

Mapping change for Sustainable Communities

The Olympics Legacy in Hackney, London

Final Report¹

Group 1 (Hackney Green Marsh)

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¹ This report is an exercise carried out by the students from the Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL). It does not reflect the views or positions of DPU or UCL.

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Executive Summary

This study is the result of the field work of a group of students from the MSc. Course: Environment and Sustainable Development in the Development and Planning Unit in University College London. The field work took place over October and November 2008; and was focused on the diverse communities who use Hackney Marsh, based in the Hackney Council Borough.

Hackney Council area has the highest number of people in any London borough claiming social incapacity benefits as well as a large number with high income jobs. Hackney has the largest green space in London but community awareness about the use of this space is limited, and the Marsh appears to be under utilised.

The group's task was two-fold:

- a) to explore the experiences, needs and expectations in the access to, use and appropriation of the Marsh by the local communities and
- b) to examine how the changes brought about by the 2012 Olympic Games would affect the possibility of enhancing environmental justice and social inclusion in the use of the Marsh by the diverse community groups.

The fieldwork research plan was to answer the tasks by interviewing members of the communities who use the Marsh, using both a structured questionnaire and semi structured interviews. The questionnaire was disseminated on-line as well as face-to-face. Additionally, maps and map production techniques were produced to engage the interviewees; to give a physical focus to the questions; to capture immediately and physically in graphic form the interviewees' uses of the Marsh and to initiate a visioning process of what the Marsh could be.

Findings relating to social inclusion were that certain groups are accessing space on the marsh (footballers, walkers, dog walkers) and certain groups are not; (young people, mothers and children, ethnic groups, people with secondary level education or lower level).

In relation to Environmental Justice, interviewees expressed wishes for a more diverse pattern of use on the marsh. Lack of information about the Marsh and lack of information concerning the decision making processes of changing use appears to be preventing a more diverse appropriation of use of the Marsh.

There were different perceptions of Legacy and Olympic Games; negative views which appeared to correlate with Hackney Residents, less negative with non residents. Environmental justice

relates also to the process of decision-making about these potential gains or costs. The apparent lack of real participatory process for decision making on the Games impacts and Legacy may affect Hackney residents and existing Marsh users.

The intention of this study is to engage the communities in the process of considering the Marsh uses and appropriations; to provide initial findings from which the communities may build a response to the Marsh and the Olympic plans.

1. Introduction

The study 'People and the Marsh' had a team comprising of eight people who performed a study on the Hackney Marshes with the aim to explore the experiences, needs and expectations in the access to, use and appropriation of the Marsh by the local communities. Research on present uses of the Marsh area and the intended transformative impact of the 2012 Olympic Games and Legacy Plan on the diverse community. Hackney is a community with many contradictions; the highest number of people in any borough claiming social incapacity benefits and a large number with high income jobs. It is the borough with the largest green space in the whole of London; yet we found community awareness concerning the use of this space is limited.

This report outlines the research framework including the scope of research, the research questions, methodology, the limitations and the context of research. This is followed by a brief outline of the context of the area in terms of history and the plans the Olympic Development Authority (ODA) have in the area. Findings demonstrated with additional maps, diagrams and charts. Findings include baseline understandings of local people and their awareness and attitudes to the Olympics. The findings inform the groups' conclusions and reflections and some recommendations for the area considering concepts of environmental justice and social inclusion.

This report was worked on by the team; various sections were authored as follows

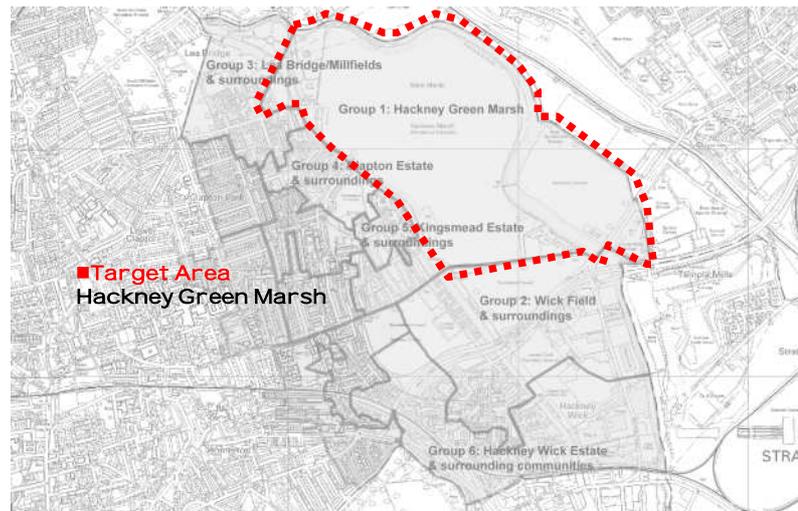
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2. Research Framework

2.1. Scope of the research

The scope of research is the Hackney Green Marsh area; the relationship between the Marsh and its users.

Figure 1: Map 1 Research Target Area



2.2. Research Questions

The questions below form the task for the group to answer:

- A. What are the experiences, needs and expectations in the access to, use and appropriation of the Marsh by the communities?
- B. How would the changes brought about by the 2012 Olympic Games affect the possibility of enhancing environmental justice and social inclusion in the use of the Marsh by the diverse community groups?

The question was reframed in diagram form (See Figure 1 below): which illustrates the relationship the marsh has with key factors that affect the use of Hackney Marsh; linked with environmental justice and social inclusion. The experience, needs, expectations (E, N, E) and access, use and appropriation (A, U, A) of the marsh is also expressed here. The present and proposed changes the 2012 Olympic Games and subsequent legal process will have on the Marsh in terms of environmental justice and social inclusion as perceived by diverse communities who make use of the Marsh is placed at the centre.

