SCARBOROUGH SCRAPE, MORGAN SINDALL Grontmij (MGJV)

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OVERVIEW

The revised European Union Bathing Water Directive (rBWD) will tighten the quality assessment criteria for European bathing waters. From the end of 2015 the quality of all bathing waters will be classified as Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. Criteria to attain the 'Excellent' classification is approximately twice as stringent as that stipulated within the original BWD and will be the new benchmark for Blue Flag status from 2015.

Uniquely amongst the UK Water Companies, Yorkshire Water Services (YWS) is working to achieve the 'Excellent' classification rather than simply meeting the mandatory requirement of 'Sufficient'. This highest classification is one of the requirements for the award of a coveted Blue Flag by the Foundation for Environmental Education. The aim, in partnership with other stakeholders, is to achieve Blue Flags for all eight of Yorkshire's designated Bathing Beaches including Scarborough's North and South bays.

The Scarborough rBWD project worked with the local farmer, the Scarborough Council Wetlands Project officer and Natural England to restore a vital piece of habitat in the green network of feeding grounds on the east coast.

A scrape is a temporary pond which dries out slowly leaving muddy edges that provide a rich feeding habitat for invertebrates. Scrapes are important in grassland areas to provide a wet feature for wading birds and their chicks in the breeding season, particularly from April to June.

The existing scrape on the cliff top had dried out, probably due to a fissure in the clay. The aim was to restore the scrape to one with a gradual slope and undulations using the equipment.

Fact box

Company name:
Morgan Sindall Grontmij (MGJV)

Project name:
Scarborough Scrape – revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD) Yorkshire Water.

Location:
Scarborough

Biodiversity enhancement:
- Restoration of scrape
- Hibernacula construction

Size:
N/A

Cost:
No cost

Tips:
- Work closely with stakeholders. By engaging with them helps understand local needs and concerns
- Conservation and biodiversity enhancements are great for team morale.
- Good news story

Year completed:
2014

Categories:

- Small scale permanent
- Community engagement
- Most innovative

We removed the topsoil to rework the clay lining then returned the topsoil to the scrape. The scrape now holds water for the first time in two years and the local birders have reported that birds are back.

This kind of habitat creation has many effects:
- Local and international bird movements
- Co-operation with the local residents and local wildlife groups
- Assisting farming communities and subsidies
- Positive customer feedback
- Good client relationships.

Rock Netting Geological SSSI
In the area above the proposed works there were indications of surface instability to the lower slopes of the cliff and evidence of boulders that have fallen from the higher sections. It is known that the cliff line has retreated several hundred metres in the last 200 years since most of the Roman Signal Station has been lost.

It was necessary however to consider the overall stability of the cliff as a result of the proposed works and also measures to address the protection of workers and the permanent works from weathering or other disturbances to the cliff face.

The cliff is home to peregrine falcons and a kittiwake colony , both of whom are protected from the works and now enjoy the security of a stable cliff face on which to nest.

Peregrine Protection
A pair of Peregrine falcons has lived on Marine Drive cliffs for nine years. Works at Toll House created noise/vibrations, to ensure no disturbance to the Peregrines, our Environment Advisor worked with the RSPB and local authority creating a bespoke monitoring plan. The results, showing no change in the birds' behavior, were shared with the RSPB for their research into human disturbance on Peregrine activity.

Pictures of the enhancements