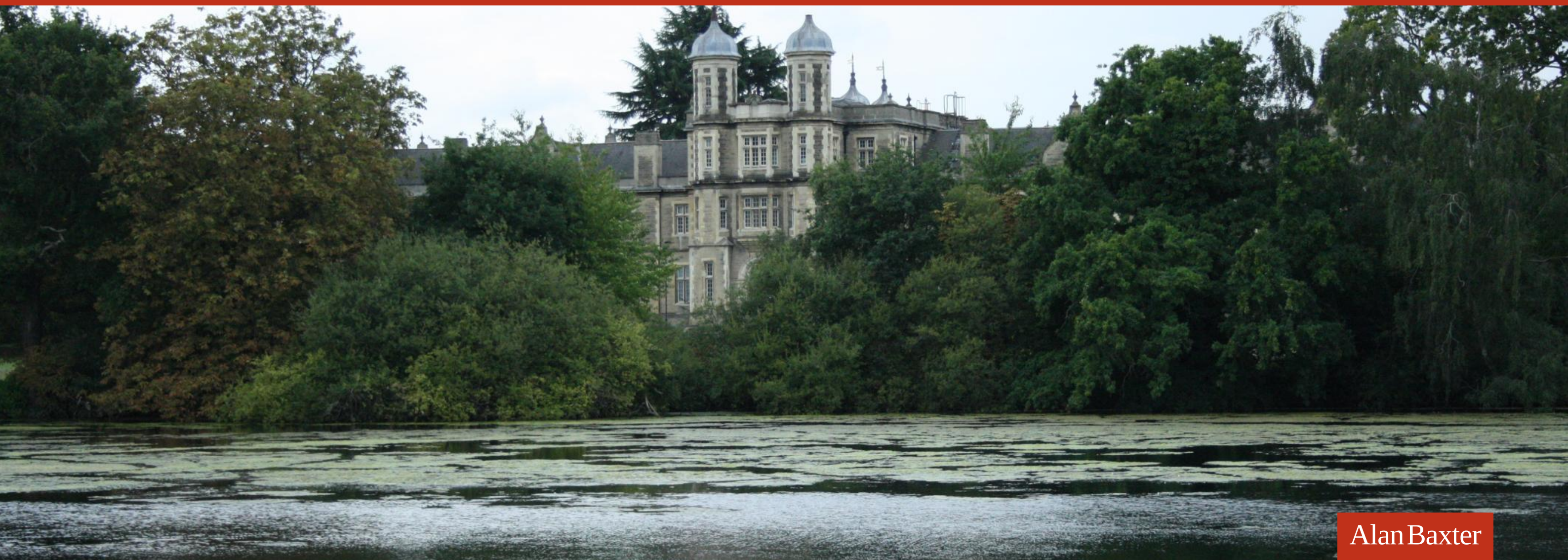


Eagle Pond Conservation Statement

Prepared for The City of London Corporation
May 2018





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Executive summary

Eagle Pond is a large waterbody at the centre of Snaresbrook in northeast London. Although part of Epping Forest, which borders it on its west side, its setting is relatively urban and it is a popular natural amenity for local residents. It is within the Snaresbrook Conservation Area and is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

This Conservation Statement has been commissioned by the City of London Corporation which holds in trust and manages Eagle Pond and as part of the wider Epping Forest. The purpose of the Conservation Statement is to provide information on the origins of the Pond; how, why and when it was formed; assess its significance and establish policies to effectively manage that significance in the future.

History

The origins of Eagle Pond are not well-documented, nor is much of its early history. This Conservation Statement examines the surviving evidence and concludes that it is likely to have been included as part of the wider landscaping plans of the Wanstead Estate in the early eighteenth century and likely created by damming the Sayesbrook at this time. It is not therefore either an ornamental lake, nor was it ever likely to have ever been a reservoir for the lakes of Wanstead Park.

Its nineteenth century history is much associated with the Snaresbrook Infant Orphan Asylum which was constructed on its south bank in the early 1840s. This vast institution designed by the celebrated architects Sir George Gilbert Scott and William Bonython Moffatt continued into the twentieth century and used Eagle Pond as a water source.

The City of London became conservators of Epping Forest and the Pond in 1881, ensuring a greater degree of stability to its ownership, use and management. Its use for public recreation has gradually reduced due to tighter management policies and controls by the City over the twentieth century.

Significance

Eagle Pond is largely of local significance. Its associations with Wanstead Park, one of the great 'lost' estates in this country (the house was demolished in the 1820s and much of the land has been subsequently built on and sold off) is of national significance and its close physical and historical connection with the former Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum (now Snaresbrook Crown Court), an important nineteenth century building is also nationally significant.

It is also attractive and clearly much appreciated by the local population who care about its condition and management. Its position in a relatively urban area, with the associated problems of littering and fly-tipping and with a large population of Canada Geese means its ecological significance is compromised and could be much improved.



Figure 1: South bank of Eagle Pond

Strategy for conservation

There is no overwhelming or specific threat to the significance of Eagle Pond which, on the whole, is effectively managed. The two main threats to significance are a) the lack of coordination to the management of the Pond by the different owners of the banks and b) problems with littering, excess wildfowl and algal blooms which threaten the ecological health of the Pond.

The Policies which conclude this document are listed here for ease of reference but should be read with their supporting, explanatory text.

General

Medium Priority

- Policy U1: The City Corporation will explore the opportunity for informing visitors and the wider public of the historical development of Eagle Pond and its associations with the history of the area.
- Policy U2: The City Corporation will establish the dimensions and profile of Eagle Pond.
- Policy U3: The City Corporation will assess opportunities to carry out further research into the Pond, to fill current gaps in our knowledge.
- Policy O1: The City Corporation will investigate the possibility of forming a standing forum with the HMCTS and LBR's Conservation Area and Highway representatives in order to better co-ordinate the management of the Pond's significance.
- Policy P1: The City Corporation will regularly review the level of heritage and ecological protection of the Pond to ensure that the significance of the site is effectively protected.

Long-term Priority

Policy AC1: The City Corporation will explore with HMCTS the possibility of permitting the public use of the south bank of Eagle Pond as an amenity.

Policy A1: The City Corporation will, during low water events or works to the dam, east embankment or Pond bed, take the opportunity to record archaeological finds.

Ecological

High Priority

Policy E1: The City Corporation will work with LBR and HMCTS to examine methods of further reducing the amount of littering in and around Eagle Pond to further enhance the immediate environment.

Policy E2: The City Corporation will gradually remove trees to create open wildlife habitats to meet requirements of the Reservoirs Act and also the need to fulfil requirements of being in a conservation area.

Policy E3: The City Corporation will monitor the presence and distribution of Invasive Non-Native Species across Epping Forest ponds and take appropriate action to minimise their spread.

Medium Priority

Policy E4: The City Corporation will explore the opportunity with the LBR of planting trees and marginal vegetation along the north bank to improve the ecological habitat of this bank and improve the environment for the pedestrian.

Policy E5: The City Corporation will plant a reed bed where storm drainage water enters the Pond from the Snaresbrook Road to help reduce a build-up of pollution in sediments in the water.

Policy E6: The City Corporation will restore the open woodland character between Eagle Pond and the car park.

Policy E7: The City Corporation will continue to implement a strategy to discourage the general public from feeding the wildfowl on Eagle Pond inappropriate food that is harmful to the health of the birds and the ecology of the Pond.

Policy E8: The City Corporation will work with local partners to encourage measures which will provide a sustainable population of Canada geese across the south of Epping Forest, including Eagle Pond.

Long-term Priority

Policy E9: The City Corporation will work with HMCTS to explore the possibility of implementing a programme of establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation along the south bank will enhance the ecological significance of this bank and help prevent erosion.

Policy E10: The City Corporation will explore the possibility of implementing a programme of establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation along the north and south banks and creating floating islands of wetland vegetation to enhance the ecological significance of Eagle Pond.

Policy E11: The City Corporation will explore measures that will help increase the levels of dissolved oxygen in Eagle Pond. This would improve the ecological and aesthetic significance of the Pond by reducing stagnation.

Policy E12: The City Corporation will regularly review the distribution of accumulated silt in the Pond and organise removal of material when necessary.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and context

This Conservation Statement has been commissioned by the City of London Corporation who are the Conservators of Epping Forest, which includes Eagle Pond. Epping Forest is a large area of ancient wood-pasture (which includes extensive areas of ancient woodland), covering 6,165 acres of land in north-east London. It contains a number of historic buildings. Approximately 70% is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Eagle Pond which is adjacent to the SSSI and SAC is one of over 100 water bodies within the Forest and is dammed at its east end. The Pond is roughly rectangular and measures approximately 289 metres from east to west and 110 metres from north to south at its midpoint.

The City Corporation holds in trust the whole of Epping Forest and has done since the Arbitrators Award of 1882. This is a strategic document that is intended to help the City Corporation in the management of the significance of Eagle Pond. 'Significance' is defined in the *National Planning Policy Framework* as 'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest'.

The purpose of the Conservation Statement is firstly to identify the history and significance of the Pond, including its ecological significance. Secondly, to set out a framework, codified in policies, for the strategic management of risks to the site and opportunities for better revealing and interpreting the attributes which contribute to the site's significance.

1.2 Scope and limitations

Although this document is a Conservation Statement, it covers the same ground as a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) but provides less management detail than most CMPs would.

This Conservation Statement covers the physical extent of Eagle Pond. The land adjoining the Pond is not the primary subject of this report but inevitably the banks form part of its setting and, to a limited degree, are part of its structure and so are addressed in proportionate detail.

It is the nature of existing buildings and structures that details of their construction and development may be hidden or may not be apparent from a visual inspection. The conclusions and any advice contained in this report – particularly relating to dating and nature of the fabric – are based on our research, and on observations and interpretations of what was visible at the time of the site visit. Further research, investigations or opening up works may reveal new information which may require such conclusions and advice to be revised.

1.3 Methodology and structure

The structure of the report is derived from the standard template for conservation statements and conservation plans, adapted to the specific needs of this project. It is therefore organised into a series of parts, or building blocks, through which run the threads which tie together the key conservation themes of the document:

First is the Chapter **Understanding** which sets out the best of the current knowledge about the site and its history, including the current management in place.

Next is the assessment of **Significance** which is an analysis of the heritage and ecological values of the site, as well as the value it has to the local community. Identifying the significance of the site enables those considering its future to make informed decisions about management, care and development.

The third part is an overview of the **Risks and Opportunities** to the significance identified in the previous chapter. Assessing whether there are conflicts between the different values on the site, how they may be vulnerable or the possibilities presented for enhancement in the future.

The Risks and Opportunities lead to a set of **Policies** that will guide the management of the significance of Eagle Pond in the future. These have been organised according to priority and scale.

1.4 Naming conventions

Eagle Pond is sometimes abbreviated to 'the Pond' and Epping Forest referred to as 'the Forest'. Although by some standards Eagle Pond may constitute a 'lake', these distinctions are not universally accepted so we have referred to Eagle Pond throughout as a pond.

The City of London Corporation is sometimes abbreviated to 'the City Corporation'.

London Borough of Redbridge is sometimes abbreviated to 'LBR'.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is sometimes abbreviated to 'HMCTS'.

Alan Baxter Ltd is sometimes referred to as 'ABA'.

1.5 Sources

This Conservation Statement has drawn on existing literature (listed in the Chapter 6), the Historic Environment Record (in appendix A) and primary sources from various local archives (listed in chapter 6). We have also received invaluable information from the Friends of Wanstead Parklands, largely via email and from the information on their website, and through consultation with the Epping Forest Staff, whose knowledge of the site and its surroundings is unparalleled.

1.6 Authors

This Conservation Statement has been written by Heloise Palin and Victoria Bellamy, managed by William Filmer-Sankey at Alan Baxter Ltd. Ecological input has been provided by Iain Corbyn at Ecoconsult Ltd and Matthew Smith (Consultant Entomologist).

1.7 Consultation

A range of stakeholders have been consulted in the drafting of this report. The City Corporation staff have given much of their time in communicating with us about the management of Eagle Pond and given us access to their records relating to Eagle Pond and Epping Forest. The owners of land adjoining the Pond including the London Borough of Redbridge and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service have been consulted on their involvement and experience with the Pond. The Friends of Wanstead Parkland have also been consulted and the views of local residents and visitors on how the Pond is valued by the community have been sought by a public survey.

1.8 City Corporation copyright

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2.0 Understanding the site

2.1 Location

Eagle Pond is a conspicuous landmark in Snaresbrook in northeast London (Figure 2). Snaresbrook is at the southern end of Epping Forest within the area known as Wanstead Flats (Figure 3). The pocket of Forest to which Eagle Pond is attached is known as Hollow Ponds which is the name of a group of ponds to the southwest of Eagle Pond. Despite being within Epping Forest, it is linked to the Forest only at its west end. The other three banks are in separate ownership.

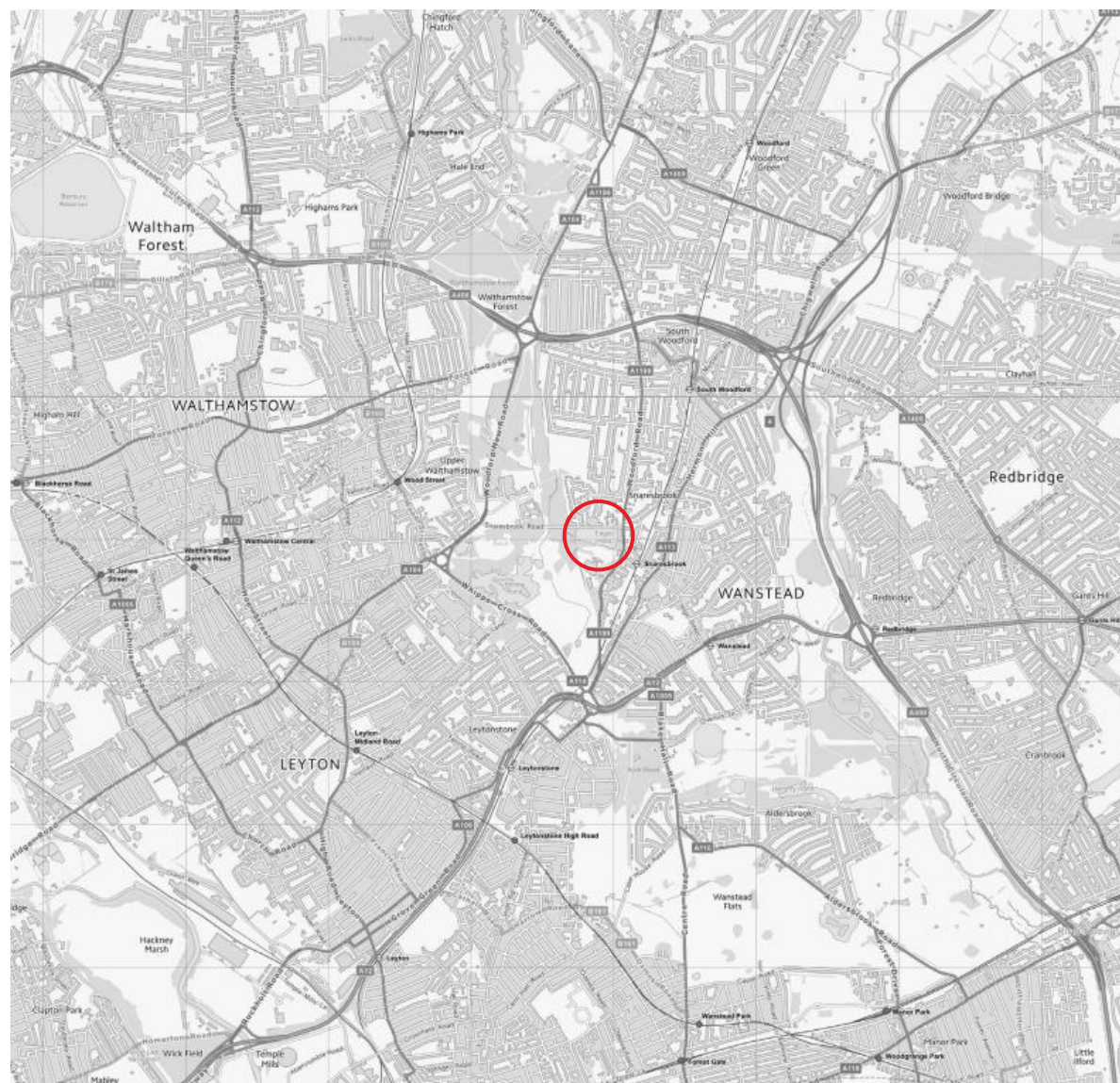


Figure 2: Location plan

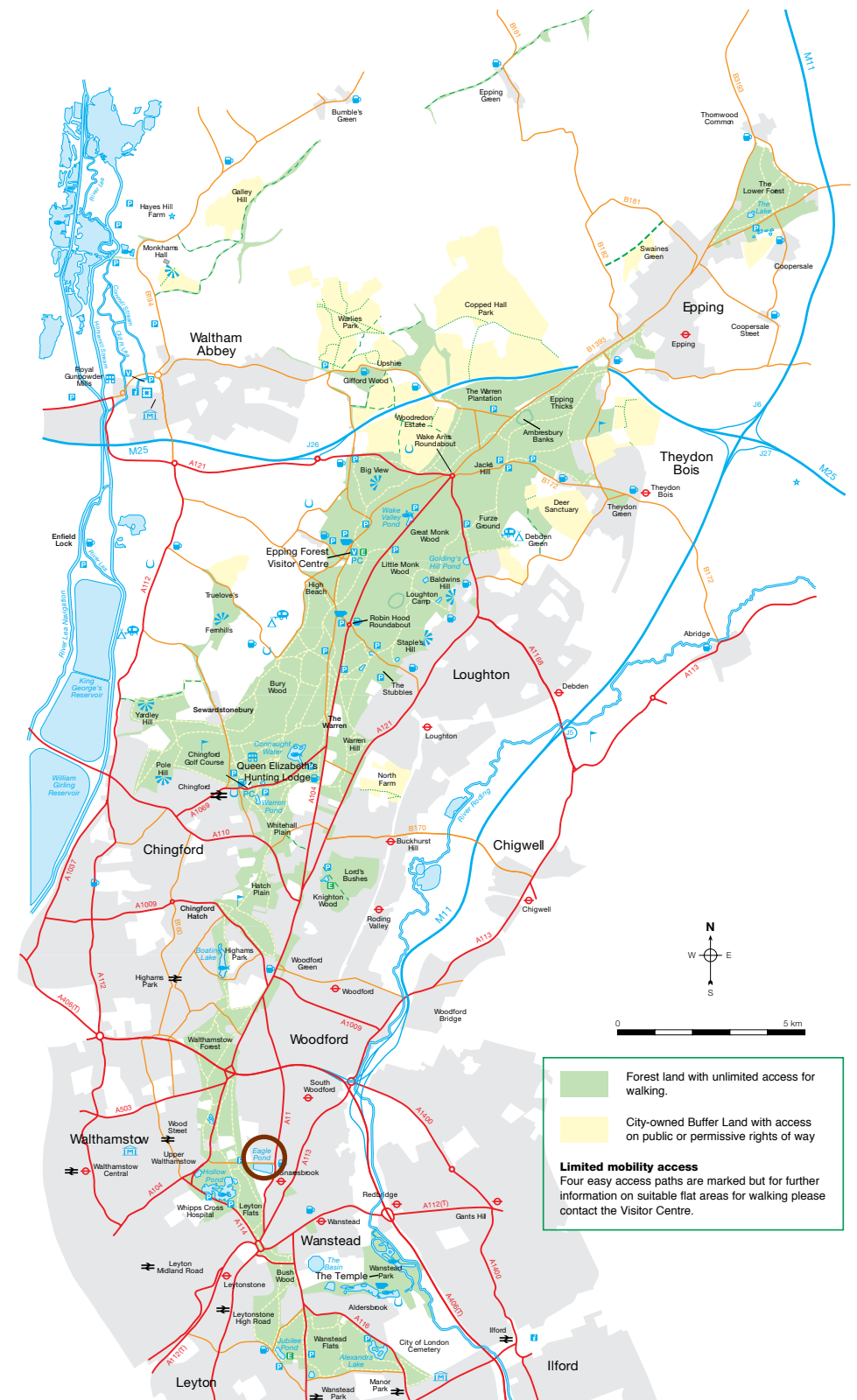


Figure 3: Plan of Epping Forest

2.2 Description

Eagle Pond is a large body of water, roughly rectangular in shape but much narrower at its west end than at its east (Figure 4). Its east end is dammed and, because the Pond holds more than 25,000 cubic metres of water above the natural level of part of the adjoining land (in accordance with the definition in the Reservoirs Act 1975) it is a Large Raised Reservoir and regulated by the Reservoirs Act 1975 and regulation from the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The depth has not been mapped but has been found to be deeper at the east end than the west and to be shallower along the north and south banks (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017).

The pond itself measures approximately 289 metres from east to west and 110 metres from north to south at its midpoint. The profile of the pond in section is shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6, though this is to some degree speculative and based on anecdote (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017). There are two small islands at the west end of the pond which are populated with trees.

A more detailed overview of the Pond, including photographs, is given in the site gazetteer (appendix A).

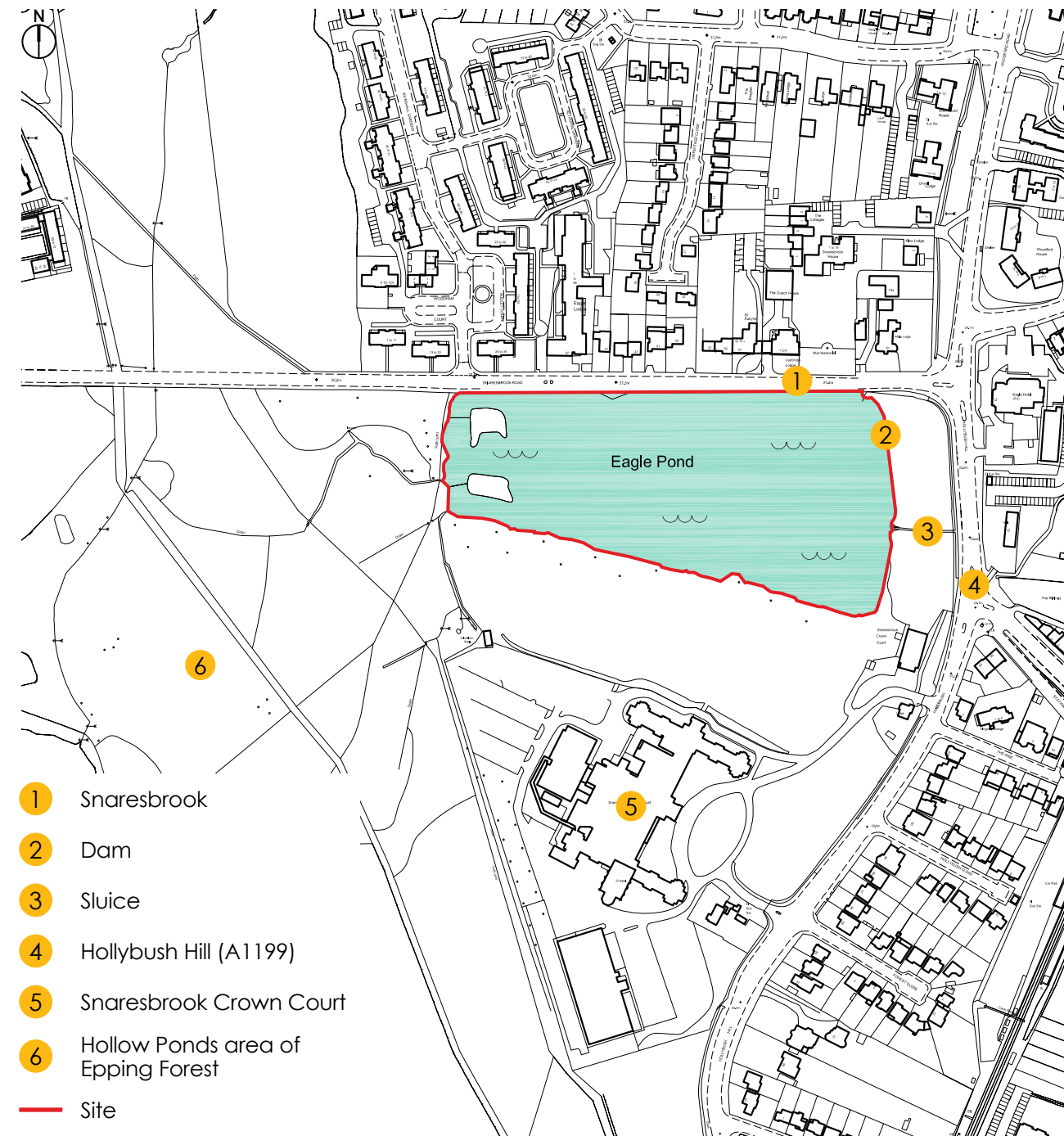


Figure 4: Site description plan

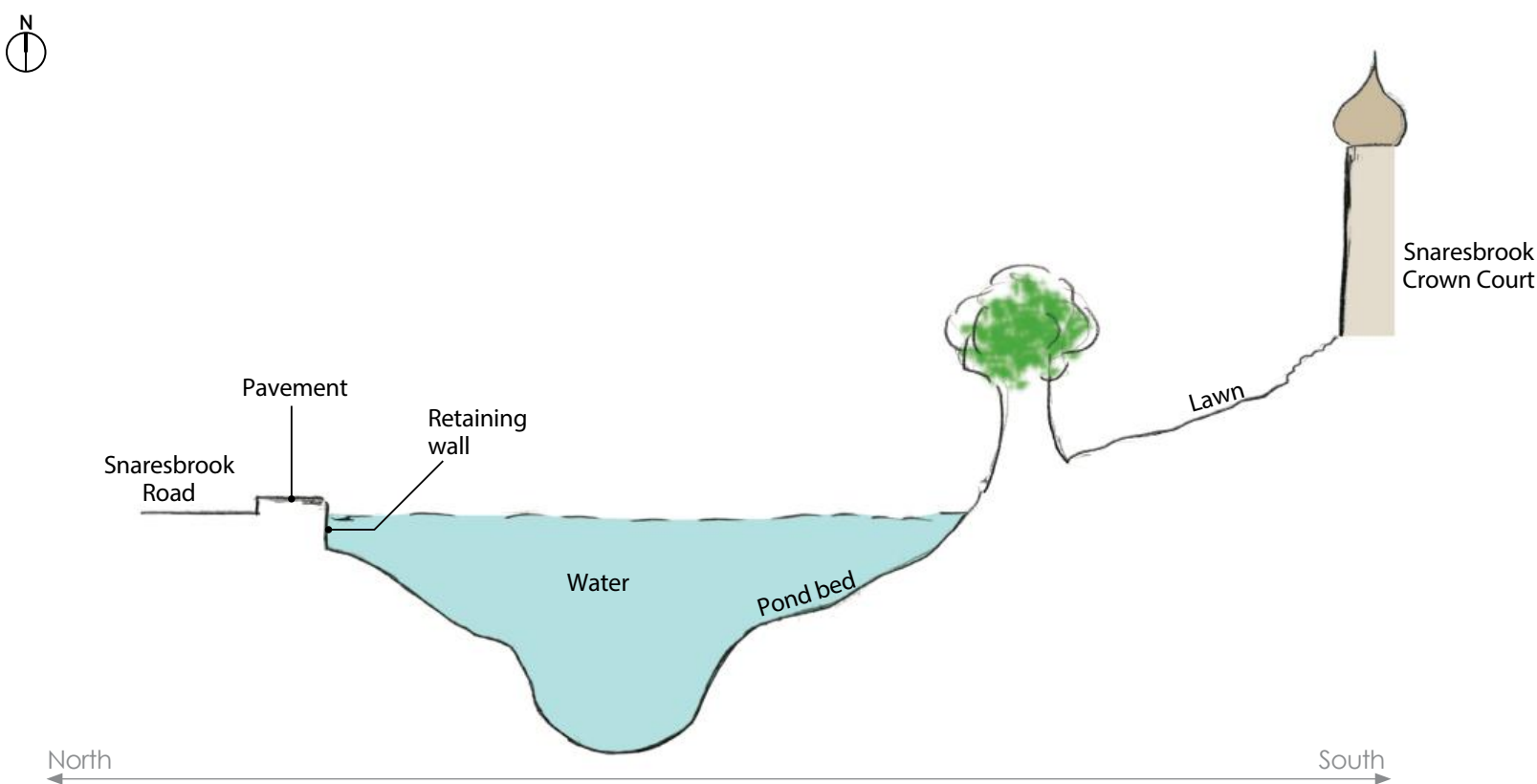


Figure 5: Illustrative north-south cross-section of Eagle Pond, based on information from Epping Forest Staff (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017). Structure has not been investigated.

