



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: PARLIAMENT HILL STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS,
HIGHGATE RD, LONDON NW5 1QR

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)	Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)
Liz Andrew, London Natural History Society	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
John Arnoldi, (Heath Hands)	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Ray Booth, (Barnet Mencap)	Steve Ripley, Ramblers Association
Councillor Marcus Boyland	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
John Etheridge, South End Green Association	Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)	David Walton, (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)	Michele Martin Williams, Vale of Heath Society

Enquiries: Callum Southern
Callum.Southern@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofLondonCorporation/streams>

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. APOLOGIES

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

3. MINUTES

- a) Draft Minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Pages 7 - 10)

To agree the public and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

For Decision

- b) Draft Minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Pages 11 - 18)

To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 10 July 2024.

For Information

- c) Draft Informal Minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Pages 19 - 22)

To note the informal minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

For Information

- d) Draft Minutes of Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum (Pages 23 - 26)

To note the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum meeting held on 15 July 2024.

For Information

4. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Appointment to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

To note the appointment of Councillor Marcus Boyland to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee on 10 July 2024.

For Information

5. **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER OF ENGLISH HERITAGE TO THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

Report of the Town Clerk's Department.

For Discussion
(Pages 27 - 28)

6. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Information
(Pages 29 - 40)

7. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE - VERBAL UPDATE**

Executive Director of Environment to be heard.

For Information

8. **HEATH HANDS UPDATE**

The Committee to receive a report of Heath Hands.

For Information
(Pages 41 - 42)

9. **HILL GARDEN PERGOLA UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Information
(Pages 43 - 56)

10. **WILDLIFE MONITORING ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

Report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Information
(Pages 57 - 74)

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

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

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non Public Agenda

14. MINUTES

- a) Draft Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Pages 75 - 76)

To agree the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

For Decision

- b) Draft Non-Public of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Pages 77 - 80)

To note the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 10 July 2024.

For Information

15. UPDATE ON WEST HEATH - VERBAL UPDATE

Executive Director of Environment to be heard.

For Information

16. REVIEW OF LEARNING AND HERITAGE ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES

Report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Information
(Pages 81 - 100)

17. REPORT ON TENDER OF CAFES AT NORTH LONDON OPEN SPACES

Report of the Executive Director of Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 101 - 116)

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

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

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 10 June 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall. on Monday, 10 June 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Arnoldi (Heath Hands)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr. Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Jeff Waage (Heath & Hampstead Society)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Emily Brennan	- Natural Environment Director
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Callum Southern	- Town Clerk's Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Colin Gregory and Steve Ripley.

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

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES

3.1 To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Health Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024.

RESOLVED, that, subject to amendment, the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024 were approved.

3.2 To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Health, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park held on 21st May 2024.

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee were formally noted.

4. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Committee received the Assistant Director's report which presented an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting on 22 April 2024.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- a) Acknowledged a significant increase in the amount of litter and drug use being discovered on West Heath and Officers were also being subjected to inappropriate behaviour. Officers were in the process of putting together a collaborative partnership-based approach to deal with anti-social behaviour at West Heath.
- b) Officers indicated they would produce a report for the next meeting with suggestions on combatting anti-social behaviour on West Heath in the future. The Committee welcomed this report.
- c) The Committee stressed the need to work with different community groups moving forward and emphasised the importance of engagement from the Constabulary. Officers agreed on the importance of working with different community groups and the need to reinitiate partnerships that had existed previously.
- d) Expressed concern that Officers were sufficiently trained to deal with disposed needles and acknowledged that it was difficult to continue with buddy system with reduction in staffing numbers.
- e) Officers suggested that an appointment to the role of Business Development Manager could be made in the next two-to-three weeks.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business concerning an update from Heath Hands on conservation work, ecological monitoring, learning, wellbeing and community, and upcoming events.

7. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

8. MINUTES

8.1 To agree the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Health Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024.

RESOLVED, that - the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024 were approved.

8.2 To note the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Health, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park held on 21st May 2024.

The non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee were formally noted.

9. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES - INCOME ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIES

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

10. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

The Chair formally closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 6.37 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Callum Southern
Callum.Southern@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 10 July 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
John Beyer
Deputy Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Michael Hudson
Pauline Lobo
Deputy Charles Edward Lord
Councillor Arjun Mittra
Eamonn Mullally

In Attendance:

Alderman Gregory Jones (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Marcus Boyland

Officers:

Clem Harcourt	- Chamberlain's Department
Niranjana Shanmuganathan	- Chamberlain's Department
Sunil Singh	- City Surveyor's Department
Sadaf Anwar	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's
Anna Cowperthwaite	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Callum Southern	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Alison Gowman, Caroline Haines and Wendy Mead MBE.

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

No declarations of interests were received.

3. MINUTES

3.1 **Draft Minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the public and non-public summary of the meeting held on 21 May 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

3.2 **Draft Minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

3.3 **Draft Highgate Wood Consultative Group Minutes**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group held on 10 June 2024.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 **Committee Appointment from the London Borough of Barnet**

Members noted and welcomed the re-appointment of Councillor Arjun Mittra to the Committee by the London Borough of Barnet and Councillor Marcus Boyland to the Committee by the London Borough of Camden.

4.2 **Appointment of Sub Committees, Consultative Committees and Groups and Representatives on Other Bodies**

The Committee considered the appointment of Sub Committees, Consultative Committees and Groups and Representatives on other Bodies following the report at the previous meeting of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- Appointed Pauline Lobo to serve on the Highgate Wood Consultative Committee.
- Appointed Councillor Marcus Boyland to serve alongside the Chairman on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

5. ***ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Committee received a report of the Natural Environment Director concerning an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last meeting of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee on 21 May 2024.

During the discussion, the following points arose:

- a) There was a drafting error on the cover of the report; it should read 'Hampstead Heath' but read 'Highgate Wood & Queen's Park' instead.

- b) Officers gave an update on the two cricket nets on the Heath Extension. They were both in need of repair, and there was funding immediately available to repair one and bring it back into use. The proposal to move the nets more to the side of the Heath, which had been previously approved, had not been pursued further. Informal consultation had occurred with local users who supported this change of approach. The Committee agreed these proposed actions.
- c) Concerns were expressed about the risk of stray cricket balls to walkers and dogs passing nearby, that had been part of the earlier considerations to move the nets. Officers advised they had sought assurances regarding Heath and Safety.
- d) It was questioned when the Ponds Access Project would be concluded. Officers indicated they had received an update from Surveyors. There was a sliding gate to be replaced, but the project would be completed following the installation.
- e) Officers reported that there were six options in the Surveyor's consultant's report to restore the Pergola, with the cost ranging from £1.8 to £4.2 million and a recommendation from Surveyors was forthcoming. The Chairman emphasised that advice was also needed on the legal considerations, given its listed status.
- f) Officers from the City Surveyor's Department explained that a structural monitoring review was due to take place at the end of the month which would inform whether the Pergola would be safe until at least the end of August or if further holding repairs would be required.
- g) It was considered whether a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding or fundraising could be done to contribute to repairs of the Pergola.
- h) Following questions from the Committee, Officers confirmed that current activities related to the Pergola were funded through the Cyclical Works Programme.
- i) The Committee requested a separate agenda item on repairing the Pergola at the next meeting, and that it should be investigated whether it would qualify for CIL funding from the local authority.
- j) It was considered by the Committee whether it would be safer to close the Pergola completely. It was noted that Officers from North London Open Spaces (NLOS) and City Surveyor's were working closely together to ensure the Pergola is only kept open if they were certain that it was safe for the public.
- k) Officers reported that there was a risk of the Pergola being added to the List of Heritage Assets at Risk and advice was needed from Historic England once options going forward for repairs were clear.

- l) Learned from Officers that the recruitment attempt for a Head of Development and Partnerships had been unsuccessful.
- m) Two quotes, with a third expected, for repairing the sandpit at Golders Hill Park had been received and Officers indicated local authority partners would be approached to explore options for a CIL application.
- n) The Committee thanked the Park Rangers, the Park Constabulary and all the staff who manage Hampstead Heath, specifically West Heath, for their work in maintaining the park.
- o) The Committee drew attention to working parties that had previously been involved with tackling issues on West Heath that drew together wide range of partner organisations and indicated that kind of partnership needed to be re-established. Officers expressed agreement with the Committee that tackling anti-social behaviour on West Heath was a multi-party endeavour and confirmed they were considering a partnership-based approach.
- p) Officers reported that a specialist contractor had been brought in to do a deep clean of West Heath and remove clinical, hazardous and sexual activity waste, and indicated they would provide an update report to the Committee.
- q) The Committee noted that the 10,000m Personal Bests event on the Parliament Hill Athletics track was getting ever more popular and asked officers to consider whether a management plan may be required next time.
- r) The Committee noted it was good for the City to be able to invite guests. Members asked for proper catering provision for the VIP area, which was shared with the main sponsor. Unlike previous years, there was no food this year and our guests had had to leave the inner track area in order to get any. It should also be explored whether extra revenue could be raised from the next 10,000m PBs event.
- s) The Committee considered whether satisfaction surveys could be carried out at the next 10,000m personal best event. Officers indicated an exit survey could be considered next year.

RECEIVED.

6. ***ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee received a report of the Natural Environment Director concerning an update on matters relating to Highgate Wood and Queen's Park

since the last Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting on 21 May 2024.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) Officers informed Members that most of the event work for next year would be small scale local events, but the big focus for the year would be the Roman kiln project.
- b) Officers reported there had been some closures of Highgate Wood since the new threshold of 37mph was set.
- c) Members questioned whether the sandpit at Queen's Park had been opened. Officers reported that it was now in use again, and a formal re-opening to thank those who had been involved in the project would occur on 15 September on Queen's Park Day with key local stakeholders in attendance.
- d) The Chairman suggested Members reach out to the recently-elected Members of Parliament to discuss matters involving Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.
- e) Officers noted that the Queen's Park Book Festival would be on the 31 August and 1 September.
- f) It was reported to the Committee by Officers that Green Flag judging had been held at all the North London Open Spaces and were awaiting the announcement of the winners on 16 July.
- g) The Chairman reported that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee annual dinner would be on 3 December at Inner Temple.

RECEIVED.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Natural Environment Director concerning the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee with assurance that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division were satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) Officers indicated that City Surveyors were developing plans for tackling the backlog and would be in a better position to report in the Autumn. The Committee requested that a member of City Surveyors should attend each meeting.

