



## Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

**Date:** MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2014  
**Time:** 1.45 pm  
**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

**Members:**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Jeremy Simons (Chairman)            | Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)                    |
| Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman) | Deputy Alex Deane (Ex-Officio Member)                     |
| Deputy John Barker                  | Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet)        |
| Karina Dostalova                    | Martyn Foster (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) |
| Revd Dr Martin Dudley               | Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden)        |
| Ann Holmes                          | Tony Ghilchik (Heath and Hampstead Society)               |
| Clare James                         | Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association) |
| Edward Lord                         | Philip Wright (English Heritage)                          |
| Professor John Lumley               |   |
| Barbara Newman                      |   |
| Deputy John Owen-Ward               |   |
| Tom Sleigh                          |   |

**Enquiries:** David Arnold  
david.arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk

**Lunch will be served in Guildhall Club at 1PM**  
**NB: Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio video recording**

**John Barradell**  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

# AGENDA

## Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
  - a) **Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Pages 1 - 10)**  
To agree the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on Monday 15 September 2014.  

**For Decision**
  - b) **Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Pages 11 - 20)**  
To note the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 November 2014.  

**For Information**
4. **OPEN SPACES LEGISLATION**  
Joint report of the Remembrancer and the Director of Open Spaces, approved by the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee on 13 October 2014 and the Epping Forest and City Commons Committee on 3 November 2014.  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 21 - 24)
5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**  
Superintendent of Hampstead Heath to be heard on Hampstead Heath matters.  

**For Information**
6. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2015/16**  
Joint Report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces.  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 25 - 34)
7. **REVIEW OF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2014**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 35 - 76)
8. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR THE HAMPSTEAD FLEET STREAM COMPARTMENT**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 77 - 104)

9. **FEES AND CHARGES REPORT**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 105 - 114)
10. **HAMPSTEAD RUGBY CLUB REQUEST FOR A THIRD RUGBY PITCH**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 115 - 126)
11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**  
MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.
- For Decision**

### **Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda**

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**  
To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2014.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 127 - 128)
15. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**  
Report of the Town Clerk.
- For Information**  
(Pages 129 - 130)
16. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - PRE AUTHORITY TO START WORK ISSUE REPORT**  
Joint report of the Director of the Built Environment and the Director of Open Spaces, to be considered by the Audit and Risk Committee on 8 December 2014 and the Projects Sub Committee on 9 December 2014.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 131 - 142)
17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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## **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE** **Monday, 15 September 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 15 September 2014 at 1.45 pm

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)  
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy John Barker  
Karina Dostalova  
Revd Dr Martin Dudley  
Ann Holmes  
Clare James  
Edward Lord  
Professor John Lumley  
Deputy John Owen-Ward  
Tony Ghilchik (Heath and Hampstead Society)  
Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association)  
Philip Wright (English Heritage)

#### **Officers:**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| David Arnold     | Town Clerk's Department                          |
| Alison Elam      | Chamberlain's Department                         |
| Edward Wood      | Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department        |
| Sue Ireland      | Director of Open Spaces                          |
| Bob Warnock      | Superintendent of Hampstead Heath                |
| Declan Gallagher | Operational Services Manager,<br>Hampstead Heath |
| Esther Sumner    | Ponds Project & Management Support<br>Officer    |
| Paul Monaghan    | Department of the Built Environment              |

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Alex Deane, Alderman Ian Luder, Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet) and Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden).

#### **Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Philip Wright as a new Co-Opted Member of the Committee, representing English Heritage as the new General Manager of Kenwood House.

2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Mr Tony Ghilchik declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17, Hampstead Heath Ponds Project funding of the judicial review, by virtue of being a member of the Heath and Hampstead Society, and undertook to leave the room during the consideration of this item.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That:-

- a) the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on Monday 9 June 2014 be agreed; and
- b) the draft public minutes of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2014 be noted.

4. **DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk that provided details of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and the Projects Sub Committee, in accordance with Standing Order number 41(b), since the last Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

5. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/14 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces that compared the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in 2013/14 with the final agreed budget for the year.

The Committee were advised that the proposal to carry forward £217,000 worth of underspend across the Open Spaces Department into the current year had been agreed. Of this, £30,000 had been allocated to activities overseen by this Committee, including £10,000 towards a Parliament Hill feasibility study to identify possible future savings and income increases and £20,000 towards the introduction of new signage at Hampstead Heath.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updated the Committee on the following matters relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

**Hampstead Heath Ponds Project**

The remaining Ground Investigations (GIs) at Hampstead No.1, Catch Pit and Stock Pond, which had been delayed due to nesting birds, were carried out successfully on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, completing all GIs.

Divers carried out a survey of the platform and columns at the Ladies' Pond during early September, which took three days instead of the anticipated four. Ladies' Pond users were invited to use the Mixed Pond facility during the three days the facility was closed during the day. Members were advised that a report would be presented to Atkins, the project designers, as the results of the survey were critical to inform the detailed design of the new facilities at the Ladies' Pond.

The Superintendent advised that emphasis had moved towards detailed design following the submission of the planning application on 4 July 2014. This had so far involved working with the design team on path surfacing details, the specification of fences, designs for cladding and planting proposals to reduce the impact of the sheet piling. A booklet of information would be sent to members of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group for information and comment.

### **Property**

#### Hampstead Garden Suburb Great Wall

Restoration work to the Great Wall had commenced after initial vegetation clearance and would last for 47 weeks.

#### Parking Consultation

The London Borough of Barnet was reviewing parking restrictions around the Heath Extension. The City had been consulted and supported the proposals for a parking break in the daytime.

#### Lido

Members were advised that replacement of the gates and posts at the entrance from Gordon House Road would commence in late September 2014. The rebuild of the boundary wall and café repairs would be undertaken between March and May 2015.

#### Parliament Hill

Six of the tennis courts were due to be resurfaced from the end of September for a period of about eight weeks. In response to a Member's question, the Operational Services Manager advised that they would remain as hard courts and no consideration was given to any other type of surface.

#### Golders Hill Park

The toilets near the children's playground reopened in July and had operated successfully through the school holidays. The Park Team would arrange more regular tank cleaning and the City Surveyor's Department was continuing to investigate a longer-term solution.

Members were advised that the render at the Hill Garden Shelter would be removed and replaced with ply-wood to allow for drying out, and tanking of the steps over the shelter. This would be undertaken between March and May 2015. Associated works would also be carried out at the Belvedere.

## **Planning Updates**

### **The Water House**

The Superintendent advised that the planning application was still current. Quotations would be obtained from Consultants for undertaking of a critical review of the applicant's documentation regarding the impact of construction traffic on Millfield Lane.

### **Athlone House**

The applicant submitted an appeal for non-determination of this planning application on 20 June 2014. Three reasons for refusal were given, which related to the impact on Metropolitan Open Land, the lack of a Basement Impact Assessment and the lack of a legal agreement requiring sustainable construction. A planning enquiry would be scheduled to be held in February 2015.

### **Highgate Police Station**

Members were advised that a planning application for the demolition of Highgate Police Station had been submitted to the London Borough of Haringey. It would need to be considered whether this application would have any negative impact on Highgate Wood.

## **Weddings & Civil Ceremonies at Hill Garden & Pergola**

The Superintendent advised Members that five ceremonies had taken place during the summer, with a total income of £5,250. The feedback received from attendees had been very positive. There were six confirmed bookings scheduled for 2015 and a further two bookings for which deposits were expected shortly.

In response to a Members' questions, the Superintendent advised that a Friday and Saturday ceremony had occurred on the same weekend once and that a report regarding income generated from weddings and civil ceremonies would be presented at the next appropriate Committee meeting.

## **Sports**

The Superintendent advised that a consultation with the Sports Forum was due to take place on 22 September 2014 about an additional rugby pitch at the Heath Extension. This proposal would then be presented to the next Committee meeting as well as the next Consultative Committee meeting.

## **Staff**

The new Senior Zoo Keeper and Engagement Officer had been in post for four weeks at the time of the Committee meeting. Members were also advised that a City Business Trainee had been based at Heathfield House for seven weeks where she worked on the Weddings & Civil Ceremonies brochure as part of her internship, as well as undertaking 60-second surveys at Highgate Wood, Queen's Park and Parliament Hill.



### **Constabulary**

There had been three recent successful prosecutions at Hampstead Heath: two related to dog control and the other related to cycling.

### **Service Based Review**

The Superintendent advised that the Open Spaces Department was projected to save £2.189 million, with savings across North London Open Spaces of about 17% by 2017/18. He advised that a full report would be considered at the next Committee meeting, including proposals for delivering the savings.

### **Around the Sites**

#### **Highgate Wood**

Members were advised that the City Surveyor's Project Team had arranged for a number of fencing repairs around the site, including an improvement to the existing layout of the Onslow Gate entrance, and that the Heritage Day in August had been a successful and well-attended event. The new tiger mulch surface installed in the play area has also been very successful and was saving a significant amount of staff time.

#### **Queen's Park**

The Open Gardens event in June and the Outdoor Cinema throughout August and September had received much positive feedback from attendees.

The Superintendent also advised that this year's annual Queen's Park Day on 14 September attracted 14,860 people to the Park. The Chairman added his thanks to all those involved in the organisation of such a successful Queen's Park Day.

Members were also advised that the Queen's Park team were working with the local community to raise funds for the third and final phase of the playground redevelopment.

#### **Hampstead Heath & Kenwood**

Members were advised that the Superintendent was working with the Head of Historic Properties from English Heritage to develop a new scheme of joint signage which would be installed at all major entry points to both the Heath and Kenwood Estate. These signs would comprise a large-scale map and information about facilities and activities across the sites.

In response to a Member's question, Philip Wright (English Heritage) advised that the new structure that had replaced the gazebo, which was deemed to be unsafe, would include more information for visitors. Mr Wright advised that concerns about the new structure would be raised with the Head of Historic Properties at Kenwood House.

### **Visits**

The Superintendent advised that the Town Clerk's visit to Parliament Hill and Golders Hill Park on 1 September was a great way for him to see the site and meet with staff members.

### **Conservation Team Update**

The Conservation Team had its usual busy summer, with the added pressure of dealing with the aftermath of the wet winter. Managing the meadows across the Heath had produced 160 large bales and strategic poppy seeding was undertaken at several locations as part of the First World War centenary. The Operational Services Manager advised that the poppies bloomed in June and July but the area might have benefited from some additional irrigation.

### **Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)**

Members were advised that it was best to assume that OPM would arrive at one of the three North London Open Spaces in the near future as they had significant populations of mature oak trees, especially at Highgate Wood. 17 male OPMs had been caught in pheromone traps across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park but the Director of Open Spaces noted that this was not an immediate cause for concern as no females had yet been found. Good working links had been established with the Forestry Commission, who were responsible for co-ordinating the control of OPM in London.

### **The Tree Team**

Members were advised of ongoing work for the Veteran Wild Service management programme, which involved reduction and bracing of some trees and reduction works to a veteran Oak on the Tumulus field.

### **Awards**

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park all received Green Flag and Green Heritage awards in 2014. In addition, Golders Hill Park was recently awarded a London in Bloom Gold Award for Large Parks over 25 acres and was also the category winner. The Committee noted that this was an excellent achievement.

## **7. HAMPSTEAD HEATH TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain that outlined the Hampstead Heath Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014, presented in the format required by the Charity Commission.

The report covered both the operations of Hampstead Heath and the Hampstead Heath Trust Fund, which managed the investment of £15 million that was originally transferred from the London Residuary Body to help defray the management and maintenance costs of the Heath.

The Chairman noted that the fixed assets for Hampstead Heath for 2014 had doubled compared with the previous year. This was due to expenditure on the Ponds Project.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

8. **HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK KILBURN TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain that outlined the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014, presented in the format required by the Charity Commission.

Members of the Committee noted that Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park could not be maintained without the generous grants awarded by the City of London Corporation.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

9. **MITIGATION OF CR11 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - RISK UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment that updated Members on the mitigation of Corporate Risk 11 in relation to the Ponds Project.

Members were advised that the Heath and Hampstead Society had applied for judicial review; the timetable was still to be confirmed but it was hoped that the hearing might be heard in November 2014. Members noted that the planning application to the London Borough of Camden was submitted on 4 July 2014 and that project work should commence on site at Hampstead Heath in early 2015, subject to the outcome of the judicial review and planning permission being obtained.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

10. **PONDS PROJECT STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the way forward for the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (PPSG).

The Committee began by paying tribute to the late Mr Ian Harrison's contribution to the PPSG and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on which he represented the Vale of Health Society for 25 years. The Chairman also added his thanks to all members and groups represented on the PPSG for their involvement with the Ponds Project.

Members were advised that there would be less opportunity for consultation with the PPSG as the project moves to construction as the detailed design would be concluded. Moving forward, the emphasis of the PPSG would focus on information giving and receiving of feedback.

Members were also informed that the summary table of PPSG feedback from Seminars in April, May and June would be updated and re-issued with a detailed design booklet.

**RESOLVED** – That:-

- a) the contribution made by Ian Harrison to both the PPSG and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;
- b) the appointment of Karen Beare as Chairman of the PPSG be approved;
- c) the shift in emphasis of the PPSG towards information sharing, including introduction of hard hat tours, quarterly PPSG information meetings and increased use of the website and newsletters to engage in wider Heath issues, be approved.

**11. HAMPSTEAD HEATH EDUCATION CHARGING REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought approval of the proposed new charging structure for the Hampstead Heath Schools Programme.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised Members that the current charging structure, in place since 2006, did not cover the associated teaching costs of the Programme. The Superintendent advised that a change in structure from per student to per session charging would also streamline administration and improve budgeting.

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent explained that the minimum charge for a two hour session for 30 students was £90 but this price would increase with the number of students. Prices would be agreed at the next meeting of the Committee, once the proposals to change the structure had been approved. A Member suggested that the Education Board should be made aware of the extent of the educational work undertaken by the Open Spaces Department.

**RESOLVED** – That the 'per session' charging structure for the Hampstead Heath Schools Programme be approved.

**12. HAMPSTEAD HEATH EVENTS PROGRAMME, JANUARY - AUGUST 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that detailed the success of the Hampstead Heath Events Programme from January to September 2014.

Members were advised that the events programme consisted of 93 sports, wellbeing and cultural events which engaged with over 80,000 members of the public. The Superintendent then advised that 114 people had competed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Heath Duathlon on Sunday 31 August 2014.

The Committee requested that the Town Clerk look into ways of informing all Members of the Court of Common Council of events relating to the North London Open Spaces via the Member's Briefing.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

In response to a Member's question, the Chairman advised that Officers had tried to adjust Committee walk dates in March and September to avoid clashes with the Community and Children's Services Committee but it had not always been possible.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

**15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Paragraph No.</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 16              | 3, 5, 7              |
| 17              | 3                    |

**16. OPEN SPACES SERVICE BASED REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Open Spaces Department Service Based Review.

**17. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - FUNDING OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment.

**18. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were none.

**19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was none.

**The meeting ended at 2.58 pm**

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Chairman

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020 7332 1174**

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## HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 3 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 3 November 2014 at 7.00 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)  
Xohan Duran (Representative of Disabled People)  
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)  
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)  
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)  
John Hunt (South End Green Association)  
Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)  
Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands)  
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)  
Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)  
Stewart Purvis (Vale of Health Society)  
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)  
Steve Ripley (Hampstead & District Ramblers' Association)  
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee)  
Richard Sumray (London Council of Sport and Recreation)  
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)  
Jeremy Wright (Heath and Hampstead Society)

#### Officers:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| David Arnold      | Town Clerk's Department   |
| Bob Warnock       | Superintendent of Hampstead Heath   |
| Katherine Radusin | PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath                                   |
| Jonathan Meares   | Conservation and Trees Manager  |
| Declan Gallagher  | Operational Service Manager   |
| Paul Maskell      | Leisure and Events Manager  |
| Meg Game          | Hampstead Heath Ecologist   |
| Adrian Brooker    | Ecologist   |
| Richard Gentry    | Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager                                     |
| Paul Monaghan     | Assistant Director of Engineering,<br>Department of the Built Environment |
| Esther Sumner     | Ponds Project and Management Support<br>Officer                           |

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman), Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust), David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath), and John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee).

## **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed a new member, Stewart Purvis of the Vale of Health Society to the Committee and noted that Joanne Mould, although not present, would in future represent the London Wildlife Trust.

The Committee also paid tribute to the late Mr Ian Harrison's outstanding contribution to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and to the Heath in general. He had represented the Vale of Health Society on the Consultative Committee for 25 years.

### **2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club) declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 on the agenda, a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding Hampstead Rugby Club's request for a third rugby pitch.

### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That the public minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 June 2014 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

#### **Gateway 4c – Detailed Design: Hampstead Heath Ponds Project**

Work on the catchpit was being carried out to ensure there was a lesser impact on other areas of the Hampstead Chain of ponds, not the Highgate chain.

#### **Ladies Pond Fatality Report**

Richard Sumray supported the way that the City had dealt with issues associated with the induction of new swimmers and the possible installation of a second platform.

#### **Matters Arising**

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, the Assistant Director of Engineering advised that the Design Phase Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) would be completed and made available after the detailed design had been finalised.

### **4. HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The Committee received the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on Monday 22 September 2014.

Richard Sumray advised that a review of differentiated sports charges had been put on hold until the City of London Corporation had reviewed its future financial challenges. He also added that the Sports Advisory Forum had supported Hampstead Rugby Club's request for a third rugby pitch.

**RESOLVED** – That the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum be noted.



5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Superintendent regarding the following Hampstead Heath matters:

**THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGE**

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised the Committee that the Open Spaces Department was required to find £2.189 million of savings over the next three years. Members were advised that savings were weighted to the final year, with £595,000 savings required in 2015/16, £682,000 required in 2016/17 and £912,000 required in 2017/18. A new grant application would be submitted to Bridge House Estates in 2015 to fund education and volunteer programmes within the Department. This represented a significant contribution towards the 2015/16 required savings of £595,000. In response to a question from Susan Rose, the Superintendent explained that of the £2.189 million of savings, £835,000 were required from Hampstead Heath assuming that the application to Bridge House Estates was successful.

The proposals would be developed across three areas: activities, operational efficiencies, and generating income. Activities would continue to be delivered to a high standard, whilst looking at the possibility of using third-party providers for sports facilities, attracting sponsorships for sports events, and increasing the income generated. Fees and charges and the development of new income streams would be reviewed across the Department. A significant area of work would focus on increasing income from the refreshment concessions across the Department as well as looking to develop new concessions.

In response to question from Richard Sumray, the Superintendent advised that further reports would be presented to the Consultative Committee as proposals were developed.

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, the Chairman advised that the Open Spaces Department had not been required to contribute an undue proportion of savings compared to other departments; the Open Spaces Department was in a position to bid for Bridge House Estates funding, unlike most other departments.

**INTRODUCTION OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS AT BURNHAM BEECHES**

The Superintendent advised that Dog Control at Burnham Beeches would begin on 1 December 2014 and would be reviewed after 18 months, at which point a report regarding the possibility of introducing further controls at the Heath would be presented to the Committee.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Superintendent advised that the proportion of restricted areas at Burnham Beeches had been reduced to around half the site due to representations and objections.

## **PROPERTY**

### **Parking Consultations**

The London Borough of Barnet had carried out a consultation on parking restrictions on Wildwood Road, adjacent to Hampstead Heath Extension. The City was satisfied that the proposal would not have an operational impact on the management of the Heath and would not significantly affect parking facilities for visitors to the Heath.

The London Borough of Camden was undertaking consultation on Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) on CA-U, Highgate. They were currently seeking views as to whether CPZs should be introduced at weekends. Members were advised that the City opposed the introduction of Sunday restrictions, and changes to the current CPZ arrangements.

### **Lido**

Replacement of the gates and posts at the Lido entrance from Gordon House Road commenced in late September 2014. Morton Partnership Ltd had been appointed to carry out the design work for rebuilding of the Lido boundary wall. Draft designs were expected shortly and repairs would be undertaken between March and May 2015. In addition, the City Surveyor's Departments would be undertaking works to the Lido Café building as part of the Additional Works Programme. This work was scheduled to be carried out between November 2014 and April 2015.

### **Golders Hill Park**

Members were advised that the toilets near the children's playground reopened in July 2014 and had operated successfully throughout the school summer holidays. The Park Team would arrange more regular tank cleaning and the City Surveyor's Department continued to investigate a longer-term solution.

## **PLANNING**

### **Archway Tower**

The Superintendent reported that the planning appeal submitted by Essential Living was granted by the Planning Inspectorate on 7 August 2014.

### **The Water House**

The Superintendent advised that he had appointed Consultants to undertake a critical review of the applicant's documentation regarding the impact of construction traffic on Millfield Lane.

### **Athlone House**

The applicant submitted an appeal for non-determination of this planning application on 20 June 2014. Camden Council progressed the application to Committee and determined that had an appeal not been lodged, the Council would have refused planning permission. Three reasons for refusal were given; which related to the impact on Metropolitan Open Land, the lack of a Basement Impact Assessment and the lack of a legal agreement requiring sustainable construction.

The Council's notification letters of the appeal to third parties were sent out on 2 September 2014, which gave four weeks to submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate. Following an intervention from the Highgate Society, this was extended to the end of October 2014.

Members were advised that the Comptroller & City Solicitor had instructed a barrister from Landmark Chambers to provide advice and guidance on the submission of further evidence to the Planning Inspector. The Superintendent had also instructed a Consultant to review the additional information prepared by the applicant relating to the Basement Impact Assessment and impacts on hydrology.

A pre-inquiry meeting was held with the Inspector for all interested parties on 22 October 2014. The City applied to be included as a Rule 6 Party at the upcoming Inquiry. The City's role at the Inquiry would be largely supportive to the Planning Authority but would recognise the City's stewardship role of the Heath. The City would proffer its own case on the detrimental impact on Metropolitan Open Land posed by the proposed development. Members were advised that the Inquiry date was 10 February 2015 and it was currently due to run for 12 days.

### **WEDDINGS AND CIVIL CEREMONIES**

The Superintendent advised Members that five ceremonies had taken place during the summer: four on the Pergola and one in the Hill Garden. The feedback received from attendees had been very positive. There were currently six confirmed bookings scheduled for 2015 and a further two bookings for which deposits were expected shortly.

### **STAFF**

Members were advised of the following recruitment matters:-

- The new Senior Zoo Keeper & Engagement Officer had now been in post for 11 weeks.
- A City Business Trainee was based at Heathfield House for seven weeks. She had worked on the Weddings & Civil Ceremonies brochure as part of her internship, as well as undertaking 60-second surveys at Highgate Wood, Queen's Park and Parliament Hill.
- A vacant post in the Tree Team had now been filled, returning this team to a full complement of 4 staff by the end of the year.
- Two new Constabulary Officers had been recruited internally and were likely to start in early December 2014.

### **CONSTABULARY**

The Superintendent advised that the Hampstead Heath Constabulary had responded to 1,627 incidents as of the end of September 2014, which resulted in 12 arrests and 714 formal warnings/Penalty Charge Notices (car parking) where a Hampstead Heath byelaw had been breached. The arrests included a wanted sex offender, who was arrested on West Heath on two separate occasions, and two suspects who were arrested outside the Men's Pond after stealing property from swimmers.

Members were also advised that the Constabulary had been restructured to comprise of two Sergeants, eight Constables and two Constable/Dog Handlers.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Superintendent advised that three prosecutions took place in September 2014: one person was fined £90 for a Dog Control offence; one person was fined £220 plus £375 costs for a Dog Control offence; and one person was fined £55 twice plus £100 costs for a cycling offence.

### **Dog Control Action Plan**

The next phase of the Action Plan would include a meeting with dog walkers who use the Heath. The Constabulary would be inviting dog walkers of three or more dogs to an awareness and engagement event on the Heath to facilitate a 'user group' atmosphere and provide advice on all aspects of how the Heath supports responsible dog walking.

### **KENWOOD HOUSE**

The Superintendent advised he was working with the Head of Historic Properties from English Heritage to develop a new scheme of joint signage which would be installed at all major entry points to both the Heath and Kenwood Estate. The signs would include a large scale map, information about facilities and activities across the sites as well as acknowledging HLF's contribution to the 'Caring for Kenwood' and the 'Wild About Hampstead Heath' Projects. They would also promote the work of Heath Hands and set out visitor's responsibilities.

Members were advised that a joint report seeking approval to install the signs would be presented to the Kenwood Landscape Forum and the Consultative and Management Committees in early 2015.

### **AWARDS**

The Superintendent reported that Golders Hill Park was awarded a London in Bloom Gold Award for Large Parks over 25 acres in September 2014 and was also the category winner.

## **6. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. The report advised Members that progress towards a final scheme for the Ponds Project was continuing alongside Camden's consideration of the planning application and the Judicial Review.

The Ponds Project and Management Support Officer advised that the remaining Ground Investigations (GIs) at Hampstead No.1, Catch Pit and Stock Pond, which had been delayed due to nesting birds, were carried out successfully in early September 2014. Members were also advised that an underwater assessment of the 1950s slab supporting the Ladies' Bathing Pond changing facilities found that it was not in good condition and a future report would likely recommend its replacement.

In response to questions from Helen Payne and Jeremy Wright, the Ponds Project and Management Support Officer advised that tree works would be scheduled for early 2015 ready for enabling works to start in April 2015, subject to successful outcomes to the Judicial Review and the planning application in November and December respectively. Jeremy Wright added that the Judicial Review would take place on 13 and 14 November 2014 at the Royal Courts of Justice and noted that the hearing was open to the public.

In response to a question regarding the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group, the Superintendent advised that arrangements for sharing information during the works had been discussed with the PPSG. He also explained that the consultation phase had been completed and the next priority was to share information with visitors, neighbours and stakeholders about what was happening on the Heath and to promote routes around the work sites. Updates and tours of the site would be available to members.

The Chairman concluded this item by advising members that the Ponds Project and Management Support Officer would provide a further update at the next Consultative Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**7. REVIEW OF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided a review of the Management Operations and activities carried out on the Heath over the past 12 months as part of the 2014 Annual Work Programme, and considered the new 2015 Annual Work Programme.

The Conservation and Trees Manager advised that the control of tree disease had been well maintained despite the difficulties of having to deal with an extensive clean-up operation following the unusually wet winter in 2013/14. He added that all four members of the Heath's Tree Team were now qualified as LANTRA Professional Tree Inspectors.

The Conservation and Trees Manager reported that the Conservation Team had successfully trialled the use of a widely used vegetable die to control algae growth at the Whitestone Pond. As a result, work to control algae growth was now a monthly instead of a weekly process. In response to a question from Mary Port, the Ecologist advised that the Highgate No. 1 pond would be re-opened as soon as they were satisfied that the level of algae was safe for dogs. He added that they would continue to check that discarded fishing tackle had been removed from all of the fishing ponds regularly to reduce the risk of harm to wildlife, especially to swans and water fowl.

Members were advised that a wildflower strip was to be introduced next to the rugby pitch on the heath extension, which a member had suggested on the recent Consultative Committee walk. In response to a question regarding the control of bramble, the Ecologist reported that it had extended recently but no attempt would be made to eradicate it as it was a useful habitat on the Heath. In response to a question, the Ecologist agreed that dog faeces tended to be

deposited in rough grassland, which increased nutrients and encouraged unwanted species such as thistle.

The Chairman encouraged members of the Consultative Committee to provide their detailed comments on the 2015 Annual Work Programme to the Conservation and Trees Manager.

**RESOLVED** – That the work undertaken during 2014 to enhance the natural aspect and designed landscapes within the Heath and the proposed 2015 Annual Work Plan, be noted.

8. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR THE HAMPSTEAD FLEET STREAM COMPARTMENT**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding a Management Work Plan for the Hampstead Heath Fleet Stream compartment. The Assistant Ecologist advised members that the compartment had been divided into nine distinct sections for easier description of the site and more structured management aims.

With regards to the works required as part of the Ponds Project that would have some influence on the ecology in the Lime Avenue-Catchpit section, John Hunt noted that the unusual flora in this area would need to be protected. He and Michael Hammerson added that the areas adjacent to the Hampstead Fleet Stream that were of importance to fungi should also be protected.

The Chairman advised members that the Management Work Plan was at final draft stage so any further comments would be welcomed by the Superintendent.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

9. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH EDUCATION CHARGING REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the adoption of a 'per session' charging structure for the Hampstead Heath Schools Programme, which was approved by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in September 2014.

In response to question from Jeremy Wright, the Leisure and Events Manager advised that they were confident the new structure would be effective. Ninety-seven percent of users of the Hampstead Heath Schools Programme responded positively when asked in daily surveys if the sessions represented good value for money.

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Leisure and Events Manager advised that the London Metropolitan University had carried out some research relating to the Ladies' Bathing Pond and there would be scope for further University-led research in the future.

**RESOLVED** – That the adoption of the new charging structure be noted.

10. **FEES AND CHARGES REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out the proposed fees and charges for a range of facilities and services provided at the Heath for 2015/16.

In response to a question from Richard Sumray, the Superintendent advised that the cost of the weekly two hour tennis coaching sessions had increased by more than 2.4% because benchmarking of other tennis coaching providers in the area showed that the previous charge was very low. He added that the reason for the increased adult all-swimming facilities six month season ticket charge was due to the fact that the six month season ticket for the Lido only was the same price, which was an oversight. In the past, customers had been reluctant to buy a Lido season ticket when they could get more usage from the all-facilities ticket.

