



Wantage and Grove AC

Fishery plan – Grove pond

January 2023

Priority	Summary - Task / Job	Estimate cost	Month / Year
1	Take fish scales to get growth rate readings	£ 0	Jun / Jul 23
2	Build floating islands – partially complete	100	Mar 2023
3	Stock 100 perch in the 8-10" range	£1,000	Jan/Feb 24
4	Shore-up bank between pegs 11 & 12 (into the corner of the pond)	£ 7,000	2023
5	Shore-up bank from corner (peg 12) to peg 15	£ 5,000	2023
6	Build platforms for pegs 12, 13 & 14	£ 500	2023
7	Improve support/framing for the aerators	£ 200	2023
8	Rebuild the shed	£ 500	2023
9	Improve the walkway behind pegs 20, 21 & 22	£ 1,000	2024
10	Level the bank and Improve the path behind pegs 15-18	£ 500	2024
11	Improve the platforms for pegs 15-18	£ 500	2024

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 (Grant of £2,500 from the EA)	£ 1,524	£4,000	Oct 2022
Repair banking between pegs 4 & 8	£ 10,000	tbc	Nov 2022

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 if you have any queries or comments

1. Take fish scales to get growth rate readings

The Environment agency has provided the club with a kit to take scale readings. The EA is primarily interested in the growth rate of the crucians (and provide the kit for that purpose) but alongside this they can also read the scales from roach and bream.

The club will provide scales from 30 of each species, each fish has 3 or 4 scales removed from a point roughly level with the back of the dorsal fin and halfway between the fin and the lateral line (removal will not harm the fish and the scales will grow back). The scales from each fish go into an individual envelope on which is noted the species, the length of the fish and the date. These are then sent to the EA where their scientists will provide the club with growth rates. These rates, along with the results of the netting and other factors will help the club establish the health of the fishery.

This is a free service provided by the EA (even the bag to send the pack back to the EA comes as a pre-paid envelope).

2. Build floating islands

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.

The club needs to install more of these at appropriate points.

3. Stock perch

Stock 100 perch in the 8-10 inch range. It is hoped this will have a dual benefit:

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.

4. Shore-up bank between pegs 11 & 12 (into the corner of the pond)

5. Shore-up bank from corner (peg 12) to peg 15

In order to prevent further erosion and bank collapse it is necessary to shore-up the bank all the way from peg 11 all the way around the south end of the pond to peg 15.

Ideally, this work would be completed using similar materials to the work already undertaken on the west bank (pegs 4-10) but due to rising material costs this may not be possible.

It is considered that the tree at the end of the pond is removed as part of this work and access to all 4 swims on the south bank is from one point, this would remove the need for steps or similar behind each peg making the access safer.

6. Build platforms for pegs 12, 13 , 14 & 16

Peg 16 now completed.

Depending on the type of construction and work done to shore-up the bank it may not be necessary to build platforms. This will be assessed once the shoring-up work is complete.

7. 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 taut during low water conditions.

8. Rebuild the shed

Rebuild the shed to improve security, add ventilation and allow secure storage for tools.

9. Improve the walkway behind pegs 20, 21 & 22

The walkway behind these pegs currently consists of sleepers laid on scaffolding. A more permanent and safe option is needed but the exact means of achieving this will be considered once other work is complete.

10. Level the bank and Improve the path behind pegs 15-18

The east bank of the pond (pegs 15-18) has a narrow and awkward path. There are a variety of options for this work from pick-axe and shovel through to using a mini-excavator. This work would probably be best carried out at the same time as improving the walkway behind pegs 20-22 (point 12, above) and Improving the platforms for pegs 15-18 (point 13, below).

11. Improve the platforms for pegs 15-18

In order to complete the improvement to the path it will be necessary to remove and reposition the platforms on pegs 15-18. This would be an ideal opportunity to make improvements to the structure and position of the platforms.

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, the club has sufficient material to build one more and this will be done once the peg positions are established in relation to the bank work and location of the lily beds.
- 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