



Brent

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee

Monday 21 July 2025 at 6.00 pm

This will be held as an online virtual meeting via MS Teams

The press and public will be able to follow proceedings online via the live webcast available [HERE](#)

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Ernest Ambe Esq

Andrea Bilbow

Rishikesh Chakraborty

Alan Schneiderman

Krupa Sheth

Parvez Ahmed

Arshad Mahmood

Mary Mitchell

Representing

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Brent

Membership Continued

Organisations

Brent River Catchment Partnership

Canal and River Trust

Cleaner Earth UK

Cool Oak
Environment Agency
Friends of Welsh Harp
Hendon Rifle Club
London Wildlife Trust
Natural England
Phoenix Canoe Club
Princes Park Youth Football Club
Silkstream Friends
Silver Park Jubilee Residents Association
Thames 21
Thames Water
Training Ship Broadsword
Trustee of WHCG
Welsh Harp Conservation Group
Welsh Harp Sailing Association
West Hendon Allotment Society
West Hendon Residents' Association / Friends of York Park
Baratt London

For further information contact: Rebecca Reid, Governance Officer:
Rebecca.Reid@brent.gov.uk, 0208 9372 469

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[Council meetings and decision making | Brent Council](#)

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest (i.e. it affects a financial position or relates to determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission, or registration) then (unless an exception at 14(2) of the Members Code applies), after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).

- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward affected by the decision, the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who employs or has appointed any of these or in whom they have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000, or any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are a director
- any body of a type described in (a) above.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
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1	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2025-26	
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Councillor representatives on the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) are asked to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2025-26 Municipal Year.

In accordance with the JCC Constitution, the nominee for position of Chair in 2025-26 should be from amongst the Council members appointed by the London Borough of Brent. The nominee for Vice-Chair should be from amongst the Council members appointed by the London Borough of Barnet.

2	Apologies for Absence	
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3	Declaration of interests	
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Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, the nature and existence of any relevant disclosable pecuniary or personal interests in the items on this agenda and to specify the item(s) to which they relate.

4	Deputations (if any)	
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By prior arrangement with the Chair, persons who are not members of the Committee may attend to address the Committee on a particular issue or item. Any members of the public wishing to address the committee should submit their request at least 3 days in advance of the meeting to the contact officer named on the agenda. The request will then be passed to the Chair for consideration

5	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
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To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 20 March 2025 as a correct record.

6	Matters Arising	
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7	London Borough of Barnet - Welsh Harp Management Plan	5 - 24
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To provide an update to the Committee in relation to Council activities during Quarter 1 (Apr-June 2025/26) in respect of the Welsh Harp / West Hendon Playing Fields.

8 London Borough of Brent - Welsh Harp Management Plan

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This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2025/26 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main, land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

9 Update from the Canal & River Trust

Verbal

To receive an update from the Canal & River Trust.

10 Date of Future Meetings

To note the following dates for future meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee, all of which are scheduled to be held online:

- Monday 24 November 2025 at 6pm
- Thursday 19 March 2026 at 6pm

11 Any other urgent business

No business other than that appearing on the agenda shall be transacted at the meeting unless the Chair decides that it is urgent. Any member of the Committee wishing to raise an item of urgent business should provide sufficient notice to permit consideration by the Chair.

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20 March 2025

Members present:

Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty - London Borough of Barnet (Chair)
Councillor Ernest Ambe - London Borough of Barnet
Councillor Parvez Ahmed - London Borough of Brent
Councillor Krupa Sheth - London Borough of Brent
Councillor Mary Mitchell – London Borough of Brent
Councillor Liz Dixon - London Borough of Brent

Also in attendance:

Matt Gunyon - London Borough of Barnet
Harriet Duffield - London Borough of Barnet
Leslie Williams - London Borough of Brent
Hannah Reid - Thames 21
John Shepherd
Judy Shepherd
Manfred Mollenhauer

1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1):

The Chair welcomed all Committee Members and participants to the meeting.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

Councillor Schneiderman, London Borough of Barnet.

3. MINUTES (Agenda Item 3):

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS (Agenda Item 4):

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):

None.

6. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 6):

None.

7. LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Agenda Item 7):

Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces - Greenspaces and Leisure, introduced the report and provided an overview to the committee.

Mr Gunyon provided an update on management and operations. He informed the committee that the issue of a reported rough sleeper had been resolved.

It was reported that West Hendon Playing Fields Project would progress forward with a phased approach to delivering the masterplan.

In addition, Mr Gunyon outlined to the committee that the London Borough of Barnet's in-house Grounds Maintenance team had cleared an area of vegetation between the north marsh and the playing fields.

The Chair thanked Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces for the update and noted the reported.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the committee to ask questions.

A question was raised regarding monitoring water pollution levels. In response, Mr Gunyon informed the committee he has reached out to the Environment Agency for a response and will update the committee at the next meeting.

Cllr Mitchell (Brent) a raised concern of a ward member who had a subsidence issue with trees. In response, Mr Gunyon asked if Cllr Mitchell or the ward member could reach out so the issue can be investigated.

A request was made for signs such as 'no BBQs' to be considered. Mr Gunyon informed the committee that the service was reviewing enforcement patrols to take place over Friday and Saturday summer nights.

8. LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT - WELSH HARP MANAGEMENT PLAN (Agenda Item 8):

Leslie Williams, Project Officer, introduced the report and provided an overview to the committee.

Mr Williams updated the committee on recommended works to conserve the marshland along the edge of the Brent Reservoir with Neasden Recreation.

In reference to section 3.2.11, Mr Williams informed the committee that the Canals and River Trust have submitted a planning application for the Pulley Wheel sculpture. Materials from this have been reclaimed and recovered from a previous Dam. It was noted to the committee that information regarding the planning application is on the website.

In addition, Mr Williams informed the Board that Brent Council launched the Staples Corner Growth Area Masterplan.

The Chair thanked Leslie Williams, Project Officer for the update and noted the reported.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the committee to ask questions.

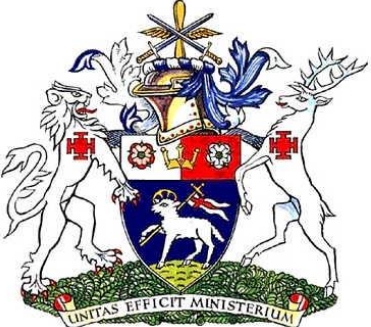
Cllr Mitchell (Brent) requested an updated on the Welsh Harp Education Centre, in response Mr Williams outlined that it is was not his specific area but the scope of the idea remained roughly the same and advised Cllr Mitchell to get in touch with the relevant department.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 9):

The Chair, Cllr Chakraborty thanked the committee for the past year. Cllr Ambe (Barnet) thanked Cllr Chakraborty for his hard work this past year.

The meeting finished at 6.37 pm

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 July 2025</p>
Title	London Borough of Barnet Welsh Harp Update
Report of	Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Health
Wards	West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	None
Enclosures	Appendix A - Welsh Harp – s106 Proposal 2025/2026
Officer Contact Details	Matthew Gunyon, Head of Greenspaces matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7403
Summary	
To provide an update to the committee in relation to Council activities during Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun 2025/26) in respect of the Welsh Harp / West Hendon Playing Fields.	

Officers Recommendations	
1. That the committee note the contents of this report.	

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee (WHJCC) is comprised of the Canal and Rivers Trust, Brent Council, Welsh Harp Conservation Group, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Barnet Council. The committee is a consultative committee and meets on a quarterly basis.

1.2 During Quarter 1 (April-June 2025), the Council progressed a series of activities in relation to the management and operation of West Hendon Playing Fields / Welsh Harp. The committee are requested to note the following;

1.3 Management and Operations

1.3.1 A significant fly tip clearance was carried out late April 2025, on the east bank of the Silk Stream behind the Ramsey Close neighbouring properties.

