The Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme

Dear all,

As we approach the end of the year, we wanted to provide a brief update on our progress on constructing the Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme and let you know the arrangements for the construction sites over the Christmas period.

Leigh flood storage area

We're pleased to confirm that we have lifted the final (north) gate into the structure, and we're currently working on the electrical engineering to connect it to the operating system. We have also started work on the new eel pass which is being installed to help eels access their natural habitat and support long-term population recovery. At the Leigh pumping station, rabbit-proof fencing is nearly finished and should be completed in early January. This fencing protects the reservoir embankments from rabbit burrowing, which could weaken the structure and cause erosion. We're also reinstating the boundary fencing along the railway line, with the last section now being completed.

Hildenborough embankment scheme

The new embankment has now been fully constructed and shaped, and we have finished pouring the concrete for the penstock and the base for the pumping system and associated infrastructure. The operating kiosk has been installed and fitted out to accommodate the electrical control systems that will manage the pumps and site operations. Having successfully passed factory testing, the new pumps have been installed on site and will be electrically connected and tested in-situ in the New Year.

Christmas working arrangements

Like last year, the construction works will close for the Christmas period. Our last on-site working day will be Friday 19 December, and we will resume site works again on site on Monday 5 January 2026.

VolkerStevin will be monitoring their phones over the period. If you have any concerns please contact VolkerStevin by phone, WhatsApp or Message using the numbers below and they will get back to you as soon as possible:

- 07385 432570
- 07386 663479

Thank you for your continued patience and support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff on the Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment project.

Kind regards,

Kathy Aucott, on behalf of the Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment project team