Wantage and Grove AC

Fishery plan – Grove pond

April 2025

Priority	Summary - Task / Job	Estimate cost	Month / Year
1	Anti predation measures	£ 12,000	asap
2	Shore up bank in corner between 10 & 11	£ 10,500	Winter 2025/6
3	Improve support/framing for the aerators	£ 200	Summer 2025
4	Build 2 new sheds (transfer the generator into one)	£ 1,000	2024
5	Improve banking, using sheeting, along East bank (pegs 14 - 22)	£10,000	2024/5/6
6	Stock fish to enhance the quality of the fishing	£ 5,000	March 2025

Completed	Budget	Actual	Date
New weatherproof noticeboard	£ 0	£ 0	Mar 2021
Shore-up bank between pegs 8 & 4	£ 7,000	£6,815	June 2021
Install fishing platform for disabled anglers	£ 0	£ 0	Jan 2022
Thin (net-out) the population of small roach	£ 350	£ 450	Feb 2022
Build new platform in peg 16	£ 125	£ 0	June 2022
Install a solar powered electricity supply to the pond Includes a grant from the EA for £ 2,500, direct cost to club of £ 1,524	£ 4,000	£ 4,024	Oct 2022
Repair banking between pegs 4 & 8 Includes a grant from the EA for £ 3,500, direct cost to club of £ 1,844	£ 10,000	£ 5,344	Nov 2022
Shore up banks and restore pegs 11-14 inclusive	£ 12,000	£ 10,944	May 2023
Build platforms for pegs 12, 13 & 14 (no longer required, included in restoration work)	£ 500	£ 0	May 2023
Build Floating Islands	£ 200	£ 200	Spring 2024
Add solar panels, improve battery capacity and install addition floatation	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	Spring 2024
Stock 100 perch in the 8-10” range (500 actually stocked)	£1,000	£ 400	March 2024
Install anti-cormorant measures	£ 0	£ 50	2023/4
Buy a new boat	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	July 2024

Cancelled or otherwise not going ahead

Install mains electricity to the pond. Cancelled due to exceptionally high access (wayleave) and SSEN administration costs. Solar panels and battery were installed instead.	Spring 2022
Install new barrier at the entrance to the pond Cancelled due to expected high cost, circa £1,500. Alternative low cost remedies to be investigated	Summer 2022

Detail & Commentary

Please use the general contact page on the website if you have any queries or comments

1. Otter fencing and anti cormorant measures
Following recent evidence of otter and cormorant predation the club should:
a) install otter-proof fencing at an estimated cost of £11,000.
b) upgrade the anti-cormorant measures to include additional tapes across the pond (estimate £50), new mannequins (est £60) and life-sized plastic swans, tethered to the floating islands and the solar panels (est £400) as cormorants tend to avoid swans.

2. Shore up banking in corner between pegs 10 & 11
Use sheeting or similar to shore up the undercut bank in the corner.
Due to the nature of the work contractors will be required.

3. Improve support/framing for the aerators
Currently the aerators are anchored using ropes, consideration should be given to anchoring these using scaffolding poles embedded in concrete anchors or similar. This will prevent the aerators moving around when the ropes become less taught during low water conditions.

4. Build 2 new sheds
There are 2 sheds required.
One will house the generator and the other will store all equipment and sundries that need to remain clean.
Ensure that the generator shed has sufficient ventilation and both are as secure as reasonably possible.

5. Improve banking along East bank (pegs 14 - 22)
This is a major project to improve the entire east bank.
This will be achieved by the use of plastic interlocking sheeting, back-filled to level the access .
Removal of some trees around pegs 18-20 may be required.
All other issues relating to the bank and pegs here are consolidated into this single project.
Due to the nature of the work contractors will be employed to carry out this work, also, because of the scale It may have to be done in stages.

