



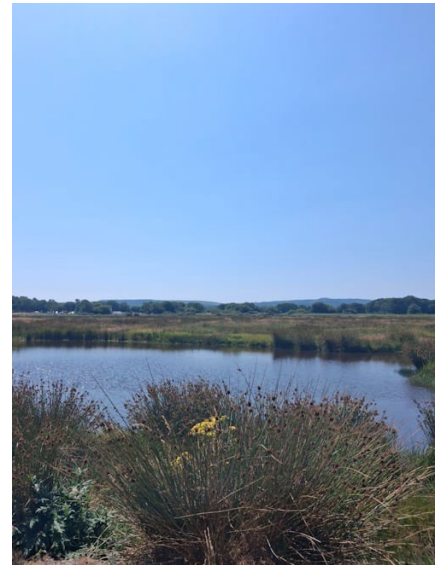
News from The Moors at Arne



July 2026 update

Welcome to the latest edition of your community newsletter for the Arne Moors project. Things are progressing well and we hope you find this update useful. Please do get in touch if have any questions about the scheme, our contact details can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

It's incredible to see the difference in the landscape over the past few years. Pictured to the right is one of the new ponds created in 2024 and designed to provide water vole habitat.



Two years down the line, the ponds look like they have always been there. Some of the vegetation around the ponds was moved from the area of site which is soon to become intertidal. This was done as part of a large scale turf translocation process within the site, designed to ensure survival of the special grassland habitats by bringing more of it into the area which will be protected by the new western embankment.

What's happening on site?



Preparations are well underway for the breaches to take place later this year to create the required compensatory intertidal habitat. The team have excavated the three foreshore channels on the seaward side of the old harbour facing embankment.

This was done by creating a temporary 'bogmat' (chunky wooden planks) access track which enabled an excavator to travel out across the reedbeds. The breach creeks on the landward side of the harbour embankments are nearing completion too.

The archaeologists were back again recently to take some borehole samples from the harbour facing embankment at the points where it will be breached later this year.

Fencing installation is now well underway. The section shown here is over in the east of site, along the edge of the new eastern embankment.

This type of fencing is designed to protect the embankment and control future grazing whilst fitting in nicely with the landscape. So far we have installed around 1.4km of fencing.





Further sections of the permissive footpath have been laid over in the west of site, following the curve of the new western embankment.

Here you can see footpath connecting up to the footbridge which was installed earlier this year towards the centre of the site. This is one of two points where the permissive path will

cross the Furzebrook stream. From spring 2027 visitors will be able to come and walk the paths and enjoy views of the special wetlands habitats.

Ecological updates

Vipers grass (*scorzonera humilis*) is a nationally rare plant found at Arne Moors. It has recently flowered and the ecology team have been finding seedheads like the one pictured here. It was necessary to move some of the vipers grass plants earlier on in the project and this was done under a protected species licence from Natural England.



The relocated vipers grass plants are doing well and some samples of the seed have been carefully collected and sent to Kew Gardens Millennium Seedbank to help with preservation of the species. This activity was also done under licence by specified ecologists.



Photo credit: Mark Wills Hi-Line

At this time of year we are seeing lots of different dragonflies and damselflies around the site.

This golden ringed dragonfly was photographed over in the reeds near the new western freshwater area. They have been seen hunting over in the new western freshwater area where the new ponds and realigned stream provide the ideal habitat.

What's next?

It won't be long until the bird viewing screens are ready to go in. These will be situated at four different locations within the site, offering a variety of vistas across different parts of the wetlands landscape.

We will be installing more fencing and laying more sections of footpath over the coming months. With the end of the scheme in sight, the last of the temporary site access tracks will be coming out soon and the site cabins will be replaced with smaller units so that the compound area can be returned to grassland habitat.

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