

Woodland for...

WOODLAND FOR LIFE The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England

...wildlife



Case Study 6: Enhancing the environment

Peterborough wet woodland creation

Natural Environment



Achievements

Wet woodland is our richest terrestrial habitat. There are a number of exciting initiatives underway and this particular project has created 23 hectares of wet woodland – and we believe 2 pairs of contented otters!

Background

Wet woodlands occur on poorly drained and seasonally wet soils where the dominant trees species are alder, willow and downy birch. This is a very valuable habitat, providing shelter for a wide range of invertebrates. In turn these attract a richer biodiversity. The habitat can also reduce flood risks and counter fertiliser and pesticide run-off.

Thus it has been recognised that wet woodland should be a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), because not only does it provide good habitat for many important species, but also its extent has been subject to a severe decline in the recent past.

Initiative description

This comprehensive scheme has dedicated officers who mapped existing wet woodland and identified potential new sites within Peterborough. They then approached landowners, encouraging them with advice, supported by grants, to undertake individual schemes and thereby secured woodland creation.

Lessons learned

This project proved that a comprehensive approach to tackling an issue on a number of levels secures greater dividends. The most important lesson was the need for a dedicated person on site to work closely with and inspire landowners to create wet woodland.

Future developments

Another 18 hectares of wet woodland will be provided in Peterborough and up to a further 24 hectares may be possible.

Five similar wet woodland projects have been rolled out across the region.

Further information: www.woodlandforlife.net/wfl-woodbank

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