



Established 1962

William Morfoot

Land & Water Project Management



HABITAT CREATION & RESTORATION

Working with nature

Established
1962

Shaping wetlands, restoring habitats and delivering complex environmental water management projects requires more than machinery alone.

Combining practical experience, ecological understanding and modern technology, William Morfoot creates landscapes that support biodiversity, sustainability and long-term environmental resilience.



Experience COUNTS

Understanding the bigger picture

William Morfoot Ltd is a long-established water management contractor, working across the UK. We've been delivering environmental projects for over 60 years, delivering practical, specialist services that help developers, landowners and communities protect, restore and create habitats.

Every project supports biodiversity, improves water quality or locks in carbon — leaving a meaningful legacy for the future.

The countryside in which we live is a very precious resource. Yet the flora, fauna and wildlife that it supports are under threat. Projects to restore impacted habitats and replace those that have been lost are vital in helping to reverse this decline.

As the world around us has developed and grown, conservation organisations, along with farmers and businesses, have stepped up to make such projects a reality and we are proud to play our part in delivering them for the benefit of future generations.



**Undertaking
habitat
creation
projects
across the
countryside
for over
60
years**

Our projects

Examples of the kind of work we do include: **wetland creation, peat re-wetting, river restoration and water level management.**

Our projects promote biodiversity, support long-term environmental resilience, and provide improved conditions in which nature can thrive.

Our clients

We work with some of the biggest names in nature conservation, including National Trust, Natural England and a number of Rivers Trusts. Increasingly, we are working with more commercial organisations, creating and improving habitat for carbon offsetting, biodiversity net gain and nutrient neutrality.

Environmental DELIVERY

Working with nature

Every environmental project is different. From protected wetlands and river systems through to large-scale restoration and water management schemes, successful delivery relies on practical experience, careful planning and an understanding of the wider landscape.

We work closely with clients, consultants and stakeholders to help deliver projects responsibly, professionally and with long-term outcomes in mind.

What projects involve:

- Stakeholder coordination
- Environmental permissions
- Protected species considerations
- Estimating costs
- Planning access routes
- Long-term site objectives
- Public access requirements
- Celebrating success



What we deliver:

- Habitat restoration
- Wetland creation
- Water level management
- Constructed wetlands
- Pond restoration
- Peat re-wetting
- River restoration
- Water control structures
- Environmental earthworks
- Public access and footpaths
- Environmental surveys and design

Who we work with:

- Rivers Trusts
- Natural England
- National Trust
- Wildlife charities
- Environment Agency
- Farmers and landowners
- Water companies
- Private estates

Understanding the WHOLE PROJECT

A holistic approach

Working with contractors to deliver major environmental projects can be a daunting prospect. The sums involved can be significant, there is a responsibility to do what is right for the countryside and you naturally want confidence that everything will be managed properly.

At William Morfoot, our ethos is not just to deliver your project but to partner with you and share the goal of achieving a long-term successful outcome. At all stages of the project, we don't just focus on the nuts and bolts of capital works – we think about the wider picture.



William Morfoot Ltd impressed me from day one of the contract. The staff are professional, highly knowledgeable and very helpful. Having a good contractor on site, especially when the site is an important National Nature Reserve, instils confidence, and you know that the job will be completed to a high standard.

S. Henderson, Conservation Manager at Holkham National Nature Reserve

How we will work with you

Throughout a project, from the first conversations through to completion, we work collaboratively, transparently and proactively to help ensure successful long-term outcomes.

Funding and permissions

Environmental projects often involve conditions from funding bodies and permitting authorities. We understand the importance of meeting these requirements and work with them in mind throughout every stage of a project.

Visitor safety

Many projects remain accessible to the public and involve Rights of Way. We plan our works to ensure messages are shared to inform people about the work we are doing, signage is in place to give clear warnings and high risk areas are fenced off and secured to prevent accidents.

Reputational responsibility

Environmental projects are often highly visible and important to a wide range of stakeholders. We work professionally and respectfully to help protect both the project and the client's reputation.

