

URBAN REGENERATION: BARKING RIVERSIDE



The site

Barking Riverside is a large development site on the north bank of the River Thames that aims to provide between 6000 and 12,000 new homes in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. One of the largest redevelopment sites on brownfield land in the East Thames Corridor, it had supported a variety of industrial uses over the years including power generation and landfill. Part of the site had also been used as allotment land. Two watercourses drain through it into the River Thames.

The task

Baker Shepherd Gillespie (BSG) was commissioned by LDA Design in 2003 to carry out a comprehensive suite of ecological studies. These included habitat and botanical surveys and protected species surveys for bats, breeding birds, wintering birds, invertebrates, amphibians and mammals. Several sites of Metropolitan and Borough importance for nature conservation were present within the project area and these were found to support a range of sensitive species. These included four species of bat, water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*), black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), marsh warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*), a variety of wintering bird species in good numbers and an excellent invertebrate assemblage. The nationally scarce divided sedge (*Carex divisa*), dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) and yellow vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*), as well as a number of plant species known to be locally distributed or rare in Greater London, were found. Also present were stands of invasive Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

As a follow-up to the survey work, BSG prepared the ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement that accompanied the planning application. This involved evaluation of potential impacts on sensitive ecological receptors in the local, Borough, Greater London, regional and national context. It also required close liaison with the master planners, landscape architects and hydrological engineers to develop a suite of mitigation and compensation measures to address the predicted impacts of the development.

The results

Detailed designs have been developed through this process including a design guide for habitat creation, protection and enhancement that complements the planned requirements for flood storage and formal recreational space. Habitats to be created include brownfield grassland, brown rooftops, wetlands in the form of attenuation ponds and ditches and wet woodland.



The design guide also includes suggested species mixtures and special mitigation measures for sensitive species such as black redstart and water vole.

Offices in:

Bakewell, Oxford,
Berwick-upon-Tweed
& Monmouth

Contact: Oxford

Tel: 01865 883833

Fax: 01865 887055

www.bsg-ecology.com

info@bsg-ecology.com