In response to a question from Simon Taylor, the Operational Services Manager advised that there was little difference between the proposed charges for the Athletics Track compared with Ealing Council's charges for Perivale Park Athletics Track. Simon Taylor suggested that a quarterly season ticket be considered for the Athletics Track at the Heath. The Operational Services Manager explained that the administration cost of introducing another ticket would outweigh the benefits.

In response to a question regarding the charges for swimming at the mixed ponds, the Superintendent advised that the daily charge would remain the same but swimmers would not be excluded if they chose not to pay. From time to time, staff would be required to manage crowds queuing to enter the facilities and would use these opportunities to encourage swimmers to pay if they had not done so already.

**RESOLVED** – That the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16 be noted.

11. **HAMPSTEAD RUGBY CLUB REQUEST FOR A THIRD RUGBY PITCH.**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out a request received from Hampstead Rugby Club to create an additional third rugby pitch on the Hampstead Heath Extension. Members were advised that the request met the guidelines set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Plan for alterations to existing sports provision or the creation of new sports facilities in designated sports areas.

In response to a question from David Walton submitted before the meeting, the Operational Services Manager explained that slitting and vertidrainage would be carried out as sports provision was now included in the Annual Work Plan.

The Committee expressed broad support for the creation of the additional rugby pitch on the Heath Extension and wished to highlight the excellent work carried out by Hampstead Rugby Club.

**RESOLVED** – That the request for a third rugby pitch on the Hampstead Heath Extension be noted and supported.

12. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH EVENTS PROGRAMME, JANUARY - OCTOBER 2014**  
The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that detailed the success of the Hampstead Heath Events Programme from January to October 2014. Members were advised that the 2014 Programme consisted of over 110 sports, wellbeing, and cultural events, which would have engaged with over 80,000 members of the public by the end of 2014. It was also noted that the England National Cross-Country Championships would be returning to the Heath on Saturday 21 February 2015.

The Leisure and Events Manager advised that paid events had so far generated income of over £160,000 before costs, which was important during current financial challenge. He thanked his staff for their commitment during this busy event period which was echoed by the Committee, who also thanked the Leisure and Events Manager for his important contribution.

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Leisure and Events Manager advised that courses on the ecology of the Heath could be provided in the future as part of the Education Programme. This may also be an extra source of income for the Heath.

**RESOLVED** – That the success of the Hampstead Heath Events Programme in engaging audiences on the Heath through sports, wellbeing, and culture, be noted.

13. **QUESTIONS**

There were none.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the date of the next meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on Monday 9 March 2015, be noted.

**The meeting ended at 9.05 pm**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: David Arnold**  
**David.Arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk**



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Committee:</b>  | <b>Date:</b>  |
| Open Spaces and City Gardens<br>Epping Forest and Commons<br>Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park   | 13 <sup>th</sup> October<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> November<br>24 <sup>th</sup> November |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Open Spaces Legislation   | <b>Public</b>   |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Remembrancer<br>Director of Open Spaces   | <b>For Decision</b>   |
| <p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This Report outlines officer discussions which have taken place concerning possible modifications to the legislation governing the Corporation’s Open Spaces. The aims of the changes would be to clarify the management powers available to the Corporation, to increase opportunities to receive revenue for the benefit of the Open Spaces, and to strengthen enforcement powers against wrongdoers. If Members agree that such changes should be further considered, it is proposed that the views of local interest groups be canvassed. It is anticipated that more detailed proposals would then be drawn up for evaluation by Members with a view to the promotion of a City of London Bill (if appropriate) in the autumn of 2015.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>It is recommended that officers be instructed to test the views of local interest groups on possible modifications to the legislation, as described in this Report.</p> |   |

## **Report**

1. The legislation governing the Corporation’s Open Spaces has in most cases served its purpose well for many years. Its age and complexity mean, however, that it is not always easy to operate in practice. Moreover, it arguably fails to reflect the full range of problems and opportunities which

arise in the modern-day management and use of the spaces. Following preliminary internal discussions, officers have formed the view that there may be considerable merit in seeking amendments to the legislation. This could be achieved through the promotion of a private bill in Parliament, the usual method by which such changes are made. The bill would be directed to operational management of the Open Spaces rather than to constitutional issues relating to specific spaces.

2. Members will be aware that issues concerning the management of the Open Spaces can give rise to a range of keenly felt views. It is important, both in practice and as a matter of policy, to engage with local communities and interested parties at an early stage in any process of change. The approval of Members is therefore sought at this point to canvass views about the potential shape of the proposals from users of the Open Spaces and other local interest groups. Such parties would of course have a formal opportunity to put across their views on the detail of the eventual proposals as part of the parliamentary processes applicable to private bills, if such a bill were to be promoted.
3. The proposals as presently envisaged would be based upon three main objectives:
  - to provide a clearer and more consistent set of management powers applying across the Open Spaces, while putting on an express footing activities currently carried out in reliance on implied powers;
  - to increase the opportunities to receive revenue for the benefit of the Open Spaces from activities undertaken on them, provided that any such use is compatible with the preservation of the Open Spaces and their use for public recreation; and
  - to provide stronger enforcement powers to deal with those making illegal or harmful use of the Open Spaces.
4. Examples of potential measures under the first objective might include a general power of land husbandry (so as expressly to permit, for instance, the grazing of livestock and the control of vegetation); powers to enter into agreements with highway authorities (for instance for the provision of cattle-grids or fencing) and utilities providers (so as to permit the installation of

underground pipes and cables); and an express power to dispose of unlawfully abandoned objects (such as camping paraphernalia).

5. Examples of potential measures under the second objective might include greater flexibility to let buildings (so that, for instance, cafés could be let for more than three years and surplus staff lodges could be let as residential accommodation); an express power to provide facilities for private events (such as conferences and weddings); and the introduction of licensing schemes for commercial activities (such as fitness instruction and paid dog-walking).
6. Examples of potential measures under the third objective might include the adoption of the standard scale of fines for offences against byelaws; the introduction of fixed penalty notices; a power to exclude wrongdoers from the Open Spaces (currently applicable in Hampstead Heath but not elsewhere); and (subject to the work of the Land Registration Steering Group) bringing unregistered land contiguous to Epping Forest but for which no owner can be identified within the Epping Forest Acts.
7. Once local views had been sought and considered, officers would expect to draw up and present to the relevant Committees a detailed set of proposals. Members would then have a full opportunity to consider and decide on these proposals. The earliest date for depositing a bill in Parliament would be in November 2015.

### **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that officers be instructed to test the views of local interest groups on possible modifications to the legislation, as described in this Report.

### **Contact**

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|--|---------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b>                           | <b>Date(s):</b>     |
| Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate Wood | 24 November 2014    |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                | <b>Public</b>       |
| REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2015/16          |                     |
| <b>Report of:</b>                              | <b>For Decision</b> |
| The Chamberlain<br>Director of Open Spaces     |                     |

### Summary

This report updates the Committee on its latest approved revenue budget for 2014/15 and seeks approval for a provisional revenue budget for 2015/16, for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee. The budgets have been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director and the table below summarises the position.

| Summary Of Table 1       | Latest<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>2014/15<br>£'000 | Original<br>Budget<br>2015/16<br>£'000 | Movement<br><br>£'000 |
|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Expenditure              | 9,165  | 9,397                                  | 232                   |
| Income                   | (2,707)  | (2,744)                                | (37)                  |
| Recharges                | 1,150  | 1,143                                  | (7)                   |
| Total Net<br>Expenditure | 7,608  | 7,796                                  | 188                   |

Overall, the 2015/16 provisional revenue budget totals £7.796m, an increase of £0.188m compared with the latest approved budget for 2014/15. Main reasons for this increase are :-

- Increase in City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme of £232,000.
- Increase to the local risk budgets following the net 2% allowance given towards any potential pay and price increases.

- Latest Approved budget for 2014/15 included expenditure of £30,000 funded from the previous year's underspend.

### **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to:

- review the provisional 2014/15 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives and, if so, approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- review and approve the draft capital budget;
- authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, departmental reorganisations and other reviews and changes to the Additional Works Programme;
- if specific service based review proposals included with this budget report are rejected by the Committee, or other Committees request that further proposals are pursued, that the substitution of other suitable proposals for a corresponding amount is delegated to the Town Clerk in discussion with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the relevant Committee. If the substituted saving is not considered to be straight forward in nature, then the Town Clerk shall also consult the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee prior to approving an alternative proposal(s).

## **Main Report**

### **Introduction**

1. The City of London Corporation owns and manages almost 11,000 acres of historic and natural Open Spaces for public recreation and enjoyment. This includes Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate Wood which are registered charities and are funded from City's Cash. They are run at no cost to the communities that they serve, as they are funded principally by the City, together with donations, sponsorship, grants and trading income.
2. This report sets out the proposed revenue budget and capital budgets for 2015/16. The revenue budget management arrangements are to:
  - Provide a clear distinction between local risk, central risk and recharge budgets

- Place responsibility for budgetary control on departmental Chief Officers
  - Apply a cash limit policy to Chief Officers' budgets
3. The budget has been analysed by the service expenditure and compared with the latest approved budget for the current year.
  4. The report also compares the current year's budget with the forecast outturn.

### **Business Planning Priorities**

5. The key priorities for this Committee for 2015/16 are:
  - Continue to support the Hampstead Heath Ponds project at Hampstead Heath.
  - Service Based Review savings delivery across the division.
  - Café improvements for cafes at Highgate Wood and Queen's Park to increase income generation.
  - To begin the Roman Kiln Project at Highgate Wood.

### **Proposed Revenue Budget for 2015/16**

6. The proposed Revenue Budget for 2015/16 is shown in Table 1 below analysed between:
  - Local Risk budgets – these are budgets deemed to be largely within the Chief Officer's control.
  - Central Risk budgets – these are budgets comprising specific items where a Chief Officer manages the underlying service, but where the eventual financial outturn can be strongly influenced by external factors outside of his/her control or are budgets of a corporate nature (e.g. interest on balances and rent incomes from investment properties).
  - Recharges – these cover budgets for services provided by one activity to another. The control of these costs is exercised at the point where the expenditure or income first arises as local or central risk.

7. The provisional 2015/16 budgets, under the control of the Director of Open Spaces being presented to your Committee, have been prepared in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees. These include continuing the implementation of the required budget reductions across both local and central risks, as well as the proper control of transfers of non-staffing budgets to staffing budgets. An allowance was given towards any potential pay and price increases of 2% in 2014/15 (already applied) and a further 2% in 2015/16. Furthermore, following the end of the additional 1 year CBT grant 2014-15 it is proposed that grant funding of £252,000 per annum is sought from the Bridge House Estates. However, the result of this application will not be known until early 2015. The budget has been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director.

As part of the Service Based Review a saving of £332,000 has been made in year one (2015/16), £306,000 in year two (16/17), and £440,000 in year three (17/18). A saving of £252,000 will be made through the ending of the City Bridge Trust grant for educational and volunteering activities. As part of the SBR the educational activities of the department were judged to be suitable for funding from the Bridge House Estates charitable funds to support these activities. An application will be made to the City Bridge Trust, before the start of the financial year to access this funding. A further saving of £20,000 will be made through staff restructures which have already been carried out. A £60,000 reduction will be made through increases in fees and charges, including new income from Weddings and Civil ceremonies.



| TABLE 1<br>HAMPSTEAD HEATH, QUEENS PARK AND HIGHGATE WOOD COMMITTEE SUMMARY – ALL FUNDS |                                |                            |  |  |   |                        |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------|
| Analysis of Service Expenditure   | Local<br>or<br>Central<br>Risk | Actual<br>2014-15<br>£'000 | Latest<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>2014-15<br>£'000 | Original<br>Budget<br>2015-16<br>£'000 | Movement<br>2014-15<br>to<br>2015-16<br>£'000 | Paragraph<br>Reference |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |                                |                            |  |  |   |                        |
| Employees   | L                              | 5,705                      | 5,777  | 5,986                                  | 209   | 10                     |
| Premises Related Expenses   | L                              | 639                        | 472  | 423                                    | (49)  |                        |
| Premises Related Expenses   | C                              | (4)                        | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| City Surveyor – Repairs & Maintenance<br>(includes cleaning)                            | L                              | 979                        | 1,866  | 2,062                                  | 196   | 11                     |
| Transport Related Expenses  | L                              | 171                        | 161  | 145                                    | (16)  |                        |
| Supplies & Services   | L                              | 742                        | 785  | 714                                    | (71)  | 12                     |
| Transfer to Reserve – City Bridge Trust   | L                              | 1,096                      | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Transfer to Reserve - Capital   | C                              | 105                        | 104  | 67                                     | (37)  |                        |
|   |                                | <b>9,433</b>               | <b>9,165</b>                                     | <b>9,397</b>                           | <b>232</b>                                    |                        |
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                                |                            |  |  |   |                        |
| Other Grants, Reimbursements and<br>Contribution  | L                              | (8)                        | (211)  | (252)                                  | (41)  | 13                     |
| Other Grants, Reimbursements and<br>Contribution  | C                              | (1,058)                    | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Customer, Client Receipts   | L                              | (1,269)                    | (1,171)  | (1,221)                                | (50)  | 7                      |
| Customer, Client Receipts   | C                              | (2)                        | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Recharges to Capital Projects   | L                              | (40)                       | (40)   | (40)                                   | -   |                        |
| Investment Income   | C                              | (1,198)                    | (1,181)  | (1,164)                                | 17  |                        |
| Transfer from Reserves - City Bridge<br>Trust   | L                              | (560)                      | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Transfer from Reserves - Capital  | C                              | (105)                      | (104)  | (67)                                   | 37  |                        |
| <b>Total Income</b>   |                                | <b>(4,240)</b>             | <b>(2,707)</b>                                   | <b>(2,744)</b>                         | <b>(37)</b>                                   |                        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE/ (INCOME)<br/>BEFORE RECHARGES</b>                                 |                                | <b>5,193</b>               | <b>6,458</b>                                     | <b>6,653</b>                           | <b>195</b>                                    |                        |
| <b>RECHARGES</b>  |                                |                            |  |  |   |                        |
| Recharges   |                                | 966                        | 926  | 905                                    | (21)  |                        |
| Recharges within Fund   |                                | 246                        | 224  | 238                                    | 14  |                        |
| <b>Total Recharges</b>  |                                | <b>1,212</b>               | <b>1,150</b>                                     | <b>1,143</b>                           | <b>(7)</b>                                    |                        |
| <b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE/(INCOME)</b>   |                                | <b>6,405</b>               | <b>7,608</b>                                     | <b>7,796</b>                           | <b>188</b>                                    |                        |

8. Income and favourable variances are presented in brackets. An analysis of this Revenue Expenditure by Service Managed is provided in Appendix 1. Only significant variances (generally those greater than £50,000) have been commented on in the following paragraphs.

9. Overall there is an increase of £188,000 in the overall budget between the 2014/15 latest approved budget and the 2015/16 original budget. This movement is explained by the variances in the following paragraphs.

10. The increase to the local risk Employees budget is due to an allowance of 2% in respect of any potential pay award and anticipated incremental rises. The increase in Full-time equivalent staff arises from a minor restructure between Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood as well as the new Ponds Project Education officer being in post for only part of 2014/15; this post is funded as part of the STEM and Policy initiatives, as detailed in Appendix 1. An analysis of the movement in manpower and related staff costs are shown in Table 2 below.

| Table 2 - Manpower statement                                    | Latest Approved Budget<br>2014/15   |                           | Original Budget<br>2015/16          |                           |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Manpower<br>Full-time<br>equivalent | Estimated<br>cost<br>£000 | Manpower<br>Full-time<br>equivalent | Estimated<br>cost<br>£000 |
| Hampstead Heath   | 131.00                              | 5,022                     | 131.48                              | 5,214                     |
| Queens Park   | 11.80                               | 443                       | 11.80                               | 451                       |
| Highgate Wood   | 7.44                                | 312                       | 7.55                                | 321                       |
| <b>TOTAL Hampstead Heath, Queens<br/>Park and Highgate Wood</b> | <b>150.24</b>                       | <b>5,777</b>              | <b>150.83</b>                       | <b>5,986</b>              |

11. The 2014/15 Latest Approved Budget reflects the re-allocation of the full 2014/15 Additional Works Programme to reflect the expenditure that is anticipated will be incurred in the year.

The budget movement of £196,000 for City Surveyors relates to the re-phasing and level of new bids within the Additional Works Programme. The 2015/16 Additional Works Programme is based on the bids detailed in the report to your committee in April 2014, that totalled £1,262,000, which was endorsed by the Corporate Asset Sub Committee in July 2014. The anticipated balance of remaining Additional Works Programme schemes of £550,000 has also been incorporated.

The basis on which costs are charged under the Building Repairs and Maintenance contract is being reviewed. The present costs, which are based on a square footage basis, are to be replaced by costs relating to the individual assets of each property. The outcome of the review is likely to result in variations to the budgets that have been submitted for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The City Surveyor will report separately on any significant changes.

A decision on the funding of the programme will be made by the Resource Allocation Sub Committee. It may therefore be necessary to adjust the budgets to reflect the Resource Allocation Sub Committee's decision. See Table 3 below.

| TABLE 3 - CITY SURVEYOR LOCAL RISK                              | Latest<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>2014/15<br>£'000 | Original<br>Budget<br>2015/16<br>£'000 |
|---|--|--|
| Repairs & Maintenance (excluding cleaning)                      |  |  |
| <b>Additional Works Programme</b>                               |  |  |
| Hampstead Heath   | 1,403  | 1,584                                  |
| Queen's Park  | 66   | 149                                    |
| Highgate Wood   | 111  | 79                                     |
|   | <b>1,580</b>                                     | <b>1,812</b>                           |
| <b>Planned &amp; Reactive Works (Breakdown &amp; Servicing)</b> |  |  |
| Hampstead Heath   | 238  | 201                                    |
| Queen's Park  | 14   | 14                                     |
| Highgate Wood   | 19   | 19                                     |
|   | <b>271</b>                                       | <b>234</b>                             |
| Cleaning  | 15   | 16                                     |
| <b>Total City Surveyor</b>                                      | <b>1,866</b>                                     | <b>2,062</b>                           |

12. The £71,000 decrease in Supplies and Services in Local Risk is due to the 2014/15 LAB including £30,000 carry forwards, service based review savings resulting in a restructure which has led to savings on dog handling costs and other minor efficiency savings.
13. In 2014/15 the CBT grant awarded was £41,000 less than the original application. This shortfall has been met by a one-year increase in resources approved by the Chamberlain.

### **Potential Further Budget Developments**

14. The provisional nature of the 14/15 and 15/16 revenue budgets recognises that further revisions may be required, including in relation to:
- budget reductions to capture savings arising from the on-going Service Based Review;
  - decisions on funding of the Additional Work Programme by the Resource Allocation Committee.
  - if specific service based review proposals included with this budget report are rejected by the Committee, or other Committees request that further proposals are pursued, that the substitution of other suitable proposals for a corresponding amount is delegated to the Town Clerk in discussion with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the relevant Committee. If the substituted saving is not considered to be straight

forward in nature, then the Town Clerk shall also consult the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee prior to approving an alternative proposal(s).

Any revisions will be agreed after consultation with the Director of Open Spaces.

### **Revenue Budget 2014/15**

15. The forecast outturn for the current year is in line with the latest approved budget of £7,608,000.

### **Draft Capital and Supplementary Revenue Budgets**

16. The latest estimated costs for the Committee's draft capital and supplementary revenue projects are summarised in the Table below.

| <b>Service Managed</b>       | <b>Project</b>        | <b>Exp. Pre<br/>01/04/14<br/>£'000</b> | <b>2014/15<br/>£'000</b> | <b>2015/16<br/>£'000</b> | <b>2016/17<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Later<br/>Years<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Total<br/>£'000</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hampstead Heath              | Hampstead Heath ponds | 1,597                                  | 2,175                    | 8,810                    | 2,563                    | 0                                | 15,145                 |
| <b>TOTAL HAMPSTEAD HEATH</b> |                       | <b>1,597</b>                           | <b>2,175</b>             | <b>8,810</b>             | <b>2,563</b>             | <b>0</b>                         | <b>15,145</b>          |

17. A planning application has been submitted to be determined in December 2014 and a judicial review has been launched by the Heath and Hampstead Society which will be heard on 13th-14th November 2014.
18. An anticipated capital project relating to the Queen's Park playground is in the pipeline and is subject to a gateway report.
19. The latest Capital and Supplementary Revenue Project budgets will be presented to the Court of Common Council for formal approval in March 2015.

**APPENDIX 1**

| Analysis by Service Managed                  | Actual<br>2013-14<br>£'000 | Latest<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>2014-15<br>£'000 | Original<br>Budget<br>2015-16<br>£'000 | Movement<br>2014-15<br>to<br>2015-16<br>£'000 | Paragraph<br>Reference |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------|
| <b>CITY'S CASH</b>                           |                            |  |  |   |                        |
| Hampstead Heath                              | 5,209                      | 6,313  | 6,418                                  | 105   | 11                     |
| Hampstead Heath CBT                          | -                          | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Hampstead Heath – STEM & Policy<br>Education | -                          | 33   | 49                                     | 16  |                        |
| Queens Park                                  | 674                        | 703  | 796                                    | 93  | 11                     |
| Queens Park CBT                              | -                          | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| Highgate Wood                                | 522                        | 559  | 533                                    | (26)  | 11                     |
| Highgate Wood CBT                            | -                          | -  | -                                      | -   |                        |
| <b>TOTAL CITY'S CASH</b>                     | <b>6,405</b>               | <b>7,608</b>                                     | <b>7,796</b>                           | <b>188</b>                                    |                        |
|  |                            |  |  |   |                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>6,405</b>               | <b>7,608</b>                                     | <b>7,796</b>                           | <b>188</b>                                    |                        |

**APPENDIX 2**

| Recharges from/to<br>Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate<br>Wood Committee | Actual<br>2013/14<br>£000 | Latest<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>2014/15<br>£000 | Original<br>Budget<br>2015/16<br>£000 |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Recharges</b>   |                           |   |                                       |
| City Surveyor's Employee Recharge  | 228                       | 215   | 215                                   |
| Insurance  | 95                        | 97  | 98                                    |
| IS Recharges - Chamberlain   | 141                       | 121   | 109                                   |
| Support Services -   |                           |   |                                       |
| Chamberlain  | 139                       | 121   | 125                                   |
| Comptroller and City Solicitor   | 76                        | 78  | 75                                    |
| Town Clerk   | 143                       | 143   | 137                                   |
| City Surveyor  | 119                       | 125   | 125                                   |
| Other services*  | 25                        | 26  | 21                                    |
| <b>Total Recharges</b>   | <b>966</b>                | <b>926</b>                                      | <b>905</b>                            |
| <b>Recharges Within Funds</b>  |                           |   |                                       |
| Corporate and Democratic Core – Finance<br>Committee                             | (95)                      | (95)  | (95)                                  |
| Opens Spaces Directorate Recharge  | 341                       | 319   | 333                                   |
| <b>TOTAL RECHARGES</b>   | <b>1,212</b>              | <b>1,150</b>                                    | <b>1,143</b>                          |

\* Various services including central training, corporate printing, occupational health. Union costs and environmental and sustainability section.

# Agenda Item 7

|   |                |                         |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b>  |                | <b>Date(s):</b>         |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee  | For Discussion | <b>3 November 2014</b>  |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee   | For Decision   | <b>24 November 2014</b> |
| <b>Subject:</b>   |                | <b>Public</b>           |
| Review of Annual Work Programme 2014  |                |                         |
| <b>Report of:</b>   |                | <b>For Decision</b>     |
| Superintendent of Hampstead Heath   |                |                         |
| <b>Summary</b>  |                |                         |
| <p>This report provides a review of the Management Operations and activities carried out on Hampstead Heath over the past 12 months as part of the 2014 Annual Work Programme, and considers the new 2015 Annual Work Programme appended to this report.</p>  |                |                         |
| <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |                |                         |
| It is recommended that the:   |                |                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee notes the work undertaken during 2014 to enhance the natural aspect and designed landscapes within the Heath, agrees the proposed 2015 Annual Work Plan appended to this report.</li><li>• That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their November meeting.</li><li>• That the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee supports and approve the implementation of the proposed 2015 Annual Work Plan appended to this report.</li></ul> |                |                         |

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. Hampstead Heath is a complex mosaic of different habitats, comprising extensive areas of grassland, secondary woodland, hedgerows, water bodies, streams, a raised bog, heathland and formal areas. It is also extremely popular and well used. All factors that contribute to the complexity of managing the site.
2. Policy 6 of the Interim Management Policy Plan for the Heath states that the City will draw together an annual work plan for the Heath, in consultation with local groups and interested parties. This Annual Work Plan will reflect the primary objective set out in the Mission Statement and will broadly cover

planned conservation operations, including vegetation, pond and wetland management, tree work, and footpath maintenance and fencing works.

3. For completeness, the major tasks within the formal areas of the Heath have also been included within the Annual Work Plan.

## **Review of the 2014 Annual Work Programme**

### **Tree Management**

4. The Tree Team has worked through another very busy year, with much of the spring period devoted to tackling the remnants of the St Jude's storm damage. The Team has taken on various large-scale tree dismantling operations, on and around the Heath in addition to their core duties. In June 2014 a key member of the Team moved on to become a Tree Officer in Harrow and the Team has been one person down since then. Happily, the Division has just recruited a high-calibre replacement, so the Team is expected to be back up to full operational capability by Christmas 2014.

### Pruning and dismantling work

5. The early part of the spring was occupied by a programme of clearance work associated with the winter storms. Over the spring and summer period, the Team worked on a total of 87 trees, with tasks ranging from dealing with remnant storm damage to safeguarding veteran trees and other more complex operations requiring the use of a hydraulic working platform (figure 2).
6. Due to its reduced operating capacity, the Tree Team has paired up with the Conservation Team on a number of occasions to tackle some of the larger jobs, and this collaborative working has proved very effective.



**Figure 1: Crane removing a heavily leaning veteran oak branch, May 2014.**

### Tree disease and surveying

7. Tree disease is an ever-present threat, and this year has been no exception. Massaria has been a key focus for the Team, both at Hampstead Heath and also at Queen's Park. The Team has continued to remove diseased branches at key London Plane locations, such as South End Green and Parliament Hill.



8. The Tree Management Officer for North London Open Spaces sits on the London Tree Officers Association Working Group on Massaria, putting the Team at the very forefront of understanding and managing this disease.
9. Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has expanded its territory, despite the efforts of the Forestry Commission's spraying programme in May and June of this year. OPM was recently found at London Zoo in Regent's Park and is now just over two kilometres from the southern borders of the Heath. Unfortunately it is highly likely that OPM will find its way to the Heath in 2015, so preparations are under way to manage the pest when it arrives.
10. The Tree Team has been very proactive in surveying for signs of OPM on the site and has installed a number of Pheromone traps at various key locations, to establish where the moths are present. So far, 17 male individuals have been caught in the four traps installed on the Heath.

#### Tree inspections

11. The Team's key role in tree inspection has been increased this year, with all the four members of the Team now qualified as LANTRA Professional Tree Inspectors, including the newly recruited replacement Arborist.
12. The Team has inspected more than 1,600 trees since January 2014, including the tree stock at Queen's Park. Its members have also been able to provide support for the Wood Keeper Team at Highgate Wood on various tree Management Operations and inspection queries.



**Figure 2: Retrenching a veteran oak near the Boating Pond, July 2014.**

#### **Nature Conservation Work**

13. The Conservation Team has had a very successful year, assisted greatly by the very clement summer. The Team had a busy early season, clearing the remnants of the winter storm damage, and progressing to start the cutting and baling operation (figure 3), helped by the fine weather in June. In addition to the Team's Annual Work Programme commitments, its members also managed to find time to carry out some income generating work on the Kenwood Estate,

which it is hoped will become a more regular part of their work. More than 1,148 man hours of Heath Hands Volunteers work were supervised by the Conservation section between January 2014 and August 2014, and a series of extended sessions are now planned for October as a pilot project.



**Figure 3: Cutting and baling at West Meadow at Kenwood Estate**

#### Tree work and woodland management

14. This work included clearing storm damage from areas where ground conditions had previously prevented access, following the very wet winter. This work absorbed a great deal of the Team's time over the early spring period.
15. Other tasks in this category included:
  - Lifting low limbs across all meadow areas to allow access to cutting machinery.
  - Coppicing in the Orchard site next to Kenwood Nursery Yard. This site has a significant understory of established hazel coppice, which is cut on a prescribed cycle, with the cut hazel being put to variety of uses.
  - Clearing ivy from roadside trees. This is an important maintenance operation that allows roadside trees to be more easily inspected. Ivy growth has been prolific over the last five years, due to the series of wet summers between 2008 and 2010.
  - Removing a number of sycamores at various locations around the site, including the Orchard and the woodland to the south of Spaniard's Road.

#### Control of invasive species and pest control

16. The Conservation Team has been very actively treating areas of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed around the Heath, mainly by injecting them with herbicide.
17. The Team has also been engaged in rodent control operations around ponds and yard areas. This year has seen a very noticeable increase in the rat population, probably due to the mild winter of 2013/14.

## Grassland Management

18. New wildflower areas have been sown by the Conservation Team on Duke's Field at Parliament Hill, the Heath Extension and also at West Heath, which have proved very popular with the public. This year additional areas were sown with poppy seeds to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.
19. Sward management of principal dam faces is now programmed in to be carried out monthly throughout the growing season, developing a uniform sward on the downstream faces of the principal ponds.
20. The Team also oversees the conservation of ant mounds at West Heath, the Extension and East Heath. This important work to conserve a valuable insect habitat is often carried out by Heath Hands Volunteers.
21. Heath Hands volunteers also support and assist with acid grassland management at the Vale of Health, Sandy Heath and West Heath. The work includes the cyclical management of gorse and controlling the spread of bramble into grassland areas.

## Cutting and Baling Operations

22. This summer's operation has been a further improvement on last year's. The Conservation Team has worked through the cutting programme produced earlier this summer and has completed all the areas identified for cutting.
23. The quality of the grass was an improvement on last year and the bales had a lower overall moisture content which enabled the Team to increase the trailer loads to an average of 10 to 12 units.



**Figure 4: Cutting and baling near Parliament Hill.**

24. The Team aims to improve the product still further, so that the bales can be used as cattle feed rather than just for bedding. The main limiting factor is the presence of ragwort and rank grass species.
25. The new tractor-mounted tedder unit has proved invaluable this season, as it accelerates the drying process while the cut grass is still on the ground. This allows for lighter and drier bale units, which have less tendency to rot when stored.



**Figure 5: Loading the bale trailer on the Heath Extension**

26. The statistics are impressive, with just over 130 bales taken off the site, which equates to approximately 40 tonnes of material. The Team estimates that they have cut between 14 and 16 hectares, which is a significant increase on last year.
27. The long dry summer which started in June allowed the Team to start the cutting earlier and get a head start, so that the programmed work was nearly completed by the time the weather deteriorated in August.
28. The Conservation Team also generated some additional income for the Division by cutting and baling the West Meadow on the Kenwood Estate in early September.

#### Progress on The Kenwood Education Garden (KEG) Project

29. This innovative new outdoor classroom facility is now finished and has attracted a great deal of interest and praise. Unfortunately there were no education Team visits this summer but we are confident the site will be used during 2015.
30. New additions installed this year have included a fully functioning composting toilet, a sail canopy to provide shade, a new path, and finishing touches to the nectar bed and pond area
31. There have been a number of Heath Hands Volunteer sessions in the garden over the spring and summer, which have been very well attended. There is now a plan to hand the facility over to the organisation as a project for them to manage themselves.
32. The Team has also carried out renovation work at the Secret Garden and the Lido Educational Garden.



**Figure 6: Wildflower meadow at Kenwood Education Garden**

#### Ponds and wetland work

33. Discarded fishing tackle has been removed at all the fishing ponds. This essential work reduces the risk of harm to wildlife, especially to swans and water fowl.
34. To control algae growth at the Whitestone pond, the Conservation Team Supervisor this year trialled use of a widely used vegetable die, which is added to the water and inhibits aquatic plant growth. The trial has been a resounding success, with significantly fewer algal blooms and a greatly reduced requirement to clear algae from the water. Last year staff had to spend up to a day every week removing large quantities of algae and lesser pond weed.
35. The Team also carried out repairs to the water mixing equipment at the Boating Pond, as well as maintenance of fenced reed beds and repairs to floating islands at various ponds. The ponds have had a high level of algal growth this summer, including blue-green blooms that have to be monitored due to their toxicity. The fixed water mixing equipment and the temporary units that can be deployed at short notice are all essential for maintaining optimum oxygen levels for fish health.
36. The Team has just completed coppicing the area between the Bird Bridge and Viaduct Bridge, a riparian area that provides good habitat for birds including water fowl.

#### Path repairs and other estate work

37. Path repairs have been an important part of the late summer duties of the Team. The Cycle path at the Tumulus Field and sections at the Vale of Health and also Sandy Heath have required surface repairs and rolling, following the dry summer and then sporadic heavy rain.
38. The Team has made good use of the tractor-mounted side arm flail to trim the various road edges around the Heath. This machine is similar to that used by farmers to trim hedgerows but in our case is used as a substitute for strimming,

saving a significant amount of time and reducing the risk of damage to car windscreens and paintwork.

### **Ecological Work**

39. Work on the Ponds Project took up a significant amount of the Ecologists' time this year, and included commenting on the Environmental Impact Statement before it was submitted with the Planning Application in early July. The Team was also heavily involved with the bird surveys in preparation for the Ground Investigation work carried out by the Ponds Project Contractor.

#### RSPB 'Wild about Hampstead' project

40. Considerable assistance has been provided to the 'Wild About Hampstead Heath Project' led by the RSPB, including leading several guided walks for the volunteers, which were very well received.
41. More than 20 enthusiastic young children were fascinated to see at close hand some of the Heath's grass snakes. Advice was also given to the RSPB Team regarding, among other things, the Heath's wildlife and training providers.

#### Management Plans

42. Compartment Management Work Plans were completed for Preacher's Hill, the Model Farm and the Secret Garden. A Compartment Management Works Plan for the Fleet Stream will be presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at their meeting on 3rd November 2014.
43. If the Fleet Stream Compartment Management Work Plan is adopted, there will be 15 working Compartment Management Work Plans in total.
44. Work has begun on preparing a Plan for the Bird Sanctuary.
45. Work will also start this winter on drafting Compartment Management Plans for the ponds impacted by the Ponds Project works, which will then be implemented following completion of the construction work.

#### Monitoring and Surveying Work

46. The ponds were monitored on a weekly basis. Warnings of potentially hazardous blue-green algae blooms are passed onto the Lifeguards and the Ranger Teams.
47. The Ecology Team carried out regular oxygen monitoring throughout the summer and played a key part in dealing with a serious oxygen crash at Highgate No. 1 Pond in July.
48. The programme of monitoring selected plants and plant communities was completed, except for some areas on the Heath Extension. It is evident from data that cutting, especially carried out just before flowering and repeated over several years, may not eradicate thistle but can substantially reduce its abundance and vigour. This will allow a more targeted approach to be formulated, in order to control but not eradicate this native and ecologically valuable but invasive plant. However, cutting (even several times a season) does not greatly reduce common hogweed, another native but invasive species, although it may help to stop it spreading.



**Figure 7: Managing oxygen levels at Highgate One Pond**

### Working with Volunteers

49. Following training by the Ecology Team, volunteers assisted with and carried out the monitoring of amphibians and grass snakes. A new method of surveying for the presence of stag beetles, developed by Dr Harvey from the University of London, is being trialled. This involves placing devices in the ground, next to suitable decaying wood, which can 'sniff out' chemical signals given off by stag beetle larvae.
50. Equipment was also purchased that helps identify the presence of hedgehogs. It consists of a small triangular waterproof shelter; together with bait and a tray of black ink which are placed inside the shelter, along with sheets of clean paper. Any animals walking through the shelter can be identified by the footprints they leave on the paper sheets. This has revealed that hedgehogs are present in the Bird Sanctuary and Golders Hill Park. Further monitoring locations will be selected on other areas of the Heath.

### **Formal Areas**

51. The Gardening and Sports & Recreation Keeping Teams have had a challenging and creative year, completing the approved projects in the 2014 Annual Work Programme and carrying out routine general maintenance of the formal areas at Parliament Hill Fields, Golders Hill Park, Heath Extension Sports Areas, The Hill Garden & Pergola and Keats House.

### Golders Hill Park & The Hill Garden

52. The sustainable planting scheme in the Wall Garden was successfully implemented. The Park Managers and Head Gardener are liaising with representatives of Westminster City Council to share good practice.

53. The Phase Two works at the Stumpery were completed. Further stumps were obtained from Epping Forest, for which we are grateful (Figure 8).



**Figure 8: Stumps from Epping Forest**

#### Parliament Hill Fields

54. This year saw the successful completion of Phase Two of the landscape works at the Bull Path, including the installation of bicycle stands, creation of a heritage orchard, removal of hedge rows and the formation of longer grass meadow areas.
55. Hedgerow reduction was carried out around the Bowling Green and Highgate Road to improve hedge vigour and sightlines, while existing hedgerows were gapped up with native species to broaden diversity. A drip-line irrigation system was also installed.
56. Shrub borders in the Bowling Green were replanted with native planting to encourage all-year-round interest.
57. Grass renovation works were carried out following National Grid works to repair leaking gas pipes and a wild meadow area created at the education centre garden by the Lido.

#### **Sports Facilities and Filming Events**

58. Despite the wet winter and hot summer, the Sports & Recreation Keeping Team managed all the winter and summer sports grass pitches to a high standard.
59. The Team also handled up to 15 separate school sports sessions per week from April through to July, including sports days and Camden Schools Sports Association events.
60. The Team was responsible for overseeing 20 separate film location shoots, ensuring the Heath landscape was protected at all times.



## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

61. The preparation and implementation of an Annual Work Plan in accordance with Policy 6 of the Interim Management Plan contributes to the strategic theme of *A Clean, Pleasant and Attractive City*. Its natural aspect is a significant factor in the popularity of the Heath for general recreation and sport, which also helps contribute towards *A Healthy City*.
62. The actions for the new Annual Work Plan are set out under the main character areas of the Heath. This follows the format of the proposed Part III section of the Management Plan, detailed prescriptions of work. What is ultimately required for each of these character areas is a clear vision on the long-term aspirations for them, together with those policies that are relevant to these areas, which will be taken from the Part I overriding strategic direction and Part II policies for each Topic Area.

## **Implications**

63. The costs of meeting this ambitious programme are funded through the Superintendent's local risk budget. Wherever possible, opportunities will be sought for external funding to support these essential works, while the Management Team will continue to promote and develop opportunities for volunteers.

## **Conclusion**

64. The Heath is a complex site and it is impossible to set out in full all the work required to manage it a year ahead. Unanticipated circumstances (for example, storms) may require a change of priorities. However, the Plan establishes our intentions for the year, subject to the Committee's comments.

## **Jonathan Meares**

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Open Spaces

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Annual Work Programme for 2015

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## Appendix 1

# Hampstead Heath Annual Work Plan January to December 2015

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# Introduction

The Annual Work Plan January-December 2015 includes conservation and arboricultural work and work related to the formal areas of Hampstead Heath. It outlines the management works that will take place over the coming 12 months. Like all working documents it must be recognised that weather, seasonal changes and other factors can have an impact on the programme and lead to unavoidable changes. Sunday working which causes noise will be avoided where possible, but may from time to time be necessary. For example, in wet summers it may be necessary to take advantage of dry weekends to cut grass.

Any comments or queries should be made, in the first instance, to the Conservation Manager, 020 8347 0389.

## Conservation work

### Principles for ecological management

Much conservation work on the Heath aims to maintain the *status quo*. Without this work, valuable habitat would be lost from large areas of the Heath. Our current guiding ecological principles for the management of species and habitats are to follow the Hampstead Heath Management Plan and UK guidance or best practice, including:

- To maintain current grassland areas, particularly the scarcer patches of 'acid grassland' on the Heath's upper areas. This involves keeping back encroaching bramble but dealing sensitively with the margins of adjacent woodland and hedges, which can be particularly valuable ecologically. Such work will be completed from autumn to early spring, to avoid disturbing breeding birds, or from late autumn where there may be grass snakes present. Low bramble may be cut again outside this season.
- Where choices are possible, to aim for a mosaic of vegetation of different aspects and height. Such mosaics are essential for many invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles and this principle applies to both woodland and grassland habitats.
- To try to eradicate or prevent the spread of invasive species, e.g. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, which would be detrimental to the Heath's wildlife value if allowed to increase their populations. Native species can also be invasive, especially creeping thistle and common hogweed, and areas of these will also be controlled.
- The public enjoyment of nature in a safe environment is of paramount importance.

## New work for 2015

A number of new items have been added to the Annual Work Programme for 2014. These are shown in bold in the attached table, and include :

- The wild flower area on the Old Hockey Pitch, near Springett's Wood, will be extended eastwards, but still leaving much of the Pitch as mown grass
- The edges of the Sparrows wild flower area will be made more sinuous by sowing further small areas to the south and west with wild flower seed. It is not possible to extend it to the north due to the presence of creeping thistle, nor to the east because of a path.
- Several hedges will be layed, including: the southern half of hedge running northwards from the Lido; and on the Extension, part of the hedge on the eastern side of the Horse Ride, the western half of the hedge north of the cricket pitches, and the western half of the hedge running towards the north-east corner of the Extension, the last two being left over from last year's Work Programme. The hedge between Children's Playground at Preacher's Hill and Downshire Hill and Willow Road will also be layed.
- A glade on the west bank of the Vale of Health Pond, near the inlet streams, will be restored, and a small bridge over the stream may be installed
- The toe of the Vale of Health Pond dam will be flailed every other month as required by the dam engineer.
- A relatively open area of woodland opposite the Vale of Health toilets will be partially opened up by cutting back some patches of bramble and coppicing willows. This will allow Himalayan balsam here to be controlled more easily and create a more open but undisturbed sunny glade.
- Appropriate parts of the shelter belt above the Old Hockey Pitch, opposite Springett's Wood, will be layed.
- A copse of pollarded willows above the Hampstead Upper Bird Sanctuary are ready to be re-cut and will be re-pollarded.
- The edges of the path between the Viaduct Pond and the Hollow Beech will be opened up by coppicing or removing small trees and cutting back bramble.
- The recently prepared management plan for the Fleet Steam will, if agreed by committee, be implemented. This includes recreating several marshy glades.
- Five to ten metres' width of hawthorn & ash saplings by the path through the woodland copse above Parliament Hill will be coppiced.
- Work will be undertaken at the Education Garden, by the Education Centre, for example to thin the trees, which are now too closely spaced.
- A sycamore tree on in lower Cohen's Field on the boundary of the allotments will be felled to benefit a veteran oak.
- Work will begin on producing a management plan for the Bird Sanctuary.
- At Ikin's Corner saplings on the west side of path for about 50m northwards will be coppiced to benefit a population of bread-leaved helleborine.

- Scrub and saplings at the crossing point of a footpath and the horse ride near Wellgarth Road, Hampstead Heath Extension, will be coppiced or layed to increase light levels and improve sightlines on the road.
- One willow tree will be removed and another lifted by Pond 1 on the Extension to increase light levels to this shady pond.

It was planned in 2014 to remove several of the smaller and more poorly formed oak trees in an area of woodland in South Meadow, to allow neighbouring oak trees to thrive. If the Ponds Project goes ahead, this work will be postponed to a later year, to reduce the amount of tree felling undertaken.

## **General maintenance**

In addition to habitat management, this Plan also includes other works within the more formalised parts of the Heath. It has not been possible to include all the general maintenance and development tasks that take place, but elements of these can be summarised as:

- Amenity grassland areas are provided and maintained for recreation.
- Areas of formal gardens are maintained throughout the Heath, but principally at the Hill Garden, Golders Hill Park and formal recreational areas below Parliament Hill to Gospel Oak entrance and from Highgate Road to Nassington Road.
- Daily litter picking and Trilo collection from bins is carried out on a daily basis. Dedicated fishing tackle bins at each fishing pond are emptied separately by the Heath Rangers Team.
- Maintenance of sporting and recreational facilities for athletics, football, fishing, tennis and many more activities.
- Supervised swimming facilities at the Lido and at the three natural bathing ponds.
- Play facilities including maintenance of playgrounds, the Peggy Jay Centre and the Adventure Playground.
- Daily cleaning and inspection of public toilets.
- Liaison with the City's Sustainability Working Group to implement the City's sustainability policy wherever possible.
- Path maintenance Heath-wide as and when required: power harrow, add agreed aggregates and roll; and fill in potholes.
- Cleaning and maintenance of benches.
- Maintenance of fences.

## **Notes on the tables**

Numbers in the first column relate to approximate locations of proposed work as illustrated on the accompanying map. Relevant Natural Landscape Chapter policies from the Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2007-2017 are given in the

second column, or where appropriate references to the Part I Plan itself. Areas of the Heath where the work is to be undertaken are listed in the third column.

## General items

| Map ref. | Policy nos.     | Location   | Description of work  |
|----------|-----------------|--|--|
|          | 50              | Hedgerows<br>Heath-wide  | Remove non-native tree seedlings   |
|          | 27              | Hedgerows<br>Heath-wide  | Carry out any necessary management to promote trees which could grow into veterans.  |
|          | Access          | Pavement edge<br>general   | Lift all trees & shrubs to 2m & cut back to pavement edge as necessary   |
|          | 36, 46          | All water areas  | Manage routine incidents, & assist Wildlife Rescue experts in dealing with distressed water fowl. Assist Constabulary in preventing & investigating dog attacks.                     |
|          | 36, 37,<br>47   | All or several<br>ponds  | Use a boat to check for and remove line & tackle & other debris during the fishing season.   |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Organise & oversee regular work parties of members of the Hampstead Heath Angling Society to conduct more thorough clean-ups of the ponds & other fishing-related conservation work. |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Work with the Hampstead Heath Angling Society to ensure fishing regulations are understood & adhered to & assist Constabulary in checking permits & rod licenses                     |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Try to improve marginal vegetation   |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Check & clean pond inlets & outlets  |
|          | Access,<br>36   | All or several<br>ponds  | Monitor ponds for general problems and algae scums, and ensure warning notices are promptly put up & taken down  |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Maintain water mixing equipment at the Boating Pond.   |
|          | 36, 47          | All or several<br>ponds  | Monitor water oxygen and phosphorus levels   |
|          | 36, 50          | All or several<br>ponds  | Alleviate problems such as duckweed blooms and oxygen crashes when required  |
|          | 36              | All or several<br>ponds  | Liaise with Hampstead Heath Angling Society  |
|          | Safety<br>issue | Several ponds,<br>including<br>Highgate no 1,<br>Hampstead no 1,<br>Vale of Health,<br>Viaduct | Carry out tree and scrub clearance required by Supervising Engineer to reduce flood risk   |
|          | 50              | Heath-wide   | Control Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, California brome, sycamore and, where necessary, creeping thistle, bramble, ragwort and bracken                          |
|          | 50              | Heath-wide   | Produce map with locations of Japanese knotweed sites  |
|          | 50              | Heath-wide   | Redo 2006 map of Himalayan balsam sites.   |
|          | 29, 30          | Hedges Heath-<br>wide  | Top selected hedges as required to maintain hedgerow character   |
|          | 50              | Selected locations<br>Heath-wide   | Control creeping thistle by preparing map and cutting them before they flower  |

|  |    |                                  |  |
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|  | 47 | Selected locations<br>Heath-wide | Monitor selected features, including certain invasive species, Small Tumulus Field grassland, Tormentil slopes, Sparrows site, experimental cutting area, amphibians and reptiles. |
|  | 3  | Heath-wide                       | Planning, facilitating and overseeing the work of Heath Hands  |

## Vale of Health, East Heath, Hampstead Valley, Parliament Hill and Kenwood

| Map ref. | Policy nos.  | Location                     | Description of work  |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1        | 16           | Upper Vale of Health         | Control bramble as necessary to prevent further spread   |
| 1        | 4            | Upper Vale of Health         | Reduce brambly clumps by steps opposite Vale Lodge   |
| 1        | H6           | Upper Vale of Health         | Cut bramble etc. round Pound to maintain views to it   |
| 1        | 1            | Upper Vale of Health         | Cut Cotoneaster opposite The Gables to maintain at about 1m70cm  |
| 1        | 4            | Upper Vale of Health         | Mow majority of fertile grassland (including along paths) annually in September, removing arisings   |
| 1        | 14, 15, 47   | Upper Vale of Health         | Scrape area recently cleared above acid grassland slope. Maintain part open as area for invertebrates and plant gorse in remaining section. Maintain in future years.                                  |
| 1        | 4            | Upper Vale of Health         | Maintain uncut strip of grass by wood opposite The Gables by cutting once p.a. at the end of the season  |
| 1        | 13           | Upper Vale of Health         | Weed heather 2 to 3 times yearly as required and cut round existing patches to prevent encroachment  |
| 1        | 4            | Upper Vale of Health         | Maintain rough vegetation at top of slope near Whitestone Pond by cutting annually after cow parsley has flowered  |
| 1        | 50           | Upper Vale of Health         | Control Japanese knotweed  |
| 1        | 50           | Upper Vale of Health         | Cut areas of hogweed in rough grassland 2-3 times p.a. to prevent spreading  |
| 1        | 16           | Upper Vale of Health         | Ensure trees & shrubs in bramble areas do not become more numerous   |
| 1        | 46           | Upper Vale of Health         | Skirt bramble carefully by hand on Atypus slopes, & remove tree & shrub seedlings. Cut back overhanging branches if they have extended from previous year.   |
| 1        | 13           | Upper Vale of Health         | Coppice gorse on 12 year rotation, cutting 1/6th every even-numbered year. When zones are coppiced, remove trees and saplings but retain a few song-posts, e.g. hawthorn, elder. Cut bramble & remove. |
| 1        | 50           | Upper Vale of Health         | Control invasive species, e.g. sycamore, southern woodland, adjoining Vale of Health Approach Road   |
| 1        | 50           | Upper Vale of Health         | Remove Himalayan balsam from area  |
| 1        | Access, H6   | Upper Vale of Health         | Install memorial bench at viewpoint over Vale on access path onto the Heath from Whitestone Lane   |
| 2        | Safety issue | Vale Approach Road           | Maintain sightlines at junction of East Heath Road   |
| 3        | 4, 6         | <b>Vale of Health Valley</b> | <b>Remove hawthorn bush in grassland</b>   |
| 3        | Safety       | <b>Vale of Health Valley</b> | <b>Flail toe of dam every other month as required by Dam Engineer</b>  |



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| 3  | 6      | Vale of Health Valley                          | Keep central area open, but retaining elder bushes at south-west edge. Retain nettle/comfrey area on south-west side. Mow south-eastern side as required to control bramble with aim of recreating grassland.   |
| 4  | 43     | Fleet Stream Balsam Poplar section             | <b>Recreate marshy glade by removing sapling trees and sycamores along 30-50m section of streamline. Clear bramble 5m from stream edge. Leave fallen/standing dead trunks and Wild Service sapling. Keep open in future years. Dig out sediment from pool area.</b> |
| 5  | 50     | Fleet Stream-Middle Bird Sanctuary             | <b>Remove and prevent regrowth of sycamores throughout to encourage ground flora.</b>   |
| 6  | 50     | Fleet Stream-Viaduct pond                      | <b>Remove non-native <i>Aucuba japonica</i> from marsh edge and cut back fallen tree to the edge of the marsh.</b>  |
| 6  | 19, 36 | Fleet Stream-Viaduct Glade to Viaduct slopes   | <b>Maintain open glade. Remove a minimum of 50% of willows growing in the glade, coppice the remainder. Coppice trees on the periphery of the glade. Place log weirs to encourage pooling of water. Dig out pools where possible.</b>                               |
| 6  | 50     | Fleet Stream-Viaduct pond area                 | <b>Remove <i>Hedera colchica</i> from ground where possible. Cut ivy towards base where growing into tree canopies.</b>   |
| 8  | 4      | Springett's Wood                               | Mow grass/ <b>scrub</b> 2-3 times avoiding bluebell leaves.   |
| 8  | Access | Springett's Wood                               | Clear & mow paths   |
| 8  | Access | Springett's Wood                               | Clean & oil bench   |
| 8  | 16     | Springett's Wood                               | Keep bramble in damp area near pond in check by cutting back, & remove sapling & seedling trees & shrubs & scrub; create scrape   |
| 8  | 50     | Springett's Wood                               | Remove & dispose of <i>Crassula helmsii</i> if present in pond  |
| 8  | 36     | Springett's Wood                               | Maintain pond; reduce marginal vegetation by end of path to allow view of pond.   |
| 8  | 16     | Springett's Wood                               | Check tree guards & tree ties, & clear scrub around young trees   |
| 9  | 30     | <b>Top of Old Hockey Field</b>                 | <b>Lay appropriate parts of the shelter belt alongside path, opposite Springett's Wood</b>  |
| 9  | 29, 50 | Top side of Old Hockey Field                   | Cut brambles round and beside bench to Chris Dryhurst.  |
| 9  | 50     | Old Hockey Field wild flower area              | Pull thistles before cutting  |
| 9  | 7      | Old Hockey Field wild flower area              | Cut wildflower area   |
| 9  | 9      | <b>Old Hockey Field</b>                        | <b>Extend wildflower area by about 300m<sup>2</sup> to south-east; fence until wild flowers established</b>   |
| 10 | Access | The Elms/Radio Mast                            | Cut back bramble/scrub encroaching on access road   |
| 11 | 19     | <b>Vale of Health Pond</b>                     | <b>Restore glade near pond inlets and possibly install small informal footbridge</b>  |
| 11 | 50     | <b>Vale of Health Pond</b>                     | <b>Trim back bramble near bench above fishing pegs</b>  |
| 11 | 50     | <b>Vale of Health Pond</b>                     | <b>Coppice saplings and lift trees competing with gorse on the south bank. Remove sycamore saplings from pond edge to south. Remove robinia suckers growing along east bank.</b>  |
| 12 | 16     | Pines near the Ice House                       | Clear saplings round old pines and bring on new ones to replace them as they decline  |
| 13 | 16     | Woodland south of Vale of Health Approach Road | Remove ivy from 20% of trees each year  |
| 14 | 13, 14 | Tormentil Slopes                               | Cut bramble patch and rosebay willowherb repeatedly   |
| 14 | 13, 14 | Tormentil Slopes                               | Cut areas of coarse grass repeatedly  |
| 14 | 14     | Tormentil Slopes                               | Remove one small oak and raise crowns of trees on western and lower slopes, to increase area of acid grassland and tormentil  |