Management and operation

We think about how a site will be used in the future, the longevity of infrastructure and what management might be needed to achieve the long-term aims. If we spot an issue, we can offer solutions and ideas for how to overcome these or suggest better ways of achieving desired outcomes.

Sharing positive stories

Environmental projects can create opportunities to share positive stories about conservation, restoration and biodiversity improvement. We help clients communicate these projects clearly and responsibly.

We understand that when the right decisions are made today, landscapes, habitats and communities benefit for generations to come.

Designing for SUCCESS

Helping you design an effective project from the outset

Planning your project

To ensure every project achieves its desired outcomes, it is essential to get the design right from the outset.

We support clients at every stage of the design process, from undertaking detailed topographic surveys to helping them estimate the cost of the works.

Our in-house survey team use the latest differential GPS equipment and modelling software to capture accurate data, record critical levels and assess site hydrology. This information can then be used to develop Digital Terrain Models (DTMs), earthworks calculations and detailed project designs.

We can also help identify and solve practical issues for a project. This might include trial pitting to better-understand the soils of the site, identifying access constraints, resolving planning concerns or even suggesting a different approach to achieve the desired outcome. Budgeting correctly for these projects is essential, especially if you are seeking to secure external funding or having to weigh up other financial considerations against the high costs often associated with these projects. We can help you accurately cost a project from the outset, helping you to avoid funding shortfalls later.

We help clients turn complex environmental challenges into practical, sustainable solutions.



“

William Morfoot Ltd has worked on the Estate for many years, delivering a range of land, water, and environmental solutions. Over this time, they have successfully completed several large-scale projects, including land drainage, trackway construction, and wetland development. Their team has consistently demonstrated professionalism, technical expertise, and a strong understanding of agricultural needs. They have always been very accommodating with scheduling, ensuring minimal disruption to our farming operations. We highly value our longstanding relationship with William Morfoot Ltd and would confidently recommend them to others seeking high-quality rural contracting services.

Adrian Howes – Sennowe Estate.

”



Ecological EXPERTISE

Informed environmental management

Successful habitat restoration and wetland creation projects require more than practical delivery alone. Understanding ecology, protected landscapes, legislation, funding requirements and long-term site management is critical to achieving successful environmental outcomes.

Our environmental projects are led by a qualified and experienced conservation ecologist. This gives us a solid understanding of the habitats we are trying to restore, awareness of the wider project considerations and practical experience of the challenges of managing these special sites.

Chris Bielby, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., Environmental Projects Manager

Chris Bielby leads our environmental work at William Morfoot, bringing more than 20 years of conservation and environmental management experience to projects across the UK.

His background includes working for National Trust and Natural England, restoring and protecting some of the country's most important wetland sites.



Key Experience

- Securing £4.5 million in funding for major conservation projects
- Working within SSSI, SPA, SAC, NNR and Ramsar designated sites
- Managing peatland and wetland restoration projects
- Securing Planning and other environmental permissions
- Ecological Impact Assessment for £400 million project
- Understanding of protected species and habit legislation
- Public engagement and conservation communication
- Supporting large-scale habitat restoration projects designed to improve biodiversity and long-term resilience

Protecting special places

- ✓ Keeping special places protected — trusted experience with National Trust and Natural England
- ✓ Managing some of the country's most valuable wetland habitats on the Norfolk Coast and Broads
- ✓ Proven record delivering complex projects and securing permissions to protect nature and support clients



“Successful environmental projects are about far more than simply moving earth or managing water. They are about understanding the landscape, respecting the wildlife that depends upon it and creating something that will continue to deliver value long after the work on site has been completed. Being trusted to work within some of the country's most important habitats is a responsibility we never take lightly.”

Chris Bielby, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., Environmental Projects Manager, William Morfoot

Our team and EQUIPMENT

Accuracy and efficiency

We place huge emphasis on the quality of our team, equipment and technology, ensuring every project is delivered safely, efficiently and to the highest possible standard.

