HLF supported RSPB Minsmere to host



BBC Two's Springwatch will be based at RSPB Minsmere in Suffolk this year. The series, which starts tonight, will follow the fortunes of the nature reserve's diverse wildlife over the next three weeks.

Minsmere is home to rare birds, historical woodlands and stunning coastal scenery. The RSPB has been awarded three grants totalling nearly £1m by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to revamp Minsmere's visitor centre and build a new, more welcoming learning space.

HLF is one of the most important funders of natural heritage in the UK having awarded over £400m, including £299m for nature conservation projects, in the last 20 years. HLF's investment has protected species including the red barbed ant, sea eagle and bumblebee. It has enabled the purchase and restoration of land for wildlife havens. And it has helped environmental charities look after some of our most vulnerable habitats, from acid grasslands and lowland meadows, to heathland and ancient woodland.

Drew Bennellick, HLF's Head of Landscapes and Natural Heritage, said: "The projects we funded at RSPB Minsmere have successfully opened up the site for many more people to learn about and enjoy this wonderful part of Suffolk. We're delighted that it's now going to be playing a central role on Springwatch which will introduce its charms to many more potential visitors.

“I’m looking forward to tuning in for regular *Springwatch* updates about Minsmere and its visitors. I have no doubt that it will inspire viewers to think about how they engage with and care for their natural environment.”



Peter Everard Smith

Discover Nature - A Vision for Visitors to RSPB Minsmere