

SAUL Timetable

Actions completed since Newsletter 8:

November 2005

- 4-6—JPG Saarland
- 23-25—Noorderpark/Amstelwedge JPG, Amsterdam
- 30—Deadline for audited Payment Claims to be received by Lead Partner
- Transnational Reviewer site visits (various dates)

January 2006

- 9-10—Thames Gateway JPG, London
- 11-12—SAUL Steering Group meeting & Transnational Review Scheme Workshop, London
- 13—Amsterdam & Lead Partner Final Conference meeting
- 15—Deadline for Lead Partner Payment Claim/ Report to Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

Forthcoming actions:

April 2006

- 6-7—SAUL Steering Group meeting, Frankfurt

May 2006

- 30—Deadline for audited Payment Claims to be received by Lead Partner

June 2006

- 27-29—Final conference, Amsterdam
- 30—Deadline for Lead Partner Payment Claim/ Report to Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

August 2006

- 30—Deadline for audited Payment Claims to be received by Lead Partner

September 2006

- 30—Final Claim and Report to be submitted to JTS

For further information on forthcoming events, please contact:

rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk

Transnational Review Workshop

The Transnational Review Workshop was held in London on 11th—12th January. This was the culmination of the Transnational Review Scheme, a unique peer-review initiative designed to form an integral part of the overall evaluation of the SAUL project.



Luxembourg site visit (Photos: F. Bothmann)

The scheme involved each region recruiting two independent reviewers to investigate and visit a SAUL project in another region and give objective feedback.

Reviewer reports were based on the site visit, discussions with project staff, the SAUL website, information brochures and the pre-appraisal form, and covered:

- Quality of planning, implementation and final results
- Innovative aspects of the project
- Engagement of local people
- Sustainability of the project (environmentally, socially, etc)
- Involvement of SAUL Joint Planning Group members
- Contribution to spatial planning

The Transnational Review Workshop brought reviewers together and allowed for both formal and informal exchange around the SAUL project between reviewers and Steering Group members.



Reviewers & Steering Group members enjoy a tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (Photo: R. Lewis)

The event began with dinner and a tour at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank. The next morning's workshop was chaired by Ursula Stein (Stein & Schultz) where reports were compared and key points highlighted. During the afternoon session, reviewers met with SAUL Steering Group members for feedback and open discussion.

The scheme has provided an essential external viewpoint, increased the exchange and dissemination of SAUL learning and experience, and helped develop links for potential future projects. Overall, the perception of SAUL projects by reviewers has been very positive and results will be used to inform the SAUL Final Report.

If you have any questions about the SAUL Transnational Review Scheme, or Workshop, please contact rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk.

The SAUL Lead Partner and Steering Group would like to extend their thanks to the reviewers for their involvement in the SAUL project. We hope that reviewers will be able to join us in June for the Final Conference in Amsterdam.

Focus on SAUL Investment Project: Inner Thames Marshes, London

Thanks to funding from SAUL, a highly successful partnership between Thames Water and Groundwork South East London is delivering enhancements to Thames Water's Crossness Southern Marshes and Crossness Nature Reserve (Erith Marshes). The 'Managing the Marshes' Environmental Regeneration Programme aims to enhance biodiversity and improve public access to the Marshes along the River Thames.



Inner Thames Marshes area

On the Crossness Southern Marshes, work began in 2004 with a site clean up and a ditch restoration programme. Over 1km of previously dry ditches were opened up to contain year-round open water, and to provide suitable burrowing banks and shelter for the water vole: Britain's rarest small mammal, which is expanding at this site despite national populations being in steep decline! A survey in July 2005 showed that water voles now occupy over double the amount of habitat than they had in July 2004. Stock fencing has also been erected to create a buffer zone between the ditches used by water voles and the horse grazing areas.

The next phase of works, beginning in November 2005, includes further ditch restoration and creation of a new bird scrape: an area of shallow water and mud used by spring and summer breeding waders and autumn passage migrants. The wader scrape is expected to be a magnet for birdwatchers,

and the increased area of reedbed should provide appealing views for the local community at large.

A 1.5km footpath is being constructed to begin at the site's southern boundary. It will take the visiting public east through the site along the ditch network, crossing a couple of footbridges on route and passing several interpretation points along the way. There will be a viewing screen at the wader scrape; a timber-decked viewing platform offering views of a meandering reed-fringed dyke; and views across the open marsh landscape as the path continues across the top of a raised bund.

On Crossness Nature Reserve, plans are underway to extend the existing wader scrape, to carry out path improvements that will allow access for all, and to create a viewing platform on the Thames Pathway. The reserve is already open to the public, and a protected area – containing a bird hide, wader scrape, an artificial bat 'hibernaculum', an artificial sand martin nesting wall and a boardwalk through reedbeds – can be accessed by joining the Friends of Crossness Nature Reserve scheme.



**Creation of a wet scrape
for wading birds**



**Construction of a new path on
Crossness Southern Marsh**

Thanks to the Managing the Marshes programme, a pond-dipping platform and mini-beast area was created earlier this year to aid educational visits within the protected area.

In 2005, as well as a number of practical conservation days, Thames Water ran a range of events on Erith Marshes that included bat walks, a moth-trapping event, a water vole awareness day, a bird-ringing demonstration, and a plant identification day. An exciting programme of events is currently being developed for 2006.

