
Future collection at GHP Zoo

Development plan

Updated: 15.05.2022

Author: Tom Lowry

Updated by: Laura Botelho



Contents

Our Mission Statement:	2
Outcomes Framework	3
INTRODUCTION:	4
DEER PADDOCK	6
DONKEY PADDOCK	7
RING TAILED LEMUR & PHEASANT ENCLOSURES:	8
RED JUNGLE FOWL ENCLOSURE	12
WADING BIRD AVIARY	13
RING TAILED COATI	15
KOOKABURRA AVIARY	16
EAGLE OWL AVIARY	17
BUTTERFLY HOUSE	18
STAFF FACILITIES UPGRADE	19
SUMMARY	21

Our Mission Statement:

“Inspiring engagement with our living world”

Vision

Our vision is to inspire learning and engagement with wildlife through:

Welfare	Welcoming	Engagement	Collection
Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the collection.	Providing a welcoming, safe and accessible zoo that visitors feel confident to explore.	Inspiring people to develop their knowledge and understanding of wildlife in Britain, and its conservation. Encouraging people to engage and participate in the conservation, management and the development of the zoo.	Ensuring the collection reflects wildlife in Britain and encourages understanding of their relationship with the Heath.

Outcomes Framework

	Outcome	Indicators / Measures
1	Welfare	
1.1	The collection is healthy and well cared for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with the husbandry guidelines from the British & Irish Association of Zoo and Aquariums (BIAZA) / European Association of Zoo and Aquariums (EAZA) / American Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) Maintain Zoo License Complete quarterly Veterinary Inspections Organise and lead the biannual Zoo and Farm Ethical Committee Maintain membership of BIAZA
1.2	The most suitable and appropriate habitat is provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Zoo Licence Complete quarterly Veterinary Inspections Organise and lead the biannual Zoo and Farm Ethical Committee Maintain membership of BIAZA Utilise natural materials from the Heath to enhance enclosure habitats
2	Welcoming	
2.1	The Zoo provides a welcoming, safe and accessible environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey
3	Engagement	
3.1	People have a greater understanding of wildlife in Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage around the enclosures is up to date, informative and reviewed annually.
3.2	The Open Spaces Department Learning Programme is delivered to children from Early Years Foundation Stage to key stage 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School visits are recorded and reported annually Feedback is sought from Teachers and/or Parents / Carers Evaluation findings from our Learning Programme are shared.
3.3	People are inspired to visit the facility again and/or volunteer in the conservation, management and development of the Zoo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey Increase volunteer participation. Establish baseline data for 2017/18 Increase Animal Adoption Scheme uptake by 5%
4	Collection	
4.1	The collection is comprised of species associated with wildlife in Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each species will fall into one of the following three categories: current / historic / introduced or invasive and meets the collection plan.
4.2	Visitors understand how the species in the collection relate to the Heath past and present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey

INTRODUCTION:

The redevelopment of Golders Hill Park Zoo is planned as an open-ended rolling project. The **mission, vision, values** and **ethos** which are to be used to guide the project are laid out here along with specific development proposals for each area of the site. While the mission, vision, values and ethos (MVVE) will provide unswerving guidance, the proposed developments described here are intended to be fully open and flexible as future circumstances may require. The ideas for redeveloping each area set out in this document represent the current most appropriate plans which are practically achievable within the MVVE framework, species welfare/husbandry needs and budgetary considerations.

The ethos behind this plan is the creation of a cohesive narrative within the collection. The narrative itself is to be anchored to the concept of 'Wildlife in Britain'. It is important here to distinguish between 'Wildlife in Britain' and 'British Wildlife', as the collection will not be aimed at becoming purely native species. It will rather become a diverse collection encapsulating the fluid nature of British natural history in recent millennia.

This 'Past, Present & Future' narrative gives the collection the scope to house a more diverse selection of species and, in doing so, to engage the public with the story of the natural history of Britain in general and the surrounding Heath habitats in particular. Every species exhibited within the collection must fall within one or more of the following categories:

- **Current Native British Species** – current natural inhabitants.
- **Historic Native British Species** – previous inhabitants now extinct on our shores.
- **Invasive or Introduced Species** – current or historical, intentional or accidental.
- **Importance to the Narrative** – providing a significant support to the narrative.