GPS technology – accurate to $\pm 15\text{mm}$ – sits at the heart of everything we do, allowing us to work with precision and consistency across complex environments.

Our specialist fleet of Volvo tracked excavators enable us to operate effectively within sensitive landscapes and difficult ground conditions while minimising environmental impact. Using a range of specialist attachments, tilt buckets and steel wrists allows us to work in tight spaces, create intricate landforms, minimise tracking and work quickly

Our machines also feature modern safety systems such as AI human-form recognition technology, to improve on-site awareness and operator safety.

Operating our specialist equipment is our fully-qualified and experienced team, who understand the wider environmental sensitivities associated with habitat restoration and wetland creation projects, as well as the importance of working closely and respectfully with our clients.



“*It is said that a poor workman blames his tools. We take this to mean that, not only is it important to take ownership of the quality of your work, but that you must also invest in the proper equipment to deliver a project.*”



Specialist equipment

- GPS-controlled machinery
- Low ground pressure equipment
- AI Human Form Recognition safety systems
- Precision earthworks and modelling
- Specialist wetland and environmental plant
- Designed for sensitive environments

Everton CONSTRUCTED WETLAND

A first for Anglian Water

In 2026, Anglian Water entrusted us with the construction of their first Integrated Constructed Treatment Wetland at Everton, Bedfordshire. This project allowed us to showcase the use of our integrated GPS systems on our plant.

Project background and aims:

Everton Water Recycling Centre required a new solution to reduce phosphorus and iron levels from its discharge, in order to meet updated Environmental Permitting Regulations. Rather than adopting a traditional chemical dosing system, the project team developed a nature-based wetland solution designed to improve water quality while supporting biodiversity and reducing long-term carbon emissions. This approach led to the creation of Anglian Water's first Integrated Constructed Treatment Wetland, covering more than 18,000m² across a three-cell system.



Scope of work:

William Morfoot Ltd undertook the bulk of the wetland construction work, delivering major earthworks and forming the new wetland cells using GPS-controlled excavation equipment.

The works included:

- removing and re-instating the topsoil,
- building, compacting and shaping the bunds,
- installation of water level management features,
- preparation of the wetland areas ahead of planting.

Construction was carefully coordinated to ensure efficient delivery while maintaining the highest environmental, safety and compliance standards throughout the project.

Challenges and considerations:

As a first-of-its-kind project for Anglian Water, careful planning and collaboration were essential throughout. The scheme required close coordination between multiple contractors and the client. All parties were regularly updated on the progress of the works and we shared the lessons learned along the way. Anglian Water had over 100 visitors to the project, from the local MP to a delegation from the Mexican Embassy.



Outcome and results:

The completed wetland provides a natural treatment solution which removes the need for chemical dosing, helping reduce operational carbon emissions, vehicle movements and long-term maintenance requirements. More than 110,000 native wetland plants were introduced across the site, creating valuable new habitat areas while improving water quality and supporting biodiversity. The project has since become a flagship example of nature-based water treatment infrastructure within the UK water industry.



Project FEEDBACK

“William Morfoot played a key role in delivering Anglian Water's first treatment wetland at Everton, Beds. The project was completed on time, to budget, and with a clear commitment to safety and compliance throughout. Their professionalism and collaborative approach make them a contractor I would strongly recommend.”

Adriano Staffieri, Project Delivery Manager: Anglian Water @one Alliance

The Fens PEAT RE-WETTING

Large-scale peat restoration and groundwater retention works

Major peat re-wetting works were undertaken for the Fens East Peat Partnership (FEPP) at both Wicken Fen for the National Trust and High Fen for Nattergal Ltd, funded through the Nature for Climate Restoration Grant.

Project background and aims:

The projects focused on retaining groundwater within the sites to help re-wet peat soils, restore wetland habitats and support long-term environmental resilience across both landscapes. Impermeable barriers were installed to prevent groundwater flowing into adjacent drains and watercourses, helping raise water levels and restore wetter conditions across the sites. The works formed part of wider peat restoration initiatives designed to reverse historic drying and degradation caused by land drainage and soil oxidation.

