

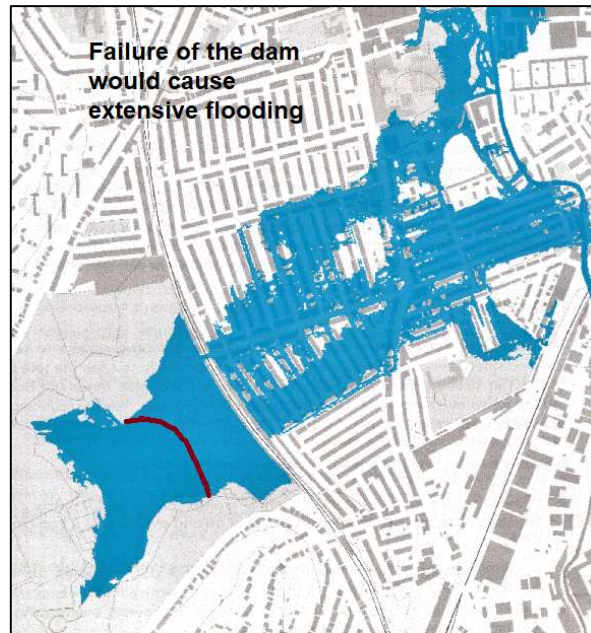
The Capability Brown design - Making Wimbledon Park lake safe

Friends of Wimbledon Park, May 2020

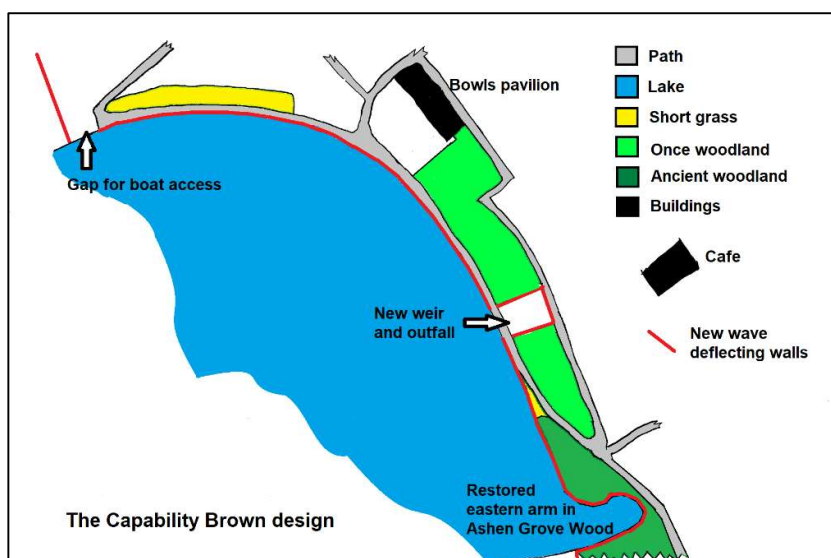
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New standards require big works to prevent the Wimbledon Park dam from failing. LB Merton's Flood Study plans to do this. The Friends found deficiencies in the four shortlisted options. Instead, we propose a *Capability Brown design*.

- Extreme rainfall would raise the lake level so high that the dam could fail.
- At worst, this would flood the park 3.5 metres deep and escape to flood 1700 buildings downstream to Earlsfield.
- Work is needed to prevent any chance of the dam failing.
- We welcome retaining the lake and lowering it to Capability Brown's original level but the options in the Merton Study have problems.
- Trees and woodland would be lost.
- Raising the dam and adding a big outfall would harm the heritage.
- Threatened bats and eels would lose scarce habitat.



In our *Capability Brown design*:



- The whole dam would be protected with a low wave-deflecting wall at the lake edge.
- The new outfall cascade would replace the waterfall.
- The lost eastern arm of the lake would be restored.
- Watersports facilities would be moved to the southern end of the stadium.
- Trees and wildlife habitat would be retained.

- This design delivers what the public wanted when they were consulted on the Masterplan for the park. The Friends invite you to support it.