

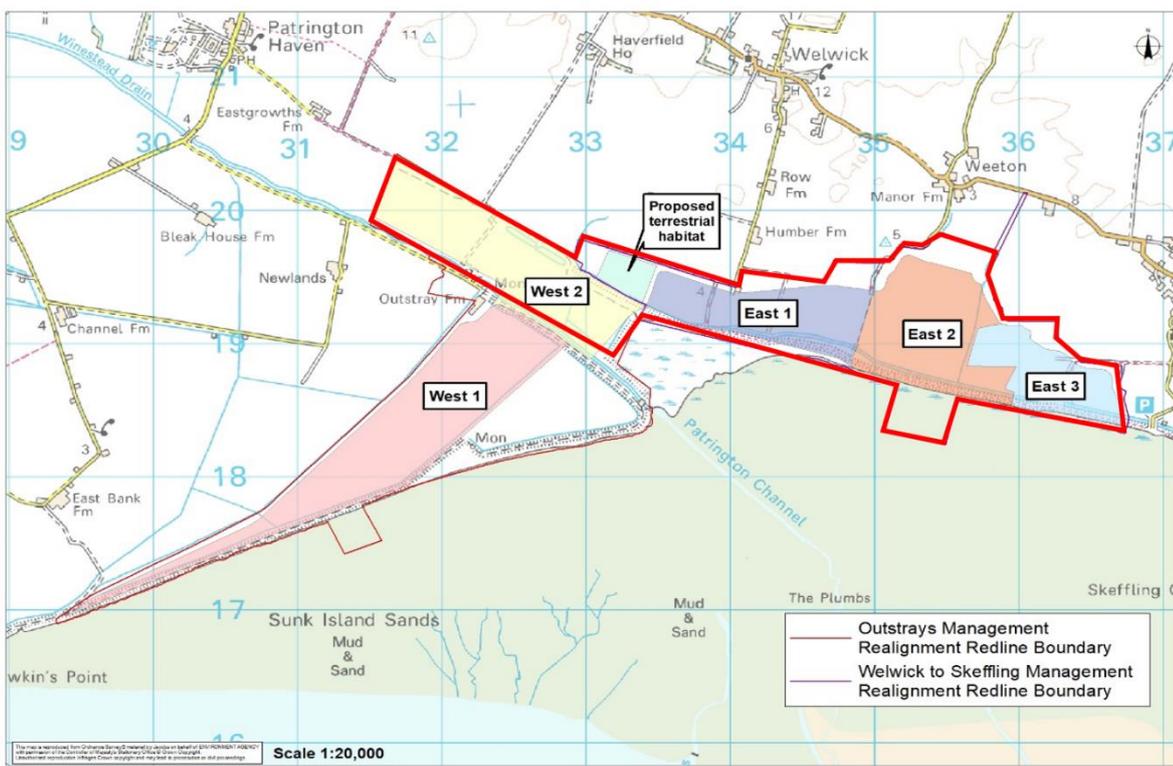
OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT SCHEME (OtSMRS)

Update, February 2021

Following completion of final agreements between the Environment Agency and Associated British Ports (ABP), we are now able to begin the next stage of work to develop the Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme (OtSMRS).

Our plan is to *prioritise delivery of the eastern side of the scheme, including the following areas: East 1, East 2 (ABP land), East 3 and West 2 terrestrial habitat (wet grassland area)*. This means we will pause work on the western side (West 1).

Fig 1: Areas proposed for the revised Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme



Why we have made this decision

During the period of time we have been developing detailed plans for OtSMRS the Environment Agency has also been moving ahead with the Humber2100+ project (which will set out a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk around the Humber). As part of this work we have carried out new research looking at habitat changes and the overall health of the estuary. We are using this information along with new policy and guidance from the Government to develop a new approach to managing the Humber natural environment.

Until this work is completed and we are confident of the longer term vision for habitat creation plans we have decided to prioritise delivery of East 1, 2 & 3 and West 2 which will provide enough habitat to meet short term legal demands. Future plans for West 1 will be informed in line with the emerging work.

Benefits of building on the eastern side

Focusing on the eastern side of the scheme brings a wide variety of benefits. Work done on this side will still meet requirements for the Environment Agency to create compensatory habitat and so allow associated flood defence projects on the Humber Estuary to proceed. It will also enable ABP to expand their ports in the future, delivering economic growth and opportunities on both sides of the estuary.

The project will improve flood protection for properties in Welwick and Skeffling; the existing embankment on the eastern side will be replaced with new and more resilient defences. Work will also be carried out to increase the capacity of Skeffling pumping station.

As part of the scheme, we will improve public access and recreational facilities on the eastern side. We will also carry out more archaeological surveys to increase our knowledge of the history of the site and share findings with the local community.

There will be less overall disruption and disturbance during construction for residents.

The land on the western side of the scheme will not be developed immediately as originally planned, but will be retained as a site for future environmental development.

What our decision means for the western side of the site (land owned by the Environment Agency)

In the short term we will not build a new flood embankment on the western side (West 1) and the standard of flood protection to this area will remain as it is today.

The Environment Agency will continue to maintain the existing tidal banks to the Southeast of Winestead Drain on the western side. These banks will be inspected on an annual basis, or more often if required. Routine maintenance will continue, as well as any other repairs that are deemed necessary. This work will be reviewed annually.

Whilst Humber 2100+ plans are being developed, land on the western side of the site will still need to be managed. We are keen to consult with local landowners on the best approach to this. We are aware of the immediate need to manage this land appropriately and work is being scheduled imminently.

Winestead Outstrays Drain pumping station

The Winestead Outstrays Pumping Station does not form part of the Skeffling Managed Realignment scheme but the Environment Agency is investigating options for this pumping station.

What happens next?

We plan to start work on the eastern side in 2021 and will be carrying out some additional surveys and investigations over the coming months. Once we have used findings from these to develop detailed designs for the site, we will share these with the community and our stakeholders.

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

Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk

Or phone the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506506 and ask to speak to a member of the Outstrays to Skeffling MRS project team.