



REVITALISING LONDON'S OLYMPIC WATERWAYS

The Bow Back Rivers are a fascinating network of post-industrial waterways that have been derelict and underused since the Second World War. Today they form part of the 2012 Olympic Park and the first step towards their restoration is underway with the funding secured for a major new lock and water control structure on Prescott Channel in Bow.

MAP OF LONDON'S OLYMPIC WATERWAYS

The new Prescott Lock will restore the Bow Back Rivers creating a green gateway for barges entering the Olympic Park and reviving water transport in the area for the first time in 50 years. The lock is part of a wider strategy to maximise the use of the rivers in the area for wildlife, navigation and people, creating a thriving waterway legacy.

The project is backed by a partnership including the Olympic Delivery Authority, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Transport for London, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the Department for Transport, Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England and British Waterways.

British Waterways is managing the project and the work will be carried out by Volker Stevin.

Building work will begin in March 2007 and is due to be completed in summer 2008, in time for the main construction phase of the Olympic Park. The lock will control water levels above Three Mills allowing up to 1.75million tonnes of construction materials to be brought in by barge and taking up to 170,000 lorry journeys off local roads.

Beyond the Olympics, the restored waterways could be used to carry waste and recyclates from new homes established in the area, as well as attracting increased leisure boat activity - trip boats, water taxis, floating restaurants, houseboats and visiting craft. Wildlife habitats will be enhanced and protected and access to the rivers will be improved with new paths and signage, plus links to parks and other rivers in the Lower Lea Valley.

For more information visit www.britishwaterways.co.uk/olympics, call 0207 985 7200 or write to Richard Rutter, regeneration manager, British Waterways London, 1 Sheldon Square, Paddington Central, London W2 6TT.



