

# **Biodiversity net gain. Good practice principles for development**

## ***Case studies***

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# 19 Working in partnership: creating wetland in London

## Details

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## 19.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

As part of the estate regeneration programme at Woodberry Down, Berkeley has worked with the London Wildlife Trust to restore an 11 hectare wetland.

Restoration work began in 2010 and today it is home to 13 000 m<sup>2</sup> of newly-planted reed bed and 550 m<sup>2</sup> of new hedgerow, as well as wildflower meadows and fruit trees, which combine to create a haven for birds, bees, butterflies and other insects. The wetlands are unique as they are tranquil space within London. They provide the local community access to open space and wildlife



*Figure 19.1 Local community enjoying the nature reserve*

along with other benefits including helping to reduce the urban heat island and managing flood risk. The nature reserve is now a thriving habitat for migratory birds and is one of the Trust's top visitor attractions. The reserve was opened by Sir David Attenborough on 21 April 2016 and within the first five days had been visited by 4500 people. Engaging with local communities and encouraging volunteers to be actively involved in designing and maintenance was an important part of this project.

## 19.2 ISSUES

Managing all the different partners in this project set a president for projects of this type. The partnership between the London Wildlife Trust, Thames Water and Berkeley Group was a unique opportunity to engage and gather expertise from a range of organisations, all of which required complex project management skills.

## 19.3 OUTCOMES

The area now consists of 13 000 m<sup>2</sup> of newly-planted reed beds and 550 m<sup>2</sup> of new hedgerow alongside wildflower meadows and fruit trees. The nature reserve is now thriving and is good habitat for a range of species including birds, bees, butterflies and other insects. Migratory birds are a key success to this project and they are one of the Trust's top visitor attractions.