



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

Unlocking the potential of London's canals and rivers

Our Prospectus to support
good growth, prosperity and wellbeing



Foreword

London's canal network developed over 200 years ago to link to the capital's river navigations and provide a route for transporting goods from the Midlands and the North to markets in London and beyond, creating industry and supporting the city's development and prosperity.

Today, our waterways continue to make an important contribution to life in the city, albeit very different from their original role. Their role is now as life-enhancing blue-green corridors offering an escape from the busy city streets, for health, exercise, and community cohesion. They make a vital contribution to the wellbeing of London society by creating places where people want to live and work, and routes that they can use – for leisure and commerce.

They connect people to places and offer a network of routes for getting around the city away from the traffic or the heavily-used public transport system. They are inclusive and accessible places for people to discover and enjoy, for leisure and relaxation, to connect with heritage, culture and nature. They provide a resource that supports learning and the development of skills.

We believe they have an important role to play in supporting the Mayor's aspirations and the local plans of all of London's diverse communities, to be an agent for "Good Growth" and wellbeing in London.

This report sets out in more detail how the Canal & River Trust can play its part in supporting that important goal.



Allan Leighton
Chair, Canal & River Trust

As a Trust we are excited by the challenge of getting our disparate communities and partners to recognise and appreciate the tremendous benefits associated with their local canals and rivers.... *making life better by water.*

From historic canals to tidal rivers, within London we have waterways that run through stunning open countryside as well as densely populated urban areas.

Across the Capital's waterway network we have almost 1.3m people living within one kilometre of our waterways. We have a fantastic opportunity to engage these people with the waterway network but we will only be able to do this by developing a deep appreciation and knowledge of the communities within our region.

To do this we need to ensure that our partnerships with local community groups, politicians and businesses are strong and proactive in nature to ensure we are able to fashion bespoke solutions to maximise the opportunities that London's waterway network can undoubtedly help deliver.

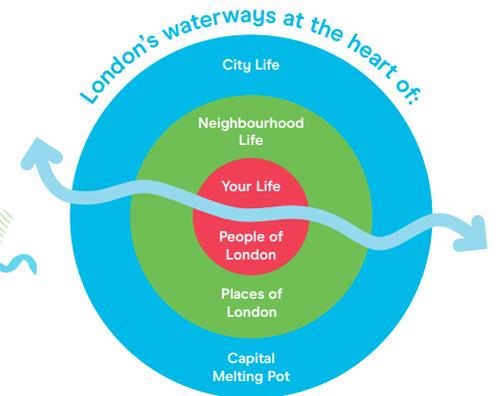
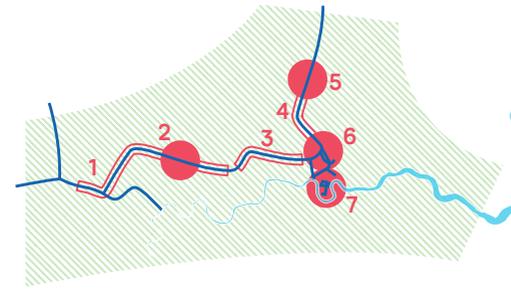
Together with our partners we can utilise the waterway network to create a more prosperous, cohesive and greener London.

Sir William Atkinson
Regional Advisory Board Chair
Canal & River Trust



London's waterways: Contributing to Good Growth

Waterways as part of 'City Life',
'Neighbourhood Life' and 'Your Life'



1 Extending Healthy Streets:
Delivering the Grand Union Canal Quietway.
See pages 14 to 17

2 Delivering Strategic Regeneration Opportunities:
Old Oak & Park Royal.
See pages 36 to 37

3 Cultural Assets – a City for all Londoners:
Regent's 200.
See pages 44 to 45

4 Supporting Green Innovations:
Potential for waterborne freight linked to Crossrail2.
See pages 20 to 21

5 Enabling Healthier Communities:
Meridian Water.
See pages 40 to 41

6 Supporting Good Growth Locally:
QE Olympic Park.
See pages 42 to 43

7 Providing Housing Choice:
Docklands – multi-functional spaces.
See pages 38 to 39

8 Supporting Clean & Renewable Energy:
Heating & Cooling buildings; Urban cooling.
See page 26

The Trust's canals, rivers and docks in London today

London's 100km of canals and rivers owned and managed by the Trust already make a vital contribution to the wellbeing of the city, its neighbourhoods and its people.

The Trust's waterways can support the Mayor's aspirations for Good Growth, the vision for Healthy Streets and the concept of the National Park City. They connect centres of population, jobs, shops, culture and green and blue space, whilst helping the city to meet its needs more sustainably.

Many parts of the canal and river network are alive with powered and unpowered boats, and a variety of towpath users.

Reflecting their historic origins, canals flow through some of the more deprived parts of London. This provides significant scope for the canals to act as a catalyst for imaginative developments to enhance the lives of those living and working locally.

Regeneration of the waterways and waterside spaces in London has been delivering high quality places for many years. Amongst many others, these include:

- The King's Cross redevelopment, with the amphitheatre terrace at Granary Square that encourages people to engage with the activity of the Regent's Canal;

- The Paddington Basin redevelopment that has overcome the challenges posed by three generations of major transport infrastructure to bring a new economic centre to this part of London;
- The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park that knitted the waterways into London's hugely successful Olympic and Paralympic Games and legacy plans that continue to see the waterways as vital parts of a sustainable regeneration of this substantial area of East London.
- The multi-award winning Brentford Lock West by Waterside Places, a joint venture between the Trust and Muse, which has begun to bring new life to the canalside by regenerating former industrial land.
- The regeneration of Tottenham Hale, including the multi-award winning, mixed use development at Hale Village to the west of the Lee Navigation.

Major new opportunities to create high quality waterway neighbourhoods exist across east, west and central London. This includes sites in the early planning stages such as Old Oak & Park Royal and Meridian Water and in places like London Docklands, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Hayes and Tottenham Hale where new developments will build on the regeneration that has already happened. If appropriately planned, designed and funded, new developments can improve waterway environments and opportunities for people to enjoy them.

As well as providing excellent opportunities for relaxation, leisure and active travel, our waterways and towpaths are increasingly taking on new roles in London's sustainable growth. They're contributing to the city's green future by saving the energy for cooling buildings and a means of managing the flow of surface water; our towpaths in particular are supporting health and wellbeing, access to culture and a better understanding of heritage; and, through the Trust's education, volunteering and adoptions programmes, they're helping communities to come together and individuals to develop new skills.

The Trust wants its vision of living waterways that transform places and enrich lives to be shared by communities, local, regional and national government, businesses and other charities and believes that together we can build a policy and delivery framework to achieve it.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park along the Lee Navigation



London's waterway neighbourhoods – existing & proposed

Over 1.2 million Londoners live within 1km of one of the Trust's 100km of waterways in the city (15% of the city's population).

Our waterways form an important part of 16 boroughs north of the Thames and the two Mayoral Development Corporations.

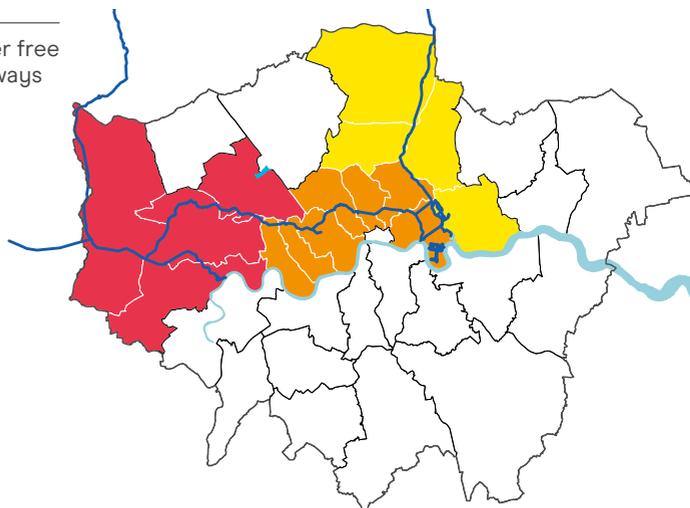
Canal & River Trust waterways are within or adjacent to many of the London Plan's Opportunity Areas and the Mayor's Housing Zones. As planned, these sites alone amount to approximately 125,000 new homes and 250,000 jobs, with Old Oak Park Royal and Meridian Water planning for 40,000 new homes and 75,000 jobs between them.

For many users, our waterways provide a wonderful, free-at-the-point-of-use asset.¹ However, just maintaining them comes at a cost for the Trust. In 2018/19, our London Waterway team spent approximately £3.5m, with a further approximately £2m being spent on more major engineering schemes in London and the South East, such as lock gate replacements.

