

Update 7 Natural Flood Management Park Woods, Ruislip

The key partners in the delivery of this project are LBH and Thames 21. These updates are circulated to critical wider partners such as the North Ruislip Flood Action Group (NRFLAG), Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group (RWMAG), the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Park Woods, as part of the 726 acre ancient woodland of [Ruislip Woods](#), designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and National Nature Reserve (NNR). The woods absorb significant amounts of water in storm events that last a long time. However, water runs off the area quickly in short heavy rain events. The council will use Natural Flood Management techniques which can include land management, as well as installing 'leaky dams', 'to slow the flow' reducing the flood risk.

Steering Group Meeting 10th April The group consisting of flood and green spaces officers from the Council, representatives of RWMAG and NRFLAG, Thames 21 as well as the Environment Agency, had a useful meeting to discuss the project and timeline. Funding is secured to deliver the current proposals for NFM of leaky dams but further funding opportunities are being explored to secure the delivery of the proposed embankment along the Bridleway. To secure these other funding opportunities the project will need to demonstrate wider benefits such as increased access, public awareness and engagement of features like the NFM and the Park Pale. The steering group was keen to explore these opportunities. Summaries of the draft information for discussion has been provided by the Council to the members of the steering groups for discussion at their respective meetings. The residents found the background evidence circulated useful and has also been circulated as the start of a pack to which it is hoped all will contribute to, to provide to the PHD student when they begin.

PhD Student Part of the funding from the wider London DEFRA NFM project was allocated to support a PhD studentship. Brunel University have struggled to secure an appropriate student and so other universities are being asked if they can secure and host a student. Once the student and steering group for the PhD (University, HR Wallingford and Thames 21) have outlined a timeline for their project, the Council has asked for the student to meet residents on site. This is now likely to be Autumn 2019 and, although the delay is disappointing, it is not preventing the delivery of the NFM in Park Wood.

Park Woods Evidence Summary:

Gauges. The Council and Affinity Water funded gauge to record water levels at the Broadwood Avenue culvert is now installed and work has begun on the platform to enable residents to access information, which is expected to be delivered in June. A rainfall gauge is also in place to inform the project and the wider community.

Ecological Surveys. An initial survey has been undertaken by consultants to provide a baseline of ecological information which will inform the development of the design of NFM options, and further survey will be undertaken over the project.

Level Survey. We have LiDAR information however further specific spot levels within the area would be useful to confirm and reduce uncertainty.

Geological and background mapping. Geological information was really key to help understand the ground water interaction in the woods.

Footpath and crossing surveys. In exploring the location for NFM, it is useful to know the details of where existing watercourses cross formal and informal paths - collecting this information via the app would be really useful.

Information boards. The number and quality of all the information boards are unknown and would be useful to collate the information for a bid for funding.

Citizen Science The more information about the woods will help inform the project and its benefits. Ecological information as well as that listed above, before during and after delivery of the NFM. To help **monitor please** log on to <https://arcg.is/qSTmn0> and it will prompt you to download Survey123. Training on **NFM construction**, will be led by Thames 21 over the summer. The council have asked Thames 21 to run a session with Kings College London and [Ambiotek](#) to involve residents on how to create **community gauges** to install in Park Woods.

Initial design and locations of the NFM will be undertaken by the Council flood team in May /June taking on board evidence, and locations and types to be discussed with residents at the end of May.

Construction of NFM to start in Autumn 2019, through volunteer groups.

Communication Updates will continue to be produced every quarter and can be found on Hillingdon [Council's website](#) and [Thames 21 Website](#). This project is working closely with the [River Pinn Project](#) and Environment Agency. Partners will continue working with Natural England to ensure works are appropriate and take on board the growing science and provide feedback. Please provide any feedback to flooding@hillingdon.gov.uk.