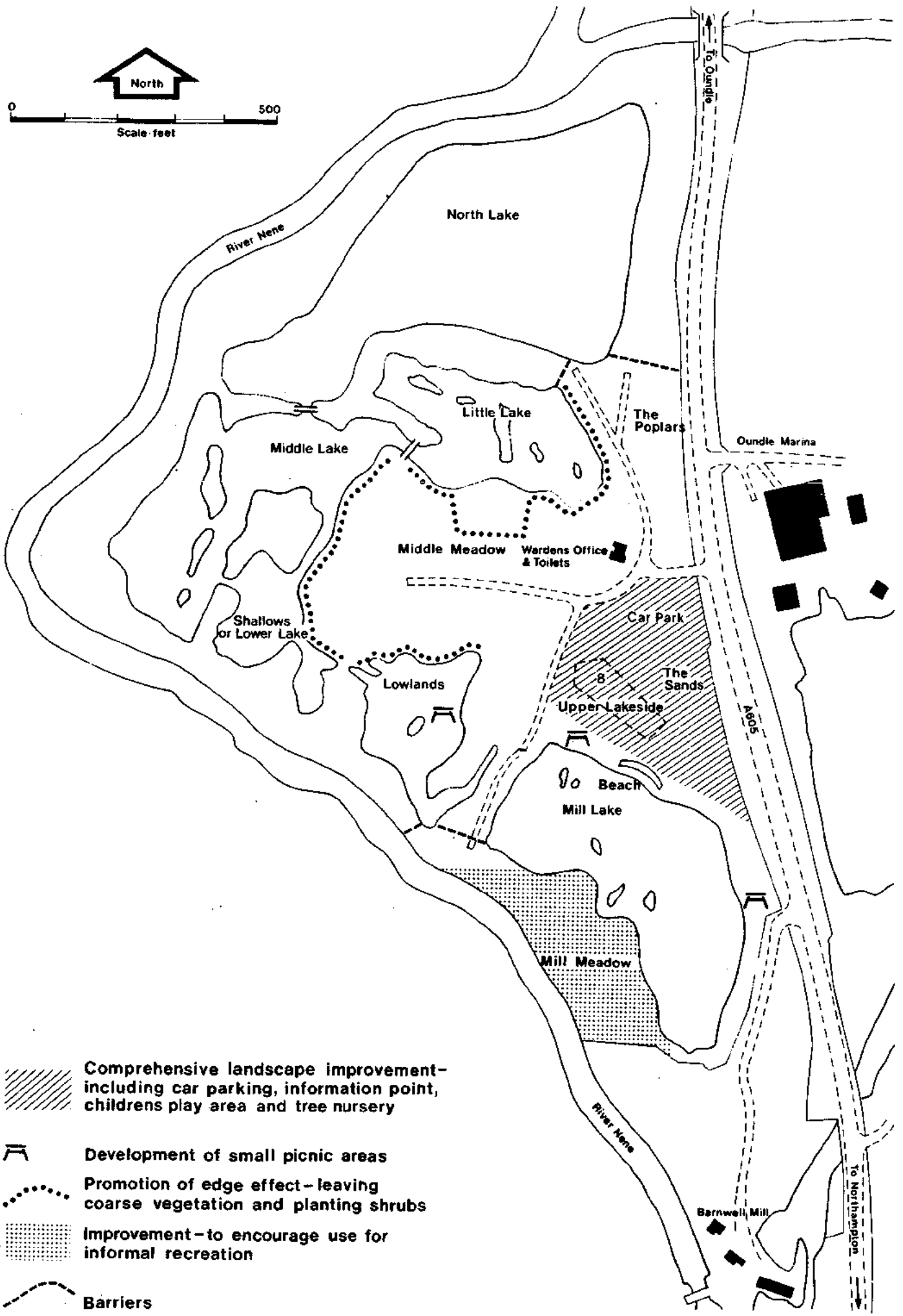
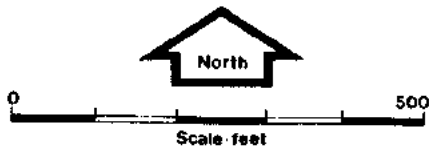
5.2. Interpretation/Information (see Map 9)






Policy

- 5.2.1. Interpretation should be regarded as a prime tool in visitor management; efforts should be made to explain why certain restrictions or management actions are necessary both through personal contact with visitor groups and other interpretive media.