¹ The Trust is not able to offer free public access to the waterways for all users or at all times

London Boroughs containing Trust waterways grouped as per London Councils definition:

- West
- Central
- East
- Trust Waterways
- River Thames



Camden Open Day, Regent's Canal

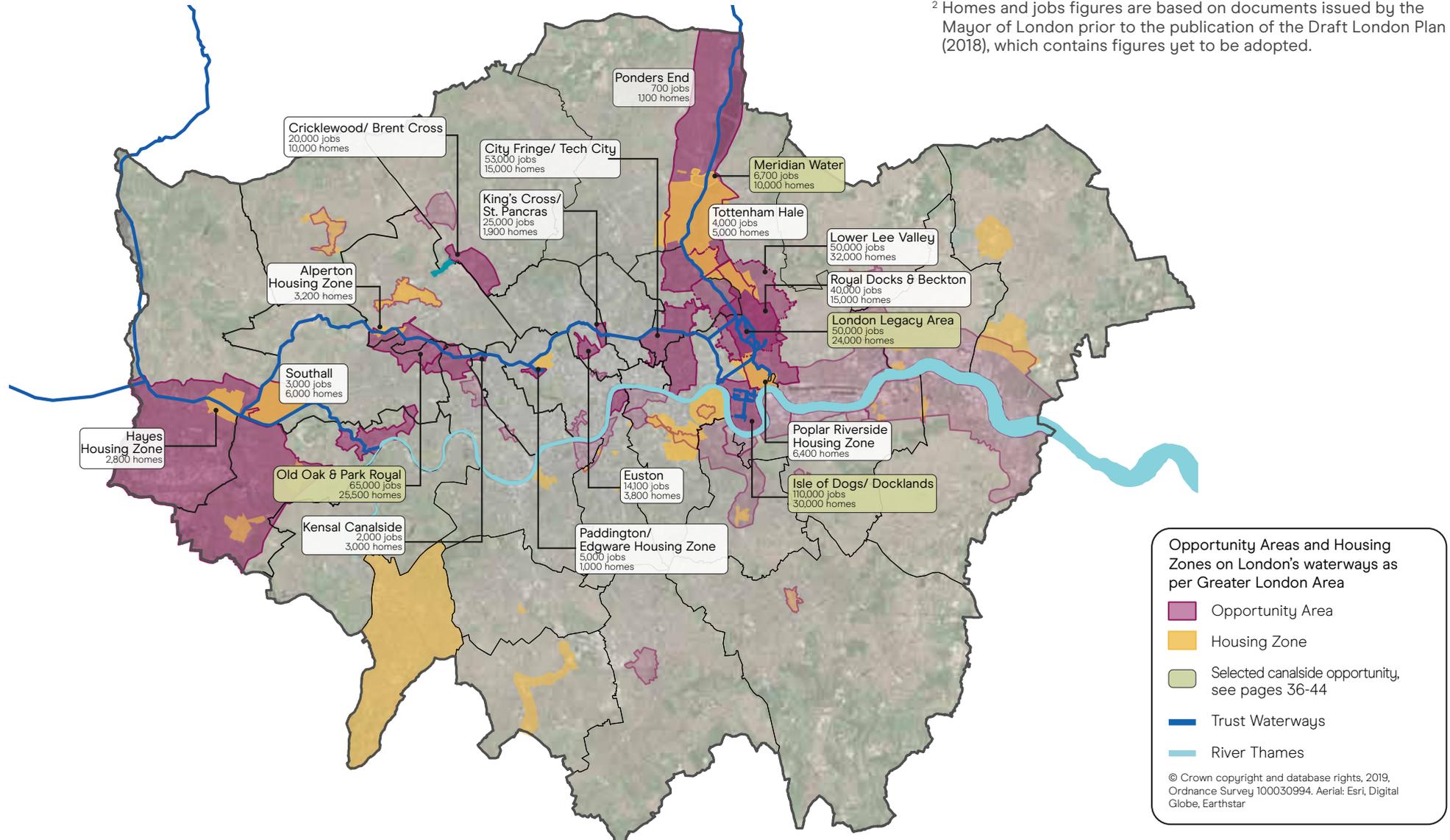
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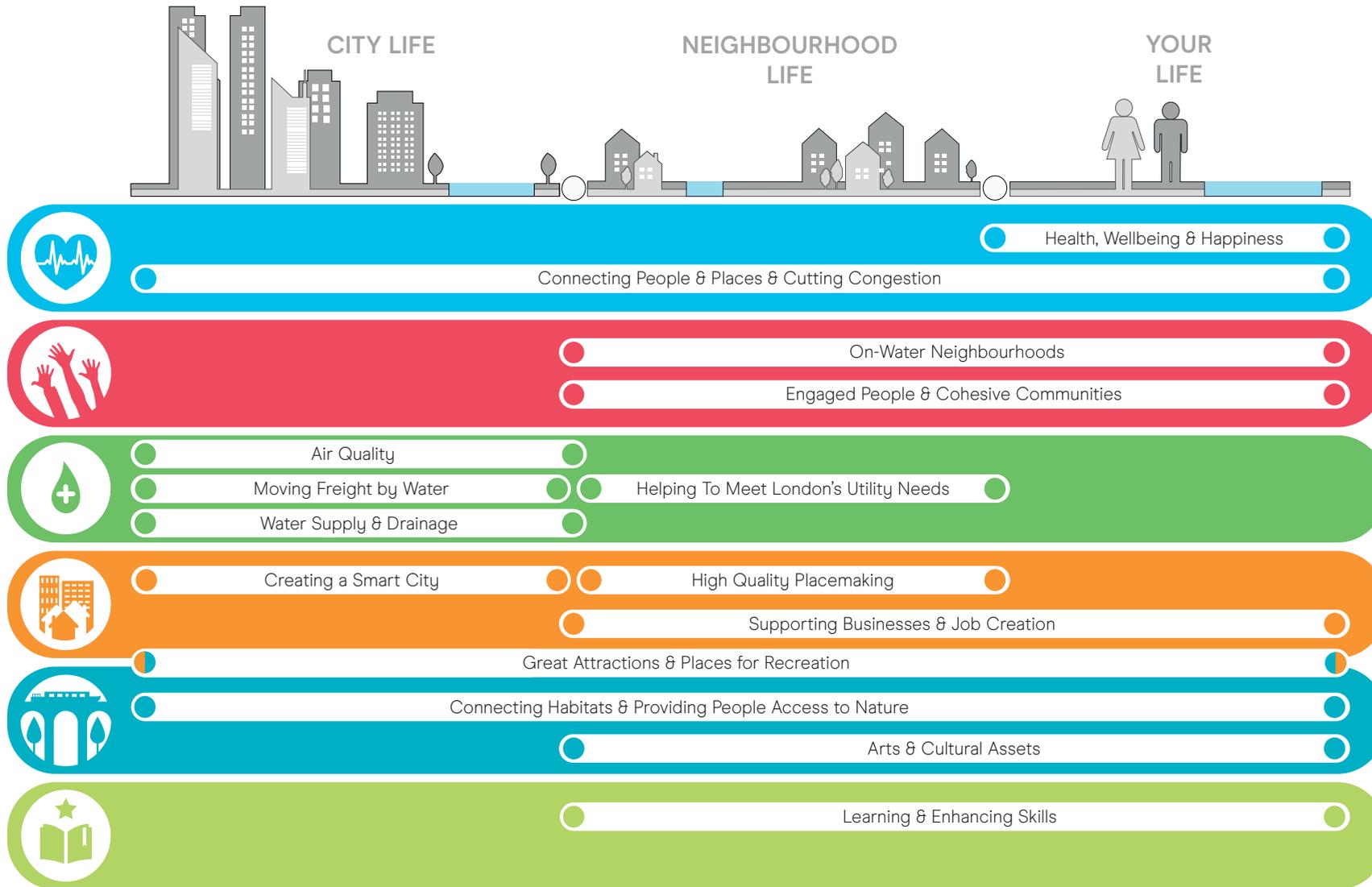
 and 250,000
jobs

² Homes and jobs figures are based on documents issued by the Mayor of London prior to the publication of the Draft London Plan (2018), which contains figures yet to be adopted.



Waterways & wellbeing

There is significant potential for waterways to contribute to personal, community and societal wellbeing, consistent with the Mayor's plans for Good Growth, Healthy Streets and the National Park City.



Linked to the Trust's Outcome Measurement Framework, 2017:

- Health, Wellbeing & Happiness
- Engaged People & Cohesive Communities
- Green & Blue Futures
- Prosperous & Connected Places
- Cultural & Environmental Assets
- Learning & Enhancing Skills

Supporting the National Park City, great attractions and places for recreation

Flowing from the north-east and north-west of the city and converging in east and central London, the Trust's waterways provide a free and inclusive space for a wide range of leisure pursuits and recreation.

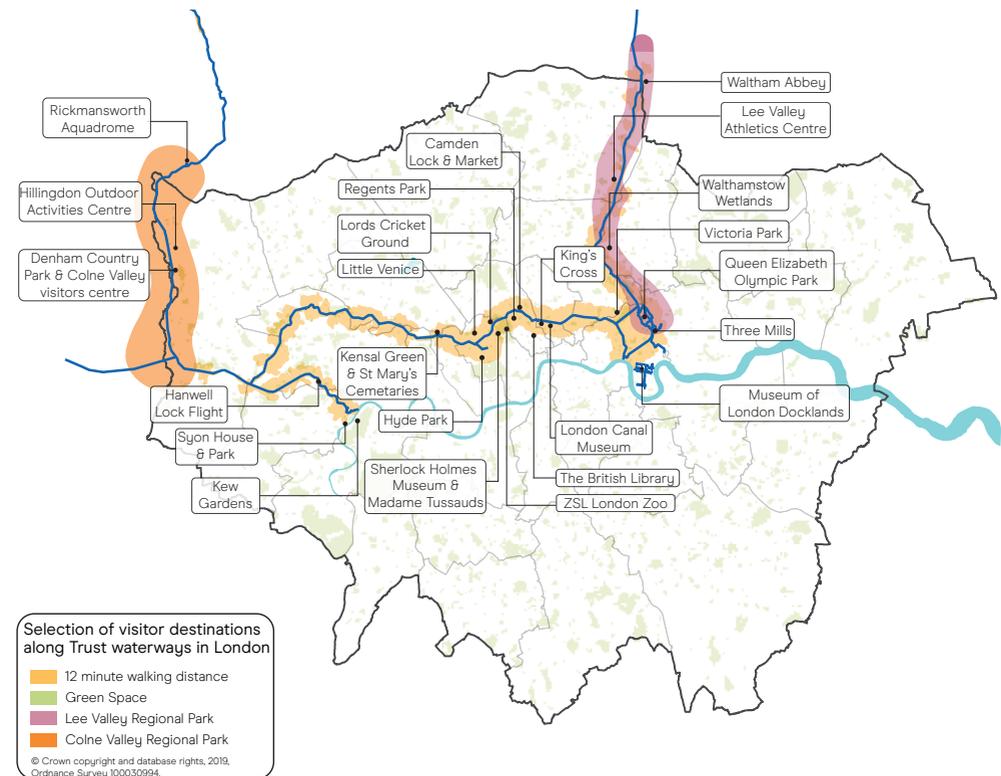
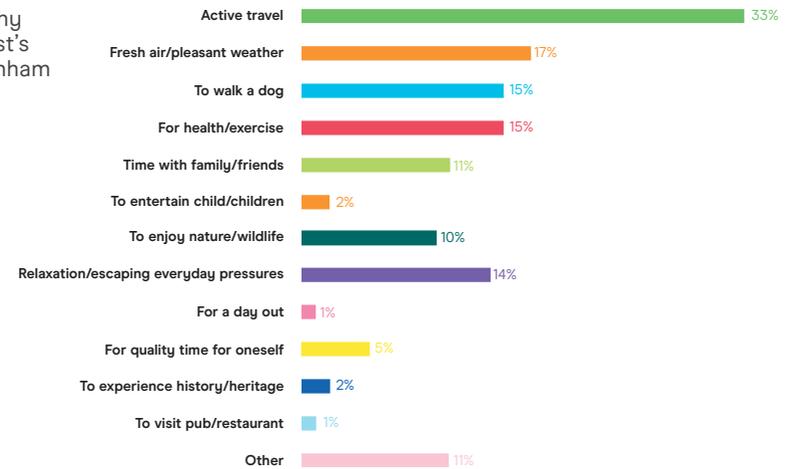
These include walking and cycling on our towpaths and a variety of on-water activities. Whilst they're alive with activities, especially in more central areas, our waterways offer a space where Londoners and visitors can get away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

