

# OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT SCHEME (OtSMRS)

September 2024

## Public Drop-in at Welwick Parish Hall

17<sup>th</sup> October

from 2.00pm to 6.00pm

We'll bring displays and show drone footage to give you a flavour of what's been happening on the site this year, as well as offering updates on the new pumping stations at Skeffling and Winestead Outstray.

Environment Agency, Associated British Ports and JBA Bentley staff will be on hand to provide updates, answer questions and discuss any issues you want to raise.

Everyone is welcome.

### Construction update

Despite another construction season of mixed weather, we've been incredibly busy this year on the Outstrays to Skeffling managed realignment scheme. Here are some of the achievements.

The embankment 'tie-ins' at both western and eastern ends of the scheme were finished off in late spring, creating a continuous length of four and a half kilometres of new embankment. Built to a much higher standard than the old embankment it replaces, this will reduce the risk of tidal flooding for residents and landowners in the area. We used local contractors to seed it with grass in the autumn last year and it now looks well established, helped, of course, by the copious amounts of rain throughout the last winter and spring this year.



*One of the new bird hides recently installed, with Flexipave surfacing in place.*

All four bird hides are now in place. Three are located at key points along the embankment, facing into the bowl of the intertidal area, and open to visitors. The one positioned at New Clough Bridge (near Outstray Farm), facing into the wet grassland habitat, is not yet open. They look fantastic and really do provide great lookout points across the site, whilst offering shelter from wind and rain. Their open-plan structure has been shaped by the many comments and suggestions we received from stakeholders whilst developing designs for them. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas for these.

Ramps leading up to the bird hides have been surfaced with 'Flexipave'. This is a specially designed porous and flexible covering for sloping surfaces, reducing the risk of slipping, particularly wheelchair users and horses. These provide access to the hides and the path along the top of the embankment.

The main car park for the scheme has been surfaced and is now open to visitors. We have regraded the access route to it from Humberside Lane, off the main road in Weeton. In addition, we have recently remove some large potholes on Sheep Trod Lane to improve the surface for vehicles.

We've installed fencing around the entire length of the site to protect the new areas of intertidal habitat. This allows dog owners to let dogs off leads along the new bridleway. However, we expect pets to be kept under control at all times and dogs to stay out of all fenced-off areas, to avoid disturbing wildlife.

There are still a few additional minor jobs to be done around the site, such as installing interpretation boards. So, our contractors will be back to complete these tasks. Any temporary access restrictions resulting from this work will be managed locally.

## The breach

A significant milestone for the project this year has been to breach the old embankment, connecting the newly formed intertidal bowl with the estuary. This has been challenging due to ground conditions and the initial methodology was swiftly adapted to enable work to resume quickly. However, the limited 'window' of time in which we can work on the saltmarsh and mudflat whilst working around several high tides in late July and August has meant a narrower breach excavation has been completed.



*An excavator digging out the first part of the breach on the saltmarsh*

Managed realignment schemes evolve over time, reaching an equilibrium breach width to allow the site to become truly intertidal. At the moment we're seeing a large expanse of the intertidal area holding water and draining more slowly than expected. However, we've taken some proactive steps to improve this situation and increase the rate of drainage. This approach has been effective with water levels dropping significantly already. If further intervention is needed, we will return in the next construction season but we may find that natural erosion widens the breach over the winter months, meaning this isn't required.

We have captured the breach works on timelapse cameras positioned on either side of the working area. We hope to share the footage from this, along with some of the drone footage in future communications, publications and events, once we have had a chance to edit and compile it.

## Skeffling and Winestead pumping stations

Work on Skeffling pumping station began in May this year, setting up the site compound and creating access to the working area. Piling work started in August and continues until the end of September. Construction will be paused over the winter months and resume in the spring next year, to avoid disturbing migratory and overwintering birds on the managed realignment site.

Connected to this work, we have made some changes to several access roads to the construction site. We have resurfaced part of Long Lane, between Church Lane and the site entrance, and widened the road at several locations along Church Lane to provide passing places for traffic. We have also repaired a section of the footpath along Church Lane. We will continue to monitor the condition of the roads we use for access and keep in contact with East Riding of Yorkshire's Highways team.

Unfortunately, due to delays with the planning process, we are still awaiting final planning approval for Winestead pumping station. Some minor enabling work is taking place at the moment to mitigate the effect of these delays, but it is likely that the project will start in earnest in 2025. No public access arrangements will be changed at this end of the site until later in the construction programme.

## Access changes around the site

As all work on the new embankment is finished, visitors now have access to the full length of the bridleway. The only exception to this is a section at the eastern end, near to the site of the new Skeffling pumping station. We have temporarily closed the path in this area to ensure public safety whilst the pumping station is under construction. Instead, there is a diversion in place along Long Lane which will allow walkers and horse riders to progress eastwards from the embankment and connect with the path heading towards Spurn Point and Easington. These changes are shown in the map below, with the green dotted line indicating the diversion. Please note, access to the path along the old embankment has been closed off at both ends. This is a permanent change, and the path will not be reinstated as the embankment itself has been lowered.



