

MStAG Project Update

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Update – what have we done?

- ➔ Detailed design complete
- ➔ Mitigation ongoing
- ➔ Recent ground investigation
- ➔ Contract pricing
- ➔ Access road to start early Sep.
- ➔ Land and consents
- ➔ Earnley scheme

Actions from last meeting

- ➔ Issue construction timetable
- ➔ Send out final ponds/ditches
- ➔ Extending cycle/bridleway
- ➔ Meeting on designations
- ➔ Guided walks and Selsey festival

Planning and Consents

- ➔ Conditions 8 and 19 discharged
- ➔ Conditions 13 and 15 imminent
- ➔ Conditions 6, 7, 20 soon
- ➔ Footpath committee 31/8
- ➔ Marine Licence received

6 = habitats, 7 = elvers, 8 = landscape, 13 = archaeology

15 = construction method, 19 = flood storage areas, 20 = car parks

Non material amendments (9 no.)

- ➔ Minor bank alignment
- ➔ FSR size increases
- ➔ Outfall numbers 8 to 4
- ➔ Scour protection
- ➔ Emergency vehicle track
- ➔ Minor ramp changes

Environmental mitigation update

- ➔ General mitigation and Environmental Action Plan (EAP)
- ➔ Archaeological mitigation
- ➔ Geological mitigation
- ➔ Ecological mitigation
 - ➔ Protected species: reptiles, GCNs and water voles
 - ➔ Freshwater habitat in SSSI
 - ➔ Ground nesting birds

Ecological mitigation update – water voles

- ➔ Fencing will stay in place
- ➔ Water voles showing site fidelity
- ➔ More trapping?
- ➔ What happens when we breach?

SSSI Mitigation Requirements

- Part of the land that will be inundated once we breach is the Bracklesham Bay SSSI, which is owned by the RSPB
- The habitat on this site is freshwater wetland – mainly coastal grazing marsh. This is a threatened habitat in the south of England, and it is important to mitigate for the loss of this area of habitat
- It was hoped to be able to recreate this habitat on some of the land outside of the new flood embankments. However, the topography and water availability was simply not suitable to produce this habitat
- We looked at the bird species associated with the SSSI, and what function the SSSI provides for them, ie, feeding ground, breeding area, roosting area. We then looked at the land available around the site and looked at how these functions could be mirrored – so the habitat will be different, but will provide the birds with the same function
- As the SSSI is a very rich and high value habitat, it provides many functions in one area. However, due to the approach we have had to spread the functions around the site

Ground nesting birds and land use during construction

- Cropping types to vary during construction to encourage ground nesting birds away from construction areas.