A great attraction in their own right, our waterways also stitch together some of London's other great cultural and leisure attractions, such as Regent's Park, London Zoo, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Victoria Park, Little Venice, and the Colne Valley and Lee Valley regional parks. Annual visitors to these attractions are in the tens of millions, with Camden Market alone reporting annual visitors of 28 million per annum. The waterways form an important part of the charm of these places and provide an attractive route for Londoners and visitors to move between them on foot, bicycle or on the water. They are a key component of the National Park City.

The Trust promotes our waterways as London's greatest park. When combined our canals, rivers and docks – along with their towpaths and docksides – **cover an area more than twice the size of Hyde Park.**

A key part of what makes the waterway network such an attractive place to visit is the diversity of the activities that take place on and alongside the waterways. It's a place that's alive with uses on land and water; a place where visitors can experience great architecture and design; a place that supports the natural environment, wildlife and nature and the city's greener future; a place where people can connect to culture and heritage; a space that's well looked after by the people that use it; and a space that's accessible for all Londoners. London's greatest park should be one that both speaks to the history of the city and reflects its dynamism.

Figure 1: Reasons why people visit the Trust's waterways at Tottenham Hale (June 2017)



Connecting people and places and cutting congestion

The Trust's waterways in London provide attractive places for pedestrians and considerate cyclists, whether they are commuting or engaging in recreation.

They can provide high quality routes, and associated benefits, in the same way that the Mayor is hoping to achieve with his Healthy Streets initiative. There are great opportunities to help meet the Mayor's aspirations for increasing walking and cycling by improving towpaths and their connectivity because they offer the types of routes that people want.

- Research carried out for the Trust found that 50% of people agree that they will go out of their way to find a quieter/greener area to escape the hustle and bustle of main roads.
- Over half (51%) said that they instantly felt more relaxed when going from a busy area to the countryside or a green space.
- A study commissioned by TfL (Steer Davies Gleave – 2012 Cycle Route Choice) highlighted that 50% of commuters and 62% of leisure cyclists would change their route to use parks/green spaces.

In London, walking and cycling on the Trust's **towpaths can reduce congestion** on the roads and on public

transport. In a towpath survey carried out for the Trust at Tottenham Hale (June 2017), of those people that were using the towpath for commuting, 25% would have driven, 25% would have travelled by bus and a further 18% would have travelled by train/tube had the towpath not been available.

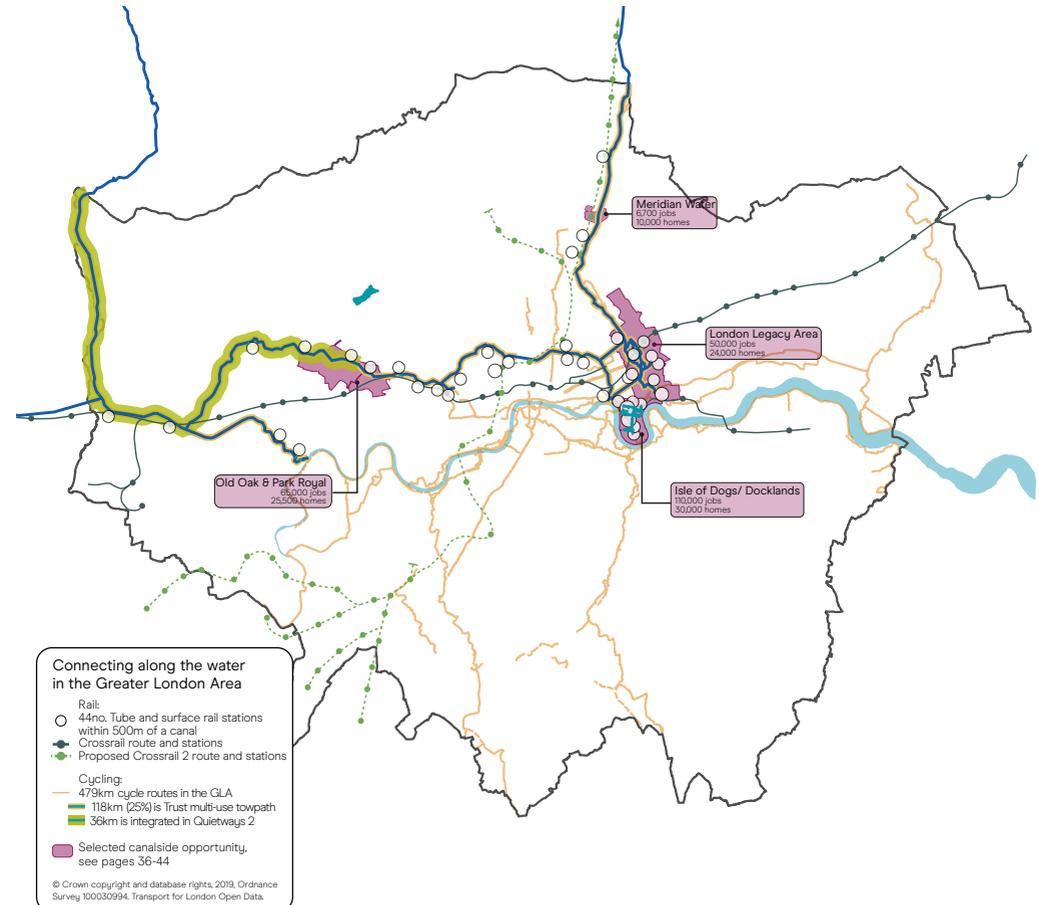
The Trust is working with Transport for London and boroughs to deliver a Quietway along the Grand Union Canal between Paddington and West Drayton. There are opportunities to work in partnership to deliver a similarly high quality and beneficial scheme elsewhere.

A River Lee Quietway in East London, for example, would provide a strategic route linking several boroughs, building upon previous investments and helping to deliver new growth in London.

The Trust has adopted a national policy for shared use of towpaths – 'Better Towpaths for Everyone'. Our 'Share the Space, Drop your Pace' campaign promotes the towpath code and is a vital part of our efforts to ensure that they are places enjoyed by everyone.



Regent's Canal



Air quality

The role that our waterways and towpaths play in helping people get around the city, as well as the use of the waterways to provide a sustainable energy resource, means that they are helping London to tackle one of its great environmental challenges – poor air quality.

The Trust supports the Mayor's aim of reducing Londoners' exposure to dangerous pollutants and our waterways and towpaths already contribute to this. Our evidence shows that emissions from boats on the Trust's network only account for around 0.01% of city-wide emissions. However, the Trust is working to help boaters on our network to reduce emissions and the potential impact on their health and on local communities.

Our London Mooring Strategy includes the development of an Eco Mooring Zone on the Regent's Canal in Islington, in partnership with the London Borough of Islington Council and funding from Defra. This will include installing electric charging points on visitor moorings in the borough so boaters have an alternative to running engines to charge on-board batteries.

Electric charging points are also being installed on the towpath in Brentford, as a result of our partnership with developers. We are working towards all permanent residential moorings owned and managed by the Trust in London having electricity points.

We are beginning discussions with British Marine³ about how we can work with boat and solid fuel stove manufacturers to ensure that a new generation of inland waterway boat engines and boat stoves incorporate improved environmental standards. We want the Government's proposed technology fund to be made available to the Trust and the marine sector to research and test such innovations.

³ British Marine is the trade association for the UK leisure, superyacht and small commercial marine industry.

Helping to meet London's utilities needs

London's water & drainage needs

Our waterways can play a strategic role in alleviating water stress in London, delivering resilience and affordability to millions of customers. The Trust has been engaging with water companies about utilising our waterways to transfer water from areas with excess to areas of need, such as through a north-west to south-east transfer. It is likely that both Thames Water and Affinity Water will have canal water resource schemes within their final Water Resource Management Plans. This is on top of the existing water transfer the Trust manages, which already supplies 25% of London's water from the Lee Navigation.