Map showing the line of the new bridleway (pink dotted line) and diversion (green dotted line)

At the western end of the scheme, work has begun around Outstray Farm and New Clough Bridge to prepare for the construction of the new Winestead pumping station. The path around the wet grassland area (West Two) and through Haverfield Quarry has not been formally opened and may need to be closed off next year when work to upgrade New Clough Bridge is carried out and materials for the pumping station are brought in.

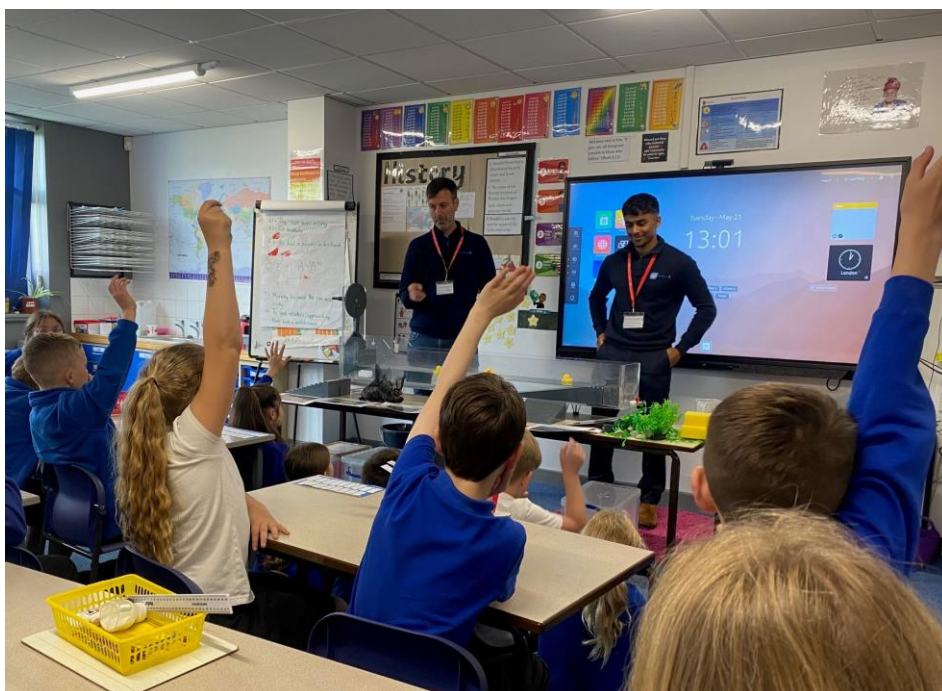
## West One update

In 2022 we began using the fields at Outstray Farm (West One) to provide compensatory grazing for the grazier who had previously kept their sheep on Welwick saltmarsh but could not access this land whilst construction of the scheme was underway. This arrangement will continue until the end of 2025, allowing time for us to understand any changes in water movement happening on the saltmarsh, as a result of the managed realignment scheme.

This has given us an opportunity to work with the grazier and set up trials of different management techniques. Over the last three years we have focussed on controlling weeds and improving soil health, applying regenerative principles to make the land more resilient to weather extremes such as flood and drought. Using herbal leys and different grazing regimes, we have been experimenting with ways to increase organic matter in the soil and increase its capacity to hold water. Findings from this work so far have been very promising and already produced valuable information. As a result, we have secured Local Levy funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee to investigate how we can extend and expand the project after the current arrangement with the grazier ends. Over the next seven months we will develop proposals and explore funding opportunities to secure longer term benefits for this work. Our ambition is to use the findings from this pilot project along with the developing Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (Humber2100+) to inform future use and management of the site.

## Learning about coastal erosion

In May this year JBA Bentley staff visited Patrington Primary School to help Year Four pupils learn about coastal and river erosion, as part of their geography curriculum. The project team brought a wave tank into school to demonstrate the effectiveness of different types of coastal defences in a practical and engaging way. During the session children were invited to create waves and then measure the volume of water overtopping different types of flood defences. The wave tank provided a very visual, hands-on learning opportunity, which the children loved.



*JBA Bentley staff conducting a classroom session at Patrington Primary School*

## Holderness Histories exhibition in Hedon

We are pleased to report that our 'Holderness Histories' exhibition at Hedon Museum proved very popular, with over 470 visitors. It also generated positive press coverage, including the local BBC News website and the Sunday Mirror!

[Roman oyster 'processing site' discovered on banks of Humber - BBC News](#)



*The exhibition space at Hedon Museum*

To add value to the exhibition materials, we commissioned York Archaeology to produce a schools activity pack containing lots of fun but educational exercises for pupils. This was shared with Patrington Primary School and will hopefully provide a useful resource for pupils to learn about the history of their area.

If you missed the exhibition, you can download a free booklet about the archaeology of the Holderness peninsula using the link [here](#) or from our project website:

[Outstrays to Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#).

We also plan to install two interpretation boards on the managed realignment site, giving information about the archaeological finds from our investigations there.

## 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 Marie-Claire Spicer, Project Manager, or Nikky Wilson, Engagement Specialist.

For more information, you can visit the scheme'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 Paul Craig, the site manager on **07837 454048**.