ENVIRONMENTAL & WETLAND Specialists

Working with the natural world
William Morfoot Ltd is a long-established business, specialising in the field of water management. It has been delivering an array of specialist environmental services, focusing around water management, since 1962. The company provides a complete design and construction service, undertaken using its own equipment and dedicated team of staff. Attention to detail and outstanding customer service have today ensured this company is widely regarded as the acknowledged experts in this field by leading UK wildlife organisations.

The countryside in which we live is a very precious resource. The flora, fauna and wildlife that live within it remain an unquestionably important part of our environment today.

As the world around us has developed and grown, conservation organisations, along with farmers and landowners, have come together in a bid to ensure that our priceless countryside remains unspoilt and intact for generations to come.

Our clients
We work with some of the biggest names in conservation, including the RSPB, Natural England and a number of Wildlife Trusts.

We love what we do and we are passionate about the environment that we are lucky enough to work in every day.

Our projects
Specific examples of the kind of work we do include: wetland creation, water level management, countryside access, including tracks and footpaths, and habitat enhancement works. Our projects typically promote biodiversity and provide improved conditions in which rare or endangered species are able to flourish.
William Morfoot Ltd’s work has transformed the marsh area where the lake is positioned and we are thrilled with the finished product, which has introduced new wildlife to the area, as well as providing a beautiful feature for us all to enjoy. They showed complete professionalism from the outset and we would not hesitate to recommend their services to anybody.

D. Christian, Aisle Valley Farm
Complete SOLUTIONS
From concept to completion

Preliminary meeting

Our specialist water management consultants will meet with you at your site and listen and understand what your vision may be.

The survey

Detailed surveys are undertaken by our own consultants, using the very latest in GPS technology and advanced mapping software, to collect the topographical information and other field data we need.

Project proposal

A detailed proposal plan, supported by our topographical data, is provided to our clients. This sets out the precise facts relating to the site and ensures our clients are fully informed ahead of any work starting.

Practical delivery

At order confirmation, we agree timings with our clients. We stick to those timings. We know that tight windows need to be adhered to, to fit with issues such as breeding seasons and climatic constraints. Our projects are always delivered in a sensitive and understanding style – with the utmost respect being paid to the delicate environments in which we work. This is achieved by using our own team of qualified and experienced staff along with our own equipment. Our teams work with you throughout the duration of the project, to ensure that your vision is delivered on completion.

“At William Morfoot Ltd, we believe in providing a service with a difference to our customers. Attention to detail and listening to what our clients want are essential pre-requisites. Coupling these details with our long-standing experience & inbuilt knowledge within this specialist sector is the next stage.”

T. Sisson, Managing Director, William Morfoot Ltd
Our topographical surveys are undertaken using the very latest GPS surveying equipment, which captures data in the field and allows us to upload that data directly onto our digital maps. We can then prepare detailed proposal plans, which encapsulate the relevant information.

We welcome the chance to meet with our clients, to go through the contour maps and associated data gathered from our surveys. This meeting is often critical, as it allows us to discuss openly what is possible and what is not. Ultimately, this can be pivotal in determining the direction that the project moves in next.

This transparency in providing accurate data that provides complete certainty, with regard to the facts on the ground, has won us many supporters who like this way of planning, ahead of starting the practical works.

Our surveying teams can capture important existing site information that matters. From plotting specific existing features, such as scrapes or ponds, through to capturing more complex detail, such as flow directions and water depths.

In addition, our consultants consider the wider impact of the proposed project – carefully assessing the possible impact on surrounding features and making sure that no stone is left unturned during the planning process.

Perhaps, most importantly of all, the proposal plans can then be put back on to our GPS equipment for closer analysis in the field. The equipment allows us to take the survey data back to the field again, and to talk first hand with you about the pros and cons of undertaking the works in a specific way.

This transparency makes sure that our clients are provided with proposals which are totally understood, before any practical works commence. In nearly all cases, the works we do are for the long term, and we know there is only one chance to get it right.
Our team and EQUIPMENT

Accuracy and efficiency

We place huge importance in our team on the ground in delivering our projects effectively to our clients. We know that projects can change as they take shape. We recognise that having a team on the ground that are professional, approachable and competent is critical.

We employ a dedicated team of experienced professionals. Having our own team of staff allows us to allocate the right people with the matching skillset to our projects, which in turn ensures effective delivery of tasks at ground level.

We have introduced GPS technology to our machines in recent years, which has allowed us to work with greater accuracy and efficiency.

All of our specialist equipment runs on either tracks or low ground pressure tyres, ensuring that our equipment can keep moving on a year round basis – whatever the conditions.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a competent, highly skilled and exceptionally experienced team to our clients. Our team possess a passion about the work we undertake and are proud to be involved in the work we do.

This alone impresses many of our clients, who are pleased to find a knowledgable and engaged workforce on hand throughout the course of our projects.

The team brought creative thought, water management expertise and a fresh approach, to work in a particularly sensitive conservation area.

Landmarc Support Services Ltd.
The Hickling Broad National Nature Reserve is an internationally renowned wetland area and home to a multitude of rare wetland wildlife and plant species.

Our project principally involved the development of new reedbeds and wetland areas at strategic locations across the 77ha site. One of the key intentions of the project was to generate new feeding and breeding grounds for the birds which inhabit the area, as well as to provide a suitable environment in which some of the rare wetland plant species will prosper.

The project was in part, undertaken to combat the effect of climate change and rising sea levels, which have seen coastal habitats of similar stature slowly disappearing over time. As part of the project, a number of new pools were created, with carefully profiled banks, to provide a variety of deep and shallow waters accordingly.

The project will create new feeding grounds for bittern and it is hoped that other species will quickly occupy the area too, including: common crane, marsh harrier and Cetti’s warbler. Mammals, including otter and Chinese water deer, and insects, including the iconic swallowtail butterfly and the Norfolk hawker dragonfly, are also known to thrive in the area.

The project was undertaken by our own specialist team of wetland creation experts, who worked efficiently within a tight working window to complete the works on this ultra-sensitive site.
Making a better COUNTRYSIDE

Your way

We have recently undertaken a farm diversification project, creating two new fishing lakes on our land in west Norfolk. William Morfoot Ltd built the lakes for us, as well as doing a number of ancillary projects, including building the fishing stations and creating new footpaths/car parking areas for the anglers. The quality of their work speaks for itself and we are very pleased indeed with the end result.

I. Monson, Oxborough Farms

Working in the natural environment is a sensitive and delicate operation which requires specialist planning and detailed consideration ahead of practical commencement of the project. We know that to achieve the right outcome, this planning process can often take months or even years. Our considerable experience in this sector allows us to offer a wealth of technical knowledge along with fitting solutions to our future clients throughout the planning stages.

At William Morfoot Ltd, we pride ourselves on making client aspirations a reality through the delivery of our projects in a professional and bespoke approach. Through building close working relationships with our customers we have found that our teams are able to effectively deliver outstanding results – regularly exceeding expectations.

Above all, we share your passion to make the environment in which we live a better place. From concept through to completion, we are here to work directly alongside you to ensure that the dazzling array of biodiversity that our countryside has to offer us is here for future generations to enjoy.
Nestling just to the south of the Norfolk Coastal Path and the pinewoods adjoining Holkham Beach, Quarles Marsh was historically pasture land used for the grazing of cattle and sheep. In the 1940s, the land was systematically drained for arable production and it has remained that way until now.

Recognising the unique potential of the area for overwintering birds and other wildlife, many years ago farmer James Bassett had the vision of creating a new wetland habitat on Quarles Marsh and has been working with Natural England and the Holkham Estate to turn the idea into reality.

The result has seen the creation of a spectacular new natural wilderness, located amongst the shifting mosaic of existing habitats which this corner of North Norfolk is well known for. Wintering wildfowl have made an astonishing comeback to this area and recent peak counts of 50,000 pink footed geese, 7,000 brent geese and 13,000 wigeon underline the international importance of Holkham.

The project involved creating just over 200 acres of new wetland environment within the area shown. This was achieved through the installation of new water control structures and a new underground pipe, to provide a feed of fresh water onto Quarles Marsh from the neighbouring Holkham Marsh area. The water table on Quarles Marsh was artificially raised, through blocking up ditch systems in strategic locations and the incoming fresh water being distributed around the marsh through the existing network of ditches.

The project was completed in Spring 2014 and the works were completed by Wetland Specialists William Morfoot Ltd. The works involved installing some new underground pipework beneath Lady Anne’s Drive in order to carry the fresh water to Quarles Marsh. Access to the beach was maintained at all times and every effort was made to minimise any disruption to Holkham visitors whilst the work was completed.

The diverse new wetland habitat provides a home and feeding ground to a large array of new wildlife. It is hoped in particular that Quarles Marsh will be an attractive environment for encouraging a diverse selection of bird species including the lapwing, avocet, shoveller and marsh harrier, along with the stunning panorama that is created from flocks of redshank and curlew swirling from one wetland to the next.

This work has been funded through Natural England’s Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS).

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, instills confidence and you know that the job will be completed to a high standard. S. Henderson, Conservation Manager at Holkham National Nature Reserve.
Selecting the right contractor for specialist environmental works can be a daunting prospect...

Creating BIODIVERSITY
For tomorrow

Sensitive approach
Our way of working has evolved from taking a bespoke and sensitive approach to the projects that we undertake. This, specifically, has meant listening and communicating closely with our clients and working hand-in-hand every step of the way, to deliver our projects as planned.

Innovative solutions
We know that there isn’t a one size fits all approach that can be applied to these kinds of projects. We treat every project on an individual basis and carefully handpick the right equipment, machinery and expertise to deliver the best result. This approach has won us many supporters, who are often surprised at how effortlessly our teams are able to find solutions to any potential problems.

Professional workforce
Our teams are immensely proud of the projects they deliver and routinely go the extra mile to ensure our clients get precisely what they want. They are experienced in what they do and are proficient at working in the sometimes difficult ground conditions in which these projects take place. They are well supported, using modern and sophisticated machinery, which seamlessly helps to overcome problems. Perhaps, most importantly, our team is passionate about creating better habitats for tomorrow.

Proven track record
We’ve been around for over 50 years and have successfully completed projects for a wide variety of clients, ranging from private individuals to National Conservation Organisations. We leave happy clients behind when we finish, and we are commonly approached by new clients who have been referred to us from existing customers. To find out for yourself about the kind of job that we do, give us a call and we can put you in touch directly with some of our client base.
Get in TOUCH…

If you would like to find out more about our environmental and wetland services, you can reach us at:

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