

# Whittlesey Washes

March 2014

## South Barrier Bank works

### Background

The Whittlesey Washes (also known as the Nene Washes) Flood Storage Reservoir lies to the south of the River Nene, east of Peterborough. It plays an important part in helping to reduce the risk of flooding during combined high tides and river flows. Flood water is stored on the Washes when high river levels cannot be released downstream due to high tides (known as tide-locked). As the tide recedes, water is released from the reservoir back into the River Nene from the eastern end of the Washes. The equivalent of 14,000 Olympic-sized pools of water can be temporarily stored on the Washes.

When the reservoir operates, it stores more than 25,000 cubic metres of water above surrounding ground levels. Because of this, it is routinely inspected by an independent engineer as part of the Reservoirs Act 1975.

The most recent engineer's report found that a 16km stretch of the South Barrier Bank needed improving to maintain its structural integrity. The South Barrier Bank forms the reservoir bank between Stanground and Ring's End.

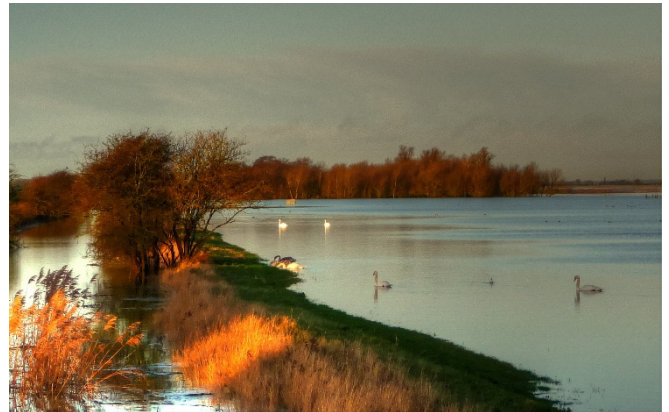
In 2013, we began a £26-million scheme to strengthen the banks. The first phase of works – a 5km stretch between Ring's End at Guyhirn and Poplar House Farm – began in July 2013 and is due to be completed in autumn 2014. The second phase between Eldernell and Stanground will start in summer 2014. The work involves reshaping the slope of the bank and placing extra material at the base.

### Community drop-in events

Everyone is welcome to come along to one of our drop-in events to find out more about the project. You will have the opportunity to see our designs and discuss the scheme with the project team.

**Stanground** – Wednesday 26 March (11am – 7:30pm)  
Scout Hut, Wessex Close, PE2 8HZ

**Whittlesey** – Wednesday 2 April (11am – 7:30pm)  
Ivy Leaf Club, 1 Gracious Street, PE7 1AP



*Bassenhally, February 2014*

### Ring's End to Poplar House Farm

The public footpath diversion is still in place and will remain so for the duration of the works, which are due to be completed by December 2014. Our contractor Interserve Construction Ltd will return in June to organise the site ready to start work in July.

### Poplar House Farm to Bassenhally

We will soon be appointing a new contractor to carry out the work on this stretch of bank.

### Ball Bridge to Stanground

As there is not enough room for us to re-profile the bank between Stanground Sluice and the Scout Hut, we will be putting in a low-level concrete wall instead. The wall is designed to prevent waves overtopping the bank and eroding the back slope.

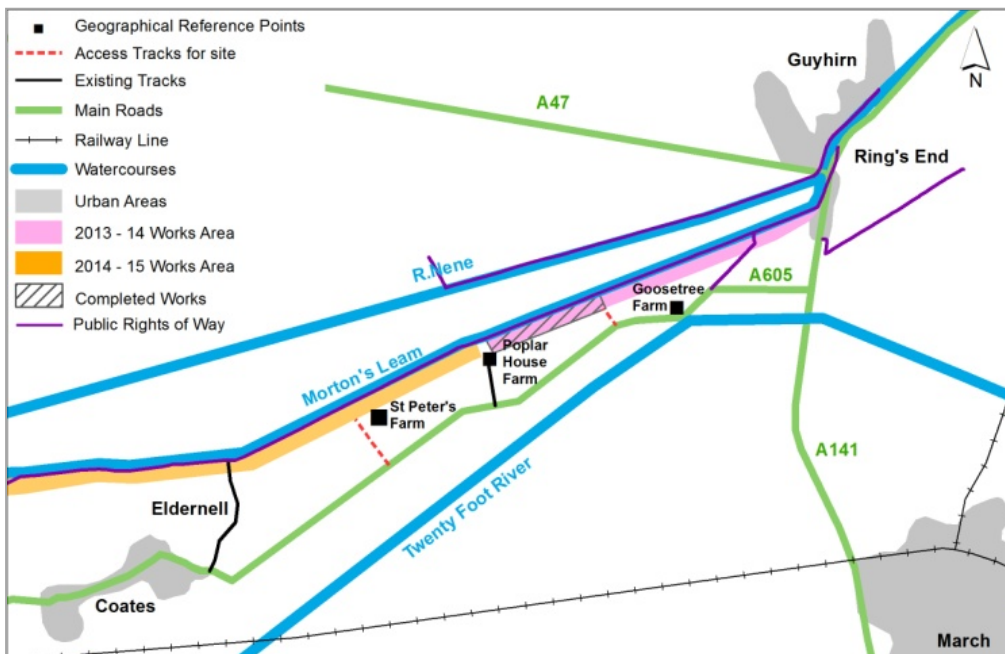
### Suggestion boxes

Unfortunately, due to the suggestion boxes being vandalised, we have decided to remove them. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to the email address below.

