

Ouse Washes: Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

December 2021

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the bank of the Ouse Washes reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. The work we are doing is to comply with recommendations made by the reservoir Inspecting Engineer to complete the works under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Year 5 progress

We have now finished the bank works for 2021. Once again, this year we faced a season of wet weather which has caused delays to the current construction programme. We expect to finish the overall bank raising works in 2022.

We have removed the temporary bridge at Mepal. The bridge was used during the project to avoid using local roads to deliver most of the material direct to the workforce.

We have completed the bank works between Sutton Gault and Mepal. The public footpath will remain closed to give the grass time to establish.

We have installed four of the five bird hides at the RSPB Reserve, and we will install the final bird hide during 2022. For information about using the hides over the winter please contact RSPB Ouse Washes Reserve directly.

Year 6 works

Below is the anticipated programme of work for 2022.

There is a small section of bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge to do in 2022. This will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. We will also repair any damage sustained through the winter.

- April – June Ecological surveys and grass cuts full length of the Middle Level Barrier Bank
- June Start construction of the demountable flood barrier in Welney
- June – July Haul road repairs
- July - Oct Repair any flood damage sustained during the winter
- July – Oct Finish the bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and install the final bird hide at the RSPB Reserve.
- October Project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

During late autumn and winter the haul road floods, which restricts access for maintenance vehicles. When we carry out the haul road works, we will bring in some material to raise the haul road in sections to help alleviate the problem in the future.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project.

Public footpath and bridleway access

The following footpaths will remain closed whilst we wait for the grass to grow, the grass will be monitored throughout the winter and spring period, and we will keep you updated as to when we can open these areas.

Middle Level Barrier Bank - where it is closed?

- Sutton Gault to A142, Mepal
- A142, Mepal to Welches Dam



- Welches Dam to railway bridge
- Railway bridge to Welney

Closures are clearly signposted.

Virtual room exhibition

During June, July, and August 2021, we opened a virtual exhibition room to provide an alternative way for community members and interested parties to get an update on the project and next steps. We had over 2,000 visitors view the exhibition.

Although the exhibition was closed in August there is plenty of information accessible from our Citizen Space page on this link:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/ouse-washes-section-10-works/>

or click the link below to see how the Ouse Washes works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRFHm9n2-jY>

Other works in the Ouse Washes area

Over the winter period the Environment Agency will be undertaking periodic maintenance at Welches Dam Pumping Station which will be carried out within the site.

Only commercial vans and 4x4's will be required to carry out this work.

The pumping station will remain operational during this time.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer: Monica Stonham via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or call 07534 457348.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future updates about this scheme, please contact us through the email address.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.



Stay up to date and visit our information page for the most up to date information

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anglia-c-e/ouse-washes-section-10-works/>

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

