

### Introduction

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the dam of the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. We are working under Section 10 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 to maintain the safety of the dam. We started bank raising in 2017 and the work will take 5 years. We are importing clay material from local quarries to raise the crest level of the Middle Level Barrier Bank. Due to environmental constraints, we can only work between 15 July and 31 October. We agreed with Natural England an extended working window for this year from 1 June and used this time to do winter repairs and haul road work

### Year 4 works

We are carrying out bank raising at:

- Welney Wash Road to the railway bridge
- Railway bridge to RSPB Welches Dam
- RSPB Welches Dam to A142 Mepal
- Sutton Gault & Earith

We also need to repair the damage to the bank at Earith where it was accessed against advice.

We are working with our Reservoir Inspecting Engineer and designers to find an alternative solution so we could open the public footpath.

The public footpath closure for the Middle Level Barrier Bank will be extended into 2022. Our contractor will try to provide a diversion wherever possible. When we complete sections of the bank, the public footpath will remain closed until there is sufficient grass coverage.

We will continue to do monthly inspections to monitor the grass growth.



We will remove the bird hides to the north, so that we can raise the bank. We will install new bird hides once the bank works are complete and they will be ready for use in winter 2021. We will close the bird hides to the south until November 2020, to continue to deliver the clay direct from the quarry using the haul road rather than using the public highway.

### Limiting disturbance



Construction work can be a messy and noisy activity and we apologise for any disturbance. It is important that we carry out these bank works, and we are doing our best to limit any inconvenience.

Our normal working hours are 6:30am-6:30pm Monday to Saturday, and we are limiting our hours near residential properties to 7am-6pm Mon-Fri and 7am-1pm on Saturdays.

All deliveries to site will observe the on-site 15mph haul road speed limit and the speed boards will remind drivers of their speed. We monitor this by conducting spot checks and using the speed board sensors along with the lorries' on-board GPS system.

We use a tractor and bowser to suppress the dust created by the vehicles in dry weather. The bowser will fill up from the Counter Drain away from properties where possible. A road sweeper is on call throughout the working day to keep the public highway clean and tidy.

Please bear in mind that when lorries arrive loaded the noise is less than when they leave empty.

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



## Change of material delivery route to Welney

Since 2017 to limit the disruption to the villages within the construction zone we have programmed work to avoid using the village road network, and we have been using the A142, A10 & A1101 route. Cambridgeshire County Council are currently undertaking highway improvement works on the A10 at Ely which are due to be complete in November 2020.

These works significantly slowed the delivery of clay to site as the lorries were taking nearly twice as long to get to and from the site. We need to guarantee a steady delivery of clay to complete the work on time. If we were to continue using this route, this would impact the programme significantly and extend work due to be completed this year into 2021.

To prevent further delays to our construction programme we have needed to find an alternative route with the least disruption.

We have been working with our contractor JacksonHyder, Cambridgeshire County Highways and Parish Councils. We all agreed that the least disruptive route from the quarry in Mepal to Welney is to bring the material in via the B1098 (Sixteen Foot), B1095 (Halfpenny Toll Road) to the A1101 to Welney.

There will be approximately 80 deliveries per day, until 31 October 2020.

To reduce local disruption, some early morning deliveries will still use the A10 route before the morning peak period starts and JacksonHyder have agreed with their sub-contractor Mick George that the lorries will operate at reduced speed limits along the alternative route. Signs have been placed along the B1098 to remind drivers to not use the villages as a short cut.

We would like to apologise for any disruption that this new route may cause you whilst we carry out these vital works.

## Flood Barrier at Welney consultation and engagement



Artist impression of the Welney flood barrier

There is still time to give us your opinion on timings to help us decide the best time to do the work. We expect that the total construction time will be 14 weeks. During these 14 weeks, we will need to close the road for approximately 4-6 weeks. Construction works will start in 2021.

We have published an online survey on our [Ouse Washes Citizen Space information page](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/welney-wash-road-barrier-work-timings)

As we cannot hold our usual public drop in and surgery events for the foreseeable future.

We still have our notice boards near the Earith Sluice, in the Anchor Inn car park at Sutton Gault, at Welches Dam RSPB Reserve and near the Old Parish Hall in Welney. Our Public Liaison Officer remains available to you and will continue to issue updates by email.



### Contact us

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