The Trust's network could also play a greater role in helping to meet local water needs, particularly needs that can be met through the use of grey water.

Surface water runoff in London is commonly, sustainably drained into the Trust's waterways, subject to our agreement, thus reducing the pressure on mains drainage infrastructure and helping to manage flood risk. Particularly in the case of major regeneration areas, our waterways could be part of the strategic sustainable urban drainage network.

Creating a Smart City

Digital and telecommunication technologies strengthen communities, improve economic growth, enhance services and reduce energy consumption and environmental emissions.

Telecommunications companies, including Sky Networks, Vodafone, Virgin, BT and Tata Communications already utilise the towpath corridors along our waterways within London – with the potential to accommodate even more.

There is a real opportunity to maximise existing towpath networks and provide the opportunity for new and improved infrastructure around densely populated areas, such as the routing of infrastructure for district heating schemes and increasing mobile density to create 5G towns and cities.

There is also the potential to utilise our land holdings for utility infrastructure such as telephone masts.

Moving freight by water

Transporting construction materials and demolition waste by water could help to take HGVs off the roads, thereby reducing congestion and potentially improving road safety.

Although freight vessels are no longer the main users of the Trust's waterways in London, the River Lee Navigation between Bow Creek and the M25 remains classified as a commercial waterway. Freight vessels are also welcome users on non-commercial waterways where they can operate within the current policies and arrangements for operation and maintenance and other uses.

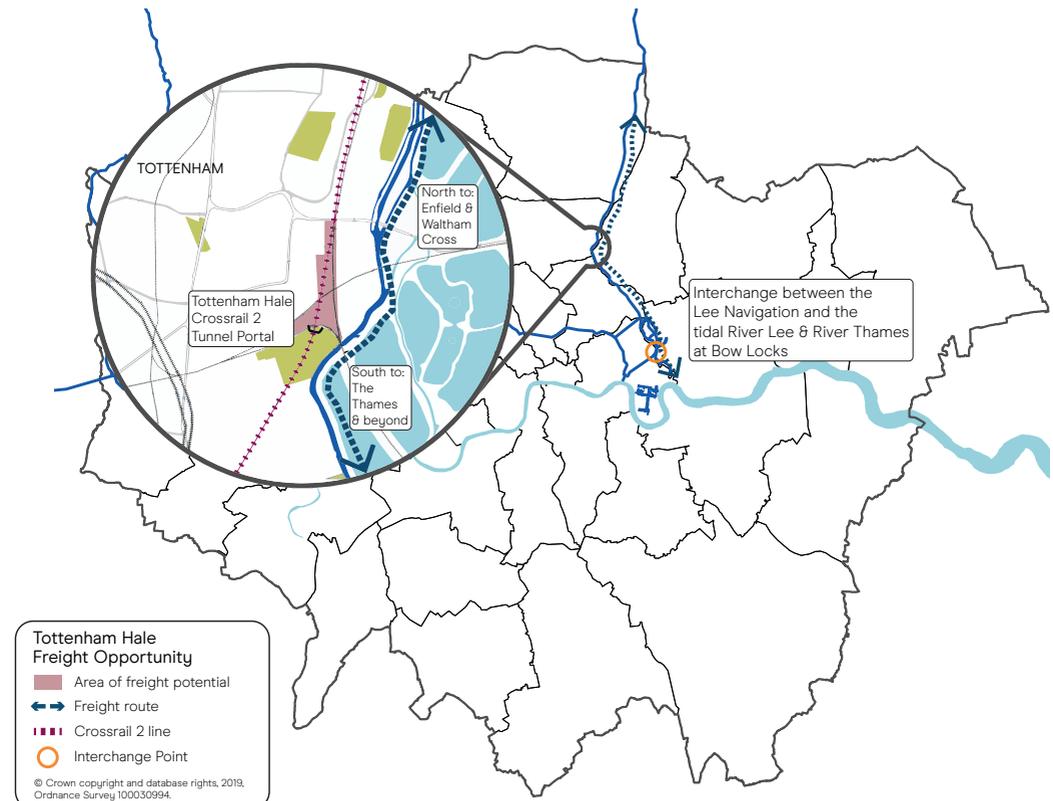
If Crossrail 2 were to be given the green light to proceed, the current plans would see the northern tunnel portal located close to the River Lee Navigation at Tottenham. There is the very real possibility for the navigation to be utilised in its construction, with improvements to the waterway infrastructure leaving a great legacy and further opportunities to support Good Growth in the Lee Valley.

Despite policy support, it remains relatively rare for new developments to make use of waterways to transport freight during construction or once they're operating. There remains untapped potential.

In the past, boroughs have given consideration to whether the household waste from waterside developments could be transported by barge to waterside energy from waste plants. Waste from such plants could also be transported away from these sites by barge. We remain keen to explore such opportunities with partners.



Three Mills Lock



Connecting habitats & providing people with access to nature

On or adjacent to our London network of waterways there are ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), a Special Protection Area, a Ramsar Site and 85 non-statutory wildlife sites.

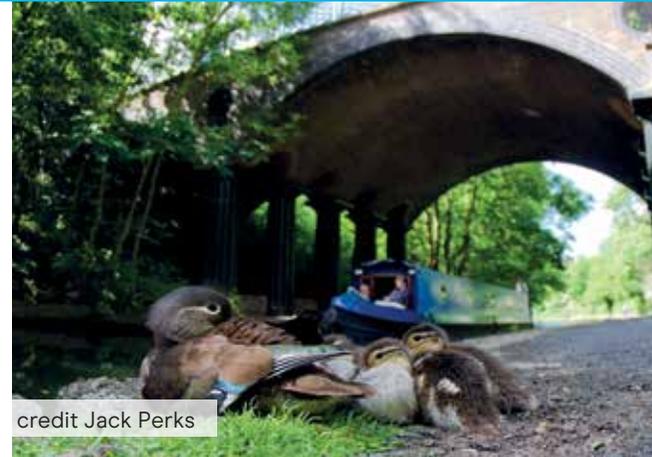
European eels are being encouraged back to the Grand Union Canal and the Lee Navigation through our construction of eel passes at Stoney Sluice in Brentford, Lee Bridge Weir and Bow Locks. By improving these to enable monitoring, we're getting people closer to this fascinating, endangered species.

We continue to work to preserve the environments on our waterway corridors and structures that support bats, such as Daubenton's and Common Pipistrelle bats, who feed from the insects found in these habitats.

Brent Reservoir is one of London's hidden gems, with an internationally important residential and overwintering bird population.

We work with partners on its management. Floating reedbeds have been installed and trees and scrub managed to encourage marshland around the edge of the reservoir. Great Crested Grebe, Pochard, Shoveler and Gadwall are among the birds to both visit and breed at the site.

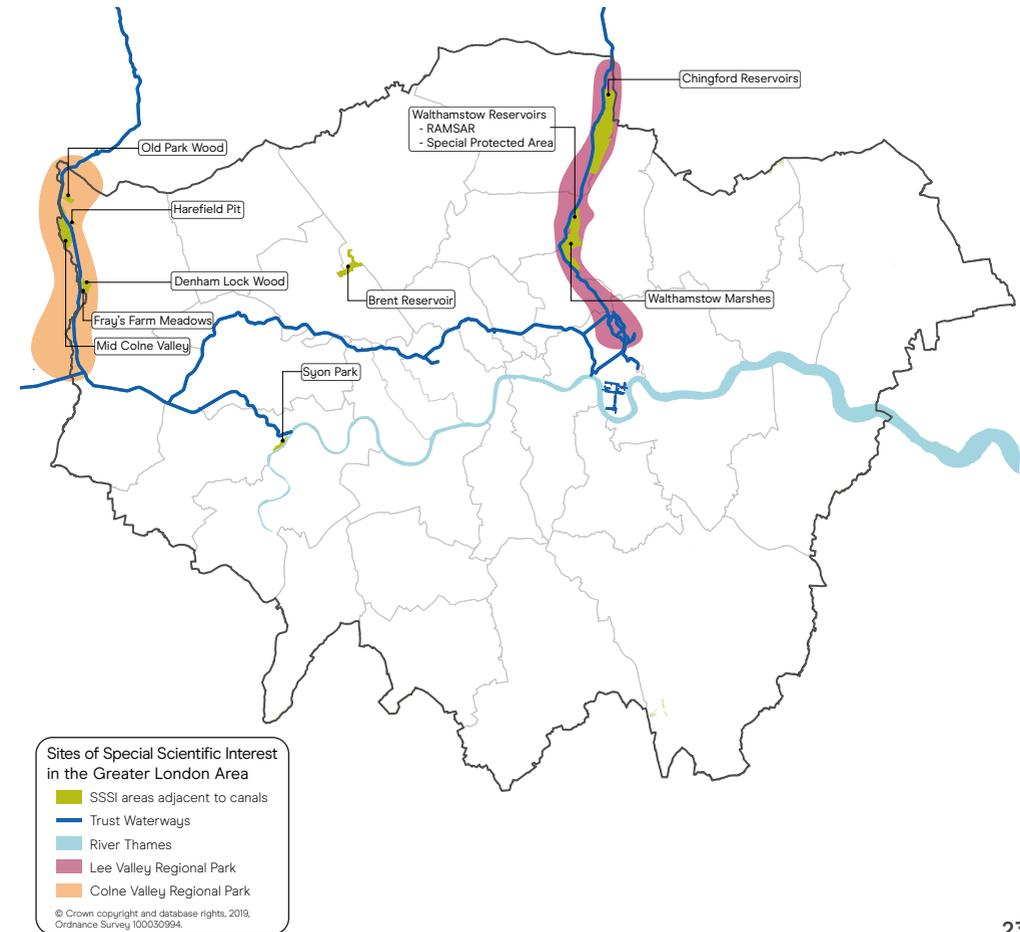
Aquatic vegetation is important habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species, and helps improve water quality. Through planning contributions, mooring pontoon proposals and joint working with partners, we are gaining reed beds as habitat enhancements, such as the reed/rush coir rolls installed in the Lee Navigation within the Olympic Park. Our work helps support water voles along the River Lee and Stort, and the Grand Union Canal.



credit Jack Perks



credit Jane Russell



Supporting regeneration through high quality placemaking

Waterways provide a strong sense of place and connection. They help shape the way people live their lives, how they think and feel and their relationships with others in their community.

