

Water Environment Improvements Project Evidence Form

Scope & Purpose

This form is to be used by the external Water Environment Governance Group (WEGG), to review, validate and formally approve the length of bluespaces improved for the Water Environment Improvements ODI. The form will be completed by the Water Environment Team with support from project partners and presented to the WEGG. After formal approval, the km of water environment improved will be recorded against the ODI and projects will be marked as completed on the Water Environment Scorecard and illustrated as delivered in the Bluespaces Mapping Portals.

Project Name

RSPB North Warren

Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position
RSPB	Nick Forster	Senior Site Manager

Bluespaces Improved

Year	Claimed	Proposed	Reason For Any Change
Year 3	8.4 km	9 km	GIS Miscalculation

Water Environment Assurance

This project has been reviewed internally to ensure it has delivered benefits above and beyond our baseline and regulatory obligations to improve the water environment accessible to customers across at least two out of three aspects. Following our assurance process, the project was approved by both our internal and external groups for review before delivery. This form presents evidence of project completion and the outputs achieved, to request project sign off.

Level	Project Acceptance Date	Project Approval Date	Completed Project Sign Off Date
Project Team	March 2022	N/A	N/A
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	March 2022	March 2022	N/A
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	March 2022	March 2022	May 2023

Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
March 2022	August 2022	March 2023

Project Summary and Highlights

Summary

Bluespaces at this extensive reserve in Suffolk have been improved through the creation of new wetland habitat and reedbed management, which has opened up views for visitors from wildlife viewing platforms. The site improvements, including management of water levels and protection of key breeding areas for birds, form part of the Suffolk Wader Strategy.

Highlights

- Creation of wetland scrapes and grips to enhance wetland habitat
- Reedbed management using a Truxor (amphibious machine)
- Installation of sluices and commissioning of a hydrological survey to support management of water levels across the site and improve biodiversity
- Installation of anti-predator fencing to improve breeding success of wader species, specifically Lapwing and Common Redshank






RSPB North Warren



Figure 1: Bluespaces improved at North Warren

Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria

Access, Facilities & Recreation	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of signage, way markers and identification boards will increase access to, enjoyment of, and engagement with the water environment 2. Way markers, interpretation and educational bird identification boards will encourage additional visitors to enjoy the reserve and benefit customers health and wellbeing 3. Wetland habitat management will open up views from a main viewing point to open water – enhancing visitor enjoyment and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A1: Increases access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment ➤ A2: Benefits health and wellbeing through:
Outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of waymarkers, interpretation and identification boards at the site is planned but will now be delivered in September 2023, due to a re-brand of the RSPB logo which has caused delays in design. 2. Materials installation has been delayed (as above), but visitors are still able to enjoy the reserve and the bluespaces improvements delivered, with information provided about the site on the RSPB website. Eleven volunteer work parties were held during the project to undertake reedbed management. This has improved visitor access to the water environment, and already provided some health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for the local community to engage with the water environment. 3. Wetland views have been opened up from viewing points, this has been achieved through volunteer work parties and the use of a Truxor boat 	
Evidence	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Clear wetland views from one of the main hides, and scrapes seen from a viewing platform</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RSBP Woodbridge group visit to North Warren</p> </div>	



Design of signs to be installed at viewing platforms, to be updated with the new RSPB logo (below)



Wildlife & Biodiversity

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of scrapes and grips will improve the quality and quantity of wetland habitat 2. Installation of sluices will assist in water control management and provide wetland biodiversity improvements 3. Reedbed management will enhance connectivity to open water and benefit wildlife & biodiversity 4. Further installation of anti-predator fencing on key wader breeding habitat will improve breeding success helping to improve conservation status and abundance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ B1: Improves the quantity, quality and connectivity of habitats ➤ B2: Improves the conservation status and or abundance or distribution of species

