

Woodberry Wetlands



New wetland habitat at Woodberry Wetlands

Salix is helping the London Wildlife Trust to create a new nature reserve on the site of Thames Water's East Reservoir in Stoke Newington.

As part of the Woodberry Wetlands project, Salix have dredged silt from the reservoir to create 13,000 square metres of new reed bed, more than doubling this important habitat for east London's wildlife.

Silt was placed behind Nicospan & Brushwood Fascine revetments to create a series of new islands and ponds, connected by channels of different depths.

A haven for wildlife, and people is being created out of the little-known east reservoir in Hackney

Products Used

- Native wetland plants
- Brushwood Fascines



Brushwood Fascines

An important urban sanctuary

The site, which has been closed to the public since its construction in 1833, is already important for nature, with waterfowl such as pochard, shoveler and gadwall visiting the site.

Grey heron, tufted duck, reed bunting and other wetland birds also live there, along with kingfishers, damselflies, dragonflies, amphibians and bats.

David Mooney, London Wildlife Trust's (LWT) East London Development Manager, said:

"As Woodberry Wetlands develops it will become increasingly important for both wildlife and people seeking nature and tranquillity in the midst of a hectic city.

"Using the silt that has built up naturally in the reservoir, we will create a network of interconnecting wildlife habitats, providing a fascinating window on nature for school groups and other visitors."



Increasing biodiversity

As well as creating valuable new wetland habitats, the project involved working with volunteers to plant native wetland and wildflower plants grown in house by Salix.

Plants have been grown at Salix's wetland plant nursery in Croxton, near Thetford.

The extension of the reed beds will increase the numbers of reed bunting and reed warbler breeding at the site, and will provide important extra habitat for overwintering bittern, one of the UK's rarest breeding birds.

"This is 21st-century urban nature conservation" said David Mooney of LWT

"It's a man-made structure turned into a nature reserve in the centre of a massive urban conurbation. There are very few examples of it in the world."

This project has been described as wildlife gardening on a colossal scale by Patrick Barkham of the Guardian.



The rare bittern



Improving public access

A new visitor centre and walkway are a part of this important urban wetland project, it will allow free public access to large parts of the site for the first time.

Crucially, wildlife will live alongside people, “Fencing people away from nature is bad. If you never experience it, how can you be expected to protect it in the future?” David Mooney LWT

Work to create the new Woodberry Wetlands reserve has been funded by:

- Veolia Environment Trust
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Berkeley Homes
- Thames Water
- Hackney Council

