

**GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS  
INDUSTRY**

**Research Project by David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature**

**NOMINATED EXAMPLE**

DTA reference.....15.....

**Mineral Operator: Name of Company**.....Redland Aggregates Ltd.....

**Address**.....Bradgate House.....

.....Groby.....

.....Leicester.....

.....LE6 0FA.....

**Contact name**R Foster (Divisional Restoration Manager)..... **Tel.no**....01530242151.....

**The work is** \*a physical scheme on a site \*innovative research  
\*an interpretive/information project \*a trial or experiment for future application

**Site Name**.....Cow Lane Sand & Gravel Pit.....

**Location**.....Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.....

**The relevant part of the site is open to the public** Yes / No  
**Access is available by arrangement** Yes / No Organised Parties

**If yes, contact name**.....R Foster..... **Tel. no**.....01530242151.....

**Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work**

.....English Nature, Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire WT.....

**Contact name**..... **Tel. no**.....

**Brief summary of nature conservation interest**

250 acre site situated in the valley of the River Great Ouse. Site consists of a complex of lakes varying in size from 2 acres to 40 acres. Two largest lakes support a wide range of wintering, breeding and passage birds including common tern, black tern, ringed plover, little ringed plover, lapwing, redshank, spotted redshank, blackheaded gull, little gull, black necked grebe, godwit and ruff. Osier beds support a significant entomological fauna.

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**Brief summary of work carried out**

Lakes and land margins within the complex have been created ie former workings were not just left to fill with water. Lake margins (land, shallows) and islands within the lakes were created using soils and overburden from extraction areas. Some marginal planting was carried out although the emphasis is on natural regeneration. Willow regeneration has been extensive and there are now plans for cut back to open up lake margins. There are also plans to use cut willow to make floating nesting sites for grebes to avoid nest swamping in times of flooding. A marshy area has been created to encourage the breeding of the scarce Chaser dragonfly. Nesting boxes have been installed for kestrel and owls.

**Date work commenced**      1985      **Date completed**      On going

**The work is**      ~~Temporary~~ / Permanent

**The work was part of**      ~~site preparation / operational phase / restoration / after care~~

**The work was:**

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process**      ~~Yes~~ / No

**Required by conditions on a planning permission**      Yes / ~~No~~

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation**      Yes / No

**The obligation was unilateral**      Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant**      Yes / ~~No~~  
**by the planning authority**      ~~Yes~~ / No

**The work was first proposed by.....**Redland.....

**The brief was prepared by.....**Redland.....

**The design was prepared by.....**Redland.....

**Who was consulted about the work?.....**

**The work was carried out by.....**Redland.....

**The work was carried out on behalf of.....**Redland.....

**The work was supervised by.....**Redland.....

**The cost of the work was paid by.....**Redland.....

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**Was any grant aid or other funding used?** Yes / No

**The site is now managed by.....Redland.....**

**The cost of management is paid by.....Redland.....**

**Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards?** Yes / No

Interpretive centre and museum on site looks at the development of the site. A book has been published which looks at both the historical development of the site and also at scientific research which has been carried out

**Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere?** Yes / No

If yes, at

**Is the success of the work being formally monitored?** Yes / No  
Since 1985

**A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available** Yes / No

**The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge** Yes / No

**List of material attached.....**  
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**Commentary on nominated project**

A good example of high profile, Redland thoroughness on a site they have vigorously promoted. This is largely about management of natural recolonisation and sensitive, proactive management rather than about an innovative vision. It is well placed geographically with few cases from this region. It is seen as a successful and popular resource which appears to be genuinely initiated, carried out, managed and funded by the operator.

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**GOOD NATURE CONSERVATION PRACTICE IN THE MINERALS  
INDUSTRY**

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**NOMINATED EXAMPLE**

DTA reference.....16.....

**Mineral Operator: Name of Company**.....Redland Aggregates Ltd.....

**Address**.....Bradgate House.....

.....Groby.....

.....Leicester.....

.....LE6 0FA.....

**Contact name**.R Foster (Divisional Restoration Manager)..... **Tel. no**....01530242151.....

**The work is** \*a physical scheme on a site \*innovative research  
\*an interpretive/information project \*a trial or experiment for future application

**Site Name**.....Rammamere Heath.....

**Location**.....Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.....

**The relevant part of the site is open to the public** Yes / ~~No~~

**Access is available by arrangement** Yes / No

**If yes, contact name**..... **Tel. no**.....

**Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work**

.....English Nature, Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire WT, Countryside Commission.....

