

Planning Application 21/01374/FUL

Pond Creation at John Weston Nature Reserve

John Weston Nature Reserve sits on edge of Hamford Water in the Tendring district and as a result, is covered by the Hamford Water's designation as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). These designations reflect the area's significance in terms of breeding waders and migratory over-wintering wildfowl.

Breeding waders such as Lapwing, Redshank and Avocet as well as overwintering wildfowl such as Dark-bellied brent geese rely on intertidal mudflats as well as areas of wet grassland to feed and raise young.

Whilst the eastern compartment of John Weston Nature Reserve is managed for the benefit of raptors such as Kestrels, small mammals and pollinators, the western compartment is managed for the benefit of wildfowl and waders in support of the Hamford Water's designations as both a SSSI and SAC.

The western compartment already contains a pond approximately 250 sq. meters in area as well as a small number of low ways and boundary ditch. The inclusion of another three ponds each approximately 100 sq. meters in area will provide additional feeding opportunities for waders as well as increasing the overall biodiversity on site.