

November 2025:

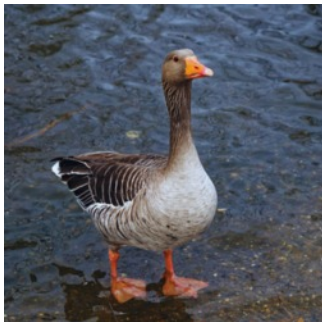
The wet grasslands have hosted low intensity cattle over the summer to help keep the sward between 5cm and 15cm through the growing season, vacating for the winter waders and wildfowl between 30 November and 28 February.

Meanwhile, the ditches will have been dredged on rotation, part of the work to maintain scrapes and gutters to provide muddy areas for waders and wildfowl to feed.

There is an ambition for native aquatic flora cover to be seven species per 20m of ditch. Examples might include submerged and floating plants such as Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), and Water violet (*Hottonia palustris*).

Red arrow formations of geese have been frequently spotted overhead over the last few weeks; a fine example of precision flying. Some of them may settle on the wet grassland for several weeks. Geese spotted (and heard) in recent weeks include Greylag geese, Canada geese and Barnacle geese. A native species and one of the most common geese in the UK, Greylag goose (*Anser anser*), is of a large size with pale feathers. The heavy bill is orange and the legs are pink. It has very pale upper wings in flight. The only native species of goose to breed in Britain, Greylags are the ancestors of most domestic geese breeds, thought to have first occurred around 3,000 years ago in Ancient Egypt. An introduced species with a large population across the UK, the Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), is light brown in colour with a pale chest, black neck and face. A wide white patch stretches under the neck. First introduced from the Americas in the 17th century, these birds are now a familiar site both in parks and nature reserves across the country. They're our largest goose and often aren't afraid to say hello.

Found in wintering flocks, with significant numbers arriving locally, the Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) has a dark chest and neck with a white face, pale underbelly and a dark back. Many breed on the Svalbard archipelago of northern Norway and winter in the UK.



Greylag goose



Canada goose



Barnacle goose