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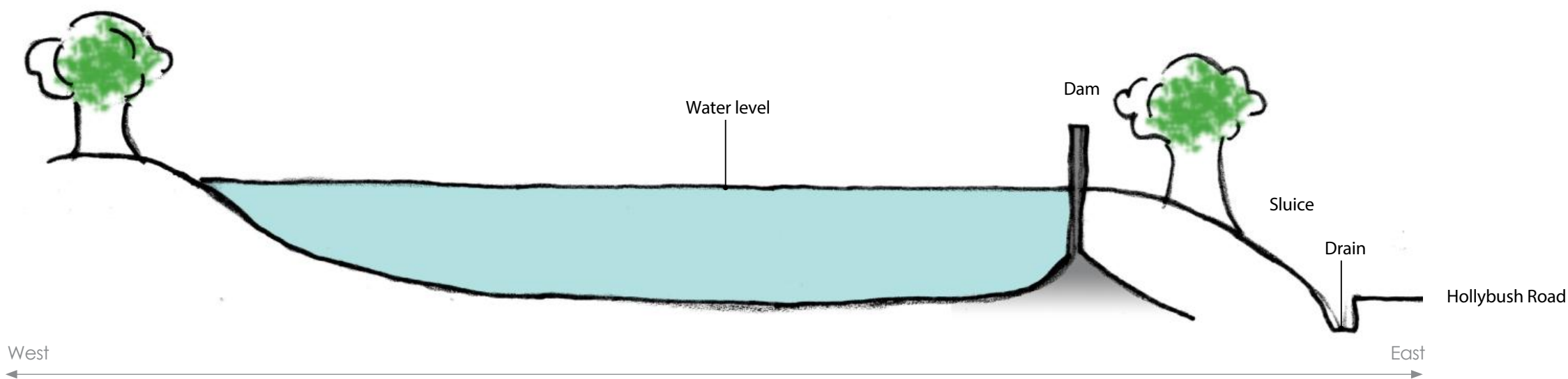


Figure 6: Illustrative west-east cross-section of Eagle Pond (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017). Structure has not been investigated.

2.3 Ownership

Eagle Pond is owned by the City Corporation as part of Epping Forest and has done so since the end of the nineteenth century. Three of the Pond's four banks are in different ownership (see Figure 7):

- its west bank is part of Epping Forest and is held in trust by the City Corporation;
- the south bank is owned by Her Majesty's Court Service;
- Her Majesty's Court Service also owns the land to the east of the Pond which the sluice discharges onto but both the City Corporation and Her Majesty's Court Service own the dam on this side of the Pond; and
- the public highway to the north of Eagle Pond comprising Snaresbrook Road, the pavement and retaining wall is owned by the London Borough of Redbridge.

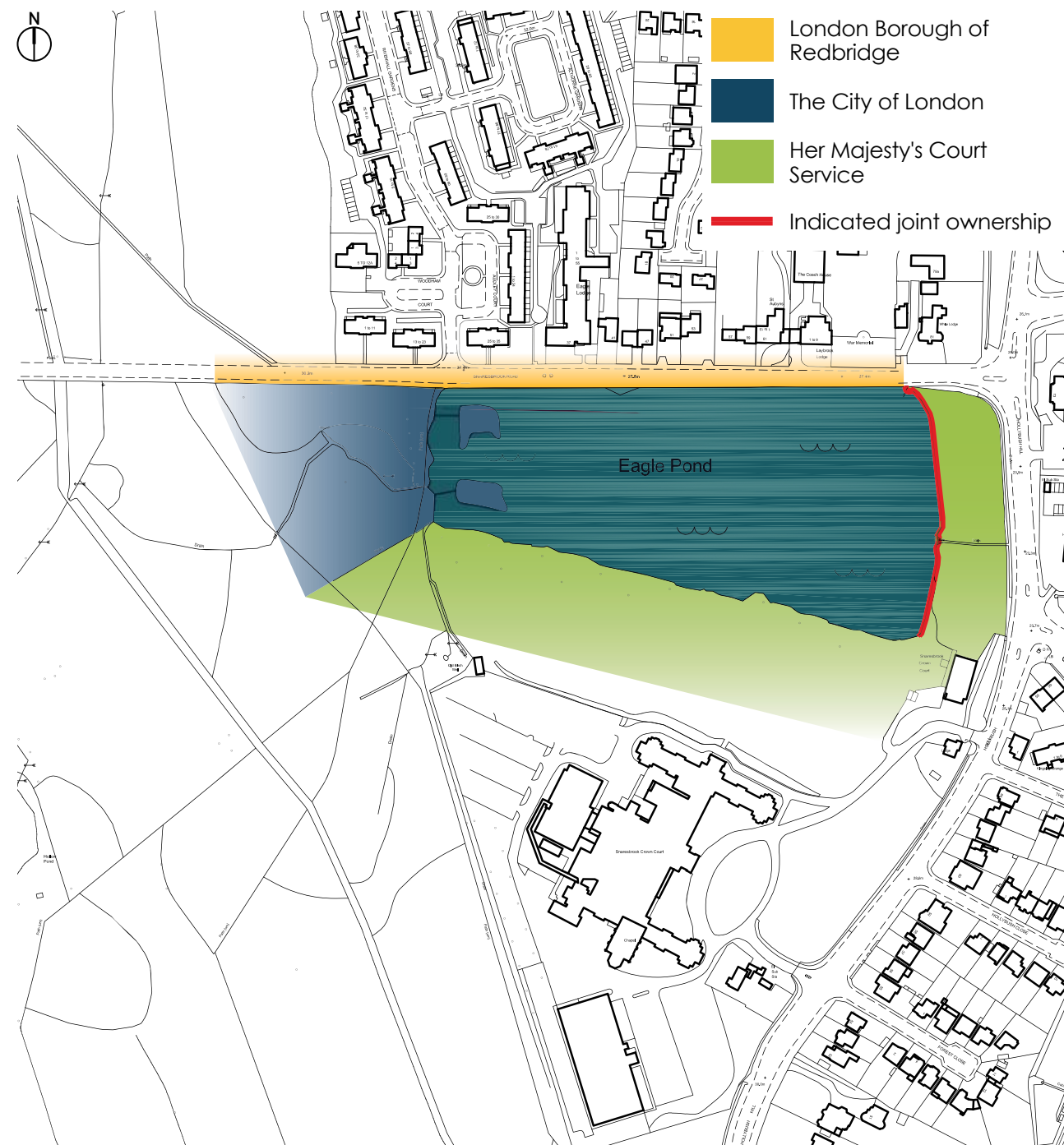


Figure 7: Ownership plan

2.4 Designations

2.4.1 Heritage designations

There are a seven listed structures within close proximity of Eagle Pond. These are all listed at grade II and their locations are shown on Figure 8. Snaresbrook Crown Court is the most important listed building in relation to Eagle Pond both in terms of its history and current setting and ownership.

2.4.2 Other planning designations

Other planning designations affecting the Pond include:

- The Pond is a statutory Large Raised Reservoir (LRR)
- The Pond falls within the boundary of Snaresbrook Conservation Area
- It is within a Green Corridor
- It is within a Metropolitan Green Belt
- It is within a Flood Zone 3b – Functional Flood plain
- It is a non-statutory Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

There may be other designations that affect the site.

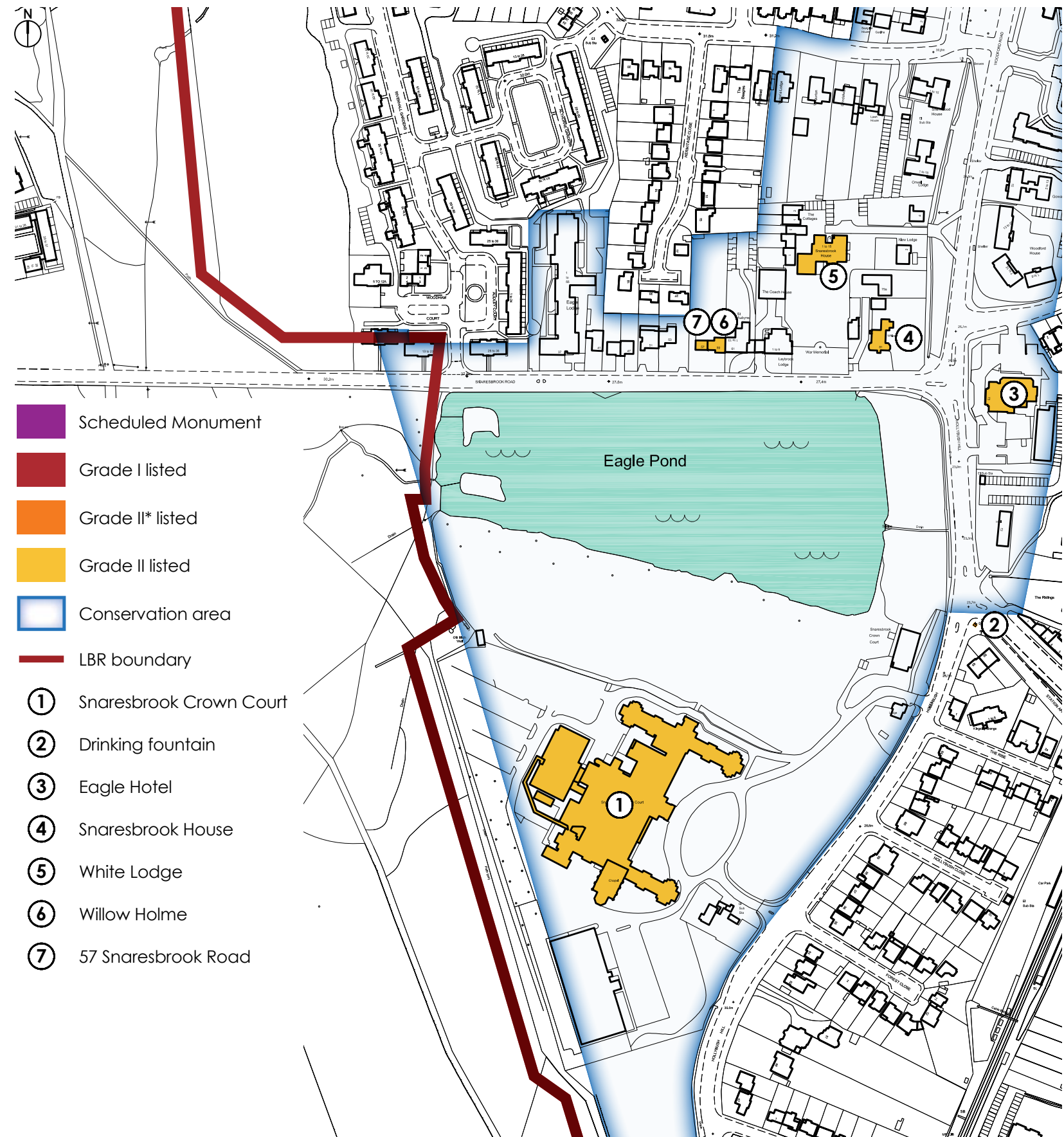


Figure 8: Heritage designation plan

2.4.3 Ecology designations

Eagle Pond lies immediately adjacent to the southern part of Epping Forest SSSI. A relatively large proportion (about 6%) of Epping Forest supports water bodies. Ponds and pools in the Forest are of botanical and entomological interest, and contribute to the overall ecological value of the Forest. Eagle Pond is not included in the SSSI but has been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance and is within a Green Corridor, as such receives protection in the Redbridge Local Plan.

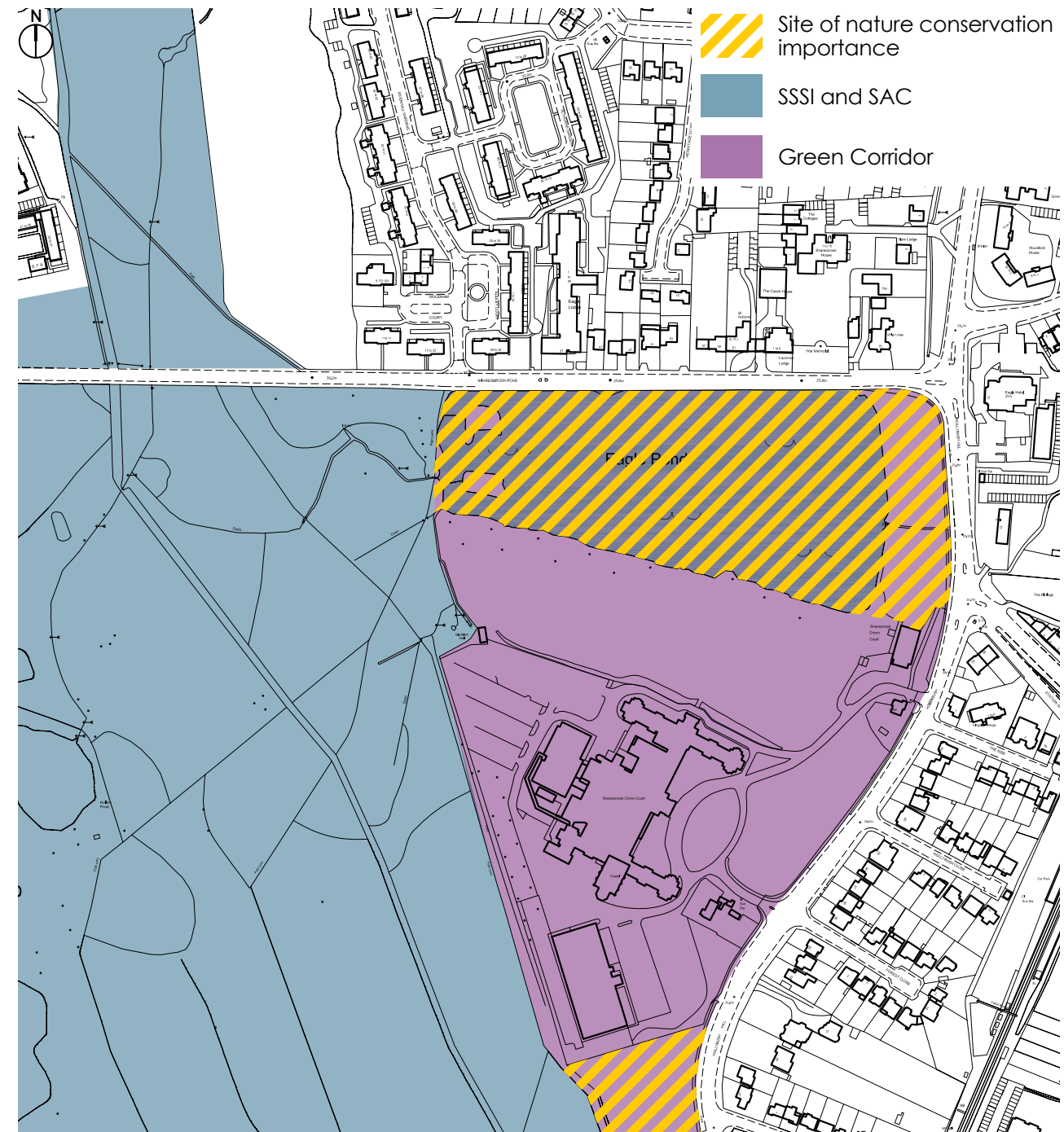


Figure 9: Ecology designations map

2.5 Topography

Eagle Pond is located on Leyton Flats, an area of comparatively high ground in between the two valleys created by the River Lea and the River Roding (Figure 10). The land rises immediately south of the Pond before falling away towards Wanstead Park and Aldersbrook.

A narrow valley extends from the east side of Eagle Pond towards the River Roding.

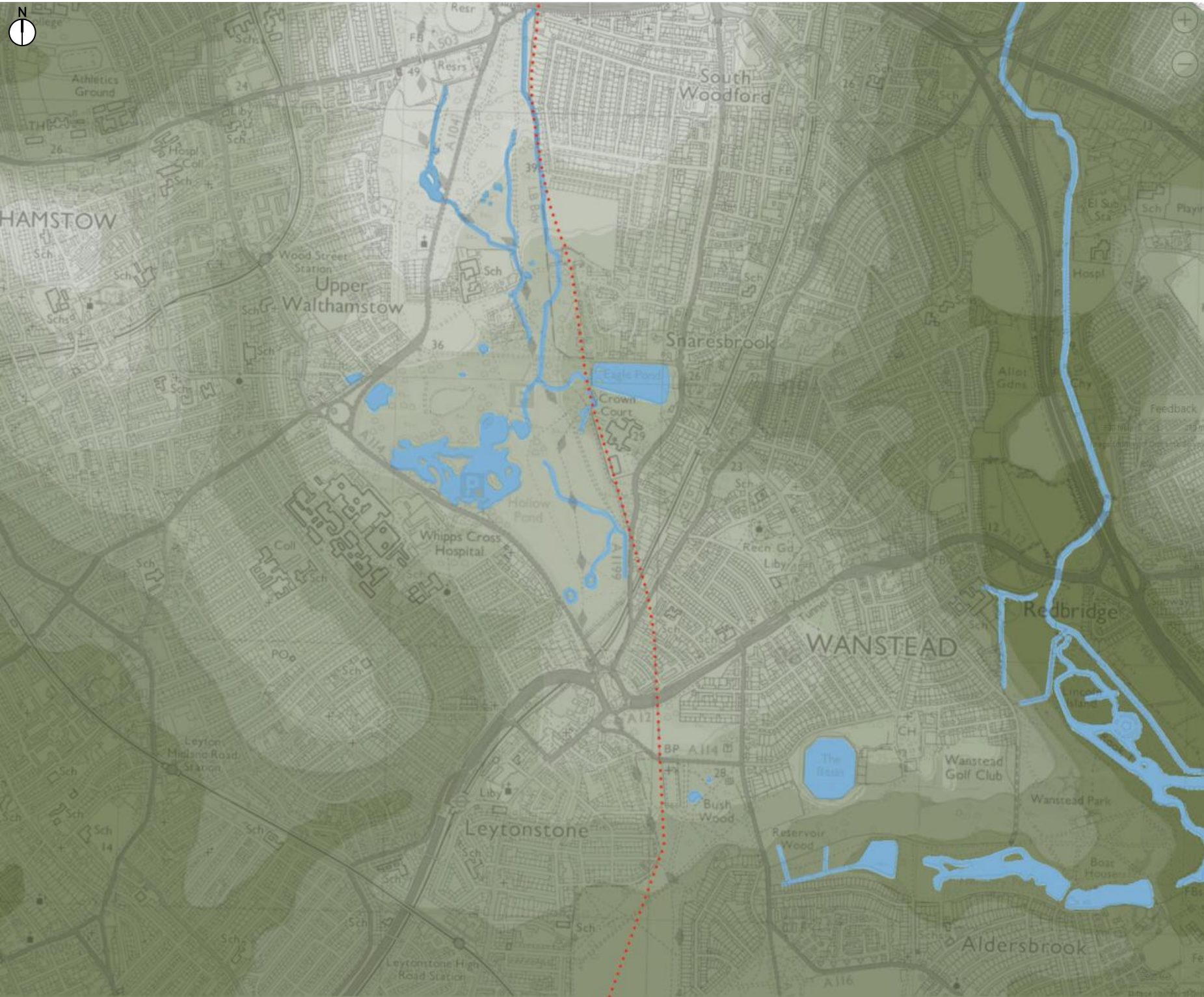


Figure 10: Topography plan

2.6 Geology

Eagle Pond lies at the eastern edge of a terrace of Boyn Hill Gravel, underlain by London Clay, which extends east across Leyton Flats and south to Wanstead and towards the historic Wanstead Park (Figure 1010).

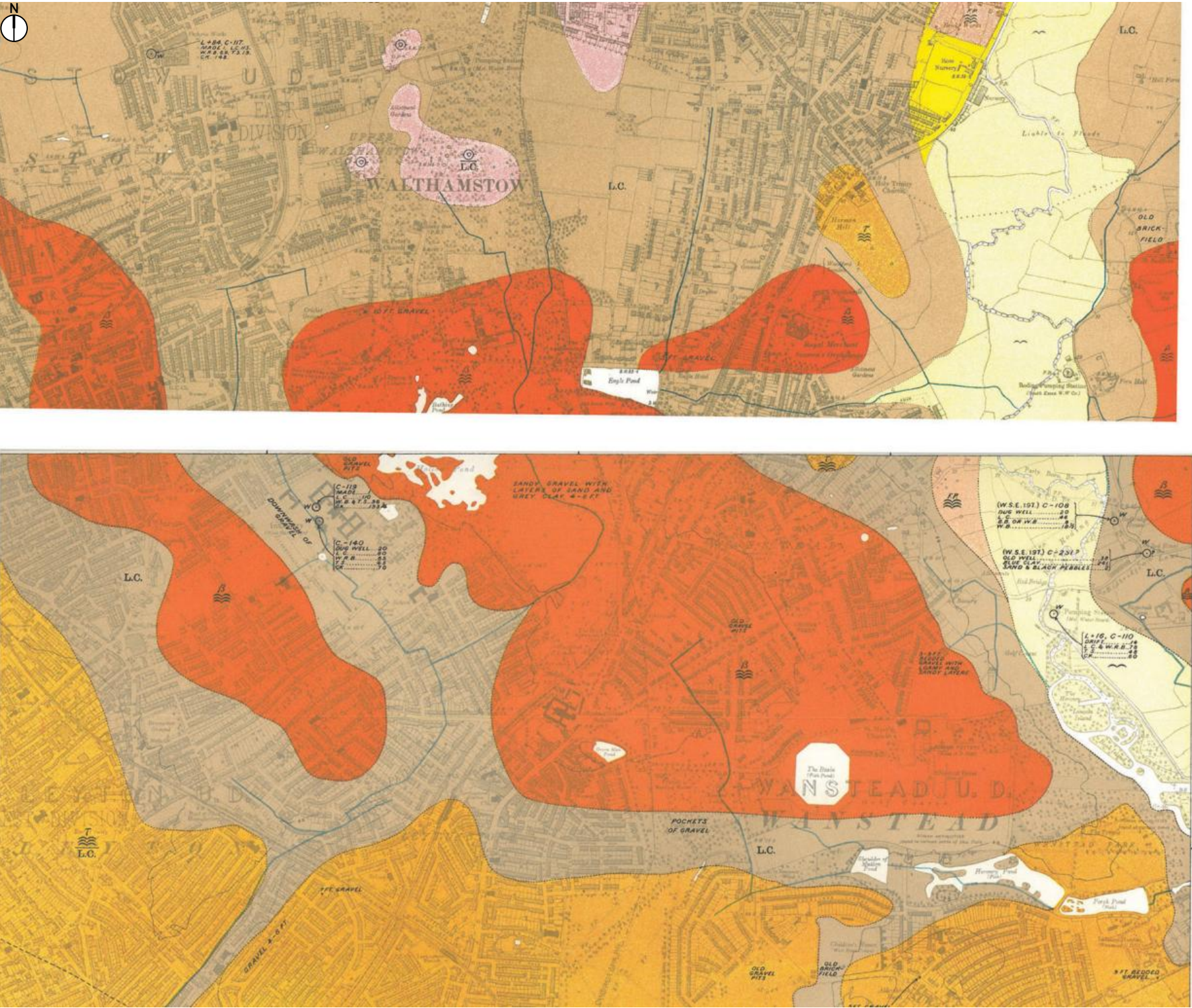
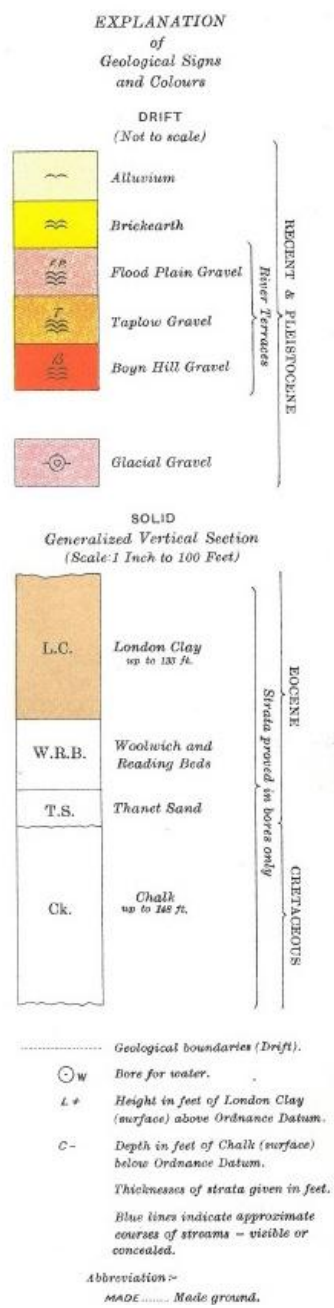


Figure 11: Geology

2.7 Hydrology

Leyton Flats has many small streams, ponds and reservoirs due to the geology (see section 2.5). This is because whilst London Clay is impermeable to water, gravel is porous and in areas like Leyton Flats, where gravel is underlain by clay, there is the capacity for water to collect. Along the line where the gravel terrace terminates and the clay underneath becomes the surface geology, various springs emerge.

These springs, ponds and reservoirs fall either within the catchment of the River Lea to the west or the River Roding to the east. Eagle Pond appears to be within the catchment area of the River Roding and so drains to the west along a small valley (see sections 2.4).

