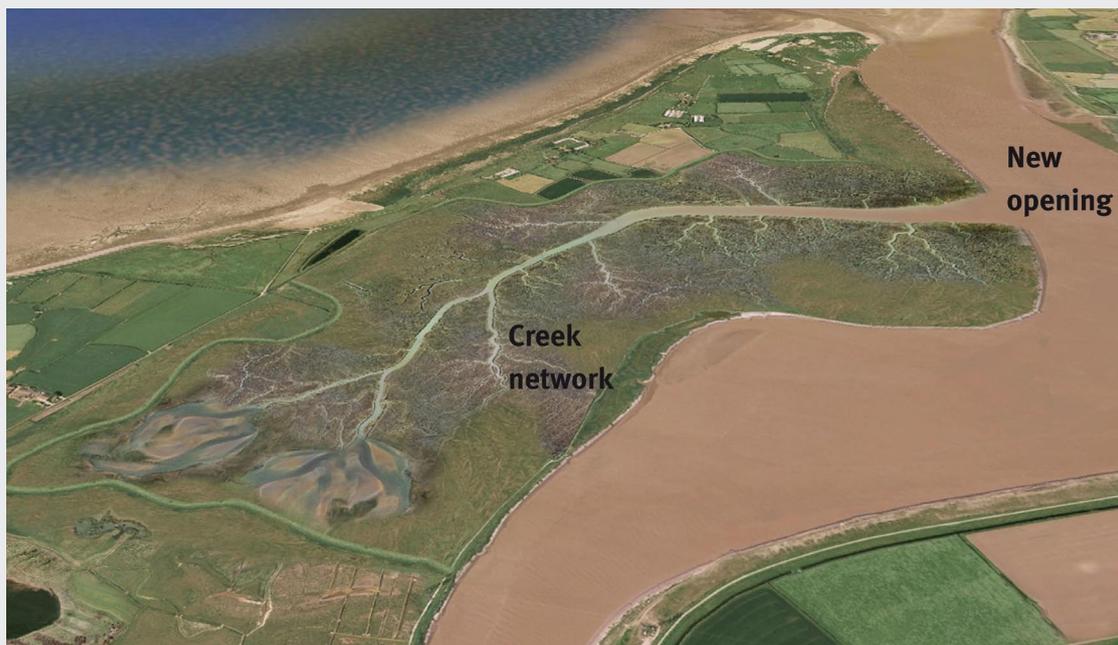


Stear Coastal Management Project

Construction of new intertidal habitat to provide flood defence

The Steart Coastal Management Project will create new intertidal habitat on the Steart Peninsula. The Project will create a major new wetland, including some 183 ha of intertidal salt marsh, 40 ha of intertidal mudflat, 69 ha of transitional brackish habitat, 79 ha of coastal grazing marsh, 32 hectares of brackish and saline lagoons, 26 hectares of freshwater lagoon and numerous ponds and ditches. These works will benefit plant diversity, animals such as wading birds and amphibians and offset the losses of intertidal habitat that is occurring elsewhere in the Severn Estuary as a result of rising sea levels. The amenity value of the peninsula will also be improved. At the same time there will be opportunities to provide set-back defences where flood risk management is required to manage risks to people who live on the peninsula and the infrastructure that they require. Through the project the Environment Agency will be able to manage current flood risks to people and property and provide more opportunity for those living and working in the area to adapt to sea level rises and plan for the future.



The Advanced works Contract is a precursor to the main construction contract which will create all of the above features. In order to clear the existing areas of habitat we have carried out advanced ecological mitigation, by creation of new receptor ponds and ditches for Great crested Newts. We have constructed a trial section of the main embankment, some 150m long, and four metres high. The purpose of this was to investigate and test the reaction of the foundation soils to having a large embankment constructed on it – this will inform the specification of the final works to be created. We are also carrying out all pre-construction surveys and mitigation works which include Archaeology, Unexploded Ordnance, Topographic survey and ecology. Carrying out these works as an advanced contract will allow the main works to proceed without delay and with the risk of stoppages due to unforeseen constraints being minimised.

Client
Environment Agency
 Principal Contractor
Team Van Oord
 Duration
210 weeks
 Value
£4m
 Scope
Construction of intertidal habitat





Stear Coastal Management Project



Safe

Due to the size of the site securing the perimeter with fences is not possible, therefore we have held a number of meetings with local residents to inform them of the works schedule and the risks associated with not honouring the boundaries of the site. Further information is provided on interpretation boards around the borders of the site to provide regular updates to all residents and visitors, monthly progress meetings will be held with all stakeholders to address any concerns or questions.

A large number of excavation machines are required onsite to progress the programme, to avoid accidents and reduce the number of people “on the ground” GPS tracking systems will be used by the plant operators to navigate their routes and outline their works schedule.

Innovative

To minimise environmental impact, all excavated materials will be segregated, stored and reused to build the new flood defence elements. Rather than following traditional vegetation stripping techniques we will build upon this vegetation using it as a foundation and protection mat for the additional works.

Honest & Collaborative

We are working closely with the Environment Agency and their designers to develop of large scale local species protection programme which will ensure minimal disruption to local wildlife populations which cannot be relocated during the works. This programme will also provide comprehensive instructions for all employees on how to work around the local wildlife and vegetation. We are actively involved in early contractor involvement for the development of the main scheme concept and detailed design, bringing our expertise in programme management, buildability, Value Engineering and environmental mitigation to a closely knit team comprising the Environment Agency, Halcrow, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust and EC Harris.

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