- b) Officers reported that the Environment Department were asking City Surveyors to delegate some of their budget for smaller day-to-day maintenance works.

RESOLVED – That Members confirmed, on behalf of the City Corporation as trustee, that the registers appended to the report satisfactorily set out the key risks to the charities and that appropriate systems are in place to effectively identify and mitigate risks.

8. *REVENUE OUTTURN - 2023/24

The Committee received a report comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in 2023/24 with the final budget for the year.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) It was highlighted that the outturn was dramatically different from the original forecast and the Committee considered whether it was covered by deficit funding. Officers confirmed the total net expenditure for the year was covered by deficit funding.
- b) Officers confirmed that the drivers of the variance were the reduced contributions from the Hampstead Heath Trust Fund and additional expenditure from the cyclical works programme.
- c) The Committee queried regarding the Charities Review and the move away from deficit funding. Officers responded that nothing had been determined yet and Committees would be fully involved in any change to their funding model.
- d) It was considered by the Committee, given the drop in income from the Trust Fund, what the forecast for next year would be. Officers indicated they could provide future income projections.
- e) Members discussed whether the reduction in the grant from the Hampstead Heath Trust Fund had been considered for the 2024/25 budget. Officers explained it was dependent on the stock market and variations would occur from one year to the next.
- f) The Committee considered whether the outcomes of the investment fund needed to be reported at Committee as Trustees once a year. Members requested a response on Trustees responsibilities in relation to income from investment funds, as well as a report comparing income performance against the 2024/25 budget.

RECEIVED.

9. *HEATH HANDS 2024-25 YEARLY REPORT

The Committee received a report from Heath Hands, and noted the important contribution the work of their volunteers made to the Heath.

RECEIVED.

10. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning decisions taken under Delegated Authority powers since its last meeting.

Members noted the report.

RECEIVED.

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

A Member of the Committee advised a more rigorous application of flagging items to be received without discussion.

Officers informed that the four management plans for the four North London Open Spaces were under review and would engage with the Committee and the Consultative Committee to inform the review.

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

There was no urgent business.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

14.1 **Draft Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

14.2 Draft Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Members noted the draft non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

14.3 Draft Informal Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Members noted the draft informal minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 10 June 2024.

15. LAND AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION AT HAMPSTEAD HEATH

The Committee received a report of the Natural Environment Director.

16. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES - INCOME ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIES

The Committee received a report of the Natural Environment Director.

17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 6:07pm.

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Callum Southern
Callum.Southern@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

INFORMAL MEETING OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 10 June 2024

Minutes of an informal meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall. on Monday, 10 June 2024 at 4:00pm.

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Arnoldi (Heath Hands)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr. Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Jeff Waage (Heath & Hampstead Society)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Emily Brennan	- Natural Environment Director
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Callum Southern	- Town Clerk's Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager

The Consultative Committee started at 4pm, which was the time that members had been invited to meet at Guildhall. However, the Committee was advised that it could not meet in formal session as the time that had been publicly advertised had not been changed, and remained as 5.30pm. The Chair proposed, and Members agreed, to have an informal meeting, that would be minuted. The time could be used to discuss matters, and the informal discussions would help inform the formal meeting when it was opened at the advertised time, at which time any formal decisions could be made as well.

3. MINUTES

The Committee discussed matters arising from the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- a) It was highlighted that a previous meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee had occurred on the day before a religious holiday. Officers indicated this would be avoided in future.
- b) Requested amendment of reference from Black hairstreak to Brown hairstreak and indicated that larvae eggs was not a technical term, the correct term was larvae.
- c) The representative for London Council for Sport and Recreation highlighted the minute relating to drug paraphernalia and suggested the point was more related to numbers of constabulary on the Heath which he believed was insufficient and indicated his desire to see a more substantive discussion on it. The Chair suggested a report needed to be added to the work programme in relation to the constabulary.
- d) Suggested that questions raised on the licensing scheme for dogs and resource limitations at COL were for assisting the Kenwood Estate, not managing it.
- e) It was noted that parks would be closed if windspeeds exceeded 39mph; Highgate Wood would be closed if windspeeds exceeded 37mph.
- f) Requested that reference to the boarded-up cottage in the minutes should refer to its location at close to William Ellis School at the entrance to Hampstead Heath.
- g) The Committee enquired regarding an update on the boarded-up cottage near William Ellis School. Officers noted that the case was currently with the insurance department to acquire specification to repair the cottage. Specification had been delayed and the insurance department was now awaiting quotes; the work was expected to be completed in mid-2025 now and Officers committed to updating the Committee at the next meeting.
- h) The Committee considered what the boarded-up cottage could be used for. Officers noted that substantive energy had been put into examining the footfall around the area for a visitors' centre.
- i) Considered whether perpetrators flouting dog licensing restrictions paid much attention to them. Officers indicated they would engage with the dog walking community to reiterate the importance of doing the right thing and informed the committee there would be an update on constabulary work.
- j) The Committee requested Members' roles be added to the front page of the minutes. Officers agreed to the change.
- k) The Committee discussed when the café tendering process would occur on the Heath. Officers noted there was no definitive timeline, but would seek to bring a report with an update to the next meeting.

4. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Committee discussed the Assistant Director's report which presented an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting on 22 April 2024.

During the discussion, the Committee:

- a) Explored the possibility of holding a further World Athletics cross-country event in addition to the Southern Championship cross-country event on the Heath. Officers warned that two large-scale events within two weeks of each other would present resource problems and highlighted that some in the community perceived that the Heath was being worn out, even though it would be using different areas of the Heath. The Committee suggested further discussion was needed at Sports and Wellbeing Forum.
- b) Considered whether the pond access project was completed. Officers updated that both the women's and men's ponds were complete, but there were pieces of additional grating needed to enforce void between concrete wall and grating and were looking into a temporary measure to address the issue.
- c) Discussed the ongoing work occurring at Golders Hill Park related to the sand pit. Officers acknowledged that it had become a much larger job than could be handled internally and contractors were being approached for quotations, and fund raising options need to be explored.
- d) Requested an update on temporary work to make the Pergola at Hampstead Heath accessible and considered whether August was the firm deadline for finishing work. Officers noted there was a three month time horizon for works needed and it was accepted that it probably could not last through another Winter if it was left open; consultants would carry out a full survey.
- e) Questioned whether the Mixed Pond access could not be used following works. Officers noted there were issues regarding the contractor leaving, with debris being left in the area, but the Conservation team had worked to get work completed. However, the surface of the access track still needed to be rolled.
- f) Sought an update on the oak processionary moth (OPM) as spraying had been uncovered at Kenwood House. Officers indicated that spraying had been significantly curbed and a nature-based solution had been in use recently. Control of the site had been established and parasitoid fly had done a good job of managing the number of OPM larvae. Officers noted that the team at Kenwood were interested to hear what City of London colleagues were doing differently.

- g) Suggested carrying out a moth survey to assist with establishing the Heath as a site of further ecological importance. Officers indicated they would consult with ecologists and consider the action.
- h) Considered whether there could be another exhibition use for the affordable art fair tent. Officers noted that they would continue to examine what could work as the nature of the site means that the build is expensive; the costs projected were usually a barrier but welcomed ideas to achieve it.
- i) Expressed interest in a report on the Learning Team's activity on Hampstead Heath and requested validation of numbers using the Heath. Officers indicated they would validate 20,000 number provided by Learning Team and would request a specific report from the Learning Team. Officers indicated there would regularly be a Learning Team section in Assistant Director reports.

The discussion was then paused, to allow for the matters addressed in the report to be considered in formal session.

The informal meeting ended at 5:29 pm, in preparation for the formal meeting to be started.

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Callum Southern
Callum.Southern@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

Attendees

Alderman Gregory Jones KC (GJ) (online)	Chair, Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum Deputy Chair; Member HHCC
Richard Sumray (RS)	Assistant Director (Superintendent)
Bill LoSasso (BL)	Head of Operations and Parks
Charlotte Williams (CW)	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Karen Smith (KS)	Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society
David Littler (DL)	Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club
Marc Hutchinson (MH)	Highgate Harriers Athletics Club
Joseph Lowe (JL)	Parliament Hill & Operations Manager
Richard O'Mahony (ROM)	Senior Swimming Manger
Paul Jeal (PJ)	Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association
Pauline Latchem	Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association
Sheila Fitzgerald	Interpreter
Hazel Middleton	Parkrun
Anandi Shah (AS) (online)	Highgate Men's Pond Association
Michael Smith (MS)	Mixed Pond User Group
Felicity Moir (FM)	Heath Hands
Colin Houston (CH)	Pro-Active Camden
Deborah Bush (DB) (online)	PA to NLOS Superintendent
Helen Evans	

At the request of the Chair who was attending online Richard Sumray kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

1. Apologies

Sandy Nairne, Robert Gibbs, Ella Mitchell

2. Review of February 2024 minutes

- a. The Forum agreed that the minutes were accurate and correct.

3. Updates from City of London Corporation

- a. Projects on the Heath
 - i. An accessible fishing platform has been installed on Highgate Pond 2 to support disabled users accessing angling. HAHAS secured an EA grant to support the project.
 - ii. The 'Night of the 10K PBs' was a successful event again, with excellent feedback that it was the best iteration yet.
 - iii. One of the Heath Extension cricket nets will be refurbished.
 - iv. The annual 'Give it a Go' event on 14 July was broadly successful.

ACTION: (SMT) to review the sport events from the season and look ahead to future events in terms of organisation and delivery.

- v. No further update on potential Parliament Hill improvement projects, as no funding is currently available.
- b. Ladies' Pond Protest:
 - i. The City of London Corporation is aware of an upcoming protest in response to its gender identity and access and inclusion policy, planned for 28 July 2024.
 - ii. The City Corporation has been holding weekly meetings to plan, liaising with appropriate entities, to ensure safety for officers and the public.
 - iii. Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association noted that there is some public misapprehension that the pond is managed by, and policy set by, KLPA, which should be corrected if stated.

