



Stanmore Marsh Wetlands, Brent River Catchment, Stanmore, Harrow

“What a fantastic transformation! A few years ago this was a dull and neglected piece of land, but today Stanmore Marsh is a beautiful, bright and welcoming open space ...Not just that, but new open space provides better flood alleviation.” Cllr Graham Henson, Harrow Council’s cabinet member for environment.

The story so far

This lost, historic wetland was an under-used space with culverted spaces. It has been transformed by creating new wetland habitats, rehabilitating a seasonal pond and restoring a section of the Edgware Brook. Just over 4ha of open space is now a vibrant community space.

The river was restored by

- Installing seasonal ponds and swales
- Creating 400m² of wetland (3150m³ of additional flood storage)
- Restoring 330m of main river and 400m of other watercourses

How has it helped wildlife?

- The creation of a new gravel bed channel with naturalised banks is better suited to wildlife
- A new integrated wetland not only increased water storage but improved biodiversity
- A new range of habitats, created by planting 10,000 spring bulbs, trees and a wildflower meadow, has attracted new wildlife

- Planting 10,000 native spring bulbs, extra trees and a wildflower meadow and restoring a seasonal pond has brought in a new range of habitats to benefit wildlife

How has it helped people?

- Better access to the site was created by a new footpath and improving entrances
- A children's play area has been created
- Local schools have used the marsh as a space for outdoor sessions
- The area is now a space which can stage events and activities for the community

How does it protect against flooding?

- The project adds to existing flood storage and defences on the Edgware Brook and Silk Stream because the wetland now acts as a natural store for excess water

Partnership organisations

London Borough of Harrow, Thames21, Environment Agency, Thames Water, GLA, Mayor of London’s Big Green Fund, Local schools and residents associations.



AFTER – restored seasonal wetland



AFTER – The site now benefits from a naturalised river



Nearest Station: Canons Park Jubilee Line