

APPENDIX 1. WELSH HARP / BRENT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION PLAN FOR 2014-2015

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 progress of current year priorities and projects.

Action	Lead	Budget	Approximate timetable	Progress: 2014-15 year to 4 July 2014
Dam wall and reservoir: statutory responsibility to maintain dam wall, associated structures and the dam	Canal & River Trust (C&RT)	C&RT	Maintain. On-Going	Dam wall maintained as required to operational and statutory standards.
Maintain open water for water sports	Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WWSA)	Undertaken by volunteers of the (WWSA)	On-Going	WWSA have commenced clearing of weed, summer 2014.
Sailing and sports development	WWSA: Welsh Harp Sailing Association and constituent clubs.	Undertaken by volunteers of WWSA.	On-Going	A five-year Water Sports Development Plan was prepared in 2013 with Welsh Harp users.
Clean up projects: including some control of invasive plants.	Thames 21 Environment Agency	Provided by Thames 21. Work on site by volunteers.	Projects: A further clean-up project was held in early August 2013 on the shores of Neasden Recreation Ground (and at the River Brent at Tokyngton).	Thames 21 have organized a community clean-up event downstream at St David's Close on 28 June 2014.
River trash traps: at inflows of Dollis Brook, and Silk Stream	Environment Agency	Budget provided by the Environment Agency	Maintain, On-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.	Maintain, On-going. Rubbish at the trash screen is cleared several times a year. Material disposed off-site.

Sailing Infrastructure: club houses, boats, and service areas.	Sailing Clubs	Maintained by the C&RT; and by the sailing clubs.	On-going	Refer to Sailing Clubs for an update. A five-year Water Sports Development Plan was prepared in 2013 with Welsh Harp users.
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 works programme in 2014-15 for maintenance of bird rafts. Movement of some silt banks in winter 2013/14, possibly due to high water flows, has affected access for works.
Reedbeds: remove young trees	WHCG	Volunteer projects are held annually to maintain the reedbeds.	Remove young trees. On-going. Autumn / winter.	Led by the WHCG. Autumn / winter works are programmed by the WHCG.
Reedbeds: increase	All	Natural growth is encouraged, so costs are low, but refer to the need to remove young trees.	Periodic reviews as part of Biodiversity Action Plans.	Some evidence e.g. from aerial images, of long-term increase in area but rates of increase have not been estimated.
Marshland: maintain extent	Brent Council, Welsh Harp Sailing Association, Canal and River Trust.	Estimated at £700 per year.	Alternate years: reduce young tree growth on shores of Neasden Recreation Ground, Welsh Harp Open Space.	Works appear to be not keeping up with growth of trees on and near shoreline. Works by Brent Council Parks on both shores in February 2014 but not in winter 2013/14. However, willow managed by Sailing Clubs on shores of Welsh Harp Open Space in early 2014 in consultation with Natural England.
Marshland	Barnet, Barratt PLC		Plans submitted for restoration of shore by Phase 1 of West Hendon redevelopment.	Refer to Barnet.

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 (where trees are reduced)	Refer to draft of Catchment Management Plan. Marshland habitat has increased since early 1990s at Welsh Harp Open Space and Neasden Recreation Ground where conservation work has been undertaken. However, some trees have regrown in more recent years.
Marshland: orchids	WHCG, Brent	Marshland work by Brent Council. Volunteer work by WHCG.	WHCG to provide information.	Orchids usually benefit from well planned marshland conservation. Marshland works to take into account the location, and potential for enhancing populations of orchids.
South-bank boardwalk	C&RT	Canal & Rivers Trust budget: periodic work possibly averages £500 / year.	As required.	Boardwalk had more damage in early 2014. Condition to be assessed by C&RT in March 2014.
Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed	C&RT, Barnet Council, Brent Council	No budget: works undertaken as part of other works; or with grant funding. Barnet: three-year programme. Brent: grant funding used in 2011-13, c. £1,500	Complete the control within the SSSI at Neasden Recreation Ground. Barnet:	Control at SSSI at Neasden R G 2011 and 2012. Follow-up treatment undertaken 2013.
Wet woodland	C&RT, Barnet, Brent	Largely self-managing.	On-going.	Largely self-managing.

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.	Cutting of mown paths undertaken. Loss of acid grassland is a concern: scrub has encroached in each area of acid grassland. October 2013: WHCG undertook annual clearance of oak scrub in higher ground of West Hendon Playing Fields. 2013/14: Barnet have cut bramble from one field.
Woodland	Brent, Barnet, WHCG, C&RT	Largely self-managing. Unfunded: management of woodland to increase diversity, but potential for creative use of material.	Planting of disease-resistant Elms, winters 2011/12 and 2012/13.	Some areas could benefit from more active management particularly where scrub is encroaching on acid grassland or on marshland.
Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre	Brent	Brent Council and external funding.	On-going. 23.10.2013: WHEEC reports that bookings are at a high level	Centre is maintained. Bookings maintained. Update at WHJCC meeting
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. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close, 2013.	West Hendon Allotments: self-managed. Brent: Allotments Strategy: Birchen Grove Allotments and Dors Close Allotments included in service improvement. Biodiversity improvements at Dors Close.
Open spaces, pitches, paths, Capital Ring, signage, interpretative signage, litter and dog bins,	Barnet, Brent	Existing maintenance resources. Barnet; and Brent grounds maintenance budgets.	On-going.	Maintained; and well-used.
Feasibility of traffic analysis / signage for Wood Lane	Barnet Highways (leading) in consultation with Brent Highways.	.	New: 18.07.2012	Barnet are leading.

Monitoring: wildlife, and indicators	WHCG; and public authorities.	Mainly by volunteers of WHCG.	On-going	Programme of activities led by Welsh Harp Conservation Group for 2014. Includes birds (weekly); butterflies (24 weekly transects in 2013); and fungi. Walks: and one planned by Natural Magic (2014/2015).
Signage	Brent / Barnet.			Inspected: 2012. Most of Brent's signage up to date: but Brent are investigating the interpretative signage. Barnet will review their signage.
Parks infrastructure	Brent / Barnet			Brent: inspected by Sports and Parks Service. Bird hides: WHCG cleared vegetation to improve views: Aug./Sept/ 2013. Main hide was re-roofed in November 2013.
River Brent Catchment Management Plan	All; led by Environment Agency		2011 -	The Action Plan is available for public use. Progress on several issues.