

What are we telling you about?

Emergency work to Benacre Flume. The flume structure could potentially collapse and our work will address the immediate risk of flooding that could be experienced in the Kessingland Levels if this happens.

Where is this work happening?

Benacre Pumping Station and the adjacent beach.

When is this work happening?

Work will start mid to late February 2011 and last for 6 weeks. We must complete this essential repair work before April to avoid disturbing breeding birds.

During the work, we anticipate that the coastal footpath will remain open. We may need to temporarily close the footpath, for example whilst moving plant and vehicles, however this should only delay footpath users for a few minutes.

What will we be doing?

Our work will include demolishing the now unsafe flume that crosses the beach. The existing rock work that currently protects the end of the flume will be brought back to where the new shortened flume ends.

The work will happen during daylight hours only. This will ensure that the pumps draining the Kessingland Levels can safely operate through the night. We will be monitoring any adverse weather event forecasts so that in the event of a prolonged period of heavy rainfall, work can stop to ensure the outfall can safely operate. This is essential to ensure flood risk can be safely managed on the Kessingland Levels.

Why are we doing this work?

The beach adjacent to the flume has been subjected to ongoing erosion for some years.

Over recent months this has been very rapid and the sand and shingle underneath the flume has been washed away. This has undermined the supports. Also, the structure itself has restricted the southerly longshore drift of sand and shingle which has accelerated the erosion immediately south of the flume.

How will this work benefit you?

By doing this work now the Benacre Pumping Station will continue to provide water level management for the Kessingland Levels for some years to come. The removal of the flume from the beach will improve the natural movement of sand and shingle by waves and tides. This will help reduce the risks of sea flooding to the Kessingland Levels, although further work to the dunes will almost certainly be required in the near future. Restoring the natural beach movement will also aid the nature conservation interests to the south of the flume. The removal of much of the Benacre flume will also greatly enhance the coastal views to the south from Kessingland and Benacre Ness.

What should you do and how can you get involved?

This information is to let you know about vital work going on in your community. We are happy to come along to community groups and residents associations to explain more about the work. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We will keep you up-to-date with any further developments.

Contact

✉ enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

☎ 08708 506 506

(Weekday daytime calls to 0870 numbers cost 8p, plus up to 6p per minute from BT Weekend Unlimited. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary)