



# Curry Moor Flood Storage Area Remediation Work

Summer 2023

## What are we doing and why?

Curry Moor Flood Storage Area (FSA) is classified as a 'large raised' reservoir under the Reservoirs Act 1975. As a designated reservoir structure, it is maintained by the Environment Agency.

We play a major role in managing flood risk which includes ensuring continued safe operation and maintenance of reservoirs. The flood storage area was inspected by the appointed All Reservoirs Panel Engineer who has identified several Measures in the Interest of Safety (MIOS) which must be completed by the Environment Agency before specified deadlines as part of its legal obligations under the Reservoirs Act.

### Only Safety, No Change

We are doing this remediation work only to ensure safe and continued working of the flood storage area. The works will also ensure that the wider water level management system works as efficiently as it should. This will in turn guarantee continued protection of both local communities and downstream towns.

We would like to assure you that the work will not change the function or working of the flood storage area.

The flood storage area will work in the exact same way as it does currently with the same water level management in place. The frequency at which the flood storage area is flooded with water will not change after construction, including the volume and depth of water within it during these periods.

**The work will not change the function or operation of the flood storage area.**

# What have we done so far?

## Vegetation clearance

We completed the vegetation clearance so we can work at Hook bridge to New bridge embankment, at Hook bridge spillway access track and at Stan Moor cut-off embankment.

## A new badger sett

We needed to remove a badger sett for the work at a section of the River Tone left bank, between Hook bridge and New bridge. So we have created a new artificial badger sett.

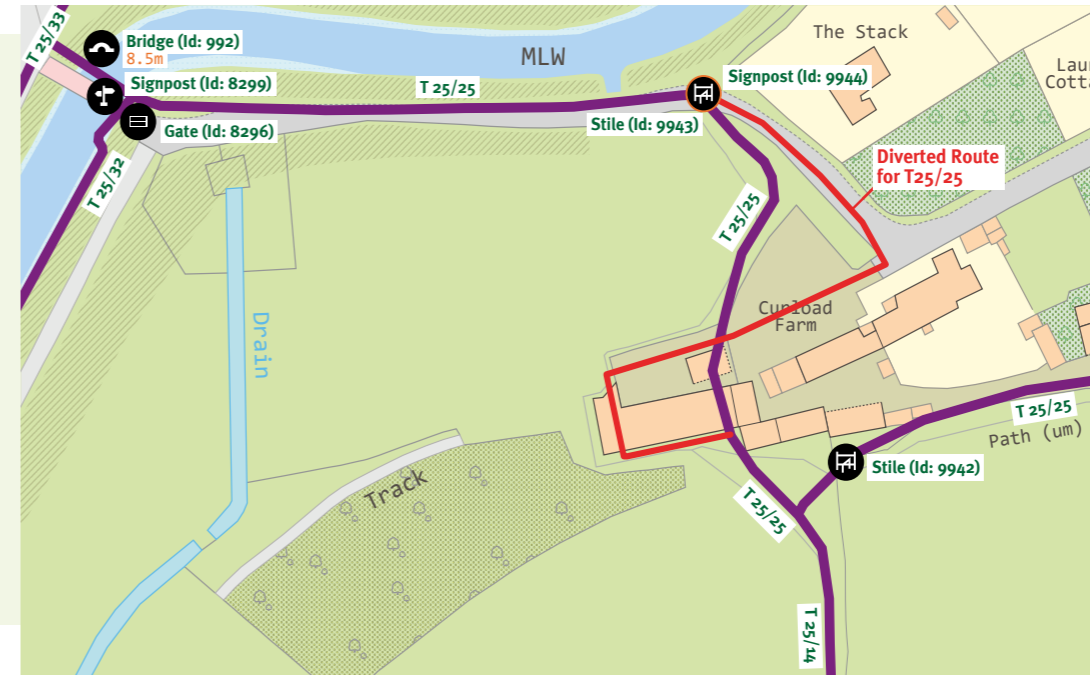
This work also included constructing a soil mound north-west of the existing sett. As part of our enabling work at this location, we replaced an existing culverted crossing from Stoke Drive into the field where we are working.

We completed the replacement sett in June and badgers have started exploring it.

We are monitoring their movements with cameras to ensure they are familiar with the new sett before we restrict their access to their old sett.



Construction of badger sett



Public right of way diversion

## Public right of way diversion

We have diverted a public right of way near Curload Farm to ensure public safety as we are doing work in that area.

The plan on the left shows the diversion route for public right of way T25/25

# What are we doing now?

We have started work on strengthening a concrete slab for access track at Hook bridge spillway. We have also started enabling works such as fencing at Stan Moor cut-off embankment.

## You can see the live progress of our work

The Environment Agency has its webcams near the flood storage area to monitor it regularly. These webcams are located near the Hook bridge spillway and Athelney spillway, thus capturing our work at these locations.

