

Bank Raising and Desilting Works

October 2024

Background

The Middle Level Commissioners provide flood risk management to protect 8,516 households, 1,643 commercial and industrial properties, over 57,000 hectares of agricultural land, road links, railway lines, power stations and a prison in Cambridgeshire.

The river system consists of over 190km of watercourses, most of which are navigable, that need maintaining to continue to function.

What we are doing

We are pleased to announce that our contractor Balfour Beatty will start the first phase of our multi-million-pound project in October. This is the most significant work that we have carried out since the construction of the new St Germans Pumping Station in 2010.

The project aims to sustain the level of service provided by the Middle Level System. Work to desilt the Main Drain from Cottons Corner in Three Holes to St Mary’s Bridge close to St Germans Pumping Station will start in October and will take approximately 6 months.

We will be carrying out the desilting works from the watercourse using excavators situated on pontoons as shown in the photo below. To lift the plant and equipment into the watercourse, we will install 3 temporary crane pads at locations along the Main Drain.

The desilted material will be placed on both banks and left to dry. The drying process takes approximately 12 months, weather dependant. Once the material is dry, it will be levelled, and grass seeded.

Before works start we will be carrying out environmental surveys along the Main Drain and establishing our site compound.



Pontoon and excavator similar to what we will use

Programme of Works 2024/2025

September 2024	Set up site compound Vegetation clearance and surveys
October 2025	Install crane pads Desilt Mortons Bridge to Aquaduct and Cottons Corner to Three Holes Bridge
November 2024	Desilt Neeps Bridge to Mortons Bridge
December 2024	Desilt Pingle Bridge to Aquaduct
January 2025	Desilt Rungays Bridge to Neeps Bridge and Magdalen Bridge to North Hook Bridge
February 2025	Desilt North Hook Bridge to Rungays Bridge
March 2025	Desilt Peters Drove Bridge to Magdalen Bridge and Sluice Road to Peters Drove Bridge
Spring 2025 – autumn 2026	Drying of the desilted material and grass seeding

Dates are approximate and weather dependant.

Public Access

We want to keep the public safe while we work. To do this we will need to temporarily close sections of the bank where there are public footpaths. Each public footpath will be closed for up to 6 months depending on how long it takes to restore the footpaths to a safe condition following the works. This is largely weather dependant but we will re-open each footpath as soon possible once it is safe to do so.

Please observe the footpath closure signs, keep children away from working areas and keep all dogs on a lead.

In the community

We are committed to engaging with local people about the Middle Level Commissioners and the work that we do.

In July, our Chief Engineer Nicola Oldfield attended the Ramsey Rural Museum as guest speaker, providing an insight into the history and operations of the Middle Level Commissioners.

During August our Engineer Tom and his friend James, took on the Prostate Cancer UK Charity’s Cycle the Month challenge. One in eight men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime and it's the UKs third biggest cancer killer.

Cycling as ACDC (Anti-Cancer Dad Cyclists) they committed to cycle 100miles during the month of August to raise as much as they could to help fund lifesaving research for men and their families affected by the disease.



At the end of the challenge, they had cycled over 300 miles each and raised over £400! To find out more visit <http://www.prostatecanceruk.org>

In October we will be visiting local schools to talk to Year 6 children about how Middle Level Commissioners help to provide flood resilience to their local community and what they can do to help.

We will be attending local Parish Council meetings, along the Main Drain, to talk to the communities about the desilting works that we will be carrying out.

September 2024 marks 90 years of pumping from the Middle Level of the Fens into the Great Ouse Tidal River at our station at Wiggshall St Germans. To find out more visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fdch-
eaWF8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fdch-
eaWF8)

Contact Us

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in our work. We will continue to keep you up to date with project progress.

If you would like to see how the Middle Level system works to reduce flood risk, look at our You Tube animation: [Our catchment: An overview of flood management](#)

If you would like to find out more about the Bank Raising and Desilting Works look at our You Tube animation: [Bank Raising and Desilting Works](#)

You can contact our Public Liaison team by:

Email: bankraising@middlelevel.gov.uk

Website: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk>

Desilting works Area