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|----|------------|--|--|
| 15 | 19, 50     | Woodland opposite Vale of Health toilets                     | cut back bramble and coppice willows. This will create a sunnier glade and also allow Himalayan balsam here to be controlled more easily.  |
| 16 | 16         | Willow woodland north of upper Hampstead Bird Sanctuary      | Maintain willow coppice area. Recoppice/ pollard willows   |
| 17 | 16, 19, 20 | Path between Viaduct Pond and Vale toilets                   | Open up and improve habitat by coppicing both sides, leaving major trees except removing one Robinia. Remove one more Robinia annually but retain the best specimens   |
| 19 | 4          | 'Secret glade' W of path between Viaduct pond & Hollow Beech | Continue reducing bramble & rosebay willowherb. Fell young Sorbus tree on edge of clearing.  |
| 19 | 16         | Path between Viaduct Pond and hollow beech                   | Increase width of woodland edge habitat by removing or coppicing young trees near path   |
| 20 | 16, 50     | Viaduct Pond   | Remove or coppice young sycamores in enclosures to west of pond  |
| 20 | 39         | Viaduct Pond   | Coppice willow and silver birch and raise alder crowns along east bank, especially where impeding growth of emergent vegetation  |
| 20 | 50         | Viaduct Pond   | Control Japanese knotweed in enclosed area.  |
| 20 | 50         | Viaduct Pond   | Pull Himalayan balsam from marsh area  |
| 20 | 13         | Viaduct Pond   | Remove bramble and saplings from gorse area east of Viaduct. Coppice any degrading gorse, and consider planting more   |
| 20 | 13         | Viaduct Pond   | <b>Weed planted heather on exposed east bank</b>   |
| 21 | Access, 7  | Pryor's Field  | Mow fertile grassland in southern part of field  |
| 21 | 46         | Pryor's Field  | Check area where common spotted orchid grows to ensure it is not being outcompeted; manage appropriately if so.  |
| 21 | 50         | Pryor's Field  | Clear sycamore saplings and laurel from woodland strip along north edge  |
| 21 | 50         | Pryor's Field  | Pull any Himalayan balsam in damp patch. Pull Himalayan balsam in central bramble patch only if whitethroat not breeding.  |
| 21 | Access     | Pryor's Field  | Make sure main paths are clear of bramble and in good order, and ditch line running along the south of the field has been regularly cleared of leaf litter and debris.   |
| 21 | 16, 29     | Pryor's Field  | Blackthorn shrubs along Mixed Pond fence line: remove oak sapling, coppice blackthorn to within 2.5m of fence and lay remaining shrubs along fence line. Achieve this through cutting 3 tranches on a 9 year rotation  |
| 21 | 20         | Pryor's Field  | Cut 1/3rd of the scalloped eastern edge of Pryor's Field between the path and shrubs (excluding the area dominated by blackthorn) on a rotational basis  |
| 21 | 13         | Pryor's Field  | <b>Remove seedling/sapling trees in grassland and gorse along northern edge</b> , and maintain gorse by clearing bramble. Replenish gorse as necessary.  |
| 21 | 6          | Pryor's Field  | Reduce the extent of areas of bramble as specified on management plan, cutting by hand where ant hills are present.  |
| 21 | 50         | Pryor's Field  | Remove sycamore trees and saplings from large willow area on the southern edge near the fairground site  |
| 21 | 16         | Pryor's Field  | Coppice selected areas of shrubs on the Field side of the scrub band parallel to East Heath road, in order to thicken it up. Plant hazel or hawthorn where additional shrubs are required. This will improve the visual screen and the habitat for birds. Carry out in two tranches, one within 3 years, the other in perhaps 10 years' time, to be assessed |

|           |          |                           |   |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|---|
| 21        | 50       | Pryor's Field             | <b>Remove sapling Tree of Heaven near Catalpa tree</b>  |
| 21        | Access   | Pryor's Field             | Remove some bramble from north-west corner access path on both sides to make entrance to Pryors Field more attractive, with a better view of the field                        |
| 21        | 4        | Pryor's Field             | Cut a small area of bramble in north-east of field with aim of eradicating it   |
| 21        | 50       | Pryor's Field             | Pull or cut any purple Michaelmas daisy or white Michaelmas daisy not growing in main patch   |
| 21        | 47       | Pryor's Field             | Monitor extent of hogweed   |
| 21        | 50       | Pryor's Field             | Cut areas dominated by hogweed or remove flowers before seeding and take off site in all areas except that specified on map in management plan                                |
| 21        | 50       | Pryor's Field             | Cut round Michaelmas daisy and bramble patches to retain current extent   |
| 21        | 50       | Pryor's Field             | Control Japanese knotweed   |
| 21        | 6, 50    | Pryor's Field             | Control bramble and thistle as specified in management plan   |
| 22        | 6        | East Heath Road           | Control spread of bramble, trees etc. onto road and grassland   |
| 22        | 6        | East Heath Road           | Regularly prune willows to maintain form and maintain safe driver visibility at car park entrance   |
| 23        | 6        | Willow Road               | Keep bramble back to current frontier, with elm suckers removed   |
| 23        | 29, 30   | Preacher's Hill           | Lay and extend short hedge on boundary of Children's Playground   |
| 23        | 29, 30   | <b>Preacher's Hill</b>    | <b>Lay hedge between Children's Playground and Downshire Hill and Willow Road</b>   |
| 23        | 4, 6     | Preacher's Hill           | Substantially reduce area of bramble to regenerate grassland by repeated cutting, avoiding damage to daffodils. 1st cut outside bird nesting season.                          |
| 23        | 50       | Preacher's Hill           | Cut area of California brome repeatedly to stop it flowering, leaving patch of Russian comfrey  |
| 23        | 6        | Preacher's Hill           | Cut rough grassland & incipient scrub alongside Christchurch Road monthly, May-September  |
| 23        | 6        | Preacher's Hill           | Cut cow parsley/ rough grassland and incipient scrub alongside Willow Road monthly, June/ early July (after cow parsley has flowered) -September                              |
| 23        | 6        | Preacher's Hill           | Remove dead cherry, 2 Turkey oaks, cherry sapling, & raise crown of large Turkey oak, to restore grassland  |
| 23        | 1, 46    | Preacher's Hill           | Remove dead trunk in SE corner, coppice elm regrowth, plant black poplar  |
| 23        | 1, 46    | Preacher's Hill           | Remove dead willow near Willow Road, plant black poplar   |
| 23        | 16, 50   | Preacher's Hill           | Remove sycamores & sapling ashes to benefit plane and oak, clump near East Heath Road   |
| 23        | 1        | Preacher's Hill           | Cut back small area of holly to improve view  |
| 23        | 1        | Preacher's Hill           | Plant suitable trees, e.g. crab apple, alongside Christchurch Road  |
| 23        | 16       | Preacher's Hill           | Reduce ivy on woodland trees  |
| 24        | 1        | Lime Avenue               | Cut back epicormic growth at base of limes along avenue length  |
| 25        | 6        | Mixed Pond meadow         | Cut grassland regularly, to keep back bramble encroachment  |
| 25        | H6       | Mixed Pond meadow         | Prune oaks to retain view of Christchurch steeple   |
| 26        | 32       | Tumulus Field             | Allow regeneration of 3-4 oak saplings to former hedge line across Tumulus Field, in line with existing trees. Leave a strip of grass unmown along the line of the old hedge. |
| <b>27</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>Tumulus Field Pond</b> | <b>Cut vegetation surrounding pond</b>  |
| 27        | 9        | Tumulus Field Pond        | Remove all Elodea, and reduce other marginal vegetation to maintain area of open water  |
| 28        | 29       | Third Hedge               | Lay another very short section along southern side of hedge.  |
| 28        | 46       | Third Hedge               | Cut bramble on southern side of hedge to protect pignut   |

|           |            |  |   |
|-----------|------------|--|---|
| 28        | 6          | Third Hedge                              | Cut back current year's extension of bramble on southern side of hedge  |
| 29        | 25         | Small Tumulus Field                      | Prepare a compartment management work plan  |
| 29        | 50         | Small Tumulus Field                      | Cut area of hogweed near main path repeatedly to control it   |
| 29        | 50, Access | Small Tumulus Field                      | Cut central triangle, where ragwort has become dominant   |
| 29        | 4, 16      | Small Tumulus Field                      | Cut top half of rough area in upper, south, corner of field   |
| <b>30</b> | <b>16</b>  | <b>Copse above Parliament Hill café</b>  | <b>Coppice 5-10m width hawthorn &amp; ash saplings on south side of path to create denser habitat and open up path</b>  |
| 31        | 4, 6, 7    | Sparrows site                            | Undertake wholesale pulling of thistle at the end of July, then cut shortly afterwards  |
| <b>31</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>Sparrows Site</b>                     | <b>Soften shape of meadow, making outline more sinuous by sowing further adjacent small areas</b>   |
| <b>32</b> | <b>30</b>  | <b>Hedge from Lido northwards</b>        | <b>Lay southern half of hedge</b>   |
| 33        | 6          | Parliament Hill, near Dump               | Mow close to fallen tree to prevent brambles growing up   |
| 34        | 16         | <b>Parliament Hill shrub islands</b>     | <b>Lay second-to-bottom shrub island on western path</b>  |
| 35        | 50         | Nassington Road Entrance                 | Control patch of Japanese knotweed north of entrance  |
| 36        | E1         | Heath Life Education Centre              | Manage wildlife garden and its hedge for ecology & education.   |
| 37        | E1         | Secret Garden                            | Manage for ecology and education  |
| 38        | 9          | Grassland west of Secret Garden entrance | Re-sow a strip of cornflower annuals along edge away from path.   |
| 39        | Access     | Highgate no 1 and Men's ponds            | Maintain windows onto ponds at trig points  |
| 39        | H6, 1, 39  | Highgate no 1 pond                       | Maintain 2 open viewing windows and prevent shading of marginals by coppicing willows on 3 year rotation. Windows should be re-coppiced if required to maintain view.   |
| 40        | 40         | Boating pond                             | Repair and maintain fence surrounding reedbeds  |
| 40        | 42, 45     | Boating pond                             | Maintain floating reedbeds/islands and aerators   |
| 41        | 7          | South Meadow                             | Mow all grassy glades except large areas north of stream to allow access & maintain grassland. Retain strip of long grass round edges.  |
| 41        | 7          | South Meadow                             | North of stream, cut 1/3 grassland (see management plan), leaving refuges   |
| 41        | 50         | South Meadow                             | Remove oak seedlings from grassland   |
| 41        | 14, 15     | South Meadow                             | Extend gorse patch near Highgate Gate towards birch tree  |
| 41        | 6          | South Meadow                             | Cut back bramble in grassy northern section to close to drip lines of trees. All glades in woodland which are currently predominantly thick bramble should be left as such, apart from maintaining any footpaths through them. Retain a brambly fringe round woodland glades. |
| 41        | 50         | South Meadow                             | Remove sweet chestnut sapling in glade near dead veteran oak near kenwood fence   |
| 41        | 50         | South Meadow                             | Pull or cut small balsam in Kenwood SSSI strip before it flowers  |
| 41        | 50         | South Meadow                             | Remove laurel & sycamore saplings & seedlings   |
| 41        | Access     | South Meadow                             | Strim bramble from paths if required to maintain access   |
| 41        | Access     | South Meadow                             | Try to reduce erosion on south side of wooden bridge over stream by placing brush & logs over area  |
| 41        | Access     | South Meadow                             | Maintain area in front of Chubb shelter   |

|    |                       |   |   |
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| 41 | 16, 26                | South Meadow                            | Further remove or cut back holly in woodland selectively to improve visibility in woodland & reduce canopy competition where holly is tall.                 |
| 41 | 19                    | South Meadow                            | Review need for further thinning & glade creation   |
| 41 | 6, 19                 | South Meadow                            | Remove encroachment of willow, north and east of Herman Barr bench in northern grassland, and coppice nearby willow trees (adjacent to area previously cut) |
| 41 | 50                    | South Meadow                            | Remove invasive Michaelmas daisy in glade   |
| 42 | Access                | Chubb shelter                           | Clear any scrub obscuring shelter as necessary  |
| 43 | 1                     | Saxon ditch near Hampstead Gate         | <b>Remove brambles, excessive leaf litter and brushwood; maintain dead hedges aimed at reducing footfall on the historic feature</b>                        |
| 44 | 47                    | Stream culvert crossing by bird feeders | Cut round where cuckoo flower grows   |
| 45 | 19                    | Orchard                                 | Continue to coppice area of hazel/ash on a 7 year rotation. Plant additional hazel to fill gaps. Section 3 2014. Section 4 2015                             |
| 45 | Access                | Orchard                                 | Cut hedges, cut back nettles and other vegetation from path.  |
| 45 | 16                    | Orchard                                 | Clear around recently planted hazels  |
| 45 | 16                    | Orchard                                 | Remove one large sycamore   |
| 45 | 16                    | Orchard                                 | Raise crowns of selected beeches, especially near footpaths   |
| 45 | 16                    | Orchard                                 | Plant 2-4 pear and 2-4 apple trees into open sections. Section 3 2015 London and Middlesex varieties  |
| 46 | 47, 50                | Cohen's Field ponds                     | Monitor for invasive species and remove as necessary  |
| 46 | 46, 50, visual access | Cohen's Field ponds                     | Stop shrubs & climbers growing higher than fence  |
| 46 | 36                    | Cohen's Field ponds                     | Autumn or late winter cut to pond edges to maintain a grassy fringe.  |
| 47 | 6, 16                 | Upper (western) Cohen's Field           | Cut back overgrown fringe of scrub/tall vegetation on eastern boundary, preserving suitable saplings which will help screen Athlone House                   |
| 47 | H6                    | Upper (western) Cohen's Field           | Plant black poplars along eastern boundary of field where screening of Athlone House is required  |
| 47 | Access                | Upper (western) Cohen's Field           | Maintain ditch to upper new pond to retain nearby crossing point  |
| 47 | 6                     | <b>Upper (western) Cohen's Field</b>    | <b>Remove expanding patch blackthorn, centre of Field towards northern edge</b>   |
| 47 | 50                    | Upper (western) Cohen's Field           | Control Japanese knotweed re-growth above Goodison fountain hedge line  |
| 48 | 6                     | Lower (east) Cohen's Field              | Cut back bramble islands developing under isolated trees to tree canopy & remove any tree & shrub regeneration within these bramble islands.                |
| 48 | 6                     | Lower (east) Cohen's Field              | Grub out sapling trees from western fringe.   |
| 48 | 6                     | Lower (east) Cohen's Field              | Cut back half way to streamline the brambles which have encroached on eastern edge  |
| 48 | 26                    | <b>Lower (eastern) Cohen's Field</b>    | <b>Fell sycamore tree on boundary by allotments to benefit veteran oak</b>  |
| 49 | 46, 50                | Model Farm Compartment                  | Eradicate knotweed and balsam. Also cut back fringe vegetation and saplings to maintain some open ground  |
| 49 | 7, 46                 | Model Farm compartment: top meadow      | Continue to manage as open grassland by cutting in autumn.  |
| 49 | 4, 6, 46              | Model Farm compartment: top meadow      | July cut to perimeter of meadow and to selected coarse areas of grass/scrub to reduce vigour. Care should be taken of grass snakes.                         |

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| 49 | 7, 46             | Model Farm<br>Compartment:<br>Middle section       | Maintain as rough meadow through autumn cut  |
| 49 | 20                | Model Farm<br>compartment- top<br>meadow           | <b>Coppice sapling + scrub thicket along northern boundary of top meadow to prevent it from developing into woodland.</b>  |
| 49 | 4, 46             | Model Farm<br>compartment:<br>farm section         | Remove 2 sycamores from north-west of farm area  |
| 50 | 7                 | Pipeline Triangle                                  | Early summer cut to Triangle to reduce coarse grass vigour & encourage later-flowering knapweed & bedstraw   |
| 51 | 1 &<br>others     | Athlone House<br>acquisition                       | Management according to detailed management plan   |
| 52 | 19                | Cohen's Wood                                       | Thin oaks selectively and use timber for projects around the Heath   |
| 53 | 36                | Stream line from<br>Cohen's Wood to<br>Ladies pond | Recoppice streamline area. Maintain dams & aquatic vegetation to improve water quality along catchments. Further clearance & dam creation may be necessary.            |
| 54 | 1, 36 &<br>others | Ecofield   | On-going maintenance including planting, pruning, weeding & mowing   |
| 54 | 29                | Ecofield   | Cut Leylandii hedge  |
| 54 | 1                 | Ecofield   | Develop management plan for area   |
| 54 | 9                 | Ecofield   | Develop wildflower area  |
| 55 | 6                 | Ladies Pond<br>meadow                              | Cut back periphery of isolated bramble patch 1m and whole of newly-developing bramble patch nearby further north   |
| 55 | 47, 50            | Ladies Pond<br>meadow                              | Monitor and possibly remove thistle & ragwort round damp area  |
| 55 | 4                 | Ladies Pond<br>meadow                              | Reduce erosion caused by paths by cutting alternative desire lines adjacent to existing path in summer   |
| 56 | 47                | Stock Pond<br>meadow                               | Monitor extent of bracken and rush   |
| 56 | 47                | Stock Pond<br>meadow                               | Cut patches of invading rush in cold weather to reduce vigour, leaving main patch beside path  |
| 56 | 6                 | Stock Pond<br>meadow                               | Remove saplings growing near rushes and oval sedge, <b>and remove hawthorn bush in centre of field</b>   |
| 57 | 1                 | Ladies Pond<br>enclosure                           | Carry out wildflower meadow improvements, cyclical coppicing and pollarding  |
| 57 | Access,<br>39     | Ladies pond<br>enclosure                           | NW edge of pond: remove woody debris from water & coppice 15m section of bankside to encourage emergent vegetation & reduce debris encroachment into the swimming area |
| 57 | 36                | Ladies pond<br>enclosure                           | Enhance wetland through creation of pools at the northern marsh area of pond   |
| 57 | 6                 | Ladies pond<br>enclosure                           | Cut northern wet meadow area to prevent scrub encroachment.  |
| 58 | 36                | Stock Pond   | Continue to selectively thin & lift bankside trees to increase light levels & reduce leaf litter: remove dead elms   |
| 58 | 46                | Stock Pond   | Clear round wild service tree saplings   |
| 58 | 36, 39,<br>50     | Stock Pond   | <i>Re-open canopy above northern marsh area. Remove seedling alders and dogwood</i>  |
| 58 | 36                | Stock Pond   | Cut back scrub encroaching onto northern marsh area. Cut back to dead hedge.   |
| 59 | 50                | Bird Sanctuary                                     | Control Himalayan balsam & giant hogweed   |
| 59 | 47                | Bird Sanctuary                                     | Weekly clean & fill bird feeder  |
| 59 | Access            | Bird Sanctuary                                     | Trim small hedge in front of bird feeder to maintain visibility  |
| 59 | 39                | Bird Sanctuary                                     | Coppice 10% of willows & alder along eastern edge. Avoid working near kingfisher nesting bank  |
| 59 | 39                | Bird Sanctuary                                     | Regular coppice or removal of recent regrowth from large birch tree southwards on one-year rotation, to provide more light to water                                    |

|    |        |                                    |  |
|----|--------|------------------------------------|--|
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Continue to expand wet meadow E of pond through selective coppicing of trees and scrub encroachment  |
| 59 | H6     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Coppice alder & dogwood S end of pond to maintain view points  |
| 59 | 19     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Coppice hazel area E of pond on 7 year rotation. Remove competing elm scrub.   |
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Create large pool/channel N side of pond to increase wetness & habitat for reedbed   |
| 59 | 39     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Remove selected trees and shrubs near reedbed  |
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Reedbed cutting section 4  |
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Dig more pools in western meadow to prevent drying out   |
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Continue to increase reedbed through selective felling of birch & willow along NW edge of pond   |
| 59 | 6      | Bird Sanctuary                     | Cut eastern dry area to prevent scrub encroachment.  |
| 59 | 36     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Cut eastern wet meadow late winter   |
| 59 | 6      | Bird Sanctuary                     | Cut north western rough meadow to prevent succession. Keep some rosebay willowherb and maintain a bramble fringe. Autumn cut followed by late spring and mid-summer cut. |
| 59 | 6      | Bird Sanctuary                     | Cut rough meadow to the north of the reedbed late winter/early spring.   |
| 59 | 6      | Bird Sanctuary                     | Late cut and early summer cut to grass area surrounding bird feeders to maintain as grassland  |
| 59 | H6     | Bird Sanctuary                     | Consider opening up viewing window again from corner nearest Millfield toilets   |
| 59 | Access | Bird Sanctuary                     | Open up 1-2 new sightlines from western section towards reeds.   |
| 59 | 1      | <b>Bird Sanctuary</b>              | <b>Prepare a management work plan</b>  |
| 60 | 50     | Southern slopes of Parliament Hill | Continue experimental regime of cutting selected areas of thistle monthly in season  |

## Hampstead Heath Extension

| Map ref. | Policy nos. | Location                    | Description of work  |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 61       | Access      | Heath Extension, path edges | Rough cut throughout growing season  |
| 61       | 7           | Heath Extension meadows     | Late cut to meadows in general   |
| 61       | 6, 50       | Heath Extension meadows     | Removal of thistles, ragwort and seedling trees  |
| 61       | 20          | Heath Extension meadows     | Development of scalloped edges between mown and long grass   |
| 61       | 4, 20       | Heath Extension meadows     | Reduction in the amount of bramble & some thistle where prolific on edges  |
| 62       | 6           | Meadow above changing rooms | Hand grub tree seedlings and saplings  |
| 62       | 6           | Meadow above changing rooms | Cut back bramble 2m if expanding into meadow   |
| 62       | 9           | Meadow above changing rooms | Cut back raspberry to try and control it. Prevent it spreading into the grassland.   |
| 63       | 6, 7        | Ikin's Corner meadow        | Clear scrub and bramble to conserve broad-leaved helleborine, then maintain. <b>Coppice saplings west side of path for about 50m northwards.</b> |
| 63       | 6, 8        | Ikin's Corner meadow        | Cut grassland every 2 years - next cut 2014  |
| 63       | 6, 9        | Ikin's Corner meadow        | Cut bramble growing either side of hedge running down to ponds, including twice in growing season  |
| 64       | 7           | New hockey pitch            | Top 50% thistle along hedgerow on west of grassland  |

|     |           |   |   |
|-----|-----------|---|---|
| 64  | 7         | New hockey pitch  | Maintain scalloped edge to bramble & close-mown grass   |
| 65  | 7         | Meadow west of children's play area                           | Top 80% thistle along east hedge  |
| 66  | 6         | Meadow Lower & Upper Wield Field (formerly Meadow 308)        | Reduce peripheral bramble. Target encroachment along north edge & remove seedling tree encroachment into meadow.                                      |
| 66  | Access    | Meadow Lower & Upper Wield Field (formerly Meadow 308)        | Maintain horse ride and reinstate signposting   |
| 67  | 50        | Meadow at North Point (far NE corner of Extension)            | Hand pull or cut 80% thistle  |
| 67  | 7         | Meadow at North Point (far NE corner of Extension)            | Late annual cut leaving refuges   |
| 67  | 20        | Meadow at North Point (far NE corner of Extension)            | Develop scalloped edge between mown & uncut grass   |
| 67  | 7, 47     | Meadow at North Point (far NE corner of Extension)            | Cut & monitor three trial grassland management strips, cutting e.g. April/May; July; July then late   |
| 67  | 29        | Meadow at North Point (far NE corner of Extension)            | Cut hawthorn hedge  |
| 67a | 30        | <b>Extension hedge north of cricket pitches</b>               | <b>Lay unlayed western section.</b>   |
| 68  | 4         | Eastern edge of Extension                                     | Maintain cut grass strip at base of privet hedges at rear of private gardens  |
| 69  | 4, 16, 18 | Damp triangle   | Allow to develop as rough grassland dotted with trees and shrubs, which will in future be coppiced  |
| 70  | 16        | Copse of aspen saplings                                       | Weed as required. Keep free of everything except aspens. Do not thin aspens.  |
| 70  | 19        | Crossing point of footpath and horse ride near Wellgarth Road | <b>Coppice/lay scrub and saplings near crossing point and between crossing point and road to increase light levels and improve sightlines on road</b> |
| 71  | 20        | Hedge between cricket & football pitches                      | Retain 4m bramble/grassland fringe to hedge, leaving some wide sections clear to give occasional access to stream                                     |
| 72  | 6         | Grassland in NE corner of football pitch field                | <b>Grub sapling trees from grass area in upper corner near hedgerow</b>   |
| 72  | 6         | Area between horse ride & junior cricket field                | Hand grub tree seedlings and saplings in uncut area & allow habitat to improve for meadow ants. Cut around hills                                      |
| 72  | 6         | Area between horse ride & junior cricket field                | Cut thistle areas thistles to east and west in July to stop spread into area of ant hills   |
| 73  | 46        | Large cricket field   | Maintain native black poplar saplings at lower north corner of field  |



|    |        |   |  |
|----|--------|---|--|
| 73 | 46     | Large cricket field   | Plant two more native black poplar saplings at lower north corner of field   |
| 73 | H6     | Near damp patch   | Maintain viewing windows on both sides to give more view of stream   |
| 74 | 16, 18 | Old wood banks to east of Extension ponds                                       | <b>Restore old wild hazel stools on and near bank east of ponds by coppicing and reducing over-shading.</b> Remove holly if supressing hazel stools along wood bank edge.  |
| 74 | 9      | Wild flower area west of ponds  | Clear and re-sow with an annual meadow mix. Remove fence in late spring/summer once establishment adequate. <b>This will be last year this meadow will be seeded.</b>  |
| 74 | 4, 7   | Extension Ponds   | Maintain damp meadow by late winter/ early spring cut & clear from W edge of ponds 2-7, Feb or early March. See management plan for location.  |
| 74 | 6, 16  | Extension Ponds   | Cut/coppice scrub & grub bramble from N, S & E edge of ponds 1 to maintain low scrub & wildflower area & prevent encroachment into pond. Remove fallen hawthorn. See management plan for location  |
| 74 | 6, 16  | Extension Ponds   | Cut/coppice scrub & grub bramble for N, S & E edges of ponds 3&4 to maintain low scrub & wildflower area & prevent encroachment into pond. See management plan for location  |
| 74 | 19     | Extension ponds   | <b>Remove selected hollies from corners of Ponds 1, 2 and 3.</b>   |
| 74 | H6     | Extension Ponds   | Prune recently layed hedge along No.2 pond. Re-lay 2022.   |
| 74 | 19     | Extension Ponds   | <b>Remove one willow tree and lift another, Pond 1, to increase light levels</b>   |
| 74 | 16     | Extension Ponds   | Selectively coppice shrub islands/groups on 10 yr. cycle to maintain thick vegetation. Coppice 1 island/yr. See management plan for location.  |
| 74 | 29, 30 | Extension Ponds   | Lay or thicken short hedge section running from pond 1 east towards Wildwood road.   |
| 74 | 36     | Extension Ponds   | Maintain open water by removing 50%-75% emergent vegetation from ponds 2-6 approx. every 10 years. Spread arisings along ground to west of ponds 4-6. Maintain minimum 50% open water. Pond 3 2013, pond 4 2015, Pond 6 2018, ponds 2& 5 2020. |
| 74 | 50     | Extension Ponds   | Remove New Zealand Pigmyweed, <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , from pond 2+5 and any other ponds where it is present  |
| 74 | 47     | Extension Ponds   | Monitor dragonflies  |
| 74 | Access | Extension Ponds   | Maintain views to ponds in small sections of east and west sides through summer coppicing of vegetation.   |
| 74 | 46     | Path edge near to Extension No.1 pond   | Ensure marsh woundwort population west of Pond 1 is conserved. <b>Coppice willow shading plants and move short section of narrow path to west by cutting through nettle patch.</b>   |
| 75 | 29, 30 | <b>Extension, near north-east corner</b>  | <b>Lay west half of hedge and gap up</b>   |
| 76 | 30     | Extension, hedge on east side of horse ride at latitude of Chidren's Playground | <b>Lay hedge</b>   |

## West and Sandy Heaths and Judges Hollow

| Map ref. | Policy nos.    | Location   | Description of work   |
|----------|----------------|--|---|
| 77       | 2, 7           | Flagstaff  | Regular cut, but with midsummer window to allow flowering of wildflowers  |
| 77       | H6             | Flagstaff  | Maintain view from benches towards Harrow   |
| 77       | 13, 14         | Flagstaff gorse patch  | Coppice a section of gorse on 12 year rotation and remove seedlings sycamore, oak and birch in compartment. Section 2 in 2014. Section 3 in 2015. Follow-up bramble removal in spring/summer needed |
| 77       | 13, 14         | Flagstaff gorse patch  | Plant any open areas with gorse   |
| 77       | 13, 14         | Flagstaff gorse patch  | Follow up management of recently expanded area of gorse. Section 1 in 2014- Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse. Section 3 in 2015            |
| 77       | Access, safety | Flagstaff gorse patch  | Coppice 1-2m strip of gorse from either side of main east-west track to maintain access and firebreak   |
| 78       | 13             | Heath lands, next to Jack Straws car park                                  | Late annual cut, leaving refuges  |
| 79       | 7, 9           | Meadow below Pergola   | Re-sow wildflower meadow  |
| 79       | 13, 14         | Heather stand on slope by Hill garden middle gate (old section of Pergola) | Weed existing heather & grow on gorse seedlings for future planting. Increase area of heather/acid grassland by cutting back scrub  |
| 79       | 13, 50         | Heather stand on slope by Hill garden middle gate (old section of Pergola) | Control bracken   |
| 80       | 46, 50         | Area opposite Hill Garden main gate, adjacent to North End Way             | Remove bramble & bracken encroaching on lily-of-the-valley & grassland  |
| 80       | 13             | Inverforth Close/Hill Garden heather site                                  | Weed and maintain heather   |
| 80       | 14             | Inverforth Close/Hill Garden heather site                                  | Increase area of heathland/acid grassland through selective tree and scrub removal from eastern edge  |
| 80       | 14, 15         | Inverforth Close/Hill Garden heather site                                  | Cut perimeter of area 2-3 times to prevent bramble and scrub encroachment.  |
| 81       | 13             | Drying Ground  | Coppice or lift gorse growing over heather surrounding gorse patch. Weed & maintain heather on slopes   |
| 81       | 15             | Drying Ground  | Maintain open aspect under pines by bramble & scrub removal   |
| 81       | 14             | Drying Ground  | Continue to Increase area of Heathland/acid grassland through selective tree and scrub removal southern slopes towards hollow. Rake or scrape off heavy areas of leaf mulch.                        |
| 81       | 6, 14, 15      | Drying Ground  | Cut open area down to hollow to prevent scrub regrowth and establish grassland  |
| 82       | 7              | Grass Square opposite Bull & Bush public house                             | Late cut to grass, removing cuttings. Cut away from road edge.  |

|     |            |   |   |
|-----|------------|---|---|
| 82  | 50         | Grass Square opposite Bull & Bush public house                            | Control knotweed  |
| 83  | 29         | Cuttings Path   | Maintain hedge and prevent encroachment   |
| 83  | 7          | Cuttings Path   | Maintain grass bank with late annual cut  |
| 83  | 16, 19     | Cuttings Path   | Maintain sightlines and open aspect along length of path  |
| 84  | 50         | Heather adjacent to main path leading through West Heath 50m in from Dump | Control bracken on slope adjacent to area   |
| 84  | 13, 14, 15 | Heather adjacent to main path leading through West Heath 50m in from Dump | Weed heather 2 to 3 times yearly.   |
| 84  | 4, 6       | Heather adj. main path leading through West Heath 50m in from Dump        | Regular cuts of newly opened grass areas to prevent scrub encroachment  |
| 85  | 39, 40     | Leg of Mutton Pond  | Cut back holly & coppice/pollard selective trees from pond banks, on 4-year rotation to allow light to penetrate marginal areas. Prevent regrowth in areas of good emergent vegetation. 1 side a year |
| 85  | 39         | Leg of Mutton Pond  | Removal of tree and scrub cover shading out marginal vegetation, particularly on north side   |
| 85  | 39         | Leg of Mutton Pond  | Remove willow and birch scrub growing in reedbed. Cut back/grub out bramble encroachment from edges   |
| 85  | 36         | Leg of Mutton Pond  | Cut reeds every 8 years   |
| 85a | 50         | Woodland rear of garden fences (area south-west of Leg of Mutton Pond)    | Monitor & control Japanese knotweed   |
| 86  | 16         | Main body of West Heath woodland  | Develop & increase deadwood habitat piles. Place timber in bramble in shade.  |
| 86  | 16         | Main body of West Heath woodland  | Maintain open glades through removal of sycamores   |
| 86a | Access     | West Heath roadside   | Keep road edge & bollards visible by close-mowing through season  |
| 87  | 7          | West Heath meadow   | Late cut to lower part of meadow, leaving refuges   |
| 88  | 36, 44, 46 | West Heath valley mire (West Heath bog)                                   | Remove encroaching bramble from around dwarf willow & seepage points  |
| 88  | 46         | West Heath valley mire (West Heath bog)                                   | Cut Juncus & Glyceria before frosts to allow improved growth of sphagnum species  |
| 88  | 46         | West Heath valley mire (West Heath bog)                                   | Try to expand sphagnum through pool re-creation & translocation   |
| 88  | 46         | West Heath valley mire (West Heath bog)                                   | Maintain low herbage through regular cutting. Monitor for development of sphagnum.  |