### Our Public Liaison Officer

Our Public Liaison Officer Monica Stonham is available to help with any questions or concerns you may have about the project. You can contact Monica on 07951 081482 or email her at

[WhittleseyWashesProjectEA@gmail.com](mailto:WhittleseyWashesProjectEA@gmail.com)



## Maps

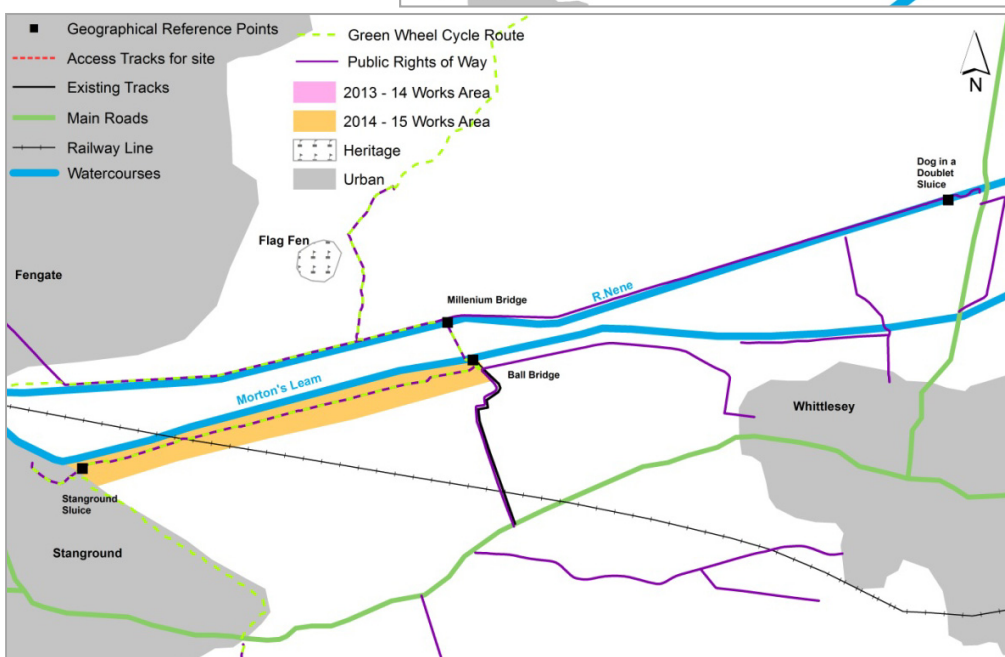
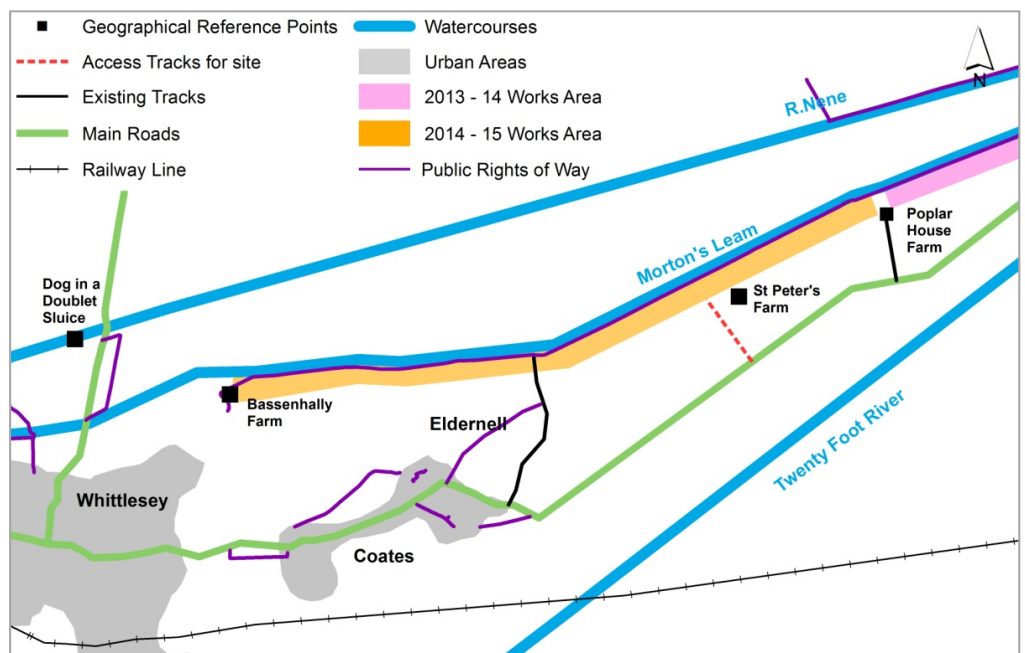
Top:  
Ring's End to Poplar House Farm.

Middle:  
Poplar House Farm to Bassenhally.

Bottom:  
Ball Bridge to Stanground.

### Works programme 2014

- Year Two access road improvements: May – June 2014
- Complete section from Ring's End to Poplar House Farm (Year One works): June – November 2014
- Year Two construction works start: June – November 2014



### Working in partnership

- North Level District Internal Drainage Board
- Whittlesey Consortium of Internal Drainage Boards
- Middle Level Commissioners
- Fenland District Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Natural England
- RSPB