Project:	Hampstead Heath Ponds Project	То:	The City of London Corporation						
Subject:	Statement of Habitat Losses and Gains	From:	Atkins Ltd						
Date:	13 Nov 2014	cc:	Project Team, LB Camden						

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1. Background

We received feedback from LB Camden officers on the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project planning application submission on 9 September 2014. One of the comments/requests made by the officers was that Atkins provides a statement of the approximate amounts of habitat(s) lost and gained through the proposal and their locations (in both a written and graphical format).

2. Change in Terrestrial Habitat Types

Table 1 summarises the change in terrestrial habitat types as a result of the proposed scheme (e.g. at new spillways, the change from existing habitat type to species-rich grassland in order to avoid obstacles within the spillway and obstructions to the movement of flood water). Permanent changes will take place at the enlarged/new dams at Model Boating Pond and the Catchpit, and within spillway footprints at most ponds as indicated on the Environmental Masterplans submitted with the planning application. There will also be some new scrub planting to the west of Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. All other terrestrial habitats affected by the proposed scheme will be reinstated following completion of the construction works.

Please note that changes to terrestrial habitat types as a result of pond enhancement measures (e.g. creation of channels and scrapes) are dealt with in Section 3 below. Also, with regards to woodland habitat, in contrast to the creation of channels and scrapes, the construction of spillways will result in a concomitant loss of existing woodland due to their larger footprint (refer to Section 3 for further details).

3. Change in Aquatic and Wetland Habitat Types Associated with Pond Enhancement Measures

Pond enhancement works indicated on the Environmental Masterplans that were submitted with the planning application will alter the existing site habitat composition in the following ways:

- 1. Through the creation of new marginal planting areas.
- 2. Through the creation of new reedbed features.
- 3. Through the creation of new wetland channels and scrapes associate with silt control measures.
- 4. Through changes in open water habitat associated with excavation and new dam works at Model Boating and Catchpit.

Creation of New Pond Marginal Planting Areas

Through the creation of new marginal planting shelves and platforms the change in marginal vegetated pond area is as follows with bracketed figures indicating net loss (-) or net gain (+) of resultant swamp/wetland habitat:

- Vale of Health (+20m²)
- Viaduct Pond (+185m²)
- Mixed Bathing Pond (+278m²)
- Hampstead No. 2 (+113m²)
- Hampstead No. 1 (+160m²)
- Stock Pond (+98m²)

- Highgate Mens' Bathing Pond (+310m²)
- Highgate No. 1 Pond (+123m²)
- Model Boating Pond (+852m²)

In summary, there are no net losses of swamp/wetland habitat associated with the marginally planted areas. It is appreciated that the amount of open water habitat viewable in each pond is effectively reduced by the presence of marginal plants, although this not considered to be a loss of open water habitat. There is a loss in open water habitat of -335m² at Model Boating Pond due to the increase in the dam footprint.

Pond Specific Changes in Aquatic and Wetland Habitat Types Associated with Silt Control Measures and Reedbeds

The following section provides details as to the areas of habitat loss and gain associated with pond specific measures to control silt ingress. Please note that all features listed below require extraction works and as such the existing habitat type within the footprint of the excavation area will be altered i.e. there will be a concomitant change in habitat type. A summary habitat loss and gain information box is provided for each pond in relation to changes to aquatic and wetland habitat feature types.

Stock Pond

The habitat losses and gains associated with the proposed wetland areas and new channels downstream of Stock Pond, as shown on Environmental Masterplan 5117039-ATK-P1-ZZ-DR-L-7003, are as follows:

- Stream channel $= +52m^2$ of flowing water habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of -52m² of existing tall ruderal herb associated with required excavations to create the new stream.
- Wetland scrape area (3 No.)
 = +18m² of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of 18m² of existing tall ruderal herb existing associated with required excavations to create the 3 wetland scrape areas.

Summary losses/gains

+52m² flowing water, +18m² swamp/wetland, -70m² tall ruderal herb

Catchpit

The habitat losses and gains associated with the proposed wetland areas up and downstream of Catchpit, as shown on the Environmental Masterplan 5117039-ATK-P12-ZZ-DR-L-7003, are as follows:

- Existing catchpit $= -125 \text{m}^2 \text{ of open water habitat}$
 - o Area loss is associated with the new dam footprint over the existing concrete lined catchpit
- Upstream wetland scrapes (2 No.) = +100m² of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There is not considered to be a concomitant loss of -100m² of existing woodland habitat since although the new stream is in the woodland area no loss of mature trees will occur.
- Downstream stream channel $= +35m^2$ of flowing water habitat
 - There is not considered to be a concomitant loss of -35m² of existing woodland habitat since although the new stream is in the woodland area no loss of mature trees will occur.
- Downstream wetland scrapes (3 No.) = +160m² of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There is not considered to be a concomitant loss of -160m² of existing woodland habitat since although the wetland scrapes area in a woodland area no loss of mature trees will occur.

Summary losses/gains

+260m² swamp/wetland, +35m² flowing water, -125m² open water

Please note that the wider woodland habitat losses associated with the new Catchpit dam footprint are covered in Table 1.

Bird Sanctuary Pond

The habitat losses and gains in scrapes and wetland channels downstream of Bird Sanctuary Pond, as shown on Environmental Masterplan 5117039-ATK-P3-ZZ-DR-L-7007, are as follows:

- Woodland channel $= +133m^2$ of open water habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of approximately -66.5m² of existing swamp/wetland associated with the required excavations to create the new stream.
 - There will be a concomitant loss of approximately -66.5m² of existing dense scrub associated with the required excavations to create the new stream.
- Wetland scrape area (4 No.) $= +241m^2$ of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of -241m² of existing swamp/wetland associated with the required excavations to create the wetland scrape areas i.e. no overall habitat change.
- Reedbed area (1 No.) = +100m² of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of -100m² of existing swamp/wetland associated with the required excavations to create the reedbed i.e. no overall habitat change.