1.3.2 There remain consistent fly tipping issues at Priestly Way, located opposite the advertising hoarding. The Council commissions a third party waste contractor to support clearance. However, new hazardous waste has been added to the existing pile, creating further clearances challenges. The Council are now engaging with contractors who are able to support specialist clearances are exploring the feasibility of introducing CCTV within the area to prevent further issues and support enforcement. The Council relies on reporting to identify and clear fly tip. Please report any fly tipping around the Welsh Harp to parks@barnet.gov.uk

1.3.3 A series of volunteer litter picking events have been organised by the Friends of the Welsh Harp over the spring period, with collection and clearance resources provided by the Council.

1.3.4 The Council is a member of the Thames21 Brent Catchment Partnership, and continues to work with stakeholders on the biggest issues facing the Brent River catchment, which includes the Welsh Harp. Officers attend working group meetings, such as the invasive non-native species (INNS) control group, which has recently produced an interactive map to show INNS locations and treatment plans. The long-term aim of the group is to eradicate Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed across the catchment, all of which are present at the Welsh Harp. The Council has engaged our specialist contractor for significant additional spraying, the total area of giant hogweed spot-treated this year-to-date being 2775 square metres. Japanese knotweed treatment is in progress, with additional locations identified using INNS tracker.

1.3.5 In consultation with the Friends of the Welsh Harp, Barnet Council resources have been redeployed from contractor litter picks to invasive non-native species treatment.

1.4 West Hendon Playing Fields Master Plan

1.4.1 An update will be reported to the Councils Cabinet on the 22nd July 2025, highlighted a phased approach in delivering the West Hendon Playing Fields. The report sets out the

vision for improving and enhancing the site, highlighting which elements are to be delivered under each phase and the next steps for their delivery.

1.5 Welsh Harp and SSSI management

1.5.1 The Council has produced a plan relating to the use of the £220,531.05 s106 contribution for improvements and mitigation works to the SSSI. This is in relation to the West Hendon Waterside Development. Full details of the proposal can be found in Appendix A and are summarised below:

- Match funding of CRT bid for restoration of the North Marsh (including desilting, silt reprofiling, INNS management, vegetation management, breeding rafts and a new public hide)
- Upgrade of footpath network
- Habitat management (creation, enhancement and maintenance)
- Community engagement, training and site stewardship
- Collection of baseline data through ecological surveys and citizen science events
- Using data collected to inform future funding applications.

The Council work with Citizen Zoo, TCV and our term contractors to deliver the work, commencing in August 2025 and running through to early 2026.

1.5.2 In April 2023 the Council were alerted to concerns relating to the SSSI as a result of development from a property in Woolmead Avenue. This has remained under review by the Councils Planning Enforcement team who have worked with Natural England to review and resolve matters, issuing an enforcement notice in May 2023. Subsequently a retrospective application for construction work (23/2569/RCU) was refused by the London Borough of Barnet Planning Dept. A further notice was issued in November 2023, outlining a requirement to demolish and remove materials from the property. An appeal was issued in 29 January 2025 and the Councils decision was upheld. An independent inspector has provided up to 29th July 2025 to comply with the terms of the enforcement notice or obtain relevant consents. The Council will continue to monitor.

1.5.3 The council continues to work in partnership with Brent Council, Canal and Rivers Trust, The GLA, The London Wildlife Trust and Thames 21 in delivering the overarching Vision for the Welsh Harp, Welsh Harp Management Plan and Brent Catchment Partnership & Action Plan.

1.5.4 Barratt London provided a briefing to Members on (Thursday 29th May). The purpose of the meeting was to update Councillors on the progress being made on the Silkstream Bridge proposals and to update on next steps including:

- setting out the road map to delivering the bridge
- preparing a stakeholder engagement strategy

Barratt London will circulate further communications later this year.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The terms of reference of the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee include that it considers and co-ordinates all the interests of recreation, leisure, maintenance and nature conservation with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and

surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Council will continue to develop the new and emerging policies as set out in section 1.2.1 of this report.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy is a key corporate priority for the Council.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The programme of activities listed within this report are delivered within existing resources, some initiatives or tasks may require additional investment which will be considered in the development of new policies and assessed through the Councils budget setting process.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to safeguard, protect and enhance sites of special scientific interest. The Local Authority has the power under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. However, English Nature must be consulted by the Authority in the use of the powers given by section 21. The 1949 Act states that a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) must be managed in such a way to ensure that use of the site does not result in any damage to its natural features.

5.4.2 As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee:

“to consider and co-ordinate all the interests of recreation / leisure / maintenance / nature conservation and statutory requirements of the Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) and the Environment Agency at the Welsh Harp; with the object of protecting the Welsh Harp Reservoir and surrounding open land as a unique environment for both recreation and wildlife conservation”.

Barnet’s Constitution – Article 8 – Joint Arrangements- states at paragraph 8.1 that the Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more Local Authorities. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a Joint Committee with these Local Authorities.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

5.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Parks and Open Spaces benefit all sectors of the community by improving the local environment. Maintenance is carried out according to the management plan and takes into account requests from residents, users and Members. Improvements are made, wherever possible, to ensure equal access for all users.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.7 **Corporate Parenting Principles**

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The Consultative Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, the committee comprises the land owners, legislative bodies, and third sector volunteer groups who work within the reserve to deliver positive outcomes.

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 The Welsh Harp Management Plan can be found on Brent Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/parks in the biodiversity section.
- 6.2 [West Hendon Playing Fields Outline Business Case – Policy and Resources Committee 16 July 2021, Agenda Item 9](#)
- 6.3 [Parks and Open Spaces Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 9 June 2022, Agenda Item 9](#)
- 6.4 [Welsh Harp Vision Update – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022, Agenda Item 14](#)

Appendix A: Welsh Harp – s106

Proposal 2025/2026

Overview

The aim of the proposed work is to improve the condition of the SSSI. This work will be completed in collaboration with stakeholders and residents. This will encourage long term stewardship of the site by local people and community groups. This proposal also includes the upgrade of features that have been directly degraded as a result of the increased visitor pressure due to the development.

The proposed enhancement work corresponds to the aims of [The Welsh Harp Management Plan](#) and [updated action plan](#) and the [Welsh Harp Vision](#) (taking into consideration [The Atlas](#)), which was written and agreed by the main landowners and stakeholders associated with the site.

Management Objectives for the Welsh Harp Reservoir area as whole are:

1. To conserve and enhance the landscape and ecological diversity of the site
2. To provide for and encourage public enjoyment and understanding of the site and its heritage value
3. To improve access to the site – in particular for visitors with limited mobility
4. To involve existing users and the local community in the management and development of the site
5. To promote and pursue sustainable good practice
6. To promote appropriate recreation
7. To improve the value of the Reservoir in the river system and in its flood control function.

Proposed Site Improvement Works

Match Funding

A majority of the funding (£150,000) will be used as match funding for the Canal and River Trust's successful bid to Kusuma Trust for the project 'Wings on Water – Rescuing London's Flyway (WOW)'. The project specification can be found in Appendix 1, and is summarised below.

"The total project spans 36 months, and an investment from Kusuma will enable the delivery of critical capital work over 12 months to restore wetlands, remove invasive species, and reinstate channels and pools.

Drawing on proven methods from the Eastern Marsh Pilot, cutting back willow vegetation will promote reed growth, improving breeding success through the creation

of open spaces. Volunteers will play a key role in ongoing maintenance and surveys, tackling pollution and invasive species to maintain ecological balance. Citizen science initiatives will empower residents, including those in nearby tower blocks, to monitor wildlife, fostering a deeper connection to nature and building healthier, happier communities in inner-city London.”.

LBB Activities

In addition to the work proposed by the Canal and River Trust, which will focus on the waterbody and riparian zone, further work will be carried out on the terrestrial areas of the SSSI.

