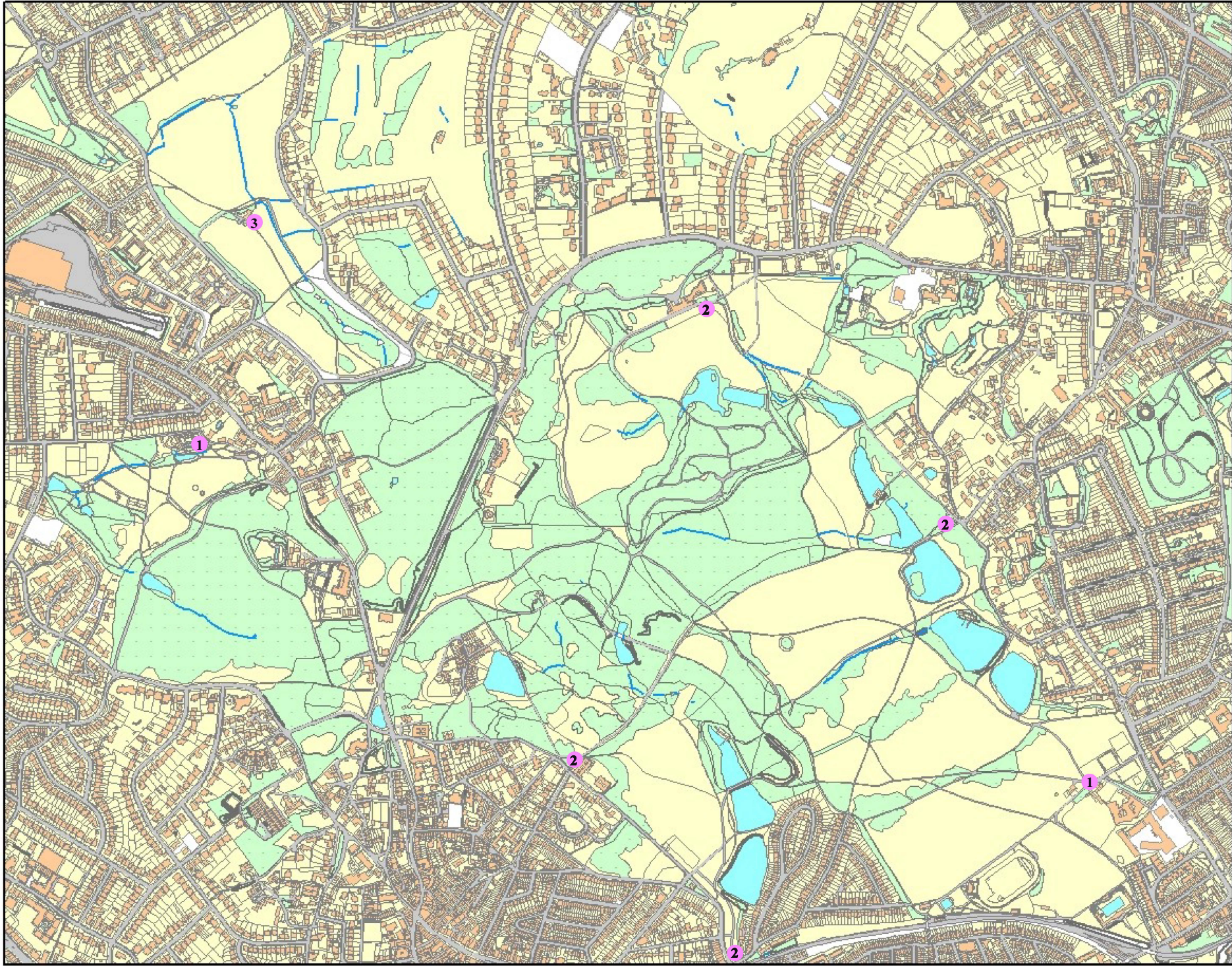


Map of proposed locations	P1
Description of signs and locations	P2
Sample of Interpretation	P3
Picture of wall mounted frame	P7



Map Title
*Double click
to change*

KEY

150th Anniversary
Interpretation Panel
Locations

- 1** Existing A0 aluminium wall mounted frame.
- 2** New wooden frame (mounted 1m off the ground on oak legs).
- 3** New wooden frame (wall mounted).

Created by:
#####

Date Created:
16 Feb 2021



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1 - Existing aluminium frame

The signs will be displayed in existing wall mounted aluminium frames

Locations

Parliament Hill
Golders Hill Park

2 - New wooden frame

Display frame dimensions will be 1360mm x 1000mm x 50mm landscape.

