



Surge Coop's purpose is to reanimate Bow Creek with affordable co-operatively run moorings, bringing historic wharves back into use, nurturing the biodiversity of the area and building lasting community links on land and water.

43 Unused Wharves

Of 43 wharves currently identified in the Lea River Park Plan, only 2 are currently in use, and these are on the Thames at Trinity Buoy Wharf.

With such a London-wide dearth of mooring opportunities, all of these historic wharfs should be considered for use, the surrounding highly populated canal network caters well for narrow boats, but the larger tidal Lea/Bow Creek has many unused mooring opportunities historically used for larger barges, which are now poorly catered for in London.

Historically wharves have been operated by small to medium businesses that needed riverside access, now these riverside properties are prime housing and development land, where only large developers are able to tender for large scale regeneration schemes, and

it is very difficult for them to incorporate the necessary facilities needed for the upkeep of usable historic moorings.

As soon as a new development has re-formed the landscape along the riverside, the lost access ladders, unloading areas, mooring bollards, cleats to tie to, power and water supplies become designed out, making it very difficult to re-integrate them or negotiate with large companies to have them re-instated for a small business or moorings operator.

We believe most historic wharves could be kept usable by co-operating with developers, and highlighting the ways moorings are a positive asset and can easily be regularised within the planning policy framework, these aims compliment the strategic vision for the Leaway.

- 1. Tredegar Wharf
- 2. Empress Wharf
- 3. Pacific Wharf
- 4. Sun Wharf
- 5. South Wharf
- 6. St Leonards Wharf
- 7. Ailsa Wharf
- 8. Islay Wharf
- 9. Devons Wharf
- 10. Priors Wharf
- 11. Mayer Parry Wharf
- 12. Worlands Wharf
- 13. Crown Wharf
- 14. Essex Wharf
- 15. Commercial Wharf
- 16. Creek Wharf
- 17. Moody Wharf
- 18. Ironbridge Wharf
- 19. Great Eastern Railway Wharf
- 20. Orchard Wharf
- 21. Silvocea Wharf
- 22. Bridge Wharf
- 23. Crown Wharf
- 24. Baldwins Wharf
- 25. Ocean Harvest Wharf
- 26. Upper Wharf
- 27. Cooperage Wharf
- 28. Middle Wharf
- 29. Old School Wharf
- 30. Davies Wharf
- 31. Glasshouse Wharf
- 32. Tar Wharf
- 33. Lower Wharf
- 34. Jubilee Wharf
- 35. Castle Wharf
- 36. Bond's Wharf
- 37. Hercules Wharf
- 38. Leamouth Wharf
- 39. Brunswick Wharf
- 40. Orchard Wharf
- 41. Union Wharf
- 42. Trinity Buoy Wharf
- 43. Thames Wharf