So, you can see the live progress of work at these locations at a time and place convenient to you. Visit our website to see the live footage – <http://eawessexnorthwebcams.org.uk>



Construction of Hook bridge spillway



Stan Moor Bank

# What are we doing next?

- We will begin removing the badgers from their sett in the left bank of the River Tone.
- We will then excavate and rebuild the embankment, to remove the voids of the sett and install badger mesh to stop the badgers from coming back.
- For the badger sett work, we will also be putting up fences and safety signage and planting new vegetation.
- We will be doing ground investigation works at the Banklands embankment for approximately eight days to prepare for our work next year.
- We will be starting preparatory works for the Stan Moor main drain pipe that is part of the work at Stan Moor cut-off embankment.

## We're improving some local access roads

- We have upgraded the Stoke Drive access track to the east of New Road by removing potholes and soft spots.
- We will be maintaining it for the duration of the work.
- We have also started replacing the rutted, soft and degraded track along the Hook Bridge spillway with a permanent concrete track.

## Supporting aquatic life in the drainage ditches

- We have started to replace the cracked and disconnected Stan Moor Feed Culvert with a new modern version. This will ensure that the flow of oxygenated water into the Stan Moor rhyne networks (drainage ditches), supports aquatic life. Rhyne are drainage ditches which carry running water from a stream to a river.



## Archaeology at Curload Farm will be protected

- An archaeologist from the Environment Agency has assessed the existing archaeology at Curload Farm and has found it to be of interest.
- We will be covering and protecting it during the work. We will also backfill it to ensure its safety.

# Curry Moor Flood Storage Area

Curry Moor is a Flood Storage Area (FSA) on the low-lying ground approximately 9 kilometres west of Langport, Somerset. It is formed by two areas called Curry Moor and Hay Moor. It's located in the north and south of the River Tone connecting the two areas by a pipe running underneath the river.

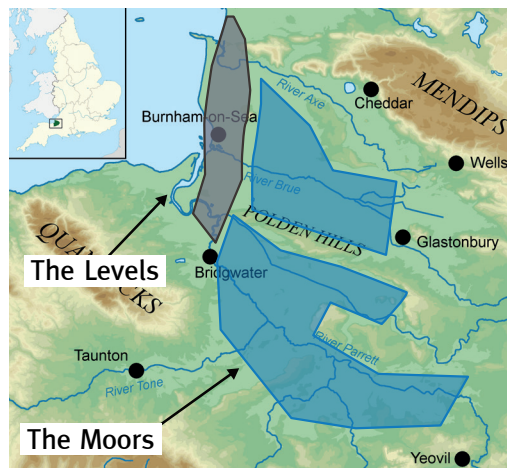
It directly protects various farms and smaller individual settlements as well as the A361 Taunton – Glastonbury trunk route.

The FSA is part of the Moors flood cell system and therefore if Curry Moor failed then there would be an impact on the wider system.

## Background to Somerset Levels and Moors

The Somerset Levels and Moors consists of 'The Levels' (the higher coastal clay belt) and the 'Moors' (the low-lying basin into which the rivers overflow and flood). Much of the area has been historically drained for agricultural and residential purposes.

The lower part of the River Parrett flows through the Moors and its three main tributaries, the Tone, the Yeo and the Isle also flow through parts of the Moors.



A map showing the areas of the Somerset Moors and the Somerset Levels

## History of flooding

The low-lying nature of the Somerset Levels and Moors makes them prone to flooding. In early 2014 they experienced widespread flooding, particularly within the Parrett and Tone river catchments. Records of flooding go back as far as the 1600s with some significant events in 2012, 2000, 1997, 1960 and 1929.

The Environment Agency recognises the severity of flood risk in the area and the impact it has had on the local community.

**We want to assure you that we're working very hard to reduce flood risk to this area.**

## Contact Us

For construction related queries, please contact:

**Claire Deacon**

E: [Claire.Deacon@kier.co.uk](mailto:Claire.Deacon@kier.co.uk)  
T: 07714 683609

For any other questions or to sign up to receive scheme updates, please contact:

**Sam Carter**

E: [currymoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:currymoorreservoir@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
T: 03708 506 506

## When it floods

Water begins to drain from the high ground down to the main rivers – the Tone, Yeo, Isle and Parrett. At times of high flow their main function is to take the water to the sea by gravity, discharging it into the Severn Estuary.

If the embanked rivers are full, the water can spill into the moors allowing it to act like a flood defence.

If the Parrett bank is full downstream of Langport, Allermoor and Beazleys spillway start spilling into the Sowey River. As soon as Beazleys and Allermoor start spilling, the pumping stations are turned off at Long Load, Huish Episcopi, Middelney and Westover.

The capacity of the Parrett is affected by the combined flow of Parrett and the Tone upstream of the bridge.

When Beazleys and Allermoor stop spilling, the flood water can be sent down the Sowey. This allows the system to pump upstream of Langport.

As Curry and Hay Moors fill, they in turn start spilling into Northmoor and Saltmoor via the Lyng Cutting spillway and then the Athelney spillway and then ultimately Baltmoor Wall.

As Northmoor and Saltmoor fill up, properties in Moorland and Fordgate are at the risk of flooding. If rainfall continues to impact the area, Bridgwater is at risk from rising flood water in Northmoor spilling northwards between the canal and the banks of the River Parrett.