These site improvement works include:

- Upgrade of footpath network
- Habitat management (creation, enhancement and maintenance)
- Community engagement, training and site stewardship
- Collection of baseline data through ecological surveys and citizen science events
- Using data collected to inform future funding applications

Footpaths

The degradation of the footpath network due to increased visitor numbers is apparent in several locations, especially on the western side of the north marsh leading to West Hendon Playing Fields. There are large sections of the existing footpaths that are impassable during winter, becoming wet and muddy. During winter 2025/2026, the footpaths shown on the figure below will be upgraded, meaning they will be functional and accessible all year round.

The footpath improvement works will prevent the further degradation of the SSSI due to people straying off the existing paths and damaging the adjacent habitats with the desire lines.

Habitat management

Working with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), several habitat management sessions will be facilitated, engaging and training volunteers to do the work. This will deliver the aims of the management plan, detailed below, whilst increasing the engagement of local people with the site, helping them reconnect to nature and foster site stewardship. Throughout 2025 and 2026, TCV will work to achieve the following management objectives:

Reedbeds: increase

Reedbed habitat creation and the enhancement of existing reedbed habitat including targeted willow scrub removal.

Woodland/wet woodland: management

Coppicing and targeted scrub management in areas where canopy is shading out the understorey and ground flora. Coppicing of willow in the areas previously mapped as wet woodland to restore this habitat, as well as the treatment of invasives where this is reducing plant diversity. All arisings to stay on site to create dead hedging or habitat piles.

Marshland: maintain

Coppicing willow and scrub management to limit encroachment onto marshland or reedbeds, ongoing management is required to maintain the mix of habitats, particularly at the margins of the Reservoir.

Marshland: increase

Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.

West Hendon Playing Fields

Scrub management, grassland enhancement, habitat enhancements done following advice from Butterfly Conservation Trust, who have recorded Brown Hairstreak eggs on the blackthorn scrub at this location. Selected areas of blackthorn can be thinned around gorse patches for the benefit of bird species, with careful consideration being given to the presence of brown hairstreak eggs, that are laid on blackthorn. This will be done following advice from the Butterfly Conservation Trust and WHCG.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Treatment

Increased recreational pressure has resulted in previously inaccessible areas of the site being accessed by residents and local groups, for example the woodland near the A5 entrance where the Silk Stream enters the SSSI. There are many schedule 9 invasive species present at the site, with many stands of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed present near the trash screens where the River Brent and the Silk Stream enter. Giant hogweed is a particular problem as it is hazardous to humans if touched, this issue is becoming Invasive species at the Welsh Harp extends also to a number of other species where growth is across paths, excessively shading marshland or causing other issues.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

TCV will be responsible for planning, promoting and supervising these sessions. They will provide all of the necessary equipment for the sessions, which will be run by suitably qualified staff in accordance with our health and safety policy.

Whilst Natural England will be consulted, all of the activities proposed fall under the remit of the existing management plan, therefore it is not anticipated that additional

assent will be required to undertake any of this work within the SSSI, as long as it satisfies the requirements of stakeholders.

Community Engagement, Training and Site Stewardship

One of the main aims of this work is to increase the engagement of local people with the site, reconnecting them with nature in a fun and accessible way.

Citizen Zoo

Citizen Zoo are an organisation dedicated to rewilding, working to restore nature and help species and habitats thrive. Their purpose at the Welsh Harp will be to manage, deliver, and coordinate volunteer activities including a minimum of one community bat walk, one dragonfly walk and three community field recorder days to get local people involved in identifying species on site. They will also conduct baseline ecological surveys, including bioacoustics and wildlife camera surveys. After the survey data is collected and analysed, Citizen Zoo will write up three feasibility studies for species reintroductions at the Welsh Harp, with one final report with rewilding recommendations.

Collection of baseline data

As outlined above, both TCV and Citizen Zoo will be required to collect baseline data which will inform future projects and funding bids. This will include the recording and mapping of any INNS to treatment can be coordinated and the schedule 9 invasive species controlled. In addition to the surveys, local groups will be encouraged to use iNaturalist to record adhoc observations. Citizen science is an effective way to collect data which will be submitted to Greenspaces Information for Greater London (GiGL), and subsequently used to shape local policy and assess planning applications for their impact on nature.

Cost Estimates

The total budget for this project is £223,531.05 and will be managed by the LBB greenspaces team.

West Hendon Waterside s106

The s106 “SSSI Mitigation Contribution’ means the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS (£500,000.00) index linked. To date £137,362.34 has been spent on previous projects. There is a total of £220,531.05 currently being held by the Council. Two further contributions totalling £175,000 (index linked) are due when the development enters phase 5.

Funding	Amount (£)
West Hendon Waterside s106	220,531.05

UKSPF – volunteer upskilling	3000
Total:	223,531.05 available

The cost of this project is £223,531.05. (£170,130 Capital, £46,093 Revenue and £7308.05 held for contingency).

Proposed Work	Contractor	Relevant to Welsh Harp Vision Principle	Proposed Timeline	Revenue/Capital	Cost (£)
North Marsh improvement work (Canal and River Trust) - match funding	Canal and River Trust	P5, E1, W2, W5	Q4 25 – Q4 28	Capital	150,000
Footpath improvements	SW Bruce	W10	Winter 25/26	Capital	17,305
Baseline surveys and community engagement	Citizen Zoo	P5, E1, E21, W2, W5	Q2 25 – Q3 26	Revenue	23,200
Habitat management	TCV	P5, E1, W2, W5	Q3 25 – Q3 26	Revenue	21,893
Payment to Phoenix Canoe Club for use of site as TCV hub.	Phoenix Canoe Club	P4	Q2 25	Revenue	1000
Installation of tool storage for volunteer use.	BW Services	P4	Q2 25	Capital	1825
Tools	Tudor Environmental	P4	Q2 25	Capital	1000
Contingency	NA	NA	If required	NA	7308.05
					223,531.05
					220,531.05 - s106
					3000 UKSPF

References

Canal and River Trust (2023) Welsh Harp Vision. Available online: [Welsh Harp Vision](#)

London Borough of Brent (2023) Welsh Harp Management Plan. Available online: [Welsh Harp Management Plan](#)

Thames21 (2024) Brent Catchment Partnership and Action Plan. Available online: [Brent Catchment Partnership & Action Plan](#)

