

Canvey Lake - Completed Works

The first phase of enhancement works is complete, and the following improvements have been implemented:

Bank Reinforcement and Clearance

Removed old bank stabilisation measures on north and south banks, including rotten timber posts and sections of concrete gravel boards. Salvaged any reusable concrete gravel boards for reuse on the western end of the north bank (Denham Road end).

Removal of all old posts and signage to be completed in Phase 2

Fishing Area

Installed recycled plastic fishing peg platforms with toe boards to north bank. Grass seed to be laid in March due to wet weather.

An area 5m wide has been graded creating a chamfered edge which gently enters the water to meet soil levels in the lake on the South bank. This area has been created as natural fishing swims along this bank.

Bird Feeding Station

Constructed water's edge bird feeding station to North of lake from recycled plastic board with compacted crushed cockle shell surface.

Grass seed to be laid in March due to wet weather.

Reed Removal and Cutting / Maintenance

A metre wide fringe of reed has been retained at the bank edge as a natural stabilisation, which over time have suffered from natural erosion. This is to be flailed as part of the ongoing ground maintenance contract to improve visibility of the water edge from the bank.

A 2-metre-wide channel has been dug out along the edge of the reed fringe and now gives a clear definition of the bank and the water's edge improving visitor safety in Area 1 Linde Road to Lede Road and Area 4 from Denham Road bridge to the Pumping Station. The root mass has been deposited on the existing reed beds which has further reduced the visual impact of the reeds in this location.

Removed approximately 10% of reed in Area 1 Linde Road to Lede Road, removing root mass and reduce regrowth creating a pool effect. Sections of cutting were randomly selected and cut a substantial width apart to avoid predator runs being introduced.

Removed approximately 10% of Area 3 reed cover the viewing platform to Denham Road Bridge, removing root mass and reduce regrowth creating a pool effect.

Pennywort

Removed Pennywort vegetation, including roots from affected areas ensuring that the area downstream was netted during the works to reduce the likelihood of plant material spreading further into the lake.

Handpicked remaining areas of vegetation to remove any unwanted Pennywort.

Denham Road and Car Park

Complete resurfacing of the un-adopted road as a one-off project due to the large potholes created by the traffic visiting the car park and complete resurfacing of the whole car park.

Problems Occurred

The only real problems encountered during this project was the damage caused to the grassed areas around the lake due to the time of year and weather which has left a less than perfect result in some areas and has hindered the ability to seed and prepare for grass growth. Other complaints received were regarding the noise of machinery and the contractor's early starts which all residents were warned about prior to the work commencing.

Projects Success

This project was expected to take 6 weeks and has in fact been concluded in 4 weeks, it started w/c 7th January and concluded w/c 7th February.

The first phase has proved a success and has improved the visibility around the lake within the areas of work and assisted with the prevention of fishing in restricted areas. The creation of fishing pegs has secured a dedicated area for fishing.

The creation of a bird feeding station will prevent the erosion of the existing grassed area and secured a dedicated area for bird feeders. Additional signage will be erected giving guidance on how to safely feed the birds without detriment to their health or other surrounding wildlife and fish and providing education on the types of birds and wildlife found in and around the lake.

The contractor will be returning sometime in March to seed the affected grassed areas to ensure that the growth returns following the damage caused due to the weather conditions.

The total cost of the complete project including Phase 2 is:

£143,074.42

Funding has been secured from:

Veolia Pitsea Marshes Trust: £38,127

Big Society: £15,000

The remaining £89,947.42 will be funded by Canvey Island Town Council.

Phase 2

Phase 2 will commence in September/October 2013 and will be as follows:

- To clear a 2m wide channel in Areas 2 & 3 Lede Road to Denham Road Bridge.
- To cut approximately 10% of Area 2 reed cover Lede Road to Viewing Platform, removing root mass and reduce regrowth creating a pool effect.
- To cut approximately 10% of Area 4 reed cover Denham Bridge to Pumping Station, removing root mass and reduce regrowth creating a pool effect.
- March 2014 - to treat any remaining Pennywort monthly during the growing season of March to October.

- March 2015 – to treat any remaining Pennywort monthly during the growing season of March to October.

It is the Council intention to continue improving the surrounding area of the lake by installing additional litter/dog bins, benches, a possible play area and enhancing the path along the south side of the lake.