**Contact name**..... **Tel. no**.....

**Brief summary of nature conservation interest**

Remnant natural heathland and ancient woodland notified as a SSSI. Suffering from heavy bracken invasion.

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**Brief summary of work carried out**

Bracken control by mechanical and chemical means to re establish remnant heath.

**Date work commenced** 1992 **Date completed** On going

**The work is** Temporary / Permanent

**The work was part of** ~~site preparation / operational phase / restoration / after care~~  
Management

**The work was:**

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process** Yes / ~~No~~

**Required by conditions on a planning permission** ~~Yes~~ / No

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation** ~~Yes~~ / No

**The obligation was unilateral** Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant** Yes / No  
**by the planning authority** Yes / No

**The work was first proposed by.....** EN, B&C WT and Redland jointly.....

**The brief was prepared by.....**EN, B&C WT and Redland jointly.....

**The design was prepared by.....**EN, B&C WT and Redland jointly.....

**Who was consulted about the work?.....**EN, B&C WT and Redland jointly.....

**The work was carried out by.....**Redland.....

**The work was carried out on behalf of.....**Redland.....

**The work was supervised by.....**EN, B&C WT and Redland jointly.....

**The cost of the work was paid by.....**Redland / Countryside Stewardship.....

**Was any grant aid or other funding used?** Yes / ~~No~~

**The site is now managed by.....**Redland and B&C WT.....

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**The cost of management is paid by.....Redland / Wildlife Trust.....**

**Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No**

**Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No**

**If yes, at Sandy Heath (Beds.) and Eversley Common (Hampshire) - restoration of sand extraction pits.**

**Is the success of the work being formally monitored? Yes / No**

**A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available Yes / No**

**The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes / No**

**List of material attached.....**

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**Commentary on nominated project**

The site forms part of the Greensand Ridge which runs from Hampshire through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire and contains numerous areas of remnant heathland and ancient woodland. Redland have ownership of substantial land holdings within this area. Conservation work carried out by Redlands within this belt involves both the restoration of worked sites and ecological enhancement / management of unworked sites to compensate for damage in the wider area. Most of these schemes, including this one are genuinely voluntary nature conservation initiatives, with Redland responding to opportunities and management problems in a constructive way and involving local wildlife bodies. Whilst it is clearly in Redland's interests to demonstrate responsible ownership and sympathy for and co-operation with the nature conservation movement, this should not detract from the fact that they do seem to be taking a very informed and strategic approach to site management on the Greensands.

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**NOMINATED EXAMPLE**

**DTA reference.....17.....**

**Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....Redland Aggregates Ltd.....**

**Address.....Bradgate House.....**

**.....Groby.....**

**.....Leicester.....**

**.....LE6 0FA.....**

**Contact name.R Foster (Divisional Restoration Manager)..... Tel.no...01530242151.....**

**The work is** \*a physical scheme on a site \*innovative research  
\*an interpretive/information project \*a trial or experiment for future application

**Site Name.....Kingswood SSSI.....**

**Location.....Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.....**

**The relevant part of the site is open to the public** Yes / No

**Access is available by arrangement** Yes / No

**If yes, contact name..... Tel. no.....**

**Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work**

**.....English Nature, Beds & Cambs Wildlife Trust, Forestry Authority.....**

**Contact name..... Tel. no.....**

**Brief summary of nature conservation interest**

Semi natural ancient woodland notified as a SSSI

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**Brief summary of work carried out**

Management to re establish the structure and integrity of the oak and small leaved lime woodland through traditional coppicing.

**Date work commenced**      Current      **Date completed**

**The work is**      ~~Temporary~~ / Permanent

**The work was part of**      ~~site preparation / operational phase / restoration / after care~~  
Management

**The work was:**

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process**      Yes / No

**Required by conditions on a planning permission**      Yes / No

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation**      Yes / No

**The obligation was unilateral**      Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant**      Yes / No  
**by the planning authority**      Yes / No

**The work was first proposed by.....**English Nature.....

**The brief was prepared by.....**EN, B&T WT, Forestry Authority, Redland.....

**The design was prepared by.....**EN, B&T WT, Forestry Authority, Redland.....

**Who was consulted about the work?.....**EN, B&T WT, Forestry Authority, Redland.....

**The work was carried out by.....**Redland.....

**The work was carried out on behalf of.....**Redland.....

**The work was supervised by.....**EN, B&C WT, Redland.....

**The cost of the work was paid by.....**Redland / Forestry Authority.....

**Was any grant aid or other funding used?**      Yes / No  
for part of the operation

**The site is now managed by.....**Redland.....

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The cost of management is paid by.....Redland / BWGS.....

Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / ~~No~~

Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / ~~No~~

If yes, at

Is the success of the work being formally monitored? Yes / ~~No~~

A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available Yes / ~~No~~

The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes / ~~No~~

List of material attached.....

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**Commentary on nominated project**

The site also forms part of the Greensand Ridge which runs from Hampshire through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire and contains numerous areas of remnant heathland and ancient woodland. Redland have ownership of substantial land holdings within this area. Conservation work carried out by Redlands within this belt involves both the restoration of worked sites and ecological enhancement / management of unworked sites to compensate for damage in the wider area. Most of these schemes, but not necessarily this one, are genuinely voluntary nature conservation initiatives, with Redland responding to opportunities and management problems in a constructive way and involving local wildlife bodies. Whilst it is clearly in Redland's interests to demonstrate responsible ownership and sympathy for and co-operation with the nature conservation movement, this should not detract from the fact that they do seem to be taking a very informed and strategic approach to site management on the Greensands. This particular scheme, however, appears to have been tied to a planning consent and agreement, although the basis of the agreement was volunteered by Redlands on the suggestion of English Nature.

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**NOMINATED EXAMPLE**

**DTA reference.....18.....**

**Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....Levington Horticulture Ltd.....**

**Address.....Paper Mill Lane.....**

**.....Bramford.....**

**.....Ipswich.....**

**.....Suffolk IP8 4BZ.....**

**Contact name.....Alan Shaw..... Tel. no.....01473 830492.....**

**The work is** \*a physical scheme on a site \*innovative research  
\*an interpretive/information project \*a trial or experiment for future application

**Site Name.....Thorne Moor.....**

**Location.....South Yorkshire.....**

**The relevant part of the site is open to the public** Yes / No

**Access is available by arrangement** Yes / ~~No~~

**If yes, contact name.....Nick Temple-Heald..... Tel. no.....01405 813231.....**

**Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work**

**.....English Nature.....**

**Contact name.....Roger Meade..... Tel. no.....01924 387010.....**

**Brief summary of nature conservation interest**

1400 hectares of lowland acidic mire, the largest of its kind existing in Britain today. Nationally important habitat which supports a significant fauna including nationally rare nightjars (Annex 1 of the EC Wild Birds Directive), the most northerly population of nightingales in Britain and nationally important insect populations including Large Heath butterflies at their most southern locality. Interesting botanical species include bog rosemary, cranberry, royal fern and sundew. Now managed as a NCC reserve.

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**Brief summary of work carried out**

Following an agreement reached between Fisons plc (now Levingtons) and EN, peat winning continued over the northern part of the moors. An average depth of 50 cm of peat was left after extraction as a base for constructive conservation after use. All areas of ecological importance were given immediate protection within nature conservation areas. Further management to safeguard nightjar and nightingales populations also implemented.

**Date work commenced**      1992                      **Date completed**      On going

**The work is**                      Temporary / Permanent

**The work was part of**      ~~site preparation~~ / operational phase / ~~restoration~~ / ~~after care~~

**The work was:**

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process** Yes / No

Agreement reached between Fisons plc and EN covering peatlands in Somerset, Cumbria and Yorkshire on which Fisons had previously acquired planning permission to extract peat wherein: i) the freehold of all English peatlands be transferred to EN; ii) sites of particular nature conservation interest be agreed and immediately devoted to nature conservation; iii) areas of lower ecological value be leased back to the company for extraction with the proviso that 50 cm of peat be left as a base for constructive conservation after use; iv) the company to aid in the management of conservation areas. Work at each site is governed by a Moors Management Agreement, a legally binding agreement concerning water and vegetation management, access arrangements and handover procedures for worked out land after a specified time period.

