

Water Environment Improvements Project Evidence Form

Scope & Purpose

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

Project Name

Filby and Ormesby Broad

Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position	Contact Details
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Eilish Rothney	Trinity Broads Warden	

Water Environment Improved

Year	Claimed	Proposed	Reason For Any Change
Year 1	0.7 km	0.7 km	N/A

Project 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	February 2021	February 2021	NA
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	February 2021	March 2021	NA
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	March 2021	March 2021	

Water Environment Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
March 2021	February 2021	March 2021

Project Summary and Highlights

Summary

This project has contributed to water environment improvements for customer benefit to 0.7 km of publicly accessible water environments at Filby and Ormesby Little Broad – part of the Trinity Broads (and wider Norfolk Broads), in Norfolk. The Trinity Broads are owned by Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) and the non-operational land holdings are managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust through a long-standing conservation partnership. The local parish council (Filby) owns the viewpoint and fishing platform overlooking Filby Broad which was previously built following community fundraising.

The site is publicly accessible via access from a carpark which has been improved for parking and accessibility including the filling in of several potholes and a new surface. Bollards within the carpark have been replaced to be more visible as they were previously low to the ground and several members of the public had driven over them and become stuck. Extensive repairs to the footpath itself have been carried out to deliver further improvements at additional cost to that originally proposed.

In addition to contractors completing repair works, Norfolk Wildlife Trust volunteers have replaced the timber edges along the footpath. Two boardwalks to enable those with wheelchairs and pushchairs to better access the viewing points overlooking the broads have also been substantially improved.

Wildlife, biodiversity and water quality improvements have been achieved through the restoration of a dyke which runs adjacent to the footpath. The dyke had become heavily sedimented with ochre (silica and ferric oxide), causing the water to be less favourable and discoloured. Restoration of the dyke will enable the fry and young fish to use the dyke once again as an overwintering habitat and to shelter from larger fish and predators.

Access to the Trinity Broads is restricted to very few locations, making this project important for the local area, community, and ESW's customers.



Filby and Ormesby Broad



Figure 1: Map of accessible water environment at Filby and Ormesby Broad

Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria

Access, Facilities & Recreation	
Outputs	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timber footbridges have been repaired - damaged wooden planks have been replaced and a new handrail installed • The handrail, bridge and ramp to the Filby viewing platform have been replaced with new timbers • New taller timber bollards have been installed within the carpark to ensure visibility by drivers • The carpark has been resurfaced with hot bitumen and 10mm stone repairing damage and potholes • The barrier to the carpark has been removed • The footpath to the viewing platform has been improved through the installation of an all access path consisting of fines granite stone (rolled and compacted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A1: Increased access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Free and accessible facility for all members of the public ○ Improved all access footpath provides increased access to and enjoyment of the site ○ Enhanced visitor experience at the site ○ Enjoyment and appreciation of the natural environment through enhanced biodiversity and wildlife ➤ A2: Benefits health and wellbeing through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engagement with nature provided at the site
Expected Project Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved access to the site due to the improvements resulting in increased visitor enjoyment and accessibility ▪ Year-round nature experiences for members of the community, visitors and ESW's customers 	
Evidence	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>New bollards installed within the carpark and repairs to one of the footbridges</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	

Volunteers repairing the footpath edging

Wildlife & Biodiversity

Outputs	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dyke running alongside the footpath has been restored – sediment has been removed and the channel opened up • Restoration of the dyke will also improve the aquatic environment for several other important species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ B1: Improves the quantity, quality, and connectivity of habitats through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restoration of the main dyke which will allow fry and young fish to escape predators and shelter ○ Enhanced water environment within the dyke will support a number of other aquatic species ○ Restoration of the dyke improves connectivity within the aquatic system ➤ B2: Improves the conservation status and or abundance or distribution of species through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of additional and improved habitat for species and individual dispersal ○ Provision of improved overwintering habitat for fry will improve the abundance and distribution of fish

Expected Project Outcomes

- Range extension and species populations boosted

Evidence



Enhancement works to the main dyke – before, during and after the work was completed



A pair of Mallard ducks approving the habitat enhancement works

Water Quality	
Outputs	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of sediment containing large amounts of ochre (silica and ferric oxide) through restoration of the main dyke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ C3: Improves the state and function of water, including naturalisation, visual appearance, litter and odour through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removal of discolored sediment improving the visual appearance and state of the water within the dyke
Expected Project Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved water quality within the site delivering benefits to people and wildlife 	
Evidence	
	
<p>Ochre sedimented dyke which has been improved as part of this project</p>	

Additional & Secondary Benefits

Outputs	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of the dyke adjacent to the footpath • Improved access to Filby Broad through carpark, path and viewing area improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ D1: Provides resilience and adaptation to climate change and reduces the risk of flooding through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restoration of the main dyke reduces footpath flooding ➤ D2: Provides benefits to the community, the local economy or NWG through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased visitors to Filby broad will benefit the local economy

Expected Project Outcomes

- Enhanced walk to a popular visitor area to be enjoyed by the local community, customers and visitors

Evidence

Moving on to Filby, we arrive at the car-park adjacent to the bridge where Filby Broad meets Little Ormesby Broad. Directly from the car-park, a pathway leads through woodland to a viewing point over Little Ormesby Broad (unfortunately no dogs allowed). South of the bridge is a boardwalk overlooking Filby Broad and used by fishermen.