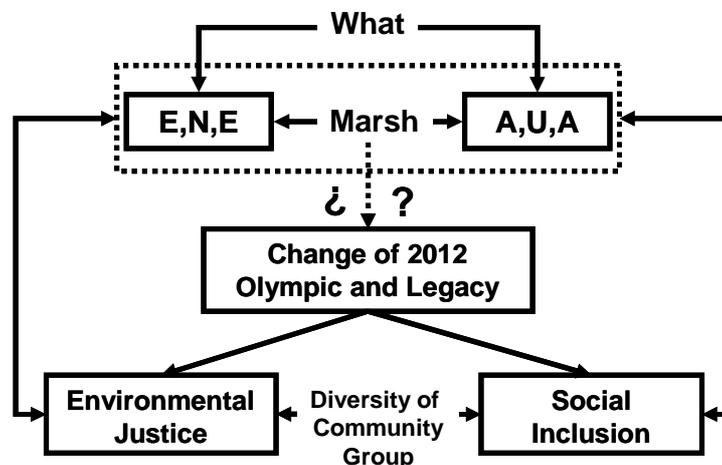


Figure 2: Relationship between questions

2.3. Definitions

For the purposes of clarity, the terms Environmental Justice and Social Inclusion are defined:

- i. Environmental justice: refers to the relationship between groups of people and nature, specifically, regarding the distribution of environmental positives and negatives. Additionally environmental justice refers to the process of including all groups in decision making regarding their environment. (LSX, 2008)
- ii. Social Inclusion: positive action to include all groups in a society in the planning and decision making process. (Reeves, 2008)

2.4. Research Methodology

The research process consisted of eight sections. These were:

- i. Data collection on the Marsh and surrounding areas. This was carried out in order to gain a deeper understanding of the area, the history and the uses.
- ii. Field visits and transect walks. The transect walks helped the members of the research team to familiarize themselves with the area as well as make observations about the different uses of the Marsh and was also essential for the preparation for the work.
- iii. Contacting the different user groups and carrying out unstructured interviews. This section took the research deeper as the group acquired information from people concerned with the Marsh such as the ranger, the dog walkers etc.

- iv. Structured questionnaires with users of the Marsh as well as using participatory mapping as part of the questionnaire.
- v. Analysis of the gathered data; developing findings taking into consideration the main concepts of the study; social inclusion and environmental justice.
- vi. Representation of findings on maps.
- vii. Identification of further recommendations in respect to findings, where possible.
- viii. Conclusions of research and reflections of research team.

The group overall conducted forty one structured questionnaires including mapping of the Marsh and its uses and access and nine unstructured interviews. The benefits of using a structured questionnaire included accessing a larger number of respondents and being able to get larger statistical data on the demographic of Marsh users. The group did not get a large enough amount of respondents for the results to be representative of all Hackney Marsh users. The disadvantages of the questionnaires are that they are standardised and lack the sensitivity to be able to explore differences and meaning. The qualitative methodology complements the quantitative questionnaire and allowed the group to explore the 'actor's definition' (Burton, 2000 :197) and how users give meaning to the Marsh and their use and appropriation of the space. This includes exploring users' fear and anticipations of the coming Olympic Games and Legacy Plan.

2.5. Limitations of Research

Regarding the limitations of research, the main issue for the group was related to time availability for the research, which restricted field work in the Hackney Marsh mostly to during the week in the day time and during the weekend in the day time. The team was restricted to 10 weeks to perform the whole study meaning the research framework was limited. Furthermore, the study was performed in the winter season and therefore does not take into account summer periods where a likely increase in users would occur.

Another issue is that the target area is Hackney Marsh only. This prescribed boundary may have affected the research results regarding the collection and use of quantitative and qualitative data, since the study was limited to interview people who use the Marsh only and not the wider community.

The lack of engagement of key stakeholders with this project was also a limitation. The short period of time for research affected the possibility of establishing a relationship with these stakeholders and getting some important information for the project. The group was unable to engage the Travelers' user group, who were not available.

The quantitative data presented is not representative of all users of the Marsh due to the small size of respondents. However the aim is to incorporate these findings with qualitative data

to get a more intimate idea of respondents' uses and experiences of the Marsh. The report will not deliver large scale quantitative data and solutions, or primary data on people who don't use the Marsh.

A final comment on the group's status. Seven of the eight students researching were foreign, and the majority did not have English as a first language. This may result in conclusions and reflections with perspectives of 'foreignness' and newness; both a limitation, and also an asset.

2.6. Context of the Research Area

Hackney Marshes is an area of grassland comprising 337 acres, on the western bank of the River Lea in the London Borough of Hackney. Originally, it was a true marsh, formed by the periodic flooding of the River Lea. However, after multiple human interferences including continuous drainages since the Medieval Times, this area can no longer be considered a wilderness environment. Rubble from World War II bombed buildings was spread on the marsh; turning it from marsh to amenity grassland. As a periodic floodplain, it could not be occupied permanently, so the main use was pasture.

The River Lea was an important link between this area and the east region of England, but the attempts made to control the flow of water through the marshes affected the river navigability. Only in the 17th Century, the navigability was provided through the construction of the Hackney Cut which straightened the watercourse.

The Marsh and its surroundings were owned by the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller. It was almost entirely rural; producing beans, wheat, oats and barley. However, in the 16th Century, during the English Reformation period, the Crown seized all monastic land, including this area.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the water powered mills built by the Knights Templar were used for a variety of industrial purposes. These included: grinding rapeseed for oil, processing leather, making brass kettles, twisting yarn, manufacturing sheet lead and producing gunpowder. (Powell, 1973) In 1890, the Marsh became an area preserved by London County Council and a public area since 1893. Nowadays, this area is managed by the Hackney Council.

The original occupants of the Marsh were travelers, mainly gypsies, in nomadic communities who later were displaced by authorities. The introduction of main sewerage to avoid periodic flooding from the river Lea made the permanent occupation of the Marsh possible. Currently this area is used for football, cycling, yoga, rugby, a car park, camping, conservation and recreation. 72 full sized football pitches are used by Football League and the Park Rangers are responsible for managing this area.

