



# Firs Farm Wetlands, Pymmes Brook Catchment, Winchmore Hill

*“These beautiful wetlands provide protection against flooding but as the water quality improves, create a space the community can enjoy, whilst wildlife can flourish.” Cllr Daniel Anderson, Enfield Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment*

## The story so far

Hidden in concrete channels, the Moore Brook was a ‘lost river’ in the Pymmes Brook river catchment. By rewilding a key section of it, a large series of integrated wetlands have been created to treat polluted water from sewer misconnections and road runoff. This restoration is dramatically enhancing the park by improving its water quality and acting as a sanctuary for wildlife. The Friends of Firs Farm are central to the wetland’s success and reintroducing this space to the community.

## The river was restored by

- Diverting flows from the river’s underground channel to run above ground.
- Renaturalising about 460m of the brook.
- Creating 3000m<sup>2</sup> of integrated wetlands
- Planting native species.
- Monitoring the improvement in water quality.

## How has it helped wildlife?

- Creating a new gravel bed channel with a more natural form means a better suited habitat for wildlife than concrete.

- The new integrated wetlands improve water quality.
- With 100 extra trees and a wildflower meadow, wildlife is benefiting from this new range of important habitats.

## How has it helped people?

- An improved park entrance, new footpath and cycle path are helping the community better access the site.
- A new community group, Friends of Firs Farm has been set up to get local people involved with caring for this space.
- Local people have learned about water quality monitoring and habitat management through Thames21 trainings.

## How does it protect against flooding?

More than 100 residential properties and the A10 road are less likely to be flooded as the wetland now acts as a natural store for excess water.

## Partnership organisations

London Borough of Enfield, Thames 21, Environment Agency, Thames Water, GLA, Mayor of London’s Big Green Fund, Friends of Firs Farm.



*BEFORE – Firs Farm before work began*



*AFTER – The site now benefits from the involvement of the community through a ‘Friends of’ group.  
©Clearwater Photography*



*Nearest Station: Winchmore Hill / Edmonton Green*