The signs will be mounted on two oak legs, 1000mm above ground. With legs the dimensions will be 2000mm x 1660mm x 125mm. The centre line for the artwork will be a 1560mm.

Locations

East Heath
Lime Avenue
Millfield
Kenwood cafe

3 – New wooden wall mounted frame

The sign will be displayed in a new wall mounted wooden frame.

Location

Heath Extension

For all signs, interpretation artwork panels will be displayed at A0 size (1189mm x841mm) landscape.

Interpretation panels reflect the four season and will be changed accordingly throughout the year.

Hampstead Heath: London's Countryside



In 2021, Hampstead Heath enters its 150th year of protection as a wild and open space. It is a fragment of English countryside, preserved in the middle of a big city, a patchwork of woodlands, meadows and ponds and supporting a unique diversity of wild plants and animals.



In 2020, over 15 million visits were made to Hampstead Heath, similar to the number made to a typical UK national park thousands of times its size. Of all the threats to the Heath's biodiversity and habitats, the effect of this growing use is probably the greatest.



Discover, Enjoy and Protect the Heath's unique Biodiversity

For over a century, the Heath and Hampstead Society has fought to protect the Heath for visitors and for nature. With our partners, we have created this display to introduce you to the Heath's special wildlife. Join us as this display and the Heath changes over the year.

Besides blackbirds, the Heath supports two breeding thrushes. Numbers of Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush are in decline nationally. Both strong singers, the Song Thrush repeats its phrases four or five times, while



the Mistle Thrush sings a clear and simpler song from the tops of tall trees

The Heath's two woodpeckers are now making their nest holes in trees across the Heath! The Great Spotted Woodpecker drums and feeds on trunks and branches. The Green Woodpecker feeds on the ground in Heath meadows on ants. When people and dogs destroy ant hill mounds they threaten survival of Green Woodpeckers on the Heath. Protect anthills!



It's Spring!

Warblers return from Africa in April. Blackcaps sing long melodious songs from hedges, chiffchaffs sing a song just like their name, from high in trees. The rare Whitethroat sings as it flies up from meadow edges.

Caring for our Heath: What you can do!

The City of London and English Heritage actively manage the Heath's natural habitats to protect their biodiversity to give us a true nature experience.

March to June is the main nesting season for birds on the Heath. When in woodlands, please stick to the paths and keep your dogs under control, so that they do not disturb bird nests or resting hedgehogs. Be particularly careful not to amble through or let dogs disturb bramble and shrubs on meadow margins.

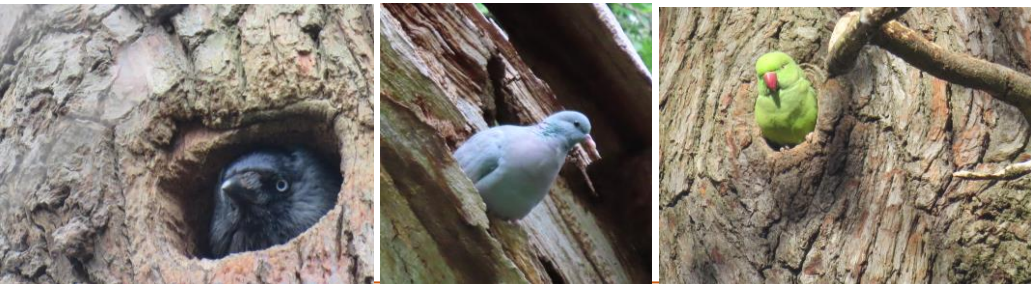
The few fences on the Heath are there to protect fragile habitats and important wildlife – please do not cross them. Dead hedging, creating a natural fence with fallen branches, is also used around veteran trees or along paths to discourage people and dogs from compacting roots, trampling wildflowers or disturbing sensitive habitats – please respect these dead hedges! Make room for nature.



Hampstead Heath in Summer: woodlands, meadows and ponds



The grounds of Kenwood House preserve a spectacular formal landscape designed in the mid-18th century, but at their heart is a much wilder space. Ken Wood is an ancient woodland with many trees over 400 years old. Ancient trees have accumulated many holes, providing nesting spaces for some distinctive Heath birds and also bats.



Kenwood supports London's largest colony of jackdaws, small relatives of the crow with a grey head and a dog-like bark. The shy Stock Dove, a relative of the common Wood Pigeon but without its white markings, also nests in tree holes, as do ring neck parakeets, originally from South Asia.

Caring for our Heath: What you can do!