2.7. Olympics Context relating to the Research Area



Figure 3: Map showing Olympic Legacy Plan

In 2012 the Olympic Games will be taking place in London and specifically in the Hackney borough. Constructions of facilities have already started near the Main marsh. New stadiums and facilities for the different sports as well as parks, hotels and services for the people attending the Olympics are under construction at the “Olympic Village”. The construction of such huge facilities and infrastructure will affect the marsh directly and indirectly. The direct effects will include the loss of the east marsh area which will be turned into a coach parking area to accommodate the influx of visitors and the construction of an underground tunnel to replace the electricity pylons. The indirect effects on the use of the marsh include the damming of the River Lea which will in turn affect the wildlife and plantation biodiversity and therefore the users of the marsh in that sense.

3. Findings

The research and field work produced a total of forty one questionnaires, nine semi structured interviews and four composite maps. This section lays out the findings from this field work.

3.1. Interviewee characteristics

The Stakeholder Analysis Chart below shows the list of respondents to the questionnaires and interviews.

Various stakeholders	Nature of stakeholder
Council Park Users	Collective
Cyclists	Collective/Individual
Dog trainers	Collective
Dog walkers	Collective and Individual
Footballers	Collective
Hackney Council	Collective
Hackney Marsh Users Group	Collective
Hackney Rangers	Individual
Millfields Park Users Group	Collective and individual
Retired	Individual
Residents	Collective and individual

Figure 4: Stakeholder Analysis Chart

The above table demonstrates the nature of various stakeholders. Within the marsh, stakeholders are mainly groups which include sport teams (footballers, canoeists, cyclists etc) to individuals like the rangers. Some stakeholders are grouped as collective and individual depending on their level of use.

3.1.1. Age distribution

As shown in the Figures 3 and 4 below, more than half of the respondents (21 out of 41) are aged 45 years old and above. However only 26% of the population of Hackney is over 45 years old. In Hackney 27% of the population of Hackney are younger than 18 years old. (Hackney, 2007) During the field work research period, however, young people and children with mothers were rarely observed in the Marsh apart from footballers. Most of interviewees are white British although Hackney has a diversity of ethnic groups.

Age Group(yrs)	N0.
14-17	4
18-24	4
25-34	8
35-44	4
45-54	11
55+	10

Figure 5: Age distribution of the interviewees

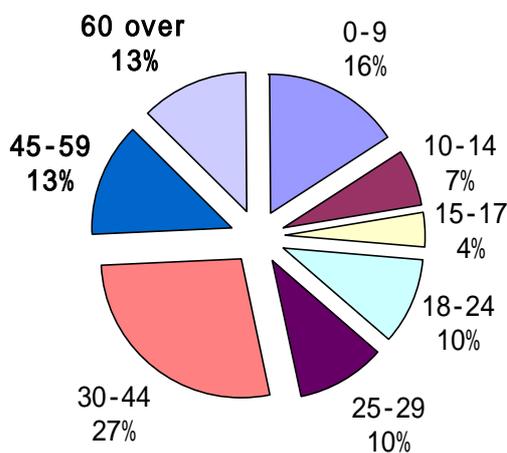


Figure 6: Age distribution of Hackney Population (%)

3.1.2. Education

Figure 5 below shows that the largest single group in the respondents has a university degree, followed by those who have higher degrees. A high proportion of the respondents have acquired a secondary school level education. Figure 6 shows that an unequal situation occurs in Hackney, where 29% of adults in Hackney have no educational qualifications, but 41% have a degree/higher degrees. (Hackney, 2007)

Findings are that the people with degree/higher degree use the Marsh more than those with no qualification.

Education Level	No.
Primary school	1
Secondary school	8
College/Diploma	5
Degree	15
Higher degree	4
Unknown	8

Figure 7: Education status of the interviewees

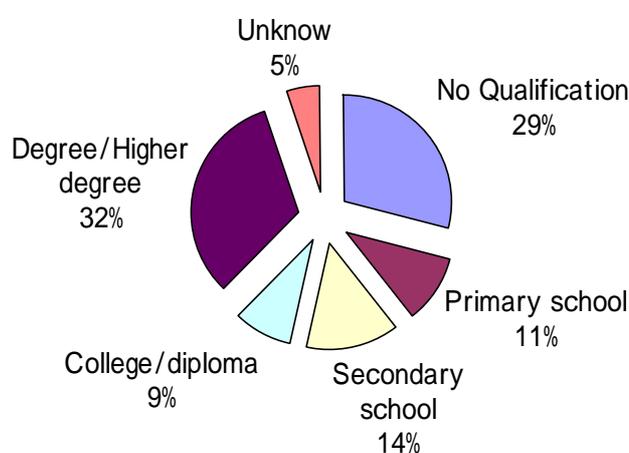


Figure 8: Education status of Hackney Population (%)

3.1.3. Employment

A large proportion of respondents are in full time employment (13 out of 41); but some are in part time employment (7), or unemployed (4), student (7), or retired (6). No large difference between the respondents and the population of Hackney are observed in the aspect of employment. See Figure 7 below for respondents’ employment status, and Figure 8 for Hackney Populations’ employment status.(Hackney, 2007)

Figure 9: Employment status of the interviewees

Employment	No.
Full time	13
Part time	7
Unemployed	4
Retired	6
Student	7
Undisclosed	2

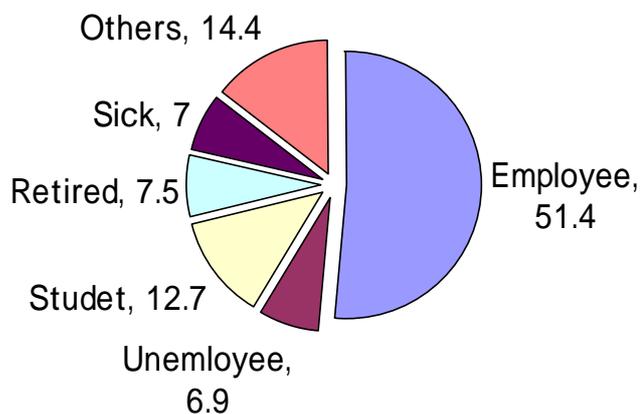


Figure 10: Employment status of Hackney population (%)

3.2. Demographic Characteristics of the interviewee

It was observed that most of the respondents visit the Marsh often and out of 41 respondents 28 stated that they visited at least once a week. Most respondents come to Hackney Marsh mainly during weekdays and/or weekend daytimes (weekday daytime 26, weekend daytime 20 out of 41). One third of the interviewee lives near the Marsh within 30 min walking distance time.

