



## Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

**Date:** MONDAY, 9 JULY 2012  
**Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Venue:** EDUCATION CENTRE, THE LIDO, OFF GORDON HOUSE ROAD,  
HAMPSTEAD HEATH, NW5

**Members:**

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Akin Olukiran, (DISC)
Deputy Michael Welbank (Deputy Chairman)	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Xohan Duran, (Representative of People with Disabilities)	Mary Port, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Richard Harris, (Nature Conservation Section)	Robert Slowe, (Representative of Clubs Using Facilities on the Heath)
Ian Harrison, (Vale of Health Society)	Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
John Hunt, (South End Green Association)	Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Jamie Jenkins, (Heath Hands)	David Walton, (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Rogers, (Ramblers' Association)	John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Nigel Ley, (Open Spaces Society)	Jeremy Wright, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Alix Mullineaux, (Marylebone Bird Watching Society)	

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Chris Duffield  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

# AGENDA

## Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**  
To agree the public minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 (copy attached).  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 1 - 12)
4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**  
The Superintendent to be heard.  

**For Discussion**
5. **PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2013-14 - 2014-15**  
Report of the City Surveyor (copy attached).  

**For Information**  
(Pages 13 - 24)
6. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLANS FOR THE SANDY HEATH PONDS AND THE SANDY HEATH AND FLAGSTAFF GORSE SITES**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath (copy attached).  

**For Discussion**  
(Pages 25 - 58)
7. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR PRYOR'S FIELD**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath (copy attached).  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 59 - 84)
8. **'WILD ABOUT HAMPSTEAD HEATH' PROJECT APPLICATION UPDATE**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath (copy attached).  

**For Information**  
(Pages 85 - 94)
9. **FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY PROJECT - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**  
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath (copy attached).  

**For Discussion**

(Pages 95 - 106)

- 10. DOG CONTROL ORDERS**  
Report of the Director of Open Spaces (Copy attached).

**For Decision**  
(Pages 107 - 118)

- 11. QUESTIONS**

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

- 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
To be held at 7pm on Tuesday 6 November 2012.

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## HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2012

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE EDUCATION CENTRE, THE LIDO, OFF GORDON HOUSE ROAD, HAMPSTEAD HEATH NW5 ON MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012 AT 7PM.**

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Michael Welbank (Chairman)	Alix Mullineaux (Marylebone Bird Watching Society)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Xohan Duran (Representative of people with disabilities)	Robert Slowe ( Representative of Clubs using Facilities on the Heath )
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Richard Sumray (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Mike Hammerson (Highgate Society)	Jeremy Wright (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Ian Harrison (Vale of Health Society)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Mansfield Neighbourhood Association)
John Hunt (South End Green Association)	Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)
Jamie Jenkins (Heath Hands)	
John Rogers (Ramblers' Association)	

#### **Officers:**

Edward Foale	- Town Clerk's Department
Esther Sumner	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon Lee	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure & Events Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood & Conservation Manager
Jennifer Wood	- Water Management Communications Officer

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from David Walton and John Weston.

### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

In respect of item 4b, Xohan Duran made a personal, but non-prejudicial, declaration of interest as a registered gas installer.



Superintendent of Hampstead Heath's Update (item 5)

A detailed report on the Waterhouse development on Millfield Lane had been sent to the London Borough of Camden. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that Camden Council had recently approved a planning application to cut down a number of trees and build a deep basement on an adjoining development site.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was understood that revised plans for the Athlone House site were being considered.

Susan Rose advised that difficulties had been encountered in having the concerns of local residents addressed by Camden Council.

Questions (item 6)

Michael Hammerson advised that there had been a meeting with Camden Council with regarding options for use of the restored tollgate at Spaniards Inn. English Heritage would be approached to see if they in project involvement.

The Chairman advised that items 4d, 4e and 4g on the agenda had unavoidably already been considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

**4a. UPDATE ON THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updating Members on the progress of this major project, since the last report in September 2011.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Heath & Hampstead Society had been incredibly helpful with their challenges on the law and industry guidance. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath would meet with the Society. Jeremy Wright would be involved in the meeting.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath made reference to the current Institute of Civil Engineers guidance on dams and its requirements that where a community could be endangered by the breach of a dam, the risk of any breach caused by flood should be virtually eliminated.

In response to a query from John Hunt, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was his understanding that the guidance applied to works on existing dams and construction of new dams.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Strategic Landscape Architect would be independent from the Project Design Team. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath was currently progressing the matter with the Town Clerk's and Chamberlain's

Departments. Andrew Pepper, a senior engineer and Member of the British Dam Society, had also been appointed to ensure accountability of all involved. The Superintendent advised that information from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had established that, since 2004 of the total number of Inspecting Engineers who had made recommendations in the interests of safety, 78% had gone on to provide engineering services for that reservoir.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that DEFRA had commenced a consultation period on certain aspects of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 related to reservoirs. This gave some reassurance that the Act was being progressed.

John Hunt asked a question in relation to the risk assessment and the existing hydrological information. The Superintendent advised that any risk assessment had to be based on the existing "guidance" that required a Supervising Engineer to demonstrate that any risk of dam failure had been virtually eliminated.

Jeremy Wright made reference to a risk assessment that had been used by CARES, which stated that the current fatality risk to Highgate in the event of a Hampstead Heath flood stood at 1037. The assessment advised that, once the project was complete, the fatality risk would stand at 761. The Superintendent advised that he needed technical advice on this statement.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the design team would be appointed by early July 2012, which would be followed by a four-month review. He hoped that the team would be able to submit a planning application by the summer of 2013.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the criteria for a Grade A dam was that a community of 10 people could be at risk. The proposals in the Flood and Water Management Act were to reduce this to 1 person at risk. Consultation on this change was being undertaken by DEFRA.

In response to a question from Alix Mullineaux regarding what the position would be after the works had been completed, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that, in the occurrence of a catastrophic rainfall event, the water would still pass over the designed spillway and still contribute to flooding downstream. However, the failure of a dam and subsequent surge of water into the surrounding community would be "virtually eliminated".

In response to a query from Jeremy Wright, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the City was currently in discussion with Camden Council with regard to establishing an offsite emergency plan, the onsite emergency plan was in place and had been tested.



**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the progress being made towards the implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality Project be noted.

**4b. PROPOSALS BY NATIONAL GRID TO UNDERTAKE WORKS TO GAS MAINS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath setting out a proposal by National Grid to undertake replacement of gas mains.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the works would be a part of a major national project to upgrade the existing National Grid system. The proposed works in Hampstead Heath were vital to sustain supply to the local community, and National Grid could enact statutory powers to acquire land if necessary. The gas main that was to be decommissioned had sprung leaks in previous winters. It was proposed that the existing gas pipes be left in-situ; a sample of the one inch thick pipe was displayed. The termination of the main would require the other mains, and the pipes highlighted in the appendices to the report, to be upgraded to accommodate high-pressure gas. National Grid had offered £20,000 for each of the gas regulators to be accommodated on Heath lands and £200 per week rent for access to the site; however, the final amount had not yet been agreed. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath would ensure that the new manholes would be located in sensible locations. The Chairman advised that the decommissioned pipes would not need to be dug out.

In response to a question from Ellen Stein, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the works licence would require works vehicles to travel no faster than five miles per hour and the number of vehicles on site would be monitored and controlled by banksmen. The contractors would not be allowed more vehicles on site than necessary.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the programme of works for each location had not been finalised, but it was likely to require a minimum of 8 weeks each for the gas regulator installations and last approximately sixteen weeks at Parliament Hill.

In response to a query from John Hunt, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that some of the negotiated fee of £20,000 per Pressure Reducing Station would be spent on wildlife and planting.

In response to a question from Mary Port, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that contractors' vehicle movements would be restricted to weekdays and would avoid school lunchtimes, start times and finish times.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that the works would be completed over a single period with no intervals, although some ancillary works might be



occupied by the fair on the fairground site, with the objective of avoiding the current requirement to close the car park for eight days per fair.

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that the wooden fence at the South End Green entrance would be removed. John Hunt was concerned that the area could become bare and open to dog foul. He advised that the wall nearby could become open to graffiti and suggested it be covered in vegetation in order to minimise this risk. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was not the intention to remove the vegetation alongside the buildings.

Ian Harrison commended the proposed works and was impressed with the additional annual income that could be accrued.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on:-

- i) the proposals to realign the car park at East Heath and submission of a Planning Application to Camden Council in order to proceed with the proposals to modify the car park; and
- ii) the principles of improvements for the enhancement of South End Green as set out in the report.

#### **4e. REVIEW OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY 2011**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath relative to reviewing the work carried out by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011.

The Constabulary Manager advised that the Constabulary now had a full complement of twelve constables. The constables had been actively taking visitors' details when necessary. Most visitors had proven cooperative. One Constable was currently working closely with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender representatives, whilst also attempting to reduce incidences of use of the Heath as a public sex environment.

Richard Sumray commended the pro-active approach that had been taken in the previous year, and believed Heath visitors would feel safer with an increased presence of the Constabulary.

In response to a question from Bob Slowe, the Constabulary Manager advised that in the past staff had faxed details of all reported criminal offences committed on Heath visitors to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Due to a change in the MPS crime management process, the Constabulary would now only report criminal offences against City of London staff or property. The Constabulary would keep a record of any criminal offences committed on the Heath and provide advice to victims; however, the victims would need to report any incidents to the MPS personally. This process could now only be completed via the MPS website or by calling 101.



The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Heath was currently at the second stage of a Heritage Lottery Bid to work with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to develop a project centred on environmental education and interpretation on the Heath.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the education programme in 2011 and development of the service in 2012-13 be noted.

**4h. REVIEW OF SUMMER HOLIDAY EVENTS 2011**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reviewing the 2011 summer events programme delivered by the Education and Play team across Hampstead Heath, Golders Hill Park, Queen's Park and Highgate Wood.

The Leisure & Events Manager advised that the events had been well attended throughout August 2011.

In response to a question from Mike Hammerson, the Leisure & Events Manager advised that the Hampstead Heath Office would investigate the possibility of providing waterproof equipment in future on the Highgate Wood Heritage Day.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on the review of the summer events programme and its continuation into 2012-13.

**4i. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS PLAY FACILITIES**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reviewing the success and key achievements of the Hampstead Heath play service in 2011, including its work at the Adventure Playground, One O'clock Club and Parliament Hill Playground.

The Leisure & Events Manager advised that the Adventure Playground was a great success and the One O'clock club had presented an ideal place for parents and carers to take their children. He thanked the Education Team and the Play Team for their efforts.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Leisure & Events Manager advised that partnership events with Barnet Council were possible in the future.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that approximately one third of senior park positions across the capital had been made reduced as a result of recent budget cuts.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on the review of the play programme in 2011 and the proposed strategy for the service into 2012-13.



be knocked through the shed wall facing the cricket pitch. No further major building works were required.

The Committee noted that the Forum had supported a deal to allow the junior section of the Highgate Harriers to use the athletics track at a rate of £850 per annum, which was an increase from the current rate of £800 per annum.

Michael Welbank's Last Meeting As Chairman

Members noted that this was Michael Welbank's last meeting as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee expressed thanks to the Chairman for his Chairmanship during his term of office.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting will be held on Monday, 9 July 2012, at 7pm, Hampstead Heath Education Centre.

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	09 July 2012	
<b>Subject:</b> Provisional Additional Works Programme 2013/14 and 2014/15	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> City Surveyor	CS228/12	<b>For Information</b>
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report sets out a provisional schedule of cyclical projects being considered for Hampstead Heath in 2013/14 and 2014/15 under the umbrella of the “additional works programme”.</p> <p>The draft cyclical project schedules total approximately £0.72m in each of the next two years (2013/14 and 2014/15) and, if approved, will continue the momentum that has seen a significant improvement in the maintenance of the property and infrastructure assets.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>That the Consultative Committee’s views be sought on the provisional schedule of works in respect of works at Hampstead Heath.</p>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. At the meeting of Resource Allocation sub Committee in December 2011 Members considered and approved a prioritised list of “additional works” projects for 2012/13.
2. The total value of the approved works packages was some £5.4m. Of this allocation Hampstead Heath received £948,450 to allow all projects on the prioritised list to proceed in 2012/13.
3. This approved package of works continues a programme of works that has seen the additional investment of approximately £2.7m over the last three years.

4. On the 21 September 2009 the then Hampstead Heath Management Committee requested previews of the provisional works schedules for Hampstead Heath.

### **Current Position**

5. Following a review of our 20 year forward maintenance plans provisional schedules of works for Hampstead Heath in 2013/14 and 2014/15 have been prepared. Unfortunately these provisional schedules were not available in time for your Consultative Committee's meeting in March 2012.
6. To permit the overall timetable to be achieved a report was presented to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee on the 21 May 2012 and their comments and amendments have been incorporated in the report before you today.
7. In addition the works included in the provisional schedule before you today were also included in a report presented to the Corporate Asset sub Committee on the 19 June 2012.
8. The provisional schedule for 2014/15 is provided for your information and should be considered as indicative as officers will review this list in early 2013.
9. The process for prioritisation of the works is as follows; work items are initially assessed on the basis of condition, which places the work item into the appropriate year. Thereafter the following factors are considered: Property status (e.g. English Heritage listing) potential reputational impact, health and safety, relevancy of works compared to other items at the same location and client consultation feedback.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

As indicated above, these provisional schedules are based on a preliminary review of the 20 year repairs and maintenance plans and are subject to further evaluation in terms of value to Hampstead Heath with regard to overall corporate priorities, including availability of resources, sound asset management and accommodation provisions/arrangements. It will be appreciated that the indicative sums are significant and no commitment to their funding can be implied or guaranteed at this stage. The final decision on the allocation of resources will be taken by the Resource and Allocation Sub Committee at its meeting in October 2013.

## **Corporate Property Implications**

10. This provisional schedule for Hampstead Heath identifies a number of works that could be progressed within a reasonable timescale subject to funding being made available from the additional works programme, and providing that proposed expenditure is not affected by other decisions taken in respect of any particular property asset.
11. The method of prioritisation for the ‘additional works’ has been provided but the resultant priorities may need to be reviewed following the consultation period, to reflect strategic asset management decisions and the wider corporate objectives to ensure that the City can meet its overall criteria relative to the management of its property assets.

## **Strategic Implications**

12. The proposals contained within the attached annexe lists support the theme “Protects, promotes and enhances our environment” within the City Together Strategy.

## **Consultees**

13. The Corporate Property Officer, the Chamberlain and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath have been consulted and their comments are included in this report.

## **Conclusion**

14. The attached provisional schedules of work for 2013/14 and 2014/15 present another opportunity to maintain the impetus of cyclical repairs and maintenance of the City’s Operational estate and Hampstead Heath, in particular.

## **Background Papers:**

- Appendix A Provisional additional works programme 2013/14
- Appendix B Provisional additional works programme 2014/15

## **Contact:**

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**HAMPSTEAD HEATH  
ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2013-14  
APPENDIX A**

June 2012

Property	Location	Description	2013 / 14
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	INSPECTION & WORKS TO MAJOR BRIDGES	10,000
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	MAIN WATER SUPPLY PIPEWORK REPLACEMENT	8,000
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	TEST OF ALL INLET/OUT PIPES & VALVES (PONDS)	5,000
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	WATER HYGIENE CYCLICAL WORK (INCL LODGES)	5,000
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	STATUE OVERHAUL/CLEANING	4,600
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	EMBANKMENT MONITORING	4,500
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	SURVEY OF REVETMENTS/BANKING BY ENGINEER	2,500
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure	AUTO GATES/BARRIERS OVERHAUL	2,000
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General	SURFACE WATER DRAIN REPLACEMENT	25,000
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General	PATH RESURFACING	20,000
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General	FENCING OVERHAUL/DECORATIONS/REPLACEMENT	12,000
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General	WATER MAINS/DRAINS REPLACEMENT	5,500
Golders Hill Park	Cafeteria and Public Toilets	WINDOWS REPLACEMENT (TOILETS)	8,000
Golders Hill Park	Childrens Play Area	FENCING REPLACEMENT	4,500
Golders Hill Park	Deer Shelters and Huts	ROOF REPLACEMENT (MAIN)	2,000
Golders Hill Park	Deer Shelters and Huts	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
Golders Hill Park	Deer Shelters and Huts	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	1,000
Golders Hill Park	Deer Shelters and Huts	ROOF REPLACEMENT (SHELTER)	1,000
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex	GARDEN WALL REPAIRS (GOLDERS HILL)	20,000
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS (BOTHY)	4,000
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex	DOORS REPLACEMENT (GREENHOUSE)	3,500
Golders Hill Park	Tennis Booking Hut and Shelter	FLOORING REPLACEMENT	500
Golders Hill Park	Tennis Booking Hut and Shelter	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	100
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Buildings Complex	PUMP/FILTER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT (POND)	3,000
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Buildings Complex	FLOORING REPLACEMENT (VETS ROOM)	2,500
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Buildings Complex	WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT	2,000
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets	WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT	500
Hampstead Ponds Area 3	Mixed Bathing Pond Complex	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	6,000
Hampstead Ponds Area 3	Mixed Bathing Pond Complex	KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT	4,000
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Changing Enclosure	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	2,000
Highgate Ponds	Millfield Lane Toilets	HOT WATER CYLINDER REPLACEMENT	1,500
Kenwood (Area 4)	General	KENWOOD NURSERY - WALL REPAIRS	20,000
Kenwood (Area 4)	General	FENCING OVERHAUL/REDECORATIONS	10,000
Kenwood	Constabulary Building	CONVECTOR HEATERS/WATER HEATER	2,000
Kenwood	Kenwood Yard	HARDSTANDING REPLACEMENT	20,000
Kenwood	Kenwood Yard	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS (VARIOUS AREAS)	3,000
Kenwood	Ladies Bathing Pond Building	DECORATIONS/MINOR OVERHAUL	6,000
Parliament Hill Fields (Area 1)	General	PATH RESURFACING	15,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Adventure Playground Building	PAINT PADDLING POOL	10,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Adventure Playground Building	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	3,500
Parliament Hill Fields	Adventure Playground Building	HEATING DISTRIBUTION REPLACEMENT	3,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Adventure Playground Building	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,500
Parliament Hill Fields	Athletic's Track Pavillion Complex	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	500
Parliament Hill Fields	Athletic's Track Pavillion Complex	FIRST AID HUT ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST &	200
Parliament Hill Fields	Athletic's Track Pavillion Complex	GARAGE STORE ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST &	200
Parliament Hill Fields	Athletic's Track Pavillion Complex	STORES ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	100
Parliament Hill Fields	Bowling Green Mens Pavilion	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	250
Parliament Hill Fields	Cafeteria	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	500
Parliament Hill Fields	Football Changing Rooms	TOILETS REFURBISHMENT	25,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Football Changing Rooms	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	500
Parliament Hill Fields	Lido Buildings Complex	EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DECORATIONS	15,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Lido Buildings Complex	TOILETS OVERHAUL	5,000
Parliament Hill Fields	One O'Clock Club Building	FLOORING REPLACEMENT	3,000
Parliament Hill Fields	PH-Bandstand	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	5,000
Parliament Hill Fields	PH-Bandstand	DECORATIONS	3,000
Parliament Hill Fields	PH-Bandstand	DECORATIONS TO HANDRAILS	500
Parliament Hill Fields	Playground Staff Toilet and Shelter	TOILET REFURBISHMENT	5,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Tennis Courts and 3 Shelters	TENNIS COURTS 1-4 - FLOOR SURFACE REPAINT	4,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Tennis Courts and 3 Shelters	DECORATION	2,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Tennis Courts Booking Hut	DECORATION	600
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	General	GRECIAN FOUNTAIN CLEANING & LIMEWASHING	3,500
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Public Toilets and Store	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	6,000
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Public Toilets and Store	FLOORING REPLACEMENT (STORE)	2,000
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Public Toilets and Store	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Public Toilets and Store	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Staff Yard and Changing Rooms	KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT (BOTHY)	4,000
Sandy Heath and Heath Extension	Staff Yard and Changing Rooms	SHOWER/TOILET REFURBISHMENT (BOTHY)	2,000
Vale of Health & East Heath Area	General	FENCING OVERHAUL/DECORATIONS/REPLACEMENT	15,000
Vale of Health & East Heath Area	General	PATH RESURFACING	15,000
Vale of Health & East Heath Area	General	SURVEY - DRAINAGE OVERHAUL	5,000
Vale of Health & East Heath Area	General	SURVEY - GENERAL	2,500
Vale of Health and East Heath	Bothy and Yard	TOILET SHOWER REFURBISHMENT	2,500

