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Camley Street Natural Park



Camley Street Natural Park has been temporarily closed to the public since December 2017 in order to prepare for the construction of a new visitor and learning centre. School sessions and events will still be held up until March 2018. The nature reserve will reopen fully in spring 2019.

July 2018 update: Preparation for demolition

Staff and volunteers have been working to clear the building prior to demolition, loading two huge skips with stuff we couldn't re-use or re-home.

Meanwhile, even the moss from the roof is being given a new home. The moss has been collected to be used in a ground-breaking experiment to create 'green walls' that are more practical, and considerably less expensive, than current versions.

We're working with University College London and Transport for London on this project, and will keep you updated.

Join us

Protect local wildlife



Reserve information

Location
 12 Camley Street
 London
 Greater London
 N1C 4PW

Map reference
 TQ 299 834

Great for...
 a family day out
 getting away from it all
 spring flowers

Best time to visit
 Apr - Aug

Get directions
[Find out here](#)


Public transport
[Plan your journey](#)

Opening Times
 Closed from 22nd
 December 2017 until
 spring 2019.

Facilities
 Cafe
 Visitor centre
 Picnic facilities
 Toilets



0.83 hectares

 **Dogs**
Guide dogs only

Grazing animals
No

 **Reserve manager**
Karolina Leszczynska-Gogol
Tel: 020 3897 6150
klgogol@wildlondon.org.uk 

After the existing visitor centre and adjoining buildings have been demolished, construction of the [new visitor and learning centre](#) is due to commence in March 2018. We will ensure the period of closure is as short as possible.

During the construction period, much-needed habitat enhancement works will take place, including desilting the ponds, enhancing the wildflower meadow and improving the wetland and reedbed areas. We will also improve access to the nature reserve. We aim to improve Camley Street Natural Park as a whole, for both people and wildlife.

School groups can visit until the end of February 2018. Following this date, our education officers will be offering school sessions in their own grounds where that is feasible, or at [Woodberry Wetlands](#) where additional facilities will be made available. We will also continue our work with Camden Mind, both at Camley Street and in surrounding areas.

Volunteers will work with us throughout the year, contributing to the habitat enhancement work and conducting guided walks and talks when the construction schedule and status allows us to do that safely.

For more information on the improvements being made, please see our press release [London Wildlife Trust awarded £1million to transform the wild heart of King's Cross](#).

About Camley Street Natural Park

A wild oasis nestled between two of London's busiest railway stations and beside Regent's Canal, this reserve was created from wasteland and is now a haven for diverse wildlife.

Camley Street Natural Park is a unique urban nature reserve, surrounded by significant new development in a bustling part of central London - between King's Cross and St Pancras.

The woodland, grassland and wetland habitats including ponds, reedbed and marshy areas, provide a rich habitat for birds, butterflies, amphibians and plant life, while a visitor centre caters for the thousands who visit annually.

The reserve provides additional habitat along Regent's Canal, with enhancements being made to soften the canal banks through installation of wildlife islands and marginal aquatic plants to provide habitat for birds, fish, and aquatic invertebrates.

Species you can see at Camley Street Natural Park

Amphibians: [Common frog](#)

Birds: [Reed warbler](#), [kingfisher](#), [moorhen](#), [mallard](#), [reed bunting](#)


Invertebrates: Orb-weaver spider, [stag beetle](#), [honeybee](#)

Mammals: [Daubenton's bat](#), soprano pipistrelle bat

Plants: Hairy buttercup, rare earthstar fungus

Downloads

Factsheets and guides for your visit

 [Camley-Street-brochure.pdf](#)



History of Camley Street Natural Park

The site was once a coal drop for the railways into nearby King's Cross Railway Station, which was demolished by the 1970s. Subsequently colonised by nature, it was bought by the former Greater London Council (GLC) in 1981 to be turned into a lorry park. Local people and the Trust ran a successful campaign to persuade GLC to save the flower-rich wasteland from development, and create a nature reserve instead. Starting in 1983, GLC worked with the Trust to re-landscape the reserve and install a visitor centre to deliver environmental education; Camley Street Natural Park was opened by GLC leader Ken Livingstone in 1985. This innovative inner city oasis – a symbol of the urban nature conservation movement of the time - was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1986, and has subsequently been visited by people from around the world.

