

## CASE STUDY



### PRIVATE ESTATE Swindon, Wiltshire

Project: Construction of Lake and Water Feature  
Client: Private Client  
Principal Contractor: White Horse Contractors Limited  
Design: White Horse Contractors Limited

The 6.5-million-gallon private lake, approximately five acres in size, was formed in a field directly in front of the main house, giving the home a wonderful new aspect.



It was constructed out of the natural clay with White Horse Contractors' earth moving equipment, utilising a cut-and-fill operation and building up levels on two sides of the field.

The average water depth was 1.75m, although deeper pockets were constructed to give 3.5m depths. Opposite these deep areas, shingle beaches were constructed, making it possible to fish, while wading in 800mm or 150mm depth of water.

A variety of topsoiled wetland areas were incorporated throughout the lake margins, with areas of shingle beds and strategically placed Purbeck boulders.

The lake was filled by existing field boundary ditches that were re-excavated into shallow meandering swales.

Boardwalk bridges allow access across these swales and the construction of two jetties makes it possible to launch a boat from the lake bank and access the island.

Water levels are maintained by the use of a weir-board system that allows excess water to flow over into a stone-lined stream and flow away into surrounding ditches.

The combination of recently planted trees and shrubs, as well the wildflower seed mix sown throughout, completes the overall impression of a lake carefully designed to blend with the surrounding environment and provide a wildlife habitat.

The Client commented:

"The investment in the lake has transformed the whole lifestyle of the estate. It has attracted wildlife, swans, geese and a multiple variety of ducks. We have enjoyed the fishing, and have already caught a 6lb trout. As we walk around the lake it enhances our day. We would be delighted to provide a reference."