|    |        |   |   |
|----|--------|---|---|
| 88 | 14     | West Heath valley mire (West Heath bog)               | Regular cut of area between West Heath meadow & bog through removal of scrub & selective lifting & thinning of trees. This will increase area of acid-loving flora such as tormentil. |
| 89 | 36     | Whitestone Pond                                       | Maintain pond to specification outlined by City Surveyors. Cut reedbed in early spring  |
| 90 | Access | Lower corner West Heath road/ Branch Hill junction    | Maintain sightlines for traffic on lower bend.  |
| 90 | Access | Lower corner West Heath road/ Branch Hill junction    | Cut back road edge from Branch Hill junction down to West Heath meadow if necessary road closure can be obtained.   |
| 91 | 7, 50  | Flat area at top of Judges Hollow, close to flagstaff | Early cut; top thistle within grassland area  |
| 91 | 50     | <b>Judges Hollow</b>                                  | <b>Flail low bramble patches invading grassland</b>   |
| 91 | 7, 13  | Judges Hollow small wooded area & steep slope         | Late annual cut to half slope   |
| 91 | 50     | Judges Hollow small wooded area & steep slope         | An isolated & expanding area of thistle & nettle on edges of bank needs regular cut to prevent expansion into acid grassland  |
| 91 | 50     | Judges Hollow lower section & gentle slope            | Cut or pull patches of nettle among fine grasses  |
| 91 | 50     | Judges Hollow lower section & gentle slope            | Selective cut during May & July to reduce aggressive coarse grasses.  |
| 91 | 50     | Judges Hollow lower section & gentle slope            | Remove bramble & seedling trees encroaching on all open areas   |
| 91 | 50     | Judges Hollow area of mature gorse                    | Remove large turkey oak and any seedling sycamores  |
| 91 | 7      | Judges Hollow lime & chestnut avenue                  | Late cut of grass next to houses.   |
| 91 | Access | Judges Hollow lime & chestnut avenue                  | Prune epicormic shoots on limes   |
| 92 | Access | Path from Spaniards Green to Ikin's Corner            | Cut back bramble encroachment   |
| 92 | 20     | Sandy Road  | Continue cutting 2 coupes/year along ride in 5-year rotation. Sections 2b +4b in 2014. 1b + 3a 2015. See map.   |
| 92 | 20     | Sandy Road  | Cut scalloped 2-3m strip along path edge during July  |
| 93 | H1     | Cooling Track   | Monitor & remove tree seedlings along ditch as necessary  |
| 93 | 7      | Cooling Track   | Glade opposite Extension top locking bar: late cut at end of season   |
| 93 | 43     | Cooling Track   | Clear ditch culvert as necessary  |
| 94 | 50     | Old Sand Pit, behind Heath House                      | Remove seedling sycamores   |
| 94 | Access | Old Sand Pit, behind Heath House                      | Shape low epicormic growth from lime trees by bench   |

|     |            |   |   |
|-----|------------|---|---|
| 95  | 7, 50      | Woodland next path & horse chestnut avenue, south of end of North End | Late cut to the Lily of the Valley area to remove bramble & ivy encroachment  |
| 97  | 39         | Sandy Heath ponds   | Selectively coppice or remove tree/gorse and scrub cover from the edge of pond No.1 to prevent shading and establishment of large trees. Also selectively coppice banksides of ponds 2+3 if not done in 2014. |
| 97  | 4, 14      | All Sandy Heath ponds   | Remove bramble developing in damp shaded areas & acid grassland   |
| 97  | 36         | All Sandy Heath ponds   | Remove selected emergent vegetation + sediment to prevent succession & maintain area of open water. Pond 1 in 2014 or 2015 with mini-digger/contractor  |
| 97  | 14         | All Sandy Heath ponds   | Regular cut of grass adjacent pond 4 to establish & maintain acid grassland   |
| 97  | 36         | Main Sandy pond   | Boom and net duckweed from pond No.2 surface when covering greater than 25% of pond surface   |
| 97  | 39         | Main Sandy pond   | Remove trees from centre of large Iris bed in pond No.2.  |
| 97  | 14         | Sandy Heath grassland   | Remove turkey oaks from selected areas to increase the extent of acid grassland.  |
| 98  | 13, 14     | Pitt's Garden   | Weed & maintain heather plantings. Remove pine tree seedlings & saplings. Remove willow saplings.   |
| 98  | 16         | Pitt's Garden   | Remove three pine tree to provide room for the rest to mature   |
| 98  | 13         | Pitt's Garden   | Keep bramble controlled in areas of gorse   |
| 98  | Access     | Pitt's Garden   | Remove wooden fence surrounding the arch  |
| 98  | 14, 15     | Pitt's Garden   | High cut of northern heather section to maintain as low heath and prevent scrub encroachment  |
| 98  | 14, 15     | Pitt's Garden   | Cut around heather sections to prevent scrub encroachment   |
| 98  | H1         | Pitt's Garden   | Keep listed wall adjacent to North End clear of vegetation.   |
| 98  | H1, 50     | Pitt's Garden   | Remove some bramble & buddleia & coppice gorse along top of crib wall bank  |
| 98  | 4          | Pitt's Garden   | Maintain margins as grassland & prevent scrub encroachment on path by fence adjoining North End Way   |
| 98  | 14         | Pitt's Garden   | Increase area of potential heathland through removal of selected shrubs and trees from northern section.  |
| 99  | 6          | Paddock   | Grub tree seedlings & bramble as necessary  |
| 99  | 50         | Paddock   | Reduce thistles   |
| 99  | 7          | Paddock   | Early spring cut to 80% of meadow, leaving refuges, & repeat cut in summer, to encourage scabious   |
| 99  | 46         | Paddock   | Plant scabious plugs around Paddock to encourage spread   |
| 100 | 50         | Large (Summer) Meadow   | Control majority of Canadian golden rod, Russian comfrey & Michaelmas daisy as required   |
| 100 | 50         | Large (Summer) Meadow   | Remove non-native tree seedling in peripheral areas of meadow   |
| 100 | 7          | Large (Summer) Meadow   | Early spring cut (around March) to allow invertebrates to overwinter in dead stems  |
| 100 | 6          | Large (Summer) Meadow   | Cut back bramble edge on south side by 3m   |
| 100 | 6          | Large (Summer) Meadow   | Continue to remove saplings coming up through gorse   |
| 101 | 13, 14, 15 | Sandy Gorse patch   | Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section 3. Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse  |
| 101 | 13, 14, 15 | Sandy Gorse patch   | Gorse expansion in section 1. Remove tree and scrub cover from area. Grub out any bramble. Rake and remove as much top soil as possible. Plant up with potted gorse.  |

|     |            |  |  |
|-----|------------|--|--|
| 101 | 13         | Sandy Gorse patch                                    | Follow up management of recently coppiced area of gorse. Section 2- Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.     |
| 101 | 13         | Sandy Gorse patch                                    | Coppice 1-2m strip of gorse from either side of main east-west track.  |
| 101 | 13, 14, 50 | Sandy Gorse patch                                    | Control bracken  |
| 102 | 16, 23     | Woodland adjacent Spaniard's Road                    | Remove cycle jumps   |
| 103 | H6         | North End Green: corner North End & North End Avenue | Cut bramble beneath trees to open view of Green from North End Avenue.   |
| 103 | Access     | North End Green: corner North End & North End Avenue | Put in new boundary posts adjacent to old ones, leaving the bases of the former rotten posts in the ground for stag beetle larvae and prevent disturbance of newts |
| 104 | 1          | Woodland edge north end Bridle Cottage entrance      | Maintain open aspect along Bridle Cottage wall   |
| 105 | 4          | Hill above Wylde's Farm                              | Maintain 5m grass verge by cutting twice p.a.  |
| 105 | H6         | Hill above Wylde's Farm                              | Remove small holly regrowth & saplings   |
| 105 | H6         | Hill above Wylde's Farm                              | Cut low bramble on bank in summer  |
| 105 | Access     | Wylde's Farm access road                             | Remove any garden rubbish  |
| 105 | Access     | Wylde's farm access road                             | Strim round bollards throughout season   |
| 105 | Access     | Wylde's farm access road                             | Selectively thin trees growing into road   |
| 105 | 16         | Woodland near Wylde's Farm                           | Manage area with pines to encourage these by removing senescent larches and nearby Turkey oaks and planting new Scots pines.                                       |



**Map 1**  
**Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme 2015**  
**Key to conservation work locations**

# Arboricultural Works

## Veteran trees

| Policy nos. | Location                         | Description of proposed works   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| NL13        | Selected locations<br>Heath-wide | <p>Management to tranche of next 10 nominated trees from the Veteran Tree Survey.</p> <p>Proposed works to include:</p> <p>Haloing adjacent tree canopies<br/>Felling selective encroaching trees<br/>Retrenchment pruning<br/>Cable bracing<br/>Dead hedging<br/>Mulching<br/>Moving paths/targets</p> |

## Wild service

| Policy nos. | Location                         | Description of proposed works   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| NL4         | Selected locations<br>Heath-wide | <p>Continue to record new found specimens.</p> <p>Works to nominated trees</p> <p>Proposed works to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haloing adjacent tree canopies</li> <li>• Felling selective encroaching trees</li> <li>• Retrenchment pruning</li> <li>• Dead hedging</li> <li>• Mulching</li> <li>• Moving paths/targets</li> <li>• Planting 4 year old saplings in identified locations</li> <li>• Collecting seed for next tranche of propagation</li> </ul> |

## Poplar project

| Policy nos. | Location                         | Description of proposed works   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| NL1         | Selected locations<br>Heath-wide | <p>Survey of entire Poplar population<br/>Identification &amp; prioritisation of works required</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of lapsed pollards</li> <li>• Removal of ivy to aid annual inspection</li> <li>• Removal of significant dead wood and hazard beams</li> </ul> |



## Un-programmed and routine tasks

| Policy nos. | Location  | Description of proposed works  |
|-------------|---|--|
| NL14        | Selected locations<br>North London Open spaces - wide | <p>Emergency works, to include making safe windblown and recently identified (Arbortrack) unstable and/or decayed trees</p> <p>Felling dead elm regeneration</p> <p>Retrieval of kites and other foreign objects</p> <p>Crown lifting for public/transport access</p> <p>Remedial tree works, to include reduction, felling, pollarding, coppicing &amp; airspading</p> <p>These works produced from Arbortrack Tree Risk Sequencing Inspections.</p> <p>Pest and disease monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect for disease and pests within tree populations, including;</li> <li>• Massaria</li> <li>• Oak Processionary Moth (pheromone trapping)</li> <li>• Chalara fraxinea – (Ash die back)</li> <li>• &amp; AOD (Acute Oak Decline)</li> </ul> |

## Additional Works

| Policy nos. | Location  | Description of proposed works  |
|-------------|---|--|
|             | Burnham Beeches                                       | Veteran beech pollard restoration  |
|             | Haringey & Camden                                     | Working Party – assisting neighbouring Local authorities to carry out woodland conservation & veteran tree management    |
|             | Selected locations<br>North London Open spaces – wide | Flood Management: assisting and advising on arboricultural operations on dam structures on Highgate and Hampstead chains |

# Formal Areas

## Parliament Hill Fields

### Routine Cyclical Maintenance 2015

| <b>Policy nos.</b> | <b>Area</b>  | <b>Description</b>  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| S1, S2, S7         | 1 Cricket Square and Outfield  | Maintain cricket table and outfield which will include mowing, preparation and re-instatement of individual wickets, rolling, fertilising and irrigation. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br>Inspect and maintain cricket practice nets.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | 1 Cricket Square and Outfield  | End of season renovation of cricket table to include deep scarification, solid tine aeration, top-dressing with surrey loam, over seeding with dwarf perennial rye grass, disease and weed control. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.   |
| NL4, NL6           | Woodland planting in cricket enclosure   | Pruning management of blackthorn, hawthorn, rosa, buckthorn plantings along East and Southern boundary of cricket enclosure.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | Bowling Green / Croquet  | Liaise with licensee of the bowling green and offer advice and support throughout the year.<br>Arrange for irrigation and machinery servicing.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | Formal grass sports areas:<br>2 football pitches<br>1 rugby training grid<br>6 schools training grids<br>1 soft ball area<br>5 rounder areas<br>4 mini football training grids | Maintain grass sports pitches and training grids which will include marking out, setting out goal posts, mowing; preparation and re-instatement of individual areas and fertilising. Routine checking of goal post will be completed by daily inspections.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br>Maintain and foster close working relationships with neighbouring schools and encouraging usage of facilities.   |
| S1, S2, S7, S8     | Formal grass sports areas:<br>2 football pitches<br>1 rugby training grid<br>6 schools training grids<br>1 soft ball area<br>5 rounder areas<br>4 mini football training grids | Renovation of grass pitches and grids to include aeration to overcome surface compaction, top-dressing and over-seeding centre circle and goal mouth areas.<br><br>Repairing and checking goal posts, nets and sockets.<br><br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| S1, S2, S7, S8     | Class A Listed Athletics Track<br><br>Organisation and management of School Sports Day   | Daily inspection of track (including hammer cage / pole vault, long jump and javelin run-ups / high jump fan / shot putt landing area / throwing areas etc. to check for debris and wear and tear. Check sand depth and quality and replace as necessary. Keep abreast with current UKA regulation changes. Routine checking of hurdles / landing mats / hammer wires / throwing equipment / pole fault and high jump stands and bars / judges stand / starting blocks / flags / relay batons.<br><br>Replacement and repair as necessary. Setting out of track for meetings and training events (including schools). Ensuring the changing facilities including toilets are in a clean and tidy state on a daily basis. Maintain grass centre area and routinely replace divots. |
| S1, S2, S7         | Petanque Area  | Daily checking of Petanque area to include debris removal, raking and replacement of topdressing material as necessary. Continual monitoring of weed and moss growth.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | 10 Hard Tennis Courts  | Maintain courts to include daily inspections for debris, vegetation, wear and tear. Daily checking of nets and fencing. Management of bookings from 1 April to 31 September and   |

| <b>Policy nos.</b> | <b>Area</b>   | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|---|--|
|                    |   | also weekend bookings from 01 October to 31 March. Monitor open access during the winter season. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods for the control of moss and algae.   |
| P1                 | Informal Recreation Areas<br>Dukes Field<br>Stone of Free Speech<br>Bandstand<br>Grass Surrounds<br>Children's Enclosure. | Grass cutting of individual grass recreational areas a minimum once every seven days.<br>Daily collection of litter, debris and dog faeces.<br>During Spring & Summers term times place temporary bins on Dukes Filed & Stone for Free Speech.<br>Re-instate as necessary.   |
| NL3                | Natural Grassland Areas in Parliament Hill  | Management of existing natural grass areas (front of Lido) to encourage flora and fauna and extend the natural aspects of the Heath into this municipal area.  |
| NL3                | Natural Grassland Areas in Parliament Hill  | Cut and collection of designated areas on a three yearly cycle. All cut grass to be baled and removed.   |
| D1                 | Recently planted Specimen Trees – Dukes Field / Stone of Free Speech  | Maintain specimen trees to include irrigation, pruning for vigour, form, safety, weed and disease control, checking of tree stakes. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| B4                 | Male / Female / Disable Public Toilets  | Ensure daily cleaning of toilets and regular checks. Replenish toilet rolls and soap on an hourly basis during peak times. Arrange for one deep clean in March/April.  |
| D1                 | Mixed Borders in Bowling Green  | Maintain borders to include mulching, routine, formative and regenerative pruning. Non-chemical weed and disease control via hoeing and removal or pruning out dead plants or branches. Hand irrigation if necessary. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| NL6                | Hedge Rows at Highgate Road, Tennis Courts and Bowling Green  | Cut native hedges (outside of bird nesting season) to an appropriate height to encourage vigour, density and maintain views.   |
| P3<br>B8           | Memorial Benches / Litter bins / Tennis Hut Shelter / Tennis Huts   | Repair, re-stain or re-paint benches. Remove graffiti and bird droppings as required.  |
| B8                 | Footpaths, Signage, Fences  | Footpaths, signage, fences will be checked on a daily basis and repairs carried out as and when required. Grass edging will be carried out during the growing season and wooden edging boards repaired as necessary.   |
| P1                 | Routine patrolling of Parliament Hill Area  | Visual presence will be maintained by Keeping staff during opening hours. Staff will interface with the public and hand out information answer queries and monitor bye-laws as necessary.<br>Assist the Hampstead Heath Constabulary with emergency situation, for example lost children, lost dogs and vulnerable people. |
|                    | Christmas Tree  | Sighting and later, dismantling of Christmas Tree by main Highgate Road entrance.  |
| A8                 | Heath Hands Volunteers  | Provide a programme for Heath Hand volunteers for the horticulture projects and works undertaken at the Parliament Hill area.  |
| P8                 | Filming   | Manage events to ensure that there is no long-term damage to the landscape and minimise disruption to local communities.   |

## Parliament Hill Project - 2015

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| B14 | Highgate Road Gate Way<br>Ball / Bull Path Gateway         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove hedging as agreed by Consultative Committee</li> <li>Plant bicycle stands shrub area with native species</li> <li>Install interpretation boards in orchard area</li> <li>Remove non-native conifers</li> <li>Review planting scheme in Orchard Area</li> <li>Review entrance furniture including bollards / gates / signage.</li> </ul> |
| NL6 | External Lido Wall Planting                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant native hedging once new sections of wall have been built.</li> </ul>   |
| NL6 | Highgate Road & Bowling Green & Tennis Courts 5-10 Hedging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gap up with mixed hedge planting.</li> </ul>   |
| NL6 | Lissenden Gardens Shrub Border Entrance                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing sections of non-native species and replanting with native species, including bulbs.</li> <li>Hard pruning of native species to encourage new growth.</li> </ul>   |
| NL6 | Parliament Hill Café & surrounds                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace rotten wooden container in front of café building and plant up with native species.</li> <li>Review and replace table and chairs – seek detailed design approval from Consultative &amp; Management Committee before installation.</li> </ul>  |
| NL6 | Football Changing Rooms                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-landscape back of building looking at Savernake Bridge.</li> </ul>  |
| NL6 | Bowling Green – Mixed borders                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove conifer by first gate.</li> </ul>   |
|     | Fossil Fuel Day  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the operation of Parliament Hill two days per year where no fossil fuel is to be used (excluding heating, contractors, café and emergency services).</li> </ul>   |

## Golders Hill Park, Hill Garden and the Pergola (Includes sports areas on the Heath Extension and Keats House)

### Routine Cyclical Maintenance 2015

| <b>Policy nos.</b> | <b>Area</b>   | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|---|--|
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension<br>2 Cricket Squares & Outfield   | Maintain cricket table and outfield which will include mowing; preparation and re-instatement of individual wickets, rolling, fertilising and irrigation.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br>Inspect and maintain 2 cricket practice nets.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension<br>2 Cricket Squares and Outfield   | End of season renovation of cricket table to include deep scarification, solid tine aeration, top-dressing with surrey loam, over seeding with dwarf perennial rye grass, disease and weed control. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br><br>Erect post and chain fence during off season.   |
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension<br>Grass Sports Areas: 3 football pitches / 2 rugby pitches / Hockey Pitch / 1 school running track<br>2 cricket nets | Maintain grass sports areas which will include marking and setting out goal posts, mowing; preparation and re-instatement of individual areas and fertilising. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br><br>Maintain and foster close working relationships with sports and leisure administration officer, and encourage usage of the facilities with sports clubs and neighbouring schools.<br><br>One rugby pitch has been temporary re-located during National Grid works for another season |
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension Sports:<br>3 football pitches<br>2 rugby pitches<br>1 Hockey Pitch<br>1 school running track                          | Renovation of grass pitches to include aeration to overcome surface compaction, top-dressing and over-seeding centre circle and goal mouth areas. Repairing and checking goal posts, nets and sockets.   |
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension<br>6 Changing Rooms<br>2 Officials Rooms  | Provide clean, well-maintained facilities to schools and sports clubs all year round. Facilities to be routinely cleaned.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | Heath Extension<br>Informal Recreational Grass  | Grass cutting of informal recreational areas a minimum once every seven days. Daily collection of litter, debris and dog faeces.   |
| B4                 | Public Toilets - Golders Hill Park  | Ensure daily cleaning of toilets and regular checks. Replenish toilet rolls and soap on an hourly basis during peak times.<br>Arrange for one deep clean in March/April.   |
| A1                 | Golders Hill Park / Heath Extension / Pergola<br>Routine patrolling and Wedding   | Visual presence will be maintained by Keeping staff during opening hours. Staff will interface with the public and hand out information answer queries and monitor bye-laws as necessary.<br>Assist the Business Manager with wedding Ceremonies<br>Assist the Hampstead Heath Constabulary with emergency situation, for example lost children, lost dogs and vulnerable people.  |
| S1, S2, S7         | Golders Hill Park<br>2 Grass Tennis Courts<br>2 Croquet Squares<br>1 Putting Green<br>2 Table tennis tables                           | Maintain grass tennis courts and croquet squares to include twice weekly mowing, monthly verti-cutting, aeration, fertilising, disease, weed, moss control.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br>Irrigation, divot repairs and marking out and rotation of individual courts.   |
| S1, S2, S7         | Golders Hill Park<br>2 Grass Tennis Courts  | End of season renovation of grass tennis courts, putting green and croquet lawns to include scarification, aeration,   |

| Policy nos.          | Area  | Description  |
|----------------------|---|--|
|                      | 2 Croquet Square<br>1 Putting Green<br>2 Table tennis tables                                      | topdressing, over seeding with bent & fescues mix. Disease, weed and moss control.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods, for example, daily dew removal to discourage disease outbreaks and dispersal of worm casts.  |
| S1, S2, S7           | Golders Hill Park<br>4 Hard Tennis Courts   | Maintain four hard tennis courts to include daily inspections for debris, vegetation, wear and tear. Daily checking of nets and fencing. Taking of tennis booking from 1 April to 31 September and also weekend bookings from 01 October to 31 March. Monitor open access during the winter season.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods for control of moss and algae.   |
| NL3                  | Golders Hill Park<br>Natural Grassland Areas / Orchard Meadow / Dell Area / Swan Pond             | Management of natural grass areas to encourage flora and fauna.<br>Pathways cut through on a weekly basis and areas are "framed".  |
| NL3                  | Golders Hill Park<br>Natural Grassland Areas<br>Orchard Meadow / Dell Area                        | Late September annual cut and collection - all grass cuttings to be re-cycled. Followed by two general maintenance cuts before end of November.  |
| D1, NL10             | Sustainable Planting in Walled Garden   | Maintain sustainable plantings to include lifting and dividing, irrigation, staking, pest, weed and disease control - priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.<br>Maintain and update interpretation boards and other media   |
| D1                   | Golders Hill Park / Hill Garden, Pergola / Kitchen Garden / Keats House: Specimen Tree Management | Maintain specimen trees to include irrigation, pruning for vigour, form, safety, pest, weed and disease control, checking of tree stakes. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| D1                   | Golders Hill Park / Hill Garden, Pergola, Kitchen Garden / Keats House Shrub Bed Management       | Maintain shrub beds to include mulching, routine formative and regenerative pruning. Non-chemical weed and disease control via hoeing and removal or pruning out dead plants or branches. Hand irrigation if necessary. Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| NL6                  | Golders Hill Park / Hill Garden, Pergola, Kitchen Garden / Keats House Hedge Management           | Cut hedges to an appropriate height to encourage vigour, density and maintain views. Hedges include Privet, Hornbeam, Yew, Buxus, Holly, Copper Beech, and Lonicera.<br>Priority will always be given to the bird nesting season.  |
| D1                   | Golders Hill Park<br>Hanging Baskets by Café / Planting Tubs / Spot planting in borders           | Install hanging baskets and other seasonal planting areas maintenance to include weed & disease control, dead-heading, fertilising and daily irrigation.<br>Priority will be given to non-chemical control methods.  |
| E1,E3 P1             | Golders Hill Park / Heath Extension<br>Children's Play Areas                                      | Children's play areas will be formally checked by qualified keeper on a weekly basis. Daily visual inspections will be carried out by keeping staff. Annual external playground inspections will be carried out by ROSPA.  |
| E1,3 P1, 10          | Golders Hill Park<br>Zoo  | Recommendations from the London Borough of Barnet's licensing authority will be adhered to. Links will be pro-actively maintained through BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and via the Zoo ethics committee which meets twice per year.   |
| E1, E3 P1, P10, NL10 | Golders Hill Park<br>Zoo  | Maintain all livestock and enclosures within the zoo to the animal welfare and husbandry standards as required by the Zoo licensing Act.<br><br>Monitor and maintain all enclosures and housing infrastructure within the zoo, to ensure safety and continued suitability. Liaise regularly with the zoo veterinarian to ensure the health of all the livestock within the zoo.<br><br>Ensure grass levels and general foliage within the animal |

| Policy nos.          | Area   | Description  |
|----------------------|--|--|
|                      |  | enclosures is kept at a presentable level throughout the year. Areas left uncut to encourage natural animal behaviour e.g. foraging<br><br>Promote the zoo to members of the public through advertised feeds, talks, donkey walks and animal adoption scheme. Maintain interpretation boards and other media.<br><br>Continue to work towards the approved collection plan for the zoo. This includes the sourcing of new animals for the zoo as well as research into new enclosures and livestock. |
| E1,E3<br>P1,<br>NL10 | Golders Hill Park<br>Butterfly House   | Full access to the Butterfly House will be available to the public during opening hours.<br>The facility will be maintained in accordance with good husbandry practice.<br>Maintain interpretation boards and other media  |
| B8                   | Golders Hill Park / Heath<br>Extension / Pergola<br>Memorial Benches /<br>Gazebo / Litter bins                                     | Repair and re-stain benches and remove graffiti and bird droppings as and when required.<br>Annual clean and re-painting of gazebo.  |
| P3                   | Golders Hill Park / Heath<br>Extension / Hill Garden,<br>Pergola, Kitchen Garden<br>Litter   | All areas to be litter picked daily. Litter bins to be emptied daily.  |
| B8                   | Golders Hill Park / Heath<br>Extension / Hill Garden,<br>Pergola, Kitchen Garden /<br>Keats House<br>Footpaths, Signage,<br>Fences | Footpaths, signage, fences will be checked on a daily basis and repairs carried out as and when required.<br>Wooden edging boards repaired as necessary.<br>Wooden edging to be replaced with steel metal edging over a 20 year period.  |
|                      | Golders Hill Park<br>Christmas Tree  | Erection and, later, dismantling of Christmas tree by main North End Road entrance.  |
| A8                   | Golders Hill Park / Hill<br>Garden, Pergola, Kitchen<br>Garden / Keats<br>House/Butterfly House<br>Heath Hands Volunteers          | Provide a programme for Heath Hand volunteers for the horticulture projects and works undertaken at the various locations across the Heath.  |
| HY1<br>NL5           | Golders Hill Park / Heath<br>Extension<br>Ditch Management   | Maintain ditches and water courses. Grid clearance to be carried out during inclement weather.<br>All ditches to be maintained as specified in Corporation of London hydrology policy.   |
| A1<br>D3             | Children's Entertainment /<br>Bandstand Concerts / Open<br>House / Open Squares  | Overseeing of children's education / interpretation / Open House & Square events, bandstand concerts etc.  |
| HY1,<br>NL5          | Golders Hill Park<br>Ponds and Streams   | Quarterly maintenance of pond pumps and filters.<br>Daily inspection of overflows and safety equipment.<br>Management of vegetation on pond edges.   |
| P8                   | Filming  | Manage filming events on the Heath to ensure that there is no long-term damage to the landscape and minimise disruption to local communities.  |

### Golders Hill Park Project - 2015

|                      |                          |   |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| E1,3<br>P1, 10       | Golders Hill Park<br>Zoo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore transformational management of the zoo in accordance with Zoo Licensing Act 1981 – a detailed committee report will follow.</li> </ul> |
| NL5,<br>NL9,<br>NL10 | Stumpery Phase 3         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for phase 3 extension.</li> <li>Monitor newly planting schemes.</li> </ul>  |

|                      |  |   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| NL5,<br>NL9,<br>NL10 | Outside Education<br>Educational Area        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a small section of Green Wall</li> <li>• Introduction of bee hives.</li> </ul>   |
| D1                   | Keats House                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional planting to Keats House – subject to monies being available.</li> </ul>   |
| D1, NL5              | Lily Pond                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant native Water-Lily (<i>Nuphar lutea</i> and <i>Nymphaea alba</i>) and monitor their establishment.</li> </ul>   |
| D1                   | Hill Garden                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to re-plant shrub borders following final phase wall repairs.</li> <li>• Following consultation and agreement from Tree Officer seek to remove six self set trees to improve light levels to planting below.</li> </ul> |
|                      | Fossil Fuel Day                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the operation of Golders Hill Park two days per year where no fossil fuel is to be used (excluding heating, contractors, café and emergency services).</li> </ul>   |
| D1, NL6              | Yew Hedge                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace dying hedge in Walled Garden with native hedging.</li> </ul>   |
|                      | Table Tennis Table &<br>Children's Play Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install tiger mulch surfacing around tables – similar to pathway surface in playground by bowling green and section of worn grass at bottle neck in Children's Play Area – carry over from 2014.</li> </ul>                      |
|                      | Waste Dump Area                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review layout of the space to improve security and efficiency of site.</li> </ul>  |
|                      | Meadow Area                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a meadow area in the Swan Pond.</li> </ul>  |



|   |                     |                                |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b>  |                     | <b>Date(s):</b>                |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee  | For information     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2014  |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee   | For decision        | 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 |
| <b>Subject:</b>   | <b>Public</b>       |                                |
| Management Work Plan for the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment   |                     |                                |
| <b>Report of:</b>   | <b>For Decision</b> |                                |
| Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.  |                     |                                |
| <b><u>Summary</u></b>   |                     |                                |
| This report presents a detailed work plan for the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment.   |                     |                                |
| <b>Recommendations</b>  |                     |                                |
| It is recommended that:   |                     |                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be invited to submit their views on the detailed Management Plan for this area of Hampstead Heath.</li> <li>• That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 24 November 2014.</li> <li>• That the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee approve the Management Plan for the Fleet River Compartment.</li> </ul> |                     |                                |

## **Main Report**

### **Background and current position**

1. The Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment is located towards the west of the main body of Hampstead Heath and consists of the stream and stream fringes running from the Vale of Health Pond in the west towards the Catchpit area in the east. It also includes the stream and stream fringes running roughly north to south passing through the Viaduct Pond, together with a third small section running north to south to the west of the compartment.
2. The compartment has been divided into nine distinct sections for easier description of the site and more structured management aims.
3. The compartment comprises approximately 850m of streamline and stream fringes (riparian zone), running through a mixture of fine-leaved grassland,

- scrub and woodland habitats. It includes marsh areas and pools formed by the damming of the stream and from a levelling out of the stream channel.
4. As well as increasing the variety of wetland habitat on the Heath, the compartment has an important historic context, being one of only two remaining places where one of London's lost rivers can still be seen on the surface. Sections of the stream are enclosed by fencing, providing undisturbed habitat for nesting and foraging birds. The compartment's relatively undisturbed nature, large extent of fallen timber and its moist environment have allowed an interesting flora of moss, lichen, liverwort and fungi to develop.

