

**Location:** Norfolk, IP27 9AD  
**Pre-restoration:** Cropland  
**Target:** Fen and wet grassland

**Restoration activity:**

- Water control structures
- Ditch creation and reprofiling
- Water pump
- Wetland landscaping
- Habitat creation
- Installation of fencing, gates and new crossing points

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**Managing Protected Species on site**

Survey work included:

**Water Vole**

- Habitat and general species survey
- Detailed survey - ditch by ditch
- Wooden rafts for long-term monitoring
- Sniffer dog surveys
- DNA analysis on droppings

**Badgers**

- Walkover surveys
- Detailed territory mapping

**Mitigation work - Water Voles**

All mitigation work was carried out under licence.

For short-length ditches up to 50m:

- Flailing of vegetation to displace animals. Followed by surveying
- Destructive searches to destroy old burrows once Water Voles had moved to new habitat

Longer-length ditches over 50m:

- Trapping and translocation of animals to Water Vole-free ditches
- Water Vole fences to prevent animals returning to old habitat



**Mitigation work - Badgers**

- All Badger mitigation work was carried out under licence
- Created 3 artificial badger setts on RSPB land, above ground to be flood-free
- Encouraged badgers to use new setts with food and bedding – monitored using trail cameras
- Closed down existing setts
- Chain-link fences to prevent entry with one way Badger gates to allow animals to exit
- After 2 weeks, removed fences and dug out and back filled tunnels

**New Water Vole habitat**

- Reprofiled ditches on one side and created new bank on the other
- Created new ditches
- Created new berm

**Key Points**

- Protected species work is costly – over £200k spent to comply with licence requirements
- Costs can be open-ended which makes accurate budgeting difficult
- Mitigation work windows: Spring or autumn for Water Voles, and late-summer to early winter for Badgers
- Inconsistency between contractors on the level of mitigation work required

