



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

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

The river 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 13,000m² of new reedbed.
- Creating hedgerows and wildflower areas to line the banks of the reservoir.

How has it helped wildlife?

- More than 135 bird species were recorded in the past few years.
- Bat species are recorded regularly.
- At least 50 bird species breed regularly on site, including little and great crested grebes, common pochard, reed and sedge warblers and reed bunting.
- Cetti's warbler, chiffchaff and blackcap breed on site. Whitethroat did in 2021.

How has it helped people?

- Entrance points, boardwalks and footpaths maintain safe access.
- A classroom and education facilities cater for children of all ages
- A hub and facilities support volunteers
- The cola house café is a grade-2 listed building and offers great views of the reservoir

How does it help 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, Berkeley Group, London Borough of Hackney, Veolia Environmental Trust, City Bridge Trust.



*AFTER – New entrance through reedbed.
Picture by Pennie Dixie*



The site has many volunteers undertaking wildlife management Picture: London Wildlife Trust



Nearest Station: Manor House/Stamford Hill