



Wildlife lagoons during construction



After one year's growth

Landscape Design and Habitat Creation

Project

Weston-super-Mare waste water treatment plant

Client

Wessex Water

Background

When Wessex Water constructed a £100m sewage treatment works on the Bleadon Levels, south of Weston-super-Mare, Landmark was appointed to devise, implement and manage a landscape scheme which would reduce the visual impact of the works within the flat open landscape, and provide an enhanced habitat for wildlife.

Description

Although originally arable farmland of limited wildlife potential, the site lies adjacent to the Severn Estuary, an internationally designated site noted for its wading birds. Extensive naturalistic lagoon areas were created to provide a sanctuary for wildfowl and waders. To encourage maximum habitat diversity, the lagoons were carefully excavated to create a rich mosaic of channels, shallows and deeper areas. Reeds and other marginal plants were quickly established and the lagoons soon attracted a wide range of resident and migrant birds.

The visual impact of the sewage works has been reduced by earth embankments planted with substantial groups of trees. These reflect the character of the lowland landscape whilst also disguising the form of the new buildings. Public access to the site includes bird hides, an interpretation centre and coastal walks. Landmark is retained by the Client to ensure that landscape and ecological objectives are maintained.

Client benefits

An imaginative design strategy which achieved planning consent and widespread public recognition of the client as a responsible land manager.