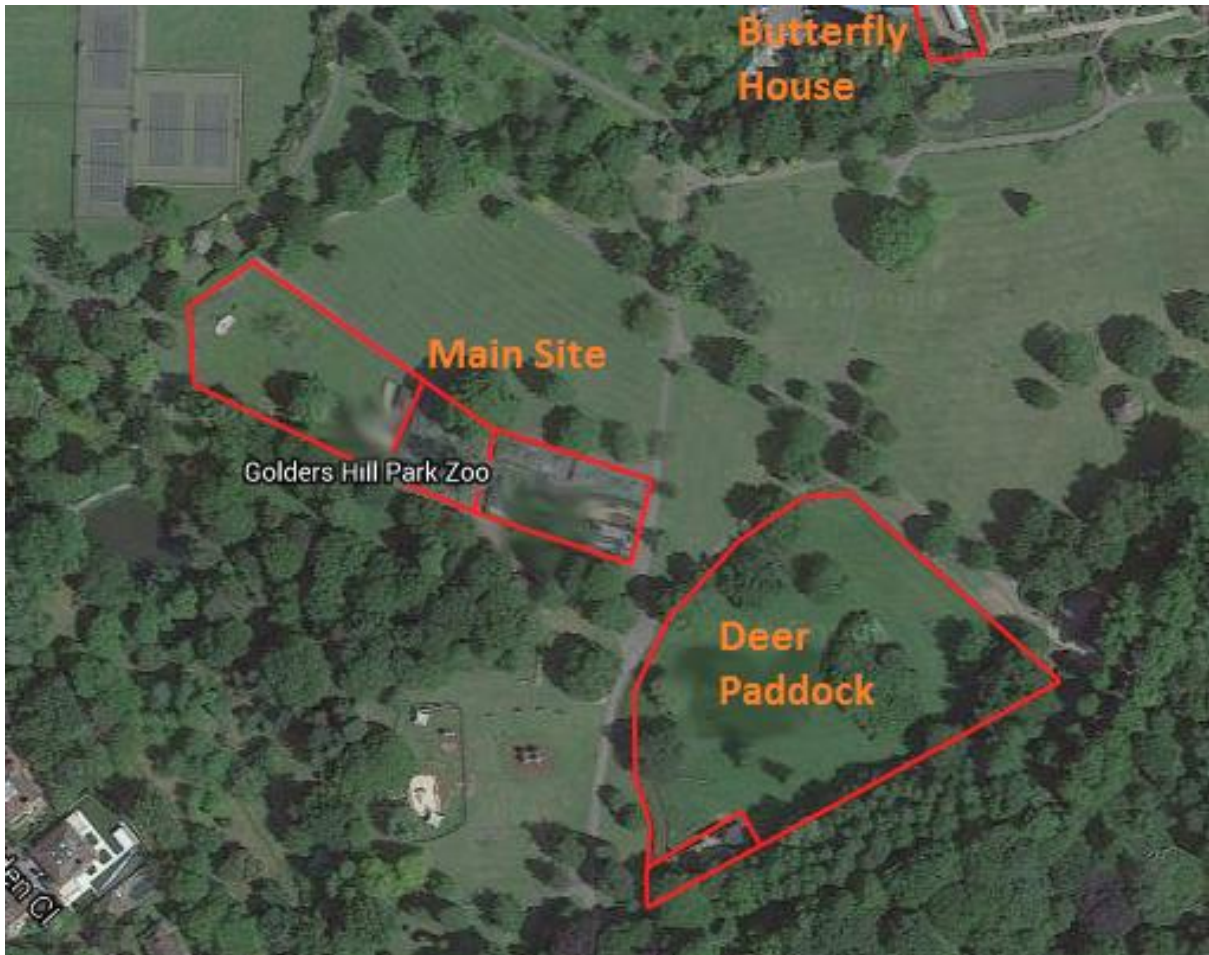


Figure 1 - General site overview.

