

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Planning Application (Application ref: 2014/4332/P)

Addendum to Community Assessment (Chapter 10 of Environmental Statement)

In light of recent clarity over the length of the de-silting process, a change to the de-silting programmes at Men's and Ladies' Bathing Ponds and confirmation that the Mixed and Men's Bathing Ponds can remain open during construction works to the dam structures, we are able to provide an update to the Community assessment relating to impacts of the Proposed Development on the users of all the bathing ponds (Chapter 10, paragraphs 10.36 – 10.39 of the Environmental Statement).

During construction the ponds will need to be closed whilst de-silting takes place and Ladies' Bathing pond will need to be closed whilst the changing facilities are being constructed. A revised construction programme (Environmental Statement Revised Appendix 3.1) is included which illustrates that the de-silting process at Men's and Ladies' Bathing Ponds has been swapped. This will help to ensure that two bathing ponds can remain open at all times during the construction period.

Impact Assessment - Bathing ponds

De-silting works during construction would result in temporary closure of the ponds for periods ranging between one and two months. It is now proposed to undertake the de-silting of the Ladies' Bathing Pond and construction of the new changing facility at the same time thereby reducing temporary closure of this pond to three and a half months. Each bathing pond would be closed during different periods as follows to ensure that two bathing ponds would be open at all times:

The Men's Bathing Pond will only be closed between November and mid-December 2015. The Mixed Bathing Pond will only be closed during January 2016. The Ladies' Bathing Pond will be closed for construction of the new changing facilities and de-silting from February until mid-May.

To help mitigate disruption to ladies-only bathing, it is proposed to schedule ladies-only swimming sessions at Mixed and Men's Bathing Ponds. In addition, during this period opening hours at the Hampstead Lido would be extended to provide alternative all day swimming facilities.

With the above considered, the magnitude of impact during construction is high at Ladies Bathing Pond resulting in a **major adverse** and **significant** effect upon users and low at Mixed and Men's Bathing Ponds resulting in a **moderate adverse** and **significant** effect upon users of these ponds.

During the operational phase, at Mixed Pond the swimming area will no longer be increased, as reported in the Environmental Statement, as the deck area is no longer to be removed; there is, therefore, no operational effect at this pond. The existing changing rooms at Ladies' Bathing Pond will be replaced with new facilities in the same location, and will offer improved and fully accessible facilities at the same capacity resulting in a **moderate beneficial** and **significant** effect.

Addendum to Appendix 10.1

Construction Phase

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	High: This pond provides swimming facilities for women only, with over 88,000 visitors a year. The peak visiting times	High: Construction works at the pond will require complete closure to all users for approximately 3 and a half months from February to mid-May, although the pond will be available for swimmers for	Major Adverse Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
	are April – September, with 83% of visitors during these times.	<p>1 month during January. The closure largely coincides with the least busy period in terms of visitor numbers, November to March, although April and May are when the pond usage increases for the summer.</p> <p>However, alternative facilities will be available throughout the entire closure period at the Mixed Bathing ponds (apart from January when Ladies' Bathing is open), Men's Bathing Pond and the Hampstead Lido, although it is noted that the lido does not provide like for like swimming experience.</p>	
Highgate Men's Bathing Pond	High: This is the most popular bathing pond, with over 140,000 visitors a year. With over 85% visitors during the summer months, April to September.	<p>Low:</p> <p>The pond will require complete closure during the desilting process, which will take approximately 1.5 months between November and mid-December. 15% of total visitors visit the Men's Bathing Pond during this time.</p> <p>Alternative facilities will exist for users at the Mixed and Ladies Bathing Ponds and the Lido during this time, although it is noted the Lido does not provide like for like swimming experience.</p>	Moderate Adverse Significant
Mixed Bathing Pond	High: This pond provides bathing facilities for approximately 98,000 visitors a year, the peak visiting months are April – September when 94% visitors attend during	<p>Low:</p> <p>The pond will only require complete closure to all users during the desilting, which will take approximately 1 month in January. During January approximately 0.6% of swimmers use the mixed bathing during this time. Alternative facilities will be available at both the Ladies Bathing Pond and Men's Bathing Pond, in addition to the Lido.</p>	Moderate Adverse Significant

Operational Phase

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond	High: This pond provides swimming facilities for women only, with over 88,000 visitors a year. The peak visiting times are April – September, with 83% of visitors during these times.	Low: The existing changing rooms will be replaced with new facilities in the same location, and will offer improved and accessible facilities at the same capacity.	Moderate Beneficial Significant

Implications of programme change for other assessments

We have considered the implications of the programme change relating to the de-silting process at Men's and Ladies' Bathing Ponds against the findings of the remaining chapters of the Environmental Statement. It is not anticipated that the programme change will affect the findings of the Landscape, Ecology, Water Environment, Historic Environment, Traffic and Transportation, Air Quality and cumulative effects assessments.

In relation to the Noise and Vibration Assessment, the noise levels from the de-silting works are not high, especially when compared to other works occurring at the same time which dominate. The de-silting of the Men's pond will introduce some construction noise much earlier in the construction programme that has not been detailed within the Noise and Vibration chapter (appendix graphs and noise contour plots) but this would not cause there to be a significant effect at any receptor, typically predicted noise levels would be 45-50dB.