

Walthamstow Reservoirs No. 4 & No. 5 Embankment Protection

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SYNOPSIS.

Walthamstow reservoirs Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 are situated in the Lee Valley, north-east London. Reservoirs Nos 4 and 5 are statutory, have a common top water level and share a common embankment with Reservoir Nos. 2 and 3 which lie at a lower level. No. 2 and 3 reservoirs are used as settlement lagoons for wash water from the nearby Coppermills WTW and were in danger of becoming “silt” bound. The reservoirs are also within a Site of Special Scientific Interest and support fish, birds and wildfowl, including migratory species.

An inspection of the common embankments in 1998, revealed a general lack of protection, including evidence of wave action undercutting the lower toe. Recommendations were made to provide protection to the whole length of the embankment, namely the shore of Reservoir Nos. 2 and 3.

The project involved sinking a chain of timber stakes 3m from the lower toe. A geo-mesh lining was then secured to contain “silt” dredged from Reservoir No. 3. Reeds were then planted in the “silt” to consolidate the protection and enhance the environment. Timber platforms were provided for anglers.