**Required by conditions on a planning permission**                      Yes / No

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation**                      Yes / No

**The obligation was unilateral**                      Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant**                      Yes / No  
**by the planning authority** Yes / No

**The work was first proposed by.....EN.....**

**The brief was prepared by.....Fisons plc and EN.....**

**The design was prepared by.....Fisons plc and EN.....**

**Who was consulted about the work?.....EN, NGO's (Wildlife Trusts etc).....**

**The work was carried out by.....Fisons plc and EN.....**

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**The work was carried out on behalf of....Fisons plc and EN.....**

**The work was supervised by.....Fisons plc and EN.....**

**The cost of the work was paid by.....Fisons plc.....**

**Was any grant aid or other funding used? Yes / No**

**The site is now managed by.....Fisons plc and EN.....**

**The cost of management is paid by.....**

**Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No**

**Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No**

**If yes, at Hatfield Moor (S. Yorks.)**

**Is the success of the work being formally monitored? Yes / No**

**A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available Yes / No**

**The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge**

**Yes / No**

**List of material attached.....**

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.....

**Commentary on nominated project**

This is a large scale scheme involving partnerships between the industry and a nature conservation body in which the minerals company has actually donated its land to EN for conservation management and subsequently leased back areas of low ecological value for extraction. This is an outstanding example where the significance of unique and dwindling habitats has clearly been acknowledged by the minerals industry. It is also a tribute to the negotiating powers of EN. There are a few gaps in the information which can be answered easily by EN.

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## NOMINATED EXAMPLE

DTA reference.....19.....

Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....Levington Horticulture Ltd.....

Address.....Paper Mill Lane.....

.....Bramford.....

.....Ipswich.....

.....Suffolk IP8 4BZ.....

Contact name.....Alan Shaw..... Tel. no.....01473 830492.....

The work is \*a physical scheme on a site \*innovative research  
\*an interpretive/information project \*a trial or experiment for future application

Site Name.....Hatfield Moors.....

Location.....South Yorkshire.....

The relevant part of the site is open to the public Yes / No

Access is available by arrangement Yes / No

If yes, contact name.....Nick Temple-Heald..... Tel. no.....01405 813231.....

Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work

.....English Nature.....

Contact name.....Roger Meade..... Tel. no.....01924 387010.....

### Brief summary of nature conservation interest

1184 hectares of lowland acidic mire, the second largest of its kind existing in Britain today. Nationally important habitat which supports a significant fauna including nationally rare nightjars (Annex 1 of the EC Wild Birds Directive) and important insect populations.

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### Brief summary of work carried out

Most of the site had been previously cut for peat but there are some ecologically important areas left and considerable opportunities for rehabilitation. The agreement secures all areas of nature conservation importance from further damage. Large areas of the site are still to be cut under the terms of the agreement and, therefore, extensive plans for rehabilitation have been drawn up by Fisons plc and EN to restore to wetland after cutting has ceased. This provides an opportunity to recreate peatland conditions as well as other wetland habitats of ecological value. Conservation management work includes raising water levels by blocking drains, installing sluices and clearing invasive vegetation.

**Date work commenced** 1992 **Date completed** On going

**The work is** Temporary / ~~Permanent~~

**The work was part of** ~~site preparation~~ / operational phase / restoration / ~~after care~~

### The work was:

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process** Yes / ~~No~~  
Agreement reached between Fisons plc (now Levington Horticulture) and EN covering peatlands in Somerset, Cumbria and Yorkshire on which Fisons had previously acquired planning permission to extract peat wherein: i) the freehold of all English peatlands be transferred to EN; ii) sites of particular nature conservation interest be agreed and immediately devoted to nature conservation; iii) areas of lower ecological value be leased back to the company for extraction with the proviso that 50 cm of peat be left as a base for constructive conservation after use; iv) the company to aid in the management of conservation areas. Work at each site is governed by a Moors Management Agreement, a legally binding agreement concerning water and vegetation management, access arrangements and handover procedures for worked out land at the end of a specified period.

**Required by conditions on a planning permission** Yes / No

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation** Yes / No

**The obligation was unilateral** Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant** Yes / No  
**by the planning authority** Yes / No

**The work was first proposed by**.....EN.....

**The brief was prepared by**.....EN and Fisons plc.....

**The design was prepared by**.....EN and Fisons plc.....

**Who was consulted about the work?**.....EN and NGO's (Wildlife Trusts etc).....

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**The work was carried out by.....EN and Fisons plc.....**

**The work was carried out on behalf of.....EN and Fisons plc.....**

**The work was supervised by.....EN.....**

**The cost of the work was paid by.....Fisons plc.....**

**Was any grant aid or other funding used? Yes / No**

**The site is now managed by.....EN and Fisons plc.....**

**The cost of management is paid by.....**

**Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No**

**Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No**

**If yes, at Thorne Moors (S. Yorks.)**

**Is the success of the work being formally monitored? Yes / No**

**A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available Yes / No**

**The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English Nature free of charge Yes / No**

**List of material attached.....**

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**Commentary on nominated project**

See example 18.

