

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to Wetlands Centre, Barnes, Thursday 23 March 2006

This visit has been organised by W Alan Jennings

The Wetlands Centre <http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit/wetlandcentre/default.asp> is a major attraction for London and was opened in May 2000. In February of 2002 the centre was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), supporting nationally important numbers of Gadwall and Shoveler duck. Stretching over 105 acres, a mosaic of wetland habitats has been created on the site of 4 disused Victorian reservoirs. They range from arctic tundra to flood plains and tropical swamp forest to Asian rice fields. They comprise reservoir lagoons, ponds, pools lakes and reed beds, and are home to over 130 wild bird species, including rare ducks, geese and swans. These can be seen from a network of paths, bridges and bird watching hides. Others are in transit, - set up like an airport plus stay-overs! There is also a plant and water trail, and other features.

Transport

The Wetlands is situated at Barnes and is easily accessible by car, situated less than one mile from the South Circular (A205) at Roehampton and the A4 at Hammersmith. There is ample parking available at the centre

Nearest Underground is Hammersmith Tube

Buses From Hammersmith Tube take the 283, our specially branded *Duck Bus* from stand C, which will bring you directly into the centre. Alternatively, buses 33, 72 and 209 stop nearby (alight at the Red Lion Pub). These buses leave Hammersmith bus station from stand B. From Barnes mainline station take bus 33 or 72 or from Barnes Bridge take bus 209

Trains From Waterloo, Clapham Junction or Richmond to Barnes or Barnes Bridge. The London Wetland Centre is ten minutes walk from Barnes station and buses are frequent.

Programme

10.30-11.00	Arrive at Wetlands Centre. Collect entry ticket from Group Leaders (Alan or Maureen Jennings) at Group Meeting Point outside Visitors' Centre. Coffee then available at Waters' Edge Cafe (pay on day).
11.00 – 13.00	Guided tour of World Waterside Trail and the Wildside (2 parties of up to 20)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch in the Waters' Edge Restaurant (wide selection, pay on day).
14.00+	Optional guided tour of Waterlife Trail (with hides), and /or free time to visit Bird's Airport Observatory, "Planet Water" video theatre, Discovery Centre (interactive), gallery and shop.

The maximum number in the group is 40. The cost per person is £4.50.