4. Terms of Reference

- a. BL stated that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum were overdue for their annual review. The Forum is the City Corporation's mechanism to engage with Heath users to promote and maximise the benefits of the Heath around health and wellbeing. Following discussions at the meeting of the Forum on 28 February 2024, officers were tasked with drafting an updated ToR intending to reflect the shared desire to reorient the Forum towards a strategic, partnership-based body.
- b. It was confirmed that Forum minutes are historically shared with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- c. Attendees were invited to share comments on the draft ToR distributed in the agenda pack; these are summarised below. (Please note that comments are not addressed in any order of importance but in the order of the relevant paragraph, where feasible.)
 - a. *General: Transparency in discussion was deemed important to achieving the goals of the Forum.*
 - b. *General: The Forum should specifically consider wellbeing in its new iteration.*
 - c. *General: The benefits of social inclusion via Heath activities.*
 - d. *General: Ensuring a membership of the Forum that was also representative of the community surrounding the Heath was deemed an important goal.*

- e. *Paragraph 5: Whilst strategic in nature, it was clarified that intractable operational issues could be added to the Forum agenda for discussion at the discretion of the Chair.*
- f. *Paragraph 6: Given the new emphasis and membership of the Sports & Wellbeing Forum, the scope and ToR of other forums needed to be recognised, as they would need to be focused on operational issues.*
- g. *Paragraph 11:*
 - i. *Having one member from the various swimming groups/facilities was considered by many to be a significant change. The swimming groups stated that following this meeting they would consider the implications. Officers responded that the new orientation of this forum was towards strategic developments, as opposed to discussions focused on and grounded in specific clubs and facilities, and that the recently reconstituted Swimming Forum allowed for operational and club- and facility-specific discussions.*
 - ii. *In some cases specific bodies were still referenced (e.g., Heath Hands and Camden PAC) despite the ambition to move away from that.*
 - iii. *Running consisted of both track users and other runners (e.g., Parkrun). The main club user, it was suggested, should be the track representative.*
 - iv. *The Chair maintained the ability to ensure representation from other activities/users/stakeholders not specifically represented in Paragraph 11 (e.g. youth).*
 - v. *It was noted that the phraseology of participants was important (Member v. Delegate v. Representative), and was related to the concept of participants being representatives rather than delegates from specific clubs or facilities.*
- h. *Paragraph 14: More than one meeting per annum would be necessary to ensure continuity and progress. It was recognised that officer capacity was an important consideration.*
- i. *Paragraph 15: It should state how minutes will be shared.*
- j. *Paragraph 19: It was suggested that this paragraph be moved toward the beginning of the ToR, and that the capacity in which people attend (e.g. representing facilities, clubs, or activities generally) be articulated more clearly.*
- k. *Paragraph 24: An annual review would not be needed, but should occur as determined by the Chair/participants.*

ACTION: (CW) to draft Terms of Reference for Swimming Forum once the Sports and Wellbeing Forum are finalised.

ACTION: (CoL) to take into consideration points raised on the proposed ToR and to provide the final terms to the Forum in due course.

5. Agenda setting for next meeting: Proposed agenda items

- a. Representatives & delegates: who are we not seeing in this Forum?
- b. Broader discussion on wellbeing: what do we mean by social prescribing and what can we do?
- c. Final Terms of Reference

6. AOB

- a. DL brought up HAHAS's achievements from the past 5 years
- b. DL noted his desire for the City Corporation to extend the fishing season. The Chair and officers agreed this topic was not for discussion at the Forum.
- c. MH brought up that the Winter Swimming Club have brought on and trained a welfare officer.
- d. CW was thanked for her work to bring about the installation of the gazebo and shelter at the athletics track.
- e. PL mentioned the lack of accessibility for people booking swimming who are not able to use the internet. It was agreed this could be brought up at the Swimming Forum.
- f. DB offered access to learning and training opportunities, including safeguarding, through Camden. She also reported that a Pro-Active Camden Children and Young People Action Plan is being produced, which will be looking at priority groups for this. Members can contact herself for further information or contribution, or to subscribe to their newsletter.
- g. GJ offered his thanks to RS for acting as Chair and for the invigorating discussion on the Terms of Reference, which concluded the meeting.

ACTION: (HE) to share details from Camden on safeguarding and welfare, circulated with minutes.

Date of Next Meeting: 28 November 2024

Committee: Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Discussion Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee – For Decision	Dated: 16 September 2024 22 October 2024
Subject: Appointment of the Member of English Heritage to the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk & Chief Executive	For Decision
Report author: Callum Southern, Town Clerk’s Department	

Summary

Approval is sought for the appointment of a new external Member of the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee, nominated by English Heritage, to represent the Kenwood lands.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- a) That Victoria Stone, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Management Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Main Report

Background

1. Emily Hills, the previous Member nominated by English Heritage as the owner of the Kenwood lands, has recently left that organisation. As a result, a vacancy is now available on the Management Committee. English Heritage have expressed their desire to fill the vacancy.

Current Position

2. Under Article 8(3)(c) of The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989, one Member of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee shall be appointed from among persons who are neither Members nor employees of the City Corporation and "...after consultation with the owners for the time being of the Kenwood lands."
3. Subsequent discussions have taken place with the representative of English Heritage, Victoria Stone, and she is willing to take on the role if this meets with approval.
4. There is a statutory framework for the appointment of external Members and the terms of reference delegate authority to the Management Committee to exercise all of the City Corporation's powers and duties relating to Hampstead Heath.

Proposal

5. Following consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, that Victoria Stone, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Management Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Financial implications – None.

Resource implications – None.

Legal implications – Contained within the body of this report.

Risk implications – None.

Equalities implications – None.

Climate implications – None.

Security implications – None.

Callum Southern

Governance Officer

Town Clerk's Department

E: Callum.Southern@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 6

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Dated: 16 September 2024
Subject: Assistant Director's Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	-Diverse engaged communities -Leading sustainable environment -Vibrant thriving destination -Providing excellent services -Flourishing public spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment	For Information
Report author: Bill LoSasso, Superintendent, North London Open Spaces	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Meeting on 10 June 2024.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Flood Mitigation and Resilience for Hampstead Heath

1. The Head of Conservation, Senior Ecologist, and officers from the City of London Corporation's Environmental Resilience Team have had several meetings with London Borough of Camden's 'Climate Mitigation and Resilience Team'. These meetings have focused on localised flooding events on the perimeter of the Heath, and proposals of how to reduce the scale of disruption and damage to property. One of the focus areas is the intersection next to the Hampstead Heath overground station, which has suffered severe flooding following heavy rainfall events, particularly on 12 July 2021.
2. In June, officers from London Borough of Camden were given a tour of the Hampstead and Highgate chains of ponds, highlighting the flood mitigation engineering works carried out in 2015-16 by the Head of Conservation and the Senior Ecologist. A second meeting was held in July to discuss what low-impact works could be carried out to divert surface water exiting Hampstead Heath away from areas prone to flooding such as South End Green and Parliament Hill, which runs parallel to South Hill Park. Among proposals being discussed is the installation of deflector structures on pathways to redirect surface water off into adjacent grassland where it will disperse and permeate into the ground. The City Corporation and the London Borough of Camden will put a draft report together outlining proposed low-impact flood mitigation measures which will be presented to both the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queens Park Committee later this year.
3. Parallel discussions are underway with London Borough of Barnet following a meeting on the Hampstead Heath Extension in June, with Barnet's Flood Resilience Team. Barnet's team was taken around by officers and one of the City Corporation's Environmental Resilience Team. Following a series of discussions of Barnet's proposals, it was agreed that further consultation and a revised design was required before further discussions could take place. These revised proposals would also be presented as a report to both the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee.
4. As part of the Climate Action Strategy, works are already under way to increase the Heath's resilience to climate change. A report was presented to the two committees in 2022 proposing the expansion of meadow habitat by cessation of amenity cutting at several locations across the Heath. These areas will succeed to meadows, providing richer habitat, soil recovery and decompaction, thereby improving absorption of surface water in heavy rainfall events. Further works are planned in the next two years to create 10 new small ponds and twenty leaky dams, mostly located along the fleet stream sections. These features will help to

store water along the fleet stream system, increase areas of wet woodland and mitigate flooding downstream.

Tree Team

5. The Tree Team has been busy since May, dealing with several tree failures on Hampstead Heath, including a limb failure on one of the old beech trees at Golders Hill Park on the southern fence line. The team has also installed a large timber prop to support a veteran Scot's pine at the northern end of Sandy Heath.
6. Oak processionary moth (OPM) nests numbers are low again this summer. Only a small number of nests have had to be removed for public safety reasons. The team continues with its study on OPM's various parasitoids, working collaboratively with Forest Research and other organisations who are using nature-based solutions to manage OPM in London and beyond.

Conservation Team

7. The Conservation Team has been catching up with grassland management after several machinery breakdowns this summer. The annual contracted meadow cut and baling works for the Kenwood Estate commenced last week with the team making the most of the dry warm weather. We are hoping to use most of the bales to create wildlife habitat with the help of Heath Hands at various locations around the Heath.

Fauna on the Heath

8. This topic is the subject of a separate report provided as part of this agenda pack, entitled "Hampstead Heath Fauna Update."

Parliament Hill / Leisure

9. The athletics track continues to be well used, with lots of clubs, schools, colleges and universities having booked the track this season. The Highgate Harriers have been hosting monthly Quad Kids sessions from April through to October. These are advertised in schools through Camden Council, with the aim of encouraging non-members to try athletics as well as promoting fitness and health.

10. The tennis courts continue to be very busy and are fully booked most evenings and weekends, with a spike around Wimbledon in June and July. Meetings continue to be held with the LTA and the tennis coaches at Parliament Hill and Golders Hill Park to ensure the City Corporation is maximising income and that tennis provision is accessible to everyone. A new licence for the tennis coaches has now been drafted to ensure consistency across the North London Open Spaces, and the tennis bookings remain with ClubSpark.
11. The Bowling Green and Croquet season runs through to 29 September. Both the Bowling and Croquet clubs participated in 'Give it a Go' on 14 July this year and are making the most of the good weather after an unsettling start to the season due to the inclement weather of spring. Preparations are now being made for end-of-season renovations at the end of September/beginning of October.
12. The cricket squares at Parliament Hill and on the Heath Extension were prepared in April and the cricket season is now well underway, with regular maintenance being carried out on the squares. Preparations are being made for end-of-season renovations with colleagues from Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, West Ham Park and Highgate Wood. The renovations will commence on the cricket tables in the autumn. The Non-Turf Pitch strips require some further work. This includes permanently marking the wicket crease lines, which will be carried out at the end of the cricket season.
13. Meetings have been held with the City Surveyor's Department regarding the cricket nets on the Heath Extension. A contractor has been appointed to refurbish one single lane. This will include removing the cricket net structure and taking the old facilities to landfill and installing one new practice pitch and cage.
14. The football pitches, rounders and sports grids at Parliament Hill Fields continue to be popular and used by clubs, the public and groups for football training and general fitness. Works will be carried out at the end of August to set out the four football pitches and three rugby pitches on the Heath Extension in preparation for the start of the season. All the lines will be marked out to create the pitches for the season ahead, which commences in September.
15. The Heath Extension changing rooms have been disinfected and further resampling for Legionnaires', which was present in the water pipes inside the changing rooms, has been carried out. Additional bypass valves have been fitted to aid the flushing system, and weekly flushing must occur to prevent any contamination build-up. Regular disinfection and resampling are taking place, so

the changing rooms can be opened for the start of the rugby and football season. The Legionnaires' levels need to be eliminated or maintained at tolerable, very low levels by the beginning of September.

