

Ouse Washes Section 10 Works

Stakeholder Update

March 2022

Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

Year 6 works

Welney demountable flood barrier

As part of the bank raising work, we are doing to comply with the Reservoirs Act, we need to provide a more robust barrier on the Welney Wash Road where it intersects the Middle Level Barrier Bank. We have sourced a demountable barrier option that will provide the robust flood protection solution and will be bespoke to Welney. We will store and deploy it from our Ely depot.

We will build a short concrete wall on each side of the road by Welney to join the temporary barrier. We will also build a concrete slab across the road to attach the barrier to whilst it's in use. We are waiting for confirmation of the road closure dates from Norfolk County Council.

In the meantime, please see the dates below that have been included in the road closure application to Norfolk County Council.

Please note that the requirement of temporary traffic lights mean that we may need to use them before the road closure depending on the work activity and room that is available (they will only be used if necessary). They will be required after the road closure to provide enough space to work safely to complete the works.

Work start date: 13/06/2022

13/06/2022 to 19/07/2022 – 2-way traffic lights

20/07/2022 to 25/08/2022 – Full Road closure

26/08/2022 to 16/09/2022 – 2-way traffic lights

As stated above these dates are not yet confirmed.

Bank raising works & haul road improvements

We still have some bank raising and haul road improvement works to finish which we couldn't complete last summer because of the wet weather. This will take approximately 5 weeks to complete.

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.

In order to finish all the construction work this summer as planned, we may have to change how we deliver the work this year.

We are currently working out how best to sequence the work at Welney and we may need to bring some material deliveries through Welney village to complete the haul road improvements. Once our contractor has finalised their plan, we will have more information to share with you.

Due to the environmental constraints on the Ouse Washes, we can only work between 15 July and 31 October. However, we are currently working with Natural England to agree on early start and extend

the working window for this year. We will use this time to do winter repairs and haul road work before the main works start in July.

Programme

- 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 bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and install the final bird hide at the RSPB Reserve
- September Finish Welney barrier construction
- October Project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

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

Public footpath and bridleway

We still have a full footpath closure of the Middle Level Barrier Bank in place with Norfolk and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Middle Level Barrier Bank – where is it closed?

- Sutton Gault to A142, Mepal
- A142, Mepal to Welches Dam
- Welches Dam to railway bridge
- Railway bridge to Welney
- Welney to Welmore Lake Sluice access restricted at Welney from June – Nov 2022

Closures are clearly sign posted.

Keeping your community up to date

We understand that Welney barrier works will be inconvenient, and we would like to thank everyone that has engaged with us to help reduce the inconvenience.

Now the Covid 19 restriction have been eased, we are planning a public drop-in event to give the community an opportunity to talk with our project team and view the progress to date.

This event will be held at the William Marshall Centre, Welney, PE14 9SD on Saturday 23 April between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation and patience, and we will continue to work with the you and the community to continue to minimise disruption.

We have updated your local MPs and will continue to update our noticeboards and social media feeds to keep people informed.

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

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

Please contact our Public Liaison Officer, Monica Stonham at ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or on 07534 457348 for more information.