

Middle Level Commissioners Desilting Works

Stakeholder update July 2024

What are we doing?

Middle Level Commissioners are preparing to carry out desilting works on the Main Drain between Cottons Corner bridge in Upwell and St Germans Pumping Station. This work will return the Main Drain to its operational capacity. Desilting is expected to start in October 2024 and last approximately 9 months.

This work is funded by the Environment Agency through Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid funding from Defra.

Desilting the Main Drain

Balfour Beatty are in the process of appointing a sub-contractor to carry out the first phase of the desilting works. The desilting works will be carried out from the water using excavators situated on pontoons. The material arisings will be taken from the watercourse and placed on the adjacent bank and left to dry. The drying process takes approximately 12 months, depending on the weather. Once dry, the material will be reworked into the bank and the bank reinstated to its original condition.

In September 2024 we will be establishing a site compound, close to the works area, and installing 4 temporary crane pads along the Main Drain where equipment can be lifted in and out of the water.

Between now and September, you may see members of the project team along the bank carrying out surveys and ground investigation works.



Pontoon and excavator similar to what we will use

Access to the Main Drain

The Main Drain and immediately adjacent land are private land owned by the Middle Level Commissioners. Much of this land does not have any Public Rights of Way. We aim to maintain access for third parties where agreements are in place, but in order to ensure the safety of the public and our contractors, some sections of bank may be closed during the works.

Community engagement




We are committed to engaging with local people about the Middle Level Commissioners and the work that we do. During April and May we hosted 2 public drop-in events in March and Ramsey Forty Foot that provided our stakeholders the opportunity to meet the Middle Level Commissioners' team and ask questions about the work we do. The events were well received and attended, providing us with valuable feedback.

Our Chief Engineer Nicola Oldfield recently attended the March History Society as guest speaker, providing an insight into the history of Middle Level Commissioners, the land around us and how much work goes into keeping Fenland dry.

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 know more about the Middle Level Commissioners or about the works we are carrying out, please get in touch. You can contact our Public Liaison team by:

-  Email: bankraising@middlelevel.gov.uk
-  Website: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk>
-  Follow us on X @ML1862
-  Follow us on Facebook Middle Level Commissioners
-  Write or call using the details below

Middle Level Commissioners, 85 Whittlesey Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0AH
www.middlelevel.gov.uk admin@middlelevel.gov.uk Telephone: 01354 653232