

What are we telling you about?

The **Minsmere River (New Cut)**, which is located in Suffolk to the north of Sizewell Power Station has suffered from erosion of its banks in places. This has led to a reduced level of safety for users of the public right of way. The banks on the Minsmere River (New Cut) have erosion protection in the form of asbestos-cement sheet piles, some of which are exposed and damaged in places. We are undertaking work to repair and improve this protection, and to mitigate any health and safety risks between Reckford Bridge and the Minsmere Tidal Sluice. There is also a risk of flooding to the Minsmere Valley from the New Cut due to a 'low spot' in the embankment, work is being carried out to raise this to the level of the rest of the embankment.

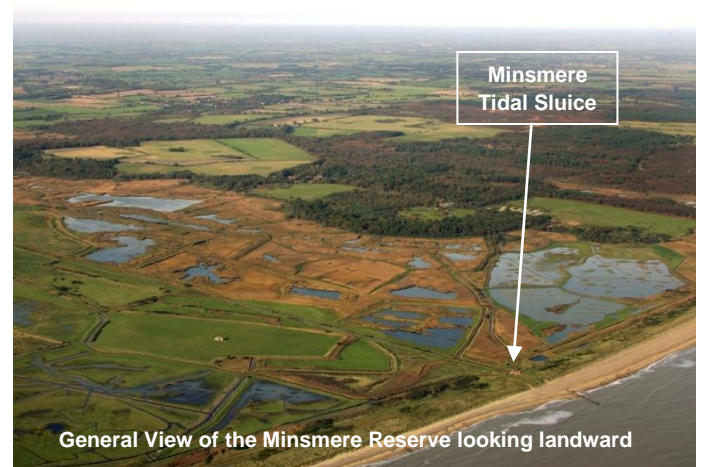
Minsmere Tidal Sluice collects water from three channels before discharging the flow into the sea, between Dunwich and Sizewell. The three channels are Minsmere River (New Cut), with



Scott's Hall Drain from the north and Leiston Drain from the south. Repair works are being

undertaken to the structure and the sluice gates so that it can continue to prevent tidal flooding of the Minsmere Valley from the sea. Three other sluices located on the New Cut (**Minsmere Old River East Sluice** and **Mumberry Marsh Sluice No's 1 & 2**) are currently in poor condition. We plan to repair Minsmere Old River East Sluice and Mumberry Marsh Sluice No. 1 and replace Mumberry Marsh Sluice No. 2 with a new structure to stop nutrient-rich river water interfering with the ecology of the adjacent land. The work we are doing to the banks of the New Cut River (including the three sluices along the New Cut) and the Minsmere Tidal Sluice will ensure that they continue to protect the Minsmere Valley from coastal flooding, flooding from the New Cut and allow freshwater drainage.

Where is this happening?



What will we be doing and when?

Works were originally planned to be completed this winter, however the Minsmere Tidal Sluice structure is in a worse condition than originally thought. The works this winter have therefore focused on investigation and ensuring safe access over the sluice. Due to the bird nesting season we will need to leave the site at the end of February. Following guidance from the RSPB, we will be returning to complete the works on the tidal sluice in late August/early September 2013.

The works on the New Cut east of Dam Bridge are planned to be completed by the end of February 2013. However west of Dam Bridge we have found extensive evidence of water voles (a protected species). Following advice from a water vole expert we will carry out mitigation measures over the summer and complete the works west of Dam Bridge when we return to the site in late August/early September.

We are working closely with the RSPB and Natural England to ensure that the repairs are suitable for such an environmentally sensitive area. We will continue to keep you informed at key stages of the project. Information about any temporary footpath closures will be shown at the site.

How will this work benefit you?

By carrying out the proposed works, we will give continued protection from tidal and fluvial flooding to this internationally important nature conservation site. The works will also improve safety for both the public and operational staff.

What should you do and how can you get involved?

