

# OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT SCHEME (OtSMRS) NEWSLETTER

December 2021



*An aerial view of the West Two site at Outstrays, taken in October this year, showing scrapes, ponds and islands created as new habitats for wildlife*

## Construction stops for the winter

In early November we stopped work for the winter; our contractors JBA Bentley closed down the project compounds and removed all cabins from both the Outstray and Welwick sites. They then secured the site, fencing off pedestrian access points and blocked any vehicle routes into the compounds.

Please note that the project area remains a construction site and so is not open to the public. We would ask that, for your own safety, people don't access the site whilst it is closed. It will be monitored over the winter and our contractors will make weekly inspections. However, if anyone identifies any suspicious activity or anything that needs addressing, please get in touch with a member of the JBA Bentley team or Environment Agency staff using the contact details provided at the end of this newsletter. If you need to report any activity to the police, please use the 101 number for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies.

## Restart planned for January

The western edge of the Outstrays site has had a new hedgerow planted and stock/deer fencing installed to protect it whilst it establishes. Tree felling will be carried out on the eastern side, starting in mid-December and will continue until the end of January. You may see contractors on the site carrying out this work.

The main work will start again in the spring; we hope to be back in March 2022 to remobilise the compound areas off Outstrays Road and the recently installed site between Welwick and Skeffling.

## Recent events

Back in early October this year, we held our first public events since the beginning of the COVID 19 lockdowns last year and it felt great to be back in contact with people on a face-to-face basis! The day started with a visit for parish councillors to the West Two site at Outstrays, to show them progress made in creating the new 'wet grassland' habitats (as shown in the aerial photograph on page 1). Although the area was extremely muddy after heavy rainfall in the preceding days, we were able to provide a walking tour and give visitors a sense of the scale of the work being done on this site.



In the afternoon we held a drop-in in Welwick Village Hall to update visitors on work done over this year's construction season. Environment Agency and JBA Bentley staff talked through images from drone footage and explained what was happening on the ground. In addition, staff from York Archaeological Trust were on hand to describe the surveys they carried out over the summer months and what the initial results from these tell us about the history of the area. Visitors were able to handle found objects, which ranged from flint arrow heads and Roman pottery to a large piece of a quern stone. Analysis of samples from the site is still being carried out; once the final report from this year's survey is completed, we will produce a summary to share with residents and anyone interested in this aspect of the scheme.

*Archaeological finds on show at the drop-in*

Thank you to everyone who attended this event; over fifty people came to the drop-in, expressing a strong interest in the archaeology of the area and making it a positive and worthwhile occasion. We hope to hold more of these next year, circumstances permitting.

## Repairs to the embankment on Sunk Island

We expect to finish installing the haul road for the repairs this month. Interim repairs will then be carried out to address the most critical sections of embankment to ensure they can cope with winter storms. In preparation for next year, rock and stone, used to protect the banks against further erosion in the future, will also be imported so that the permanent repair work can commence as soon as the environmental restrictions end in early spring 2022.

## Contact Us

### Environment Agency

For enquiries, you can contact us by email: [Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or by phone on **03708 506506** and ask for Andrew Gee, Project Manager, or Nikky Wilson, Engagement Specialist.

For more information about the scheme, you can visit the project's webpage at

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

### JBA Bentley

For enquiries about the work on site, contact Nathan Crabtree, Contract Manager on **07817 826807** or Paul Craig, the Site Manager on **07837 454048**.