

KIER'S WORK TO PROTECT WATER VOLES

AT BRIDGWATER TIDAL BARRIER

Protecting threatened wildlife and enhancing habitats while delivering essential flood defence infrastructure.



OUR COMMITMENT

Water voles are one of Britain's most rapidly declining mammals.

Working on behalf of the Environment Agency, Kier is committed to protecting and enhancing habitats for water voles as part of the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier scheme.

Through licensed mitigation, habitat creation and ongoing monitoring, we are helping safeguard local populations while delivering essential infrastructure.



1

ENHANCEMENT & RECEPTOR HABITATS

Two high-quality habitats have been created to provide safe long-term habitats supporting water vole populations.

- A new enhancement ditch established with mounds, planting, Salix products and protective fencing.
- The Wildmarsh receptor pond provides shelter, feeding opportunities and secure areas for relocation.



2

SAFE RELOCATION

Careful mitigation ensures water voles are protected before construction activities take place.

- Licensed displacement and trap-and-translocation undertaken by specialists.
- Water voles safely relocated to prepared habitat.
- Ongoing monitoring helps ensure populations continue to thrive.





1

Water vole enhancement habitat

New habitat created to support translocation and long-term population resilience.



2

Licensed water vole relocation

Water voles safely relocated as part of Natural England approved mitigation.



3

Wildmarsh receptor site

Purpose-built habitat providing long-term refuge for relocated water voles.



WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

The Bridgwater Tidal Barrier is an Environment Agency flood defence scheme designed to help protect **11,300 homes, 1,500 businesses** and critical infrastructure around Bridgwater from increasing flood risk associated with climate change.

Designed to protect against up to a 1 in 200 year flood event, the scheme includes a tidal barrier on the River Parrett and new or improved flood defences at Chilton Trinity, Pawlett and Combwich.



The project demonstrates how nationally significant climate adaptation infrastructure can be delivered while protecting and enhancing biodiversity.



PROJECT OUTCOMES



Protecting threatened water vole populations



Creating new habitats and receptor sites



Supporting nature recovery



Protecting **11,300 homes** and **1,500 businesses** from future flood risk



Delivering climate resilience alongside biodiversity enhancement

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE. PROTECTING COMMUNITIES. ENHANCING NATURE.

Working in partnership with the Environment Agency to build a more resilient future.