

Ouse Washes

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works

 **Progress**

The bank works for this year have been completed on time. The weather has been very good enabling our contractor JacksonHyder to complete this year's programme on time and to also finish the works that did not get completed last year.



Finished bank profile

Natural England and our environmental stakeholders agreed an extension to the working window for this autumn. The extension has allowed us to work into November enabling completion of works at Welches Dam and also the reinstatement of the haul road and surrounding areas.

The bank works have now finished for the winter to avoid disturbing the over wintering birds on the Washes.



Bridge installation at Welches Dam

Our current programme:

Year 3 construction works: July – October 2019

MLBB – Bank works from Welney to the railway bridge and Welches Dam to Mepal (A142) along with the bank works in Earith once the Sluice works are complete and strengthening works to the wall at Sutton Gault.

Year 4 construction works: July – October 2020

MLBB – Rail Bridge to Welches Dam.

 **Public footpath diversions**

The public footpath and bridleway closures will remain in place for the duration of the works. However, the footpath is only closed or diverted where works have been carried out. Diversions and closures are signposted.

Regular inspections will be undertaken between December 2018 and May 2019 to monitor the grass growth.

The grass is 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.

Winter and spring access arrangements are as follows:

MLBB Welmore Lake Sluice – Welney

The diversion will remain in place until at least July 2019.

MLBB Welney – Railway Bridge

The diversion will be removed and opened to the public until July 2019.

MLBB Railway Bridge – Welches Dam

The footpath remains open with normal access to the RSPB bird hides.

MLBB Welches Dam to Mepal (A142)

The diversion will be removed and opened to the public until July 2019.

MLBB Mepal (A142) to Earith

The diversion will remain in place until at least July 2019.

SLBB Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

The footpath will remain closed until at least July 2019.

Our Community

Everyday's a school day

In November pupils from the Sutton CE (VC) Primary School got their hands dirty learning about the Ouse Washes. The project team led an interactive lesson with pupils building miniature dams from a variety of materials. Our Environment Agency Catchment Engineer Joanna Cabbage said 'It was very interesting talking to the pupils and they were incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic. We hope they now have a better understanding of how the Ouse Washes flood storage reservoir works'

Drop-in events

The drop-in events and surgeries that we held in Earith and Welney this year were well received with many people attending. These events are always useful for providing first-hand information, allaying individual concerns and to understand local issues. We will hold more events next year.

Ouse Washes Rock hunt

The rock hunt was very popular and good fun for everyone. We hope you enjoyed finding them as much as we enjoyed painting and hiding them, it was great to meet you all.



In the know

To keep you informed of the works we have held drop-in events, surgeries, sent out newsletters, contact cards and press releases. We would however, like to know whether you think we could have done anything differently to keep you up to date. We recently emailed out a feedback form and would appreciate hearing your feedback. By telling us your views, you can help us to shape the way we provide information to you and others in the future. Please send your completed form to our Public Liaison Officer Monica. Her contact details are below.

Thank you & Merry Christmas

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have been carrying out this important work. The local communities have made us very welcome and we look forward to working with you in the new year.

The team wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

How to find out more

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.

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Monica Stonham:
Telephone: 07534 457348

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