

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.

📋 **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.