Rowing Boats on Little Ormesby Broad



Fishing Boardwalk overlooking Filby Broad



The viewing point overlooking Little Ormesby Broad



Little Ormesby Broad

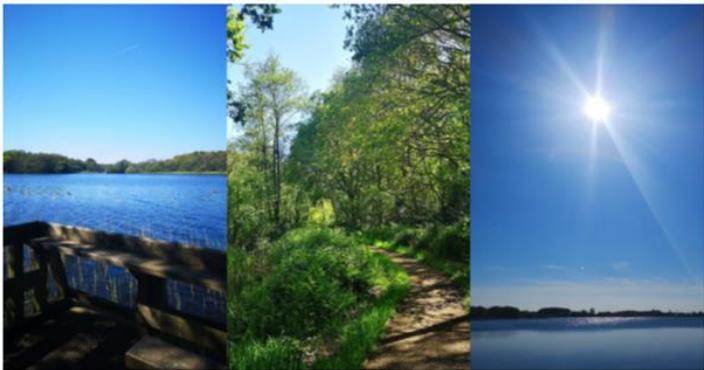


A Heron spotted at Filby Broad

Customer Testimonies & Media



🏠 Welcome 📍 Walks by area 👤 Walks by theme 📄 Activities 📝 Blog ✉ Contact



Filby Broad

What a little gem! Filby Broad is small but perfectly formed.

It's such a good little walk for toddlers as it's quite short, so not too far to carry them back if needed. Nice and flat for pushchairs too. It's a little out and back walk with a lovely view over one of the broads and you can go back to the other side of the (quite busy) road where there is a small platform overlooking Filby Broad, which was SO breath-taking in the sunshine.

A recent positive review from a member of the public

Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

Helen Jacobs, Senior Conservation Advisor at NWG

This project has enabled several improvements to take place including to the car park which was degraded. The footbridges reduced the accessibility of the site to wheelchair and buggy users but have now been upgraded to allow all users to access the site.

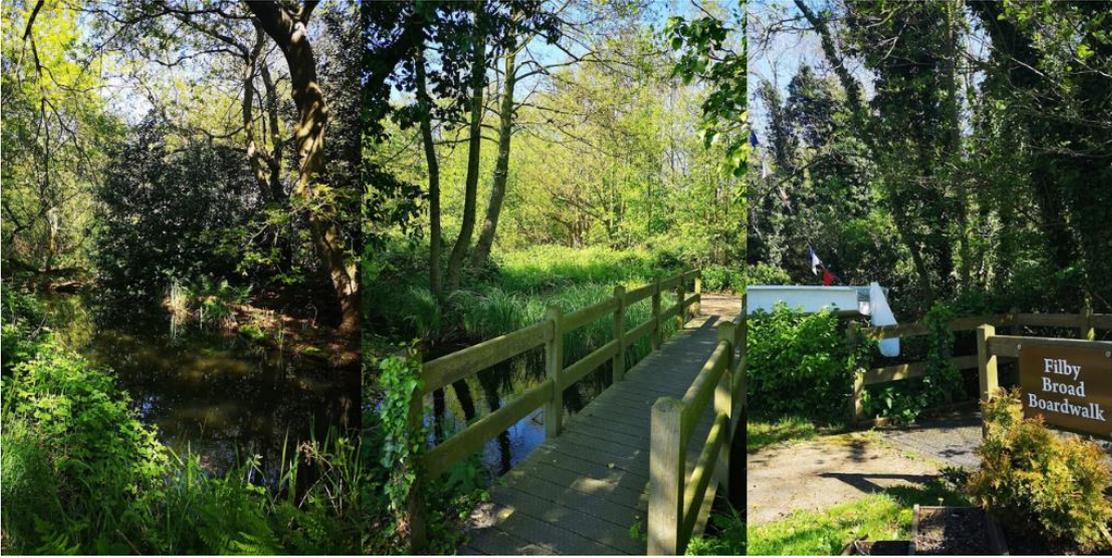
The ditch restoration works have significantly improved the dyke system for overwintering fish. The dyke had become clogged and completely blocked in places with reed growth, by removing this it allowed the fish to access a greater length of dyke habitat. The ditch dredging had the added benefit of removing some of the ochre which had recently leached into the water and was affecting water quality.

Eilish Rothney, Trinity Broads Site Warden

This has been a fantastic project for the site and works have delivered benefits for wildlife, water quality and for people.

The volunteers have also really enjoyed carrying out improvements and have received positive feedback from visitors.

Other Supporting Evidence



Additional images of the site after improvements have been delivered