Building
Supplier







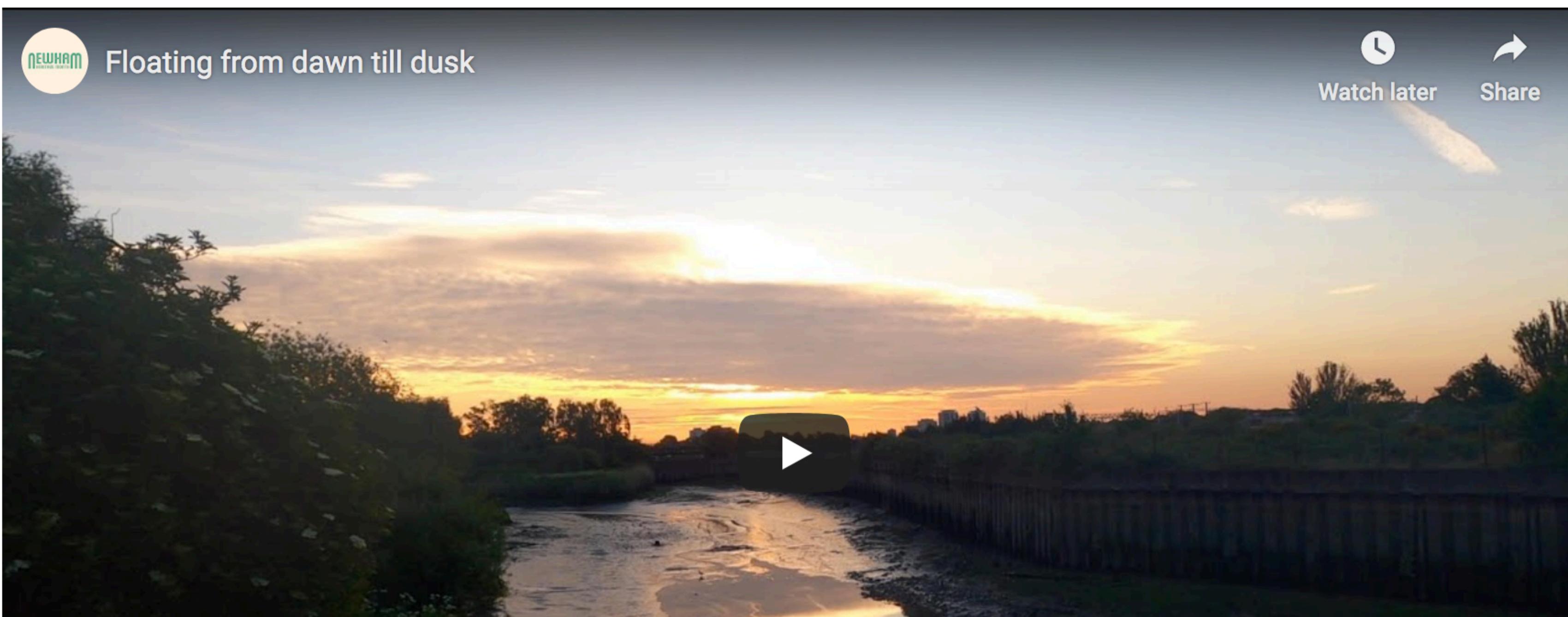


Floating from dawn until dusk

A film created collectively by all Surge members, and edited in collaboration with Emma Crouch.

Last year we designed and built a floating habitat, a 'liver for the river', with a platform for nesting, a tree branch for perching, and water plants around the outside to oxygenate the water and provide food and shelter for creatures above and below. A few weeks ago we filmed the launching of the island into the river, where it has now become a new home for Newham's flora and fauna.

The film peers into the Channelsea River, from dawn till dusk, above and below the water, exploring the local ecology and the launching of the island showing the changing habitat as the tide comes in and flows out.