16. Despite the poor summer, the Lido and three bathing ponds continue to be busy. The bather numbers and income are slightly higher than the same period as last year (from April to the end of July). The hottest and busiest day of the year was Monday 12 August: the Lido attracted over 3,000 swimmers, and the three bathing ponds attracted over 4,000 swimmers, generating much social media interest.
17. Repairs and maintenance to the Lido and Parliament Hill paddling pools began mid-May, which included new filter media and dosing units for both paddling pools and a new pump for the Lido paddling pool. Both pools were opened for half-term on Saturday 25 May and continue to be very busy daily.
18. All the works at the Ladies, Mixed and Men's Ponds, as part of the Ponds Access Project, have been completed. The extra grating to fill the void in the Men's Pond is still outstanding and the sliding door to the changing rooms still needs to be constructed and installed. Funding is being sought to install roller shutters to protect the windows of the observation huts at the Mixed and Men's Ponds.
19. The procurement of a new Leisure Management System has now been completed and the contract with XN Leisure is now ready to be signed. This new leisure management system will provide a more user-friendly, affordable and flexible ticketing and booking system for swimmers. The new system also promises excellent data collecting and reporting functions enabling data-driven decision making. The plan is to build and test the new system over the next six to nine months, in preparation for the 2025 summer season.

Golders Hill Park

20. The vacant Ranger position was advertised and filled by an external candidate who comes with a wealth of grounds and horticultural knowledge and experience. He will be a welcome addition to the team, as the staff are relying heavily on casuals to cover the busy summer months whilst positions are being recruited.
21. The Park continues to be popular and very busy during the summer. The main tasks are grass cutting, with areas of long grass being left where possible to

create more wildlife friendly areas within Golders Hill Park, hedge cutting and other grounds maintenance tasks. A lot of identified works such as repairs to pathways, the water fountains, electric gates and toilet refurbishments are scheduled in the Cyclical Work Programme, and will be completed late autumn or in the winter. Repairs to the Bandstand floor have now been completed. Drainage works have also been carried out in the middle of the park, to address the very wet areas and poor drainage. Minor re-seeding of the drain line will be undertaken in the autumn.

22. The sandpit area remains closed to the public. Due to the machinery required and technical complexity to renovate this area and meet play safety standards, external contractors will be appointed to complete the work. Quotes are being gathered from contractors and discussions are being held to explore external funding opportunities. The other half of the sandpit area is open after some renovation and repair works were carried out by the local team. Following a ROSPA inspection of the playground, the X-Roll play item has been removed and some play equipment will need to be replaced. Regular playground inspections are carried out by the staff to ensure the equipment is safe to use.

23. The Heath Extension playground, which was completed in January, is very well used by the local community. The grass inside and outside the play area is being regularly maintained during the summer months to ensure it is safe and accessible for all users. Regular playground inspections are carried out by the staff to ensure the equipment is safe to use.

Hill Garden Pergola

24. This topic is the subject of a separate report provided as part of this agenda pack, entitled "Hill Garden Pergola update."

25. Heath Hands volunteer sessions are continuing in both the Park and Hill Garden, with three sessions a week being hosted by the Gardening Team.

Golders Hill Park Zoo

26. The vacant part-time Zookeeper position was successfully filled by an external candidate. The new Zookeeper is very experienced and comes with a wealth of knowledge, especially with visitors' experiences, which we hope to launch this calendar year. One apprenticeship position remains to fill.

27. The animal adoption page on the website has recently been updated, and it will go live by the end of August. Members of the public will now be able to adopt all the species held at Golders Hill Park Zoo. Those adopting an animal will receive a photo of their chosen species and a certificate, and they will also receive the new Zoo newsletter which will be emailed out to individuals every quarter.
28. New signage with the new branding and Zoo logo is now being put up around the Zoo and has been well received. Newly designed interpretation boards have also been ordered and will be installed as soon as they arrive.
29. With the help of our Marketing and Communication Team, a poll was run on the Zoo social media channels to help us choose names for the red deer. A selection of names was chosen by the Zoo team and put to a vote. The winning names were Roman, Maple, Willow and Aspen. This poll was a good opportunity to engage and liaise with members of the public and visitors and gain more social media interest.
30. At the beginning of August, the Zoo underwent its first BIAZA (British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums) accreditation screening. This is a new process, which will enable members to become accredited members. The outcome of the accreditation screening will be known in November.

Constabulary

31. The Hampstead Heath Professional Dog Walking Permit opened for applications on 24 June 2024. This year the application window was set for two months, closing on 26 August, with the permits valid until 31 July 2025. 22 permits have been issued this year, compared to 17 permits in 2023. Officers and the Constabulary have been raising awareness of the permit scheme via posters, flyers and direct engagement. Engagement will continue throughout the year. This year, an ID card will be issued to all permit holders so they can be easily identified by Constabulary and Heath staff as being properly licensed.

Events

32. 'Run for Your Life' took place for the ninth year on 8 June. This timed run is one of our most popular fun runs on Hampstead Heath in partnership with the Armory, Jubilee Hall Trust. A total of 300 people aged between one and 72 years, took part across the three distances (2k, 5k and 10k). The event promotes wellness and highlights the positive impact of fun runs on the wellbeing of the

community, with the draw of a shorter distance making the event accessible, and this year saw a rise in numbers of participants.

33. 'Race for Life' was held on 15 June at East Heath next to the car park. The Cancer Research United Kingdom team have been holding events on the Heath for over 30 years. This year's attendance was disappointing, with footfall slightly down on last year, with the inclement weather likely to have deterred runners. Race for Life is committed to their 30-year legacy of holding the event on the Heath and we hope that numbers will be more substantial for 2025 to fund their life-saving research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of all types of cancer.
34. The Heath's Leisure & Events Manager worked in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society to deliver two summer events: a Kite-Flying Festival at Parliament Hill on Sunday 30 June, attended by over 2,000 people and showcasing professional stunt kites; and the Natural Aspects community concert on Sunday 21 July at Parliament Hill bandstand, attending by around 1,500 people. This free concert was a musical celebration of culture and musical styles from around the Heath. It was very well attended and a lovely family day, with plenty of positive feedback received. There have been various other bandstand music events throughout the summer at both Parliament Hill and Golders Hill Park.
35. The annual 'Give it a Go' event was held on Sunday 14 July, which was a collaborative event with partners from Camden Council, local sports clubs and leisure centres. It was less busy than previous years, possibly due to a clash with other major sporting events such as England playing in the final of the UEFA European Football Championship. It was, however, still a successful event, which promoted health and wellbeing and gave visitors the opportunity to try out a new sport including tennis, fencing, bowling and boxing. The event attracted over 6,000 people and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Camden. There was positive media coverage in local papers and lots of positive comments from attendees.
36. There will be a Duathlon on 1 September involving 400 competitors. They will be swimming in the Lido and the three bathing ponds and running the distances in-between.

37. We look forward to the annual Conker Championships on 6 October held at the Parliament Hill bandstand. On 24 October there will be the annual return of Zippos Circus at the special big top tent at East Heath Car Park.

Hampstead Heath Management Strategy

38. As previously reported to this Committee, officers are updating all four management plans for the four open spaces that NLOS is responsible for – Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen’s Park, and West Ham Park.

39. As part of that effort, we are completing the planned mid-term review of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028) and have retained a consultant - Land Management Services - to support us in that effort. The review will state the findings and recommendations from the Working Group, which will be included within and inform development of the updated Management Strategy.

40. The update to the existing Management Strategy must 1) Align with the City Corporation’s new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), 2) Align with the new Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029) (Nature Conservation and Resilience, Access and Recreation, Culture Heritage and Learning, Community Engagement), and 3) Reflect world events, newly developed best practice, and experience gained in managing Hampstead Heath under the existing Management Strategy since it was completed in 2018.

41. The ‘Hampstead Heath Management Strategy Working Group’ has been formed from Members of those respective committees who have generously volunteered their time to represent the Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen’s Park Committee in that endeavour.

42. In addition, Officers seek to engage the Consultative Committee as a body as well. Land Management Services will provide a presentation on its work at this meeting of this Committee as part of a separate agenda item. Appendices 1, 2, and 3 provide the existing City of London Corporation Corporate Plan, Natural Environment strategies, and Hampstead Heath Management Strategy, respectively.

Natural Environment Learning Team

43. April to July has been a busy period, with 8,000 play participants and over 4,600 school participants. The team has also facilitated sessions for pupil referral units, children's centres, and schools for children with additional needs.

44. With funding from City Corporation's 'Cultural and Creative Learning Fund', the team was able to run an additional holiday programme for children facing challenges such as poverty, disability, or caring responsibilities, which received positive feedback. The Learning Team worked with our Heritage Team on another successful bid to the 'Cultural and Creative Learning Fund'. Funding is now secured for a youth-led environmental resilience project at the Adventure Clubhouse and Keats House. Project planning and recruitment is underway.

Financial implications

45. No implications.

Resource implications

46. No implications.

Legal implications

47. No implications.

Risk implications

48. Risks are monitored and recorded through the various risk registers, including the Division and Departmental Risk Registers.