Today Eagle Pond is fed by a water system that originates in the Victorian reservoir near Waterworks Corner to the north-west of the site (Figure 12). The water from this reservoir then runs south into the Rising Sun/Bulrush Pond (located on the west side of Woodford New Road) and then south-east to the Duck Pond behind Forest School. From here the water flows south, does a loop through Snaresbrook Road, before flowing into Eagle Pond via the west bank. A large amount of water comes into Eagle Pond via storm drainage from Snaresbrook Road (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017). Water flow into the Pond is facilitated by pipes with hinged metal caps, preventing backflow of water into the pipes (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017).

The same water system feeds the Hollow Ponds to the south-west of Eagle Pond. It is also likely that, via the River Holt (see section 3.3.3) this system also historically fed the water system of Wanstead Park to the south-east.

Eagle Pond drains via overflow down a sluice into a culverted stream. This stream originates to the north of the site and runs parallel to Hollybush Hill. Immediately south of where sluice joins it, it becomes culverted and flows due east, roughly along the line of Elmcroft Avenue, to discharge into the River Roding.

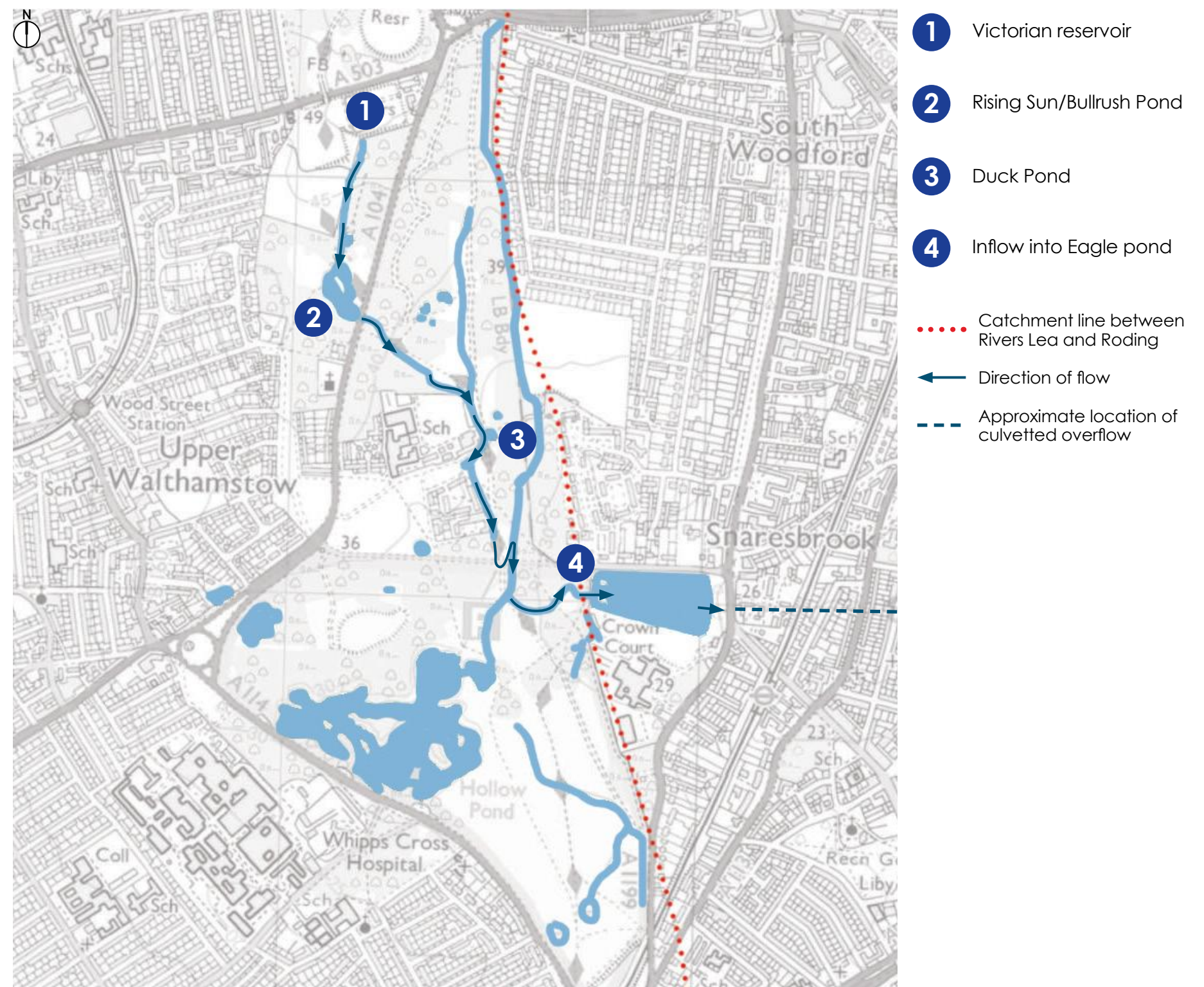


Figure 12: Hydrology

2.8 Ecology

2.8.1 The Pond

The Pond and its surrounds form an ecosystem. The biodiversity is comprised of a range of plant and animal life and their complex interactions. A change in one species can affect others. Healthy ponds generally have a greater diversity of habitats and support a greater diversity of species across a range of species groups

2.8.2 Birds

In terms of biodiversity, the Pond is best known for the range of waterfowl which can be present in large numbers particularly in winter. Water birds recorded include Canada geese (introduced and often in large numbers), tufted duck, mallard, gadwall, pochard, shoveler, wigeon, mute swan (occurring in large numbers), coot, moorhen, great crested grebe, grey heron, cormorant, black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull and lesser black-backed gull.

Too many waterfowl (caused by overfeeding by people) results in adverse effects on pond biodiversity which can include:

- increased levels of nitrate and phosphate levels in the water which can lead to an increase in algae growth which can deplete oxygen levels and shade submerged plants (a basic water test carried out in October 2017 indicated low to medium levels of nitrates and phosphates in the water)
- increased feeding on aquatic and marginal plants which can diminish plant diversity and abundance to suboptimum levels (plants are important to oxygenate water and provide habitats for fish, invertebrates and other pond life)
- increased predation of amphibians and invertebrates
- a deterioration of water quality which in general reduces diversity of pond life, in particular invertebrates.

Birds recorded from the wooded banks of the Pond include blackbirds, feral pigeon, firecrest (in 2008), ring-tailed parakeet (introduced), sparrowhawk, red-legged partridge (introduced) and wren.

2.8.3 Bats

The London Bat Group has provided records for a range of species within 1 km radius of the Pond although no records were for the Pond itself. These included common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, noctule and Leisler's bat.

A bat survey carried out on 12 October 2017 in good weather conditions: 19°C, 100% cloud, no rain and light air (Beaufort scale 1). Access was only available to the west and north banks of the Pond. No bats were seen emerging or entering from buildings or trees.

The survey recorded: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, a *Myotis* sp., and noctule. Very low bat activity was recorded at the pond. Insect abundance appeared to be low. Very few bats were recorded from the north bank (Snaresbrook Road) which supports minimal vegetation experiences high light levels. Some of the mature trees around the Pond support suitable crevices/ cavities in which bats may roost.



Figure 13: Canada geese at Eagle Pond, 2017

2.8.4 Fish

The Pond supports a diversity of fish which have been monitored since 1994 by netting and electrofishing. Angling was banned in 1991–92 (due to water fowl becoming tangled in fishing line) after which it was being considered as a fish stock pond for small 'silver' fish; a collective term used to describe all fish that are not Carp (e.g. Roach, Rudd, Bream, Perch, Gudgeon).

The numbers, diversity and size of fish have changed over time:

- fish diversity and abundance was higher in the 1970s with roach, bream and perch recorded as being numerous alongside smaller numbers of carp and pike
- numbers of pike and perch (both of which predate on other smaller fish) have increased

Fish decline may be due in part at least to the effects of feeding bread to birds and dumping of food waste in the Pond.

Eels may still use the Pond and were last recorded in 2011 (European eel is a UKBAP Priority Species). Large carp are frequently recorded (probably introduced) and are removed from the Pond as far as possible by the Epping Forest. Angling may still take place from the south bank.

2.8.5 Amphibians

Amphibians numbers would be expected to be low due to the presence of fish and waterfowl (which predate on amphibians) as well as the lack of aquatic vegetation. An amphibian survey in 2013 recorded a single palmate newt and a single possible smooth newt.

2.8.6 Reptiles

No reptiles were recorded apart from red-eared terrapin. Bank habitat on the west and south banks are heavily shaded. It is possible that native reptiles occur in the rough semi-improved grassland behind the trees on the south bank.

2.8.7 Invertebrates

An invertebrate survey carried out in October 2017 recorded eighteen species of aquatic invertebrate. No Red Data Book or Nationally Scarce species were found, although five species are considered to have Local status. Molluscs made the greatest contribution to the species list with 5 species being recorded, followed by aquatic bugs with 4 species.

Whilst some of the invertebrate species recorded such as the Water Spider *Argyroneta aquatica* and the lesser Water-boatman *Cymatia coleoptrata* were found in good numbers, overall the low number of species recorded is probably mostly due to the limited range of different habitats within the Pond. When sampling the pond, it was noticed that the habitats at the various sample points were nearly identical, with submerged aquatic vegetation over silts or gravels.

Eagle Pond falls within Compartment 36 (Wanstead Flats / Hollow Pond) of Epping Forest. Currently there are just over 2200 biological records available for this area, including a few for Eagle Pond. Similarly, there are just over 900 biological records from Compartment 35 (Gilbert's Slade) to the north of Eagle Pond. However, very few of these records relate to aquatic invertebrates. Nine species of dragonfly were recorded from Compartment 35 between 1994 and 2004, although it is unclear if these relate to flying adults seen near some of the Compartment 35 ponds or to records of confirmed breeding on the site. Records of species such the water beetle *Donacia vulgaris* from Compartment 35 are indicative of ponds with a variety of emergent vegetation, a habitat type which is not found in Eagle Pond. In total, 24 species of aquatic invertebrate have previously been recorded from Compartments 35 and 36. The October 2017 survey, despite only recording 18 species, added 11 new species of aquatic invertebrate to the overall species list. These include 4 species of mollusc and 3 aquatic bugs including the Pondweed Bug *Mesovelia furcata*, a Local species.

Although there are only a few aquatic invertebrate records for other ponds in the area which can be compared with the data from this survey of Eagle Pond, the results of this survey suggest that Eagle Pond provides a very different sort of aquatic habitat to other ponds in the area. This is reflected in the differences between those species recorded from other sites and those recorded from Eagle Pond, as a wider range of habitats will potentially attract a wider range of species to the area.

2.8.8 Plants

The Pond is a large, open water body almost completely lacking in any marginal areas with emergent vegetation. Wave action obviously has an impact on the pond, as evidenced by the windrows of floating blanket weed noted accumulation at some of the 'downwind' margins of the pond. With a lack of well vegetated marginal areas there is little to ameliorate any wave action at the edges of the pond, and type of habitat provided at the Pond (open water, bare margins and wave action) is more typical of what one would find in a disused gravel pit rather than a smaller, well vegetated pond.

There is good growth of rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* and soft hornwort *C. submersum* over silts and gravels.

The north bank along Snaresbrook Road

The bank along Snaresbrook Road is now revetted with sheet piling and concrete. This bank is now devoid of vegetation (having lost its trees).

The shallow pond margin supports negligible marginal vegetation, there is physical and noise disturbance from traffic and there are high light levels after dark. As a consequence this bank is currently of limited value for wildlife.

The east bank with dam and land between the dam and the road (Hollybush Hill)

The area between the dam and the road supports mostly non-native trees (including sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and horse chestnut *Aesculus* sp.) planted in amongst pedunculate oak. There is an area planted with non-native grey poplar *Populus × canescens*. There is a narrow strip of marginal vegetation (possibly planted in coir rolls or brushwood bundles and held in place with wire mesh attached to the dam). Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* is an invasive non-native plant which is located in south east corner of Pond margin. It is illegal to plant in the wild or cause it to grow in the wild (this includes moving contaminated soil or plant cuttings).

The south bank (Snaresbrook Crown Court)

The edge of the Pond currently supports a narrow strip of woodland supporting a range of native trees (including mature pedunculate oaks) and non-native trees. The mature oaks are of greatest ecological value of the trees along this bank. The bank is eroding with trees falling into the pond including some of the mature pedunculate oaks. The bank is shaded and supports no marginal vegetation. Behind the woodland lies an area of semi-improved grassland before the more formal mown lawns in front of the courts building. This woodland and semi-improved grassland are of ecological value.

The west bank adjacent to Epping Forest SSSI

The most important feature on the east bank is large veteran pedunculate oak pollard (girth 4.63m). The bank has suffered serious erosion which threatened to harm this tree. In 2011, a scout group led by Epping Park Staff created revetments of timber posts, geotextile membranes and brushwood bundles to reclaim the eroded part of the bank (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017).

Away from the Pond on the other side of the path are a range of mid aged to mature non-native trees including common lime *Tilia x europaea* and horse chestnut under which a dense understorey of holly *Ilex aquifolium* has established. The ground flora is species-poor.

Wooded islands

There are two wooded islands which support native vegetation. These offer nest sites for birds including Canada geese and a range of other birds, resting places for the non-native terrapins.

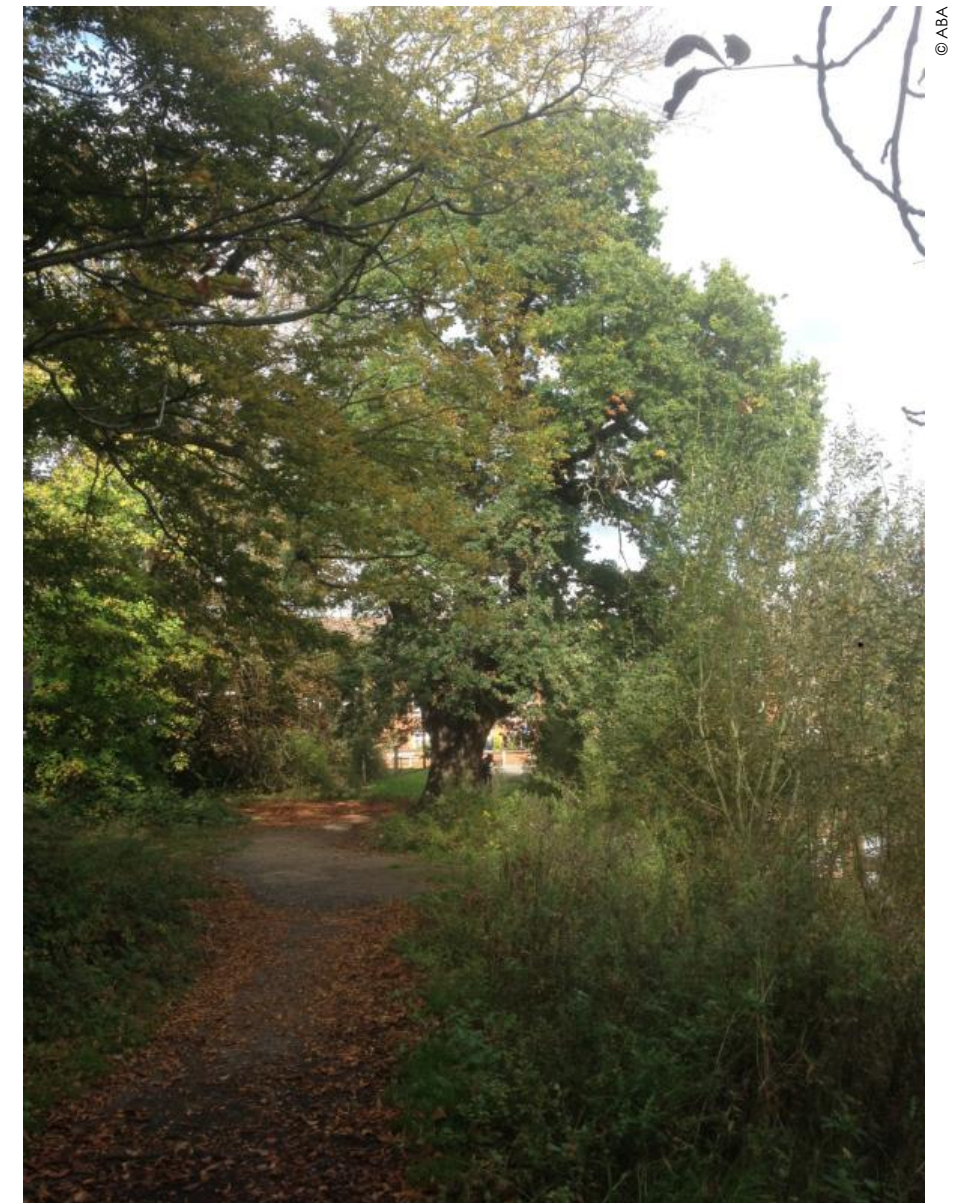


Figure 14: West bank with veteran oak pollard

3.0 Historical development of Eagle Pond

3.1 Introduction

Eagle Pond appears to date back to at least the beginning of the eighteenth century. But because of its age and the fact that it was often located on the fringes of other, more notable landmarks, there is a substantial lack of documentary evidence for its history, particularly its formation. This has made it challenging to accurately define when Eagle Pond was formed and why.

The following account of the Pond's historical development will review the available evidence, which is most often visual, as well as evaluate various theories that have grown up around its original use. It will then summarise current knowledge of its subsequent development using documentary evidence in conjunction with an understanding of the site's geology, topography and hydrology (covered in section 2.1.2 and 2.1.4 respectively).

3.2 Documentary evidence for Eagle Pond's formation

The earliest direct visual reference to Eagle Pond found in the course of research for this Conservation Statement is a plan from 1735 (Figure 15). This plan shows the Pond as having roughly the same irregular, rectangular shape that it has today. However it also has five islands; three square-shaped ones on its westernmost side and two more rectangular ones on its southern side. The Pond in this plan is referred to as 'Snaresbrook Pond'.

3.2.1 Eagle Pond's connection with Wanstead Park

This 1735 plan was produced by John Rocque and it represents a mixture of realised and planned designs for Wanstead Park, located on London's border with the County of Essex.

Wanstead Park was enclosed in the early sixteenth century when it came into royal ownership. The extent of the estate fluctuated and changed hands many times until, in 1673-74, 300 acres of land and the house was sold to Sir Josiah Child for £11,500 (Jeffrey, 1999).

Despite coming from relatively humble beginnings as a merchant's son, Josiah Child worked his way up from a victualler to the Navy to become a Director of the East India Company, amassing a large fortune in the process. It is likely that Child's sudden wealth, like so many of his East India Company colleagues, drew considerable contempt from established aristocratic families. In response many, like Child, embarked on ambitious building and landscape projects as a way to demonstrate their wealth and power. However this often inflamed the situation further. In fact, Child's purchase of Wanstead Park came under criticism from diarist John Evelyn who, after visiting the estate in March 1683, described it as 'a barren spot as commonly these overgrown and suddenly monied men for the most part seat themselves' (de Beer, 1955 cited in Jeffrey, 1999, p. 11).

The Pond's inclusion in Rocque's plan appears to suggest that, from 1735 at least, the Pond was part of the Child's estate, under Sir Richard Child, Josiah's son.

3.2.2 Comparison with later plans

Rocque's 1735 plan captures the Child's extensive and outlandish ambitions for the estate. However because it included a mix of realised and planned designs it is not possible to say whether Eagle Pond was in existence in 1735 or not. Several other features, most notably the lake to the south with an island shaped like Great Britain, were never constructed.

A later plan, also by John Rocque, offers a snapshot of the estate 11 years later in 1746. This plan, a survey of London rather than a private commission, is a more reliable account of the layout of the estate. The Pond is depicted clearly here and again is shown as roughly the same shape as today, with several islands located on its western and southern sides. It is named as 'Snares Pond'.

The landscape shown around the pond in the 1735 plan is largely absent. Indeed the only visual link to the estate appears to be a very long avenue of trees linking the Pond to the house.

A comparison of these plans suggests that Eagle Pond was almost certainly in existence in 1746 but could possibly have been in existence in 1735. However it is also possible that the Pond could be older than both these plans and pre-date Child's purchase of the park. Unfortunately, whilst earlier plans of the area from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries do exist, they are not of sufficiently detailed to record the Pond.

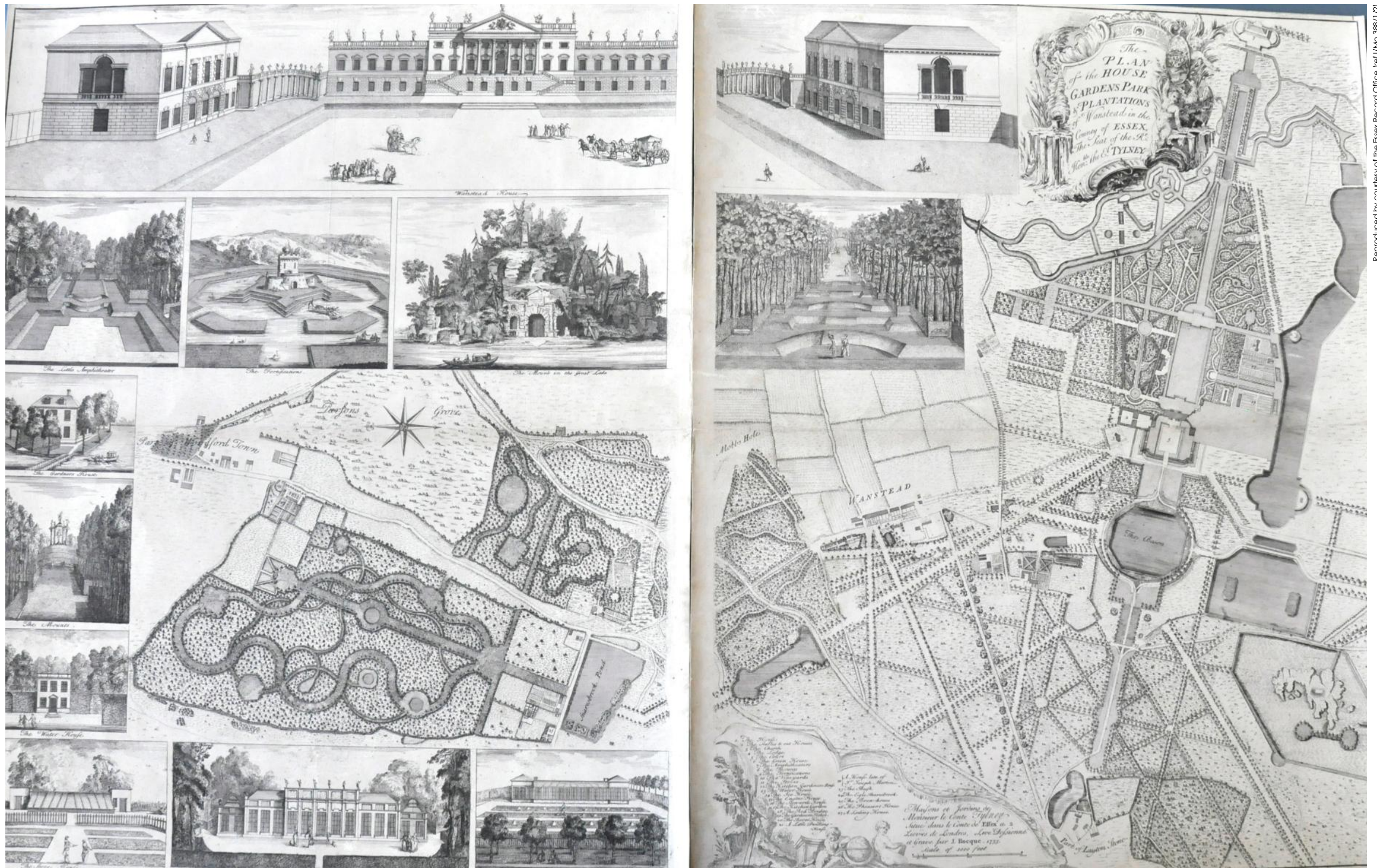


Figure 15: The Plan of the House, Gardens, Park & Plantations of Wanstead in the County of Essex, The Seat of the Right Honourable the Earl Tylney by John Rocque, 1735

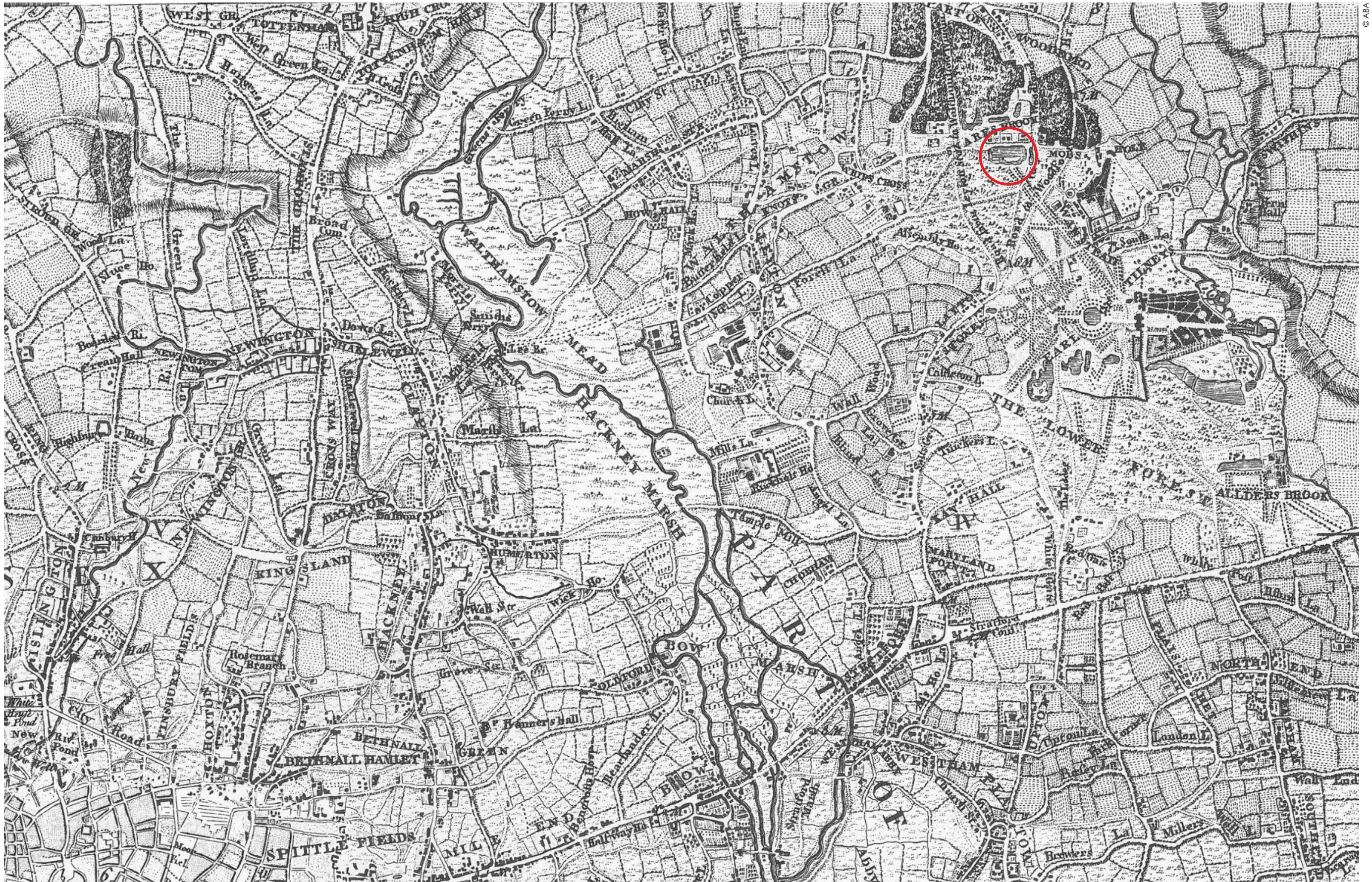


Figure 16: Roque map, 1766

3.3 Purpose of Eagle Pond

Although there is a lack of direct documentary evidence for the Pond itself, a consideration of its potential purpose could offer more clues as to when it might have been formed.