**HAMPSTEAD HEATH  
ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2013-14  
APPENDIX A**

June 2012

<b>Property</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2013 / 14</b>
Vale of Health and East Heath	Bothy and Yard	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Bothy and Yard	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
Vale of Health and East Heath	Bothy and Yard	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	1,500
Vale of Health and East Heath	Keeper's Hut and Store	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
Vale of Health and East Heath	Keeper's Hut and Store	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Public Toilets	ROOF REPLACEMENT (TILED)	20,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Public Toilets	RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	6,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Public Toilets	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	3,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Public Toilets	FLOORING REPLACEMENT	3,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	The Round House East Heath	EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,000
Vale of Health and East Heath	Whitestone Pond	ALGAE REMOVAL (BRUSHING GRANITE SIDE TO	2,000
West Heath Area 7	General	PATH RESURFACING	5,000
West Heath	Hill Garden/Shelter	REBUILD STONE/STAIRCASE ABOVE SHELTER	100,000
West Heath	Hill Garden/Shelter	REBULD HILL GARDEN WALL	60,000
West Heath	Hill Garden/Shelter	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,000
West Heath	Keepers Hut and Hill Garden Area	INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,000
West Heath	Pergola Shelter and Store	CRACK REPAIR/ OPEN JOINTS - WEATHER TIGHT	100,000
West Heath	Pergola Shelter and Store	PERGOLA - ENGINEER TO MONITOR STRUCTURES	500
Golders Hill Park	1 & 2 Golders Hill Houses	BOILER REPLACEMENT (No. 1 and 2)	8,000
Golders Hill Park	1 & 2 Golders Hill Houses	RADIATOR REPLACEMENT (No. 1 and 2)	6,000
Parliament Hill Fields	Meadow Lodge	ELECTRICAL 5 YEAR TEST & INSPECTION	250
		<b>Total</b>	<b>721,800</b>

Property	Location
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	General/Infrastructure
Hampstead Heath	Heathfield House Complex
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General
Golders Hill Park Area 8	General
Golders Hill Park	Bandstand
Golders Hill Park	Bandstand
Golders Hill Park	Flamingo Pond Shelter
Golders Hill Park	Shelter and Garages
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Staff Yard Complex
Golders Hill Park	Tennis Booking Hut and Shelter
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Buildings Complex
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Golders Hill Park	Zoo Shelter and Toilets
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Changing Enclosure
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Lifeguards Hut
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Pond Toilets
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Pond Toilets
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Pond Toilets
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Pond Toilets
Highgate Ponds	Mens Bathing Pond Toilets





Golders Hill Park  
Golders Hill Park

1 Golders Hill  
Golders Hill

Description	2014 / 15
FOOTPATH OVERHAUL (PELLINGS)	25,000
MAIN WATER SUPPLY PIPEWORK REPLACEMENT	12,000
GENERAL STRUCTURAL INSPECTIONS	10,000
TEST OF ALL INLET/OUT PIPES & VALVES (PONDS)	5,000
STATUE OVERHAUL/CLEANING	4,600
EMBANKMENT MONITORING	4,500
AUTO GATES/BARRIERS OVERHAUL	2,000
FLAG POLES DECORATION	2,000
WORKS TO MINOR BRIDGES	1,000
EXTERNAL CLEAN/PAINT (DECORATION)	5,000
BRICKWORK REPOINTING (SERVICE ROAD)	10,000
WATER MAINS/DRAINS REPLACEMENT	5,500
RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	5,000
STRUCTURE DECORATIONS	3,000
EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
DECORATIONS	1,500
ROOF REPLACEMENT (GARAGE/STORES (10 No.))	25,000
GARDEN WALL REPAIRS (GOLDERS HILL)	20,000
INTAKE ROOM SWITCHGEAR	10,000
RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT (WHOLE COMPLEX)	10,000
TOILETS REFURBISHMENT	10,000
ROOF REPLACEMENT (STORES (5 No.))	7,500
SHOWERS REFURBISHMENT	6,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS (WORKSHOPS/STORES)	2,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,000
ROOF REPLACEMENT	6,000
ROOF REPLACEMENT	4,000
TOILET REFURBISHMENT	4,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,000
FLOORING REPLACEMENT	2,000
RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	1,500
INTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,200
EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DECORATIONS	4,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
ROLLER SHUTTERS REPLACEMENT	4,000
WINDOWS REPLACEMENT	3,000
EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,500
KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT	2,000
TOILET/SHOWER REFURBISHMENT	2,000
FLOORING REPLACEMENT	1,000
RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	1,000
WINDOWS REPLACEMENT	5,000
FLOORING REPLACEMENT	2,500
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,000
RAINWATER GOODS REPLACEMENT	1,500
LANDLORDS LIGHTING & POWER REWIRE	1,000

INTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
LANDLORDS LIGHTING & POWER REWIRE	1,000
GOODISON FOUNTAIN CLEANING & REPOINTING	2,500
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
HOT AIR HEATING REPLACEMENT	3,000
INTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	1,500
POOL LIFT REPLACEMENT	5,000
PATH RESURFACING	20,000
PAVILION BUILDING INTERNAL REFURBISHMENT	30,000
SHOWER REFURBISHMENT	25,000
TOILET REFURBISHMENT	12,000
DHWS - CALORIFIER (2 No.) REPLACEMENT	8,000
DHWS - BOILER REPLACEMENT	6,000
RUNNING TRACK COLUMNS RELAMP	5,000
DHWS - VALVES REPLACEMENT	3,000
FIRST AID HUT ROOF REPLACEMENT	3,000
FIRST AID HUT EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,500
DHWS - PIPEWORK REPLACEMENT	2,000
DHWS - CONTROLS REPLACEMENT	1,500
DHWS - PUMPS REPLACEMENT	1,500
DHWS - FLUE REPLACEMENT	1,000
CHANGING ROOM INTERNAL OVERHAUL	15,000
SHOWERS REFURBISHMENT	12,000
DHWS REPLACEMENT	10,000
HEAT SOURCE REPLACEMENT	10,000
FLOORING REPLACEMENT	8,000
WATER TANK REPLACEMENT (2 No.)	6,000
HEATING DISTRIBUTION REPLACEMENT	4,000
LIGHTING REPLACEMENT	4,000
EXTERNAL DECORATIONS	2,500
LIDO FABRIC REPAIRS	50,000
WINDOWS REPLACEMENT	40,000
EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DECORATIONS	15,000
POOL LIFT REPLACEMENT	5,000
BRICKWORK REPOINTING (FEMALE STAFF TOILETS)	4,000
SEWAGE PUMP/CONTROLS REPLACEMENT	2,000
SECURITY ALARM REPLACEMENT	1,500
SURVEY - DRAINAGE	5,000
SIGNS REPLACEMENT	1,000
KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT	3,000
TOILET REFURBISHMENT	1,500
CRACK REPAIR & OPEN JOINTS TO MAKE WEATHER TIGHT (STONE STEPS ABOVE SHELTER)	100,000
PERGOLA - REPARATIVE WORK ON CRACKS IN JOINTS	4,000
PERGOLA - REPARATIVE WORK ON CRACKS IN STONES	4,000

WINDOWS REPLACEMENT	15,000
WINDOWS REPLACEMENT	15,000
Total	720,800

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Subject:</b> Management Work Plans for the Sandy Heath ponds and the Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Discussion</b>
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report presents detailed management work plans for the Sandy Heath ponds and Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>That Committee views on the management work plans for Sandy Heath ponds and Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites, subject to the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.</p>	

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. In order to manage the Heath, it is necessary to prepare detailed documents stating how each area will be managed, in line with established policies. Such documents will then feed into the annual work programme. Management work plans are being prepared for key areas of the Heath; they will last for ten years, and will be reviewed thereafter, although alterations may be necessary sooner if unforeseen events arise.
2. Plans for the Upper Vale of Heath, the Viaduct Pond, Seven Sisters ponds, Third Hedge, Springett's Wood, Orchard and South Meadow areas have previously been presented to the Management and Consultative Committees. This report presents two more plans, for the Sandy Heath ponds and Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites.

### **Proposals**

*The Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites Management Work Plan*

3. The Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse patches are 2 of only 3 major gorse sites on Hampstead Heath.

4. Gorse is a component of lowland heathland, which is a target habitat for both the London Biodiversity Action Plan and indeed the national Biodiversity Action Plan.
5. Gorse provides a nesting habitat for a variety of nesting birds, including long-tailed tit and whitethroat, which is of considerable local importance. Stonechat, an infrequent visitor to the Heath, requires dense compact gorse and continued and improved management may encourage breeding.
6. Gorse will be coppiced on a 12 year rotation to maintain a mosaic of different height and age ranges, providing a variety of conditions for invertebrates and birds.
7. Opportunities exist in both gorse sites to expand the current gorse extent and ensure that this 'heathland' plant remains, providing more of the lowland heath habitat which gave Hampstead Heath its name.
8. Two sapling wild service trees should continue to be preserved within the Sandy Heath gorse site.
9. Detailed proposals are listed in Section 3 of the Work Plan, which is attached as Appendix 1.

#### *Sandy Heath ponds Management Work Plan*

10. The Sandy Heath ponds are a group of visually attractive pools towards the north-west of Hampstead Heath in an area previously used for the extraction of sand and gravel.
11. The ponds are unusual on the Heath as they occur in geological conditions not normally associated with standing water. The ponds have a variety of aquatic and marginal vegetation including an uncommon liverwort not found anywhere else on the Heath.
12. The ponds are surrounded by woodland which casts shade and cause an accumulation of leaf litter in the ponds. Tree and scrub growth on the edges of the ponds should be managed to prevent further shading.
13. The ponds provide one of the best breeding ground for common frogs on the Heath and should be managed to maintain standing water and prevent drying out in the breeding season.
14. Seven species of dragonfly frequent the ponds, including species such as the southern hawker, which uses the ponds to breed in. With continued and improved management the ponds should be suitable for a number of previously unrecorded species. The presence of floating aquatics including

azolla and duckweed is detrimental to this aim and they should be prevented from flourishing.

15. An area of recently established acid grassland occurs to the south of the ponds and should be maintained. Patches of the acid grassland species wavy hair grass also occur in locations surrounding the ponds. A reduction in shade from selected Turkey oaks should improve conditions for this species.
16. A review of any possible reduction in tree cover prior to works should be undertaken to ascertain the likely benefits. A reduction in tree cover is desirable in locations on Sandy Heath in order to increase the extent of sunny, sparsely vegetated habitat which previously made this site one of the best in London for its invertebrate fauna.
17. Detailed proposals are listed in Section 3 of the Work Plan, which is attached as Appendix 2.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

18. An estimated cost of £1500 based on current prices is required every 10 years to carry out sediment management works on the Sandy Heath ponds. These costs will be met from the Superintendent's local risk budget
19. A cost of an estimated £500 may occur in 2014 and subsequently every 4 years if an external consultant is required to carry out specialist dragonfly surveys on the Sandy Heath ponds. It is hoped that a combination of an experienced volunteer and trained City staff will fulfil this role by then.
20. All other activities included within the management work plans will be undertaken using the Heath local risk budgets. There is a reputational risk in not pro-actively managing the natural aspect of the Heath. Left unchecked the mosaic of diverse habitats for which the Heath is renowned would be lost to secondary woodland cover and ponds in filled.
21. These plans also support the City Bridge Trust work relating to the restoration of lowland heath habitat and control of invasive species.

### **Legal Implications**

22. The City has a legal duty under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 to preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect and state of the Heath.

### **Strategic Implications**

23. The proposals link to the theme in the Community Strategy to protect, promote and enhance our environment.
24. They also link to the Open Spaces Department Plan through the Strategic Aim to 'adopt sustainable working practices, promote the variety of life (biodiversity) and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future

generations’, and the Improvement Objective to ‘ensure that measures to promote sustainability and biodiversity are embedded in the Department’s work’.

25. These works also fulfil a number of Essential Actions in the Part 1 Management Plan, including:

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

*Manage the Heath’s ponds to enhance their nature conservation value*

*Manage the Heath to protect and enhance populations of plants and animals protected by law, identified as being Priority Species in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans, or identified in subsequent management planning as being worthy of protection.*

*Manage the Heath’s woodlands and scrub to enhance their nature conservation value and improve their distinctiveness*

## **Conclusion**

26. Ten-year management work plans are presented for two areas of the Heath: the Sandy Heath ponds and the Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites.
27. The establishment of the aims and practices for managing these areas will feed into the annual work programmes for the appropriate years. The management work plans are subject to review at the end of the 10-year period and sooner if unforeseen events occur.

## **Appendices:**

*Appendix 1: Draft 10-year Management Work Plan for Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites.*

*Appendix 2: Draft 10-year Management Work Plan for Sandy Heath ponds.*

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# Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites

Adrian Brooker

April 2012



# Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites

## 1.0. Site description



## 1.1 Location

Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites are both located on the western side of Spaniards road towards the west of Hampstead Heath. One patch is located in an area widely known as West Heath and the other on Sandy Heath. The centre of the Sandy Heath gorse site is at grid reference 526,354; 186,795 and covers an area of approximately 0.22 hectares. The centre of the Flagstaff gorse site is at grid reference 526,116; 186,335 and covers an area of approximately 0.2 hectares. The 2009 Hampstead Heath vegetation survey shows the two locations as being in compartments 1,179 and 1,199-1,201.

The compartment boundaries can be seen in figure 8 and 9. The Sandy gorse site is bordered by secondary woodland to the east and west with the Sandy ponds to the north and an open paddock to the south. The Flagstaff gorse site is bordered to the south by West Heath road and to the north and west by secondary woodland. To the east of the patch is an open grassy area containing the Flagstaff. A track runs through the centre of both patches with the Sandy track running north to south and the Flagstaff track running approximately east to west.

Both areas are unfenced and it is only the gorse itself which provides a barrier to access. The Sandy Heath site is on relatively level ground although the surrounding area is pitted and hollowed due to previous sand extraction and is several meters below the level of Spaniards road. The Flagstaff site is spread across a varied topography with a gradual slope downhill from east to west.

## 1.2 Geology, Soils, Hydrology

Both the Sandy and Flagstaff gorse sites are believed to be located on areas of Bagshot sand. The Sandy Heath site is situated on an area of level ground whilst the Flagstaff site gradually falls away from east to west with a height change of approximately 5m. The ground also falls away from north to south towards the road from the central path and is pitted and hollowed.

## 1.3 Ecology

Both sites are typified by the presence of European gorse in relatively extensive patches. Along with the Vale of Health site these are the only extensive gorse areas on the Heath. Gorse is a typical plant of heathland and with a relatively short lifespan (15 years) requires management in order to maintain its presence. Without active management scrub and then trees easily invade and the areas will succeed to woodland. Gorse provides nesting habitat for bird species such as long-tailed tit, blackcap and whitethroat which is of considerable local importance. Infrequent visitors such as stonechat nest in compact gorse and continued and improved management may encourage breeding.

The Sandy Heath gorse site has within its bounds 2 wild service trees which are uncommon on the Heath and are classed as ancient woodland indicators. Alder buckthorn also grows within the Sandy site and although planted it is also relatively uncommon on the Heath and is a larval food plant of the brimstone butterfly. A large suckering apple tree borders the Sandy site. A small number of planted junipers (planted in 2000) are present in one part of the Sandy area and broom frequently occurs throughout. A few plants of heather were present until recent years in the Sandy site but are no longer believed to be alive. Bracken occurs within the less dense sections of the Sandy Heath gorse and can cause shading problems for seedling regeneration.

Rabbits occur in both sites and can be detrimental for regeneration of gorse coppice stands and seedling growth, but may maintain open grassland areas in nearby areas.

**Figure 1:** Growth phases of Gorse. (Symes + Day, 2003<sup>1</sup>)

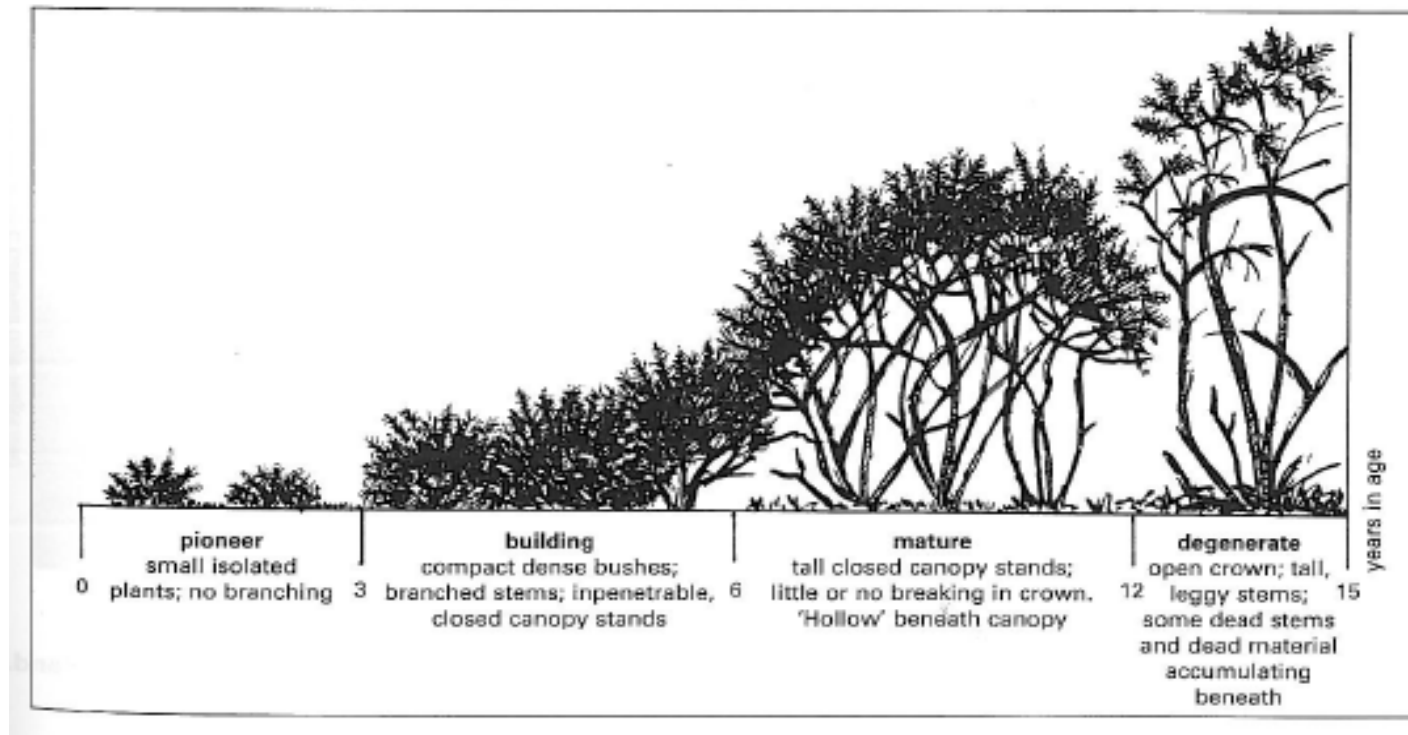


Figure 1 shows gorse reaching maturity between 6 and 12 years and then degenerating. In areas adjacent to woodland and other scrub the gorse may well be shaded out by sapling trees or engulfed by bramble well before this degenerate phase.

#### **1.4 Public and educational uses**

There is a low amount of public use in the vicinity of the Sandy Gorse patch. The track running through the patch is the main path joining Sandy road with Spaniards road and used mainly by walkers. There is very infrequent educational use of the area.

#### **1.5 History**

Both sites would have been much more open until the last 50 years or so with more extensive patches of grassland, bare ground and gorse scrub. The Sandy Heath site has developed from a barren landscape in 1867 due to the extensive sand digging in the area and has gradually developed into scrub and woodland through succession and reduction in grazing.

**Figure 2:** Photograph of the Sandy Heath area in 1867. Credit Hampstead Museum/Burgh House

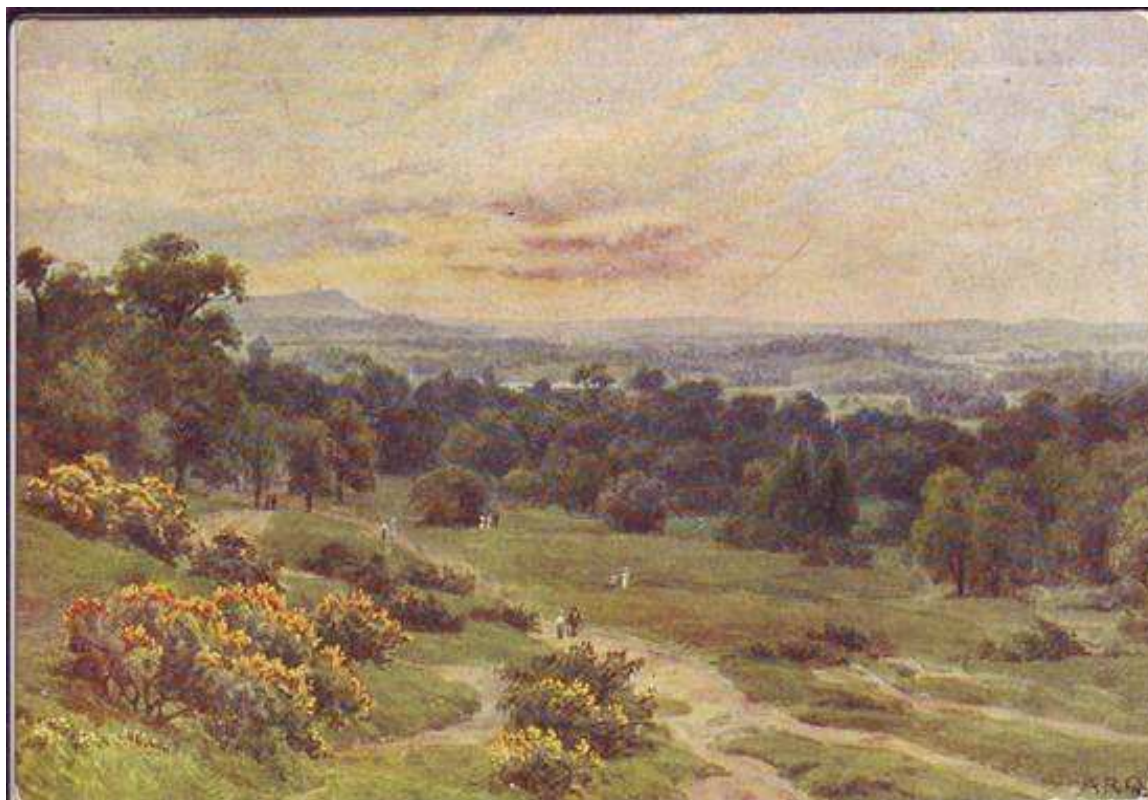


The area surrounding the Flagstaff was also a great deal more open until more recent times with figures 3 and 4 below from old postcards showing open areas of grassland and bare ground.