Scope of work - Wicken Fen

Barriers were constructed using clay excavated from borrow pits on site. The clay was carefully laid and compacted within perimeter trenches to create water-tight barriers, while low clay berms were formed above ground level to help retain surface water and create shallow wetland features.

Scope of work - High Fen

At High Fen, where suitable clay was not available locally, impermeable plastic sheeting was installed within deep trenches excavated into less permeable soils, with excavated material used to form low berms across the site.

Challenges and considerations:

Ground conditions at High Fen proved particularly challenging, requiring careful planning, accurate excavation and specialist machinery capable of operating safely within difficult peatland conditions. Both projects also required sensitive working methods within environmentally important landscapes, balancing practical delivery with habitat protection and long-term restoration objectives. Integrated GPS technology on the excavators ensured all barriers were excavated and constructed to the precise levels required throughout the works. Careful coordination was also required to minimise disruption to surrounding habitats and ensure all restoration features blended naturally into the landscape once the works were complete.

The Fens East Peat Partnership was set up in 2021 to plan and implement works to restore peat across 15 sites in the Fens.



Outcome and results:

Water levels rose rapidly across both sites following completion of the works, helping restore wetland conditions and improve habitat quality across the restored landscapes.

Wildlife response was immediate. At Wicken Fen, common cranes were soon observed using the site. At High Fen, cranes were also recorded alongside shoveler duck, lapwing, oystercatcher and great white egret, demonstrating the immediate ecological value created through the restoration works.



Project FEEDBACK

William Morfoot Ltd conducted their work in a professional, safe, and efficient manner. The team collaborated well with archaeologists, adapting working methods to accommodate pre-works investigations. A good sign of restoration works is the sense that it isn't constructed and there is a sense of immediate naturalness. William Morfoot have achieved this with subtle design tweaks (dressing bunds) and creation of irregular finished profiles. The Cranes have already moved in!

Ellis Selway, National Trust Peatland Project Manager

We contracted William Morfoot to deliver nearly 60 hectares of peatland restoration at our West Norfolk site, High Fen Wildland. Chris and his team were fantastic throughout: responsive, professional and cost-effective. They delivered all the work to a high standard and we hope to work with them again in the future.

Matthew Hay, Natural Capital Manager, Nattergal

River RESTORATION

and natural flood management

Many of the UK's rivers have been artificially straightened and deepened over the centuries, in an attempt to reduce flooding and improve drainage. But new thinking is driving a movement to put the wiggle back in our rivers, re-connect them with their floodplains, slow the flow and, in the process, create important habitats for wildlife.

At William Morfoot we have the expertise to dig new channels, raise river beds and enhance banks, berms, backwaters and other features to create havens for wildlife.

Our previous projects include river restoration of several reaches of the River Stiffkey in North Norfolk and reconnecting the River Yare with its floodplain, just south of Norwich.

This is specialist work, requiring us to work on soft ground to achieve precise levels. And it's here that our specialist plant excels, enabling us to create complex landforms, minimise tracking and achieve optimal grades to ensure these rivers flow with the energy they need to function naturally.

Natural flood management

Natural flood management (NFM) works with the landscape rather than against it, slowing, storing and spreading water to reduce the speed and volume of flow reaching vulnerable communities downstream.

We've built new channels, pools, shallow scrapes and leaky dams in the catchments of sensitive chalk rivers, including the Wensum and Stiffkey. These features help trap sediment and pollutants before they reach these highly-designated and protected rivers.



Pond RESTORATION

*Creating healthier landscapes for wildlife,
water and long-term resilience*

Healthy ponds play a vital role in supporting biodiversity, improving water quality and helping landscapes function naturally.

We combine practical experience, specialist equipment and environmental understanding to restore degraded ponds and create long-term ecological improvements across sensitive landscapes.

