



## Deptford Creek, Greenwich and Lewisham

*“Brilliant! Like nothing else – should be supported and preserved so people can understand how tidal rivers work” Liz and Alex, attending a public low tide walk through Creekside Education Trust*

### The story so far

Deptford Creek is where the Ravensbourne meets the tidal Thames. It has a long maritime past and is now the scene of major redevelopment. Space is very constrained and it is rarely possible to replace existing vertical flood defence walls with a sloping beach. New intertidal terraces and timber panels have enhanced their ecological value. These and other additions have created or improved intertidal and terrestrial habitats, while maintaining the Creek’s character.

Meanwhile, Creekside Education Trust has improved awareness and access to the creek.

### The Creek was restored by

- Creating a variety of intertidal (covered, then exposed at low tide) and terrestrial terraces
- Using timbers and panelling to provide vertical and horizontal habitats
- Creating a sandbank for nesting kingfishers or sand martins
- Installing fish refuges for high tide use

### How has it helped wildlife?

- There are diversified habitats thanks to the timbers and terraces along the walls
- Sand martins now nest and raise their young on the sandbank

### How has it helped people?

- The adjacent Creekside Discovery Centre of Creekside Education Trust runs regular river-related activities in the Creek for local people.
- In 2015, the Trust engaged with over 7,500 people of all ages.
- School, work and local community activities are increasing every year.

### How does it help protect against flooding?

- The river now has more space, especially at high tide, and the flood defence walls have been renewed

### Partnership organisations

Creekside Education Trust, London Boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham, Environment Agency



*AFTER – Plants and invertebrates can colonise these timber panels © Environment Agency*



*AFTER – This flood defence wall was set back to create a vegetated terrace, and a sandbank for birds © Environment Agency*



**Nearest Station: Greenwich or Deptford**