A study published in the Royal Society Open Science journal (July 2017) “Using Deep Learning to Quantify the Beauty of Outdoor Places” by researchers at the University of Warwick and the Alan Turing Institute highlighted the importance of waterways in increasing the scenic value of outdoor spaces, especially in urban areas. **The ‘canal natural’ feature was found to be the strongest positive predictor of scenic quality in built-up urban areas** and ‘rivers’ were ranked eighth of thirty-four factors identified.

Maintaining and improving the contribution that waterways make to the scenic and functional quality of a place as it develops and London as a National Park City requires high quality design that considers the land and waterspaces together. The Trust and the Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) have published guiding principles for planning and designing developments near water. Water spaces should be seen as an integral part of a wider network and part of the public realm.

They should be the starting point for consideration and not be treated as just settings or backdrops for development, but as spaces and leisure and commercial resources in their own right. By optimising views of the water, developments can generate natural surveillance of water space, and encourage and improve access to, along and from the water.

Urban regeneration by the Trust, its partners and other third parties over the last decade or so in London has delivered better used and valued waterway spaces. We want all local authorities and developers in close proximity to waterway corridors to be committed to delivering this for the benefit of their residents, users and workers as the substantial regeneration alongside the Trust’s waterways in London is planned and delivered. Robust design policies and masterplanning will be required.

Brentford Phase 1



Helping to meet London’s heating and cooling energy needs

Water from the Trust’s waterways can be used for heating and cooling new developments.

The need to decarbonise heating with low carbon solutions using heat pumps is a priority both nationally and in our major cities. Our waterways have the potential to provide not only low carbon energy, which can be extracted by water source heat pumps, but also as an enabler for decentralised energy networks. Currently in Docklands we are working with a number of stakeholders to deliver a low carbon energy solution.

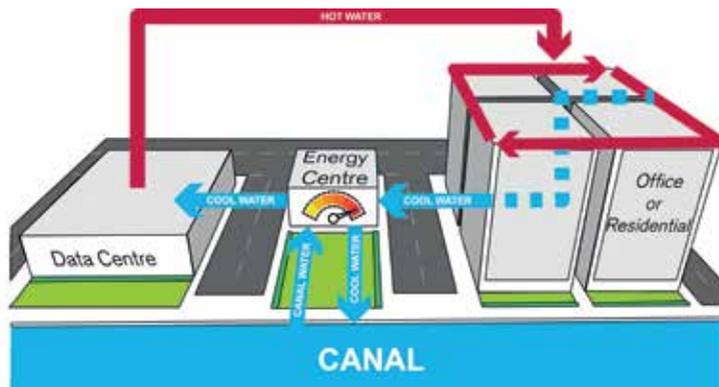
The technology required to deliver cooling from canal and dock water is already successfully used in London:

- Glaxo Smith Kline are using water from the Grand Union Canal as an alternative to air conditioning

at its head office at Brentford. The scheme has reduced their carbon dioxide emissions by 920 tonnes per year and has significantly lowered its energy bills.

- Two new residential developments, Dollar Bay and Baltimore Wharf in Docklands are using the dock as a source of low carbon cooling.

The urban heat island effect is a feature of modern cities – the build-up of heat in densely developed urban cores. Waterways can provide ‘blue lungs’ for residents and visitors alike, contributing to urban cooling in hot summer months.



Supporting businesses & job creation

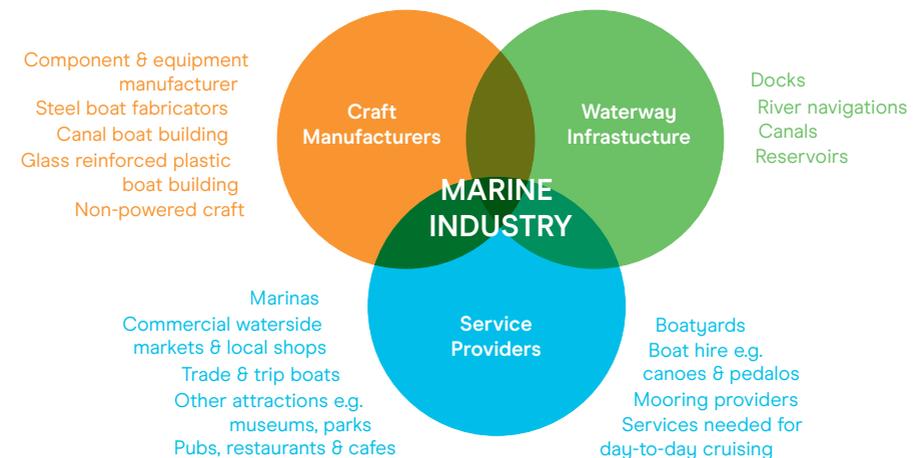
Bringing life to our waterways is at the heart of what we do.

Areas in need of regeneration are often located close to waterways, linked to their former industrial use. **Over the past 20 years, waterways have been both the catalyst and the focus for an immense amount of regeneration and development.**

Some of London’s most popular and successful business areas are located alongside water, such as London Docklands, Paddington and Park Royal. Waterways are also supporting more community-based SMEs and social enterprises in some of the most dynamic areas of the city.

For some businesses, waterways provide an attractive amenity for their workforce, whilst for some, such as floating businesses, they are absolutely essential to their success.

The Trust’s continued commitment to improving waterway environments and access through good design and the provision of interactive spaces along our waterways contributes to the ability of private companies to prosper.



On-water neighbourhoods

Living on the water has become an increasingly popular choice in London.

There has been a significant growth in the number of boats using the Trust's waterways in London in the last decade (increasing from around 2000 in 2010 to 5000 in 2018), especially those continuously cruising the network. **We estimate that more than half of the boats on our London waterways are now used as a permanent home.**

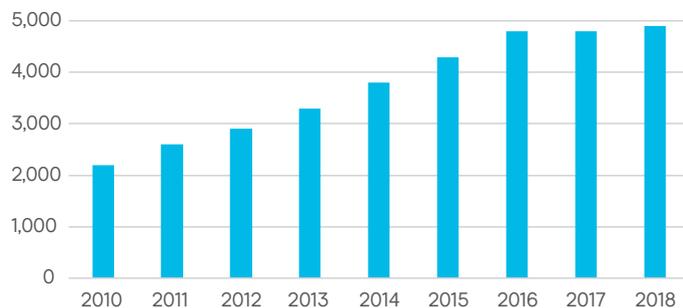
The growth in the popularity of boating has brought many benefits.

Part of our London Mooring Strategy is to facilitate, where possible, additional long-term offside moorings (including residential moorings, where appropriate) on quieter parts of our waterways in London, which may require the support of local authorities through the planning process.

We hope that the actions proposed in the London Mooring Strategy will help to maintain or improve conditions for all waterway users, such as access for other water-based activities including angling, rowing, canoeing and paddle-boarding and towpath users.

The provision of new long-term moorings can help to provide additional housing choice. In certain locations, there may be opportunities to deliver other forms of floating accommodation that can deliver these same benefits and help to meet development needs.

Figure 2: Growth in boat numbers on our waterways in London



Notes:

- Figures rounded to nearest 100

- Includes boats in some marinas, basins and waterways connected to the Trust's network where a licence from the Trust is not required



Boating on the Lee Valley Navigation

Outputs from the London Mooring Strategy:

1. Development of new long-term moorings to be supported and prioritised in quieter/less busy areas of the London waterways.
2. Encourage development of long-term moorings from a diverse range of providers.
3. Improve provision, maintenance and management of short-stay moorings.
4. Develop custom short-stay moorings (such as pre-bookable) to meet customer demand.
5. Winter moorings that recognise and balance the needs of all customers' using the waterways.
6. Better provision and management of boating facilities to meet customer need.
7. Improve communication between boaters and the Trust.
8. Increase business boating activity in key London waterway destinations.
9. Support activities that ensure accessible and affordable access to the water for all.

Your health, wellbeing & happiness

Our waterways touch many aspects of society and enhance the physical and mental health of the population.

Research shows that any visit to a waterway is associated with higher levels of life satisfaction than for non-waterway users and visiting regularly is associated with even higher levels of life satisfaction. Nationally, the total wellbeing value of visits to waterways is estimated at £3.8bn per annum.⁴

From our towpath surveys in London, the majority of users agree that access to our waterways encourages them to do more exercise than they otherwise would do. Over 90% of the towpath users surveyed engage in exercise that raises their heart rates within the boroughs that the surveys were undertaken (Westminster and Haringey). This figure was only just over 50% amongst the general population.⁵

We know that users have a broad range of primary motivations for visiting our waterways, with activities based around relaxation and socialising being frequently cited. Almost all respondents to our towpath surveys in London agree that the waterways are a good place to relax and de-stress.

Improved access and greater promotion of our waterways could play an important role in improving both mental and physical health, especially in the communities that are close to our waterways but are unaware of them. Physical improvements to towpaths and their access can help to achieve this, but so can cultural and community engagement initiatives that help communities to see the waterways as the inclusive and free resources for many activities that they are.

