

OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT

Newsletter, April 2019

Report from February's drop-ins

In early February we held a series of drop-ins at different locations in the area before submitting planning applications for the scheme to East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This gave residents and local groups a chance to find out about the details covered in our plans and to talk directly to us about any issues or concerns they had. We also arranged for Claire Jackson from York Archaeological Trust to attend the last drop-in at Welwick and bring some of the objects found during last year's dig. She then gave a talk about the history of the area, illustrating this with findings from the archaeological surveys conducted over the last two years. This attracted quite an audience with more than 20 people attending.



Claire Jackson from York Archaeological Trust shows a visitor to the Welwick drop-in some of the finds from recent investigations

Skeffling video

At the drop-ins last month, we showed a video specially made for the project, explaining why the scheme is needed and focusing on some of the benefits it will bring. You can watch it using the following link to our website:

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

Timetable for the planning process

At the end of February we submitted two planning applications to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the scheme, one for the eastern habitat scheme and another for the west. These will soon be available for the public to view on the council's website at:

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-permission/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/>

Once the planning applications are uploaded to this website, you will have the opportunity to comment on them. Your views will then be considered by ERYC's Planning Committee.

Skeffling pumping station refurbishment

In parallel with building the main scheme, we are planning some refurbishment works for Skeffling Pumping Station to improve its functioning once the new habitat is created. This work will be done using the Environment Agency's permitted development rights rather than through the planning system.

Repairs to Outstrays embankment completed

In January this year the Environment Agency's field team carried out repairs to the embankment south of Outstrays Farm in order to stabilise it and maintain flood protection in that area whilst the scheme is being built. This involved reprofiling the eroded clay cores of the embankment. We then imported a large quantity of stones to rebuild some of the existing stone gabions, and prevent further erosion taking place. We will continue to monitor this embankment whilst the scheme is being built.



The repaired embankment below Outstrays Farm with new gabions in place.

What happens now?

In the last newsletter we described some work being done at Haverfield Quarry to clear vegetation and improve the quality of the habitat there. This is almost completed. We have also started to prepare 'receptor sites' (protected areas) for any animals, such as newts and grass snakes, that need to be moved off the site and relocated to new homes before work begins. This involves creating a couple of small ponds so that these can become established as suitable habitats, well in advance of moving any wildlife to them. Back in the office, we are continuing to work on the detailed design of the scheme and working up the detail required for construction to start.

What happens after planning?

Following planning determination, we aim to start preparing the area in the summer for the main phase of construction. This will involve setting up a site compound for the contractors to work from and putting in place access arrangements.

Following discussions with several parish councils, we have agreed to set up a working group to manage any impacts resulting from the construction of the scheme. This group will provide a communication channel for local people to express concerns about traffic or health and safety issues, and explore ways to solve the problems. We intend to set up this group in the next few months and will keep you informed on progress with this.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact us by email at:

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Or phone the Environment Agency on 03708 506506 and ask for:

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