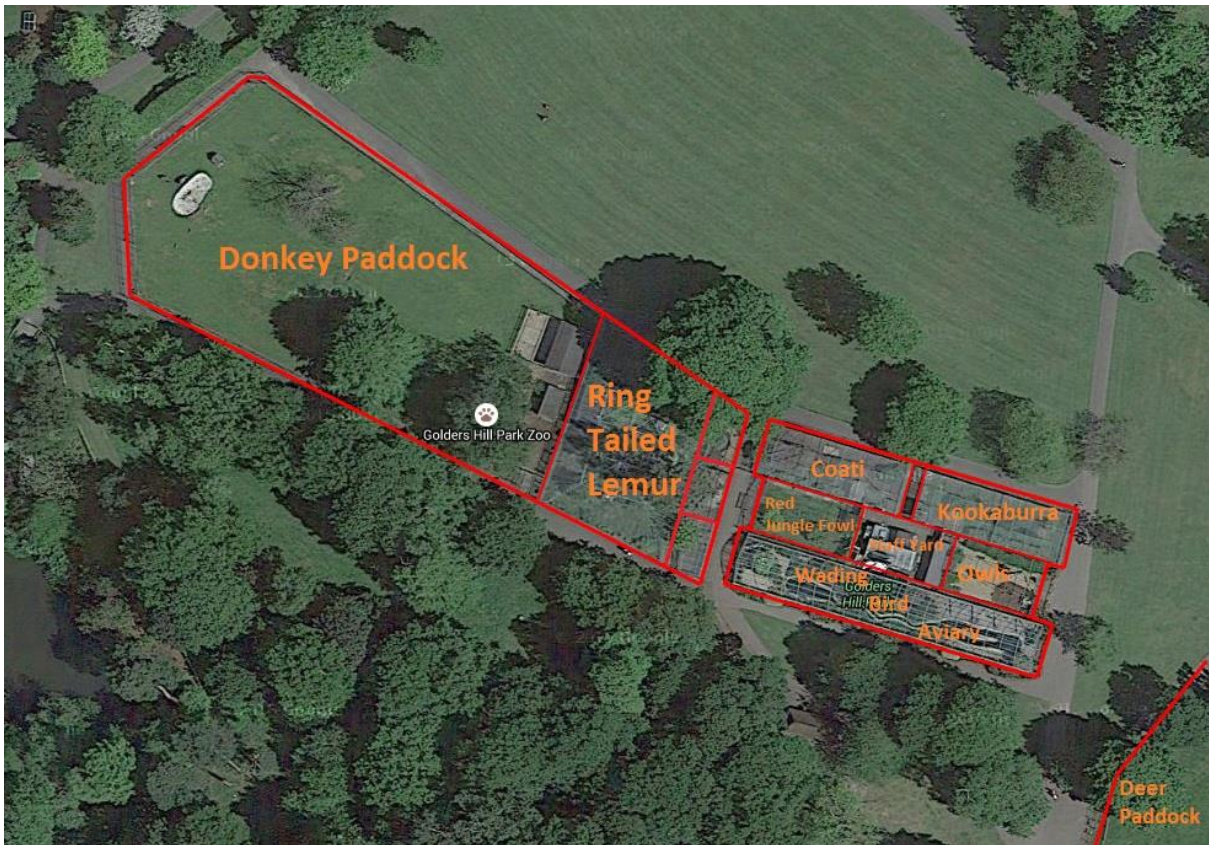


Figure 2 – Annotated overview of GHPZ enclosures (Butterfly House excluded due to scale)

DEER PADDOCK

The Deer Paddock represents the earliest period in the history of the zoo and is also probably our most viewed exhibit. Despite this it is currently massively under-utilized, containing only a herd of female Fallow Deer. This paddock constitutes the vast majority of the footprint of the zoo as well as being the area most open to and viewed by the casual visiting public.

The prominence of the enclosure, combined with its history, large size and current species make it an ideal enclosure to showcase the diversity of deer. There is sufficient space within the current footprint of the Deer Paddock to comfortably house not only an increased herd of Fallow Deer but also other species. This is subject to the suitability of selected species and would require the provision of extra shelters for separate species and fencing to physically split the paddock into sections to prevent any possible issues with aggression, especially between antlered and non-antlered species.

Whilst we are prevented from housing males of the species due to their category one status, we are able to house all female groups, this will allow us to create an exhibit including types of deer that represent differing threads of the story of the animal species living in Britain. Such an exhibit will provide not only a fuller, more engaging public viewing experience, but also would tie in well with the “Nature in Britain” narrative structure of the collection.

While there is some flexibility in the species which we might acquire to share this space, it is preferable to present species that display strong physical differences as well as differing natural histories, whilst maintaining the enclosures history as a Deer Paddock.

Some discussions took place in looking at introducing sheep as part of the zoo and as a reminder of the grazing history on the Heath and options are still being looked at with a possible partial use of the deer paddock. This will need to be fully evaluated as part of the zoo development taking advice from veterinary professional.

Species to be considered as part of the development of this area

1. **Fallow Deer** - Representing the species as a whole (which is variously described as Native, Introduced or Naturalised, dependant on source). There is a long history of Fallow Deer being kept in Golders Hill Park Zoo.
2. **Reindeer** – Surprisingly to most people, the species does qualify as Native, although all of the animals present in Britain in modern times are of

Scandinavian domestic origin. While we could not accommodate any males, we could hold an entirely female group to compliment the fallow deer. The addition of these beautiful and strikingly antlered animals would doubtless stimulate huge public interest year-round.

- 3. Red Deer/Roe Deer** – As the only two native species of Deer still found in the UK a small herd of either could be introduced to live with the Fallow Deer (more research required).

ADJUSTMENTS AND NEW FACILITIES REQUIRED:

The enclosure has been split into two sections running either side of the copse (north to south). The split has been made using 1.8m high stock fencing, with a set of double gates which allows vehicle and keeper access to both sides. The work to this enclosure has also included the addition of a standoff barrier that runs around the perimeter of the enclosure, the purpose of this is to keep the deer further away from the fence line to help reduce incidence of public feeding. It will also help to keep the antlered Reindeer away from the public. With the creation of the new reindeer enclosure the provision of shelter must be given in the form of a wooden stable block, this will be big enough to house a small herd of reindeer with an extra stable that can be used for storage and should the need arise to separate one or more of them. The stable block will sit on a concrete hardstand area that will have a perimeter fence surrounding it (same set up as currently seen in the donkey enclosure) this infrastructure will allow us to provide more hands-on care and will allow for less stressful vet visits. As part of the initial works carried out on the enclosure in 2019 a suitable stable has been sourced and the ground works have been costed. Planning permission for the stable block has also been granted by Barnet council.

One area that still requires additional thought and investigation is providing a water source to the reindeer side of the paddock.

DONKEY PADDOCK

The Donkey paddock was another area of the Zoo that was massively underutilised with only two Donkeys resident in the enclosure. The decision was made to introduce a mob of Bennett's Wallaby to share the space.

