Much of this protocol ~~is well~~ will be dedicated to ~~how exactly~~ be joining ideas of rigorous monitoring with ~~the realities of~~ the mode in which people, especially small groups operate. Indeed, just knowing how these groups do operate is an impressive piece of knowledge, ~~and~~ it is probably ~~in~~ more complex than the technical details of a surveying method, that side of things is relatively simply. ~~So as~~ some of the challenges faced by ~~monitoring~~ small groups undertaking monitoring may be demonstrated by an example from my own experience. I have installed nest-boxes as part of a landscape group. Monitoring has yet to be formalised for these services; ~~for~~ ~~quite my~~ ~~experiments in the~~ ~~group~~ I have found it necessary to write this protocol just to go about doing this. The next boxes were installed as part of an educational demonstration school workshop ~~because~~ after they were given to the group. The condition of the boxes were variable, and there was no mechanism for attachment designed in so the nest boxes. My intent become how to go about attaching the boxes to trees in various ways. I returned to the site to trial a method of attachment involving threading rubber-covered wire through the nest box and tightening it around carved wooden pegs that space it out prevent the face from becoming scrunched or wing-barked as it grows. The installations and new fixture design had already depleted the energy I had available for the group. As is often the case, ~~both~~ work occurred at working hours ~~too~~ ~~were~~ one of which I ~~had to make~~ was difficult for me to extend. While I did go to check on the boxes from time to time to ~~see~~ see that the fixtures were in tact, my visits were opportunistic and I did not record the details of my surveys. ~~My own behaviour will be different to others~~ ~~persons but~~ Lack of energy and no signs of occupancy ~~meant these~~ my enthusiasm for recording or visits was low ~~so~~, and ~~I had no reason to believe~~ I was not confident that findings from these nest boxes would contribute to ~~some~~ management ~~since~~ since the initial installations had indeed ~~not been~~ more opportunistic. Other people will behave differently to myself, and hopefully be more resilient and ~~them based on management~~ optimistic. The results of these logs ~~are~~ ~~blurriness~~ ~~around~~ when the nest-boxes were actually installed, and ~~an absence of~~ ~~no~~ records showing that the nest boxes were not used. ~~Then~~ ~~ragging in the~~ Well kept records ~~too~~ would not take much more effort than ~~the visits~~ I already ~~undertook~~ the site-visits, and would add consistency to how we might go about reviewing the installation. A monitoring protocol would also ~~massively improve~~ ~~the engagement of the group with the outcome~~ helped spread the load of monitoring nest boxes by making the requirements a check easy to share to others. Up until this point I would ~~have to~~ not have the confidence to ask another person to monitor the nest boxes, ~~because I would not know how to instruct them in~~ because my own methods are not defined. They ~~do in fact~~ I rely - especially if I am not inclined to tap on nest-boxes to flush out occupants - on signs of wear around the entrance, scrounds of fur, climbing marks on the tree, and ~~prepare it tiny~~ birds in presence and behaviour of birds in the immediate environment. Another person might have access to equipment or video or the nest-boxes we actually look inside, ~~or they might choose to~~ (which would be good for checking for nesting material), or may choose to spend a ~~morning~~ ~~watching the nest~~ ~~boxes for signs of activity~~ dawn or dusk period watching the nest-box for signs of activity. Setting up ~~such conventions~~ for monitoring is a lot to do for only a few nest boxes, but once in place, the conventions can be used across the group, increasing mutual understanding. If the conventions are the best possible, then they can be collated into ~~a protocol which can~~ a best practice protocol or guide to be used across many groups, which is exactly what I am doing here.

[problems of complexity, accessibility, translating to action on ground
[work investment]
[ideas of best standards, open-source.]

outlined next pages.