



## News from The Moors at Arne



### June 2024 edition



Welcome to your monthly community newsletter where you can find all the latest information about the Moors at Arne project.

The scheme is well into the construction phase now with lots of activity happening on site so here's a sneak peek behind the scenes at some of the things the team have been up to this month.

### Construction progress

The first layer of concrete base has now been laid for the Furzebrook outfall structure and the second layer will be added shortly. Work on the side walls will be completed towards the end of the month.

The embankment ditch is progressing nicely as you can see below and the earthworks team are also busy testing and stockpiling material which will be used to build the new embankments.



This material is being excavated from within the site from a number of carefully selected locations. There is a rigorous testing process in place to ensure that the material is suitable for the job and volume is carefully calculated to ensure we will have plenty of good quality material to complete the 5,600 metres of embankment required.



## Ecology



The ecology team made an exciting discovery recently whilst surveying part of the work area.

A rare plant called Three-lobed Water-crowfoot was spotted growing well along a muddy access track. This species has not been recorded in Dorset for almost 40 years and it is thought that the works may have actually encouraged its growth. This might sound strange, but this species thrives in muddy soil that has been churned up by cattle or off-road vehicles.

Due to its rare status, a team from Kew Garden's millenium seed bank have visited site to view and collect seed to be preserved for the future.



## Archaeology

As promised, we have some very exciting discoveries to share with you this month. Following the archaeology team's move into a new part of site, several Romano-British industrial features have been uncovered.

The remains of a stone building, thought to be a potter's workshop are being excavated and just a few metres away, a pair of kilns are being uncovered. The kilns would likely have been used to fire black burnishware. The archaeologists have found lots of fragments of this distinctive pottery around the area.



## Community



Over the last month we have welcomed a number of community groups to site to learn more about the project.

Wessex Archaeology delivered a series of fascinating outreach sessions for over 60 people from local groups including history and archaeology societies as well as staff and volunteers from the RSPB. The sessions were split between an interactive classroom session and a visit out to the dig site to see the archaeologists at work. There was a real buzz in the atmosphere as everyone got stuck into these interactive and engaging sessions.

We were also delighted to show a group of local National Trust rangers around the site recently. It was great to meet the team and understand more about their work in the wider Purbeck area.



Staff from Kier and the Environment Agency have also delivered talks about the project to the Purbeck Natural History Forum and a group from Dorset Institute of Civil Engineers over the past few weeks



## Coming soon

We are preparing to start constructing the new embankments which are designed to surround the new shallow saline lagoons and protect the freshwater areas.

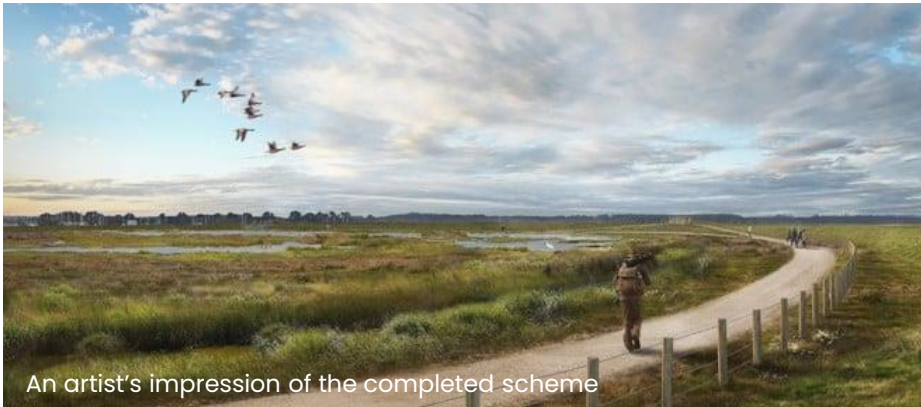
Work is also starting on creation of a new freshwater area in the southwest part of site. This will feature a range of new ditches and pools and will provide high quality habitat for species including water voles and dragonflies.



## About the project

The Moors at Arne project is adapting over 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](mailto: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/>