Donkeys - This species is much loved by our regular visiting public and also has a historical connection to the Heath, having been used as working animals for transporting building materials taken from the Heath prior to it becoming a public park.

The two individuals we currently hold should remain both as Heath history exemplars and a solid anchor for the considerable public attachment to our current inhabitants.

Bennett's Wallaby (also known as Red-necked Wallaby) - The space within the enclosure is such that we should also be able to easily accommodate a significant group of this species, preferably as a non-breeding group. The species has established populations in Scotland, the Isle of Man, the Peak District, Sussex and Hampshire making it a successful invader without causing any significant damage to native local fauna. Their naturalised status combined with their unusual appearance and mode of locomotion make them an excellent educational species, a notable part of non-native British Wildlife and a very engaging experience for the general public.

ADJUSTMENTS AND NEW FACILITIES REQUIRED:

The works to this enclosure have been completed; additional fencing was installed creating a larger standoff area for the donkeys at the top of the Paddock and a new stable was put in for the Wallabies.

The new fencing will allow keepers to more easily keep the Donkeys in or exclude them from a certain area but will still allow the wallabies to access the entire paddock.

The Wallaby shed was installed on the existing concrete plinth and consists of two rooms which can be split if needed. Some new fencing was added to create a small corral area at the back of the stable which allows them to be kept in should we need to catch them. This area has been created to exclude the Donkeys so also offers an area for the wallabies to go should they want to get away from them. In September 2019 we were joined by six female Bennett's Wallabies from Woburn Safari Park, some of which had joeys in pouch. Our Mob has doubled in size and as of 2021 we have 13 Wallabies living in the enclosure.

RING TAILED LEMUR & PHEASANT ENCLOSURES:

Ring-Tailed Lemur Enclosure

The current Ring-tailed Lemur exhibit represents the single largest fully enclosed exhibit in the collection by a considerable margin. Properly populating this extensive space within the constraints of our 'wildlife in Britain' aims is potentially difficult, but the enclosure structure lends itself to three main options.

NOTE: The lemurs currently in residence are of advanced years and have a stable social dynamic. Redevelopment of this enclosure would be delayed until the natural end of their lives unless suitable alternative space can be arranged for them.

OPTION 1: Mixed aviary exhibit. There are several species already within the collection which can be used as a suitable nucleus for building this mixed population, with other specimens able to be selected and introduced as and when they become available. As with the deer and donkey enclosure proposals the aim would be to present not only a mix of species but also of diverse natural histories. It is important to note that the development of bird enclosures will be aimed at species that have limited and no flying ability to mitigate the impact of birds being in an enclosure and have their wellbeing at heart.

CURRENT STOCK

Little Egret: The collection currently houses a group of three of these small white herons. The species began as a visitor to our shores in the late 1980's and began breeding in Britain naturally in 1996. This natural expansion of range without human intervention is a good example of the normal spread of a species into suitable environments, showing how a new species can become native to Britain even without human intervention.

Cattle Egret: As with the Little Egret we also hold three individuals of this species. Although not yet resident in Britain they are visiting in increasing numbers and may eventually form colony populations in the same way as the Little Egret has already.

Sacred Ibis: Although not currently known to breed in this country the species is popular in captivity around the world and has had numerous escapes both in Britain and continental Europe where it has established a number of colonies in France and Germany. The species is now classed as an invasive pest under European law and as such highlights how human actions can cause the spread of non-native species. (NOTE: While this is a less direct connection to wildlife in Britain, the European Invasive Species Act means that we must most likely keep these animals within the collection for the rest of their natural lives. While transfer of the species may be possible, it is unlikely that any other collection would wish to take them on under these circumstances.)

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

Common Pheasant: Although common around the British Isles these birds are actually an introduced species. Brought here potentially as early as the Roman occupation of Britain, the species became well established by the 15th century and most visitors would be surprised to find that they are not truly a native species. If the species can be integrated into the mixed aviary, they would provide an important historical perspective as well as adding interest to the lower spaces of the enclosure.

Grouse: Both Red and Black grouse are native species in Britain, and both are also suffering declining populations in the wild at this time. As with the Common Pheasant they would add further diversity to the natural history of the aviaries residents and interest to its ground level.

It is likely that only one of these species could be accommodated due to space and potential behavioural conflict. Choice as to which species to select can be made at a later date as the aviary population is developed.

OPTION 2: Scottish walkthrough area.

The current enclosure consists of mesh fitted over a tubular metal framework. This framework could be used to subdivide the current enclosure to create new public pathway which would run between a number of smaller enclosures within the space. This approach has multiple advantages. From a public point of view, the area will connect with the 'Out-Side-In Space' (outlined on pages 12 & 13) delivering a more immersive zoo experience and should also allow us to remove the obtrusive secondary chain-link fence to be replaced with a planted border and lower wooden stand-off barrier improving public visibility and the aesthetic of the site.

