Exeter Drain Improvement Project

October / November 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.

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?

Work is continuing at three key locations along the Exeter Drain, with the overall programme expected to run until March 2027. Good progress has been made over the past month, allowing the next stages of work to move forward.

Key activity areas include:

May 2026 – December 2026

Mulberry Way, Matmore Close and Clay Lake

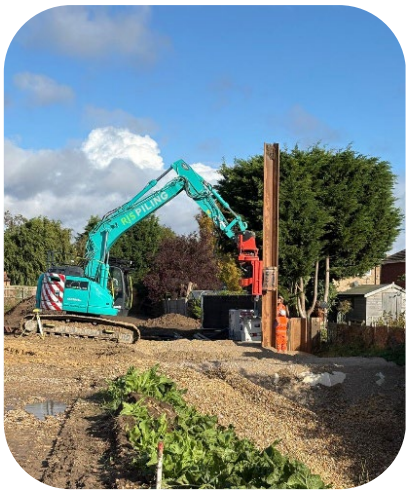
Work to upgrade Culverts 3 and 4 has made good progress, with all the new pipes and inspection chambers now installed.

The team is now building new concrete headwalls at the ends of the newly installed pipes. These structures help protect the pipe openings and keep the drainage system working effectively.



Temporary supports have also been put in place to hold back the surrounding ground and create a safe working area.

The foundations for the new headwalls will be built first, providing a stable base for the structures above.



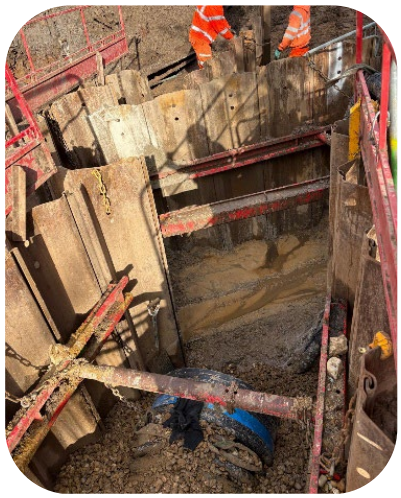
Work in this area is expected to continue until early December 2026.

May 2026 – December 2026

Maple Grove and Cley Hall Drive

Progress in this area has been slower than expected due to challenging ground conditions as work has moved north towards Albert Street.

The difficult conditions have made it more time-consuming to install the temporary supports needed to keep the excavation safe while work takes place.



These works are now expected to continue into December, with the affected areas being reinstated afterwards. The team is working to keep the project moving while ensuring all work is carried out safely.

September 2026 – February 2027

Open channel works

The first section of permanent steel piling along the northern part of the open channel has now been completed.

This provides the support needed for the next stage, which involves removing the temporary working platform and preparing the ground for

new reinforced concrete sections. These concrete works are expected to begin in mid-November.



The concrete will be installed in sections of around 30 metres at a time. Working in smaller sections helps the team manage the construction safely and maintain the quality of the finished structure.

Meanwhile, a temporary working platform has now been completed in the southern section. This will allow the remaining permanent steel piles to be installed, with work expected to restart in early November and take around three weeks.

Working hours

Our usual working hours are 7.30am to 5pm. However, as we move into the wetter months, the pumps operating on site may need to run more frequently to help manage water levels in the Exeter Drain.

The pumps operate automatically, switching on when water levels rise and continuing to run until they have fallen to a safe level. This helps keep water moving through the drainage system and reduces the risk of localised flooding.

While every effort will be made to minimise disruption, residents may occasionally hear the pumps operating outside of normal working hours, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall.

Traffic management

Clay Lake / Pecks Drove West – The road closure remains 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.

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, 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 project. We continue to monitor for wildlife, minimise impacts on local habitats, and regularly inspect environmental control measures. We are also reducing waste by reusing and recycling materials wherever possible while seeking opportunities to improve sustainability across the project.

Local community

We are continuing to work directly affect residents and businesses and will keep everyone updated throughout the project. Updates will be provided through newsletters, letters, the project webpage, door-to-door visits and one-to-one conversations.

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, Eleanor Brown-Ahern.

Email: eleanorbrownahern@ryrltd.com

Telephone: 07947 906623

Emergency / Out of Hours Contact

While the works are being carried out, we understand that there may be occasions when you need to contact us to report an issue or raise a concern. Should this occur outside of our standard working hours, please contact us using the number below and a member of the team will be available to assist you.



Telephone: 07483 571791