

Natural England (formerly English Nature)

Danes Moss Nature Reserve and SSSI, Lyme Green Nr Macclesfield

Design: English Nature / Duncan Ross Ltd

Project Brief:

Design and construction of various peat and plastic reinforced pile dams in order to retain ground water and provide favourable conditions for development of raised bogs and associated wetland habitats and support the structure and function of the site's six species of sphagnum mosses, cotton grass and cross-leaved heath.



Project Overview

Duncan Ross Ltd worked with English Nature to reverse the damaging effects of water table reduction and the gradual drying out to an area of Danes Moss; a cut-over, lowland, raised mire SSSI and Nature Reserve that is managed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

The work undertaken was necessary in order to arrest and reverse deterioration of this rare and threatened habitat, which at Danes Moss is known to support at least eleven species of dragonfly and damselfly, including the black darter (Britain's smallest dragonfly) and the Four-spotted Chaser, and 19 species of butterfly.

Following detailed surveys to assess the extent of the problem and determine mitigating measures, the following works were undertaken in order to reverse the deleterious processes that were resulting from progressive water loss and drying out:

- Installation of 15 Nr natural earth dams reinforced with recycled pvc sheet piles to prevent the bogs and raised mires draining to lower lying areas.
- Installation of a larger plastic reinforced natural earth dam complete with spillway and vehicular access route for maintenance vehicles.
- Extensive ditch infill works to provide for increased ground water retention generally.
- Construction of 90 peat dams.