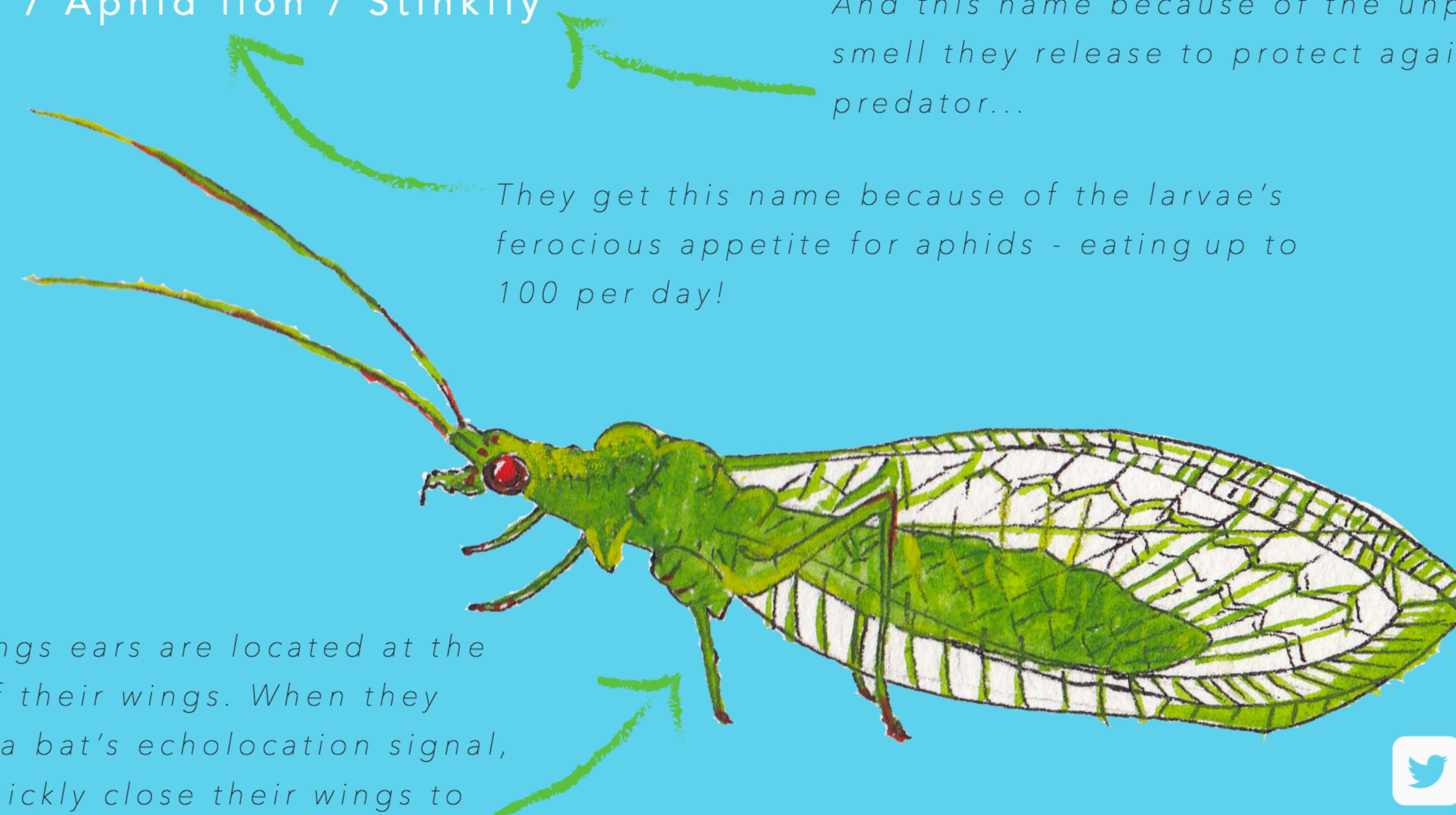
MAKING A HOME FOR . . .

LACEWINGS

Chrysopidae / Aphid lion / Stinkfly



This is the latin name for the green lacewing family, there are more than 1000 species of lacewing!



Lacewings ears are located at the base of their wings. When they detect a bat's echolocation signal, they quickly close their wings to appear smaller and avoid becoming the bat's dinner!

A great bug to have around the garden and wild spaces, pollinating and laying larvae that love to eat aphids. Make this hotel out of recycled materials, in time for winter, to give the lacewing a cosy home for hibernation, waking refreshing in Spring and ready to lay eggs and keep the aphids away!

And this name because of the unpleasant smell they release to protect against predator...

They get this name because of the larvae's ferocious appetite for aphids - eating up to 100 per day!



@surge_coop
www.surge.coop



Channelsea river 1900, courtesy Newham Archives and Local Studies



Channelsea, Surge Coop



Canning Town Wharf, courtesy Newham Archives and Local Studies



Channelsea and Barge Madorcha, Surge Coop



Channelsea Abbey Mills Pump, courtesy Newham Archives and Local Studies



Channelsea Abbey Mills Pump, Surge Coop

Dandelion Salve

A film about making foraged dandelion hand cream by artist Charlotte Wendy Law. Charlotte has been picking dandelions from around Channelsea over the last weeks and documenting the process of making this into a hand cream, essential for boaters and everyone at this time of increased hand washing! A little bit of self care at home.



