



middle level
commissioners

Main Drain Desilting Works

October 2025

We will be starting the final phase of our Main Drain desilting works on 30 October focusing on the stretch between St Germans Pumping Station and upstream of St Marys Bridge.

Our contractor BJ Plant has been busy spreading the material that has been placed on the bank from the earlier phase of work. They have now started construction of two settlement lagoons on the right-hand bank between St Peters Drove and St Mary's Bridge, on land owned by Middle Level Commissioners.

The desilting will be carried out by our specialist contractor Royal Smals, using a Cutter Suction Dredger. This is a powerful but low noise machine that gently scoops up the silt and pumps it through a floating pipe into the settlement lagoons.

Picture opposite - The floating pipe connected to the Cutter Suction Dredger, transporting silt into the lagoons.



The work will take around six weeks, operating 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's a short project with most of the work happening within the Main Drain, so should cause minimal disruption.

However, to ensure everyone's safety during the works, there will be a temporary closure of the public footpath. This will be in place for up to 6 months. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time.

We are committed to protecting the environment every step of the way. That's why we're taking thoughtful measures such as conducting ecological assessments, carefully managing silt removal, designing lagoons with nature in mind, and embracing wildlife-friendly practices.