



London Borough
of Hounslow

Dukes Meadows Regeneration

Pedestrian footbridge

February 2018



About Dukes meadows

Dukes meadows comprises 75.5ha (187 acres) of parkland located in the London Borough of Hounslow, adjacent to the river Thames and downstream of Barnes bridge. It is one of the largest open spaces in London, offering open access to the Thames through the Thames path.

The council is following the development of its ambitious plans to regenerate Dukes Meadows and deliver an improved public realm and sporting facilities



The pedestrian bridge

The proposed footbridge is an important component of the ongoing Dukes Meadows Master Plan. Although the much-needed bridge will tie in with concurrent upgrades to nearby facilities, it is a stand-alone project with its own ambitious time line and constraints.

The bridge has been designed with durability, maintainability and aesthetic appeal, with insistence on high quality materials and finishes fitting to its prominent position along the Thames. The bridge is a prime example of architecture and engineering working in harmony, a statement for the importance

of Dukes meadows as Hounslow's asset along the river Thames.

With energy efficient lighting and robust finishes such as stainless steel and aluminium, the project will anticipate and reduce the maintenance required over its expected 100+ year lifetime. The impact of the resulting footbridge will be felt far beyond the project's boundaries as it enhances the already cherished Dukes Meadows.

Dukes Meadows is an incredible asset for Hounslow, achieving over one million visits per year, the Council is keen to improve the site, particularly in terms

of resolving the issue of a railway line that severs the Thames path. The Thames path is an important feature and the proposed bridge will encourage access and usage, removing a frustrating dog-leg along the scenic walking and cycling route.

The new Dukes Meadows footbridge is an iconic structure that will no doubt add character to the area and, we hope, be appreciated for generations to come. The Council has worked very closely with the Port of London Authority and other key partners to make sure our improvements reflect the London regional strategy and its vision for the River Thames.



The Thames Path

Though the main objective of the bridge is to facilitate a safe and inviting route along the Thames Path, it will also help achieve several the Mayors Transport Strategy objectives, embracing the 'Healthy Streets' approach.

It would encourage users from all walks of life by creating a more coherent route, as well as providing a unique place to stop and rest. It would contribute

towards making London easier to cross, duplicating the proven accessibility improvements of similar bridges along the Thames Path (see Chelsea Bridge). The Thames Path is already very well used, with over 1000 cyclists and pedestrian using nearby sections at the weekend. The bridge has the potential to unlock even more walking and cycling trips between Hammersmith and Brentford via the Thames.

A step change improvement to the Thames Path, the bridge aligns with mayoral manifesto commitments. As well as wider strategic links, the bridge would increase public transport accessibility to the western side of Duke's Meadows, encouraging sustainable access to the leisure campus including the Boathouse development site.



Access to natural heritage

The park attracts over one million visits every year many of whom come to enjoy the scenery and environment. Working with the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) we have produced a site wide landscape plan that will significantly increase the biodiversity potential of the park.

The site includes Dukes Hollow, a small but important Nature Reserve featuring a natural tidal foreshore, diverse waterside flora and home to two nationally rare snails. The pedestrian bridge will improve access to a peaceful, almost rustic, part of the Thames Path with one of only two surviving natural Thames river banks in London.