For further information, or to join the Friends scheme, please contact Karen Sutton on +44 (0)20 8507 4889 or Karen.Sutton@thameswater.co.uk. For information on Groundwork South East London please contact Alex Laurie on +44 (0)20 8694 5000 or alex.laurie@groundwork.org.uk.

Thanks to Karen Sutton of Thames Water and Alex Laurie & Richard Peckham of Groundwork South East London for compiling this information, and Karen Sutton for photographs.

Focus on SAUL Action/Investment Project: Sustainable Storm Water, Rhein Ruhr

In North Rhine-Westphalia, SAUL is helping to fund a large scale environmental project. The 81km River Emscher, which has been used for wastewater transport for the last century, is being rehabilitated by the Emschergenossenschaft based in Essen. This will lead to massive improvements in new and existing residential and city areas, as the new water course becomes an essential part of newly designed settlements as well as providing an ecologically valuable resource on the city fringe.

Emschergenossenschaft has been involved in the field of sustainable storm water management and reconstruction of water courses since the 1990's. As a result of financial support and information campaigns, many disconnection projects have been realised since then, demonstrating the general potential for change in existing drainage structures.

The aim of the disconnection projects is to reduce sewer discharge in the project area by 15% within the next 15 years. Once completed, sewage will be transported underground, and the River Emscher fed only by spring water and storm water. This is more sustainable ecologically and socially and will limit future investment costs as improvements to traditional systems can only take place at the 'end of pipe'. The main investment cost savings will be through reducing sewer diameter. In the short term, costs for retention ponds will also be reduced as natural water circulation is enhanced. This will heighten the ecological potential of the new clear water creeks which are to be formed. Local residents will benefit from the improved design and recovery potential. SAUL is helping to implement these changes by contributing funding for physical investments in several pilot locations.



To be able to realise the anticipated financial savings, a measurement concept has to be created and accepted by both city administration and Emschergenossenschaft. This concept, including a list of projects, is at the heart of all efforts to establish sustainable drainage concepts in the Emscher region. A lot of activities, as well as the SAUL project work, have also been carried out, to inform and initiate projects of sustainable storm water management. All projects of recent years have been implemented voluntarily by the owners of the disconnected areas. Many efforts have been made to increase the interest of owners, because the decision to disconnect storm water from the discharge systems can not be enforced by law. This can be a barrier to future disconnection projects, as can getting permission for new channels with reduced diameters as a matter of reduced discharge amounts.

In sum, all activities for disconnection or separate discharge, as described above, are geared towards fulfilling the aims of the future contract for storm-water, and to bring the Emscher River system decisively forward on the way to integrated and sustainable water management.



Images showing completed disconnection and infiltration projects in the Rhein Ruhr region

With thanks to Kirsten Adamczak & Ulrike Raasch of Emschergenossenschaft for compiling this information and for photographs.

SAUL Final Conference



www.westergasfabriek.com



Photo: Michiel Firt

As the SAUL programme draws to its conclusion, preparations have begun for the Final Conference.

This event will be held in the Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam (see photographs) from 27—29 June 2006 and will highlight key SAUL lessons through a combination of site visits and presentations.

The conference is by invitation only, and details will be released shortly.

If you have any photographs of SAUL projects, meetings and seminars, please send these to steve.turner@groundwork.org.uk so that they may be used in future publicity

SAUL Lead Partner:
Groundwork UK (Groundwork London)
18-21 Morley Street
London SE1 7QZ
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7922 1230
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7922 1219

For more information about any aspect of this newsletter, or if you have any comments or queries, please contact:

rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk

www.saulproject.net



Planungsverband Ballungsraum
Frankfurt/Rhein-Main

MAYOR OF LONDON



staatsbosbeheer



The SAUL Project

Sustainable & Accessible Urban Landscapes (SAUL) is a transnational partnership project part-funded by the European Union's Interreg IIIB programme for North West Europe (NWE). Interreg encourages closer co-operation and integration through transnational spatial development initiatives, which promote sustainable development. Further information on the Interreg IIIB programme for NWE can be found on the website www.nweurope.org.

Six Metropolitan regions of North West Europe are represented in the SAUL Partnership: London (with two partners); Saarland; Frankfurt/Rhein-Main; Nordrhein-Westfalen (the Rhein-Ruhr region, with two partners); the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; and the Municipality of Amsterdam. This partnership has evolved from an earlier project under Interreg IIc.

Sustainable & Accessible Urban Landscapes is the development phase of the successful Interreg IIC project, *New Urban Landscapes*. Based on that experience, SAUL tackles a key issue of transnational relevance:

- **The vital role of socially inclusive spaces in the sustainable development of metropolitan regions.**

In the IIC project, we also identified three contributory issues common to metropolitan regions:

- **Regional identity, following economic and social changes, and the importance of regional spatial planning**
- **Planning through partnerships, leading towards a new planning culture**
- **The transnational value of the 'learning region' approach, leading to stronger integration between regions.**

SAUL will seek practical solutions to these challenges through joint transnational projects, which apply the principles of co-operative spatial planning, by testing and demonstrating methods and processes for involving local people in the planning and realisation of actions for land use, to the lasting benefit of all the partner regions.

Joint Good Practice Guidance on planning through transnational partnerships for new urban landscapes will be published for wider dissemination throughout NWE and elsewhere in Europe.