

Rivers and Wetlands Community Days

Project Summary

Harrow's water bodies range from clean to highly degraded. Invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam crowd out native plants and cause bank erosion, while misconnections and deliberate dumping cause considerable pollution.

The ongoing Harrow Council Yeading Brook Unbound project, funded by ReWild London, is funding major watercourse improvements on the currently poor Yeading Brook West, while Harrow Nature Conservation Forum's Better Water For Wetlands project, funded by the Crane River Partnership, is investigating sources of pollution on the Yeading Brook East.

However, without regular sampling of aquatic invertebrates we will not know whether these schemes have been successful in improving these streams.

We will empower existing volunteer groups and recruit new volunteers to:

- Map and tackle invasive plants.
- Commence Riverfly water quality monitoring at 6 new sites, evidencing improvements from above projects.
- Make regular quantitative measurements of ammonia and phosphate.
- Gain proficiency in aquatic/marginal plant and invertebrate identification
- Survey and assess local waterbodies, reporting species records to local and national databases.
- Undertake eDNA survey of 10 flagship ponds for Great Crested Newt
- Organize 12 public events to increase awareness of Harrow's ponds and rivers,
- pollution and other problems and engage new supporters.
- Generate and distribute online and printed publicity material to engage local communities.

Bid Documentation & Timeline

06th March 2023 – Initial discussions with Stakeholders (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Friends of Headstone Manor Park, Friends of Yeading Walk. Friends of Roxbourne Park)

08th March 2023 – Draft application issued for discussion with stakeholders (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Friends of Headstone Manor Park, Friends of Yeading Walk. Friends of Roxbourne Park)

13th March 2023 - Official Bid Submitted

21st April 2023 – Confirmation of successful bid

30th April 2023 – Introduction Meeting (Via Zoom)

01st May 2023 – FoHMP confirm Community Engagement Events as 2 x Wetland Walks on 12th July 2023 & 13th September 2023

19TH May 2023 – Project meeting arranged for 25th May 2023 at Headstone Manor Park at 10.00am including distribution of Equipment.

22nd May 2023 – Draft Leaflet & Map issued for comment.

24th May 2023 – Comments on Draft Leaflet & Map issued by FoHMP.

25th May 2023 – Project meeting at Headstone Manor Park including distribution of equipment and review of Draft Leaflet & Map

29th May 2023 – Revised Leaflet & Map issued additional comments issued by FoHMP, FoYW (Friends of Yeading Walk) & FoRP (Friends of Roxbourne Park)

30th May 2023 – Himalayan Balsam lambasting at Roxbourne Park undertaken by FoRP, HWA (Harrow Wildlife Action) & Hillingdon's Woodlarks and Waders volunteers.

05th June 2023 – Leaflet & Map approved and issued for Printing by Harrow Council
https://www.headstonemanorpark.org/files/ugd/722888_465720c09f204eb98b50a3e9ec0fde59.pdf

13th June 2023 – Himalayan Balsam lambasting at Roxbourne Park undertaken by FoRP, HWA (Harrow Wildlife Action) & Hillingdon's Woodlarks and Waders volunteers.

23rd June 2023 – Flyer produced for distribution in Libraries, Supermarkets & Notice Boards
https://www.headstonemanorpark.org/files/ugd/722888_8cdaf3b7f9864369a5cf8928654cfb77.pdf

23rd June 2023 – Guided Walk from Yeading Walk to Roxbourne Park undertaken by Peter McCloughan (Warden Roxbourne Rough)

25th June 2023 – Pond Dipping at Boltons Pande Roxbourne Rough

29th June 2023 – Great Crested Newt eDNA undertaken at ten pond locations across Harrow.

01st July 2023 – Drone photography of Yeading Brook (West) undertaken.

06th July 2023 – Great Crested Newt eDNA results returned ([GCN eDNA results – produce hyperlink](#))

12th July 2023 – The Wetlands at Headstone Manor Park including the Flood Alleviation Scheme – Guided Walk

30th July 2023- The Wetland at Newton Park West & Newton Park Ecology Park – Guided Walk

08th August 2023 – Draft drone footage and images issued for review.

08th August 2023 – FoHMP issue comments / information on drone footage and images

12th August 2023 – Public Riverfly Monitoring – Yeading Walk

27th August 2023 – Pond Dipping – Bently Priory

30th August 2023 – FoHMP chase update on Drone footage

03rd September 2023 – Guided Walk – Bently Priory & Stanmore Common Country Park

13th September 2023 - The Wetlands at Headstone Manor Park including the Flood Alleviation Scheme – Guided Walk

16th September 2023 – Pond Dipping – Roxbourne Rough

22nd September 2023 – Bat Walk – Yeading Walk

29th September 2023 – FoHMP chase update on Drone footage

03rd October 2023 – HNCf confirm that Drone Footage is still being put together and will be issued ASAP.

20th October 2023 – FoHMP Continue to chase HNCf for the production of the Drone Footage.

29th October 2023 – HNCf issue draft of Drone Footage for comment.

04th November 2023 – FoHMP Comment on Drone Footage for Headstone Manor Park and request the following amendments are made: -

1 - 0.29 - It travels under Pinner Park **Primary** School

2 - 0.36 - and reappears at **Headstone Manor Park** (Yeading Brook Grove)

3 - 0.46 - The Yeading brook does not go to the Headstone Manor Museum Complex but runs through **Headstone Manor Park (Picnic area)**

4 - 1.59 - have should read **haven**

5 - 2.03 - herons should read **Hérons**

6 - 2.21 - kingfishers should read **Kingfishers**

7 - 3.54 - Via a ~~a~~-grille ~~next to~~ **opposite** the Cafe

8 - 4.51 - of a ~~rewilding~~ **naturalisation** project that recreated

9 - 5.14 of Headstone Manor **Park**

10 - 5.18 - The ~~field~~ area to the right **forms part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme** which is designed to take

11 - 5.47 - of ~~the~~ Headstone Manor **Park Complex**

13th November 2023 - HNCf confirm that the final date for submission of amendments to the Drone Footage will be the 19th November 2023 the final version should then be available for release w/c 20th November 2023

17th November 2023 – Final Drone Footage issued and available via the Website