## **Proposals**

### The Hampstead Fleet Stream Management Work Plan

5. The overall vision of the Fleet Stream Management Plan is to manage the compartment in order to maintain the stream as a visible above-surface water course. Wetland vegetation will be encouraged through the provision of glades and pools, which will further slow velocities and encourage the spread of sediment deposits along the stream's course.
6. Sections within the compartment should have glades created and maintained through cyclic coppicing and scrub removal.
7. Pooling and retention of water will be encouraged through the placing of log weirs at selected locations. These weirs should be maintained through periodic removal of any accumulated sediment.
8. A new pool is proposed at the point where the main west-east stream joins the stream coming from the Upper Bird Sanctuary.
9. It is also proposed to remove the invasive species Himalayan balsam, and to manage the non-native ivy *Hedera colchica* in this compartment.
10. In 2016 it is also proposed to remove a large sycamore from the edge of the stream, to the south of the Viaduct Pond. Its removal would increase light levels to the proposed new pool area.
11. Detailed proposals are attached as Appendix 1.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

12. Activities included within the Management Work Plan will largely be undertaken using the Superintendent's local risk budget. The culverted section of stream running under Lime Avenue may require the clearing of sediment approximately once every 10-15 years, depending on build-up, for which it is likely a specialist contractor would be required, this would be covered by the Superintendents Local Risk Budget, however additional grant aid may be sought to help fund the works. However the management of the proposed log weirs along the stream chain may be sufficient to prevent accumulation in this culvert.
13. There is a reputational risk in not proactively managing the natural aspect of the Heath. Left unchecked, the mosaic of diverse habitats for which the Heath is renowned would be lost to secondary woodland cover and scrub.

## Legal Implications

14. The City has a legal duty under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 to maintain the natural aspect of the Heath.

## Strategic Implications

15. The proposals link to the theme in the Community Strategy to protect, promote and enhance our environment.
16. The proposal also links to the Open Spaces Department Plan through the Strategic Aim to *'adopt sustainable working practices, promote the variety of life (biodiversity) and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future generations'*, and the Improvement Objective to *'ensure that measures to promote sustainability and biodiversity are embedded in the Department's work'*.
17. These works would fulfil Essential Actions in the Part 1 Management Plan, including:
  - 'Retain and enhance the Heath's habitats and natural resources to enable continued quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world by its visitors'*.
18. The following policies from the Natural Landscape chapter of the Part II Management Plan for the Heath are particularly relevant to the Fleet stream management work plan.

*Policy 36: 'The existing ponds, streams, ditches and wetlands will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance'.*

*Policy 43: 'Wet or seasonally wet ditches and streams will be maintained and restored where appropriate. No further ditches or streams will be piped unless it is absolutely necessary for safety or access reasons or in order to prevent excessive erosion'.*

## Conclusion

19. A ten-year Management Work Plan is presented for the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment area of the Heath.
20. The establishment of the aims and practices for managing these areas will feed into the Annual Work Programmes for the appropriate years. The Management Work Plans are subject to review at the end of the ten-year period, or sooner if unforeseen events occur.

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Draft ten-year Management Work Plan for the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment.

# APPENDIX 1

## Hampstead Fleet Stream Management Work Plan

Adrian Brooker

July 2014



# Fleet Stream compartment

## 1.0. Site description –Figure 1- Map of Fleet stream compartment



## 1.1 Location

The Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment is located towards the west of the main body of Hampstead Heath. The compartment consists of the stream and stream fringes running from the Vale of Health Pond in the west towards the Catchpit area in the east and also the stream and fringes running from roughly north to south passing through the Viaduct Pond. A third smaller tributary running north-south to the west of the compartment is also included. This stream area can be seen highlighted in blue within the yellow box in the above map (Figure 1). All 3 arms of the stream join just beyond the Viaduct Pond. A further map in Figure 16 gives more details of the location and extent of the compartment.

The centre of the Fleet Stream compartment near the Viaduct is at grid reference 526,920; 186,520 and it covers a length of stream of approximately 850m.

Large sections of the Fleet Stream are un-enclosed, but the north-south stream section passing through the Viaduct is for the greater part enclosed, forming two bird sanctuaries referred to in this plan as the Upper and Middle Bird Sanctuaries.

## 1.2 Geology, Soils, Hydrology

The Hampstead Fleet Stream is located along the Hampstead valley, which is actually comprised of three smaller valleys on an area of Claygate beds. The three tributaries/valleys gradually slope from a height of approximately 105m at the top of the Upper Bird Sanctuary and Vale of Health Pond to 80m at the Catchpit. With approximately 850m of at-surface stream, only the Heath Extension has a comparable length of stream (860m).

The Viaduct Pond is located within the compartment but is subject to a separate management plan. A small pond/pool is also present above the Viaduct adjacent to the Bird Bridge. This pool is also shown on a c.1860's map of the area and is included within the compartment.

Along the Hampstead Fleet stream there are seasonal flows, from low to no flow in the summer but often with continuous flow during the autumn through to the spring. The pace of the stream is also highly variable, from a slow trickle to a rapid cascade during high rainfall events. The flows in each of the three smaller tributaries also vary greatly, with the N-S Hollow Beech section for the majority of the year not visible as running water. The summer flow appears to be greater coming from the Upper Bird Sanctuary tributary, as a flow was still present during summer survey work, as opposed to the largely dry stream coming from the Vale of Health tributary.

The stream is rarely more than 15cm deep (usually <5cm), although pools and dams cause occasional deeper sections. The width of the stream channel also varies, with sections of up to 2 metres wide in shallower sloping locations, but much of the stream flows in channels a mere 30cm wide.

Some sections have very little water running at the surface but have a relatively large catchment area and thus contribute greatly to flows further down the stream. It is difficult to gauge the contribution of under the surface flows to the stream area but in places the stream, although not visible as a surface flow, has been found either to flow under heavy leaf litter or in small subterranean channels.

## 1.3 Ecology

For the purposes of this Plan, the Fleet Stream compartment has been subdivided into nine distinct sections to allow for easier description of the site and more structured management aims. These sections are shown in Figure 16 and a description of the different sections is given below.

## Balsam Poplar Section

This section runs from the Vale of Health Pond eastwards and ends at a small bridge crossing the stream at the base of the N-S Hollow Beech section. The outflow from the Vale of Health Pond arises adjacent to a large coast redwood and meanders down initially through an area of secondary woodland into a wider, more open valley. In this valley grow a number of balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) trees, some of which may actually be a similar hybrid Balm-of-Gilead. These trees are in various states of decline and a couple have fallen across the stream. On the trunks of these trees grows the fern common polypody, which is uncommon on the Heath and has only been recorded recently along the Hampstead length of the Fleet Stream. The majority of the larger poplars are now located towards the valley edges along the woodland and fringes. Many younger poplar suckers are however present in and along the streamline and a fine wild service sapling also grows near the stream edge. A large number of sycamore saplings and young trees are present in the upper woodland area of the stream, and cast a great deal of shade over the stream.

In the shallower valley, some seasonal wet pools have developed (and been further dammed with logs), with water plantain, lesser spearwort, great willowherb, yellow flag iris and brooklime present. Water plantain and lesser spearwort are found at only a few other locations on the Heath.

**Figure 2:** Balsam poplar shallow valley area showing seasonal pools.



The upper parts of this stream section are densely shaded and form quite a deep eroded channel at points. In these shadier parts liverwort, moss and fern species grow along the stream banks.

Himalayan balsam grows in dense patches in the shallower valley area, along with sycamore, Turkey oak and ash saplings. Many previously coppiced willows are present in this valley. At the fringes of this area, garden yellow archangel also grows in a large patch.

## N-S Hollow Beech section.

This section is the most heavily shaded of the Fleet Stream. It rises somewhere to the west of the hollow beech tree and runs almost north-south, joining a larger section of the Fleet Stream to the east of the Balsam Poplar section. The upper reaches and source are difficult to find but a couple of seepage points can be seen at various times of the year.



Only a narrow stream channel exists in this section and much of this appears as merely a damp surface, although in the middle part of this section a small <30cm wide channel is obvious. The lower part of this section is wider and very wet, which leads to very muddy conditions and lack of vegetation over a wide area. A number of large mature oaks grow along the streamline, together with some old hawthorns. A good deal of standing dead wood is also present, with obvious woodpecker nest holes. A few large willows can also be found towards the upper reaches of the stream, amongst scattered yew and holly bushes and sycamore saplings. A large wild service sapling grows at the top. The ground flora throughout the section is largely bramble and ivy with broad buckler ferns.

**Figure 3:** Upper part of Hollow Beech section showing mature oaks. The streamline is just visible towards the lower left.



### Viaduct Glade section

This section covers the area from the small bridge crossing the stream at the base of the N-S Hollow Beech section to the lower Viaduct slopes. It is in large parts a densely wooded valley and the stream is heavily shaded. A variety of trees grow alongside the stream including oak, elder, sycamore and birch, and at least three wild service saplings grow on the banks of the stream. The shaded sections of the stream support abundant mosses and fungi, as well as plentiful broad buckler ferns. At the lower end of this stream is an open glade with a railway sleeper stream crossing point. This section was opened up and log weirs placed across the stream in 2005 to form a marsh area. This open, tree-encircled glade is approximately 200 sq. metres in area and has willow growing in abundance, much of it coppiced. Pendulous sedge and great willowherb are common in the damp parts and the invasive Himalayan balsam is also found here frequently. A small patch of common polypody fern grows on the large willow in this section. A large patch of the variegated yellow archangel occurs in and on the perimeter of this section.

**Figure 4:** Viaduct glade marsh area to the right, with railway sleeper bridge visible at the left of the picture.



#### Tormentil slopes section

This section of stream flows from the Viaduct Glade section in an easterly direction and runs through a densely wooded area, until it joins the short stretch of stream running from the Viaduct outflow. It passes by the open grassland known as the Tormentil Slopes, where the plant of the same name grows abundantly. Near the stream edge and towards the bottom of these Tormentil slopes grows a patch of lesser spearwort. The ground is heavily eroded here due to foot traffic, causing damage to some of the spearwort plants. Trees here include deciduous elm, hawthorn, sycamore and willow, and evergreens such as yew and holly. A very large ‘Italian’ poplar occurs at the edge of the stream. A number of trunks lie in and over the stream, many of which are covered in a variety of fungi and mosses, including the fungus *Leotia lubrica*, commonly known as ‘Jelly Babies’, which was a new record for the site in 2013 and indeed for the county<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 5:** Tormentil slopes stream section showing densely wooded area.



#### Viaduct-Lime Avenue section

This stretch of stream begins where the two main tributaries of the Hampstead Fleet Stream join to the south of the Viaduct Pond. It includes the short section of stream running north to south from the Viaduct outflow and ends where the stream flows under Lime Avenue via an arched culvert. A small partly open glade exists where the two main stream tributaries join but silt deposits largely prevent pooling of water here. The area adjacent to Lime Avenue is also relatively open, but views down the stream from Lime Avenue are partially obscured by a row of young hawthorns along the top. A number of old moss- and lichen-covered hawthorn trunks have fallen over the stream and, due to the more open aspect, patches of bramble grow down to the stream edge. Hart's tongue fern is frequent at the bottom of this section, growing both on the stream edge and on the brickwork of the culvert. It is at this culvert that further water enters the stream via a drainage pipe leading from a channel at the edge of Lime Avenue. The stream joining from the Viaduct area appears to maintain a summer flow for longer than the Vale of Health stream source.

A small amount of yellow flag iris also grows in the stream and the liverworts *Metzgeria friticulosa* and *Lejeunea ulcina* have been found growing directly on the leaves of ivy, which is considered an extremely rare occurrence<sup>2</sup>. (Duckett, 2008).

**Figure 6:** Viaduct-Lime avenue section looking south towards lime avenue in the background.



#### Lime Avenue-Catchpit section

This section runs from the eastern edge of Lime Avenue and ends at the point at which the stream enters the Catchpit enclosure. It is currently the most open part of the Fleet Stream compartment, and is relatively wide and flat due to a levelling out of the valley. A couple of seasonal pools can be found at the start and end of this section. Willow grows frequently along the stream and much of it has previously been coppiced to maintain the area as a glade. Hawthorn, elder, birch and sycamore trees also grow frequently along the stream edge. A couple of larger willows have fallen over the stream and form an attractive feature. This more open aspect has allowed yellow flag iris to grow in the stream bed and pendulous sedge to thrive along the edge. Other plants found here include the wetland species brooklime and great willowherb, as well as lesser celandine, red campion and wood avens in drier parts. The ferns hart's tongue, scaly male and broad buckler are also found along the stream here. The alga *trentopohlia* grows on the willows, as do various mosses forming a green coat on the trunks. The culvert from the Viaduct-Lime Avenue section has required clearing due to sediment build-up in the last ten years.

Himalayan balsam grows in patches along the stream fringes but is actively managed.

Works required as part of the pond project will have some influence on the ecology in this area but the mitigation planned along this section of stream is thought to be beneficial as a whole.

**Figure 7:** Lime avenue-Catchpit section looking south towards the Catchpit from Lime Avenue itself. The pooling of water is evident, as is the patch of yellow iris.



#### Upper Bird Sanctuary section

The section is the most northerly of the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment and covers a length of stream running west to east, inside an area enclosed with chestnut palings. The stream is only apparent in the lower part, although a dry channel is visible running through to the westernmost more elevated end.

Beech, sycamore and an old hawthorn grow along the stream edge at the lower end of this section, along with a couple of wild service saplings towards the fringes. Whitebeam, birch, yew and a few pine trees grow at the upper end along with large oaks, sweet chestnuts, field maples and alders. A large fallen sweet chestnut and rowan tree are found here, with the sweet chestnut still alive and sending out numerous large shoots along its length. The large field maple has a number of moss and lichen species on it, and broad buckler ferns grow throughout the section. The ground flora is relatively sparse in many parts, due to the shading from trees, but ivy and bramble occur in small, low patches. A patch of rhododendron along the fenceline appears not to have expanded greatly in the last 5 years. An active rabbit warren is also present.

A short section of stream also converges from the north and runs outside this enclosure. This leads to an area of previously coppiced willow and low-growing bramble, and any obvious sign of the stream peters out 50 meters from the Upper Bird Sanctuary fenceline. It is only partly visible above ground, but short subterranean stretches can be seen through gaps in the soil. The stream where the two short sections converge is orange for most of the year, due to being rich in iron.

**Figure 8:** The iron rich waters of the Upper Bird Sanctuary section.



### Middle Bird Sanctuary

This section of stream runs south-eastwards from the bridge crossing point separating the Upper and Middle Bird Sanctuaries and ends at the Bird Bridge. It is entirely enclosed by metal railings and is densely wooded both inside and on the outside fringes. Young alder, birch, willow, elm, whitebeam, sycamore and elder trees grow throughout the compartment, as well as an ancient oak towards the centre. A dense holly patch is present in the centre, with a patch of laurel in the east and a very large stemmed buddleia towards the upper end of this section.

Mosses, liverworts and lichens are abundant, growing on the trees as well as on the stream edge, as well as very abundant broad buckler fern. The dead wood present in and around the stream allows for numerous fungi to grow. The ground flora largely consists of bramble and ivy but a small patch of native bluebell exists east of the stream. A fine specimen of royal fern grows towards the south. The ornamental ivy *Hedera colchica* also grows throughout the southern part of this section and is abundant on the ground as well as growing into the tree canopies. Himalayan balsam grows in profusion towards the west.

A small rain-fed pool exists towards the centre but it is unclear whether this holds water for a long enough period for aquatic life to flourish. The slightly shallower slopes of the stream adjacent to the Bird Bridge allow for the pooling of water, and a patch of floating sweet grass grows here.

Two woodcocks were flushed from the Middle Bird Sanctuary during survey work in January 2014, and the remains of numerous sparrowhawk kills to the east shows the importance of the enclosed nature of this section for bird life. An active rabbit warren is also present in the centre.

**Figure 9:** The stream flowing under the Bird Bridge at the southern end of the Middle Bird Sanctuary. Floating sweet grass can be seen growing in the wide pool here.



### Upper Viaduct

This section consists of the area of stream running south from the Bird Bridge and ending at the northern edge of the pond itself. A separate management plan has already been implemented for the remainder of the Viaduct Pond. This section is also enclosed by metal railings and the higher physical barriers of the Bird Bridge to the north and the Viaduct Bridge to the south.

The top of this section consists of a relatively flat area, with two small pools directly adjacent to the Bird Bridge. These were created through the damming of the stream with log barriers and cutting back overhanging vegetation along the valley. A c.1870's map shows the presence of a pool in this area. Floating sweet grass, yellow iris, soft rush and common reed grow in and on the fringes of the pools. Away from the stream on the drier ground, broad buckler fern is common along with pendulous sedge, red campion and foxglove. Brambles and ivy also cover large swathes of the ground and over timber which has fallen across the stream. Away from the pools but still on the flatter ground, fool's water-cress grows.

Away from the flat area, the stream becomes narrower and deeper as it descends more steeply towards the Viaduct Pond. There is little aquatic vegetation in this part but the stream is fringed by soft rush, red campion and a variety of moss and liverwort species. Bramble also grows at the edges and over the stream to varying degrees.

At the bottom part, the stream plateaus out into the pond itself. Yellow iris, water-starwort and cuckoo flower grow well around a couple of small log weirs. At the edge of the Viaduct Pond a relatively large patch of marshy vegetation exists consisting of water mint, yellow iris, reedmace, brooklime and greater spearwort. Red campion also grows in drier parts. A recently fallen large limb now covers part of this vegetation, along with a patch of the garden escape *Aucuba japonica* at the fringes. Willow trees also grow in this pondside marshland and have been coppiced infrequently. A large patch of invasive Himalayan balsam was found growing in the marshy vegetation in 2014 but was scythed during survey work.

A water rail is sometimes seen in winter, feeding in the vegetation towards the pond edge, alongside the ubiquitous moorhens and coots. A kingfisher bank has recently been installed at the edge of the pond adjacent to the lower marshland.

## General

In 2006 an invertebrate survey was undertaken in various locations across the Heath, including sections of the Hampstead branch of the Fleet Stream<sup>3</sup>. Due to low water flows, very little aquatic life was observed apart from the non-native 'water shrimp' *Crangonyx pseudogracilis*. This is now widespread throughout the United Kingdom and evidence is conflicting as to whether it may replace native 'water-shrimp' species or co-exist with them<sup>4</sup>. The survey recorded three species of wetland rove beetle, which are associated with the riparian zone (the area between the land and the stream, influenced by flooding and stream water flows/levels).

A survey of fungi<sup>1</sup> across the Heath in 2013 as part of the ponds project indicates that areas adjacent to the Hampstead Fleet Stream are of importance to fungi, due to the variety of trees present. As sycamore is not a mycorrhizal partner for fungi, the report recommends thinning out this species in selected areas, creating more light for native trees to prosper.

Although not recorded in the last few years, grass snakes have previously been seen adjacent to the Viaduct Pond and may well use the streamline as a wildlife corridor to other areas of the Heath

Bats are known to forage in and around open areas adjacent to the Fleet Stream and are likely to be using some of the more mature trees as roosts.

Smooth newts have been found resident in adjacent ponds and thus may be using the site for overwintering.

The long-running Hampstead Heath Butterfly Transect passes through and alongside the Hampstead Fleet Stream in several places and purple hairstreak butterflies have been observed along this route.

## **1.4 Public and educational uses**

Much of the stream is unenclosed, although vegetation and fallen wood make access to it difficult in places. The stretches that pass through the Viaduct and above this in the Upper and Middle Bird Sanctuaries near the northern source are fenced. The stream is much crossed with desire routes but routes are limited which follow the streamline for any length. Where the stream is crossed and in more open areas, dogs use the stream to play in, causing some erosion.

Environmental educational use of the stream is also limited partly due to the variable stream flows.

## **1.5 History**

The Fleet Stream is the upper source of the now mostly subterranean remnants of the Fleet River, which ran from Hampstead Heath through Camden and King's Cross and into a tidal basin of the Thames where Blackfriars Bridge now stands.



**Figure 10:** The mouth of the River Fleet c.1740 by Samuel Scott (In Guildhall Art Gallery)<sup>5</sup>.



**Figure 11:** The mouth of the River Fleet underneath Blackfriars Bridge 2002<sup>6</sup>. The culverted stream comes out of the small tunnel visible to the left.



The Fleet arises from springs on the Heath, where rain and ground water percolate through Bagshot Sands and Claygate Beds and seep out of the impermeable London Clay. The Fleet downstream of Hampstead Heath has today dwindled to no more than a storm relief sewer, largely due to urbanisation and a gradual covering over of the river following its increasing use as no more than a sewer in past times. It is believed the river was once 20 metres across in parts towards the lower end, but it is now for the most part only visible at the surface along the two chains of ponds on Hampstead Heath. Both chains are considered separate tributaries. Apart from the Viaduct, each pond chain was formed through the damming of the Fleet Stream by the Hampstead Water Company to supply water for Kentish Town and the West End. Damning of the Hampstead chain began in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the Vale of Health reservoir was created in 1777. The Viaduct Pond was created between 1844

and 1847 by Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson as part of his scheme to build on the Heath. This Management Plan only covers the westernmost tributary, running from the Vale of Health through to the Mixed Pond.

Floods of the Fleet were not uncommon and the following is from the book 'Old and New London: Volume 2 (1878)<sup>7</sup>.

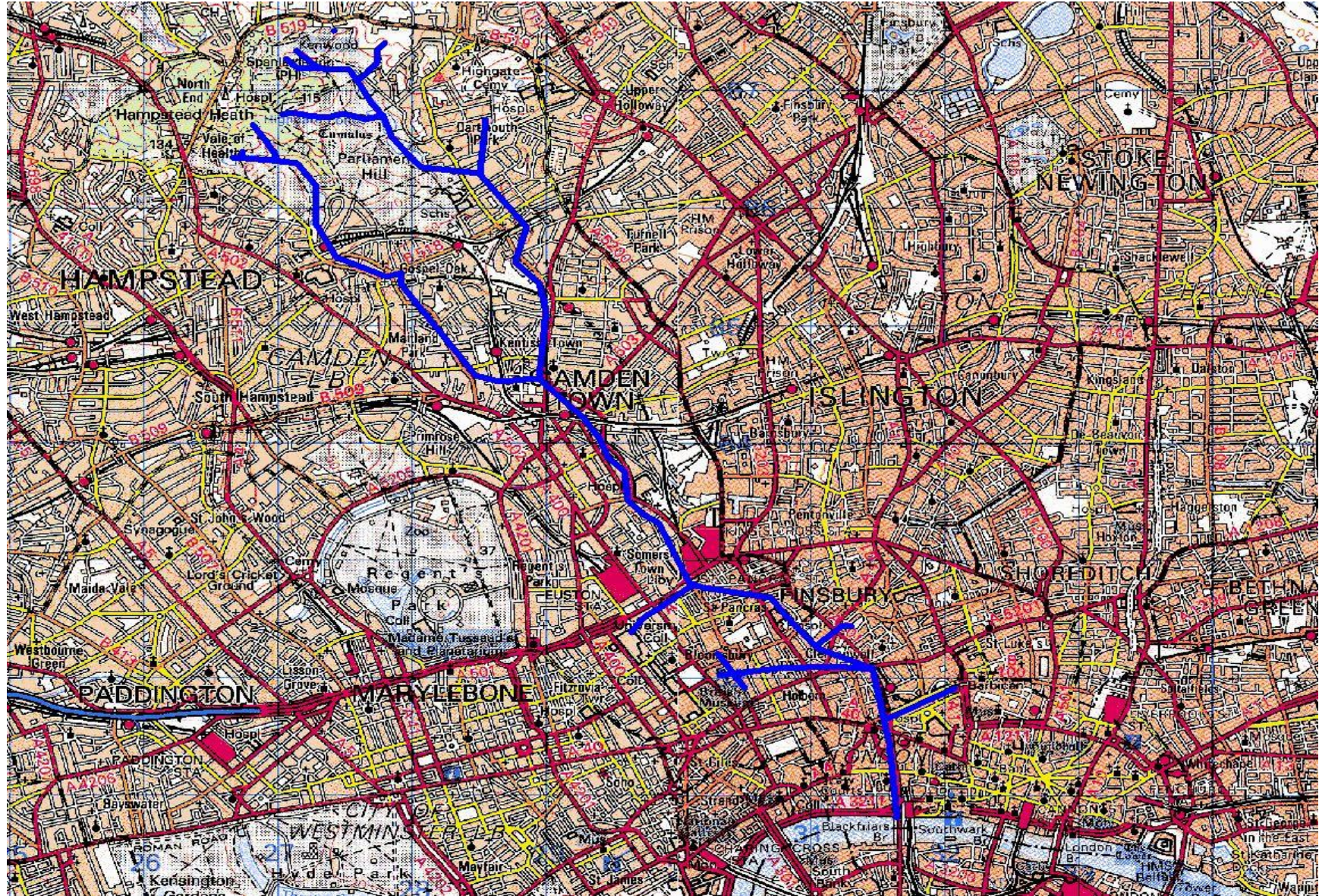
'In 1768 the Hampstead Ponds overflowing, after a severe storm, the Fleet channel grew into a torrent, and the roads and fields about Bagnigge Wells were overflowed. In the gardens of Bagnigge Wells the water was four feet deep. A man was nearly drowned, and several thousand pounds' damage was done in Coldbath Fields, Mutton Lane, and Peter Street and vicinity. Three oxen and several hogs were carried off and drowned. A Blackfriars boatman took his boat to Turnmill Street, and there plied, removing the inhabitants, who could not leave their houses for the rising flood.'

**Figure 12:** 1854 sketch of the Fleet near Hampstead with Christ Church Hampstead in the background



The Hampstead Brook used to flow through the ponds and along the axis of Malden Road, before joining up with the Highgate Brook or tributary just north of Camden Town. However some authors suggest that in the 1950s, due to an outbreak of bronchitis at the then Hampstead general hospital (now Royal Free hospital), it was diverted to join the Highgate Brook near the Parliament Hill lido<sup>8</sup>.