Long grass and wildflower meadows provide homes for insects and food for birds. Help protect them by keeping your walks to mown "desire lines" and picnicking in short grass areas, leaving long grass for the creepy crawlies.

We love to swim our dogs, but dog swimming creates dead zones in ponds, due to disturbance and poisons from dog flea treatments that kill dragonflies and other pondlife. So please swim your dogs only in the four designated dog swimming areas and help our pond life to survive and thrive elsewhere.

Butterfly populations are declining across Britain. New wildflower meadows are helping to protect and restore them on the Heath. Yellow Birdsfoot Trefoil supports the Common Blue, while native long grasses are the food plant of the Gatekeeper, two of our 15 species



See a kingfisher – if you're lucky! They breed in artificial sand banks in the Bird Sanctuary and fish on all our ponds



The Heath's ponds are rich in biodiversity, including 16 kinds of dragonfly. Emperors skim elegantly across ponds, red darters hunt from pondside perches, while blue damselflies sit on floating plants

Hampstead Heath in Autumn: hooting owls and colourful fungi

In the calm, clear days of Autumn we can reflect on the Heath's fantastic biodiversity, and the threats posed to it by rapidly growing numbers of visitors, by climate change and by urban development and pollution. Can it stay a wild and natural space for another 150 years? Yes it can, if we all do our part to protect and care for it.



Death by a million footfalls

As more people walk on the Heath, footpaths become so compacted that water cannot penetrate and soil organisms disappear. With roots starved of water and food, large pathside trees slowly die. To protect our veteran trees, paths have been moved and dead hedges have been put around them. You can help save our trees by keeping to paths in woodlands and not broadening paths or creating new ones

Caring for our Heath: Why not begin at home?

Biodiversity thrives when it has enough space and resource. By encouraging wildlife and wildflowers in your own garden or local park, you can help to create green corridors which connecting wildlife habitats across London, linking to the Heath and other wild spaces, making more room for nature. Nest boxes for birds, bug hotels, doors in fences for hedgehogs, feeding stations – learn about the many ways to make your neighbourhood wildlife friendly.

Where Heath soils are not eroded and compacted they develop a network of fungi that connect and nourish tree roots and send up in Autumn a diversity of fungi. The Heath's 400 spp of fungi include some nationally rare species



Around October, you will hear Tawny Owls beginning to call across the Heath, which they will do until Spring. The Heath supports between five and ten pairs of this nationally declining species. Owls feed on mice and voles, but also help to control rats on the Heath.

Many Heath animals will be starting to hibernate, in the same quiet and protected areas where they live most of the year, away from humans and dogs. They include Central London's largest population of hedgehogs and its only population of grass snakes. Both hibernate in piles of brush and leaves



The Heath in Winter: quiet but full of life

While the Heath may seem silent and empty, a sharp eye and ear will reveal it is very much alive. Early in the New Year, robins and thrushes begin to sing, while Great Spotted Woodpeckers find hollow trunks to bang out a courtship call.



In winter, chattering flocks of redwing thrushes arrive from Scandinavia to feed on berries of hawthorn, rose, holly and other bushes and trees

Caring for our Heath: Join a society, or volunteer!

The Heath and Hampstead Society and the Friends of Kenwood champion the Heath as a place for visitors and for nature. The Marylebone Birdwatching Society and the London Natural History Society run regular bird walks and biodiversity surveys on the Heath, respectively.

Heath Hands works with people and groups of all backgrounds and abilities who want to get involved in volunteering on Hampstead Heath. Its volunteers help staff of City of London and Kenwood Estate to manage their natural habitats and gardens, monitor Heath biodiversity and organize activities to make the Heath experience more inclusive for all ages and communities.



At last, when the yellow Celandine and white Wood Anemone appear again, you know Spring has arrived

Mixed species flocks

Blue tit



Goldcrest

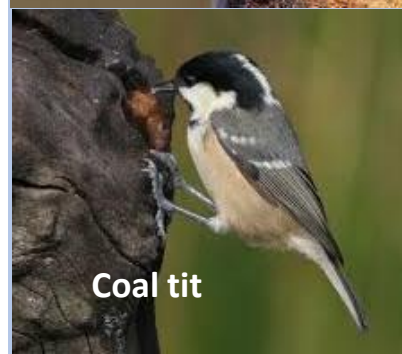


As winter progresses, small birds team up in flocks that move through woodlands feeding on buds and insects. Here are Heath birds you may see foraging together



Long-tailed tit

Great tit



Coal tit



Tree creeper

Nuthatch



“There has never been a more pressing time than now to prioritize the intrinsic value of biological diversity”

Sir David Attenborough