Equalities implications

49. No implications.

Climate implications

50. Included within the business plan for 2024-25 are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions.

Security implications

51. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

Conclusion

52. This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Meeting on 10 June 2024.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 (via hyperlink): City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)
 - [Our Corporate Plan 2024-29 - City of London](#)
- Appendix 2 (via hyperlink): Natural Environment Division key strategies (2024-2029)
 - [Natural Environment - City of London](#)
- Appendix 3 (via hyperlink): Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028)
 - [Hampstead Heath Management Strategy \(cityoflondon.gov.uk\)](#)

Bill LoSasso

Assistant Director (Superintendent)

North London Open Spaces

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Heath Hands Update – August 2024

Highlights

- 25th anniversary celebrations through summer with party at Kenwood and short film released: www.heath-hands.org.uk/blog/heathhandsat25
- 7th annual Heath Community Fun Day on 23rd June welcomes hundreds of visitors
- Collaboration with CoLC, ZSL and London Hogwatch to carry our major hedgehog survey across Hampsted Heath

Midway through year, there've been 5,000 participants across all our **activity programmes**, and:

- Over 2,500 visitors to Dairy and engagements at **nature interpretation** sessions
- Numerous public **events** supported and busy programme of **walks and talks** on topics of bats, birds, pollinators, the historic landscape, Kenwood Estate, the River Fleet, trees etc
- More than 400 children participated at sixty **Heath Friendly Schools** sessions; weekly provision for two local **SEN schools**.
- Over 600 people take part in our health and **wellbeing** activities including mindfulness, forest bathing and the weekly **health walks**.
- 30 **corporate volunteering** events delivered over last 5 months, with 450 participants.
- Busy year for **community engagement**, with new groups engaged and over 2,500 people participating at 30 events.

- More than **500 volunteer sessions** delivered by Heath Hands, CoLC and EH teams since April 2024, with over **8000 hours** contributed by volunteers across NLOS.
- Heath Hands staff delivered 410 activities and volunteer sessions.
- Select **conservation** work: Mixed and Men's ponds landscaping, hedgerow planting and wildflower meadow restoration
- Busy **wildlife monitoring** year including reptile, pollinator and Nature's Calendar phenology project with LNHS

Coming up

- Finalisation of new **partnership agreement** with CoLC – North London Open Spaces; and agreement being drafted between Heath Hands and Keats House
- **Fundraising campaign** for wildflower meadow conservation work:
<https://heathhands.enthuse.com/cf/wildflower-meadow-appeal-2024>
- Annual **photo competition** (ahead of 2025 Heath calendar publication):
www.heath-hands.org.uk/photo-competition

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Dated: 16 September 2024
Subject: Hill Garden Pergola Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	-Vibrant Thriving Destination -Flourishing Public Spaces -Diverse Engaged Communities
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes – revenue and capital
If so, how much?	Capital: Up to £4.162m in capital costs Revenue: £220k in current Cyclical Work Plan
What is the source of Funding?	Capital: Not yet identified Revenue: CWP
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	Capital: No Revenue: Yes
Report of: Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment	For Information
Report author: Bill LoSasso Assistant Director (Superintendent), North London Open Spaces	

Summary

This report provides updated information about the state of the Hill Garden Pergola on Hampstead Heath. It outlines options to complete the needed capital repairs, as well as cost estimates, of the oak framework, supporting columns and attached balustrading on the high-level walkways. A preferred option is identified.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report, including recommendation of Option 3 as detailed herein.
- Provide representations as needed

Main Report

Background

1. The Hill Garden Pergola is located on West Heath and was Grade II* listed in 1978. It is a beautiful structure consisting of a high-level walkway that is approximately 250m long, with two sections of stone columns supporting oak framework linked by a bridge over a footpath.
2. It was designed by Thomas H Mawson for Lord Leverhulme, who owned The Hill House, which is now in private ownership. The Pergola was built in three phases from 1905 to 1925. After the death of Lord Leverhulme in 1925, The Hill House was bought by Lord Inverforth, who died in 1955. The Pergola was bequeathed to and used by Manor House Convalescent Hospital, who renamed it Inverforth House. Mawson's association with the Pergola is key to its historic significance.
3. In 1985, the Greater London Council (GLC) purchased the remaining parts of the structure and 1.5 acres of land from the hospital, separating it from Inverforth House. Following the abolition of the GLC in 1986, the London Residuary Body managed the gardens and Pergola for a period of time. The City of London Corporation then took on the management of the Pergola in 1989.
4. After severe storms in 1987 and 1990 caused considerable damage to the colonnades and timbers, the City Corporation undertook essential repair work to the eastern part of the structure.
5. The Pergola comprises two sections, connected by a bridge. (Appendix 1). Section 1, on the eastern part of the structure, has reconstituted stone columns and oak framework along its entire length. The oak framework had two large domes that have been removed due to instability and eight smaller ones remain in place. It has an internal walkway at ground level, along with several internal storerooms. This section was where most of the repairs/restoration was conducted by the City Corporation when ownership was first taken.
6. Section 2, on the western side of the structure, is known as the Colonnade Walkway, with a paved walkway underneath a stone column and oak framework, and stairs into the Hill Garden. It also contains the Belvedere structure consisting of a high-level viewing terrace with amazing views and adjacent open structure with tiled roof. Stairs on either side of the structure lead to ground level, and there are several storerooms underneath.
7. A decision must now be made on how the City Corporation will proceed. Options broadly include continuing to make temporary stabilising repairs for as long as funding permits, Closure, dismantlement, and pursuing a capital project.

Current use and condition

8. As an iconic heritage asset of Hampstead Heath, the Pergola is a popular destination for visitors from near and afar. It is also a sought-after venue for photography, filming, and other events, including weddings, all of which generate much-needed revenue to directly support Hampstead Heath Charity's upkeep of the Heath.
9. Due to age and weathering, however, the oak frameworks on both sections of the Pergola have been deteriorating for many years. This deterioration has increased in the last couple of years, partly due to a lack of funding, and partly due to the escalation of extreme wet and windy conditions, especially as the Pergola is in an exposed location. Areas of concern include the masonry balustrade, columns, and the extensive timber structure which surmount the pillars.
10. Section 2, the Colonnade Walkway, is the most critically impacted element. The oak framework is now extremely rotten and compromising its overall stability. The reconstituted stone columns are intrinsically linked to supporting the oak timbers, with each element of fabric reliant on the other to remain *in situ*. It is now reaching a stage where all will have to be removed, along with the integral stone columns, if no capital funding is identified.
11. Several repetitive and progressive defects have resulted in parts of the structure being carefully dismantled and placed into storage until repairs are possible and funding is available. Section 1 is also showing signs of deterioration, with the two large domes ('The Temple' and 'Summer Pavilion') both having to be removed at the end of 2022, as following a period of structural monitoring they had been determined to have become a health and safety risk.
12. The rest of the elements that make up the Pergola, i.e. brickwork, paving and walkways, are in reasonable condition. However, they do require constant restoration and repair works to maintain this status, currently funded within the City Surveyor's Department's (CSD) Cyclical Works Programme (CWP). Only health and safety work to the oak framework and supporting columns has been carried out in recent years. Backlog CWP funding that has been allocated will now allow for repair works to the rest of the Pergola, and for the monitoring to continue until the available funds have been expended.
13. Due to the current state of the asset and health and safety concerns, monitoring surveys are now conducted twice a year, or more if the weather conditions have been particularly wet and/or windy. Since c. 2019, the Pergola has been closed to the public and staff during these weather conditions because of the high health and safety risk.
14. The state of the Pergola required a partial closure of the structure – the eastern section of the colonnade - from September 2023 to May 2024. To restore temporary public access, the at-risk elements of the Pergola were propped or stabilised *in situ* with temporary stabilising works. (Appendix 3). Five of the worst

columns were pinned at the base with two 450mm steel pins, allowing the section to be reopened to the public on 15 May 2024. Further stabilising works to the stone columns carried out along with additional timbers inserted to the Colonnade Walkway to keep it open and accessible for as long as possible.

15. Regular inspections on those works and their stabilising effects are carried out by an external structural engineer. Additional checks to monitor any further deterioration are performed by Hampstead Heath officers and reported back to the CSD.
16. At present, there are no funds available for the repair and restoration of the Pergola, aside from c. £220,000 that is being used from the CWP to implement the temporary stabilising works, carry out repairs to other elements of the Pergola, and carry out regular structural surveys to allow the structure to remain open to the public and ensure public safety as far as possible. This funding is part of the 'backlog' CWP funding recently approved by Committee, and is to be spent over the next five years.
17. A formal funding bid was considered in 2021, but not progressed due to budget pressures. A capital bid was submitted made in 2022-23, but was not successful. Since then, City Surveyor's Department has continued to maintain structure under its CWP.

Impacts to the City Corporation

18. The Pergola has a long and storied history that is intimately intertwined and runs parallel with the history of the Heath itself. If appropriate restoration works are not undertaken to this statutorily protected asset, it will inevitably deteriorate further. This will risk the structure being added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (HARR), and lead to increased repair costs. Failure to invest in the Pergola may lead to the eventual loss of this irreplaceable historic asset.
19. Further deterioration may require its complete or partial closure or dismantlement. Income from fee-paying activities would then be lost. This is particularly profound, as the Pergola is a unique and iconic setting for potential major film shoots, and NLOS has developed a new partnership with the City Corporation's central Film Office to capitalise on remunerative and appropriate filming opportunities to further support the Heath.

Feasibility study

20. CSD recently commissioned a feasibility study to define a restoration programme, refine costs, and provide options. Due to the heritage status of the structure, specialist advice was required to ensure that it retains its character and that any proposed works meet statutory conservation policy and requirements. The

specialist was appointed in June 2024 to produce a feasibility study to provide options for restoring the high-level walkway oak framework and supporting columns on the Hill Garden Pergola. In conjunction with CCA, an historic quantity surveyor was also appointed to provide cost estimates of the options identified by the conservation specialist.

21. The feasibility study details three estimated phased repair programme options, summarised below:
 - a. Option 1: a single-phase programme lasting a minimum of 27 months (£3.74m)
 - b. Option 2: a two-phase programme lasting a minimum of 33 months (£4.03m)
 - c. Option 3: a four-phase programme lasting a minimum of 41 months (£4.16m)

22. The estimated programming detailed above only reflects the estimated time to complete the works needed to accomplish the needed repairs. It does not allow for pauses in the programme - planned or otherwise - due to bad weather, operational requirements, project governance, procurement, and obtaining statutory consents. This means that the length of time to fully complete the programme of repairs would likely be longer than the timelines stated above, and will depend on weather, operational needs, strategic scheduling decisions, and the duration of various necessary internal and external processes.

