

## Ponds Project: Plan for restoring public access to Catchpit and Tumulus and Pryors Fields

This table details the schedule for providing public access to the Ponds Project areas at the Catchpit, Tumulus and Pryors Field. Dates for completion are weather-dependent.

AREA AND SUMMARY	TASK	TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION	NOTES
<b>Catchpit</b>	Cut path along top of dam; remove fence each end, allowing access.	mid/late June	Turf well developed on downstream face, good wild flowers; sown areas on upstream face mostly well developed, some wild flowers.
	Remove remaining fencing.	late June/ early July	
	Cut both faces of dam, removing arisings.	August	
<b>Pryors Field</b>	Haul road: remove fencing, but fence off southern end by compound.	mid/late June	Haul road – reasonably well developed sward.
	Upper part of compound: erect fence from lower part of compound; remove rest of fencing; mow paths through area.	mid/late June	Upper part of compound: sward well-developed; some seedling wild flowers.
	Upper part of compound: cut and bale.	August	
	Lower part of compound: review sward development.	Keep under review	Lower part of compound: still not total grass coverage, with large semi-bare area near willow trees.
	Prepare and re-seed area used as path for crossing haul road before fencing was removed.	August/September	May have re-vegetated naturally by then.

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<b>Tumulus Field</b>	Mow paths through compounds; open up crossing points over existing path for new paths; remove all fencing apart from round existing path; fence end of existing path.	July	Yellow rattle emerging, monitoring for other spaces.
	Cut & bale most of lower compound: cut most of 'wild flower areas' later.	July	Some areas were sown with more wild flowers than others; most of these should be left uncut till later.
	Cut & bale upper compound.	August	
	Cut & bale all areas not cut earlier.	August	

### Fencing of the aquatic vegetation

The majority of the bankside fencing of the aquatic vegetation will have to remain in place to prevent dogs and people from entering the areas. Exceptions are where there is no public access, as for example at alongside the dam at Hampstead no 1 Pond, where the bankside fence has already been removed.

It is intended to remove a proportion of the waterside fencing in due course. What can eventually be taken down is restricted by several factors. Aquatic vegetation can be heavily grazed by water birds, especially geese, and dogs enter ponds and swim round to gain access to the wetland vegetation from the water side, getting stranded, disturbing wildlife, and damaging plants. For example dogs severely damaged vegetation by the Men's Pond spillway. There are also ecological reasons for keeping some areas fenced off from water birds.

At present caution is being applied as some areas of planting are not yet fully established. Two large panels of fencing have been removed at the Boating Pond to allow birds to access the island (the gaps created have since been denuded of all vegetation by birds), and elsewhere small holes have been made in some of the fencing to allow smaller birds such as coots and moorhens to enter.

A review is shortly to be undertaken to assess what fencing can be removed and when. It is likely that fence posts will remain in place for some time where fencing is removed so that the fencing can be reinstated if necessary.