



News from The Moors at Arne



October 2023 edition

Hello and welcome to the latest news round-up from the Arne Moors project. We've got lots to share with you this month as autumn approaches and the first season of works draw to a close.

Most of the work at Arne Moors happens between March and October, but there will still be a small team on site over the winter period planning for the next phase and maintaining the site.

[Photo credit: Jacobs]



Site update



As you may recall from previous newsletters, we are monitoring water on site as we aim to reduce the levels ahead of next year's works.

An existing outfall pipe at Bower Point required some work to get it flowing again and improve its effectiveness. The team rose to the challenge, working carefully around the tides to replace the flap valve and clear the pipe of debris.

Site update

We are continuing to build the temporary tracks across site and aim to complete all eight tracks by the end of the month. This will enable people and plant to move around this very large site safely and efficiently throughout the duration of the project.

The archaeologists have been patiently waiting for the excavations to dry out after the heavy rain so that they can complete this year's explorations. You may remember from last month that there was an exciting development when an intact flint tool was discovered in a ring gully. This tool has now been dated and is estimated to be approximately 7000 years old!

Community engagement

Delivering a project like Arne Moors requires a specialist team and we couldn't do it without our sub-contractors; but did you know that many of them are local companies? Local knowledge plays an important part and we are proud to collaborate with local businesses in the area.



In September, two members of the project team gave an after dinner talk to Swanage and Wareham rotary club about the project. The team were warmly welcomed and a great evening was had by all.



Ecology update



The Moors at Arne are home to an array of species and we are committed to protecting and preserving these. This includes animals and plants.

Recently, we undertook the process of brush harvesting, pictured here [Photo credit: Alaska]. This method of seed collection is non-destructive and great for grass species.

The collected seed will be separated using a vibrating table and will be safely stored until it is needed later in the project.

Once the earth embankments are built, they will be planted with the collected seed ensuring continuation of the same plant species with the same genetics.



Elsewhere on site, the team are carrying out de-vegetation works in preparation for digging some borrow pits where we will source much of the earth for building the embankments later on in the project. This is done in careful stages to ensure no disturbance to reptiles who may be hiding in the vegetation.



Meet the team



This month we would like to introduce Pablo Balaguer. Pablo is a site engineer at Arne Moors and knows the site well having been based here from the very start of the project.

Pablo's role involves supporting the site management team on the ground, working with drawings, setting out, ensuring quality and liaising with sub-contractors.

Having worked in the built environment in previous roles, a highlight of this job for Pablo is the opportunity to work in a more rural location.

Outside of work, Pablo is a keen tennis player.

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

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