The newly created enclosures on what are currently the public boundary would be used to house species such as red grouse, Capercaillie, common pheasant and other gamebirds. This arrangement will also be ideal for housing Red Squirrels as the new internal enclosure will be enveloped by the outer new enclosures. This will effectively double mesh the internal enclosure as is necessary for biosecurity protection (preventing transmission of the squirrel pox virus from the Heaths population of wild Grey Squirrels). Only the single side of the Red Squirrel area facing the new public path would require extra resources to provide proper protection and this can be easily and cheaply achieved.

OPTION 3: Rare Breeds walkthrough area.

The area could be utilised to house a number of domestic rare breeds. The integrity of the enclosure would be able to remain intact with small modifications made to make an entrance/exit. This area could become a paid area if thought was given to an easy way to take payment such as a contactless turnstile. The majority of the animals would have some visibility from the outside, but visitors would have the option of paying a small contribution to enter and get closer to the animals. This area would only be able to be open for set hours in the day and therefore the ability to see some of the animals outside of this time would be essential. Having an area that people can come into would increase the feeling of inclusivity with visitors. Animals in this enclosure could include rare breed sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, ducks etc. With this option thought would have to be given to the staff time it takes to run such an area as it would need to be staffed whilst open to the public.

Whilst this option takes us away from wild animals there are opportunities to breed and be involved in saving these breeds from extinction, there is also the added benefit of these animals being highly visible and good for visitor interaction.

Current Pheasant Enclosure

The enclosure is split into three sections with internal mesh and access doors.

The option decided upon for the Lemur enclosure will impact the changes made to this enclosure. If option 1: the mixed aviary is chosen then the middle section of the enclosure will be transformed into an internal viewing window, allowing visitors to feel like they are in the enclosure. This will be achieved by removing the mesh and framework from the front and roof of the enclosure and extending it back into the aviary. For options 2 and 3 the central section of the pheasant enclosure would be removed completely creating an entrance into the enclosure.

The two end enclosures will be maintained ready as holding areas for animals within the collection that require separation but for whom full quarantine facilities are not necessary. This will enable us the flexibility to engage in conservation breeding programs by addressing possible welfare issues caused by overcrowding or to temporarily separate animals for veterinary treatment and recuperation. At the same time this will allow our current facilities to be kept available for cases that require full sequestration for reasons of quarantine or veterinary care.

As these enclosures will likely be empty of animals for a significant proportion of the time particular attention will need to be paid to their aesthetic furnishings and to providing significant explanatory signage for our visitors. These will need to be updated as and when residents come and go but will have the additional advantage of enabling regular visitors to engage with some of the internal goings on of the collection.

RED JUNGLE FOWL ENCLOSURE

The collection currently suffers from a lack of internal public space. The only time that the visiting public may feel truly 'in' the zoo is passing along the path between our upper and lower enclosures. This leaves one with the impression of almost skirting around the zoo itself rather than being properly surrounded and thus immersed in the experience. Also lacking is the facility to display any of the smaller species that are common in Britain and on the Heath in particular. The proposal laid out here is aimed at addressing both issues by creating a publicly accessible covered area inside the current zoo boundaries which will double up as an educational space as well as housing a number of small vivarium type exhibits. This would be achieved by redeveloping the footprint of the area currently occupied by the Red Jungle Fowl.

A simple wooden framework and polycarbonate roofing will provide a sheltered area with one wall fully open onto the current pathway through the zoo. Use of transparent roofing material and maintaining the small tree within the area will have the effect of creating an area that feels very much as though the outside world of the Heath is being brought inside. Simple wood panel walls on the three solid sides of the structure will allow for vivarium displays to be set behind appropriate cut-out viewing windows as well as providing a huge surface area for interpretation displays. To further increase the impression of entering into a new space the current pathways leading into the area from both sides will be covered by a 'living-roof', a simple arrangement of suitably dense climbing plant species grown across wires or trellis connecting the fencing of the current pheasant exhibit with that of the coati and wading aviary. Gates will need to be installed at each of these entrances to maintain proper security.

The Vivarium Exhibits:

The space should be sufficient to accommodate 6 or 8 small vivarium exhibits which will enable us to display a decent variety of species present in the habitats of the Heath. The possibilities for species are many and specific choices can be made at a later date to ensure that they fit with the more specifically Heath related interpretation message intent for this 'Out-Side-In Space'. A mixture of native and invasive species in these enclosures would be the ideal from an educational viewpoint, with each species being linked with extensive interpretation displays relating to native or invasive counterparts or to their habitat impacts or ecological niches surrounding each vivarium. Some of the possible options are:

Red-Eared Sliders / Terrapins – Currently resident in some of the Heath ponds and regularly trapped for removal and rehoming. The species is a great example of how human actions in acquiring and then releasing unwanted pets can have a lasting impact on British wildlife.

American Signal Crayfish – Intentional introduced into British waterways this species has now rapidly spread and is supplanting our native crayfish in their habitats. These invaders are also present in some of the Heaths aquatic habitats helping to link specific Heath wildlife to British wildlife in general for our visitors.

Common Frog or Toad – Often used as an example when exploring the life cycles of different species, the growth and development of these amphibians is an educational tool that has been in use for generations.

