

From: Farrar, Joanne [mailto:joanne.farrar@atkinsglobal.com]
Sent: 24 November 2014 11:03
To: Markwell, Jonathan
Subject: RE: Hampstead Heath Ponds Project (2014/4332/P) - AECOM draft independent review report

Good morning Jonathan

Further to your email below:

Response to Emergency Planning Comments

The City of London has a specialist arboricultural team who inspect and maintain trees across the Heath. The team includes four full time staff members, three of which are LANTRA-qualified inspectors. The cyclical inspection works are recoded on specialist software Abotrack.

In addition to the day-to-day management work undertaken by the Heath's staff, the dams are also inspected every six months by the City's Supervising Engineer who gives advice on the maintenance of the dams, including in relation to the maintenance of the vegetation and trees on the dams. The Heath staff are present as his inspections and implement his advice, for example in keeping down sapling growth and removing vegetation from the downstream face of dams.

The current risk from trees is managed through inspections by the arboricultural team and the Supervising Engineer. Where vegetation or trees have in the past been a cause of concern to the Supervising Engineer, they have been managed appropriately or removed. Trees on dams are inspected regularly and after storm events. Particular attention is given to the stability of the trees on dams and to keeping heights down. There are no trees or vegetation currently located on the dams which either the arboricultural team or the Supervising Engineer believes presents an unacceptable risk to the integrity of the dams either in a flood event or in high winds.

The Supervising Engineer and the City's own engineer have both confirmed they are satisfied with the approach.

The City confirms that it will continue to monitor and maintain trees on the Heath, and particularly on dams as outlined above.

Kind regards

Joanne