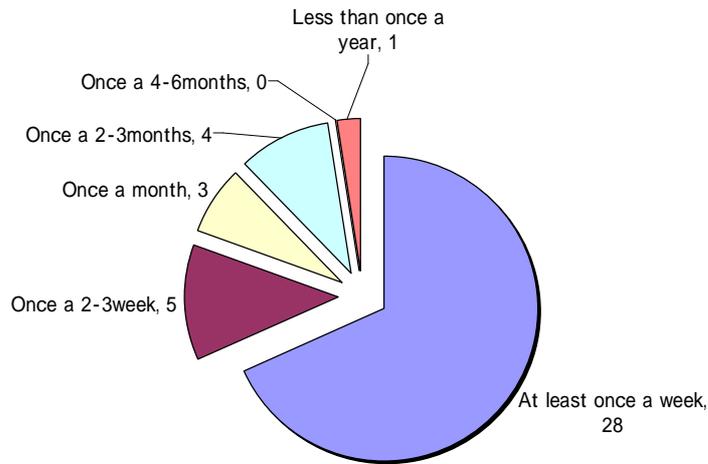


Figure 11: Responses to query 'How often do you come to the Marsh?'

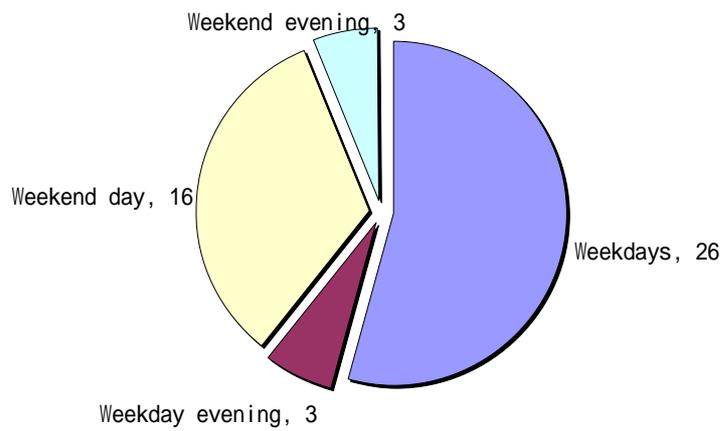


Figure 12: Responses to query: 'When do you come to the Marsh?'

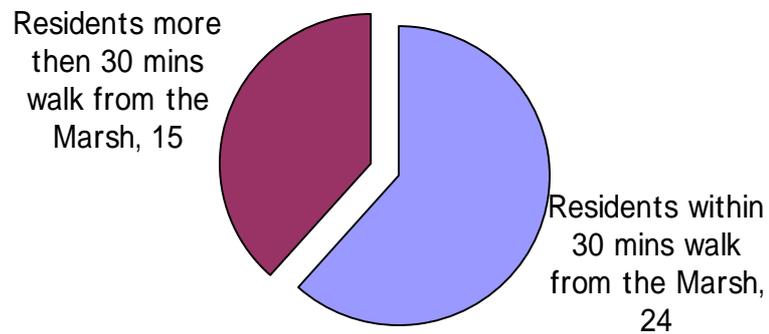


Figure 13: Response to query ‘Where do you live in relation to the Marsh?’

3.3. Experiences, needs and expectations in the use of, access to and appropriation of the Marsh

Based on the analysis of the interview result, the main findings relating to users’ experiences, needs and expectations are displayed below, please see Figures 9, 10, 11 and following explanations.

3.3.1. Experiences

i. Use

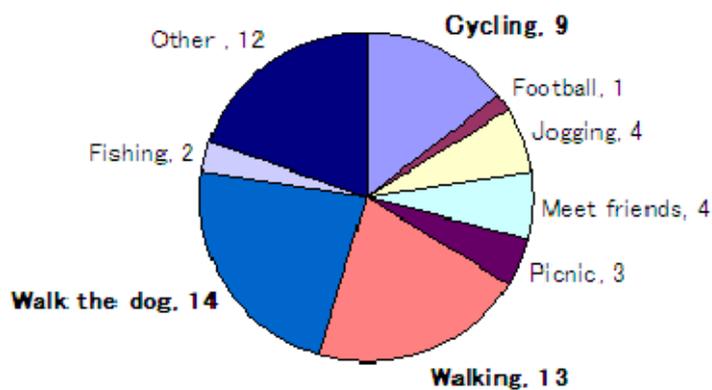


Figure 14: Response to query ‘What sort of activities do you typically do in the Marsh?’

