



# Suffolk Wader Strategy

**Carlton and Oulton Marshes:** Recently created scrapes at Carlton have significantly improved numbers of lapwing and redshank. Further footdrain and scrape creation would be beneficial to breeding wader numbers and productivity. Productivity on surrounding marshes is unknown and further extension of the reserve to wet grassland from abandoned arable would provide more suitable habitat and reduce disturbance from visitors and shooting.


Waterbirds in the UK have been declining for some time and lapwing and redshank continue to fall in numbers nationally with 50% and 59% declines since 1975 respectively. Despite this, Suffolk remains home to three important populations of waders; lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) and avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). The Suffolk Wader Strategy is a partnership of organisations, which have come together to arrest and reverse the decline in wader populations in Suffolk. With a focus on the coastal area, we influence land management both on nature reserves and more widely across the countryside to maximise their potential for these species.

**Tinkers Marsh :** Building on the recent island and scrape creation, reprofiling of the river wall to increase resilience to regular and frequent saline inundation, would encourage the shift to a more regularly brackish system. Gentle edging on the dykes and landform manipulation will create more nesting opportunities.

**Dingle and Corporation Marshes:** Scrape creation in the area immediately behind the current saline lagoons would allow the pools to migrate inland as the shingle beach rolls back, an opportunity to increase the numbers of waders at this small but productive site.

**Minsmere:** The scrape supports significant numbers of breeding avocet and lapwing. Further work to island profiles and sluices will improve the control of water levels and help to develop more feeding areas for these species. Areas of wet grassland would benefit from the creation of additional pools and foot drains, with periods of drying out, helping lapwing and redshank numbers.

Legend:

 Suffolk Wader Strategy  
Priority Reserves







**North Warren:** The grazing marsh will be improved for breeding waders by completely drying out one half of the marsh every five years, replicating more dynamic, natural processes. The aim is also to move away from stable, wet grassland to a coastal brackish system with more varied topography and better water control.


**Hazlewood:** These former freshwater marshes are now intertidal following breaching of the river wall. Recent works have created 15 islands, benefitting breeding waders and the developing mudflats and saltmarsh are now well used. 2016 will be the first year since the site became intertidal where wader breeding habitat will be present. Future works will include island improvements and installation of a viewing hide/platform.

**Cattawade:** With some of the best wader productivity rates in the country, Cattawade is an extremely important site for lapwing and redshank in the Stour valley. Localised foot drains within the fenced area would further improve numbers of these birds.

**Trimley Marshes:** New scrapes and islands provide further breeding habitat on formerly unproductive areas of the reserve. The foot drain network in the open grazing marshes has also been significantly increased, and part of the reserve now has an anti predator fence. The limitation for this reserve now is size, and expansion would be beneficial.

**Hollesley and Boyton:** The recently created scrape has significantly improved numbers of avocet, lapwing and redshank. Further of areas of the reserve outside the scrape would benefit from foot drain creation and new scraped areas. The recent extension of the Boyton reserve provides a fantastic opportunity to create a new brackish wetland, managed in a dynamic way, reflecting a more natural system.

Legend:

 Suffolk Wader Strategy Priority Reserves

