

AELTC Wimbledon Park development - The environmental impacts

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September 2023

Grade I site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation



Existing Flora and Fauna

- **2000 + trees across 54 species.** Only 50% of the trees are documented by AELTC, in a failure to adhere to the British Standard
- **Extensive scrubs and hedgerows.**
- **105 species of birds,** 49 use the site for breeding, 19 on amber or red list. 45% of breeding birds and 32% of wintering birds missed by AELTC.
- **8 species of bats plus badgers fungi, lichens, stag beetles, hedgehogs, white-letter hairstreak butterfly, etc**
- **A 'Priority Habitat' lake** for waterbirds and fish, including declining species such as European Eel and Pochard
- **Reedbeds and wet woodland:** alder, willows, hawthorn, sallows – also national priority habitat





Proposed works

- **Removal of grassland and topsoil** - cutting 100,000m³ of earth, filling over 45,000m³ and removing 54,000m³
- **Felling of between 296 and 1300 trees** - about 40%, but no precise number due to lack of documentation
- **Extensive clearance of hedgerows and scrub**
- **Pouring 10s of 1000s of tons of concrete** (almost 4000 tons just for the concrete rings underneath 38 grass tennis courts)
- **Desilting the lake, severely polluting it and replacing two priority habitats** (eutrophic water and wet woodland) with reedbeds

Ecological impact

- **Reduction of tree canopy for 50+ years** (as new trees will take decades to grow)
- **Associated release of 770,000 kg of carbon dioxide**
- **Loss of valuable ecosystems and national priority habitats** supporting invertebrates, birds and bats
- **Destruction of 'soil food web', endangering root systems and fungal networks**, and harming above ground trees and plants
- **Light pollution** compromising bat and other species
- **Lake water quality endangered by pollutants** from the development – proposed new reedbeds are too small and in the wrong place to treat pollutants
- **De-silting releases pollutants locked in the lake sediment**, endangering vital ecosystem and those that depend on it
- **Biodiversity net loss**

Impact on air quality

- **An estimated 9,000 off-site HGV movements** for earthworks alone, 1000s more for silt
- **Up to 54 vehicles per day (27 arrivals and departures)** on the primary routes for extended periods.
- **No Air-Quality monitoring-data for Southfields** main intersection, or for similar points on other key roads in the proposed primary route for construction-vehicles.
- **Data used in the Air Quality Assessment (Jul 2021) is now out of date.** WHO guidelines for safe levels of particulate matter were revised significantly *downwards*
- **Air-quality monitoring by LBM & LBW does not cover PM2.5** - the most dangerous particulate matter, for which there is ***'no safe threshold below which no adverse effects would be anticipated'*** (DEFRA).



Omissions, contradictions, failures to comply with regulations: the LBM consultants' verdict

- “The evidence provided on waste and materials does not support the conclusion that the impacts from these issues are not significant”
- “There are considerable inconsistencies between documents and as a result consequential errors have occurred in other related reports.”
- “The vehicle trip analysis is completely inconsistent between documents and uses different methods of analysis...”
- “The cumulative impacts assessment does not comply with the regulations...”
- “The impact of the increase in traffic upon climate change has not been provided”
- “The ES chapter consistently refers to the incorrect figures for net gain”
- “It is not clear how the desilting of the lake will address potential impacts on the ecology.”
- “There has been a failure to update the Policies, Guidance and Regulations at National, Regional and Local level throughout the documents.”

With thanks to:

Dr Dave Dawson (Ecology and biodiversity)

Anneke de Boer (Proposed works)

Julia Raeburn (Air quality)