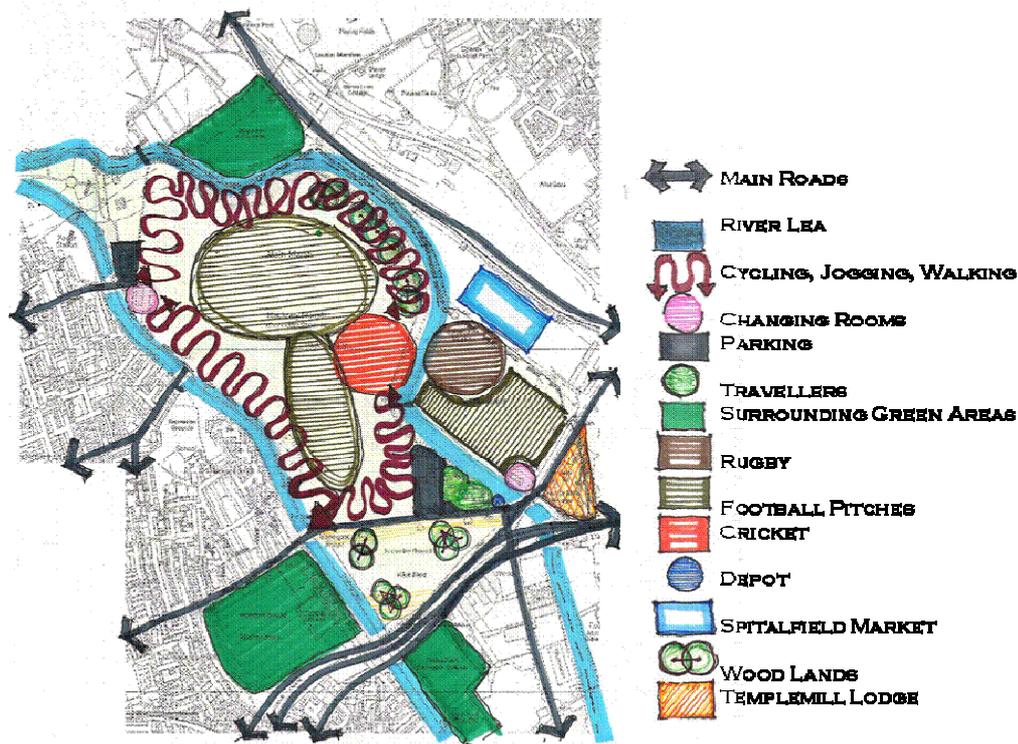


Figure 15: Map 1 - Present uses of the Marsh

Figure 14 shows that the main activities of the respondents as existing users of the Marsh are: walking (13 of 41), dog walking (14 of 41) and cycling (9 of 41). A large number of respondents stated that they enjoyed the nature and the wildlife of the Marsh. One male respondent suggested

“It is a massive proper green space on a lot of residents’ doorsteps. It feels like the countryside, rather than just a park. It keeps me sane! (Male respondent)”

Users like the fresh air, open view, and quiet atmosphere of the Marsh. Open spaces are experienced holistically and individuals gain personal satisfaction in experiencing the sensuous pleasures of being outside. Very similarly to (Burgess et al., 1988) respondents to the unstructured interviews made comments that suggest that “contact with nature is important for urban residents but so too is the desire for social interaction in the open air.” (Burgess et al., 1988 :462) for example the dog walking community uses the Marsh to meet, chat and walk their dogs and the footballers to interact and play football.



Figure 16: Map showing football pitches on Marsh

The map above shows how the football pitches occupy a large area of the Marsh, although football is not the sole use. Pitches are concentrated in the centre of the main Marsh area and part of the east Marsh, whereas other uses such as cycling, jogging, walking and dog walking were observed along the edges of the Marsh as shown in figure 15 earlier. Wildlife watching activities were located closer to the woodland areas and the navigation canal and the River Lea served fishing and water sports activities. In addition, cricket and rugby fields were also part of the activities east of the main Marsh and the east Marsh areas.

ii. Access

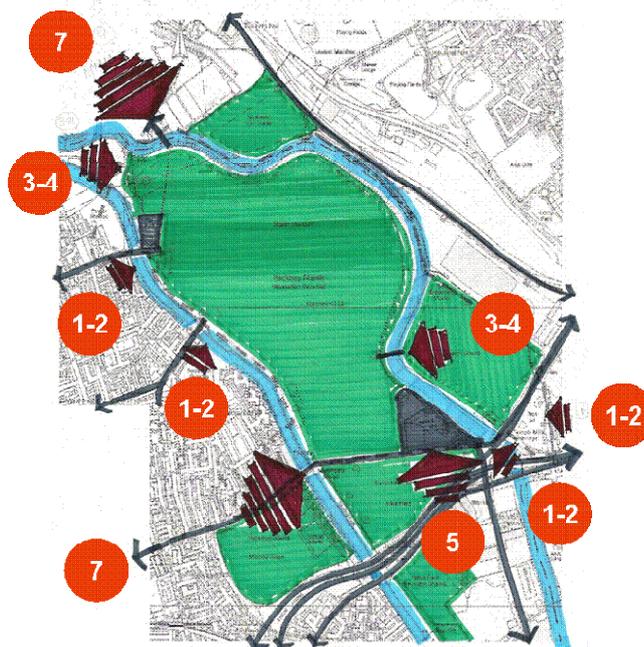


Figure 17: Map Showing Accessibility to the Marsh

The accessibility map above and in Appendix 9 shows the access points to the Marsh. The two most commonly used access points are the through the Marshgate Bridge and Friend’s Bridge north of the Marsh. Pedestrian safety was an issue that was raised by some of the interviewees accessing through the Marshgate Bridge. Whereas we have observed that the access points connected with parking areas and facilities are least used by users of the Marsh.

iii. Appropriation

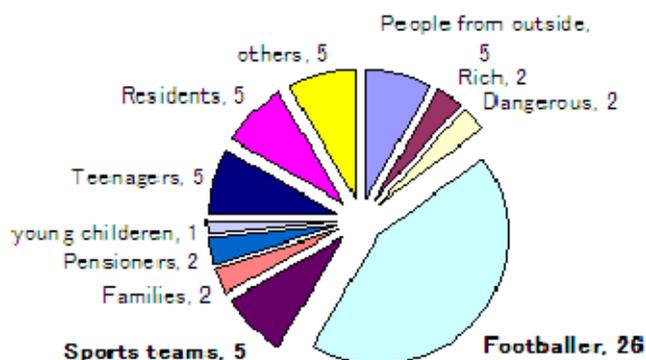


Figure 18: Response to query: ‘Who benefits the most from the use of the Marsh?’

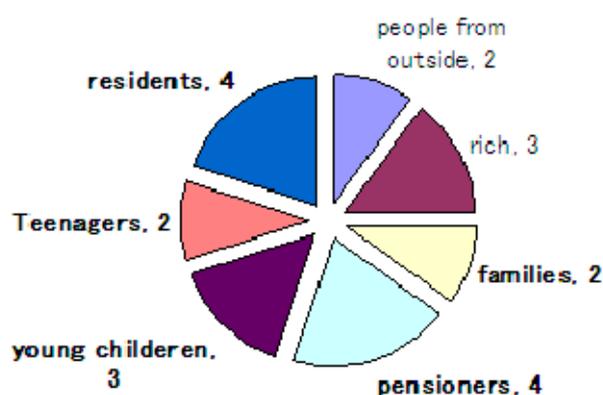


Figure 19: Response to query: ‘Who benefits the least from the use of the Marsh?’

