**OVERVIEW**

It is part of the former Canada Dock - the majority was filled in following the 1970s dock closures.

- It is the only freshwater dock in the London Docklands.
- Dock edges and water are owned by Southwark Council and managed by the Harbourmaster.
- It has SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) status. There is relevant policy and guidance in the Canada Water AAP, London Plan and both the London and Southwark Biodiversity Action Plans.
- The south and western edges fall within the proposed masterplan application boundary.
- The northern edge is by the library and the eastern edge is part of the approved Sellars development which includes steps down to the water.
- Rotherhithe Anglers currently use a fishing podium on the eastern edge.

**ECOLOGY**

- The dock is home to a range of bird, fish, amphibian and plant species and has SINC status due to habitats provided for breeding waterfowl.
- Floating planters and pontoons also provide wildlife habitats.
- Ecology consultant Waterman have undertaken studies of the dock SINC area; and the Rotherhithe Anglers and other local groups have helped provide us with a list of key known species.

**WATER LEVEL & QUALITY**

- The Canada Water Dock water levels have been dropping over time due to a suspected underground leak. There is a lack of flow into the Albion Channel which is contributing to algae problems.
- The exposed dock bed has encouraged litter and vermin issues.

**THE DOCK TODAY**

**FACTSHEET**

In July and August 2015 the Canada Water Masterplan team held two focus sessions looking at the opportunities, constraints and initial thinking for Canada Water Dock.

18 local people joined British Land, masterplanners Allies & Morrison, Landscape Architects Townshend, ecologists Waterman’s and Soundings for a walkabout of the dock followed by a workshop.

This summary sheet gives a headline overview of the dock today, the initial principles that British Land are working to and the feedback received.

**SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

Overall, feedback indicated that the ideas are heading in a positive direction. Yet, further development and studies are needed to fully understand if, and how, the aspirations could be turned into reality.

This is one of many conversations on Canada Water dock that will take place. Feedback received will help inform development of this part of the Draft Masterplan, which will be discussed at the next stage of consultation.

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**PRINCIPLES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**PRINCIPLES**

There are a number of principles and opportunities for Canada Water Dock that have been derived through consultation and research so far. Below is a summary of these principles, which have informed the ideas tested at the topic discussion session, see over for more details.

- Enhance enjoyment and use of Canada Water for the whole community – both existing and future residents, visitors and businesses.
- Ensure distinction of approach between western and southern edge.
- Enhance overall biodiversity and function of the dock through habitat enhancement in support of locally appropriate species and raising the dock water level.
- Enhance human enjoyment of the water by increasing public access and interaction.
- Reflect the heritage of the area and the dock.
- Creation of views to and from the water & spaces for waterside activity.
- Ensure proposals are integrated with the proposed ‘town centre square’ and green link.
- Management of western edge balanced with improved pedestrian experience of the proposed high street.
- Create opportunity for education and engagement.
- Ensure future management and maintenance regimes are fully considered.
- Consider the context and all four edges of the dock in the approach to the two sides that fall within the masterplan boundary.

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**TopiC DiSCuSSiOnS**

Masterplan, which will be discussed at the next stage will help inform development of this part of the Draft Dock that will take place. Feedback received will be used to further enhance our ideas and aspirations could be turned into reality.

Further development and studies are needed to fully understand if, and how, the ideas tested in these discussions could move forward. Yet, further development and action to move these ideas forward is currently being investigated.

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**View looking north over the dock.**

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**Walkabout: on the southern edge of Canada Water Dock.**

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**A huge thank you from the British Land team to everyone who took part and we look forward to further discussions on the dock and wider masterplan topics.**

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**Walkabout: at the meeting point of Canada Water & Albion Channel.**

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**Key**

- Decathlon site (being brought forward by Sellar)
- Surrey Quays Shopping Centre site
- Mulberry Business Park (being brought forward by Kings College London)
- Surrey Quays Leisure Park site
- SE16 Printworks site
- North, east, south and western edges

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**1986, looking south east over Canada Water Dock, showing its original size and shape.**

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**Southern edge, wildlife and dock bed.**
Based on the principles overleaf, the masterplanning team have developed some initial sketch ideas for treatment of the two edges that are within the Canada Water Masterplan boundary, see below.

The purpose of these was to test the team’s thinking and the images below represent ideas rather than any formalised plans.

Alongside the aims and overarching principles for the dock, this sparked much debate and discussion, to the right is a summary of the ideas and feedback received.

**IDEAS DISCUSSED**

**WHAT YOU SAID**

**SOUTHERN EDGE**

- Southern edge needs to be wide enough to accommodate restaurants/cafes alongside walking routes.
- Stepping in and out was supported; recognising that the current south edge of the dock is not original.
- Bring colour to dock edge to complement the green, potentially through uses, buildings or art.
- Places for all to sit, relax and enjoy are positive.
- Reference heritage, potentially using the shape/length of steps to reflect the historic deal (timber).
- Would trees on this edge block the view? Suggested for a lower planted landscape.
- Agreed swimming in the dock wasn’t desirable or appropriate for the wildlife.

**HERITAGE**

- Give greater prominence to the Deal Porter’s statue - debate about the cutting back vegetation in current position or moving the statue to an alternative location.
- Use design elements to reference dock heritage through use of materials such as timber and potentially incorporating local heritage elements such as crane tracks or referencing whaling heritage. It was noted that the cobbles on the western edge aren’t original to the dock edge.

**WATER LEVELS**

- Raising the water level by circa 50cm was supported to discourage rodents and foxes, protecting breeding birds and also to improve water quality.
- As long as water quality is well maintained, SUDS drainage into the dock was seen as a positive way to increase the water level.

**WILDLIFE**

There is an important opportunity to protect and enhance existing wildlife as a priority whilst enabling better human interaction and enjoyment of the dock.

**WESTERN EDGE**

- Concern about conflict between leisure and commuter users on the boardwalk between the stations. Discussed how different pedestrian speeds could be managed. Suggestions included using different surfacing.
- Safe board walk routes needed for those with limited mobility or prams, but opportunity to vary height/flow of board walk.
- There is an opportunity for better sight lines and natural surveillance.
- Broad support for sensitive management of the western edge including selective tree and undergrowth removal and making the statue more visible.
- The advantages of reeds were highlighted in supporting wildlife - better than trees.
- Anglers felt that the western edge could also work well for fishing (currently fishing pond on eastern edge).

**MANAGEMENT**

- Have natural surveillance, and low level lighting that doesn’t impact wildlife
- A ‘Friends of Canada Water Dock’ group could enable local involvement and help with maintenance. Some felt dock security and cleanliness should be professionally managed.
- Need to consider all users and enable positive activity including cyclists and skateboarders.

**URBAN CONTEXT**

- Opportunity to make the dock edges and water really special and a point of difference from the urban context.
- Carefully consider buildings around the dock, how they meet the ground and the building quality. Suggested use of timber, green and softer elements here. Sections and shadow studies would be useful.

**EDUCATION & LEARNING**

The dock is an opportunity to link with education and learning suggestions included; nature trail, ecology teaching centre, activities like pond dipping, interactive information panels, signs and underwater cameras.