

Appendix iv: Example photos of findings  
 Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands  
 Earnley ditch condition assessment results and habitat improvement plan

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Drainage Improvements



**Sparrow Cottage** – By digging out this ditch and an adjacent pond area, the tanking ability of this site will improve during high rainfall events and hold water away from the property. It will also benefit wildlife. Laying the willow and planting other tree species will also keep the banks stabilized, utilize the water and provide food and habitat for a range of species. It will also improve connectivity to the east and north of the cottage.



**Haydons Pond** - By improving the pond, it will be able to take more water off the Batchmere Road, where there has been a high incidence of flooding in the past. By opening up one side of this pond, the habitat would be improved, and it could become an attractive site for water voles as it holds water most of the year.



**Biotope Nursery** – By holding back water on this site it will prevent inundation of the rife during high rainfall events. The raingarden also acts to filter out debris and pollutants as water passes through it while also providing a new habitat - therefore it has both environmental and drainage benefits

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**Drainage Improvements**



**Cherry Tree Farm** - With management the ditch would hold water for longer, have more capacity and be better habitat for wildlife.



**Cathegena Farm** - A couple of the ditches were dry and full of debris when most other ditches were holding water. Digging out the junction area would have benefits for water storage and wildlife.

**Environmental improvements**



**Somerley Lane** - The ditch system flows south into a pond adjacent to Somerley Lane and flows into Sparrow Cottage. The pond is over shaded by Willow and holds little conservation value. The pond also contains a high percentage of silt in the Northern corner.

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## Environmental improvements



**Almodington Lane south** - The ditch on the roadside frequently contains rubbish and little riparian vegetation. Laying the bits of hedge, removing the barbed wire fence and gap filling with native tree species will lower this hedge, thicken it and allow light to get to the ditch, allow better riparian habitat



**Earnley Grange** - The pond contains lots of silt and vegetation. This allows the pond to dry out and increases the abundance of terrestrial vegetation. Digging it out would allow it to hold water for longer and to be attractive to wetland species