We engage with GPs and community groups to promote Healthy Walks and other events using our waterways to help people find ways to incorporate exercise and enjoyment into their everyday lives. We want to do more with partner organisations to identify and break down barriers that can prevent communities from benefitting from our waterways.

We believe our waterways can make a positive contribution to the National Park City and deliver the same benefits as Healthy Streets, including providing spaces for people to relax, things for people to see and do and an escape from the noise of motor vehicles.



GoodGym

Use of towpaths, wellbeing and active participation all come together in a collaboration between GoodGym (a not-for-profit volunteer keep fit initiative) and the Trust in London:

- A team of runners from GoodGym Brent are helping the Trust to care for the Brent Feeder and the Grand Union Canal near Harlesden, through our adoption programme.

- GoodGym Ealing have been at work on the Grand Union Canal near Hanwell.
- GoodGym Haringey have helped at volunteering events near Tottenham and Stonebridge Locks on the Lee Navigation.
- Two further GoodGyms are working consistently in central London and have spaces allocated to access their own tools.

⁴ Simetrica “Assessing the wellbeing impacts of waterways usage in England and Wales”

⁵ In the 2016 Sport England Active People Survey.

Arts & cultural assets

Events and installations provided by the Trust as part of our community engagement programmes help to inspire positive memories of places and waterways. They also provide a further incentive for people to engage in activities on the waterways that can have wider benefits, such as physical and mental health.



Newton's Cottage was a temporary, ambitious architectural artwork sited at Carpenter's Road Lock in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The 'cottage' was an enlarged timber-frame edifice echoing the structure of the old lock keeper's house that once stood at Carpenter's Road. A series of public events were curated at Newton's Cottage to raise awareness of the significance of this historic site.

Newton's Cottage, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Observatorium. Credit: Thierry Bal

Learning & enhancing skills

We are working to inspire children and young people to consider engineering as a profession, to equip them with the skills they need to thrive in the workplace and to help tackle the skills shortage within UK engineering organisations.

Engineering is facing a skills shortage and improving interest in STEM subjects and careers is a vital part of tackling this. Research has shown that engineering activities in schools make students view engineering more positively, with students taking part in these activities also being twice as likely to understand what engineering careers mean.

As an organisation, we employ many STEM professionals and nearly all our work is STEM related. We are therefore in a great position to deliver a STEM learning programme focussed on real life examples, engaging with children and young people and for them to engage with waterways in innovative and unique ways.

Through our work with schools, we want to:

- bring real life practical examples to the teaching profession;
- enable pupils to make better informed career decisions;

- contribute to a skilled workforce;
- encourage greater diversity within the workforce;
- help develop confident and knowledgeable individuals.

In 2019, Aramco have agreed to fund a three-year STEM programme for secondary schools in London. We will be able to recruit a dedicated member of staff who, along with our STEM ambassadors and volunteers, will deliver our programme within schools and, most importantly, canalside where pupils will visit and meet our inspirational engineers.

There are great opportunities for people of all ages to expand their knowledge and skills through visits to our waterways and by working with the Trust.

Engaged people & cohesive communities

Half of the people who live within 1km of our waterways in London are Black, Asian or from another minority ethnic group. Yet our user surveys show this significant proportion of local communities is under-represented amongst waterway and towpath users.

To deliver the greatest impact, users of the waterways and towpaths should more closely reflect the wide diversity of the local communities around them. This will enable a wider range of users to share in the benefits. **It is vital that we actively promote the waterways as inclusive spaces for all Londoners.** There are a variety of ways that the Trust does this both in London and nationally.

Community engagement, volunteering and local adoptions are key ways that the Trust connects local people with the waterways. In 2018/19 in our London and South East Region volunteers worked for approximately 74,000 hours to provide a huge variety of skills and expertise to our waterways.

Opportunities include caring for the waterway, welcoming and supporting its users and teaching younger generations about it.

Adoptions offer the opportunity for communities to help to shape the waterway place that's local and important to them. The work of the Hanover School Association near City Road Lock in Islington is a great example. Through their adoption, they have worked with the Trust to design, fundraise, deliver and maintain a school garden on a disused piece of land next to the towpath, in a borough with the lowest level of green space in England. London has seen the first canal 'super-adoption' in the country, with a coalition led by PoplarHARCA adopting the Limehouse Cut and already starting to deliver benefits. Today an estimated 38 miles of waterways owned by the Trust in our London and South East Region have been adopted.



School visit to the Grand Union Canal

Spirit of Stonebridge

The Trust has worked with local business (the local Waterside Café), Action for Kids, the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority and the Friends of Tottenham Marshes, with funding from Tesco's 'Bags of Help' to transform the area around Stonebridge Lock and Waterside Centre on the River Lee. An area that had become the subject of regular vandalism and had the highest repair bills of any operational property on our network is now a community hub, with an edible garden and terrace.

A combination of the local boating community, volunteer lock keepers for the Trust, local groups and the London Community Rehabilitation Company all now play a key role in helping to ensure that the improvements are sustainable and act as a catalyst for further local enhancements.

Lower Regent's Coalition

"Since we got a regular litter picking group going in 2013 it's been a case of 'what else we can do to make our stretch even better?'. We've been successful in a number of funding pitches, up to £20k in one case, from the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund. These grants have allowed us to build floating reed beds that provide habitat for birds, fish and invertebrates. With more grant funding we've able to create two 150m² wildflower meadows on either side of the canal."

Molly Gadenz

from the Lower Regent's Coalition who have adopted the stretch of the Regent's Canal from Limehouse Basin to Mile End

Old Oak & Park Royal

The Grand Union Canal sits at the heart of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) area in west London.

There is a great opportunity to create high quality waterway neighbourhoods as part of the development of approximately 27,000 new homes, 70,000 new jobs, an HS2 station and new London Overground stations.

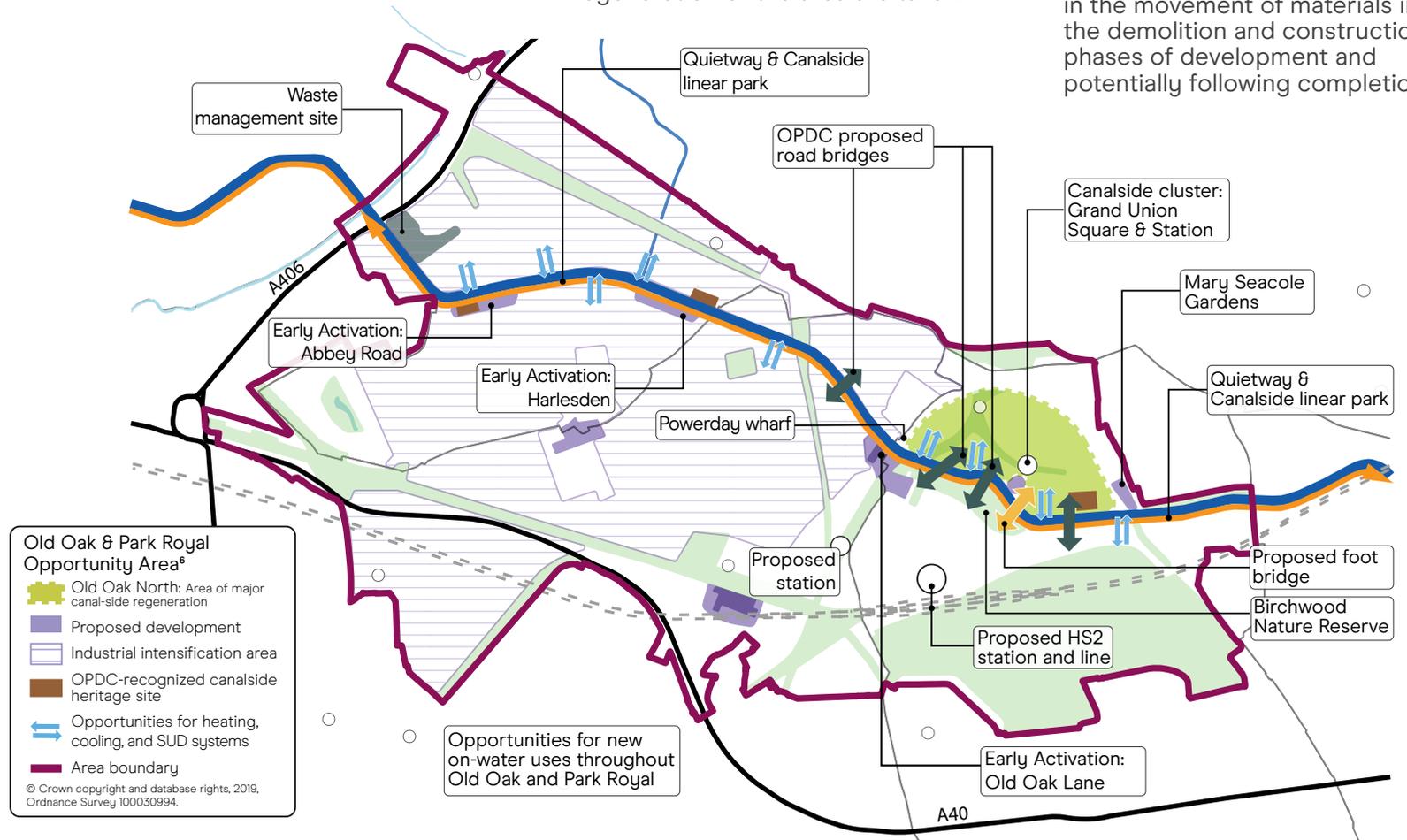
The Development Corporation shares the Trust's view that the canal corridor is a key opportunity for enhanced green/blue linkages, a key part of its sustainable future and an important feature in the approach to placemaking. Facilitating improved activity on the waterway corridor through development runs through the OPDC Draft Local Plan. Delivering high quality standards of placemaking in combination with long-term management plans will be key to the success of the waterside development within the OPDC area.