Appendix 1 – Canal and River Trust Kusuma Trust Bid



KUSUMA TRUST UK CONCEPT NOTE

ORGANISATION INFORMATION
Organisation legal name: Canal & River Trust (The Trust) Organisation charity registration number: 1146792
PROJECT INFORMATION
Project title: Wings on Water: Rescuing London's Flyway (WOW) Planned project start and end date: April 2025 to March 2026 (Capital works) April 2025 to March 2028
<p>Outline of project: Brent Reservoir, or the 'Welsh Harp' SSSI, is a rare urban wetland in North London, home to 253 bird species and an accessible greenspace to 1.5 million people. It faces rapid decline due to climate change and urbanisation, disrupting breeding patterns and causing drastic declines in bird populations. Common Tern nesting pairs fell from 44 in 2000 to 4 in 2022, and Great Crested Grebe nests dropped from 55 in 1987 to 27 in 2022, with breeding success also decreasing. As part of the East Atlantic Flyway, the reservoir is vital for migratory birds and biodiversity. Open year-round, it also provides a greenspace for community wellbeing, recreation, and nature connection.</p> <p>WOW is a critical and time-sensitive project that will restore four hectares of the 'Welsh Harp SSSI', a vital haven for endangered wildlife and a treasured community asset in central London. We invite Kusuma Trust UK to match funds already secured to reach our fundraising target to transform this urban oasis. By giving a capital gift for habitat restoration, you will be enabling us to halt the devastating loss of breeding sites, revive biodiversity, combat pollution, and reconnect people with nature, before it's too late.</p> <p>Objectives and goals: The total project spans 36 months, and an investment from Kusuma will enable the delivery of critical capital work over 12 months to restore wetlands, remove invasive species, and reinstate channels and pools. Drawing on proven methods from the Eastern Marsh Pilot, cutting back willow vegetation will promote reed growth, improving breeding success through the creation of open spaces. Volunteers will play a key role in ongoing maintenance and surveys, tackling pollution and invasive species to maintain ecological balance. Citizen science initiatives will empower residents, including those in nearby tower blocks, to monitor wildlife, fostering a deeper connection to nature and building healthier, happier communities in inner-city London.</p> <p>Creating New Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing 0.52 hectares of new reedbeds • Creating 0.4 hectares of marshy grassland • Developing 0.47 hectares of wildflower meadow <p>Ready to Deliver: A specialist team, including ecologists, community coordinators, and 70 volunteers, is in place. With the required expertise, governance, and contractor support, the programme is ready for high-quality, on-time delivery within budget.</p> <p>Community Ownership: WOW is a complex programme of work that is not just about now! It must have long-term impact, so every element has been tested to ensure its resilience and sustainability. "Invasives cleared today, what about tomorrow?" – our team will deliver a celebrated programme of community and volunteer engagement that includes citizen science, training and co-authored conservation management plans.</p> <p>Impact of the funding: WOW Kusuma Trust UK will Transform, Restore & Enhance the Welsh Harp SSSI to boost breeding success, strengthen climate resilience, improve flood capacity, and foster community ownership.</p> <p>WOW Kusuma Trust UK Key Outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Habitats: Create 0.52ha of reedbeds, 0.4ha of marshy grassland, 0.47ha of wildflower meadow, thin 2.18ha of trees, and clear 1.813ha. 2. Grebe and Tern Rafts: Install stable nesting platforms for key species. 3. Invasive Species Removal: Treat Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, and restore habitat for species like the southern marsh orchid. 4. Excavate Silt and Remodel Channels: Restore 1980s channels and pools to enhance wetland mosaics. 5. Community Volunteer Programmes: Equip volunteers to become citizen scientists; undertaking regular surveys and managing litter and invasive species and access, ensuring long-term balance between humans and habitats. <p>Broader Change: Enhanced habitat diversity will benefit bird species including Great Crested Grebe, Common Tern, Little Ringed Plover, Gadwall, and more. [Full species list available on request]. Pivotal to its success, all capital works will be achieved in yr1 to make way for a mass community engagement initiative to be delivered in Yr2 & 3. WOW will contribute to: Biodiversity 2020 (outcome 1 & 3) and UN SDG Goals (Goal 3, 11, 13, 15)</p>

Why we're best placed: The Trust manages over 2,000 miles of waterways and 10,000 heritage assets, partnering with funders and communities to sustain a 250-year-old network of freshwater corridors and natural spaces. We are uniquely positioned to deliver this project, leveraging our technical and environmental expertise. Strong partnerships with the Greater London Authority, Brent and Barnet Councils, London Wildlife Trust, and Thames21 will underpin this work. Funding from the Mayor of London and People's Postcode Lottery in 2021 supported successful pilot projects, while Barnet Council has pledged £150k in match funding for the next phase. Collaboration with community groups ensures a multi-agency approach to habitat restoration.

Please include any dates for key activities and outline them: The Capital programme, running from April 2025 to March 2026, will include tree works, habitat surveys, wildflower meadow sowing, silt excavation, channel remodeling, bird screen installation, and Tern and Grebe raft placements. All activities will be timed to avoid disruption to nesting and breeding seasons.

Description of Beneficiaries:

Brent and Barnet, among London's most diverse boroughs, face challenges such as high unemployment, low income, housing difficulties, and limited access to services. In 2022–2023, Barnet reported 28% of residents aged 16–64 as economically inactive, surpassing London (21.5%) and England (21%). Our programme will engage local residents in volunteer activities to improve skills, wellbeing, and community connection. Key beneficiaries include those facing isolation, ill health, early retirees, young families, and economically inactive individuals.

Programme Targets:

- **Let's Go Wild:** 20 people/session, 18 sessions/year (rising to 35 by year 3).
- **Let's Walk:** 20 people/walk, 24 walks/year (rising to 30 by year 3).
- **Let's Bird Walk:** 10 people/walk, 24 walks/year (rising to 20 by year 3).
- **Let's Volunteer:** 70 volunteers, 40 weeks/year (rising to 80 by year 3).

Monitoring and evaluation:

The Welsh Harp Monitoring Plan uses robust methods to collect data through surveys and citizen science. Initial data on water quality, flora and fauna, pollutants, and invasive species has been gathered. Ongoing monitoring includes:

- **Water Quality:** Regular testing of pH, oxygen levels, nutrients, and contaminants.
- **Biodiversity:** Tracking plant and animal species, focusing on natives and invasives.
- **Habitats:** Assessing wetland and riparian zone changes.

Using remote sensing, GIS mapping, and automated sensors, data collection is efficient and accurate. Volunteers and citizen scientists will expand datasets, fostering community involvement and education. Specialists will analyse data to evaluate progress, adjust strategies, and report findings to stakeholders. Periodic evaluations will ensure the sustainability of restoration efforts.

Activities for people: Session attendance reports & booking data, participant, volunteer and partner feedback.

5 statistics or facts related to the achievements or successes of your organisation, the project or the project context:

1. **Biodiversity Impact:** The Canal & River Trust cares for over 2,000 miles of waterways, supporting habitats for more than 30% of the UK's wildlife species.
2. **Volunteer Engagement:** In 2023, the Trust engaged over 15,000 volunteers nationally, contributing more than 1 million hours to conservation and community projects.
3. **Heritage Preservation:** The Trust maintains 10,000 heritage assets, including bridges, locks, and reservoirs, ensuring the protection of a 250-year-old industrial network.
4. **Community Benefit:** In 2022, our programmes engaged over 70,000 people, improving wellbeing, skills, and community cohesion, particularly in underrepresented urban areas.
5. **Pilot Success:** The Welsh Harp pilot projects funded by the Mayor of London and People's Postcode Lottery demonstrated measurable improvements in reedbed restoration and breeding success for key bird species.

A quote explaining the importance of this project to your organisation: "Brent Reservoir is one of London's most significant urban wild places, and an important place for diverse communities to connect with nature, recreation, heritage, and enjoy huge health and wellbeing benefits. Our exciting project will continue to ensure that this wonderful and unique place will continue to thrive for people and nature." Ros Daniels, Director London & South East Region

Total grant request: £150k

Funding Information (on a separate document please provide a budget for this project, including the funding you are requesting and match funding information)

Information from this Concept Note may be used on our website or our annual review if your application is successful

WOW: Summary Budget

	Item	Funder	Costs yr 1 Capital programme	Costs yr 2	Costs yr 3
	EXPENDITURE				
	Habitat Restoration				
CAP	Tree works	Kusuma / S106	£90,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
CAP	Habitat surveying	Kusuma / S106	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
CAP	Seed for newly established wildflower meadow	Kusuma / S106	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
CAP	Excavations (silt) and remodelling	Kusuma / S106/ PPL	£320,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
CAP	Bird screen	Kusuma / S106	£15,500	£0	£0
CAP	Tern Rafts (4) including anchors and installation	Kusuma / S106	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
CAP	Grebe Rafts (2) including anchors and installation	Kusuma / S106	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SUB TOTAL (inc. inflation & contingency)		£450,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Personnel				
REV	Contract Project Manager: Ecologist (36 month contract)	PPL	£48,000.00	£50,000.00	£52,000.00
	SUB TOTAL (inc. inflation & contingency)		£48,000.00	£50,000.00	£52,000.00
	Community Outreach				
REV	Hand tools, litter picks, PPE	PPL	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
REV	Digital Interpretation: Film and accessible learning	PPL	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
REV	Volunteer outreach & engagement	PPL	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
REV	Physical Interpretation: wayfinding & signage (including Award branding)	PPL	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
	SUB TOTAL		£17,000.00	17000	17000
	Evaluation				
	Evaluation and sharing learning		£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
	Total Expenditure		£517,000	£69,000	£71,000
	INCOME				
CAP	Being considered	Kusuma Trust	£150,000	£0	£0
CAP	Confirmed	S106 Barnet	£150,000	£0	£0
REV/Capital	Confirmed	PPL	£217,000	£0	£0
REV	Ongoing annual grant approval	PPL	£0	£69,000	£71,000
	Total Income		£517,000	£69,000	£71,000

