PUBLISHED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRENT RIVER & CANAL SOCIETY

OUR VISION FOR WARREN FARM AND OUR STATEMENT OF READINESS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EALING COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE IT



We note that:

- Warren Farm was one of the top four parks in London in the 'Fields In Trust, UK's Best Park 2019' voting and was awarded 'Much Loved' status.

- Ealing Council declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and drafted a Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in May 2020.

- our vision fulfils and is consistent with all national (Statutory), regional (GLA) and local (Council) environmental legislation, duties, policies and guidance.

- we offer our support, experience and expertise to assist Council Officers to achieve this vision and we stand ready to work in partnership with Ealing Council and all others who sign up to it.

Our aims and priorities for this key section of the Brent River Park are for Ealing Council to:

1) obtain Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status for the remaining areas of Warren Farm (excluding the curtilage of the two private houses).

We offer our expertise to help the Council complete their review of SINC sites and to ensure that the remaining areas of Warren Farm are added to site EaBI12 Long Wood Local Nature Reserve and meadows (which will adjoin existing site EaBI10A Brent River Park South: Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow). Our expert surveys have provided overwhelming evidence to justify SINC designation based on the quality of the acid and neutral grassland flora and fauna.

2) pursue the declaration of Warren Farm and Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow as a Statutory Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

By ensuring implementation of the existing Council decision to negotiate LNR status with Natural England for Blackberry Corner, Jubilee Meadow, Trumpers Field & Fox Meadow and to add in all of the Council owned Warren Farm to that process. A Management Plan is required for this. There is already a draft Management Plan for the meadows, although this has not been published; this will need to be expanded to include Warren Farm and we offer our expertise to help with this. Progress on new LNR's has stalled for more than a decade, despite the mandate from Councillors.

3) manage Warren Farm following the principles of the adopted Brent River Park Countryside Management Plan (Part 1) and Ealing's Biodiversity Action Plan, with priority being given to the Acid Grassland, Neutral and Marshy Grassland and Hedgerow Habitat Action Plans.

4) take responsibility for implementing appropriate maintenance of Warren Farm under the existing BRP management plan and under a site-specific management plan as it becomes available.

By carrying out routine litter removal, patrolling and dealing with incidents, cutting of existing footpaths, mowing of the WF Radio Flyers area, removal of redundant and degraded fencing, careful removal of the piles of grass dumped on the neutral grassland, one nature conservation haycut of the meadows per annum between mid August and mid September removing the arisings, and the phased removal of the disused sports and maintenance buildings and infrastructure. The latter items are urgent and overdue on health and safety grounds alone.

5) add Warren Farm (the existing SINC and the former sports ground) to the list of sites covered by the Council's Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces.

6) ensure that appropriate LNR byelaws are applied for and adopted once LNR status is obtained.

7) continue to renew the existing usage agreement with WF Radio Flyers.

8) introduce and maintain appropriate information boards and signage for visitors.

By including information about the BRP and Warren Farm and its significance for nature conservation, about wildlife found on the site, and serving to promote and encourage quiet enjoyment and responsible public access.

9) state an intention to secure designation of the northern section of the former Warren Farm playing fields and the Earl of Jersey's Field to the south (both privately owned and part of the EaBI12 SINC) as LNRs either by agreement with the owners or, failing that, by acquisition. The Council has powers to do this and can utilise funds ('planning gain') from other permitted and sustainable development within the Borough.

10) consult and work in partnership with all those who sign up to this vision for Warren Farm.