



News from The Moors at Arne



May 2026 update



Welcome to the latest edition of the project newsletter, where you can find out about all the latest developments on site.

With a significant milestone reached this month, things are on track for 78 hectares of the site to become intertidal later this year. A complex programme of ecological work has meant that the team can now start work on preparing the intertidal area

ready for the controlled breaches to be made in the old harbour facing embankment.

What's happening on site?



A very smart footbridge has been installed across the stream that runs through the field on the South of Arne Road. The new footpath and bridge are currently closed to the public whilst we complete works here but will eventually form part of a new permissive path running between Sunnyside car park and the scheme.

A second, slightly larger bridge has also been installed on site where the stream crosses another section of the future permissive footpath.

Ecological updates



Photo credit: Mark Wills Hi-Line

Can you spot the skylark chicks in this photo? They are very good at blending into their surroundings. This is super important for species which nest on the ground. Regular nesting bird surveys on site ensure that

ecologists spot the early signs of nesting behaviour to help pinpoint where nests are and keep an eye on fledglings like these. As ever, we take a flexible approach to programming the works, swapping tasks around as necessary to ensure the job gets done whilst avoiding disturbance.

Water voles collected over the past few months have now moved from their temporary accommodation where they were cared for by the ecology team, to a fantastic receptor habitat on the River Stour. This area was carefully selected in line with the protected species licence to ensure suitable habitat, food and safety from predation.



Credit: Spires Ecology

The water voles were carefully transported to the Stour in 'soft release pens' which were opened up near the river bank, ready for the water voles to venture out at their own pace.

There will still be water voles at Arne Moors. The new western freshwater area will be protected by the western embankment and has been specially designed to provide optimal water vole habitat and is already home to a healthy population

Community updates

The project's stakeholder liaison group met at the site offices on 20 May. The group consists of project team members from the Environment Agency, RSPB, Natural England and Kier as well as representatives from local community groups, businesses and local residents. This was a great opportunity to share an update with the local community and discuss the project as we approach the final stages.

What's next?



Over the coming weeks we will continue to add turf from the wider site to the final sections of new embankment. We will also be seeding the maintenance tracks along the top soon.

Fencing and gates will be going in over the next few months and maintenance access for the tidal exchange structures on the lagoons will be installed.

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