

OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT SCHEME (OtSMRS) NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Update on our plans for the scheme

In February we sent out a briefing, describing some important changes we have made to our plans for the scheme. If you missed this, you can download a copy from our website at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/outstrays-to-skeffling-managed-realignment-scheme/>

We will shortly be updating the website to provide more information about the work proposed.

Work starting this year

In May our contractors, JBA Bentley, will start the final round of ground investigations needed to inform detailed designs for the scheme. They will also conduct more archaeological surveys this summer on land east of Winstead Drain. This work will continue until the autumn, along with starting construction of the 'wet grassland' habitat areas in West 2. The main phase of construction work – building new embankments on the eastern side - is intended to start next year.



A pair of greylag geese on Winstead Drain, near Outstrays

Once surveys start on site, JBA Bentley will need to set up a temporary compound to provide facilities for staff working there. This will be installed on land south of Welwick. All staff will follow COVID compliant procedures to ensure their safety, and the wellbeing of anyone in the area that they come into contact with.

As a result of work starting, there will be a small increase in traffic movements in the area as plant, equipment and staff move onto and off the site on a daily basis. This will continue over the summer and into the autumn, starting with some deliveries of materials in May. All staff and anyone bringing in supplies will be reminded to park respectfully in the area and maintain access for normal activities as much as possible. If you want to read more about how we will manage traffic in the area, a summary of the construction traffic management plan (CTMP) for the scheme will be posted on our website in May.

As with any construction project there will, of course, be some noise generated by the machinery and vehicles on the site. This will be limited to working hours (7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) and will be spread over a large area. It shouldn't be any worse than noise generated by normal agricultural activities.

Whilst we will endeavour to maintain access to public footpaths on the site during this first phase of work, we may need to close a small section of footpath in the area where archaeological investigations are carried out. Once we know whether this is necessary, we will put signs in place in advance of closures and include details on our website and in the next newsletter.

Project staff: Who's who

If you want more information or have questions about the work happening this year, here are the contact details of key staff. You can also contact us via the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre phone number and the project email address, given at the bottom of this newsletter.

		
<p>Andrew Gee Project Manager Environment Agency (contact details in box below)</p>	<p>Graham Frudd Project Manager JBA Bentley Tel: 07773 208991</p>	<p>Paul Craig Site Manager JBA Bentley Tel: 07837 454048</p>

Antisocial behaviour in the area

Over the winter we received reports of wildlife crime and quad bikes illegally riding on land near Outstrays Farm and contacted Humberside Police about these issues. They have advised us that, if anyone sees suspicious or illegal activity on either the western or eastern sites, they should call them to report it, using the 101 phone number if it's not an emergency. You should give the log number: **164/03122020**.

Nesting birds on Outstrays land

In our earlier briefing, we stated that we intended to make arrangements to clear our land (both eastern and western sides) of weeds causing nuisance to local farmers. However a combination of bad weather in February and the discovery of early nesting skylarks in March has meant that we were unable to bring heavy machinery onto the land to remove weeds. After considering a few different options, we have decided to pause our plans on the western side until later in the year. On the eastern side, our contractors will proceed with ground investigations very carefully, closely supervised by an ecologist. Once the bird nesting season is over, we will implement an integrated weed management plan across both sides of the site to bring weed species under control.

Recent erosion on the embankment

We're aware that a section of the embankment at Sunk Island Sands was damaged by winter storms. We are monitoring the situation while we review funding options for its repair.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email us at: Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or phone the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506506 and ask for Andrew Gee, Project Manager, or Nikky Wilson, Engagement Specialist.