WOW Budget detail (These budget numbers represent more up to date estimates)

Cost item	Description	Cost including inflation and contingency
Tree Works - (contractor services)	<p>Preparatory tree works to allow access for heavy plant & machinery to site e.g. excavator to dig wetlands.</p> <p>The bulk of the tree works in the north marsh will be to remove large areas of willow. North marsh has seen encroachment of willow across the previous wetland site and into the areas of marginal habitat, resulting in open water habitat lost to willow woodland - willow succession.</p> <p>Succession results in a loss of habitat diversity (e.g. loss of reedbed habitat) and as a result species diversity - plant diversity, invertebrate diversity and importantly for the SSSI bird diversity.</p> <p>Loss of reedbed for example makes the reservoir less suitable for certain water birds (e.g. water rail, snipe, bittern) as there is a lack of foraging and shelter provisions.</p> <p>Removal of willow will give clear areas to re-dig the wetland channels and open up areas to allow for other species to colonize e.g. other tree species and understory plant species which currently cannot grow in such an overshadowed environment. Reedbed environments will re-establish from rhizomes within the soil.</p> <p>Greater diversity of plant species - may see increases in the six plant species also cited within the SSSI designation for the site e.g. southern marsh orchid</p>	Procured services - £90,000
Habitat surveying - (Volunteer activity)	<p>Habitat surveying required to see changes from pre-wetland restoration to post project. INNS mapping for treatment. Habitat surveying will help inform a new management plan for the SSSI site.</p> <p>The majority of this work will be volunteer led, utilising tools and equipment and resources purchased by the project.</p>	Purchase of equipment - £2,210
Seed for newly established wildflower meadow - (Volunteer activity)	<p>Creation of a wildflower meadow - species diversity, habitat diversity. Established wildflower meadows will aid in flood prevention, reducing run off and prevent nutrient run off into watercourses. Brent reservoir is within a 'flashy catchment' and can see large volumes of water entering the reservoir from the urban environment in run off and large inflows from the two upstream watercourses - wildflower meadow may help with reducing inflows. Climate change mitigation and may help with pressure on the SSSI from increasing development & population rise. Benefit to pollinators and increase in population and diversity of invertebrates = knock on effect to other species which feed off insects in meadows e.g. wrens and goldfinches, bats.</p>	Purchase of seed - £2,490

Excavations (silt) and remodelling - (contractor services)	<p>Removal of silt accumulation and re-digging of pre-existing/historical back water channels and pools that formed the wetlands on site in the 1980s (the old channels are still visible but heavily silted up, we will re-dig some of these previous channels).</p> <p>Excavation of new channels to create a mosaic of pools and channels with islands - wetland restoration. Dredging/removal of silt within the north marsh where silt deposition is high (resulting from inflows from the upstream Silk Stream watercourse) resulting in a shallower reservoir profile which is not suitable for many bird species at the reservoir.</p> <p>The shallow reservoir profile is especially problematic for SSSI cited great crested grebe - diving bird species, which require deeper water for feeding activity and predator evasion. North marsh is currently too shallow for great crested grebes to effectively use the biomatrix, bespoke rafts. The water body is not deep enough for the grebes to dive underneath the rafts and be able to come up through the hole in the middle onto the platforms to nest.</p> <p>Macrophyte (a plant large enough to be seen by the naked eye) translocation. The process of transplanting established aquatic plants from one location to another - typically done in habitat restoration to enhance success of establishing new habitat areas whilst also creating an age varied sward if done in conjunction with new planting. An example of this we've done a number of times is reedbed creation using both translocated reed rhizomes and also plug reed plants to establish a variegated reedbed. translocation is also best for sites that are listed such as SSSI and SACs to mitigate against non-native or invasive biotics accidentally brought into a sensitive site.</p>	Procured services - £320,000
Bird screen - (contractor services & volunteer activity)	Allows for visitors to view the wetland areas and bird watch (enables conservation group to conduct BTO counts for the new habitat created) without allowing direct access - disturbance prevention to breeding birds & improving visitor engagement	Material and construction - £15,100
Tern Rafts (4) including anchors and installation - (professional supervised volunteer activity)	Provision of nesting habitat for cited species within the SSSI designation. 4 new rafts in east marsh. Tern rafts are a floating raft with Perspex glass around the edge (predator protection) with a shingle substrate and chick shelter. Shingle mimics terns natural nesting habitat. Decline in common tern numbers and breeding pairs.	Materials and installation - £10,000
Grebe Rafts (2) including anchors and installation - (professional supervised volunteer activity)	Provision of nesting habitat for cited species within the SSSI designation. Bespoke rafts made for great crested grebes - square hole in middle for them to dive under the raft and come up onto the raft through. Fencing around the raft to prevent other bird species using the rafts e.g. Canada geese.	Materials and installation - £10,000

Construction Timeline :

	Habitat Restoration		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
CAP	Tree works	€90,000.00											
CAP	Habitat surveying	€2,000.00											
CAP	Seed for newly established wildflower meadow	€2,500.00											
CAP	Excavations (silt) and remodelling	€320,000.00											
CAP	Bird screen	€15,500											
CAP	Tern Rafts (4) including anchors and installation	€10,000.00											
CAP	Grebe Rafts (2) including anchors and installation	€10,000.00											

* Wildflower seed sowing best timing is Autumn, but can be done early Spring in good conditions. The red highlights indicate that if there is a bad weather season in Spring 2026, a second sowing can take place in autumn 2026.

Supplementary information:

- Species supported by this project are outlined in the Ecology-Habitat list.xls provided by CRT on 8 January 2025. This list is representative, not exhaustive, of the scope of potential impact on biodiversity. Habitat impact will vary between immediate results and 5-10 year time horizon for some species to take hold
- The project's Evaluation Plan (see details below) will be provided to Kusuma Trust UK at earliest opportunity.
 - Programme Monitoring & Evaluation
 - WOW will have a project manager who will monitor the project performance in terms of its finance, health & safety and programme progress with a monthly report produced. The project manager will ensure that the funding criteria and terms & conditions are complied with throughout the delivery of the project.
 - An initial Environmental Scoping Appraisal (ESA) will be undertaken, which will ensure that there is minimal heritage and environmental impact. The ESA considers amongst other things, the timing of the works, location, use and disposal of materials, and the method of construction to minimise negative impact. The ESA is verified by the Trust's expert teams which includes environment, ecology, heritage, and planning.
 - The Evaluation Plan will set out the principles of good evaluation. This includes use of a logic model, appropriate use of evaluation tools, robust data collection and analysis, taking an objective approach and presenting results, conclusions, and recommendations clearly.
 - Supported by the Canal and River Trust's Insight Team, an evidence base will be used to inform the on-going evaluation and will use both quantitative and qualitative research techniques such as:
 - Quantitative examples:**
 - Number of events and participants

- Number and hours of volunteers
- Budget review
- Number of activities
- Social media and website analytics.

