

OUTSTRAYS TO SKEFFLING MANAGED REALIGNMENT SCHEME (OtSMRS) NEWSLETTER

September 2021



Fragments of Roman pottery unearthed during archaeological investigations this year

Archaeological drop-in in Welwick Village Hall

As we were unable to bring visitors onto the site during archaeological investigations this summer, we want to hold a public event this month to share some of the findings from these surveys. Please do join us on the afternoon of the 5th October if you want to find out more about the history of the site.

Drop-in at Welwick Village Hall

5th October, from 3pm to 5pm

Finds from the dig will be on display, along with drone footage and time lapse filming of the excavations.

Staff from York Archaeological Trust will be on hand to answer questions about the dig and what's been found. You can also talk to Environment Agency and JBA Bentley staff to find out what's planned for next year.

We want to make sure that visitors and staff attending this event feel safe. This means that we are asking visitors to follow certain procedures. We will operate a one way system so please use the front door, not the side door, to enter the hall. We will ask you to provide contact details and would encourage all visitors to wear masks when inside the building. It will be well ventilated and hand sanitiser will be available. We will allow a maximum of 30 people inside the hall at any one time so please be prepared to wait outside if the event is busy. To minimise the risk of infection, we will not be providing refreshments at this event. If circumstances require it, we may need to cancel this event at short notice but will do our best to inform you about this through email and social media channels.

Update on current activities

We are continuing to make good progress with work in the wet grassland area (West 2). The creation of a system of channels and lagoons in the first field is nearly completed with construction now moving into adjacent fields. Materials from the site are currently being stockpiled in the eastern field and will be stored over winter. They will then be used for the construction of the new embankments when work restarts next year.

We also finished work to install the new access route off Weeton Road/B1445 for the site compound on the eastern side and the temporary traffic lights have now been removed, as planned.

During the summer we have continued carrying out ecological surveys on the site. Most recently we conducted a survey along the banks of Winestead Drain for evidence of water voles (see photo below). We will include more details about this work in our next newsletter.



We have received approval from Natural England to extend the construction period into October. Subject to favourable weather, this means that we will be able to further develop the area of wet grassland habitat and undertake more preparatory work on the eastern side, in readiness for the next construction season starting in the spring of 2022. We will therefore close our compounds, remove the cabins and secure the various sites during October but you may still see the delivery of materials to the site off Weeton Road continuing until early November.

Repairs to the embankment on Sunk Island

Repairs to the embankment between Skeffling and Easington were completed in July this year. We are now focussing on a stretch of the embankment south of Skeffling, near Hawkins Point. Once we get the final approval for this work to go ahead, we intend to start building an access track to the site in early October. We will then carry out repairs to critical spots on the embankment before winter working restrictions begin and then complete the rest of the work in the spring of next year.

Contact Us

Environment Agency

For enquiries, you can contact us by email: Welwick.Skeffling@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

Or, for more information about the scheme, 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**.

You can also contact the JBA Bentley Team on their site mobile number: **07800 508558**.