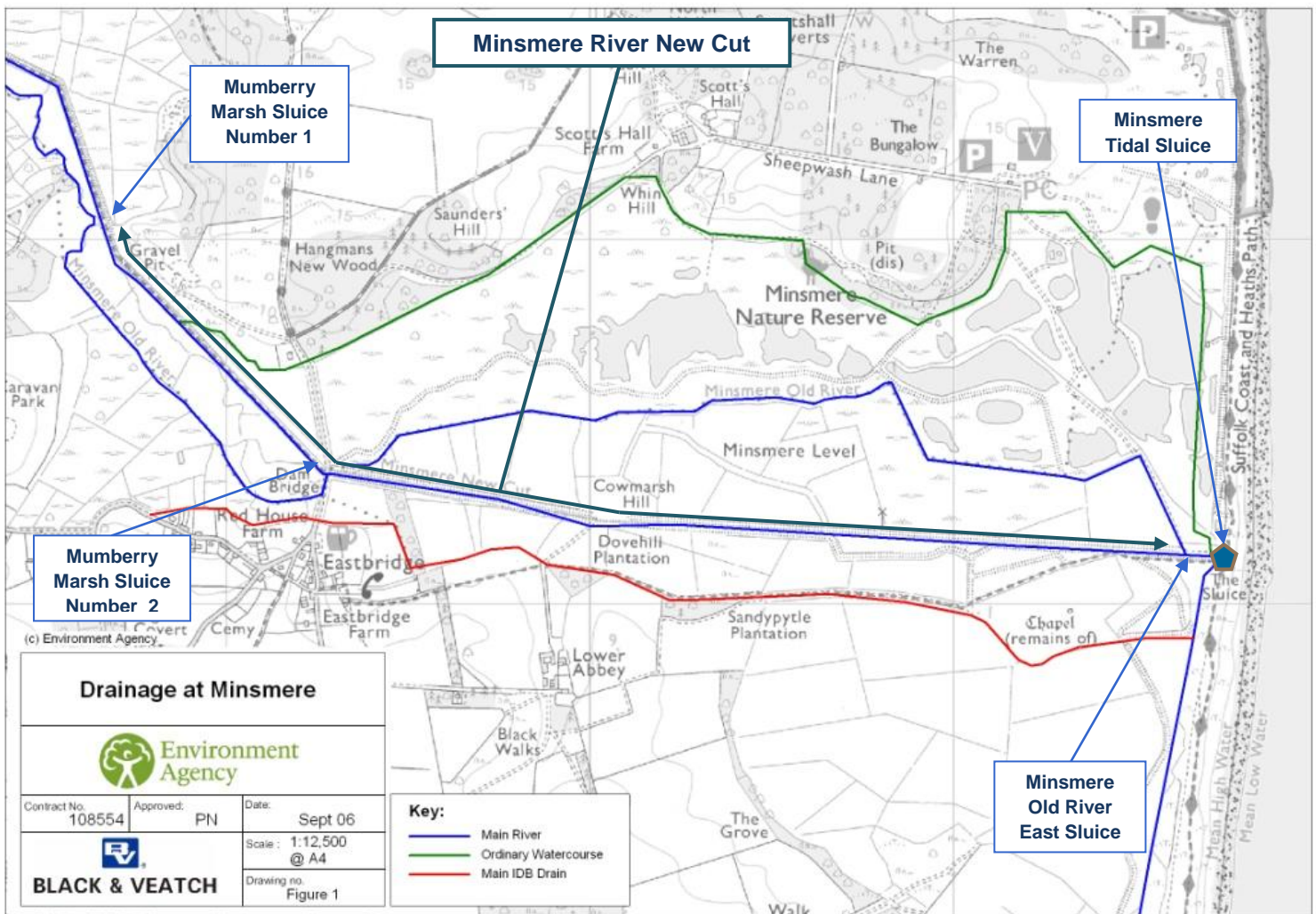
This information is to let you know about vital work going on in your community. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We will keep you up-to-date with any further developments.

Contact

✉ enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

☎ 08708 506 506

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