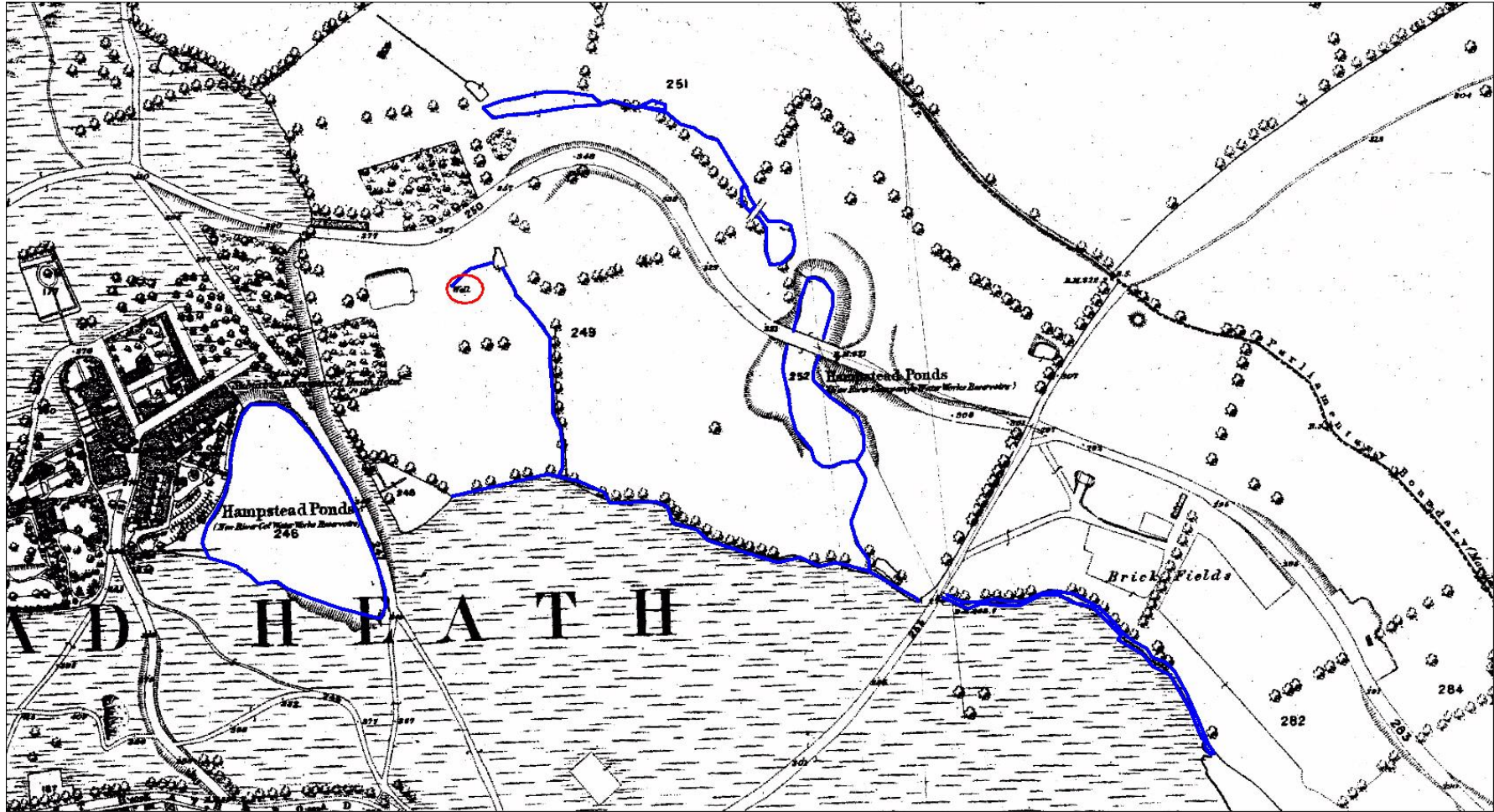
Figure 13: The approximate route of the River Fleet. © Ordnance Survey



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Figure 13 above shows the approximate route of the River Fleet with all but the section on Hampstead Heath now running merely as drains below ground.

Figure 14: Hampstead 1866 map showing Fleet Stream highlighted in blue.



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The map in Figure 14 above shows the stream as it appears on the Hampstead Ordnance Survey map of London in 1866. Larger pool sections (wider areas of blue) are obvious along the stream length to the north of the Viaduct Pond. A well is shown on the 1866 map at the top of the North-South Hollow Beech section of the stream. This well is circled red in the map above but this author has no information regarding its precise location or history. Although tree-lined in places, the map shows a more open aspect in general than at present times.

**Figure 15:** The Vale of Health and Jack Straws Castle. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson. The Fleet Stream valley is visible to the bottom right of the picture and shows a less-wooded stream than today.



A few of the stream sections have had previous management works involving tree coppicing and placing of log weirs to slow down water flow, particularly along the Lime Avenue-Catchpit, Balsam Poplar and Viaduct Glade sections of the stream. Extensive work was undertaken in the Upper Viaduct section in the winter of 2009/2010 involving the creation of two large pools and a number of weirs along the stream line as well as opening up the views from the Bird Bridge to the Viaduct Bridge.

In the Upper Bird Sanctuary section, willows in the area outside the enclosure have been regularly coppiced and pollarded. Himalayan balsam has been regularly removed from all sections of the stream, although some sections still contain large patches. The Ditch and pipe running under Lime Avenue was cleared out in approximately 2004.

## **1.6 Natural and human-induced trends**

Natural trends include variable/seasonal water flows and sediment accumulation in shallower sloping sections. Various naturally occurring dead wood weirs occur along the stream length alongside a number of man-made weir features, either as part of City of London management or public construction.

The stream is crossed by numerous desire routes, some over railway sleeper crossings and others over logs placed by the public to make crossing easier. At many crossing points, eroded and bare ground is evident and some routes become difficult to traverse in wet and muddy conditions. Dogs have caused erosion at these crossing points and in more open areas.

## **1.7 External influences**

Occasional dam building by members of the public occurs along the stream and dogs access the stream at various points

## **2.0. Evaluation**

### **2.1 Natural landscape**

Hampstead Heath has a number of streams flowing through it. Two of them form the Highgate and Hampstead tributaries to the River Fleet. A stream flows through the Seven Sisters Ponds and along the Extension, and a further stream runs from West Heath bog and all the way down through Golders Hill Park to the Swan Pond. All of these streams have been dammed to various degrees and ponds formed.

Small streams including those with ephemeral flow make up a large part of the Heath's waters. They can protect against floods, filter pollutants and recycle nutrients, as well as providing a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. Streamlines can also provide a corridor for wildlife migration and connect fragmented habitats. The area adjacent to a stream, or the riparian zone, is closely associated with the stream and its flows, and can provide habitat for further species of plant and animal in seasonal wet meadows and 'flood' zones.

Although still waters such as ponds provide an ideal habitat for a variety of species, some such as caddisflies, stoneflies and mayflies have a preference for flowing water such as that provided by streams. Although the Hampstead branch of the Fleet Stream has a variable flow, it may be sufficient to support a freshwater invertebrate community. Three species of rove beetles associated with the riparian zone were recorded during an invertebrate survey in 2006 and are reliant on such habitat to complete their life-cycle. It is recommended that freshwater invertebrate sampling is undertaken when flows are sufficient and in pool areas.

The 2006 invertebrate survey report also recommends impounding water in selected areas, particularly in open areas. Felling or thinning trees could be undertaken to create suitable open areas. The constructing of log weirs would create pools and reduce sedimentation in ponds along the stream. This would increase the variety of wet areas on the Heath, which would in turn suit a greater variety of invertebrates. Silt would occasionally need to be removed from these pools.

It is recommended that structural diversity is maintained along the stream through managing existing glades and openings. These may be managed initially on a short cycle, and this will be reviewed yearly to assess regrowth. The extent of fallen deadwood and the relatively undisturbed nature of large sections along the Hampstead Fleet Stream have allowed an interesting flora of moss, lichen, liverwort and fungi to develop. It is further recommended that a bryophyte survey is undertaken along the stream to identify species and further assess their importance.

Sycamore is not a mycorrhizal partner for fungi, so thinning Sycamores in selected areas would create more light for native trees and would be beneficial to the fungi growing here. This would also provide light for wetland flora along the stream itself.

Further opportunities should be sought to establish stream areas in more sunlight, should a natural opportunity occur.

The enclosed areas of the stream provide valuable habitat for nesting birds and undisturbed areas for feeding and foraging, which should continue.

Invasive plants such as Himalayan balsam along the stream length should be actively managed to prevent dense stands accumulating, which would damage native flora. Species such as the garden variety of yellow archangel will be monitored. The non-native ivy *Hedera colchica* will be actively managed to prevent its further spread into tree canopies.

## **2.2 Public and educational uses**

Access to and across the Fleet Stream should be maintained along currently existing routes, with no further formalisation of this access occurring. Although only short stretches of the stream can be walked, further routes should not be made alongside the stream. This is in part due to the fallen timber along and over the stream, which supports numerous moss, lichen and liverwort species.

No further access to existing enclosed areas is recommended, due to the paucity of such areas on the Heath and thus their importance for cryptic birds such as woodcock and for wetland plants, which may be damaged through public use.

The stream edge towards the lower end of the North-South Hollow Beech section is currently difficult to traverse, due to extremely muddy conditions, especially during the autumn and winter months. This has led to widespread erosion of the ground and trampling of vegetation, as members of the public attempt to avoid the conditions. A narrow single file wooded walkway using logs may be placed to reduce erosion. Similar logs are already present in short sections, placed there by members of the public. A similar construct is possible across the stream adjacent to the Viaduct slopes to prevent trampling of the lesser spearwort in this location. Both walkways should be reviewed to assess the suitability of these proposals.

Views of the Fleet Stream should continue to be provided in suitable areas, such as at the Bird Bridge and Lime Avenue. This will require a combination of coppicing, lifting and removal of some small trees on a cyclical basis.

## **2.3 History and built environment**

As one of the only two remaining places where the Fleet can be seen at the surface, the compartment has some important historic context. Where possible, the stream should be encouraged to flow above ground through the prevention of accumulated debris building up, although sufficient autumnal flows should prevent this from happening.

## **2.4 Overall vision**

### **Maintain the stream as an above-surface water course**

Maintain wet areas through weir placement, even in dry conditions.

Encourage water flow along the stream and prevent water from disappearing into underground channels.

Improve/encourage wetland vegetation along selected sections of the stream.

Spread sediment deposition along the stream course to reduce the amount reaching the Mixed Bathing Pond.

Slow down velocities and the resulting erosion in major rain events.

Maintain existing viewing points and access to the stream

## 2.5 Relevance to achieving the 2007-2017 Hampstead Heath Management Plan

Overriding Objectives, Essential Actions and Aspirational Goals from Part I of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan which are particularly relevant to the management of the Fleet Stream Hampstead branch are as follows:

**NL1:** Retain and enhance the Heath's habitats and natural resources to enable continued quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world by its visitors

The following policies from the Natural Landscape chapter of the Part II Management Plan for the Heath are particularly relevant to the Fleet Stream Management Work Plan

Policy 9: In general, communities of flora and fauna will be encouraged to evolve naturally subject to appropriate management practices, natural regeneration and the existing seed bank. However, re-seeding with native wildflowers may be used in certain areas

Policy 36: The existing ponds, streams, ditches and wetlands will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance

Policy 43: Wet or seasonally wet ditches and streams will be maintained and restored where appropriate. No further ditches or streams will be piped unless it is absolutely necessary for safety or access reasons or in order to prevent excessive erosion

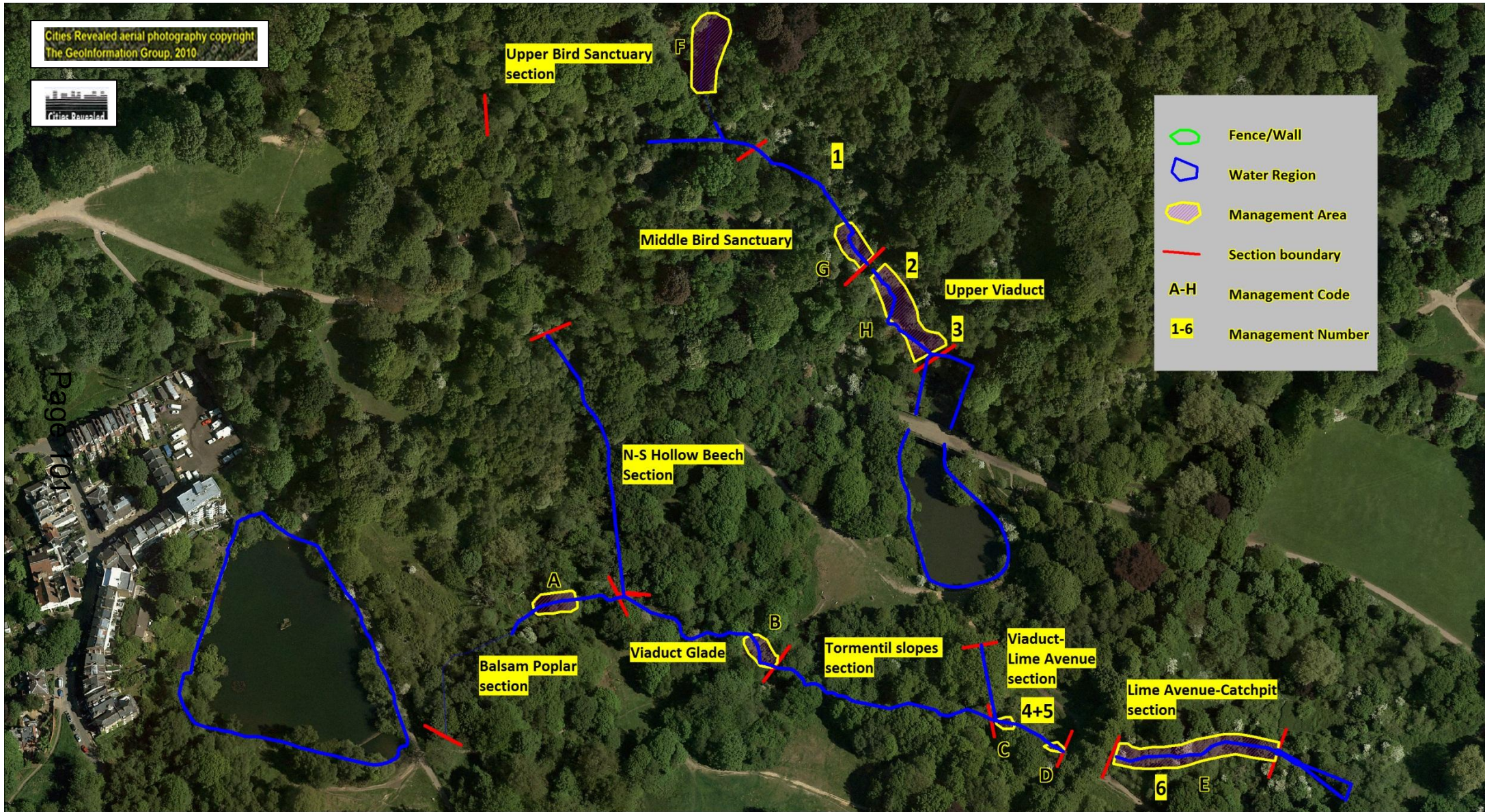
Policy 46: Populations of plants and animals protected by law, identified as being Priority Species in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans, or subsequently identified as worthy of protection will be protected and enhanced

Policy 50: Selected invasive and inappropriate species will be controlled



### 3.0. Prescription and work programme

Figure 16: Fleet Stream



### 3.1 Regular management tasks

#### Fleet Stream site objectives

| Objective  | Prescription  | frequency      | Month(s) | Years       | Who by    | Priority : low, medium or high |
|--|---|----------------|----------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>A-</b> Maintain open pool area                                  | Coppice sapling trees, remove sycamores and cut back bramble up to 4m from the stream edge. Leave sapling wild service tree. Dig out some sediment from the pools.  | Every 4 years. | Sept-Feb | 2015 + 2019 | Cons Team | M                              |
| <b>B-</b> Maintain open glade and encourage pooling of water       | Remove a minimum of 50% of willows growing in the glade, coppice the remainder. Coppice trees on the periphery of the glade. Place log weirs to encourage pooling of water.   | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2015 + 2019 | Cons Team | M                              |
| <b>C-</b> Create and maintain pool area.                           | Coppice sapling trees at edge of planned pool area. Remove a few small trees from stream edge. Remove any small trees within pool area. Cut back bramble and other scrub.   | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2017 + 2021 | Cons Team | M                              |
| <b>D-</b> Maintain views to stream and prevent scrub encroachment. | Open up views upstream from Lime Avenue by coppicing or laying hawthorns at top. Also cut back bramble from stream edge up to 2m. Place 2-3 log weirs along stream unless naturally occurring weirs occur.  | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2017 + 2021 | Cons team | M                              |
| <b>E-</b> Maintain open streamline.                                | Coppice/re-coppice or pollard trees along streamline and on adjacent banks. Pollard above any moss + lichen covered sections if possible. Cut back 50% of large fallen willow at southern end. Cut back bramble and scrub from entire stream fringe and dead hedge at top of valley | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2018 + 2022 | Cons Team | M                              |
| <b>F-</b> Maintain willow coppice area                             | Coppice/pollard willows throughout the valley.  | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2018 + 2022 | Cons Team | M                              |
| <b>G-</b> Maintain views of stream and keep streamline open        | Coppice or remove selected young trees from stream edge. Alders nearest the Bird Bridge may be lifted rather than coppiced, which may be sufficient to allow views of the stream. Cut back scrub and bramble from stream  | Every 4 years  | Sept-Feb | 2016 + 2020 | Cons Team | M                              |

|                                  |   |                                   |                         |                    |  |      |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|------|
|                                  | edge and around royal fern. Place/maintain log weir in front of Bird Bridge to encourage pooling.   |                                   |                         |                    |  |      |
| H- Maintain open streamline      | Re-coppice trees and cut back bramble from stream edge and wider 4m area. Place new log weir in central part of streamline. Remove vegetation from upper pool if occupying more than 50% of pool. Remove selected willows from marsh area adjacent to the pond and coppice remainder. | Every 4 years                     | Sept-Feb                | 2016 + 2020        | Cons Team                              | M    |
| Remove Himalayan balsam          | Hand pull balsam yearly from all sections until eradicated  | 4-5 times Yearly until eradicated | June-Sept               | 2015               | Cons team/<br>Volunteers/<br>Ecologist | High |
| Remove <i>Hedera colchica</i>    | Cut ivy towards base to prevent it from spreading into canopies of trees.   | Every 2 years                     | Sept-Feb                | 2015 + 2017        | Cons Team                              | M    |
| 5- Create and maintain pool area | Dig out sediment from stream intersection and place log weir to encourage pooling. Will require repeat sediment removal approximately every 5-10 years  | Every 5-10 years                  | June-August or when dry | 2017 + 2022 review | Cons Team                              | M    |

### 3.2 One-off tasks

| Objective   | Prescription   | Month(s)                | Year           | Who by      | Priority | Est. cost    |
|---|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| 1- Increase light to enclosed area to allow for ground cover to establish | Remove + prevent regrowth of sycamores throughout Middle Bird Sanctuary.   | Oct-Feb                 | 2015           | Cons Team   | Low      | Local Budget |
| 2- Maintain pool area   | Use mini-digger to remove sediment from logged weir area   | Any month               | 2017           | Cons Team   | Medium   | Local Budget |
| 3- Prevent encroachment onto marsh area                                   | Remove non-native <i>Aucuba</i> from the edge of the marsh and cut back fallen tree to the edge of the marsh area                            | Oct-Feb                 | 2015           | Cons Team   | Medium   | Local Budget |
| 4- Increase light to stream area  | Remove sycamore from edge of stream  | Oct-Feb                 | 2017           | Cons Team   | Low      | Local Budget |
| 6- Keep culvert under Lime Avenue clear                                   | Maintain open culvert/pipe under Lime Avenue through removal of accumulated sediment. It is estimated this may be required every 10-20 years | June-August or when dry | Review in 2016 | Contract or | High     |              |

## 4.0 Review

| Author | Date | Task | Observation, event or alteration to task |
|--------|------|------|--|
|        |      |      |  |
|        |      |      |  |
|        |      |      |  |
|        |      |      |  |

## 5.0 References

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|   |                 |                                |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b>  | <b>Date(s):</b> |                                |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee  | For information | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2014  |
| Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee  | For information | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 |
| Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group   | For information | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee   | For decision    | 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Fees and Charges Report  |                 | <b>Public</b>                  |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.   |                 | <b>For Decision</b>            |
| <b><u>Summary</u></b>   |                 |                                |
| <p>This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for a range of facilities and services provided at Hampstead Heath for 2015/16.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be received on the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</li> <li>• That the views of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee be received on the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</li> <li>• That the views of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group be received on the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</li> <li>• That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee, and Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their November meeting.</li> <li>• That the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee agrees the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</li> </ul> |                 |                                |

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Charges for the wide range of recreation and sporting facilities that are provided in all the City Corporation's Open Spaces are reviewed annually. The current 2014/15 charges for Hampstead Heath were approved by the Management Committee in January 2014.

### **Current Position**

2. The Sports Advisory Forum had been developing a differentiated charging policy and this was presented to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in January 2014. Over the summer, the Hampstead Heath Management Team completed a benchmarking exercise to compare the Hampstead Heath Athletics Track with the other local running tracks. This was followed by a visit to Perivale running track to compare the facilities there in relation to the extent of the offer, quality of the grounds maintenance and public access to the facilities. The visit also allowed the Team to learn from another organisation, as a result of which a scoring sheet has been prepared to compare facilities objectively. Staff from Hampstead Heath will continue this benchmarking exercise with the other local athletic tracks and report their findings to the Sports Advisory Forum.
3. The proposed charges for 2015/16 were discussed with the Sports Advisory Forum on 22 September 2014. At this meeting, the Superintendent also set out the implications of the Service Based Review and the level of savings the Open Spaces Department is required to achieve over the next three financial years.
4. The Review will require the Superintendent to look at alternative ways of delivering activities that are not part of our core obligations. This will involve exploring the possibility of using third-party providers for sports facilities, attracting sponsorship for sports, and increasing the income generated from these activities.
5. The proposed fees and charges include concessionary rates, and have been set at a level that encourages schools and young people to use the recreation and sporting facilities on the Heath. However, with the agreement of the Sports Advisory Forum, further work on the differentiated charging policy has been put on hold whilst the Service Based Review is being undertaken.

### **Proposed Charges 2015/16**

6. It is proposed that charges for 2015/16 are increased by 2.4%. This reflects the current rate of inflation (RPI 2.4% Sept 2014).
7. Where the charges and fees are for less than £50, these have been reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with rounding to the nearest 50p to avoid the problems of cash handling. For charges more than £50, an increase of 2.4% has been applied and these have then been rounded up to the nearest pound.

8. Swimming charges have been reviewed and simplified, to re-establish the links between day ticket prices and season ticket charges.
9. The adult cost of the Pitch & Putt Course at Queen's Park has been benchmarked with Gunnersbury Park.
10. For 2015/16, Wedding and Civil Ceremony charges have been included in the report for the first time.
11. The Education and Play charges have been benchmarked against other local providers. However, as part of the Service Based Review, we will evaluate our education and play provision to ensure we are charging appropriately. We will also develop a funding strategy for these activities that will seek to maximise our grant funding.
12. The proposed increases in charges for sports and recreational facilities during 2015/16 are set out in Appendix 1.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

13. The current Management Policy Plan states at Policy 78 that "*recreational facilities will be managed in a way which recognises the right and ability of everyone to use and enjoy the Heath ...*" The proposals set out in this report contain a range of charges with concessionary rates that have been assessed against other local providers.
14. The provision of sports facilities supports the City Together Strategy theme, '*A World Class City which is vibrant and culturally rich*'. Linked to this is the associated Open Spaces Strategic Aim: '*Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living*'.
15. Starting in 2015, further works are proposed to review all the charges for facilities and services to ensure that income is maximised. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the Open Spaces Department Income Generation Project Board. Three Project Boards have been established to oversee the delivery of £2.2m savings identified across the Open Spaces Department, as part of the City of London's Service Based Review. Income generation forms a critical contribution towards delivering the required level of savings with a view to avoiding the loss of facilities and services.

### **Implications**

16. The City's Financial Regulations require all departments to recover full costs when setting charges to persons or external organisations, or submit reason to the appropriate service Committee when that objective is not met. It is, therefore, at the discretion of individual spending Committees to determine the actual level of fees and charges relative to the services they provide, after taking into account local considerations and priorities.
17. The licencing of filming and photography are the subject of a separate corporate report presented to the Open Spaces Committee.

## **Conclusion**

18. The proposed sports and recreation fees and charges have been determined by a number of factors, not least providing continued access to sports facilities while encouraging young people to participate.
19. It is also recognised that it will be necessary in the coming years to review how charges are levied across all facilities, to ensure the Service Based Review savings are achieved.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Fees and Charges for 2015/16

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## APPENDIX 1 – HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN’S PARK

