

CASE STUDY



MF Case 17: London, United Kingdom Millennium Site, - Thames River Restoration



The unique opportunity presented by the Millennium site has enabled the Environment Agency to demonstrate best practice approaches to providing new open space and flood defence works.

Source for the above two photos:

https://de.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images:_ylt=AwrSbl9luw1XvxQAYX4zCQx.;_ylu=X3oDMTByNWU4cGh1BG NvbG8DZ3ExBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw--?p=Millennium+Site+Greenwich+Peninsular&fr=ush-mailn

In the year 2000, Greenwich hosted the Millennium Exhibition on the Greenwich Peninsular site. Bounded by the River Thames to the North and north east, the highly contaminated and largely derelict site has a total of 2,200 metres of river frontage.

Environment Agency Interests

- Contaminated land from previous industrial uses.
- Poor condition of tidal defences and threat of encroachment.
- Opportunity to promote innovative riverbank design.
- Opportunity to promote access and education initiatives.

The Environment Agency encouraged the developer to provide an innovative flood defence wall, incorporating some setting back to create enlarged beaches, an "ecological sculpture", tidal terraces, timber fendering on vertical flood defence walls, beach replenishment/creation and improved habitats for a potential multitude of wildlife. The cost of the terrace flood defences is lower than traditional sheet pile walls and the land value of the site has improved as a result of the ecological enhancements. As part of the riverside scheme, education signage, riverside paths and cycle ways will be a permanent feature of the site.

Policy

The project was a high-profile investment strongly supported by the then national government.

Preconditions

The site was largely in government hands and that of a large utility, British Gas, which had no operational need for the site.

Financing and Funding

The Millennium Commission was funded by proceeds from the National Lottery and through Visitor charges. Some GBP 603 million came from the former with GBP 189 million from ticket sales.

Institutions

It was implemented through the Millennium Experience Company, the development entity of the Millennium Commission. In respect of the river greening, British Gas and English Partnerships worked closely with the Environment Agency to create the best practice riverbank scheme at the Millennium site. The dome constructed on the site was subsequently sold to, and redeveloped into an entertainment venue by the Anschutz Entertainment Group.



Photo Source: URBED. 2009. *Greenwich Millennium Village*. London. website: www.urbed.co.uk
http://urbed.coop/sites/default/files/05%20TEN%20Group,%20Re-port%20of%20Meeting%205,%20Series%2005_Greenwich_%2

Lessons Learned

The exhibition part of the project was highly controversial, and would probably not have been undertaken if any rigorous economic analysis was applied to the project. However, the eventual outcome is a benefit to the community as a whole.

References

Environment Agency, 25 Case Studies of river restoration work in London and the south east of England
<http://www.therrc.co.uk/publications/enhancing-environment-25-case-studies-thames-region>
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmpublic/409/409.pdf>

Credentials

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