Pond restoration

Ponds may be small in size, but they play a vital role in providing clean freshwater environments and supporting aquatic biodiversity.

Recent studies by University College London (UCL) highlight the importance of high-quality ponds across farmed landscapes, where they provide habitat for a wide range of species.

Over time, many ponds have deteriorated due to silt accumulation, scrub encroachment, and changes in surrounding land use. Without careful management, these habitats can quickly decline in both ecological quality and biodiversity value.

We have the specialist equipment and practical expertise to carry out pond restoration works, including careful desilting and vegetation management. The key is having the confidence to remove sufficient sediment and vegetation to achieve a meaningful improvement, while preserving the original profile of these historic features. This is where our experience, and the skill of our operators, truly makes a difference.

Funding and biodiversity net gain

Defra agri-environment schemes often offer opportunities for landowners to fund pond restoration works, delivering genuine environmental benefit at little or no additional cost to them. We support our clients in identifying and accessing the most appropriate funding routes. Where development is involved, restored and newly-created ponds can also contribute directly to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) targets, supporting planning requirements and leaving the land richer in wildlife than before.

New pond creation

Where restoration alone cannot deliver the required ecological uplift, we design and construct new ponds tailored to the landscape, the client's objectives and the needs of local wildlife.

From initial survey and design through to construction and landscaping, we manage the entire process in-house. Careful consideration of size, profile, water source and surrounding habitat ensures each new pond integrates naturally into its setting.



“William Morfoot Ltd have recently constructed a new wetland on our land adjoining the River Yare. The project has introduced new water flows to an area of low lying ground adjoining the river with a series of shallow pools now also present. The project has created a dynamic new wildlife habitat which has quickly filled with bird and wildlife. Morfoot's delivered a first class project and we are delighted with the results.”

Lord & Lady Dannatt, Norfolk

Recording and CELEBRATING

Your project

Telling your story

Environmental projects make a tangible, meaningful difference to nature conservation, sustainable water management and tackling climate change in the UK. At William Morfoot, we believe that needs to be celebrated.

Recording progress is often just as important as the work itself – whether to meet conditions set by external funders, show supporters how their donations have been spent, or simply to help everyone involved feel proud of what they've accomplished. High-quality photography and film are among the most powerful tools for doing that. A well-chosen aerial photograph can show the true scale of a restored wetland or re-wiggled river in a way that words simply cannot.

We work with specialist photographers, film-makers and designers to capture stunning images and footage of our projects – including many seen throughout this brochure and on our website. From drone footage revealing the full sweep of a project to close-up photography that brings individual habitats to life, we ensure every scheme is recorded in a way that does justice to the work involved.

Our clients really value this service. The material we produce helps them tell compelling stories on social media, elevate their websites and bring their newsletters to life.





Established 1962

William Morfoot

Land & Water Project Management

What WE DO

Environmental Project Delivery

Delivering habitat restoration and wetland creation projects across sensitive landscapes.

Habitat Restoration

Re-wiggling rivers, restoring ponds and re-wetting peat to support biodiversity and tackle climate change.

Water Management

Managing water movement and retention through practical environmental engineering.

Survey and Design

Providing in-house surveys, planning and environmental project design.

Specialist Contracting

Undertaking environmental earthworks using specialist machinery and equipment.

Collaborative Working

Working closely with clients, landowners and conservation organisations throughout projects.

Get in TOUCH...

If you would like to discuss habitat restoration, wetland creation or environmental project delivery, our team would be pleased to help.

team@williammorfoot.co.uk

01362 820371

William Morfoot Ltd
Shipdham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7SD

Follow us on social media:



www.williammorfoot.co.uk

Complete SOLUTIONS

From initial survey and environmental planning through to practical delivery and long-term project outcomes, we provide a joined-up approach to environmental project management.

Combining practical contracting experience with ecological understanding, specialist equipment and collaborative working, we help deliver projects that support biodiversity, water management and sustainable landscape restoration across some of the country's most sensitive environments.