Wormery – One of the most important species in maintaining soil quality globally and also one which is rarely considered or observed by most people. A well-presented wormery will highlight this less considered but essential part of Heath (and world) ecology and the importance of even these smallest of inhabitants as both a food source for other species and a key part of general ecology.

Ant Colony – Similar to the wormery an ant colony can be used to highlight the roll of invertebrates in the breakdown of detritus and the maintenance of Heath habitats. There are a large number of potential species that may be presented this way and a choice will be made in consultation with specialist entomologist at a later date.

WADING BIRD AVIARY

Like much of the zoo, the current Wading Bird Aviary is a large but rather under-utilised space. The existing fabric of the enclosure lends itself to being fairly easily divided into several large enclosures, thus increasing both stock diversity and public interest/value for the available space. Whilst physically divided the enclosures will be stylistically cohesive, furnished so as to represent a continuous area of native British woodland. The preferred species set out here represent an excellent mix of conservation needs, public engagement and British natural history.

- **Enclosure 1 – Eurasian Eagle Owls:** The male we currently hold is greatly loved by many of our regular visitors and are also an excellent example of historical British wildlife, having died out on the British mainland some 9000 years ago. Moving these birds to a new, larger and more naturalistically furnished enclosure will help to integrate them into the new zoo narrative, provide continuity as well as an improved experience for regular visitors and the animals themselves.
- **Enclosure 2 – Pine Martens:** Pine martens are an excellent example of historical human impacts on native wildlife and also the ongoing native species conservation work taking place in Britain today. Steady decline in the 19th century due to persecution and forest clearance is being countered today by scientific study, captive breeding, habitat protection and relocation programs.
- **Enclosure 3 – Scottish Wild Cats:** Britain’s only surviving wild feline, this species is under very real threat from disease and genetic dilution due to the prevalence of feral and domestic cats in and around their remaining wild habitats. They are now found only in remote parts of Scotland despite once being widespread throughout Britain. The potential for us to engage in supporting the captive breeding program for this species would be an excellent ex-situ conservation effort for us to undertake and provide a wonderful educational opportunity for the visiting public on one of Britain’s lesser-known predatory species.
- **Enclosure 4 – European Polecat:** Widespread throughout Europe including the UK this species presents an excellent and entertaining introduction to the kind of native British wildlife rarely seen by the overwhelming majority of people. As the sole ancestor of the domesticated ferret, they also provide an interesting window into the interactions between humans and our native species. These highly active and engaging creatures will create a high impact counterpoint to the often-elusive Wildcats and Pine martens.

The resulting series of enclosures and animals will meet all our mission and vision needs by educating and engaging with the public whilst also giving us the potential to contribute to captive conservation efforts in the future.

RING TAILED COATI

This enclosure will continue to be used to house our male Ring-Tailed Coati 'Pedro'. The species is featured on the listings of the European Invasive Species Act, and this imposes restrictions making it difficult to re-home him. Whilst he might be legally transferred to another collection their invasive status and the dangers involved in attempting to integrate individuals into unfamiliar groups means that finding a suitable home for him is extremely unlikely. He will remain in the collection for the remainder of his natural life span.

Pedro offers a stimulating and interesting viewing experience for the visiting public, and they can be integrated into the 'wildlife in Britain' narrative as an example of an invasive/introduced exotic species which is having a significant impact in parts of continental Europe (Breeding populations have established in Spain). There have also been reports of several escapes and unconfirmed sightings of possible breeding of the species around the Lake District in recent years.

Whilst the enclosure is currently sufficient to his needs it is in need of refurbishing to improve the aesthetic appeal and usability of the area for the species. This is an ongoing project using materials freely available on-site.

As Pedro nears the end of his natural life thought will need to be given to what species can inhabit this enclosure as for the reasons stated above there will be no scope for replacing with more coati. As the enclosure is the same as the Kookaburra's species considered for that enclosure could also be considered for this one.

KOOKABURRA AVIARY

The aviary which currently houses Kookaburra and Speckled Pigeon is proposed to be developed according to one of two options presented below. The choice will depend on whether the enclosure can be adapted to house Red Squirrels within welfare and budgetary constraints. This will need to be decided by consultation with experienced keepers of the species and scrutiny of budget availability. An analysis of this option was undertaken by the International Zoo Veterinary Group for a previous version of the collection plan. This concluded that while feasible, housing Red Squirrels would require significant investment in adapting the current structure of the enclosure.

RED SQUIRRELS: The housing of Red Squirrels remains the preferred option due to their status as an iconic species of native British fauna and the possibility that the collection might be able to engage with other organisations in the conservation breeding of the species. This possibility must be balanced against the potential difficulty/cost of adapting the enclosure to suit the species needs. Most importantly this would mean raising the roof of the structure by a significant amount, probably doubling the current height at a minimum (keepers will be looking to consult with the Wild Wood collection). There are also concerns to address in terms of potential contact with the local Grey Squirrel population in terms of disease risk. Grey Squirrels often carry squirrel pox virus which is fatal to Red Squirrels. Creating an effective transmission barrier would need to be balanced against the need to improve public viewing of the animals.

