

# Curry Moor Reservoir

## Winter 2024

## 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 work only to ensure safe and continued working of the flood storage area. The work will also ensure the continued operation of the wider water level management system and the flood risk management it offers to both the local communities and downstream.

The work is not intended to change the volume or function of the flood storage area, which will work in the same way as it does currently with the same water level management in place.

## What have we done in 2024?

### River Tone left bank reconstruction<sup>1</sup>

We completed our work to excavate and reconstruct the raised left riverbank of the River Tone and installed some stainless-steel mesh to prevent burrowing animals from digging here in the future.

The bank was reconstructed to remove the badger setts that were affecting the integrity of the embankment. We have since spotted badgers at the replacement sett we built for them last year.

We topsoiled the reconstructed riverbank and planted grass seed to protect the riverbank from erosion during flooding.

We will be checking the level of the completed earthworks regularly to make sure the bank remains level.

### Heritage finds

During our work at Hay Moor siphon embankment we discovered a historic, riveted wrought iron culvert pipe in a headwall that ran under Oldmead Drove towards the river. This pipe was inspected and recorded by archaeologists before being filled and sealed to ensure it does not leak in the future.

1. River banks are described as left or right bank looking downstream

# What have we done in 2024?

## Hook bridge spillway

The spillway and associated earthworks were finished this year. The slope on the field side of the spillway was sown early and irrigated to ensure good establishment of the seed as the grass cover controls erosion of the topsoil on the slope.

The metal crest plate controls the volume of water spilling from the River Tone into Curry Moor at times of high flow and links back to the benchmarks at East Lyng Church - the height of the spillway that has been used for many years.

The spillway is working well and has already withstood multiple overtopping events during October 2024.

The concrete track along the spillway and the improvements to Stoke Drove have now become a favourite route for dog walkers, runners, and cyclists to access the moor.

## Athelney spillway

As a part of Historic England's requirements for work on a scheduled monument, like Athelney, we had to complete extensive archaeological work starting in April 2024 including site excavations, sampling and recording our findings.

To ensure the integrity of the spillway and prevent scouring along the edges we used flexible buried concrete mats to extend the existing spillway by around 2000m<sup>2</sup>. We then covered these mats with topsoil and planted grass seed over the spillway. Established grass will protect the surface of the spillway from erosion during flooding.

## Cuts Road embankment

We have completed our planned work to increase the resilience of the embankment to the west end of Cuts Road.

In preparation, we diverted overhead and underground services in the area in February this year.

We extended the concrete facing along the slope of the Baltmoor Wall embankment and installed some steel trench sheet to prevent water seeping under the new embankment.

Additionally, we have relaid the road drainage in the area, installed a new instrument kiosk that records and reports water level information and made improvements to the layby with new bollards, tarmac and white lining.

## Hay Moor / Stan Moor cut off embankment

We first constructed a new 600mm diameter culvert then built a new reservoir embankment. We reused soil from land next to Ikea in Exeter for this, because it needed a high clay content to help form an impermeable embankment.

We will be completing some fencing and hedge planting over the winter and are monitoring the levels of the embankment on a regular basis to check for any settlement.

## Hay Moor siphon screen structure

We have completed the piling and initial concrete pouring works at this location.

## Banklands wall

We decreased the slope near Banklands wall to improve resilience in the case of extreme flooding. This involved stripping off the topsoil in the field, importing 15,500m<sup>3</sup> of suitable clay soil and then replacing the topsoil to smooth levels and contours.

The grass seed has established on the slope and so is now ready to withstand the winter floods. We will continue to monitor the levels in the field for any signs of movement.

All of the clay soil was imported in road lorries over an intense 8-week period, which we felt was the best possible approach to getting the work done. The only workable alternative would have been slightly fewer lorries a day over a longer period.

We know this work caused major disruption to local residents and we'd like to thank everyone who put up with our lorries running past their houses with such patience during this time.

## Safe site closure

Our sites were closed at the end of November 2024. We are unable to work during the winter both because the reservoir will be needed to help prevent flooding and also because of Natural England SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) constraints.

All sites have been left in a condition that is safe for the winter shut down and we will ensure that our work areas are protected to the same standard as before work started.

We will be back on site in spring 2025 and will be in touch to let you know our plans for the year before we start.

## Contact Us

For construction related queries, please contact:

Chris Keech

E: [Chris.Keech@kier.co.uk](mailto:Chris.Keech@kier.co.uk)

T: 07749 583 420

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