



Issue 22: August 2013

Medmerry Construction Update

Work is continuing to progress well and we are on track to complete construction in the autumn.

Progress has been made as follows:

- The section of flood bank adjacent to West Sands and to the south of Ham is now complete
- The section of flood bank from the beach at the west rock end heading northwards to the Easton Rife is complete
- The section of flood bank between Ham and the Easton Rife is 80% complete. We are expecting to fully complete this by early August
- The Earnley diversion channel is complete, except for the final connections each end

Construction work has started on the access ramps, access track and other finishing works. Seeding and landscaping will take place in the autumn.

Work to install the culvert under Bookers Lane as part of the Medmerry scheme will start from the 5th August. Bookers Lane just north of Earnley Manor Close will be closed during this work and is expected to reopen on 29th August.

Archaeology work is continuing on two last areas. Investigation of the medieval fish weir is increasing our understanding of how this structure was used to corral fish. It is thought that the fish captured by the weir were sold as part of a commercial operation in the Chichester area. We have also just started investigating the Bronze Age cremation area. For photos and further details please visit our webpage www.environment-agency.gov.uk/medmerry

Working towards the completion of construction

We are now fast approaching completion of the construction works in the autumn.

The fact sheet attached, describes the work involved in allowing the seawater to enter the new intertidal area (the breach) and also how the site will be managed into the future.

Please remember - and pass on the message - that, *Medmerry is a closed construction site*. A number of large construction vehicles will be in operation throughout this period and major new channels are being created within the site. For information please refer to the fact sheet and our website.

Footpath 70 from Great Ham Farm to the beach is now **permanently closed**.

The only footpath that remains open at this stage is footpath 75 from Ham Lane to Chainbridge Sluice.

Any unauthorised persons found on site will be escorted to safety.

The beach will be fully closed between the rock ends from 14th August. We anticipate it will reopen mid to end of September.

The map attached shows the details of public access at Medmerry that is available until November.

Once the scheme is complete in November, access will be on the new extensive network of public and permissive rights of way that we are creating.

Earnley Inland Drainage Improvement Scheme

In our last update we explained that we were nearing completion of the design for the separate project to extend to the Earnley Diversion channel.

From these detailed designs, our contractor has been able to provide a quote, which gives us a clearer idea of the likely build costs for the project; these costs are currently higher than the amount of funding secured for the scheme.

The funding on this project has always been tight with a limited allowance for contingencies. We have worked hard throughout to deliver a scheme which is as economical as possible. We are continuing to look for ways we can reduce the cost, and are working with West Sussex County Council to do this.

Unfortunately, any construction work will be put on hold during this review, which we hope to complete by the end of August 2013.

Engagement

Our archaeology themed site walk earlier this month was very well attended. We guided over 40 people to one of the major archaeology areas and had our experts on hand to explain the detailed investigation work being carried out. The BBC have also been on site filming the archaeology, you may have seen this featured on BBC South.

As the scheme completes construction, there are a few events that we are looking to hold:

- A guided walk in early October
- An exhibition and drop in during November 2013
- A community event in spring 2014 to celebrate scheme completion

If you have any thoughts or ideas on these please let us know.

Further information

If you have any questions about the project or any of the information covered in this update please email the project team on: medmerry@environment-agency.gov.uk

Alternatively you can contact our public liaison officer, Jacqui Bandy, on 07917 048912.

If you would like to be taken off the distribution list for the Medmerry e-update, please let us know by replying to this email. If you know anyone who would like to receive this e-update please ask them to contact this email address.

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