

Project Information:

Blackwell Role	Main Contractor
Form of Contract	NEC Option C
Contract Start	November 2014
Contract Period	77 weeks
Contract Value	£2.2M

Blackwell Site Management:

Contracts Director:
Garrett Priestley

Contracts Manager:
Justin Downer

Quantity Surveyor:
Jonathan Lee

Project Office:

Head Office:
Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne,
Essex, CO6 2JX
Tel. 01787 223131
Fax. 01787 223235



Services Include:

Civil Engineering **Earthworks** **Geotechnical** Remediation



Contract Summary:

The Sizewell Marshes near the Suffolk coast cover a site of special scientific interest and accommodate a wide variety of invertebrates, breeding birds and rare plants. However, the area has been identified as a potentially suitable location for a new nuclear power station – a venture that would require development on land areas currently inhabited by wildlife.

Working for EDF Energy, Blackwell is carrying out the creation of approximately 6 hectares of replacement wildlife habitat on the adjacent Aldhurst Farm site to help compensate for the potential land take that would be required by the construction of the power station. This includes the creation of wet and dry reed beds with associated access measures and suitable control structures to manage the flow of water. Reed beds are being created by excavating groundwater basins and planting reeds and vascular plants within these basins.

In addition to providing replacement wildlife habitats, the client intends to open up areas of the finished site to the public for quiet recreation – requiring additional landscaping to be carried out.

Environmental mitigation measures being carried out by Blackwell include the preservation of an existing habitat for water voles and the development of suitable habitats for bird and reptile species. To reduce wastage, soils excavated to create the new groundwater basins are being reused in landscaping operations across the site.

Key Processes:

The project scope of work includes the following:

- The creation of a new and enhanced ditch habitat.
- The design and construction of 5 hectares of wet reedbed. These will include the creation of 4 groundwater basins and surface water channels and ponds.
- The design and construction of 0.8 hectares of drier reed habitat.
- The planting of reeds and vascular plants within the basins to form wet and dry reed beds.
- The installation of control structures for each groundwater basin to manage water levels. These will primarily be used to allow the flow of water out of the basin and to enable eels to access the basins.
- The upgrading of the existing site entrance to accommodate plant and material deliveries.
- The construction of a secondary site access to ease access to the southern half of the site.
- The formation of new tracks to allow vehicular access. This will include the use of excavators as required in earthworks operations.
- The upgrading of existing site access tracks.
- Carrying out minor channel realignment of the Aldhurst Valley Stream to enable the incorporation of an existing irrigation pond within the groundwater basins.