



## News from The Moors at Arne



### February 2025 update



Welcome to another round up of the latest news from The Moors at Arne scheme.

Thank you for your interest in the project. We always welcome questions and feedback from the community so do get in touch if there's anything you'd like to discuss.

### Site update

The site team are continuing to cut back vegetation in key areas of site in preparation for this year's main works. Some of the material that has been cleared is being used to create new reptile habitat in other parts of site.

Some tree works are taking place to enable the construction of the eastern embankment later in the year. The project has been designed to minimise the need to remove trees wherever possible but some felling is unavoidable. Great care is taken to ensure that no species are disturbed during these necessary works.



Photo credit: Knighton Countryside Management

Following poor weather over the past few months we also have a small team out with an excavator tidying up our maintenance tracks to ensure that we can continue to provide safe access for our workforce.

The current activity out on site is all part of our permitted winter works.

## Ecology



Over wintering bird surveys continue with a healthy range of species logged this month.

We're currently approaching a period of transition in bird activity with birds starting to move back towards breeding sites and winter flocks still moving through the area. We have been joined by a flock of 65 greylag geese in and around the north west area of site recently. This species has additional protection in law when nesting so we are continuing to monitor. However, most of these birds will head to Iceland to breed during Spring.

A 'desert' or 'deceit' of lapwing has been regularly present to the East of the site with approximately 25 birds feeding on the grassland areas here.

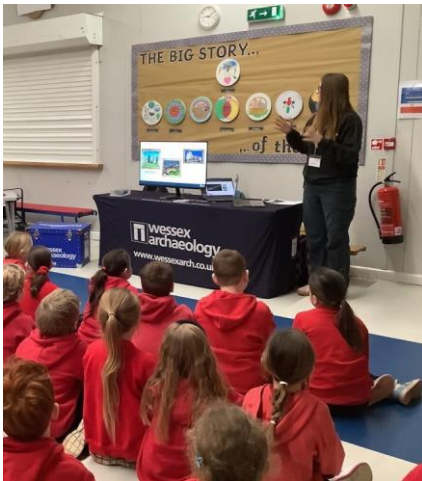
At this time of year a number of raptors can be found feeding in wetland areas such as those at Arne Moors and a male hen harrier has recently been recorded on site. These birds tend to be here fleetingly before returning to the Northern upland moors to breed.

## Community engagement

During January, the Kier team attended careers fairs at both Lychett Minster and Purbeck secondary schools and also delivered three archaeological outreach sessions at Stoborough Primary School.

There was lots of interest in the stand at both careers events with students from all year groups coming over to chat about the wide range of careers in the industry from engineering to sustainability and finance roles.

It was a great opportunity for the team to share their passion for the industry with so many young people and we look forward to attending again next year!



It's been a great year for archaeology at Arne Moors with a bronze age wooden spade and two Roman pottery kilns discovered on site. As part of the project's outreach programme, the project team recently shared some of the archaeological stories from Arne Moors with children at the local primary school. Together with Wessex Archaeology, we delivered three sessions to Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils at Stoborough Primary.

Pupils had a great time exploring a range of artefacts and figuring out what they were made from and what they might have been used for during Stone Age and Roman times. We also ran a fun session on construction and discussed some of the amazing things humans have built throughout the years.

## Coming soon

It's not long now until the third season of construction starts. From 1st April there will be more activity out on site as the team work hard to deliver the next phase of the works.

You might spot a change to the temporary 20mph speed limit signs along New Road and Arne Road up to the site entrance from this week onwards. The smaller signs are being replaced with freestanding signs to make it clearer that the arrangement is temporary. This was requested by Dorset Council following a review of traffic signage in the area. The 20mph speed limit will remain in place for the duration of the project.

## About the project

The Moors at Arne project is adapting over 150 hectares of land into a diverse wetlands habitat. This type of habitat is being lost in other areas of Poole Harbour due to 'coastal squeeze'. This is a term used to describe the effect of rising sea levels pressing against man-made structures such as flood defences resulting in a loss of intertidal habitat such as mud-flats and salt marsh.

Kier is the contractor delivering this project on behalf of the Environment Agency and its project partners, RSPB and Natural England.

Got a question for the project team? Contact us via [arne@kier.co.uk](mailto:arne@kier.co.uk)