**Figure 3:** Postcard view from the Flagstaff towards Harrow in 1910. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson



**Figure 4** : Postcard painting view from Flagstaff towards Harrow in 1919. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson.



The above colour image indicates gorse growing in the vicinity of the current Flagstaff gorse patch in 1919.

The aerial photograph below gives further indication of the open and eroded ground in the vicinity of what is now the Flagstaff gorse patch.

**Figure 5**: Aerial photograph postcard of the Flagstaff gorse area looking towards Hampstead



Although no date is given for the above image it is believed to be in the region of 100 years old.

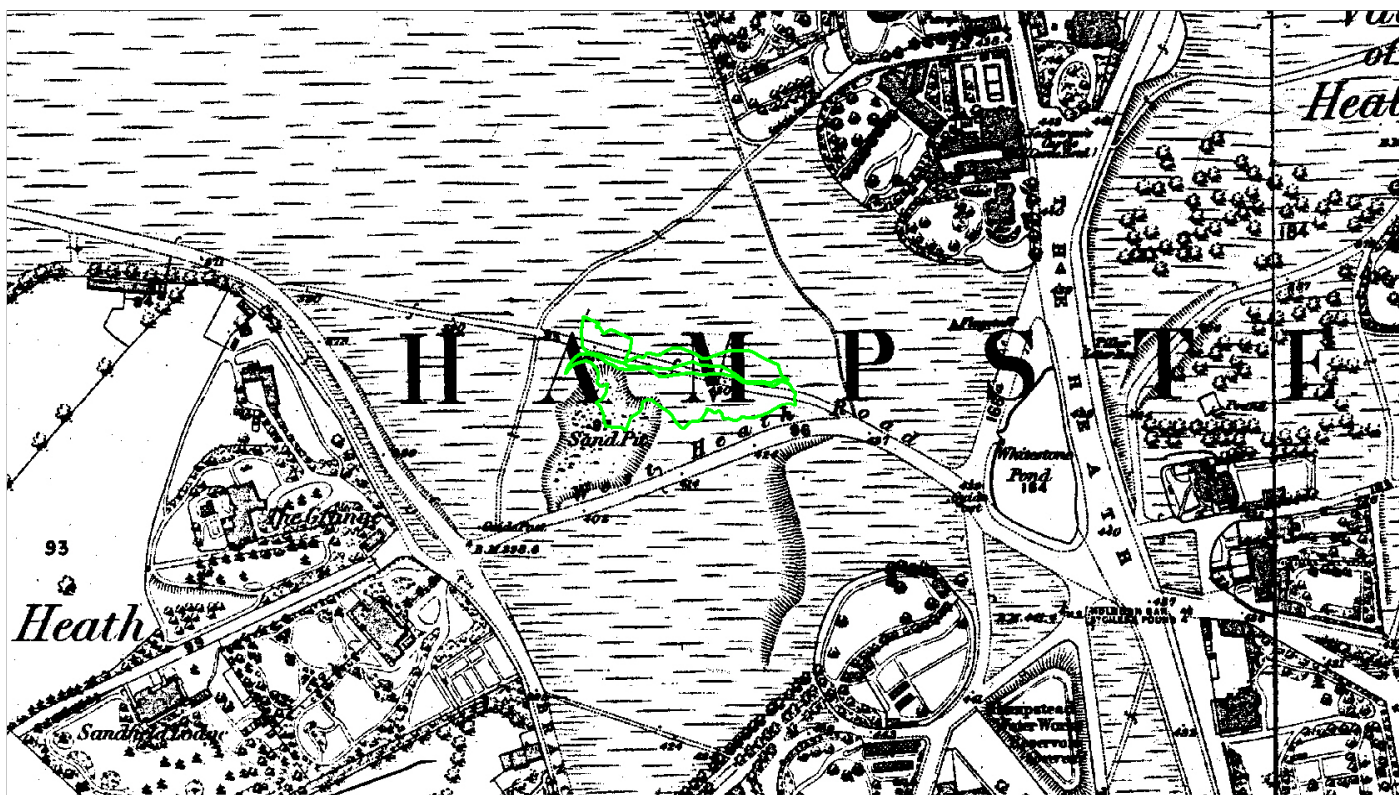
The area around the Flagstaff and Whitestone pond was also great deal more heavily frequented than today as can be shown in the postcard below. As well as human foot traffic, the area was also used for donkey rides. This is likely to be the main reason for the scarring shown above and would have maintained open ground and a patchwork of grassland and low scrub.

**Figure 6:** Whitestone pond postcard image. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson



The image below is a small section of an 1870 Ordnance Survey map of the Flagstaff area and shows the Flagstaff gorse site in green and indicates a large area annotated sand pit under this patch. This is assumed to indicate some form of sand extraction from the area. The map also shows a lack of trees marked in the area.

**Figure 7:** 1870 Ordnance survey map of the Hampstead area.



Both sites have been actively managed in the last 10 years with regular coppicing of the gorse on a 6-8 year rotation. Gorse seedlings taken from the site have also been grown on and used to re-establish gorse in open patches and other Heath sites. The area of gorse within the Sandy Heath site was expanded by 5% to the west in 2003 and then again by a further 5% in 2012. Junipers were planted in the Sandy Heath site in 2000.

The Flagstaff site has been expanded also by approximately 5% in the last 5 years through planting of propagated seedlings into open and eroded patches.

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

In the vicinity of the Sandy Heath gorse site in the pits and hollows there is erosion caused by bike riding, although only 2 relatively thin erosion scars run through and around the site. The gorse has previously been set alight and a more regularly coppiced fire break has been maintained along the main north-south track. In patches of less dense gorse, picnic debris has previously been found but the recent thicker gorse has prevented much of this.

The Flagstaff gorse patch is regularly frequented by 'cruising' men with large amounts of sexual litter left behind in open patches. The patch used to be criss-crossed with numerous scars and tracks preventing regrowth and causing erosion and accumulating sexual litter. A more regular coppice regime and planting of bare patches in recent years has allowed gorse to establish on previously open ground, although in a number of areas the establishment of gorse has been prevented through vandalism and continued use for sexual activity. A number of fires presumed deliberately started have occurred at the Flagstaff gorse site.

Both sites are bordered by secondary woodland and trees frequently seed in bare areas.

## **1.7 External influences**

The southern edge of the Flagstaff patch is adjacent to West Heath road so will suffer from some road pollution and littering.

## **2.0. Evaluation**

### **2.1 Natural landscape**

Lowland Heathland is a target for the London Biodiversity Action Plan and indeed the national BAP. Gorse is one such component of lowland heath and the Flagstaff and Sandy Heath sites are 2 of only 3 large patches of gorse to be found on the Heath. Gorse occurs in patches within the Heath's heather sites and in isolated clumps elsewhere but these isolated groups become difficult to manage and are easy to lose to scrub and then woodland. Opportunities exist in both areas to expand the current extent of gorse and ensure that this 'heathland' plant remains, providing more of the lowland heath habitat which gave Hampstead Heath its name. In general tree growth should be prevented within the gorse sites but isolated low growing trees or shrubs may provide bird singing perches and can be left in low numbers.

Gorse should be managed in rotation to ensure a mosaic of heights and age structures to provide a variety of conditions for invertebrates and birds. It is recommended that the gorse on both sites is managed on a 12 year rotation in line with the rotation timescale at the Vale of Health site. This rotation is subject to review and may require shortening if the gorse is found to be diminishing or being out competed. Suggested rotational section locations are given in Figures 8 and 9 but the exact pattern of coppicing may be altered if a section is seen to require earlier management.

The Wild service saplings although not a constituent of lowland Heath should be maintained due to their uncommon nature on the Heath



## **2.2 Public and educational uses**

Due to their location little educational use is possible but both areas provide an important interpretative link to lowland heath habitats through interpretative information.

## **2.3 History and built environment**

The geology of both areas is typical of conditions on which lowland heath occurs and provides a diminishing link with the Hampstead Heath of old. The presence of gorse on both sites should continue.

## **2.4 Overall vision**

**Maintain extensive patches of European gorse to provide lowland heath habitat for birds and invertebrates alike.**

Seek opportunities to expand areas of European gorse on Hampstead Heath.

Maintain wild service saplings within the Sandy Heath site.

Maintain a diverse age range of European gorse.

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

Policy 13: The existing areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance

Policy 14: The areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, will be extended where possible

Aspirational Policy 15: Areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, where appropriate will be restored and extended as functioning, sustainable habitats

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

### 3.0. Prescription and work programme

Figure 8: Flagstaff gorse site 2012

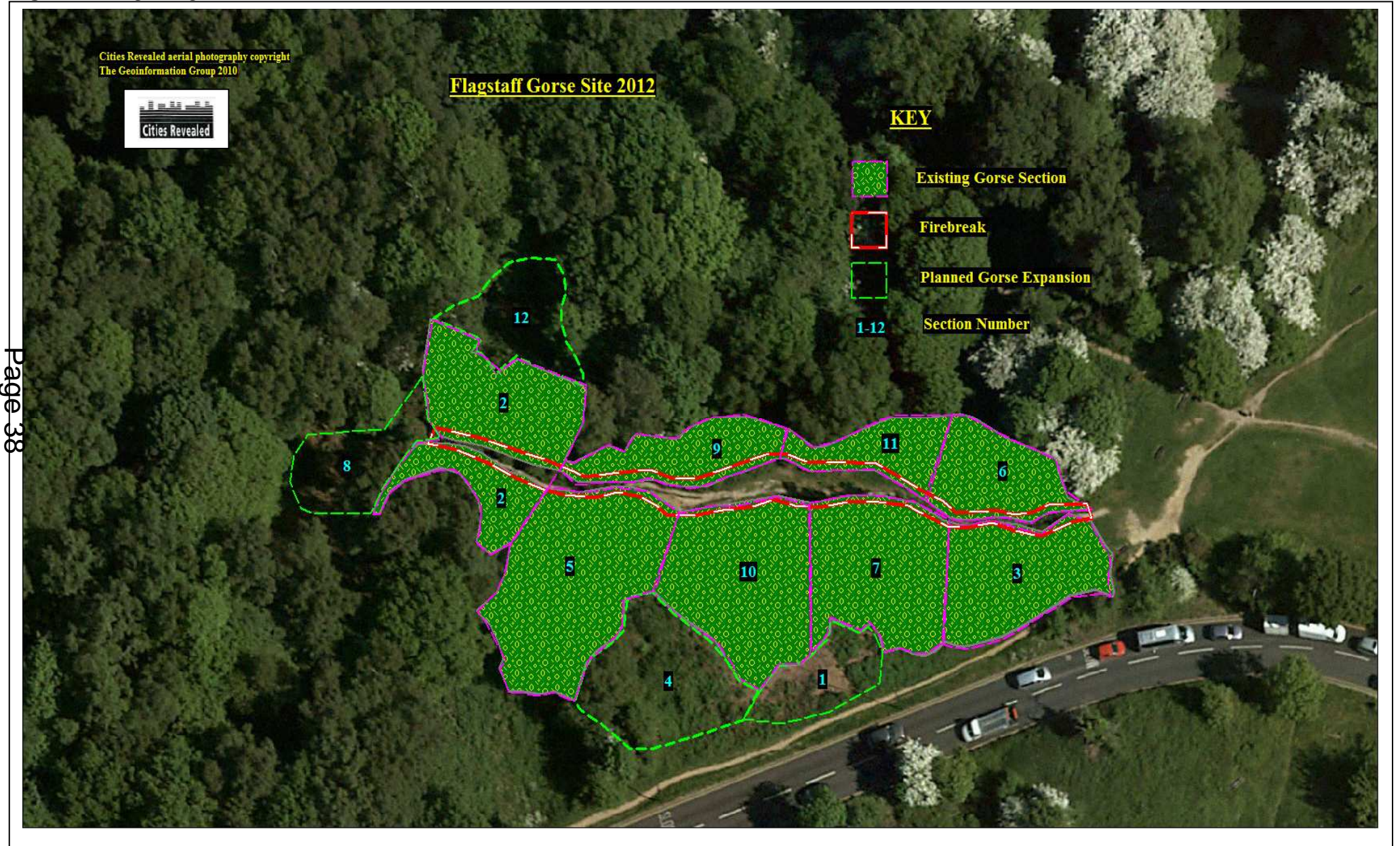
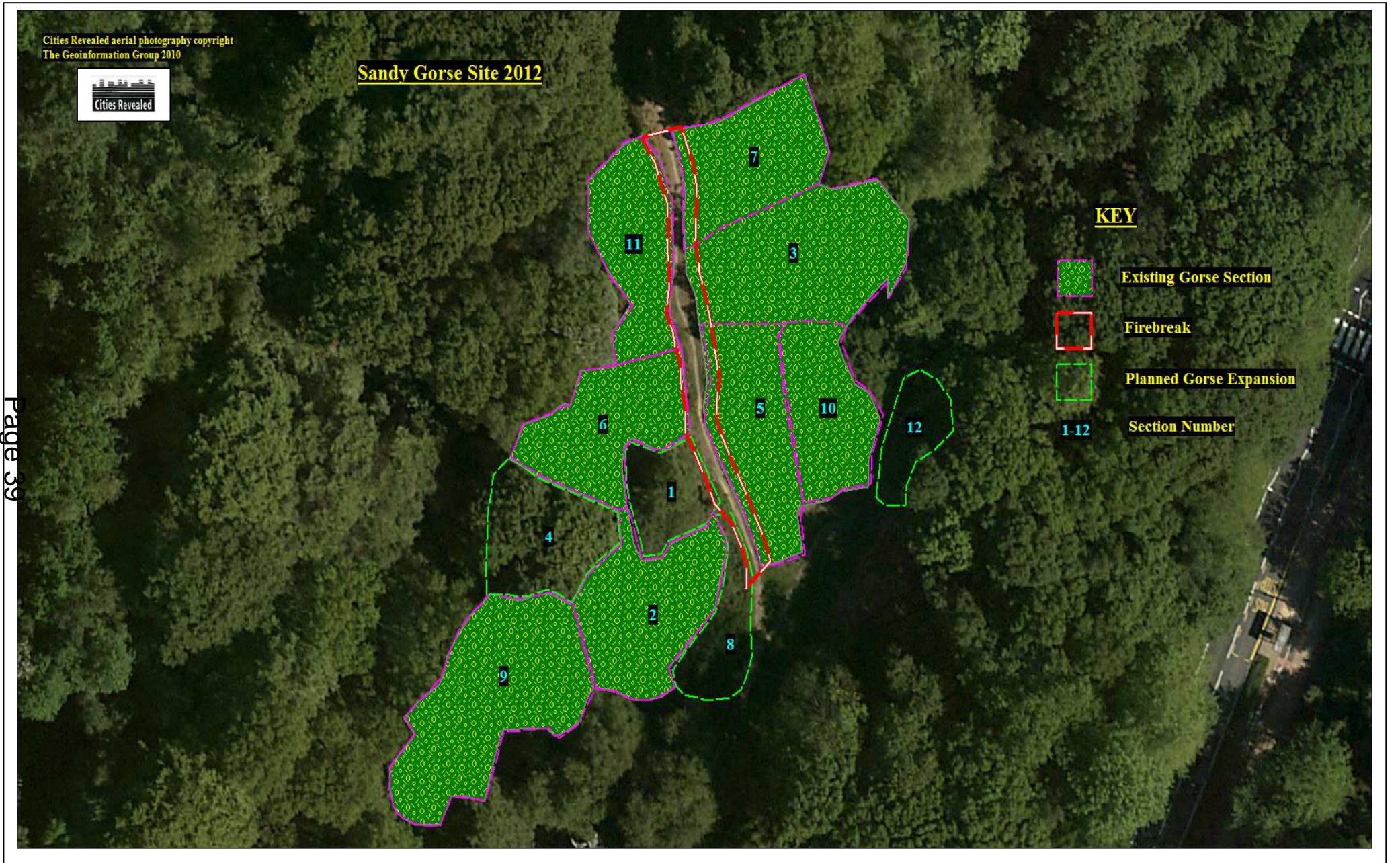



Figure 9: Sandy Heath gorse site 2012




### 3.1 Regular management tasks





#### Flagstaff and Sandy Heath gorse Site Objectives

Objective	Prescription	frequency	Month(s)	Years	Who by	Priority : low, medium or high
Rotational coppice of gorse to maintain vigour and different age ranges.  	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>1</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse. It should be noted that in year 1 for this section the area will require scrub/trees removal and the planting of gorse plants as described in the One-off tasks section.	Every 12 years	October-February	2013 +2025	Cons Team/ Volunteers	High
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>2</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2014 +2026		
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>3</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2015 +2027		
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>4</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse. It should be noted that in year 1 for this section the area will require scrub/trees removal and the planting of gorse plants as described in the One-off tasks section.			2016 +2028		
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>5</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2017 +2029		
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>6</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2018 +2030		

	Coppice gorse on a12 year rotation in Section <b>7</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2019 +2031		
	Coppice gorse on a12 year rotation in Section <b>8</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse. It should be noted that in year 1 for this section the area will require scrub/trees removal and the planting of gorse plants as described in the One-off tasks section.			2020 +2032		
	Coppice gorse on a12 year rotation in Section <b>9</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2021 +2033		
	Coppice gorse on a12 year rotation in Section <b>10</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2022 +2034		
	Coppice gorse on a12 year rotation in Section <b>11</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse.			2023 +2034		
	Coppice gorse on a 12 year rotation in Section <b>12</b> . Grub out seedling trees and remove bramble. Plant up any bare/dead patches with potted gorse. It should be noted that in year 1 for this section the area will require scrub/trees removal and the planting of gorse plants as described in the One-off tasks section.			2024 +2035		

 Maintain Firebreak	Coppice 1-2m strip of gorse from either side of main east-west track.	Every 2 Years	October-February	2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021	Cons Team/ Volunteers	High
Follow up maintenance on coppiced gorse sites	Section <b>1</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.	The year after any coppice work	Autumn or Winter	2014	Cons Team/ Volunteers	
	Section <b>2</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2015		
	Section <b>3</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2016		
	Section <b>4</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2017		
	Section <b>5</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2018		
	Section <b>6</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2019		
	Section <b>7</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2020		
	Section <b>8</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2021		
	Section <b>9</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2022		
	Section <b>10</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2023		
	Section <b>11</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2024		
	Section <b>12</b> - Revisit section to remove any returning scrub or bramble growth. Replant any failed gorse.			2013		

### 3.2 One-off tasks

Objective	Prescription	Month(s)	Year	Who by	Priority	Est. cost
 Expand area of gorse in section 1	Remove tree and scrub cover from area. Grub out any bramble. Rake and remove as much top soil as possible. Plant up with potted gorse.	October-February	2013	Cons Team	Medium	Local Budget
 Expand area of gorse in section 4	Remove tree and scrub cover from area. Grub out any bramble. Rake and remove as much top soil as possible. Plant up with potted gorse.	October-February	2016	Cons Team	Medium	Local Budget
 Expand area of gorse in section 8	Remove tree and scrub cover from area. Grub out any bramble. Rake and remove as much top soil as possible. Plant up with potted gorse.	October-February	2020	Cons Team	Medium	Local Budget
 Expand area of gorse in section 12	Remove tree and scrub cover from area. Grub out any bramble. Rake and remove as much top soil as possible. Plant up with potted gorse.	October-February	2024	Cons Team	Medium	Local Budget

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### 4.4 Review

Author	Date	Task	Observation, event or alteration to task

### 5.0 References

1. Symes, N. and Day, J. 2003. A practical guide to the restoration and management of Lowland Heathland. The RSPB, Sandy. P31.

