

Ouse Washes

Middle Level & South Level Barrier Bank Works

Background

The Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining the safety of the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir and its structures. The Middle Level Barrier Bank (MLBB) is the dam of the reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. Works are required under Section 10 of the Reservoirs Act 1975 to maintain the safety of the dam.

The reservoir provides protection for 2,044 properties and 67,123ha of agricultural land.

Due to environmental constraints, our construction works can only take place between 15 July and 31 October.

Works started in 2017 on the MLBB between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney and on the South Level Barrier Bank (SLBB) between Sutton Gault Pumping Station and The Anchor Inn.

What are we doing?

We are importing clay material from local quarries to raise the crest level of the MLBB between Welmore Lake Sluice and Earith.

We are also raising a low section of the South Level Barrier Bank (SLBB) between Sutton Gault and Chain Corner



Constructing the clay layer on the SLBB at Sutton Gault

Programme of works in year 2

Bank works will start on 16 July 2018.

- MLBB works between Earith and Mepal.
- MLBB works between Welmore Lake Sluice and Welney.
- Install temporary bridge over the Counter Drain and construct the access route for the MLBB works between Earith and Mepal.
- Welches Dam works to increase the bridge capacity.
- SLBB works between Sutton Gault and Chain Corner.

Getting started

Preparation works will start from 2 July 2018 in readiness for the main bank works to start on the 16 July.

MLBB: - Welney to Welmore Lake Sluice

- Site compound set up with full CCTV.
- Access road tidy and preparation.
- Closing/diverting the public right of way.
- Full grass cut.

MLBB: - Earith to Mepal

- Closing/diverting the public right of way in areas we are working.
- Full grass cut.
- Cutting a section into the bank to create what we call a 'trial bank'. A test run for the real thing!
- Temporary bridge installation across Counter Drain to Bridge Farm Quarry.
- Works to create the access road from Bridge Farm quarry to the bank.

SLBB: - Sutton Gault to Chain Corner

- Site compound set up.
- Access road tidy and preparation.
- Closing the public right of way.
- Full grass cut.

You will start to see activity on the banks along with site traffic and deliveries to and from the site.

Traffic management

The routes that lorries will take to deliver material to site are detailed below.

MLBB: Welney – A141 from Mepal to the A10 into Welney via the A1101 from Littleport.

MLBB: Earith to Mepal – A10 from Waterbeach to the A1123 into Earith using Chapel Road, Meadow Lane and Short Drove.

The temporary bridge will take two weeks to install. Once in place a one-way system will be adopted to limit the number of lorries using the road; in via Short Drove and out via Bridge Farm quarry.

Once our supplier has received planning permission to extract clay from Bridge Farm quarry, clay will be delivered direct to the bank from the quarry.

SLBB: Sutton Gault – A141 from Mepal to Sutton through to Bury Lane.

Public footpath diversions

A public footpath closure has been granted for the whole length of the works.

Our contractor, JacksonHyder, will only enforce closures on areas where they are working and will endeavour to provide a diversion wherever possible. Once sections of the bank have been completed, the public footpath will remain closed until sufficient grass cover has been established. Regular inspections will be undertaken between October 2018 and May 2019 to monitor the grass growth.

Our Environment

We have been working closely with Natural England, RSPB, the Wildlife Trust and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust enabling us to undertake maintenance, vegetation clearance, grass cuts and environmental surveys in readiness for construction works to start. This has helped us to identify areas of temporary impact that our works may have and enables us to put measures in place to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

Improving the image of construction



The Considerate Constructors Scheme was setup to improve the image of the construction industry. The scheme aims to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and show the industry to be a

considerate one. Our site has signed-up to the scheme again this year. We will do everything possible to:

- enhance the appearance,
- respect the community,
- protect the environment,
- secure everyone's safety,
- care for the workforce.

How to find out more

We have noticeboards displaying project information and contact details. These 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.

Come along to our surgeries

We will be holding weekly surgeries for you to come and speak with our Public Liaison Officer, Monica.

These will be held between 10.00am and 12.00pm starting 18 July through to 31 October on

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

Our Public Liaison Officer

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Monica Stonham using the details below. The project team also welcomes the opportunity to work with the local communities and schools; do not hesitate to contact Monica for more information.

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 from the RSPB, the Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust.



We are also supported by Natural England, Middle Level Commissioners, Cambridgeshire County Council and Norfolk County Council.



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Other works the area

Earith Sluice

Separate to the Ouse Washes project.



The Earith Sluice will undergo refurbishment. This will involve refurbishment of the gates including replacing cables and the gear boxes.

Works will be undertaken from the layby beside the Sluice and the site compound will be established next to the sports field.

These works will start in August 2018 and are expected to take 12 weeks to complete.

If you have any questions regarding these works do not hesitate to contact Project Manager Tom Stanley at tom.stanley@environment-agency.gov.uk