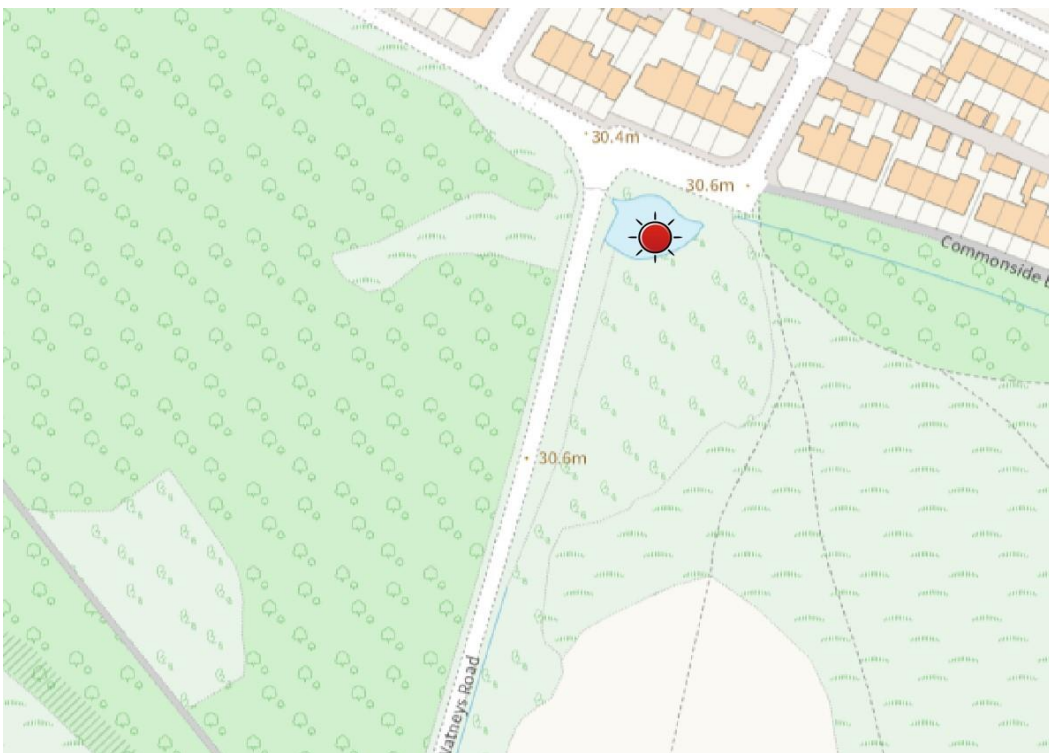


ARTHURS POND PROJECT: FINAL REPORT

Pond location



Pond in the 1970s



Pond today



The pond has been managed to allow a dense barrier of scrub woodland to develop on its roadside edges. This was in direct response to multiple incidents of fly-tipping in the body of the pond in the 1990s and before.

To remove this scrub barrier would result in:

- a) Fly-tipping and littering of the pond
- b) Long wheelbase vehicles overhanging the pond detracting from visual amenity and polluting the pond
- c) Use of pond as a dog bathing pool
- d) The pond becoming a venue for anti-social behaviour in summer months
- e) Loss of visual screening of the highway for users of the Common

Notwithstanding the above, tree growth in the base of the pond is reducing the open water habitat and scrub growing on the edge of the pond facing out to the rest of the Common could be reduced in extent.

Enhancement proposal

- 1. Remove trees growing in and overhanging pond base
- 2. a) Retain scrub barrier but reduce height
b) Remove scrub



Over a six week period in November a consultation on the proposed enhancement was held.

Nine responses to the consultation were received. None of these raised any serious concerns about the proposal to thin the existing scrub on the edge of the pond facing out towards the Common. A couple of responses commented on the wish to see all scrub in the pond vicinity removed, but conversely others highlighted future fly-tipping concerns, described in the project briefing, if roadside scrub was removed. Comments pertaining to alleged criminality and antisocial activities on the section of Commons East adjacent to the pond, and the bottom of Watneys Road, were made in a few of the representations. Merton Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit are currently considering this matter.

The Mitcham Common Conservators have agreed the following recommendation: Over the next 12-18 months, undertake the scrub clearance and thinning described in the project proposal. Thereafter review impact and consider further scrub clearance with the proviso that extant roadside scrub barriers are retained.