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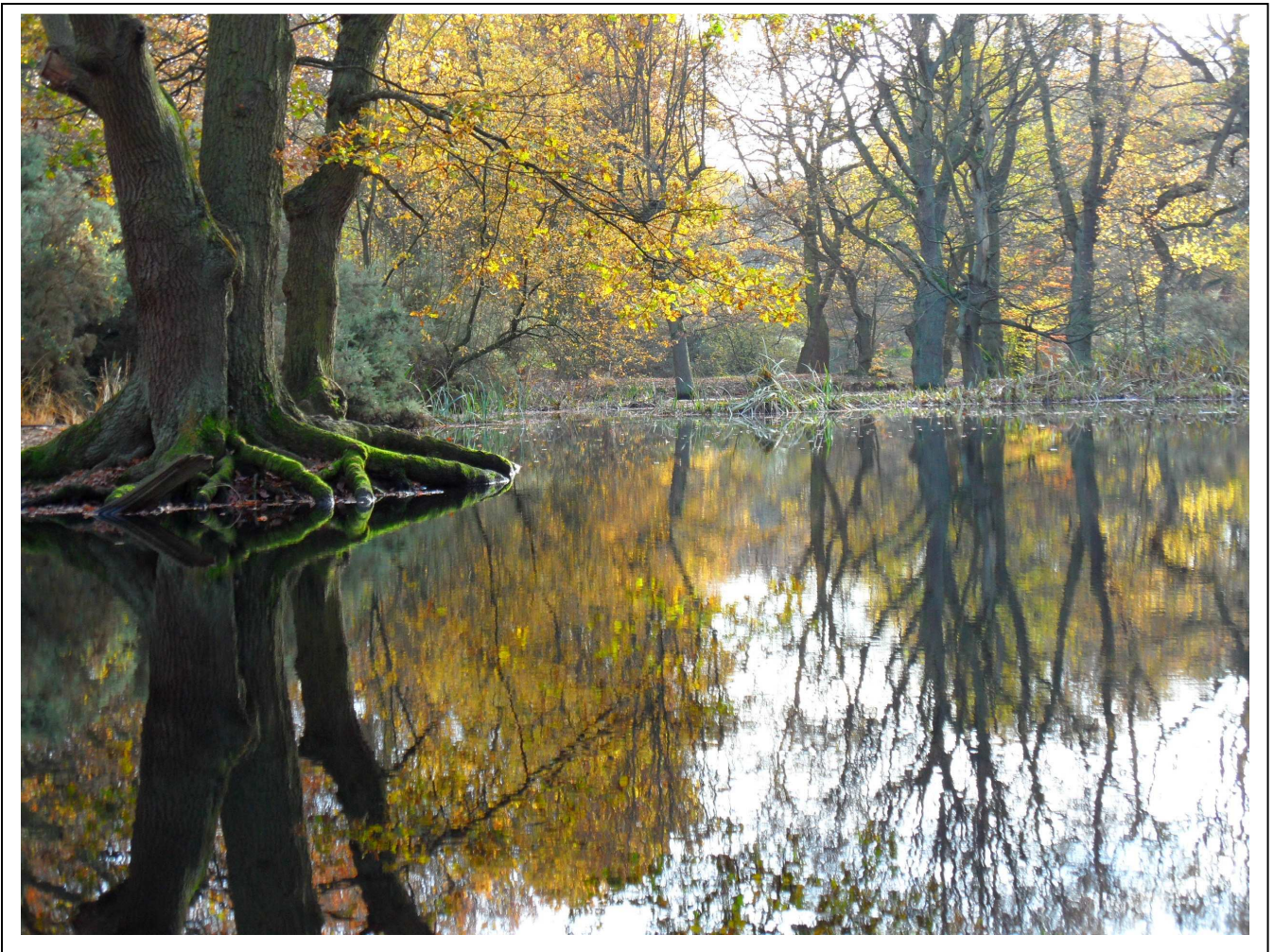


# Appendix 2

## Sandy Heath Ponds management work plan

Adrian Brooker

2012



# Sandy Heath ponds Management Work Plan

April 2012

## 1.0. Site description

Figure 1: Sandy compartment location



## **1.1 Location**

The Sandy ponds are located towards the north-west of Hampstead Heath near to Spaniards road. The centre of the main Sandy pond (No.2) is at grid reference 526,316; 186,950 and the compartment covers some 1.15 hectares. The 2009 Hampstead Heath vegetation survey shows the area as being mostly within compartment numbers 1,184 through to 1,186.

The compartment boundary can be seen in figure 5 and is bordered by a made (metalled) pathway then woodland to the north, houses to the west behind a fenceline and woodland to the eastern side leading up to a main road. The southern boundary is a mixture of gorse, woodland, and further south an open meadow.

The main routes to the pond are via the made pathway to the north leading to Spaniards road in one direction and north end way the other. A well used desire route runs to the east of the ponds, running south towards the Jack Straw's end of Spaniards road.

The ponds are not fenced and are accessible along most of their lengths.

The ground surrounding the ponds has an undulating topography largely due to previous sand extraction in the area.

## **1.2 Geology, Soils, Hydrology**

The Sandy ponds are located on an area of Bagshot sand. Although sand is usually very permeable the ponds are formed on an Iron pan<sup>1</sup> and are not spring or stream fed. As Bagshot sand has very heavy iron content, iron oxide has helped in transforming the sand into a hard crust of sandstone.

The main No.2 pond is the deepest at up to 0.6m in places with the others suffering from seasonal drying out, often containing no standing water.

## 1.3 Ecology

The habitats within the compartment largely consist of 4 ponds or pools with large shading trees surrounding them. A small area of acid grassland is also present adjacent to No.4 pond. The area available for acid grassland species is limited by the presence of the surrounding tree cover. The ground under the tree cover is largely barren although small amounts of wavy hair grass survive in places. The area surrounding the main No.2 pond is particularly bare due to shade and the erosive effects of visitors. The distribution of some of these habitats is shown in figure 5 in section 3.0.

### General pond information

Pond 1: 275 sq.m. A shallow pond with yellow flag iris, bogbean and reed sweet grass. The pond often has a covering of duckweed and has a number of coppiced willows along its bank.

Pond 2: The largest of the Sandy ponds covering 1720 square metres. There is a large amount of shading tree cover with a stand of semi-mature oaks growing in the water to the southern end. A small area of emergent/marginal flag iris is present along eastern edge. A band of common gorse also grows along the eastern edge interspersed with sapling birch trees. An island of iris exists to the south of the pond with a number of young birches growing from the centre. The pond is frequently covered with greater duckweed throughout the summer. Rudd and smooth newts have been recorded in the pond. A heron is often present and up to 40 mandarin ducks have previously been recorded in the winter months.

Pond 3: 106 sq.m. This pond is often merely a muddy crater and is very shaded with no emergent vegetation.

Pond 4: 380 sq.m. This pond has a relatively open aspect, and is heavily vegetated with soft rush, iris and bogbean. Azolla commonly covers the water surface. An uncommon and interesting liverwort species *Riccia fluitans* is also present in the pond. Bog myrtle has been planted around the edge of this pond and coppiced willow is frequent to the western edge. This pond is also a major breeding ground for common frogs with up to 300 clumps of spawn having been recorded here.

### Flora

A variety of flora is associated with the area including plants deliberately introduced including bog myrtle and creeping willow and invasive floating aquatics such as azolla and duckweed.

Bogbean and flag iris are common in and around the ponds, with bogbean covering large areas of No.1 and No.4 ponds.

Other marginal plants of interest found include trifid bur-marigold, gipsywort and marsh cinquefoil. Large amount of soft rush grow in the No.4 pond as does an uncommon and interesting liverwort species<sup>2</sup> *Riccia fluitans*.

Wavy hair grass occurs in small patches in the brighter areas surrounding the pond and in the wider Sandy area as does a small patch of heather on the margins of the No.1 pond. A larger patch of grassland is located to the south of the No.4 pond which was previously scrub in 2008.

Pyramidal orchid was found in 1997 and 1999 but has not been recorded since.

### Fauna

The Sandy ponds have been a major breeding ground for frogs. The frog spawn records show 300 clumps in 2007; 231 in 2008; 210 in 2009; 160 in 2010 and 111 in 2011. The majority of this spawn was found in the No.4 pond. This decline is possibly due to a drying out of the pond as vegetation expands.

Lots of smooth newt adults were found during duckweed removal in 2008 on the large Sandy No.2 pond.

Grey wagtails are often seen around the main pond edge and a heron often fishes on the pond. In the winter months up to 40 mandarin ducks have been observed on the ponds.

A dozen or so native rudd were found during duckweed removal in 2008 and occasional introductions of goldfish species have occurred.

Seven species of dragonfly have been recorded on the ponds during monitoring work in 2007 and 2008. Those were the large red damselfly, azure damselfly, southern hawker, emperor dragonfly, common darter, blue-tailed damselfly and brown hawker. Exuviae of southern hawker dragonflies were found in both years proving recent breeding.

According to Alan Reynolds the presence of duckweed and North American water fern will act as a significant deterrent to dragonflies as will a lack of open water in general. (Alan Reynolds<sup>3</sup>)

The following invertebrate information is from City commissioned reports carried out by Dan Hackett<sup>4</sup> Three Nb species of invertebrate (*Cercyon sternalis*-water scavenger beetle, *Chaetarthria seminulum*-a tiny water beetle and *Enochrus melanocephalus*- a water beetle which frequents silt ponds) have previously been recorded from the Sandy Heath ponds during survey work). An Nb species is one which is found in only 31-100 Km squares nationally. A 4<sup>th</sup> Nb species *Oxypoda spectabilis*-a rove beetle has also been recorded but no information as to the location is given.

According to a survey carried out by invertebrate specialist Dan Hackett in 2006 *Geotrupes pyrenaeus*, a Notable A species (Na: found in less than 40 10Km squares nationally), has been found in dry sandy places on the Heath. This and other species such as the minotaur beetle and robber-flies would benefit from more dry, sunny sparsely vegetated habitat which can be found on sandy soils such as around the sandy ponds. It is thought that full tree cover now present on the majority of the site has been detrimental to the invertebrate fauna which was once considered one of the best in London in 1948 (Hackett, 2006).

#### 1.4 Public and educational uses

The ponds although lightly visited are used by dogs to swim in. The adjacent areas are often used by bike riders contrary to Byelaws. The area has been used to film in due to its attractive setting.

#### 1.5 History

The topography of Sandy Heath is largely the result of extensive sand digging. According to Farmer (1984<sup>5</sup>) in 1867 30 cartloads of sand a day were being removed from Sandy Heath and some of the sand pits were 25ft deep before this part of the Heath became public property in 1871. The sandy road running adjacent to the ponds was closed to motor traffic in 1924.

**Figure 2:** Photograph of the Sandy Heath area in 1867. Credit Hampstead Museum/Burgh house



The photograph in Figure 2 above is believed to show the Sandy Heath area looking towards the firs near the Spaniards Inn after sand extraction from the area.

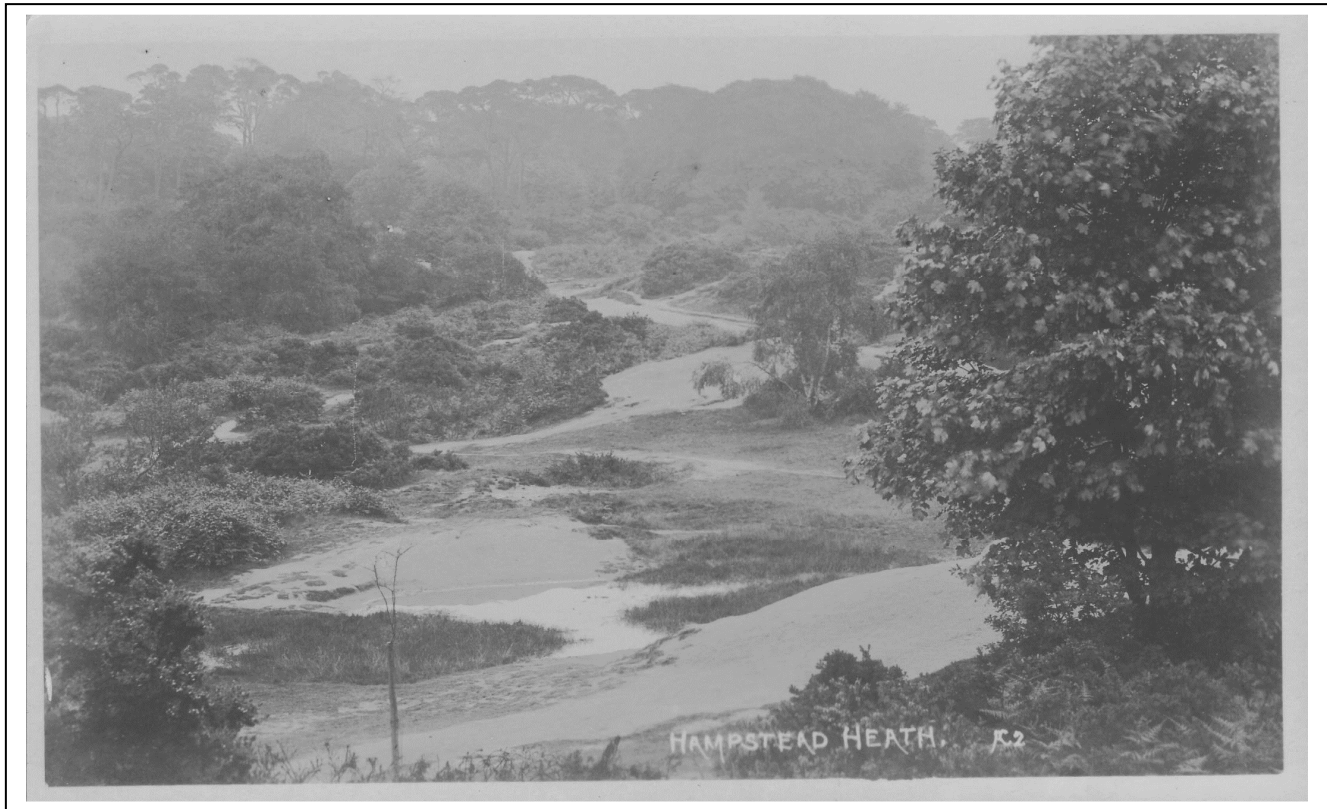
Although difficult to be sure, the image in Figure 3 below is believed to be of a similar location with Spaniards road on the right in both images. This image shows the area beginning to develop trees and scrub.

**Figure 3:** Old postcard image believed to be of the Sandy Heath area. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson.



Figure 4 below, although also difficult to confirm, is believed to be of the Sandy Heath area and shows a small pool in the foreground along with open areas of grassland and bare ground. Although already in the process of scrubbing up, this type of habitat is the kind suitable for some of the specialist invertebrate associated with sandy soils mentioned in section 1.3

**Figure 4:** Old postcard image believed to be of the Sandy Heath area. Courtesy of Michael Hammerson.



Selected coppicing has taken place around the ponds in recent years and scrub encroachment regularly abated. An area of grassland was created adjacent to No.4 pond in 2008 through the removal of scrub and tree cover. Bog myrtle and creeping willow were introduced to No.4 Sandy pond in the 1990's.

The north most section of Sandy No.2 pond was cleared of sediment accumulation by an external contractor in April 2012.

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

Apart from the main No.2 pond the others suffer from seasonal drying out, and often contain no standing water.

### **1.7 External influences**

There is quite a large amount of off-road biking that goes on in the adjacent area and although the effects on the ponds are minimal there is likely to be some erosion problems in the surrounding grassland.

## **2.0. Evaluation**

### **2.1 Natural landscape**

The geology of the Sandy ponds area is one of Bagshot sands which tend to result in free draining soils and acidic conditions which are typical conditions for the development of acid grassland and heathland species. These conditions are found only on limited areas of the Heath and form a distinct flora of plants such as wavy hair grass. A reduction in tree cover would be beneficial for the development of acid grassland and the lighter vegetated conditions suitable for fauna such as robber-flies. This reduction would also allow further emergent pond vegetation to develop.

There is a great deal of tree cover adjacent to the Sandy ponds but selected non-native species such as turkey oak could be removed to provide conditions for grassland to develop. This would also reduce the sediment build up from leaf litter in the ponds themselves. It may be however that other locations within the Sandy Heath area may be better suited for the initial development of acid grassland. The mature native trees surrounding the ponds should remain but natural processes may allow for future pond or grassland development.

The Sandy ponds are unique on the Heath as they have arisen in geological conditions which would not normally be associated with wet conditions. They provide habitat for amphibians and dragonflies and should not be allowed to completely infill with vegetation or sediment. Sandy pond No.4 currently provides conditions suitable for over 100 spawning female frogs and is one of the major breeding sites on the Heath despite its small size.

Alan Reynolds (2007) believes that with the removal of duckweed, water fern and the creation of more open water then it may be possible to attract blue-tailed and common blue damselflies and the dragonfly species migrant hawkler and ruddy darter.

## **2.2 Public and educational uses**

The Sandy ponds are located in an attractive setting but the continued use of the area for biking is detrimental to the ground flora and scrub layer in the adjacent area. Many large logs and branches are thrown into the Sandy ponds, but the use of the ponds by dogs is not thought to be having a significant detrimental effect at this time especially as the surrounding tree growth restricts the growth of marginal vegetation

## **2.3 History and built environment**

The history of the ponds being in an area where sand and gravel were extracted is of interest. The ponds are thought to have been created from marshland some 40 years ago. This continuity of ponds should remain and succession to marsh should be prevented. Care should be taken that any management work on the ponds does not damage the layer of iron pan and render the ponds unable to hold water.

## **2.4 Vision**

**To manage the ponds as shallow well vegetated pools providing habitat for in particular amphibians and dragonflies.**

- Maintain the ponds to provide habitat for amphibians and emergent plants.
- Maintain open water particularly on No.4 pond.
- Improve the marginal vegetation in particular in No.3 pond.
- Maintain and increase the extent of acid grassland adjacent to the ponds.
- Reduce invasive floating aquatics such as azolla and duckweed.
- Coppice of bankside vegetation rotationally to prevent scrub encroachment.
- Aspirational reduction of shade from major trees particularly Turkey oaks.



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

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

- HY1** Manage the Heath's ponds and watercourses to enhance their nature conservation value, reduce flood risk and address water quality problems.
- NL4** Manage the Heath's woodlands and scrub to enhance their nature conservation value and improve their distinctiveness
- NL5** Manage the Heath's ponds to enhance their nature conservation value.

The following policies from the Natural Landscape chapter of the Part II Management Plan for the Heath are particularly relevant to the Sandy Ponds

**Policy 1:** The Heath will be managed to maintain and preserve its unique wild and natural aspects and its ecology, and enable quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world by visitors

**Policy 13:** The existing areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance

**Policy 14:** The areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, will be extended where possible

**Aspirational Policy 15:** Areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, where appropriate will be restored and extended as functioning, sustainable habitats

**Policy 34:** The spread of scrub will generally be limited and will be managed to prevent it becoming woodland

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

**Policy 38:** A range of pond plants will be reintroduced to as many ponds as possible. Work will initially trial various planting techniques and will be on a phased basis in accordance with priorities set by the overall strategy for ponds and watercourses

**Policy 39:** Opportunities will be sought to reduce shading of ponds by bank-side trees and shrubs and thereby enhance the visual amenity of some ponds, improve water quality, facilitate the growth of marginal flora and encourage dragonflies and other fauna

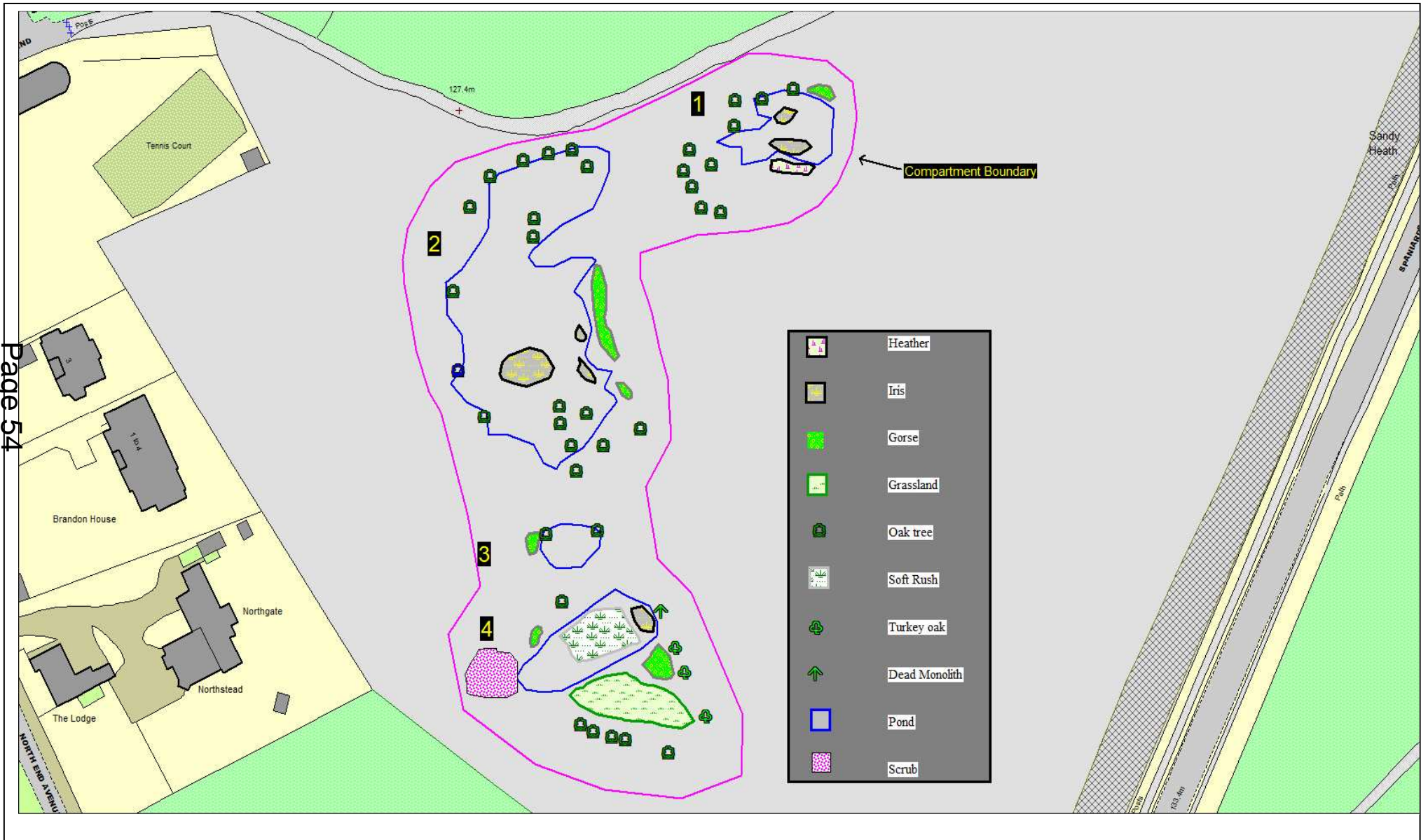
**Policy 41:** Ponds will be dredged as and when necessary