23. CSD has reviewed the options and recommends Option 3 - a scheme comprising of a single project consisting of four sequential phases. The benefits of adopting Option 3 are: 1) costs are staggered over a longer period of time, 2) sections of the Pergola can remain open to the public whilst works are ongoing elsewhere, 3) vegetation is somewhat less affected and will be allowed to regrow once each phase is completed, and 4) site setup is less onerous and has less impact on adjacent areas. In addition, works could be planned to suit inclement weather, as access and conditions at the Pergola will be additionally challenging at these times. The main disadvantages of this approach are higher programme costs when compared to Options 1 and 2.

24. The heritage specialist was also asked to develop phased programmes to dismantle the Pergola and place its elements into storage if funding is not identified and dismantlement proves necessary. The estimated programme duration for the actual works, and costs, are summarised below.
 - a. A single-phase dismantlement of the pergola would take 17 months and cost £1.78m
 - b. A two-phase dismantlement of the pergola would take 23 months and cost £1.88m
 - c. A four-phase dismantlement of the pergola would take 31 months and cost £1.94m

25. As a Grade II* structure, Historic England will be a statutory consultee with any repair programme. They are unlikely to look favourably on any proposals to remove the columns, whether it be on either a temporary or permanent basis. Dismantlement options are not recommended for numerous reasons, including cost, reputational risk, and impact to public enjoyment. Historic England are also extremely likely to require all elements (oak beams and stone columns) that are dismantled to be stored as a record for future reinstatement. The dismantlement costs would be additional to any eventual future costs to repair and restore the Pergola, as well as costs to relocate any re-used stored elements back to the site.

Safety monitoring

26. As noted above, £220,000 of CWP funding is currently available to spend on the Pergola over the next five years. The existing temporary stabilising works and feasibility study were funded from this source. This funding will allow for regular monitoring surveys to continue, further essential works to be conducted to ensure structural safety and stabilise the structure, and hopefully allow the oak framework and columns to be kept *in situ* for as long as the funding lasts and until a decision is made on the Pergola's future.

27. The interim stabilising measures that have been taken, along with regular monitoring, will continue to maintain safety at the Pergola on a temporary basis only, and due to the state of deterioration of the structure and the impact of winter weather on the repairs. They will not last indefinitely, and temporary stabilising measures cannot be made in perpetuity due to funding limitations and due to the need for fundamental repairs via a capital project. An eventual closure and/or dismantlement of the structure would be necessary without capital funding.

28. Monitoring surveys of the Pergola were previously undertaken twice a year. Currently, a Heath officer also undertakes regular review on site during their usual working day and reports back to City Surveyor's Department anything of concern for further review. The latest monitoring survey by structural engineers occurred on 5-6 August 2024. The City Corporation has not been advised of any urgent works needing to be carried out or for required closure of any areas of the structure. The full report from this investigation is expected soon, as of the writing of this report, and will recommend any necessary repairs and when future surveys should be undertaken. Identified works will be completed using the available CWP funds.

29. In recent years, cracked brickwork has been noted on the Pergola. To understand the cause of this movement, structural health monitoring is being investigated by the City Surveyor's Department. This will entail installation of small sensors across the Pergola at relevant locations. Initial enquires with Camden Planning have revealed that statutory consents are required for the monitors. The City Surveyor's Department is progressing this with Camden with the intention of obtaining the necessary permissions to install these monitors.

Options

30. Officers have identified two options on how to proceed.

31. **Option 1 (not recommended):** Continue making stabilising repairs for as long as CWP funding remains and the structure remains safe to keep open. Closures of some or all of the Pergola would occur as and when needed to preserve public safety. A decision on dismantlement would be made, and funding sought, when necessary.

- a. This option does not address the underlying issues in preserving the Pergola, and presents negative impacts to Heath visitors and the City Corporation as described above.

32. **Option 2 (recommended):** Continue making stabilising repairs for as long as CWP funding remains, and parallel explore internal and external opportunities for capital funding.

- a. Capital funding would be sought from the City Corporation, external funders (grants, etc), and potentially fundraising (private donation, crowdfunding, etc)
- b. As there is only £2m allocated in contingency funding for City Estate for FY'2025-26 across the entire City Corporation, there is limited likelihood of an internal capital bid, and officers note that it may be necessary to submit multiple capital bids, over multiple years, to fund this project in various phases. It is important to note that capital funding could only be used for the repair and restoration capital works, but not for a potential dismantlement. If a dismantlement does become necessary to ensure public safety, the nearly £2m needed for this would need to be identified and is unlikely to be externally funded.
- c. Officers would also explore an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). NLHF grant applications and awards are typically multi-year endeavours, requiring a multi-phase application process. Successfully funded projects would require a minimum of 10% match funding for an award over £1m, as well as a significant activity plan that accompanies the capital project.
- d. Fundraising generally, and NLHF applications specifically, are time intensive endeavours. As the appointment of a Head of Development & Partnerships is still months away, it is likely necessary to hire in a specialist to provide support if this option is pursued.
- e. Officers are also seeking to confer with Historic England and other heritage organisations regarding available options to preserve this asset and prevent its forced dismantlement.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

33. Strategic implications: Repairing and restoring the Pergola will further the Corporate Plan (2024-2029) strategic outcomes of Vibrant Thriving Destination and Flourishing Public Spaces. It will also further all four of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy visions. And, it will further the Access & Recreation and Culture, Heritage & Learning strategies of the Natural Environment Division.
34. Financial implications: As outlined herein, estimated costs for the repair and restoration of the Pergola range from £1.78m to £4.16m.
35. Resource implications: Significant officer time at North London Open Spaces will be required to seek and secure funding, and to oversee any eventual project. Additional staffing resource will have to be examined as part of this undertaking.
36. Legal implications: The protection regime for listed buildings is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. There is no specific duty on owners to keep the listed building in a good state of repair, but local authorities (and the Secretary of State) have powers to take action where a listed building requires repairs for its proper preservation. They may serve a Repairs Notice on the owner of the listed building requiring specified repairs to be carried out, in default of which the building may be compulsorily purchased. In addition, there are powers where the listed building has deteriorated to the extent that its preservation may be at risk. The local authority (Camden Council) or Historic England may carry out urgent works for the preservation of the Pergola after giving notice to the City Corporation, and may recover the cost of these works under the legislative provisions. As the Pergola is Grade II* listed, Listed Building Consent (under section 7 of the 1990 Act) and other permissions may be required (which will be dependent on the nature of the works and whether the special interest of the listed building will be affected by the works.) Historic England would have to be consulted on any works requiring Listed Building Consent.
37. Risk implications: The condition of assets is monitored in the Hampstead Heath risk register. There is a significant reputational risk to the City Corporation allowing further degradation of the Pergola, and to any dismantlement of the structure.
38. Equalities implications: None
39. Climate implications: None
40. Security implications: None

Conclusion

41. The Pergola is an iconic, Grade II* listed heritage asset of Hampstead Heath, with significant history that is intimately linked to the Heath. Its continued decline and potential dismantlement presents significant risks to the City Corporation, Hampstead Heath Charity, and public.

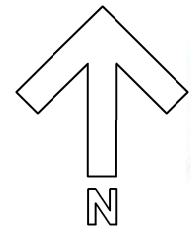
Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Pergola diagram
2. Appendix 2: Photos of current interim stabilising measures

Bill LoSasso

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Colonnade

SECTION TWO



Bridge over footpath

SECTION ONE



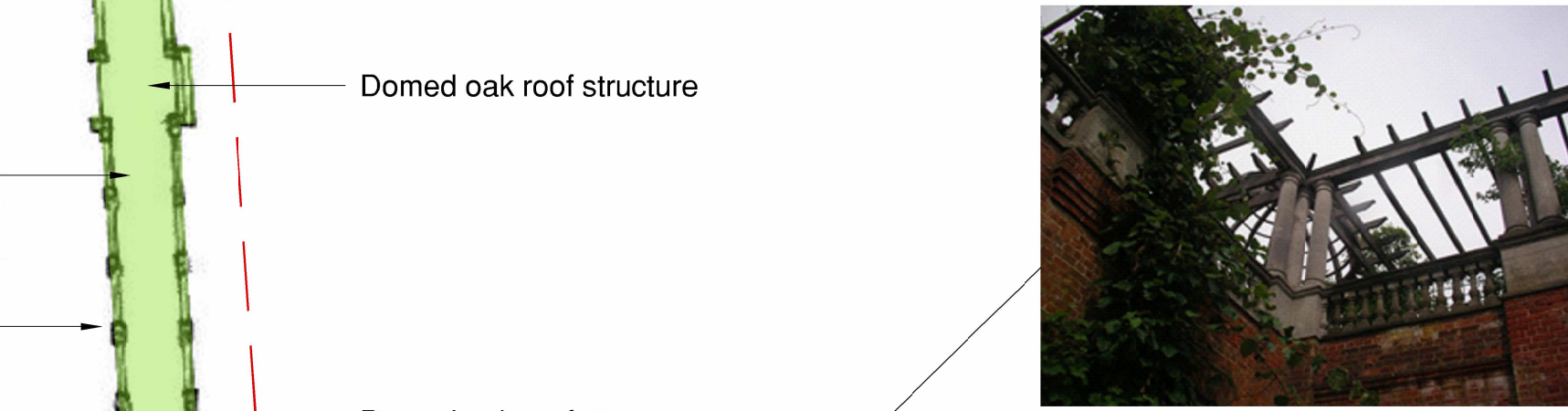
Belvedere Structure



Cupola



Pergola Walkway



Notes
Do not scale. All dimensions to be checked on site.
Errors to be reported to supervising officer.

This drawing has been created from a scanned image
of a drawing produced by Alan Baxter, Structural Engineers.
Drawing no. 1566/010, dated May 2010.
Therefore the accuracy of the drawing cannot be guaranteed
and we advise that you do not scale from this drawing.

