



News from The Moors at Arne



June 2026 update

Welcome to the latest update from the Moors at Arne scheme. Summer is here and things are progressing well on the scheme, with lots to share this month.

The ecology team have been busy, with a particular focus on reptiles. Meanwhile, the site teams are making great progress with the earthworks and landscaping features.

Recently, the whole site team got together for a plant and people interface safety session.

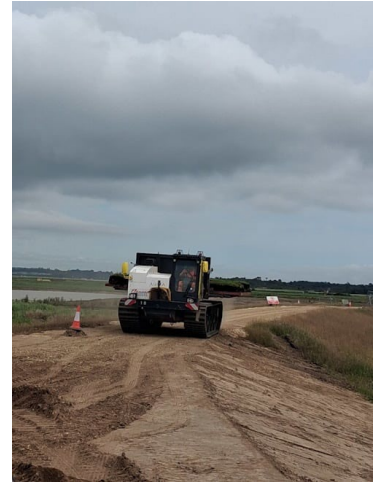
With a lot of big machines on site including excavators, dumper trucks and tractors, we are always looking for new ways to reinforce the importance of staying safe on site.

Eight different machines were brought up to the site compound and powered down. The team had the opportunity to sit inside the different cabs and gain a unique insight into the driver view and chat with the plant operators.



What's happening on site?

We are continuing to excavate the creeks which will connect to the breaches and help determine the flow of saltwater across the intertidal area. Works on the foreshore are also underway to connect the breaches to the channel. A very clever temporary working route is being carefully laid out across the reedbed and will be removed as we work our way back.



We are starting to remove some of the site infrastructure where it is no longer needed. An area in the middle of site, which was used as an additional site compound, has been cleared and topsoiled ready to become part of the intertidal area.

Meanwhile, further sections of turf are being added to the embankments where needed. This is primarily for the newer sections of embankment, as pictured above.



Landscaping is continuing. Fencing is going in across the site, with some sections already complete. This will help keep visitors safe and is important for future grazing.

Here's a sneak peek of a new footbridge that sits within the western footpath. This route will feature two viewing areas looking out over the saline lagoons and the intertidal area as well as views across the freshwater area.

Ecological updates



Credit: Ewan Hitchcoe

The ecologists are continuing to collect reptiles from the construction footprint across the intertidal area. The reptiles are being moved to carefully selected habitats which the project has enhanced to receive them.

Many reptiles have been moved, including common lizards, adders, grass snakes (pictured above) and slow worms in addition to protected sand lizards. We are working under a protected species licence from Natural England in order to move the sand lizards.

We still have a number of active bird nests on site and we continue to monitor them to avoid disturbance. It's a real privilege to see the young emerging and thriving. Arne Moors is home to many creatures great and small, including a variety of dragonflies like this four-spotted chaser.



Credit: Mark Wills Hi-Line

The freshwater areas protected by the new embankments provide the perfect habitat for dragonflies and damselflies.

Community updates

We recently donated some wooden fencing and posts that were no longer needed on site to the local National Trust team. It is great to see them being put to good use on their reserves, with some of the posts being used to support the fantastic painted cow signs which help raise awareness of cattle grazing.



As a Considerate Constructor Scheme (CCS) registered site, we are visited by a CCS monitor every 6 months. The final visit took place recently and the site received a rating of Outstanding. CCS ratings are based on the 3 pillars of Community, Environment and Workforce.



Kier team member, Jamie Lloyd has been recognised as the ICE (Institute of Civil Engineering) STEM (Science, Technology & Maths) ambassador of the year for the Southwest region. Jamie has been involved in a number of successful

careers events and STEM learning sessions at local schools and the wider area. Well done to Jamie for helping to inspire the next generation of engineers and designers!

What's next?



Several bird viewing screens are going to be installed soon and we will also be adding more fencing over the coming weeks

Towards the end of the summer, more of the site infrastructure will be

Removed, including the main site offices. These portacabins will be replaced by smaller welfare units which will remain in place until the project is complete.

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