

Ouse Washes

October 2018

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works

Progress

Good news all round!

Bank works on all workfaces are progressing well and this season's work will be completed on time.

September was not as dry as July and August although it was windy, so the team continued using a tractor and bowser at each workface to keep dust to a minimum.

We have again discussed the possibility of an extension to the working window for this season with Natural England and our environmental stakeholders and, subject to continued favourable weather conditions, this has been agreed in principle. The extension will allow us to work into November enabling completion of works at Welches Dam and also the reinstatement of the haul road and surrounding areas.

The bank works will finish for the winter to avoid disturbing the over wintering birds on the Washes.

Middle Level Barrier Bank

Welfare Lake Sluice to Welney

We have made good progress and the bank raising here will be completed by the end of October. The site office and compound will be removed and the area reinstated by mid-November.

The public footpath along this section of bank will remain diverted along Low Bank and re-open in summer 2019 once good grass coverage has been established on the bank.

Welney to Mepal (A142)

Works are being carried out in this section to survey the bank and widen the haul road ready for next season's work.

It is open only as far as the railway bridge as there is no through route to Welches Dam while we are working here. This route will reopen through to Welches Dam at the end of November 2018 for the winter months.

Earith to Mepal (A142)

There are two workfaces in this section, one at Mepal working towards Earith which will be completed in October and one at Earith working towards Mepal which will be completed in November.

The footpath here is closed and will reopen in summer 2019 once good grass coverage has been established on the bank.

Welches Dam Pumping Station works at RSPB Reserve, Manea

The building of a new floodwall has finished for this season and preparation work for next season has begun. The existing bridge in front of the pumping station will be replaced during November.

There will be no access to the public footpath and the bird hides north of Welches Dam until December. The footpath and hides south of the works towards Mepal remain open.

South Level Barrier Bank

Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

Bank raising works here are now complete and final inspections are taking place. Reinstatement of the farmer's field is now in progress.

Public footpath

The public footpath closure will remain in place for the duration of the works. However, the footpath is only closed or diverted where works have been carried out to allow the grass to establish. Diversions and closures are signposted.

Regular inspections will be undertaken between October 2018 and May 2019 to monitor the grass growth.

The grass is really important on the reservoir bank. As the grass grows, the roots help to stabilise the bank and reduce erosion. We use a mixture of different seeds to get a variety of different grass species.

Our environment

Whilst we undertake the works, regular ecological surveys are carried out to ensure that we do not disturb local wildlife and any protected species.

A local resident and wildlife enthusiast has alerted us to the presence of a Common Lizard colony.



Common Lizards are one of only six species native to the UK, and due to the declining population, they are protected under the Wildlife

Photographed by Robert Partridge

and Countryside Act, 1981. Our ecology team will investigate the presence of the reptiles and take precautions to protect them before work in the area is undertaken.

Before leaving the area, we will re-create habitats as close as possible to those currently on site (e.g. log piles and rubble piles) allowing the reptiles to re-colonise naturally.

Trespass and vandalism

We would like to thank the local community who have been instrumental in helping us with this. We haven't experienced as much trespass and vandalism since we highlighted the issue in August.

All construction sites are dangerous places with many hidden hazards and we are working hard to keep our security fencing secure and will do all we can to protect you. Please could you speak with your youngsters to explain the dangers that they are putting themselves and our operatives in.



The Ouse Washes rock hunt

The rock hunt has been very popular and we have enjoyed welcoming everyone to our surgeries. We have been hiding more rocks during October. Each rock has been painted and a number is on the reverse, remember the number and re-hide the rock for the next person to find. To find out more about your rock and the Ouse Washes reservoir, come along to the drop-in surgeries that we are holding in Earith and Welney. A prize for every rock found.



Improving the image of construction

The Considerate Constructors Scheme was set up to improve the image of the construction industry. The scheme aims to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and show the industry to be considerate. The scheme's monitor visited our site in August and was very impressed with the standard we are working to. Jackson's have achieved the 'Beyond Compliance' award which is awarded to sites that are going above and beyond to be a considerate constructor.



Site reference: 110850 / Freephone: 0800 783 1423

How to find out more

The weekly surgeries that we have been holding for you to come and speak with our Public Liaison Officer, Monica, have been very popular.

Surgeries – when and where?

Our last surgery will be held in Earith on:

Wednesday 31st October at Rectors Hall

10.00am and 12.00pm

Notice boards are located on the bank near Earith Sluice, in the Anchor Inn car park at Sutton Gault, at Welches Dam on the RSPB Reserve and near the old parish hall at Welney.

Public drop-in events

We would like to invite you to attend our drop-in feedback sessions where we will display the progress to date and the plan of work for next season.

The events will be held at:

Earith	Welney
Rectors Hall	The Lamb & Flag
5 December 2017	6 December 2017
4.30pm – 7.30pm	3.30pm – 6.30pm.

Our Public Liaison Officer

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Monica Stonham:

Telephone: 07534 457348

Email: OusewashesProjectEA@gmail.com

Working in partnership

The project is being carried out by JacksonHyder on behalf of the Environment Agency with support:



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

www.gov.uk/environment-agency