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**NOMINATED EXAMPLE**

**DTA reference.....20.....**

**Mineral Operator: Name of Company.....William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....**

**Address.....Heysham Road.....**

**.....Aintree.....**

**.....Liverpool.....**

**.....L30 6UQ.....**

**Contact name.....Gwilym T Jones..... Tel. no.....0151 525 5991.....**

**The work is** \*a physical scheme on a site \*~~innovative research~~  
\*an interpretive/information project \*~~a trial or experiment for future application~~

**Site Name.....Marshside Sand Works.....**

**Location.....Southport, Lancashire.....**

**The relevant part of the site is open to the public** Yes / No (views of the site from adjacent areas are good)

**Access is available by arrangement** Yes / No

**If yes, contact name..... Tel. no.....**

**Name of any environmental consultancy that assisted with the work**

**.....Alan Bale Wildlife Consultant.....**

**Contact name.....Alan Bale..... Tel. no.....01704 506496.....**

**Brief summary of nature conservation interest**

The range of habitats created including salt and freshwater lagoons, rush and reed beds and meadow are a haven for wildlife attracting many species of migrant, wintering and breeding birds including pipit, wagtail, wheatears, stonechat, kestrel, peregrine and merlin, tufted duck goldeneye, lapwing, curlew, common sandpiper, redshank, reed bunting, sedge warbler, blue throat, little egret and sabbines gull. Insect fauna is also of note. Botanical species of interest include rest harrow and some species of orchid. Site is adjacent to EN's Ribble NNR and to the RSPB's Marshside Marsh Reserve.

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**Brief summary of work carried out**

Screening bunds were planted with trees, shrubs and plants to attract birds, butterflies and other insects. Lagoons, used for sand washing, were excavated to a shape and depth designed to encourage feeding waders and to provide resting areas as specified by the RSPB. Other work relevant to nature conservation includes a long term research study on the impacts of sand wining on the foreshore, and a further research project looking at the impact of sand wining on invertebrate and bird populations.

**Date work commenced** 1990 **Date completed** On going

**The work is** Temporary / Permanent

**The work was part of** ~~site preparation~~ / operational phase / ~~restoration~~ / after care

**The work was:**

**Entirely voluntary, ie no connection to planning requirements and process** Yes / No

**Required by conditions on a planning permission** Yes / No

Physical and biological research was a condition of the licence to operate

**Required by a section 52 / 106 agreement / obligation** Yes / No

**The obligation was unilateral** Yes / No

**The relevant part of the agreement was first offered by the applicant** Yes / No

**by the planning authority** Yes / No

**The work was first proposed by.....**Sefton Metropolitan Borough.....

**The brief was prepared by.....**Shoreline Management Partnership.....

**The design was prepared by.....**Shoreline Management Partnership and Alan Bale Wildlife  
.....Consultant.....

**Who was consulted about the work?.....**Alan Bale Wildlife Consultant. The RSPB  
appears also to have had some input (freshwater lagoon design).....

**The work was carried out by..**Liverpool John Moores University, Alan Bale WC, William  
.....Rainford.....

**The work was carried out on behalf of.....**William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....

**The work was supervised by.....**William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....

**The cost of the work was paid by.....**William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....

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**Was any grant aid or other funding used? Yes / No**

**The site is now managed by.....William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....**

**The cost of management is paid by.....William Rainford (Holdings) Ltd.....**

**Is there any interpretation of the work eg leaflets, trails, boards? Yes / No**

**Have the research / methods / techniques been applied elsewhere? Yes / No**

**If yes, at**

**Is the success of the work being formally monitored? Yes / No**

**A [returnable] photograph of publication quality is available Yes / No**

**The nominator is prepared to obtain and send such a [returnable] photograph to English**

**Nature free of charge Yes / No**

**List of material attached.....**

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**Commentary on nominated project**

Conservation work carried out (planting to encourage wildlife, lagoons designed to encourage birds) appears to have been voluntary, being more than that required in conditions imposed on the extraction licence. It was not directly connected with a planning application and was achieved without any form of legal agreement.

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