

Exeter Drain Improvement Project

August 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 are carrying 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 across three key work areas and include activities such as vegetation clearance, installation of new pipework, construction of new headwalls and improvements to the existing drainage. Construction activities started on site in May 2026 and continue through to March 2027.

Progress continues on the permanent works, with excavation activities now well underway in the areas between Albert Street and Halmer Gate, Mulberry Way, Matmore Close and the surrounding residential areas.

Key activity areas include:

May 2026 – Early December 2026

Mulberry Way, Matmore Close and Clay Lake

Improving the drain in this area will allow the system to carry water more effectively and help reduce the risk of flooding. We will improve the culverts, extend sections of the existing culverts and upgrade parts of the open channel. The temporary fencing around the site, including near driveways will remain in place until the works are complete, to keep residents, the public and our workforce safe.

Progress at Mulberry Way (Culvert 3) has taken longer than originally anticipated as ground conditions encountered during the works have required the foundation arrangement for the culvert extension to be reconsidered.

Our design and construction teams are reviewing



the proposed construction approach to ensure the extension can be constructed safely and provide a robust long-term solution. This additional work is taking time, but we hope to be progressing again with this section of the project in September.

May 2026 – November 2026

Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive

Construction is progressing well between Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive, where the existing culvert (Culvert 1) is being removed and replaced. More than 70 metres of the 300-metre culvert replacement is now complete.

To support construction and maintain safe working conditions, temporary support systems are being installed within the ground as the excavation progresses. These temporary works are an important part of the construction process, helping to maintain the stability of the excavation, while the new culvert is installed.



September 2026 – February 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 parking restrictions on streets including Mulberry Way, Morus Close and Matmore Gate will continue until November 2026. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause during this period. Due to the works at Mulberry Way taking longer than originally anticipated, it has been necessary to extend the current restrictions to provide safe access for large vehicles entering and leaving the site.

Road Closure to Clay Lake / Pecks Drove West is planned to start on the 14th September 2026 and will be in place until Early October 2026. A diversion will be in place for the duration of the closure. We will put signs in place before the closure starts and keep residents updated.

For other sections of the works, 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, a qualified ecologist assessed the site to identify any sensitive habitats or protected species. We have carefully planned the works to avoid unnecessary disturbance wherever possible, with ongoing checks and assessments taking place. We have now carefully felled the remaining trees that were approved for removal after the required

surveys. We are still monitoring the foxes, even though they are no longer in the working area, and we will continue to manage this safely and humanely.

Local community

We will keep residents and businesses updated throughout the project through newsletters, letters, the project webpage, door-to-door visits and one-to-one conversations where works affect them. We are also working with local schools, organisations and community groups to raise awareness of flood risk, the environment and the importance of maintaining drainage systems.

In July, South Holland Drainage Board and Jackson Civil Engineering attended Spalding High School's Careers Fair to speak with students about the Exeter Drain Improvement Project and the range of careers linked to construction, engineering, water management and the environment. Students also had the chance to look at and use surveying equipment, as well as try on site safety clothing.

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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