



Breathing New Life Into Your Water Course

Specialists in aquatic and bank weed control, pond and lake restoration, silt pumping and dredging, treatment and control of algae, reed, bulrush and lily control.

CASE STUDY— Earth Centre



The Challenge

The Earth Centre was an environmental visitor attraction owned by Doncaster Council. It was created on the 50 acre site of a former colliery in 1999.

The site closed in 2004 and over the following 7 years fell into disrepair, with overgrown lakes, ponds, and blocked inlets and outlets.

In 2011 the site was purchased by Kingswood who planned to rejuvenate it and bring it back to life. Their proposal was for a natural continuation of the site's heritage as a centre of learning for children and young people, focusing on environmental sustainability.

Two small ponds were to be refurbished as educational ponds and the large lake which was completely overgrown with reeds, rushes and Water Soldier had to be restored so that it could be used for boating and canoeing

The areas for renovation were difficult to reach due to overgrown vegetation and the terrain. Long reach excavators were not an option due to the lack of access, the removal of a number of trees would have been necessary to get the excavators in, and the soft conditions of the surrounding terrain meant that during winter large excavators could not be supported.

The Solution—Large Lake

Aquatic Solutions were able to use two of their lightweight Truxor DM 5000 amphibious machines to gain access to the water, clear the vegetation from the large lake and clean the pond areas to restore them to their intended condition. There was a dense covering of water soldier present in the lake which first had to be removed, this was done efficiently and cleanly with the amphibious Truxors.

A mini digger was used to create a sump along side the edge of the lake for the undesirable vegetation to be deposited into. After leaving it on the banks for 48 hours to allow any Fauna to return to the water, it was then buried below ground level to naturally decompose. The original soil was then spread over the top to leave the area level and tidy.

An old stone channel provides an overflow into the neighbouring River Don. This had become overgrown and blocked. The team scraped out all of the vegetation and soil, and then incorporated it into the surrounding landscape. Handwork completed the tidying up the sluice gate, stone work and the over hanging trees.



CASE STUDY— Earth Centre

The two boats were used in tandem, one had the excavator attachment fitted for removing the Phragmites and Bulrush rhizomes, while the other had the collecting rake attached, enabling them to work efficiently together on clearing the lake.

The excavator attachment on the Truxor was used and the process of digging out Bulrush and Phragmites around the entire perimeter of the lake commenced. The other boat begun clearing all of the floating Water Soldier from the lake followed by the floating reed and rush rhizomes, which had been pulled out and then allowed to float.

All over hanging trees were trimmed with loppers and areas around the ponds and lake strimmed to clear the site. A small hollow next to the lake was filled with further undesirable vegetation, this also was covered with soil from the surrounding areas and then levelled.

The Two Small Ponds

Water was almost non-existent in the small ponds due to overgrown vegetation taking over. The vegetation was pulled up by the roots using the clamshell attachment on the Truxor. The mini digger was used to remove volunteer saplings and to grade the base of the pond restoring it to its original shape. All the vegetation removed from the two ponds was taken away and composted onsite. Water was visible in both ponds almost immediately and they would soon be a thriving and complete pair of ponds. With the channels between the ponds, lake and river all clear, high water levels could be managed with flow possible through each of the water courses and into the River Don.

The Result

Kingswood opened the new Dearne Valley Activity Centre, one of the largest outdoor learning facilities in the UK, in Spring 2012. The educational ponds have been populated and will be used for pond dipping and wildlife observing and the large lake is clean and ready for the planned leisure activities to take place www.kingswood.co.uk/centres/dearne-valley .



About Us and Our Truxor



The Amphibious Truxor Machine

The Amphibious Truxor machine is an extremely lightweight, manoeuvrable machine capable of working in the tightest and most challenging of aquatic environments. Able to turn on its own axis and weighing less than 1,400 kg it is ideal for SSSI sites, golf courses, stately homes, private properties and public parks. Its ability to work on or off water makes it ideal for a site where public access cannot be limited or where larger terrestrial machines are not suitable. With a wide range of tools available it is ideal for a variety of tasks within the water. The machine is towed by a 4 x 4 on a flatbed trailer and the Truxor can drive itself to the water over the land.

- **Engine:** Daihatsu 35 hp diesel, Environment Class Euro 2
- **Dimensions:** Length 4.7 m, Width 2.06 m, Height 2.1 m
- **Hydraulic oil:** Biodegradable

Attachments Available;

- Cutter Basket
- Large Cutter Bar
- Heavy Duty Cutter
- Collection Rake
- Clamshell Bucket
- Silt & Dredge Pumps
- Excavator



Services Aquatic Solutions UK offer;

- Complete Aquatic Weed Control
- Silt Pumping and Dredging
- Pond and Lake Restoration
- Reed and Bulrush Control
- Water Lily Control
- Algae and Blanketweed Control
- Aeration
- Invasive weed control;
 - Japanese Knotweed
 - Himalayan Balsam
 - Giant Hogweed
 - Horsetail



[Aquatic Solutions UK looks forward to doing business with you](#)

Some of our customers



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