2 **Qualitative examples:**

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Face to face surveys at events and activities
- Community Focus Groups
- Project team feedback
- Web-based surveys such as Survey Monkey and social media analytics
- Volunteer surveys.
- Community engagement work is ongoing and that work is set to ramp up and expand during and after the current capital work. Community engagement programmes will include activities such as wildlife hunts, looking for poo, butterfly counts, measuring, water sampling, ph readings etc. Many of these activities are already in place in Brent.
- Volunteers (approx. 70) will play a key role in some of the initial work as well as ongoing maintenance and surveys, tackling pollution and invasive species.
- Volunteer efforts will include:

Habitat Restoration	Volunteer Activity
Tree works	Volunteers contribute to vegetation management, under supervision. Mostly hand held tools. Some volunteers will be trained to use powered hand tools. work would need to be done Sep 25 onward
Habitat surveying	Regular volunteers and Organised community group activity. Citizen science and bioblitz activity to support habitat surveying largely done in survey season Spring - Summer; some surveying is year round e.g. can do both breeding & overwintering bird surveying. INNS mapping/treatment done early Spring


Wildflower meadow	Volunteer groups will be Organised to distribute & sow wildflower seed. Best timing is early Autumn, but can be done early Spring in good conditions.
Bird screen	Volunteer activity alongside experts to build and install structure. Anytime as long as nesting bird check undertaken prior to install
Tern Rafts & Grebe Rafts	Small groups of volunteers can participate with staff to install rafts outside bird breeding season - prevent disturbance

Community & Volunteer engagement	Year 1 targets	Information Collection methods
Lets Go Wild	20 people per activity 18 sessions per year	session attendance reports & booking data - feedback
Lets Walk (Ecology)	20 people per walk 24 sessions per year	session attendance reports & booking data - feedback
Lets bird walk	10 people per walk 24 per year	session attendance reports & booking data - feedback

Lets volunteer	70 activity regular volunteers 40 weeks per year	session attendance reports & booking data - feedback
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Difference/ outcomes	Year 1 targets	Information Collection methods
Transform: Strengthening co-created community volunteer programmes	55% of Lets programme attendees report reduced isolation and 10% commit to returning as volunteer	Feedback, surveys and attendance records
Enhance: By creating new and sustainable habitats we will create lasting benefits for nature and the community	Capital works programme completes	Surveys, sampling and observation
Restore: The clearance of invasive species will lead to richer habitats for endangered species	weekly activities promoted through community partners up to 70 individuals take part in weekly activity	Feedback, surveys and attendance records

- Year 1 targets refer to the twelve months following the commencement of Kusuma funded work
- The area is listed as an SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) so priority is being given to securing programme funding. CRT received a significant award from the Peoples Post Code Lottery (PPL) for community work across their portfolio. They have been able to direct more PPL funds than initially planned to this project to continue with all engagement work and ongoing maintenance. They will continue to fundraise for years two and three of programming in order to free up PPL funds for other projects when possible.
- Standards & Policies
 - The work will be delivered in accordance with CRT's standards and policies in the areas of: Natural Environment, Environment Management Systems, Heritage and Project Management. CRT will look to follow the principles of an Environment Social and Governance Framework (ESG) to assess the impacts of investment in the site over time. CRT will provide the framework if requested.

	Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee 21 July 2025
	Report from the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Regeneration
	Lead Member – Cabinet Member for Public Realm & Enforcement (Councillor Krupa Sheth)
Welsh Harp Management Plan Update (Brent)	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix A: Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan: Action Plan for 2025-2026
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Services, Brent Civic Centre. Email: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 5628

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report presents progress on the Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan since the last meeting of the Committee and during the 2025/26 year to date. The Management Plan is jointly managed by the three main, land-holding organisations: Brent Council, the London Borough of Barnet, and the Canal & River Trust.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 This report updates members on the issues and progress for the Welsh Harp area. These relate to the Borough Plan Priorities. The Welsh Harp contributes to the priority of A Cleaner Greener Future and also to some of the other priorities. The Welsh Harp provides publicly accessible green space, opportunities for water sports, space for recreational exercise, habitats and biodiversity, contributes to flood control within and beyond the Brent area; and provides a landscape to enhance the surrounding residential, community and commercial neighbourhoods. The Welsh Harp contributes to strategies including the:

Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2021-23

Flood Risk Management Strategy

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

Further details of these and of other strategies can be found at:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/strategies-priorities-and-policies>

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 Welsh Harp 'Vision':

The 'Welsh Harp Vision' was published in July 2023. The Vision has been prepared by the Canal & River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, the London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority, Thames 21 and other partners.

- 3.2.2 Management Plan:

The current version of the Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan, (dated 2016 but a long-term management plan) is available from Brent Council. Refer to the Action Plan (3.3).

Website links to parts of the Welsh Harp are at:

[Neasden Recreation Ground | Brent Council](#)

[Welsh Harp Open Space | Brent Council](#)

[Welsh Harp Reservoir | Brent Council](#)

- 3.2.3 Action Plan:

The Welsh Harp / Brent Reservoir Management Plan includes an Action Plan that lists current year progress and actions that may require a longer time-frame and/or for the resources to be identified to undertake the actions. For this committee the Action Plan is updated as Appendix A. The Action Plan provides notes and updates on issues and projects. The 'Progress' column indicates current progress.

3.2.4 Marshland work:

Following the re-commencement of coppicing and other works in early 2025, the work took a pause during the bird breeding season. Works are planned to restart in the autumn of 2025. The project is led by the Canal & River Trust, The Conservation Volunteers, Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Brent Council Parks. The works have been consented by Natural England/. Selective coppicing and other works would lead to benefits including increased light to the marshland edge, for the benefit of the marshland vegetation and wildlife, enhanced views along the reservoir edge path and across the reservoir; and reductions of the wind shadow for water wind-sport users.

3.2.5 The Conservation Volunteers

The Conservation Volunteers have continued a two-year programme of events in Brent, focused on parks and other sites that have, to date, received only limited or no conservation volunteer activity. Seasonal works continued at Neasden Recreation Ground during the spring and summer of 2025.

3.2.6 Maintenance:

Grounds maintenance continues with the parks' grounds maintenance contractor, Krinkels Ltd. Concerns and issues about the open spaces can be reported on the FixMyStreet app or by contacting the Council by email or other contact options.

3.2.7 Fly-tipping and littering

The issues of littering and fly-tipping have continued. Brent Council have removed fly-tipping on the Brent-side banks of the River Brent at Staples Corner near to Priestley Way.

3.2.8 Welsh Harp Centre:

Following a consultation meeting with Stakeholders in June 2025, the Council with the project design team has developed the RIBA stage 2 concept design. The Stage 2 concept design report has been issued to stakeholders for review and feedback. Upon approval of the Stage 2 report, the team will commence the spatial coordination design in consultation with stakeholders.

3.2.9 Healthy Walks programme:

The walking programme continues. The Welsh Harp walks are on Thursdays from 10am to 11am, meeting at the Welsh Harp Open Space end of Birchen Grove, Kingsbury NW9. For details, please see the walking website at: [Walking for Health - Welsh Harp | Brent Council](#)

3.2.10 Pollution incidents:

Refer to the Environment Agency. Monitoring is in progress at one site with the involvement of the River Brent Catchment Partnership and the Clean Up the River Brent group.

3.2.11 Pulley Wheel sculpture

The Canal & River Trust unveiled their commissioned sculpture, created by Phil Neal at the Welsh Harp on 16 May 2025. The event was hosted at the Welsh Harp Sailing Association base. In time the sculpture will be moved to a permanent location, overlooking the reservoir, at Neasden Recreation Ground. The sculpture includes parts of the pulley blocks and chains that were part of the sluice gate mechanism that were salvaged during the 2024 works on the dam wall. Details are available by using the reference 25/0281 on the Brent Council Planning Applications webpages or the link below:

https://pa.brent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=DCAPR_171930

3.2.12 Invasive species

The Parks Service has continued to control Giant Hogweed and Oak Processionary Moth, both at the Welsh Harp Open Space.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The Safeguarding, Partnership and Strategy, with the Property and Assets teams of Brent Council are conducting consultation relating to the Welsh Harp Centre.