Improvements to the towpath and access points, including their maintenance, will be needed but in a way that it is consistent with the character of the waterway and the shared use nature of the towpath.

We have been working closely with the OPDC on the Grand Union Canal policy in its Local Plan and supporting the preparation of more detailed studies into canal enhancement opportunities. We want the canal environment and the experience of canal users to be key considerations in the masterplanning of new communities and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities for the waterway to play a key role in the sustainable regeneration of the area are taken.

There is also potential to:

- See the canal as part of the strategic sustainable urban drainage system for Old Oak and Park Royal, which would help to reduce the need to undertake costly upgrades to mains drainage infrastructure;
- Use the canal to support heating and cooling needs as part of a heat network;
- Use the waterway to play a role in the movement of materials in the demolition and construction phases of development and potentially following completion.



⁶ Information and plans are based on the OPDC's Draft Local Plan

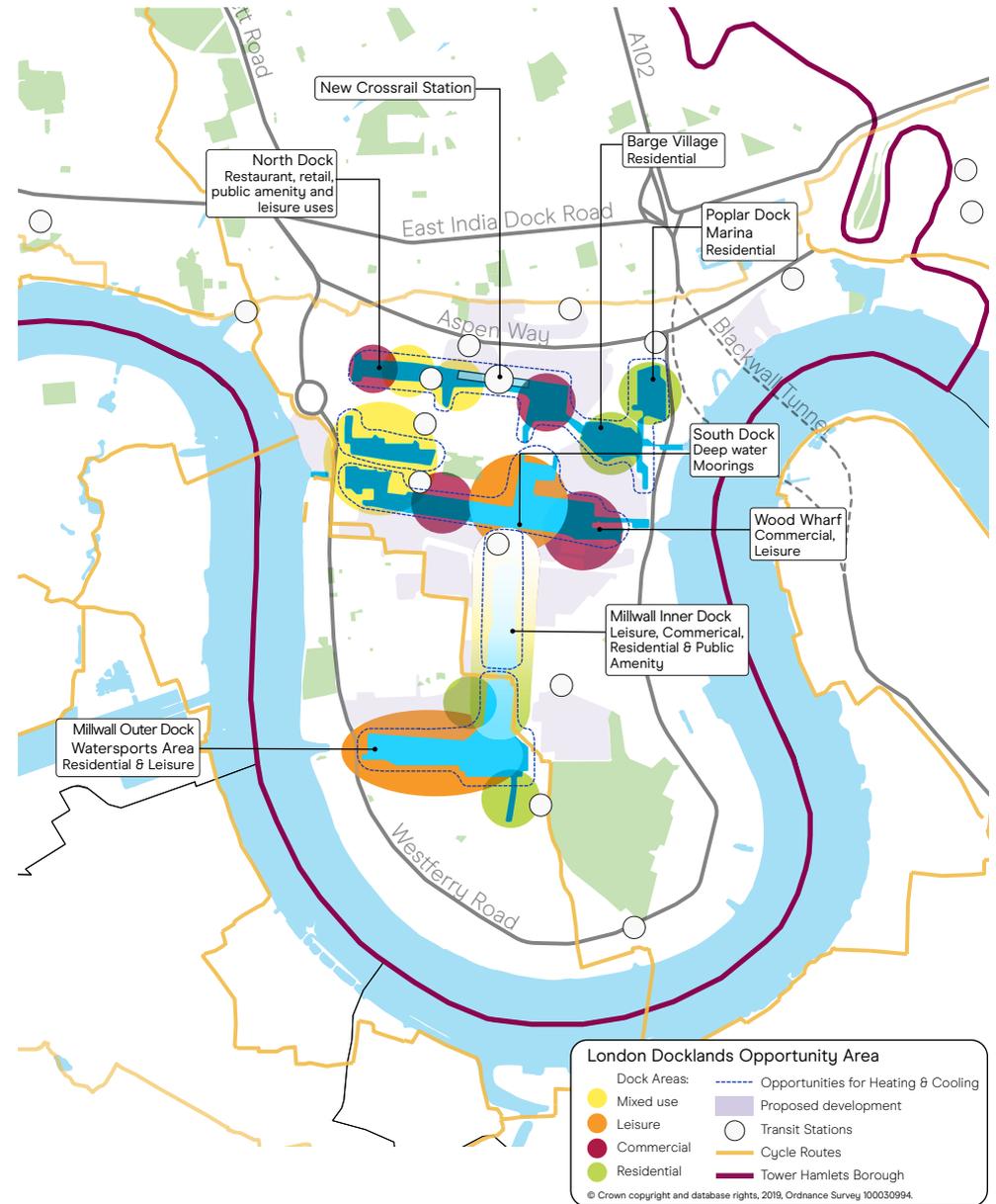
Docklands

Much of the land around the docks on the Isle of Dogs is now vibrant, bustling with activity. However, large areas of the docks themselves remain underused areas of open water that do little to evoke the area's heritage as a place where the on-water and dock-side activities went hand-in-hand.

Encouraging a range of uses within waterspaces is an important part of creating thriving waterway places that can add to the diversity and vibrancy of the area. As the Isle of Dogs continues to deliver the substantial levels of growth that London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the Mayor have planned, it will be important to ensure that new waterside development complements existing important mooring locations for boats, such as the southern side of South Dock, and that new opportunities to encourage on-water uses are taken.

The impact of further tall buildings on waterspaces – particularly on the microclimate, navigability and biodiversity – needs to be carefully considered as part of masterplanning. It should take both land and water into account and how the docks can be used to support heating and cooling networks for the many surrounding developments.

New floating uses within the docks can help to bring new economic and cultural opportunities for the residents, workers and visitors to Docklands. They can also help to meet the borough's development needs and provide accommodation choice, whilst improving natural surveillance and enhancing local character. The large expanses of water, relative to the canal network, provide the opportunity for more innovative on-water uses to be delivered that allow residents, workers and visitors greater opportunities to engage with the waterspaces, whilst also providing environmental benefits, such as improved habitat.



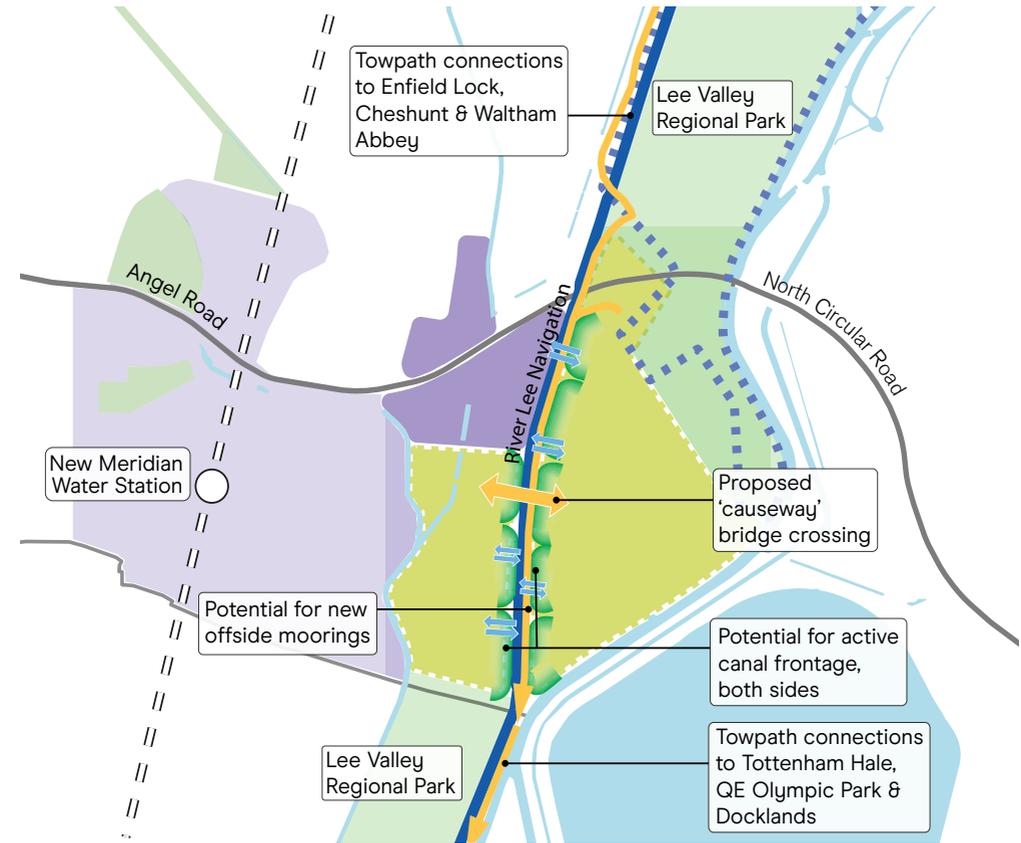
Meridian Water

The waterway and waterside spaces should be a central reason why people want to live, work and visit Meridian Water, once the regeneration is complete.

The Trust shares Enfield Council's aspiration for the development to deliver an active waterway through inclusive masterplanning and high quality urban design, delivering active frontages to the Lee Navigation and improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists to the towpath, helping to create a healthy community.

Emerging plans recognise the potential for a wide variety of on-water uses, including freight, leisure, tourism, education, waterbus and water taxi services along the Lee Navigation. There are potential opportunities to go further than this by creating new waterspaces to help develop the character of Meridian Water as an attractive and distinctive place.

The Lee Navigation can support the sustainable development of Meridian Water as developers take opportunities to use the waterway for heating and cooling. Improvements to the canal towpath and access to it should play a major role in improving north-south connectivity from the site to existing communities and employment centres and areas of regeneration, such as Tottenham Hale, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and London Docklands, adding further justification for the River Lee Navigation to become a future Quietway. It will also provide an attractive means of accessing the surrounding Lee Valley Regional Park. New development should make a proportionate contribution to canal improvements and upkeep.