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

**Policy 50:** Selected invasive and inappropriate species will be controlled





### 3.0 Prescription and Work Programme

Figure 5: Sandy habitats and prescription



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### 3.1 Regular management tasks

Objective	Prescription	frequency	Month(s)	Years	Who by	Priority: low, medium or high
Remove duckweed	Boom and net duckweed from pond No.2 surface when covering greater than 25% of pond surface.	As required	Summer	As and when	Cons Team	Medium
Remove Azolla	Trial the removal of azolla through the application of the azolla weevil. This introduction should only be applied once the azolla has established large patches.	As required	Summer	As and when	Ecologist/ Ranger team leader	Medium
 Maintain extent of acid grassland.	Cut Grassland area adjacent and south of No.4 pond. Remove arisings.	Twice in year	May + August	Yearly	Cons Team	Medium
Rotational coppice of bankside vegetation.  	Selectively coppice or remove tree/gorse and scrub cover from the edge of No.1 pond to prevent shading and establishment of large trees.	Every 4 years	Winter	2015	Cons Team/ Volunteers	Medium
	Selectively coppice or remove tree/gorse and scrub cover from the edge of No.2 pond to prevent shading and establishment of large trees.			2014		
	Selectively coppice or remove tree/gorse and scrub cover from the edge of No.3 pond to prevent shading and establishment of large trees.			2013		
	Selectively coppice or remove tree/gorse and scrub cover from the edge of No.4 pond to prevent shading and establishment of large trees.			2012		
 Prevent scrub encroachment onto pond area.	Cut back scrub 3m from the pond edge west of No.4 pond.	Every 4 years	Winter	Yearly	Cons Team/ Volunteers	Medium
 Maintain open water Sandy ponds No's 1, 3 + 4	Remove selected vegetation and sediment to maintain open water and amphibian breeding habitat. Best carried out when low water levels. It is intended that this be	Minimum every 5 years.	June/July or Autumn	2012, 2017, 2022	Cons Team/ Ecologist/ Volunteers	High

	carried out manually. However this is subject to review and may require mechanical assistance.					
Amphibian Survey	Carry out amphibian survey on the 4 ponds	Twice	April-May	Yearly	Ecologist	Medium
Dragonfly Survey	Carry out dragonfly survey on the 4 ponds	Every 4 years	May-August	2014	Ecologist/ Contractor	Medium

### 3.2 One-off tasks

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Objective	Prescription	Month(s)	Year	Who by	Priority	Est. cost
Maintain open water  Sandy pond No.2	Remove sediment from 25-50% of pond area. Remove sediment from selected areas every 10 years or sooner if required.	Early spring/autumn	2022	Cons Team/ Contractor	High	£1500 at 2012 prices.
Reduce shade from around pond no.3. Establish vegetation.	Remove small oak tree and willow growing adjacent to the pond. Soft rush from the adjacent no.3 pond may establish well in the improved light conditions. Currently there is no vegetation present.	Spring/autumn	2013	Cons Team	Low	Local Budget
Increase extent of emergent and aquatic vegetation in pond 2	Plant emergent vegetation into suitable less shaded areas on the pond margins.	September /October	2013	Cons Team	Low	Local Budget
<b>For Review:</b> Lift lower limbs of oak adjacent to pond 2 to allow planting and establishment of marginal vegetation. 	Lift lower limbs of native oak tree to the west of pond 2. Plant in iris along the pond fringes. A review of this should be carried out in 2013 as to the likely gain from this task.	Winter	2014	Cons Team	Low	Local Budget
<b>For Review:</b>  Aspirational Remove	Remove 2 large and 1 small Turkey Oak trees to increase extent of acidic grassland and reduce shade to area. Although they are non-native trees. This task	Winter	2013	Cons Team	Low	Local Budget

Turkey Oaks to reduce shade	should be reviewed prior to works as to the likely benefits to be gained.					
Remove trees from centre of large Iris bed in pond No.2 to prevent shading	Remove birch trees growing in the centre of the Iris bed.	Autumn/ Winter	2013	Cons Team	Medium	Local Budget

#### 4.0 Review

To be filled in as time goes by.

Author	Date	Task	Observation, event or alteration to task

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#### 5.0 References

1. Wolton, D; McDowall, 1998; Hampstead Heath, The walkers guide. page18.
2. Field Bryology No.98 Jun 2009
3. Reynolds A 2007/08: H:\ecology\monitoring\odonata\Alan Reynolds work\dragonfly survey reports
4. Dan Hackett 2007. H:\ecology\Data on the Heath\other inverts\dan hackett\Reports 2007-8
5. Farmer A, 1984, Hampstead Heath, Historical Publications Ltd, page 94.

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<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	9 July 2012	
<b>Subject:</b> Management Work Plan for Pryor's Field	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Decision</b>	
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report presents a detailed work plan for Pryor's Field</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>That the Consultative Committee be invited to submit their views on the detailed management plan for this area of the Heath.</p>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. In order to manage the Heath, it is necessary to prepare detailed documents stating how each area will be managed, in line with established policies. Such documents will then feed into the annual work programme. Management work plans are being prepared for key areas of the Heath; they will last for ten years, and will be reviewed thereafter, although alterations may be necessary sooner if unforeseen events arise.
2. Plans for the Upper Vale of Heath, the Viaduct Pond, Seven Sisters ponds, Third Hedge, Springett's Wood, Orchard and South Meadow areas have previously been presented to the Management and Consultative Committees. Those for the Sandy Heath and Flagstaff Gorse Sites have been presented to the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. This report presents one more plan, for Pryor's Field.

### **Proposals**

3. Pryor's Field is a relatively extensive (8.4 hectares) area north of East Heath car park. Predominantly grassland, it is surrounded by trees or shrubs. Large areas are dominated by creeping thistle or hogweed, and the Field also contains patches of white Michaelmas daisy and bramble.
4. The Field is an important portal to the Heath and is popular for dog walking and sitting. It is valuable for the natural landscape and its appreciation, and has a particular importance for birds, especially for whitethroats, which are uncommon in urban London and which breed in several of the bramble patches.
5. It is proposed to retain the current character of the Field.
6. The report contains information on the spread or otherwise of hogweed, bramble and white Michaelmas daisy. It would be ideal to reduce the areas dominated by creeping thistle and hogweed. Unfortunately these species are difficult to control, but it is proposed to continue curtailing their spread into the remaining grassland. Measures are also proposed to stop further spread of bramble, and to reduce its extent in certain places.
7. Work is proposed which will thicken the shrub barriers between the Field and East Heath Road and the Mixed Bathing Pond.
8. Detailed proposals are listed in Section 3 of the Work Plan, which is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

9. Activities included within the management work plan will be undertaken using the Heath local risk budgets. There is a reputational risk in not proactively managing the natural aspect of the Heath. Left unchecked the mosaic of diverse habitats for which the Heath is renowned would be lost to secondary woodland cover.

### **Legal Implications**

10. The City has a legal duty under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 to preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect and state of the Heath.

### **Strategic Implications**

11. The proposals link to the theme in the Community Strategy to protect, promote and enhance our environment.



12. They also link to the Open Spaces Department Business Plan through the Strategic Aim to ‘deliver sustainable working practices to promote the variety of life and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future generations’, and the Improvement Objective to ‘ensure that measures to promote sustainability, biodiversity and heritage are embedded in the Department’s work’.
13. These works also fulfil a number of Essential Actions in the Part 1 Management Plan, including:

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

*Manage the Heath’s grasslands to enhance their nature conservation and aesthetic value*

*Manage the Heath to protect and enhance populations of plants and animals protected by law, identified as being Priority Species in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans, or identified in subsequent management planning as being worthy of protection.*

*Manage the Heath’s woodlands and scrub to enhance their nature conservation value and improve their distinctiveness*

## **Conclusion**

14. A Ten-year management work plan is presented for Pryor’s Field.
15. The establishment of the aims and practices for managing this area will feed into the annual work programmes for the appropriate years. The management work plan is subject to review at the end of the 10-year period and sooner if unforeseen events occur.

## **Appendices:**

*Appendix 1: Draft Management Work Plan for Pryor’s Field*

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Annex 1

# Pryor's Field Management Work Plan

Meg Game and Rob Renwick

June 2012



# **Pryor's Field Management Work Plan**

## **Meg Game and Rob Renwick**

### **2012**

## **1.0. Site description**

### **1.1 Location**

Pryor's Field lies near South End Green, and is bordered by East Heath car park, Lime Avenue, East Heath Road and the lower Hampstead stream and the Mixed Bathing pond. It extends to 8.4 hectares and is centred on grid reference 527,029 186,159. Map 1 shows its location and boundary.

### **1.2 Geology, Soils and Hydrology**

For the most part, Pryor's Field faces south or south-east, dropping from about 97m in the north-west corner to 80m in the south-east. According to the British Geological Survey<sup>1</sup>, most of the area is underlain by the Claygate Beds, with a band of London Clay along the southern and eastern edges. There is a damp patch in a hollow in the centre of the field located, according to the geological map, at a junction of the Claygate and London Clay Beds. Its origin stems from water flowing down through the more porous Claygate Beds until it meets the underlying impervious London Clay, where some of it spreads horizontally, eventually seeping out at the surface.

### **1.3 Ecology**

Pryor's Field is largely open grassland, but also included in this compartment are belts and patches of scrub, trees, a damp patch, and an area of woodland dipping down along the north-western edge to Lime Avenue and towards the Hampstead Stream near the northern corner.

Map 2 (page 5) shows an overview of habitats and species; the base air photo dates from May 2010.

## **Habitats**

### Grassland

The open grassland of Pryor's Field faces roughly south-east, so is well warmed by the sun. It is a complex mosaic of habitats.

Most of the lower, southern grassland is of very little botanical diversity. Further north the soil is less fertile and the grassland is dominated by common bent, a fine-leaved grass. Similar grassland also occurs in the south-west of Pryor's Field. Ant hills are common in these areas and sheep's sorrel and lesser stitchwort grow on some of them. There are patches of heath grass in the centre of the field and a small but thriving colony of tormentil in the north, growing among soft rush. Both indicate acidic soils. Vaughan<sup>2</sup>, in about 1999, reported heath bedstraw in Pryor's Field, but this has not been reported more recently. Some of the grassland on the northern, flatter, ground is bare, due to overuse: it is used by people for physical training.

**Map 1: boundary of Pryor's Field and position in relation to Hampstead Heath**

Cities Revealed photography copyright  
The GeoInformation Group, 2010



Large areas of the Field which were formerly grassy are now dominated by a mix of grasses and invasive plants. These latter comprise hogweed, creeping thistle, rosebay willow-herb and bramble, which are native, and pink or white Michaelmas daisies, which are not native to Britain. Several patches of soft rush grow near the northern edge.

An area where the ground is damper contains much reed sweet-grass, creeping thistle, common nettle and purple loosestrife.

A small section of this compartment in the extreme north, separated from the main part of Pryor's Field, comprises an area of long grass part-shaded by trees.

A long-standing colony of common spotted orchid grows within the Pryor's Field compartment.

### Scrub and trees

Much of the western side of Pryor's Field fronts East Heath Road or The Pryors flats. At the north end of this edge is a mixture of trees and scrub. Further south, a band of scrub forms a barrier between the road and grassland, with much hogweed, bramble and regenerating elm scrub on the field side. Further south again, the Field is bounded by ash, hornbeam, birch and crack willow trees, mixed in with hawthorn, sapling trees and bramble. In places the vegetation is becoming 'leggy', revealing the road from the grassland.

Scrubby woodland edge habitat lies at the northern edge of the main grassland, with some gorse and planted heather. A steep tree-covered slope then leads down to Lime Avenue, or to the Hampstead stream at the north-east corner of Pryor's Field. This is dominated by English oak, with lesser amounts of holly, yew, hawthorn, rowan and sycamore saplings, with a sparse cover of bramble beneath the trees.

The eastern edge of Pryor's Field consists of a dense barrier of scrub and trees adjoining the fenced enclosure of the Mixed Bathing Pond. The southern end of this consists of a dense, wide barrier of blackthorn and some hawthorn, both of which have grown 'leggy' and bare beneath, allowing people to create paths through it and litter to collect. Bramble grows alongside this scrubby edge.

There are several clumps of trees or isolated specimens within the main grassland area and near the south-west corner. A band of planted willows and white poplars lies along the southern edge of the field, and there is a ditch between this and the adjacent car park. Bramble surrounds the clumps of trees or forms individual patches.

### Fauna

Whitethroats breed regularly in patches of bramble in the grassy areas of Pryor's Field. Four pairs nested in 2011 according to Sash Tusa. Breeding whitethroats require open habitat with bushes or patches of scrub. Whitethroats have often nested over recent years in the central bramble area (patch 1 on Map 2). Green woodpeckers and kestrels are regularly seen in Pryor's Field, the former enjoying ants in the grassland and the latter hunting for field voles and other small prey. Seeds of thistles provide autumn food for seed-eating birds, particularly goldfinches, and the patches of thistle and bramble are good places to look for birds on passage, such as stonechat. The scrub on the western side is good for many small birds, including blackcap.

Yellow meadow ant colonies have created large ant hills in several areas of the Field, notably the north-west and south-west, as indicated on Map 2. Those in the north-west are being damaged by overuse of the area; it is not known how active they are. The ant hills in the south-west are generally larger, but are being engulfed by bramble.

A white-letter hairstreak butterfly was seen not far from Pryor's Field in 2011. A patch of elm suckers near the western boundary of the Field, south of The Priors flats, may

have supported a colony of this butterfly but it is not known if it continues to do so. Skippers are seen along the northern fringe of the grassland, and gatekeeper and meadow brown butterflies probably breed in the grassland. Larvae which may be those of stag beetle or lesser stag beetle inhabit the wooden posts running alongside the footpath beside East Heath road.

Two notable weevils were found by Dan Hackett in 2007 in clumps of thistle grading into bramble on a southerly slope. These were *Rhynocyllis conicus*, a 6-7mm long black weevil covered in tufts of grey hair, and *Trichosirocalus horridus*, a reddish 4.5mm dumpy weevil with prominent flat scales all over it. The spiders *Tapinocyboides pygmaeus*, *Lepthyphantes insignis* and *Europyrys aequipes* have been recorded here by Edward Milner.

# Pryor's Field Management Plan Map 2

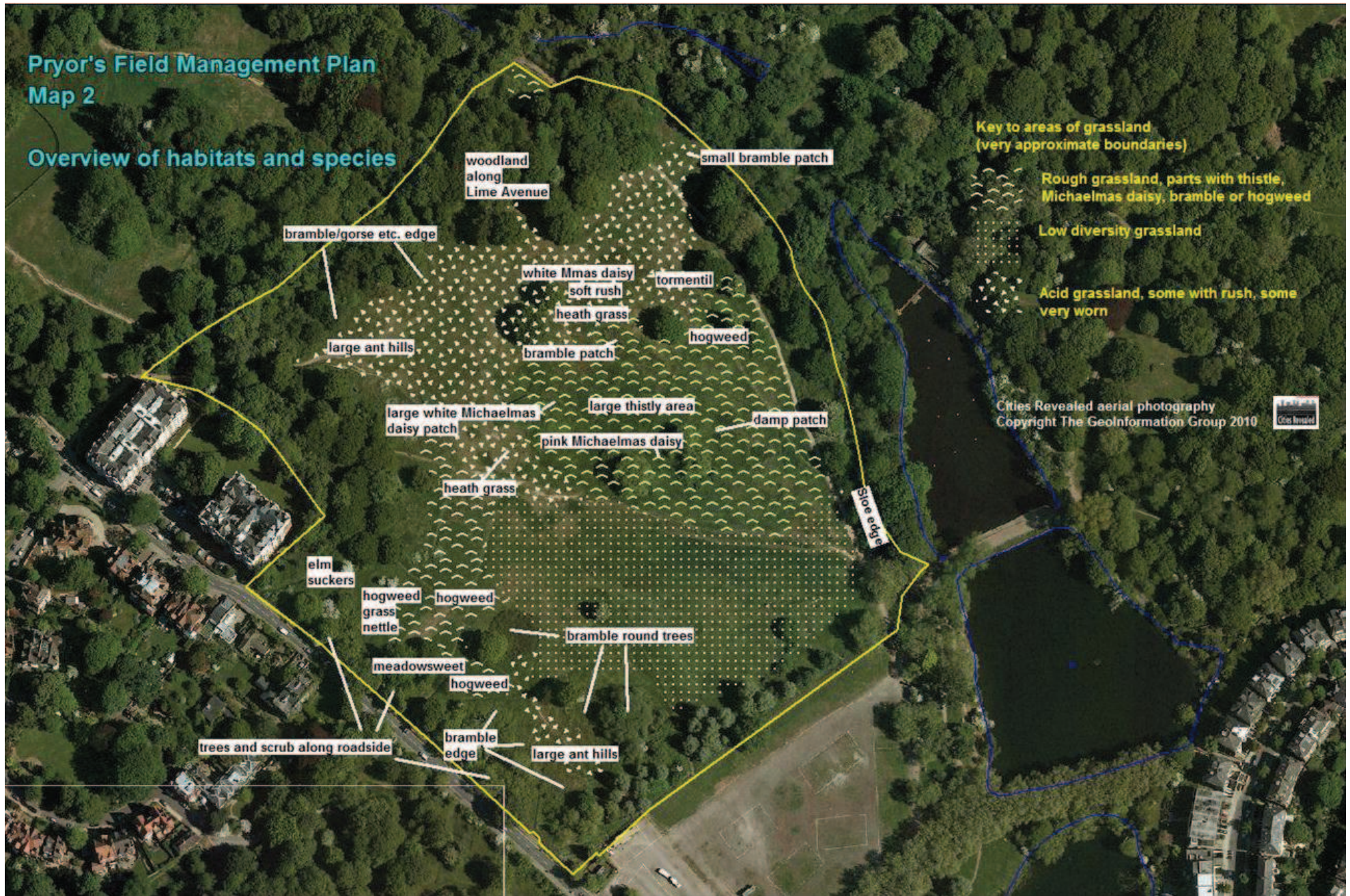
## Overview of habitats and species

Key to areas of grassland  
(very approximate boundaries)

 Rough grassland, parts with thistle, Michaelmas daisy, bramble or hogweed

 Low diversity grassland

 Acid grassland, some with rush, some very worn





#### **1.4 Public and educational uses**

Pryor's Field lies on the edge of the Heath, adjacent to East Heath car park, and close to South End Green and Hampstead, and to Hampstead heath Overground station. The grassland is heavily used by the public both for general recreation and access to the rest of the Heath. The lower edge is used for recreation and fairs and circus events are held on the adjacent Fairground. The northern area is used for fitness training.

The Field is sheltered from East Heath road by a band of scrub and trees. The north end of the Field has an elevated view to the south over built-up areas and the Royal Free Hospital. However, the view upwards from the south presents a pleasant aspect of meadow in the foreground with a backdrop of woodland stretching over the elevated ground to the north.

Pryor's Field is too far from the Education Centre for regular use for formal educational purposes.

#### **1.5 History**

The Ordnance Survey map of the 1870s shows all the land considered here as open grassland, with a very few scattered trees. There are no trees along Lime Avenue/Boundary Path; these were probably planted in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to Tony Vaughan<sup>1</sup>, an aerial photo of 1917 which includes this compartment shows it as open and worn. The line of trees along Lime Avenue is just visible by then, but there is no fringe of woodland along the south side of the Avenue. He states that, according to other sources, there were allotments near East Heath Road and The Pryors around the time of the First World War.

Ikin<sup>3</sup> states that there were allotments during the Second World War "near the Pryors". In October 1947, according to Vaughan, 21.5 acres near the Pryors were "de-requisitioned"; a note in 1948 refers to an anti-aircraft site near the Pryors, and one of 1949 to the reinstatement of the anti-aircraft site, presumably to grassland. Air photos from shortly after the War show marks all over Pryor's Field, as shown in Map 3. These do not appear to be from allotments, and so are presumably due to anti-aircraft defences or rubble from bomb clearance after the war, which may have been dumped in the Field. Thus it can be assumed that little of the original ground has been left undisturbed, which is confirmed by the uneven nature of the central area of Pryor's Field today.

More recently, over the past ten years or in some cases longer, the following management has generally taken place. The coarse grassland on the lower slopes of the field has been cut annually, the arisings being removed. The ditch line running along the south of the field has been regularly cleared of leaf litter and debris. Two small patches of Japanese knotweed have been controlled by pulling during the growing season and treating with herbicide in September/October. Bramble edges are regularly cut back into this to form 'scallops' of woodland edge habitat.

Other management has also aimed at controlling and monitoring unwanted plants or those which have become or are becoming too extensive; this is detailed in Section 1.6.