(This collection plan also contains an alternate option for housing this species which addresses these issues, see "Ring-Tailed Lemur Enclosure" Option 2 on page 11)

BLACK GROUSE: These relatively large native birds occur in parts of Scotland, Wales and Northern England and occupy moorland and the edges of woodland. The current enclosure would require very little adjustment other than replanting/landscaping to mimic the species natural habitats. Even a relatively small group comprising a single male and several females should make the area well populated to public eyes. If multiple males could be safely housed together, they may also display their lekking courtship behaviours providing further spectacle for regular visitors. Although they lack the iconic appeal of the Red Squirrel, Black Grouse would still create a good exhibit with both the enclosure and the animals being easier to prepare and maintain.

In 1999 a biodiversity action plan was put in place for the Black Grouse in a bid to increase numbers. Today they are classified as Red under the birds of conservation concern on the red list for birds UK meaning that their numbers are decreasing. As well as being a good exhibit they will also offer a good educational opportunity and possibly a chance to get involved in some conservation projects.

EAGLE OWL AVIARY

For many of our visitors the current Eagle Owl aviary may be considered the ‘front-and-centre’ of the zoo, and the proposal for redeveloping the current Wading Bird Aviary would see this enclosure emptied. Both our current collection and the majority of this new collection plan focus on larger scale mammal and bird life in Britain. This leaves little space for covering the ecological connectivity of plant and animal life and includes only a small amount of space for other taxonomic groups (see Red Jungle Fowl/’Out-Side-In’ development). By opening up this enclosure as a public space we can again draw our visitors into the zoo itself whilst presenting them with a concentrated flavour of the wildlife out on the Heath and British ecology in general. In order to achieve this effect, this area should be developed into a semi-formal public garden displaying native, invasive and introduced plant species integrated with exemplars of invertebrate, amphibian and reptile habitats. This garden would occupy only the public facing front half of the current enclosure with the remaining area being given over to the expansion of the internal staff yard to accommodate improved and updated facilities.

By removing the scaffold framework and mesh making up the aviary the area will be opened up to public access and expand the available footprint outward to level with the enclosures either side of the space. By employing a ‘pinch-point’ narrowed entry way and using tiered raised beds on all sides this will become quite an immersive space whilst also providing suitable visual and sound barriers for the enclosures on either side. Visitors entering the space will be presented on all sides with a mix of plants representing food sources, breeding sites and home habitat for various species. Although signage must be made to comprehensively cover the ecological significance of the plants, we would hope to keep it rather more low-key and integrated with the aesthetic of the garden rather than overwhelming it (CONCEPT = Information vs Aesthetic). The planning and execution of this space will require extensive cooperation and consultation with park horticultural staff and NLOS ecologist to achieve the desired balance of information and aesthetic considerations.

Distributed within the planting around the garden will be examples of the habitat requirements for a range of species types and the importance of these groups to British ecology. These will include a small wild pond area to focus on amphibians, a beehive (uninhabited for safety), wood and stone piles for reptiles, rotting logs and leaf litter for insects as well as spaces for both wild bird and bat boxes. With the exception of the beehive these habitats will be minimally maintained allowing the possibility of wild examples creatures taking up residence. Again, here the interpretation must be comprehensive without becoming obtrusive. The aim is to create an attractive, immersive space for the public within which they can gather a great deal of knowledge

if they look a little closer as a reflection of the larger experience available to them out in the Heath habitats proper.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Due to covid-19 and the restrictions put in place the Butterfly House did not open for the 2020 season. In 2021 it remained closed due to the remaining restrictions.

Prior to its closure the Butterfly House was open from the end of March until the end of October and was open daily between 1-3pm. On top of the heating costs, £100 a week is spent on pupae to top up stock. There is a Donation Box located inside the Butterfly House that on average makes £2,000. Housing only exotic butterflies does not fit the new narrative theme of the collection and requires substantial heating and therefore a change of the area is proposed to enable us to utilise this space more effectively.

: Small natives' centre.

The Butterfly House could be repurposed to house a number of smaller species, giving the public a good idea of the array of native species found in the UK (some of which may be found on the heath). This area could be modified to become a chargeable space and its location next to the Glasshouse could offer a great opportunity to offer more sessions to school groups.

There are a number of species that could be housed in this area that would allow the public to get a much closer look of some of the more elusive species they would be unlikely to see in the wild. It would give us a chance to explain the important roles these species have in maintaining ecosystems and be able to show the conservation/ecology work that takes place within the heath. Given that this area would need to be staffed it may be an opportunity to collaborate with Heath hands to support this project.

Ideas of species that could be held are as follows.

- Hazel door mice – classified as vulnerable and is part of a conservation programme that we could be involved in.
- Harvest mouse – Near threatened.
- Bees – display hive could be installed backing on to the garden.
- A pond to display some species of native fish
- Native moths and Butterflies

- Hedgehog – iconic British mammal with populations in decline, could house a rescue that cannot be released back into the wild.
- Native reptiles – common lizard, sand Lizard, slow worm, grass snake, Adder, smooth snake.

Not all of these species would need to be housed and more research into availability and husbandry needs would need to be done.

