

To Jonathan Markwell

Case officer for application 2014/4332/p WORK ON THE DAMS ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

Highgate CAAC felt unable to comment on this application until the judicial review of the scheme had been heard. This has now taken place with the judgement being in favour of the City of London.

Highgate CAAC would now like to comment as follows.

1. Even given that work on the dams is legally required what is proposed is far too extensive and will be to the great and permanent detriment of the Conservation Area.
2. The design is far too driven by engineering standards with far too little consideration of environmental considerations and the requirements of the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871.
3. The number of trees to be felled is excessive and will alter the aspect for the worse of some of the most cherished parts of the Heath. This applies to the Stock Pond. And to the Boating pond.
4. The excavations for so-called borrow pits will cause damage to the meadows on the hill facing the boat pond and filling them with silt as has been proposed will alter their ecology in an unacceptable fashion.
5. The walls at the end of the men's swimming pond and the so-called training wall on the slipway introduce elements more suited to a water works than the natural aspect of the Heath protected by statute.
6. The landscaping proposed is more suited to a park than the Heath; it MUST be accepted that the Heath is not a PARK but an area of countryside wonderfully still existing in an urban area. The urge to tidy it up cut things back destroy undergrowth in the plans betrays a complete lack of understanding of the nature of the Heath and why it is so beloved by all in North London.
7. The disruption which will be caused to all local residents and users of the Heath is so considerable and so long lasting in the current plans that a more modest solution to the problems of the dams (greatly exaggerated as they are) MUST be found. their
8. Any conditions placed on a permission must include much greater provision for the quiet enjoyment of their homes and their surroundings of those who live on the borders of the Heath.
9. The abundant wild life which has made its home on these ponds is going to suffer enormous immediate disruption and destruction of habitat. Any ecological improvements will not be visible for at least two years and probably more. This is an intolerable situation and very little if anything seems to have been done to ameliorate it.
10. This scheme is unnecessarily extensive and grandiose and must be refused as it stands.

Susan Rose, Chair Highgate CAAC.