



Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) Project Briefing Note

Salmons Brook Urban Diffuse Pollution Project

The Lower Lee Valley waterways are profoundly polluted. The problem of urban diffuse pollution is chronic and highly visible. It blights the potential of East London's rivers, reducing them as an amenity for people, damaging them for wildlife and turning them into open sewers. These problems have existed for many years now, but increasing population density and climate change are seeing them intensify. What has been missing from efforts to tackle the problems is properly involving people. Awareness of the pollution is very low, evidenced by the proportionately small number of calls to the Environment Agency's Pollution Hotline. East London's communities are fundamental to any long lasting improvement in the Lower Lee Valley's water quality. While strategic efforts will aim to address the problems truly sustainable solutions have to happen at the household and street level too

The issue of diffuse pollution must be addressed as a priority in improvement works to rivers, otherwise rivers in East London will still run with wastewater and road run-off.

Thames21 has secured funding from DEFRA for the Salmon's Brook Healthy River Challenge – a project to reduce diffuse urban pollution in the Salmon's Brook, a main tributary of the River Lea in Enfield. The project will see the creation of six community centred bio-retention and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) along the Salmons Brook. These SuDS will intercept diffuse urban pollution, provide attenuation for flooding, and create new areas of bio-diverse habitat and new amenities for local people.

Key facts	
River Basin District	Thames
Catchments	Lower Lee
Outcomes	<p>Improved water quality – reduction of pollutants from diffuse and point sources</p> <p>Increased biodiversity – improved habitat including BAP priorities, increased species diversity</p> <p>Improved flow regime – reduction in peak flows and increased storage of water</p> <p>Improved landscape aesthetics and recreation opportunities – better usage potential for local residents</p> <p>Providing an example and provoking debate – encouraging greater use of SuDs in London and throughout the UK</p> <p>Climate change mitigation – urban cooling</p>
Start Date	June 2012
End Date	March 2015
Budget	£451,921 (£361,921 from CRF)
Project Partners	Environment Agency, LB Enfield, University College London, Friends of groups, Thames Water

Description of Works

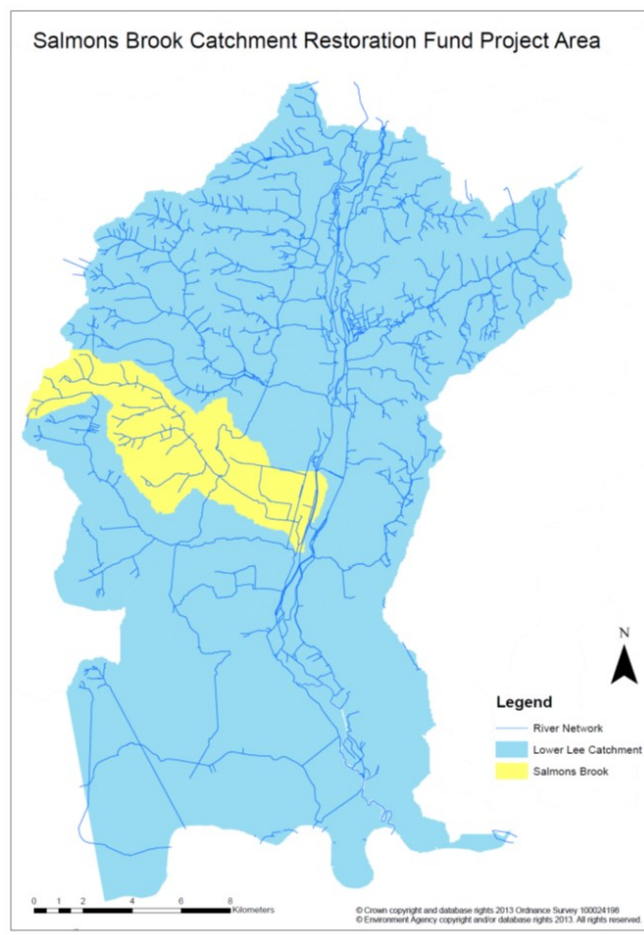
To realise our project we will do the following:

Create six community centred bio-retention SuDS in the Salmons' Brook Catchment – These will be in publicly accessible areas such as parks. These SuDS will intercept diffuse urban pollution, provide attenuation, and create new areas of bio-diverse habitat and new amenities for local people.

Closely monitor these SuDS – Water quality monitoring will take place from site selection, right through the project to SuDS completion and beyond. This is vital to demonstrate the effectiveness of the SuDS in reducing pollution in the Salmons' Brook and tributaries. Ecological and invertebrate surveys will show the increase in biodiversity. Residents will be surveyed about their views and knowledge of SuDS, as well as their value and use of the selected sites, before and after implementation.

Work in partnership - We will be working closely with Friends of Parks Groups, residents, local organisations, the EA and LB Enfield. Communication throughout the project will be very important. We will give talks at Friends Groups and try to take an inclusive, no jargon approach. We will harness the expertise of local experts like architects, landscapers, park users who have visited their green space for decades and residents who know where drains flood and pipes spill into the river. By closely involving local people in the process it will be more robust and the systems stand a greater chance of being installed and cherished.

Further SuDS knowledge and debate - The bio-retention SuDS will also create a wider debate within East London. They will serve as tangible examples of what can be done, and so inspire more. We will take opportunities to talk about SuDS and water pollution whenever possible, at residents groups, schools, industry conventions, and partnership meetings.



What will success look like?

The creation of six SuDS in the Salmons' Brook Catchment will improve the water quality in the Salmons' Brook and tributaries, along with biodiversity and amenity value of the sites. The physical creation will be just one success - we hope that this SuDS project will increase knowledge of the role of SuDS and create a wider debate within East London. The SuDS will serve as tangible examples of what can be done, and so inspire more. They will reduce the sense of unfamiliarity that surrounds SuDS and be an educational resource. Linking with a new Thames21 training programme, people will develop new skills, helping to design, maintain and extend the SuDS in their parks. As it is closely monitored, this will be a significant demonstration project that will transform the implementation of SuDS, in an area where too few exist at present but are desperately needed. The project will have been a catalyst for more involvement, and residents of Enfield will be more aware of their waterways and the challenges they face. They will be informed and motivated to help their streams and rivers.

About the team

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