

Bodenham Lake Works FAQ

Why are diggers at Bodenham Lake?

The diggers working to transform Bodenham Lake from a steep sided ex-gravel pit into a more a natural wetland system. The main habitat these works will create is reedbed, one of the UK's rarest habitats. Reedbed is a vital habitat for nesting waders and wildfowl, but it only grows in very small areas of Bodenham Lake due to its steep banks.

What species will the reedbed attract?

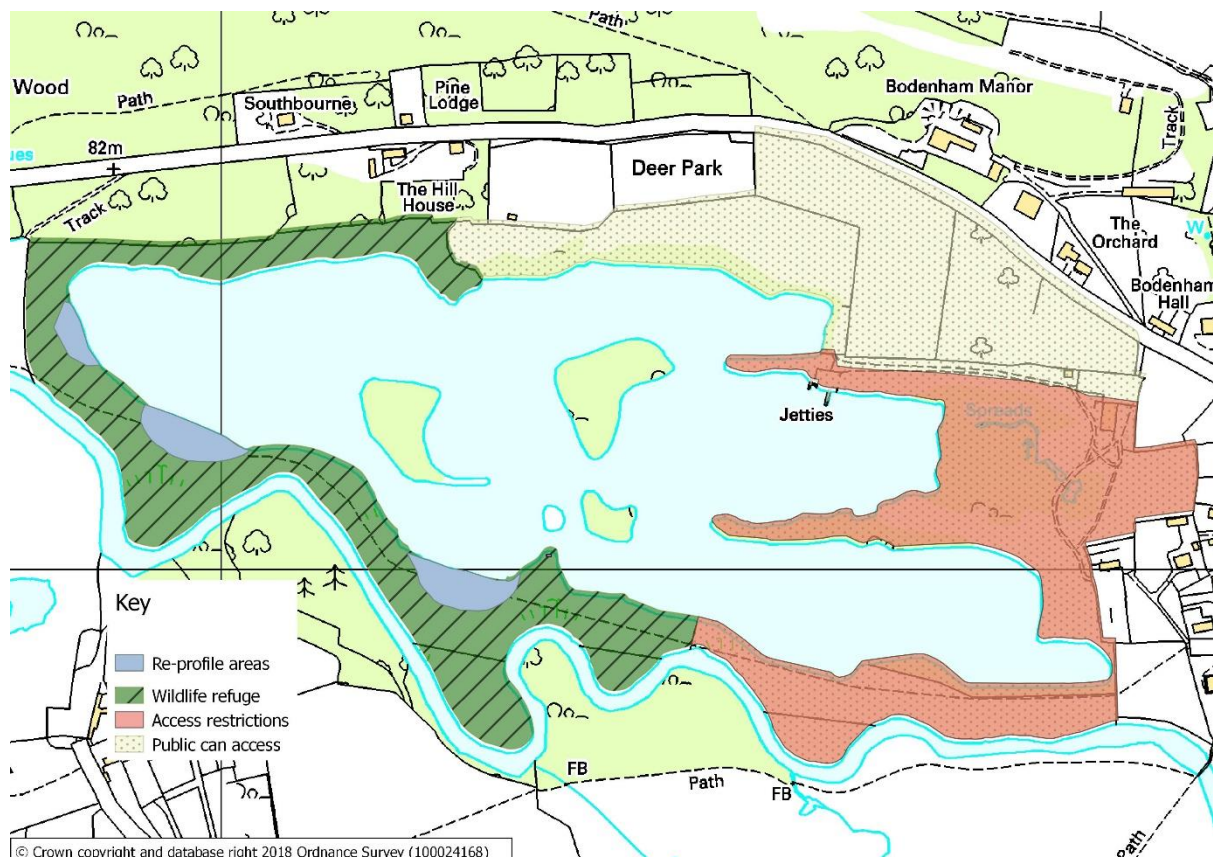
Birds such as bittern and bearded tit are dependent on reedbed, we hope that by creating large areas of reed we will attract them to the site. Within the reedbed will be a series of shallows, pools and ditches in which amphibians, invertebrate and young fish will thrive. We hope that creation of muddy margins and small islands will attract a range of wading birds. Channels cut into reeds will provide feeding habitat for birds such as the elusive water rail.

