

Exeter Drain Improvement Project

July 2026

Background

The South Holland IDB's Exeter Drain helps protect local homes, farmland, roads, and community spaces from flooding. It manages water levels and supports the wider drainage system, especially in wet weather.

Over time, parts of the drain and its structures have worn out and now need repair. By refurbishing them, we will keep the system working properly, reduce future flood risk, and support the long-term resilience of the local community.

We are investing in this work now to keep the system reliable in the future.

Jackson Civils Engineering Ltd will carry out refurbishment works to the Exeter Drain between Albert Street and Clay Lake in Spalding. This work includes replacing sections of culvert and pipeline, lining existing assets, and improving open channel areas to maintain performance and reduce flood risk.

What are we doing?

The works are being delivered in phases, including site investigations, vegetation clearance, culvert construction, and drainage improvements.

Work is being carried out along the Exeter Drain corridor between Albert Street, Clay Lake, Halmer Gate, Cley Hall Drive, Maple Grove and surrounding residential areas.

Construction activities started on site in May 2026 and will continue through to January 2027, with different sections completed in phases.

Key activity areas include:

May 2026 – September 2026 **Clay Lake and Mulberry Way**

Work in this area focuses on improving and upgrading existing drainage assets to help reduce flood risk. This includes lining existing culverts, constructing extensions, and improving sections of open channel.

At Clay Lake, we will carry out works to the pipe section. This will involve installing temporary over-pumping equipment to divert water and lower water levels so work can be carried out safely. Temporary fencing will be installed around work areas, including near residential driveways, to protect the public and workforce.



At Mulberry Way, we will carry out culvert lining and extension works. Access to the work areas will be taken via Mulberry Way and surrounding roads, with temporary traffic management and parking restrictions in place to allow construction vehicles and equipment to operate safely.

Activities will include excavation, installation of new or upgraded drainage structures, and use of specialist construction equipment. Some equipment, such as pumps, may operate continuously to maintain water flow during construction.

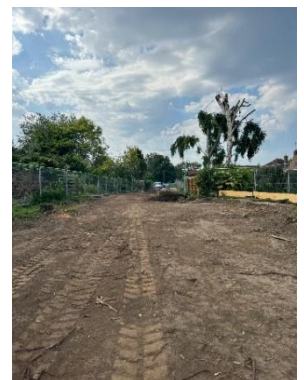
May 2026 – August 2026

Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive

Work in this area focuses on replacing and upgrading sections of the existing culvert to improve the performance of the Exeter Drain and reduce flood risk.

A 300-metre section of culvert between Halmer Gate and Albert Street will be excavated and replaced. The culvert will be accessed through residential gardens to enable safe construction and ensure the existing pipe can be fully removed and upgraded.

To allow this work to take place, a temporary working corridor has been created between the properties of Cley Hall Drive and Maple Grove, with site access arranged from Halmer Gate and Albert Street. This will involve vegetation clearance, temporary fencing, and the use of construction plant and machinery.



September 2026 – January 2027

Open channel works

Work in this phase focuses on upgrading sections of the open channel to improve water flow and long-term performance of the Exeter Drain.

Approximately 145 metres of existing concrete channel will be removed and replaced with new concrete-encased sheet piling. This will strengthen the channel structure, improve resilience, and reduce the risk of future deterioration.

Working hours

Typical working hours are 7.30am to 5pm, with some equipment, such as pumps, operating continuously where needed to maintain water flow.



Traffic management

To carry out the works safely, we will use a range of traffic management measures at different stages of the project. These include:

Temporary traffic lights at locations such as Cley Hall Drive, Halmer Gate and Halmer Gardens

Temporary parking restrictions on streets including Mulberry Way, Morus Close and Matmore Gate, introduced from 26 May 2026 for approximately 13 weeks

We have placed site access arrangements and traffic signage to allow construction vehicles and equipment to operate safely.

At times, we may also need to introduce short road closures, contraflow systems or restricted access to keep both the public and our workforce safe.

Access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times, although there may be short delays in some locations while works are in progress.

Public Access

We will keep public access open wherever it is safe to do so. Please follow the signs and any instructions from site staff while these measures are in place.

Environment

Before we started the construction works, the site was assessed by a qualified ecologist to identify any sensitive habitats or protected species. Works have been carefully planned to avoid unnecessary disturbance wherever possible with ongoing checks and assessments. Trees that were identified as potential bat roosts have been surveyed in line with legal requirements and can now be removed. Any active fox dens within the working area are being continuously managed safely and humanely, encouraging animals to move away before work to that area begins.

Local community

We will keep residents and businesses updated throughout the project using newsletters, letters, and regular updates on the project webpage. We will also speak directly with people through door-to-door visits and one-to-one conversations where works affect them.

We are planning a range of activities to help the community understand the project, including:

Leaflet drops and targeted communications in areas such as Mulberry Way and nearby streets ahead of key activities

We are also working with local organisations and community groups to build awareness of flood risk and the importance of maintaining drainage systems. This includes visiting local schools to talk about flood risk, the environment, and the work we are carrying out, supporting education and careers events to give people an insight into construction and environmental projects

How to find out more?

The South Holland IDB webpages will be updated with information about the scheme as works progress. Scan the QR code to link to the website or use the weblink below.

<https://wlma.org.uk/projects/exeter-drain/>



If you have any questions or comments about the scheme, please contact our Public Liaison Officer, Casey Archer.

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