

WP2 - Action 8 - A restoration strategy and vision for North West Surrey in South East England, a RESTORE demonstration project

The north-western corner of Surrey in South East England is an area which has been extensively worked for sand and gravel extraction. Known as the North West (NW) Surrey demonstration project, the area will be used as a blueprint for setting out a long-term strategy and vision for past, current and future restored mineral sites over a large-scale area.



Map of south-east England

The built-up area of NW Surrey running along the river Thames has a long history of mineral (sand and gravel) extraction. The restoration of sites following mineral working has left a legacy of both filled and unfilled sites. Many of the unfilled and flooded gravel pits have been successfully turned into sites of nature conservation interest. However there are also areas which were originally restored to agricultural land but have become neglected over recent years.



An award-winning restoration site and nature reserve near Staines © Surrey County Council

This project will create a strategy and vision for the whole project area which will look at how all mineral workings (past, present and future) can provide opportunities for nature conservation, landscape, flood alleviation, aviation safety, agricultural and recreational interests.

RESTORE

The strategy and vision for restored mineral sites in NW Surrey will be developed in partnership with local stakeholders including mineral operators, local communities, individual landowners, local authorities, Heathrow Airport and environmental organisations. Their thoughts and views will be used to help shape a shared vision for the area.



Northern Shoveler © Alan Drewitt, Natural England

The restoration strategy will set out the long term vision and strategic aspirations for the area. It will provide the framework for the delivery of restoration measures on the ground and inform future mineral restorations. It could also be used to help inform and support any Green Infrastructure work being undertaken by the Borough Councils across this corner of Surrey.

The NW Surrey demonstration project will not only deliver benefits for wildlife and people but it will also serve to demonstrate best practice in what can be achieved through visionary mineral planning over a large-scale area. The intention is that this could be adapted and transferred for use elsewhere, across the UK and beyond.



Reedbeds can be a haven for wildlife
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