

Ouse Washes Section 10 Works

May 2017

Middle Level and South Level Barrier Banks

Public Footpath diversions / closures

Improvements are required to the Ouse Washes Middle Level Barrier Bank to comply with design requirements under the Reservoirs Act 1975. It involves raising the crest level of the embankment between Welmore Lake Sluice and Earith and associated works at Welney and Welches Dam. The Haul Road adjacent to the Middle Level Barrier Bank will be improved as part of this project. The South Level Barrier Bank will also be raised between Sutton Gault and Chain Corner.

The majority of the works will take place during the summer and autumn months to avoid disturbing the over-wintering and ground nesting birds on the Ouse Washes.

Construction work will start in July and will take place over three summer seasons. The grass will take an additional two years to establish. The grass cover on the bank plays an integral part in the stability of the bank.

During these works, we will need to divert the public footpath that runs along the top of the bank for the entirety of the project, to keep footpath users and the workforce safe. However, we will aim to remove the diversions when sections of the embankment have sufficient grass coverage to do so.

Year One - 15 July to 31 October 2017

Footpaths affected are:

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| Earith: Bridleway 7, Bridleway 8, Footpath 9 | Downham: Footpath 24 |
| Sutton (Ely): Footpath 7, Footpath 9 | Welney: Bridleway 2, Bridleway 7 |
| Mepal: Footpath 5 | Welney: Bridleway 2, Bridleway 7 |
| Chatteris: Footpath 7, | Denver: Bridleway 11 |
| Manea: Footpath 10, Footpath 11 | |

The public will be encouraged to follow a diversion route and use the footpaths along the Low Bank (for Middle Level Barrier Bank) as an alternative walking route. The footpath diversions will be clearly marked and advance notices will be displayed. Our contractor will maintain the diversions for the duration of the works.

During the winter months (when no construction is taking place) the Environment Agency's Haul Road will be available to use as a permissive route. This will be clearly signposted.

Our Public Liaison Officer, Monica Stonham will keep the public informed of when the footpaths will close and reopen and liaise directly with Parish Councils. If you would like to know more about the project don't hesitate to contact Monica on 07577 470803 or ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com