The findings to query on benefits from the Marsh, were that 31 out of 60 responses on who currently enjoys the Marsh think that footballers benefit most from the Marsh, and residents, pensioners and young children are the least benefited, even though most of the interviewees live

near the Marsh and they use it very often. It was observed that there appears to be a conflict between the footballers and other users. People suggest: *“I feel that conservation and sport are directly in conflict”* (female dog walker) and: *“Conflict during sunny weekends when the Marsh is like a honey pot and swarmed with people”* (female dog walker).

On the other hand, the record of the football use of the Marsh indicates that the number of the football users has been declining from 51,000 to 30,000 from 2003 to 2008². Even on Sunday when many people enjoy football, there is enough space for other activities. There is a large possibility that different activities and people can share the Marsh and create diversity of the use of the Marsh.

3.3.2. Needs

i. Use

One of the important findings is that many of the respondents do not want any change to the Marsh; they want to keep it as it is. Respondents suggest a need for the diversification of uses on the Marsh such as other sports use especially for children and the younger generation in addition to access to nature, social interaction and health benefits they enjoy at the moment. Respondents suggested some improvements that they would like to see on the Marsh including more dustbins, improvements in changing room facilities especially for female footballers, a café and the reinstatement of a pub. The Hackney Council Park Ranger suggests that more facilities need to be provided for the users. Our findings suggest, however, that users require the diversification of use (which does not necessarily mean improvement of facilities). The council therefore appears to be more focused on facility provision rather than diversity of use.

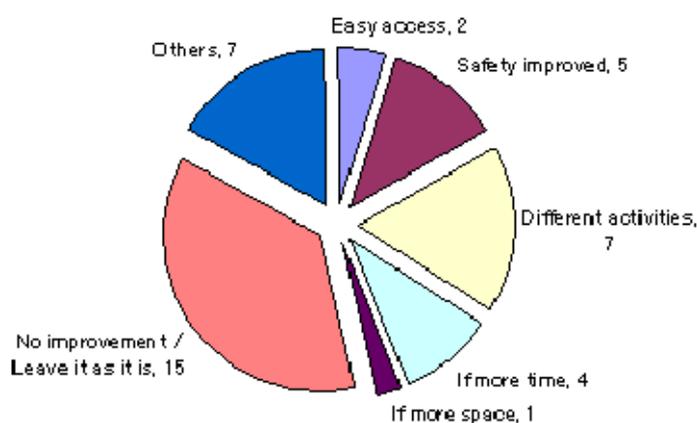


Figure 20: Answer to query: ‘What would make you visit the Marsh more often?’

² Calculated by the records of changing room use and pitches provided by Hackney Council

There is a clear tendency that most of the people who live near and come often, do not want any change to the Marsh, and the people who come less suggest the necessity of improvement of the Marsh, such as facilities.

ii. Access

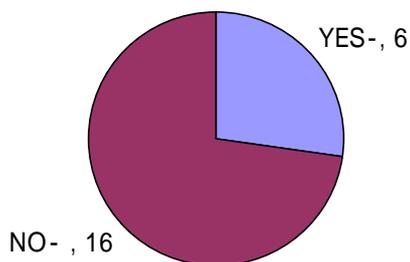
Our only finding regarding access to the Marsh is that some respondents are worried about the access to the Marshgate Bridge pedestrian crossing and therefore would need some extra facilities to cater for their safety.

iii. Appropriation

Some interviewees claim that there is a lack of adequate information on the Marsh and what one can do there, apart from football. It prevents people, especially potential users, from using and enjoying the Marsh in more diverse ways.

3.3.3. Expectation

Residents within 30 mins walk from the Marsh



Residents more than 30 mins walk from the Marsh

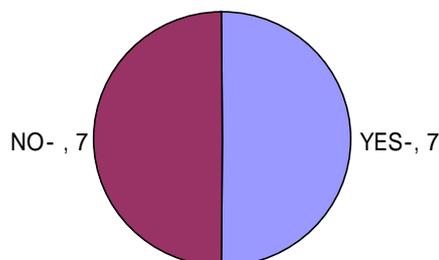


Figure 21: Do you know about the Olympic Legacy?

Two third of respondents are local residents of the Marsh, but only one third of those are aware of the Olympic Legacy. This is quite opposite to two third of non-residents who are well aware of the Olympic Legacy and tended to make nonnegative comments about their expectations in regards to the Olympics. They are of the opinion that the Olympic Games and Legacy will transform the image of London and bring about significant development

Resident respondents expressed their concerns surrounding whether the Marsh will be returned to the original condition after the Olympic Games in 2012. Wildlife watchers expect that they will not be able to see the various kind of wildlife and migration of birds in the Marsh due to increase of the visitors to the Marsh. Most of the qualitative respondents expressed fears of losing the natural environment of the Marsh.³

Supporting this perspective from residents, according to Raco (2008), those who speak against the Olympics claim that the games event would widen socio-economic inequalities between communities by increasing cost of living and doing little to improve employment opportunities or material incomes for the most deprived. There is the suspicion that this event can create islands of development that barely connect to the localities in which the sport is held

Reflected in our qualitative interviews repeatedly is the issue that local people are dubious about the local government being able to meet their needs. One respondent suggests: "No-one believes anything that they are told by a politician, and we are sceptical of the legacy that may or may not be left." (Male walker) When asked if they were consulted in the participatory process in qualitative interviews no respondents answered positively.

i. Use and access

Respondents expected that they will be facing temporary problems surrounding access to the Marsh during the Olympic Games due to growing number of visitors and traffic around the Marsh and Hackney area. Some suggested that necessary action should be taken by the authority to avoid the problem. One resident suggested that he was disgraced that it was only with the Olympics that the government was forced to service the Hackney area with transport links. "Transport is finally brought because of the Olympics and not the other way around." (Young male)

ii. Appropriation

Marsh resident's expectations regarding appropriation of the Marsh area largely related to the Olympic Plans. Its section of the Marsh (East Marsh, Depot) will be taken and they fear will not be returned or will be altered.

