

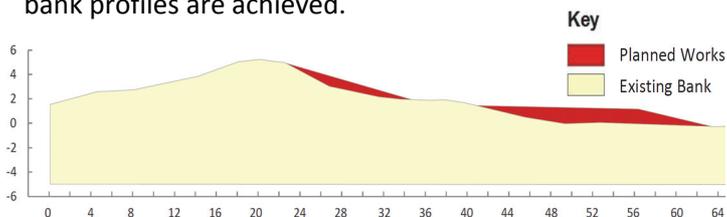
Whittlesey Washes

October 2013

South Barrier Bank works

Progress

Work is progressing well. We have placed just over half of the material required to strengthen the bank between Poplar farm House and Ring's End. We are now carrying out the final shaping of the material ready to replace the topsoil and grass seed in the spring. We are currently working at three different locations: Ring's End, Poplar House Farm and Goosetree Farm. Two of the teams are placing material and the third is ensuring that the correct new bank profiles are achieved.



Above is a typical cross section of the bank. The darker areas show where the new material is being placed. By widening parts of the bank, it will make the barrier stronger. The landward bank slope is being made less steep as this will reduce the likelihood of it eroding if water levels were to overtop the bank during extreme flood conditions.



Placing material on the upper berm.

Public drop-in

The project team would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took time out to attend the public drop-in session that was held in September. The event

was well attended by the community including residents, local councillors, flood wardens, historians and University researchers. The reservoir has been in existence, in one form or another, for almost 400 years and has significant historical and geological interest. We have been able to help the historians and University with their research by providing information from our investigations. In turn we have learnt a lot about the interesting history of the Washes.



Many people who visited the drop-in stayed to ask questions and raise any concerns. Some of your questions included below:

- Q1 Will the Ring's End car park be re-opened when work has finished?**
- A1 We are aiming to reopen the car park once we have finished work for the winter and it is safe to be re-opened.
- Q2 Does the scheme involve increasing the height of the bank?**
- A2 We will be filling in some low spots along the bank to bring it in line with the rest of the bank, but we will not be increasing the overall height.
- Q3 When was the River Nene Cut constructed?**
- A3 The River Nene Cut was built in 1728. More information can be found in the book called "Changing Landscapes: The Ancient Fenland".

Q4 When did the old river channels cease to exist?

A4 The Fens is a complex area geologically as a lot happened to the river channels over time. The roddons (old river channels) were actually tidal creeks which meandered through the saltmarshes of the fenland. These formed when the sea encroached into the fens, which happened three times between 6000 – 2000 BP (before present).

Next steps

While the works have been focussing on Poplar Farm to Ring's End, we have been planning and refining the design from Poplar House Farm to Bassenhally Farm, and from Ball Bridge to Stanground. We have discussed the design with our partners, Network Rail and National Grid to reduce impacts on people and the environment.

We are planning to hold drop-in sessions during March 2014 to give you the opportunity to see our designs and speak with the project team.

How to find out more

We are keen to hear from you. We have put suggestion boxes onto the notice boards along the footpath, next to the kissing gates, at Ring's End and Poplar House Farm.

We have been posting blogs on the *Shape Your Place* websites for Whittlesey, March & Wisbech.

Working in partnership

The project is being carried out by the Environment Agency with support from our partners: 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 and the RSPB.

Our Public Liaison Officer

Our Public Liaison Officer, Monica Stonham, is available to help deal with any questions or concerns which you may have regarding our work. If you have any questions or comments, please contact her.

Telephone: 01733 841040 or 07951 081482

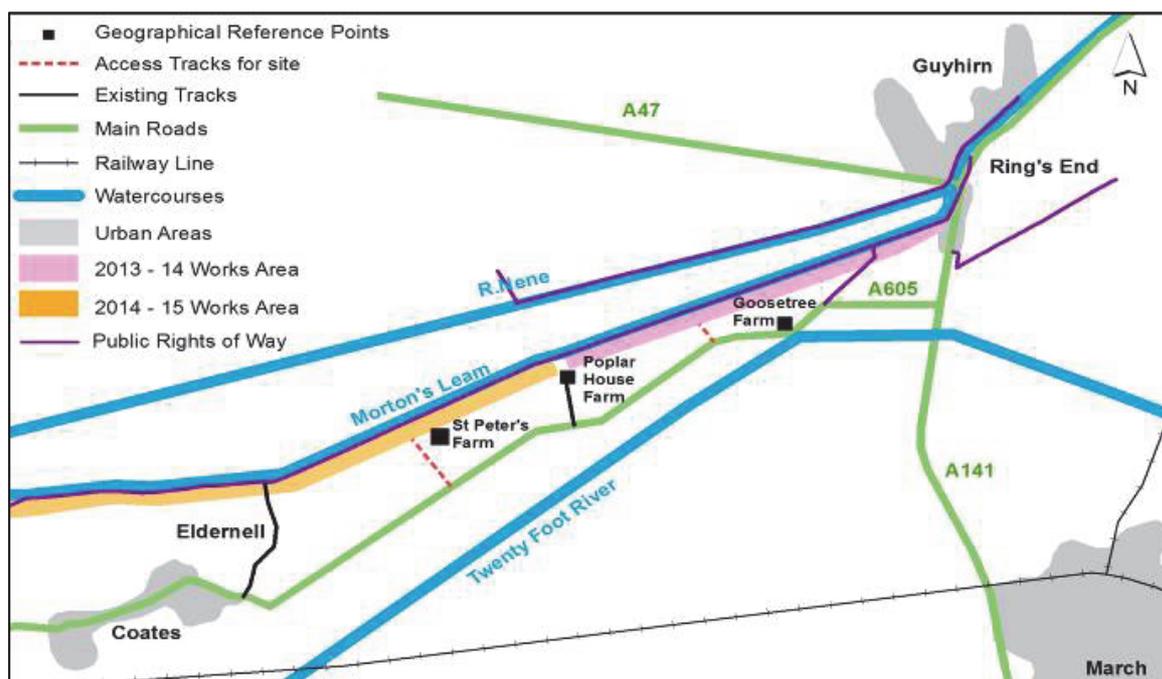
Email: WhittleseyWashesProjectEA@gmail.com

Site address: Site Office
Poplar Farm
Wisbech Road
Coates
PE7 2DU



Year One works programme

- Access road construction: June 2013
- Footpath diversion: from July 2013
- Phase one construction work: July - November 2013
- Phase two construction work: June 2014 - winter 2014



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk