

SURVEY



Project	:	Bank Stabilisation Assessment
Client	:	Orchards Holiday Village
Date	:	May 2017
Keywords	:	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal • Ecology • Protected Species • Vegetation Survey • SPA • SAC • SSSI • Ramsar •
Description	:	<p>Orchards Holiday Village is located on the Essex coast and is a thriving tourist destination during the summer months, providing support to the local economy. A series of borrow dykes, originally excavated to construct the local coastal defences, provides a network of waterways throughout the site and suitable habitat for a number of protected bird and terrestrial species. Following continued erosion the banks of these borrow dykes have become unstable, resulting in minor damage to infrastructure on site and causing concern to the long-term safety of the site. The client appointed Exo Environmental to undertake a multifaceted investigation of the site, in order to provide a more thorough understanding and assessment of the scale of the problem, whilst also inviting suggestions as to cost effective solutions to stabilise these important bank habitats.</p> <p>The area is subject to several designations, including SPA, SAC, SSSI and Ramsar sites. It was therefore essential to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal to ensure legal compliance of any future works and to avoid negative impacts on local biodiversity. This involved a walkover survey of the site, covering approximately 1km of bank habitats including reed bed and south-facing grassland, whilst looking for direct evidence of protected species such as water voles (<i>Arvicola amphibious =terrestris</i>) (as droppings or burrows) and assessing vegetation species composition. A summary report was provided to the client and included; an assessment of the ecological value of the area, possible environmentally sensitive solutions, and a summary of both potential impacts and suitable mitigation measures that could be employed in any future works package.</p>

