



Case Study The National Trust, Wicken Fen

Marmax Products Ltd supplied recycled plastic for a total of 1.6km of boardwalk around Sedge Fen. Visitors now have improved access to this fascinating site. Everyone, including those with limited mobility, pushchair and wheelchair users can travel continuously for 1.6km, over bridges spanning the dykes and up to two hides, on a safe, slip resistant surface. These walkways allow access with minimum impact on the surroundings. Visitors are guided along pathways to prevent erosion of the fen and reduce the disturbance to wildlife. The recycled plastic keeps its attractive appearance without the need for chemicals and withstands the marshy conditions without rotting.



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The recycled plastic is particularly important to Wicken Fen as a sustainable product. The recycled plastic does not rot or splinter and the roughened surface provides grip in these exceptionally damp conditions. Black recycled plastic has been chosen to complement the black peat and Bog Oaks found in the Fens, creating an unobtrusive backdrop to this important area of wetland. The material is available in other colours, including brown and green.

Steve McCarthy, Managing Director, Groupbridge, installation contractors said

"Installation costs are similar to those of wooden alternatives, but on going costs are kept to a minimum because the recycled plastic does not deteriorate"



Wicken Fen is one of The National Trust's oldest properties. In fact, the National Trust was only four years old when it was purchased in 1899. Since then it has been gradually enlarged to its current 665 hectares (1645 acres). It is now one of the most important wetland areas in Europe, visited by more than 38,000 people every year.

Jake Williams, Property Manager for Wicken Fen, said

"The boardwalk provides safe year round access and allows our visitors to enjoy the site in all conditions with minimum impact on the landscape. We're looking forward to years of low maintenance use and enjoyment from the boardwalk."