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Vale of Health pond  
North end of Pryor's Field

Map 3: Late 1940s air photograph

Cities Revealed aerial photography copyright The GeoInformation Group



A hoggin path running along the eastern edge of Pryor's Field requires annual maintenance where puddles appear. Another path traverses diagonally across the field towards The Pryors flats and the Lime Avenue; this route is well used and is compacted and bare in places. In the north-west corner by the flats the footpath has been built up with imported aggregate to stabilise the ground where standing water appeared in winter.

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

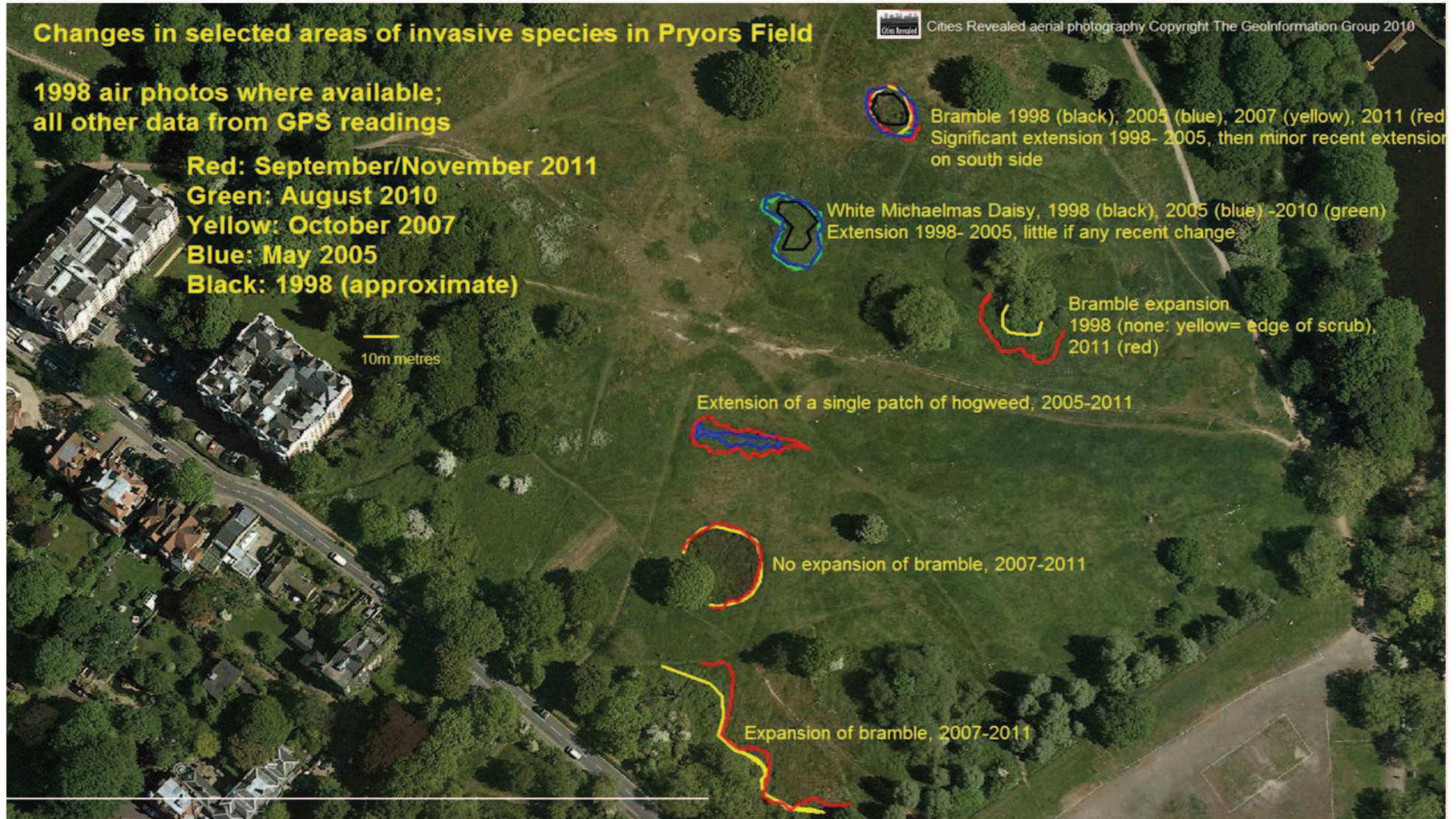
Overuse is causing areas of Pryor's Field to become bare or only covered in sparse grass. This is occurring on the areas underlain by nutrient-poor soil, which are predominantly towards the north of the grassland, and are exacerbated by fitness training, which is popular on the flat area also at the north. Unfortunately it is the areas of poorer soil which give rise to the more important acidic grassland, so it is these that are the most affected.

Other major trends in Pryor's Field are the 'invasive' plants which are spreading in the grassland, or would do so without on-going management. Most of these are native plants, which are additions to the flora and often valuable for fauna, but which can unfortunately come to dominate large areas if not controlled. These species may be spreading due to a combination of factors, such as: the various uses or misuses of the site in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, resulting in bare soil and lack of management and so allowing species to colonise and spread; relaxation of grassland mowing in the late 1980s and the 1990s; and climate change. Hogweed seems to be getting commoner generally, and this in particular may be an effect of climate change. Map 4 shows how the extent of selected areas of some of these invasive species have changed.

**Michaelmas daisy:** in the centre of the Field, a large patch of white Michaelmas daisy, a non-native plant, has been cut back around the perimeter by 1-2m before flowering to stop it spreading. This management was in place prior to 1993, but it is not known how long before that it was being implemented. Map 4 suggests that, based on an air photo dating from 1998 and more recent information from GPS surveys, the size of the clump expanded considerably between 1998 and 2005. However, the interpretation of the 1998 air photo is not very accurate as pixel size is 0.5m. The clump has been almost stable between 2005 and 2010, based on more accurate GPS readings, but over about the past five years several small patches of white Michaelmas daisy have sprung up in rough grassland or among rush in the north of the field.

**Hogweed:** since at least 2003 and probably earlier, hogweed in the open grassland has been treated by removing the flower- or seed-heads, and/or occasionally by mowing or spudding (cutting with a spade just below ground level). This management has usually been undertaken by Heath Hands volunteers. In 2009, an experimental strip was cut just below ground using turf cutter; this was unsuccessful in controlling the plants as many regrew from the roots. An area of hogweed towards East Heath road has been left unmanaged.

Despite management, hogweed is spreading. Map 4 shows an example of how a sample patch has spread over six years. New patches have arisen in the past decade in the north-east of the Field (see Map 2).



Map 4

**Bramble:** Small patches of bramble in the north-east corner of the field have been cut regularly with the aim of eradication, now almost achieved. The bramble edge along the northern end of the field has been cut back annually by scything to protect the ant hills and to halt encroachment into the grassland.

A larger oval bramble island marked on Map 2 as patch 1 is maintained at its current area by cutting round the edge annually, except in the last two years; the Himalayan balsam which has established within this patch has until recent years been removed throughout the growing season. It appears that the patch may (subject to the limitations of the 1998 air photo) have expanded slightly between 1998 and 2005, but the outer edge is almost stable more recently except for a small extension on the southern edge due no doubt to the patch not being cut in 2010 or 2011. However, the inner part of the patch has become almost devoid of bramble, perhaps due to the impact of people picking blackberries.

A patch of dense bramble near a large tree towards the south-west has not spread over the past 4 years, unlike those further south and near the damp patch (see Map 4).

**Creeping thistle:** Creeping thistle dominates large areas to the north and east of the central willow area and damp patch. About half of this is cut annually, usually in July, with sizeable patches being retained closer to the damp patch for the benefit of fauna. Thistle has proved difficult to monitor, but is clearly extending its range to the north at least.

**Soft rush:** there is an area of soft rush in the north-east corner of the grassland. It is probable that this is expanding slowly.

Another major influence is over-use and erosion. This affects not only main paths, especially one running up the grassland towards The Pryor's flats, but also the upper, northern grassland, which is used by people for personal training. In places the ground is bare and soil, which appears to be light and free-draining, is exposed.

## 1.7 External influences

None not covered elsewhere in this Plan.

## 2.0. Evaluation

### 2.1 Natural landscape

Pryor's Field is an important area for birds due to its varied rough grassland and patches of bramble and scrub. Several pairs of whitethroats nest here in patches of bramble. Whitethroats are uncommon so close to central London and this is the best area on the Heath for them. It is a particularly good place to see green woodpeckers, which enjoy feeding on the yellow meadow ants, and kestrels hunting for field voles which populate the long grass, thistly and, especially, brambly areas. Unusual migrant birds may sometimes be sighted perching on the thistles and brambles, to the interest of birdwatchers.

Pryor's Field supports an abundance of invertebrates. Some of the hills of yellow meadow ants are large, and probably provide specialist habitat for other invertebrates. Hogweed and creeping thistle provide nectar for a range of invertebrates. The two notable weevils were found by Dan Hackett in 2007, *Rhynocyllis conicu*, and *Trichosirocalus horridus*, were only recorded in three or four counties between 1970 and 1992, and Dr Hackett's records were probably the first for the London area. The spider *Tapinocyboides pygmaeus* is a Red Data Book (RDB3) species.

Most of the site is not of particular botanical interest. However, areas of acidic grassland are present. The northern area contains heath grass, which is rare in north London and surrounds; Pryor's Field is a stronghold for this characteristic species of acid grassland. Another characteristic acid grassland plant here is tormentil, which is also rare on the Heath. Acid grassland is uncommon in London and is a London Biodiversity Priority Habitat. Common spotted orchid, a plant which is rare on the Heath and is particularly attractive, is present.

## **2.2 Public and educational uses**

Pryor's Field is popular with dog walkers and for sitting and picnics; the benches are well used. Local people enjoy the flowers and some are resistant to cutting hogweed and Michaelmas daisy. It is a portal to the Heath. It is enjoyed by naturalists, especially ornithologists.

Pryor's Field is too far from the Education Centre for use for most educational purposes.

## **2.3 History and built environment**

Pryor's Field does not contain any historic structures, but its uses during and after the Second World War may be of interest.

## **2.4 Overall vision**

The overall vision for Pryors Field is to maintain and where possible improve its important ecological interest whilst providing an attractive, welcoming area for people to enjoy for itself and for access to the wider Heath.

More specifically, the vision is:

- To maintain and improve the existing areas of grassland, scrub and woodland
- To stop or reduce the spread of invasive plants
- To monitor invasive species
- To maintain and improve public access and views
- To maintain the existing dense bands of scrub and trees between the grassland and East Heath Road and the car park, and to improve these where appropriate
- To improve the woodland edge habitat along the northern and eastern edges of the Field.

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

Overriding Objectives, Essential Actions and Aspirational Goals from Part I of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan which are particularly relevant to the management of Pryor's Field are as follows:

- **NL1:** Retain and enhance the Heath's habitats and natural resources to enable continued quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural environment
- **NL4:** Manage the Heath's woodlands and scrub to enhance their nature conservation value and improve their distinctiveness
- **NL7:** Manage the Heath's heathland and dry acid grassland to enhance their nature conservation value
- **NL12:** Monitor changes in the Heath's ecology
- **NL14:** Control certain invasive and inappropriate species

Policies from the Natural Landscape chapter of the Part II Management Plan which are particularly relevant to the management of Springett's Wood:

**Policy 1:** The Heath will be managed to maintain and preserve its unique wild and natural aspects and its ecology, and enable quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world by visitors

**Policy 4:** The existing areas of natural grassland will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance

**Policy 5:** The City proposes to retain grassland cover at roughly its present area

**Policy 6:** Grassland will not be allowed to revert to scrub or woodland

**Policy 7:** Mowing regimes will be adopted which maintain grassland and support and encourage desirable flora and fauna. Refuge areas will be left for invertebrates

**Policy 13:** The existing areas of acid grassland and heathland, including heather and gorse, will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance

**Policy 16:** The existing areas of woodland and scrub will be managed to protect and enhance their nature conservation importance and improve their distinctiveness

**Policy 17:** Woodland and scrub cover will be retained at roughly their present extent

**Policy 20:** Woodland edge habitat, i.e. a gradation from trees or shrubs to long grass, will be encouraged

**Policy 34:** The spread of scrub will generally be limited and will be managed to prevent it becoming woodland

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

**Policy 50:** Selected invasive and inappropriate species will be controlled

**Policy 56:** Management will remain vigilant and responsive to research and advice on climate change to ensure the Heath is flexible enough to absorb whatever changes lie ahead.



### 3.0. Prescription and work programme

See maps 5a, b and c for locations of area-specific items

#### 6.1 Regular management tasks

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Frequency p.a. where relevant</u>	<u>Month(s)</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Who by</u>	<u>Priority: low, medium or high</u>
To maintain and improve the existing areas of grassland, scrub and woodland	Mow a section of the more fertile lower grassland and remove arisings	Once	As required	All	Rangers	High
	Remove or cut any saplings invading grassland	As required	Any	As required	Cons team	High
	Cut or dig up patch of blackthorn suckers on western side of path along Mixed Pond side of field (see map 5a)	Once	Any	All	Cons team	Medium
	Check area where common spotted orchid grows to ensure it is not being outcompeted; manage appropriately if so	Once	June	All	Ecologist/ Cons team	High
	Clear sycamore saplings and laurel from woodland strip along north edge	Once	Any	Every 5 years	Cons team	Medium
Stop or curtail the spread and in some cases reduce the existing area of	Remove hogweed flowers before seeding and take off site in all areas except that specified on map 5b	Twice	June-August	All	Cons team	High
	Cut or top (depending on height) creeping thistle as specified on map 5b	Twice	July-September	All	Cons team	High

invasive species	Cut annual extension of bramble	Once	October-mid-March	All	Cons team	High
	Cut 1m round large area of white Michaelmas daisy annually (see map 5c)	Once	July	All	Cons team	High
	Dig up if possible, or cut four times p.a. if not, any small clumps of white Michaelmas daisy and all purple Michaelmas daisy (see map 5c)	4 times if cut	June-September	All	Cons team	High
	Pull any Himalayan balsam in damp patch. Pull Himalayan balsam in central bramble patch <b>only</b> if whitethroat not breeding	2-4	June-August	All	Cons team	High
Monitor invasive species	Monitor selected areas of hogweed, bramble, white Michaelmas daisy and creeping thistle	Once	June-July	All	Ecologist	High
Maintain and improve public access and views	Make sure main paths are clear of bramble and in good order, and ditch line running along the south of the field has been regularly cleared of leaf litter and debris.	As required	All	All	Rangers	High
Improve the woodland edge habitat along the northern and eastern edges of the Field	Blackthorn shrubs along Mixed Pond fence line: remove oak sapling, coppice blackthorn to within 2.5m of fence and lay remaining shrubs along fence line. Achieve this through cutting 3 tranches on a 9 year rotation (see map 5a).	Once	October-February	2013, 2016, 2019	Cons team	Low
	Cut 1/3rd of the scalloped eastern edge of Pryor's Field between the path and shrubs	Once	September-	All	Cons	Medium

	(excluding the area dominated by blackthorn) on a rotational basis (see map 5a).		February		team	
	Maintain gorse along northern edge by clearing bramble as necessary (see map 5c).	Once	September - February	All	Cons team	High

## 6.2 One-off tasks

Objective	Prescription	Month(s)	Year	Who by	Priority
Curtail the spread and in some cases reduce the existing area of invasive species, retaining selected areas of bramble, thistle and white Michaelmas daisy for ecological benefit	Cut a small area of bramble in north-east of field with aim of eradicating it (see map 5c)	One in winter, two in spring-summer, depending on growth	2012 & 2013 then review	Cons team	High
	Reduce the extent of areas of bramble as specified on map 5b, cutting by hand where ant hills are present. If extent is eventually reduced, cut annual extension as elsewhere.	October-mid-March	All, until achieved	Cons team	High
	Consider placing additional brash within central bramble patch if required to deter people trampling inside, in order to preserve habitat for nesting whitethroat (see map 5c)	September-mid-March	2012	Cons team	High

Maintain existing dense bands of scrub and trees between the grassland and East Heath Road and, the car park for both visual screening and for ecological benefit, and improve these where appropriate	Remove sycamore trees and saplings from large willow area on the southern edge near the fairground site (see map 5a)	Autumn or winter	2012 or thereafter	Cons or Arb team	Low
	Plant a band of shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn adjacent to the white poplars along the south-east boundary to shield views of the fairground site and improve the sense of enclosure (see map 5a)	Winter	2012 or thereafter	Cons team	Low
	Coppice selected areas of shrubs on the Field side of the scrub band parallel to East Heath road, in order to thicken it up. Plant hazel or hawthorn where additional shrubs are required. This will improve the visual screen and the habitat for birds. Carry out in two tranches, one within 3 years, the other in perhaps 10 years' time, to be assessed (see map 5a).	November - February	By 2015, then by 2022	Cons team	Medium
Maintain and improve public access and views	Remove some bramble from north-west corner access path on both sides to make entrance to Pryors Field more attractive, with a better view of the field (see map 5c).	October-February	2013 or thereafter	Cons team	Low
	Remove small hawthorn growing too close to path to road from south-west corner of Field before it interferes with access (see map 5a)	October-February	2012 or thereafter	Cons team	Medium
Improve the woodland edge habitat along the northern and eastern edges of the Field	Plant more gorse in small area recently cleared of gorse (see map 5a).	November-February	2012 or thereafter	Cons team	Medium

**Pryor's Field Management Plan  
Map 5a**

Cities Revealed aerial photography  
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**General management  
excluding hogweed,  
thistle, Michaelmas  
daisy and bramble**

