

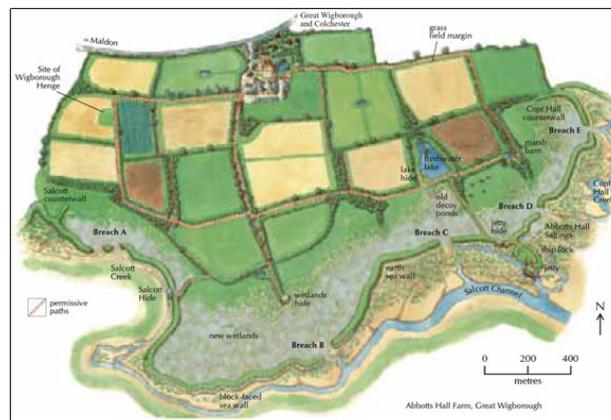
## Managed realignment Featured case - Abbots hall

The **Abbots Hall Farm project** on the Blackwater Estuary, in England, is a special managed realignment scheme, and has demonstrated how farming and nature conservation can work side by side.

As part of the project the sea defences were moved inland in order to create tidal wetlands. By breaching the sea wall 80 hectares of arable land was returned back to saltmarsh, mudflat, coastal grassland and transition habitat. The natural gradient of the rising land is such that a considerable proportion of the area that is now flooded is naturally regenerating as intertidal habitats. The size and location of the project allowed experts to learn more about the fishery usage, hydrodynamic and geomorphological effects of realignment in estuaries. These changes mean that the land owner is now producing a premium meat product through sheep grazing on the upper grassland and marsh. They have also tried alternative crops such as samphire and are looking at sport fishing and wild fowling..

The recreated marshes, saltwater channels and mudflats have created habitats for **fish spawning and nurseries** and for marine invertebrates on which the fish and waders will forage. In addition to nature conservation gains, the recreated coastal habitats will form natural sea defences and act as a sink for nutrient run-off from the surrounding land.

*A quarter of the salt marshes of Essex have already been lost to erosion and man-made sea defences in the past 25 years. Sea level rise threatens to accelerate these losses. Our estuaries are some of the most productive yet fragile aquatic environments. They provide nursery habitats to many of our sea fish and are important for spawning, over wintering and migrating fish.*



Links:

- **monitoring:**  
[http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/Mr\\_MoToWFO\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Monitoring\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/Mr_MoToWFO_Best_Practice_Monitoring_Guide.pdf)
- **Fish utilisation of managed realignments -**  
[http://scholar.google.co.uk/scholar\\_url?hl=en&q=http://repository.tudelft.nl/assets/uuid:04ce4962-6a27-4020-80d9-79de51d9546e/ComCoastWP2-02.pdf&sa=X&scisig=AAGBfm1Z5wxs9d0sy2E2mh4TSaP1Mh1mUA&oi=scholar\\_r&ei=3Gj0T-7ml4Od0AW\\_ocCdBw&ved=0CE8QgAMoATAA](http://scholar.google.co.uk/scholar_url?hl=en&q=http://repository.tudelft.nl/assets/uuid:04ce4962-6a27-4020-80d9-79de51d9546e/ComCoastWP2-02.pdf&sa=X&scisig=AAGBfm1Z5wxs9d0sy2E2mh4TSaP1Mh1mUA&oi=scholar_r&ei=3Gj0T-7ml4Od0AW_ocCdBw&ved=0CE8QgAMoATAA)
- **Lessons learnt:**  
<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/uploads/file/AHF%20Fact%20Sheets/FS9%20Lessons%20Learned%20from%20Realignment.pdf>