An ear to the river

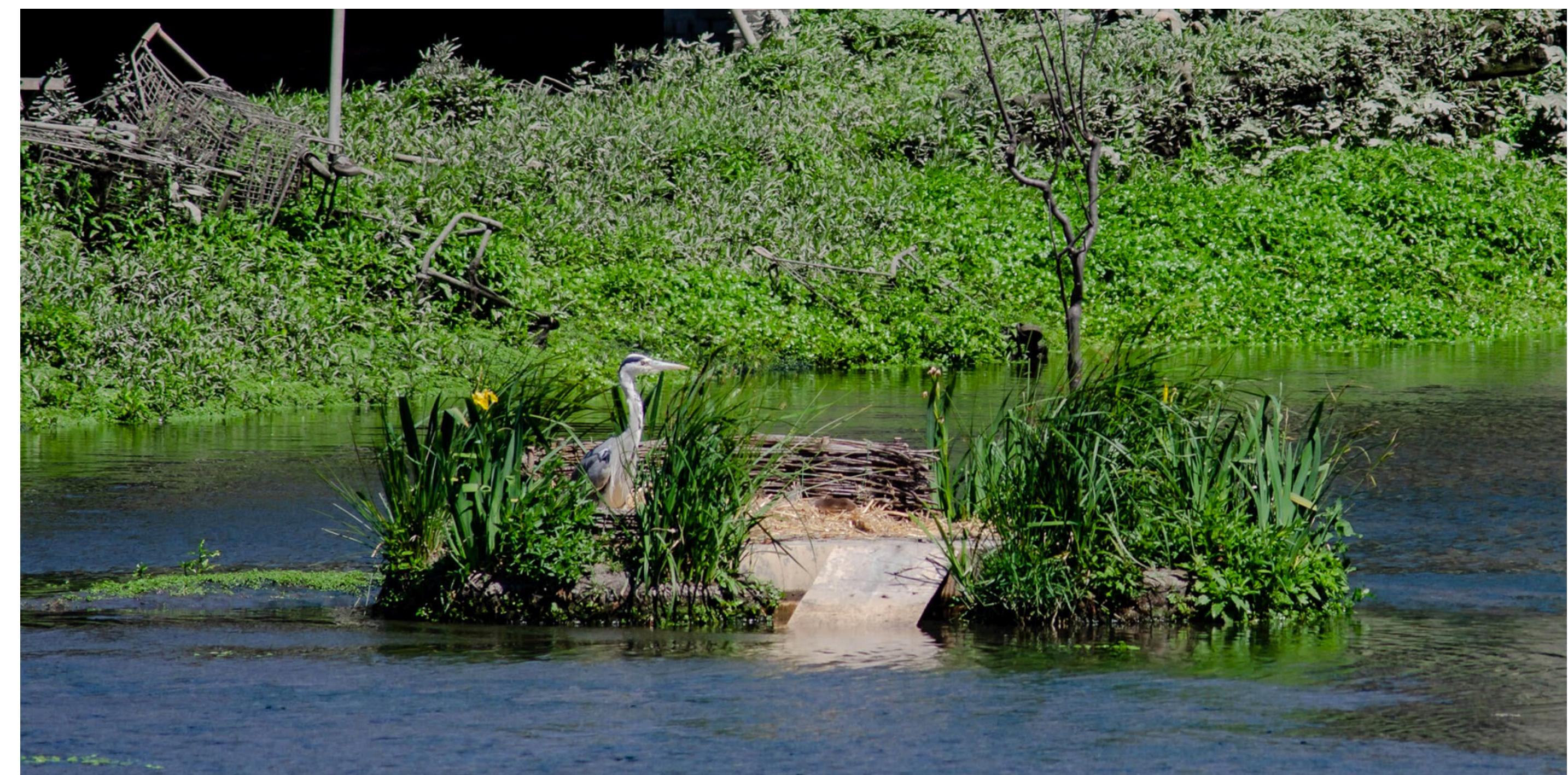
A composition by sound artist Stephen Shiell: hydrophones and microphones positioned under and over the water bringing you a mix of the Channelsea soundscape.