Rev	Drawn	Date



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Project : THE PERGOLA		Drawing No : PLAN OF SECTIONS 1 & 2	
Scale at A1 : NTS	Drawn by : DRF	Drawing No : 379-11 AR 02	
Des : SH	App :	Revision	
Date : SEP 2011	Pro code UPRN		

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Dated: 16 September 2024
Subject: Wildlife Monitoring on Hampstead Heath	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	-Diverse engaged communities -Leading sustainable environment -Vibrant thriving destination -Providing excellent services -Flourishing public spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment	For Information
Report author: Adrian Brooker Senior Ecologist, North London Open Spaces	

Summary

This report is intended to provide Members with an update on monitoring undertaken, and knowledge gained, of selected Hampstead Heath fauna over the last 10 years.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This report provides an overview of various fauna on Hampstead Heath, gained through monitoring activities on the Heath over the past ten years.

2. The information held in this report would not be possible without a great deal of volunteer effort from partners, including Heath Hands, London Natural History Society, Heath & Hampstead Society, Marylebone Bird Society, London Bat Group, and Hampstead Heath Birders. The City of London Corporation is grateful to have such dedicated partners assisting with gathering information on and protecting our open spaces.

Hedgehogs

1. Hampstead Heath continues to be heavily engaged with monitoring schemes and national projects that promote hedgehog conservation. Systematic hedgehog monitoring schemes have been in place on Hampstead Heath since 2015 when a monitoring trial was undertaken in Golders Hill Park by the Ecology team (Figure 1). A further investigation in 2016, involving training 15 volunteers in monitoring techniques, revealed that hedgehogs were present across the majority of Hampstead Heath.
2. In 2017, the City Corporation partnered with the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) 'Hogwatch' team using wildlife cameras to record hedgehog and other mammal movements in Golders Hill Park. Three full-scale camera surveys have since taken place, involving placing 150 wildlife cameras across Hampstead Heath in 2018, 2021, and early 2024. Analysis of 2024 data is still being undertaken, but the 2018 and 2021 results revealed hedgehogs present on 49% and 44% of all camera sites respectively. (Figure 2)
3. In 2022, the City Corporation partnered with the Institute of Zoology and other organisations in a programme funded by Rewild London "Interconnecting Network of SINC's for Hedgehog Conservation (IN SINC)". The aim of this project was to identify wider hedgehog populations and their connectivity to other nature conservation sites as well as public and private spaces. It was thought that Hampstead Heath could be acting as a source of hedgehogs for surrounding areas, aiding hedgehog conservation across the wider region. (Figure 3)
4. Hampstead Heath and its northern surrounds were one of the trial sites for the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme (NHMP) in 2023. This was one of the first surveys for the NHMP nationwide which is being rolled out this year (2024). These studies show that Hampstead Heath is supporting a robust population of hedgehogs and continues to be a critical site for hedgehog conservation in London.

Bats

5. As part of the Ponds Project (2015-2016), surveys were undertaken prior to the project to establish a baseline of species that could be impacted by the works. This survey found that Hampstead Heath supports at least 9 species of bat: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, noctule, Daubenton's bat, serotine, Leisler's bat, Natterer's bat and a long-eared bat species.
6. In 2017, a member of London Bat Group was engaged to carry out survey work across woodland sites on the Heath. A further species was detected during this survey, whiskered bat, although at low levels. This brings the Heath species total up to 10 species.
7. In 2016-2017, as part of a London Nathusius' pipistrelle bat project, London Bat Group members carried out harp net trapping on selected Hampstead Heath ponds. Hampstead Heath ponds were third for the most captures across 16 London Boroughs with a total of 15 caught, indicating the importance of the site for this species. (Figure 4)
8. In October 2023, as part of the yearly bat box checks, 26 individual bats were recorded; the highest number since the boxes were installed in 2015 the majority of these being soprano pipistrelles.

Other mammals

9. The 2018 and 2021, during the camera surveys of hedgehogs, these proved useful in recording other mammals on Hampstead Heath.
10. Foxes, being the most ubiquitous, were recorded in high numbers at 95% of the 150 camera sites.
11. Since 2018, there has been an increase in the number of badger sightings in and around the Heath. A single badger was recorded on camera in the 2018 camera survey and a few sightings on Hampstead Heath were made by staff in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, a member of Heath Hands, using a wildlife camera, discovered the first badger sett on Hampstead Heath for many decades. This individual badger has since left the sett and the Heath is not yet believed to support a sustaining population of badgers. (Figure 5)
12. Muntjac deer are another larger mammal to be found on Hampstead Heath. Their numbers seemed to have increased across the Heath with more records in the 2021 camera survey than the 2018 survey. Early footage from the 2024 camera survey has shown the first image of a pair of adults with a deer fawn, perhaps indicating that they have bred here.

13. Smaller mammals present on the Heath include field vole, wood mouse, mole, brown rat, grey squirrel and common shrew. A single unconfirmed record of a weasel and a single record of water vole have been noted in the last five years, alongside sporadic sightings of a large mustelid species (likely American mink).

Birds

14. Much of the bird data past and present can be attributed to many individual volunteers and volunteer groups. Current groups involved in the recording of birds on Hampstead Heath are the London Bird Club, Marylebone Bird Society (MBS) and the Hampstead Heath Birders. Each year, over 100 bird species are recorded by the Hampstead Heath Birders.
15. In 2020, the Heath and Hampstead Society co-ordinated the Heath's first Heath-wide breeding bird survey alongside the City Corporation and the Hampstead Heath Birders. Over 3000 breeding bird records were made of 35 bird species. This survey was repeated in 2021 with the addition of two further transect routes and again over 3000 breeding bird records were made, this time of 54 different bird species. From these two surveys it is thought that nearly 50 bird species breed yearly on Hampstead Heath.
16. Working with the City Corporation's Geographical Information System (GIS) team, digital mapping software (Field Maps) was used during the 2021 survey, allowing instant digital records to be made on site by volunteers which greatly sped up data analysis.
17. A third breeding bird survey is scheduled for 2025 and volunteers from the Hampstead Heath bird group are practising with the digital Field Maps application this year.
18. Highlights of recent breeding successes include buzzards breeding for the first time on Hampstead Heath in 2021 for over 100 years (Figure 6). 15 years ago, reedwarblers only used to breed on a single pond, the Bird Sanctuary Pond. Habitat improvements to Heath ponds with planting of the warblers preferred nesting habitat of common reed has seen the number of breeding reed warblers increase and their range expand to at least four Heath ponds (Figure 7). Two artificial kingfisher banks have been created on Hampstead Heath, one in the 1990s and the other as part of a heritage lottery RSPB scheme in 2012. The first bank has been used by a breeding pair of kingfishers for most years since 2000. This year, for the first time, both banks were being used, resulting in breeding kingfisher along both of the pond chains.

Reptiles

19. Hampstead Heath has had a self-sustaining population of grass snakes since at least the mid-1980s. It is thought to be the closest site to central London with a significant breeding population. In 2011, the ecology team from the City Corporation set up a monitoring scheme and trained volunteers in identification and survey techniques. In the first year of monitoring, over 150 snake records were made, and 12 volunteers were trained in identification and monitoring techniques.
20. The Heath Hands organisation and the volunteers themselves now take the lead in training and monitoring in partnership with NLOS's Ecology Team, and the scheme is now in its fourteenth year (2024). Since 2011, volunteers have made over 1500 snake records on some 750 transect visits contributing many thousands of volunteer hours to greatly improve our knowledge of this species.
21. Heath Hands has been also contributing by providing practical habitat works including managing habitats and the creation of specific snake breeding sites through the placement of compost piles at suitable locations. In early 2024 volunteers discovered the remains of hatched grass snake eggs on one of these piles indicating the success of these habitat creation schemes (Figure 8). The core population of these snakes remains in the enclosed Hampstead Heath areas where public disturbance is reduced, indicating the importance of these areas for Heath biodiversity.

Odonata: dragonflies and damselflies

22. Systematic dragonfly monitoring on Hampstead Heath began in 2006 with the engagement of a specialist dragonfly recorder. Surveys were undertaken between 2006 and 2010, and 16 species were recorded across Hampstead Heath ponds with 15 of these species thought to be regular breeders.
23. In 2017, monitoring was re-established but brought in house. The Ecology Team provided training for four Heath Hands volunteers who began systematic recording of the ponds. This recording has remained in place and is now co-ordinated by the Heath Hands organisation with recording taking place every three to four weeks by volunteers.
24. Thanks to this recording effort, the volunteers picked up a new species for the Heath in 2018: willow emerald damselfly. This species has expanded its range and found the Hampstead Heath ponds provide suitable habitat with willow-edged ponds providing its preferred egg-laying habitat. Willow emerald damselfly is now widespread across Hampstead Heath. (Figure 9)

25. Further new species have since been recorded in both 2023 and 2024, with records of hairy dragonfly in 2023 and this year's records of lesser emperor dragonfly and Norfolk hawk dragonfly. It is not yet clear whether these species will become regular breeders on Hampstead Heath.
26. These recent records have increased the number of species recorded on Hampstead Heath from 16 in the period 2006-2010 to 20 within the last five years; 16 of these species are thought to be regular breeding species. The level of recording currently undertaken would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers. (Table 1)

Butterflies

27. Hampstead Heath has been involved in the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) since 1977 and was one of the first participants (the scheme began in 1976) in the country. Hampstead Heath conservation staff continue to undertake this monitoring on a weekly basis throughout the spring and summer.
28. In 2019, a second transect was begun by Heath Hands volunteers in coordination with the ecology team with the aim of covering a wider area of Hampstead Heath than was covered by the existing transect. A third transect covering the English Heritage managed Kenwood estate was reinstated in 2022 by Heath Hands after being lapsed for many years.
29. 30 species of butterfly have been recorded on Hampstead Heath with 22 species thought to breed here regularly. Heath Hands volunteers recorded 24 species in 2023 and made over 1400 butterfly records greatly increasing the knowledge of butterfly species across Hampstead Heath. (Table 2)
30. Purple emperor butterflies have been seen displaying at a high vantage point on Hampstead Heath periodically over the last 10 years and a few adults have been recorded on the ground. The male butterflies use these high vantage points to seek out mates and so Hampstead Heath's topography is likely to be aiding this species. As adult females can travel many miles to lay eggs it is not clear whether the species is egg laying here, but its preferred egg-laying sites of willow plants are common on Hampstead Heath and so management of willow trees will take this into account.
31. Species such as brimstone only became common on the Heath in the last 20 years after the planting of its foodplant, alder buckthorn, by the Heath's conservation team. Common blue has also become more regular over the last

10 years after the increase in bird's foot trefoil through wildflower meadow creation. One such meadow-creation project was undertaken in 2023 at the Heath Extension with thanks our partners at the Big City Butterflies Project, run by Butterfly Conservation.

