



## **To Whom it May Concern**

### **Middle Level Commissioners' Well Creek Phased Maintenance Dredging** **March 2020**

#### **Phase VI – Hawthorn Cottage Nordelph to Salter's Lode Lock** **(Bridleway Downham West BR11)**

The Well Creek forms part of the Middle Level Commissioners' statutory navigation route known as the 'Middle Level Link Route,' that facilitates up to 1000 boat passages per annum between the Nene and Great Ouse Rivers.

In order to keep this navigational link open, and to allow navigational depths to be maintained, the Middle Level Commissioners will be undertaking channel dredging works to remove siltation and sediment from the Well Creek in the near future.

The dredging follows on from the previous five dredging phases that have been successfully completed since 2014 throughout the villages of Upwell and Outwell. The latest phase is programmed to commence in March 2020. The extent of the works will be from Hawthorn Cottage, Nordelph to Salter's Lode Lock.

The resultant dredged material will be deposited along the back of the landward side grassed embankment, away from the water channel between the bridleway (footpath) and the thorn hedge where it will be left to dry sufficiently to be subsequently levelled into the existing embankment and re-sown with grass.

The footpath will remain open for pedestrian foot access at all times.

The duration of the works will be totally dependent on weather, ground and river conditions at that time. Should the Well Creek freeze over, dredging work will cease to allow 'fen skating' to take place.

The Middle Level Commissioners and their contractors will endeavour, as far as is possible, to keep the works clean and tidy and to minimise the impact to footpath users. A dedicated banksman will be posted in close vicinity of the working site for the duration of the works, to assist users with passing the working site.

The Middle Level Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and consideration of the dredging works, and to assure you of their best intentions at all times.