

Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme



The Environment Agency is working in partnership with Calderdale Council and BAM Nuttall & Mott MacDonald Joint Venture to deliver the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme

Hebden Bridge FAS – Newsletter – July 21

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS). Following this Newsletter, we will publish Information Bulletins digitally at regular intervals throughout the ongoing design and construction of the scheme. These will be available on www.eyeoncalderdale.com under the flood works section. Bulletins will also be displayed at various locations in the town. If you wish to sign-up to receive a copy direct to your email address, please email the word 'subscribe' to HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Scheme progress so far:

In 2017 a consultation event was held with the local community, which presented the proposals for a scheme to reduce flood risk in Hebden Bridge and gathered feedback on our initial plans. The report from the consultation is available on www.eyeoncalderdale.com.



Since then, we have been working with our contracting partners Mott MacDonald and BAM Nuttall to design and develop a scheme for the town and secure the appropriate funding to progress the plans. We have also been liaising with businesses and residents that will be directly affected by our work and carrying out site investigations and survey work to inform the designs. In addition to this, a key stakeholder group has been established, with representatives from the community including local Councillors, Hebden Bridge Disability Access Forum, Hebden Bridge Business Forum, Flood Wardens etc. (a full list of the representatives can be found on www.eyeoncalderdale.com).

We have now split the plans for the scheme into three areas, Hebden Bridge FAS, Stubbing Holme Road FAS and Erringden Hillside FAS.

The Hebden Bridge FAS will consist of:-

- Raising and strengthening river walls.
 - Using glass panels and raising barriers to minimise any intrusion on river views within the town centre.
 - Improving protection to riverside properties.
 - Installing a canal overflow.
 - Improving the drainage of surface water with a series of gully systems and a pumping station.
- Construction of the main elements of the scheme is currently programmed to commence in Summer 2022.

The Stubbing Holme Road FAS will consist of:-

- Raising and strengthening river walls along Stubbing Holme Road.
- Strengthening walls along Rochdale canal to pass flows to the Hebden Bridge FAS canal overflow at the Vale Centre site.
- A flow diversion solution at Longstaff Court to return water to the river.
- Improving protection to riverside properties.

Construction work is currently programmed to commence in 2022.

Contact us!

Email the project team – HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Look out for news updates on Twitter by following [@EnvAgencyYNE](https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyYNE) and at www.eyeoncalderdale.com

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The Erringden Hillside FAS will consist of:-

- Highway drainage works to existing road and footpath networks, including gullies, drainage runs, kerbing and outfalls to the River Calder and the Rochdale Canal. The three main areas of work are above Stubbing Brink, at Hebble End and Fairfield.

Construction work is currently programmed to commence towards the end of 2021.

Current Work:

Hebden Bridge FAS – ‘early works’

Our delivery partners, Bam Nuttall, have been working in the town for the last year carrying out some ‘early works’. These have included ground investigations, CCTV culvert surveys and minor in-channel works. This work is in preparation for the main flood alleviation scheme for the town.



Work started at the Vale Centre site, Stubbing Holme Road in April this year to repair the dilapidated wall, relocate the flood warning siren (which is now fully operational) and facilitate installation of the canal overflow.

The work in this area has temporarily paused whilst changes are made to the current design of the new wall. More information can be found about work in this area by visiting www.eyeoncalderdale.com.

Canal overflow

We are planning to commence construction of the canal overflow this autumn.

The function of the overflow weir will be to reduce flooding to canal front properties upstream of the aqueduct in the centre of Hebden Bridge by discharging excess water into the River Calder. During significant storm/flood events, the additional water flowing into the Rochdale Canal exceeds the capacity of its available overflows. As a result, flooding occurs at low spots along the canal which affects canal front properties upstream of the aqueduct over the River Calder.

At the end of August we will submit a planning application to Calderdale Council for our preferred solution for this canal overflow weir, which would be located adjacent to the former Adult Learning Centre site between Stubbing Holme Road and Hebble End.

Ahead of the planning submission, we would like to provide an opportunity for you to find out more information about our plans for this work and answer any questions you may have.

A public zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 August 2021 at 7pm.

If you would be interested in joining the meeting to find out more about the canal overflow planning submission, please email HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will forward a link for you to access the zoom meeting.

Community Meetings

Planning submission for the remainder of the Hebden Bridge FAS work (the fluvial and surface water elements) will be submitted early next year. Separate planning applications will be submitted for Stubbing Holme Road and Erringden Hillside where required.