**The proposed charges operate from 1 April 2015, all charges include VAT at 20%**

| <b>FACILITY</b>   | Charges approved<br>1/4/13<br>(£) | Charges approved<br>1/4/14<br>(£)<br>+2.6% | <b>Proposed Charges<br/>from 1/4/15<br/>(£)<br/>+2.4%</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>ATHLETICS TRACK</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| ● Meetings Monday - Friday<br>(except bank holidays)                          | 87.50                             | 90.00                                      | <b>93.00</b>  |
| ● Meetings Peak Times   | 123.50                            | 126.50                                     | <b>130.00</b>   |
| ● Schools Use - standard session charge                                       | 51.50                             | 53.00                                      | <b>55.00</b>  |
| ● Corporate events  | 290.00                            | 300.00                                     | *1  |
| ● Individual Ticket - Adults  | 3.00                              | 3.00                                       | <b>3.50</b>   |
| ● Individual ticket - Concessionary Rate                                      | 1.50                              | 1.50                                       | <b>1.50</b>   |
| ● Season Ticket - Adults  | 60.00                             | 60.00                                      | <b>62.00</b>  |
| ● Season Ticket - Concessionary Rate  | 30.00                             | 30.00                                      | <b>31.00</b>  |
| <b>BOWLS *2</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| <b>CROQUET (GOLDERS HILL)</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| ● Hourly charge (members of HHCC) for lawn                                    | 4.00                              | 4.00                                       | <b>4.50</b>   |
| ● Hourly charge (non members) for lawn  | 7.50                              | 7.50                                       | <b>8.00</b>   |
| <b>CRICKET</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| ● Reserved match pitch (prepared and marked)                                  | 73.00                             | 75.00                                      | <b>77.00</b>  |
| ● Reserved match pitch Parliament Hill<br>weekends (prepared and marked)      | 92.50                             | 95.00                                      | <b>98.00</b>  |
| ● Junior pitch (prepared and marked)  | 44.00                             | 45.00                                      | <b>46.00</b>  |
| ● Cricket nets (per hour)   | 6.50                              | 6.50                                       | <b>7.00</b>   |
| ● Private changing room with hot water<br>(Keys - deposit or charge for loss) | 41.00<br>(25.00)                  | 42.00<br>(25.00)                           | <b>43.00<br/>(25.00)</b>                                  |
| <b>FOOTBALL AND RUGBY</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| ● Reserved match pitch Adult (with goal posts)                                | 68.00                             | 70.00                                      | <b>72.00</b>  |
| ● Reserved match pitch Junior (with goal posts)                               | 43.00                             | 44.00                                      | <b>45.00</b>  |
| ● Hire of goal nets   | 14.00                             | 14.50                                      | <b>15.00</b>  |
| ● Private changing room with hot water<br>(Keys - deposit or charge for loss) | 41.00<br>(25.00)                  | 42.00<br>(25.00)                           | <b>43.00<br/>(25.00)</b>                                  |
| <i>Schools Use - standard session charge</i>                                  | 39.00                             | 40.00                                      | <b>41.00</b>  |
| ● Charge for damaged nets   | 37.50                             | 38.50                                      | <b>Cost + admin fee</b>                                   |
| <b>BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL/ ROUNDERS/<br/>VOLLEYBALL</b>                           |                                   |  |   |
| ● Reserved Pitch  | 48.50                             | 50.00                                      | <b>52.00</b>  |

| <b>FACILITY</b>   | Charges approved<br>1/4/13<br>(£) | Charges approved<br>1/4/14<br>(£)<br>+2.6% | <b>Proposed Charges<br/>from 1/4/15<br/>(£)<br/>+2.4%</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>PENTANQUE</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| ● Hourly charge/rink  | 2.50                              | 2.50                                       | <b>3.00</b>   |
| ● (Returnable) Deposit for Boules hire                              | 12.00                             | 12.50                                      | <b>20.00</b>  |
| <b>PITCH &amp; PUTT (Queen's Park)</b>                              |                                   |  |   |
| ● One Round Adult   | 4.50                              | 4.50                                       | <b>5.50<sup>+1</sup></b>                                  |
| ● One Round Concessionary rate                                      | 2.50                              | 2.50                                       | <b>2.50</b>   |
| <b>PUTTING (Golders Hill Park)</b>                                  |                                   |  |   |
| ● One Round Adult   | 3.00                              | 3.00                                       | <b>3.00</b>   |
| ● One Round Concessionary rate                                      | 1.50                              | 1.50                                       | <b>1.50</b>   |
| ● Lost or damaged putter  | 25.00                             | 25.50                                      | <b>Cost + admin fee</b>                                   |
| ● Lost ball   | 5.00                              | 5.00                                       | <b>Cost + admin fee</b>                                   |
| <b>SWIMMING</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| <i>Lido</i>   |                                   |  |   |
| ● Early Morning / Winter - Adult                                    | 2.00                              | 2.00                                       | <b>2.50</b>   |
| ● Early Morning / Winter - Concessionary                            | 1.00                              | 1.00                                       | <b>1.50</b>   |
| ● Evening - Adult   | 2.50                              | 2.50                                       | <b>2.50</b>   |
| ● Evening - Concessionary   | 1.50                              | 1.50                                       | <b>1.50</b>   |
| ● Day Ticket - Adults   | 5.50                              | 5.50                                       | <b>6.00</b>   |
| ● Day Ticket - Concessionary  | 3.50                              | 3.50                                       | <b>4.00</b>   |
| ● Day family ticket (up to 2 adults & 2 children)                   | 14.50                             | 14.50                                      | <b>15.00</b>  |
| ● Day adult and child ticket  | 7.50                              | 7.50                                       | <b>8.00</b>   |
| ● Book of tickets<br>(10 for the price of 9) - Adult                | 49.50                             | 49.50                                      | <b>54.00</b>  |
| ● Book of tickets<br>(10 for the price of 9) -Concessionary         | 31.50                             | 31.50                                      | <b>36.00</b>  |
| ● Lido Monthly Ticket - Adult                                       | 40.00                             | 41.00                                      | <b>42.00</b>  |
| ● Lido Monthly Ticket- Concessionary                                | 20.00                             | 20.50                                      | <b>21.00</b>  |
| ● Lido 12 Month Season Ticket - Adult                               | 144.00                            | 147.50                                     | <b>152.00</b>   |
| ● Lido 12 Month Season Ticket - Concessionary                       | 92.50                             | 95.00                                      | <b>98.00</b>  |
| ● Lido 6 Month Season Ticket - Adult                                | 113.00                            | 116.00                                     | <b>120.00</b>   |
| ● Lido 6 Month Season Ticket - Concessionary                        | 56.50                             | 58.00                                      | <b>60.00</b>  |
| ● All Swimming Facilities 12 Month Season<br>Ticket - Adult         | 185.00                            | 190.00                                     | <b>195.00</b>   |
| ● All Swimming Facilities 12 Month Season<br>Ticket - Concessionary | 103.00                            | 105.50                                     | <b>108.00</b>   |
| ● All Swimming Facilities 6 Month Season<br>Ticket - Adult          | 113.00                            | 116.00                                     | <b>140.00</b>   |
| ● All Swimming Facilities 6 Month Season<br>Ticket - Concessionary  | 56.50                             | 58.00                                      | <b>70.00</b>  |

| <b>FACILITY</b>   | Charges approved<br>1/4/13<br>(£) | Charges approved<br>1/4/14<br>(£)<br>+2.6% | <b>Proposed Charges<br/>from 1/4/15<br/>(£)<br/>+2.4%</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b><i>Natural Ponds</i></b>   |                                   |  |   |
| • Day Ticket: Highgate: Men's, Kenwood Ladies', Hampstead Mixed - Adult         | 2.00                              | 2.00                                       | <b>2.00</b>   |
| • Day Ticket: Highgate: Men's, Kenwood Ladies', Hampstead Mixed - Concessionary | 1.00                              | 1.00                                       | <b>1.00</b>   |
| • Ponds 12 Month Season Ticket – Adult  | 118.50                            | 121.50                                     | <b>125.00</b>   |
| • Ponds 12 Month Season Ticket – Concessionary                                  | 62.00                             | 63.50                                      | <b>66.00</b>  |
| • Ponds 6 Month Season Ticket – Adult   | 62.00                             | 63.50                                      | <b>66.00</b>  |
| • Ponds 6 Month Season Ticket –Concessionary                                    | 31.00                             | 32.00                                      | <b>33.00</b>  |
| <b>TENNIS</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| • Annual registration fee   | 15.00                             | 15.50                                      | <b>16.00</b>  |
| • Adult Hourly Charge - hard or grass court (per hour)                          | 6.50                              | 6.50                                       | <b>7.00</b>   |
| • Concessionary Rates - hard or grass court (per hour)                          | 3.50                              | 3.50                                       | <b>4.00</b>   |
| <b>SPORTS COACHING</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| <b><i>Tennis Coaching and Development</i></b>                                   |                                   |  |   |
| <b>Adult Beginners/improvers</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| • 5 weekly 1 hour lessons   | 46.00                             | 47.00                                      | <b>48.00</b>  |
| • 5 weekly 1 1/2 hour lessons   | 67.00                             | 68.50                                      | <b>72.00</b>  |
| • 5 weekly 2 hour lessons   | 87.50                             | 90.00                                      | <b>96.00</b>  |
| <b>Children Beginners/improvers</b>   |                                   |  |   |
| • 5 weekly 1 hour lessons   | 37.00                             | 38.00                                      | <b>39.00</b>  |
| <b><i>Children's Football Coaching</i></b><br>(Queen's Park and Highgate Wood)  |                                   |  |   |
| • 5 weekly 2 hour lessons   | 46.00                             | 47.00                                      | <b>48.00</b>  |
| <b>CAR PARKING</b>  |                                   |  |   |
| • Up to 2 hours   | 2.50                              | 2.50                                       | <b>3.00</b>   |
| • Up to 4 hours   | 5.00                              | 5.00                                       | <b>6.00</b>   |
| • Additional hours or part hours above 4 hours                                  | 4.50                              | 4.50                                       | <b>5.00</b>   |

+1 Adult prices have been benchmarked against Gunnersbury 9 hole pitch and putt course.

\*1 Corporate Event prices will be worked up on a case by case basis.

\*2 The Bowls facility is now leased to the Parliament Hill Bowling Club supported by the Hampstead Heath Croquet Club who set their own fees for Members.

| <b>WEDDINGS &amp; CIVIL CEREMONIES</b> | Soft opening charges 2014 (£) | Pilot year charges 2015 (£) | <b>Proposed charges from 1/1/16 (£)</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Hill Garden shelter</i>             |                               |                             |   |
| ● Monday - Thursday                    | 1,250.00                      | 1,800.00                    | <b>2,000.00</b>                         |
| ● Friday                               | 1,250.00                      | 2,100.00                    | <b>2,400.00</b>                         |
| ● Weekends                             | 1,250.00                      | 2,400.00                    | <b>2,800.00</b>                         |
| <i>Pergola</i>                         |                               |                             |   |
| ● Monday - Thursday                    | 1,000.00                      | 1,500.00                    | <b>1,800.00</b>                         |
| ● Friday                               | 1,000.00                      | 1,620.00                    | <b>2,000.00</b>                         |
| ● Weekends                             | 1,000.00                      | 1,800.00                    | <b>2,200.00</b>                         |

| <b>EDUCATION &amp; PLAY CHARGES</b>  | Charges from 1/9/14* <sup>3</sup> (£) | <b>Proposed charges from 1/4/15<sup>+2</sup> (£)</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>EDUCATION CENTRE</b>  |                                       |  |
| <i>Standard 2 hour session</i>   |                                       |  |
| ● State Schools - up to 30 children  | 90.00                                 | <b>99.00</b>   |
| ● State Schools- incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students        | 45.00                                 | <b>49.50</b>   |
| ● Independent Schools - up to 30 children  | 120.00                                | <b>129.00</b>  |
| ● Independent Schools - incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students | 60.00                                 | <b>65.00</b>   |
| <b>ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND</b>  |                                       |  |
| <i>Full day play and education session</i>   |                                       |  |
| ● State Schools - up to 30 children  | 120.00                                | <b>132.00</b>  |
| ● State Schools- incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students        | 60.00                                 | <b>66.00</b>   |
| ● Independent Schools - up to 30 children  | 150.00                                | <b>172.00</b>  |
| ● Independent Schools - incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students | 75.00                                 | <b>86.00</b>   |
| <b>ORGANISED PLAY SESSION</b>  |                                       |  |
| <i>Standard 2 hour session</i>   |                                       |  |
| ● State Schools - up to 30 children  | 60.00                                 | <b>66.00</b>   |
| ● State Schools- incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students        | 30.00                                 | <b>33.00</b>   |
| ● Independent Schools - up to 30 children  | 60.00                                 | <b>86.00</b>   |
| ● Independent Schools - incremental prices above 30 children. Fixed price for up to 15 additional students | 30.00                                 | <b>43.00</b>   |

\*3 The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee agreed the new pricing structure at their meeting on 15 September 2014. Education and Play charges will now be priced 'per session' rather than 'per child'.

+2 Following a bench marking exercise, State School charges have been increased by 10%. A 30% uplift has been applied for Independent Schools to establish a consistent charging ratio. Charges for more than £50 have been rounded up to the nearest pound.

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|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Committee(s):</b>   |                     | <b>Date(s):</b>                |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee   | For information     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2014  |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee  | For decision        | 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 |
| <b>Subject:</b>  | <b>Public</b>       |                                |
| Hampstead Rugby Club request for a third rugby pitch.  |                     |                                |
| <b>Report of:</b>  | <b>For Decision</b> |                                |
| Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.   |                     |                                |
| <b><u>Summary</u></b>  |                     |                                |
| <p>This report sets out a request received from the Hampstead Rugby Club to create an additional third rugby pitch on the Hampstead Heath Extension. The request meets the guidance set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Plan for alterations to existing sports provision or the creation of new sports facilities in designated sports areas. The report outlines the out-reach school work and the development of junior and female rugby by Hampstead Rugby Club.</p>   |                     |                                |
| <b>Recommendations</b>   |                     |                                |
| It is recommended:   |                     |                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on the request for a third pitch on the Heath Extension, are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.</li> <li>• That the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee support the request for a third pitch on the Heath Extension.</li> <li>• That a third rugby pitch is allocated to Hampstead Rugby Club with usage to be reviewed at the end of the 2016/2017 playing season.</li> </ul> |                     |                                |

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Hampstead Heath is a popular Open Space for organised sport, as well as for informal recreation. The Heath's proximity to central London puts it within reach of a large potential audience. Hampstead Rugby Club (the Club) has been active since 1968 and has been based on the Heath since the mid-1970s. Last season the Club was crowned Middlesex Development Champions for the minis and midis section, as well as receiving a Middlesex Presidential Award for its development of junior and senior female rugby.

2. The Club currently plays its games at weekends on two rugby pitches at the Hampstead Heath Extension. Last season 85 matches were booked, although a number of games were cancelled due to poor weather conditions. The senior male and female players train at Parliament Hill Athletics Track and surrounding playing fields on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The junior section train each Saturday morning at Parliament Hill.

### **Growth of Hampstead Rugby Club**

3. The Club currently runs six senior male, and two senior female teams. The female section was launched in 2003 and is the fastest-growing ladies' section in London. The junior section was launched in September 2010 with just 15 children, although by the start of the current season, this had increased to 185 children. The Club currently manages 12 junior teams, and this is forecast to increase to 15 teams in the 2014/2015 playing season.
4. The Club is part of the 'All Schools Programme', an initiative sponsored by the Rugby Football Union in 2012. Its aim is to take rugby to 750 state secondary schools, with core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, sportsmanship, making school life happier and healthier, reducing anti-social behaviour, enhancing learning, and increasing self-esteem for students. Currently the Club has links with four local schools in the 'All Schools Programme': William Ellis Secondary School, Haverstock Secondary, Parliament Hill School for Girls and the New Archers Academy.
5. Last season the Club launched 'Ruggerbugs' at Gospel Oak Primary School. 'Ruggerbugs' is a project sponsored by Rhino Sports, which aims to develop and enhance children's basic motor skills, as well as assisting with a child's Early Year Foundation Stage Development.
6. Rugby will be at the forefront of United Kingdom sport in 2015, with the Rugby World Cup taking place in ten cities across England, with the final being played at Twickenham.

### **Proposal**

7. The Club is formally seeking permission to have a third full-size rugby pitch on the Hampstead Heath Extension (Appendix 1) for Saturday club matches and for mid-week training sessions for schools, including matches. On one full-size pitch, two training sessions and/or games can take place at the same time.
8. During the National Grid gas works in 2012, one of the current rugby pitches was temporarily relocated to the proposed new pitch site for the duration of the works. This area of land is currently part of one of the two cricket outfield squares at the Extension (figure 1). Cricket provision would not be effected, as rugby is a winter sport and the turf can be renovated before the start of the following cricket season.
9. The Club actively encourages players and parents to use public transport to reduce pressures on car parking facilities on Hampstead Heath at both the Extension and Parliament Hill Fields.





**Figure 1: Site Location Plan of the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Pitch**  
 (Please also refer to Appendix 3 – Map of Sports facilities)

### **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

10. The proposal for a third rugby pitch supports The City Together Strategy: The Heart of a World Class City 2008-2014 “supports our communities” and the Open Spaces Business Plan 2013-2016 to “*Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living*”.
11. The Sports Chapter of The Hampstead Heath Management Plan: Towards a plan for the Heath 2007-2017 has the overriding objective to “*Work collaboratively in maintaining and developing the existing sports facilities and activities in response to changing demands ensuring appropriate provision for all sections of the community*” – appendix 2.
12. The Heath Extension is one of three areas designated as sports areas on Hampstead Heath, the other two being Parliament Hill and the north end of Golders Hill Park. With reference to alterations to existing sports provision, or the creation of new sports facilities within the three identified sports areas, the Hampstead Heath Management Plan states the following considerations must be met:
  - There is no threat to public safety
  - It is consistent with good turf management practice
  - There would be no significant increase in noise or light pollution affecting neighbouring residents.

## **Implications**

### Financial implications:

13. It is the Club's intention to generate usage of the third pitch by actively encouraging schools to use the facility. The Club estimates a minimum of 25 games will be played in the 2014/15 season. Income from hire of the pitch has been set as per agreed charging:

- £70.00 reserved adult match pitch
- £40.00 reserved junior match pitch
- £607.00 ten games – adult season
- £380.00 ten games – junior season
- £42.00 changing accommodation

*NB charges are reviewed annually in November, for implementation the following April.*

14. Maintenance cost of an additional rugby pitch would be in the region of £3,000.00 per annum (excluding spring and summer grass cutting). Maintenance works would include marking-out, making sure the surface is fit for play, and end-of-season renovation.

15. Cost of maintenance will be met from the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget, although the Club has agreed to purchase additional posts and flags for the third pitch. It is acknowledged that the income from adding a third pitch will only contribute to the cost of on-going maintenance. However, the Heath has a crucial role to play in providing sporting opportunities and promoting good health, community cohesion and improvements to the quality of life.

### Ecological Impact

16. There are no ecological implications, as the area is already a designated sports activity location. In 2007 there were seven cricket squares on this parcel of land and this has been reduced to two, due to a fall in demand.

### Legal and Property implications:

17. There are no legal or property implications.

## **Consultation**

18. At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum agreed in principal to the creation of the additional rugby pitch.

## **Conclusion**

19. In order to facilitate the growth of Hampstead Rugby Club, and particularly junior teams and school activities, it is recommended a third pitch be granted, with its usage to be reviewed at the end of the 2016/2017 playing season.

20. The addition of a third pitch would allow Heath staff to rotate usage and spread wear and tear, in order to accommodate the anticipated additional mid-week and weekend junior games.

21. Hampstead Rugby Club has already achieved great success in setting up junior, female and outreach school rugby in the local area.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Request from Hampstead Rugby Club

Appendix 2a - Hampstead Heath Management Plan – Sports Chapter

Appendix 2b - Hampstead Heath Management Plan – Sports facilities and designated sports areas on the Heath

Appendix 3 - Map of Sports Facilities & Areas

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## Appendix 1 - Request from Hampstead Rugby Club for a 3<sup>rd</sup> rugby pitch.



**Hampstead RFC, 154 Fleet Road, Hampstead, London NW3 2QX**  
**www.hampsteadrugbyclub.co.uk**  
**info@hampsteadrugbyclub.co.uk**

Re: Third pitch for Hampstead RFC

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

I have previously highlighted Hampstead RFC's wish for a third pitch to the Sports Forum Committee. I now wish to actually make an official approach to having this third pitch on the Heath Extension.

I would like to highlight how much the Club appreciates all the support we have received from Paul Maskell, Declan Gallagher and John Slapp, with accommodating the Club and appreciate all the hard work their teams put in in terms of ground maintenance. The two existing pitches are of the highest quality, and the help we receive for our Junior Section has been a major factor in the exceptional growth we have seen.

We started with 15 children, just over four years ago, and now have 200 plus players, ranged from 6 to 16, from both sexes. On top of this we have been crowned Middlesex Development champions this season and have just picked up a Middlesex Presidential award for development in Ladies and Girls rugby and our active involvement with the RFU's All School's scheme. We are also one of the few clubs within London who can maintain five senior men's sides.

The drawback with this level of commitment we have on the playing side means a lot of effort, not only to maintain the status quo, but to manage the expected growth. We launched Ruggerbugs last season, so now have 50 pre-school children involved in rugby activities, thus ensuring a constant flow of new recruits to our Mini ranks. The RFU see us as 'a go to club' for school activities, and O2 are talking to us in regards of hosting an event as part of the RWC 2015 build-up and their targeting of inner city school participation. If we have the influx of players we received last Rugby World Cup, then the Club will be huge.

Therefore, we see a third pitch as key to our growth, and see it primarily used by the junior teams, for school activities, and on a few occasions, by the seniors, when the Fixture exchange throws up the odd third home game. We envisage this pitch being located where the temporary pitch was set up, and can come in a few yards, length and width ways. In terms of posts, a small set would suffice, and the Club would be happy to meet the cost of these.

I will be more than willing to meet up to discuss this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED], Chairman, Hampstead RFC

## Appendix 2a - Hampstead Heath Management Plan – Sports Chapter

### HAMPSTEAD HEATH MANAGEMENT PLAN PART I – TOWARDS A PLAN FOR THE HEATH 2007 – 2017 SPORTS SECTION

#### 7.7 SPORTS

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##### Context

- 7.7.1 The Heath is a popular open space for organised sport as well as for informal recreation. There is no doubt that the special character of the Heath will continue to attract large numbers of visitors, particularly as the need to escape from the stresses of modern urban life increases. The Heath's proximity to central London puts it within reach of a large potential audience.
- 7.7.2 National and regional policy statements highlight the importance of sport in open spaces and facilities such as are found on Hampstead Heath. Examples of such statements are:
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport/Strategy Unit, *Game Plan strategy document*, 2002
  - Department of Health, White Paper, *Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan*, 2005
  - Sport England, *The London Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, 2004 – 2008*, 2004
  - Greater London Authority, *Offside – the Loss of London's Playing Fields*, 2006.
- 7.7.3 Some of the sporting activities have a high reputation and profile regionally and nationally. For example, Hampstead Heath is traditionally regarded throughout the country as the home of cross-country running.
- 7.7.4 With a lack of open space in neighbouring boroughs, the Heath has a crucial role to play in providing sporting opportunities and promoting good health, community cohesion and improvements to the quality of life. Of the four London Boroughs closest to the Heath, three are in the top ten for poor health in the capital: Camden, Islington and Haringey (2001 Census). Without Heath facilities, including outdoor grass pitches and the Athletics Track, many primary and secondary schools would not be able to provide key sports activities as part of a physical education programme. There are particularly strong links with the four local secondary schools – Parliament Hill, William Ellis, Acland Burghley and La Sainte Union Catholic – indeed, Heath staff presently assist William Ellis School in the development of the major part of their physical education curriculum activities.
- 7.7.5 More than 40 different schools have booked Heath sports facilities in the past two years; more than 80 different sports clubs have booked Heath sports facilities in the past two years. There are approximately 215,000 visits made to the Swimming Ponds each year. There were approximately 75,000 visits made to the Lido in the summer of 2006.
- 7.7.6 This section specifically refers to the sports and activities that require active management. At least 16 sports take place on the Heath: athletics, bowls, cricket, cross-country running, duathlon, fitness training, football, golf practice and putting, hockey, orienteering, petanque, rounders and softball, rugby, swimming, tennis and water polo.
- 7.7.7 The City of London recognises the difference between swimming (active exercise) and bathing (passive immersion). However, for simplicity this document uses 'swimming' to include swimming and bathing.
- 7.7.8 Some of the sporting activities and associations on Hampstead Heath have a very long history. Many sports have established clubs and a recognised voice.

- 7.7.9 Open-air swimming on the Heath is long established and takes place at the Men's Pond, the Ladies' Pond, the Mixed Pond and the Lido. The formal opening of the Men's Pond took place in 1890, although open-air swimming on the Heath long pre-dates this. The Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club self-regulates winter swimming at the Mixed Pond. A detailed description of the swimming facilities and their management can be found in *Sports Baseline Condition and Management Issues* (Land Use Consultants, 2006) and *Sport on Hampstead Heath* (Sports Working Group, 2006).
- 7.7.10 The Swimming Ponds are internationally famous. The Men's Pond and the Ladies' Pond are unique in the United Kingdom in being the only life-guarded open-water swimming facilities open to the public every day of the year. They are attractive to swimmers of all ages and backgrounds for various reasons, including their chemical-free water, lack of artificial heating and beautiful surroundings. The Ladies' Pond provides a unique, secluded retreat for female swimmers. In the summer many families come to swim in the Mixed Pond. The Men's Pond provides a male-only swimming environment. The Ponds attract many visitors from London and even overseas. Approximately 100 'regulars' swim in the Ponds throughout the year.
- 7.7.11 The Swimmers' Forum was established in 2005 and allows representatives of the swimmers to discuss issues of concern. The Forum has proved very useful in this respect. It is a valuable addition to the Heath's consultation process and may act as a good model for similar interest groups elsewhere on the Heath.

### **Overriding Objective**

- S1 Work collaboratively in maintaining and developing the existing sports facilities and activities in response to changing demands ensuring appropriate provision for all sections of the community.**

### **Essential Actions**

- S2 Promote and provide for managed sports activities in three identified Sports Areas:**
- **Parliament Hill area (Sports Area A)**
  - **The Heath Extension (Sports Area B)**
  - **North end of Golders Hill Park (Sports Area C)**

## **Appendix 2b - Hampstead Heath Management Plan – Sports facilities and designated sports areas on the Heath**

- S3**      **Establish a Sports Advisory Forum to advise the Superintendent on sporting matters.**
- S4**      **Promote and provide for managed swimming facilities at the Swimming Ponds and the Lido.**
- S5**      **Allow alteration of existing sports facilities or the creation of new sports facilities within the identified Sports Areas subject only to the following considerations:**
- **There is no threat to public safety**
  - **It is consistent with good turf management practice**
  - **There would be no significant increase in noise or light pollution affecting neighbouring residents.**
- 7.7.12      Other than pond swimming, the only sports that take place outside the Sports Areas at the date of this management plan are cross-country, orienteering, fitness training, a charity event (Race for Life) and the Duathlon. With new sports emerging and/or an excess demand for the current facilities at some future time, consideration may need to be given for sports to take place outside the Sports Areas.
- S6**      **Allow sports to take place outside the identified Sports Areas only if all the following eight criteria are fulfilled:**
- 1. The new sport or relocation of an existing sport is recommended by the Sports Advisory Forum following an assessment of perceived demand.**
  - 2. The sport cannot be accommodated within one of the Sports Areas.**
  - 3. There is no significant detriment to the general public’s enjoyment of the Heath.**
  - 4. There is no significant threat to the natural Heath.**
  - 5. The practice of the new sport or new location does not expose the City of London to a material risk of criminal or civil liability, and is permitted by the City’s insurers.**
  - 6. The adverse impact, if any, on established informal sport in the relevant area must be outweighed, in the view of the Sports Advisory Forum, by the demand for, and public benefit of, the new or relocated sport.**
  - 7. It is consistent with good turf management practice.**
  - 8. No permanent structures are needed by the sport in question.**
- S7**      **Develop the role of sporting facilities in providing opportunities to promote good health, community cohesion, social inclusion, quality of life and lifelong learning.**
- 7.7.13      Sports facilities on the Heath should be available to a broader spectrum of users, including young people, families, disabled people and others.
- 7.7.14      The Heath should encourage more use of its diverse facilities and in doing so promote healthier life and fitness through sports. It should collaborate with the London Boroughs of Camden, Barnet, Islington and Haringey to help them provide a service where they are currently unable to do so using their own facilities. Links should also be made with local primary care trusts to promote use of the Heath and its facilities.

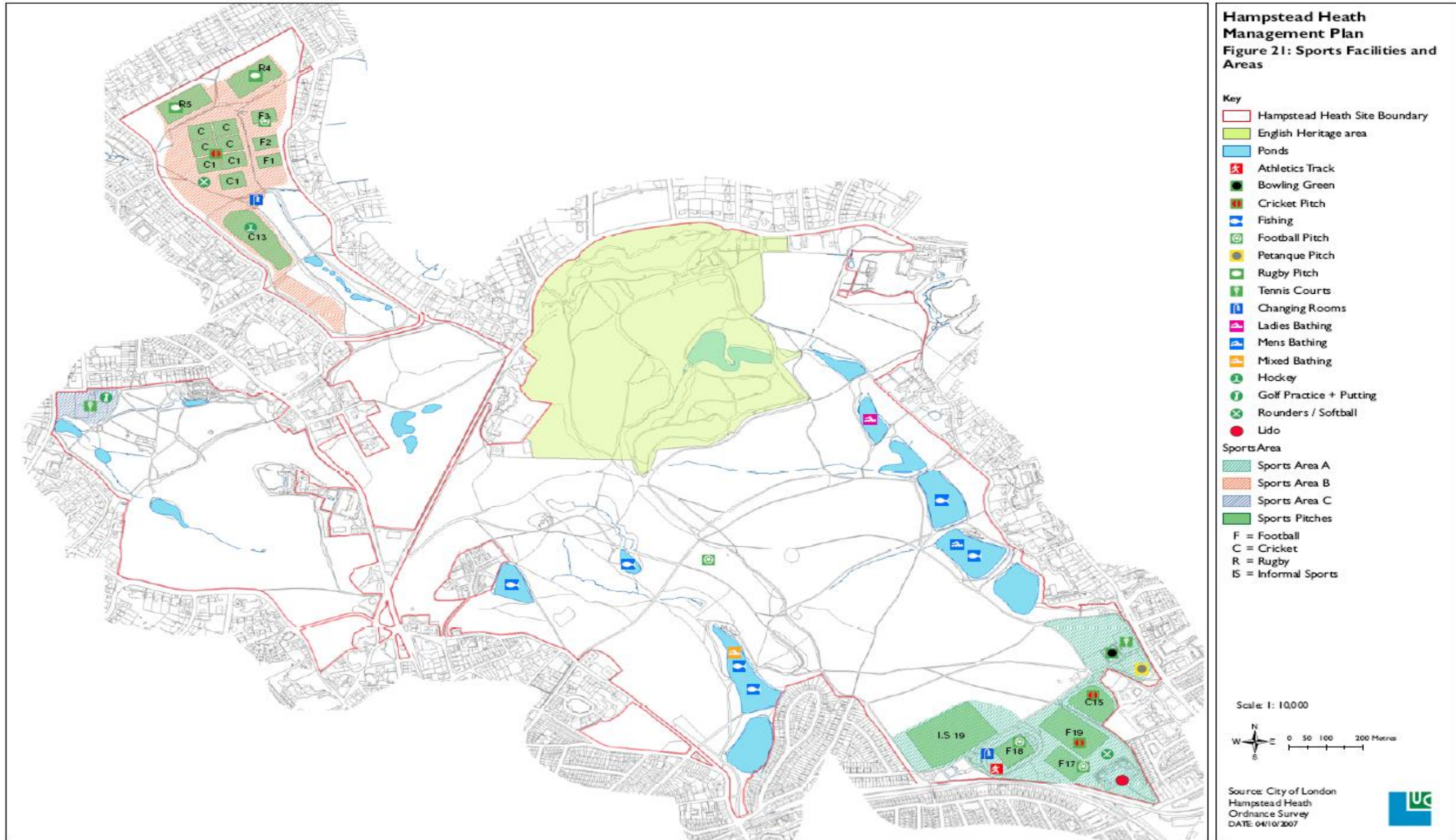
- S8** Encourage and support connections with surrounding schools and the provision of proper sports instruction.
- S9** Set up systems to monitor patterns of use, so as to better identify opportunities for increased or improved use.
- S10** Explore the establishment of a club to encompass a range of Heath sports – an Umbrella Sports Club.
- S11** Work in partnership with other agencies to develop opportunities to realise the sporting and wider cultural opportunities of the 2012 Olympics. For example, local sports events could be held during the Olympics to take advantage of heightened interest.

#### **Aspirational Goals**

- S12** See Aspirational Goals B10 relating to the Lido and B11 relating to the Athletics Track Pavilion and the Sports Changing Rooms.



### APPENDIX 3 Sports Facilities & Areas



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