Woodberry Wetlands

integrating biodiversity and

urban regeneration?









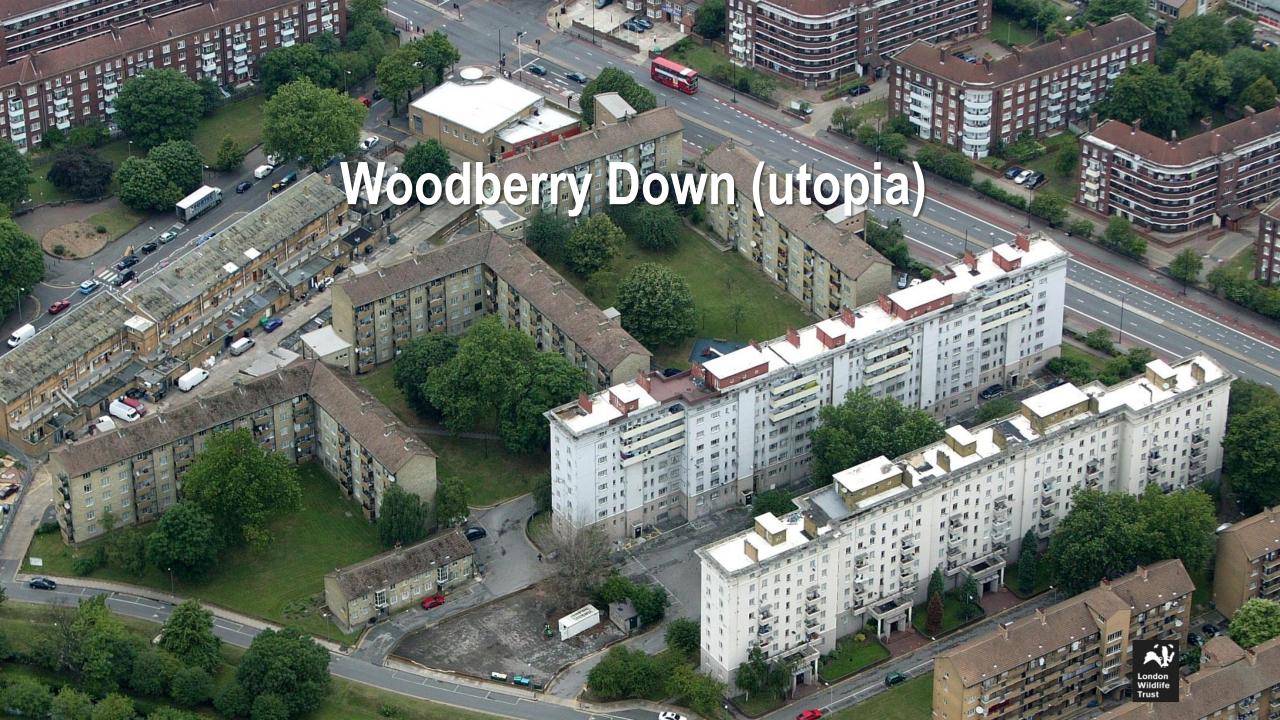






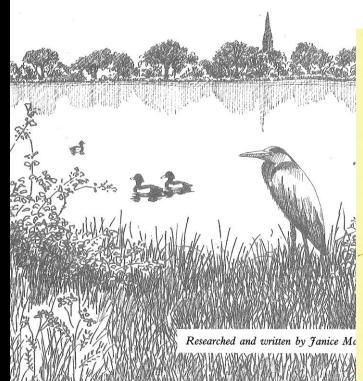






Wildlife Habitats in Hackney

A Report by London Wildlife Trust 1985



WILDLIFE in HACKNEY 1

Reindeer, bison and mammoth once roamed the area we know as Hackney. Now the land is covered by streets and houses, but some wildlife still holds on. We can see it all around us, from the small birds that visit the parks and gardens to the foxes that make a home on the railway banks. There are some special places for wildlife in the borough: Large numbers of tufted duck and unusual plants can be seen in Stoke Newington.

But where? Turn over and find out.

Produced with support from the Hackney Inner City Partnership—a grant aiding partnership of Hackney Council and the Department of the Environment.







STOKE NEWINGTON RESERVOIRS AND FILTER BEDS







Wet 'n' Wild

The Save the Reservoirs Campaign – in which the London Wildlife Trust has played a part – brought different interest groups together to fight for a valued local asset. Community action works, writes the campaign's former chair, Michael Lewer.

