

AIM:

First phase - To remove the overhanging trees and bushes on the islands.

Second phase – To remove excessively overhanging trees and bushes from the swims where required. To repair swims where necessary.

Continual phase – To initially carry out a contour survey of the lake over a 1-2 day period, using an echo sounder, to highlight areas suitable for planting of aquatic flora.

Planting of aquatic flora.

REASON:

1) To remove the amount of snags on the lake and hence eliminate the vast quantities of line, leads and hooks that are decorating the trees.

2) By removing the trees and bushes there should be a reduction in the leaf litter entering the water during the autumn and winter months. This should prevent baits and hooks being masked by detritus. It will also increase oxygen levels as rotting vegetation removes oxygen from the water. This can only improve the aquatic environment for the fish.

3) To try and encourage the fish to move out from under these overhangs and move around the lake more, hopefully increasing catches from the water.

SAFE WORKING PRACTICES:

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The following minimum requirements should be met, prior to ANY work taking place on Broom lake.

A minimum of two people present if working on the swims.

At least one safety person present if using the boat, this is in addition to those using the boat and should remain on the bank. Safety people should preferably be in possession of a mobile telephone in case of an emergency.

Life jackets must be worn at all times when in the boat.

Only two persons are allowed to use the boat at any one time.

Some work may require both boats to be used and being “tied” together for extra stability. Only one person per boat will be allowed.

FIRST PHASE:

Firstly, a clear area will be created in the centre of the island by strimming etc to provide a suitable area to work from. A suitable boat landing area will also be created by strimming.

Once the work area is completed, work will begin on the marginal trees and bushes. This will be done in a methodical manner gradually working around the perimeter of the island. The intention is to only remove the trees and bushes that are around the edge of the island. Trees and bushes in the centre of the island will be left intact, as much as possible.

The smaller trees and bushes around the island margins will be tackled first to open up the space required to remove the larger trees. The larger specimens will either be pulled up onto the island and cut up into smaller

sections, or if that is not possible, they will be pulled across to the lake banks to be dealt with.

If there is insufficient manpower on any one day to remove the larger sections from the water, these will be rafted up and tied off to the island in a suitable place until such a time as manpower is available.

Much of the refuse from the removal of trees and bushes will be burnt if safe to do so.

Once an island is completed then a tidy up session will be carried out removing any branches/large twigs that have sunk in the margins around each island. This will be done from the boats.

The above course of action will be carried out on each island starting at the car park island on the western bank and moving along to each island, in turn, on the western bank. Finally this work will be carried out on the long island on the eastern bank.

SECOND PHASE:

The second phase will begin once the first phase has been completed.

Again this will take place in a methodical manner, starting at peg 1 and working round the lake to peg 45.

The reason that this phase is taking place after cleaning up the islands is to allow the angle of swims to be altered slightly by removing vegetation from one side or the other. With "clean" islands this will allow new fishing areas to be picked from each swim. This will hopefully reduce the amount of "overcasting" that currently exists on the lake.

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This phase will consist of the removal of vegetation to open up swims as required to allow more room for casting.

A number of trees will also be removed, mainly on the western bank that are looking precarious or are dead.

The overhanging trees on the western bank will remain, but their branches will be cut vertically away from the water to prevent any fish that swim under them, whilst being played, from becoming tethered. They will still provide a feature that the float angler can fish to.

At the canal end of the lake there are numerous Willow trees that have either toppled but continued to grow or have just grown out over the water. These will be cut back towards the bank but not removed completely. Again their branches will be cut vertically away from the water to prevent the tethering of fish, but still forming a feature.

Several of the swims at the canal end have become excessively enclosed by vegetation. These swims will be opened up to allow them to be fished.

One swim at the canal end has a large lily bed in it. This will be dealt with under the Continual Phase.

Along the eastern bank, pegs 28-30, there are several Willow trees right out over the water. These will be cut back towards the bank and cut vertically to protect fish stocks.

Behind the eastern island there are several trees that have toppled into the water, these will be removed completely, and this stretch will be opened up to encourage more fishing.

From the “point” swims up to the north-eastern corner, again there are several Willow trees protruding out into the water. These will be dealt with also.

Several swims in the north-eastern corner are excessively overgrown. These will be opened up.

CONTINUAL PHASE:

Once the underwater contours have been recorded it will allow the choice of aquatic plants to be made and also their location.

As much as possible re-planting will be undertaken. As mentioned in the second phase, one of the swims at the canal end has a large bed of lilies in it, if possible they would be removed from the swim and re-planted elsewhere in the lake.

The planting phase is essential to maintaining the environment of the lake. By removing bank side overhangs, fish refuges are also being removed. Planting of aquatic plants should help to negate this. They will also provide another feature to fish to.

During this phase, the two un-tethered floating refuges will also be re-secured back in their positions.

This phase will be continual and will follow the work being done to the islands, around the lake. As one island is cleared, that area is planted and the next island is worked and its area planted. This will also allow a completed area to have a new environment and should reduce the overall effect on the lake of refuge removal in that area should it take more than a year to complete the work.