Management of Camley Street Natural Park

As visitor numbers increase care is taken to protect the reserve's wild spaces and ensure nature is allowed to thrive through careful management of paths and habitats from trampling and disturbance.

Facilities at Camley Street Natural Park

The visitor centre includes toilets, information boards, a classroom, and self-guided activities for families to enjoy while exploring the reserve. Seating is dotted around the site, and there's an outdoor eating area. A viewing point provides seating alongside the canal.



How to get to Camley Street Natural Park

The entrance is a five-minute walk from King's Cross and St Pancras railway stations. Walk north up Pancras Road and across Goods Way. The reserve is in front of you, and the entrance is further along Camley Street just before the railway bridge.

Opening times for Camley Street Natural Park

From Saturday 23rd December 2017 Camley Street Natural Park will be closed to the public in order to prepare for the construction of a [new visitor and learning centre](#). School sessions and events will still be held up until March 2018. The reserve is then due to reopen fully in spring 2019.

Accessibility at Camley Street Natural Park

The entrance has a woodchip surface, as do footpaths around the site. The visitor centre has steps but also a ramp leading to it. Steep steps with handrails at the southern end of the site lead to the viewpoint on the canal. No visitor parking but drop-offs can be made by arrangement. Camley Street has double yellow lines on both sides.

Status of Camley Street Natural Park

Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation; Local Nature Reserve

Get involved at Camley Street Natural Park

- [Volunteer with Camley Street's team](#)
- [Record species you've spotted at Camley Street](#)
- [Take part in Camley Street's events](#)
- [Book a school trip to Camley Street](#)

Camley Street Natural Park on social media



[Find Camley Street Natural Park on Facebook](#)



[Follow Camley Street Natural Park on Twitter](#)

Species and habitats

Habitats

[Meadow](#), [Ponds](#), [Woodland](#)

Species

[Stag Beetle](#), [Kingfisher](#), [Reed Warbler](#), [Robin](#), [Daubenton's bat](#),
[Moorhen](#), [Common Frog](#)

Nearby nature reserves



[Woodberry Wetlands](#)
3 miles - London Wildlife Trust

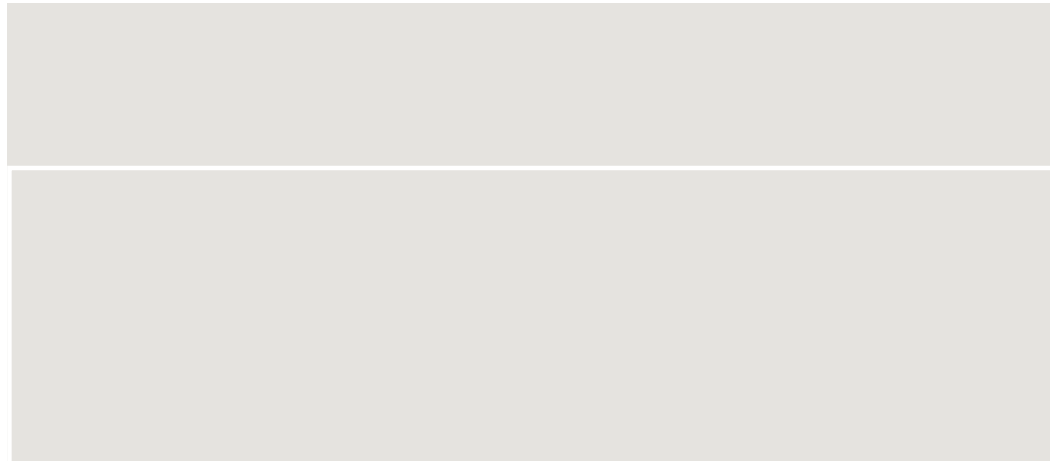


[Walthamstow Wetlands](#)
5 miles - London Wildlife Trust



[Bellenden Road Nature Garden](#)
5 miles - London Wildlife Trust

Nature reserve map



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