



RRC Site Visit Series

Turkey Brook, Albany Park, London

Thursday 13th October 2022

Join us at Albany Park, London, finalist in the 2022 UK River Prize, to see how Enfield Council and Environment Agency developed a scheme that improves the river and reduces flood risk. We will also be visiting a small beaver enclosure close to the Albany Park site.



Site visit lead

Ian Russell (London Borough of Enfield)
Mattie Biddulph (Environment Agency)

The Project

The Albany Park River Restoration project was led by Enfield Council working closely in partnership with the Environment Agency. Albany Park is a large open space in the north-east of the London Borough of Enfield. Prior to delivery of the scheme, the Turkey Brook main river ran along the northern boundary of the park in a heavily engineered channel with concrete and masonry walls on both sides. Consequently, the river was not an integral part of the park – it could only be viewed when standing close to the top of the concrete wall.

The project was initially proposed in 2014 during a public consultation however at the time there was no funding available to carry out this major piece of work. Enfield Council and Environment Agency developed a scheme that improves the river while simultaneously reducing flood risk – achieved by excavating a large volume of soil and using the spoil to create a flood bund on the far side of the park, making space for water and creating a flood storage area that can store 50,000m³ of water during extreme flood events.

The project involved restoring 400 metres of Turkey Brook by excavating a new naturalised channel that brings the river into the park. This has transformed the park, creating interesting spaces for people to explore and dramatically increasing the range of wildlife – kingfishers, egrets and dragonflies are all now commonly sighted. As well as creating new habitat for wildlife and a diverse landscape for park users to enjoy, this work facilitated the creation of a flood storage area that reduces flood risk to over 400 properties.

The project improves biodiversity by creating a range of new habitats including wetland, woodland and wildflower meadow. It also improves the amenity and educational value of the park by including an outdoor classroom and improves access to nature through the provision of new footpaths. Constructed wetland features help to mitigate the impact of urban pollution from the local drainage network.



Information

This site visit is **FREE to RRC members** (£10 deposit to be refunded following attendance at site visit). If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete a booking form at the [link here](#). Booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

- The visit will start at 10:00 and end by 15:00. This will include time for a packed lunch (not supplied).
- Meeting point will be the car park adjacent to Albany Park Playground, at the end of Albany Road past the tennis courts.
- Waterproof walking boots are recommended, and waterproof clothing as necessary.
- Toilets will be available

[Watch the project video](#)