

1 July 2019

David Fowler
Regeneration and Planning
Development Management
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

Re: **2019/2965/P**

Dear David,

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum finds the proposal to restore the historic Branch Hill Pond in accordance with Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan policies NE1, Local Green Spaces, and NE3, Biodiversity Corridors.

The proposal promotes one of the major aims of the Plan, which is to protect local green spaces important to the character and environment and to support development that fosters strong ecological networks and biodiversity.

Enhances Local Green Spaces, Biodiversity Corridors

The Plan designates a number of Local Green Spaces, including Branch Hill adjacent to the area of the proposed pond. Most of this Local Green Space is also a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Creating a pond in this location would enhance the biodiversity of not only the immediate area but several nearby biodiversity corridors, which we have identified, and extended protection to, in our Plan.

Hampstead's connections with three of London's strategic green corridors means that connectivity both between these strategic green corridors and within itself is essential. As stated in draft London Plan: "The connections between protected sites – green corridors – are often critical in helping to sustain wildlife populations that would be vulnerable if they were confined to isolated areas of habitat."

The recreated pond will restore an ecosystem lost in the 19th century and help foster greater appreciation for this historical area of natural beauty.

We urge Camden to approve this proposal.

Janine Griffis
Chair
Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum
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