

Ouse Washes

Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

April 2022

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the bank of the Ouse Washes reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. The work we are doing is to comply with recommendations made by the reservoir Inspecting Engineer to complete the works under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Public drop-in event

We would like to invite you to a drop-in event to find out more about the Welney Wash Road barrier and bank raising works. You will have the opportunity to see details of the barrier and this year's bank works.

**23 April, 10am-2pm at the
William Marshall Centre
Hurn Road, Welney
Wisbech, PE14 9SD**

Covid-19 preventative measures: we will be maintaining social distance and good hygiene measures on the day to prevent covid infections. If you experience symptoms of Covid-19 we ask you to refrain from visiting us. We will be providing a link to a virtual exhibition area, that will be open for a few weeks, for the public that do not or cannot join us to view the project.

Welney demountable flood barrier update

The Welney Wash Road crosses the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir and creates a low point in the Middle Level Barrier Bank. This low point increases the flood risk to the local community and the chance of a breach in the bank if water levels were to overtop it.

As part of the bank raising work, we are doing to comply with the Reservoirs Act, we need to provide a more robust barrier on the Welney Wash Road where it intersects the Middle Level Barrier Bank. We have sourced a demountable barrier option that will provide the robust flood protection solution and will be bespoke to Welney.

Please see the dates below that have been included in the road closure application to Norfolk County Council.

Work start date: 13/06/2022

13/06/2022 to 19/07/2022 - 2-way traffic lights

20/07/2022 to 25/08/2022 - Full road closure

26/08/2022 to 16/09/2022 - 2-way traffic lights for footpath reinstatement works

We will only use the temporary traffic lights if we need to use them before the road closure depending on the work activity and room that is available, they will only be used if necessary. However, they will be required after the road closure to provide enough space to work safely to complete the works.

As stated above these dates are not yet confirmed and may be subject to change.



Year 6 works programme

We still have some bank raising and haul road improvement works to finish which we couldn't complete last summer because of the wet weather. This will take approximately 5 weeks to complete.

We are currently working out how best to do this work and in what sequence, but we may have to bring some material deliveries through Welney. Once our contractor has finalised their plan, we will have more information to share with you. We know this isn't ideal, but in order to finish all the construction work this summer as planned, we may have to change how we deliver the work this year. We will keep you updated.

Due to the environmental constraints on the Ouse Washes, we can only work between 15 July and 31 October. However, we are currently working with Natural England to agree on early start and extend the working window for this year. We will use this time to do winter repairs and haul road work before the main works start in July.

- April – June Ecological surveys and grass cuts full length of the Middle Level Barrier Bank
- June Start construction of the demountable flood barrier in Welney
- June – July Haul road repairs
- July - Oct Repair any flood damage sustained during the winter
- July – Oct Finish bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and install the final bird hide at the Ouse Washes RSPB Reserve
- October Full project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

During late autumn and winter, the haul road floods, which restricts access for maintenance vehicles. When we carry out the haul road works, we will bring in some material to raise the haul road in sections to help alleviate the problem in the future.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project.

Thank you

We understand that these works will be inconvenient, and we would like to thank everyone that has engaged with us to help reduce the inconvenience. We would like to thank you for your co-operation and patience, and we will continue to work with you and the community to continue to minimise disruption.

Contact us

For questions or concerns or to be added to our mailing list about this project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer: Monica Stonham via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or call

07534 457348.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

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

Stay up to date through our information page

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/ouse-washes-section-10-works/>

