



LAND OF THE FANNS

Teacher Briefing

Beam Parklands

From, Land of the Fanns Online Resource

Beam Parklands

Cortina Dr,

Rainham RM13 8DH

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/the-outdoor-classroom>

<https://thelandtrust.org.uk/space/beam-parklands/>

Summary

- 53-hectare (131 acres)
- Functional flood prevention area - a wetland park.
- Its primary function is as a flood defence and as such the land protects 570 residential properties, two primary schools, three social clubs and 63 industrial and commercial properties on its doorstep and downstream. However when it's not flooded, which is the vast majority of the year, it is now a multifunctional open space that the community can use and where nature can thrive.
- A primary role of Beam Parklands is flood protection. The park provides safe storage of 450,000m³ of water - equivalent of around 180 Olympic swimming pools - that in turn protects neighbouring homes, businesses and areas identified for current and future employment. There will be times, a couple of days each year, when parts of the site are underwater. However, the paths and bridges have been designed to withstand flooding and the habitats that have been created are representative of environments that experience regular flooding.
- Community orchard, areas for natural play
- Variety of natural habitats where nature can thrive.

History

- The site is located amidst the industrial and residential legacy of the Ford motorcar works.
- The area has remained largely untouched and unmanaged throughout the 20th century in order to avoid a smallpox isolation hospital that had been on the land.
- In recent years, the site has also functioned as a flood storage reservoir, protecting homes, schools and businesses, including Barking power station.

- The site had been badly neglected for many years and became a magnet for anti-social behaviour before the Land Trust took it on and opened it up to the public in 2011.

Flood Protection

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Wildlife & Insects

- Water vole
- Great crested newt
- Reed bunting bird
- Snipe birds
- Emperor dragonfly

Landscapes & Habitats

- Wetland
- Orchard
- River
- Stream
- Hedgerow and Shrubs
- Woodland
- Meadow
- Wet Woodland
- Reedbed
- Acid grassland