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London Borough of Camden  
Development Control Team  
Camden Town Hall Extension  
Argyle Street  
London WC1H 8ND

6 August 2014

Dear Mr. Markwell,

Planning Reference 2014/4332/P

Address: Hampstead and Highgate Chains of Ponds, Hampstead Heath

Description: Dam Construction Work

Case Officer: Jonathan Markwell

I am writing, as a resident of South Hill Park, to object to the proposals from the City of London Corporation in relation to the building or re-building of the dams on these Chains of Ponds.

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. As the planning application makes clear, the City have, in formulating the hard engineering works, deliberately ignored Section 16 of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 which requires that the natural aspect of the Heath be preserved in perpetuity.
2. The risk of flooding against which the works are designed has been identified, by the City, as an annual probability of 1 in 400,000. This is a ridiculous criterion to apply to safety, and is not a criterion which is applied in any other area of regulated human endeavour. Even a nuclear power station is only required to meet a level of safety which involves a 1 in 10,000 risk of an accident.
3. The works will cause huge disruption over large parts of the Heath for a period of two years and will undoubtedly cause serious damage to wildlife. This point is not answered by saying that in due course the wildlife will recover. The wildlife should not be being disturbed in the first place.
4. Approximately 160 trees are due to be felled. Some of these are category B trees which are important trees on the Heath.

5. The resulting alteration of the landscape will be the great "parkification" of the area around the Model Boating Pond and the raising of dam levels on other ponds so as to make them have the appearance of reservoirs, rather than the appearance of ornamental ponds which they currently have. In particular, the great crescent to be raised on the Model Boating Pond will completely change the appearance of the southern end of that pond.

These outrageous engineering works represent the greatest threat to the integrity and beauty of the historic landscape of Hampstead Heath since it was taken into public ownership in 1871. I urge the Council to reject the application and to require the City to present a proposal which takes proper account of the unique situation of the Heath and a proportionate and rational approach to the question of safety.

These proposals have attracted unprecedented public hostility which will certainly be directed to the Council if they approve the application.

Yours sincerely,



Marc Hutchinson

  
planning@camden.gov.uk

**Re: Proposed Hampstead Heath dams and related works**

Dear Sir,

I am a chartered Civil Engineer and have lived in South End Green since 1950 (64 years). I strongly object to allow the Heath to be vandalised by the dams based on only an opinion of a possibility of a 1 in 400,000 year biblical flood. We are brazenly being asked to believe this outrageous argument, which has no basis and is totally irrelevant.

The argument in my opinion is being pushed forward to enable a few consultants and contractors to vandalise the Heath for their own short-term gains. There are no geographical, geological or technical reasons to justify this vandalism.

The flood scare has been doggedly pursued by the bullying and threatening behavior of the Applicants and their accomplices simply because they have invested in the vandalism too far down the line to withdraw and risk losing face. It really is a shame that finance is not an issue as this would bin this proposal with nobody willing to contribute.

Lower banks erosion of the ponds can be dealt with hidden steel sheet piling and the over-spillage can be dealt with overflow reservoirs at the top of the ponds chain.

The Reservoir Act of 1975 does not require these works to be carried out, only the bias interpretation of the above is seeking them. The dams are in contravention of the Heath Act of 1896, which I hope the Judicial Review will uphold.

We do not need large obtrusive earth dams enveloping the ponds out of sight.

**Please REFUSE consent for this application, as I do not know anyone who is in favour of it.**

Yours sincerely,

Roger Gulhane CEng.MICE  
Chartered civil engineer

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Susan Kirby - [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 August 2014 18:21  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** Markwell, Jonathan  
**Subject:** Dams on Hampstead Heath

Dear Planning team

Having very carefully considered this issue I wish to object to the City of London Corporations plans.

I am particularly concerned about the huge earthworks proposed for Catchpit and the Model Boating Pond and concrete walls at the Men's Bathing Pond. I am not happy about the large number of trees to be felled.

I am not convinced that works of this scale are required by law or that the likelihood of giant storms justifies such severe disruption to and closure of facilities and areas of the Heath over several years.

Yours sincerely

Sue Kirby