The Welsh Harp Education Centre Project stakeholder engagement is outlined above in paragraph 3.2.8. Officers are in the process of finalising a communications strategy for the project. This will include actions to inform ward members; local residents and other relevant, interested parties as to the development of the new education centre.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp Management Plan serves primarily as a land-use document, intended to guide land managers and other stakeholders in relation to the maintenance, management, and legislative considerations affecting the Brent Reservoir and its surrounding areas. It also plays a forward-planning role by outlining potential land management needs over the longer term.
- 5.2 The actions set out in the accompanying Action Plan (Appendix A) reflect a range of potential activities that could be delivered over varying timeframes, subject to resource availability and service-level approval. All proposals will be monitored, reviewed, and re-profiled as necessary to align with available

resources. No works will proceed without the necessary approval from the relevant service and confirmation that suitable budget provision is in place.

- 5.3 As noted in the update to the Committee, the principal land-owning organisations at the Welsh Harp, along with other stakeholders, are engaging in a 'vision' exercise. This will explore long-term aspirations and consider potential funding and income opportunities to support currently unfunded priorities, subject to further review.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 Brent Reservoir / Welsh Harp is a designated 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' ('SSSI').

- 6.2 SSSIs are sites which are designated by Natural England (for sites in England) and given legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act ('WCA') 1981 because they are recognised as being of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological or physiological features.

- 6.3 There are two main types of duty that arise under the WCA 1981 in relation to sites that are designated as SSSIs.

- 6.4 For owners/occupiers:

- 6.4.1 There is a requirement to give prior notification (under section 28E, WCA 1981) before carrying out any operations that are specified by Natural England (as part of the SSSI designation) as requiring notification to be given. The owner/occupier cannot lawfully carry out any such operation unless Natural England has given their written consent, or the operation is carried out under the auspices of a management agreement made under one of the applicable statutory provisions or under a management scheme arising under section 28 of the WCA 1981. Failure to comply may result in the commission of an offence.

- 6.5 For various types of public body (including local authorities):

- 6.5.1 When such bodies are exercising their functions in a way that is likely to affect the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the site is an SSSI, they have a statutory duty (under WCA 1981, section 28G) to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the relevant flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features. This is a broad duty and is triggered when the features relevant to the site's designation are likely to be affected.

- 6.5.2 Public bodies are also required (under WCA 1981, section 28H) to give notice to Natural England before they carry out, in the exercise of their functions, operations likely to damage any of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which an SSSI is of special interest. It is important to note that this duty also applies where

the operations would not take place on land or other feature that is itself included in an SSSI; the issue is the likelihood of damage to the relevant features arising from the proposed operations. In response to receiving notification, Natural England may assent (either with or without conditions) or refuse assent; if no response is received within 28 days, they are taken to have refused assent.

- 6.5.3 Where Natural England do not assent, or the authority proposes to carry out the operations otherwise than in accordance with the terms of the assent, the authority must not carry out the operations, unless they have notified Natural England of the date on which they propose to start the operations, and how, if at all, they have taken account of any written advice received. When carrying out the operations the authority must carry these out in such a way as to give rise to as little damage as is reasonably practicable in all the circumstances to the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features which cause the site to be of special interest. Account must be taken of any advice that has been received from Natural England. There is also an obligation to restore the site to its former condition, so far as is reasonably practicable, if damage does occur.
- 6.5.4 A parallel duty arises (under WCA 1981, section 28I) where the public body is responsible for authorising or permitting a third party to carry out operations which are likely to damage any of the features causing the site to have been designated, again including where those operations would not themselves be within the SSSI. The public body is obliged to consult with Natural England before deciding whether to give permission for the operations to be carried out, and a similar process applies to that described above if Natural England advises against permitting the operations.
- 6.6 The Action Plan 2024-25 that is the subject of the present report notes various matters relating to WCA duties in relation to an SSSI (see, for example, the entry under 'marshland: maintain' to a programme of works for the southern shore consented by Natural England).
- 6.5 The status of a site as an SSSI is also relevant in the event of a planning application being received for development. In these circumstances, the local planning authority dealing with an application will need to ensure that it complies with all relevant notification requirements and applies any applicable national and borough level planning policies relating to SSSIs.
- 6.6 Since 1 January 2023, bodies including local authorities are under a statutory duty, introduced originally by the Environment Act 2021, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is envisaged as a proactive duty, rather than simply a duty to have regard to the objective of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Active management of resources such as Brent Reservoir/Welsh Harp may contribute towards the meeting of that duty.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 As this report provides a general update, there are no immediate EDI implications.
- 7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- 7.4 At this stage, no potential adverse impact arising from the recommendations in this report has been identified. However, the equalities implications identified in the Equality Analysis will continue to be considered and assessed as further data / information is obtained or becomes available during the implementation process. The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) relating to Brent Council’s activities outlined in these reports is in the process of being updated.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 The Brent Reservoir, whilst originally constructed as part of a waterways transport system, now has a role in managing the flow of the River Brent. The Reservoir has a number of in-built systems and associated procedures that help to reduce the risk of flooding to the urban communities downstream, during and following high-rainfall events.
- 8.2 The Brent Reservoir and the wider Welsh Harp area have important roles in the conservation of biodiversity. The Brent Reservoir is a Site of Special Scientific Interest on account of the significance of its wildlife.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 9.1 None specific

10.0 Communication Considerations

- 10.1 The Welsh Harp ‘Vision’, healthy living initiatives and the provision of information about the Welsh Harp have been mentioned in this report.

Report sign off:

Alice Lester

Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and
Regeneration

APPENDIX A: WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2025-2026

The Management Plan outlines the management considered necessary to sustain the Welsh Harp for wildlife, recreation, landscape, flood-control, economic and other benefits of the reservoir. These are achievable over varying timeframes, though many are not affordable in the short term.

The Action Plan here tracks current year progress on the existing Management Plan while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Progress is indicated within the text and may include the priority of the issue, risks and progress.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2025-26 to 10 th July 2025
Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	Funding and/or resources for the Vision have been provided by the partner organisations.	Published in late July 2023.	A vision and possible options for the Welsh Harp.
Implementation of the Welsh Harp Vision	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council, Thames 21, London Wildlife Trust, Greater London Authority.	The Vision team are investigating potential grant sources. The first is a potential application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.	On-going	Opportunities to include the Welsh Harp in grant applications are reviewed. One application that involves, but is not centered on the Welsh Harp, is currently in preparation by one of the partner organisations.

River Brent Catchment Management Plan – the Brent Reservoir is on the River Brent.	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21 / London Boroughs within the River Brent Catchment.		Ongoing since 2011.	River Brent Catchment Partnership Action Plan published at: https://www.thames21.org.uk/catchment-partnerships/brent/
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (CRT)	Canal and River Trust	Works: October 2023 to May 2024.	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards. Statutory inspection and works conducted in January to February 2021. Works, involving pre-drawdown of the Reservoir, October 2023 and reservoir refilled by late May 2024.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-going	Monitoring and actions by Welsh Harp Sailing Association.
Sailing Infrastructure: club-houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the Canal and River Trust; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure. See also Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	The WHCG organise winter projects at and near to the hides.
Welsh Harp Centre	Brent Council, Thames 21		Brent Council are leading on the future for an Education Centre, while Thames 21 are currently maintaining a presence.	Refer to: Brent Council Cabinet, May 2023 report. Consultation discussions with local organisations: June 2024. Refer to the update in the reports to the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee.

