

# the Welsh Harp Joint Vision

Launched July 2023

One of London's most significant urban wild places, the Welsh Harp is a vital place to connect with nature. The site offers Londoners a unique mix of biodiversity, sport, recreation and heritage, with huge benefits for health and wellbeing.

The new Welsh Harp Joint Vision sets out our vision for the Welsh Harp's future. Some actions can be easily implemented in the short term, others may take longer, as they depend on additional funding or staff. The Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at the heart of the site will be properly cared for and maintained, creating an exemplar urban wildlife habitat, wild and natural, which carefully balances people's access and the needs of wildlife. The conservation and enhancement of the SSSI, Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserve will build upon the substantial efforts of diverse individuals and organisations. Recent 'joined-up' working by the various bodies and groups will be expanded and consolidated to build a collaborative, open process of change and conservation.

The new Welsh Harp Joint Vision sets out an aspirational future for the site, suggesting actions to be carried out, both now and in the future, in order to celebrate and support this unique place.

## WHAT'S NEXT? :

The Welsh Harp Strategy Group is committed to taking forward the ambition and principles of this Vision.

The full Vision and contact information can be found at the following link: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/welsh-harp](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/welsh-harp)

The Welsh Harp will be easily accessible to its surrounding communities and well-connected to both its local context, and to the wider city. Diverse people from across London will visit to connect with nature, access excellent sports, recreation and educational activities, to come together as a community, and to learn about the natural environment. Outstanding facilities will be available to host and promote these activities, managed and facilitated by a unified and accountable management structure.



## ENVIRONMENT

The Welsh Harp needs sustained and strategic action to conserve and enhance its environmental quality, ecological value, and role in climate and flood resilience.

## WELLBEING

The Welsh Harp's role in supporting wellbeing and healthy lifestyles will be enhanced and expanded. The needs of all users – people and wildlife – will be carefully balanced.

## PLACE

Issues with care, governance, identity and oversight will be tackled in order to reinforce the Welsh Harp as one of London's most significant urban wild spaces.

## INCLUSION

Everyone will feel comfortable, safe and supported when using the Welsh Harp. It will be easy to reach and accessible, especially on foot and on bicycle.

The Welsh Harp Strategy Group is formed of representatives of the Canal & River Trust, the London Boroughs of Barnet and Brent, the Greater London Authority, London Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Thames 21.

SUPPORTED BY

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

