

APPENDIX A. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2019-2020

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 time-frames, though many are not affordable in the short term. This Action Plan tracks current year progress while also highlighting projects with a longer timeframe.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	RAG status (text column provided for use if plain printing)	Progress: 2019-20 to 24th February 2020
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal and River Trust (Canal and River Trust)	Canal and River Trust	Maintain. On-Going	GREEN	Dam wall and mechanism maintained to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WHSA)	On-Going	GREEN	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	GREEN	The Welsh Harp Sailing Association and clubs maintain the water sports infrastructure. See also proposals by Phoenix Canoe Club.
Bird hides: maintenance of the hides; the surrounding vegetation (sightlines) and habitats.	Welsh Harp Conservation Group / others		On-going	GREEN	The WHCG organise winter projects around the hides.

Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	GREEN	Refer to Barnet.
Wet woodland	Canal and River Trust, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	GREEN	Largely self-managing.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Thames 21, (Brent)	Thames 21 are managing the Centre.	Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre re-opened from January 2016.	GREEN	Thames 21 have managed the Centre from January 2016.
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.	GREEN	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, and other parks furniture. Litter collection.	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent public realm budgets.	On-going.	GREEN	Maintained; and well-used. The signage on 'section 10' of the Capital Ring including the Welsh Harp, is due for checking by the volunteer Capital Ring Rangers in late February 2020.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	GREEN	<p>See the most recent (2018) report on wildlife produced by the Welsh Harp Conservation Group, available on their website and via the following link (try Ctrl and double click if it does not open immediately):</p> <p>https://brentres.wordpress.com/publications/</p> <p>Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2019/2020. Included birds (weekly); butterflies (April to September).</p>
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			GREEN	Maintained.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			GREEN	<p>Parks infrastructure is checked at appropriate frequencies.</p> <p>Birchen Grove Car Park: Installation of mini-humps to deter excessive speeding and other anti-social behavior in car park: January 2020.</p> <p>Silver Jubilee Park Car Park: resurfaced and line-marked: January 2020.</p>

Grasslands and cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000 / year.	Spring to autumn.	GREEN	Grasslands: A new grassland maintenance schedule introduced by Brent Council across the Borough (including the Welsh Harp) in spring 2018. Includes emphasis on improving biodiversity value of amenity grassland. Sown areas of bee-friendly plants were added in 2019. See the following link for areas for areas of spring and summer grassland at Neasden Recreation Ground: https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16413216/neasden-recreation-ground.jpg
Grasslands: paths cutting	Barnet, Brent	Maintenance: within existing resources. Restoration work is currently unfunded. Current path cutting estimated at £5,000 / year.	Spring to autumn.	AMBER	<p>Paths maintained but some have narrowed with scrub growth, particularly at Neasden Recreation Ground (see notes on Marshland) and at the Welsh Harp Open Space.</p> <p>Work in early 2020 aimed to improve the lower grassland path along the marshland edge of the Welsh Harp Open Space. Work aimed at reducing encroaching scrub, to improve the available width on, to spread wear and to improve conditions for grass growth. Partners: Canal & River Trust, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Brent Council.</p>
Sailing and sports development	WHSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WHSA.	On-Going	AMBER	Led by the sailing and water sports clubs. Phoenix Canoe Club are developing their proposals for improvements to their club facilities for water sports, particularly for educational use; and for a café accessible from the Welsh Harp / Capital Ring path.

Litter. Clean up projects.	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.	AMBER	<p>Litter clear in marshland edge to Welsh Harp Open Space (organized by Welsh Harp Sailing Association: early 2020).</p> <p>Neasden Recreation Ground: As reported to WHJCC.</p> <p>Spring 2019; and winter 2019/2020: Litter clean-up downstream at Quainton Street Open Space organized by Thames 21.</p> <p>There are some areas within the Welsh Harp with both accumulated and on-going littering.</p>
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going.	AMBER	<p>Maintenance is on-going.</p> <p>Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.</p>
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.	AMBER	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 are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	AMBER	Led by the WHCG.

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.	AMBER	Habitat maintained. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of reedbed has increased by 0.09 ha between 2008 and 2016.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, Canal and River Trust	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.		AMBER	Largely self-managing, but control of willow and other scrub required in marshland at edge of Reservoir.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency / Thames 21.		2011 - ongoing	AMBER	Action Plan published at: http://www.brentcatchmentrivers.org.uk/

Cool Oak Lane bridge. Cool Oak Lane bridge and Wood Lane traffic.	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	See the proposals as part of the West Hendon re-development.	Works in progress: early 2020. Bridge/s: refer to plans for construction works in 2017 (Barnet; Barrett). Damage to existing brickwork by vehicles, 2017.	AMBER	Cool Oak Lane bridge and proposals related to West Hendon development. Works in progress: early 2020.
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).	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	RED	<p>Willow and scrub growth is exceeding management work on the shoreline. Estimates from GIS aerial images suggest that the area of marshland (including fen, marsh and swamp) has reduced by 0.3 ha between 2008 and 2016, due to succession to scrub woodland.</p> <p>Discussions by sailing clubs, Brent Council, Canal and River Trust and other partners: autumn 2018; and continuing into autumn 2019 following works in February 2019 for works in autumn / winter 2020.</p> <p>Welsh Harp Open Space: trial marshland works by Welsh Harp Sailing Association, February 2019.</p> <p>January and February 2020: Continuation of work in marshland edge by Welsh Harp Sailing Association on north shore (Welsh Harp Open Space).</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.	RED	Marshland habitat at risk of scrub encroachment. See the comments for 'Marshland maintain', above.
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	RED	As for Marshland, above. Several of the species of marshland orchids present at the Reservoir would benefit from relatively open (un-shaded) situations.
South-bank boardwalk	Canal and River Trust	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work.	As required.	RED	The boardwalk is damaged.

Invasive species: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and other invasive species	Canal and River Trust, Barnet Council, Brent Council	Brent parks have been dealing with Japanese Knotweed at the Brent Reservoir including at Neasden Recreation Ground; and Giant Hogweed at the Welsh Harp Open Space. Barnet have reduced Japanese Knotweed near to Cool Oak Lane bridge. Thames 21 are investigating possible systems for mapping of invasive species; possibly by linking to existing work by other recording partners.	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.	RED	On-going by Brent Council and Barnet Council. The Brent River Catchment Partnership are investigating how to improve control along the whole catchment. Operational knowledge is also shared via the River Brent Catchment Partnership.
---	--	---	---	-----	--