There has for a long time been a general assumption, possibly given their geographical proximity, that Eagle Pond was created as a reservoir for Wanstead Park's elaborate water system, shown in the 1735 and 1746 plans.

3.3.1 Landscape at Wanstead Park (1699–1725)

The instigator of this phase of works was Sir Richard Child who inherited Wanstead from Sir Josiah Child after his death in 1699. Like his father, Richard was also a social climber. He bought a peerage, Viscount Castlemain, in 1718 to increase his social status and in 1832 he became Earl of Tylney, following his wife's inheritance of the Tylney estates.

Sir Richard Child instigated major developments in the estate including the construction of a new house to designs by Colen Campbell in c. 1715–25. The landscape was also altered by the well-known garden designer George London from c. 1706 in order to align it with the formal style fashionable at the time.

3.3.2 Landscape at Wanstead Park (1725–45)

This formal landscape design was softened, in line with changing fashions, in the 1720s and 1730s, possibly by John Rocque. This adaptation of London's design also included an ambitious series of watercourses which were constructed between 1725 and 1745.

The architect of this scheme is not certain. It is possible that William Kent could have been involved. He worked on the ceilings of the new house in the 1720s and had been advising Lord Burlington on his gardens, including water features, in Chiswick. However it is more likely that Adam Holt designed the system. He is described as 'surveyor of the works' in 1715 and he had also been involved in the water engineering scheme at Coopersale, Essex (Jeffrey, 1999, p. 3). Furthermore, the method that eventually brought water into the park is named after him.



Figure 17: Birch Well, 2017

3.3.3 Eagle Pond and the River Holt

The system created to supply Wanstead Park with water consisted of a small, artificial ditch which diverted water into the park from the naturally water-rich area of Leyton Flats to the north (see section 2.7).

Today little is left of the River Holt and mapping its course has proved difficult due to conflicting documentary evidence. This has given rise to the assumption that Eagle Pond formed a part of the route. If true this would suggest that the Pond was created in the early eighteenth century to feed the series of lakes created c. 1725–45.

However this theory does not work in terms of the topography of the area (see section 2.5) as Barry Hughes explained in his 2001 article 'Wanstead Watercourses: the "River Holt"'. Hughes argues that as the land rises slightly between Eagle Pond and Wanstead Park water would have had to flow uphill to reach the park, meaning that Eagle Pond could not possibly have been a feeder pond.

3.3.4 Eagle Pond as an enlarged spring

There have also been suggestions that Eagle Pond was created by enlarging a natural spring. This is suggested by Sir William Addison in his book 'Portrait of Epping Forest', but unfortunately he offers no date or reference.

The area around Eagle Pond, located largely on gravel, appears to have had a great many springs, including Birch Well (see figure 19) to the south-west of Eagle Pond. One was discovered in 1619 and made Wanstead briefly popular as a spa in the seventeenth century (Christy and Thresh, 1910). There is some doubt as to the exact whereabouts of this spring but Eagle Pond is cited as an unlikely contender.

3.3.5 Summary of evidence for the formation of Eagle Pond

Eagle Pond is located in a narrow valley that runs from higher ground in Epping Forest in the west towards the River Roding in the east. It is likely that Eagle Pond was formed from the damming of a stream that drained into the River Roding. It is possible that this stream was the Sayesbrook, a tributary of the Roding that gave Snaresbrook its name (Christy and Thresh, 1910). Indeed, in Rocque's 1746 map it is possible to make out what appears to be a stream draining from Eagle Pond into the Roding. The shape of the Pond, a loose rectangle also supports this theory as does the profile of the Pond which is shallower along the northern and southern banks and deepest in the middle, and getting deeper towards the east end (Whitfield and Pallett, pers. comm., 2017).

Why this stream was dammed and when is less clear. Although there is evidence for the Pond being in existence by 1746, and possibly by 1735, it could pre-date the Park altogether.

The Pond was not, as has been usually suggested, part of the River Holt which was constructed to supply the water system at Wanstead Park. However it is clear from Rocque's 1735 plan that the Pond and the surrounding land did belong to and form part of the Child family's estate.

In this light Richard Arnopp (2017) suggests that Eagle Pond was created as an ornamental lake by Josiah Child, predating the water system. Arnopp's evidence for this is based on his analysis of the 1712 poem *Flora Triumphans – Wanstead Garden*, which describes the gardens and particularly the water system at Wanstead around the time of the design by George London and largely before the extensive watercourses were constructed. There is evidence that Josiah Child made substantial improvements to the estate in the 1680s before his death in 1699. The diarist John Evelyn describes the 'planting of Walnut trees, about his seate, & making fish-ponds, for many miles in Circuite, in Epping Forest' (cited in LPGA, 1999, p. 11). Although it is not mentioned by name it is possible that Eagle Pond was created as part of these early improvements.

What's in a name?

The name of Eagle Pond could also offer clues as to its origin.

The first reference to Eagle Pond is in Rocque's 1735 plan where it is described as 'Snaresbrook Pond'. 11 years later in Rocque's plan of 1746 it is described as 'Snares Pond'. This association with Snaresbrook may imply that the pond was formed by damming the Sayesbrook, the tributary of the Roding that gave Snaresbrook its name. Given that in 1735 it bears a name relating to the village of Snaresbrook rather than more directly to the village of Wanstead or Wanstead Park this could be evidence that it had more to do with Snaresbrook than the Estate. It could have been formed as a local reservoir of water. Rocque's plan of 1746 shows a few houses and a brick kilns built already built along the Pond's northern boundary on what is now Snaresbrook Road.

The Pond later became known as Eagle Pond. There may be a number of reasons for this change. The Pond is adjacent to a public house which, in Rocque's 1746 plan was called The Eagle. Both the public house and later the Pond could have been named for the Child family, whose crest was an eagle.

3.4 Eagle Pond in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century

Maps from the second half of the eighteenth century show that the Pond changed little over this time. However the surrounding area changed substantially around it.

The elaborate design for the northern part of Wanstead Park proposed in Rocque's 1735 plan and possibly centred on Eagle Pond never came to fruition. Even the long avenue of trees shown in Rocque's 1746 plan, seemingly the Pond's only physical link to the Park, appears to have been partially obscured by the turn of the nineteenth century. Instead the land in between the Pond and the park is taken up either by forest or by the growth of the village of Wanstead to the south-east. This cut off the Pond from the rest of the park.

3.5 Decline of Wanstead Park (1750-1823)

This neglect of the northern part of Wanstead Park, including Eagle Pond, can be explained by a consideration of the subsequent history of the Child family.

Richard Child died in 1750. He was succeeded by his younger son John, 2nd Earl Tylney, who never married and increasingly spent time away from Wanstead. He lived abroad almost permanently from the 1770s and died in 1784. Because John died childless, after his death all the family titles became extinct and the ownership of Wanstead Park passed to his sister's son and his heirs.

In 1805 it was inherited by Catherine Tylney Long who became one of the wealthiest heiresses in England. She had various suitors, including supposedly the Duke of Clarence, but in 1812 she married William Wellesley Pole, nephew of the Duke of Wellington. This initiated a phase of improvements to both the house and wider landscape. Well-known landscape designer Humphrey Repton was employed in 1813 but did not undertake any widespread changes. Nurseryman Lewis Kennedy was also employed in 1818.

There is little evidence that either scheme affected Eagle Pond in any way. Contemporary maps show that the Pond was roughly the same shape and with the same number of islands. The Pond is also shown on a plan of Wanstead Park by John Dooley from 1815–16. Its inclusion in this plan would suggest that at this point it was still owned by Child's descendants.

Catherine and her husband did not enjoy Wanstead for long. William's extravagance meant that after a few years Catharine's large fortune was gone and the couple's financial situation deteriorated sharply. In 1822 an auction was held for the contents of the house, which was sold the following year and demolished in 1825. The grounds, which remained in possession of the family, entered a period of decline.

3.6 Construction of the Infant Orphan Asylum (1841–43)

The next important phase in the history of Eagle Pond began in the early 1840s when land south of the Pond was purchased by the Trustees of the Infant Orphan Asylum.

The Infant Orphan Asylum was founded in 1827 by Andrew Reed, a minister and philanthropist. It was originally based in Bethnal Green but moved to Dalston Lane in 1832 where it grew to accommodate 170 children (Baker, 1995).

In 1840 the Trustees began looking for a new site and eventually settled upon land to the immediate south of Eagle Pond. The original trustees of the Infant Orphan Asylum, including Andrew Reed, purchased c. 18 acres of land south of the Pond, in addition to the Pond itself, from William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley for just over £2, 149 in August 1840.

However a deed of covenant dated 5 August 1840 (Redbridge Archive, 90/21/17/1, 1840 covenant) shows that William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley stipulated several conditions specifically relating to Eagle Pond. The covenant states that the trustees of the asylum would preserve and maintain the Pond as an ornamental water and would not convert or use it for any other purpose. Also, that the trustees should not enclose the Pond's north side other than with a simple fence.

In addition to these conditions, the covenant also appeared to grant William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley or anyone with his permission full and free use and enjoyment of the Pond for watering cattle and horses and for all other purposes which it had historically been used for except angling, boating, sailing or bathing. Any quantity of water was also allowed to be withdrawn from the Pond. There is little evidence that William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley exercised his rights over Eagle Pond. In 1840 when the covenant was drawn up he was living in Brussels in order to avoid his creditors and he died in 1857.

For their part the asylum appears to have adhered to the terms of the covenant, maintaining and preserving Eagle Pond as an ornamental water. Indeed, the orientation and character of the north elevation of the asylum building, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and William Bonython Moffatt, seems to suggest that the building was designed to respond to and compliment the Pond. Construction started in 1841 and it was officially opened by Leopold I of Belgium, uncle of Queen Victoria, in 1843. In many contemporary engravings the Pond is shown in the foreground, framing the building (Figure 18).

There is evidence to suggest that the Pond was used by the asylum more directly than just as an attractive setting. A later document kept in the Redbridge Archive (90/21/17/1, 1881 conveyance) states that the asylum used the Pond as a source of water for domestic tasks. Crockery has also been found in the Pond bearing the name of the asylum when the water level dropped during a drought in 1990 (Hughes, 1991).

On 1 November 1865 a deed of conveyance transferred the land from the surviving original trustees who purchased it in 1840 to the newly incorporated body of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Governors of the Infant Orphan Asylum.



Figure 18: Engraving of the Infant Orphan Asylum by G. Hawkins, no date

3.7 Ownership by the City Corporation

In the early 1880s Eagle Pond got caught up in the legal action taken by the City Corporation to preserve Epping Forest.

The story of the City Corporation's involvement in Epping Forest began almost thirty years earlier in 1854 when the City Corporation purchased a small piece of land in Little Ilford to use as a cemetery. Through this purchase they gained commoners' right in the Forest.

In 1871 the City Corporation used their commoners' rights to fight a test case in the Court of Chancery on behalf of all commoners of Epping Forest to prevent further enclosure of land by local lords of the manor (London Metropolitan Archives, no date). Three years later in 1874 the Master of the Rolls decided in the City Corporation's favour. A decree was issued that declared common rights of pasture upon all 'waste' land of the forest. This waste land was defined as

- land not covered with buildings, enclosed and used as a gardens or curtilage on 14 August 1871, or;
- land not inclosed on or before 14 August 1851.

The decree also stated that the City Corporation could take out an injunction to stop landowners enclosing or building on waste land.

Unfortunately for the Infant Orphan Asylum certain parts of their land met the criteria for waste land as specified above. Whilst the triangle of land south of Eagle Pond, on which the asylum building was built, was exempt, all other parts of the asylum's land, including Eagle Pond and its banks were identified by the City Corporation as potentially common land.

The asylum fought the City's presumption that part of their land should be in common ownership. A newspaper article from the Essex Herald on 2 May 1876 (p. 3) stated that the asylum asked the City Corporation to reconsider them as owners of Eagle Pond stating, 'they had not any wish to exclude the public from the use of that piece of water.'

However a conveyance of 23 January 1881 granted the City Corporation, for a sum of £100, a plot of land to the west of the asylum, the west bank of Eagle Pond as well as Eagle Pond itself (Redbridge Archive, 90/21/17/1, 1881 conveyance). The conveyance stated that these pieces of land would form part of the open and unenclosed land of Epping Forest.

There was some good news for the asylum however. An account of an agreement of 9 November 1876 outlined in the 1881 conveyance stated that the asylum could retain the south and east banks of Eagle Pond, free from rights of common pasture. They were also allowed to retain a strip to the west of the asylum building as long as they did not build on it.

In terms of Eagle Pond itself, the 1881 conveyance stated that the City Corporation would maintain the pond as an open, ornamental water and prevent pollution, bathing or boating. The conveyance also stated that it would be lawful for the City Corporation to enlarge the Pond on its western side.

The asylum did not lose all rights to the Pond. The 1881 conveyance also stated that it could continue to draw water in perpetuity from it for domestic uses provided that the water level did not drop below an agreed fixed point. The asylum was also allowed to place and maintain an open fence into the pond at the north-east and south-west corners to prevent trespass onto their land.

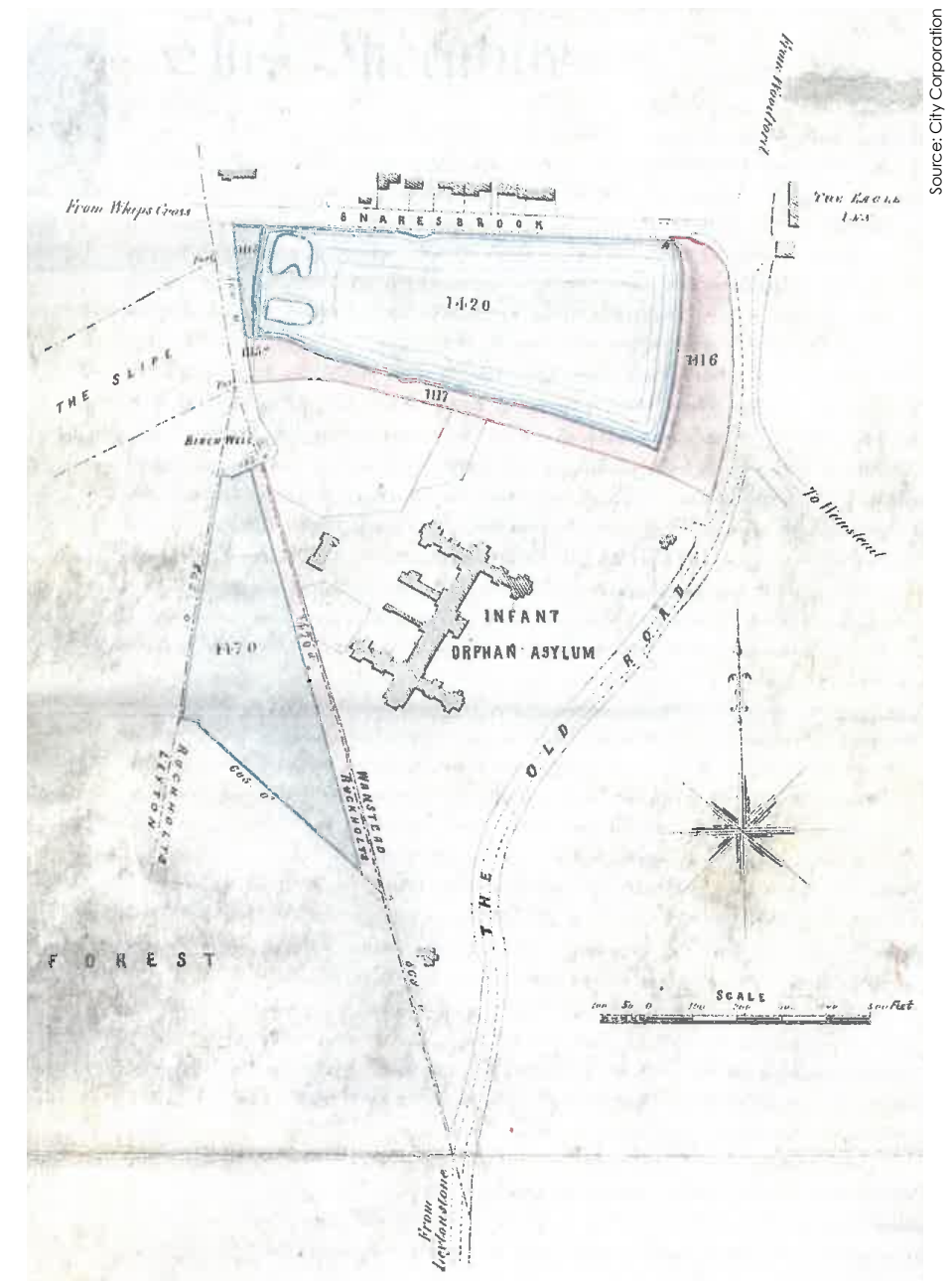


Figure 19: Plan to accompany the conveyance of land to the City of London, 1881

3.8 Eagle Pond in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century

It is around the 1870s and 1880s, when the City Corporation secured commoners' rights to Epping Forest and Eagle Pond, that the majority of articles about it began to appear in contemporary newspapers. These reported on various activities on or near the Pond. For example an article in the *London Evening Standard* on 4 June 1877 stated that Eagle Pond was 'well-stocked with fish, which it is the intention of the corporation of the City of London to preserve for angling'. Similarly, newspaper articles from 1886 and 1890 also describe skating taking place on Eagle Pond when the ice was deemed thick enough.

However in addition to these activities there are also a substantial number of articles, occurring at regular intervals between 1883 and 1904 that describe a gloomier chapter of Eagle Pond's history when bodies were found in the water. It appears that many of these deaths were accidental, generally resulting from mishap or drunkenness. One incident reported in the *Barking, East Ham and Ilford Advertiser, Upton Park and Dagenham Gazette* on 21 March 1903 stated that a carriage was drawn into the water because the attached horse had taken fright at a motor car. Luckily in this instance there were no fatalities.

In some cases the stories behind the bodies discovered in Eagle Pond are bleaker. There are reports in contemporary newspapers of suicides and unexplained deaths. One article from *The Globe* on 12 November 1885 states that a parcel was found at the water's edge containing a newly-born female child.

Despite this darker side, images of Eagle Pond at the turn of the twentieth century show that the northern bank was busy with people talking, feeding the birds and generally enjoying the view.

3.9 Recent history

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the Pond was used for a number of activities and uses. However, these are now not allowed in the interests of protecting the wildlife of the Forest. Fishing for example, is allowed on many of the Ponds in Epping Forest but has not been allowed on Eagle Pond since 1991–2. The Forest Keepers report that there are however, sometimes problems with people illegally fishing on the south bank (Snaresbrook Crown Court land).

In addition to this change of use there have been various physical changes made to the Pond in its recent history. During this time LBR have formalised Snaresbrook Road and in 1986 the retaining wall along north bank of the Pond was piled with the existing corrugated metal sheeting. The dam was also the subject of extensive works including a continuous 6m pile barrier to meet public safety concerns. In 2012 the height of the dam was raised as a result of the regular inspections that are required by law for reservoirs which identified a risk of flooding due to the discharge capacity of the dam being too small (screening opinion 0465/12 and planning application 1177/12 Redbridge District Council). As part of these works some measures were taken to improve the habitat for wildlife along the dam and simultaneously improve its appearance.

The Pond was designated a Large Raised Reservoir under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

3.10 Ecological history of Eagle Pond

The bank along Snaresbrook Road was a hard edge and several old photographs show that it was planted with trees along the edge of the Pond. The south bank probably had timber revetments with trees behind (one old photograph appears to show a revetted bank). There was probably less need for a revetment on the shorter west bank (one old photograph shows mature trees over open grassland and an engraving of 1832 shows a more open bank with rough vegetation and scrub and cattle grazing). Old maps suggest that the islands were square shaped which suggests the banks were also revetted.

Past features of note of the Pond and immediate surrounds which had ecological value include:

- open water with islands supporting waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans as today)
- a veteran pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* pollard close to the west bank (still present)
- two islands supporting native woodland
- open rough grazing with trees adjacent to the west bank (i.e. ancient wood pasture for which Epping Forest is now one of the few remaining large-scale examples); this area is now wooded
- a line of trees shown on old photographs (probably crack willows *Salix fragilis*) growing on the water's edge along Snaresbrook Road; one remaining willow is shown on an aerial photograph in 2003 (white willow *Salix alba* was recorded in 1999 and may have been this one) and now only the dead stump remains amongst buddleia bushes.

In other respects the Pond has changed in the following ways:

- the south bank has naturalised with broadleaved trees (particularly pedunculate oak) and shrubs, and this has been supplemented with native and non-native tree planting
- wetland vegetation has been planted along the base of the dam (possibly in brushwood bundles tied to the side of the dam)
- there are high light levels after dark along Snaresbrook Road
- physical and noise disturbance is higher due to high traffic volumes
- water entering the Pond will contain pollutants from storm drainage from Snaresbrook Road which may have built up in sediments in the pond
- there is now litter and food dumping into the Pond
- species not present in the past include Canada goose, red-eared terrapin and rose-ringed parakeets
- fishing (and boating) are now banned

3.11 The site today

3.11.1 Ownership of the Pond and adjacent land

The City Corporation holds in trust Eagle Pond as part of Epping Forest and has done so since 1881. Three of the Pond's four banks are in different ownership (see illustrative plan showing ownership in Figure 6):

- its west bank is part of Epping Forest and is held by trust by the City Corporation;
- the south bank is owned by Her Majesty's Court Service;
- Her Majesty's Court Service also owns the land to the east of the Pond which the sluice discharges onto but both the City Corporation and Her Majesty's Court Service own the dam on this side of the Pond; and
- the north bank, including the Snaresbrook Road and pavement is owned by the London Borough of Redbridge.

3.11.2 The Reservoirs Act 1975 and the ownership of the dam

The Reservoirs Act 1975 is intended to prevent against the escape of water from large reservoirs. It includes the definition of 'raised reservoirs' which are intended to hold water above the natural level of any part of the adjoining land. Eagle Pond's dam on the east side does exactly this and the Pond therefore falls under this piece of legislation. Water bodies capable of holding 25,000 cubic metres of water, which includes Eagle Pond, also come under this legislation.

The Act stipulates that reservoirs should be inspected by qualified engineers at certain specified intervals and any recommendations by the engineer on the grounds of safety have to be carried out by the undertaker as soon as possible.

Engineering assessments regarding the safety of the dam in 2012 for Her Majesty's Courts Service revealed the need to reinforce the dam and maintain a level spillway. These safety works have now been completed.

3.11.3 Site uses today

Eagle Pond became part of Epping Forest in 1882 and has been preserved primarily for the 'recreation and enjoyment of the public' (Epping Forest Act 1878, 8.8). The meaning of this has changed many times since the late-nineteenth century and the present use of the Pond as a community amenity space rather than for specific activities like fishing reflects changing public aspirations and the growth of utility infrastructure.

3.11.4 Management of the site

The managements of Epping Forest continues to be guided by the Epping Forest Management Plan. A new management plan is under development which will incorporate the policies including a series of Conservation Statements relating to heritage buildings and landscapes within the Forest and its Buffer Lands.

Eagle Pond does not fall within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which covers two thirds of the Forest. This makes managing the ecology of Eagle Pond less of a priority than other water bodies which do fall within the SSSI. The Keepers of Epping Forest, a team employed by the City Corporation, have the greatest involvement with the day-to-day management of Eagle Pond. Some of their team deal specifically with the water bodies of the Forest and understand the condition of Eagle Pond in detail.

The Epping Forest Keepers police the bylaws of the Forest and as a result much of their role is responsive to complaints or reports from the public. The very visible position of Eagle Pond, directly adjacent to Snaresbrook Road means that the public do frequently report to the Keepers about the condition of the Pond. The range of problems that are reported varies but the main concerns are listed here:

Concerns frequently raised by the public:

- Eagle Pond like many water bodies in urban areas has the potential to trap windblown litter on the Pond's surface, along with litter left by frequent visiting. The Pond's 'fetch' – the longest length of the pond and the prevailing wind direction – will tend to aggregate floating litter, concentrating litter in particular parts of the pond. These unsightly and highly visible rafts of litter often rightly secure complaints from the public.
- Water quality – The Pond is fed by water that may have been the subject of nutrient loading from fertilizers and sewage effluent, in addition to run-off from highway drainage systems. This excessive nutrient loading can lead to water discolouration, surface scums and harmful algal blooms (HABS).
- Algal growth – the build-up of excessive organic sediment, suspended organic debris in the water from leaf litter, fish faeces and waste food from wildfowl feeding can adversely affect water quality and lead to the growth of excessive amounts of blanket or silkweed (genus *Spirogyra*). The lack of trees surrounding the pond also allow the pond to be subjected to excessive sunlight which further promotes silkweed growth. Buoyed by trapped oxygen, rafts of this algae form unsightly windrows within the ponds surface often further trapping fetch-driven litter.
- Faith-based offerings of food, coconuts and effigies are a regular feature of the Pond and add to the aggregation of litter and build-up of organic matter within the Pond.

3.11.5 Site condition today

The following issues reflect many of the concerns of the Forest Keepers but is also the summary of the results of ecological surveys carried out for this Conservation Statement:

- Eagle Pond is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance, supporting a range of waterfowl and semi-natural woodland (on its two islands and three of its banks). It does not realise its full ecological potential due to a number of issues including those listed below. A site specific management plan is required supported by dedicated resources to optimise the ecological value of the pond and its enjoyment by the public.
- Habitat diversity is quite limited within the Pond and its banks. There is a lack of vegetation along Snaresbrook Road which once supported a line of trees. Holly has spread over what was once open wood pasture type habitat between the west bank of the Pond and the car park.
- There is a high level of physical disturbance, noise and light pollution from Snaresbrook Road.
- Despite the work of paid and voluntary litter pickers and LBR Street Scene staff significant amounts of litter continues to become trapped in the pond.
- Food waste is dumped into the Pond, which encourages vermin and pollutes the water.
- Feeding of birds by the public. Food in the Pond is not good for wildlife as it results in large numbers of geese, ducks, pigeons and other birds and consequent pollution from droppings. Large quantities of bread can be harmful to birds because its nutritional value is relatively low. In extreme situations birds can suffer serious vitamin deficiencies or starve.
- The south bank is being eroded and consequently the trees are gradually falling into the water.
- The silt in the pond is likely to have suffered a level of pollution from storm drainage off Snaresbrook Road.
- There is a prevalence of Canada geese and pigeons which are difficult to control in such a public area.
- Fish numbers have declined since the 1970s.

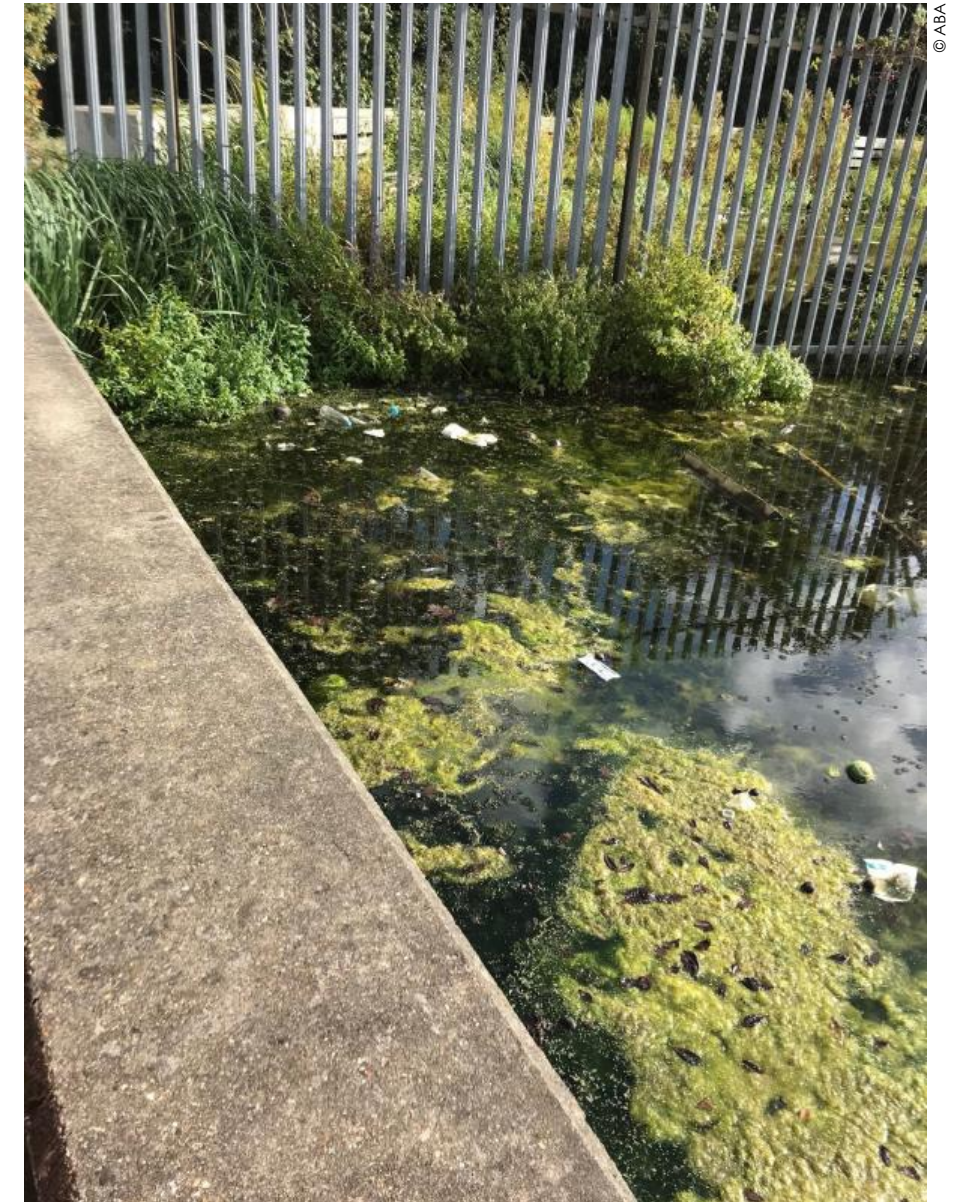


Figure 20: Algae blooms and litter are a frequently reported problem at Eagle Pond

4.0 Assessment of significance

4.1 Assessing significance

Assessing 'significance' is the means by which the cultural importance of a place and its component parts is identified and compared, both absolutely and relatively. The purpose of this is not merely academic. It is essential for effective conservation and management, because the identification of areas and aspects of significance, based on a thorough understanding of a place, enables policies and proposals to be developed which protect, respect and where possible enhance its character and cultural values. The assessment can assist the identification of areas where only minimal changes should be considered, as well as locations where change might enhance understanding and appreciation of the site's significance. Any changes need to be carefully designed to ensure that significant features are not compromised, and will be judged within the legislative context governing the historic environment.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places the concept of significance at the heart of the planning process for the historic environment. Its definition of significance is:

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (2008) is the guidance provided by Historic England to interpret and define the meaning of significance and how to use it when assessing heritage assets. This is in the process of being revised. The consultation draft identifies four headings which together make up significance, these are:

Historic interest is the way in which a heritage asset can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life. When these ideas become entwined with the identity of a community, it could additionally hold communal interest.

The use of a heritage asset for its original purpose can add greatly to an asset's historic interest.

Archaeological interest is sometimes called evidential or research value. Archaeological interest is when a place holds evidence of past human activity that could be revealed through investigation. Potential for research may exist in buildings and landscapes as well as buried archaeological sites.

Architectural or Artistic interest derives from a contemporary appreciation of an asset's aesthetics. Architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the construction, craftsmanship and decoration of building and structures. Artistic interest is the ability of human imagination and skill to convey meaning through artistic expression.

In assessing the significance of Eagle Pond two additional headings have also been included:

Ecological interest is an assessment of the importance of sites, habitats and species. They can be considered significant at a wide range of scales from international to local. Present interest may differ from past and potential interest.

The stimulation we derive from a heritage asset dictates its aesthetic value which can derive from conscious design or the fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved, many include both.

The following assessments have been informed by the historical development of the site (summarised in sections 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 of this report) as well as site visits and fieldwork assessments.

The long-established system of heritage protection for buildings and, to some degree, historic parks and gardens, means that there is a recognised system of levels of significance, broadly reflected by the listing categories.

In the case of Eagle Pond, which is not formally recognised by the designation system, and is not a designed landscape, trying to allocate different levels of significance to different physical parts of the Pond would be more confusing than constructive. The aspects of its character that are of significance are clearly defined in the rest of the chapter. Aspects or characteristics of the Pond that are described as 'nationally significant' are associated with important buildings or landscapes (or both) that have been nationally designated and 'locally significant' indicates that the identified characteristics are important at a local level. Please see Historic England's guidance on listing for more information (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/>).

4.2 Summary statement of significance

There are a number of strands that make up the significance of Eagle Pond. Most physically evident is its aesthetic or artistic significance. Although it is likely that the Pond was man-made, its appeal is, at least in part, fortuitous as there is no evidence that it was formally designed or landscaped. At its west end its relationship with Epping Forest is very picturesque, particularly when looking east from the Forest through the islands on the Pond. Its relationship with Snaresbrook Crown Court on the other hand, is a formal, composed one. Undoubtedly Sir George Gilbert Scott exploited the relationship of the site with Eagle Pond to the mutual advantage of his building and the Pond. The northern façade of his Wanstead Infant Orphan Asylum forms a dramatic backdrop in views across Eagle Pond from Snaresbrook Road to the north and the outlook from the building northwards across the Pond is very attractive.

Historically Eagle Pond is locally significant as a landmark at the heart of Snaresbrook that is entwined with centuries of its history. However it is also oddly displaced as it does not appear to 'belong' to any of the areas with a strongly defined character that make up its setting. Its links with Wanstead Park, which was one of the great estates in the country, particularly during the eighteenth century, is of national significance, even if the Pond was only part of the wider landscaping works of the estate.

Eagle Pond has interesting historic associations with both Wanstead Park to the south and the Infant Orphan Asylum (now Snaresbrook Crown Court) which add to its historic significance. There is archaeological potential associated with both these phases in its history.

Eagle Pond is important to the people who visit it as demonstrated by the survey carried out in December 2017, the vast majority of visitors are regular and 94% felt the management of Eagle Pond was important to them, to the rest it was fairly important.

Eagle Pond has local ecological significance which is recognised in its designation as a site of Nature Conservation Importance. Its wooded banks form particularly important habitats for wildlife. However, there is great scope for improving the ecological value of the Pond.

Overall, Eagle Pond is largely of local significance to Snaresbrook and Epping Forest but with historical links to Wanstead Park and Snaresbrook Crown Court which are both nationally significant.

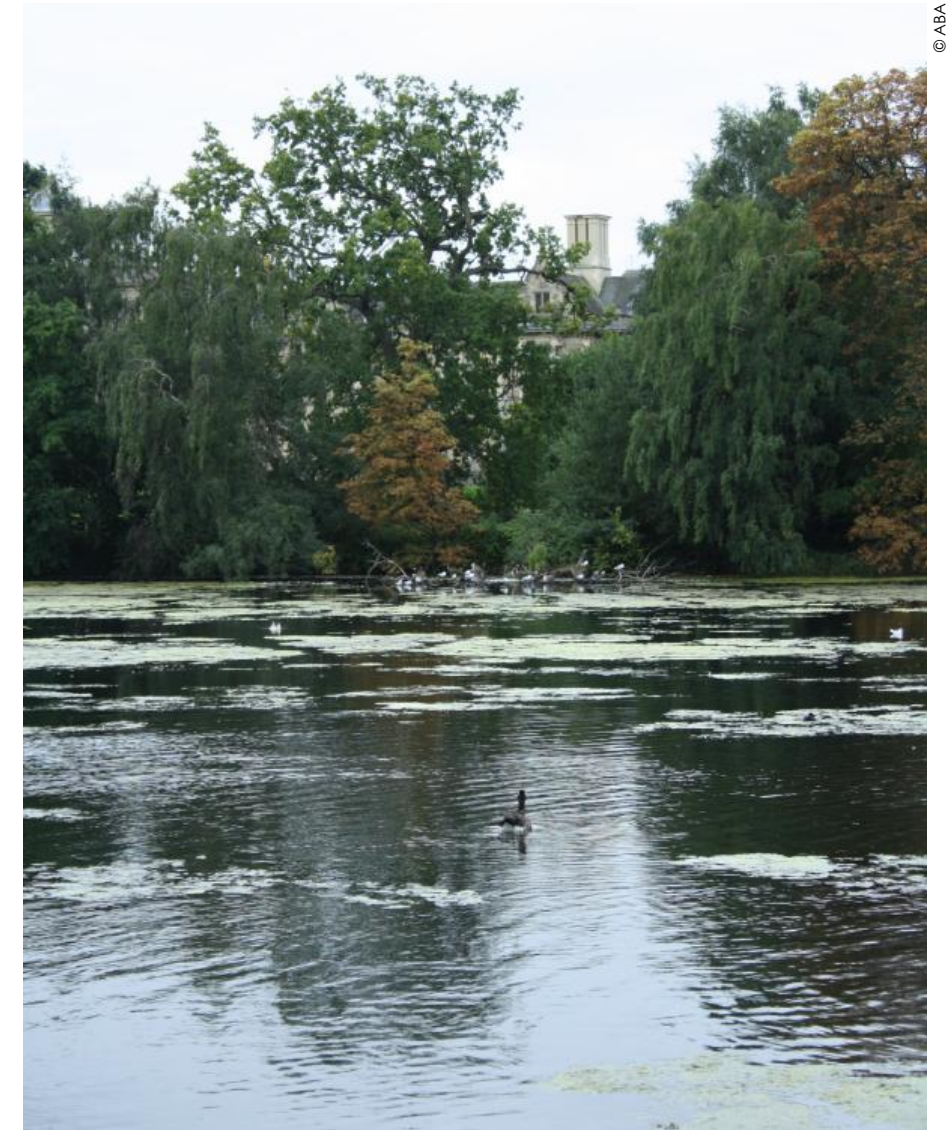


Figure 21: View of Eagle Pond from the north bank, 2017

4.3 Significance by interest

4.3.1 Historic interest

Eagle Pond has strong local historic interest as a water body that has been present in its current form since the beginning of the eighteenth century. As a large natural landmark it has formed part of the identity of the surrounding community over this time.

It is most likely to have been created by the damming of the Sayesbrook at the beginning of the eighteenth century when it formed part of the land of the Wanstead Estate. Its association as part of the Estate illustrates the magnitude of the landscaping works that were undertaken during this period in the creation of the Estate and its subsequent rapid decline when this area, including the Pond was sold off. Wanstead Park is one of the great 'lost' houses of the eighteenth century and its landscaped parkland was widely known, copied and celebrated. Eagle Pond's links with this great estate are of national significance.

There are four late eighteenth/early nineteenth century houses surviving opposite the Pond on the north side of Snaresbrook Road. Although these are not consecutive they do form a historic group with the Pond, though separated by the busy road.

Later in the mid nineteenth century the Pond was closely associated with the Orphan Infant Asylum which was built on its south bank. It was used by the institution as their water source and has an unhappy history as the site of drownings and suicides during this period.

At the end of the nineteenth century it came under the authority of the City Corporation with the creation of the Epping Forest Conservancy. This forms its important final chapter as the Pond has since been protected as a public amenity. As part of this history it was the focus of a more active range of public recreation than today, such as skating and fishing.

Its historical links with the area have, in the twentieth century, been compromised by subtle changes to its banks that have resulted in it being strangely divorced from its surroundings; existing as a space between places rather than an obvious destination in itself. The dense bank of tree cover (and its raised gradient) make it largely invisible from the east and Hollybush Hill; although it is very visible from Snaresbrook Road which forms its north bank, this is a busy thoroughfare and not particularly conducive to spending time admiring the Pond and its surroundings; from the west it is physically very accessible on foot though the wooded islands mean that the vast majority of Eagle Pond is not visible from this bank; to the south the perimeter of the land owned by Snaresbrook Crown Court (including the dam) is surrounded by palisade fencing making this, very attractive bank, inaccessible to the general public.

It is partly, no doubt the very different character of the four banks that makes association with any specific one now not obvious. However, certainly the inhospitable characteristics for the pedestrian of the north and east banks have made its historic association with Snaresbrook as a place less evident.

4.3.2 Archaeological interest

Eagle Pond has great potential as a repository for material history. Its likely origins, initially as a stream, part of the Sayesbrook and then as a pond in this long-populated area means that its layers of silt and, potentially, the embankment on its dammed east side hold evidence for the human history of the area.

Barry Hughes's 1991 article describes at a time of particular drought the wealth of archaeological finds dating from the days of the Orphan Infant Asylum. These were visible in the exposed silt and suggest there is much to be discovered in addition to what has already been recovered.

If, as has been posited here, the Sayesbrook was dammed to create the Pond, the bank at the east end of Eagle Pond and the wooded ground around it may well hold interesting archaeological evidence about the construction of the dam and the creation of Eagle Pond.

4.3.3 Architectural or artistic interest

Eagle Pond is an attractive body of water that forms a pleasing setting for Snaresbrook Crown Court to the south (see Section 4.5). When seen from the west, from within the Forest, with the islands in the foreground, it is also picturesque as are views across it from Snaresbrook Road to the north.

Eagle Pond is aesthetically pleasing in a natural, uncomposed way. Whilst it seems unlikely it was formally designed as a piece of landscaping in the sense that the ornamental water features at Wanstead Park were, it has a fortuitous beauty. As has been discussed in Chapter 3, the form of Eagle Pond appears to follow the natural form of the Sayesbrook once it was embanked and dammed, which gives it its loosely rectangular form. Its relationship with Snaresbrook Crown Court is the only aspect of its setting that seems likely to have been formally 'designed' for aesthetic reasons as Scott and Moffat have clearly taken account of the Pond in terms of its orientation and position in designing the building next to it.

Eagle Pond would once have been a defining focal landmark at the heart of the Snaresbrook Area. However, the changes to its banks that have occurred over the past century have resulted in it being less connected with the area surrounding it.

This is, to a large degree, due to the hard landscaping of the north bank and the busy traffic of Snaresbrook Road which makes it a less than appealing place to stop, or even stroll, and appreciate the Pond. There is one bench on a small promontory but otherwise it does not appear that stopping is encouraged. This hard landscaping detracts from the natural beauty of the Pond and from the experience of visiting it.

Similarly the palisade fencing around the dam and the south bank is an unattractive physical barrier that detracts from the positive characteristics of the Pond.

The dense vegetation and larger trees of the east bank and, increasingly so, of the south, make the Pond feel encroached upon obscuring views of it and across through these wooded banks, contributing to the Pond feeling like a closed-off no-man's land.

The result of this general encroachment is that the Pond feels like a space between places (Epping Forest, Snaresbrook Crown Court and Snaresbrook Road) rather than a destination or focus in itself, manifest in the different characters of the Pond's banks.

Issues like littering and algae blooms can also compromise the aesthetic appeal of the lake. The Forest Services Team, volunteers and the LBR Streetscene team all work hard to minimise the impact of the litter on Eagle Pond, nonetheless a more effective strategy is needed to further reduce litter impacts on the Pond. The challenges presented by silkweed windrows; harmful algal blooms and deteriorating water quality are by their very nature cyclical. Further work is needed to manage organic sediments and maintain water circulation and aeration to maintain a high level of water quality.

The other more notable detracting element is the palisade fencing around the Crown Court's land which contrasts unpleasantly with the wildlife surrounding the Pond on three of its banks.

4.3.4 Ecological interest

Eagle Pond is significant at a local (borough) level and has been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. Its significance is in respect of the diversity and numbers of waterfowl and the wooded south, west and east banks and islands which support semi-natural broadleaved woodland. These habitats comprise 'Eutrophic Standing Waters' and 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' which are UKBAP priority habitat types (equivalent to Habitats of Principal Importance under NERC Act, 2006). Few UKBAP priority species have been recorded at Eagle Pond, the most significant are bat species and European eel.

There is potential to increase the ecological interest of Eagle Pond by increasing habitat diversity. The Pond provides an interface with built-up residential area of Snaresbrook and the Forest beyond. Snaresbrook Road and the west bank offer public access and viewing of the Pond and birds.

4.3.5 Communal interest

Between 24 November and 17 December 2017 a survey of local residents and visitors to Eagle Pond was carried out. The survey was largely carried out by volunteers for the City Corporation asking passers-by on the banks of the Pond though the survey was also available online. The questions were aimed at establishing the nature and frequency of visits to the Pond and people's views about its good qualities and any issues they perceived.

The results show that the majority of the visitors and residents surveyed visited the Pond daily (75.76%) and most others did weekly. Most of those surveyed deliberately included the Pond in their visit to the area (65.63%) as part of going for a walk. The management of Eagle Pond was 'highly important' to 94.29% of those surveyed and 'fairly important' to the rest, illustrating its significance to those who know it as a feature of the natural environment.

Eagle Pond is a valuable resource for the local community and has been enjoyed by local residents probably since its creation as demonstrated by the numerous historical photographs. There are many historical photographs of people using the promenade including sitting around tables, children paddling, men fishing and feeding swans. This would appear to be to have been to a much larger extent than today which has to be partly due to the changes made to the north bank (it is no longer a graduated slope down to the water) and the busy traffic along Snaresbrook Road. It is therefore likely that its communal significance has lessened in the past century.

4.4 Contribution to Snaresbrook Conservation Area

Snaresbrook Conservation Area includes Eagle Pond, its banks and Snaresbrook Crown Court and its grounds at its southern end and then extends north up the A1199 (Hollybush Hill that turns into Woodford Road) a considerable way. The southern end which includes Eagle Pond is quite different in character from the rest of the Conservation Area to the north which is defined by the road, the adjoining greenery (Woodford Slips) and the blocks of generally twentieth-century housing on either side.

The appraisal of the character of the Snaresbrook Conservation Area around and including Eagle Pond is set out in Redbridge Council's *Snaresbrook Conservation Area Enhancement Scheme* (adopted 1993) which states that the 'trees and greenery' along with the 'open and spacious character' and the 'large pond' in the south of the area define its overall character. The combination of wood, parkland and historic buildings in the south of the Conservation Area are noted as giving it 'great visual significance'. Eagle Pond and Snaresbrook Crown Court are named as important along with the Eagle Hotel (now a Toby Carvery) and the listed buildings along the north side of Snaresbrook Road.

From this assessment it is clear that the Council considers the Pond to be a positive contributor to the character of the Conservation Area (although it wrongly states that it is part of the grounds of Snaresbrook Crown Court).

Despite the less than positive changes that have occurred to the surroundings of Eagle Pond, it still forms an attractive feature in this generally suburban area. The views from Snaresbrook Road of the Pond with the Crown Court behind are a particularly notable feature of the area.

4.5 Contribution to setting of Snaresbrook Crown Court

Eagle Pond was already in existence when Snaresbrook Crown Court was commissioned and built. The orientation of the building with its north front roughly aligned with the south bank of the Pond and the lawn from this elevation, descending down to the Pond's edge is clearly an intended piece of design; the building and lake should be seen and experienced together.

The north front is a grand, symmetrical composition with a central doorway framed by turrets. Despite this, it is not the main entrance or elevation as the building was always primarily accessed from the west. This is more of a 'garden front' with its terrace and lawn in front of the Pond. This intentionally picturesque composition has resulted in this aspect being the most commonly illustrated and photographed side of the building.

Whether Scott and Moffatt or the Trustees of the Asylum always intended there to be a functional relationship between the Pond and the Asylum is not documented but the close physical relationship of the two resulted in Eagle Pond being the water source for the Asylum for many decades.

The Pond is an integral part of the setting of Snaresbrook Crown Court, the latter was clearly designed to take advantage of Pond's natural beauty.

4.6 Significant views

4.6.1 Methodology

Views are fundamental to the way in which landscapes and places are experienced by visitors. Because of this it is important to identify and assess the significance of views as part of a consideration of a site's overall significance.

The significant views identified at Eagle Pond have been selected through a consideration of both historical evidence and a visitor's experience today.

These views have been categorised according to the following criteria:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Highly significant | Views that substantially contribute to the significance of Eagle Pond. |
| Significant | Views that contribute to the aesthetic interest of Eagle Pond but do not necessarily contribute to its significance. |

The following sections offer a more detailed description of each individual view.

For clarity the following plans illustrate static views, namely the view from a static point. However all of the views identified can be experienced from various points along the axis of the view and also dynamically when moving along it. This will be explained in relation to each view in the accompanying discussion.

4.6.2 View A: Snaresbrook Crown Court from Snaresbrook Road

Description

The view looking south from Snaresbrook Road (north bank of Eagle Pond) towards Snaresbrook Crown Court.

This view is experienced from various points along the length of Snaresbrook Road and also when moving along it in either direction.

Significance

Highly significant

Discussion

Although Snaresbrook Crown Court was constructed much later than Eagle Pond there is evidence that a relationship was cultivated between the two (see section 4.5). It is likely that Asylum's trustees and designers thought that the setting of an attractive body of water complemented the domestic architectural style of the building and its charitable aims.

This view remains one of the most memorable aspects of a visitor's experience of Eagle Pond today. It also represents the view from the most accessible area of the Pond.

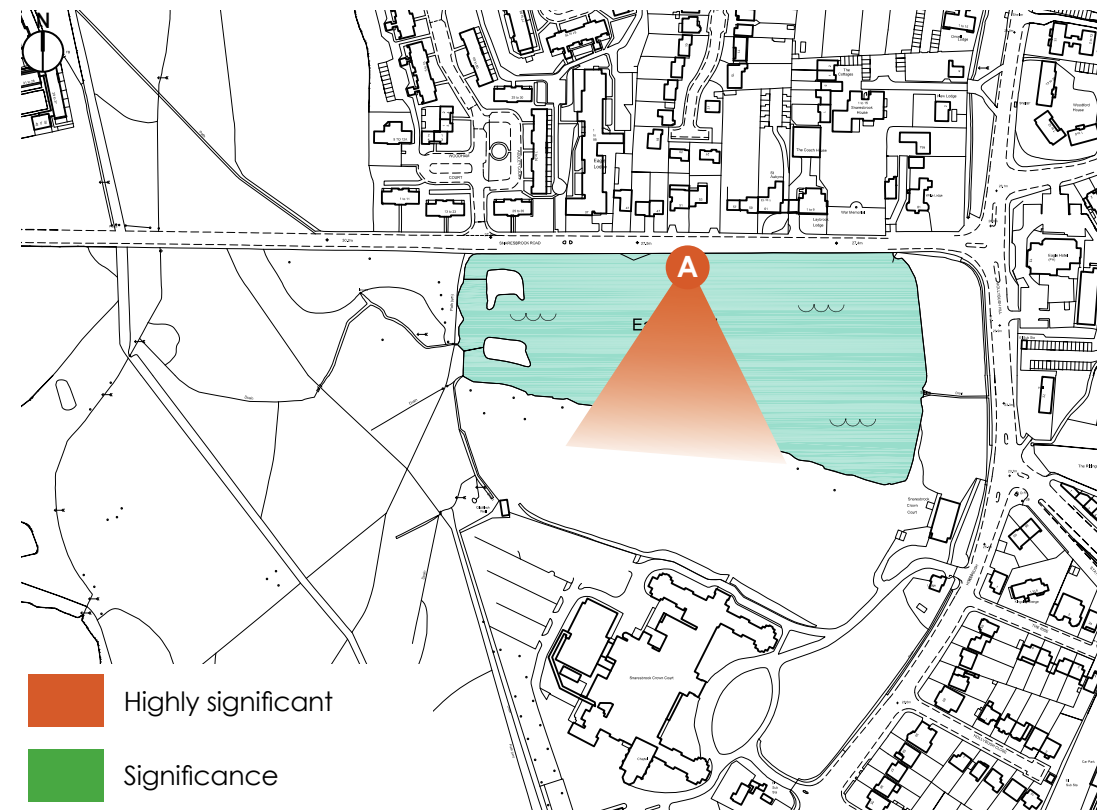


Figure 23: View A: Snaresbrook Crown Court from Snaresbrook Road



Figure 22: Engraving of the Infant Orphan Asylum by G. Hawkins, no date



Figure 24: Snaresbrook Crown Court from Snaresbrook Road, 2017

4.6.3 View B: Snaresbrook Road from Snaresbrook Crown Court

Description

The view looking north from the north front of Snaresbrook Crown Court (south bank of Eagle Pond) towards Snaresbrook Road.

This view is experienced from various points along the length of the south bank of Eagle Pond and also when moving along it in either direction.

Significance

Significant

Discussion

The mirror of View A, the view of Snaresbrook Road from Snaresbrook Crown Court forms part of the experience of the Grade II-listed Snaresbrook Crown Court Building. As there is documentary evidence that there were houses along Snaresbrook Road from at least the mid-eighteenth century this view also has an historic element.

