

# Ouse Washes

## Middle Level Barrier Bank works

### What's happening?

What a start! During the UK heatwave we worked hard to keep the dust down, bringing in extra water bowsers at each workface to dampen down the haul road. This was followed by heavy rain which flooded the haul road resulting in the water needing to be pumped away, and then there were high winds to add to the mix. Our contractor, JacksonHyder dealt with these difficult conditions efficiently with little or no disruption to the local communities.

#### Welmere Lake Sluice – Welney

We have now completed the haul road improvement works in this section. We have inspected and re-opened the public footpath in September 2019.

#### Welney to railway bridge

We received 90,000 tonnes of clay to the bank to date with 135 lorries deliveries per day.

The material is being delivered to Welney from the quarry in Mepal using the A142, A10 and A1101 to avoid disruption through the local villages.



The footpath diversion will be in place along the Low Bank and Bedford Bank West until summer 2021.

A road sweeper is in operation to ensure the

highway is kept clear of debris.

We are regularly monitoring vehicles using GPS trackers which are installed in each lorry. We also use onsite speed boards to monitor all vehicles on site.

#### Railway bridge to Welches Dam

We are progressing with the haul road widening works ready for next season's work.

The footpath and access to the bird hides north of

Welches Dam will remain closed until Autumn 2020.



#### Mepal to Welches Dam

We have received 124,000 tonnes of clay to the bank to date. The dumper trucks are using a temporary access road and bridge direct from Mepal quarry to the bank to avoid using the local roads.



We removed the bird hides to the south of Welches Dam for the bank works to be undertaken and we will replace and re-open to the public in the Autumn 2019. However, please note that the footpath along the top of the bank will remain closed until Summer 2020 to allow the grass to establish.

The footpath diversion remains in place and diverted to the Low Bank until Summer 2021.

#### Earith

We have decommissioned and removed the disused telemetry hut. We have completed the bankworks at Earith bridge and is ready for grass seeding to take place.

We started the bridleway improvements and bank works during September 2019 and we are close to completion.

We are receiving material from Mepal Quarry using the A142, B1050 and A1123 to the site access at Earith Bridge.

We will re-open the public footpath/bridleway from Short Drove, Earith towards Sutton Gault 1 November 2019. The access at Sutton Gault will be restricted to one way the bankworks at Sutton Gault needs time for the grass to establish. The public footpath/bridleway from Earith Sluice to Short Drove, Earith will remain closed until summer 2020.

#### Sutton Gault

We started the works on the retaining wall in August 2019 and we will complete this by 31 October 2019.

We receive material using A142, B1381, turning right onto Bury Lane.

## Sutton Gault to Mepal

The footpath closure will stay in place until September 2019. Once we conduct the final inspection we can then decide if we can reopen it.

## Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

We have now completed the access road improvement works.

Once we conduct the final inspection and cut the grass we can then decide if we can reopen the bank.

## 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.

The grass is growing and the footpath diversions will stay in place until there is sufficient cover to the bank.

We will post diversions and closures on the local site noticeboards. Details of where these are located is below.

## Public surgery events

Come along to one of the surgeries we are holding throughout construction until 31 October 2019. Our Public Liaison Officer will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

### Wednesdays

#### Earith

Rector's Hall, Colne Road

10.00am - 12.00pm

### Thursdays

#### RSPB Reserve

Welches Dam, Manea

10.00am - 12.00pm

#### Welney

The Lamb & Flag

3.00pm – 5.00pm

## 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 September and was very impressed with the high standards set by the team. Jackson's have improved on last year's award of 'Beyond Compliance' and have this year achieved the award of 'Excellence' which is awarded to sites that are excelling at being a considerate constructor.

Site registration no: 116973 / Freephone 0800 7831423

## Our environment

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

We delayed our grass cutting activities in June and July at Welches Dam to allow for the crossing of the Redshank.



Known as the "sentinel of the marshes" they often guard their young by perching on high vantage points like field fencing. The RSPB have a healthy population on what they call their "pilot project", land that they have reverted back to wet meadows safe from flood conditions on the adjacent Ouse Washes. Once the young are mobile, the parents often transport them across to the wash-lands where the numerous pools provide great conditions for fast growing chicks.

## 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](mailto:ousewashesprojectEA@gmail.com)

## 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](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)