

Walthamstow Wetlands

Description

The site vision evolved on many different levels:

- A Green core to attract and absorb large numbers of visitors within which the visitor centre and café sit
- A clear route through the site to link the green core, entrances and destinations. The main route was envisaged as a piece of landscape extending through and up buildings
- High points such as the new swift and bat tower and existing Coppermill tower, creating landmarks in, and high level views across the valley

- Entrances that encounter or cross water to bring visitors into contact with a water landscape immediately
- Entrance design that encourages a change of pace and reinforces the message and change of behaviour required for a nature reserve
- The ecological vision focussed on long term objectives such as creating 24 hectares of reed beds that could support a breeding bittern population, a bird that currently only occasionally visits the site but if encouraged to nest here, would indicate wider ecological richness
- The landscape vision focussed on replanting that both mitigated the visual impact of increased visitors on birds as well as planting new species on site that would give dramatic seasonal colour such as

- bright yellow gorse in spring
- A vision for operational use of the site by Thames Water that recognised the detailed requirements and the timing/ location of these as a separate layer to visitor use of the site
- Embracing the industrial aesthetic in the landscape and architectural palette. At the same time the detail and materials of Thames Water's operational landscape is kept distinct from the public environment

The main entrance to the Walthamstow Wetlands