However, although View B is the reverse of View A it is not as significant in the context of Eagle Pond. This is because although still aesthetically pleasing it does not contribute to Eagle Pond's significance in the same way as View A. There is also restricted public access as the land is owned by Snaresbrook Crown Court. Thus, View B forms a much lesser part of the experience of the Pond. The view is further obscured by trees and vegetation present on the south bank.

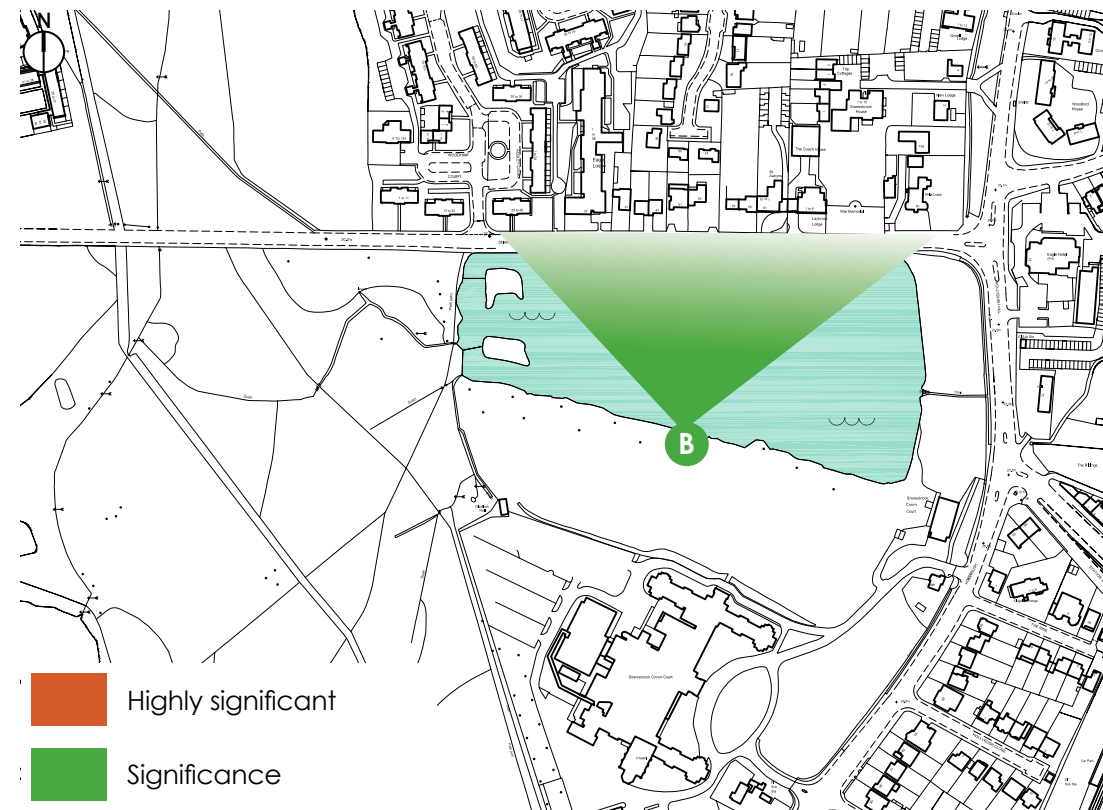


Figure 25: View B: Snaresbrook Road from Snaresbrook Crown Court



Figure 26: Snaresbrook Road from Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2017

4.6.4 View C: West bank from the corner of Snaresbrook Road and Hollybush Hill

Description

The view looking south-east from the corner of Snaresbrook Road and Hollybush Hill towards the west bank of Eagle Pond, leading on to the Hollow Ponds area of Epping Forest.

This view is experienced from various points along the length of Snaresbrook Road and also when moving along it towards the west.

This view also encompasses the view west along Snaresbrook Road.

Significance

Significant

Discussion

This view along Snaresbrook Road constitutes the view from the most accessible area of the Pond. It is therefore, along with Views A and D, one of the main ways in which Eagle Pond is experienced.

It offers an attractive juxtaposition of the hard landscaping of Snaresbrook Road and the houses along it with the more natural setting of the water and tree-lined west bank of Eagle Pond.

It also offers a pleasant moment of surprise when the Pond first comes into view on the corner of Snaresbrook Road and Hollybush Hill.



Figure 27: View C: West bank from the corner of Snaresbrook Road and Hollybush Hill



Figure 28: The west bank from the corner of Snaresbrook Road and Hollybush Hill, 2017

4.6.5 View D: Along Snaresbrook Road

Description

The view looking east along Snaresbrook Road from the north-west corner of Eagle Pond.

This view is experienced at various points along the length of Snaresbrook Road and also when moving along it towards the east.

This view also encompasses the view of the east bank of Eagle Pond.

Significance

Significant

Discussion

This view along Snaresbrook Road constitutes the view from the most accessible area of the Pond. It is therefore, along with Views A and C, one of the main ways in which Eagle Pond is experienced. This is supported by many early-twentieth century photographs and postcards which show people sitting, talking and feeding the birds along Snaresbrook Road.

Like View D it offers an attractive juxtaposition of the hard landscaping of Snaresbrook Road and the houses along it with the more natural setting of the water and tree-lined west bank of Eagle Pond.

At the north-western corner this view also includes an attractive and secluded view of the islands and west bank.

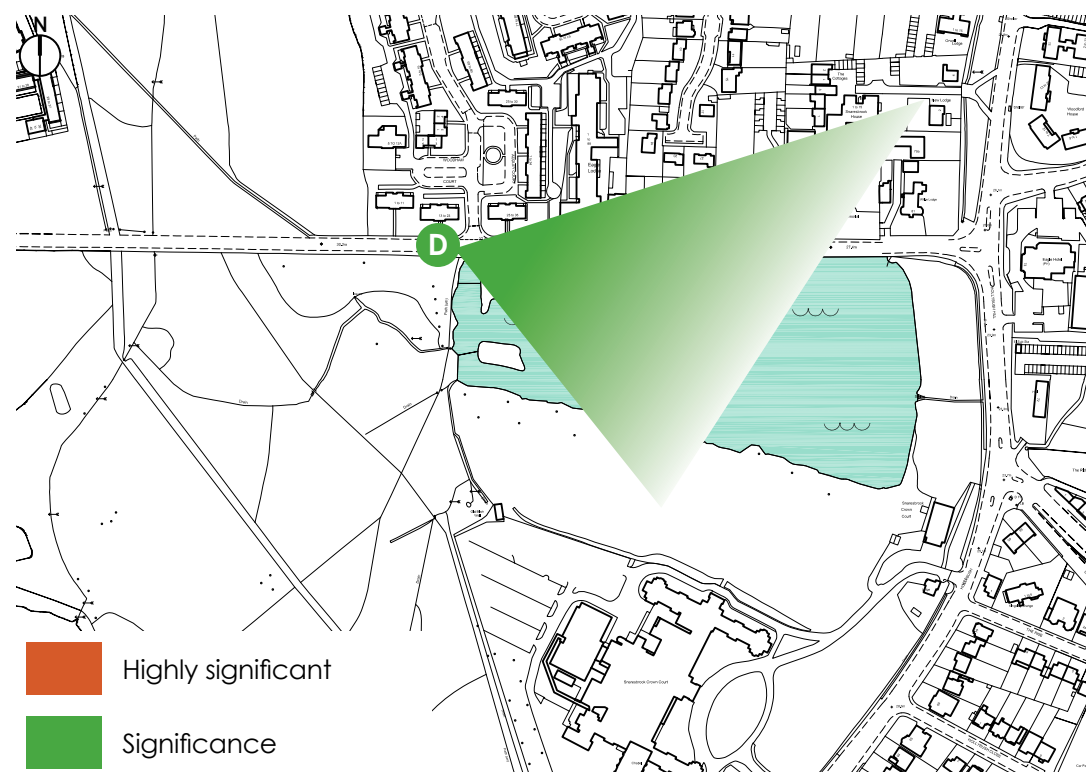


Figure 29: View D: Along Snaresbrook Road



Figure 30: View along Snaresbrook Road, 2017

5.0 Risks, opportunities and policies

5.1 Purpose

This chapter identifies the ways in which the significance of Eagle Pond is vulnerable. It identifies potential threats to the conservation of the Pond and issues that impact upon visitor experience. This chapter also identifies opportunities for enhancing the significance of the Pond and the experience of its visitors.

These risk and opportunities are then distilled into policies. Policies are recommendations for how each risk or opportunity should be addressed in order to reduce the probability of harm to the significance of the site or to enhance it. Policies are accompanied by practical guidance and additional information to assist their implementation.

5.2 Approach

Risks, opportunities and policies are organised under four thematic headings: Understanding, Access and circulation, Archaeology and Ecology.

They have also been rated according to priority which includes considerations of the scale, feasibility and cost of implementing the policy.

High Priority – Indicates primarily that there is a high risk to significance or that the condition is likely to deteriorate swiftly due to the identified risk if not addressed. High priority risks tend to be not prohibitively expensive and possible to implement immediately.

Medium Priority – Indicates the risk is ongoing and should be addressed in the near future to preserve significance but that the situation is not deteriorating rapidly. Costs may be more but equally the benefits to significance may also be high. There may be other factors that need to be agreed or in place before a medium priority risk can be addressed.

Long-term Priority – These risks or opportunities are desirable to implement and will enhance the significance of the Pond. However, they are not as pressing as those identified as a high or medium priority. A policy may have been categorised as long-term due to expense or the complexity of the situation needed to implement it.

5.3 Summary

The stable ownership of the Pond means that there is no impending radical threat to its existence. Its condition is also generally monitored by knowledgeable engineers and ecologists so it is very unlikely to be allowed to deteriorate rapidly. Its ecological significance could certainly be improved upon with measures that may well enhance other aspects of its significance. The different ownership of its banks is one of the most detrimental aspects that harms its significance and one of the more difficult to address in the short term too.

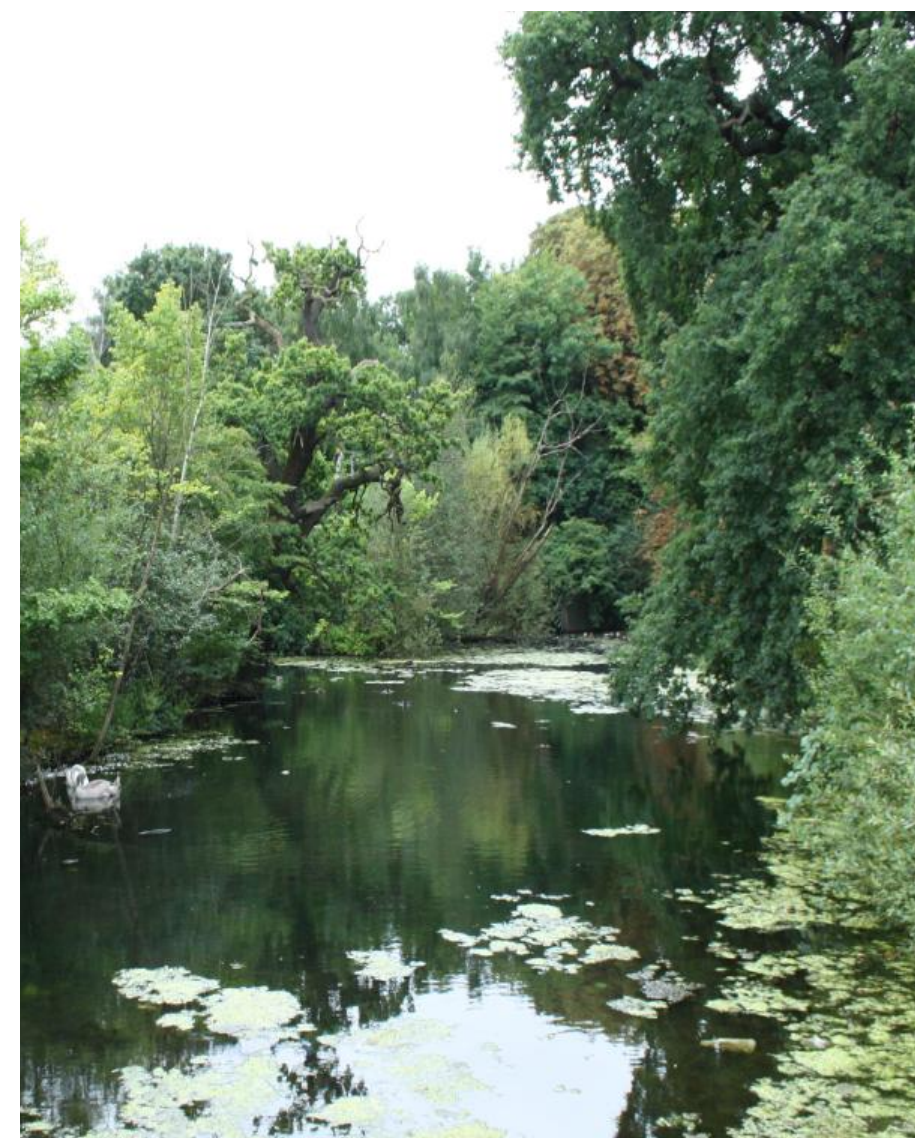


Figure 31: Eagle Pond from the west bank, 2017

5.4 General policies

5.4.1 Understanding (including intellectual access)

Priority: Medium

Risk

Currently there is no available information either on site or online for the public on the history or significance of Eagle Pond and its setting which reduces appreciation of significance for visitors and the public.

Opportunity

To inform visitors of the wider historical and ecological significance of Eagle Pond and its surrounding area.

Policy U1: The City Corporation will explore the opportunity for informing visitors and the wider public of the historical development of Eagle Pond and its associations with the history of the area.

Discussion:

The public survey that was carried out in November and December 2017 showed that regular visitors to the Pond place value on the surrounding historic and natural environment and therefore may welcome a better understanding of Eagle Pond's significance.

There are various ways this could be better communicated to visitors including through signboards, links to website-based information and geo-tagged information accessible from mobile phone applications, which could allow visitors to overlay historic images of the Pond. These options should be fully explored and evaluated as a way of better revealing the Pond's significance.

Priority: Medium

Risk

Currently the exact dimensions of Eagle Pond and the profile of its bed are unknown. This reduces its significance.

Opportunity

To find out the profile and dimensions of the Pond. This knowledge will either support or discredit theories of its early formation and add to its historical significance.

Policy U2: The City Corporation will establish the dimensions and profile of Eagle Pond.

Discussion:

In order to establish if the Pond was once a river which was dammed, knowing the profile of its bed would be illuminating. Understanding its dimensions and shape generally would be useful information and enhance the management and understanding of the site.

Priority: Medium

Risk

There are areas of knowledge about the Pond which could benefit from more research and investigation. These gaps in understanding may be obscuring its full significance.

Opportunity

To find out more about its historic links with the area and its physical characteristics where there is scope for further investigation.

Policy U3: The City Corporation will assess opportunities to carry out further research into the Pond, to fill current gaps in our knowledge.

Discussion:

There are some remaining gaps in the knowledge about Eagle Pond, further information on which would clarify and support the existing understanding about its history and physical attributes. Further information about the water courses around Eagle Pond, where the overflow water goes, its early history, the construction of the banks, and the profile of the Pond's bed could all be further investigated.

5.4.2 Ownership and management

Priority: Medium

Risk

The Pond and its four banks are currently in three different ownerships, making a coordinated approach to its conservation and management practically very challenging.

Opportunity

To create a more coordinated approach to the management of Eagle Pond that would enhance all aspects of its significance.

Policy O1: The City Corporation will investigate the possibility of forming a standing forum with the HMCTS and LBR's Conservation Area and Highway representatives in order to better co-ordinate the management of the Pond's significance.

Discussion:

The interests of the different owners are currently not coordinated when it comes to managing and conserving Eagle Pond. Although the management of the dam and spillway is the responsibility of HMCTS, the condition of the Pond itself is only really considered by the City Corporation. However, both HMCTS and the LBR's areas have a great impact on the significance of the Pond. In order to better safeguard the Pond's significance through more co-ordinated management, different ways of creating a unified approach to the management of Eagle Pond should be investigated, including the formation of a standing forum.

5.4.3 Level of protection

Priority: Medium

Risk

An insufficient level of protection of the Pond's historical and/or ecological significance could lead to an erosion of the Pond's overall significance.

Opportunity

Formal recognition of the Pond's various strands of significance, codified in designations, would ensure that the overall significance of the Pond is preserved.

Policy P1: The City Corporation will regularly review the level of heritage and ecological protection of the Pond to ensure that the significance of the site is effectively protected.

Discussion:

Eagle Pond is currently covered by several designations, covering both heritage and ecology, outlined in section 2.4. The scope and level of these designations should be reviewed periodically, in addition to any potential new designations, in order to take account of new historical research and changing ecological conditions. This will ensure that the level of protection remains commensurate with the assessed level of significance of the Pond.

5.4.4 Access and circulation

Priority: Long-term

Risk

There is currently no public access to the south bank which is part of the grounds of Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Opportunity

This is one of the more attractive banks and allowing access would enhance the public's appreciation of the Pond. The south bank is currently very under-used.

Policy AC1: The City Corporation will explore with HMCTS the possibility of permitting the public use of the south bank of Eagle Pond as an amenity.

Discussion: This south bank is a large, attractive and under-used space that forms an important part of the setting of Eagle Pond and in the understanding of the significant physical and historical relationship of the listed Crown Court and the Pond.

There is a national programme of replacing historic Crown Court buildings with modern facilities which should be borne in mind in the long term by the City Corporation in considering the future of Eagle Pond's surroundings.

The curtilage and surroundings of many Crown Courts are also used by members of the public and indeed here the chapel, for example, can be visited by the public at certain times of the week. A controlled access arrangement may be feasible.

5.4.5 Archaeology

Priority: Long-term

Risk

Not understanding the full archaeological potential of the Pond could lead to works which may lead to evidence being lost or disrupted which may harm its archaeological significance.

Opportunity

Archaeological finds could add to the understanding of the Pond's formation and history, better revealing its significance.

Policy A1: The City Corporation will, during low water events or works to the dam, east embankment or Pond bed, take the opportunity to record archaeological finds.

Discussion:

The City Corporation should liaise with HMCTS and the LBR and notify them of the archaeological potential at east end of the site so that any development on this land should be considered for an archaeological watching brief.

Any further works to the Pond should take into consideration its archaeological potential and investigate if the opportunity presents itself. The embankment and dam at the east end could contain archaeological evidence for the Pond's construction and subsequent history. Similarly, the bed is likely to contain surviving evidence of the human history of the area.

5.5 Ecology policies

5.5.1 Dumping of food waste and litter

Priority: High

Risk

The littering and regular fly-tipping into Eagle Pond (most of which happens on the north bank) harms its ecological and aesthetic significance.

Opportunity

To improve the appearance and ecological health of the Pond by reducing the amount of littering and fly-tipping in the lake.

Policy E1: The City Corporation will work with LBR and HMCTS to examine methods of further reducing the amount of littering in and around Eagle Pond to further enhance the immediate environment.

Discussion:

The amount of litter in the Pond is both an eye sore and harmful to wildlife. The exposed position of the Pond in an urban area means that it is likely to be more of a focus for littering and fly-tipping than other waterbodies in the Forest that are only accessible on foot. An understanding of the causes of the problem is needed first (whether it relates to the bins and the wind blowing litter from them, littering from passers-by or whether it is a focus for regular fly-tipping as was reported in the visitor survey carried out by the City Corporation in November and December 2017). An appropriate strategy then needs to be formulated and implemented to respond to the main causes.

There may be a case for introducing new byelaws and fines to prevent dumping, coupled with improved signage.

It is recognised that the cooperation of the LBR may well be needed since it is likely that much of the problem is focused along the Snaresbrook Road. This should be sought early in the process.

5.5.2 Trees on the dam

Priority: High

Risk

There are currently trees growing on the dam. Under the Reservoirs Act 1975 there should be no trees on the dam.

Opportunity

Removing trees from the dam can allow open habitats to establish such as rough grassland and tall herb habitats which can provide be of value to wildlife including invertebrates.

Policy E2: The City Corporation will gradually remove trees to create open wildlife habitats to meet requirements of the Reservoirs Act and also the need to fulfil requirements of being in a conservation area.

Discussion

In conservation areas, trees (that are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order) are protected by under section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Tree works can only be carried out if the local planning authority gives consent after being notified with a 'section 211 notice', 6 weeks prior to the work taking place.

The removal of trees should be planned for future years to meet obligations under the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the protection afforded to trees in conservation areas.

5.5.3 Invasive Non-Native Species

Priority: High**Risk**

Once established, Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) can have a serious, detrimental impact on the ecology of Eagle Pond.

Opportunity

Monitoring pond health (including looking out for INNS) is a way to engage volunteers in positive work to protect and enhance ponds.

Policy E3: The City Corporation will monitor the presence and distribution of Invasive Non-Native Species across Epping Forest ponds and take appropriate action to minimise their spread.

Discussion

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) including plants such as New Zealand pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii* and floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and animals such as red-eared terrapin can cause serious problems to the ecology of Eagle Pond and once established can be difficult to eradicate. Moving plant material etc. between ponds can inadvertently lead to the introduction of non-native species. A Forest-wide approach is needed to control, minimise and where possible reverse the spread of invasive non-native species.

5.5.4 Absence of vegetation along north bank

Priority: Medium**Risk**

Little wildlife is attracted to the north bank apart from birds (due to feeding) due to the lack of suitable habitat and most wildlife does not utilise this bank (notably bats, passerines and invertebrates) for the same reason. This is a risk to the ecology of the Pond and to the aesthetic significance of this bank.

Opportunity

Willows (crack and/or white) could again be a feature along Snaresbrook Road. Marginal bank and emergent vegetation (wetland wildflowers, reeds and sedges) could be established forming an irregular edge to the Pond. Boardwalks could be created to improve access to and enjoyment of the Pond.

Policy E4: The City Corporation will explore the opportunity with the LBR of planting trees and marginal vegetation along the north bank to improve the ecological habitat of this bank and improve the environment for the pedestrian.

Discussion:

There was a line of trees (most probably willows) in the past located along the water's edge. These provided habitat and a partial screen to the road (reducing physical disturbance, noise and light pollution). Planting trees again and/or establishing emergence vegetation would increase habitat diversity, soften the edge with Snaresbrook Road and help to reduce disturbance and light levels to the Pond. This would necessitate revetments, backfilling and protection of plants from geese until they are established. A water depth survey for the Pond would facilitate the design of these enhancements.

These changes will also improve the experience of the north bank for the pedestrian by softening what is currently a hard environment.

5.5.5 Pollution from storm run-off from Snaresbrook Road

Priority: Medium**Risk**

The Pond receives a level of pollution from storm drainage run-off from the Snaresbrook Road which will gradually build up ion sediments which are harmful to the ecological health of the Pond. Storm water flows directly into the pond in the northwest corner.

Opportunity

To reduce the pollutants entering the Pond by establishing a reedbed around the storm drain outfall which could help to filter pollutants, improve water quality in the Pond and enhance it aesthetically.

Policy E5: The City Corporation will plant a reed bed where storm drainage water enters the Pond from the Snaresbrook Road to help reduce a build-up of pollution in sediments in the water.

Discussion:

Establishing a reedbed around this outfall could help to filter pollutants and improve water quality in the Pond as cutting and removing reeds off-site removes pollutants from the Pond.

A schedule of maintaining the reedbed would need to be adopted by the City Corporation following the implementation of this policy.

5.5.6 Loss of open habitat on the west side of the Pond

Priority: Medium**Risk**

Excessive growth – largely of holly – in the area of Forest between the Pond and the car park to the west has resulted in a dense woodland that reduces views between around this end of Eagle Pond. This harms the aesthetic significance.

Opportunity

Removing recent tree growth (largely consisting of holly regeneration) would re-create open wood pasture/acid grassland habitat and create better views to and from Epping Forest and the Pond.

Policy E6: The City Corporation will restore the open woodland character between Eagle Pond and the car park.

Discussion:

In the past, land between the Pond and the car park to the west was open supporting rough grassland, scrub and occasional mature trees.

Clearance of relatively recent tree growth would contribute to the primary conservation objectives of Epping Forest SSSI. Mature trees in addition to the veteran oak would be retained. The veteran oak pollard on the west bank would have originally been in a more open wood pasture setting.

The effect of reducing some of the vegetation at this end of the Pond may also help address some of the social issues that regularly occur here.

5.5.7 Feeding birds

Priority: Medium**Risk**

Local people feed ducks, geese, swans and pigeons with human food that is not good for their health, causes littering and is harmful to the ecological health of Eagle Pond.

Opportunity

Improving the public's understanding and knowledge about the feeding of birds is desirable in the area of Epping Forest in general. There is also the opportunity to create a width of marginal emergent vegetation between Snaresbrook Road and the pond which would make it more difficult for people to feed waterfowl but also improve the habitat for wildlife.

Policy E7: The City Corporation will continue to implement a strategy to discourage the general public from feeding the wildfowl on Eagle Pond inappropriate food that is harmful to the health of the birds and the ecology of the Pond.

Discussion:

Education work in schools and in the general community (e.g. for events) is currently carried out by the Epping Forest Centenary Trust. This is fundamental to achieving long term change in public understanding. There is also a case for the provision of an information board.

Less feeding would help to reduce numbers of waterfowl which would reduce the impact of waterfowl on the pond, which includes nutrient enrichment (which in turn increased algal blooms) and the reduction in the diversity of aquatic plants.

Creating marginal vegetation along the north bank (see policy E4) will also help deter the public from feeding the birds and improve the ecological health of the pond.

5.5.8 Large numbers of Canada geese

Priority: Medium**Risk**

A large proportion of waterfowl at Eagle Pond are the introduced Canada geese which can be present in large numbers (139 were recorded on one occasion), these reduce the habitat available for native species and also increase nutrient enrichment of the pond and banks from their droppings. Three to four pairs breed annually on the islands.

Opportunity

To reduce the population of Canada Geese, allowing other, native species to flourish and improving the species diversity of Eagle Pond.

Policy E8: The City Corporation will work with local partners to encourage measures which will provide a sustainable population of Canada geese across the south of Epping Forest, including Eagle Pond.

Discussion:

Efforts are already made to control Canada geese numbers by Epping Forest Staff but because these geese are numerous and widespread and move to and from the Forest from other waterbodies, it is not clear that a significant difference is being made on numbers at Epping Forest.

5.5.9 Erosion of south bank

Priority: Long-term**Risk**

It is likely that the south bank was revetted with timber in the past when it was more open with a smaller numbers of trees. Revetments, if they did exist are no longer present and the bank is eroding. Trees along this bank (including mature oaks) are falling into the water. However, submerged trees and branches will help to slow erosion by reducing wave action. The erosion of this bank is a risk to the ecological significance of this bank but also its aesthetic significance.

Opportunity

To slow the pace of erosion of the south bank by establishing marginal vegetation which would also improve the ecological diversity of the Pond.

Policy E9: The City Corporation will work with HMCTS to explore the possibility of implementing a programme of establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation along the south bank will enhance the ecological significance of this bank and help prevent erosion.

