

Ouse Washes

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank works

Background

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the dam of the reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. We need to do some works under Section 10 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 to maintain the safety of the dam.

We started raising the bank in 2017. In 2018 we completed sections on the Middle Level Barrier Bank between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney, between Earith and Mepal and on the South Level Barrier Bank between Sutton Gault and Chain Corner.

What are we doing?

We are importing clay material from local quarries to raise the crest level of the Middle Level Barrier Bank between Earith and Welmore Lake Sluice.

We have been busy over the winter finalising the detailed design for the structures and the next phase of works on the Middle Level Barrier Bank. We've been doing winter inspection surveys, maintenance,



Winter inspection at Welney

vegetation clearance, and environmental surveys to prepare ahead of the construction works.

What's happening in Year 3?

We start preparation works from 1 July 2019 for the main bank works to start on the 15 July. You will start to see activity on the banks along with site traffic and deliveries to and from the site.

Welmore Lake sluice – Welney

- Haul road improvement works.

Earthworks - Welney to railway bridge

- Diverting the public right of way.
- Full grass cut.
- Access road tidy and preparation.
- Earthworks will start from 15 July 2019.

Earthworks - Mepal to Welches Dam

- Diverting the public right of way.
- Full grass cut.
- Removal of bird hides.
- Earthworks will start from 15 July 2019.

Railway bridge to Welches Dam

- Closing the public right of way.
- Full grass cut.
- Haul road improvement works.
- Wall repair works at Welches Dam.

Sutton Gault

- Access road tidy and preparation.
- Wall extension will start from 15 July 2019.

Earith

- Bridleway improvements.
- Bank works will start once sluice works are complete.

RSPB Reserve bird hides

We will need to remove the bird hides to the south of Welches Dam this summer, so that we can raise the bank. We will install new bird hides and they will be ready for use during the winter of 2019/20. However, please note that the footpath along the top of the bank will remain closed until the grass has grown.

Public footpath diversions

The grass is 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.



Over the winter and spring months we regularly inspected the banks and grass growth on sections that have been completed. The grass is growing and the footpath diversions will stay in place until there is sufficient cover to the bank.

Grass coverage at Mepal

The public footpath and bridleway arrangements:

Middle Level Barrier Bank

Welmore Lake Sluice – Welney

The diversion is along Low Bank will stay in place until the inspection in July 2019 and haul road improvements works are complete. We can then make a decision to re-open.

Welney – Railway Bridge

The diversion will be in place along Low Bank from July 2019 until summer 2020.

Railway Bridge – Welches Dam

The footpath will close with no access to the RSPB bird hides until November 2019.

Welches Dam to Mepal

The diversion will be in place and diverted to the Low Bank from July 2019 until summer 2020.

Earith to Mepal

The closure will stay in place until the inspection in July 2019. We can then make a decision to re-open.

Earith

The closure between Short Drove and Earith Sluice will remain closed for further bridleway improvements.

South Level Barrier Bank

Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

The closure will stay in place until the inspection in July 2019. We can then make a decision to re-open.

Diversions and closures will be posted on the local site noticeboards. Details of where these are located is below.

Welney Wash Road barrier construction

We have sourced a suitable demountable barrier option that we will use at Welney.

Come along to the Welney drop-in event in June, details below, where we will have the full design on display.

The construction of the barrier walls will start in summer 2020.

Our Community - 'be seen, be safe'



In April we returned to the Sutton CE (VC) Primary School to follow up our visit last November. In line with Jackson Civil Engineering's be safe be seen campaign,

we presented the school with hi-vis vests for the children to use on school trips and during the darker months. We talked to the children about what they learned during our visits and how it helped with their curriculum last term. Jackson Site Manager, Tim

Honeyball said 'The pupils were incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic in their understanding of how the Ouse Washes flood storage reservoir works and why our work is important'.

Public drop-in events

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

The events will be held at:

Earith

Rectors Hall
Earith, PE38 9PX

25 June 2019

4.00pm – 8.00pm

Welney

The William Marshall Centre
Hurn Rd, Welney, PE14 9SD

26 June 2019

2.00pm – 8.00pm.

Our Environment

Due to environmental constraints on the Ouse Washes, our construction works can only take place between 15 July and 31 October.

How to find out more

We have notice boards 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.

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer Monica Stonham on 07534 457348

Email: ousewashesprojectEA@gmail.com

Improving the image of construction



The Considerate Constructors Scheme was setup to improve

the image of the construction industry. The scheme aims to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and show the industry to be a considerate one. Our site has signed-up to the scheme again this year.

Working in partnership

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



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

www.gov.uk/environment-agency