

Ouse Washes

August 2018

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works

Progress

Bank works on all workfaces are progressing well and on schedule.

Middle Level Barrier Bank

Welmore Lake Sluice to Welney

We are continuing on from last year and have two workfaces in this section this season. We are now at the half way point in Welney, which has received over 250 lorries delivering 4850 tonnes of clay.

Earith and Mepal (A142)

Great News!!

The temporary bridge over the Counter Drain at Earith has been installed and approval has been granted to our sub-contractor, so clay deliveries are now using this route. We are pleased to say that no clay deliveries will use the roads in Earith.

There are two workfaces in this section, one at Mepal working towards Earith and another at Earith working towards Mepal.

Welches Dam Pumping Station works at RSPB Reserve, Manea

Top soil has been stripped and excavation is complete for the south side floodwall at the pumping station. Installation of the new floodwall has started which is expected to take four weeks.

We will be replacing the existing bridge in front of the pumping station in October.

There will be no access to the public footpath and bird hides north of Welches Dam during the works. The footpath and hides south of the works will remain open this season.

South Level Barrier Bank

Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

Works are continuing on here from last season. This section is 50% complete and received 325 lorries delivering 6500 tonnes of clay and granular material.

A road sweeper is in operation along the B1381, Chain Causeway, to ensure the highway is kept clear of debris.



Cutting a bench layer on the SLBB at Sutton Gault

During the very dry weather that we experienced during July and August, the team worked hard to keep dust to a minimum using a tractor and bowser at each workface.

Traffic management

Welmore Lake Sluice to Welney

The material is being delivered to the site access from the quarry in Mepal using the A142, A10 and A1101.

Earith to Mepal (A142)

The lorries are using the temporary access road and bridge which has been installed direct from Bridge Farm quarry to the bank to avoid using the local roads through the villages.

Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

Material deliveries will be delivered from the quarries in Earith and Mepal to the Sutton access off the B1381, using the B1050 towards Chatteris, A142 to Sutton to the B1381, Chain Causeway.

Regular vehicle monitoring is undertaken using GPS trackers which are installed in each lorry.

Our environment

Whilst we undertake the works regular ecological surveys are carried out to ensure that we do not disturb any protected species and local wildlife.

The bank works are being carried out during the summer months to avoid disturbing the overwintering and ground nesting birds on the Washes

Public footpath diversions

A public footpath closure has been granted for the whole length of the works. However, the footpath is only closed or diverted where works are being carried out. Diversions and closures are clearly signed.

Welmore Lake Sluice to Welney

The footpath here is diverted along Low Bank.

Welney to Railway Bridge

This remains open only as far as the railway bridge as there is no through route to Welches Dam while we are working here.

Railway Bridge to Welches Dam, RSPB Reserve

The footpath and bird hides here are closed with no alternative route available.

Welches Dam, RSPB Reserve to Mepal (A142)

The footpath and bird hides here remain open.

Mepal (A142) to Earith

The footpath here is closed with no alternative route available.

Once sections of the bank have been completed, the public footpath will remain closed until sufficient grass cover has been established. Grass is really important on the reservoir bank. As the grass grows, the roots help to stabilise the bank and reduce erosion. We use a mixture of different seeds to get a variety of different grass species. Regular inspections will be undertaken between October 2018 and May 2019 to monitor the grass growth.

Trespass and vandalism

We have been experiencing trespass and vandalism during the working day and out of hours. The security fencing and gates are being vandalised which provides access to site. Materials from site have been thrown into the watercourses resulting in our staff having the tricky task of retrieval. Plant operators have been subjected to abuse and rocks have been thrown at them and their machinery.

All construction sites are dangerous places with many hidden hazards and we are working hard to keep our security fencing secure and will do all we can to protect the community. We urge that you speak with your youngsters to explain the dangers that they are putting themselves and our operatives in.



Improving the image of construction

The Considerate Constructors Scheme was set up to improve the image of the construction



industry. The scheme aims to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and show the industry to be considerate. Our site has signed-up to the scheme again this year and our visit from the scheme monitor has been arranged for mid-August. We will bring you the results in our next issue.

Site reference: 110850 / Freephone: 0800 783 1423

The Ouse Washes rock hunt

We have hidden 20 rocks throughout Earith and Welney for you to find. Each rock has been painted and a number is on the reverse, remember the number and re-hide the rock for the next person to find. To find out more about your rock and the Ouse Washes reservoir come along to the drop-in surgeries that we are holding in Earith and Welney. A prize for every rock found. Here's an example of what to look out for.



How to find out more

The weekly surgeries that we have been holding for you to come and speak with our Public Liaison Officer, Monica have been very popular. These will continue until 31 October 2018.

Surgeries – when and where?

These are held between 10.00am and 12.00pm

- Wednesdays in Earith at Rectors Hall.
- Thursdays at the RSPB reserve, Manea.
- Fridays in Welney at the project site office.

Notice boards are located on the bank near Earith Sluice, in the Anchor Inn car park at Sutton Gault, at Welches Dam on the RSPB Reserve and near the old parish hall at Welney.

Our Public Liaison Officer

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Monica Stonham:
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Email: OusewashesProjectEA@gmail.com

Working in partnership

The project is being carried out by JacksonHyder on behalf of the Environment Agency with support:



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

www.gov.uk/environment-agency