This area could also provide a good place to educate the public on what to do with Wildlife they find in the park, i.e. fledgeling birds/hedgehogs.

STAFF FACILITIES UPGRADE

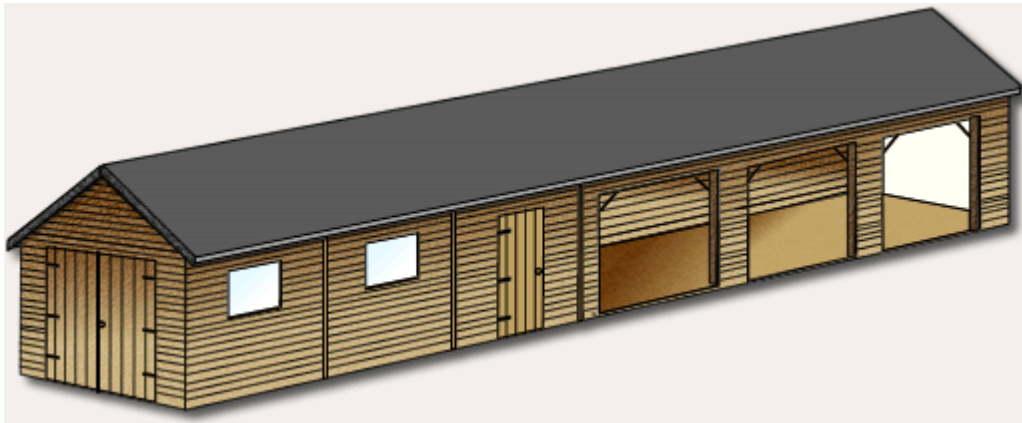
The current zoo yard and associated facilities will need to be substantially upgraded in order to enable staff to provide appropriate levels of care for the expanded and diversified collection. Improved facilities will be necessary for food preparation, dry fodder storage, veterinary facilities, quarantine and recovery holding enclosures, office space, general equipment and supply storage, tool and material storage and workshop space.

This improvement will be achieved by expanding the footprint of the yard area and replacing the current accretion of mismatched structures with prefabricated wooden agricultural buildings (examples below). The area will be enlarged by taking in half of the adjacent Eagle Owl enclosure on one end and also part of the current Red Jungle Fowl enclosure on the opposite side. These can be able to be tailored to our specific needs, making more sensible use of the available space.

Best use of the available footprint will be to use standard prefabricated wooden stable buildings where each section or room is 3.6m square (12' x 12') as standard, plus a sheltering overhang of a further 0.9m. The area is wide enough to accommodate two of these structures placed back-to-back leaving an open veranda each side so that accessibility to all parts of the adjacent enclosures is unimpeded. The result should be two separate buildings with an open yard space between. The smaller of the two buildings will be approximately 7.2 x 7.2m and house a new veterinary treatment room, zoo office and two quarantine or treatment holding enclosures. This will be separated from the larger building by a 3m wide open yard adjoining the current gated entrance to the compound. The second, larger building will be ~7.2 x 10.8m and provide space for the animal kitchen, storage for bulk dry feeds, hay & straw, tools & materials, workshop space and a further two quarantine/holding areas.

It is possible that the 'Out-Side-In Space' described earlier in the collection plan (p.13) could also be included as part of this build by extending the roof and walls of the smaller of the buildings to cover the entirety of the current Red Jungle Fowl enclosure. With the far Western end left fully open to the public this could accommodate the proposed exhibits and save on over all construction time and costs by combining the two projects, utilising the prefab structures to create the new public space.

Reference Images:





SUMMARY

The redevelopment of Golders Hill Park Zoo will take many years. In reality it may be considered as an unending push to reinvigorate and improve all aspects of the collection. Through a rolling program of progressive change, guided by the **mission, vision, values & ethos** set out in this plan we can begin this process of growth and betterment.

Whilst we may adjust or change any of the development proposals herein the final aim remains unchanged. Golders Hill Park Zoo will become an outstanding, welcoming public resource, focused on promoting public engagement with our living world and with the wildlife of the British Isles and Hampstead Heath in particular.

9 Phase Plan Timetable:

Phase 1: Introduction of wallaby in the donkey paddock.	2017/19	Completed 2019
Phase 2: Redevelop butterfly house – native species.	2022/24	
Phase 3: Introduction of reindeer to deer paddock.	2024/25	
Phase 4: Redevelop Jungle fowl enclosure to create inside out space.	2024/25	
Phase 5: Redevelopment of wading bird enclosure. (3 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosure 1: Scottish wildcats • Enclosure 2: Owl • Enclosure 3: Pine marten 	2025/28	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosure 4: Pine marten • Enclosure 5: Polecats 		
Phase 6: Redevelopment of Coati/Kookaburra enclosure to introduce red squirrels / ground dwelling birds – pheasant, grouse, capercaillie etc.	2028/29	
Phase 7: Redevelop old owl enclosure to create Heath botanical display area.	2028/29	
Phase 8: Redevelop staff yard area.	2028/29	
Phase 9: Redevelop ring tail lemur enclosure.	TBC	