clear sycamore saplings & laurel  
from woodland

plant gorse in small recently-cleared area

pull Himalayan balsam annually  
if whitethroat NOT breeding

cut scalloped grassy/brambly edge  
on 3-year rotation

pull Himalayan balsam annually

coppice blackthorn and lay shrubs along  
fenceline in 3 tranches

cut blackthorn suckers annually

mow annually  
or as required

plant line of native shrubs behind poplars

coppice shrubs on Field side  
in say 10 years

coppice shrubs on Field side soon

clear ditch of leaf litter and debris

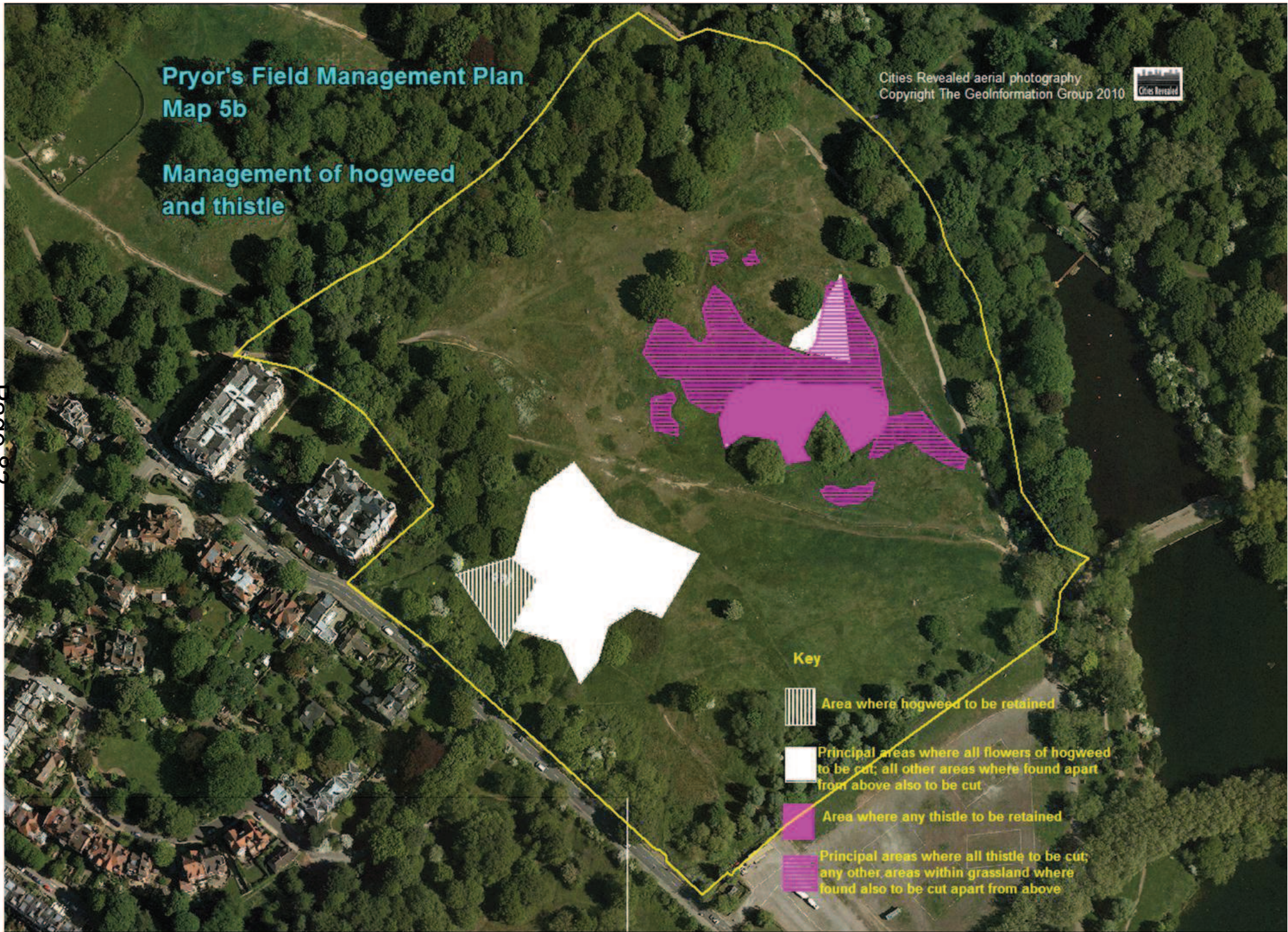
remove sycamores from among other trees

remove small hawthorn too close to path





**Pryor's Field Management Plan  
Map 5b**

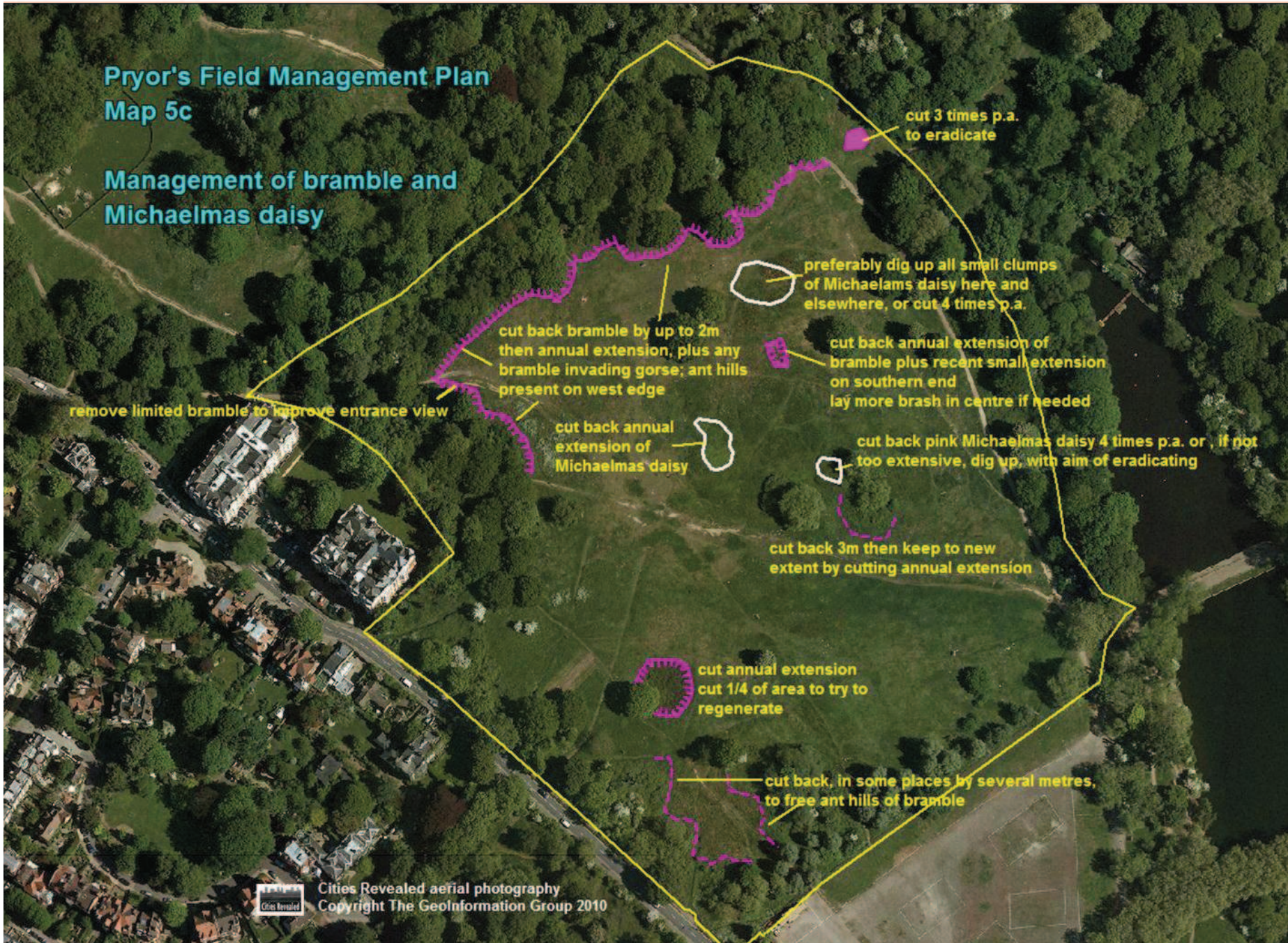
**Management of hogweed  
and thistle**

Cities Revealed aerial photography  
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**Key**

-  Area where hogweed to be retained
-  Principal areas where all flowers of hogweed to be cut; all other areas where found apart from above also to be cut
-  Area where any thistle to be retained
-  Principal areas where all thistle to be cut; any other areas within grassland where found also to be cut apart from above



#### 4.0 Review

To be left blank, to be filled in as time goes by

Author	Date	Task	Observation, event or alteration to task

#### 5.0 References

1. British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Sheet 256 North London
2. Tony Vaughan, unpublished, London Natural History Society, ca. 1998
3. Kit Ikin, *Hampstead Heath, How the Heath was saved for the public*, London Natural History Society, 1985



Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Item no.
Subject: ‘Wild About Hampstead Heath’ project application update	Public	
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information	

## Summary

This report reviews the main aims and background informing the ‘Wild About Hampstead Heath’ project and the current progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Application to support this project.

The RSPB-led ‘Wild About Hampstead Heath’ project aims to engage new and under-represented audiences with the natural history and ecology of Hampstead Heath through innovative engagement techniques. The project directly supports the strategic aims of Hampstead Heath and addresses key challenges in engaging with and increasing the diversity of our visitor profile.

The project is ambitious and aims to engage with 33,000 new and existing visitors over three years. The main areas of work in the project are; developing a team of ‘interpretation’ volunteers, providing increased opportunities for environmental education at Golders Hill Park, and creating new habitat areas for house sparrows and kingfishers. The RSPB is seeking to secure £440,640 of funding through an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund submitted in March 2012 and to be considered in June 2012.

### **Recommendations**

That the committee notes the aims of the ‘Wild About Hampstead Heath’ project, being led by the RSPB and the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund application to support this project.

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. In 2007, the City of London entered into a partnership with the RSPB to secure Heritage Lottery Funding for a science and outreach programme aiming to engage with local schools. The success of Hampstead Heath Education Centre in providing learning opportunities for over 5,500 students per year, in a variety of topics including science, is a legacy of this successful project.

2. In 2011, the RSPB approached Hampstead Heath regarding a second partnership opportunity, building on the previous successful relationship. A first stage Heritage Lottery Funding Application was produced and submitted in June 2011. The first stage application was well received and the project was invited to submit a second stage application in March 2012. The proposed project put forward for funding is entitled 'Wild about Hampstead Heath'. The RSPB are leading the application with the City of London acting as the major partner. English Heritage, Heath Hands, and the Camden Community Consortium are also listed as project partners.

### **Current Position**

3. 'Wild About Hampstead Heath' has been submitted to the HLF London Committee for consideration at their June 2012 meeting. The main goal of the project is to engage new audiences with the natural history of Hampstead Heath including under-represented communities, young people and local visitors. This project compliments the HLF bid made by English Heritage for Kenwood which will focus on the built heritage.

### *Consultation and Project Need*

4. In 2007, Hampstead Heath commissioned research on the demographic profile of visitors. This research demonstrated that there is a significant underrepresentation of young people under the age of 25 and individuals from BAME (Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic) groups visiting the Heath. However, 46% of the population living within a 2.5 miles radius of Hampstead Heath are from BAME groups.
5. Signage and physical interpretation is kept to a minimum on Hampstead Heath in order to maintain its aesthetic as an encapsulated piece of countryside. However, this creates a barrier to engaging visitors with the natural history and ecology of the Heath. Project consultation demonstrated that 88% of visitors consulted wanted to learn more about the natural history of the Heath.
6. The Hampstead Heath Education Centre delivers school sessions to over 5,500 students per year. However, only 17% of these students are from Barnet state schools. Further, only 2% of visits occur at Golders Hill Park. Project consultation indicated a desire from local teachers in Barnet to visit Golders Hill Park more regularly for environmental education opportunities.

### *Project Delivery*

7. The main goal of the project is to engage new audiences with the natural history and ecology of Hampstead Heath, in particular; under-represented BAME groups, young people and local visitors. A detailed explanation of

the new audiences targeted and the proposed level of engagement is outlined in **Appendix 1 – Pyramid of Engagement**.

8. A main delivery mechanism of this project will be the development of 50 ‘interpretation’ volunteers. The volunteers will be equipped with a variety of mobile, multi-media engagement tools such as interactive tablets, webcams, and underwater cameras. Consultation with visitors, and under-represented communities, highlighted that nature was often **not** a key reason for visiting the Heath. The purpose of these engagement tools is for the volunteers to be able to ‘bring nature to the visitors’, as a first step in engaging new audiences with nature. The interpretation volunteers will offer a unique solution to engagement without the use of static signage.
9. ‘Interpretation’ volunteers will be recruited from our target audiences, specifically young people and individuals from BAME groups. Successful community engagement projects rely on engagement being led by the community. These interpretation volunteers will be essential ambassadors for the project in the wider community.
10. The project will also aim to engage with young people and their families in Barnet through the development of an education programme at Golders Hill Park. A new pond dipping platform will be constructed in the Swan Pond and a classroom area will be developed in the disused glasshouse adjacent to the Butterfly House. Further, an in-depth ‘Heath Friendly’ schools programme will be delivered to 4 schools in areas of deprivation, aiming to engage with teachers, students and their families.
11. Two new house sparrow meadows will be constructed near the Parliament Hill, specifically behind the bandstand and next to the Tumulus. A third will be constructed at the Heath Extension. The aim of these sparrow meadows will be twofold: to engage local people who use the Parliament Hill area with the natural aspects of the Heath; and provide refuge for the invertebrate population which are essential for young house sparrows, a species in decline in London.
12. A kingfisher bank will be constructed at the Viaduct pond. While kingfishers are not species of concern currently, they are excellent ambassadors for wildlife. The kingfisher bank will be constructed to offer stunning views of these charismatic birds to help engage and inspire local visitors about the Heath’s natural history.

#### *Volunteer and Education Facilities*

13. The Parliament Hill Changing Room which has been under-utilised for many years facility will be partly converted into a new volunteer base for the interpretation volunteers. This facility will also house the RSPB project staff.

14. A new education base will be developed at Golders Hill Park, using a disused glasshouse adjacent to the Butterfly House. This facility will also serve as a second volunteer base for the project. Further, a pond dipping platform will be constructed on the Swan Pond for use with school groups.

*Key dates and deliverables*

15. If successful it is envisaged that 'Wild about Hampstead Heath' will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and finish on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015. A full list of activities and dates are provided in **Appendix 2 – Implementation and Activity Delivery Programme**. The HLF application aims to secure £440,640 of funding to support the project.
16. The project will result in the creation of 3 new roles managed by the RSPB, based on Hampstead Heath. Recruitment will begin in July 2012 and staff will be appointed for the project start of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.
17. The conversion of the Parliament Hill Changing Room facility, the development of the Golders Hill Park Classroom, the pond dipping platform and the kingfisher bank will occur between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
18. The project activities will begin in October 2012 with small scale recruitment of volunteers and consultation events. The volunteer and education programmes are designed to build slowly through the first year as the project is implemented, and more quickly in the second and third years. In total, the project aims to engage directly with 33,000 new and existing Heath visitors (a full breakdown of engagement targets can be found in **Appendix 1 – Pyramid of Engagement**).
19. All project expenditure is scheduled to occur in the first year of the project (September 2012-13). All costs in the following two years are related to salary, activity and maintenance costs.

**Financial and Risk Implications**

20. This project is being led by the RSPB who have engaged a number of partners to support the project. The HLF application aims to secure £440,640 of funding to support the project. Whilst the City will be required to support the project, primarily through staff time, the proposed management arrangements allow for RSPB to appoint two senior project staff and an apprentice.
21. The City Corporation has agreed to contribute £13,000 towards the development of the education/volunteer base at Golders Hill Park. The recent contributions secured through the work associated with gas pipelines on the Heath, will assist in off-setting the Superintendents local

risk budgets. The other project elements, including the conversion of the Parliament Hill Changing Rooms forms part of the HLF bid.

22. As part of the project management proposals RSPB together with the City Corporation have developed a Risk Register that has identified the key risks associated with the project. These range from a lack of interest from target groups, health and safety of children and management issues with volunteers. RSPB have proposed that a Project Board be convened for monitoring the progress with City Corporation representation.
23. This project was considered at an early stage under the new project management arrangements. It was agreed that as the project was being managed by the RSPB who will be responsible receiving and administering any grant funding there would be no requirement to follow the City project management arrangements.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

24. The project directly supports the Open Spaces Business Plan Strategy Aim 4: 'Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living .' The project also directly supports the Strategy Aim 2: 'Involve communities and partners in developing a sense of place through the care and management of our sites.'
25. The project also contributes to the Improvement Objective 4: 'Market our services and provide events and opportunities to learn for all within our communities.' and the Improvement Objective 2: 'Extend partnership-working within the community and continue to develop closer links with local authorities, to improve the way we involve people in decision making.'

### **Conclusion**

26. 'Wild About Hampstead Heath' is designed to engage with new and existing audiences regarding the importance and significance of the natural history of Hampstead Heath. The project addresses some our key challenges; engagement with underrepresented audiences in our visitor profile, and interpretation without the use of static signage. Through innovative engagement techniques such as; community-led interpretation volunteering, increased environmental education, and habitat construction with a dual aim of conservation and engagement, the project will engage directly with 33,000 visitors. The project, led by the RSPB, has been

submitted for consideration by the Heritage Lottery Fund London Committee in June 2012.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Pyramid of Engagement

Appendix 2 – Implementation and Activity Delivery Programme

**Contact:**

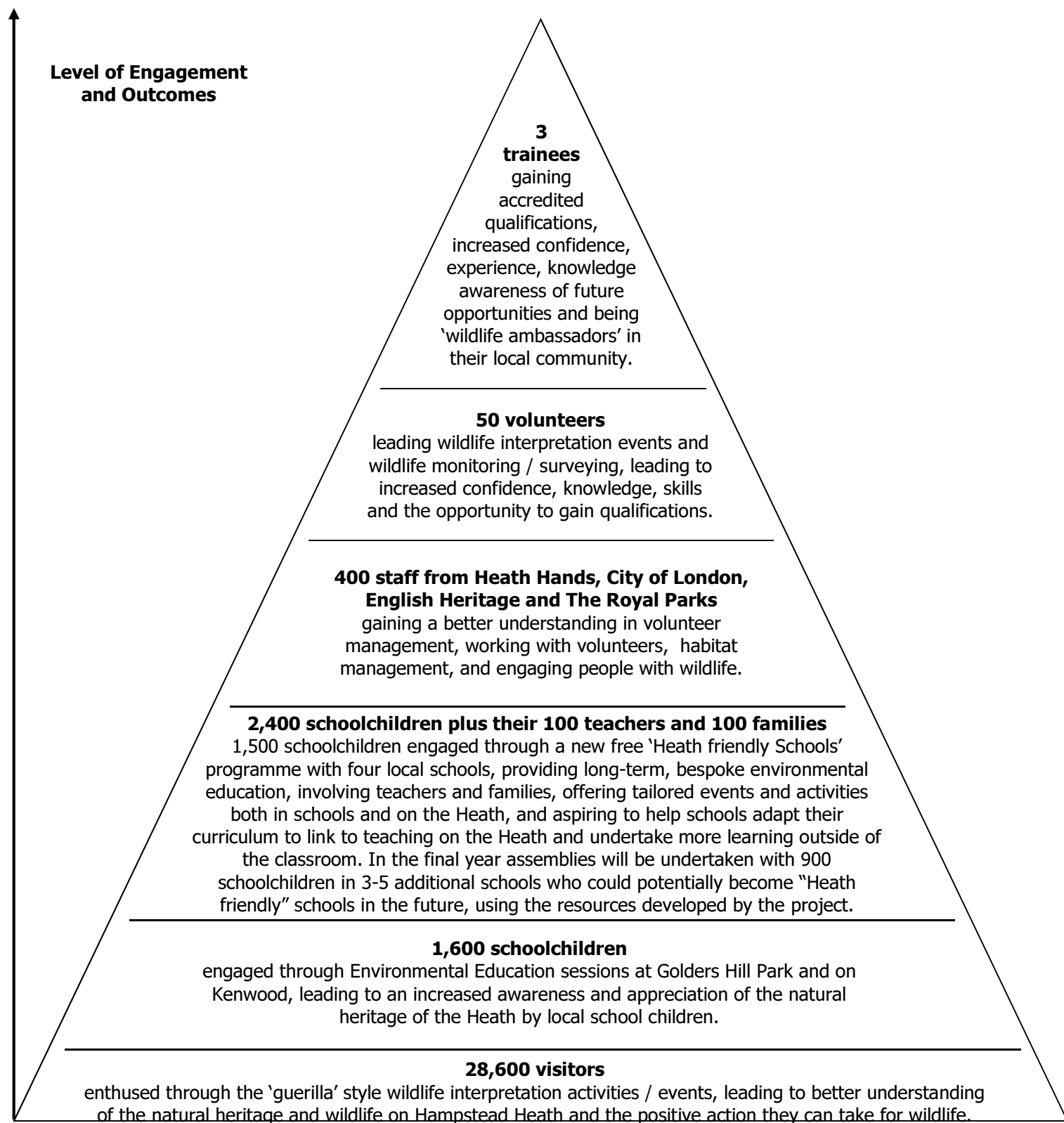
| *grace.rawnsley@cityoflondon.gov.uk* |

## Appendix 1 – Pyramid of Engagement

### 'Wild About Hampstead Heath'

#### Engagement and Outcome Pyramid

**Over 33,000 people engaged**











# Agenda Item 9

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	
Subject: Flood Management and Water Quality Project – Communications Strategy	Public	
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion	
<b><u>Summary</u></b>		
<p>This report presents a Communication Strategy for managing all communications associated with the Flood Management and Water Quality project.</p>		
<b>Recommendations</b>		
<p>That Committee’s views on the Communications Strategy which details the Vision, Aims and Key Messages for different audiences associated with the implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality Project be received.</p>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. At the Court of Common Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 approval was given to the upgrade of the pond embankments on the Hampstead and Highgate chains, at an estimated cost of £15.12m ± 20%. The works are required to reduce the risk of pond overtopping, embankment erosion and failure, to comply with the Reservoirs Act 1975 together with the emerging Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It will also provide design solutions that ensure that the City also meets its obligations under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871. The project also seeks to improve water quality so that the City meets its obligations under the EU Water Bathing Directive.
2. Given the complexity and risks associated with this project a Communications Strategy has been devised to ensure information about the project is available and understood by Heath users and the wider community.

### **Current Position**

3. One of the key risks identified by this project is the need to communicate and engage with heath users and the wider community during the detailed design stage and beyond. Communicating effectively with all stakeholders is critical to the success of this project. In January 2012 the City appointed

a Water Management Communications Officer to lead on this aspect of the project.

4. The Communications Strategy (see copy appended to this report) is a document which will inform all communications throughout the duration of the project.
5. The Strategy lays out the vision, aims and the key messages. It details the target audiences and then describes the communication tools that will be used to reach these audiences.
6. The overall aims of the Strategy are:
  - Be clear and open about the project, why it is necessary and the scope of the project.
  - Manage communications in the public domain positively and effectively.
7. A two-way flow of information is essential in this project and the Communications Strategy will sit alongside a consultation programme, which is in its development phase.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

8. The works link to the City Together Strategy themes of supporting our communities and protecting, promoting and enhancing our environment. The scheme will improve community facilities, conserve/enhance biodiversity and contribute to a reduction in water pollution. The Communications Strategy will further promote the Heath as a unique and historic open space. There are also links with the Corporate Plan strategic aims of providing excellent services for our communities and valued services for London and the nation as a whole.
9. Creating a Communications Strategy to help deliver the Flood Management and Water Quality Project supports the Heath's Management Plan (Towards a Plan for the Heath 2007 -2017) objective to manage the Heath's ponds and watercourses to enhance their nature conservation value, reduce flood risk and address water quality problems. The work proposed is required to ensure the risk to life is minimised, and comply with the City's existing and expected statutory obligations. The Strategy should help mitigate any risk to the reputation of the City throughout the duration of the project.

## **Implications**

10. As outlined, this Strategy supports all aspects of communication associated with this complex project. It recognises that there are many audiences that require different information about the project, why it is required and the potential benefits that will be derived, not least protection of communities south of the Heath and enhancement of ecological habitats. Implementation of the strategy will be led by the Flood Management Communication Officer whose post is funded as part of the detailed design costs.

## **Conclusion**

11. The Communications Strategy will allow the City to inform and educate stakeholders, residents and Heath users on the need for the project. It will ensure that communications between the city and stakeholders are kept open and the project is positively publicised.

## **Appendices**

Communications Strategy – Hampstead Heath Flood Management and Water Quality Project

**Contact:**

| *Jennifer.Wood@cityoflondon.gov.uk* | 020 7332 3322

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# **Communications Strategy – Hampstead Heath Flood Management Water Quality Project**

## **Introduction**

Hampstead Heath is one of London's most popular open spaces, with seven million visitors per year.

