

Ouse Washes Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

May 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 & road closure update

Work start date: 13/06/2022

1/06/2022 to 13/06/2022 - site mobilisation

13/06/2022 to 19/07/2022 - 2-way temporary 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 before the road closure if necessary, depending on the work activity and space that is available. We will require them after the road closure to work safely to complete the works.

Please use this link to view the road closure diversion route: <https://one.network/?tmi=GB22416603>

The public footpath access at Welney to Welmore Lake Sluice will close from 6 June 2022 until the end of construction. Please follow the diversion along Low Bank.

Year 6 works programme

Due to the environmental constraints on the Ouse Washes, we can only work between 15 July and 31 October. We are working with Natural England and they have agreed an early start to extend the working window.

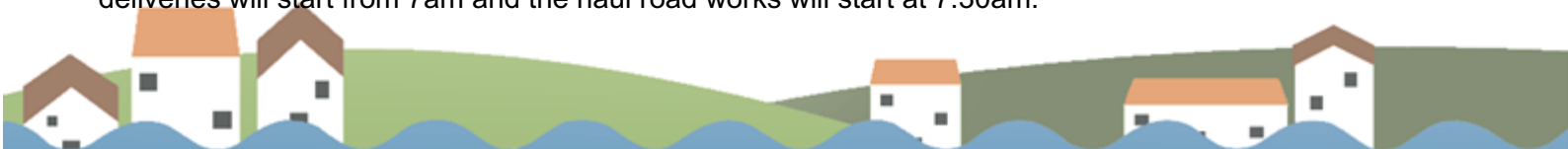
- April – June Ecological surveys and grass cuts full length of the Middle Level Barrier Bank
- June Mobilisation and road construction of the demountable flood barrier in Welney
- June – July Haul road repairs
- July - Oct Repair any flood damage sustained during the winter
- July – Oct Finish bank 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

The public footpath from Sutton Gault to Welney will remain closed until the works have finished and the grass is well established. We will keep you up to date as to when these will re-open.

How we will limit disturbance to residents

We understand that our construction works may cause some inconvenience to the local community, and we are grateful to everyone that has engaged with us to help reduce the impact. In response to your feedback, we are working even harder to limit disturbance for our neighbours.

The site working hours will remain the same: Mon to Fri - 7am - 6pm and Saturdays - 7.30am - 1pm. Lorry deliveries will start from 7am and the haul road works will start at 7.30am.



We are taking measures to reduce disturbance in the area:

- material deliveries from Mepal to Welney will continue to use the existing delivery routes via the A10 to site and adhere to the 15mph haul road speed limit
- we carried out noise and vibration monitoring at properties where residents have been concerned
- a road sweeper will be on call throughout the working day to keep the public highway clean and tidy
- to limit dust pollution in dry weather, we will use a tractor and bowser to suppress the dust created; the bowser will fill up from the Counter Drain away from properties where possible
- an overnight security guard will be onsite as far as practically possible away from properties whilst still maintaining the security activities required.

All lorries have GPS that record their speed and the electronic speed signs on site measure the speed of all site vehicles. When lorries enter the site fully loaded the noise they make is lower but when they leave empty, the noise will be slightly louder which can seem like they are moving faster.

We appreciate the sound of the site vehicles and plant reversing alarms may be annoying, this is something we cannot change. This is a health & safety requirement set out by the Health and Safety Executive <https://www.hse.gov.uk>

We would like to thank you for your co-operation and patience, and we will continue to work with you and the community to minimise disruption.

On-site offices and parking

The contractor will be preparing the site ready for construction from 1 June 2022. Our site offices will be delivered from 6 June and will be situated on the haul road (heading north) in Welney.

Site based staff will park along the haul road and office based staff and visitors will use the Environment Agency land beside the old village hall. All staff will be encouraged to carshare to reduce the number of vehicles parking in Welney.

There will be no public parking in this area during construction. Notices will be erected to minimise confusion and disruption.

Weekly surgery events

During construction this year, we will be holding a weekly surgery event for you to come along and speak to our Public Liaison Officer, Yazmin Parry.

We will start surgeries on 16 June 2022, every Thursday at the Lamb & Flag in Welney, between 3pm and 5pm.

If you would like to find out more about the project or have any concerns, join Yazmin for a cuppa in an informal and friendly environment.

Visit our virtual room

Our virtual exhibition room provides an alternative way to find out more about the project. The room includes a video of how the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir works, links to construction animations, footpath closures, and more.

To view the virtual exhibition, click here: <https://eaousewashesbanks.co.uk/> the room will remain open until September 2022.

We will also continue to use the onsite noticeboards in Welney and at the RSPB to keep you up to date.



Contact us

Stay up to date and visit our information page for the most up to date information using the link below.

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

If you have any questions or concerns about this project or would like to be added to our mailing list for regular updates, please contact our Public Liaison Officers:

Monica Stonham or Yazmin Parry via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com

or call Monica 07534 457348 / Yazmin 07496 760446

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