6. Stock fish to enhance the quality of the fishing
To stock some or all of bream, F1s and crucians.

Completed Projects

New weatherproof noticeboard *- March 2021*
Completed April 2021, with thanks the Gerry Austin

Shore-up bank between pegs 8 & 4 *- April 2021*
This work was undertaken by contractors in April 2021 and the thanks of the club go to the Environment Agency for their valuable financial support. (A grant of £4,500 was obtained)
Following this work there were two tasks planned:

a) A condition of the grant from the EA was that the club provide floating islands to act as cover for the fish to replace that lost when undercut banks were removed as part of the bank shoring work. To date 2 islands have been completed.

b) There was work planned to replace the platforms for pegs 6, 7 & 8. However, after consideration in light of the work done to the bank it was decided that there was no need for these platforms to be reinstated as there is sufficient space on the bank itself.

Install fishing platform for disabled anglers *- January 2022*
This work was undertaken by the British Disabled Anglers Association (BDAA) to install 3 platforms in pegs 3, 4 & 5. https://bdaa.co.uk
The platforms are now installed and ground-work contractors have completed the sloping access to pegs 1-5

Thin (net-out) the population of small roach *– February 2022*
During the netting carried out in February 2021 to assess the stocks in the pond Moore & Moore (the netting company) advised that there was approximately 1,800lb of fish in the pond against a recommended 1,000lb per acre. The pond is about ½ acre so it can be seen that it is overstocked.
Whilst the fish in the pond are currently healthy it would be a dereliction of duty if the committee did not take steps to reduce this overstock, consequently the club removed 262lb of small roach and bream (against a target of 300lb). This was carried out in February 2022.
The overstocks have not been wasted, fish health checks have been carried out by The Plough, the stock is healthy and the relevant licences for transfer issued. The Plough AC had the fish for their pond in Hanney.

Install solar powered electrical supply to the pond *– October 2022*
Due to the escalating costs of the mains provision the club is resolved to install solar powered electricity with battery storage. This would comprised 2 x 350W panels.
These, alongside their associated batteries, are anchored in the centre of the pond, this ensures that the maximum amount of light reaches the panels and minimises the risk of theft.
The cost is £4.024 and these were partially met by the Environment Agency via a £2,500 grant.

Repair banking between pegs 4 & 8 *– November 2022*
Regrettably the work done in 2021 was of insufficient quality, the steels weren't long enough. The contractor is no longer in business so the club commissioned a new contractor to repair the damage.
As it was difficult to judge the amount of work involved the contractor worked to a top budget of £10,000

Shore up banks and restore pegs 11-14 inclusive *– May 2023*
A new contractor was found to completely restore and remodel pegs 11, 12 13 & 14, this included the driving of 2.8 metre steels and the use of pressure treated timber, using a special fish-friendly treatment.
This project also involved the reworking of the bank behind the swims to improve both the access and the aesthetics

Build platforms for pegs 12, 13 & 14 *– no longer required*
Due to the nature of the rebuild of all swims on the south bank there as now hard standing for all these pegs and platforms are no longer required.
This is a saving to the club of an estimated £500

Build floating islands *– Autumn 2023 – spring 2024*
When the EA awarded W&G AC a grant of £4,500 in April 2021 for bank restoration work it was on condition that the club build floating islands as fish refuges. In addition, these help break the outline of the hard landscaping.
These have now been completed to a very high standard. Photographs have been sent to the EA and they are most impressed with the density of varied plants on each platform.

Add solar panels, improve battery capacity and install addition floatation *– Spring 2024*
This is to improve the overall capacity of the solar powered aeration system to enable it to run for longer when required.

Stock perch *– March 20-24*
The initial requirement was for 100 perch in the 8-10 inch range with a cost estimate of £1,000.
The club actually stocked 500 fish at a cost of £400. The rationale was two fold, firstly, the perch could control the stocks of small roach, reducing the need for the club to net out the overstocks.
Secondly, to provide angling opportunities during the colder months when other fish are less inclined to feed.

Install anti-cormorant measures *– winter 2023/4*
The club has installed a variety of low-cost anti-cormorant measures.
There is a bird of prey kite and brightly dressed mannequins, these are to scare the cormorants away. If these fail then the tapes across the pond restrict the bird's ability to land and take-off.
The camera traps and anecdotal evidence indicates that these measures have reduced cormorant predation.

Buy a new boat *– July 2024*
The old boats were no longer serviceable. A new fibreglass boat (YAK245) specifically designed for stability and durability was bought.