



# social value case study

## our environment

### Protecting the Environment at Fairburn Ings

The RSPB wetland reserve at Fairburn Ings near Castleford, West Yorkshire, is shaped by a long history of coal mining. It has been transformed over recent years into an important habitat for some of the UK's rarest and most beautiful wildlife including; bittern, spoonbill, little egret, bearded tit and harvest mouse.

In February 2022 our team provided some much needed protection to the wetlands as part of our unique social value partnership with the RSPB.

Working with the RSPB enables us to commit our specialities and resource to support Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land. We provide engineering support, free of charge, to reserves in need, in order to leave a long lasting positive environmental impact.



### What did we do?

The wetland reserve is challenging and successful management of the site and its wildlife is only possible by moving water around the area using a network of ditches and sluices. Our volunteer team set to work, using a long reach digger and dumper, clearing a stretch of ditch which had become clogged with silt and vegetation: allowing the RSPB Fairburn team to regain control of the water levels in a key area of the reserve.

The ditch material wasn't wasted or disposed of either. It was recycled, creating muddy areas on a nearby lake edge, providing further important wildlife habitat. The work had an instant effect on the wetlands. The previously blocked water gushing through the ditch and pipe sluice and the level in the lake decreasing several inches overnight.



Karen Swaffield, RSPB warden

AmcoGiffen agreeing to undertake this work for us was fantastic. Right from the start, the company's knowledge and expertise made the planning stages efficient and easy and the team undertaking the task were highly skilled and completed the project in no time. The quality of their work was excellent. We often work with volunteers to undertake conservation work at the reserve, but never at this scale. The results were amazing and incredibly beneficial, saving our warden team significant time and expense. The partnership between the RSPB and Amco Giffen is the first of its kind for our organisation and creates a wonderful opportunity to work together to deliver some important conservation outcomes. We look forward to working with them again in the future.



Before



After