

News item

Reinstating Branch Hill Pond – a progress report

The London Geodiversity Partnership has been working with the Redington Frogal Association to reinstate Branch Hill Pond on Hampstead Heath, made famous by Constable who included it in his paintings on many occasions between 1819-1836. In February we jointly mounted exhibitions at JW3 and in Burgh House, Hampstead outlining the project. Full details can be found here [\[link\]](#).



Branch Hill Pond by John Constable c.1825 © Tate Gallery

We are delighted to report that during the recent dry weather the Branch Hill Pond area was largely completed by the City of London Corporation which **owns and** manages Hampstead Heath. It still needs some deeper areas which will act as refuges in prolonged hot weather. Following Wednesday's thunderstorm, the pond was put to the test and, as predicted, provided a low point for collecting water from the surrounding slopes, and surprisingly, although it is not yet lined, it seems to be holding water which is very encouraging.



Excavated area on 18.8.22 after heavy storms the previous day

The outfall, which drains into the culvert beneath Branch Hill and into the sewers, is visible (at about 10 o'clock, using the pond as a clock face). It is expected that the pond will be lined in autumn, when the weather is cooler and wetter, so that the clay remains workable.

For further updates see: www.redfrogassociation.org/project-exhibitions