32. In 2024, thanks to a dedicated member of public carrying out extensive searches of the Heath's blackthorn thickets, brown hairstreak eggs were recorded for the first time on Hampstead Heath. Eggs were recorded in blackthorn hedges from the Heath Extension to Parliament Hill Fields and, although in low numbers, it is hoped this species becomes established on the Heath. These records are important in tailoring management to ensure that cutting and damage to possible egg-laying sites is carefully undertaken. (Figure 10)

Moths

33. Well over 500 species of moth have been recorded on Hampstead Heath or within close vicinity. Much of the credit for these records was down to a local resident who recorded moths from his nearby flat from 1966-2011.
34. Further intensive monitoring was carried out between 2019-2021 to identify a modern species list for the Heath. A specialist recorder was engaged from the Middlesex and Herts Moth Group, who undertook 15 nights of surveying alongside the ecology team. Despite being hampered by issues related to Covid-19 and bad weather, 377 species were recorded during this period with 340 species recorded during 2019 alone. Recording did not take place in late autumn or winter and so seasonal specialists would also have been missed. Several new records for Hampstead Heath and indeed the surrounding 10km square were made, including the heathland specialist true lover's knot. Only 340 species had been recorded on the Heath and near vicinity between 2001-2011, so to have 340 so far from a single year shows the continued importance of Hampstead Heath for lepidoptera.
35. Two new moth species for the Heath were recorded in 2023: the hornet moth (Figure 11) and six-belted clearwing. With the inclusion of the day-flying species and late-autumn and winter species, it is thought that 400 species of moth are present on Hampstead Heath. The Heath conservation team continues to carry out moth light trapping during the summer months.

Financial implications

36. No implications.

Resource implications

37. No implications.

Legal implications

38. No implications.

Risk implications

39. Risks are monitored and recorded through the various risk registers, including the Division and Departmental Risk Registers.

Equalities implications

40. No implications.

Climate implications

41. Included within the business plan for 2024-25 are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions.

Security implications

42. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register

Conclusion

43. This report provides Members with an update on monitoring undertaken on groups of Hampstead Heath fauna over the last 10 years.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: The Fauna of Hampstead Heath- Figures

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Senior Ecologist

Noth London Open Spaces

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Appendix 1: The Fauna of Hampstead Heath – Figures



Figure 1: Hedgehog footprints from the 2015 survey



Figure 2: London Hogwatch map: Hedgehog activity based on sightings from the 2021 Hampstead Heath survey. The red circles represent hedgehog sightings and are scaled by trapping rate (larger circles = higher trap rate). White indicates an absence of hedgehogs and black indicates cameras which either failed or were excluded.

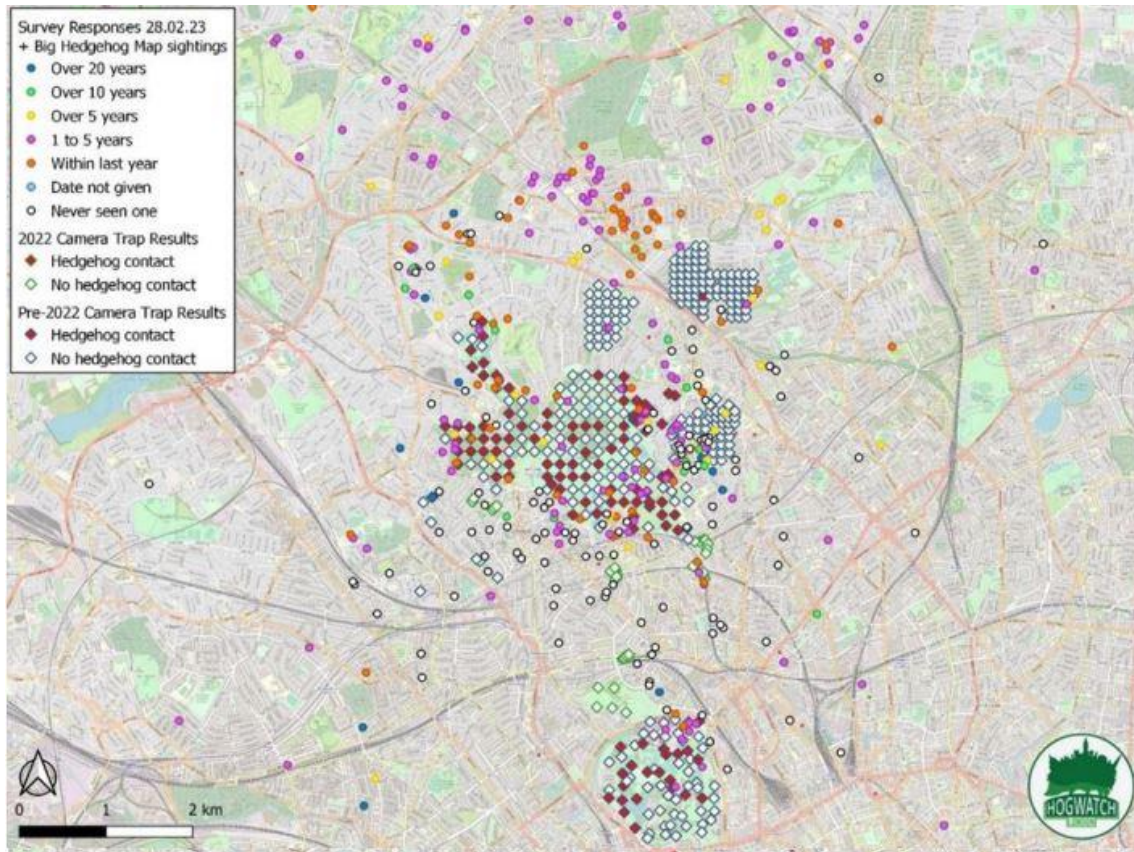


Figure 3: London Hogwatch map of camera trap data and public sightings of hedgehogs in and around Hampstead Heath

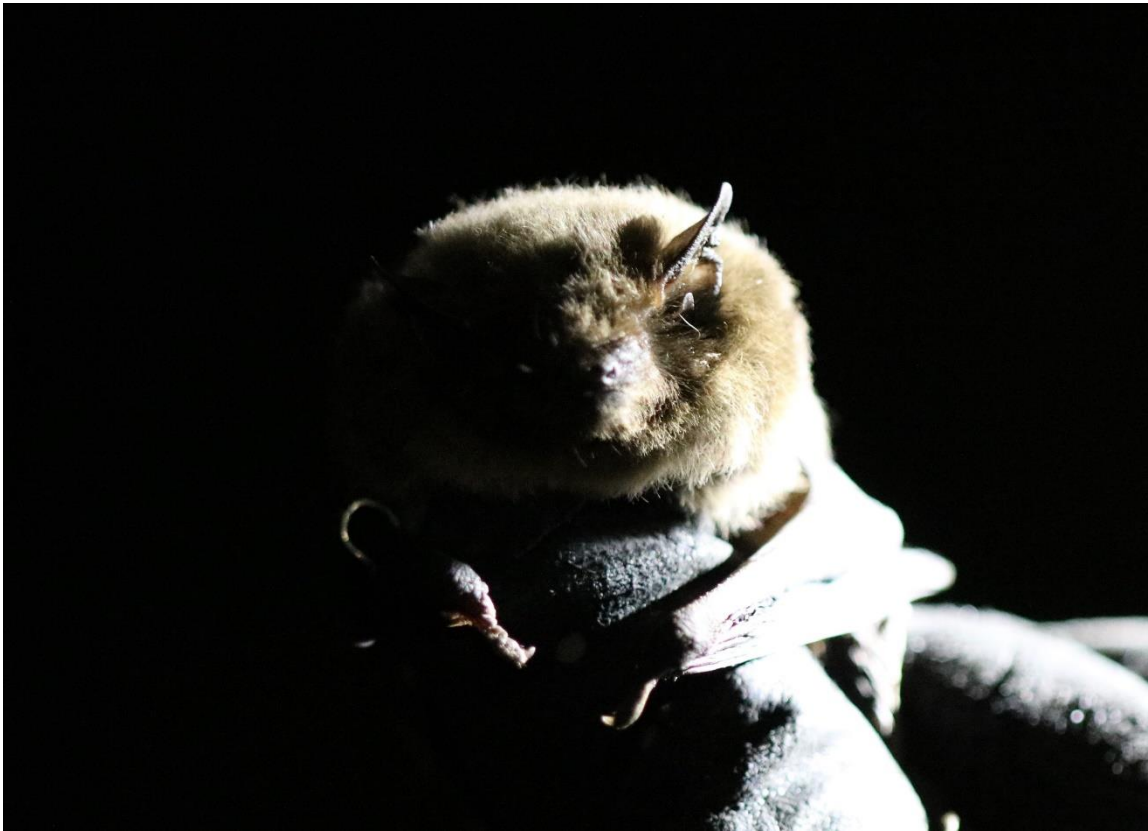


Figure 4: Nathusius' bat tagged during 2017 London Bat Group survey



Figure 5: Eurasian badger on Hampstead Heath in 2023



Figure 6: First buzzard juvenile in over 100 years, photographed in 2021



Figure 7: Reed warbler breeding behaviour records 2020 + 2021



Figure 8: Grass snake egg remains, 2024



Figure 9: Willow emerald damselfly in a mating wheel

Regular Heath species		
Species common name	Species Latin name	First record date
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>	
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	
Willow Emerald Damselfly	<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>	1st Recorded 2018, now widespread
Occasional records		
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	
Have been recorded		
Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	2006
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	2017
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Records in 2023
Lesser emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	First records in 2024
Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>	First records in 2024

Table 1: Hampstead Heath odonata species

Regular Heath species		
Species common name	Species latin name	First recorded
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	

Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>	
White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>	
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	
Recent records (which may lead to them ending up in the list above soon)		
Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>	
Brown hairstreak	<i>Thecla betulae</i>	2023
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	
Occasional records		
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	
Silver-washed fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	
Have been recorded		
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	2021
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	

Table 2: Hampstead Heath butterfly species list



Figure 10: Brown hairstreak butterfly egg (Rohan Harris)



Figure 11: Hornet moth on a poplar tree, June 2023

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