

**RSPB Middleton Lakes – A Lifeline for Lapwings
Lookout Hide and Habitat Improvements**

The Middleton Lakes former quarry site in the Tame Valley, just south of Tamworth, was acquired by the RSPB in 2007, and since then it has undergone significant change to reshape the landscape into bird and wildlife habitat.

The area is regionally important for over-wintering wildfowl and will become the most important site for breeding waders in the Midlands.

Stirling Maynard have been involved with this project since early 2012, working on the latest phase of earthworks and water control improvements, implemented in the winter of 2012/13. This included the design and supervision of the new permanent hide overlooking the northern scrapes and Lake.

The hide was designed and constructed to a tight timetable, with construction taking only eight weeks to complete. It was officially opened in September 2013 and now provides a sheltered and screened opportunity for visitors to view the wildlife at Middleton Lakes, enhancing the visitor experience.

The structure for the hide is a faceted cavity walled, flat roofed building of brick masonry walls, with a timber roof and concrete floor. As the building is constructed on the flood plains, it is designed to allow flood water to enter the building during periods of flooding, taking up minimal flood storage volume within the flood plain. As such the structural elements are designed to resist seasonal river flood water, with features to allow draining and natural drying. The structure is robustly designed to resist the exposed environment and fluvial flooding.



Duties undertaken by Stirling Maynard included:

- Detailed Design of New Hide – Architectural & Engineering
- Main Site Earthworks Modelling
- Detailed Civil Engineering Design Services
- Preparation of NEC Contract
- Strengthening of Bailey Bridge Foundations
- Procurement of Contractor
- Site Supervision
- CDM Co-ordinator



Client:
RSPB

Full Design Services:
Stirling Maynard

Contractor:
Miles Waterscapes Ltd

Total Project Value:
£80k (Lookout Hide)
£260k (Environmental Enhancement)

