



PERFECT
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

PERFECT good practice Rainham Marshes

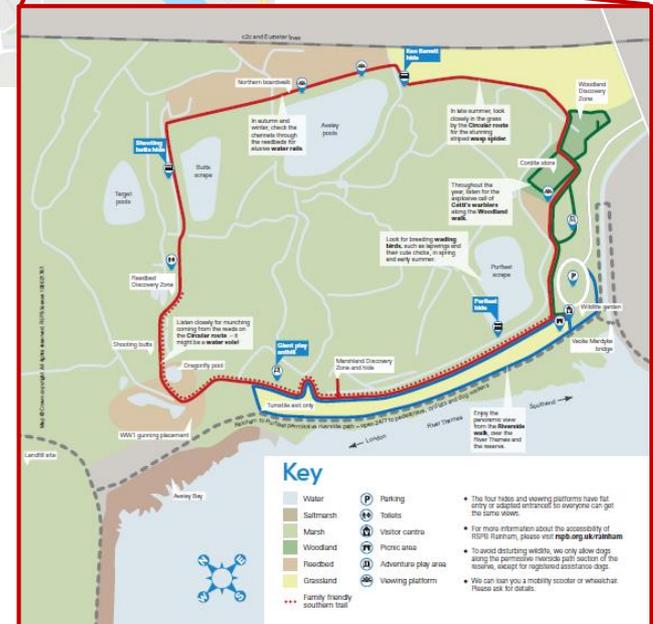
Jessie Fieth

Projects and Policy Manager

Town and Country Planning Association

jessica.fieth@tcpa.org.uk

Rainham Marshes, London

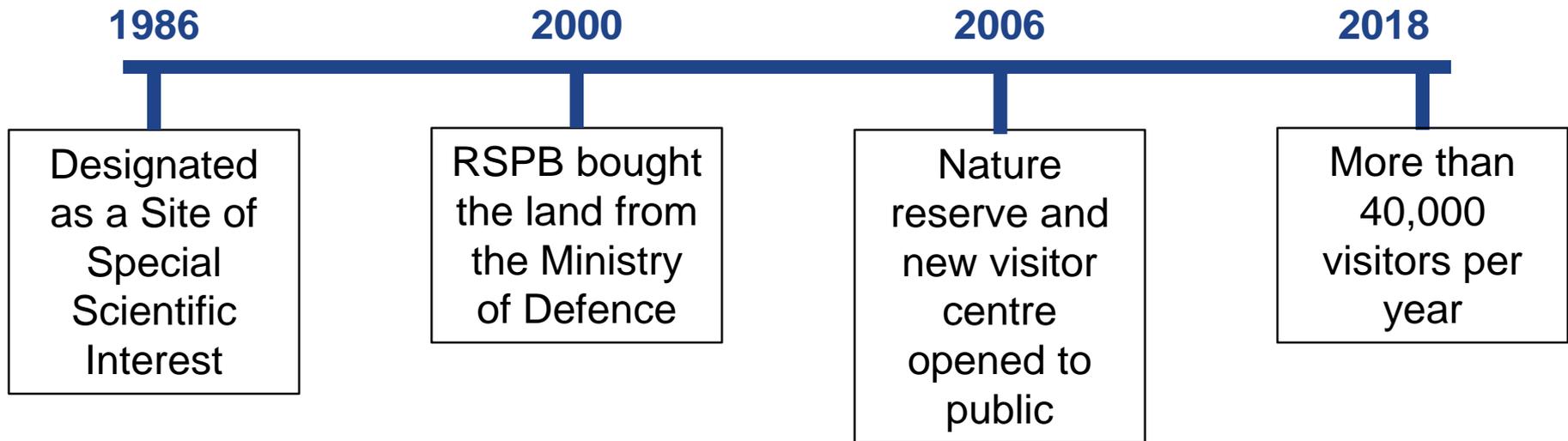


Rainham Marshes, London

- Ancient marshland landscape.
- Largest area of wetland in Upper Thames Estuary.
- Previously Ministry of Defence land.
- Managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.



Development



Resources used

- RSPB, with Heritage Lottery grant, acquired the site in 2000 for c.£1m.
- £931k ERDF grant was used to transform into nature reserve, including building a £2m visitor centre.
- Maintenance is funded through entry fees/café or activities within the reserve, as well as being supported by volunteers
- Other organisations have funded specific projects.



Evidence of success

- Over 40,000 visitors each year.
- Carbon-neutral visitor centre achieved BREEAM 'Excellent' standards
- Biodiversity levels have significantly increased
- Designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest



Transferability

- Most major cities have derelict or contaminated land – redeveloping this land can transform it into a local asset
 - Education opportunities
 - Increased tourism
 - Higher biodiversity levels
 - Creation of jobs
 - Improved local identity and cohesiveness