Discussion:

Establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation (wetland wildflowers, reeds and sedges) could be established forming an irregular edge to this margin of the Pond. Reeds along this edge would help pollution levels as cutting and removing reeds removes pollutants from the Pond.

This policy would necessitate revetments, backfilling and protection of plants from geese until they are established.

This would both improve the ecological diversity of the south bank and prevent erosion. This policy is linked with policy AC1 and would involve negotiation with HMCTS as they are the owners of this bank.

5.5.10 Lack of habitat diversity in the Pond

Priority: Long-term**Risk**

Wetland bank and emergent vegetation is almost completely absent at Eagle Pond providing limited habitats for wildlife and reducing the ecological significance of the Pond.

Opportunity

Establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation along the north and south margins of the pond and creating floating islands of wetland vegetation which would increase the habitats and ecological health of the Pond. It may be possible to establish floating and submerged aquatic plants (such as water lilies and pondweeds).

Policy E10: The City Corporation will explore the possibility of implementing a programme of establishing marginal bank and emergent vegetation along the north and south banks and creating floating islands of wetland vegetation to enhance the ecological significance of Eagle Pond.

Discussion:

A diversity of habitats generally leads to a healthier and more diverse pond life. Floating islands provide shelter for fish underneath them as well as having a cooling effect on the water which helps to sustain oxygen levels in the pond.

Reeds would help pollution levels as cutting and removing reeds removes pollutants from the Pond. This policy would necessitate revetments, backfilling and protection of plants from geese until they are established.

This policy is linked with Policy AC1 and E4 and would involve negotiation with Her Majesty's Court Service as they are the owners of this bank.

5.5.11 Climate change

Priority: Long-term**Risk**

Rising temperatures reduce the dissolved oxygen in the Pond leading to effects of stagnation and posing a risk to the ecological health of Eagle Pond. The visible effects of stagnation are also harmful to its aesthetic significance.

Opportunity

To increase the levels of dissolved oxygen in the Pond using measures that improve the ecological habitats of the Pond too.

Policy E11: The City Corporation will explore measures that will help increase the levels of dissolved oxygen in Eagle Pond. This would improve the ecological and aesthetic significance of the Pond by reducing stagnation.

Discussion

Reduced dissolved oxygen adversely affects the health of the Pond, in particular fish and invertebrates.

There is the potential to plant trees along the north bank, create bank and emergent vegetation and create floating islands which will both create shade and the vegetation will improve the dissolved oxygen levels of the Pond. An air pump to oxygenate and help circulate the water could be installed with a small-scale electricity supply or using solar panels. Silt removal is also another possibility which could be installed.

5.5.12 Regular removal of accumulated silt

Priority: Long-term

Risk

An increase in accumulated silt levels could, in the most extreme cases, result in parts of the Pond drying up and impacting on its overall significance.

Opportunity

Regularly reviewing the silt levels in the Pond will ensure that the shape, extent and form of the Pond is maintained.

It may be possible to use removed silt to create shallower areas around the margins of Eagle Pond retained using timber structures which could then be planted with marginal vegetation.

Policy E12: The City Corporation will regularly review the distribution of accumulated silt in the Pond and organise removal of material when necessary.

Discussion

Silt collects in the Pond due to run off from the road. Levels of accumulated silt need to be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that areas of the Pond do not dry up and alter the overall shape and extent of the Pond, an important aspect of its overall significance. The removal of accumulated silt needs to be planned to minimise costs and find sites to which the silt can be appropriately relocate. The potential to use the silt to create marginal vegetation should be explored.

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Appendix A Gazetteer

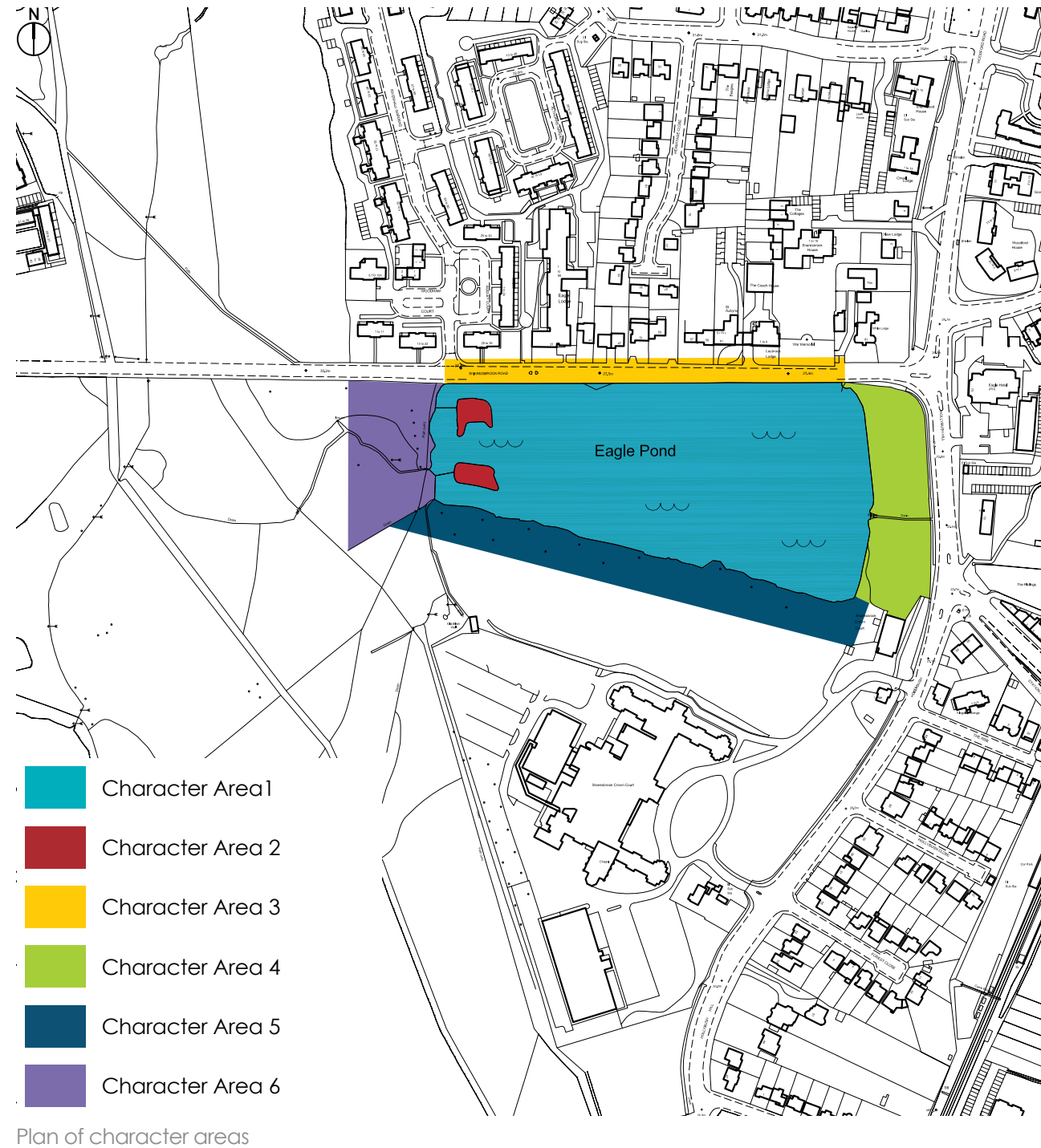
Methodology

This gazetteer offers a more detailed description of the site than is offered in section 2.2.

For the purposes of this exercise Eagle Pond has been divided into six character areas:

1. The water body of the Pond itself
2. The two islands on the western side of the Pond
3. The Pond's north bank along Snaresbrook Road
4. The Pond's east bank adjacent to Hollybush Hill, including the dam
5. The Pond's south bank belonging to Snaresbrook Crown Court
6. The Pond's west bank which offers access to Epping Forest

These character areas have been identified through combination of the geography of the Pond, its ownership and ecology.



Character Area 1: Water body

Description

Eagle Pond is a large body of water with an approximate area of 10 acres. It is roughly rectangular in shape but is narrower at its west end than its east. It measures approximately 289 metres from east to west and 110 metres from north to south at its midpoint.

It holds more than 25,000 cubic metres of water above the natural level of part of the adjoining land. The depth has not been mapped but has been found to be deeper at the east end than the west end and to be shallower along the north and south banks (Whitfield and Pallett, 2017).

Significance

The water body is key to the identity of the Pond. It is fundamental to its aesthetic significance and to its ecological significance.

Commentary

The water body of the Pond is an attractive sheet of water that is appreciated and valued by the local community.

It is also important for a range of waterfowl, naturalised islands and banks. However, there is a lack of habitat diversity in the Pond. There are also issues of feeding bread to birds, dumping food waste, large numbers of Canada geese, algal blooms and potential pollution from road run-off.

There is potential to establish emergent vegetation on south and north sides and on floating vegetated islands.



View south east across Eagle Pond

Character Area 2: Islands

Description

The Pond's two small islands are located close to its western bank. Each island has limited vegetation on it, including small trees.

The age of these islands is unclear. However the earliest documentary evidence found in the course of the research for this Conservation Statement (1735) does show islands near the western edge of the Pond.

Significance

The islands are an important aspect of Eagle Pond's ecological significance, as a habitat for wildlife. They have some, limited aesthetic significance.

Commentary

The two islands are an historic and attractive element of the Pond. However appreciation of them is limited due to their proximity to wooded western bank.

The islands support a range of waterfowl, offering a nesting site for birds including Canada geese and a resting place for non-native terrapins. It also supports a range of native vegetation.

The woodland comprises 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' which is a UKBAP priority habitat types.



View of the islands from the west bank

Character Area 3: North bank

Description

The north bank is formed by Snaresbrook Road and its pavements. The southern pavement of Snaresbrook Road immediately adjoins the Pond's bank. The revetment has corrugated metal sheeting.

Significance

The north bank is where most people will experience and view Eagle Pond from. Surviving late eighteenth and nineteenth-century houses occupy the north bank along with more modern houses and flats. The north bank therefore has communal and historic significance (historically people used this bank more for recreation by the Pond too). Its aesthetic significance is compromised by the hard-edged and unattractive environment of the pavement and the high level of physical disturbance, noise and light pollution, from the busy traffic along Snaresbrook Road. It does, however, offer a view of the Snaresbrook Crown Court building that has been assessed as highly significant.

Commentary

There was previously a line of mature trees along the water's edge. There is potential to plant trees as in the past and also establish emergent vegetation along this margin.



The north bank is formed by Snaresbrook Road and its pavements

Character Area 4: East bank

Description

The east end of the Pond is formed by the dam, through which water discharges into a sluice into a wooded bank between the Pond and Hollybush Hill.

The dam is earth with some planting along it.

Significance

This bank has potential archaeological significance and some historical significance as the creation of an embankment or dam in this area has been present since the eighteenth century.

Commentary

The land between the dam and Hollybush Hill belongs to Snaresbrook Crown Court and is therefore inaccessible to the public. The dam itself is jointly owned by the Crown Court and the City of London. The imposing metal palisade fencing at the north-east corner of the Pond is unattractive.

The land between the dam and Hollybush Hill is wooded with mostly non-native trees alongside mature pedunculate oaks. Some emergent vegetation has been planted along the front of the dam probably in brushwood or coir rolls attached to the side of the dam.



View of east bank of the Pond including the dam

Character Area 5: South bank

Description

The south bank has trees along its periphery but behind these is a large grassed lawn in front of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Grade II-listed).

The trees on this edge are slowly falling into the lake due to erosion of the bank.

Significance

This bank has aesthetic significance both as an attractive wooded bank but also as part of the composition with Snaresbrook Crown Court. It also has historic significance as part of the grounds of this nationally important building. It has some ecological significance too.

Commentary

The south bank offers an attractive foreground to the view of Snaresbrook Crown Court from Snaresbrook Road, assessed as being highly significant.

It is now wooded and supports a range of native (including mature pedunculate oak) and non-native trees with an area of semi-improved grassland behind which has ecological value. The bank is eroding with trees falling into the water. The woodland comprises 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' UKBAP Habitat.

There is potential to establish marginal vegetation behind revetments.



View of the south bank with Snaresbrook Crown Court partially visible

Character Area 6: West bank

Description

The west bank offers access to a part of Epping Forest known as Hollow Ponds, which is a wooded area with a car park about 200 metres to the west.

Significance

The west bank has aesthetic and ecological significance as part of Epping Forest, providing a range of habitats and as part of attractive views across the Pond.

Commentary

The west bank links the Pond with Epping Forest and offers a more secluded feel than the other character areas.

The land has developed to woodland (including dense holly growth) with the loss of the more open wood pasture habitat. Veteran pedunculate oak pollard close to the Pond. The woodland comprises 'Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland' UKBAP Habitat.

There is potential to clear recent tree growth to restore wood pasture and open up views to and from the car park. Wood-Pasture is a UKBAP Priority Habitat and of high ecological significance in Epping Forest.



View of the west bank of the Pond

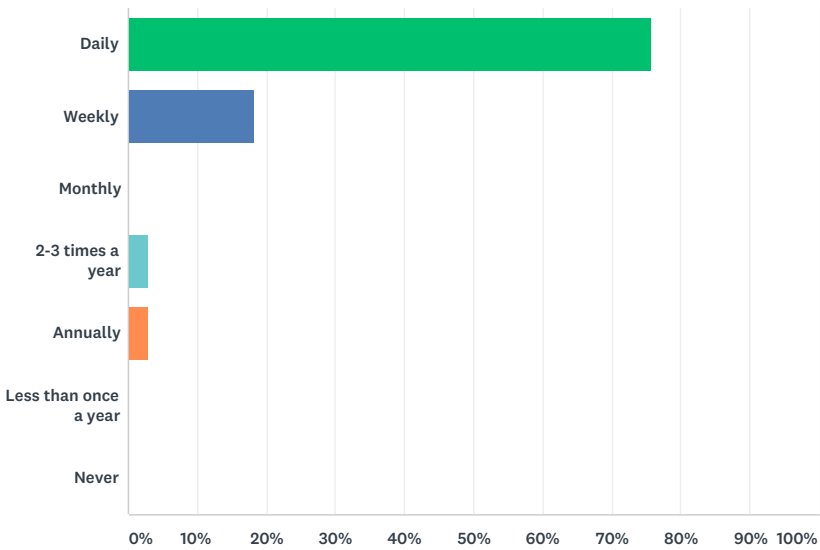
Appendix B

City of London Public Consultation Survey Nov/Dec 2017

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q1 How often do you visit Eagle Pond?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 2

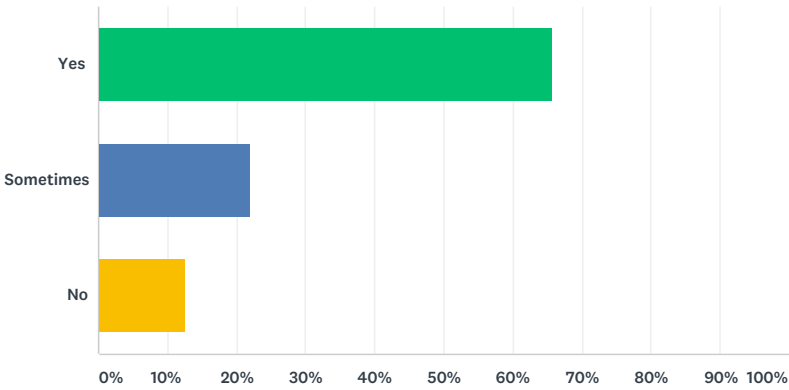


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|
| Daily | 75.76% | 25 |
| Weekly | 18.18% | 6 |
| Monthly | 0.00% | 0 |
| 2-3 times a year | 3.03% | 1 |
| Annually | 3.03% | 1 |
| Less than once a year | 0.00% | 0 |
| Never | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 33 |

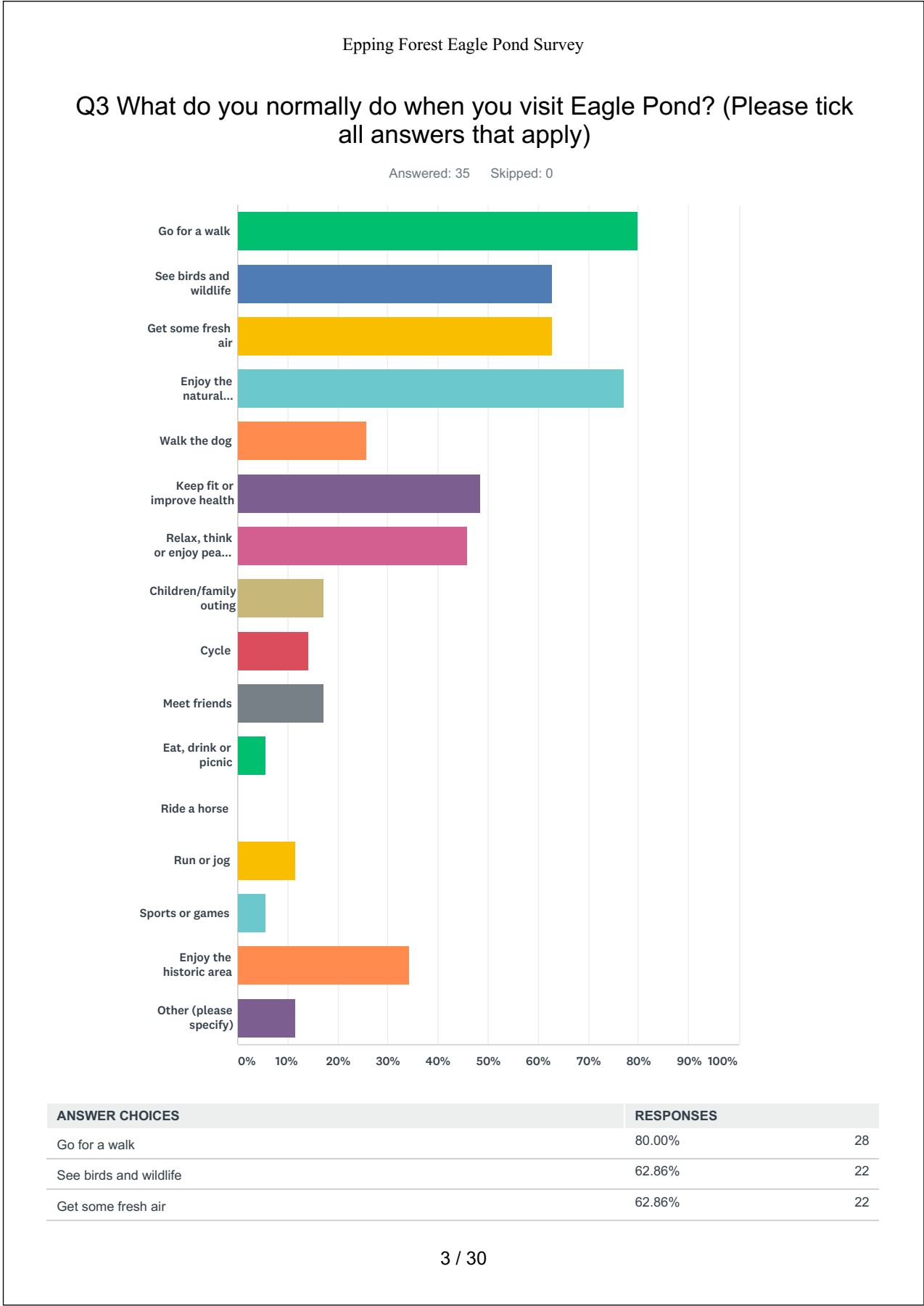
Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q2 Do you specifically include Eagle Pond in your visit to the Forest or area?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 65.63% | 21 |
| Sometimes | 21.88% | 7 |
| No | 12.50% | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 32 |



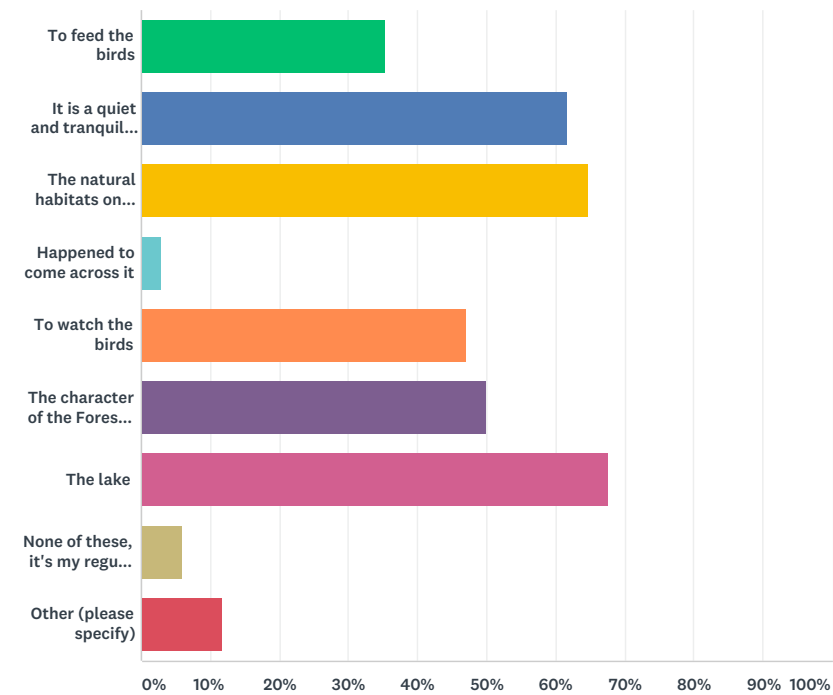
| Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----|
| Enjoy the natural environment | 77.14% | 27 |
| Walk the dog | 25.71% | 9 |
| Keep fit or improve health | 48.57% | 17 |
| Relax, think or enjoy peace and quiet | 45.71% | 16 |
| Children/family outing | 17.14% | 6 |
| Cycle | 14.29% | 5 |
| Meet friends | 17.14% | 6 |
| Eat, drink or picnic | 5.71% | 2 |
| Ride a horse | 0.00% | 0 |
| Run or jog | 11.43% | 4 |
| Sports or games | 5.71% | 2 |
| Enjoy the historic area | 34.29% | 12 |
| Other (please specify) | 11.43% | 4 |
| Total Respondents: 35 | | |

4 / 30

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q4 What draws you to Eagle Pond? (Please tick all answers that apply)

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

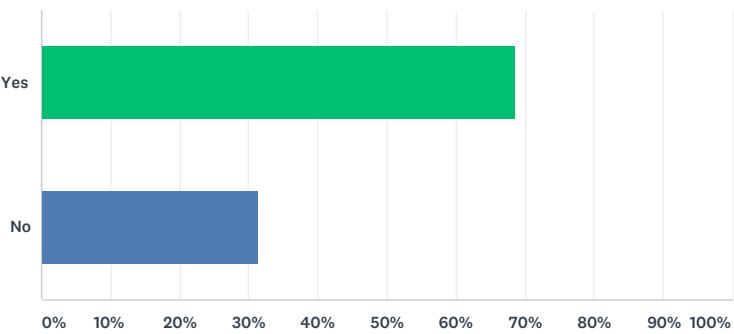


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| To feed the birds | 35.29% | 12 |
| It is a quiet and tranquil place | 61.76% | 21 |
| The natural habitats on this site | 64.71% | 22 |
| Happened to come across it | 2.94% | 1 |
| To watch the birds | 47.06% | 16 |
| The character of the Forest at this site | 50.00% | 17 |
| The lake | 67.65% | 23 |
| None of these, it's my regular route | 5.88% | 2 |
| Other (please specify) | 11.76% | 4 |
| Total Respondents: 34 | | |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q5 Before now, did you know that Eagle Pond was a historic lake?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

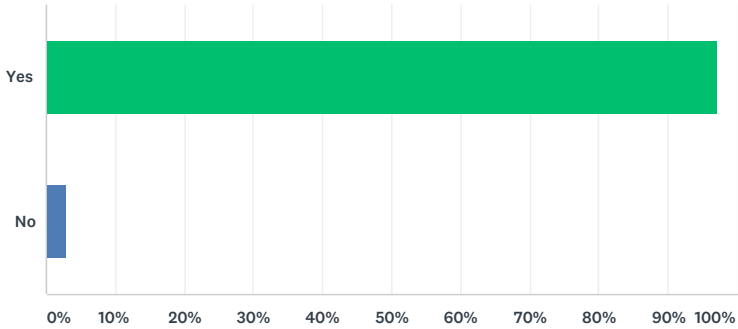


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 68.57% | 24 |
| No | 31.43% | 11 |
| TOTAL | | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q6 Before now, did you know that Eagle Pond was part of Epping Forest?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

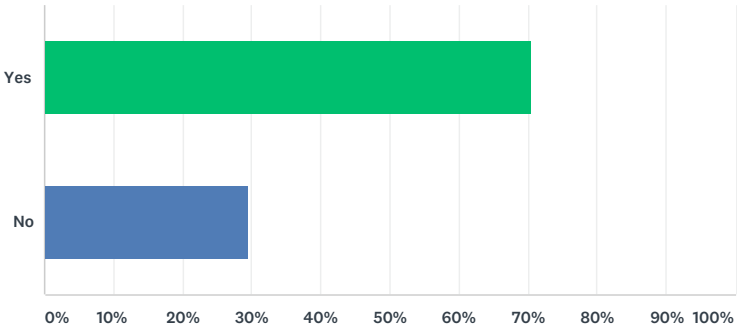


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 97.06% | 33 |
| No | 2.94% | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 34 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q7 Before now, did you know that Eagle Pond was closed to fishing?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1

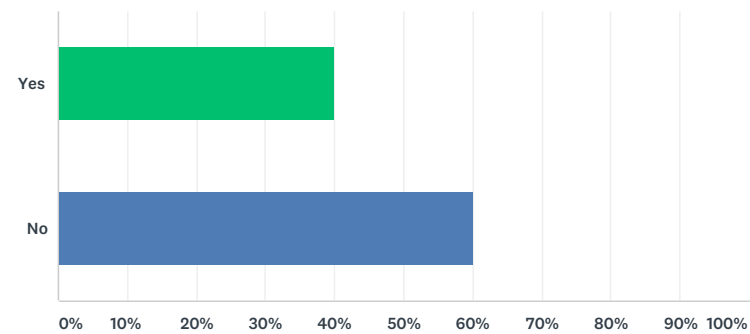


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 70.59% | 24 |
| No | 29.41% | 10 |
| TOTAL | | 34 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q8 Before now, did you know that Eagle Pond was used for swan rescue?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

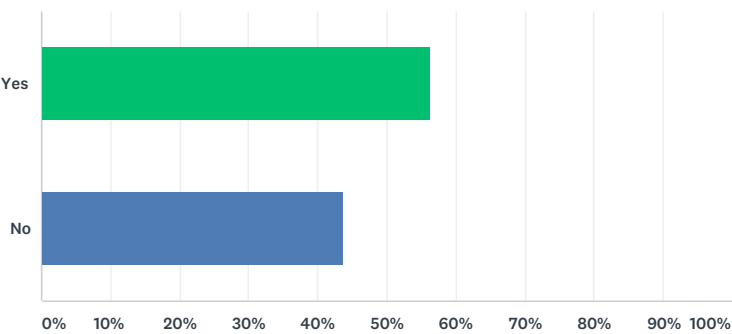


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 40.00%14 |
| No | 60.00%21 |
| TOTAL | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q9 Before now, did you know that Eagle Pond was managed by the City of London?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 3

