

Exeter Drain Improvement Project

September 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

Following a review of the construction method, works have now recommenced at Mulberry Way.

Installation of the new



pipework and chambers at Culvert 3 is currently underway and is expected to be completed in October. Once Culvert 3 is complete, works will move to the south, to Culvert 4, where a further section of pipeline and associated chamber will be installed.

Following completion of these drainage elements,

construction of the new headwalls located at the end of the newly installed pipework will commence and will continue until December. To safely construct headwalls, temporary support systems will be installed using specialist plant and equipment. These supports, known as sheet piles, are driven into the ground to create a safe and stable working area for our operatives while excavation and construction activities are carried out.

Work in this area is expected to continue until early December 2026, and we will continue to minimise disruption wherever possible.

May 2026 – November 2026

Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive

Construction is progressing well between Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive. We have now replaced more than half of the existing culvert at Culvert 1, along with the installation of new manhole chambers. With the works in this area now at the halfway point, this represents a significant milestone for the project and a step towards delivering a more resilient and reliable drainage network for the future.



September 2026 – February 2027

Open channel works

With the road closure on Pecks Drove West now in place, preparatory works, including vegetation clearance and the construction of a temporary access platform, are underway.

The temporary access platform will enable specialist plant and equipment to access the site and install the permanent sheet piles that will form the new channel. The sheet piles will be installed on either side of the existing channel, creating the structure required for construction of the new channel. The piles are a key part of the construction method, providing the long-term support and stability to the channel.



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:

Clay Lake / Pecks Drove West – The road closure is now in place, with diversion routes and advance information signs installed to help inform road users and minimise disruption.

Temporary parking restrictions on streets including Mulberry Way, Morus Close and Matmore Gate will continue until November 2026.

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

Protecting the local environment remains a priority throughout the works including ongoing monitoring for wildlife. Vegetation clearance and site preparation activities have been carefully managed to minimise impacts on local habitats, while environmental control measures are in place during construction.

The temporary access platform at Pecks Drove West has been designed to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment while providing safe access for construction activities. Materials generated from the works are being managed responsibly, with opportunities for reuse and recycling prioritised wherever possible.

Local community

We've made recent visits to properties adjacent to the works and carried out letter drops to inform residents of developments in the delivery programme.

Where works directly affect residents and businesses, we will keep them updated through newsletters, letters, the project webpage, door-to-door visits and one-to-one conversations.

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.

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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