



## News from The Moors at Arne



### September 2023 edition

Welcome to your latest edition of the Moors at Arne project community newsletter.

As summer draws to a close we're pleased to report on a busy month of progress.

We've been working closely with our team of ecologists and archaeologists, ensuring that we respect the history of the site and take care of the special flora and fauna throughout the project. Some examples of this work are included in this month's edition.

Water-level management works are moving forward. Following the installation of depth gauges, we're now starting the removal of existing water management structures, such as control boards to lower the water level on site.

As well as the important milestones described below, the team have been keeping on top of the vegetation on site and carefully planning each step in this complex and fascinating project.



## Site update

The two-storey site cabins have now been installed and will serve as offices for the site team until the project is complete. These larger facilities offer improved welfare amenities for the team.



We're pleased to announce that we'll be able to welcome visitors to the site offices from Monday 18 September onwards should you wish to discuss any aspect of the project.

Please only enter via the pedestrian entrance, the second entrance on the left if you are coming from Ridge. All visitors must report to reception.

Two site access roads like the one pictured here have now been completed and a further two are currently under construction. This is where the majority of the material that you may have seen being delivered to site is being used.



## Ecology update

The ecologists on site have been a constant presence and have continued to advise the team at every stage using their expert knowledge of the species that inhabit the site.

The team have recently moved some of the rare viper's grass to the site's western end to keep it out of harm's way. This was done under the guidance of botany experts. The new location is pictured here.



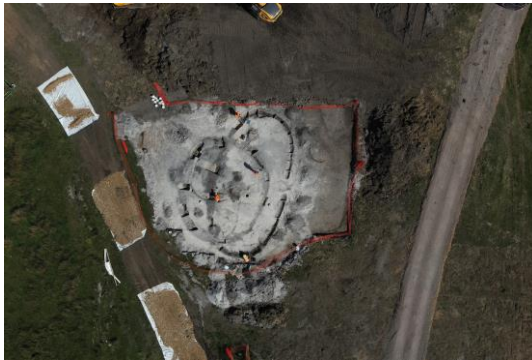
A recent bird survey found an active buzzard's nest in one of the trees on site and an exclusion zone was quickly set up around it. Ecologists will continue to monitor the area and no construction activity will take place in this area until the buzzard family have safely moved out.



## Archaeology update

As the archaeologists continue their investigations at the site's western end, evidence of further ring gullies has been uncovered. The gullies are thought to have been dug during the Iron Age and may have served as a ditch around a roundhouse structure.

It is thought that the roundhouses may have been used or occupied seasonally. The gullies are being carefully excavated, and some important finds are helping us understand how the site may have been used.



The team have found several flint chippings, which are thought to be the offcuts from possible tool-making. The team recently discovered an intact flint tool, pictured here. This exciting discovery is now being examined to see what it might have been used for.



## Meet the team



Greg Chuter is a senior archaeologist for the Environment Agency covering the southwest of England and is part of the Moors at Arne project team. Greg has been an archaeologist for over 30 years. He first worked as a site archaeologist, and then more recently as a local planning authority archaeologist.

When not working Greg's hobbies include making beer and playing golf.

## About the project

The Moors at Arne project will adapt 150 hectares of land into a diverse wetland habitat. This type of habitat is being lost in other areas of Poole Harbour due to 'coastal squeeze'. This is a term used to describe the effect of rising sea levels pressing against man-made structures such as flood defences resulting in a loss of intertidal habitat such as mud flats and salt marsh.

Kier is the contractor delivering this project on behalf of the Environment Agency and their project partners, RSPB and Natural England.





## Keeping in touch

We welcome your feedback and are here to answer any questions you may have about the project. Please email [arne@kier.co.uk](mailto:arne@kier.co.uk)

For more information about the project please visit our web pages [Project Overview – Dorset Coast Forum](#)