How long will the works last?

The works start on the 3rd of September and will take up to 8 weeks.

Will the works stop me walking at the lake?

Whilst machinery is entering and leaving the site there may be restrictions on which part of the lake you can access, this will be for a few days at most. For more information please see the below map and refer to on site signage during your visit.



When will the Lake look less muddy?

Until vegetation starts to establish in the spring the new lake margin may look bare. We will help reedbed to develop by transplanting turfs of reedbed from the areas it currently grows in, to the new lake margin. We will plant reedbed plug plants in May and these planted areas will initially be fenced to minimise the impact of grazing by geese and other wildfowl.

Will the works be harmful to wildlife?

The result of these works will be a large gain for the biodiversity at Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve. Extensive surveys on otter, reptiles, crayfish, newts, wild flowers and more have informed these habitat creation plans. We have taken steps to minimise disruption to wildlife during the works period, such as conducting works outside of the bird breeding season. Potential negative impacts on wildlife have been analysed and mitigation measures such as creating reptile refuges etc. have been put in place.

What area are the works covering?

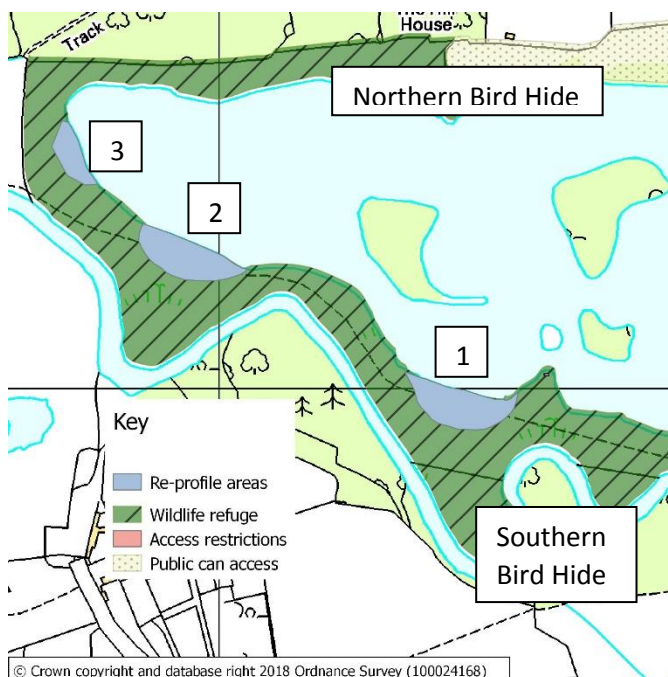
The lake's margin is being shallowed in 3 areas, the works are covering over 2 acres of Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve.

Who designed the habitat creation schemes?

The concept design was created by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, the final designs for the new lake shore were created by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust. Re-profile works will be conducted JPR Environmental.

How can I see the habitat creation areas?

The re-profile areas have been designed to maximise viewing opportunities from the bird hides (situated on the North and South shores of the Lake.)



Area 1 will be visible from the Southern bird hide.

Area 2 and 3 will be visible from the Northern bird hide.

Who is managing the project?

Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve is managed by a partnership of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and New Leaf Sustainable Development. These works are taking place as part of the Lugg Wetland Gem Project which is managed by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and led by Sophie Cowling, the Trust's Living Landscapes Officer for the Lugg Valley.

Who has funded this work?

This project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Environment Agency, Tesco bags of Help, and a private donation.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



How can I get involved in protecting wildlife at Bodenham Lake?

There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities at Bodenham Lake from surveying grass snakes, to helping to manage trees. If you would like to get involved please contact Sophie Cowling on 01432 356 872, s.cowling@herefordshirewt.co.uk

I have more questions, who should I contact?

Please contact Sophie Cowling on 01432 356 872, s.cowling@herefordshirewt.co.uk