

Notes on Walk 21st September 2019

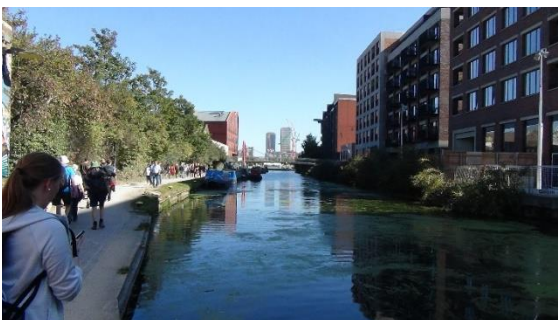
40 people joined the walk at Limehouse DLR Station. The route went via the Limehouse Basin and alongside the Regents Canal to Victoria Park before following the Hertford Union Canal, River Lee Navigation and the River Lee to the Olympic Park. Upon arriving in the Olympic Park, we visited the Velodrome and saw some cyclists training on the track.

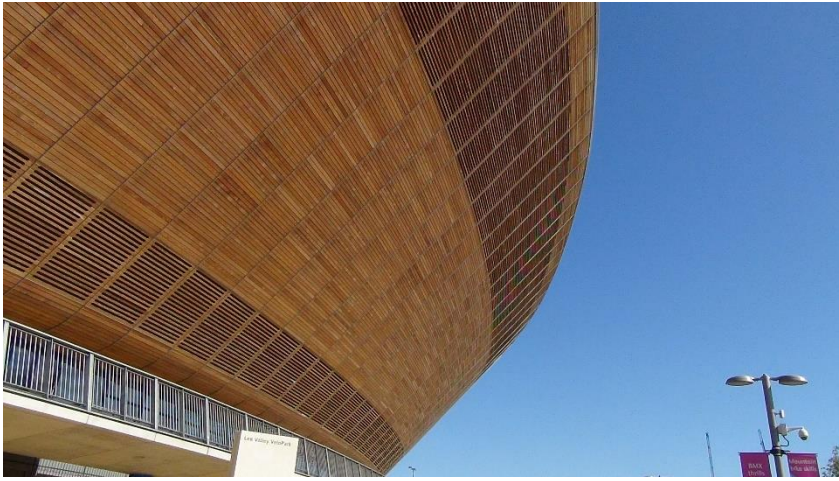
Some of us lunched at the Velodrome and the others at the Timber Lodge.

After lunch we went through the Olympic Park and alongside the River Lee passing by Carpenters Road Lock and making a brief excursion at Three Mills before continuing past Bow Locks and along the Limehouse Cut to Limehouse Basin to finish the walk, having covered a distance of approximately 9 miles.

Thanks to John Baron for arranging the walk and providing an interesting commentary.

Tony Barber





Canal & River Trust

HIGH PRESSURE WORK

The tall brick building to your right is an accumulator tower, used between 1896 and the 1930s to regulate pressure in the hydraulic system that worked the cranes, lock gates, capstans and swing bridges in the dock.

How it all worked...

A steam engine forced pressurised water through pipes to machinery around the docks. Very high pressure was used (around 100 psi or 6.8 bar). To achieve this, by force of gravity, small tanks were used to make water rise the height of Canary Wharf Tower!

Inside the accumulator tower is a cast iron cylinder surrounded by air. The interior of a wrought-iron cone that held 50 tons of gravel. The weight bore down on a ram inside the cylinder.

The steam engine pumped water into the cylinder, raising the weight. When dock machinery was needed, the cylinder dropped, forcing water back into the system under pressure.

When the machinery was stopped, pressurised water from the engines drove the weight back up again.

See for yourself

The tower was refitted in 1956 to allow public access to a roof-top viewing platform, which is reached via a spiral staircase installed within the central weight cone.

For details of open days please contact British Waterways London.

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