Look out for invitations to face-to-face public meetings and virtual zoom meetings where we will share the proposals with you ahead of submissions and provide an opportunity to ask questions and speak to the project team.

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Eringden Hillside FAS & Stubbing Holme Road FAS – Ground Investigations

Ground Investigation is due to be undertaken by our construction contractor Bam Nuttall later this summer. This will inform the constructability of potential defence options. This work may require some traffic management and we will be contacting the local communities once we have further information on dates, timescales and the extent of any required traffic management.

Tree Planting ! – can you help?

The Hebden Bridge project involves upgrading existing historic walls within a compact urban area and assessing each stretch of wall on a case by case basis. In locations where we are planning to upgrade and re-build the walls to make flood defences, we need space to construct the walls or move heavy machinery around. Once flood defences are built, we usually need to provide access for their maintenance or make sure that there are no obstructions that could damage them in the future. Sadly, this means that in certain situations we have to remove some trees along the river to enable our flood defence work to proceed, as many of them are growing out of existing walls which require work. More information about where we will need to remove trees will be provided as our plans develop. We recognise the negative impact this can have on both the environment and the local community and as such, we are mitigating for the direct loss of trees resulting from our work by planting additional trees to replace those that have been lost.

However, finding suitable places to plant trees is difficult. Therefore, we would love to get your help and at this initial stage would welcome any suggestions for areas of land where we could plant trees in the vicinity of Hebden Bridge.

If you have any site suggestions, please send details to HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk by Monday 9th August 2021. You can also write to us using the address at the end of this newsletter.

When submitting your sites, please follow the guidance below:

Please DO provide:

A brief description of the location you have chosen and the existing use of the site, street name, type of location (e.g park etc)

An estimate of how many trees you think could be planted in the location you have suggested.

A photo of the location, if possible.

Confirmation of whether you are the landowner or not.

Please DO NOT:

Suggest locations where fewer than 10 trees can be planted in close proximity (this is to reduce maintenance costs).

Suggest locations outside the Calderdale Council Local Authority boundary

Once we have received your suggestions, we will assess the suitability of the sites to accommodate trees and confirm if any can be used for tree planting. Tree sizes will depend on the site identified.

Bird and bat boxes

As part of our environmental mitigation and enhancement, we are looking for opportunities to install riverside bird and bat boxes. If you own a river front property in Hebden Bridge and would be interested in accommodating a bird or bat box please contact us at

HebdenbridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk to discuss further (or write to us using the address at the end of this newsletter).

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Working in Your Community

Becoming part of the community of Hebden Bridge has been challenging this year due to the Covid restrictions. However BAM Nuttall and the project team have been carrying out a number of activities since work began in the town.

Members of our project team from the Environment Agency and BAM Nuttall set themselves the challenge of running 5km per day every day in December (inc Christmas Day) and raised over a thousand pounds for Calder Community Cares, a local charity who look after nearly 400 people who are elderly, isolated and lonely. They also look after families who are experiencing food poverty during difficult times.

In April, BAM Nuttall also supported Calder Care's Easter Appeal by donating Easter Eggs, covid safe materials, food & household supplies and volunteering to help deliver to families in the area. They also provided use of their offices for packing, collection & distribution of supplies to approx. 300 local families.

Bam Nuttall plan to continue working closely with Calder Community Cares during their time in Hebden Bridge, by donating supplies and assisting with appeals where possible.



For World Environment Day in June, staff members at BAM and their children spent the weekend creating an oasis to enhance the natural environment at their compound. This included a bug hotel, a bird feeding table, a picnic bench which can be turned into a seat for people with accessibility challenges, numerous window boxes and planters, wild flower seed spreading and bird nesting boxes. All the materials were reclaimed from the waste timber skips and reused to create each element.



Keeping You Informed!

Thank you for taking the time to read our first Newsletter. We will keep you informed as work progresses throughout Hebden Bridge. Please keep an eye on www.eyeoncalderdale.com for ongoing information about our work and don't forget to sign up to receive Information Bulletins direct to your email address! – just send 'subscribe' to HebdenbridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Contact us!

Email the project team – HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Write to us at: PSO Team – Hebden Bridge FAS, Environment Agency, Lateral House, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in any alternative format, please contact us.

Look out for news updates on Twitter by following @EnvAgencyYNE and at www.eyeoncalderdale.com