Meridian Water Opportunity Area⁷

- Area of potential canal-side regeneration
- Employment and retail intensification area
- Opportunities for heating, cooling and SUD systems
- Areas of regeneration within the wider Meridian Water plan
- Area boundary

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⁷ Information taken from Enfield Council's draft Edmonton Leaside Area Action Plan

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The Trust’s waterways contributed to the success of London’s Olympic Games and they have benefitted the regeneration in this part of East London.

Careful restoration of the Bow Back Rivers has created space for nature and encouraged wildlife to return to this part of East London. Along with the River Lee Navigation they have become popular destinations for walkers, cyclists and boaters, providing a great way to visit and explore this increasingly popular area. The Trust-led, HLF-funded, project to restore the historic Carpenters Road Lock has further opened up the waterways of the QE Olympic Park.

The legacy regeneration is far from complete. Plans from the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) identify development allocations to build upon the success of the Olympics and provide comprehensive regeneration of the area. Key regeneration schemes that will impact on the Trust’s waterways and their communities include:

- The Cultural and Education District, which will bring the V&A, BBC, Sadler’s Wells Theatre, University College London and the University of the Arts London to Stratford, providing London’s largest cultural and educational district to be created in 100 years.

- Regeneration of Hackney Wick town centre.
- The new Pudding Mill community.
- The Sugar House Lane employment area.
- Bromley by Bow supermarket remodelling and primary school.

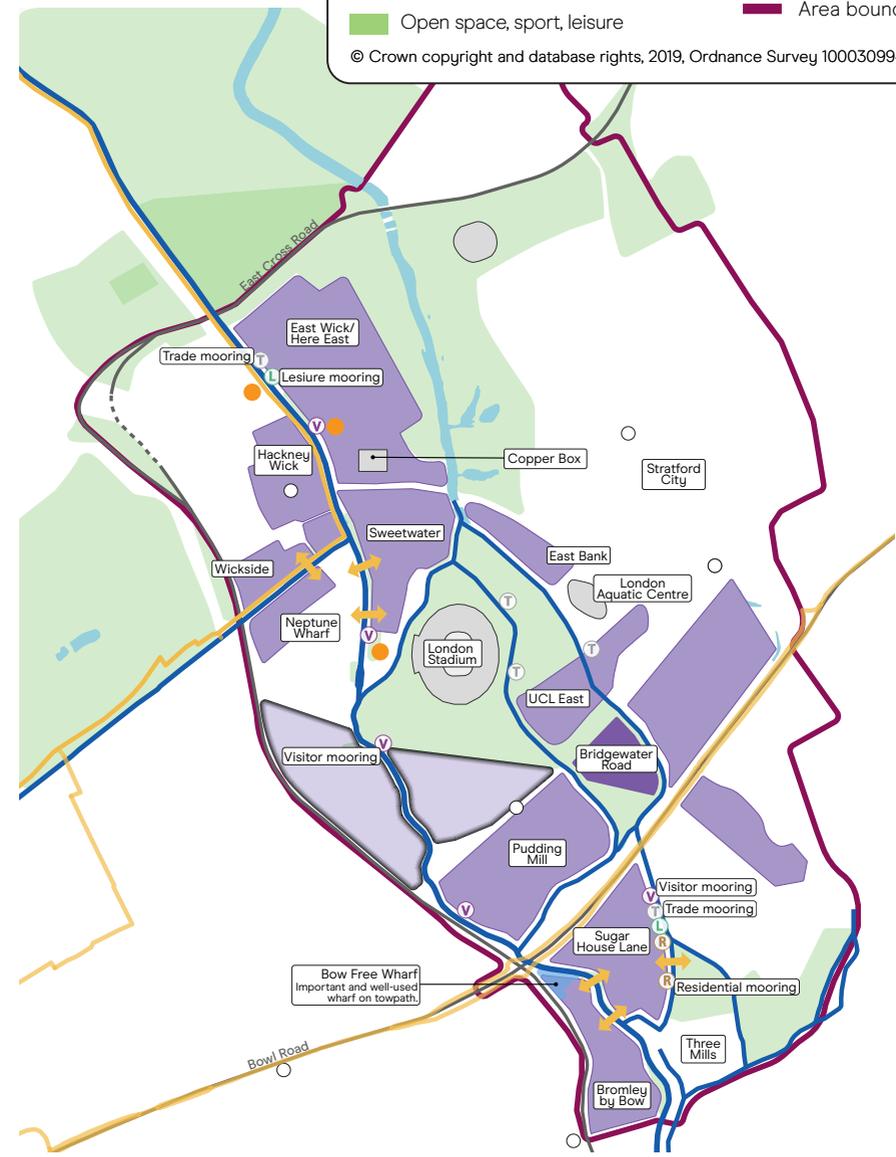
We want to see developments in the London Legacy area continue to improve the quality of the waterways and access to them and take the opportunities that they offer for ‘Good Growth’. We want to ensure that significant developments, like the Cultural and Education District, improve the integration of land and waterways, including through pontoons and moorings on the water as well as active bankside frontages with high quality public open space.

The new Local Plan and masterplans should continue to identify new connection points, proposed open spaces and active frontages. It should continue to aim for the creation of distinctive waterway environments and pursue the aspirations that the Trust and the LLDC set out in the waterspace strategy for the area.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Opportunity Area

 Residential development area	 Moorings
 Mixed use regeneration area	 Cycle routes
 Industrial intensification area	 Transit stations
 Improved crossings and connections	 Schools
 Open space, sport, leisure	 Area boundary

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Regent's 200

We want to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Regent's Canal with a programme of local engagement activities.

There are already some excellent projects taking place along the Regent's through groups such as the Lower Regent's Coalition and Limehouse Social. By working in partnership with the creative community, schools and cultural organisations along the canal, we can better appeal to the mixed community around the Regent's, including the 350,000 Londoners that live within a 15-minute walk of it.

We can enhance the Regent's Canal as a setting for culture, exercise, learning, volunteering, relaxation and enrichment. These improvements will provide a better customer experience for the hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

For Regent's 200 in 2020, we want to focus on wildlife and greening, learning and skills, place, and culture and heritage. We plan on engaging with local schools and community groups and working collaboratively with them to improve hidden corners and unloved spaces. This will be run alongside a learning and volunteering programme and groups will be supported to adopt their newly improved space for the long-term.

Working in partnership with other organisations, participants will gain new skills, will learn about the history of the canal and will take part in cultural activities in newly improved spaces.



Angel Festival, Regent's Canal

Our credentials

Strong track record in delivery and partnership working

The Canal & River Trust is an experienced, innovative and reliable delivery partner. We have worked in partnership with a number of public, private and voluntary organisations across a range of projects.

Major infrastructure projects

Living waterways – engineering excellence

Regeneration and development Transforming places – creating great places



Images
Top: Carpenters Road Lock
Left: Prescott Lock, Olympic Waterways



Images
Top: Brentford, Phase 1
Above: King's Cross waterfront
Left: Completed development at Bow Wharf

Supporting our waterways to deliver more

We invite public, private and voluntary sector organisations and individuals that share our vision for how our waterways in London can support the city's 'Good Growth' to work with us to help deliver these benefits.



Our waterways already deliver many great benefits for London and Londoners. However, with more people caring for them, more funding to improve them and policies that provide them the right levels of protection, they can do more:

- We want the Mayor, boroughs, developers, key stakeholders and communities to value, and make the most of, the role that waterways play in supporting the 'Good Growth' of London and its neighbourhoods and the wellbeing of Londoners.
- Along with partners, we want to maintain and increase our engagement with Londoners on or near our waterways and work with them to create a greater sense of pride in these places, whilst delivering more volunteering, adoptions, education and skills development opportunities.
- We want London's canals to be as well-known as its parks and for them to be an important part of the National Park City. The National Park City concept should protect what is great about our waterways, including the peaceful spaces and wildlife corridors they provide, but not prevent appropriate initiatives that allow more people to benefit from them and for them to support 'Good Growth'.
- Investment in our towpaths can support more people to use them for active, sustainable travel. Continuing the joint working with the Mayor and boroughs that we have started on Quietways on our network has the potential to help deliver the Mayor's vision to significantly increase levels of walking and cycling. This can deliver many of the same benefits as Healthy Streets and should be seen as complementary.
- To support the major regeneration that they have planned, we want the Mayor and boroughs to put in place policies that deliver high quality placemaking and design along, and adjacent to, waterways. We want this to build on the lessons that can be learnt from the many regeneration schemes that have already begun or are now completed in order to deliver active, vibrant waterway neighbourhoods.
- We support the Mayor's aim of reducing the exposure of Londoners to harmful pollution and we think that our waterways have a role to play. However, proposals to regulate emissions from vessels using waterways in London should be proportionate to the scale of emissions arising. We're keen to continue to work in partnership with boroughs and other stakeholders to provide positive solutions.
- We want to work with the Mayor, boroughs and other partners to realise the cultural benefit of the waterways, including their historic importance, to provide great experiences for existing users and to attract new audiences.
- We want partners to help realise the potential that waterways have for London's green future by facilitating the delivery of heating and cooling networks, providing new water supply options, including helping to meet strategic water resource requirements, and continuing to provide sustainable drainage solutions.

Contact us

We believe that London's Waterways can help to support London's Good Growth, play a key role in the National Park City and deliver many of the benefits of Healthy Streets. If you share our vision, and wish to explore any of the opportunities set out in this Prospectus, please contact us.

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**Find out more about how we are making
life better by water in your area:**

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us>



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

