

Ouse Washes: Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

Year 6 works

March 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.

Welney demountable flood barrier

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.

We will build a short concrete support wall on each side of the road to connect the temporary barrier to. We will also build a concrete slab across the road to attach the barrier to while it's in use. To enable us to do this work we will need to close the road for approximately 5 weeks. We have submitted our application and are waiting for approval of the road closure from Norfolk County Council.

In the meantime, please see the dates below that have been included in the road closure application.

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

We will only use the temporary traffic lights if we need to use them before the road closure. This will depend 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.

During construction there will not be access to the Middle Level Barrier Bank at Welney. We need to use all the space available to tie the foundations into the embankment either side of the road. Access to the Middle Level Barrier Bank from Welmore Lake Sluice at Salters Lode will not be restricted.

We understand that the Welney barrier works will be inconvenient, and we are grateful to 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 the you and the community to continue to minimise disruption.

Bank raising and haul road works

We still have some work to finish which we couldn't complete last summer because of the wet weather.

We will complete the bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and the haul road improvement works between Mepal and Welney. This will take approximately 5 weeks to complete.

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.

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 are currently working out how best to sequence the work at Welney and we may need to bring some material deliveries through Welney village to complete the haul road improvements. Once our contractor has finalised their plan, we will have more information to share with you.

Programme

- 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 and install final bird hide at Ouse Washes RSPB Reserve
- September Finish barrier construction work
- October Full project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

Public footpath and bridleway access

We still have a full closure of Middle Level Barrier Bank in place. The following footpaths will remain closed whilst we finish the work and wait for the grass to grow. Closures and diversions are clearly signposted.

- Sutton Gault to A142, Mepal
- A142, Mepal to Welches Dam
- Welches Dam to railway bridge
- Railway bridge to Welney
- Welney to Welmore Lake Sluice access restricted at Welney from June

The grass will continue to be monitored throughout the spring and we will aim to open as many of the areas above as we can this year. We will keep you updated as to when we can open these areas.

Public drop-in event

We would like to invite you to attend our drop-in event where you will have the opportunity to talk to the project team and view the progress to date and the plan of work for this year. The event will be held at:

William Marshall Centre, Welney, PE14 9SD

On Saturday 23 April between 10.00am and 2.00pm

Contact us

Stay up to date and visit our information page for the most up to date information

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

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer:

Monica Stonham via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or call 07534 457348.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future updates about this scheme, please contact us through the email address.

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

