



**Co-operative Councils**  
Innovation Network

## STRATEGY

Lambeth Council

### The Lost Effra project

The River Effra used to flow from Crystal Palace to Vauxhall where it joined the Thames. Like many London Rivers it was diverted in to the sewer during the Victorian period. Consequently, the land where the Effra used to flow is now developed, however the valley of the Effra still exists and flooding along its route is a regular occurrence.

The Lost Effra Project was launched in 2013. Its aim was to develop a community based water management strategy and inspire people to create new ways to manage their environment along the route of the Effra in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark. Part of this work has been educating communities on the benefits of sustainable drainage and showing how SuDS (Sustainable urban Drainage Systems) don't have to be expensive and technical engineering solutions, but something that anyone can deliver in their own gardens.

The project is steered by the London Wildlife Trust, but involves key organisations such as the London Borough of Lambeth, Greater London Authority, Thames Water and Natural England. However, the main thrust of works and ideas comes from the network of community groups who are involved in the project and span the area that used to be the River Effra. The project also works in partnership with Lambeth Council Contractors who supply a lot of labour and resources in kind but also working with small local contractors to encourage growth within the local area and assure local skills are used.

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**For further information contact:**

Hannah Jameson

Head of Policy - Lambeth Council

[HJameson@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:HJameson@lambeth.gov.uk)