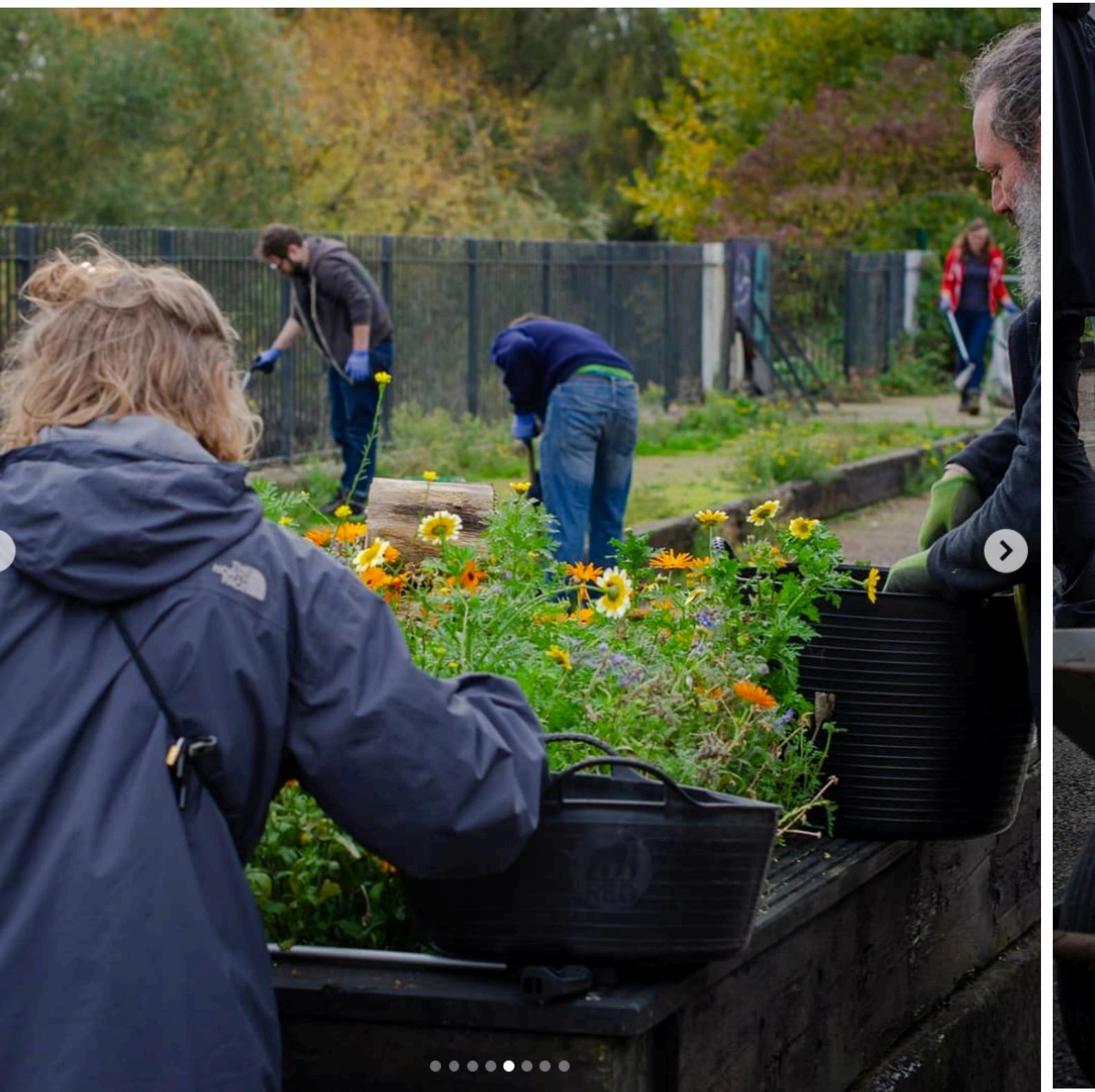


Bollards of Bow Creek

The Channelsea River tributary, and Bow Creek (where the River Lea becomes tidal) have a long history of water use, from invasion by the Danes in 894, to the more recent years of industrial decline and loss of historic wharves. There's now another change with a modern boom in housing developments along the Lea Valley, and some of the remaining markers of the industrial water-space heritage still remain. This compilation of the mooring bollards as mostly seen from the river today, shows the variety and colour of just a short stretch of London's waterways.

