

Saltholme Five Years On

Since opening Saltholme has won a number of awards that celebrate its distinctive nature. Three that stand out are our top rating on Trip Adviser, the Gold in the 2010 Northeast tourism awards and winning the 2012 National Lottery Awards education category.



We have been eager to see Saltholme's land holding and influence grow in order to support more wildlife here in Teesside. Since opening, the reserve area has expanded and now encompasses 550ha (almost 1500 acres). This work has been supported by partner organisations and local industry.

As we have made new habitats and improved existing ones, we have enjoyed watching the wildlife flourish. Some of the highlights have been the fledging of over 1000 common tern chicks over the five breeding seasons; the return of otters, water voles, water shrews and harvest mice; the increase in numbers of wintering birds for which the site is internationally important including 2500 wigeon and 1000 curlew.

We no longer have burned out cars and in their place we have an open natural landscape where nature has made its home.

And the illusive and enigmatic bittern, a UK biodiversity action plan species, now lives in the newly created reedbeds.

Over 400,000 visitors have come to Saltholme surpassing our predictions for the first five years and in addition more than 13,500 schoolchildren have been enthralled by their lessons in the ways of the natural world.



We have continued to develop and refresh the visitor offer and with help from local sponsors and industry have been able to improve the facilities to allow visitors to get close to nature. These have included the Jubilee viewpoint, a viewpoint from where to watch seals, viewing screens, a fabulous vantage point at Haverton Hill and a bird hide provided by the local bird club.



A `welly splash`, a fabulous Mad hatters tea party sculpture and a willow maze have all captured children's` imaginations and sense of fun.

Working with our partners, Teesside Environmental Trust and many other supporters and volunteers we can be justly proud of what we have been able to achieve in five short years. We have given nature a home, given local people something to be proud of and changed the perception of Teesside in the minds and hearts of visitors from further afield.

A job well done? Well it has been an excellent beginning and we are looking forward to the next five years with some exciting new plans in store.

Dave Braithwaite
Saltholme Site Manager

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

Helping to give nature a home

TEESSIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
TRUST

"Creating a new wildlife experience"