Outputs

1. Several new scrapes and grips have been created within the new predator fenced area to improve the quality and quantity of wetland habitat
2. Sluices have been installed to assist with managing water levels on the reserve helping to improve the quality of wetland habitat
3. Large areas of reedbed have been managed to create open water and to promote new reed growth in specific areas for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity
4. Key areas of breeding wader habitat have been fenced off using predator fencing linking to the Suffolk Wader Strategy and helping to improve the abundance and distribution of wader species

Evidence


Scrape enhancement work has been completed, showing an enhanced view from the main access route



Anti-predator fence now in place, with in-ditch construction used where practicable




One of the new bridges installed at the site for habitat management, wildlife observed on site

Water Quality	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<p>1. Hydrological survey of the reserve and holiday park area to promote sustainable water management and improve the functioning of water throughout the reserve and on nearby land</p>	<p>➤ C3: Improves state and function of water, including naturalisation, visual appearance, litter and odour</p>
Outputs	
<p>1. A hydrological survey has been commissioned. This will help support hydrological management of the nature reserve and the adjacent holiday park which frequently floods. A consultant has been appointed and the methodology agreed. The RSPB mitigates flooding by pumping water, recommendations from the report will be implemented to ensure this practice is effective and sustainable. This aspect is due for completion by September 2023</p>	
Evidence	
 <p>Chosen Contractor for hydrological survey</p>	

Additional & Secondary Benefits	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancement of coastal wetland habitat will support climate change adaptation and mitigate the loss of freshwater habitats through saline intrusion 2. The hydrological survey will provide understanding to help manage and prevent flooding to surrounding areas and information over locations for future management and habitat creation 3. Improvements at the reserve link to the Suffolk Wader Strategy and the RSPB Turtle Dove project 4. RSPB is a strategic partner for NWG; the new delivery partnership created through this project will strengthen the relationship and inform and help create further Turtle Dove habitat at the new Coldfair Green WTW, the capital project providing these legacy improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ D1: Provides resilience and adaptation to climate change and/or reduces the risk of flooding ➤ D2: Provides benefits to local communities, the local economy or NWG ➤ D3: Supports strategic project or investment into strategic partnership or landscape/regional activity
Outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work carried out at the reserve has provided additional wetland habitat in a coastal region helping to sequester carbon, support adaptation to climate change, and mitigate the loss of freshwater habitat 2. The hydrological survey will help inform the future management of the site and provide recommendations for future management 3. Creation and protection of wetland habitat has been planned as part of the Suffolk Wader Strategy 4. The partnership has identified additional projects that may be eligible for the Bluespaces scheme, strengthening the relationship with the RSPB. National Grid, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, and Sizewell Estate are key partners and funders for this project. 	
Evidence	
As above	



Customer Testimonies & Media



RSPB Woodbridge Local Group is at North Warren RSPB reserve.

20 January · Aldeburgh · 🌐

We had a great mid-week walk this week at RSPB North Warren. It was cold, but the birding and the company was very good. We saw 43 species of bird, and 3 types of mammal. The full list is: White Fronted, Barnacle, Greylag & Egyptian geese; Mute swan; Lapwing; Curlew; Snipe; Woodcock; Pintail; Mallard; Teal; Wigeon; Shoveller; Gadwell; Goosander; Harlequin Duck; Moorhen; Ringed Plover; Cormorant; Herring & Black Headed & Lesser Black Backed Gulls; Carrion Crow; Rook; Jackdaw; ... See more

RSPB Woodbridge Local Group
Community service

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January 2023

Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

“Funding through ESW’s Bluespaces scheme has enabled RSPB to create new wet features at North Warren, benefiting bird species that use the site and enhancing the bird spectacle for visitors using the paths and viewing platforms. The fencing to keep predators out of key nesting areas will improve the success of priority species such as lapwing and redshank in raising their young. The sight and sounds of wetland birds is a key element of visitors’ enjoyment of the water environment at North Warren.”

Dave Thurlow, RSPB Warden

“The support of ESW’s Bluespaces scheme in improving waymarking and signs at North Warren will enable visitors to find their way more easily and understand the importance of the water environment in this special place”

Nick Forster, Senior Site Manager, RSPB