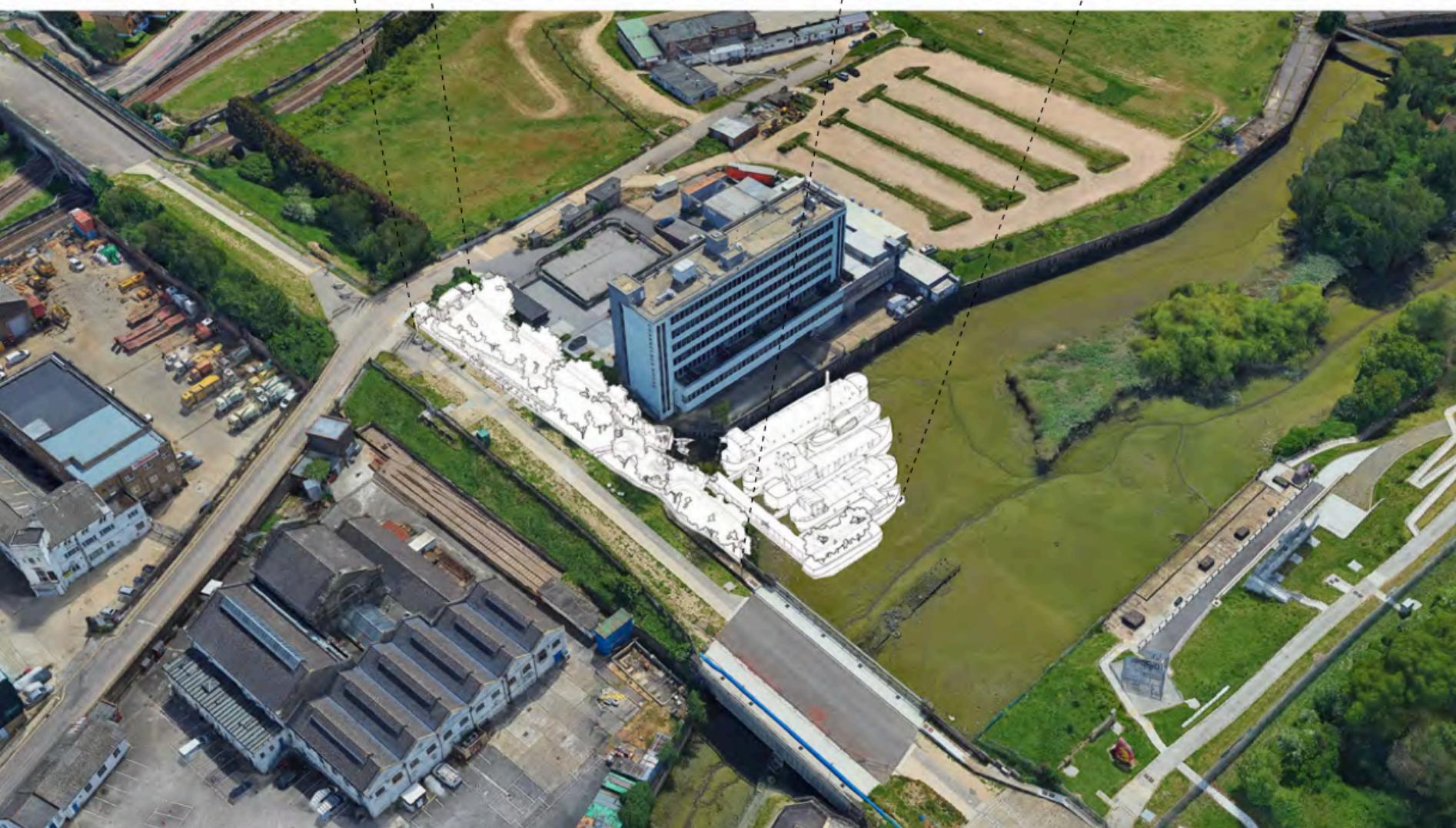








www.surge.coop
twitter.com/surge_coop
instagram.com/surge_coop
Newham Heritage Month Surge project page



View looking from the old Greenway steps towards Channelsea Island and Abbey Mills Pumping Station

Channelsea Cooperative Moorings Proposal

Surge Cooperative is the only non-profit organisation whose primary focus is to reanimate Bow Creek with affordable co-operatively run moorings, bringing historic wharves back into use, nurturing the heritage and biodiversity of the area and building lasting community links on land and water.

Our community and ecological engagement has already begun through our clean-ups and replanting on the Long Wall Path and with our river clean-ups supported by Thames 21. During lockdown, we continued working with Newham Heritage Month, producing a series of online creative works celebrating the area's ecological and industrial heritage. This was all helped with Power to Change and Heritage lottery funding.

This proposal expands on our vision to collaborate further with Thames Water, by transforming the strip of land adjacent to the Greenway, reinstating barge moorings on the Channelsea River and enabling us and the local community to have better river access for clean-ups and other ecologically focused activities.

Channelsea Cooperative Moorings will be our flagship site, nurturing the wider vision to create more moorings along the length of Bow Creek, with the potential to provide 200+ affordable homes, and a community of stewards caring for the river. This chimes in with Newham's Spatial Strategy and their local plan to improve the social infrastructure for the area, helping to regenerate the waterspace and nurture the rich biodiversity along the Lea.

This is informed by our existing research into the current navigational heritage of Bow Creek. By unlocking the potential of disused wharves along the Creek, we can help remedy the dire need for moorings and waterspace improvements in London. We received funding to continue with this research and are currently working on an updated report.

Surge Cooperative is a non-profit organisation and will use a sustainable model with members mooring fees providing the finances to pay for on-going costs including river clean-ups. Initial infrastructure and longer term plans will be covered by grants funding and business loans.

The moorings will have multiple positive impacts:

