

# Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme

## Issue 11: October 2011

Welcome to the Environment Agency's update about the Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme. Click [here](#) for background information and history of the scheme.

## Flood defence construction about to start

Work to build the new sea defences starts 31 October, one of the most important and exciting milestones in the project. We have completed the haul road and nearing completion of our site compound near Ham, our base from which we will do most of the work.

The following activities are planned to start prior to 31 October:

- temporarily divert two ditches to allow works to take place,
- carry out a strip of the soil from the line where the new sea defences will be built. From the beach, you will be able to see clearly where the new banks will be built
- start to dig the drainage ditch and ponds that will be on the landward side of the new floodbanks

Towards the end of this month we will start to build the first layer of the new sea defences at the Bunn Leisure and Sussex Beach Holiday Village ends of the scheme. We will use clay that we will dig from within the site.

In December and January we will take delivery of the rock which we will use to build the revetments at the seaward ends of the new defences. This will come in from the sea by barge.

## Safety is most important

Effectively the whole site is now a construction site. ***It is now strongly advised*** to keep to the official public footpaths, public roads and beach areas only. There will be large construction vehicles operating and the landscape will now start to change with new drainage ditches, stockpiles of material and building of the floodbanks. ***The site will now change on a daily basis.***

## Public access restrictions

We will need to restrict public access to the site, and this will include restrictions to the public footpaths. Notices will be placed on site to advise the public of how the access can be used safely. The public footpaths will be affected in the following ways:

- the footpath from Ham to Golf Course Lane will remain open, but care will need to be taken as it crosses the haul road to the main compound,
- the footpath along Drove Lane will remain open, again care will need to be taken as lorry deliveries will be using this route,

the footpath from Ham to Chainbridge Sluice will remain open this winter. Care will need to be taken as this footpath crosses over one of the construction haul routes. Short term closures of this path will be required next year to build the floodbank and to construct the emergency vehicle track over Chainbridge Sluice. The path will then be permanently diverted when the scheme is complete,

- the footpath from Ham to the beach will remain open this winter. Short term closures of this path will be required next year to build the floodbank and viewpoint. The path will then be permanently diverted when the scheme is complete,
- the footpath from Drove Lane to Almodington Lane will require a short term closure next summer

We are planning to open the new public access routes in spring 2013.

On the beach, we will take delivery of a major barge-loads of rock in December and January. It will still be possible to walk along sections of the beach after then, but passage between Bracklesham and Selsey via the beach will not be possible for a few months whilst the rock is transported over the beach. We apologise for any inconvenience during this period. Notification of these closures will be

made via notices on the affected routes. We will also include notice of the closures on our project website.

A further closure of the beach will be required in 2013, when the rock structures are constructed immediately to the rear of the beach.

## Working with local farmers

The Environment Agency and the RSPB have been working with local farmers to devise cropping plans for the next year, which will allow much of the land to continue to be farmed during construction. The plan will also draw breeding birds away from the construction areas, so that work isn't disrupted.

## Monitoring for archaeology

As we work, we are being accompanied by archaeologists, as well as working with local archaeological and metal detecting groups, who are ensuring that any finds are recorded and saved. Little of note has been found yet, but we will keep you updated should we find anything interesting.

## Looking after the reptiles, newts and water voles

We have carried out extensive trapping in order to remove reptiles from the areas where we will be doing work, and moved them to the new habitats we created for them. In total, we managed to relocate over 1000 reptiles including lizards, grass snakes, newts and an adder.

We have also been undertaking works to remove remaining water voles from the areas where ditches cross the line where the banks and access route will be built. An excavator with a toothed bucket has loosened the topsoil to allow us to inspect the underlying ground for burrows. Once we are sure no water voles are left, we then clear the vegetation so that the area is no longer attractive to the voles or to reptiles.

The following shows the indicative programme of works. It is subject to change due to site constraints such as weather or ground conditions. Opportunities to advance activities will be considered.

### Programme Part One

Activities with indicative timings	2011		2012				2013
	S	OND	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND	JFM
Construct road to main compound and install compound							
Soft ground banks 1st layer, Approx. 0-500m and 5850-6950m, including some tracks							
Remaining banks and layers							
Dig all or majority of perimeter ditch and reedbed							
Rock delivery							
Rock placement							
Outfalls DO1 and DO4							
Outfalls DO2 and DO3, inc. tracks							

### Programme Part Two

Activities with indicative timings	2011			2012				2013
	O	N	D	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND	JFM
Flood storage area Earnley Rife		■	■		■			
Flood storage area Easton Rife					■			
Remaining ditch and ponds, including planting				■				
Bird islands						■		
Earnley diversion channel					■	■		
Earnley diversion structures						■		
Finishing works, including landscaping and top layer of access tracks							■	
Breach								■

### Further information

As always, further details about the project are available on the Environment Agency website:  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/medmerry](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/medmerry)

If you have any questions about the project, please email the project team on:  
[medmerry@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:medmerry@environment-agency.gov.uk)

You can also contact our public liaison officer, Jacqui Bandy, directly by phone on 07917 048912 during working hours.

For emergency incidents out of hours please call the Environment Agency Incident Hotline on 0800 807060.