

HACKNEY MARSHES

Designated as Common Land and Metropolitan Open Space. Stretches along Old River Lea and Wick Woodland, which are designated as Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

Compiled by:
Anne Woollett and
Annie Chipchase.
Contact:
a.woollett@btinternet.com

Designed by Mike Trier.
Based on Collins mapping -
www.collinsmaps.com

Main Marsh. Large area of amenity grassland laid out for park football. Surrounded by mature trees planted when the Marshes came into public ownership in 1894. Areas of planted trees from 1960s, shrubs, and longer grass.

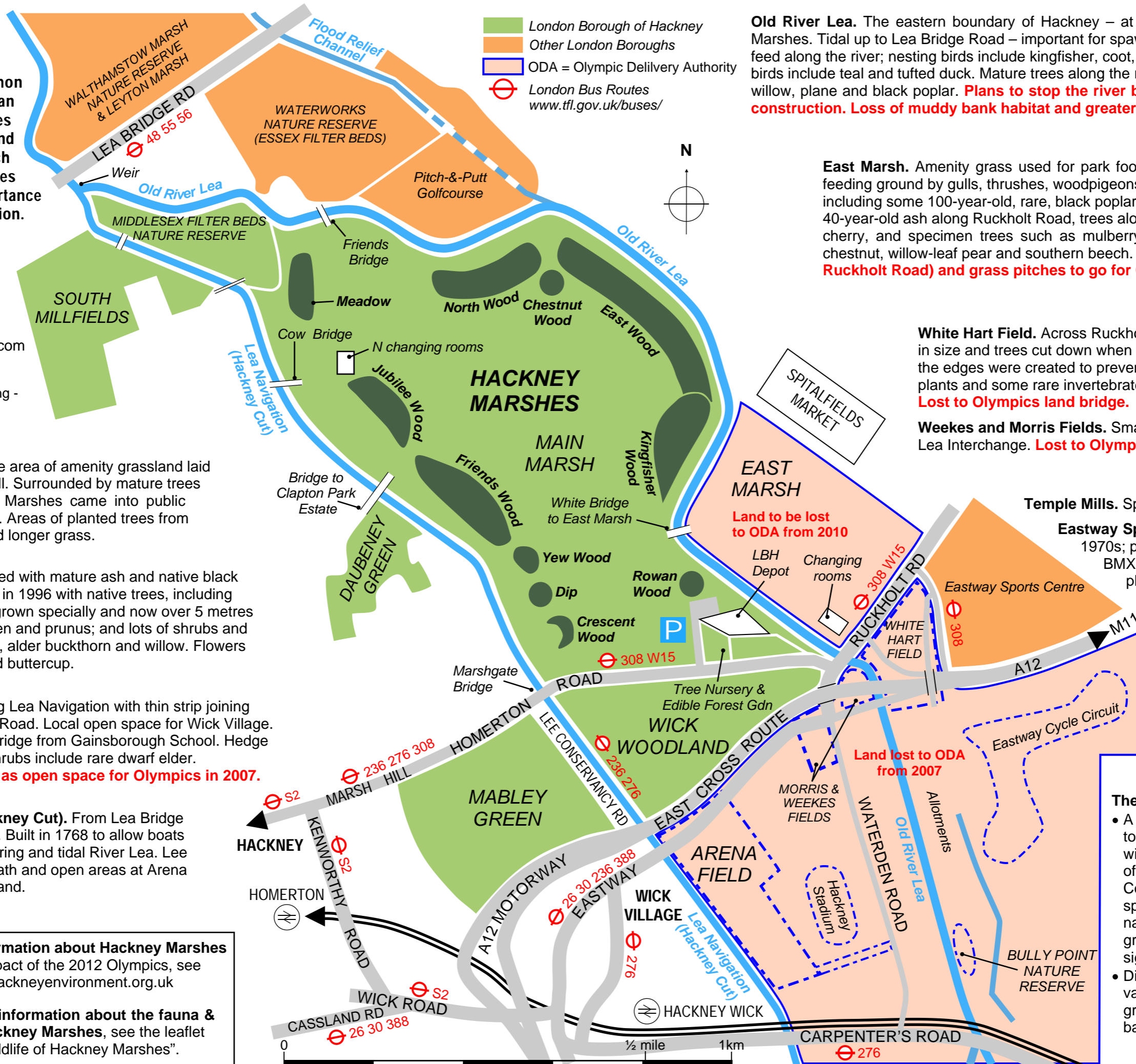
Wick Woodland. Edged with mature ash and native black poplar. Mainly planted in 1996 with native trees, including native black poplars (grown specially and now over 5 metres tall), apple, alder, aspen and prunus; and lots of shrubs and bushes – rose, cornus, alder buckthorn and willow. Flowers such as speedwell and buttercup.

Arena Field. Along Lea Navigation with thin strip joining Field to Waterden Road. Local open space for Wick Village. Old concrete footbridge from Gainsborough School. Hedge round the edge; shrubs include rare dwarf elder.
Permanently lost as open space for Olympics in 2007.

Lea Navigation (Hackney Cut). From Lea Bridge Weir to Old Ford Lock. Built in 1768 to allow boats to bypass the meandering and tidal River Lea. Lee Valley Walk with towpath and open areas at Arena Field and Wick Woodland.

For more information about Hackney Marshes and the impact of the 2012 Olympics, see www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

For general information about the fauna & flora of Hackney Marshes, see the leaflet "The Wildlife of Hackney Marshes".



Old River Lea. The eastern boundary of Hackney – at its most natural along Hackney Marshes. Tidal up to Lea Bridge Road – important for spawning fish; herons and cormorants feed along the river; nesting birds include kingfisher, coot, moorhen, and swan. Over-wintering birds include teal and tufted duck. Mature trees along the river bank include sycamore, ash, willow, plane and black poplar. **Plans to stop the river being tidal as part of Olympics construction. Loss of muddy bank habitat and greater risk of flooding.**

East Marsh. Amenity grass used for park football and other sports, and as a feeding ground by gulls, thrushes, woodpigeons and starlings. Surrounded by trees including some 100-year-old, rare, black poplars along Spitalfields edge, a row of 40-year-old ash along Ruckholt Road, trees along the river bank including flowering cherry, and specimen trees such as mulberry, weeping poplar, Indian horse chestnut, willow-leaf pear and southern beech. **Some trees (including ash along Ruckholt Road) and grass pitches to go for Olympics car and coach parking.**

White Hart Field. Across Ruckholt Road from East Marsh. Reduced in size and trees cut down when the A12 was built. Mounds round the edges were created to prevent illegal occupation. Colonised by plants and some rare invertebrates. A few recently planted trees.
Lost to Olympics land bridge.

Weekes and Morris Fields. Small sections of Common Land near Lea Interchange. **Lost to Olympics precinct.**

Temple Mills. Sports areas close to road junctions:

Eastway Sports Centre. Sports Hall built in 1970s; pitches and amenity grassland, and BMX track. Lots of trees including mature planes, hornbeams planted in 1970s, and fine catalpa (Indian bean tree). Memorial to young men from Hackney Wick who were killed in Second World War.

Eastway Cycle Circuit. Large, undulating area built on Victorian rubble. Hills give good views over the Lower Lea Valley. Young trees, lots of grassland.

The Lower Lea Valley

- A wildlife corridor from River Thames to the countryside, providing contact with nature in the heart of the city. Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. Home to kingfisher (a species of national significance), native black poplar, dwarf elder, and grey heron (a species of London-wide significance).
- Distinctive local character with a variety of habitats such as woodland, grassland, scrub, open water, mud banks and reed beds.