



Case Study

Canvey Wick

Location: Essex

Size: **19 hectares**
Client: **East of England Development Agency**
the Land Trust's Role: **Sustainable exit strategy**
From: **Landfill and oil refinery**
To: **Nature reserve**

Canvey Wick was a landfill site and proposed oil refinery, which closed in the 1980s and then lay derelict.

In 2005, it was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and with the Land Trust's intervention and a strong team of partners; this space was transformed into a nature reserve.

It has been hailed as a 'brownfield rainforest' by Natural England and was officially opened to the public in 2014.

This brownfield site was a liability for landowner, East of England Development Agency (EEDA), (now the HCA). Along with Natural England, they approached the Land Trust to help find a sustainable exit strategy for the SSSI land to provide high quality open space next to land identified for commercial development.

The Land Trust subsequently established a steering group with key stakeholders, including Natural England, Castle Point District Council, RSPB and Buglife and secured funding from the Communities and Local Government to assess and prepare a 'vision' for the site. The site was recognised as a priority within the South Essex Green Grid and secured endowment funding from the Parklands initiative, allowing us to acquire the site.

The Land Trust helped transfer a landowner's liability into an asset; provided expertise in sustainable land management, benefiting local communities and conservation and securely invested and protected the endowment, removing risk of continued dereliction.

The RSPB is the appointed Managing Partner, with significant involvement from Buglife, to advise on enhancing the habitats for the rare and endangered invertebrates, such as the Shril Carder bee. It is now a successful public amenity, used by the local community for walking, wildlife watching, horse riding and dog walking.



T. 01925 852005
E. enquiries@thelandtrust.org.uk
www.thelandtrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1138337