

Fryent Country Park Management Plan: Section 6

Humphry Repton landscape

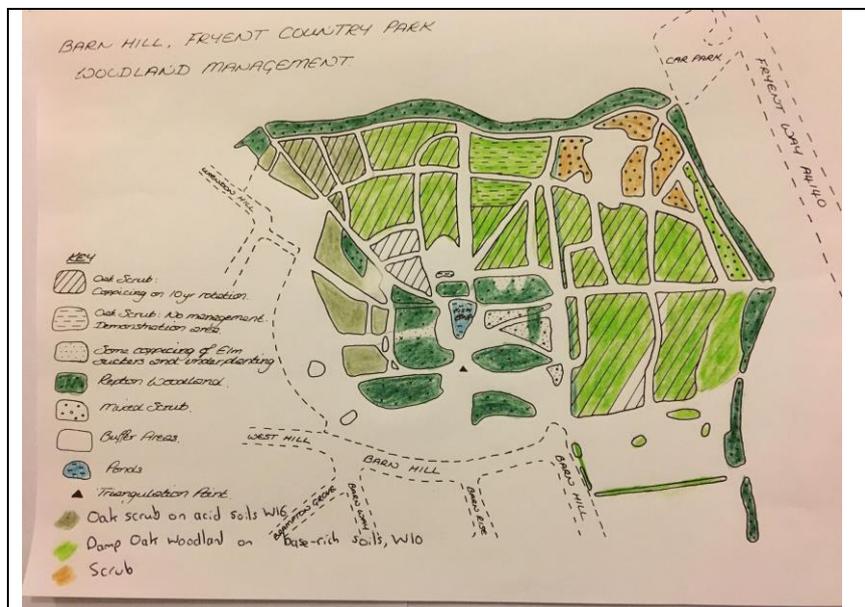
Photo: Repton Landscaping



Woodland at the top of Barn Hill and in belts around the lower edges of Barn Hill are part of a landscape created by Humphry Repton from about 1793. The landscaping included also the whole of Wembley Park, then in the same ownership. Of that, the landscaping on Barn Hill has survived reasonably intact and is part of a long-term restoration project. Restoration aims to conserve the historic landscape, the woodland and its wildlife, and to provide the old parkland setting as an amenity feature for visitors.

A description of the landscaping is provided in the book 'Repton in London' and more detail in other references. These include information about the history, landscape design and trees.

At Barn Hill the landscaping includes the woodland belts at the lower eastern and northern edges of Barn Hill which were planted alongside older hedgerows (and a hedgerow belt south of Bugbeards and Eastlande), and a series of arching belts on the top of Barn Hill. Belts of woodland also extend beyond the current Barn Hill, towards Wembley Park, for example at Basing Hill and Brampton Grove Open Spaces and between Barn Hill (road) and Kings Drive. And at the top of Barn Hill is the 'Fishpond', created or adapted from a quarry by Repton.



The Repton woodland on the top of Barn Hill was planted amidst an area of acid grassland. The restoration of the Repton woodland and of the acid grassland are complimentary. Much of the current practical work involves restoration of the acid grassland so as to reveal the Repton woodland and landscape.

Task	Notes
Continue the restoration of the Humprhy Repton woodland and landscape. Particularly to re-establish the shape of the landscaping on the summit of the Hill. This is essentially also the Acid Grassland restoration, as more recent scrub and bramble needs to be removed where it has grown alongside the Repton woodland. The aim is for the Repton woodland to be surrounded by areas of acid grassland.	
Restore and manage the Repton woodland as woodland habitat. Encourage regeneration and plant new trees of the same species used in the original landscaping.	
The mixture of species varies in different sections of the landscaping and includes English Oak, English Elm, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Common Lime, Beech, Ash, Field Maple, Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Turkey Oak and Wild Cherry.	
Remove invasive species. Those include also one species planted by Repton, the Sycamore which seeds prolifically and can out-shade other species. Cut or pull the seedlings (best seen in autumn) to prevent the spread of this species.	
Reopen the views from the landscape, particularly the views from the summit towards the City of London, Wembley Park, and of the Fishpond; and from the west of the Fishpond of Harrow-on-the-Hill.	
Barn Hill is a Locally Important Geological Site. Conserve the geological interest.	
Inspect trees for safety. Undertake works as necessary. (Brent).	
Encourage self-regeneration of the same species of the landscaping scheme (except for the Sycamore) and / or underplant where practical. To conserve the shape of the planting scheme, avoid planting in open areas that were not planted as part of the Repton landscaping.	

More information

See also the Management Plan sections on 'Acid Grassland', 'Woodland' and 'Ponds'.

Barn Hill Conservation Group. www.bhcg.btck.co.uk

The Conservation Volunteers. Woodlands.

The Conservation Volunteers. Trees and Aftercare.

Ordnance Survey maps from 1864 onwards.

Williams, L.R., Cunnington W. and Hewlett, G. 1985. Evidence for a surviving Humphry Repton landscape: Barnhills Park, Wembley. Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, 36: 189-202.

Williams, Leslie and Darling, Susan. 2018. "In the vicinity of the metropolis there are few places so free from interruption as the grounds at Wembly..." . Repton in London. Chapter 10: 101-109. The London Parks & Gardens Trust.