



News from The Moors at Arne



December 2025 update



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025. What a difference a year has made. The landscape is changing as the scheme has really taken shape this year and we approach the final year of construction.

Construction highlights this year have included:

- Creation of 13 lagoon habitat islands
- 1415 metres of new embankment constructed on the eastern side of the site
- 1875 metres of permissive path laid
- 5.9 hectares of high quality turf translocated from the intertidal area into freshwater areas

Thank you for your on-going interest in the project and on the behalf of the project team, we wish you a lovely festive season and a very Happy New Year!

What's happening on site?

Work on the lagoon structures has now paused until next year when the headwalls will arrive and the pipes will be installed. The structures will be completed early in the new year, and have included safe access to be able to maintain the structures in the future.



Credit: Knighton Countryside Management



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Vegetation management will continue over the winter months. This is to help ensure that the site is ready for the final year of works to commence. The team have also been seeding some further sections of the embankments. This was done using a process called hydroseeding where grass seed is sprayed onto the topsoil along with a biodegradable mulch which helps it to establish faster over a large area.

Ecology updates

There are now fewer surveys happening out on site but regular over-wintering birds surveys are continuing and the ecology team have recorded a wide variety of bird species using the site. As well as lots of greylag and Canada Geese the team have spotted teal, marsh harriers, avocets, redshanks and many more visitors.



Working with the community



The team have been busy out in the community helping at several school events over the last month.

We returned to Dorset Studio school to take part in their careers fair where we showcased the broad range of roles

available in construction and engineering alongside a multitude of other local employers.

The team also helped The Purbeck School's careers team with a Mock Interview event for Year 12 students, giving students the opportunity to practice interview skills with local employers. We also delivered a fun and engaging building challenge session with Year 11 product design students which gave them an insight into managing a construction project and the different roles involved.

What's next?

Over the next few months most of the team will be busy getting everything in order for the final year of the project.

The final stage of the project will be the creation of 78 hectares of intertidal habitat area. This will be done towards the end of next year when three breaches will be made in the existing harbour edge embankment to allow the tides to enter and create saltmarsh and mudflats. Special freshwater habitats in the west and east of the site will be protected by the new embankments.

Meet the team

Emily Brown is a Senior Environmental Project Manager at the Environment Agency. Her role on the project involves advising the team on environmental aspects of the project, ensuring compliance with legislation and policy, and helping to deliver the best possible outcomes for the environment and sustainability.

Reflecting on her role in the project Emily says, *'It's a fascinating project to work on – one moment I'm interpreting planning legislation, the next I'm watching the ecology team radio-tag adders or learning about incredibly rare wetland plants. It's inspiring to be part of a team creating such a large expanse of saltmarsh, which will provide invaluable habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. I love Dorset's coastline and outside the project, I spend much of my time in, on, and under the sea. I'm a licensed seahorse surveyor and spend many hours recording seahorses as part of a population study off my local beach.'*



Photo credit: Chris Brown

About the project

The Moors at Arne project is adapting over 150 hectares of land into a diverse wetlands 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 its project partners, RSPB and Natural England.



Got a question for the project team?
Contact us via arne@kier.co.uk