



News from The Moors at Arne



March 2026 update



Spring is here and we are excited to get started on the final year of construction at the Moors at Arne. It's going to be a busy year as we approach some key milestones. Our community newsletter is your monthly update on all the latest news from the project.

The aerial view above shows part of the new eastern embankment which will protect the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) behind it once the intertidal area is created. The thinner light-coloured path to the right of the embankment will become part of a new permissive footpath once the scheme is complete. The wider track along the top of the embankment will be seeded with grass and will be accessible only for official maintenance vehicles.

What's happening on site?



The northern and southern lagoon exchange structures are nearing completion. The pipes have been installed between the headwalls and covered over. These two structures will be operated by flap valves and will assist with controlling the levels and quality of the water within the two saline lagoons.

We are creating cattle crossings within the western freshwater area. This will enable cattle to safely cross the many ditches whilst naturally grazing the area.

Preparations are underway for installation of two footbridges within the permissive footpaths. The foundations have been built and the bridges will go in shortly.

Elsewhere on site, the team have been carrying out vegetation maintenance in preparation for the final year of works.

Ecological updates



Credit: Mark Wills Hi-Line

Nesting bird surveys have started across the site and the ecology team have observed several species exhibiting nesting behaviours. We continue to monitor and, if nesting occurs, we create an exclusion zone around the area so that the nest is not disturbed by plant and vehicles. Whilst out surveying, this striking bearded tit was spotted in the reeds.

Community updates

As in previous years, the main construction phase of the project will start on 1st April.

Compared to previous years, there will be less construction traffic involved in setting up for the works.

Later in the year there will be some increased vehicle movements as we start to demobilise from the site and we will keep you posted on this nearer the time.

The temporary 20mph speed limit along New Road and part of Arne Road and the HGV diversion route will remain in place for the duration of this year's works.



What's next?

Wildlife mitigation will continue with a focus on eels next month. This is another important step to help safeguard nature on site before the intertidal area is created.



The top of the new embankments is set to be seeded as the weather improves. This will help it to blend into the natural landscape whilst still be accessible to maintenance vehicles when required.

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 mudflats 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