

Media Release

March 2024

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators awarded a grant by the Mayor of London's Rewild London Fund

On [World Rewilding Day](#), the Conservators are delighted to announce that they have been awarded £130,000 from the Mayor of London's Rewild London Fund to take forward a transformative project to rewild one of the Commons most popular ponds, Queensmere.

Ponds are a vital haven for wildlife but despite being located within the green and natural landscape of the Commons, Queensmere currently lacks significant ecological value due to its man-made origins and concrete banks.

With an initial grant from the Rewild London Fund in 2023, supplemented by contributions from the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, WPCC was able to carry out a feasibility study and survey to better understand the condition of Queensmere and produce proposals for a project to rewild the pond and its environs. These proposals then enabled WPCC to apply for this larger grant towards the costs of rewilding.

Colin Cooper, Chief Executive, Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators said: "We are delighted at the news that we have been awarded this grant and that we can now start to breathe life into our proposals to foster a safe, flourishing habitat for wildlife at Queensmere."

Work on this stage will start in the autumn of 2024 and be completed by April 2025. Full details of the work being carried out will be made available on the WPCC's website in due course.



Queensmere

About the Mayor of London's Rewild London Fund

The Mayor of London's Rewild London Fund supports projects aimed at restoring and enhancing London's natural spaces, fostering biodiversity, and promoting environmental sustainability across the city. Through financial assistance and collaborative efforts, the Fund seeks to create vibrant, ecologically rich habitats for both wildlife and Londoners to enjoy. This year the Mayor is being supported by the London Wildlife Trust.

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NOTES for Editors - Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC). It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common.

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