

An introduction to the project

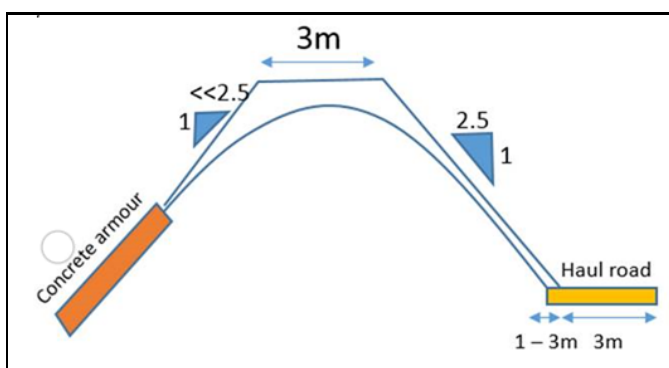
In 2013 an inspection of the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Area was carried out by the Inspecting Engineer as part of the Reservoirs Act 1975. He recommended that measures be undertaken in the interests of safety (MIOS) under Section 10 (6) of the Act. These measures relate to the height of the Middle Level Barrier Bank (MLBB) and are required to ensure the continued safety of the bank.

The Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining the safety of the reservoir and its structures. The MLBB is the dam of the reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice, shown on the diagram overleaf.

The MIOS consist of a study to check the height of the dam crest against extreme flood conditions and carrying out any works required as a result of the study. The studies have been completed and were signed off before the deadline of 31 March 2017.

What are we doing?

Site investigation results have been incorporated into the detailed design along with the confirmation of the wave freeboard requirements. We will need to import clay material to raise the crest level of the MLBB by up to 600mm. We will keep the 3m wide crest and move the haul road across to accommodate the new slope.



The work will be carried out during the summer months, to avoid disturbing over wintering and ground nesting birds and will start in July 2017. To do this work we have secured funding as part of our 6 year capital programme for the Anglian (Central) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. We have discussed any potential impact of our works on the environmental interests of the Ouse Washes with

Natural England, RSPB Wildlife Trust and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. This has helped us to identify areas of temporary mitigation measures required to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

In November 2016 we held drop in events in Welney and Mepal to display the project information and provide an opportunity for the community to meet the team. These were well attended by the local communities.

What happens next?

The key dates for the project are:

- Award Contract – June 2017
- Construction – Starts July 2017
- Construction finish – November 2020
- MIOS deadline (works) – 31 March 2021

Further site investigation works are required to provide more detailed information for the construction phase. This investigation work will be undertaken at locations along the whole length of the bank and will start in April 2017. Surveys and grass cutting will also take place between March and July before the main construction works start.

Getting in contact

We will be holding drop in sessions and surgeries in the summer, but if you would like further information before then, please do get in touch with us.

Our project Public Liaison Officer, Monica Stonham is available on 07577 470803 or by email ousewashesprojectEA@gmail.com

For more information about the project contact Nicola Oldfield, Project Manager by email nicola.oldfield@environment-agency.gov.uk or by post: Environment Agency, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5ZR