In 1985 the building of Thames Water Authority's London ring main meant that 34 hectares of land in North Hackney, which had been developed for the water industry from the 17th century to the 1930s, were no longer required for water purposes. The main feature was 7 hectares of open water in two reservoirs, but there were also 8 hectares of filter beds, a mock baronial castle disguising a 19th century pumping station and a substantial 1930s filtration building.

It had not been a wonderful community asset. Those lucky enough to overlook the reservoirs had magnificent views, which included seeing hundreds of pochard, gadwall, coot and tufted duck. However, access was denied.

Development of the site by Thames Water seemed inevitable. A succession of plans showed a retail park of superstores, dense residential development up to 8 stories, a filled-in reservoir, or flats built around the edges of the reservoirs.

The community immediately formed a campaign, initially funded by Hackney Planning Department. Hundreds of locals and a few welcome and influential outsiders have taken turns on the campaign committee and in its activities, with many more involved in competitions, fundraising and meetings. It has been a long-running battle. Thames Water

personnel have changed throughout. Preferred developers have come and gone. Our councillors have changed. The local community has the advantage of continuity. Several involved initially are still there.

Those who overlook the filter beds can be excused for thinking the campaign a failure. Hackney Council, in 1995, in a contested application, gave planning permission – by a single vote majority – for 400 residential units on filter beds, which was at least better than the 500 units initially proposed. But the rest is a success story.



Pochard (Aythya ferina) - a scarce breeding bird in Britain, will enjoy the fruits of the campaign



The east reservoir - saved for a wildfowl retuge

Across Green Lanes the two reservoirs have been saved in their entirety, the east one for a wildfowl reserve and operational reservoir for the recharge of the New River, the other for community and educational water sports. The castle is imaginatively used as a climbing centre, the filtration building is to be converted into a water sports training centre and environmental education facility, helped by a £500,000 grant from TWA (a small part of the profits they have made from developing the filter beds).

Positive gains for wildlife on the east reservoir will include: new nesting rafts for common terns; management

of the reservoir banks to premote botanical diversity, and protection of the huge common toad population discovered when refurbishment works were being undertaken along the New River.

Presently the community's main concerns are the extent of access and whether a water ski jump for Olympic skiers should be part of the water sports complex. As a community we cannot claim 100 per cent success, but as a participant I hope I am not prejudiced in saying little of this would have been possible without a concerned community focusing their activities through a local campaign.



The New River works – Illustrated London News 1856. The filter beds are now lost to development

The planning game: key points for local groups by Roger Taylor

- Join any forums that deal with open spaces environment or ecology.
- Get on the local council's list for receiving planning applications.
- Become familiar with the local authority's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), Policies and Proposals. It is an important guide to what is allowed.
- Try to spot what isn't included at all.
- Make official objections well argued, objective and to the point – use a covering letter or press release to make the case in a more emotive way.
- Watch out for changes hidden in the modification or review of the UDP.
- Be familiar with the Government's Planning Policy Guidance and Regional Planning Guidance, which Local Planning Authorities must take into account.
- Don't forget that the Trust's charitable status precludes us from getting party political.
- Stick to what the Trust is here for wildlife and its associated environmental issues – beware of getting too close to objectors' groups with a very different agenda.
- Be familiar with the London Ecology Unit's designations of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in your borough.
- Be careful about overstating the case for comparatively low-grade sites: it may devalue your opinions when you come to defend a high quality site. Local residents may be better placed to bang the drum for the lesser sites helped by the Trust in a lower-profile supporting role.

Roger Taylor is chair of the Hillingdon group























LIVINGLANDSCAPES

Woodberry Wetlands

London's Living Landscapes

London's Living Landscapes are rich in wildlife, highly valued and accessible to people. They provide opportunities for learning, health and wellbeing. London's Living Landscapes help diverse local communities to thrive.

To help safeguard our wildlife through an unprecedented period of change we need to:

- Conserve wildlife habitats and restore damaged and undermanaged habitats
- · Create habitats that can act as stepping stones of green space across London's landscapes
- Connect people and landscapes
- Celebrate! -What is good for wildlife is good for people too!

Partners are

Thames Water, Berkeley Homes, LB Hackney, Manor House Development Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Allen Scott Associates, atyp

Find out more

London Wildlife Trust wildlondon.org.uk woodberrywetlands.org.uk

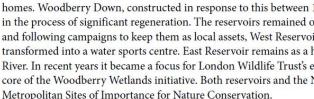
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FROM WATER SUPPLY TO WILDLIFE HAVEN

Woodberry Wetlands are based on the Stoke Newington Reservoirs and the New River, located between Manor House and Stoke Newington in north-west Hackney. The New River, constructed from 1608-13 by Sir Hugh Myddleton, supplied spring water from Hertfordshire to inner London. Both East and West Reservoirs were built in 1830-33 to purify the New River water and to act as a water reserve. Along with the railway companies, the New River Company was one of the key drivers in the growth of London, providing cleaner water which helped to wipe out cholera and encouraging a rapidly growing population in an expanding London.

Following the Second World War, swathes of land were compulsorily purchased by the London County Council to house the post-war population that had been bombed out of their homes. Woodberry Down, constructed in response to this between 1946 and the 1970s, is now in the process of significant regeneration. The reservoirs remained operational until the 1980s, and following campaigns to keep them as local assets, West Reservoir was decommissioned and transformed into a water sports centre. East Reservoir remains as a holding tank for the New River. In recent years it became a focus for London Wildlife Trust's education activity, and the core of the Woodberry Wetlands initiative. Both reservoirs and the New River are designated as



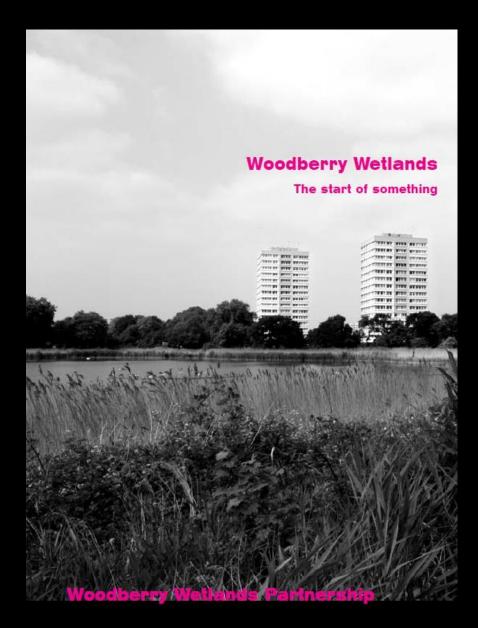
STOKE NEWINGTON WETLANDS

Developing a Vision



Proposal for LB Hackney from London Wildlife Trust,

October 2010

































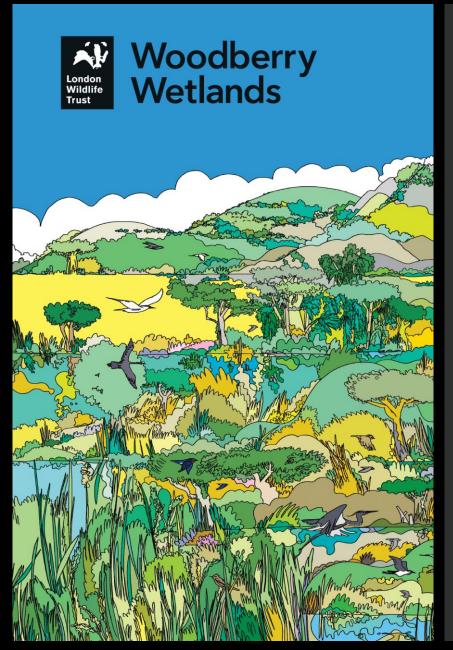














Welcome to Woodberry Wetlands, a London Wildlife Trust nature reserve and an operating drinking water reservoir.

Please come in and explore this wonderful wildlife oasis, free of charge. You will find a welcoming café, heritage buildings, beautiful reedbeds, hidden woodland trails, wildflower meadows and much more.













partners















delivery team



















Amir Zinaburg (Design + Weld)











so, how much?

Heritage Lottery Fund £750k

Thames Water £300k

Berkeley Homes £250k

Hackney Council £100k

Veolia, etc £80k

LWT volunteers £78k







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influencing regeneration...









AT WOODBERRY DOWN

In early 2015, Woodberry Down resident and contemporary artist, Sonelle Goddard was commissioned by Berkeley Homes and Manor House Development Trust to work with the communities' youngsters to produce the four murals showcased here. Depicting life at Woodberry Down, the murals were originally created in mixed media and are designed to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Many thanks to Young Hackney's The Edge, Skinners' Academy and London Wildlife Trust for facilitating the creation of these artworks.



Berkeley Designed for life















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LONDONASSEMBLY

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Encouraging biodiversity in new
housing developments







WALTHAMSTOW WETLANDS - COMING SOON!

Transforming Walthamstow Reservoirs into a new urban wetland reserve for London



thank you

@WildLondon