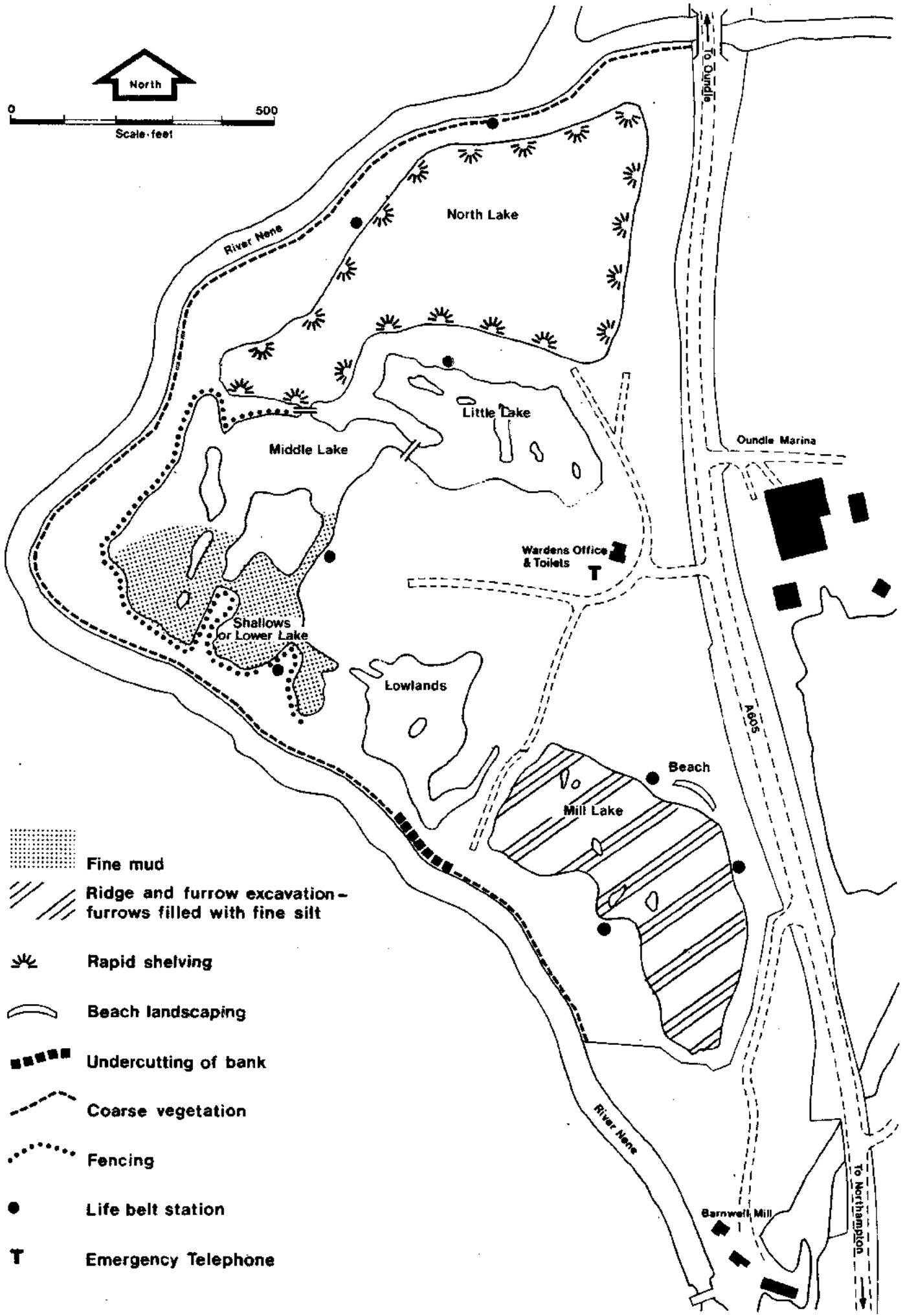
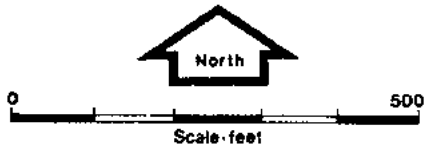
Action