Summary losses/gains -66.5m² dense scrub, -65.5m² swamp/wetland,+133m² open water

Inflow to Highgate Mens' Bathing Pond

The habitat losses and gains associated with the proposals for the inflow to Highgate Mens' Bathing Pond, as shown on Environmental Masterplan 5117039-ATK-P4-ZZ-DR-L-7007, are as follows:

- Wetland scrape area $= +42m^2$ of swamp/wetland habitat
 - There will be a concomitant loss of -42m² of existing scattered trees associated with required excavations to create the wetland scrape area.

Summary losses/gains -42m² scattered trees, +42m² swamp/wetland

Overall Habitat Losses and Gains Associated with Aquatic and Wetland Habitats:

Habitat Type	Loss (-) or Gain (+) in m ² (orange: loss; green: gain; blue: no change)
Open water	-327
Flowing water	+87
Swamp/wetland	+2,393.5
Scattered trees	-42
Dense scrub	-66.5
Tall ruderal herb	-70

Table 1 Change in Terrestrial Habitat Types Associated with new Spillways, Enlarged/New Dams at Model Boating Pond and Catchpit, and new scrub planting at Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond

	Total Area of Spillway (m²) if applicable		Area of <u>EXISTING</u> Habitat Types (m ²)										Area of PROPOSED labitat Types (m²) CHANGE in Area of Habitat Types (m²) (orange: loss; green: gain; blue: no change)										
Pond Name		Woodland	Scattered trees	Semi-improved grassland	Species-poor semi- improved grassland	Improved grassland	Amenity Grassland	Swamp/wetland	Dense scrub	Other (e.g. path, track)	Species-rich grassland (equivalent to semi-improved grassland)	Grassland/scrub mosaic (Catchpit)	Woodland	Scattered trees	Semi-improved grassland	Species-poor semi- improved grassland	Improved grassland	Amenity Grassland	Swamp/wetland	Dense scrub	Grassland/scrub mosaic	Species-rich grassland (equivalent to semi-improved grassland)	Other (e.g. path, track)
Highgate Chain																							
Stock Pond	1293	615	0	0	549	0	0	0	0	129	1164	0	-615	N/A	N/A	-549	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	+1164	0
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	312	97	3109	0	0	0	181	0	0	34	278	0	-97	N/A	-3109	N/A	N/A	-181	N/A	+3109	N/A	+278	0
Bird Sanctuary Pond This is addressed under Section 3 above	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Model Boating Pond As described in Section 3 above, the change in open water habitat is -335m ²	N/A	0	1930	0	8927	0	0	0	505	992	9219	0	N/A	0	N/A	-8927	N/A	N/A	N/A	-159 (some scrub being lost to open water)	N/A	+9219	+802
Highgate Mens' Bathing Pond	332	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	284	0	332	0	-48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-284	N/A	+332	N/A
Highgate No.1	1812	376	1203	0	0	0	161	0	0	72	1740	0	-376	-1203	N/A	N/A	N/A	-161	N/A	N/A	N/A	+1740	0
Hampstead Chain																							
Vale of Health	248	102	0	0	0	47	0	0	54	45	203	0	-102	N/A	N/A	N/A	-47	N/A	N/A	-54	N/A	+203	0
Viaduct	101	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	101	0	-70	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-16	N/A	+101	0
Mixed Bathing Pond	N/A Works at this pond involve scrub clearance to remove shading check	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	+50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-50	N/A	N/A	N/A

4

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	on marginal vegetation establishment																						
Hampstead No.2 No permanent changes to habitat types due to use of box culverts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hampstead No.1	83	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	0	-83	N/A	+83	N/A							
Catchpit	N/A	3490 (New dam footprint: 2299; New terrestrial habitat upstream of dam: 1191)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2299	1191	-3490	N/A	+1191	+2299	N/A						

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Appendix A - Spillways and Catchpit Sketches

Note

- <u>Spillways</u>: Using the Phase 1 habitat survey map and Environmental Masterplan drawings, existing
 habitat types were superimposed onto the footprint of the new spillways. In each case the Atkins
 CAD Team measured the total area of the spillway and the area of each habitat type present. These
 figures were then fed into Table 1. Because the spillways will be planted with species-rich grassland,
 the 'Area of proposed habitat type' is generally equivalent to the total area of the spillway (unless
 there is a path/track present).
- <u>Catchpit:</u> the footprint of the new dam and new up- and downstream habitats (including wetland scrapes, stream channels and grassland/scrub mosaic) were measured by the Atkins CAD Team (no 'Before' sketches were needed because there is only one existing habitat type i.e. woodland). The figures were fed into Section 3 and Table 1 as appropriate.
- <u>Model Boating Pond</u>: Due to the number of changes taking place at Model Boating Pond, 'Before' and 'After' measurements were carried out by members of the Atkins CAD Team and Ecology Team working together at a computer, so no sketches are provided for this pond.
- <u>Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond</u> Using the Environmental Masterplan drawing the total area of new scrub planting to the west of the pond was measured by members of the Atkins CAD Team and Ecology Team working together at a computer, so no sketches are provided for this pond.
- Pond enhancement measures including marginal planting, wetland scrapes, woodland channels, and reedbed planting: These are shown on the Environmental Masterplan drawings. The Atkins CAD Team used the drawings to measure the area of marginal planting, wetland scrapes, stream channels and reedbed planting at the relevant ponds. These figures were then fed into Section 3.















