

Stanwick Lakes

NEWS

Autumn 2003

Newsletter No. 2

It's official!

Yes, Stanwick Lakes is now the official name for the site. The results of our extensive public consultation prove that the name by which the site has unofficially been known for years, is the most popular and the most appropriate.



First Milestone for Project

Since the first newsletter last year some initial improvements have already been made on the site – most obvious is the improved causeway on the main right of way across the site. This regularly became impassable during winter flooding, so the Trust has raised the level, improved the surface and put in three new bridges to allow the water to flow between the two lakes. Funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund made this major construction project possible. Children from Stanwick Primary School joined the Trust, the Chair of East Northamptonshire Council and partners, the Countryside Agency, Northamptonshire County Council and the Environment Agency to celebrate the completion of the new causeway in early June.



Reedbed Rescue

Work to restore the remaining area of reedbed on the Stanwick Lakes site will begin this winter. The reedbed is an important habitat for birds such as reed warblers, bearded tits and water rail, but is rapidly being choked by willows.

In order to protect this important habitat, work over the next few months will focus on removing the willows from around and within the reedbed. In future years, regular cutting of the reedbed will be programmed in to prevent the willows from encroaching again.



Your Comments...

The results of the consultation carried out by the Trust showed that local people are overwhelmingly in favour of the Stanwick Lakes project. Over 500 questionnaires were returned to the Rockingham Forest Trust and several hundred people turned up at the roadshows held in neighbouring towns and villages, to chat to Trust staff about the project. Further street interviews were also carried out in both Rushden and Irthlingborough, along with interviews with specific local groups.

The majority of people felt that it was important to get a balance between nature conservation and recreation, with most also expressing a wish for key visitor facilities such as a visitor centre with toilets and café, car parking, play activities and picnic areas.

The opening up of the old railway line as a green corridor between Thrapston and the site also had strong support.

See reverse for the proposed site masterplan → → → →



Masterplan proposals

We would like to thank everyone who took the time during the initial consultation to let the Trust know their views. However, we now want to get your reactions to the proposed masterplan for the site. So come along and see the proposals for yourself. They are mainly visual, using maps and photographs, and will include the following:



- **The proposed zones** – what goes where

- **Get Active** – the proposed facilities and activities for those who like to work off some calories when out enjoying the countryside, whether it's walking, cycling, horse riding or sailing



Stanwick Lakes will provide a wide range of activities and facilities.

- **Going Wild** – the ways to enjoy and learn more about the site's wildlife
- **Young, free ... and full of energy!** What could be on offer for children and young people, including imaginative ways to stimulate their



The site masterplan proposes a variety of activities for young people.

interest in the environment

- **Relax, unwind** – the more laid-back approach to enjoying the site, whether it's picnic areas, art appreciation or just a nice cup of tea

Un-manned, the masterplan display will be at the following venues:

- **Saturday 29th November 2003 to Wednesday 3rd December 2003** Irthlingborough Library, High Street, Irthlingborough
- **Monday 15th December 2003 to Monday 5th January 2004** Reception, East Northamptonshire House, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Way, Thrapston
- **Wednesday 7th January 2004 to Monday 12th January 2004** Rushden Library, Rushden Centre, Newton Road, Rushden

Manned sessions

At the following sessions, Kathryn Boler, the Stanwick Lakes Project Manager, will be available to talk about the project proposals and to answer any questions:

- **Monday 1st December 2003 – 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm** Irthlingborough Library, High Street, Irthlingborough.
- **Thursday 11th December 2003 – 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm** Old School Rooms, High Street, Stanwick
- **Tuesday 16th December 2003 – 10.00 am to 12.30 pm** Reception, East Northamptonshire House, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Way, Thrapston.
- **Tuesday 6th January 2004 – 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm** Co-op Store (in the foyer), Brook Street,