

## PROJECT REPORT OPALFILM® birdsafe®

### Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve: “The birds slow right down before they reach the window”

#### The building

The Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve was recognised by UNESCO back in 1979, which makes it one of the oldest nature reserves in Germany. Located in Saxony-Anhalt and covering an area of around 125,000 ha, it is known for its rich variety of unique plant and animal species. The nature reserve is home to more than 250 bird species, and is an important landing point for migratory birds.

The administrative building is located directly inside the reserve, next to the bird feeder. The large windows of the building therefore represent a risk to birds, who do not perceive window panes and glass fronts as obstacle, with the result that they crash right into them. Altogether, more than 100 million birds a year are killed by such glass impacts all over the world.

#### The Problem

The management and employees at the nature reserve were aware of the problem. They therefore considered it essential to reduce the risk of bird impact to a minimum. They therefore searched for a solution that was not only highly effective but also cost-efficient; the aim was to render the glazing visible to birds but without affecting the appearance of the building or impairing the external visibility of the windows.

After conducting intensive research, obtaining professional advice and comparing offers, the team from the nature reserve chose to use OPALFILM® birdsafe® bird protection film from HAVERKAMP to enhance the windows of the building. “It was not just the visibility and speed of installation that impressed us, but also the fact that the HAVERKAMP film incorporates a discreet diamond pattern based on current research conducted by several bird protection organisations. This results in a particularly high level of efficiency, says



Andreas Regner of the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve.

#### The solution

The diamond pattern displayed by OPALFILM® birdsafe® bird protection films turns glass surfaces into obstacles that are visible to birds. The film itself is transparent and of neutral color, maintenance free and easy to retrofit. At the same time OPALFILM® birdsafe® provides effective shatter protection in the event of glass breakage and also helps to protect the building’s interior with its integrated UV protection.

“As a biosphere reserve, it is our job to protect the diversity of the species of bird populations in our region. The building behind the bird feeding station was always a thorn in our side. But the bird protection film from HAVERKAMP produces exactly the effect that we had been hoping for. Since the film was installed on the windows, the birds slow right down before they reach the window and land safely on the feeding station,” says Andreas Regner.



#### Client:

The Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve, Oranienbaum-Wörlitz

#### Problem:

Protection of bird populations, minimisation of bird collisions

#### Solution:

OPALFILM® birdsafe® bird protection film

#### Area:

75 m<sup>2</sup>

