

WATER VOLES RETURN TO SOHAM LODGE ALONG THE SECTION THAT WAS RE-LINED IN 2010.

Title: Water voles return to Soham Lodge along the section that was re-lined in 2010.

The Success (Outcome) and why it's special (What makes us proud)

Water voles have been recorded within the section of the Soham Lodge that was re-lined last year.

What we did and why: Following the ASM emergency works of the re-lining of Soham Lodge last year (approximately a length of 600m), part of the project was to reinstate the marginal vegetation by installing coir rolls (pre-planted with a diverse range of marginal vegetation). A total of approximately 1200m of coir rolls were planted earlier this year (along both banks of the re-lined section). The marginal vegetation has flourished during the spring/summer months and has created a functional corridor for many species, following a "spot-check" on the 11th August 2011, FRB can confirm that water voles have also returned to the re-lined section: both droppings, including a latrine*, and feeding signs were recorded.

This is an excellent result as the coir rolls were only installed in March 2011 and are already providing suitable habitat for the water voles.

FRB will undertake a water vole survey of the entire stretch in September 2011 to determine whether the entire 600m is being utilised by water voles, a priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species. These works will also contribute towards WFD objectives.

*** Latrine: pile of droppings that have been padded down with fresh droppings on top – they are used to mark breeding territories.**

Date: August 2011	Location: Soham Lodge, Cambridgeshire	
	Grid reference (NGR format 6 Figure): TL567:750 to TL571:747	
Name / Team: Julia Massey FRB & Ryan Ely, ASM	Best Practice: Y	
Creating a Better Place Protect and improve land and water quality: Work with people and communities:	Themes Water Framework Directive Angling and biodiversity	