An oasis of beautiful countryside in urban surroundings, the magic of Hampstead Heath lies not only in its rich wildlife and extensive sports and recreational opportunities, but also in its proximity and accessibility to millions of people. There is a zoo, an athletics track, an education centre, extensive children's facilities, three swimming ponds and a Lido.

The City of London Corporation has managed Hampstead Heath since 1989. The amount spent maintaining the Heath is £6.2 million pounds annually. This money comes from the City Corporation's private funds and not from the UK taxpayer.

In 2009 a study found that dams on some of the Heath's many ponds needed to be improved. They could fail if there was heavy or sustained rainfall. The dams need remodelling to avoid a failure and an inundation of water into residential areas such as Dartmouth Park and from Gospel Oak down to King's Cross. This work is required so the dams meet the existing requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975, and future requirements set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 but not yet brought into force.

In addition the project must preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect of the Heath as laid out in the Hampstead Heath Act 1871. Conserving the wildlife and the need for a cost effective solution are two other essential elements.

Work has already begun surveying the ponds and once people who use the Heath and the surrounding community are consulted and planning permission is gained and the scheme could be completed by 2015.

## **Vision**

The impact on the Heath will be only as formal as necessary and as informal as possible.

## **Aims**

The communications aims of the project are set out below:

Overall Aims:

- Be clear and open about the project, why it is necessary and the scope of the project
- Manage communications in the public domain positively and effectively.

## Specific Aims

- Inform and educate stakeholders, residents and Heath users on the need for the project. Ensure these key audiences are kept informed and are provided with information and understanding of the key issues as and when required
- Ensure communication channels with the stakeholders/residents are open; that they have sufficient information to understand the reason behind the project and are kept informed as to how they can become involved in the process. Update them on how their views/contributions are making a difference to the project.
- Ensure the wider public understand why the project is required and the benefits that will be derived, including educational benefits.
- Ensure that any concern or request for information is appropriately addressed.
- Ensure the press and media is informed and educated to promote balanced and accurate coverage. Provide regular updates and briefings and access to supporting information where possible, including any graphics, maps, photos and illustrations which may be of use.

## Key Messages

The messages we have chosen to communicate look to inform around the reasons for the project, progress of the project and the benefits it will bring. Many of these key messages will be applicable to more than one group. Some, or all, of these messages will be used in publicity material and support materials produced for the project. All groups will be made aware we want to hear from anyone who has an opinion on the project or just wants more information; communications around the project will be open and transparent.

## Primary

- The aim of the project is BOTH to preserve the natural landscape of the Heath AND ensure the safety of the dams

## Further key messages

- The conservation of the natural aspect of Hampstead Heath is a priority
- The design of the new dams must be sympathetic to the the landscape
- This is essential work that needs to be done for the safety and protection of residents and businesses in the area
- It is in everyone's interest to carry out the project with minimal disruption but it is a major project which will require a significant amount of work



- Hampstead Heath will still be open to visitors with only the essential areas not accessible while the works take place
- The project will bring long lasting benefits to the Heath including improving water quality and creating new habitats for wildlife
- This project is led by legislation and the City is the responsible body and is following the advice of the statutory panel engineer
- The project will bring about educational opportunities
- The existing ponds on the Heath are all man made and all have existing dams, some of which are several metres high
- Wherever possible materials from the Heath will be used to strengthen existing dams, creating new habitats for wildlife and reducing traffic movements.

### **Target Audiences**

#### 1. Stakeholder group

This group is made up of representatives from key interest/community groups and will meet regularly to discuss the project. This group will be closely involved throughout all stages of the project providing advice and views to help influence the design and implementation of the scheme.

#### 2. Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Twenty-two representatives of local groups and Heath activities, briefed at least every two months. This group will be involved throughout the project and are the body that formally advise the Heath Management Committee.

#### 3. Staff

This includes staff from the Open Spaces division who will be involved in the project and other City of London staff. Staff who will be working closely to the project should be kept fully briefed should they need to respond to questions from the public. Other staff should be made aware of the project and why it is necessary and be briefed throughout the duration of the project.

#### 4. Visitors to Hampstead Heath

People who visit and enjoy the Heath should be made aware of the project and are informed why the work is necessary. They should be given the opportunity to give their points of view and input into the process.

#### 5. Local residents and wider community including schools

Make the community surrounding Hampstead Heath aware of the need to carry out this work. They should be given the opportunity to give their points of view and input into the process. Hard to reach groups need to be specifically targeted.

6. Business Community

Business on and around the Heath should be made aware of the project so they can measure the impact it may have on their businesses and also communicate information to their customers.

7. Other Interest groups

This includes English Heritage, the RSPB, the Environment Agency. These agencies should be kept up to date throughout the duration of the project so they can measure the impact it has on their business and communicate information to their customers. They should also be encouraged to input into the process.

8. Local Authorities which border the Heath

Ensure the relevant council officers at the LA's who border the Heath are fully aware of the project and the effect it might have on their own water management plans and emergency plans.

9. Members and Politicians

Provide all Members of the City of London Corporation and local politicians with information on the project. Lines of communication with the project team should remain open and all members/councillors should be aware they can contact the team at any time for updates/information.

10. Press and media

Gain balanced coverage of the progress of the project in the local and national press at key project milestones. Achieve coverage in the trade press which identifies the project as a significant one. Respond when appropriate to any wrong information printed.

11. Campaign Groups

Keep communication channels open between City of London and campaign/pressure groups to ensure they have the most accurate information on the project.

**Media and Press enquiries**

Press enquiries on this project should all be directed through the Water Management Communications Officer who will liaise with the Public Relations Office and appropriate officers and members in formulating a response.

## Communication Tools

It is imperative that all information that goes into the public domain is controlled and effective.

To ensure this, the communications tools must be appropriate to the audience.

AUDIENCE	TOOLS
Stakeholder Group	Regular meetings Group presentations Site visits One to one meetings with members of the project team Email bulletins Website
Consultative Committee	Regular meetings Group presentations Site visits Email bulletins Website
Staff	Briefings through line managers Site visits Committees Email bulletins City of London internal publications Website (intranet and internet)

AUDIENCE	TOOLS
Visitors to Heath	Exhibitions Website Public events Press and media Advertising /posters in public areas Newsletters / comment cards Opinion pieces/letters to the press Social Networking sites
Surrounding community	Exhibitions Website Public events Press and media Advertising /posters in public areas Newsletters / comment cards Mail outs
Business community and other interest groups	Presentations Site visits One to one briefings Website
Local Authorities	Presentations Site visits One to one briefings

AUDIENCE	TOOLS
	Local Authority publications  Website
Members/Politicians	One to one meetings  Presentations  Briefing packs  Site visits  Newsletter  Website
Press and media	Briefing packs  Press releases  Regular columns  Interviews  One to one briefings  Site visits  Facility visits  Website  Social Networking sites
Campaign groups	Newsletters  Briefing packs  Site visits  Face-to-face meetings  Website

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# Agenda Item 10

Committee(s): Epping Forest and Commons Hampstead Heath Consultative Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate Wood Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park	Date(s): 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012  23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012
Subject: Dog Control Orders	Public
Report of: Sue Ireland	For Decision
<b><u>Summary</u></b>	
<p>This report advises Members on the success in achieving Secondary Authority status for the control of dogs. The Designation Order (Appendix 1) enables the City of London to make and enforce Dog Control Orders in its Open Spaces outside the Square Mile. The Designation Order came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. The report informs the Committee of proposals to consult on the introduction of one or more Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches before determining the way forward for other Open Spaces. It also informs the Committee of new proposals covering anti-social behaviour, which could see Dog Control Orders replaced with a wider form of Order.</p>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members are asked to note this report, the approach to trialling Dog Control Orders, and to approve engagement with the Government on maintaining Secondary Authority status within the proposed new regime for anti-social behaviour.</li></ul>	

## **Main Report**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1. Previous reports have described progress regarding the City of London's application for Secondary Authority status for the purpose of Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005, which relates to the control of dogs.
- 1.2. The Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012 ("the Designation Order") has been made by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.
- 1.3. The Designation Order enables the Common Council to make Dog Control Orders where the relevant local authority has not already made an Order in respect of the same offence on the same land. It relates to all Open Spaces outside of the City, managed by the Open Spaces Department on behalf of the Court of Common Council. Appendix 1 provides a copy of the Order, listing all the Open Spaces designated. The Orders can include tackling some or all of the following issues; failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs

are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Anyone suspected of committing an offence can be prosecuted in a magistrates' court or, be offered a fixed penalty notice as an alternative to prosecution.

- 1.4. At the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the Director of Open Spaces gave a presentation on this subject and Members requested that a report be presented to all Open Space management committees.

## **2. Current position**

- 2.1. Introducing Dog Control Orders will require the resolution of a range of practical management and enforcement issues. DEFRA provides guidance on this subject; however, it will be a new process for the City of London, which is the first Secondary Authority to be designated in this way. This work will include the need for a clear enforcement strategy, consultations, training, administration of fixed penalties, communication and marketing.
- 2.2. Officers are proposing to undertake a trial at one site, Burnham Beeches, to ensure any practical or administrative difficulties are understood and resolved. A report will be taken to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee shortly seeking authority to consult on these proposals. Burnham Beeches has been selected partly for its recent experience gained with the introduction of car parking charges at weekends, but primarily because of a significant number of dog-related incidents. The report will detail the incidents, the specific Dog Control Orders that it is proposed to introduce and the areas affected. At this early stage in planning the introduction, it is difficult to be precise regarding the likely timescale but the aim will be to introduce one or more Dog Control Orders by September 2013. It may well take some time to resolve the administrative issues, which is why a 15 month lead in period is currently planned.
- 2.3. The introduction of one or more Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches will require consultations with the appropriate local authorities, local communities and stakeholder groups including the Kennel Club. In order to make Dog Control Orders the City of London must be able to show that they are a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. The Committee's agreement with the Kennel Club, signed on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011, recognises the need for a proportionate approach when seeking restrictions on dogs, ensuring restrictions are fair and balanced.
- 2.4. A report on the outcome of the proposed trial at Burnham Beeches will be provided for all Open Space management committees' consideration. This will help inform those Committees in developing proposals for their own specific sites.

## **3. New Legislative Proposals**

- 3.1. The Home Office has published a White Paper "**Putting Victims First – more effective response to anti-social behaviour.**" This proposes that Dog Control Orders will be abolished, and that the powers they entail will be subsumed into a new "Community Protection Order (public space)". There is no mention in the White Paper of whether a Secondary Authority scheme will remain in place for the new type of order. If the Common Council desire to



retain the powers for the control of dogs which they have acquired with the Designation Order, it will be necessary to engage with the Home Office in order to advocate the retention of the Secondary Authority status. This would potentially enable the Common Council to make orders covering a wider range of anti-social behaviour than simply the control of dogs. If the Committee agrees that this is the proper approach to the new proposals, the Director of Open Spaces will work with the Remembrancer to put the case to the Government.

3.2. The timescale for these new proposals is not currently known. Informal advice suggests it may be 2-3 years before a new system comes into force. In the meantime, we need to determine whether Dog Control Orders will achieve the hoped for improvements in dog control, and use the knowledge and experience gained in responding to the proposed new legislation. The Remembrancer has advised that it may strengthen the Common Council's position in discussions with the Home Office if steps had already been successfully taken to implement Dog Control Orders as a Secondary Authority.

3.3. The Designation Order, and with it the Common Council's power to make Dog Control Orders, will remain effective unless and until the contrary is provided by new legislation.

#### **4. Wider Matters**

4.1. Separately from the question of Dog Control Orders, DEFRA is currently consulting on further measures to control dogs, most notably compulsory micro-chipping and extending the dangerous dogs' legislation to private land. This was discussed at the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Strong views about the principles and practicalities of, for example microchipping, have been expressed. The consultation date response was extended until 22<sup>nd</sup> June but regrettably there was insufficient time to consult Members about a proposed response. The Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee considered nevertheless, that a "holding" response should be sent. Copies of the correspondence are attached at Appendix 2, for information.

4.2. The EFRA Select Committee is also considering matters relating to dogs control and welfare, including:-

- Whether the Government's proposed approaches will deliver the right legal framework, enforcement regime and educational support to reduce irresponsible dog ownership and tackle out of control dogs;
- Concerns about the welfare of dogs linked to breeding approaches.

#### **Dog Control**

DEFRA in its announcement on "*Tackling Irresponsible Dog Ownership*" on 23 April 2012 proposes a number of approaches. However, a key question is will these proposals be sufficient to ensure that there is a reduction in the number of attacks by dogs on people and animals?

The questions that immediately arise are:

- Is there a need for a more fundamental overhaul of dog legislation, and its enforcement, including that relating to dog attacks on people, livestock and pets?
- Is sufficient action being taken on pets raised as status dogs to ensure their welfare and reduce their impacts on communities?
- Will compulsory microchipping of puppies improve dog welfare and help prevent dog attacks at an affordable cost to dog owners? Should a dog licensing scheme also be considered?
- Should the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 be extended to include offences committed on private property?
- Are DEFRA's proposals for wider community and educational approaches to support responsible dog ownership sufficiently ambitious?
- Do local authorities, the police and animal welfare charities have the right roles in managing stray dogs under the current legislative regime?

### **Dog Welfare**

In respect to concerns expressed over poor welfare that has arisen in the course of breeding dogs:

- Has the response by dog breeders and the veterinary profession been effective?
- What actions should Government take to address these issues?
- Are further controls required on dog breeders, including puppy farms, and those selling or importing dogs to ensure the welfare of bitches and puppies?

### **5. Conclusion**

5.1. The City of London has achieved designation as a Secondary Authority for the control of dogs. Implementing a trial at Burnham Beeches will enable Members to consider the most appropriate and effective way to introduce Dog Control Orders more widely across other Open Spaces. A future report will enable management committees to review and determine the appropriate approach for each site. New legislative proposals on anti-social behaviour mean that the Corporation will have to engage with the Government with a view to ensuring that in any new arrangements the equivalent of the Common Council's powers as a Secondary Authority are retained.

**Appendix 1** – The Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012 (2012/1223).

**Appendix 2** – Correspondence with DEFRA June 2012

**Contact:**

*Sue Ireland | sue.ireland@cityoflondon.gov.uk | 020 7332 3033*

2012 No. 1223

**DOGS, ENGLAND**

**CONTROL OF DOGS**

**The Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of  
the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>1st May 2012</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>10th May 2012</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>31st May 2012</i>

The Common Council of the City of London exercises functions over the land referred to in this Order under the enactments set out in the Schedule.

The Secretary of State, who is the appropriate person in relation to England as defined in section 66(a) of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005(a), in exercise of the power conferred by section 58(3) of that Act makes the following Order.

**Citation and application**

**1. This Order—**

- (a) may be cited as the Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012;
- (b) applies in England; and
- (c) comes into force on 31st May 2012.

**Designation as a Secondary Authority**

2.—(1) The Common Council of the City of London is designated as a secondary authority for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 in respect of the areas set out in the first column of the table in this article (and Acts under which functions are exercised in relation to those areas are set out in the second column of the table).

(2) In this article “the Common Council of the City of London” means the Common Council of the City of London in a capacity other than as local authority, police authority or port health authority.

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(a) 2005 c.16.

**Areas over which the Common Council of the City of London is designated a secondary authority and the Acts under which it exercises functions**

<i>Area over which the Common Council of the City of London is designated a secondary authority.</i>	<i>Act under which the Common Council of the City of London exercises functions</i>
Ashtead Common in the primary authority area of Mole Valley District Council	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878 <sup>(1)</sup>
Bunhill Fields in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Islington	City of London (Various Powers) Act 1960 <sup>(2)</sup>
Burnham Beeches in the primary authority area of South Buckinghamshire District Council	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
The City of London Cemetery in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Newham	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
Couldson Common in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Croydon;	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
The Deer Sanctuary adjoining Epping Forest in the primary authority area of Epping Forest District Council	City of London (Various Powers) Act 1959 <sup>(3)</sup>
Epping Forest in the primary authority areas of Epping Forest District Council, the London Borough of Newham, the London Borough of Redbridge and the London Borough of Waltham Forest	Epping Forest Acts 1878 <sup>(4)</sup> and 1880 <sup>(5)</sup>
Farthing Downs in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Croydon	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
Golders Hill Park in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Barnet	London County Council (General Powers) Act 1899 <sup>(6)</sup>
Hampstead Heath in the primary authority areas of the London Borough of Barnet and the London Borough of Camden	Hampstead Heath Act 1871 <sup>(7)</sup>
Highgate Wood in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Haringey	Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886 <sup>(8)</sup>
Kenley Common in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Croydon	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
Queen's Park in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Brent	Highgate and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886
Riddlesdown in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Croydon	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
Spring Park in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Croydon	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
Stoke Common in the primary authority area of South Buckinghamshire District Council	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878
West Ham Park in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Newham	City of London (Various Powers) Act 1877 <sup>(9)</sup>
West Wickham Common in the primary authority area of the London Borough of Bromley	Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878

<sup>(1)</sup> 1878 c.127.

<sup>(2)</sup> 1960 c. xxxvi.

<sup>(3)</sup> 1959 c. xlix.

- (4) 1878 c. ccxiii.
- (5) 1880 c. cxxx.
- (6) 1899 c. ccxxxvii.
- (7) 1871 c. lxxvii.
- (8) 1886 c. ii.
- (9) 1877 c. vii.

1st May 2012

*Taylor of Holbeach*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This order designates the Common Council of the City of London as a secondary authority for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (2005 c. 16) in respect of the areas listed in article 2. Under section 55(1) of that Act a secondary authority may make an order providing for offences relating to dogs in respect of any area for which it is designated a secondary authority.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no significant impact on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen.

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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2012 No. 1223

DOGS, ENGLAND

CONTROL OF DOGS

The Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of  
the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012

£4.00

E3391 05/2012 123391 19585



Director of Open Spaces  
Sue Ireland



Telephone 020 7332 3033  
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Email sue.ireland  
@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Date 15 June 2012

Mr Hugh Togher  
Animal Welfare Team  
DEFRA  
Area 8B, 9 Millbank,  
C/o 17 Smith Square,  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Dear Sir

**Re: Consultation on package of measures to promote more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks**

I am responding on behalf of the City of London's Open Spaces to your request for views on possible new measures to better protect the public from dog attacks and to generate a more responsible attitude to dog ownership.

The City Corporation owns and manages over 10,700 acres of Open Space in and around London. Our sites are enjoyed by more than 23 million visitors each year. They are important wildlife habitats but also provide many facilities for visitors including a wide range of sports, play, fishing and dog walking. We manage many of these areas as charitable trusts and have been responsible for their care for nearly 150 years. With so many visitors and local communities involved, the management of dog walkers is a significant part of our work and we have recently entered into an agreement with the Kennel Club on "Taking the Lead on responsible Dog Walking"; to improve people's health and well-being through dog ownership, whilst respecting the qualities of the Open Spaces we manage and the needs of all visitors.

Your proposals are of particular interest to us but raise both policy and practical issues. As we haven't yet been able to form a clear view and we note that the EFRA Select Committee is considering matters until 2<sup>nd</sup> July; would we be able to provide our views to you by this second date?

Yours sincerely

Sue Ireland

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PO Box 270 Gullihall, London EC2P 2EJ  
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[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/2012games](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/2012games)

**Payne, Clare**

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**From:** Togher, Hugh (FFG-ANW) <Hugh.Togher@defra.gsi.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 June 2012 17:37  
**To:** Ireland, Sue  
**Subject:** Reply to your letter of June 15th 2012 regarding the consultation on the proposed package of measures aimed at tackling irresponsible ownership of dogs  
**Attachments:** City of London - June 15th 2012 - Consultation.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms Ireland,

Thank you for your letter (attached) dated June 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 about the consultation on the proposed package of measures aimed at tackling irresponsible ownership of dogs. You asked whether we can accept your response if you reply by July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012, the date the EFRA Select Committee meets.

The EFRA Select Committee meeting is separate to the consultation and, unfortunately, we cannot accept any consultation response received so far after the deadline of June 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. However we value any contribution the City of London can make to the consultation so if you can respond by **Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012** we will definitely accept it. Beyond then we cannot regrettably guarantee taking your views on board. I hope this extension is of some use to you.

<<City of London - June 15th 2012 - Consultation.pdf>>

Your sincerely,

Hugh Togher

*Administrative Assistant*

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team

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17 Smith Square

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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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**Director of Open Spaces**  
Sue Ireland



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**Date** 20 June 2012

Mr Hugh Togher  
Animal Welfare Team  
DEFRA  
Area 8B, 9 Millbank,  
C/o 17 Smith Square,  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Dear Sir

**Re: Consultation on package of measures to promote more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks**

Further to your email of 18<sup>th</sup> June confirming an extension until 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 our response to the consultation is as follows:

The City of London has not yet been able to form a view on whether such a scheme is justified, both with regard to whether it is a proportionate response to the problem being addressed and the imposition of further bureaucracy and state direction which will inevitably be involved. It is thought that the previous dog licencing regime was abandoned because it was unwieldy, expensive to operate and intrusive.

If such issues can be resolved appropriately, there is – from an operational point of view – some interest in exploring the micro-chipping proposal, but only if such a scheme can be shown to be cost-effective and can be enforced simply and efficiently.

Thank you for allowing us this additional few days and I can confirm our continued interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely

Ms Sue Ireland  
Director of Open Spaces

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