Allotments	Brent, West Hendon Allotment Society	Brent: refer to Allotments and Food Growing Strategy. Barnet: West Hendon Allotments are Self-Managed by the holders.	Allotments are maintained. There are some areas for biodiversity within the Dors Close Allotments.	Barnet Council: West Hendon Allotments are Self-Managed. Brent Council: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close Allotments.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, and parks furniture.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	Maintenance, particularly of the well-used paths and features.
Signage; and interpretative signage.	Brent / Barnet.		The C&RT have a series of interpretative signs in design.	Maintained. Loss of interpretative viewing point and panels at Neasden Recreation ground, due to vandalism in April 2024.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies. Birchen Grove Car Park: Mini-humps installed in January 2020. Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	<p>See the most recent 2022 report (published in June 2023) by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link:</p> <p>Publications – Welsh Harp Conservation Group (wordpress.com)</p> <p>Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for: refer to the website.</p>
Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	On-going – seasonal effects with various cutting frequencies for different types of grassland.	Grasslands: A grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including at Neasden Recreation Ground) from 2018 includes emphasis on improving the biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. Cutting of these areas is usually in September or October. There are also rough-grassland habitats both at Neasden Recreation Ground and at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Late 2024: some local additional seeding by The Conservation Volunteers towards the western part of Neasden Recreation Ground.
Grasslands: paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded.	Spring to autumn.	<p>Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland).</p> <p>The lower grassland path at the Welsh Harp Open Space is narrow.</p>
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	<p>Led by the sailing and water sports clubs.</p> <p>Phoenix Canoe Club are working on proposed improvements to their club facilities for water sports, particularly for educational use; and for a café accessible from the Welsh Harp / Capital Ring path.</p>

Litter	Brent Council. Barnet Council. Canal & River Trust. Thames 21. Environment Agency.	Landowners: Brent Council, Barnet Council, Canal & River Trust. Leaseholders. Also, much volunteer involvement.	On-going.	<p>Several clean-ups have been organized since January 2021. The Canal & River Trust have cleared some larger items from the reservoir itself, while the C&RT and community organisations have held several clean-up events of the margins of the reservoir.</p> <p>During the de-watering of the reservoir, from late 2023 into early 2024, a number of safety-supervised events have been organized to clear litter from the margins of the reservoir.</p> <p>There remains, in addition to litter and rubbish in the reservoir; fly-tipped waste in the wooded wetland on the southern shore of the reservoir; and issues related to the inflow of waste on the Silk Stream and River Brent. A proportion of that waste is of materials fly-tipped into the rivers upstream.</p> <p>The clearing of litter and fly-tipping in the public open spaces of the Welsh Harp is a responsibility of the grounds maintenance contractors of either Barnet or Brent Council. For Brent, issues can be reported using the FixMyStreet app, but please select 'Parks' on the first set of options which takes the user to a dedicated page for parks.</p>
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River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintenance of Priestley Way trash screen - weekly.	<p>The Environment Agency clear accumulations of litter and fly-tipping from the trash screens on the tributary rivers entering the reservoir, at the Silk Stream and at the River Brent.</p> <p>The Environment Agency clear and remove the material on a maintenance schedule, which for the Priestley Way (Staples Corner) trash screen is once fortnightly. As the screens collect waste that has been deposited in the river upstream, frequent and large quantities of waste can continue to accumulate in the river upstream of the screens. That is what the screens were designed to do. Inevitably, some smaller items will flow through the screens into the reservoir.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have issued, from August 2024, new advice that only trained and authorized personnel, should access the trash screen within the fenced enclosure.</p>
Clean up projects	The community		On-going.	As noted above, where safe to do so, litter clean-up projects have been organized over several years by the Welsh Harp Litter Pickers and by residents near to Neasden Recreation Ground. More recently that has involved also The Friends of the Welsh Harp; The Welsh Harp Group at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Clean Up the River Brent group.
Bird rafts, islands. There are approximately 20 rafts.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain, repair or renew rafts. .	On-going. Autumn / winter.	WHCG have a programme for maintenance of bird rafts. Works are outside of the bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. Recent problems with access to the rafts for maintenance due to alluviation.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG – volunteer projects. Canal & River Trust.	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	The Canal & River Trust reduced and removed in early 2022, some willows in the reed bed in the eastern marsh. As at February 2025, scrub trees are in the process of being removed from where they are shading the western reedbed at Neasden Recreation Ground.

Reedbeds: remove young trees and marginal encroachment	Canal and River Trust	£85,000 PPL funding	Removing young trees and vegetation overhanging margins	In early 2022, The Canal & River Trust made improvements in the eastern marsh including removal of some debris and reduction of willow growth where that is causing obstructions or affecting other habitats. There is more to be done.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016. As at 2021 there are reedbeds on the main arm of the reservoir in the eastern marsh, on the shore of Neasden Recreation Ground near to the dam wall; and on the shore of the Welsh Harp Open Space. 2023: CRT works to create alcoves in the reedbed in the Eastern Marsh.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing. Quantities of fly-tipping remain to be extracted.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Un-funded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		Where permanent, woodland at the Welsh Harp is largely self-managing. If resources were available, some areas could be enhanced. However, where willow and other tree species are encroaching onto other habitats, for example marshland or reedbeds, then management is needed to maintain the mix of habitats, particularly at the margins of the Reservoir.

Marshland: maintain	Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports (by Reducing excess growth of trees).	Reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	<p>During the past three decades, Willow and scrub growth has exceeded the rate of management work on those sections of the shoreline with marshland habitat. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.</p> <p>Discussions from 2018 onwards by the Canal & River Trust, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association and Brent Council, led to a consent for works from Natural England and a programme of winter works from February 2019 to 2021.</p> <p>For the southern shore, a programme of works was detailed by the C&RT Ecologist in early 2024 (and previously consented by Natural England). The Canal & River Trust, Brent Council, the Welsh Harp Sailing Association; and The Conservation Volunteers re-commenced work on the southern shore (Neasden Recreation Ground) in January-February 2025. The next works will re-commence in the autumn of 2025.</p>
Marshland: increase	Brent, Barnet, Brent Catchment Partnership	Investigate sources of finance for long-term restoration of river catchment; and for flood alleviation.	Increase the extent of the marshland around the shores of the Reservoir for nature conservation, landscape, and to increase wind for water sports.	Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.

Marshland: orchids and other marshland plants	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations or may have other specific requirements.
Marshland and habitats (northern arm of Reservoir)	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon Redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet. Discussions are in progress regarding other works in the northern arm of the Reservoir.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	The remnants of the previous boardwalk have been collected by volunteers. A section of the original boardwalk and a small footbridge remain in place after repairs by volunteers.

Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species. Invasive species at the Welsh Harp extends also to a number of other species where growth is across paths, excessively shading marshland or causing other issues.	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent Council Parks actions: Knotweed Reduced at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet Council have Reduced Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge and Giant Hogweed elsewhere.	Control of these species requires continuing attention: timely short-term control; control at the time of other works; and as part of longer-term management.	On-going by Barnet Council, Brent Council, and the Canal and River Trust. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment; and knowledge is shared between partners of the River Brent Catchment Partnership. Thames 21 working with Brent Council and others, have treated some Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on the River Brent section downstream of the dam wall (spring / summer 2021). There are similar projects upstream in Barnet. Spring 2022: Brent: Control of Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space near to Wood Lane. Barnet: Similar work on invasive species. Autumn 2023: Completion of Riverside Connections control programme for Japanese Knotweed and visible Giant Hogweed between Quainton Street Open Space and the foot of the Welsh Harp dam wall. 2024-2025: Giant Hogweed: Control commissioned by Brent Council Parks, particularly downstream at sites towards Alperston.
Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	Barnet Council and others.	New pedestrian bridge in place.	Pedestrian footbridge alongside historic, vehicular footbridge.
West Hendon re-development	Barnet Council, Barratts.	Barnet Council		Refer to Barnet Council update.
West Hendon Playing Fields	Barnet Council	Barnet Council		Refer to Barnet Council update.