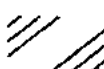







- 5.2.2. Any signs restricting visitors movement or activities should carry explanations e.g. why bathing is prohibited, why a wildlife refuge has been designated.
- 5.2.3. The public should be made aware of any new management activities before they start (e.g. via press release, newsletter, onsite notice boards or leaflets)
- 5.2.4. With particular visitor groups who may act to the detriment of the park, attempts should be made to explain how their actions damage the resource e.g. explaining to anglers the problems of combining fishing with conservation (see Fishing)
- 5.2.5. Onsite interpretive points should be located to aid visitor management, they may be used to positively attract visitors away from areas where restrictions are necessary.



-  Comprehensive landscape improvement—including car parking, information point, childrens play area and tree nursery
-  Development of small picnic areas
-  Promotion of edge effect—leaving coarse vegetation and planting shrubs
-  Improvement—to encourage use for informal recreation
-  Barriers

Informal Recreation Developments Fig10



-  Fine mud
-  Ridge and furrow excavation - furrows filled with fine silt
-  Rapid shelving
-  Beach landscaping
-  Undercutting of bank
-  Coarse vegetation
-  Fencing
-  Life belt station
-  Emergency Telephone

Water Safety

Map 11

5.3 Use of the Byelaws

Policy

In the control of visitors behaviour the bye laws should be regarded as a 'last resort'. It should be made clear that bye-laws are there for everybody's benefit to safeguard the park and visitors safety.

5.4. Water Safety (see Map 11)

Policy

- 5.4.1. To prohibit use of the water for swimming, boating, ice skating and paddling and to manage the site so as to ensure the safety of all users.

Action

- 5.4.2. Maintain coarse vegetation on the banks of both the river and lakes to act as as "barrier".
- 5.4.3.
- 5.4.4. Landscape beach forming a physical barrier (see Control of Pedestrians 5.1.2.3.)
- 5.4.5. Regularly check and maintain life belts.
- 5.4.6. The warden should carry the Balcan life line at all times and receive emergency first aid and water rescue instruction.
- 5.4.7. Regularly check and maintain water safety notices.
- 5.4.8. Regularly check for under-cutting of the Backwater and assess the need for action.

6. Monitoring

Policy

- 6.1. To develop pragmatic means of monitoring the use of the Park, the effect of that use on resources and the effect of management policies and actions.
- 6.2. To encourage volunteers, either organisations or individuals to undertake specific monitoring projects and surveys.

Action

6.3. Visitor use

- a) Continue to estimate number of visitors using the automatic car counter data from counter located at main entrance. This should be left in situ over night and be read daily.
- b) Consider the need to obtain further information on the various types of visitors using the site and their activities. Consider involving volunteers, possibly school groups, in carrying out surveys.

6.4. Fishing

- a) Collect information on use of the fishing facilities and the quality of the fishing via informal contact with anglers and observation of their activities.
- b) Adapt back of fishing permit as a report form for anglers to record details of their catches and their views of the facility.
- c) Monitor the effects of the introduction of fixed fishing pegs and the need to rotate positions to protect the resource.

6.5. Habitat management and wildlife.

- a) Devise simple observation techniques for monitoring the effects of habitat management e.g. markers to monitor reed growth.
- b) Involve Schools and other groups in the collection of information about the sites, habitats and wildlife. In particular continue links with Oundle School in monitoring the bird life in the Park, and suggest projects with which other schools might become involved.

6.6. General

Keep a photographic record of each area of the Park to provide basic information on changes in the Park's character and the effect of management actions.