



News from The Moors at Arne



April 2024 edition

It's all go here at Arne Moors this month as the main working season is now underway.

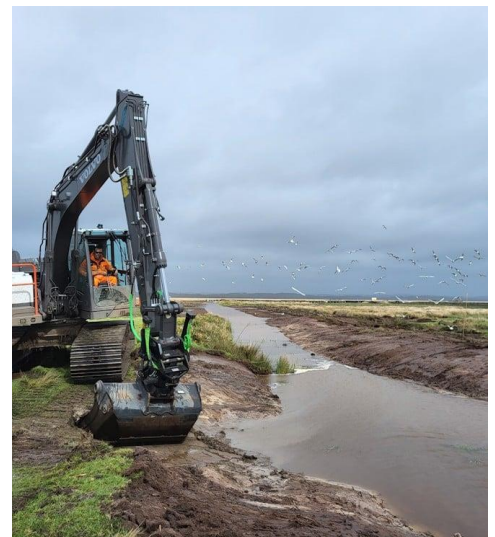
Staff and sub-contractors got together at the site offices on 2 April for a start of works training session where attendees learnt about the unique site and the plans for this year. Everyone left feeling enthused about the works ahead.

We hope you enjoy this round-up of what's been happening since the last newsletter!

Programme update

The project has now entered its second year of works and is expected to be completed by October 2026. This is later than originally planned and is due to a combination of factors including changing ecological impacts on site and a later start date last year.

The changing ecology impacts include a more a widespread water vole presence, a larger population of sand lizards and more invasive plant species.



Site update

Four new cabins have arrived which will provide a welfare area and additional offices for staff and sub-contractors working on the further reaches of site.



Some specialist equipment has arrived which will be used to start the construction of the Furzebrook outfall structure and pile driving has now commenced. You may be able to spot the piling rig as you walk along Arne Road.

The outfall will sit within the new embankment and is designed to discharge water from the Furzebrook stream into the intertidal area at low tide. It will close to prevent water coming back in at high tide. Special flap valves will allow safe passage of fish and eels through the structure. Several smaller outfall structures will be built at the eastern end of site this summer.



Ecology

Regular bird sightings are an exciting part of working on the Moors at Arne site and the marsh harrier pictured below was recently spotted by a member of the Kier team.

As we have now entered bird nesting season our ecologists are diligently checking for signs of nesting birds and taking the necessary steps to ensure they are not disturbed by the works.

Many reptiles have now come out of hibernation such as the adder pictured below which was carefully relocated to a safer part of site.



Working with the community

The stakeholder liaison group met on 20 March at the site offices. There was a great turn out and lots of interesting questions from group members about the year ahead following our project update presentation. The group is made up of representatives from local businesses and community groups as well as local residents and the project team.



Construction traffic will be significantly reduced this year compared to 2023. The HGV diversion route and 20mph speed limit will remain in place throughout the duration of the project but the traffic marshall hut which was based on New Road will not return this year. This is because most of the material being used this year to build the embankments will come from within the site so there will be fewer material deliveries. A temporary traffic marshall will be stationed on New Road as and when required.



Meet the Team

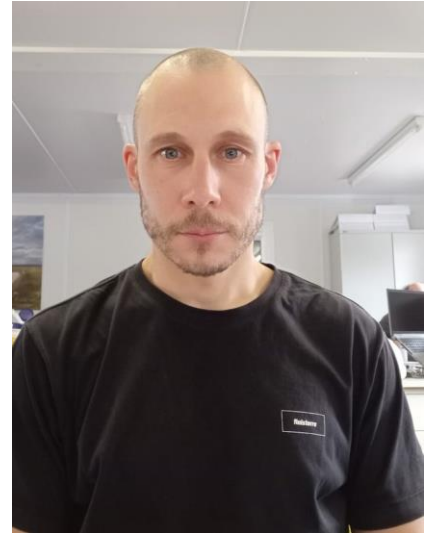
Our environment manager, Justin has been working on major infrastructure projects for the past 15 years and is chartered through the Institute of Environment Management and Assessment.

An environment manager's role includes assessing and minimising the possible impacts resulting from construction and apply for any additional consents from other regulators for complex parts of the proposed operations.

His role also involves making sure the project is prepared to deal with any emergency situations that could lead to environment impacts.

Justin oversees a team of ecologists across a wide range of specialisms to make sure the project can meet all the goals it has set.

Away from work Justin tries to attend as much live music as his family commitments allow and get outside to rock climb, hike or surf.



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.



An artist's impression of the completed scheme

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

<https://www.dorsetcoast.com/project/moors-at-arne-coastal-change-project/>