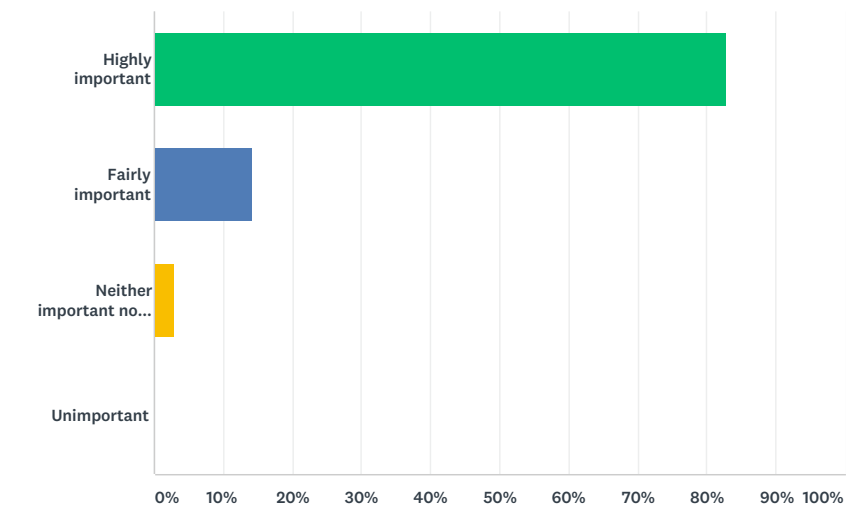


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 56.25%18 |
| No | 43.75%14 |
| TOTAL | 32 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q10 How important to you is the management of the historic environment generally in Epping Forest?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

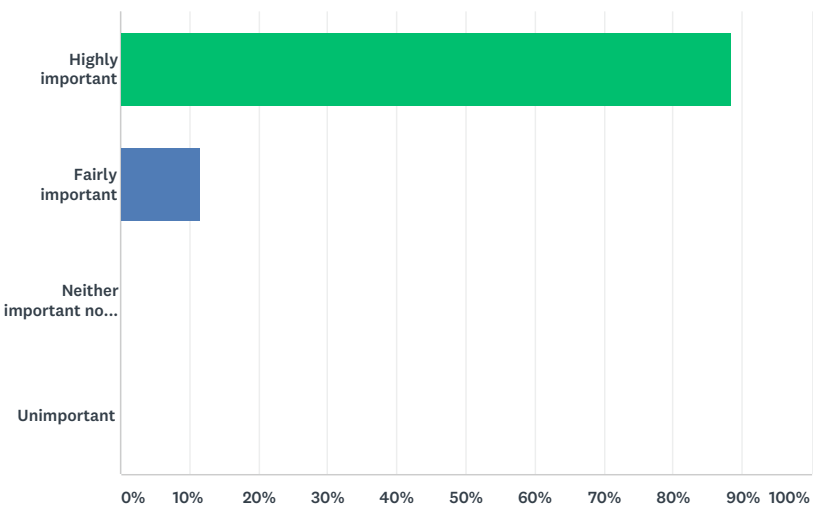


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Highly important | 82.86% | 29 |
| Fairly important | 14.29% | 5 |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 2.86% | 1 |
| Unimportant | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q11 How important is the management of the natural habitats generally across the whole of the Forest?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

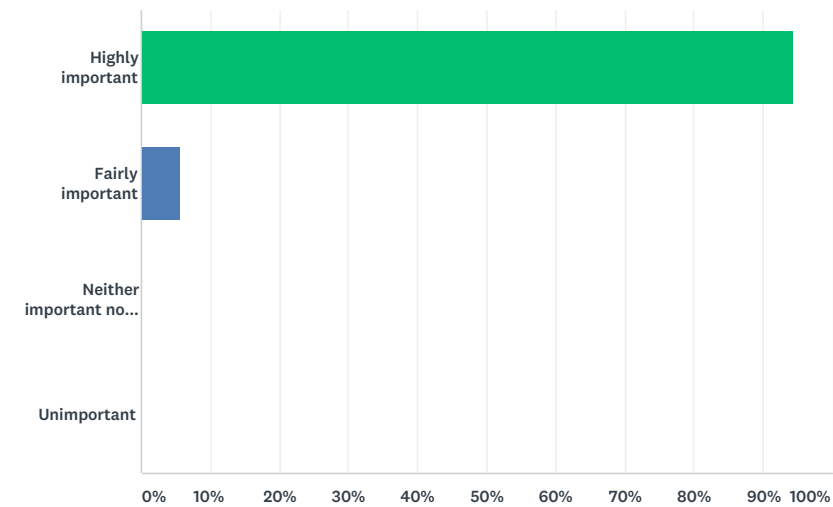


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Highly important | 88.57% | 31 |
| Fairly important | 11.43% | 4 |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 0.00% | 0 |
| Unimportant | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q12 How important to you is the management of the Eagle Pond?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0

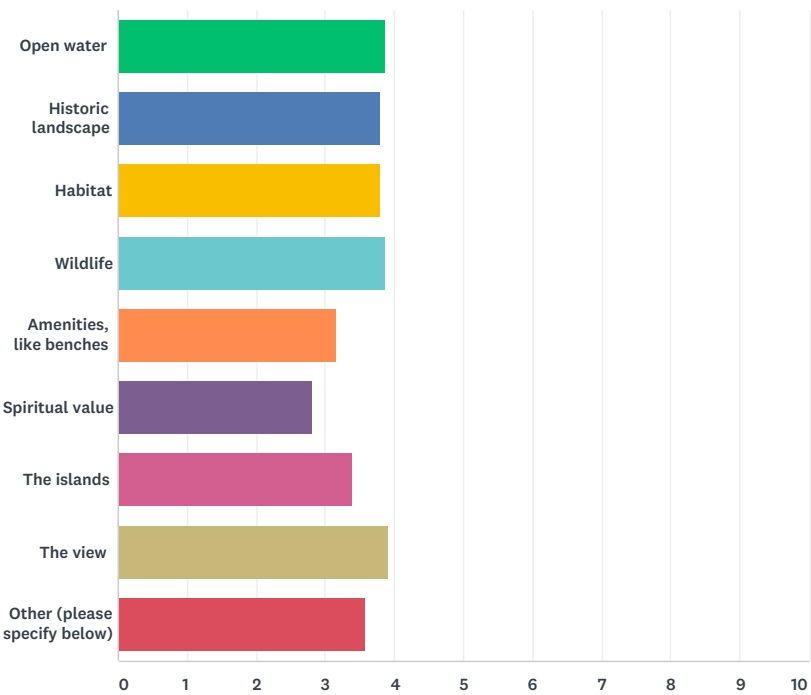


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Highly important | 94.29% | 33 |
| Fairly important | 5.71% | 2 |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 0.00% | 0 |
| Unimportant | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q13 How important are the following features of Eagle Pond?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 2

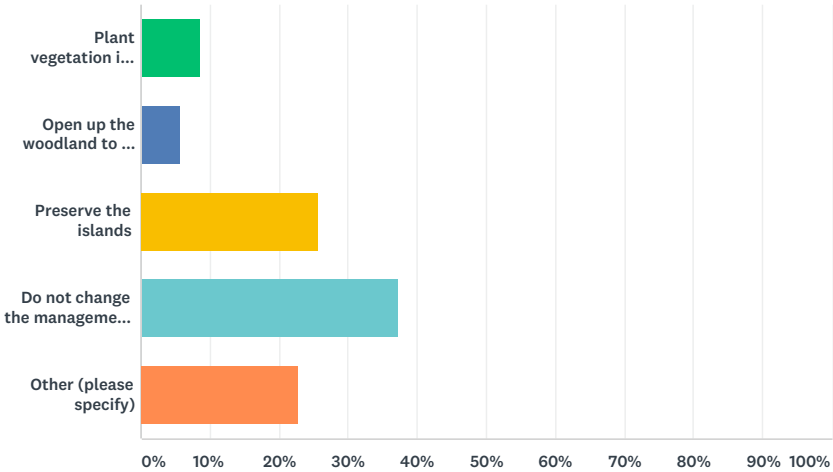


| | UNIMPORTANT | NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR UNIMPORTANT | FAIRLY IMPORTANT | HIGHLY IMPORTANT | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|------------------|
| Open water | 0.00% 0 | 6.06% 2 | 0.00% 0 | 93.94% 31 | 33 | 3.88 |
| Historic landscape | 0.00% 0 | 3.03% 1 | 15.15% 5 | 81.82% 27 | 33 | 3.79 |
| Habitat | 0.00% 0 | 3.03% 1 | 15.15% 5 | 81.82% 27 | 33 | 3.79 |
| Wildlife | 0.00% 0 | 0.00% 0 | 12.90% 4 | 87.10% 27 | 31 | 3.87 |
| Amenities, like benches | 6.06% 2 | 9.09% 3 | 48.48% 16 | 36.36% 12 | 33 | 3.15 |
| Spiritual value | 18.75% 6 | 28.13% 9 | 6.25% 2 | 46.88% 15 | 32 | 2.81 |
| The islands | 3.13% 1 | 12.50% 4 | 28.13% 9 | 56.25% 18 | 32 | 3.38 |
| The view | 0.00% 0 | 0.00% 0 | 9.09% 3 | 90.91% 30 | 33 | 3.91 |
| Other (please specify below) | 0.00% 0 | 14.29% 1 | 14.29% 1 | 71.43% 5 | 7 | 3.57 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q14 If management of the site were to change, which of the following would you prefer?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Plant vegetation in the lake | 8.57% | 3 |
| Open up the woodland to the edge of the lake | 5.71% | 2 |
| Preserve the islands | 25.71% | 9 |
| Do not change the management of the lake | 37.14% | 13 |
| Other (please specify) | 22.86% | 8 |
| TOTAL | | 35 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

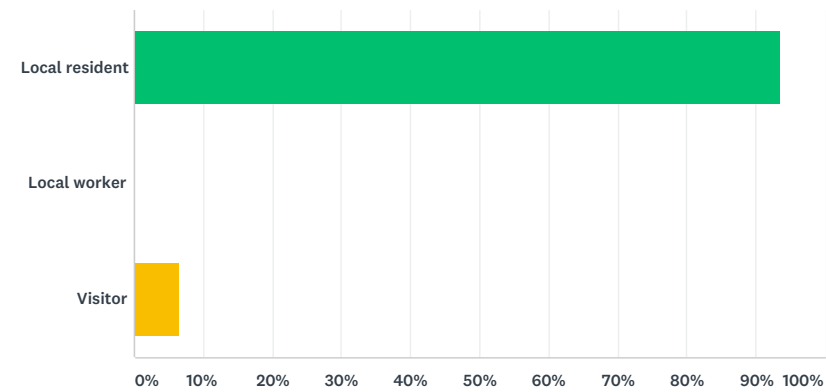
Q15 Do you have any other comments?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 13

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q16 Are you a...

Answered: 31 Skipped: 4

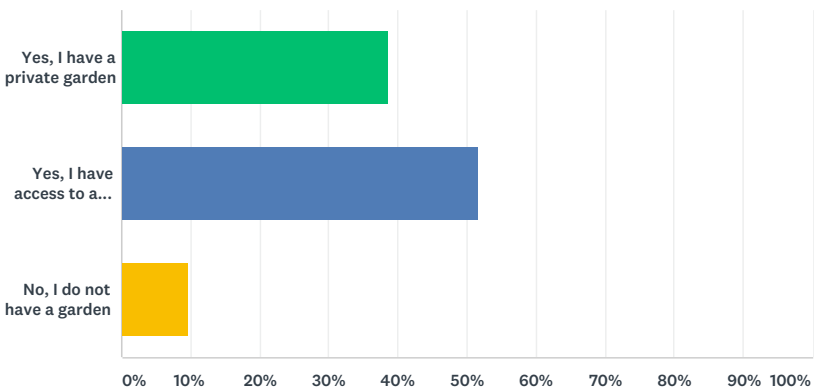


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Local resident | 93.55% | 29 |
| Local worker | 0.00% | 0 |
| Visitor | 6.45% | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 31 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q17 Do you have access to a garden where you live?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 4

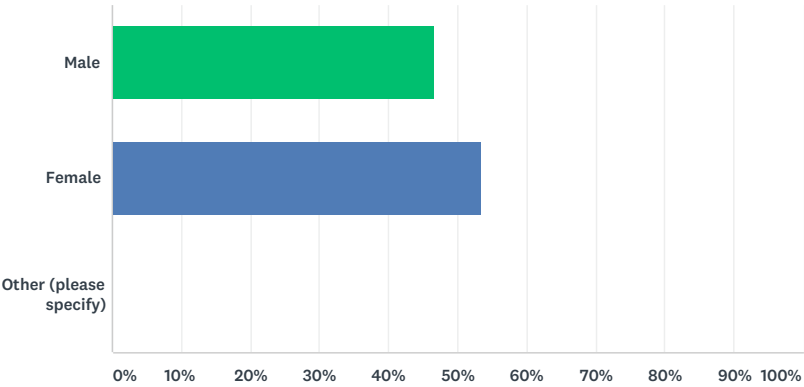


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Yes, I have a private garden | 38.71% | 12 |
| Yes, I have access to a communal garden | 51.61% | 16 |
| No, I do not have a garden | 9.68% | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 31 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q18 What is your gender? (optional)

Answered: 30 Skipped: 5

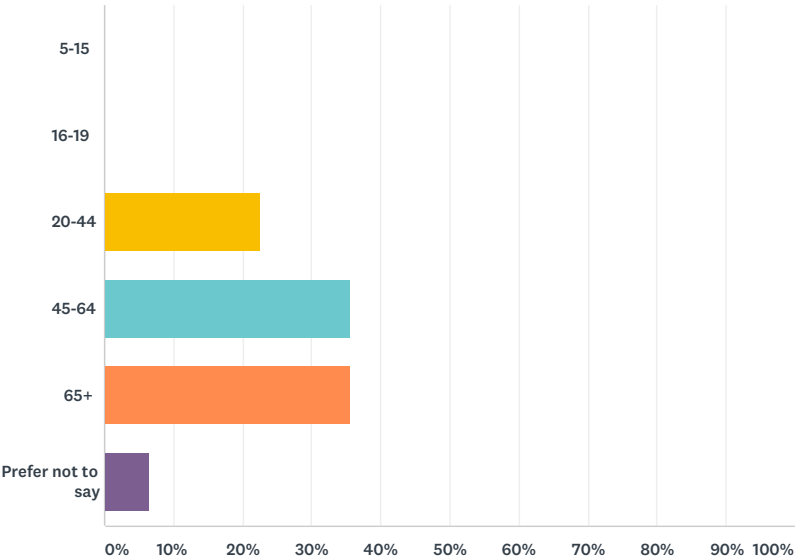


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| Male | 46.67% | 14 |
| Female | 53.33% | 16 |
| Other (please specify) | 0.00% | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 30 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q19 What is your age? (optional)

Answered: 31 Skipped: 4

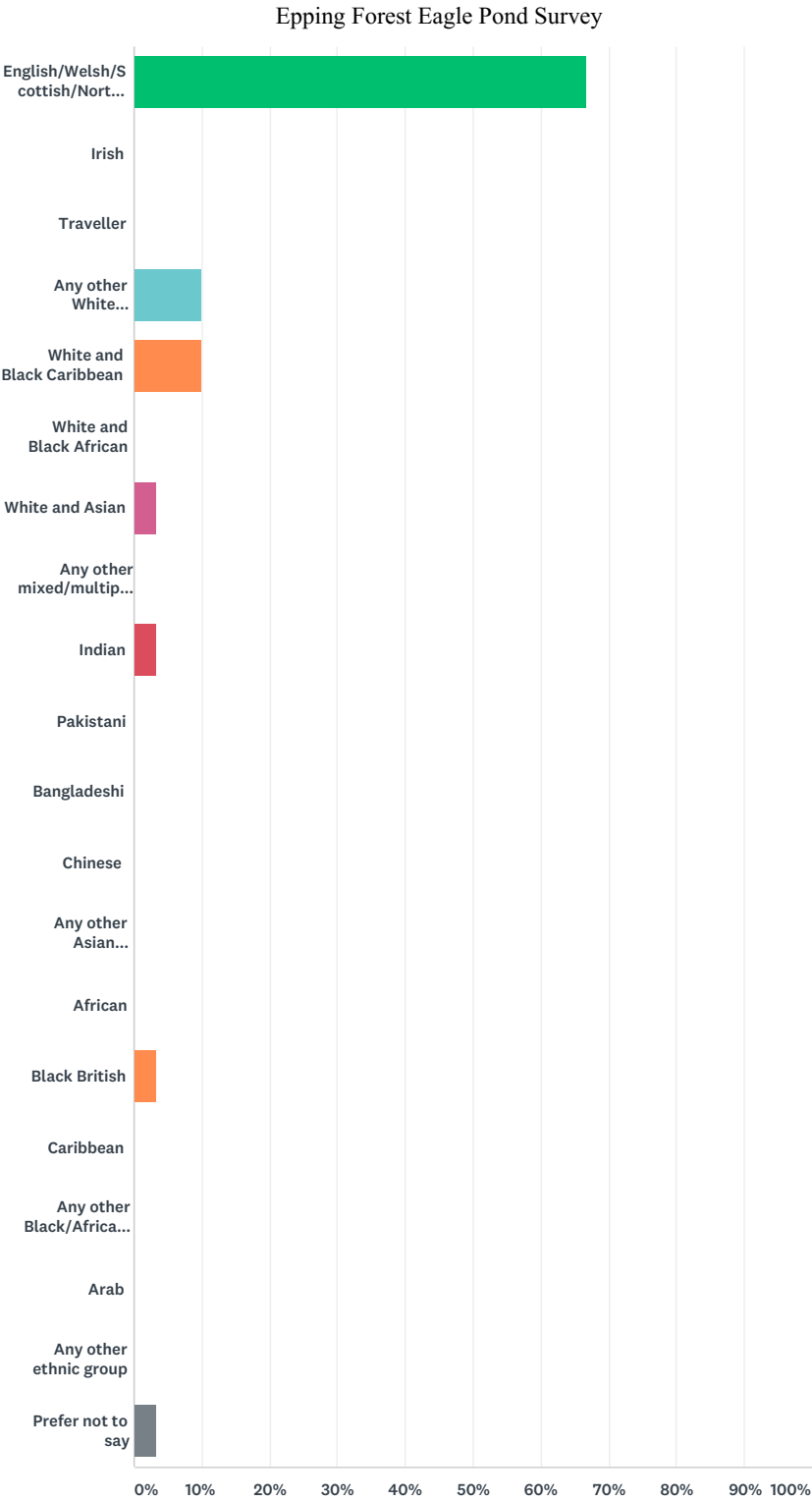


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------|-----------|----|
| 5-15 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 16-19 | 0.00% | 0 |
| 20-44 | 22.58% | 7 |
| 45-64 | 35.48% | 11 |
| 65+ | 35.48% | 11 |
| Prefer not to say | 6.45% | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 31 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q20 What is your ethnic group? (optional)

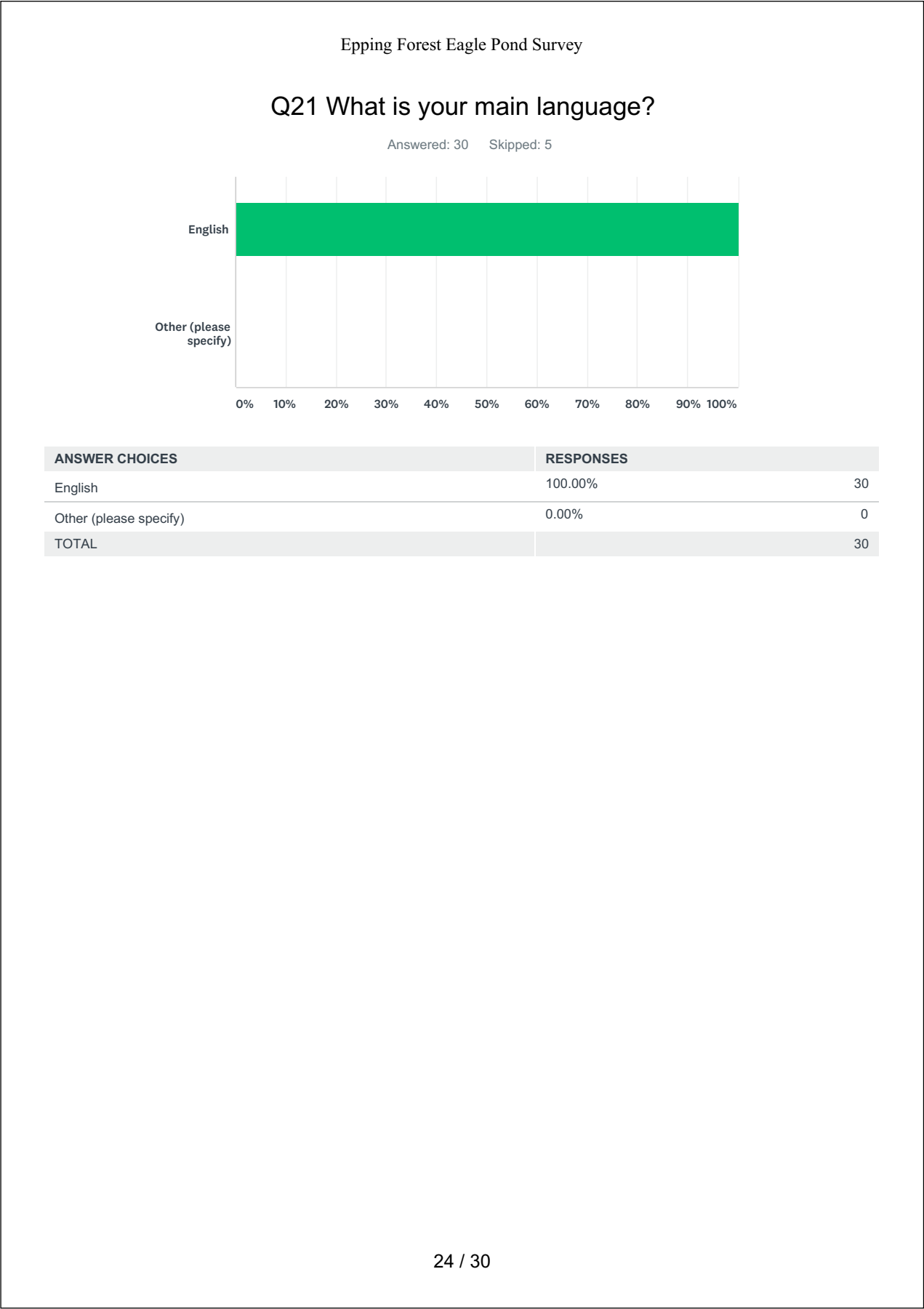
Answered: 30 Skipped: 5



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | 66.67% | 20 |

| Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----|
| Irish | 0.00% | 0 |
| Traveller | 0.00% | 0 |
| Any other White background | 10.00% | 3 |
| White and Black Caribbean | 10.00% | 3 |
| White and Black African | 0.00% | 0 |
| White and Asian | 3.33% | 1 |
| Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background | 0.00% | 0 |
| Indian | 3.33% | 1 |
| Pakistani | 0.00% | 0 |
| Bangladeshi | 0.00% | 0 |
| Chinese | 0.00% | 0 |
| Any other Asian background | 0.00% | 0 |
| African | 0.00% | 0 |
| Black British | 3.33% | 1 |
| Caribbean | 0.00% | 0 |
| Any other Black/African/Caribbean background | 0.00% | 0 |
| Arab | 0.00% | 0 |
| Any other ethnic group | 0.00% | 0 |
| Prefer not to say | 3.33% | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 30 |

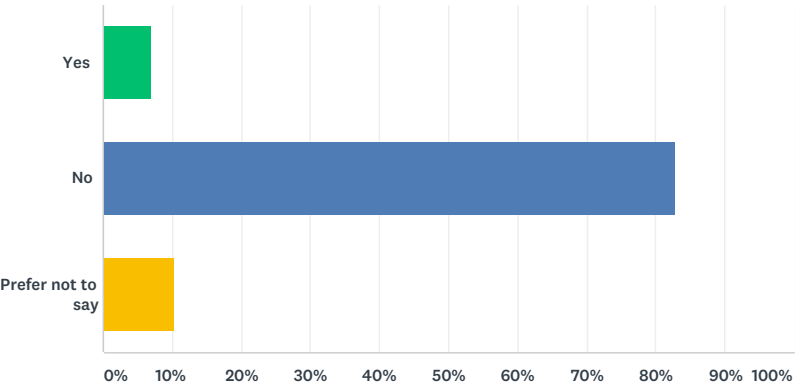
23 / 30



Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q22 Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (optional)

Answered: 29 Skipped: 6



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|-------------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 6.90% | 2 |
| No | 82.76% | 24 |
| Prefer not to say | 10.34% | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 29 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q23 If you have a disability, what one way could we make it easier for you to visit and enjoy Eagle Pond?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 32

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q24 What is your postcode? (optional - please note, we cannot identify your house number from this information)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 12

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

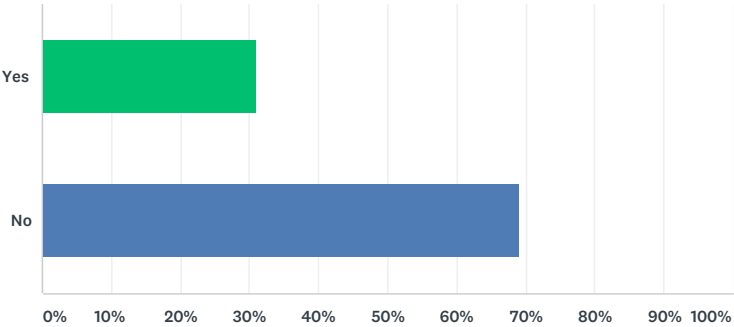
Q25 Which, if any, local groups do you belong to? If none, please state 'none' (optional)

Answered: 28 Skipped: 7

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q26 Are you interested in volunteering to help look after the Forest or its visitors? (optional)

Answered: 29 Skipped: 6



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes | 31.03% | 9 |
| No | 68.97% | 20 |
| TOTAL | | 29 |

Epping Forest Eagle Pond Survey

Q27 If you would like to volunteer, please give your contact information below (optional)

Answered: 9 Skipped: 26

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Full name | 100.00% | 9 |
| Company | 0.00% | 0 |
| Address 1 | 88.89% | 8 |
| Address 2 | 11.11% | 1 |
| City/Town | 55.56% | 5 |
| County | 11.11% | 1 |
| Postcode | 88.89% | 8 |
| Country | 0.00% | 0 |
| Email Address | 100.00% | 9 |
| Phone Number | 0.00% | 0 |

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Reviewed by Nicolas Chapple

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