

# Habitat Creation at Padnall Lake, a SuDS Solution

An existing pond at Padnall Lake had limited habitat as it was concrete-lined. As part of a new housing development, the developer wanted to improve the pond's aesthetics as well as the environment.



Salix worked with the designers, HTA, to provide a solution, which consisted of creating marginal habitat shelves. New banks were formed within the pond using a retaining feature, with a finish level very close to the water level. Pre-established coir pallets were installed on the new shelves, which provide mature vegetation to rapidly speed up the establishment and increase habitat.

Salix contract grew the pre-established Coir Pallets for the project. Different species mixes were used around the edge of the pond, including a monoculture of purple loosestrife *lythrum salicaria* and a mix of other native species.

The pre-established Coir Pallets were installed in a summer heatwave in 2022. As the plants matured within the pre-established coir pallets, they were more resilient to extreme weather conditions than plug planting. Since installation, the plants have thrived to provide a robust marginal habitat around Padnall Lake.