

### Friends of Wimbledon Park



**SGRA May 2020 Newsslider**  
FriendsOfWimbledonPark.org.uk

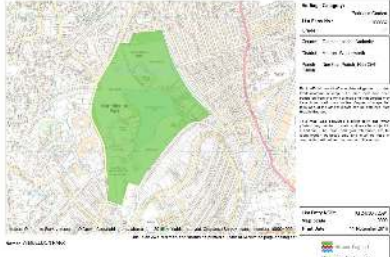


Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park  
The London Borough of Merton, 1776-1840

1


1

**19 January 2012**  
**Friends of Wimbledon Park constituted**  
**Project is the Heritage Park**



2

2



The Golf course is owned by the All England Lawn Tennis Club (30ha)

The Wimbledon Club own the area marked TWC (4ha)

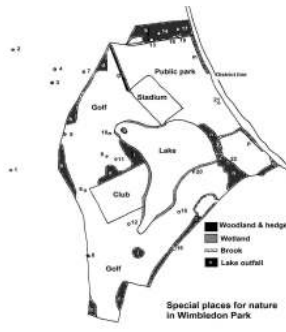
Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park (Only 61ha of the original 374ha remain) now in three ownerships.

The Public park is owned by the LB Merton (27ha including 9ha lake)

3

3

### Special Places for Nature




Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park

4

4

### Dam Safety

- 1) Wimbledon Park Lake is held back by a dam, on the top of which runs the lakeside path in the public park.
- 2) The lake, dam and public park are owned by the London Borough of Merton, although a small part of the dam and the outfall are within the part of Ashen Grove Wood that falls within the Wimbledon Park Golf Course.
- 3) As the lake is a large reservoir and the failure of the dam would put lives at risk it is subject to regular engineering inspections under the Reservoirs Act 1975.



**Figure 1. The lake, dam (in red) and surrounding land.**


5

5

### Failure of dam would cause extensive flooding

Extreme rainfall leads to Wimbledon Park Lake rising so high as to overtop the dam.

- > Overtopping risks failure of the dam, which could quickly release the water of the lake to flood the public park and residential areas between the park and Earsfield.
- > At worst, the flood would be 3.5metres (4 yards) deep beside the tube line embankment in the public park and some 1700 buildings would be at risk of flooding.
- > The risk to life requires works to prevent any chance of the dam failing.
- > The study outlines four options to achieve this.



Predicted worst case flood from dam failure

6

6

### Statement on dam safety from Friends of Wimbledon Park I

- 1) New standards require big works to prevent the Wimbledon Park dam from failing. LB Merton's Flood Study plans to do this. The Friends found deficiencies in the four shortlisted options. Instead, we propose a Capability Brown design.
- 2) Three of us have received a hard copy of:
  - a) Wimbledon Park Lake Project; Flood Study; Stage 2 Full Report (including Appendices).
- 3) Discussions on the content have been led by Dave Dawson who has produced the three documents listed below for us. Please note that these documents have been scrutinised by some of our Executive Committee and several Zoom meetings held before being agreed.
- 4) We:
  - a) Endorse the need to make the dam safe
  - b) Welcome the proposal to retain the lake and the report's openness to lowering the lake to its historic level.
  - c) Are aware that a preferred option will be refined as it is designed in detail.

7

7

### Statement on dam safety from Friends of Wimbledon Park II

- 1) After studying the four options and looking at the others listed, we noted that:
  - a) Trees and woodland would be lost.
  - b) Raising the dam and adding a big outfall would harm the heritage.
  - c) Threatened bats and eels would lose scarce habitat.
  - d) Various difficulties mean that the options that raise the dam threaten more trees and other landscaping than is suggested and would not ensure safety without modification.
- 2) We propose a Capability Brown design which addresses *most of the* deficiencies found. In keeping with government advice on sustainability in flood safety works we would also welcome a meeting with officers and/or engineers to help take the process forward.
- 3) Further information can be found on [friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk):
  - 1) Options to make the Wimbledon Park dam safe May 2020
  - 2) Summary of making Wimbledon Park dam safe May 2020
  - 3) The Capability Brown design flyer

8

8

### Dam safety- 5 options

9

9

### Dam safety

Wimbledon Park Lake Reservoir Safety Proposed Budget 2020-21 £1,318,000

**BWB consulting instructed by LBM**  
Text plus a large number of flood maps  
Obtained by Fol request

**Bowling Green**  
Sunday, 9 February 2020 15:07

10

10

### RR car park

Existing in blue hatching

Proposed in red hatching  
new greenspace in green

11

11

### RR entrance

**The entrance plan**

**Actions**

- Remove existing gates.
- Provide new gates sympathetic to this Grade II\* Heritage Park close to the bridge.
- Create new planting area for community gardening to provide an attractive entrance to the park.
- Refurbish bridge using a *Trompe l'oeil* design (possible competition).
- Obtain permissions from LBM; LBW; TIL and Historic England.
- Submit planning application LBM & LBW.
- Keep other two owners TWC & AELTC informed

12

12

### Damage to the Great Field

April 2020

13

13

### Damage to the Great Field

May 2020

After months of pressure restoration work begins!

Still to do!

- 1) Watering seeded areas
- 2) Damage caused by:
  - 1) Pines & Needles
  - 2) Pumpkin Patch
  - 3) Wimbledon Fortnight
  - 4) Tree cutters

14

14

### Do we need Horse Close Wood car park?

No car park would allow more trees and pathway  
LBM plan: Surfacing of top entrance car park Proposed Budget 2020-21 £40,000

Used as a lorry park, also film company, Wimbledon Fortnight & fun fair rides.

15

15

### BBQs

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

One of four BBQ damaged grass reported by idverde, 22/05/20

16

16

### Toilets in Public Park

**Playground**  
Above unattractive & below ground - blockages  
Longer term move toilets into enlarged cafe

**Water Activities**  
Currently open

17

17

### Table Tennis soon

Buy through Table Tennis England

Located by Volleyball courts

18

18