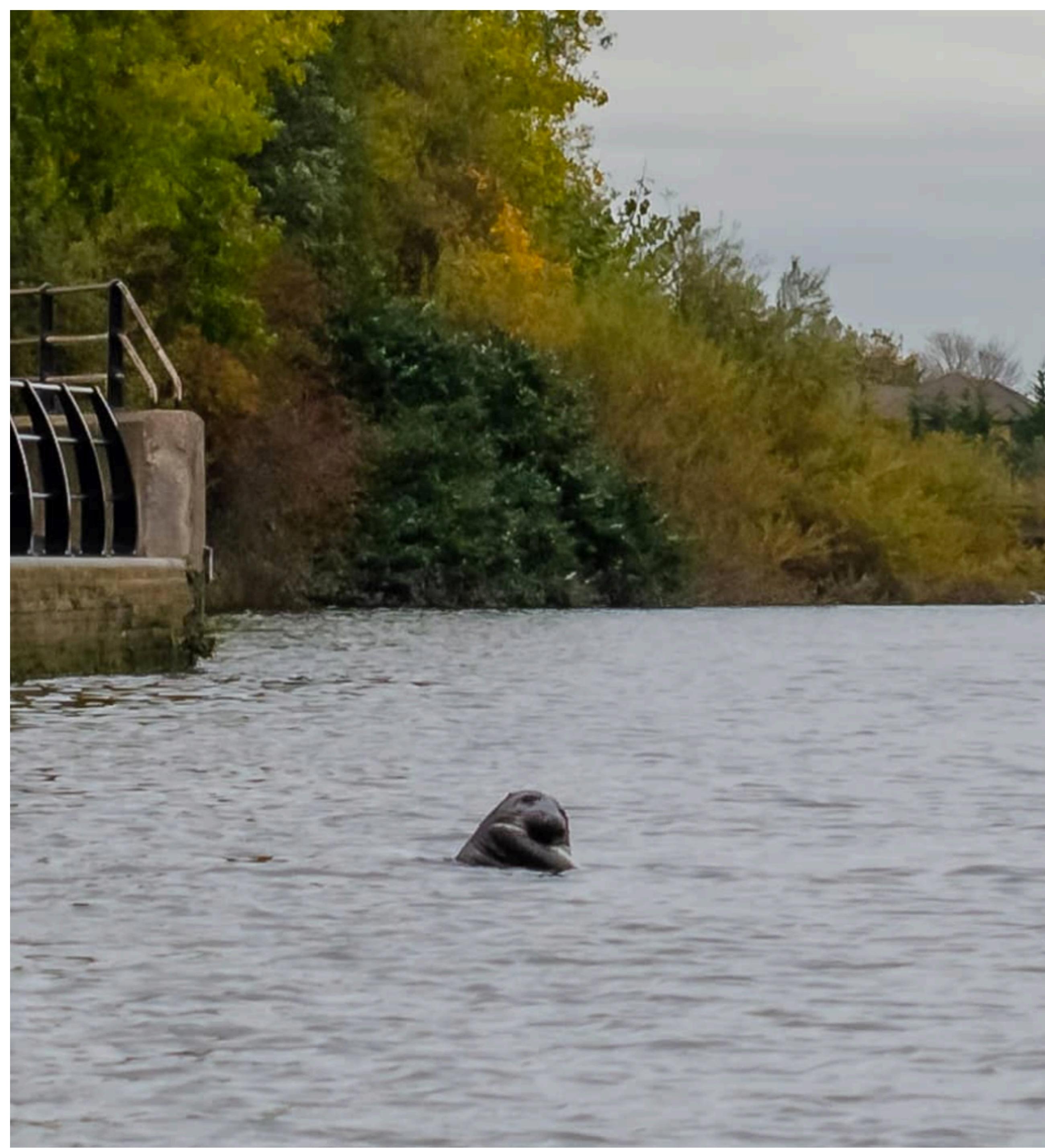
- Celebrate a valuable local historical asset by re-using the old moorings and showcasing Thames Water's industrial heritage infrastructure and its historic role in the area.
- Improve the biodiversity and ecology of the area.
- Create a floating community space and gardens for Surge members and for events with local residents, community engagement projects, artist residencies, and watersports.
- Increase safety for river-path and greenway users as boaters help to fulfil a custodial role around the waterspace.

Surge is committed to ecological and sustainable principles in development and on-going plans. This means re-wilding where possible, using sustainable materials in construction, recycling water, naturally treating waste and incorporating renewable energy systems.

We are mindful of protecting the structural integrity of the Northern Outfall and river wall in our plans and will look to Thames Water for detailed consultation on this, making any amendments a priority to ensure this protection. We will continue our work with key stakeholders including Newham Council, Community Led Housing, Thames 21, Canal and Rivers Trust, PLA, Inland Waterways Association and The Barge Association, to achieve unified, improved, accessible and usable waterspaces.

We are seeking a commitment from Thames Water to provide Surge Cooperative with a long-term lease in order to implement waterspace improvements and to be able to raise funds from our supporting organisations, including Community Led Housing, Power to Change and the Heritage Lottery, for the wider project costs.

We are looking forward to working together with Thames Water to help realise the site's unique potential.



www.surge.coop
[@surge_coop](https://twitter.com/surge_coop)