

## CASE STUDY

# RSPB RYE MEADS NATURE RESERVE, WORLD HERITAGE SITE

## Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

Project:	De-silting of lagoons, creation of wetlands & installation of water control structures.
Client:	RSPB EU Life Bittern Project
Contract Value	£75 K



The aim of the project was two fold; firstly to reduce the water volume and surface area of lagoon No. 1, thereby declassifying it's status under the Reservoirs Act 1975, and secondly to create wetland areas for wild fowl in general but with a specific intention to attract bittern.

The works involved the excavation of hard sediment from the base of the lagoon to form deep-water channels. The spoil generated was in turn used to build a retaining dam across the lagoon. Approx 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of silt was then excavated and carted to the area behind the retaining bund. A further 5,000m<sup>3</sup> was then excavated, carted and used to fill a deep channel in adjacent lagoon No.2.

The areas between the deep water channels in lagoon No.1 were then landscaped to give a 'ridge and furrow' effect just below the water level. This would provide the habitat for a variety of aquatic plants as well as wildlife.

New water levels were set and controlled by the installation of No.3 pre-cast concrete weirs.