



Woodberry Wetlands, Hackney

"...for children to see the seasons as they pass, to see not just asphalt and concrete and brick - but reeds and willows; to see birds coming up here from Africa; to hear above the hubbub of the traffic - birdsong..."

– Sir David Attenborough

The story so far

After being closed to the public for almost 200 years, an operational reservoir that supplies drinking water to millions of Londoners has been transformed into a place of huge biodiversity interest and community enjoyment.

The wetland was restored by:

- Using dredged sediment and chestnut fencing to establish a rich ecological mosaic of wet and dry reedbed areas and varied pools within the reservoir
- Creating 13,000 m² of new reedbed habitat
- Creating hedgerows and wildflower areas to line the banks of the reservoir

How has it helped wildlife?

- More than 100 bird species were recorded in 2016
- At least 50 bird species breed regularly on site, including little grebe, common pochard, lesser black-backed gull, reed and sedge warblers and reed bunting
- Cetti's warbler bred at the site in 2016, a first for the borough of Hackney

- Rare bat species are recorded regularly
- 23 species of butterfly were recorded in 2016, plus more than 100 species of moth

How has it helped people?

- New boardwalks and entrance points have improved access to the site
- A classroom has been refurbished and new education facilities created
- New facilities support more volunteers
- An 'at risk' listed building, now restored, has created a café and visitor hub

How does it protect against flooding?

Woodberry Wetlands is fed by the New River, a highly modified urban watercourse. As well as providing a huge volume of water storage capacity, the wetland restoration has encouraged the development of wildlife-rich SuDS within the new Woodberry Down residential development on the banks of the reservoir.

Partnership organisations

London Wildlife Trust, Thames Water, Heritage Lottery Fund, Berkley Homes, London Borough of Hackney and the Veolia Environmental Trust.



*AFTER – New entrance through reedbed
©Penny Dixie*



The site has a large team of volunteers who undertake habitat management and wildlife surveys ©London Wildlife Trust



Nearest Station: Manor House/Stamford Hill