Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 9

Reed Rond Creation after Floodbank Set-back

Where setback of river banks is taking place, there is a valuable opportunity to re-use dredged material to assist in the creation of rond habitat.

Aim

Engineering solutions to producing quality reed rond, inline with Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets and landowners requirements.

Environmental Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Damage/destruction of water vole and/or reptile habitat, including death of individuals	Medium	Survey and mitigate (refer to ESOPs 10 and 11)
Damage and destruction of habitat used by breeding birds	Low	Survey and mitigate (refer to ESOP 14)
Reed will not establish	Medium	Deposit spoil to recommended height
Establishment of invasive species	Low	Monitor and treat as necessary (Refer to ESOPs 16-19,21)

Delivery Method

- Environment Officer to carry out an ecological assessment of the site, surveys for protected species, breeding birds and advise on mitigation required and timings for works and to draw up a restoration plan
- Environmental Officer to carry out follow up ecological assessment and to advise if further measures are required

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Reed Rond Creation after Floodbank Set-back

Standard Procedure

- Survey for protected species and breeding birds (see ESOP's 10, 11 & 14) to inform the project mitigation plan – try and retain riverbank trees where possible, or consider coppicing.
- Where appropriate, incorporate open areas within the set back which are left free of material for fish refuges, and ensure there is a channel for water exchange throughout the soke dyke.
- Start working from one end of the setback area (preferably upstream) gradually infilling in a downstream direction, to 'push' water and aquatic fauna out of the way.
- Ensure that the overall level is left low (e.g. mean water level), as this promotes optimal conditions for reed establishment and discourages the establishment of nettles and willow. Assess each site on an individual basis to determine optimal final fill level.
- Where appropriate, following disposal cut grips through the old flood bank to allow free water exchange between the river and soke dyke – thus avoiding stagnant conditions and preventing drying out from occurring.
- Monitor vegetation establishment over two seasons, and consider planting if necessary. Treat any invasive species/scrub as necessary.
- Follow up management by commercial reed cutters may be an option worth considering. Site access needs consideration from the start of the project.

Consultation Required

- **Broads Authority** – Planners
- **Natural England** – if designated site
- **Environment Agency** – flood defence consent

Further Information

Sediment Management Strategy:
www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/Dredging/sediment-management-strategy