³ One female dog walker suggests "the damming up of the Thames will stop the River Lea from being a tidal river which will completely change the ecosystem of the area. My main concern is that the bream populations will not be able to come upstream to be able to breed...and the otters and watervoles will loose their habitat." There are concerns surrounding the native trees on the Marsh and the loss of this 'natural' space being converted into a 'sanitised' park.

4. Conclusions

Key conclusions we have drawn from the findings are below. They relate to the access, needs, and expectations from users to the concepts of ***Environmental Justice, Social Inclusion and Olympic Legacy***.

4.1. Social inclusion:

Two major points were identified in regards to social inclusion:

- 1) Certain groups are accessing space on the Marsh and certain groups are not. The excluded groups identified include: young people, mothers and children, ethnic groups, up to secondary level education.
- 2) Lack of information about the Marsh and lack of information concerning the decision making processes of changing use is preventing a more diverse appropriation of use of the Marsh. The general mindset from users is that the most benefited are the footballers, even when the physical area used by footballers has decreased in the last 5 years.

4.2. Environmental Justice

Two main points were identified within environmental justice:

- 1) The people we spoke to have expressed a wish for a more diverse pattern of use on the Marsh. Not just sport, but access to nature, to social interaction and health benefits etc
- 2) There is a segregation of users and their desires for appropriation and use of the Marsh. There are differences between middle class and other users – social class and cultural, therefore not all users have access to the use of the different environs that the Marsh offers.

4.3. Olympic Legacy:

Marsh users' perception of the Olympic Legacy is not positive due to main points:

- 1) Lack of information about the plan
- 2) Users that know something about the plan perceive that the new facilities could be interfering and diminishing the current nature and reserves of the Marsh.

The Olympic Development Authority claims that the Olympics will generate opportunities for radical and significant regeneration by bringing new jobs, investment and hope back to areas that have suffered from severe and on-going de-industrialisation, (Raco, 2004) however, we conclude that the proposed opportunities and facilities are not the only answer for the Olympic Legacy. Local authorities and planners need to work more closely with the resident communities to include and change expectations around different uses of the Marsh as suggested by Dunn (2007:265 & 621) "participatory process succeeds when as many community members as

possible can utilize spatial information in the public decision making", and actually, "examples have shown that official or digital representation of a local area can lead to community participants viewing their environs in new ways."

5. Reflections

5.1. Key conclusions reflections

Based on the conclusions mentioned above the team has come up with some reflections about them:

- The Travelers' site – issue of conflict with common land appropriation and privatization of that area of the common land
- Perception of Legacy and Olympic Games – equity of cash resources allocated for REAP and other local projects. Security issues are clearly a priority. Local involvement is not – if you look at the resources allocated. Lack of congruence between the actions and the rhetoric.
- Lack of real participatory process for decision making on the Olympic Games impacts and Legacy for Hackney residents or existing Marsh users.
- The Hackney project was extremely complex.
- One challenge – to assimilate the information, the number of actors and roles and processes.
- Another issue is that the concepts of 'Environmental Justice' and 'Social inclusion' are slippery and contested.
- Another challenge, to integrate the different stakeholders, their expectations, perceptions and from that to develop potentially a better, more participatory process.
- Narrow focus of research – Hackney Marsh only
- Information (outputs/ conclusions) are contestable – although we presented our understanding of the conclusions (acknowledging limitations) for the purposes of presenting.
- Our window of focus means that our team's outcome was different to other teams, because they have different perspectives based on the communities they are based in. Different research focus gives very different outcomes, and as stated by Dunn (2007), participatory process are much more successful when including as many community inhabitants as possible.

5.2. Community learning reflections

The process is not just delivering facilities; it is really about engaging the communities in participatory processes.

"Regeneration is a process, not an outcome. Regeneration ideas is to bring sustainable, long terms projects to the area, including social, economic and environmental needs." (Raco, 2004 :299)

If regeneration in London is to be used as a tool for social inclusion then suitable integral assessment will be required. Nevertheless such a holistic and balanced approach is still a utopian prospect rather than utilitarian practice. (Raco, 2004 :299)

We felt that the learning process for the communities we spoke to was transcendent. The learning process helped the communities with the opportunity to reflect on their position and opinions in relation to the Marsh. Asking communities about their opinion in a respectful way is helpful for developing social capital and participation.

The mapping process itself, focusing on the representation of the space, helped make it 'their' space and the mapping process was enjoyed by the respondents. Feedback to the communities will be very useful.

5.3. Methodology and process learning reflections

- Maps were a very important and useful tool and they really engaged the interviewees. These helped interviewees express deeper issues around the Marsh – qualitative information was captured very well.
- Questionnaires – in hindsight we could have thought more strategically about the aims and final information which we wanted for example
 - a. issue of conflict of uses (middle class v. other users) could have been asked directly.
 - b. how the Legacy question could have been framed and asked and probed deeper during the interviewing. All we ended up with was a perception about Marsh users' feelings about the legacy being negative or positive. However the limitations of fieldwork time meant deeper analysis of how to improve the process would be very difficult.
- Hackney project tutoring. The learning from the project could have been improved if the team and tutor had spent more time discussing process and teasing out ideas analytically, rather than focusing on outputs.
- Hackney project tutoring – the communication channels were not developed to allow early discursive learning for the team.
- Hackney Marsh was a difficult research area – very amorphous as there was no resident community available to 'hang' research off.
- We didn't succeed in researching (working with), the existing resident community namely the travelers.

5.4. Team work learning reflections

5.4.1. Strengths

- Good environment. Participation and volunteering and consensus on aims and processes were encouraged.
- Team managed to get the tasks done – very efficient, considering other commitments.
- Team agreed that they all enjoyed the process – good team spirit overall.
- Allocation of work was very even over the timeframe. Everyone participated in all the different aspects of the research and writing up, so the whole team learnt evenly about methodology, fieldwork, thinking about presenting outputs etc.
- Seeing the other team's presentations were important learning activities.

