

Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Schemes Key Stakeholder Group Update

February 2024

HEADLINES

- The Full Business Case for Erringden Hillside FAS will be submitted at the end of February 2024.
- Construction of the Erringden Hillside FAS highways drainage interventions are targeted to commence in spring 2024, with the canal overflow construction targeted to commence mid-2024.
- Hebden Bridge FAS planning submission is currently forecast for summer 2024.
- Stubbing Holme Road FAS planning submission is currently forecast for summer 2024.

HEBDEN BRIDGE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

- Fluvial design tender packs for Zones A, B and C (River Calder and Hebden Water confluence up to St Georges Bridge) and Zones D and E (Hebden Water - St Georges Bridge to Victoria Bridge) have been reviewed by the project team and are being passed back to the consultant for finalisation.
- Planning submission is currently forecast for June 2024. A Pre-planning public information event is being planned and will be held prior to planning submission. The date and location will be communicated to the public once confirmed.
- The Full Business Case is forecast to be submitted in late 2024.
- A number of property threshold and topographic surveys have been undertaken by our contractor Storm Geomatics to provide further detail for the Hebden Bridge FAS flood risk assessment.
- Proposals for the surface water detailed design and construction continue to be developed in close partnership with Yorkshire Water. Until now, the EA has been leading on the design but as YW are going to be adopting the majority of the surface water assets on completion of the scheme, they will now take the lead to ensure that all of their requirements are taken into account.
- The final surface water modelling has shown that, contrary to previous understanding, the required work at Dodd Naze / Machpelah may be of sufficient scale to need including in the planning application. This has the potential to delay the planning application – this is currently being assessed.
- The project team are reviewing the updated guidance and legislation regarding Biodiversity Net Gain, and the assessments are being updated to use the now published statutory metric. From 12th February major developments (unless otherwise exempt) requiring planning permission will have to deliver net gains for biodiversity leading to positive outcomes for nature, better places for local communities and more consistent and transparent requirements for developers.
- The draft Environmental Statement detailing the Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme has been reviewed by the Environment Agency and is currently being updated to reflect comments by the project team and technical specialists.

ERRINGDEN HILLSIDE AND CANAL OVERFLOW

- The Full Business Case (FBC) is being drafted with the aim of submission in February 2024. This has been delayed as we have identified an opportunity to incorporate the Canal Overflow into this business case to accelerate the delivery of that asset. A delivery plan has been developed for the canal overflow, which will also now include Stubbing Holme Road. Delivery of the canal overflow is targeted to commence in summer 2024.
- A tripartite agreement is being finalised between the Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust, and Calderdale Council for the future maintenance of the proposed canal overflow.
- Calderdale Council have agreed the construction package and price for the implementation of the highway drainage options at Fairfield, Shelf Road, New Road, and Hebble End.
- Upon approval of the FBC, funding will be released to Calderdale Council to commence the construction work. We are targeting for this to commence this spring.

- Design drawings of the highway drainage interventions are available to view at the Hebden Bridge Flood Information Centre.
- Following approval of the FBC, the Environment Agency will be communicating with eligible property owners regarding the Property Flood Resilience options. The project team are collating the list of properties and drafting letters to ensure this is progressed as soon as possible.
- Following FBC approval an information event will be held at the Hebden Bridge Flood Information Centre to showcase the proposals and the project team will be on hand to answer questions. Erringden Hillside residents will be informed of dates following FBC approval.
- An allocation of funding within the FBC will be ringfenced for the delivery of further NFM opportunities on Erringden Hillside. The Environment Agency will be working with Calderdale Council to progress options following approval of the FBC.

STUBBING HOLME ROAD

- The majority of the detailed design drawings now being passed to BAM Nuttall (delivery partner) for buildability assessments. The project team are meeting regularly with Bam Nuttall to work through the designs and collaborating to progress them towards construction. We plan to start developing an initial construction price for the scheme over the next two months.
- The team are also working with Bam Nuttall to develop an approach to the sequencing and order of works during the construction phase, to develop a solution that minimises disruption.
- The outstanding areas of design include the temporary access road, the weir removal and the lockkeeper's cottage.
- The temporary road will connect Stubbing Drive and Trinity Square to ensure access is maintained for residents and emergency services during construction. The designs have commenced, and additional surveys are required to inform the modifications required along Stubbing Drive and allow the designs to be completed. The surveys are scheduled for February 2024
- Removal of the partially collapsed weir immediately upstream of the footbridge is part of the current proposals. As a result of engagement with specialist subcontractors and modelling exercises, the team are exploring options to prevent the need for weir removal. Alternative proposals for the lockkeeper's cottage have been developed and the team are meeting with Canal and Rivers Trust and the owners in February 2024.
- The three trial panels for the imprinted concrete have been ordered from Bam Nuttall's supply chain. To build the panels, BAM Nuttall will be undertaking some minor construction activity at the Vale Centre compound off Stubbing Holme Road. Letters have been sent to all those living close to the Vale Centre compound. The scheme is proposing the use of imprinted concrete on the wet/river side of the main river wall immediately adjacent Stubbing Holme Road (Wall A) and these panels will facilitate engagement with Calderdale Council.
- We have commenced environmental surveys that are required to guide construction requirements and potential constraints, including an otter camera trapping survey.
- We will maintain our regular EA presence in the Hebden Bridge hub to answer any questions, and on completion of design pack, a set of drawings will be available.
- Ahead of planning submission a public information event will be held in summer 2024 to share proposals with the community. Based on the current programme we aim to submit a Full Business Case in Summer 2024 and commence construction in Winter 2024.