5.4.2. Opportunities

- Applying the questionnaire. There were different methods within the group, which only emerged afterwards, which meant that some questionnaires got deeper and more detailed information. Hindsight practice application may have evened up interviewing skills.
- Team building. Individual work for other commitments were sometimes prioritized over team work
- Team building – rules and roles and responsibilities could have been more firmly laid out at the beginning. Initial expectation of similar dedication, which was not realised.
- Different appetites within the team for learning and gaining fieldwork and presentation skills. Different attitudes to individual responsibility for carrying out the aspects of team work.
- Team building. How to bring out individual strengths and develop alignment of individual motivations to help build the team? A longer project timeframe would assist with this – hard to achieve this within 5 weeks. Cultural differences and different motivations seemed to be an issue.

5.5. Final recommendations

Finally, based on our interviews, users of the Marsh recommended a few additional facilities to be installed. We want to include such a recommendation despite most of the interviewees being satisfied with the existing state of the Marsh, mentioning that they enjoyed the nature and the quietness, because it could be useful for the current managers of the Marsh Plan Improvement to compare present Marsh improvement plans with this one suggested by the users.

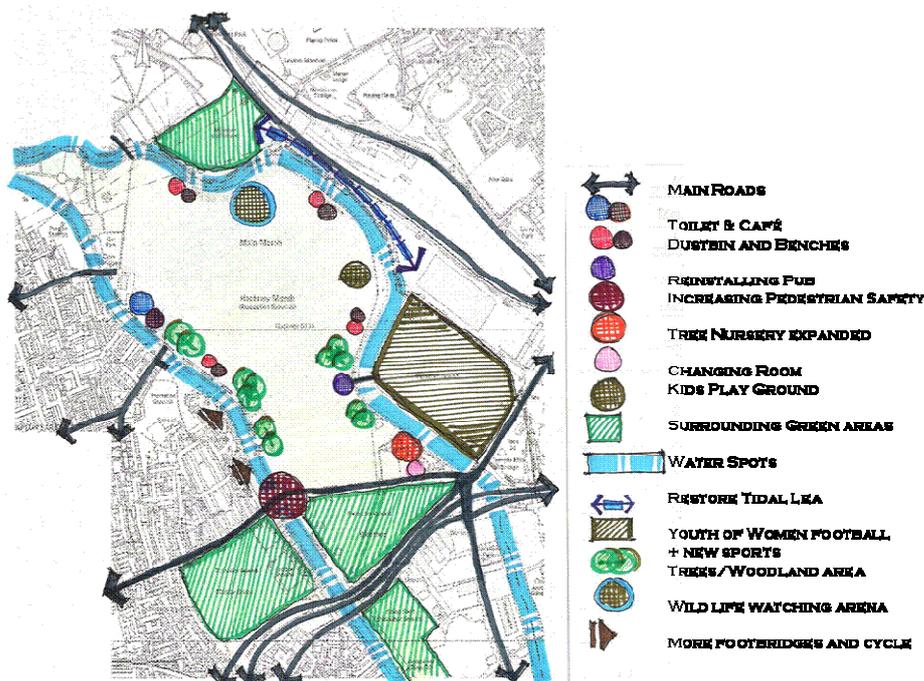


Figure 22: Map showing Users' recommendations

Facilities such as dustbins, benches, a cafeteria and toilet facilities were among the most mentioned. Other recommendations were a wildlife watching arena north of the main Marsh, footbridges connecting the Kingsmead estate and surrounding areas west of the main Marsh, more woodland along the edges east and west of the main Marsh where the pathways for jogging and cycling take place and promoting more water sports along the River Lea.

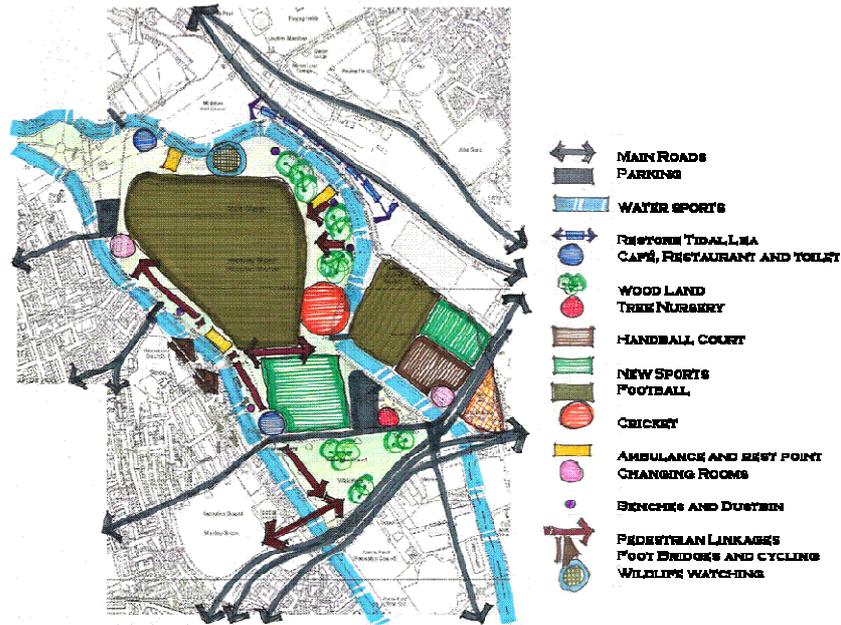


Figure 23: Map showing Group recommendations

The group recommendations map is based on the users' recommendations while adding to it some of the groups own ideas in respect to our observations during our field visits. Regarding the issue of safety, the group recommends having pedestrian pathways through the heavy woodlands north east of the main Marsh, more pedestrian linkages to Mabley Green and Wick Field. Also the group suggests having ambulance and first aid station points since we observed that many people use the Marsh for recovering from health problems.

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